



# Lambda Philatelic Journal

PUBLICATION OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS CLUB SEPTEMBER 2002, VOL. 21, NO. 3  
ISSN 1541-101X



2002 Meilleurs Voeux “Best Wishes” issue from France with first day cancel.  
Scott number not yet assigned.

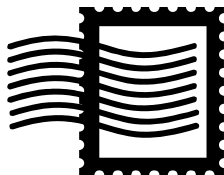
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* (ISSN 1541-101X) is published quarterly by the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club (GLHSC). GLHSC is a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458; an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (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:

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 Secretary ..... Vacant  
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The *Lambda Philatelic Journal* thrives on philatelic articles, original or reprinted, and alternative viewpoints for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. 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 should be addressed to the Editor at one of the addresses listed.

## 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.

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.)

## ADVERTISING RATES:

Members are entitled to free ads.

Non-members can place ads for \$10 per issue. Reproducible ads should be submitted, along with a check made payable to GLHSC, to the editor's address. 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.

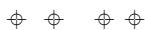
## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

March  
 June  
 September  
 Dacember

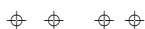
All artwork and articles should be received by the editor no later than the end of the month prior to publication for inclusion in that issue.

# News from the Editor

A special thanks goes to Paul Hennefeld for the wonderful card and souvenir sheet of Saints Sergius and Bacchus. See the related story on page 5.



The glhsc.org site is up. I have added a link to Paul's collection. Any cyber gurus willing to upgrade the site for us? Or, lead us to someone who can help? Let me know.



Once again, it seems that time and motivation have been lost here in Dallas. I am sorry for the delay in getting the journal out to everyone. Life can seem to throw you cruves when you least expect them. I plan on getting the final journal for 2002 out near the end of January.

Anyone wishing to contribute articles, please send them my way. The easiest way to insure publication is to send me a text file. Graphics should be in jpeg or tiff format with a resolution of 300 dpi or more. If you are unable to send a file, send me the original stamps, covers, etc. and I can scan them. They will be returned to you. All of these files can be sent either on a diskette or e-mail.

I would like to thank those members that have sent articles to me this year. It makes putting the journal together so much easier.

And finally, best wishes for the coming year!



# Letters to the Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Without a doubt, I applaud the continued efforts of Gary Konecky to force a decision by the Board of the APS concerning the issue of support of the BSA. As a stamp collector, gay male, former Boy Scout youth, and former adult troop leader, I am filled with the emotion of anger and at the same time a nagging feeling of betrayal.

To make a long story short, I spent most of my teenage years in junior leadership positions in my troop in South Florida. When I moved to Central Florida in 1977, to attend college, I contacted the local troop and was welcomed into the fold with open arms. I was associated with that troop until the fall of 1985, when a job related move across town forced me to look for another troop closer to home.

When I started to make inquires (spring of 1986), the local council representative told me, even though I had a previous record of unblemished service in the local council, as a single, never married, 20-something male, the chances of finding a troop to work with would be at best slim. No other explanation was offered, but I could read between the lines of what was being said. Yes, I was seriously annoyed --- and still am 16 years later!

Fast forward to the year 2002. I am an extremely active member of the local club, and recently elected to a board position. I have been a member of the APS for nearly 3 years. My life-partner and I have been "unionized" in front of 125 friends, and for all intensive purposes we are both totally out to friends, family, and co-workers.

As a forty-something adult, I am proud of what and how I am, and if someone has a problem with that, my response is "tough!" Conversely I am embarrassed to admit that I was in any way associated with the BSA organization. Oddly enough my life-partner is an Eagle Scout, and I have known countless other gay males that hold the same rank. I feel betrayed by an organization that freely took of my time and efforts and then categorically rejected me, because of who I am. I do believe that the BSA organization will ultimately change, but only because they will be forced to -- by a avalanche of public opinion.

There are numerous ways to react to the APS/BSA situation, but only a couple of alternatives actually fall into the realm of logical behavior. Of course there may be some in GLHSC that feel that a strong full-frontal attack on the APS BOD is appropriate, with a threat a withdrawal of support and membership to round it all out. While others will feel that ignoring the situation would be best. I say "Nuts!" to both extremes.

(Continued on page 8)

# The Florida Forty Stamper

by Francis Ferguson, Jr.

