



Lambda Philatelic Journal

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A HISTORY OF PRIDE...

ALTERNATE LIFESTYLES OF FAMOUS PEOPLE
...OUT OF THE CLOSET...



...A VERY PROUD HISTORY

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, N°. 458, and an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society, N°. 205. GLHSC is also a member of the American First Day Cover Society, N°. 72.

The objectives of the club are:

To promote and foster 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 and bisexual orientation.
- ❖ mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture.
- ❖ flora and fauna scientifically proven to have prominent homosexual behavior.
- ❖ even though emphasis is placed on this aspect of stamp collecting, the Club strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

MEMBERSHIP: Yearly dues are \$8.⁰⁰ per calendar year for U.S., Mexican and Canadian residents; \$10.⁰⁰ or 12 IRC per year for foreign residents (to help defray the higher postage costs).

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The **Lambda Philatelic Journal** thrives on philatelic articles (original or reprinted) and alternative viewpoints for publication. Members are also encouraged to place free advertisements of philatelic interest. The Editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publications.

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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 or letters should be addressed to the Editor at the address listed.

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GLSHC ◆ July 1993 ◆ 2

NEWS FROM THE EDITOR

Special thanks to Angela Watson for all of her help with this issue. If all has gone according to plan, you should have a San Diego Pride cancellation! (PS: All went very well, look on your envelopes for the Gay & Lesbian Pride cancellation).



The Journal won a Bronze medal at the Second Canadian Philatelic Literature Exposition. Our goal is to shoot for a Silver next year and we need **your** help to do that: your input, ideas, articles and any information on our subject matter will be most appreciated. You will be seeing some changes based on the judges' critique.

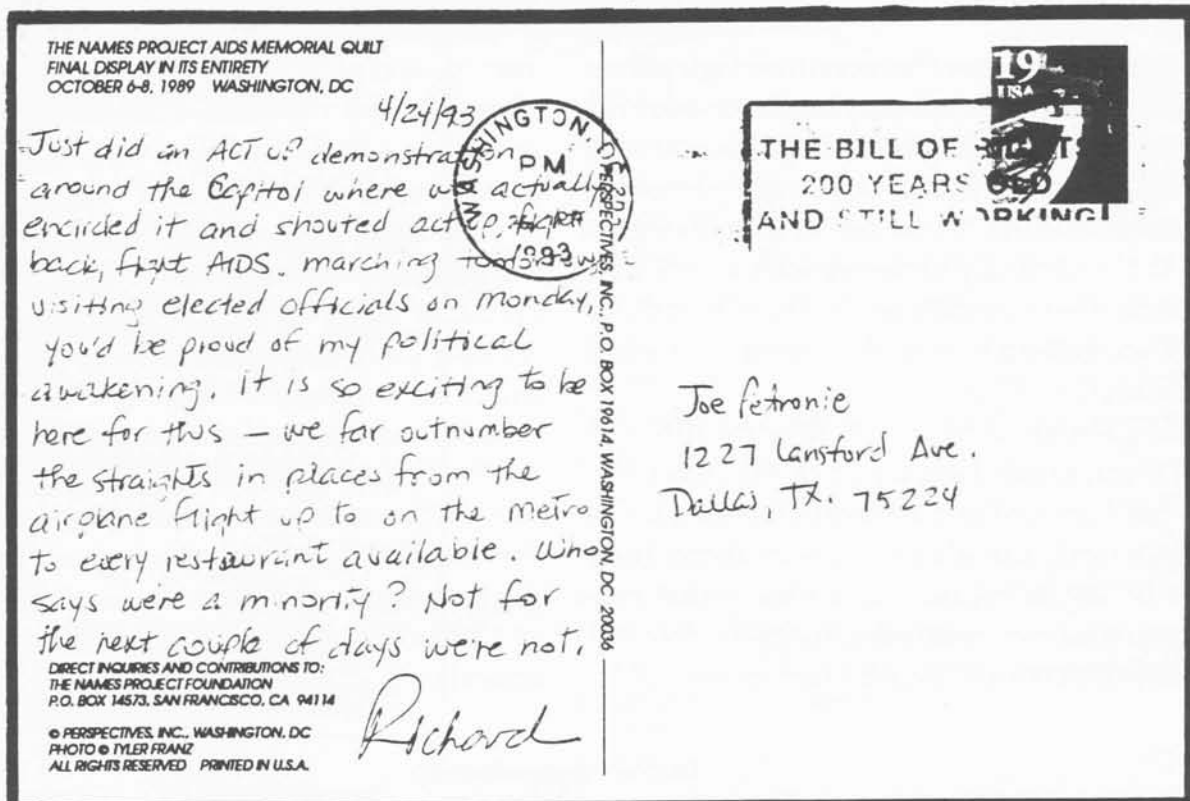


The postcard pictured below was sent to me by a friend who attended the March on Washing-

ton on April 25th. I personally find this card amusing due to the cancellation. It reads "The Bill of Rights—200 Years Old—and Still Working." If the Bill of Rights were truly working, would there have been a need for the March on Washington?! The reverse side of the postcard pictures the Names Project AIDS Quilt from the October 1989 display. The card is post-marked April 26, 1993, the day after the March.



Ed has covers and postcards from the Connecticut Pride celebrations. They are available for \$1.⁰⁰ each. Each cover and postcard are numbered. The postcards are available in an assortment of colors, please make checks payable to him and send to his Connecticut address (see page 2). Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. He also has covers from New York (1989) and Florida (1992)—they are both \$1.⁰⁰ each. ◆



The Trials and Tribulations of a Bureaucracy ...or How I Got a Gay-themed Cancellation Approved by the USPS

by Angela Watson

One day, I was sitting around eating lunch with Julie, a friend of mine who is also a graphic artist and we were just goofing off and she said, "Hmm, wouldn't it be nice if San Diego could get it's own gay-pride cancellation?"

