

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, 11 January 2012

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Bob Epler

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Evening's Program

Volume 75, No. 1

January, 2012

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VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster. PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. Dues are \$10.00. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

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Bob Epler:
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Lucy Eyster:
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pcpetersen@comcast.net

Message from the President

Best wishes for the New Year! I'm looking forward to serving the club as an officer and will appreciate your continuing support of all our activities. Thanks in particular to Paul for his efforts to get me organized.

On a personal note, some of you may know my wife, Betinna Heffner, who has been active with several civic groups for years. She and I have been married for

thirty-seven years and have two daughters, Kathy and Karen, and two grandsons, Ron and Kyle.

January will be a busy month for new issues. The spectrum eagle pre-sorted definitives came out on the third, and the New Mexico Statehood was issued on the 6th. Later there will be the Year of the Dragon on the 23rd and the John H. Johnson (Black Heritage)

on the 31st. *Linn's* lists nine other possibilities for January.

Congratulations to Jim Boyles and John Bray for their recognitions at the Christmas dinner.

Lancopex and the ATA National Topical Stamp Show will be coming up, so we will have some busy time ahead.

Happy Stamping. Bob

January Club Auction

It is that time again, the January Auction. A time to sell, and a time to buy. Instructions for the event follow:

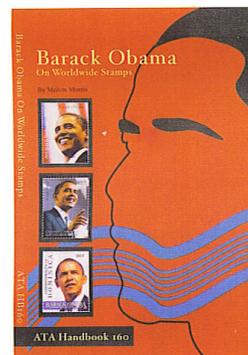
A number will be assigned to you when you arrive and register. Please place this number on all your lots. Attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value and condition if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed things up a great deal. • Fiscal transactions will only take 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 you are correctly credited with sale.

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.

Living People

Pages 2-3 contain club member input on the new USPS rule for living people on stamps. Many feel it is a long time in coming. Nobel Prize winner Barack H. Obama now has his own ATA handbook along with George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, the Roosevelts, and J.F. Kennedy.





January Bio:

Lou Leidig

Lou was fast tracked into the hobby at age seven as his dad worked in the post office. He had a small album to start and then a few years later, his dad started him with First Day Covers. Prior to entering the Navy in 1954, Lou had the five volume *Scott's Internationals*. And through the service and with the time crunch of a young family and career, he accumulated for a rainy day. This came in 1991, and he now has nine worldwide albums.

Lou's goal is to have everything through the mid-1950s, and beyond these dates he adds blank pages for stamps and sets that he likes. For U.S. he has a used and mint collection along with FDCs, plate blocks, and sheets. His next objective is to acquire a superb MNH set of the early U.S. airmail stamps (C1-C6). This will complete his airmail collection as he already has his Zeppelins. On that inverted Jenny,...

Through Kay Herr at the Lancaster Philatelic Window Lou was introduced to PSLC when he moved from Long Island early in the millennium. He is a member of APS and enjoys both their circuits and visits to Bellefonte. Lou believes that for a worldwide collector, the APS circuits are an excellent source of stamps. When the packages arrive "It's like getting a Christmas present every month or so."

Lou and his wife, Lillian, have two grown children who have recently moved to and settled in Lancaster County with their families. His son has an interest in the hobby and has accompanied him to APS and stamp shows in the region.

Living Individuals on U.S. Stamps What PSLC thinks

Amongst all the gnashing of teeth regarding the future of the USPS and ways to fix it came the "breaking news" last fall that living individuals will now be eligible for portrayal on U.S. stamps. Out went the 10-year rule and out went the 5-year rule. Now there's the 0-year rule: the living can be on stamps! The philatelic press has posited the pros and cons, but let's see what PSLC thinks...

•**Al Schaub** still favors the 5-year rule, but he fears the fall from grace of an honored but living individual whose subsequent behavior makes a mockery of the Postal Service and the country. He envisions politicians buying their place on a stamp. Suitable portrayals for Al would be the lunar astronauts or a physician/scientist who made a lifesaving discovery.

•**Dick Colburg** did not welcome the 5-year rule several years ago, and he does not agree now with using living persons as commemorative subjects. "There are plenty of worthy subjects among the deceased. Many were overlooked by the CSAC. They didn't even commemorate the Panama Canal!" Dick opines that the new rule is for revenue generating purposes, "that the living may sell better than the dead, but it won't be sufficient to bring USPS to solvency."

•Still supporting the 10-year rule, **Bob Rothen** states: "No live ones until we know more about them." •**Diane Meek** agrees with Bob here.

