Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

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

Volume 76, No. 4

April, 2013

Club Meeting: 7:00, Wednesday, 10 April 2013

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Al Schaub

Doors and Bourse Open at 6:30

From the Desk of the President

Well you've probably wondering, what has he gotten himself into this month. Cleaning. Cleaning out those stacks of stamps that I "needed" and then let them sit when they arrived home. Unfortunately collecting can easily become accumulating, and I am guilty as charged!

Do you always want to go that extra step, and then when you start to take that step with your collection you get drawn somewhere else? As a for instance, besides precancels, I collect U.S. revenues. What could be better than precancels on revenues? Playing cards (Scott RF) provide both Bureau and individual company precancels of the stamp, and there is a catalog for these.

Additionally, many early revenues also come with printed precancels; probably the best known and most collected are the "battleship" proprietaries (Scott RB), and yes, there is a catalog for these as well. Even the black proprietaries have a specialized catalog of usages. I might as well add that there are such a things as precancelled perfins, and yes, there is a catalog for these.

The difficulty remains that you can get involved in too many things and not get much done with what you really want. I started collecting Japan; WAY TOOOOOOOO MUCH!!!!! We all need to learn from our misteaks (*sic*). I am still learning. (Anybody want a collection of Japan?)

See you all on the 10th. ***Bob***

The American Patriots Postal Card Series of '71-'85

John Brownell

A while back, PSLC member John Brownell was in a discussion with some other collectors. They were trying to best describe "What is a patriot?" The characteristic that got John's attention the most was that a patriot did what he/she did to serve the country without getting paid. The 1971-1985 precancelled series of American patriots appeals to him given those depicted on the PCs. Some are household names such as Paul Revere, Molly Pitcher, and John Hancock, while others are less so, such as Charles Thompson or John Witherspoon. On the other hand Caesar Rodney may be familiar to those conversant with Delaware state history.

John is both a stamp and coin collector, and he even joined the local mineral and gem society to become more well-rounded. He loves collectables of all kinds, and he has a stand at The Green Dragon (market) in Ephrata. John has participated in Lancopex in the past. He often brings items for sale to the monthly PSLC meetings held in BlueBird at Woodcrest Villa.

Thaddeus Stevens On a U.S. Stamp?

There will be a short presentation before John speaks. **(See page 3 for details.)**

Lancopex is Coming: 26-27 April

Help is needed at the cachet table and in setting up and breaking down. Please consider donating your pre-owned *Linn's, American Philatelist*, and other stamp magazines. Bring them to the meeting or to the show for our "Give-Away" table in the lobby for the show-goers to sample.

Highlights

- Patriots' PCs
- Precancelled Perfins
- Thaddeus Stevens
- Stamp Magazines
- Help for Lancopex
- PSLC - Demuth Mus.
- Book: Letter Writing
- Club Notes
- Minutes and Treasury
- Chuck Shirley
- Musings: Bluing, NPM, and Statehood

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

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The 2013 Demuth Stamp

The City of Lancaster just received some new philatelic blood. Life-long Lancaster artist, Charles Demuth was honored on an art stamp released on 7 March 2013 at the Armory Show in New York City.

The stamp is part of the ***Modern Art in America: 1913-1931*** sheet. His painting is entitled, "I see the figure 5 in gold." It is based on a poem about a fire truck in motion by Demuth's friend Wm. Carlos Williams. On 8 March the Charles Demuth Museum and PSLC held an unofficial Second Day of Issue Unveiling at the museum. The crowd of about 55 included ten from the PSLC.

Speakers included Museum Director, Anne Lampe, PSLC's Paul Petersen, and Lancaster Postmaster Cheryl Turner. Two television networks were present. Anne and Paul are pictured above. There was wine & cheese, mulled cider, and pastries.

Paul described seeing this painting at the Met in NYC on a high school fieldtrip and how it influenced his art and photography. He mentioned several of the other Lancaster-related stamps including two of James Buchanan, Wheatland, toleware, the Conestoga Wagon, Amish quilts, and the $1.05 Amish buggy airmail. He had stamp displays and fliers for club events, and invited onlookers to attend a meeting.

March Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: V.P. Len Kasper opened the meeting at 7:15 following the labeling and franking of the advert cards for Lancopex. These will be taken to the PO for mailing 2-3 weeks prior to the show.

