

NEWSLETTER

Box 1652, Stn. A.
Vancouver, B. C.
Canada, V6C 2P7
(604) 689 - 0723



Volume 2
Number 2
Oct./Nov./Dec.
1994

CREATING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT - THROUGH A UNIVERSAL MEDIUM

World AIDS Day



JORDAN
"World AIDS Day Souvenir Sheet"
(See PHILADEMICS page 2)

PHILADEMICS

IN THIS ISSUE

AIDS Awareness Week '94.....	4A
CANADA POST UPDATE	4
France: Take Two.....	4
New Canadian Meter Slogan	8
Parliamentarian With A Message.....	3
Silver/Lane 2 Years In A Row +.....	4
The Endless Toll.....	4B
World AIDS Day '94 Update.....	7

REGULAR FEATURES

Did You Know ?.....	3
Fact Or Fiction ?.....	8
(First Day) Cover Story.....	10
Guest Speaker.....	3
Issues A Through Z.....	8
Point To Ponder.....	7
PHILADEMICS.....	2
Quarterly Quote.....	4
Question Corner.....	7
Trends.....	9
YOUR Two Cents Worth.....	4A

Our front cover features the souvenir sheet from Jordan that was issued specifically for World AIDS Day in 1993. The issue comprised of the imperf souvenir sheet and the two identical stamps was actually released on November 25 so as to be in circulation on World AIDS Day, thus realizing maximum potential for creating awareness, before the event!

The interesting thing about the sheet is that the value of postage for it (200 fils) offered a discount from the total denominations of the two individual stamps combined (80 fils and 125 fils).

Although the design is basic for all three items, the World Health Organizations familiar symbol for World AIDS Day is dominant, as is the actual portrayal of the HIV virus that is thought to cause AIDS.

Yet, the predominant question is placed in the foreground, the question that is perhaps one of the most tormenting for an individual to ask themselves. Am I HIV+ or not? If so, where do I go from here? Do I really want to know if I'm HIV+? How did I become HIV+? Do I go into denial or do I seek out support? Who do I tell? How will they react? Will I be rejected? Does anyone else really have to know? Will I change my behavior patterns? So many questions!

What does World AIDS Day mean to me? This fairly simplistic stamp has set off such a complex series of questions, yet could very easily become the catalyst for an individual to either live with AIDS, or dye from AIDS! Even though there is still no known cure, in the time we have remaining, if we are HIV+, we still have choices!

From a personal point of view, and as difficult as it may be at times, I choose to do my best to live with it. The time I have is precious. World AIDS Day is every day when I live with it.

How Do We Function ?

The AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter is put together with the hopes of creating a better understanding of this horrific disease by sharing through the philatelic world, the extent of this pandemic. As a person living with HIV/AIDS now for over nine years, this topical area of stamp collecting has proven to be very therapeutic. The subscription fee of \$10.00 (four quarterly issues) sees half of that donated to AIDS charities in British Columbia with the other half helping to defray postage & production costs. Please make cheques or money orders payable to COMTRU VENTURES.

<u>PUBLICATION</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>
<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DEADLINE</u>
January 25	January 10
April 25	April 10
July 25	July 10
October 25	October 10

GUEST SPEAKER

AIDS ON STAMPS WORLD AIDS DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dr. Hedy Fry, M.P.
Vancouver Centre

"I am pleased to add my voice to the chorus of voices that mark this annual event, World AIDS Day. It is through events like this that communities can come together to strengthen their support for those afflicted with this disease as well as educate individuals on how to prevent its spread. Whether it be through "safer sex" or abstinence, prevention is the best way to combat this disease. One cannot be content to be part of some immune "low risk" group. Unlike people, AIDS does not discriminate. Through education and awareness enhanced by events such as World AIDS Day we can bring an end to the tragedy of HIV/AIDS.

I have come across many people who have faced the despair of AIDS with incredible strength and determination. Many have been broken, however not by disease, but by the abandonment of their immediate family. It has only been through their network of friends and companions have they lived a more fulfilling life. Many people living with HIV/AIDS will continue to do so as long as they receive the love and support they deserve.

