

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

Meeting Begins at 7:00, Wednesday, 11 February 2015

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Ron Hess, Host

Doors Open at 6:30-Come Early to Buy, Sell, and/or Trade

From the Desk of the President

The accompanying photo recently came my way, and it shows me with one of the trappings of this high office of club president, the baseball bat (the gavel being another) containing the inscription "Big Jim's Peacemaker," a holdover of the late great Jim Boyles, AKA Mr. Stamp Club over many years. It was through Jim (and my stamp collecting parents, of course) that I got involved with the stamp club in the 1990s, not as a collector at first, but as a member of the Lancopex table & frame transportation team.

My father had the software to design the layout of the bourse floor for the stamp show, that plan to cram in 20+ dealers while trying to keep them all happy and saving room for exhibits, snacks, and cachets. Much of this floor plan remains in place today.

It was my job to move those

tables and set them up, and the same for the exhibit frames. In those days, Pete Billis had the perfect truck



for transporting the frames from Jim's garage on New Holland Avenue. When Pete became a full-time stamp and cover dealer, my truck was called into service. It was during these busy times, while working with other club members, that my bonding with PSLC began. From there, collecting came

naturally and easily. With my interest in history, specifically military history, and more specifically, naval and maritime history, the collecting of naval covers was a no-brainer.

But getting back to Big Jim's Peacemaker, I hope not to need it to persuade anyone to get involved. Working at the club show or participating in the bus trips are but two ways to know and enjoy other club members. And while we think it's stamps and covers that PSLC is all about, it is really about people.

It was also great to see so many of you at the York Stamp Show at the Fairgrounds last month. Many were talking about how the weather held out for Friday, but they were not so sure about Saturday. It has been another cold and snowy York show. See you at the meeting. *Bill III*

The Doctoring of Postage Stamps-Beware!

As soon as there were postage stamps, there were forgeries that were meant to defraud both postal authorities and philatelists. The doctoring of stamps, on the other hand is aimed solely at the collector, and usually it is done to hide flaws and repairs on premium stamps or to produce fake varieties. Unfortunately it can

be quite difficult to recognize such doctoring. There are, however, some procedures you can do to protect yourself from purchasing a doctored stamp.

Tonight's presentation is entitled "The Doctoring of Postage Stamps-Philatelists Beware," a DVD by GS Joseph

that is produced and distributed by the American Phila-

WEATHER ALERT

In case of cancellation of tonight's meeting, an email will be sent. Or you may call Paul Petersen (717-299-5640) for info if you're not on email

Volume 78, No. 2

February, 2015

Highlights

- Big Jim
- Stamp Doctoring
- Barr's 1¢ Dispatch
- Minutes & Treasury
- Club Notes & Shows
- 1914-1918
- Guernica
- Collecting & Budget

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

Website: lcps-stamps.net

President:

Bill Greiner III, 717-394-0879
sunfighter@verizon.net

1st Vice President :

Hal Klein, 717-272-5234
halklein@comcast.net

Past Pres. & Publicity:

Len Kasper, 717-723-1864
hotrodparts33@aol.com

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard, 717-367-9106
jib672@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Lou DiFelice, 717-295-5536
loudifelice@gmail.com

Membership & ATA Representative :

Lucy Eyster, 717-735-2586
lucyeyster@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor, Programs, & APS Rep:

Paul Petersen, 717.299.5640
pcpetersen@comcast.net



1914-1918

The dates of 1914 to 1918 bring to mind the names of Ypres, the Somme, Verdun, and others from our school studies of The Great War. Some of us may remember the poppies or the two minutes of silence at 11:00 every 11 November, or Armistice Day as they called it then.

Beyond the catastrophe of The Great War itself, there were further ramifications, many of them very long lasting: The Russian Revolution was followed by Civil War and communism, the Versailles mandates to redraw the maps of Europe and Mid-East with the seeds for WWII, and others. Do the current Mid-East problems stem from Versailles?

On the positive side, the war reduced much of the "Empire and Colonialism" worldview. In many places, women received the right to vote, and the U.S. became a major player on the world's stage.



WWI related stamps and souvenir sheets have been appearing since 2008 when many of the events of 1918 including the armistice celebrated their 90th anniversary. But now worldwide productivity is getting serious. The U.S. will probably participate in or around 2017, the centenary of her entrance into war.



January Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard & Lou DiFelice

Opening: Bill Greiner opened the meeting at 7:05 P.M. He presented a gift from the club to Treasurer, Lou DiFelice for his long and dedicated service. Bill also announced a request from a collector who wishes to sell his material. Bill made his contact information available.

Minutes: The Minutes and Treasurer's Report as presented in the January 2015 Newsletter were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Membership: Lucy Eyster introduced visitor Ted von Wallmenich who is interested in disposing of his collection. Tonight is the last time to pay 2015 dues before preparation of the club roster. Anyone needing to pay may contact Lucy at 735-2586. Forty-one attended the meeting, and 36 participated in the auction.

Meeting Snacks: Paul circulated a sign-up sheet for snacks for the 2015 meetings.

Drawing: Dave York and Paul Petersen won the drawing-sheets of recent stamps

Old Business:

Lancopex: Lou announced that dealer contracts with

checks are arriving. He listed the publications where the show is advertised, and the club supported a motion to pay \$50 for a 100 mile email blast by APS. Members from the Reading club stated that their show drew more customers through this approach. Paul encouraged members to prepare informal exhibits for the Lancopex show. He also described the disposition of the club's exhibit frames with respect to rental and sales

By-Laws Update: Due to some recent recommendations for the by-laws, Paul will be re-revising the current draft for digital and hard copies for membership by the February meeting.

New Business:

Club Picnic: Paul announced that the Millersville Park venue has been reserved and deposit paid for the 13 August club picnic.

Am. Topical Assn: Lucy announced about the recent Thanksgiving and Christmas lists available from ATA.

Open House and 1-Page Exhibits: Paul announced that it is not too early to think

about and preparing some one-page exhibits (or more) for the 11 November Open House.

Area Stamp Shows: Dick Colberg announced the dates of the upcoming York Show as F/S 23-24 January.

Linn's Stamp Poll: Lucy prepared copies of the 2014 stamps and ballots for members to complete tonight to turn in. She will forward these to Linn's.

Meeting Venue: Lou announced that PSLC has been approved by Woodcrest Villa for another year to hold our meetings in Bluebird Commons. A motion was approved to donate \$250 to Woodcrest Villa.

2016 Meeting Programs: Paul solicited a sign-up sheet for member-presenters for the 2016 educational programs. He will be available to help any participants with scanning and PowerPoint, etc. as asked.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$4,933.69 (1 Dec)

Income: \$689.00

Expenses: \$258.61

Closing: \$5,364.08 (31 Dec)

3-CDs valued at \$6,905.48

Barr's Penny Dispatch of Lancaster

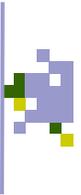
In the next column is a souvenir from the Lancaster Stamp Club's Fifth Stamp Expo held from 25-29 September 1935. It contains a reproduction of a sheet of nine (9) local stamps, that of Barr's Penny Dispatch, the green variety. The stamp was used again as a souvenir for '90 Lancopex, in the red version.



These stamps are listed in Scott's Specialized Catalogue. The red on white is #8L1, and the black on green paper is #8L2. These stamps are just

two of the hundreds of U.S. local & carrier stamps of the 19th Century, many now rare or unique.

In Lancaster, PA, in 1855 Elias Barr established his local company to distribute mail within the city. The red has a 2005 catalogue value of \$1K new or used. Add in a certificate, and it jumps to \$2K used. The black on green is \$250 mint, and \$200 used. In a RA Siegel auction in 5/2000 a Barr's local on cover sold for \$3.5K, over and (See Barr's pg.3)



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts and Shows

2015 Programs

11 February: APS Video-*The doctoring of postage stamps: Philatelists beware.* GS Joseph; Ron Hess, Host

11 March: 1.) Local Stamps of Rattlesnake Island, Bill Schultz. 2.) Lancopex Advert Card Prep. All hands; Dick Shaefer, Host

