



# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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



**The Party: Wednesday, 8 December 2010**

Dining room opens at 6:00 PM; Buffett starts at 6:30 PM

BlueBird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, Lancaster, PA

## Menu

**Fresh Baked Rolls & Butter**

**Fruit Cup**

**Tossed Classic Caesar Salad**

♪ **Prime Rib of Beef au Jus**

♪ **Breast of Chicken**

♪ **Oven Roasted Salmon**

**Mashed Potatoes, Baked Corn,  
& Brussels Sprouts**

**Assorted Finger Desserts  
(Supplied by Woodcrest Villa)**

**Coffee, Iced Tea, & Water**

**Music & Song**

**By Steve Wander**

**Gift Exchange**

**(New and Improved for 2010)**



**Volume 73, Issue 12**

**December, 2010**

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PSLC Meets the second Wednesday of the month (except August) in BlueBird Commons at Woodcrest Villa at 7:00 PM

**President:**

John R. Ahlfeld

**Vice President:**

John Bray

**Secretary:**

Joy Bouchard

**Treasurer:**

Clair Smith

**Newsletter Editor:**

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

## Party and Gift Exchange

The party will be held Wednesday evening, 8 December. Doors will open at 6:00 PM with buffet at 6:30.

Cost: \$10.00 per person. Pay at the door. Additions and cancellations were due to Lucy Eyster on or before 1 December. For the optional gift exchange, please wrap a **philatelic item** of \$6.00. This exchange is open to club members and guests.



## Your Favorite Stamp

In the newsletter earlier this year was an engaging article that was based on club-member input. Another one is planned for this coming January, and John R. Ahlfeld recommended the following topic: **What is your favorite stamp?**

So please send the editor your input. Call, e-mail, or even better, use snail mail with old stamps. Some things to consider: How did you come upon this stamp? What do you like about it? What is the personal significance of this stamp? Are any memories attached to this stamp? What does it reveal about you? Send a stamp scan if you like. Please keep the input to a short paragraph. Submissions will be edited to fit the space. The submission deadline is 23 December, so please do this right away. Like last December, your editor is again scheduled for jury duty in Philadelphia, so the sooner the better.

## Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports Joy Bouchard & Clair Smith: November 2010

Pres. John R. Ahlfeld opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**Membership** chair Lucy Eyster called upon Sherman Foot and Carl Waller, both members who have been away for a while.

**Oct. Minutes & Treasury:** These reports were approved.

**2011 Elections:** John addressed the formation of a slate for next year. John Bray will rise to the presidency. Secretary Joy Bouchard is willing to serve another 2-year term, and Lou DiFelice will assume the treasury for a 2-year term. The position of vice president remains vacant temporarily. Dick Schafer moved to accept the slate, and Jim

Boyles seconded the motion. This was approved by voice vote. John will continue to seek a candidate for vice president.

**Show 'n Tell:** Roy Baardsen told about a postcard he bought for the Norwegian stamp. It turned out to have a family connection. Dick Colberg offered hard-covered Siegel auction catalogues. He also shared his exhibit experience in France, displaying several of the items for club members.

**Party:** Lucy reviewed the menu for the upcoming event. Details will be included in the December newsletter. Entertainment and music will be provided by Steve Wander.

**Lancopex:** Jim Boyles led a

discussion regarding the dates and hours for the April show.

**2011 Program Topics and Hosts:** A sign-up sheet from incoming president, John Bray, was passed around for presentations ideas and snacks for 2011.

**November Drawing:** Hiltrud Lu won a sheet of King and Queen of Hearts love stamps.

**Program:** *Hearts on Stamps* was presented by Diane Meek.

### Treasury Report

Opening: \$3,896.47 (1 Oct)  
Income: \$10.17  
Expenses: \$569.46  
Closing: \$3,337.18 (30 Oct)  
3-CDs valued at \$6,461.85.

## U.S. Stamp Stories

There is now a website that tells the stories behind the recent U.S. stamps: [www.beyondtheperf.com](http://www.beyondtheperf.com).



The USPS site is worth checking out.

