

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

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



Club Meeting: Wednesday, 13 April 2011

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

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Eleanor Wheeler

Stamp Trading to Begin Following the Evening's Program

Message from the President

Hi, Everyone! Well, Spring has finally arrived and with it the yearly cleaning chores both inside and out. Amongst those chores I hope you'll spend some time reviewing your collections to decide what you can add to them at LANCOPEX 2011 at the end of the month, and also what you can acquire or divest yourself of at our Auction in May. So, a little work now "kills two birds with one stone."

I'd also like to thank Lucy Eyster for a very interesting presentation at our March meeting and all the

hard work that went into it; very enlightening. Of course, with the upcoming presentation by Al Schaub we can take a vicarious "tour of Bermuda," relaxing in the gentle breezes, enjoying the sun and surf, and recharging our batteries. Ah, if only!

Anyway, back to reality; that being a need for volunteers to help with various aspects of LANCOPEX from Thursday evening through Saturday evening. We're not asking that you spend your entire weekend with us, just a few hours each day or whatever you

can provide. This has worked out well for the past 25 years only due to the efforts of you, the club members, who generously give of your time; and please note, it is very much appreciated!

And now, how about one of you volunteering to become our Vice President this year? Sorry, had to throw that in and will probably continue to do so until it's unnecessary.

So, I've provided you with some "chores and thoughts" and hope that you'll do the right thing. **jb**

A Philatelic Tour of Bermuda

Presentation, article, and stamp and cover images by Al Schaub

The April Meeting will feature an expense-paid tour of the Bermuda Islands. One mode of transport will be a slide collection of stamps, covers, postcards, and actual photos of the islands.

Geographically, Bermuda is about 500 miles east of Cape Hatteras, NC. It includes about 120 rocks, islets, and islands. Of these, seven are bridge-connected main islands on which is to be found most of Bermuda's population and development. The main islands form a fish hook configuration that is

about 22 miles long and 3 miles wide.

The name "Bermuda" came from its discovery, circa 1503, by Juan de Bermudez, a Spaniard who sailed by the islands but made no claim on them. In June 1609 a fleet of nine ships sailed from Plymouth, England on a relief mission to the Jamestown colony. A sudden storm struck the fleet causing the command ship, *Sea Venture*, and the fleet commander, Sir George Somers, to be grounded on a reef off the coast of Bermuda. All

150 people on the *Sea Venture* survived.



Materials salvaged from the *Sea Venture* were used to build two ships—the *Deliverance* and *Patience*. The two ships sailed to Jamestown nine and a half months later with all but two of the

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April, 2011

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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 17601 at 7:00 PM. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

President:

John M. Bray

Vice President:

Vacant

Secretary:

Joy Bouchard

Treasurer:

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Bermuda: Continued from Pg. 1

survivors. Two years later fifty people from the Jamestown colony sailed to Bermuda and founded the British colony of Bermuda.

The philatelic history of Bermuda is rich and varied. Between 1848 and 1865, Hamilton Postmaster William Perot issued his own Bermuda postmaster provisional stamps. His house and post office are depicted on the stamp (#168) on page 1.

Perot's rare stamps (X1-X6) have catalog values in the \$38,000-\$175,000 range. However, a majority of Bermuda stamps are reasonably priced. For example, Scott 1 (1865), a Chalon QV portrait, catalogs for only \$1.75 in used condition. Also worthy of note is a conservative stamp issuing policy. Only about 1,000 stamps were issued between 1865 and 2009 (compared with over 4,500 stamps during the same time span in some other countries). Also notable is the issuance of stamps that mostly relate to aspects of Bermuda.

As with most countries, Bermuda has many "classic" sets. These include the George V and George VI key plates, the "caravels," and the "dry docks."

At our meeting we will explore how best to get to Bermuda, where to stay on the islands, sights to be seen, Bermuda's role in various wars, and a sample of Bermuda stamps, covers, and postcards.



March Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard & Lou DiFelice

In the Beginning: The business meeting was preceded by club member preparation of advertising postcards for Lancopex including affixing mailing labels and stamps. President John M. Bray then convened the meeting.

New Member: Ron Hess was introduced.

Drawing: This was won (again!) by Dick Schaefer.

Membership: Lucy Eyster reported that the club roster will be finalized this month. Late dues are still welcome and accepted.

Minutes: The February minutes were approved as

written by voice vote.

Lancopex: Jim Boyles circulated a series of sign-up sheets for various Lancopex activities. He further encouraged members to take the announcements for Lancopex and distribute and post wherever possible.

Club Trip: Roy Baardsen announced that between the Lancaster and Reading Stamp Clubs, there is insufficient interest to support a fall bus trip to NYC.

