

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 September 2012

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Lou DiFelice

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Evening's Program

Message from the President

Topical collecting is certainly on our minds this summer. I'm reminded of the many topics I've assembled over my many years of collecting. In the forties, I started with airmails and then went on to baseball, Spanish Civil War overprints, censuses, number ones, and most recently Zemstovs. Another one for which I can't give a short name was collecting the first stamps of the new countries and the last stamps issued under their old names, e.g. Persia and Iran, Gold Coast and Ghana. Overall I found collecting topicals to be a lot of fun and educational. I'm not working on a specific topic right now but am getting started on covers from World War II destroyers. My dad served on the *U.S.S. Waldron* in the Pacific dur-

ing the war, so that has sparked my interest.

On July 20th, the Postal Service honored four major league baseball stars: Joe DiMaggio, Larry Doby, Willie Stargell, and Ted Williams. They will not only be issued in the usual twenty-stamp sheets but also in individual sheets for each player. There will probably be the usual criticism that this is a money making scheme, but for the fans of a particular player, it could be a plus. For example, Willie Stargell was a huge favorite for the Pittsburgh Pirates. I think many of the Pirate fans will want to buy his stamps.

Something to think about for the September meeting is the continuation of competitive exhibits at Lancopex. Some of the pros and cons are con-

tained on page 3 of this newsletter. The board and show committee want to know what you think, so please consider this in advance and come with ideas.

To make the "exhibits" a viable component of Lancopex we need more exhibits from the club membership and more volunteers to help with the process. There is a lot to be done to offer an interesting range of exhibits.

As the editor states on page-4, PSLC is at a crossroad, we can continue on as is, or we can explore the many opportunities. Our need for officers is critical for the future of PSLC. Openings are for president and vice president. Are you willing to take up the challenge?

See you all at the auction on September 12th. **Bob**

Fall PSLC Auction is Upon Us

Please place the assigned number on all your lots after you register. 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. • 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 are the same as in previous auctions. • Minimum bids are \$1.00. • The minimum increment when bidding is 50¢. • Members are limited to 10 lots each.

September, 2012

Volume 75, No. 9

Highlights inside...

2012 Picnic

Bio: Paul Martin

Writers Needed

Treasury Report

Exhibits at Lancopex

More on the Olympics

2012-13 Programs

PSLC: Past & Future

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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September Bio

Paul Martin

Paul started collecting very early through a connection with Sierra Leone. Around 1960 an older student from that country attended Millersville where Paul's mother worked, and he eventually attended the same church as the Martins. Given this student's correspondence from home, he had many beautiful stamps which he gave to Paul over the years. Another lady from that same church soaked many stamps, enough to fill boxes, and she gave these to Paul.

He kept at his stamps for several years as a junior collector, and then headed for the work world. His school training was as an electrician, but after a few decades in this area, he started his own home repair business.

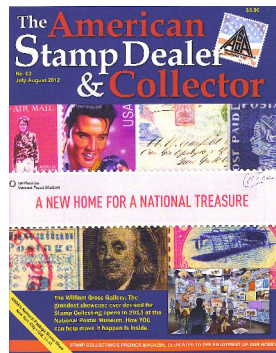
Early in the millennium Paul met PSLC's own Peter Billis who introduced him to the club where he remained for a few years. But the big event was when they joined forces to buy the stock of a recently deceased stamp dealer in York. He commented that it worked well with each of them getting what they wanted, and they jointly sold what remained.

As he is now retired, Paul wishes to organize his acquired holdings and sell and trade what he does not desire for his personal collection. This is a rather decent U.S. compilation in Scott albums. He also enjoys stampless covers, air mails, and many others.

Paul rejoined PSLC some months ago and favors the current format with a variety of programs. He would like to trade and sell with club members and use this to fill some pricey spaces in his personal holdings.

Writers Wanted: A Career in Journalism Could be Yours

In the July-August issue of *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*, John Hotchner wrote about the importance of the writers who contribute to club newsletters. He sums it up in the following paragraph:



“Those who write for and produce club and society journals and newsletters have as a goal the need to entertain, inform, and guide the members, but of equal importance, they recognize the effects of those who work to make the clubs and societies a resource. They are cheerleaders for the group's efforts and causes and provide a publication that does more to hold the group together than any other single club activity (Pg. 16).”

Your newsletter needs you. Why not sign up today?

Minutes & Treasury

Secretary Joy Bouchard reports that since there was no business meeting in August, there is no report. September minutes will appear in the October newsletter. Treasurer Lou DiFelice prepared this month's report as seen below:

Treasury Report

Opening: \$3,943.92 (01 July)
 Income: \$429.68
 Expenses: \$138.49
 Closing: \$4,235.11 (31 July)
 3-CDs valued at \$6,721.58



A Very Successful 2012 PSLC Picnic

Club president, Bob Epler placed an order for good weather for the 8th August picnic, and it worked! We're still not sure how he did it.

