

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

Club Meeting: Wednesday, 8 July 2009

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

BlueBird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Dennis Shumaker

Message from the President

Wm. P. Snyder

Thanks go to Bob Noble and Woody Hann for their excellent presentation on precancels. This was very well done indeed. There were many questions from an interested audience.

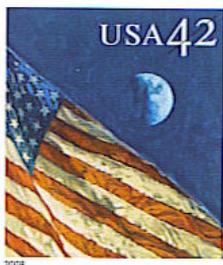
I spent some time over the weekend visiting the APS website (www.stamps.org). There are many interesting items on the site. One that caught my eye was the "YouTube Videos" (in the listing, middle right of the home page). There the young collector or those returning to the hobby can view several short video presentations on basic stamp collecting techniques: detecting water-

marks, stamp mounting, and using a perforation gauge. There is also a very helpful video on paper repairing, of particular interest to cover collectors. A 2nd attraction on the site is a slide show on the safety of various types of plastic materials used by collectors. Finally, there are the results of the recent APS elections and, possibly of greater interest, a summary of the difficult financial position facing the APS.

Two other reasons to visit the APS web site: First, the site provides a link to www.Grandparents.com. This site offers a guide of useful things that you can

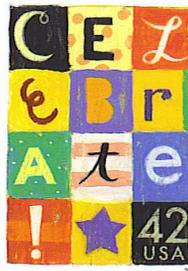
do when the grandchildren visit you this summer. Second, the APS site has a listing of other web sites that are of interest to collectors. From this page you can connect with, for example, the National Postal Museum for a preview of our October trip, and for the specialist, an informative article on scanning stamps.

The point of all the above: The APS web site provides many ways for you to enrich your collecting experience. It is easy to use and cost free. Your children and grandchildren will be happy to help you. **Bill**



The 4th of July

Fly your flag with pride this season to celebrate the freedom and liberty created for us by our founding fathers 233 years ago. When you see a military member or a vet, thank them for their service to their country.



July Program: Video Guide to Collecting An APS/Premiere Home Video

Come on over to Woodcrest Villa on 8 July for an action packed evening of philately. Shop at our local bourse then enjoy the APS/Premiere video presentation.

The personable Gary Burghoff (M*A*S*H's Radar O'Reilly) is your host for this enjoyable program, a complete introduction to the world's most popular hobby.

Showing hundred's of stamps, he explains the various types of stamps and collection methods, where to get stamps and materials, and how to care for them to last.

Volume 72, Issue 7

July-2009

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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	



\$\$\$ Are Needed

The club trip is coming soon, and the seats are about filled. The bus must be paid in advance, and many who have signed up have not yet paid.

What: Bus trip to US Postal Museum, Washington, DC

When: Thursday, 22 October 2009

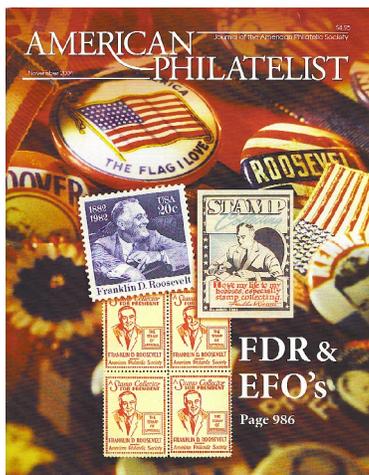
Timelines: Two pickups-

- 1.) Leave Reading: 7:00 AM
 - 2.) Leave AC Moore: 7:30 AM
- Return: Leave DC at 6:00 PM

Questions: Call Roy Baardsen Trekmeister, at (610) 927-3435

Please send check for \$45 ASAP to Roy at 379 Sioux Court, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Make it out to the "Reading Stamp Collecting Club."

The first USPM exposition by the new museum curator, Cheryl Ganz, is about FDR, and stamps of the Great Depression. According to *Linn's*, there will be many of Farley's autographed sheets which have never been on exhibit, along with Roosevelt's stamp collecting tools, albums, stamp designs, and other personal philatelic items of note.



Secretary's/Treasurer's Reports– May Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith

Visitors: Carl Haffley

Drawing (\$5.00): Sarah Mylin won the drawing for the month.

May minutes: Approved.

Library Displays: Vern Marten reported that the displays and community programs will resume in September, probably with Elizabethtown Public Library.

Newsletter: Paul asked the club

members if there were any problems receiving the newsletters. No problems were reported.

