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Frogtown Philatelist

The Official Journal of the Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo

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Where we've been.

January 3

We had seventeen members on hand for the first meeting of 2019. It seems that some of our regulars had the lingering effects of the holidays. The program was our usual sell-it-yourself and a short discussion regarding preliminaries of the upcoming show. The APS slideshow The Story of the Penny Black began at 7:58 and ended at 8:26. It is one

of the best slide shows we have seen to date. Many of our members were not aware of the many intricacies of collecting the Penny Black. It provides a massive undertaking for those of us who are into the "flyspecking" thing.

Don't forget to put together your one page "E" for the club community frame. Get it to Dave ASAP.

January 17

Although the weather was a little "iffy," twenty-three members turned out for our annual "Swap and Shop" night. There was quite a bit to look at, and it was a great way to acquire stamps and to relieve one's self of duplicates. It was a very successful evening of enjoying stamps.

Please keep our ailing members in your thoughts and prayers.

Where we're going.

February 7

This will be another of Gene's famous auctions. We appreciate the effort that it takes to organize and put on an auction that involves 100+ lots.

There will be a short discussion of show preparations preceding the auction. It will be short, as the auction will take an hour to complete.

Get your "E" page to Dave. Also, it is not too late to enter an exhibit.

February 21

This is the day we set up our show. We will meet at

the Masonic at 11:00 am to load our frames and all the associated stuff that we need to put on a successful show. If you can be there to help or can haul some of the show stuff, we would appreciate it.

From there, we will be off to the Holland Gardens to set everything up. If you cannot get to the Masonic at 11, perhaps you can get to the Gardens at 12:30 or so to help.

Since this is also a regular meeting night, we will travel back to the Masonic

by 7:00 pm for the APS slideshow Szeslaw Slania. Maybe those of us setting up the show can stop for dinner on the way. It will be a long day of stamps!

February 22-23

The Show. Get there early Friday to put exhibits in frames and last minute set-up. We will need volunteers at all the usual stations.

SCCT members will be admitted early Saturday for our doughnuts awards breakfast and ceremony. Don't miss it!

And, of course, **HELP!!!** For the take-down is needed. Thank you in advance.

February 7, 1812

Charles John Huffam Dickens (7 February 1812 - 9 June 1870) was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best-known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime, and by the 20th century critics and scholars had recognized him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories are still widely read today.



To pay for his board and to help his family, Dickens was forced to leave school and work ten-hour days at Warren's Blacking Warehouse, on Hungerford Stairs, near the present Charing Cross railway station, where he earned six shillings a week pasting labels on pots of boot blacking. The strenuous and often harsh working conditions made a lasting impression on Dickens and later influenced his fiction and essays, becoming the foundation of his interest in the reform of socio-economic and labor conditions, the rigors of which he believed were unfairly borne by the poor. He later wrote that he wondered "how I could have been so easily cast away at such an age".

Dickens published well over a dozen major novels and novellas, a large number of short stories, including a number of Christmas-themed stories, a handful of plays,

and several non-fiction books. Dickens's novels were initially serialized in weekly and monthly magazines, then reprinted in standard book formats.

Among them were *The Pickwick Papers*, *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations*.



February 21, 1916

The Battle of Verdun, fought from 21 February to 18 December 1916, was the largest and longest battle of the First World War on the Western Front between the German and French armies. The battle took place on the hills north of Verdun-sur-Meuse in north-eastern France. The German 5th Army attacked the defences of the Fortified Region of Verdun and those of the French Second Army on the right bank of the Meuse. Inspired by the experience of the Second Battle of Champagne in 1915, the Germans planned to capture the Meuse Heights, an excellent defensive position with good ob-

servation for artillery-fire on Verdun. The German strategy in 1916 was to inflict mass casualties on the French, a goal achieved against the Russians from 1914 to 1915, to weaken the French Army to the point of collapse. The French Army had to be drawn into circumstances from which it could not escape, for reasons of strategy and prestige. The Germans planned to use a large number of heavy and super-heavy guns to inflict a greater number of casualties than French artillery, which relied mostly upon the 75 mm field gun.



servation for artillery-fire on Verdun. The Germans hoped that the French would commit their strategic reserve to recapture the position and suffer catastrophic losses in a battle of annihilation, at little cost to the Germans in tactically advantageous positions on the heights.

