



Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB * MARCH 2012, VOL. 31, NO. 1, WHOLE NO. 117



Third Reich
and Its Postage Stamps

Page 4

Stormy Weather Defined
Her Life

Page 6



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.

GLHSC OFFICERS:

President.....Angela Watson
 Vice President Brian Lanter
 Secretary Vacant
 Treasurer Judith Beckett
 Editor.....Joe Petronie
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WINNER OF THE SILVER-BRONZE AWARD AT
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 PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION

**GLHSC, PO BOX 190842,
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MEMBERSHIP:

Yearly dues in the United States, Canada and Mexico are \$10.00. For all other countries, the dues are \$15.00. All checks should be made payable to GLHSC. \$1 add-on for late dues.

Single issues \$3.

There are two levels of membership:

- 1) Supportive, your name will not be released to APS, ATA or AFDCS, and
- 2) Active, your name will be released to APS, ATA and AFDCS (as required).

Dues include four issues of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal* and a copy of the membership directory. (Names will be withheld from the directory upon request.)

New memberships received from January through September will receive all back issues and directory for that calendar year. (Their dues will be considered paid through the end of the year they join.) Memberships received October through December will be considered paid through the following year and will not receive back issues, unless they are requested.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Members are entitled to free ads.
 Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue.

Ads should be no larger than 1/4 page. Any ad submitted without artwork will be created by the editor and at the editor's discretion.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication Months</u>	<u>Articles Needed by</u>
March	February 15
June	May 15
September	August 15
December	November 15

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Opinions expressed here are solely those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the GLHSC, its' officers or members.

News from the Editor

Thanks to all who have paid their 2012 dues.

* * * * *

As usual, I am in need of articles on your favorite gay, lesbian or any topic. Articles should be submitted as a Word or text file. Text is preferable. Graphics should be at least 300 dpi. I can scan - feel free to send your originals and I will return once scanned.

Thanks to all who have sent in articles for the journal.

GLHSC Elections

Several members have either expressed interest in doing more for the Club or asked when the next elections will occur.

Anyone interested in running for any of the offices, please submit a quarter to half page ad which will run in the June issue of the journal. A ballot will be mailed with the September issue. Anyone willing to help with the glhsc.org website, please submit your name for consideration.

1) President

Has general supervisory power of all matters of GLHSC; presides at all meetings (if available); coordinates publicity and membership drives; and professionally represents GLHSC to other organizations, philatelic and others.

2) Vice President

Assumes presidency in his/her absence or if the position becomes vacant. Shall perform other duties as requested.

3) Secretary (currently vacant)

Custodian of all records and properties of GLHSC; will attend all meetings and keep accurate and permanent records of such (if available); and other duties as requested.

4) Treasurer

Maintains financial records of GLHSC; pays all bills on behalf of GLHSC; reports to Secretary all delinquent accounts; and other duties as requested.

5) Editor

Publishes the *Lambda Philatelic Journal* and other duties as requested.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

News from the Editor	3
Third Reich and Its Postage Stamps	4
Stormy Weather Defined Her Life	6
Gay & Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands	8
Gay & Lesbian Update	9
AIDS Update	10
Helpful Addresses	11
2011 Index	12

Third Reich and Its Postage Stamps

by Larry Siskind

I History

As a freshman in college I once got into a debate with my roommate arguing nothing was “perfect”, meaning absolute. I now know that I was wrong. Nazi Germany was as close to “perfect” as one could get, perfectly evil.

At the end of World War I, Germany was in ruins. Its military forces were defeated, its economy ruined, its people starving and humiliated. It had lost the war. Revolution was in the air and communist threats were real. The German people needed to restore their dignity and economy. Hitler was a fanatical pragmatist, totally ruthless and without scruples. His pathological hatred of Jews became a useful political tool. The Germans needed a scapegoat and the Jews were perfect for that role. They were a small, politically weak minority. In November 1918, the German government knew that the war was lost and asked for an armistice. Hitler rewrote history and claimed that it was November traitors and the Jews that stabbed Germany in the back and caused the loss of the war.

