



Lambda Philatelic Journal



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB

Volume 7, Issue 2

SUMMER 88

\$1.50 Per Issue

The ancient Spartans adopted the Lambda as a symbol of their unity. Worn as a logo on their shields, it signified the special balance which they felt must exist between the individual and the State.



They believed that the demands of society should never interfere with each person's right to be totally free and independent. Each Spartan recognized that only in a common bond could they hope to preserve their existence as a free and equal people.



Byron, Lord (George Noel Gordon)

(1788 - 1824) British Poet

The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (G.L.H.S.C.), an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458. We have served gay and lesbian philatelists since 1982.

The objective of this club is to promote and foster an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material depicting men and women (and their works) for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual behavior, orientation or support; historical events or ideas (such as law and the bill of rights) significant in the history of gay and lesbian culture; and animal species that have scientifically been proven as having prominent homosexual behavior.

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The Lambda Philatelic Journal thrives on philatelic articles, (both original and reprinted), ideas, viewpoints and periodicals, (clippings or copies) for future issues. We welcome members to submit any of the above. We also encourage members to place free advertisements of philatelic interest.

CANADA REPORTING

THE LAMBDA:
HISTORY AND MEANING



Take a sheet of paper with a typed letter "Y" on it. Turn the paper upside down, hold it up to the light and view the letter "Y" through the back of the paper. Presto!! You have a good approximation of the Lambda. Lambda, the eleventh lower-case letter of the Greek alphabet, is the forerunner of our letter "L".

Originally the letter was a picture symbol for the scales often seen being carried by the figure of justice. With the passage of time the Lambda bore less of a visual resemblance to a set of scales, and its meaning became more abstract in that it came to represent the concept or qualities of balance.

In the 1960's the struggle for gay liberation began to emerge as an organized movement. The Lambda, an historical symbol of justice, balance, freedom, equality and independence, was chosen as a gay symbol.

According to the Florida Weekly News of March 4, 1981, "The history of the Lambda as a symbol of gay pride and liberation is very short, especially in consideration with the extent it is now recognized as a gay symbol and a logo for gay rights organizations". It all began barely a decade ago, when a small committee in New York City set out to create a new symbol which gay people could adopt as their own; a symbol that wasn't as obvious as the double-male or double-female signs, but one that would be easy to draw and reproduce.



Fortunately, one of the early members of the committee was a chemist, and he came up with a perfectly recognizable sign, the Greek letter Lambda. In its lower case form, it has been known in chemistry as a symbol denoting a chemical reaction towards positive energy or activism.

The Lambda caught on. It has become popular and is now widely accepted in the gay and lesbian community. Many organizations, business and publications are named after it. One need only look at the name of our GLHSC journal!!



In December, 1974, the Lambda was adopted by the Edinburgh International Gay Congress as the International symbol for gay liberation.

As has already been mentioned, the Lambda has a role in the Science. In the Universal Wave Equation, the Lambda denotes the wavelength of periodic waves. A stamp from Nicaragua, shown above, illustrates the use of the Lambda in De Broglie's Law. Louis De Broglie was a French physicist, born in 1892. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics in 1929, for his hypothesis that matter possesses wave properties, which is one of the fundamental hypotheses of quantum mechanics.

To conclude, the following was written in the June, 1983 issue of "Colorado Gay and Lesbian News":

"As acceptance of the Lambda became more widespread and its popularity grew, use of the symbol spread rapidly across the United States. The Lambda's most recent historical association--with light--began to take on an added meaning, one of a social nature. As a symbol of freedom for gay and lesbian, the Lambda has come to represent the 'light of knowledge shed into the darkness of ignorance' and promises hope for a new future, with dignity, for gays and lesbians everywhere."

