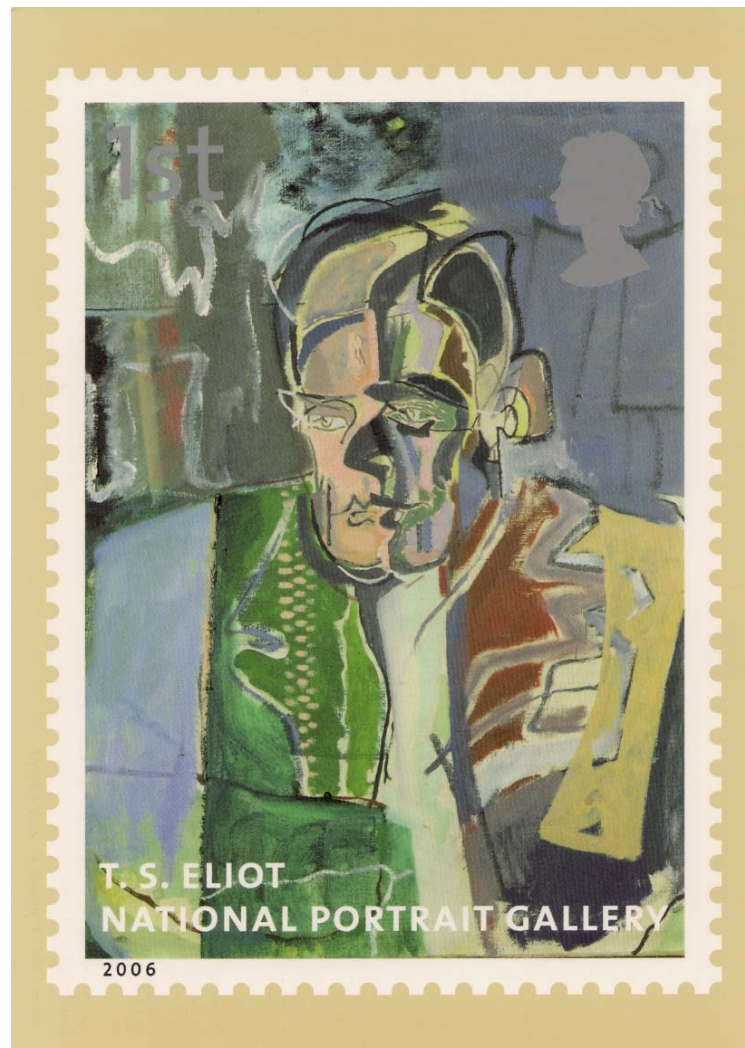




Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB * DECEMBER 2008, VOL. 27, NO. 4, WHOLE NO. 104



T.S. Eliot

Postcard featuring Scott no. 2386

The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* (ISSN 1541-101X) 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.

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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication.

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News From the Editor

The start of another year is upon us. Thanks go out to all who have sent in articles this past year – Ian Young, Blair O’Dell, Rick Vangorder, Bobby Cloud, Francis Ferguson, Tony Bucci and Richard Peavler. Thanks also to those who send me news releases, articles, etc., especially Phil Stager. Special thanks to the fellow officers of the club and to Stephen Lorimor. If AIDS on stamps is your collecting topic, be sure to visit his site. It contains lots of information, great links and the AIDS checklist can now be found there.

And, I must apologize for the tardiness of this issue. Don’t get sick in the middle of December! Between that, travelling for the holidays and closing the year at work, some things fall through the cracks. A major change in the layout also didn’t help. I originally had 16 pages planned, but a two page article didn’t pan out. I went back to 12 pages and the 2008 index will appear in the March 2009 issue.

The Florida Forty Stamper column contains an unusual article this issue. One of the pioneers of the glbt-rights movement passed away on August 27, 2008. Francis and I thought it would be a good idea to give her some column space. If any club members have any postal history items that pertain to Del Martin or have access to them, please let me know.

