

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173  
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 12 May 2011

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Diane Meek

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

## Message from the President

Greetings everyone! Well, LANCOPEX has passed and all went well. Thanks to Jim and Dick and all who contributed their time to help make this the great show it is in Southeastern PA. (See pg. 2 for Dealer feedback for the show.)

Sign-ups for the show were meager, but those who volunteered gave extra hours. Even our guys from Reading came down to help. This was especially nice.

Where we had the most difficulty was for set-up on Thursday evening, and because of this, it took an extra hour and a half. And this is with help from teens from the youth group at

Grace Baptist Church who helped to raise money for a missionary trip. Let's have them back again next year to assist with the heavy lifting, especially transporting and setting up the exhibit frames. We must have more help next year or the show will be in jeopardy.

Lancopex had its dignitaries as well including Congressman Joe Pitts (R-PA) and State Rep. P. Michael Sturla (D-Lancaster). Both are avid collectors and enjoyed the show and exhibit.

As you can see, May is auction month. Hopefully you will come with products to offer us and money to buy the offerings of oth-

ers. Please look over the rules and regulations noted below, as this will streamline the process and insure that every item that is won will find the best home.

You know, each month I ask for someone to step up to become Vice President of the club, the one who would accede to the presidency next year. Thus far, no one has agreed to this. What will happen come January? Should I or another officer have to step in to take over? Yes, it is a chore that each of us should fulfill at least once. If no one cares, the club will fold at the end of the year. Think about it. **jmb**

## MAY is PSLC Spring Auction Time-Are You Ready?

As club president John M. Bray noted in his April column, this auction is the perfect time to purchase what you were unable to find at Lancopex and to sell your doubles. The rules remain the same as in previous auctions. • The minimum bid is \$1.00. • The minimum increment when bidding is 50¢. • Each club member is limited to 10 lots. • You will be assigned a number when you arrive. Please place this

number on all your lots. Attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed things up a great deal. • Fiscal transactions will only take place after the last item has been sold. Further, the auction committee recommends the following: • Bring cash whenever possible to pay for the items you win and • Keep a running total of

items you have won and sold based on the prices realized. • Finally, be sure to firmly attach your sales information (lot description, cat. value, min. bid etc.) to the item. This will insure that items are represented accurately.



Bermuda orange and black 1d stamp featuring the 1848 Perot postmaster provisional in its center.

Volume 74, No. 5

May, 2011

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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 17601 at 7:00 PM. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

President:

John M. Bray

Vice President:

Vacant

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Lou DiFelice

Newsletter Editor:

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pcpetersen@comcast.net



## May Biography

### John Brownell

John's life challenge is to keep learning something new every day. Stamp collecting has helped him do this since age 12 after seeing his friend's collection. He stayed with it a few years then took it up again after college. John has had a variety of collections and is now concentrating on perfins and pre-cancels. Recently he was researching NY State Tax Transfer Stamps, with and without perfins.

John was born in Pontiac, MI and then lived in the south. There he went to college for nursing, and during early employment he met Marilyn, a nurse and his wife-to-be. They have a grown son and daughter and five grandchildren.

After several years in the operating room and ER, John sought a challenge for something new. He was one of the first students of ultrasound technology in the '70s. Intern sites following the didactic work were limited in the early days of the technology. Finding his own placement was what brought him to the Lancaster area with Hershey Medical Center and Lancaster General.

John believes in clubs as a way to learn more about a subject. He found PSLC on the APS website and joined us in 2008. He is also a member of the local coin club and mineral & gem society to round out his interests.

Now that he is retired, he can spend more time with his hobbies including antiques where he has a stand at Green Dragon in Ephrata. He loves public sales to purchase stamps and other items that he can sell to antique and collectible dealers.

