

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

# NEWSLETTER

CREATING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT, THROUGH A UNIVERSAL MEDIUM  
VOL 04 NO. 03 JUL/AUG/SEP 1996

## World AIDS Day December 01, 1996

*One World.*

*One Hope.*



Philippines



Bahamas



France



Paraguay



Uruguay



U.S.A

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."

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## How Do We Function ? (Being Revised For 1997)

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 twelve 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.

## TO OUR REGULAR READERS

Changes on the way for the new year at the AIDS ON STAMPS Project hold some exciting plans for all our readers. The big news is our preparation for a home page on the net. Don't panic, those without access to the net will still be able to subscribe to our newsletter as in the past through regular postal service. Please check out "SURFING THE NET: WE ARE THERE!" on page 3 of this issue. We are delighted to be able to expand to this area.

## POINT TO PONDER

FEAR IS A DARK ROOM WHERE  
NEGATIVES GET DEVELOPED.

## SOUTH AFRICA UPDATE #2

According to S A Stamp News (Vol 1 No 1 July/August 1996) the proposed AIDS awareness booklet that was originally rumored for release in April of 1996 has been put on hold indefinitely. We quote: "Owing to the fact no consensus has yet been reached with the appropriate authorities on the sensitive question of language, slogan or stamp design, the AIDS awareness booklet scheduled for July, has now been dropped from the year's program."

As part of the AIDS ON STAMPS Project's Phase II (see **TARGET 2000** page 6) we have included South Africa in our first mailing of this project and hope we may be of some influence in convincing them to include an AIDS related booklet in their 1997 stamp program.



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CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE  
COLLECTION S96 - 06

## **SURFING THE NET: WE ARE THERE !**

(TENTATIVE LAUNCH: W.A.D. DECEMBER 01, 1996)

As interest has continued to grow and we have received more inquiries about the AIDS ON STAMPS Project from several countries worldwide, we feel the opportunity to become accessible on the NET at this time would be a big step forward in continuing our original motto of "creating awareness, education, and support through a universal medium". That opportunity has arrived and we are in the midst of setting up a "home page" to be up and running (in part) by World AIDS Day, December 01, 1996!

A lot of work remains to be done and we hope we will be able to expand the area as time goes by and hopefully reach a much larger audience. Cooperation at a local level has been very encouraging and we are indebted to all those involved in the "behind the scenes" planning and consultations. We are delighted that others, not necessarily stamp collectors, see the value and importance of continuing to create awareness, education, and support of HIV/AIDS through every possible means.

In the new year regular Newsletter subscribers who have computer access will still be receiving the Newsletter by regular mail as part of the "Annual Membership Fee" to the AIDS ON STAMPS Project. It is hoped that the web site will be together in time to have our **official launch** of it on **World AIDS Day, December 01, 1996**. However, the Newsletter (in its entirety) will not be available on line until later in the new year. **We would appreciate hearing from any readers with e-mail capabilities, especially on launch day.**

A special thank - you to **SIWASH** for helping make this public service available.



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CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE  
COLLECTION S96 - 05

## **TARGET 2000 KICKS OFF PHASE II OF PROJECT**

*Now that our successful lobbying efforts for a Canadian AIDS stamp are behind us and we are enjoying some of the spin-offs from them we are frequently asked....what's next? Well, "what's next" has already been put into motion and we refer to it as PHASE II of the Project!*

*In the beginning of October we started Phase II by sending out the first of a series of "letters of proposal" to various Postal Administrations worldwide that have yet to acknowledge the subject of AIDS in their stamp programs. Over the next few months we will be batching to several countries so that eventually we will have contacted at least 60 more countries.*

*Our long term goal (by World AIDS Day, December 01, 2000) is to have been influential in convincing another 60 countries to recognize AIDS. This would double the number of countries who have done so by that time. We realize the next four years will go by quickly. However we will keep our readers updated on the progress of this Phase II of the Project.*



## A STAMP IS BORN®

*Editor's note: Following is the third of a four part mini-series which relays the personal story of the efforts of an individual lobbying successfully for 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 Three: MEDIA MANIA

#### GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

It is a general given that when it comes to news in the philatelic world, it has to be of exceptional or controversial proportions to attract much, if any, attention in the regular "worldly" press. Here in the Western World the issuance of AIDS stamps (more recently USA - 1993 and Canada - 1996) gained more press solely because of the nature of the topic represented - AIDS was timely, topical, and "in our face.," so could not go easily unnoticed.

