

# Lambda Philatelic Journal

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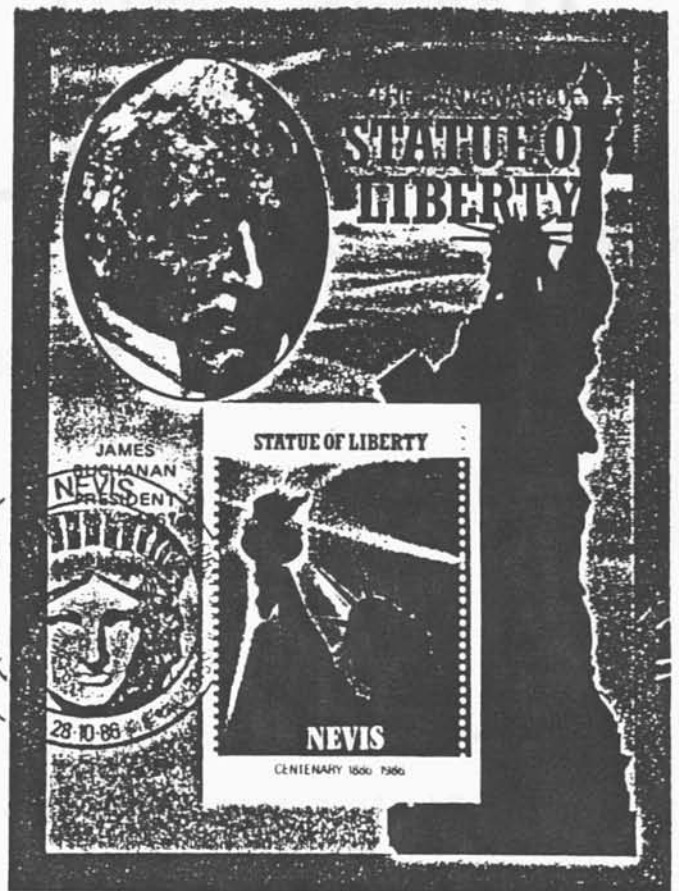
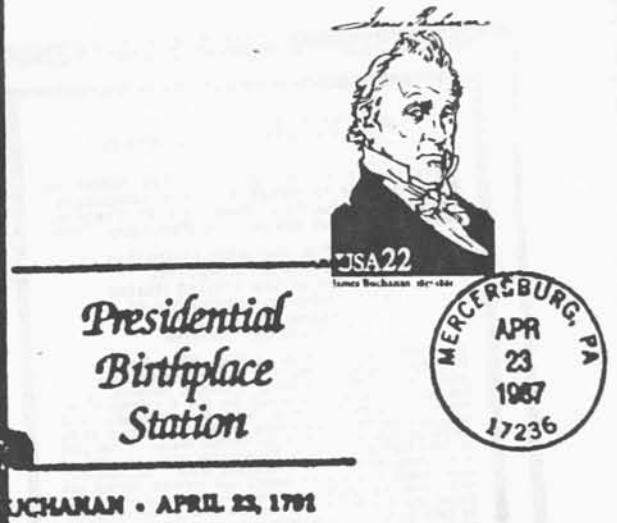
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Above covers featuring our rumored-gay president, James Buchanan, are \$4.00 each. Top cover has 'Presidential Birthplace' cancel. Bottom cover has 'Birthday' & 'First Day' Nevis cancel. Send to: Nildo Harper, 510 Main Street #1910, New York, NY 10044.

TO JOSEPH RICHARD VISCARRA

1933-1987

### 5c Walt Whitman

This stamp is one of thirty-five which is being issued to honor Famous Americans. It will have its First Day Sale at Camden, New Jersey, on the 20th of February, 1940.

