



Happy New Year
For a better 2021!

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



PSLC
Please clip this date renewal notice, complete, and mail to Mrs. Barbara Buchanan, PO Box 116, Conowingo, PA
17516-0116, with \$10.00. Check only on cash. Be sure to sign your check. Thank you in advance.
Name: _____
Email Address: _____
ATA Member: _____ APS Member: _____
Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(es) if you are a paid-up member. (Make checks payable to Philatelic So-
ciety of Lancaster County. Also, please advise of any changes in address, cell number, or email address.)

Please note that all PSLC meetings are virtual, starting at 6:15
p.m. on Wednesdays, 13 and 27 January and 10 and 24 February

The Veranda Chronicles

And a very happy New Year to you all with best wishes for bet-
ter times in 2021. We will have
to see what Spring has in store
for us, Covid-wise.

One of the physicians in my
division shared the three pillars
of pandemic survival: 1. Eat and
exercise wisely, 2. distance as
needed, and 3. work on stamps
and covers daily. Since I agree
heartily, I am passing these rec-
ommendations to you.

One of the big issues I read in the
philatelic literature is the question of
how is the pandemic affecting our
hobby. It is an insightful inquiry.
Many opine that it is a mixed bless-
ing. We miss our personal meetings
and shows, while we see wide
growth of the hobby online via vir-
tual sessions. Scott Tiffany, the
Librarian for the APRL noted in the
latest *Philatelic Literature Review*
(4th Qtr., 2020, pg. 246) that the fall
Postal History Symposium was well

attended with over 1K registrants
for the week's events. The average
attendance per session was 155
and some had >200 logged on.
There was similar success with the
APS Summer Session, and with
the society's virtual exhibit and
stamp show. These advances will
have solid impacts on the hobby.
There is that phrase: The hobby is
going viral." Many local and re-
gional clubs are going online and
offering invite (Veranda, Pg.-5)

January 2021 Feature Programs

13 January 2021 at 6:15 p.m.

French Balloon Mail

A presentation by **Richard Colberg**

Join PSLC and Dick to start the philatelic New
Year to learn about a perhaps unique aspect of 19th
Century postal history. It started in 1870 during the
Franco-Prussian War. Soon thereafter, Paris was
under siege by the Prussians with little getting into
the city or out. Mail was crucial for communicating
with the outside world. It is the 150th Anniversary.



27 January 2021 at 6:15 p.m.

Map Stamps of Panama

A presentation by **John Howker**

These stamps originated in Columbia and then
changed issuance to Panama when the latter gained its
independence. This was shortly followed by the de-
marcation of the Canal Zone across the isthmus in
preparation for the construction of the Panama Canal.
As a new country, Panama used existing map stamps
of Columbia and overprinted them in 1904 with both
'Panama' and 'Canal Zone'. Other renditions followed
for the next two years. Various overprints were used
during this period, and they varied by city. John is the
Treasurer of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and
Chairman of the club's DELPEX Committee, their
stamp show held annually in late April.

Feature Programs for February '21

10 February 2021 at 6:15 p.m.

Mike Bach will present *1890: Celebration of the
Jubilee of the Penny Post*. With the issuance of the
world's first postage stamp by the U.K in 1840,
many other countries followed suit. Along with the
stamps often came some degree of needed postal
reform. Reformer Rowland Hill agitated sufficiently
until many of his ideas became law including
uniform penny postage across the land. With this
came improved literacy, greater communication, and
a spawn of new businesses. In 1890, the 50th
anniversary of this all was celebrated across the
land. There were exhibits, gala events, speeches, and
ephemera of all kinds. Member and collector Mike
will elucidate this splendid Golden Anniversary.

24 February 2021 at 6:15 p.m.

Dr. Charles DiComo will present *The Providence,
R.I. Pre-Mailing Control Marking on the U.S. 3 Cent
1851-57 Stamp*. The re-discovery nearly 20 years ago
of a number of covers and adhesives led to a re-
examination of what had previously been termed
a *silent precancel* on the U.S. 3¢ stamp, 1851-57 Is-
sue. The adhesives have either a single horizontal
and/or vertical ruled line (or both) in black pencil
and/or red pencil (or both) spanning the stamp from
edge to edge. An examination of over 600 Providence
covers (and many more stamps) from 1851 through
1860 and the discovery of thirteen year-dated covers
confirmed the period of use as April 1855 to October
1857. These control-marked (See *Providence*, Pg.-4)

2021 Dues Questions...Pg.-6

Volume 84, Nos. 1-2

Jan & Feb. 2021

Visitors are Always
Welcome

*Given the recent Covid-19 pandemic
and social distancing to curtail the
spread of the virus, PSLC has
ceased its in-person monthly meet-
ings, replacing them with virtual
meetings on Zoom twice a month.*

PSLC usually meets the 2nd
Wed. of the month (except Au-
gust) at the Crossings Meeting
Room, Landis Homes, 1001 E.
Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543
at 7:00 pm. Dues: \$10.00/year.
For club information call Paul
Petersen at 717-299-5640

Website: LCPS-Stamp.org

PSLC Officers and Board

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veloper & Designer:**

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11 November Minutes, Treasury, & Happenings

David Weichert, Sect'y, and Lou DiFelice, \$\$\$

Opening: Dr. DiComo called the virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He shared the updates he has made to the website including new exhibits, and he encouraged all of us to visit.

Approval of September and October Minutes and Treasury Reports: These were approved unanimously by voice vote on the screen.

Membership: Paul Petersen said that 14 have paid 2021 dues to date, and the renewal form is on the last page of every newsletter. Please send checks only, no cash. **Barbara Buchanan** continues to update the club roster, and Paul said that October ended with 124 dues paying members.

