

# Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

## Finding Aid - Blair Henshaw HIV/AIDS philatelic collection (MsC-64)

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Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.0 Printed: November 28, 2017

Language of description: English

Rules for Archival Description

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# Blair Henshaw HIV/AIDS philatelic collection

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books

**Title:** Blair Henshaw HIV/AIDS philatelic collection

**ID:** MsC-64

**Date:** 1988-2003 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** ca. 24 cm of philatelic records  
37 cm of textual records  
46 phone cards  
23 photographs  
3 posters  
3 plaques  
2 pendants  
1 prize ribbon

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Blair Coldwell Henshaw was born July 2, 1949, in Digby, Nova Scotia. He moved to Vancouver in the 1960s and worked as a letter carrier, a hospital orderly and as a library assistant with the National Film Board. Henshaw was a long-time philatelist and began developing a collection of HIV/AIDS stamps after the world's first AIDS stamp was released in 1988. He continued collecting until late 2001. Henshaw was a member of the BC Philatelic Society, and created thematic philatelic exhibitions under the banner of the AIDS on Stamps project, an independent non-profit AIDS awareness initiative organized by Henshaw. In 1992, seven years after being diagnosed with HIV, Henshaw began lobbying Canada Post and the federal government to produce a Canadian stamp featuring HIV/AIDS in order to raise awareness about the disease in Canada and abroad. After four years of lobbying and public outreach by Henshaw, on May 8, 1996, Canada Post became the 59th postal jurisdiction to issue an HIV/AIDS awareness stamp. The stamp featured an image by Vancouver artist Joe Average, and was released to coincide with the 11th International AIDS conference held in Vancouver. Henshaw died June 15, 2002, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

## Scope and content

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Collection consists of first issues of stamps, postcards, comics and other materials. Collection has been arranged into the following five series: Stamps and related records (1988–[before 2002]), Postcards, posters and phone cards (1983–[before 2002]), Exhibition records (1993–1999), AIDS on Stamps project files [199-]–2003 and Correspondence (1993–2002).

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## Notes

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### Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on contents of collection.

### Immediate source of acquisition

The Henshaw collection was auctioned November 8, 2004, at All Nations Stamp and Coin. It was acquired by John Keenlyside and donated to Simon Fraser University Special Collections and Rare Books.

### Arrangement

Collection was arranged into series by the archivist based on creator's collecting areas and existing divisions of records.

### Finding aids

Items from the collection have been digitized and are available through the SFU Library's Digitized Collections.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** draft
  - **Level of detail:** Full
  - **Status description:** Published
  - **Alpha-numeric designations:** BCAUL control number: SFL--2305
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## Access points

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- Henshaw, Blair (subject)
- Textual record (documentary form)
- Philatelic record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)

- Health and social services (subject)
- Sports, recreation and leisure (subject)

## Series descriptions

### Series MsC-64-0-1: Stamps and related records

Date: 1988–[before 2002] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of AIDS-themed single stamps, mint blocks, mint full sheets, slogan cancels, first day covers, comic books and related records collected by Blair Henshaw. Henshaw's collection represents philatelic materials issued by 84 different jurisdictions.

Physical description: 23.5 cm of philatelic records  
.5 cm of textual records

Access points:

- Philatelic record (documentary form)
- Textual record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Arrangement follows creator's original order.

Publication status:

draft

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-1	File - AIDS FDC [First Day Covers]	1991–2000		MsC 64 - Box 1 folders 1-3
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-2	File - [3rd Canadian World AIDS Day FDC]	1995		MsC 64 - Box 1 folder 4
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-3	File - ADS: FDC [First Day Covers]	1990–2000		MsC 64 - Box 1 folder 5
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-4	File - [Stamp sheets]	1994–1997		MsC 64 - Box 1 folder 6
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-5	File - AIDS family mini collection	[before 2002]		MsC 64 - Box 2 folder 1
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-6	File - AIDS sheets – mint stamps	1993–1998		MsC 64 - Box 2 folder 2
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-7	File - AIDS stamps	[199- – 2000]		MsC 64 - Box 2 folders 3-4
MsC-64-0-1-0-0-8	File - AIDS stamps A-Z	[before 2002]		MsC 64 - Box 2 folders 5-6

MsC-64-0-1-0-0-9	File - AIDS topical (includes comic books)	1988–[2000?]	MsC 64 - Box 2 folder 7
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### Series MsC-64-0-2: Postcards, posters and phone cards

Date: 1983–[before 2002] (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of AIDS-themed postcards, phone cards, posters and stationary collected by Blair Henshaw.

Physical description: 8 cm of textual and philatelic records

46 phone cards

3 posters

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Philatelic record (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Arrangement follows creator's original order.

Publication status:

draft

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-64-0-2-0-0-1	File - AIDS postcards	1983–2000		MsC 64 - Box 3 folders 1-2
MsC-64-0-2-0-0-2	File - [AIDS postcards]	[199-]		MsC 64 - Box 3 folders 3-4
MsC-64-0-2-0-0-3	File - [AIDS postcards + phone cards]	1988–[before 2002]		MsC 64 - Box 3 folder 5
MsC-64-0-2-0-0-4	File - 44 AIDS-themed telephone cards	[198- –199-]		MsC 64 - Box 7
MsC-64-0-2-0-0-5	File - [Posters]	[199-]–2003		MsC 64 - Box 9

### Series MsC-64-0-3: Exhibition records

Date: 1993–1999 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of exhibit panels with stamps, postcards and didactic information written by Henshaw, exhibit planning records, photographs, and awards received for exhibitions created and displayed at various locations across North America, including the Vancouver Public Library and conferences Henshaw attended as a member of the BC Philatelic Society.

