



Dr. DiComo (L) with Dave Goodhart at the December Saturday Sunday Show

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
American Topical Assn., Chapter 118
Member, NY Federation of Stamp Clubs



**Notice: This is a
Joint January &
February Issue**

**Please note that all PSLC meetings are virtual, starting at 6:15 p.m.
on Wednesdays, 12 and 26 January and 9 and 23 February**

The Veranda Chronicles

2022 is finally here, as the '21 holiday season has passed. Now we can look forward to the longer and hopefully brighter days.

As I write this column, the country is seeing the beginning of the holiday surge of Covid-19. My hospitals are so busy that we are seeking outside support to handle it all, especially in York Co.

While we must be careful, there is much more in life than the pandemic on which to focus. We all

have a hobby that we love, one we can enjoy by ourselves or with others. There are many digital opportunities to keep us informed and entertained along with several stamp shows here in Lancaster each year. Further we have hope, hope that this year will be a better one, one that will see a Covid-free ending. All in agreement?

It is also time to share how grateful the club leaders and I are for you, both our long-time members and

our newest ones who have recently discovered PSLC, some from outside states.

We will continue our commitment to share the wonderful world of philately with you through the regularly updated website, twice monthly educational programs, detailed newsletters, and the many other informative emails with additional opportunities that go your way. We like nothing more than sharing this (*See Veranda, Pg.-6*)

January 2022 Meetings

12 January 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

A Postal History of Lititz, PA. Dick Colberg

Lititz, a town in northern Lancaster County, was founded in 1756 as Lititz. A post office was established there in 1806. The earliest known Lititz cover is dated 16 years later. The spelling of the town name was changed from Litiz to Lititz in 1881. Come join Dick Colberg as he shares this colorful history. He is a one time resident of Lititz, and he will present the most extensive collection of Lititz postal history known. You will see several one-of-a-kind items. You will also see a couple of puzzles solved.



26 January 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

French Definitive Stamps. Larry Rosenblum

Between 1874 and 1940, France issued many series of definitive stamps, some of which were in use for over 30 years. Many of these series have varieties that appeared over time, and the designs had additional uses such as domestic postal stationery and use overseas. In this presentation, Larry Rosenblum will review each series and highlight interesting aspects of them. He'll augment these with some of the stamp-on-stamp commemorations and modern reissues which are of special interest with collectors.



February 2022 Meetings

9 February 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

The Five-Cent West Point Stamp of 1937.

Mick Zais

This presentation is a review of the stamp issued Wednesday, May 26, 1937 at the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. Designed by a captain on West Point's faculty, the stamp was the fifth and final issue of the Army half of the 10-stamp Army Navy series. These stamps were prepared at the direction of President Roosevelt to engender appreciation of and support for a tiny, depression-era military that was totally inadequate for the coming global (*See West Point Pg.-6*)



23 February 2022 at 6:15 p.m.

Alfred Hitchcock on Stamps. Ron Breznay

Alfred Hitchcock directed 53 feature films, two short subjects, and 20 television episodes. And he is one of Ron Breznay's favorite moviemakers. He has all of these in his collection, except for one feature film that's been lost. Further, he's watched each of them at least three times and saw eight movies on the big screen, though none during their original release. Forming a topical collection of Alfred Hitchcock on stamps came naturally. Ron's collection goes beyond just images of Hitchcock on stamps (there really aren't that many). It also includes stamps (*See Hitch Pg.-6*)



Volume 85, Nos. 1-2

January & February 2022

**Visitors are Always
Welcome**

Given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing to curtail the spread of the virus, PSLC has ceased its in-person monthly meetings, replacing them with virtual meetings on Zoom twice a month.

PSLC usually meets the 2nd Wed. of the month (except August) at the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 E. Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7:00 pm. Dues: \$10.00/year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640.

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10 November 2021 Minutes and Happenings

David Weichert, Sect'y, and Lou DiFelice, \$\$\$

Opening: Dr. DiComo opened at 6:30 with a welcome. He noted his update of the website and added that PayPal for the collection of dues is going well. He reminded us of the December 18th – 19th Saturday Sunday Show here in town and that the Lancopex Committee is starting to plan for April, 2022.

