

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Meeting Begins at 7:00, Wednesday, 9 April 2014

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. John & Deb Ehleiter, Hosts

Doors Open at 6:30-Come Early to Buy, Sell, and/or Trade

From the Desk of the President

Collecting stamps during the late 1950s and early 1960s as a youngster was a wonderful pastime. One of the things I enjoyed most was trading stamps with other local collectors. In my neighborhood at that time, all the kids collected stamps. And many in my grammar school were collectors, enough to have a stamp trading recess. But with time, the trading fell by the wayside.

Recently, I discovered some websites where I can trade stamps worldwide with other collectors, and it has been quite an entertaining venture. There are many varied sites to choose from, my favorite being "stamp-paradise.com." But at all of the sites you can browse through hundreds of collectors all over the world. You can establish trading relationships and use the mails

to trade by category. This can be on a bulk trade basis (50, 100, 200 assorted stamp exchange) or by catalog number and value. I prefer bulk trades of 100, and this usually results in receiving 20-30 stamps that I can use in my collection. The remaining 70-80 stamps are used in my next transaction with a new trading partner. The process may be most beneficial to worldwide and topical collectors, but by searching the lots carefully, you may discover new opportunities as well.

At our March meeting we discussed establishing a carpool for the November Reading Stamp Show. This will enable more of our club members to attend and support the Reading Club. My 7-passenger SUV will be ready, and I'd like to see at least two more vehicles and

drivers available. Please let me know if you are available to chauffeur or if you would like a ride. We'll get a caravan going. I'd like to finalize the preparations well enough in advance. If this works out, we can extend these efforts to include other future shows such as York, Balpex, Philadelphia, etc. Please feel free to call or email me any time. Further, the Reading Club is in need of program presenters for the last half of this year. Bob Noble has stepped up to give a presentation on U.S. Pre-cancels. Let's help them all we can. Please notify me if any of you can fill in any other monthly slots for them.

Hopefully the weather will be favorable for our April Meeting on the 9th, and I hope to see you there. *Len*

The American Patriots Postal Card Series of '71-'85

A PowerPoint Presentation by John Brownell

A while back, PSLC member John Brownell was in a discussion with some other collectors. They were trying to best describe "What is a patriot?" The characteristic that got John's attention the most was that a patriot did what he/she did to serve the country without getting paid.

The 1971-1985 precancelled series of American patriots appeals to him given those depicted on the PCs. Some are household names such as Paul Revere, Molly Pitcher, and John Hancock, while others are less so, such as Charles Thompson or John Witherspoon. On the other



hand, Caesar Rodney may be familiar to those conversant with early Delaware state history. See "Postal Cards" on Pg.-2 →

Volume 77, No. 4

April, 2014

Highlights

- Patriot Postal Cards
- March Minutes
- Ugliest Cancel Ever?
- Treasury Report
- NY '39 World's Fair
- ASDA Turns 100
- Illustration numbers
- More Japanese dating

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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Sound Off

It is every philatelist's God-given right to complain about ugly cancels. But I think that this is about the worst I have ever seen as partially cropped below.



My first thought was of a modern fancy cancel using a broken off end of a banana dipped in tar. Or better, a liberty bell letter press image made of sandstone.

This image is cropped from a cardboard mailer with six stamps (five are Forever Stamps), one each of the recent Seasons of the Flag set, a Primrose seed package, and a 5¢ American toleware coffee pot. It was mailed from Carol Petersen's favorite stamp dealer. She received in in 2/14.

Did something go wrong, an accident perhaps? This is from a stamp dealer, after all, and they take pride in their parcels.

Under magnification, what looks like part of the "Liberty Bell" is FEB among the smudges. On the sixth stamp is what looks like 2014. If I saw this image anywhere other than on a cover, I wouldn't know what it was.

It appears to be hand cancelled, a careful attempt with a circle date stamp. But maybe the ink had not dried and it went though a postal machine where it was smeared and smudged. On the back there are no telltale signs of ink smears, however subtle. Perhaps there was ink from the previous mailer that contaminated the machine thus dirtying subsequent covers.