## Sir Francis Bacon

Every school child learns about the contributions to science that Sir Francis Bacon made. "The Father of Modern Science" devised a deductive system for experimental research that laid the foundation for modern day scientists. In tribute, most every high-school or college-level science text book will include a short biography of this remarkable Renaissance Man -- however carefully avoiding any mention of his homosexuality.

The vigor of the Renaissance was energizing much of Europe in January of 1561, when Francis Bacon was born to a middle class family living outside of London. Bacon's growing up years took place around the periphery of high-society as his Father Nicolas Bacon held the position of Lord Keeper of the Seal of Elisabeth I.

Nicolas Bacon's death in 1579, left the 18 year old Francis virtually penniless, and in need of a profession that could advance his life ambitions. Bacon began studying law and was a practicing lawyer by 1582. For the next twenty years his career was almost at a standstill, because of personal hostility of his highly placed cousin Robert Cecil, Lord Burghley. Bacon held a number of minor, somewhat perfunctory posts, but never seemed to find a niche. This problem was soon to be taken care of.

The death of Queen Elisabeth I, in 1603 who was succeeded by James I, was a turning point in Bacon's life. With the accession of James I, Bacon's career enjoyed steady advancement that apparently was to some degree influenced by this personal friendship with James, who shared the same homosexual tastes. The final impediment to Bacon's rise was removed with the death of his cousin Robert Cecil in 1612. From this point forward Bacon held a series of highly placed posts culminating in the Lord High Chancellor position taken in 1618. This was the highest public post next to the throne itself.

Bacon's public career suddenly ended in 1621, when he was found guilty of accepting bribes while serving as a judge. It was common practice during this time to accept gifts from the winning parties. Bacon acknowledged receiving gifts, but maintained that this custom never influenced his judgments. His public career in ruins, he retired to write and conduct scientific research.

His numerous articles would make tremendous impacts on accepted methods of thought. Bacon's *Novum Organum* published in 1620 presented a new theory for organizing knowledge. His publishing of *The Advancement of Learning* in 1623 detailed an argument for empirical research and a debunking of superstitions. Both works profoundly influenced the scientific community of the day, and are the bedrock for modern day research methods.

His death in April of 1626, after contracting pneumonia while stuffing a chicken to prove that cold or freezing could preserve meat, ended the life of a brilliant thinker many years ahead of his time.

Is there sufficient evidence to say Sir Francis Bacon was homosexual? Beyond a shadow of a doubt. There is considerable written evidence in his own hand, found in letters to his brother Anthony 1558-1601 (who was also gay), and in letters written to him by his mother, Lady Ann Bacon, a religious fanatic, who filled her letters with moral proverbs.

It appears that Bacon's life love was one of Welsh serving-men named Henry Percy, who was not only his coach companion, but also his bed companion. In his will, Bacon bequeathed a legacy of one hundred British Pounds to Percy.



Scott no. 1443



Scott no. 92A

Once again, as has been detailed before in this column, historians have regularly suppressed evidence of homosexuality of historical figures. In the case of Sir Francis Bacon, historians cannot accept the notion that a person can be brilliant, virtuous, healthy, and gay at the same time.

It is that time again, we come to the end. Until the next article in March, enjoy whatever time you can make to relax with your stamp collection. I always welcome comments, and suggestions. I can be reached at [ferg@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ferg@cfl.rr.com)

(Graphics courtesy of Paul Hennefeld's website - [www.paulsgaystamps.com/](http://www.paulsgaystamps.com/))

# Rudolph Valentino

by Laura Clemente

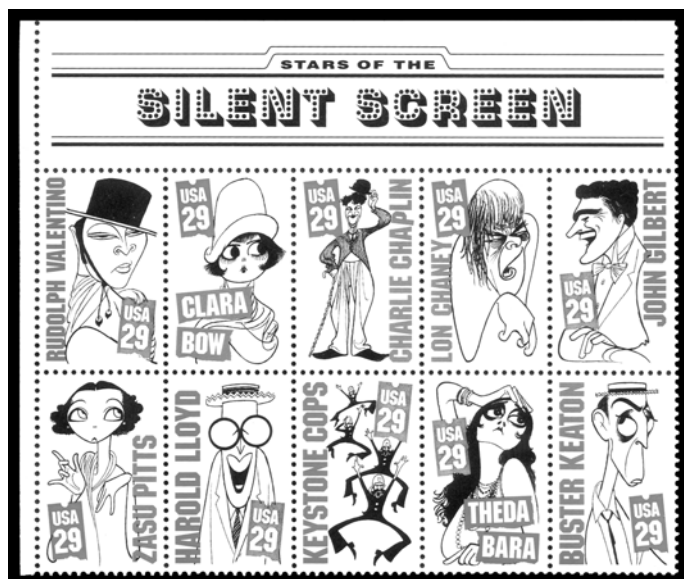
The perfecting of the early motion picture captured the world in the early twentieth century. The times were rapidly changing, and movies flourished in the wake of the industrial revolution. The first breakthrough occurred when the governor of California wanted to prove that at some point in their stride, a horse had all four hooves off the ground. This theory was proven with still photography of horses in motion.