I can use articles for 2009. Send me a one or two page article, longer if you prefer, on your favorite glbt or philatelic subject.

Finally, I have about a half dozen Matthew Mitcham stamps and one FDC remaining. If anyone would like a copy, the stamps are \$1 and the FDC is \$3.

All the best for the new year! The November elections gives us hope.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News From the Editor	3
T.S. Eliot	4
Myron’s Discobolus	8
The Florida Forty Stamper: A Life Well Lived	9
Gay & Lesbian Update	10
AIDS Update	10
Counterfeit AIDS Stamps	10
Helpful Addresses	12

2009 Dues are now due.

T. S. Eliot

by Blair O'Dell



September 26, 1888 –
January 4, 1965

T. S. Eliot has been anointed as the greatest English language poet of the twentieth century. His works are difficult and inscrutable, but they are also profound and majestic. 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock' as well as 'The Waste Land' are staples of every high school and college English Literature courses. He also was a masterful playwright, penning such works as 'The Cocktail Party' and 'Murder in the Cathedral'.

Much of Eliot's poetry is a reflection of his own life experiences and inhibitions. He was a gay man who nevertheless entered into a difficult marriage, which ultimately caused considerable anguish both for himself and his mentally-unstable wife. More than a few lines of his works are derived from his unhappiness in this psychologically-fraught relationship.

Thomas Stearns Eliot was a New Englander by his roots, but spent all of his childhood in the American Midwest. His family was well-to-do, but Thomas was an introspective youth who was somewhat dominated by his aloof mother. He was naturally bright and was easily accepted at Harvard, where he became enamored of the French Symbolist poet, Jules LaForgue. During these student years he was already writing poetry of the highest caliber, which was published in the Harvard Advocate.

The women depicted in 'Circe's Palace', one of his early works, were either saints or sinners, and were described with a singular intensity and violence, which harkens back to his childhood imaginings. "The dream sequence of 'Circe's Palace', written when Eliot was twenty, represents in Freudian images his fears of women...: creatures who threatened him with impotence, engulfment and annihilation." (pg 45, Painted Shadow)

Eliot wanted to experience the Paris of Jules LaForgue and, defying his mother, he left Harvard and immersed himself in the bohemian Left Bank culture. One of his greatest poems, 'The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock' was written while in Paris in 1910. The opening lines will be familiar to many of the Journal's readers...

*Let us go then you and I,
When the evening is spread out against the sky
Like a patient etherized upon a table;
Let us go, through certain half-deserted streets,
The muttering retreats
Of restless nights in one-night cheap hotels
And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells:
Streets that follow like a tedious argument
Of insidious intent
To lead you to an overwhelming question...
Oh, do not ask, "What is it?"
Let us go and make our visit.
.....*

At the same time that 'Prufrock' was composed, Eliot also was writing homoerotic, scatological verse, such as 'The Jolly Tinker', which related the exploits of the tinker who had

*Come across the sea
With his four and twenty inches
hanging to his knee*

In the second stanza the tinker is:

*...in heat
With his eight and forty inches
hanging to his feet*

Eliot's next sojourn in Europe began in August, 1914, to attend a summer school in Marburg, Germany. The declaration of war by England, however, put an end to that endeavor. He quickly headed to London where he lingered, lonely, until October, when he began a Fellowship in Philosophy at Merton College, Oxford.

It was in this environment that he met his future wife, Vivienne Haigh-Wood. This young woman exhibited 'nervous disorders' even at an early age. She was forbidden to marry by her mother because of her mental state. Nevertheless Vivienne and Thomas went before a magistrate to wed only three months after meeting.

She was coquettish and immature despite her age of 27, which played a large part in her marriage designs. By the standards of her time, she was almost an old maid. She also very much wanted to disobey her mother. Thomas, on the other hand, had lost an intimate friend and probable lover, Jean Verdenal, to the ravages of the first World War. He undoubtedly thought that in Vivienne he had found a cure for his sickness of soul.