In January 1933, Hitler came to power legally; but then introduced a wave of terror, arresting opponents and forcing the Reichstag (the parliament) to hand over its powers. Nazis soon took over the bureaucracy, the media and the police. Concentration camps were set up and anyone who dared speak out faced arrest and torture.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Hitler's rise to power was assisted by his own private army known as the SA and often called “Brown Shirts” because of the color of their uniforms. Their members were composed mostly of young toughs in their late teens or early 20's who would beat up and intimidate Jews or other Hitler opponents. Hitler appointed Ernst Rohm, an old comrade, to be its head. Rohm was gay. Gay acts were criminal in Germany and Hitler knew of Rohm's sexual orientation, but so long as Rohm was useful to him he conveniently looked the other way. The Brown Shirts became very large in number and ever more threatening.

In 1934, Hitler was under increased pressure to do something about them. Himmler and Goering, Hitler's close lieutenants, looked upon Rohm as a dangerous rival. The aristocratic Prussian generals and the German President Hindenburg viewed the lower class SA with contempt. They feared a rival army. False rumors were invented by Heydrich, Himmler and Goering to the effect that the SA was planning a coup. Hitler was reluctant to go against his comrade, but to cement his power he needed to control the army. A secret deal was made. In exchange for clipping the wings of the SA, the army generals agreed to support Hitler by having their members take an oath of allegiance to him personally, an oath that Germans took seriously.

By June, Hitler was now convinced a coup was in the work. He personally led a raid against Ernst Rohm and other SA leaders who were vacationing at Bad Weissee. Early in the morning of June 30, Hitler, accompanied by SS black shirts, broke into Rohm's hotel and caught a number of Brown Shirt leaders in bed with SA youth. They were arrested and later shot. Ernst Rohm, who refused to kill himself, suffered the same fate. A large purge known as the Night of the Long Knives followed, resulting in the murder of many key SA members and others on the Nazi black list.

Under Hitler, German expansion began even before the war. In 1934, Germany regained the Saar. In 1936, Hitler marched into the Rhineland. In 1938, his troops moved into Austria.



Figure 3

Later that year, Nazi's stirred up trouble in the Sudetenland, which was a portion of western Czechoslovakia bordering on Germany. In order to avoid war and to "obtain peace in our time", England and France entered into the infamous Munich Pact which provided in exchange for Sudetenland, Germany would not seek any additional territorial gain in Europe. Only a few months later, Hitler ignored the pact, calling it a "piece of paper" as he seized the rest of Czechoslovakia, dismembering the country.

Not satisfied, Hitler eyed Danzig, a port on the Baltic Sea, key to the Polish Corridor. When Poland refused Hitler's demands, he attacked Poland and set the world on fire. Poland was subdued in just over three weeks. England and France were held at bay until the spring of 1940 when Germany unleashed its Blitzkrieg. From April to June, the Nazis conquered Norway, Denmark, Luxembourg, Holland, Belgium and France. Britain was driven off the continent in June. In August and

September of 1940, Hitler met his first setback in the battle of England. In June 1941, he attacked Russia and in December, just after Pearl Harbor, he declared war on the United States. The US was the only country Hitler declared war on. All the others were just attacked. The Nazi tyrant bit off more than he could chew. In a war lasting years, Germany could not withstand the ever growing combined might of the United States, the UK, and Russia.

In April 1945, facing defeat, Hitler blamed the German people for the catastrophe not himself, even though he made all the decisions and started the war.

As an excuse for exterminating the Jews, Hitler accused them of his own crimes, including starting the war and the misery that followed. Nazi propaganda followed the maxim that the bigger the lie, the easier people will believe it, provided the lie is repeated often enough. The Nazis turned mass murder into an art, efficiently slaughtering millions of innocent men, women and children, including tots and infants. They killed not only Jews, but also Gypsies, the handicapped, the mentally ill, POW's, political opponents and gays. As Jews were slaughtered wearing their yellow stars, gays were slaughtered wearing their pink triangles.



