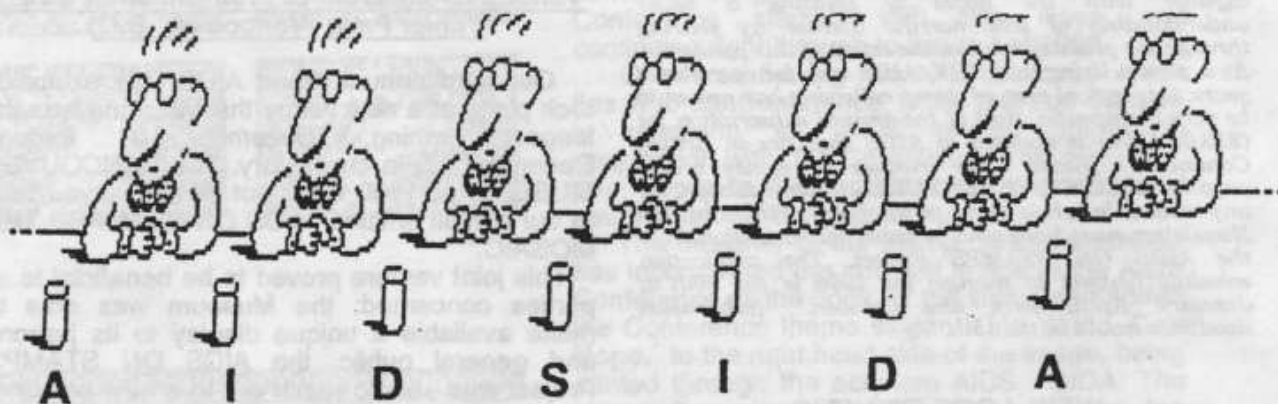


THE **A.I.D.S. ON STAMPS Project**
Box 1652 Stn. A Vancouver BC CANADA V6C 2P7 (604) 689-0723

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

NEWS LETTER

CREATING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT, THROUGH A UNIVERSAL MEDIUM
VOL 04 NO 01 JAN/FEB/MAR 1996



CANADA POST STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At Last!

CANADA - 1996

THE **A.I.D.S. ON STAMPS Project** is an independent, non-profit, AIDS awareness initiative to
"create awareness, education, and support, through a universal medium: - the postage stamp."

IN THIS ISSUE

A STAMP IS BORN - CANADA 1996.....	4
MERCURY HONOURED IN POSTAL MUSEUM.....	5
NEW LOOK FOR 1996.....	2
NEW WORLD AIDS DAY '95 VENUE	2
NEW "CONFERENCE CORNER".....	3
PROJECT '96	7
TO OUR REGULAR READERS.....	2
WINNERS.....	6

REGULAR FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW.....	7
(FIRST DAY) COVER STORY.....	8
IN FOCUS.....	3
ISSUES UPDATE: A TO Z.....	7
POINT TO PONDER.....	2
QUARTERLY QUOTE.....	6
SPOTLIGHT ON: BELGIUM	5
YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH	6

How Do We Function?

The AIDS ON STAMPS Quarterly 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 eleven years, this topical area of stamp collecting has proven to be very therapeutic. Half of the annual subscription fee (\$10.00 Cdn.) is donated to AIDS charities in British Columbia. Please make cheques or money orders payable to COMTRU VENTURES. Reproduction, by any means, in whole or in part, of any articles in this Newsletter must have prior written authorization from the AIDS ON STAMPS Project. The publication schedule (subject to change) for 1996 is the 30th of January, April, July, and October. Submission deadlines would be the 15th.

NEW LOOK FOR 1996

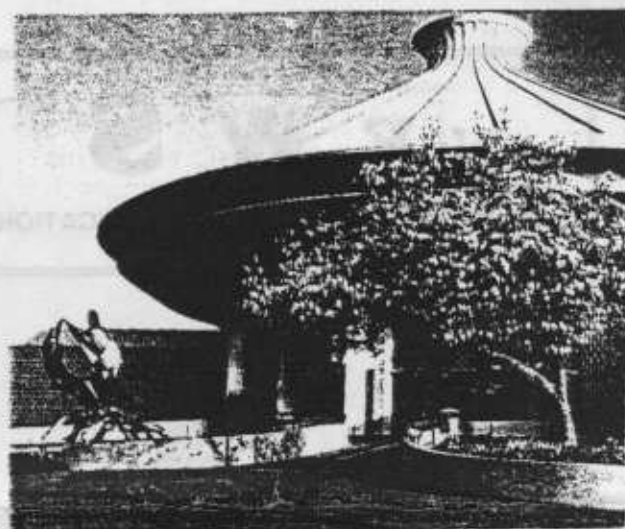
We hope you will find our new appearance and format easier to read and enjoy. We hope we can get more information to you while keeping our costs to a minimum, yet maintaining our main purpose in creating AIDS awareness, education, and support, through a universal medium: the postage stamp.