Meeting Attendance: 33

Treasury Report: Lou DiFelice noted few changes in October.

Treasury: 1-31 October 2020

Opening:	\$2836.77
Income:	\$30.00
Expenses:	\$109.44
Sum:	\$2757.33
2-CDs @	\$5900.25

Annual Election of Officers: Dan & Johnny Martin moved that the recommended slate of officers be re-elected to serve another term in 2021. This was seconded by Scott Ney. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

President: Dr. CJ DiComo

1st VP: John Hostetter

2nd VP: Wm. Greiner, III

Secretary: David Weichert

Treasurer: Lou DiFelice

Congratulations. Thank you all.

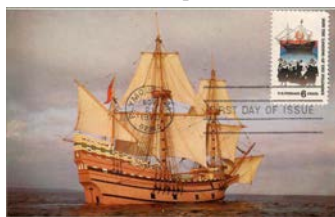
2021 Lancopex: Lou and Charlie gave an update. At least 20 dealers have expressed an interest, and the venue is working with us, offering great flexibility and safety. Paul added that he received a cold contact from an interested NJ dealer and passed this on to Dick Shaefer and Lou. Planning will continue with care, as all is based on the progression of the virus five months from now.

Feature Presentation: David Hunt: *Pilgrims 400*.



Notably, the *Mayflower* landed on 11 November 1620, just 400 years

before today's date. Dave prepared a history of the celebration of the *Mayflower* as depicted on both U.S. and UK stamps.



He augmented this with covers, some EFOs, special cancels, and other ephemera of interest. Using this, Dave narrated the history of the settling of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts.



Bob Kotanchik shared an image of a *Mayflower-II* cover from a 1957 voyage of this replica ship that he saw as a boy. This cover contains an explanatory insert that is signed by Alan Villier, the captain of the *Mayflower-II* (▼).



Short Presentations, Show & Tell, Q and A, and Discussion:

Steven J. Rod displayed his new PSLC membership card as member No.564. As he likes to link his personal numbers to Scott numbers, his PSLC number represents the 12¢ Grover Cleveland issue of 1922. Steven displayed a few related covers and offered some history of interest.

Paul showed a few slides of past meeting topics including the '71 UK mail strike including a stamp



specific to Israel (lower left ↙).

Others included WWII Philippine victory covers including Jose Rizal stamps, and UK Boy Scout local stamps for Christmastime (lower right ↘). As today is Armistice Day, Paul showed some period picture post cards representing the end of WWI on 11 November.

Related to WWI, **Dr. DiComo** displayed his pane of 100 of 537s, the U.S. WWI Victory issue of 1919. This also has the plate finisher's initials of JW Gessford. A discussion of this job description followed.



Continuing the WWI (↑) thread, **RD Noble** displayed his precancelled (Salem, OH) block of 537, the deep red violet issue, a rare color variety (Above). He noted that a point of interest with the extant issues of this color variety is that almost all are precancels from Salem, Ohio!

RD also showed some coincidental covers. The first was mailed on 24 September 1908 from Chicago to WJ Fraser in Lincoln, PA (near Ephrata). The second, a few years later, also to WJ Fraser in Lincoln, was a cover from the Hamilton Watch Factory with the silent cancel.



Dr. DiComo displayed a magnificent 1840 composite BEP engraving, a presentation card from the archives of the American Banknote Company. It contains vignettes of B. Franklin, G. Washington, T. Jefferson, and a miniature copy of the Declaration of Independence. (See image on right ▶)

He also had a 2-cent revenue label for F. Brown Jamaica Ginger; a Dailey's Galvanic Horse Salve label; and a Dailey's Magical Pain Extractor trade card.

Club Notes

Programs & Shows

2021 Programs

13 January: French Balloon Mail. Dick Colberg

27 January: The Panama Map Stamps. John Hocker

10 February: 1890: The Jubilee Celebrations of the Penny Post. Mike Bach.

24 February: The Providence, R.I. Pre-Mailing Control Marking on the U.S. 3 Cent 1851-57 Stamp. Dr. Charles J. DiComo.

10 March: The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Stamp: Production, First Day, and other Uses. Alan Warren.

24 March: An introduction to Revenue Collecting as Illustrated by Members' Items.

14 April: Revenues: Carte-de-Vistas. Bill Schultz.

28 April: "Doc, I need a drink": Events and Revenues Leading to the Prohibition. Ron Leshner

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

26 May: Collecting Newspaper Wrappers: A Type of Postal Stationary. Cemil Betanov.

9 June: Open Date

23 June: Open Date

14, 28 July: Open Date

11 August: Summer Picnic. Millersville Memorial Park

25 August: Open Date

8 September: Open Date

22 September: Journey to the Ney Post Office. Scott Ney

13 October: U.S. Int'l Philatelic Expos, Part-II. Paul Petersen

27 October: Halloween stamps and postal history: Dave Hunt.

10 November: Potentially: The 2021 Annual Open House and One-Page Exhibits, Len Kasper & Paul Petersen.

24 November: Open date

8 December: Potential: December Dinner. Deb Ehleiter & Co. ... or Open Date

22 December: Open Date



Ben Franklin Engraving

UK Airmail to Israel

25 Nov. Meeting Proceedings

Paul Petersen opened the meeting at 6:35 and introduced our newest members. **Jim Strycharz** is from Southwick, MA and has been collecting very seriously over the last ten years. His interests include U.S. covers, postal history, and sorting through collections purchased at auctions. **Stevan Cady** recently moved to western PA from Alaska. He is also a member of the Wilkesburg Club (near Pittsburgh) and collects U.S., Canada and its provinces, and Germany.