The attendance count this year was 37, a little better than average, a mixture of members, spouses, and friends. We were pleased to see several new members, as this is an opportunity for them to meet and talk in a relaxed environment. Plus, there was nothing to sign-up for, nor were there any exhibit frames to move!

Paul Martin joined the ranks of the cooking team this year, and they decided at the end of the soiree that since no one got sick, it was a good event. Paul also provided the baked beans and tomato slices. Folks were complimentary of both the cooked burgers and dogs

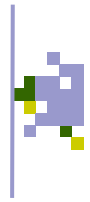
along with the buffet consisting of members' snacks, appetizers, and desserts. PSLC side-dish connoisseur, John Bray, remarked that the assortment, quality, and quantity were great.

Lucy Eyster served as assistant purchaser and managed the buffet tables and food line, insisting that they all took seconds or thirds. Joy and Dennis Bouchard participated in the set up. They did triple duty as they were in charge of games, and they also worked "clean-up" with Eleanor and Dick Wheeler.

It seems that every home-made dish had a fan, one wanting to know who brought such and such. Many positive remarks and recipes were exchanged. One of the more interesting (and delicious and sugar-free!) was a bakery cake that

was catered by the Shumakers. With modern technology, everything is now possible. On this cake was an edible digital image of a stamp, U.S. Scott # C3b, a double invert of the Jenny airmail. In this stamp, both the red frame and blue vignette were inverted, a beauty it was. They rotated the cake 180° on the buffet table to give it the appearance of the regular C3. There was little left over.

During the clean-up, the Bouchards remarked that there was little interest in the games this year, but they were gratified to see so many engaged in fellowship; this is what's most important. Joy will bring up the topic at an upcoming meeting to see if there is interest in the future games and solicit other activity ideas, though she said that three-legged and sack races are definitely out!



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Events & People

2012 Programs and Hosts

12 September: Club Auction.
Host: Lou DiFelice

10 October: Congressional Exhibit of Signed Covers. Joseph Pitts (PA-19th). **Host:** Lucy Eyster

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

12 December: Dinner. No Host

2013 Programs

9 January: Club Auction

13 Feb: APS DVD Show-TBA

13 March: The Sharples Co.: Philatelic & Deltiologic Edification. Bill Schultz

10 April: Peel 'n Stick in preparation for Lancopex and other educational program TBA

8 May: Club Auction

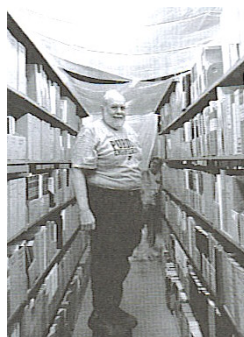
12 June: Topical Collecting: Stained Glass on Stamps, David Hunt

Stamp Events:

ASDA National Postage Stamp Show. 11-14 October, The Hotel New Yorker.

Reading Stamp Show. 3 November. The Farmers Market at Leesport, Rt. 61.

NPM/APS Symposium. 2-4 November. Blue-Grey: Mail and the Civil War. At APS, Bellefonte.



Dick Colberg at the APRL this summer for the APS Volunteer Week. (APS Photo)

Exhibitors Needed for Lancopex

One reason for competitive exhibits at club shows is for members to get a start in exhibiting and then move up to larger shows with stronger competition. For the last several years, there have been few club exhibitors, and the number of exhibits, in general, has declined.

There was serious discussion at the 31 July meeting of the Lancopex Committee regarding the viability of future competitive exhibits at our show. Should we still have exhibits at the show? This was the question. What do you think?

Of the declining exhibits, many have been from supporters in the Lebanon and York clubs, and these are often repeats of the previous years. There seems to be only mild interest in viewing the exhibits by the show-goers. Finally, with the recent passing of exhibitor Jim Boyles, there will be two fewer submissions for future shows.

Lancopex is an entry level show, a stepping stone to higher level exhibiting. Outsiders with better exhibits will not typically participate here, as they desire a more competitive venue.

Elimination of the competitive exhibits will allow additional floor space for more dealers at the show.

Some exhibit frames could be made available for non-competitive exhibits by club members. This might include one page, one frame, or smaller displays of their collections. This is non-intimidating, as there will be no judging.

It is costly to have exhibits, and much manpower is needed. The expense to store and transport the frames is high. There is the additional cost of printing and mailing the prospectuses as well as the expenses of the awards.

A disadvantage to eliminating exhibits is that one or more Lancopex submissions are from young exhibitors, and we need young collectors and exhibitors for the viability of the hobby.

Another is that exhibits augment a dealer's bourse allowing new show visitors to see some of the local exhibits and perhaps get started in the process.

More on Olympic Stamps

Last month in his article about Great Britain's Olympic stamps for this newsletter, Mike Bach told about Royal Mail's plan to have a "next-day" stamp for each British gold medal winner. Mike was hoping that they would do better than the 19 they won in Peking in 2008. In fact, the UK won 29 golds this year, so Royal Mail was busy. Congrats Team GB!

