

A.I.D.S.
ON
STAMPS

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**AIDS ON STAMPS
 TAKES TO THE
 ROAD IN 1994**

With a new year ahead there will be several opportunities to expand and share some of the knowledge that we've gathered during our first six months. Although we'll be devoting much of our time to the Newsletter, and lobbying Canada Post, we hope to go to a few more shows and put on a few more public displays to help create more awareness and education of the AIDS pandemic. Shows planned at this point will include **VICTOPICAL '94**, Feb. 19-20, Victoria, BC, and the **ANNUAL SHOW**, West Edmonton Mall, March 18-20, Edmonton, Alberta.

**CANADA POST IN
 DINOSAUR AGE:
 SAYS NO TO
 AIDS AWARENESS
 STAMP FOR
 1994!**

Following is the response of the Stamp Advisory Committee with regard to my proposal for the issuance of a World AIDS Day stamp in '94.

5 November 1993

Dear Mr. Henshaw:

This is further to your letter in which you suggested that Canada Post Corporation issue a postage stamp commemorating World AIDS Day.

The Stamp Advisory Committee unfortunately did not recommend this subject for inclusion in the 1994 stamp program. There are many worthy topics suggested each year that cannot be accommodated within the limited size of the annual stamp program. Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of the press release announcing the 1994 stamp program.

I regret that I cannot give you more favourable news.

Yours sincerely,
 Louise Maffett



NEWSLETTER

Awareness, Education, & Support 2

PO Box 1652 Str A Vancouver BC CANADA V6C 2P7 (604)689-0723

QUESTION CORNER

Q: Many times I've been asked where can one obtain AIDS stamps?

A: Unfortunately, the answer is not that simple! When I first ventured into this thematic area I was quite disappointed to find that pretty well all the local dealers didn't carry most issues except for the United Nations sets. So I wrote many letters out of town AND eventually out of country. New issue service would be no problem, but back issues was where the challenge was to be found. I recommend finding a reliable (one YOU feel comfortable with) new issue or topical dealer and then placing a want list with them also. And don't overlook stamp clubs, shows, and word of mouth! I'm still looking for Syria (1233) and Guyana (1984-85a-e)....are you out there?

FACT OR FICTION?

There has been more than one AIDS awareness stamp issued that uses the Red Ribbon to depict its message.

FACT - Coincidental or not, I received in my mailbox over the Christmas holidays a First Day Cover from Uruguay which features the Red Ribbon and was issued on World AIDS Day, 1993 as one of their airmail stamps. The Red Ribbon is set on a colorful background of green, yellow, pink, and a purple cloud-like mirage with a dark blue strip up the right hand edge of the stamp:



PHILADEMICS

In this issue we are featuring the issue from Brunei Darussalam that was issued on December 01, 1990. The three stamps in this set carry a very graphic and potent message as to the possible effects of AIDS if we do not educate ourselves and others about this yet, incurable disease. On the 20 sen we are reminded that AIDS can affect any family member and that it is important for us all to join together to fight the disease world-wide. On the 30 sen we see the various ways in which the virus can be transmitted, by sharing of needles, unprotected sex, blood transfusion, or by breast-feeding. And, the 90 sen, very clearly reminds us there is still no cure for AIDS.

[Scott #s 420-422]

GUEST SPEAKER

Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by one of our readers who, through his longtime involvement with philatelics, has current writings in 'HAMPSHIRE' Magazine, Great Britain, and 'The American Philatelist.' It is the sole opinion of the author, Mr. Basil Hunter, and is being presented as submitted.

When the spectre of AIDS began to infiltrate the consciousness of humanity at large during the 1980s, a massive fear took hold; people were afraid to touch, or even be near, those known to be affected. Now that we are a decade down the road this sense of panic has largely abated. Much more is known about transmission of AIDS, and those who are affected can enjoy a far more natural role in society. Many patients are living beyond the expected limits of this disease, and new drugs are coming to the fore. The universality of AIDS and its presence in all races and genders around the world has caused it to be almost routine.

There have been many times in the history of

mankind where new and terrifying diseases have appeared. We are reminded of the 'Black Death' of the Middle Ages - of cholera - and of the mosquito - transmitted malaria, and so on.

The early postal services long before the inception of postage stamps in 1840 bore evidence of attempts to control plagues. I had a early letter (1501) carried 'by my trirams' to the Council of Ten - The Doge of Venice, with the customary slits in the paper. This was done for fumigation. Such mail would be held by tongs over a charcoal brazier - usually on board the ship - and the fumes of sulfur would penetrate it. It also invited respiratory illness to the poor wretches who had to perform this duty. Little did they realize that the very rats running everywhere - even on early ships, and especially around the docks - were the agents of death.

