



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

Wilkinsburg Stamp Club P.O. Box 10552 Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552

<http://www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com>

Member of The American Philatelic Society #12293

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**Philately** - is the study of stamps and postal history and other related items.

It also refers to collecting, research, and enjoyment, of stamps and other philatelic products.

**Contact Information;**

Please update your email address so we can notify you quickly with any urgent matters.

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German Soldier's Christmas Postcard 1914 Provided by 'Bill' William Brierton

The **Christmas truce** (German: Weihnachtsfrieden; French: Trêve de Noël) was a series of widespread but unofficial ceasefires along the Western Front of World War I around Christmas 1914.

During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favor of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies. Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain

**'Christmas Truce' 1914 WWI**

points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing. At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out "Merry Christmas" in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents of cigarettes and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

Some soldiers used this short-lived ceasefire for a more somber task: the retrieval of the bodies of fellow combatants who had fallen within the no-man's land between the lines.

The so-called Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the

outdated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—future attempts at holiday ceasefires were quashed by officers' threats of disciplinary action—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers' essential humanity endured.

During World War I, the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit.



British Soldier's Christmas Postcard 1914 Provided by 'Bill' William Brierton

**Notable People on Stamps:**



Russian Issued 9/15/2015, 275th Birth Anniversary of A.V.Suvorov's birth

**Alexander Vasilyevich Suvorov** November 1729 or 1730 – 18 May 1800 He was a Russian military leader, considered a national hero. He had a great simplicity of manner, and while on a campaign lived as a private soldier, sleeping on straw and contenting himself with the hum-

blest fare. Suvorov was adored by his men and considered victory dependent on the morale, training, and initiative of the front-line soldier. In battle he emphasized speed and mobility, accuracy of gunfire and the use of the bayonet, as well as detailed planning and careful strategy. Suvorov took great care of his army's supplies and living conditions, reducing cases of illness among his soldiers dramatically.

Suvorov won 63 major battles, never losing one. He was wounded six times in his military career. Suvorov's full name and titles Aleksandr Vasilyevich Suvorov, Prince of Italy, Count of Rymnik, Count of the Holy Roman Empire, Prince of Sardinia, Generalissimo of

Russia's Ground and Naval forces, Field Marshal of the Austrian and Sardinian armies, He was the recipient of many Military Orders.



## Club News

### THANK YOU!

Danielle for providing the food at the Nov 11th meeting!

### Luncheon canceled...

It was decided to cancel the luncheon since it is getting so close to the holiday season, and to change it to a picnic in July. Club will provide hotdogs, and members are asked to bring a side dish. Guests are welcome. Place and time to be decided.

The new specialized catalog has been purchased and will arrive soon.

Gene let us know that several persons have made up programs/exhibits on our Souvenir sheets. One gentleman is considering coming to a meeting or show from California.

An author is considering a book signing, at meeting or show... his book content contains letters from the civil war era, making it stamp collecting related.

The auction at the Nov. 25th meeting went well...with some

active and fun filled bidding.

# Holiday Party

December 9th, members are asked to bring a side dish. Guests are welcome. Please contact Danielle dmm742000@yahoo.com (412)-302-4146 if you are planning on attending, as the club will be providing the chicken. \$5 charge for guests.

# Happy New Year!

Wishing all our stamp club friends and their families a blessed New

## Officers

### President:

*Andy Novotny*  
novoand@hotmail.com

### Vice-President:

*Laura Kaczynski*  
laurakac13@verizon.net

### Treasurer /Secretary &

**Mailing Coordinator:**  
*Danielle Weaver*  
dmm742000@yahoo.com

### Newsletter Editor &

**Web Tech:**  
*Deb Foltyn*  
quest4moos@msn.com

## Year of the Pig



The China's 2019 "Year of the Pig" zodiac stamps unveiled. The stamps were designed by Han Meilin. The first "Fat Pig Wangfu", in which a pig runs in a swift manner as if towards a happier life. The second picture is named "Five Fortunes are happy and harmonious, symbolizing the reunion of the family, also leading to speculation that China may soon release it's family planning restriction, thus allowing the birth of three children. Although the designs were made public, they will not be on sale until January 5, 2019 according to the China National Philatelic Corporation.

