



Medicinal Alcohol during Prohibition, Pg.-3

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 September 2019
Bourse at 6:30 pm, Business meeting at 7:00 pm; Mike Marino, Host

The Veranda Chronicles

On August 14, the Society held its **Annual Picnic** at Memorial Park in Millersville, PA. There were 30 members and guests in attendance, with 40+ door prizes, and plenty of food, drink and dessert. John Hostetter and Bill Greiner officiated with Mike Shirley and Paul Petersen manning the grills. All considered this a success, and the weather held out (thanks Doug!).

Earlier in the month on August 11, we were fortunate to beat the summer heat at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center for the **Some Sunday Stamp Show** hosted by Kevin Kellman. A fine time was had by all participants and dealers. We look forward to Kevin's October and December Sunday shows.

Then on August 17 at the Chester County Historical Society, the

members of the Philatelic Gathering were treated to presentations by Ronald E. Majors on pre-1800 Canadian Mourning Covers and Turned Covers, followed by a discussion of Toll Gates and Toll Houses as told via Postcards by Bill Schultz. As usual, a luncheon followed where the philatelic discussion and camaraderie continued. If anyone is interested in joining this dynamic group and attending our monthly meetings, please let me know. For more details on dates, presenters, topics, etc., visit the landing page on our website.¹

As August drew to a close, a number of members attended the 81st Annual Stamp Exhibition and Bourse at BALPEX, a World Series of Philately Show in Hunt

Valley, MD, just north of Baltimore. With such close proximity to central PA, I think our Society should make this show a regularly attended one.

Finally, as we enter Indian summer, the Society will hold its **Autumn Auction** on September 11. The evening will be hosted by Mike Marino, with our trusty staff of auctioneers, bookkeepers, and runners at hand to ensure a smooth evening. I trust each of you is looking through your "extras" (all that stuff you keep saying you'll divest), legibly filling in your official Auction Lot forms, and are prepared to bid on the great material that will be up for bid. See you at the club! **CDi**

¹ <http://lcps-stamps.org/study-groups/>

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September 2019

Visitors are Always
Welcome

PSLC meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$10.00 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

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December Dinner
Wednesday, 18 December 2019
Garden Café-Save the Date
Note: This is the third Wednesday

One-Page Exhibits and Open House is coming on 13 November.

Sign-ups will be this month. No exhibiting rules. Exhibitors may have one or more exhibits of one or more pages. These will be affixed to the wall, and exhibitors will have the opportunity to discuss their item(s) with Membership.

Fall Auction this Month

Instructions: You'll receive a numbered paddle when you arrive. Place this number on all your items to be auctioned, and use this paddle during the auction when you are bidding. This will insure that what you buy and what you sell are accurately credited and debited. Be sure that all your lots are accompanied by an accurate and detailed description, as this helps buyers to better understand what they are looking at. Auction lot description forms have already been emailed, and hard copies will be available. You may also access this form on the website at any time. Fiscal

transactions will only be made after the last lot has been sold.

The Auction Committee recommends that you: Bring cash to pay for the items you win.



Keep a running total during the auction of the items and prices of the lots you sell and win.

Finally, please attach your sales information very securely to the lots you are entering into the auction. This will help avoid any misidentification with other sellers' lots.

Bidding Rules: Minimum bids are \$1.00 per lot. The minimum bidding increment is 50¢. Only dues-paying PSLC members may participate in the auction. Auction participants are limited to ten (10) lots. You may also donate items to the auction, as donations are always welcome, a necessary source of funds for operating a viable club.

Bits 'n Pieces

Caveat Emptor

Many of us have heard and perhaps even quoted that Latin axiom, *Caveat emptor*, roughly translated as "Buyer beware." However, this advice also applies to the stamp seller, one who should "beware"...of what he/she sells.



Club member **Bob Kramer** thought a periodic reminder for PSLC would not hurt, one based on his recent experience at our June PSLC Auction. Here he won the bid at \$1.00 for four early 20th Century U.S. including Scott 305, 307, 319, and 329. As he noted, "There was nothing special about them, but at a quarter apiece, what the heck?" Once home when taking a closer look, he observed that

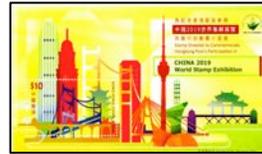
three of the four stamps were hinged with cellophane tape, also known as Scotch Tape™!

