

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173  
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 13 July 2011

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Paul Petersen

**Stamp Trading** to Begin Following the Evening's Program

## Message from the President

Greetings to all of you! Well, it's now officially summer, and with that comes heat, humidity, and of course, our unfair share of rain. Since most of us are beyond our teens, I'd imagine that you also tend to avoid being outdoors on those oppressive days.

So, I was wondering how many of us devote some of that "extra" indoor time towards our hobbies and more specifically, stamps? Do you have an area devoted to it so your material remains setup and in view for a while, or must you

cart it out each time you desire to work on it? That of course would dictate the amount of time spent on the hobby, as it's easier to jump back to it if it's always ready to go (hint).

There is another issue I brought up to you last month. Where do you go to obtain info on items that are not listed in the Scott Catalogues? Specifically, I have numerous foreign souvenir sheets that I can not find in the catalogue. The few that I did locate are either high value or inexpensive, so one could

not just assume a value range for the unknowns.

Anyway, these are just a few thoughts to consider. This month's program will be on Errors, Freaks, and Oddities-the difference will be explained to us by Dave Hunt. Also, please give some thought to the August picnic. I'd like an idea of how many of you plan on attending, what your desired beverage would be, how much of that you'll drink, and how many burgers and dogs you'd consume. Have a good July 4th and see ya soon. **jmb**

## May Program: Errors, Freaks, & Oddities

### David Hunt (Reading Stamp Collecting Club)

While the categories of errors, freaks, and oddities carry different definitions, speaker David Hunt believes that they are not mutually exclusive. These terms were coined so stamps with a particular characteristic could be somewhat classified.

Dave will be illustrating these categories with items from his own collection while discussing the rationale for their placement.

Perhaps the most solidly

grounded of the categories is **errors**. The Scott Catalogue does list stamp errors. But even here, Dave notes, only some errors are included such as imperfs, inverts, and color omis-



sions. Color shifts are not listed as errors. Though shifts are a complicated issue, they are still errors.

Dave became the treasurer of the EFO Collector's Club in 2000, an organization he has been part of since the 1980s when founded by John Hotchner. As auction director of The EFO club, he will have some of the unsold lots available for purchase at the meeting.

**See EFOs on Page 2**

**Volume 74, No.7**

**July, 2011**

**Inside this issue:**

- From the President: 1  
-John M. Bray  
Program  
Errors, Freaks  
& Oddities  
-David Hunt
- Minutes & Treasury 2  
July Biography:  
-Carl Haffly  
Readers Opinion?
- 2011 Presentations 3  
& Club News  
"The end of mail"  
Correspondence
- Musings 4  
Early registered mail

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

**President:**

John M. Bray

**Vice President:**

Vacant

**Secretary:**

Joy Bouchard

**Treasurer:**

Lou DiFelice

**Newsletter Editor:**

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

pcpetersen@comcast.net



## July Biography

### Carl Haffly

Carl Haffly of York, PA is no journeyman; he's a master collector. Consider that his dad got him started collecting coins, stamps, and postcards when he was about eight. Now a few years later, he is a member of two stamp clubs, two coin clubs, and two postcard clubs. If this is not enough, there is the Covered Bridge Club, Camera Club, the American Legion, and the Eagles, a benevolent service organization.

But does Carl have any hobbies? He loves to fish, photograph, and star gaze with his new telescope. He possesses an elaborate selection of fishing tackle and camera equipment. And to hold all this and his collections? Well, his home is a converted bar with many rooms and plenty of square footage with basement. And did we mention his John Wayne memorabilia collection?

Carl served in the PA National Guard for 17 years, and his working career included factory work and sales, the last being the Frog & Switch Co., a steel foundry named after the railroad parts that they fabricated.

His 12 year old granddaughter collects coins, postcards, and stamps, so they share a lot of quality time together. He notes that his girlfriend, Melanie, collects stuffed bears, poodles, and ducks. She enjoys accompanying him to the PSLC meetings and some of the other organizations.

Philatelically, Carl's extensive worldwide collection is centered around U.S. and WW First Day Covers, especially those with cachets, of which he has many.

