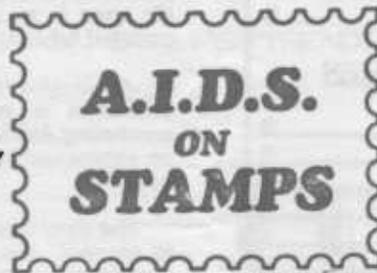


# NEWSLETTER

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1994

CREATING AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND SUPPORT - THROUGH A UNIVERSAL MEDIUM

## *The Reality Of AIDS*



**ETHIOPIA**  
*"Fight AIDS Worldwide"*  
(See PHILADEMICS page 2.)

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## How Do We Function ?

The AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter is put together with the hopes of creating a better understanding of this horrific 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 proven to be very therapeutic. The subscription fee of \$10.00 (four quarterly issues) sees half of that donated to AIDS charities in British Columbia with the other half helping to defray postage & production costs. Please make cheques or money orders payable to **COMTRU VENTURES**.

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

ISSUE	DEADLINE
January 25	January 10
April 25	April 10
July 25	July 10
October 25	October 10

## PHILADEMICS

Our front cover features perhaps one of the most serious and powerful stamp issues of the over 40 odd issues to date, worldwide. The harshness of the 15¢ value portrays only too well the "Reality Of AIDS" as the individual's life span is so drastically shortened once the onset of full blown AIDS occurs.

As is clearly illustrated in the 85¢ value, education is one of the key elements in combating AIDS, (one of our primary purposes as expressed in our motto!) at whatever level possible.

The third value, 1Birr, clearly stresses ways to prevent the spread of AIDS by safer sex practices; using condoms, avoid multiple partners, and avoiding shared or contaminated needles or sharp objects exposed to blood.

All three stamps bear the United Nations World AIDS Day Internationally recognized symbol as this issue was released on January 31, 1991 to commemorate World AIDS Day. Although Ethiopia issued an overprint in 1988 for World AIDS Day, this issue is designed specifically to carry a message about AIDS in a very graphic way. Scott catalogue numbers for this set are 1307,1308,1309.

As Ethiopia was one of the first countries to be hit in epidemic proportion with AIDS, it certainly is understandable and, commendable that this country would have already used stamps on three different occasions to bring an awareness of AIDS not only within its own boundaries, but internationally. Yet, we here in the western world, seem so slow to use this vehicle of education out of fear of the controversy it might create.

## CORRECTION:

In our last issue (Apr/May/Jun/94) we indicated Japan was releasing a stamp to pay tribute to the Xth International AIDS Conference taking place in OSAKA. That should have read: YOKOHAMA.  
Our apologies !

## ISSUES A THROUGH Z

GUINEA-BISSAU - On the 8th of November, 1990, a single 1000pg valued stamp was issued in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the United Nations (world health) program and the fight against AIDS worldwide. The sadness of the premature aging process is vividly characterized by tears flowing from the older person, while the innocence of the unborn is depicted still in the mothers womb. A powerful catalyst indeed. (Scott # 895).

GUYANA - One of the first countries to acknowledge AIDS on its postage stamps by issuing a special overprint with AIDS prevention messages on a butterfly issue released a few years earlier(1984?). The two strips of five sets plus set of three high values were overprinted for World AIDS Day, December 01, 1988, and assigned Scott #s 1984a-e/op, 1985a-e/op, and 1986-1988 op.

ITALY - On January 13, 1989, Italy contributed a single 650 lire stamp as part of that country's campaign against AIDS. The AIDS virus is depicted as being surrounded with a warning to defend against it. Scott # 1762.

### DID YOU KNOW?

> According to information in Volume One of the Scott 1995 catalogue several of the ATA (American Topical Association) checklists are now available on 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" IBM diskettes. Interestingly, AIDS is listed as one of these checklists along with others including detectives (fictional), masks, peace, and tennis, just to mention a few. No mention of cost is noted in either the Scott catalogue or the ATA July-August journal - Topical Time. This most useful checklist service is only available to ATA members.

> An on-line stamp collector's bulletin board is now available through GENie for a nominal monthly fee plus hourly usage rate. More detailed information on this service may be obtained through writing GENie, c/o GE Information Services, PO Box 6403, Rockville, MD 20849-6403.

> Further to the two above mentioned items, we'd just like to remind you that AIDS ON STAMPS is also accessible by electronic mail 24 hours a day through FIDONET: (1:153/756).

> The difference between a stamp collector and a philatelist is that the stamp collector saves stamps for the fun of it, while the philatelist, on the other hand, studies the material they collect for both fun and knowledge.

