

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

## Meeting/Auction at 7:00, Wed., 14 January 2015

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Bill Greiner, Host  
Doors Open at 6:30-Come Early to Buy, Sell, and/or Trade

## From the Desk of the President

It is a pleasure to be your President for 2015. Thank you all for your support. I hope to take the reins in a way to continue in the fine style of the previous PSLC Presidents. They will be a hard act to follow, but I know that there is a lot of support from all club members to keep this organization running ship-shape.

I hope you take advantage of

this month's auction. I know that I have always found something to interest me, and then there is my mother-let's just say that she loves auctions, and is a fearless bidder!

It is not too late to be thinking about Lancopex in April. A lot has been done, so far, but there is more to go. So when called, raise your hand. I understand that this

is a very successful show in the area each year. Let's not lose this momentum. And speaking of raising your hand, this newsletter's feature addresses recruitment to the hobby with recommendations of how we might do this. Here, too, raise your hand when called. See you at the club meeting and auction.

*Bill III*

## Inclement Weather and Meeting Cancellation

It is that time of the year when this winter weather is unpredictable and may involve the cancellation of the club meeting.

If the weather is in question on the day of a meeting, the officers will confer and de-

cide whether or not to cancel that night's meeting.

If the meeting is cancelled, the officers will contact the editor who will send out an email blast to those on line, informing them that the meeting has been cancelled.

For those who receive a hard copy newsletter and have questions regarding the occurrence of the meeting, they should call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640 for a status report. Meetings are not rescheduled.

## January Auction is Here

The 2015 auction season is upon us. It's always a good time to find new collecting interests. By law, the auction is only open to paid-up members, but if visitors sign up for membership and pay dues, they may participate in all our auction events in 2015. There are neither seller nor buyer premiums at our auctions.

**Instructions:** A number will be assigned to you when you arrive and register. Please place this number on all your lots. Attach an item/lot de-

scription 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, firmly attach your sales infor-

mation (lot description, cat. value, min. bid etc.) to the item, then you'll be correctly credited with the sale.

**Bidding rules** remain the same as previous auctions. • The minimum bid is \$1.00. • The minimum bidding increment is 50¢. • Each club member is limited to 10 lots. • You may also donate items for the auction and have the realization go to PSLC. All donated items are greatly appreciated.

Volume 78, No. 1

January, 2015

### Highlights

- Inclement Weather
- Youth vs. Adults
- Book Review
- Lifetime Award
- 2015 PSLC Officers
- More on Revenues
- Dues, Notes, & More
- Guest Musings

### 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

Website: [lcps-stamps.net](http://lcps-stamps.net)

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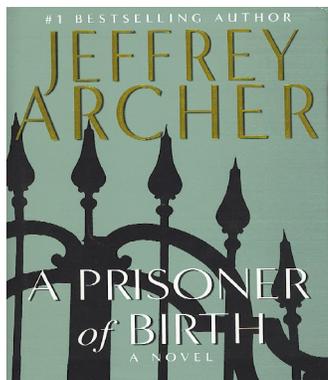
## Book Review

### *A Prisoner of Birth*

This 2008 novel by British best-selling author, Jeffrey Archer (NY: St. Martin's Press) is not quite a whodunit, as the readers will know who "dun" it and who they "dun" it to right from the beginning! Instead, it is a story of retribution and quest for justice for both the murder committed and subsequent miscarriage of justice. Extremely satisfying is the best way to describe it.

But for stamp collectors, this story contains a bonus, the involvement of one of the largest and most costly stamp collections in the world. And it is a seasoned American collector whose philatelic expertise saves another miscarriage of justice.

The philatelic part of the story begins with an old cover with the 1896 Olympic stamps, addressed to the founder of the modern Olympics to an address in Switzerland on the first day of issue. Geographically there is the Smithsonian Postal Museum, a Sotheby's auction, and Stanley Gibbons on The Strand, London.



Many of the stamps in the collection are considered the Crown Jewels of the hobby including an 1851 Hawaiian, unique Capetown Triangles, and the 1d British Guiana black on magenta which the protagonist's grandfather purchased in April 1980!

The courtroom scenes are reminiscent of Robert Traver's 1958 best seller, *Anatomy of a Murder* known for its gripping court scenes featuring an epic lawyer vs. lawyer.

## Members' Opinions for January

### Should the hobby recruit adults or youth?

This seems to have been a very popular topic, as there were nearly a dozen responses to the question. Members were asked to pick a side in the ongoing debate and defend it mightily. Should we recruit adults or youth? Some responses were short and sweet, and others more detailed. Several offered suggestions for implementation, ideas for the club to follow to boost interest in collecting overall, and attainment of new members for our club specifically.

Starting on the side of recruiting youth, **John Brownell** opens that most PSLC members have had similar experiences where we were introduced to the hobby as kids, got fired up, went our separate ways, and then returned to collecting years later. We should focus on kids.

