

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

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



Club Meeting: Wednesday, 8 September 2010

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Dick Shaefer

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Auction

Message from the President

John R. Ahlfeld

I hope everyone had a good time at the picnic. We planned for 40, and I believe 37 were there. Thanks to everyone who brought so much wonderful food. Too bad we didn't have some cooler weather to go with it!

Now, looking ahead, our next auction is on September 8. Everyone try to bring something to sell this time. It's probably good to have a range of items in terms of value. Remember, some of our members are more advanced collectors than others, and some may be buying for children, grandchildren, or friends – from beginners to advanced.

Thinking back on some recent shows, I have some thoughts. I may have mentioned previously that my wife and I buy and sell antique glass. We've

done anywhere from 3 to 8 shows a year for nearly 30 years. Dealers are sometimes standing around toward the end of the shows moaning about their disappointing sales. And I sometimes start thinking about questions like do you greet your customers with a smile, do you take time to answer questions and educate shoppers, is your glass sparkling clean, is it arranged attractively, are your prices reasonable, and do you give good discounts?

Some of the same kinds of questions are applicable at a stamp show. Some booths look so much more inviting than others; it's easier when approaching some tables than others to tell the dealer's specialties; and so on. I remember asking for something rather common at one booth,

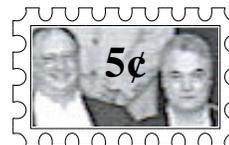
and the dealer said something like "I don't bother with that stuff". I wonder if he ever thought that the person who buys "that stuff" today may be the advanced collector of tomorrow. Needless to say, I didn't spend much time at his booth. Another time, I looked at an item in one booth and then decided to compare prices for that item around the show. When I returned to the first booth, the couple who were the dealers were whispering to each other and I got the impression that they were bothered that I had checked elsewhere. Doesn't that make sense – unless one has an unlimited budget? I guess the bottom line is that the more pleasant the shoppers' experiences, the happier the dealers will also probably be at the end of the show. → (See Pg.3)

Fall Auction--Are You Ready?

The final auction for 2010 auction is now upon us. This is a good time to both buy and sell. The rules remain the same as in previous auctions. The minimum bid is \$1.00. The minimum increment when bidding is 50¢. Each club member is limited to 10 lots. You will be assigned a number when

you arrive. Please place this number on all your lots. When possible, please attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed things up, prevent any misconceptions, and insure a smooth and enjoyable fall/harvest event.

Old and Rare



Tonight's meeting (8 Sept.) marks the 62nd birthday of Walter Alan Stiehl (on left). He and the editor met in 1958. They collected stamps and discussed philately ever since-usually at very long distances. Happy birthday Amigo. Ed□

Volume 73, Issue 9

September, 2010

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, 2000 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA at 7:00 PM

President:

John R. Ahlfeld

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September Bio:

Peter Billis

Peter has been a consistent collector since 6th grade when he and several of his friends were engaged in the hobby. A neighborhood dad was his early mentor and added many stamps to Pete's collection.

To increase his holdings of Greece and surrounding areas of Crete and Cyprus among others, Peter started to buy collections at auction or estate sales. He found that he would keep what he needed and sell the remainder, thus adding to his collection and making a profit at the same time. A particular highlight was his purchase of part of the '86 Ann Rudisel auction lot. He remembers meeting club members Bill and Truude Greiner back then during these early auctions.

His transition from collector to dealer was gradual from the late '80s. But with eBay in 2002, stamp dealing became serious, so serious that in 2006, Peter gave up his day job and has been a full-time stamp dealer ever since. When postcards and coins are part of a lot that he has purchased, he will sell these as well, though he is now giving much more attention to the latter.

Peter joined PSLC in 1987 and served as president in 1996. He has been very active in Lancopex, and many remember him coming to the show with a cart and leaving with it full of boxes. He purchases his stock at auctions, estate sales, stamp shows, and from individuals. "No lot is too large," Peter added.

Peter and his wife Victoria have two children, Stefanos (6) and Serafima (8 mos.).

The Thrill of Discovery



Can any postal history be determined from looking at this 1947 cover?

I was at my usual nickel box at the "Buy, Swap, & Trade" Night which is a hallmark of the APS Summer Session; it's as popular as their summer auction.

As a prized customer and spendthrift, the seller offered me an envelope for all my recently purchased 5¢ treasures.

He just pointed me to his 10 cover box and told me to pull one of those to hold the loot. Sticking out was a British cover franked with five KGVI definitives, and I took it, as I could use the stamps in my foreign lot box for the kids.

Upon closer inspection later that night, I noticed that the cover was addressed to Mrs. Eugene Klein of Philadelphia.

Many collectors are aware

that a Mr. Klein was connected to the disposition of the Inverted Jennys (Scott C3a) discovered by Wm. T. Robey on 13 May 1918.

After some frantic activity, Robey finally sold the sheet of 100 to Eugene Klein of Philadelphia for \$15,000! Klein then turned around and sold them to "Colonel" Edward Green for \$20,000.

Kline continued his interesting philatelic career as a writer, dealer, and auctioneer. He was active in APS for much of his professional career and served as president from 1935-1937 among other positions until his death on 30 April 1944.

Could this cover be related to "The" Philadelphia Eugene Klein of philatelic fame? It was mailed from London on 31/10/47. So...

On the reverse of the cover was a back stamp from the Royal Philatelic Society, London with the address and all. This is a philatelic related cover. (See pg. 3 for image of the back stamp.)

By the purest of coincidences, a presentation at the APS Summer Session the next day by Steven J. Rod was about Nassau Street stamp dealers.

Among the slides in Steve's PowerPoint was a 1930s advertising cover that was addressed to dealer Eugene Klein in Philadelphia. I quickly wrote down the address and compared it with my new cover. It matched!

A close inspection of this cover shows that the street address is crossed out and replaced in pencil with another number and street. But that is another story. Ed □



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, Trips, & President

2010 Programs and Hosts

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

13 October: *King George V and the Royal Collection.* Paul Petersen. Host-Lucy Eyster,

10 November: *Hearts on Stamps.* Diane Meek. Host-John Brownell

8 December: *Christmas Party.*

Upcoming Show Reminders: *Reading Stamp Club Show:*→

6 November, Farmer's Market, Leesport, PA. • *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: • 19 Sept. • 5 Dec. (Please verify ahead with James G. Boyles: 394-5118). *The Baltimore Friendly Stamp & Coin Show:* 19 September and 24 October at The Pikesville Hilton on 1726 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore.

Club Trips: Roy Baardson will discuss a self-drive convoy to APS this fall and is thinking

about a USPM trek to DC during the height of the cherry blossoms. Be thinking about this for our discussion.

August Minutes & Treasury: These reports will resume in the 10/10 newsletter. **(President←Pg.1)**

Well, enough on shows. Try to enjoy the upcoming shows in the area; and also enjoy our PSLC auction on September 8. See you there. **John**



Above is the return address stamp of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. This is on the reverse of the cover on page 2.

Fluorescence, Phosphorescence, and Philately, Part I

Dick Colberg

What are these terms and what do they have to do with stamp collecting? Essentially they are related to the concept of tagging. A chemical coating is added to the stamp and is read by the automated sorting machine at the post office. The sorting machine then orients the envelope with the stamp to the upper right before it reaches the canceling machine. When you receive a piece of first class mail with the cancel on the bottom or back of the envelope, missing the stamp completely, this occurs when the cover was not oriented properly.

Collectors are interested in tagging, as this contributes to varieties on a given stamp. In some cases, tagging may be missing altogether. Ultra-violet lights assist the collector to identify the tagging.

Let's look at the definitions. **Fluorescence** is the ability to absorb ultraviolet light and release it again at a longer wavelength in the visible range. **Phosphorescence** is the con-

tinued glowing of the fluorescence even after the source of UV light has been removed.

U.S. Usage: The first trials were held in Dayton, OH in 8/63 using the 8¢ airmail stamp (Scott C64a). The treated stamps glowed orange-red and sorted at a rate of 30,000 pieces per hour. The first U.S. commemorative stamp to be "tagged" was the 1963 City Mail Delivery issue (Scott 1238), and the fluorescent color was greenish.

Additional testing on 4- and 5-cent regular issues was done at Dayton late in 1963. After January 1, 1967, all regular issues through 16-cents, all commemoratives, and new issues of postal stationary were tagged. Bureau precancels were not tagged as they were not required to go through the regular sorting equipment.

Bar tagging, as opposed to all-over tagging, was first used on the 1972 Mail Order Business Stamp (Scott 1468) and the 1973 Christmas issues (Scott 1507-8). Some issues are tagged all over and some are only

tagged on the center design portion of the stamp. All U.S. tagged issues are fluorescent and phosphorescent and are detectable under shortwave (2537 angstroms) UV light only.

