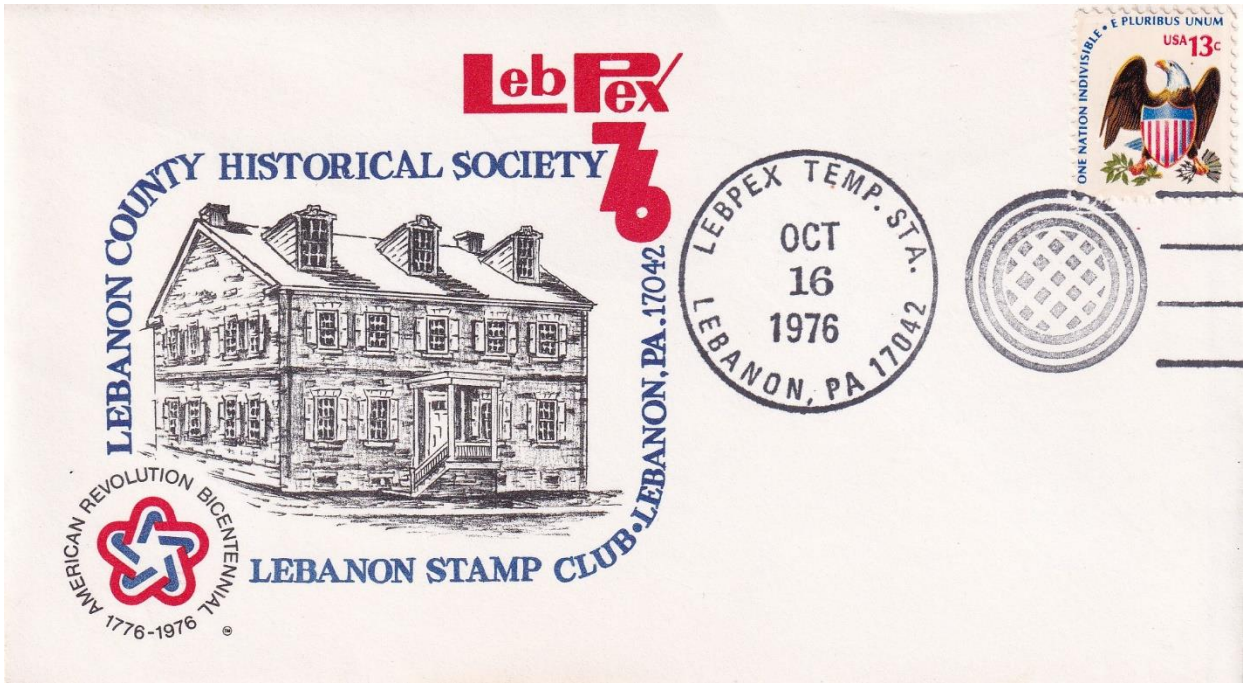
Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

October, 2021 **Number 27**

The October meeting of the LSCC will be held on October 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM at the Lebanon Community Library (125 N. 7th Street, Lebanon, 17042).

At the October meeting, we'll have some more fun sorting through another tote full of unorganized material from the Arthur Groff Collection. If there is time to spare, Scott Ney will have some examples of "Pension Philately" that he has collected over the past year. In the decades after the Civil War, the Department of the Interior sent out millions of pieces of correspondence to the tens of thousands of former Civil War soldiers and their dependents who entered onto the US government pension rolls. Scott will be looking for some ideas from the postal historians in the group on how he might turn this small accumulation into a meaningful collection.

Memories of LEBPEX Past



Not all of us remember LEBPEX, but I'm sure most of us do. I hope that this issue of the LSCC newsletter helps bring back pleasant memories of the LSCC's annual buy, sell, trade, and exhibit event at the Lebanon Valley Mall. The Bicentennial cover above, with the patent cancel and cachet featuring the Stoy Museum, was recently repatriated from Singapore to be featured in this commemorative edition of the LSCC newsletter. A couple of Lebpex covers that have been found in Arthur Groff's collection can also be seen in the pages of the newsletter this month.

The September Meeting of the LSCC

At the September meeting of the LSCC, we had an enjoyable time going through a tote full of unorganized material donated to our club by Arthur Groff and his son. Dick C. and Don S. can be seen above going through some cigar boxes of covers and postcards, and Joe D. took a couple of cigar boxes of loose stamps, mostly US on and off paper, and had them sorted into several neat piles by the end of the evening.

We discovered one special cover in the group that I'll save until next month's issue. It is unused and doesn't have much retail value, but it has some obvious importance to the LSCC's history, that may or may not directly relate to LEBPEX.

On the next page, Jim J. and Don are seen enjoying some of the conversation that went on as we looked through material. Next month, we'll round up some more unorganized treasures to look through at the regular meeting. Jim spent some time over the past summer organizing many of the uncacheted first day covers from the regular US issues that Art collected. One of Art's favorite topics was issues from the United Nations, and Jim nicely transferred hundreds of covers from Art's old metal file boxes to some archival cardboard postcard boxes purchased from a trading card shop in Harrisburg.

