

Lambda Philatelic Journal

SPRING 1987 Vol. 6, No. 1

"LAMBDA PHILATELIC JOURNAL" is the official publication of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Study Unit. Yearly subscription rate, including membership in the Study Unit, is \$6.00 (overseas \$8.00), single copies are \$1.50.

We look forward to hearing from you, our readers and members, for comments, ideas and articles for future issues.

We encourage advertising and correspondence between readers regarding their philatelic interests.

★ ★ ★ OFFICER BOX ★ ★ ★

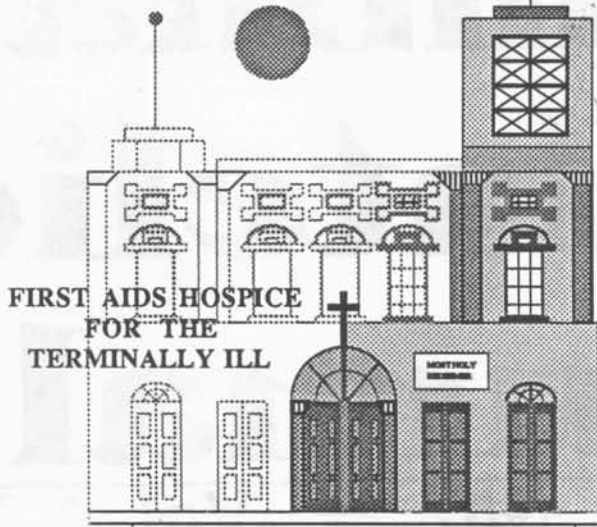
President..... Brian Lanter
 Editor..... Paul Hennefeld
 Women's Historian Kathy Hall
 Secretary..... Paul Hennefeld
 Treasurer Blair O'Dell

Address correspondence and inquiries to:

GLHS
 c/o Hennefeld
 512 Park Street
 Upper Montclair, NJ 07043



GERTRUDE STEIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY



FIRST AIDS HOSPICE
FOR THE
TERMINALLY ILL

OPENING OF THE HOSPICE OF SAN FRANCISCO
115 Diamond Street, San Francisco, California
MARCH 2, 1987

2/9



PAUL HUNTER FORD
512 PARK ST.
UPPER MONTCLAIR
NJ 07043



Stamp Out AIDS

John Glines, Broadway producer of the Tony Award winning "Torch Song Trilogy" and last year's Drama Desk winner "As Is", is spearheading a national fundraising campaign to help the growing number of people with AIDS.

Glines is the project director of STAMP OUT AIDS, a campaign to sell stamps similar to Easter and Christmas seals, to raise funds for organizations which directly serve people with AIDS. The first issue of stamps, selling in sheets of 6 for \$1.00, was designed by New York artist Marty Luko. Future issues will be designed by such well-known artists as David Hockney, Don Bacardy and Jedd Garrett.

REPRODUCED FROM . . . September 27, 1986 STAMPS

For information on obtaining the above cover send a SASE to:

Les Wright
3036 Market Street
San Francisco
CA 94114

"I wanted to create an affordable way for everyone to contribute to this vital cause," Glines said. "For just one dollar everyone can help. Magnify one person's dollar by hundreds of thousands of concerned citizens, and you can imagine the difference it will make." His goal is to raise a million dollars with the first issue alone.

Stamps can be purchased by sending \$1.00 for each set of 6, along with a self-addressed stamped envelope, to STAMP OUT AIDS, P.O. Box 471, Prince Station, NY, NY 10012-9998. Stamps will also be available in retail outlets across the country.

Funds from this project will be targeted directly to programs serving people with AIDS and will be distributed to AIDS service organizations across the country by the National AIDS Network.

AIDS cancel

— Don't die of ignorance," is being imprinted on millions of letters as part of the British government's campaign against the killer disease.

Commercials on television and newspaper reports rein-



"AIDS — Don't die of ignorance" is the message on this British slogan cancel.

force the message, despite the obvious error in logic.

You don't die of ignorance. You die of the acquired immune deficiency.

AIDS won't go away, but so far as I know, its first philatelic manifestation is here.

LINN'S STAMP NEWS

MARCH 9, 1987

JOSEPH R. VISCARRA

1933 - 1987



A remembrance service was held for Joseph Richard Viscarra Thursday afternoon, March 19th, at New York Technical College in Brooklyn. Joe, an Associate Professor for Library Services at NYT for over 20 years, died March 13th from complications from AIDS, after a long, protracted illness.

Joseph was born April 3, 1933 and was one of the "founding" members of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps society. He was an avid collector, and besides his collections of gay and male nudes on stamps, he specialized in Music on stamps, specifically Beethoven and Mozart. This was due to Joe's lifelong love for music. From his high school days in his hometown of Las Cruces, New Mexico, Joe was an avid musician, participating in bands and orchestras, proficient on the piano, violin and clarinet. He attended Texas Western College in El Paso where he majored in music and again participated in many music activities.