## April Minutes and Treasury

### Joy Bouchard & Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** Treasurer Lou DiFelice opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

**Minutes:** The April Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved as written by voice vote.

**Dues:** Membership chair Lucy Eyster announced that 2011 dues are outstanding for only four stamp club members.

**Membership:** Roy Baardsen announced that Lancaster and Reading club member, Carl Waller passed away on 9 April. Paul Petersen read an email that he received from club member Herb Tindall in Honey Brook stating that it was his wife Dorothy and not him (Herb) that passed away. In this communication, Herb cited Mark Twain's famous line: "Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." He added that at 96 he contin-

ues to do well and plans to remain a PSLC member as long as he is around.

**Drawing:** Al Schaub donated four packets of Bermuda stamps for this month's drawing.

**Programs:** Paul announced that members may sign up for presentations for next year. Help is available with PowerPoint if desired. He further said that presenters, if they like, may submit a short article for the newsletter regarding their topic, but this is purely optional.

**Lancopex:** Jim Boyles recirculated the sign-up sheets for Lancopex along with the patron list for those interested. There are still many openings on the work schedule for the show which need to be filled. Lucy added that the snack table is well staffed and ready. Paul noted that the church youth group is on

board for frame transport and assembly. He also passed around the menu that will be available for dealers and club volunteers for lunch on both days of the show.

**Q&A:** Vern Marten asked about the validity of using "Forever" or other non-denominated stamps on mail to Europe. **A:** These stamps are only good for domestic use, as postage to points outside the U.S must have a denomination printed on them.

**Program:** Al Schaub presented a slide program entitled "A Philatelic Tour of Bermuda."

### Treasury Report

Opening: \$3,531.73 (1 Mar)  
 Income: \$1,587.15  
 Expenses: \$2,178.12  
 Closing: \$2,940.76 (30 Mar)  
 3-CDs totaling \$6164.85 due in 2012-13.

## Lancopex-2011: What our dealers said

Dealer feedback is an important management tool for continued improvement of our show. As in past years, the dealers were quite positive about the '11 event. Out of 20 dealers, 18 returned completed surveys (90%).

Regarding their financial goals for the show, two (10%) did not meet their goals while three were 50-50 on this item. Seventy-five percent (15) met their goals.

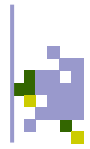
The switch from a Sat/Sun format to Fri/Sat was also

seen as a positive move. Fifteen (75%) dealers supported it; two (10%) were negative, and three did not care (15%). One dealer remarked that if it went back to Sat/Sun, he would not return. Another noted that he had to take Friday off from work, but this was OK.

An important metric is the rating from 1-10 (low-high) how dealers compare our show to others of a similar venue. The average was 8.75 with a range from seven to

ten. This is up from 8.62 in '10 and down from 8.83 in '09.

Open ended questions followed. For positives, five cited a good sized crowd while two added that they were "nice collectors." Six dealers identified club member support and friendliness. Two more gave kudos to the club as a whole while two viewed the Lancaster venue as a plus. One noted that loading and unloading was convenient, while another found the fine exhibits to be a draw. Three dealers (**See Dealers pg. 3**)



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

### 2011-12 Programs and Hosts

**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, 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:** The First Aerial Post in England (9/1911), Mike Bach. **Host:** J. R. Ahlfeld

**14 December:** Dinner.

**11 January 2012:** Club Auction. **Host:** TBA

**8 February 2012:** Swiss Philately, a DVD by the Helvetica Society. **Host:** TBA

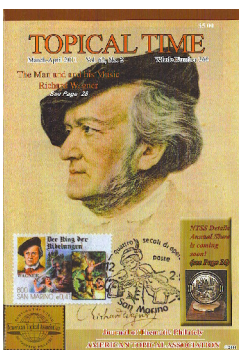
**Upcoming Show Reminders:** *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: • 26 June, • 21 August, • 2 October, • 4 December (Please verify ahead with Jim-394-5118.)

