



Open House and Exhibit
Review: Pg-2

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
American Topical Assn., Chapter 118
Member, NY Federation of Stamp Clubs

December Dinner, Wednesday, 13 December 2017

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Buffet begins at 6:00

Good food and fellowship, gift exchange, entertainment, and more.



From the West End

I hope by now that you have had a chance to peruse and use the upgraded website. Congrats to Charles DiComo for making this possible.



You will note, too, a reconfigured logo that we'll launch in January.

This website upgrade and logo started as a Christmas present to our editor from his daughter-in-law, Heather last year. She has worked closely with Charlie providing the upgraded platform and security while he rebuilt the site. The site is the evidence. As an app and web designer, for this year, Heather will continue to cover our site through her company (lovelocaldesign.com) with security and platform upgrades as needed.

Be sure to send a link to your philatelic friends. And utilize

this site yourself for the links, reference material, and for the information exchange. The latter is starting to catch on.

There were visits to this site, and we have had some queries into visiting and joining PSLC.

So the year is ending along with my term as PSLC president. It has been a privilege to work with such a fine group of club members, officers, and Board. I plan to keep just as busy as before and help where I can. Have a wonderful holiday season and joyous New Year to follow in 2018. *Doug*

2017 December Dinner: \$15 per person-Pay at the door. Exact change is preferred. **Gift Packets for APS & ATA:** There will be a box to collect your donated items. Needed for ATA are packets of 30 stamps for given topics, perhaps doubles from of your topical collection? APS needs packets of 25 stamps of either U.S. or foreign, or even better-both.



December Dinner: The Best Deal In Town...

Dinner Menu

Cheese and Crackers
Holiday Punch

Cocktail Meatballs
Stuffed Chicken Breast
Apricot Glazed Pork Loin
Oven Roasted Salmon

Roasted Red Skin Potatoes
Wild Rice Pilaf
Key Biscayne Blend
Petite Peas with Pearl Onions

Cherry Crumb Pie
Triple Chocolate Cake
Hot Coffee, Hot Tea, Iced Tea
Ice Water

Directions to the Viva Center
Enter Woodcrest Villa from Harrisburg Pike. Turn right at the "T" intersection as you normally would for Bluebird Commons. Continue on the main road past the entrance for Bluebird and about 75 yards past Bluebird, you'll see the Viva Center on your left. This is the new entrance, Visitor Center, and much more. It will be well lit and there will be parking galore in front of the building. Once inside the building head left to the sounds of laughter and merriment where you will soon join your PSLC colleagues.

2017 Gift Exchange

There will be two gift exchanges. The first is for philatelic items such as stamps, postal products, and postal related collectibles, stuff you would like to receive. The second drawing is for non-philatelic items. Values should be in the \$5-8 price range. (No candles, please) Everyone present at the dinner, PSLC members and guests, may enter either or both drawings. What should you enter into the exchange? Use Murphy's Golden Rule for Gift Exchanges: "Only give items that you would like to receive yourselves."

Volume 80, No. 12

December 2017

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 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

Website: LCPS-Stamps.org

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Book Review

Niels H. Bundgaard, (2005). *The Ugly Duckling: Hans Christian Andersen and Danish Stamps*. Published by AFA-Forlaget in Otterup, Denmark. This book is distributed by Nordfirm.

Many of us older Americans, I am sure, can name some of Hans Christian Andersen's (1805-1875) fairy tales from our youth such as *The Little Match Girl*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and *The Little Mermaid*, to name a few. So it would seem like a lead pipe cinch for the poet's home country to honor him with a stamp, wouldn't it?

However, it took from 1925 to 1935 to produce an issue related to Denmark's poetry legend, Hans Christian Andersen. Through politics, bureaucracy, delays, etc., they missed the 50th Anniversary of his death in 1925, and then they missed the 125th of his birth in 1930. But they wanted to get it right at all levels of approval, after all! It is an interesting story that could be told about postal administrations the world over.

The set finally issued was the result of a contest, and it included an illustration from *The Ugly Duckling*, 5øre, *The Little Mermaid*, 10øre, and four other stamps with HC Andersen's portrait, 7-15øre. ↓



Currently the set remains a popular one, but at the time of issue, it was met with much derision in the press as to stamp design, quality, timelines, and others.

The '35 issue got the ball rolling, however slowly, and in 1953 a three-stamp set was issued late for the 150th anniversary of his death. There were future issues in the '60s, '80s, and '90s. The 1930 Danish Christmas seal saw *The Little Match Girl*, and the 1975 Christmas Seals contained eighteen images of his paper cuttings. 2005 saw a Danish birth bicentennial issue, and other postal entities participated including Alderney, Hong Kong, Jersey, Belgium, Singapore, Germany, Marshall Islands, and China.