## After 85 years... The Washington Stamp Exchange is Closing

Washington Stamp Exchange was incorporated in 1933, in the depths of the Great Depression, when Leo and Sam August pooled their meager assets to start a business selling first day covers and stamps to collectors under the name of The Washington Press. Stamp collecting and the relatively new specialty of cover collecting were growing hobbies then and collectors quickly embraced the company's new products which included ArtCraft first day covers and White Ace stamp albums and accessories.

Throughout our 85 years in business we have always strived to offer friendly service and the highest quality products at reasonable prices. We believe that the many loyal customers and the friends we've made over the years attest to our success in meeting those objectives. Now, however, the time has come for us to turn the page and begin the next chapter in our lives. So with mixed emotions we have decided to close Washington Stamp Exchange at the end of 2018.

Starting immediately and continuing until we've sold out, we will be offering everything we have in stock at steeply discounted prices. **All White Ace and Stampmount products are on sale at a 50% discount.** Place your order on this website, and the 50% discount will be applied when the order is processed.

Ten lists offering **over 2000 Art-Craft First Day Covers at prices as low as 50¢ each** have been posted on our Special Offers page.

Other special offers will be posted as we prepare them, and check back regularly to see what's new.

We are also making available from our archives the **Original Production Artwork and Engraving Plates** that were used to create many of the ArtCraft Engraved Cachets produced between 1939 and 2002. Much of our remaining production artwork is displayed on our e-bay store.

Engraving plates are priced at \$25, and production artwork not listed on e-bay is priced at \$20.00 each. A shipping charge of \$7.50 will be added to each order for

these archival items. To take advantage of this rare opportunity to own a piece of ArtCraft history, ask us about the availability of issues that interest you using our contact form on the left side of this page or call us at our toll free number above.

*We invite dealer inquiries from anyone seeking to acquire large volumes of collectible items and supplies.*

In closing, THANK YOU for the privilege of allowing us to help you in your philatelic endeavors. We wish you many years of healthy happy collecting enjoyment ahead.

Sincerely,  
The Washington Press Family

*(Taken from the web site  
www.washpress.com)*

## WSC Meetings

**ALL Visitors are welcome!**  
We meet the 2nd & 4th Sundays  
*No Holidays*

**December 9th**  
**(Holiday Party)**

Next meetings  
January 13th 2019  
January 27th 2019

*Summers Meetings*  
June thru August  
2nd Sundays only  
Doors Open 12:30  
Meeting starts at 2PM  
Churchill Borough Building,  
2300 William Penn Hwy  
Churchill, PA 15235.

*Free light lunch available*  
**DUES ARE ONLY \$8.00 PER FISCAL YEAR (JULY-JUNE)**  
Members that haven't paid this year's dues, can make check

payment to:  
Wilkinsburg Stamp Club  
and sent to:  
**Wilkinsburg Stamp Club**  
**P.O. Box 10552**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552**

## Upcoming Stamp Shows

**Dec 2nd, 2018**

Cranberry Stamp Show  
VFW POST #7505  
331 Mars Valencia Road  
Mars, PA 16046  
Contact:  
Kevin Kellman  
Phone:  
301-524-9562  
Hours: Sun 10-4

**Dec 7th-8th**

Worthington Stamp Club  
**Event Location:** St. Andrews  
Parish Hall, 1899 McCoy Road.,  
Columbus, Ohio 43220  
**Contact:**  
Marie Gibbs, kev-  
mar1821@gmail.com  
**Phone:**  
614-260-0952  
**Web:**  
http://  
www.worthingtonstampclub.com

**Dec 16th, 2018**

Lancaster Stamp Show  
Farm & Home Center  
1383 Arcadia Rd.  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
Contact:  
Kevin Kellman  
Phone:  
301-524-9562  
Hours: Sun 10-4

**Dec 23rd**

Tri-State Monthly Coin & Stamp Show -  
Sheraton Bucks County  
400 Oxford Valley  
Langhorne, PA 19047  
Contact:  
Allen Brock  
Phone:  
305-852-7678  
Hours: Sun 10- 4

## WILKPEX 2019

Next year's show dates  
**Friday, May 31st, 2019**  
**Saturday, June 1st, 2019**

It will once again be held at Gateway Hall in Monroeville. Times for the show will be 10-5 on Friday and 10-5 on Saturday. Set up will be Thursday evening.

