

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, Wed., 8 July 2015

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Diane Meek, Host
Doors Open at 6:30-Come Early to Buy, Sell, and/or Trade

From the Desk of the President

Some stamp clubs take a few months off for the summer (and/or winter), but we seem to keep busy here at PSLC. We had a great auction with forty-seven at the June meeting, and we are looking forward to our picnic in August with perhaps a Barnstormers baseball game later in the season. We do not seem to have an "attendance dip" at our meetings and events in the warmer or colder months.

This evening, Dick will share his award-winning exhibit on Express Companies of Mexico. There are some attractive

corner cards and interesting postmarks in his holdings.



Hal gives us an introduction to international postcard rates in his illustrated article on pg.-2. This should encourage us take a closer look through our boxes of covers and postcards. Half the fun is catching an early use or even a late use where the sender gets away with a few cents. What I find of interest is that the 15¢ air-

mail rate to Europe remained unchanged from 1946 through 1967. That's 21 years-almost a generation!

Ed is challenging us to come up with our bucket list on stamps for an article in January, so let's keep him happy. There is plenty of time, but let's get an early start; it will be a lot of fun.

Joy found a wonderful historical novel regarding Confederate Civil War covers.

So please keep contributing to the newsletter. See you at the meeting. **Bill III**

Express Companies of Mexico-Dick Colberg

Dick Colberg brings us his expertise with a topic that may be quite new to many of us. How many PSLC members who now bank with Wells Fargo are aware of the great geographical expanse that this company had in Mexico 130 years ago?

To whet our appetite, Dick writes that there were three main express companies operating in Mexico in the period of 1885-1907: Wells-Fargo, Express National, and Express Hidalgo. All three companies issued their own distinctive envelopes. These envelopes had the company logo and express price printed on them, usually in the upper left cor-

ner. The companies then sent their envelopes to the Mexican government for the imprinting of the current Mexican stamp as seen on then-current postal stationary.

Express Hidalgo was the smallest company, and it served an area from Mexico City east to the Gulf of Mexico. Second largest was Express National. It served an area from Mexico City north to the Texas border. The largest company was Wells Fargo, and it served the area not covered by the other two companies. All three operated in Mexico City. This presentation will examine the pre-printed envelopes of all three

companies as rates and Mexican stamps changed within this period.

And speaking of Mexico...
From 7 to 13 October 1963 APS held its 77th Annual Convention in Mexico City. In recognition of this, Mexico produced two stamps (C274 and 937) noting the APS event. C274 is depicted below. It contains all the show information in the form of a first day cancellation. ☞



Volume 78, No. 7

July, 2015

Highlights

- Mexican Express Co
- Inside the Cover
- Minutes and Money
- Club Notes
- Local Stamp Shows
- Confederate Covers
- Is USPS Broken?
- Musings: Bucket List

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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Inside the Cover

PSLC Newsletter reader Jim Strycharz from Southwick, MA recently sent Ed the following:

My latest auction find was a lot of old letters from the 1890s to 1920 from two Maine families. The stamp collectors at the auction thought I overbid because I took all the small trays and made one big lot with the auctioneer's approval. Of course there were only about five stamp varieties, and all were common. One cover had an attached 1908 Christmas Seal in very good condition, and although it wasn't tied to the cover, it was postmarked 23 December 1908 with a matching dated letter.

The letters follow one family of a sailor on board a sailing ship going to Texas, NJ, Maine, NY, and around South America to California with all the trials, on-board accidents, illnesses, and a collision. He eventually became a Captain of his own vessel and quite wealthy. There are well over a hundred letters from this family that I will peruse.



The other captain had fewer letters, and he dealt more with his daughters who wrote to him only when they needed money! Times don't change much in some ways. There is such enjoyment in collecting stamps and even more when you get to read the contents of an interesting daily life of times long gone by. Jim S.

PSLC Summer Activities

If you are interested and haven't yet signed up, the list is going around (paper and digital) for you to sign. The picnic is on 8 August, and the club members in June opted for a cooler late August or early September evening for group seating at a Barnstormers baseball game.

May Minutes and Treasury

DP Meek (Acting Secretary) and Lou \$ DiFelice

Opening: Bill Greiner opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

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

Membership: Membership Chairman Lucy Eyster welcomed all to the meeting and introduced three (3) guests. Meeting attendance was 47.

Drawing: Prizes were won by Dick Shaefer & Bob Kramer.

Old Business:

By-laws: Paul Petersen announced that digital copies of the revised by-laws were sent out to those with email, while

hard copies for the others are available at the front table.

Lancopex: Mike Bach gave a shout-out to Truude Greiner for funding the meals for dealers and club show workers and to Len Kasper and his family for such good food and snacks.

Baseball Night: Paul will be sending an email with follow-up information. Club members seemed to favor a late August to early September game.

New Business:

Picnic: The 8 August date for time and place is set. Since Paul forgot the sign-up sheet tonight, he will follow up with an email and then circulate the

paper sign-up in July.