## June Minutes and Treasury

### Joy Bouchard & Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** John Bray opened the meeting at 7:00.

**Minutes:** The May minutes and Treasurer's report were approved as written by voice vote.

**Some Sunday Stamp Show** for 26 June is cancelled. Lou DiFelice also reported that Lancopex for 2012 will be F/S 27-28 April. He is expecting to receive the contract from the Farm and Home Center in the immediate future.

**Kids Programs:** Truyde Greiner reported that in the

Linn's Stamp Poll, it was noted that a teacher from Lancaster Country Day school sent in many votes from 3rd to 6th grade.

**Drawing:** Joy Bouchard won two souvenir sheets from Vatican City.

**Club Bus Trip:** Roy Baardsen told us to save the date, Thursday, 13 October 2011 for the ASDA Show in NYC. Cost will be \$45/pp, and this will be due by the picnic on Wednesday, 10 August. Checks should be made out to the Reading

Stamp Collecting Club and/or mailed to Roy K. Baardsen at 379 Sioux Ct., Sinking Spring, PA 19608-8913.

**Program:** Tonight's program was entitled **Precancels-III** by RD Noble.

### Treasury Report

Opening: \$2,392.25 (1 May)  
Income: \$2,047.95  
Expenses: \$795.18  
Closing: \$3,645.02 (31 May)  
3-CDs roughly \$6461.85 due in 2012-13.

**EFOs: (continued from Pg.-1)** Starting with worldwide issues at age ten, Dave then specialized in U.S. until the high prices of the classics became a limitation. From here Dave found EFOs to be a viable collecting issue.

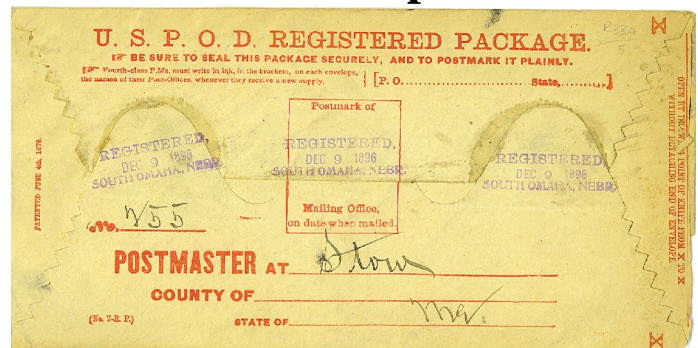
Several years ago, Dave developed an eye for fine engraving resulting in his participation with the Czeslaw Slania Club for collectors of stamps created by this world class stamp engraver.

Dave remarked that it was only natural to start collecting antique maps and banknotes, as these are all exquisitely engraved items.

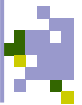
**Trip: 31 have signed up and 38 are needed. Please pay by 13 July. Checks for \$45 to Reading Stamp Collecting Club.**

**Readers Opinion: What do you think of the "FOREVER" commemorative stamps? Send your opinion to the editor for a compilation article in the 8/11 issue.**

## What is this envelope used for?



How did this envelope and other innovations improve registered mail in 1867? This is an example of a **Registered Mail Package**, and it is described on page-4. Registered letters were transported in these for greater security. This package was mailed from South Omaha on Wednesday, 9 December 1896 to the little hamlet of Stow, ME where it arrived on or shortly after 14th December. On the back side of this envelope there are signatures and/or dated stamps from 6 postal facilities that handled this package. From South "O" it went to the main Omaha PO to Chicago to Boston to Portland (ME) to an RPO, to Fryeburg, and finally to Stow, ME.



## Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, and News

### 2011-12 Programs and Hosts

**13 July:** Errors, Freaks & Oddities, David Hunt.  
**Host:** Paul Petersen

**10 August:** Club Picnic. No Host this month. **6:00 PM**

**14 September:** Club Auction.  
**Host:** Lou DiFelice

**12 October:** Show 'n Tell: Your Best Stuff. **Host:** Lucy Eyster

**9 November:** The First Aerial Post in England (9/1911), Mike Bach. **Host:** J. R. Ahlfeld

**14 December:** Dinner.

**11 January 2012:** Club Auction. **Host:** TBA

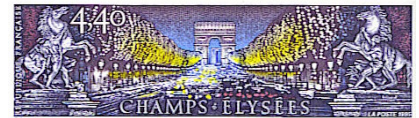
**8 February 2012:** Swiss Philately, a DVD by the Helvetia Society. **Host:** TBA

**Upcoming Show Reminders:** *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: • 21

August, • 2 October, • 4 December (Please verify ahead with Jim-394-5118.)

**Save the date: Club Picnic** Wednesday, 10 August 2011 at **6:00 PM**. Millersville Boro Park. More information about sign-up and what to bring will be provided at the July meeting and in the August newsletter.

**New York City Bus Trip:** Thursday, 13th Oct. All day.



Dick Colberg shared his experience with the editor about his French Postal History conference presentation-in French! Always prepared, he wrote out his speech, had it translated into French, and made copies for the audience so that they could follow along. He noted that he fumbled a few pronunciations, but the participants were forgiving. He understood most of the questions well enough to give an answer.

To illustrate his presentation, Dick brought along nine pages of his Litz Post History Exhibit which were displayed in a philatelic frame. Members were quite interested, as this was the kind of material that they had never seen.

As a result of this positive experience, Dick will be joining the French Postal History Society. As such they asked him to pen a "small article" for their upcoming quarterly journal. But he learned that "small" means ten pages! Fortunately, he may illustrate it liberally with images. Also fortuitous is that the journal editor speaks English and will assist in the formatting.

Differing somewhat from American philatelists, the French held a 2½ hour lunch, a sit-down affair which they all took very seriously.

The meeting was in Ouistreham, in the Caen area by Normandy. The Colbergs were there on 5 June, and the area was filled with WW II reenactors preparing for the 67th Anniversary of D-Day. Caen was liberated the 08th August following the invasion, and most towns have an avenue named the "8th of August Road." Dick and Nancy returned to the U.S. in mid June.

## The End of Mail ...

Club member Bill Snyder recommended a review of a recent article entitled "The end of mail" by Devin Leonard in the 30 May-5 June 2011 issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek*, pgs. 60-65.

It is no secret that the USPS is in grave financial trouble, as this is detailed in both the philatelic and popular press. USPS is the second largest employer in the U.S and delivers 40% of the world's mail. A service that is as old as the nation, our post office has seen much better times.

Leonard interviewed Phillip Herr from the GAO, a fact finder on the troubled mail service. That many in postal leadership worked their way up from the delivery routes and sorting rooms has resulted in outstanding service. But expertise here does not translate into a balanced budget or a viable ten-year plan of which there is neither.

USPS spends 80% of its budget on wages and benefits opposed to 61% for UPS and 43% for FedEx. And it handles 15% of express and

ground shipping compared to 53% for UPS and 32% for FedEx. But competition aside, it is the first class letter, the bread and butter for USPS that is an endangered specie.

Some in postal leadership believe that USPS can recapture first class, while others report that death is imminent. They argue that in time, almost all bills will be paid digitally. Think about paying \$5/mo. for the phone, power, and cable bills. It adds up. First class mail volume will not come back to its heyday.

The fiscal problems of USPS are not shared with similar services around the world. Consider the profit margins for the first quarter in 2011. USPS -13.58%; Post Nord (Denmark & Sweden) + 3.6%; Deutsche Post DHL +4.89%; and SingPost +26.15%.

For years the post office was used as a patronage dumping ground. Bloat, mismanagement, and fiscal and infrastructure neglect caused a breakdown. In 1966, for example, the mail stopped in Chicago. This all featured in

the subsequent Postal Reorganization Act transforming USPOD into the USPS.

Converting the PO to a self-sustaining government corporation would not last without a hard restructuring of logistics, labor, and materiel. Fortunately there was high demand for services in the 1970s, so the bottom line was less critical at that point. Unfortunately, demand has declined over the decades, and it is time to pay the piper with that hard restructuring.