Commemorative and regular issues are tagged green and airmail stamps are tagged orange-red. The U.S. does not use high-bright papers.

Great Britain Usage: Great Britain experimented with graphite lines on stamps (backside) for automatic sorting equipment in 1957. Phosphorescent bars were applied to low value regular issues in 11/59. Between 1962 and 1967, commemoratives were issued with and without tagging. Beginning with the 1977 issues, all regular and commemorative issues were phosphorescent tagged, though regular issues only have bars and the commemoratives have all-over tagging. Hi-bright paper is very common in the stamps of Great Britain.

Next month **Canadian Usage** and U.V. Lamps will be discussed.



Musings: *The Color Identification Question*

Since studying about color sensation and perception in a physiological psychology course in 1976, I have been fascinated with the topic of color. Now add in attractive stamps, computers, scanners, a club newsletter, philatelic journals, and

Last year in this newsletter I wrote about the problems of color communication and identification, stating the inconsistency of names and color guides and the reliability problems of modern scanners and monitors.

This past summer I took Wayne Youngblood's Stamp Technology course at the APS Summer Session. Beyond the topics of printing methods and paper, Wayne touched on many issues of stamp color. He concluded that there never was nor will there ever be a truly accurate color guide for philatelists! We perceive color differently, and this makes communication difficult.

Color problems and variations are more common with definitive stamps, than commemoratives. The former are printed over time in multiple runs. The commems are usually printed in one large run, making variation less likely to occur.

Further, most variation in color is due to ink contamination. Wayne showed an early BPE photo of the ink mixing room and vat. Because it is a messy process, it was done in the basement where it is dark! Think of how a given color is perceived in a variety of lighting conditions. How consistent is the ink production when made in poor light by pouring

in a little of this color followed by a little of that? **A true color error is where the wrong color is used by accident.**

I have an item among my philatelic accumulations that has followed me since childhood. I don't know who assembled it whether my father, grandfather, or if it was something that they acquired and added to the mix. It is a sheet of paper with 20 of the A-88 style 2¢ red Washingtons. They range from 1892-1898 and encompass nine Scott numbers. The document is old, as the white paper is yellowed with tone spots, more on the stamp side than on the back. This indicated to me that it had been exposed to some light over the years. Of the 20 stamps, 13 "red-related" color names are used.



The 1938 Presidential Issue (Scott 803-834) further exemplifies this. This definitive series ran into the mid-1950s. They were the go-to stamps during WWII when there were more

pressing government problems than accurately matching ink. Wayne found color varieties among the stamps of this set including: 8¢-6 color varieties; 10¢-8; 12¢-9; and 18¢-10.

When it comes to stamp color documentation in the catalogs, the reliability of the description is only as good as the editor. And the info is often through input from the collectors. *Scott's* color description has improved remarkably, but Wayne described a collector who many years ago compiled all the stamps that *Scott's* listed as yellow. It ran almost the full spectrum!

Given the numerous contributions from club members last spring on their "least favorite philatelic items," I am planning another "group" article on the topic: Where will stamp collecting and the USPS be in 2035? I have already started to think ahead with a prediction or two.

Basing my prediction on technology, I see a hand held philatelic device that will accurately record a stamp's color and compare it to an international philatelic data base. Let's call this device a **philatelic interoceter!** Like the hand held glucometer for diabetics to easily read their blood sugar levels, the interoceter will be reliable, competitively priced, painless, and quick and easy to use..

Further, the interoceter will recalibrate each time it connects to the universal database. The system will standardize the names, shades, and numbers for *Scott*, *Stanley Gibbons*, and the other major catalogues. (Actually, it will identify any world-wide stamp by number !) Finally, the database will account for color fading to address, for example, the degradation in a carmine lake stamp from 1871 to 2010.

E.S. Netscher wrote a piece in *The Stamp Lover* (UK), entitled *The Color Question* (October-November, pgs. 76-77). His opinions concurred with much of what has been said as to the difficulty of consistent color identification in philately. While he recommended a standardization of color terminology, he ended his essay unsure that there could ever be sufficient worldwide cooperation among collectors, societies, and catalogue publishers.

This 1948 article by Netscher was followed by a note from the journal editors. Apparently an instrument was just invented in Austria to measure colors and is being marketed under the name of the Globus Colour Gauge. It works on a system of comparison, and each shade has a number. It is expected to be on sale soon in the UK for about £50! [Paul's note. In 1948 £50 was worth about \$140 U.S.] Ed. □



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