8 April: A Survey of Confederate Postal History. Patricia Kaufmann, Jim Ziogas, Host

13 May: The U.S. International Shows: Stamps, Covers, Labels, and History. Paul Petersen; Paul Petersen, Host

10 June: PSLC Spring Auction; Lou DiFelice, Host

8 July: Express Companies of Mexico between 1855-1907. Dick Colberg; Lou Leidig, Host

12 August: Summer Picnic

9 September: Fall Auction. Diane Meek, Host

14 October: Great Britain's Line Engraved Stamps. David Hunt; Al Schaub, Host

11 November: Club Member 1-Page Exhibits and Open House. Len Kasper & Paul Petersen; Len Kasper, Host

9 December: Dinner

2016 Programs

13 January: Winter Auction; Hal Klein, Host

10 February: Jamaica in World War II. An APS video

13 April: History and Culture of Germany on Stamps. David Hunt

11 May: Coins on Stamps & Stamps on Coins. John Brownell

8 June: Spring Auction

13 July: (Tentative) Civil War Covers. Dennis Shumaker

10 August: Summer Picnic, Millersville Memorial Park

14 September: Fall Auction

14 December: Dinner

2015 Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: 15 February 2015, 7 June, 16 August, 20 December. Farm & Home Center, Lancaster. Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager, 301-371-4558.

Lancopex:York Stamp Show: F/S, 24-25 April, Farm & Home Center, Arcadia Rd.

2016 Shows

World Stamp Show-NY 2016: 28 May-4 June, Jacob Javits Convention Center, New York City. For detailed info see. www.ny2016.org.

Spanish Civil War...Some Follow-Up



The October and November issues of this newsletter carried an illustrated article about the local stamps used by the Republican and Nationalist sides during the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939. There was a cover that I had wanted to use but could not locate. It was an attrac-

tive one sent to me by a friend of my father-in-law from Spain in 2001. Preparing for the club auction earlier this month took care of the problem. Here it is (↑). The item is Spain #2252, a souvenir sheet issued in 10/1981, the 100th anniversary of the birth of artist Pablo Picasso. The sou-

venir sheet features Picasso's 1937 painting, *Guernica*. This item belongs in any philatelic or art discussion of the Spanish Civil War. Many know of *Guernica* because of its heavy bombing and the death of up to 300 by the Nazi Condor Legion in April of 1937.

Picasso had been fairly apolitical until the time of this event. But he was so outraged that he wanted to make a statement. Coincidentally, he had been working on a large painting, a 11'x25' canvas, when the Republican government commissioned him for a painting for their pavilion in the 1937 Parris Int'l Expo.→

Barr's Locals

(←pg. 2) above an estimate of \$2-3K!

There were different services offered. **Carrier companies** often contracted or worked directly for the USPOD to transport mail to or from the post office. **Local posts** on the other hand competed directly with the post office, as they delivered mail within a city. There was also **Independent Mail** which transported mail between U.S. cities, usually for rates cheaper than the USPOD. Ironically they used the same post roads chartered by the Post Office Department. All carrier, local, and independent companies had stamps.

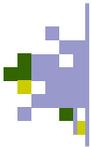
For those interested in local stamps there is the Carriers & Locals Society, Chapter 211 of APS. Also available is the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society which can be found at www.uspcs.org.

Gunerica continued

→ He reworked this painting to what we know today. It carried neither warplanes nor bombs, nothing to indicate an air raid. Instead it was littered with death and crushed bodies. Picasso limited it to black and white to appear like a documentary photograph, and he completed the painting in just a few months when it was ready by 5/37 for the Paris Expo where it made a hit. It was seen as the symbol of Basque nationalism, and for a while it hung in the headquarters of the United Nations.

Guernica was a Basque town of about 7000 people on the north coast of Spain, not far from the French border on the Bay of Biscay. It contained the arms manufacturer which supplied the Spanish military and police. There were also bridges, which if destroyed, would isolate much of the Republican army from the action on the front.

The Condor Legion was an air wing of the Luftwaffe, and the attack was both to support the ground troops and to train their young pilots. The Soviet planes and pilots were largely ineffectual in this operation.



Musings: February 2015

Collecting on a budget...

As many of us say over and over to one another or anyone else who will listen to us, especially new hobbyists, there are many ways to Nirvana. Not one of these ways is the only, correct, or the best way to collect. Some ways of collecting are more costly than others, while other approaches, some quite sophisticated, are fairly inexpensive.

Around the beginning of the current millennium as I came back to stamp collecting, this time as an adult, Jeff Levan shared a variety of collecting strategies with me. One that stuck out is the collecting of number-1^s of the world. As a rather naïve newcomer to the fold, this sounded doable, that was until I looked through the catalogue and thought about it some more.