### LONDON, ENGLAND: A.I.D.S. ON STAMPS Drops In For Tea!

THEMATICA'94, (Britain's annual Thematic Stamp Exhibition) is being visited by AIDS On Stamps exhibit:- AIDS: A Global Perspective this July 2nd & 3rd. The two frame (32 page) exhibit is being entered in the BTA Trophy Competition. THEMATICA'94 is supported by the British stamp trade and the British Thematic Association assisted by the British Philatelic Trust.

By participating in this show it is hoped that the exposure will help in creating awareness of AIDS in the philatelic world at an International level and possibly encourage British thematic collectors to consider this as a topical area of interest.

We feel that simply by our presence there we will have accomplished our goal of creating AIDS awareness, regardless of any awards we may, or may not achieve.

Just as we are going to press we have learned that the exhibit did indeed create interest and was judged according to National Thematic Philately rules and attained a DIPLOMA level. One viewer of the show requested to be put in contact with us for further information.

### NEXT ISSUE

*A special tribute to some of those who have been recognized philatelically and who have died of AIDS or AIDS-related complications.*

## SUPPORT GROWS FOR CANADIAN A.I.D.S. AWARENESS STAMP

Since our last newsletter we have learned that our lobbying efforts have started to have some bite in some influential places.

AIDS Vancouver included our "Where Is Canada's ?" lobby bulletin in its entirety in their June monthly newsletter - Volunteer Voice.

Canadian Stamp News once again showed its support by including a review of the A.I.D.S. ON STAMPS Newsletter (on the occasion of its first anniversary) in their 12 July edition.

We've also learned that upon instruction from the Federal Minister of Health, the National AIDS Secretariat has consulted with several of its national partners to see if they would be supportive of a Canada wide Stamp Design Contest (as I proposed to Health Canada in March of 1994) for AIDS awareness.

These enthusiastic partners include: the Canadian AIDS Society, Canadian Hemophilia Society, Canadian Public Health Association, Canadian International Development Agency, the International Development Research Council, and, the Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research.

Lets hope this will help persuade Canada Post to consider seriously this time!

### AIDS AWARENESS WEEK OCTOBER 03 - 07 1994

Once again we are pleased to confirm that we will be putting on our AIDS Awareness Display at the Vancouver Public Library (main floor), Burrard Street window. We are just now in the process of putting together a brand new, extended display, as we have acquired much new material over the past year. We are delighted and grateful to the Vancouver Public Library for its continuous support in making available this central, downtown display space for AIDS awareness

## QUESTION CORNER

**Q:** During a recent conversation the question came up as to whether or not I thought my AIDS exhibit that I've placed in shows on a competitive basis has been given awards partially because of the nature of the subject thus avoiding the possibilities of discrimination ?

**A:** Before any consideration of exhibiting on a competitive basis in any philatelic show one must obtain a prospectus from the Exhibits Committee or show organizers which outlines the rules and regulations for entry into that competition. The individual exhibitor enters at his/her own risk and is given an opportunity to discuss the findings of the judging jury of that exhibition, usually through what is referred to as the 'Judges Critique.'

For myself this has become one of the most rewarding parts of exhibiting and gives me the opportunity to learn where I can improve my exhibiting abilities to hopefully raise the caliber of the exhibit according to the established standards throughout the philatelic world at varying levels. Yet, the main objective is to gain the exposure of AIDS awareness through the show !

\*\*\*\*\*  
The regular column YOUR Two Cents Worth will return to its regular spot in the next issue!  
\*\*\*\*\*

Watch the next issue for a special

### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL OFFER

### QUARTERLY QUOTE

Just when you think you've won the rat race, along comes faster rats !

Canada & AIDS:  
(Philatelically Speaking)

Just over two years ago, when I first decided to explore the avenue of AIDS on stamps as a topical collecting area, little did I know of the journey that lie ahead! Now, in retrospect, so much has been learned, discovered, so many avenues have opened up. Therefore, I think it fitting to review what AIDS related philatelic materials are to be found within Canada to date.

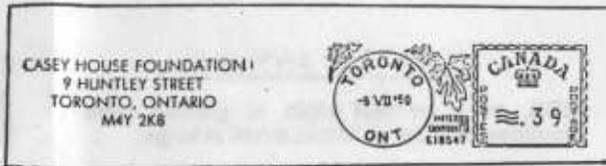


Fig. 1.

