



"Evolving since 1886."

# Frogtown Philatelist

The Official Journal of the Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo

P.O. Box 2, Maumee, OH 43537-0002

www.toledostampclub.org

## December, 2021

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Treasurer	Cliff Campbell
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## Where we've been.

### November 4

Thanks to Gene for the program about perfins. We now know all about the "ins" of stamp theft prevention. It is a shame that such measures had to be taken, so many unscrupulous people out there. On the other hand, perfins provided another area of specialized philately and postal history. Gene provided a vast knowledge of this area of philately, including government, universities, companies and corporations. The program was well-attended by twenty-seven members. A reminder that the show committee has openings. More hands = lighter load.

Attention to all those who attended the November 4 meeting: Someone inadvertently mixed a volume of Gene's railroad perfins in with their stuff and went home with it. It is in a white 3-ring binder. Look through your stuff, and if you have it, contact Gene and please return it as soon as possible. We do not want him depressed over the Holidays.

### November 18

We had 28 members on hand for a 152-lot auction. Thanks to all who provided lots and to all those who bid on them. It only took 1hr 20 min to get through.

## Where we're going.

### December 2

Bring your creative self to this meeting. You will be given some stamps and using those stamps make up a story. For example, a stamp with an airplane, JFK, a sailboat and a beach could be a story about JFK taking a plane to go on vacation where he could go sailing and relax on the beach.

### December 15 (Wednesday)

The annual Christmas party will be held at Incorvaia's at 4751 Monroe Street on Wednesday, December 15, at 6:00 pm. The menu is on their website, [www.beneitaliano.com](http://www.beneitaliano.com)

We will be ordering individually from the menu, and as always it will be Dutch (pay for your own). The meals are reasonably priced and there are specials on Wednesdays. Portions are large, so come hungry. The Italian food there is excellent, and they have pizza that is top-notch. If you wish to come early, you can take advantage of the bar.

There will be no meeting on Thursday, December 16th.



Merry Christmas



Happy New Year



## This Month's Topic: Santa Claus

Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, or simply Santa, is a legendary character originating in Western Christian culture who is said to bring gifts on Christmas Eve of toys and candy to well-behaved children, and either coal or nothing to naughty children. He is said to accomplish this with the aid of Christmas elves, who make the toys in his workshop at the North Pole, and flying reindeer who pull his sleigh through the air.

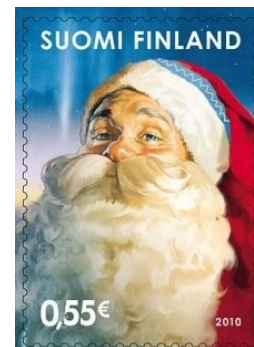
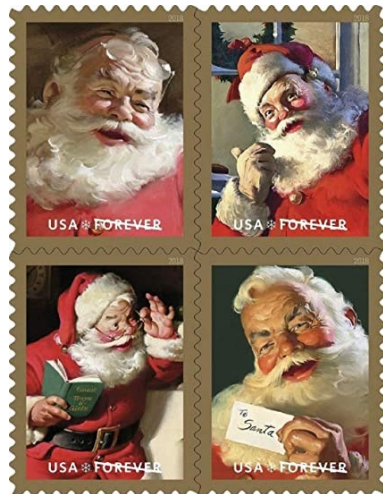
The modern character of Santa Claus was based on traditions surrounding the historical Saint Nicholas (a fourth-century Greek bishop and gift-giver of Myra), the English figure of Father Christmas, and the Dutch figure of *Sinterklaas* (also based on Saint Nicholas).

Santa Claus is generally depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man, often with spectacles, wearing a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, white-fur-cuffed red trousers, red hat with white fur, and black leather belt and boots, carrying a bag full of gifts for children. He is commonly portrayed as laughing in a way that sounds like "ho ho ho". This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century due to the significant influence of the 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas". Caricaturist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast also played a role in the creation of Santa's image. This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books, family Christmas traditions, films, and advertising.

The ATA listing is Christmas - Santa Claus and Related - List Number: 641 - Topic Count: 619. If you like Santa, there is no shortage of his stamps.



The first Christmas stamp.



**Happy Holidays  
and Prosperous New Year  
To our stamp collecting friends  
everywhere.**



## December 2, 1859

## Georges Seurat

Georges Seurat is chiefly remembered as the pioneer of the Ne Impressionist technique commonly known as Pointillism, or Divisionism, an approach associated with a softly flickering surface of small dots or strokes of color. His innovations derived from new quasi-scientific theories about color and expression, yet the graceful beauty of his work is explained by the influence of very different sources.

Initially, he believed that great modern art would show contemporary life in ways similar to classical art, except

that it would use technologically informed techniques. Later he grew more interested in Gothic art and popular posters, and the influence of these on his work make it some of the first modern art to make use of such unconventional sources for expression. His success quickly propelled him to the forefront of the Parisi-

31. But his innovations would be highly influential, shaping the work of artists as diverse as Vincent Van Gogh and the Italian Futurists, while pictures like *Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte* (1884) have since become widely popular icons.



an avant-garde.

