

Lambda Philatelic Journal

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"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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GENERAL LYAUTEY



Maréchal LYAUTEY

Louis - Hubert - Gonzalve
(1854-1954)

Génial colonisateur, né à Nancy

Il se distingua particulièrement en Indochine (1894) et à Madagascar (1897) aux côtés de Galliéni. Grand pacificateur du Sud-Oranais et d'Oudjda (1903-07). Lyautey organisa le protectorat français au Maroc où il fut Résident général de 1912 à 1925. Il fut en outre Ministre de la Guerre en 1916, Maréchal de France en 1921 et membre de l'Académie Française.



Maximum Card, First Day of Issue.

The nineteenth century certainly must be considered the era of empire building. During that time period the great powers of Europe vied in the exertion of influence over the other continents. Only North America it seemed was partially exempt from their machinations. Russian meddling in central Asia and the Far East, in part under the auspices of Nikolai Przhevalskii, a gay explorer and colonialist, was the subject of a previous Journal article.

General Lyautey



301



304



303



302

The African continent was a prime target for European expansionism, and the northern portion of that land mass lying along the Mediterranean was especially inviting for politicians in Parliament, the Quai d'Orsay, and other halls of power. The British and French were most notably represented in this region in the latter portion of the nineteenth century, but Italy and Germany were also principals in the ongoing power plays. Morocco was the last area to receive the attention of the Europeans. Unlike Egypt and Algeria, Morocco was the most primitive of backwaters, under the nominal suzerainty of a sultan. But in point of fact government in the Western sense scarcely existed there. The sultan was unbelievably corrupt, spending tax money on lavish Western goods, much to the disgust of his Muslim subjects. The many mountain tribes only grudgingly bowed both to his authority and demands for additional assessments. Despite the fact that the local populace hated the seemingly equally decadent Europeans, the time appeared propitious for one of the major powers effectively to annex Morocco.

The two principal contenders were France and England. The Quai d'Orsay, depending upon whether the power base at the moment was conservative or liberal, was either actively or passively expansionist. General Hubert Lyautey became the prime, although not the sole, arbiter of policy within Morocco. The general had been stationed in Algeria, another French sphere of influence, and resolutely kept the peace there. However the Foreign Legion was bothered by raiding parties based within Morocco. Marauding Muslims, riding across the indeterminate frontier, continued to strike isolated Algerian oases deep within the Sahara. General Lyautey proceeded to direct a number of forays into the Moroccan fastness in retaliation.



B10



B11



B12



B29



B30



B31



CB25

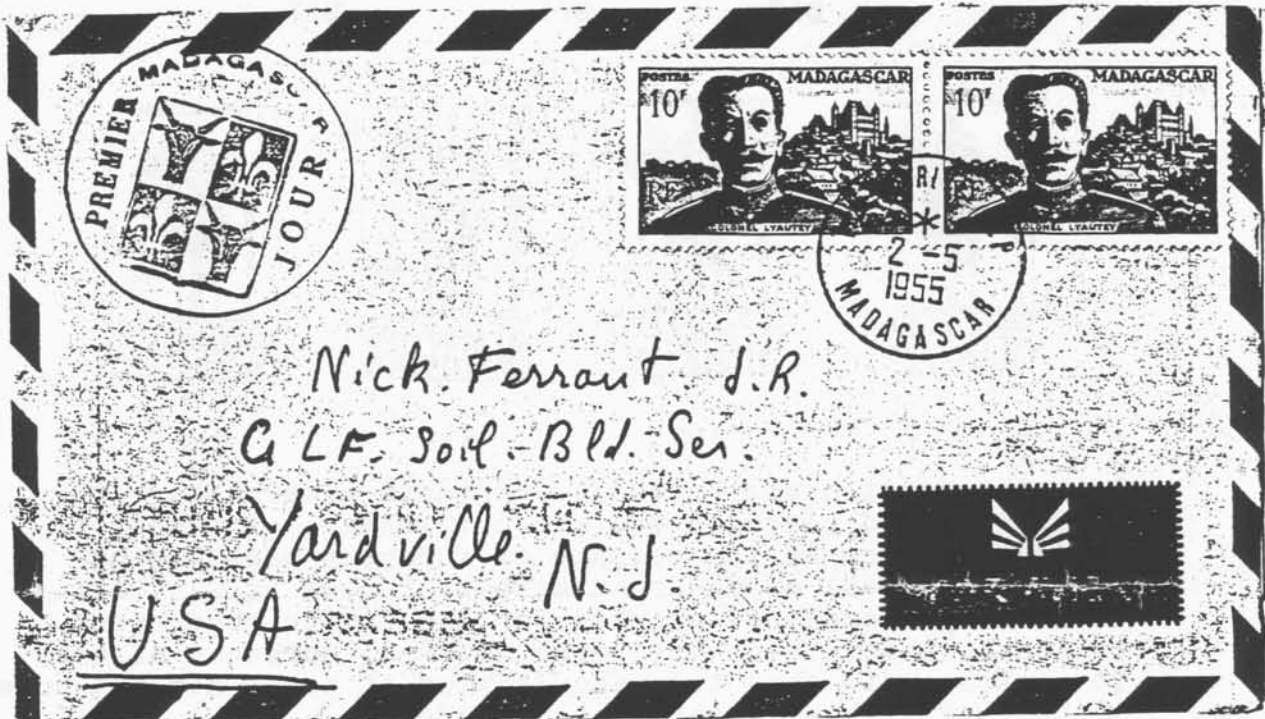
Both the British and French governments alternately threatened and placated the corrupt sultan. A number of incidents, such as the seizure of European hostages by brigands as well as major attacks by Muslim rebels, all ultimately occasioned excuses for the French government to assume absolute control over internal Moroccan affairs. It must be said that this acquisition of power did not come quickly or without great loss of life.

