



Lambda Philatelic Journal



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB

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Male nudes is one of the many fascinating facets of topical collecting.





The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (G.L.H.S.C.), an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458. We have served gay and lesbian philatelists since 1982.

The objective of this club is to promote and foster an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material depicting men and women (and their works) for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual behavior, orientation or support; historical events or ideas (such as law and the bill of rights) significant in the history of gay and lesbian culture; and animal species that have scientifically been proven as having prominent homosexual behavior.

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The Lambda Philatelic Journal thrives on philatelic articles, (both original and reprinted), ideas, viewpoints and periodicals, (clippings or copies) for future issues. We welcome members to submit any of the above. We also encourage members to place free advertisements of philatelic interest.

WALT WHITMAN

by Professor Robert K. Martin

Mr. Martin teaches English at Concordia University in Montreal.
He is the author of *The Homosexual Tradition in American Poetry* (paperback, from the University of Texas Press).

Walt Whitman would not have found it surprising that he was to become both America's greatest poet and first modern gay poet. He would not have been surprised, for he believed that America had a special opportunity, as a democratic society, to express the ultimate democracy of the love of comrades.

The "Calamus" poems are a remarkable document of Whitman's beliefs, and one of the fullest statements we have of the life of a gay poet in 19th Century America. In these poems it is clear that Whitman was resolved to proclaim as openly as he dared his love for men. The poems reveal "the secret of my nights and days" and "celebrate the need of comrades." They show the poet, wandering through America, meeting young men, loving them, and then continuing in his exploration of America.

Whitman knew that his own love was "unspeakable". It was impossible in Whitman's lifetime to define the nature of his love for other men. Three years after Whitman's death, Oscar Wilde, who had visited the American poet at his home in Camden, New Jersey, was sentenced to two years at hard labor for his practice of that love, for which there was as yet no name, (the word homosexuality was only coined in 1869, and did not gain acceptance until the 20th century).

Whitman followed what was then the usual practice of identifying two kinds of love, which Whitman called, "amativeness" (or heterosexuality) and "adhesiveness" (or homosexuality). In LEAVES OF GRASS he devoted a book to each - 16 poems of "amative" love in the book called "Children of Adam" and 39 poems of "adhesive" love in the book called "Calamus". It may be that Whitman was himself bisexual, but it is more likely that he included the "Children of Adam" poems for the sake of balance and because he believed that his poems, which was to be the poem of the world, must include all of human experience. (Incidentally, how many heterosexual authors feel a similar need to make their works universal by including gay themes?) This is particularly true because we know that one poem printed in "The Children of Adam" section, was originally written by Whitman about his experience with a man, not a woman, and later altered.

Whitman did not doubt that the day would come when such expressions of love between men would be common. He believed that men had long been prevented from affectionate relationships with each other, but that America, with its heritage of brotherhood, would lead the way to a discovery of the meaning of relationship. He believed that we need to learn to be friends and to express our friendship with our bodies and with our souls. Men will respond, he believed, for they long for the discovery of their own potential for loving.

His belief in the passionate, loving relationship of men did not make him an antagonist of women. On the contrary, he saw women as equals and partners, freed from their subordinate role as sex objects.

Whitman did not restrict his beliefs to his poetry but translated them into action. He was a nurse during the Civil War and gently and efficiently tended hundreds of young men, helping some of them to die, helping others to regain their health. Years later they remembered Walt fondly and kept in touch with him, as he kept in touch with them. He had always been a bit of a nurse, caring for his beloved brother, who was mentally retarded. In Washington after the War he met Peter Doyle, a young man who was a streetcar conductor. They met on the streetcar in 1866, when Whitman was 46 and Doyle was 19. In Doyle's words,

Something in me made me do it and something in him drew me that way. He used to say there was something in me had the same effect on him. Anyway, I went into the car. We were familiar at once - I put my hand on his knee - we understood. He did not get out at the end of the trip, in fact went all the way back with me.

