

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 9 February 2011

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Dick Colberg

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

## Message from the President

John M. Bray

Well, January's meeting was a bit of a disappointment all around. The previous day's weather most assuredly had a negative impact on our attendance and our Auction. If you weren't there, you didn't miss much; it was pretty much a non-event. On the bright side, we did fill our yearly agenda for Hosts and Programs, but we still had no taker to fill our Vice President vacancy. In addition to a VP, we need someone that could assist Lucy with Public Relations; preferably with computer skills. We also need someone to provide a "presentation in kind" to

the Reading Club. We also talked about engaging the youth and came up with a few suggestions, but we are now in need of some action on this. I would ask that each of you talk with your local church, school, library, scouting, or other organizations to see if and how we could assist them, thus laying the groundwork for our club's future.

I realize that we can all come up with excuses as to why we can't do it. If you're like me, you have other interests and clubs that keep you busy, and you just "don't have the time." In reality-couldn't

you just spare about 15 minutes a week or month to make a call or stop by one of these places to see if there is any interest there?

Well, I believe that I've spent enough time up here on my soapbox and you're tired of listening. Please meditate and ask yourself about PSLC. Do I attend to just socialize and belong, or can I, in my own way, make an impact that will benefit my club and philately in general???

Be prudent with the shoveling; don't do too much too fast, and we'll see you in February. **JMB**

## Crash Mail: A PowerPoint by Dr. Steve Berlin

With narration by Dick Colberg

Crash Mail is a subcategory of postal history. An entity's post office will do all it can to insure that the mail is delivered. Thus, at sites of plane, train, truck, ship, or other conveyance disasters, including train robberies, all salvageable mail was collected and delivered to recipients or returned to senders when the address had been damaged to the point of being unreadable.

Beyond burn marks, water stains, or other damages on a

cover, they may also contain auxiliary markings or labels. These communications serve to describe why the mail was delivered late (sometimes months late) in a less than pristine state, often stating the date, site, and other information such as the airline and flight # and time.

Tonight's program is a PowerPoint by Steve Berlin of Maryland entitled "The Devil's Mail." Though true collectors call it "Interrupted Mail."



A 1931 letter addressed to the editor's grandfather in Brooklyn, NY. Note hand stamp regarding condition. See Pg. 2 for another example of crash mail.

Volume 74, No. 2

February, 2011

Inside this issue:

- From the President: 1  
-John M. Bray
- The Devil's Mail  
-A Powerpoint by S. Berlin with narration by Dick Colberg.
- Minutes & Treasury 2
- February Biography  
-Dick Wheeler
- Example of crash mail with explanation
- 2011 Presentations 3  
and Club News
- Annual dues notice
- Volunteers and shows  
-John Leszak
- Musings 4

*Stamps versus postal history*

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. For club info, call Vern Marten: 717.371.9055

President:

John M. Bray

Vice President:

Vacant

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Lou DiFelice

Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

pcpetersen@comcast.net



## February Bio:

### Dick Wheeler

Some of Dick's earliest years were in China where his dad was a military attaché. They took many Chinese stamps with them upon returning to the U.S. This later formed the nucleus for Dick's worldwide collection as a youngster. He was avid until attending college and picked up a Boy Scout merit badge along the way. He notes that when he was away at school, one of his siblings sold his collection to buy baseball equipment!

Dick never returned to the collecting zeal of his youth, but he joined his wife Eleanor in the hobby where he now has small collections of pandas, ducks, and orchids & flowers. His other hobbies include the garden club and stained glass design from his home studio in Hempfield.

Licensed as both a mental health and drug & alcohol counselor, Dick maintains a private practice with an interest in anger management. His services include individual therapy, couples, prison evaluations, and post incarceration management. He states that he likes working with those who have significant challenges.

Dick and Eleanor have been involved with the club since 2001. Eleanor served as president and Dick edited the newsletter for several years. They are regulars at setting up and tearing down the Lancopex show while contributing many hours in between to make the event happen.

The Wheelers have a blended family. Eleanor's son lives in California while her daughter and grandchildren reside in Germany. Dick's daughter, Amy is presently living in Maine.

## January Minutes and Treasury

### Joy Bouchard & Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** President John M. Bray opened the meeting with some announcements and discussion items. The club received a letter of thanks from APS for our \$500 donation in December. The positions of VP and PR chairman remain vacant. John wants us to develop ways to engage young collectors and bring new collectors into the club, both young and old. He will confer with Vern Martin on this.

**Visitor:** Mike Bach is a guest of Roy Baardsen and is a member of the Reading Stamp Club. Originally from Great Britain, Mike notes an Old German States collection that has been in his family since 1860. He currently collects U.K. and Commonwealth.

**Membership:** Lucy Eyster announced that at Jim Boyles' request, she has changed the return address on the PSLC Membership Applications from the Lancaster P.O. box to her address. There are several club members that still need to pay 2011 dues. The club received a thank-you letter from Woodcrest Villa

for our \$250 donation. There were 24 in attendance for the meeting and auction despite the weather.

