

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, 14 March 2012

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

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

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Evening's Program

Volume 75, No. 3

March, 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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Message from the President

Many thanks to Lucy and Paul for alerting us to the new ATA bi-monthly feature from Topical Tidbits. If you haven't checked it out yet, it's a youth-oriented series with this month's issue covering penguins and stamps. The website is included in Paul's email. (See Pg. 3.)

Last Fall's flurry of pros and cons about including commemorative issues for living persons seems to have faded rapidly. If there's any question about the availability of deceased persons worthy of note, a look at this year's calendar of planned new issues shows a total of thirty such

commems. They include John H. Johnson, Danny Thomas, Jose Ferrer, William H. Johnson, ten poets, four film directors, Miles Davis, Edith Piaf, four baseball stars, four choreographers, Edgar Rice Burroughs, and O. Henry with the possibility of one or two yet to be determined. Along with all the others scheduled for this year, I think we have enough to keep us going to the post office.

For many years I have been a member of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society. My interest goes back to WWII when my dad served as a radar technician on the

destroyer, the *U.S.S. Wal-dron*, in the Pacific. I've never formed a special collection but have accumulated many covers from ships that served in that war. The USCS was formed in 1932 and promotes the study of the history of ships and their postal markings. Its services include a monthly journal (USCS Log), an annual convention (at Balpex next year), monthly auctions, a great variety of publications, regional subgroups, and more. I've found the publications to be of much interest both with my hobby and my history teaching. See www.uscs.org. Take care, **Bob**

Preparing One-Page Exhibits

Dick Osman of the Blue & Gray Stamp Club

The scenario: You find a nice set of stamps at a show or meeting and purchase them. They have no relationship to anything you collect, but you like them. After a while, this set, and perhaps a few other wayward stamps or sets find their way to the cigar box in your stamp drawer. Every once in a

while you take them out and admire them only to replace them, as there is nowhere else for them. This is where the One-Page Exhibit comes in to play. It is a satisfying way to finally give these sets a home. **(Please continue on Pg.-2 Exhibits.)**

To the right is Dick's 1-Page Exhibit of "Early Birds." →





March Bio:

Len Kasper

Len's dad started him off at age five with a small album, and as his enthusiasm grew, dad gave him his own album, a world wide collection from the 1930s that Len has now expanded to eight volumes. Other collecting interests include Christmas Seals, U.S. and WW Cinderellas, especially those of a military nature, along with military stamps of occupation and other post-war issues. Len was in the Coast Guard in the Viet Nam era, and he is third generation naval and maritime service.

Following college, Len spent most of his career with the Jamesway Corp., succeeding to regional manager, retiring in 2005. Len, his wife Karen, and two of their three children settled in Lancaster. He has started businesses in classic auto parts, snack services, and estate sales. This employs his children and teen grandkids, and the goal is that they will take over one day.

As employment transferred Len and the family to several states, he had the opportunity to join various stamp clubs, so he's had no hiatus to his collecting. He joined PSLC in the Spring of 2010. While he has introduced all his children and grandchildren to stamp collecting, their interests have peaked and waned. Len's goal is to fill as many of the spaces in his worldwide collection, within reason, so that it will make a fine collection for a family collector or another.

New for '12 Lancopex, Len will be operating a reasonably priced snack table along with a full lunch menu for stamp dealers, club volunteers, and customers.

February Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: President Bob Epler opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Membership: Lucy Eyster reported that a few still owe dues for 2012.

Minutes: Approved as written by voice vote.

Lancopex: Lou DiFlice announced that Len Kasper's company will cater the snacks for the show, and they will add a full lunch menu for club volunteers, vendors, and show customers who wish to purchase lunch. Eleanor Wheeler added that there is no conflict with Hess BBQ (The Home & Farm Center's contract caterer) with our using another caterer, as Hess does only larger venues at this facility.

Jim Boyles made the show promotion cards available for membership to distribute. He reminded everybody that we will be preparing more of these cards

at the March meeting with stamps and address labels. There will be a short meeting of the planning committee following the end of the March meeting.

Old Business: Lucy reported receiving a thank-you letter from Woodcrest Villa for our 2011 donation in lieu of rental fees.

New Business: Lucy said that she had a request to assist a lady in Mount Joy with the disposition of her dad's stamp and cover collection. Please call Lucy if you would like to help.

2012 Bus Trip: Dennis Shoemaker recommended the 1-3 June Napex show in McLean, VA. Paul Petersen will get him in touch with Club Trekmeisters, Roy Baardsen and Mike Matus for collaboration. Additionally, Dennis invited club members to ride with him to the 9 March evening meeting of the U.S. Clas-

sics Society in the Balto/DC area. Please call him if interested. 426-3870.

