



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

Volunteer State

Philatelic Gazette



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Merry Christmas!!!

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.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. Christmas too is just around corner with all the joys 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 hopefully. So have a great holiday season and look forward to better new year!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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Nashville Stamp Show 2021

I spoke to the person at the Gallatin Civic Center Who's in charge of the meeting rooms and she can't guarantee that the gym will be available on March 20th and 21st. In fact she told me that it has closed since last March. Next I spoke to the Music Event Center where we use to have the show years ago and they are remodeling the room, but they are pretty much in the same boat. So unfortunately it looks like we'll have to postpone the show to some point later in the year. I was thinking of August as we had planned after we had to cancel our show last March. I'll keep everyone posted.

Roger Hunt asks for donations of old albums

Roger Hunt asked the members to donate old, partially-filled stamp albums for the "children's stamp table" our forthcoming stamp show. As you may remember during our 2019 show there were tables setup between the dealers tables and exhibits with loose stamps for children and some adults to pick through. So if you have any old albums just sitting around the house please think about donating them to help get children interested in stamp collecting again. You may contact Roger at the club meetings or contact the club and we'll get your message to him. Please email: show@nashvillephilatelic.org.

Articles for the newsletter

I need articles for this newsletter on any aspect of stamp collecting. They can be hand written, typed, or by computer in any format. I would be willing to help write them too. I have been getting some articles during the last few months, but I still need some more. If you see interesting articles in the philatelic press, please let me know. You may contact me at the club meetings or at mbenward@aol.com. Thanks.

All club meetings now at the Bavarian Bierhaus

Since the Inglewood Public Library is still closed for the foreseeable future all club meeting will be held at the Bavarian Bierhaus at Opry Mills until further notice. At these meetings all COVID-19 mandates are being followed.

New Members

Bill Young
Pam Manley

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Matt Benward President
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President
David Bodkin Second Vice-President
Madeline Seibert Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke Secretary
Mark Thompson Treasurer

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting at 6:15 p.m., and Program at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library, 4312 Gallatin Pike, 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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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.

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The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for October 2020 – November 2020

The NPS had its 10/12/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 9/28/20 meeting were read and approved. Bill Young's and Pam Manley's applications for NPS membership received second readings and were approved. They were welcomed to the club. Mark Thompson won the door prize and Steve Meyer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1162 "followers" and Facebook had 525 "likes". A Treasurer's Report by Mark Thompson was presented and copies were given out. On Old Business Matt Benward's birthday was announced and on New Business a virtual program would be held on October 13 at 11am Eastern for the new Kwanzaa stamp issued in Nashville. The business session then adjourned for a program on 'Operation Cornflakes' by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 10/26/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and two guests were present. The minutes of the 10/12/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Nick Munn won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues (The 'Drug Free American' coming out on October 27 was mentioned) and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone (Mark Thompson twisted his knee), Stamp, and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1164 "followers" and Facebook had 528 "likes". On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 11/9/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 10/26/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Dimples won the door prize and Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. It was mentioned that there were no new issues for the rest of the year and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1163 "followers" and Facebook had 528 "likes". On Old Business there was none and on the New Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would remain on March 20 – 21. The business session then adjourned for a program on 'Space on Stamps' by Al Bollmeier, Roger Hunt, and Matt Benward.

The NPS had its 11/23/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 11/9/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no applications for NPS membership. Steve Meyer won the door prize and Al Bollmeier won the Participation Award. It was mentioned that there would be no more stamps issued this year. Also it was announced that the Gallatin Coin show scheduled for December 11th and 12th was cancelled. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp (Ruse Tucker donated stamps – thanks!!!), and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1164 "followers" and Facebook had 529 "likes". On Old Business there was none and on New Business there was also none. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

Nashville Philatelic Society

Minutes Review for August 2020 – September 2020

The NPS had its 8/10/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 7/27/20 meeting were read and approved. Garry Speich's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Mike Gillespie won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Tom Tribke was in rehab. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1156 "followers" and Facebook had 454 "likes". On the Treasurer's Report Mark Thompson mentioned that the CD was cashed out and proceeds were moved to the checking account. On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for a program on 'Dummy Stamps' by Matt Benward.

The NPS had its 8/24/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and no guests were present. The minutes of the 8/10/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no new application for NPS membership and Jim Young won the door prize. Bill Bowman won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and the stamp show in Evansville on October 17 & 18 were mentioned. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1159 "followers" and Facebook had 488 "likes". On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

The NPS had its 9/14/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. The minutes of the 8/24/20 meeting were read and approved. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Jim Cate won the door prize and Nick Munn won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and any stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Tom Tribke was back home. There were no new applications for NPS membership. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1158 "followers" and Facebook had 494 "likes". On the Treasurer's Report Mark Thompson mentioned that the CD was cashed out and proceeds were moved to the checking account. On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and there was no New Business. The business session then adjourned for a program on 'Confederate Adversity Covers' by Jim Cate.

The NPS had its 9/28/20 meeting at the Bavarian BierHaus with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and no guests were present. The minutes of the 9/14/20 meeting were read and approved. Bill Young's application for NPS membership received first reading and John Behm's application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to the club. Rudy Caduff won the door prize and Jim Young won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and the stamp show in Evansville on October 17 & 18 were mentioned. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Matt advised that our Twitter site had 1159 "followers" and Facebook had 488 "likes". On Old Business it was mentioned that the NPS stamp show for 2021 would be held on March 20 – 21 and On New Business it was announced that October was stamps collecting month. The business session then adjourned for an auction conducted by Al Bollmeier.

