

# Lebanon Stamp Club Newsletter

**December, 2019**

**This month the Lebanon Stamp Club is meeting at the Quentin Tavern on December 17 at 6:00 PM for our annual holiday dinner!**

## **The November meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Club**

Last month's Lebanon Stamp Club meeting was held on November 19. I asked Dick Colberg to provide us with a synopsis of his presentation, and he didn't disappoint.

His subject was "An Ounce of Prevention: The Ins and Outs of Condom Postal History". Now, stop tittering! There really is a town in France named Condom.

Through a series of several covers and one stamp, Dick presented most of the known postal markings in use there between 1791 and the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, several of the known machine cancels were also shown. Straight line cancels with and without the department number were shown, both due and paid, in red and black as well as lozenge cancels with both large and small numerals.

His presentation was followed by a couple of stamp quizzes. The first was on Europa and it soon became obvious that none of the members knew anything about Europa. A follow-up quiz on U.S. stamp facts had a better outcome. Lastly, a few excerpts from a 1923 booklet on stamp investing were read. It was

interesting to see what has/hasn't happened in the ensuing 96 years!

## **Event Calendar**

**December 15** – Some Sunday Stamp Show, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 10 AM to 4 PM

**December 17** – Lebanon Stamp Club Holiday dinner party at the Quentin Tavern, 81 W. Main Street in Quentin. 6:00 PM

**January 8, 2020** – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Winter Club Auction (hosted by our very own Hal Klein). See the PSLC web site for more information.

**January 21** – Lebanon Stamp Club monthly meeting, program TBD

**February 12** – PSLC monthly meeting. *From the U.S. to Farther India & Back Again: A Five Month Journey of a Baptist Missionary Cover in 1856-1857. The Challenge: Determining the Rates and Routes*, by Dr. Charles J. DiComo

## **Philately at Midwinter**

Lewis G. Quackenbush, Oneida, NY  
*Mr. Quackenbush's charming musings of the winter stamp season appeared in the January 1895 number of The Pennsylvania Philatelist. While this winter has yet to start, 'tis the season for nostalgia and thinking about Christmases and days that have long passed us by . . .*

'Tis midwinter. The season of colds, sore throats, heavy overcoats,

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sleigh rides and blizzards is at its height. Both city roads and country highways are now covered with a thick warm coat of snow, and when we go for a sleigh ride in the country, as far as the eye can reach, we look on the fields and meadows that are lost to the sight in a great snow sea, rising and falling here and there in gentle undulation, with an occasional drift of unusual height to diversify the landscape.

Our window panes are badly frost bitten these days, and the coalmen are hilarious, for everyone has to keep stoves and furnaces well filled to drive Jack Frost away. Yet it is a pleasant season after all. We could not do without Winter, for it lends variety to our lives. It is a welcome change from sultry Summer, and I hope we all appreciate it.

These midwinter months are for philatelists, the busiest part of the whole year, for now it is that the philatelic fever is at the height of its violence. In two or three months more, with the advent of warmer weather the philatelic merry-go-round will begin to slacken its speed, and go slower and slower until in July and August it will hardly seem to move; but it never wholly stops, and when another season of cold weather comes on next October, it will quickly increase its speed, and in a short time

be making as much noise and commotion as it is at present in this, the very busiest part of the whole philatelic year.

It is rather remarkable that the weather (or rather, the seasons) seem to have so much effect on the rise and fall of philatelic enthusiasm. Why should not collectors be as enthusiastic and as active in pursuit in the middle of July as in the middle of January? This is a riddle which has never been satisfactorily explained. The most popular explanation is that we have so many other recreations to distract our attention during the dog-days that we have not time for Philately; and this may be to a certain extent true. Summer time has many recreations, and too often we desert Philately temporarily for other loves; for tennis, or cycling, or yachting, or some other hot-weather sport. In fact, probably half of the philatelic army lay aside their albums altogether during the summer months. But it cannot be for lack of time, for Summer is the time for loafing and lounging, while Winter is the time for business: most of us have far more leisure in Summer to devote to Philately than during the busy winter months, when not only is business brisk, but society also is monopolizing a large share of our attention.

