

**A.I.D.S.  
 ON  
 STAMPS**

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**POSITIVE Continued...**

And once again, AIDS ON STAMPS was delighted to receive the Bronze Ribbon and also, the ATA Bronze medal for "AIDS: A Global Perspective." We were also delighted to learn, after we had returned to Vancouver, from the Show Chairman '94 that we came second in the "Most Popular" exhibit to the "Christmas In Canada." Much was learned from attending both shows, so hopefully we can make some good strides forward in the area of philatelic exhibiting down the road. And thanks to all who saw the exhibits!

**YEAR STARTS  
 ON POSITIVE  
 NOTE FOR  
 AIDS STAMPS!**

Two exhibits in only two months with just 30 days in between made for some interesting "time management" lessons for February and March! But the rewards were worth every moment of it, and then some.

On February 19 and 20 VICTOPICAL '94, (local level show held in beautiful Victoria, on Vancouver Island) made for a most interesting topical show and high caliber of exhibits. AIDS ON STAMPS was proud to be awarded the Vermeil ribbon and the ATA Bronze medal for the 30 page "AIDS: A Global Perspective".

On March 18, 19, and 20, the EDMONTON SPRING NATIONAL '94, (held in the infamous West Edmonton Mall, Fantasyland Conference Centre) offered up an interesting variety from the classics up to todays modern topical/thematics.

<(See POSITIVE column left)



See PHILADEMICS P. 2

**QUESTION  
CORNER**

**Q:** While at a recent exhibition a couple of ladies were looking at my AIDS exhibit and threw this out to me: "Why would you decide to collect this topic anyway?"

**A:** All I could do was look the lady straight in the eyes and from the deepest point of my heart simply say: "Having been living personally with HIV/AIDS now for some 9 years, I feel I must use whatever means I can to help create more public awareness of this terrible disease." There was an incredible silence, then a very faint "Ohh!". I am proud to be able to call myself a stamp collector!

**AIDS ON STAMPS**  
can now be reached  
through electronic mail  
24 hours a day through  
Fidonet: (1:153/756) or  
Lambda Speaks BBS  
(604-681-3667)Vanc BC  
c/o Blair Henshaw

**JAPAN JOINS  
AIDS STAMP  
ISSUING  
COUNTRIES.**

It would only seem logical that, in view of the fact that Japan is actually playing host country to the 10th International Conference on AIDS, that it have the insight to issue a postage stamp to commemorate such an event. Thanks to my sources this week, I learned from the list of Special Issue Postage Stamps for 1994 from the Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications, Japan, that a stamp is scheduled for release on August 05, 1994. It will pay tribute to the 10th International Conference on AIDS, taking place in Osaka. This now brings to three, the number of announced releases for 1994 at this point - Andorra, France, and, now Japan.

**PHILADEMICS**

In this issue we take a look at the Kenya AIDS awareness stamps that were issued 31 October 1991 as part of that country's attempts to fight the AIDS crisis. I must admit that this is one of my most favorite issues. The messages on the stamps are very "to the point", the graphics are quite simple and clear to understand, and each of the stamps can stand on its own quite well.

For a country that has experienced more than its fair share of suffering from this disease, its casualties continue to increase. The WHO's reported cases as of July 1993 was well over 31,000 then. It makes one wonder just how high the figures have to get before a country will use every avenue possible to educate its population about AIDS.

Sometimes the simplicity of the stamp design attributes to it conveying a more powerful message than originally intended. I think this may very well be the case with this particular set from Kenya. Scott nos. 559-562 have become very popular when placed in public shows!

## **GUESTSPEAKER**

*Editor's Note: We are delighted to have Jean Anne Hlavacek as our guest speaker for this issue. We'd just like to point out that Jean Anne first proposed the idea of an AIDS awareness stamp for the USA in 1987, one full year before any AIDS postage stamps existed in the world!*

My stamp efforts were born from a friendship in High School here in Madison, Wisconsin. She had invited me to stay at her father-in-law's while I was in NY in the spring of 1986. From the moment I walked through the door of his flat until the time I left, his home felt like an enormous welcome mat. He was a professor at Columbia University and an expert on medical statistics. Some early morning chats gave me an opportunity to know what a fine human being he was and gave me insight as to what it was like to live with the diagnosis of AIDS. AIDS for the 1st time seemed real to me!