Figure 4

II Nazi Philately

Nazi stamps and propaganda covers are plentiful and inexpensive. Scott 448 to 451 were issued to commemorate the Saar's return to Germany (see Fig. 1). Scott 467 to 468 and B250 commemorate the aborted Nazi attempt to take power in Munich in November 1923. The Anschluss, the Nazi seizure of Austria is represented by Scott 484 and 485 (see Fig 2). The 1936 Olympics held in Germany are shown by B79 to B89 and B91 and B92. Nazi war stamps can be found in B218 to B229 and B257 to B269 (see Fig 3). For Hitler heads, one can collect Scott 506 to 529 and souvenir sheets B102 to B104 and B190 and B203 (see Fig 4).

Everything about Nazism is ugly. Many people would rather forget. But it is important to remember so that the terrible events that had occurred under Hitler can never happen again. Stamp collecting is one way of remembering.

References

Adolph Hitler by John Toland; 1976

The Rise & Fall of the Third Reich by William Shirer; 1960

Nazi treatment of gays is dealt with in the motion picture and in the play *Bent*.



Stormy Weather Defined Her Life

by Bobby Cloud

Ethel Waters was an Oscar-nominated American blues vocalist and actress. She was the second African American to be nominated for an Academy Award {for her supporting performance in the film *Pinky* – 1949}. Waters frequently performed jazz, big band, gospel, and popular music on the Broadway stage and in concerts. She gained recognition as a singer of both blues and popular songs.



Scott no. 2851

Waters starred in several Broadway musicals, including *Africana* (1927), *As Thousands Cheer* (1933), *At Home Abroad* (1935) and *Cabin in the Sky* (1940). Her best-known recording was "Stormy Weather". Waters' recording of the song in 1933 was inducted in the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2003. The Library of Congress honored the song by adding it to the National Recording Registry in 2004.

Waters was born on October 31, 1896, in Chester, PA, the daughter of a twelve-year-old rape victim. Waters herself was married to her first husband by the age of 12 and divorced by 14. Like many other women blues singers of the day, such as Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, and Alberta Hunter, she was known to have sexual relationships with other women.

Although she was not as open as Rainey about her same-sex relationships, Waters had at least one quite public affair with a dancer named Ethel Williams, with whom she flirted from the stage and had notorious lovers' spats. She is also rumored to have had a brief liaison with British novelist, Radclyffe Hall, whom she mentions in her autobiography, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*.

Blues music as it flourished in the 1920s was women's music. It often featured sexually inflammatory lyrics that seemed to be performed by women who were openly bisexual or lesbian. She later became the first African-American star of a national radio show.

In middle age, first on Broadway and then in the movies, she successfully recast herself as a dramatic actress. Devoutly religious, but famously difficult to get along with, Waters found few roles worthy of her talents in her later years. She died of heart disease on September 1, 1977.

Seventeen years later Waters was honored on a U.S. Postal Service stamp issued September 1, 1994, as part of the Legends of American Music series (Popular Singers—Scott no. 2851). Her stamp was issued at a ceremony at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. Later on September 17, 1994, Bessie Smith (Scott no. 2854), Ma Rainey (Scott no. 2859), and Billie Holiday (Scott no. 2856) were honored as part of the American Music series (Blues and Jazz Singers). The music to “Stormy Weather” was written by Harold Arlen, who was honored on September 11 1996, as part of the American Music series (Songwriters). Lyrics were written by Ted Koehler (never honored).

Ethel Waters awaits her star in Hollywood. Waters was approved for a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2004. However, the actual star has not been funded. As of mid-2011, public fundraising efforts continue.

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Waters, Ethel, with Charles Samuels. *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*. New York: Doubleday, 1950.

Antelyes, Peter. "Red Hot Mamas." *Embodied Voices: Representing Female Vocality in Western Culture*. Leslie C. Dunn and Nancy A. Jones, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. 212-229.

Garber, Eric. "A Spectacle in Color: The Lesbian and Gay Subculture of Jazz Age Harlem." *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay and Lesbian Past*. Martin Baum Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey, Jr., eds. New York: NAL Books, 1989. 318-331.