Hubert Lyautey, although in bearing the consummate military man, was in many ways a rebel. He was "...a soldier who trod the rarefied heights of the Parisian literary world, a staunch royalist in a den of equally dedicated republicans, a devout Catholic in a ghetto of secular thought. He was well enough read to hold his own in discussion, and utterly charming, which reconciled his hostesses to the presence of a soldier in their salons."¹ The desk-bound officer whose uniform was laden with meaningless decorations was particularly irksome to him.

Unlike many nineteenth century colonialists, General Lyautey felt that occupying forces had a paternal role to play as well as a military one. The basis for a good colonial government, he maintained, should be built upon the foundations of the existing social order. While true that Morocco was largely corrupt and inefficient, it still provided Lyautey with the basis for a provincial administration not foreign to the native populace.

1. Douglas Porch, The Conquest of Morocco, (New York, 1983), p. 82.

General Lyautey's relatively enlightened social theories assuredly were occasioned in part by the fact that he was an anomaly to his time period. He was homosexual and out of the closet. It was a well-known fact to his compatriots that the general was exclusively gay; there was no attempt made at disguise. His sexual preference caused talk and disapproval, yet he was promoted despite the verbal censure of some of his fellow officers. There were always one or two men available for his pleasure, which incensed his rivals. Indeed, homosexuality was considered a grave illness, even by the most kindly of European sympathizers. Lyautey



Madagascar First Day Cover, Scott #290

ultimately found a more tolerant attitude amongst the North Africans and the band of social outcasts who to a great extent formed the French Foreign Legion.

Owing to his homosexuality and generally unpopular political beliefs, Lyautey often found himself on the perimeter of society. For this reason there was a special place in his heart for other rebels. Probably the only woman with whom he ever formed a close friendship was well-acquainted with the strictures of European conventionality. Her name was Isabelle Eberhardt; she had drifted from Europe, where she worked as a docker, to northern Africa. She had converted to Islam and traveled through the desert dressed as a man. General Lyautey found her one night asleep outside his tent. Their relationship was platonic but nevertheless intense for several months. She became his confidante, and when she died tragically in a flood, he ordered his staff to search until they finally found her diaries.

Tomb of General Lyautey.
 French Morocco, Scott #CB28 &
 B27.



The close friendship with Isabelle Eberhardt did not transform the somewhat aloof general. He always seemed wary of forming close attachments, and although he kept on hand an assortment of virile young men for his pleasure, he was never to know a lasting relationship with a man.

Hubert Lyautey ultimately was able to subdue the Moroccan fighting spirit, and by 1912 the sultan had been exiled to France, where he lived in ostentatious luxury. General Lyautey remained in Morocco until 1925. At that time he resigned and spent his last years in the French countryside. He died in 1934 and was buried with military honors in the land he helped conquer.

CB21



By: Blair O'Dell
 ATA #39886-7

References:

- Garde, Noel I. Jonathan to Gide. Hollywood, California: Vantage Press, 1964.
 Porch, Douglas. The Conquest of Morocco. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.



Recent issues from Grenadines of St. Vincent.
 (See Homosexuals In History by Rowse.)

BRITISH GAY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

GLHS has received a complimentary copy of the British Gay Philatelic Society's Journal (Vol. 1, no. 1). Here is their story as told in the BGPS publication:

B.G.P.S. was officially born on 1st June 1983, when a group of us - here in Manchester - set about planning a series of "gay" covers - to commemorate the 1983 U.K. Gay Pride Week. After much confusion and last minute changes - two covers, BGPS1 and 2 were successfully printed and handstamped in London. Thanks should be recorded to the British Post Office, particularly, the district postmasters in Western Central and E.C. - who took last minute instructions via telephone - to arrange the final Trafalgar Square handstamp. The third cover - BGPS3 -, celebrating the official Inaugural Party of "Studs" Leather, Denim, Uniform Group was processed with little problems.

Publicity for BGPS - most - if not all the Gay Press (U.K.) carried letters and/or short articles about the Society; contact was made with Lambda Philatelic Journal - in the States. Regards, response, about a dozen folk from the U.K. actually replied to 'adverts' and a further dozen friends bought covers and wish to be kept informed - vis-à-vis progress. Internationally, covers have been despatched to the USA, South Africa, Germany, and Canada - all of whom, again, wish to associate themselves with BGPS.

