

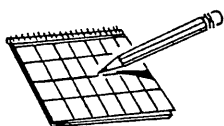
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER COUNTY  
 POST OFFICE BOX 982  
 LANCASTER, PA 17603

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

VOL 2 NO 7

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JULY 1991



## From the President

One thing nice about stamp collecting, it doesn't matter whether it is hot or cold outside to practice our hobby. Of course if you don't have air conditioning you don't want to get that pile of stamps too close to the fan or you will get a little extra exercise.

At any rate, this is a good time of year to do a few of those stamp projects that didn't get done last winter. I have been driving myself nuts trying to figure out the different dies on the two cent embossed envelopes of 1887-94. To look at the Scott catalog it would seem that the task is very simple. A few strands of hair on one die but not another -- a bar on the G of postage on one but not another, etc. First trick is to find an impression that is strong enough to compare it with the example in the catalog. I purchased a couple of hundred cut squares several months ago and I would say that at least fifty percent of those cut squares are not strong enough to make the comparison.

There are a couple of other tips to help denote the different dies, but I found myself going slightly bleary-eyed trying to find these differences. Then just when I thought I had everything figured out, I started to notice other differences that weren't mentioned in the catalogue. Was I starting to get too critical at what I was looking at, or are there sub-varieties of the three dies mentioned. Good question for which I have no answer. I would be willing to bet that out there somewhere there is a book that has nice big pictures and detailed diagrams about these die varieties but I do not have that book or know where to get it.

The point of this article is simply that the hobby of stamp collecting is not just putting stamps in an album. Part of the fun of this hobby, as far as I am concerned, is searching, exploring and learning about a particular stamp or a particular subject. In this case, the cost of the cut squares was only a couple of dollars. The hours of enjoyment I will probably get out of this purchase will keep me off the streets and out of trouble for awhile. I hope you will find a similar subject to occupy your "spare" time.

-- Dick Shaefer

**WELCOME!**  
**NEW**  
**MEMBERS**

A very special welcome is extended to Charles Bard who has renewed his membership with our club. Mr. Bard is interested in First Day Covers, Current Issues of U.S. and Plate Blocks. It's always exciting to have a member renew his interests in the club.

The Club wishes to extend the hand of friendship to a second new member who is retired and pursuing the hobby of philately, Dr. Herbert Tindall. This gentleman is interested in Columbia and Lancaster County Postal History. Dr. Tindall and Jim Boyles just might have something in common here.

WELCOME TO BOTH OF YOU!

A STAMP DEALER'S VIEWS ON THE CARE AND PRESERVATION OF YOUR STAMP COLLECTION



Pat Rineer, a stamp dealer for thirty years, who owns and operates the Lancaster Stamp and Coin Company on North Queen Street in Lancaster was the guest speaker at the June meeting. He was both enthusiastic and knowledgeable on his chosen topic. The often deplorable condition of the stamps the collectors, wishing to sell, bring into his shop was his starting point.

By poor storage, such as storing one's collection in a hot or humid environment, by the use of scotch tape whose glue has a tendency to run and contaminate albums, covers, stamps and everything else it comes in contact with, a collection can be rendered almost valueless. A seemingly basic operation like hinging a stamp to the album page received a treatment new to most collectors. Pat recommended folding the hinge above the perforations so the stamp can be easily lifted to view the backside without danger of creasing the stamp or blunting the perforations. He advised cutting cardboard the size of a stamp sheet to insert in folders to keep the sheets from curling. The proper use of mounts such as Showguard was described in detail, as well as, using fillers every ten sheets or so in the album to prevent unsightly and annoying bulges.

He spoke of the various albums on the market, worldwide, regional, country, topical and alternate methods like stock sheets and blank sheets. Pat stressed fundamentals for the beginner and a refresher course for the more advanced collector. Pat brightened our meeting and all agreed that we would welcome him to speak again at a future date.

JULY PROGRAM -- BUSINESS MEETING AND AUCTION -- EVERYONE TRY TO BRING 5 LOTS OF DIFFERENT ITEMS YOU WISH TO SELL.

A new feature of the LCPS Newsletter will be the Forum. Any member who has a suggestion, a gripe, a comment on the hobby in general, is invited to send it to the Editor. Jim Lyman, 152 Oak Knoll Circle, Millersville, PA 17551 by the 5th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. The floor will be opened for discussion of the issue's merits at the following meeting. To get the forum off the ground, the following suggestion is advanced by the editor:

ESTABLISH A PHILATELIC LIBRARY

Members are requested to bring back issues of such publications as Linn's, Stamps, McKeel's or other collectibles, e.g. coins, cards, antiques, when they have finished with them, to club meetings to be shared with other collectors.

Club should buy set of Scott catalogue and allow members to charge out one volume -- returnable the following meeting. (Secretary or Treasurer assigned responsibility for catalogue withdrawals). As new volumes are issued each year, previous year's catalogues donated to a library -- not necessarily to Central Library -- Dedication sticker affixed:  
"Donated by Lancaster Philatelic Society  
\_\_\_\_\_ President (telephone #)

Since club belongs to APS, have American Philatelist available for past 12 months at meetings - charge out meeting to meeting.