March Minutes and Treasury

Paul Petersen (Acting Sect'y) and Lou DiFelice

Opening: Len Kasper opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Bill Schultz, tonight's speaker was introduced, and he gave an informative presentation on The Westtown Locals.

Business meeting: At 8:10 p.m. following a short snack break, Len called the business meeting to order. He stated that the club meetings are now being promoted in the local newspaper and Craig's List. He received three queries from this. He asked for some volunteers to place labels on the Lancopex mailing cards after the business meeting. Franking will be done later on by Wm. P. Snyder, Lou DiFelice, and Paul Petersen.

Approval of the minutes: The February minutes and treasury report (see March newsletter) were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Membership: Lucy Eyster announced that there were neither new members nor visitors tonight. Attendance was 32. The PSLC roster as of 1 March lists 77 paying members or life members. She offered listings of members' collecting interests for those seeking kindred spirits. There is an accumulation of pre-owned philatelic magazines

which are available free to club members. These were donated by other club members. Lucy is also seeking additional donations for the literature give-away table at Lancopex. Bring these to the meeting in April or to the show itself on the 25th - 26th.

March Drawing: The two drawings were won by Brian Wagner and Chuck Kilgore.

Old Business:

Lancopex: Lou DiFelice thanked Mike Back and his company for printing the Lancopex cards on short notice. He also solicited club members to display their stamps, covers, and philatelic items at Lancopex.

Paul Petersen circulated sign-up sheets for •Workers at Lancopex, •Patrons for Lancopex, and •Exhibit/display participation for the show. He will follow-up with Diane Meek on the status of the show cancel devices for the cover and the presence of USPS at the show.

By-laws: Len announced that electronic copies of the current by-laws were sent last week, and hard copies are available for those members not on email who desire to review them. Len would like feedback

prior to the May meeting. He will convene officers to compile a first draft, as he would like to present this at the June meeting.

Bus Trip: Len's people are working with Roy Baardsen's people on the feasibility of a fall trip. Please submit ideas for a venue. Mike Bach said that the Reading Club is exploring this as well. HD Shumaker suggested some caravan trips to APS and the Reading Show in November. Len said that he has a company van that holds seven (7) people.

New Business:

2015 Officers: Len asked members to consider serving in 2015.

Reading Club: Mike Bach asked if any PALC members would be interested in presenting at their club during the August thru November meetings.

Postcard Club: Doug Milliken invited PSLC members to visit the March Meeting of the Post Card Club on Monday, 17 March at 7:00 p.m. at Farm & Home Ctr.

Treasury Report

Opening: \$4,119.22 (1 Feb)
Income: \$580.00
Expenses: \$69.54
Closing: \$4,579.68 (28 Feb)
3-CDs valued at \$6,862.36



NY World's Fair; See pg.-3

'Postal Cards' from Pg.-1

John Brownell is both a stamp and coin collector. He even joined the local mineral and gem society to become more well-rounded. He loves all collectables, and he has a stand at The Green Dragon (market) in Ephrata. He often brings items for sale to the monthly PSLC meetings held in BlueBird Commons at Woodcrest Villa.



Happy 100th Anniversary to the ASDA



The 75th Anniversary of the 1939 New York World's Fair

The three-quarter century mark of the opening of "The Fair" will be later this month. Will it go by unnoticed? Perhaps, perhaps not. But for the inquiring thematic collector, this fair has just about everything including a wee bit of history.

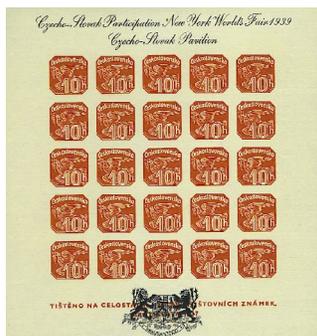


Something for every collector includes postage stamps and first day covers, Cinderellas, picture postcards, poster stamps, match books, coins, jewelry, china, and assorted bric-a-brac.

