

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

Club Picnic: Wednesday, 12 August 2009

To be held at Millersville Boro Park at 6:00 PM
(Note early starting time. See details on page 2.)

Message from the President

Wm. P. Snyder

Those attending the July meeting enjoyed the Gary Burghoff video on Stamp Collecting. Gary, better known as Radar on the famous TV series, M*A*S*H, provided an amazingly comprehensive survey of the complexities of stamp collecting. The video was so well done that I hope the LCPS will show it again in the near future.

In recent months, the LCPS has welcomed a number of guests-and four of them have decided to join us. Our new members include

Gareth Diem from Lititz who collects US; **Carl Haffly**, from York who collects anything and 1st day covers; **John Pyle**, from Lititz, who collects US and British Empire; and **Sarah Mylin**, from Willow Street, who collects new and used US. The LCPS welcomes these new members and hopes their experience with us and with stamp collecting is most rewarding for them.

In past years Marilyn Shirley has hosted the picnic from her home-and I

for one will miss the centerpiece of that picnic, the roasted corn. But we have an excellent menu for this year's event, and the spacious pavilion at the Millersville Boro Park provides comfortable accommodations. By now you have received Paul Petersen's note about the picnic; the memo provides directions to the park and guidance on what to bring. And Jim Boyles has promised good weather! So see you there at 6:00 PM on August 12th. **Bill**

James G. Boyles wins 2009 APS Award Ceremony held at DL Lawrence Convention Ctr.

Our own James G. Boyles won the 2009 American Philatelic Association's *Volunteer Recognition Award for Local Promotion/Service*. This was given at the APS Annual Awards Banquet on 8 August at the APS Stamp Show in Pittsburg.

Many reasons for the award were cited, and more specifically this involves Jim's dedicated leadership in Lancaster County philately over many years.

Jim collected as a youngster and returned in the mid

1970s. He became involved with the club not realizing that he would be president for seven (7) terms.

Once he conceived the idea of Lancopex in the mid 1980s, they started from scratch with no prior experience in organizing a stamp show. Learning it all as they went, the show has progressed to a well respected bourse, exhibit, and meeting place for collectors and the PA Postal History Association where dealer and customer feedback cite Jim and his team



Photo: Courtesy of Dick Wheeler

for the continued success of this annual stamp show. As a collector, Jim has specialized in early US. **See Boyles, Pg.-2**

Volume 72, Issue 8

August-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:

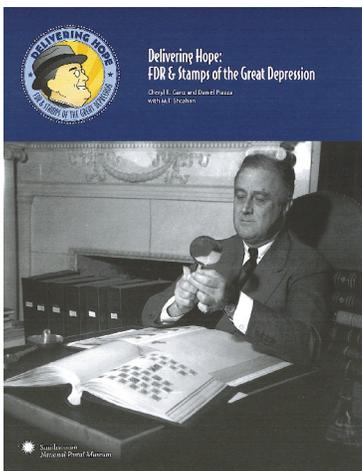
Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



Last Chance

(To pay for the bus trip)

On 22 October we will take off for the Postal Museum in DC. Please pay \$45/person by the picnic if you haven't already done so.

Timelines: Two pickups-

- 1.) Leave Reading: 7:00 AM
 - 2.) Leave AC Moore: 7:30 AM
- Return: Leave DC at 6:00 PM

Call Roy Baardsen to sign up at (610) 927-3435. Please send check for \$45 ASAP to Roy at 379 Sioux Court, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Make your check out to the "Reading Stamp Collecting Club."

Boyles: Continued from Pg.-1

In Lancaster city and county postal history, Jim has been a very successful exhibitor and presenter from the Collector's Club in NY City to Baltimore.

For over 30 years Jim has been a hub for philately in Lancaster County and environs. He has served and promoted APS, the Lancaster club, individual collectors, and dealers in the hobby in his low key manner.

In the absence of local stamp stores, Jim saw the need and opened the "Some Sundays Stamp Bourse" assisted by his wife Audrey. The event has 10-12 dealers in place. The Boyles have grown children and grandchildren who live out of the area.

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

Visitors: Bob Kramer, Jesse Ebersole, & Gareth Diem

Drawing (\$5.00): Clair Smith won the drawing for the month.

June Minutes: Approved.

Library Displays: Paul Petersen requested that members make one page exhibits for the displays. There are topical and country collections on hand, but one page exhibits about a stamp or set are welcome. The club will make color copies for the display.

October 22 USPM Bus Trip: Roy Baardsen announced that he will be upgrading the bus from 47 to 54 seats to accommodate more riders. Please pay by the picnic. Call Roy to sign up 610.927.3435.

Program: *Video Guide to Collecting*; by Premier Home Video.

APS Summer Session: Paul Petersen reported about the session he attended in late June.