Shortly after their marriage, Thomas returned to Massachusetts for a brief family reunion. Vivienne declined to accompany him. During Tom's absence she took up with a mutual friend, Bertrand Russell. The affair lasted off and on for years. Tom chose to ignore the realities of this relationship as the pressure was off him to be intimate with Vivienne. This was indeed a very, very troubled marriage from the outset. The Eliot's were mutually unhappy. Their neuroses fed off sexual incompatibility. But Thomas's passivity in the face of Russell's sexual aggression was truly remarkable.

By 1917, Vivienne's adultery with Bertrand Russell "was the subject of gossip in literary London...For so private a man as Eliot this was deeply painful; he must have suspected people were laughing at him. In addition, Vivienne's erratic moods and non-specific, but expensive ailments took their emotional and financial toll. How often Eliot must have wished his conscience would allow him to leave the wife for whom he had lost respect." (pg 202, Painted Shadow)



Scott no. 2239.

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Eliot had periods of depression and low moods in 1918. He often would sit in the garden and brood on death while reading Webster, the Jacobean playwright. Webster's 'Duchess of Malfi' ultimately would become a vital source of inspiration for Eliot's masterpiece, 'The Waste Land.' For example, some of the sexual imagery in the 'Duchess of Malfi' found its way into 'The Waste Land'. More than one Eliot scholar has linked these verses to repressed homosexual feelings.

The life of Tom and Vivienne was a constant interplay of physical sickness for both, along with financial worries. Tom secured a clerk's position at a London bank which provided an income to cover the bare essentials. However, Vivienne insisted on a maid, vacations at seaside cottages and time in Paris. Thomas was not above living beyond his means as well.

The strain of working at the bank and trying to compose 'The Waste Land', as well as Vivienne's constant illnesses and the instability of their lives, brought about a complete mental breakdown for Thomas in 1921. Nevertheless, 'The Waste Land' was finally completed, and has become, arguably, the most famous poem of the twentieth century. It is an extraordinarily difficult work, with layer upon layer of meaning, rich with homosexual implications.

Thomas' most arresting and poignant image of Jean Verdenal was of his lover running toward him in Paris' Luxembourg Gardens with a bouquet of lilacs. Shortly afterwards, Verdenal would be another cruel victim of World War I, lying dead that April of 1914, at Gallipoli. Thus, the recurrent image of 'The Waste Land' in the famous opening lines and elsewhere in



Luxembourg Gardens.
Scott no. 2979b.
Version on souvenir sheet issued in
2004.

this masterwork, is of Verdenal in the Luxembourg Gardens, his arms full of lilacs:

*April is the cruelest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.
Winter kept us warm, covering
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding
A little life with dried tubers.*

.....

But, Eliot's memory forced him to a bitter contradiction of Chaucer, who, in the 'Canterbury Tales' had welcomed April with its "shoures swoot"* (*showers sweet):

*When that Aprilis, with his shoures swoot
The drought of March hath pierced to the root,
And bathed every vein in such licour,
Of which virtue engender'd is the flower;*

.....

In early 1923, Thomas' frustrations were at the boiling point. He knew that his need for a life, at least in part, apart from Vivienne was essential for his own well-being. He rented a small studio in the theatre district of London, and promptly adopted an alias, 'The Captain'. Here he entertained a few of his old friends, who were surprised to see the change in him, complete with facial cosmetics. Mostly the new abode was used for tete-a-tetes with young men. Thomas, now 35, loved

the pleasure of their company. Like the other members of the Bloomsbury literary group, with whom both he and Vivienne had developed a close relationship, Thomas threw aside his middle class conventions, and indulged in a new, less-inhibited life.

