

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

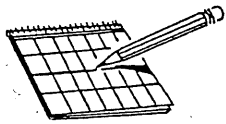
MEETINGS - 2nd Wednesday of each month
STAUFFER MANSION at 7:30 P.M.
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Next Meeting-Wednesday, JANUARY 8, 1992

For information about our organization
call (717) 872-2479 or (717) 394-0186

VOL 3 NO 1

FOUNDED MAY 20, 1938

January 1992



From the President

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Because of the many activities surrounding each of us during the holiday season, the newsletter staff extends a vacation to the president for this column for the month of January.

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The Club has a new staff of officers for the 1992 year.

- PRESIDENT LESLIE BOTTE
- VICE-PRESIDENT DANIEL ANSPACH
- SECRETARY JAMES LYMAN
- TREASURER BENJAMIN HELLER



REFRESHMENT HOST FOR THE JANUARY MEETING IS OTT KIRCHNER.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

We were informed by Truylde Griener that three members were in perfect attendance in 1991 at all meetings, including the Picnic and Christmas Dinner. We hope to award their faithfulness with gold stars at the next meeting. Should they extend their record through 1991, they can look forward to receiving an Oak Leaf Cluster to add to their stars.

Well deserved congratulations to:

DICK SHAEFER

JIM BOYLES

LESLIE BOTTE

PROGRAM

The January Program will consist of a Business Meeting lead by our new President, Leslie Botte. After the meeting, we will have auction.

Everyone is requested to bring at least one item for sale. Members are not to exceed five items. Try to keep your sale items "affordable". The more members participating in the auction, the more interesting the auction becomes. Check your "extras" for Saleables"!!!



Christmas Party

Those of you who were unable to attend the club's annual affair will have to make do with a recapitulation of the evening's festivities. The activities began with validated parking in the Hotel Brunswick's parking garage. We were ushered into a spacious room, tastefully decorated to foster the Yuletide Spirit, the center of attraction being a huge, ornamented Christmas tree. On the walls were larger than life-sized paintings of women through history. From my vantage point I noted women dressed in finery representing Greek, Roman, Victorian, modern styles and there were more.

Each table setting was graced with the program and a party favor consisting of a mini cup of mixed nuts set on a felt star with a flower decoration. I describe these in detail because everything was handmade by Sarah Brown who spent endless hours of preparation to assure us of an evening to remember. An attractive waitress was there to take your drink orders, available from a paying bar. In the hour prior to dinner being served, we munched on tasty fish fillets, mini egg rolls and meatballs along with fresh vegetables and dip.

The evening officially began with greetings, welcoming everyone, by Sarah Brown. She then called on Dick Shaefer who gave the invocation. Dick seemed moved by the fact that his participation marked the official end of his tenure as President of the club. Sarah then introduced Elsie Hollinger, an accomplished musician to play musical selections while dinner was being served. A look of dismay crossed Elsie's face when she realized the foot pedals didn't work and the notes could not be sustained. Elsie must think she is star-crossed because for last year's party Sarah came up with a small portable organ keyboard when the VFW informed her they no longer had a piano. Elsie, as a good trooper, played exceedingly well on a type of instrument she had never touched before. But back to this year.

The entrees of Turkey or London Broil were delicious and served hot! The portions were so generous that many guests could not finish everything on their plates. Incidentally, the temperature in the room was comfortably warm, contrasted with conditions at earlier affairs.

Dick Shaefer introduced Mr. Patrick R. Donohoe, Postmaster of Lancaster, who offered an entertaining and informative description of current procedures and hi-tech changes that will occur before the end of the century. He then fielded questions from the gathering which ranged from why does the post office issue so many new stamps (200 different stamps projected for 1992), to why does the post office see fit to obliterate the stamp instead of applying a light circular date cancellation as most foreign mail comes through to the U.S.

Mary Husson, who possesses a lovely voice, led the assemblage in a sing-a-long to the piano accompaniment of Elsie. The proceedings were interrupted by the appearance of Santa Claus complete with his sack of gifts, which he then distributed with everyone receiving a box of delicious chocolate candies. A possible catastrophe was averted when Santa didn't arrive on time as Sarah had to wander the hotel halls in search of him. She found him on the first floor while we were partying on the third. Seems that Santa having dressed on the second floor went in the wrong direction. But Pip Wilcox made an impressive Santa, full of good humor and cheer. He later had everyone take a number and awarded an envelope full of U.S. plate blocks which was won by Jim Lyman.