Fortunately we can all become part of this "extended family". One that transcends bloodlines and beliefs to offer compassion, understanding and assistance in the face of one of the worst health disasters in human history. To those who place blame, who cherish ignorance over enlightenment and who prefer to be judgmental rather than offer

solutions, I have only one wish: that our compassion will be a tide to raise awareness, bring hope, and create a connectedness to the suffering of others. Let us hope that through campaigns like AIDS On Stamps and World AIDS Day, we can extend our reach to combat fear and misinformation.

I would like to reiterate my government's support for research into HIV/AIDS and its prevention, to provide adequate palliative care for those affected and to foster an environment of social and community support. I salute the community groups and hard working volunteers that have given persons living with Aids a glimmer of hope and raised the awareness of governments. I hope on this day of mourning the loss of the many valuable members of society who have succumbed to AIDS that more people will be inspired to join in the fight against this dreadful disease."

Sincerely,

Dr. Hedy Fry, M.P.

Editor's Note: Dr. Fry is not only the Member of Parliament representing one of the largest HIV/AIDS affected constituencies in Canada, but also speaks with personal, authoritative experience from her medical practice within this very community.

DID YOU KNOW ?

> According to the WHO's Global AIDSNEWS 1994 - No. 3 "Around 1.5 million people developed AIDS between mid-1993 and mid-1994 - **three times** as many as in the previous 12 months.

As far as infections are concerned, it is estimated that more than 16 million adults and over 1 million children have been infected with HIV since the start of the pandemic. Up to 3 million new infections with HIV, about half of them in women, occurred between mid-1993 and mid-1994.

COMIC BOOK HEROES TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER A.I.D.S. AWARENESS FOR 1995 AT CANADA POST!

Canada Post has once again turned down the suggestion for an AIDS Awareness stamp to be included in its 1995 stamp program.

Quoting from correspondence to me dated October 31, 1994: "I regret to inform you that the Stamp Advisory Committee did not recommend this subject for inclusion in the 1995 stamp program. However, it will be reconsidered for the 1996 stamp program in conjunction with the XI International Conference on AIDS being held in Vancouver."

Obviously I was disappointed in their delay and have already resubmitted my proposal to the Committee for serious consideration for the 1996 program. Quoting from my letter to the Committee Chair: "However, I herein resubmit my revised proposal to the Stamp Advisory Committee, not just to be considered, but, to be acted upon favorably for the 1996 stamp program. In view of the fact that this suggestion has been consistently turned down for the 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995 stamp programs, it has been made clear to me that it is now time to go beyond simply submitting proposals. The time has come to demand positive action!"

If you have not yet voiced your support directly to the Stamp Advisory Committee I urge you to do so now by writing directly to: Chairman, Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Canada Post Corporation, Suite # 410, 2701

Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0B1. Or, you can write to your local MP (no postage necessary) as ALL MPs are very aware of my efforts in this matter. Thank you.

QUARTERLY QUOTE

A mind is like a parachute: it only works when it is open !

SILVER / LANE TWO YEARS IN A ROW - PLUS

We are pleased to report that our revised and updated exhibit entitled: **AIDS: From Diagnosis To Death** did well in competition at Vanpex '94 again this year. Although the judging was tight and the competition was stiff we were awarded a Silver Ribbon and the Ted Lane Award, the trophy prize for that category. **PLUS** - we were awarded the ATA Gold Medal/First Blue Ribbon Award.

The entire Vanpex Show presented a fine spectrum of exhibits this year and the British Columbia Philatelic Society proudly showed off its brand new 16 page, light-weight, exhibition frames.

FRANCE: TAKE TWO



TAKE ONE: Issued 30 April 1994 as part of the EUROPA 1994 Series



TAKE TWO: To be issued 01 December 1994 (with tab) for World AIDS Day.

YOUR Two Cents Worth: "AIDS AWARENESS WEEK"

As did last year, our exhibit at the Vancouver Public Library during AIDS Awareness Week (October 03 - 09) brought about some interesting response. Although the turnout was not as large as last year, the feedback was most encouraging.

