

# Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

November, 2020

No. 16

## More Postwar German Stamps from the collection of Uncle Franz



The stamps of the immediate post-World War II period in Germany are interesting for both their variety and the complexity of the postal rates that they were produced to cover. Several issues were quickly produced in the different occupation zones for local use. The above scan shows a stock card of the Russian-occupied Berlin set, which consisted of seven stamps, numbered 11N1 – 11N7 (the 20-pfennig value is missing), and the Russian-occupied East Saxony set, 15N2 – 15N15 (the 3, 10 (gray), and 30 pfennig values are missing). Both were first issued in the month of June, 1945, while the war was still being waged in the Pacific.

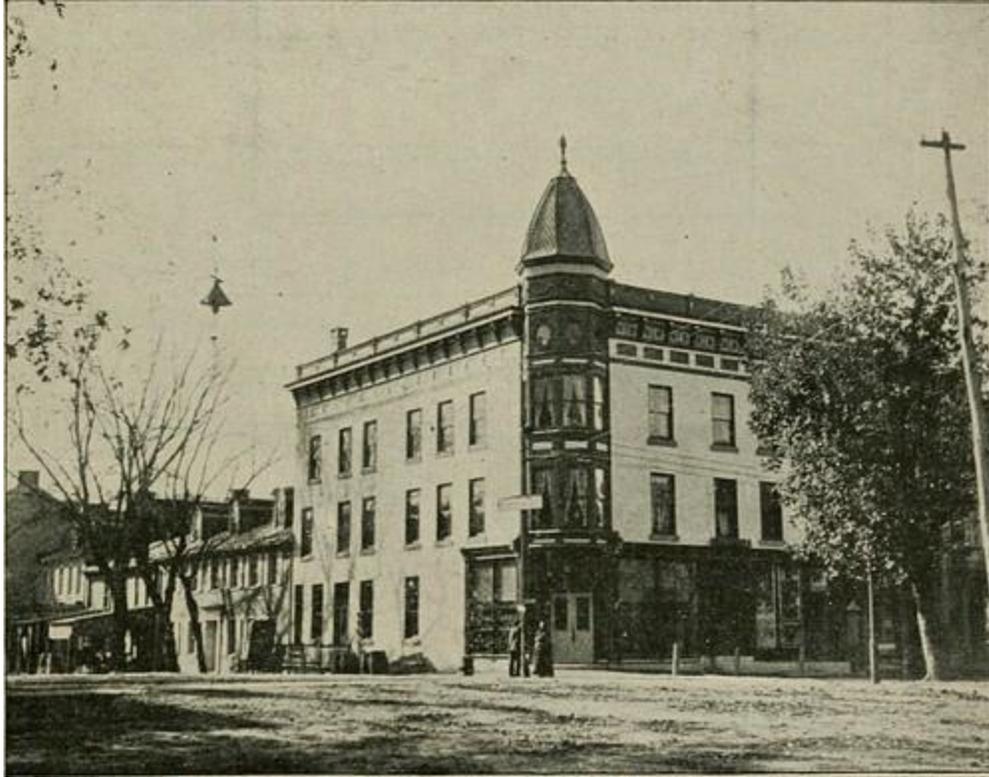
The stamps shown in the scan below might look familiar, because they are single varieties of some of the souvenir sheets from Uncle Franz's collection that were written about in the September newsletter. They are all from Thuringia, late 1945 – 1946, which was also in the Soviet Occupation Zone (German: Sowjetische Besatzungs Zone). These stamps, along with many of the other local varieties of British, American, French, and Russian occupied Germany stamps, are much more common than the souvenir sheets we wrote about in September, and can serve to illustrate this historic period of transition in anyone's World War II collection. For an introduction to the postal rate complexities of the period, see [A Time of Upheaval: The](#)

# Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

German Currency Reform of 1948 by Chuck Fisher in *The American Philatelist*, July 2018. - Dick Colberg and Scott Ney



## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club



### Suggested historical reading for a Lebanon Valley Postal Historian

The photo above, of a building that is still recognizable today at the southwest corner of Ninth and Cumberland Streets in Lebanon, comes from a favorite book of mine. I became interested in the history of the Lebanon Valley in Pennsylvania many years before I became interested in philately. One of my favorite books on the subject has always been *Ancient and Historic Landmarks in the Lebanon Valley*, by the Rev. P. C. Croll. The landmarks that the Rev. Croll wrote about were “ancient” all the way back in 1894, when he wrote a series of columns in *The Daily Report* (Lebanon, PA) from January to August. According to the Reverend, they were collected in book form due to popular demand, and were published by the Lutheran Publication Society in Philadelphia the following year.

