



# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 9 June 2010

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM  
The Garden Café / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Mike Shirley  
**Stamp Trading** to Begin Following the Evening's Program

## Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

Our June 9 program will be the spring "Show & Tell" session, as the Garden Café does not lend itself to Paul Petersen's PowerPoint program on King George V and the Royal Collection. This topic will be rescheduled when we're back in Bluebird Commons.

I hope that everyone will consider bringing something for the "Show & Tell" session. It would be nice to have many short presentations rather than just a few longer ones. So please bring along some-

thing you'd like to ask others about, show off, tell how you found it, teach others about, or whatever. The more variety the better.

Following up on my last column, no, I didn't find any treasures in Brimfield. A framed behind-the-glass collection of duck stamps, I believe from the beginning up through 1975 caught my eye. But when the dealer said he wanted \$375, my attention turned elsewhere in a hurry. He said that he hadn't even opened up the back of the frame to see if

the stamps were glued onto the backing, which the discoloration suggested might be the case.

There were many things of philatelic interest in the one building I mentioned previously that was always full of postcard dealers. More locally, do any of you search for philatelic things at Shupp's Grove, Reninger's, or other nearby flea markets? If so, and if you have had any luck, that would be a good topic for a show and tell. See you on the 9th. **John**

## May Program:

Club Member "Show and Tell"

It is always an interesting program to hear club members discuss and display specific areas of their stamp collecting.

Think of this session as a sales event, an opportunity to sell your topic. This is not a monetary sale, but a time to describe what you love so that others may love it too. Wouldn't it be exciting to have another club member interested in your area so you could collect together and/or compare notes?

Some points to consider: Because we will be in the

Garden Café, there will be neither PowerPoint nor slide capacity. So for anything you want to show, have it in a format in which you can easily pass around to the audience. Tables will be available following the presentations to display an album, etc. Here you will be able to discuss in more detail with those interested in your topic.

Please limit your presentation to 3 - 5 minutes. Remember, if you are the only one to present, please make it stretch to 30-45 minutes! ☺



**14 June 2010 is Flag Day. So celebrate by displaying your red, white, and blue.**

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Garden Café / 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

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## Collecting In Purgatory

PSLC was asked to help revise a chapter for *The Devine Comedy*. In the philatelic section of Purgatorio, what would Dante's Tormentor have us do to work toward nirvana? In a humorous compilation, club members give their unabashed impressions.

**Mike Shirley** gets to the point, as he dislikes the endless cancelled to order (CTO) stamps. In his open confession, he believes that he will most likely be the editor of the new worldwide & unabridged CTO catalog. Helping him sort all the Elvis, Kennedy, and man-on-the-moon stamps is **Greg Macaluso**. **Harold Allen** will be curator of the tormentor's FDC collection. **Sherman Foote** and **Dennis Shumaker** hate the non-soakable stamps. You can guess that their task will be lighter fluid and razor blades with tons of stamps to remove from paper.

**Dave Kenawell** will be the fly-spec quality control supervisor in charge of watermarking, perfining and categorizing various plates, cracks, dots, and more, doing all this without a magnifier! Fellow club member **Jim Ziogas** will assist Dave with the precancels, perfins, and non-soakables.

**Diane Meek** notes that she has forgotten all that Lou DiFelice taught us about the millions of extant Washington Franklin stamp varieties. Concurrently, her friend **Carol Petersen** just hates heads on stamps, citing endless series after series of the same person on the same stamps, sometimes in the same color! Fittingly, they will be put in charge of the U. K. Machin catalog and collection respectively.

## Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports Joy Bouchard & Clair Smith: May 2010

Vice Pres. John Bray opened the meeting at 7:05.

**Membership:** Lucy Eyster reported club membership at 75. Average meeting attendance has been around 35. There were four visitors including Fritz & Myra Berger. Our newest member, Len Casper will be joining us in July.

**Meeting Program Changes:** John announced a construction delay which will prevent our return to Bluebird Commons. Thus, the program schedule will be rearranged slightly to place the "Show and Tell"

**Purgatory** (continued from column 1)

**Eleanor Wheeler** offered spirited detail of her concerns. Stamps are becoming too "Disneyized." And along with cartoon stamps is religion on stamps where she cites the separation of church and state. The Tormentor has just learned that the *COROS* journal is looking for a good asst. editor!