It is claimed that in 1665, over fifty-six thousand inhabitants of

London died of the Plague. The next year (Sept. 1666) the Great Fire of London swept through and devastated the city. With it, a great area was scoured of rats and other pestilence, so this disaster was not without its long-term blessings.

Five years after the fire, (1671) I have a letter carried from Bread Street P.O. bearing the customary Bishop mark; a small hand stamped circle about 13mms in diameter, divided by the month in the top half, and the date in the bottom. The actual year at the time of these letters can only be ascertained within the contents itself. London was reviving. The city was being rebuilt. Sickness and plagues were rampant in the warm areas of the Mediterranean, and much mail, incised for fumigation is to be found in Greece, Turkey, and the Lavant.

When de Lesseps instigated the work on the Panama Canal, thousands died of malaria. Gradually the

See GUEST page 8

DID YOU KNOW?

> Scott Stamp Monthly reports in its January '94 issue it is adding 25 new topics, "which we feel appropriately relate to current topical collecting trends. New listings include stamps related to AIDS....."

> AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter becomes Canada's **first** (and only) quarterly newsletter designed especially to create awareness, education, and support of AIDS in a philatelic way. Copies of the Newsletter have reached many corners of the globe including Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Italy, and Spain. It has been mentioned in the Lambda Philatelic Journal, Canadian Stamp News, and the Vancouver Sun.

AIDS ON STAMPS can now be reached through **electronic mail** 24 hours a day through **Fidonet: (1:153/756)** or **Lambda Speaks BBS (604-681-3667)** Vanc BC c/o Blair Henshaw

WORLD AIDS DAY

Although it made for a long day, it certainly was worth every minute of it. The location was the Sheraton Landmark, Robson Street, and despite the nasty weather, many took the opportunity to drop by, look at the AIDS ON STAMPS Exhibit, pick up a red ribbon, check out the prizes offered in the raffle draw, or simply sit and chat about AIDS stamps, and where was Canada in all this!

And, once again, your comments in the quest book, such as - "we're with you", "great display", "a very important and classy exhibit", "great collection, continue pressure on Canada", all provide me with that extra push to continue my efforts. Thank you!

AND THE WINNER IS:

- 1st Prize - Clark Wilson, Vancouver, 25 troy oz. silver bullion.
- 2nd Prize - Greg Carey, Vancouver, AIDS On Stamps collection.
- 3rd Prize - Larry Scheibe N. Vancouver, \$50.00 cash
- 4th Prize - Ethel Smith,

Cache Creek, one pair CN IMAX passes.

5th Prize - Ed Friesen, Vancouver, one pair CN IMAX passes.

6th Prize - Beth Wilson, N. Vancouver, four passes to The Lookout!

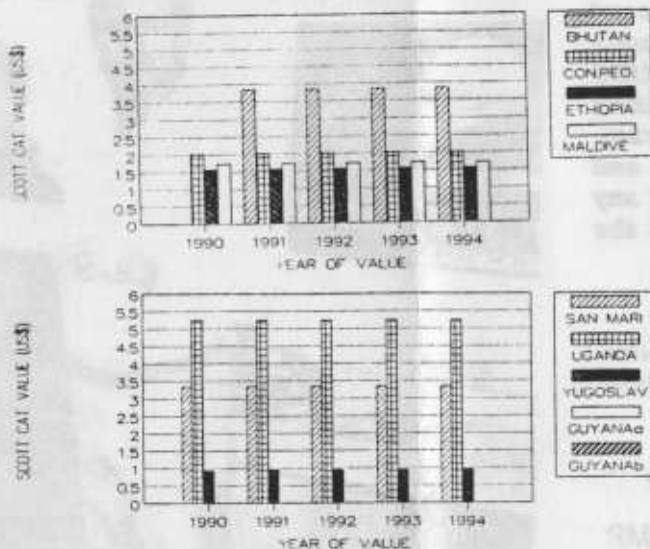
7th Prize - Foster Jones, Vancouver, four passes to The Lookout!

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE WINNERS
& TO ALL WHO GAVE
THEIR SUPPORT TO
THIS EVENT.

EXHIBIT WINS TWO AWARDS

After some arm-twisting I was finally convinced to enter "AIDS: A Global Understanding Through A Universal Medium" exhibit I had put together for the public display at the Vancouver Public Library during AIDS Awareness Week (October 04-10) in VANPEX'93 on a competitive basis. And, as a first time exhibitor, I was delighted to find the exhibit had captured a **SILVER MEDAL** and a special trophy - The Ted Lane Award!

