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2nd ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

07/95

NEWSLETTER

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**A.I.D.S.
ON
STAMPS**

Volume 3
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1995

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

Education: Alerting The Next Generation



Central African Republic
(See **PHILADEMICS** page 2)

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PHILADEMICS

In this issue we have featured the AIDS stamps from the Central African Republic which stresses the importance of educating all ages and by as many means as possible. Two of the stamps (the 5F and 70F values) carry the message to educate yourself and others. When examined closely, several means of getting a message across are illustrated, including listening to the radio for information, watching educational programs on television or informative videos, using posters in the form of comic strips, special brochures, and perhaps most importantly, talking with and listening to others.

On the third stamp (the 120F value) the setting is similar to the other two but stresses the single most valuable means of combating AIDS (SIDA) is through informing and educating throughout the entire world. From giving lectures to small community groups with visual aids such as posters, the awareness must be made especially to the youth, no matter what part of the world.

This set of stamps is a fine example of how this vehicle can be a catalyst to bring about awareness; they are colourful, informative, and get right to the point without having to interpret a whole lot of technical jargon.

Issued on May 01, 1991, these stamps also exist in a single stamp imperf souvenir sheet for each of the three values. The Scott catalogue has assigned numbers 982-83-84 to this particular set.

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 over ten 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.

QUESTION CORNER

Q: Since the first AIDS awareness stamp was issued what year has seen the most AIDS related issues released worldwide ?

A: According to our tabulations it would appear that the philatelic world's consciousness for AIDS was heightened most during 1991 and 1994; both years tied with 12 issues (countries), followed by 1993 with 10 countries; 1988 with 8 countries; then 1990 with 6; 1989 with 5; and 1992 with 4. We have excluded 1995 in our calculations

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

ISSUES A THROUGH Z

SAN MARINO - This set of four stamps was the first known set of stamps related to AIDS and was released on September 19, 1988 on the occasion of the International AIDS Congress held in San Marino, October 10 to 14 of that year. Each one of these stamps carries a very important message in its graphic design and tells us that AIDS is a big problem of our time. Scott # 1162 - 65.

SENEGAL - On December 01, 1989 a set of four stamps were released in conjunction with World AIDS Day. Each of the four stamps very graphically and colourfully depict a strong message regarding the fight against AIDS. The actual virus is depicted on three of the four stamps. Scott # 870 - 73.

SWITZERLAND - Perhaps one of the most controversial AIDS stamps issued is this single one from Switzerland, issued on October 15, 1994. As colourful as it appears, at first glance it conveys a somewhat phallic image which seems to be the cause of the controversy. Scott # 949.

SYRIA - This single issue released on December 24, 1991 is one of the most graphic and powerful of all the AIDS stamps released so far. I've nicknamed it the "River Of Skulls" issue, which it portrays as skulls from AIDS victims float down the river to a destination indicated by an arrow labelled "AIDS >" Scott # 1233.

POINT TO PONDER

***...the reward of patience,
is patience***

---- St. Augustine

NEW LIBRARY WELCOMES AIDS AWARENESS EXHIBIT

For the third year in a row, the Vancouver Public Library will be hosting our exhibit in conjunction with National AIDS Awareness Week - October 02 - 09. This year we are especially excited to be part of the brand new Vancouver Public Library in its new home as pictured here. We will be located on Level 3 which overlooks the main entrance to this magnificent structure.



The Vancouver Public Library Central Branch at Library Square, 350 West Georgia Street. Opened May 26, 1995.

Looking Back Going Ahead

By Blair Henshaw, Editor

On the occasion of our second anniversary issue of this newsletter we want to take a few moments to reflect back over the past two years and contemplate what may lie ahead of us as we begin our third year.

It has been our intention from day one to simply use the world of philately as a catalyst to help bring about an awareness of the AIDS pandemic through a visual hobby recognized worldwide. Stamps have been used as a means of education in many areas over the years and continues to fulfill that role.