I told her that of course we could and she got all excited by the fact that we would be the first cancellation of it's kind on the West Coast. Excitement being a contagious kind of thing, I told her I would do some research on the topic, and get back to her.

So, being a novice at all this, I started at what I thought would be the most logical place: by asking the window clerk at my local post office: oh, **BIG** mistake! She didn't even think it could be done at all, but said that I should write a letter to the local station master. I did that, waited about a month, after I got no answer whatsoever, I called. They gave me the number of a person in the main San Diego Post Office.

Well, that's where the incredibly high phone bill stepped in: it took three calls to the main post office in San Diego, just to get them to tell me that I had to call a particular person in Washington, D.C. Then five calls to Washington, D.C., playing phone tag with a very nice gentlemen who couldn't even begin to fathom why I was calling him on this instead of calling my local post office.

He gave me the number of some office in San Diego, whom I promptly called, only to be told that I needed to call Orange County, CA to get approval. I made two calls up there, then I was finally called back by a local postal employee who apologized profusely for my around-the-country tour by telephone.

Since I had to admit to at least seven different people the nature of the cancellation (thus outing myself), I was getting kind of tired of trying to be understanding—all the while my partner Sara's blood pressure was spiraling in unison with our phone bill. I'll be the first to admit, it's not the easiest thing in the world to admit to some blank, faceless voice over the phone that you're a lesbian, no matter how secure one might be in their sexuality.

By this time, I was pretty wary of anyone claiming to know what the heck they were talking about, but Sandra Meade of the Retail Marketing Division here in San Diego proved herself most worthy of the title: "Postal Employee Who Knows What the Heck She's Talking About (and if She Doesn't, She'll Find Out for You and Call You Right Back!)."

Sandra helped me figure out a timeline, discussed the options for artwork, gave me the exact specifications for the artwork, cheerfully met me and picked up the cacheted envelopes, always called me back with answers to any questions I had and was generally just an-all-around swell person to deal with.

She definitely went the extra yard to help me get this cancellation approved and deserves credit for being the kind of postal employee we all wish we had, especially when you consider that I have talked to some postal employees who have asked me how to spell "philatelic."

Well, after Julie designed the art for both the cachet and the cancellation, I delivered them to Sandra, and she submitted it to both the postmaster of the entire Southern portion of California and then to Washington for approval.

In the meantime, I had to raise (beg, that is) funds to buy the postage and get the printing done. When I finally had the cash in hand, Julie and I then had to lick each and every one of those 1,250 stamps (but then, since most lesbians are well-acquainted with mailing parties, it wasn't that big a deal).

After having worked with these things for several months, I was starting to feel very maternalistic about the whole project (although having children is completely out of the question for me). So, when it came time to turn the cachets over to Sandra at the USPS, I suffered a little bit of separation anxiety and "Empty Nest Syndrome."

But I was very proud of myself, I managed to let her have them and I didn't even get too nervous or emotional or anything.

I got them back, and they were cancelled just beautifully! I couldn't have done them any better myself. They were received with instant acclaim by everyone I showed them to—I instantly got orders for a couple each from my next door neighbors, the other window clerk at my post office, Sara's brother and the waitperson at the restaurant we went out to that night (you have to understand that the Hillcrest area of San Diego is that kind of place: lots more gays than not).

I also received about 75 advance orders from readers of the journal, and from people all over the United States from an ad in *Linn's Stamp News*. The rest will be for sale through the mail and at San Diego's Gay Pride Festival for \$1.⁵⁰ each. There are still some artist-signed covers for sale, but only a few are left, if you are interested, please mail a check or money order (made out to Angela Watson) to: 4104 Alabama Street (please add an SASE).

Above the costs that the project needs to recoup, there will be donation of \$800.⁰⁰ made to the San Diego Gay & Lesbian Historical Archives, to assist with their on-going building fund. This group has an incredible number of local and national gay and lesbian artifacts that

trace our history, and are looking for permanent space to house their collection.

Any money made beyond the cost of the project and the donation will be used to acquire stamps and philatelic material that feature gays and lesbians that will become a part of the Archives permanent collection. At it's completion, it will be the largest publicly-held philatelic collection of it's kind in the United States.

Because of the philanthropic nature of this project, I would urge every reader of the Journal to order a cachet today and add a piece of history to your collection. Even if you don't collect this type of material, buy and send it to Senator Jesse Helms in North Carolina and really piss him off royally!!

Oh, and by the way, I have a special message to Sandra Meade: I can hardly wait until next year's special cancellation, what with Stonewall's 25th Anniversary coming up and all that—can you?!? ♦

If You or Your Group Wants to Do a Special Cancellation

These are basically the actual steps I took to achieve the special cancellation for San Diego's Pride Festival:

1. Call the Retail Marketing Division of the Main Post Office nearest your area, have a total number in mind when you call.
2. Have a camera-ready (black & white @ about 200% the actual size) design made or designed, and turn it in for approval.
3. Although printed cachets aren't necessary, they really add to the whole project, so have those printed while the design is being approved by the USPS.
4. Buy the appropriate number of 1st class stamps (19¢ for postcards and 29¢ for envelopes) and begin licking.
5. Turn in the stamped envelopes to the USPS and then wait. Within about a week (depending on the number), you'll have back some envelopes with a special cancellation. That's all there is to it! Good Luck!