Although from the early period of my lobbying efforts and the first public displays of already accumulated AIDS related philatelic materials, getting attention by local press or media was like trying to pull teeth. Media Releases and phone calls failed to stir up much attention.

Then, as time went on and it was realized that I was not going to just "go away" with my efforts, some started to take notice and actually wanted to interview me about the project and find out what kind of response I was getting from politicians, Canada Post, and AIDS groups.

However, from day one, the Philatelic Press was quite interested in following the project and actually wanted to be kept informed as things progressed. Canadian Stamp News on more than one occasion gave the project front page coverage! Club Newsletters also carried updates over the four year period. It wasn't until a favorable decision was made by Canada Post that most regular media showed any signs of interest.

As most AIDS Support Groups across the country have their own local newsletter to their membership I attempted to keep them updated on a regular basis. However, very few chose to even mention anything about a Canadian AIDS stamp.

When all was said and done and the actual release date of May 08, 1996 was confirmed I was quite shocked to learn that the official "launch" of the stamp was being scheduled with a media blitz out of Toronto - even though the lobbyist, the designer, the artist, and the city where the Conference the stamp was commemorating, were all in Vancouver!

Yet, even more frustrating was the fact that the Conference organizers had made all the plans for the launch out of Toronto without ever a mention of myself. Their original plans included taking the artist and two Conference representatives to Toronto for the ceremonies.

Once I had confirmed their plans through a copy I had acquired I put together plans myself (using their plan as an almost identical blueprint) for a launch here in Vancouver just one or two days before the Toronto event. In all my visits and conversations with the Conference office around this time, not a mention to me of their plans!

However, when their plans went to the person who had the final word on it, and they noticed the obvious omission of any mention or participation to include myself, the plans were quickly changed to include me in the party going to the Toronto launch.

Needless to say, it was not meant to be after all. As things turned out, I was hospitalized and had open heart surgery on May 01 so was unable to attend any launch functions whatsoever. Yet, two days before this I wrote a brief message from my hospital bed and requested that it be read (or at least mentioned) at the launch in Toronto, in my absence. This apparently was done.

Locally, press, radio, and film now were all wanting interviews. These included CBC Radio, three local and regional television stations, and local daily press. What a difference a day makes!

At this point I would just like to express a special thanks to a couple of close friends here in Vancouver who were always there with an open ear especially through the stranger moments and a big thank you to Jean Ann in Madison, Wisconsin; my counterpart for the USA AIDS stamp - she had gone through it all before me and offered immeasurable support that only she could do.

NEXT ISSUE: Episode IV-BRINGING IT HOME

## TOPICAL CATEGORIZING

To those who subscribe to or may have seen the last few issues of Scott Stamp Monthly we raise the following observation. On at least two occasions Scott has listed new issues by topic under AIDS which only relate to the person represented on the stamp issue and is publicly known to be living with HIV/AIDS. Azerbaijan (Scott # 574 - Greg Louganis) and Dominica (Scot # 1852 - Greg Louganis). What about other personalities, living and passed on who might fit into this category?

In my personal exhibit "AIDS: From Diagnosis To Death" I have created a special section entitled "The Endless Toll" in which I use stamps that feature persons both living and passed on from HIV/AIDS. When I first introduced this section in public exhibit last year, many questioned why? I stressed that it is important that we must never forget those who have gone before or, those who have accepted the challenge to live with HIV/AIDS.

Included in this section are: Magic Johnson, Greg Louganis, Arthur Ashe, Cazusa, Rock Hudson, Liberace, Freddie Mercury, Rudolph Nureyez, and Glauber Rocha. Will Scott include these under the topic of AIDS as well?



