

Lambda Philatelic Journal

FALL ISSUE 1984

VOL. 3, NO. 3

"LAMBDA PHILATELIC JOURNAL" is the official publication of the Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Study Unit. Yearly subscription rate, including membership in the Study Unit, is \$5.00 (overseas \$7.00), single copies are \$1.50.

We look forward to hearing from you, our readers and members, for comments, ideas and articles for future issues.

We encourage advertising and correspondence between readers regarding their philatelic interests.

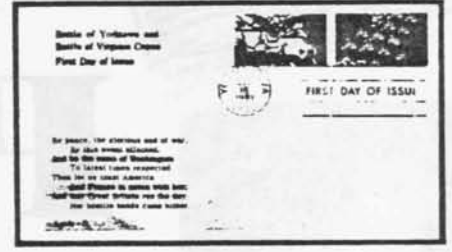
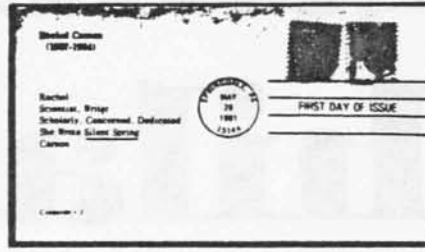
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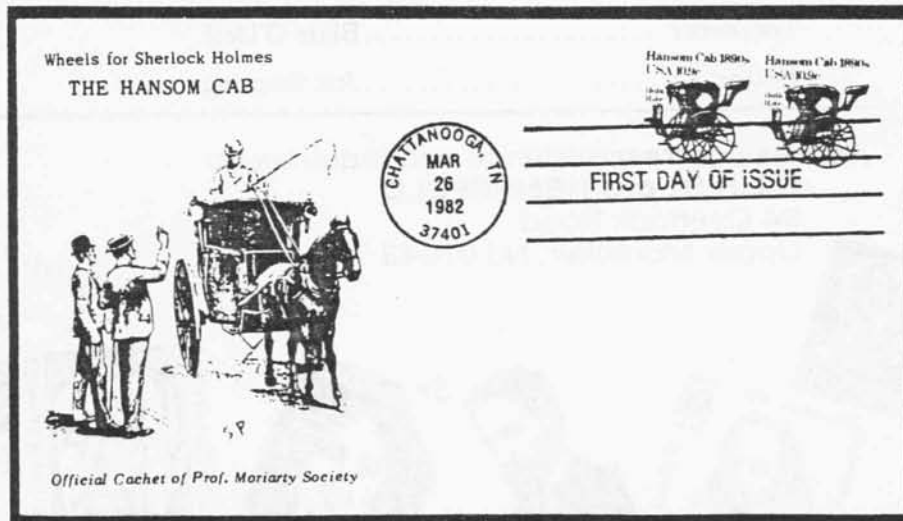
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SPECIAL!