His triumph was short-lived, as after barely a decade of mature work he died at the age of only



## December 15, 1939

## Gone With

*Gone with the Wind* is a 1939 American epic historical romance film adapted from the 1936 novel by Margaret Mitchell. The film was produced by David O. Selznick of Selznick International Pictures and directed by Victor Fleming. Set in the American South against the backdrop of the American Civil War and the Reconstruction

era, the film tells the story of Scarlett O'Hara (portrayed by Vivien Leigh), the strong-willed daughter of a Georgia plantation owner, following her romantic pursuit of Ashley Wilkes (Leslie Howard), who is married to his cousin, Melanie Hamilton (Olivia de Havilland), and her subsequent marriage to Rhett Butler (Clark Gable). It received generally positive reviews upon its release in December 1939. The casting was widely praised, but its running time came in for criticism. At the 12th Academy

Awards, it received ten Academy Awards (eight competitive, two honorary) from thirteen nominations, including wins for Best Picture, Best Director (Fleming), Best Adapted Screen-

play (posthumously awarded to Sidney Howard), Best Actress (Leigh), and Best Supporting Actress (Hattie McDaniel, becoming the first African American to win an Academy Award). It set records for the total number of wins and nominations at the time. *Gone with the Wind* was immensely popular when first released. It became the highest-earning film made up to that point, and held the record for over a quarter of a century.

When adjusted for

monetary inflation, it is still the highest-grossing film in history. It was re-released periodically throughout the 20th

century and became ingrained in popular culture. Although the film has been criticized as historical negationism, glorifying slavery and the Lost Cause of the Confederacy myth, it has been credited with

triggering changes in the way in which African Americans were depicted cinematically. The film is regarded as one of the greatest films of all time, and in 1989 it was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry.





## Stamp Collector's Club of Toledo

All meetings are held at the Perrysburg Masonic Building, 590 E. South Boundary, Perrysburg, OH 43551. Members begin to gather at about 6:30, with the business meeting to begin at 7:00. Programs or activities follow the business meeting. Guests are always welcome to attend.

### Internet Links

Linn's [www.linns.com](http://www.linns.com)  
OPHS [www.ohiopostalhistory.com](http://www.ohiopostalhistory.com)  
APS [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org)  
ATA [www.americanpostalassn.org](http://www.americanpostalassn.org)  
USSS [www.usstamps.org](http://www.usstamps.org)  
[www.stampfinder.com](http://www.stampfinder.com)  
[www.zillionsofstamps.com](http://www.zillionsofstamps.com)

### Local Shows

Blue Ribbon Show, Third Sunday, 9:30-3:30.  
St. Clement's Hall, 3030 Tremainsville Rd., Toledo.

Not much happening in our neighborhood this month, no doubt because of the holidays. Looks like no first weekend of January Birmingham/Ferndale show. Last one was August, which might be the new time of the year for it.



We're on the web!

[www.toledostampclub.org](http://www.toledostampclub.org)

### SCCT CONTACT INFORMATION

**Meetings:** Phoenix Masonic Lodge,  
590 E. South Boundary Street, Perrysburg, Ohio

**Mailing:** Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo,  
PO Box 2, Maumee, Ohio 43537-0002

**Web Site:** [www.toledostampclub.org](http://www.toledostampclub.org)

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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/The-Stamp-Collectors-Club-of-Toledo-1372536332845589/>

## The Back Page

## Reminiscent of the Scorpion and the Frog fable

Despite sanctions, if one goes through the proper channels, even United States firms can - and do - trade in both goods and services with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). One such item that makes its way out of the Hermit Kingdom to our showcases are collectible North Korean postage stamps. NPR recently attained 73 pages of correspondence between the Treasury Department and eighteen U.S. firms attempting to attain import licenses for a range of North Korean merchandise. Smack dab between the obvious (children's footwear) and the eyebrow-raisers (medical samples to fight drug-resistant tuberculosis) was the Mystic Stamp Company, which was petitioning to attain thousands of dollars in unused North Korean stamp sheets for American collectors.

Like any collectible, rarer and harder to acquire usually equals more expensive. While the embargo places some barriers in the way, this is partly offset by the fact that stamps are cheap to print and the North Koreans churn them out. You can take a look at the product of the Mystic Stamp Co.'s regulatory hoop-jumping on their website, where a collection of North Korean stamps sells for

close to \$600.

While the only risk for Mystic Stamp Co. seems to be the denial of a license, things can get a lot dicier for the collectors on the ground. NK News recently ran a story on one such Dutch collector and dealer who was imprisoned on espionage charges during a trip into North Korea to purchase stamps (fun game: close your eyes and imagine what a stamp enthusiast named Willem van der Bijl looks like.) Van der Bijl had connections to the Korea Stamp Corp. since the 1990s, and appears to enjoy some access on the dozens of stamp-collecting trips he has taken to the country. At one point, he was even authorized to open his own North Korean branch office.

But, as anyone dealing with North Korea could guess, Van der Bijl's luck was bound to run out. On his 24<sup>th</sup> foray into North Korea in 2011, he was arrested along with his branch's employees and imprisoned for two weeks with almost no contact to the outside world.

While Van der Bijl is now safely back in the Netherlands after what sounds like a very uncomfortable experience, his vis-

age still remains property of the state: in August 2011, the Pyongyang Times ran an article featuring the picture of a "Wim van der Bijl, director of the art building material company of the Netherlands" who just so happened to be smitten with North Korea's democratic election process.

For Van der Bijl, this flirtation with dangerous collectibles is over. And



for all of you aspiring daredevil North Korean stamp collectors out there, let this serve as a cautionary tale to think twice about trying to get your hands on these puppies.

Like to travel for stamps? The Democratic People's Republic of North Korea sounds like a lovely place to visit! Ed.

More information regarding this story may be found on the internet, just Google Willem van der Bijl.