

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2006



American Philatelic
Society Chapter 597
www.stamps.org



Germany Philatelic
Society Chapter 15
www.gps.nu



Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs
www.stampclubs.com



This newsletter is published monthly by the Huntsville Philatelic Club. Meetings are held on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fern Bell Recreation Center, 107A Sanders Road SW. Visitors are always welcome.

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

First Tuesday Meeting – Dec. 5 - APS Slide Show
The First Five Years of Government
Issued Air Mail Stamps of the World

Second Tuesday Meeting – Dec. 19
Member's Philatelic Auction Night

NEW ISSUE STAMP NEWS

This month's HPC Newsletter e-Extra features two of this year's Holiday Season stamps. The e-Extra is an extra page e-mailed with the club newsletter; if you want to start getting the e-Extra just send an e-mail to hpc-editor@att.net. A fun bonus of the emailed newsletter is all photos are in full color.

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Kathy Campbell mcampbell7@juno.com
Vice Pres.	Michael O'Reilly mcoreilly@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Heinrich Hahn hhahn@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Arthur Cole hpc-editor@att.net
Past Pres.	Dave Dreher
Directors	Bob Adams, Ed Kazmierczak, Dave Nicolas, Fred Muhl, Wesley Swift, Mary Shaw

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Huntsville Philatelic Club - P O Box 4395
Huntsville, AL 35815-4395

Membership dues are payable in January. Annual dues are \$12.00 per individual or \$15.00 per family.

The **HPC Newsletter** may be downloaded from the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs' web site at www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

STAMP CLUB NEWS

- There will be a special door prize at the Dec. 5th club meeting. It is a souvenir from Washington 2006 and is being provided by Kathy Campbell.
- Dr. Bill Souder, longtime club member, has an article in the November *American Philatelist*, journal of the American Philatelic Society.
- Ronnie Nixon, a club member now living in Tennessee, has accepted our invitation to be chief exhibition judge at HUNTSPEX 2007.
- The World's Columbian Exposition APS slide show at the Nov. 7th meeting was excellent. Please contact Mike O'Reilly to request a slide show about one of your collecting specialties.
- The club's membership records have become out-of-date with many changes in phone numbers, addresses, and emails. In an effort to update these records please fill out the enclosed postal card and send to the club secretary.
- Membership dues are payable at the first club meeting in January. If you are unable to attend in January please send \$12.00 per individual or \$15.00 per family to the club treasurer.

SPACE TOPIC COVER COLLECTORS

A collector of space topic covers in Germany has contacted the club. He has a very large collection of covers available from early NASA Space Shuttle development tests, static firings, and missions. He asks that anyone interested should contact him directly for further details. Gunter Walter, Auf dem Hugel 13, D-67749 Nerzweiler, Germany.

HUNTSPEX 2007 COMMITTEES

Show Chair	Kathy Campbell
Club Table	Dave Nicolas
Facilities / Breakfast	Mike O'Reilly
Dealer liaison	Mike O'Reilly
Exhibit Coordinator	Jim Basinski
Exhibit Judge	Ronnie Nixon
Exhibit Awards	Bob Burns
Cachet / Covers	Mike O'Reilly
Program	Arthur Cole
Postal Service liaison	Heinrich Hahn
Local Publicity	---
National Publicity	Heinrich Hahn
Exhibit Security	Heinrich Hahn
Soldatenstube	Hank Miller

CLUB CALENDAR

Dec. 5	The First Five Years of Government Issued Air Mail Stamps of the World
Dec. 19	Member's Philatelic Auction Night
Jan. 2, 2007	Dave Dreher, "Tagging on Stamps"
Jan. 16	Member's Philatelic Auction Night
Feb. 6	Open
Feb. 20	Member's Philatelic Auction Night
Mar. 6	Open
Mar. 20	Member's Philatelic Auction Night
Apr. 3	Open
Apr. 17	Member's Philatelic Auction Night
May 1	HUNTSPEX Pre-show meeting
May 15	Member's Philatelic Auction Night
June 2-3	HUNTSPEX 2007 at Bevill Center

AREA STAMP SHOWS

February 10-11, 2007 **ALAPEX**
Birmingham Philatelic Society, Bessemer Civic Center, 1130 9th Ave., S.W. (Exit 108 on I-20/59), Bessemer. Charles Hancock, 205-822-3826

Mar 31-Apr 1 **Lexington Spring Stamp Show**
Henry Clay Philatelic Society, Inc., Springs Inn, 2020 Harrodsburg Rd., Lexington. Contact Paul C. Hager, showchair@henryclayphilatelics.org. www.henryclayphilatelic.org, 859-986-3414

April 14 **Stamp and Coin Show**
Montgomery Area Stamp Club, Holiday Inn, Cobbs Ford Rd, Prattville, AL. Contact: Charles Lewis 334-264-4740, clewis@stampclubs.com

June 2-3 **HUNTSPEX 2007**
Huntsville Philatelic Club, Bevill Center and Hotel, University of Alabama in Huntsville, 301 Sparkman Drive (I-565, exit 12). Contact Heinrich Hahn, hhahn@bellsouth.net, 256-536-7785, www.stampshows.com/huntsville.html

