

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

Club Meeting: Wednesday, 10 March 2010

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

The Garden Café / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Clair Smith

Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

Sorry we had to cancel our February meeting, but the officers figured nobody would want-or should try-to navigate that unprecedented snow storm. The program scheduled for then, "Stamp Technology Basics," will be at our March meeting, and Bill Snyder will present his "Philatelic Quiz" program, originally scheduled for March, another time. Speaking of snow, are there any topical collectors out there that collect stamps featuring snow- i.e. landscapes, winter Olympics, and snowmen?

We often talk about the difficulty in getting young people into stamp collecting, and I think back to when I got started. We had

no television; kids did things like play cards and build models, and many children filled in some of their time with stamp collecting. Thus it was when my mother took me to a shop in Newton, NJ, near our cottage (where we didn't even have a telephone). As I remember it, it was something like a news and tobacco store, and my mother bought me a red hard-bound Scott's U.S. album. Back in our hometown of Westfield, there were many places to buy stamps: a hobby shop, a toy store, I believe a section at Woolworth's, and of course the post office, where the clerks would happily provide a plate block. I still have my first U.S. catalog,

a well-worn 1950 Edition from H.E Harris. And of course H.E. Harris and many other dealers were selling stamps by mail. I remember one of the first things I looked for in the Sunday Newspaper was the block of stamp ads in the Leisure section. Those were simpler times, and sources for stamps abounded. Even in the first years after we moved to Lancaster in 1968 there were stamp stores and hobby shops where one could buy stamps.

How different things are now! Kids have laptop computers, electronic games, DVDs, and gadgets I can't even name. When my 8-year old grandson See **President** (Pg. 2)

Peel 'n Stick for Lancopex APS Stamp Technology Basics

The March program will be a double-up, a two bagger, two for the price of one, and more. Plans include the viewing of last month's APS slide show, *Stamp Technology Basics*, and "Peel 'n Stick" (AKA Lick 'n Stick) prep for Lancopex.

This is our annual soiree where we affix stamps and labels on the promo-

tional cards that will be mailed to past participants for the club's 24-25 April stamp show. In addition, information about Lancopex will be provided including what tasks need to be done before, during, and after the show. Club members will have an opportunity to sign up to participate in this year's event.



Volume 73, Issue 3

March, 2010

Inside this issue:

From the President: 1

John R. Ahlfeld

Program: Lancopex Peel 'n Stick and APS-Stamp Technology Basics

February Report 2

Dick Colberg in France

Postal History web site

2010 Presentations 3

and Club News

March Biography:

Michael Shirley

St. Patrick's Day

Carol Petersen

Musings: 4

Confucius & Stamps

PSLC Meets the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Garden Cafe/ Woodcrest Villa at 7:00 PM

President:

John R. Ahlfeld

Vice President:

John Bray

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



From the Other Side

No, this isn't from the dark side at all; it is from France where club member, Dick Colburg sojourns across the ocean for a few months with his lovely wife, Nancy. Europe is still "stamp collector" conscious, and Dick does not miss a beat when away.

Dick has made many philatelic contacts over time. Because U.S. and Canada are harder to come by, he has want lists from several friends that he tries to fill. These folks includes some of his stamp club members among others.

There is lots to do including an "Old Papers" bourse with books, documents, coins, and some stamps. This is in addition to flea markets, antique shows, auctions, and many stamp activities.

On 27-28 February he exhibited his 3-frame collection of the Mexico Express Co. envelopes. While he has exhibited this in the U.S., a friend translated it for him into French. Of interest is that his exhibit was highlighted on the philatelic page of a Normandy Newspaper. He hopes to exhibit it competitively in Caan when he returns in October.

There are many collecting opportunities. Dick notes that the most French collectors would rather swap the inexpensive stuff, but the more astute will buy better material. His club and the exhibits provide the venue for selling his French revenues. One of his favorite auction houses in Paris reopened, providing the opportunity to buy in addition to making bids. But nothing beats the famous outdoor philatelic bourse adjacent to Champs Elysées. What's better than a springtime examination of stamps in view of the Arc de Triumph and Eiffel Tower?

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

February Reports

Due to the storm of the millennium last month and its white deposits measured in feet, the meeting was necessarily cancelled without rescheduling. Thus, there are no February minutes for this newsletter. Fortunately, treasurer Clair Smith had prepared his report and submitted it to the editor electronically for your viewing pleasure. Given good weather this week, we anticipate a busy meeting. I look forward to seeing you all then. Joy

The Treasury:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Opening: | \$4,418.76 (1 Jan) |
| Income: | \$1,074.20 |
| Expenses: | \$594.46 |
| Closing: | \$4,898.5 (31 Jan) |

Buy & Sell

Collection of matchbook covers: A lifetime collection of matchbook covers from lifelong travel. 16 international (Europe mainly); 45 USA. Contact Lucy Eyster at 735-2586 to see them or make an offer.

Antique Clock Collecting Literature: A good home is needed for about a dozen reference books on antique clocks. For any club members who collect clocks or knows someone who does, please contact Paul Petersen, 299-5640.

