

THE **A.I.D.S. ON STAMPS Project**
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NEWSLETTER

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Fifth International *ASIA-PACIFIC* Congress



MALAYSIA

In June of 1999, Kuala Lumpur hosted the **FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS on AIDS in ASIA and the PACIFIC**. This colorful set of three values (30 sen, 50 sen, 1rm) incorporate the global symbol of the Red Ribbon keeping the graphic design clear and to the point with just three simple colors of red, blue, and white. The hearts and joined ribbons (cleverly resembling two persons together on the 50 sen value) emphasize the importance of working together in all efforts towards combating HIV/AIDS.

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25th ISSUE

It certainly is amazing how the time goes by. This issue of the AIDS ON STAMPS Newsletter marks its 25th quarterly issue! The first issue was available in the summer of 1993 and was inspired by the urge of the editor to try to create an AIDS awareness through the medium of philatelic materials.

As time went by we also changed the format of the Newsletter and as more AIDS/HIV related philatelic materials became available to all collectors we were able to expand our content. Then, there was a sharp "lull" in any materials from any countries being issued so we took the approach to expand to include HIV/AIDS related postcards and phone cards. This proved quite acceptable by our readers.

Over the past few years in particular the amount of materials from all three areas has dwindled but we continue to put out the Newsletter, even if only in a reduced size since the beginning of 1999. In one respect I guess it would be really good if we reached a point where we didn't have any information to convey but **only** because of the fact of an actual **cure** were found. The reality is, there is still **NO** cure; we who live with it daily on a personal level (myself included) have been given an "extended" time frame due to newer drug therapies and better understanding of the HIV/AIDS scenario.

We thank our faithful readers over the years for their support and contributions. And we hope you will like what we have in store for our next issue which will be a special "Millennium" edition.

POINT TO PONDER

One's ships come in over a calm sea.

EXHIBIT UPDATE

Our competitive exhibit "Evolution Of An Epidemic" will have its final 'challenge' for 1999 as it is entered in our local annual VANPEX'99 being held October 22-23 at The Landmark Hotel at 1400 Robson Street here in downtown Vancouver. We always look forward to this show and especially to the Judges Critique which is a great opportunity for any competitive exhibitor to listen (to the constructive criticism), learn (from looking at other exhibits of higher caliber), and understand how the entire judging process works!

STUDENT DESIGN

We have learned from an article carried in the July 1999 issue of *Stamp Magazine* that among the winners of the Royal Society of Arts annual Student Design Awards in the UK, the "stamps" design section included an interesting design by Robert Downing (Falmouth College of Arts) to "heighten the awareness of social issues such as AIDS." We include a photo of that design. However there is no guarantee that the British Philatelic Bureau would include this design on a future stamp issue.



Robert Downing.

POSTCARD PURSUIT

Of the many postcards relating to hiv/aids that come across my desk, this one really struck me as a great "Corporate Crasher", so I wanted to share it with you! It is simply done in the two basic red and white colors and is entitled "Metamorphosi", by G.F. Leonardi of Italy!



MALAYSIA issued the set of three stamps on June 19, 1999 we have featured on our front page in conjunction with the Fifth International Congress on AIDS in ASIA and the Pacific. As yet we have not seen any FDCs but hope to have received at least one in time for our next newsletter issue.

MALI has issued an interesting miniature sheet of four stamps recognizing medical achievements which includes one stamp paying tribute to Dr. Luc Montagnier who is credited with the discovery of the virus that causes AIDS - HIV. The other three issues in the sheetlet include Fleming - discovering penicillin; Albert Einstein - 1921 Chemistry Nobel Prize; and Nelson Mandela - 1993 Peace Nobel Prize. Unfortunately, we do not have a photo of this item yet!



ROMANIA draws attention to AIDS in a recent issue of four stamps focusing on the fight against smoking(400L), alcohol(800L) and drug abuse(1300L), and HIV infection(2500L) with this interesting set. Each of the four stamps carries the message: "SAY NO TO: smoking, alcohol abuse, drugs, and HIV infecting". An interesting set that ties in several elements affecting HIV/AIDS.

QUARTERLY QUOTE

"A Day Is Lost If One Has Not Laughed"

French Proverb

INTERNET ACCESS

If you wish to contact us by email we can be reached at: blairh@imag.net

We want to extend our apologies for the lateness of this particular issue. Unfortunately, in early September we encountered a major computer crash which has caused us much additional work in restoring some of our files. We did lose approximately 60-75% of them so we have pretty well had to go back to square one; however, we were fortunate enough to have backups of the AIDS Exhibit on separate disk so have been saved that chore!

Although we knew our original computer was an antique (10 years old) and that it would, in fact, die on us permanently, we had no way of predicting that precise event.

However, we are entirely grateful to a dear friend who has given us the use of their computer that was packed away in storage, as a "loaner" until we can resolve our quandary hopefully by yearend! And, we thank you for your patience!

SPECIAL MILLENNIUM ISSUE

We are already working on a very special "Millennium" Issue of the Newsletter as the fourth quarterly of 1999 and hope to have it in the mails by December 31, 1999! Lots of interesting things including some "real color", an updated checklist, and hopefully, a keepsake of the first two decades of HIV/AIDS.

TRIAL COLORS UP FOR AUCTION

As most of our readers know, we were instrumental in conducting a successful four and a half year lobby to have AIDS recognized on a Canadian postage stamp back in 1996.

In sorting through some of the AIDS ON STAMPS Project Archival Collection we have decided to make available, through a special mail bid auction, a limited number of the Trial Colors from the Canadian AIDS stamp issue.

We had acquired one of only four known sets (32 per set) of these Trial Colors. The complete set was printed on one large 16" X 20" page and we have decided to break it up and make some of them available to the collecting community.

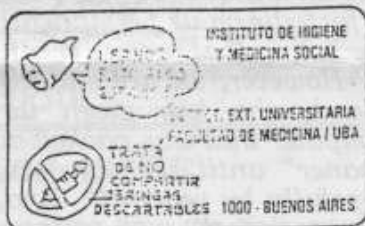
This will indeed be a rare opportunity for the serious HIV/AIDS or Medical Topical collectors to acquire a very unique and limited item (or items) for your collection.

A special mailing will be on its way to you at the end of October with full color details. Watch for this special mailing in your mailbox the first week of November!

Cover Story

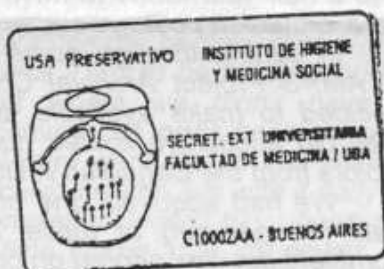
AGENCIAS POSTALES
TEMPORARIAS
1999

ASOCIACION FILATELICA OLIVOS



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Two recent cancels have arrived from Argentina prepared by the Institute Of Hygiene and Social Medicine in Buenos Aires. They carry messages of combating the spread of and prevention of HIV/AIDS infection.