Issued during the administration of  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
President of the United States  
and under the authority of  
James A. Farley  
Postmaster General

Walt Whitman was born at West Hills, Long Island, New York, on May 31st, 1819. After an elementary education he worked at carpentry, building, printing, teaching and journalism. Although he was a student of the better literature he learned more from fellowship with men and women of all classes whom he contacted as he wandered through much of the United States. From 1863 to 1873 Whitman lived in Washington where he acted as war correspondent and government clerk. He, however, spent much of his time, means and strength during the war years ministering to the wounded soldiers of the North and the South who were confined in the hospitals. In 1873 he was stricken with paralysis, brought about by his hospital labors and exposures. He went to Camden, New Jersey, where he spent his last 19 years, dying there on March 26, 1892. Whitman never married and lived in comparative poverty during the last years of his life. His chief work, "Leaves of Grass," first appeared in 1855. In 1881 the revised volume was issued and contained most of his poetry. Some of his works are:

The Wound Dresser  
Drum Taps  
Specimen Days  
When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd  
Democratic Vistas  
A Backward Glance O'er Travell'd Roads



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

### DREAMED IN A DREAM

I dreamed in a dream of a city where all the men were like brothers,

I saw them tenderly love each other,

I often saw them, in numbers walking hand in hand  
I dreamed that was the city of robust friends;

Nothing was greater than manly love, it let the rest.

It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of  
that city, and in all their looks and words.

LEAVES OF GRASS

# GIRAFFES: GAY GIANTS

by Thomas F. Shaw  
ATA #43719-4

## Taipei, TAIWAN

Three male giraffes at Taipei Zoo "turned gay" after their female companion died, according to Reuters news service. The zookeeper, Chen Pao-chun, said the zoo was considering importing female giraffes from Africa because "we are running out of explanations for the children visiting the zoo."

The above news article appeared in the July 23, 1985 issue (#425) of *The Advocate*.

The giraffe, *Giraffa camelopardalis*, is the tallest creature on earth and one of the few animals that has had homosexual relations documented within its species, thus permitting its entry into the *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Handbook*.

There are eight subspecies of giraffes which are differentiated by their coat patterns and the parts of Africa they inhabit. It was once thought that the subspecies were distinct species, but this theory was discarded when fertile offspring resulted from the crossbreeding of all the subspecies.

Each giraffe has its own unique protective coloration of spots and lines, just as humans have unique fingerprints, which makes identification of individual giraffes in a herd easy. Some experts believe the patterns vary according to habitat to provide camouflage while others believe the animals are simply too tall to miss. A giraffe's spots vary from sandy to reddish-brown closely spaced on a lighter background. White and very light-colored animals with dark eyes have been reported, but a true albino giraffe has never been documented.

All species of giraffes have a life span of approximately 25 years with those in captivity living an average of three years longer. Giraffes mature sexually at three and one half to five years. The gestation period lasts 15 months and nursing lasts ten months. A baby giraffe can be six feet tall at birth and grow nine inches per week. When fully grown the bulls may be 15 to 18 feet tall and weigh over 3,000 pounds. A cow may reach a height of 14 feet and weigh as much as 2,500 pounds.

Giraffes are ruminants and feed primarily on the leaves of acacia and mimosa using their 21-inch, prehensile tongues. Their hairy, mobile lips protect if from the acacia tree's thorns. Giraffes can easily reach up to feed, but have difficulty reaching the ground to drink or to lick salt. To do so they must spread their front legs apart, or even kneel down, making themselves vulnerable to predators. For this reason giraffes can go several days without drinking and will rarely eat grass in the wild.





Good eyesight combined with six-foot long necks provide giraffes with an excellent line of defense against their main enemies-- lions and man. After detecting an approaching lion, giraffes will watch the predator, but flee only if threatened. Giraffes can reach top speeds of 35 mph, but cannot sustain that pace for very long. A cornered giraffe can kick its legs in all four directions and deliver a blow powerful enough to decapitate a lion. Unfortunately, giraffes are no match for human poachers in vehicles and on horseback. Giraffe meat is considered tasty and its thick hide is used by tribesmen to make whips and shields. The animals' tails are sold to tourists as bracelets while some East African peoples wear them as amulets for their perceived sexual power.

A giraffe's horns are as unique as its spots. Both males and females are born with two horns laying flat on the head. After several days the horns elevate and cement themselves permanently to the skull. These are called the mizzen horns. The single horn above and between the eyes is called the median horn. Additional horns are possible and are caused by bony concretions of the skull.