"I should have looked closer before the bidding, but who has time with so many lots? I don't blame the seller, as he/she was probably just passing on the items. Had this been a bit pricier, I might have some buyer's remorse but it is a good one-dollar lesson for us all." Bob recommends that for those of us who buy and sell at our club auctions, or any auction for that matter, "Let's look carefully at the condition, describe it accurately, and price it accordingly." It couldn't be better said.

China's 2019 Stamp Expo

What if all in the world were stamp collectors? The image at right is a souvenir sheet from the Chinese Int'l, held on 11-17 June in Wuhan, a city of 10M. Sixty-seven countries are represented in the only International Federation

of Philately show in 2019. There were 3500 frames; 1000 were non competitive. An online search finds many videos in English of a philatelic extravaganza with bands, fireworks, and all the trimmings. The event also celebrated the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC).



The souvenir sheet above, states in English "Stamp Sheetlet to Celebrate Hongkong's Post's Participation in China 2019-World Stamp Exposition."

As of this writing there is massive protesting in Hong Kong over the PRC's draconian rules and threats to HK's freedom. PRC's military are lining the border. What if we were all just stamp collectors?

PSLC Activities in August

14 August Picnic: Overall, it was a good PSLC picnic this year at Millersville Memorial Park. While attendance was down a little at 30, at least ten of our regulars were absent, most for good reasons, and for some others, reasons that were not so good. But following a morning and early afternoon of wind and rain, we had sunshine throughout thanks to **Doug Milliken** and his friends at Weather Central. With Doug on duty, picnic planners **John Hostetter** and **Paul Petersen** had full confidence in the success of the picnic.



Coming early to help out, **Mark Jardel** (above) quickly checks his email before the hoards arrive. And as always, there was a lot of help to both setup and clean up. Kudos to all. Entertainment is

always a gambler's delight at our picnic, and this year was our first with door prizes...on steroids. In '19 there were many donations to the club for a variety of purposes. These included items for auction, door prizes, and give-aways. Tonight's prizes were donated by **Jay Eberly**, **Bill Snyder**, **Paul Petersen**, and **Jim Strycharz**. So for entertainment, picnickers had their tickets ready for 40 door prizes and as many giveaways as folks left the park. Overall this was a very successful activity, better anyway than the year when we had "PSLCs Got Talent."

The picnic pavilion has served us well for several years keeping us dry if needed and allowing a westerly breeze for comfort. While PSLC covers the expenses for the BBQ and drinks, members and guests bring appetizers, side dishes, and desserts. And there is always plenty to go around. Below are chefs **Mike Shirley**, **Paul Petersen**, and **Bill Greiner**, supervisor.



2019 Balpex: This Labor Day Weekend show just north of Baltimore is the kick off of the year's philatelic season. It is huge, and this year there was no admission charge. On Friday, one of the organizers shared that the attendance for the first day was the best in a long time. There were several members of the Lancaster-Reading contingent in attendance.



ATA Ambassadors **Lucy Eyster** (far right) and **Paul Petersen** served at the ATA table for society recruitment. Also present were ATA's new president **Dawn Hamman** (second from left) and retiring ATA's Executive Director **Vera Felts** (second from right). **Joe Sullivan** (left) is ATA's Balpex Coordinator. It was a special opportunity to welcome Dawn and wish Vera the best in retirement. Vera leaves ATA after 10 years where she has led a variety of initiatives. She recently received ATA's highest award.

Club Notes

Programs, Hosts & Shows

2019 Programs

11 September: Club Auction. Mike Marino, Host

9 October: Czeslaw Slania, Master Engraver-II. Dave Hunt. Lou DiFelice, Host

13 November: Open House and One-Page Exhibits. Len Kasper and Paul Petersen. Diane Meek, Hostess

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

**Please note that this is the third (3rd) Wednesday of the month.*

2020 Programs

8 January: Club Auction.

12 February: From the U.S. to Farther India & Back Again: A Five Month Journey in 1856-1857. Dr. Charles J. DiComo

11 March: The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Stamp: Production, First Day & Other Uses. Alan Warren

9 April: Exploring Postal History. Bill Schultz

13 May: Canada's Role in Union & Confederate Postal Cross-Border Mail during the U.S. Civil War. Ron Majors

10 June: Club Auction

8 July: In Progress. Program pending

13 October: 1) GB Stamped to Order Stationary and 2) Royal Household Official Mail. Dave Hunt

11 November: Open House and One Page Exhibits

December: December Dinner

Of Local Interest

Red Rose Coin Club: (Thur) 19 September. *The Coin Clubs of Lancaster County: The Clubs and their Medals.* Kerry Wetterstrom. Farm & Home Ctr.

