

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173

Club Meeting: Wednesday, 14th May at 7:00 PM

BlueBird Commons. Tonight's host is Tryude Greiner

## Message From the President

Eleanor Wheeler

This month I had the pleasurable task of preparing the program for Lancopex-2008, our 23rd annual show and bourse. Preparing the program is a great way to preview and appreciate all the work that is required to bring this show together.

Then starting on Friday evening, the teamwork began. Twelve people came to set up the tables and exhibit frames. On Saturday

and Sunday we had those same people and many more who worked at the entrance, greeting and signing in visitors, working the club table and snack tables, and ordering and delivering lunches for dealers, judges, and anyone else. We are all grateful to all of us who helped bring another show to fruition. THANK YOU all, and especially Jim Boyles who knows all! And a

special thank you to Marilyn Shirley who donated cookies and brownies that were delicious, sold very well and made a clear profit for the club.

My next goal is to prepare a manual of jobs and information for Lancopex that can be passed on from one administration to another.



## Club Auction: Program-May, 2008

Do you recall the philatelic New Year's Resolution you made a while back? Well, your time has come. This May's auction will be the opportunity to recycle some of your items that are doubles or are of no interest. Remember that one collector's double is another's treasure. And while you are at it, take the time to see what else will be on the auction block that may help

start you off on another collecting interest.

Note the auction guidelines: There is a 10 lot limit, and the minimum bid is \$1.00 or more. Label your lots with description, minimum bid, catalogue value, and your auction number. Auction numbers will be assigned when you arrive; there will be time to include this information.



"The stamps that the spy sent told a real story-secret information about the British Army and Navy! When he sent a 2-schilling stamp to his friend in Holland, it meant that a battleship had just left England. A 1-shilling stamp meant a cruiser. A 5-penny stamp a destroyer, and so on. When I figured out this code, I caught my man!" By Captain Tim in the *Ivory Stamp Club Album*. This referred to his WWI service in the British Intelligence Service with the Censorship Department in determining the source of leaks. Pg.-4

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PSLC Meets the second Wednesday of the month (except August) at BlueBird Commons/ Wood Crest Villa at 7:00 PM

### President:

Eleanor Wheeler

### Vice President:

William P. Snyder

### Secretary:

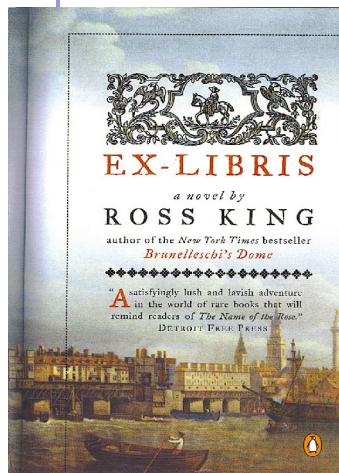
Lori Hostetler

### Treasurer:

Claire Smith

### Newsletter Editor:

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



**A little Postal History..** Ross King's (1999) novel, *Ex-Libris* is one of historical fiction, taking place in 1660 London and environs with flashbacks to the 1620s during a very troubled Europe. The protagonist (Issac Inchbold) is a book seller who is employed on an unusual mission: to relocate and procure some books that disappeared during the Cromwellian era.

The story reflects to the Thirty Years War on the continent in 1620. The usual differences in religion caused consternation among the kings, and off they went to war. As a result, libraries were sacked and pillaged. The luckier volumes survived through sale or hidden storage. Many made their way to the UK, as her participation was early in the war and very ineffectual. Here the books were secure, that is until the English Civil War. Many of the great Royalist libraries suffered their fate from the carnage of war from 1650.

With the end of the interregnum in 1660, many citizens sought to regain their pilfered art, books, and other treasures. Mr. Inchbold sets out on his journey and immediately meets with adventure, conspiracy, suspense, and skulduggery.

*Ex-Libris* is for lovers of books, incunabula, exploration, maps, navigation, invention, astronomy, alchemy, and old documents, all combined into an accurately written narrative of past times. But what will appeal to the philatelist is the postal history sprinkled throughout the novel. The competition for handling the post was fierce among the competitors for the mail routes, and it was often dangerous. While the Post Offices were corrupt, political, and sometimes efficient, they form a common thread that links the communication among the novel's players, that is when it was not intercepted by "officials."

