

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

**Club Meeting: Wednesday, 12 May 2010**

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

The Garden Café / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** James G. Boyles

## Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

Another Lancopex is past, and it's time to thank not only Jim Boyles again for coordinating everything, but also everybody else who helped. It was great to see many people pitching in, from setup on Friday PM through tending various tables during the show, until teardown on Sunday. For those who were not there, I had the pleasure of presenting Jim with a plaque on Sunday afternoon to thank him-on behalf of everyone in the club-for founding Lancopex in 1986, for coordinating it for all 25 years, and for everything else he has done for the club. (Please see pg. 2 for photo)

Our next club meeting will be our second auction of

the year. Everyone is encouraged to participate, by both selling and buying. Unfortunately, I do not expect to be there, so thanks to VP John Bray for conducting the meeting.

My wife and I plan to be in Brimfield, MA, at what may be the greatest antiquing adventure in the country. Three times a year most of the properties along a mile long stretch of highway out the west side of Brimfield turn into a huge flea market for a week. Some properties are filled with dealers all week; other fields are open for just one or two days, with mobs lined up before they open. Alice and I will primarily be looking for antique glass for our little

hobby business, but I always keep my eyes open for philatelic things and occasionally find something. All week there is a building full of postcard dealers with some postal history mixed in, and other postcard dealers set up out in the fields. One of the dealers in the building usually has a notebook of Lancaster postal history. If you are considering going to Brimfield sometime and want to know more about it, just google for "Brimfield," and you'll get a flavor of the experience.

So, for now, happy collecting! If you didn't find what you wanted at Lancopex, perhaps something will turn up at the May 12 Auction.

**John**

## It's Here: The PSLC '10 Spring Auction

It is auction time again! A time to purge, and an even better time to buy. There will be many donated lots for the benefit of the club.

The rules remain the same as with past auctions. The minimum bid is \$1.00. The minimum increment when bidding is 50¢. Each club member is limited to 10 lots. You will be assigned a

number when you arrive. Please place this number on all your lots. When possible, please attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed things up, prevent any misconceptions and insure a smooth and enjoyable delivery of this 2010 spring event.



What are these attractively created covers that travel the country ending up in collections and cover boxes at stamp shows? See biography on page 3. For more information on a fascinating topical.

**Volume 73, Issue 5**

**May, 2010**

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) in The Garden Café at Woodcrest Villa, 2000 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA at 7:00 PM

President:

John R. Ahlfeld

Vice President:

John Bray

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

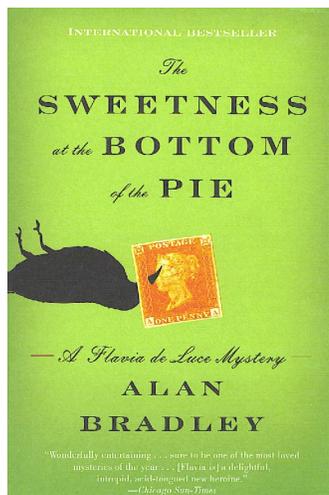
Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

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## A Philatelic Mystery

I am a sucker for any new mystery book with a stamp image on its cover. Sometimes the philatelic aspect is striking, and others, disappointing.

Alan Bradley's 2009 novel occurs in 1950 Great Britain when a retired army colonel finds a dead bird, a jack snipe, on the patio of his manor home. There is a Penny Black stamp impaled



on its beak which portends a dead body that later appears in the garden. He is accused of the crime which is then associated with the "suicide" of his former public school and philatelic master 30 years previously. An altered Penny Black is part of a plot against Queen Victoria, the Royal Family, and government.

It is the colonel's young daughter, a youthful protégé of chemistry who turns sleuth and steers and embarrasses the police into solving the crime.

Philatelists will enjoy the book which contains everything from the printer of the Penny Black, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Petch to watermark fluid, and an ultraviolet light. Ed□

## Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports Paul Petersen & Clair Smith: April 2010

**Membership:** Lucy Eyster introduced new member Judith Englert who collects new & used U.S. She also updated the club on the construction status and return of our meetings to BlueBird Commons.

**April Minutes:** Minutes were approved as written.

**Lancopex (24-25 April):** Jim Boyles emphasized the need for more workers to set up, serve, and disassemble the show. There may be an ongoing slide show on the basics of philately. The show cachets recognizing the Boy Scouts will be sold for \$2.00 each.

**Fall Bus Trip:** Roy Baardsen solicited interest for a club trip to the Mega Event in NYC on the 21st Octo-

ber. He will begin sign-ups during the May meeting.

**Upcoming Exhibitions:** John R. Ahlfeld announced some of the nearby stamp shows that are coming up.

**May Drawing:** Jim Ziogas won an original 1963 issue of *The American Philatelist* along with a sheet of U.S. 5¢ definitives. Congrats!