Reading Stamp Collectors Club: Saturday, 2 November, Leesport Farm Market, Route 61 just north of Leesport. 312 Gernants Church Road.

Some Sunday Stamp Shows: 27 October, 15 December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. **Lunch is free.**



Ave et Vale

Club member **Jay Eberly** passed away on 6 July following a brief battle with cancer. He had planned to compile an exhibit of the 1939 NY World's Fair at Lancopex in late April, but he had to cancel this as his wife suddenly needed open-heart surgery. As a result, he submitted two exhibits that he had prepared previously. Within a few weeks of the stamp show, he received his diagnosis.



In the mid-1950s upon release from active duty with the USAF, Jay and another collector founded the Mount Joy Stamp Club, one that included an annual show at the Lancaster Host. The club was in operation for about 35 years. Jay had a lifelong interest in Dwight D. Eisenhower, collecting stamps, covers and other DDE memorabilia. Beyond philately, woodworking, collecting, and gardening, Jay was a member of the Mount Joy Borough Council and was active in a variety of other civic endeavors. He loved working on antique cars and their engines and was a planner in the related car shows. Jay remained in the USAF Reserve and ANG retiring in 1973. On the civilian side, he was a machinist, a tool and die maker who worked locally in this industry until retirement in 1997.

PSLC extends its condolences to club member **RD Noble** whose wife **Barbara**, passed away suddenly on 29 August.

Erratum/Addendum

Club news in the July-August edition included **Dick Colberg's** two presentations at APS Summer Session. Covered were a general session entitled *What is my Collection Worth?* and an elective on *Building a Postal History Exhibit from the Ground Up*. Mistakenly omitted in the last issue was Dick's third APS presentation on the last day, an elective entitled *Collecting Canada's Railway Post Office Cancellations*.

July-August Minutes and Treasury

Diane Meek & Lou DiFelice

Opening: President DiComo covered the meeting at 7:00 and encouraged everyone to start compiling items for the September auction which will be here before we know it.

Membership: Barb Buchanan introduced **Bob Kotanchik** from the Allentown Stamp Club who is visiting us for the evening. He shared about his club and their stamp shows. **Rick** and **Bert Hurst** are visiting us tonight, as they inherited a stamp collection and are seeking guidance. Barb also introduced new member **Phil Keener** from East Berlin who joined PSLC at Lancopex. This is his first meeting. Attendance tonight was 51½.

Drawing: A variety of philatelic related door prizes were available, even more than last month. Winners included **Albert Schaub, Robert Kramer, Peter Baney, Steven Gallerizzo, RD Noble, Clair Hostetter, Dennis Shumaker, Johnny Martin, David Silcox, Joseph Berlin, Sarah Mylin, Vince Kneiyzs, Michael Marino, and Charles Deutsch.**

50-50 Drawing: Dan Martin conducted this drawing that was won by **Dr. DiComo** who donated his winnings back to the club for a total of \$95.

Approval of June Minutes and Treasurer's Report: These were approved unanimously by voice vote.

14 August Picnic: Paul Petersen reminded membership of the earlier start time for the picnic on the 14th, and all information is in the newsletter and website. He passed around the signup sheet and will follow-up via email before the event for any additions and deletions. Members should also sign up to bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert. The club will supply burgers, dogs, and drinks.

5 September Baseball: Paul followed up on our outing and passed around a sign-up sheet for the Lancaster Barnstormers game on Thursday, 5 September. There is an optional no-host dinner at Five-Guys at 4:45, and ticket and other information will be forthcoming. Ticket price is \$9.50.

New Business: Paul passed around two get-well cards and a

sympathy card to the membership for signatures.

