

# 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, 11 April 2012

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Eleanor Wheeler

**Stamp Trading** to Begin Following the Evening's Program

## Message from the President

The National Postal Museum has announced its first International Symposium on Analytical Methods in Philately to be held in Washington on November 12-14. It will be co-sponsored by the Institute for Analytical Philately. There will be two days of technical presentations and a half-day workshop providing experience with the museum's highly technical forensic equipment. It's interesting that the announcement of the symposium coincided with the article on "Philately and DNA" in this month's *American Philatelist*. Perhaps 2012 is the year we

really enter the world of super-high tech. I can remember when detecting watermarks and measuring perforations were considered very scientific!!!

Unusual formats for stamps are becoming more and more common, e.g., the minute chips from its famous rock on Gibraltar stamps, chocolate scents on stamps from Switzerland and Liberia, flower scents from numerous countries, and many others. One of the latest is the Year of the Forest stamp from Austria which is imbedded on a pack of flower seeds.

I did a little looking ahead

to the next five years and came up with quite a few topics and events that may merit consideration for being commemorated on stamps. They include World War I, the opening of the Panama Canal, the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark, Puerto Rico's becoming a territory, the first transcontinental phone call from New York to San Francisco, the births of three presidents—John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon, and Gerald Ford, plus the election of Jeanette Rankin as the first woman elected to Congress. A Republican (See President on Pg. 2)

## April Program • The Dollar Rate: 1792-1845

William R. Schultz - The Philadelphia Collectors Club

This evening we'll have a presentation/discussion of a fifty year period of high denominated early stampless covers with multiples of the 25¢ rate to the \$1.00 rate. The high cost of mailing a letter in those days will be evident. Presenter Bill Schultz will have many of his covers on hand for you to see and hold, and if this is not good enough, there will

be a quiz for a cash prize! Along with the talk and display, Bill will have instructional handouts.

Bill started collecting at six and never looked back. He may be the only collector who has exhibited for over 50 years and is still at it!

Following college and graduate school, Bill had a 25+ year career with the Sun

Oil Company in management positions largely related to finance and performance analysis. Now retired, he maintains some consulting positions, but mostly he digs into his stamps and covers for 12 to 14 hours a day. He wouldn't have it any other way.

Bill is a consummate philatelic author in stamp journals See Pg 2 "The Dollar Rate"

Volume 75, No. 4

April, 2012

### Inside this issue...

- Early U.S. Dollar Rate
- Bio: Carmen Spadaro
- Minutes & Treasury
- Stamp Shows
- Club Notes
- Across the Atlantic
- Hollywood & Dealers

### 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:

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## April Bio:

### Carmen Spadaro

As a youngster, Carmen and several of his neighborhood friends collected stamps, and after a few years or so they lost interest, all but Carman. In leaving the hobby, each gave their collection to him. He remained dedicated to his collecting until the service. Here he noted that two of these years were in post-war Germany, and he missed many collecting opportunities.

Following the service he made up for lost time, and mentioned his philatelic interests to the owner of a coin shop who subsequently invited him to be a partner in the business, as he wished to expand into stamps. Carmine had this business for seven to eight years when he transitioned into industry with much better benefits than he could provide for himself and his family. As his work allowed with travel and all, he collected on and off until retirement in 1993 when he resumed in earnest. He picked up a loaded stamp album at a yard sale, and when he finally got to look at it a few months later, he found two early U.S stamps which cataloged at \$200 & \$500!

Carmen's interests include Germany, perfins, and pre-cancels. He has benefited from RD Noble and Woody Hann of PSLC who specialize in pre-cancels. One of his prized items is a naval cover from the *USS Thresher* before its fatal explosion in 1963.

Carmen and his wife Barbara live in Reading and have one daughter. Their neighbor across the street has quadruplets, and as they are growing, he enjoys bringing them some philatelic stamps and supplies.

## March Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** The meeting opened at 7:05.

**Visitors:** 1.) Eileen Hall (collects U.S.) and 2.) Douglas Milliken who is returning to the hobby after many years and collects U.S. and U.N.

**Lancopex:** Jim Boyles announced a meeting of the show team after tonight's meeting. A sign-up was circulated for event sponsors for \$5.00 each.

**Drawing:** Dick Osman won a sheet of U.S. stamps.

**Donation:** Paul introduced Mrs. Joni Mueller. Her father, Alton Kraft was a life long collector, APS member, writer, and more

in the philatelic world. He sold his collection a few years before he died, and she is donating the supplies, pamphlets, journals, etc. to APS and PSLC.

**2012 Bus Trip:** Regarding the June 1-3 June Napex show in VA, Roy Baardsen said that there was not sufficient interest with the Reading club and that he is also unavailable. There were a few PSLC members interested, so perhaps a carpool can be arranged.

**Stamp Shows:** Lesley Botte announced upcoming stamp shows over the next few weeks. Paul Petersen took a show of hands for those interested in the

30 March - 1 April show in Philadelphia (Oaks, PA), and a carpool will be set up.

**July Snack Host:** Anyone?

**March Program:** Jim Boyles organized Peel 'n Stick to prepare the mailings for Lancopex. This was followed by Dick Osman's presentation "Preparing One-Page Philatelic Exhibits."