Prof. Moriarty Soc. cachet

1.00

Note: Covers are \$.50 to GLHS members. Please include # SASE on all orders

BECOMING A CACHETMAKER

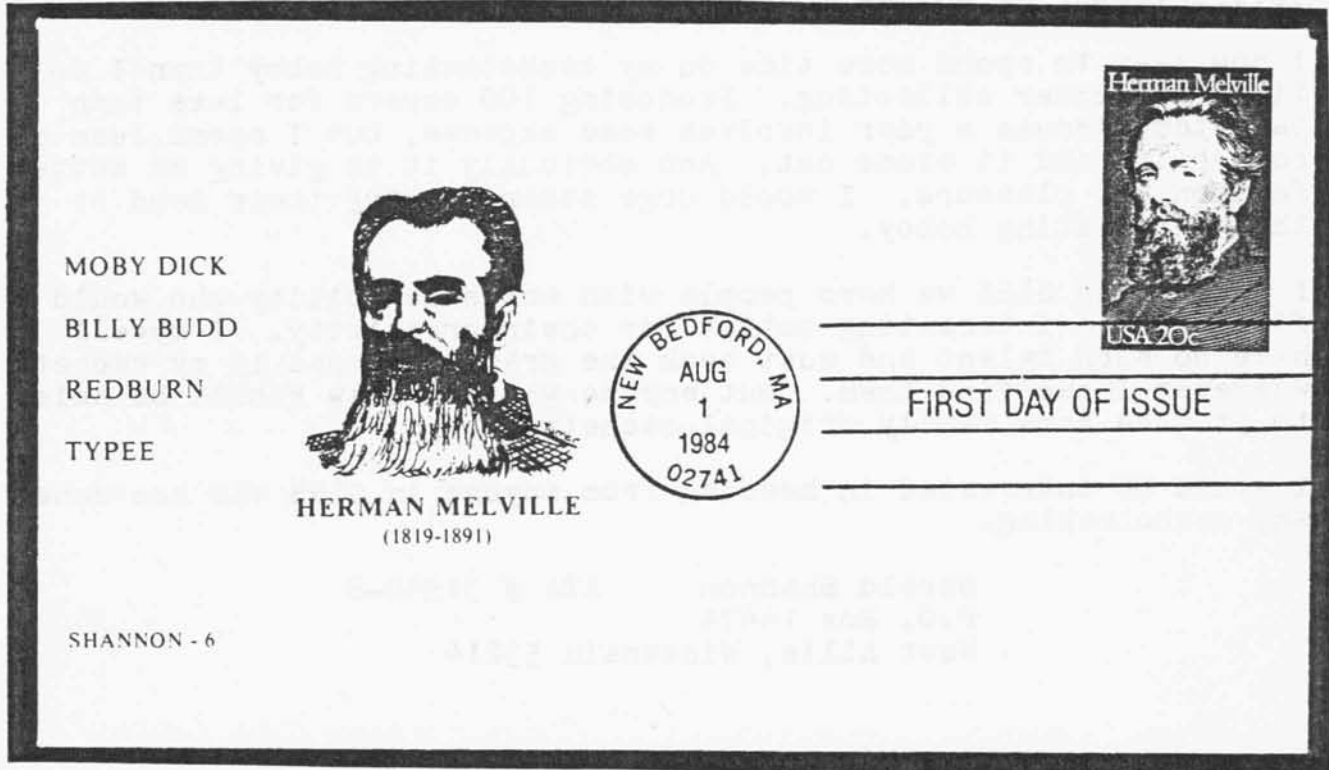
My enthusiasm for the work of John Steinbeck lead me into doing something I had never before considered, and for which I felt I had little talent. When the USPS announced a commemorative stamp in honor of Steinbeck, I decided not only to collect all the cachets of Steinbeck first day covers, but I wanted to produce my own cover saluting my favorite author.



This was to be a one-time effort at cachetmaking. I had been an active first day cover collector for some years, but had never before given any thought to making my own cachets. By the end of 1984 I will have produced 45 cachets.



Doing my first cover proved to be not at all difficult. A friend drew a portrait sketch of Steinbeck. I then used this sketch and a few simple words giving titles of some of my favorite Steinbeck books and giving the date of his Nobel Prize. In a few hours I had designed a cachet which I then took to a printer who ran off 100 envelopes bearing my design. These covers I sent to the postmaster at Salinas, California, where the Steinbeck stamp was issued. I included a check for \$15, for which the postmaster affixed stamps to my covers. In a few weeks I had 100 of my own Shannon-1 first day covers.



BECOMING A CACHETMAKER (cont.)

I enjoyed sharing my first day cover with friends, fellow collectors and Steinbeck devotees around the world. It was such fun that I decided to do my own covers for all the stamp issues in the Literary Arts Series. The Herman Melville stamp will be the sixth cover I have done in this series. (The Pearl Buck stamp is a definitive in the Great Americans series, but my artist friend and I decided to include her in the Shannon Cachets honoring American writers.)



When I finished my second cover, for the Edith Wharton stamp, the cachetmaking bug really bit me hard. I decided to do other issues which interested me.



In May of 1981 the USPS issued the Wildlife booklet pane of ten animal stamps. I immediately thought of some wonderful lines by Walt Whitman which would be ideal as a cachet for these stamps. So my Lyric series was born. I use lines of verse related to the stamp as my cachet. I usually try to find some graphic to incorporate into the cachet. When I can not find the right poem I write a five line cinquain--thus my Cinquain series.

When I saw the design of the Hansom Cab stamp in the Transportation Coil series, I at once thought of Sherlock Holmes. It seemed a natural association. I located a 19th century illustration of Holmes and Watson hailing a hansom and produced it on a cover. This was the first of my Special Cachets. (I plan to do two more covers featuring Holmes this year.)