For his dislike of plate number coils, the Tormentor will have the **editor** plate heaps and piles of Frieda Kahlo stamps. Alongside, **Lucy Eyster** will be made to fit all the varieties of the Forever Stamp into Minkus albums with only four slots. Since **John Bray** loves real engraved stamps, it seems he will be sorting all the cheap feeling two-ply photocopied phony internationals.

scheduled for October into the June meeting slot and King George V will move back to October.

**Lancopex:** James Boyles reported the success of the stamp event, but he noted the severity of the manpower shortage for setting up and closing down the show, requesting more volunteers next year to make this show happen again.

**Club Trips:** Roy Baardsen reported that the 20 May APS trip is all set and on track. Unfortunately, there was insufficient interest for a bus trip to the NYC Mega

Event on 20 October.

**Software:** Long time club visitor, Brian Wagner highly recommended the website; stampalbums.com. It is \$30/yr. to make album pages for almost all country collections.

**May Drawing:** This was won by Greg Macaluso.

**May Program:** The club auction followed the business meeting. **Joy**

### The Treasury:

**Opening:** \$6,200.49 (1 Apr)

**Income:** \$2,612.67

**Expenses:** \$3,016.13

**Closing:** \$5,780.93 (30Apr)

## Changes at Deutsche Post

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

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

The 10/09 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (pg.20) has the plan. The post office is associated with Deutsche Bank, and many POs are within the physical confines of that financial institution. There are also many free-standing POs as well as those operating out of other

venues such as department stores and discount houses.

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

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





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

### 2010 Programs and Hosts

**9 June:** *Club member "Show 'n tell."* John R. Ahlfeld. Host-Mike Shirley

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

**11 August:** *Summer Picnic.* No host

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

**13 October:** *King George V and the Royal Collection.* Paul Petersen. Lucy Eyster, Host

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

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

**Club Bus Trip** to the October NYC Mega Event has been cancelled. There were not enough people signed up.

**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)

**Food for Thought:** Club member Diane Meek contributed an entertaining article concerning the USPS stamp program from *Smithsonian* magazine (pg. 92, February, 2010). In a tongue-in-cheek commentary, writer Bill Brubaker offers a bailout plan for the Post Office. Bill cites the USPS deficit as tied to the five year plan, that a individual to be honored has to be dead for five years. This is intensified by the fact that the subject matter is limited to "mostly American themes." Other countries had Barak Obama on stamps even before he was elected. Why don't we consider a U.S. stamp for Sachin "Master Blaster" Tendulkar, the greatest batsman in the history of cricket? Think of the worldwide thematic cricket collectors! But will we ever see Johnny Carson who once said "Mail your packages early so the PO can lose them in time for Christmas."

## A Relaxing Way to Fill Pages (I Think?)

By Lou De Felice

As a U.S. collector of pre-1940 material, it has become increasingly difficult to fill those spaces with the harder to find (actually harder to find afford!) pre Civil War issues, Bank Note Issues, early Bureau issues, and the Washington-Franklin Series that make a collection stand out. What would satisfy me more, a Scott 122 from the 1869 series or a year's tuition for one of my college bound children? I cannot answer this on the grounds that I might incriminate myself and the philatelic community as a whole.

As I enjoy collecting so much, I have therefore turned to a much more relaxing endeavor. It is an exceedingly less expensive area ... U.S. definitive issues from the 1960s to the present time.

These regular issue stamps are easily acquired and most in this category can be traded for, asked for, taken off ordinary and junk mail, gotten free from non-collectors, or purchased as need be at reasonable prices.



The varieties and manner in which you group these U.S. definitives are challenging and flexible. The enjoyment comes from trying to assem-

ble a postally used example of these "workhorses" of the U.S. postal system. Examples include the Transportation issues, Americana Definitives, non-denominated issues, Flora & Fauna Series, American Culture stamps, bulk and pre-sorted issues, and all the various regular issue flag stamps that find their way into your possession. I did not even realize how many I had until I started sorting through my stock books and box collections just to see what I had accumulated. If you're looking for something to pass the time, invigorate your mind, and give you a sense of accomplishment, try this area in whatever format you see fit, and see how you make out. Good luck and happy hunting in your new pursuit.

## Club Visit to APS

Trekmeister Roy Baardsen did it again, organizing the drivers for the trip to the **American Philatelic Society** in Bellefonte, PA, on 20 May.

