



HOW I BECAME A STAMP DEALER

I first became interested in stamp when I was in grade school. I found some used stamps that I thought were cute, and I put them in a shoe box and added to the small pile every once in a while. I knew nothing about proper collecting or how to store them or anything like that--I just liked them. Then I hit high school and other interests took over. Things like BOYS and the Drama Club.

When I finally made it to University (York University in Toronto for a BA in Fine Arts Theatre Production), I was there for a year before I met Richard. He was an avid collector and got me back into collecting and doing it correctly. This was before we got married. I think there was an ulterior motive there. Get the future wife hooked then she can't complain about the hobby! After we got married and out of school we had the time to go to clubs and shows. There are a lot of both in the Toronto area. We joined the Oakville Club and made many friends. One of them--John Roberts--taught me about being a dealer by letting me help him at the meetings. Then he threw me off the deep end one day by setting up his stamps and walking away. I didn't see him for several hours. That was scary! But I did it and learned!

When Richard and I moved here in 1979 we decided to start a small business dealing stamps. We did in 1981 when we got the sales tax number. And it was small--could fit it in a briefcase! Sure has grown since then! Over the years we put most of the money back into the business; maybe that is why my house is a warehouse for stamps. I keep trying to beat them back, but I swear they breed in dark corners. So, that is how I got started in this business. I enjoy the people that I meet and the shows I do.

I maintain extensive stocks of US and Canada, both used and mint-- somewhat limited for 19th Century items but generally complete for 20th Century singles and blocks. I also have (or can obtain quickly) a full range of supplies, including album supplements and mounts. Modest discounts are available to club members, with the amount somewhat larger on older items.

If anyone would like to come out to look at stamps, please give me a call (484-4700) and make an appointment, I will be glad to have you out.

--Leslie Ann Botte

MINUTES, MARCH 10, 2004, LCPS MEETING

President Marilyn Shirley called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Peter Billis introduced a guest, Paul Martin, who bought stamps from Peter via the internet.

The treasurer reported a balance in the checking account of \$2,325.34.

Under old business, voting on the revised by-laws resulted in all changes except one being accepted: There will be no change to the description of lifetime membership.

Chuck Kilgore is accepting reservations on the planned coach trip to Washington, DC, on Saturday, June 12. Price is \$20 per person. This is a fun trip. Friends and family are invited.

Joseph Crawford's name was pulled as the winner of \$5 but since he was not present the winner next month will receive \$10.

The club authorized the purchase of 20 aluminum exhibit frames from the APS at a cost of \$125 per frame (\$2500). The money (a CD) had been set aside last year for this purchase when the frames became available. A truck is needed to pick them up from State College before our stamp show.

Al Schaub discussed the "error" in Scott 230 and 231 (in the Columbian series). Check the figure of Columbus in both stamps.

Jim Boyles was in charge of the rest of the meeting. He sent around a paper to sign up as a patron for the list in the program for the stamp show. Eleanor Wheeler is accepting patrons at \$5 per name. Jim also sent around a list for workers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the stamp show. Many hands make light work.

Everyone then helped affix address labels and stamps to a thousand cards to be sent to last year's attendees and APS members in our local area.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30. Next month's meeting is April 14.

**Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Eyster, Secretary**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

How much do you know about the services of the American Philatelic Society? What are some of the many services it offers members? What is the advantage of belonging to the APS?

These questions and much, much more will be answered at our April Meeting. We are very fortunate to have BOB LAMB, an official representative of the APS, to be our speaker this month. We will learn about the APS Open House to be held June 26, 2004 at the Match Factory building. Guided tours will be given from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. that day. Mark your calendar and plan to go. Why not have a van take members for the day and see for yourself what is available at the Match Factory, the new home of the APS?

We will also be having a "Penny Stamp" evening. Bring any duplicates you can donate to the club. Members may go through the stamps, purchase any stamps they want at a cost of 1 cent. What is not sold will be given to Truyde Greiner for the Kids Table at LANCOPEX.

Have you sent in your reservation for the Washington Trip to Chuck Kilgore yet? Time's a wastin! The cost is \$20.00 for a day in Washington. If you have never gone with us on a bus trip, you have a fun time in store

Hopefully every member of the club has signed up to help at one time or another at our annual LANCOPEX show. This is our main event of the year and EVERYONE needs to have a part in it.

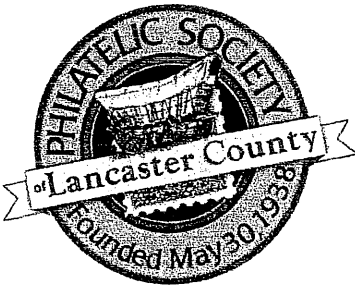
Our Host for April is Dick SHAEFER. We are all excited, because we heard through the grapevine Dick's WIFE is a good baker! !

--Marilyn Shirley

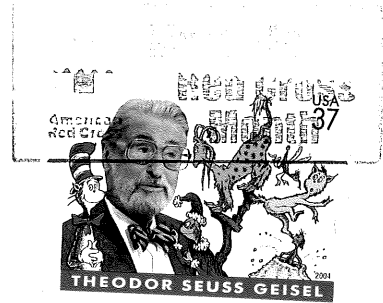
Editor's Notes

It is important that you attend the April 14 meeting! Everyone is needed at the meeting so that the work assignments for the April 24-25 LANCOPEX can be completed. There are other reasons to attend too: Marilyn has arranged a great speaker: Mr. Bob Lamb, one of the senior officials from the American Philatelic Society. Finally, Dick Shaefer is the host—and his wife reportedly makes great cookies! So be there.

Decision time has arrived for the planned trip to the National Stamp Museum, scheduled for 12 June: Charles Kilgore reports that as of 1 April only 20 members have signed up for the trip. We must have 38 in order to break even. The deadline for a final decision on the trip is 12 May—the date of our May meeting.

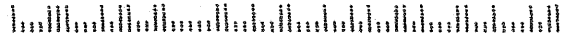


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Editor's Notes (continued)

The tentative schedule for our visit to the National Stamp Museum has us leaving at 7:30 a.m., arriving in Washington about 10:30 a.m.; departing Washington at 5:30 p.m., and arriving back in Lancaster at 8:30 p.m. The cost of the bus ride is \$20 per person—and keep in mind that non-members can make the trip.

For those members who were intrigued by Bob Noble and Woody Hann's splendid presentation on precancels, the 29 March issue of *Linn's* has a lengthy article on precancels: "The ABCs of collecting United States precancels." I will post my copy of the article on one of the bulletin boards at the April meeting.

--Bill Snyder