

LCPS NEWS LETTER

January 2007

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

January is a month of new beginnings, but for our club it is also a month to reflect on the contributions of Lou DiFelice as our club president. Lou certainly deserves all our admiration for his outstanding work promoting the club and assisting in every facet of club activity. The club is better for all his work.

The agenda for the club is not set for the year 2007, but we will hopefully have a good representation of programs. January begins with one of our more popular items, a club auction. Each member is invited to enter as many as 10 items into the auction. All proceeds go to the seller and can really improve your collection or your pocketbook. Be reasonable with minimum bids if you want your item sold. You need to identify your item and any minimum. Leave space for your seller number on the slip as well. Oh yes, and bring cash so we can distribute the sales back to the seller as easily as possible. Mostly come prepared to bid and to have fun.

I sincerely hope that this year is the best that it can be for you and your family.
Bob Noble

STAMP CLUB MINUTES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006

The December stamp club meeting was held December 13th at 7:00. Bob Noble, our new club president, was officially handed the "gavel of power". After club business was taken care of we had our Holiday party. Fifty-two people were in attendance, which included club members, spouses, and friends.

Marilyn Shirley and crew did another wonderful job planning our party. Many thanks to Marilyn, Mary Husson and Diane Meek.

The food and entertainment was wonderful. Everyone enjoyed the songs sung by fellow club member Steven Wander. Especially entertaining, was the "Twelve Days of Christmas", sung by fellow club members. A great time was had by all.

ATTENTION: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CLUB NEWS LETTER

Folks, thank you for the great contributions to the January newsletter. Please provide me (Dick Wheeler) with all information of interest to club members for inclusion in the news letter no later than the 20th of each month. My email address is: **rwassociates1@verizon.net** or give me a call at 717.892.1547.

Information and contributions can include:

Announcements of stamp shows or other events

Informative articles of interest to club members

Personal stories about "you" for the "Get to Know Our Members" section

THIS MONTH'S ARTICLE:

Bob Noble: "My Library"

Unfortunately, the public library (for which I volunteer) only seems to carry the Scott catalogs. My observations lead me to believe that they have the current catalogs in the reference section and perhaps one old copy of the catalogs on the shelves. These are seldom actually on the shelves and unfortunately often marked as missing.

In whatever hobby I am pursuing, whether it is philately or rug hooking, I like to have reference sources available to me. Besides the major catalogs from Scott, I have found some excellent catalogs provided by various offshoots of mainstream philately. The RPO (Railway Post Office) club has excellent catalogs which identify postal markings for railway post offices, highway post offices and streetcar post offices. The Postal Card club has an excellent catalog listing the many variety of Postal Cards. The Precancel Club, PSS, has many catalogs of different precancels and many individuals continue to add even more specialty catalogs to this field. The Bureau Issues Association, (is it US Stamp Society?) with a new name I can never remember, has many other specialty guides. The Perfins club has a catalog which lists every one of those "holey" stamps and usually when, where and by whom they were used. The amount of research out there for us to use is phenomenal.

A search of EBAY published items will occasionally find a really neat catalog or specialty guide. The last I found was a catalog of flag cancels. The detail of that information is unbelievable. I have been able to find various specialty guides in Subways clearance section of books. Internet sites like Amazon and Overstock usually don't have a whole lot for stamp collectors, but Alibris and Abebooks usually have some items, although not cheap.

Good reference books are a collection unto themselves. It might be an interesting exercise to compile a list of your own reference books and what their purpose is. A club compilation might lead us toward new ideas for our collecting. That sounds like a sequel.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MEMBERS

Peter Billis: EBAY/INTERNET STAMP DEALER (Pavstamps):

A few years ago, I occasionally attended a monthly stamp bourse in New Jersey. I noticed that one of the dealers that I would regularly purchase stamps from was no longer there. When I inquired about Joe, another dealer told me he no longer does shows but sells on EBAY. When I finally met up with Joe, he told me the Internet is the way to go.

For years I would buy stamps from Auctions, collectors, and dealers. I was limited in the way I would sell them, my avenues were auctions and a few private collectors. I had no stamp store and I did no shows. But the thought of the internet was in the back of my mind. The problem I had was that technology was changing so fast my computer became outdated. I decided to purchase a new and more powerful computer. I invited a friend over who was already buying and selling other stuff on EBAY. He helped me list my

first item, when it sold after a week, I got hooked. That was 4 years ago, since then my stamp business has EXPLODED !!

In the past 4 years I have sold and shipped many albums, stamps, covers, supplies, and large lots to buyers all over the world. I have now many new customers, and more often they continue to come back and buy more stamps. I have also noticed, collectors are coming back to the hobby in a big way thanks to the internet and EBAY. You might wonder how safe is it to buy or sale on EBAY? I can probably write an article on this topic, but I will save that for another day. I will say for every transaction that occurs, both the Buyer and Seller can leave Feedback (positive, negative, neutral) that goes on everyone's record and for everyone else to see.

If you are ever browsing stamps on EBAY check me out at "Pavstamps"(user name). For now I am just having fun selling stamps on EBAY and making new customers throughout the world, and as Joe said, EBAY & Internet is the way to go!!

Lori Hostetler:

I got a later start at stamp collecting than most people. I became interested in stamps in my mid 20's. I thought they were little miniature works of art. Any stamp with an animal on it was of interest to me. While working at TAPSCO I met Lucy Eyster and realized there were "others" out there. Lucy suggested I attend a stamp club meeting with her and the rest is history. I now mainly collect booklets and souvenir sheets. Though I do have a tendency to collect anything that catches my eye!

Diane Meek:

At the age of twelve, my mother gave me her collection of United States stamps. I can still remember the red covered Scott's book. Life for me at that time, was on eight acres in West Nyack, New York. (About an hour and a half north of New York City) As a family, we all shared the responsibilities for the chickens, gardens and the preserving of food at the end of the summer. My family consisted of a Mom - who stayed home to take care of all of us and Dad - who was a supervisor at Continental Can Company in Piermont, New York. My brother was just eleven months younger and his hobby was repairing televisions that nobody wanted anymore. During the years that I was married, I was a serious stamp collector and enjoyed the hours of filling in the spaces. My collecting continued to grow to include ten or twelve of the Scott's International - blue binders. After attending State University College at Buffalo, New York, I taught high school art...and later, elementary and junior high school art. Twenty years ago, my son, Cory and I moved to Lancaster. I taught at the Donegal Middle School and loved the teenagers and delighted to help them express their individual creativity. Now that I have graduated from teaching and am retired...I have focused my stamp collecting on U.S., hearts on stamps and kid's art on stamps. Stamps from Israel are of interest, because of the Biblical truths depicted on some stamps, which is so foundational to all of my life. It would be fun to trade stamps with people of like interests.