Because of its strange anatomy the giraffe has some unique features. Its lungs are extremely oversized to make up for the dead air in its long windpipe to prevent the animal from breathing the same air again and again. The heart is large and thick-muscled to force blood to the head, and the animal has the highest blood pressure--180/120. Giraffes are able to lower the blood pressure to the brain when they lower their heads, thus preventing fatal hemorrhages. Giraffes cannot swim, but have been known to walk across shallow lakes.

A giraffe's neck, besides being its most prominent feature, is its lifeline. Remarkably, it contains seven vertebrae, the same number as humans. The neck serves as a cooling tower for blood. The surface area of the neck allows the blood to cool as it is pumped to the brain, thus maintaining a body temperature of 38 degrees centigrade.



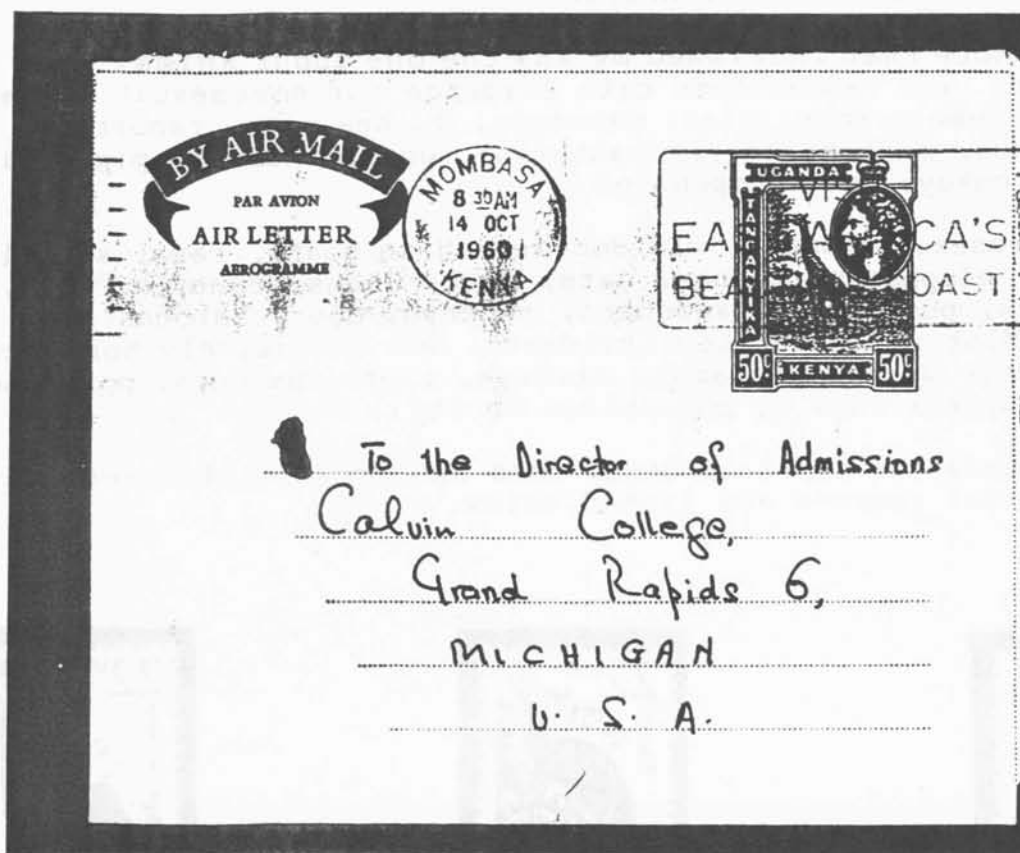
The neck also serves an important role in male homosexual behaviour which, surprisingly, is much more evident than heterosexual behaviour. Two males will "neck," one by gently rubbing on the head, neck or body of the other with his head or neck. Necking is very common and usually leads to arousal, mounting, and sometimes ejaculation. A giraffe's penis is approximately eight inches long with a downward curve at the end similar to a crochet hook. Necking and mounting can occur in the young and in the presence of females.