SOURCES

Canadian Gay Archives, Box 639, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G2

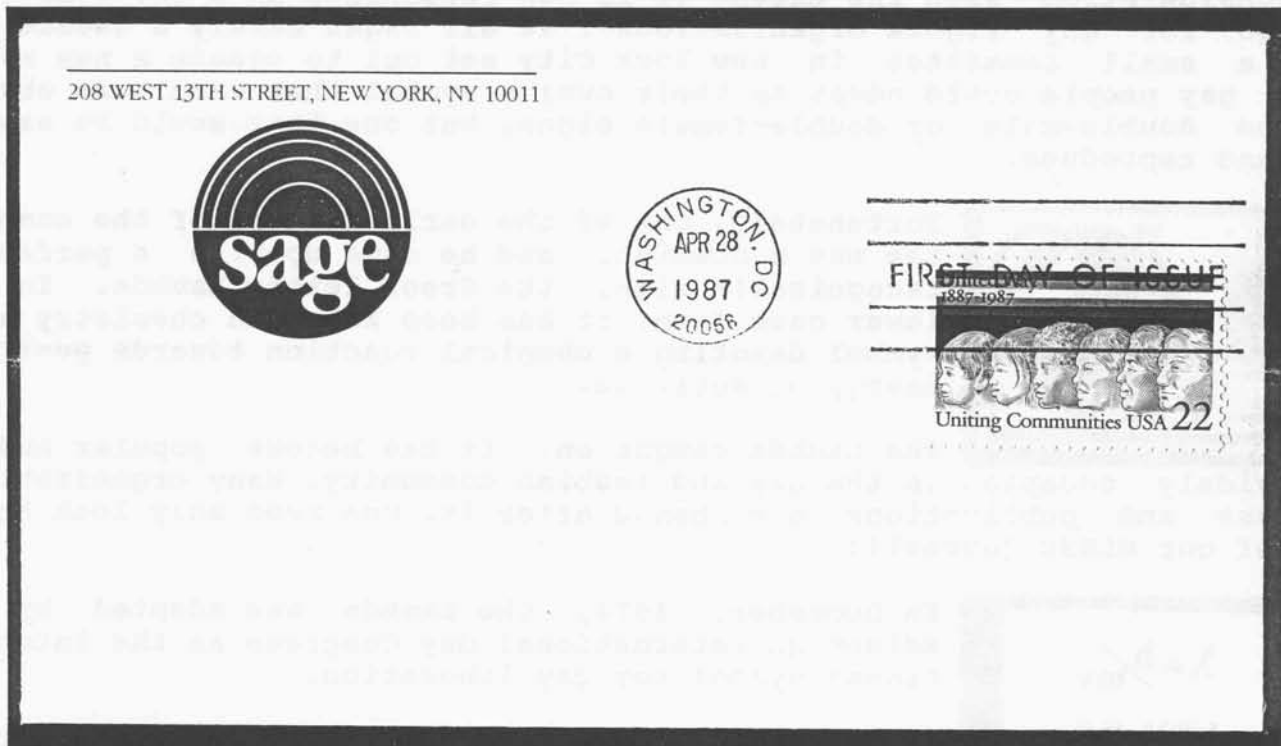
Colorado Gay and Lesbian News, June, 1983

Gay News, Issue Number 62, January, 1975

Open Doors, Canadian Gay Activist Alliance

The Weekly News, Vol. 4, #26, March 4, 1981, Miami, Florida

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

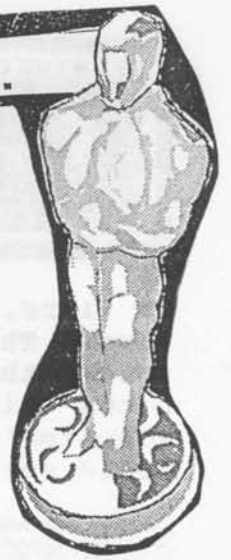


A First Day of Issue on a (gay) nonprofit organization envelope. The Senior Action in a Gay Environment, Inc. received a donation from the United Way on that year.

THE LAST EMPEROR

by Paul Hennefeld

And the Winner is...



The Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi was the power behind the throne of China through the reign of three emperors. At the age of 73, in ill health and near death, she prepared the way for her three year-old nephew, Aisin Gioro Pu Yi, to be the next ruler of China. On the eve of November 13, 1908 a delegation of eunuchs was dispatched to the home of Prince Ch'un to pluck the baby Pu Yi from his loving surroundings and carry him off to the Forbidden City to meet the "Old Buddha", Tzu Hsi. Upon the death of the Dowager Empress, Pu Yi became Emperor Hsuan T'ung. He was raised by the eunuchs of the court.

