

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

April 2020 Supplement

Welcome to a special supplemental issue of the LSCC newsletter. Dick and I thought many of you might have the desire for more philatelic reading material as you are practicing your social/physical distancing, so here is something to help you through to May's regular LSCC newsletter. If you have anything you would like to share with the club, please send it for inclusion. And don't worry about your writing/typing skills; I will be more than happy to do the basic editing it may need!

A Missive from A Friend Abroad

Dick Colberg shared the following letter from a stamp collecting friend named Rodolphe in Ouistreham, France:

"Dear Nancy and Richard,

We are happy to know that you are safe in your home in Pennsylvania. The news about the USA and coronavirus is bad, overall and in New York State. In France, it's not a pleasure because everybody must stay in their home. For us, we live in the countryside so we can go out in the yard to walk or to run a little. We drive the car to get our essential products from the supermarket.

Our daughters Leanne and Solene do their school lessons every day. They are very serious so they

spend a lot of time on their notebooks. Sometimes, we help them in math or French. I don't think they will miss a lot. For me, I sit all day in a chair in front of the computer preparing lessons, exercises and answering our pupils or parents. (Rodolphe is a high school teacher.) It's not a pleasure. Fortunately, we will be on vacation at the end of this week, so we will have our break.....at home. We have many things to tidy up in the house.

On the philatelic side, I have mailed the Feuilles Marcophiles (postal history journal) just before the confinement on March 17th. Exceptionally, because of the coronavirus, we put a free link on the Union Marcophile web site to read this issue for free. Of course, you will find in your mail box in Fontaine La Soret the paper version, but you can read it online by going to the web site.

I have read that USPS stopped postal relations due to the coronavirus like us, so I can't send you a letter for the time being. I have found two covers for your collection. Please find attached the scan of the two covers that I have for you.

Concerning Marcophilex, (the organization's annual exhibition) the exhibition will take place near Auxerre in Monetau on October 10 & 11. I will put information in the next Feuilles Marcophiles, which I will send out in June. (He is the editor of the journal.)

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In Ouistreham we had to cancel the Fete du Timbre (the annual nation-wide stamp expo held in many cities) on March 28 & 29. It is the same thing for our Salon du Collectionneur (a collectibles show: stamps, coins, postcards, etc.) which was to have taken place on May 17th in Ouistreham.

However, we will organize the Departmental and regional stamp exhibition on November 21 & 22 in Ouistreham during the Maxi-Timbre Festival along with the National Congress of Maximiphily Association, "Les Maximaphiles Francais". (This is maximum cards.) We hope to see you there with Nancy, maybe with one of your new exhibits in competition. For the time being all our young are preparing for the National stamp show for junior philatelists called "Timbres-Passion" in Moulins (in the Allier Department) on October 30 & 31. Our local club intends to win the National trophy, Challenge Pasteur, for the third time consecutively and retire the trophy!

Our oldest daughter Solene is preparing a topical exhibit on sources of inspiration to create Harry Potter (witch, and wizard world, magy (magic?), fabulous creatures, (mythological animals, etc.). Our youngest daughter Leanne is preparing a topical exhibit on "London: Follow the guide" (Monuments, history; celebrities, literature, etc.). With this

confinement, they will have many hours to create their exhibit pages for the competition.

Friendly wishes and take care of yourself,
Rodolphe, Miriam, Leanne and Solene."

Some thoughts on keeping our spirits up in a public health crisis . . .

On Saturday night, April 18, my wife and I watched *One World: Together at Home*, a musical TV and Internet broadcast hosted by three network late show hosts (Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel, and Stephen "Jimmy" Colbert) which was designed lift our collective spirits and to pay tribute to our newly minted American Heros – health care workers, first responders, grocery store clerks and delivery drivers, just to mention a few of the many people who are risking it all to get us through these harrowing times. Whether you are a fan of Lady Gaga, the organizer of the show, and the newer generation of music, or of Paul McCartney, The Rolling Stones, and Elton John, there was something on there for you, and it was a welcome escape for us to be together watching everyone put on a show for us from their own homes.