Jim Lyman then introduced the Man-of-the-Year, citing his accomplishments so that everyone became aware of his identity before naming him. JIM BOYLES, was a gracious recipient, thanking everyone for the honor.

Jim Lyman then read a poem, Christmas Hash by Ogden Nash, an amusing light-hearted look at Christmas preparations which fit in with the mood of the evening. Sarah Brown then introduced the current and new officers of the club who stood for a moment to be recognized.

The evening came to a conclusion with the drawing of several door prizes and the singing of Jingle Bells set to special lyrics, again lead by Mary Husson with Elsie Hollinger at the piano.



COLLECTION PROTECTION

When was the last time you gave any thought to protecting your stamp collection against fire or theft? We collectors normally don't think of it until the worst happens and by then it's too late.

First and foremost, insure your collection, no matter how large or small it is. Read your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to see if your collection is covered. In more cases than not, it won't be. Some insurance companies may provide a rider for an additional fee. Look through a stamp newspaper or magazine for advertisers who specialize in stamp collection insurance. If you are a member of the American Philatelic Society, insurance can be purchased through them. A \$25.--- policy can be purchased for under \$100 yearly.

Create a written inventory of your stamp holdings. This can be as brief or extensive as you wish. For expensive singles, sets or covers, photocopy them. Color photocopies would be best. Make at least two separate inventory copies. Keep one at home and one with a relative or in a bank safety deposit box. Consider keeping valuable items at the bank always.

Your home should be made as burglar and fire proof as possible. Remember to always lock your doors and windows when you leave. Deadlocks offer the best protection. A safe may not offer full security. Thieves can break into most home models if given enough time. If it's small enough they will

take the entire safe. Do not use a "fire-proof" safe. Most such models ooze a flame retardand liquid when heated to protect the contents. While your stamps won't burn, they will be ruined. Install fire and smoke detectors near your collection and remember to change the battery when necessary.

Lastly, don't openly advertise the fact that you may have a valuable collection at home. Be discreet in discussing your holidays. Having a bumper sticker that says "World's Greatest Stamp Collector" may be just the invitation a burglar is looking for.

Take some time to consider these and other ideas in safeguarding your collection. Remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

-- Thomas Fortunato
"The Circuit"



PHILATELIST'S PSALM

Stamp collecting is my hobby, I shall not be bored.
It maketh me to do research on far places.
It causeth me to correspond with odd people.
It keepth me alert.
It leadeth me into areas of understanding for curiosity's sake.
Yea, though I live through a Winter of inclement weather,
I will fear no boredom, for my stamps are with me.
They provideth me a means of escaping from the tensions of my responsibilities.
They filleth my house with books.
My cash runneth lower.
Surely interest and knowledge shall follow me all the days of my life.
And I will be listed in the ranks of the Philatelists forever.

... Neal Clarke, "Circuit"

A T T E N T I O N M E M B E R S

NO PERCENTAGE

It's that time of year again!! As you make your New Year's Resolution to have a "perfect attendance" record for the 1991 club meetings, you might keep in mind your club membership is now renewable.

January 1, 1992 all members are asked to pay their dues to the club. Membership fees are currently listed as \$5.00 per year.

Very few investments will give you as good a return on your money as does the "L.C.P.S. Membership" investment. If you cannot make our January meeting, please send your check for \$5.00 to --

Mr. Ben Heller
327 Harvest Drive
Lititz, PA 17543

Please make all checks payable to L.C.P.S.

Two rabbits were being chased by a pack of wolves in the woods.

One rabbit said to the other, "Let's get down in this hole and stay there until we outnumber them."

The other rabbit said, "Keep running ... I'm your brother."

---- Smileage

By the time you read this item, snowbirds Sara Brown and Jim Lyman with their respective spouses will be in Sunny Florida. Expect their return for the May meeting. In their absence, Marilyn Shirley and Michael Shirley will keep the newsletter presses running!