There was some discussion on the Souvenir sheets and cachet for the show. Gene is working on "plan A" for the cachet... as it was decided to not go with Mr. Rogers since PITPEX had already done that one. Some ideas were presented for the Souvenir Sheet. So far we have eight dealers committed to WILKPEX 2019. Postcards will be sent prior to the regular show time in April to alert those that aren't aware of the change of date.

## WSC Newsletter

It's your newsletter!  
Help Make it special

Original articles for the newsletter may be submitted by any of the membership to Deb Foltyn at a meeting or emailed to Quest4moos@msn.com  
Snail mail:  
Deb Foltyn  
1023 Brintell Street  
Pittsburgh, PA15201-1637

Ideas or content suggestions are welcome.

*Note\* articles submitted may be edited for content or to fit the Format.  
Club members get a free hard copy of the newsletter.*

## United States files to leave the UPU ( United Postal Union)

**Washington, DC** – On August 23, 2018, President Donald J. Trump issued a Presidential Memorandum can be seen in full at(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-secretary-state-secretary-treasury-secretary-homeland-security-postmaster-general-chairman-postal-regulatory-commission/>)

“The anticompetitive nature of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) has concerned the United States Government since the Reagan Administration. The increasingly competitive and commercial nature of the market has exacerbated these long standing distortions. Yet, little has changed at the UPU. The UPU continues to promulgate agreements that require posts to undercharge for delivery of inbound mail, to insulate postal shipments from full application of national customs laws, and to promote a different legal regime for postal operators and competing private carriers. President Trump’s Memorandum represents an enormous leap forward to finally addressing

these problems on behalf of our fellow Americans – particularly U.S. merchants, U.S. mailers, and U.S. private-sector carriers who are trying to compete fairly in these global markets.”

However the Department of State “will seek to negotiate bilateral and multilateral agreements” that resolve “problems” described in the memorandum signed by President Donald J. Trump titled “Modernizing the Monetary Reimbursement Model for the Delivery of Goods Through the International Postal System and Enhancing the Security and Safety of International Mail.”

However, the memorandum states, “The United States is a party to the current Constitution of the UPU — which was adopted in 1964 — and intends to continue to participate fully in and financially contribute to the UPU, as provided in Article 21 of the UPU Constitution.”

The president’s memorandum requested that the UPU establish terminal dues rates that fully reimburse the U.S. Postal Service for costs to the same extent as domestic rates for comparable services. It also asked for rates

that avoid a preference for inbound foreign small packages containing goods that favors foreign mailers over domestic mailers, and avoid a preference for inbound foreign small packages containing goods that favors postal operators over private sector entities providing transportation services.

According to the president, the United States is seeking “a system of fair and nondiscriminatory rates for goods that promotes unrestricted and undistorted competition.”

The action by the White House has been attributed by many sources as a response to UPU rates favoring other countries, with China singled out most frequently. According to the *Financial Times*, the cost to mail a 4.4 pound package within the United States is \$19 to \$23, while China Post pays just \$5 to ship a similar package to the United States. But it costs the USPS more than the \$5 to actually deliver the package.

*Here’s why Trump threatened to pull out of a 144-year-old postal treaty*  
by Jen Kirby

‘Trump does have a legitimate gripe, and administrations going back to Ronald Reagan have voiced similar complaints about the UPU.

That means the United States is effectively subsidizing cheap overseas shipping, specifically anything that’s 4.4 pounds or lighter. The administration has said that these rates for China cost the US \$300 million per year, coming out to a 40 to 70 percent discount on shipping.

