

# Knoxville Philatelic Society News

December 2005

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Southeast Federation  
of Stamp Clubs

## 'Tis the Season!

Each December, KPS celebrates the end of the calendar year with a dinner, and we typically dispense with the usual program and business meeting. This year, as last, we will be at Ramsey's Cafeteria, and our "Program" will again be a gift exchange. KPS members are encouraged to bring something of philatelic interest, and spouses and partners have the option of bringing something non-philatelic. Remember that gifts should not cost more than \$5 – use your imagination!

This is also the time of the year that we begin working on the upcoming our annual stamp show – *Knoxplex*. For a start, you will see included in this newsletter a copy of the live auction form. All KPS members may submit auction lots for the *Knoxplex* 2006 auction, which will be held Saturday night, March 4. KPS receives 10% of the sales price of each lot sold, and 50 cents for each unsold lot. Last year, we had some spectacular material that exchanged hands at great prices. Show Chair Gerald Schroedl will also be e-mailing this form to all members who have given us their e-mail addresses. You can submit your lot descriptions to him electronically, or bring the completed form to the January or February KPS meeting.

Thanks to all members, who have made 2005 a great year for KPS.

**Tom Broadhead**

## A Great Program!



Randy and Russ Haese gave a great presentation and showed their collection of East German stamps.

## Holiday Party Plans

The December KPS meeting and annual holiday party will take place at Ramsey's Cafeteria, 5331 Central Avenue. The dinner will be on Monday, December 5 at 6:30.

## E-Bay Treasures

Here is an interesting item I saw on e-Bay. Scott# 2429d, the 25c Christmas Sleigh Booklet Single with red color missing. Ten copies known. Start bid was \$3,250.00, but no bidders at the close on October 3.



## **Knoxville Philatelic Society Meeting – November 1, 2005**

The November 2005 meeting of the Knoxville Philatelic Society met at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville. Seventeen (17) members attended.

President Bruce Roberts opened the meeting at 7:30, introducing Randy and Russ Haese. Randy and Russ gave a wonderful overview of stamps and philatelic material from the DDR (Deutsche Demokratische Republik – or “East Germany”). They covered the common DDR stamps to specialized booklets and sheets. Randy started by passing around Michel catalogues and explaining how to read and interpret German stamp listings. Russ presented German stamp albums and pages from their collection.

Following the program Gerald Schroedl conducted a drawing for a free one-year membership in the American Philatelic Society that Tom Broadhead had received as part of his 10 year APS membership. Charlie Wade was the winner.

As Show Chair for Knoxpex 2006, Gerald Schroedl gave an update and a “check list” needs for the show. He explained the Live Auction and handed out auction lot forms, which must be completed and returned to him by February 15. Areas where help is needed include: Reception Desk, Live Auction, Youth Activities and Publicity. Areas in good hands but with chairs needing assistance: Bill Muenzer - Bourse Chairman, Bruce Roberts - Exhibits Chairman, Ralph Dinwiddie and Tom Broadhead - Show Cachet and Cancellation, and Tom Copas - Location and Set-up. It was suggested to publicize the show again to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Home School organizations. Jim Pettway will provide mailing lists and attendance records for a show announcement mailing.

The Knoxville Philatelic Society meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church at 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals, \$12.00 for families, and \$2.00 for youth 17 years of age and under. Requests for information and submissions for the newsletter may be directed to Tom Broadhead, KPS, P.O. Box 50422, Knoxville, TN 37950-0422 – or by e-mail to [tomwb50@aol.com](mailto:tomwb50@aol.com).

KPS Officers:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| President           | Bruce Roberts  |
| President-Elect     | Ken Korp   |
| Treasurer           | Richard Ehrlich  |
| Assistant Treasurer | Phil Ford  |
| Secretary           | Tom Broadhead  |
| Directors           | Norm Carlevato, Ralph Dinwiddie, Charles Klinstiver, Jim Pettway |

Bruce Roberts announced that the December meeting would be the Holiday Dinner on Monday, December 5 at Ramsey’s Cafeteria.

Bruce announced the Board of Directors meeting on November 29, at 6:00 p.m., prior to the 7:00 p.m. Fifth Tuesday KPS Meeting.

Ralph Dinwiddie explained that there had been a misunderstanding concerning the Stamp Collecting Month cancellation at the Knoxville Post Office for the November KPS News, and that it had delayed the mailing of the newsletter.

Bruce Roberts suggested ways the club might obtain stamps for circulation to members, including purchases of collections or accumulations from dealers or at auctions. It was mentioned that KPS had purchased circuit books and it was agreed that these would be free to members. Members would fill the books with stamps, circulate them at KPS meetings, and be responsible for accounting for their book(s). Stu Hanlein will bring books to the Holiday Dinner.