## Minutes From the Secretary

### Lori Hostetler

The meeting was **called to order** by President Eleanor Wheeler at 7:06 PM. Lucy Eyster has been named as **Hospitality Hostess**. She will have nametags in the foyer by the sign-up sheet. For those bringing **monthly snacks**, please be sure to take cups, plates, napkins, as needed. The BlueBird Room will be **open early at 6:30 PM** for those who would like to buy, sell, or trade with the club meeting to start at 7:00 PM sharp. James Boyles passed around the **patron list** for Lancopex which must be paid for tonight, as the program is go-

ing to the printer on Monday, the 14th. **Help** is still needed for April 25-27 **Lancopex**. Jim passed around the sign-up sheet. A special thank you was extended to Paul Petersen for the outstanding job on the **newsletter**. Paul still needs articles and literature for the newsletter. Please Consider sending him information. The **June presentation** will now be held in July. June now needs to be filled-perhaps an APS presentation? The **drawing** for the \$5.00 was won by Dave Strayer who was not present. Next month's drawing will be

\$10.00. After a short break, Paul Petersen gave a **presentation** on Franklin D. Roosevelt, Stamp czar.

#### The Treasury-Clair Smith

Open bal- \$4,152.96  
 Income- \$1,590.84  
 Expenses- \$76.15  
 Closing bal- \$5,667.65



## Is Royal Mail Competing with USPS? What to the British say?

In the 28th April Readers Opinions in *Linn's*, one respondent commented that the USPS is "trying to meet the needs of collectors and help the hobby by offering more products at a wider range of appeal." The letter that followed added that USPS's "activities are one of the reasons why stamp collecting is a dying hobby compared to fifty years ago."

It is always good for my philatelic soul to read the letters in *Stamp Magazine*. Like the USA, Royal Mail is reconfiguring to the irritation of some stamp collectors. Those little red mailboxes are disappearing, and the classic post offices are being relocated to the sterile shopping malls... Jenni Jones

from Llanrumney in Wales responded to a previously published letter from John Howe who apparently criticized the new PO in Cardiff. She found this facility to be "a modern, well-lit area quite easy to find. The philatelic counter is manned by friendly ladies." Other letters decried the inattention that Royal Mail pays to collectors, especially at their philatelic counters. These, like their counterparts in the US, are declining qualitatively and quantitatively. And R . Gillam complained about the limitation of special stamps, and even when printed, they are hard to find-if the clerk is even aware of them. Finally, Brian Hyner, the scoffer, writes that only 5 % of

his company mail is franked, so why should stamps be issued if they have no postal purpose! Yes, folks, it is the same story in the old country. This is what is so great about collecting; it is hard to please everybody equally. Ed □

THE WORLD'S BEST PHILATELIC MAGAZINE MARCH 2005

# STAMP MAGAZINE

What makes this one of the world's great rarities? WIN the latest presentation pack from Royal Mail.

## Cape triangulars

Stunning essays, varieties, woodcuts and errors from 1853-64

10 key landmarks Stamp magazine key MAR 05 \$8.95 Silver Jubilee gems Thematic guide to Britain's monarchs Auction prices under scrutiny

## Miscellaneous Club Notes:

### PSLC Lancopex Exhibit winners; Snack hosts

**PSLC Club Members Win Awards:** During the April Lancopex Exhibit and Stamp Show, several members exhibited their best work and received recognition for their expertise. **James Boyles** won two gold medals for his exhibits entitled: (1) *A Glimpse of Lancaster County Postmarks* and (2) *Postmarks of Lancaster Co. PA, 1757-1899*. The latter also won the Von Hake PPHS Award for the

best in PA Postal History. **Dick Colberg** won a gold medal and the LCPS Award for his exhibit entitled *Mexico Postal Stationery*. **Robert Noble** won a Silver for the exhibit *Pre-cancels, Then and Now*. **Truyde Greiner** received a Certificate of Recognition for her non-competitive exhibit entitled *The Exporta Stamps of Mexico*. Congratulations to these club members for their continued dedication

to the hobby of philately. Their diligence has helped to set our club apart from many other associations.

#### Snack Schedules for the remainder of the year:

**May:** Truyde Greiner; **June:** Leslie Botte; **July:** Dianne Meek; **August:** (No host) Summer Picnic; **September:** Dick & Eleanor Wheeler; **October:** Lou Leidig; **November:** Dick Colberg; **December:** (No host) Christmas Party.

## Dealer Satisfaction Survey for 08 Lancopex

### We did great...

Lancopex-2008 was a success again this year. One way we track this is through a *Dealer Satisfaction Survey*. Twenty-one (21) surveys were distributed, and 14 were returned, indicating a rate of return of 67%. 13 Dealers reported that they met their financial goals for the event, and one reported that he was close to meeting his goals. Dealers made some logistical recommendations for next year that will be reviewed by the show and exhibit committee. Two first-time dealers at Lancopex asked to be invited again for next year. One expressed appreciation at being

surveyed in order to: "share their thoughts." As always the event was well run, and the facility and location received high praise for cleanliness, lighting, lunch, snacks, etc. though some would like more space. Many of those surveyed commented on the courtesy and helpfulness of the club staff who volunteered to make the show a success. And a few mentioned the friendliness of the customers.

A good summary came from a dealer who wrote "Everyone associated with this show has done a great job. The building, promotion

& organization were all very professional. Special credit should go to Jim Boyles." Another dealer also echoed these "Kudos" for Jim.