The two lived together from 1866 until 1873, when Whitman suffered a stroke, was partially paralyzed and moved to Camden, New Jersey. Those seven years together must have been exceptionally happy. When Whitman was away for even a short trip, reading his poems, visiting his family, or arranging for publication, he wrote to Pete, his "loving comrade," his "dear boy and comrade," and "my darling," signing himself "yours for life," and "love to you, baby."

The separation of the two brought about by Whitman's illness was painful, as Whitman's letters testify. He writes during the first year of their separation, "I am very comfortable here indeed, but my heart is blank and lonesome utterly." And again, "O, I need your dear loving face and hand and voice." Doyle came to visit, but his visits became more difficult as Whitman's fame grew and he was more and more protected by his family and his admirers.

GAY HISTORY SERIES # 4



Walt Whitman

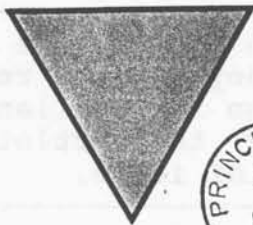
--For the friend I love lay sleeping by my side,
In the stillness his face was inclined towards me,
while the moon's clear beams shone,
And his arm lay lightly over my breast -- And
that night I was happy. (CALAMUS poems)



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



GAY HISTORY SERIES #5



Einstein
USA 15c
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Under the Nazi tyranny, from which Albert Einstein had to flee, Jews were forced to wear a yellow Star of David and Homosexuals a pink triangle. The pink triangle was to be worn point down on the left arm of the jacket and on the right pant leg. Thousands of Gays went to the gas chambers wearing this symbol.
© Copyright 1979 by M.J.S. - λ (Lambda) Stamps

IN REMEMBRANCE . . .

Homosexuality simply did not fit the Nazis' Wagnerian notion of what the Super Race ought to be: "Slim and strong," demanded you know who, "as fast as a greyhound, as tough as leather, and hard as Krupp steel" ... He might have added (but didn't) "as straight as an arrow".

During the twelve years of Nazi rule, tens of thousands of men were convicted for homosexuality, the majority of these certainly ended up in concentration camps without any legal proceedings. On top of this we must add those shot in the armed forces for homosexual offences.

All the groups who suffered Nazi persecution were required to wear badges bearing special symbols, making their identity known to others. For gays, this symbol was the pink triangle, which became a permanent part of their wardrobe before and during their incarceration in concentration camps.

The motivation behind the choice of color is not entirely clear. A possible interpretation could be that soft pastel - colored clothing is usually worn by children and women.

Today the pink triangle has been adopted by gay and lesbian people as a symbol both of the oppression and bigotry they endured in the past and of their struggle to overcome intolerance. It is appropriate that the world's first memorial dedicated to Nazi - oppressed gay men and women has taken the form of a huge pink triangle. The two thousand square foot monument, located in the center of Amsterdam, was unveiled on September 5, 1987. This monument is a symbol of pride for gay men and women everywhere, a demonstration that we are getting stronger.

If you would like to read more about it, the following book is strongly suggested:

The Man With A Pink Triangle- An autobiography of a gay man that survived a Nazi concentration camp. It can be obtained from Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton Street, Boston, MA. 02118

TOPICAL TRIVIA



Both men died in the same year, 1564. They are not related, and only one is Italian. Can you identify the artist and the country of issue.



This Italian sculptor (painter, architect, engineer) was inspired by a young Roman noble to write sonnets of male love. The young man was Tommaso Cavalieri.

ALL ENTRIES CAN BE SENT TO:

G. L. H. S. C.
C/O ED S CENTENO
POST OFFICE BOX 3940
HARTFORD, CT 06103

Anyone who collects male nudes on stamps or postcards will want to add this beautiful set of maximum cards to their collection.

The four maximum cards were released August 29, 1987; it took this long to obtain a set. Their actual size is 4 X 6. The color is a nice gray (background), and the figures are in a shaded brick-red. You can buy the set for \$13.50 from the following reliable dealer.

