

Where the Twelve Days of 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.

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

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. +-----+
Christmas is just around corner with the new year soon to | INSIDE THIS ISSUE |
follow! We look back on the old year passing and forward to| Twelve Days of Christmas 1 |
the promise of the new year to come. This new year brings | The President's Corner 1 |
challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show will soon| Nashville Stamp News 2 |
be just around the corner as will the others in the | Club Info 2 |
surrounding cities and states. There will be new stamps | Minutes of the Society 3&4 |
issued by the Post Office and old ones to be found with | Collecting Scouts on Stamps 5 |
our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and | Twelve Days Of Christmas 6 |
look forward to better new year! +-----+

Matt Benward, President NPS

* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

Ron Lessard

Since the last edition of this newsletter Ron Lessard retired. He was a member in good standing and an active member for many years. He and his wife have moved to North Carolina and are enjoying the retired life! Sorry to see you go. Please come back to visit. Hint - our stamp show is in March. :)

Nashville Stamp Show 2008

Our annual stamp show is being held next March 8-9 at the Music Valley Event Center located at 2416 Music Valley Drive suite #144 near Opryland Hotel. To volunteer to help with the show please let David Bodkin or myself know. Each year we have organized several committees to keep things going smoothly. They are the Show committee headed by Dave Bodkin; the Publicity committee headed by Tom Tribke; the Exhibit committee headed by Bob Picirilli and Nick Munn; and the stamps committee is headed by Marie Farmer and Virginia Smith. All these committees have several members, but they could always use more help. If you would like to be on one of these committees, please contact the Chairperson or see one of club officers. Please help put on our best stamp show ever!

New Members

722	Amelia Munn	05/19/2007
723	Priscilla Kraemer	07/23/2007
724	Allen Bollmeier	09/27/2007

Articles for this newsletter

If anyone would like to write an article for this newsletter, please let me know. It can be on any aspect of stamp collecting and can be of any length. I was thinking of the topic of "My Favorite Stamp" would be a good start for any collector. It could be from a few paragraphs up to one page. Please let me hear from you. Thanks.

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #57 Fall 2007

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Tom Tribke	Secretary
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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 Madison Branch Library, 610 South Gallatin Road Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

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

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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for June 2007 – November 2007

The NPS had its 6/11/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seven members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 5/29/07 meeting were read and approved. Amelia Munn's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and she was welcomed to the club. Matt Benward won the door prize. Norman Elrod'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 and Stamp committees. It was noted that the meeting room was extremely cold and may have contributed to the low meeting attendance for this meeting. Library personnel indicated that building HVAC equipment was not working properly. The business session was then adjourned for a talk by Matt and Tom Tribke on "Errors, Freaks and Oddities on Stamps".

The NPS held its 6/25/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/11/07 meeting were read and approved. Anthony Lee Taylor's Application for NPS Membership received first reading. Karl Schwabe won the door prize. Tony Ramirez'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 and Stamp committees. Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2007 Stamp Show theme. The "150th Anniversary of the Overland Express" was suggested. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 7/9/07 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 6/25/07 meeting were read and approved. Anthony Lee Taylor's Application for NPS Membership was scheduled for second reading, but was tabled indefinitely due to an inability to contact him. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Carol Goodin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Chuck Heihle donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the second quarter 2007 that was approved by the NPS membership. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Matt on "Postal Insurance Booklets".

The NPS had its 7/23/07 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/9/07 meeting were read and approved. Priscilla Kraemer's Application for NPS Membership received first reading. Matt Benward won the door prize. Richard Smith won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that three dealers had committed to our 2008 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/13/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 7/23/07 meeting were read and approved. Priscilla Kraemer's application for NPS membership received second reading and approval and she welcomed into NPS membership. Ben Price won the door prize. Matt Benward won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Marie Farmer was welcomed back after a long medical absence and Marie and the NPS members and guest enjoyed a piece of "Welcome Back!" cake provided by Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Matt reported that the 2008 APS Winter Show had been rescheduled and would no longer conflict with the 2008 Nashville Stamp Show. A postal-related Art Show was reported as being held during August at the Twist Gallery in the Nashville Arcade. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation from Matt and Tom on "Postal Margin Markings".

The NPS had its 8/27/07 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 8/13/07 meeting were read and approved. Allen Bollmeier's application for NPS membership received first reading. Carol Goodin won the door prize. Matt Benward 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 Bill Vance. Thank you! Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2008 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

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Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for June 2007 – November 2007 Cont'd

The NPS had its 9/10/07 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/27/07 meeting were read and approved. Allen Bollmeier's application for NPS membership received second reading and approval and he was welcomed into the NPS membership. Bill Vance won the door prize. Matt Benward won the Participation Award again! Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Tom Tribke. Thank you! Matt reported that eight dealers had now committed to the 2008 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Matt on "Potato Tax Stamps".

