

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 14 April 2010

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

The Garden Café / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** John Bray

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Garden Café, Woodcrest Villa, 2000 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster, PA at 7:00 PM

President:

John R. Ahlfeld

Vice President:

John Bray

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

Clair Smith

Newsletter Editor:

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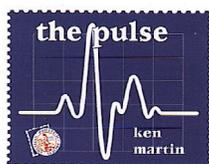
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## Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

I would like to mention several things.

First, we're very fortunate that Ken Martin, the Interim Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, will be coming down from Bellefonte to be our speaker at our April 14 meeting. Ken writes a column, "the pulse", in each issue of the *American Philatelist*. I'm sure he will have a lot of interesting information to share, so let's have a great turnout!



The next event to remember after that is Lancopex, the annual stamp show sponsored by our Society, which will be at the Farm and Home Center on April 24 and 25. The show will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. There will be over twenty dealers. Thanks to Jim Boyles for heading up the show again. He may still need to ask for some help at our April 14 meeting, so please be ready to volunteer if you are able.

Finally, we're going to try something new at our April 14 meeting. There

will be a stamp swap session at the end of the meeting. We discussed this at the last meeting and decided not to have any formal format. We'll just see what evolves. Everyone bring a few duplicate stamps or other stamps that you no longer want, and everyone will have a chance to check out each others' items and perhaps make a trade. I guess that the items don't even need to be stamps; for example, someone would like to trade an older U.S. catalogue for an older foreign catalogue. Let's see how it works out.

John



Ken Martin of APS

## Estates, APS, and Q&A

Ken Martin, Interim Executive Director

Come and enjoy an evening with the Interim Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, Mr. Ken Martin.

Ken will bring up important points to consider when planning a philatelic estate. While there are many pitfalls, additional options are available to mitigate any unpleasantness and sur-

prises for the family. He will also describe the role that APS can play (and not play) in estates.

What's new with APS and the future of the hobby? Let Ken update us with his perspective of philately and where it is going. It will be an informative time for questions and answers from all involved.



## Commentary

Mike Shirley

The disposition of my stamp collection is something that I have been thinking about. With the recent loss of two club members, I knew that the time was right to share my plan and put it into action.

For a long time now, I have found joy in stamp collecting, and what better place is there to pass on my holdings than to friends in my stamp club. I may have the largest collection of "nickel stamps," these stamps that are worth around five cents. I probably wouldn't get very much from a dealer, and I would just feel a little flat selling them to a big name dealer.

The plan is that my philatelic items be auctioned off to the club members and anyone else who may be interested. The club would auction off four or five binders at each auction until they were all gone. My family would get 90% of the proceeds and the club treasury would get 10%. Members would get a good deal. Everybody is happy.

Preliminary work must be done. I must get the permission of 2-3 club members in advance who would agree to assist my wife and children. This info would be conveyed to my family, and in case of my untimely (or not untimely) demise, my family would contact one of the club members to start the process.

## Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports Joy Bouchard & Clair Smith: March 2010

**Membership:** Lucy Eyster announced thirty-five members in attendance and introduced three visitors, Judy Englert, Brian Wagner, and Doug Milliken.

**Communication:** The club received a confirmation letter from the American Diabetes Association for the donation made in memory of Mike Matusko.

**January Minutes:** Approved as written.

**Lancopex (24-25 April):** Jim Boyles prepped club members on the upcoming stamp show. He circulated several sign-up sheets for the weekend's events. Joy Bouchard and John Brownell volunteered to

coordinate the snack table for the weekend and will need assistance of others to participate. Club agreed to raise drink prices to \$1.00 and coffee to 50¢

**APS Visit:** Roy Baardsen discussed the 20 May trek. Twenty are on the list so far. He will coordinate the drivers and riders for the Reading division, and asked Paul Petersen to do the same for Lancaster. To sign up or withdraw from this trip, contact Roy. See page 3 for his contact info.

**Stamp Trading:** Membership expressed an interest in stamp trading. A trial format will be held right after the program in April.

**Upcoming Exhibitions:** John R. Ahlfeld announced some of the nearby stamp shows.

**March Drawing:** Marilyn Shirley won this month's drawing of a sheet of Chinese Daffodil New Year stamps.

**March Program:** Participants prepared mailing card announcements for Lancopex. This was followed by an APS slide show titled "Stamp Technology Basics" presented by James G. Boyles.