### Treasury Report

In his report, Lou DiFelice thanked Lucy Eyster for her diligence in collecting dues.

- Opening:** \$2,694.42 (1 Feb)
- Income:** \$1,205.12
- Expenses:** \$449.84
- Closing:** \$3,449.70 (29 Feb)

### President (Cont. from Pg.1)

from Montana, she was the only representative to vote against our entry into the two world wars. Of course, there are hundreds of others to be considered.

See you on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Bob

**STAMP SHOW ALERT**

**Lancopex** is in two weeks  
Fri-Sat 27-28 April

☺

**National Topical Stamp Show** (At the Host)  
Thur-Sun 22-24 June

With an all-day Bus trip to APS on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup>

### The Dollar Rate/Wm. Schultz (from Pg. 1)

and books. He is currently writing a history of the post offices in Chester County and another on the 1802-1945 postmarks of Westchester, PA. One of his more unique contributions is the *Rattlesnake Island Local Post Catalog* of which he is the founding editor. The publication is in its sixth edition.

Another way Bill gives back to the philatelic hobby is as a nationally accredited APS judge of stamp exhibits. In preparation for this work, he spends many hours in research at the APRL in Bellefont. His personal exhibit awards are many. He is active on the APS Accreditation Committee which selects new philatelic judges.

Bill has been in or is currently in leadership and membership in a variety of national, regional, and local philatelic organizations and shows including the 2016 Int'l Stamp Show to be held in New York City.



**\$1.00 was paid to mail this stampless cover (dtd 20 April 1842) 320 miles from Quincy, IL to Mead Co. KY. As part of the presenter's exhibit, it was noted as overpaid.**



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

### 2012 Programs and Hosts

**11 April:** The Dollar Rate-1792-1845. Bill Schultz. **Host:** Eleanor Wheeler

**9 May:** Club Auction. **Host:** Diane Meek

**13 June:** Postal Card Series of the 1970s-Patriots. John Brownell. **Host:** Ron Hess

**11 July:** U.S. Telegraph Stamps. Don Smith. **Host:** TBA

**8 August:** Picnic. No Host

**12 September:** Club Auction. **Host:** Lou DiFelice

**10 October:** Congressional Exhibit of Signed Covers. Joseph Pitts (R-PA-19<sup>th</sup>). **Host:** Lucy Eyster

**14 November:** The USPS: The Present and Future. William P. Snyder. **Host:** Lou Leidig

**12 December:** Dinner. No Host

### 2013 Programs

**9 January:** Club Auction

**13 Feb:** APS DVD Show-TBA

**13 March:** The Sharples Co.: Philatelic & Deltiologic Edification. Bill Schultz

**2012 Snack Host Needed:** A host is needed for July.

**Article:** Paul Petersen published a chapter in the monograph, *Geography & Postal History-2012* published by The Postal History Society (Pgs. 10-17) The title: *Registered Mail to Stow, Maine-1890 to 1908.*

**Shows:** *Lancopex F/S 27 & 28*

April at the Farm & Home Center. Am. Topical Assn's *National Topical Stamp Show*, F-N, 22-24 June at the Host.



**Ravenous?** Dinner with April Speaker Bill Scultz will be at 4:45 PM at the Park City Diner, 884 Plaza Blvd, Lancaster, just north of Olive Garden. Contact Paul Petersen: 299-5640.

## Hollywood Actors & Stamp Dealers

What do these two groups have in common? British postal orders were often overprinted to be used in other commonwealth countries. Because they were redeemed for cash, they are hard to find. The 5/- postal order shown here from 1968 has been overprinted for use in New Zealand at 54¢.

According to John Gledhill in his article in *Stamp Magazine* (December 2011, Pg. 73), the best sources of these postal items are movie actors and stamp dealers. Stamp dealers did not always cash them, knowing that they would be worth more as a philatelic related item to sell to a collector.



Other extant postal orders were presumably sent to Hollywood actors and actresses for autographed photos. There was no convenient way to cash these. So they, too, remained intact and found their ways to dealers' boxes and collectors.

→ Nevertheless, it is easy get into the hunt, especially to help another collector find a desired item.

The president of Dick's club has a nice thematic exhibit of playing cards. Thus, Dick has been searching U.S. sources. In a more creative find, he located some fancy cancels with a **heart** (♥) on the cancel as well as a three leaf clover cancel that looks more like a **club** (♣) symbol. Unfortunately, he added that he missed out on a **diamond** (♦) cancel from Diamond, WY. He's seeking a shovel that looks like a **spade** (♠).

## Collecting Across the Atlantic



Over in RF Dick Colberg continues his hobby without pause, and this trip he is busy assisting his friends with their topical collections. This doesn't mean that Dick is not spending time with the dealers himself or fine tuning his exhibit. This he is doing, as always, and ardently, but he is enjoying the hunt for fellow club members.

