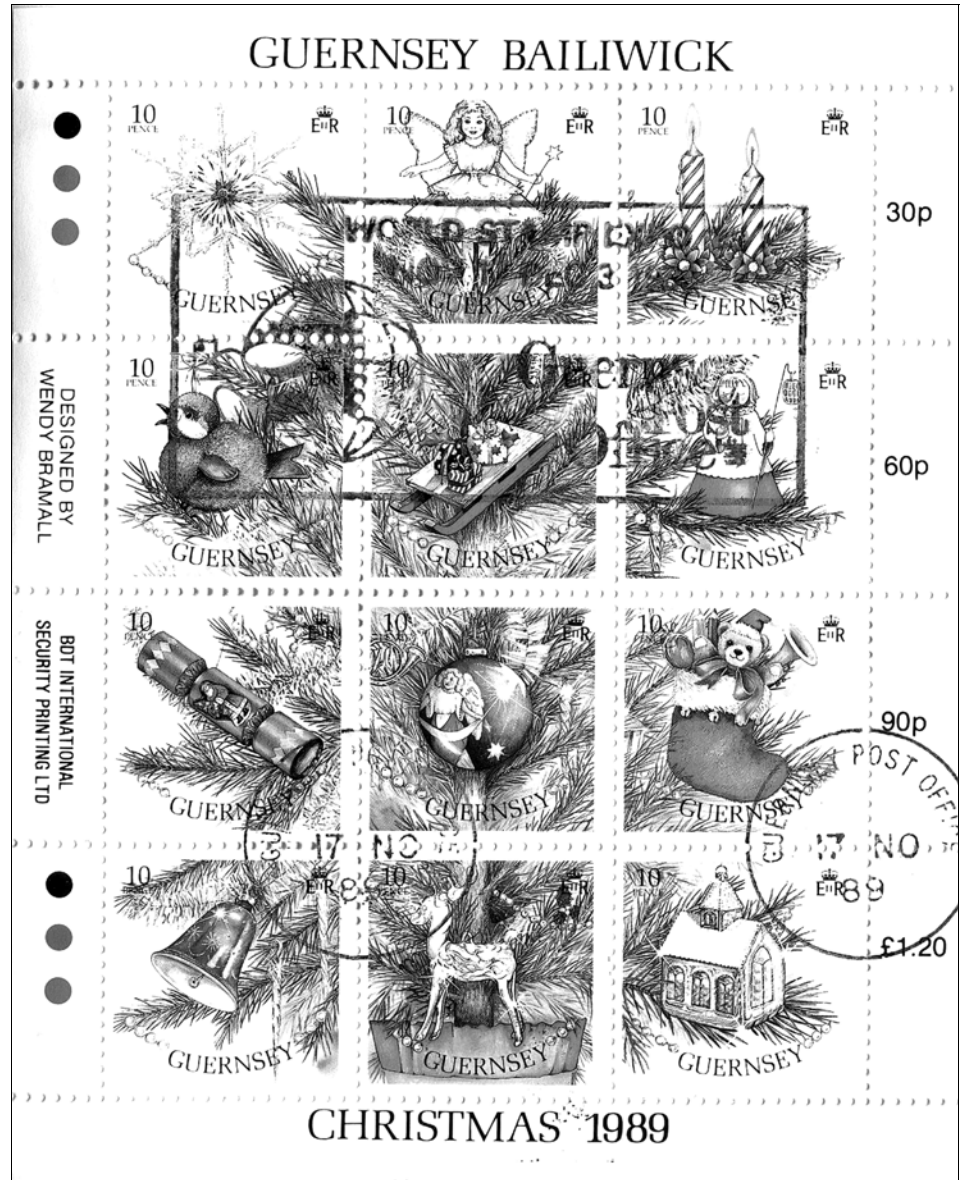




Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB, DECEMBER 2000, VOL. 19, NO. 3



Guernsey
Scott no. 421

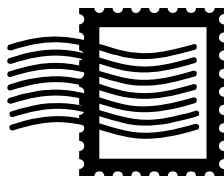
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205; and a member of the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS), Number 72.

The objectives of GLHSC are to promote an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:

- ▼ Notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation,
- ▼ Mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture,
- ▼ Flora and fauna scientifically proven to having prominent homosexual behavior, and
- ▼ Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHSC strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.



GLHSC OFFICERS:

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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. The views expressed in the journal are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the Club or its members. Any comments should be addressed to the Editor at one of the addresses listed.

MEMBERSHIP:

Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$8.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$10.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC.