**Newsletter:** The editor sought input for an upcoming but entertaining edition: What do you hate to collect? He will follow up by email. He is interested in publishing articles with multiple membership input.

**May Program:** APS Interim Executive Director Ken Martin gave an overview of trends in APS and the hobby. He displayed the

original application by the PSLC for APS membership from 1938. Ken answered many questions from the membership. He passed out copies of the APC's pictorial permits, then he offered other items for the evening's door prizes drawn at the end of the presentation. The winners are:

APS Jigsaw: J. Brownell

Album Page CD: E. Wheeler

Valentines CD: R. Baardsen

Fancy Cancels CD: D. Meek

Stamp trading followed.

### The Treasury:

**Opening:** \$4,943.69 (1 Apr)

**Income:** \$1867.26

**Expenses:** \$610.46

**Closing:** \$6,200.49 (30 Apr)

### Lancopex Service

Jim Boyles (left) receives recognition from club president, John R. Ahlfeld for his 25 years coordinating Lancopex.



## Changes at Deutsche Post

There are always news links, leaks, and rumors related to the future directions of USPS. We hear talk of a large number of PO closings as well as elimination of Saturday delivery.

But leave it to the Germans for efficiency. Behind a façade of fiscal strength, their economy is on the brink. Concurrently, the privately run mail delivery system, Deutsche Post is streamlining away.

In the 10/09 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (pg. 20), the plan is discussed. The post office is associated with Deutsche Bank, and

many POs are physically attached to that financial institution. There are also many free standing POs as well as those operating out of other businesses such as department stores and discount houses.

The plan calls for the elimination of all free standing POs by 2012. This reduction includes approximately 500 out of 14,000 offices.

Promises were made to postal customers. There will be a PO in every municipality of 2000+ population. Further, in the cities, there will be PO access to all within a distance of 2 km.



## Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Awards, Shows & Food

### 2010 Programs and Hosts

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

**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. Host-Lucy Eyster

**11 November:** Program-TBA. Host-John Brownell

**8 December:** *Christmas Party.* No Host

Club Trip to APS /APRL in Bellefonte is set for Thursday, 20 May. Please com-

municate any changes with Roy Baardsgen (610) 927-3435 / Roykb@comcast.net.

**Upcoming show reminders:** *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows, Farm & Home Center:* • 27 June, • 1 August, • 3 October, • 7 Nov. (Please verify with Jim: 394-5118.)

**Lancopex:** Three club members won awards for their exhibits.

**Don Smith:** *Telegraph Stamps of the World and Antarctica* exhibits both won silver, while the the latter also won the AAPE award. **Dick Colberg:** Exhibits of *Lititz Postal History* and *Mexico Postal Stationary* both won silver. **R.D. Noble's** *Precancels: History and types* won a silver and the LCPS award. **James G. Boyles:** *Postmarks of Lancaster County 1757-1899* won a gold (non-competitive)

### Chuck & Mike's Cookie Delights

#### Ingredients:

30 ground vanilla wafers

¼ lb. melted butter

12 oz. chocolate chips

7 oz. shredded cocoanut

1 can sweet/condensed milk

Walnut pieces, to suit

Add mixture of wafers and butter to bottom of a 9x13 pan. To this, add layer of cocoanut then a layer of chocolate chips. Add a layer of walnuts to taste. On top of this all, sprinkle the milk.

Bake at 350°F in a preheated oven for 25 minutes.

From Marilyn Shirley □

### Bio of the Month:

#### Diane Meek

Taking a break from collecting, Diane's mother passed on her Scott's (red) worldwide stamp album, and she immediately took to the hobby. This was augmented by a stamp club in school where the advisor, a math teacher, purchased a sheet of the new 3¢ issues to supplement their current U.S. Then after college when married with her own place, she returned to her worldwide collecting with ten of the Scott's blue binders.

Diane retired a few years ago after 24½ years as an art teacher at Donegal Middle School. There she passed on the hobby, having led a stamp club for several years. With all these students, she found a home for her many WW duplicates.

Joining PSLC early in the millennium, she finds that it is the relationships that are so important. She enjoys trading and sending out the newsletters with Marilyn Shirley and credits former club member Dick Bishop who helped her collect.

Diane previously wrote a short article about hearts on stamps, and these are her favorites along with butterflies, U.S., and Israel. She loves the biblical themes on the latter's stamps.

Her collecting goals include finding the elusives for her Israel collection and exploring the *Art Cover Exchange*. Recently she was given a few art covers, and found a niche. This is a large group of philatelic artists who design covers with art cachets on a variety of topics and circulate them to one another and to other collectors.

## Dealer Feedback From Lancopex

Our 25th Lancopex was held last month, and show co-organizer, James G. Boyles was honored by club president, John R. Ahlfeld for founding and planning the philatelic show since 1986.

