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Scott No. 1487

The Lambda Philatelic Journal is published quarterly by The Gay and Lesbian History on Stamps Club, an official study unit of the American Topical Association, membership number 458. We have been serving the gay and lesbian philatelists since 1982.

The purpose of the G.L.H.S.C. is to promote the interest of philately and to unite collectors of philatelic material pertaining to people, places and animals as having either a relevance to or an issue of interest to homosexuality or bisexuality. The yearly membership is six dollars (eight dollars outside the U.S.).

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Scott No. 544

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Scott No. 105

A SURREALIST TRAGEDY: NIKOLAI GOGOL (1809-1852)

by Les Wright

Best known to American readers for his surrealistic short stories "The Nose," "The Overcoat," and "Diary of a Madman," as well as the novel Dead Souls, Nikolai Gogol has always been a preeminently eccentric figure. The bizarreness of his tales has been presumed to be an extension of the dissembling nature of his personality, only in part attributable to Gogol's homosexuality. Gogol had a rather tentative grasp of reality at best, and unfortunately was never able to escape the "tortured homosexual" scenario.

Gogol was born in the Ukraine in 1809, and was attracted early on to the sophistication of St. Petersburg life. He arrived there in 1839, and escaped into writing. His rural background proved an enormous asset, providing a wealth of material for his first story about the simple and romantic Ukrainian peasant life. Unfortunately, his very first work was a fiasco called, Hans Kuchelgarten, a kind of novel-in-verse reminiscent of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin. Gogol had the piece printed under a pseudonym and at great personal expense, but it was such an atrociously bombastic piece that it met with universal ridicule. He bought up the entire stock from bookstores and burned every copy.

Undaunted, Gogol continued writing. The Ukrainian tales mentioned above met with immense popular and critical acclaim, and he went on to become the most famous living author of his time. Among these tales is the story of a Don Cossack, Taras Bulba, whom we know in the film portrayed by Tony Curtis a gutsy and undeniable young warrior who divides his time between fighting the enemy and drinking and carousing with his Cossack companions back at the camp. This story is imbued with a palpable homoerotic sensuality.

From the age of eighteen, or possibly earlier, Gogol manifested a tendency for highly passionate attachments to his male acquaintances. Over the years he learned to tone his behavior down to hide his sexual and emotional needs. But Gogol also exercised subversion in his texts; inevitably, the absolute worst fate that can befall any of his protagonists is the chance of being tricked into marriage. His happy endings often involve some solitary, hapless fellow just barely escaping the ensnaring tentacles of matrimony.



Scott No. 2178-A

Gogol was given a teaching post in the History Department of the University in St. Petersburg in order to earn money to support himself and his writing. He had developed a theory of "Universal History," and after an initially brilliant series of three lectures, he quickly ran out of ideas. He cancelled lectures. He pleaded laryngitis or other illness. He showed up disheveled and offered a few incoherent remarks. Needless to say, Gogol became something of an embarrassment to the University and he was asked to resign his post.

In 1836 Gogol left Russia for Italy. Here he composed his most outstanding work, Dead Souls, and openly pursued a sexual relationship with a young man. Dead Souls is a sweeping tour de force of Russian "types" and mores, portraits drawn both with a relentless and biting sarcasm, and a profound insight alleviated by a loving tenderness for his mother country left behind. His love affair, however, was not nearly as successful as his novel.



Scott No. 879

Gogol returned to Russia unchanged, and fell into a more pronounced despair. He oscillated between the heights of personal grandeur as a self-proclaimed mystical visionary and the depths of self-loathing and guilt. In 1848 he made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which succeeded only in provoking a more serious physical illness. In the last years of his young life he began working on a sequel to Dead Souls. This was an intermittent activity, an adjunct to his devotional writings, which were moralistic claptrap meant to somehow appease his self-imposed blind obedience to the Church. Having been hailed as a realist, a social critic, and a progressive force, he revised his former views and preached the values of freedom, the traditional family, and the virtues of capital punishment. In an act of penance, and desperation, Gogol burned the manuscript of Dead Souls II (scarcely any scraps of early draft remain). Increasingly irrational and utterly forsaken Gogol died in 1852, in disrepute. As Professor Simon Karlonsky has written, "Illusion, deception, and mistaken identity were among the basic themes of Gogol's writings and of his life" (p.280), and his life and death the surrealistic tragedy that underlay the comedies of his fiction.

