

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER COUNTY
 POST OFFICE BOX 982
 LANCASTER, PA 17603

MEETINGS - 2nd Wednesday of each month
 STAUFFER MANSION at 7:30 P.M.
 1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
 Next Meeting- Wednesday, April 10, 1991

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From the President's Desk

I am looking for stamp collectors. You know, those people who enjoy gathering pieces of colored paper and putting them in albums of one kind or another. Sounds like a simple task, doesn't it.

The reality of the situation is that stamp collectors, or at least stamp collectors who are willing to join a stamp club, are few and far between. There are probably several reasons for this problem. I would suspect that more than a few people who consider themselves stamp collectors are senior citizens. They have taken up this hobby in retirement as a way to pass at least part of their retirement years. This in itself is not a problem, but some of the habits that accompany advancing age impact on venturing out to meetings at night. They don't drive in bad weather and at some point they don't drive at all. We have seen this with the disappearance of some of the people who attended club meetings only several years ago, but can no longer make the meetings.

Secondly, many a stamp collector wants to remain anonymous. Why is this? I think for the most part we who collect have a fear that someone will find out that we collect and if someone thinks it is worth the effort they will break into our homes looking for our stamps. Even though my stamp collection is not of any great value, it would sadden me greatly if something that I have put time into collecting would suddenly disappear. I can understand the fear.

In the third place, it is very hard to tell stamp collectors just by looking at them (unless, of course, they have their nose buried in a stamp album or catalog). We carry no large equipment or wear special clothing to identify us from those around us. We all blend in rather nicely with those around us.

These are several of the reasons why the club has had trouble finding new members or keeping our attendance at meetings high. All of us need to take an active part in finding new members or aiding present members when they need help to keep them interested participants in our club activities. If you find out that someone collects stamps or has an interest in learning about stamps, take the time to tell them about the Lancaster County Philatelic Society and invite them to come and check us out. Everyone will be better off for your effort.

-- Dick Shaefer

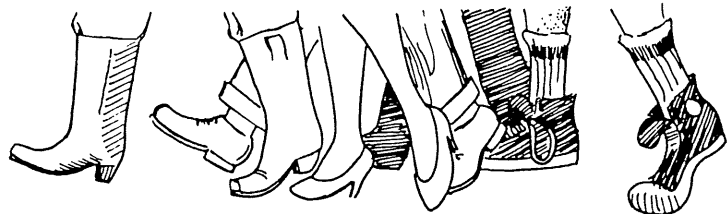


BUZZING AROUND

The longest known route of a foot-post was between Montreal, Lower Canada and Niagara, a distance of 410 miles. A regular mail service was established in 1789 by George Heriot. Each January, a courier set out from Montreal on snowshoes while carrying the mailbag over his shoulder. Averaging 15 miles per day, it took him three months to complete the round trip.

HELPFUL HINT -- When checking luminescent stamps, it is better to place the stamps on a dark surface. White paper does not provide a good contrast for luminescent stamps.

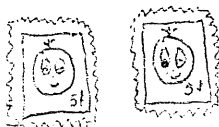
Where is Everybody Going?



LANCOPEX '91 STAMP SHOW
AND PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
APRIL 20-21, 1991
PARK CITY, LANCASTER, PA

PATRON'S LIST

This year for the first time, we are planning to have a "Patron's Listing" included in our Lancopex '91 Stamp Exhibit Program. Anyone wishing to become a patron, please send \$5.00 to L.C.P.S., P.O. Box 982, Lancaster, PA 17603. Please make checks payable to L.C.P.S. It is not necessary to be a member of the society in order to be a patron.



STORING DUPLICATES -- ANOTHER GUY'S IDEA

I use #4 glassines. I don't write on the glassine, (I'm cheap and use them over again). I use a paper filler, cut to fit, which I place in the glassine. I write the country name and Scott number in the upper left hand corner, entering the Scott catalog edition (year) just below. The Scott catalog value (CV) is entered in the upper right hand corner of the filler. If I have both mint and used copies of an item, I enter both values, M for mint and U for used (brilliant!). As I said before, I'm cheap so I use each filler slip four times while the glassine is used over and over again. Well, you get the idea.

If I have more than ten of a kind, I use a #1 glassine for each ten and place these inside the #4. They fit just right. I don't update the CV every year, but I do change both the CV and the catalog date whenever I add more duplicates.