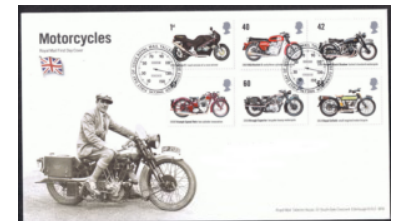
The White House’s solution is to adopt its own rates for letters and goods coming into the US, and then get out of the UPU. But the formal withdrawal process from the organization takes a year, and the White House left open the possibility that the US would remain if it could negotiate a better deal.’

**Junior Corner - First Day Covers**

This month we will discuss **First Day Covers**. A First Day Cover (FDC) is an envelope or card bearing a stamp which is cancelled on the day the stamp is initially placed on sale by the postal authorities. Although most U.S. stamps are released nationwide on the first day, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will designate a single city as the "official" first day city. The location is usually appropriate to the subject of the stamp, and will be the only place where the "First Day of Issue" postmark is used. Postal authorities may hold a **first day ceremony** to generate publicity for the new issue, with postal officials revealing the stamp, and with connected persons in attendance, such as descendants of the person being honored by the stamp. The ceremony may also be held in a location that has a special connection with the stamp's sub-

ject, such as the birthplace of a social movement, or at a stamp show. Generally a First Day Of Issue (FDOI) ceremony is sponsored by the Postal Service or an organization associated with the new stamp. It is a colorful and entertaining ceremony which enables collectors to attend to prepare special souvenirs. Collectors may buy envelopes, apply the stamps and send them to the USPS for canceling. Customers have 60 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They may purchase new stamps at their local Post Office, at The Postal Store® website at <http://www.usps.com/shop>, or by calling 800-782-6724. They should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place in a larger envelope addressed to: FDOI – Dorothy Height USPS Stamp Fulfillment Services 8300 NE Underground Drive,

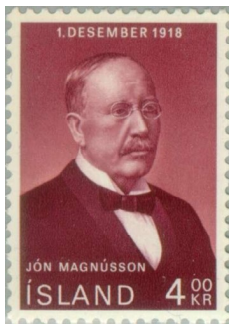
Suite 300 Kansas City, MO 64144-9900 After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the envelopes will be returned through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark up to a quantity of 50. There is a 5-cent charge for each one over 50. Or the covers may be purchased from cachet makers or stamp dealers, or the USPS. Collectors may make their own covers or collect covers in many dozens of different ways -- the result is a personal involvement that is extremely gratifying. American First Day Cover Society Devoted to the advancement of First Day Cover collecting <http://afdcs.org/>



**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
[Wilkinsburgstampclub.com](http://Wilkinsburgstampclub.com)

**WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB**  
**Home of the Famous Satirical Souvenir**

**50 Years ago - December 1968**



**Jón Magnússon**  
Born January 16, 1859  
Died June 23, 1926  
He was an Icelandic politician, and was Prime Minister of Iceland on two occasions. He served his first term, as a member of the Home Rule Party (*Heimastjórnarflokkurinn*), from 4 January 1917 to 7 March 1922. He served his second term, as a member of the Conservative Party (*Íhaldsflokkurinn*, a forerunner of the Independence Party), from 22 March 1924 to 23 June 1926.

Stamp issued 12-1-1968  
Scott #402-403,  
4kr and 50kr stamps picturing Jón Magnússon and commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Iceland's independence

**Iceland 50th Anniversary of Independence**  
Issued 1st Dec 1968



**New Zealand**  
Dairy Industry - 25c  
Issued 10th December 1968

Description; In the left panel a typical Taranaki dairy farm is illustrated with Mt Egmont / Taranaki in the background, in the right panel cartons of butter and cheese are being loaded onto an overseas bound vessel. New Zealand, is one of the world's most important dairy and beef producers. The 10 million cows outnumber its people, two to one, and produce 3% of the world's dairy products.



**India 400th Anniversary Cochin Synagogue**  
Issued 15th Dec 1968

The **Paradesi Synagogue** is the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations. It is located in Kochi, Kerala, in South India. Constructed in 1567, it is one of seven synagogues of the Malabar Yehudan or Yehudan Mappila people or *Cochin Jewish* community in the Kingdom of Cochin. Here the Jewish people live peaceably along side their Hindu neighbors.