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J O U R N A L

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GAY & LESBIAN
HISTORY STAMP CLUB
SALUTES



COLE PORTER
1891 - 1991

COMPOSER & LYRICIST

© GLHSC



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC), an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458.

The objectives of the club are:

To promote and foster an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:



- notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation.
- mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture.
- flora and fauna scientifically proven having prominent homosexual behavior.
- even though emphasis is placed on this aspect of stamp collecting, the Club strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

MEMBERSHIP: Yearly dues are \$6 per calendar year for US and Canadian residents; \$8 or 10 IRC per year for foreign residents (to cover higher postage cost).

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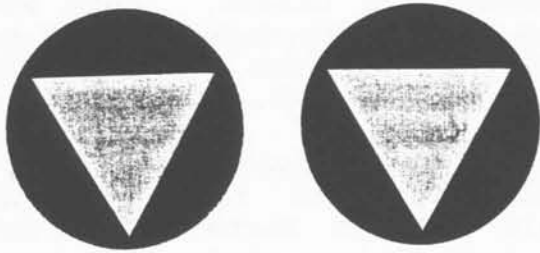
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The Lambda Philatelic Journal thrives on philatelic articles (original or reprinted) and alternative viewpoints for publication. Members are also encouraged to place free advertisements of philatelic interest. The Editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

The views expressed in the journal are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the Club or its members. Any comments or letters should be addressed to the Editor at the address listed.

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NEWS FROM THE EDITOR



With the advent of the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII approaching, it will be very interesting to see if a commemorative stamp honoring those lost in the holocaust will be issued by any country. Two countries that most likely would do such are Germany and Israel. The United Nations is another likely candidate.

One group of those persecuted which, rightly so, has received the most attention is the Jews. Unfortunately, many other groups were persecuted, gays among them. Gays seem to be the least known and least researched group of the camps. How many countries, if any would take the bold step to mention gays on a stamps?

The past does not present a promising picture on this idea, however. Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen and Flossenburg were the main gay camps. Life in the camps was extremely harsh for gays. It seems that gays and Jews held the bottom niche as far as the camp operators were concerned. Life after being liberated was even worse. Gays, as a whole, were not even compensated as were other groups. The world focused its attention on the Jews. Gays were basically forgotten until around 1972. However, it wasn't until 1979 and the production of Bent that the subject was widely discussed. A group in Europe dedicated a small monument to the camp victims' honor in the early 1980's. Gays were not mentioned on this memorial, even

after lobbying by gay rights groups. A holocaust memorial is being built in Washington, DC, but it is unknown if gays and others will be featured prominently. Hopefully, these other groups will not be placed in some lonely, dark corner.

Now would be the time to write letters. Several stamp issuing entities have begun to release commemoratives for the early battles of WWII. A few countries have issued proposed schedules of war related issues. No memorials, to my knowledge, have been mentioned; but not all entities give ample notification. Although it would be a solemn occasion, there is a prospect for a first "official" gay issue.

CORRECTIONS:

The Scott numbers for the stamps in the previous journal are:

Basho: the entire set consists of numbers 1710-1729 and 1775-1794a. The stamps illustrated were 1710-11 (Basho portrait) and 1775-76 (river).

Christina, Queen of Sweden: She can be found on Sweden's Scott no. 272. She can also be found on several postal stationery items.



COLLECTING STAMPS IS FUN!

COLE PORTER

by Thomas F. Shaw

Listen to a Cole Porter song and what comes to mind? Candlelit, champagne dinners in a seaside cafe on the French Riviera? Witty, big-city sophistication and worldly style and grace? His songs conjure up international glamour. America fell in love with these romantic images during the 20's, 30's and 40's.

Cole Porter was born to wealth in the town of Peru, Indiana on June 9, 1891. He was the only child of Kate and Samuel Porter. His grandfather, J. O. Cole, had built up an estimated seven million dollar fortune by 1890.