POINT TO PONDER

Life is not complicated: we complicate life.

NEXT ISSUE: Put your AIDS awareness to the test with our first AIDS ON STAMPS Crossword Puzzle!

NEW WORLD AIDS DAY VENUE FOR 1995



**Vancouver Museum at 1100 Chestnut Street,
Vanier Park, Vancouver, B.C.**

Our third annual World AIDS Day exhibition took place at a new venue this year and was the longest running, (December 01 through December 17) in our history. The VANCOUVER MUSEUM at 1100 Chestnut Street played host to our exhibit entitled "AIDS ON STAMPS - THE MOSAIC."

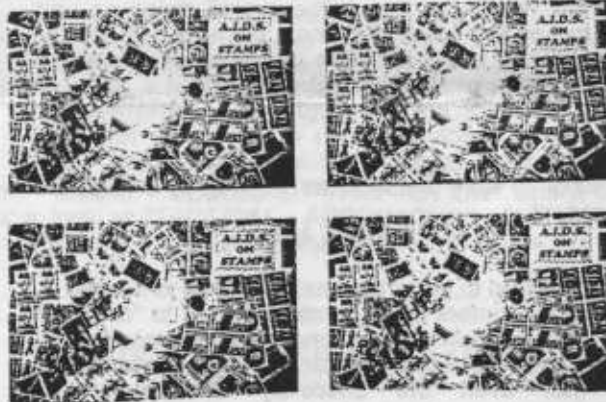
This joint venture proved to be beneficial to all parties concerned: the Museum was able to make available a unique display to its patrons and general public, the AIDS ON STAMPS Project was able to reach out to a new sector of population by moving from the downtown core of Vancouver.

We were especially pleased that the Museum recognized the importance of such an exhibit creating AIDS awareness and made access to this particular exhibit FREE to the general public during its 17 day run.

TO OUR REGULAR READERS

We appreciate your patience in awaiting this particular "expanded" issue of the Newsletter. As you may know, health problems (2 heart attacks since Nov.01/95, and most recently, Feb.14/96, an emergency angioplasty to open the blocked artery), complicated things temporarily. However, we are back!

In this issue we are pleased to introduce to our readers a new Canadian Cinderella issue related to AIDS: the AIDS ON STAMPS Project's very own! And it couldn't be more topical as it relates not only to AIDS but also to those who collect stamps on stamps as a topic also. This unique item is an actual color photograph (©1995 Henshaw) of most of the postage stamps from the AIDS ON STAMPS - THE MOSAIC exhibit arranged in a collage. Available in mint blocks of 4 for \$2.00. They are illustrated here actual size.



CANADA 1996



Editor's interpretation of Canada's AIDS stamp based on early preview.



XI International
Conference
on AIDS

Vancouver
July 7-12, 1996

XI^e Conférence
internationale
sur le SIDA

Vancouver
7 au 12 juillet 1996

Welcome to this new feature to our Newsletter. You will recognize it by the official logo of the XIth International Conference on AIDS illustrated here. As we are living here in Vancouver, the host city for the Conference, we want to use this corner to bring news to our readers about the Conference starting with this issue and continuing right through to the end of 1996.

Of course the big news for this issue which ties in to the Conference, is the fact that Canada is releasing an AIDS related stamp in conjunction with the Conference. This is, in fact, due mostly to the persistent lobbying efforts of yours truly over the past four years.

The designer of the stamp, (Gus Tsetsekas) has incorporated the adopted image of the AIDS Conference as the body for the stamp and added the Conference theme slogan 'One World. One Hope.' to the right hand side of the image, being printed through the acronym AIDS - SIDA. The stamp denomination (45) will straddle the top center of the stamp.

The image of the stamp is almost identical to the official "stained glass" image as seen on the Conference poster and is based on an original art work by local Vancouver artist, Joe Average.

We have not yet been able to find out from Canada Post officials what the print quantity or layout will be, but we do suspect it may be in the form of a miniature pane of perhaps 16 or 20 stamps. This seems to be the trend in Canada Posts' thinking at this point.

As a special service to our regular prepaid subscribers we will be offering an issue service of this stamp and related items for your individual collecting needs. Canada Post officials have told me that the release date is now set for MAY 08. They will be announcing full details about the stamp in April.

