



# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

**Doors Open at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, 8 March 2017**

Presentation & Business Meeting Begin at 7:00 PM. Tony Coccio. Host

## From the West End

Last month I remarked about the York Stamp Show from a club and organization perspective. This month, I want to mention briefly my personal experience at the show with something new to collect. This is thanks to Dr. Di-Como who introduced me to stampless covers in York.



Shown above is my first stampless cover, the one from the York Show. It is dated 14 July 1847 in a circular postmark in Lancaster.

This is just two weeks following the issue of the first U.S. stamps. While stamps were available for pre-payment, stampless covers would be allowed until the use of stamps became mandatory on 1 January 1856. Thus, Postal customers had 8½ years where they could prepay with a stamp, or send it stampless.

There were options with a stampless cover. The sender could prepay the postage, and this would be noted on the cover. Or they could send it COD, or cash on delivery. In this case the recipient would bear the cost of the postage. Sometimes when they saw who the cover was from, or from where it originated, they

would reject it.

On my cover there is also a hand-stamp rate of 5 cents, a value for a route of <300 miles at the time. Both the date and rate hand-stamps are struck in blue ink.

The content is not very exciting; it is a form letter from a bank to a customer in Columbia, PA.

There is so much to study and learn from these covers. There are societies that review these, and the links are in our revised PSLC website.

One can study rates, routes, paper, other markings, and much more. Some were sent overseas, while many were conveyed by rail. Some were sent by messenger service or carried by hand. (See President-2)

## Chasing Jenny: A Philatelic Mystery

A presentation by Jeff Stage

Jeff Stage will offer an eclectic presentation that will look at the creation of his stamp-based mystery novel, *Chasing Jenny* (2013), along with philatelic writing and editing for *The American Philatelist*, plus Stamps and Pop Culture. He will offer a stamp-based pop culture quiz with the lucky winner receiving a copy of his book.

Explosions. Car chases over

slippery roads through an unexpected blizzard. A deadly knife. Deceit and thievery. A little magic and romance. Murder. All part of the daily life of a stamp collector? Well, at least a life envisioned by Jeff in his novel, *Chasing Jenny* that he will share with us.

Jeff joined the staff of the APS in May, 2015 after a long career in the newspaper industry (not to mention an interim 13-month stint as a taxi driver). Jeff works as a writer and editor on the production of *The American Philatelist*, but also helps produce the *Philatelic Literature Review*, the APS blog, and general news releases and products for other departments.

Before joining the APS and moving to Bellefonte, PA, Jeff spent his entire life in Central New York State, which is part

of the snow belt, where 120 inches of snow per season is not unusual. He attended college at The State University of New York at Oswego and had a near 36-year career at the daily newspapers in Syracuse. Jeff spent about half of his career as a reporter and half as an editor.

He worked in the sports department for more than five years and loved it, whether it was standing on the muddy sidelines of a football field in 40-degree rain to see a high school football game or driving an hour to the Finger Lakes to report about a very young rising college senior named John Elway, who spent one summer playing baseball in the New York Yankees farm system. Jeff moved on to other newspaper duties, including crime and safety reporter (twice), suburban and features writer and editor, and news desk copy and production editor. (See Jenny, Pg.-2)

Volume 80, No. 3

March, 2017

Visitors are Always Welcome

PSLC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a year. For club information call Lucy Eyster at 717-735-2586.

Website: [LCPS-Stamp.org](http://LCPS-Stamp.org)

**PSLC Officers and Board**

**President:**

Douglas Milliken, 717-330-4062  
dmilliken@me.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

Charles DiComo, 914-450-3791  
charlesdicomo@gmail.com

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

TBA

**Secretary:**

Diane Meek, 717-396-9262  
dimeek111@gmail.com

**Interim Treasurer:**

Lou DiFelice, 717-295-5536  
loudifelicegmail.com

**Past President:**

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

**Publicity:**

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

**Membership & ATA:**

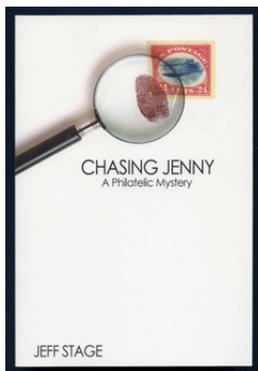
Lucy Eyster, 717-735-2586  
lucyeyster@yahoo.com