There are two levels of membership:

- 1) Supportive, your name will not be released to APS, ATA or AFDCS, and
- 2) Active, your name will be released to APS, ATA and AFDCS (as required).

Dues include four issues of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal* and a copy of the membership directory. (Names will be withheld from the directory upon request.)

ADVERTISING RATES:

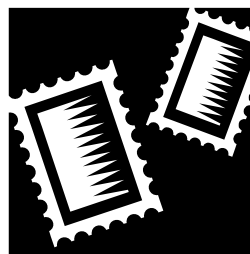
Members are entitled to free ads.

Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue. Reproducible ads should be submitted, along with a check made payable to GLHSC, to the editor's address. Ads should be no larger than 1/4 page. Any ad submitted without artwork will be created by the editor and at the editor's discretion.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

| <u>Publication Date</u> | <u>Articles Needed by</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| December 2000 | November 15, 2000 |
| March 2001 | February 15, 2001 |
| June 2001 | May 15, 2001 |
| September 2001 | August 15, 2001 |

All artwork and articles should be received by the editor no later than the end of the month prior to publication for inclusion in that issue. The membership directory will be published in the first quarter.



News from the Editor

Once again, time has slipped away from me. I'm very sorry that the September issue never got completed and sent. Look for an additional issue in January or a double issue in March.

If I'm going through my mid-life crisis, I cannot wait until it is over. Whatever is going on, it hasn't been all that fun. Maybe I just haven't adjusted to single life as I thought. I do know that you shouldn't plan moving the same month that you intend to issue a newsletter! Let's hope that I am back on track.



Dues are now due. Please submit them to the PO Box. Make checks payable to GLHSC. \$8 US, Canada and Mexico; \$10 all other countries.

Be the next GLHSC
Member Profile...
submit yours
today!



PRIDE'S MAILBOX was exhibited behind the main circulation desk at the Queens Borough Public Library in New York City. During it's month long showing in June 2000 (Pride Month), it was viewed by thousands each week.

PRIDE'S MAILBOX is available for loan exhibition to public, educational facilities, colleges, public libraries and high schools during GLBT Pride Month in June and GLBT History Month in October. To arrange an exhibition free of charge, contact the collection curator. Call James Klopfer at (860) 763-2675 or e-mail jeklopfer@hotmail.com

Tennessee Williams

by John Holleman
John.Holleman@gte.net

During his lifetime, he was hailed as America's greatest living playwright, and after his death, Tennessee Williams is still regarded along with Arthur Miller as one of the two greatest American dramatists of the post-World War II era. Had he written only three plays--*The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*--these three alone would have assured an impressive place for him in the American theater. He created some of the most memorable women in American literature--among them *Maggie the Cat* and *Blanche DuBois*--and he gave them memorable lines. Who can forget *Blanche* and "I don't tell truth, I tell what ought to be truth," or "Whoever you are, I have always depended on the kindness of strangers."

He was born Thomas Lanier Williams on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Mississippi. He would be known as Tom to his family and friends. However in 1939, in order to qualify for a playwrighting contest, limited to age 25 or younger, he listed his birth year as 1914 on the contest application and submitted some manuscripts under the name Tennessee Williams, giving as his address his grandparents residence in Memphis, Tennessee. From then on, as a playwright, he would call himself Tennessee, and throughout the remainder of his life, his birth year was sometimes incorrectly given in playbill biographies as 1914. Friends from his college days were later surprised to learn that the Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, Tennessee Williams, was actually the Tom Williams they had known years before.

Williams' mother was a southern belle who reminisced incessantly about the many "gentlemen callers" she had entertained as a young woman. This chatter would eventually inspire the character of *Amanda* in *Menagerie*. His father was a salesman, aloof, unloving, an alcoholic, who sometimes tormented young Tom with the nickname "Miss Nancy," because he considered his son un-masculine. Williams had an older sister, *Rose*, who suffered from emotional and mental disorders and was eventually institutionalized, and a younger brother, *Dakin*, who was "the apple of his father's eye." His father traveled a great deal in his work and Williams developed a closeness to his maternal grandfather who was an Episcopal minister in *Clarksdale*, Mississippi. As a child, he spent much time living in the church rectory with his grandparents. It was in the safety and warmth of their home in *Clarksdale* where he began to write poetry and short stories as a youngster. Feeling isolated and alone, his writing and reading gave him an escape from a world he considered harsh and uncaring. Williams was a compulsive writer all his life and in addition to his numerous plays, short stories and poetry, he wrote countless letters and kept detailed diaries.

