



**DECEMBER 2004**

**Editor: Bill Snyder**

### **From The President's Desk**

One of the things that makes our club very special is the willingness of members to "step up to the plate" and serve. Our current officers will be retiring and new officers will be taking over their duties. On behalf of my officers I wish to thank everyone that supported us in our many activities throughout the year. It has been an exciting year and a privilege to serve the club. I encourage each member to continue their support of the new officers.

Has anyone noticed that Peter and Victoria Billis has been missing our meetings lately? Well, the mystery is solved! Mr. and Mrs. Peter Billis have become the proud parents of a son, STEFANO PETER BILLIS. Stefano arrived on November 1, 2004, and weighed 7 pounds. Our congratulations to the proud parents!

The Planning Committee for the December Holiday Party has met and everything is arranged. We will have our party on December 8, 2004, at the regular meeting place. Cost for the evening will be \$5.00 per person. Husbands, wives, and friends are welcome. The party will begin at 7:00 p.m. A buffet will be served—so bring a good appetite.

Carol Petersen has graciously consented to present a program on Christmas Seals at our Holiday Party. Carol is a collector of Christmas Seals and Christmas stamps, and she is very knowledgeable on this subject.

If anyone has any ideas or programs they would like to see presented in the coming year, please let our new President, Al Shaub, know about it. This is YOUR club and the club will be as great as YOU make it. So, hand in those ideas.

**THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN 2004.**

**Marilyn**

**STAMP CLUB MINUTES, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2004**

- 1. President Marilyn Shirley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with 32 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as stated in the newsletter. The Treasurer's report showed a balance in the checking account of \$5,704.51. In response to a suggestion that the club purchase an additional CD, the Treasurer advised that approximately \$2,500 of the balance was committed for the purchase of display frames for use at the club's annual stamp show. Bill Greiner also noted that about \$500 was needed to pay the 2005 rent on the Maple Grove building. In view of these anticipated expenses, the Club's members concluded that a CD purchase was unnecessary.**
- 2. Dave Strayer won the monthly drawing but was not present at the meeting. The December drawing will be \$15.00.**
- 3. The nominees for Vice President (Lou DiFelice), Secretary (Bob Stevenson), and Treasurer (Bill Greiner) were elected by unanimous vote.**
- 4. Marilyn Shirley reminded the members that the Christmas party would be held at Maple Grove on 8 December. The cost is \$5 per person, with the money to be collected at the door. A sign up list of tentative attendees was circulated.**
- 5. A proposal by Jim Boyles that the club donate \$50 to the APS for renovation of the Match Factory was approved. Jim also urged the membership to begin thinking about assistants/replacements for members who handle the organizing work for the club's annual stamp show. Members who now perform those tasks, Jim noted, will be unable to continue that work in the near future.**
- 6. Carol Petersen presented a program on Christmas stamps. The program was highly informative and well received by the members. Carol will present a program on Christmas Seals for the Club's Christmas party.**
- 7. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

**William P. Snyder, Recorder**

## **WHAT DO YOU BUY A STAMP COLLECTOR FOR CHRISTMAS?**

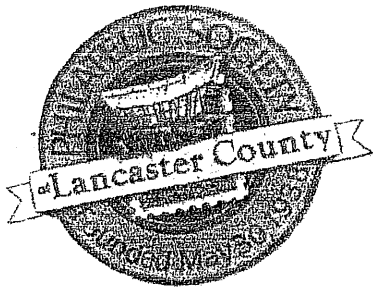
Unless you are intimately familiar with the recipient's collection and his or her collecting interests, it is probably best to avoid stamps. But there are several other items that might be welcomed by collectors.

For a beginning or slightly advanced collector, a good choice would be Linn's Complete Stamp Collecting Basics. The author, Michael Baadke, is the editor of *Scott Stamp Monthly* and a long time contributor to Linn's. The 400 page book draws heavily on the monthly Refresher Course columns that Baadke wrote for Linn's. Black and white illustrations grace almost every page, and even a moderately sophisticated collector will find items of interest. The book is available from Amos Advantage at \$13.99 (\$11.99 for Amos Advantage members). To order, call 1-800-572-6885 or [www.amosadvantage.com](http://www.amosadvantage.com).

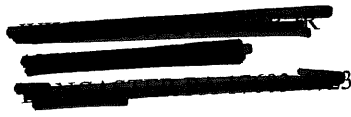
Collecting interests often change over time and collectors—and sometimes their heirs—must deal with the problem of disposing of a collection. A guide for doing that is the subject of a useful book: Stephen R. Datz, Top Dollar Paid: The Complete Guide to Selling Your Stamps. First published in 1996, the book offers sound advice to sellers, and is illustrated with many examples from the author's experience as a stamp dealer. It is available from Linn's and costs \$14.95 (\$13.99 for Amos Advantage members). To order, call the 800 number listed in # 1 above.

A perforation gauge is a valuable identification tool, needed by all collectors who have advanced beyond the beginner state. The best available gauge is the Precision U.S. Specialty Multi-gauge. This device is actually ten measuring devices rolled into one and includes, in addition to two perforation gauges, measures of grill and design size and a cancellations diameter gauge. It costs \$15.99 (\$13.99 for Amos Advantage members) and is available at Linn's at the 800 number listed in # 1 above.

Does your family like board games? If so, then you might take a look at The Patriot Challenge Game. First introduced in 2003, The Patriot Challenge can be played by as few as three and as many as six persons aged 10 and above. The game involves answering questions about the United States and its history. Three levels of difficulty allow the game to match the knowledge of the players. None of the questions involve stamps—although stamps are used as illustrations on many of the questions. The game costs \$34.99 (or \$29.99 for Amos Advantage members). The game is also available at the 800 number listed in # 1 above.



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### DECEMBER STAMP EVENTS

**December 5—Greater York Stamp Fair. Commonwealth Fire, co.,  
2045 N. Sherman Street. 10 am-4 pm. 717-755-3067.**

**December 5—Baltimore Friendly Bourse, Holiday Inn, Timonium  
Plaza, 2004 Greenspring Drive. 10 am-4 pm. 800-364-2948, x300.**

**December 12—Suburban Maryland Stamp & Cover Show. Best  
Western Gateway Hotel, I-270 exit # 68 & W. Montgomery Street,  
Rockville. 10 am-5 pm. 800-560-5310**