Herr visited with the foreign posts. They told him that they started their hard restructuring over 20 years ago. Customers and postal employees were not enthused. They got over it, and the mail is being delivered.

One key, they told Herr, was technology, the change from paper to digital mail products. They closed down POs by the thousands and partnered with private establishments, gas stations, and convenience stores to serve as outlets. It's working. Will it last? Time will tell.



# Musings

## *The beginning of domestic U.S. registered mail*

Registered mail came about largely to provide a secure means to send cash and legal documents. A good review of this is by David Straight in the 10/07 *Postal History Journal* (138), pgs. 6-18.



Straight cited postal reformer Pliny Miles who penned in 1855 that one third of the cash he mailed over a 15 year period was lost. It was estimated that one half to one million dollars was stolen annually from the U.S. mails. Miles advocated for greater security through postal money orders, but instead registered mail (RM) came that same year.

With RM postal customers could securely send cash payments for out of town bills for products or services. Postal money orders came about slowly but were often located in the larger towns with railroad stops. Express companies were appearing, too, and these were also located in larger railroad towns.

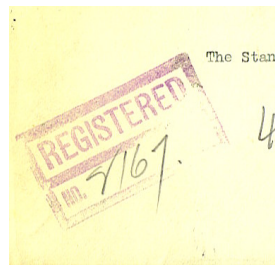
A money order operated like our bank checks, though it took a little more work. One had to purchase the money order and mail it with the product order or bill. The recipient on the receiving end redeemed their money from the post office or express company. Of interest is that the California gold rush was one of the

events that sparked the initiation of express companies and the wiring of money.

Some banking was available, but check usage was usually a local operation. It was not always possible to send a check out of town. It was not until the early 20th century when there was a national clearing house for checks and the Federal Reserve.

So what did a customer from a small village do after 1855 to securely transfer money? There was registered mail.

Early registered mail added an auxiliary marking to the cover. While there was some tracking, security and accountability were still minimal; there was no indemnity. Soon after 1855 authorities started to realize that a letter marked as "registered" identified it as a valuable item to the criminally minded. It meant "steal me." Newspaper editorials discouraged the use of RM.



By 1867 the procedure for registered mail tightened considerably with new initiatives. However,

indemnity only came about in 1898 when loss of registered mail was minimal. Individual theft was greatly eliminated, though there was the occasional stage coach and train robbery.

To provide greater security for their registered mail, there was the **Registration Book** with two-part forms. This had space for all the identifying information such as dates, purchaser, designation, signatures, and so on. The postmaster kept the left side of the form in his book and gave the other half to the customer as a receipt.

Another action was the implementation of the **Registered Package Envelope**, a more durable envelope that was larger in size than a business envelope. It was made with tamper resistant flaps with serrated edges to hold one or more letters addressed to a specific destination. It would be obvious if attempts were made to open this Registered Package. And given all the signatures of those who received it in transit, it would be easy to greatly narrow down the timeline of any suspected pilfering.

On the front side of the RM Package was a space for the date and stamp of the originating PO and the name of the receiving PO and a serial number. Mailing a registered letter

from one destination to another usually included several transfers between post offices and railroad post offices.

On the back side were 13 lines for signatures/dates for all those who received the package en route. Beside each line for signature/stamp was a space to note the condition of the envelope if it was "not good."

The sending PM included additional documents in and with the Registered Package. There was the **Registry Bill** which listed the one or more letters in the package. The receiving PM subsequently signed and returned this to the sending PM after he or she made delivery.

The next item included in the Registered package was the **Return Receipt Card(s)**. The receiving PM returned one to each of the registered mail customers after safe delivery.

The final item was also prepared by the sending PM. It was attached to the Registered Package-the **Registered Package Receipt**. This was to be signed by the first of the transit PMs and returned to the sending PM. Should the sending PM not receive the returned Registry Bill and Registered Package Receipt, he was to send out a **Circular of Inquiry** form to assess the whereabouts of the registered mail package. Ed□



This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.