**Len Kasper** sees youth recruitment as the future of the hobby. If collecting "dies" with our generation, only overseas collectors will rule the values. He has several ideas for contacting schools and Cub Scout groups with a presentation on the hobby to generate some interest. He would also like to invite a Boy Scout troop to our meetings. Finally he recommends a special grade school invite to one of our meetings after an in-school presentation. This would need a sign-up list for the students accompanied by a parent consent form. **Doug Milliken** augments this in that one contribution to recruiting young collectors is to have a number of copies of recent album page along with a box of recent stamps, hinges, and adult supervision in place at our meetings. Doug recalls the large bin of stamps available

for visitors to the National Postal Museum in DC. Kids and adults alike loved it.

**Vern Marten** recommends a traveling display to be shown in various middle and high schools. Most schools have display areas or perhaps hobby corners where kids could demonstrate their interests. Recreation Centers also have display areas. He believes that there are many venues to showcase our hobby. We just need PSLC volunteers to get involved. **(Ed's note:** The club has a set of materials suitable for a civic display case. Some updating would not hurt, perhaps to focus it more to the given venues whether schools, retirement centers, libraries, post offices, or others.)

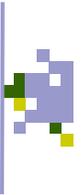
Also supporting youth recruitment is **Fred Mackey**, and he defines "youth" to include those up to young adult. Let's have a special Open House for the younger set with some educational/training sessions using the human and material resources of the club. Consider free starter packs (album pages, stamps, hinges, etc.) as well as "no dues" for their first year in the club.

Moving along the continuum of the debate is **Hal Klein** who takes the middle-ground position. As an organization we have the responsibility to recruit both youth and adult. Local clubs need to foster, teach, and support youth in the stamp hobby. If not, we have failed ourselves as collectors as well as the hobby's future survival. The same holds true for adults, but to a lesser extent. In any case if we wish to have the club here in 100 years, we need to recruit both, especially youth.

Opening the argument for the recruitment of adults is **Eleanor Wheeler** who states that in order to maintain the club, we need to continually add adults to our membership ranks. Adults bring with them a variety of interests and experiences they can share, and they have the potential to maintain the financial stability of the club. Of course, one cannot ignore the importance for the long-term future of the hobby, and here, too, young people are needed. But overall, our energies should focus on finding new adult members.

Wishing he were an optimist in the belief that youth is the future of the hobby, **Loy DiFelice** rejoins that there is not sufficient evidence for this. Like Fred, Lou qualifies that he sees younger people as all those under thirty. It is the lure of the iPhone, Internet, iPad, text messaging, etc. that satisfy the younger generation's instant gratification needs. Philately does not trigger this response since patience is so critical. Stamp collecting is a process, a journey which requires time, thought, and perseverance. Lou is of the opinion that we need to cultivate individuals more suited to these characteristics, thus his vote for the over-30 crowd as a recruitment target.

**Dick Shaefer** has been in PSLC the longest of the participants in this report. The club is not really geared for young people. In the past they had been introduced to the hobby by an adult who subsequently brought them to a meeting. Like John Brownell, Dick assumes that most club members would report an early philatelic experience by a family member who mentored them. Some may have entered the hobby through a school or church club. Finding adults who are interested in the hobby is the only (see Pg.3→)



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

### 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

### Bylaws Revision:

Further input has been received which will be included in the ongoing bylaws revision project. The draft should be available for the February meeting.

### 2015 Related Shows

**Some Sundays Stamp Bourse:** 15 February 2015, 7 June, 16 August, 20 December. Farm & Home Center, Lancaster. Kevin Kellman (K<sup>2</sup>), Manager, 301-371-4558.

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

**Bux-Mont Stamp Show:** S, 21 March 2015 in Benjamin Wilson Senior Center, 480 Delmont Ave, Warminster, PA 18974.

**Lancopex:** F/S, 4-15 April, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601.

(←pg-2) way to grow. This isn't easy.

Further there are a fair number of people in Lancaster County that collect stamps but for whatever reason, they do not want to join a club. Dick is not sure if we gained a significant number of new members at the Open House, in November. It was not much better for Lancopex. And some who join do not stay after the first year. Dick predicted that with retirement Baby Boomers would be looking for an interesting hobby such as philately to occupy their time. This has not yet come to fruition as much as he expected. It is not an easy problem to solve, and Dick believes that the best bet is to let people know that we are here.

Ed notes that APS directs considerable resources to youth philately through their ambassadors and fellowship programs. Their website has great info for youth recruitment: [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org). (See Page-4 for Guest Editorial.)

