

# 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, 10 October 2012**

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Lucy Eyster

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

**Volume 75, No. 10**

**October, 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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## A Parable for Stamp Collectors, Part I

There is something worth sharing from *LensWork*, a journal of photography and the creative process. Brooks Jensen's editorial is entitled "You're dead. Now what?" (#102., Sep-Oct 2012, pgs. 54-59).

Many photographers, like stamp collectors are approaching the threshold of age. Photographers, too, retain rooms of their stuff, and the question is what to do with it, especially at that threshold of age.

A lifetime of creativity needs attention when you're gone. The last thing Jensen wants is to be on his death bed looking into the faces of his children who ask "Dad, what do you want us to do with all your photographs?"

His fear then generalizes to visions of numerous boxes of his finished and matted photographs sitting on sawhorses on the driveway of his estate sale with a sign "50¢ a box"-and it won't sell, not to any of the weekend bargain hunters!

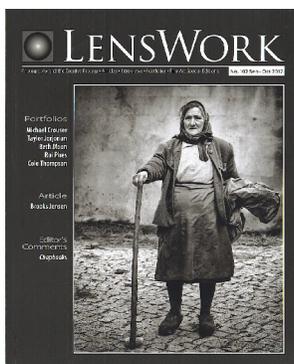
Jensen goes on to note that there are many well-known

photographers with mounds of excellent finished archival material tucked away. These items may last forever, but who will take care of them?

Universities will accept the better collections, but most seek between \$80-100K for care & feeding (administration and preservation) of such. Many unsuspecting families are now the unwilling full-time curators. And the number of "curators" is increasing.

The photographer is the one who is most interested in the future of his/her own artistic creations. Isn't it better to plan ahead and set the legacy the way it should be.?

What are Jensen's recommendations? →Next month.



## Sept. Program • Congressional Stamp Exhibits

Representative Joseph R. Pitts - (PA-16th)



Stamp collector, PSLC member, and our district congressman, Joseph Pitts will speak about his collection with an emphasis on the two congressional exhibits. These were held in the Rayburn House Office Building, the first in 2010, the latest on 24-26 July of this year. In 2010 the congressman displayed covers with VIP signatures, and

this summer, along with eight other members of congress, his topic was on printing and perforation errors on U.S. stamps. Coincidentally, in an article about the 2012 congressional display, it was an image of Mr. Pitts' exhibit that was used to accompany the story in *The American Stamp Dealer & Collector*. (Pg. 27, No. 63, Sept. 2012). →(Pitts on pg. 3)



## October '12 Bio: Fred Sargent

Fred and Judy moved from CT to Lititz last year, and he joined PSLC in April '12 at Lancopex. He learned about the show and club from some publicity and the internet. He collects mint single U.S. with some plate blocks and sheets on the side. He collected covers too, but he notes that he has run out of room after downsizing here in PA. Fred stayed with the hobby almost continually except when their kids were young.

Shortly after early retirement in 1992, the Sargents moved to Waterbury, CT where he found a home in the city's stamp club, his first experience with a club. They meet twice a month with a small auction at each session. While Fred started collecting through his older brother's influence at age 12, he adds that he really gained philatelic depth and breadth through his association with Waterbury.

The Waterbury club purchases auction lots and then breaks them into smaller lots to auction to the club members. This helps build the treasury. Fred found that this is a lot of work for the auction committee to set up, but is a very popular activity.

At a weak moment, Fred assumed the VP'ship of his Waterbury club and shortly thereafter found himself at the top of the pile when the current president moved out of state! He rejoined that this was a growing but rewarding experience.

The Famous American series of the 1940s is Fred's all-time favorite. It is diverse enough to keep his interest without breaking the bank. He has singles, plate blocks, sheets, and covers. "There is always something to find with this wonderful set."

Another interest, a topical one, is the work of Czeslaw Slania, the internationally known designer and artist who engraved stamps for the U.S. and numerous other countries.

