

CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CLUB

THE DECEMBER, 2008, MEETING IS OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER. THIS YEAR IT IS BEING HELD AT 'THE TEA COTTAGE' LOCATED AT 2233 HICKORY VALLEY RD. CHATTANOOGA, TN. FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 6 PM.



HE is the reason for the season

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-- DECEMBER MEMBER BIRTHDAY --

JACK CASE	03/12/--
GENE BRICKER	09/12/--

Hope you each have a great day!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PHILATELIC LIBRARY

On 18 November 2008, I called the RMPL and talked with the President of this Library, Sergio Lugo, and had a very nice conversation with him. I asked him what our club would receive for having a membership. His response was, "Not much!" He went on to explain that we will receive their newsletter and great feeling of being a member. An individual member can call and ask questions and the volunteers, will try to look up anything in their computer data base. BUT, we can not checkout books nor will the volunteers will a lot of time in doing so. I personally asked about Postal Permit Imprint Stamps and received a fairly nice e-mail with some terrific info. So, if you are wanting info on a philatelic subject, call or e-mail to the following:

Phone: 303-759-9921

E-mail: rmpl@qwestoffice.net

Internet: www.rmpl@denver.org

CLUB BUSINESS AND INFORMATION

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP --

As far as I can determine the annual auction was somewhat of a success and everyone had a good time. Thanks go to Jack and his wife for work and efforts.

DECEMBER MEETING --

This will be our annual Christmas dinner. We will meet at 'THE TEA COTTAGE' located at 2233 Hickory Valley Rd. in Chattanooga.. Festivities at 6 PM. I look forward to this one!

ADOBE READER 9.0

After sending the November Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle to be placed on the Southeastern Federation of Stamp clubs web site. I received several reports from members who had a hard time opening it. I was one of these people.

After some investigation, I found the major problem to be that many of our members did not have an up-to-date copy of Adobe Reader. Go to this address: <http://www.adobe.com/> and follow the instructions on how to download Adobe Reader 9.0. IF, you have a dial-up connection to the internet, it will take about 4 hours to totally download. It will be well worth it, as you can't believe how great this new copy is. **BY THE WAY --- IT'S FREE!**

For those who have high speed internet you can download the new Adobe Reader 9.0 very fast.

TRIVIA QUESTION

WHO WAS THE FIRST WOMEN ON A STAMP?

The first woman on a stamp was Queen Victoria. It was the Black Penny. The stamp was issued by the United Kingdom.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – Trish Bowers

Thanks to Jack Case and his wife, Duane, for a great job with the auction. We did rather well financially and had several laughs to boot. Thanks for all that provided items and then bought items.

Another reminder about our Christmas party which will be December 11, Thursday, at The Tea Cottage located at 2233 Hickory Valley Road. We'll plan to meet at 6:00 P.M. and dinner at 6:30. There will be door prizes and a very special returning performance by Vivian Chaij. Also, we are doubly blessed to have a four piece brass group performing for us as well. Does it get any better? (YES, we need to have Willie Nelson, for a show!-ed)

The cost for each person is \$15.00. If you plan to attend, I need your money in advance. I will also need to know whether a non-meat entree is requested and if it is vegan.

Directions are from the post office, turn right onto Shallowford Road at second signal light, turn right onto Hickory Valley Road, second driveway on right is The Tea Cottage. The Tea Cottage has a web site if you would like to check it out: www.theteacottage.com If you are attending, I HAVE to have your money by December 4. You don't want to miss this event.

Annual dues are due. \$20.00 gives you membership through December, 2009. For that \$20.00 you receive an award winning monthly newsletter, opportunity to spend time with folks who share the same interests, gives you an excuse to get out of the house for a couple of hours, participate in really good snacks and beverages and further your education in the world of philately. Does it get any better?

Speaking of newsletter, you presently are receiving it via hard copy (snail-mail) and the Internet. If you desire a mailed copy of the newsletter, please let Willis (texas4421@core.com) or me (423-899-0981) know, as of January, 2009, we are going primarily Internet to save on cost of postage. Please make sure your e-mail address is current. You will receive a monthly newsletter, you just need to let us know how you want to receive it.

Until next month.... Trish

CHRISTMAS ISSUES AND LEGENDS

This is time of year most people receive holiday mail brightened with a choice of secular and religious Christmas stamps. Did you know that Canada is the birthplace of the Christmas stamp. Canada's 2¢ Christmas stamp of 1898 pictured a map of the British Empire shown to the left. If you would like to see more information about the first Christmas stamp, I refer you back to the Chronicle for 12/2008 in the Stamp of the Month column, for details on how this stamp came to be.