Program: Paul introduced speaker Bill Schultz who spoke about the postal history and advertising postcards of the Sharples Cream Separator Co. Paul added that there was a party of eight for dinner with Bill and Pat at Olive Garden.

Minutes/Treasury: Membership unanimously approved the February Minutes and Treasury by voice vote.

Drawing: Bill Greiner, Jr. and Dave Hunt won the drawing of stamp packets prepared by member/dealer Al Schaub.

Membership. Lucy Eyster introduced visitors tonight. Florence Mellinger collects several countries related to her work as a travel agent. This took her to over 24 countries. Accompanying her was her friend Vanessa Leschka.

Lancopex: Stamp Displays- Lou DiFelice announced that there are about six (6) frames reserved to date. Other club members should contact him if interested in including any of their collection for display. There is no charge for this.

Lancopex: Dealers– Dick Schaefer reported that 14 dealers have committed to date. He's expecting a total of 20.

Lancopex: Cachet- Diane Meek reported that the show cancel is complete and in good hands with the post office. Further, there will be a USPS clerk there to cancel our cachets and sell stamps. She has made some good contacts with the PO for future years. Joy Bouchard added that she has been working with an APS volunteer who contributed to the graphic design of the show cachet. This is ready to be printed by APS.

Lancopex: Door Prizes- Mike Matus will need contact information (email, phone, and etc.) of the dealers to procure the donations. Dick Schaefer will provide this.

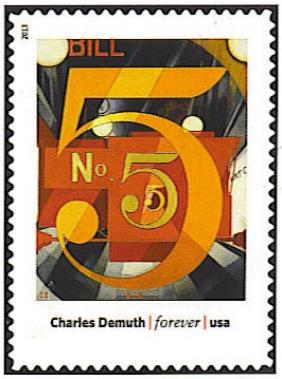
Lancopex: Patrons, Volunteers– Paul passed around the sign-up lists for Patrons ($5) and show volunteers. There are many slots to be filled.

Lancopex: Lunches- Truyde Greiner will cover the lunch costs for the stamp dealers and club members who volunteer their time at the show.

Lancopex: Posters– Joy made 40 8"x11.5" color posters for the show/anniversary for members to distribute.

75th Anniversary: Joy and Dennis Bouchard unveiled an attractive 6 foot banner commemorating the anniversary. Among its designs are the PSLC and APS logos. This will be used throughout the year. John Ahlfeld suggested taking this banner to public spaces such as the POs or libraries for display. Joy concluded that there will be forthcoming information regarding the Celebration of our 75th.

Charles Demuth Stamp: Lou discussed the 8 March stamp event at the Charles Demuth Museum. Diane Meek, Hildrude Lu, and Paul Petersen were seen on television. (See related article this page.) PSLC made a $50 donation to the museum to help fund the wine & cheese. This event with its related press and media coverage was good publicity for the PSLC. (See below)



Show: The 17 March Harrisburg show was announced.

Silent Auction: Paul led this discussion and received a good show of hands for continuation of these auctions. Seeking leadership for this, Lou DiFelice and Fred Sargent volunteered. They will coordinate with the newsletter Ed. and program chairman to work the auctions into meetings.

Club Trip: Lou opened this discussion. Roy Baardsen and Vern Marten will follow up with Joe Pitts' office for the PSLC tour of the NPM in DC this fall.

FDC Circuit: Paul announced that FDCs remain available for 10¢ each. See him for the box.

Stamp Packets: Fred Mackey has a sign-up for members to identify country preferences for stamp packets that he is compiling. He also has charity seals and access to 15 volumes of Liberia.

Treasurer: Lou DiFelice

Treasury Report

Opening: $4,883.74 (1 Feb)

Income: $210.00

Expenses: $288.37

Closing: $4,805.37 (1Feb)

3-CDs valued at $6,733

Miscellaneous Club Notes:
Programs/Hosts, Shows & Members

2013 Programs and Hosts

10 April: Patriot Postal Card Series of the 1970-80s. John Brownell. Al Schaub, Host

8 May: Club Auction. Diane Meek, Host

12 June: Open House Display, Lucy Eyster & Len Kasper. Clair Smith, Host

10 July: Gunboat Philately, Al Schaub**.** James Ziogas, Host

14 August: Club Picnic

11 September: Club Auction. John Brownell, Host

9 October: Topical Study: Stained Glass on Stamps. Dave Hunt. Dennis Shumaker, Host.

13 November: One Page-Exhibits. All PSLC members are invited to participate with one or more exhibit pages. Bill Snyder, Host

