

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Club Meeting: Wednesday, 13 February 2013

Silent Auction starts at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** Paul Petersen
And Some Hershey's Valentine Items from the Bouchards

From the President's Desk

The January auction was good. There were lots of lots and sellers made lots. Please remember, many hands make less work. Please volunteer to help with Lancopex and consider displaying some of your favorite stamps & collections. There are no specific rules, and there is no competition.

Now for the story you are waiting for... "Free album pages you can buy"... a true story. The names have not been changed to protect the innocent-I'm the innocent one.

I do spend time searching stamp auction sites, and eBay, not necessarily every day, but I do look at a lot of auctions. My favorites are STAMPAUCTIONS.COM and eBay. As most of you already know, precancels are my primary search, but I will also

look for U.S. Revenues (especially the RFs) and 19th century classics. While surfing eBay, I found album pages that were constructed for different countries and different topics. Since the U.S. Revenue pages in *Scott* are not satisfactory to me, when I saw U.S. Revenue pages, I went for it.

1) I bid, but I was too late; 2) I contacted the seller and asked if I could buy the pages and what else was available. I felt a little strange as his email was: inglorious@gmail.com, and he seemed to be from Europe. Well, anyone can create pages, so I bought them via PayPal; 3) He emailed the files promptly to me. This included what I had purchased along with the other items. I read the copyright notice since I was curious about it.

"Permissions: You may use this album page file to print album pages for yourself, your friends, or your children. You may give copies of the file to other people, and you may post the file on bulletin board systems and web pages. You may NOT modify this file, and you may NOT charge any fee for it, or use it in any commercial activity without written permission. These pages are produced under a license agreement. Any copyright violations will be dealt within the appropriate (sic) legal instances."

Wait a minute!!! Didn't I just pay money for these free pages? This then goes with my story about buying something that was free. But ... as my brain began to clear after the horrible medication I (pg.3)

The Story of the Penny Black

This is an APS DVD that was created by Albert LeShane in 1994 entitled *The Penny Black*. This stamp is a novel device for the prepayment of postage that resulted from Great Britain's Postal Reform Act of 1840. Tonight's program covers many aspects of the famous world's first adhesive postage stamp.

It briefly reviews the conditions that stimulated postal

reformer Rowland Hill to create the stamp, then it delves into the many fascinating aspects of the Penny Black itself: The contest for the stamp's design, plate layout, engraving and printing processes, the many varieties and plate flaws, various forms of the Maltese Cross cancellations, and more. A highlight of this show is an image of the only known first day cover with a

block of ten of Penny Black stamps. (29 min.)



Volume 76, No. 2

February, 2013

Highlights...

- Free album pages?
- The Penny Black
- Bio: David York
- Minutes & Treasury
- Club Notes
- Future Shows
- *Ave et Vale*
- Packets for ATA
- FDC Circuits for club
- Musings: Gleanings from Stanley Gibbons

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster. PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. Dues are \$10.00. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

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grams, and APS Rep
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February Bio: David York

Dave grew up in a family where both parents and an uncle were collectors and his early mentors. In fact, his father was the faculty advisor to Student Stamp Club where he taught school in western NY.

Following college and active duty with the Navy as a helicopter pilot, Dave married and settled into job and family in the Philadelphia area. This gave him the opportunity to resume and upgrade his collecting, especially lunchtime viewings of the lots at Apfelbaum Auctions in town.



Through Apfelbaum, Dave met area stamp dealer Wayne Gehret, and they bought, traded, sold, and collected for years. Dave's philatelic goal right now is to sort out and sell much of his holdings, especially the many country collections.

One of his specialty areas is the postmarks of post-war Papua New Guinea. He heard a speaker on the topic a while ago, and he never looked back. There is limited information on the subject, so he has enjoyed the challenge of both the hunt and research in this area.

Dave had a long career in environmental health and safety with R.R. Donnelley, and in 1980 the family was transferred to Lancaster. He joined PSLC within a few years.

Cynthia and Dave York have four grown children (+2 grandkids) with the furthest only in Philadelphia. Now retired, Dave is active as a soccer referee. With local youth soccer, indoor soccer at Overlook, and all the PIAA games, he could referee seven days a week almost year round! Dave finds that he enjoys being around the young players. They help to keep him young and fit.

January Minutes and Treasury Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: Announcements: Incoming President, RD Noble opened the meeting at 7:15 pm. The "Symbol of Office" was presented to Bob. He noted that there was a notice published in the APRL magazine of the donation to APS of Jim Boyles' two (2) slide shows of his award winning exhibits on local postal history. Peter Billis purchased several lots of Jim's exhibits at the Siegal Auction. He would like to see these sold as a whole.

Minutes/Treasury: November minutes and the December treasury report were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Drawing: The monthly drawings for philatelic items were won by David Hunt and Lou Leidig.

Membership. Lucy Eyster introduced visitor Fred Mackey of Lititz who came with club member Fred Sargent. Woodcrest Villa has approved PSLC to meet at the facility again for 2013. Club members voted to make an annual donation of \$250 to WCV in lieu of rental fees. There were 38 in attendance at tonight's meeting.