Conrad C. Goff
Grand Post Office Box 235
Chicopee, Mass 01021-0235
Phone: 413 593-3045

The four Roman mosaics (a discus thrower, a boxer, a runner, and a judge or umpire) are subjects of the OLYMPHILEX '87 stamp exhibition series. They were reproduced from originals in the Baths of Caracalla, Rome. In those days the Baths provided hot and cold bathing, body-building, massages and nude competitions among other things.

The mosaics were also in a souvenir sheet. Unfortunately, the Vatican Postal Administration found the naked athletes too "sensitive", therefore "parts" were retouched, even though the mosaics, fully nude, can be seen in picture postcards and books sold by the Vatican.



The winner of December's Trivia Game is Harold of Salem, Oregon.

Ralph Waldo Emerson was so moved by Whitman's Leaves of Grass that he was inspired to write the following letter in July 21, 1855:

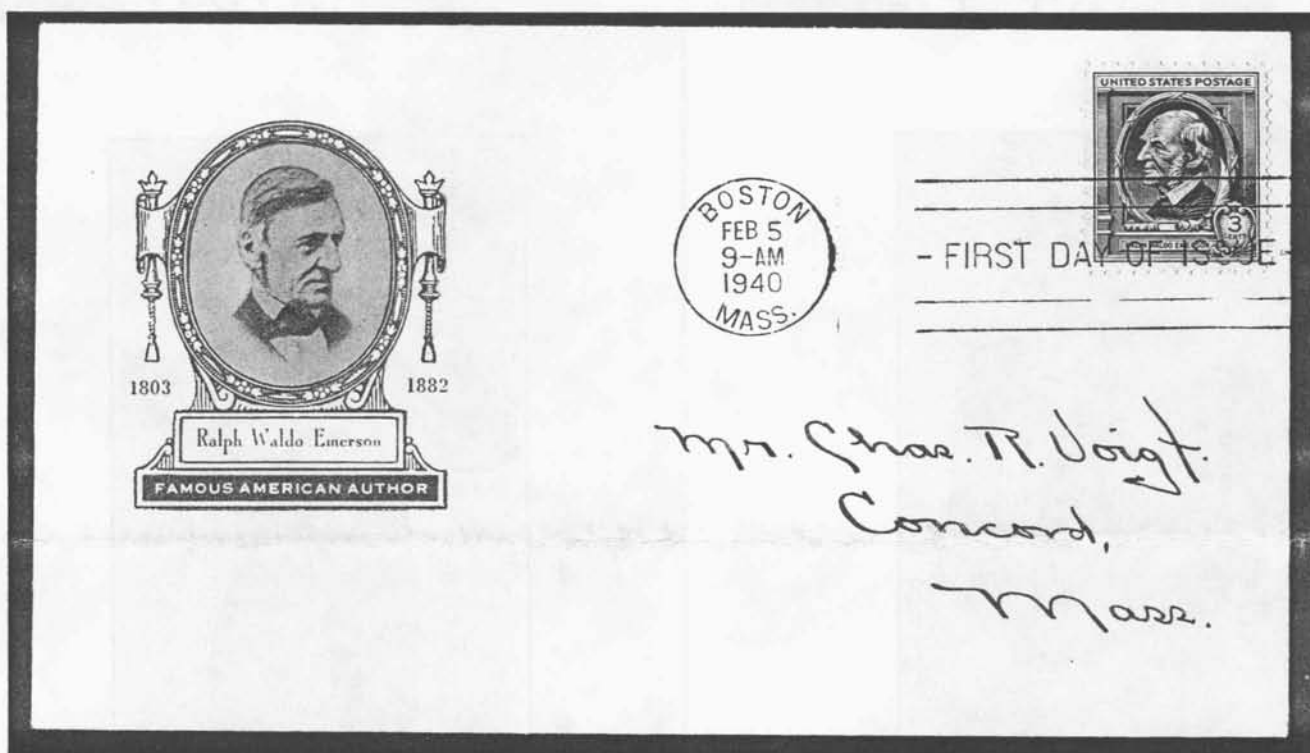


Dear Sir, - I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of Leaves of Grass. I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I am very happy in reading it, as great power makes us happy. It meets the demand I am making of what seems the sterile and stingy Nature as if too much handiwork, or too much lymph in the temperament were making our Western wits fat and mean. I find the courage of treatment that so delights us and which large perception only can inspire.