Membership: Paul Petersen gave a short membership update and introduced tonight's guest, **Tony Wawrukiewicz** who will be speaking in March '22 on *The domestic postal history of postal, postal-reply, and post cards*.

Treasury: PSLC Treasurer, **Lou DiFelice** gave the financial report for October.

1-31 October 2021

Opening: \$3262.55

Income: \$235.00

Expenses: \$54.72

Sum: \$3442.83

2-CDs @ \$5983.30

Approval of the Treasury and Club Activity Reports: These were approved unanimously by voice vote on the screen.

Tonight's Attendance: +/-34

Feature Presentation:



Tonight **Alan Warren** gave a presentation: *The Byrd Antarctic Stamp: Production, First Days, and Other Uses*. This stamp marked Byrd's 2nd Antarctic Expedition, and it was used to help defray the expedition cost with special covers to be cancelled at the Little America PO in Antarctica. It was first issued in Washington, D.C. on 9 October 1933, and a host of FDCs are available. There are cancels from the Little America PO in 1934-35 and some interesting delays.



There were four design-similar formats. Alan showed some of the essays, stamps with production

signatures, errors, and a variety of other uses on both the first day and following. Stamp-related ephemera from the USPOD was also shown. Q&A was lively.



Show & Tell:

Dr. DiComo discussed his late night finding of a major double transfer, this one on the central vignette of the Private Die Proprietary (RS258dt) for the H.H. Warner Company who made "Safe Remedies."



He showed each of the landmarks of the transfer and will keep us in touch as he seeks more of these and continues his research.



George Hauber: In going through his materials he thought he would be rich when he came across an imperf #301 with wide margins. (↓)



There is no imperf version listed in *Scott's* so George continued his research until coming to #301c, a booklet pane. He ended noting that the margins were so wide....!



It is unusual when **RD Noble** finds something he can't identify. In this case it is from the 1880 Banknotes. On a few of these stamps in a lot he received, there is a row of perforations. No one else has ever seen

such a thing, and it was recommended that RD place this images and issue on the Research Questions page on the website (below).



Finally there was a short discussion of perfins and the machines that created them. Paul said that if members send him some images of the machines, he will circulate them through the club via email.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

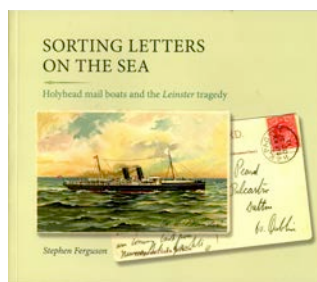
Celebrating An Post

Since reading an An Post ad in *USA Philatelic*, we have been receiving Ireland's *The Collector*, their house magazine for ordering stamps, covers, books, and philatelic items.

Starting early in the Millennium, the prices very reasonable. We purchased the Christmas and St. Patrick's issues at face value for Mz. Ed. along with some commemoratives when the topics are of interest to me. These include some of the writers, The Easter Rising and its aftermath, Eire in WWI, and a few others.

Starting my Ireland country collection about that time, the prices for my two album set from An Post was about half of the cost in the States. These were Schaubek hingless volumes with dust covers covering the period of 1922 to 2004.

In November I submitted my last order, one for books of Irish postal history. This was shipped to me on 9 December according to the enclosed cover letter, and it arrived in Lancaster on 14 December! When An Post and the USPOD work together, they get the job done very well.



I often enclose a glassine of U.S. stamps for GPO staffers or kids and with my book order came a nice gift and a special treat. My account rep asked the author, Steven Ferguson to sign my four books. Happy Xmas.

Club Notes

Programs & Shows

2022 Programs

12 January: Lititz Postal History. Dick Colberg

26 January: French Definitive Stamps. Larry Roseblum

9 February: The 5¢ West Point Stamp of 1937. Mick Zais

23 February: Alfred Hitchcock on Stamps. Ron Breznay

9 March: The domestic postal history of postal, postal-reply, and post cards. Tony Wawrukiewicz

23 March: Reading Newspapers in John Lewis Krimmel's Downingtown Tavern Post Office. Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris.

