

7. The FAMOUS and INFAMOUS

Spirochetes, gonococci, and viruses have no regard for one's station in life.

7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Three of 16th century Europe's monarchs were syphilitic ...

Henry VIII of England



Charles V
Holy Roman Emperor



Francis I of France



(Imperforate at Top)

If Henry VIII's wives were not syphilitic before meeting him, they surely were after.



His sole surviving daughter from Catherine of Aragon, Mary Tudor, displayed many signs of congenital syphilis.

Gonorrhea continued to plague French royalty...

Henry IV (1553-1610)



Louis XIV (1638-1715)



... catheterized several times for urethral blockage.

... but no syphilis as evi...

The royal ministers were not exempt. Cardinal Duc de Richelieu (1585-1642) s: between his genitals and anus and was catheterized several times for urethral blockage.



7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Frederick the Great of Prussia (1712-86) wrote the following poem to Voltaire:

*Jeus l'honneur
De recevoir, par mon malheur
D'une certaine impératrice *
Une boillante chaude pisse.*

*Elizabeth Brunswick-Bevern



Peter the Great of Russia probably died from neurosyphilis - one of several Romanovs to suffer from syphilis.



Trial Color
Die Proof



1917
Currency Stamp



7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Catherine the Great of Russia (1729-1796), despite elaborate precautions against getting syphilis from one of her numerous lovers, probably became infected; she built the first V.D. hospital in Russia at St. Petersburg.



Trial Color Die Proof



Khabarovsk 21-May 1918

65 kopeks additional postage on reverse. Postal rates in state of change due to Revolution.

Paul I, Catherine's son and heir, displayed many signs of congenital syphilis by age ten; suffered from uncontrollable rage and syphilitic insanity; murdered by palace guards after a four year reign of chaos.



Trial Color Die Proofs on Chalky Surfaced Paper



7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

The marriage of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, to Carlota was a disaster due his constant philandering where he acquired a case of syphilis. He died in front of a revolutionary firing squad.



13 centavo Engraved, Overprinted GUANAJUATO
13 centavo rate for ½ oz. letter up to 16 leagues (42 miles or 65 km)

Dom Pedro IV (1798-1834), the last King of Portugal and first Emperor of Brasil suffered from chronic gonorrhoea.



Even the great Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was afflicted with gonorrhoea; he got his first dose as a young Army lieutenant in Paris.



Trial Color
Plate Proof



NAPOLÉON (VENDÉE) 28 MARS 1867 (OR = Origine Rural)

7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

King Edward VII of England (1841-1910) contracted gonorrhoea at Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary) and gave it to his queen consort, Alexandra.



Imperforate Pair



Plate Proof on Card



Plate Proof on India



Edward VII ceased all philandering during the one year that Alexandra was in mourning due to the death of her father, Christian IX of Denmark.



Christian IX



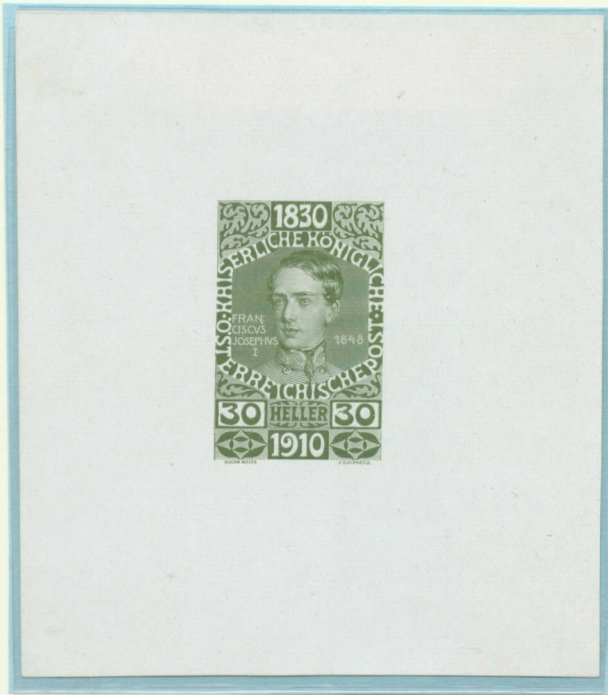
Copy of Alexandra's Embossed Cipher

Edward VII's Royal Cipher Handstamp (lower left) justifies the free postage from Balmoral Castle.
 Alexandra's Royal Cipher embossed on back of envelope not valid for free postage.
 Red OFFICIAL PAID without hyphen. Inverted 06 year-date in Balmoral-Castle Handstamp.

7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Emperor Franz Josef of Austria (1848-1917) all but destroyed a poor marriage to the Empress Elizabeth by giving her 'an unmentionable disease' probably gonorrhoea.

The Young Philanderer



The Lonely Old Emperor



K. u. K. KRIEGSMARINE
SMS KAISERIN ELIZABETH



The Empress spent far more time at the Castle Palace (Varpalota) in Budapest than she ever did with the Emperor at the Hofburg in Vienna.

Kaiser Friedrich III of Germany became syphilitic when, as crown prince, he participated in the celebrations at the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869; died after a 93 day reign from bronchio-pneumonia and throat cancer in 1888.



7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Recent research indicates that Pres. Woodrow Wilson's rapid decline in health and death may be due to syphilis.