•PSLC's newest member, **Bill Greiner, Jr.** said "I don't think any of the current administration should ever be on stamps. Make it Medal of Honor winners, or those who served their country or had worldwide impact, like Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, and some of the technology people."



•**Jim Ziogas** sees pros and cons to the new rule, but "I don't want George Bush on a stamp, but Obama is OK, and so is that senator, Bernie Sanders (S-VT); he's a good man but often gets a hard time. Dick Winters of Band of Brothers would also be good. Even though he passed away, he should still be on a stamp."

•**Madeline Albright**, **Bill Gates**, and **Hillary Clinton** are **Hiltrude Lu's** favorites. She also recommends **Father Acri** who started in

Lancaster and then transitioned to Harrisburg where he did a lot to feed the downtrodden and destitute.

•Like many of the others, the **editor** is against the 0-year rule. As a pragmatist, he accepts it. He doesn't care which live individual is depicted on a stamp as long as it's not another communist. •**Carol Petersen's** only vote is for **Billy Graham**.

•**Club president, Bob Epler** favors the 10-year rule, citing **Joe Paterno** as a good example of waiting for the dust to settle. When the rule changed, Bob polled his friends. Most of the suggestions were sports figures such as **Hank Aaron** and **Willie Mays** among others. Authors include **Geraldine Brooks** and **Neil Simon**, while in music there is **Yoyo Ma**. The **Viet Nam veteran** should be included. "While there is virtue in many, if not all of these individuals, there remain many other historical names and events that have yet to be commemorated."

•**Lucy Eyster** is fine with the 0-year rule, as other countries honor the living on stamps. She favors individuals who made significant contributions to the U.S. and to the world such as **Nobel Prize winners**. "It's a disgrace that they don't honor the winners on stamps at the time they win the awards. An abuse of the living on stamps would be the sports figures who made the winning scores in the **Super Bowl** or **World Series**. **Lucy concludes**
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Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, and Gratitude

Programs and Hosts

11 January 2012: Club Auction. **Host:** Bob Epler

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

14 March: Developing One-Frame Exhibits. Dick Osman (Blue-Grey Stamp Club). **Host:** Dick Shaefer

11 April: The Dollar Rate-1797-1845. Bill Schultz. **Host:** TBA

9 May: Club Auction. **Host:** TBA

13 June: Postal Card Series of the 1970s-Patriots. John Brownell. **Host:** TBA

11 July: TBA. **Host:** TBA

8 August: Picnic. No Host

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

10 October: Congressional Exhibit of Signed Covers. Representative Joseph Pitts (R-PA). **Host:** Lucy Eyster

14 November: The USPS: The Present and Future. Wm. P. Snyder. **Host:** TBA

12 December: Dinner. No Host

Upcoming Show Reminders: York Stamp Show: F-S 20-21 January, 2012. York Fairgrounds, Route 74.

Paul Petersen's **First Day Cover** (FDC) was featured in John Hotchner's column (12 December *Linn's*, pg. 6). While in school in Nebraska, he

retained the cover of his electric bill which served as the 21 October FDC for the 1977 Christmas stamp ("The Rural Mailbox" #1730). Hotchner called it "One of the most unusual FDCs to cross my desk."

To PSLC Members: I want to thank you all for the award and recognition given me at the Christmas Party last month. Thank you also for your prayers, thoughts, and the encouragement along this journey, as I plan to be around for many more club meetings and stamp shows over the next years. Sincerely, Jim Boyles

Live Portrayal on Stamps, Continued

that it will take time to see how this plays out.

•Immediate Past President **John Bray** is against the 0-year rule. "Only those who have earned the respect of the nation should be so honored. We the People should have more input, and there should at least be a five year waiting period. Put in people who will be in the history books not movie stars, teen idols, musicians, and politicians, etc. These are people that we love to see and hear about their lives when, in fact, they are just a fad and should not be in the news to begin with. This new rule will also demean our status amongst other nations because we kowtowed to the public demand (the outspoken fools who always seem to get their way) and the race toward the almighty dollar which is what it is all about.

•"I think there is too much potential for pressure to be exerted on the USPS for stamps to be used to promote someone with an agenda of some type-either

political or otherwise. USPS should not change the policy." **Chuck Kilgore.**

•**Dick Shaefer** disapproves living portrayals on U.S. stamps. "They still have time to screw up their reputations. Once they are dead, we can determine if their reputation is intact. Can you imagine putting a live president on a stamp and then watch the other living presidents (like Bill Clinton) have a cow because they are not selected? No, leave the postal honor to the dead."