In the September, 1977, *National Geographic* article, "Africa's Gentle Giants," Bristol Foster notes, "Marvelously adapted to its environment, the giraffe is highly efficient as a converter of plants into protein. Its balanced birth and death rates help to ensure survival; while giraffes possess powerful weapons of offense and defense, they rarely do damage to one another. One could wish that *Homo sapiens* might emulate these traits."



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6. *The New Columbia Encyclopedia*, Columbia University Press, New York, 1975.
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The author wishes to thank his "editors"/stamp dealers, Bill Keeling and Jim Skaggs, for their valuable assistance in preparing this article.

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Homosexual behavior in animals  
Kathy Hall  
4/21/87



My stamp collection is likely to become more colorful since I recently checked the Kinsey Report out of the library. I discovered a veritable zoo full of animals that I can put in my gay and lesbian stamp collection.

I had never actually read the Kinsey Report on women -- it's really rather progressive for its time. For example, in comparing orgasmic histories of straight women and lesbians, the authors acknowledge that lesbians seem to be better lovers than straight men. I'd recommend the Kinsey studies for historic background (after all, that's the source of the 10 percent statistic we are still quoting). The reports are dry reading, though, with lots of footnotes.

The footnote that intrigued me was the one about animal behavior. The researchers cite evidence for homosexual contact between female rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, porcupines, marten, cattle, antelope, goats, horses, pigs, lions, sheep, monkeys and chimpanzees.

Male homosexual contact was documented in goats, rams, stallions, donkeys, elephants, hyenas, bats, mice, lions, rabbits, cats, porpoises, porcupines, raccoons, monkeys, dogs, baboons and bulls. Most were isolated incidents, but exclusively homosexual individuals were found among monkeys, lions, baboons, porpoises and porcupines (how do porcupines do it?).

I don't know the types of dogs, cats and monkeys observed, but the original sources are listed below.



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- Bingham, H.C., Sex development in apes, The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1928, p 126-127. (female chimpanzee)
- Ellis, Havelock, Studies in the psychology of sex, Vol. 1, F.A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, 1910, p. 165. (male elephant, male hyena)
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A GAY STAMP CLUB IN 1921

Neither the GLHS nor the Gertrude Stein Philatelic Society, can make a claim to being first. In 1921, the early homosexual publication "Die Freundschaft" (Friendship) of Hamburg, Germany, carried an announcement calling for the formation of a stamp club which proposed to draw its membership from among the practitioners of same-sex love. If any Lambda Philatelic Journal reader has any additional information about this club, please write us!

By: Les Wright

SEPEX-TOPEX 87

Alternate Lifestyles of Famous People, won a Gold award and the 'Reserve Grand Award'. This was the ATA show of the year.

MANDATE '87

The July issue of Mandate has an article on Paul Hennefeld's stamp collection, The Philatelist's Guide To Gay History. Copies are \$4.95 (US); One must be 21 years old to order this magazine. Their address is: Mandate Publications Inc.  
155 Avenue of The Americas  
New York, NY 10013

THANK YOU !!!!!

GLHS would like to thank the many members who voluntarily paid more than the \$6.00 annual dues request. These funds have enhanced our treasury a bit; at \$6.00 per annum we just barely cover expenses. Our biggest single quarterly cost is not postage, but rather photocopying. We've tried to keep the Journal at 8 pages for this reason. Contributions such as we've recently received, coupled with more articles from members would result in more voluminous quarterly issues. Please continue sending in articles, ads, current events of gay philatelic interest. We need them! And, as well, tell your stamp collecting friends about us.

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We are a 'Study Unit' of the ATA. Those of you who are not members of the American Topical Association, and want to join, should write for a membership application to: ATA, P.O. Box 630, Johnstown, PA, 15907. The ATA numerical number for 'Gay & Lesbian History' is 458.

LAST LICK

In our next issue of the Journal we will feature articles on Nikolai Gogol and Anne Frank. Also if you visited CAPEX '87, write us an article on what you thought of the show.