Club Picnic: Bill Snyder asked Paul Petersen to contact Marilyn

Shirley about the August 12th picnic information for inclusion in the upcoming August club newsletter.

Snacks: Very special appreciation goes to Dennis Shoemaker for the outstanding victuals that he provided for the July meeting.

The Treasury:

Opening:	\$4,823.22 (01 June)
Income:	\$15.20
Expenses:	\$35.40
Closing:	\$4,803.02 (30 June)

Club Picnic: Wednesday, 12 August 2009 6:00 PM Millersville Boro Park

Please bring an appetizer, a salad, or a dessert

Burgers, hotdogs, baked beans, potato salad, and drinks will be served

Directions: Driving west into Millersville from Lancaster on 999, the Park is on the north side of 999 just across from the intersection of George Street. Also across the street from the park is the Barn Door Restaurant. The club pavilion is at the far end of the park parking lot.

What's at the local bookstore?

Old stamps, albums, and postcards may often be found at a nearby flea market. And occasionally a stamp catalogue or an older book or two on stamps may be encountered at a used book store. Unfortunately, at the modern and box sized booksellers, there is usually very little available in our hobby. In fact, there may be several shelves of books on coins and/or post cards but little to nothing on stamps.

But don't give up hope. I reported previously that the local Barnes & Nobles receives *Stamp Magazine*, and in May, they added *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* to their racks.

With this in mind, I checked their stamp section once again, and I was pleasantly surprised at what was available in their latest titles.

- *Encyclopedia of US stamps and stamp collecting* (2006). Rodney A. Juell and Seven J. Rod (Editors).
- *Scott's 2009 specialized US catalogue*.
- *The 2010 blackbook price guide to US stamps*.
- *Scott's 2009 US pocket stamp catalogue*.
- *100 greatest US stamps* by Janet Klug and Donald Sundman (2007).
- *The postal service guide to US stamps* (38th ed, 2008).

• *US/British North America postage stamp catalogue* by HE Harris & Co. (2009).

• *Guide to stamp collecting* (2008) by Janet Klug.

Check them out on your next visit to town. Ed ☐





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

2009 Programs & Snacks:

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 night for all Lancaster club members: John Ahlfeld, coordinator. Diane Meek, Host

9th December: Christmas Party. No Host

2010 Programs

13th January: Club Auction. John Ahlfeld, Host

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

Membership: Gareth Diem is the newest member. He collects US and is from Lititz. Visitor Jesse Ebersole visited with his grandmother, Sarah Mylin. Visi-

tor Bob Kramer is from Columbia and has varied collecting interests.

Upcoming show reminders: *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: 4 Oct • 6 Dec (Dates are subject to change, so please verify.)

Kid's Starter Albums remain available to club members from Truylde Greiner and Paul Petersen. You supply the hinges and let them go at it.

All About the '73 Ice House Cover Publication available from RA Siegel

The recent front page stories in the 1 June and 6 July *Linns' Stamp News* covered the auction of the "Ice House Cover," the correspondence sent from Boston to Calcutta, India in 1873. It is unique in that it is the only known on-cover use of the 90¢ President Abraham Lincoln (Scott # 132).

The cover was stolen in 1967 and did not turn up until 2006 when an elderly couple brought it to a stamp dealer who spotted it and notified the FBI. It turned into a six-plaintive legal battle for ownership which lasted several years. Eventually the court ruled in favor of the family of the original owner. It was certified by the Philatelic Foundation on 5 May and auctioned by Siegel on 13 June. The estimate was \$3-400K, and it realized \$431,250 including buyers premium (15%). Siegel Galleries put out a 27

page full-color auction catalogue (Sale 973A) containing a very detailed and interesting story of this cover.

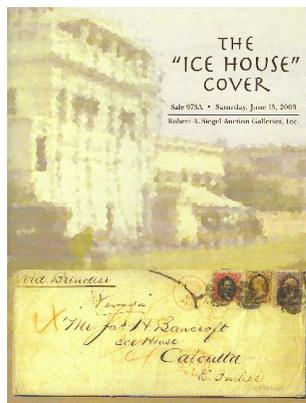
In the early 1800s an enterprising New Englander, Fred Tutor (1783-1864), had the vision to ship ice to the Caribbean islands, and by 1833 he had built ice houses in three coastal cities in India and supplied them with ice via the large sailing ships. By the 1890s ice was able to be manufactured in India by the modern steam-driven ice-making technology.

Initially ice was harvested from Fresh Pond in Cambridge and Walden Pond in Concord. Henry David Thoreau observed the ice cutting activities during the winter of 1846-47 and recorded his impression in his journal: *"The sweltering inhabitants of Madras and Bombay and Calcutta drink at my well... The pure Walden water is mingled with the sacred*

water of the Ganges."