I greet you at the beginning of a great career, which yet must have had a long foreground somewhere, for such a start. I rubbed my eyes a little to see if this sunbeam were no illusion; but the solid sense of the book is a sober certainty. It has the best merits, namely, of fortifying and encouraging.

I did not know, until I last night saw the book advertised in a newspaper, that I could trust the name as real and available for a post-office.

I wish to see my benefactor, and have felt much like striking my tasks and visiting New York to pay you my respects.

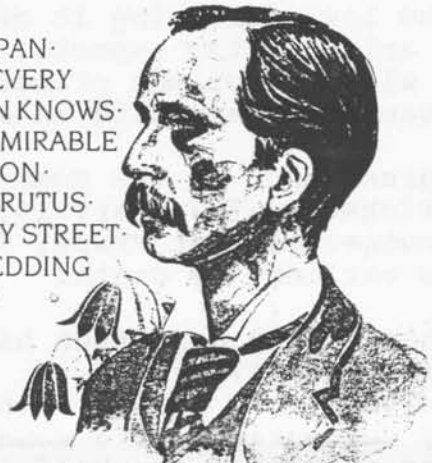


The entries in Emerson's journal over a period of two years record his growing infatuation (and obsession) with Martin Gay, a classmate at Harvard. In later years he attempted to obliterate all references to this handsome young man, succeeding in far too many instances. But his modern editors (1960) were able to salvage or reconstruct enough passages to provide a rare view of this 19-Century literary genius.

HELP YOUR CLUB ENHANCE THEIR ARCHIVES BY MAKING THEM AWARE OF NEW ISSUES AND POSTAL MARKINGS DEPICTING GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY. THE FOLLOWING ARE RECENT DISCOVERIES:

J M BARRIE 1860-1937

PETER PAN·
WHAT EVERY
WOMAN KNOWS·
THE ADMIRABLE
CRICHTON·
DEAR BRUTUS·
QUALITY STREET·
THE WEDDING
GUEST·



By air mail
Par avion
Aero
Transpost
31¢
5¢

25 NOV '87 25 NOV '87

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SECOND FOLD HERE/AN DARA FILEADH AN SEO

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NEW JERSEY 07043



Constitutional Convention, 1787

Ed Centeno
31 Heather Lane
N. Granby, CT 06060

George Mason
Gouverneur Morris
James Madison
Alexander Hamilton
Charles C. Pinckney

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In the autumn of 1776, Jefferson and other leading citizens began a thorough-going revision of Virginia law. The intent was to reform the entire structure of the law, stripping it of all former monarchical and aristocratic aspects, bringing it into conformity with republican principles. The revision however, was never embodied in any enactment

In the "Plan Agreed upon by the Committee of Revisors at Fredericksburg," January 13, 1777, Thomas Jefferson was among those liberals who suggested that "Rape, Sodomy ... be punished by Castration," rather than, as earlier, by death.

As finally written, bill number 64, authorized by Jefferson himself and reported by the Committee of Advisors, 18, June 1779:

Whosoever shall be guilty of Rape, Polygamy, or Sodomy with man or woman shall be punished, if a man, by castration, if a woman, by cutting thro' the cartilage of her nose a hole of one half inch diameter at the least.

This and more interesting facts can be found in the Gay American History by Jonathan Katz.