13 April: Postal History That Sizzles. Bill Schultz

27 April: A Thematic Collection of the International Geophysical Year, 1957-58. Rob Sternberg

11 May: Christmas Seal Collecting: Special Interests. Stanley Jones.

15 May: Member Bourse, Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville

25 May: TBA

15 June: TBA

29 June: TBA

13 July: TBA

27 July: TBA

10 August: Club Picnic, Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville

Upcoming Stamp Events



Some Sunday (and Sautrday) Stamp Shows. 12-13 February, 19 June, 28 August, 9 October, & 16-17 December. Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

9 April: (S) **Delpex**, NUR Shine Center, 198 S. Dupont Hwy, New Castle, DE

30 April: (S) **Lancopex**, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA

5 November (S). **Reading Stamp Show.** Farmer's Market, Rt-61, just north of Leesport

25-28 August: **The Great American Stamp Show** including APS, ATA, and the AFDCS. Sacramento, CA

24 November Proceedings

Opening: At 6:30 p.m. **Paul Petersen** started the meeting with a welcome to all. He shared changes made in the December Presentation Schedule due to the illness of one of the speakers. The revised December schedule follows below:

08 December: *The U.S. International Stamp Shows, Part-II: 1956, 1966, & 1976.* **Paul Petersen.**

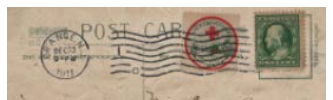
22 December: *The Transparent Motto Wafers Seals on U.S. Folded Letters & Covers, 1840-1860's.* **Dr. C.J. DiComo.**

Attendance: This was +/-25.

Feature Presentation: *Christmas Seals* by **Stanley Jones**. Stan has collected this area for over 50 years. While he has a wide-ranging collection of seals, he specializes in the 1907-1919 issues which includes the whole run of seals sponsored by the American Red Cross. The second issue of the 1907 (Type II) with the addition of 'Happy New Year' is less common.



In those days most of the Christmas communications were by post card, and the key to collecting is to have the seal tied to the card or cover by the cancel as seen below with the 'hard to find' 1911 Christmas Seal.



What many don't understand is that there are a host of varieties, printers, and some errors for most seals. These add both zest

Special to the Newsletter

To the right is a corner card on a business cover of Bedford & Co. This firm's mission was to move the mail between the Atlantic, Pacific, and California during the Gold Rush.

This cover was sent to Ed. to share with PSLC by member and collector, **Jim Strycharz**.

Jim notes that the handwritten notation (not shown) is "What do you think of our envelopes-They are somt' ain't they." Jim

and challenge to collecting Christmas Seals.

Besides the seals themselves, there are related collecting ephemera such as announcements of the seals, marketing documents, collecting packets (below) and many others.



Some club members shared their interest in seal collecting, and Stan promised to return next year with another collecting area of Christmas Seals and related items.

Show & Tell

Paul Petersen showed a novelty cover dated 4 August 1939 that he came across. In the cropped image below, there is a cut out red vignette of George Washington from #707 that was pasted on its congruent image on the face same purple George Washington stamp, #720 (right).



Of note is that the 3¢ first class cover rate is correct, as it had just been raised from 2¢ on 6 July.

Al Schaub asked a question about the source of lines on the stamps on the Wonders of America issue. Following some discussion, he will send some to Ed. who will seek opinion and address this at the next meeting. (Ed.'s note: This question is addressed in the 8 December meeting notes.)



opines that it is intended to convey 'something special,' but the writer ran out of room.

In 1854 Wells Fargo & Co. bought out Bedford & Co.

In the Bottom of the Box

For years I have had a box lot, and it was finally the Covid-19 persecution and isolation that spurred me to revisit this one. Here I found some items stuck to the bottom of the box. I gave this a tug, and off came two 1935 Zoological Sheets from Tana Tuva. I first learned of these from Diane DeBlois and Richard Dalton Harris at an APS Summer Session a while back. While Tana Tuva stamps have a following, it is a great story for another day. (↓)



The first reader with an interest in Tana Tuva who contacts me shall receive one by snail mail.

However there were some additional items that were further and partially stuck to the bottom of the box, a common tragedy in the philatelic world with potential dampness, neglect, silverfish, and mildew!

The top item appeared to be a 1950s era DDR souvenir sheet (not shown), one of many issued to raise money for the fledgling regime. I then wedged my fingers underneath it to see if it could pop right off. In doing this I found that there was another large item, which turned out to be a second DDR souvenir sheet. With the thickness within my grasp, I realized that there were more items stuck between the two Karl Marx souvenir sheets.