Special order forms will be sent to our regular prepaid newsletter subscribers in April with full details.

A STAMP IS BORN®

Editor's note: Beginning with this episode we will be featuring a four part mini-series which will relay the personal story of the efforts of an individual to lobby and succeed in convincing a postal administration to issue an AIDS awareness stamp. From day one over four years ago, through the ins and outs and the ups and downs, to the day of the dream come true, we will share this journey. Reproduction of this series, in whole or in part by any means is strictly forbidden without previous written authorization from the AIDS ON STAMPS Project®.

Episode One: SETTING THE STAGE INTRODUCTION

Perhaps one of the least known characters behind the birth of a postage stamp is the lobbyist - the person who sets the idea for a particular stamp (theme) in motion by putting forward the idea to the postal authorities long, (sometimes years) before the actual stamp(s) is born.

And just what is the makeup of such a person? From my own personal experience I would say there are three basic types. Type A represents the stamp collector himself, with an endless passion for the hobby. Type B would apply to the individual who has that burning desire to see their area of interest recognized on a grandiose scale, for whatever personal reason, belief, or dream.

Then we come to the third type which I would label as Type AB, and include myself in this group. This would be defined as the person who combines the passion for the hobby along with the burning desire to achieve recognition of the personal reason, belief, idea, or dream, on a postage stamp.

This brings us to the starting point, or shall we say, the "moment of conception," when the actual idea is implanted into the womb of bureaucracy in hopes of a fruitful development to the actual birth of the stamp. Hence begins the uncharted journey which will present many twists and turns quite unknown to the lobbyist before hand.

Lets stop for a wee bit of background at this point. Once a stamp is issued (released) basically two individuals are mentioned: the designer and/or the artist. And, of course, if the stamp is commemorating a certain individual, group, organization, or event, they become the focus of the stamp. However, the lobbyist, or person who dedicates their time (in the majority of cases, years!) and efforts to convince the Stamp Advisory Committee or Citizens Stamp Advisory, into accepting the idea in the first place, becomes forgotten in the dust. (How many stamp lobbyists can you name?)

Hence my story will unfold over these pages in hopes of contributing some insight and overview of this most interesting (and somewhat frustrating at times) process that has concluded with the birth of an AIDS related stamp to be released in Canada in May of 1996.

PART I - THE PLAYING FIELD

In order to reach any destination one must have some sort of a road map, or plan, which we will choose to call our "playing field." Then we will break this playing field down into different arenas, or target audiences, to enable us to gather support from as many sectors as possible. Our playing field consists of five very distinct and different arenas, and all of equal importance. These are broken down as follows: Political Arena, Corporate Arena, Community Arena, Philatelic Arena, and Personal Arena.

In all of these arenas one must remember that the only type of support that was sought was my request for a letter of support for an AIDS awareness stamp to be written to the Stamp Advisory Committee at Canada Post in Ottawa.

The Political Arena

This has proven to be perhaps one of the most interesting in the perspective of overall response and attitude of our elected representatives. Who better to seek out support from then the elected politicians? In this arena we get quite a variety which includes the federal members of parliament, the senators, the provincial premiers, and the provincial health ministers. These all seem like an appropriate "testing grounds" to see just where our politicians really stand on the issue of AIDS awareness and utilizing every means possible to educate the population.

After sending out close to 2500 letters over a four year period to this particular arena, the overall response was pathetic, to say the least. The most positive and highest response overall, came from the provincial premiers and provincial health ministers, ranking a top 67%.

Our members of parliament (all 295 of them!) fared poorly and only reached a high of 21% total response (including positive, negative, or indifferent!). And, least responsive of all were the senators, racking up a huge 8% total response!

The Corporate Arena

As we geared up to enter the next arena we extended an invitation to a segment of corporate notables to "come on line" and offer support or sponsorship of the project. And, here again, the lack of response and actual ignoring of my inquiry, (not even the descency to answer my correspondence!) left a bigger (not necessarily favourable I might add) impression with me. This arena included banks, airlines, and pharmaceutical companies. The total response on a percentage basis struggled to get up to 12% of the close to 60 contacts made.

The Community Arena

Surprisingly, in this arena the response was yet even more revealing, and disappointing, I must admit! This arena included close to 75 AIDS groups and organizations, stretching from coast to coast, and brought forth a total response (that I am aware of) of a mere 10%.

The Philatelic Arena

In this arena the response took on a different form of support and has proved to be one of the common threads that has interwoven this entire project to the point it has reached today. Two specific segments of this arena are deserving of recognition: the stamp club sector, and the philatelic media sector.