At an early age, Cole displayed musical talent. With encouragement from his mother, who was an amateur pianist, he attended the Conservatory of Music in Marion, Indiana. There he studied piano, violin and composition. At the age of eleven, Cole had a piece for the piano published in Chicago. His father was tolerant of Cole's musical aspirations, but his grandfather was openly hostile. J. O. wanted Cole to study law and promised him a sixth of the family fortune the day he received his law degree.

In the fall of 1909, Cole Porter headed to New Haven, Connecticut to study at Yale University. He spent little time in classes and more time socializing and composing. During his undergraduate days, he met two men who would become lifelong friends.

Monty Woolley, an upperclassman who headed the Drama Society, was the model for Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came To Dinner*. Monty and Cole remained friends for nearly fifty years, until Woolley began a relationship with his black chauffeur. Cole was very class

conscious and snobbish. Another Yale friend, Leonard Hanna, helped spread the word of Cole's songwriting talent. Both Woolley and Hanna introduced Porter to the theater and the underground gay life of the time.

After graduating from Yale, and under pressure from his family, Cole entered Harvard Law School. It soon became obvious to him that he was no law scholar. He requested a transfer to the School of Music where he studied for the next three years. See *America First* was Cole's first complete musical score, but it flopped on Broadway in 1916.



In 1917, following the United States' entry into World War I, Cole ventured to Paris. Various accounts of his military service exist, but none are officially documented. Porter maintained that he joined the French Foreign Legion. A Yale publication of the time states that "Classmate Cole A. Porter has joined the American Aviation Forces in France, although nobody seems to know in what capacity." Another source states that he served in an artillery regiment and later the Bureau of the Military Attache of the US.

Following the war, Cole began perfecting and experimenting with his music under the supervision of Vincent D'Indy at the Schola Cantorum. He also began to host lavish parties at his Paris apartment. Soon he gained the reputation of a gracious host and

playboy. Cole's tunes, with their sophisticated lyrics and unabashed references to wealth and the good life, became the rage all over the city.

One of the significant people that Cole met while he was in Paris was Linda Lee Thomas. She was an American divorcee eight years his senior. She was one of the most wealthy, beautiful and famous hostesses in the French capital. They traveled in the same social circles, having many of the same friends and interests. They were married in a civil ceremony on December 18, 1919.

On the outside, the Porters lived and entertained in grand style. They seemed to be the perfect couple, but there was a hidden side to their relationship. Cole had been looking for someone with class and social prominence. Linda needed comfort and stability. Throughout their marriage, Cole and Linda were totally devoted to each other. Even though they were married in name only, they were there for each other. Cole made few demands on Linda and she, in turn, condoned his homosexuality.

Even with a hectic social life, Cole continued to write songs. He decided that musical theater was the way to success. He started by contributing tunes to revues which were running in New York. In 1928, three of his songs captured the public's attention: "Let's Misbehave," "Two Little Babes in the Wood" and "Let's Do It."

The Porters' moved to New York, setting up their residence at the Waldorf Astoria. Here they continued their lavish entertainment schedule. The 1930's found Cole becoming a box-office draw with many public favorites. With his string of successes, it wasn't long before Hollywood was calling. Cole and Linda soon journeyed to the West.

Cole found himself surrounded by some of Hollywood's most beautiful men. These men enjoyed being seen in the company of the famous composer. He began to attend many homosexual parties. His sexual behavior began to cause great concern for Linda. She left him for several months in 1937 and returned to Paris.

On October 24, 1937, Cole and some friends were horseback riding on the Long Island estate of Countess Edith di Zoppola. The horse Cole was riding slipped in mud, falling on top of him. Unfortunately, both legs were crushed. Cole suffered serious nerve damage. He underwent over thirty painful operations to save his legs. He would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

The early 40's were difficult times for Porter. His health, due to the horse accident, had deteriorated. The public was no longer interested in the glamour and glitz of the 20's and 30's. In 1948, Porter proved his critics wrong with his greatest artistic success, *Kiss Me, Kate*. The show opened to rave reviews on December 30, 1948. Every song performed became a classic. The production ran for 1,070 performances. At the time, it was only the third musical comedy to surpass the 1,000 mark.