Finally freed from their formerly damp but now very dry cardboard prison, I could not tell what was contained in the layer between the souvenir sheets. Original glue or not, there was no choice. I had to soak it all. And to my surprise, they were all items that I wanted. The DDR souvenir sheets, sans original glue, may go to the door prize box for a future in-person meeting.



Retuning to the hidden treasurers, one of my topicals is stamp shows on stamps (etc.). This includes

stamp show labels or Cinderellas as well as stamps, covers, and other ephemera and souvenirs.

The labels were very popular in former days for both pre-show advertising and for sale or giveaway at the stamp shows. The first find in the box was a Stamp Show souvenir sheet (B21a) from Leipzig (Debria), East Germany dated 26 August to 3 September 1950, and it pictured two imperforated issued semi-postal stamps, (B14 and B21). This is a stamp show souvenir that I do not have.

The last two items came as a pair. They are B292-293 of Germany. I had read a series of articles and letters to the editor about these stamps a few years ago in *The German Postal Specialist*. Given their history, there is much fodder for both publishing and debating.

The two stamps went on sale in Berlin on 21 April 1945 to celebrate the 12th anniversary of National Socialism. However, this issue also coincided with the chaos of the city by the Soviet hordes. They were on sale for only a few days before total collapse. And this is where the timing gets dicey.

The B292 (12f+38) features the SA troops (*Sturmabteilung*), aka the Brown Shirts or storm troopers (right image). The B293 issue (also 12f+38) depicts the SS troops (*Schutzstaffel*) or Hitler's own (but deadly) paramilitary. The 2010 *Scott Catalogue* lists the stamps at \$7.50 unused and \$900 used. A mint never hinged stamp is listed at \$65. Prices for used stamps on cover are exorbitant...if truly cancelled covers ever existed at all. Forged cancels abound and certificates of authenticity are mandatory for purchase of used examples. Financial opportunities abound.



Over time I have looked at these stamps thinking that they would have a home in my WWII accumulation to celebrate the last issues and the end of Nat'l Socialism.

Of interest is that there were no "A" prefixes stamps produced in 1945, that is definitives and commemoratives.

8 December Meeting Notes

Dave Weichert, Sect'y and Lou DiFelice, \$\$\$

Topical Collecting

Opening: Dr. DiComo opened the meeting at 6:30 with a welcome to members and visitors. He reviewed the late-minute change in scheduling of the December programs and thanked all for the accommodation. He added that PayPal was successful in the dues collection. The videos of the programs are viewed regularly, so he suggested checking them out on the website.

Lancopex: Dr. DiComo announced that Lancopex would be held Saturday, 30 April. Given the nature of Covid with its uncertainty, the club will opt for a simplified show comprised largely of a bourse. A more moderate show such as this would be less cumbersome to cancel should the health risks of Covid-19 continue to rise.

Membership: Paul Petersen said that since the October roster, the club has gained a few members placing PSLC between 125 and 130.

Tonight's Attendance: +/-40.

Treasury: 1-30 November 2021

Opening:	\$3442.83
Income:	\$160.00
Expenses:	\$66.32
Sum:	3536.51
2-CDs @	\$5983.30

Approval of the Treasury Report: This was unanimous by screen vote.



Feature Presentation

The U.S. International Stamp Shows, Part-II: 1956, 1966, 1976 by Paul Petersen. He gave a very brief history of the eleven shows and then focused on the three mid-century events from 1956 to 1976.



This included information about the venue, exhibits and juries, attendance, awards, banquets, and other events. For illustration he

displayed a variety of IPEX related ephemera such as show catalogs and programs, labels & Cinderellas, postage, first day covers and event covers, posters, tickets, medals, publicity, and many others.



Alan Warren briefly noted his role as an officer and director of Interphil76 while David Silcox told about his experience during SIPEX-66 while in college.

Show & Tell

Cathy Kothanchik prepared a short PowerPoint showing how she had to make a Christmas display out of the ten (10) large boxes that Bob is storing in their living room, a donation that he is managing for the Allentown Stamp Club until he finds homes for it all.



Cathy notes that this is perhaps another example of Boxing Day.