With clouds of war gathering like a fierce storm over Europe, some countries pulled out of The Fair or significantly diminished their participation. In fact, the Fair lost **Czechoslovakia** before it even opened. Well, sort of. In March, 1939, Nazi Germany overran and occupied much of the 20-year-old nation. This halted the completion of the Czech Pavilion, and Germany demanded that the Czechoslovakian national treasures be sent to them. To poke a finger in Hitler's eye, a group led by NYC Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia raised support to complete and partially equip the

Czech Pavilion where it would remain, to the Nazi's chagrin, in limited action until the fair closed in 1940.

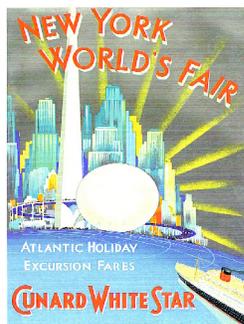
Following the September 1st blitzkrieg which launched the Second World War, Poland had to close down. Other countries including the Soviet Union and Belgium would not return in 1940. One fundraiser for Czechoslovakia was the sale of 1937 Czech stamp sheets (below) with special overprints for the NY World's Fair.



Much has been written over the years about The Fair, and there are still some around who were fortunate to attend as children. To many it is a magical past, an event we'll never see again, in times we hope to never see again. Some quotes follow:

"I had a feeling of being exhausted, physically lifted for a moment without effort as if you are afloat with eyes closed & a wave swells up beneath you & then rolls away again; you feel directly linked to the fair as if it were intended just for you. The future does seem lovely & you are quite sure that eve-

rything will be all right in the end." A passage from David Gelertner's **1939: The Lost World of the Fair** (1995).



"It is significant that the astounding changes and advances in almost every phase of human life have made necessary so few changes in the Constitution itself. All of the earlier Amendments may be accepted by us as part of the original Constitution because that sacred Bill of Rights, which guaranteed and has maintained personal liberty through freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, and the freedom of assembly was already popularly accepted by the inhabitants of the 13 states while the Constitution itself was in the process of ratification...And so, my friends, the time has come for me to announce with solemnity, perhaps, but with great happiness, a fact: I hereby dedicate the NY World's fair of 1939, and I declare it open to all mankind."
Franklin Delano Roosevelt on opening day, Sunday, 30 April 1939.

Misc. Club Notes: Meetings & Shows

2014 Programs

9 April: 1.) The Patriot Postal Cards of 1971-1985. John Brownell. John and Deb Ehleiter, Hosts

14 May: Spring Auction. Bill and Truys Greiner, Hosts

11 June: Rogue River Mailboat. Bob Brown. Paul Petersen, Host

9 July: U.S. International Philatelic Expo Stamps, Covers, Labels & More, Paul Petersen. James Ziogas, Host

13 August: Club Family Picnic

10 September: Fall Auction. Lucy Eyster, Host

08 October: Great Britain Inland Air-mail Service: 1935-1937. Mike Bach. Fred Sargent and Fred Mackey, Hosts

12 November: Open House, One-Page Exhibits, and Your Best Stuff Extravaganza. Len Kasper. Bob Paire, Host

10 December: Dinner

2015 Programs

14 January: Club Auction. Bill Greiner, Host

11 February: APS Video-*The doctoring of postage stamps: Philatelists beware.* GS Joseph

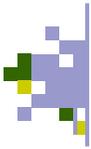
2014 Local Shows

Lancopex: Farm & Home Center, 25-26 April. Opens at 10:00. Closes at 5:00 Friday and 4:00 Saturday

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: Farm & Home Center, Lancaster. 22 June, 17 Aug., 5 Oct., 7 Dec. Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager; 301-371-4558

Delpex: Nur Shine Center, New Castle, DE. (S) 12 April, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





Musings: April-2014

Illustration #s; More on Japanese postmark dating...