A lot of work? Too costly? Maybe so, but I think the system has its advantages. If I used stock books or stock sheets, I'd have to shift the stamps every time I found a number in between the others, resulting in a lot of shifting and damaged (bent) corners. Too many stamps in the pockets tend to spread the pocket and out come the stamps. Using stock sheets means I'd have to use binders or file folders to hold them. Stock books will only hold so many stamps and then you need another stock book.

Oh! The glassines are stored in the proverbial shoe boxes. A lot of them are just right. Another reason I prefer this method of storage is that "the whole ball of wax" is identified, cataloged (even if not every one is up-to-date) and is ready for sale as "dealers stock". I've heard you can get a little more if you sell this way. I don't intend to sell just yet, but, at least my heirs will have something to work with when that time comes.

I only store stamps with a CV of 10¢ and up, because the exchanges I'm involved with have a 10¢ minimum CV for stamp entry. I don't categorize by topic, except for trains. Time spent cataloging is not too much once you're just starting up. As for cut-off dates, if I'm trading with someone who collects only to a certain year, a glance at the catalog will give the corresponding data. This is the method I've found to be most useful to my style of collecting and trading. As the guy on television has been heard to say, "It works for me".

-- ISWSC Newsletter
The Circuit

Editor's Note: Last month we had an article on storing duplicates. We thought we would share a second method. We would appreciate hearing from you as to the method you use for storing duplicates.



GET WELL SOON

We wish a speedy recovery for two of our members. BILL CARROLL is now recovering at the Maple Farms Nursing Home from a fractured hip. Bill would appreciate any visitors that wish to drop by -- the days can be very long. As you go out the Oregon Pike toward Akron, right before you get to the top of the hill at Akron, turn to your left, you can see the nursing home from the road. Bill is in Room 10W. 17501

In Florida, JIM LYMAN is recuperating from a cornea transplant. We talked to him by phone last week and Jim is very pleased with his progress thus far. However, his return to PA will be delayed a bit due to this.

Both these men are very active in our club and we await their return with great anticipation.

Stamp Exchange

Are you a Worldwide stamp collector? If so, you should consider membership in the Cover Collector's Circuit Club. The purpose of the club is to promote stamp and cover exchanges among the 20,000 members around the world.

American and Canadian members become Originating Members (OMs) on joining. Six to ten times a year OM's receive membership lists with 100 or more names and addresses from around the world of collectors interested in exchange/correspondence. From these new and prior lists, OMs prepare circuits of 4 names each, which pass from member to member until it returns back to the OM. It is the duty of each member to prepare a nice cover with at least three good stamps on it, in which the circuit passes to the next person. Many members use full sets, obtain special cancels or hand drawn cachets to make their covers stand out. Once initial contacts are made, collectors of similar interests can make their own arrangements for exchanging philatelic material.

Lifetime membership of OMs is \$5.00 US. OMs must be over 21 years of age. Foreign members (CMs) must be over 18 years old and currently reside in our 50 countries. Lifetime CM membership is \$4.00 US, which allows their names to be placed on the next membership list. They are not allowed to create circuits, but pass them along as they receive them. After 1-2 years, they may apply for honorary OM status.

This is a great way to make international contacts for exchanges and friendships. For complete rules, an application and further information, send a SASE to the Membership Director Renate Thompson, 241 Beaches Brook Lane, Cary, NC 27511.

DDR PHILATELIC ITEMS HOT

I have recently moved back to Germany for a second 3-year tour. Approximately seven weeks after I arrived in Germany, I attended the International Stamp Bourse in Sindelfingen, a suburb of Stuttgart. The show was busy. What surprised me was the number of kids there. There were at least three organized activities for them. Most of them appeared to be interested in stamp collecting, not just dragged there by their parent. In some cases, three generations were in attendance.

The theme of the show was the 500th anniversary of the establishment of a postal system in what is now Germany. The Deutsche-post had a nice exhibit. The lines were long at the special cancellation windows and at the philatelic windows. It was also national stamp day in Germany.

I dropped a lot of coin (Deutschmarks - DM) at the Stamp Corner, a kiloware dealer from the Netherlands. His prices were cheaper in DM rather than the prices he advertises in the US philatelic journals.

We chatted. He told me that the hottest item was DDR kiloware. He sold 5-kilo bags and all his 1 and 2-kilo packages of DDR. Other dealers were showing sold out signs of their DDR mixtures. Several Germans I met, were there to buy DDR. They expect prices to go up and were getting DDR before the rise.

-- ISWSC Newsletter

The Circuit



Editor's Note: We are looking forward to the return of the "Florida Snowbirds" Sarah Brown and Jim Lyman, some time in May. We visited them in early March, but could not drag them out of the sunshine!