1920 saw a maturity in film regarding, among other subjects, sex. With prohibition as the catalyst, America was turning its back on moral, political and patriotic values. The Victorian era was giving way to the jazz age.

In the nineteen twenties, women dominated the screen and their male counterparts. The vamp was a popular archetype. There was Theda Bara (real name Theodosia Goodman) whose name is an anagram for Arab Death; Nita Naldi, a less nightmarish version of Bara; and Alla Nazimova, a slender version of fleshy sexpot Bara. Nazimova was a lesbian, but the fan magazines touted her happy married life.

The earthy Pola Negri (born Appolonia Chalupek), a rival seductress to these women, was briefly married to a count, once engaged to Charlie Chaplin and involved with Rudolph Valentino. They were silver screen seductresses, bad girls with kohl-rimmed eyes who sometimes literally sucked the life out of men. They portrayed Camille, Carmen, Cleopatra and Salome.

Theda Bara perhaps summed up the role of the vamp best when she said, "V stands for Vengeance. The vampire that I play is the vengeance of my sex upon its exploiters." Valentino was their male equal.



Rudolph Valentino, Scott no. 2819  
Theda Bara, Scott no. 2827

Rudolph Valentino (1895 - 1926) was born in Castellaneta, in the region of Bari, on the eastern coast of Italy. Valentino emigrated to the U.S. after earning a degree in scientific agriculture. He worked at various jobs including professional dancing. His movie career began with portrayals of villains of Italian or Greek ethnicity that helped foster the Mafia stereotype. After years in small parts in minor films, he landed the lead in *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*, directed by Rex Ingram. It was a showcase for the new star with the exotic good looks. The film featured a romantic locale, love scenes and a tango sequence, which showed off his physical grace and animal magnetism.

1921 was a year for the stars. Valentino was a magnet at the box office. *Camille* was released the same year. It was a subsidiary lead role as Nazimova, who transformed herself into a goddess of the screen, kept him off screen as much as possible and got almost all of the close-ups. *The Sheik* was also released in 1921 and helped upset the old Victorian values. It was based on the notorious and sensational book by E. M. Hull. Torrid subtitles alluded to sex strongly enough to spark protests. This created box office success and boosted Valentino's following. It also introduced a new word, "sheik", into the lingo.

All was made quite respectable at the end of the movie when it was revealed that the sheik was not only a white man, but an Englishman to boot. Hollywood was hit by a trio of scandals involving sex, drugs and murder. This added fuel to the fire over criticism of objectionable content in films such as *The Sheik*. The Hayes code was put into effect as a self-regulatory system to enforce rules of conduct for actors and movies.

He was often cast opposite tempestuous leading ladies such as Nazimova, Nita Naldi and Gloria Swanson. Speaking of leading ladies, his second wife Natacha Rambova (born Winifred Shaunnassy) was an art director and designer who created the sets for *Camille*. She worked closely with Nazimova (they were reportedly lovers) who championed the art deco style. It was a bizarre yet beautiful new popular design, incorporating much of German expressionism with symbols and motifs (human and animal figures) that imitated the ancient Egyptians.

In his private life, he escaped the hordes of people who watched his every move, reveled in the Hollywood scandals and copied his fashion style, by enjoying a quiet life ensconced in his mansion with his wife. He was attracted to strong women and Natacha Rambova certainly fit the bill. She mishandled her husband's career so much that a contract was drawn up when he was at Famous Players-Lasky (after leaving Metro) containing a clause barring her from the set. They divorced in 1926.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Valentino's last film, *Son of the Sheik*, was released in 1926. Directed by George Fitzmaurice, it was his best performance to date. Amidst rumors of an engagement to Pola Negri, a reporter called him a pink powder puff due to his penchant for heavy perfume, his infamous slave bracelet, which he never went without, and his gold jewelry. He challenged the unidentified writer to a fight, but he was dead before the man could come forward. Valentino died August 23, 1926, from peritonitis due to a burst appendix.