Between the Reading and Lancaster Stamp Clubs, 18 made the trip. We were welcomed by APS Executive Director, Ken Martin, and a tour of the facilities followed. Club members then went to spend the rest of the day playing with stamps.

A favorite is the Sales Division where one goes through books of their favorite country or topic to select what is desirable and affordable. Carl Madeira found many of the stamps he needed while Lucy Eyster, Barb Brown, Zim Ziogas, Al Schaub, and Roy rounded out their collections in this division of APS.

In a fairly new service, APS full-time volunteer Richard Nakles organizes and markets the lower value donated stamps, covers, albums, and other gems. RD Noble and Kent Weaver hit the jackpot here with the pre-cancel offerings. Joy Bouchard found a variety of materials for her nephews who are collectors.

The APRL is one of the largest philatelic libraries in the world. Here Paul Petersen was able to do some research on a hard to find 1889 slogan cancellation. He was further delighted to acquire both old and new stamp journals and magazines. They had been sold by the pound, but on this date they were free!

Regarding the outstanding APS courtesy, Lesley Botte and Paul decided that if customer service around the nation was as good as it is at APS, we would have a much better country.



## Guest Musings: How not to promote the hobby with kids! Carol Petersen

I sat down at one of my favorite stamp dealer's tables at a show some time ago, taking note of an elderly man seated with a pre-teen girl.

Walt knows me well, so while exchanging pleasantries, he began pulling boxes and small notebooks of topicals set aside with me in mind (one of the perks of getting to know your favorite stamp dealers!).

The girl, who had looked bored and disinterested and sullen perked up when she heard the words "birds", "Christmas", "hearts", and "peace". I introduced myself and began handing things to her to look at, and she became animated and visibly excited, ooing and ahing and saying, "Look, Grandpa!"

Grandpa sat stone-faced for a little while, then began glaring at me, finally intercepting items I was handing his granddaughter and pushing them back at me, and then erupted.

"Young lady," he growled at his granddaughter, "I am not here to waste my time and I am not about to waste MY MONEY on foolishness. Those stamps will never be worth anything. I am here to teach you how to build a collection and to teach you the proper way to collect stamps, so

put that nonsense aside and pay attention."

The young lady's shoulders slouched, she hung her head, her eyes went back to dull and bored, and Grandpa once again began selecting stamps from some French colony very sternly expounding on their value and future worth.

It made me so incredibly sad. Here was a man only capable of seeing the world through his own eyes, and completely clueless about what might appeal to a 12 year old girl or what might attract her to collect stamps. He never asked her a single question!

I remember the moment I became interested in stamps. I was 15 years old, had been to the New York World's Fair, and had signed up for a penpal. I will never forget the day his first letter arrived. It was one of those aerogramme letters which form their own envelope, and in the upper right hand corner there were two large stamps with beautiful, full-color butterflies on them.

Up to that point, all I had ever seen was Heads on Stamps. President's heads. And I paid no attention to them whatso-

ever. My dad occasionally used an Air Mail or a Special Delivery stamp, and I took note only because they were pricier.

But I kept every single Nigerian stamp that came from Josef, each one more interesting than the last.

Remember the adage "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar"? That adage is true for attracting new collectors to our hobby.

Everyone is different. We are wired to be individuals, with varying temperaments and very different tastes.

One man's trash is another man's treasure! I regularly discard envelopes which my husband pulls out of the trash. I am at a loss as to why he would want that plain, ordinary, boring stamp, and he is at a loss as to why I would toss such a treasure!

Paul and I practice what we flippantly refer to as "Stamp Evangelism", i.e. trying to woo people to collect stamps.

If we learn of an interest that a small child has, we will look for stamps that apply.

A close friend's granddaughter became very interested in bugs and insects. We rummaged through dealer's boxes to find bugs on stamps, mailing a nice little assortment along with a small stock book, and used U.S. bug stamps on her birthday and Christmas cards.

It is so important, especially with children, to meet people where they are, to demonstrate an interest in what interests them. Personally, we may think that Disney or cartoon character postage stamps are nothing but trashy stickers. But if you place a Disney stamp and a red 2 cent Washington in front of a 6 year old and invite them to pick one to keep, I am pretty sure you will be returning that Washington to your collection.

Perhaps, as with most endeavors that involve people, the most important step in introducing them to our hobby is to first get to know them and take an interest in them as a person, then let their interests guide the direction and approach you take with stamps.



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