The humorous 1969 Wilkesburg stamp show souvenir sheet is one of a series. This is courtesy to Ed. ☒ from **Dave Hunt**.

Meeting attendance was 33.



Feature Presentation: Mike Bach's PowerPoint was *Wilkes-Ellsworth: Their Expedition to the North Pole*.



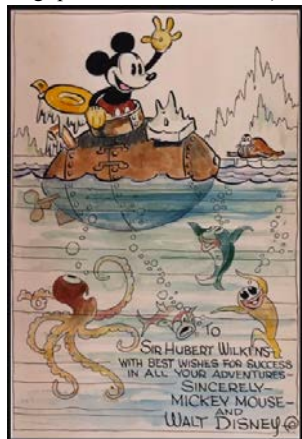
This topic brought a number of visitors to the site. This included **Tony Shields**, a stamp dealer from Australia who specializes in polar philately. (See Pg.-6) Tonight's presentation was well illustrated with covers, cancels, and other ephemera of the trip. It is the originating country's stamps and cancels that help to provide the details of the event. Several members tonight shared screen images. (↓ and ↗)



Alan Warren shared that the journal of the American Society of Polar Philatelists is entitled *Ice Cap News*. (Below ▼)



(Ed. ☒'s note. Alan Warren is the editor of this journal, and it just won a gold medal for literature at Chicagopex in late November.)



David Hunt displayed a related item from Disney saluting Sir Hubert Wilkins. (Above ▲)

Scott Ney shared his new interest in collecting cancels, one for each day of the calendar year starting with his stamps from the German States.



'Tis the Season of Giving

Yes, your stamp packet donations are still needed in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. Outreach and education remain strong during our social distancing.

Traditionally at our December Dinner the club has collected stamp packet donations for both APS and ATA, of which we are affiliated chapters. Then earlier in the New Year, these packets are shipped to their respective Societies with holiday wishes from the PSLC membership. These stamps are used in their educational programs.

With the cancellation of the Great American Stamp Show in August, APS remains well-stocked, and she currently needs no additional packets at this time. However, ATA can use topical stamp packets. If you are in a position to make a stamp packet donation, see the information that follows.

Instructions for ATA:

What-Please prepare glassines of stamps of single topics, i.e. space, cats, wine, chess, orchids, and so forth. It's an opportunity to find a good home for your doubles.

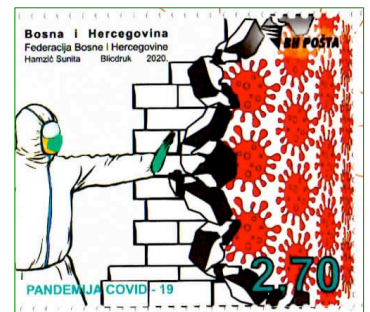
How-Please include only off-paper stamps unless the stamps are closely clipped of cover paper.

Anything Else? ① ATA can also use packets of hinges with 50 to a glassine. Further. ② ATA will accept donations of U.S. postage stamps with face value of greater than or equal to 20¢ per stamp. This postage will be used for mailing the topical stamp packets and other educational items.

Where to send-Please mail to:

Barbara Ashwe
1633 Adelia Place
Atlanta, GA 30329-3807

Barbara is the volunteer who prepares many of the educational packets and album pages for ATA that are sent around the world.



↑ **And Speaking of Topicals:** One of the hottest new collecting areas is Covid-19 topics on stamps. This includes images of the virus, masks, medical personnel and equipment, and other related items. See Bosnia stamp example above.



↑ And for you collectors of Maps on Stamps, the 2020 Europa theme was ancient postal routes, so maps on stamps are having their day. Above is one of the stamps from Andorra. According to Ed. ☒, the best of any Maps on Stamps images contain maps that are essentially usable to get from point-A to point-B if on a bike or in a car. This topical map stamp from Andorra is certainly a good example of this.

Winter Cover Quiz Unresolved

The November-December issue contained the quiz asking what was wrong with the 1990 philatelic cover (→) commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1939-1940 NY World's Fair. No one responded. The answer is that while the franking was correct with the 1939 stamp (853), the cachet image was incorrect, as it depicted the Unisphere of the 1964-1965 NY World's Fair. The prize was a set of the 1925 Norse American Issue. Winner had the choice of the dark or light #621.



9 December Minutes, Treasury, & Happenings

David Weichert, Sect'y, and Lou DiFelice, Treasurer

Paul Petersen opened the virtual meeting at 6:35 with a welcome to all. He and **Lou DiFelice** discussed the 19-20 December Some Sunday Stamp Show, and as of today it is still on. Lou noted that the Farm & Home Center remains in business, but with the Covid surge, things can change. We will let membership know if the show is cancelled. **Video Presentations:** Paul shared that starting tonight, meeting host **Suzanne Noble-Uhl** will continue to tape the presentations and will now forward to **Steven Kennedy**. He will edit these and forward to **Dr. DiComo** who is building a YouTube channel to contain the video feature presentations. Eventually, as this progresses there will be links to these meeting videos on the PSLC and the MAFED (in progress-more to come) websites. **Attendance tonight was approximately 35.**

Lou DiFelice provided the financial report note below.

Treasury: 1-30 November 2020

Opening:	\$2757.33
Income:	\$250.00
Expenses:	\$54.15
Sum:	\$2953.18
2-CDS @	\$5900.25

Feature Presentation: Steven J. Rod presented *Nassau Street: The Stamp Collectors' Paradise*.



Nassau Street in Manhattan was the place to be for stamp collectors from the late 19th Century to the mid-20th Century. It exemplifies the great history of the hobby in its golden years with numerous stamp dealers with businesses here.