The AIDS On Stamps Project has expanded and benefited, (not just therapeutically as expressed before) by being able to contribute through its increased activities including putting on public awareness displays; meeting the challenge of philatelic exhibiting in local, regional, and national competition (quite successfully so far); lobbying both locally and at the federal level to persuade Canada to hopefully issue its own AIDS awareness stamp in time to coincide with the XIth International Conference on AIDS being hosted by Canada here in Vancouver in July, 1996; to bringing about this small, quarterly newsletter to help keep collectors and supporters abreast of our activities and worldwide philatelic materials past, present, and future!

Little did we know how the entire project would snowball to the point of reaching out to contacts worldwide - from the east coast of Canada to England, Spain, Brazil, and the United States. Our newsletter subscriptions have increased fourfold

from our very first issue back in July of 1993! And we are reaching people from all walks of life :-those who are living with AIDS daily, to community based support groups, to persons in prominent positions of direct medical care, to persons making major political decisions.

The public displays bring about a feeling of satisfaction almost indescribable. To read peoples comments in the guest book provided, or watch the expression on their faces as they absorb the elements of the display, to the touching silence or tear as someone is triggered to the memory of a loved one either living with or has died from AIDS.

Support has come in so many interesting ways for this project. It is not our intention to make "profit" from the venture as we state in our How We Function article carried in each issue of the newsletter. If we have enlightened but one person at one awareness display, or published something that helped to answer someone's question about AIDS, or given a small feeling of compassion to one living with this disease, then our goal is being achieved. In the words of a former local AIDS support organization's president...."I can't but we can; together we can make a difference."

It has long been a personal belief of mine that stamp collecting should not be restricted to the collector's album pages and kept on the shelf in the closet. It is a hobby that should be experienced, and shared with others.....after all, in their own right, stamps are a miniature art gallery with something to appeal to everyone. Just because it gets canceled doesn't mean its of no use!

I express a personal thanks to all of you for your support since the beginning of this project and look forward to an exciting year ahead with many new items to share.

BACK ISSUES INDEX

Photocopies of complete issues are available for \$1.00(Cdn.) each upon prepayment.

ARTICLE DESCRIPTION

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KNOCKING AT THEIR DOOR

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SILVER/LANE 2 YEARS IN A ROW +

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SNEAK PREVIEW 1996

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SSs, GUTTERS, OPs, & SCs!

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STORY BEHIND RED RIBBON

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THE ENDLESS TOLL

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TRENDS *

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* Was a Regular Feature in 1994 Issues

USPS CONFIRMS DATE

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VPL HOSTS A B.C. FIRST

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WIN <=> WIN

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WORLD AIDS DAY PLANS

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WORLD AIDS DAY '94 UPDATE

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GUEST SPEAKERS FEATURED

DOIRON, Lisa Vol.2 #1

"Choosing A Topical To Collect"

FRY, Dr. Hedy, (MP) Vol. 2 #2

"World AIDS Day Announcement"

HENSHAW, Blair Summer '93

"Editor's Introduction To The AIDS On Stamps Newsletter"

HLAVACEK, Jean A. Apr/May/Jun/94

"Lobbying The USA Citizen Stamp

Advisory Committee For AIDS

Awareness Stamp: 1987 - 1993"

HUNTER, Basil Jan/Feb/Mar/94
"Infectious Mail Handling - Early 1500s
To Present Time"
SLOTSKY, Myron N. Vol. 3 #2
"The Search For Illusive Postmarks"
VOS, Rev. Robert T., Vol. 3 #1
"Why Exhibit AIDS?"
WRIGHT, Les Fall '93
"The AIDS Epidemic On Stamps, An
Opinion"

