

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

**Club Meeting: Wednesday, 10 June 2009**

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

BlueBird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Tonight's host: Leslie Ann Botte

## Message from the President

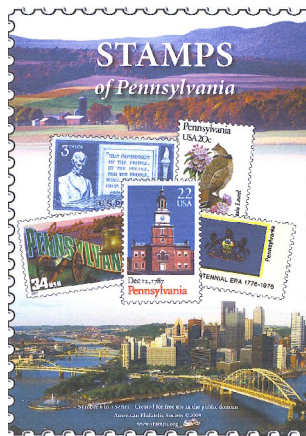
Wm. P. Snyder

Fellow club members, wasn't that auction last month a great one? There seemed to be something for everybody. Special thanks go to auctioneers Jim Boyles and Woody Hann; bookkeeper Dick Schafer; and runners Bob Noble and Paul Petersen. And truthfully, kudos to all of you who participated in this event because without your contributions and enthusiasm, there would be no auction.

At the last meeting I

talked about the free APS stamp albums. Let me explore this a little further with you. Go to [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org), the APS website. On the home page is a menu on the right. Click on "Free album pages." The list will come up.

There are albums for the following states: PA, CT, AK, AZ, NC, & TX. Then there is A. Lincoln, US baseball, Flags of Our Nations, US women on stamps, and the 2008 US album. Each stamp is illustrated and de-



scribed. All are in color.

Why not check them out.

See you the 10th, **Bill**



## June Program: United States Precancels Presented by RD Noble and Woody Hann

The club is fortunate to have two members with such expertise in the precancel aspect of philately. Over time they have both compiled substantial collections.

Speaker Woody Hann was featured in a bio in a previous newsletter.

Bob Noble's dad got him started in the early 1950s, and he collected until col-

lege. After a few spurts of philatelic energy in the 80s he returned with all seriousness in the mid 90s.

Precancels are Bob's passion, though he has considerable US holdings in the classics, revenues, and perfins. He is a life member in both the US Precancel and Revenue Societies.

Besides US, Bob has had country collections such as

Israel, Germany, the UN and others.

Having "won the lottery" a few times from auctions, ebay, and other sales, Bob enjoys the hunt. His favorite is US-1 which he got at Lancopex a few years ago.

Bob retired after 35 years with the Downingtown School System and moved to Lancaster in 2003. **Continued: See Noble Pg.-3**

**Volume 72, Issue 6**

**June-2009**

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at the club auction

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

**President:**

William P. Snyder

**Vice President:**

John Ahlfeld

**Secretary:**

Joy Bouchard

**Treasurer:**

Clair Smith

**Newsletter Editor:**

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640



## Lancopex Feedback

This is the third year of dealer feedback, and another item was added. *How does Lancopex compare to other stamp shows of a similar venue on a scale of 1-10 (low to high)?*

This year there were 21 dealers, and 16 completed the eval (76%). 13 of this 16 (81%) gave an average score of 8.83/10.

All dealers were generally favorable in that the show was in a very good facility. It was well organized and advertised and had great leadership and club member participation.

All remarked on their financial goals. There was a 50-50 split for '09. Eight met their goals and eight did not. In 2008 only a few dealers did not meet their goals. But interestingly, this was not reflected in their overall satisfaction with the show. The average of those who met their financial goals was 8.75 vs. 8.8 who did not meet their goals. It might be concluded that lower sales were not the fault of the show. One dealer commented verbally that he had the same number of customers but they were spending less.

Another dealer added that "This was the sign of the times (the fiscal condition of the country)," and others admitted the same during the show.

One dealer wrote that his decline for the second year in a row might be due to the bi-monthly bourses at the Farm and Home Center where customers are buying episodically through the year rather than saving for Lancopex. Nevertheless, this dealer rated the show at 10/10.

Four dealers suggested an addition to the door prizes. These prizes would consist of credit or "Lancopex Bucks" where the winner could spend it at any table during the show. Both the club and dealers could chip in to fund this and add some zest.

## Secretary's/Treasurer's Reports– May Joy Bouchard and Clair Smith

**Visitors:** Included Geny Mowrey from Lititz and Sarah Mylen from Willow Street..

**APS:** Jim Boyles discussed the APS election for officers. Club members voted as a club; individual ballots are due June 6th.

**Lancopex:** Jim reported that it was a very successful show with good publicity in the county and nationwide in *Linn's*. He read a letter from a dealer praising the show, and he wants to use Lancopex as a model for Delpex. The meeting came to order at 7pm.

**American Philatelist:** President WP Snyder pointed out the May issue dedicated to "Women on Stamps."

**Drawing** (\$5.00): John Bray won

the drawing for the month.

**April minutes:** Approved..

**Membership:** Lucy reported two new junior members who signed up at the show, Abigail and Cameron. John Pyle just completed an application. There were 31 members in attendance plus two guests. The club roster is available for members only, and it is to be treated confidentially.

**Junior Membership:** Truyde Greiner will have stamps for Junior members to go through during the stamp meetings.

**Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship:** Club voted to donate \$25 to this organization.

**Library Displays:** Vern Marten reported successful displays in

Mt. Joy and Lititz with excellent presentations by Al Schaub and Mike Matusko respectively. Plans continue for the same in Elizabethtown. (See article to follow.)