In the year to come I'd talk to my friend and she would tell me how they were managing with her father-in-law and of the struggles and obstacles they encountered before

his death at age 51 years. He died too soon, he had so much to offer the world.

In August of 1987, while paging through a Newsweek issue entitled The Face Of AIDS, I saw him pictured along with hundreds of other faces of people who had died of AIDS. At that moment, I decided I would try to increase awareness or raise funds for research or direct care of AIDS patients.

Several days later, while going through my mail, I came up with the idea for an AIDS Awareness U.S. Postage Stamp. A postage stamp would go into peoples homes, onto teachers desks, into business establishments, behind prison bars, and ultimately all corners of the world.. An AIDS awareness postage stamp would also be ongoing and cost effective. Postage stamps are issued every year, only this time, instead of birds or pretty flowers, a stamp would carry a vital message to people, and I was pretty excited! I was also pretty optimistic...I thought I'd have no problem convincing the US Postal Service to have such a

stamp, so I could place it on my Christmas cards in December of 1987. At that time no AIDS stamps existed in the entire world, so I was a pioneer in unmapped, and at times, rugged bureau-cratc trails.



I came up with a design that featured the words Research, Prevention, Education, Compassion: they would frame the international symbol for stop superimposed on the word AIDS, a USA in one corner and a 29¢ symbol in the other. The design seemed to sum it up and I now had a beginning model from which to work and solicit support. It wasn't so important that my design be utilized, but rather, that the concept and message be accepted. I was on my way full speed ahead.

I anticipated I'd have some obstacles. #1. In 1987, AIDS was a topic that was whispered, not talked about. #2. Federal bureaucracy was a big beast to conquer. And #3, one I hadn't anticipated, was that the Postal Service would be very reluctant to address this controversial stamp topic.

I then embarked on a six year campaign to have the U.S. issue an AIDS Awareness Stamp. I solicited thousands of petition signatures at the Farmer's Market around the Capitol Square here in Madison and sent them to the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee. I regretfully later learned they were but placed in a file, never to be viewed by the committee members.

I wrote nearly 10,000 letters to champion support for the issuance of an AIDS stamp. I wrote to Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. I wrote every member of the US House of Representatives and US Senate. I wrote all the US Governors and mayors of major cities of the US. I wrote physicians, public health officials, educators, college coaches, AIDS projects throughout the

country, and mayors I thought might provide common folk or politically influential support for my plea. When writing these individuals, I would send copies of other letters of support I'd received, to give greater credence to my campaign to generate yet further support.



I received many less letters of reply than were sent, yet thousands of persons did respond favorably. The most significant political letter was from then Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, to Post Master General Tisch in February of 1988. *"The only weapons we have*

*in the current war against the AIDS epidemic are education and information....I urge your prompt consideration of a "Special Issue" stamp on AIDS. I realize the complexities and time involved to approve and issue a postal stamp. The urgency of AID may be sufficient to make an exception."..... C. Everett Koop, Surgeon General. The Koop letter generated an enormous response, ranging from the San Francisco Chronicle to the New York Times. Enclosing his letter and these articles, with other powerful endorsers, seemed to make it easier for others to jump on the stamp bandwagon.*

By the autumn of 1991 my enthusiasm had begun to wane. I'd written all the members of the Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee many times. I'd requested the stamp be placed on the agenda dozens of times and dozens of times had been told that it hadn't been approved. I'd also written my favorite actor Jimmy Stewart, from my favorite movie, *Its A Wonderful Life*, several times regarding my stamp efforts

and his response couldn't have come at a better time..."*Your letter is just about the most wonderful I have ever received. I think its great the work you are doing and I wish you every good wish and I hope you have a wonderful life. God Bless You.*".....Jimmy Stewart. That gave me the poke in the arm I needed to continue with the stamp campaign.

On December 24, 1992 I learned from one of the members of the Citizen Stamp Committee that the concept had been approved and that the Postal Service would modify my design or create their own. The AIDS awareness postage stamp was finally formally announced on September 01, 1993, to be issued World AIDS Day, December 01, 1993.

