

SUMMER '93

# NEWSLETTER

AWARENESS, EDUCATION, & SUPPORT.....

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## American Topical Association Includes A.I.D.S.

The A.T.A. has included in its 1992 listings as a recognized area for the topical collector the subject of AIDS. This is an important step in helping to bring about a worldwide awareness of this devastating disease. It should be noted that AIDS has been set apart from Medicine, making it easier for collectors and supporters of the HIV/AIDS materials to explore this particular topic.

Many areas I am sure deserve their rightful recognition, yet it is most encouraging to see a topic that still carries such a 'taboo' air about, be brought out into the open where it should be. My hat goes off to the A.T.A.

## VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY TO HOST UNIQUE EXHIBIT DURING AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

Arrangements have just been completed for an exhibition that will rank as a **FIRST** in B.C. and Western Canada, thanks to the cooperation and support of the Vancouver Public Library, the B.C. Philatelic Society, and AIDS on STAMPS. In conjunction with AIDS Awareness Week **OCTOBER 04 - 10**, an exhibition of postage stamps of the world depicting an awareness of HIV/AIDS will be on view in the main display space, (ground floor) during regular library hours at 750 Burrard Street.

## B.C. Philatelic Society Lends Support

As a newcomer to the world of philatelic exhibiting I was most encouraged by the response I received when I contacted the Vice President of the Society and explained what my idea and purpose was. The support and enthusiasm is most welcome and I'm sure we all will learn from one another during these coming events. And I especially look forward to my first ever exhibit at a philatelic show this year at VANPEX '93, **November 06 - 07**, 1400 Robson Street, Vancouver.

## A.I.D.S. ON STAMPS



UN NEW YORK  
573-574 01DEC90



UN GENEVA  
184-185 01DEC90



UN VIENNA  
99-100 01DEC90

**QUESTION CORNER**

**Q:** Has Canada Post considered the issuance of an AIDS stamp?

**A:** To be quite honest, this is a loaded question on my part! You see, I have been lobbying (since January, '92) the Stamp Advisory Committee, all Members of Parliament, all Provincial Premiers, some 75 AIDS groups nationwide, and the Canadian Hemophilia Society, in trying to persuade Canada Post to issue a World AIDS Day stamp for December 01, 1994. *Decision will be made this fall!* Watch for more info in the FALL issue of AIDS on STAMPS.

**FACT OR FICTION?**

A condom is not only used to practice safer sex, but, it has also appeared on a postage stamp!

**FACT!** - on the issue from ARGENTINA, that was released on December 12, 1992, a condom appeared in full 'battle' attire, as is shown here on the \$0,10 value of a set of two stamps issued for the fight against AIDS!



**YOUR Two Cents Worth:**

This section of the newsletter will be reserved for interesting comments or items of appropriate interest from YOU!

**WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE**

*By means of using this quarterly Newsletter as a way of sharing with both those interested in the hobby of stamp collecting and those concerned about AIDS, we hope to bring about an awareness in both areas by means of blending each with the other.*

*Each issue will feature at least one set of stamps from the now, over thirty countries that have released AIDS related stamps. We would like to include as much information of both a philatelic and AIDS pandemic nature as we can (which we will call **Philadermics**).*

*Your contributions, suggestions, and questions are welcome and will help make this Newsletter one we can all be proud of and learn from..*

**PHILADEMICS**

Although the United Nations was not the first to issue stamps related to AIDS, it was through the World Health Organization from the United Nations, that December 01, 1988 was officially declared World AIDS Day! The UN did not commemorate World AIDS Day on a stamp until December 01, 1990 when it issued the three sets of postage stamps illustrated on our front page.

One of the stamps from each of the three issues very colourfully spells out the word AIDS or SIDA in various colours, reminding us that this disease respects no boundaries, including race, creed, or colour.

The 40c New York office issue cleverly depicts AIDS as a black ray of gloom covering all who may fall in its path.