**October 22 USPM Bus Trip:** Roy Baardsen announced that there are only four seats left, and then it will be a waiting list. Please call Roy to sign up 610.927.3435. We may have to upgrade to a 54 passenger bus.

**Program:** This months program was the Club Auction.

### The Treasury:

**Opening:** \$5,438.21

**Income:** \$2,512.08

**Expenses:** \$3,112.12

**Closing:** \$4,838.17

## PSLC Members at Lititz Public Library in May

PSLC members had an opportunity to engage the Lititz community on the 6th May as part of the month-long club display at the facility.

Club member Mike Matusko gave a presentation for the starting collector, both adult and youth. This included the types of collections, housing the collection, sources for stamps, and sources for assistance. This was followed by a very lively question and answer session with input from all club members. Community participants remained long after the library closed.

The club's "traveling" display is largely in place. There are now 48 display pages in plastic document

holders. These include album pages, covers of philatelic journals, and more. Items were chosen to catch one's eye such as the Harry Potter stamps or the John Lennon album on a British publication, or the space stamps on *US Philatelic*.

There are also stamp collecting equipment (tongs, magnifier, etc.), albums, and philatelic reference books.

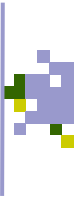
Club members contributing to the display include Jeff Levan (Antarctica, Pitcairn Island), Joy Bouchard (Disney), Al Schaub (Lititz postcards), Paul Petersen (country collections, references, & equipment) Diane Meek (Baseball), Dick Colberg (Lititz postal history), Lou Leidig (Alaska), and Leslie Ann Botte (document

holders). Keith Baer downloaded some of the album pages (a PA album) from the APS website.

Along with presenter Mike Matusko, other participants with their collections included Robert Noble, Woody Hann, Paul Petersen, Vern Marten, and Lou DiFelice. Truyde Greiner brought stamps and packets along with the ASDA beginner albums for the participants. She augmented this with her album of topical collections.

There were eight community members, and several took information about the club and the May meeting.

Sallie Rihn, the events coordinator for the library was most helpful in the organization and marketing for this informational program.



# Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Membership, & Shows

**2009 Programs & Snacks:**

**10th June:** Bob Noble & Woody Hann: Precancels. Leslie Ann Botte, Host

**8th July:** APS: Video Guide to Stamp Collecting. Dennis Shumaker, Host

**12th August:** Club Picnic. No Host

**9th September:** *US Washington Franklins* (The 3rd Bureau Issue): Lou DiFelice. Lou Liedig, Host

**14th October:** Club Auction. Lucy Eyster, Host

**11th November:** Show & Tell for all club members: John Ahlfeld. Diane Meek, Host

**9th December:** Christmas Party. No Host

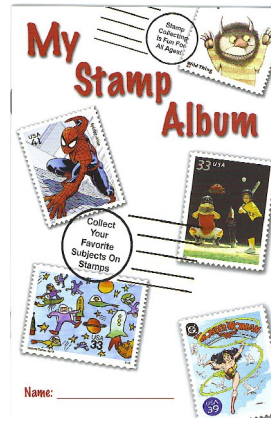
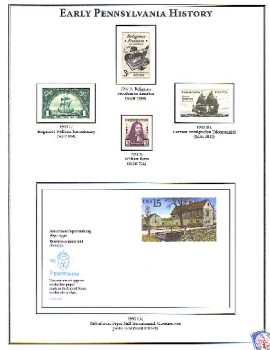
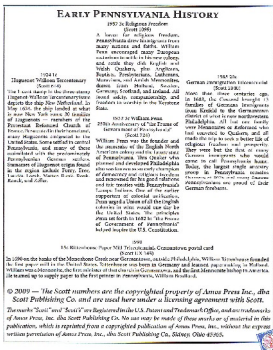
**2010 Programs**

**13th January:** Club Auction. John Ahlfeld, Host

**10th February:** *King George V and the Royal Collection:* Paul Petersen

**Membership:** New members include John Pyle and Sarah Mylin. New junior members include Abigail Brighton, and Cameron Hartman. Please welcome them to the club.

**Upcoming show reminders:** *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows, Farm & Home Center:* • 2 Aug • 4 Oct • 6 Dec (Dates are subject to change, so please verify.)



## June Biography: John Bray

John Bray won the May drawing making him the **Bio of the Month** for June. He was introduced to collecting from a variety of influences including the scouts, a junior stamp club with the Knights of Columbus, and his father who collected and had inherited several boxes of philatelic materials in his own right.

Among John's favorites are US, Germany, and several South American countries, especially the beautifully colored engraved stamps. His philatelic goal is to fill in his US collection.

In the work world, John has had a variety of managerial positions in industry from heavy construction to electronics with retail sales and hotel work in between.

## Postmark Paris: A little Album of Memories

Around 1974 ten year old Leslie Jonath lived in Paris with her family while her father was on a year-long sabbatical at a French university.