For many years, Tennessee Williams hid and refused to accept and acknowledge his homosexuality. As the grandson of a minister, he grew up with strong feelings of religious restraint and guilt. About age thirteen, he developed what he would later call "a fascination" for a seventeen year old youth who dated his sister. Williams would regard this as the first stirring of an attraction for men, but it would take years for this to emerge into consciousness. In his *Memoirs*, Williams wrote of himself, "what a little puritan I was," and confessed that he "began to associate the sensual with the impure, an error that tortured me during and after pubescence."

As a young man, Williams kept himself in shape by swimming daily and for a time was on the wrestling team at college. He was proud of his toned and muscular body and in later years chastised himself for getting fat. At college in 1931, he fell in love with his roommate, but made no overtures. The roommate's departure for another university left Williams bereft for a time, struggling with the pain of unexpressed, unrequited love. By age twenty-eight, he began to record sexual encounters with men in his diaries, although the first recorded entry describes how the experience "made me sick at my stomach." In entries he would record over the next few years, Williams was careful not to indicate the sex or name of his sexual partners, avoiding even incriminating masculine pronouns. After a few affairs, some short, some longer and meaningful, he finally met *Frank Merlo* in 1947. Merlo became his longtime lover and friend, and his death in 1963 left a void in Williams' life that no one else would ever be able to fill.

Tennessee Williams died on February 25, 1983, a month before his seventy-second birthday. Stricken with diphtheria as a child, he had nearly strangled to death. That childhood trauma left him with a lifelong fear of death by suffocation. A coroner would rule that Tennessee Williams had choked to death when the plastic overcap of a medication bottle lodged in his glottis.

When it was announced that the United States Postal Service would issue a commemorative stamp in honor of Tennessee Williams, the citizens of *Clarksdale*, Mississippi, began a write-in campaign to have the first day ceremony held in the town Williams had loved as a child. (Competition to host the event came from other cities associated with Williams: *St. Louis*, *Key West*, and *New Orleans* among them.) The local newspaper, the *Clarksdale Press Register*, gave the campaign stories front page coverage during the months of competition, and announced with a banner headline on February 4, 1995: YES, IT'S OFFICIAL. The stamp was unveiled in *Clarksdale* on October 13, 1995. The newspaper covered the story in detail with many photographs. Those attending included Williams' brother, *Dakin*, and actor *Anthony Herrera*, both of whom were key speakers, and biographer *Lyle Leverich*. Williams was indirectly honored once again with a US stamp (Scott 3681n), when *A Streetcar Named Desire* was cited on a stamp in the 1940s *Celebrate the Century* sheet,



Scott no. 3002

issued at Dobbins AFB in Georgia on February 18, 1999.

Many people who knew Tennessee Williams have written books about their relationship with him, some of them serious, some of them sleaze. But far and away the finest book, considered by critics to be the definitive Williams biography, is Lyle Leverich's *Tom: the Unknown Tennessee Williams*. With notes and index, it runs to 644 pages and is the only biography Williams authorized. This volume covers only the first 34 years of his life, ending with the great success he finally achieved when *The Glass Menagerie* opened on Broadway in 1945.

Leverich was at work on a second volume, tentatively titled *Tenn: the Timeless World of Tennessee Williams*, that would cover the remainder of Williams' life, when he died on December 17, 1999, at age 79. At this time, it is not known what will happen to the unfinished book.



Scott no. 3681n

Tennessee Williams once said he would rather die than stop writing. Although he continued to write almost up to his death, he was never able to create plays as extraordinary as those he wrote in the late forties and fifties. The gradually diminishing brilliance of his artistic output might be blamed on his growing alcoholism and prescription drug addiction as he attempted to cope with his success and acclaim. The loss to the American theater is immeasurable. Perhaps Robert Koehler, writing in the *Los Angeles Times* in 1994, expressed it best: "The legacy of Williams is all the fine plays; the tragedy is all the fine plays that never were."

SOURCES:

Clarksdale Press Register, Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Concise Dictionary of American Literary Biography, Gale Research, 1987.

Gay and Lesbian Biography, St. James Press, 1997.

Lyle Leverich, *Tom: the Unknown Tennessee Williams*, Crown, New York, 1995.

Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles, California

Tennessee Williams, Memoirs, Doubleday, New York, 1975.

Tennessee Williams, "On a Streetcar Named Success," *New York Times*, November 30, 1947.

