

FEBRUARY 2005

Editor: Bill Snyder

A Philatelic Paradox

The dictionary defines a paradox as being: *A statement that seems contrary to common sense and yet is true.* Surprise! Many of us who are philatelists live within the weird world of paradox!!

To explain, whenever we are asked why we collect stamps and covers we usually are quick to give several reasons. One, almost always cited reason is that we find our hobby to be relaxing. Philately has a calming effect that provides more fun than tranquilizers and is much needed in our hectic, demanding, and fast-paced world.

However, a paradox is created when our quest for philatelic tranquility blends with the realm of conflict and controversy. Is there not a paradox in combining the tranquility of philately with a collecting interest in such things as war, murder, and sinister people?

The idea for this article was stimulated by a Web article given to me by one of our Club members. To maintain a tranquil, relaxed aura of sinister intrigue, for now she will only be referred to as Madam X. The article provided by Madam X was very critical of the U.S. postal system for its issuance of the Eid stamps (Scott 3532 and 3674). These stamps honor the Islamic holy day which falls at the end of Ramadan.

In oversized print the article cites eight horrific terrorist acts committed against Americans, by Muslims, and recommends that the stamp be "adamantly and vocally boycotted." Also, totally overlooked in the article is the not uncommon belief that the stamp is a threat of death to Americans, as recognized by spelling Eid backwards.

As you experience the relaxation of working with or reviewing your philatelic collection, why not give some thought to your attitude towards this very controversial stamp. For most of us, it is very easy to take a strong stand against the Eid stamp. A new paradox emerges when we strive to come up with reasons why the stamp has valid reasons to exist.

If all this paradox stuff is too much for you, there is always Valium. In the long run it may be cheaper than philately!

Best regards,

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Plot Against America

Stamp collecting is an integral, if secondary, element in The Plot Against America, a new novel by Philip Roth. Roth, a Pulitzer Prize and national book award winner, has written an "alternate history" centered on events in America during the early 1940s. The plot involves the popular American hero, aviator Charles Lindberg, defeating Franklin Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election. Lindberg then signs nonaggression pacts with Nazi Germany and Japan while his domestic policies target American Jews and Roosevelt supporters who oppose his policies.

The principal character, Philip, is a young boy living in Newark, New Jersey—in fact, a character modeled on the young Philip Roth. Philip is a stamp collector and the novel has frequent references to the technical aspects of stamp collecting: perforation gauges, the 1938 Presidential series, and approvals from the famous stamp house, H. E. Harris & Co. For Philip, living in a small flat in Newark, stamp collecting is his window into the larger world. One of Phillip's favorite stamps sets is the 1934 National Park series (Scott #740-749). Indeed, the book's dust jacket features the 1 cent green, El Capitan stamp, Scott 740, overprinted with a Nazi Swastika.

The book has received quite favorable reviews. The Jewish experience in America on the eve of World War II is, of course, the central theme. The "alternate history" plot with the occasional references to stamp collecting as it was over a half century ago, however, should make for a good read. The book is available at Barnes & Noble; Amazon.com is offering it at \$17.75 plus shipping.

LCPS Officers

President.....Al Schaub, 560-6278

Vice President.....Lou DiFelice, 295-5536

Treasurer.....Bill Greiner, 394-0879

Secretary.....Eleanor Wheeler, 892-1547

Recent APS Initiatives

The APS has announced a new program called "APS Quick ID" that will provide members quick identification of stamps. With this program APS members who have stamps they can not identify can now send an

electronic image of the stamp via the internet to Quick ID. The service can also be used to validate the description of stamps being offered by such services as E-Bay. This service is not the same as expertizing. APS promises a response within three working days--and there is a small fee for the service. The service can be accessed by clicking "Quick ID" under "Services" at www.stamps.org or email to ambristo@stamps.org.

A second APS initiative is called Young Stamp Collectors of America. YSCA will publish an electronic newsletter; the first issue was distributed in January and included an article by Digger Phelps, the ESPN basketball analyst. YSCA will also have a presence at the major stamp shows. Young collectors who are interested in YSCA can find out more at its web site: ysca@stamps.org or by calling 1-814-933-3820 .

The APS also reports that its financial situation is improving. Although the final numbers are not yet available, APS fund raising in 2004 was roughly double that of 2003—about \$1.3 million versus \$544,000. In addition, most of the excess space in the renovated Match Factory building in Bellefonte has been rented.

Minutes, LCPS Meeting Jan.12, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. One guest was introduced, Dot Tallardy.

The previous month's minutes were accepted as written.

Dues for the new year are DUE. Amount = \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for Youth. Please mail payment to Bill Greiner, 1278 Wilson Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603. Bill will also accept payments at the next meetings on Thurs., Jan 27, Wed. Feb. 9 or Thurs. Feb 24.

Marilyn Shirley announced that Ken Kline left a jacket at the last meeting and hopes it was found.

We discussed a procedure for canceling meetings due to inclement weather. It was proposed that members who expect to attend a meeting should call one of the officers to confirm if the meeting will be held.

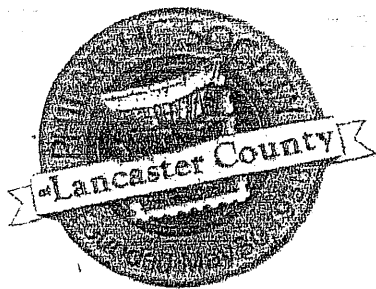
For cancellation information please call:

Al Schaub	560-6278
Lou DeFelice	295-5536
Bill Greiner	394-0879
Eleanor Wheeler	892-1547

Bill Snyder reminded attendees to vote on stamp design preferences, for the club and for Linn's.

The meeting was adjourned with the announcement of the auction, which followed after a brief recess.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Wheeler, Secretary



19 Circle Road
Millersville, PA 17551



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The York Stamp Fair

6 February at the Commonwealth Fire Company, 2045 N. Sherman Street. 10 AM-5 PM For information contact Darrell Yeisley, 717-382-4632.

February 205 Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2005, at the Maple Grove Community Center. The program is a slide show: Adventures in Topical Collecting. The buy, sell, trade, and socialize meeting is on Thursday, February 24, at the Grace Baptist Church.