I was introduced to the Rev. Croll’s opus by one of my good friends, who is also keen on local history. He had access to a tattered old copy of *Ancient Landmarks* which belonged to his grandmother’s family. The genealogy room of the Oakland branch of the Carnegie Library in Pittsburgh had a non-circulating copy, reprinted by Heritage Books, that I used to read from when I was in college. Sometime while in graduate school, I finally bought a vintage copy of my own from a bookseller in downtown Lancaster, and have collected copies bound in blue, brown, and green (it was also produced in yellow and red bindings).

There are several chapters in *Ancient and Historic Landmarks* that might merit a look from a postal historian. Depending on your level of interest, e.g. if you are (or are not) also interested in the ecclesiastical history of the valley, it’s not necessary to read it from cover to

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

cover. With my general interest in local history, I've always found it to be an enjoyable read. The Rev. Croll's archaic writing style is charming and at times disappointing (his attitude towards the Native Americans who lived here when our Pennsylvania German immigrants moved into the neighborhood was not charitable). You can check this book out without leaving home or making a financial commitment; the Internet Archive has your access here:

<https://archive.org/details/ancienthistoricl00crol/page/n7/mode/2up>

- Scott Ney

### Did you know?

... That one of the year's most read articles in *The American Philatelist* was written by an LSCC member and contributor to our newsletter?



**Appraising your stamp collection**

One of the most-viewed stories on the APS website this year is "Appraising a Stamp Collection" by Richard Colberg.

**The first step is organization!**  
[If you haven't already, read Richard's recommendations.](#)

### Upcoming Events

We're not quite back to normal yet, but I think it's time that we begin turn this back into a "newsletter" by listing some calendar items. These are all courtesy of the PSLC website:

<https://lcps-stamps.org/>

For the remainder of 2020, the PSLC will hold **Virtual Bi-Monthly Meetings**, which shall begin promptly at 6:30 PM and run for ~90 minutes via Zoom video conferencing. For details to attend these meetings please contact [Paul Petersen](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net) via email (pcpetersen@comcast.net) or call +1 (717) 299-5640. We usually hold a brief business meeting led by President DiComo, followed by our keynote speaker(s) and a Show & Tell, where Members & Guests can share in a few minutes their favorite stamp, cover, or other philatelic item(s) and take a question or two. We look forward to seeing you!

- November 25: [Mike Bach](#), *Wilkins-Ellsworth 1931: Ill-fated Expedition to the North Pole by Submarine Nautilus*. This presentation revolves around a postcard with two

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

addresses and stamps from two countries with a cachet of a submarine at the North Pole. Mike tells the story of an ill-fated journey by submarine that was conceived by two adventurers, Hubert Wilkins, an Australian, and Lincoln Ellsworth, an American who we all should know but we don't. You will know a little more about these characters after Mike's presentation! Maybe more than you want to. Followed by Show & Tell.