With plentiful illustrations, Steven discussed the dealers, buildings, real estate, literature, some of the characters, the auctions, the sales, and the other great stories behind this unprecedented NYC stamp-collecting mecca.



Steven shared short bios of some of the notables including J. Murray Bartels, J.C. Morgenthau, Eugene Klein, and Herman 'Pat' Herst Jr., among others. Herst is well known for his book *Nassau Street*, one that was published over many editions and was included on the *New York Times* bestseller list.



Great questions and answers followed. Many viewers shared the nostalgia of their early experiences in the 1950s-1960s stamp shops including those in a dozen many Gimbels stores. Steven noted that these covers are prime examples of the debate: "What is a commercial cover? Vs. What is a philatelic one? Many of those covers to and from Nassau Street might be considered to be a little of each.



Mike Bach reported that since his polar presentation on the 25th, he has had some great correspondence on this topic. He has added some

scanned items to his presentation on the Wilkins-Ellsworth polar expedition. In addition, he has received several contacts from both inside and outside the club including **Mark Jardel**, **David Silcox**, and **Tony Shields** (from Australia.) with additional images to use in his PowerPoint. The dates and postmarks add further insight to the postal history of this expedition (v).



David Silcox shared a specially designed cover signed by Hubert Wilkins for the meeting of the Reading Stamp Collector's Club on 12 December 1931. (Below)



Dennis Shumaker described the definition of "franchise stamps," and he offered some verbal examples.

RD Noble displayed some interesting items, the back of common Washington-Franklin stamps with holes punched in them. The holes were larger than the size that we normally see in traditional 'Perfin' stamps, and they were limited in number to a three by three matrix, necessarily limiting the possible number of holes to nine that could be arranged in a variety of combinations. RD found these holes only on stamps with Type-III Schermack private perforations. Could these be a trial or essay version of Schermack-created perfin created for the perfin market? Bob has many questions and seeks your input.



Volcano!

The Nicaragua stamp below has a story that is one of my favorites, one related to the formation of the Panama Canal (1904-1914) and provides an ironic twist. It is one of the reasons that we call it the Panama Canal and not the Nicaragua Canal!



Like most of us during Covid, we are cleaning out our stamp boxes or stamp rooms, as it beats re-straightening the hall closet or garage once again. In doing so, I pulled my Canal Zone stamp album to peruse after several years. This very act reminded me why I started the collection.

This began with a favorite book, David McCullough's, *The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-1914* (1978). Many of you are familiar with Teddy Roosevelt, Yellow Fever, and Walter Reed. But what happened before the U.S. involvement in 1904 is most interesting.

The financial mismanagement, political intrigue, and related scandals during the French attempt to build the canal in the late 19th Century brought down a government and many with it. Even Gustav Eiffel was arrested, but that is another drama.

Some years later, Philippe Bunau-Varilla was the lobbyist driven to convincing the U.S. Congress to choose Panama for the site of the interoceanic canal. It was a close but political ordeal with vested interests for both Nicaragua and Panama.

Just before the vote, Buenau-Varilla purchased 90 stamps at a local stamp store, one for each senator (1c to 5 pesos). He called it "An official witness to volcanic activity in Nicaragua."

In 1902 there had been great destruction in Nicaragua with the eruption of Mt. Momotomba. Panama had no volcanos!

The resulting U.S. Senate vote in 1904 was 42-32 in favor of locating the canal in Panama.

(→from **Providence**, Pg.-1) 3¢ adhesives were post-cancelled with the Providence, RI CDS and accepted for postage at the Providence PO. Brown University appears to be a main "account" holder, with other prominent businesses

and families partaking, e.g.: Corliss Steam Engine Co.; H.F. Walling Publishers; Slade; Comstock; and Steere, *et al.* This original research and remarkable story of ingenuity at the Providence, RI Post Office can now be shared.

(→from Veranda, Pg.-1) links to others across the country to join the session. PSLC routinely sends out one or more of these to you.

So where does PSLC fit into the formula? After having to cancel our March meeting, we began our meetings via Zoom in April through the hosting of Susanne Noble Uhl who has provided outstanding service to the club. This was successful, so Suzanna offered to host two meetings in May. We have had two monthly meetings ever since. This is hard to beat. Paul has been busy in planning the programs. We have an attendance of approximately the mid-30s per meeting while we once reached over 40! The richness of the topical and geographic diversity of the speakers has been outstanding. Most of the presenters' PowerPoints are available for you on our website¹. This has paid off, as we have gained some new members from among those who have visited our club meetings. And more is coming. ¹<https://lcp-stamps.org/presentations/>

Take for instance Mike Bach's November 25th presentation the night before Thanksgiving. The topic was the *Wilkins-Ellsworth: Their Expedition to the North Pole*. The announcement of his meeting was on the website, Facebook page, and in the newsletter; all have large circulations. Leading up to the presentation there were nearly ten outside collectors seeking an invite. With vetting, most expressed their interest in polar philately.

There was solid attendance at the meeting. Following Mike's presentation, the follow-up discussion and questions were in depth. Some participants had .pdf images of their own Wilkins & Ellsworth Expedition covers ready to share.

Within a few weeks, Mike had received images from several meeting participants. This allowed him to augment his presentation along with a host of resources, both printed and human. Mike's experience is an example of what can be done digitally in a time of adversity.



I hope that your holiday was a good one and that 2021 is off to a good start. I am enjoying my stamp-patterned Covid-19 mask at work, a gift from the family. Cheers. CJD

Dr. DiComo opened the meeting with a greeting to members and guests and shared his pleasure at seeing so many faces just two days before Christmas. He provided a brief update on the formation of a nine-state stamp club federation. A special guest tonight was **Dave Weichert's** eight-year old granddaughter who is starting to collect "Flags on Stamps."