McCorkle, Susannah. "The Mother of us All." *American Heritage* 45.1 (1994): 60-72.

Stryker, Susan. "Lesbian Blues Singers." www.planetout.com/news/history/archive/gladys.html.

Cornwell, Anita. *Black Lesbian in White America*. Tallahassee, Fla.: Naiad Press, 1983.



Scott nos. 2854, 2859

Gay & Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands

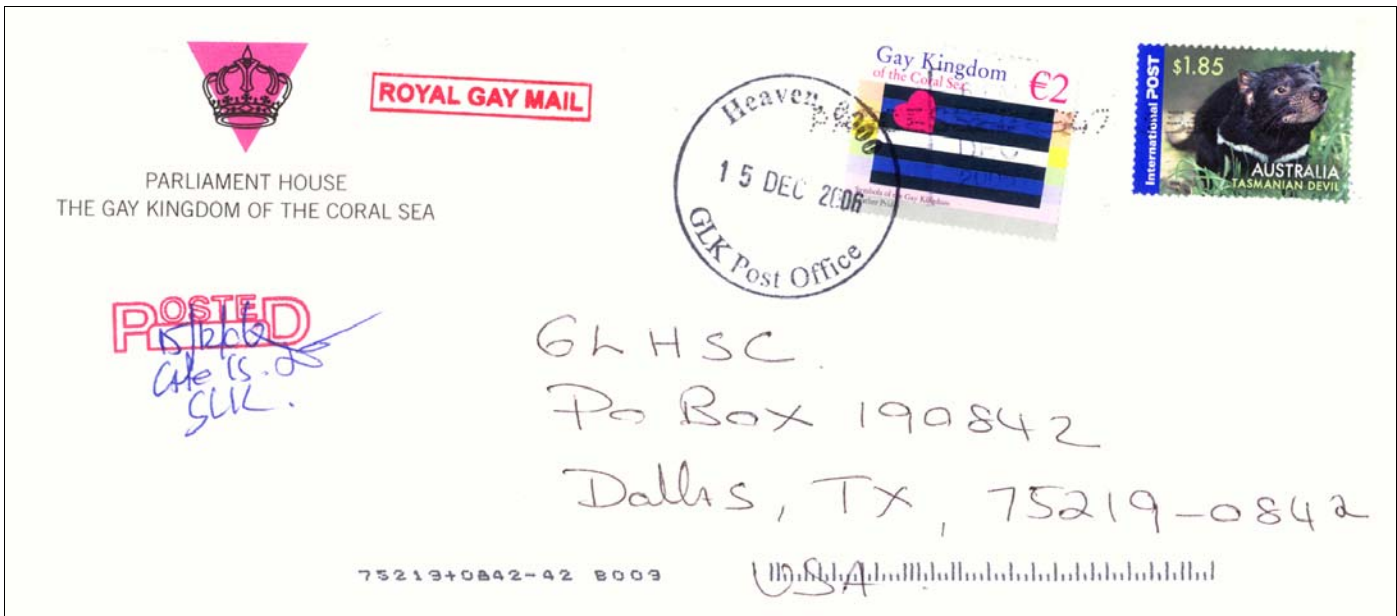
by Douglas Sandler

The Gay and Lesbian Kingdom is a spectacularly beautiful 780,000 square kilometer territory situated 200 nautical miles east of Australia's Great Barrier Reef. It consists mainly of coral reefs, islands and coral atolls. Politically, it was an uninhabited overseas territory, first administrated by England and then, in 1964, by the commonwealth of Australia.