Horizontal Perforation Shift



Pre Printing Paper Fold

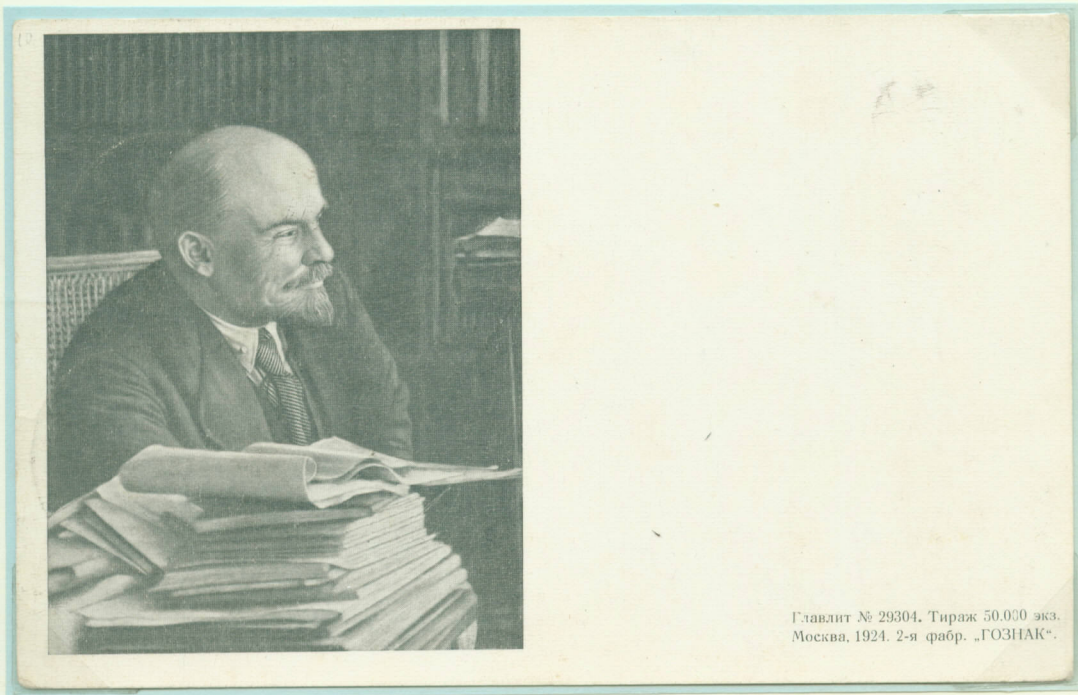


Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov - Lenin - was probably syphilitic as evidenced by lesions on the left side of his brain - thoughtfully preserved for posterity by Stalin in a 'brain museum.'



COPY

First All Union Philatelic
Exhibition Moscow
28.12.24



Главлит № 29304. Тираж 50.000 экз.
Москва, 1924. 2-я фабр. „ГОЗНАК“.

The Rome-Berlin Axis could have been called the V.D. axis since both *Der Fuhrer* and *Il Duce* suffered from gonorrhoea at various times in their respective lives.



7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

As a young man in Marion, Ohio, Warren Harding suffered from a particularly severe case of gonorrhoea that was complicated by quack treatments. Fortunately he was completely cured before he fathered his only child - from his mistress Nan Britton.



