



MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
TIME: 7:30 P.M.  
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER  
Columbia Ave., Lancaster, PA

Mailing address:  
L.C.P.S.  
19 Circle Rd.  
Millersville, PA 17551

Next Meeting - Wed., JULY 14, 1999  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717) 872-2479

VOL.10, #6

NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990

JULY 1999

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We were scheduled to have a program on POST/POSTAL CARDS this month, but because one of our participants will not be available, we will have to have a last-minute change. This program will be presented later in the season. Tonight we will have a member auction. So look through your surplus material and bring it in and make a few dollars on it. I must apologize for this short notice. Any lots that you bring in, be sure to put your club membership number on it. This number can be found on your membership card.

Next month is our annual picnic. Come prepared to sign up. We will need to get a head count of those attending so our Master Chef can provide enough goodies for all. Family members are invited. Also, we will be asking the membership to sign up for a side dish, snacks, and deserts.

We will have the APS circuit books available for your perusal.

JULY



HOST

We plan to keep our "Auctioneer" of our upcoming stamp auction very busy this month. JIM BOYLES, supersonic auctioneer, is our host this month. JIM, what would we do without you!!



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! This month we will be having another one of our Grand Auctions as our program for the month. So, everyone check your extra stamps and bring them along for sale. The money you receive from your sale of stamps will help you purchase other stamps

**PROGRAM**

## REVIEW OF JUNE PROGRAM

Last month one of our club members, **AL SCHAUB**, gave the club an excellent presentation on "Gunboat Philately". For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting (myself included) here is a small overview of his comments on the subject.

A gunboat is a small lightly armed warship whose primary task is to patrol coastal areas and rivers. Key point: The basic design of coastal gunboats is often much different than the design of river gunboats.

Gunboats of the Yangtze Patrol are as follows:

PR-1 USS Palos  
1914 - 1937  
Sold to Ming Sung Co.

PR-2 USS Monocacy  
1914 - 1939  
Decommissioned

PR-3 USS Guam/Wake  
1927 - 1941  
Surrendered to Japanese

PR-4 USS Tutuila  
1928-1942  
Given to Chinese

PR-5 USS Panay  
1928 - 1937  
Sunk by Japanese

PR-6 USS Oahu  
1928-1942  
Sunk at Corregidor

PR-7 USS Luzon  
1928 - 1942  
Captured by Japanese

PR-8 USS Mindanao  
1928-1942  
Scuttled in Manila

PY-10 USS Isabel  
1918-1946  
Scrapped

Postage rates for letters varied between two and three cents. For postcards the rates varied between one and two cents.

The Yangtze Patrol was inaugurated in December 1902. Operations were initiated with two former Spanish gunboats, the Elcano and Vilalobos.

The movie Sand Pebbles, with Steve McQueen, is an excellent presentation of the Yangtze Patrol, gunboat lifestyle. It was based upon a novel by McKenna.

The club wishes to thank AL for his very informative review of gunboats on stamps, covers and postcards.



HOW-TO: SAVE THOSE STUCK-DOWN ITEMS  
By: Wayne L. Youngblood

One of the most frustrating and sometimes heartbreaking experiences is to pull mint stamps out of an envelope or container, only to find them stuck together. Unless such stamps are quite valuable, many collectors simply relegate the forlorn treasures to the postage bin. There is a cure.

Although there is no argument that proper storage in the first place will negate the need for repair, there are several things you can do to salvage your stuck-down stamps.

First, test them very gently to see if they will pop apart. If they do, great! If they do not, don't force them apart. You'll likely tear, then or remove ink from the stamps' surfaces.

If your stamps are not firmly stuck to each other, you may wish to wrap them loosely in plastic and place them in the freezer for a couple of hours. In many cases, the stamps will pop apart easily while still cold.

If they do not pop apart, you'll need to try a more drastic measure.

At this point, it should be mentioned that you are beyond getting the stamps apart without gum damage, but you may well be able to salvage them as collectibles.

What you will need to do is to create what's commonly known as a sweat box. This is simply a container that creates (without heat) a humid atmosphere that will allow the stamps to separate with minimal damage.