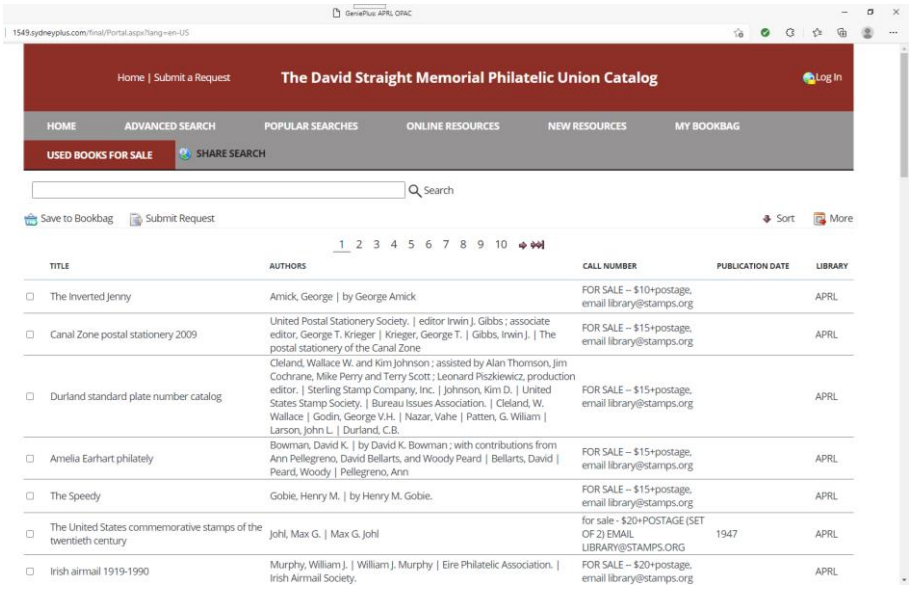
While there is enough unorganized material to keep us busy in October, much of Art's collection was nicely organized and stored in his custom-built wooden cabinet. As mentioned in a prior newsletter, it is currently being housed in my storage unit and may remain there until we start to use it for the good of our club and to promote the hobby we all enjoy. – Scott N.

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

My book-buying experience with the APRL

By Scott Ney

In the August issue, Dick Colberg gave us instructions on searching for duplicate books for sale at the American Philatelic Research Library using the new David Straight Memorial Philatelic Union Catalog, found on-line at GeniePlus: APRL OPAC (sydneyplus.com). By clicking on that link and selecting the “USED BOOKS FOR SALE” option at the top left of the screen, you will be taken to the spot in the catalog where you can browse through several pages of books for sale, or search the holdings for the specific book you are looking for. Dick noted that he had not yet ordered any books online, but since then I have completed a couple of online purchases, and am here to share with you that it was very easy and even rewarding.



I have found that there are a couple of ways that you can purchase a book from the APRLs excess inventory. You may select your book by checking the box next to the title and the "Save to Bookbag" button. When you have put all of the books that you would like to buy in your "bookbag", you will then "Submit Request". That is how you check out a loaner book as well. There is a YouTube video about making an online request for a book here: (923) APRL: Making a Request from the New Online Catalog with Scott Tiffney - YouTube . The specific demonstration about how to purchase a book is about 13 minutes into the video, but if you have 20 minutes, it's worth checking out the entire video to learn all there is to know about requesting an item by mail from the APRL.

Not realizing this, I ordered my books in a different way: in the call number column you see the message "FOR SALE -- $XX+postage. Email library@stamps.org". I copied the lines for the books that I was interested in buying, and pasted them into a short message sent to that email address; it was as simple as that! I received a prompt reply from a library assistant, who advised me of the availability of the title and sent me an invoice via another email. I paid by check, sent through the US Mail, but the invoice provides for payment by credit card, and even mint US postage.

The first two titles I bought were classics by Dr. Carroll Chase: his historic pamphlet on plating the 1851 three-cent Washington, which was published in 1909 by the APS, and a collection of his articles about the classic US stamps of the 19th century, which was published posthumously. They are both brief volumes, as Dr. Chase was a master of packing a lot of info into a few carefully chosen words!

I will share my previous experience attempting to purchase the latter title, as it provides a useful contrast with the experience I had in dealing with the APRL. I found a copy on the Amazon marketplace, and went through their check-out process to buy it. Before long, I received an email informing me that the seller, who appears to be a stamp dealer, cancelled my order, stating that it was no longer available. I felt there was something fishy about that, so I kept my eye on the Amazon search that led me to that book; sure enough, not long after my order was cancelled, the same seller relisted the book at a mark-up more than double what I had purchased it for. Needless to say, I didn't reward this behavior by attempting to purchase the book again after the initial failure to honor my purchase. I did just fine without it for quite a while until I found it at the APRL. The copy I purchased from them was in fine shape, and the icing on the cake was, I paid about half the price that I *initially* attempted to purchase it for on Amazon.