His funeral was attended by his ex-wives (Jean Acker and Natacha Rambova), Pola Negri and over one hundred thousand other mourners, forming a line ten blocks long outside the funeral home. Heartbroken men and women committed suicide in their grief over his death.

Several years later the first talkies came out, ending the careers of many, but Valentino will always live on in film.

F. Scott Fitzgerald began his last novel, the unfinished "The Last Tycoon" this way, "Though I haven't ever been on the screen I was brought up in pictures. Rudolph Valentino came to my fifth birthday party - or so I was told. I put this down only to indicate that even before the age of reason I was in a position to watch the wheels go round."

#### Bibliography

*American Silent Film*, William K. Everson, Oxford University Press.

*Hollywood Babylon*, Kenneth Anger, Dell Publishing.

*The Matinee Idols*, David Carroll, Galahad Books.

*Spellbound in Darkness*, George C. Pratt, University of Rochester Press.

Encyclopedia Britannica

*The Last Tycoon*, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Charles Scribner's Sons.

*The Gay Book of Days*, Martin Greif, Lyle Stuart.



## Saints Sergius and Bacchus



Ukraine, Scott no. 434a-c.

Saints Sergius and Bacchus are ancient Christian martyrs who were tortured to death in Syria because they refused to attend sacrifices in honor of Jupiter. Recent attention to early Greek manuscripts has also revealed that they were openly gay men and that they were erastai, or lovers. These manuscripts are found in various libraries in Europe and indicate an earlier Christian attitude toward homosexuality.

After their arrest, the two saints were paraded through city streets in women's clothing, treatment that was meant to humiliate them as officers in the Roman army. They were then separated and each was tortured. Bacchus died first and appeared that night to Sergius, who was beginning to lose heart. According to early manuscripts, Bacchus told Sergius to persevere, that the delights of heaven were greater than any suffering, and that part of their reward would be to be re-united in heaven as lovers.

The feast of these saints is October 7. The saints are particularly popular throughout the Mediterranean land, in Latin America, and among the Slavs. For nearly a thousand years they were the official patrons of the Byzantine armies, and Arab nomads continue to revere them as their special patron saints.

Copy with respect to "Sts. Sergius & Bacchus" courtesy of and © 1994 Robert Lentz. Reproductions of works by Robert Lentz available from Bridge Building Images • [www.BridgeBuilding.com](http://www.BridgeBuilding.com).



Rudolph Valentino in *Son of the Sheik* on Capex '96 postcard.  
Italy, Scott no. 2049.

# Lincoln

by Gary Konecky

The *American Philatelist* (*AP*), Journal of the American Philatelic Society (*APS*), has once again omitted the same sex orientation of the subject of one of their articles. The *AP* not only omitted the same sex orientation of the subject of the article, but actually implied an exclusive heterosexual sexual orientation.

This latest incident comes from the February 2002 issue of the *AP*. Pages 144 through 154 of the February *AP* are devoted to a story about Abraham Lincoln. Historical evidence, including correspondence, has been uncovered that shows a passionate relationship between Joshua Speed and Abraham Lincoln.

The *AP* article describes portions of the former president's life in great detail. The article covers Lincoln's career as a flatboat man and rail-splitter. The article's sole mention on Joshua Speed is as follows: "Following his brief career as a flatboat man, Lincoln went to work in a store in New Salem, Illinois, owned by Joshua Speed."

Mary Todd Lincoln, Lincoln's wife, is mentioned numerous times. One example is on page 152. In this example, complete with illustration on page 151, an entire paragraph is devoted to Mrs. Lincoln, her silk gloves, and President Lincoln's being "... very upset with his wife's high level of expenditure in the White House..."

The man Lincoln loved and slept with is blown off in a single sentence that makes no reference to the men being intimate, let alone sexual with each other. Yet the author, Eliot A. Landau, feels a marital spat is worthy of an illustration and an entire paragraph.