Many countries have issued stamps that picture how they celebrate Christmas in that country. As you collect these Christmas stamps it is interesting to learn the story behind them.

La Befana, the Christmas witch, is a tradition in Italy. Usually depicted as an aged woman, she visits all the children of Italy on the night of Jan. 5. The next morning, on the Feast of the Epiphany, kids who have been good awake to find that she has left sweet, curly candy for them. Children who were bad awakened to a lump of coal. La Befana is depicted on Canada's 48¢ 1992 Christmas stamp, Scott 1453.



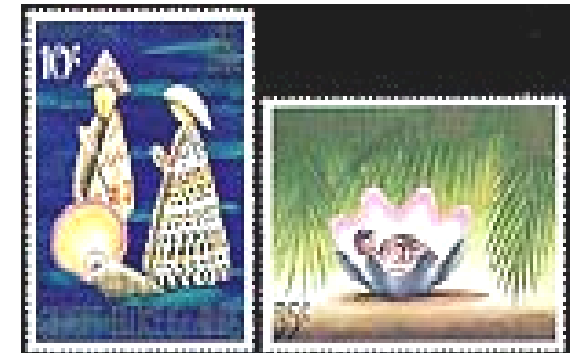
The Pitcairn Islands, through the issue of the 1979 souvenir sheet, Scott 191a, is just one more country that celebrates Christmas on stamps. Their souvenir sheet is one that you will want to add to your collection. The 6¢ value shows Christmas presents being brought to the village square. The gifts are hung on Christmas trees (shown on the 9¢ stamp). The 20¢ stamp shows how the present-decorated trees are admired throughout the day and then at sunset the gifts are taken down and distributed. The 35¢ stamp shows the island residents returning home with their gifts. This celebration of the holiday season involves the entire population of Pitcairn, an easy enough feat to accomplish, because the total population today is fewer than 50.



Moving halfway around the globe we find a village scene unfolding on the 1986 Swedish stamp, shown to the left, this is Scott 1617. The snowy scene shows boot-clad villagers taking presents to the post office to mail.

Some stamps show holiday motifs with a local interpretation, such as the Gilbert

and Ellice Islands 10¢ and 35¢ 1972 Christmas stamps illust-rated below, Scott 204-05. The stamps picture nativity scenes constructed from seashells that are found in local waters.



The Cook Islands released an interesting series for Christmas 1979 showing island arts and crafts and traditional Christmas decorations in combination with a floral motif. The high value from the set of four is the 15¢ Ancestral Statue With Flowers stamp, Scott 540, is shown in Figure 6. Because Cook Islands is in the southern hemisphere, Christmas and December occur there in summer, and the islands are even more abundantly abloom than the usual tropical climate allows.

What could be more appropriate for Christmas than the view of

Bethlehem pictured on the 350-fil Palestinian Authority stamp shown here is Scott 60b. The addition to any collection



The New Zealand block of four se-tenant 45¢ Christmas stamps shown, center and to the right, was issued in 1993. The block shows the necessary things that are required for enjoying a Christmas celebration in New Zealand, where Christmas is a summertime holiday. Presents flank a holiday plum pudding and trinket-filled Christmas crackers. In the background are the colorful sails of yachts, a pastime that might be enjoyed along with a day at the beach on Christmas Day in New Zealand. The top two stamps in the block show a bouquet of pohutukawa tree blooms. This tree is known as the New Zealand Christmas tree. Its flower first appeared on a New Zealand Christmas stamp issued in 1972.



The above stamps depict a more familiar holiday themes: a 50¢+25¢ Floating Snowman semipostal stamp from the Netherlands, Scott B597; a 3.20-kroner Carolers stamp, Norway Scott 1000; and a 26-penny Child Dreaming of Christmas Delights stamp, Great Britain Scott 1198.

Scott 189-93, below show Santa relaxing in the local environment of Christmas Island. The 30¢ value shows Santa and two of his reindeer cruising in a speedboat, which seems like more excitement than he might wish to pursue after his trek.



The 36¢ stamp illustrates a more sedentary Santa relaxing on the beach with a cool drink while the reindeer examine a sea turtle. A golfing Santa is shown on the 70¢ stamp, but the most endearing scene is on the \$1 stamp, with Santa snoozing soundly in a beach hammock while the palm trees sway gently overhead. Collecting Christmas stamps is a perfect way to extend the holiday spirit throughout the year.