Last month I shared the basics, as I understood them, regarding the conversion of Japanese postmark dates to Gregorian years. And in some cases it is easy if there is a concurrent postmark in English with a Gregorian Month-Day-Year format. The dual postmarks were common. Interpreting the postmark dates on stamps, those not on cover, has its challenges. Many times the dates are incomplete. As always, if there is correspondence with a date or other temporal contextual information, interpretation is greatly eased. The Imperial Eras are as follows:

Meiji Era: 1868-1912 (45 years)

Taisho Era: 1912-1926 (15 yrs)

Showa Era: 1926-1989 (64 yrs)

Heisei Era: 1989-pres. (26+ yrs)

Recently I came across a beautiful bi-color Japanese 30 sen stamp for my bullseye cancel collection. It is pictured to the right→. I assign it a 9/10 on the “Wow” factor! It has VF+ centering, contrasting orange and green color, decent perfs, the back is fine (i.e. no creases, thins, tears, or scuffs-I really do hate scuffs!) and a nice, however incomplete cancellation. What’s not to love about a stamp like this?

To place this stamp in a simple bullseye collection is not a problem. The last two digits are -2-18, or February 18th. Easy; it’s done. But what is the Scott Catalogue stamp number? And what is the year date in Gregorian?

Regarding the Scott number: there are two possibilities: Scott **142** and **250**. These stamps are \$17 and \$25 respectively in mint condition. In the used category they are barely above the Scott minimum at 30¢ and 50¢.

Viewing the stamp, it is Scott’s illustration number A36 of Japan. An illustration number is most useful when a stamp design is included in more than one location in the album. An example is the 3¢ Thomas Jefferson stamp from the 1938 Presidential series. The four-sided perfed issue is Scott number 807 while the horizontal coil is 851 and the vertical coil number is 842. However, with all three major Scott numbers for this stamp, the illustration number is A279 for each of them, and it is shown only once in the catalog. This avoids redundancy and a thicker and more costly catalogue. Further, there are additional minor Scott numbers for booklet issues of this stamp: *i.e.* 807a-d.

Let’s say that there is a five stamp set (from any country), all with different colors and denominations, but their design is the same. They will have different Scott catalogue numbers but will share the illustration number.

Let’s turn to Japan **142**. It is from a set issued during 1924-1933 with this 30 sen stamp appearing

in 1929. No watermark is noted. The set is listed in two formats: 1. “New Die” size 18½x22mm (Flat Plate) or 2. 18½x22½ (rotary). I have to wonder if a Japanese catalog would have additional detail.

Let’s focus on Scott **250**. This stamp is from a 1937 set listed as “Types of 1913-1926” Perfed 13½x13, 13x13½. Watermarked number 257.

My stamp measures 18½ by 22½ and is perfed 13 by 13½. It also has watermark-257. Thus, my stamp is #**250**, issued from 1937 in the Showa Era in Japan.

Looking at my stamp’s date, it is incomplete. The last two digits are clear: -2-18. The first digit may be a 3 or an 8. Close up magnification leads me to pick 3. But even more, there is space for an additional digit to the left of the “3.” Thus the imperial year date could be 3, 8, 13, 18, 23, 28, 33, 38, etc.

To be sure, I enlarged this stamp on a scanner and used a compass to sketch in the rest of the circular date stamp. There is certainly room for another digit to the left, but which digit is it?

Scott **142** in this series (1924-1933) was first printed in 1929, placing it in the Showa Era (1926-1989). Conversion in the Showa Era are: 3=1928;

8=1933; 13=1938; 18=1943.

Scott **250** was issued in 1937, placing it, like **142**, in the Showa Era. How long it persisted is a very good question, as there was a new 19-stamp definitive series from 1937-1945. The possible year dates for the Showa Era: 3=1928; 8=1933; 13=1938; 18=1943.

Though the year digit appears to be a 3, it could not be a solo 3, as this 3 year-date would be 1928 in Gregorian, or nine years before the stamp’s issuance. The same for a single 8 digit. But a 13 year date would make sense. While we cannot see the 1, there is room for it.



My conclusion is that this stamp (#250) was postmarked on **18 February 1938**. There’s both entertainment and challenge in every stamp lot that comes across my desk. Ed. ☐



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