**Reports:** Because there was no business meeting in December, there are no minutes. New treasurer, Lou DiFelice reviewed the status of the treasury along with extending gratitude to outgoing treasurer, Claire Smith for all his attention in turning over the books.

**Drawing:** This was won by Hildrud Lu.

**Lancopex:** Jim Boyles announced that this will be held on F/S, 29-30 April. New this year we'll have day-time security. Lucy Eyster needs help with publicity, especially someone computer savvy. As Jim may be limited this spring in some of his activities, additional help will be needed. Paul Petersen will contact a church youth group and ascertain their willingness to do some of the lifting of the frames, tables, and all.

**2011 Programs:** Paul Petersen discussed some of the programming for 2011 and solicited club's desire

for a "Show 'n Tell" this year. Club was supportive of this and a different format for the fall called "Your Best Stuff." Here club members will take turns displaying some of their gems. More information on this format will be forthcoming. A member of the Reading club, David Hunt will be presenting here in July, and PSLC would like to reciprocate through some of our club members presenting their topics in Reading. Please see Paul if interested.

**Club Trip:** Roy Baardsen announced that we need 35 participants to conduct a cost effective motor coach trip. He wants direction/ideas from membership where we would like to go, preferably in or near October. Club members, family, and friends are always welcome.

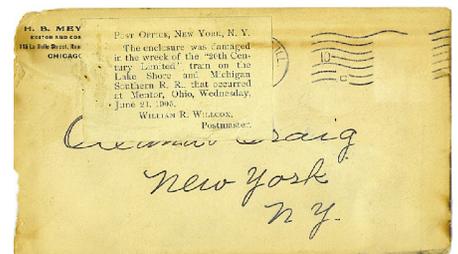
**Program:** The January program was a club auction.

### Treasury Report

Opening: \$3,461.50 (1 Dec)  
Income: \$560.16  
Expenses: \$1,182.73  
Closing: \$2,838.93 (31 Dec)  
3-CDs totaling \$6164.85 due in 2012-13.

## An example of crash mail from the editor's collection

The singed and water stained cover at right was mailed on 21 June 1905 from Chicago to Brooklyn, NY, the offices of Olena & Craig. The attached message from the Post Office in New York stated: *The enclosure was damaged in the wreck of the "20th Century Limited" train on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern R.R., that occurred at Mentor, Ohio, Wednesday, June 21, 1905. William R. Willcox, Postmaster.* Note the upper right corner where the stamp is missing.





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

### 2011 Programs and Hosts

**9 February:** *Crash Mail*, A DVD by Dr. Steve Berlin; Narrator: 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:** Club Auction. **Host:** Diane Meek

**8 June:** *Precancels for Fun: Part III*, RD Noble and Woody Hann. **Host:** Lou Leidig

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

**10 August:** Club Picnic. No Host this month.

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

**12 October:** Show 'n Tell: Your best stuff. **Host:** Lucy Eyster

**9 November:** Topic-TBA. **Host:** John Ahlfeld

**14 December:** Dinner.

**Upcoming Show Reminders:** *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: ● 6 March, ● 26 June, ● 21 August, ● 2 October, ● 4 December (Please verify ahead with Jim-394-5118.)

## Some thoughts on club volunteers and shows: A synopsis of an article by John Leszak

□ **Editor's note:** *This synopsis is based on John Leszak's 24 December 2010 Editorial in Mekeel's and Stamps Magazine. The title is The First to come and the last to go. (This article originally appeared in the 14 January 2000 issue of the same magazine.)*

*Jim Boyles met Mr. Leszak last month at the York Stamp Show where they discussed club member participation in their annual stamp shows. As a dealer and student of philatelic human nature, Leszak has observed and written unabashedly over the years about clubs, their shows, and their other activities. He had a copy of this editorial with him and gave it to Jim along with his permission to reproduce it in whole, in part, or in synopsis in our PSLC Newsletter. What follows is a synopsis of this article that Jim thought would be appropriate for our club prior to Lancopex.*

Leszak discusses the blessings of volunteerism in a stamp club, lauding the few who do all the work, the ones who make the show successful, the dedicated core, hard working enthusiasts who labor for the good of the hobby without the need for recognition. **"They are the first to arrive for the stamp show & the last to leave."**

The author details his experiences with such volunteers over the years from his

vantage point of a dealer. Just ask the dealers, and they will tell you who are the movers and shakers of a stamp show. Volunteers are very crucial, and Leszak exemplifies the experience of one club in particular when they lost their stamp show volunteers.

Actually, this club had only two volunteers who ran the show from planning to the post-show follow-up. Unfortunately they both passed away within two months of each other, and there was no one who could or would take up the slack. Typically the show brought in an average of \$1,700 in its recent years (Ed's note: To put these dollar values in perspective, recall that this editorial was written in early 2000.)

