

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, 10 June 2015

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Lou DiFelice, Host

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

From the Vice President

I wish to thank President Bill Greiner for giving me his column space this month to share an idea with you that may impact the future of the hobby and the club. There was a little extra discussion time last month, so I was able to bring up the topic of *Stamp Collecting 101* to the PSLC membership. Your response to this was most positive.

School of Philately: A Question of New Members

Long before it was a topic of discussion at a recent club meeting, I have been considering the question of introducing new members into PSLC and facilitating their interest in the hobby. The answer is to hold a

“School of Philately.” The “School” would be run in conjunction with select stamp club meetings, and it would be open to anyone over 16 who is interested in learning about the hobby.

Why is this important? If we want to keep the hobby alive...the club active ten years from now...we need to interest new collectors now. How? We interest them; we teach the next generation of collectors-it's just that simple.

A while back I discussed this idea with an old time dealer in Florida. He indicated that the Boca Raton Florida Club brought new members into the club for over 20 years by do-

ing something very similar (so the idea does work).

I searched the Internet to see if any stamp clubs currently offer a “School,” and I located an APS course entitled *Stamp Collecting 101*. The APS course closely resembled my thoughts, so here's an outline to consider:

Learn the Basics: •How to get started •Where to find stamps •When to soak stamps (and when not to soak) •How to safely store your collectibles •How to use catalogs & references •How to use the necessary tools of the hobby and •How to identify worldwide stamps. (See pg. 2→)

Spring Auction: Time to clean out and to buy

The club's Spring Auction is here already. It's a good time to find a new collecting interest. By law, the auction is only open to paid-up members, but if visitors sign up for membership and pay dues, they may participate at the time.



Instructions: A number will be assigned to you when you

arrive and register. Please place this number on all your lots. Attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value and condition if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed the auction process. • Fiscal transactions will only take place after the last item has been sold. Further, the auction committee recommends the following: • Bring cash whenever possible to pay for the items you win, and • Keep a running total of items you have won and sold based on the prices realized. • Finally,

firmly attach your sales information (lot description, cat. value, min. bid etc.) to the items to be correctly credited with the sale.

Bidding rules remain the same as previous auctions. •The minimum bid is \$1.00. •The minimum bidding increment is 50¢. •Each club member is limited to submitting 10 lots. •You may also donate items for the auction, and have the realization go to PSLC. The donated items are greatly appreciated and benefit all our club programs.

Volume 78, No. 6

June, 2015

Highlights

- School of Philately
- Auction Hints
- Minutes & Treasury
- Club Notes
- 4th Newsletter Gold
- Picnic & Baseball
- 175th-Penny Black
- Small Topicals

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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From the VP : Cont. from Pg-1

Each Participant Receives:
•Helpful handouts and brochures
•Stamp tongs, magnifier, stock pages, and world-wide stamps and covers
•An opportunity to look through a huge pile of worldwide stamps to practice stamp identification. (Take some nice stamps home to add to your growing collection!)
and
•Personal attention with answers to all questions.

The APS charges for the course, so this is a point for discussion. The APS offers us a FREE Instruction Guide for the Course. I absolutely love "Free" stuff for the Club. And I am sure that there are many of us who could teach ANY of these topics with the greatest of ease. The APS offers ideas on "How and Where to Advertise for Prospects."

If this works, another direction might be the Boy Scout Merit Badge course which has already been suggested at a previous club meeting.

I look forward to bringing this up for further discussion at future PSLC club meetings. Hal K-

From the Program Chairman

In my capacity as PSLC Program Chairman, I offer my sincere apologies for the technical difficulties which thwarted our May speaker and program on U.S. International Stamp Shows. Bluebird Common's VGA cable that connects my laptop to the projector was missing! We'll be purchasing our own cable to prevent this from happening in the future.

The next opening for this program is in October 2016, but I have been working on obtaining an outside speaker for this slot, one who should have important information for our collections. Ed.

May Minutes and Treasury Report
Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: Bill Greiner opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Business meeting:

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

Membership: Lucy Eyster introduced PSLC's newest member, Tony Coccio who joined at Lancopex. There were about 28 in attendance.

Old Business:

By-laws: The only area of divided opinion in the passage of the by-laws was the office of 2nd Vice President, the issue being if this office was needed. Following discussion both pro and con, the motion passed to keep this office in the revised by-laws. Following this, the full by-laws package that was distributed earlier this year was passed unanimously. Paul Petersen will send out .pdf copies to email members and will have hard copies for other members and for Lucy Eyster, membership chairman, to give to new members as part of their introductory member package.

2015 Lancopex: There were several areas of discussion.

Finances: Show Treasurer

Lou DiFelice reviewed the latest (though not final) accounting of the show. With a final bill or two to pay, the net profit for this year's show should be around \$1500. Part of this is due to switching from a yearly pre-payment of our storage facility to a month-to-month arrangement. The club is seeking to sell all but 16 frames. Mike Matus has a contact for storage of the four frame boxes we keep and the other few boxes of show materials at a reasonable rate.

