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OUR STORY

The "Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps" Study Unit was formed through the efforts of Paul Hennefeld and Brian Lanter. Both of these men are members of the American Topical Association and, independently of each other, began compiling lists of Lesbians and Gays on stamps.

An inquiry placed by Brian, in "Topical Times" asked for input for his topical theme. Paul's response was the start of a joint collaboration between the two men for enlarging and authenticating their lists. The prime impetus which caused the fruition of the project was the realization that, until then, no one had ever made a topical list that pulled together the many stamps which had Lesbians and Gay Men depicted.

Paul wrote an essay entitled, "Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps," which was printed by "Gay Community News (vol. 8 # 25)." The subject attracted considerable attention in the Gay and Lesbian World as well as among stamp collectors in general. Due to the interest generated by the article, Brian and Paul conceived the idea of a "Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Study Unit" in association with the ATA.

Brian and Paul placed notices in various publications and a number of individuals responded. When all the requirements for a formal study unit are met, "GLHS" will submit a charter and request recognition from the ATA.

OFFICER BOX

PRESIDENT	BRIAN LANTER
MEN'S HISTORIAN	PAUL HENNEFELD
WOMEN'S HISTORIAN	KATHY HALL
SECRETARY	PAUL HENNEFELD
TREASURER	BLAIR O'DELL
EDITOR	JOE FANNING

ALL CORRESPONDENCE AND
INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

G.L.H.S,
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We look forward to hearing from you, our readers and members, for comments, ideas and articles for future issues.

We encourage advertising and correspondence between readers regarding their philatelic interests.

"LAMBDA PHILATELIC JOURNAL" is the official publication of The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Study Unit. Yearly subscription rate, including membership in the Study Unit, is \$ 5.00 single copies are available for \$ 1.50

1st Day -

by PAUL HENNEFELD

Horatio Alger, Jr.


I arrived at the George Washington Convention Center, Willow Grove, Pa. at 10:15 AM. A post office employee was at the door distributing programs of the day's ceremony. Hundreds of fold out chairs were in place, some post office personnel were selling sheets of the stamp at one booth, while others sitting at a long table were cancelling the first day covers for the purchasers. I bought my stamps, attached them to the caches and had them cancelled just as the ceremonies began.

Charles G. Baugh, postmaster of Philadelphia, started the ceremonies by calling for the presentation of the colors. Following the National Anthem, an invocation was delivered by the Rev. Deborah Pope-Lane, pastor of the Washington's Crossing Unitarian Church.

Numerous people spoke about the life of Horatio Alger, Jr. The keynote address was given by William Bolger, Postmaster General. He stressed Alger's religious upbringing as the eldest son of a Unitarian Minister and the themes of Alger's writing- "strive and succeed" and "work yields accomplishments." Bolger brought the meanings of Alger's 100 or so books up to the present day by saying "... that if we all were to live up to Horatio Alger's exhortations then we would never need to have the government on our backs." He further exclaimed that "Horatio Alger, Jr. is truly an American Hero."

Throughout all the speeches, nothing was mentioned that Alger had been a Unitarian Minister, himself, and that he left the ministry under the circumstances of "being too familiar with John Clark and Thomas Crocker (see Gay American History by Katz page 33).

LUCK-PLUCK SERIES.
OFFICIAL FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



DR OF BOYS' STORIES

Honoring
HORATIO ALGER
150th Anniversary of His Birth

1832-1982



Scott # 2010

Horatio Alger



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Gay And Lesbian History on Stamps

Gay Community News, January 17, 1981
22 Bromfield St.
Boston, MA 02108

By Louis Paul Hennefeld

The world's largest hobby is stamp collecting. Even if one is not a philatelist, we cannot get away from the fact that we all have to buy and use those little pieces of paper.