Sources

- The Sexual Labyrinth of Nikolai Gogol, Simon Karlinsky, 1976
- A History of Russian Literature From Its Beginnings to 1900
D.S. Mirsky, 1958
- The Complexion of Russian Literature, Andrew Field, 1971
- The Epic of Russian Literature from Its Origins Through Tolstoy, Marc Slonim, 1950

Scott Checklist

Russia 1619/1621 Not shown
 Germany 105 on front cover

THE MYSTERIOUS STAMP



Scott No. _ _ _

This man was charged with "gross indecency" and during his trial he attempted eloquently to defend his love for Bosie.

"The love that dare not speak its name in this century is such a great affection of an elder for a younger man as there was between David and Jonathan, such as Plato made the very basis of his philosophy, and such as you find in the sonnets of Michelangelo and Shakespeare. It is that deep spiritual affection that is as pure as it is perfect... Its is beautiful, it is fine , it is the noblest form of affection. There is nothing unnatural about it..."

The first five correct entries will receive a complementary FDC. All the entries should be mail to mentioned address on front of journal. The correct answer alone with the stamp will appear on next issue.



15 July, 1987

Ed Centeno
Secretary

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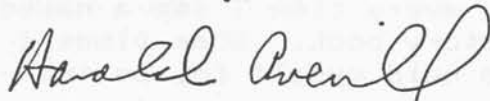
Dear Mr. Centeno:

Thank you for your letter of 30 June regarding Ned Hanlan.

I wish it were true--he was so handsome!--but evidence about his gayness is, I am afraid, lacking. It is true that Walt Whitman met Hanlan when he was in Canada and was 'smitten' but so far as we are aware the feeling was not reciprocated. Hanlan had a wife and lots of children, not that that necessarily proves anything. We would, of course, love to have evidence of a man in his life.

Should we ever come across proof we will be certain to let you know.

Yours sincerely,


Harold Averill

"... In response to your query concerning Ned Hanlan, I hate to disappoint you, but I think it best that he not be included in Paul's exhibit. The thrust of my article was that Hanlan's Point on the Toronto Islands has long been a gay gathering spot. The rumors concerning Hanlan himself are just those - rumors!!! I am enclosing a recent item from Xtra, a Toronto gay publication, for your interest ..."

From letter received on August 10, 1987 from our Canadian fellow member. This pertains to our winter issue of 1987.

ANNE FRANK



Scott No. 598

The following article appeared in the August issue of the "The Body Politic", a Canadian national gay newspaper:

"The Dutch government, through its Institute of War Documentation, has just published a definitive version of the diary of Anne Frank. The new version contains details of Anne's lesbian sexual fantasies that were expurgated from the original version, published back in 1947.

One newly printed passage reads: '... Sometimes in bed at night I have an uncontrollable urge to feel my breasts, and to listen to how calmly and steadily my heart beats.'

'Unconsciously I must have had similar feelings before I came here, because I know that when I used to spend the night with Jacqueline, I always kept hidden from me and which I have never seen. I asked Jacqueline if we should, as proof of our friendship, feel each other's breasts. She refused. It was also the case that I had a terrible urge to kiss Jacqueline and did so. I become ecstatic every time I see a naked figure of a woman, such as a Venus in an art history book. Some times I find it so wondrous and beautiful, that I have to hold myself in, so that I do not begin to cry.

'If only I had a girlfriend...'



Scott No. 1293

Anne Frank perished in the Nazi concentration camp at Bergen Belsen after her family's hiding place was discovered. Her diary was saved by her father and has been published in more than thirty countries, selling sixteen million copies. An English translation of the whole diary is expected soon."