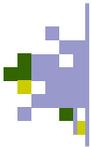
One French collector's interest is bells, philatelic and other. Dick got some items prior to his voyage, such as letterhead stationary from the Philadelphia Mayor's office and the Airport Parking Authority. At the 1/12 York show, Dick found a variety of covers containing the liberty bell.

A project in which they are now engaged is to assemble a nine stamp mini-sheet of the 1926 Liberty Bell for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Nation (Scott# 627. See illustration). For this project he wants the stamps with straight edges all around. Most dealers do not put straight edges in their stock,

so while they are inexpensive, they can be hard to find. With the help of a dealer at the APS Show in Atlanta, they were able to form the sheet except for the upper right corner with straight edges on the top and the right edges of the stamp



And with a sagging memory, the editor recalled seeing some edges in his grandfather's stock, and fortunately this stamp with the two straight edges was "in stock." He scanned it to Dick, was thanked, and then informed that they needed a mint stamp! →



# Musings: April-2012

## *Selling your stuff, Part. 1*

A York Stamp Club fundraiser each year is a sales table at their January show. Members donate items and the club purchases others. There is a wealth of covers, face value postage by lot, sheet, block, or single item. For the last several years there have been U.S. albums to plunder page by page and stamp by stamp, also at face value, typically including a green *Scott's National* or two. Eerily, these look just like my current U.S. collection with mint postage placed in custom cut mounts. This quickly took me to the vision that Ebenezer Scrooge had with the Ghost of Christmas-Future. Here he saw the street dwellers rummaging through his personal effects which had been put on sale to pay his debts after he had died. I would hate to see my collection go for pennies on the dollars that I had carefully invested!

Over the years there have been some very good stamp albums that did not sell at our PSLC auctions, even at very deep discounted prices (Where was Pete?). There were also some albums of gilt-coated FDCs that did go for pennies on the dollar as originally purchased from some well-marketed "collectors guild."

How does the thought of selling your treasured collection at a deep discount work for you?

I have written several columns on valuation, estate preparation, and buying and/or selling one's philatelic items. I have gone into catalog value vs. what one may pay to purchase and what one may receive

when selling. However, it is all relative. The philatelic press is replete with this information, and it can be most confusing at times.

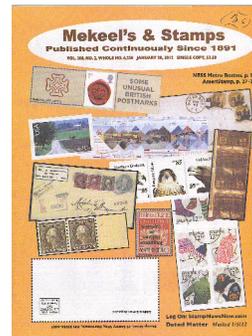
The bottom line is that we wish to get the best price for our material when we sell. There are many avenues to do this. We can sell to dealers and other club members or consign our items to auction whether at the club or commercial level. APS has several ways for their members to sell through their Sales Division. More recently, collectors have been buying and selling online whether through a retail or an auction mode. While there has been a modest decline in face to face sales through clubs and dealers in recent years, many see the rise of such activity on the net where there is a very active market. The reports of this are consistent. In fact, given the mild decline of club activity and auctions, the yea-sayers are touting the growth of the hobby based on the rapid rise of internet stamp activity.

No matter the vehicle for selling our items, it is important how we prepare and value our material that will both sell and result in a fair return. Or looking at this sideways, what can we do now to get a better price later on?

Regarding catalog values, in a Soapbox Column, Chris Meakin reports a significant change with Stanley Gibbons in the U.K. This

stamp company is well-known for its worldwide stamp catalogs and retail store. The catalog prices have always been their selling price. And now SG is selling on eBay at prices below catalog value? Meakin wonders what this now means to collectors in their buying and selling using Gibbons' prices. Are catalog values meaningless (*Stamp Magazine*, December 2011, Pg. 31), Meakin asks.

One of the more helpful articles for collectors on buying and selling is that by John Leszak, editor of *Mekeel's & Stamps*, a twice-a-month philatelic pub of long standing.



Leszak is continually asked what dealers consider when they purchase an album or collection. He explained his thinking in his Editor's Album column in the 20 January 2012 entitled **The Secret Formula For Buying Stamps**.

The main ingredient of this

formula is **time**, dealer's time, and the bottom line is that the faster dealers can turn around a purchase for resale, the better their offer to the seller.

A few years ago I had toyed with the idea of becoming a stamp dealer, at least a small-time, part-time stamp dealer. So that summer I attended a few sessions at APS detailing what it takes to be a good stamp dealer.

Here I am thinking about becoming a stamp dealer with little knowledge of stamps and covers and no stock. Much of this can be overcome with a continuing learning curve and some investment capital. I have a good business sense and was self-employed for many years. It was doable. But ...

As the presentation went on, I realized that my inherent distractibility problem would get in the way of sufficient stamp dealing. As a result, I changed my mind about my intended profession. Given an interesting lot, I could not resist going through everything - "I have all this neat stuff to look through!" I knew I would starve to death.

Next month, we'll look at some of the buying experiences of John Leszak. This is additional information that will help you see your collection realistically and prepare it for sale or other disposition. Ed □



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