

MEETING -- 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
STAUFFER MANSION -- 7:30 P.M.
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
NEXT MEETING-Wed. April 14, 1993

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION
CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717)872-2479 OR
MIKE SHIRLEY(717)394-0186

VOL. 4, NO. 4 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 APRIL 1993



THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED TO THE
MEMORY OF OTHMAR KIRCHNER.

Ott was a faithful member of our Philatelic Society for many years. He was an inspiration to many of us with his pleasant disposition and his willingness to work for the betterment of the club. A vivacious and optimistic member who was known to encourage and promote the hobby of philately, Ott will be sorely missed by all of us. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his wife, Irene.



From the President's Desk

like this time of year. I come out of hibernation and start buying more stamps, much to my wife's dismay. Our stamp show and others are coming up in the coming weeks and everyone

will be looking to fill in those spaces, in our albums with bargains. Stamp shows, for me, are usually the best place to find those bargains. After a slow winter, most dealers seem to like turning over some of their stock to boost their cash flow for future restock. Those are the dealers I look for. The ones with buckets or boxes of mint singles or sheets for face value or less. These dealers are most often willing to cater to any topic or stamp subject you may want to see. With a little haggling you might just walk away with both parties smiling. Anyway, we have lots of last minute prepping to do for our show. Don't be afraid to lend a hand when needed. We do have a good fellowship of collectors in the club, and I look forward to attending our meetings. As always, new members and guests are most welcome to attend.

Dan Anspach, President

APRIL PROGRAM

There are many items to be addressed in regard to our upcoming LANCOPEX '93 STAMP SHOW AND EXHIBITION. We will all be busy preparing for the show at this meeting. Hopefully after last month's speaker, Dick Coleberg, you have been encouraged to enter an exhibit in the show.



You will find some dandy delightful delectables on the table supporting our coffee urn. These are supplied by our hostess for the month of April -- MARY HUSSON. (Now we know why Fred has that "contented" look about him)

CREATE WEARABLE JEWELRY FROM STAMPS

(The following article appeared in the Ft. Myers Press. We know there are talented hobbyists in our club who might want to try creating your own originals. Why not start by writing to the Winchels' for more details.)

With a stamp, colored paper and craft supplies, artist Barbara Winchel of Frostproof creates unique pieces of wearable jewelry. At the same time she gives the stamp hobby a sparkling new dimension. The Winchels offer an eclectic array of stunningly beautiful jewelry for those wanting something refreshing and different -- a touch of class.

It starts with just the right stamp. Barbara, who obviously has an eye for these things, scours stamp shows and visits stamp dealers for miniature works of art. And she finds them -- reproductions of masterpieces by Velasquez, da Vinci and others, as well as modern art and views of nature.

In the studio she matches her finds with appropriate scraps of paper, the kind of odds and ends you and I would toss in the garbage. A couple of layers of progressively smaller pieces of colored foil, art stock or wrapping paper are placed on a thin plastic backing. Then the stamp,

shorn of perforations and selvage, commands center position, creating a visual effect similar to a nicely double- or triple-matted art piece, but in miniature. To add sparkle, she lightly touches the stamp with a mixture of glue and fine glitter in strategic places.

Next, her husband Steve covers the ensemble with a layer of clear epoxy and, when that dries, sands the edges smooth and straight. Gluing a clasp to the back, he finishes off a pin. Attaching wires to two matching pieces renders a pair of avant-garde earrings. The man's bolo tie emerges when the corresponding hardware and tie are attached.

Barbara and Steve market their handmade pins, earrings and bolo ties at weekend craft fairs. Jewelry is reasonably priced at \$15 per piece or \$20 per pair for the earrings.

You may wish to write them for a list of available pieces or to have a favorite stamp custom made into a work of wearable art. Their address is P.O. Box 1289, Frostproof, Fla. 33843.



The LCPS would like to extend a "SPECIAL THANKS" to Dick Colberg for his very informative and educational message last month on preparing exhibits for competition.

