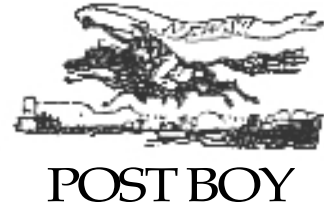


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
in the Sparks Heritage Museum at Pyramid and Victorian Avenue

N.S.S.S.



December 11, 2004

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Warde Dixon passed on October 2nd. He was not with the NSSS long but, always smiling, he made an impression on the members and will be remembered.

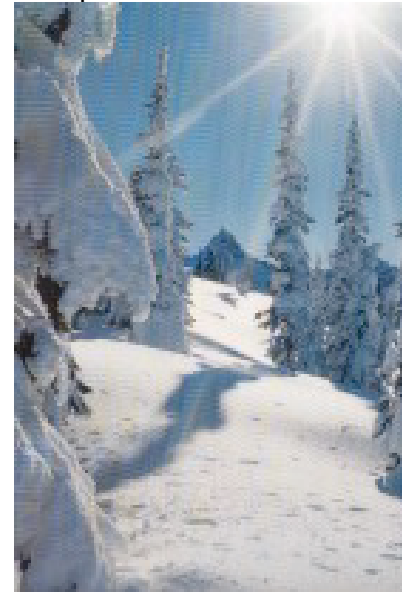
The **Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 11 at the Masonic Temple. Come on down at 6 or 6:30 for cocktails and visiting. Dinner will be served at 7:00. As usual, **Dick Dreiling** will be cooking his famous brown bag turkey. Plan on bringing a dish to share. **The Masonic Temple** is located at 401 Peckham Lane in Reno. Don't forget to bring your side dishes (hope you signed up for them at the last meeting). Also bring set-ups (knives, spoons and forks) for yourself and your guests.

Don't forget to bring a present for each member of your party so that when gifts are exchanged there will be enough for everybody. If you didn't sign up to bring a food item, come and join the party anyway. Just bring a present. If you forget to bring a gift, you're still welcome to enjoy the food, drinks and fellowship.

In this issue is one page devoted to Christmas in other

lands. With Christmas all around us, I thought you might enjoy.

December 4-5 at Redwood City will be **PENPEX 2004**. It will be held at the Community Activities bldg, 1400 Roosevelt Ave. (Hwy 101 or 280 to Woodside Rd., go north on Valota RD., approx 1 mi. to Roosevelt Ave., right two blocks, show on the left). Hrs are 10:00 to 6:00 and 10:00 to 5:00 on Sunday. Sponsored by the Sequoia and Peninsular Stamp Clubs.



Happy holidays, and may all of your holiday dreams come true.

Christmas in China

The Christian children of China decorate trees with colorful ornaments. These ornaments are made from paper in the shapes of flowers, chains and lanterns. They also hang muslin stockings hoping that Christmas Old Man will fill them with gifts and treats.

The Chinese Christmas trees are called "Trees of Light." Santa Claus is called Dun Che Lao Ren which means "Christmas Old Man."

The non-Christian Chinese call this season the Spring Festival and celebrate with many festivities that include delicious meals and pay respects to their ancestors. The children are the main focus of these celebrations, they receive new clothes and toys, eat delectable food and watch firecrackers displays.

Christmas in Bulgaria

Christmas Eve is as important as Christmas day in Bulgaria. A special diner, consisting of at least twelve dishes is prepared. All of them are without meat and each of them represents a separate month of the year. The dishes consist of beans, different kinds of nuts, dried plums, cakes, and the traditional Banitza. On this day the whole family gathers, eat on straw and get off the table in the same time.

In the past Christmas was celebrated differently. There were boys and non-married young men who were visiting the houses, singing songs for wealth and health for the hosts. They were rewarded with money, food and so on. They were bringing long sticks to put kravai which are round breads with holes in them. They were called Rkoledaris. In the houses the families gathered sitting on the ground or on dry grass and eating meatless food. There were 7 or 12 meals: wine, Rakia, sarmy and so on. There always was a huge round bread where all the cattle, the house and things like that were carved. Bulgarians make Christmas wishes around the fire and eat blood sausage.

