



BNAPS/Royal Train, Pg.-2

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the  
American Philatelic Society  
American Topical Assn., Chapter 118  
Member, NY Federation of Stamp Clubs

**Doors open at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, 11 April 2018**

Bourse at 6:30 pm, Business meeting at 7:00 pm; Barb Buchanan, Host

## The Veranda Chronicles

Happy Spring! – On March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Society welcomed Scott English, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society (APS) to our monthly membership meeting as part of his #StampTour2018. We thank him for visiting (along with his lovely wife Kendra) and for a great meal, dynamic conversation, an informative presentation entitled “Membership Modernization”, and an extensive Q&A session. Scott was also kind enough to present me with an APS necktie, which I have already worn with pride in my 30<sup>th</sup> year as an APS member.

The Society is proud to be the James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the APS, actively participating in the new direction Scott and his team is taking the hobby. As you know, last year we enhanced our digital presence by launching our new and improved PSLC website

and Facebook page, along with a modern logo and messaging as part of our rebranding efforts to promote the hobby and engage a diverse group of our regional community.

Scott is also a PSLC member and is always welcome back. We even signed up a few of our members to the APS; two of which I sponsored and one which Dennis Shumaker did (many thanks). You can find Scott’s presentation on our Society website<sup>1</sup> as a PDF for you to return to, or if you were unable to attend the meeting.

We were also treated in March to two lectures hosted by the Chester County Historical Society by postal historians Ron Majors on “Canada/British North America (BNA) – Union and Confederate Postal Cross-Border Correspondence during

the U.S. Civil War” and Robert Rose on “United States Mail: Its First 80 Years without Stamps.” As before, I encourage you to attend the last lecture of this unique series on April 14<sup>th</sup> by John Barwis on “The Rise and Fall of Philadelphia Area’s Pre-eminence as a Postal Communication Center”.

This month, the Society is delighted to have Bill Schultz describing the new numeric system used in judging philatelic exhibits. Additionally, this month is our 33rd Annual Stamp Show, LANCOPEX 2018. If you have not already done so, please consider volunteering and/or exhibiting. We look forward to seeing our dealers, members, and guests at the Farm & Home Center on the 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> for what is surely going to be another phenomenal event. The May issue will be dedicated to summarizing the success of LANCOPEX. *CJD*

<sup>1</sup><http://www.lcps-stamps.org/presentations/>

## The Pluses/Minuses of Philatelic Points in Our Exhibiting by Bill Schultz

PSLC looks forward to an informative and entertaining presentation each year by **Bill Schultz**. Tonight he will address the pros and cons of grading philatelic exhibits using a newly revised numeric system.

Bill will discuss the background for developing such a rating system and assess how it has fared after 15 months in place. Is it good news or bad news?

Our speaker has been an exhibitor since the early 1960s and has served as an accredited APS judge for many years. Most recently he was elected to the Board of Directors of the **American Association of Phila-**

**telic Exhibitors**, just recognition for his service in this area.

Many in PSLC are familiar with Bill for his role in curating the outstanding postal history exhibit at the Chester County Historical Society with its corresponding program of world class speakers and researchers entitled “*You’ve Got Mail.*” This is a series of eight presentations examining the many fascinating aspects of postal history. This series began in December ’18 and will run through 14 April. (See Page-2, lower right and above column for add’l info regarding this series.)

While most collectors do not exhibit competitively, this activity is an important element of the hobby, helping collectors learn and view new material. While some think that exhibiting is all about deep pockets, it does not always have to be. As important is the research into the printing and other production issues, policymaking, postal history and geography, routes & rates, and so much more.

Along with dealers and collectors, exhibitors form the three-legged stool of philately, which is so necessary for advancement.

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Visitors are Always  
Welcome

PSLC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$10.00 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

Website: [LCPS-Stamps.org](http://LCPS-Stamps.org)

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**In Print:** In the April and May issues of *L’echo de la Timbrologie*, **Dick Colburg** will be publishing a 2-part article entitled, “The Stamps of the Panama Canal Zone.”