On September 2, 1955 Joseph was drafted into the Army, serving both at Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Ord, California. While in the army, he continued to cultivate his musical talents playing the clarinet in the army marching bands. After being honorably discharged August 30, 1957, Joe continued his education at the University of Southern California, finally transferring to New York University where he obtained a Ph.D. in Music.

Once settled in New York, Joe's dry, quick sense of humor, earned him many friends. He formed a loving relationship with a friend, Charles, which lasted for over ten years until Charles' death in 1979. After that, Joe never really had another lover -- Charles was impossible to replace.

He then proceeded to become more deeply involved in other activities such as his stamp collection, his job, and he became more active serving the gay community. He helped found the Gay Veterans Association, becoming their first treasurer. He was also an active member of SAGE (Seniors in Action in a Gay Environment) and of the Red Cross. Many of his friends were surprised to find out that Joe was also a world traveler visiting such exotic locales as China, Japan and India.

One of Joe's last dreams was to visit AMERIPEX in Chicago last June, which he and *I made plans to attend. We spent many delightful hours visiting dealers, postal agencies and studying the award-winning exhibits. Each day, with our tired, exhausted feet, but our enthusiasm undaunted, we would meet for lunch or dinner and compare experiences. We would show each other our little "gems" -- a great stamp or cover we had bought, and generally discuss the exciting events of the day at this world's fair of stamps. This was truly an unforgettable experience and I am glad I had Joe to share it with.

At his job, Joe was very well liked and had many friends among the staff and workers. Nellie and Bill Bravo from Carlsbad, New Mexico, Joe's sister and brother-in-law, were present for the memorial service. Darryl Wood, Director of Library Services and Joe's supervisor, offered words of comfort. He spoke of his long friendship with Joe, of their almost daily lunches together ("we probably had over 2,500 cups of coffee") and of Joe's concern, warmth and humor which he always shared with those around him. Mr. Wood did not remember Joe ever getting angry or saying anything derogatory about anyone. He had a positive outlook on life and exuded confidence and trust to his co-workers. Mr. Wood then read a few paragraphs from W.H. Auden Essays: First Series on Friendship. Wood ended by reading a poem from the same book.

FRIENDSHIP

A ruddy drop of manly blood
The surging sea outweighs,
The world uncertain comes and goes,
The lover rooted stays.
I fancied he was fled,
And, after many a year,
Glowed unexhausted kindness
Like daily sunrise there.
My careful heart was free again, --
O friend, my bosom said,
Through thee alone the sky is arched,
Through thee the rose is red,
All things through thee take nobler form,
And look beyond the earth,
And is the mill-round of our fate
A sun-path in thy worth.
Me too thy nobleness has taught
To master my despair;
The fountains of my hidden life
Are through thy friendship fair.



GIACOMO LEOPARDI (1798-1837)

Giacomo Leopardi is considered by many critics the greatest Italian poet of the last two centuries. While not everybody may agree with that, everyone will agree that his poems are sublime. If you can lay your hands on the English versions you will fall in love with his work.

Giacomo, the son of the Earl of Recanati - a small village in Appenine central Italy, (also the birthplace of the great tenor Beniamino Gigli) was born with a hunchback. The boy became aware of his deformity at an early age. Instead of playing with his young friends he preferred to spend the entire day in his father's library. By the time he was 16 he had already written a collection of essays called "Zibaldone" and was considered one of the most erudite intellectuals in the whole country.

Recanati was a little village and Giacomo aspired to live in a big city where he could make a living (without his family's support) by writing poems. When he finally was able to go to Rome it was already late; he wrote to his brother Carlo: "Love me, by God. I need love, love, fire, enthusiasm, life. This world is not made for me. I found the devil looking worse than I thought."

He was still nostalgic of his little village - a recurring theme in his very romantic poems - but he was finally able to make some kind of living. In fact a Milanese publisher thought



R
E
P.
S
A
N
M
A
R
I
N
O



Giornata Leopardiana

15 - 9 - 76

Annullo Speciale

F.A.I.P.



Postmark commemorates a seminar on Giacomo Leopardi's literature.

that Giacomo had a great talent and ventured into publishing one collection of Leopardi's poems. The success was immediate, but the public was limited and Giacomo always felt that his publisher was over-generous.

By the 1830's his life had become a fight for survival; his father was only sending him little money, though he could afford to be very prodigal. Giacomo got trapped into a set of promissory notes, debts, loans etc. It is at this time we find near to him his closest friend Ranieri.