Don't miss Dick's weekly column POSTMARK LANCASTER in the Lancaster New Era. You'll learn a lot!

OUR FINAL ENTRY IN THE LCPS WRITING
CONTEST IS PUBLISHED FOR THE CLUB
MEMBERS' ENJOYMENT.

ONCE UPON A TIME
by
SHIRLEY AND EARL GRUBB

It's time to get dressed, sir."

"Sir." No answer.

Pierre stood watching the man who sat with elbow resting on the desk, chin in hand. Seemingly lost in thought. Earlier he had eagerly shown Pierre specimens from his stamp collection that he had been assembling. Specimens from his 1964-1966 collection. He pointed out a few of his favorites, Prince Albert I who loved his yacht christened Princess Alice. Another was of an 18th Century Casino. And one to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first airplane rally, depicting Ancient Egyptian Message Transmitters and a 20th Century Rocket. He had commented that the Egyptians probably had anticipated space travel in their elaborate funeral preparations. And he had laughed when he noticed a stamp of 1960 issue of the reigning monarch, first issued in 1955. But now he sat silent as the breeze stirred the stamps.

Pierre quietly approached the man sitting at a desk facing the open doors to a large veranda. The view of the beautiful blue-green sea was picture-perfect. The handsome gentleman with the thick white hair looked up as Pierre touched his shoulder. He did not answer. Just sighed.

It's time to get dressed, sir."

"Yes, I know" the man replied. "What should I wear today, Pierre?"

"Well, sir, you promised to take the children sailing after your morning visit to the chapel, so I'll lay out your usual sailing jeans and boat sneakers."

"Thanks, but it doesn't seem quite appropriate attire for visiting the chapel."

"I'm sure it will be all right, sir. I checked the schedules today and there will be only one or two buses in the square before noon so I believe you can slip in and out of the chapel probably unnotices....especially dressed in jeans and sneakers."

The man stood up, stretched and smiled. "Very well, Pierre. Let's proceed. I have something special I want to tell the Princess today."

"Time to get dressed, hon."

"Hon?" No answer.

Isaac stood watching the woman who sat at the small table on the balcony. She was obviously occupied with her own thoughts as she stared at the beautiful sea just across the boulevard from their hotel. Rhoda was lost in thought. She had been studying their maps and guide books and itinerary for the day. For the hundredth time, was this really happening to them? Yes! Here they were having coffee on the balcony of the Grand Regency Hotel on the Promenade Des Anglais in the city of Nice on the southern coast of France. Facing the beautiful blue Mediterranean with the mountains, actually the Alps, all around. One of the most famous places in the world known as the Cote d'Azur..

They were so lucky. The trip to the French Riviera had been a dream for many years, and now they were here. They had spent two days exploring Nice and what fun it had been. Sometimes they would go by motorcoach along the coast to Monaco and the famous city of Monte Carlo. She rose and stepped into the room.

"Hey, hon, maybe I should wear something formal in case we run into any royalty today" Isaac chuckled.

It was late in the evening as the motorcoach pulled into the hotel parking lot and people were disembarking amid shouts, laughter, and exclamations of "wasn't it a wonderful day?" "What did you buy?" "Hope I got some good pictures." "Hey, I won \$16 at the casino!" "Yeah, but you missed lunch." More laughter. "Especially the fish, the whole fish, complete with head!" "We should have saved one for you." "Thanks, but no thanks." "Good night, see you at breakfast."

Rhoda turned out the lights in their room and stepped out on the balcony. The lights were ablaze along the boulevard, shimmering and reflecting in the water as the dark Mediterranean gently lapped the shore. Yes, they had missed lunch with the group that day. With so many sights catching their attention, the Hotel de Paris, the beautiful palace, the people, the scenery, the famous casino: yes, it had been easy to forget about lunch.

