

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 14th January 2009

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

BlueBird Commons/ Wood Crest Villa. Tonight's host: Wm. P. Snyder

## Message from the President

Wm. P. Snyder

The first order of business for 2009 is to thank those who made 2008 such a rewarding year for LCPS: Eleanor Wheeler, the outgoing President; Lori Hostetler, the outgoing Secretary; Clair Smith the Treasurer; and Paul Petersen, the Newsletter Editor. Great job by all. The club is also indebted to those who organized the terrific Christmas dinner: Lucy Eyster and MC, Lou DiFelice, with help from Eleanor, Paul, and the staff at Wood Crest Villa. And congratulations to Marilyn Shirley. The Achievement Award presented to her is richly deserved.

With the economy on the rocks, adding to your collection in 2009 will be challenging. Members

need to seek out the best bargains, whether at auctions, shows, or online.

With that in mind, members might want to take a look at the APS Sales Circuit. The Sales Circuit provides APS Members an opportunity to purchase or sell stamps offered by other members. If buying, you would periodically receive a package of stamps from APS. You then pick out the ones you want, reimburse APS for your purchases, and send the package on to the next recipient of the circuit. If selling, you send a package of stamps to APS; the stamps would then be circulated to potential buyers. If any are pur-

chased, APS then reimburses you. The APS Sales Division covers a wide variety of country and topical areas, so there is likely to be a sales package in your area of interest. To try the Sales Circuit, call Tom Horn, the APS Sales Director at 814-933-3803, Ext. 227 or go to [www@stamps.org](http://www@stamps.org) and click on Sales Division and Stamp Store Online.

The program for the January meeting is an auction. So between Bowl games and holiday dinners, sort through your collections and consign those duplicates and extras to the auction. See you there!

# Bill

## January 2008 Program: Club Auction

Auction time is coming around again at the January club meeting. Now is your chance to acquire new or shed the old. The auction rules remain the same.

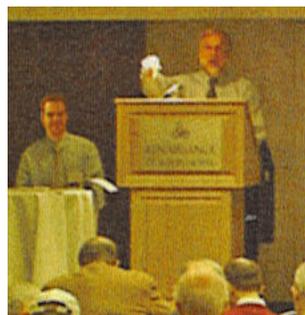
### Auction Rules:

- ◆ There is a ten lot limit / person
- ◆ Minimum bid is \$1.00 or more

Please label lots as follows:

- ◆ Item description
- ◆ Cat. value, if known
- ◆ Minimum bid accepted
- ◆ Auction Number

*Your auction number will be assigned when you arrive at the meeting at Wood Crest Villa.*



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"your\_space.pslc"

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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



***With the Zeppelin to South America: Diary of the Round Trip 1931***

Around 2000 the Frost Publishing Co. purchased, at auction, the diaries and photographs of Carl Bruer, a *Graf Zeppelin* passenger of the 1930s. In 2002 they published the previously unpublished material of his October, 1931 flight to Pernambuco, a city on the eastern tip of Brazil.

This book would make a welcome addition to the library of the Zeppelin enthusiast. Aero historians are already familiar with the stamps, rates, and routes of the Zeppos and others. Bruer contributes a detailed daily journal of passenger life aboard the *Graf Zeppelin* and of what was awaiting for them in Brazil on their four day stop.

The flight is well described from the air station at Friedrichshafen through the terminal in Brazil. Even in 1931 they had a Zeppelin museum at the air station. He describes how the wind speeds can adjust the trip making it a day longer or shorter. The daily life on the 3-4 day trip was always filled with sights, conversation, good food and spirits, and more.

Along with the text are 40 of Bauer's aerial photos of the coastline, cloud cover, passenger ships, islands and others along with snaps of Pernambuco and environs. There they went on sight-seeing tours and excursions of the beaches, remote villages, historical sites, and many others. The book also contains almost 200 nearly full-size pictorial and slogan cancels of the *Graf Zeppelin* South American flights.



Carl Bruer, *With the Zeppelin to South America* (2002). ISBN#0-9714982-1-0. Frost Publishing, PO Box 271, Jordanville, NY 13361. Available @ Subway

## 2009 Vice President

John Ahlfeld

John Ahlfeld was elected to serve as VP for the 2009 year and then rise to the presidency for 2010.

He joined APS a few years ago, and then he joined PSLC after learning of its existence through APS publications and the yearly Lancopex expositions.

Beginning as a youth collector, John has been involved with the hobby on and off ever since. It started with that first stamp packet at a local store followed by approvals. His

aim is to complete and organize his US collection, and recently he has added "back of the book" stamps.

John came to Lancaster in the late '60s with an undergraduate and graduate de-



gree in architecture and in regional planning.

Currently a county wide consultant, John was with the Lancaster Co. Transportation Authority for many years and was director of the Lancaster Co. Planning Commission among other county activities.

John and his wife have a special interest and collection in early American pattern glass from the 1850s-1910s. Other interests include photography and genealogy. The Ahlfelds have three children and six grandchildren. Welcome, John.

## 2009 Secretary

Joy Bouchard

Who says that stamp collecting is just for men? Our 2009 club secretary comes from a stamp collecting family. As a youngster, her mother was a seasoned collector and introduced her and most of her siblings to the hobby.

Joy Bouchard's mom was a worldwide collector with special interest in Japan, Israel, Greece, and others in addition to several topical collections. She had traveled quite a bit and received worldwide mail from friends abroad and missionaries. This only contributed to Joy's delight as a child.

Subsequently, this collection was passed on to Joy who is continuing with much of it. Her special interest is Great Britain and colonies (especially those bi-colour engraved stamps) while following up with her son's Disney collection. He collected into early adolescence, and Joy has found this a great collecting area.

A few short years ago club member Jim Ziogas introduced Joy to PSLC. They were long time neighbors, but they did not make the stamp connection until recently. In fact, as a teacher in Etown, Jim taught her two daughters in school.

Beside the stamp hobby, Joy sews and crochets. She and her husband enjoy gardening in season (flowers - veggies.) They have three children, two grandkids, and a third on the way.

Currently, Joy is a part time preschool teacher at a local church. Nationwide travel to visit family and church activities keep them busy, especially with their newly opened church thrift shop. Welcome, Joy.





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

### 2009 Program & Snacks:

**14th January:** *Club Auction*; Bill Snyder, Host.

**11th February:** *Canadian Railway Post Office Cancels*; Dick Colberg.

**Topics in the works:** *US Washington Franklins* (The 3rd Bureau Issue); Lou DiFelice;

*King George-V and the Royal Collection*; Paul Petersen;

*Pre-Cancels*: Bob Noble & Woody Hann

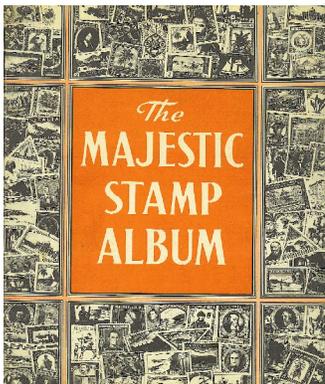
Of course, there will be more auctions, a summer picnic, and dinner banquet again this year.

Sign-ups for 2009 snacks will be held at the January meeting. The Executive Committee will be meeting on the 5th of January to work out the tentative program for the 2009 calendar year.

If you have a topic that you would like to present, please contact Bill Snyder or Paul Petersen. They are available to assist you to successfully accomplish this.

**Upcoming show reminders:** Jim Boyles' *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: 1 Mar 2009 • 7 Jun • 2 Aug • 4 Oct • 6 Dec (Dates are subject to change, so please check.)

## This could be your space right here



Have you ever had that secret desire to be a philatelic journalist? If not, have you just wanted to tell others about your collection?

How about a favorite philatelic stamp or cover?

Do you have a favorite web site or mail order dealer?

What was your best find?

Do you ever reminisce over how you got started collecting?

Do you still have or do you ever miss your first childhood stamp album?

Do you have doubles that you would like to trade with a fellow collector?

If "Yes," contact the Ed. □

## The State of the Philatelic Hobby

As seen from across the ocean

In his Market Tipster column in the December ('08) *Stamp Magazine* (pg. 30), Phil Atlee gives his opinion on the health of the stamp market from his viewpoint in the UK.

The hobby is in a current economic crisis, but this is true with most collectibles such as coins, trains, and others. The internet has had an impact, but the credit crunch remains with fear of uncertainty and the tendency to spend on staples.

The shows are a little less

crowded, but sales revenues are stable making dealers pleased.

Early retirees are returning to their childhood hobby and are purchasing material that is likely to hold its value while avoiding new issues and overpriced products such as presentation packs, bundled products with coins, and other gimmicky marketed stuff.