Jim Pettway said that members attending KPS meetings had opportunities to view the kiloware of stamps purchased last winter. Members suggested that the remaining stamps be put into packets for game prizes at Knoxpex 2006, placed on the Youth Table, or included in the Live Auction at Knoxpex.

Jim Pettway proposed that the KPS apply to receive the American Philatelic Society Mail Sales Circuit. He gave details of the circuit and the process of receiving, viewing and returning the circuit books. Members agreed to let Jim pursue obtaining the circuits and setting up the program for members to view at Fifth Tuesday meetings and the following first Tuesday) meetings. Jim asked members to be thinking about the areas (countries, topics, etc.) from which they would be interested in seeing stamps and he will present more details at a future meeting.

Bruce Roberts adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Jim Pettway, Acting Secretary

### **Stamp of the Month**

This month’s stamp is an example of Japan, Scott #609, a 500 yen definitive stamp issued in 1955. The design shows the planks of a wooden foot bridge, iris, and other plants. The example printed here has a partial Tokyo cancel.



## ***K-Town Stamps has moved!***

Bill Muenzer's popular retail stamp store has moved from its former North Knoxville location to the west part of town. K-Town stamps can now be found at 6208 Baum Drive (Oxford Building, Suite 10), and Bill can be reached by phone at the shop at 588-7797. The new location is as easy to find as the old – if you are driving south on Northshore from I-40/75, cross Kingston Pike and turn right on Baum Drive. The Oxford Building is only about one tenth of a mile down the street on the left.

Experienced philatelists in the southeast know Bill from bourses at many area stamp shows, and many of us enjoy dropping by at the shop for a chat or a purchase. I have always enjoyed Bill's hospitality, and he has ordered supplies for me, sold me a few stamps, and let me browse his stock and his catalogs. Retail stamp shops today are, regrettably, rare, and a well-stocked shop has the potential to lead a collector to discover new collecting areas.

K-Town Stamps is a great place to spend a few hours looking at the full range of supplies, worldwide stamps, and country collections that Bill has on hand. Regular shop hours are 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Saturday. If you are thinking about stopping by on a Friday or Saturday, be sure to call ahead – Bill may be out of town at a show!

In addition to being Knoxville's only fulltime, comprehensive stamp dealer, Bill is also a longtime KPS member. He has contributed a lot to the club, including stamps for the occasional stamp of the month in the newsletter, being a regular member of the *Knoxpex* bourse, and recently serving as bourse chair for *Knoxpex*.

We wish Bill and K-Town Stamps continued success at the new location.

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***Check next month's KPS newsletter for a full list of dealers at Knoxpex 2006!***

## ***Knoxpex 2006 events***

Next spring's show, Knoxpex 2006, promises to be one of our best, yet. Our theme, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rock & Roll lends itself to some imaginative topical collecting and a lot of philatelic fun.

Bruce Roberts is leading the charge to get more KPS members to try out exhibiting. Think of the story that you can tell with some of your stamps or covers in 8 pages (half frame), 16 pages (full frame) or more than one frame.

Bill Muenzer is putting the finishing touches on the dealer bourse, which will include 12 dealers this year, plus the US Postal Service station on Saturday. New this year will be a cachet makers' bourse set up in the lobby area near the registration table. If you have never been to a big show that has a cachet makers' bourse, it is an exciting opportunity for first day cover and cachet collectors to meet the talented folks who create beautiful cachets. Bill hopes to have as many as three cachet makers at *Knoxpex* 2006.

Don't forget to start putting together auction lots of material you no longer collect or want. The auction form is on the reverse of this page! The Knoxpex live auction on Saturday evening is always a lively event, and last year lots sold for anywhere from \$1 to more than \$1,000.

## **Swapping and Trading**

The KPS fifth Tuesday meetings give members a chance to learn more about what they collect and the additional opportunity to swap and trade.



*Linn's Stamp News*, vol. 78, no. 4021, p. 1

*Linn's* reported in its November 21, 2005 issue that the famous 1868 Z-grill stamp was recently traded for the plate block of four of the 24 cent inverted Jenny. Now that's what I call a swap – so don't forget our upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays and come ready to do some *serious* trading!

# This month's KPS Meeting – Monday, December 5

Come and enjoy our annual holiday dinner – 6:30 pm at Ramsey's Cafeteria.

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## An Auction Treat

I enjoy the excitement of an auction, and the annual live auction at *Knoxplex* is always fun. Sometimes it is almost as exciting to read about an auction. Here are two spectacular and rare pieces that have sold for sky-high prices at philatelic auctions.

Germany planned to issue a semipostal stamp with a picture of the late actress Audrey Hepburn, but withdrew the stamp before it went on sale because of objections from her relatives. Maybe it was because the stamp shows her in her memorable role as Holly Golightly, a character of less than perfect moral behavior, from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.



