

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173

Message from the President

Wm. P. Snyder

Thanks to Dick Colberg for his interesting presentation at the February meeting on Canadian Railway Post Office Cancels. RPOs are an interesting collecting niche-one that offers exceptional research opportunities.

Speaking of opportunities, The American Philatelic Society has recently developed three on-line courses. The courses, offered through what is called their Virtual Campus, vary in length. All are taught by well qualified instructors. Three courses and their

costs for APS members (non-APS members can also enroll, although at a slightly higher cost) are: **Basic Stamp Collecting**-4 lessons, \$55; **Collecting First Day Covers**-4 lessons, \$55; and **Keys to exhibiting**-7 lessons, \$75.

When you sign up, you receive a set of materials. You then work your way through the course using the internet. The instructors provide feedback and are available to answer questions.

To learn more about each of the courses, visit

the APS web site: www.stamps.org. There you will find additional information about each of the three courses. Or call APS (Janet Houser or Gretchen Moody) at 814-933-3803, x238.

I would encourage everyone with an interest in knowing more about our hobby to consider trying the course-and if you do, then provide feedback to our club members.

We have an informative presentation for the March Meeting: Stamp Printing Methods. See you there. **Bill-**

LANCOPEX ALERT: Please save Friday PM/ Sunday, 25-27 April (or part of it) to help with Lancopex. This is our club's best effort to promote the stamp hobby and our local club. We gain new members each year from those who attend. But there is always more work to do than people to help.

A sign-up will be available at the next two (2) meetings, so please consider giving your time for the benefit of the club. This is our only fundraiser, our one source of club revenue. There is a need for set up and take down (especially the frames), club table and sign-in, snacks, exhibits, and more.

Feb. Program: Stamp Printing Methods

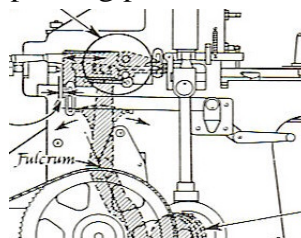
A slide program from APS

The March program will feature an APS slide show by O.L. Harvey. It was created in 1994 and lasts 45 minutes.

Identifying and distinguishing between the different stamp print-

ing methods can be a difficult process. Utilizing magnified views of stamps, this program differentiates the primary methods in an understandable way. Included are tips on what to look for to

identify a stamp's printing process.



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March-2009

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PSLC Meets the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at BlueBird Commons/ Wood Crest Villa at 7:00 PM

President:

William P. Snyder

Vice President:

John Ahlfeld

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



Woody Hann Feb Drawing Winner

Elwood "Woody" Hann was mentored in philately by his grandfather from a young age into adolescence until his interests went elsewhere. In his early 30s he inherited his grandfather's collection, and his interest was rekindled.

Having reached the glass ceiling in his US collection budget, he has focused his collecting and research on US pre-cancels, compiling data on unusual varieties of these stamps. With this data, he hopes that the Pre Cancel Society will have the basis for a new catalogue in this area. He is looking forward to his pre cancel presentation with Bob Noble in June.

Woody never made a great find in the dollar cover box, but he did see



the 1¢ British Guiana Stamp at the 1976 Exposition in Philadelphia when the stamp was on display there.

After 37 years with RCA in Lancaster, Woody retired. The Hanns have four children and three grandkids.

Besides collecting, Woody considers himself a "professional volunteer." He has long-term involvement with the agency that assists the elderly and low income with their tax returns. At Landis Valley Museum he explains the gun collection with the details of production and performance. He is on the board of the Ephrata Area Rehabilitation Services (EARS), and he plays a mean trombone with the Lititz-Moravian Band and other musical organizations.

Secretary's/Treasurer's Reports Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith

The January 14th meeting came to order at 7 PM. Woody Hann won the \$5 drawing.

Bill Snyder announced the new set of four **Abraham Lincoln stamps** this week to commemorate his 200th birthday.

The January minutes were approved as written.

Roy Baardsen announced the fall bus trip to the **US Postal Museum** in DC. There was much support for this. (See pg. 3)

The **August picnic** has all been arranged by Marilyn Shirley.

Jim Boyles passed around sign-up

sheets for **Lancopex Patrons** at \$5/person.

Vern Marten announced the start of the **traveling stamp show** beginning with the **Lititz Public Library** during the month of May. There is one display case for albums etc, and the rest will be Velcro display boards where color copies of stamps, exhibit pages, album covers, etc can be placed. The club approved funding for this project, and Leslie Botte will bring 100 page protectors for the project. Vern will be seeking out the next venue for this club sponsored event.

