

Benjamin Franklin - A Renaissance Man  
By Matt Benward

Benjamin Franklin was a one of the most accomplished men of his time. He was a statesman, scientist, printer, newspaper owner, and public leader. He was the only person to sign all four of the key documents in American History: the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Alliance with France, the Treaty of Peace with Great Britain, and the Constitution of the United States. His post of Minister to France was key to the American victory in the Revolutionary War. Most historians consider him to be the most able and successful diplomats ever to be sent abroad.

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Mass. on January 17, 1706. He was the fifteenth of 17 children. His parents were Josiah and Abiah Franklin. His father was a soap and candle maker. Franklin went to school until the age of 10 when his father decided that he could no longer afford it. He then went into the family business and started cutting wicks and melting tallow. At 17 Franklin ran away to Philadelphia and worked in various print shops for several years. In 1730 Franklin married Deborah Read. They had 3 children, two boys and a girl. One son, William later became governor of New Jersey.

As a publisher he developed *The Philadelphia Gazette* into one of most successful newspapers in the colonies. He was the first editor to publish a newspaper cartoon and use a map to illustrate a story. He published *The Philadelphia Gazette* from 1729 to 1766. He achieved even greater success with *Poor Richard's Almanac* that he published from 1733 to 1758. The almanac's fame is mainly from the wise and witty sayings that were scattered throughout each issue. Some of them are: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"; "God helps them who help themselves"; and "Little stokes fell great oaks."

Franklin never sought public office, but in 1736 he became the clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly. The poor service of the colonial postal service disturbed him greatly and he agreed to become Philadelphia's postmaster in 1737. He so impressed the British government with his efficiency that in 1753 became the deputy postmaster general for all the colonies. He established the first "dead letter" office and first city delivery system. He also sped up

---

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to the Nashville Stamp Show 2006. Our theme for our show is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. This year we have 17 stamp, 7 post card, and 2 cachet dealers from all over the country. They have varied stocks of stamps and post cards from the US and the rest of the world. Please stop by for a visit and have a look at their stocks. The dealers are always ready to help and answer your questions.

Our stamp club maintain tables at the entrance to help our fellow stamp collectors with any questions, problems, or just stop by and chat. Please stop and look at the stamp exhibits. But first and foremost have a lot of fun at our stamp show!

Matt Benward, President NPS

+-----+	
INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Benjamin Franklin	1
The President's Corner	1
Nashville Stamp News	2
Club Information	2
Minutes of the Society	3&4
3 cent "Stuart" Washington	5
Benjamin Franklin continued	6





# Nashville Philatelic Society

## Minutes Review for September 2006 – February 2006

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 "300<sup>th</sup> 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.

# Nashville Philatelic Society

## Minutes Review for September 2006 – February 2006

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/12/06. No business session was held. Approximately fifteen members and guests joined together for fellowship and good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/9/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members were present. Minutes of the 11/28/05 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 12, 2005. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Ellen Willis was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows and the new postage rates were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2005 Annual Report. Matt reported that eleven stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2006 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk on "Postage Due Plate Number Blocks" by Matt and a slide show on the "Columbians" by Tom Tribke.

The NPS had its 1/23/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 1/9/06 meeting were read and approved. Mrs. Hall won the door prize. David Scutt 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. Matt reported that seventeen dealers committed for the show. Bob Picirilli said that more exhibits for the show were needed. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 2/13/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 1/23/06 meeting were read and approved. Matt Benward won the door prize. David Scutt was drawn again for the Participation Award, but was present to win. Ed Kimbrough'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, but needed more commemoratives. Matt reported that 18 stamp dealers plus postcard and cachet dealers were committed for the NPS 2006 Stamp Show. Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Matt asked for help for setup and takedown of the NPS Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS video on the "Railroad Post Offices".

The NPS held its 2/27/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 2/13/06 meeting were read and approved. Jerry Vasser won the door prize. Leroy Jirikovic's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Ed Kimbrough'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. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Les Petersen. Thank you! Tom Tribke presented sample cacheted show covers designed by Jason Spavins representing the 2006 Show theme. Matt asked for help with the setup and take down of the 2006 Stamp Show. Bob Picirilli handed out "NPS Auction: Practices and Procedures" to give guidance for future auctions. Matt indicated that the Auction Guidelines would be also posted on the NPS website. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Notes on the 3 cent "Stuart" Washington  
By Louis E. Repeta

In the early 1970's, I lost interest in just mounting stamps in their appropriate places in albums. I wanted to devote some time to the serious study of U.S. stamps. Why U.S.? My major concern was the language barrier I would encounter with philatelic literature in the native tongue.

