

APRIL 2006

Editor: Bill Snyder
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From the President

The April meeting of LCPS will be Wednesday, the 12th at 7:00 PM. We will have a presentation by guest speaker, Bob Swed, a member of the Wilmington Delaware Stamp Club and a dealer who specializes in Classic U.S. covers and postal history. Bob's expertise is in Delaware postal history as well as Civil War era postal history and correspondence. He will present an overview on how to collect and what to look for in recognizing classic U.S. covers. You may recognize Bob as a participant in our LANCOPEX shows.

Our hosts for the upcoming meeting will be Dick and Eleanor Wheeler. Our second April meeting at the Grace Baptist Church will be held on Thursday, 27 April at 7 PM. Please also give thought to volunteering to help with the LANCOPEX show which will be held on 29-30 April. I am sure that Jim Boyles will still need additional help to make this show run smoothly.

This meeting will also be our last opportunity to sign up for the bus trip to Washington, DC, for the International Stamp Show on Thursday, June 1st. As of our March meeting, we still needed 18 people to make the bus trip possible. Please see Chuck Kilgore—if we do not fill the bus the trip will be cancelled! This is also my last reminder on paying dues for 2006. At this time we have 50 paid members on our list. I will be contacting those members whose dues (\$10.00) are not current to see if they are interested in remaining active members of the club.

Thank you--and I look forward to seeing you all on the 12th.

Respectfully, Lou DiFelice

Washington Franklin Blues

For those who are US collectors and have tried to make headway with the Washington-Franklin series, you will understand my frustration when I page through this section of my album and question whether the stamp in an assigned Scott numbered spot is really the right stamp.

The Washington-Franklin regular issue series ran from 1908 to 1922 and is also known as the 3rd Bureau Issue. Within this series there are five major designs responsible for approximately 250 Scott numbers, represented by 350 stamps and their various varieties. I have asked several of the more experienced collectors in our club many times to help me identify a particular stamp in this series.

The entire series has but two basic vignette designs: a left facing Washington and a similar profile of Franklin. However, these two basic vignettes come with different perforation counts, die varieties, watermarks or lack thereof, paper varieties, different printing methods, and of course values from one cent to five dollars. The details are staggering, but a good place to start the identification process is a Washington-Franklin identification chart, which can be found in Scott's as well as similar reference catalogues. Of course, even this is not enough to distinguish some of the more difficult stamps in this series; certificates of expertization are recommended to guard against the fraudulent alterations that can make a common inexpensive stamp appear to be a rarer, more expensive one.

Five Postmaster Generals oversaw the production of this series. The 1918 \$2 and \$5 Franklins are the only stamps in the series with horizontal layout and bicolor printing. Only one stamp in the entire series, a 1 cent Washington, #536, is a perf 12.5. Finally, in 1922 the Post Office Department adopted a new definitive stamp series (4th Bureau issue) and relegated the Washington-Franklin's to the world of collectors. The Washington-Franklin series tests the determination and resolve of philatelists like myself who just can't find it in them to fill those missing spaces with stamps that all look alike!

Enjoy! Lou

Minutes L.C.P.S. Meeting March 8, 2006

President Lou DiFelice called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Treasurer Bill Greiner reported a balance of \$4010.96. The treasurer's report was accepted as read. Minutes from the February meeting were accepted as written in the March newsletter.

Bill Greiner reported that a number of club members have not paid their 2006 dues. Lou requested that club members please pay their dues.

Chuck Kilgore reported that only 18 people have signed up for the bus trip to the International stamp show in Washington D.C. on June 1. We need an additional 18 people to register for the trip no later than the April meeting or the trip will be cancelled. Anyone can register for the trip, even if they simply want to tour Washington for the day.

Jim Boyles managed the activities preparing for the LANCOPEX Stamp Show, April 29 & 30, 2006. The Club Patron signup sheet was circulated. Club members completed the annual "lick and stick" to prepare stamp show announcements for mailing. Jim advised that the show this year will feel more crowded due to ongoing construction at the Farm & Home Center. He requested that club members be alert to the need to keep the aisles between the dealer tables clear of chairs. Jim also requested club member assistance for Friday evening setup and circulated signup sheets for various tasks that need to be staffed over the two-day show. Jim stressed the need to have club members lend a hand on Sunday evening when the show ends.

Lou Leidig won the \$5 drawing.

During the meeting members had an opportunity to participate in a silent auction.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Eleanor Wheeler, Secretary

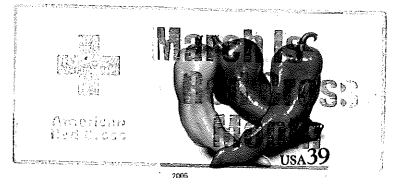
From the Editor

Many stamp collectors lament our declining numbers, and especially the relative small number of young people, who participate in our hobby. But declining interest is certainly not limited to stamp collecting. As a recent Wall Street Journal article notes, "Young people today have little interest in the stamp, coin or knickknack collections of their elders, so an aging America can't help but wonder: What's going to happen to all those boxes in the basement?" The article goes on to note the concern of a pencil collector, with 5,000 pencils, some going back to the 1800s. Similar laments come from the International Sewing Machine Collectors Society in London, from Tom Wyman of Palo Alto, CA, who has a collection of some 900 slide rules, and George Beilke, of Tulsa, who has collected 35,000 instant-lottery tickets. The one collectible that seems to attract young people, the article notes, is the state quarters program.

Credit Card--The American Philatelic Society is now offering a Visa Card. The card, from U.S. Bank, offers competitive interest rates, no annual fees, and a rewards programs (one point for each \$1 you spend). I don't know how much the participating affiliate earns from these cards—but it must be worthwhile for APS to make this commitments. The card

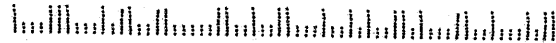


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itself features, in addition to the ViSA logo, a picture of Scott # 63 (a blue, 1 cent portrait of Franklin). If you are interested, call 1-800-853-5576—before the offer expires on 15 April.

New Franklin Commemoratives—On April 7 the USPS will issue four .39 cent stamps honoring the 300th anniversary of Benjamin Franklin's birth. The se-tenent block recognizes the four roles Franklin played during his long career: statesman, scientist, printer, and postmaster. The issuing ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. at Constitution Hall in Philadelphia.

New Telephone #: Alistair Welch: 333-7208. Elizabeth Welch—538-7859