To keep things on the up and up, it was reported in the 3rd September *Linn's* (Pg. 17) that the UK was to honor Paralympic gold winners on one set of stamps to be available five days following the winning event.

However, following criticism in the press for the insensitivity of not issuing stamps for individual Paralympic winners, Royal Mail will now do so. It may be a lot of stamps, as in 2008 the Paralympians won 42 golds! These individual winners will also have the mail boxes in their hometowns painted gold.

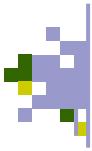
While Great Britain demonstrated both athletic prowess and a philatelic acumen, there were many hurdles to be faced by at least one of its Commonwealth participants, the Bahamas. Nothing is ever easy in bureaucracy, as detailed in the July issue of *The Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly* (pg. 120).

First, there was some risk for this small country to design stamps for specific sports before they actually qualified to be represented in the London games.

The IOC had to approve the designs and set the number of stamps allowed and the denomination. To use the official London logo, there were more hurdles, and coloured borders had to be changed to meet with the requirements.

Additional negotiations were needed, and finally royalty fees had to be paid to the IOC with regard to philatelic sales. Through true determination, they managed four beautiful stamps as depicted below.





Musings: September-2012

PSLC at the crossroads: Times forward & times past

My recent reading of stamp club newsletters from around the country brought many issues to mind as both assets to the club and the newsletter. A few clubs were celebrating anniversaries, and two produced written histories. It came to mind that 20 May 2013 will be the 75th Anniversary of PSLC, our Diamond Jubilee. This topic was also raised at the Lancopex planning meeting in July. One question that came to mind is whether there is club interest in such a celebration. I am sure that there is. If so what will the finished celebration look like? Who will organize it? Will members step up and join the committee? It will take some dedicated time and effort. And foremost, planning should start soon.

Not too long ago Jim Boyles passed on some boxes of old PSLC stuff to Dick Colberg who sorted, screened, and filed it into two boxes for Lou and Paul, who in turn whittled it down to one box.

There were lots of historical items, though by no means is it a complete record. It is a cornucopia of information to any historian's delight from photos, show programs, club rosters, meeting notices, histories, correspondence, to Lancopex planning documents including preliminary and finished cachet designs.

After the first pass, Lou and I came to the conclusion that there were two stamp clubs in Lancaster at one time,

and further research should affirm or refute this.

Truyde Greiner just loaned me her collection of the most recent round of club newsletters which restarted in 9/90 and run to the present. For some years prior to the reappearance of the club newsletter, members received monthly meeting reminders.

Let's take a look at the four 2-page monthly newsletters of 1990. Jim Lyman (Millersville) was the editor, and Marilyn Shirley was listed as the "Word Processor." I take this to mean that Marilyn typed, illustrated, addressed, franked, and mailed them. She would do this and much more well into the first decade of the next millennium.

The name of the newsletter was *Phila-Telling-Around*. At the August picnic they had a newsletter naming contest and prize, and it was won by Carol Shaefer. The report of the club picnic was quite positive with games, guessing contests, and prizes. Mary Husson guessed the correct amount of candies in the jar and then shared her winnings with all around.

The newsletter also brought in revenue with short ads for \$1.00. One of the two ads that caught my eye was if anyone was

"Interested in trading or buying old or semi-old coins." This ad was placed by Chuck Shirley.

There must be something about stamp clubs and their modern albatross, the exhibit frame. The club had the opportunity to buy some relatively new frames to replace the "deteriorating and possibly unsafe" frames then in the possession of the club. Who was it that said that they never saw an exhibit frame that they didn't like?

The club had 49 dues-paying members. A program on "Fluorescence" was given by Lesley and Richard Botte, Mark King, and Jim Lyman.

I wonder if the club at that time was going through some periodic lethargy. The president is not named in these newsletters, but his/her "Message" is clear. The club needed some new direction, and the newsletter would be one of the first steps. He/she added that too many of the club's functions and duties were defaulted to him/her.

The key was to develop bylaws with committees with appointed tasks. **"If every member gave only an hour or two a month, it would produce miracles."**

Bylaws were then approved at the 19 October meeting. The

editorial stressed membership to volunteer for one of the several committees. Truyde & Bill Greiner provided name badges with the goal that all members could put names to faces.

Planning for the '90 Christmas Party at the Millersville VFW was extensive. The featured speaker was Richard Colberg, the writer of the philatelic column for the *Lancaster New Era*. Elsie Hollinger played the piano for a sing-along. They also had the clothesline to display the members' one-page exhibits.

Club biographies were most extensive, typically filling three quarters of a page. The club was founded in 1938, and one of the founders was still in attendance at age 90! For a few meetings in '38 they met at members' homes, and then they shifted to the Stauffer Mansion on Lititz Pike where they remained until the 1990s when they moved to the Lancaster Township facility where they remained until 2008.

Elections for 1991 included President-Dick Shaefer; VP-Lesley Botte; and Treasurer-Ben Heller. The rest is history!

What about 2013? Will we have a president and VP? Ed ☒



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