I joined the Bureau Issues Association and thanks to the late "Cloudy" French, a fascination developed for the U.S. plate varieties on stamps printed prior to 1940. I soon learned this field is immense and many examples were financially out of reach. In 1974 I restricted my study activities to the 3 cent "Stuart" Washington series of 1932. I set out to devote time to the study of this series of stamps for my enjoyment, to have some fun, and as a learning experience for myself. I have continued to work with this stamp for the past 14 years.

The 3 cent "Stuart" Washington is one of the most common stamps of the 20th century. Used copies available in quantity are inexpensive since billions were printed. The series enjoyed a long life of six years before being replaced by the 3 cent Presidential stamp. The 3 cent Stuart continued to be used in the early 40's. Therefore the opportunity for extensive domestic and international use of this stamp existed.

I formed a reference collection of this stamp that is basically a study of fundamentals such as intaglio plate making, stamp printing, production varieties and errors, freaks, and oddities. Several "Stuart" plate numbers are elusive and command a premium.

My interest in this series of stamps gradually expanded to include an interest in the postal history of the period. What changes occurred in postal rates and special service fees while the stamp was current? What philatelic and significant historical events occurred during the stamp's tenure? The 3 cent "Stuart" was released during the Washington Bicentennial Celebration and this stamp can be found on a large variety of philatelic Special Event and patriotic covers.

I did not start out to form a competitive exhibit. That an exhibit of philatelic importance evolved just happened to be a beneficial by-product. I visited many stamp shows and at times would come back home mumbling that my material is just as good as some of the exhibits I saw. With encouragement from my wife Rosemary I started to exhibit the 3 cent "Stuart" material in early 1984 at the local and regional level shows. My objectives for exhibiting were to entertain, educate, and encourage other collectors with similar 20th century material to show. One of the first lessons I learned, if you want to win high level awards, was to cut down on the amount of write-up. My reference collection write-up style was not

appropriate. I learned to be brief and concise. The stamps and covers should not appear lost in the surrounding write-up.

Continued in the next issue

5

Benjamin Franklin - A Renaissance Man  
continued from page 1

foreign mail deliveries by using the fastest packet ships available to across the Atlantic Ocean. To speed up domestic mail service he hired more mail riders and required them to ride both day and night. He also helped Canada establish its first regular postal service. He opened office in Quebec and Trois Rivieres in 1763 and later established a messenger service between Montreal and New York.

Franklin was always looking for ways to make Philadelphia into a better city. He helped establish the first free-of-charge lending library, organized a fire department, paved the streets and set up lighting; setup a city hospital for the poor; set up the American Philosophical Society; and set up an academy of higher learn which later became the University of Pennsylvania. As a result Philadelphia became the most advanced cities in the colonies.

In 1757 the Pennsylvania legislature sent him to London to represent the colony in a tax dispute. He spent the next 18 there as an unofficial ambassador for the colonies. In 1775 he returned to Philadelphia and was chosen to serve in the second Continental Congress. During this congress Franklin submitted a *Plan of Union* that became basis of the *Articles of Confederation*. The Continental Congress chose Franklin as postmaster General and directed him organize the postal system quickly. He quickly had the mail service Portland, Maine to Savannah, Georgia up and running. In late 1776, at the age of 70, he was appointed to be Minster to France. He work tirelessly to gain France as an ally and after the victory at Saratoga the Treaty of Paris was signed on February 6, 1778. Then he had his hands full with arranging the transportation to America of French solders and guns.

Franklin retuned to Philadelphia in 1785 and served as governor of Pennsylvania. In 1787 at the age of 81 he was chosen to be a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. During the convention he was one of the authors of the Great Compromise that lead to creation of a two house Congress. In 1778 he elected to be President of the first anti slavery society in the United States. His last public act was to sign an appeal to Congress to abolish slavery.

On April 17, 1790 at the age of 84 Benjamin Franklin died. 20,000 people - half the population of Philadelphia - attended his funeral. He was buried beside his wife.

-----  
FROM:

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

TO:

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org/> \*  
\*\*\*\*\*