

MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
 TIME: 7:30 P.M.
 LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
 Columbia Ave., Lancaster, PA

Mailing address:
 L.C.P.S.
 19 Circle Rd.
 Millersville, PA 17551

Next Meeting - Wed., Nov. 12 1997
 FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717) 872-2479

VOL. 8, #11 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 NOVEMBER 1997

FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear club member:

I hope you read this before delving into the rest of the newsletter because I have a little puzzle for you to solve relating to the upcoming Christmas party. Just dust off those Scott catalogs.

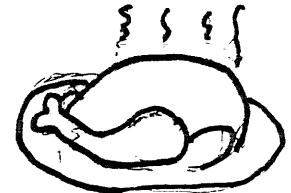
The menu includes U.S. 2120 followed by Italy 447. MARILYN wants you to choose your entree from U.S. 1328 or U.S. 968. Also on the menu is Peoples Republic of the Congo 298. Beverage choices are Republic of China 2760, Colombia C743 or United Nations 283. Part of the entertainment for the evening is U.S. 799.

Is your pile of things to be going to the November meeting auction growing? If you have an item with an interesting background you might like to auction it off yourself. With a lot of good humor, Jim has shown us how it's done. Just an idea.

See you November 12.

Lucy

NOVEMBER HOST



DON WEBER has volunteered to be our host for the November meeting. It's too early for turkey and too late for Columbus' cherry pie -- so we will have to wait and be surprised! Thanks DON for whatever treat you have in store for us.



NOVEMBER MEETING

Have you worked on your fall house-cleaning of your stamp closet? Now is the time to get all those extras you have laying around and share them with the rest of the club. Best of all, you may get some money from it, too. This will allow you to bid on replacements to fill the space you vacated with "clean out".

Another feature of the November program will be the election of officers. We do not have democrats and republicans on our slate -- only enthusiastic philatelists.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1997

6:00 P.M.

\$20.00/PERSON

LOCATION: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
1575 NEW DANVILLE PIKE
LANCASTER, PA 17603

LUCY EYSTER, BEN HELLER, MARY HUSSON
AND MARILYN SHIRLEY are serving as a
committee for our annual Christmas
Party.

This year is our 10th Anniversary of
the LCPS Christmas Banquet. Where
did the time go! Our first banquet
was December 9, 1987 at the Millers-
ville VFW. PAUL WESTCOTT was the
chairman. Our program was a musical
trio and an auction. Since that time
our menu has been enhanced and our
program expanded.

In commemoration of our 10th Anni-
versary Banquet, the committee has
planned a very special evening. We
have an unusual program planned and
hope everyone will enjoy it.

The following banquet menu has been
selected.

6:00 p.m. Punch and snacks
(Alcoholic beverages
available from the bar)

6:30 p.m. Dinner

Clam Chowder

Caesar Salad

Prime Rib OR Chicken Breast

Carrots with Pineapple

Red Potatoes

Rolls and Butter

Coffee/Tea

Lemon Mousse Torte

You may choose whichever entree you
desire -- prime rib OR stuffed
chicken breast. ALL RESERVATIONS
MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 1,
1997.

A reservation form is enclosed for
your convenience. Make checks
payable to LCPS please and send to
BEN HELLER, 327 Harvest Drive,
Lititz, PA 17543-9279.

We are deferring our donation of
food goods til July (Christmas in
July).

ABNORMALS

by Al & Millie Feinberg*

The word "Abnormal" has a different
meaning to different people. When
used in philately it is usually used
in reference to the British
"Abnormal" stamps. They are Scott
#59-65. These stamps were issued
using several different plate
numbers. The plate number is a
little number, usually in a circle,
that can be seen on the surface of
the stamp.

When this set of stamps was issued, several sheets of each stamp were printed from either a special plate number or in different shades of ink. These sheets were then kept in the British Archives. They were not offered to the public. Some how a few stamps from each sheet were mistakenly used. Over the years these used stamps became the most valuable stamps in Great Britain. Most of the used stamps have been recovered but there are a few of them around, probably in someone's collection who is aware of their extreme values.

This is where my story begins. I was about 8 years old, back in the early 1930's, when I began collecting stamps. I would save my pennies until I had a quarter, then I would rush to the "Five and Dime Store" and buy the largest packet of used stamps that I could get for my quarter. Arriving home I would mount them the best I could. Over the years, as an advanced collector, I bought better albums and remounted all my stamps, correcting all the errors I had made.

As an advanced collector I joined several stamp societies and subscribed to several stamp publications. About 10 years ago, I read an article in Linn's Stamp News, written by Donna O'Keefe, describing the British "Abnormals". She described each of the stamps by Scott numbers, plate numbers and color. I checked my stamps as I usually do when I see something like this with each stamp she mentioned in her article. In every case I had the right stamp but the wrong plate number. Then my luck changed. The last one I checked had the correct plate number but the stamp came in two shades of the same color. They were chestnut and pale chestnut. Of course I couldn't tell which shade I had. So, every time I would see this Scott and Plate number advertised, I would try to buy it. They only cost a couple dollars each and if damaged, less than a \$1.00 or less a

piece. I found that all the stamps that I purchased were all the same shade of chestnut but my original stamp that I got from the "Five and Dime Store" was without a doubt a much paler shade of chestnut. By now my hopes were really riding high. A friend of mine from England who visits our country every couple of months and is a stamp collector was in town. We got together and talked about this possible "Abnormal". It looked good to him. He suggested that I let him take it back to England and get an opinion there.

A few weeks later he called me and said the experts at his club identified it as a benefit "Abnormal". He wanted to know if I wanted to sell it. I said no and the stamp was returned to me. Linn's Stamp News wrote a story about our lucky find, not mentioning my name, as requested. The writer of the article received several offers for this stamp but I decided that the stamp would stay with me and become my main estate.

The moral of this story is, that "as beginners in our hobby" the more knowledge you get from joining stamp societies and reading stamp publications, the more of a chance you have of finding a valuable stamp. However remote the chances are of finding a valuable stamp, the possibilities still exist. If I didn't read the story about the "Abnormals" the stamp in my collection would have remained undetected. I feel that I am proof that miracles still happen.

Educating ourselves does pay off!

-- The Circuit
Nov.-Dec.'95

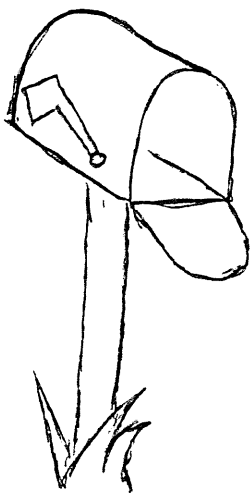


Definition of C.O.D. -- Crushed
On Delivery

LCPS OFFICERS

LUCY EYSTER, PRESIDENT
MARILYN SHIRLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
TRUYDE GREINER, SECRETARY
BEN HELLER, TREASURER

F R O M T H E M A I L B A G



(A letter received from Bertha Porter, the owner of the stamp collection sold at the September Club Meeting)

Dear Marilyn:

Thank you so much for selling the stamps for me. I hope they give as much pleasure to the new owners as they gave to Dad. It is a relief to know they aren't deteriorating out in the hot garage. Thanks again.

Bert.

(Note: A few of the bids were not accepted. Some books were given to friends and some were given to Mike and Marilyn Shirley in appreciation for evaluating the collection.)