## A Dickens Christmas

From the Falstaff Inn near his home in Higham, England, the famed Victorian author made the following toast:



"Reflect upon your present blessings-of which every man has many-not on your past

misfortunes of which all men have some. Fill your glass again with a merry face and contented heart...So may each year be happier than the last and not the meanest of our brethren or sisterhood debarred their rightful share in what our great Creator formed them to enjoy." This was reprinted in *Realm Magazine* (10/2010, pg. 42). The 1993 British stamp to the left depicts Bob Cratchit & Tiny Tim. It is the first of a 5-stamp set (SG 1117-21) commemorating the 150th anniversary of the publication of Dickens' 1843 *A Christmas Carol*.

✂..... Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this notice, complete it, and turn in with \$10 to Lucy Eyster at the December club meeting. You may also mail it to Lucy at 2001 Harrisburg Pk, B503, Lancaster, PA 17601

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please encourage your non-member stamp collector friends to join and enjoy the benefits of membership. Make this your '11 New Year's resolution: "Every member get a member-or else."



## Club Happenings: Programs/Hosts, Membership, & Shows

### Tentative Programs & Hosts

**12 January:** Club Auction.  
**Host:** John Bray

**9 February:** *Crash Mail*, A DVD by Dr. Steve Berlin; Discussant: Dick Colberg.  
**Host:** Dick Colberg

**9 March:** *Lick 'n Stick for Lancopex.* + *ATA DVD "Eclectic Collecting"* + *Some of my Strange Stamps*, Lucy Eyster. **Host:** Dick Shaefer

**13 April:** *A Philatelic Tour of Bermuda*, Al Schaub. **Host:** Eleanor Wheeler

**11 May:** Auction. **Host:** TBA

**8 June:** *Precancels for Fun:*

*Part III*, R.D. Noble and Woody Hann. **Host:** TBA

**13 July:** Topic & Host-TBA

**10 August:** Club Picnic.

**14 September:** Club Auction.  
**Host:** TBA

**12 October:** Program TBA.  
**Host:** Lucy Eyster

**9 November:** Topic/Host: TBA

**14 December:** Dinner. No host

**Membership:** Welcome John Bradley, our newest member.

**Upcoming Show Reminders:** *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: ● 5 December, ● 6 March, ● 26 June,

● 21 August, ● 2 October, ● 4 December (Please verify ahead with James G. Boyles (717- 394-5118).

*York Stamp Show:* Fri/Sat: 21-22 January 2011 at the York Fair Grounds, Rt. 74, York.

**Show Award:** At the October Regional Philatelic Exposition in Caen, France, Dick Colberg won a large silver award for his exhibit, *The express company envelopes of Mexico*. Dick continues as president of the Lebanon Stamp Club-for the 20th year, and treasurer for the Pennsylvania Poastal History Society.

## From the President John R. Ahlfeld

How fast the year has gone! Now it is time to thank everyone who has made it such a success for the "stamp club." First, to the officers: Vice President John Bray, for filling in a couple of times when I was away; Secretary Joy Bouchard, for consistently providing minutes of each meeting; and Treasurer Clair Smith, for taking good care of our finances and having written a report for each meeting. Then some big "thank yous" to Paul Petersen, who perhaps has the biggest job of all in putting out a timely, detailed newsletter each month; to Lucy Eyster for handling membership and

arranging for our meeting places; to Jim Boyles for chairing Lancopex each year; and to all those who present programs at our meetings, coordinate special projects and events, provide refreshments, set up to sell stamps and supplies at meetings, and to help in every other way.

Now, just one more "thank you" in advance. At the last meeting no one accepted the nomination for Vice President in 2011 (and president in 2012). I hope you'll all think about this and that one of you will believe the time is right to take your turn. "Thank You."

Looking ahead, our Holi-

day Dinner is just around the corner-on December 8. The Bluebird Room will be open at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Please be prepared to pay \$10 for each person when you arrive. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift; something in the \$5-\$6 range would be good.

I hope to see you all the 8th, but in any case have a great holiday season and let's all look forward to a successful 2011 at the "stamp club."



## December Bio: Hiltrud Lu

After the war, some Polish soldiers gave stamps and instruction to Hiltrud and her young friends. These soldiers were employed by the British as part of the occupation forces in her home in Lönigen, a small German town on the Dutch border.

Subsequently, Hiltrud and a friend started a stamp club. This remained active for many years until she moved to the U.S. in the early 1960s. Once her children were grown, she joined PSLC and has remained very active ever since.

Hiltrud credits stamp collecting with success in geography in school. It instilled an interest in foreign travel. Beyond her many journeys, she has lived in the U.K. and Switzerland.

