

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

Club Meeting: Wednesday, The 8th April 2009

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

BlueBird Commons/ Woodcrest Villa. Tonight's host: Marilyn Shirley

Message from the President

William. P. Snyder

LANXOPEX is perhaps the best attended regional stamp show in the Susquehanna Valley, and LCPS members have many reasons to be proud of our contribution to the hobby. We owe a considerable debt to Jim Boyles and Dick Shaefer for their organizational efforts. But what makes LANCOPEX such a good show is that it is truly a club effort with everyone helping in one way or another.

As most of you know, membership in the

American Philatelic Society has declined slowly in recent years. Currently APS counts just under 40,000 members, and there is widespread concern that the decline in numbers signals difficult times for collectors.

But mingling with attendees at past shows suggests—the numbers notwithstanding—that there is considerable vitality and interest in stamp collecting. I suspect that many collectors decided that the \$40 APS membership fee is better

used for more stamps and supplies. The same rationale may also be at work with *Linn's*, whose circulation has declined in recent years.

Our guests at LANCOPEX provide an opportunity to assess the vitality of our hobby. Hopefully you will discover that many people continue to find enjoyment in collecting and perusing "little scraps of paper with funny edges!"

Bill

April Program: "Lick & Stick" Night

Get Ready: Our annual prep night for Lancopex

It is that time again when we send out the announcements to our valued show participants. Traditionally this has been called "Lick & Stick Night," but with changes in stamp printing methods, it seems to be more like "Peel & Stick Night." Some long time members remember bringing in sponges and water.

Lancopex is only two and a half weeks

away. There is a lot to be done. Jim will finalize the lists of volunteers for the weekend from Friday PM set-up through Sunday PM tear down. Then there is the show in-between! It is an exciting time, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It is always an opportunity to encourage our visitors to come to a stamp club meeting. One recommendation is that every member

encourage a friend to attend or bring along a neighborhood kid.



LANCOPEX Organizers, Dick Shaefer (L) and James Boyles (R). Photo: Courtesy of R. Wheeler

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April-2009

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

President:

William P. Snyder

Vice President:

John Ahlfeld

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

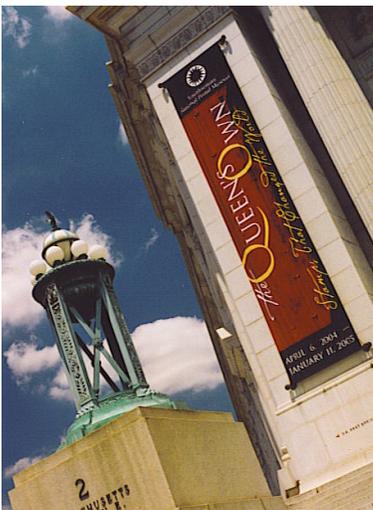
Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



Postal Museum In October

Enjoy a day at the postal museum, and combine it with visits to nearby museums, shopping, and/or historical sites. 22 seats are available. Call Roy Baardsen with questions (610) 927-3435. Checks are due by 12 August (club picnic) made out to Reading Stamp Collector's Club.



5 Club Members Train Boy Scouts

Five members of the Reading and Lancaster Stamp Clubs will provide philatelic training for the Blackrock District of the BSA. This is for Boy Scouts interested in the hobby, those pursuing the stamp collecting merit badge. Training will be held on 8 April and 13 May at the Schuylkill Technical Center in Frackville.

Following the initial training session, scouts will have a month to work on their assignments and prepare their materials for final check out. One unexpected benefit was that two scouts from last year joined the Reading club. Club members involved include Roy Baardsen, Peter Baney, Michael Matus, Stanley Raugh, and Carl Waller.

Secretary's/Treasurer's Reports

Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith

The March meeting came to order at 7 PM. Woody Hann won the \$5 drawing.

For Q&A: John Ahlfeld asked questions regarding his 1893 Lancaster cover. Qs included why 12¢ postage? How is the stamp identified? There were others.

Truyde Greiner brought some of the recently issued Machin stamps from the UK to show club members. These have the new security coating and die cuts to prevent photocopying and reuse.

RE Lancopex: Jim Boyles gave out promotional cards for posting in public places, and he circulated the sign-up sheets for manpower including Friday PM set up, Saturday AM Start up, Front desk and refreshments, and Sunday PM

pack out. The show patron list (\$5/person) was also recirculated.