AIDS ON STAMPS 'TRENDS'
 ISSUES OF 1988



We're happy to introduce in this issue a new feature - TRENDS. The main purpose of this feature is to visually, through the use of graphs, express any 'trends' that may be occurring in this thematic area based on available data recognized throughout the philatelic world.

For these purposes, our first charts take a look at the issues from 1988 as a group and explore the annual catalogue value (here we use Scott) from 1990 through 1994.

As one can see from the above charts, all catalogue values have remained constant for the first five years. It is my own opinion that once this area of thematic collecting becomes more popular, this trend will change. Right now, we might refer to these as sleepers.

Yet, the other side of the coin is not the catalogue, or market value, of any topical collection, but, the value of the enjoyment and challenge that comes from putting

together any such specialized collection. No price can be put on such a reward.

Although we have included the two issues from Guyana, there is no value listing in Scotts at the present time.

WANTED
 Any articles related to AIDS stamp issues, or tidbits of information are always welcome. Next issue deadline is APRIL 10, 1994.

Jan/Feb/Mar/94

NEWSLETTER

Awareness, Education, & Support ⁶

PO Box 1652 Stn A Vancouver BC CANADA V6C 2P7 (604)689-0723

Your Two Cents Worth

YOU can have Your Two Cents Worth if you want to help persuade Canada Post to issue an AIDS awareness stamp in their 1995 stamp program. Express your support and concern by writing to any one, (or all three), of the following:

Chairman,
Stamp Advisory Committee
#410 - 2701 Riverside Drive
Ottawa, ONTARIO
K1A 0B1
(Postage IS Required)

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, MP
Minister Responsible for
Canada Post Corporation
Room 433C
House Of Commons
Ottawa, ONTARIO
K1A 0A6
(Postage NOT Required)

Hon. (Members Name), MP
Your Own Riding
House Of Commons
Ottawa, ONTARIO
K1A 0A6
(Postage NOT Required)

I shall be writing again to
all 295 MPs and 104
Senators in the next few
weeks as part of my
extended **CAMPAIGN '95**



Easter graciously for VANCOUVER in the amount of that was raised projects put on by during 1993.

accepts a cheque MEALS SOCIETY \$360.00 from Blair through several AIDS ON STAMPS

We regret to inform our readers that due to lack of interest we have decided to discontinue **Connections** at this point in time.

POINT TO PONDER

IN THE FACE OF
UNCERTAINTY THERE IS
NOTHING WRONG WITH
HOPE.

CHECKLIST CONT'D

U.S.A. 2806 (01/12/93)
Uruguay 1361-2 (01/12/90)
Uruguay 1408-9 (01/12/91)
Uruguay New93 (01/12/93)
Vanuatu 547-50 (29/11/91)
Yugoslavia 1910-1 (24/09/88)
Zaire 1249-51 (xx/xx/89)
Zaire 1252SS (xx/xx/89)

France > announced for 94 <

1993 IN REVIEW

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO YOU OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Thanks to your kind support we've been able to have a very successful first year (actually 6 months) and we're proud to report that the following donations to AIDS Charities (BC) were made possible:

Vancouver Meals Society which continues to make available hot, nutritious meals to AIDS patients who have just returned home from hospital (Easter tells me this is the equivalent of 110 meals!) -**\$360.**

Vancouver PWA Society which offers support services to PWAs needing to learn how to cope with their diagnosis within themselves and the community -**\$50.**

AIDS Vancouver which makes available to PWAs emergency funding, housing, resources, and counseling in a variety of areas -**\$50.**

Positive Women's Network which provides special services for women in the AIDS community -**\$30.**

Living Through Loss

Society

which offers counseling and support for persons bereaved due to loss of friends or loved ones **\$30.**

AIDS Vancouver Island which has put forward an extreme effort to meet the AIDS challenges to persons on Vancouver Island -**\$60..**

A total of **\$580.00** was made available from the combined proceeds of the Newsletter subscriptions, special World AIDS Day Raffle, and Special Show Cover sales. **THANK-YOU!**

A FIRST FOR CANADA AIDS ON STAMPS was also responsible for bringing about the first show cover & cancel through Canada Post in conjunction with Canada's first World AIDS Day exhibition held at the Sheraton Landmark Hotel in Vancouver. The cover was designed by Blair Henshaw and only a limited quantity (100) were issued.

QUARTERLY QUOTE

"Desperate diseases require desperate remedies..."