But Rhoda would remember one incident forever. After they had watched the changing of the guard at the main square and the white dressed guard members marched back into the palace, they had wandered up one of the narrow streets leading from the square. Cobblestone paved streets, gas street lights, old stone and brick buildings, quaint shops. A fairy tale setting. And then they had come upon the chapel. Rhoda knew at once it was the one noted in their guide book. She had to go in and not wait for the group.

Hand in hand Rhoda and Isaac slowly, and rather solemnly, climbed the steps to the entrance of beautiful carved wood doors weathered by centuries of time. Stepping inside they paused to adjust to the dimness of the light. It was quiet. Only a few other people were noiselessly strolling in the entrance area admiring the beautiful frescoes, paintings, statues. There was a circular vestibule on either side of the entrance and they walked slowly to the left, reading the inscriptions carved into the marble floor where

various ancestors of the royalty of Monaco had interred.

One area at the far end emitted a soft glow from dozens of candles. As Rhoda and Isaac slowly approached they saw masses of fresh flowers in vases and large urns and some tied in bunches just lying on the floor. Their sweet fragrance filled the air.

When they were directly in front of the flower filled area Rhoda noticed they were close to a wall of carved dark wood with a small niche and prayer kneeling bench. A man was kneeling in the niche, head bowed, and Rhoda could see his thick white hair in the glowing candle light.

He raised his head. She felt wrong to stare and turned her gaze back to the flowers. A few moments later she ventured another glance in the direction of the niche, and just caught a glimpse of the man as he disappeared through a door in the wall. A door that was undetected in the wall once it was closed. She turned her attention back to the flower filled area and read the inscription on the floor.

The moon was low on the horizon over the sea as Rhoda stirred and realized she had been sitting on the balcony for quite some time. She smiled to herself. She had thought about the brief encounter in the chapel the rest of the day as they continued on their tour of the city. She had said nothing about the chapel. Who would believe the story? But she believed in her heart. That brief exchange of glances in the chapel. The sadness in the man's face in the flickering candle light. She knew the moment she had turned and read the inscription on the floor. "In memory of Her Royal Highness Princess Grace of Monaco, beloved wife of Rainier III Prince of Monaco."

If she ever told anyone the story she would not mention that the man was wearing jeans and sneakers.

(We congratulate Shirley and Earl for their prowess in the field of literature).

ATTENTION
PLATE NUMBER COIL COLLECTORS

(The following article was taken from the PNC-3 Newsletter. If you want to collect plate number coils, here is some basic information, written by Tom Maeder,)

ARTICLE I

BASICS: CENTERING

Well centered stamps look more attractive on an album page, and command a better value upon liquidation. Dealers, of course, ask a higher price for better centered material.

Even after twelve years of PNC collecting, there is still not a universal standard on grading. Coils, especially from the Cottrell press, present special problems.

When I was a young collector, coil line pairs were graded by the position of the perfs. The joint line was secondary. Wouldn't centered perfs also mean a centered joint line? Not necessarily. A Cottrell printing locks two separate 180° curved plates together around the printing drum. Where the two plates meet at 180°, the plates may be locked tight, producing a pencil thin joint line as extra ink slops into the groove. At 360°, the plates may be joined more loosely, producing a wider line (or in some cases, what looks like two separate parallel pencil lines). This placement produces a situation where the perfs may be XF on one side of the joint line, and shift suddenly to VG on the other. How do we grade such a strip?

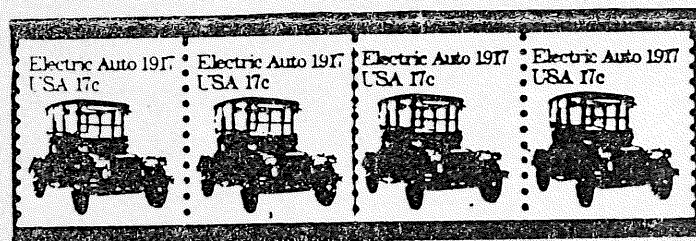
Then there is the problem of a strip with perfectly centered perfs and joint line, but the strip is centered high or low. How is it named?