Thanks for the prompt attention given to the membership dues. I truly enjoyed the comments and personal notes send along with payments. It's always a pleasure to hear from you. For those of you that voluntarily donated monetary support to the club; in behalf of myself and the GLHSC, THANK YOU.

The USPS is releasing a machine cancel for Willa Cather. The slogan will read: "Willa Cather Memorial/Spring Conference" will be used April 1-May 31, 1988, at Red Cloud, NE 68970. All orders should be addressed as followed:

POSTMASTER
WILLA CATHE MEMORIAL/SPRING CONFERENCE
RED CLOUD, NE. 68970-9998

The journal is in great need of editorial material for its Summer Issue. Send in that article about your collection (it doesn't have to be gay). How about that ad you being thinking of placing since you joined. Have anyone in mind you would like to see the USPS issue a postage stamp how about some ideas for the Gay Pride Day. Any suggestions on how to improve the Lambda Philatelic Journal (i.e. new format, typesetting) New name for the club, now that we are the largest gay stamp club in the world Ways to attract new members, like sending us the name and address of your gay newspaper (have prepared a series of free articles for exchange of reference about our club). I think you get the picture, so please don't hesitate and drop us a line.

PUSSYCATS ON STAMPS

by Paul Hennefeld

The Winter Garden Theater, have been playing the long-running Broadway musical CATS. Needless to say this was an unusual, yet an ideal setting for the first day ceremony of the four cat stamps issued February 5, 1988.

The lobby of the theater was transformed into a mini post office which was selling the new stamps and cancellations of the first day covers. Besides the my program I also received a cat motif.

On stage were two members from the cast dressed in stage costumes and sang the National Anthem and, of course, "Memory." Also in individual cages were the eight breeds of cats that were depicted on the stamps.