Gay Postal History

**Brian J. Coyle, Vice President
Minneapolis City Council**

by Clark Miller and Sabra Waldfogel

Brian Coyle was a man of internal contradictions. He was the masterful ward politician and a political idealist, the man raised as a Catholic who was also a Tibetan Buddhist, the shy person who had to be the center of attention, the man who could explode in temper tantrums yet show deep compassion for others. He was a public figure of integrity and courage, and in private life could be both a dear and difficult friend.

Brian began his political career by organizing his classmates at Moorhead High School as "125 Teenagers for Nixon" in 1960. However, when he entered the University of Minnesota in 1962, his convictions about civil rights soon found a more congenial home in the Democratic Farmer-Labor Party (DFL). As the Vietnam War escalated, Brian turned his attention to the anti-war movement. He helped to organize the first Vietnam teach-in at the University of Minnesota and worked on many antiwar demonstrations, including the 1965 March on Washington.

Brian actively resisted the war on a personal level. In 1965, he turned in his draft card and refused induction. He was twice indicted by the Federal Government for failing to report for the draft. It took two court trials, which stretched over a period of more than three years, for a judge to acquit Brian by declaring him a conscientious objector and concluding that the draft board had acted to punish him for his political activities.

When Brian returned to Moorhead to teach at the local state college in 1967, he sponsored the local SDS chapter, organized teach-ins and peace marches and performed draft counseling. He put his name to letters opposing the draft. He also started an antiwar newspaper,

Notes From the Underground. At the end of his first year of teaching, Moorhead State fired him for his antiwar activities.

Returning to Minneapolis in 1970, Brian continued both his antiwar activity and his underground journalism. He worked for the Twin Cities Draft Information Center while writing for a radical paper called *Hundred Flowers*. In the early 1970's, he channeled his political energies into organizing antiwar efforts with a national as well as a local focus. He served as the national office coordinator for the New American Movement (NAM). He also coordinated the Indochina Peace Campaign, which sponsored his trip to North Vietnam in 1974.

Brian chose the second anniversary of Stonewall to make an important statement about himself. He came out for the first time in a June 1971 article in *Hundred Flowers*. He urged others to "come out of your closets and into the streets." Despite criticism for "pushing the gay issue," Brian called on the New Left to "support and defend our movement for Gay Liberation."

In the mid-1970's, his interest began to shift to local political activism. He organized and lobbied for the West Bank Community Development Corporation and Tenants Union, which represented many renters in the West Bank neighborhood of Minneapolis. His concern for renters prompted him to help to found the Coalition for Affordable Housing. As an organizer and lobbyist of Minnesotans Against the Downtown Dome, which opposed construction of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, he represented neighborhood issues as well. At the same time, he maintained his broader interest in progressive concerns by

co-founding the Progressive Roundtable, a study group which looked for solutions to the country's social, economic and political problems.

Weary of lobbying from the outside, Brian entered electoral politics. In 1978, he ran unsuccessfully for the U. S. Senate. The following year, he declared as a candidate for mayor in Minneapolis, but withdrew when Congressman Don Fraser entered the race.

In 1981, Brian ran for a seat on the Minneapolis City Council. His opponent was a well-funded DFL incumbent, but Brian lost the primary by a very narrow margin. His campaign platform called for human rights, community development, affordable housing, rent control, and safe neighborhoods. During his brief campaign, Brian worked to build a broad coalition of women, minorities, low income people, senior citizens, lesbians/gays, and progressives. To represent his "many issues" and "rainbow" of supporters, Brian chose the rainbow as his campaign symbol.

Brian again ran for the 6th Ward City Council seat in 1983. This time he was successful, running a masterful campaign which borrowed many ideas and drew a great deal of

inspiration from Harvey Milk's 1977 election to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Two openly gay politicians who helped Brian in 1983 were his friends Minnesota State Representative, Karen Clark, and Minnesota State Senator, Alan Spear. (Senator Spear was elected President of the Minnesota State Senate in January, 1993.) During his campaign, Brian, who had worked as a graphic artist, produced and mailed a large number of political flyers, postcards, campaign newspapers, and letters. (Figure 1.)

As a council member, Brian successfully balanced downtown growth with economic development in Minneapolis' neighborhoods. He championed the causes of senior citizens, the poor and homeless, gays and lesbians, and African-Americans, inspired by the belief that government was responsible for improving people's lives. Brian secured funding for low and moderate income housing. He fought the ravages of crime and drugs in the neighborhoods of his ward. He lobbied at all levels of government to increase funding for the fight against AIDS.

His last and proudest political achievement was the passage of a local domestic partners