U. S. Cut Squares. Huge collection. 30 year accumulation: U1-U569. Includes mint U68-U73. The catalogue value is over \$5,000.00. Contact Dave Kenawell: kenamaro@verizon.com.

A Postal History Website to Try

Submit a favorite site to share with the club

In this month's presidential column, John reflects how technology impacts on the lives of our young folks, noting that they have technological gadgets that are beyond name.

While we may not be as technically astute as our kids, we can certainly benefit from what is available. The information is only a few keystrokes away.

Please submit some of your favorite sites whether they are for sales, general information, education, or other topics. Include a thorough description.

□ www.postalhistory.org

Your editor was almost late with the newsletter after reviewing this website and much of what it contains. He always refers to this process as falling into the black hole of the internet. There is a massive amount of information useful to the philatelist. The website masthead states "Sites, Societies, Dealers, Literature, and Items."

This is not a glitzy site. Taking a library analogy, this site is like walking past the new book selections, best sellers, and coming attractions and heading straight back to the reference department which may appear a little dry at first. While the site addresses many areas, it is perhaps better suited to the more experienced collector.

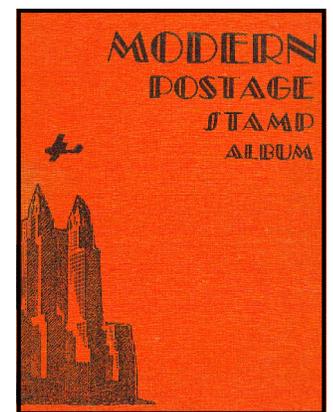
Postalhistory.com is largely an archive of links related to the subject matter. It is easy to navigate in its simplicity. There is a large index with countries and topics. "Topics" here is not topical collecting. Instead this refers to routes and rates, crash mail, censorship mail, automation of the mail, postage dues, stampless covers, post offices, transportation, people, early mail, and many more topics.

There is a built in Google search for this site. There is an interactive link for questions and answers. A significant feature is a link to add one's business, club, or society to the site. At the touch of a key, one can find PSLC's Jim Boyles and Dick Colberg on the directory listing of the PA Postal History Society.

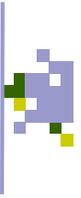
Along with the postal history organizations, the site carries numerous links to dealers worldwide for stamps, philatelic supplies, and literature.

President (from Pg. 1)

came to our house recently, he said, "You mean you don't have wireless!" And then there are scheduled play dates, elaborate birthday parties, all kinds of lessons, and hardly a dull moment. Not to mention a lack of places to drop in after school and buy a few stamps and supplies.



Is it any wonder that there are fewer younger collectors today!? No. So thanks to those who are doing things like providing free stamps for kids at Lancopex and setting up the exhibits at the post office and libraries. **John**



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

2010 Programs and Hosts

10 March: 1.) *Peel 'n Stick*;
2.) *APS Stamp Technology*.
Host-Clair Smith

14 April: *Ken Martin, Interim Executive Director of APS on Estates, APS, and Q&A*. John Bray, Host

12 May: *Club Auction*. James G. Boyles, Host

9 June: *King George V and the Royal Collection*: Paul Petersen. Host-Mike Shirley

14 July: *World's Columbian Exposition*, an APS Slide Show. Host-Marilyn Shirley

11 August: *Summer Picnic*.

8 September: *Club Auction*. Host-Dick Shaefer

13 October: *Club member "Show 'n tell."* John R. Ahlfeld. Lucy Eyster, Host

11 November: Program-TBA. Host-John Brownell

8 December: *Christmas Party*. No Host

Club Trip to APS /APRL in Bellefonte, Thurs, 20 May. Contact Roy Baardsen to sign up. He will coordinate drivers and riders from Reading thru Lancaster. More to come. Roy's phone number/email is (610) 927-3435/roykb@comcast.net.

Upcoming show reminders:
Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows, Farm & Home Center:
• 6 June, • 1 August, • 3 Oct, • 5 Dec. (Please verify)

Bio of the Month: Michael Shirley

In his youth, Mike assisted his mother with her stamps, though he did not actively collect himself. That is, until his kids became stamp collecting age and his mom got them started. As he helped them, he found that he was setting some stamps aside for himself, and the rest is history. His mother and neighbor Charles Griffiths were early mentors. Soon they all became trading partners.

Mike is a worldwide collector along with some country collections and a special interest in the 1959-1973 multi-national Europas. He loves auctions and makes his own album pages, enough to fill many binders.

PSLC has been a home for Mike for over 20 years. He served as president and in other offices and worked many years with his mother, Marilyn, to produce the monthly newsletter. A most reliable participant at Lancopex, he is just as familiar as our chicken barbeque-meister at the summer picnics. Even when the club changed its venue last summer to Millersville Boro Park, Mike just switched to dogs and burgers.

Mike's recommendation for PSLC: "Let's create more opportunities for trading. This is a very popular activity at other stamp clubs, and I believe it would be so here in Lancaster."