## British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Dr. DiComo

Ed's ☒ Note: This is the next in a series of descriptions of philatelic societies which might be of interest to the PSLC membership.

For many years I have been a member of the British North America Philatelic Society – the Society for Canadian Philately. While most of you know me for speaking and writing on U.S. philatelic topics, the U.S. and Canada are more closely postally related than one might consider. In brief, the BNAPS is an international organization founded 1943, devoted to the collecting and study of the stamps, markings, and postal history of Canada and the pre-confederation colonies of British North America (British Columbia, Canada, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island). The Society is open to anyone interested in Canadian postal history, which in my mind is as rich as American postal history – from the classic period to modern day.

If you recall the PSLC 2017 Open House exhibits, I displayed an 1839 stampless letter that originated in London, Upper Canada, arriving in New York City to board a Sailing Packet headed to Kilmun, Scotland, via the rare "Greenock Penny Post". The "Canadian" (Scottish) writer discussed in great detail The Canada Rebellions of 1838-1839, specifically the Aroostook War – the bloodless skirmish between the U.S. and pre-confederated colonies of British North America - leading to the formation of present day Maine.

The BNAPS publishes an award-winning journal, *BNA Topics*, containing articles on all aspects of BNA philately. The issues are all available online at their website.<sup>1</sup> The most recent five years are available to BNAPS members only. So why join? As a BNAPS member, you can connect with one or more Study Groups, many of which have their own specialized newsletters online. In many areas of Canada and the United States, you can find a Regional Group that offers further opportunity for fellowship with collectors of BNA. They even operate a Sales Circuit that allows members to buy and

## March Minutes and Treasury

Diane Meek & Lou DiFelice

**Opening:** President DiComo opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. He also updated membership of happenings on the website.

**Approval of February Minutes:** This was approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Drawing/Door Prizes:** These were won by **Bill Grimm, Diane Meek, Jay Eberley, Dean Brennan, and George Younes.**

**50-50 Drawing:** This was won by **RD Noble** who will split \$75 with the club.

**Lancopex:** **Dick Shaefer and Lou DiFelice** updated the membership regarding the show. Sign-ups were passed around for volunteers, exhibit pages/frames, and patrons.

**Dinner with the April Speaker:** A sign-up sheet was circulated for dinner with **Bill Schultz** prior to the 11 April meeting.

**Presentation:** This month's presentation was by **Scott English**, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society on the State of APS and the Hobby. The line of the night was that collectors "can die with dignity or fight like hell."

**Lapsus Memoriae:** Missing from the March minutes were the following: Winners of the March Door Prizes included **Richard Colberg, Joseph Berlin, Michael Matus, Truys Greiner, and RD Noble.** Winner of the 50-50 Drawing was **Sarah Mylin** who split \$70 with PSLC.

**Treasury 1-28 February '18**

<b>Opening:</b>	\$2,774.79
<b>Income:</b>	\$497.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$664.78
<b>Sum:</b>	\$2,607.01
<b>3-CDs</b>	@ \$7,023.20

Treasurer **Lou DiFelice** reviewed the current balances, income, and expenditures.

## The Royal Train of 1939

It was several years ago while working with Dick Colberg on a PowerPoint for his Canadian RPO presentation that I learned of the Royal Train when he showed me some covers. This was a pre-WWII visit by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth from 17 May to 15 June. They travelled from the East to the West Coast of Canada and returned via a spur into the U.S. from 7-12 June.