The concentration of so much fighting in such a small area devastated the land, resulting in miserable conditions for troops on both sides. Rain, combined with the constant tearing up of the ground turned the clay of the area to a wasteland of mud full of human remains. Shell craters filled, becoming

Battle of Verdun Begins

so slippery that troops who fell into them or took cover in them could drown. Forests were reduced to tangled piles of wood by constant artillery-fire and eventually obliterated. The effect on soldiers in the battle was devastating and many broke down with shell shock. Some French soldiers attempted to desert to Spain, those caught being court-martialed and shot. On 20 March, French deserters disclosed details of the French defences to the Germans, who were able to surround 2,000 men and force them to surrender.

A French lieutenant at Verdun, who would be killed by a shell, wrote in his diary on 23 May 1916, "Humanity is mad. It must be mad to do what it is doing. What a massacre! What scenes of horror and carnage! I cannot find words to translate my impressions. Hell cannot be so terrible. Men are mad!" Discontent began to spread among French troops at Verdun during the summer of 1916. Following the promotion of General Pétain from the Second Army on 1 June and his replacement by General Nivelle, five infantry regiments were affected by episodes of "collective indiscipline". Two French Lieutenants, Henri Herduin and Pierre Millant, were summarily shot on 11 June; Nivelle then published an Order of the Day forbidding French troops to surrender. In 1926, after an inquiry into the cause célèbre, Herduin and Millant were exonerated and their military records expunged.

Over a million men were killed or wounded at Verdun.

Where in the World is . . .

Suriname? is a country on the northeastern Atlantic coast of South America. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, French Guiana to the east, Guyana to the west and Brazil to the south. At just under 165,000 square kilometers (64,000 square miles), it is the smallest sovereign state in South America. Suriname has a population of approximately 558,368, most of whom live on the country's north coast, in and around the capital and largest city, Paramaribo.

Suriname is the smallest independent country in South America. Situated on the Guiana Shield, it lies mostly between latitudes 1° and 6°N, and longitudes 54° and 58°W. The country can be divided into two main geographic regions. The northern, lowland coastal area (roughly above the line Albina-Paranam-Wageningen) has been cultivated, and most of the population lives here. The southern part consists of tropical rainforest and sparsely inhabited savanna along the border with Brazil, covering about 80% of Suriname's land surface.



The Suriname Olympic Committee is the national governing body for sports in Suriname. The SOC was established in 1959 and now has 17 members: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Chess, Cycling, Football, Judo, Karate, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Triathlon, Volleyball, and Wrestling. One of the major sports in Suriname is football (soccer).



The two main mountain ranges are the Bakhuis Mountains and the Van Asch Van Wijck Mountains. Julianatop is the highest mountain in the country at 4,219 ft. above sea level. Other mountains include Tafelberg at 3,366 ft., Mount Kasikasima at 2,356 ft., Goliathberg at 1,175 ft., and Voltzberg at 790 ft.

Lying 2 to 5 degrees north of the equator, Suriname has a very hot and wet tropical climate, and temperatures do not vary much throughout the year. Average relative humidity is between 80% and 90%. Its average temperature ranges from 29 to 34 degrees Celsius (84 to 93 degrees Fahrenheit). Due to the high humidity, actual temperatures are distorted and may therefore feel up to 6 degrees Celsius (11 degrees Fahrenheit) hotter than the recorded

Suriname was long inhabited by various indigenous people before being invaded and contested by European powers from the 16th century, eventually coming under Dutch rule in the late 17th century. During the Dutch colonial period, it was primarily a plantation economy dependent on African slaves and, following the abolition of slavery, indentured servants from Asia. In 1954, Suriname became one of the constituent countries of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On 25 November 1975, the country of Suriname left the Kingdom of the Netherlands to become an independent state, nonetheless maintaining close economic, diplomatic, and cultural ties to its former colonizer.



temperature. The year has two wet seasons, from April to August and from November to February. It also has two dry seasons, from August to November and February to April.