Membership/Dues: Reporting for **Barbara Buchanan**, **Paul Petersen** said the year-end number of paid members (2020) was 125. Further, 31 have already paid their dues for 2021. Dues notices and renewal slips will continue to be in the newsletter on the last page of each issue.

Spring Outdoor Bourse: Paul shared the possibility of holding an outside club bourse in Millersville and sought some consensus which he received. He will follow up with the Borough for available dates and the legality of holding sales. Membership also noted that weekdays or weekends are both suitable, but a worker bee said that he could only come on weekends. Paul will also book the summer picnic for 11 August.

PowerPoint Training Course: **Ann Beyerly** said that ATA is holding a course on preparation of PowerPoint presentations, three sessions (5, 7, and 12 January) for \$25 for ATA members and \$35 for non-ATA members. Info is on the ATA website. Some knowledge of PowerPoint preparation is recommended.



Feature Presentation: Dr. DiComo presented *Banking in the Village of Pawling, NY and Surrounding Townships as told through Postal History, Bank Checks, Currency, Revenue Stamps and Postal Cards: 1849-1929*. (See Pawling PO below)



23 December Proceedings

While this presentation focused on one small town in New York, it is representative of many other towns across the country who started banks, opened post offices, printed script, legal tender, and bank checks while engaging other towns and cities as they contributed to a growing America.



Dick Colberg displayed some older local checks from his Lebanon, PA collection.

George Hauber, Sr. Gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled *The Americana Series, 1975-1981*.



This U.S. definitive series included subjects such as the Roots of Democracy, Rights and Freedoms, E Pluribus Unum, A New Nation, and American Light (Below). He ended this with ways to combine some of these stamp values to meet the 55¢ and other rates.



RD Noble shared an image of some common QEII issues, the Wildings of the 1950s era and a

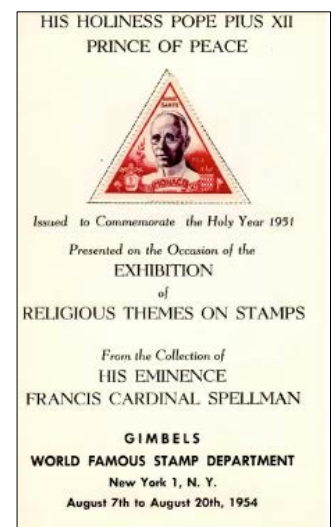
post-1971 Machin issue. He is doing some research on these and will follow-up at a later date.



"Whatizit?" Bob Kotanchik displayed the heart stamp below. Does anybody have information about this item? Dr. DiComo did some computer research, and found that it was a children's cardiology program that was part of Lancaster Gen'l Hospital.



Gimbels: Following up on the last meeting discussion of members' experiences at some of the stamp departments in Gimbels Department Stores, **Paul Petersen** displayed the item below, a 1954 bi-fold (with a real stamp), with an invite from Gimbels to collectors for a topical exhibit at the NYC store. Inside are promotionals for Minkus stamp accouterments, and on the last page are quotes from famous collectors such as Francis Spellman, FDR, the PMG, and a few others (↓).



PSLC Visitor Highlights

Ed's ☒ Note: Mike Bach thought some background information of polar philately dealer and collector, Tony Shields of Australia would be of interest to members of PSLC. He was a visitor to our Zoom meeting in November due to his interest in Mike's presentation. He is the owner of Shields Stamps and Coins and shared many of his interests and activities at the meeting and subsequently with Mike. As Mike pursues polar philately, he and Tony will certainly be communicating.

Tony begins that Antarctica is his passion, and he has visited four times by ship with another trek planned for 2022.

He has been the speaker on the topic for two of the Qantas dedicated Antarctic flights. More so, Tony has travelled to the Arctic in both Canada and Norway.

As a member of the British and Australian polar history societies, he was the organizer for the 2020 Antarctic Week Festival Stamp Expo in Hobart, in Tasmania, off the southeast corner of Australia.

This event is part of the larger Antarctic Festival, which may draw up to 35,000 people. Unfortunately this event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Many are hoping that they will be able to hold this event again in 2022.

Hobart is an iconic and historic Antarctic city. It is the place from which Amundsen told the world he had reached the South Pole. This year is the centennial of the Wyatt Earp which was the vessel that Wilkins bought to carry their plane and provisions to the Antarctic for the flights with Lincoln Ellsworth. It is also the bicentenary of the first sighting of the continent.

Just a reminder...

Balloon mail is coming. To learn about this topic, just visit us at the 13 January session by **Dick Colberg** on French Balloon Mail during the 1870-1 siege of Paris throughout the Franco-Prussian War.



For those with 'enquiring' minds desiring a head start, there is a detailed article entitled *Balloons let besieged Parisians communicate during war with Prussia* by Larry Rosenblum. It is published in the

recent 19 October 2020 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* (starting on pg.-30). It is well illustrated, and it contains a listing of the 67 known flights of this era. **And if you are intrigued by Panama**, or even if you are not, **John Howker** will be speaking on 27 January on the Panama map stamps.



This is a fascinating set of stamps that involved several sovereignties, designs, revisions, and overprints...all in one presentation. Don't miss it.

2021 Postal Increases

These increases begin on Sunday, 24 January '21. The good news is that the one ounce letter rate will remain at 55¢, but the additional ounce rate

will increase from 15¢ to 20¢. Post cards will increase from 35 to 36¢. The one-ounce Int'l rate and postcard rate will both remain at \$1.15.