During the 1950's, Cole's success continued with Broadway hits and film scores. They were also filled with tragedy. His mother died in 1952, followed by Linda four years later. In 1958, Cole had to have his right leg amputated.

He became a recluse shortly after the operation. He refused to attend a 1960 "Salute to Cole Porter" and his own 70th birthday celebration in 1962. On October 15, 1964, two days after having a kidney stone removed, Cole Porter died. He was buried alongside his relatives in Peru, Indiana's local cemetery.

For further reading:

David Grafton, *Red, Hot & Rich!*,
Scarborough House, 1987.

Charles Schwartz, *Cole Porter: A
Biography*, Dial Press, 1977.

Illustration: Scott No. 2550

Mary Read and Anne Bonny

by Judith Beckett

Although it is known that homosexual contact was the most ordinary form of sexual expression among 17th century Caribbean pirates, until recently this information has been largely suppressed. Since most of the sources for the article took their information from Charles Johnson's books (General History of the Pirates, 1724, and History of the Lives and Adventures of the most famous Highwaymen, to which is added Voyages and Plunders of the most notorious Pyrates, 1734) in which no mention of homosexuality is made, we should not be surprised that the most obvious conclusion about Bonny's and Read's relationship has not been addressed. Bearing this in mind, readers may easily surmise what has not been said. For more about homosexuality in buccaneer communities read: Burg, B.R., Sodomy and the Perception of Evil: English Sea Rovers in the Seventeenth Century Caribbean, New York University Press, New York, 1983.



Mary Read was raised a boy by her widowed mother. She was so good at it that she was engaged at a young age as a footboy to a wealthy French woman and spent her free time in the taverns frequented by seamen. At the age of 14, bored with this life, she enlisted in the Royal Navy. While in a Flemish port-of-call, Mary deserted to join a foot regiment where she soon won the esteem of officers and comrades alike. She was never promoted. Discouraged, she joined the calvary where she fell in love and married.

She and her husband owned and ran a tavern, "The Three Horseshoes". When he became ill and died in 1717, she signed up on a Dutch ship bound for Jamaica. English pirates attacked the ship. Realizing that Mary was English, they persuaded her to join them - Mary became a pirate.

In 1718, when King George I issued a Proclamation of Pardon for pirates, Mary opted to head for the open sea with a Captain Vane and his quartermaster, Jack Rackam. Attacked by a French man-of-war, Vane chose to run. Rackam, Mary and a few others deposed Vane from command, taking over his ship. Thereafter, she sailed as Rackam's first lieutenant and no one guessed that she was a woman.

Anne Bonny was the illegitimate daughter of a well-to-do Irish attorney; her mother was his housemaid. The three left Cork and went to South Carolina where he became a planter. Anne, who took over management of her father's house after her mother died, had a "fierce and courageous temper." As a teenager, she murdered her English maid-servant with a caseknife. When she further displeased her father by falling in love with a penniless seaman, he threw her out of the house.

Anne and the sailor married and sailed to the island of Provenance. There she was swept off her feet by

Captain Jack Rackam or "Calico Jack", as he was called for the calico jacket he wore. She ran away with him, joining him aboard his ship. There, Anne met Mary Read and developed a passion for her so great that Mary had to divulge her true sex. They became great friends and fought side by side, "encouraging and protecting one another". Both dressed as men. Both carried a cutlass and "a brace of pistols apiece" as they sailed the West Indies with Captain Jack, capturing sloops, brigantines and other vessels beneath the tropical sky.

In October 1720, Rackam's vessel was overtaken by an armed sloop. A bloody battle followed during which most of the pirates fled below deck. Only Anne, Mary and a third unknown pirate stayed to fight until all was lost. All the buccaneers were brought to Port Royal, Jamaica, tried and sentenced to hang. Rackam asked to visit Anne. Her last words to him were, "I'm sorry to see you there, Jack, but if you had fought like a man, you need not have been hanged like a dog." Anne and Mary both "pleaded their bellies", but Mary died of fever in prison. Rackam was hung at Gallow's Point, but Anne apparently escaped and disappeared from history.