While reading from Jonathan Katz's book, *Gay American History* (Avon Books), I noticed that many of the persons mentioned in his book are on U.S. stamps. It was at this point that I began to collect stamps which had a gay theme. As my guide in this stamp collecting expedition, I used the following books to pinpoint my research of gay persons who might be portrayed on stamps: *Gay American History, The Book of Lists* by Irving Wallace (Bantam Books), *Gay Source* by Dennis Sanders (Coward, McCann, Geoghegan Books), *Jonathan to Gide* by Noel Garde (Nos Books), and *Hidden Heritage* by Byrne Fone (Irvington Books). From reading these books and through my knowledge of stamps, I discovered that there are a great many gay and bisexual persons honored on stamps by countries who refuse to grant human rights to gay people.

Greek Myths

One of the most beautiful mythical stories of love between two men is the story of Apollo's love for Hyacinthus. Both men can be found on stamps, as can the hyacinth flower.

In the story, Apollo accidentally kills Hyacinthus. Apollo then memorializes him with a hyacinth which grows from the blood of Hyacinthus. In the spirit of this story, the gay community should proclaim the hyacinth as its official gay flower.

The well-known comrades and lovers Achilles and Patroclus from ancient Greece are also shown on a Greek stamp.

Religion

Some notable religious figures on stamps may have been gay. Jesus and John the Beloved Disciple, whether gay or not, did have a strong same-sex relationship. It has been thought by some that Judas betrayed Jesus because he was jealous of Jesus's love for him. He believed John was receiving too much of Jesus's attention. It must be remembered that Jesus never preached against homosexuality, and that he preferred to be in the company of men. Jesus and John can be found on many stamps.

Vatican City, the core of anti-gay sentiments, surprised me by portraying not only many gay artists but also three of the many gay Popes on their stamps. Emperor Maximilian wrote, in a letter sent to Henry VIII in 1510, "that two French boys recently sent to Rome by Queen Anne of France had fallen victim to the homosexual lust of Pope Julius II. A Council met in November of 1511 and decreed of Pope Julius II, 'this sodomite, covered with shameful ulcers, who infected the Church with his corruption.'" Julius II can be found on one of the earlier Vatican City stamps.

Pope Sixtus IV (1471-1484) was depicted on a set of three stamps in 1975. A story about the Pope indicates that "while Sixtus IV was Pope, certain Cardinals presented a petition for permission to practice sodomy during the warm season. The petition was said to have been taken under favorable consideration."

Pope John XII (955-963) (on a French stamp) became Pope at age 17. He turned the Papal palace into the scene of gala homosexual orgies. John died at the early age of 26.

Giovanni Cardinal del Monte, who was elected Pope Julius III in 1550 was said to have been the most blatant of all the homosexual popes. While still a cardinal, he was known to engage in orgies involving sodomy with other men. While pope, he raised many teenage boys to the rank of cardinal. He adopted his beloved boyfriend, Innocente, and promoted him to his bed. Julius gave Innocente, who remained constantly at the pope's side, the rank of cardinal.

St. Augustine, when a youth, had a passionate attachment to another man. The sudden death of this man left him endlessly weeping and broken-hearted. A similar incident happened to Cardinal Newman (20th Century religious figure). When his beloved friend and companion Ambrose St. John died, Newman in a grief-stricken state threw himself on the bed with the corpse and remained with it all night. During Newman's lifetime, he would break into tears whenever the name of his beloved friend was mentioned. Newman can be found on two Irish stamps. Augustine can be found on stamps of Algeria, Columbia and the Vatican City.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

last lick

Our next issue will contain an article about 'The Belle of Amherst'

Future 'Gays on Stamps' features will be about the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, the Empire Builder of Africa and one of France's great poets.

Readers of 'The Advocate' (Issue # 339) will be able to find at least three Gay Russians who have been honored on U.S.S.R. stamps. Russia, as we all know, is a country where homosexuality "does not exist."

BE ON THE LOOKOUT -----

An article about the Study Unit will appear in the August issue of "MANDATE" on the stands in July.