

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Club Picnic: Wednesday, 14 August 2013
6:00 PM

Millersville Freedom Memorial Park

(See Page-2 For Picnic Information)

From the Desk of the President

And what a summer it has been! I loved that weather during the last full week of July and wish we could have this all year long. We really could use a day like that for the picnic coming up.

And speaking of the picnic, don't forget to bring the food items you signed up for, and remember the early starting time at 6:00 p.m. From what I am hearing, the burgers should be the same as last year, and there will be plenty of them to go around.

Joy Bouchard and the 75th

Anniversary Committee are putting together a game of 75th Anniversary Bingo with prizes. This will follow the picnic feast. So tarry a while after dinner is over to enter the competition.

There has been some summer philatelic activity with Dick Colberg participating at APS/APRL volunteer week in late July, while Paul Petersen attended the APS Summer Session in June. If you get the chance, talk to Dick and Paul about their experiences, and perhaps

you might enjoy something like this next year.

Yes, as fast as it got here, summer is on the wane. This means a spate of fall stamp events starting with **Balpex** on August 30th thru September 1st in Baltimore. We have the club trip to the **Nat'l Postal Museum** in September (26th), and then a **Some Sunday Show** in October (27th). Then it is on to the **Reading Show** in November (2nd). So there is lots going on for collectors.

See you at the picnic. **Bob**

The Wrightsville Bridge-1863



The continental United States has been physically isolated from many recent wars, but the Civil War and the War on Terror are two exceptions. And for Lancaster (PA), the Civil War came closest to home on 28 June 1863. On this date Confederate troops approached the Susquehanna River intending to cross the covered wooden bridge connecting Wrightsville and Columbia. The structure was over a mile in length and believed to be the longest in the world. In a drastic measure to halt this

invasion across the river which would allow the Confederates to reach critical northern points such as Harrisburg and Philadelphia, the bridge was set afire. All that remained and still remain are the stone pilings.

The plan was not total destruction. They tried to blast a gap in the middle of the bridge to prevent the invasion and then repair it at a later date. Unfortunately the blast did not damage the bridge, and with a hostile enemy racing to cross it, they doused the middle of the bridge with a flammable accelerant in order to burn a small midsection. More unfortunately, there was a strong wind which spread the fire and destroyed the entire bridge in six hours. The Confederacy, unable to pass over the river to Lancaster County then turned west and headed to Gettysburg. One often wonders, what if...? (See Page 2: **Wrightsville Bridge** →)

Volume 76, No. 8

August, 2013

Highlights

- Civil War at Home
- August Picnic
- June/July Minutes
- Misc. Club Notes
- A Noted Space Cover
- APS/ATA for Free
- The Treasury
- September Challenge
- Estonian Overprints
- Postal Similitudes

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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Free APS & ATA Memberships

If you have never been a member or your membership has lapsed for five years or more, you may participate in a drawing for a free membership in either the APS or the ATA.

It's free, but there's a catch (there always is). For the free membership, you must agree to retain your new membership at your own expense for a minimum of two more years. That's it. It will be the honor system. They won't check up on you.

There will be a drawing for these free memberships at the September meeting. PSLC is an active chapter of each of these fine national philatelic organizations, and we wish to extend these collecting benefits to you by way of this drawing.

Wrightsville Bridge (From Pg.1)

PSLC Secretary Joy B. attended an historical event in Wrightsville to commemorate the fire where churches and others sponsored living histories and historical readings. A souvenir cover was created with an Artcraft engraved image of soldiers from both sides of the conflict. This is a cachet that would be suitable for a variety of Civil War covers. It is franked with the 2013 Gettysburg stamp. There is an irony here because if the bridge was not burned and the Rebs did enter the north via this breach, there may never have been a Battle of Gettysburg.

Directions to the Picnic:

Driving west into Millersville from Lancaster on 999, the Park is on the north side of 999 (Manor Ave.) just west of the intersection of George Street with 999. (See map) Also, across the street (south) from the park is the Barn Door Restaurant, and to the east is Herr's Market. We'll be meeting in Pavilion-A, down the hill near the end of the park parking lot. Park right behind the pavilion.

July Minutes and Treasury Report

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: RD Noble convened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Membership: Lucy introduced new member Hal Kline who collects machine cancels, Prexies, Lebanon postal history, and others. Visitor Clair Hostetter returned again for another visit. Skip Walters has expressed an interest in renewing his PSLC membership. There were 35 in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Minutes: The minutes from the brief business meeting at the 12 June Open House were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Treasury: Lou DiFelice submitted the May and June reports (See data at left). This report was approved unanimously. He brought up the topic of selling some of our exhibit frames that we may no longer be using, but he wants this to follow a more formal PSLC discussion in the future.

Drawing: An ATA pamphlet on topical collecting was won by Paul Petersen. A postcard of a U.S. gunboat was won by Bob Paire. Both prizes were donated by Al Schaub.