By the mid-1920's Vivienne, too, was again indulging in extra-marital relationships. Despite these 'flings', Thomas chose to stay in the marriage, as it offered him a cloak of respectability he did not wish to lose. The author, Robert Sencourt, a friend of both Thomas and Vivienne, stated much later that Thomas was very open about his homosexuality in their conversations. Thomas lamented the resultant incompatibility with Vivienne, and that this tragedy was essentially brought about by his entering into their marital relationship in the hope of becoming 'normal'.

The Eliot marriage continued a downward spiral. Vivienne had a predilection for verbally assaulting her husband in public. Thomas became increasingly concerned that her statements regarding his sexual interests would lead to blackmail. Friends became more guarded in their relationship with Thomas, nervous of guilt by association. The writer E. W. F. Tomlin felt it necessary to state that his friendship with the poet was "devoid of sexual feeling" despite the "persistent insinuations that Eliot, owing to his friendship with Jean Verdenal and others, was therefore homosexual". (pg 483, Painted Shadow)



Scott no. 2135g.

In 1932 Thomas found the perfect escape from Vivienne. He was appointed a guest lecturer at Harvard for several months. He jumped at this opportunity, and left for America. During this time, Eliot made the decision to leave Vivienne once and for all. Upon his return to England, he immediately went into seclusion and made no effort to contact his wife.

For the next three years, he moved from place to place, usually living with male roommates. Vivienne, however, was not going to let the marriage die so easily. She made countless, fruitless attempts to contact him at his office, at his book signings and at his London plays. It became an obsession, and she snatched at straws on efforts to make him return to her. But the one subject which drove fear into Thomas' heart was her less-than-veiled efforts to expose his homosexuality. This was indeed the force which drove him to have her committed, against her will, for insanity.

With Vivienne safely put away (and having Vivienne's brother as an accomplice, who wanted her share of the inheritance from their parents), Thomas should have felt a weight slide from his shoulders. In truth, however, he suffered often from feelings of guilt, and became sour and imperious as time wore on. Two ardent female admirers whom he strung along for years, dangling the possibility of nuptials, ultimately were summarily dropped. In old age, he married his devoted secretary, Esme Valerie Fletcher,



Scott no. 2386.

over thirty years his junior. It is ironic that in those years he wrote little of merit. It was indeed the tension and anxiety of his life with Vivienne which was the catalyst impelling him to produce his most memorable works. Eliot, always a heavy smoker, died of emphysema on January 4, 1965.

Resources for this article include...

Painted Shadow, Carole Seymour-Jones, Doubleday, New York, 2002

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T.S Eliot can also be found on Nicaragua 2148j



We're on the web!
www.GLHSC.com

Myron's Discobolus

by Tony Bucci

Myron of Eleutherae has been called one of the greatest sculptors of Ancient Greece. Historical evidence places his life span during the middle of the 5th Century B.C.E. Myron became well known for his bronze representations of athletes. His most famous work is the discus thrower, often called "Discobolus".

Myron's Discobolus portrays the discus thrower during a moment of rest between two periods of movement. This "pose" makes for an ideal depiction of a beautiful athletic body.



The original Greek sculpture is lost. However, judging by the number of copies that have come down to us, Myron's Discobolus must have been as popular in ancient times as it is today. Several marble copies made during Roman times have been discovered since the late 1700s. Two stunning examples can be viewed in the National Museum in Rome and the Vatican.

Images of Myron's Discobolus have been used repeatedly in recent times to commemorate the discus event and the games of the modern Olympics in general. One of the earliest depictions was on two stamps issued by Greece for the 1896 Athens games (Scott 119-120). In 2004 the Olympics returned to Athens. Croatia depicted a silhouette image of Discobolus to commemorate those games (Scott 561).

The image of Discobolus has appeared on stamps from at least 29 countries. The United States portrayed Discobolus on two Olympics

issues in 1932 (Scott 719) and 1996 (Scott 3087). Other examples appear on stamps of Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, China (People's Republic), Colombia, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Fujeira, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, Montserrat, Mozambique, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, San Marino, Syria-UAR, and Umm al Qiwain.