WANTED:
Articles on your
favorite gay,
lesbian, bisexual or
other philatelic
topics to be
included in future
journals.

Submit to the editor at
address on page 2.

The Florida Forty Stamper

By Francis Ferguson, Jr.

What better way to integrate two passions, your vocation, with your avocation, resulting in a melding of all that interests an individual. In my case, I have called the micro-computer industry a vocation for nearly 22 years, while I have been a philatelist thirty plus years. A good number of those thirty years of collecting, I was a complacent collector caused by the pursuit of higher education, career trials/tribulations, and of course relationships. I suspect that most collectors go through similar phases, as life's challenges add to every day living. Many collectors, myself included, have managed to tie the use of computer resources into philatelic matters.

One of the fabulous tools that is readily available to any one, who has a computer with Internet access, is the tremendous wealth of research information available at your fingertips. The key to using this wealth of information is to be diligent and logical in your search for clues. More and more information becomes available on the World Wide Web every day. In the last couple of years, I have used the resources of the WWW to locate a long lost childhood friend, research family history, and most recently to try and unravel some of the mystery of the cover that is pictured with this article.

The cover (no enclosed letter) ended up in my hands from a friend who was selling her father's collection that was pieced together during the 1930s and 1940s. This cover immediately piqued my interest, because of the cancellation of "Poland, N.Y. APR 8". I am a native to that area of Up-State New York, having been born in Utica. Further more, the cover is addressed to "Hon. D.D. Pratt, U.S.S. Washington DC". The question that immediately came to mind, was a rather simple one; why would the sender J.W. Taylor be writing to a US Senator?

After many hours of web surfing, I was able to determine the

following about the receiver of the letter. Daniel Darwin Pratt was born in Palermo, Maine on October 26, 1813; moved to Fenner, New York (Madison County); graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton NY in 1831 as the valedictorian in the class of nine graduates, and then settled in Indiana in 1832. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1836 and went on to hold a number of elected posts in the Indiana state government, until he was elected in 1868 as a Republican Senator for the state of Indiana, serving from March of 1869 to March of 1875. Senator Pratt passed away, at the age of 64, in June of 1877. (<http://www.bioguide.congress.gov>)

[bioguide.congress.gov](http://www.bioguide.congress.gov))

The sender J.W. Taylor has remained a little more of a mystery. J.W. Taylor was born in Lenox, N.Y. in 1807. He received the degree of A.M. from Union College in 1841, and was appointed in 1845 by the regents of the university as curator of the State cabinet of natural history, a post he held for 5 years. For several years he gave annual lectures throughout New York, on geology and natural history. His marriage in 1865 produced one son, Gerrie B. Taylor. (<http://www.rootsweb.com>)

What is the connection between the sender and the receiver? I am still researching that question. So far no luck. (A recent trip to NY has turned up a some additional information, that I am just now starting to investigate.) If any one has any background knowledge on either individual involved, help piecing this puzzle together would be appreciated. (I will consider writing an additional column on this cover if any substantial information comes to light.)

The same tools and resources that I have used to research this cover, can be used to research GL issues that may be of interest to you. However, bear in mind that reliable GL history may be an issue (always consider the source), as is the depth of GL information. More importantly a good deal of GL history is still in the process of being written. Some resources do exist, it is just a matter of finding and utilizing those tools. I will explore this issue in more detail in my next column that will deal with a well known American Revolutionary War figure who is widely believed to be homosexual and was commemorated on a US postage stamp in 1930. Until then have fun and happy collecting.

I can be contacted at the following email address; ferg@mpinet.net. I look forward to hearing from you – until the next time – take care, and happy collecting!



Gay & Lesbian Update

Capital Pride of Washington, DC, used a postmark on June 11, 2000. The postmark was used in conjunction with the Capital Pride Festival. If any members have any information on this postmark, or on Capital Pride, please contact the editor.



Isle of Man Commemorates the Battle of Britain

The Isle of Man issued three panes of eight stamps. Four stamps of one value form a column to the left and four stamps of another value form a column to the right. A column of four labels separates the two values. The 50p and 77p denominations are on one pane. The second pane includes the 48p and 36p denominations. The third pane consists of the 22p and 26p values. A souvenir sheet of two stamps is also included in the set.

The 50p stamp shows Viscount Kitchener. Like George Washington and General Montgomery, Kitchener surrounded himself with handsome, young, unmarried soldiers. His favorite was Percy Girouard. His favorites were known as "Kitchener's band of boys."