Time after time, Landau writes about Lincoln's marriage, yet his male lover is passed off as an inconsequential employer not worthy of more than a mere sentence.

The problem I have is not just Landau's heterosexist coverage of Lincoln's life; it is that the *AP* consistently and repeatedly omits same sex attraction when it features articles about famous historical figures. The September 2001 issue of the *AP* featured Dag Hammarskjöld as the cover story. Four full pages were devoted to the cover article, yet nowhere in the article was Dag Hammarskjöld's sexual orientation mentioned. [Ed. Note: the *AP* is not the only newspaper/magazine that routinely ignores any hint of a person's sexual orientation if it is not heterosexual. Also, both instances mentioned by Mr. Konecky, unfortunately, touch on subjects with minimal known historical writings to prove a gay lifestyle. This, however, should not be taken as condoning *AP*'s apparent ignoring anything remotely related to gays and lesbians in its pages.]

Additionally, the *AP* as house organ of the *APS*, has refused to print any articles or letters that are critical of *APS*' association with the notoriously homophobic Boy Scouts of America. In-

stead the *AP* prints letters praising philatelic associations with the infamously controversial Boy Scouts of America. For over a year, a resolution concerning severing ties with the notorious Boy Scouts of America has languished before the *APS* Board of Directors. The *APS* Board of Directors has yet to consider the resolution, choosing to bury the resolution in committee rather than to consider the resolution on its merits. Readers of the *AP* would never know that the resolution exists, as the *AP* has seen fit to not mention the resolution in any of the over one thousand pages that have been published since the controversy over *APS* support of the Boy Scouts first arose.

Members of the *APS* do not know of the existence of the resolution, unless they actively seek out, find, and read the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings. Even if a member decided to do this, the *APS*, and the *AP*, have never published the actual resolutions, the names of the *APS* members who signed and support the resolution, nor any of the documentation submitted in support of the resolution.

The *AP*, rather than contribute to our knowledge of philately, rather than accurately report of the activities of the *APS*, has instead chosen to report events from an exclusively heterosexual perspective, truth and historical accuracy be damned!

Be the next GLHSC  
Member Profile...  
submit yours  
today!

(Continued from page 3)

I am fully in favor of continuing to press the APS BOD to do the right thing. (However, I do not see much of any progress being made with the current board members.) We as a group can continue to be a thorn in their side until the matter is dealt with. There is absolutely nothing to be gained by withdrawing the membership of GLHSC from the APS or from any GLHSC members withdrawing from the APS. As long as we are members, we deserve to have our voice (and objections) heard and noted.

In thinking about this whole issue, I can almost get around the fact that the APS helped the BSA to update their merit badge book, purely as an act to perpetuate stamp collecting. The problem I have with the issue, besides the fact that the APS is lending support to an organization that discriminates, is that the APS expended scarce resources for the benefit of the BSA in a year that has had a major budget shortfall. This makes no sense from a business point of view.

I call on the APS Board of Directors to explain their handling of this issue. In addition, I call on all members of GLHSC to strongly consider joining the APS and of course renew your membership when the time comes. Strength in numbers is the key to our success in turning the tide on this issue.

Finally I would like to suggest that every GLHSC member take the time to write a letter to the APS Board of Directors. The letter should make a point of outlining the objections that GLHSC members have with the APS handling of the BSA issue. I believe that, persistent and continued efforts to keep this issue on the front burner will ultimately lead to a resolution.

Francis Ferguson, Jr.  
GLHCS member, APS member  
Ex-BSA youth & adult leader

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 topics to be  
 included in future  
 journals.**

**Submit to the editor at  
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**Helpful Addresses**

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 Albuquerque NM 87181-0820  
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[home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/index.html](http://home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata/index.html)



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[www.utdallas.edu/library/special/wprl.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/library/special/wprl.html)

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Homodok (Gay Archives)  
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 NL—1012 DK Amsterdam  
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**Collecting  
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## Gay & Lesbian Update



British postmark featuring Leonardo da Vinci. Do any members have more information on its use?

