

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

Stamp Club Meeting: Wednesday, 13 October 2010

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Lucy Eyster

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Evening's Program

Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

Our last auction of the year is past, and this month we can look forward to Paul Petersen's presentation on "King George the Fifth and the Royal Collection."

I would like to continue on our discussion from the October 13th meeting about ways that we might use some of our reserve funds to benefit philately. As I reported previously, the Lancaster Public Library purchases a current set of Scott catalogs, so they do not need a donation of catalogs from us. But are there other philatelic books or publications we could donate to them? Are there other libraries in the County whose readers

could benefit from Scott catalogs, but which don't have them now?

Someone suggested that as a club we join some other philatelic societies so that our members could benefit from their publications. If you think this is a good idea, what societies do you suggest? We could also make a donation to the American Philatelic Society. Each year the April issue of the *American Philatelist* lists organizations that have made cash contributions to the APS. This year for example, there were clubs that were donors in the \$25-\$49, \$50-\$99, \$100-\$249, \$250-\$499, \$500-\$999, and \$1000-\$2499 categories.

Should we be listed among them next April? Do you have other ideas? Please be thinking about all this and be ready to share your ideas at the next meeting.

Something else to be thinking about—it's getting to be that time of year when we elect officers. Is there anyone who would like to get more involved by being an officer or by getting involved in a committee? If so, please talk to me at the next meeting. There's always room for new volunteers and new ideas.

I hope to see you all on October 13th. **John**

Program: King George V And the Royal Collection

As a young lad GRV and his brother were exposed to stamp production and collecting. Close to his philatelic uncle (Alfred), George enjoyed a lifetime of collecting. He was a great influence on organized philately especially through the Philatelic Society, London. His early navy travel facilitated his collections of the foreign colonies and possessions.

The editor will address GRV's life as a collector,

researcher, facilitator, and his efforts to build a collection of The British Empire second to none.

Some items from the Royal Collection will be shown along with the people who helped bring it together.

Twenty-ten is the Centennial of GRV's accession to the throne, and stamps and souvenir sheets were produced to celebrate this anniversary along with the July 2010 London Stamp Show.



October 13 marks the 72nd birthday of the 15¢ James Buchanan gray stamp, a Lancaster County favorite from the 1938 Presidential Series, AKA The Prexies.

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October, 2010

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, 2000 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA at 7:00 PM

President:

John R. Ahlfeld

Vice President:

John Bray

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

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October Bio: Bob Paire

While Bob was shopping at the Lancaster Philatelic Window in 2006, Kay Herr told him about the local stamp club and offered him an armful of *Linn's*. A close stamp collecting friend had introduced him to the hobby early in the millennium, so the Lancaster club was just what he needed. He is also a member of the Longview, TX club where he lives six months per year. This club is similar in many ways to PSLC, but it is smaller.

Early in his collecting, Bob purchased a friend's collection of "Mister Zip" blocks, and he has about completed this except for some pricy varieties. His other areas include U.S. commemoratives (up to 1995) and "Back of the book" with an emphasis on postage due, special handling, and airmail. He declines to collect definitives due to the numerous varieties of the same stamp. He has a small foreign collection related to the Third Reich.

In 1996 Bob retired from Burlington Industries after 30 years where he held several management positions within the departments of data processing and information management systems. Coincidentally his three sons also work in computer related fields in Philadelphia, Frederick (MD), and Ephrata.

Bob and his wife are active in their local church's senior's group. They enjoy spoiling their 7 grandchildren, including a set of triplets. Bob's other interests include reading, bridge, golf, and travel. In fact, after retirement, they went on a two year tour of the U.S. visiting all 50 states.

September Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith

President John R. Ahlfeld opened the meeting at 7pm.

Membership & Visitors: There were 33 members and two visitors: Mr. & Mrs. John Bradley. John returned to the hobby recently by assisting his granddaughter. He is now collecting seriously again.

Minutes: The minutes of 14 July 10 were approved.

Drawing: This was won by John Bradley.

Lancopex 2011: Jim B. led the discussion. Issues included holding the event on F/S 29-30 April instead of the traditional Sat/Sun. Dealers are buying into it, but Jim will make more calls. Club members of-

ferred no objections, but Jim wants us to give more thought to this. Jim needs more volunteers for cachets and displays. Discussion was held to rent the F&H Center's kitchen for snacks to make room for another dealer table. Further, there seemed to be a consensus to hire temporary help to move the exhibit frames.

Club Treasury: With the extra funds, one idea was to fund the entire Christmas Dinner, while another was to do as the York club and treat members to a dinner at Olde Country Buffet.

Christmas Party: The Ahlfelds and Wheelers will join Lucy Eyster in plan-

ning the event. Some volunteer entertainers are needed.

Meeting Snacks: Lucy asked those bringing snacks to the meetings to try to choose less crumbly snacks or cookies, as this requires much more cleanup following the meeting.

September Program: Some time was given to a short "Show & Tell" and "Q&A" session. The fall auction followed.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$3,926.51 (1July)

Income: \$17.33

Expenses: \$73.45

Closing: \$3,870.39 (31 Aug)

3-CDs valued at \$6433.87

Keepers of the Royal Collection

King George the Fifth (1865-1936) and the Royal Collection will be explored this evening. While GRV was a solid collector in his own right, he had resources worth a king's ransom. Besides all the stamps of the empire (proofs, essays, errors, overprints, color trials, and much more), he was in a club with some of the most noted philatelic experts in the realm.

Through his connection with the Philatelic Society, London, GRV interacted with the best collectors of the day. But beyond this, he had what is known as the "Keeper of the Royal Collection." This position was created in 1893 and contin-

ues to the present day.

These gentlemen were and are all noted philatelists with outstanding knowledge and connection to collectors, dealers, and other movers and shakers of philately.

Since 1893 there have been six Keepers of the Royal Collection, all part-time. John Tilleard was the first, serving 20 years until his sudden death in 1913. Through networking, he helped identify and purchase many collections and gems, but he did not have sufficient time to get them all organized into albums.

Edward Bacon was the second keeper and served until his death in 1938. His 25

years of service to the collection were extraordinary. He began the systematic cataloguing and mounting of the collection. However, he wasn't very good with hinges, his only flaw.

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STAMP

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Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, & Special Interest



2010 Programs and Hosts

13 October: *King George V and the Royal Collection:* Paul Petersen. Host-Lucy Eyster

10 November: *Hearts on Stamps:* Diane Meek. Host-John Brownell

8 December: *Christmas Party*

Upcoming Show Reminders:
Some Sunday Stamp Shows,

Farm & Home Center: • 5 Dec. (Please verify ahead with James G. Boyles: 394-5118). *The Baltimore Friendly Stamp & Coin Show:* 24 October and 21 November The Pikesville Hilton on 1726 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Pre-Cancel Society will be having a show on 15-16 October in Horsham. For additional info call Bob Noble: 626-0709.

Of Special Interest: Club member Peter Barney noted that his daughter's home was chosen to have an "**Extreme Makeover**," and this was completed in August in only five days up in Berks County. Thousands from all over the county helped in this. For those interested, the tentative television air date is Sunday, 17 October at 8 PM on ABC.

Reading Stamp Show

Let's support all of our fellow club members from Reading.

Saturday, 6 November 2010

From 10:00a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Leesport Farmer's Market

The facility is located 8 miles north of Reading. Look for the Leesport Market Sign on Rt. 61 north of Leesport-Go one block east.

Tagging , Part II and Additional Uses of the Ultraviolet Lamp

Dick Colberg

In Part I of this article last month, an intro to tagging was presented followed by usages in the U.S. and U.K. This month Canadian tagging and further uses of the ultraviolet lamp will be presented.

In Canada, tagging began experimentally in Winnipeg in 1962. Tagging bands varied in number, position, and chemical content. Between 1962 and 1973, most regular issues, all Christmas issues, and some commemoratives were tagged. Scott 453, the 1967 Flag was the first tagged Canadian commemorative.

Ottawa tagging first appeared in 1972. There were two different chemical formulations, OP-2 and OP-4. OP-4 is a migrating type of substance, and care should be taken to isolate these stamps. In albums this tagging will bleed through the pages and affect other stamps. OP-4 was used on Scott 544, the 8-¢ regular issue, Scott commemoratives 560-565, and definitives 594-598 (10-, 15-, 20, and 50¢ of 1972).

Since 1/1973, all Canadian stamps,

with few exceptions, are General (Ottawa) tagged - side bars. Most stamps issued after the mid-60s are printed on hi-bright paper; however, not all and not always. Thus, the 1967 Centennial Definitive issue is a treasure hunt for tagging and paper varieties. Though there are only twelve values involved, there are over 170 combinations of tagging and paper.

Besides the tagging of modern stamps, the ultraviolet (UV) light has applications with some classic stamps. The 1870-1893 U.S. Banknote issues are an example. These stamps were printed by three companies: The National Bank Note Co., The Continental Bank Note Co., and the American Bank Note Co. The issue was printed on mostly hard or soft porous paper, with or without grills, and with or without secret marks. The colors used by each company for similar values were pretty much the same. Where color, design, or grill allow us to make positive identification, so much the better. However, except for the paper on which they were printed, the no-grill NBC issue of 1870 is virtually

identical to the ABC issue of 1879 for the values: 1¢ 3¢, 6¢ [unless the difference between carmine and pink is known to you], 10¢, 15¢, 30¢, and 90¢.

The UV lamp offers help. Under UV light the hard papers of the NBC appear very bright, and the soft porous papers of the ABC appear dull. So while there are many who have very little trouble distinguishing between these papers, the novices like you and me have a real friend in our UV lamp to aid in this identification.

Further, with some imagination, fakes and forgeries may be brought to light, so to speak, through the use of the UV lamp. If the paper and ink characteristics of the genuine stamp are known, one has only to compare the suspect stamp with the genuine stamp under the UV lamp. While this may not be 100% foolproof, it's a start. Repairs may easily be discovered through the use of a UV lamp, because whatever material was used for repair will almost always show up as a discontinuity on the surface being examined.



Musings:

Loving and caring for your stamps...

I am looking forward to Diane Meek's November program on **Hearts on Stamps**, and this made me think about how many of us in the club love our stamp collections. What better tribute could there be than to have a heart on a stamp/

There are two basic things we can do for our stamps. These are to provide a safe environment and a thorough estate plan.



In past columns, I have described some of these topics such as stamp insurance, proper handling and storage techniques, estate essentials, home protection, safe transportation and mailing procedures, and more.

Whether you are a dealer, exhibitor, or collector, it is worth reemphasizing a challenging aspect of **travel with stamps**-the hotel! We have heard stories of car and van theft when philatelic materials are left alone however temporarily. More so, consider the overnight hotel stay; they have their risks especially when the big show is in town. Stamp thieves come out from under the rocks and do so very creatively. Another realistic hotel threat is water damage from the sprinkler system.

Until I reached middle age, I did a

lot of travel for both work and the Navy. On at least three of these occasions the fire alarm went off, and I had to quickly dress and exit to the lobby.

I was fortunate that there was neither fire nor water damage, and I was able to shortly return. But had there been a fire nearby, the automatic sprinklers could have gone off. What if I had boxes of philatelic material in the room? Think about the loss!

In case of fire, seconds count. Get out. Damage to stamps is costly, but it is surely less costly than your life or that of a loved one. Let's look at some hotel safety procedures to protect our lives and our stamps.

- 1.) Before bed, place hotel and car keys in your coat or jacket pocket. Have all your clothes on a chair or hanger ready to don for that hasty exit if needed. Except for the helmet, it is not much different than the firemen who jump into their clothes when the alarm call comes in.
- 2.) Consolidate your best philatelic material into a bag, and keep it accessible. This way you grab what is important when the alarm goes off. You might not be able to get all of your boxes out, but in the worst case scenario, you have saved something.
- 3.) Purchase some heavyweight plastic tarps. Before bed, assemble your boxes and other items

such as suitcases, etc. in one place. Position the tarp so that it is easy to reach and open up. If the alarm goes off, dress, cover the boxes, and grab your bag. If it is just a false alarm, so much the better, but if the sprinklers go off, the tarp will minimize the water damage.

Proceeding to **estate plans**, there is much to be done. I have mentioned the role of APS and the need to have a plan in writing. But what I want to reemphasize here is the need to designate your good stuff-just like in the hotel. Identify it, and make it easily accessible. Your heirs will appreciate this.

Late last year one of our club members died, and I helped his family with his collection. The albums were extremely organized; but with over 70 of them and myriad boxes, it was still daunting. The family preferred to liquidate the collection at auction. Neither they nor the grandkids collected. They were relieved that their dad had already disposed of his coin collection. What remained were the stamps and antique clocks!

The son and I worked closely for several days. We catalogued everything, and the dad's organization made this easy for us and the auctioneer. Missing was a written plan and a basic valuation of the collection. There were some hand-written pages

of stamp numbers and prices, but this was not helpful. The son had no idea of the value, and he heard erroneously from a nephew that it was a huge.

The son took it all to an auction house and kept me in the loop as to the sale and disappointing four figure realization. He gave me his dad's catalogues, stuffed glassines, file boxes, and other supplies. What I did not want I could give to the club.

I was going through one of the many glassines of stamps and sorting them into U.S. and foreign for the kids. Then I came upon a smaller glassine with a pair of imperforates and an old photocopied memo-in Italian! It piqued my interest. I contacted Mike Piazza at the National Postal Museum who specializes in the Vatican. He was encouraging, and I then had it expertized. It was indeed a very fine item, perhaps one of the best.

This stamp pair was not set apart and identified as special. It was placed in a box of odds and ends, and it could have ended up in the large accumulation for our junior members.

The Vatican pair will go on auction next month, and hopefully this will bring a little more value to the collector's estate. This was his original intention, but it almost got away. We were all very lucky. Ed. □



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