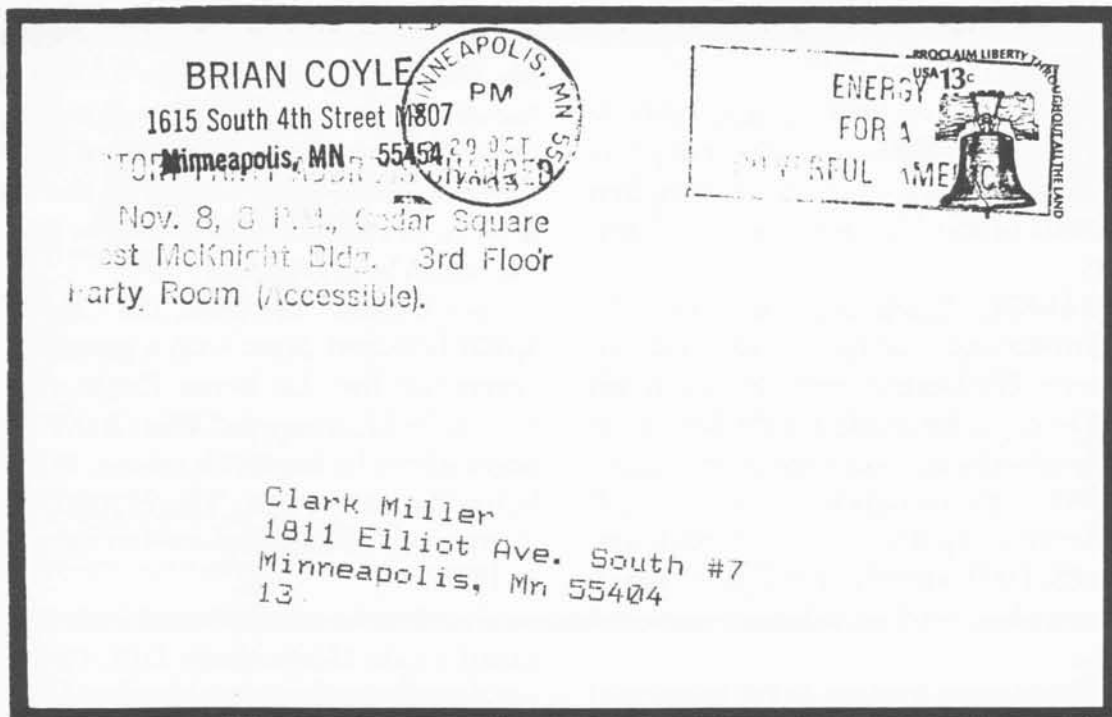



Figure 1. Front of Campaign Postcard, from Brian's first successful run for City Council, October 29, 1983.

Figure 1. Back of Campaign Postcard, from Brian's first successful run for City Council, October 29, 1983.

**HELP US
GET OUT
THE
VOTE
FOR BRIAN
BY**



DFL/Labor Endorsed
**Brian
Coyle**
for City Council Ward 6

1) Being part of a **HUMAN BILLBOARD** at 6th Ward bus stops
from 3:30 to 5:30pm, Monday, Nov. 7

2) Find at least one or more 6th Ward residents to vote Nov. 8th.

3) Come to 2650 Bryant Ave., Tues. NOV. 8 to **GET OUT THE VOTE**
FROM 4PM TO 8PM

CALL SUE LASOFF TO VOLUNTEER 823-3669 (H) or 296-1744 (W)

Prepared and paid for by the Coyle Volunteer Committee,
Ann Waterhouse, treasurer, 732 E. 16th St. #32,
Minneapolis, MN 55404

ordinance granting sick and bereavement leave for city employees with domestic partners. The ordinance also provides for the registration of domestic partnerships and created the Task Force on Family Diversity to study and recommend legislation pertaining to the changing realities of the American family. An effort is now underway to expand the ordinance to give full benefits to the domestic partners of Minneapolis employees.

Brian was re-elected by large majorities in 1985 and again in 1989. In 1990, his peers acknowledged his leadership by electing him Vice-President of the Minneapolis City Council.

In April of 1991, Brian came out once more—this time to disclose that he was infected with HIV. (Figure 2.) Despite the drain on his health and energy, he made his disclosure an opportunity to educate the people of Minnesota about HIV. Eventually his inner strength was overwhelmed by the debility of his body. On August 23, 1991, shortly after 2 p.m., Brian died of heart failure and complications related to HIV.

When the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt came to Minneapolis in March 1992,

Brian was remembered with a panel made and presented by the "Coylettes," as he nicknamed his campaign staff who were his chosen family. The panel consists of four images: the rainbow, for his lifelong commitment to peace and justice; the Minneapolis skyline, for his success as the Vice-President of the Minneapolis City Council; his portrait, for the blue-and-white lawn signs that gave him instant recognition in his 1983 campaign and earned him the nickname of "The Face;" and his signature, for the many cards and notes he sent to friends. The rainbow panel was made from the flag which flew at Brian's campaign events and draped the coffin at his funeral.

On October 29, 1992, the City of Minneapolis honored Brian with a ground-breaking ceremony for the Brian Coyle Community Center in Minneapolis' West Bank Neighborhood where he began his career. It was also his home for many years. The 21,000 square foot community center is scheduled for completion in 1993.

Brian is also remembered in the work of the Brian Coyle Minneapolis DFL Caucus which was founded to lobby on issues and to endorse and elect candidates. The Coyle Caucus cel-

brated it's first anniversary in January 1993.

In accordance with Brian's wishes, his papers were donated to the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers interested in using the papers may contact the Minnesota Historical Society Research Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. West, St. Paul, MN 55102. Some duplicate material was donated to the International Gay & Lesbian Archives, P.O. Box 38100, Los Angeles, CA 90038-0100. ♦

For further reading see:

"Cause or Menace? A Portrait of Brian Coyle," *Fargo Forum*, September 29, 1968.

"Come Out, Come Out: The First in a Series of True Confessions by a Flaming Faggot," *Hundred Flowers*, June 25, 1971.

"Heterosexism in Our 'Hip' Community," *Hundred Flowers*, July 22, 1971.

"War Foe Saw Poverty, Few Arms Signs in N. Vietnam," *Minneapolis Star*, September 25, 1974.

"Swimming Against the Stream," *Twin Cities Reader*, October 31, 1983.

"Party Support a Big Issue in Sixth Ward Race," *Minneapolis Tribune*, October 31, 1983.

