

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Newsletter

March, 2020

This month's meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club that was scheduled for March 17 at 6:30 PM at the Lebanon Community Library has been cancelled. This is of course due to the current public health emergency surrounding COVID-19, commonly known as the Corona Virus. Please take care of yourselves and look out for one another by washing your hands frequently and limiting face to face interactions to those that are absolutely necessary. While you are sequestered at home, enjoy the opportunity to engage in and learn more about our favorite hobby!

Stamp Collecting: An Indoor Hobby

As we reluctantly practice "social distancing" by, among other things, forgoing the face to face social interaction that we enjoy every month at the library, we can be thankful that while we are stuck at home we can choose to pass the time away with our families by increasing our time with our stamp collections. A large portion of my collection is more accurately described as an unorganized accumulation, and lately I have been forgoing new additions to it and focusing my efforts on organizing the

material I already have. Even if I don't buy another stamp in the next year, I should have more than enough stuff on hand to keep me busy for a couple more! So, if you are considering a trip out, away from the safety of your homes, think twice about whether it is necessary or not; and if it is, consider whether you can avoid close contact with people along the way. If you can stay in, pull out an album or cigar box full of stamps, and let your mind do the traveling. In these extraordinary times, you will be doing us all a favor by engaging in your favorite hobby!

The February meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

In honor of Black History Month, James Joppy shared his African American History collection (your editor regrets that he could not attend and provide a full report). The discussion about the club's history was also resumed, with more members present this time. Hal Klein shared, via email with club members, some more relics from Lebanon's philatelic history.

Our Proposed Logo

(This item was included in last month's newsletter, but I would like to run it for another month – Editor)
One of the items that we need for our

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web presence is a logo; up until now, it's quite possible that the LSCC has never had an official logo. In our January discussion Dick mentioned that he used to have medals cast with Lebanon's patent cancel on them for LEBPEX. This medal, pictured on the next page, would make an excellent logo for the LSCC. It captures a little bit of the town's postal history, and is simple enough to be fairly easy to reproduce and sharp enough to provide an avatar for the club that we can all be proud of. Here is the medal, and below it are three ideas that we came up with to turn the medal into our logo:



1. The patent cancel only
2. The patent cancel, with "LSCC" where "LEBPEX" is, removing the "84"
3. The patent cancel, with "LSCC" where "LEBPEX" is, and "1968" where "84" is

If there are any other suggestions, please submit them to the club. We will put this to a vote, and make our final decision based on the most popular idea.

Event Calendar

March 11 – PSLC monthly meeting. *The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Issue: Production, First Day and Other Uses*, by Alan Warren. (This program, along with the entire PSLC meeting, was cancelled, and may be rescheduled at a later date).

April 8 – PSLC monthly meeting: Exploring Postal History, by Bill Schultz

April 14 – LSCC Meeting; program TBD

April 24 – 25 – LANCOPEX 35th Annual Stamp Show presented by the PSLC. Please visit the PSLC's website for more details.

FDR – The Stamp Collecting President



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I had been given the opportunity to address the Pennsylvania Department of Education Professional Association (PDEPA) on the broad topic of stamp collecting in February. Since I was doing a lot of traveling for work last winter, I was not sure if I would even be able to attend their luncheon on the date of the presentation, so I enlisted the help of a good friend from the PSLC to deliver the program. While I have known Paul Petersen for a while now and consider him a mentor in the hobby, I didn't realize how well-qualified he was to speak with a group of educators. Paul earned degrees in occupational therapy and psychology, and his career in healthcare involved clinical practice, research, publishing, and public speaking. And ironically, he could have also given the program that we were replacing on the schedule: Workplace Ergonomics.

One of Paul's favorite collecting subjects is FDR, our stamp collecting president. I have previously mentioned my admiration for FDR in this newsletter as well, and while his contribution to the hobby may have been largely forgotten over the years, it is hard to overstate what his participation in the hobby did for stamp collecting during the dark days of the Great Depression and the trying times of the second world war which

led us out of it. Paul brought along with him packets of stamps and other goodies, which were enthusiastically taken away as souvenirs from the event. And at least one woman in attendance was inspired to say that she was going to take out her childhood collection and give it another look.

For those interested in learning more about FDR, I would suggest the books by Brian Baur published by Linn's (*Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Stamp Collecting President* and *FDR and the Stamps of the United States 1933 – 45*). And there is a presentation on the PSLC website by Paul about FDR which illustrates his life as the Stamp Collector in Chief, and will give you some more ideas about this larger than life man and his hobby.



Philatelic Chatter #1

By Dick Colberg

March 16, 2020 – Today is the day that Nancy and I were to go back to France. Due to the coronavirus, we had to cancel that activity. So, for the first time in over 15 years, we will celebrate spring in Lancaster.

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Ten days ago, I was working on a large stamp appraisal job in Thomasville, GA. The site was an actual southern plantation, dating to about 1828. There were 86 slaves there at the start of the Civil War.

This was a large stamp and cover collection formed by the father of the recently deceased current collector. The recently deceased gentleman didn't do much with the collection, however. The bulk of the collection, size-wise, was a total of 14,302 stampless covers. These covers were from 27 states and the District of Columbia, Europe, Canada, Steamboat and miscellaneous.

The fewest number of covers from any one state was 4 from California. The most was from Maryland, 3,547. In third place was 2,033 covers from Vermont! Are there even that many people in Vermont? The good news for me was that these covers were all sorted by state. The condition varied from very nice to shabby. In the 616 stampless covers from PA I found three Lebanon oval cancels, not in my census. I photographed and measured them, and they are now in my census. There were also two relatively common Lebanon CDS cancels. There were no Lititz covers. There were perhaps 10 Lancaster stampless markings, but nothing new.

And, in the Canada covers I found two RPO cancels that I had not seen before. I photographed them and

sent the scans to the editor of the Canada RPO catalogue. One turned out to be relatively common, even though it was a mailboat cancel. The other was kind of scarce; listed as 1-3 known.

Now comes the tragedy. This hoard of covers has sat dormant for over 50 years. They've been out of the public eye and unavailable for research and study! I find that unacceptable. In my opinion, if you're going to amass that many covers, or any collectible for that matter, you owe it to other collectors to either display it or write it up. Get the knowledge out there! And, from a strictly dollars and cents standpoint, the appraised value is going to be greatly diminished because of the volume. The market just cannot absorb that many stampless covers from any of these represented states at one time. Thus, their value is depressed; probably by at least 75%.

Given the location of this collection, I was surprised to find zero material from the Confederate States. The best items I saw were a virtually complete mint collection of Philippines stamps issued during the U.S. administration and a China stamp collection heavy in Liberation Area stamps, 1946-50. I'd never seen this kind of material before. Hard to ID in Scott.

Don't forget . . . 2020 club dues are payable!