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To a casual observer it would seem as if Summer would be the philatelic season, instead of the direct contrary being the case.

But it seems to me that the real reason for Philately's popularity in cold weather is that it is an indoor pastime, and flourishes most when we are kept in our homes by bad weather. It is not an outdoor recreation and so, on the summer days when it looks so pleasant out of doors that no one can bear to stay at home, Philately is neglected.

But at this time of year, Philatelia is monarch of all she surveys. The dealers are jubilant at the many orders which they are receiving; collectors are bending all their energies and all their spare change to the filling of some of those unsightly spaces which have so long been vacant; and philatelic editors and writers are turning out a large grist of so-called literature, soon to appear in print, for the delectation of the faithful.

Every person in any way connected with Philately is thoroughly enjoying himself, Philatelic society meetings are numerous and none of those stampites who live in large cities need lack congenial companionship when it can be so easily secured. Even those of us who live in country towns, where

philatelists are few and far between, seldom become lonesome, though we do sometimes yearn for philatelic comrades; for, by almost every mail (if only we are liberal patrons of the philatelic publishers) come the periodicals which we are so eager to read and which keep us in touch with the whole philatelic world.

There are few evenings more pleasantly spent than those on which I sit down by the fire in my study and give myself wholly to philatelic occupations. The writing of philatelic articles is one of these and I am not stretching the truth when I say that I can do my pencil pushing easier and better in Winter than in Summer. As I write now, it is as cold and bitter a winter night as the most ardent lover of cold weather could desire. A storm is rising, and the snow, which has been coming down placidly and calmly for a while, now begins to be blown about with more violence and to fall with greater rapidity. How dismally the wind howls around the corners of the house and whistles through the bare branches of the trees; the snow is flying so swiftly that I cannot see objects a dozen feet away from my window. And yet, as I sit by my fireside, there is a pleasant feeling of cosiness and security that comes over me. I feel that I can bid denance to the storm and the thought pleases

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me. I can turn to my work without a thought of the storm raging outside and I believe that I take all the more comfort because of the contrast of outdoors and indoors. There is a feeling of exhilaration that cannot be described, but which everyone has felt, on such nights as this, and it is for that, that I love to hear the beginnings of a storm.

The study of Philately is an ideal occupation for a winter's night. It is restful after a hard days work in office or store or shop, and sends us to bed after the evening is over, happy and contented. Who can withstand the fascinations of Philately such nights as these? The study never seemed so charming before, and I almost imagine that somehow or other the rough and chilly weather out of doors lends added interest to the pastime.

What do we care for balls and calls and receptions, and all the other creaking machinery of that hollow mockery called society, when we can find such comfort at our own firesides with stamps, album, approval sheets, magnifying glass, perforation gauge, and last, but not least, the philatelic library close at hand for reference. I do not know how it is with other philatelists, but for myself I never tire of my philatelic library. Whenever I have a leisure moment, and am at a loss for some occupation for the time

being I bethink myself of the volumes upon volumes of stamp lore which comprise my library and I at once select some philatelic book and commence to read at random, anywhere I happen to open to. What little philatelic knowledge I possess, has been almost wholly snatched at such odd moments.

But I am wandering from my subject. I am speaking of Philately at midwinter, and the point I wish to make clear to my readers is that these winter evenings that they spend at home with stamp album and magazine will be remembered in years to come as the happiest of their lives. You may not think it now, reader, but let forty years pass away and I will wager that you will look back on these happy days, when Philately was in its infancy, with keen regret that you have ever grown older; and that the tender memories of these winter nights will be prized as few other remembrances are.

*Mr. Quackenbush was the official librarian of The Philatelic Sons of Liberty, who billed themselves as "The largest, most successful, and most progressive philatelic society in America."*

**Submissions for inclusion in our newsletter** – contact Scott Ney email: [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com) Home address: 3187 Oak Street, Lebanon, PA 17042