



MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
Lincoln Highway West, Maple Grove
Lancaster, PA 17603
Next Meeting - Wed., September 11,, 1996

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CLUB
CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717)872-2479

VOL.7, # 8 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 SEPTEMBER 1996

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings,

Summer is just about over, although we did not have much of a summer this year, autumn is almost here that means it's time to get back to stamp collecting.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the picnic and helped out with the preparations. It was a big success.

A special get well goes to JIM BOYLES since he is recovering from surgery. Hope to see you, JIM, at the next meeting,. Besides, it's time to talk about next year's stamp show.

The program for this meeting will be a stamp auction. I will be having a speaker in the October meeting, so I will keep you all posted.

We will also be discussing about attending SEPAD as a club. I will have all the information and if there is enough interest from the members we will be going there on Saturday, September 28. So, bring all your stamps at the next meeting so we can all buy, sell, trade with one another.

Peter S. Billis
President

September Host

Thank you LUCY EYSTER for getting JIM LYMAN off the hook. Jim had volunteered to be host for September, but forgot he will be in NY on meeting night.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

A. Stamp Auction

B. The club has purchased a foreign mixture from LESLIE BOTTE, which will be dumped out on the tables. All members who contribute \$2.00 will be entitled to pick as many stamps as they need. If you have extra stamps laying about and wish to add to the mix, your donation will be duly noted in the October newsletter. The difference between what is collected (dollars) and the cost of the mixture will be made up by the club treasury. Bring two dollars, surplus stamps and yourself for a fun night.

P.S. Several members will not be able to attend -- making better pickings for those who do!!

POSTMARKS
AND
CANCELLATIONS

We thought the following article to be potentially of interest to our club members as well as being an excellent way to introduce children to stamp collecting, the only outlay would be a notebook and a package of stamp hinges. Everyone's incoming mail would provide collectible examples and quite possibly the child's interest would extend to the collecting of stamps as well.

Cancellations are a good way to get children interested in stamp collecting. Postmarks don't cost them anything; they can get them from incoming mail and get friends and local businesses to save the envelopes for them.

They can learn about the cities and townships of their own state or all the states in the country. They can even collect cancellations from foreign countries. They can look up the city and write up something about it on the page where they have the cancellation mounted. They can get most of the information from their computers if they have an encyclopedia in it or they can use books from the library.

ISWSC members may want to start a postmark collection of their own. There are a lot of interesting postmarks that are used commemorating various events. These postmarks become scarce quickly. Collectors of postmarks are always hunting for these special cancellations.

Some collectors I know get a large map of the US and mount it on their hobby room wall, they mark the cities that they have cancellations from. Some try to get a cancellation from every city in a state. Some cities change names over a period of time and the original cancellations are hard to find.

The town that I live in has changed names three times since I've lived here. When I moved here I lived in Eddington, then Cornwells Heights and now Bensalem and I never moved.

Postmarks and cancellations make an interesting and inexpensive second collection. If it's not for you, collect them anyway for future collectors. Just think that if no one saved stamps many years ago it would be impossible for us to acquire these stamps today. The few that may have been saved would be so expensive we couldn't afford our hobby.

All you need to start is a 3-ring binder and a pack of pages. Make a page for each state. Then a page with a mounted postmark cancellation. You can clip off just the cancellation and stamp or save the entire envelope.

Your children could learn a lot from this kind of collection and would probably do the computer work for your write-ups. For diversification from your stamps, give it a shot. Enjoy.

-- The Circuit

THE BEST BUY IN
STAMPS THAT I EVER
MADE

In the late '50's I was working the four to midnight shift in Quality Control at Sperry Rand on Long Island. One night Izzy, a jeweler by trade, and a left over from WWII, when Sperry employed 46,000 people at its peak, brought to work a large paper bag filled with pocket watches. It seems he made a habit of attending auctions in NYC and caught one at a well-known hotel that was holding its yearly auction of luggage, etc. left behind by roomers

for one reason or another. He bid \$8 on two old fashioned suitcases, the kind with leather straps around them, contents unknown. He made his bid because the auctioneer could hardly lift each one off the floor piquing Izzy's curiosity.

When he finally got them home he found they were full of pocket watches. Some were gold, some silver, some monogramed, some with hunting scenes etched into the cases. He had hundreds of them. So he decided to price them thusly: 25¢ if they didn't run; 50¢ if they did; 75¢ if it looked like silver; \$1.00 if it could be real gold. Monogramed or ornamented \$1.50, figuring if the manufacturer went to that much trouble there must be something special about them. In one of the suitcases he found the key to the mystery. In the '20's a watchmaker held a promotion. Turn in an old pocket watch and get a new one for \$2.98. Some of these watches dated to the turn of the century but where they had been for the past thirty years remained an enigma.

Anyway, we all bought his watches. Most only had to be dunked in carbon tetrachloride (dry cleaner fluid) and blown dry with an air hose to start them keeping time. I had two dozen watches of every description but it was long before the craze for collectibles, so eventually they all disappeared. One note on Izzy. Many professional men worked in defense plants during the war hoping to get deferments for doing essential work. Most of us held in contempt a doctor, lawyer, accountant, etc. who was working for 60¢ an hour to avoid the draft.

What has all this got to do with the best buy I ever made in stamps? Only that my best buy involved a jeweler, an auction and two cartons, contents unknown. In 1973, I placed an ad to buy stamps in my stepson's telephone company newspaper. I received one call, from a person in Great Neck,

L.I. who had some albums to sell. What he has six Scott 3-inch binders with every page filled with stamps, even in the margins. He said he bid on a number of sealed cartons at an unclaimed property auction. I opened one album and saw early U.S. and a set of C1-6 mint. A second had G.B. heavy in Queen Victoria to the pound value. The owner had hinged one stamp on top of the other sometimes five deep. I quickly closed the album and replaced them in the carton, not wishing to show any great interest. He told me he had no interest in stamps, had not taken the binders out of the cartons and was much more pleased with the other cartons that contained china and glassware.

I offered him \$150. which he gladly took to be rid of the cartons. Money could not have been a consideration to him as his home, what I saw of it, was palatial. From a cursory examination I determined the collection ended in 1944 except for mint blocks of U.S. from 1937 thru 1955. I recovered \$165. U.S. face so got my money back on one item. To this day there are countries that I continue to "mine" and more that I haven't touched yet. I refer to it as the priest's collection as it apparently belonged to a monsignor as his name is written in each binder. As you would imagine the Vatican was complete mint and used to 1943. I feel my good fortune made up for some of the philatelic blunders I've made, such as buying \$700. face of Channel Islands and over \$1,000. of Canada from the Philatelic Agency. I shall never recoup my investment on these. So in the end everything balances out.

-- Jim Lyman

Editor's note: Each of you must have a story to tell of your best stamp buy. If not, how about the biggest fiasco you blundered into in your philatelic pursuits.



BELOW IS THE SOLUTION TO THE STAMP PUZZLE WE PRINTED IN THE AUGUST ISSUE. LET MARILYN OR JIM KNOW IF YOU SOLVED IT.

1996 Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition SEPTEMBER 27-29, 1996 --

PETER BILLIS will make arrangements to have a 15-passenger van made available for stamp club members and guests to attend the show. Plans will be finalized at the September meeting. Bus fare will be approximately \$8.00 each attendee. The date we will be attending is Saturday, September 28, 1996.

**CROSSWORD
PUZZLE SOLUTION**

C	A	R	P	S	O	D	A	C	U	P	S
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G	L	E	A	N	D	A	V	Y	E	R	I
A	S	S	T	E	Y	E	S	D	Y	E	S

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