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December 11, 2010

Its Christmas issue time again and I wish you all a Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays too, if you wish.

The Christmas party is being held on the 11th of December. A map to the party was given in last month's issue as were all the particulars. That party is held in place of the regular meeting and will be the only Stamp Club gettogether for the rest of the year. Our next meeting is on January 8, 2011. So, until then, Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

This month's "My Favorite Things" come to you from Jean Paquin. The theme is, "In Honor of Eugene R. Christie". You'll have to go to page ten to find out what that means.

Charles White has given us another good program, this month on "On-line Stamp Exhibits" and how to find them. In fact the information he passed to us could be used to find most anything on the Internet.

Charles has been doing this job for two years now and is ready for a break. The club is looking for someone to step up to the plate and take over the job of finding monthly programs for our meetings. The job can be challenging and if no one is available to do the program you may have to fill the position that month yourself. But, with challenge comes a satisfaction
of a job well done and that's what Charles has found. Great job Charles.


So far this year three of our regularly scheduled stamps shows have failed to materialize, probably owing to the financial weakness in the country. Those shows are, COALPEX, held in Walnut Creek, the Humboldt Stamp Show in Fortuna and SUNPEX which we usually see in Sunnyvale. We hope to see a recovery soon and these shows return to the stamper's scene.

FRESPEX March 12-13, 2011 ath the Veterans Memorial Building. 453 Hughes Avenue (1 block east of Clovis Avenue at Fifth Street) Clovis, California

## "Egg Nog"

Egg nog has been around for more years than we know. It was Served in the White House when George Washington was president. He brought the recipe from his household. In old England a drink called "Possit" may have been a forerunner of the seasonal drink. It was made of milk and Spanish Sherry.

The name "Egg Nog" may have come from the container a later drink was served in. The drink was called "Egg and grog in a noggin", possibly shortened to egg nog. This drink consisted of rum (grog) and egg served in a wooden cup, a "noggin." Egg nog as we know it evolved in the household of the upper classes who could afford to use good brandy, instead of rum and were able to spice the drink with sugar and nutmeg. The modern drink has a little more to it with the addition of cream and vanilla and has a little more variety with the use of bourbon and different spices like clove and cinnamon.

By the mid eighteen hundreds "nogg" had become a social drink served on holidays when visitors came a calling. George Washington's version contained rye, brandy, rum and sherry and only the bravest partook of more than one or two glasses.

## George Washington's Egg Nog

Makes: 6 quarts

* 2 cups brandy
* 1 cup rye whiskey
* 1 cup dark Jamaica rum
* 1/2 cup cream sherry
* 8 ext large eggs or 10 large eggs
* $3 / 4$ cup sugar
* 1 quart milk
* 1 quart heavy cream
* 1 teaspoon fresh ground nutmeg
* 1 cinnamon stick

Mix liquors first in a separate container. Separate yolks and whites into two large mixing bowls. Blanchir egg yolks (beat adding in sugar until the mixture turns a light yellow). Add liquor slowly to egg yolk mixture, continuing to beat (mixture will turn brown) until well incorporated. Add milk and cream simultaneously, slowly beating the mixture. Set aside.

Beat whites of eggs until stiff and fold slowly into the alcohol mixture. Add nutmeg and cinnamon stick, and stir well to incorporate. Cover mixture in an airtight container.

Allow egg nog to cure undisturbed for several days (4-7) in the coldest part of the refrigerator, or outside in a very cold (below 40 degrees) place. The mixture will separate as it cures. This is OK. Just be sure to re-incorporate mixture before serving cold.

History; http://www.kitchenproject.com/history/eggnoghistory.htm
Recipe; http://cooking.cdkitchen.com/TheCompetentCook/195.html

# Christmas stamps 

By Penny Circle

Christmas stamps are what keep the postal services of many countries busy and alive today. This is because Christmas is the time of year that most people will communicate with each other. The postal service in many countries has found that there is a diminishing number of items for delivery with the upsurge of the internet and email. This is the problem facing Post Offices throughout the world today but in particular the 'USPS' and the 'Royal Mail' (who issue Great Britain stamps) both of whom are huge providers of Xmas stamps. We can help by encouraging the sending of cards for the holiday period.