(April-11) *American Philatelist*. Dick Colberg was pictured at work in the American Philatelic Research Library during last July's Volunteer Week (pg. 370) and a wonderful snap of the back of the editor was shown while in class at the '10 APS Summer Session (pg. 373).

Jim Boyles and PSLC were listed for successful member recruitment in 2010. PSLC was also mentioned (pg. 376) for its contribution to APS in memory of deceased club member, Ben Heller.

Condolences go to long time club member, **Herb Tindall** of Honeybrook whose wife, Dorothy, passed away in March of this year.

**Lancopex Debrief:** Following the May meeting, a short gathering will be held in our clubroom to review the April show. What went well? What are areas for improvement? And what is recommended for 2012? All those who helped at Lancopex are encouraged to participate.



### American Topical Association Admits PSLC

It was announced in the March-April Issue of *Topical Time* that PSLC has been admitted as ATA's newest chapter (#118). Our club meeting times & location were included along with a half page discussion of recent club events. This may attract new PSLC members.

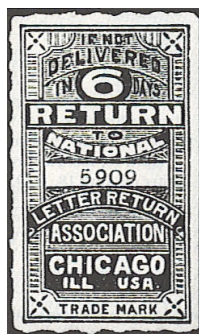
(Dealers) mentioned the lunch and snacks. One dealer liked the distance between tables, while another liked serving his PA customers.

Opportunities for improvement: Three dealers recommended a change in door prizes. Instead of donations that the winner may not want, give them a \$5 credit that can be redeemed that day with any dealer who would be reimbursed by the club.

Other recommendations in-

cluded some help for loading and unloading; electric outlets for tables in the center of the room; hotel discounts; and two would like an additional table.

Two dealers recommended that their locations in the Farm & Home Center not be changed to make it easier for customers to find them. One dealer noted that he has been in four locations in the last four years. Finally, a dealer (and several club members) noted smudged cancels on the show cachets.



### What are NRLA labels?

At first I thought these labels were from another regulatory agency from the depression. But it was not the case.

Actually, the National Letter-Return Association function was to return letters that were undeliverable and ended up in the Dead Letter Office. USPS compiled these letters with the labels and gave them to the NRLA. They returned them to senders via the label ID number. Some senders were hesitant to put their return address on a letter. NRLA insured an anonymous return.

## Carl Waller 1940-1971

Lancaster and Reading Stamp Club member Carl Waller passed away on 9 April after a long battle with liver disease. He joined PSLC several years ago, and was active in both clubs until last summer's flare-up.

Carl was an example of a true volunteer seen in all he did for his church, the Boy Scouts, the Centre Park Historical District, and the Knights of Columbus. Beyond stamps, Carl was involved with the local mineralogical and radio clubs. In his spare time he operated an antique stand at the Black Angus Market.

A master textile designer, Carl owned a mill in West Lawn in addition to a long resume of fabric development achievements during his professional career.

## Lancopex Award Winners From PSLC

Four club members won 14 awards at the 2011 Lancopex Stamp Exhibit.

Lucy Eyster: **I Didn't Know There Were Stamps Like This.** 1.) *Bronze*; 2.) *APPE Award*

Don Smith: **Antarctica.** 1.) *Silver*; 2.) *Best Topical. Telegraph Stamps of the World.* 1.) *Silver*; 2.) *APPE Award.*

Dick Colberg: **Lititz, PA Postal History.** 1.) *Gold*; 2.) *LCPS Award. Baltimore Carrier Stamps.* 1.) *Gold*; 2.) *Best Single Frame. Moline Plow Company.* 1.) *Gold.*

James G. Boyles. **Postmarks of Lancaster, PA 1757-1899.** 1.) *Gold*; 2.) *Reserve Grand Award*; 3) *Postal History Award.*



## Musings:

*Yes, the hobby may be thriving, but...*

A lot of energy in the hobby goes to crabbing and bellyaching. Folks gripe about the number, quality, or subject matter of U.S. stamps. Others complain about their own collection and what they will never own. Some decry the decline of the hobby with all the gray-haired collectors, along with the demise of the stamp show in favor of the internet. I know that I have fallen prey to some of the above, but heck, isn't it every stamp collector's God-given right to gripe about something if they want to?