Discobolus has also been portrayed on a few non-Olympic stamps. The centennial of the American Turners was commemorated on a 1948 U.S. stamp (Scott 979). The American Turners is a national organization that encourages people of all ages to be active. Their motto is "A sound mind in a sound body."

Another non-Olympic stamp was a 1965 U.S. stamp for the centennial of the Sokol Movement (Scott 1262). Sokol is a Czech word for "falcon". The first Sokol society was organized in Prague to promote Czech culture and physical fitness among its members. A U.S. chapter was formed in St. Louis in 1865. Local chapters offer gymnastics classes to people of all ages and provide opportunities to participate in national competitions.



The Florida Forty Stamper: Del Martin; a life well lived.

by Francis Ferguson

Del Martin was born Dorothy L. Taliaferro on May 5, 1921, in San Francisco. Del established her academic desires early when she was salutatorian of her high school class. Her higher education endeavors included the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco State College where she studied journalism. At the age of 19, she married James Martin. The marriage ended in divorce 4 years later, after one daughter was born: Kendra Mon.

Del began her professional career as a reporter for a construction trade journal in Seattle, Washington. In 1950 Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon's paths crossed for the first time. What seemed to be a good thing was turned into a permanent arrangement on Valentine's day of 1953 as the two moved in together. They shared that small house in San Francisco for 55 years.

The pair's activism is what legends are made of. In 1955, they formed the very first national lesbian organization in the United States, with the Daughters of Bilitis. Del served as the DoB first president and later edited the organization's newsletter "The Ladder" from 1960-1962. Lyon and Martin remained actively involved in the group until the late 1960s, when the rise of radical lesbians went contrary to their more moderate thinking. The group disbanded in 1970.

A fellow DoB member recalls the pair this way "... Martin was the quite one in the couple, preferring to let Lyon talk away. Martin was the one to chime in now and then with a dry, witty comment or jokes in light moments or with well-developed opinions during strategy sessions. Martin was the "Ying" to Lyon's "Yang". What more could one ask for. This partnership yielded a tremendous amount of positive change for lesbians in particular and the G/L community in general.

In 1964 Del Martin helped to found the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, which was aimed specifically at lobbying city government to end police harassment of gay men and lesbians. Most importantly

the aim to change discriminatory laws gained credence and laid the foundation to the beginnings of the equal rights movement in the pre-Stonewall era.

Ms. Martin is thought to be the first openly gay women elected to the board of directors of the National Organization of Women. Her constant insistence and demands placed lesbian issues on the table for discussion both within NOW and society in general. In a related action, Del was an active member of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, which was founded in San Francisco in 1972.

In 1972, in collaboration with Lyon, Del Martin wrote the ground breaking book "Lesbian/Women". This book documents the extensive and often unknown history of the movement and the call for equal rights for lesbians. This book is only one of a collection of books she was directly or indirectly involved with throughout her life.

In 1979, a group of medical providers and health care activists named their first clinic designed to serve lesbians who lacked access to nonjudgmental health care the "Lyon-Martin Health Services" -- the organization still flourishes and has become a model for culturally sensitive community-based health care.

In her later years, she was a member of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change. At the age of 66, in 1987, she earned a Ph.D. from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality.

At the age of 74, in 1995, Senator Dianne Feinstein named Martin to the White House Conference on Aging. Lyon was named by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.

In a historic first on June 16th of 2008, Lyon & Martin became the first legal gay union in the state of California. 10 weeks later Martin passed away. The burning light-of-change was extinguished on August 27th.