**Newsletter Editor:**

**Programs, and APS Rep:**  
Paul Petersen, 717-299-5640,  
pcpetersen@comcast.net

## Planning an Estate

Most of you are looking forward to estate attorney Patti Spencer's presentation in May. But there are many actions you can do without an attorney, ones you can start doing right now. See page-3.



## Updated PSLC Website

(← **Jenny from Pg.-1**) Jeff even spent six months as fashion editor (anyone who sees how he dresses is incredibly shocked by this, but he swears it's true!). And, he taught news writing as an adjunct professor at Syracuse University (Go, Orange!, a phrase he still shouts despite living in the very long shadow of Happy Valley and its beloved blue-and-white affiliation that will go nameless here). Throughout life, Jeff has continued to find solace and joy as a stamp collector. After more than 50 years at it, he's finally figuring out what makes sense for him in his collection.

Another near lifetime pursuit he has had is creative writing, mostly short stories. Upon encouragement of others, he finally tried writing a novel, resulting in *Chasing Jenny*, which combined his hobby interests, with his skills as a writer, reporter and editor, and his love of mystery stories.

(← **President from Pg.-1**) Some stampless covers never saw a post office. These are fun to sort.

There is another classification of stampless covers, the free frank covers. Here, specified individuals had approval to place their signature in the cover's corner in lieu of franking. This applied to certain politicians, service members in the field, widowed first ladies, etc.

What is my next step? From here I'll be seeking stampless covers from CA and PA where I have lived most of my life. I'll watch for covers with contents more interesting than banking/legal issue. **Doug**

### Journals/Lancopex

Needed: Philatelic magazines such as *Linn's*, *American Philatelist*, *Topical Time*, *GPS*, *Classics*, *PA Postal History*, etc. Please bring to the March or April meetings or take to the show in April. Thanks.

### Volunteers for Show

Please consider signing up for a few hours at Lancopex on 28-29 April. There are many opportunities from setting up the tables and chairs along with the exhibit frames to working at registration or selling cachets. If you will not be at the meeting to sign up but would like to participate, let Paul know. It takes many good hands to make this show the success that it has been over the years. ☒

After many months of waiting with bated breath, the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County's website has been revamped and completely updated by Society webmaster and Board Vice President, Dr. Charles J. DiComo.

He has worked with the original architecture created by Robert Noble (thanks Bob) to update the text, images, and format of the Home page, as well as Officers & Board, LANCOPEX Show Details & Dealers, Philatelic Links and more.

Charles has also updated the *PSLC Newsletter* section with not only current issues, but the past 9+ years as PDF for easy reading. Over the next months he will work to add older issues, those going back to 1990 and some others from the 1930s that have surfaced.

A new feature he created is a "Presentations & Exhibits" section, which already houses a few exhibits and over 10 presentations given at PSLC Meetings over the years by members.

In the near future, he also plans on adding more sections on the Society's history and mission, its Award winners over the years, Current Events and even a Photo Journal. A footer has also been

added to the bottom of each page with versioning and his contact info. With this you can reach out to Dr. DiComo with questions, suggestions, & additions.

While the image below is a little small to read the details, the home page shows the visual appeal of the site. You are encouraged visit: [lcpss-stamps.org](http://lcpss-stamps.org). There you will find many varieties of collecting aids that will only grow with time. And what would you next like to see on the site?

And the next time you run into Dr. Di Como, give him a good pat on the back. He has put in over 70+ hours on the site as of two weeks ago!



## Pond Dipping-Dave Clark

This short article was borne of a transatlantic relationship between myself and your esteemed Immediate Past President, Hal Klein. The relationship consists of him negotiating ridiculous large discounts on the covers I sell to him on Delcampe whilst I wonder why he keeps misplacing his wallet.....!.....love and respect him really!

