

L A M B D A

P H I L A T E L I C

J O U R N A L

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His nonsense poetry has never been equalled, nor have his whimsical illustrations. Anyone who reads his limericks, a form that he virtually perfected, can doubt that he was anything other than a comic genius on the order of Lewis Carroll, his contemporary. Still, all the signs of probable homosexuality are present. His entire life is characterized by close friendships with handsome young men many years his junior, by dozens of reasons - from poor eyesight to a big nose - found or invented for never marrying, and by references in his journal to intense suffering each time one of young men married.

the gay book of days by greif

The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC), an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458.

The objectives of the club are:

To promote and foster an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material depicting:



notable men and women (and their contributions to society) for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual behavior, orientation or support.

mythology, historical events, and ideas (laws) significant in the history of gay culture.

flora and fauna scientifically proven having prominent homosexual behavior.

Even though emphasis is placed on this aspect of stamp collecting, the club strongly encourage other interest of philately.

MEMBERSHIP

Yearly dues are \$6.00 per calendar year for U.S. and Canada residents; \$8.00 or 10 IRC per year for foreign residents (cover higher postage cost).

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The Lambda Philatelic Journal thrives on philatelic articles (original or reprinted) and alternative viewpoints for publication. All members are welcome to submit any of the above. Members are also encouraged to place free advertisements of philatelic interest.

THE MAN WHOSE SHOES WERE TOO TIGHT

by David R. Conchado



Edward Lear.

Throughout his life, Edward Lear (1812-1888) made a concerted effort to project a certain image of himself before the public. Ever conscious of the importance of making a good impression on those with money who would become buyers of his drawings and paintings, he made a point of learning the social graces, of dressing appropriately, and of appearing as a kindly, fun-loving soul. He even kept his almost daily bouts with epileptic seizures from friends by excusing himself at the first indications of the aura invariably preceding these attacks, which plagued him from early childhood.

Lear came from a large family of twenty one and two parents who had little time for him. He had an older sister, Ann, who looked after him and saw to his basic schooling. She taught him the three R's and an appreciation for art.

There is very little mention in his later writings of his formal education, which had begun at age eleven and lasted until age fifteen and half.

Lear was very young when his father went to a debtors's prison, and the children were dispersed to earn their living. Most of Lear's sisters became governesses, but Ann, the oldest, made a home for him.



It was at this time that he began to use the artistic talents he'd nurtured in his formative years to take advantage of the craze that was sweeping England at the time, to acquire exotic animals and birds from far-off lands or at least to own good drawings and paintings of them. Lear had the good fortune to befriend wealthy patrons who boasted their private menageries, which provided him with a rich array of

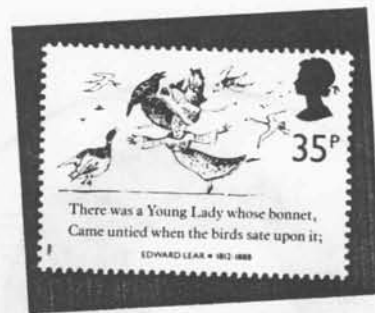
subjects for his art. His drawings of birds were praised for their Audubon quality.

When not busy drawing animals, Lear could frequently be found entertaining his patrons' children by composing nonsense lyrics and drawing cartoons to match them. In that era, the only literature available to children was drab adult books and moralistic tales.



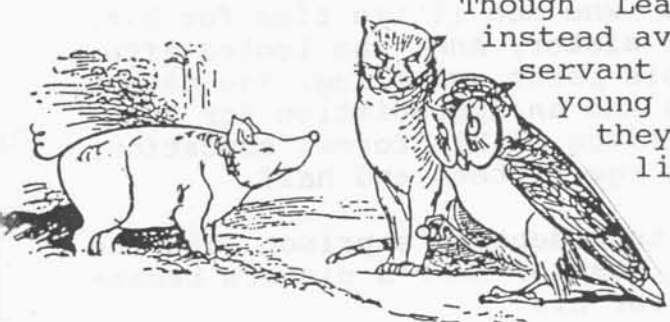
Lear's nonsense verse and cartoons were a treat that kept the children thoroughly amused. Lear compiled a collection of these amusements and had them published. His name soon became a household word in England and his work is considered the forerunner of modern tradition of cartooning and absurdity.

Despite these successes, Edward Lear was not content to remain in England. He attributed his unhappiness to the unwholesome English climate. Thus, he sought out the more clement climes of Italy, Greece, Corfu, and even India. He wandered through these strange lands, ever searching for landscapes he could preserve on canvas and sell to culture-hungry English patrons. He almost never traveled alone and always with a male companion.