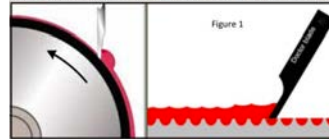
Al Schaub sent five (5) stamps from the 2006 U.S. Wonders of America sheet (4033-4072) to Ed. He wondered what the two lines were across the top of each of the 50 stamps. Paul projected this at the meeting as seen below.



Larry Rosenblum suggested it is probably a 'doctor blade' fault. In the stamp printing process, this blade scrapes the excess ink off the plate/drum to leave only that ink necessary for the image to be printed.

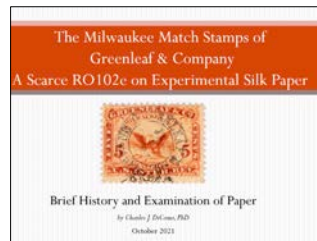
This can be seen in the image above and right where the red ink

is being scraped off the plate.



All agreed that this sheet should never have left the print shop.

Al added that he received this flawed sheet in a lot that he purchased from a relative of a deceased postal clerk. Much speculative discussion followed.



Dr. DiComo gave a short but very detailed PowerPoint presentation about his research and examination of the experimental silk paper on the Milwaukee match stamp of Greenleaf & Co.'s 5¢ (RO102e).

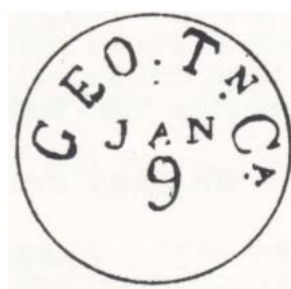


Under magnification, he displayed the blue silk threads on the exp'l paper. Butler & Carpenter of Philadelphia printed these private dies.



See blue silk thread in image. (↑) James Strycharz held a stampless cover to the camera where the cancellation was "GEO.Tn.Ca." It was the opinion of one that this was the Georgetown section in Washington, DC.

RD Noble sent in a scan from one of his postal history references. Yes, it matched Jim's cancel and was a Georgetown cancel that was used in 1816 and 1817. (↓)



In the past I have written on some of the topical that are very small in number such as dial phones or typewriters on stamps. But are there topics which have not been on stamps? Member and retired F&M geology professor, Dr. Rob Sternberg shared that he can't find a U.S. stamp with an earthquake, though there are some on stamps from other countries. Next year Rob will give a program on the stamps, covers, and other items of the 1957-1958 International Geophysical Year.

I may have found another way of topical collecting, especially with Stamp on Stamps, one of my favorite areas. Could there be such a thing as a three-generation topical?



Last summer Mz. Ed. found a new stamp on stamp for me, a 2021 Hungarian Stamp on Stamp issue (above). As seen, the re-printed stamp (#2227 of 1973) (below) contains a yellow stamp).



This 1958 yellow stamp is a 2_{F0} Hungarian (C196) airmail.



It is part of the Planes Flying Over...series, this one flying over the Chain Bridge in Budapest.

22 December Proceedings

Opening: Paul Petersen convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. There was some informal discussion before the meeting on the disposition of a stamp collection brought up by **Laura Duncan**. She will follow up with scans.

Pandemic: Following an audience member's question and then those of others regarding the Covid-19 vaccinations, **Dr. DiComo** took a few minutes to review the CDC guidelines.

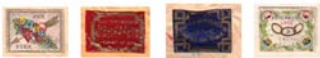
Club Issues: Paul welcomed tonight's visitor, **Laura Asher** of ATA to the meeting. He shared that programs are scheduled into May, but openings for speakers remain. Please contact him with your topics. If you don't, he knows where you live.

Dues: Paul shared that as of 15 December, 63% of club members have submitted dues for next year. For paying by check the renewals are in the newsletters.

And those wishing to pay by PayPal can do so on the website. **Attendance** tonight was +/-26.



Feature Presentation: *Wafer Seals on U.S. Folded Letters and Envelopes* by **Dr. DiComo**. He shared many of his 130+ items on slides starting with the history of the use of sealing wax and related devices. He then segued into the small (15x12 mm) thin paper wafer seals well in place in the U.S. by the late 1830s.



These came in sheets to be cut with scissors. They contained a variety of images and/or text in an array of many colors.



The seals had two purposes: First to seal the letters, and second to

send a message. The message themes varied, but the more common ones were of friendship, patriotism, and love among others.