Fred worked most of his life in finance and accounting in several firms in the metro NY area.

## September Minutes and Treasury Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** Paul Petersen opened the meeting at 7:10 PM.

**Visitors:** Paul introduced John Heitzmann of Lancaster. John collects U.S. from 1893 forward, with an interest in air mails, especially C11 postal history.

**Minutes:** There were no August meeting minutes because of the picnic.

**Lancopex:** Lou DiFelice discussed the finances of the show. With closer reading, the cost of the kitchen is \$100/day. Len Kasper said that he will work with the club on this to provide snacks and hot lunches. The lobby fee is \$110 if

items are sold there such as show covers and USPS products. There is a \$250 security deposit that must accompany the facility reservation for the following year. The cost for exhibits are approximately \$700-900/yr. There were only 20 frames for the exhibits in 2012. Exhibits will be needed from club members to make up for the 2-3 exhibits of the late Jim Boyles. The club should decide in November if there is sufficient interest to continue the exhibits.

**Meeting Programs:** Paul discussed *One-Page Exhibits*, and a good number of club members agreed to

prepare one or more for a meeting next fall. In November he will circulate a sign-up sheet for club members who wish to make a meeting presentation in 2013.

**Drawing:** Lou Leidig won the \$5.00 September drawing.

**Area Stamp Shows:** See information below.

**Sept. Program:** Club Auction  
**Treasury Report**

**Opening:** \$4235.11 (1 Aug)

**Income:** \$0.01 (a.k.a. 1¢)

**Expenses:** \$189.20

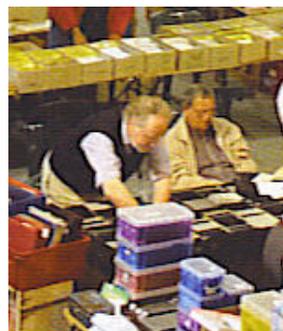
**Closing:** \$4045.92 (31 Aug)

**Other:** 3 CDs at \$6721.58

## Area Stamp Shows

**Reading:** Let's support our fellow club members on Sat., 3 November at *Leesport Auction Pavilion*, Rt. 61, just north of Leesport.

**Eastern PA Precancel Society:** F/S, 12-13 October, Day's Inn, 245 Easton Rd., Horsham, PA 19044. For information contact RD Noble at 626-0709 or rdnoble@windstream.net.



**Harrisburg:** Sun., 7 October. The Capital City Philatelic Society show will be held in a new venue this year: Susquehanna Township HS at 7500 Elmerton Ave, Hbg. Directions can be found on Mapquest.com. When entering the school complex, the show is in the second large building to the left. There is a disclaimer that "*The use of school facilities does not imply endorsement by the School District.*"

**Gettysburg:** Sat., 20 October at Gettysburg Fire Co., 35 N. Stratton St. Contact- 717-624-4864.

**Chambersburg:** Sat., 27 October. Contact 717-264-1252.

## Stamps for the Wounded

Several at the September meeting expressed interest in donating stamps to our veterans. The information is as follows:



**Mr. John Hotchner**

**Stamps for the Wounded**

**PO Box 1125**

**Falls Church, VA**

**22041-0125**

Many of you may know John Hotchner from his columns in a variety of philatelic publications such as *Linn's Stamp News*, *ASD&C*, and others. From the website, they will take stamps on and off paper along with collecting supplies.