Thus having made one thoroughly satisfying purchase of two books, I decided to buy another book in the catalogue that I had an interest in: *The Experts Book* dealing with the Washington-Franklin Issues, by Paul Schmid. I learned via a helpful review of this book (on Amazon) that most of the information it contains is also found in a much smaller tome by Martin Armstrong, which I already have. But my copy of Armstrong is a photocopy of the original, and I thought it would be nice to have the Expert's Book for much clearer illustrations. After receiving my copy

of *The Expert's Book*, I found that the way Mr. Schmid organized the information will make it much easier to use whenever I am motivated to venture into my accumulation of this very complicated issue of stamps.

That review on Amazon also stated that *The Expert's Book* originally sold for $60; if you're lucky to find it today, it is common for it to be listed at much higher prices than that. The APRL, however, had a used copy of the book for slightly under the original purchase price. When I sent back my invoice with remittance, I added a small donation to the purchase price and shipping fee to equal the original price of the book, and it still felt like I got a phenomenal deal.

There are many places to buy philatelic books, but from now on, I'm going to check back often with the APRL. After all, a purchase from them also supports their work promoting the hobby. And in all of the above cases, I benefited by saving a significant amount of money on these titles.

More Lebanon history on LEBPEX covers

The Cornwall Iron Furnace, which began operations when Washington was a lad of 10 and Jefferson was still just a gleam in his mother's eye. This cover was sent to Arthur Groff long after the show was over. I'm not sure if '74 was the first LEBPEX, but it was definitely before my time. I was still keeping my parents from getting a good night's sleep in early '76.

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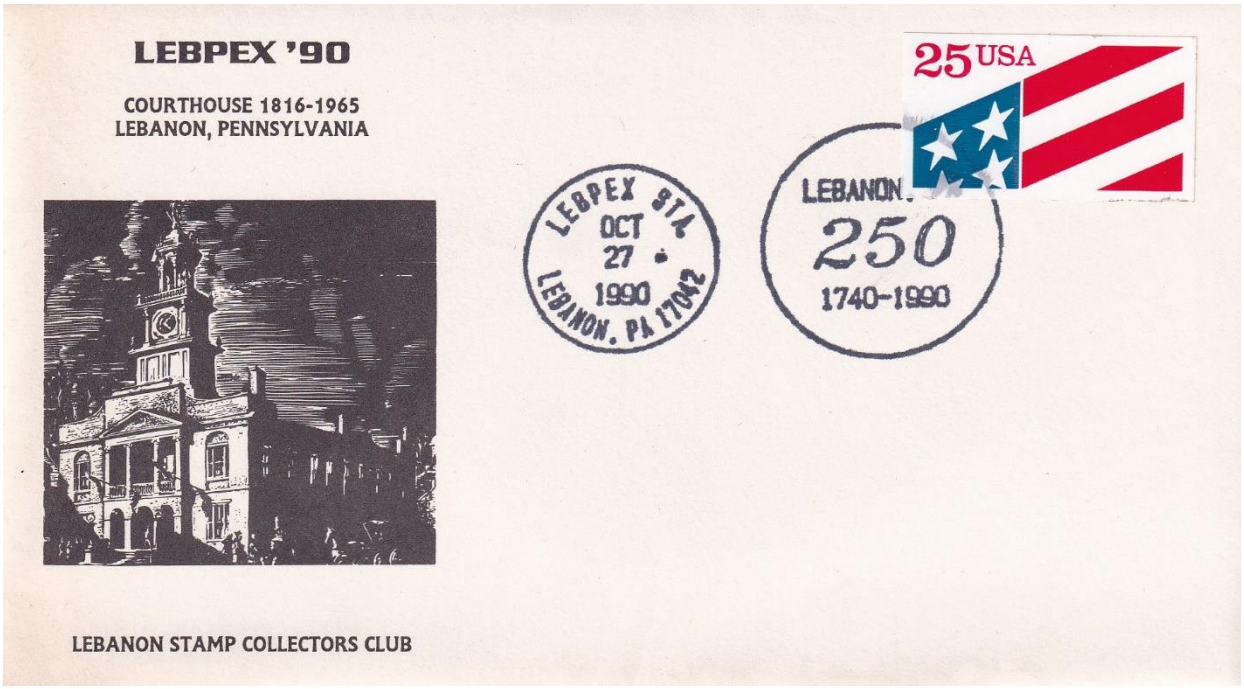

The old courthouse at 8th and Cumberland Streets would be an icon in the City of Lebanon, had it not been torn down a quarter century before Lebanon's 250th year.

Post Script: At the end of last month's meeting, Dick, Joe, and the rest of us had put a little order to the chaos that began the evening's festivities. Unfortunately, the editor of this newsletter didn't think to snap some "after" pictures! I'd like to thank everyone for a fun time, and for allowing me to snap a few photos of our meeting.

See you in October! Please contact Scott Ney (stnst2@aol.com) with any questions about the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club.