The December Holston Stamp Club Christmas Party and meeting held on Dec. 15th was another success. There were 22 members in attendance and I believe everyone enjoyed themselves despite the fact that your faithful president forgot to ensure that there were drinks and eating utensils (cups, plates, napkins, etc.) available. The members brought lots of cookies, cakes and other goodies and the club provided pizza for everyone.

The white elephant gift exchange was a lot of fun and everyone went home with something that they may or may not have found useful. Maybe some of these items will appear in the gift exchange at the next Christmas Party. My family came home with two elephants and a Avon Wild Country bottle in the shape of a roadside USPS mail drop box. The mail box is on display with my other stamp related trinkets and the elephants are on the shelves in Kaly’s and Colyb’s rooms.

The final submissions for the cachet contest were submitted for judging and hopefully we will have a winner announced at the January meeting. Good luck to all who entered and thank you for your entries.

I hope all of our members took advantage of the discounted club dues for the 2017 year. By the time you read this the discount will have expired and the dues rate reverted to our normal annual fee.

Does anyone know of any post office that still has the inverted Jenny souvenir stamp sheets? If so, could you let me and anyone else who may be interested know which post office (s) have them.

Something New:

I am going to try to mention a bit of trivia in each of my columns from this point forward. If any of th members have a bit of trivia (philatelic related) they would like to see published in this column please submit it to me via e-mail at zerogoofs@yahoo.com or hand it to me on paper at one of our meetings.

This Month’s Bit of Trivia:

According to George B. Sloane (born Apr. 3, 1898, died Jul. 15, 1958) as related in the July 19, 1941 issue of Stamps Magazine, the cost of a pack of 1,000 stamp hinges was at that time a dime. I did some checking and according to the website, http://www.usinflationcalculator.com, something that cost $0.10 in 1941 should cost $1.64 today however I have found a pack of 1,000 stamp hinges to run in the $3.00 to $4.00 range.

Steve

Having fun with gift exchange.
Monthly Treasury Report

Beginning Cash Dec. 1, 2016 $2,538.49
Total Income for Dec. $349.42
  Stamp Sales Program $199.42
  2017 Club dues $150.00
Total Disbursements for Nov. ($ 50.57)
  APS Circuit Book Expenses ($ 8.80)
  Pizzas for Christmas Party ($41.77)
Ending Balance Dec. 31, 2016 $2,837.34
Cash on hand Dec. 31, 2016 $2,922.61
Uncleared checks / Adjustment $85.27

FYI. Sixty lots were sold at the special auction (combination of items from three members, items donated to the club and items from the club’s inventory). The items sold for a total of $267.90.

Linn’s Annual Event

Now is the time to participate in Linn’s annual poll on the stamps and postal stationery issued by USPS during 2016. Linn’s especially welcomes votes from stamp clubs like ours and encourages distributing paper ballots among club members and mailed to Linn’s (see next page for ballot) or completing the poll on-line at www.Linns.com.

The poll lists 15 stamps or stamp sets as commemoratives, 27 definitive and special stamps and one postal stationery.

1. Richard Allen (Black Heritage series)
2. Year of the Monkey (Lunar New Year series)
3. Sarah Vaughan (Music Icons series)
4. Shirley Temple (Legends of Hollywood series)
5. World Stamp Show - NY (two stamps)
6. Repeal of the Stamp Act
7. Service Cross Medals (four stamps)
8. Views of Our Planets (eight stamps)
9. Pluto Explored (two stamps)
10. Classics Forever (six stamps)
11. National Parks (sixteen stamps)
12. Indiana (200th statehood anniversary series)
13. Jaime Escalante
14. Star Trek (four stamps)
15. Wonder Woman (four stamps)

*OUR INTERNET WEBSITE*
www.sefsc.org/holston-stamp-club.html

More about HOLPEX 2017 Cachet by Don Ashley

As Steve mentioned on the other side of this page the cachet submissions for the next HOLPEX are in. There are four and Dennis Bowman and his committee have been evaluating them. The winning cachet envelope design will be reported on by them during our January meeting. At that time the winner will get a check for $25 and be photographed for a feature in the next club newsletter. BE SURE TO ATTEND THE JANUARY MEETING to see the winning entry!

December meeting special auction:

After the fun gift exchange members got serious about deciding what auction items they would bid on and how much they would bid.

Unless otherwise indicated by announcement in the newsletter, Holston Stamp Club conducts its regular meeting on the 3rd Thursday each month at 7 p.m.