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

### 2012 Programs and Hosts

**10 October:** Congressional Stamp Exhibit. Joseph Pitts (PA-16<sup>th</sup>). **Host:** Lucy Eyster

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

**12 December:** Dinner. No Host

### 2013 Programs

**9 January:** Club Auction.

**13 Feb:** Number Ones of the World, an APS DVD

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

**10 April:** Patriot Postal Card series of the 1970-80s. John Brownell

**8 May:** Club Auction

**12 June:** Topical Study: Stained Glass on Stamps. David Hunt

**10 July:** TBA

**14 August:** Club Picnic

**11 September:** Club Auction

**9 October:** TBA

**13 November:** One-Page Exhibits. All PSLC members are invited to participate with one or more exhibit pages.

**11 December:** Dinner

**PSLC 75th Anniversary Celebration:** TBA

**Stamp Shows:** (See Page 2)

**Silent Auction:** There has been some interest expressed in a small silent auction at select club meetings. For those inter-

ested in organizing this, please see Paul Petersen.

**Anniversary Celebration:** Members are needed to form an ad hoc committee. See Paul Petersen if interested.

**APS:** The club received a letter of acknowledgment from for the donation made in the name of James G. Boyles.

**Donation to PSLC:** Mrs. Pat Kerr donated her father's stamp and cover collection to PSLC. Lou DiFelice & Paul Petersen are going through it to form auction lots, sales items, and donations. Pat's father, Phil Lichty, was a long-time Lancaster resident, and the donation consists of many U.S. and U.N. FDCs (1940-70s) and U.S. plate blocks of the same period.

(Pitts from Pg.1) Joe Pitts' father was a chaplain in WWII and settled the family in the post-war Philippines to serve as a missionary. Here they remained through Mr. Pitts' high school years before returning to the States where he attended Asbury College in Kentucky. Here he studied to be a math and science teacher.

Beginning in his formative years, Mr. Pitts has a very thorough collection of the Philippines along with his U.S. holdings. Of the latter he enjoys the BOB or Back of the Book issues such as revenues, special deliveries, and parcel post stamps.

Prior to teaching, he entered the U.S. Air Force (1963-1969) as an aviator serving three tours in Viet Nam flying 116 combat missions in B-52s in the capacity of navigator and Electronic Weapons Officer.

Along with his teaching in the Kennett Square, PA area, he began a small landscape business on the side. Then in 1972 he entered politics, serving 24 years in the state legislature, including his tenure as chairman of the Labor Relations Committee for his last eight years in the State House.

In 1996, he won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives (PA-16<sup>th</sup>). He is currently on the Environment and Economy Subcommittee and serves as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee. A long time supporter of Lancopex, Mr. Pitts joined PSLC in 2010. He lives in Kennett Square with his wife Ginny in the house he and his family built from scratch in the 1960s. They have three grown children and four grandkids.

### A Club Ambiguity?

After meeting in members' homes for a few months, the club met from the 1930s thru Dec. 1995 at Stauffer Mansion when it moved to Lancaster Twp. Community Center. Starting in January 2008, the club relocated to its present site at Woodcrest Villa. When did we meet at the bank on Rt. 501? Were there parallel universes and parallel clubs in our past?



## Collecting Across the Atlantic

Dick wrote an update in his 28 September email about his Fall French Filatelic Festivities. To date he has attended but one stamp event, but he's getting warmed up.

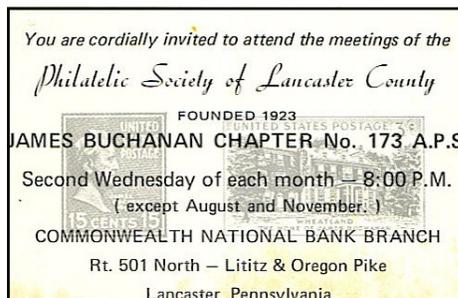
In the interim since his spring trip, he has been filling want lists for his RF stamp friends. Last year his Mexico Postal Cards exhibit won a silver at the national level, so this October it will be in the Court of Honor in a regional show in Lisieux.

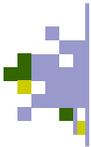
The National Postal History Exhibit in Epernay is coming up soon, and Dick is entering his Lititz Postal History exhibit there. The city is in the Champagne region of RF, and there will be a bus trip for all the exhibitors including tastings at several stops. As noted, he is just warming up!

