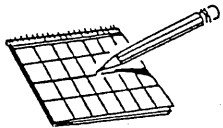




MEETINGS - 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
STAUFFER MANSION - 7:30 P.M.
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Next Meeting - Wed. MAY 10, 1995

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CLUB
CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717)872-2479
OR MICHAEL SHIRLEY (717)394-0186.

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From the President

If you enjoy fellowship with other stamp collectors, next week will be a real treat. Not only will we have our regular LCPS meeting on Wednesday, but also, the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club has invited us to join them on Tuesday, May 9th. Details of their program are printed in this newsletter. Thank you, LSCC for the kind invitation!

You know, phellow philatelists, that there are several stamp clubs in the area. Maybe we can follow Lebanon's lead and occasionally participate in joint ventures with other clubs. I know that we went to Washington with the York Club, but that was two years ago. We could share a picnic, go on a trip, or go together and hire a speaker, with another club. Imagine an auction involving three or four clubsjust a thought.

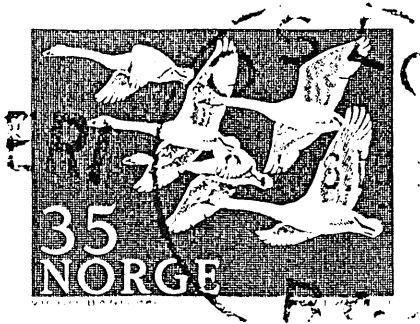
Your President,
Mike Shirley



MIRIAM AMERDING has graciously volunteered to be our hostess for the month of May. There is something about our club that makes us all enjoy the refreshments -- it must be the good cooks!

MAY PROGRAM

This month's program will be a walking tour of the new postal building located beside the Stauffer Mansion at 1301 Marshall Avenue. This event will be hosted by the Lancaster Postmaster, William Sheehan. Mr. Sheehan will also give a talk entitled, "Who is the Postal Service?" Keep Thursday morning open if possible, for Postmaster Sheehan will arrange a morning tour at 7:30 a.m. while the postal workers and carriers are in the building, for anyone who is interested.



NORDIC STAMP NEWS

Christer Brunstrom in her column "NORDIC STAMP NEWS" reviews the Facit catalogues for Scandinavian stamps and goes into detail regarding the recent emissions of Norway.

"In this column I spotlight the philately of the Nordic Area. I tell about interesting new issues and other philatelic products. From time to time I intend to include information on books and catalogues which will help you enjoy Nordic stamps even more.

The Facit catalogue is published annually in Sweden. As it is completely bilingual (Swedish-English) it is also widely used in North America and you will often find references to the Facit catalogs in dealer ads and in auction catalogs.

Each spring the publishers release a Swedish-only rather simplified catalog. The latest edition appeared in early April and it is a 101-page volume with all stamps pictured in color. In addition to listing postage, service and postage due stamps it also lists and prices stamp booklets and First Day Covers. The listings are straight forward and only major varieties are mentioned. If you are a non-specialized collector of Sweden, this is the catalog for you.

Each fall sees the publication of the Facit Specialized which has almost 700 pages of detailed listings of the stamps of all the Nordic nations and stamp issuing territories. Unlike the Sweden-only catalog the Specialized version has black and white illustrations.

Some 230 pages of the Facit Specialized are devoted to Sweden which gives an idea of its scope of specialization. Here you will find each issue discussed in detail and every serious collector of Nordic philately should have access to this work as it provides so much useful information not found in Scott or similar more general catalogues.

The Facit Specialized gives detailed prices of hinged mint and unhinged mint stamps, used and on cover for older issues. There is an important section devoted to stamp booklets and Swedish postal stationery is included, too.

It was recently announced that some further six to nine will be released from 1992 until 1994 to publicize the Olympics. There will also be a program of special pictorial postmarks.

I believe we can expect a series of interesting stamps and souvenir sheets with great appeal to collectors of Olympics and sports generally on stamps.