Operation Cornflakes

Operation Cornflakes was a morale operation by the Office of Strategic Services during World War II that aimed to trick Deutsche Reichspost into inadvertently delivering anti-Nazi propaganda to German citizens through mail. The operation involved special planes that were instructed to airdrop bags of false, but properly addressed mail in the vicinity of bombed mail trains. When recovering the mail during clean-up of the wreck, the postal service would hopefully confuse the false mail for the real thing and deliver it to the various addresses.

Background

The OSS was formed from the division of the Foreign Information Service (FIS) and the Office of the Coordinator of Information (COI), a division that President Roosevelt enacted by Executive order 9128. The remainder of the COI was renamed the Office of Strategic Services. The newly formed OSS was under jurisdiction of the Joint Chief of Staff, giving the OSS the capability and status of a military branch. The overarching goal of the operation was to disrupt the morale of the German people by using a large scale psychological warfare operation (PSYOP) that the British MI6 had been pushing into service with the help of the Royal Air Force (RAF). Using the same pattern of mission as a previous OSS operation in Hungary, the OSS crafted their more intricate Operation Cornflakes. The distribution of propaganda in letters and distributed by the German postal system was thought to be an ideal method of reaching the German population and undermining support for Adolf Hitler.

Operation CORNFLAKES began with OSS officials collecting any and all German POWs that had experience with the German postal service or Reichspost. These prisoners of war were given better meals in exchange for information in collection, sorting, canceling and delivery of the mail. The OSS did not infiltrate Germany directly because they felt it necessary to focus their efforts in the liberation of France in 1944, but by the waning years of the war Secret Intelligence agents of the OSS could be found trickling in. The information came from nearby outposts in neutral countries that would supply the OSS with information. With this information the OSS and German exiles scoured the telephone directories and pulled over two million, randomly selected names registered within the Reich to send forged letters to. A unit of the OSS in Rome claimed to have forged over 15,000 envelopes a week. The letters contained writings about family happenings and gossip about non-existent people, the idea being that the domestic mail was not censored unlike the business mail. The letters coming out of Rome to be mailed were completed in different cities around Rome. The envelopes were addressed and sealed in Siena, then went to Rome where they would be placed into the counterfeit mail bags where the mail would be finally sent to Bari to be routed and canceled.

In hopes of shaking the morale further in the German people, the OSS called upon master forgers similar in nature as MI6 once had, but rather than having an image of Heinrich Himmler replacing Hitler, the OSS used a stamp of Hitler, but with some minor modifications. The modifications included a skull overlay that resembles a portion of Hitler's jaw having been "eaten away". The German subscript at the bottom of the stamp was also altered from 'Deutsches Reich' (German Empire) to 'Futsches Reich' (ruined empire). These stamps were known as the "Death Head" and were usually placed in the letter with other subversive materials. The letters were arranged in Reichspost bags that the OSS had forged to resemble the original bags. These precisely made bags were indistinguishable from the real German mail bags and were mimicked down to the material used. The bags would then be loaded aboard bombs specially designed to deploy the bags near a destroyed train, preferably one carrying mail, and drop the forgeries in amongst the originals in hopes that they would be put into circulation with the rest of the mail. However, all the prior planning was almost for naught because in August 1944 the Reichspost altered their franking machines on the domestic mail making the thousands of letters previously written void.

The OSS obtained a copy of the frank design and went to work again drafting up new letters and with the letters, subversive material. By September the next blow to the OSS operation was intelligence gathered that no domestic mail would be delivered due to wartime internal power struggle within Germany. One page newspaper leaflets called Das Neue Deutschland which contained material that the official newspaper would never print were placed into some of the outgoing letters to be dropped by the 15th Air Force. The 15th Air Force and fighter group detachment would be tasked with the destruction of the mail train and the planting of the mailbags of propaganda (Cornflakes) amongst the debris. The first mission of Operation Cornflakes took place on 5 January 1945, when a mail train to Linz was bombed. Bags containing a total of about 3,800 propaganda letters were then dropped at the site of the wreck, which were subsequently picked up and delivered to Germans by the postal service. Within 1944-45 twenty missions had been completed, reporting a success rate of 50%, leaving the 15th Air Force with over 320 delivered mailbags of propaganda.

Aftermath

A major oversight by the OSS and its task force in Rome was that the ravages of war shut down many of the cities' critical services and in some cases the postal service. While some cities continued its services of mail delivery, the allied bombing had turned many residences into piles of rubble; millions of people without a home were displaced and forced to leave and seek refuge elsewhere, in many cases with relatives. Without a physical address left to deliver the mail to, much of it was discarded. Another oversight was simply the fact that when people received mail from an unknown source they would usually destroy it, especially if the letters contained allied propaganda, either out of loyalty or fear of punishment.

Fake postage stamps

The British were the first to forge the Hitler head stamp in 3, 4, 6 and 8 Pfennig values from 1941 until the end of the war. These stamps were of better quality versus the Americans' attempt at forgery because the British used actual stamp production facilities whereas the Americans did not have access to quality ingredients such as paper, ink or engravers. The American forgeries focused much of their efforts on the 12 Pfennig stamp which hosted Hitler's head and exposed skull. The postage stamps used on the envelopes were forged 6 and 12 Pfennig Hitler-head stamps intended to look identical to genuine German stamps of the era, though these forgeries were printed by the Office of Strategic Services.

Where the twelve days for Christmas originated continued

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.

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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