October 22 USPM Bus Trip: Roy Baardsen announced that there are 43 signed up to date (two are in question) with room for a few more. Payment is due at the July meeting or the August Picnic if necessary. Please call Roy to sign up 610.927.3435.

Program: This month's program was entitled "Precancels." by Bob Noble and Woody Hann.

The Treasury:

- Opening:** \$4,838.17 (01 May)
- Income:** \$160.70
- Expenses:** \$175.65
- Closing:** \$4,823.22 (31 May)



More on PVC and Philatelic Mounts

Previous PSLC articles have pointed out the risks of using polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in the archiving of philatelic materials. The evidence remains that PVC degrades to hydrochloric acid. Yet there are still some proponents for this product, as it is used in several brands of hingeless albums according to Fred Korr in the April, 2009 *German Postal Specialist* (pg. 155-7).

Mr. Korr called upon a host of experts in the field of paper conservation to support his warning to stamp collectors. This included 1.) The International Standards Organization (ISO), 2.) The Smithsonian National Postal Museum, 3.) The Philatelic Collections-British Museum, and 4.) several archival product retailers taken collectively.

A list was provided from Mylar to PVC with four additional products included (i.e. polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and polyolefin). The experts were to give their "expert" opinion whether each should or should not be used.

Mylar was unanimously approved and PVC was uniformly condemned.

Mylar is the brand name for polyethylene terephthalate, a polyester resin. It received four "yes" votes.

Polyethelene and polypropylene each received three "yes" votes. Polystyrene and polyolefin received one "yes" vote, two "no" votes, and one "undecided" vote each. Polyvinyl chloride received four "no" votes.

Mylar film and sheet protectors are safe, as they are the most inert for stamps. The

British Museum chooses to use only Mylar.

ISO gave "yes" votes to all products but PVC, and the British Museum gave a "yes" vote only to Mylar.

In his article, Korr lists some retailers specializing in archival products. Annual catalogues are free of charge to all who request one.

Conservation Resources
1 . 8 0 0 . 6 3 4 . 6 9 3 2 .
www.conservationresources.com.

Gaylord Archival Products:
1 . 8 0 0 . 9 6 2 . 9 5 8 0 .
www.gaylord.com.

Hollinger Corporation:
1.800.634.0491.www.hollingercorp.com.

Print File: 1.800.508.8539.
www.printfile.com.

University Products:
1 . 8 0 0 . 6 2 8 . 1 9 1 2 .
www.universityproducts.com



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Membership, & Shows

2009 Programs & Snacks:

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

2010 Programs

13th January: Club Auction. John Ahlfeld, Host

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

Membership: Carl Haffly is the newest member, joining in June.

Carl is from York and is a concurrent numismatist and deltiologist. There were 36 members in attendance at the June meeting with one visitor. Let's all give Carl a warm PSLC welcome.

Upcoming show reminders:

Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows, Farm & Home Center:
• 2 Aug • 4 Oct • 6 Dec
(Dates are subject to change, so please verify.)

July Biography: Sarah Mylin

Sarah just joined PSLC in May and then won June's drawing. May this auspicious beginning be a harbinger of her future success and participation in the club.

After purchasing some face value lots at Armstrong about 20 years ago, Sarah branched into current US issues and then into a full US country collection of both mint and used stamps.

A local dealer was her early mentor, and she learned much from him and continues to study the varieties and irregularities of US stamps.

Three of Sarah's grandchildren in their late teens and early 20s still collect with her, each with their own US album. Sarah continues to go to the York and Lancopex shows, and Truys Greiner encouraged her this past April to join the club.

At a recent breakfast with her family, her brother had been reading the paper and asked her if she was going to the Spink auction in NYC to bid on the inverted Jenny!

Sarah and her husband, Bill, have two grown children and six grandchildren. They have been in Willow Street for many years. They were avid campers from long ago until the ground got too hard. Sarah is active in her church and family and is grateful for grandkids who collect.

A Talk with Ken Martin and Wade Saadi: 25th June 2009

At the end of the 2009 APS Summer Session, a breakfast was held with the membership to allow questions of the APS Deputy Executive Director, the APS Board President, and other departmental directors. The following is a synopsis of some of the issues discussed.

The best way for APS to raise funds is to increase membership. While a number of collectors join each year, just as many pass away or resign from the organization. Recruitment is crucial to the future of APS. Some consideration is being given to consulting with an outside fundraising firm. On the average 8.5% of the membership responds to the APS fundraising letters.

A significant diversity plan has been submitted to the APS Board at their request. 89% of APS are white men with an average age of 64. This needs to change. The

October issue of the *The American Philatelist* will be an all-women's issue, and it is anticipated that future editions will address other groups as well.

