

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173

Club Meeting: Wednesday, 11th February 2009

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

BlueBird Commons/ Wood Crest Villa. Tonight's host: Paul Petersen

Message from the President

Wm. P. Snyder

The January auction went well, thanks to the organizational skills of the auctioneers and accountants. The next auction is in May.

A fringe benefit-perhaps an obligation-of being a stamp collector is helping elderly relatives of friends who once enjoyed the hobby to dispose of their collection. How do you do this?

The first step, during a casual meeting or dinner, is to talk about **your** collecting interests and how much you enjoy the hobby. Doing so will often provoke a response along the following lines: "I used to collect when I was a young-

ster, but with the press of work and the family, I neglected the hobby." **Then you ask:** "What did you collect?" The answer will vary, but the response is usually along the following: "I've been meaning to sort it all out, but just have not gotten around to it." "Would you be willing to look at what I have?" Of course I would!

Now comes the hard but rewarding part: Sorting through their collection will take some time. In most cases, the collection will prove to be mostly US stamps usually from the 1920s and 1930s, along with a few covers and an occa-

sional foreign stamp. You complete the review and offer your suggestions.

This approach has gotten me into four collections. Only one had anything of significant value, so I've usually suggested the owners use the mint stamps in their collections for postage needs. But the real benefit is helping a friend or relative dispose of their holdings in a sensible way. All were grateful for the help, and the efforts saved their heirs the trouble of trying to figure out how to dispose of an old collection.

Bill

February Program: Canadian RPOs

Presented by Dick Colberg

Have you ever heard of Vanceboro, Maine or of the 1939 Royal Train? How about a cover from Pelly's Brickyard in Bonavista Railway, Newfoundland? If not,



plan to attend this PowerPoint program on the Canadian Railway cancellations by club member, Dick Colberg.

Dick began collecting at 8 in Chicago, and has been continually active since then with several local club and APS memberships. In 1979 he won the first of two Gold Medals for his exhibit entitled "Great Britain Surface Printed Issues, 1855-1883."

For ten years Dick wrote a stamp

column for the *Lancaster New Era* and ran a stamp auction for Conestoga Auction Co. Other journals to which he has contributed include *American Philatelist*, *The Pennsylvania Historian*, and *Mexicana* (the Mexico collectors journal).

Dick is a Certified Philatelic Appraiser through the Appraisers Association of America with a certificate of Appraisals Studies from NYU. (Continued on Pg. 4 Colberg)

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February-2009

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(Wm. P. Snyder)

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PSLC Meets the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at BlueBird Commons/ Wood Crest Villa at 7:00 PM

President:

William P. Snyder

Vice President:

John Ahlfeld

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



Clair Smith
PSLC Treasurer

Clair Smith will serve another two years as PSLC treasurer-through 2010. He and his wife moved to Lancaster Co. about five years ago and joined the club on the recommendation of Jim Boyles. He has been very involved in the stamp hobby since.

Beginning over 30 years ago with coin collecting, Clair found that stamps were much lighter to carry around. His coin dealer also sold stamps, and he was attracted immediately. Clair is an example of one who can build a collection, sell it for a profit, and collect something new. He did this with his first three mint and one used US collections, including many classics. He found that when you buy quality material there is always a market. "Besides, it is fun," he says.

Claire notes that he has collected some topicals including Europa which he was able to sell when the market peaked. Others include sail boats, lighthouses, and autos. The latter was inspired by his 38 year career in management with General Motors. He boasts a complete plate number coil set to around 2003. His country collections have included Japan, Denmark, Iceland, Greenland, Ireland, and the various entities in Antarctica where research bases are engaged year round.

The Åland Islands and Great Britain are Clair's current interests with a special appeal in Machins. There are 3000 varieties and Clair is seeking to collect the nearly 1000 face different stamps.

Clair's other interests including sailing, golf, and world travel.

01/09 Secretary & Treasurer Reports
Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith

President Bill Snyder opened the January meeting at 7:00 pm. He introduced a guest of Paul Petersen, Howard Chaundy who hopes to renew his interest in stamp collecting after many years.

There is a new system for the \$5.00 monthly drawing using tickets. Jim Boyles won. In this way there will be a winner each month with out the carry over of the "pot" amount to the next month.

Paul Petersen passed around the sign up sheet for the monthly snacks. He will also publish a list of hosts and programs for the year which are subject to change. At the board meeting of January 5th, the following programs were decided on: "Lick 'n stick" night in

April, two more club auctions-May and October, and three in-house presentations. Two slide/PowerPoint slots are available.

Bill stated that the club donated \$250.00 to Wood Crest Villa for the use of the Blue Bird Room. We received a letter of confirmation and rules.

New Business: Marilyn Shirley will coordinate the picnic in August at Millersville Freedom Memorial Park and Pavillion. There is a \$50 fee and paperwork. Motion was made and approved to proceed. The Christmas dinner at Wood Crest was a big success last month. Lucy will look into having the event here again this year.