Club Trip: Roy Baardsen provided an update regarding the 26 September bus trip to

the National Postal Museum. There are forty-four signed up allowing space for six more participants. As of this time, the pick-up/drop-off point for Lancaster will be the Garden Café at Woodcrest Villa. The tentative time is 7:30 a.m. Mike Bach added that anyone still interested in signing up should contact him ASAP (610-670-0620), as he has to give a final attendance number to Rep Joe Pitts' office. This is required for our visit to the vault. For those who still need to pay, please send a check (\$50) made out to the Reading Stamp Collector's Club. Remit to Roy Baardsen, 379 Sioux Court, Sinking Springs, PA 19608; (610) 927-3435.

One-Page Exhibits: Paul conducted a straw poll, and about ten (10) members indicated a willingness to compile one or more One-Page Exhibits for the 13 November meeting. He has document holders for those who participate.

Picnic: Paul passed out sign-up sheets for attending the event and for designating food items. He will make follow-up phone calls to those who were not in attendance but who may be interested in the picnic. Details and directions will be

in the August PSLC Newsletter. Joy Bouchard announced that she Dennis, and committee are preparing a special 75th PSLC Anniversary Bingo game for the event.

Future Stamp Shows: Lesley Botte announced two upcoming stamp shows. See Club Notes on pg. 3 for information.

Ave et Vale: Lucy read the obituary that reappeared in this week's newspaper for Dave Strayer who passed away in May. Dick Shaefer noted that we send in a donation to APS, adding that the club has always done this for both APS and non-APS members.

Program: Al Schaub gave a slide program on U.S. Gunboat Philately including a handout.

May Treasury Report

Opening: \$4,179.08 (1May)
Income: \$521
Expenses: \$571.50
Closing: \$4,128.58 (31 May)
3-CDs valued at \$6,812.54

June Treasury Report

Opening: \$4,128.58 (1 June)
Income: \$0.00
Expenses: \$ 9.89
Closing: \$4,118.69 (30 June)
3-CDs valued at \$6,861.72

Wednesday, 14 August 2013

6:00 PM Millersville Freedom Park

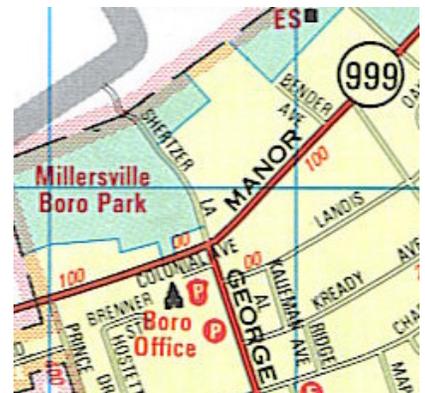
Please bring the appetizer, side dish, or dessert for which you signed up.

Burgers, hotdogs, and drinks will be provided

If you missed the sign-up and would like to attend, please contact Paul Petersen immediately.

717-299-6740

← Directions to picnic & Map →





Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts & Shows

2013 Programs and Hosts

14 August: Club Picnic, 6:00

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: 1.) The Patriot Postal Cards of the 1970-1980s. John Brownell. 2.) Lancopex advert card preparation

14 May: Club Auction

9 July: U.S. International Stamp Expo Stamps, Labels, and Covers, Paul Petersen

13 August: Picnic (6:00 p.m.)

10 September: Club Auction

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

10 December: Dinner

2013 Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: Farm & Home Center. 18 Aug, 27 Oct, and 1 Dec. Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager; 301-371-4558.

Fall Stamp Show: *Capital City Philatelic Society*. Sunday, 6 October (10-4). Susquehanna Twp HS. 3500 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg.

APS Stamp Show: 8-11 August, Delta Ctr., Milwaukee.

Reading Stamp Show: Saturday 2 November at the Leesport Auction Pavilion on Rt. 61 just north of Leesport.

Estonian Overprints

Early in the 1700s, Sweden ceded Estonia to the Russians, and it remained a vassal until after The Great War with a defeated Germany and a Russia embroiled in the Bolshevik revolution. Estonia declared its independence in 1920 following some major scuffles with both the Soviets and Germans. This lasted until 1940. While the world watched the Germans attack France, Stalin did not waste this crisis and invaded Estonia. The predicted wave of Communist terror and repression followed to subdue the country.



In June 1941 the Germans invaded the Soviet Union including the Baltic states reaching southern Estonia. As the Red Army and political forces retreated, they often ransacked and looted local post offices of their cash and stamp stocks. The Estonians enjoyed a few months of freedom during this interim between oppressors.

In the small town of Elwa (pop. 1,700), the local postmaster used a rubber stamp kit to overprint the soviet stamps with "Eesti Post." This was to bring in income when the stamps sold and to differentiate them from the worthless Soviet stamps. The public were also allowed to bring in the stamps they had on hand for overprinting. There were about 7200 stamps overprinted from 30 face different issues. The full German occupation of Estonia on 12 August 1941 ended this short-lived re-taste of independence.