(Continued on page 12)

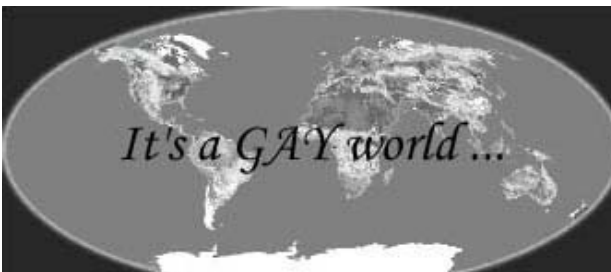
Gay & Lesbian Update

Australia Post issued a set of five stamps on November 3 featuring five favorite Australian films. Two of the films have a gay theme or big gay following. They are *Muriel's Wedding* and *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. The stamp designs depict movie posters. The stamps were issued in a sheet of 50 and as self-adhesives in booklets of 10 and coils of 100.

The overall favorite film will be announced on December 5. A special sheet of 10 self-adhesive stamps featuring the favorite will be issued in conjunction with the announcement.

* * * * *

As reported in Linn's Stamp News, stamps of the 46¢ Ruth Benedict stamp (Scott no. 2938) have been reported with a plate No. 2. Until now, only plate No. 1 stamps were known to have existed. Margaret Meade and Ruth Benedict were lovers prior to, and during, Meade's marriage.



Denmark issued a booklet of six stamps on June 4, 2008, for the 50th anniversary of the Louisiana Museum of Art in Humlebaek. "A Closer Grand Canyon" by David Hockney is featured on Scott no. 1409.

AIDS Update

A new website is on the Internet. Be sure to visit www.aidsonstamps.com. The site is the result of hard work of one of GLHSC's newest members.

* * * * *

Macedonia issued their nearly annual Campaign Against AIDS postal tax stamp on December 1, 2007. The stamp was obligatory on mail December 1 - 8. Scott no. RA142.

Senegal issued a set of four stamps on April 5, 2006. The stamps were issued for the campaign against HIV. Though issued in 2006, the stamps are dated 2004. Scott nos. 1587 - 90.

Counterfeit AIDS Stamps

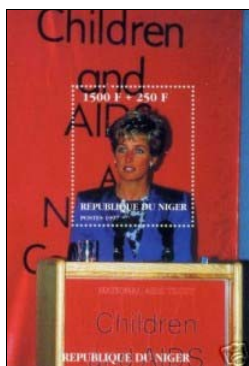
by Stephen Lorimor (sdlorimor@comcast.net)

Counterfeit stamps (often called "illegal issues" or "illegals") are a massive industry. Literally millions of counterfeit stamps are in circulation, both high-value rare stamps and less valuable but highly sought after collectibles. Although certain counterfeit stamps in the former category may have value for their sheer novelty value, counterfeit stamps in the latter category usually have no value at all and benefit no authorized postal agency. Indeed, collecting counterfeit stamps usually benefits only unethical dealers, printers, and officials while wasting time and money of legitimate hobbyists.

AIDS stamps (and indeed, LGBT stamps as well) are not immune to this phenomenon. Over the past decade I have encountered several confirmed counterfeit stamps as well as several possible ones I am currently researching. These fall into two types: stamps that falsely claim to be postage for valid postal agencies, and stamps of non-existent postal agencies that are not recognized by any legitimate government. Stamps in the latter category can be further subdivided into two groups: stamps governments that never existed, and stamps from governments that existed in the past (or present) but are not generally recognized by anyone else. Confused? Read on. All will be made clear.

Counterfeit stamps of valid postal agencies

The most famous counterfeit AIDS stamp is this popular “issue” from Niger (1997) featuring Princess Diana. It was released as part of a counterfeit six stamp set on Princess Di. Only this stamp is related to the subject of AIDS.



A second blatantly counterfeit AIDS stamp is this Chad (2008) release featuring Nelson Mandela in support of his “Campaign 46664” against AIDS. (46664 was Mandela's inmate number while imprisoned in South Africa). Unfortunately, this stamp is almost exclusively available from a vendor on eBay who is notorious for selling counterfeit stamps. Last time I checked out her listings, she had over 3,000 listings of stamps from countries plagued by counterfeiting, such as Congo, Afghanistan, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia, etc. All of them were on highly-sought after collectible topics ranging from Walt Disney to Mother Teresa. And none of which were, as best I could tell, were valid postage. Sadly, eBay is a haven for dealers of counterfeit stamps. You can find lots of hard-to-find authentic ones on there as well, but there are plenty of illegals as well.