The NPS had its 9/24/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 9/10/07 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Ricky Wright'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 asked for Theme Suggestions for the 2008 Stamp Show and advised that thirteen dealers had committed for the 2008 Show. Matt announced that Bob Picirilli was retiring from Stamp Show organizing and support duties and that Dave Bodkin and Nick Munn would be assuming these responsibilities. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/8/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/24/07 meeting were read and approved. Matt won the door prize. Ricky Wright'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. Bill Vance donated stamps. Thank you! Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the third quarter 2007 that was approved by the NPS membership. Matt announced that fourteen dealers had committed for the 2008 Stamp Show. Nick Munn suggested "the 100th Anniversary of the Introduction of the Model "T" and "the 50th Anniversary of the Mercury Capsule" as 2008 Show themes. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for an excellent presentation by Bill Vance on "Confessions of a Stamp Dealer".

The NPS had its 10/22/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members were present. Minutes of the 10/9/06 meeting were read and approved. Matt won the door prize again! James Jones' name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt and Bill Vance reported on the Evansville, Indiana show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bill Vance donated stamps. Thank you! Theme Selection ballots were distributed for theme selection. Voting was also to be continued at our following meeting. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/12/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 10/22/07 meeting were read and approved. Amelia Munn won the door prize. Emmett Sullivan won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamp donations were received from Al Bollmeier and Bill Vance. Thank you! After voting on the 2008 Show theme during this and the previous club meetings, the "100th Anniversary of the Model "T"" was selected as our Show theme. Matt asked if anyone of our membership knew of an inexpensive source of tables for rent or purchase for our Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for an excellent program by Dave Bodkin on "the Love of Love Stamps".

The NPS had its 11/26/07 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and five guests were present. Minutes of the 11/12/07 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyer won the door prize. Wesley Lepter's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he was not present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance reported on his recent "My Stock Only" Show. Al Bollmeier showed examples of "Camping Revenue Stamps" that he had. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt reported that fifteen stamp dealers had committed to the 2008 Stamp Show. NPS members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the 12/10/07 Christmas Party. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

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A Big Year for Collecting "Scouts on Stamps"

By Tom Tribke (With a lot of help from the Web)

It is a big year for collecting "Scouts on Stamps" in that it is the 100th Anniversary of Scouting World-wide and most countries that have Scouting programs are issuing stamps to commemorate this event. By the way, the United States is not one of the countries issuing stamps to commemorate this anniversary, but hopefully, the United States will issue stamps to commemorate the 100th Anniversaries of the US Boy Scouts in 2010 and the US Girl scouts in 2012.

But first a little history on how I began collecting "Scouts on Stamps". Back during the "beginning of time" when I was a boy, I was trying to figure what stamps that I could collect that were not also being collected by my Dad and my Grandfather before him. I talked with my Dad about this and he suggested "Scouting" in that I was in the Boy Scouts at the time. Of course I, using great analytical powers, wondered where the country of "Scouting" was. It was then that I was introduced to the wonderful world of topical stamp collecting. But enough about me (Some would say!) – Back to Scouting and "Scout Stamps"!

Scouting - 100 Years Old in 2007

Today, there are more than 36 million Scouts, young people and adults, male and female, in 216 countries and territories. Some 400 million people have been Scouts, including prominent people in every field.

This is impressive considering that Scouting began with 20 boys and an experimental camp in 1907. It was held during the first nine days of August in 1907 at Brownsea Island, near Poole in Dorset, England. The camp was a great success and proved to its organizer, Robert Baden-Powell, that his training and methods appealed to young people and really worked.

In January 1908, he had published the first "Scouting for Boys", a book issued in fortnightly parts at four pence each. It was an immediate success. Baden-Powell had only intended to provide a method of training boys, something that existing youth organizations such as the Boys' Brigade and Y.M.C.A. could adopt. To his surprise, youngsters started to organize themselves into what was destined to become - and is today - the world's largest voluntary youth movement.

Baden-Powell's Background

Robert Baden-Powell (B-P) was born 22 February 1857. He was, therefore 50 years old when the Brownsea camp took place. His many experiences as a boy and as a soldier played a part in the formulation of these training methods.

As a youngster - one of ten children (six brothers) - he spent his holidays camping, hiking and sailing. Tent pitching, map and compass use, and wood-fire cooking were but a few of the skills he acquired. Near his school at Charterhouse, England, he used to sneak into the forest, which was off-limits; here he learned how to hide his tracks, climb trees and "freeze" to escape attention if any of the schoolmasters entered the woods.

In 1876 he went to India as a young army officer and specialized in scouting, map-making and reporting. His success soon led to his training other soldiers for the work. B-P's methods were unorthodox for those days; small units or patrols working together under one leader, with special recognition for those who did well. For proficiency, B-P awarded his trainees badges resembling the traditional design of the north compass point. Today's universal Scout badge is very similar.

Later he was stationed in the Balkans, South Africa and Malta. He returned to Africa to help defend Mafeking during its 217-day siege at the start of the South African war. It provided crucial tests for B-P's scouting skills. The courage and resourcefulness shown by the boys in the corps of messengers at Mafeking made a lasting impression on him. In turn, his deeds made a lasting impression in England.

Returning home he found that he had become a national hero. He also found that the small handbook he had written for soldiers was being used to teach observation and woodcraft to members of Boys' Clubs and Boys' Brigade. B-P decided to rewrite the book especially for boys. The 1907 camp on Brownsea Island was to test his ideas in practice.

Continued in the next issue

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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