2006 USPS NEW ISSUES

Apr 7 - Benjamin Franklin - (4) 39c commem.
Apr 6 - Sugar Ray Robinson - (1) 39c commem.
Apr 8 - Liberty & Flag - (1) 39c definitive stamp
Apr 8 - Purple Heart - (1) commemorative stamp
Apr 21 - Disney: Romance - (4) 39c commem.
May 1 - True Blue (two bluebirds) - (1) 39c special
May 15 - Katherine Anne Porter - (1) 39c commem.
May 25 - Amber Alert - (1) 39c commemorative
May 27 - Wonders of America - (40) 39c commem.
May 28 - Samuel de Champlain - (1) 39c - 4 on SS
May 29 - Washington 2006 - (1) \$1, \$2, & \$5 on SS
May 30 - American Diplomats - (6) 39c commem.
Jun 10 - Judy Garland - (1) 39c commemorative
Jun 14 - Ronald Regan - (1) 39c commemorative
Jun 23 - Happy Birthday - (1) 39c special stamp
Jul 15 - Baseball Sluggers - (4) 39c commem.
Jul 20 - Comic Book Heroes - (20) 39c commem.
Aug 4 - American Clock - (1) 10c definitive stamp
Aug 7 - American Motorcycles - (4) 39c commem.
Aug 24 - Gee's Bend Quilts - (10) 39c commem.
Oct 4 - Florida Wetlands - (10) 39c commem.
Oct 5 - Snowflakes - (4) 39c special stamps
Oct 6 - Eid - (1) 39c special stamp
Oct 6 - Hanukkah - (1) 39c special stamp
Oct 6 - Kwanzaa - (1) 39c special stamp
Oct 17 - Madonna and Child - (1) 39c special stamp

2007 USPS NEW ISSUES

Jan 11 - Oklahoma Statehood - (1) 39c comm.
Jan - Hershey's Kisses - (1) 39c comm.
Jan - Ella Fitzgerald - (1) 39c comm.
Feb 22 - International Polar Year - (2) 84c stamp SS
Feb - Polar Lights - (2) comm.
Feb - Forever Stamp - (1) definitive, first class
Mar 15 - Henry W. Longfellow - (1) 39c comm.
May - Silver Coffeepot - (1) 3c definitive stamp
May 5 - Jamestown settlement - (20) comm.
May - Wedding Hearts - (2) special stamps
June - Pollination - (8) commemoratives
June - Alpine Tundra - (10) commemoratives
July - James Stewart - (1) comm.
July - Pacific Coast Lighthouses - (5) comm.
July 26 - Marvel Comics - (10) comm.
Aug 9 - Tiffany stained glass - (1) def. stamp
Aug - Mahogany Speedboats - (4) comm.
Aug - Disney Magic - (4) comm.
Sept - Jury Duty - (1) comm.
Sept - Mendez v. Westminster - (1) comm.
Oct - Holiday Knits - (1) special stamp
Oct - Madonna and Child, Luini - (1) stamp

Holiday Snowflakes

Snowflakes generally take one of seven basic forms. For example, stellar, or starlike, snowflakes usually grow six primary branches that support arms, which often develop thin plates of ice at the ends. Bitter-cold conditions create crystals with more facets. The most symmetrical snowflakes occur during light snowfalls when there is cold weather and little wind. If the air is warmer, crystals tend to stick together to form less symmetrical snowflakes, or they can take on a needlelike shape. In higher humidity, snowflakes may branch more, making them dendritic, or plantlike, in appearance.

The Holiday Snowflakes stamps are photographs of two basic snowflake patterns by physicist Kenneth Libbrecht. They are stellar dendrites, which form branching treelike arms, and sector plates, which as their name suggests, form platelike arms. Because fallen snowflakes start to melt and lose their shape in mere minutes, Libbrecht quickly transferred the snowflakes from cardboard to a glass slide using a paintbrush. He then snapped the photos inside a temperature-regulated enclosure using a digital camera attached to a high-resolution microscope.

Falling from thousands of feet, these intricate ice crystals commonly begin as a piece of dust tumbling through the clouds. Gathering water molecules, they blossom into crystal forms in endlessly different patterns because of the constantly changing conditions of the atmosphere.



Chacón Madonna and Child with Bird

The 2006 Christmas stamp features an oil-on-canvas entitled *Madonna and Child with Bird*. Dating from around 1765, the painting is attributed to Ignacio Chacón—an artist active from about 1745 to 1775 in Cuzco, Peru. It is now part of the Engracia and Frank Barrows Freyer Collection of Peruvian colonial art at the Denver Art Museum. In designing the stamp, art director Michael Osborne slightly cropped the painting's floral "frame" and surrounded the entire composition with a gold border that echoes Chacón's use of gold-leaf embellishments.

A famous painting by Spanish artist Bartolomé Esteban Murillo entitled *La Sagrada Familia del Pajarito* (The Holy Family of the Little Bird) probably served as an indirect prototype for Chacón's *Madonna and Child with Bird*. The importance of birds in Inca culture would have made the topic of Murillo's painting particularly resonant in Peru. Birds were sacred to the Inca, partially because of their ability to fly and move closer to Inti, the sun god. So in Cuzco, colonial artists often incorporated birds or feathers into images of the Virgin and Christ to indicate their divine status.



Reprinted from USPS Community Relation, Stamp News Release Number 05-054.