Vern Marten updated the club on the **traveling stamp show**. To accompany the April-Long display in Mt. Joy, Al Schaub will be giving a presentation on WWI philately at 6:30 PM on Wednesday the 22nd. Vern also solicited several club members who will attend the event with selections from their collections to show to the audience. Vern is looking into the creation of a poster for the club for all libraries & POs. Jim Ziogas reported doing a presentation in Etown a few years ago, and he will look into their having a club display there in the near future.

October Trek: Roy Baardsen answered questions regarding the

22nd October bus trip to the **USPM** in Washington DC. 25 have signed up between the Lancaster and Reading Stamp Clubs.

Lucy Eyster reports that 60 of 72 have paid 2009 dues to date, and she will follow up on those who still owe. She will prepare copies of a **club roster** for all members.

Jim Boyles presented an APS slide show entitled "**Stamp Printing Methods.**"

The Treasury:

Opening:	\$4513.46 (31JAN09)
Income:	\$699.17
Expenses:	\$1848.14
Closing:	\$4364.49 (28FEB09)
2 CDs total \$4312.44 at Fulton Bank	

Discovering Repairs on Stamps

Thins, Tears, Creases, and Rebacking...

The recent newsletter reports about determining **regummed** and **reperforated** stamps were well received, and they coincide with the recent article in the *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector* (September, 2008, pg. 59) by Peter Mosiondz. This article addressed several kinds of repaired stamps.

Mosiondz looked at a variety of ways that stamps have been repaired to artificially increase their value.

Thinned stamps have parts of the back missing, often from the careless removal of a hinge. It is hard to notice from the front of the stamp, so it must be held up to the light where the

light is brighter through the thinned area of the stamp.

When this does not work, use the watermark tray with appropriate fluid. A very minor thin will have a darkened appearance.

Thins are typically repaired just like patching a damaged area in a plaster wall. With the thinned stamp, a pulp-like solution is applied to the stamp. When dry, it is gently brushed or sanded until the area is level with the rest of the stamp.

As with stamp thins, detecting a repair is also done with a watermark detector and fluid. Here the repaired area takes longer absorb the fluid, so it tends to appear lighter than the rest of the

stamp once the stamp is placed in the tray.

Stamps creases and **torn stamps** can be determined with 5-10 power magnification. The watermark detector may also detail these irregularities with darker or lighter appearances than in the rest of the stamp.

Rebacking damaged stamps is a difficult task, one which is reserved for valuable items. Here, too, the watermark detector will help. Instead of turning black instantly, the stamp stays white at first. Then it slowly starts to turn black from the edges while working its way to the center of the stamp. It's an obvious color change pattern of the fraudulently altered stamp.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Travel, Kids Club & Shows

2009 Program & Snacks:

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

13th May: Club Auction. Dick Shaefer, Host

10th June: Bob Noble & Woody Hann: Precancels. Leslie Ann Botte, Host

8th July: APS: Video Guide to Stamp Collecting. 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

2009

13th January: Club Auction

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

Travel: While in France Dick Colberg has been keeping up with the club through the newsletters. He reports participating with the local stamp club and their recent regional stamp exhibit. He was also fortunate to meet a collector who was interested in purchasing his French revenue doubles. The Colbergs are going for an opera in Paris along with some shopping. Unfortunately it was cold over

there earlier in March, but it is warming up. He will be back in time to help with Lancopex.

Kid's Club: Marilyn Shirley reports on former club member Bob Runkle's activities. He relocated to the mountain area of Sigel, PA, where he started a stamp club with 5-6 home-schooled youngsters through his church. Bob plans to attend Lancopex again this year, so it is hoped that he may bring some of his club members along to the show.

Upcoming show reminders: Jim Boyles' *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: 7 Jun • 2 Aug • 4 Oct • 6 Dec (Dates are subject to change, so please check with Jim.)

LANCOPEX: Friday and Saturday, 24-25 April 2009

Al Schaub Bio of the Month

Until the lure of the sea drew him from philately to the navy, Al Schaub had been a determined youth collector. After discharge, diverse vocations, college & grad school, family, and career took all his attention. He returned to philately in his mid-40s (about 10 years ago!) after seeing his neighbor's collection from the Saar region. His interest was rekindled.

Upon retiring as an associate professor from Penn State in the mid 1990s, he decided to turn his hobby into a business (International Collectibles) with a shop in Adams town. Here he had stamps, postcards, and other collectibles with the goal to have something to interest everyone. When he relocated to Lancaster in 2002, he moved the business to his new home.