I now seem to spend more time on my cachetmaking hobby than I do first day cover collecting. Producing 100 covers for less than ten stamp issues a year involves some expense, but I spend less on collecting and it evens out. And obviously it is giving me satisfaction and pleasure. I would urge others to try their hand at this interesting hobby.

I am sure in GLHS we have people with artistic ability who would find this an interesting outlet for their creativity. I myself have no such talent and must seek the graphics I use in my cachets wherever I can find them. But anyone who can draw should be able to produce some really original cachets.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone in GLHS who has done any cachetmaking.

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Eleanor Roosevelt has appeared on the stamps of 25 nations -- more than any other American woman. Gay collectors were able to add these stamps to their collections in 1980, when details of Roosevelt's relationship with Lorena Hickok became public.

Excerpts from the Roosevelt-Hickok correspondence were published in Doris Faber's book, "The Life of Lorena Hickok, E.R.'s Friend." Roosevelt relatives and biographers immediately began denying that a lesbian relationship had existed between the First Lady and Hickok, an Associated Press reporter.

Faber's book was based on Hickok's personal papers -- a cache of more than 2,000 letters, which became public in 1978, a decade after the reporter's death. Faber, a freelance writer who inadvertently became the first researcher to read the letters, took pains to explain that the passionate letters may have reflected merely an effusive writing style, and not a love affair.

The same interpretation was offered by other scholars, including Maurine Beasley, Deirdre Carmody and Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

Eleanor & Lorena (cont.)

This U.S. postage stamp will be issued by the postoffice at Hyde Park, N.Y. on 11 October 1984, commemorating the birth centennial of Eleanor Roosevelt. For a FDC (GLHS members only) send 50¢ and a SASE to Gerald Shannon
P.O. Box 14474
West Allis, WI 53214



Kenneth Lynn was one of the first critics to go beyond this "did they or didn't they?" approach. His review of Faber's book appeared in the Times (of London) Literary Supplement July 11, 1980, about four months after the book was published.

Lynn mocks the other historians by asking, "Did Lorena Hickok initiate Eleanor Roosevelt into the pleasures of Sapphic sex? As the two women lay entwined in one another's arms, were orifices penetrated, were orgasms achieved?"

However, he says, the real weakness of Faber's book was not that she skirted the sexual issue, but that she considered no other issue as important.

"Only fleetingly does she give evidence of realizing that the great interest of the Hickok-Roosevelt correspondence consists in its revelation of how Eleanor Roosevelt broke free of a lifetime of self-doubt," Lynn writes.

"The Hickok-Roosevelt correspondence not only chronicles a love affair, it traces the emergence of the most active First Lady in American history," he contends.



DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Roosevelt and Hickok met during the Democratic convention of 1932, when Franklin Roosevelt was nominated for president, Faber's book says. In the following months, Hickok emerged as the First Lady-elect's confidante.

By the inauguration, a love had blossomed. Hickok, a reporter for 20 years, had developed a serious conflict of interest. She was with Eleanor the night before the inauguration, and had read the final draft of the president-elect's address. Yet it didn't occur to her to phone the story to the A.P.

Hickok quit the A.P. a few months later, and went to work for the White House. The remainder of her career consisted of governmental and public relations jobs that her friend had arranged.

After Franklin Roosevelt's death, Eleanor arranged for Hickok to live near the family home in Hyde Park and help on various research projects. According to Faber's book, Roosevelt financially subsidized Hickok for years, and provided for her in her will. (Hickok outlived Roosevelt by five years).

Their relationship chilled after the first term in the White House, but Roosevelt continued to provide for Hickok for the next 25 years.

Thus Hickok, who had been one of the top women reporters in the country (see Ishbel Ross, "Ladies of the Press"), gave up her career because she fell in love with a news source. The love faded, and for the next 25 years Hickok held a series of unsatisfying and ill-paying jobs.

Kathy Hall ATA # 39027-8

LAST LICK



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supporters in Iowa who designed
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page.

Alternate Lifestyles of Famous People,
will be on exhibit at the following
shows:

Sept. 14 - 16 STAMPFEST '84, NYC
Oct. 26 - 28 NOJEX, NJ
Nov. 2 - 4 FLOREX, FL
Nov. 15 - 18 NATIONAL '84, NYC

The American Pope: The Life and Times
of Francis Cardinal Spellman, by John
Cooney will be published by Times
Books on October 31. Spellman is
depicted on stamps of Nicaragua (1959)
Scott # 819 - 823.