My efforts were but a very small piece of an enormous pie with regard to AIDS. There are scientists in laboratories who struggle everyday with a cantankerous virus in their attempts to cure AIDS. There are AIDS social workers, doctors, and nurses who work everyday to help those diagnosed with a debilitating disease, that

has no cure on the horizon, and, there are also the volunteers, who give freely of their time and their hearts to physically and emotionally support those living and dying with AIDS. It is all of us who foster change and make a difference.

I was very complimented have been invited and attend the White House World AIDS Day Reception in DC on December 01, 1993, the day the US issued its US AIDS Awareness Postage Stamp, a long journey ended, and a dream come true. For the first time in US postal history even the smallest of postal stations had this commemorative for sale. The AIDS stamp provides a reminder to both sender and recipient to be discussed, pondered, and acted upon. So, please buy them, use them, and help give purpose to postage and share a vital message with all personkind! In closing I want to thank AIDS ON STAMPS and Blair Henshaw for giving me an opportunity to share this story with you and wish him luck with his goal of an AIDS Awareness Stamp for Canada! .....*Jean Anne Hlavacek.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

> One of the leading factors attributing to "long-term survivors" of HIV/AIDS diagnosis is mental attitude and outlook of the individual.

> Jordan is the third country to issue a souvenir sheet along with or part of its AIDS awareness stamp issue. It features the two single stamps that were issued on November 25, 1993 for World AIDS Day. Zaire was the first country to issue a souvenir sheet (features map of the world) along with its issue of three stamps in 1989. And the Central African Republic also issued individual imperf sheets of its May 01, 1990 three-stamp set (Scott# 982-4).

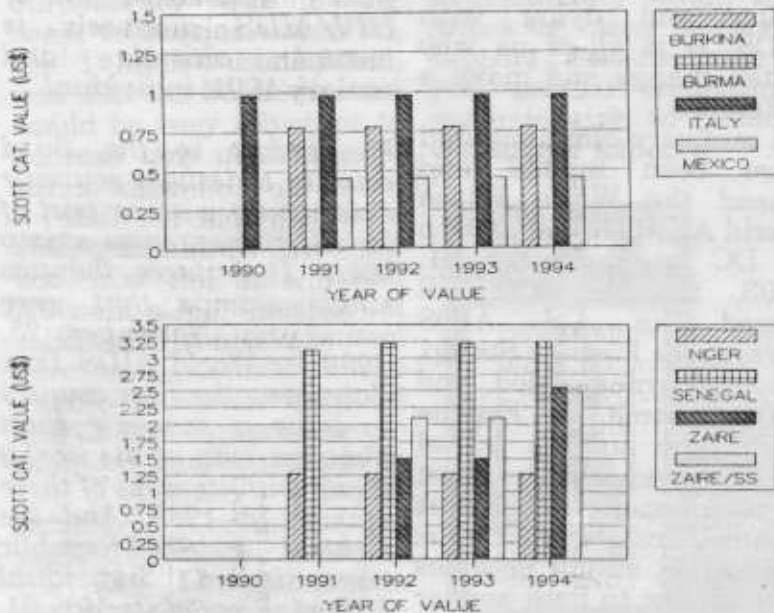
### QUARTERLY QUOTE

" Most people are about as happy as they make their minds up to be."

— Abraham Lincoln

**SNEAK PREVIEW '96**

**AIDS ON STAMPS 'TRENDS'  
ISSUES OF 1989**



The XIth International AIDS Conference is to be hosted by Canada right here in Vancouver, July 07 - 12, in 1996. We are pleased to announce that **AIDS ON STAMPS** has already taken steps to be represented in some form during that time.

In conjunction with our ongoing efforts to convince Canada Post to issue an AIDS awareness stamp here in Canada we have already submitted a three-level proposal to the Organizing Committee Co-Chair of the Conference. We have also informed the Stamp Advisory Committee in Ottawa that this would indeed be an appropriate event to recognize with a postage stamp.

Also, the Federal Minister of Health has expressed her support of the idea of Canada Post producing a World AIDS Day stamp for 1995.

We shall keep you updated as things progress. We are determined to have an **AIDS ON STAMPS** exhibit during the International Conference in 1996.

Continuing our graphic study of the trends of the AIDS stamps we take a look at the issues that were released in 1989 this quarter. Again, we have used the Scott catalogue values for our data from 1990 through 1994. Please note at this time there is still no listing or data available for the issue from

Burma. As it takes some time before these issues are recorded and catalogued by Scott, it may take a year or so before some issues show up. We've also listed the Souvenir Sheet from Zaire separate from the set of stamps, as it reflects a different pattern in the catalogue values.