Al's interests include Bermuda and Canada country collections. In covers he seeks items with cancellations from US Navy vessels specifically gun boats, mostly those of the China era. Postcards of Havana and Key West round out his collecting; the latter interests stem from his navy days in Bermuda and the Caribbean. Al's philatelic goal is to exhibit, specifically a collection of ships' covers and cancellations of those vessels lost in WWII.

Following discharge from the navy, Al took college coursework at F&M and followed up in psychology and business with bachelors and masters from NYU and Temple. With an MBA from U Dayton, he combined the two fields into a PSU career in management development. This program provided up to date on-site theory and practice to those students already in management careers.

Al and his wife Twilla have a blended family with 6 children.

No one asked me, but... Mentorship in PSLC

Have you ever heard someone say "I would love to start collecting stamps. I didn't collect as a kid, so I just don't know where to begin. There aren't any stamp stores anymore. How do I even get started?"

Well, if there is no one around to advise this individual, a potential collector may be lost to the hobby.

Lancopex is coming soon, and Vern Marten has scheduled two library displays (April & May) with another possibly on deck in Etown for June. These events may bring us some club members, either active collectors or those returning to the hobby.

PSLC is known for reaching out to new members, but this can take time on a monthly basis. And the spark may be

lost if the person is not engaged right away. And what about that person who has not yet joined the club? This is where mentorship comes in.

Should the club assemble a cadre of members willing to connect with those interested in starting to collect or return to the hobby? This might entail a phone call, an email, or perhaps a personal visit to provide the guidance that the new collector needs to get started.

Teach the newcomers some basics such as perfs and watermarks as needed. Recommend some magazines they should consider. (And many of these can be passed on from club members.). If they haven't already done so, encourage

them to join the club. If the timing is right, accompany them to Lancopex, Balpex, or a Some First Sundays Stamp Bourse. Here they can find the materials needed to engage in philately.

With mentors in place, the program could be advertised at Lancopex and the library displays. Some people are hesitant to join a club of strangers, but they might like a phone call of encouragement. Mentorship is 1 on 1.

If families want their children to explore the hobby, we have members to help them as well. We are certainly not short of materials to give these youngsters. With the right encouragement, a child and/or a parent may begin to collect. Ed □



Musings from the editor

Estate planning Pt-IV

After writing the column last month, I recalled my recommendation to document the locations of your various holdings. This was nothing I needed to do, as my collection is not worth that much. But reflecting further, I realized that between my wife and I, we have philatelic and post card stuff in almost every room of the house including the attic and finished basement. "At least there is nothing in the garage," I bragged to myself. Then I remembered my car. Oh yes, a repository for stamp magazines, auction catalogues, a few small stamp packets, containers, and much more.

Anyway, the previous columns on estate planning have addressed the motivation for a plan, the legal and accounting requirements of a philatelic estate, and finally the organization and valuation of the collection. In some cases with extensive collections or businesses, both legal and accounting input may be warranted. This column, the last in the series will address an

important individual in the process, your executor.

Who is going to carry out your wishes with respect to your philatelic estate? As mentioned earlier, if you can part with your treasurers now, you may all be better off. Do this yourself while you are able.

If you want to hold on to your collection, then make it easier for the executor with organization, valuation, and most important, instructions.

Specify your philatelic executor in writing in your will if you have one-and you should! The family agent, friend, or family member who handles your stamps does not have to be your overall executor.

The primary qualification for this person is trust. After you are gone, you have to "trust" that they will do the right thing, that which you have instructed them to do.

They can only do the right

thing if you provide a plan. What is the catalogue value, the replacement value, and an expected price that may be obtained at a forced sale?

One source of sale or counsel is the dealer from whom you purchased many of your specialty items. He/she would certainly know the value of your holdings and may be someone your heirs can trust.

Your instructions must specify what holdings should remain in the family, what should be sold, what should be auctioned, what should be given away, and what should be donated. Include contact people that they may need such as dealers that are familiar with your area of specialty, auction houses, or interested individuals to approach. List all the knowledgeable people.

Remember, too, that time marches on. As we age, so do our spouses, dealers,

philatelic friends. A philatelic executor should be someone who potentially outlives us.

There is nothing sadder to see than a harried surviving spouse attend a stamp show going from dealer to dealer with a box of stamp albums. It is obvious that they are not sure what to do. The albums may be modern first day covers. But they could be sophisticated specialty items, ones, which if in the right hands would realize a considerable sum. With advanced planning this scenario would have been avoided.

Within one year of the death of an APS member, the family may use the APS Estate Advisory Service. They advise but do not give specific dealer recommendations. The APS advisors are experts in every specialty area, but they do not do formal appraisals for tax purposes. Ed. □



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