The final cover in hand at present, BGPS4 - rears its head in three forms - details further on.

The Aims/Workings of BGPS

Presently, covers are designed from ideas sent to the Secretary of BGPS. The final format of the cover results from advice taken from the printer - here in Levenshulme. It is hoped that in future - the Journal will detail a history of UK philatelic issues with specific reference to Gay Philately. Currently, our Society - BGPS - is in the process of being affiliated to British Philatelic Federation - all indications are the outcome will be successful. Presently there are no plans for any subscriptions - all we ask - is please enclose a S.A.E. for reply to letters - and be patient - as you've always been. The cost of the covers - BGPS1-3 standard form £2.00 ea. variations if available £4.00. BGPS4 standard form £2.00 ea. (pair for £3.50) Variation full set (FDC) £4.00 - Please note, BGPS is non-profit

making - the cost covers only printing of envelopes/
stamps. If we do manage to sell all the covers, profit
of approx. £10-£20 will be given to a "gay charity"-
G.C.M. and AIDS foundation trust. However, as yet,
B.G.P.S. managed only to sell twenty covers of each
issue.

Two covers: one for Urban Renewal - 10/april/1984 and
second for Europa 15/05/84 have already been fixed. In
fact for what will probably be B.G.P.S.' "Urban Renewal"
we have orders for over 100- so the cost of that cover
should be only £1.50. B.G.P.S. will commemorate North -
west MSC ECMC event/party held in Liverpool and the
second cover, Europa - will commemorate the 10th anniv.
of ECMC - European Confederation of Motor Sports Clubs.
BGPS also hopes to have some covers cancelled in USA
during Gay Pride Week celebrations in San Francisco
in June/July.

(ed. note: We wish to thank Chris Rogers for letting us re-
print a portion of their first Journal issue detailing the
BGPS philatelic covers. Anyone interested in ordering from
BGPS is reminded to remit in Pounds Sterling. BGPS is
losing money in the conversion of small Dollar checks to
Pounds.) Inquiries should be addressed to :

BGPS
41 Portville Road
Levenshulme
Manchester M19 3DN England



Schedule Showing Of:

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- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| February 24 to 26, | BEPEX '84, Stamp Show at American Legion Post 147,
Legion Place, Elmwood Park, N.J. SILVER AWARD |
| March 13 | A Gay Pride Day, at Montclair State College, Montclair,
N.J. |
| March 15 to 18 | INTERPEX '84, Stamp Show at Madison Square Garden,
New York City. |
| April 7 & 8 | BLOOMPEX '84, Stamp Show at the Bloomfield Civic
Center, Bloomfield, N.J. |
| May 26 to 28 | STAMPOREE '84, at the Sheraton Bal Harbour Hotel,
Bal Harbour, Dade County, Florida. |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Study Unit is now more than two years old. We wish to thank our members for their support and confidence, which in part has been demonstrated by the high renewal rate which GLHS has enjoyed.

The group has gradually gained membership over the past months owing to free publicity in the S.P.A. Journal, the Gay Engagement Calendar, and various gay newspapers. We are now going to embark on a paid ad campaign in the philatelic press which, hopefully, will generate still more members.

GLHS still actively solicits articles, book reviews, etc. for the quarterly Journal. Wouldn't you like to see your masterwork in print??!! Please also feel free to submit an ad, which we will publish gratis, outlining your collecting interests. It would be good to see more of our members in contact with one another.

As we have long promised, an addendum to Paul Hennefeld's Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps, Achilles to Zeus will finally be ready for publication in the summer Journal issue. This has been a collective effort on the part of several people, including Kathy Hall, Brian Lanter, and Paul Hennefeld. Their effort is much appreciated.

LAST LICK

GLHS has received the following clippings from a subscriber in Scotland.

Sierra Leone. Four values to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the birth of Raphael were released on 28th January: 6c - Diogenes; 31c - detail showing Euclid, Ptolemy, Zoroaster, Raphael and Sodoma; 50c Euclid and his students; L22 - Pythagoras, Francesco Maria della Rovere and Herracritus. The souvenir sheet carries a LE3 value which shows the school of Athens with Plato and Aristotle. The stamps are designed by Design Images and printed in offset by The House of Questa.



On 28 January a circular cancellation was used by the British Forces Postal Service (No. 1833) to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Major-General Charles Gordon. The postmark - depicting a statue of General Gordon riding a camel - was sponsored by the Corps of Royal Engineers and applied to mail posted in a philatelic posting box at the Royal Engineers Postal & Courier Depot at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7. Gordon was killed at Khartoum on 26 January 1885 - hopefully a companion handstamp will be available to mark the centenary.

Benjamin Britten

Stamp artist Jennifer Toombs has designed the cover and special handstamp used at the Philatelic Music Circle's Annual Convention on October 8. The PMC-sponsored handstamp depicts the head of Benjamin Britten, as 1983 sees the 70th anniversary of the composer's birth. The cover, with handstamp used on the 15½p ballet stamp from the Theatre set of 1982, costs £1.50 including postage and packing from D. Copper, 27 Bank Drive, Wisbech, Cambs PE13 1PX.