Christmas in Greenland

In Greenland there is a lot of visiting of families, drinking coffee and eating cakes, as well as giving of brightly wrapped presents which might consist of a model sledge, a pair of tusks, or even a sealskin mitt.

Everyone in the village gets a gift and children go from hut to hut, singing songs.

Christmas trees are imported and decorated with candles as well as bright ornaments. There is dancing most of the night. After the coffee, cakes and carols everyone is given Mattak which is whale skin with a strip of blubber inside is given to everyone. The taste of it is much like coconut, but is tough to chew and is usually just swallowed.

Another food that is eaten is Kiviak which consists of raw flesh of an auk which has been buried whole in sealskin for several months until they have reached an advanced stage of decomposition.

This is the one night of which the women are waited on by the men.

There are games played including one in which an object is passed from hand to hand round a long table under the cloth.

Christmas Seals



Denmark 1927. Christmas Seal depicting Einar Holboell, who had passed away that same year.

Tuberculosis was the most feared disease in the world. It was a lung disease that left its victims pale and emaciated. It did not discriminate between rich and poor, famous and unknown. It took Chopin, R. L. Stevenson and Keats along with thousands of others. There was no cure and little hope of recovery.

In Denmark there were many people who received little or no care for the dreaded disease. Einar Holboell was concerned, mainly, for the children who suffered and looked for a way to alleviate their problem. Einar was a postal worker and noticed a lot of holiday mail during the season. Suppose Denmark issued a special seal to be sold in the post office with the stamps and the money could go to building TB hospitals for the suffering children.

He took the idea to the postmaster, his boss. He liked the idea as long as the seals were not used for postage. The king also liked the idea and provided money to print the seals. The first seal was printed in 1904 and bore the likeness of the Danish queen. The seals were sold in post offices throughout the country for a half penny. The promotion was a great success. Over four million were sold that year and two hospitals were built with the money.



The idea was picked up by Emily Bissell in the United States in 1907 to save a TB hospital in Delaware. She sold the seals at a table in a local post office with disappointing results. In an effort to publicize the seals, she went to a Philadelphia newspaper, The North American, and talked to columnist, Leigh Mitchell

Hodges. He took up the banner and devoted space in the paper for the cause. Teddy Roosevelt, then Speaker of the House also joined the cause and \$3000 was raised that Christmas season. Such was the beginning of the American Lung Association and the selling of millions of Christmas seals.



<http://www.entrenet.com/~groedmed/vsc/>



Bet you've seen these two stamps before. But what are they? They're from Antarctica and they appear to be cinderellas, so why were they printed, what purpose did they serve and why are they in my collection? If you want the answer to these questions go to the Virtual Stamp collection and find out.



Since I've already been there I will add to your already extensive body of knowledge;

"In the summer of 1953-1954 the Australian Government chartered the Danish ship Kista Dan to establish its first permanent settlement on the continent at a natural harbour. The labels pictured above were intended "for attachment to mail carried on the 1954 Australian Expedition to Antarctica." A souvenir sheet featuring the same four designs in black and white also exists."

The site come from © Grose Educational Media, 2004. I have edited the above paragraph. For the entire text, go to the site and click on "Antarctica Expedition of 1954 Cinderellas". Find out Where they parked the boat.

Do you happen to have one of those stamps from Albania that shows the double headed eagle inside a square that is one color? Some of them are overprinted "Takse" or "25 Quint. Know which ones I am talking about? Hard to find information about them. The Scott catalog mentions them in the section on regular 1921 issues. It says "These stamps were unauthorized and never placed in use". Okay. What does that mean? Would you like to know why these stamps were issued? Got to Virtual Stamp Collection and click on "Mirdicie Insurgency Fantasy Issue" and find out. There's a little clue in the name.