Suriname's democracy gained some strength after the turbulent 1990s, and its economy became more diversified and less dependent on Dutch financial assistance. Bauxite (aluminium ore) mining continues to be a strong revenue source, and the discovery and exploitation of oil and gold has added substantially to Suriname's economic independence. Agriculture, especially rice and bananas, remains a strong component of the economy, and ecotourism is providing new economic opportunities.



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
OPHS www.ohiopostalhistory.com
APS www.stamps.org
ATA www.americantopicalassn.org
USSS www.usstamps.org
www.stampfinder.com
www.zillionsofstamps.com

Local Shows

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

The SCCT Annual Show. Friday and Saturday, February 22 & 23. 10-5 and 10-4. Holland Gardens.



A heavy load is lightened by many hands. We need you: Thursday, 21st, 11:00 at the Masonic, 12:30 at the Gardens. Back at Masonic for meeting, 7:00. Friday, 22nd, at the Gardens early, to place exhibits, last minute set-up, and to help throughout the day. Saturday, 23rd, we need you at 9:00 for awards breakfast, throughout the day, and especially for take-down at the conclusion of the show.



Please enjoy the two days of stamps and the people who collect them at the show.

SCCT CONTACT INFORMATION

Meetings: Phoenix Masonic Lodge,
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The Back Page

Be Nice!

This from *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, October 1, 1943, under the heading *Topical Notes*, by Stanley Phillips.

STRANGE BUT TRUE!

Scene: Our 391 Strand shop, on a September afternoon. Enter a customer of the male sex, who asks for the Free Yugoslav set shown in the window.

The set is produced, but on being asked for the price (which is clearly marked in the window) he flies into a towering rage, says the set was marked "Free," but he knew there must be a catch in it, and goes out cursing the firm and our shop assistant at the top of his voice.

It seems inconceivable that, at this stage of the war, there should be anyone who has, apparently, not yet heard the expression "Free" used in connection with the Governments and stamps of the occupied countries. We have hosts of schoolboy visitors to "391," all with a keen eye to bargains, but not one of them has yet expected to get a "Free Yugoslav" set, free, gratis and for nothing, and if any had made the mistake and it had been pointed out to them, they would

certainly have accepted the explanation with courtesy.

By the way, why is it that a minority of people who are, presumably, civil to their relatives and friends, and kind to animals, should feel that they have the right to work off their evil tempers on hardworking shop staffs, who are doing their best, under these difficult wartime conditions to deal with greatly increased numbers of customers? There are few on the seller's side of the counter who do not, at some time or another, say a hasty word, or make a mistake, which might well cause annoyance to a customer, but deliberately to go into a shop, as few people seem to do, determined to be nasty to the man or woman behind the counter, is absolutely unjustifiable.

It seems that we have always had people that are quick-tempered and looking for reasons to unleash it. I know someone that lives to find a reason to complain about or become argumentative. That type of individual is not pleasant to be around and soon becomes one to avoid. Unfortunately, in the world we

live in, a lack of civility seems to be the norm, rather than the exception.

How do you resolve differences? Are you angry or upset when unsuccessful in haggling with a stamp dealer? You have to remember that they are in it to make a living, and there is only so low that they can go on their stamps. They have to acquire stamps and it costs them money. The idea is to sell for more than they paid for it. It is ok to seek bargains, but if you do not agree on the selling price, it is what it is, and you can agree to disagree while retaining civility. You may not be happy, but anger only hurts you. Don't burn your bridges.

Likewise, we have people who are disappointed when they bring in an album with 3c stamps that are 80 years old and expect they are sitting on a fortune. We need to be nice and let them down easy to help mitigate the disappointment. Or to keep them from losing their minds if they ARE sitting on a fortune. We don't want them getting hurt doing cartwheels.

I am sorry to be preaching to the choir! This is not an issue with SCCT members, who are typically good-natured. Just trying to provide food for thought.