

Where the twelve days for Christmas originated

The twelve days of Christmas, a carol evocative of rich Christmas fare, was used as a British Victorian fireside forfeits game played before families took down their Christmas decorations.

A parlor game before eating mince pie and Twelfth Night Cake, and the carol was sung on the Twelfth and final night of Christmas, the Epiphany.

The Twelve Days of Christmas is now accepted as part of the canon of holiday carols. But, it originated long ago as a gentle parody by 13th century French minstrels poking fun at some solemn chant of their day.

The song dates back, as far as the British are concerned, to a 13th century manuscript stored in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, and called 'Twelfth Day.'

No one can say when the carol rose from relative obscurity, but in 1780, a miniature children's book called 'Mirth Without Mischief', published it as a folk song.

As a Victorian parlor game, the carol involved a test of memory and concentration. Players had to forfeit if they failed to get the verses' wording correct, or in the right order.

As the carol progressed, feats of memory and concentration became more demanding and players found it hard to escape forfeits.

The carol is common in Britian, France, Canada, and the United States and different versions contain a variety of strange gifts.

Continued on page 4

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. Christmas is just around corner and New Years soon follows. We need to look back over the year to remember the fellowship we've had at our club, the stories we've shared, and the new things we've learned. The new year brings the promise of more fun and new people to meet. The annual stamp shows will begin soon including ours. Of course there will be new stamps from the Post Office and old stamps from our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and better new year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Where the twelve days of ...	1
The President's Corner	1
Nashville Stamp News	2
Club Info	2
Plate Number Coils part 2	3
Where the twelve days..Cont'd	4

Matt Benward, President NPS

* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

October Project

As many of you know October is stamp collecting month. To promote the hobby the Nashville Philatelic Society put stamp exhibits in many of the locate libraries. This year worked out well. The club would like to thank everyone who helped and especially big THANK YOU goes to Tony Ramirez who organized this project.

Nashville Stamp Show'99

Our stamp show will be held at the Day Inn Airport off Briley Pky. on March 13-14, 1999. We will need volunteers to help with show. Please let Dave Bodkin know in you can help

Johnnie Mary Clary

Ms. Clary has been an active member of the club until just recently. Several months ago she was moved to a care facility for medical reasons. She loves to hear from people and receive calls. Here's her address:

Vanco Manner Center
8135 Dickerson Rd.
Room 215A
Goodlettsville, TN 37072
Phone: 851-8404

New Members

Bill Mason
Rachael Von Mann
Hampton Wayt

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #41 Winter 1998

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Ed Saunders, Jr.
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Helen Bodiford
Marie Farmer

Matt Benward	President
Tony Ramirez	First Vice-President
David Bodkin	Second Vice-President
Rachael Von Mann Jr.	Vice-President
Tom Tribke	Secretary
Bob Picirilli	Treasurer
Marie Farmer	Delegate-at-Large

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting at 6:45 p.m., and Program at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library, 4312 Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC GAZETTE is an official Publication of the Nashville Philatelic Society which is published quarterly.

Opinions expressed in THE GAZETTE are those of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nashville Philatelic Society or its members.

The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Continued in the next issue
3

American versions offer Bulls-a-roaring, hounds-a-hunting, bears-a-leaping, hares-a-running, wolves-a-howling, and deers-a-running.

Other versions include Limerick oysters, gold finches, grey elephants, an Arabing baboon, and a papingeyey, peacock, and a goose that was grey. Colley birds, meaning black birds, became calling birds or colored birds.

In the British versions, the lady of the carol would eventually receive 12 leaping lords, 22 dancing ladies, 30 pipers piping, 36 drummers, 40 milk maids, 42 swimming swans, 42 laying geese, 44 gold rings, 36 blackbirds, 30 French hens, 22 turtle doves and 12 partridges in 12 pear trees. In all there are 364 gifts, one for every day of the year but one, and that one is reserved for the gift of true love.

ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

My true love sent to me,
Twelve lords-a-leaping
Eleven ladies dancing
Ten pipers piping,
Nine drummers drumming
Eight maids-a-milking
Seven swans-a-swimming
Six geese-a-laying
Five gold rings
Four colly birds
Three French hens
Two turtle doves
... And a partridge in a pear tree.

* Reprinted from Yule Log March/April 1989.

FROM:

NASHVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
MATT BENWARD, EDITOR
P. O. BOX 60531
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37206

TO: