

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 08th October 2008

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM  
BlueBird Commons/ Wood Crest Villa. Tonight's host: Lou Leidig

## Message from the President

Eleanor Wheeler

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the auction at the September meeting. Our auctioneers, Jim Boyles and Woody Hann, do an excellent job, frequently punching in a bit of humor. We're also grateful to Bob Noble, Dick Shaefer, and Claire Smith for their steadfast assistance with the procedures.

Looking ahead, the com-

mittee that is planning the hoiliday party is moving along with some ideas. Members of the committee are Lucy Eyster, Lou DiFelice, Paul Petersen, and myself. We have reviewed the menu available through the Woodcrest Villa's catering service, and we expect to offer a delicious hot meal. The cost will be slightly higher than previous

years. We will also have entertainment & a small gift exchange. The price per person will probably be \$6.00, but will need confirmation. Lou will have a sign-up sheet available at the meeting. As always, guests are welcome to join us.

Unfortunately, I will not be at the October meeting, but fortunately, we have Bill Snyder to run the meeting. **Eleanor**

**Test your topical IQ:** What were the first countries to have the following topicals on stamps? When were they printed? Maps • Bats • Automobiles • Lighthouses • Libraries • Horses • Computers • Pandas, and many more. See page 2.

## Lancaster Co. Postal History

James G. Boyles

The October Program features a PowerPoint slide presentation on Jim Boyles' award winning and updated exhibit of Lancaster City Postal History from 1757-1899. The historical range is from stampless to stamped covers. Some highlights include: Free Frank covers signed by President James



Buchanan • Several US # 1s of the first 1847 issue • Barr's Penny Dispatch • A John Wise baloon cover • A variety of interesting advertising covers • and Thaddeus Stevens covers, to name a few. So, don't miss this presentation as a trip down memory lane by the foremost Lancaster County postal historian. See pg. 3, **Club Notes** which note Jim's most recent awards received for this historical exhibit.

## What is it?

See pg. 3



**Hint:** Several PSLC members saw this on the 12th June 2004.

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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:

Eleanor Wheeler

### Vice President:

William P. Snyder

### Secretary:

Lori Hostetler

### Treasurer:

Claire Smith

### Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



**Topical Firsts**  
From Sep-Oct *Topical Time*

**National Parks**

United States, 1934 (Scott# 740)

**Maps**

France, 1876 (64)

**Bats**

Chile, 1948 (254i)

**Computers**

Mongolia, 1932 (63)

**Automobiles**

United States, 1901 (296)

**Christmas**

Canada, 1898 (85)

**Libraries**

Belgium, 1915 (118)

**Tobacco**

United States, 1907 (329)

**Weapons**

Denmark, 1851 (2)

**Scouting**

Cape of Good Hope, 1900 (179)

**Lighthouses**

Newfoundland, 1897 (63)

**Fire Service**

El Salvador, 1893 (76)

**Deafness**

Netherlands, 1931 (B50)

**Horses**

Brunswick, 1852 (1)

**Pandas**

Red China, 1959 (407)

**Astronomy**

Uruguay, 1856 (1)

**September-08 Minutes:Lori Hostetler  
Treasury:Clair Smith**

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

**Membership:** 37 members were in attendance including newest member, Peter Barney from Leedsport. He collects worldwide (1840-1940) and German stamps. There were no visitors.

**MegaEvent:** There are 12 seats left on the bus to NYC. If interested, send check to Roy Baardsen for \$45; his address is in the August newsletter. Bus leaves Wal-Mart at 7 am and returns to Ephrata at 8:30 pm.

**Newsletter:** Thanks to Paul P. for the good job. If you have trouble opening your newsletter, please email Paul and he will re-send. This usually works. Paul also

gave out APS cards to put with your collection containing the name of who to contact should you pass on.

**APS:** Lucy E. announced the Campaign for Philately. Contact Lucy. if you would like to donate.

**Programs:** Anyone with a laptop computer who is willing to bring it to the club for PowerPoint presentations should contact Paul P.

**Christmas Party:** This will be held at WoodCrest Villa and catered by the WoodCrest kitchen. Lucy E. needs two volunteers to help with the event. They will meet with staff to plan the menu. The BlueBird Room has been reserved for this event. The Christmas party will be

the December meeting.

**Lancopex:** Jim B. announced that there is no update at this time. He will be working with Eleanor W. to assemble a written guideline for club member coverage with job descriptions.

**First Sunday Stamp Show:** Jim B.: Show will be held October 05th, 10am to 4pm.

**Drawing:** This was deferred to October meeting and prize will be \$25.

**Auction** started at 7:30 pm.

**The Treasury-Clair Smith**

Open bal: \$4,413.02  
Income: \$50.38  
Expenses: \$64.82  
Closing bal: \$4,399.48

**King George the Fifth:  
Leader and Philatelist**

King George V (G-R) is a figure of both philatelic and military history. Until recently, my study of this individual has been through the annals of The Great War. So it was refreshing to see him from the philatelic perspective. He shares many commonalities with another leader-collector, FD Roosevelt.