The \$11 Vienna office issue vividly portrays AIDS being attacked from all sides and by people from all walks of life.

Along with these three sets of stamps was a United Nations Souvenir Card which depicts all three sets accompanied with the following message from Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary-General of the UN at that time:

*"AIDS cannot be stopped in any one country unless it is stopped in all countries, hence the importance of international solidarity and individual action. Yesterday people were fighting on their own, but today the world is united against AIDS."*

Although these words were spoken back in late 1990 when the stamps were issued, the importance of a global effort cannot be stressed enough, in the ongoing battle against AIDS today. We must NEVER become complacent about it.

**CONNECTIONS**

This section is established only as a supplementary to the AIDS on STAMPS Newsletter and will be compiled separately to be used as a 'directory' of goods/services available to persons interested in creating a broader awareness of AIDS through STAMPS and STAMPS through AIDS.

This supplementary listing will be published and included in the WINTER issue of the Newsletter. If you wish to have your name or service placed in this annual listing, please send us your information (maximum of 50 words) no later than December 01. Available only to annual subscribers.

**CANADA POST**

As mentioned in the Question Corner, the suggestion for Canada Post to issue a World AIDS Day commemorative stamp is currently before the Stamp Advisory Committee in Ottawa. I have been assured that this topic will be considered for inclusion in the 1994 Stamp Program, along with all the other suggestions received. The Committee will meet this summer to present its choices to the Board of Directors for approval, and then the decisions will be announced publically this fall!

**GUESTSPEAKER**

*Editor's Note: As this is the first issue of the AIDS on STAMPS Newsletter I am taking the liberty of writing in this column myself for this issue only.*

As a stamp collector who, over the years, has walked the streets from stamp shop to stamp shop in hopes of finding that one elusive treasure, checking the bidboards, hoping to place a successful bid, or walking from table to table at the local bourse or show, to find that one little gem that makes a set or area complete, a thought only recently came to mind. I could spend my lifetime walking those walks and never achieve an end, BUT, when you know that that lifetime may very well become much shorter due to a yet incurable disease, the time you spend in your hobby seems so much more precious!

I could have chosen to give it up completely and say...what's the use, I'll never "finish the chase" anyway. Yet, when I decided I wanted to put this newsletter together and reach out and share a bit more about AIDS and how my hobby has turned into a very therapeutic part of my daily living, my dream was given a sparkle by the encouraging response I got. Even my non-philatelic friends have noticed how this hobby has lifted my spirits and enthusiasm for living!

There will definitely be times when things just won't seem to go the way I think they should, or questions or comments may come back I may not necessarily want to hear. But, it is my hope that when the shop is closed for the day, the bidboard is closed at the sound of the alarmclock, and the show doors locked til the next time, then if someone has learned something more about AIDS on stamps or what the hobby of stamp collecting can do in the realm of therapy, then I may very well say I have "finished my chase, and have found that elusive treasure."

Blair

**NOTICEBOARD**

> **AIDS AWARENESS WEEK**

This year the week of OCTOBER 04 through 10 has been designated as AIDS Awareness Week.

> **STAMP MONTH**

Once again October is going to be recognized as Stamp Month in Canada.

> **VANPEX '93**

This annual exhibition once again takes place at the Sheraton Landmark Hotel, Robson Street, Vancouver, on NOVEMBER 06 - 07.

> **WORLD AIDS DAY**

On December 01, 1993 the 6th annual World AIDS Day will be observed with its theme this year being "Time To Act".

**ISSUES A thru Z**

**ARGENTINA** - two stamps on AIDS awareness December 12, 1992. The \$0,10 and \$0,26 values have not yet been assigned Scott numbers at presstime. The \$0,10 value is featured in the FACT OR FICTION section on page 2.

**BHUTAN** - three stamps (2nu, 5nu, and 10nu) originally issued for International Year of the Child in 1979 have been overprinted 'World AIDS Day' for issue date of December 01, 1988. Scott numbers 761-763.