Lucy Eyster re-circulated the

interest inventory to the membership.

Lou DeFelice reported that former club member, **Jack Demora** just passed away, and Lou will call the family on behalf of the club.

After a brief intermission, Club member **Dick Colberg** gave the evening's PowerPoint presentation on **Canadian RPOs**.

The Treasury	
Opening:	\$4647.77
Income:	\$1180.20
Expenses:	\$1314.51
Closing:	\$4513.46

arago.si.edu: Check out this web site from the educational arm of the US Postal Museum. There is postal history, stamps, artifacts, and other related information.

Brief Guide to Regummed US Stamps

In the February newsletter was a short guide to detecting reperforated stamps from Dave Kenawell's stamp dealer, Gary Goldstein of Southwest Stamps.

Gary also notes that in his business he sees lots of stamps that have been sold as having original gum, when in fact, they have been regummed. To Gary and other dealers, a regummed stamp has the same value as a stamp without gum, usually 25-50% less. The entire article with links to illustrations is found on the below listed link as well as other related articles. Unfortunately many collectors cannot detect if a stamp has been regummed.

All US stamps were perforated after being gummed. This means that examining the perforations under 10-15X magnification will reveal areas on the perforations where the gum has been incidentally removed by the perforating machine.

These gumless areas will be on the torn fibers that remain on the stamp during perforation. If the stamp is regummed, these fibers will contain visible gum where it should not be seen.

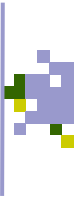
Gary adds that with modern technology, regumming is getting harder to detect, so when in doubt, use an expertization service.

Another means is the feel of the perfs across the finger

tips. They are less stiff with original gum, and it is a reliable detection method. However, it takes practice to learn.

By studying what original gum looks like, you will get a feel for the fraudulent gum, so a good reference for a given stamp is necessary. This is important for the examination of imperf stamps.

Look for seepage of new gum onto the front side of the stamp. Remember, too, that gums display differences in shine, color, texture, brush stroke, and more. Evenness of gum application is also important to note. In humidity, new gum can curl differently than the original gum of that same stamp. It takes practice and a skilled eye.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Displays & Shows

2009 Program & Snacks:

11th March: APS: Stamp Printing Methods. John Ahlfeld, Host

8th April: Lick & Stick; Lan-copex prep: James Boyles. Marilyn Shirley, Host

13th May: Club Auction. Dick Shaefer, Host

10th June: Bob Noble & Woody Hann: Precancels. Leslie Ann Botte, Host

8th July: APS: Video Guide to Stamp Collecting. Dennis Shumaker, Host

12th August: Club Picnic. No Host

9th September: *US Washington Franklins* (The 3rd Bureau Issue): Lou DiFelice. Lou Liedig, Host

14th October: Club Auction. Lucy Eyster, Host

11th November: Show & Tell for all club members: John Ahlfeld. Diane Meek, Host

9th December: Christmas Party. No Host

2010

13th January: Club Auction

10th February: *King George V and the Royal Collection:* Paul Petersen

NOTE FOR HOSTS: Please bring cups, napkins, utensils, and plates as needed. And remember varied diets - a sugar free drink and a low carb goodie can go a long way.

Stamp Displays:

Vern Marten has been very busy in the community to find venues for our club to promote the hobby through displays and presentations.

We have been granted month-long displays at the Mount Joy

Public Library for April and at the Lititz Public Library for May. Mt. Joy is also making a classroom available for an evening presentation with PowerPoint and all. The purpose of the displays is to provide an eye appealing arrangement that will attract both young and old to the hobby.

It is hoped that many more facilities will open their doors to us. In the interim, let Vern know if you have ideas that may appeal to those in the community. Tel: 371-9055

Upcoming Show Reminders:

Delpex: New Castle, DE, Saturday, the 04th April

LANCOPEX: Friday and Saturday, 24-25 April 2009

Jim Boyles' *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: 7 Jun • 2 Aug • 4 Oct • 6 Dec (Dates are subject to change, so please check.)

The Baltimore Philatelic Society (BPS) What's new this year

It is always fun to attend other club's meetings and stamp shows. For a club editor, it is the same in reading their news-

letters and journals. Many are familiar with the Collectors' Club of New York and their first class magazine, but just recently Jim Boyles shared the the current quarterly journal from the Baltimore Phil. Soc.