(Image from *Linn's Stamp News*, vol. 78, no. 4018, p. 1)

In its October 31, 2005 issue, *Linn's Stamp News* reported the sale at auction of a used example of this stamp from the upper left of the sheet with complete selvage. The stamp was discovered in a kiloware assortment! It sold recently in a German auction for the equivalent of \$203,000. Maybe now would be a good time to check out a couple of boxes of KPS kiloware to look for treasures.

Of course, the favorite Audrey Hepburn movie for philatelists would have to be *Charade*, in which multiple murders are committed in order to get a valuable treasure, which turns out to be stamps! Next time you are looking for an interesting movie, try this and note the "rare stamps."

## How I got started.

Jean Byrne began stamp collecting at the age of 11 and was influenced by her father, also an avid collector. Soon she had friends who also collected and in 1929 they were meeting on a weekly basis. With not much money to spend, Jean started collecting precancels from business mail that her father and his friends saved.

Money for supplies was also lacking, and Jean, being the creative person that she is, developed her own hand drawn pages and mounted stamps with hinges given by her father. At the time, she was living in Wakefield, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston, and Jean's album pages were organized geographically by the towns and cities in the area. The first column started with Boston at the top and went down through several towns, with the next column featuring precancels from cities in New York. Pages also were arranged by denomination, with three pages alone devoted to the ½ cent stamps. Jean now wonders how she managed to keep all of this organized, but admits that collecting provided great enjoyment for her friends and her.

During World War II, Jean worked with the Frontier Nursing Service in rural Kentucky, and resumed collecting – this time mint blocks of four of new US stamps. Learning of Jean's interest, her aunt told her that she need to collect the plate number blocks!

After her husband, Art, returned from the Air Force, Jean continued to collect plate blocks and soon began mounting them in albums, first with hinges and then with hingeless mounts. That was the beginning of her latest phase of collecting, one that has now moved on to collecting US singles. Her only complaint is that she would love to have more time to spend on her collection. Jean always keeps busy, and let's not forget the great job she did several years ago in reorganizing the KPS constitution and by-laws!

**Next KPS monthly meeting – Tuesday, January 3.**

# Collecting Christmas Seals

by Ralph Dinwiddie

Christmas seals actually began over a century ago in Denmark. In late 1903 a postman named Einar Holboell was sorting the giant piles of Christmas mail when he came up with the idea of creating a charity stamp. The proceeds of this stamp would be used to help the thousands of children who were stricken with tuberculosis.

It took a year to turn the idea into a reality. King Christian IX suggested that the first issue of Christmas seals should have Queen Louise's picture to symbolize that he and his wife were fully behind the idea. The first seals went on sale in 1904 and the Danes purchased 4 million (see Figure 1).

Other countries noticed the success of the Danish Christmas seals. Sweden and Norway were the first to join in the campaign. In 1907 a sanatorium in Delaware was about to be closed and needed \$300 to stay open. Emily Bissell, a cousin of one of the sanatorium's doctors, had read a magazine article about the Christmas seals in Denmark and decided to give the idea a try in the US. The first US Christmas seals are shown in Figure 2. Today the Christmas Seals benefit the American Lung Association and other lung related issues.

There are many fun and interesting ways to collect Christmas seals. Of course you could collect mint singles or whole sheets. Another specialty is the collection of imperf pairs (see Figure 3). While

printing errors on regular issue US stamps could cost hundreds of dollars, you can obtain comparable errors on Christmas seals for a few bucks. Figure 4 shows an example of printer's waste for the 1927 Christmas seal. Other errors that I have found are color missing, misperfs, and color shifts. Figure 5 shows a design element missing error. The footprints coming from the lighthouse are missing in the example shown on the left of Figure 5.

Over the last five years I've been collecting progressive color proofs (PCP) of Christmas seals. At last count I have PCPs from 16 different years. These are very interesting items because you can see how the design is built up from 5 to 7 different colors. Figure 6 shows a progressive color proof from 1934.

Recently, my Christmas seal collecting has focused on tied on cover (Figure 7). My collection got a nice kick start this summer when I visited the Manhattan Stamp show in July, and picked up over a dozen covers from different years. At this point I'm only collecting tied Christmas seals before 1960 and have over 3 dozen different years.

Another variation of Christmas seal collecting is the meter Christmas seal slogan (an example is shown in Figure 8). There seems to be as many ways to collect Christmas seals as there are collectors. If you enjoy the hunt for stamps, but have a limited budget, you may find Christmas seal collecting a great pastime. Happy hunting!



Figure 1. The world's first Christmas Seal.



Figure 2. The first Christmas Seal in the USA.



Figure 3. Imperf. pair.



Figure 4. Printer's waste.



Figure 5. No footprints error.



Figure 6. 1934 progressive color proof.



Figure 7. 1909 Tied Christmas Seal.



Figure 8. 1958 Meter Christmas Seal slogan.