Dealers: Paul reviewed dealer satisfaction from the survey he conducted. Remarks were very positive including the bourse, sales, club staffing, and meals.

Logistics: Lucy & Paul added that the manpower and logistics for the registration and cachet tables was satisfactory.

New Business:

Club Revenue: One issue is that the club has over \$12K on hand and should it be spent. There were reasons offered to spend the money and others to keep it in reserve for use as needed. Lucy added that in the revised by-laws, upon dissolution of the club, the remaining PSLC assets would go to APS (75%) and ATA (25%).

Education: Vice President

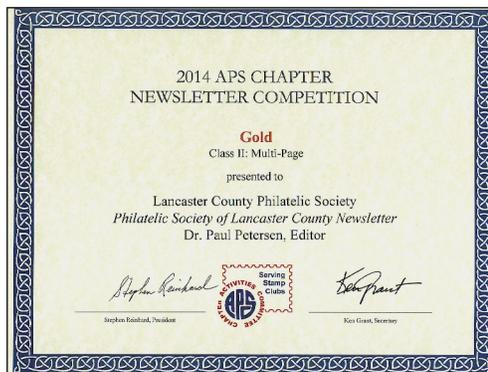
Hal Klein spoke for a few minutes and fielded questions and discussion items related to his interest in beginning an educational program for the dual purpose of 1.) Assisting our new club members to better enjoy the hobby and 2.) The recruiting of new members. (Ed's note: The basics of this topic are contained in Hal's column on pages 1 and 2 of this newsletter.)

Presentation: Due to a missing connecting cable at Bluebird Commons, the PowerPoint presentation on U.S International Stamp Shows could not go on. This will be rescheduled at a future date. Fortunately this allowed time for discussion of additional topics, time that had not been previously available.

Drawing: Door prizes consisted of stamps, souvenir sheets & seals from the 1926 & 1936 U.S. International Stamp Shows. Following the drawing of seven items, the grand prize drawing, a U.S. 630 White Plains sheet was won by Sarah Mylin.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$5,462.12 (1 Apr)
Income: \$1,469.00
Expenses: \$1,692.74
Closing: \$5,238.38 (30 Apr)
3-CDs valued at \$6,906.11



Newsletter Recognition

PSLC was recently notified that the club Newsletter won a Gold Award in the 2014 APS Chapter Newsletter Competition. This is the fourth Gold Award in a row, and Ed. thanks all the club officers for their reports, and the other members who've submitted articles, ideas for publication, digital photos, interesting items, opinions; and the others who've assisted with proof-reading and disseminating the monthly issues. Ed.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Kudos, and Shows

2015 Programs

- 10 June:** PSLC Spring Auction; Lou DiFelice, Host
- 8 July:** Express Companies of Mexico between 1855-1907. Dick Colberg; Diane Meek, Host
- 12 August:** Summer Picnic, Millersville Memorial Park
- 9 September:** Great Britain's Line Engraved Stamps. David Hunt; Lou Leidig, Host
- 14 October:** Fall Auction. 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 DVD show
- 9 March:** The 5-Cent Return Rate. Bill Schultz
- 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:** Civil War Covers. Dennis Shumaker
- 10 August:** Summer Picnic
- 14 September:** Fall Auction
- 12 October:** TBA

9 November: '15 Open House

14 December: Dinner
Kudos to PSLC: PSLC and Lancaster Country Day School were noted with thanks in the April 2015 *Linn's Stamp News* (pg. 30) for contributing to the *Linn's Stamp Poll*. Appreciation is extended to Lucy Eyster and to John & Caroline Ford who worked with PSLC and LCDS respectively to make this happen.

2015 Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: 14 June, 16 August, 20 Dec. Farm & Home Center, Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager, 301-371-4558.
Balpex: Fri-Sun, 4-6 September, Hunt Valley, MD.

Bits 'n Pieces of Club Interest

The **Mayo Clinic** in a recent report stated that having a hobby sets one in the direction of a healthy life. The study tracked 256 older people across four years throughout their ages of 87 to 91. Of the people in the sample who maintained time for their arts and crafts and other hobbies, 73% were less likely to display fuzzy thinking and slips of memory as identified through tests of mild cognitive impairment taken at the beginning and the end of the study. Hobbies at any age are beneficial including the stimulation of new cells and their interconnections along with healthier pathways that promote clear thinking and sharper memories. The result is a better-wired mind that can withstand age-related brain changes with fewer problems. (*This report was in the recent news in Drs. Oz and Roizen's column, and it was submitted to Ed by Al Schaub.*)

Sale or Trade: Please inform the editor if you have any items for sale or trade to include in the Newsletter. Buyers may contact you ahead of time for details and you can both use the club meeting bourse time to negotiate. Let PSLC facilitate your hobby enjoyment.

Special this Month: Postage sheets for sale at 80% of face value. Sheets run from the 1950s to 2008. Contact Lou at loudifelice@gmail.com or by phone at 717-295-5536.