Ranieri, in his book Seven Years of Close Friendship with Giacomo Leopardi, wrote about an episode that happened to him. One day his barber, Mr. Piersantelli, asked him "How come today Leopardi isn't with you?" and then went on elaborating on details about Leopardi's lifestyle. Unfortunately the poet was about to enter the shop and overheard the allusions and became incensed. This episode may look of little relevance if it wasn't corroborated by other curious episodes reported by faithful Ranieri. In fact he makes no mystery

about the noise made by a landlady who got extremely upset because Ranieri and Leopardi spent the nights together in the same bedroom when they each had rented different rooms.

Mariotti in his book Neofilia (Rome 1952—a rare book indeed) wrote that Leopardi started to masturbate at a very early age and even when he got over puberty he indulged to the extreme, inducing self-excitement and lust with "undignified" dialogues. Ranieri confirmed this behavior: "Due to circumstances, which I gladly pass under silence, I would often find myself witnessing such scandalous situations", he said.

"At last" as Giacomo would put it - death came in Naples in 1837 when an epidemic of cholera broke out. Ranieri managed to salvage Giacomo's body from one of the wholesale burials so common during such epidemics. Leopardi was buried in the Church of San Vitale Fuorigrotta in Naples.

Leopardi and Ranieri's friendship was of an extremely intimate nature. Today we would call it a 'gay relationship'.

Some of Leopardi's poems are directed to women and would suggest the poet's desperate love for 'an imaginary girl' Silvia.

Leopardi deserves closer attention, and I personally believe that accurate translations of his poems would give him outstanding international fame.

October 18, 1986

JAMES S. BETHEL, 51, of Elizabethtown died Saturday in Elizabethtown.

He was a former school teacher, a member of the House of Prayer Lutheran Church and a member of the A.M.O.R.C.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie Carver Bethel; one son, James Scott Bethel Jr. of Elizabethtown; one daughter, Laura Eugenia Cook of Elizabethtown; and one grandchild.

The body was cremated.

A memorial service will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the James S. Bethel Memorial Fund at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church.

Brown Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

James had been a supporter of GLHS since August 1982.

By Giorgio Migliavacca
P.O. Box 704
Road Town
Tortola
British Virgin Islands

AWARDS

INTERPEX '87, NY City, March 12 - 15
Alternate Lifestyles of Famous People
Paul Hennefeld

- 1 ATOZ Best Presentation award.
- 2 Vermeil.
- 3 ATA Silver.

Paul's collection will next be shown at SEPEX-TOPEX '87, The Radisson Hotel, Columbia, SC, on June 26 to 28.

(Buy the July 87 issue of MANDATE!)

HARK! THE VOICE OF LIBERTY



© H. C. HILL & SONS, 1944. FIRST ISSUE



CAPTION WINNER
is
Michael Goetsch

Mr. W. R. Threlkel,
2626 Lindsay Ave.,
Louisville, 6, Ky.

- A. Are we...out, of course.
 B. A match made in heaven.
 C. We lived in the same home and slept in the same bed.
 D. Who ever said we weren't gay?

LOGO NEEDED

GLHS needs a logo! The stereotype has us as being artistic and creative, so let's impress the philatelic world. A prize will be awarded to the winning wntry. Submit to Paul Hennefeld, 512 Park St., Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

1987 DUES ARE DUE

THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE 1987 DUES DUE, WILL FIND A SASE ENCLOSED!

(Members and subscribers may place a notice free in the Journal. Of course, we wouldn't refuse a small contribution to help subsidize reproduction and mailing expenses.)

NOTICES

Wanted: U.S. 867 (Walt Whitman) first day covers, cachets and covers with fancy cancellations. Drop a line to E.S. Centeno, 102 Library Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070.

I want to buy pre-1930 picture postcards, views preferred. I also need puzzle cards and Halloween cards. Write first. Daniel Herzog, 645 Irvington Avenue, Newark, NJ 07106.

Interested in corresponding on the topic of Greek homosexuals portrayed on stamps and Greek homosexuality portrayed on stamps. Michael G. Goetsch, 1502 E. 118th Street, Cleveland, OH 44106.

Militaria, POW's, Disinfected Mail, Preadhesives, Thematic Covers, Gay Covers, Stamps, Postmarks. We are liquidating a very large stock accumulated over 30 years. Specify clearly your interest. We buy, too. British Virgin Islands bought and sold. The Admiralty, Box 704, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Wanted: postcards, gay-related, franked or otherwise. Also, Canal Zone, Danish W. Indies, Hawaii and Alaska, golden era only. Purshase, trade or whatever! G. Rusnak, P.O. Box 27308, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Exchange: Worldwide Stamps. Have interest in stamps that relate to: Coal, Military Tanks, Lighthouses, Bow(s) and/or Arrow(s), Disc Thrower and Booklets. Michael Ravis, P.O. Box 68, Philippi, WV 26416