(NOTE: You may submit responses to this suggestion to the editor for publication, or save your ammunition for meeting night. Let your voice be heard. IT'S YOUR CLUB!)

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## T U L I P M A N I A

"Several hundred years ago in Holland, a speculative mania infected the tulip business. Promoters entered a field previously reserved for professional and amateur gardeners and bid up the prices to fantastic heights. 'Investors' assumed that someone else would always buy their rare varieties at higher and higher prices. Before the buying frenzy was over, a slight difference in bulb color meant thousands of dollars. As happens with all manias, the tulip craze collapsed, and investors were wiped out." -- Burton S. Blumert, 1986

This month we have a quote which reinforces the adage that in this world everything old is new again. This will be so because greed and gullibility go ever hand in hand. Recall the Florida Real Estate scams in the 1920's, the Ponzi-style stock pyramid schemes? We'd like you to describe a situation whereby promoters may have exploited stamp collectors. For example, by touting a stamp issue(s) as being scarce, creating a buying frenzy at quickly escalating prices that went bust when the first collector tried to sell his prized sets back to the promoter who had already moved on to his next scam; or, the collector, encouraged to buy the issues of the Fly Speck Islands in the Pacific Ocean finds himself going broke as printing presses in Switzerland or England churn out endless imperforate sets, souvenir sheets, overprints, errors, definitive sets to the \$10. value which are replaced every other month, and where he learns there is no market when he seeks to sell.

THE CLUB MEMBER WHO WRITES THE MOST INTERESTING LETTER RECOUNTING HIS/HER INVOLVEMENT OR THAT OF A FOLLOW COLLECTOR IN SUCH A CAPER AND RECEIVED BY MARILYN SHIRLEY, 19 CIRCLE ROAD, MILLERSVILLE BY AUGUST 7TH WILL RECEIVE AN AWARD AT THE AUGUST PICNIC AND THE LETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER.

The moral of this story is that one should know the dealer. Who better to

trust than your local stamp store proprietor who earns his living year after year by offering sound investment advice and providing good philatelic material and supplies at reasonable prices. Besides, you will have the comfortable feeling that the collection you lovingly assembled over the years will have a resale value when the day arrives that you want to sell. -- The Editor.



Truyde Greiner gave us pleasant news on a site for our August Picnic. She contacted the Manor Community Park in Millersville. They have three pavilions with facilities and the cost should be \$14.00 for under 25 picnickers and \$18.00 if more than that. The park is located at the intersection of Route 741 and Charlestown Road. If you and your guest(s) plan to attend, and will not be at the July meeting to sign up, call Marilyn Shirley at 872-2479 and reserve your place. Remember to bring a covered dish, which is the "price of admission" for you and your guest(s). The meat course and drinks will be provided by the club. Those who have attended in the past will attest that it's a fun night out with more than a few surprises!

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Middle age is when you have met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else.

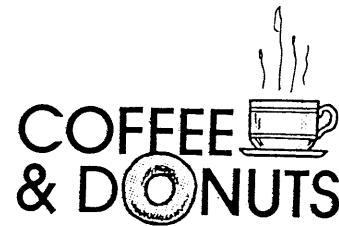
-- Ogden Nash

VALPEX 1991

A stamp exhibition and dealers bourse will be held on September 28-29, 1991. Sponsored by the Spring-Ford Philatelic Society, the show will be located at the George Washington Motor Lodge located at Routes 76 and 202, King of Prussia, PA. The hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 6 P.M. Saturday and 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Sunday. There will be five classes of exhibits with a \$5.00 fee per entry with a \$2.00 fee for Juniors. Thirty dealers are scheduled to display their wares. For complete details on exhibiting rules and regulations, and awards, contact Leslie Botte at (215) 484-4700.

#### SILENT AUCTION BID BOARD

A silent auction event was tried out at the June meeting. Unfortunately, only two lots were offered for auction. Leslie explained the rules and distributed bid sheets. Apparently, the owner of the lot puts his/her name on the bid sheet, plus a description, cat. numbers and a reserve (minimum bid that the owner would accept for the lot). A potential bidder would examine the lot and write his bid in the space provided. Subsequent collectors would examine the lot and write their bids. At the end of the time allotted, the highest bidder would claim his lot, paying for same. With more participation, both by owners and bidders, the silent auction should provide good material for the members posting successful bids and enjoyment for all.



#### REFRESHMENTS AT CLUB MEETINGS

Mary Husson has agreed to be in charge of refreshments for the July meeting. Remember, the refreshment table is not an all-you-can-eat buffet. A serving will be a drink and snack at 25¢ per portion. Incidentally, in the confusion when the meeting broke up, Jim Lyman did not get the sign-up sheet back, although several members put their names to it. If the sheet doesn't surface at the next meeting, we'll pass around another.



#### "THE AD CORNER"

Will trade 100 different baseball cards, your choice of year, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 for \$3.00 face mint U.S. stamps. Jim Lyman

Place your ad in our "Ad Column" and await the results. We have room for more ads next month - for a small fee. Call our "ad taker", Sarah Brown 393-7970

July