



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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The Story of the Christmas Tree ... author unknown

The Christmas tree came into general use in comparatively recent times. The custom began in Germany and was first mentioned in an anonymous chronicle in 1605. There is a story, however, that Martin Luther started the custom much earlier, putting candles on an evergreen to represent the stars on Christmas Eve.

Another story tell of Saint Boniface when he was a missionary in Germany in the eighth century. He was trying to stamp out the pagan rite of sacrificing people to the oak tree. He lead his followers into a forest at Yule time. Showing them a fur tree, he said it pointed straight upward to the Christ child. "Take this tree into your homes," he said, "as a sign of your new worship. It lives when the earth is darkest and has no sign of blood. Celebrate God's power no more in the forest with shameful rites, but in the sanctity of your homes with laughter and love."

By the beginning of the ninetieth century, all Germany had adopted the Christmas tree. The custom soon spread to most countries of northern Europe, but is still unusual in Italy, Spain, and Latin America. The date of the first Christmas tree in the United States has been given as 1804 at Fort Dearborn in Illinois, but research has failed to substantiate it; the date now accepted is 1832 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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 follow! We look back on the old year passing and forward to the promise of the new year to come. This new year brings challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show will soon be just around the corner as will the others in the surrounding cities and states. There will be new stamps issued by the Post Office and old ones to be found with our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and look forward to better new year!	<table border="0"> <tr><td>+</td><td>-----+</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>INSIDE THIS ISSUE</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>The Story of the Xmas Tree 1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>The President's Corner 1</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Nashville Stamp News 2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Club Info 2</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Minutes of the Society 3&4</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Stamp Market Friend or Foe? 5</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Mother Teresa 6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>-----+</td></tr> </table>	+	-----+		INSIDE THIS ISSUE		The Story of the Xmas Tree 1		The President's Corner 1		Nashville Stamp News 2		Club Info 2		Minutes of the Society 3&4		Stamp Market Friend or Foe? 5		Mother Teresa 6		-----+
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Matt Benward, President NPS

* STAMP CLUB NEWS *

Nashville Stamp Show 2011

Our annual stamp show will be held next year on March 12 & 13 at The Music Valley Event Center located at 2416 Music Valley Drive, suite #144. This is near the Opryland Hotel and thankfully didn't get flooded as several other nearby businesses did. This is the same location as it has been in previous years and has worked out well since we moved the show there. Lastly as always we can't have a show without volunteers. So if you can help please let us know so we can make out 2011 show a success!!!

Articles for the newsletter

I need articles for this newsletter. aspect of stamp collecting. I would be willing to help write them too. Please contact me at mbenward@aol.com.

Welcome to the Christmas party!!!

Welcome our annual Nashville Philatelic Society Christmas Party!!! Hope everyone has a good time and has a delicious meal. This is a time to discuss the previous year and what next year will bring. Everyone have a nice Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

The Boy Scout Merit Badge Committee

The Boy Scout Merit Badge committee was recently approved by the membership and is headed by Bill Edwards. So far the it has 3 members: Bill Edwards, Nick Munn, and Tom Tribke. Its purpose is to help local Boy Scouts to get the Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Please contact Bill Edwards if you wish to participate.

New Members

David Horton
Janie Baker

Dues are Due

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:
Marie Farmer

Matt Benward President
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President
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 at 6:30p.m., Program at 6:45, and out at 8 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!

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC GAZETTE is an official Publication of the Nashville Philatelic Society

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.

This publication is free and copies may be requested by writing to our PO box or emailing using the email info@nashvillephilatelic.org.