This year we also made available an Opinion Poll for people to fill out to give us some feedback. We asked you to indicate what you thought to be the **most popular, least popular, most educational, and least education** and should Canada issue an AIDS stamp

Results were as follows: **most popular** >(18%) USA Red Ribbon stamp; **least popular** >(18%) Ethiopia overprint; **most educational** > (43%) Kenya set; and **least educational** > (25%) Ethiopia overprint. An interesting comment that was given several times related to the section of the exhibit "The Endless Toll" which depicted celebrity personalities who have died of AIDS. Several people expressed the feeling these should not be included as they had no message about AIDS! "The Endless Toll" section is included in this issue as a tribute to those who have gone before because of AIDS or AIDS-related complications, and as part of our World AIDS Day edition. We'd appreciate your comments on this area.

For all of those who took the time to fill out our Opinion slip at the Library exhibit, we have offered a special draw to take place at our World AIDS Day event December 01, and three lucky people will win either a mint set of the United Nations stamps, a free 1995 subscription to our newsletter, or a set (2) of our World AIDS Day Show cover/cancel (93/94). Winners will be announced in the next issue.

In conjunction with AIDS Awareness Week 1994, a special post card was made available. Emphasis was placed on youth this year and locally, the YouthCo AIDS Society acted as coordinator for events for the week here in Vancouver. The newly formed Society (July 1994) caters to persons aged 15 - 25. We were pleased to be part of this new organization's events during the week. And, as is true with the hobby of stamp collecting (our medium) the future of awareness and education definitely lies in the hands of youth.

National AIDS Awareness Week 1994 is an opportunity to take action on issues around HIV/AIDS and youth sexuality. It's time to . . .

ASK QUESTIONS .

Knowledge is power. The safer choice is made with accurate information.

TALK ABOUT IT .

Open discussion helps us put our knowledge about HIV/AIDS into practice.

BREAK THE SILENCE .

. . . on HIV/AIDS, youth sexuality and the challenges faced by youth living with HIV.

Young people are taking action against HIV/AIDS. Youth living with HIV are speaking out about their experiences. With youth leading the way, together, we can work to create healthy attitudes about youth, sexuality and HIV/AIDS.

HIV Awareness Week is a worldwide campaign by the Canadian HIV Society. For more information contact the Vancouver Public Library Bookstore and the Vancouver International Society. Funding is provided in part by Health Canada through the National AIDS Strategy.



7. THE ENDLESS TOLL



7. THE ENDLESS TOLL



Rudolph Nureyev
(1946 - 1992)

World famous, Russian born, ballet star Rudolf Nureyev died of complications from AIDS on March 23, 1992.

Keith Haring
(1958 - 1990)

Famed graffiti artist Keith Haring, of New York, died of AIDS at the age of 31, on February 16, 1990. He is noted for designing the above pictorial cancel for the U.S. Postal Service in 1989, and also designed several postage stamps for the United Nations Postal Administration.

ARTHUR ASHE
(1943 - 1993)



Arthur Ashe was the first and only black male to win the US Open (1968) and Wimbledon (1975) tennis championships. He also founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of Aids.

Arthur Ashe
(1943 - 1993)

The first and only black male to win the US Open (1968) and Wimbledon (1975) tennis championships. He also founded the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of Aids.



Freddie Mercury
(1946 - 1991)

Famous 10-million-seller rock singer and composer, Queen, died in 1991 from complications due to AIDS.



Freddie Mercury
(1946 - 1991)

Lead singer and lyricist for the rock group Queen, died November 24, 1991, from AIDS-related pneumonia. Mercury was depicted in this Romanian pictorial cancellation in 1992.

WORLD AIDS DAY 94

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN PLEASED TO CONFIRM THAT WE WILL BE PUTTING ON OUR SPECIAL ONE DAY **WORLD AIDS DAY SHOW** ON DECEMBER 01 AT THE SHERATON LANDMARK ON ROBSON STREET FROM 10:00 AM TO 9:00 PM.