In 1909 China issued a set of three stamps in honor of the first year reign of Emperor Hsuan T'ung. Pu Yi often climbed to the rooftops of these buildings to gaze longingly at the outside world. The Chinese empire fell in 1912. Although Pu Yi abdicated, he was still treated royally and allowed to continue living in the Forbidden City.

Reginald Fleming Johnston entered Pu Yi's life to be his teacher and confidante. When wives were chosen for the 17 year-old emperor, both Johnston and Pu Yi were dismayed. Pu Yi was revolted by the thought of lying with a member of the opposite sex. On his wedding night he ran from the bedchamber in despair and fear.

China was in turmoil; warlords controlled most of the country. Communists and Nationalists were conflict with each other. Even Japan and Russia wanted a piece of the Chinese empire. Sun Yet-sen, trying to unify his country, appealed to the USA and was turned down. In desperation he turned to Russia for assistance. With help from the communists and cooperation from the warlords, Sun Yat-sen successfully won control of most China.



(Scott 1188)

Fearful of being captured, eighteen year old Henry Pu Yi asked for asylum at the British consulate. They refused and sent

him to the Japanese legation. On November 29, 1924 Pu Yi fled his "Wonderland" to the sanctuary the Japanese offered. He and his two wives were to take up residence in Tientsin, under the watchful eye of his Japanese "hosts".

Pu Yi showed more interest and love to the page boys of his household than he did his wives, and when Wen Hsiu (wife #2) demanded a divorce it was granted. Elizabeth Wan Jung (wife #1) chastised Pu Yi by calling him a "Eunuch". She was a wife in name only and eventually become addicted to opium. Princess Hiro (sister-in-law) wrote:

"I was shocked to hear palace reports that Pu Yi had a page boy lover... He was referred to as "the male concubine".



Spies in Pu Yi's household revealed that he had a stable of adolescent half servants - half lovers living in the palace.

(1932 - Chief Executive Henry Pu Yi)
Inscription reads "Manchu State Postal Administration"

IN 1928, Chiang Kai-shek's troops desecrated the tombs of Pu Yi's ancestors. This left the "Last Emperor" of China outraged and embittered towards the Chiang republic. Johnston made several visits to Pu Yi and he noted his surprise at how Pu Yi had aged over this disastrous act. Upon Johnston's departure, thinking that this would be the last time that they would see each other, Pu Yi gave him this poem:



I wanted to follow him across the rivers,
but the river was deep and had no bridge.
Oh, that we were a pair of herons,
That we could fly home together.

Scott # 612
Chiang Kai-shek



In 1931 the Japanese army invaded Manchuria and Pu Yi was smuggled out Tientsin. He traveled in the trunk of a car and then by boat to Manchuria. He was to become the Chief Executive of Manchukuo in 1932.

At the end of World War II, Pu Yi was captured by the Russians and after spending time in Soviet prisons, he was turned over to the Chinese. He was indoctrinated in communism. When he was released to become a gardener. He died at the age of 61. There are two versions of his death. The official version is that he died of cancer. Another version is that Henry was tortured and murdered during the Red Guard uprising.

Israel is celebrating its 40th Anniversary and has issued a new postage stamp honoring Anne Frank - whose courage epitomized the spirit which gave birth to Israel itself.

You may join in the celebration... and open the door to the Holy land... by obtaining a set of four unblemished Anne Frank Official Israel mint stamps, complete with "tabs" collectors covet. A protective Presentation Folder with historical information is also included. The set is available to you for the face value of the stamps - \$1.50 (plus .50 cents shipping). to order, write:

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KANG TEH
(1906-1967)
EMPEROR OF MANCHUKUO



Temple of Heaven, Peking.

China, 1909, issued in honor of first year reign of Hsuan T'ung, later known as Henry Pu-yi and the Emperor Kang Teh of Manchukuo.



1932

Chief Executive Pu-yi.



1934-Wmked.



1934 - 1936

Emperor Kang Teh.



