

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 982
LANCASTER, PA 17603

MEETINGS - 2nd Wednesday of each month
STAUFFER MANSION at 7:30 P.M.
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Next Meeting Wed., October 10, 1990

VOL 1 NO 3

FOUNDED MAY 20, 1938

NOVEMBER 1990

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We now have a new set of by-laws governing our society. These by-laws among other things set up committees to enhance operations. We have a stamp show coming up in April which will require many parts to be put together to make LANCOPEX 91 a success. At our last meeting we had nominations for society officers.

What do all of these things have in common? THEY REQUIRE VOLUNTEERS. Believe me, I know how dangerous it can be to volunteer. Having spent twenty-two years in the Air Force, the idea of never volunteering for anything is well instilled in me. And yet I know without volunteers the new organization of this society or the next stamp show will not be a success. We need people to get involved. I don't mean anyone is expected to give a major portion of their week or even day to this society. That is what causes burnout and that is not what is needed. What we need is a couple of hours during the month to help with the workload.

Don't worry about the work. Most of it is simple and if you get stuck, a simple phone call will get you help. Most of the preparation for the stamp show is things that have been done before, so you will have a foundation to work from. Material has to be updated as necessary and then sent at the proper time. Most of the work will be accomplished this fall so that everything is pretty well firmed up by January. We will avoid last minute panic to get things done.

Working on the committees that have been set up by the new by-laws is longer term, but shouldn't take a lot of time each month. If you see an area that interests you, let someone know and you will be put in touch with the chairman of that committee.

Remember, your club is only as good as all of us make it. No contribution is too small, no idea insignificant. We need to make this club grow, in membership, in programs, in contributions to the hobby of stamp collecting. WILL YOU HELP!?!

* * * * *

Efforts to revitalize the club moved another step forward when Truysde and Bill Greiner provided name badges for attendees. Familiar faces now have names associated with them. Conversations are more readily begun and flow more freely. Incidentally, there were 19 collectors in attendance.

CHRISTMAS PARTY SET FOR DECEMBER 12, 1990

The annual Christmas Party will be held on the regular meeting night, the second Wednesday of the month. Tickets will be \$9.00 for each guest, members are free. Checks must be made out to L.C.P.S. and received by December 1. If you do not plan on bringing your check to the November meeting, please mail it to Sarah Brown, 1623 Wilson Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603. We expect to have a great time. The menu will be beef and turkey served family style, with all the trimmings. The program will feature Dick Colberg, Stamp Columnist for the New Era. We will be entertained by Elsie Hollinger at the piano followed by a sing-along. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. sharp. There will be a drawing for fantastic door prizes as well.

IN PASSING

We read with interest that the local postcard club was looking for new members via an ad in the ADVERTISER. Later we learned that their active membership is 97 and their goal is to reach 100. Boy, do we need publicity!

"THE SOCIETY"

by Jim Lyman

The "society" was formed in 1827 but because of the scarcity of stamps issued during the next thirteen years, putting together a program to interest its members at the monthly meetings was most vexing. The gathering would be called to order at 7:00 p.m. and by 7:25 p.m. most of the members, having discussed war, politics and environmental issues without finding either agreement, or solutions, would have departed. A major break-through came about in 1840 with the issuance of the first postage stamp. Re-joining was understandably great and became estatic the following year when the first CTO's (cancelled to order) stamps were placed on sale by Imaphonee, a British Protectorate in Central Africa.

An issue consisting of twenty-seven values to the ten dollar denomination was released in extremely limited quantities. The more conservative of the country's postal officials argued that thirty-nine million sets would satisfy their immediate postal needs with a few sets left over for foreign collectors, mostly in the U.S. They stifled objections to this moderate policy by the more militant postal authorities by pointing out that they could over-print the entire issue the following year and sell them to collectors at an even greater profit than the original set. Since only the local witch doctor could read and write, many variations and unintentional errors occurred in their production. Collectors desirous of completion went into debt, some even losing their homes in the quest for the most elusive imperf vertical errors. Membership in the society increased dramatically as collectors hungered for more information of this wonderful set.

At first, everyone would wet the glue on the backs of these superbly cancelled stamps and paste them in their albums. The collectors soon became aware that once affixed to the page, the stamps could not be rearranged when still another rare variety was found.

Many years passed while the collectors struggled to find a suitable hinge that would not tear a hole in the album page when the stamp was removed.

Just about the time someone invented the peelable hinge, a small group of affluent collectors in the society began paying a premium for cancelled stamps with pristine gum and thus altered the method of collecting stamps forever. Early attempts at developing a stamp mount proved disasterous. The material used in the mount shrunk over a period of time and the stamps became permanently encased and only the newest, unsuspecting collector would buy a "never hinged" cancelled stamp already mounted. If one were able to extract the stamp from the mount at the expense of a few detached perforations, the collector discovered that (a) the stamp was now concave, (b) convex, or (c) corrugated like a French fry.

A number of the charter members of the society are still active today and can verify the difficulties experienced by their fellow collectors in the early days., In fact, several hold important offices in the society. Joe Stamper, the current president, serving consecutive one-year terms since 1937 regrets that he must step down this year as he is entering a nursing home and the residents are not allowed out after dark.

OCTOBER PROGRAM NOTES

Twenty-two lots were offered in the October club auction. Three lots, consisting of two U.S. lots with reserves of \$15.00 and \$30.00 and one world mix with a \$5.00 minimum received no bids. The remaining lots in the \$2.00 and \$4.00 range realized \$62.00. Some nice MNH Canada and Korea went for 1/3 Scott. Bob Allison served capably as our auctioneer.

* * * * *

Highway sign: "Smile -- you're on radar."
-- AAA Smileage