Some Questions on 2021 PSLC Dues

A few queries have come to our attention regarding the 2021 dues process. One was about how this year's dues are to be paid. Simple: The process is similar to previous years with a one exception. The renewal form (below) has been running in the newsletter. Just clip it out and return with a check as noted in the instructions. The one exception this year is that we have no in-person dues submission process. In the past one could turn in their \$10 during the meetings in the late fall or early winter and receive an updated membership card almost immediately. Since we no longer have in-person meetings, at least for the foreseeable future, 2021 dues submission will be by mail only. This will be a very time consuming process for Membership Chairman, Barbara Buchanan (who is still working), Treasurer Lou DiFelice, and to some extent, you, our members. We apologize for this. So please consider paying your dues right away while you are thinking about it. The return form is readily at hand (below).

The other question was this: **"Why do we have to pay dues when we no longer have any meetings? Some other clubs have cancelled dues for 2021. Why not PSLC?"** This deserves an answer. In 2020, PSLC lost income. This started with our up-front Lancopex costs that we could not recoup. Couple this with the loss of income from the show itself, and one is talking real money. Further we lost income from both the 50-50 drawings at the monthly meetings and from the realization dollars from items donated to the club in auctions three times a year. These latter two losses are over several hundred dollars.

Mention should also be made, that while there are no in-person meetings, club leaders are working harder than ever. We have gone from holding seven (7) live presentations a year to nearly 23 virtual presentations a year. A great deal of time goes into the planning, logistics, and follow-up of these online programs. Many members give their valuable time for the research, compilation, and production of their presentations. Further, time is spent on recording the meetings and editing these for a YouTube channel so that those who miss a meeting can view them at their leisure. Many hours go into the maintenance and upgrading of the website and Facebook page, and the newsletter is still published and distributed both online and in hard copy. Membership Committee activities are time consuming as well as the Treasurer's duties given a census of 125 dues paying members.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation with 2021 payments so that the arduous dues-collecting process does not drag on throughout the 2021 philatelic year. And once again, we are sorry for any inconvenience this brings you.

☒ ✂

Please clip this dues renewal notice, complete, and mail to **Mrs. Barbara Buchanan**, PO Box 116, Conestoga, PA 17516-0116, with **\$10.00**, ☒ Checks only, no cash. Be sure to sign your check. Thank you in advance.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

ATA Member ☐

APS Member ☐

Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member. ☒ Make checks payable to **Philatelic Society of Lancaster County**. Also, please advise of any changes in address, cell number, or email address.

Lancaster to Philadelphia; Same Distance, Different Rates – It's all about the Sheets.

Charles J. DiComo, PhD

The Lancaster Bank began life as Lancaster Trading Company, and enjoyed a rather long period of operation under this title from March 24, 1818 until 1856 (**Figure 1**). Christian Bachman (1795 – 1849) was for a long time cashier of the old Lancaster Bank. He was born in Hempfield, Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania and prominent in the community. He held a number of positions besides Cashier, from Prothonotary in 1830 of the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster County, as well as Prothonotary of the District Court for the city and county of Lancaster until 1836. His son, Benjamin C. (B.C.) Bachman, was also a cashier at the Lancaster Bank, later becoming President. The bank had an interesting history, a few comments concerning which are given below.

By December 1856, *Banker's Magazine* printed that "The Lancaster Bank, with a capital of \$403,900, and circulation about \$500,000, suspended payment on the 15th November, in consequence of a pressing demand for specie in payment of its bills, arising from the refusal of the banks and brokers of Philadelphia to take the bills on deposit. Mr. B.C. Bachman resigned the presidency a few days before the suspension, and is succeeded by Mr. A. Herr Smith." Why did Benjamin C. Bachman resign the presidency? He and his partners had been embezzling and were arrested shortly thereafter and charged.¹ The Lancaster Bank closed its "vaults" by the end of 1856, and did not live to suffer in the Panic of 1857, which began the following autumn.

Times were difficult for many banks in 1855 and 1856 leading up to the Panic of 1857, an abrupt downturn in the U.S. economy. A general recession had emerged in late-1856, but the successive failure of banks and businesses that characterized the panic began in mid-1857. While the overall economic downturn was brief, the recovery was disproportionate, and the lasting impact was more political than economic. The panic began with a loss of confidence in an Ohio bank, and spread as railroads failed and fears that the U.S. Federal Government would be unable to pay obligations in specie mounted. More than 5,000 American businesses failed within a year, and unemployment was accompanied by protest meetings. Ultimately, the panic and depression spread to Europe, South America and the Far East. No recovery was apparent in the northern parts of the U.S for a year and a half, and the full impact did not dissipate until the American Civil War.



Figure 1. View of the north side of the Courthouse on the center of Penn Square (1787-1853) showing Lancaster Bank on southwest corner of the Square and S. Queen Street.²

Before we analyze the three letters Christian Bachman wrote; a few words on the addressee Orrick, Grubbs & Parker. Founded in 1839 in Philadelphia, Samuel D. Orrick, Edward B. Grubb and William B. Parker were iron merchants located at Race & Water Street. They acted as the selling agent for the many forges and furnaces operated by members of the Grubb family in Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York Counties. The Grubb family was prominent in the history of iron making in Pennsylvania. One of the furnaces they owned and operated, the Henry Clay Furnaces was located in West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County (**Figure 2**).