Get your friends to send you a card at Christmas time and enjoy the beautifully newly issued stamps depicting snow, serenity, Santa Claus or religious themes. Stamps issued at Xmas time are quite beautiful and most countries of the world will have a special issue for the occasion. Many will carry a religious featuring Christ's birth and Bethlehem but others are non-denominational. Stamps and their designs are copyrighted by the postal service and also by the designing artist and the stamps are themselves miniature works of art. Rare stamps are older and generally not copyrighted.


The 2010 issue For the United States
These stamps were issued, as is usual, in the middle of October. The pine cone stamps on the left are "forever stamps" and will be usable next Christmas. The artist is Ned Seidler who used his own trees as subjects. The angel with lute comes from a 15th century painting by Melozzo da Forli.
http://paknetmag.blogspot.com/

## Welcome To Pakistan Philatelic Net Club

Today, as I look through Christmas stamps on the Internet, I saw a mention of the 2010 Christmas issues from Gurnsey, a one time British island off the Coast of France, so I clicked on the link. What I didn't expect was to see a write-up of these stamps in a stamp club from a Muslim Country, Pakistan. It makes me feel good to know that not all the Muslims in the world hate Christians. So, maybe we can, after all, continue to get along as we have for the last 1500 years.

The club is set up as a blog, the owner, Wahid Zia, writes about stamps and coins and whatever else strikes his fancy. You may in turn, add comments to the blog. The part about the Christmas stamps were the first of many subjects
 discussed on this page. Italy, Australia and Malta's Christmas stamps have links at the bottom of this article. Also mentioned are rare stamps of Russia and China, some new banknote issues and a space scandal from when American astronauts carried some covers into space with them with the intent of selling them after their return. Interesting story. He shows this year's Christmas issue from Germany and a commeorative souvenir sheet honoring J. M. Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan.

On the right he has a view of an Islamic clock in case you want to know the time in Pakistan. Under that are his other blogs which include typical subject you might expect from a Pakistani that reflect his country and flag plus one on "Global Beauty." I went to the one called "RAHEHIDAYAT" but couldn't understand what it was. Some of the writing was in English but most was Arabic. It was, apparently, about the Muslim faith. Well below that are links to the blog archive going back to 2009. There are many, many articles to browse through and a lot of information available.

The site is easy to navigate but a little slow to come up. That's because of the rather large amount of information contained within each page. It is a site that welcomes all to participate and share your knowledge. A very good site.

Tis the season to be jolly so I have made the questions a little easier this month. All of the answers can be found within the pages of the publication you have in your hand right now. You won't have to pick up the Scott catalog. So, have fun and enjoy the quiz. I feel confident you will do well on this one.

1. Egg nog should be served?
A) Cold
B) Without alcohol
C) In a "noggin"
2. George Washington served egg nog at the White House on festive occasions. What did he put in it to make it a little more interesting?
A) Rye
B) Jamaican rum
C) Sherry
3. There are two Christmas issues from the United States this year. One is a set of four. Which is another characteristic of them? They are;
A) Forever stamps
B) Pine seeds
C) All different
4. What about the other issue? The elements in that one are;
A) An angel
B) A lute
C) A green smock
5. Not every country celebrates Christmas and issues Christmas stamps. That is because they are;
A) Pakistani
B) A Muslim country
C) Wahid Zia
6. Countries besides the US that do issue Christmas stamps are;
A) Italy
B) Germany
C) Malta
7. In Great Britain this year Christmas stamps were issued that featured;
A) Wallace
B) Grommit
C) Both
8. Grommit was given a sweater for Christmas. It;
A) Was blue
B) Had bones on it
C) Was too big
9. The Auction Bucks auction last month featured;
A) Harvey Edwards
B) Dick Simmonds
C) Lots of "stuff"!
10. The NSSS (that's us folks) celebrates Christmas every year;
A) By decorating a tree
B) With a Party
C) At the Heritage museum

Bonus question: You will get ten extra bucks for getting the first question right. By the way, that question is not number one!

