



MEETING -- 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH  
STAUFFER MANSION -- 7:30 P.M.  
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601  
NEXT MEETING -- Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1992

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION  
CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717)872-2479 OR  
MIKE SHIRLEY(717)394-0186

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FOUNDED MAY 20, 1938

DECEMBER 1992

## A PRESIDENT STEPS DOWN

As 1992 draws to a close, George Bush is not the only president contemplating his final days in office. Our own Lesley Botte shares that distinction. During her tenure in office the LCPS has seen a membership gain of 20%. Under her guidance, the club conducted a very successful Stamp Show in April. The summer picnic was well attended and tickets to the Christmas Party are selling briskly.

Lesley never missed a regular meeting night despite having to travel from Denver to get there. She could be counted on to bring a large box of commemoratives and regular issue mint U.S. stamps to sell at face value; a good selection of scarcer U.S. and foreign issues at discount from Scotts; and, for the general collector, a wide assortment of exotic foreign issues were always on display. One could always depend on Lesley to promptly fill an order for a needed catalogue or album.

She was conscientious in keeping us informed of upcoming stamp shows and was a tireless ambassador for the hobby. In retrospect, Lesley has earned our thanks for her very creditable performance as president of the L.C.P.S.

### DECEMBER PROGRAM

# CHRISTMAS

# BANQUET

COST: \$13.95 PER PERSON

TIME: 5:30 P.M. SOCIAL HOUR  
6:30 P.M. DINNER

PARKING; FREE IN HOTEL PARKING  
GARAGE WITH TICKET.

## THE NOVEMBER MEETING

On a rainy, rather mild evening, twenty LCPS members gathered at the Stauffer Mansion for their monthly get-together. Lesley, as president, called the meeting to order, for the last time, and the meeting began promptly at 7:30 p.m. The slate of new officers were proposed and accepted by the membership. Bob Allison, as Christmas Party Chairman, called for a vote on the choice of entrees of which there were seven and we were to choose two. London Broil and Roast Turkey were selected. Many of those present paid for their dinners after a sign-up sheet was passed around. If you intend to go and haven't paid yet, it's \$13.95 each with the club picking up the additional 21% for the service charge and tax. Call Marilyn 872-2479.

Jim Lyman, as Newsletter Editor, presented awards (LANCOPEX Mugs) to the winner, Mike Shirley and the four runner-ups, Jim Boyles, Truys Greiner, Dave Strayer and Jim Lyman in the masthead competition. Notice our revised front page sporting the new logo.

Mary Husson again assisted Jim, passing out ballots, for the LCPS "member of the year" award. Please get your choice in writing to Marilyn as soon as possible. A check will be presented to the winner at the dinner. Jim Boyles was the popular choice for 1991.

Jim noted we can still accept articles for the writing competition based on one of the five stamps pictured in the October and November newsletters. The entrants will be recognized at the dinner and the articles printed in the newsletter.

A lively discussion ensued when the "no minimum" auction bid proposal was presented. If you read the item in the November Newsletter, arguments were advanced favoring such a change. Briefly, no minimum bid (NMB) policy would be a boom for the treasury since the club would collect its 5% fee regardless of the bid. Many lots have reserves of \$15., \$20., \$30., etc. and

are withdrawn when no one bids. Under the NMB a \$30. MB lot might open at \$5 and progress to, say \$18. The owner would have the choice of accepting the bid or raising it to \$19, in effect, paying the treasury 85¢ (5%) in buying back his/her own lot. Often times when an opening bid, say \$10. has no takers, the auctioneer reduces the bid a dollar at a time until someone opens the bid at say \$4. and often the bidding takes off past the originally unobtainable \$10. opening bid.

However, a coalition of Lesley Botte, Jim Boyles and Dick Shaffer rebutted the arguments for a NMB policy very effectively. Lesley stating to buy back her lot would mean adding the 5% to the price she must obtain at the next time the stamp was offered. Jim stated that collectors would only put junk lots in the auction and we'd never have the opportunity to bid on choice material. Dick said anyone who contemplates bidding on a 20/30 dollar lot would know if he/she really needs it and would have examined the lot thoroughly before bidding. Since they represent knowledge and experience in the auction business, we will continue our club auctions without any rule changes.

One very good suggestion was voiced. That of using the newsletter to advertise the lots. For instance, an auction is planned for June -- all members would give the lot descriptions to a newsletter staffer at the May meeting (or mail descriptions to Marilyn by May 15th.) We would publish the listings in the June issue giving the membership about a week to review the list and formulate their bidding strategy; e.g., Lot #36 -- U.S. Sc. 176 mint, hinge remnant, AV-F cond. MB \$11.00. Note that a detailed description of the stamp including faults could be noted. We will give it a try in the New Year.