After graduating from business school, Hiltrud added numerous international contacts to her many family members and friends. These people form a global network who save stamps for her world collection.

"When I get an envelope of stamps from a friend or a member of my family, I know that they have been thinking of me." She adds that "My stamps have gotten me through the difficult times; they are good medicine, and they are my friends." This is something with which many stamp collectors will agree.

Hiltrud has four children, a daughter each in Boston and NYC, and two sons in Lancaster. Three showed an interest in stamp collecting while younger, but the appeal has since waned. Two years ago this month, her husband, Milton passed away.



# Musings of the times...

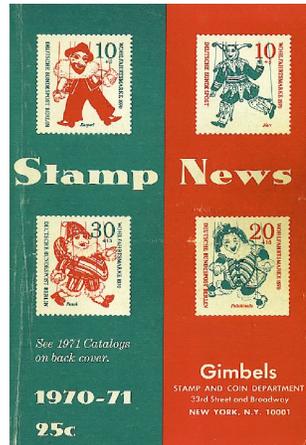
An editor's Christmas memory, wish list, and praise

**Memories:** A friend, a lapsed stamp collector, shared about one of his favorite Christmas gifts, a mint \$5 Alexander Hamilton stamp from the Liberty Series (Scott 1053). It completed his set. For a kid, this was the holy grail. He already owned a cancelled copy of the \$5 Calvin Coolidge from the Prexies (834), but that was relatively inexpensive, even back in the 1970s.

The conversation transported me to my seasonal haul. My best gift was in 7th grade, the Scott's green and unabridged U.S. National album with illustrations and spaces for all the B-O-B.

This Scott's replaced my small format paperback from the Stamp & Album Co. of America (1953). It did not take much time to transfer the stamps, though there would be plenty of empty spaces in this new beast of an album. Unlike my friend, I did not get a mint 1053 until 2001!

Childhood was a time to look forward to the holiday stamp catalogues such as the one depicted above from Gimbels. While our sons now tolerate their parents collecting, they were not much different as kids when the J.C. Penny Christmas Catalog arrived. If it came too early, my wife would hide it. Whether par-



ent or child, whether it is stamps or toys, these catalogs certainly brought out the lust of our eyes. But isn't that what being a kid (or a stamp collector) is all about?

**Wish list:** Rather than include my stamp wish list for you, I thought I would posit some ideas for the hobby and our club.

**I wish for more kids to get involved with stamp collecting:** A U.S. Dept. of Education study in 2003 among high school students identified the following: 41% can identify the three branches of government while 59% can list the "Three Stooges." 10% can name The Speaker of the House, while 64% can state

the latest winner of American Idol! There's more, and it is interesting. Well, frightening, actually.

Given the holes in our education system, is it any wonder that kids can't identify Canada on a North American map or think it is a trick question when asked to place WWI and WWII in chronological order?

Serious stamp collecting could easily plug the holes. But where do we start? Think in terms of our 2011 New Year's resolutions.

Let's all get to work with the youth both within and outside our families before it is too late. Get them off their introspective electronic gizmos and into stamp collecting. Is there still time?

**Some specifics:** • *Hold a kid's stamp extravaganza.* An organizer is needed, but club participation and contribution will follow if I know our club members. This could be a Saturday event in cooperation with teachers, the scouts, or another group. It's a start. Any ideas, folks?

• *Staff a table at a teacher's conference.* We have the

workers, giveaways, and club banner. Materials are already prepared and used with the library program. The sky is the limit. **Q:** What more do we need? **A:** Someone to make a contact.

*Set up our club website.* It doesn't have to be elaborate, but when a search is made, folks will find us and know what we are up to. Even at a minimum, the info such as that in our newsletters will be very informative. What's needed? A web master!

**Summa Cum Laude:** As I finish my third year as editor of this newsletter, I recognize the contributions of so many dedicated members:

President John R. Ahlfeld, secretary Joy Bouchard, and treasurer Clair Smith have been diligent in their respective monthly contributions. Marilyn Shirley, Diane Meek, and RD Noble assured the timely circulation of the hard copies of this newsletter. Several club members wrote excellent articles over the year. These include Dick Colberg, Diane Meek, Lucy Eyster, Carol Petersen, Mike Shirley, and Lou DiFelice. Thanks. Ed □



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