Although I deal mostly in postal history my real passion in philately is collecting GB controls and cylinder numbers. As one comic has said, it confirms that I am a control freak!

These numbers and letters were introduced onto the selvedge of GB stamp sheets as a method of accounting on issues that had large print runs i.e. the lower value issues.

First introduced on the 1d lilac value of 1881, the letter was placed on the margin under the

19<sup>th</sup> stamp at the bottom of the sheet. The letters were changed approximately twice a year, and this issue started at A and progressed through to X. (at left)



On control ↑ G a marginal rule was introduced called a 'Jubilee Line' to improve printing and plate durability. This continued through subsequent years.

Further interest for collectors is provided from control J and onwards where the selvedge can be found perforated or imperforated. ↴



## PSLC Updates

### 50-50 Drawing at PSLC

In response to a show of interest at the February meeting, beginning with the March PSLC gathering, a 50-50 drawing will be held.

How will this be organized? Numbered pairs of blue tickets will be sold at \$1.00. One ticket is kept, the other goes into the hat. And like the monthly drawing for a door prize, one ticket will be drawn for the 50-50.

Each numbered blue ticket will cost \$1.00, with 50c going to the Society treasury and 50c into the pot for the winning ticket. You can buy as many or as few tickets as you like, and there will be a winner each month. Thus, the more tickets we sell, the more the Society benefits and the bigger the winner's prize. So-bring your dollar bills to the meeting (higher denominations also accepted!) and support the Society, and you may find yourself in a better financial position than when you arrived! Tickets will be on sale prior to the start of the meeting. I have volunteered to coordinate this activity, so you may contact me via email at [peppens@gmail.com](mailto:peppens@gmail.com) with questions. Thanks. **Aaron Heckler**

### PSLC Opportunities

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Picnic Committee
- Coffee Committee
- Silent Auction Committee

These are opportunities to make a contribution to PSLC.

### Membership Notes

Our most distant dues-paying member is John Heitzman from SC. He hopes to be at Lancopex and see many of you. Our longest standing junior member is Caroline Ford of Brownstown. Congratulations all. **Lucy Eyster**

And of course is the odd aberration...



Next month I'll share some final information on the control letters of the Jubilee issues.

In the meantime, if any of you would like to communicate with me online, please do not hesitate to do so. **Dave Clark**: [Dave@mailbox.co.uk](mailto:Dave@mailbox.co.uk)

# February Minutes and Treasury

Diane Meek & Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** President Doug Milliken opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and welcomed new and old to the club.

**Minutes:** Due to an unanticipated computer glitch, Ed ☒ said that his computer ate the January Minutes and Treasurer's Report while working on the newsletter. He did not realize this absence until the issue was printed! He apologized profusely. Should these reports return, in a flash, just like they vanished, he will publish them.

**Board Meeting:** Paul Petersen announced that the minutes of the January board meeting were circulated with the February Newsletter in both hard-copy and electronic formats. Following up on some of the items, through shows of hands there is interest in a 50-50 drawing (D. Milliken will follow-up on this) and a silent auction at club meetings. A champion is needed for the latter. See Doug if interested. Paul also announced that some volunteers are needed for the Coffee

Committee and the Picnic Committee if these activities are to continue. Finally he shared the concerns brought up at the meeting regarding the holding of private conversations during the speakers' presentations and business meetings. Membership agreed that this should cease.

**Membership:** Lucy Eyster reported that about 20 members need to pay dues. She introduced new members Bill Grimm and Dick Julian. Attendance = 43.

**Drawing:** Diane Meek and Lucy Eyster were the winners of this month's door prizes.

**Lancopex:** Dick Shaefer and Lou DiFelice, co-chairmen of Lancopex said that dealer sign-ups to date look good, Paul Petersen followed up with manpower issues. Deb Ehleiter passed around the volunteer list, the Patron List (\$5 each), and sign-up sheet for display frames at the show. These will be avail-

able again in March.