## 2015 PSLC Officers



(L→R) Incoming President Bill Greiner, Lucy Eyster, Outgoing President Len Kasper, and Secretary Joy Bouchard. Not pictured: VP-Hal Klein & Treasurer Lou DiFelice

At the December Dinner Lucy Eyster announced the 2015 PSLC Officers. This includes Bill Greiner-President, Hal Klein-VP, Lou DiFelice-Treasurer, and Joy Bouchard-Treasurer. DiFelice and Bouchard are serving an additional term in their respective offices. A certifi-

cate of Merit and Thank You gift was given to Len for his year's service as President, and gifts of appreciation were given to Lou and Joy as small tokens of their terms of dedicated service as club officers. The office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President remains vacant, and it is hoped that this will be filled.

## Reader Feedback

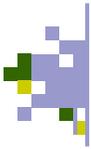
Some illustrations and images of older foreign revenues were presented here in December. Newsletter reader Jim Strycharz of Southwick, MA responded with some preliminary information on this issue of 1794↓.



These revenues are obtainable online ([delcampe.net](http://delcampe.net)). The image above is a cut square from the top center of a fiscal or a legal document. At this website the stamps go back as far as 1742. All are entire documents and sell from 20€ to 24€ apiece. Revenuers and postal historians beware. Lots to learn.

## Philatelic Recruitment Continued

✂	.....	2015 PSLC Dues	Date: _____
Please clip this notice, complete it, and turn in with \$10 to Lucy Eyster at the January meeting. You may also mail it to Lucy at 2001 Harrisburg Pk., B-503, Lancaster, PA 17601. Call 735-2586 with questions.			
Name:	_____	Phone:	_____
Email Address:	_____		
ATA Member	<input type="checkbox"/>	APS Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please check the APS/ATA box (s) above if you are a paid-up member.			



# Guest Musings: January-2015

## Recruiting for the hobby...Dick Colberg

### Truyde Greiner wins PSLC Lifetime Achievement Award

At the December Dinner, long time club member, Truyde Greiner received PSLC's *Lifetime Achievement Award* from outgoing President Len Kasper.



Truyde and her husband Bill were worldwide collectors joining APS in 1980 and PSLC in 1988. In their time he served as president and she as recording secretary. In 1990 Truyde upgraded the Lancopex hospitality table into a more dedicated and equipped youth table which she has set up and staffed for the last 25 years. She is especially pleased that her son, Bill, is the current club president. In Len Kasper's citation, he emphasized her generosity of all kinds to members, visitors, and the club.

We should try to recruit adults into our hobby. Admittedly, this is based on my own experience. I think kids will find their way into philately on their own through various programs such as those fostered by APS. I started collecting when I was eight years old. I had no mentors, as there were no collectors in my immediate family. I fumbled around, made a few mistakes, and eventually became a philatelist at the level I am today. But key to this all was what I did as a young adult, post-college. At age 27 I found a local stamp club in Muskegon, MI where I had just moved for a job change. Prior to that time I did not know that stamp clubs even existed. Since that day in 1968, I have never NOT been a member of a local stamp club. My status at the time was that I was young, single, and had some time and money to spend on stamp collecting.

Local stamp clubs have a unique blend of aid, knowledge, and assistance for novice as well as advanced collectors. Here I will define "novice" collectors as young adults (>21 year of age). This is not being discriminatory on my part. Collectors of this age are more well-funded than younger collectors. They can better stick with the subject (philately) and are less likely to become dis-

tracted (smart phones & video games). They are better suited to be a bit more inquisitive and more likely to engage in research into a philatelic topic that may strike their fancy.

So I think recruiting efforts are better spent on adults in the 25-55 age group. This is for the above reasons, but also that they are more likely to have the financial resources to enjoy the hobby more fully. Let's face it, to become a more advanced collector, it takes money. It does not have to be a lot, but it does take some. Obviously, I advocate that EVERY stamp collector become more advanced. This is why you see so many collectors eventually becoming postal historians.

When one gets really serious about what one collects, that curiosity demands further research. That curiosity also leads to joining specialist societies where one can associate with like-minded collectors, pick their brains, and even become an exhibitor in that specialty area. These activities are mostly beyond the comprehension of the young collector. Certainly, we as adult collectors should try to be mentors to the young collectors when we encounter them. But at the local club level, these folks are hard to identify.

True, we are in a position to identify individual young collector-candidates, but programs such as those provided by the APS are better suited to find new young collectors because they target the schools. Their efforts are more likely to bear fruit just on the sheer numbers alone.

Being a young collector at the local club level is a bit intimidating for that child. Here they are stuck in the middle of a bunch of OLD people. When they are engaged in school-level stamp activities, they are amongst their age group peers. They are less likely to feel intimidated when making a mistake or coming up short on the philatelic knowledge end of the stick.

I put the upper age recruiting cap at 55 years of age because, while certainly arbitrary, if one is to become a serious collector, one should have started by this time. That's not to say that there is no hope for the post-55 year old collector, but, let's face it, the following years are limited. I had dinner with a collector in New York in mid-December who is retired and has just come back to philately after a 30+ year hiatus. He's delighted and a bit angry with himself for having stayed away that long. However, he WAS a collector as a young adult. There, you have my 2-cents worth. **RC** ☐