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

We are a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for June 2010 – August 2010

The NPS had its 6/14/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 5/24/10 meeting were read and approved. Mike McKibben won the door prize. Les Petersen's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Larry Pacl's application for NPS membership received second reading and he was approved and welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported upon the recent Huntsville Stamp Show and the cancellation of the Louisville Show. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Boy Scout committees. The business session then adjourned for a talk on "Identifying Stamps" by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS held its 6/28/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/14/10 meeting were read and approved. Julian Hosnedl won the door prize. Richard Greer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Bill Vance reported on his Murfreesboro show. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. It was reported that the new Scouting stamp is to be issued in July. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 7/12/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Seventeen members and eight guests were present. Minutes of the 6/28/10 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Robert Hall's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. David Erbach, Janice Erbach and Brian Oleksa's applications for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt asked for recommendations for the 2011 Stamp Show theme. Matt also advised that he was having a "Stamp Collectors Cookout" at his home on this coming Saturday, July 17th. Matt further suggested that preparation exhibits for the 2011 Show should be started now to be ready in time for the show. The business session was then adjourned for an "Ice Cream Social" and a discussion on "Collecting Interests" by NPS members.

The NPS had its 7/26/10 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/12/10 meeting were read and approved. David Erbach, Janice Erbach and Brian Oleksa's applications for NPS membership received second readings and they were approved and welcomed to NPS membership. Pat Edmondson won the door prize. Robert Hall'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. Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2011 Stamp Show theme and for recommendations on desired meeting topics for future meetings. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/9/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 7/26/10 meeting were read and approved. Larry Pacl won the door prize. Patsy Johnson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. The NPS was saddened to learn of the death of Lotus DeFevers on 8/6/2010. John DeFevers had passed away several months earlier. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the second quarter 2010 that was reviewed and approved by the NPS membership. Linda West donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Matt advised that a new treasurer would be need by year's end to replace Bob Picirilli who is resigning. Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2011 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for a talk on "Stamp Appraisals" by Bob Picirilli, Bill Vance and Matt.

The NPS had its 8/23/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 8/9/10 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Patsy Johnson won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Julian Hosnedl reported that some of the issued stamps could again be soaked off of paper and that Linn's Magazine had a list of these stamps. Julian also reported problems with the new blown ink postal cancels that badly defaced stamps thus making them uncollectable. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2011 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for September 2010 – November 2010

The NPS had its 9/13/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 8/23/10 meeting were read and approved. David Horton and Jamie Baker's applications for NPS membership received first reading. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Ellen Willis' name was drawn for the Participation Award, but she wasn't present to win. Bill Vance donated a number of items as door prizes. Thank you! Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Julian Hosnedl and Larry Pacl donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Julian again discussed the new blown ink postal cancels that badly defaces stamps. Matt asked again for theme recommendations for the 2011 Nashville Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Matt, Al Bollmeier and Tom Tribke on "Protecting Your Stamps".

The NPS had its 9/27/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/13/10 meeting were read and approved. Kenneth Owen won the door prize. Len Goodin's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. David Horton's and Janie Baker's applications were approved after second readings and they were welcomed into NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Copies of the new NPS newsletter were distributed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. The club was saddened to learn of the death of member Patsy Johnson. A card and donation were sent from the club. Al Bollmeier and Matt donated stamps to the club. Thank you! Matt mentioned the need for help for the 2011 Show and a theme. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/11/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/27/10 meeting were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Len Goodin's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Larry Pacl reported that he was taking the APS "Basic Stamp Collecting" course and that it was very good. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt announced that the Treasurer's position was soon to be open and volunteers were needed. Exhibiting and the need for exhibits for the 2011 Show were discussed. The business session then adjourned for a presentation by Al Bollmeier on "Odds and Ends in his collection".

The NPS had its 10/25/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 10/11/10 meeting were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Ellie Eads won the Participation Award. 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 third quarter 2010 that was approved by the NPS membership. Matt announced that seven dealers had committed for the 2011 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/8/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 10/25/10 meeting was read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Scott Bastoky's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. It was reported that Ken Owen's daughter had a new baby. Congratulations! Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt asked for articles for the upcoming NPS Newsletter. The business session then adjourned for a talk and demonstration by Matt, Al and Tom on "One Page Exhibits".