Sometime later, I came across a downloadable stamp album that I wrote about in this newsletter. It was in the collecting family of number 1^s but more realistic for us mortals. This was an album that had a space for just one stamp, any stamp, from each stamp-issuing entity (arranged alphabetically) since 1840. There was space for five stamps per page, and accompanying each country was a map and brief description. In the article, I included an image of the free sample page that was offered on the website. I liked this approach (the maps certainly helped), but I was disappointed when a fellow stamp club member contacted me and reported that when he attempted

to purchase the online album, the website was no longer viable. In a few short weeks, the site had closed down (↓).

BHUTAN Thimphu was the capital of the Kingdom of Bhutan until the Black Death was introduced by the British. Bhutan was recognized by Great Britain in the 18th century. The country was recognized as a kingdom in 1971 and as a nation in 1979.		BLACK MOUNTAIN SERIES
BURUNDI Bujumbura was a province of the Congo and was part of the Congo and the Congo. Although it was a province of the Congo, it was recognized as a nation in 1962 and as a nation in 1962.		BLACK MOUNTAIN SERIES
BUTCHUANALAND PROTECTORATE The British and Portuguese were the first to establish a protectorate in 1890. The British and Portuguese were the first to establish a protectorate in 1890. The British and Portuguese were the first to establish a protectorate in 1890.		BLACK MOUNTAIN SERIES
BEHARIS Patna was the capital of the Kingdom of Behar. The Kingdom of Behar was a province of the British Empire. The Kingdom of Behar was a province of the British Empire. The Kingdom of Behar was a province of the British Empire.		BEHAR MOUNTAIN SERIES
BELGIUM Brussels was the capital of the Kingdom of Belgium. The Kingdom of Belgium was a province of the British Empire. The Kingdom of Belgium was a province of the British Empire. The Kingdom of Belgium was a province of the British Empire.		BEHAR MOUNTAIN SERIES

Completing this album would not be a cinch. Finding and paying for stamps from many of the short-lived and long dead stamp issuers is a challenge. Some of the Feudatory States of India and the Kionga Triangle come to mind.

Some of us like to complete an album or collection, and while we may be attracted to some specific country collections, we often hit the glass ceiling with the earlier issues, including the no. 1^s of that country.

But even with a country collection a hobbyist does not have to be a completist. The *Scott Catalogue* lists every stamp by

number, and following this are the varieties, a, b, c, etc. The Inverted Jenny stamp of 1918 that we all love is Scott # C3a. C is the prefix for airmails, 3 is the linear number of the stamp, i.e. the third issued airmail (Actually this stamp was the first airmail, but this is another story.), and “a” is the variety, the inverted center in this case.

Each stamp is given a whole number, and these may differ by design, perforation, water mark, and so on. There are many 2¢ red whole numbers in the Washington Franklin series, and these all contain further varieties (often expensive) resulting in many stamps that look the same. The question: Do you need them all, or you happy with just one example? If you are collecting on a budget, you know the answer. Simplified albums typically have whole numbers, or may reduce this to just the face-same issues.

As I was working on this article, Roy Baardsen called, and we talked about this issue. He is experiencing this with his Norway collection. Norway has continually issued “Posthorn” definitive stamps since 1872, so there are a lot of them. They make our Washington Franklins look like a Sunday School Picnic. Roy said that with one whole number stamp alone

there were nearly 200 varieties! At \$50 each, you’re talking good money!

Can a collector be a completist on a budget? If so, how? Pick a small constellation to collect such as the U.S. from say, 1900 or 1925. This is up to the collector. I did well with my Ireland country collection, as it started in the early 1920s, and the rarities are no greater than \$450. There aren’t that many, and I don’t need them all because I have the other face-same stamps with similar looking overprints.



The British Empire Exhibition of 1924-1925 is a finite collecting area for me. I enjoy expos, and this one had just two face-same stamps, a red 1d and a brown 1½d in 1924 which were re-dated for 1925. There are a few postal cards, a piece of postal stationery, and some ephemera such as admission tickets, maps, and other promotional items. The cost is doable, and the hunt is not too difficult. It’s just right, and it fits right into my stamp collecting budget. Ed. 📧



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