



# GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORY ON STAMPS

## JOURNAL

GLHSONLINE.ORG



Issue 022

October 2023

<a href="#">Halloween Vacation</a>	1
<a href="#">Membership</a>	2
<a href="#">GASS2023</a>	3
<a href="#">GLHS Members Exhibit</a>	4
<a href="#">Virtual Presentations</a>	4
<a href="#">Gay Ventures</a>	5
<a href="#">GLHSC Archives</a>	9
<a href="#">HNLP</a>	10
<a href="#">New Issues</a>	11



US #5137

## Halloween Vacation to “Dead Countries”

By Barry Christensen

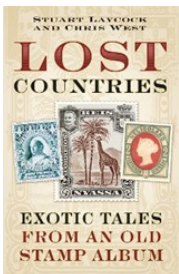


US #5140

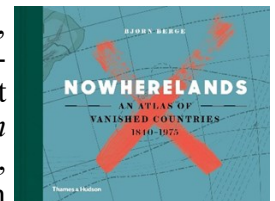
I will never forget my first time attending the Halloween parade in West Hollywood in the 1990’s. It confirmed what I already suspected: NO ONE does Halloween like Queer Folk! My weak costume attempt emulating the lumberjack from Monty Python ended up looking more like “average rural gay guy visits WeHo” compared to the WAY over-the-top costumes my friends designed and wore.

Now known as Halloween Carnival and attracting half a million folks of every stripe, the \$1.5 million event comes “back from the dead” on October 31 this year after a three-year COVID-19 hiatus. Can’t make it to West Hollywood for Halloween this year? No worries! Just get your stamp albums out and take a Halloween Vacation to “Dead Countries” without ever leaving the comforts of home.

“Dead Countries?!?” That’s the term that Mystic Stamp Company and other stamp dealers use to market their stamp selections from postal authorities that no longer exist. I have found it a very interesting stamp collecting pursuit, full of the suspense and intrigue one would expect from stamp ghosts documenting the rise and fall of human governance.



Any vacation worth its plane fare starts with good guidebooks. In this case, I have discovered two that make collecting “Dead Countries” fun and interesting: *Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album* by Stuart Laycock and Chris West (The History Press, 2017) and *Nowherelands: An Atlas of Vanished Countries 1840-1975* by Bjorn Berge (Thames & Hudson, 2017). While now out of print, both are available in new condition from many online book sellers.



These two books are full of Old-World charm, presented in engaging formats with color illustrations of stamps from long-gone post offices and great stories that make these “Dead Countries” come alive. Both volumes are fully indexed, and Berge’s treatise also includes maps, stats, quotes, and an amazing bibliography. While not yet very far along on my journey, my goal is to collect a representative sampling of stamps from as many “Dead Countries” as my stamp collecting budget will allow. In the meantime, I can savor the milieu these stamps traveled out of, as I research the fascinating stories of countries now superseded on the world stage. Join me in an odyssey of discovering stamps that time has (almost) forgotten!

P.S.—For additional Halloween fun, the USPS in recent years has treated us to the wonderful Jack-o-Lantern stamps (2016), shimmering Spooky Silhouettes stamps (2019) and festive Day of the Dead stamps (2021).

For a touching introduction to the Dia de Los Muertos traditions, check out Pixar’s adorable 2017 animated film “Coco.”



US #5640-43



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>
January 2024	December 15
April 2023	March 15
July 2023	June 15
October 2023	September 15

Members may submit advertisements for free.

### GLHS Board of Directors 2022-2023

President: Lisa Foster (Wash.)

Vice President: John P. Stefanek (Mich.)

Secretary: Marlene Michelson (Calif.)

Treasurer: Laurie Anderson (Wash.)

### CONTACTS:

Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps

646 169th Street S.

Spanaway WA 98387, USA

Email: [glhstamps2@gmail.com](mailto:glhstamps2@gmail.com)

Website: [www.glhsonline.org](http://www.glhsonline.org)

### MEMBERSHIP:

Membership fees at this time are \$10 a year to assist with maintenance fees including the website, photocopies of brochures, advertising, and other administrative expenses.

Payment by check or money order, payable to the organization, GLHS, mailed to 646 169th Street S., Spanaway WA 98387 or by PayPal to [glhstamps2@gmail.com](mailto:glhstamps2@gmail.com).

### Membership Report

Our current membership consists of **83** members. 49 are also members of the American Philatelic Society (APS) & 38 members of the American Topical Association (ATA).

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

### ! New Members !

Shirley U., CA

### 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





Lisa Foster, a Washington state native and life-long/third generation stamp collector, is a 25-plus year member of the APS with additional philatelic memberships with the American Topical Association, American First Day Cover Society, and American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. Her collecting interests are primarily U.S. and postal history with a focus on marcophily. She has exhibited on a variety of topics, including American Postal Machine Co. flag cancels, invalid postage use, The Great American Eclipse, George Washington, and the Salish Sea. Her mission is to “Preserve the hobby and Promote Stamp Collecting for All” through volunteering, exhibiting, judging and promotion of philatelic activities.

Foster is the current President of *Women Exhibitors* (WE) and has been a WE member since its inception in 2007. Lisa has served as president and journal editor of *Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps* since 2018.

In 2016, Foster received the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs Club Member Service Award as a member and exhibits chairperson of the Evergreen Stamp Club (ESC). She currently serves as the ESC's president. In 2017, she received the SEAPEX Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her service as secretary to the board of directors and exhibits chairperson during the probationary qualifying period and initial years as a national-level stamp exhibition and WSP show.

A member of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs (NWFSC), Foster has been a Regional Philatelic judge since 2015, served on the committee to promote exhibiting and was awarded the Northwest Distinguished Philatelist Award for outstanding and distinguished service to philately in 2019. She entered the APS apprentice program to become a National Philatelic judge in 2019 and was accredited in 2022.



## GLHS Annual Meeting

There were 16 attendees at the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at GASS 2023. The National Postal Museum is exploring creating an exhibition of philatelic materials reflecting LGBTQIA history. Suggestions by attendees included items that show how the postal service censored mail, World Pride, Newsletters distributed through the mail, pen pals, archival material.

In the case of LGBTQIA postal history, the Museum's collection is quite limited, and staff would like to understand what they should be acquiring as well as likely sources of material. They will be holding another study day/input session at WEST-PEX 2024 in April.

Outreach to the community regarding GLHS was discussed. Vera stated that other study units have received members by participating in the *Taste of Topicals* and encouraged GLHS to do so as well. Dale intended to leave GLHS membership at the Kansas City AIDS Walk.

Charles volunteered to write and send an article regarding GLHS to *PrimeTimers* [Home - Prime-Timers@ Worldwide \(theprimetimersww.com\)](http://Home-Prime-Timers@Worldwide.theprimetimersww.com).

It was suggested that next year's meeting at the Great American Stamp Show be held on Friday at 4:00 pm to host a cocktail meeting.



Laurie volunteering at the ATA booth during GASS2023

## Future GASS

2024 August 15-18, Hartford, CT

2025 August 14-17, Schaumburg, IL

2026 Bye – Boston 2026 May 23-30

