



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB

P.O. Box 97903 Pittsburgh, PA 15227-0303 (APS #1214-122934)

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Volume 4, No. 5

December, 2004

**Meeting Day/Time:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays – Noon to 4 P.M.  
**Business Meeting:** 2 P.M. (MAY- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday only)  
(DECEMBER – usually 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday only)  
(JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday only).

**Meeting Place:** Churchill Borough Building  
2300 William Penn Highway  
Churchill, PA.

**President:** David McConaha

**Vice-President:** Joe Bayuk

**Second Vice-President:** Jim Senkewitz

**Secretary:** Grant Latimore

**Treasurer:** Tom Reiff

**Newsletter Editor:** Tom Reiff

**Membership Info:** Andy Novotny 412-351-4954 e-mail: [novoand@hotmail.com](mailto:novoand@hotmail.com)

Tom Reiff 412-881-8045 e-mail: [treiffer@msn.com](mailto:treiffer@msn.com)

**Website Manager:** Dave McConaha

**July-August Contributors:** Tom Reiff, David McConaha, Raymond Damico, Jim Senkewitz

### \*\*\* CIRCUIT BOOKS \*\*\*

Circuit books are available at every meeting. Members are encouraged to examine the circuit books, except when business meeting is in progress, to find items for their collection(s).

Circuit books contain stamps, covers, etc. You never know what you will find and based on what you see, you may even decide to start a new collection.

## Meetings for December: 12<sup>th</sup>

January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – February ~~13<sup>th</sup>~~<sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup> and ~~27<sup>th</sup>~~<sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup>

Cookies and coffee are available at the meetings.

### December 12th MEETING:

The Club Christmas party will be held after the meeting. Everyone is welcome to bring a favorite “goodie” or “goodies” for us to share. Yum-yum! If you have any ideas for the party, please contact Dave McConaha or one of the other officers.

**PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> AS IT IS THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Club wants to wish the members and their families a Happy Holiday Season.

### ANNUAL LUNCHEON HELD:

The annual Club luncheon was held on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Palmieri's Restaurant in Turtle Creek. A total of 27 were in attendance (18 members and 9 guests). There was plenty to eat and everyone had a good time. We are hoping to have more people attend next year. The Club wishes to thank member Raymond Damico for his outstanding efforts in coordinating the luncheon.

This was our first luncheon rather than a dinner. It was voted on and unanimously approved that we will have a luncheon instead of a dinner in the future.

### MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD:

The annual luncheon is when the Club presents a plaque and recognizes a member for his/her service to Club. This year the award was presented by David McConaha, President to Tom Reiff. Tom is currently the Club Treasurer and Newsletter editor. Tom also helps in the planning of the annual WILKPEX show. Tom thanked everyone and said that he really appreciated it. He went on to say that he is part of an outstanding group of people that strive to make the Club continually more progressive.

### WILKPEX 2005:

Show dates are April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Wilkins Elks Club in Wilkins Township.

Please keep in mind that it is not too early to be thinking about preparing your exhibit or exhibits.

An exhibit sign-up form will be included with the January, 2005 newsletter.

Planning is moving along well. If you wish to volunteer to help out with the show, please contact one of the Club officers.

**The Club is asking you to "save" any Linn's Stamp News, Scott Monthly Journals and other philatelic publications as "giveaways" at the show sign-in area. Please bring them to one of the meetings and we will store them until the show. NOTE: COMPLETE ISSUES ONLY (no pages with parts cutout). Thank you!**

### FREE WEB SITE ADVERTISING:

ATTENTION – Club stamp dealers or members who sell stamps can now advertise on our web site for **FREE**. Whether you are a dealer who has a mail-order business or a collector/member that has stamps to sell, you can place a half-page ad on our web site. Once you stop selling stamps, it is your responsibility to notify us to remove your ad. Please see me at a meeting with your ad or mail to our P.O. Box listed at the top of this newsletter. Submitted by: David F. McConaha, Web Manager

### SHOW AND TELL:

After the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, we had a show and tell program.

Jim Senkewitz, our "golf topic collector", presented a talk on the two round golf ball shaped stamps issued on August 12, 2004. The stamps measure 43 mm in diameter and will be sold in a pane of eight with folder. Lowe-Martin printed 6 million of the self-adhesive stamps, using 8-colour lithography plus multi-level embossing and foil (one color) on Fasson paper. The stamp is general tagged all around. The Official First Day Cover will read OAKVILLE ON.

Tom Reiff presented a talk on three postal history items. They were as follows:

1. A cover from 1948 sent to the Boston Braves Baseball Club for World Series Tickets and returned with a handstamp "TICKET SUPPLY EXHAUSTED, SORRY".
2. A cover from 1925 sent from Montserrat (Leeward Islands) to Pittsburgh, PA using a combination of stamps from both Montserrat and the Leeward Islands.
3. A cover with letter dated December 9, 1941 (the day after the U.S. declared war on Japan, but not yet with Germany) addressed to Holland. Returned to sender by censor due to being sent to and enemy or enemy occupied territory (not true until December 11, 1941).

We would like to have more members bring in one or more of their collecting "treasures" to share with us at our next show-and-tell program. It is YOUR Club. Think about it!

### DID YOU KNOW - INTERESTING PHILATELIC FACT:

Due to the quarantine of horses, the equestrian events for the 1956 summer Olympic Games were held in Stockholm, Sweden. This marked the only time, and so far, only time, that events of the Olympics were held in different countries. Because of this, stamps were issued by "both" Olympic countries. Australia issued stamps in 1954 (Scott #277), 1955 (Scott #286) and two Stamps in 1956 (Scott #288-289). Sweden issued three coil stamps (Scott #487-489) and the two lower values in booklet form (Scott #490-491, booklet pane (#490a-491a)).