There you have it, a tour of the world and a small view of how others celebrate Christmas. There are hundreds of stamps with the theme of Christmas, so over the holidays why not start up a collection. Start by going through your pile of extras, that you have keep in all those shoe boxes, back in the closet. You may have more than you think.

Arrange them in a nice neat order, and then make an exhibit of them. Remember, in April we will be doing our annual one page exhibit program again, so this could be a great way to win gold.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MY PERSONAL COMMENTS

As of this December, it will have been a year and a half since I started doing the Chronicle. I would like to thank Trish Bowers (our El Presidente) for allowing me to do the Chronicle. I hope that I have proven myself worthy of the position.

It is not always easy to do this each month. I normally have to start at lease 2 months in advance doing the lay out for each month's issue. HOWEVER, before anyone says something, like, "Why do you do it?" or "Stop complaining" let me get this in, I am neither complaining, nor am I wanting sympathy. I am always open for filler in the Chronicle, and would love to receive ideas, comment and articles from the members. Any help is always appreciated.

But, once I get started, each issue comes together rather quickly.

COMING NEWSLETTER CHANGES

In January 2009, we want to try doing the following....
Everyone who has an e-mail address will automatically receive a soft copy on the Chronicle BY E-MAIL.

All persons who do not have an e-mail address or a computer, will receive a hard copy.

This is a test as I want to see how this will work out. This will reduce my out-of-pocket expenses greatly. Also with the soft copy we can send it to more people for the same cost of sending one issue.

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. –Will Rogers, (1879–1935)

My personal Christmas card and best wishes to each member for the coming New Year.



NOEL

PEACE UNTO YOU FOR THE COMING YEAR

And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shall call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins. Matthew 1.21

Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord. Zechariah 4: 6

STAMP OF THE MONTH

#1371 - APOLLO 8 COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE

Perf 11 Tagged Denomination: 6c
Colors: black, blue & ocher FDI: 5/569
FDC: Houston, Texas Quantity Issued:
187,165,000 Giori Press Printing Plates of
200 subjects in four panes of 50. Designed by
Leonard E. Buckley

Purpose: To honor the Apollo 8 mission,
which first put men into orbit around the
moon on Dec. 21-27, 1968. The astronauts
were: Col. Frank Borman, Capt. James
Lovell and Maj. William Anders

Col. Frank Borman, who I personally meet
in Dallas, TX, read the Bible Scripture on
Christmas Eve to a shocked USA that was truly amazed that a
government sponsored mission with government employees would
read from the Christian Bible on national TV. I am personally proud
that I got to see this. Borman was a true Christian!

The stamp had been designed by Leonard E. Buckley, and was
printed in four colors, yellow and light blue by offset, and black and
blue by Giori press. First day ceremonies were held at the Johnson
Space centre in Houston, Texas, on the 5th May, the 8th Anniversary
of Alan Shepard's first American sub-orbital flight, with all three of
the Apollo 8 astronauts present. The original Photograph, shown
here, was rotated for the final stamp engraving.

The Mission itself had proved for the first time that man could escape
the gravitational force of the earth and travel to other celestial bodies.
But what a step it had been.

I have chosen this stamp because of it has a theme for Christmas. The
text Colonel Borman read from the Bible, that is also on the stamp,
can be found at Genesis chapter 1, verses 1 to 5.



The Chattanooga Stamp Club

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American
Philatelic Society and has been dedicated to the study, preservation,
and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

-- CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2008 --

President: Trish Bowers Vice-President: Jim Cate
Secretary: Rebecca Gilbert Treasurer: Carl Anderson
Librarian: Ken Burnham Stamp Chronicle Editor: Willis Monk

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held the second Thursdays of each
month at the Post Office Main Mail Facility located at 6050 Shallowford
Road in Chattanooga, TN. PLEASE be prompt - to maintain building
security, the Post Office opens the doors at the entrance to the office area
at 7.00 P.M. and locks them at 7.30 PM.

MEMBERSHIP: Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a
calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$20.00. Send all monetary
donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer, Mr. Carl
Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd., Signal Mountain, TN 37377 For a
printed copy of any issue of the Chronicle, send 0.42 cents in stamps
to 380 White Rd. Old Fort, TN. 37362

----- PLEASE NOTE -----

DEADLINES: The deadline for anything to be published in the
Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle is the 20th of each month. E-mail is
preferred, however snail mail is OK. E-mail to: texas4421@core.com