Guy Fawkes

QUICK CHECKLIST

Following is a Quick Checklist of AIDS Awareness stamps issued to date that we can confirm:

- Argentina 1786-7 (12/12/92)
- Bhutan 761-3op (01/12/88)
- Brazil 2239 (06/04/90)
- Brunei 420-2 (01/12/90)
- Burkina Faso 873 (07/04/89)
- Burma 310 (01/12/89)
- Cameroun 859-60 (15/01/91)
- Cameroun new93 (Re-Issue)
- Cape Verde 592-3 (20/02/91)
- Cent.Afr.Rep.982-4(01/05/90)
- Con.Peo.Rep.816-8(01/12/88)
- Ethiopia 1234-7op (01/12/88)
- Ethiopia 1307-8 (31/01/91)
- Ethiopia 1314 (09/04/91)
- Greece 1733 (22/05/92)
- Greenland 2286 (09/09/93)
- Guatemala c845 (01/12/92)
- Guinea Bissau 895 (08/11/90)
- Guyana1984a-e/op(01/12/88)
- Guyana1985a-e/op(01/12/88)
- Italy 1762 (13/01/89)
- Kenya 559-62 (31/10/91)
- Madagascar 1059 (29/07/92)
- Maldives 1307-8op(01/12/88)
- Mexico 1609 (07/04/89)
- Morocco 730 (16/12/91)
- Niger 794-5 (28/02/89)
- San Marino 1162-5(19/09/88)
- Senegal 870-3 (01/12/89)
- Sri Lanka 988-9 (30/11/90)
- Syria 1233 (24/12/90)
- Thailand 1340 (29/03/90)
- TurkRepNCyp 313(13/12/91)
- Uganda 622-5 (28/10/88)
- UN-Geneva 184-5 (16/03/90)
- UN-NewYork573-4(16/03/90)
- UN-Vienna 99-100(16/03/90)

Continued On Page Six

NEXT ISSUE - APRIL

- > TRENDS-NEW IN 1994
- > PRE-ISSUE PROGNOSIS
- > SNEAK PREVIEW 1996 ?
- > FIRST DAY COVERS

ISSUES 'A' THRU 'Z'

CONGO PEO. REP. - this set of three stamps (valued at 60F, 75F, 180F) was issued December 01, 1988 in conjunction with the National Committee for the Fight Against AIDS and Evangelical Anglican Church of Congo anti-AIDS campaign. Scott #s 816-17-18.

ETHIOPIA - from here we have been given two different issues, the first being an overprint issued in 1988, and the second set in 1991. The first set (December 01, 1988) at first sight appears to have nothing to do with AIDS, but upon a closed look, has been overprinted with the words "World AIDS Day" in two languages, in recognition of the UN's declaration, (Scott 1234-37op). The second set (Scott 1307-09) carries the image of a red skull on all three values - 15c, 85c, 1Biri and each stamp carries a very graphic AIDS message. This set was issued on January 31, 1991 specifically with the World AIDS Day symbol on each stamp. And, we are given yet a third message about AIDS from Ethiopia on one stamp (Scott 1314) of a set which depicts AIDS prevention and the Red Cross. This set was issued on April 09, 1991.

GUEST continued

doctors and scientists of the day worked on medicines and vaccines, and these early killers were eradicated, or controlled. We are now aware that a virus is a living thing, and can change its form, and proliferate. In recent years it has been noted that tuberculosis has made a comeback. Currently the Chinese are embarked on the greatest mass inoculation in history, against polio. They hope to wipe it out.

One can find the pages of stamp collections dotted with issues to combat death and disease. There is Fight Malaria - conquer polio - World Health Day, etc, etc. From my native Wales the TENVOUS Society fights cancer, and carries many slogans on mail. Happily, there are always societies the world over who take on the eternal struggle against famine and disease.

Through the international media of postage stamps and slogans, a new perspective of AIDS is developing. We

know of the carnage of people living in African countries, especially Zaire. From Argentina to Greenland the word is spread. Those of us who are free of this plague have learned a renewed empathy for all who have endured it, or died because of it. We long to hear of a cure, and we know research will go on until one is found. That day cannot come soon enough for all of us.

How Do We Function ?

The AOS Newsletter is put together with the hopes of creating a better understanding of this horrid disease by sharing, through the philatelic world, the extent of this pandemic. As a person living with HIV/AIDS now for nine years, this topical area of stamp collecting has been very therapeutic. The subscription fee of \$10.00 sees half of that donated to AIDS Charities in BC with the other half helping to defray postage & production costs. Please make cheques/money orders payable to COMTRU VENTURES.