

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, October 14, 1992

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

VOL 3 NO 9

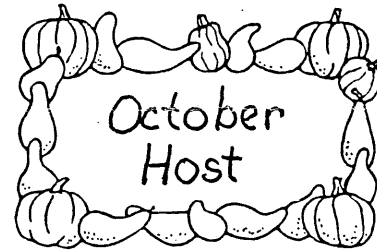
FOUNDED MAY 20, 1938

October 1992

LOGO COMPETITION THIS MONTH!

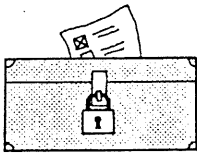
Entrants of the Logo Contest will be on display this upcoming meeting. Be sure to attend the meeting so you can vote for the logo of your choice for the Newsletter.

If you have not submitted your idea, you still have a few days before the meeting to get your sketch down on paper. Paste your drawing on a white surface 8-1/2 by 11.



The Greiners, Bill and Truude, graciously volunteered to be our co-hosts for the October Meeting.

Truude and Bill were hosts for the March meeting this year. We really appreciate their willingness to host the club twice this year!

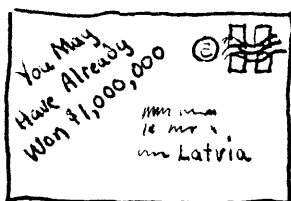


ELECTIONS

It's that time of year again. We will be electing a new vice president, secretary, and treasurer at the November meeting. The incumbent president, Lesley Botte, will automatically be succeeded by vice president Dan Anspach. At the September meeting, a nominating committee composed of Marilyn Shirley and Dan Anspach was selected to solicit suitable candidates for the three elective offices. Hopefully, you will give thought to being a candidate this year if you have never held an office in the club. It would be great if we had a choice of at least two for each one of the offices.

PROGRAM

The program for October will be a business meeting and auction. Members may submit up to five lots. Five percent of each winning bid will be paid to the club treasurer by the owner of the lot, thus benefiting the club. Try to keep your sale items affordable. Check your extras, bring them to the meeting and convert them to CASH. You may receive enough to enable you to subscribe to the magazine, "U.S.STAMPS".



If your name is being circulated through philatelic or collector circles in general, you are no doubt receiving mail from Eastern European, African and Asian sources wishing to exchange stamps with you. Other requests include records, cassettes, video tapes and magazines. The following article, written by an experienced collector in overseas trades, offers some excellent ideas should you decide to send material on its often perilous trip to the four corners of the world. Does anyone know the origin of the expression "four corners of the world"? Recognition in the next issue of the newsletter for the member providing the answer. The article by Chad Weighbor (ISWSC) follows:

A recent issue of THE CIRCUIT addressed cases of letters containing stamps getting lost in Eastern Europe. This indeed is a problem, as it is in any area where many people are in desperate situation because of inflation, shortages and other immense changes. (Still, to be sure, only a small percentage of mail does not arrive.)

However, based on my experiences as a regular trader with Eastern Europeans, both members of the society and non-members, I feel I can offer a few tips to people interested in acquiring material from this increasingly interesting and challenging area:

** First, and most important, don't make your envelope look too inviting. Rather than putting on 10 different low-value stamps, use a subdued higher value block; this is less likely to attract attention and is of more value to the recipient.

** Use an inexpensive envelope, even a recycled one or one plucked from junk mail.

** Write the address rather than typing it or, far worse, using a fancy computer-generated label. These seem to suggest affluence to many East Europeans. Similarly, do not use a fancy return address label. I use addresses cut out from junk mail envelopes providing a suitably seedy look. I do put them on the back of the envelope so as not to ruin the cover if it is otherwise presentable.

** Seal all envelopes as tightly as possible. All my Eastern European Correspondents seal their envelopes as well as possible and then often seal them with tape, too. I assume this is because an open corner may invite closer examination.

** Finally, do not send a lot of valuable stamps at once. Break up big lots and space mailings a few days apart. If you must send valuable lots, use registered mail.