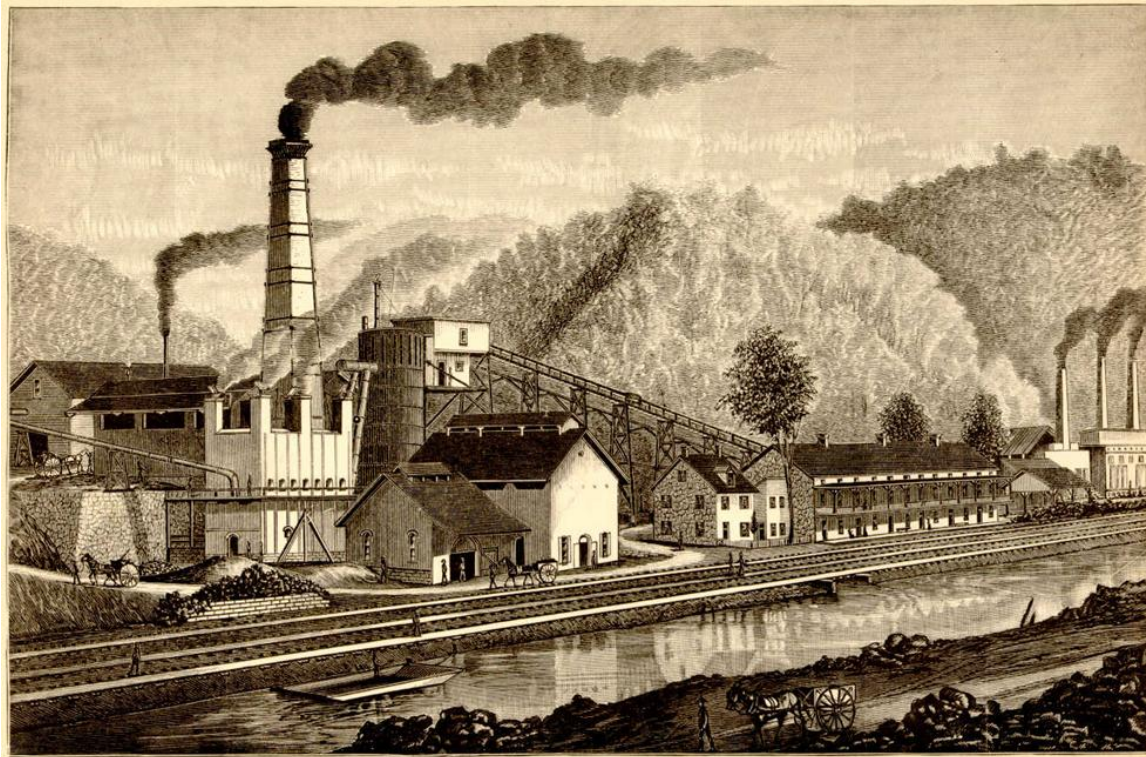


Figure 2. Henry Clay Furnaces, West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, PA. Built in 1845 by Peter Haldeman, merchant of Columbia. Purchased in 1857 by Mr. Grubb and James McCormick, Esq. Remained idle from 1857-1863, then purchased by a consortium who eventually sold out to C.B. Grubb and Son.³

It is worth mentioning that in the area between Marietta and Columbia, eleven furnaces operated between 1845 and the end of the century. These furnaces did not operate as a lone stack. There were many connected and ancillary buildings to keep the hot blast furnace flowing. It was common to have a casting house, stock house, ore roasters, engine house, as well as houses for the workers. For those adventurers and historians, one can still see the remains of the iron furnaces today, most of which can be found along the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail between Columbia and Marietta.

With that background, we turn to the three stampless folded letters that Lancaster Bank Cashier, Christian Bachman penned to Orrick, Grubbs & Parker between 1841 and 1842. The **Figure 3** letter entered the mails in Lancaster, PA on April 25, 1841, where the clerk struck a pale blue 30 mm **LANCASTER APR 25 PA** circular date stamp (CDS), with matching pale blue 19 x 5 mm **PAID** handstamp and a manuscript "10", paying the inland rate for 30-80 miles to Philadelphia for a single letter sheet. The contents of the letter discuss railroad iron being offered for sale by the State of Pennsylvania, which the Lancaster Bank could loan funds on. The letter is docketed in cursive on the inner flap "*C Bachman April 24/41, Rec. 25*", confirming receipt by the offices of Orrick, Grubbs & Parker.



Figure 3. Folded letter from Lancaster, PA to Philadelphia, PA. Entered mails April 25, 1841 with PAID and manuscript "10", paying inland rate for 30-80 miles for a single letter sheet.

The **Figure 4** letter entered the mails in Lancaster on August 3, 1841, where the clerk struck a pale blue 30 mm LANCASTER AUG 3 PA CDS and manuscript "20", this time paying double the 10¢ inland rate for 30-80 miles to Philadelphia for "two" sheets. From the contents, this letter contained a bank draft (absent) for \$978.66. Of note, the clerk did not strike the pale blue 19x5 mm **PAID** handstamp. As with the letter in Figure 3, this is docketed in cursive on the inner flap "C Bachman Aug 9/41, R. 10", confirming receipt.



Figure 4. Folded letter from Lancaster, PA to Philadelphia, PA. Entered mails August 3, 1841 with manuscript "20", paying double the 10¢ inland rate for 30-80 miles for "two" sheets. Contained a bank draft (absent) for \$978.66.

The final letter of this trio is depicted in **Figure 5**. It entered the mails in Lancaster on August 13, 1842, where the clerk struck the pale blue 30 mm LANCASTER AUG 13 PA CDS and manuscript "30" (now in blue ink), paying triple the 10¢ inland rate for 30-80 miles to Philadelphia for "three" sheets. From reading the contents, this folded letter contained a note for \$106.28 and a bank draft (both absent). As with the prior two letters, there is docketing in cursive on the inner flap "C Bachman Aug 13/41, Rec. 14__", confirming receipt.