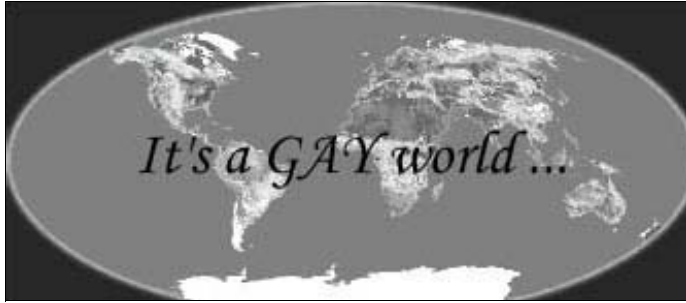
On the 14th of June 2004, Gay & Lesbian activists sailed over to the territory's largest island and raised the gay rainbow pride flag and formally succeeded the territory from Australia in protest of the Australian Government's then recent legislation outlawing the rights of same sex couples.

All mail to the Gay & Lesbian Kingdom is sorted into the GLK's Embassy Post Office boxes in Australia (operated by Australia Post). It is then charter flown by sea plane out to the kingdom. The Royal Gay Mail was established to provide deliveries of mail to and from the kingdom after Australia Post refused to operate such a postal service.

Editor's Note: Mail that originates on the island must also include Australian stamps to be processed once it arrives in Australia.



Gay & Lesbian Update



Gambia issued two souvenir sheets of four stamps each on October 11, 2011. The stamps feature Abraham Lincoln. Scott nos. 3394 - 95, a-d each.

Grenada issued two souvenir sheets of four stamps each on September 15, 2011. The stamps feature Abraham Lincoln. Scott nos. 3820 - 21, a-d each.

Grenada issued a set of eight stamps featuring British monarchs on October 26, 2011. King Richard I is featured on Scott no. 3825.

Guyana issued a pair of stamps and a sheet of four stamps featuring Abraham Lincoln on March 9, 2011. Scott nos. 4057 a-b and 4058 a-d.

Liberia issued a souvenir sheet of five stamps and a souvenir sheet of three stamps for the 150th anniversary of the US Civil War. Abraham Lincoln can be found on one stamp and the selvedge area of one

sheet (of five) and on all stamps on the sheet of three. Scott nos. 2742, a-e; 2743, a-c.

Micronesia issued a stamp and a souvenir sheet of one stamp on April 6, 2011. President Abraham Lincoln is featured on both. Scott nos. 923 and 924.

St. Kitts issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet featuring paintings of Sandro Botticelli on February 21, 2011. Scott nos. 788 a-d and 789.

WANTED: ARTICLES

Send in articles on your favorite gay, lesbian, bisexual, topical or country for publication in a future issue of the *Lambda Philatelic Journal*.

- Text file via email or diskette preferred.
- Graphics - 300 dpi or better quality.
- Will scan originals and return if needed.

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.

You can friend AIDS on Stamps at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/AIDS-on-Stamps/155576304505226>

Facebook will automatically give us a nicer URL once we have 25 followers. The main difference between this and the AIDS on Stamps website is that the Facebook page is updated more frequently, but with far less detail. The brief updates are flushed out with appropriate detail during the next AIDS on Stamps website update (which happens every month or two, depending on how much is happening).

Another nice perk of the AoS Facebook page is that anyone can post links and news. So if someone else spots a new release, they can upload photos and write information about it as well.

* * * * *

Bosnia & Herzegovina issued a stamp for the 30th anniversary in the campaign against AIDS on June 6, 2011. Scott no. 678.

Fiji issued a set of four stamps for the campaign against AIDS on June 22, 2011. Scott nos. 1256 - 59.

Kazakhstan issued a stamp for the 30th anniversary of the campaign against AIDS on June 3, 2011. Scott no. 641.

Macedonia issued their annual postal tax stamp for the campaign against AIDS on December 1, 2010. It was obligatory on mail December 1 - 7. Scott no. RA154.

Mauritius issued a single stamp on October 9, 2011, for HIV and AIDS Awareness. Scott no. 1098.

Romania issued a stamp for the 30th anniversary of the campaign against AIDS and HIV on June 8, 2011. Scott no. 5274.

St. Lucia issued a stamp for the 30th anniversary of the campaign against AIDS and HIV on September 1, 2011. Scott no. 1274.