Sources:

Carse, Robert, The Age of Piracy, Rinehart and Company, New York, 1957, pp. 222, 223.

Gosse, Philip, The History of Piracy, Tudor Publishing Company, New York, 1932, pp. 202-206.

Rogers, Cameron, Gallant Ladies, Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, 1928, pp. 55-84.

Snow, Edward Rowe, Pirates and Buccaneers of the Atlantic Coast, The Yankee Publishing Company, Boston, 1944, pp. 295-306.

Illustrations:

Bahamas No. 625

British Virgin Islands No. 229

Gay Postal History: Gerry Studds

The first two Congressmen were forced to leave their office upon the public discovering their sexual preference. Both had different personal reactions, yet the outcome was the same. Gerry Studds' ordeal had the ingredients for a similar scenario.

Gerry Studds began his political career in the early 1960's. In 1970, he ran for the Massachusetts' 12th Congressional District seat. Unfortunately for him, he narrowly lost to the incumbent. Once again, in 1972, Studds ran against the same person. This time, however, he was able to oust the Republican.

Studds moved quickly to get on several committees: the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee. He had performed quite well in both committees. His District re-elected him several times, the latest in 1982. Then, in early 1983, it seemed as his world would come to an end.



In late 1982 and early 1983, the House ethics committee was investigating alleged sexual misconduct by House members. During their investigation, it was discovered that Congressman Studds had had sex with a 17 year old male page in 1973.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Gerry Studds
M.C.

Mr. Paul Hennefeld
54 Overlook Dr.
Montclair, N.J. 07043

|||||

For the most part, it was the idea of members of Congress with pages that was considered a "serious breach of duty." Another Congressman, Daniel Crane of Illinois, was also found to have had sex, but with a female page.

"It is not a simple task for any of us to meet adequately the obligation of either public or private life, let alone both," he stated. "But these challenges are made substantially more complex when one is, as I am, both an elected public official and gay." With this short speech, Gerry Studds stunned the members of Congress. He gave it to the House on July 14, 1983 from the House floor. The House voted to censure both Studds and Crane for their actions. This vote cost Studds his chairmanship of the Coast Guard and Navigation Subcommittee. Reaction to his speech and the verdict was quick.

Other than the initial shock, the reaction seemed to be favorable for Rep. Studds. (Crane did not fair as well.) He was re-elected the following year. In 1985, he regained his valued chairmanship of the subcommittee. Studds still is the representative for the 12th District.

Congress seems to have adapted to Studds being gay. His coming out has lifted a great burden from his psyche. He is able to joke with fellow members of Congress. Though his main concern is his Massachusetts district, he keeps current on gay issues in Congress.

His actions on these matters is often behind the scenes and very low key. He believes that one can get more accomplished in this manner. Not all gays and lesbians agree with this position, but it does seem to work for Studds. He is currently trying to get a change in the Department of Defense policy on having gays and lesbians as soldiers.

The next and final chapter in this series is on another member of the House. He seems to be more well known in general than the previous three. His "exposure of being gay" was quite different than his predecessors.

For further reading:

Newsweek, July 25, 1983 and
August 1, 1983.
Time, July 25, 1983.
The Advocate, September 15, 29,
1983; July 23, 1985.

Illustrations:

Massachusetts Bay Colony, Scott No. 682

State Flag, Scott No. 1638

AIDS UPDATE

Syria issued an AIDS stamp on December 24, 1990.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus commemorated World AIDS Day with a stamp. Issue date was December 1, 1990.



Brazil used the preceding postmark/cancellation for its anti-drug issue. The issue date for that stamp was April 13, 1991. The stamp was directed at intravenous drug users and the risk of AIDS.

