

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Club Meeting: Wednesday, 9 November 2011

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** John Ahlfeld

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Evening's Program

Message from the President

Brrr! It got cold all of a sudden. Well, we had some interesting times recently. The Show 'n Tell program was much better this year in its new format allowing us to see how others store/display their treasures and to have the opportunity to view some items we may not have come across before. It also afforded us the opportunity to converse with others about their collections while viewing them and to pick up some

interesting tidbits along the way. I am looking forward to this event again in the coming year.

Many of us took the much anticipated bus trip to NYC the following day to attend the ASDA National Postage Stamp Show. Many thanks to Roy and Mike, who, along with their buds from the Reading Stamp Club, set it up and made it a fun trip. The show was comprised of over 50 deal-

ers and vendors, some of whom are widely known. This being my first "Big City" stamp show, I must admit that I was a bit underwhelmed by it. I expected to see many more dealers and vendors and also thought that it would be "flashier."

My basis for comparison was a Balpex show I attended a few years ago. Anyway, I did come home (Cont. on Pg.2: President.)

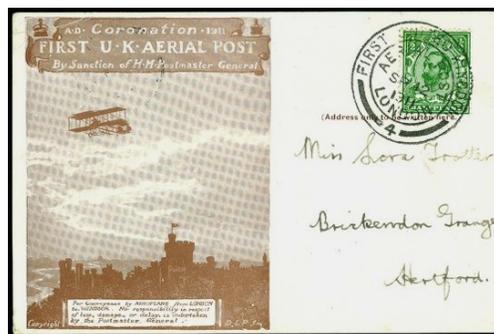
England's First Aerial Post of September 1911

November "Programme," Cover, and Article by Mike Bach

Just over 100 years ago on September 9th, 1911, the first of a series of flights took place to commemorate the Coronation of King George V. The event was scheduled for seven days but continued until September 26th due to weather delays and the amount of mail collected. Bear in mind that the first flight had only taken place some eight years earlier, and planes were still fairly flimsy in design. Postcards and envelopes bearing a special cachet could be purchased carrying the correct postage to send anywhere in the UK. The mail was collected at specially designed post boxes and transported to a post office where they received a

special postmark: "FIRST UNITED KINGDOM AERIAL POST". Then the bags were taken to where the actual flights took place: Hendon, an airfield some six miles south of central London and a field just east of Windsor Castle 22 miles away. A total of 20

flights were required to carry all the mail bags. The "establishment" at the time were very disparaging of the concept of carrying mail by air, but little did they know that from this humble beginning Air Mail literally TOOK OFF!! (See below)



Volume 74, No. 11
November, 2011

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VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster. PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. Dues are \$10.00. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

President:

John Bray:
jonboy@dejazzd.com

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Vacant

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U.S. Writers on Stamps

Diane Meek submitted a clipping about a free exhibit at the Lancaster Literary Guild. It contains more than 75 commemorative postage stamps and first day covers honoring American writers. It will be open from 5-9 p.m. on first Fridays 7 October and 4 November as well as Tuesday through Friday by appointment. The Literary Guild is located at 113 N. Lime Street, Lancaster.

American Topical Association to Visit PSLC Meeting

Mr. Bob Mather of the ATA will be in Lancaster from 8-10 November for preliminary planning of the National Topical Stamp Show to be held from 22-24 June 2012 at the Host Resort on Route 30 East. This will include meeting with Lucy Eyster and the PSLC Show Committee and then attending the 9 Nov. club meeting to discuss NTSS show and answer questions from the membership.

President: with a new *Michel Catalog*. I spent the majority of my time in NYC walking around and doing some shopping, obtaining some items I could not get around Lancaster or even Philadelphia. Interesting, but it was very tiring.

I'm sure you are aware, it is now that time of the year to elect some new Officers. The top two positions are wide open should any of you have a desire for them. I know that many of you have served in the past, but I'm asking ALL of you to please search your conscience and consider taking a seat on the Board this coming year. *jmb*

October Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: President John M. Bray opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Reports: The secretary's and treasurer's reports of September were accepted as written by voice vote.

Club Trip: Roy Baardsen reviewed the procedures for the 13th October trip to NYC for the ASDA Stamp Show, noting that the pick up spot for the Lancaster Club has changed from AC Moore to the Eden Resort Inn. He added that he called and talked to or left messages with all partici-

pants regarding this change. Lancaster departure will be 7:00 sharp and Reading will be 7:30. The club voted for a 6:00 PM departure time from NYC.

2012 Dues: Lucy Eyster will be collecting dues at the next meeting. \$10.00.

Party: *The event will be in the Garden Café.* Lucy described the menu for the 14 December event. Entertainment is planned along with a voluntary gift exchange. This is to be of a philatelic nature with a value of \$5-7.00. The cost

of the meal is \$8 per person to be paid at the door for members and guests alike. The Café will open at 6:00 PM and the buffet will begin at 6:30 PM.

Program: The program consisted of members displaying their better material for discussion and comment.