2013 Dues: Lucy announced that about 75% have paid their dues. She and Paul Petersen will track down all stragglers.

Programs: Paul reported that the schedule for this year is full with Al

Schaub's program on "Gunboat Philately" as a backup. If not used now, Al will present it in 2014. He then circulated a sign-up for snacks for the three remaining months of 2013.

Anniversary Committee: A planning meeting will be held at Truys Greiner's home on 14 January 2013.

New Postmaster: Paul announced that last fall he sent a letter of welcome from the club to incoming Lancaster PM Cheryl Turner, along with an invitation to the Xmas Dinner. He included some philatelic items of local interest in the welcome package.

Some Sunday Stamp Shows: Al reminded the club of the resumption of these starting on 17 February. (Show schedule and information are on page 3 of this newsletter.)



Lancopex: Bob brought up several discussion items regarding the show. It was resolved that Lucy and Diane Meek will work on the **show cachet & cancel** in conjunction with the PO. Bob will continue with preparation of the **pro-**

gram. Paul added that WP Snyder volunteered to frank about 300 **advert postcards** at 90% face value. Bob will draft the copy, and Paul will work on this with Mike Bach who noted his company can print the cards for a reasonable fee. Lou DeFelice will procure **APS address labels**. Bob will obtain local addressee labels. Lou will check with APS regarding charges for advertising in the *AP*.

Lancopex Displays: Lou led this discussion asking club members for the number of pages they would like to display. Please contact him soon.

Silent Auction: The silent auction that was held in November was discussed, and club members are interested in more of these in the future as program time is available.

Donation: Paul announced that the club received a donation from collector Bob Tindall (son of Herb Tindall) consisting of 20th Century U.S., mint and used. Several lots of this donation along with covers from the Phil Lichty estate will be in tonight's auction. Paul and Lou will go over the donations to compile additional lots for future PSLC auction nights.

Treasury Report

(End of 2012)

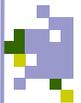
Opening: \$5,086.76 (1 Dec)

Income: \$985.00

Expenses: \$1,257.95

Closing: \$4,813.81 (31 Dec)

3-CDs valued at \$6,461.85



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Shows & Members

2013 Programs and Hosts

13 Feb: The Story of the Penny Black, a DVD from APS. Paul Petersen, Host

13 March: The Sharples Cream Separator Co.: Philatelic & Deltiologic Edification, Bill Schultz. Lancopex postcard prep. Dick Shaefer, Host

10 April: Patriot Postal Card series of the 1970-80s. John Brownell. Al Schaub, Host

8 May: Club Auction. Diane Meek, Host

12 June: Open House Display, Lucy Eyster & Len Kasper. Clair Smith, Host

10 July: Civil War Covers, Dennis Shumaker or Gunboat Philately, Al Schaub. James Ziogas, Host

14 August: Holiday Picnic

11 September: Club Auction. John Brownell, Host

9 October: Topical: Stained Glass on Stamps. Dave Hunt. Dennis Shumaker, Host.

13 November: One-Page Exhibits. All PSLC members are invited to participate with one or more exhibit pages. Bill Snyder, Host

11 December: Dinner-6 PM

2014 Programs

8 January: Club Auction

12 February: APS Video: Canal Zone Gems

12 March: TBA

10 April: Lancopex prep.

2013 Area Shows

Lancopex: Farm & Home Center, (F-S) 26-27 April 2013

Some Sunday Stamp Bourse: Farm & Home Center. 17 Feb, 30 June, 18 Aug, 27 Oct, 1 Dec. There are approximately 13 dealers on the "Active" list. Kevin Kellman will manage these shows. His number is 301-371-4558. The web site is www.k2collectiblestamps.com.

Lancopex: There will be sign-up sheets at the February meeting for a variety of manpower opportunities. These include table, display frame, and lobby set-up and take down, registration table staffing, cachet sales, and others. Please be willing to give a few hours to this show.

Delpex: (S) 20 April. Nur Shine Ctr., New Castle, DE. 10-5. www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com.

Publication: Dick Colberg's illustrated article on the advertising covers of The Moline Plow Company was published in the December 2012 issue of *The America Philatelist*.

FDC Circuits for PSLC: At the February meeting will be two boxes of First Day Covers, one U.S. and the other, U.N. Covers are 10¢ each. On the honor system, members may take a box home and sort at their leisure. Boxes should be kept no longer than two (2) weeks and then passed on to the next club member.

Ave et Vale

PSLC and APS member Harold Allen passed away in early January following a very brief illness. Several club members had the opportunity to spend time and reminisce with Harold and his wife at the Dinner in December. Harold retired several years ago from his practice of Occupational Medicine allowing him further time for family, friends, and hobbies. Among some varied collections, his latest endeavor was a countrywide collection of early Greenland.

Those Stubborn Unsoakable Stamps

One of the questions I am most often asked is about removing unsoakable stamps from covers, a topic I wrote about a few years ago. Perhaps it is time to revisit the challenge. I first learned of this from Peter Butler and Dick Osman at an APS Summer Session. Below are the directions, and I will do a brief demo at the February meeting after the APS DVD. Bring in your own stamps to try.