There are sixty-one more links to explore. How about "Polish Legion Charity Labels of 1916" or "The Roosevelt Mourning Issue with Perforation Error". This site deals with revenues, cinderellas, fantasy issues, and even real stamps. There is a lot of information on this site of the unusual and common. Too much to mention.

This site has given me a couple of hours of pleasure and education. I haven't yet gone though all I want to see, which would happen to be all of it. It is both entertaining and enlightening. It's easy to navigate. Everything's listed by country, in alphabetical order. I like the site and plan on returning to it many more times, especially when I find a stamp in my collection that perplexes me. It is also a part of an educational site that gives you Shakespeare among other thing. Go to this site. Its good!

Time again for the Christmas issue quiz. If you have never tried a quiz in this publication, this is the time to start. You never know, you just may get them all right.

1. The first Christmas issue was issued by what country in 1898?
A) Canada B) Their capital is Ottawa C) North of the US
2. What year was that stamp issued?
A) 1898 B) between 1897 and 1899 C) Before the turn of the century
3. The colors of that issue were Black, Lavender and Carmine?
A) True B) Not false
4. There was a second issue of that stamp in the same year?
A) True B) Not false
5. The colors of that second issue were Black, Blue and Carmine?
A) True B) Not false
6. This was the first ever issue of a Christmas stamp?
A) True B) Not false
7. The Mercator projection map of the world included which country?
A) Canada B) Australia C) The United States
8. The stamp originally sold at the Canadian post offices for what amount?
A) Two cents B) Two cents, Canadian C) \$0.02
9. The issue was put out in the Canadian post offices, for sale to the general public on December 7?
A) True B) Not false
10. Which queen of England reigned when this stamp was issued?
A) Queen Victoria B) "Old Queen Vic" C) Victoria I

For those of you who have never tried this quiz before and decided to take up the challenge, I hope this one is not too difficult. I would like to see your name on the answer sheets of future quizzes. For those of you who have been regular (and not so regular) in turning answers throughout the year and all of you in general, Merry Christmas!

This one will take you on a little bit of a search in the Scott's United States specialized catalog. It was a shade tougher than most of these quizzes, but doable.

1. - A) The Harry S Truman stamp #1499, was issued on May 8th, 1973, the anniversary of his birth in 1884. Lyndon Johnson's was issued on August 27th.
2. - B) George Eastman made photography available to the masses by inventing the "point-and-shoot" camera in 1888. # 1062 was issued on July 12, 1954.
3. - C) Mt. McKinley is the highest peak (20,320 ft.) in North America and is shown on # 800, the Alaska issue of the "Territorial issues" of 1937.
4. - A) Canal Zone # 138a was the wet printing, issued on October 27, 1949, picturing Theodore Roosevelt. The set of five was first issued in 1946 with wet plates (a's) being put out later, on various dates.
5. - B) Our fourteenth president was Franklin Pierce who strongly favored the Compromise of 1850, which sought to settle the slavery dispute. At age 48, he was also the youngest president to that time
6. - A) The first issues of the US government post office were adhesive stamps. #'s 1 and 2, issued on July 1, 1847.
7. -A) The stamp commemorating the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown (#703) was issued on the 150th anniversary of that momentous event.
8. - .A) As are all the high values (ten cent) in the Famous American series, #873 honoring Booker T. Washington (a famous educator) is dark brown.
9. - C) Our eighteenth president, Ulysses S. Grant was instrumental in bringing the North and South together and pardoning many former Confederate leaders. # 823.
10. - B) #'s 523 and 524 featured Benjamin Franklin on the two and five dollar stamps of the Washington-Franklin series.

Extra bucks. Rather than cause a feud in the family, his parents chose S as the middle initial so that both his grandfathers, Solomon Young and Anderson Shippe Truman could say Harry was named for him. So, the "S" stands for Solomon or Shippe according to who's in the room at the time. Conversely, it stands for nothing.

Do you like the answer to the extra credit question? I was suprised how many knew the entire story and how many came up with the correct answer. In any case, one hundred and ten bucks for all the answers.