Again, the show was considered a great success seen in the attendance and the dealers' feedback responses, a process that takes the pulse of the annual philatelic event.

Seventeen out of 21 dealers (81%) responded to the feedback sheet. Of these seventeen, 13 (76%) reached their financial goals. Two did not reach their goals while two others said they were "close."

Dealers were asked to rate

the show in comparison to shows of a similar venue (10=high score). The scores ranged from 7-10. The average was 8.62. The average of those not making their goals (n=4) was 8.0 while for those meeting their goals, it was 8.8. Last year only half of the dealers met their goals.

What makes Lancopex special? Eight dealers noted the people, this is taken to mean the club members and customers. Three specifically mentioned the hardworking club volunteers. The Lancaster location was noted as a positive by five and the facility by three. Four noted a solid customer base and attendance are a plus for this show.

For the second year, two dealers suggested using "Lancopex dollars" to be used in lieu of donated door prizes. The winners could spend their "dollars" at any show table.

Two dealers noted being crowded, while two others did not like being moved to a different location this year. Other "space" suggestions included moving the snack table into the lobby and rearranging the exhibits for more favorable dealer sites. Food was favorable, but one dealer suggested another restaurant.

One dealer recommended that a local designated hotel might be arranged with more favorable rates for the out of town vendors and customers.

# Musings from the editor

## Using topicals to promote the hobby

There are many ways to collect stamps and postal history. This ranges from filling album spaces to plating a classical issue. No matter how many country collections we have or how detailed we study a modern rarity, we are all topical collectors at heart, though we might not see it.

I fill spaces in three country albums with Denmark to 1998, Ireland to 2000, and U.S. through 2004. My maps on stamps are arranged by country, as are my stamps on stamps and postal history on stamps collections. All I use are Vario pages in binders and expand as needed. My country collections have reached financial critical mass in that I cannot afford any more of the pricey ones, and I have little interest in the more recent issues.

But my topicals keep growing as I find items. I keep telling myself that one day I will organize them better and, gosh forbid, perhaps make a list or two! After all, what is a philatelist without a list or two? But then I rationalize that it is better for my developing brain to rely on the little gray cells than to rely on a list.

Operationally, this all means that I am always looking through stuff at shows and auctions. But while I root, I find items that I

think a fellow club member may enjoy. It is a rare meeting when I don't have something for someone or when someone doesn't have something for me. And I see this sharing among other members in the club. But the challenge lies in what I find for my non-collector friends, those both near and far. Stamps are much cheaper to send than geodes and other rocks and minerals by mail.

One of the reasons that my wife and I are collecting today is that she has been accumulating plate blocks of Christmas stamps since our first son was born on Christmas a few years ago (Well, maybe more than a few years ago, but who's counting?)

Anyway, her goal was to have a great collection for him to enjoy one day in celebration of his birthday. Using stock sheets, she has continued to compile cartoons on stamps for our artist/illustrator son and music on stamps for our musician son. It is amazing how many beauties of each of these themes she has managed to find out there.

The granddaughter of our friends Doug and Teresa

loves insects, so a few ladybugs and beetles would never hurt. We gave her a little stock book, so all she has to do is store each new addition to her growing accumulation. The recent Canadian "Beneficial Bug" set from Lesley is a beauty for this area of collecting. The U.S. produced an equally nice sheet of twenty bug stamps in '99 (Scott#3551).

Gary is a bike racer, even bragging of being passed rather rapidly by Lance Armstrong on their jaunt up Mt. Washington. There are many extant bike stamps. He enjoys each addition. One season at work, I pulled his name in the Secret Santa drawing and upped the ante to a rather nice Irish sheet depicting a recent Tour de France. This made a hit.

Another co-worker has a handicapped middle schooler, and she loves costumes. Did she ever enjoy a selection from the 1948-52 Austrian set as a starter!

Frank enjoys hockey and trains, while Don's son is into martial arts, fencing, soccer, and Judaica.

The list goes on, and seeking

items for others doubles the pleasure of my search. It will for you as well. Is the motivation of giving stamps away to get a friend to collect? That depends. It is a good deed to give a gift now and then. Think of it as a random act of kindness. Some of your contacts may not want to become collectors, but they will enjoy the gifts nevertheless. Another may receive your gift and say "Collecting is for me." It is their decision to make.

Wayne Youngblood seemed to capture this succinctly. In his Collecting Coast to Coast column in the March, 2010, *America Philatelist* (pg. 218), he noted that "...the key to attracting more and different people now is finding ways to appeal to the natural collector inside."

At heart, we are all collectors in some way or the other. Some of us collect one thing, while others collect in multiple areas. In her 2006 book *In Flagrente Collecto* (Caught in the very act of collecting), author Marilyn Karp, a natural collector if there ever was one, portrays examples from her 200+ collections! Ed□



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