Treasury Report

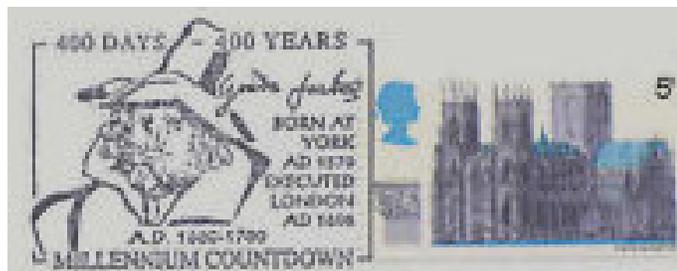
Opening: \$3,331.42 (1 Sep)

Income: \$0.13

Expenses: \$213.75

Closing: \$3,117.80 (30 Sep)

3-CDs valued at \$6461.85



Guy Fawkes Day

The British 5th November holiday is dangerously close to our meeting date. Celebrated since the 17th century is the failed attempt to blow up Parliament with James I and staffers. (*Cancel & stamp courtesy of Michael Bach.*)

Thanksgiving Around the World

The 2010 €0.55 Thanksgiving stamp from Germany portrays a ripened head of grain along with six silhouettes of colorful pieces of fruit. This stamp was featured in an article in the *German Postal Specialist* (December 2010, pg. 522).

The article conveyed how from early times man has been grateful to a higher power, nature, and the climate for the harvest.

The northern Europeans celebrated Thanksgiving at

the equinox while the Israelites celebrated the Festival of Unleavened Bread at the beginning of the grain harvest. They then celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles at the end of the fruit and grape harvest. In the third century the Christians began to decorate their churches in celebration of their successful crop harvest.

Today in Germany, the fest falls on the first Sunday in October where churches decorate their altars and



interiors with colorful grain, vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Throughout the rest of the year, harvest wreaths and harvest crowns remain visible in many places providing a continuous symbol of Thanksgiving.



13 October NYC Bus Trip for the NPSS Show A great Event for Lancaster and Reading Clubs

It was a little drizzly and cold, but the bus left Lancaster at 7:20 and reached Shillington at 7:45. The two stamp clubs fielded 35 people including members, spouses, children, and friends. An uneventful commute to town allowed us to arrive at 10:40, just in time for the U.N. First Day Ceremony.

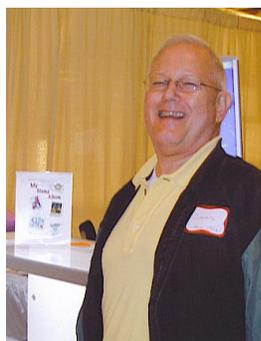


They could be handed back or put in the mailstream. The clerk said that this mail would not be **overcancelled** with a common strike at the processing center (See above). One can never be disappointed by the Post Office.

Given the New York City venue for this stamp show, many members took advantage of exploring a little of the city near the Hotel New Yorker. The Empire State Building was only a few avenue blocks east on 34th Street. There were many shopping opportunities.

Both collect the United Kingdom and related areas. As Mike and the Editor both collect "Stamp on Stamps," they found a cover for one another at this dealer's stand.

While **Dennis Shumaker (below)** specializes in U.S. Civil War covers, he was just as glad to find Mike Aldridge



autographing his new mystery novel centered around a philatelic crime. The picture above shows Dennis responding to the editor who just asked him to pen a review of the book for this newsletter.

Trip consultants Roy Baardsen and Mike Matus along with help from many of the Reading Club members did a superb job in planning and carrying out this trip. They are already seeking input for next year's stamp show bus trek.

Reader Challenge

Submit your opinion regarding the new regulation to allow live persons on U.S. Stamps. Pro/Con? Who would you like to see? Who don't you want to see on a U.S. Stamp? It's your newsletter. Please share your thoughts with us.

Misc. Club Notes Programs, Shows, & People

2011-12 Programs and Hosts

9 November: The First Aerial Post in England (9/1911), Mike Bach. **Host:** J. R. Ahlfeld

14 December: Dinner. Held in The Garden Café at Woodcrest Villa. **6 PM**

11 January 2012: Club Auction.

8 February: Swiss Philately, a DVD by the Helvetia Society.

14 March or 11 April: Developing One Frame Exhibits. Dick Osman (Blue Grey Stamp Club, Gettysburg)

9 May: Club Auction

TBA: Congressional Exhibit of Signed Covers. Congressman Joseph Pitts

Upcoming Show Reminders: *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: ● 4 December (Please verify: J. Boyles-394-5118.) ● Saturday, 5 November: *Reading Stamp Show*, Leesport Farm Market, Route 61, north of Leesport. ● F/S, 21-22 January 2012: *York Stamp Show*, Fairgrounds, Rt. 74.

People: **Al Schaub** recently gave a presentation to the residents at Oak Leaf Manor on the topic of "Objects of WWII." During the 2-4 September BallPex, **Lucy Eyster** volunteered at the American Topical Assn's table providing information on the organization with their DVDs, checklists, and other services.