The Norwegian Philatelic Service in Oslo is doing a great job in promoting its stamps and other philatelic products. A colorful magazine is mailed several times each year free to the many subscribers to new issues. It is published in Norwegian, English, German and French. A free copy can be requested from Frimerkeposten, Postboks 3770 Gamlebyen, N-0135 Oslo, Norway.

Finally, a rather curious point. The name of Norway is either rendered as NORGE or NOREG on stamps. The Norge variety is still the most often used.

To close the brief introduction to the Facit Catalogs just a few words about pricing. Unlike most other catalogs, the Facit does not price common stamps. Instead of giving a value, the editors just put an M in the price column to indicate that it is a very common stamp. In a footnote they explain that most dealers will charge about 30¢ for such a stamp. It is further explained that this should be seen as a service charge and not as a value of the stamp.

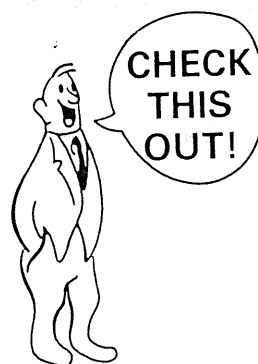
NORWAY'S STAMPS MOST BEAUTIFUL

The country of Norway deserves more attention from worldwide collectors. Its new-issue policy is rather conservative; in fact only a little more than 1100 regular stamps have been issued since the postage stamp was introduced back in 1855.

Recently Norwegian stamps were chosen as being the world's most beautiful by the readers of Timbroloisirs, one of the major French Philatelic magazines. Stamps issued during the past two years by 128 different countries took part in this unusual contest.

Norwegian stamps are generally well designed and printed and the designs invariably have local connections in one way or the other. As samples of recent Norwegian stamps, I have chosen April 16 EUROPA issue. The theme for this year's EUROPA stamps was European space research. The 3.20 kr. stamp depicts a satellite beaming signals to the Tromsø Satellite Station in the north of the country. The second stamp (4 kroner) shows a rocket launch from Andoya. Also included in the design of both stamps is the emblem of the CEPT, an organization for postal cooperation between the nations of Western Europe.

There is another important reason to spotlight Norwegian stamps. In 1994, Norway will host the Winter Olympics at Lillehammer. This sporting event will play a major part in Norway's new-issue program for the coming four years. From 1989 until 1993 there will be an annual souvenir sheet honoring Norwegian gold medalists at earlier winter Olympic games. This series of souvenir sheets is being issued in cooperation with the nation's Olympic Committee.



SPECIAL INVITATION TO LCPS MEMBERS

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club has graciously invited all LCPS members to one of their club meetings on Tuesday, May 9, 1995. Their featured speaker, Elwin Doubleday, will speak on postal history that evening. The event will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce, 250 North 8th Street, Lebanon, PA. If you have any questions or need directions, feel free to call Jerry Laconis at 838-4485 or Dick Coleberg at 394-9610.



LOOKING FOR A NEW COLLECTING INTEREST?

If you want to spark up your collecting habits, why not try one of the following ideas for a new accumulation of stamps.

1. Semi-Postal issues
(Scott Catalog "B" Numbers)
2. Airmail Stamps
(Scott Catalog "C" numbered)
3. Over-printed Issues
4. Imperferated Stamps
5. A Worldwide Collection of Your Birth Year.
6. An 1840-1900 Collection
7. A modern 1900-1940 collection
8. Any Topical That Strikes Your Fancy
9. Revenue Issues of the World
10. British Commonwealth War Tax Stamps

CAPTION THAT STAMP CONTEST

The stamp shown above needs an interesting or humorous caption. Therefore, we are asking members to submit a caption for this stamp at the May meeting. We will announce the winner of the contest in the July newsletter. So, let's get on the thinking caps and rattle the funny bones for a suitable caption. Give your ideas to MARILYN OR MIKE at the May meeting.

LCPS OFFICERS

Mike Shirley, President
Peter Billis, Vice-President
Miriam Armerding, Secretary
Dick Shaefer, Treasurer

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jim Lyman, Editor
Marilyn Shirley, Data Processor
Mike Shirley, Graphic Arts/Layout