11 December: 75th Anniversary Celebration-6 PM

2014 Programs

8 January: Club Auction. Len Kasper, Host

12 February: APS Video: Canal Zone Gems

12 March: The Westtown Locals. Bill Schultz

9 April: Lancopex prep.

14 May: Club Auction

13 August: Club Picnic

10 September: Club Auction

08 October: Great Britain Inland Airmail:1935-1937. Mike Bach

2013 Local Shows

Lancopex: Farm & Home Center, 26-27 April 2013

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: Farm & Home Center. 30 June, 18 Aug, 27 Oct, 1 Dec. Kevin Kellman, Manager; 301-371-4558.

Ave et Vale

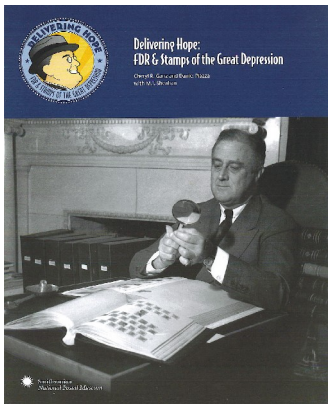
Chuck Shirley, father of club member Mike S. and husband of Marilyn S. passed away on 12 March 2013. For many years he and Marilyn hosted the youth stamp club at their home. For just as long they welcomed the annual club picnic where Chuck, Mike, Marilyn, and family grilled chicken, roasted corn, and provided fellowship for over 40 club members and spouses.

Page-3 Musings: Bluing, NPM, & Statehood

Just recently some odds and ends came together for me. As a kid I heard the old gals whisper about who was getting a blue rinse, and from the way they clucked, I wasn't sure if this bluing was a good thing. In fact, I heard no more of it until I was in the service where bluing was used to prepare and protect the metal components of our M-14 rifles. I conveniently re-forgot all about bluing.

And some of you with inquiring minds already figured out that I would be able to bring Franklin D. Roosevelt this discussion on bluing.

At the last PSLC and Reading club's excursion to the National Postal Museum in DC, there was an FDR exhibit being held. Needless to say, it was a thorough display of his personal collecting paraphernalia and Farley's Follies. A highlight were some of FDR's seven preliminary sketches for U.S. Postage stamps. For his entire administration he personally approved each stamp, often making corrections or changes to the essay before him. FDR and James A. Farley comprised the



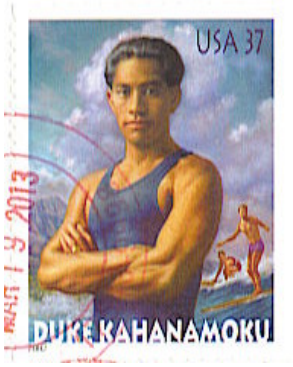
U. S. Stamp Advisory Committee for many years.

This material was on display at the National Postal Museum in D.C., and some of it was included and illustrated in the booklet that accompanied the exhibit entitled ***Delivering hope: FDR and the stamps of the great depression*** as published by the Smithsonian (Washington, D.C., 2009).

FDR loved geography and maps and included these in some of his designs. In particular **The 50th Anniversary of Statehood Issue** for ND, SD, WA, and MT (Scott 858) was released in 11/39. Here FDR sketched a map of the states along the Canadian border with descriptors. (See FDR's sketch on pg. 4.) (Cont on Pg. 4)

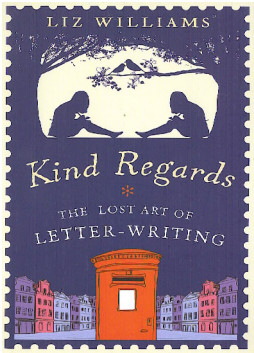
A Thaddeus Stevens Stamp for 2014?

Don Gallagher of Lititz is mostly retired, but when it comes to stamp subjects, he is in the thick of it. If stamp selection were rugby (which it sometimes seems to be from the rumors of the CSAC doings), he would be in the middle of the scrum. His business card lists him as a volunteer, though his pedigree sees him as an activist, or better, a community organizer for U.S. stamp subjects.



Duke Kahanamoku was a childhood hero to Don when surfing in Hawaii years ago. As such, he spent much time working, writing, lobbying, and more for a stamp honoring this man. And you can give Don's efforts a ditto for the Jas. A. Michener stamp.