Dick and Nancy will be visiting with friends from Australia who have an apartment in Paris, and from there they will see an art show at the Grand Palais and a con-

cert featuring Mahler's Second Symphony. They will also attend a large antique show/bourse before returning to New York City on the 9th November.

But they are not quite finished, as they have a conference with the Appraiser's Association of America and a concert at the philharmonic in NYC. Following a day back in Lancaster, Dick will be returning to NYC for the meeting of the Collectors Club.





# Musings: October-2012

## Challenges for the written word & postal history

Over the years my collecting interests have become very eclectic, to include a variety of items. There are some country collections, small topicals, bi-colored engraved stamps, postal history items, covers, and the content contained within.

I have written about the contents of some of the covers I've come across, and this material sometimes interests me as much as the postal and philatelic aspects on the outside.



Occasionally I find an intriguing cover. Something about it catches my eye, and I have to know what was in it. I would offer a king's ransom (if I had it!) to find out! However, a cover that was separated from its contents over 50-100 years ago will remain forever empty.

Last spring I contributed a study on the RPO markings of 145 Registered Package Envelopes for a Postal History Society publication. I have no idea what was in them, and though I have some general thoughts, I would really be interested in the contents of these covers from 1890-1908 sent to a tiny hamlet in rural Maine.

For the RPEs and other covers that interest me, I wonder who addressed and mailed them, and why did they

write/send them? Were there any enclosures? How was the mailing received? Did it have any information that could change a life? Sometimes one may get lucky and find something inside one.

Given this interest in the written word, I value old letters, especially those with a family connection, as my family is very small on both sides. Unfortunately, through digital media and newer, faster, and cheaper gizmos to tickle our ears, there will be less communication that has been both hand-written and circulated through the postal systems, a worldwide phenomenon.

I have warned in the past that, for many there may be few hard copies of anything in the years to come. Some unfortunately leave their emailed messages and digital photo images on the device, intending one day to print out the documents and have copies made of the "photos." And for those who mostly "text" messages and snap pictures on their phones by habit, there may be little if anything remaining.

We have heard how cursive writing is no longer being taught in many schools. The tenet is that they will be doing all their "writing" on the computer, smart phone, tablet, or other electronic gadget, so printing will suffice. This is a loss. But an experience a few months ago brought to mind another new dimension

regarding this inspiration of educational excellence.

The chickens may come home to roost. In a conversation with friends, one said that her 11 year old granddaughter (an honor student) could not read the letter she sent because she cannot read cursive! I hadn't put this together-if they are not taught to write in cursive, they can't read cursive.

Now think about this. These kids are somewhat cut off from historical and family documents that are written in cursive. So much for rummaging through the attic to enjoy that pile of great-grandpa's letters from WWII tied up with a ribbon in the dusty hope chest. They may not be able to determine who it is from or to read the contents from within!



Neither will they be able to go to the Lancaster Historical Society or the FDR Research Center in Hyde Park, NY, and sort through many of the original hand-written documents. The U.S. Constitution, for gosh sakes, is in cursive, though this and other principal documents

are fortunately transcribed and readily available.

But not all old documents are transcribed, and if this emerging digital generation ever intends to conduct original research, they may have a problem-even if it is merely going through old family documents!

We've known for a long time that geography (and some history) has been deemphasized in schools because, it is said, that the content will be covered in their other courses. Right!

Many kids no longer have to learn times tables, etc. as a basis of their math skills. They have smart phones to do this. What about learning a foreign language (except for Spanish)? Will this become obsolete because of computer programs which will translate for them?

To summarize, handwriting, geography with some history, and times tables have been watered down. So what do we have, and will it affect philately and the study of postal history?

There may be many in this upcoming digital generation who know little about history and geography. For the few letters they see, they will struggle with the cursive handwriting. Finally, they don't even know what stamps are used for. So much for the future study of postal history! Ed ☐



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