Computer Connector Cable: Paul purchased a VGA cable to hook up the computer with the BlueBird projector. He will be testing it following the meeting.

Club Elections: Len Kasper reminded the club that we need a Second Vice President.

Program: Tonight's program was a lively club auction.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$5,238.38 (1 May)

Income: \$285.00+

Expenses: \$86.88

Closing: \$5,436.50 (31 May)

3-CDs valued at \$6,932.35

Rates Make Postal History Fun (Pt-1) Hal Klein

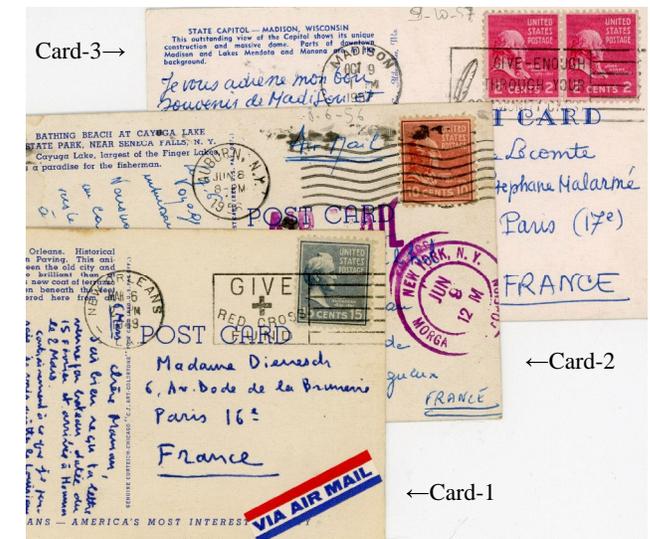
If you love puzzles, I guarantee you'll love building a collection around postal history rates, foreign and domestic, within the U.S. definitive series like the Presidential Issue, the workhorse of the USPOD for two decades. These three stacked postcards addressed to France (1947-1958) make evident a few rate types and varieties.

Card-1: (Bottom) This demonstrates a solo usage of a 15¢ James Buchanan (Scott#820) tied by a New Orleans, LA machine cancel on 6 March 1949. The strike was made by a Universal Stamping Machine Co. (now Pitney Bowes) canceling device. The rate for airmail letters to Europe was fifteen cents from 1 November 1946 through 30 April 1967. As postcards did not get their own airmail rates until 1 June 1954, the fifteen-cent European Letter rate applied to them as well. **Card-2:** (Middle) This demonstrates a

solo usage of a 10¢ John Tyler (#815) tied by an Auburn, NY Int'l Postal Supply Co. (now Pitney-Bowes) machine cancel on 8 June 1958. The int'l airmail postcard rate was ten cents from 1 June 1954 through 30 June 1961.

Card-3: (Top) This card dem-

onstrates a pair use of a 2¢ John Adams (806) tied by a Madison, WI Universal Stamping Machine Co. (now Pitney-Bowes) machine cancel on 9 October 1957. The int'l postcard rate to UPU (Universal Postal Union) countries was four cents from 1 November 1953 until 1 August 1958. (Please turn to Pg-3→)





Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, Notes, & People

2015 Programs

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

12 August: Summer Picnic

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 video.

9 March: The 5-Cent Enclosed 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, Millersville Memorial Park

14 September: Fall Auction

12 October: The U.S. International Stamp Shows: Part-I. Paul Petersen

9 November: '15 Open House

14 December: Dinner

2015 Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: 16 August, 20 Dec. Farm & Home Center, Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager, 301-371-4558. Kevin also manages the **Towson Stamp Show:** 19 July at the Best Western Hotel, 1100 Cromwell Road-Towson. 10:00-4:00

Other

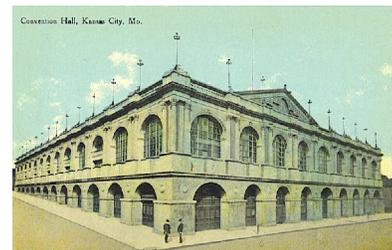
Club Badges: Lucy Eyster asks for any plastic name badges that you may have at home. With the club growing, we need all those not in use.

Presentation: Paul Petersen gave his PowerPoint presentation "*FDR: The Stamp Collecting President*" as an elective session at the Summer Seminar of the American Philatelic Association in June.

Broke In More Ways Than One

A Letter to the Editor by long-distance PSLC member Bob Mather of Wisconsin was recently published in *Linn's* (29 June 2015, pg.-3), entitled "Broke in more ways than one." Bob described his frustrating experience with USPS, particularly the Stamp Fulfillment Services in Kansas City.

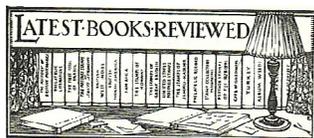
From "The Cave" Bob ordered a first day cover program for the Martin Ramirez stamps. He requested that the stamp with the donkey on it (his topical interest) be placed and cancelled on the program cover, and he agreed to pay the additional \$2.00 charge for this service. (*Note vintage postcard of the Convention Hall in Kansas City* ↓ Ed.).