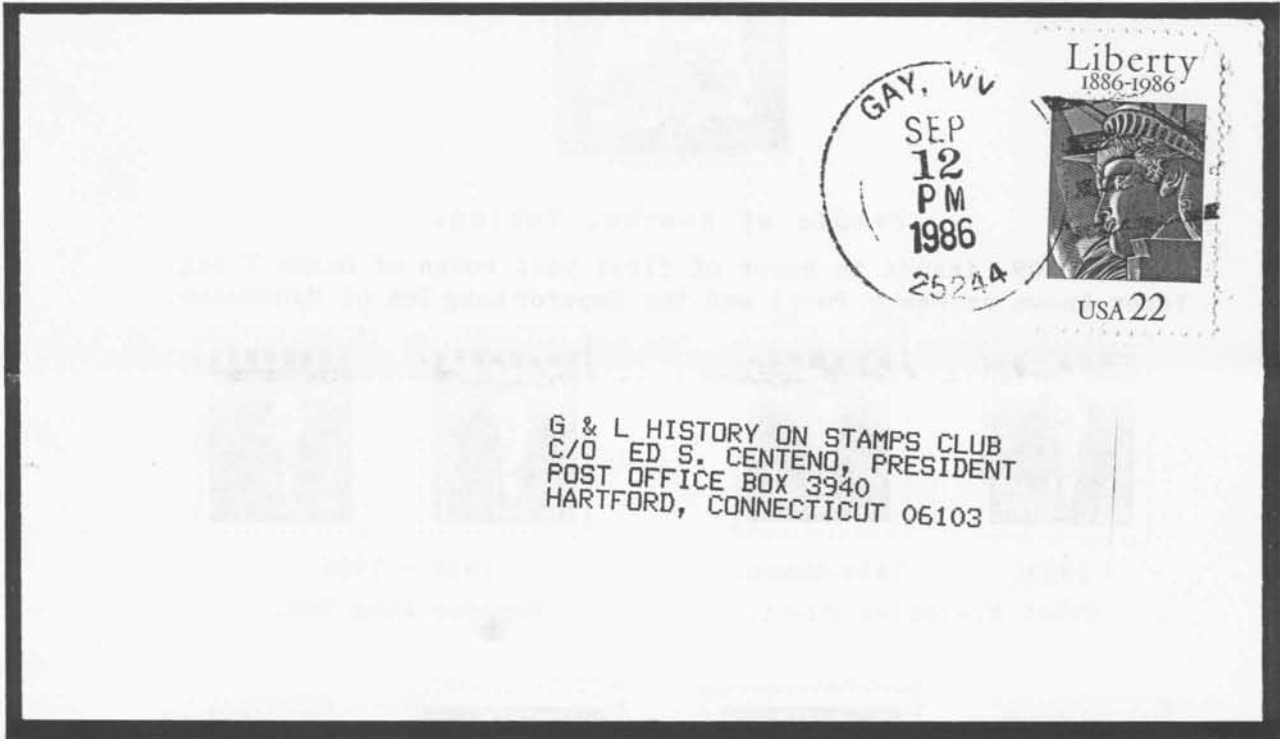
Palaces of the Emperor.

The Last Emperor, by Brackman, discusses the homosexuality of Pu-yi, a trait common to many of ancient China's rulers.