In the U.S. Their Majesties visited The White House and Washington, DC, FDR's homes, Springwood and Top Cottage in Hyde Park, and New York City, with time at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Canada issued three stamps (#246-248) on 15 May, and Newfoundland issued #249 on Their Majesties last day before returning home. The U.S. did not issue a special stamp, but many American covers used the 4½¢ grey Prexie with the White House. This event has something for everyone from maps, a World's Fair, trains (from engine varieties to routes), Royal Itineraries, politics and diplomacy, stamps, covers and FDCs, multi-national cachets, postmarks and RPOs, rates and routes, and other wonderful collecting memorabilia. The BNAPS Website (see article to the left) contains detailed illustrations on the topic. Ed. ☒



← Items from Ed's accumulation of Royal Train Covers with Canada on the left, and Newfoundland (stamp and the cancel only) on the right.

sell specialized material. If any PSLC member is interested in joining the BNAPS, please see me, and I will pay for your first year's member-

ship and be your reference. Applications are available from me or on the BNAPS website.<sup>2</sup>

CJD

<sup>1</sup><http://www.bnaps.org/index.php>  
<sup>2</sup><http://www.bnaps.org/joinbnaps.php>

## Club Notes

### Programs, Hosts & Shows

#### 2018 Programs

**11 April:** The Pluses/Minuses of Philatelic Points in our Exhibiting, Bill Schultz. Barb Buchanan, Host

**9 May:** State Symbols of PA on Stamps, Vera Felts. Thomas Nichols, Host

**13 June:** Spring Auction. Paul Petersen, Host

**11 July:** History of the Schuylkill Canal in PPCs, Aaron Heckler.

**8 August:** Summer Picnic, Memorial Park, Millersville, PA

**13 September:** Fall Auction. Dennis Shumaker, Host

**10 October:** Postal Material from the 1940s. Tom Nichol. Deb Ehleiter, Host

**14 November:** Open House and One-Page Exhibits, Len Kasper and Paul Petersen

**12 December:** December Dinner Deb Ehleiter & Co.

#### 2019 Programs

**9 January:** Club Auction. John Hostetter, Host

#### 2018 Shows/Events

**Chester County Postal History presentations,** S, 14 April: "The Rise and Fall of Philadelphia Area's Pre-eminence as a Postal Communication Center," John Barwis. 1:00-2:30 pm, CCHS, West Chester, PA.

**Red Rose Coin Club:** T, 19 April. "Contemporary Coinage of Julius Caesar," 7:00 pm, Farm and Home Center.

**Lancaster Post Card Club:** M, 16 April, Farm & Home Center, 7:00 pm. Topic: "Members Market-Buy & Sell."

**Some Sundays Stamp Bourse:** Sunday, 24 June, 19 Aug., 14 Oct., & 16 Dec. Farm & Home Center. Lunch is free.

**Delpex:** S, 21 April, Nur Shine Center, New Castle, DE.

**Lancopex:** F/S 27-28 April, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd. Lancaster, PA.

**Club Notes:** Congratulations to **Mike Bach**, newly elected treasurer of the Reading Stamp Club. He replaces **Mike Matus** who served the RSCC in this capacity for many years.

**“Beauty and the Beast”**

*By Hal Klein*



It's not much of a cover as stampless folded covers go. The 27mm “NEW YORK” (city) circular date stamp in red is not valuable. The 18-1/2c rate isn't rare. So, what attracted me to this little gem? It was the addressee: his Excellency Baron Alexander de Bodisco.

The Baron de Bodisco, he was officially the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the Ambassador from Russia to the United States from the Imperial Court of Czar Nicolas of Russia; he had held the position for nearly seventeen years and he had a reputation of living up to his prestigious and haughty title.<sup>1</sup>

The cover was mailed six days from that fateful Christmas day in 1840 when the Baron first met her.

The Baron was throwing a lavish Christmas party for his two nephews with all the youth of Georgetown invited. However, he had mistakenly forgotten to invite one young lady, a Miss Harriet Beall Williams, a person unknown to him at the time. “The mistake was corrected by the Baron himself with a personal, hand-delivered note and invitation.”<sup>1</sup> The Baron, a bachelor, became immediately enamored with Harriet; for him it must have been “love at first sight.” In a city known for its scandals, this was the scandal of 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgetown and Washington, D.C.