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 8
 Carterville IL 62918-0008



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/wprl/wprl.htm

ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives
 One Institute
 909 West Adams Blvd.
 West Hollywood CA 90007-2406
 213-741-0094
www.onearchives.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



Subject	Volume	Number	Whole Number	Page(s)	Remarks
AIDS on Stamps	30	3	115	9	
AIDS Update	30	1	113	11	Moldova, Mongolia
AIDS Update	30	2	114	10	Netherlands
AIDS Update	30	3	115	9	Slovakia
AIDS Update	30	4	116	9	Belarus, Dominican Republic, Peru, United Nations
Alger, Jr., Horatio	30	4	116	6-7	Florida Fifty Stamper column
APS Stamp Show	30	2	114	11	
ATA Introduces New Website and Webmaster	30	3	115	12	
ATA Publishes Wild Cats in Art	30	2	114	8	
ATA Releases two new Multimedia Presentations	30	4	116	10	
Banneker, Benjamin	30	1	113	4	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
Baradat, Sergio	30	4	116	8	Gay & Lesbian Update
Barber, Samuel	30	2	114	5-6	
Beethon, Ludwig van	30	1	113	10	China (PRC)
Beethon, Ludwig van	30	3	115	8	Cyprus
Botticelli, Sandro	30	1	113	10	France, Italy
Botticelli, Sandro	30	2	114	10	Liberia, Palau
Botticelli, Sandro	30	3	115	8	St. Vincent
Chopin, Frederic	30	1	113	10	Grenada, Macedonia, Moldova, Peru, Uruguay
Chopin, Frederic	30	3	115	8	Bosnia & Herzegovina, Tuvalu
Chopin, Frederic	30	4	116	8	Kazakhstan
CNEP Blocks	30	2	114	9	
Father of the Harlem Renaissance	30	2	114	4-5	
Florida Fifty Stamper	30	1	113	8	Paul Lynde - the Man in the Middle
Florida Fifty Stamper	30	2	114	6-7	Sir Alec Guinness - The Best of the Best
Florida Fifty Stamper	30	4	116	6-7	Horatio Alger, Jr.
Gay Penguins	30	4	116	8	Gay & Lesbian Update
Guinness, Sir Alec	30	2	114	6-7	
Holleman, John	30	2	114	3	In Memory
Hughes, Langston	30	1	113	6	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
Jordan, Barbara	30	1	113	4	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
Jordan, Barbara	30	3	115	8	First Day of Issue Postmarks
Jordan, Barbara	30	4	116	8	United States
Lincoln, Abraham	30	1	113	10	Dominica, Grenada
Lincoln, Abraham	30	2	114	10	Micronesia, Nevis, Palau
Lincoln, Abraham	30	3	115	8	Papua New Guinea, St. Vincent, Sierra Leone, Tuvalu
Lincoln, Abraham	30	4	116	8	Grenada Grenadines
Locke, Alain Le Roy	30	2	114	4-5	
Lynde, Paul	30	1	113	8	Florida Fifty Stamper column
Malcolm X	30	1	113	5	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
McDaniel, Hattie	30	1	113	6	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
McWilliams, Lelia	30	1	113	5	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
Mother, I have a Worrying Secret	30	2	114	5-6	
New GLHSC Website, The	30	3	115	6-7	
News from the President	30	3	115	3	
Randolph, Asa Philip	30	1	113	4	Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series
Salai, the REAL Mona Lisa	30	1	113	9	
Same-Sex Marriage	30	1	113	10	Argentina
Same-Sex Orientation Link to USPS Black Heritage Series	30	1	113	4-6, 12	
Schumann, Robert	30	1	113	10	Gambia, Macedonia
Schumann, Robert	30	3	115	8	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Travels with Toby McCutcheon	30	1	113	7	
Vinci, Leonardo da	30	1	113	10	Grenada Grenadines
Vinci, Leonardo da	30	2	114	10	Palau
Yugoslavia, Civil War, and Stamps about AIDS	30	3	115	4-6	Part One: A History Lesson
Yugoslavia, Civil War, and Stamps about AIDS	30	4	116	4-6	Part Two: Stamps about AIDS