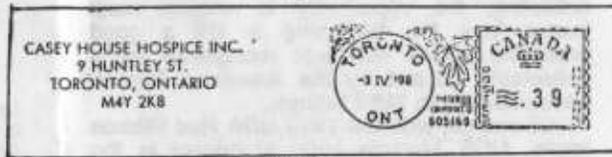


Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

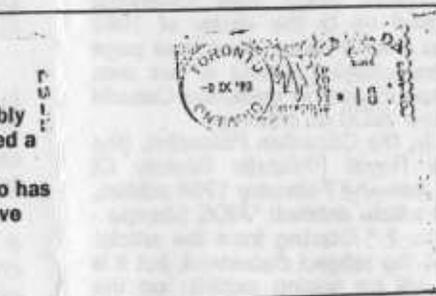


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

- Fig. 1 > Meter slogan cancel from Casey House Foundation, Canada's first AIDS hospice.
- Fig. 2 > Meter slogan cancel from Casey House Hospice, Inc., Toronto, Canada.
- Fig. 3 > Special AIDS awareness mailing from Canadian Hemophilia Society, using bulk rate.
- Fig. 4 > Meter slogan from City Hall Finance Department, Toronto.
- Fig. 5 > Canada Post hand show cancel for 1st Canadian World AIDS Day philatelic exhibit, Vancouver.

NOT ILLUSTRATED BUT REPORTED:

- Note 1 > Meter slogan "For AIDS information call 416.224.6244", North York, 1989.
- Note 2 > Meter cancel 1447 Hornby St., Van. BC, V6Z 1W8, Vancouver PWA Society.

## FACT OR FICTION

AIDS, as a general topic, is gaining more prominence in the philatelic world at large.

**FACT** - As a relatively new area in thematic collecting, the opportunity to acquire most issues from the beginning is still a good possibility. AIDS was just recognized as a collectable subject by the American Topical Association in its 1992 listings.

Of course, with the 1993 USA Red Ribbon issue, AIDS became quite prominent in the American philatelic press.

Canada's philatelic press was somewhat slower but picked up in the winter of 1993 when Canadian Stamp News gave front page coverage to the lobbying efforts of our own AIDS On Stamps Project to persuade Canada Post to recognize AIDS on a stamp.

More recently, the Canadian Philatelist, (the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society Of Canada) in its January/ February 1994 edition, carried a small article entitled: "AIDS Stamps - A New Thematic ?" Quoting from the article: "Some may find the subject distasteful, but it is likely that we will be seeing exhibits on the subject of AIDS at stamp shows in the near future."

And, just two issues later, in its May/June edition, the same journal carries a interesting letter to the editor entitled THERE ARE MORE AIDS STAMPS from Philip J. Stager who correctly points out that AIDS related stamps have actually been around since 1988.

### WORLD AIDS DAY '94

AS WE DID LAST WORLD AIDS DAY, WE PLAN TO PUT TOGETHER OUR SPECIAL DISPLAY FOR THIS ONE DAY EVENT AGAIN THIS YEAR. PLANS ARE STILL IN THE MAKING BUT WE WILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER AT THE END OF OCTOBER. WE CAN CONFIRM THAT WE WILL BE CREATING ANOTHER SPECIAL SHOW COVER WITH A CANADA POST CANCEL JUST AS WE DID LAST YEAR. MORE NEWS ON THAT IN THE NEXT ISSUE ALSO.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

### **Choosing a Topical to Collect**

- Lisa Doiron -

Lisa Doiron is currently president of the central N.Y. first day cover society, Chapter 53 of the American first day cover society. She has also designed her own AIDS cachet which we have illustrated in our Covers Story section of this issue! These are available from Lisa @ \$2.00 each by writing her at: 25 Dyson Street, Rochester, New York, U.S.A., 14609-6516

*"I have been looking for a topical that interested me for about 2 years. When I first started collecting stamps, every other collector kept asking me what topic I collected.*

*I answered this with, that I didn't have a topic. I collect First Days. So I was convinced that I needed a topic to collect. This led me to looking in the topical boxes of many dealers. The boxes had several topics, but none of them caught my eye.*

*I stopped looking for almost 6 months or so and then when reading Linn's Stamp News it was discovered there was an AIDS On Stamps newsletter which revealed info on worldwide AIDS stamps. This was just prior to the US coming out with their AIDS awareness stamp. To my surprise there were several AIDS related stamps worldwide.*