Thanks to the interest and cooperation of the local stamp club, of which I was not a member at the time (but have since become very active & supportive) my endeavour was put on a much smoother road by being able to have direct access to the general public through awareness displays and eventually competitive exhibiting within the stamp club shows. By loaning the exhibiting frames for public displays at the public library and special events such as World AIDS Day, the project creates a snowball effect. Now the cause also takes on a new dimension: while creating AIDS awareness, the hobby of stamp collecting also becomes a focus to the general public as well.

And, another offshoot from the public displays and

exhibiting, brings attention through the philatelic media: club newsletters, awards listings, local, regional, and national shows get press attention. And, established nationally and internationally recognized publications within the philatelic world give coverage.

The Personal Arena

In this arena, the underlying key to its success would have to be the element of persistence. When response, or more appropriately, the lack of response, seemed to be discouraging, my personal determination to continue on prevailed.

But, most importantly, in this personal arena, was the individual support and encouragement from friends and "the converted" that would give me that sometimes needed boost to continue on. The idea had now turned into the passion. And, as ever important, was the constant ongoing reminder of so many of my friends and acquaintances succumbing to this yet incurable disease - AIDS. And, getting as personal as one can get, living with this disease myself, after having been diagnosed HIV+ back in 1985 (possibly even 1-2 years earlier!) played a heavy role in my level of determination to see this stamp dream come true.

NEXT ISSUE: Episode II - INTO ACTION where we take a look at "TACTICAL APPROACHES, SURVIVAL SENSE, and THE DREAM COMES ALIVE."

"MERCURY" HONoured IN POSTAL MUSEUM



This special hand cancel just arrived from one of our readers in Great Britain. **Freddie Mercury**, lead singer of the rock group **QUEEN** died of AIDS. He was a childhood collector and his collection was displayed at the National Postal Museum in London. Dame Rumour informs us that there is a possibility that Freddie's collection (none AIDS related) may be on display in Toronto at CAPEX'96. Romania depicted Mercury in a pictorial cancellation 14-02-1992.

BELGIUM DOESN'T WAFFLE

On November 06, 1995 Belgium issued a stamp for the fight against AIDS. This release would be the first ever semi-postal AIDS stamp where the surtax on the stamp (+4 BEF) would go directly towards the fight against AIDS. The design was unique in that it was the winning entry from a contest PHILAPOST organized for young designers, centered around the theme "the fight against AIDS".



This was the winning design chosen from twenty-eight final-year-students from three art schools. Prizes were awarded to ten designs and the design of Ingrid Daenen (as illustrated above) was selected for the official stamp.

FIVE DIFFERENT CANCELS accompany this particular issue.

ADVANCE SALE

On 4 and 5 November, 1995, 10am to 5pm.



Salie Polyvalente
rue Malevez
5300 ANDENNE



Parochiehuis
Termurenlaan
9320 EREMBODEGEM



Cultuureel Centrum
Vlaamse Gemeenschap
Liisterbessenbomenlaan 4
1950 KRAAINEM

CANCELLATION "DATE OF ISSUE"

On 6 November, 1995, 9am to 5pm, at the post office of "Bruxelles 1", Centre Monnaie, 1000 Brussels.



YOUR TWO CENTS WORTH

Following are the results of the questionnaire 'Your Opinion Counts' we asked people to fill out during our AIDS ON STAMPS - THE MOSAIC exhibit at the Vancouver Public Library during AIDS Awareness Week., October 03 - 09, 1995.

Q-1: How did you learn about the AIDS On Stamps exhibit ?

Press: 18.7% TV: 2.2% Friend: 10.8%

Poster: 12.9% Other: 55.4%

Q-2: Did you know that such stamps, materials existed ?

Yes: 43.9% No: 54.7% No Reply: 1.4%

Q-3a: Which section of the display did you like most ?

PT.I: Countries & Statistics: 50.4%

PT.II: AIDS: From Diagnosis.. 15.8%

PT.III: Cinderellas & Postcards 5.7%

No Reply: 28.1%

Q-3b: Which section of the display did you like least ?

PT.I: Countries & Statistics: 0.7%

PT.II: AIDS From Diagnosis. 1.4%

PT.III: Cinderellas & Postcards 3.6%

No Reply: 94.2%

Q-4: Which stamp(s), by country, did you like most/least ?

MOST: Yugoslavia No Reply 31.7%

LEAST: Canada No Reply 58.2%

Q-5: If Canada Post were to issue an AIDS awareness stamp would you....

