



Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the American Philatelic Society Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Dinner Begins at 6:00, Wednesday, 10 December 2014

(Doors Open at 5:30)

Garden Café / Woodcrest Villa.

From the Desk of the President

It's hard to believe December is upon us already, and it has been 12 months since I took the gavel to become our club's president for 2014. Once again, it has been an honor and a privilege, and looking back, I believe we have had a pretty productive year. I look forward now, as many of you are, to a fine Holiday Party. I will pledge my support whenever needed in any club projects & events as the need arises.

I am very pleased to announce that through our balloting process, Hal Klein has accepted your nomination for Vice President 2015 & President 2016. Hal is

pleased and honored, as I was, to know that club membership selected him in a majority vote for the office based upon his leadership qualities and his dedication to the club.

We held our first Lancopex-2015 Committee meeting at Lucy's on 17 November, and I am pleased to report that not only was the meeting very productive, but plans are well under way for the April event.

Don't forget our Winter Auction at our January meeting. Please take some time in December to prepare some interesting auction lots so we

can keep the interest and momentum in motion that was built up over the last year.

December is a month when we can customarily reflect back on cherished memories, enjoy family rituals and traditions, and take time for enjoyments that we may have missed during the busy times earlier in the year. So enjoy your families, friends and long time acquaintances, the seasonal cheer, memories of past holidays, and from my family to yours, we wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season. *Len*

December Dinner

What some club members call "One of the best meals of the year" is coming up.

Cost: \$10 per person to be paid at the door.

Please note early start time:

Doors open at 5:30 pm

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm

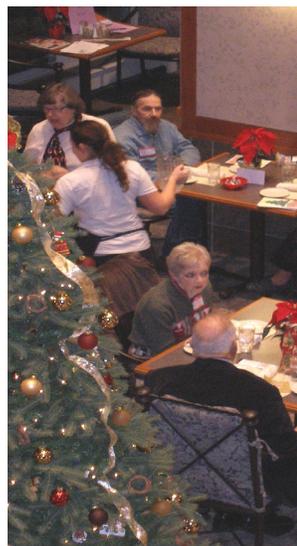
Entertainment: Lucy & Company promise some creative entertainment, and there will be a gift exchange.

Gift Exchange: There will be two gift exchanges, and you may participate in either, both, or neither. This is open to members and guests. Value is in the \$6-\$8.00 range

Philatelic Items: Select an item that will have an appeal to most collectors, something you would enjoy receiving. Ideas include collecting tools & supplies, Christmas postage, an interesting cover or catalog, a reference manual...be creative.

Non-philatelic Items: Select an item with broad appeal for both males and females.

Directions to the Garden Café: Enter Woodcrest on Harrisburg Avenue, and at the T intersection, turn left. Make your first right turn and go to the end and park. The Café has large white columns and will be well lit.



Above is from 2013 Dinner. For the 2014 Dinner Menu, see top right of page-3.

Volume 77, No. 12

December, 2014

Highlights

- Len's '14 Wrap-up
- Tidbits from *Linn's*
- Minutes & Treasury
- Dues Notice
- 1-Page Exhibits
- Dinner Menu
- Interesting Revenues
- Holiday Cancels

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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Ed's  Notes

PSLC Newsletter Format Changes Coming: Ed.'s old computer, printer, & software are showing signs of advanced age and may be headed toward digital purgatory. This being the case, Ed. was encouraged (pressured?) into a new system, this one an Apple iMac where everything will be new, necessitating a steep learning curve. Be patient and hope that his current system does not crash before "progress" is in place!

Reader's Challenge: Needed for the January newsletter is your opinion related to the stamp hobby recruitment dilemma. Should adults or youth be emphasized? Pick just one; defend your position, and send it to Ed. by 10 January 2015.

Thanks, Kind Colleagues: It is that time of the year to put away the 2014 edition of this newsletter and get ready for 2015. Given the projected new computer, software, and printer, there is some slight (to put it mildly) trepidation. But member input is so important to make this happen. Please accept my deepest thanks for contributing.

For the newsletter staff, I am indebted to •Carol Petersen-Proofreader and •Diane Meek-Hard Copy Circulation.

To the club officers for their timely submission of reports each month: •Len Kasper-President; •Joy Bouchard-Secretary; and •Lou DiFelice, Treasurer.

For contributors to the substance of the newsletter (Articles, links, hot topics, & more) •Dick Colberg, •Lucy Eyster, •Dennis Shumaker, •Carol Petersen, •Hal Klein, •Sherman Foote, and •Bill Snyder.

Monthly Programs: Many thanks to those who made meeting presentations or helped with the 2014 presentations in a variety of other ways. •Mike Bach, •Dick Colberg, •Bill Schultz, •Bob Rufe, •Bob & Barb Brown, •John Brownell, •Lucy Eyster, •Len Kasper, & •RD Noble.



November Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: President Len Kasper opened the meeting and Open House at 7:00 pm.

Membership: Lucy Eyster announced eight visitors, two of which had completed membership applications. New members include Daisy Deweiler and Robert Kramer. Forty-six were in attendance.

Minutes & Treasury: As reported in the 11/14 newsletter, these reports were approved by voice vote.

Drawing: November drawing winners were Truude Greiner and John Ahlfeld.

By-laws: Paul Petersen announced that digital copies of the by-laws were distributed along with the November newsletter last week. He passed out hard copies tonight

for those not receiving digital communications from the club. There will be a thirty day review period and then a discussion/approval.

Dues: Notices are contained in the newsletter. Members may pay tonight or mail in their checks (Payable to PSLC) to Lucy Eyster. Lucy asks that you do not pay at the December Dinner, as she will be quite busy with the logistics of that event.

Officer Nominations: There were two top vote getters, but one was unable to serve, and the other was not in attendance. Len will contact that person. (See "Slate" pg. 3.)

Dinner: Lucy announced the plans for the upcoming event. This will be reviewed in detail

in the December newsletter. There will be entertainment, a grab-bag gift exchange, member recognitions, and fellowship.

Tonight's Program: Paul announced the invitation to view the 1-Page exhibits on the walls and the collections on the tables. Some other material is also for sale, and visitors and new members should be engaged.

Educational Program: Dick Colberg gave a talk on the "Commercial Overprints on Great Britain's Stamps."

Treasury Report

- Opening: \$3,957.76 (1 Oct)
- Income: \$0.00
- Expenses: \$8.81
- Closing: \$3,948.95 (31 Oct)
- 3-CDs valued at \$6,905.48

Tidbits From a Recent Issue of Linn's

The 24 November 2014 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* contained several interesting items, some important and others just interesting...

•The Postal Regulatory Commission approved \$10M for a test project for USPS letter carriers to deliver groceries in San Francisco.

•The 1856 1¢ magenta British Guiana stamp that just realized \$9.5M at auction will be on loan to the U.S. Postal Museum for three years starting in April 2015.

•Three engraved stamps will be issued by USPS in 2015: Two for the annual wedding series, and another to promote the 2016 World Stamp Show in New York.

•Writer and expertizer, John Hotchner explains how col-

lectors can save expertizing fees by making a few critical observations of their material before submission.

•As a money saving option, USPS is looking into converting some of their trucking routes back to rail.

•*Linn's* tally for the 100 intentionally created upright \$2 Jenny Invert panes is now 20, leaving 80 still to be discovered.



•The American Topical Association is offering a free checklist of "turkeys on stamps" via its website.

•New Zealand Post customers can have their photos morphed into a dwarf from *The Hobbit* movies and appear on a personalized stamp.

•Jim Lee's article on the 1860s-1870s Bank Notes describes the many essays created and used to develop a patent for U.S. stamps that could not be reused.

•Because many new and experienced collectors report difficulties in detecting watermarks on their stamps, Janet Klug describes several ways to do this.

•USPS will be issuing a Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer design for computer-vended postage which will appeal to collectors of "deer on stamps."

•Collecting FDCs for the Batman sheet of 20 will be pricey for cachet makers and collectors with 12 stamps left over.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts and Shows

2014 Programs

10 December: Dinner

2015 Programs

14 January: PSLC Winter Auction. Bill Greiner, Host

11 February: APS Video-*The doctoring of postage stamps: Philatelists beware.* GS Joseph

11 March: 1.) Local Stamps of Rattlesnake Island, Bill Schultz. 2.) Lancopex Advert Card Prep. All hands

8 April: A Survey of Confederate Postal History. Patricia Kaufmann

13 May: The U.S. International Shows: Stamps, Covers, Labels, and History. Paul Petersen

10 June: PSLC Spring Auction

8 July: Express Companies of Mexico between 1855-1907. Dick Colberg

12 August: Summer Picnic

9 September: Fall Auction

14 October: Great Britain's Line Engraved Stamps. David Hunt

11 November: Club Member 1-Page Exhibits and Open House. Len Kasper & Paul Petersen

9 December: Dinner

2015 Related Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: 15 February 2015, 7 or 21 June (TBA), 16 August, 20 December. Farm and Home Center, Lancaster. Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager, 301-371-4558.

York Stamp Show: F/S, 23-24 January 2015 in Agricultural Hall, York Fair Grounds.

Lancopex: F/S 24-25 April 2015, Farm and Home Center, 1381 Arcadia Rd. Lancaster, PA.

Dinner Menu

Cheese, Crackers, & Punch

Rolls & Butter

Caesar Salad

Prime Rib of Beef a Jus

Hawaiian Shrimp with Pineapple on Skewer

Roasted Vegetable Roll-Ups in Tomato Sauce

Corn Soufflé

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Green Bean Casserole

Vanilla Ice Cream Garnished in Crème de Menthe (non-alcoholic)

Coffee & Tea (Iced or Hot)

(Caf or Decaf)



1-Pagers

The 2014 Open House had a near record crowd, and several club members contributed new 1-Page or other longer exhibits.