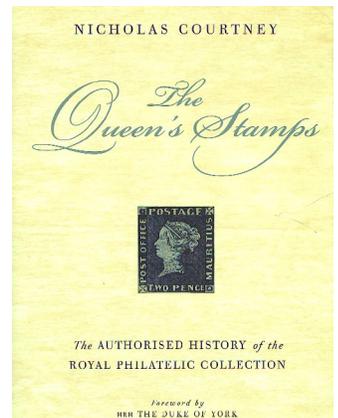
As a naval midshipman in the 1880s G-R visited many exotic lands, and here he became interested in stamps. His naval officer uncle (Alfred) was also a collector, and from this union began the Royal Collection.

G-R had the financial and logistical resources to form one of the most thorough compilations of UK and

Commonwealth stamps and postal history.

G-R had a philatelist on his staff part-time, and he was a very active member in The Royal Philatelic Society, London, serving as honorary president. He conducted philatelic research, wrote papers, and exhibited competitively (winning some awards) and then non-competitively for the remainder of his life.

While FDR had the resources and the mail room of the State Department along with official gifts, G-R had the gifts, greater wealth, and catchments of the stamp-issuing commonwealth territories across the globe. The Boer War and WWI



with occupation and overprinted stamps, including the essays and errors, only enhanced The Royal Philatelic Collection. Ed □

## Miscellaneous Club Notes: In the News, Programs, Hosts, Shows

In the latest newsletter of the *Military Officers Association of America* was a short reprint from the *Lancaster New Era* about PSLC's **Ben Heller**. From the Eras Past Section-75 Years Ago, it contained the following: "Benjamin Heller, 12, of Third Street was earning spending money by repairing baseballs with a needle and thread. He charged 5 or 10 cents per repair, depending on the size of the

rip." Thank you, Ben, for your recycling vision and for your service to your country during WWII. •

At the 5-7 September Philadelphia National Stamp Show, **James Boyles'** exhibit on Lancaster City Postal History won a Gold Medal and the *Joseph Von Hake PA Postal History Award*. Congratulations, Jim. •

**Program and Snack Schedule:**

**12 November:** Newfoundland (WP Snyder), Dick Colberg-Host; **10 December:** Christmas Party (No host).

**Upcoming show reminders:** 5 Oct & 7 Dec- First Sunday Lancaster Stamp, Show-Farm and Home Center • 12 Oct- CAPEX, Linglestown • 18 Oct- Gettypex Gettysburg • 9 Nov-Lehigh Valley, Stamp And Coin Show, Allentown, PA.

## Just when you think it has all been said... More from *German Postal Specialist* on PVCs

In another insightful letter to the September, *GPS* (pgs. 355-57), Fred Korr disagrees with the previously published statement that "The newer types of PVC (PVC without plasticizers) are acceptable for housing stamps" Korr has been researching the literature of plastics and stamps, and he bases his conclusions on the positions of the heavy hitters among archivists and the scientific community. They recom-

mend that PVC not be used to house stamps. PVC products also include hydrochloric acid.

Who are these experts? The Director of the Philatelic Collections of the British Museum; The Society of American Archivists; Library of Congress; USNPM; the American National Standards Institute (ANSI); and the US member of the International Standards Organization (ISO).

The ISO finds that polyester is a suitable material to house stamps in addition to polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and spun-bonded polyolefins. These are generally inert, unplasticized, and are chemically stable. Some other plastics may be appropriate, but long-term testing has not been carried out.

So, the debate goes on. This letter will certainly be followed up in the future. Ed □

## NYC's Mega Event

A few Seats May Still be Available

**What:** Stamp Mega Event

**Where:** Madison Sq. Garden

**Date:** Thursday, 23rd October

**Leaving:** 7:00 AM from Wal-Mart, Rts 322/222 in Ephrata. Meet at 6:45 am

**Depart NYC:** 5:00 pm

**Snacks:** Some drinks/

munchies will be available on the bus, meals in NYC or on the bus are on your own.

Contact Ray Baardsen immediately (617.927.3435) if you are interested in attending the show. If seats are available, he will instruct you what to do. The cost is \$45 for the bus ride, snacks, and the drivers tip.

### What Is It?

From Page-1

This stamp was on display at the USNPM in 2004 as part of the *Queen's Own* display. It was one of the 1839 essays solicited by Rowland Hill for the UK's first stamp to be characterized by convenience, security against forgery, easy recognition by postal staff, and expense. This multicolour and beautifully scrolled stamp was designed ed by Charles Whiting.