HADRIAN, PUBLIUS AELIUS (76-138 A.D.) ROMAN EMPEROR

Probably the most famous pair of lovers in the Roman world were HADRIAN and ANTINOUS. Hadrian's rule was peaceful and productive. He was the first emperor since Tiberius to retire in peace without assassination or meeting his death on the battlefield.

Antinous was a young Greek, who drowned while crossing the Nile with Hadrian in 130 A.D. The emperor was heartbroken and had his lover deified and established an oracle in his name at Mantinea, with yearly mysteries and a festival every four years. Games were established in his name at Athens and were celebrated 200 years after his death. A city on the Nile was built to honor him. Statues were erected throughout the entire world and his image survives today in sculpture, architecture, coinage, paintings and literature. No greater tribute has ever been given to a man's lover.

SCOTT NUMBERS

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PAUL VERLAINE

SCOTT NO.

FRANCE 667

After a year and a half of marriage, he discovered he had made a great mistake. So decided to abandoned his job, home and wife for Arthur Rimbaud They lived together for about a year and after bitter quarrels over Paul's drinking and young Arthur's infidelities, led to a shoot out that wounded Rimbaud. Who says a love story must end with a happy ending. Paul served two years in prison. His poems express the enjoyment of male sex.

"...dark and wrinkled like a deep pink... it
breathes, bubly nestled among the moss,
still wet after the loving..."



Walt Whitman is best known as the poet who celebrated the love of comrades. It's hard to believe that it taken countless biographers and professors over one hundred years to realize the fact that he was gay. Anyone who has read any of his works, specially "Calamus" can find something unconventional on the way he wrote about love and his comrades.

An excellent book by Charley Shively entitled Calamus Lovers examines the poet's relationship with common men. Mr. Shively provides an in-depth introductions along with commentaries of various selection of Whitman's poems. The book is illustrated with photos and drawings, a must for very poetry lover.

CAMERADO, THIS IS NO BOOK

My songs, I abandon them,
From behind the screen where I hid,
I advance personally.

Camerado, this is no book,
Who touches this, touches a man,
(Is it night? Are we here alone?)
It is I you hold, and who holds you,
I spring from the pages into your arms
Decease calls me forth.

O how your fingers drowse me!
Your breath falls around me like dew,
Your pulse lulls the tympan of my ears,
I feel immerged from head to foot,
Delicious-enough.



 ROCK HUDSON



On May 11 of this year, Rock Hudson appeared along with seven other famous American entertainers on stamps from the Islands of Antigua and Barbuda. Anyone interested in buying singles can send Paul \$2.00. Lots of articles have been written on Mr. Rock. How about an article on our man.

While on the subject of Hollywood, Ray Chambers, a long time member of the club has supervised sets for various movies. He also appeared in many movies including "Legal Eagle" and most recent "The Lost Boys." Wonder if he would mind telling us some juicy Hollywood gossip. "Break a leg," Ray.

The GLHS is grateful to F. Suzanne Moore, Editor of the Plain Brown Rapper for the wonderful exclusive in the August/September issue. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the magazine, can write to: Post Office Box 16599, San Diego, CA. 92116.

Also I would like to thank Tom Robinson for mentioning us in the September issue of S. A. G. E. The Senior Action in a Gay Environment, Inc. is a nonprofit organization serving the gay and lesbian senior citizens of America. Anyone interested in obtaining more information can write to: 208 West 13th St., New York New York .

Does anyone have any information on Bret Harte or William Faulkner? The Gay Book of Days mentioned that Bret never married and that he left the United States to live in England. Did he live with someone? On William it mentions that he was very unhappy with his marriage and turned to alcohol. Also that some biographies have rumors of him being gay. If come across any references on these two men, please write to us.

Thank you Jay, for your countless hours of support and encouragement. Good luck in the Big Apple. Would love to hear from our members regarding this month's issue. After all this is your journal and also reflects on us.