Ben Heller, outgoing treasurer, raised the question of new members joining part or midway through the year being charged a full year's dues (\$5.00). This brought several suggestions from members, such as, charge \$7.00 and it would include

balance of year and a full year. Another, charge 50¢ per month for membership until a full year begins. Finally, Leslie read the by-laws which didn't adequately cover the problem. She called for a motion that would permit the treasurer to set the policy until the by-laws could be amended to cover the situation.

When the subject of member interest codes came up, all seemed in favor. It was suggested that some people might not want their phone number and address to appear on a membership list because of security concerns. Several combinations of name, address, phone number and membership number were evaluated and discarded. One solution might work. A membership number and phone number. To an outsider this information would be worthless, but would readily identify one member to another. So get your codes to Marilyn and we will print up a contact list. If a member does not wish to divulge any information, we will just list a member's number with nothing else after it. But please try to get into the spirit and let's have 100% cooperation.

After a refreshment break provided by Mary Husson, who baked delicious peanut butter brownies for the occasion, we viewed a slide presentation with a recorded description of each slide. The show covered the era of pre-stamped covers up to the inverted Jenny 24 cent airmail stamp. In many cases we viewed the largest remaining blocks of some rare stamps and some one-of-a-kind plate blocks.

☆ THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMP ☆

Probably most collectors know that Canada's striking multicolor Map stamp of 1898 is the world's first Christmas stamp.

For ninety years, there has been a popular story told about the Canadian issue. We are told that it was shown to Queen Victoria before it

was issued, and at that time it lacked the inscription "XMAS 1898". Seeking to curry favor, a courtier made some indirect reference to the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, not realizing that this worldly man-about-town was far from popular with the elderly Queen.

"The Prince? What Prince?" she is said to have demanded. The courtier, seeking to retrieve himself from disaster, replied with remarkable self-possession, "Why, the Prince of Peace, Ma'am", and arrangements were then made to add the "XMAS" inscription.

The recent discovery of a proof of this issue shows that originally the design was inscribed "A.D. 448 - A.D. 1898" with the main inscription - which remains on the issued stamp - "We rule a greater Empire than has been", a reference to the British Empire, shown on the stamp by having all its constituent countries colored red. The twin dates were removed and replaced with the simple "XMAS 1898" for reasons totally unconnected with the Empire as such, or Christmas, or the Prince of Wales.

The design, credited to Canada's Postmaster General Mulock, was created to mark probably the most important commemoration in the whole history of the world's postal service, but it was Great Britain's Postmaster General who was responsible for the decision to issue it December 25, and hence to have that Christmas inscription added.

Ken Lake  
Global Stamp News



## THE WRITING COMPETITION

When the Newsletter staff hit upon the writing competition, it did so with a hidden agenda. In addition to involving members in club activities and for the edification of all the newsletter readers, we hoped to find additional writers who would submit articles from time to time. Three, or should I say four, people responded. Hopefully, we will be reading more entertaining emissions from Herb Tindell, Harry Rapp and the duo, Shirley and Earl Grubb.

The three entries were as diverse as could be hoped for. Herb wrote a victorian detective story set in modern times. For a moment I thought we were reading a term paper in an advanced English class when I picked up the Grubbs' effort. Typed double spaced with a title page drawing of a

moorish styled palace with the subject Monaco Stamp reproduced in a corner, the work had bright blue cover and end sheets with the seal of Monaco in the center. Upon finishing the short story, was it truth or fantasy? It was an effort not to print a large A+ on the cover sheet with a notation beneath it, "excellent effort". Harry's entry was in the form of a single page letter written to a fictitious "Madame President Botts". In it, he gave, in the context of a political debate, off-the-wall explanations of different stamps, weaving all of them into a far out account of their useage.

The Newsletter staff will be hard pressed to select a winner. All the three writers are to be congratulated for their imaginative efforts. All stories will be run in the Newsletter during the coming year.

### LCPS OFFICERS

Lesley Botte, President  
Dan Anspach, Vice-President  
Jim Lyman, Secretary  
Ben Heller, Treasurer

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Jim Lyman, Editor  
Sarah Brown, Researcher, Reporter  
Marilyn Shirley, Data Processor  
Mike Shirley, Graphic Arts/Layout