Leslie tells the story of her

family's transition to their high-rise apartment in France with a foreign language and school along with new friends, shops, museums, and some short vacation destinations.

Early on her father takes her to a store where she is smitten with the stamp display. They befriend the proprietor who compiles a set of wonderful stamps for her (mostly from France) which reflect her special year away in the French capital.

The book contains forty-nine vignettes which are illustrated with over sixty commemorative stamps representing Paris and other things French.

**Noble:** Continued from Pg-1

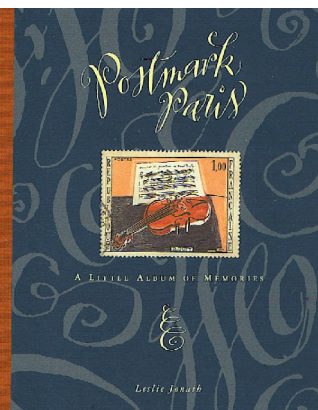
He joined PSLC about that time and was president in 2007. He is well known in the club for his presentations, dedication to Lancopex, and computer expertise whenever we have a PowerPoint presentation.

Starting as a math teacher with an interest in computers, his career progressed as he introduced the school to new evolutions that benefited both computer education and administration.

Bob and his wife Barbara have a grown son and daughter. His other hobby interest is rug hooking, where he is a member of several guilds in this area.

In the club John is active with Lancopex, this year assisting Jim Boyles with the awards. He will assume most of the duties in this during the 2010 show. He joined PSLC a few years ago and said that many aspects keep him an active member including the friendly atmosphere, auctions, opportunities to learn more about stamps, and keeping up with philately.

In addition to stamp collecting, John collects coins and studies family genealogy. Because of his father's active military service, John is in both the Amvets and Sons of Amvets. His other long-time volunteer service is with the Reamstown Athletic Association. He oversees the bills in each of the above organizations.





## Musings from the editor

Guess who won another box lot at the auction?

In past columns I have remarked on my winning bids at the stamp club auction, especially for an inexpensive box of stuff. Someone's castoffs are now my treasures. I also won a mint album related to the 1976 bicentennial. I seek and horde articles like this for the day when the club and members rekindle an interest in a junior collectors program.

A few months ago I went to the York Youth Stamp Club with Jim Boyles. This is a long standing group with dedicated leaders who plan the monthly activities. They were generous with their ideas and handouts that would be a great beginning to anyone starting a youth club.

At this particular meeting, the topic was perfin, those stamps with the pinpoint holes depicting a company's initials, a hedge against employee theft. Leaders created album pages and provided many samples. They gave the kids references to the perfin catalogues should they show an interest in the topic one day.

But the one piece of advice that they gave was to allow time for the kids to root through a large box of stamps and take what they need for their various collections. This, we were told, is one of their favorite activities.

Well, getting back to my win-

ning box lot, I must be a kid at heart, as I still love to root through all of those surprises. And I always find an item(s) that makes the purchase worth the price paid. My wife also enjoys going through the envelopes, pulling out stamps for our sons, her topical collections, or for friends with special interests.

A few weeks ago I took one of the large envelopes from the box lot to sort at a local bookstore cafe. It was not busy, and I had all the room I needed.

Behind me I could hear a mother reading to her two young sons, ages six and five roughly. They were well behaved, listening attentively.

As my back was to the mother and sons, and I did not realize that they were watching what I was doing

On their way out, they approached our table, and the mother made a comment. "***I hope that you don't mind them looking at what you are doing. You see, the boys have never seen stamps before*** (bold and italicization from the editor)." They were quite fascinated with the little colorful bits of paper that I was sorting into small piles.

Does anyone see a problem here? Many of the optimists out there say that in 20 to 30 years, the kids ***will return*** to collecting just like we did. Notice the "will return" above. From what I am seeing, there are very few junior collectors who "will return."

How many other children of this age have never seen stamps? Those with parents who collect may see stamps, but with the decline in mail volume (↓14.7% from 1st January through 31st March 2009) and with the increase in email and text messaging (and let's not forget "twittering"), stamps and kids don't stand a chance. If kids have never seen stamps, they are unlikely to collect when they get older.

We encouraged these two boys to watch and touch, and my wife prepared sample stamp packets for them with space, butterflies, and fish. They were genuinely grateful. We took the opportunity with the little time we had to tell them about stamps, mail, letters, and far away places.

On page 1 and 3 of this newsletter is information on

the APS web site which has free downloadable album pages, something to interest everyone. And over time the list of topics will grow. You don't have to be an APS member to obtain these.

Mail a packet of stamps and hinges to a child you know with the website information. Don't worry, they will figure out the website just fine. It is the stamps that will puzzle them.

Become pen pals using the US mail instead of the internet. I could write a whole column on the lost art of letter writing just by itself, but you get my point.

ASDA also has small starter albums with different topics for each page. They are free, the only expense being the postage. For example for 100 albums, the cost is \$12. There are larger and smaller lots. See Tryude or the editor if you would like some. (See album cover on pg. 3.)

Besides being a boost for the hobby (and USPS!), a written correspondence will be good for you and the kids. You can include stamps in and on each letter to pique their interest with those little pieces of colored paper.



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