Al Schaub looked into a stamp show trip. Roy Baardsen sug-

gested going to the US Postal Museum in Washington. The possible dates are 10/3; 21-22; 28-29. A raise of hands vote resulted in 17 interested which included some from the Reading Club. The cost would be \$45 again, and Roy will look into two pick up locations, Ephrata and Lancaster. Jim Boyles announced Lan-copex for April 25-26. He has post-cards and flyers. Roy will inform the Reading Club. Help is needed. Lucy needs help with the computer for advertising. Paul will help if no one else is available. It will be advertised in *Linn's Stamp News*.

Old Business: Paul announced that he made contact with the Home School group and is waiting to her back from them.

(Continued on pg. 3-Minutes)

Brief Guide to Reperforated Stamps

Club member Dave Kenawell suggested some eBay links that provide information useful to stamp collectors. This guide for reperforated US stamps and a March '09 article on regummed US stamps were written by one of Dave's stamp dealers, Gary Goldstein of Southwest Stamps.

By going to the link noted below, you will find additional philatelic guides to others such as "Identifying the US Banknote Issues," and "De-mystifying the 2¢ Carmine Washington" by other authors.

Goldstein has been a stamp dealer since 1977, and in those years has seen what appears to be reperforated

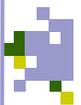
or reperfed stamps. The reperfering is not always disclosed. Though Gary is familiar with US stamps, his remarks may apply to foreign stamps. Overall, when there is a question, the stamp should be expertized.

Due to a variety of printing and sheet cutting methods for US stamps from 1890-1925 (and some before this), many contained straight edges. Collectors know that a stamp with a straight edge is usually worth less than a fully perfed stamp.

This straight edge is an opportunity to add perfs to increase the value of the stamp or add a perf of a different dimension to create a bogus perf variety. Some of

the best technical reperforations may be most difficult to detect, but most can be found when one knows what to look for. 1.) Sharp, clean, and unnaturally round perf holes; 2.) Holes that are misaligned; 3.) Holes that do not gauge correctly; and 4.) Sharp edges on perf tips.

One other tip is to look at the size of the stamp. Does it look too small? This is because the perfs are too close to the stamp frame. In many cases the wider straight edge was made at the expense of the other stamp borders where the perfs were cut close to the stamp. Now with the straight edge removed, the perfs are all close to the stamp giving it a smaller sized appearance.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, & Shows

2009 Program & Snacks:

11th February: *Canadian Railway Post Office Cancels:* Dick Colberg. Paul Petersen, Host

11th March: *Stamp Printing Methods:* APS. John Ahlfeld, Host

8th April: Lick & Stick; Lancopex prep: James Boyles. Marilyn Shirley, Host

13th May: Club Auction. Dick Shaefer, Host

10th June: *Precancels:* Bob Noble. Leslie Ann Botte, Host

8th July: *Video Guide to Stamp Collecting:* APS. Dennis Shumaker, Host

12th August: Club Picnic. No Host

9th September: *US Washington Franklins* (The 3rd Bureau Issue): Lou DiFelice. Lou Liedig, Host

14th October: Club Auction. Lucy Eyster, Host

11th November: *Show & Tell* for all club members: John Ahlfeld. Diane Meek, Host

9th December: Christmas Party. No Host

13th January 2010: Club Auction

10th February 2010: *King George V and the Royal Collection:* Paul Petersen

NOTE FOR HOSTS: Please bring cups, and napkins and plates as needed. And remember varied diets - a sugar free drink and a low carb goodie are always welcome.

Upcoming show reminders: Jim Boyles' *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: 1st March 2009

Lancopex: 25-26 April 2009

Club Member Awards

At the York Stamp show last month, James Boyles was awarded a Gold medal and Reserve Grand Award for his exhibit: "Postmarks of Lancaster, Pa. 1757-1899." At the same event, Dick Colberg won a Silver medal for his exhibit: "Moline Plow Co. Advertising Covers."

(Minutes-Continued from pg.3)

Roy reported that the Reading Club president is willing to present a program for us later in the year-if we reciprocate. Bill Snyder seemed to be agreeable, as were the rest of us. The dates will have to be worked out.

Bill announced a new question and answer time at each meeting this year. He asked the following: How many members are in PSLC? 69 paid members; How many belong to APS? 31; What does it cost each year? \$48 (includes a \$3 service fee); How many country-wide APS members are there? 40K; What are the benefits of membership? Magazine, reliable insurance; sales division; reference library and usage; and possible future on-line courses.

Vern Marten suggested that we contact Lancaster Public Libraries for a "Traveling Stamp Show." Bill asked Vern to look into it. Jim Boyles said that we had done this several years ago.

Lucy passed around a list of members to write in their stamp interests. She mentioned that dues (\$10) are due tonight for 2009 membership. Eleanor suggested we have a printed list of collecting interests and members' phone numbers.

Bill Snyder adjourned the business meeting for a 10-minute break. The January stamp auction followed.

The Treasury:

Opening: \$4366.60
Income: \$616.37
Expenses: \$335.30
Closing: \$4647.77

PSLC 2009 Programs & Activities

What's coming up this year?