Following these simple rules is no guarantee of success, of course, but they probably will help. No doubt one day I will have an unfortunate experience, but I have both mailed and received scores of letters and packages from Eastern Europe and so far have not lost one.



**We're a Friendly
Bunch!**

Eighteen members were in attendance at the September meeting. SUPPORT YOUR CLUB - MAKE AN EFFORT TO BE THERE - IT'S ONLY TWO HOURS, ONCE A MONTH!!!

The program originally scheduled for September has been moved back to November because of the unavailability of the guest speaker, Victor Krevins, on the meeting night. Instead, Lesley and Richard Botte brought in cartons of stamp reference books from their personal library and passed them around after first describing the nature of the book, its relative rarity, how it came into their possession and in many cases cautioning members not to finger the plates in the book lest the oils on their skin cause a chemical reaction with the paper, drastically reducing the value of the book. Some of the books were in such great detail that you would have to devote years of study to master the contents. A few were of coffee table size weighing perhaps ten pounds. A few highly prized specialized catalogues were last printed in 1955 or 1961 and long out of print, but containing information you would never find in Scotts'. Certainly, the Bottes' have a love of books per se and an eye for the investment value of rare stamp tomes.

Dick Schaefer told a story about an auction he had attended where someone may have slipped a book of plate blocks into a box of stamp supplies because the lot of plate blocks never was offered and the box of supplies was actively bid way above the normal price such a lot would realize. Dick cautioned members to never offer valuable material in an estate auction on the premises of one's home as it is impossible to watch one's treasures with many people milling around and security almost non-existent. This story led to other accounts by members of their unfavorable auction experiences. The consensus was to do your homework, study the lots you are interested in, set a maximum price you want to go, factoring in the 10% buyers fee and 6% PA sales tax, and don't let your emotions cause you to get into a bidding frenzy.

Jim Boyles passed around an issue of a new stamp magazine, "U. S. STAMPS". It is similar to the APS Magazine in size, number of pages, glossy paper

and full of articles most suitable to a U. S. Specialist. Subscription rates are \$15.00 per year, 2 years for \$28.00. If five LCPS members subscribe, the club gets a free subscription. See Jim for application or a closer look at a current copy.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sarah Brown, citing tired blood, stressed the need for new blood to take over the Christmas Party arrangements. Paul Westcott and Sarah were the planners and movers for several years and recently, Sarah has worked on her own. She is willing to give her assistance to anyone who will take over but cautions that unless others step forward, there will be no Christmas Party this year. The Brunswick Hotel cannot hold a date open in December for too much longer. All those who have attended our Christmas Parties, especially at the Brunswick, are aware that our Holiday Festivities won't be quite the same this year without it.

WANTED

I am searching for a catalogue other than Scott, that has more information on Imperial Chinese Stamps. If you can be of any help, please let me know by calling (717) 394-1676.

Lucy Eyster

PHILATELIC CONTEST REMINDER

This is the month you are to submit your article on the contest stamps. This need not be a lengthy article, just a short story or whatever you desire. The stories will be judged under two categories -- FACTUAL and FICTIONAL. You may use one or more stamps in your story, as it suits your purpose. The newsletter staff urges EVERYONE to submit something - no matter how short or long.

A monetary award and a reading of the article will be part of the Christmas Party Program. So, members, get your pen in hand, put on your "thinking cap" and start writing!!!



— UP-COMING STAMP SHOWS —

Scranton-Wilkes Barre Stamp Show
October 18 -- Ramada Inn, Clarks Summit
10 am - 5 pm

SUSQPEX '92
Stamp and Postcard Show
Camp Hill Shopping Mall
October 17-18 -- 10 am - 5 pm

LEBPEX '92
October 30-31 -- Lebanon Valley Mall
Route 422, West of Lebanon
Friday - noon to 10 pm
Saturday 10 am - 8 pm



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Dan Anspach, Vice-President
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