ATA/NTSS: Lucy updated club members about the June show. PSLC members are eligible to go on ATA's all-day trip to APS on Monday 25 June which will leave from **The Host**. Cost is \$45 with lunch. Contact her if interested. Paul asked for a show of hands of club members interested in working any or all of the PM security for NTSS. There was no interest, and concern was raised regarding liability should an item or more turn up missing.

Drawing: This was won by club member Len Kasper.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$2,856.52 (1 Dec)

Income: \$142.14

Expenses: \$304.22

Closing: \$2,694.44 (31 Dec)

3-CDs valued at +/- \$6461.85

Exhibits (Continued from Pg.-1)

Dick Osman of the Blue & Gray Stamp Club in Gettysburg will show us a variety of One-Page Exhibits on screen and on paper. He has presented this material at APS and other clubs.

You'll learn the nuts and bolts of these exhibits, and after doing a few of your own, you'll find it habit-forming, perhaps enough to gather all of your cigar boxes and get to work. You

may even fill an album of these new exhibit pages to share your favorites.

Dick started to collect in the Cub Scouts with the help and encouragement of his den mother, and he has collected ever since. He specializes in U.S. 10s and 11s, the "brownish" 3¢ imperf Washingtons, the 3¢ banknotes, Fakes & Forgeries, and the British Machins.

He is a member of several

clubs, the most interesting being the Chesapeake Stamp Club which meets in Baltimore every Friday night for an auction-and nothing more!

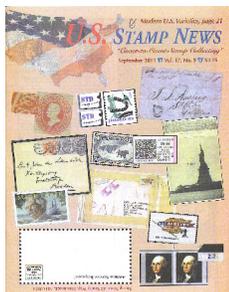
A favorite Sperati forgery is of a Confederate stamp on cover but with a Connecticut cancel!

Dick is a retired teacher who transitioned his efforts into a landscaping business which he did for many years until full retirement. Dick and his wife Jean live in Glennville, PA.



2012 USPS Plan to Announce New Issues PSLC Members Are Noticing the Difference

In his *U.S. Stamp News* column (Sept.-2011, Pg. 32,) publisher John Dunn discussed the new USPS policy for announcing new stamp issues. Announcements had previously been *en masse*, usually in the fall, but for the 2012 issues, USPS has been sharing the news issue by issue, what Dunn calls a rolling rollout. The reason for this has been that many of the stamp themes and images had been leaked to the philatelic press, resulting in some errors. Further, these unofficial announcements to both the public and collectors alike got the scoop over the USPS.



While the new policy has some advantages, there has been some conflicting information between that in the PR releases (USPS and philatelic pubs alike) and reality. Inquiring PSLC members have noticed this.

This was apparent with the First Day release information for the \$1.05 Lancaster Int'l airmail stamp issued on 20 January. Dick Colberg's ordeal with USPS was described here last month.

In early February **Dave Hunt** thought he might have something with the 2012 Love stamp. This was listed as having a 14 February first

day of issue. While at the Bowmansville (PA) PO on 6 February, he noticed that the Love stamp had just gone on sale. This was eight days early! Might this be an EKU (earliest know use) of the Love stamp?



Dave immediately got some covers, franked them, and had them serviced. His research revealed that there was a miscalculation at USPS. The Love stamp has always been issued before Valentine's Day so that it could be used on cards for mailing prior to the occasion. After all, isn't this one major purpose of the Love stamps? To fix the problem, USPS notified postmasters that they were allowed to sell the Love stamps as soon as they arrived.

While Dave may or may not have an EKU of this stamp, he knows that it is the earliest date of release at the Bowmansville PO because they arrived the day he was there.

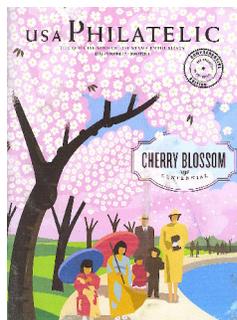
Rob Rothen, too, reported a disparity with his order of the presorted first class coil Spectrum Eagles from Kansas City about the time of their 3 January release. (See illustration below of these stamps in *USA Philatelic*, the marketing magazine of USPS.)



The advertised illustration pictures the stamps touching at

their vertical die cuts. To Bob's surprise, his order arrived in a different arrangement. The stamps were not touching, but instead, they were separated by a millimeter or so.

Like Dave, Bob did his research and contacted the editor at *Linn's* who gave him a preliminary opinion but referred it to the new issue specialist who concurred with him. It seems that changes in the format were made between the time of the initial publicity image and the subsequent stamp release date.



