

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

P O Box 1652 Stn. A Vancouver BC CANADA V6C 2P7 (604) 689 - 0723

# News Letter

CREATING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT, THROUGH A UNIVERSAL MEDIUM  
VOL 05 NO. 04 OCT/NOV/DEC. 1997

## *Ringling Out Awareness*



# VIETNAM

## 'All the people prevent AIDS'

On July 11, 1997, the Department General of Posts and Telecommunications issued a stamp set "All the people prevent AIDS", consisting of 1 value 400d. It features a big bell ringing with the sound "AIDS" and a message "Don't let yourself, your family and your community in for AIDS".

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## EXCHANGE RATES

To accommodate transactions we may have at Subscription and Annual Mailbid Auction time we have decided to accept certain currencies (**cash only**) at established rates which we will adjust on a quarterly basis. We hope this will make it easier for some of our International readers.

**EFFECTIVE: 01 JAN. TO 31 MAR. 1998**

PAY IN:	CDN. EQUIV.
CDN. DOLLAR	= 1.000
US DOLLAR	= 1.350
BRITISH POUND	= 2.220
GERMAN MARK	= 0.705

Simply **divide** total cost of your order by the figure in the CDN. EQUIV. column above to pay in **your** (cash only) currency. Otherwise make payable in Canadian funds.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

To those who have Internet access we can now be contacted by e-mail at [blairh@imag.net](mailto:blairh@imag.net), however we are still in the process of revising the AIDS website before it is available online. However, when we are up and running we will notify you by email and in the next Newsletter. Thanks for your patience.

## POINT TO PONDER

*"A smile is the only curve that straightens things out!"*

## AIDS ISSUE ANGERS

The Tanzanian AIDS issue we featured on the front cover of our last issue has apparently created enough controversy in Tanzania that the Tanzanian Postal Corporation has withdrawn the stamps from circulation.

The situation came to light in a story reported in the January 05, 1998 issue of Linn's Stamp News. Negative reactions appear to have come primarily from religious groups in Tanzania, including the Full Gospel Fellowship and the Pentecostal Church.

Bishop Zakaria of the Kakobe of the Full Gospel Fellowship is quoted in the article as saying "the stamp is publicizing the devil. All morally upright people must reject it."

Rev. Amos Selen of the Pentecostal Church is quoted in the article as saying "Don't mind whether the letter has an important message or not. You have to tear it into pieces and set it alight while praying."

When I hear such narrow-minded opinions as these I cringe in my shoes! It makes me wonder just how far have we come in creating AIDS awareness, especially in such countries as Tanzania where the epidemic is rampant. I believe such opinions only serve as a means of exposing the true bigotry on the part of some religious or political moralists and in actual fact, only contributes to the continuation of the spread of the epidemic through ignorance and condemnation.

I would gladly challenge either of these gentlemen to talk to someone who lives with this disease, such as I have been myself, for the past 14 years. We obviously still have lots of work to do in creating AIDS awareness through whatever vehicle we can....including postage stamps! Perhaps the controversy will, in itself, help create more awareness of the epidemic by its mere existence.



## HANDBOOK A MUST

The First Revision (November 1997) of the Philatelic AIDS Handbook as produced by Mr. Phillip J. Stager has been completed and is now available to anyone wanting a copy. Simply send \$5.00 US funds plus \$3.00 US for postage and the 50 odd page, fully illustrated reference will be sent to you.

This reference is a must for the serious cancel collector of the AIDS topic and is full of detailed information to accompany the illustrations. Included is a list of First Day cities for the U.S. AIDS Awareness stamp and a section entitled "Famous And Infamous".

Mr. Stager has indeed prepared a very valuable reference for the serious collector and exhibits the cooperation and generosity found among so many of a strange breed we like to refer to as philatelists. Passing on the knowledge we sometimes make our passion to find enhances the reputation of the hobby for all to enjoy.

Order your copy now and have the reference to bring your personal collection up to date. Send your request with payment to Phillip Stager, 4184 51st Ave., S., St. Petersburg, FL. 33711-4734, USA.

### **QUARTERLY QUOTE**

*"There have been no reports of misdirected mail or mail being processed with insufficient postage. Canada Post Website Update 05 Dec. 1997"*

Canadian  
Union of  
Postal  
Workers  
inglaised  
back  
to  
work  
December  
03  
1997

ON  
POSTAL  
STRIKE  
SERVICE

Mail: Sendee  
PO Box 1652, Ste. 1 17901  
CAROLINE, B.C.  
CANADA  
V6C 1P7

### AUCTION RESULTS

Due to our recent postal strike and disruptions in mail service we extended the closing date of our annual auction from November 21 to December 31, 1997. Response was limited but bidding was intense. Once again, comparing with last year's auction, the section of AIDS Topical Postal Stationery got exceptionally high interest. We'd like to thank all those who did participate and the successful bidders will be receiving their lots along with this issue of the Newsletter.

## ISSUES UPDATE A TO Z

### **FRANCE:**

94 - VAL DE MARNE  
du 15 11 1997 au 15 02 1998



IVRY SUR SEINE

World AIDS Day 1997 Red Ribbon triangular cancel being used only from 15 November 1997 to 15 February 1998.



World AIDS Day circular cancel with illustration of the HIV virus.

### **MACEDONIA:**



ПРВИН КИПТ НА РЕТИ КИПИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА  
МАКЕДОНИЈА  
01.12.1997



30,00 ден.

0019237

One single stamp with an accompanying perf and imperf sheetlet for limited use between 01 - 07 December 1996.