Flat Plate
Perf. 11



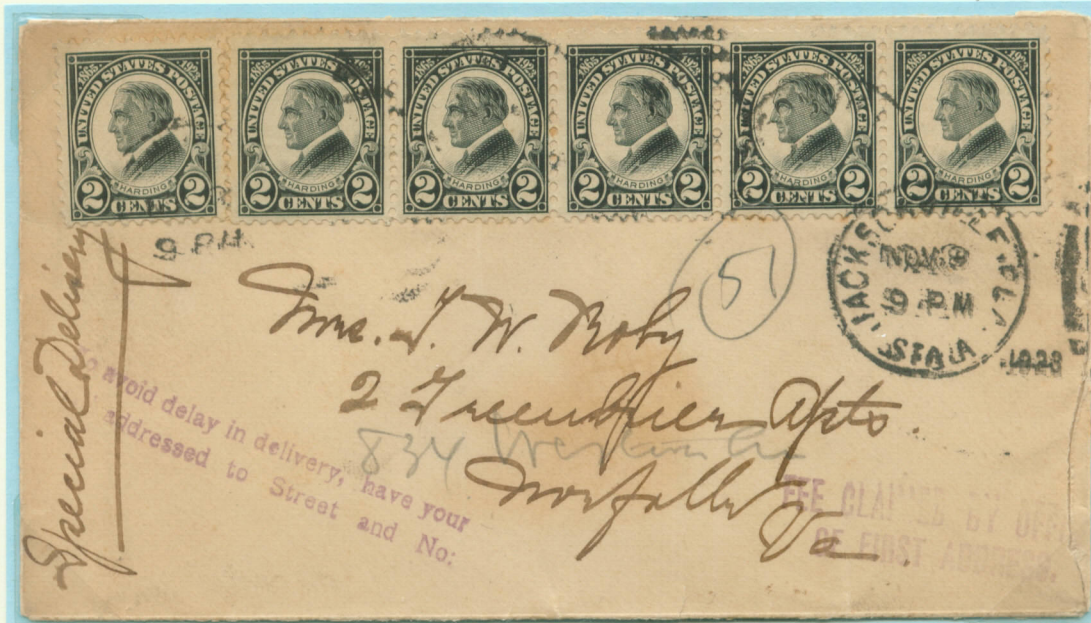
Flat Plate
Imperforate



MARION
OHIO

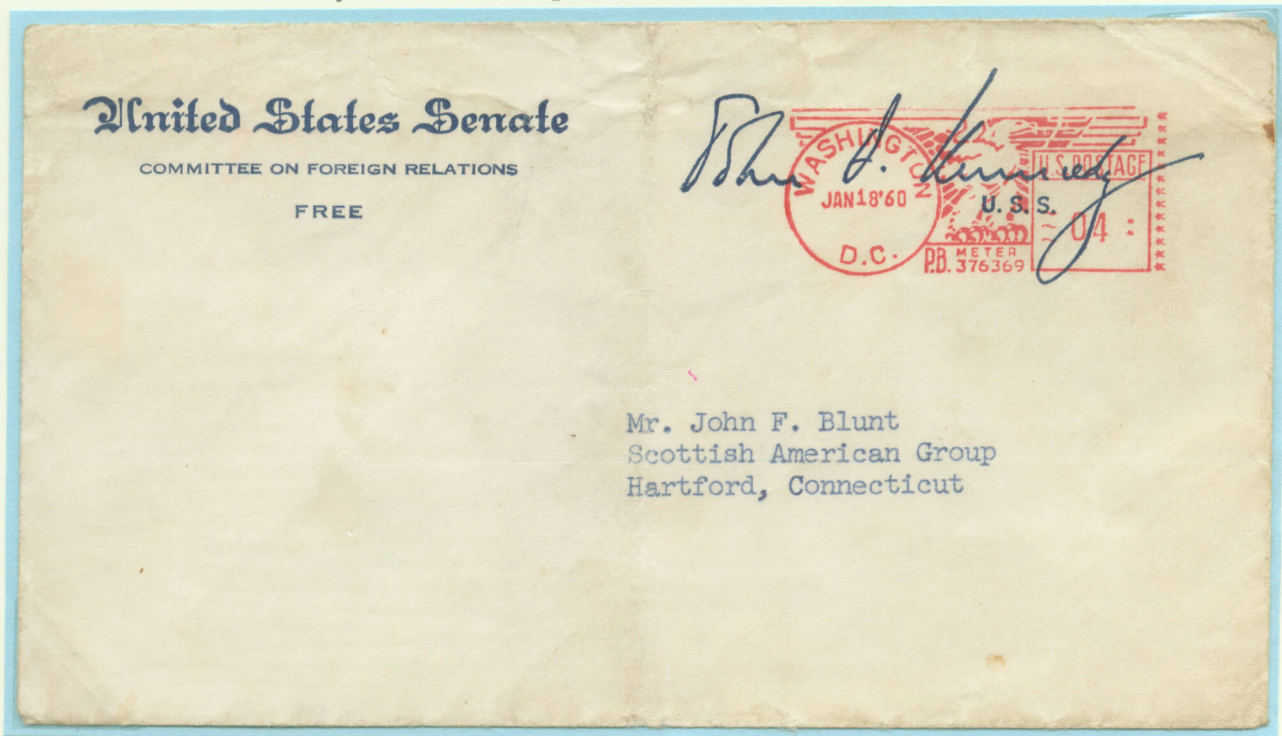


Rotary Plate
Perf. 10



2 cent First Class Rate + 10 cent Special Delivery Fee

John F. Kennedy suffered from frequent bouts of V.D. from his constant philandering.



7.2 EXPLORERS AND SCIENTISTS

Several notable and early visitors to the New World fell victim to the spirochete.

Spanish records from 1510 show that Martin Alonzo Pinzon, pilot and captain of the PINTA, was treated for syphilis



Normal



Dry Print

(Martin Pinzon
with the
'broken hat')



MUESTRA Overprint

One of the earliest victims of the new disease may have been Christopher Columbus, as detailed by Surgeon General Thomas Parran, MD in *SHADOW ON THE LAND*.

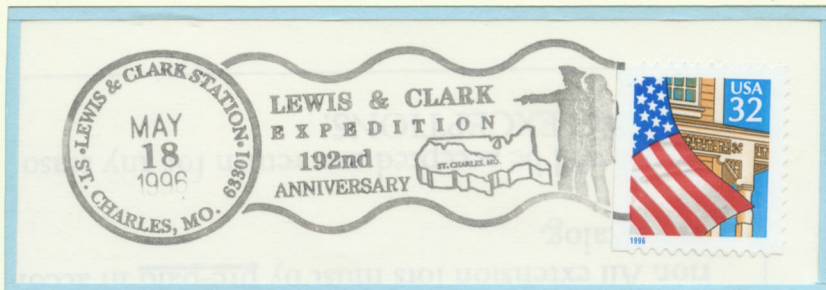


American Bank Note Co. New York.

Large Die Proof

7.2 EXPLORERS AND SCIENTISTS

In March, 1805 William Clark wrote of the expedition,
 "Generally healthy except venereals complains which is very Common."