# Apr/May/Jun/94 **NEWSLETTER**

**AWARENESS, EDUCATION, & SUPPORT**

P O Box 1652 Stn A Vancouver B C CANADA V6C 2P7

## L.P.J. PROVES TO BE INTERESTING SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Since I first began my AOS Quarterly Newsletter information sources have sprung up from all over the globe. One publication I feel worthy of noting is the **Lambda Philatelic Journal** which is the quarterly published by the GLHSC (Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps Club). As the name implies, the club promotes and fosters an interest in the collection, study, and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts the gay and lesbian community and its historical significance past, present, and future. This club, founded in 1982 by Paul Hennfeld, Brian O'Dell, and Brian Lanter, has established a study unit of the American Topical Association (No.458), an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (No.205), and a member of the American First Day Cover Society (No.72). Many interesting articles and surprises make this journal worth the browse.

And much information is given about AIDS stamps but, that is not the main purpose of the publication. I find the journal illustrated nicely and always look forward to not only the interesting articles, but the many tidbits of information as well. The thing I really like is that its not a philatelic publication filled with endless commercials. It deals with the hobby! You can contact them at one of two address's:

Ed Centeno,  
President, GLHSC  
PO Box 230940  
Hartford, CT 06123-0940

or

Joe Petronie,  
Editor, L.P.J.  
PO Box 515981  
Dallas, TX 75251-5981

Yearly dues are \$8.00US per calendar year for U.S., Mexican, and Canadian residents.

### POINT TO PONDER

"One of the terms of the settlement was that we not release any of the terms of the settlement!"

### **FACTOR FICTION?**

Although World AIDS Day has been designated to take place on December 01 of each year, perhaps one of the most powerful issues so far was released with a cancel and issue date of 31 January 1991.

**FACT:** As you can see from the following cover from Ethiopia the date of issue was 31 January 1991 and one is left with the impression that's also the date of World AIDS Day.

Issued by Ministry of Transport & Communications  
Ethiopian Postal Service

የግለሰብ ልሳን ተገቢ  
የጥ. 23 ተገቢ 1983  
World AIDS Day  
31 January 1991



**FIRST DAY COVERS**

This area of collecting is a relatively new one for me and has opened up an entirely new arena that is proving to be most rewarding. Its most interesting to see what designs of cancellations the various countries use to go along with their stamps. And the illustrations on some of the covers tend to enhance the message already found on the stamp(s). Here, we are shown compassion, love, and understanding on Greenland's FDC.

FIRST DAY COVER



Kisallik Atammassalik - Greenlandic Post Office



**ISSUES 'A' THRU 'Z'**

**GREECE** - On 22 May 1992 Greece issued a five stamp set in which one (the 60 drachma) depicts a sixth century B.C. couple caressing under an umbrella, symbolically protecting them from the AIDS threat, represented by the drab, gray sky above them. (Scott # 1733-37).

**GREENLAND** - In 1993 the Greenlandic Post Office joined the information campaign about AIDS when on September 09, it issued a very colorful red, yellow, and brown 4 krona stamp which gives us the artist's microscopic interpretation of the actual virus. (Scott# 264?)

**GUATEMALA** - As part of its effort in combating AIDS a single Q 1.00 airmail stamp was released to commemorate World AIDS Day, on December 01, 1992, depicting the WHO's international symbol and color scheme, with the general message to fight AIDS worldwide. (Scott C845).

**How Do We Function?**

The AOS Newsletter is put together with the hopes of creating a better understanding of this horrid disease by sharing, through the philatelic world, the extent of this pandemic. As a person living with HIV/AIDS now for nine years, this topical area of stamp collecting has been very therapeutic. The subscription fee of \$10.00 per calendar year sees half of that donated to AIDS Charities in BC with the other half helping to defray postage & production costs. Please make your cheques or money orders payable to **COMTRU VENTURES**.



**NEXT ISSUE - JULY 1st ANNIVERSARY**

> **FACELIFT** on our 1st anniversary issue. Nothing too drastic, just enough to make us a little more "reader friendly!"