The story of the ice business is as interesting as the cover itself. The catalogue contains photos of the key players, the ships, the 1873 route map, and detailed and enlarged scans of each of the hand stamps and markings on this famous cover franked with the 90¢ # 132.

The catalogue is online at www.siegelauctions.com, and free copies may still be available by calling R.A. Siegel at 212.753.6421.



August Bio: Dick Shaefer

Dick Shaefer has been a presence in the Lancaster stamp club for many years where he served several terms as president and continues to coordinate the Lancopex stamp show each year.

Dick inherited a large stamp accumulation from his dad in 1972, and he decided then to learn about what was in the box. Thirty-seven years later he continues to learn and collect. He set about with catalogues and references materials to become the expert he is. Dick's country collections include USA, Germany, and Canada.

Germany is about 85% complete in all areas, and Dick's goal is to learn about the Post WWII Hanoverian Overprints which he recently purchased.

During a 20 year career (That's 20 years, 10 months, and 28 days to be exact!) with the US Air Force as a navigator, Dick was always involved with local stamp clubs and joined Lancaster in the 1980s. He is also an active member of APS and the Germany Philatelic Society. He has been involved in all aspects of philately except exhibiting.

Besides philately Dick collects coins and researches family genealogy. "The computer programs for this kind of info are great. I am learning so much about the family," he says. Dick and his wife, Carol live in the Lancaster area and have a daughter in Columbia. He is quite active with The Red Rose Veteran's Honor Guard. This organization provides military honors for vets at the cemetery.



Musings from the editor

Stamp Value and Condition Part I

One of the reasons that I attended the Marketplace Evaluation course at the APS Summer Session was to better understand the pricing of stamps for both buying and selling. I have a lot of material, some of it good, for which I want to set fair prices.

Over time I have been researching many ways of selling this material from auction house consignment to the APS internet sales. But even with good marketing sources, the price has to be right/competitive. If marked too high, it will be ignored. If too low, my profit is diminished.

In last month's video program at the club meeting, Radar mentioned three things that set a stamp's price: rarity, demand, and condition. This and the following month's columns will address condition and how it influences the pricing of an item, either to sell or to purchase—all from a collector's vantage point.

A collector may go to a show and find that a stamp's "price" can range from well below to way above the catalogue value. Let's look at why this might be.

The introductory information in the Scott Catalogues is extremely helpful when considering the condition or centering of

a stamp. The Scott pricing grades are based largely on centering and assume no defects including the glue. Prices are listed for the centering grade of "very fine" for 1.) never hinged, 2.) hinged, and 3.) used values.

Check the catalogue closely, as the requirement for never hinged stamps may not start with #1. Sometimes it does not apply until years later.

For a stamp that is centered better than "very fine," the price may be above the Scott price, perhaps even multiples depending on centering and the size of the margin. Poorly centered stamps command prices much below the Scott catalogue value of very fine.

The superb stamp has wide margins with a perfectly centered vignette, and it is costly.

Linn's Stamp Market News for July states that collectors should expect to pay 70-85% of catalogue for F-VF stamps; less for modern stamps, and full price for VF stamps.

There is also the *Stamp Market Quarterly (SMQ)*. Since 2000, this has given prices for graded stamps from the Professional Stamp Experts .

This shows the price range across the nine grades.

One of the items I entered into the APS Summer Session auction was a White Plains sheet, a pristine one if I ever saw one. The CV is \$600, and I set me minimum bid for \$350. Upon receiving my auction catalogue at registration, I checked out my 15 entries. I was horrified to see the word "Crease" added to my description of this sheet. The folks at APS go over all submissions before the auction and make corrections as needed. Not all lots are accepted for the auction.

While fellow summer students milled around, I heard two remarks about "someone wanting \$350 for a creased White Plains sheet!" That was me!

While reviewing the lots, I checked my sheet. It took me a minute or two, but yes, there it was, a mild crease that I could only see on the gum side when held in the light at just the right angle.

There were no bids for my sheet that night, but friendly advice came my way by a

dealer or two. "Offer it for \$250-275 next time and it will be swept up at that value or perhaps more. It's a beautiful sheet. It's just too bad about that crease." It is the \$100 crease, as I see it.

Though painful, this was a good lesson. First, the sheet was not as good as I thought it was—it's condition, stupid! And second, if I had more skill about checking out and valuing stamps (or souvenir sheets), I would have priced it more accurately and auctioned it more successfully.

For the valuing class I brought a finely centered Bermuda 96 (a 10/- with an almost perfect bulls-eye cancel). And luckily this is a stamp that is valued higher for a used version.

Then I learned that there was a similar stamp of a different Scott number (52) worth less than a 96. Only the watermark differed. Which watermark did I have?

Finally there were two problems, a hinge remnant that may be hiding a thin and a small bleed of the frame ink into the lower and side margins. More in Sept. Ed. □



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