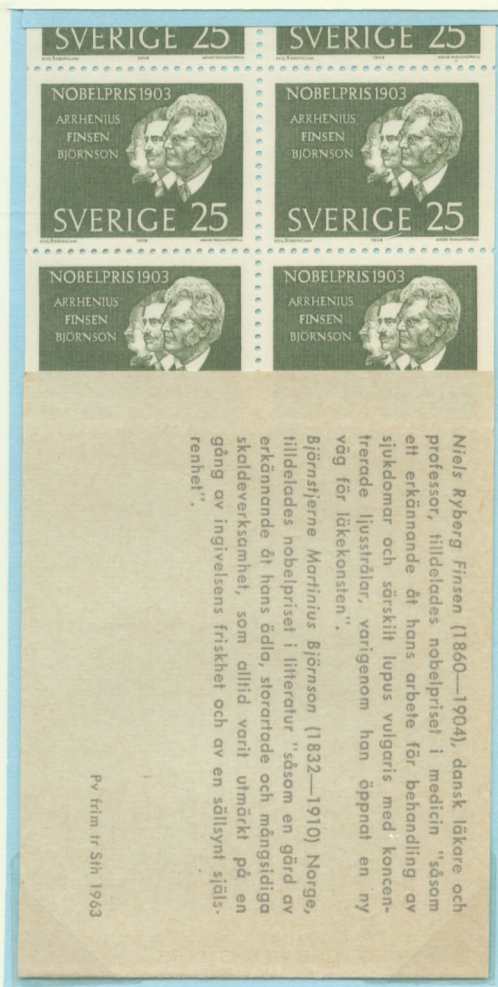


Meriwether Lewis purchased 600 of Rush's Bilious Pills for treating everything especially syphilis on the expedition. Rush's Bilious Pills, whose main ingredient was mercury, were still popular sixty years later as evidenced by -



The only private die proprietary medicine stamps intentionally issued imperforate vertically to permit use for variety of rates.

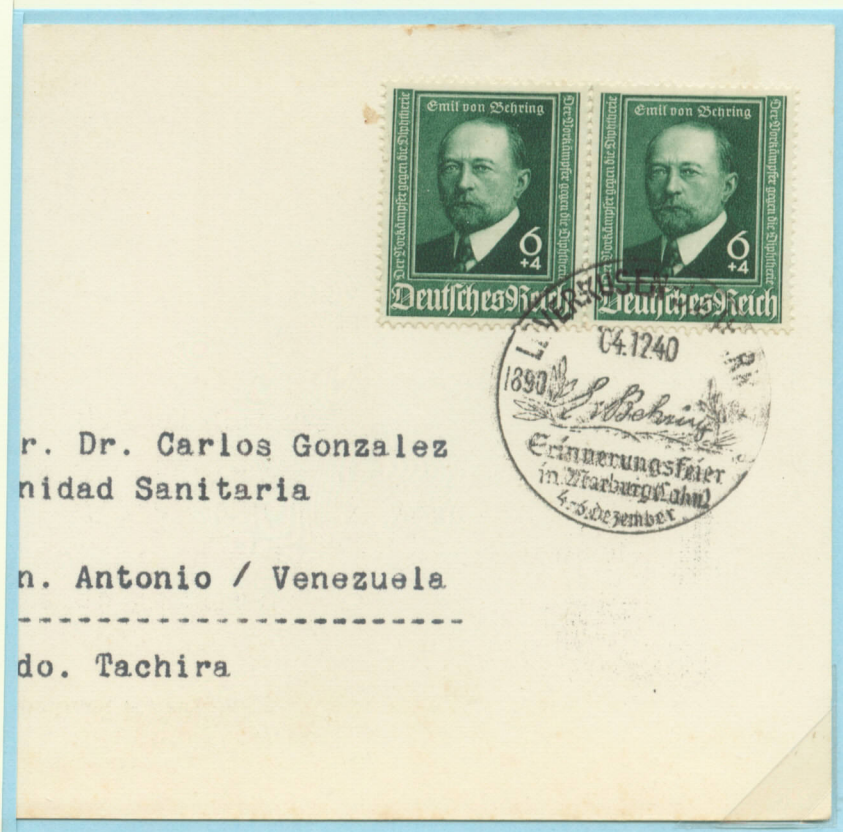
A Nobel Prize was no defense against the spirochete; syphilis was to haunt several Nobel laureates -



Back Cover, Booklet Pane of 20

Niels Ryberg Finsen, 1903 Nobel Laureate for use of light in medicine, had tabs or syphilis of the spinal cord.

Emil von Behring co-discoverer of anti-toxins; 1901 and first Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine; died of general syphilitic paralysis and insanity.



7.3 ARTISTS

Venus has inspired and V.D. has shortened many artistic lives...

7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

Early victims of the Great Pox included...
Pietro Aretino an early
16th Century satirical poet.

Francois
Villon
suffered from
early pre-
Columbian
syphilis.



Desiderius Erasmus

... a man who did not have the pox was a rustic and not a polished gentleman.

Conrad Celtes (1459-1508)
poet laureate of Germany.



Ulrich von Hutten, friend of Erasmus and Luther, died of syphilis after being 'cured' by guiac.



7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

The list includes these other well and lesser known syphilitic writers ...

Dostoevski



Stendahl



Alfred de Musset



Gustave Flaubert



Part Perforate at Bottom

Heinrich Heine became syphilitic at age 24 and developed severe secondary and late neurosyphilis with paralysis, all now easily treatable at the university named for him.