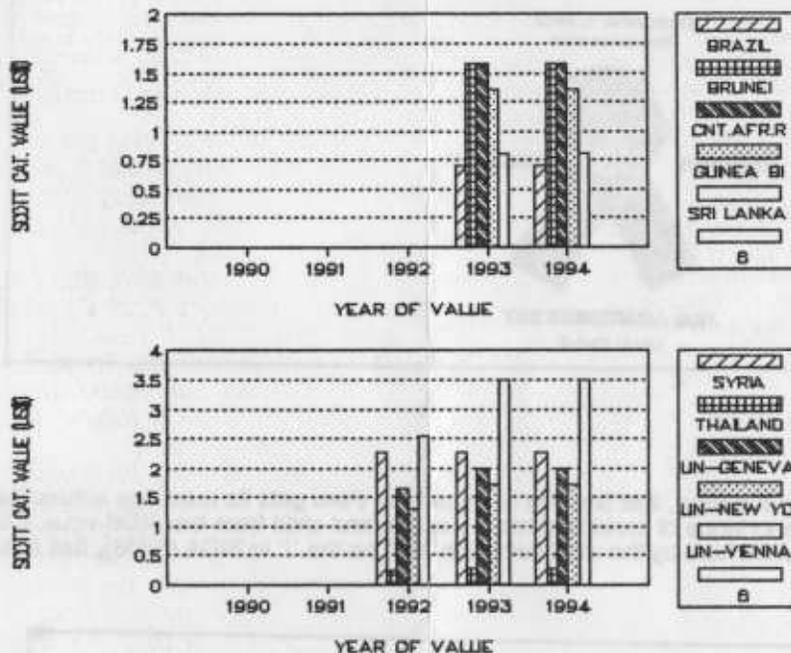
*I was assuming the US was the 1st to issue an AIDS awareness stamp. By reading the Guest Speaker article in the last newsletter, we the US should have been. Now with this new found information I have a topical to collect.*

*Now that I have a topic, other collectors are asking if I am going to exhibit. I feel as though the whole process is starting all over again!*

## TRENDS

Once again we take a look graphically at the AIDS stamps issued during 1990 based on the Scott catalogue values for the period 1991 through 1994. No values were listed in the 1991 catalogue as these issues were not catalogued by Scott in time to be included then.

### AIDS ON STAMPS 'TRENDS' ISSUES OF 1990

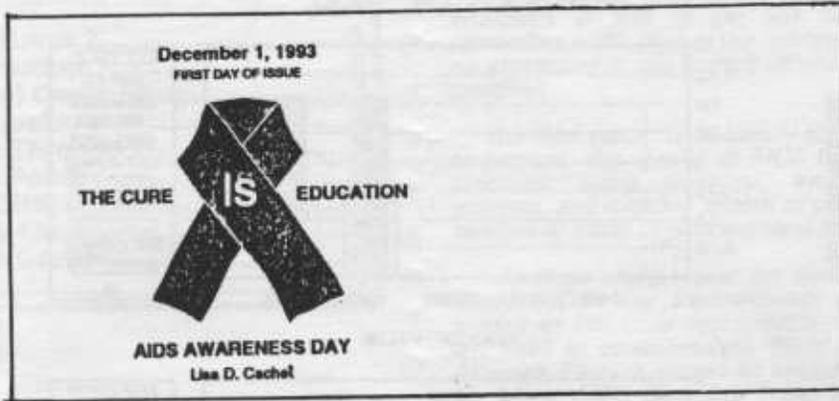


As we continue our graphic study of the trends of the AIDS stamps we take a look here at the issues of 1990. It is interesting to note that the number of issues has remained fairly constant (average of ten) when compared to other years. Although our charts indicate the years 1990 through 1994 as catalogue references, there were no recorded values or listings for the years left blank. However, it is still quite early for any patterns to develop as AIDS stamps are a fairly new area in the philatelic world. We must remember we are still in the first decade of this topic, and from its very nature, reluctance to even talk about, let alone collect this subject is slow. However, as it is an area that many collectors include in the overall topic of medicine, it seems to be taking on enough prevalence to stand on its own. Now is the time to start if you are considering AIDS on stamps as one of your collecting areas!

**POINT TO PONDER:** *To know the road ahead, ask those coming back!*

# Cover Story

Once again the red ribbon has taken on its role as the international symbol for AIDS awareness on this cachet designed by one of our readers who has also contributed to this issue in the GUEST SPEAKER column on page 6.



Although simplistic in design, this first day of issue from Peru gets its message across loud and clear by stressing the importance of protecting man, woman, and child from the AIDS virus. Otherwise, the inevitable, represented here by the skull being the "dot" on the "i" in SIDA (AIDS), has final say.