•"Putting images of live persons on U.S. Postage is not a good idea" says **Greg Macaluso.** "It would quickly erode into advertisements for PC personages and an outlet for persons of various political persuasions depending on which major party is in power. Consider the postage of many foreign countries and see how they promote the "In" party. I would rather see a series on U.S. bridges and tunnels. Some of them were very serious and inventive projects in their day."



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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date: _____

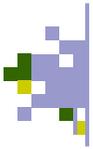
Please encourage your non-member stamp collector friends to join and enjoy the benefits of membership. Make this your New Year's resolution: "Every member get a member."

In Memoriam

Truyde Greiner reports the passing of two long-time club members this past fall.

William Ridgeway was an early supporter of the club until his health prevented him from attending the meetings several years ago. He contributed to the purchase of the frames for the earliest exhibits at Lancopex and donated some of his collection to the PSLC auctions to benefit the club and allow the members to obtain good material at affordable prices.

Jack Deaner specialized in ship cancellations and all things maritime. He was a history teacher for many years and included much of the hobby into the classroom, perhaps mentoring some of today's collectors. Like Dr. Ridgeway, Jack did much for the club over a very long span.



Musings: January-2012

The highs-lows of holiday philately & other items

My 2-Cents

Perspective by Lou DiFelice

As most collectors are aware, the hobby of stamp collecting seems to be losing ground when compared with other interests that people may have. I have pondered this question as to why, and I have come up with a remedy to aid collectors, dealers, and the philatelic community in general.

I have never approached the hobby as a way to make money or as an investment for the future. Plainly, I enjoy collecting for numerous reasons but would be more apt to continue collecting and accumulating new material if I felt I would be able to pass on my collection without feeling that I was short-changed or taken. No one goes on forever, so I am proposing that the hobby be looked on as a leasing agreement between collectors and philately itself.

Basically put, you're just renting your collection and paying a fee for the opportunity. Just like with real estate or apartment living, the nicer the home, the higher the rent. At the end of your lease when you are ready to turn in your collection, you would get back a reasonable value for your patronage of the hobby, say 80 percent. Ergo, the 20% fee that you give back to philately for holding whatever materials interested you during your collecting years would be the price you pay for admission and subsequently the amount which would fund the dealers and the hobby. The dealers as agents for the hobby would then pass your collection or accumulation on to the next lessee. This would soothe the financial costs collectors face and encourage new collectors as they know the same arrangement would be available to them down the line.

Just a thought. Would it work? Who knows!

For several years I have purchased a set of Irish Christmas stamps and a matching First Day Cover from *An Post*. This is a gift for my wife for her Christmas stamp collection. It comes in a lovely franked stiffened envelope, and the condition is always excellent-that is until this year.

It arrived in late November in a USPS body bag, and this is never good. The *An Post* mailing envelope was torn significantly, and this included the invoice and FDC contained within it. Pre-printed on the "bag" was a statement that it was damaged while in USPS possession and they apologized for any inconvenience. A torn FDC is just "inconvenient!"

I thought a simple trek to the PO would take care of it. The clerk warned me not to be optimistic, as he handed me form PS-1000 to complete along with an address to send it. He did offer to send it for me if I submitted the completed form and documents to him. I filled out the page of information and added a cover letter along with a copy of the torn invoice.

Three weeks later USPS returned my completed PS-1000 along with a letter noting that they need further information about damaged items sent to foreign countries and that I may have to complete a PS-1000 form. No wonder USPS is in trouble.

Over the last several years I have enjoyed the ads to design one's own stamp from Zazzle.com and other personalized stamp vendors.



So what do adult kids get their "mature" parents for Christmas? Like my father-in-law told me several years before he died, "Don't get us anything that we can't eat or that you don't want to own." This is exactly the same gift recommendation that we gave our kids. At our age it makes sense, as we certainly don't need more "stuff," but on the other hand, we don't need any more calories.

So we were quite surprised on Christmas morning. Our son's girlfriend took illustrations of his artwork and designed four different sheets of stamps for us through Zazzle.com, the online personalized stamp vendor.

Two of the designs, both black and white, are depicted here. These are gifts that won't lie around and collect dust or make us fat! While they are most practical, we almost hate to use them on our outgoing mail.

Be sure to vote for your favorite U.S. stamps. The entire selection is contained in the 19 December issue of *Linn's*, and subsequent issues of the stamp magazine have the ballots. Be sure to poll your friends and family, and submit these votes along with your own.

Postal Rate Change: Please note that on 22 January, the First Class postal rates will increase. The 1-ounce letter rate will increase 1¢ from 44¢ to 45¢ and the postcard rate will increase 3¢ from 29¢ to 32¢.
□ Ed



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