



Thames Stamp Club Newsletter

December 2023

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The Thames Stamp Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, Sept. through June, at 7:30 P.M. at the Waterford Public Library, 49 Rope Ferry Rd, Waterford, CT. All area philatelists are invited. Annual dues are \$10.00. The club's email is tbbee@aol.com. The club's address is PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333 and on the web at <http://www.ThamesStampClub.org>.

November Recap

8 Nov Open meeting at the Waterford Public Library with seven members attending and three in Zoom land. Charles is still tallying up the numbers but all indications are Thamespex will be in the black again this year. In the November newsletter I credited John with giving a copy of a photograph to the East Lyme Historical Society. Actually it was a copy of Lindbergh's flight log that took him over Niantic in 1927. We will start refreshments at our next meeting with Ed David doing the honors. An auction and discussion on watermarked Philippine stamps concluded the evening.

29 Nov Meeting was called to order at the Waterford Public Library with six members present and one on Zoom. We have reinstated refreshments for our in-person meetings. If you want to sign up for refreshments please let me know and I'll add you to the list. Our holiday party has been scheduled for Saturday 16 Dec at Suzanne Cole's house (Ed David's daughter), 287 Montauk Ave, Stonington, CT. Start at 6 PM and end at 8 PM. The club will provide a sandwich platter. Please bring a *hors d'oeuvres* or dessert platter and something to drink. Also, no liquor but wine is OK. We will exchange philatelic door prizes. Please bring a door prize worth at least \$5. The USCS, Nathan Hale chapter will hold a holiday celebration at Mike Gilbert's man cave at 1030 on 4 December, 34 Inchcliffe Drive in Gales Ferry. Please bring something to share with members and guests. Refreshments by Ed David and a short presentation on holiday themed covers concluded the evening.

December Meetings

13 Dec – In-person meeting at Waterford Public Library + Zoom for those who cannot make it. Thamespex hot wash-up cont.

No second meeting due to the Christmas Holiday.

December Stamp Shows

No 4th Sunday Show Due to the proximity to Christmas and Hanukah Holidays

Here and There

This month's cover-of-the-month illustrates two advertising covers with Santa Claus themes. If you have a candidate for cover-of-the-month, please send me a scan plus a short write-up. Brian has designed another spectacular cover honoring the USS Parche SSN 683, illustrated below. If you have not paid your 24 dues please consider doing so today. Dues are \$10/yr. Please mail \$10 to TSC, PO Box 624, E. Lyme, CT 06333. I am circulating the stamp-circuit boxes; if you want to check out the box in your home for a few days, let me know. Everyone please stay healthy and safe. The following link will take you to the APS Newsletter:

<https://stamps.org/news/c/news/p/1>

Philatelically yours,

Tony

Tony Bruno

**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year**

Christmas time brings lots of advertising in the mail in the form of catalogues. Back at the turn of the 20th



century this cover was mailed with a 1c green second bureau stamp Scott # 279. The watermarked stamp paid the 3rd class 1¢/oz fee for mailing a Macey's furniture catalogue from Grand Rapids MI to Goffstown NH. 3rd class mail is a distinct class reserved for flyers, catalogues, and other printed matter. It is sent unsealed to distinguish it from 1st class mail. The Macey Company was famous for its roll top desks and fancy barrister bookcases. By 1932 the 3rd class rate had risen to 1½

¢/oz as shown in the cover below featuring Santa Claus. Franked with a 1½ ¢ Washington Bi-Centennial stamp of 1932 Scott # 706 and mailed from Santa Claus, IN, to Bradford, MA. Both the 706 and 279 were precanceled. The 279 is precanceled with double bars and may be a bureau precancel (more research needed) while the 706 is precanceled locally at the Santa Claus, IN post office. Illustrated below is a contemporaneous photo of the Santa Claus, IN PO as it exists today.