AND, AS LAST YEAR, WE HAVE DESIGNED A SPECIAL SHOW COVER AND CANCEL FOR THE OCCASION. IT IS ACTUALLY AT THE PRINTERS AS WE TYPE! AS THE THEME FOR WORLD AIDS DAY THIS YEAR IS 'AIDS AND THE FAMILY' OUR MESSAGE IS: AIDS AWARENESS BEGINS AT HOME

AS LAST YEAR, THIS YEARS' SHOW COVER WILL BE A NUMBERED AND LIMITED EDITION. RETURN THE ENCLOSED HANDY SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FORM (postmarked) BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1994 AND RECEIVE \$1.00 OFF THE PURCHASE OF ONE SHOW COVER/CANCEL.

AND, AS LAST YEAR, 50% OF ALL PROCEEDS FROM OUR DECEMBER 01 EVENT GOES DIRECTLY TO AIDS CHARITIES IN B.C.

AS PART OF THIS YEARS' EVENT WE ARE ADDING A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE LEFT US OVER THE PAST YEAR IN WHAT WE WILL BE REFERRING TO AS **THE A.I.D.S. MEMORIAL ALBUM**. WE HOPE TO INCLUDE A PHOTO OF THIS IN OUR NEXT ISSUE WITH A SUMMARY OF THE Day's EVENT.

POINT TO PONDER:
How many weeks are there in a light year ?

QUESTION CORNER

Q: *How many International AIDS Conferences have actually been recognized on postage stamps or philatelically ?*

A: *As far as we can determine there have been only three. In 1988 San Marino hosted the 4th International Symposium on AIDS and this cancel (fig. 1) was used at that time. The 10th International Conference on AIDS that was hosted in Japan saw the release of this (fig. 2) stamp. And, we may be pushing it a bit, but the meter/slogan in fig. 3 is being used in conjunction with the Organizing Committee of the 11th International Conference on AIDS to be held in Vancouver in 1996. If all goes well, perhaps Canada will actually have a postage stamp issued in conjunction with this Conference. (See Comic Book Heroes page 4)*

A.I.D.S.

7. The Endless Toll



Rock Hudson
(1925 - 1985)

The first "celebrity" to receive world-wide attention when, in 1985, he died of AIDS.



Liberace
(1919 - 1987)

On February 04, 1987, Wladzio Liberace, world famous pianist and showman, died from complications of AIDS.

ISSUES A THROUGH Z

JORDAN - On November 25, 1993 a interesting set of two stamps, a 80 fils and a 125 fils, along with a souvenir sheet with the same two stamps imperf but with a full-sheet denomination value of 200 fils was issued especially for World AIDS Day. (Scott # 1459-60 & 1461)

JAPAN - A 80 yen stamp to commemorate the 10th International Conference on AIDS was issued on August 05, 1994. The design depicts the logo of the Conference (a parent and child) representing the pupil of an eye. The stamp was issued in panes of 20. It has been reported that up to ten thousand delegates to the Conference were given a souvenir "set" of the stamp.

KENYA - Going back to October 31, 1991 we come upon a set of four (2,6,8,50,11 in denomination) that each carry a simple but "right to the point" message about AIDS: you too can be infected; has no cure; casual sex is unsafe;sterilise syringe before use.

FACT OR FICTION ?

Although so many countries have NOT yet issued AIDS awareness stamps, some countries are using slogan cancels to get the message across.

FACT - As a perfect example just look at some of the slogan cancels we've recorded from Great Britain alone:

- AIDS: Learn The Facts (Aug.88)
- AIDS: Don't Die Of Ignorance (Aug.88)
- World AIDS Day Sharing The Challenge(Dec.91)
- Never Neglect Your Sexual Health(Nov.92)
- Love Safe, Love Longer(Nov.92)
- AIDS Action(Dec.93)

NEW CANADIAN METER SLOGAN PAVES ROAD TO VANCOUVER IN '96

We are delighted to be able to bring to your attention perhaps the earliest date used for a new meter slogan using the official slogan for the XIth International Conference on AIDS to be held in Vancouver, Canada, July 07 - 12, 1996:

"One World . One Hope."