The **2017 Open House and Exhibits** event went very well. The walls were covered with stamps of all sorts, covers, maps, letters, and other treasures of 12 exhibitors that covered 20 topics. The 55 in attendance may have been a modern record for PSLC. There were visitors and new members present. In fact tonight was the first meeting for our newest member, **Thomas Nichols**, and he participated in the exhibits! Special snacks were prepared by Open House planner **Len Kasper** along with **Fred Sargent** and **Fred Mackey**.



Speakers (L→R): Hal Klein, Dave Hunt, Dr. Charles DiComo, Doug Milliken, and Mike Bach.

Following a short business meeting, Len and Paul introduced the two presenters. **Al Schaub** discussed "*Philatelic opportunities for new and seasoned collectors alike.*" **Dave Hunt** provided an illustrated "*Introduction to errors, freaks, and oddities.*"

One (or more) Page exhibits were lively with great presenter and audience engagement.

Mike Bach discussed the 4

May 1813 cover and letter he purchased, with historical significance related to Peninsular War.



Dennis Bouchard is collecting service organizations on stamps, and this year he has emphasized The Lions Club.

Joy Bouchard displayed her topicals relating to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Dr. Charles DiComo described historical content and the markings and travels of a most interesting 1839 stampless cover from London, Canada to Scotland.

Lucy Eyster collects unusual stamps, and her theme tonight was thermographic stamps on cover, some related to the recent 21 August '18 U.S. eclipse.

Dave Hunt had three exhibits including ♦Latvian stamps on map. ♦Stamps on paper currency; and ♦A U.S. postage due bill which was franked with \$310.29 in postage due stamps!

Hal Klein displayed ♦early machine cancels; ♦Lebanon County postal history emphasizing Mt. Gretna, Chautauqua, and Indian-town Gap; and ♦ "The Postmaster's Daughter on Postcards."

Dennis Milliken had a collector's U.S. type set of pennies from 1782 through 2009.

With covers, issues, and blocks, **Thomas Nichols** discussed the evolution, denominations, varieties, and uses of the U.S. DC4 red-pink Skymaster airmail stamps of 1946 to 1949 and later uses with some printing and cover variations.

RD Noble had three exhibits posted by Hal Klein including the ♦1st edition of U.S. revenue stamps; ♦Precancelled stamps; and ♦Varieties of playing card stamps.

Paul Petersen had ♦Twenty-two different slogan cancels on U.S. Scott 2116 (See pg.-1); ♦A 12 May 1940 censored cover and letter from RF to NJ with commentary on the Nazi invasion; ♦A Bermuda stamp which paid the tax on a 1955 residential electricity bill.

George Younes collects many things "space race" related. Tonight he had covers, ball caps, FDCs, stamps, headlines, photos, and others, many framed.

Presenters (L R): **Tom Nichols, Lucy Eyster, Joy Bouchard, Dennis Bouchard, Al Schaub, and George Younes.**



"Overall, it was a very successful and educational evening. Everyone got involved, both the presenters and the club members alike," commented event planner **Len Kasper**, adding "Now we have to get ready for Lancopex in April."

Club Bio

John Hostetter

John was born in Detroit, but when his father left the auto industry for Hamilton Watch, Lancaster became his lifelong home.

In Lancaster at the age of eight, his dad got him a starter set at a downtown variety store. He has



collected stamps ever since.

John has wide collecting areas. He collects U.S. topically with history, nature, theatre, and art & literature. He collected UN for a while. His other topical interests are made up of worldwide issues to include coats of arms, oriental art, poetry, and scouting. He purchases his stamps largely at stamp shows and through USPS (aka "The Cave") in Kansas City.

As John notes, he enjoys the art and design of stamps greater than "fly-specking." PSLC offers the monthly bourse, solid programs and a great show each year. The bus trips to the big shows remind him of one of his favorite philatelic events as a young teen when his parents took him in 1966 to

SIPEX, the 6th U.S. Int'l Stamp Show in Washington, DC.

Following graduation from Millersville, John held a variety of interesting occupations in banking, retail grocery work, and part-time teaching. But his favorites were with the Boy Scouts, especially the many summer camps and his twenty full-time years with the Pennsylvania Department of Weights and Measures where he retired a few years back.