Joy

### The Treasury:

**Opening:** \$4,898.50 (1 Feb)

**Income:** \$45.19

**Expenses:** \$0.00

**Closing:** \$4,943.63 (28 Feb)

## Filling Those Stamp Want Lists

Dick Colberg

In a previous newsletter our editor told you of some of my philatelic activities while I am in France several times a year. To refresh your memory, it was stated that I am filling want lists for some collectors in the stamp club in Bernay, France where I am a member in good standing.

There are three women who collect United States and Canada. Actually, two collect USA and two collect Canada. One collects both. For the past two years they have been giving me want lists with catalogue numbers for the Yvert & Tellier

(Y&T) catalogue (France's equivalent to Scott.) This has meant a whole lot of work for me because I have to convert from Y&T numbers to Scott. I helped myself a year ago by donating to their club a year-old Scott U.S. Specialized catalogue so they could give me their U.S. want list in Scott numbers. Canada, though, is still a problem. First, I have to borrow a Y&T catalogue for Canada and type up the descriptions, and when I get home, I convert these descriptions into Scott #s. I'm now about to get hold of a used Y&T catalogue for

Canada and things should be easier from here on out.

For the past couple of years I've had a great deal of help from club members J. Boyles and L. Botte for filling these want lists. Now, however, I've just about exhausted their stock of used material. By the way, they only want used stamps, with only circular date stamp cancels, and no wavy line cancels for them.

At a recent stamp club meeting in France, I noticed a women with a suitcase full (really!) of familiar-looking stock books. I asked what they were, and I was told  
**See "Want Lists: on pg. 3**



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

### 2010 Programs and Hosts

**14 April:** *Ken Martin, Interim Executive Director of APS on Estates, the APS, and Q&A.* John Bray, Host

**12 May:** *Club Auction.* James G. Boyles, Host

**9 June:** *King George V and the Royal Collection:* Paul Petersen. Host-Mike Shirley

**14 July:** *World's Columbian Exposition,* an APS Slide Show. Host-Marilyn Shirley

**11 August:** *Summer Picnic.*

**8 September:** *Club Auction.* Host-Dick Shaefer

**13 October:** *Club member "Show 'n tell."* John R. Ahlfeld. Host-Lucy Eyster,

**11 November:** Program-TBA. Host-John Brownell

**8 December:** *Christmas Party.* No Host

**Membership:** The updated club roster has been completed based on those paying 2010 dues. Following this April issue, newsletters will only be sent to those dues-paying members.

**Program Notes:** The monthly programs as published may change as the season goes on. It will depend on the completion of the renovations at Wood Crest Villa and the availability of BlueBird Commons for our meetings. With the evening sunlight in the spring months, it will be difficult to darken the Garden Café sufficiently for

slide shows. Please bear with us in this endeavor.

**20 May Club Trip** to APS / APRL in Bellefonte. Contact Roy Baardsen to sign up. He will coordinate drivers and riders from Reading thru Lancaster. More to come. Roy's phone number/email is (610) 927.3435:Roykb@comcast.net

**Upcoming show reminders:** *Some 1st Sunday Stamp Shows, Farm & Home Center:* ● 27 June, ● 1 August, ● 3 October, ● 7 Nov. (Please verify with Jim: 394-5118.)

**Note** revised schedule for 1st Sunday Shows. June will meet on the 4th Sunday. There will be no December show; meeting in November instead.

## For Sale:

**U. S. Cut Squares.** Huge collection. 30 year accumulation: U1-U569. Includes mint U68-U73. The catalogue value is over \$5,000.00. Contact Dave Kenawell: kenamaro@verizon.com. Phone: (717) 396-8932

### Want Lists (from pg. 2)

*carnets de circulaire*, literally, booklets of circular. In our parlance, circuit books. I had not thought of this for the girls in France, but on second thought, "Why not?" The next time I have want lists to fill for them, I'm off to the APS in Bellefonte for a day of picking stamps out of their sales circuit books.

This is all leading up to a pitch for all of you to think about the possibility of using the APS circuit books. There are two ways to use the books. One is to get on the "circuit," and the APS

will periodically send you a box full of material that is in line with your wants. You can then pick through the stamps and/or covers, pay for your purchases, and send the box to the next specified destination. Or you can go to the APS in Bellefonte and check in with the Sales Division. They will bring you more stamps than you can imagine. You can look through as many books as you can tolerate and pick out whatever suits your fancy. They give you a sheet of paper in which you enter the item, book number, and the cost. In essence, you are

making up your own customized circuit. I've done this many times before, and it really is great. The only catch is that you must be an APS member to avail yourself of this service. Try it, you will like it.