A) make special effort to use it;

YES 95.6% NO 1.4% No Reply 2.9%

B) save it as a collectable;

YES 61.2% NO 23.7% No Reply 14.3%

C) use it as an educational tool ?

YES 66.9% NO 16.5% No Reply 16.5%

Q-6: Do you think a stamp could be a useful AIDS awareness tool ?

YES 95.6% NO 2.2% No Reply 2.2%

Q-7: How would you rate the overall display?

POOR 0.0% AVERAGE 3.6%

GOOD 28.1% EXCELLENT 65.5%

No Reply 2.8%

Q-8: Do you feel you have learned something about HIV/ AIDS from this display?

YES 83.5% NO 12.9% No Reply 3.6%

Q-9: Do you personally know anyone who....

A) has died of AIDS;

YES 55.4% NO 38.1% No Reply 6.5%

B) is living with HIV/AIDS;

YES 61.9% NO 30.2% No Reply 7.9%

Q-10: Would you like to be added to our mailing list ?

YES 46.8% NO 53.2% No Reply 0.0%

The results of this survey were based on a total of 139 questionnaires received.

Once again we would like to thank all those who took the time to fill out the questionnaire and we learned a lot from the results. We hope that the Canada Post officials in Ottawa will get a clearer picture once they have seen these results also. We forwarded a copy of the results to the Stamp Advisory Committee in Ottawa and also to local Canada Post officials.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FREE DRAW WINNERS:

1ST: Canada Post "POSTIE BEAR" >
> Blair Qualey, Vancouver

2ND: Canada Post 1994 Hardcover
Souvenir Collection >

> John Kuchmistrz, Vancouver

3RD: United Nations World AIDS Day
Stamps (Set of 6 mint) >

> Beverly Fox, Vancouver

4TH: Free 1996 Subscription to the
AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter >

> Christine Tutt, Richmond

ANNUAL LEAP YEAR SALE!

SAVE **20%** ON YOUR
1996 SUBSCRIPTION IF YOU
REPLY BEFORE MARCH 15!

Send cheque or money order for

\$ 8.00

payable to COMTRU VENTURES

PO Box 1652 Stn A Vancouver BC Canada
V6C 2P7

*** KEEP INFORMED IN 1996 ***

QUARTERLY QUOTE

"I dream things that never were
and say 'Why not?'"

- Martin Luther King.

ISSUES ROUNDUP A TO Z

In this section we hope to present new materials that we have heard about (and can confirm) or have actually received since the last newsletter.

MALI:

Set of two stamps issued on June 30, 1994.

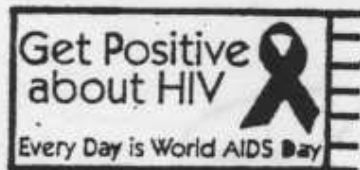


BAHAMAS:

Set of two stamps issued December 01, 1995 to commemorate World AIDS Day.

GREAT BRITAIN:

Several new slogan postmarks for World AIDS Day.



DENMARK:

Dame Rumour informed me just this morning that a semi-postal AIDS related stamp is now scheduled to be released October 10, 1996 from Denmark.

DID YOU KNOW?

> The AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter now has readership in at least seven countries including Canada, Brazil, Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and the United States.

> The AIDS ON STAMPS Project's stamp collection is now complete in that it has acquired all the stamps issued from the 60 countries that have issued stamps to date. Our biggest challenge was finding the set of 13 Guyana overprints, which we just recently did acquire. However, our search for FDCs, meters, cancels, maxicards, and other philatelically related materials is ongoing.

> The AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter starts its 4th Volume of publication with this particular issue. The first issue came out in the summer of 1993!

PROJECT '96

FIRST ANNUAL MAILBID AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 30th

Here is an opportunity to acquire some of those long sought after items and also make available some of your own "spares". And who knows what items just might show up in this auction!

We need YOUR help to make this a success for all.

Consignments, donations, or both will be welcomed.
(NOT restricted to AIDS material)

Full details in our special April newsletter supplement

LOT SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE: OCTOBER 01, 1996

AUCTION CATALOGUE SHIPPED: OCTOBER 31, 1996

Cover Story



In this issue we take a look back at the Xth International Conference on AIDS that was held in Japan in 1994. Pictured above is the official First Day Of Issue Cover that was released with the special stamp commemorating the Conference. The theme of the Conference was "Together For The Future."



The Xth International Conference was also acknowledged on this special cover and cancel originating from Romania. It highlights the logo of the Conference.

Just a reminder: we still have a few of our 3rd Annual Official Canada Post Approved, WORLD AIDS DAY Show Cover & Cancel available @ \$3.00 or two for \$5.00.