The 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black

May 6th was the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black stamp of the United Kingdom. This sparked a number of worldwide commemorative stamps, especially among the Commonwealth nations. To date there have been no U.S.P.S. plans for this stamp. A related souvenir sheet from Russia is displayed below from a recent *Linn's* (25 May, pg. 28).

another was held last month in London to celebrate the Penny Black and to serve as a venue for a largely European international exhibition.



This anniversary also spurred an additional international stamp show. The UK, like the United States, has had an international show every ten years at the beginning of each decade. The last was 2010, but

This is one of the world's most studied and storied issues in philately. The 1d black stamp is only the capstone of the 1839 postal reform which included pre-paid mailing at a reasonable cost. The reform influenced literacy and economics, and it introduced the poison pen letter! In their vote on postal reform, Parliament voted away its free-frank privileges. Queen Victoria's Prime Minister convinced

her that it would be most politically correct if she, too, declined her free frank.

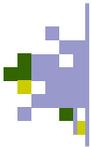
The original printing plates of the Penny Black were used once more at The Stamp Show 2000 Exhibition (without the corner letters) as part of a souvenir package.



The May 2015 issues of *Stamp Magazine* and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* contain a wealth of information on the postal reform and 1d stamp that has so captured our philatelic imagination for over 175 years.

PSLC and the Barnstormers: There is some interest in block seating for a game this season. Paul will have further info on this at the June meeting. It would be fun to get together as a club event for a night at the ball park.

Summer Picnic: This will be 12 August at Millersville Memorial Park (the usual place). Sign-ups for side dishes, appetizers, and/or desserts will begin at the June meeting. It is a popular event each year with outstanding weather guaranteed, but we need to know who is coming to aid our planning. Other than the dishes you bring, the club covers the rest. If anyone has a special food to be grilled, this may be possible.



Musings: June 2015

The philatelic completist & small topical collections

Examples of a Completist: A stamp collector who: •Fills every space in her album; •Has every stamp on a topic; or •Owns a cover with a postmark from each day since the 2 May 1840 earliest known use (EKU) date of the Penny Black. And they stay sane!

Consider the Prexies of 1938 to 1954. Start with the one-half cent orange Ben Franklin and end with the red-lined \$5 WG Harding stamp. Is this complete? Well, maybe. You can, if you want, add the coils, both vertical and horizontal. What about all the First Day Covers (from all the cachet makers), and FDCs with plate blocks (from all the cachet makers)? How about commercial covers with single stamps paying the desired rate for the service being paid? Or a sheet of each Prexi? In other words, it never ends.

There is also completeness in topical collecting. This, too, is a moving target. One has to look at the proliferation of new issues on every topic under the sun. Many of these are printed especially to pick the pockets of collectors. One of my favorites is the Howdy Doody stamp set of Mongolia! Once your list is complete, another collector may identify an additional stamp (and this can be a good thing) or another new stamp may be printed.

Any advantage? This might just infuse a tired topical collection with a little new life.

A new topical challenge is to compile the **smallest complete topical collection**, the **SCTC**, a mouthful to be sure.

I have seen some stamps which I believe were unique topics (*i.e.* Cuba C313 with an electric chair among others). But can one stamp define a small set? I don't think so. What about two-stamp **SCTCs**? That's a collection.

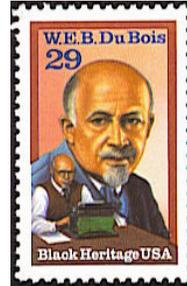
In the past was an opinion that the topic of **typewriters on stamps** was complete with just two stamps, both U.S. These include Brenda Starr, reporter (1995, #2999t) ↓



and W.E.B. De Bois, community organizer (1992, #2617). These are pictured nearby. →

In both stamps the typewriter is in the lower left quadrant and very small. Is this still a complete topical collection?

With the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black, many countries are issuing commemorative stamps. Russia was the latest with a Penny Black souvenir sheet (see pg. 3).



Disney stamp from Dominica on stamp collecting. Pictured is Donald Duck (#955) with his stamp collecting tools including *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott's Stamp Monthly*. This 6-stamp set on stamp collecting also fits nicely into my collection of Stamp Shows on Stamps, as these all mention **Ameripex-1986**, the U.S. Int'l Exhibition.



Just a month or so ago, the Isle of Man issued a six-stamp set. This included a Penny Black, a Two-Penny Blue, and a Penny Red. There was also a stamp of William. Mulready in front of one of his short-lived letter sheets, and another of Rowland Hill beside a cover franked with a Penny Black.

Then there was the stamp of Stanley Gibbons along with a 1930s era issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*! Why the excitement? This is it! It is not a particularly attractive stamp, but for a topical collector, it will do. One of my favorite stamps (I have published this before) is the 1986

Since I enjoy philatelic journals as much as stamps and covers, I now have an **SCTC** of two items, **Stamp Literature on Stamps**! That is until someone reads this and shares some additional stamps. But that would be OK. Ed



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