Frank Lushington was to figure prominently. At first, the two were very close; the intensity of Lear's feelings apparently caused Frank to panic, for he quickly backed away, married and had a family. This unrequitable love gave Lear years of frustration and depression. Grounds exist for speculation that Lear had affairs with other men after Frank, but it was with Lushington that he shared an English background and culture; there is, however, no indication that their friendship was not platonic.

Though Lear toyed with the idea of marriage, he instead availed himself of the services of a Greek servant named Giorgio Kakali, a rather handsome young fellow who must have served Lear well, as they stayed together for the rest of Giorgio's life, some twenty-seven years. Ever conscious of his public image, Lear saw to it that Giorgio kept his distance in public; what they did together in private is another matter. The only inkling we have of the level of intimacy between the



two men surfaced when Giorgio "confessed" to his family and Lear provided financial favors to Giorgio's relatives.

Curiously, in his writings Lear professes to despise a life without women. He decried the monks of Athos for living

in an atmosphere of falsehood and ignorance ...falsehood, because I am positive that living alone banishing all women who God has made to be our equals and companions, passing life in everlasting repetition of formal prayers -- in fact -- turning God's will and works upside down -- I say this is falsehood -- though it may be ignorance as well. (Byrom, p. 19)



Lear and John Addington Symonds (also gay) became close friends, they never discussed their sexuality with one another. How beneficial it would have been for them if they had! The silence among homosexuals of the Victorian period kept them hopelessly alone and in despair. The subject just was not discussed and the public "must never know."

Lear's feelings about homosexuality and marriage are revealed in two of his nonsense poem with accompanying drawings. "The Owl and the Pussy-cat," which he had composed for Symond's eldest daughter, sick in bed at Christmas, we get a glimpse of Lear's ambivalence about marriage.



Burkina Faso was formerly known as Upper Volta. The name change took place on August 4th, 1984. Although the name has been changed, it is still listed under Upper Volta in Volume four of the Scott Catalogue. The stamp was issued April 7th, 1989, Scott No. 869 and reads "World Fight Against AIDS".

Errors in stamp design

DOMINICA: MISSPELLED NAME



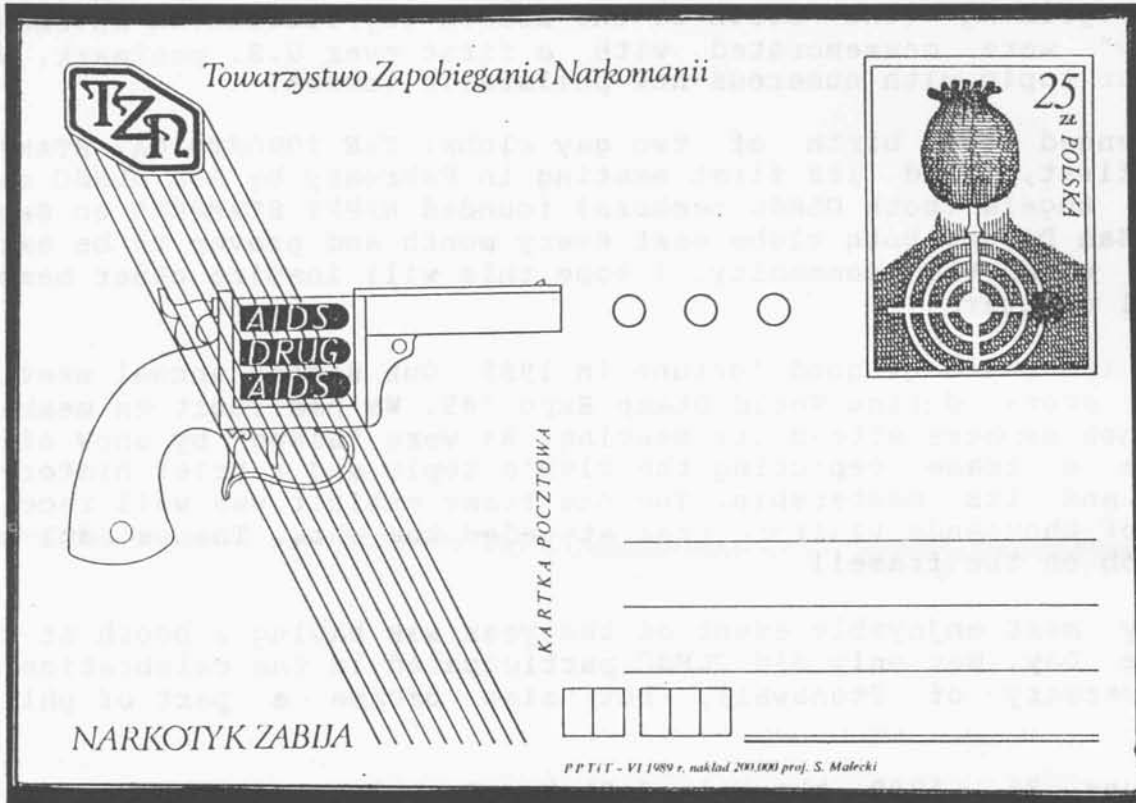
Dominica misspelled Liberace's first name on this \$3 stamp released Sept. 8, 1988. The entertainer's first name was Wladziu not "Wladzio" as shown on the Dominican stamp.