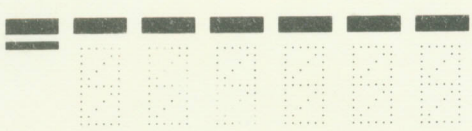


Aleksander Sergeyeovich Pushkin (1799-1837) suffered from V.D. throughout his adult life.
"My blood thick with mercury and my soul with remorse."



г. ПУШКИН
 Памятник А.С. Пушкину

Куда ЮГОСЛАВИЈА
 11000 БЕОГРАД
 БР. СЕБОТИЌА 4
 Кому Клиника за болесту
 уста

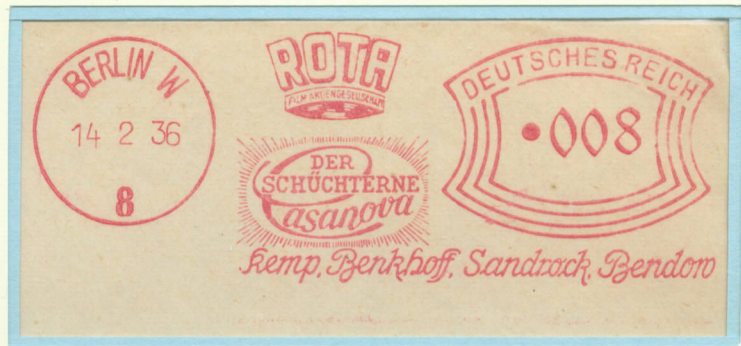


Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения

7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

The long list continues...

Giovanni Casanova, a name synonymous with philandering, suffered from at least four cases of gonorrhoea, five of chancroid and a lifetime of syphilis.



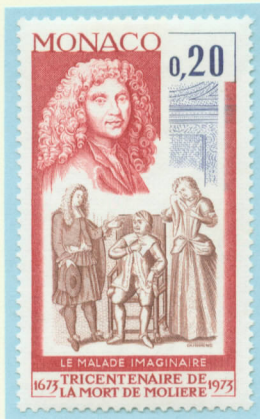
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe probably syphilitic; his sole surviving son died of congenital syphilitic insanity.



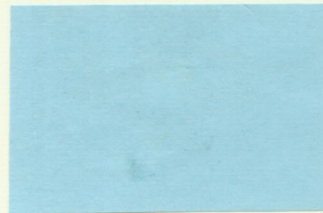
30 pfg / First 20 g + 20 pfg / Add'l 20 g + 40 pfg - Registry Fee

The French Connection - Many French writers were well acquainted with the spirochete from...

Moliere, whose medical satires made him hated by doctors probably died of syphilitic aneurism.



... to Charles Baudelaire who states *Etant tres jaune, j'ai une affection verolique.*



- Hypocrite lecteur,
- mon semblable,



7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

The growing list of distinguished syphilitic writers demonstrates the varied nationalities of its victims