Fred Sargent's exhibit contained a fine set and story of the first Parcel Post stamps of 1913 (Q1-Q12)

Mike Matus' exhibit was entitled "Ukraine-The World's First Airmail Route."

Dennis Shumaker displayed a set of Civil War covers which he is working into a larger exhibit for 2015 Lancopex.

Joy Bouchard presented a colorful array of Christmas stamps.

David Hunt's two exhibits included: •Halloween on Stamps, and •Stamps with a Denomination Missing.

Other items displayed included USPS posters, Magazine covers, club newsletters, and some 1-Pagers from 2013.

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

Foreign Revenues Challenges

Finding an unusual item for a good price at a stamp show is half the fun, especially in the 25¢ to \$1.00 range. The two on the right are from France, while that on the bottom left is from Austria. The top left is hard to tell; it looks Germanic, but the writing on the back is in French, though this was the language of Int'l diplomacy at the time. Lots of research needed here. Ideas?



Club Officer Slate Set For 2015

President: Bill Greiner will move up to President

1st Vice President: Hal Klein

2nd Vice President: TBA

Secretary: Joy Bouchard

Treasurer: Lou DiFelice

PSLC members will vote at the 14 January club meeting.

✂ Date: _____

Please clip this notice, complete it, and return it with \$10 to Lucy Eyster in January. You may also mail it to her at 2001 Harrisburg Pk., B-503, Lancaster, PA 17601. Call Lucy if you have any questions(735-2586)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

ATA Member APS Member

Please check the APS/ATA box (s) above if you are a paid-up member.



Musings: December-2014

U.S. Christmas Cancels & the Austrian Christkindl

Holiday thematic collectors love this time of year, as modern postal history can be so much fun. Much of it is philatelic in origin, that is, collector and/or dealer inspired. So much the better. My wife is a member of the CPC (a.k.a. The Christmas Philatelic Club), and this organization tries to send out its dues notices in December from thematic locations as seen below.



Bethlehem, Kentucky ↑ was the CPC drop site in 2003, while Santa Claus, Indiana was used in 2007 and again in 2010. ↓



A well-known site for mailing cards is Christmas, FL. The cancel and cropped marking that follow are from my friend, John, in 1995. He lives in Casselberry, FL. To mail his cards, he drove 30 miles to Christmas, located due east of Orlando, about half way to the Atlantic.

Christmas collectors are aware of the storied history of Juanita Tucker the

long-time postmistress of Christmas, Florida. She worked with collectors, dealers, and cachet makers all across the U.S.



At Christmastime, she brought in additional help for extra shifts so that all the mail could be cancelled timely and appropriately. In 1930 she started a specialized tradition of a green Christmas tree holiday marking that continues today. The wording is “Glory to God in the highest, Christmas, Orange County, Florida.” There has been some variation to the design of the tree over the years rendering them quite collectible.



There is an iconic holiday cancel in Austria in the town of *Christkindl*, meaning “Christ Child.” It has been corrupted to Kris Kringle, and some use this term in referring to Santa Claus. Holiday covers with *Christkindl* can-

cels are sought after as are the Christmas-related American towns such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, North Pole, and others.

But there are specialized *Christkindl*-related covers and cancels that I would love to own. It started in 1961 as the *Austrian Special Balloon Flight* cover, and it continues today. Don Hammell of the Wisconsin Postal History Society collected these covers and exhibited a set of the first twenty-one years .

Each year there was a specialized *Christkindl* cancel on the current stamp and cover (some years it was an FDC) along with a specialized balloon post label. The label stated *Weihnachts Ballonpost* with a linear number which was “1” in 1961, the year of the first trip. Applied to the cover was an additional cancel-like imprint in a variety of colors. This was sometimes tied to the label, and sometimes it was not. No surcharge or denomination is indicated. But there is a fee, as it has been noted that these flights support underprivileged children’s education.

In year three (’61) flight data was added, a rubber stamp with space for altitude, distance, pilot’s name, signatures, and more. Distances ranged from 800 meters to >75 km. The destination towns varied by year.

Checking through my wife’s Christmas collection, I could not find a *Christkindl* cancel, but there were some beautiful Austrian stamps which follow.

Austria claims the first Christmas stamp (1937), but some Canadians make the same claim because of their 1898 2¢ map stamp (#85-86). Quite a lot has been written about its history, usages, and varieties.



Below are two Austrian Christmas stamps. The top one (1948, #558) depicts the creators of the well known hymn, Silent Night. ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪



Below is #1666 of 1994, and the vignette is the painting “Birth of Christ” by Anton Wollenek (1920-2009). Ed. 🇺🇸



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