The Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh, “Pittsburgh’s Stamp Club”, meets November through February on the second Monday of the month, March through October on the third Monday, at the First Lutheran Church, 615 Grant Street, Downtown, across from the U.S. Steel (UPMC) building. Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

**Visitors and Guests are Always Welcome**

If you can’t make our meeting, visit our web site:

www.presidentdrive.com

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**Meeting Schedule**

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<th>Swaps 6:30</th>
<th>Program: 7:00</th>
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<td><strong>January 9: Second Monday</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Auction Night</strong>: Members bring up to 5 items for bid.</td>
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<td><strong>February 13: Second Monday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong>: Philatelic Discussion?</td>
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**Upcoming Stamp Shows**

We’re always in need of newsletter material. I’m sure you all have something in your collection that you are especially proud of, or that would be of interest to other members. Get in touch with the editor and we’ll be glad to help you prepare it for publication.

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**Welcome to New Members**

M1241 Eric Lebovitz
M1242 David L. Schwartz
M1243 James Vaughn

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**President** ................. Regis Hoffman
**1st Vice President** .......... Bryan Gross
**2nd Vice President** .......... Bill Brierton
**Secretary/Treasurer** ........ Jane Lienhardt

We wish to thank all those members with computers that have taken the time to respond to our on-line survey. Your comments and suggestions are exactly what we need to keep the club active and relevant to your interests.

Editor: Dick Wolf
e-mail to:
ben15116@gmail.com
Christmas Stamps, Seals, and Towns
Glenn Vasbinder

It is recognized that Canada issued the first Christmas stamp. It shows the Mercator map with “Xmas 1898” inscribed. Since then, numerous countries have issued stamps depicting various Christmas themes. There were no special Christmas issues until Austria issued a Christmas stamp in 1937, the Rose and Signs of the Zodiac stamp.

The first official United States Christmas stamp was issued in 1962. In 2010, the US Post Office will print more than 4 billion Christmas postage stamps and make them available at some ATMs (Automatic Teller Machines) using a bank card.

The Christmas stamp on your Christmas cards may be accompanied by a Christmas seal, an idea conceived by a Dutch postal clerk and first issued by Denmark in 1904 to raise money for the cure of tuberculosis. In the same year, Sweden and Iceland followed with their versions later in the same year. In 1907, American Red Cross worker Emily Bissell followed the Danish Christmas seal success with a simple red and white seal to raise money to save her local TB sanatorium. It was so successful the in 1908 the American Red Cross ran the campaign nationwide. Since 1973, the Christmas seal campaign has been organized by the American Lung Association.

One might want to use the Christmas seals and stamps for letters to be sent to someone. One might even want the letters to be postmarked from a town with a Christmas related name. In fact, there are 140 “Christmas” place names in the United States. One would even find many towns called “Santa Claus” in Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah. There are also many towns with the name “Noel”. Trying to obtain a cancellation from each of these and others can be a real challenge to collectors.

More on the Cyprus Story
Thanks to Bryan Gross

The July/August issue of the PSP Journal ran an article involving the Turkish Invasion and the eventual division of the island of Cyprus into Greek and Turkish enclaves. Although the violence has diminished greatly since the 1990s, the question of sovereignty and the hard feelings continue to this day. The cover shown below is a serious reminder of an as yet unresolved problem. It is franked with Cyprus stamps, but the letter could be from either a Greek or Turkish refugee. A brief recap from the earlier article might help you recall the state of things related to this issue.

In 1974, Turkey occupied part of the island in the north of the Republic of Cyprus. Greek Cypriots in the north (nearly half the Greek Cypriot population of the island) were forced by the advancing Turkish Army to flee south. Likewise, Turkish Cypriots who had not already fled to the enclaves during the intercommunal violence now chose to do so. It is estimated that 40% of the Greek population of Cyprus, as well as over half of the Turkish Cypriot population, were displaced by the Turkish invasion. The figures for internally displaced Cypriots varies, the United Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) estimates 165,000 Greek Cypriots and 45,000 Turkish Cypriots. The UNHCR registers slightly higher figures of 200,000 and 65,000 respectively, being partly based on official Cypriot statistics which register children of displaced families as refugees. The separation of the two communities via the UN patrolled Green Line prohibited the return of all internally displaced people. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyprus_refugees)
Editors Note: Our thanks to all of those willing and helpful workers who set up the exhibit frames, mounted the exhibits, and manned the registration table and flea market area. Your efforts paid off handsomely with a well presented exhibit area and a financially secure flea market. Thanks again.

Just a Reminder

Article 2 of the PSP constitution defines the clubs purpose:

“to promote and encourage philately; to foster friendship and fraternity among philatelists; and to assist its members, individually or collectively, to acquire or dispose of stamps in any legitimate manner.”

Pittpex ‘11 Cachet

This year’s Pittpex cachet followed the USPS theme of “Go Green.” Using the text:

Pittsburgh
‘A Most Livable City,’
Goes Green.

Franked with stamps from the April, 2011 “Go Green” issue, it was available with each one of the 16 different stamps in the USPS pane.

