

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 Great Britain, 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. There will be new stamps to find, new friends to be made, and shows to attend. So have a great holiday season and look forward to better new year!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

2009 APS Spring Show in Nashville

Norman Elrod reports that Nashville has been selected by the APS for AmeriStamp Expo 2009 Winter Show. The tentative dates are January 30th through February 1st. The other two finalists were Mobile, Alabama and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This was reported in the Virtual Stamp Club forum. Further details can be found at the APS web site. The url is www.stamps.org/ameristamp/intro.htm

Nashville Stamp Show 2006

Next year our annual stamp show will be held at the The Music Valley Event Center at 2416 Music Valley Drive off Briley Parkway. The space at the hotel is almost 9000 square feet and meets our needs well. There will be twenty stamp and 10 post card dealers at the show. Also we need people to help before, during, and after the show. Also, I would like to thank everyone who helped out at this years show. You all did a great job !!! Thanks. So lets make next years bigger and better than ever!!!

New Members

James P. Callahan	2/05	706
Dave Van Hoven	3/05	707
James R. Young	5/05	708
Robert Sazama	6/05	709
Laverne Sutton	7/05	710
Ben R. Price	8/05	711
Jerry L. Vasser	8/05	712
Karl Schwabe	9/05	713

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #52 Fall 2005

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David Bodkin	Second Vice-President
Wesley Lepter	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 a 6:45 p.m., and Program at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Madison Branch Library, 610 South Gallatin 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.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for January 2005 – November 2005

The NPS held its 1/10/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/22/04 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 13, 2004. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Ellen Willis was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that seventeen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2005 Stamp Show. Tom Tribke presented a sample cacheted show cover representing the 2005 Show theme. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "the Black Jacks".

The NPS had its 1/24/05 meeting at the Madison Square Piccidilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 1/10/05 meeting were read and approved. Matt Benward won the door prize. Nancy Roberson was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2004 Annual Report. Matt reported that eighteen dealers committed for the show. Bob said that exhibits for at least 20 frames were expected. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/14/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 1/24/05 meeting were read and approved. James Callahan won the door prize. Doug Old was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. James Callahan's application for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Marie Farmer advised that she had sufficient stamp packets prepared for the show. Matt reported that 20 stamp dealers, 10 postcard dealers and 3 cachet dealers were committed for the NPS 2005 Stamp Show. Bob Picirilli reported that 30 plus frames would be needed for show exhibits. Matt asked for help for setup and takedown of the NPS Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on the "Detection of Altered Stamps".

The NPS held its 2/28/05 meeting at the Madison Square Piccidilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 2/14/05 meeting were read and approved. Robert Hall won the door prize. Axel Hansen's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. James Callahan's application for membership received approval after the second reading and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The Atlanta APS Winter Show and the Birmingham Stamp Show were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Frank Reilly (BPS). Thank you! Matt asked for help with the setup and take down of the 2005 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 3/14/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Six members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 2/28/05 meeting were read and approved. Jason Spavins won the door prize. Bob Becker was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt gave an initial report on the 2005 Nashville Stamp Show and thanked everyone who helped with setup and takedown of the Show. Matt and Tom reported on a troubling problem on the loss of more than \$100.00 stamps from both the Nashville and Brentwood APS stamp circuit books. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow titled "In violation of the Rules".

The NPS had its 3/28/05 meeting at the Madison Square Piccidilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/14/05 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Mrs. Hall won the door prize. No Participation Award was drawn. Dave Von Hoven's application for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming stamp shows were discussed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Frank Reilly (BPS). Thank you! Bob Picirilli distributed the Stamp Show Awards list to club members. A special "thank you!" was made to Richard L. Smith for the excellent job he did with signage and entry exhibits for the 2005 Stamp Show. Matt and Tom again reported on a troubling problem on the loss of more than \$100.00 stamps from both the Nashville and Brentwood APS stamp circuit books. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/11/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members were present. Minutes of the 3/28/05 meeting were read and approved. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Barbara Stout was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Dave Von Hoven's application for NPS membership received approval after second reading and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Stamps were received from Matt and Frank Riley. Thank you! Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the first quarter 2005 and an initial estimate of 2005 Stamp Show results. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Luminescent U. S. First Day Covers".

The NPS held its 4/25/05 meeting at the Madison Square Piccidilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 4/11/05 meeting were held till the next meeting. Richard Smith won the door prize. The Participation Award was not drawn. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. A report on 2005 Show cover sales was provided by Tom Tribke to the Treasurer. Matt asked for 2006 Show theme suggestions. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 5/9/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and six guests were present. Minutes of the 4/14/05 and 4/28/05 meetings were read and approved. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show titled "Up in the Air: Design Errors on Aircraft and Space Stamps".