Harriet Beall Williams, at only sixteen years of age, was already known for her beauty in Georgetown. It's not that the family was the richest or most well off. Her father was a clerk in a Washington government office. However, the family was descended from the late Ninian Beall, one of the founders of Georgetown and they were able to afford to send Harriet to Georgetown's Miss English's School for Young Ladies, "...known to train young ladies in the hospitable ways of Southern ladies – the same school that Andrew Jackson had his daughter attend."<sup>2</sup>



Shortly after their first meeting at the Christmas party, the Baron could be seen escorting Harriet to school in his carriage and later, to the amusement of Harriet and her classmates, carrying her books to classes.<sup>2</sup>

Baron Alexander de Bodisco, born in Russia in October 1786, and had just turned 54 at the time he met 16 year old Harriet. The Russian bachelor was described as “short”, “stout”, and “portly” with a “scruffy beard” and “dyed black hair”, and which he sometimes covered with a wig. “The Baron was said to have a squat ugliness but was a brilliant courtier, and his looks were countered by his charm.”<sup>2</sup>

The Baron would ride from his home in Georgetown to the Russian Embassy in Washington in his gilded white carriage drawn by four magnificent black stallions. He was said to have a flair for having opulent and lavish parties at his home on “O” Street.

Harriet's mother was totally scandalized by the affair, as was the "high society" of Washington and Georgetown. Gossip swirled around Harriet over this May-December romance. The Baron proposed and proposed again with Harriet repeatedly turning him down. "Harriet's family was strongly opposed to the match. She told him that her grandmother and everybody else thought he was entirely too old and too ugly. The Baron's reply was that she might find someone younger or better looking, but no one would love her more than he did."<sup>3</sup> The elite residents, diplomats, politicians and gossips labeled the couple the "Beauty and the Beast." Then, some say fate intervened.

Her father died unexpectedly and her mother was left to support their ten children. The Baron proposed again, promising Harriet and her mother he would support the entire family for the rest of their lives should they marry. Harriet looked at her mother's situation and relented. Baron de Bodisco promised he would make their marriage ceremony an "affair to remember"; that would be an understatement!

The bridesmaids were Harriet's best friends, each receiving a ring with a stone of their choice.<sup>2</sup> The groomsmen were gentlemen of the Baron's age and comprised the notable politicians of the day. Senator James Buchanan, the future president, was a groomsman and was said to have stepped-in as best man. Senator Henry Clay took the place of her father, presenting Harriet to be married at the wedding. Wedding guests included Daniel Webster and Dolley Madison.<sup>3</sup> "The wedding was the event of the season. Her bridal dress had fresh flowers and real jewels embroidered into the bodice."<sup>2</sup> Soon after the wedding, President Martin Van Buren hosted a wedding dinner at the White House to honor the couple.

Harriet led the life of a fairy tale princess. During their marriage, she hosted balls and parties at her home for dignitaries and diplomats. She was continually showered with jewels and clothing. Harriet and her three children were presented and accepted into the Russian Royal Court. The Baron was true to his word and loved her dearly. The couple was married for fourteen years until the Baron's death in 1854. Before his death, the Baron had expressed he wanted Harriet to continue, "... as a beautiful woman and find someone to make her as happy as she had him."<sup>2</sup> She did. She re-married a career military officer, 12 years her junior, and had a happy second marriage.<sup>3</sup>

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. "Wicked Georgetown: Scoundrels, Sinners and Spies," Chapter 7, *Scandalous Love: The Bodisco Marriage* ©2013 Camden Schwantes; The History Press, Charlestown, S. C.
2. "The Ghosts of D.C., The lost and untold history of Washington, D.C." ©September 26, 2013, Camden Schwantes (e-book edition accessed 3/18/2013)
3. "A Neighborhood Guide to Washington, D.C.'s Hidden History" ©2009 Jeanne Fogle; The History Press, Charlestown, S. C. (e-book edition accessed 3/18/2013)