Preliminary Pittpex ‘11 Sales Data

PSP Sec./Treas. Jane Lienhardt reports that the PITTPEX Flea Market realized $141 in commission on sales of $1,192. Twelve members entered for sale 2,728 lots, of which 580 were sold. Complete financial data for Pittpex ‘11 will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

In the News

Thanks to “an obviously enlightened panel of judges,“ Regis Hoffman and Thomas J. Richard’s monograph “Private Auxiliary Markings on Hollywood Fan Mail”, received the highest award their monograph has won so far, a silver medal in the literature exhibit of Chicagopex (see chicapex.org under 2011 literature palmares).

Club Officers Nominated for 2012

The Usual Suspects
Regis Hoffman ··········· Bill Brierton
Bryan Gross ··········· Jane Lienhardt

DUES for 2012 NOW DUE

Annual dues are $10 for individuals, or $12 for two or more at the same address. We currently have ten Life Members who do not pay annual dues. Make your check payable to The Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh and mail to

PSP Sec./Treas. Jane Lienhardt
1527 High Knoll Drive,
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-3311.

A Few Words About Pittpex ‘11 From Ron Carr.

After a few years of decline, attendance spiked in 2010, and continued at about the same level this year. We had over 250 attendees on Saturday and slightly over 100 on Sunday + repeats from Saturday (Sundays are always typically lower). Weather was favorable on the weekend and the Steelers didn’t play till Sunday night which helped. The dealers appeared to be quite happy with Saturday sales with one dealer saying he had better sales on Sunday.

Sales at the show of the Pittpex ‘11 Cachet covers were about average. The theme appears to be especially important with mail sales which tended to be lower than usual. A small profit is still expected from the sale of covers.

The Fish Bowl contents of stamps and covers was well received as usual. This year’s winner was Duane Nelson from Belle Vernon. (Please donate your canceled stamps, both on and off paper for the Fish Bowl next year. Our supply is getting low again.)

“I personally think that very few visitors come to the show to look at the exhibits. I suspect that there’s not enough variety or interest in subjects.” We also tend to have too many repeat exhibits. It would be best if we did not repeat an exhibit for at least 3 years. But without repeats we wouldn’t have many exhibits.

We need to get new exhibitors, not easy task.
PITTPLEX ‘11 EXHIBITS

This year’s exhibit area featured 39 frames of interesting and diverse material. Several of these exhibits had won awards at other shows. Some were being shown for the first time, others were resurrected from years past. They all helped to maintain the reputation of the PSP show as the major philatelic event in the Pittsburgh area.

Letters to the Stars
British Commonwealth Omnibus
Polish Refugees in Africa, World War II
East African Revenue Stamps
Daffodils on Stamps
Attilio Gatti, African Adventurer
Ryukus Islands
MDI Makeshift on Jury Rigged Booklets
The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
The Kingdom of Hawaii
Comic Strip Classics 1995
Profiles of People and the American Civil War
The Lion of Finland
Switzerland’s ProPatria
The Red Cross on Swiss Stamps
Switzerland’s Air Mail
US Navy Pacific Aircraft Operations 1935 - 1937
Regis Hoffman [6 frames]
Regis Hoffman [3 frames]
Regis Hoffman [1 frame]
Regis Hoffman [5 frames]
Regis Hoffman [1 frame]
Regis Hoffman [1 frame]
Ron Carr [3 frames]
Ron Carr [1 frame]
Matthew Hoffman [3 frames]
Dick Wolf [1 frame]
Dick Wolf [1 frame]
Dick Wolf [1 frame]
Bryan Gross [4 frames]
Rudolf Keller [3 frames]
Rudolf Keller [1 frame]
Rudolf Keller [3 frames]
James Vaughn [1 frame]

The Newsletter on the Web

Each issue of the PSP Journal is available online, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, from a link on the “Archive” page of our web site; www.presidentdrive.com.

Among the many advantages of posting it to the web in this universally accessible format is that the newsletter you see there is in full color, and can either be read on line or printed out on your home printer. Printing the newsletter in color for distribution by mail is prohibitively expensive. But having the ability to view the newsletter’s featured material in close color reproduction adds significantly to the impact and interest of the articles and graphics. As evidence of this fact, I refer you to the German postal card article on page 7. Take a look at it on the web and compare it to your printed copy.

E-mail me your opinion at ben15116@gmail.com

Albrecht Dürer
(1471–1528)

Dürer was born in Nuremberg, Germany, the second child in a family with 18 children. A painter and printmaker, he is best known for his woodcuts and etchings. Both East and West Germany, as well as the reunified nation, have used his etchings on stamps, souvenir sheets and postal cards.

Dorothy Parker
Writer, Poet and Critic

Born Dorothy Rothschild in West End, she became the drama critic of the periodical Vanity Fair in 1917. When her reviews were considered too biting and stringent by the publisher, she joined the staff of the New Yorker, where she was given free rein with her sharply worded opinions on books and drama. The New Yorker also published many of her short stories, later collected in Here Lies in 1939.

In the 1920s, Parker was a regular member of the ‘Round Table’ in the Rose Room of the Algonquin Hotel in New York City, the site of luncheon gatherings of some of the city’s sharpest wits, including Robert Benchley, Franklin P. Adams, Alexander Woollcott, and George S. Kaufman. (From the USPD press release August, 1992)