"Minneapolis Elects Openly Gay Council Member," *Equal Time*, November 16, 1983.

"Brian Coyle Becomes City Council Veep," *GLC Voice*, January 2, 1990.

"Domestic-partners Ordinance Sponsor is No Stranger to Strife," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, July 30, 1970.

"Brian Coyle's Secret: Optimism and AZT Have Kept the Councilman Alive," *Minneapolis Monthly*, May 1991.

"Coming to Terms: The Coyle Journals," *Equal Time*, May 10-24, 1991.

"Minneapolis Council's Brian Coyle Dies at 47, Progressive Politician had AIDS Virus," *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, August 24, 1991.

"Pieces of Dreams," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, March 16, 1992.

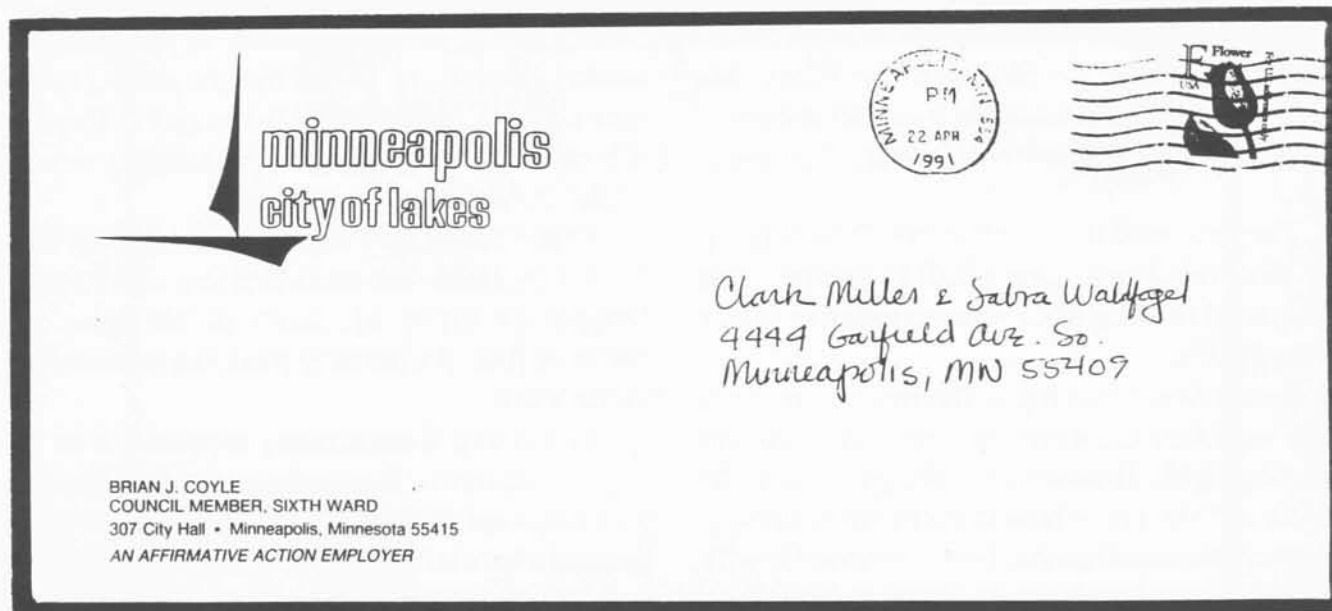


Figure 2. Last mailing to constituents, April 22, 1991, disclosing his own HIV status.
The address is handwritten by Brian Coyle himself.

Bessie Smith: Queen of the Blues

by Joe Petronie

I first discovered Bessie Smith while doing research on famous gays and lesbians for a bulletin board display at LSU. Though the recordings were scratchy, her rich voice came through powerfully. I was hooked, though there wasn't enough records to listen to or books to read.

Bessie was born in 1884 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was one of seven children. Her father and a brother died shortly before her birth. Her mother died nearly eight years later and her older sister, Viola, was left to raise the other children.

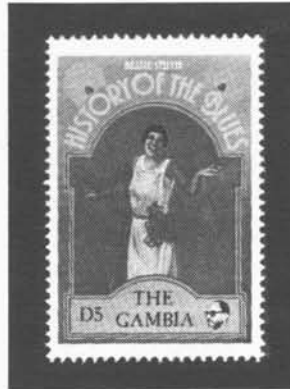
Family life for Bessie and her siblings was hard. They lived in the ghetto in Chattanooga with little hope of escaping. Singing on street corners helped Bessie raise money for the family. Her brother, Clarence, was able to get Bessie an audition in 1912. This audition was to change her life: she met Ma Rainey at this audition.

If Bessie is considered the Queen of the Blues, then Ma Rainey is the Mother of the Blues. Ma Rainey treated Bessie like the daughter she never had and they were also lovers for a short period of time.¹

They traveled the South in the Theater Owners' Booking Association (TOBA) circuit. This group tried to bring black entertainment to blacks in the 1920's.

Bessie Smith was big in stature. Her features were very African, which at times worked to her disadvantage². However, she did grow up in the streets and she knew how to take care of herself. Another disadvantage that Bessie had to cope with was her drinking problem: she drank quite heavily and on numerous occasions, she spent the night in jail, sobering up.

In 1922, Bessie met Jack Gee, whom she



married the following year. They had a tumultuous relationship. When she and Jack were physically together, she was faithful to him. Once on the road, however, her drinking escalated and she started having affairs with members of her troupe.