Cameroon issued a 2 stamp set on AIDS. The South American country of Uruguay also issued a two stamp set.

LAST LICK LAST LICK LAST LICK

From the Associated Press:

GAY HEAD, Mass. (AP) - Voters in this small Martha's Vineyard town have rejected a proposal to change the name of the community to Aquinnah, the Wampanoag Indian name for the western part of the island. The change was rejected 89 to 36, with three ballots blank.

Be sure to get your postmark soon!

From the November 2, 1989 issue of the Chicago Tribune:

Some sheep, it seems, are just not hot to trot. As many as 16 percent of the nation's male sheep, according to folks who study such stuff, beg off when approached by lusty female sheep. According to new figures from USDA scientists at the sheep experiment station in Dubois, Idaho, the uninterested males cost the US sheep ranchers an estimated seven million dollars a year. USDA scientists explain that at least half of these sheep are homosexual ... and the other half? Maybe they're just not ready for a relationship.

A new facet for collecting gays and lesbians on stamps!!

Someone, in this great state of Texas, wrote to Stamp Collector in April of this year. This person was concerned about washing stamps without using some type of gloves and the possibility of becoming infected with HIV.

We are lucky that the answer was given in plain English, informative and correct. Hopefully one day, we shall see all people acting in an intelligent manner.

Paul Hennefeld's collection was awarded a gold medal at MANPEX (Manchester, Connecticut). Again, we would like to congratulate him.

Another member from Vermont displayed a non-philatelic exhibit on nurses. The display was a success, garnering a write-up in the local paper. An article on

this exhibit may appear in a future issue of the Journal.

AIDS-related philatelic material sought -- commercial covers, FDC's, slogans and postmarks, maximum cards, new issues. Would like to compile bibliography of AIDS-related philatelic news. Please contact:

Les Wright
3036 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

The Italian postal service used a cancellation/postmark during the International AIDS Conference. They may also hold a first day of issue for another Italian AIDS stamp. At this time, however, it is not certain whether a new stamp will be issued. The conference was held in Florence during the week of June 17th.

Global Stamp News is a new publication developed to meet the needs and interests of worldwide stamp collectors. If you would like to receive a free subscription to this newspaper, please write them. Be sure to specify your collecting interests and any ideas for articles.

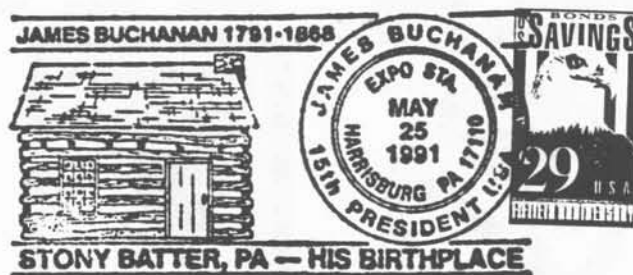
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Gay Post Exchange

The Gay Post Exchange (G.P.X.) is a quarterly newsletter for Gays and Lesbians looking for penfriends and/or hobby exchange partners worldwide. We also feature articles on travel, philately, Gay concerns and newsbriefs from all

over the globe. Our penfriend-hobby exchange and personal ads are free, when either ordering a single copy or with a one year subscription. Single copies of G.P.X. are: US \$2 (or 5 I.R.C.'s) and subscriptions are US \$6 (or 15 I.R.C.'s). Write to:

G.P.X.
164-A Diamond Street
San Francisco, CA 94114-2414
USA



The response from the questionnaire has been somewhat disappointing. If you have not yet returned your completed questionnaire, please take the time to do it now. I need everyone's input on making this a top rate journal, enjoyable to all members. Your response and comments are greatly appreciated.

Please be sure to send me a brief write up on yourself. I would like to begin a "Meet the Members" column. Unfortunately, I have only received one "bio". I think that this would be a great way to meet the many members in the Club.

Any information and/or news from different gay philatelic groups would be greatly appreciated. Mail to the Editor.