AIDS STAMPS ON FRONT PAGE

ARGENTINA Vol. 3 # 1
SC# 1786-87 Issued 02 Dec.92
BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM Jan/Feb/Mar/94
SC# 420-22 Issued 01 Dec.90
CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC Vol. 3 #3
SC# 982-84 Issued 01 May.91
ETHIOPIA Vol. 2 # 1
SC# 1307-09 Issued 31 Jan.91
JORDAN Vol. 2 # 2
SC# 1459-61 Issued 25 Nov.93
KENYA Apr/May/Jun/94
SC# 559-62 Issued 31 Oct.91
REPUBLIC OF NIGER Vol. 3 # 2
SC# 794-95 Issued 28 Feb.89
SAN MARINO Fall '93
SC# 1162-65 Issued 19 Sep.88
UNITED NATIONS Summer '93
UN - New York
SC# 573-74 Issued 16 Mar.90
UN - Geneva
SC# 184-85 Issued 16 Mar.90
UN - Vienna
SC# 99-100 Issued 16 Mar.90

QUARTERLY QUOTE

And then he gave a very long sigh
and said, "I wish Pooh were here.
It's so much more friendly with
two."

- Piglet, from Winnie the Pooh
by A.A. Milne

DID YOU KNOW ?

> According to the Organizing
Committee's First Announcement the
XIth International Conference on AIDS
expects 12,000 attendees, 2,000 media
registrants, 200 commercial exhibitors,
and 150 non profit exhibitors. The
conference is being hosted by Canada
in Vancouver, July 07 - 12, 1996. The
AIDS On Stamps Project will be
having a visible presence during this
event.

YOUR Two Cents Worth:

In this issue we are going to present a few
quotes from some of the mail we have received
from subscribers from various parts of the
globe.

"Thanks so much for the FDC. It was
a lovely surprise. Keep up the wonderful
work in your newsletter.".....Windsor,
Ontario.

"Thank you very much for sending
along the back issues of AIDS On
Stamps. I certainly wish to subscribe to
this important publication and am
enclosing the fee to cover this
year.".....Montreal, Quebec.

"My interest in AIDS stamps stems from
having known many people as
friend/caregiver/hospice volunteer, who
have died of this nondiscriminatory
disease, and, friends now living with
AIDS who I love dearly and have the
utmost respect for.".....Seattle,
Washington.

"I enclose US\$10 for the Newsletter
on AIDS. As we are a non profit
organization and a poor country, please,
if possible, send us free some of the old
numbers of your newsletter.".....Bahia,
Brasil.

IN FOCUS

In this issue we take a look at a recent local Canadian "cinderella" issue done by Vancouver artist Ed Varney, as part of his on going *Artistamp* series. This colourful anti-AIDS design also uses a play on words in its message: "STAMP OUT AIDS". We have used this artistamp on our Newsletter mailing courtesy of Mr. Varney. We must point out that these *cannot be used for regular postage, but may be used as labels on your mail just as you would use Easter or Christmas seals*. Full sheets of 15 may be ordered directly from Ed Varney for \$12.00 Cdn. at Box 3655, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 3Y8. Not only do they convey an important message in the battle against AIDS, they are an attractive item to add to any collection.



This block of nine, shown here 1:35 times actual size,
comes from an autographed artist's proof.

Cover Story



In keeping with our cover theme of "Education: Alerting The Next Generation", this First Day Cover from Paraguay stresses the importance of education right on the stamp: "Information Is A Major Means Of Prevention." The arrival of this cover alerted us to this set of two AIDS Awareness stamps issued 04 May 1995 from Paraguay!



Куда Москва,
Комсомольский
проспект, 30.

Кому Магазины
"Союзпечать"

Индекс: индекс отправления почты * адрес отправителя

164251.
Арх. область. Тимасуцкий р-он
пос. Луцкоозеро
ул. Комсомольская
дом 4^а кв. 5
Лаврик. Д. Ю.

119146

Почтовый индекс предприятия связи места назначения

Also, in some countries, as is illustrated here on this postal stationery envelope from Russia, the message is direct and to the point: "Save Future Generations from AIDS - Our Common Concern."