Her popularity rose in the 1920's. She recorded several records with Columbia on their "race" records label. She performed many times in Harlem,

a place that was noted a place for lesbians to express themselves openly in the 1920's. She appeared in one of the first talkie movies, *St. Louis Blues*, in 1929. This same year saw Bessie and Jack divorce.

There is no one reason for Bessie's decline in popularity. She had a very much admired voice and strong stage presence. The Depressions hit in 1930 and was one of the main reasons for TOBA to fold. Columbia Records also dropped the "race" labels, since customers in this potential market generally no longer had the money to buy such luxuries. Additionally, it thought that Bessie's African pride hindered her from changing with the world around her.

Bessie Smith died in a auto accident on September 26, 1937. She was travelling with Richard Morgan on Route 61, south of Memphis. A National Biscuit Company truck ran head-on into Smith's car.

To this day, what actually happened after the crash is uncertain. Due to the segregated South at the time, it is said that Bessie was taken to a white hospital after a lengthy delay at the accident³. This hospital refused her treatment because of her race. She was then taken to a black hospital in nearby Mississippi where she died.

(Continued on Page 13)

No Stamp Of Approval

by Ellen Orleans

Some people are content to just lick and stick, but I take my postage stamps seriously. Uncle Sam can't fool me, I know that it stands for yet one insidious form of government influence.

Don't believe it? Take another look. Notice how it's always men on stamps. Oh, sure there's an occasional woman, just like the single African American who's honored for Black History Month. But basically it boils down to my "you gotta be a dead guy" theory; that is, you have to be a deceased male before they'll put your face on a stamp.

Goddess forbid the U.S. government should honor someone while they're still around to appreciate it. The end product of this practice is stamps bearing the likeness of safe, conservative people whose radical fire, if they ever had any, is banished, quashed and cancelled. When Martin Luther King appears on a stamp is there any mention of his protest against the Viet Nam War? Would mainstream America lick a Cole Porter stamp if they knew the man was gay?

But I digress. I was talking about women on stamps and how there aren't any. Oh, *occasionally* we show up, but notice how we are continually relegated to the odd 23¢ or 4¢ stamps, along with the "Modes of Transportation" series. That's right—outstanding women like Rachel Carson get lumped with stamps honoring Tractor Trailers and Steam Carriages.

Let's face it, the only way for a woman to consistently be on first-class postage stamp is for her name to be Madonna. And I don't mean Madonna the performer, I mean Madonna as in Jesus's mom. What? Have you already forgotten the "you've got to be dead" rule?

But I understand how you could forget. I forgot the other day, too. I'd heard that the post office had issued a series of stamps honor-

ing comedians. I rushed down there, expecting to see Lily Tomlin, Whoopi Goldberg or Marga Gomez smiling up at me from those tiny squares of paper. Instead I got dead males: Jack Benny, Laurel and Hardy, Bergen and McCarthy. And of course, one token female, Fanny Brice.

Needless to say, I was **not** impressed.

Several years ago I thought perhaps the post office had just run out of good ideas for stamps. In order to help them out, I grabbed one of those handy complaint/suggestion forms that the post office kindly provides and dashed off some ideas.

"Dear Mr. Postmaster General," I wrote, "how about a stamp honoring single mothers raising kids without child support? How about celebrating organic foods? How about commending social workers who are paid ungodly small salaries while the government continues to fund the military industrial complex?" "You know, I never did hear back from the General. (I wonder if he's part of the military industrial complex?)

Since I never saw my suggestions appear on any stamps, I reasoned that the post office actually had a long line up of really important events and people they needed to honor and they just hadn't gotten around to my request yet. But as the months rolled by and I continued to see what *did* get on stamps—CIA officers, dead white movie actors and the thrilling hobby of Numismatics—what's going on here? (Is the post office in cahoots with the Mint?), I grew increasingly disillusioned with the process.

And of course, who can forget the whole Elvis issue? Let's ignore the national debt, eroding civil rights, increased acts of domestic violence—what's really important here is do

(continued on Page 13)

US AIDS Stamp

by Joe Petronie

Twelve years plus after the onset of AIDS, the United States Postal Service has finally agreed to issue an AIDS stamp. The U. S. will be the 34th country to do so. This issue is thanks to the tireless efforts of Jean Anne Hlavacek.

Ms. Hlavacek is a nurse-clinician at the University of Wisconsin Clinical Science Center. She first got the idea of an AIDS stamp upon the death of a close friend's father-in-law from AIDS in 1987. "When I saw his photograph in the *Newsweek* article 'The Face of AIDS,' I knew I had to do something to raise awareness or money. Every single day, postage stamps on millions of letters go into people's homes, schools and businesses. A stamp is an ongoing vehicle to spread awareness of AIDS."¹

Jean Anne's design, which will most likely be modified by the USPS, incorporates the international "no" symbol: a red circle with a diagonal line. This symbol will be superimposed on the word "AIDS" to form the central design. Four other words: **prevention, research, education and compassion** will be placed around the central design (figure 1.)

Ms. Hlavacek spent more than five years trying to get an AIDS stamp issued. She wrote nearly 4,000 letters to every member of Congress, most state governors and medical officials. She received letters of support from many politicians and others including then-Vice President George Bush (!), former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and then-University of Wisconsin at Madison chancellor Donna Shalala—recently confirmed as President Clinton's secretary of Health and Human Services.)²

The letter that helped her continue was one received from her favorite actor, Jimmy Stewart. He wrote "Your letter is just

about the most wonderful I have ever received. I think it's great the work you are doing and I wish you every good wish and I hope you have a wonderful life. God bless you."