This weekend there were at least 20 club members who worked for part of the weekend or all of it from set-up on Friday evening through break down on Sunday PM. This included older and younger club members; new members and long-time members; and guys and gals. It was great to see all this enthusiastic cooperation. Jim Boyles's leadership and organization for this annual show is second to none.

## PSLC Celebrates its 70th Anniversary

### Truyde Greiner

May of 2008 is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County in its present form.

The charter was received from the American Philatelic Society in May of 1938. In 1998 the club had a very nice 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday dinner and Bob Lamb of

APS presented us with the original charter and a copy of the *American Philatelist* with the announcement of the event which I have in the archives.

*As a club, we might think of doing something special to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up in 2013.* Ed □



## Follow-up on FDR

It was during the Q&A after the FDR presentation that I was queried about the holdings. I can't recall if it was Bob Noble or Joe Munci who asked: "Did FDR have any gems?" At the time, I was not sure. So, in the interim, I checked the auction report as contained in Baur (1999) to see if anything that was listed had great value. In brief, there were no gems that I could find in this source.

The pre-sale estate appraisal for the entire collection was about \$80K, and the die set collection comprised about half of this estimate. This set was a gift to the president from the USPOD (James A. Farley) and the BEP. It consisted of a die proof of each stamp from 1894 through the Century of Progress issues (Scott 228-9). It started with the thirteen definitive set issue of 1894 covering the 1¢ to the \$5 stamps (Scott 246-267) and continued to the 1933 issues. No specific rarities of these issues were noted. The die proofs sold for \$53,650 in the first lots of the sale. Prior to the sale there was great controversy in the popular and philatelic press as to the auction of government property for a family estate. But there was president of such die proof gifts to previous presidents.

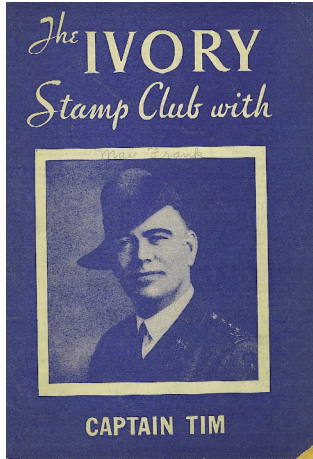
After these items came the autographed sheets by FDR, Farley, and others. There were many FDR country collections, with his favorites being Latin America. Included were gifts from foreign dignitaries of country sets and presentation packs. There were FDR's empty but deluxe binders and album covers that were personalized by the album maker or foreign dignitary. To disseminate the holdings to collectors nationwide, packets of his covers, leftovers, and orphans were stamped with an "official" rubber stamp stating the stamps came from the FDR philatelic estate. Many forgeries of these exist. P □



# Musings From the editor

A collection is more than stamps...

## Down Memory Lane



How many of you remember your first stamp album as a youth? Perhaps it was a gift from a relative to encourage you to collect. Or maybe you had seen one with a friend or in the store and wished to get involved. No matter how you stated, it was something you cherished and enjoy greatly to the present day.

Last week I attended a continuing education course related to issues of adult wellness. What stood out was the bullet point that people should have a hobby-that it is good for us. And for the next fifteen minutes I missed some of the presentation, as my mind wandered to my/our hobby of stamp collecting. I recalled Franklin Roosevelt's remark that stamp collecting was his lifesaver. Winston Churchill reinforced this, as he was often in Roosevelt's company during the war. He admitted his jealousy that Franklin had his stamps to enjoy regularly and at those stressful times from evenings at the White House to the summit conferences at Yalta, Casa Blanca, and others.

Many of would agree that collecting can help us with personal stress management. It is

relaxing and satisfying. That is one reason why we do it. So let's look a little deeper. We organize our stamps the way we wish, and we have great flexibility in this. This fosters creativity. After all, there are many ways to collect stamps, and few are incorrect. Further, through creativity and organization of stamps and postal history, our brains are enhanced. And what is good for the brain is good for the body. Look what collecting does for our general knowledge and for our memory; consider all the geography and history, the colours, want lists, perfs, and many other nuances of the hobby. We look forward to the time we set aside with our albums, the glassines, the stock books, and others. It forces us to concentrate, as accuracy is critical. As we build a collection, we formulate

plans, set goals, borrow some money from our spouse, and get to it. We can work solo, in pairs, or in groups to trade or work on an exhibit. The rewards are built in when we complete a page, win an exhibit, earn a profit on a sale, help a child, or make new friends. If you don't think there is socialization in philately, just look at what it takes to put on Lancopex each year. Watch how well the club members all interact to make the show and exhibit such a success.

So, when you are having a good day, from among all your many blessings, thank your stamps. I know that if I had only a few days left to live, I would rather spend some of the time with my albums than cleaning out my garage. Stamp collecting is definitely a very beneficial habit to form. Ed □



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