**Dinner with the speaker:** There will be outside speakers in March, April, and May. Dinner with the speakers is open to all members and spouses of the club at 4:15 at Olive Garden prior to the meetings. Sign-ups will be circulated ahead of time. Anyone who has not signed up for the March dinner and would like to attend should contact Paul ASAP.

**Pathways:** Al Schaub described this cultural and educational program that is offered by Landis Homes.

**Program:** Hal Klein gave an enlightening PowerPoint presentation on the Presidential Issue of 1938: AKA The Prexies.

**Treasury:** 1-31 January 2017  
Opening: \$6713.50  
Income: \$917  
Expenses: \$3268.46  
Closing: \$4362.04  
3-DCs: \$6993.77

# Club Notes

## Programs, Hosts & Shows

### 2017 Programs

**8 March:** 1.) "Chasing Jenny-A Philatelic Mystery," Jeff Stage of APS. 2.) Lancopex preparation. Tony Coccio, Host

**12 April:** U.S. Postal Rates: 1792-1869, Bill Schultz. Joy Bouchard, Host.

**10 May:** Collectibles and Your Estate. Patti S. Spencer, Esq.

**14 June:** Spring Auction. Dick Shaefer, Host.

**12 July:** Postal History Classics. Dr. Charles DiComo. Jim Ziogas, Host.

**9 August:** Picnic Coordinators needed. Otherwise Hosts, Fred Mackey and Fred Sargent will host our meeting.

**12 September:** Fall Auction

**11 October:** Confederate Philately, Trish Kaufmann

**8 November:** Open House and One-Page Exhibits. Len Kasper & Paul Petersen. Len Kasper, Host

**13 December:** December Dinner

### 2018 Programs

**10 January:** Winter Auction. Dr. DiComo, Host

**14 February:** TBA

**14 March:** TBA

**11 April:** TBA

**9 May:** TBA

**13 June:** Spring Auction

**11 July:** TBA

**8 August:** Summer Picnic

**12 September:** TBA

**10 October:** TBA

**14 November:** Open House and One-Page Exhibits

**12 December:** December Dinner

### 2016-17 Shows/Events

**Some Sundays Stamp Bourse:** Sunday, 4 June, 13 August, & 17 December. Farm & Home Center.

**Red Rose Coin Show:** S, 1 April, Farm & Home Center, Lancaster

**Harrisburg/CAPPEX:** Sun, 12 March, S. Undemuth Elementary School, 1201 N. Progress Avenue.

**Delpex:** S, 22 April, Nur Shine Center, New Castle, DE

# Do It Now

A favorite columnist (**Bonnie Smith**) in a favorite stamp journal (*ASD&C*) makes a strong case for getting expertization certificates for your appropriate stamps and covers sooner rather than later. A philatelic estate can be problematic enough for the non-collector heirs. They may have no idea of what a cert is or why it is important. Bonnie recommends that if collectors need these items in their holdings, they should do it right away. Don't wait! After all, it is the collector who knows his or her holdings the best.

**Reference:** (Bonnie Smith, *The Phemale Philatelist*, ASD&C, January 2017, #106, pg. 18)

# It's A Small World

How often does one read an article about postal history items of The Great War in a British philatelic publication (*Stamps Magazine*, December 2016, Pgs.62- 64) and encounter a postcard from the Western Front by someone you know about? Not very often!



Lets go back to 7 November 1918, a Friday. The war was going well for the allies. There were rumors of a truce, an armistice. Through nothing but some optimism and poor judgment without malice came the false alarm prior to the eventual Monday, 11 November armistice date.

Anyway, the news reached the men and women on the front lines and hit the headlines in the U.S. papers on that Friday afternoon!

There was joy all around. Norman Watson, the author of the article, collects postal history and ephemer-

era related to items of this false armistice of 7-8 November.

Those at the front wrote back home to the States of what it was like with the war over.