10 August Summer Picnic: Mike Shirley announced that the availability of our regular pavilion is tentative. He will follow

up on this. He shared about his mom's condition and provided his parents' new address for any who wish to contact/ visit them. *See Pg. 3.*

Program: Lucy Eyster showed a DVD from the American Topical Association entitled "Eclectic Collecting." She followed this with several samples of unusual stamps from her personal holdings.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$3,387.16 (1 Feb)

Income: \$160.13

Expenses: \$15.56

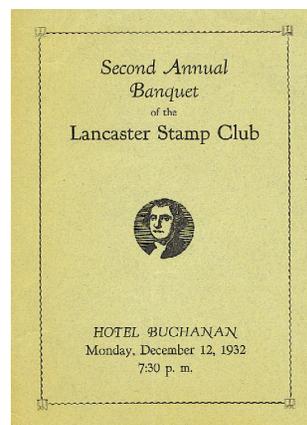
Closing: \$3,531.73 (28 Feb)

3-CDs near \$6164.92

Seventy-nine Years Ago: Some PSLC History

Club member John Brownell came across the 1932 annual banquet program in a recent lot of philatelic materials. He thought it of interest to share with the club. The inside menu featured roast turkey with filling along with other Lancaster trimmings such as mashed potatoes, candied sweet potatoes, stewed corn, and more. Rev. H.G. Hartman was the toastmaster, while Rev. George Welsh gave the address on "United States Commemoratives." Additional speakers included "Greetings" by representatives of five clubs including: Capitol City, Berks Co., Yorktowne, and two clubs from Chester.

John B. requested that this ephemera be placed in the club's archives which is



maintained by PSLC Life Member, Truysde Greiner.

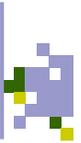
Coincidentally, the cachet on the Lancopex '88 show cover contains a facsimile of another early banquet program. It was the Second Annual Dinner held in 11/39 by the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County. Could

there be two different stamp clubs, the Lancaster Stamp Club and PSLC? Do the math. Since our current club affiliated with APS in 11/38, this may be no more than a simple consolidation with a new start date of 1938. The answer may lie in the archives. Or on the other hand...

Donations Needed

The American Topical Association is seeking donations of packets with the following topicals: animals, transportation, flowers, sports, and others. Please place individual topics in separate glassines. Please turn in to Lucy Eyster who will take them to the national ATA Show in Milwaukee in late June.

Also Wanted: Continue to bring used eyeglasses to PSLC meetings for the Lion's Club.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows, and Misc.

2011-12 Programs and Hosts

13 April: A *Philatelic Tour of Bermuda*, Al Schaub. **Host:** Eleanor Wheeler

11 May: Club Auction. **Host:** Diane Meek

8 June: *Precancels for Fun: Part III*, RD Noble and Woody Hann. **Host:** Lou Leidig

13 July: Errors, Freaks & Oddities, David Hunt. **Host:** Paul Petersen

10 August: Club Picnic. No Host this month.

14 September: Club Auction. **Host:** Lou DiFelice

12 October: Show 'n Tell: Your best stuff. **Host:** Lucy Eyster

9 November: The First Aerial Post in England (9/1911), Mike Bach. **Host:** John R. Ahlfeld

14 December: Dinner.

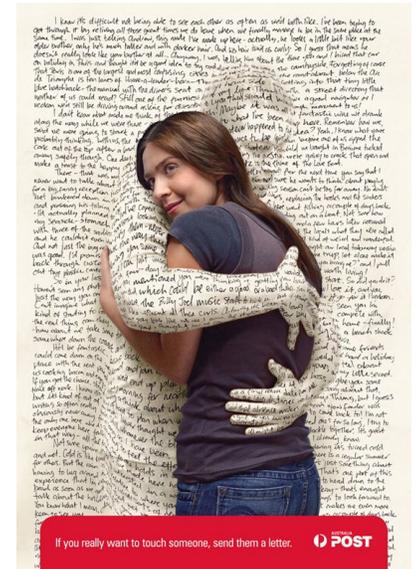
11 January 2012: Club Auction

8 February: Swiss Philately, a DVD from the Helvetica Society.

Upcoming Show Reminders:
Some Sunday Stamp Shows, Farm & Home Center: • 26 June, • 21 August, • 2 October, • 4 December (Please verify ahead with Jim-394-5118.) *Lancopex, Fri/Sat, 29-30 April 2011.*

Marilyn & Chuck Shirley would enjoy hearing from club members. Send a note or card (and some stamps!) to them at *Oak Leaf Manor, 2101 Waubank Rd. Millersville, PA 17551*

Letters



More Stories to Collect Stamps By— Pat Herst (1982)

This is another of Herst's spin-offs following his very successful *Nassau Street* (1960) with more stories and writings as a stamp dealer and author who started business on Nassau Street in the Depression.