The Executive Committee met on January 5th and planned out activities for the upcoming year. Roy Baardsen will work with Al Schaub to explore a **club bus trip**, and Jim Boyles will look into the possibility of a **tour of a mail processing plant**. In the last few years, arrangement of these tours has been curtailed for security reasons.

The details of the **2009 program** are spelled out in the above column. There will be three **PowerPoint presentations** by club members in the areas of their expertise in addition to two **APS programs** and three **club auctions**. Club members seem to prefer about three auctions a year. The **summer picnic, banquet, and Lick & Stick** round out the year.

You will see something new for the November meeting. It is a club-wide "**Show & Tell**," moderated by John Ahlfeld. More information will be forthcoming later in the year, but you might start thinking what

you would like to share with the club members about your collection in three to five minutes.

A new "**Question & Answer**" (Q&A) feature has been added to the meetings, and this will begin at the February meeting and then every meeting thereafter.

Approximately ten to fifteen minutes will be allotted to Q&A at each meeting, and during this time, members may ask questions of the membership. Given the expertise among club members, it is expected that this will be an informative time. As any good teacher will state: "The only dumb question is the one that is not asked."

What is embossing and how does it differ from engraving? What is a grill, specifically a "Z" grill? And why is it so expensive? What is the difference between wet and dry plate stamp printing? Which are the best hinges to purchase? Should

I even use hinges any more? What are the Bureau Issues? Does it matter what type of paper a stamp is printed on? How can I find out what my collection is worth? Where should I go to get started on a topical collection of waterfalls? How accurate are catalogue values? And which is the best catalogue to purchase? How can I get my grandchild into collecting?

The **Newsletter** will continue in relatively the same format as in 2008 with perhaps some adjustments along the way as needed. This year will feature more **club member biographies**. Speaker Dick Colberg and treasure Clair Smith are featured this month, and beginning in March, current members who have been club officers will be reviewed. This is one way to find out about other members and what they collect. It is intended that trading and friendships among club members with similar interests will result from this.



Musings from the editor

Estate planning Pt-II: Tax and Legal Issues

(Colberg: continued from pg. 1)

In 2006 Dick retired as a mechanical engineer (BS, Purdue), and remains active in the hobby with long-time memberships in the Lancaster and Lebanon stamp clubs and the Collector's Club of New York. Spending several months a year in France, he has become a member of the Cercle Philatelique de Barnay and attends a local stamp club as often as he can when he is in residence there.

Dick's collecting interests include US (Canal Zone, Philippines & Hawaii), Canada, Great Britain, Lititz Postal History, Canada Railway Post Office Cancellations, Baltimore Carrier Stamps, ISPA (Independent Postal Service of America), Security overprints on the stamps of Great Britain, Moline Plow Co. advertising covers, Mexico Postal Stationary, the Kangaroo and King George V issues of Australia, and French Revenue stamps.

Fall Bus Trip

Just in from Roy Baardsen: A bus is available for Thursday, **22 October** for a trek to the **US Postal Museum** in DC. He will bring it up at the meeting.

**2009 Dues are due.
Please remit
At February meeting**

In the January column I made the point that estate planning for one's philatelic holdings is best done sooner than later.

Obviously the worth, organization, and complexity of your collection determines the amount of effort that must be undertaken. Further, some expense may be incurred, but for a valuable collection, it will be worth it in the end.

For the current column I want to address those who own sizeable collections. Some accounting and/or legal advice may be warranted.

A large philatelic holding is no different from a financial investment portfolio with stocks, bonds, munis, REITs, and so many other forms of investment. Each has its specialist for valuation and liquidation, and certainly, the investor must maintain accurate records over several years..

One of the initial issues to be researched is the tax consequences of the philatelic holdings. While we all want to pay our fair share of taxes, we do not need to overpay! Advanced planning can help this from happening.

A CPA once told me that the government found it easier to get money from dead people than live ones, thus the inheritance tax. In some cases the "state" gets their share of the inheritance before the heirs receive a dime.

I bring up the inheritance tax because over the last eight years there has been a gradual reduction of these taxes that will peak soon. These years have been a sort of inheritance tax holiday.

With a new administration and changes in congress, it is almost certain that the great exclusions that we have enjoyed recently will be phased out. For some, estate planning is more important now than it had been a few years ago. And this is all predicated on the date of death, a challenge over which we have no control.

It is important to look into this with a CPA and plan as needed. The other issue to look at is gifting, as current law allows an annual transfer of wealth (or stamps) of up to \$11K from one person to another-tax free. This can

be an important part of tax and estate planning.

Should a collector's situation be complex, the CPA may make a referral to a tax attorney for the additional expertise.

The other professional worth consulting is the estate attorney, one who deals with the transfer of property.

Just as collections can be complex, so too can family constellations. Consider multiple heirs, a divorce or two, and estranged relatives.

The attorney will help you decide on (or sort out) ownership. Is the collection or stamp business jointly owned? If so, which type of joint ownership? Is a trust needed? Will the heirs want the collection liquidated immediately?

These are just a few of the issues that need to be decided. In addition to minimizing the tax consequences of the estate, the other goal is to see that your wishes as to the disposition of the collection are carried out and are iron clad. **More to come.**



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