Counterfeit stamps for invalid postal agencies

Ever hear of a country named Dagestan? Neither have I. Yet here are five stamps issued from there. As it turns out, an enterprising counterfeiter found five English-language posters on the Internet and made stamps out of them. He designed them as to be issues from Dagestan, even though Dagestan is a republic in Russia. This makes about as much sense as Russian-language stamps issued from the “Republic of Colorado”.



Sometimes it's a matter of opinion whether a stamp is counterfeit or not, as the validity of the postal agency is in dispute. Case in point: Turkish Cyprus. For those not hip on Mediterranean politics, the island of Cyprus currently has two governments. The western half of the island (the “Greek area”) is controlled by the government of Cyprus, which lays claim to the entire island. The government of Cyprus is almost universally recognized as the legitimate government of the entire island. Controlling the eastern half of the island is Turkish Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey. Predictably, both governments run their own postal agencies and issue stamps.

So are the stamps of Turkish Cyprus legitimate? That depends on both your own political opinion and how the future unfolds. Because most collectors are neutral on the issue, they typically accept the stamps of Turkish Cyprus as valid, even as they understand the future may see the stamps become “officially” worthless if the government should eventually dissolve.



Helpful Addresses

American Philatelic Society (APS & APRL)
100 Match Factory Place
Bellefonte PA 16823
814-933-3803
www.stamps.org
www.stamplibrary.org



American Topical Association (ATA)
PO Box 57
Arlington TX 76004-0057
817-274-1181
www.americantopicalassn.org



American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS)
PO Box 16277
Tucson AZ 85732-6277
520-321-0880
www.afdcs.org



Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library
PO Box 830643
Richardson TX 75083-0643
www.utdallas.edu/library/uniquecoll/speccoll/wpri/wpri.htm

International Gay & Lesbian Archives
One Institute
909 West Adams Blvd.
West Hollywood CA 90007-2406
213-741-0094
www.oneinstitute.org



Homodok (Gay Archives)
Oosterdoksstraat 110
NL—1011 DK Amsterdam
The Netherlands
www.ihlia.nl



National Postal Museum
MRC 570
Smithsonian Institution
Washington DC 20560-0001
www.postalmuseum.si.edu



The British Library
Philatelic Collections
96 Euston Road
NW1 2DB London
United Kingdom
www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic



Similarly, most people have never heard of Batum (also known as Batoum or Batumi). Batum is the capital city of the province of Ajaria in the former Russian Republic of Georgia. During the 1990's, Georgia was wracked by political instability. In an effort to bolster their income, Ajaria released numerous(!) stamps under the label of Batum. Georgia has since declared these illegal issues, but at the time the province was fairly autonomous.

The past decade has seen Ajaria lose most of its autonomy although the province still seeks independence. Should Ajaria ever become a legitimate country the stamps would probably be retroactively declared legitimate. Otherwise this stamp can be chalked up to a historical curiosity. Technically an illegal issue, but something a collector might still want to get their hands on.

Note: In an effort to be brief, I have left out my sources for much of my information. More information can be found at www.aidsonstamps.com.

* * * * *

(Continued from page 9)

Her desire and need to create change through learning and education continued all through life. That statement alone stands in testament to the achievements of this remarkable women and her life-partner.

Del achieved so much in her life through tenacity, perseverance, charm, and education. What a remarkable life, well lived. One person – or in this case a couple -- can make a difference.

Until next time, have a great time collecting, and I look forward to hearing from any readers with comments or suggestions. I can be reached at hampton@cfl.rr.com.