• The multi-story Stamp Center Building at 116 Nassau Street was originally called the Morton Building, named for its builder and previous U.S. vice president Levi P. Morton. During the Depression, many of the area's offices were unoccupied, so cheap rents were available. The 20-story building had been remodeled with a warren of very tiny offices. It was just what stamp dealers needed, especially those with little cash flow. Dealers flocked here and to many other vacancies along Nassau St.

This was the golden age of rents, but it did not last. The post-WWII insurance industry had deeper pockets



and were running out of room on St. John St. in lower Manhattan. They set their eye on Nassau St. As such, stamp dealers could not compete with the ever increasing rents, and the gradual exodus of the stamp dealers began.

• After the Hindenburg disaster, there was a bevy of fraudulent crash covers. Unscrupulous people modified previously flown Hindenburg covers by burning off

the dates from the German post marks along with the names of addresses. Everything else appeared to be a realistic crash cover. Two things helped thwart the proliferation of fraud.

The first was that a record (dates, addresses, etc.) was made of all recovered mail before attempts to deliver or return to the senders.

Second, it was determined that burn patterns differ. A single cover can be burned anywhere when ignited by a match. It is easy to control. A tight bundle of covers is another thing. They burn only on the edges. Due to the tight bundling, there is no oxygen between the covers to allow for flames to reach the center.

When this information was presented in the philatelic news, savvy collectors could do the research, examine the burn patterns, and buy in confidence.

Dear Editor:

In last month's editorial, you shared some websites that encourage and promote letter writing. I found these of great interest, and in my research I came across an interesting and related ad from Australia Post that you might wish to share with the club members. In fact, I don't care what the club told me about you, I still think you're swell. Love, Your wife.

Editor's note: Thanks, Carol, for your reassuring vote of confidence. Readers should note that the small print on the Australia Post ad states—*"If you really want to touch someone, send them a letter."* Ed□

Warning: Could This Be Your Last PSLC Newsletter?

Each April the Membership Departments of APS and PSLC refresh their rosters to reflect those who have discontinued membership. If you did not pay your '11 PSLC dues and wish to remain a member in good standing, please contact Lucy Eyster at 735-2586.



Musings:

Postal History on Stamps and Russian Locals

When I think about mail delivery years ago, our mailman comes to mind in his gray uniform with the leather satchel over his shoulder. He did his rounds with a good word to all and carried dog biscuits to boot. Today it is much the same but with the inclusion of a white postal vehicle. We cannot assume that mail delivery was always as reliable as we have had with the USPS.

There is recorded postal history prior to Roman times, and it makes for interesting reading. Mail has always been important, and until the mid-19th century with the telegraph, mail was one of the few communication links, whether for personal, business, military, or diplomatic needs.

In 1936 Sweden released a beautiful engraved 15 stamp set honoring the 300th Anniversary of their postal system as reviewed by Adrian Keppel (*Stamp Magazine*, 3/11, pps. 90-94).

This set depicts the chronological history of mail delivery from the post runner to mounted courier followed by stage coach, sail and steam ships, train, bus, and plane. With ever present danger, the postman on the 10 öre stamp carries a sword. This stamp is depicted above to the right.



Seven of the designs in this very popular set were reissued in 1966, and in 1972, five of the stamps again were reissued. And speaking of recycling, the versatile Junkers Ju52/3m seaplanes of the 1930s were used in freight transport until the 1980s.



In another area of philatelic history, Dick Colberg recommends a virtual exhibit of Russian stamps at the National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Museum.

<http://postalmuseum.si.edu/ARAGORussianZemstvos>

These are from the G.H.

Kaestlin Specialized collection. Before 1917 the large country of Russia had two postal systems. There was the central government system which serviced customers along ancient and well-established trade routes and rail lines as they subsequently developed.

Since the rural areas had neither of these advantages, their mail delivery was haphazard at best. To remedy this, zemstvo post was born around 1865 and lasted until 1917 and the revolution.



County administrations called zemstva had the vision to set up local systems to link the rural area posts to the central government. They could not compete with the government, so their function was to take mail from the government to their areas and vice versa. Stamps were printed locally and by central authorities, thus the quality ranged from

primitive to high quality. There were many varieties and errors. The black bear on yellow zemstvo (left) is Ustsysolsk #1 and is taken from the Arago web site which is noted in column 2.

G.G. Werbisky published a well-illustrated article in *American Philatelist* (April, 2010, pps. 334-343) entitled "Rural Russian Post: A Primer." He discusses the rarity of many of these local issues, necessitating strong hearts and deep pockets for all zemstvo collectors.

Reconstruction of the postal history of the area is further complicated with the destruction of collections, stocks, and postal records during the Russian Civil War (1917-22) and later in World War Two.

Furthermore, it became quite dangerous to possess zemstvo related items and records due to their link to a "useless and old autocratic regime" of the Czar. Thus many of the freely elected zemstvo administrators were eliminated by the victorious Bolsheviks in order to maintain a one-party dictatorship. Ed



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