Since 1980, Mike has worked for American LaFrance Corp. He and his wife, Robin have two grown children living in the county. He is active as a guitarist in his local church and as a mentor at Water Street Mission.

Collecting Ireland and Saint Patrick Carol Petersen

Collecting stamps is an addiction which can be triggered by any number of temptations.

If Christmas is your favorite holiday, and you just happen to notice the beautiful Christmas stamps on those incoming cards, Voila! You are a Christmas stamp collector!

The new Christmas stamp collector, browsing Herick's new issues notices some countries issue Easter stamps, and voila! You are now also a collector of religion on stamps.

When a collector of religion on stamps just happens to visit Ireland, she cannot help but notice the statues and stained glass and artwork depicting the patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. A quick perusal of the G-I volume of the Scott's catalogue looking for St. Patrick stamps to add to the

religion on stamps collection, and one cannot help but notice the stamps commemorating favorite authors like W.B. Yeats, John Millington Synge, Oscar Wilde, and George Bernard Shaw. If you are not very careful, that starts you reading Irish history, and checking out the stamps marking the anniversary of the Easter rising and heroes like Michael Collins. And now you understand how we became collectors of Irish stamps.

Of all the stamps that I collect, the St. Patricks are some of my very favorites. And Paul makes sure I stay hooked by surprising me each spring with a little packet of the latest St. Patrick stamp along with a first day cover, which always includes a very special postmark.

Paul and I are both photographers, so we relive our three

trips to Ireland through our photo albums and the shots framed on our walls. But we both thoroughly enjoy paging through our Irish stamp albums not just for the history of this country we have grown to love, but also for the sheer beauty of these tiny perfed and gummed pieces of art.



Happy St. Patrick's Day, friends. And, for the record, everyone is Irish on St. Patty's Day.

Musings from the editor

Confucius & Using the Senses in Stamp Collecting

Tell me and I will forget

Show me and I will remember

Involve me and I'll understand

This saying of Confucius was reinforced at a recent conference I attended at Grace Baptist Church about teaching children.

Not to be outdone by an old man, modern science (or perhaps modern educational research) explored this further. The results confirmed just what Confucius posited. Good learning involves the senses. Let's take a look.

When we hear something, we remember about 10%. When we see something, the learning rate increases to 50%. If we talk (discuss) about what we have seen and heard, learning goes up again, to 70%. Then when we carry out an activity related to the topic, learning reaches 90%.

As a museum-going adult with a scientific bent, I can enjoy a board full of dragonflies arranged in such a way as to show the ontological development of their wing structure. This would be boring for a child beyond one look at the tray full of dead bugs.

Let's move this display to a children's museum and see how they might do it. They'll start with a DVD about the dragonflies in

flight and add a large scale model, perhaps one which they can take apart and reassemble. This will be followed with an activity where, for example, the children construct different wing types out of paper. Then this will be reinforced by a variety of paper airplanes with differing wing structures corresponding to the dragonfly wings.

Think about a child watching prime time TV or playing the latest computer game. There are both seeing and hearing components with the TV, but it is passive. With the video game, participation is added to complement the theme, but what are they really learning?

Now think about stamp collecting. How are the senses used? Kids see, hold, hear, and talk about the stamps. The act of hinging them into an album reinforces this. And what are they learning that is not on prime time TV? We always tout history and geography, but there are the intangibles such as conceptualization when they sort by size, color, shape, country, or theme. Older children will learn to perf and watermark their stamps, and they may

even check for fluorescent tagging with the different frequencies of UV lighting.

Children learn patience, organization, and attention to detail. If in a club, they experience communication with peers and adults. They will hear experts and perhaps may speak and become an expert in their own right. With mentoring, they will become savvy shoppers at a stamp show, and they might even venture into exhibiting.

If you are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with children and their stamps, make it as active an experience as you can. Engage their senses. Teach them things, and ask follow-up questions. Provide activities for them to explore concepts. If they have a hot topical interest, follow up with some research in the encyclopedia or the internet.

Make games for the kids using stamps. I have seen a homemade variety of Chutes & Ladders. Or play regular games, and use stamps and supplies as the prizes. Stamps may be quite motivating rewards for kids.

Take perforations, for example. This is a simple concept to teach with a piece of paper and a single-hole punch. They can tear a piece of paper along a line, and it will probably be ragged.

Using another drawn line, punch holes every inch, and see if it becomes easier to get a better separation. Next, on a new line, space the holes every half inch and tear. Repeat at every quarter of an inch and tear and then again with the holes right next to each other and tear.

Kids will notice the ease of separation with closer holes, but the sharp ones will notice that if the holes are too close together, the link between the stamps weakens.

If you are feeling brave, you can have them cut elliptical (or syncopated) perforations as seen on the British Machen stamps. This will further their professional knowledge, and they will stand out at their stamp club.

Follow this up with a display of varying perforated stamps, and teach them how to use the perforation gauge.

Happy stamping. Ed □



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.