Karen Blixen



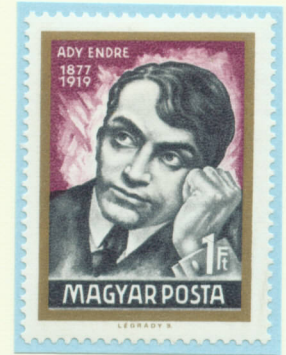
Both Goncourt Brothers



Oscar Wilde



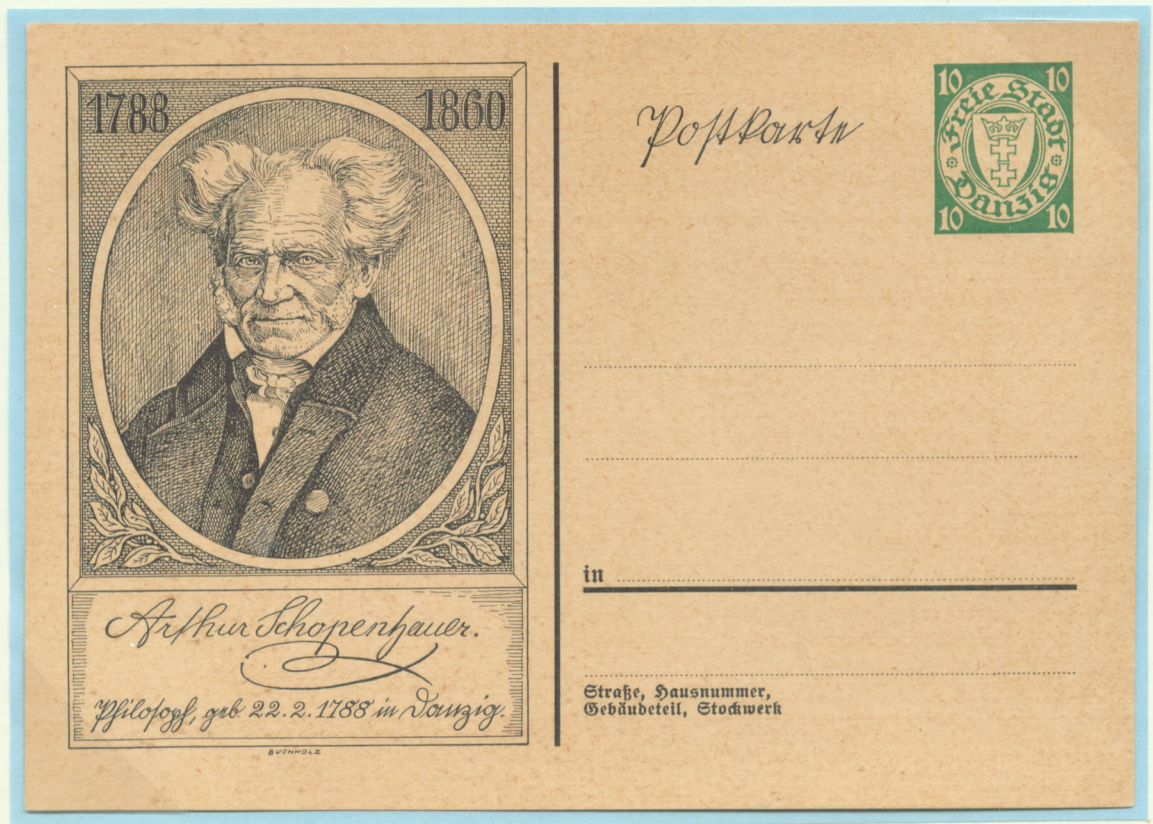
Ady Endre



August Strindberg, playwright, novelist, and a doctor's assistant early in his life, suffered from both schizophrenia and syphilis.



Arthur Schopenhauer contracted syphilis while a student at Gottingen, then under-went lengthy mercury treatments, and died at age 72 from pneumonia.



7.3.2 COMPOSERS

Musical talent was little defense against venereal disease...

Christoph W. Gluck
General syphilitic paresis



Gaetano Donizetti
Cerebral syphilis



Hugo Wolf
Syphilitic Insanity



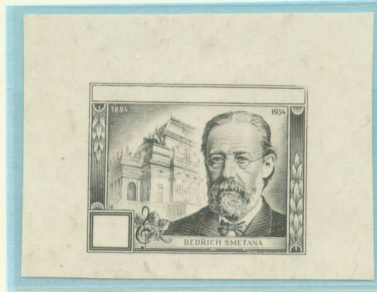
Nicolo Paganini
Syphilitic



Bedrich Smetana, father of Czech classical music, died in an asylum of syphilitic insanity.



As Issued



Die Proof without values and country name at top.



As Issued

Franz Schubert - Syphilitic but died of tuberculosis.



Reverse Side .65 Reduction

7.3.2 COMPOSERS

Robert Schumann died of syphilitic paralysis and insanity.



Lorenzo de Ponte librettist for several Mozart operas and syphilitic.



Twentieth century jazz, rock, and movie composers and performers were also afflicted with V.D.

The Brazilian rock composer and musician Casuza died in 1981. of AIDS contracted through intravenous (IV) drug abuse.



Jazz composer Scott Joplin was syphilitic.



AIDS claimed Howard Ashmun, Oscar winning composer for *The Littlest Mermaid*.

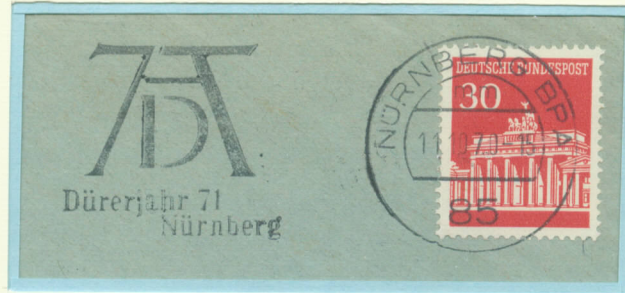


... and the stamp collecting rock composer, musician, and performer Freddie Mercury died of AIDS in 1992.



7.3.3 PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS

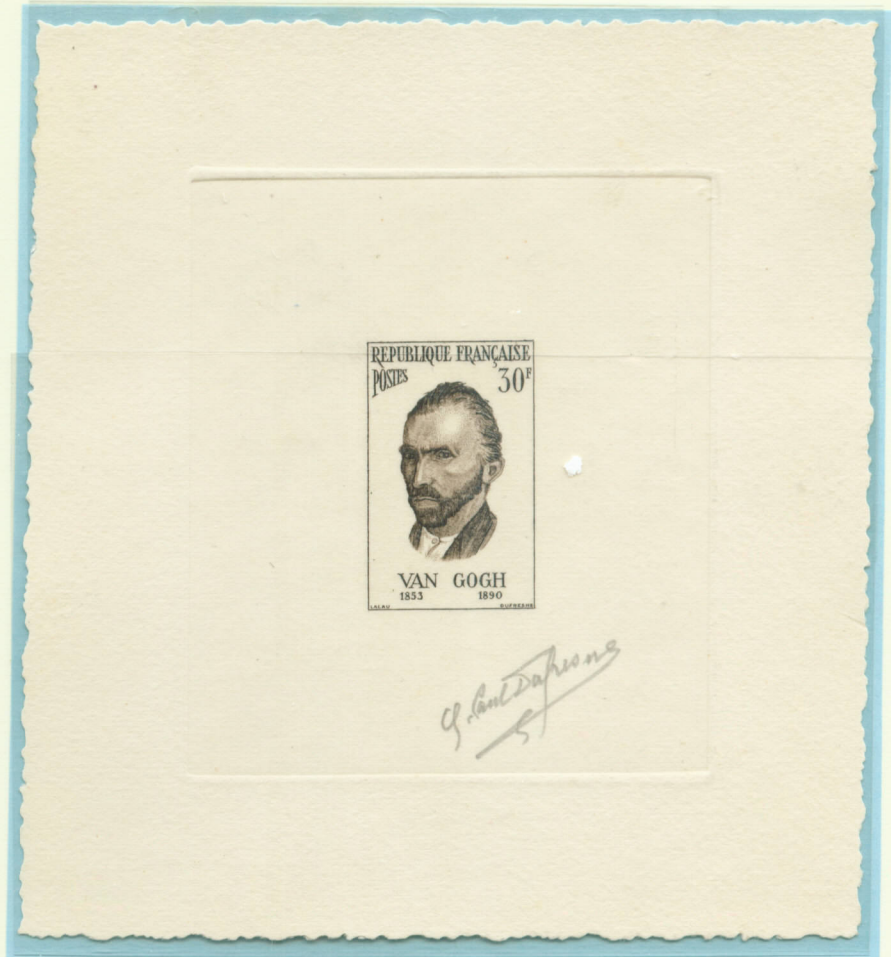
Albrecht Dürer, mentioned for his medical drawings, was probably syphilitic as evidenced by enlarged left testicle on the nude full-length self-portrait partially reproduced at the right.



