



NSSS MEETS THE 2nd and 4th SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH,
IN ROOM 203 OF THE PHYSICS BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF
NEVADA. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.



STAMP
STUDY
SOCIETY

JANUARY 1988 ISSUE

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Once again, the Christmas Party was a great success. Approximately (pardon my memory) 27 people attended. We had turkey & trimmings, a variety of pot-luck salads, veggies, pies and other goodies too. The gift giving and taking got everyone talking. It started slowly, but soon it became evident that the most popular item was a bottle of wine. That one bottle of wine must have changed hands a dozen times! If you don't understand this narrative, you haven't come to the party for the past two years, have you? The gift giving is not a routine activity anymore. It's a game, a form of lively entertainment that truly spices up the party. Don't miss it next time.

The Christmas party was our only meeting in December. In a few brief "business" comments, Dick Dreiling and Gus Geiger brought us up-to-date on the latest NEVPX 88 news. The main thing I can recall is the approval by APS for us to have a single-frame exhibition competition for NSSS members. They want to encourage local club participation, even though it is a World Series of Philately show. I hope our club does "show its stuff" --- let's see how many of us can share our hobby with the public. Sixteen pages shouldn't be impossible to assemble.

The editorial staff of the Post Boy (... does that sound impressive?!) wishes all of you the best of opportunities in the New Year. I am getting ready to move next door into a bigger store and will have a genuine OFFICE in the back. This should mean I will be better organized and can do a better job getting this newsletter out, and keeping it interesting. That's my new year resolution. However, all article donations are still wanted and welcome -- what is your philatelic new year's resolution?

... ed.

Julia Ward Howe:
"The Battle Hymn of the Republic"

by Marshall Whitehead

Some will be interested in the U.S. stamp to be issued in Boston on Lincoln's Birthday to honor Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910). the entertainment industry stamps.

It was in December of 1861 at Washington, DC, that Mrs. Howe wrote the words beginning, "Mine eyes have seen the glory...". They were intended to be a more fitting accompaniment to the tune known as "John Brown's Body" than those being sung.

In February of 1862, the words were printed in THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY under the title "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and words and music at once became popular together.

No one knows just where the "John Brown" tune originated. It was apparently sung in Southern Negro churches and also by firemen, long before the Civil War. It often came to be used at camp meeting revivals with words beginning, "Say, brothers, will you meet us.."

The tune was popularized in the North by men of the Second Battalion of Boston Light Infantry, familiarly known as "The Tigers." Early in the war, they began to improvise words to it about one of their own number, Sergeant John Brown, a good-natured Scotsman who was

Scott #:

D.O.I: Feb. 12, 1987

P.O.I: Boston, MA

Type: Commemorative

Value: 22-cents

Series: Great Americans

Desc:

Des:



often kidded because of his name.

Later, some of the group joined the 12th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, taking the song with them, and the 12th became known as the "Hallelujah Regiment."

Belief arose that the words referred to the famous Virginian, John Brown of Harper's Ferry, and the Scotsman to whom they first referred was soon forgotten.

Mrs. Howe's words transformed the melody into a virtual national anthem, and during his presidency Theodore Roosevelt tried to have it adopted as the official anthem of the nation.

[REF: See also AMERICAN HERITAGE, "The Song That Wrote Itself," by Louise Hall Tharp, Dec. 1956, Vol. VIII, No. 1, pp. 10-13, 100-101, with illus.] Ed.

(This is from the Journal of PASU: Performing Arts Study Unit --- ed.) Nsss