Physical description: 17 cm of textual and philatelic records

3 plaques

2 pendants

1 prize ribbon

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Philatelic record (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records have been arranged in reverse chronological order by the archivist.

Publication status:

draft

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-1	File - AIDS: The evolution of an epidemic, the exhibition	[1999]		MsC 64 - Box 4 folders 1-2
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-2	File - [AIDS: The evolution of an epidemic, guest book]	[1999]		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 3
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-3	File - VANPEX 1999: BC Philatelic Society. E.H. Lane Award, topicals & thematics category. Presented to Blair Henshaw for the exhibition Evolution of an Epidemic	1999		MsC 64 - Box 7
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-4	File - 1999 Victopical: Reserve Grand Award	1999		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 4
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-5	File - Victopical: Reserve Grand Award	1999		MsC 64 - Box 7
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-6	File - AIDS stationary and cinderellas [exhibit panels]	1992-1998		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 5
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-7	File - [Angels of Attack / The Endless Toll exhibit panels]	[199-]		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 6
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-8	File - [Vancouver Public Library exhibit panels]	[199-]		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 7
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-9	File - VPL [Vancouver Public Library] July conference	1996		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 8
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-10	File - [AIDS: From Diagnosis to Death information guide and workbook]	1996		MsC 64 - Box 4 folder 9
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-11	File - World AIDS stamps, exhibit setup	[1996?]		MsC 64 - Box 5 folders 1-3 MsC 64 - Box 5 folders 1-3
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-12	File - AIDS on stamps – the Mosaic [survey]	1995		MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 4
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-13	File - [AIDS on Stamps: The Mosaic]	[1995]		MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 5

MsC-64-0-3-0-0-14	File - VANPEX 1994: BC Philatelic Society. Lane Award, presented to Blair Henshaw for the exhibition AIDS: From Diagnosis to Death	1994	MsC 64 - Box 7
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-15	File - AOS 9300 Ex – Exhibit info	[1993?]	MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 6
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-16	File - VANPEX 1993: BC Philatelic Society. Lane Award, presented to Blair C. Henshaw for the exhibition AIDS: A Global Understanding through a Universal Medium	1993	MsC 64 - Box 7
MsC-64-0-3-0-0-17	File - [BC Philatelic Society pendants]	[before 2002]	MsC 64 - Box 7

### Series MsC-64-0-4: AIDS on Stamps project files

Date: [199-]–2003 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of records generated from the lobbying activities of AIDS on Stamps, a non-profit AIDS awareness initiative organized by Blair Henshaw. AIDS on Stamps lobbied Canada Post and the federal government to produce an AIDS awareness stamp for circulation in Canada and abroad. Series includes correspondence, newsletters, newspaper clippings, certificates of recognition, commemorative records, proofs of stamps in development, photographs, research and international listings of stamps. Includes records from the 11th International Conference on AIDS, held in Vancouver in 1996, and an obituary for Blair Henshaw.

Physical description: 11 cm of textual records  
23 photographs

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Photographic material (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records have been arranged in chronological order by the archivist.

Publication status:

draft

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-1	File - [World AIDS day commemorative stamp correspondence]	1992–1993		MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 7
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-2	File - [AIDS on Stamps project records]	1994–1995		MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 8
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-3	File - [AIDS on Stamps campaign documentation]	1994		MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 9



MsC-64-0-4-0-0-4	File - [AIDS on Stamps postcard]	[199-]	MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 10
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-5	File - AIDS on Stamps newsletters	1994–1996	MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 11
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-6	File - [Proofs of stamps in development]	[ca. 1995]	MsC 64 - Box 9
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-7	File - [Recognition, Canadian AIDS stamp]	1995–1996	MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 12 MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 12
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-8	File - Cariboo Hill Secondary, Burnaby BC	[199-]	MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 13
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-9	File - [XI International Vancouver conference on AIDS]	1996	MsC 64 - Box 5 folder 14
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-10	File - [AIDS on Stamps display photographs]	[1996?]	MsC 64 - Box 8
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-11	File - AIDS collection, photos of display etc.	1992–1999	MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 1 MsC 64 - Box 8
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-12	File - Postal slogans research	1997	MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 2
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-13	File - [Commemorative packages, AIDS on Stamps]	1998	MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 3
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-14	File - [1998 stamp checklist]	1998	MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 4
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-15	File - [Stamp listings]	[199-]	MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 5
MsC-64-0-4-0-0-16	File - [Blair Henshaw commemorative records]	1995–2003	MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 6

### Series MsC-64-0-5: Correspondence

Date: 1993–2002 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series consists of correspondence addressed to Blair Henshaw; some envelopes have AIDS-themed stamps, cinderellas or slogans.

Physical description: 1 cm of textual and philatelic records

Language of the material:

English

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Philatelic record (documentary form)

Arrangement:

Records have been arranged in chronological order by the archivist.

Publication status:

draft				
File / item list				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
MsC-64-0-5-0-0-1	File - [Jean Anne Hlavacek, correspondence]	1994		MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 7
MsC-64-0-5-0-0-2	File - [December, 1995 correspondence]	1995		MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 8
MsC-64-0-5-0-0-3	File - [Basil J. Hunter, correspondence]	1995-1996		MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 9
MsC-64-0-5-0-0-4	File - [Stamped envelopes]	1993-2001		MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 10
MsC-64-0-5-0-0-5	File - [Keith Spencer, correspondence]	2002		MsC 64 - Box 6 folder 11