The NPS held its 5/23/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 5/9/05 meeting were read and approved. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Axel Hansen was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Three bags of stamps were received as donations from the members. Thank you! Members were asked for suggestions for a theme for the 2006 stamp show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 6/13/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 5/23/05 meeting were read and approved. Tom Grimes won the door prize. Julian Hosnedl was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reviewed the Louisville and Huntsville Shows. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Richard Smith showed the recently received 2006 Scott International Catalog Vol. 1 & 2 that were part of full catalog set being bought by NPS and donated to the Madison Library. The business session then adjourned for a talk by Matt Benward on "U. S. Postage Due plate number blocks".

Nashville Philatelic Society
Minutes Review for January 2005 – November 2005 - Continued

The NPS held its 6/27/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 6/13/05 meeting were read and approved. Applications for membership were received and read from Robert Sazama and James Young. Tom Grimes won the door prize. Wilson Mulliniks' name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Mr. Smith presented a recommendation for the 2006 Stamp Show theme. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 7/11/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 6/27/05 meeting were read and approved. Richard Smith won the door prize. Ora Eads won the Participation Award. Robert Sazama's application for NPS membership was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into the membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Mr. Smith presented additional recommendations for the 2006 Stamp Show theme. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for a presentation on "Philately and the Internet" by Jason Spavins and Matt Benward.

The NPS had its 7/25/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 7/11/05 meeting were read and approved. Steve Wright won the door prize. Eric Jamborski's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. 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 second quarter 2005 that was approved by the NPS membership. An additional recommendation for 2005 Stamp Show theme was received from Matt. Thank You! The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/8/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/25/05 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price's application for NPS membership received first reading. Ben Price won the door prize. Bob Picirilli won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported that Norm Elrod had found that APS had scheduled its 2009 Winter Show to be held in Nashville. Further information on this show will be announced as it is learned. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Several additional recommendations for 2006 Stamp Show themes were received from Mr. Smith. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Under-rated First Day Covers".

The NPS had its 8/22/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 8/8/05 meeting were read and approved. Jerry Vasser's application for NPS membership received first reading. Ben Price's application for NPS membership was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into the NPS membership. Robert Hall won the door prize. David Scutt won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Frank Riley. Thank you! Matt reported that our 2006 Stamp Show location would be relocated to another location nearby to the Music Valley Expo Center due to the old location's conversion to a restaurant. Seven additional recommendations for 2006 Stamp Show themes were received from Jason Spavins. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 9/12/05 meeting at the Piccidilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/22/05 meeting were read and approved. Karl Schwabe's application for NPS membership received first reading. Jerry Vasser's application for NPS membership was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into the NPS membership. Chuck Heihle won the door prize. Matt Benward won the Participation Award. A special prize was provided by Bob Sazama from the Stamp Show he recently attended in Taipai. Thank you! This special prize was won by Emmett Sullivan. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Sazama reported on the Taipai Stamp Show. Matt and Tom reported on a visit to the Music Valley Event Center - new location for our 2006 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a preparation of exhibits for the October Stamp Collector Month displays in the Nashville public libraries.

The NPS had its 9/26/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/12/05 meeting were read and approved. . Karl Schwabe's application for NPS membership was approved after second reading and he was welcomed into the NPS membership. Bob Picirilli won the door prize. Ora Eads' name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Robert Hall presented a recommendation for the 2006 Stamp Show theme. Thank you! Richard Smith asked that the membership moving our regular meetings to the Piccidilly Cafeteria. After discussion the members voted 13 "yes" and 2 "no" to remain at the Madison Library. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/10/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members were present. Minutes of the 9/26/05 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Bob Picirilli's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt announced that six dealers had committed for the 2006 Stamp Show. Jason Spavins passed out copies of the APS Slide Show Lists for members to indicate their interests for viewing in 2006. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "Maritime Mail - 1907 to 1980".

The NPS had its 10/24/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 10/10/05 meeting were read and approved. Jerry Vasser won the door prize. Linda Ramirez's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt announced that seven dealers had committed for the 2006 Stamp Show and noted that our show was now listed in Linn's Stamp Journal. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/14/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/24/05 meeting were read and approved. Jason Spavins won the door prize. Ellen Willis' name was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Matt Benward and Ben Price. Thank you! Matt reported that eight stamp dealers had committed to the 2006 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "1861, A Year of Change".

The NPS had its 11/28/05 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 11/14/05 meeting were read and approved. Bill Winstead won the door prize. Kevin Baker's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he was not present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Ballots were handed out to select the 2006 Stamp Show theme. . The vote was tallied and the "300th Anniversary of the Benjamin Franklin's Birth" was selected. Matt reported that nine stamp dealers had committed to the 2006 Stamp Show. 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.

* Reprinted from Yule Log March/April 1989.

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