1996 will see Canada (Vancouver) host the 11th International Conference on AIDS with the theme being "One World. One Hope."

*Pitney Bowes Postage Meter #1115706, red ink, dated 13 IX '94, was used on the first mailings of information and official **First Announcement** from the Conference Secretariat.*

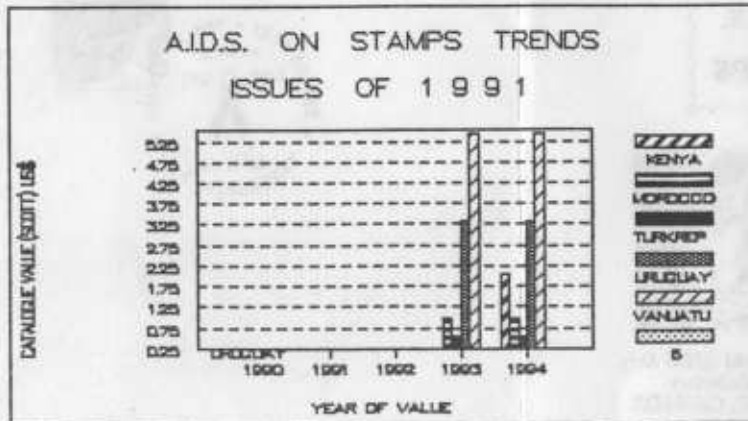
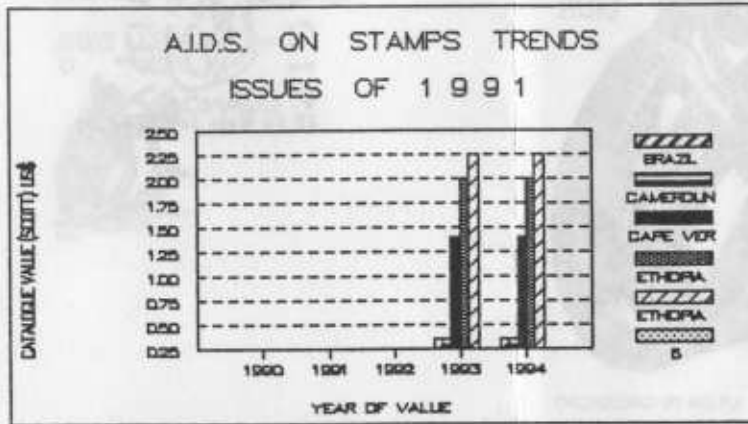
As we have mentioned in a previous AOS Newsletter, we are proceeding with our plans to be visible in a philatelic way as part of this conference. And, hopefully by then, we will have been able to add Canada's AIDS Awareness stamp to our collections !

FINE TUNING IN 1995

Starting with the next issue of the AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter (January 25,1995), we will be adjusting the Volume/Number system to reflect the calendar year. Hence, the first issue in 1995 will be referenced as Volume 3/Number 1, resulting in four issues for each volume, representing one full calendar year. Our anniversary issue will therefore be the third issue in each Volume.

TRENDS

In our final graphic interpretation of AIDS stamp values for issues of 1991 we have charted the values found in the Scott 1993 and 1994 catalogue. As in all cases, the values have remained constant for both years on record.



Cover Story

Perhaps one of the most colorful issues to be released in the area of AIDS FDCs is this more recent one from Angola. A closer look reveals many things in such a small space!



CORREIOS DE ANGOLA 1.º DIA DE CIRCULAÇÃO



Again, we are proud to present our second special, limited edition World AIDS Day 1994, showcover. As the theme this year is "AIDS and the Family", we feel our slogan 'AIDS Awareness Begins At Home' is appropriate even though Canada has not yet issued an AIDS Awareness stamp.



2nd Canadian World AIDS Day
Philatelic Exhibition
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA



AIDS AWARENESS BEGINS AT HOME