Like the CCNY, BPS has its own building - 1224 N. Calbert Street, a facility with weekly meetings which is also open on Tuesdays and half days on Saturday. A well-stocked library is available. BPS was founded in 1889 and currently has 182 paid members.

Club meetings are held every Wednesday. Programs include slide shows, member and guest presentations, auctions, quizzes,

and others. The Germany Philatelic Society meets one Sunday a month, and this is open to BPS members.

The 24 page journal is printed in color thanks to BPS's recent purchase of a new copier/printer. Given their large Labor Day show, Balpex, they anticipate extended use of this machine and its features.

The first quarter, 2009 *Baltimore Philatelist* contains five feature articles with illustrations as well as business reports. The club president is also the editor who wrote most of it and is seeking articles! Out-of-staters can join for \$5/year. See www.balpex.org.

October Bus Trek

US Postal Museum

When: Thursday, 22nd October

Time: Two Pick-Ups Available

Leave Wall Mart 7:00AM

Leave AC Moore 7:30 AM

Cost: \$45-including drivers tip

Return: Leave DC at 6:00 PM

Enjoy a day at the postal museum, and combine it with visits to nearby museums, shopping, and/or other historical sites. 47 seats are available. Call Roy Baardson with questions (610) 927-3435. Checks are due by the 12th August (club picnic) made out to Reading Stamp Collector's Club.

Sliced Machins

We Americans may complain about the new stamp designs, water insoluble adhesives, and plate block numbering. But as always, Royal Mail has topped USPS with design changes to its Machin definitives. Starting in February, the first and second class and over a dozen other denominations and availabilities will be produced with die cuts to prevent reuse. In addition, there will be a pearlescent security inking to make the stamps harder to photocopy.

Stamp Magazine (01/09) has pictured the preliminary design of the die cuts as seen below. These cuts in the Machins will perform like the die cuts or slits in the sticky price tags in retail stores. They cannot be peeled off without destroying the tag.



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Musings from the editor

Estate planning Pt-III

I was at a very useful presentation by Ken Martin at APS on estate planning. APS has an advisory service, and you can contact it through Ken at APS via phone at 814.933.3803 or kenmartin@aps.org.

Please note that this series of columns is not a substitute for the detail and direction that you may need in your estate planning. It is always imperative to seek the expert advice of your estate planner as you and/or your heirs go about the liquidation disposition of your collection.

Look at what you have: Is your material organized so that it is easy to go through? Is the good stuff specified? Any hodge podge? This can remain in boxes for donations or be given to the kids if it is not that valuable. They should have fun going through it. But are your more costly country collections and topicals intact?

Are your exhibit pages set aside? Are you keeping them in safe

condition? Ken said that cataloguing everything you own will send you to an early grave, but at least set apart and inventory the valuable material. Nothing discourages an heir or dealer more than disorganization. You should do the work up front, and point out what is valuable.

When I am asked for a letter of recommendation, I always have the candidate write up a draft. They know what is important, and I can augment their nouns and verbs with adjectives and adverbs. It is easier to sell them when they do the preliminary work. The same applies to you and your collection.

While you are at it, make a list of where things are located. This may be obvious to you, but it may not be so to the others. This is a good exercise. Over time it is easy to put things in "safe" places. You may not only forget where you put them, but you

may have forgotten that you even own them. Collecting for many years can do this.

What is it worth: Like inventorying what you own, it is just as important to have an accurate valuation of your collections, for the pricier materials, at least. The value of certain items has increased over the last few years. So use the most appropriate and updated catalogue whether it be the Scott specialized for US or Gibbons for the UK for example. Include the title and date of the catalogue referenced.

Look at auction catalogues for ideas to describe your material. Take a country collection, for example. In one paragraph they include the brand of album, the years of inclusion, the conditions largely represented, and a list of the better items. They then provide a catalogue value or minimum bid

accepted. This description will give your heirs an idea of what the material is worth. You don't want them led down the garden path when it comes time to sell or consign your treasures.

For very specialized collectables and exhibit pages, you may be the best expert. Therefore you must do the ground work, and perhaps sell or consign it yourself to insure the best return. If you purchased part of your collection from an auction, keep the appropriate catalogue page(s) with the collection.

Recall what Dick Colberg told us a few years ago in his program about philatelic appraisals. Not all appraisers are alike. Some just count stamps and multiply by 20 cents. Appraising is not the same as expertizing. So be your own expert. You know your holdings better than anyone.



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