Don learned that in 2011 the CSAC considered and then rejected Thaddeus Stevens for a stamp, and that three years must pass before they reconsider a subject or theme again. He is ready! How can PSLC help?

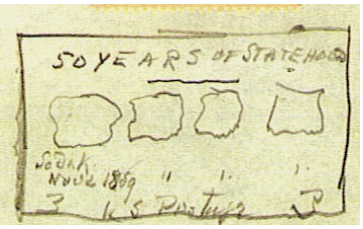


See Pg. 4 for a review of this book.

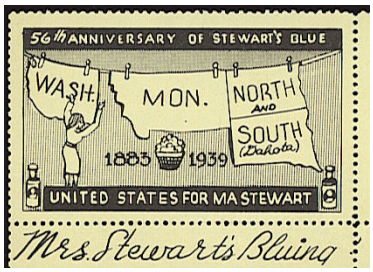
Musings: April-2013

Bluing, NPM, and Statehood

(From Pg. 3) The final stamp release is quite similar to FDR's preliminary design/sketch.



Nothing much has changed in U.S. consumers' reactions to issued stamps. Critics and stamp lovers alike did and will continue to write to the philatelic and non-philatelic press and blogs with their opinions to praise the issue or vent their



spleen. Others make fun of the stamp design or subject through a spoof spin-off, while some may use the image for one self-promotion or another.

One of the early criticisms was that the image looked like wash hanging on a clothesline, the line being the U.S.-Canadian border.

Enter Mrs. Stewart's Bluing Cinderella which cites the company's 56th anniversary of the product. Research is needed to determine if the Cinderella is from the Bluing Co. or from a philatelist with a sense of humor. The Cinderella image is quite congruent with the final stamp release. The compass in FDR's stamp was replaced by an overfilled laundry basket. And of course, the washerwoman was not included in the original stamp design!

So what does this have to do with bluing? I knew nothing about bluing until seeing a recent ad for this 130 year old product in the Vermont Country Store Catalog. This company somehow finds a variety of retro-products to offer its customers. Included are Walnettos, Necco Wafers, Evening in Paris Perfume (it costs a little more than the $5 price of

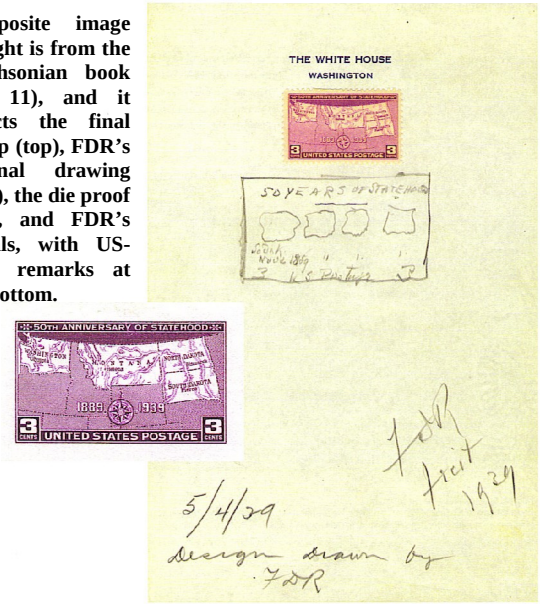
the 1950-60s), and a variety of other edibles, notions, fabrics, and dry goods that we'd all recognize from the mid-20th century.

So getting back to bluing, what is it? According to the ad appearing below, a few drops will make yellowed and grayed fabrics sparkling white again (But shouldn't these items turn blue if they are rinsed?) And bluing can be used as a rinse for white hair, white pets, and even crystal. The ad did not say anything about my M-14 rifle! Ed

Book Review

The book pictured on Pg. 3 is by Liz Williams and is entitled ***Kind regards: The lost art of letter writing*** **(2012), London: Michael O'Mara.** It covers the letter writing process from ancient times with good treatment of the introduction of the postage stamp in 1840. There are chapters on the basics of writing & etiquette, types of letters, postcards, "Dear John" letters, love letters, letters in literature, farewell letters, the PS, and more.

Composite image at right is from the Smithsonian book (Pg. 11), and it depicts the final stamp (top), FDR's original drawing (mid), the die proof (left), and FDR's initials, with US-POD remarks at the bottom.



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