- December 9: [Steven J. Rod](#), *Nassau Street: The Stamp Collectors Paradise*. Nassau Street in Manhattan was the place to be, as it exemplifies the great history of the hobby in its golden years. Hear about the dealers and other characters, the auctions, the sales, and some of the other great stories behind this unprecedented NYC real estate. Steven, one of our newest members, is a celebrity in the hobby having authored the two editions of the classic Encyclopedia of United States Stamps and Stamp Collecting... He's a noted philatelic author and writer, winner of many awards in the hobby, and has a track record of stamp show leadership, the latest as Vice President of the N.Y. World Stamp Show-2016. Followed by Show & Tell.
- December 23: [Charles J. DiComo, PhD](#), PSLC & ESPHS President, *Banking in the Village of Pawling, NY and Surrounding Townships as told through Postal History, Bank Checks, Currency, Revenue Stamps and Postal Cards: 1849–1929*. Dr. DiComo lived in Pawling, New York for a decade, and began researching the history of village, town, hamlets and neighborhoods in Dutchess County. He began collecting its postal history, along with real photo postcards, postal cards, postal stationery, Victorian trade cards, railroad tickets, newspapers, hotel paraphernalia, etc. A sub-collection grew from this to include Bank Checks, Promissory Notes, Bank Tags, Fractional & Federal Currency, Revenue-stamped documents and other Ephemera. He recently published an article on a portion of this story, [The Life of Hiram Vail and the Obsolete Notes produced for his Banking & Collection Office in Amenia, New York](#), *Paper Money*, May-June 2019, Vol. LVIII, No. 3, Whole No. 321, pp. 190-194. Enjoy!

Last month, the Some Sunday Stamp Show returned to the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Those in attendance agreed that the somewhat scaled down, socially distanced event was a success. There is another one on the schedule for December, which we all hope will build on the success of the last event.

- December 19 & 20: The First Two-Day **Some Sunday Stamp Show**, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Masks please, distancing in play, no food or drinks being served. JUST STAMPS AND COVERS AND SUPPLIES! So bring your wallet and want lists. Participating Dealers: K2 Collectibles, L & R Stamps, Doug McCullough, Frank Soder, Hugh Clark, and Jack Zerby. For more info contact [Kevin Kellman](mailto:k2stamps@gmail.com) at [k2stamps@gmail.com](mailto:k2stamps@gmail.com)

### Enjoying a world class exhibition from the safety and comfort of home

Like the five-cent Jefferson issue of 1856, the 1847 issues are favorites of mine that I'll likely never own copies of. So, as the next best thing, I bought the catalog for the sale of the Harvey

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

Mirsky Collection by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, which occurred back in April, 2012. I enjoy the 1847 Issue vicariously through the pictures of Mr. Mirsky's outstanding collection.

One does not need to purchase the catalog in order to experience it, however. The Robert A. Siegel Galleries hosts his exhibit of the issue on their resources page:

(<https://siegelauctions.com/resources.php>)

More precisely, you can find Mr. Mirsky's exhibit at

[https://siegelauctions.com/exhibits/Mirsky\\_1847.pdf](https://siegelauctions.com/exhibits/Mirsky_1847.pdf). The virtual exhibit is superior to the auction catalog, of course. There, you can view the covers page by page, frame by frame, along with the historical context that Mr. Mirsky had given to them. I've dove into this exhibit in the past week, and I believe that most of you would enjoy pursuing it in your free time as well. –

*Scott Ney*



### Finally, a note on Numbering . . .

When I took on the task of editing a newsletter for the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club, I wanted to do a decent job, but didn't want it to come across as being too formal. The main reason for that, perhaps, was that I didn't want to set expectations too high! But after a largely experimental first several months, we found a home as an affiliate club of the PSLC (<https://lcps-stamps.org/newsletter-archive/lebanon-stamp-collectors-club/>), and with the help of some experienced philatelic writers among us (of which I didn't necessarily consider myself), we've been able to produce a newsletter that has great potential to be an effective promotional and informational vehicle for our club. So, you may have noticed that I have taken to heart the kind suggestion of PSLC's president-web master Dr. Charlie DiComo to number our newsletters, and have dubbed this newsletter issue #16. I prefer the "whole number" method of numbering to the standard "Volume, Number" (perhaps because I consider that system too formal for a newsletter), and going forward, I will number each issue. Issue #1 was August, 2019, and each subsequent monthly issue is considered next in number, except for the supplemental issues produced during the early days of the pandemic in April and May (we'll call those supplements 9A and 10A). I will work with Charlie to see that the issues that are not currently posted on our affiliate page get posted there, so that we have a complete record as far as this newsletter project goes. – *Scott Ney, editor. Contact me at [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com)*