Last month John was elected the club's 2nd vice president and will move to 1st VP in '18. As he enjoyed leadership roles at Lancopex and the picnic, he is likewise anticipating board membership next year allowing him a greater opportunity to serve his stamp club.

November Minutes and Treasury

Diane Meek and Dou DiFelice

Opening: Following the Stamp & Cover Bourse, President **Doug Milliken** convened the meeting and Open House at 7:00.

Membership: **Lucy Eyster** introduced the visitors and our newest member **Tom Nichols**. Also present were **Barb** and **Lee Buchanan** and **Dale Shaub** who joined earlier in the fall. There were 55 in attendance.

1st VP and Webmaster's Report: **Dr DiComo** announced that the revised website went live in late October and encouraged members to check it out and share it with friends. An especially new feature is a 'Research Exchange' for collectors to ask questions and receive answers. He is adding older club minutes from the 1930s to the site. Please feel free to send him any club related information, history, and ephemera that you come across. He is also considering a 'Buy and Sell' page and will seek club input.

December Dinner and Gift Exchange Report: **Paul Petersen** gave an update and passed around

the sign-up sheet. (*In the name of expediency, Dinner information is contained on Page-1 of this newsletter.*)

Door Prizes: Lucy oversaw the drawing. 16-page Lighthouse stock books were won by **John Ehleiter** and **David Silcox**.

50-50 Drawing: This was overseen by **Aaron Heckler** with \$80 split between **Lou DiFelice** and the PSLC treasury.

Board and Lancopex Meeting: This meeting will be scheduled for January and information will be forthcoming. Once scheduled this session will be opened to all club members as it was last year. Lancopex will be held on F/S 27-28 April '18.

Reading Stamp Show: Roy Baardsen thanked all PSLC members who attended and supported the show and those who helped with the event. Roy said that the show was very successful financially including the club sales table making some money. All 15 dealers report that they

plan to return in 2018.

2017-2018 Club Officers: The following officer slate was nominated and approved unanimously.

President: **Dr. Charles Di Como**

1st VP: **John Hostetter**

2nd VP* See note below

Secretary: **Diane Meek**

Treasurer: **Lou DiFelice**

Notes: **Doug Milliken** will remain on the 2018 Board as Immediate Past President. ***Bill Greiner** volunteered to serve as the 2nd VP for 2018, so this opening will be voted upon in January. Thanks to all volunteers.

Treasury: **Lou DiFelice** reviewed the accounts including the deposit needed for '18 Lancopex.

Opening: \$3,301.02

Income: \$312.00

Expenses: \$1,358.40

Closing Balance: \$2,254.62

3-CDs @ \$7,023.20



Club Notes

Programs, Hosts & Shows

2017 Programs

13 December: December Dinner, Deb Ehleiter & Co.

2018 Programs

10 January: Winter Auction. Dr. DiComo, Host

14 February: The Overrun Countries Series Under a Printer's Loupe. Hal Klein

14 March: A Philatelic Journey, Scott English

11 April: How We Now Judge Exhibits with Points in North America. Bill Schultz

9 May: State Symbols of PA on Stamps, Vera Felts

13 June: Spring Auction

11 July: History of the Schuylkill Canal in PPCs, Aaron Heckler

8 August: Summer Picnic

13 September: Fall Auction

10 October: Stampless Mail from U.S. to Europe. Dr. Chas DiComo

14 November: Open House and One-Page Exhibits

12 December: December Dinner

2017-2018 Shows/Events

You've got...a package." By Bob Rufe. 16 December '17, Chester County Hist'l Society Philatelic Series, West Chester.

Hunt Valley Stamp & Coin Show, 16 December 2017. Jim Reeves, Embassy Suites, Hunt Valley, MD.

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: Sunday, 17 December 2017, Farm & Home Center. Free lunch is served.

York Stamp Show: 19-20 January 2018, York Fair Grounds. (Please note that this is a week earlier than show is usually held.)

Our Club Matters

Thank You Kind Colleagues: Kudos to PSLCs newsletter colleagues for their dedication to the publication. These include the monthly reports/columns from President **Doug Milliken**, Secretary, **Diane Meek**, Treasurer, **Lou DiFelice**, and 1st VP/Webmaster and Designer, **Dr. DiComo**.