The demand for revenues is insatiable, and many are seeking pre 1970s errors with varieties in shade, watermark, and/or

perforation. Proofs, essays, Cinderellas, and poster stamps are also becoming highly collectible.

Collectors' kids, in general, are less interested in the hobby, so the material is placed on the market. The higher quality collections are bought up. But those items that were collected especially for the children such as First Day Covers and commemorative packs are very hard to unload, as the dealers can't sell them. There is no market.

### Marilyn Shirley wins PSLC Lifetime Achievement Award

At the 2008 PSLC banquet in December beloved member Marilyn Shirley was awarded the club's Lifetime Achievement Award. She has done so much over the years for the club.

Marilyn served as club president, and she edited the newsletter for years. In this she wrote the news, typed the pages, mimeographed them all, collated them, addressed them, franked them, and mailed them. Through this she gives much credit to her son and club member Mike, who helped her with the newsletter over the years.

For a long time the club had an active program for youth. In support of this, Marilyn held a weekly summer stamp camp for them at her home. They worked on their collections in the morning and swam in the afternoon.

This August will be the first in a long time that Marilyn and Chuck are not hosting the club picnic at their house with the family grilling the chicken and corn on the cob for all. And a ditto can be said for the annual Christmas dinner that she has organized forever. We are now holding this at our new meeting site at Wood Crest Villa.

Through the mentorship of a charter member of the club in the 1960's Marilyn and her sister began to collect stamps. They were given an album to start with and introduced them to the club. She says that she "collects everything," and she is currently working on Great Britain and the colonies which she reports are quite a challenge. She meets regularly to collect and trade with her sister in law, Mary Husson. To round out the family ties to philately, her granddaughter, Diedra is a collector.

Marilyn is a 25 year retiree from Millersville where she worked as secretary to the dean and to the Admissions Department. The members of the club are deeply indebted to Marilyn Shirley and all she has done.





## Musings from the editor

On my soapbox again about resolutions; Estate planning Pt-I

In the recent 15 December issue of *Linn's Stamp News* was a short article of a philatelic robbery where the front door was smashed in and the entire safe taken. This collector had a safe and all, but was there even more that he could have done for protection?

There are steps we can take to protect our collections from theft and damage, and I wrote about some of them in the October 2008 newsletter. But these events are not as common as the problems our heirs face when we go over to the other side and leave them our treasures.

A philatelic inheritance can range from an accumulation in a box, or even worse, several boxes to an organized collection with valuation and instructions, in writing for the disposition of the material.

In my first "Musings..." as editor last January, I opined about New Year's resolutions, particularly philatelic resolutions. As

such, I am getting on the soapbox again this January, to encourage you to do some estate planning for your collection. If you have a nice album or two that the kids or grandkids really want to have, there is not much you have to do except to decide who gets what. Put it in writing and/or make other arrangements so that your wishes are carried out.

On the other hand, if you are one who has a "stamp room," then you have your work cut out for you. Are you a dealer? Then you have a whole load of things to do which may run the gamut from business to legal issues.

As my cynical attorney friend once said to me, "It is much easier to plan your estate when you are alive than after your gone." And there is an element of truth to this. Once you are gone, you have no say in what happens to your stamps and covers.

My grandfather was a part-time stamp dealer with an office at 66 Beaver Street in Brooklyn. He died very suddenly and unexpectedly at 47 in 1936. Need I say more. It was a mess.

I recall my mother stating how her uncle cherry picked the best stuff that was to go to her as her dad's only heir, but she was young and inexperienced in this sort of thing. Her parents were divorced. Who at 21 doesn't think that their family will protect their interests? Unfortunately, she was very wrong.

A while back my wife related to me that my father, who was a quasi stamp collector in his own right, once told her that he heard that my grandfather had owned an inverted Jenny. After all, he lived at the right time and place and was an airmail specialist. Could this be true? I think not; it is proba-

bly an urban legend. But it is fun to think about. Regardless, there isn't one now!

The long and short of this is that you don't always have advance warning when your time has come. When making plans for your collection, your treasures, it is better to do it sooner than later.

The recent Marist College poll identified that 60% of the sample believe that they will not follow up with their New Year's resolutions. Let us do otherwise! It is January, the time to make the resolutions of the New Year. Make them now, and start to carry them out ASAP.

Last summer I attended a short estate planning seminar at APS and learned some ways to insure that collectors' wishes are carried out concerning their holdings. I will offer some of these recommendations in the February or other 2009 PSLC newsletter. Ed □



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