Bob commented later about what he read in *Linn's* regarding the 2012 Love stamp. This stated that USPS allowed the stamp to be sold much earlier than the "official" release date of 14 February. However the first day cover from Kansas City would still be 14 February. Bob recommends keeping a set of the unofficial (2-13 Feb or earlier) and official (14 Feb) covers, believing that future collectors of modern U.S. postal history will have some fun with the various EKU and FDC cancellation dates.

PSLC Programs/Hosts & Notes

14 March: 1.) Peel 'n Stick for Lan-copex. 2.) Developing One-Page Exhibits. Dick Osman (Blue & Gray Stamp Club). **Host:** Dick Shaefer

11 April: The Dollar Rate-1792-1845. Bill Schultz. **Host:** Eleanor Wheeler

9 May: Club Auction. **Host:** Diane Meek

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

11 July: U.S. Telegraph Stamps. Don Smith. **Host:** TBA

8 August: Picnic. No Host

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

10 October: Congressional Exhibit of Signed Covers. Congressman Joseph Pitts. **Host:** Lucy Eyster

14 November: The USPS: The Present and Future. William. P. Snyder. **Host:** Lou Leidig

12 December: Dinner. No Host

Snacks/Hosts Needed: Hosts are still needed for July and September. Please consider doing this and sign up.

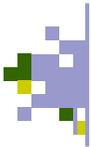
Hungry? Dinner with March speaker Dick Osman will be at 4:45 PM at Olive Garden. Please call Paul Pettersen to sign up. Souses are welcome.

Gratitude: The club thanks RD Noble and his trusty laptop for saving the digital program last month (Stamps of Switzerland) from the wiles of the dreaded and established technology. ☺

Youth Collecting: ATA rep Lucy Eyster shares the following web-site which contains ideas and resources for young collectors and educators:

www.americantopicalassn.org/youth

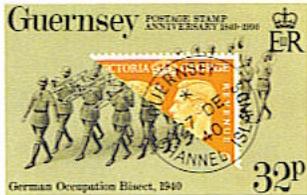
Ave Et Vale: The PSLC extends its sympathies to the families of member Robert Krouse of Willow Valley and former member and stamp dealer Roger Gratz of E-town who passed away on 10 and 12 February 2012 respectively.



Musings: March-2012

Channel Islands postage during German occupation

Regarding the interesting looking stamp included with Dr. Allen's biography in this newsletter last month (See #428 below), it's a 1990 Guernsey 50th Anniversary stamp of the German Occupation of the Channel Islands (30 June 1940 to 8 May 1945).



Guernsey's supply of 1d stamps ran out, so the GPO let customers diagonally bisect the 2d stamps. The orange 1937 GRVI 2d stamp was bisected (Scott#238) as seen below:



A bisect of the 1940 GRVI-Queen Victoria Penny Black Centenary stamp (#255) is seen below.



As these two stamps ran short, collectors brought out their holdings of the 1912-1924 GRV stamps which they also bisected and posted.

In 1940 Guernsey printed three wartime denominations (Scott# N1-N5: The N4-5 stamps were similar face issues to N1-3 but on different paper). These stamps were valid through 13 April 1946.

Below is an image of Guernsey N-1 on the 1991 Scott 446, a 50th Anniversary commemorative of the 1941 issue during German occupation.



On Jersey, there was a different twist. One of the German occupiers was also an ardent stamp collector, and he took many philatelic liberties. He and others sent a variety of interesting covers back to Germany.

There are extant covers with mixed franking of German and Jersey stamps. The German stamps were cancelled with Feldpost strikes, while

those of Jersey were cancelled with Jersey strikes.

Jersey printed two sets of wartime issues, the first 1941 set (N1-N2) was similar to those of Guernsey, and the second in this series, N2 is depicted below.



In 1991 Jersey issued a 50th Anniversary stamp of its first postage stamp that they issued under German occupation. (see #563 below)



From 1 to 29 June 1943 Jersey issued a second set of six stamps (N3-N8, The Jersey Landscape Series) which were also valid through 4/1946. Depicted below is N8, "Gathering Seaweed."



Of interest is the set of six stamps issued in Guernsey on 9 August 2011. They are based on the best-selling novel, *The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society* which was reviewed in the 12/08 issue of this newsletter. It is historical fiction of the German occupation of Guernsey, perhaps the most traumatic time in modern history for these Island people. There is talk of a 2013 Hollywood movie based on this 2008 novel. Two of these stamps are seen below.



Ed □



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Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

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