Two products are available:

- 1.) *Pure Citrus Air Freshener*™. This is a spray which is available in stores like Home Depot and Wal-Mart. It should state:
 - 100% non-aerosol,
 - 100% citrus based, and
 - 100% non-volatile.
- 2.) *Bestine*™ is a commercial solvent. This is a thinner used in the art professions. Available in hobby and art stores, it is a liquid substance in a metal can with applicator brush.

◇ With either product, brush or spray the back of the envelope to which the stamp is affixed.

◇ After about 5 seconds, carefully peel off the stamp.

◇ When dry, give a light coating of talcum powder or corn starch. ☺

The adhesive is not removed in this process; it is only softened. The talc or cornstarch inactivate it. When possible, the stamps should dry for several hours before the application of the powder to insure full evaporation of the orange citrus freshener or Bestine™ solvent. Ed ☐

President (Cont. from pg.1)

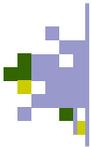
was on, this seemed stranger and stranger. He had also sent a list of all the other files that were available, so in my newly awakened brain, I googled one of the file names that was listed. After a little tinkering, I found the file. It was on the stampalbums.com website that is run by wsteiner@stampalbums.com. OOPS!!! Now you know the rest of the story. Just as your parents said, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. Next month, more dumb stuff I do. **Bob**

Topical Packets Needed-ATA

The ATA is in need of packets of 5-10 stamps each, all depicting a particular theme to be used at youth tables at stamp shows. ATA has determined that the topics that are most desired are: Animals, Birds, Butterflies, Christmas, Famous People (not presidents), Flags, Flowers, Planes, Presidents, Space, Sports, Transportations, U.S. History, and Women. Please go through your off-paper undamaged collectible stamps; they can be from one



country or several countries. They need not be complete sets. Lucy Eyster will have glassine envelopes available at meetings for your use as an ongoing project. The ATA thanks you for helping in this endeavor.



Musings: February-2013

What Stanley Gibbons Monthly Has to Offer

Many times I have cited items from *Stamp Magazine* (UK) along with additional journals from the U.S. Not too long ago Barnes & Nobles began to stock *Stanley Gibbons Monthly*, another publication that appeals to an Anglo-ophile editor, and it is a buck cheaper than the former. These publications provide another perspective on the hobby through the letters, editorials, columns, and feature articles.



In his opening editorial (pg. 5), Hugh Jefferies reports that he likes **The Simpsons** TV show in contrast to a later article by John Holman (pgs. 29-32) who apologizes to those in the audience who may favor the show. Holman was even less impressed with *The Simpsons* postage stamps by USPS. He felt smugly justified last

summer after reading that the stamps did not sell as well as hoped. Only one third of the 1B printed were sold!

Holman and Jefferies do agree that *The Simpsons* set lacks dignity, a characteristic that any nation's stamps should have. "There must be ways to appeal to a young audience, but bowing to popular culture may not be the best way."

Even before the feature articles were some items of interest. The blue U.S. 1861 Ben Franklin 1¢ Z-Grill stamp was pictured (Pg.10), an item between \$2.5-3M. Apparently a collector in Germany may have found another one in a cheap album he purchased at a flea market. Now with the Philatelic Foundation, this stamp, if genuine, will crowd out the narrow field of the New York Public Library and The Bill Gross (USA) collections.

Several issues ago I mentioned the concern in the UK with the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. The prices in this publication have always represented prices charged in their store. Not too long ago Gibbons began some online sales at less than catalogue price! There was collector grumbling about

what a *SG Catalogue* price stands for. Now in this issue are some ads that made my eyes pop, especially in light of our PSLC club auctions.

There is a good measure of advertising for stamps and products from SG, and on pgs. 12-13 six sheets of postage alone are on sale. The two U.S. items were of interest, not just for their eye appeal, but for their price. The 1982 sheet of 50 state birds/flowers was reduced to £17.50, down from a catalogue price of £25! Financially transmogrified via a permutated multiplexing procedure into U.S. dollars, we're talking \$28.23/\$40.33. I got one along with its presentation pack at a club auction at face value a few years ago.



Only to outdo this, there was a sheet of 50 different Greetings from...(the 50 states)

went for £18 (\$29.03), down from a cat price of £20 (\$32.26). One of these sold for less than face value in our January auction! The moral of the story: Stuff your backpack with American postage stamps when going overseas!

An especially appealing feature article is Alan Sacks' "Stamping Along **The Great West Road** – Pt.2" (pgs. 52-55). Sacks illustrates his travelogue along this route through London to Bath with a variety of UK stamps depicting history, literature, architecture, technology, and much more. The emphasis of Part-2 is The Strand of London with its famous edifices and past occupants. Just off this route on Craven Street was the home of Ben Franklin when he represented the State of PA. Sacks cited him: "*In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.*" Trumping Franklin on taxes was Louis XIV's Finance Minister who lived years earlier in nearby Covent Garden. Colbert's maxim: "*The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least amount of hissing.*" **Ed** □



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