## GERMAN CANCEL/CARD DUE TO APPEAR IN FEBRUARY



Dr. Luc Montagnier, Pasteur Institute. \*Photo portion taken from Robert Gallo, MD, Virus Hunting AIDS, Cancer, & The Human Retrovirus: A Story of Scientific Discovery\*

We have been given some information from our contact in Germany regarding a first for Germany. The very first special cancel on HIV in Germany will appear on February 20, 1998, together with a special commemorative postcard showing the portrait of Luc Montagnier. Both issues are based on the private initiative of a German group of collectors of Medical philatelic items (Motivgruppe Medizin of the German Philately Society). This postcard will be available only at a local bank of a small town in Northern Germany, whereas the cancel will be used for one month at the post office of the same town. This cancel could be ordered from the "Deutsche Post AG, D-53253 Bonn, Germany."

### **Subscription Renewal**

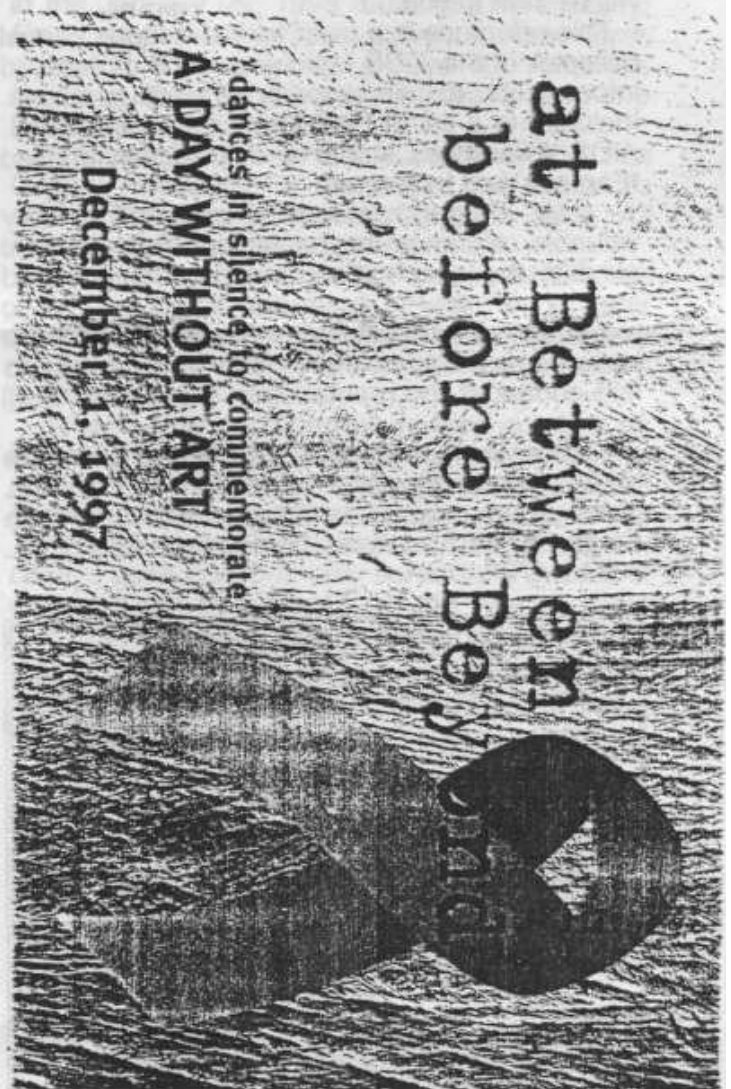
Just a reminder that Newsletter Subscription Renewal Time has arrived for 1998 issues. If you want to renew at this time we would like to remind you of the changes we have made for receiving payments. PLEASE make cheques, drafts, or money orders payable to Blair Henshaw. Renewal for current subscribers is only \$9.60 (CAD\$). New subscribers \$10.00CAD.

### **Subscriptions And Sales Policy Change**

In an effort to minimize our bank processing costs for purchases, subscriptions, or donations to the **AIDS ON STAMPS Project** we have eliminated the *Comtru Ventures* operating account and now request that any payments (cheques, drafts, or money orders) be made out directly to Blair Henshaw. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support of this project.

## WORLD AIDS DAY

The only item we have been able to come up with locally for World AIDS Day 1997 in Vancouver is this postcard featuring the Red Ribbon and advertising the annual 'A Day Without Art' Project held at the Vancouver Art Gallery.



### ANNUAL CHECKLIST

On the following page is our latest edition of the AIDS stamps checklist, compiled to the best of our knowledge. However, you may notice some differences on some of the actual issue dates if you are using the Scott 1998 Catalogue. I have based the reported issue dates here in my listing by official first day of issue covers I actually have from the particular country in my collection. Maybe a minor point but I do hope it answers any discrepancies you may find.



# Cover Story

Torben Skov

ABCDEF  
GHIJKL  
MNOPQ  
RSTUVW  
XYZÆØÅ



Susse Wold

According to the Post Denmark Journal 7/97 the 1996 AIDS stamp issue brought the designer the 1997 IG Prize. "The Danish Design Council's prize for industrial graphics, the 1997 IG Prize, was awarded to the graphic artist Torben Skov for the AIDS stamp issued 10 October 1996. It is the third time Torben Skov has been awarded the IG Prize for designing stamps." We have shown here the first day cover signed by this artist (above alphabet). Lower signature is that of Susse Wold, president of The AIDS-Foundation in Denmark.



Joe Average

000099

Day of Issue Canada Post Corporation / Jour d'émission Société canadienne des postes

Our second autographed cover is from Canada and carries the autograph of Joe Average, whose art work was chosen to be used in the design of the Canadian stamp issued 08 May 1996.