2020 Meeting Hosts: Paul said that sign-ups will begin in September for next year's events.

Tonight's Program: Roger Brody gave an excellent illustrated presentation on the 1902 U.S. definitive series and how it was the face of our national identity at the beginning of the last century.



[August Minutes: There was no business meeting in August due to the club picnic. The August Treasury Report (The data for July '19) is contained below.]

Treasury: 1—30 June 2019

Opening:	\$5,322.18
Income:	\$227.00
Expenses:	\$370.06
Sum:	\$5,179.12
2-CDs	@ \$5,818.10



Treasury: 1—31 July 2019

Opening:	\$5,179.12
Income:	\$105.00
Expenses:	\$110.06
Sum:	\$5,174.12
2-CDs	@ \$5,818.10

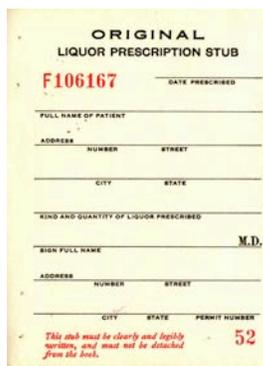
A Rx for Booze:

Prescription for Medicinal Alcohol During Prohibition

You never know what you'll come across at a stamp show. I had heard about the medicinal alcohol initiative during Prohibition but gave little thought to it until coming across some unused prescription forms at our last Lancopex. These were worth a buck or two. Not too long after, I found a stash of them at an antique store. However, the latter were filled in with names and dates, only adding a smidge of humanity to the documents. But what do I do with them? My cousin's son just finished medical school at Syracuse in May, so I tucked one in his card and recom-

mended that he add it to his medical oddities file, which all physicians should maintain. Raised well, he sent me an immediate thank-you note emphasizing his

the few allowed to distribute alcohol. The U.S. Treasury Department authorized this dissemination using a Rx shown nearby. The patient paid a small fee



for the doctor's visit then a few more dollars for a pint of medicinal spirits at the local pharmacy. Concurrently, Treasury authorized clergymen of all faiths

delight in this item. And the other...well, I am always on the lookout for interesting topics for the newsletter. During U.S. Prohibition (1920-1933), physicians were some of

to purchase and utilize wine for their religious services. Further, farmers were allowed to produce wine for their own consumption. Some say that the devil is in the regulations. Ed. ☒

Musings: Did someone mention the 1939 N.Y. World's Fair again?

Since it is still 2019 and the Lancopex theme was the 1939 New York World's Fair, (↓) I thought I would take advantage of this grace in time and share a few more related stories of the Fair, two of them philatelic.



The first is about the 2018 black & white stamp below, one from the Åland Islands off the southwest coast of Finland.



This is a stamp that probably would not have caught my attention but for an article about it in the 31 December 2018 *Linn's* by Denise McCarthy. It piqued my interest due to the story behind it. Subsequently I found the stamp available and well priced from Nordfirm, and it now has a good home in my 1939 NYWF accumulation.

Åland Post has a very informative website with an English version. It's worth visiting.

www.alandstamps.com



When thinking of these Nordic counties, our minds may wander to the Land of the Midnight Sun and all, the Northern Lights, the Aurora Borealis... So the Åland Post website did not disappoint me. One the first stamps shown celebrates the Celestial Phenomenon, and this is seen above.

But back to my new black & white stamp. This includes an image of Uno Eckbolm (1905-1955) from Åland. He grew up on the water, and at 17 main-

tained his own water taxi business. Since he was a little boy, his dream was to go to America. And, this he did, and he did it with acclaim.

Uno Ekblom wanted to be the first one to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a small (30 foot) rustic style boat. When achieved, the press on both sides of the ocean offered great praise and coverage of his feat.

Ekblom is pictured on his wooden boat on this €1.60 stamp. He landed in New York in July 1939 after a two month crossing with a crew of two other sailors. The timing of his trip was to visit the New York World's Fair, and the stamp pictures him, his boat, the U.S. flag, and some scenes of New York City from his photo album.

The outbreak of World War Two in September '39 prevented Ekblom from returning to Europe. He remained in New York until 1950 and then relocated and settled on the Pacific coast of Oregon. He wrote a book of his journey in 1940 replete with photos, and in 2018 this was made into a movie (in English) entitled "The Boy Who Crossed the Atlantic." This film received positive reviews.