You will first need some sort of sealable plastic container that is slightly larger than the items you wish to separate. The closer the size the less time it will take. Next, place a wet sponge (or some other absorbent pad) into the bottom of the container. On top of the sponge you will need to place some form of dry platform (preferably one that breathes), so that air can circulate the moisture. Several layers of screen work well, with the screen laid at angles so the holes do not perfectly match from layer to layer.

Place your stuck-down stamps on the platform (making sure they don't directly touch the moistened area) and seal the container. You may need to leave the container sealed anywhere from several hours to several days, until the humidity does work. With time, your stamps should naturally separate from each other or form the foreign surface with little or no effort. Never force your stamps, as this will only serve to further damage them.

Once your stamps have separated, let them dry face down and then examine the gum for damage. If there is uneven gum distribution, place the stamps face-down into the sweat-box for an additional 10-24 hours to allow it to soften and slightly redistribute itself to give a more natural appearance. This technique may be used for stamps with heavy hinge remnants or severe hinge marks.

If your stamps still have not separated after a few days in the sweat box, you will more than likely have to soak them apart and lose the gum.

As a final note, some collectors claim the process can be speeded up by placing stamps in a microwave with a damp cloth. Unless stamps are constantly supervised, they can burn. Also, some printing inks contain traces of metal that can interact with your microwave to create small arcs of flame, destroying both stamp and microwave.

Finally, do not attempt any form of separation on expensive stamps without having first experimented on cheap stamps. If you do something wrong, it's best to do it on a stamp that doesn't matter.



#### WE'RE IN THE NEWS!

Lancaster County makes the Philatelic News again. A story in the "NEW ERA" tells us that the Teddy Bear in the 1900 issues of the Celebrate the Century belongs to Dee Hockenberry of Elizabethtown. The Post Office wanted an American made Teddy Bear and the Hockenberry one was created by the Ideal Toy Company in 1906.

The article reads as follows:  
Lancaster New Era  
April 17, 1999

A historic teddy bear owned by an Elizabethtown woman appears on a recent issue of a 32-cent commemorative U.S. postage stamp.

"I can't be blasé about it," said Dee Hockenberry, one of the world's foremost authorities on teddy bears, said. "It was wonderful for them to choose my bear."

The pint-sized tufted bear sits humbly in a little showcase on a desk in Hockenberry's Elizabethtown kitchen. Smaller and less ornate than many of the other antique bears that fill her house, the simple sand-colored toy is more historically significant than grand.

The bear was stitched in 1906 by Ideal, the first American manufacturer of teddy bears. An Ideal bear appears in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

Because it was an American stamp, they wanted to have an American bear," said Hockenberry, who was tapped to consult with stamp makers in 1996 when the U.S. Postal Service began brainstorming for its "Celebrate the Century" commemorative stamps.

"Celebrate the Century," is the post office's most ambitious project ever. The issue included 10 sheets of 15 stamps -- one sheet for each decade of the 20th century.

Five sheets spanning the 1900s to the 1940s have already been released. The teddy bear stamp is part of the 1900s sheet.

#### LCPS OFFICERS

**WILLIAM GREINER, PRESIDENT**  
**PETER BILLIS, VICE PRESIDENT**  
**LORI HOSTETLER, SECRETARY**  
**DONALD WEBER, TREASURER**

Since your newsletter staff was in Hawaii the month of June, we decided it only appropriate to use the Hawaii flower stamps for your newsletter. Hope you like it.

While the origin of the first teddy bear is still disputed -- both Ideal and Steiff, a German company, claim they have made the first bears some time around the turn of the century -- the "Teddy" in teddy bear is distinctly American.

In 1902, a cartoonist drew a scene of President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt refusing to shoot a captured bear during a Mississippi hunting trip. That image is believed to have inspired the teddy bear.

It is no coincidence that Hockenberry was asked to help develop the commemorative stamp. A collector for 20 years, she writes for three teddy bear magazines in the United States and England and has published 10 books on the subject.

Her eleventh book, "Bear sightings in Everyday Life," will be published in August by Schiffer Publishing of Atglen, a publisher of collectible books.

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF

**DICK DUDLEY, EDITOR**  
**MICHAEL SHIRLEY, GRAPHIC ARTS**  
**MARILYN SHIRLEY, DATA PROCESSING**