## Bio of the Month: Jim Ziogas

Early in his career as a middle and high school social studies teacher in Elizabethtown, Jim bought a small collection from a student who had inherited it from his grandfather. The price was right at \$20. A collector friend then helped Jim get started on the basics of philately, and they identified a few pricey ones. Jim joined the Mt. Joy Stamp Club, continued his research, obtained reference material, and began collections of Cyprus and Greece. Born in the latter, Jim found these countries a natural to assemble.



With his country albums nearly complete, Jim expanded into worldwide, collecting material selectively. He subsequently sought mint never hinged sets, especially animals and flowers.

Enjoying the hobby himself, Jim started a stamp club at his school, and was advisor for thirty years. This was popular with the students, and many local collectors donated stamps to the cause, sometimes just leaving packages anonymously on Jim's doorstep, the largest of these containing 4500 stamps.

For the harder to get stamps, Jim took orders for the students and purchased the items for them at a stamp store in Lancaster. Some kids, Jim believes, became lifelong collectors.

# Musings from the editor

## Let's talk tech

Over the last two plus years of editing this newsletter, my mind has raced continually with ways to fill the pages with something that you want to read. One way is to encourage club members and others to contribute, and this is getting better. Consider that on page 2 is a Commentary by Mike Shirley and an article by our independent international philatelic correspondent, Dick Colberg. The latter was done through the courtesy of modern technology across the ocean by email in a matter of minutes.

But until we have more writers, the old grey cells continue to galvanize. I have dry spells, and things progress quite slowly, and other times I find a groove. My record is three "Musings" columns in a weekend. When too far ahead, I may not always remember to adjust the masthead or dates.

In his presidential column last month, John R. Ahlfeld remarked about the proliferation of technical items that were too many to name. He's right. This prompted me to finally write the technology column(s) that I had been thinking about.

Technology surrounds us. Every mail-day gift catalogs with new gadgets arrive. You know the

ones I mean. They are not the catalogs for the high-techies. These contain "must-have" household items for the technically disenfranchised like me. There is stuff well beyond the electric tie rack sold in the '70s for Father's Day. Now, for \$29 one can get dad useful 8-power binoculars that take and store 8000 pictures. For about the same price there is a gizmo that converts our photo negatives to digital. Travelers are offered a hand-held 30-language translator. There are items on sale that do things for us that we didn't even know needed to be done! I'm waiting for a commercial jet pack within ten years.

And that Fathers' Day electric tie rack from the '70s? This has been replaced with the steam/waterproof shower-shaving mirror with a built in weather station! Did I mention the Swiss Army knife with 89 tools for \$1400?

The post office has utilized technology for years. Scott # 1164 (1960) depicts the first fully automated PO located in Providence, RI. The image looks like a futuristic biosphere. And this was 50 years

ago! Beyond their near bankruptcy, USPS uses advanced technology to make it one of the most efficient mail delivery systems.

A recent *Linn's* contained an item about hybrid mail. This product is based on a new arrangement among countries in the Universal Postal Union. Housed in cyberspace, nations will be linked by "dot post," perhaps something like [www.usa.post](http://www.usa.post).

With hybrid mail, one sends an email via the local "dot post" for delivery in hard copy (for a small fee like an old fashioned telegram) to its recipient overseas. It is faster and cheaper than international mail, fostering communication with someone without email. Being connected is the key.

So how did much of this technical stuff get going? One motivator was the space race starting in the late 1950s. The spin-offs were legion. We went from slide rules to hand held calculators to mini-processors and then to the PC and Mac as we know them today. With an iPhone, one can do what was unthinkable years ago.

Concurrent evolution brought the microchip and the internet, that place where many of us go daily, a land that does not exist!

So what's all of this leading up to anyway? A new book, naturally; a recent St. Patrick's Day gift that I have only perused to date.

It is Catherine Golden's *Posting it: The Victorian revolution in letter writing* (2009, University Press of Florida).

From what I have seen of it so far, it portrays the congruency of England's 1840 postal reform and uniform penny postage (the Penny Black) with our current technological reformation.

In its day, the spin-offs resulting from this Victorian reform and penny stamp had no less of an impact than the technical revolution that we have experienced over the last several decades.

It was not all roses. The mid-Victorian post with blackmail and all was no different than the current internet with scams reaching \$500M in 2009 alone! Much more to come. Ed □



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