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CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE  
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## CONFERENCE CORNER



XI International  
Conference  
on AIDS

**Vancouver**  
July 7-12, 1996

XI<sup>e</sup> Conférence  
internationale  
sur le SIDA

**Vancouver**  
7 au 12 juillet 1996

Now that the XIth International Conference on AIDS is officially over the winding down is in full gear. Trying to find "leftovers" is like trying to find a needle in a haystack. In our last issue we featured the Phone Card, Cash Card, and Post Card, all of which seem to be quite scarce at this point in time.

The overall conclusion was that the conference was a success in many areas and that the feeling of bringing worldwide concerns together and focusing on some of the differences was an important factor.

Certainly the city of Vancouver was inundated with Conference during that time period and the image used on the Canadian AIDS stamp was on every street corner making the downtown area a sea of color.

The theme of the Conference, One World. One **Hope** has also been chosen by the WHO as the theme for World AIDS Day, 1996.



CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE  
COLLECTION S96 - 02

## ISSUES A TO Z

The only new issue we have to report at this time is the October 10 Semi - postal issue from Denmark which carries a 50ore "surcharge" that goes directly to The AIDS - Foundation of Denmark.



Denmark DKK 3.75 + DKK 0.50 - 10 October, 1996 (Semi-Postal)



Recently received this photocopy of meter out of Frankfurt, Germany.



And this cachet from Seychelles depicting the 1995 World AIDS Day theme: "Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities."

## BRITISH WORLD AIDS DAY POSTCARD FOR 1996



The postcard is a miniature of the World AIDS Day 1996 poster done by the National AIDS Trust. The theme for World AIDS Day 1996 is the same as that of the Xth International Conference on AIDS held in Vancouver, Canada, July 07 - 12, 1996: One World. One Hope.



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CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTION S96 - 03



## QUARTERLY QUOTE

*"That which does not destroy me  
only makes me stronger"*

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE

**Just an early bird reminder  
that 1997 Newsletter  
subscription dues become  
due as of *January 30, 1997*.  
In the new year these dues  
will also be considered as  
membership fees for the  
**AIDS ON STAMPS Project**  
and entitle the bearer to  
special privileges.**

**FULL MEMBERSHIP = \$10.00**

*(Details in next Newsletter - late December)*

**AOS Newsletter ONLY = \$8.00**

## PROJECT '96 FIRST ANNUAL MAIL BID AUCTION

**LISTINGS**  
**ENCLOSED**

**BIDDING CLOSES**

**MIDNIGHT (POSTMARK)  
NOVEMBER 30th**

*Good luck to all bidders!*

## CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE COLLECTION

A uniquely designed, limited edition commemorating special AIDS awareness events taking place in Vancouver, Canada, during 1996. Each cover (illustrated throughout this issue) carries the Canadian AIDS stamp and is Philatelically canceled with the date of each event by Canada Post.

Complete sets (6 individual covers) will be available for shipping as of December 01, 1996 (World AIDS Day). Canada Post would not cancel the December 01 cachet this early so it is illustrated without the cancel. However it is identical to the other five in the set.

Remember, these are very limited and orders will be processed on a first come - first serve basis (by postmark). Please use the handy special ordering form enclosed. All six cachets are produced in **full color**.

National AIDS Awareness Week



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CANADA 1996 COMMEMORATIVE  
COLLECTION S96 - 04

## HIGHER LEVEL AWARD REACHED AT VANPEX'96

We are pleased to announce that our competitive exhibit "AIDS: From Diagnosis To Death" broke its own three year record of receiving a Silver (1993, 1994, 1995) by moving up to a Vermeil this year.

The entire show was an overall success this year with close to a 50% increase in exhibits making it a 99 frame show. The competition was stiff and in the Topicals & Thematics Section the number of entries doubled from last year. Hats off to all involved in putting the show together.

# Cover Story



*BELGIUM was the first country to use a semi-postal stamp with a "surtax" of 4 BEF to be donated directly to the support of the fight against AIDS.*

ABCDEF  
GHIJKL  
MNOPQ  
RSTUVW  
XYZÆØÅ



*Denmark became the second country to use the semi-postal type issue with a 50 ore surcharge going directly to the AIDS-Foundation of Denmark.*