So I found a little solace in the April issue of **The American Stamp Dealer & Collector** (pgs. 5,6) from the "Moving Forward" and "First Word" columns of ASDA president James E. Lee, and ASD&C editor, Randy L. Neil respectively. This publication is one of my favorite stamp collecting journals.

I saw the recent magazine cover as pictured and looked with awe at the 1d and 2d Mauritius Post Office issues. (I figured that they were having a contest with the winner taking the "Post Office" stamps home.)

Dealer Jim Lee challenged the notion that the stamp show is slowing down in favor of the internet. He has observed that many of the recent shows he has been to were like the golden years of the 1980s. He posited that this venue will never go away, and gave two reasons for this.

The first reason is people. As human beings we desire to be with others, especially other stamp collectors

who share our philatelic interests. At a show we can run into old friends and meet new ones.

Lee adds that the other importance of the stamp show is the opportunity to touch, hold, and examine with the naked eye. It is a tactile hobby. There are many beautiful images of postage stamps, but there is nothing like the real thing in our hands/tongs.

Randy Neil's column countered the concern that some express when looking around and seeing only older collectors. They wonder how the hobby can survive. To highlight this, Randy cited a letter to *Mekeels's Weekly Stamp News*. Here a collector griped in dismay that two-thirds of his stamp club were at least 60 years or older. He experienced the same with participants at stamp shows. He wondered if there would be anyone to buy his collection. [This article appeared in 1917!](#) So then as now, the hobby appeals to all ages, but most specifically, those past 50.

Randy is also impressed with the burgeoning of interest among young people, and he attributes this to us "oldsters" making it happen. But I still have concerns.

At APS '10 Summer Session John Hotchner asked a room of about 60 people if they collected as kids. Now it must be said that this audience is made up of the fundamentalists of the hobby.

Yet, it turned out that all but two were childhood collectors.

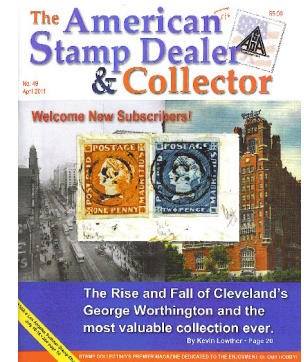
I am enough of a researcher to know that what I am about to offer is pure speculation, but let me try. Let's say that I went to a mall and surveyed 1000 middle-age and above adults. 1. Did they collect as a youth? and 2. Do they collect now? I would guess that there would only be a few collectors. But more important, I would also speculate that of those who do not collect now, very few of them collected as kids.

Most of us graying hobbyists who collected as kids had several stamp friends growing up. So for the few new collectors who started as adults, they probably had friends or family members to observe as they grew up or they know current collectors. This gives an inkling of what the hobby is about.

So today's mature collector had either personally collected or knew someone who collected. Will the next generation of collectors be so fortunate to grow up with family and/or friends as collectors? I wonder.

Previously I noted that I met young children who have never seen stamps! They came up to me when I was sorting stamps in a local café. So, in one man's opinion, this is the issue. Will future collectors engage in a

hobby of which they have no history of personal collecting or exposure to other collectors?



I have heard the terms: "reviving the hobby...reviving collectors." In the true sense of revival, there has to be something to revive. One can revive a fire in the hearth only if there are a few sparks or embers. If the ashes are cold and dead, the fire cannot be revived.

Think of the potential collector with a history of childhood experience, either collecting directly or observing others. This individual's collecting can be revived. But without some history, or spark in those ashes, the likelihood of taking up collecting is greatly diminished.

It is so important for our club to facilitate youth philately along with the 50 plus generation. Should we sponsor a junior club? Any ideas? Ed□



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