LINN'S STAMP NEWS ** November 13, 1989

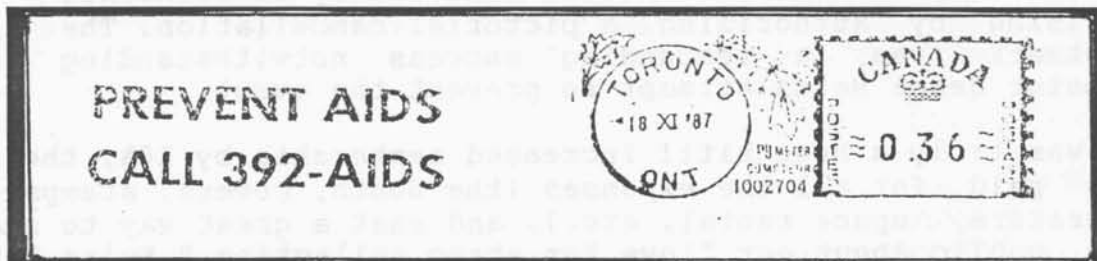
RUDOLF NUREYEV - the great ballet dancer became world-famous in the 1960s when he defected to the West.



A MEDLEY FROM PHIL STAGER'S COLLECTION:



A recent postal stationery from Poland in purple and orange.



This meter cancellation was used briefly by the City of Toronto.



The inverted hub was used early 1987 in at least eight cities.

Mr. Phil Stager's collection will be on exhibit at:

FLORIDA WEST COAST STAMP EXPO '90
 ST. PETERSBURG NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY
 3601 38TH AVENUE SOUTH (1/2 block West of U.S. 19)
 ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA
 March 9th & 10th 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
 March 11th 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

... a lick from the president.

1989 was a milestone in gay philately. The twentieth anniversary of Stonewall Uprising (the birth of the modern gay liberation movement) and "Pride Day" were commemorated with a first ever U.S. postmark. We also enriched our topic with numerous new philatelic issues.

We experienced the birth of two gay clubs: THE TORONTO GAY STAMP CLUB, Canada's first, held its first meeting in February by non GLHSC members. Lauri and Angela (both GLHSC members) founded HAPPY STAMPERS on September 30th in San Diego. Both clubs meet every month and proven to be extremely successful with the community. I hope this will inspire other members to start local chapters.

GLHSC had its share of good fortune in 1989. Our second annual meeting was a success story during World Stamp Expo '89. We had fourteen members and about 55 non members attend our meeting. We were "asked" by show officials to compile a frame depicting the club's topic and a brief history about the club and its membership. The one frame exhibit was well received by the ten of thousands visitors that attended the show. Thanks Paul for the splendid job on the frame!!

One of my most enjoyable event of the year was having a booth at the New York Pride Day. Not only did GLHSC participated in the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Stonewall, but also became a part of philatelic history:

June 25, 1989, the United States Postal Service became the first federal agency to officially acknowledge "Pride Day" and the twentieth anniversary of Stonewall Uprising by authorizing a pictorial cancellation. The postmark was a resounding success notwithstanding Senator Jesse Helms attempt to prevent the event.

The booth was truly a huge hit!! Increased membership by 10%, the sell of the cachets paid for all the expenses (the booth, covers, stamps, promotional literature, space rental, etc.), and what a great way to share and educate the public about our "love for stamp collecting." We're hoping to make this an annual ritual and possibly having a float in the parade. So, if you're planning to attend New York Pride Day Parade this June, please stop by your booth, the "lick" is on me.

Two major goals discussed in previous issues finally became reality: GLHSC membership has risen to 273 members, making it us eligible for discount postage rate. All we need is to submit the proper forms to Uncle Sam. In our next issue you'll be asked to vote on a club logo and possibly a new name. Because of space limitation, unable to go into any details regarding the issues that were brought up during our meeting at World Stamp Expo'89.

TOPEX '90 and 41st annual convention of the American Topical Association will be held June 1-3 at Omni-Biltmore Hotel, Kennedy Plaza, Providence, Rhode Island. We think this would be an excellent location for our next meeting. Providence provides us with a vast of gay entertainment and cultural events. Its also less than one hour from Boston and New York City. Not only would this show be an idea event for topical collectors, but also a chance to meet with members and get together after non philatelic hours for more fun.