Rates and Postal History: Cont from Pg.2

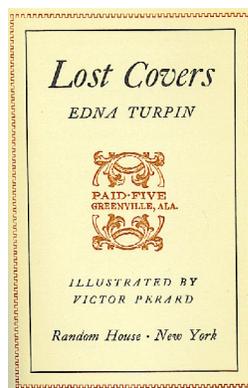
This 4¢ int'l airmail rate is not to be confused with the domestic airmail postcard rate of four cents from 1 January 1949 until 1 August 1958.

There are two excellent compilations on U.S. Postal Rates, both by Henry W. Beecher & Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz entitled *U.S. International Postal Rates: 1872-1996* and *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates: 1872-1999*. These are "must have" texts for any postal historian's reference library.



It is Depression era Richmond, VA, and the hard times are responsible for a couple of down-sizing moves of a young family with school-age children who collect stamps. They soon hear of rumors of covers written by their great-grandfather in the Civil War, and their mother adds that there may be some very valuable stamps on them in a box somewhere. There are flashback vignettes to the Civil War along with nearly fifty monochromatic illustrations of both local and Confederate stamps and scenes from the novel. The hunt begins.

Lost Covers, by Edna Turpin was published in 1937 by Random House. Turpin gives thanks to August Dietz, Sr. author of



The Postal History of the Confederate States of America for his permission to use stamp illustrations from the *Dietz Specialized Catalog of Confederates*.

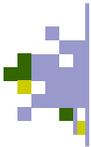
Joy Bouchard shared this book as she believes that other PSLC members may be interested in reading it for its thorough coverage of stamps, postal history, and a Depression era family adventure.

Upon arrival, it was the wrong stamp! When Bob called Kansas City, he was told that "a machine grabs a stamp at random." To get the exact item he desired, he would have to order several similar items in the hope that one would be what he desired. Of course he could request a refund and return those items that he did not want.

Attn: APS & ATA Non-Members

At the September meeting we'll have our biennial drawing for a free year's membership to the **American Philatelic Association** and/or the **American Topical Association (ATA)**.

Here is how it works: If you host never been a member in the APS and/or the ATA this drawing is for you. If you enter and win, you will receive a year's free membership and will agree to pay your own dues for an additional two years. These are outstanding organizations-worth joining.



Musings: July 2015

Collecting your Bucket List: A warning for January

Most of us are probably aware of the term "Bucket List," that compilation of people, places, or events we would like to meet, see, or do before we "kick the bucket!" At a breakfast meeting just last year one participant pulled out her smart phone and showed us her list, and it included checkmarks by those she achieved. Another opened her iPhone with a snap of "The Queen" that she took most serendipitously as Queen Elizabeth II rode past in her car less than ten feet away. There was a checkmark on her list for this one.



Since then I have been compiling my bucket list using stamps. By "stamps" I don't mean to show a 1d magenta British Guiana that I would like to own. I mean, my list of things that I would like to experience before I'm gone. It is a long list.

Please be thinking of your bucket list on stamps, because this will be the topic of our composite article in January. Send me a few stamps that you would like to share with the club along with some commentary of

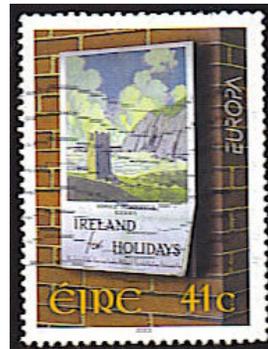
why these topics are on your Bucket List. It will be a great edition!

A nice thing about philately is that one can collect the way one desires. So in this light I am going to define "Bucket List" for you with a wide brush.

Traditionally, the description of the bucket list is people, events, and places that we would like to encounter some time in the future, again, before we "kick the bucket." These are intended to be "doable" items, or at least some that we have a 50/50 chance of achieving. But I will add a few categories to include: 1.) People, places, and events that we would like to see or do but may not be able to, and 2.) People, places and events that are in the past that we cannot experience. Make it interesting.



Many would like to see a Super Bowl. I would like to see the Eagles and/or the Detroit Lions win it at least once!



While we don't do any long distance travel any more, we were fortunate to have a few trips to the Emerald Isle. So while we would love to go to Ireland once more, we are grateful for the trips we had.

Something that is doable is to see the Northern Lights when next in town. There was a wonderful sky following a severe storm on 23 June along with the possibility of the Aurora Borealis. I did not see it that night.



Another desire is to ride a hot air balloon and take some aerial photography. First there is the

balloon...



...and then there is the photography...

An aerial flight would be especially gratifying if it were over the Panama Canal. But even on a bad day, I would cruise by boat through this waterway.



In the spring of 1962, my final 8th grade English writing exam was to pen a headline story in which we starred. The around-the-world orbit in February made many astronauts from among my classmates. I wonder how many space papers my teacher read that spring? Ed



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