The postcard nearby was written to a family member from Pvt. P.B. Heilig of the AEF in France dated 7 November. It read:

*There was some excitement last night when the report came in that Germany has signed the armistice. The Yanks secured a few American flags and other allied flags and had a parade. The main street was so crowded that you could hardly walk.*

My excitement came when I saw the address, Mount Joy, PA P.B. Heilig's cousin Jim (a WWII vet) was one of the first people I meet (in Snyder's Barber Shop) when we moved from WI to Mt. Joy in 1984. We celebrated New Year's Eve with Jim's daughter and her family for many years. Jim's grandson Nic, and I attend the meetings of the East Coast Branch of the Western Front Association when we can. Since sending this info to Nic, he will seek more information about Pvt. P.B. Heilig for us. Ed ☒

# Musings: A sensitive and serious issue

The 5 September 2016 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* contained William Hughes' article (Pg. 24) on the semipostal issues of the 1936-1944 Brown Ribbon horse race event. This was an ongoing part of the popular German Derby that began in 1869. The additional semipostal revenue supported the sweepstake's prize & the nation's culture fund.



I read this interesting piece several times last September, as I was in the middle of writing an article for this Newsletter on the postal issues promoting the Leipzig Trade Fair (Der Leipziger Messe), an event that began in the Middle Ages and continues to the current day, where it is larger than ever. (Maxi card ↓)



The Leipzig Trade Fair stamp issues began at the beginning of WWII. They continued throughout the war and into the Soviet sector of Germany where Leipzig was located.

Without missing a year, the stamp issuance continued into the decades of post-war Soviet occupation of East Germany, only to be discontinued with the onset of German reunification in 1990. There were over 150 Leipzig Trade Fair issues during this 50-year period.

Shortly after Hughes' article appeared, I came upon Norm Vorchheimer's Letter to the Editor in a subsequent issue of *Linn's* (26 September, Pg. 8). He expressed his concerns regarding Hughes' article on the Brown Ribbon semipostals. He was essentially distressed in what he considered Hughes' cavalier attitude toward a horse race while ignoring the concurrent Holocaust. Vorchheimer admits that he is sensitive to this topic as a refugee from the Holocaust, but he adds that "Hughes owes an apology to the surviving world."

This letter caused me to reflect on my Leipzig Trade Fair article and to recall a life-changing experience in high school. My Jewish friend's uncle with a concentration camp tattoo recommended that I read Wm. L. Shire's *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*. His story and this book opened my eyes to the Holocaust. Even now I remain quite concerned

with the current rise in anti-Semitism both at home and abroad.

Hughes' "Brown Ribbon Semipostals" article describes a stamp issue in, albeit, a very troubling time. But does he owe an apology to the "surviving world" for his description of these postage stamps without reference to or separate from the Holocaust?

Furthermore, the Holocaust was taking place during the time when the Leipzig Trade Fair stamps were issued. Do the students of the Trade Fair issues owe an apology for not referencing the Holocaust in their research?

By extension, should I apologize to the victims and survivors of all faiths and creeds for the countless atrocities committed by the Communists and the secret state police (the Stasi) for over 50 years in East Germany? After all, this was the home of the Trade Fair and its promotional postage stamps.

I have seen many fine dedicated Holocaust stamp and postal history related topics in articles, collections, and exhibits.

Including references to the Holocaust in articles about the German Derby or the Leipzig Trade Fair, for example, only give the Holocaust lip service. I have seen or read many Holocaust studies in-

cluding the Warsaw Ghetto, the stamps and postal history of Auschwitz, and Kristallnacht. Let these studies speak for themselves. Let them not be watered down by brief curiosity in all other studies of German philately from 1933-1945.

✂ Please clip this dues notice, complete it, and turn in to Lucy Eyster at the March meeting with \$10.00. You may also send it to her at 503-B, 2001 Harrisburg Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17601

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

ATA Member  APS Member

Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(es) if you are a paid up member.  
 Make checks payable to P.S.L.C.



Philatelic Society of Lancaster County  
 P.O. Box 6053  
 Lancaster, PA 17607-6053