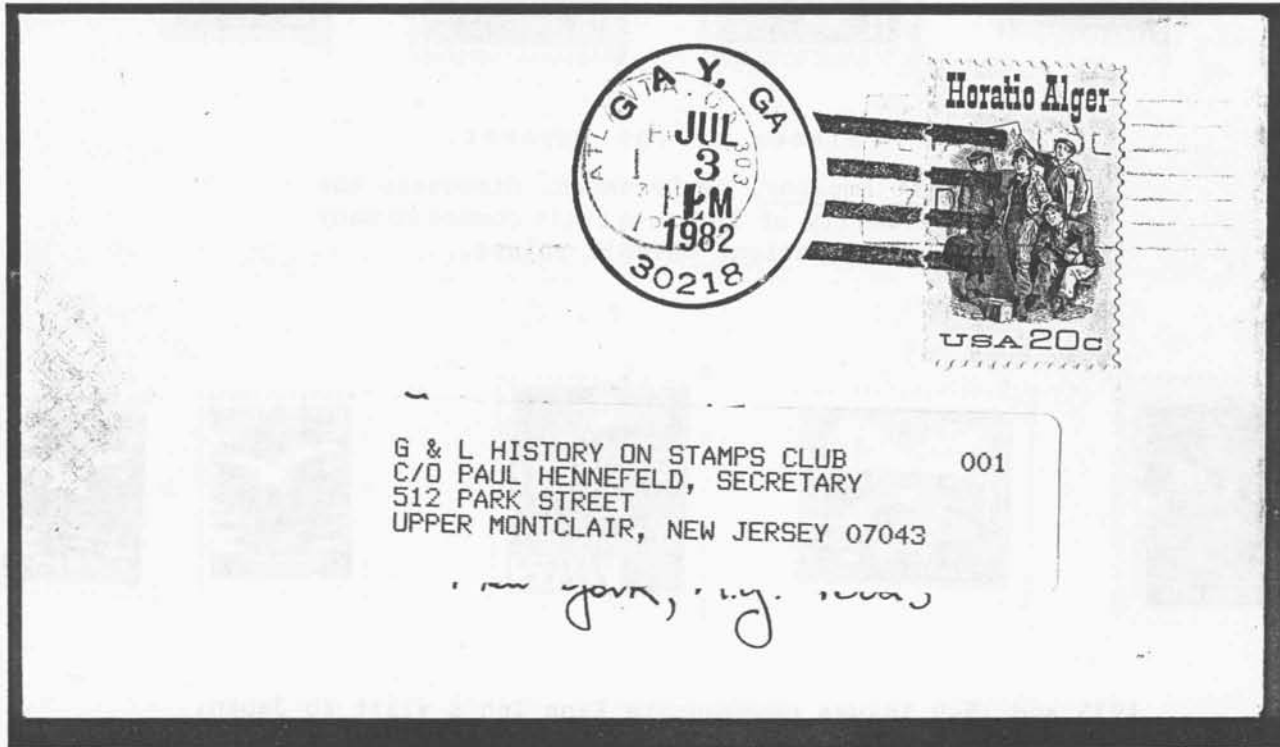


1935 and 1940 issues commemorate Kang Teh's visit to Japan.

Collecting "interesting" postal cancellations
can be lots of fun.



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The following have been taken from Jonathan To Gide by Noel I. Garde.



It was apparently also in his sixties that Michelangelo developed both his latent gay tendencies and his genius for another branch of the arts, poetry. Both tendencies developed prodigiously, and coalesced, around the figure of the handsome and gifted young Roman noble, Tommaso Cavalieri. The latter became the object of Michelangelo's passionate affections and the inspiration for a collection of sonnets written around 1533-34 and notably rendered in English translation by John Addington Symonds in 1878. In Sonnet 53 Michelangelo contrasts high-minded and divine platonic love with the love for women, which "ill befits a heart manly and wise," and in Sonnet 54 he addresses Tommaso as "my beloved lord," whose "fair face" inspires love and opening of his soul to God, "though the vulgar, vain, malignant horde attribute what their grosser wills obey."

Other youths to whom Michelangelo was attached included Febo di Poggio, his servant Urbino, and Cechino Bracci, the 17-year-old subject of some of the sonnets.



Greatly embarrassed by all these homosexual implications which were also found in his collected letters, the proud Buonarroti family later declared that it was all misunderstood, and that the real inspiration for almost all the sonnets was Vittoria Colonna. And indeed Michelangelo did have a warm friendship, the subject of some of the sonnets, for Vittoria, a poetess herself and the widow of Ferrante de Avalos, one of the great generals of Charles V, and a woman whose marital devotion and generally beautiful life stood out preeminently in that corrupt age. Most of Michelangelo's religion tinged sonnets were inspired by her. Her death in 1547 left him very distressed.

Stamp Collecting Observation

#112

The COLLECTOR that uses Hinges or Mounts will invariably have a haggard appearance, as does his stamp album, while the SMART COLLECTOR that uses HINGELESS PAGES will always appear more composed and relaxed !!



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