

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.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. Christmas too is just around corner with all the joy it brings and the new year brings its new challenges for us to overcome. In a few months our annual stamp show will be held and as will several others in the surrounded cities and states. As in years past we will need people to help out with our show. If you can help please let any club officer know! So have a great holiday season and look forward to better new year!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for March – June 2002

Highlights of our club's activities for the above period follow.

The NPS held its 3/11/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 2/25/02 meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Smith won the door prize. Yoshiko McCullough's application for NPS membership received its first reading. Wesley Lepter's application for membership was approved after its second reading and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Julian Hosnedl returned after a long absence and applied to renew his membership. This was approved and he was welcomed back to the NPS. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. An informal report was also given on the 2002 NPS Stamp Show held on March 9-10, 2002. Members estimated that 250 – 350 people attended the show. Marie Farmer reported that 30 stamp packets were distributed to junior attendees. Deloris Faust won the Krause drawing at the show for a one-year free subscription to "Stamp Collector" magazine. Bill Caldwell recommended that a handcart be purchased to help with show setup and takedown. This purchase was approved by the membership. It was also asked and approved that the Linn's NPS Show notice be extended to assure coverage up to the date of our show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Confederate States Stamps".

The NPS had its 3/25/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/11/02 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Leslie Petersen won the door prize. Yoshiko McCullough's application for membership was approved after its second reading and she was welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. It was reported that Matt won the John Campbell Award at the 2002 Stamp Show. Congratulations! Deloris Faust joined the Phone committee to help with member communications. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that the Airport Day's Inn had committed to host our 2003 Stamp Show. It was suggested that our monthly post card include meeting information on other area clubs. Tom Tribke agreed to investigate design revisions and costs. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/8/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/25/02 meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Smith won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Dan Vaughn, a Stamp Show attendee, sent NPS a large box of stamps as a donation for junior stamp packets. A "Thank you!" letter was sent for his kind donation. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Civil War Patriotic Covers".

The NPS held its 4/22/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/8/02 meeting were read and approved. Wesley Lepter won the door prize. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the NPS 2002 Stamp Show and the first quarter 2002. Show results showed a gain of almost one thousand dollars for the club. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Minutes Review for March – June 2002 - Continued

The NPS had its 5/13/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 4/22/02 meeting were read and approved. Chuck Samsel won the door prize. Norm Elrod's application for NPS membership received its first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt and Tom Tribke reported on the Chattanooga Stamp Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The revised format for the monthly postcard with area club meeting information was presented and approved. NPS members also committed to send the mailing to the Brentwood, Murfreesboro and Sumner County club members. Ron Lessard asked that the monthly auction results be published. This will be investigated. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on the "World Columbian Exposition".

The NPS held its 5/28/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. The meeting was held on the fourth Tuesday to avoid the Memorial Day holiday. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 5/13/02 meeting were read and approved. Matt Benward won the door prize. Norm Elrod's application for membership was approved after its second reading and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt asked members to recommend themes for the 2003 NPS Stamp Show. Themes mentioned include the Louisiana Purchase, the Wright Brothers' first flight and the End of the Korean War. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 6/10/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 5/28/02 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Charles and Nancy Hiehle's applications for NPS membership received their first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Paul Green donated stamps for junior packets. Thank you! A "thank you" letter was received from the Brentwood Philatelic Society for the revised format, monthly postcard that included their club meeting information. Recommendations were received from John DeFever and Ron Lessard to provide an additional "participation" prize to supplement our current "door prize" at each meeting. These recommendations were referred to the NPS officers for study. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Steamboat Company Stamps".

The NPS held its 6/24/02 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-three members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 6/10/02 meeting were read and approved. Chuck Samsel won the door prize. Charles and Nancy Hiehle's applications for membership were approved after second reading and they were welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Marie Farmer reported that stamps were received from a Brentwood Stamp Club member for junior collector packets. An additional recommend theme for the 2003 NPS Stamp Show was the 200th anniversary of Fulton's steamboat. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Contemporary U. S. Collecting Challenges

By Bob Picirilli

Continued in the next issue

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.

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