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) had rejected Jean Anne's idea of an AIDS stamp eight times since 1987. In December 1992, the CSAC finally gave it's approval. The release date for the US AIDS stamp has not yet been announced. Ms. Hlavacek is hoping for a "special issue." This status will allow for the AIDS stamp to remain on sale for a longer period than a standard commemorative. More information will be listed in future **AIDS Update** columns. ❖

- ¹ "Stamp It Out," *Isthmus Chronicle*, May 11, 1990
- ² "Stamping Out AIDS," *The Milwaukee Journal*, December 1992.

For further reading see:

"AIDS Fight Hits Stamps", *Stamp & Coins* column, **Washington Post**, March 1990.

"Stamp It Out," *Isthmus Chronicle*, May 11, 1990.

"Stamping Out AIDS," *The Milwaukee Journal*, December 1992.

"Stamp South to Raise The Awareness of AIDS," *New York Times*, April 20, 1989.

"Nurse Campaigns for Stamp Warning of AIDS Danger," *American Medical News*, October 9, 1987.

"Stamping Out AIDS," *The Milwaukee Journal*, December 1992.



Figure 1. Two possible designs for the upcoming U.S. AIDS stamp

Bessie Smith
(Continued from Page 10)

As with many gays and lesbians from that era, it can't be said with complete certainty that Bessie Smith was a lesbian. However, her relationship with Ma Rainey and her affairs with several women in her troupe certainly point to her being bisexual. ♦

- ¹ For more information, consult *The Alyson Almanac* and *The Gay Book of Days* (see below).
- ² Light skinned blacks, preferably with "white" features, were in demand in the 1920's.
- ³ Years later, before he died, Richard Morgan said he walked nearly ten miles to get an ambulance.

For further reading see:

The Alyson Almanac, Alyson Publications, Inc., Boston, 1990.
Bessie Smith, Elaine Feinstein, Penguin Books, Suffolk, 1985.
The Gay Book of Days, Martin Greif, The Main Street Press, New York, 1989.
"Harlem Nights," *The Advocate*.

What's so funny about being a lesbian?



CAN'T KEEP A STRAIGHT FACE

Wickedly-funny essays by humorist Ellen Orleans, *Can't Keep a Straight Face* will keep you laughing OUT loud. Ellen's work has appeared in *Women's Glib* and *Glibber*, *Hysteria* and *The Washington Post*.

"Ellen Orleans and Noreen Stevens make a formidable tag team on the down-and-dirty lesbian humor circuit."

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Available at bookstores or through
Upper Access 1-800-356-9315

No Stamp of Approval
(Continued from Page 11)

we want the young Elvis or the old Elvis on our postage stamps. Oh yes, let's gear up for a national vote on the question.

Can you imagine them doing that with, for instance, a Holly Near stamp? Attention Americans, cast your vote for either a) the short-haired Holly Near in her "Imagine My Surprise" period or b) the recent bisexual Holly Near, with her softer, more "femme" look.

Concerning the Elvis controversy, though, one thing at least is settled: if the Postal Service is putting his image on a stamp, then Elvis must be dead.

The final blow to my "equality on postage stamps" campaign came when they devoted a whole series to fishing flies. That's right, *fishing flies!* They can't give a single stamp over to honoring feminism or recognizing the gay and lesbian rights struggle, but they can devote five whole stamps to fish bait with ludicrous names such as Jock Scott, Royal Wulff and Muddler Minnow. (Come to think of it, "Jock Scott" sounds like a gay male videostar and "Royal Wulff" *does* conjure up images of a drag queen. Nonetheless, that doesn't score any points for gay rights.)

So, what's a progressive-minded feminist to do? I say it's time to print our own stamps! If we wait for the post office to take action, it will be the 22nd Century before we start pasting "Reproductive Freedom" or Pat Parker stamps on our letters. Frankly, I'm not that patient. So get out your markers, your colored pencils, your color laser printers and let those creative juices flow. And if anyone objects, just tell them that a stamp honoring "creative expression" is long overdue. ♦

Reprinted with permission from "Can't Keep a Straight Face: A Lesbian Looks and Laughs at Life" by Ellen Orleans (Available at your local feminist/progressive bookstore or send \$8.50 to Laugh Lines Press, Box 259, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004).

Gay & Lesbian Update

La Poste issued a booklet and sheet of stamps honoring French writers on April 24, 1993. One of the honorees was Jean Cocteau. See the previous journal for an article on him.



Also included in this booklet was Marguerite Yourcenar. Look for an article on her in a future Journal.



Brazil recently issued a set of three stamps to promote good health: blood donation, combat cancer and mental health. The latter shows a rainbow coming out of a mannequin-type head. The rainbow [flag] is a symbol of gay pride.



The Republic of Guinea issued a 200-franc stamp featuring Marlene Dietrich. The stamp shows a portrait of her from *Express* that are featured in her. The stamp was issued in a perforated sheet. The border of the sheet shows Marilyn Monroe paying homage to Ms. Dietrich in *The Blue Angel*.



The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) released a souvenir card during the American Stamp Dealers Association Postage Stamp Mega-Event. The card features one stamp from each of the seven groups of the 1940 Famous Americans set. This set featured five famous Americans of each group of authors, poets, educators, scientists, composers, artists and inventors. The card, as pictured in the April 26, 1993 issue of *Linn's*, features the Walt Whitman stamp as the poet representative.



Emperor Claudius is featured on the 24p stamp and Emperor Hadrian is shown on the 28p stamp in a new set from Great Britain.



The Festival of Pride in Minneapolis used a special postmark during their Gay Pride festivities on June 26 and 27. This is the fourth Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual cancel in the U. S. Artwork will be provided once it is received. The address for cancellations is:

Festival of Pride Station
Box 9998
Minneapolis MN 55401-9611
USA

Your requests must be postmarked by July 27th in order to receive this cancel.



The former Czechoslovakia issued a telephone card featuring the rock group Queen. Freddy Mercury, who was bisexual, recently died of AIDS. Telephone cards are very popular in Europe and are especially hot in Japan right now.

AIDS Update

Is anyone aware of any special cancels, meters or the like from the International AIDS Conference recently held in Berlin? Please forward any information to the editor. Thanks.



Another AIDS meter, this one from Denmark:

Ungdon	VEJLE	Denmark
mod AIDS	8-11-88	300

PitneyBowes Meter 3515.



Burma (Union of Myanmar) issued a stamp for the World Campaign Against AIDS in 1992 .



The "AIDS Awareness Stamp" is available from the Desert AIDS Project. This cinderella is printed in sheets of 24. It is sold in sets of five sheets (120 stamps) for \$5.⁵⁰. Send your check or money order, made payable to:

Desert AIDS Project
750 S. Vella Road
Palm Springs, CA 92264

(MasterCard or Visa also accepted.) The "Join Hands-Conquer AIDS" stamp is the idea of Bill Lile. It is being used to help raise funds for various AIDS organizations. Desert AIDS Project is the beneficiary of the initial printing of the stamps.

Last Lick

STaMpsHOW will be held in Houston August 20 - 22, 1993. Several members will be attending. Check the Affiliates Table or registration area for a possible notice of a small get together.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Angela Watson would like to trade or purchase any extra gay and lesbian philatelic material that any of the members out there might have. Any material received will be used for the permanent San Diego exhibit. On the other hand, if you would like to donate the items, your name would listed on the exhibit as a contributor and all-around-swell person. Please send any items to Angela at 4104 Alabama Street, San Diego, CA 92104 or if you want to talk to me about it, please call me at (619) 299-5245 (Pacific Time).

Jack Bales has an album that contains 112 Horatio Alger FDC's of the 1982 stamp (Scott No. 1020). The set includes many hand-painted covers in limited editions and the First-Day Cover ceremony program. He's asking \$250.⁰⁰ or best offer. If you're interested, please contact him at 1 Breenbriar Court, #203, Fredricksburg, VA 22401.

**GET 'EM WHILE
THEY'RE HOT!!**

Available now: cacheted covers with the San Diego cancellation in a previously unheard of *purple ink!* Also on these special covers is the artists signature, Julie Warren. There are only 50 of these covers available and they are available for the low, low price of \$2.⁵⁰ each. Standard black ink cancellations are available as well for only \$1.⁵⁰. The proceeds will benefit the San Diego Gay & Lesbian Historical Society. Please make checks payable to Angela Watson and send along with an SASE to: 4104 Alabama Street, San Diego, CA 92104-1003.

To those that have already ordered: your orders will be shipped on July 17th and thanks for your support.

A VERY QUEER PUZZLE

by Angela Watson

A R I S T O T L E U V B C P P E F K I P Q
 M O N A V R A T I L O V A W M L I S A U U
 S R J E W K I N G J A M E S I L J K E M E
 T H O N Y N O R Y B D R O L M I P E L Z E
 E P A M N Q W R N A M T I H W V R O O M N
 I O R W X O K H A M I L T O N L R V K J C
 N R C M S D S J J U D L O A G E I O I E H
 N T X O K I D D L O J K S R A M M A H X R
 W E N E I O O R U M J L T T C S B Q B B I
 V R W I L D E V B H A N I C K Y A M V R S
 H E R O O S E V E L T P P Y E A U E F A T
 A N N B O N N E Y R E H T A C W D X A E I
 T D L O B M U H S S G J U D I T H I G L N
 V Q B V H N T Y O U G M F O L R E G A L A

Find the **BOLD** Names:

KING JAMES I
QUEEN CHRISTINA
LORD BYRON
 Herman **MELVILLE**
 Gertrude **STEIN**
 Dag **HAMMARSKJOLD**
 Cole **PORTER**
 Arthur **RIMBAUD**
 Willa **CATHER**
 Edward **LEAR**
 Eleanor **ROOSEVELT**
ANN BONNEY
 Oscar **WILDE**
 Rock **HUDSON**
 Walt **WHITMAN**
 Alexander **HAMILTON**
 Capt. "Billy the" **KIDD**
 Selma **LAGERLOF**
 Alexander von
HUMBOLDT
ARISTOTLE
 Martina **NAVRATILOVA**

Last Lick

(Continued from Page 15)

Congratulations! Phil Stager's VD exhibit won a small silver award at Polska '93. It has also been accepted for the Bangkok 93 show.



Congratulations²! Paul Hennefeld's exhibit on famous gays and lesbians won a silver award in Denver. His handbook won an award at the Second Canadian Philatelic Literature Exhibit.



HEY—WHAT DO YA KNOW! WE'RE FAMOUS!

GLHSC is mentioned in a new book from Alyson Publications called *The First Gay Pope and Other Records*. The author, Lynn Yamaguchi Fletcher, cites GLHSC's beginning in 1982 and it's founders: Paul Hennefeld, Blair O'Dell and Brian Lanter. She also mentions Paul's collection of Gays and Lesbians on stamps and credits him in the prologue. At \$7.⁹⁵, it's a real bargain; look for it your local gay bookstore, or order it from Alyson @ 40 Plympton St., Boston, MA 02118.