Exhibition Medal: In Alencon, France, Dick Colberg won a large silver for his exhibition of *Mexican Postal Cards*, and this qualifies him to enter it in French National competition starting in 2012.

Linn's Caption Contest: Paul Petersen won a *Linn's Stamp Identifier* for his winning entry for the philatelic caption contest as noted on pg. 6 of the 31 October 2011 *Linn's Stamp News*. He credits his small Franklin D. Roosevelt topical accumulation for the inspiration.

2012 Dues (\$10.00): Dues may be paid at the meeting or mailed to Lucy Eyster, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, 503-B, Lancaster, PA 17601.



It was a just reward for one of the trip planners, as **Roy Baardsen** won a cacheted U.N. FDC at that First Day Ceremony. (See below)



One of the biggest shows in the country, the American Stamp Dealers Association had nearly 60 dealers and some non-competitive exhibits on display. There were many stamp and specialty philatelic societies represented along with the USPS and UNPA.

A First Day Ceremony for the 2011 contemporary Christmas stamps, the Holiday Baubles, was held on Thursday. Customers could purchase stamps and have a First Day cancel applied. There were also two other show cancels available for postal customers.



Desiring to fill spaces in his Greek album, **Jim Ziogas (See above)** found many possibilities at the show, though he admitted that the day was a little long.



In the picture above are club members **Mike Bach** and **Joy Bouchard** at a cover stand.



Musings: November-2011

Remembrance and more on USPS

November each year brings us Veteran's Day on the 11th, and oldsters may remember this as Armistice Day, and perhaps they might recall the two minutes of silence at 11:00 marking the end of the Great War at that hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month back in 1918.



In 2010 Royal Mail (United Kingdom) put out a souvenir sheet for the National Memorial Arboretum which commemorates World War One. On it are ten stamps, each with a different sepia view of the park, and the right third of each stamp contains the image of poppies and barbed wire, all first class stamps.

Contained is the fourth stanza of the poem "Remembrance" by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943). It reads:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We shall remember them."

It seems that we have not learned much about peace from all our wars, though surely we have learned to make better weapons. We continue

to think that perhaps this time it will be different.

But back at the Post Office, the news becomes more grim every day regarding the survival of our beloved institution. And then there was a surprise in early October which came without warning. I read in the popular press that living people may now be portrayed on U.S. stamps!

My cynical self said that this is the USPS's last ditch effort to sell more stamps and gain retained revenue through the portrayal of rock stars and other figures of pop culture.

As if by magic a few days later, the first U.S. poll (CBS) was released listing America's first choice of a stamp subject. Would you believe-Lady Gaga? I'm not kidding! Was it H.L. Mencken or P.T. Barnum who stated that "One can never go wrong by underestimating the intelligence of the average American." No wonder we're in trouble.

Joy Bouchard submitted a recent AP newspaper article (11 September 2011) by R.E. Schmid entitled "Imagining life without the U.S. Postal Service."

Schmid makes some good points noting that the USPS services locations where no other delivery service is present. Some of these include the Haulapai Indian Reservation in the Grand Canyon, the islands off the Maine coast,

and rural villages in Alaska to name a few-and all this for 44¢!

Further, there are many Americans who receive their medication via mail and patronize USPS to receive and pay bills. While the trend by some to conduct business over the Internet is growing, there are still many who prefer snail mail. The time may come when they no longer have that choice.

What can be done for the PO? One answer lies no further away than the tip of a pen. Carol Christmas, a postal carrier and friend of the editor shared a letter that she just wrote to the PMG, Patrick Donahoe with her ideas to boost the quantity of first class mail.

Since the marketing plan to promote priority packages has been so successful, why not have a marketing plan to promote letter writing and first class mail? This is three times more profitable than junk mail!

The Hallmark/Sunrise Greetings program in the Post Office lobbies has had a good start, so why not enhance this? Further, snail mail dovetails perfectly with the Mail Art Movement. Make art and mail it! Get involved with Write-a-Letter-Week during the second week of January each year.

Then there is the Letter Writers' Exchange who pledge to write

letters whenever and wherever possible. Their motto is from Wm. James: "As long as there is a postman, life will have zest!" She cites a Boston Globe article of a young woman who wanted letters for her birthday and received eighty. It went on to say that young people prefer the heartfelt handwritten letter.

Christmas notes several more creative ways to promote letter writing, but her vision must be followed by action. We are all encouraged to pen those letters to those special people. Greeting cards are another option, and postcards "should become a requirement for summer."

Carol Christmas's web site is www.writealetter.org. It contains a wealth of information about letter writing from formal occasions to thank-you-notes. This is what our generation was taught as we were growing up and is probably the same material we taught our kids though perhaps not as successfully.



Speaking of postcards, there is a wonderful site for participating in a new international post card exchange. Check out www.postcrossings.com. Ed□



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