Hope to C. U. there

Club contacts...
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Linn's 2016 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

1. Richard Allen
2. Year of the Monkey
3. Sarah Vaughan
4. Shirley Temple
5. World Stamp Show-NY 2016
6. Repeal of the Stamp Act, 1766

7. Service Cross Medals
8. Views of Our Planets
9. Pluto Explored

10. Classics Forever
11. National Parks
12. Indiana Statehood
13. Jaime Escalante

DEFINITIVE AND SPECIAL STAMPS

14. Star Trek
15. Wonder Woman
16. Quilled Paper Heart
17. Apples
18. Grapes
19. Red Pears
20. La Cueva del Indio
21. Columbia River Gorge
23. U.S. Flag
DEFINITIVE AND SPECIAL STAMPS

24. Moon
26. Colorful Celebrations
27. Eid Greetings
28. Soda Fountain Favorites
25. USA Star
29. Star Quilts
30. Pickup Trucks
32. Pets
33. Songbirds in Snow
34. Patriotic Spiral
35. Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly
36. Jack-o'-Lanterns
37. Kwanzaa
38. Diwali
39. Holiday Window View
41. Hanukkah
40. Florentine Madonna and Child
42. Nativity
43. La Cueva del Indio stamped envelope

The stamp poll ballot is on page 98. Stamps are not shown to scale.
celebration of Halloween.

The Diwali stamp, which had been sought by an Indian-American organization and had backing in Congress, features a photograph of a traditional diya oil lamp against a sparkling gold background. The Halloween block of four was printed in orange and black and shows photos of a quartet of grinning jack-o'-lanterns.

One of the year's two religious-themed Christmas stamps incorporates an original Nativity scene by Nancy Stahl, while the other reproduces a detail from a 15th-century Florentine tempera-on-poplar painting, artist unknown, showing Mary and the infant Jesus.

The 2016 Centennial Christmas issue comprises a block of four stamps with artwork by William Low depicting familiar interior and exterior holiday decorations: a candle on a windowsill, a snow-covered wreath, a bright gold star ornament, and a richly decorated Christmas tree viewed through a window from outside.

Low also created a similarly themed illustration for the 12th U.S. stamp celebrating the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, this one showing a menorah in the window of a home, with snowy branches visible outside.

The stamp for Kwanzaa, also the 12th in its series, marked the 50th anniversary of a non-religious festival of community and culture celebrated by an estimated 18 million African Americans. It pictures a woman holding a large purple bowl filled with fruits and vegetables, symbolizing the abundance of African first harvests. The ninth stamp for the Muslim holiday of Eid bears a gold-colored script message in Arabic on a purple background and was designed, like its predecessors, by Virginia-based calligrapher Mohamed Zakariya.

The 2016 Love stamp — which happened to be the first U.S. issue of 2016 — features a colorful quilled paper heart created by Russian-born paper artist and illustrator Yulia Brodskaya. Quilling uses narrow paper strips that are rolled, curled, shaped into a form, then laid on their edges and glued into place.

### LINN’S 2016 U.S. STAMP POPULARITY POLL

Select from the following list the 2016 commemorative stamps, 2016 definitive and special stamps; and 2016 postal stationery that have the best and worst designs in your opinion, as well as those you feel are the most important and least necessary.

#### VOTE BY THE NUMBER PRECEDING THE ISSUE NAME ONLY

**Definitive and Special stamps**

1. Richard Allen
2. Year of the Monkey
3. Sarah Vaughan
4. Shirley Temple
5. World Stamp Show—NY 2016
6. Repeal of the Stamp Act, 1766
7. Service Cross Medals
8. Views of Our Planets
9. Pluto Explored
10. Classics Forever
11. National Parks
12. Indiana Statehood
13. Jaime Escalante
14. Star Trek
15. Wonder Woman

**Commemorative stamps**

16. Quilled Paper Heart
17. Apples
18. Grapes
19. Red Pears
20. La Cueva del Indio
21. Columbia River Gorge
22. Botanical Art
23. U.S. Flag
24. Moon
25. USA Star
26. Colorful Celebrations
27. Eid Greetings
28. Soda Fountain Favorites
29. Star Quilts
30. Pickup Trucks
31. Henry James
32. Pets
33. Songbirds in Snow
34. Patriotic Spiral
35. Eastern Tailed-Blue Butterfly
36. Jack-o’-Lanterns
37. Kwanzaa
38. Diwali
39. Holiday Window Views
40. Florentine Madonna and Child
41. Hanukkah
42. Nativity

**Postal stationery**

43. La Cueva del Indio stamped envelope

**BEST DESIGN**

**WORST DESIGN**

**MOST IMPORTANT**

**LEAST NECESSARY**

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Because there is only one 2016 postal stationery issue, there is no voting in this category.

The La Cueva del Indio stamped envelope is eligible for favorite 2016 stamp voting.

Now vote for your single personal favorite stamp issue of 2016. Your choice can be from the commemorative, definitive-special, or postal stationery categories. Se-tenant issues (different designs in one pane) are counted as one issue.

**MY FAVORITE 2016 STAMP**

(please write in number and stamp issue name):

No. __________ Issue

SEND BALLOT TO: Linn's Stamp Poll, Box 4129, Sidney, OH 45365.

All ballots must be postmarked by March 1, 2017. Photocopied ballots are acceptable. Stamps are pictured in this issue on pages 20-21.