

**MARCH 2005**

**Editor: Bill Snyder**

**A Message From the President**

Last month's meeting was devoted to topical collecting, an area of philately with virtually no limits and the potential to build a very respectable collection at a modest cost. Within this vast sea of collecting opportunity is the topic of patriotic covers.

Stan Raugh, a philatelic friend from the Reading Stamp Club, wrote an excellent summary article on patriotic covers. To share some of Stan's knowledge with you his article is reprinted on page 2.

Are you looking for a new collection interest to pursue? Why not give thought to patriotic covers.

Best regards, ***AL***

**HOST LIST FOR 2005**

- March 9.....Lou DiFelice
- April 13.....Dick Shaefer
- May 11.....Paul Petersen
- June 8.....Eleanor & Richard Wheeler
- July 13.....Diane Meek (if needed)
- September 14.....Mike Shirley
- October 12.....Lucy Eyster
- November 9.....Bill Greiner

## "Patriotic Covers"

# When America's envelopes went to war!

By Stan Raugh

They didn't stand at attention.

They were passive in war zones.

They never planned a single military effort.

But they helped win wars. What are they? Patriotic covers.

In philatelic parlance, a cover is an envelope. And patriotic covers are envelopes with patriotic artwork and themes.

First popular in the Civil War. ...and drafted by both sides... they saw action in the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II in great numbers.

In fact, if you were old enough to send or receive mail in the early 1940's, you probably recall them first hand.

Today they are great collector's items. A few select covers will draw over \$1,000 in auctions. Yet many can be bought for less than \$10. I have some nice ones I got for a buck or two.

Of course, a lot has to do with the style and quality of the artwork as well as the war.

During the Civil War, paper became scarce in the South, and particularly nice covers with good themes are very expensive. Not uncommon, but the demand is high.

Union covers are far more common. Top grade covers with popular themes may run two-to--three hundred dollars or more. Cheap, considering even moderate Confederate covers usually bring multiples of that amount.

More pedestrian, but nice quality Union covers can be had for \$75-150. Spanish-American War patriotics are not that common, but not well collected so they are more reasonable. World War I is also less popular.

With a few exceptions, most World War II patriotics sell for \$2 to \$10. I personally recommend them to young collectors as a good buy likely to appreciate in the future. A youngster on an allowance over a few years can build an interesting collection.

Patriotic covers can be divided into many sub-areas of collecting.

My favorites are those poking fun at the enemy. One neat item I have shows Hider being kicked by a mule with the words, "Heel Hitler." Another cover in my collection portrays Hitler as the devil.

Union Civil War patriotics depicting Confederate President Jefferson Davis being hung for treason are not that scarce. A popular idea during the war, Davis expected he might be hung when captured. Fortunately, interest in the war in the North ended almost as quickly as the conflict itself and people lost interest in punishing the imprisoned Confederate leader. I often have wondered if he saw any of the covers showing him hanging and what he thought.

## **Minutes, LCPS Meeting, February 9, 2005**

The treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

The minutes from the January meeting were accepted as published in the February newsletter.

A sign-up sheet was passed around so we can track attendance at the regular monthly meetings. Lou DiFelice will keep track of monthly attendance.

Al reported on the January swap meet as a very pleasant, sociable evening. Our next swap meet will be Thursday, February 24.

Jim Boyles gave a brief update on Lancopex 05 preparations. A Patron's list was passed around and 13 members signed up. A "Stamp Camp" for youth members will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. This is sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service.

We discussed the possibility of using a wheeled cart to carry the heavy panel boxes into the show for set-up. Several members said they have a wheeled unit that might be helpful.

We also reviewed the auction process and agreed to raise the limit of entries per person from 5 to 10, and to have a minimum value of \$1.00. It was also agreed that when a member wants to offer a large quantity of items for auction, a separate auction would be held.

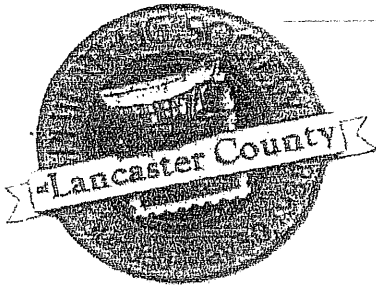
Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Wheeler, Secretary

### **Stamp Shows**

**New York**—Postage Stamp Mega Event, 10 am-6 pm, March 3-4-5;  
10 am-4 pm, March 6, Madison Square Garden. 516-759-7000.

**BuxMont 2005**—10 am-5 pm March 5; 10 am-4 pm, March 6,  
Benjamin H. Wilson Senior Citizen Center, 580 Delmont Avenue,  
Warminster, PA. Take exit 27, Willow Grove, on PA Turnpike. 215-549-  
9998.

**Pittsburgh**—Cranberry Stamp and Postcard Show, 10 am-4 pm,  
March 6. Sheraton Hotel 910 Sheraton Drive. 412-851-1674.



19 Circle Road  
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### March 2005 Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9, at the Maple Grove Community Center. The program is a slide show, lick and stick night, and technical presentation. The buy, sell, trade, and socialize meeting is on Thursday, March 24. at the Grace Baptist Church.