There are 30 APS staff members with an average longevity of 18 years. The Board does not want to lose any more fine employees. A long-range plan is in process, and considerable budgetary cuts have been made. Staff have curtailed raises, bonuses, and some benefits, while board members have agreed to absorb their own travel expenses for board meetings and national stamp shows which have an APS presence.

Plans are continuing but more slowly with the renovation of the Match Factory with both expansion of the American Philatelic Center and APS property rental by outside agencies. The replacement of some roofing

is the next project in line, as this will facilitate the rental of the APS property.

There is a large amount of square footage, and the potential for APC and rental expansion is limitless. This is marred only by the current economy.

For those interested, a Chapter Resource Disk (CD) was made available. This contains a variety of documents and folders that affiliated clubs can use to foster the hobby and APS.

Included are generic posters and announcements that clubs can personalize to promote their stamp show, club meeting data, or both. There are several PowerPoint's about APS services and others with tours of APC, the library, and Bellefonte. Finally there are downloadable stamp images and a program for perfering any club image.



Musings from the editor

What I learned at the 2009 APS summer session

The APS summer sessions are a good opportunity to totally immerse in philately. It is one way to avoid all the “good news” on the TV or internet for a week. This is also a time to be with likeminded philatelists. Even the many strangers are easy to approach with the line “And what do you collect?” It is an easy way to work a room and make new and longstanding friends.

The students seemed to fall into two groups, those who ran to the APS Sales Division for their many bargains and those who staked out a place in the American Philatelic Research Library. There were opportunities for all.

Much of what I learned was in my daily course “Evaluating the Stamp Marketplace.” There were also general sessions, electives, and the many personal and group conversations in the hall or during the AM and PM breaks.

One emphasis in my course was fakes and forgeries and how to detect them. Most of the great forgeries were in the late 1800s into the early 1900s and were of European stamps primarily. With the classic US, it was different. Rather than forging them, existing stamps were altered to make them more desirable. This included reperfing, regumming,

and repairing. Short articles on these issues were covered in this newsletter in Feb, Mar, and April earlier this year.

Here your higher power magnifier and watermark tray can be your biggest assets in detection. It was the consensus of all involved that the newer electronic watermark detectors are of little use. It’s all in the fluid, and for yellow and gold stamps, one can use the inside of the blue lid of a Skippy Peanut Butter jar for better watermarking contrast.

There was a course concurrent to ours on the topic of Identifying the Washington-Franklins (W-F). These have always been daunting to me with the myriad types.

I expressed my phobia of these stamps to my instructor during one of the breaks. He offered me valuable advice:

- All stamps are based on necessity of the market. The Washington-Franklins are no different. Knowledge of a few basic concepts will facilitate the elementary identification for the beginning student in this complex series of stamps. Then one can tackle the types, minute varieties, coil waste

stamps, fly specs, and other peccadilloes of the W-Fs.

- The stamps were first printed on a flat bed press. This necessarily limited the size of the sheets printed.

- Outside agencies were making a profit marketing W-F coil stamps using private perforation devices.

- The USPO wanted part of this action and took the 12 perf flat bed stamps, cut them into strips, and prepared their coil rolls.

- The flat bed strips were too short to be practical. Thus USPO went to the rotary press which could make longer strips of perf 12 and thus facilitate making much larger rolls of coil stamps.

- Customers complained that the rotary perf 12 coils were too delicate, so USPO enlarged the perfs to 8½.

- Subsequently the rotary press was used for sheet stamps as well with perf 12.

- One needs to know that due to the mechanism of the rotary press, the stamps printed were a millimeter to two longer in length. The experienced collector can

spot this easily, while others can use a ruler for the task.

Intermediate identification skills will help a collector become a better consumer. They will find many excellent buys and/or set more realistic prices for their own material when for sale.

Despite the best detection skills, expertizing may be warranted. There are three US organizations that do this, and the APS is one.

An expert certificate provides a stamp’s Scott # or its status as a fake or forgery with additional comments on condition. These are merely opinions that are guidelines in the purchase or sale of a stamp. But *caveat emptor*, certificates are only opinions. We were shown some stamps with three different opinions! Sometimes certificates state “no opinion,” as the expertizers can’t tell!

When in doubt request an expertizing certificate, and only purchase from dealers who will take material back if it is not what it should be.

It would be easy to get hooked on stamp expertizing given the knowledge and tools to do the job. Ed □



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