

GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS

JOURNAL

GLHSONLINE.ORG



Issue 024

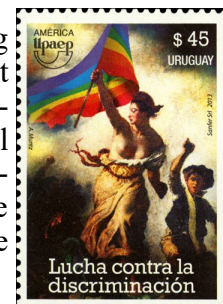
April 2024

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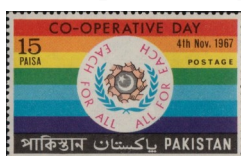
Rainbow Flag Stamps Had Forerunners

By Arthur P. von Reyn

The first stamp to specifically illustrate a rainbow flag is the “Fight Against Discrimination” emission (Scott #2456) from Uruguay released in 2013. The stamp’s design is extracted from Eugene Delacroix’s monumental painting “Liberty Leading the People” (1830). The Uruguayan stamp designer took the liberty of replacing the Delacroix’s French tricolor with a rainbow flag, but the depicted flag is upside down!



However, the basic design of the Rainbow Flag debuted on a couple of stamps even before the rainbow flag replaced the pink triangle as a new symbol of LGBT pride and LGBT social movements.



In 1967, Pakistan issued a 15 paise Cooperative Day single (Scott #245) to publicize cooperatives formed to provide homes to economically disadvantaged people living in the world’s fifth most populated country. The cooperative movement’s logo is superimposed over seven rainbow stripes with the fifth and sixth colors from the top being pale blue and turquoise instead of the blue found on the standard six color rainbow flag of today.

Nine years later, Rwanda issued a souvenir sheet (Scott #770) and eight single stamps (Scott #762-69) to commemorate the 1976 Montreal Olympics. The four stamps within the souvenir sheet have silhouettes of athletes and inscriptions superimposed over six rainbow stripes. This time, the strip colors are almost identical to the rainbow flag, except the second stripe from the bottom is light blue instead of blue. In the eight single stamps (not shown), the same sequence is used, but the stamps are in a vertical instead of horizontal format.

One would like to believe that artist and gay activist Gilbert Baker (1951-2017) was a stamp collector who saw these stamps and was inspired to create the rainbow flag that was first used for San Francisco’s Gay Freedom Day parade on June 25, 1978. However, a 1985 profile of Baker in the *Bay Area Reporter* said he “chose the rainbow motif because of its associations with the hippie movement of the Sixties but he notes the use of the design dates all the way back to ancient Egypt.” In fact, there was a “Brotherhood Flag” used in the 1960s that had five horizontal stripes representing different races: red, white, brown, yellow and black.

The rainbow flag has morphed into all sorts of variations over the years. In fact, Baker’s original version for San Francisco’s 1978 Gay Freedom Day parade had eight colors, with a hot pink strip at the top and a turquoise between the blue and violet stripes. The number of stripes was soon reduced to seven. In 1979, a six stripe version arrived that is the one most often seen today.

One of the advantages of collecting worldwide stamps is the vast variety of subjects depicted on more modern ones. That is how I ran across the two forerunner stamps mentioned here. If you come across others, let me know.





The *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Journal* is published quarterly by Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS). GLHS is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (APS), Number 205, and a study unit of the American Topical Association (ATA), Number 458.

The **objective** of GLHS is to promote an interest in the collection, study and dissemination of knowledge of worldwide philatelic material that depicts:

- Notable men and women and their contributions to society for whom historical evidence exists of homosexual or bisexual orientation,
- Mythology, historical events and ideas significant in the history of gay culture,
- Flora and fauna scientifically proven as having prominent homosexual behavior, and

Even though emphasis is placed on the above aspects of stamp collecting, GLHS strongly encourages other philatelic endeavors.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Submissions due</u>
July 2023	June 15
October 2023	September 15
January 2024	December 15
April 2023	March 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

GLHS Board of Directors 2022-2023

President: Lisa Foster (Wash.)

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Thank you for renewing your membership in Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps and for recognizing the importance of supporting your philatelic community. Your continued participation and financial support are essential as we continually strive to strengthen our organization.

Membership dues for 2024 continue at \$10.00 a year. You may make your dues payment online via PayPal at <http://www.glhsonline.org/pages/onlinememberform.html>.

You may also make dues payments via check or money order payable to GLHS to the Treasurer, Laurie Anderson, 646 169th St. S., Spanaway, WA 98387.

Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **82** members. 49 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) & 37 members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

*When you join the APS, ATA and/or AFDCS
notify GLHS*

Additional volunteers are needed



- Social Media Committee to explore options for group open and/or closed online communications/meetings such as Google, Instagram, twitter, blogs, go-to meeting, HipChat, etc.
- GLHS Journal Editor
- GLHS Journal Columnists
- Index GLHS journal articles since 2018
- Give presentations in person or virtually
- Coordinate GLHS Socials
- Maintain membership
- Advertising Committee
- Submit articles, journeys, cover/postal history write ups, travels and philatelic events

GLHS Virtual Presentation 09 April 2024



Cachet Maker **Hideaki Nakano**

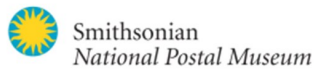
04/09/2024
4:30 PM Pacific Time
7:30 PM Eastern Time

Presentation
by
Dale Smith

Zoom Meeting ID:
871 5790 9646
Passcode: 532014

Special Event

April 27, 2024,
10:00 a.m. PST



LGBTQ Philately Study Day, sponsored by Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Invitational gathering of curators, philatelists, historians, and other practitioners from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at WESTPEX Stamp Show, Room 6096, San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA.

Registration is required to attend and participate. Please see [instructions](#) for more details and registration information.



Great American Stamp Show '24

GASS 2024 will be held August 15-18 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. Pre-register to avoid the lines and get a pre-made name badge. Pre-registration closes on July 31 [Pre-Registration \(stamps.org\)](https://stamps.org).

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps (GLHS) will have an open meeting during the show. The time slot requested was Friday afternoon as members decided at last year's show. The date and time have not yet been confirmed. The show schedule will be available in the next few months at [APS > Great American Stamp Show > Meetings and Seminars](#).

Wondering how to get around? The city has a free downtown shuttle bus service, called DASH. Normally it only runs Monday through Friday 7 to 7, but service is being extended for GASS 2024. Its stops include the convention center/Marriott, the Hilton, the art museum, the train station, and historic sites. [CLICK HERE](#) for a route map. There is also an Inexpensive Airport Shuttle: CT Transit has a \$1.75 bus to and from the airport, the *Bradley Flyer*, with stops at the convention center and train station. [Shuttle Information](#).



The ATA will be celebrating 75 years at GASS 24! The Annual Meeting and Birthday Celebration will be held Friday August 16 at 2:00 PM. They are requesting RSVPs to ensure they have enough giveaways and treats for all the party goers. RSVP at <https://americantopical.org/event-5627793>

The celebration will continue with the [ATA President's Reception](#) on Friday evening (be sure to register by August 1 if you plan to attend).