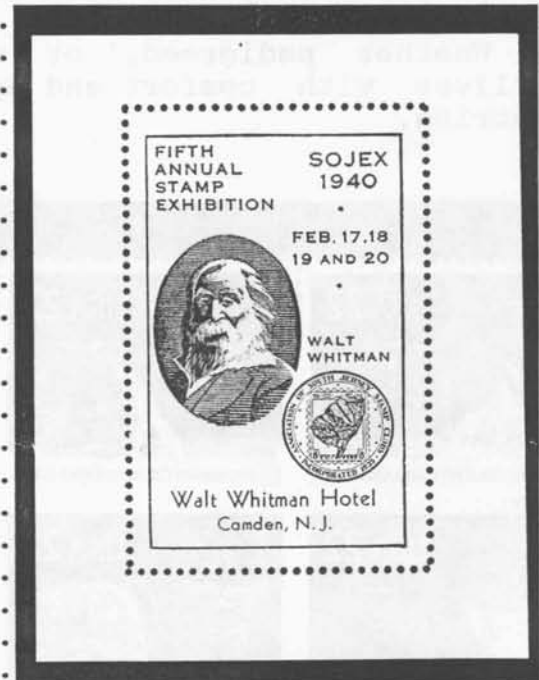
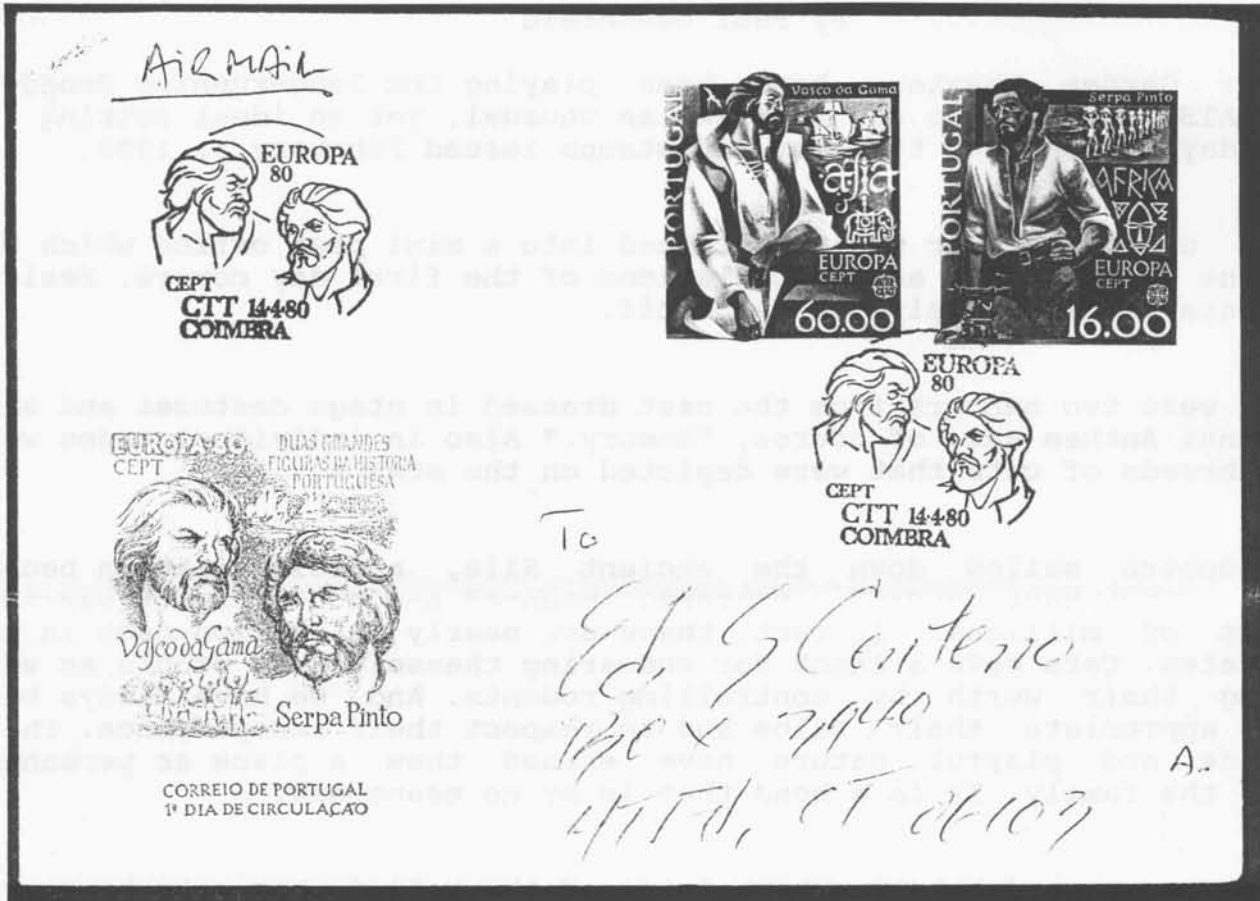
Since Cleopatra sailed down the ancient Nile, and civilization became civilized, cats have purred, pattered, pounced and pouted their way into the hearts of millions. In fact, there are nearly 58 million cats in the United States. Cats have a knack for endearing themselves to people as well as proving their worth by controlling rodents. And, we have always been quick to appreciate their value and to respect their independence. Their intelligence and playful nature have earned them a place as permanent members of the family. It is a bond that is by no means new.

Their appearance and behavior have inspired the belief that cats have mystical powers. They have been associated with many superstitions, religious ceremonies and magical rites since the earliest days of their domestication. Whether pedigreed, or mixed breed, cats seem content to fill their nine lives with comfort and mystery of a warm bed, a full belly and a toy on a string.



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Scientifically, they been proven to have homosexual behavior, specially among the males.



In its tribute to the Statue of Liberty, Sierra Leone issued a 12-leone in a souvenir sheet. Famous immigrants to the United States are depicted in the margins, such as Enrico Caruso, Thomas Mann and Charles P. Steinmetz. Due to a design error, the poet Walt Whitman is included. Whitman was born in West Hills, on Long Island. He grew up in Brooklyn (courtesy of Linn's Stamp News).