### SHARE YOUR INTERESTS/SUBMIT AN ARTICLE:

The Club is asking if anyone would like to share some of their collecting interests or expertise by giving a talk and/or presentation at one of our meetings. Your talk/presentation may be as short as 5 minutes or as long as 30 minutes (or more). It could be your favorite stamp, your favorite cover, your favorite topic, how you got started in stamp collecting, etc. If you would like to participate, please see Jim Senkewitz or one of the other officers so your talk/presentation can be scheduled. We welcome any ideas or suggestions to make the meetings more interesting. Also, any member is encouraged to submit an item or an article for the newsletter. If you have anything you wish to share with the Club, please contact Tom Reiff for details.

### THANKSGIVING STAMP IMAGE ANSWER:

Did you a look at the Thanksgiving stamp image at the top of the November, 2004 newsletter. Notice anything peculiar? This stamp "design" was issued on October 19, 2001. Were you able to determine what was peculiar?  
**ANSWER:** The image of this stamp, when originally proposed, had a denomination of 33 cents. By the time it was issued the denomination was 34 cents. This stamp was never issued as a 33 cent stamp.

Member Chuck Schellman was the only one that had the answer at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. **WAY TO GO CHUCK!**

### LOCAL AREA STAMP CLUBS:

Other local area stamp clubs include The Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh, the Westmoreland County Philatelic Society and the Butler County Philatelic Society. For information on these clubs please see our website.

### UPCOMING AREA SHOW (Please see our website for this and additional shows):

**DECEMBER 5** – CRANBERRY, PA – Cranberry Stamp & Postcard Show, Cranberry Four Points Sheraton  
Bourse Hours: 10M – 4PM (Saturday)

### THE FIRST UNITED STATES SELF ADHESIVE STAMPS:

The first self adhesive stamps issued by the United States were the 10-cent Dove of Peace issue (Scott #1552). This stamp was issued on November 15, 1974 in an imperforated format on rouletted paper backing. Although this stamp design was attractive, the new self-adhesive glue used was anything but to collectors. Over time the glue bled into the stamp, causing yellowing/discoloring. Also, because the stamp was PRECANCELED, it was die cut with "cross slashes" through the dove to prevent removal and reuse, the stamp will separate into layers if soaked. Below is an image of two of these stamps with plate numbers still on the backing paper.



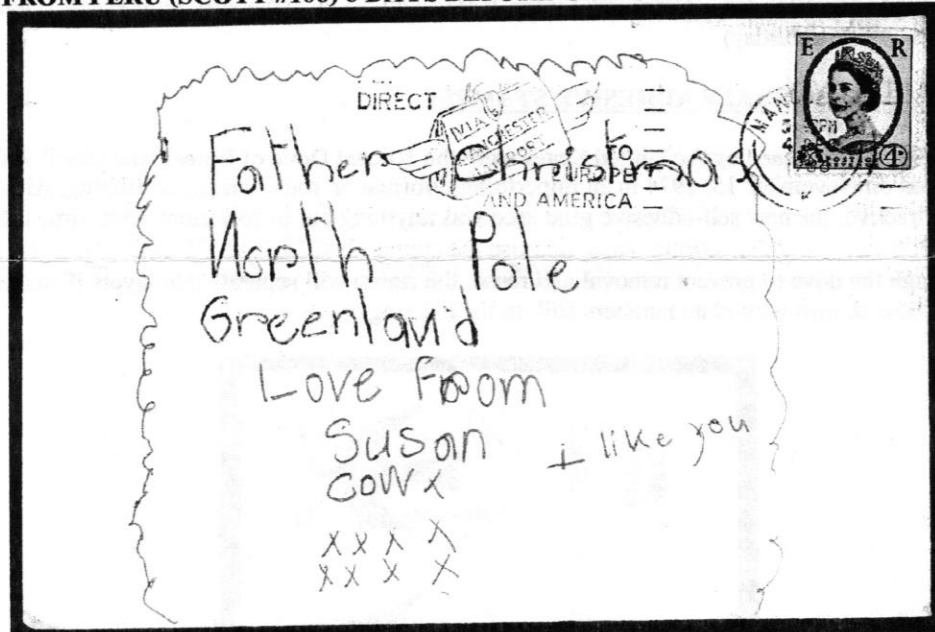
**TOM'S TOPICS" from your Treasurer, Tom Reiff  
SHORT ARTICLES RELATING TO PHILATELY:NEWS, STAMPS,  
POSTAL HISTORY, COLLECTIONS, ETC.**

**\*\*\* COVERS TO SANTA CLAUS AND FATHER CHRISTMAS \*\*\***

When you were young did you ever write a letter to Santa Claus telling him how good you have been and that you would like to have him bring the things listed in the letter on Christmas? Of course, these letters and their envelopes (covers) were, if mailed, most likely destroyed by the post office. Maybe your Mom or Dad said they mailed them, never did, but opened them to see what you asked for and bought them for you. In any case, not very many survived. In my travels to stamp shows, I have never seen any, but I did spot some on the Internet Auction site eBay and was fortunate to have won them. Below are images (reduced in size) of two elusive examples that I have. Covers to Santa, Father Christmas, etc, almost never had a return address because, after all, he "knew where you lived".



**"A COVER ADDRESSED TO SANTA CLAUS IN THE 1880'S 6 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS USING A "USED" STAMP FROM PERU (SCOTT #106) 6 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS. "HELD FOR POSTAGE" WHY?"**



**"A COVER ADDRESSED TO FATHER CHRISTMAS (SANTA IN ENGLAND) ON DECEMBER 4, 1966, 21 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS"**

**"...AND ALWAYS REMEMBER - COLLECT WHAT YOU LIKE AND ENJOY YOUR HOBBY"**