## Support Our Fellow Club Members in Reading

8th Annual

### The Reading Stamp Collector's Club Stamp Show

Saturday

The 1st November 2008

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

At

Leesport Farmer's Market

(Banquet Hall)

Spacious Facility

Excellent Lighting

16 Scheduled Dealers

Wide Selection of Stock

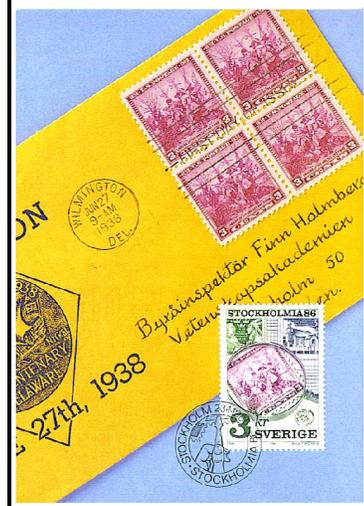
Displays

Free Admission

Free Parking

### Directions

This comfortable site is located eight (8) miles north of Reading on Rt. 61. Look for the sign on Route 61 just north of Leesport, and go one block east.





# Musings from the editor

## Ways to Protect our Stamps & Collectibles

There are means that you can take to protect your collectibles from a variety of dangerous sources. These sources include water damage, theft, fire, and travel with and/or shipment of your treasures. The information in this column is from a presentation (with handouts) to the members of the 2008 Summer Session at APS by Hugh Wood, Inc. the APS endorsed insurance agency.

Your stamps are at great risk when they are out of your control during travel and/or shipment. This includes travel to a stamp show or an exhibit or shipping your stamps for sale or display.

When traveling, never leave your collection alone in the car or van, even for a brief time. Hide all items as much as possible to not give away the nature of the contents. Collectibles are hot items. Know your driving route in advance so you don't get lost, and always travel with a fire extinguisher and cell phone. Install an alarm device on your vehicle.

For air flights, don't include your collection or exhibits with the checked baggage, especially at curbside. Use care at the site of car rentals, security screening, and/or courtesy phones. It is easy to get distracted. Always watch your collection when sitting in the airport or when on line for local transportation. Always keep your baggage within sight. Identify your bags with tags, but do not disclose the nature of the contents. Use easily identifiable luggage.

Avoid leaving your valuables in hotel

rooms. Use your best judgment whether to use the hotel or room safes. Do not sit in public areas reviewing your collection. This is an advertisement. When out of town for a show, try to travel with a group.

With shipping, Hugh Wood has found USPS to be the best when mailed "Registered," as other services have sustained losses. Do not ship on a Friday, as this is the greatest day for a loss. As with your baggage, do not put anything on the label to indicate the contents whenever possible. Keep your packages looking anonymous. Pack carefully to minimize "transit trauma."

A mobile proximity alarm is a good investment. These are preliminary for kids. When a child moves or is moved a certain distance from the parent, the alarm goes off. This also works well with luggage.

Whenever shipping or traveling, always do your prep work by making a record of what will be in transit. Use a digital camera or make scans or photocopies of your collection. Always have a complete list of the more valuable materials. Keep your permanent lists and records separate from the collection. If the records go missing along with the collection, they will not do you much good. Notations in auction catalogues with receipts can be a good ownership record.

Water turns stamps into paper mache. Avoid attic or basement storage. When there is rain and flooding, these are the worst areas. Heat, bugs (ie. silverfish), mold, and mildew also favor these sites. Raise boxes off the ground by several inches. Avoid stacking collections in cardboard boxes, as these absorb water and damage the contents. Keep a supply of tarps and/or plastic sheets for emergencies.

Plan in advance for storm and flood related weather when forecasted. Use the weather channel on TV and the NOAA radio. Move collectibles to the second floor, and place them high up. And for all houses, install "check valves" in sewer lines to prevent a back flow of storm water and/or other unpleasant materials into the house.

The house can be its own source of water damage from leaking or burst pipes or backed up appliances. Avoid placing stamp shelves under bathrooms or other water lines. Use caution in placement of your collection. Outside walls are susceptible to soakage when a gutter fails allowing the wall to take on water. This can leak into the collection. An ice dam on the roof can do the same. Keep the roof in repair.

Home theft is worrisome but rare. Often the thief is known to the

collector. A home cannot be made 100% burglar proof, but steps can be taken to minimize the risk.

Lock the house when out, even if only in the garden. When thieves see you in the back, they can come in the front. Use door jams for sliding doors and key operated window locks on ground floor windows. Don't store the house key outdoors where it can be easily found. Invest in a good burglar alarm system and activate it whenever out. Monitored systems are more effective. Many can be tied to the fire detection system. Hugh Wood recommends a panic button for the alarm system.

Fire will cause stamp damage! All homes should be checked for potential hazards from wiring and the furnace or other heat sources, especially kerosene heaters or wood burning stoves. The chimney and sources of rubbish and clutter increase the risk for fire. Install smoke alarms and replace batteries once to twice a year. Have several charged fire extinguishers.

If using a safe, choose wisely. Inexpensive models may not offer the protection needed and may only signal to the thieves where the stamps are. They should be installed professionally, and a TRTL15 specification is worth the additional expense. Ed □



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