This vignette is based on an article by Martin Blumenthal, The Elwa Overprints in *The German Postal Specialist*, Vol. 64, #8, Aug. '13, pgs. 332-336.

A Space Cover with a History

With the digital age, it has become much less expensive to produce and print auction and other philatelic catalogs. These publications have become important documents for both reference and research. Here you can find a great quantity of data and images to aid both historical and philatelic study.

In the May 2013 publication of *Cover Lover* (U.K.) is an ad for a "scandal-plagued" U.S. space cover, one from the 1971 moon landing of Apollo-15. The cover was franked with Scott C76 (upper right corner) and cancelled with a 26 July postmark just before take off. Upon safe landing back on earth, additional stamps (1434-5) were placed on the covers and struck with a 7 August postmark aboard the U.S.S. *Okinawa*, the recovery

ship. The covers were signed by all three crew members.

So why the scandal? Apparently, advanced permission was needed for any personal items taken aboard the spacecraft by the crew. By accident or design, these covers were



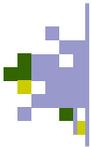
never authorized by NASA for this journey to the surface of the moon. Weight is a factor.

Each of the astronauts was paid \$7K for 100 covers by a stamp dealer, and the remaining 300 covers were for the astronauts for their own use. The 100 dealer covers sold quickly, but in early 1972 before the astronauts did any-

thing with theirs, NASA impounded the 298 covers (two were lost along the way). After impounding them, NASA placed a handwritten serial number on the back of each.

The legal issues are complicated, but the astronauts sued in 1983 to regain their covers, and an out of court settlement resulted in the return of their covers.

Pictured is #153 of 300 which is on sale for the sum of £12,500 (I bet the astronauts wished they could make \$19,144 per cover!). Along with the cover is a 1983 notarized letter of provenance with signatures of two astronauts. There are copies of several other legal documents pertaining to the legal possession of the covers. It is all quite fascinating and very expensive!



Musings: August-2013

Postal and Philatelic Ephemera

PSLC's September Opinion Challenge

Now is the time for all good members of PSLC to come to the aid of their editor. Your opinion is sought for the September newsletter.

"The hobby can only function through the constant buying and selling of material. If all the best items end up in museums, what is left to collect?"

This citation is from an opinion piece by Richard West in the July ('13) issue of *Stamp Magazine* (Pg.35). What do you think of the merits of bequeathing a collection to a museum vs. placing it in the open market? There are a lot of ways to go with this.



What would you recommend to someone (or their heirs) with an outstanding collection and exhibit?

Cite examples, illustrations, personal experiences, but be as philosophical, pragmatic, metaphorical, and/or ideological as needed. Contact the editor: (717) 299-5640 or send a personal email to him at pcpetersen@comcast.net with your opinion on this subject.

What is so engaging about the stamp hobby is the option to collect as one wishes. It is only in strict competition where some of the slack is lessened. Many collectors add ephemera to their collections, and in some circles, ephemera is allowed (at least to some degree) in competitive exhibiting. How is it developing?



Much of the challenge is the terminology of philatelic and postal ephemera. Let's look at some of the similarities and differences. And recall that I have warned that not everything fits into a neat category as do our plants and animals-as even this is not strictly true.



Postal ephemera in a strict sense is made up of the sideline documents and items in the production of stamps and the handling of the mail. Posters from the post office walls of the latest issues comes to mind. The packaging label that accompanies a

hundred panes of stamps is included. Then there are the body bags, the plastic that wraps our mail which has been shredded or soaked along the destination to our homes. It is accompanied by an explanation of the damage on a separate paper, or it is printed on the plastic wrap itself. Don't forget the insured mail receipt, old postal maps, and the *USPOD Bulletins*. And recall that annual note from your mailperson indirectly reminding you about your Christmas gift. One exotic item I have seen is owned by Diane DeBlois and Robert Harris. It is an early 19th century silk scarf which had a postal map of the 13 colonies with the routes and stops along the way. Many of the drop-off times were included.

The constellation of **philatelic ephemera** includes items more related to the hobby of collecting than to the post office. Like its postal cousin, the number is



legion. Common examples include auction catalogs, stamp albums, *Linn's Stamp News*, advertising glassines, and more.

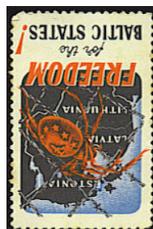
How many can you think of?



Consider the **similitude**, an object that is made to look similar to another object for a variety of purposes. These items are all around us. Play money is one example, and a duck decoy is another. There is the child's Easy-bake Oven™ as well. Many images of stamps, real and fabricated are found on other items such as the evergreen stamp on a Christmastime canvas bag (↑).



In philately, Cinderellas are a big part of the similitude picture. These are gummed and perforated paper images that look like postage stamps but pay no mail services. Many are related to the hobby such as the APS Cinderellas from bygone days which promoted their national shows when used on correspondence. Many of the older issues were engraved by banknote companies. Ed. ☐



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