The NPS had its 11/22/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-four members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 11/8/10 meeting were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize again! Ray McIntire won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Ray McIntire volunteered for the NPS Treasurer position and will work with Bob Picirilli learn the duties. Bob also announced that 2011 dues were due. NPS members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the 12/13/10 Christmas Party. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The Stamp Market - Friend or Foe?
by L. Steve Edmondson

Linn's Stamp News has just recently published its Stamp Market Index. Over the past year, according to this index, the price of 19th Century United States stamps has risen 14.45%. The same index for 20th Century United States stamps has risen 5.2%, while the index for United States Airmails is up 3.29%.

At first blush these figures seem encouraging. But on closer study, they contain much food for thought. The wide disparity between the increase for 19th century material (almost 15%) and the increases in the other two indices, both of which track 20th century material (up about 5% and 3% respectively) is troublesome. This clearly indicates the hobby has become decidedly two-tiered. At one extreme (dare I say the upper end), the (mostly older) affluent collectors are avidly chasing premium quality classic U.S. philately, while the other group (dare I say the lower end) composed of (the younger or) less affluent collector are maintaining a market that barely covers the increase in inflation. This is NOT good! And I choose these words carefully, because these figures don't spell bad news for the hobby, they're just not the good news. They need to be interpreted as yet another wake-up call to those influential within U.S. philately. We have to take steps now to insure that the new collectors join our ranks.

Another, perhaps more disturbing interpretation of these figures, is that the investment crowd is driving up the price of classic material in another BOOM like the hobby experienced in the late 1970's. If this is true, and I the IF, then it is decidedly BAD. For as sure as there's a boom, it will be followed by a BUST. That is what happened in the early 1980's and the hobby was devastated for well over a decade. In large measure because of the financial shenanigans, the public shied away from the hobby and for the past twenty years new collectors have not replace all those who have departed. The result is called, "The aging of philately." And there is no question it happened. The average age of the stamp collector has gotten older - and older. Obviously, if the trend continues, the last stamp collector will be asked to "turn out the lights." But well before this happens some other milestones will be passed: dealers will close up shop because they can't make enough money to pay overhead and continue in business. The hobby press first will shrink and then disappear. Stamp clubs and organizations will lose membership and ultimately stop functioning. Will all of this come to pass - probably not!

Dealers have closed up their small "mom & pop" shops - but this isn't unique to our hobby - the trend away from locally owned, small operations is economy wide. In place of the local dealer, we now have an active network of show dealers. A month doesn't go by without there being at least one bourse or club shop in the Portland, OR - Vancouver, BC corridor - and on many weekends there's more than one. Auctions remain active and prices for all philatelic material remains firm.

The hobby press has experienced some shrinkage. Again, the demise of the small, specialty newspapers is not unique to philately. More importantly, the largest of our periodicals, Linn's, hasn't lost ground; and the second largest, Stamp Collector, just this year was acquired by a "hobby conglomerate" and its subscription figures are firm, albeit slightly down. And the two papers at the bottom of the subscriber list merged. If this sounds like business news from the other sectors of the American economy, well it is! Consolidation has been the dominant feature of our business system for the past twenty years. Different, sure! Disastrous, no!

Stamp clubs and other hobby organizations have also gone through a period of belt tightening. The APS for example lost membership (not drastically but noticeably). Now, it is holding its own, possibly even gaining membership. Most of the other specialty organizations to which I belong have the same track record; and the same thing can be said for our own club. Our older members go, but new ones come in - maybe not quite in the numbers that would make us happy, but enough to see that the wolf is not at the door.

Mother Teresa by Marie Farmer

Mother Teresa, who died in 1977, will join the late actress Katherine Hepburn, athletes of the Negro league Baseball, and stars of the Cowboy movies as celebrities on stamps on 2010. The commemorative is slated for release in August 2010. The stamp will feature a portrait painted by Thomas Blacksher II, an award winning artist from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In 1948 Mother Teresa, a Roman Catholic nun left her teaching post at her convent in Calcutta India to devote herself to the city's indigent people. She was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan. Mother Teresa was awarded honorary U.S. citizenship in 1996 by President Bill Clinton and Congress.

The U.S. stamps program has honored other American legends not because of their religious beliefs, but because of their contributions to civil rights and youth development, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Father Edward Flanagan. All these people are heroes.

Main source Kentucky Stamp Club

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