In these tough times it's good to remember a fact about the human mind – that in order for one's mind to remain in a healthy state, one needs to continue to challenge it and engage it in meaningful activities. While

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staying at home as much as possible helps us avoid exposing ourselves and our closest loved ones to the virus, it also deprives us of the joys of going out in the public to visit friends and enjoy ourselves. Sometimes, we just need to give our minds a break from all the bad news, and put it on more pleasant matters for a time.

While “we are all in this together”, this is an especially tough time for some more than it is for others. It has had a disproportionate effect on different individuals economically; some of us are able to work from our homes, at least for the time being, while others have lost our jobs because working at home is not an option due to the nature of the work. Others are working and volunteering to provide essential goods and services to those of us hunkering down at home, but the very act of going to the job site poses a serious threat to their health.

Stamp collecting is one of the finer things in life that provides us with a welcome escape from the world around us, and perhaps we need that now more than ever. In the last month I have immersed myself in my large accumulation of pre-war Germany material, and I have surprised myself by demonstrating specialized knowledge which is allowing me to identify stamps by catalog number easier than ever before. After all the years of my handling the material, that gives me a

very strong sense of satisfaction. And with the family spending almost all of our time at home together, my son and daughter have seen me working with my stamps so much that they are starting to express a budding interest in what I am doing with them, which could put them on the road to starting a collection themselves (I have already given my four-year old son an envelope full of badly damaged stamps to play with – I look forward to him coming of an age when I can give him some nicer ones and teach him how to properly take care of them; ditto for my daughter, who has already seen me deliver a “show and tell” to her first grade class about stamp collecting).

Whatever you are doing to pass the time – my other main diversion is using old newspapers (*The Sporting News* and *The Phillies Report*) and the Internet to follow the 1985 Phillies team in the midst of no current major league baseball – I hope it is helping to keep you at home and keep you well. I look forward to getting together again when this has all passed and hearing what everyone has been working on, and the invitation is still open to drop me a line to share what you’ve been up to in an upcoming newsletter.

Philatelic Chatter #3

By Dick Colberg
March 16, 2020

Now for a dreaded quiz!

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Quiz No. 11, U.S. stamps, by Bill Olcheski

10. What three people are shown on the Confederate Memorial Stamp of 1970.

Five-point questions:

1. Lajos Kossuth was honored as a Champion of Liberty. From what country did he come?
2. How many stamps were there in the Postal Note issue of 1945?
3. Who is on the thirty-cent stamp in the 1938 definitives?
4. What is the former name of the U.S. Virgin Islands?

Ten-point questions:

5. In the Famous American Series, what is the denomination of the James Russell Lowell stamp?
6. What anniversary of the adoption of Christianity in Poland is marked by a U.S. stamp?
7. In what year did the U.S. issue a stamp showing a Light Brahma Rooster?

Twenty-five point questions:

8. What author appears on the 2cent Famous American stamp?
9. What U.S. ambassador to the United Nations appears on a 1965 stamp?

Fifty-point question:

No cheating! Answers will appear in the May issue.

Links to Online Philatelic Libraries

What follows are some useful websites that I have bookmarked in my browser; you could probably spend hours on each one (current as of April 19, 2020)

Apfelbaum, Inc:

<https://www.apfelbauminc.com/philatelic-library>

David Saks (many classic works available in PDF format):

<http://davidsaks.com/id43.html>

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

Presentations:

<http://lcps-stamps.org/presentations/>

Electronic Library:

<http://lcps-stamps.org/library-electronic/>

American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors:

<http://aape.org/exhibits.asp>

US Philatelic Classics Society: Dr. Charles DiComo's page on the Three Cent Washington of 1851 – 1861

<https://www.uspcs.org/resource-center/philatelic-exhibits/1851-1860-period-exhibits/the-us-3c-stamp-of-1851-61-a-postal-history-and-use-retrospective/>

Plating the Three Cent Washington

<http://www.stampplating.com/>