Summing up, we have three stampless folded letters sent over a one year period from Christian Bachman, Cashier at the Lancaster Bank, to iron merchants Orrick, Grubbs & Parker, in Philadelphia, PA. They traveled the same distance of nearly 65 miles, yet were rated differently (10¢, 20¢ and 30¢). Why the different rates?

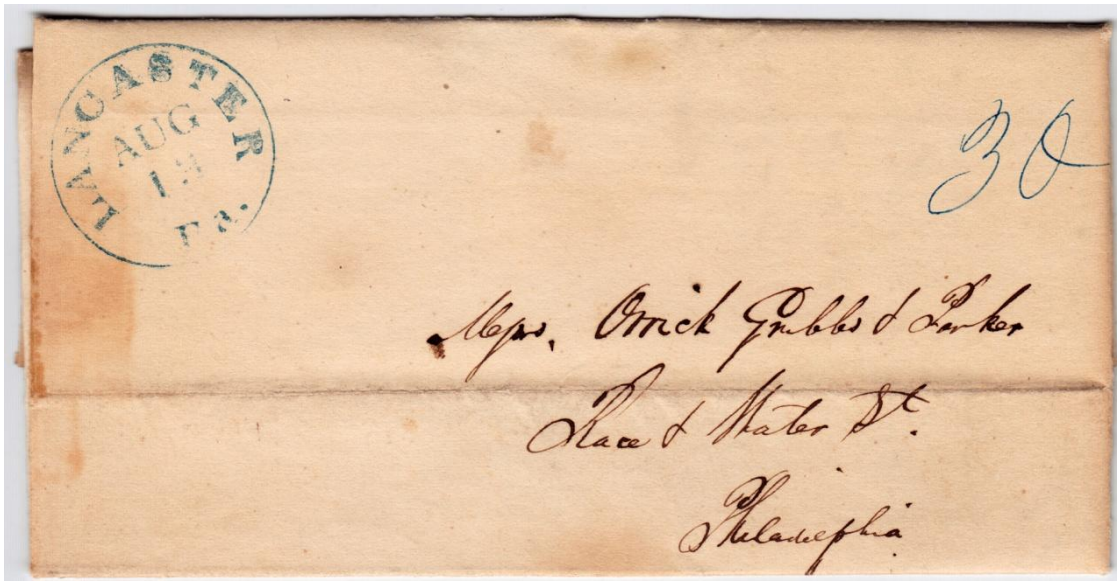


Figure 5. Folded letter from Lancaster, PA to Philadelphia, PA. Entered mails August 13, 1842 with manuscript “30”, paying triple the 10¢ inland rate for 30-80 miles for “three” sheets. Contained a note for \$106.28 and a bank draft (both absent).

To answer this question, we need to revisit the establishment of our own centralized postal system after the founding the United States and the Act of February 20, 1792. Agents were hired and paid to perform various services. Owners of freight lines and stages bid on contracts to carry the mail on a regular basis over specific routes, stopping at various towns along the way. Post Offices were established in each of these towns to accept and hold letters for delivery. Postal fees were established by Congress and related to the distance a letter was carried, the number of sheets of paper in the letter, and the weight.

This period between 1792 and 1855 is called the “Stampless Era.” Postage stamps had not been issued by the U.S. government until 1847 and their use on letters did not become mandatory until after 1855. Over the years from the first Act in 1792, additional Acts were passed changing the cost per distance per sheet and weight. During the 1840’s when the three letters were mailed, the Acts of April 9, 1816 and March 3, 1825 were in effect. The rates per single sheet were: 1¢ drop letter; 6¢ <30 miles; 10¢ 30-80 miles; 12½¢ 80-150 miles; 18¾¢ 150-400 miles; 25¢ >400 miles.

Furthermore, most mail was sent postage due – the recipient paid the postage when he or she picked up the letter from the receiving post office. Gradually, that practice changed so some mail was prepaid and some was sent due. “PAID” markings were used to denote prepayment. The cover in Figure 3 shows the **PAID** handstamp, confirming that Cashier Bachman on behalf of Lancaster Bank prepaid 10¢ in cash to the clerk to mail the “single sheet” letter to Philadelphia. The other two letters were not stuck with the PAID handstamp, indicating they were sent postage due – the 20¢ and 30¢ being paid by Orrick, Grubbs & Parker. No doubt the sizeable transactions being conducted between the two entities made for paying the postage due by Orrick, Grubbs & Parker simply a cost of doing business.

Over time, postal reform gradually occurred with a great reduction in the fees charged on letters. A few years after these three stampless letters were mailed in 1845; the postage fees were reduced to 5¢ and 10¢ for letters carried for less or greater than 400 miles, respectively.

We are fortunate that these letters were jointly found, informing us on the business dealings in the 1840s between Lancaster Bank and the iron merchant Orrick, Grubbs & Parker. They also allow a recounting of the numerous postal rates established during the Stampless Era, based on distance, sheets and weight. Happy hunting!

References

1. “The Mysteries of Banking,” published in *The Star of the North, Bloomsburg*, Columbia County, PA, Vol. 9, No. 1, Jan. 21, 1857, pg. 1.
2. View of the north side of the courthouse on the center of Penn Square (1787-1853) showing the Lancaster Bank on the southwest corner of the Square and South Queen Street. LancasterHistory.org, Object ID: 2-15-01-09.
3. Image of the Henry Clay Furnace, south of Chickies Creek, West Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Credit: Ellis, Franklin and Samuel Evans, *History of Lancaster County*, 1883. http://explorepahistory.com/kora/files/1/2/1-2-107E-25-ExplorePAHistory-a0k6k0-a_349.jpg