Hope you had a good time with this one and didn't strain your brain (too much).

Not too difficult a quiz so you probably got all of them right. But, just in case you're not terribly confident, here are the answers.

1. A. The five franc stamp (\#618) of 1979 has a picture of a Roman coin with Julius Caesar on a Denarius. The denarius is the "penny" referred to in the New Testament, thus the "d" of denarius became the symbol for pence, in Great Britain.
2. B. \#514 shows an archer with a drawn bow to honor the third European Archery Championship in 1972.
3. C. You can soar with eagles and have peace with doves but the woodpecker represents animal protection on \#376.
4. A. Its a nice picture (if you're not a fish) of a brown trout just about to clamp down on a baited hook.
5. B. The first stamp issued in Luxembourg is shown right at the beginning of those listings and came out in 1852.
6. A. Flowers were the subject of the only semi-postal issued in 1975. The low value (\#B303) shows a Fly Orchid. Nice looking flower.
7. C. \#C7 shows a strut and wheel (but not the rest of the plane) flying over the Moselle river, a 319 mile long tributary of the Rhine in Germany. It starts out in the mountains of Eastern France. I'll bet that would be an interesting boat ride!
8. C. The question refers to "stamps" but there was only one stamp issued in 1928 with the multiple airplane watermark. That was \#O179. As far as I can determine, it was the only stamp issued with that watermark. Perhaps the question was a bit misleading so all answers are acceptable.
9. B. I suppose the answer to this one depends on your definition of "hero". Paul McCartney is a hero in the musical world and Shakespeare a hero among writers but what we're looking for here is a war hero. That would be Winston Churchill on \# 548.
10. A. The letter " $N$ " in the Scott refers to occupied. The next letter " $B$ " refers to semipostal. NB1-NB9 means the first nine (1-9) semi-postal (B) stamps issued during the German occupation (N) of Luxembourg in World War II.

Bonus question. This one, believe it or not, is true. The air freshener John Walter used to soak an unsoakable was called "Pure Citrus". And, when I tried it, it worked like a charm.

## Well that's Christmas licked, Gromit: Wallace and his long-suffering dog to appear on Royal Mail stamps By Steve Doughty

They are already Christmas regulars whether it is on TV or emblazoned on that gift pair of pyjamas or novelty mug. But this festive season there really won't be any escape from Wallace and Gromit.

The animated inventor, whose gadgets never quite work according to plan, and his long-suffering dog, will be delivering their brand of humour from the envelopes of millions of Christmas cards.

The characters will appear on five seasonal stamps;


On second-class mail, Wallace lets rip with the carols as Gromit raises an eyebrow (and no doubt thanks his lucky stars for his ear muffs).


Gromit staggers under the weight of an enormous Christmas pudding on the 97 p stamp.


On the $£ 1.46$, he receives that classic Christmas sweater...which looks a little on the large side

Animator Nick Park had to develop the scenes first, then they were shrunk to fit stamps. Philip Parker, of Royal Mail, said the task was 'a labour of love'.

Keen-eyed collectors armed with a magnifying glass will see the envelope being posted on the first-class stamp features the actual first-class stamp.'

In the US some people didn't like the Simpson's stamps. Did anyone object to these? You bet!


On the first-class stamp, the dog posts his own stack of letters, "What happened to Christmas?.. has it now turned into a platice comedy show?.. are christians not to be given a choice of what stamps they wish to buy?.. I AM DEEPLY OFFENDED BY THIS." - By the way, no one seems to know what a "platice " is.