Without the show volunteers, the club leadership decided to contract many of the services. For the first year, this included the cachet and cancel, the marketing materials (the flyers were made but never distributed), the snack bar, and the physical set-up and break-down of the show. At the end of the show, they had lost \$1,500.

For year two, they added an agency to promote the show, and unfortunately they targeted only those with incomes >\$70K. They eliminated the snack bar, and raised the dealers' fees by 50% per booth and the banquet fee by 150%. Most dealers and many

2  
0  
1  
1  
D  
U  
E  
S  
N  
O  
T  
I  
C  
E

Please clip this notice, complete it, and turn in with \$10 to Lucy Eyster at the February 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 New Year's resolution: "Every member get a member."

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

members boycotted the banquet. This year the show lost \$2,100!

For year three they had to recoup their losses. They raised the club dues and further increased the dealers' fees. By show time there were only about a third of the dealers, and about half the club members had resigned. Fiscal losses were severe.

The leaders finally left the club blaming the poor results on philately being a dying hobby. It took the remaining members many years to revive the club and resurrect the show. But they did it.

Leszak concludes that volunteers are the heart and soul of a club and its annual show. Working on a show is a social event in itself. A club is enriched when its membership strive as a whole, shoulder-to-shoulder, for the betterment of the club.



# Musings: *Stamps vs. Postal History*

Three events have helped me to bring about this month's column and gain a greater understanding in one aspect of postal history. The first event was the recent APS mailing notifying me of the Summer Seminar in June. The specific course that caught my eye is on postal history with an emphasis on geography, research, and the preparation of a monograph on the topic. I'm ready!

The second event was a New Year's resolution to catch up on my philatelic reading. I finally got to the 12/10 issue of *German Postal Specialist (GPS)*. It contains an editorial by Jim Graue (Pps. 489-490) regarding the difference of usage and postal history. More on this later.

The third event was the opportunity to view an outstanding philatelic exhibit of the 1938 Presidential Series (a.k.a. The Prexies) at Washington 2006 during our club bus trip and again at BalPex 2010.

So, what am I getting at? With the upcoming APS seminar, I have been thinking about postal history, actually more about how little I know of the subject. Graue's article was a start, as it provides a differentiation between postal history and stamp usages. These are areas that many collectors lump together, but there is an important distinction that matters in collecting, research, and exhibiting. Graue's information in turn, shed light on that Prexie exhibit that I had seen, helping to fine-tune my philatelic vocabulary in the research and writing in which I engage.

Let's consider Graue's presentation of the difference between stamps (he refers to this as 'usage') and postal history (PH).

There are two aspects to viewing stamps on cover as related to usage. The first usage is the rate issue or a rate stamp. How does a single stamp meet a postal rate such as first class, air mail, special delivery, and so forth?

The second usage looks at stamps and how they are used in combination to make-up a rate. These are typically stamps within a specific issue (i.e. The Prexies, transportation coils, or prominent Americans).

I'll use the Prexies as an example of both types of usage. They ran from 1938 until replacement in the late 1950s by the subsequent Liberty Series. Recall that the Prexies was a large series from 1¢ to 5\$. During this series' lifespan, the 2¢ pink John Adams stamp was used for the post card rate while the purple 3¢ Jefferson was used for first class.

However, the stamps could also be used in combination to form a make-up rate. If one did not have a 10¢ John Tyler stamp for a certified letter, a 6¢ John Quincy Adams stamp along with a 4¢ James Monroe stamp could be used to make-up the basic 10¢ certified letter fee as needed.

The Prexie exhibit that I viewed contained numerous examples of

covers with all sorts of usages and make-up rates for mail going all over the globe.

Graue then differentiates postal history vs. stamps and usage. Postal history is much more than stamps. Instead, the emphasis is on the study of covers and the journeys they take.

With postal history, the emphasis is no longer on stamps. It considers the bigger picture in which the specific stamps used are only a small part of the picture. With postal history, the following are important: 1.) Routes, 2.) Rates, 3.) Means (methods of transportation), and 4.) Postal markings.

So what does a cover tell us about postal history that a stamp, on its own, cannot?

The cover can provide vast information. This includes where the cover originated and ended, often with a time line when there are receiving marks at destination. There may be a side journey noted by auxiliary transit markings. The cover will reveal if it is certified, registered, special delivery, insurance, or if it received any other special services.

There are philatelic specialists who study auxiliary markings, rocket mail, etiquettes, POW mail, and censored mail, among others. The program for our February meeting on crash mail

is replete with postal history. Beyond the water stains or scorch marks on damaged covers, hand stamps or labels may contribute the information about what happened to both damage and delay the mail. (See pages 1 & 2 for examples.)

Graue sums it up: "Thus covers can be assembled to show a clear and well-defined postal history story that responds to the key 'how' and 'why' questions that give collections or exhibits the depth that sets them apart from the run of the mill (pg. 490)."



The above image is from a 25 March 2009 Nutmeg auction catalog, and it shows front and back sides of a 1939 cover that went around the world. What story can be told from this cover that can not be told by the stamps alone? 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.