Vincent van Gogh's insanity is attributed to syphilis.



Benvenuto Cellini suffered from a milder form of syphilis ... the French disease..remained in me ...



Autograph of G. Paul DuFresne - Engraver

Francisco Goya suffered cerebral syphilis (meningovascular) from age 45 to death.



Lithographed



Engraved

Two more recent syphilitic painters include:
Sir William Orpen



Munkácsy Mihály



7.3.3 PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS

Stanislaw Wyspianski, painter and writer, suffered from the French pox.

Cena 10 zł.

KARTKA POCZTOWA

VII WYSCIG KOLARSKI

WARSAWA 7
22-6.48-8

DO KOLA
POLSKA
POLSKI

Ob. *Aleksander Kusel m.*
Kraków
ul. Siemieradzkiego 8/1

6 72 6

P. P. T. i. T. (X 1947) 1.700.000.

STANISLAW WYSPIANSKI, 1869 — 1907
Poeta i malarz wielkiej miary. Autor wielu dzieł scenicznych o tematyce społecznej i historycznej. Świetny twórca oryginalnych koncepcji scenicznych. Utwory jego to dramaty „Kazimierz Wielki”, „Bolesław Śmiały”, „Legion”, „Wyzwolenie”, „Warszawianka”, „Noc listopadowa” i wiele innych. Najwybitniejszy utwór „Wesele” porusza zagadnienia społeczne i kreśli obraz dramatu narodowego, jaki rozgrywa się w bezwolnym społeczeństwie polskim na początku naszego wieku. Utwory dramatyczne Wyspińskiego stawiają go w rzędzie największych polskich twórców.

Both Henride Mofa (Toulouse-Lautrec)...

and

... Felicien Rops



sketched & painted prostitutes, frequented prostitutes, and got syphilis from prostitutes!



Paul Gauguin went to Tahiti to find a cure for his syphilis...

...but succeeded only in giving it to the natives.



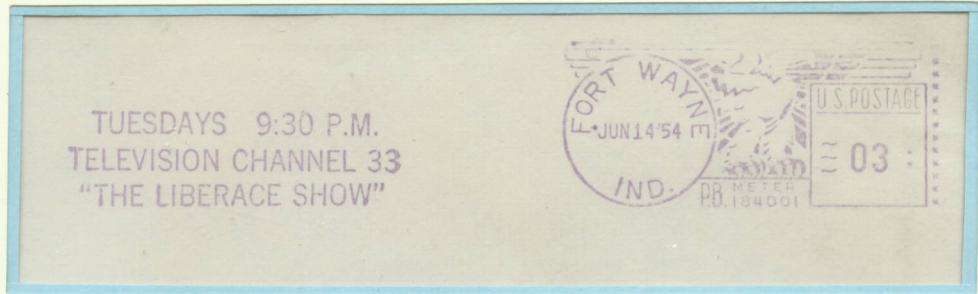
7.4 NEW ARRIVALS!

AIDS has provided these recent additions.

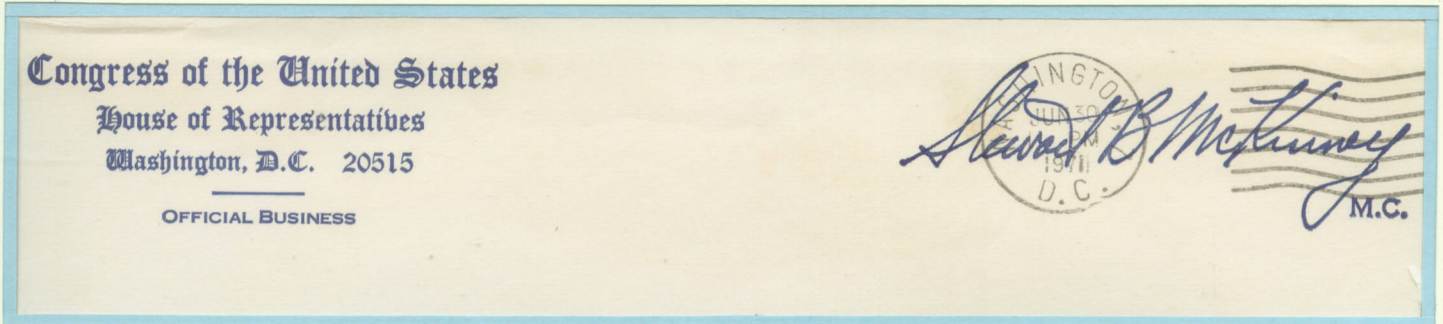
Rock Hudson was the first Hollywood celebrity to die of AIDS.