Sadly, Mr. Ekblom drowned off the Oregon coast in 1955. His body was found near his wrecked boat.



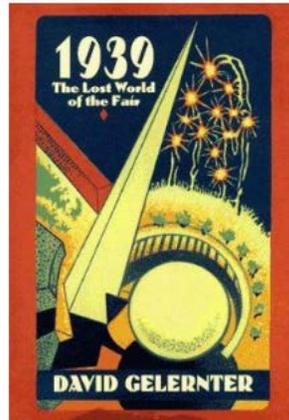
The second topic is about the Washington Press, the maker of the beautiful and world-renowned Aircraft First Day Covers (FDCs). This is also the company that published the colorful White Ace stamp albums.

It began printing the cachets for FDCs in 1939. These are one of the most popular FDCs available, widely known for their crisp black and white engraved illustrations. Its first cover, Number-1 was the 1939 NY World's Fair franked with #853 as seen above, an image captured on eBay. The iconic Trilon & Perisphere are seen in the cachet to the left, and its position is congruent with the image on the stamp.

When the company closed in 2015 all of us who did not collect First Day Covers were the first to bemoan the loss of such a resource. And indeed it is a loss, but companies

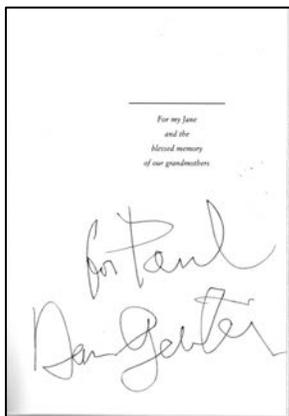
cannot remain afloat if we do not give them our business.

I had heard that these #1 covers are not that easy to come by. It was not until 2019 when I saw my first real one. This was in an exhibit at Lancopex by **Joseph Berlin** on the theme of the 1939 New York World's Fair.



The third story is of my favorite book about my favorite World's Fair. This was included in the April newsletter, and I have quoted from this book for my 1939 NY World's Fair stamp, Cinderella, and ephemera exhibit.

The book is "1939: The Lost World of the Fair" (1996, NY: Harper Collins). Earlier this year while re-reading the author's biography on the back flap of the dust jacket, I suddenly noticed that he and my son teach in the same Computer Science Dept.! It did not take me very long to realize that I might get my book autographed by its author. Yes, my son knew him, and he would ask. When Gelernter signed the book, he told Scott that he looked back at researching and writing this book with fondness. He interviewed many people who attended Fair and learned of the experiences that they had. Some



even met their spouses at the Fair.

Professor David Gelernter has an international reputation for his work in computer science, with numerous texts and journal articles. But added to this is his expertise in classical Hebrew literature, political science, and painting among others. Indicative was his seat on the National Endowment of the Arts earlier in the millennium.

Life changed for Gelernter on 24 June, 1993 when opening a package in his faculty office at Yale thinking it was a doctoral dissertation to review. It exploded, seriously injuring him.

But some background is needed. Enter Ted Kaczynski, *a.k.a.* the Unabomber. He was a young and brilliant mathematician who vacated a teaching career at UC-Berkeley in 1971 for a solitary life in a Montana woods cabin.

During this self-imposed seclusion, his reactionary assessments regarding science, computers, environment, and other technological advancements festered further out of control.

From 1978 though 1995 he sent or hand delivered 16 package-bombs, which killed three and injured 23 others. Besides the bombing, he sent threatening letters and made similar phone calls to dozens of others.

Though severely injured, David Gelernter recovered over time from the blast, burns, and shrapnel, which significantly injured his right eye and vision and right hand causing him to enter a left-handed world despite extensive reconstructive hand surgery. Some of the shrapnel penetrated his nearby metal filing cabinet during the explosion. He still has pain from all the scar tissue and detritus throughout his body.



Gelernter's recuperation and rehabilitation were lengthy and limiting. Given his life-long interest in the Fair, he maximized this downtime to write "1939: The Lost World of the Fair" which appeared in 1995. Not long afterward he chronicled his near fatal experience and recovery regimen in the 1997 book, "Drawing Life: Surviving the Unabomber" (NY: Free Press). Ed. ☒