We can have objective and subjective definitions. All dealers use objective definitions, but they aren't the same from dealer to dealer. Most judge in terms of the

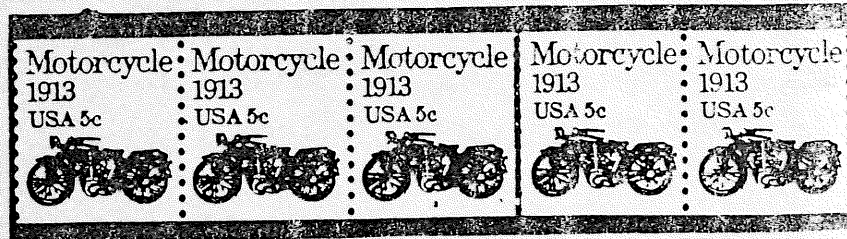
joint line. Some use F, VF, XF depending upon how much of the line is within the perfs. Some use F, F-VF, VF, XF, S; some simply F-VF, VF-S. The former leaves little room for fudging; the latter leaves a lot of room.

Once you are used to a specific dealer, you will know what you get when you place an order. In the meantime, you have the perfect right to return material for a refund if you are not pleased. If a dealer won't do that, you need a new dealer.

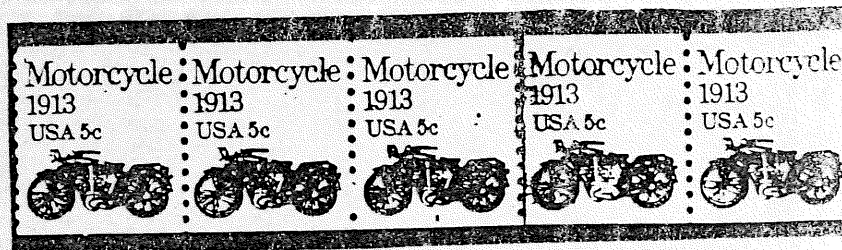
Then there is the subjective definition: if the strip pleases your eye, it's a good one!



(a) left of the joint line
perfs lean left; right of
the line, they lean right



(b) XF line; VF perfs.



(c) F line; XF perfs.

(Look for Article II in next month's issue.)

BOTTLED MAIL

AREA STAMP SHOWS

APRIL 3-4 -- DELPEX
Brandywine High School

APRIL 4 -- Reading Show
Commercial Bourse

APRIL 18 -- CHESCO SHOW
Lyonsville

APRIL 17-18 -- VALPEX
Holliday Inn-260 Goddard Bvd.

King of Prussia

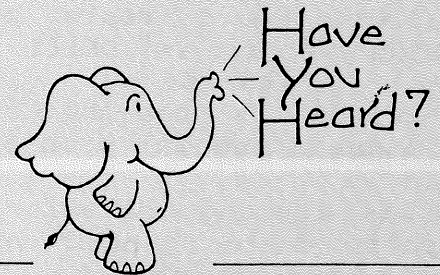
(Note: Springford Club no longer associated with this show - it is a commercial bourse.)

APRIL 24-25 -- LANCOPEX
LANCASTER, PA - PARK CITY
BOSCOV'S MALL

MAY 2 -- READING SHOW

Although the island was uninhabited, ASCEDNSION had a peculiar "Post Office" in 1673. Captains sailing nearby this mid-Atlantic volcanic island would sometimes stop by the eastern shore for a "mail call". There were several large bottles containing addressed letters. The captain would pick up the letters going to the places he was sailing and leave letters for other destinations.

-- Robert W. Everett
G.S.N., July 1992



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The newsletter staff have visited our "shut-in" member, Paul Westcott and we are happy to report he and Florence are no longer shut-ins. They have returned to their home in Millersville and are looking forward to the Spring. Hopefully, we will see Paul at one of our upcoming meetings -- you just can't keep that spunky guy down!