Mr. Showmanship, the pianist Liberace, was an early victim in 1987.



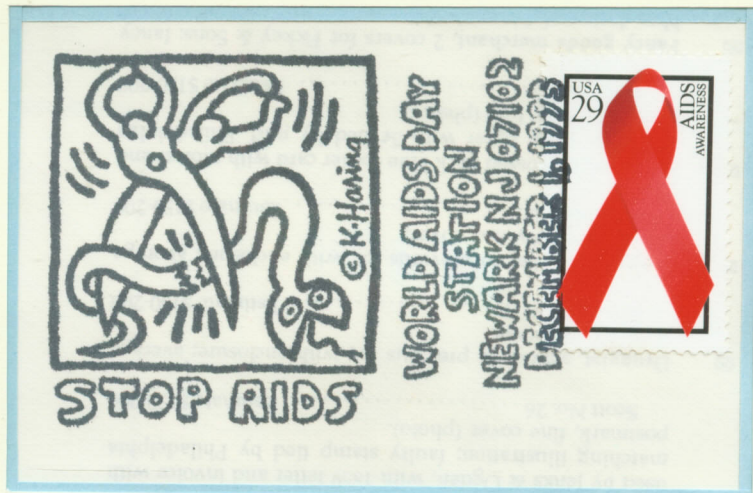
Congressman Stewart B. McKinney of Connecticut was the first noteworthy politician to this list.



Lucille Teasdale, helping the poor and sick in Africa.

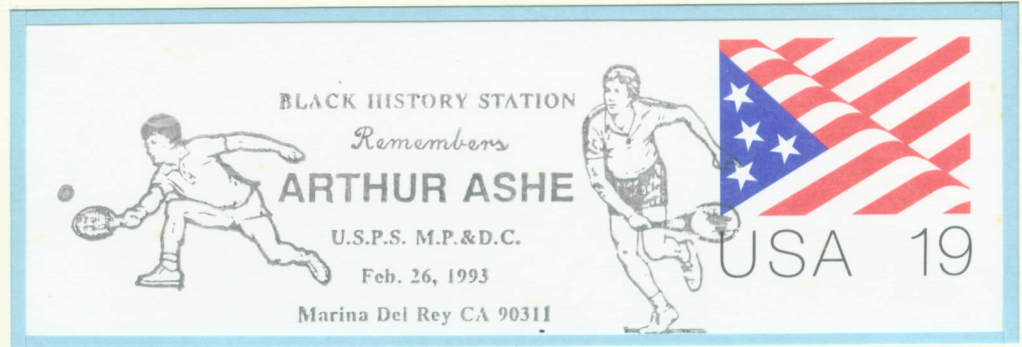


The graphic pop artist Keith Haring died in 1990 before his work could be incorporated in this cancel.



7.4 NEW ARRIVALS

Tennis star Arthur Ashe acquired his HIV from infected blood during a transfusion.



Rudolf Nureyev died of AIDS at age 54 in 1993.

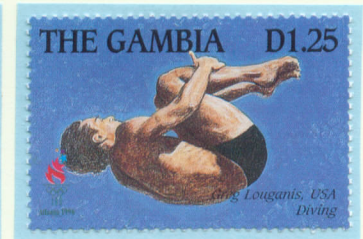


Glauber Rocha film director and an early AIDS victim. Thousands of Brazilians would follow.

The world of figure skating lost both John Curry and Ondrej Nepela to AIDS.



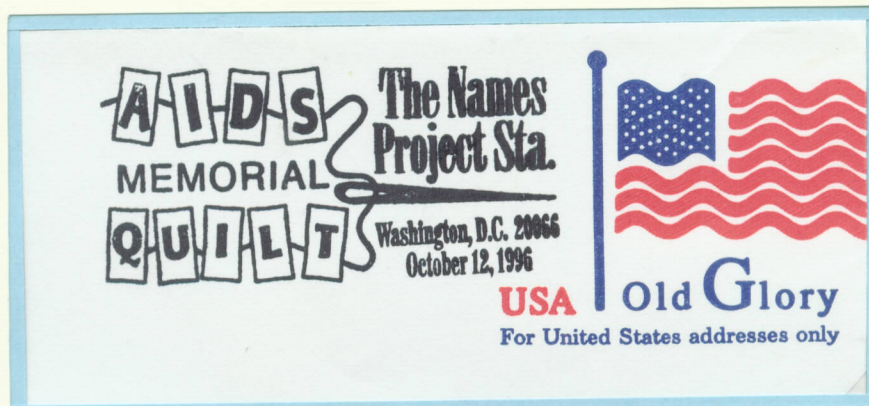
... and among the living, both Magic Johnson and Greg Louganis are HIV+



Thousands of other AIDS deaths will never be commemorated on a postage stamp but are memorialized on the AIDS quilt.

Last exhibited in its entirety in October 1996 in Washington DC.

Over 35 countries have an AIDS memorial quilt.



45000+ panels comprised the U.S. quilt and well over 85000 worldwide.