**BRAZIL** - on April 06, 1990, a single \$ 20,00 value was issued for a campaign of prevention against contracting AIDS. Scott number 2259

**BURKINO FASO** - a single 120f value (Scott 873) was issued on April 07, 1989 emphasizing the fight against AIDS worldwide.

**NEXT ISSUE - FALL**

- > AIDS LINGO Versus PHILATELIC JARGON
- > CINDERELLA ISSUES
- > SSs, GUTTERS, OPs, & SCs!
- > WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT
- > AIDS AWARENESS WEEK

**WIN <-> WIN**

Whenever a new area of specialization comes to the fore, there is often some hesitation around it, and rightly so! This applies not only to philatelic items coming onto the market, but has also been evidenced in the search for a cure for AIDS. You could talk to a hundred persons on different trials drugs and come up with a hundred different opinions. And, likewise, one hundred different areas to specialize in when talking to stamp collectors! Yet, when we can combine two separate areas into one, and learn from both, together, we have expanded our horizons for the better; the enjoyment and exploration of stamp collecting as a hobby combined with gaining the knowledge and understanding of an area, still not understood or accepted on a level comparable to other diseases. The philatelic world can be proud that it has explored extensively such areas as the eradication of malaria, drug abuse, cancer, tuberculosis, and alcoholism, just to mention a few.

It is hoped that, through this newsletter, an enlightenment of AIDS and the world of philatelics will weld together in helping to eliminate some of the ignorance surrounding both areas. Together, we can make a difference and create a 'win <-> win' environment.

**POINT TO PONDER**

*Could stamp collectors contract AIDS from licking their stamps?*

**HOW DO WE FUNCTION?**

*As this Newsletter is put out on my own time, initiative, and expense, I feel I must be able to recover at least a portion of my costs in some way. Therefore, to cover four quarterly issues (SPRING, SUMMER, FALL, WINTER) your subscription fee of \$10.00 per year will see \$5.00 go to AIDS Charities (B.C.) and the other \$5.00 towards postage and production costs!*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

<+> Of the nearly 35 sets of stamps issued so far pertaining to AIDS, 14 sets were issued specifically for World AIDS Day, December 01.

<+> On May 23, 1993, at the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil here in Vancouver, since the last vigil 250 new names were added to the ongoing list of persons known to have died from AIDS.

<+> Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Sweden, and Japan are just a few of the countries that are affected by, but have yet issued any stamps pertaining to, HIV/AIDS. HOWEVER, it has been noted in Linn's 1993 U.S. Stamp Program: "AIDS awareness stamp, undetermined date and site."

**A.O.S. RAFFLE GETS GO AHEAD FOR DECEMBER 01, 1993!**

We are now gearing up for a very unique event to tie in with our World AIDS Day Exhibition. This special fund-raising event will bring interest to both AIDS awareness AND the hobby of stamp collecting as prizes already donated include a mint set of the AIDS on stamps as seen in the exhibition, a \$50.00 cash prize, and other unique prizes.

Tickets are limited and will be available after August 15th. Watch the FALL issue of AIDS on STAMPS Newsletter for all the details! (NOTE: BC Gaming Commission prohibits sale or advertising of tickets outside the province.)

**QUARTERLY QUOTE**

*"Not being able to do everything is no excuse for not doing everything you can."*

*This space is reserved to hold a free mint copy of the CANADA AIDS awareness stamp. (Issue Date Yet Unknown)*

**"GREEN LIGHT!"**

We are pleased to announce that because of the interest and support received so far, we have already confirmed space for a special one day exhibition on World AIDS Day, December 01 that will feature (along with the regular issues) some interesting specialized items arising from this topical! Don't miss this one!

**WORLD AIDS DAY EXHIBITION**

**CONFIRMED**

**December 01**  
**Sheraton Landmark**  
 1400 Robson Street

**WATCH FOR DETAILS IN THE FALL ISSUE OF A.I.D.S. on STAMPS**