As always, appreciation is extended to long-time newsletter proofreader, **Carol Petersen**, *Circulation Assistant II*, **Diane Meek**, and *Cub photographer*, **Doug Milliken**. And finally, I am grateful for the articles, suggestions, and images, etc. from the following: **Hal Klein**, **Wm. P. Snyder**, **Lucy Eyster**, **Charles & Donna Kilgore**, **John Hostetter**, **Dr. DiComo**, **Bill Schultz**, **Len Kasper**, **Dick Colberg**, and **Trish Kaufmann**. Ed. ☒

Winter Weather Policy: In the event of inclement weather, PSLC officers will decide about holding the meeting. The editor will send out an email to those on-line regarding the officer's decision. Members who receive hardcopy newsletters should call Paul for updates at 1-717-299-5640.

Board Meeting: A combined officer, board, and Lancopex meeting will be held on Wednesday, **17 January 2018** at 7:00 PM at Bluebird Commons. This is an open event for all club members.

For Sale: **Al Schaub** continues to sell off his dealer's stock at discount to PSLC members. He will be accepting your want lists for both foreign and U.S. Contact Al at 560-6278.

Len Kasper still has PSLC member discounts at his store on Rt. 896, Strasburg. Contact Len at hotrodparts33@aol.com.

Dues: **Lucy Eyster** will be collecting dues at the dinner. Please clip the coupon below and turn this in along with \$10 at the Dinner or mail to Lucy at her address included below.

Opportunities: PSLC may have an opportunity to partner with the North Museum to link exhibits with stamps and education. More work is needed. Stay tuned. Help is further needed for •Philately-101; •Outreach for Stamp Collecting Month in October, and •mentorship for new members and other collectors.



✂

Please clip this dues notice, complete it, and turn in to Lucy Eyster at the December Dinner with \$10.00. You may also send it to her at 503-B, 2001 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601-2641

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

ATA Member APS Member

Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member.

Make checks payable to Philatelic Society of Lancaster County.

Musings: I have a lot to learn about collecting postal history, Part-II

In Part-1 last month, I described an old RF cover that I had purchased thinking it was possibly from the 1870-1 Franco Prussian War, with censor tape tied by censor stamp. This was franked with a Blue Ceres definitive stamp, the stamps used from 1849 into the mid-1870s. Had I had a modicum of knowledge about French philately, and the Ceres stamps in particular, I would have realized that according to Scott, these stamps were reproduced from 1938-1940 (335-340) but with much higher denominations. That ultramarine 2.25fr stamp on my cover should have been the biggest tip-off that I did not have a 19th Century cover. The denominations of the older Ceres series never exceeded 1fr. According to **Dick Colberg** with his *Yvette & Teillier Catalog*, the modern series ran from 1937-1941. The 2.25fr is Y&T# 375A.



So what about my cover? The censor stamp looked like those on my WWI covers. The cancel date was unreadable. There was an oval

military stamp. I needed help. Dick Colberg had sent information on the oval marking to **Hal Klein** from a reference work at the Collector's Club in NYC. With this information along with a scan of my cover, Hal went to work with his special scanner to give me more information about my cover as follows.

Cancel information: Hal read the date as 18 April 1939, and the FLE in the postmark is Fleurance in the Department of Gers, just north of the Pyrenees Mountains on the Spanish border.

Double Oval Censor Mark: This particular mark was used in 1939-1940. ↓



Postal Control Commission mark: This is a black censor mark tying the censor tape to the cover on both front and back sides. ↓



What else do we know about this cover? It was mailed 18 April 1939 to Werner Manheim of 2655 Highland Ave. in Cincinnati, OH. This was four and a half months before the start of WWII.

So why was there censoring of French mail leaving the country 4.5 months before the 1 September start of WWII in 1939 with the invasion of Poland?

Hal adds some background information regarding the diplomatic and military relationship of France and Germany. There were several wars between them since the 1870-1 Franco Prussian War. Now Hitler was threatening all of Europe, and by April of 1939 there was Nazi occupation of the Saar Basin, Austria, Lithuania, and Czechoslovakia. This was all following Germany's violation of the Treaty of Versailles with significant rearmament and more. Censorship was fairly common,

Hal notes. It was a way of knowing what was going on, and it could prevent problems. The U.S. did some censoring before WWII. Because France was censoring mail in April of 1939, she knew war was coming. The more information she could get beforehand, the better. Another question is "Why two censor marks?" Two organizations, both associated with military intelligence censored the mail. This is a topic for a separate article.



So what was my cover? It was a censored private letter from an unknown writer in southern France to Mr. Manheim in Cincinnati.

There was no letter content, but with modern technology I was able to find a current image of his address in Ohio. It looks like a suburban multi-family dwelling. Though interesting, it sheds no further light on the cover at hand. Ed ☒



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