Information on Kitchener can be found in *Mars Without Venus*, by Frank M. Richardson, printed in Scotland, page 121, 1981, and *Jonathan to Gide*, page 667.

Lord Robert Baden Powell, who founded the Boy Scouts movement, can be found on the Boer War stamp. (48p value)

US Postal Service Announces 2001 Stamp Program

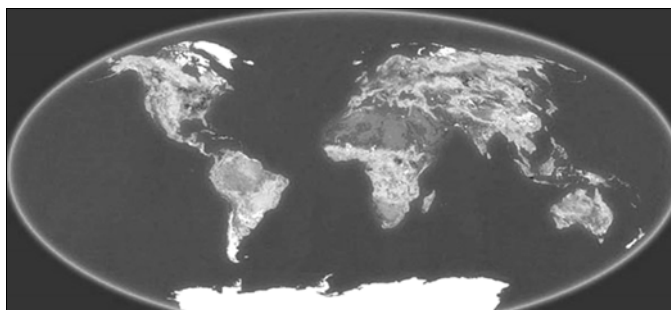
The US Postal Service has a stamp to honor Leonard Bernstein in its 2001 US stamp program. The stamp, a single 34 cent commemorative, is planned to be issued in late September of 2001. More details will follow as they are released.

Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS)
PO Box 8000
State College PA 16803-8000
814-237-3803
www.stamps.org

American Topical Association (ATA)
PO Box 50820
Albuquerque NM 87181-0820
505-323-8595
home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/index.html

American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)
PO Box 65960
Tucson AZ 85728
520-321-0880
www.afdcs.org



It's a GAY world...

Dominica issued a millennium sheet of 17 stamps and a label on December 31, 1999. Highlights of the 1940s are featured. Anne Frank: Hid in Amsterdam can be found on Scott no. 757.

Grenada issued a pane featuring the paintings of Anthony Van Dyck on May 1, 2000. St. Sebastian can be found on Scott nos. 2924d and 2924e.

Guyana issued their millennium sheet of 17 stamps plus a label on December 20, 1999. Their sheet featured highlights of the 1910s.

PuYi, Resigns as Chinese Emperor, Scott no. 3459f.

Lawrence of Arabia, Scott no. 3459j.

Ireland issued a block of 4 stamps and a souvenir sheet

on May 22, 2000, for the centennial of Oscar Wilde's death. Scott nos. 1235a and 1237. (See LPJ, Vol. 19, No. 2)

Palau issued a pane of 20 featuring visionaries of the 20th Century on April 28, 2000. Georgia O'Keefe can be found on Scott no. 557n.

Portugal issued several panes (one of seven stamps, one of 11 stamps and one of 12 stamps) celebrating the 20th Century on February 18, 2000.

Marcel Proust can be found on Scott no. 2344a.

Margaret Mead can be found on Scott no. 2345d.

John Maynard Keynes can be found on Scott no. 2345g.

St. Helena issued a pane of six stamps on February 29, 2000. This pane features British Monarchs. James I can be found on Scott no. 750b.

St. Vincent issued a millennium sheet of 18 stamps plus a label on March 13, 2000. This sheet featured highlights of 1900—1950. Alan Turing develops theory of digital computing can be found on Scott no. 2764m.

Sierra Leone issued their millennium sheet of 17 stamps featuring highlights of 1600—1650. Francis Bacon publishes his works can be found on Scott no. 2254d.

Tristan da Cunha issued a set of 12 stamps on February 1, 2000, featuring British Royalty. King George III can be found on Scott no. 650.

Virgin Islands issued a pane of six stamps on February 29, 2000, featuring British Monarchs. George III can be found on Scott no. 924e.

AIDS Update

Suriname, Argentina, Spain and Brazil recently issued stamps to promote the fight against AIDS. These stamps were issued as part of the America series.

Watch for further information on these issues, plus an updated AIDS checklist in the next issue of the journal.

Collector seeks Postcards/Ephemera

I collect real photo postcards (gay oriented, sports/physique, nudes, affectionate couples, cross-dressing). Also, early gay magazines/ephemera. Prompt payment ensured.

Frank Serafino
61 Woodland Drive
Oak Brook, IL 60523
USA

Or leave message at:
(773) 342-1906

Always buying collections.

I buy everything...not just
gay-related, but USA,
worldwide, whatever...even
cinderellas!

Robert W. Gesell
PO Box 8248
Ann Arbor MI 48107-8248

E-mail: Rgesell3@juno.com
Phone: (734) 662-5460
APS member