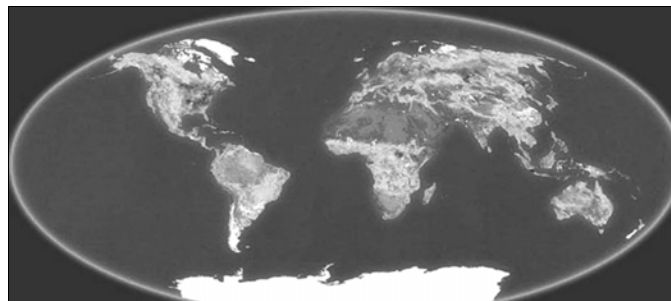
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New Zealand Post is scheduled to issue a set of six stamps featuring scenes from the second *Lord of the Rings* movie *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* on December 4, 2002. The stamps will be issued in several formats: in sheets of 25 water activated stamps, six different souvenir sheets (each featuring a single stamp) and a booklet of self-adhesive stamps.

Sir Ian McKellen, who portrays Gandalf, is featured on the 90 cent stamp.

\*\*\*

Paul Henefeld's handbook and *The Gay Book of Days* by Martin Greif are the two main sources of information for stamps listed in this area of the journal. Several persons, such as Lord Robert Baden-Powell and J. M. Barrie, have decidedly complex and hidden histories. Both men were married, though it is known that one, and possibly both, did not consummate their marriage. Both men had what were considered odd relationships with boys or young men. These two men, along with others occasionally listed here deserve further scrutiny and research. They are listed for those who wish to include them in their collections.



### It's a GAY world...

**Bulgaria** issued a stamp to mark the centennial of the birth of Italian composer Vincenzo Bellini on December 17, 2001. Scott no. 4202.

**Great Britain** issued a set of five stamps for the 150th anniversary of *Peter Pan* written by J. M. Barrie on August 20, 2002. Scott nos. 2064 - 2068.

**Peru** issued a horizontal pair of stamps and a souvenir sheet on June 4, 2002. The stamps commemorate the 90th anniversary of scouting in Peru. Lord Robert Baden-Powell can be found on Scott no. 1329a.

**Poland** issued a stamp on May 18, 2002 to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the National Gallery in Warsaw. The stamp features Madonna with Child, St. John the Baptist and Angel by Sandro Botticelli. Scott no. 3638.

**Romania** issued a set of six stamps featuring famous men on March 1, 2001. Leonardi da Vinci can be found on Scott no. 4508.

**Uganda** issued a sheet of four stamps and a souvenir sheet in 2002. The stamps commemorate the 20th World Scout Jamboree in Thailand. Lord Robert Baden-Powell can be found on the souvenir sheet, Scott no. 1771.

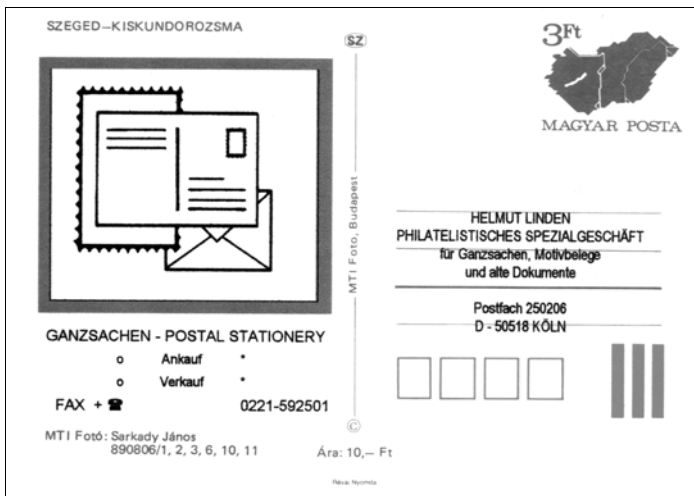
**United States** issued a single stamp to honor Andy Warhol, American artist, on August 9, 2002. Scott no. 3652.



# AIDS Update

**Bangladesh** issued a stamp on December 1, 2001 for World AIDS Day. Scott no. 643.

**Bosnia & Herzegovina** issued a stamp on December 1, 2000 in the fight against AIDS. Scott no. 62.



**Namibia** is scheduled to issue an AIDS stamp on December 1, 2002.



Freddy Mercury postmark from Bucharest, Romania.  
Cover provided by  
Zamfir Constantin  
BD. Titulescu 92, BL. 13, SC. 4, APT 126  
78161 Sector 1 Bucharest 2  
Romania

# Last Lick



Warhol maximum card. I found the postcard in the store a couple of months before the Warhol stamp was issued.