In the UK in 1851 De la Rue introduced his practical envelope making machine that could simultaneously fold and gum. As such, by the 1860s, there was no longer a need for external wafers to seal an envelope. The wafer era was over



Show and Tell: **Mike Bach** shared a PowerPoint on the postal museum room housed in the Charleston, SC post office. He noted that it was like going back in time.

The 1896 PO has the retro look throughout. The museum contains PO desks, carrier uniforms, photographs, and Confederate postage stamps and items of postal history. It is a great lesson in the Civil War and its postal history, and it is well worth the side trip when in SC.



Auld Lang Syne: Dr. DiComo ended this meeting and PSLC's philatelic year with wishes for a happy holiday and a poignant toast (with bubbly as pre-arranged by all) celebrating the club's highlights in 2021 and our optimism for a better health year in 2022. He expressed his personal thanks to the members who supported him personally during these busy, hectic, and perilous times, as he looks forward to engaging with us all individually in the coming year.



Bellefonte Postal History Exhibit

Many of us in PSLC are members of the American Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Research Library, which form the America Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA (population 6,200), the county seat of Centre County.

Bill Schultz has had a cover collection of county seats in PA including some stampless covers that go back to the early decades of the 19th Century. He thought it would be of interest to prepare an exhibit of Bellefonte postal history, and Covid-19 finally allowed him the opportunity to pursue this project. In doing so, Bill recruited fellow club member and friend, **Mark Schwartz**, a Grand Award winner many times over. Their goal was to tell the history of Bellefonte through its philatelic material.



Bill and Mark worked with APRIL librarian, **Scott Tiffney** who readily agreed to assist. He provided many of the Bellefonte covers and other related items from the library's collection for the project. Further, the pair sought donations from APS members of such mate-

rial for the exhibit.



These further donations were generously forthcoming, and almost all were used in the final 32-page exhibit (two frames) which covered the decades of the 1820s through the 1950s. The exhibit was designed chronologically and will be permanently on public display at the Match Factory Complex.

Bill and Mark made some interesting discoveries such as the earliest known Bellefonte cover which is 1808 as of this writing. In addition they learned some interesting information on the history and development of Bellefonte as well as its postal history along with some factoids of the early history of the Match Factory, home to the APC. This permanent exhibit for APC nicely wove the Bellefonte and Match Factory histories into one interesting narrative.

This project was reviewed in the November 2021 issue (Page 11) of the *Journal of Pennsylvania Postal History*.

Catalogs & New Year's Resolutions

It wouldn't be a newsletter without some issue to do with our annual resolutions whether it be tackling the long suffering auction lot boxes, starting the diet, or hitting the gym. I admit that I need all the help I can get. This year BJ's discount store first tempted me and then solved my resolution problems with their two 60-page catalogs. Here's how it happened.

The December catalog contained all the pre-holiday enticement one would need. There were foods, cookies, hors d'oeuvres, snack foods, eggnog, adult beverages, pasta, gadgets, and a variety of adult and children's toys.

The January catalog presented quite

differently with exercise equipment and running shoes right on the front cover. Inside were diet foods, vitamins and supplements, health bars, trail mix, and other less-tempting items. A few pages in mid-catalog contained a variety of home exercise pieces from treadmills to rowing machines to free-weights. Further there was a 'quit smoking' program and fewer large screens and kids' toys than in the December catalog. The January issue is a healthier choice.

The resolution here is that one needs the latest stamp catalogue for the collection to be physically fit, intellectually sharp, and emotionally strong.

(From *Hitch Pg.-1*) that depict the films he made, the actors and actresses who starred in his movies, and other behind-the-scenes people. Included are stamps showing images of places and items that were used in Hitch's films. This is a fun and challenging aspect of his collection, as one needs the knowledge of the films in order to find this contact on the appropriate stamps.

(From *West Point Pg.-1*) conflagration which Roosevelt sensed would draw in a reluctant nation. This 5¢ stamp paid the international, surface rate for a 1 oz., 1st class letter.

(From *Veranda Pg.-1*) all with you at every opportunity.

At Kevin Kellman's show last month, I was able to get away for part of both days of the event, and I was pleased to see so many PSLC members in attendance. I met retired Congressmen and member Joe Pitts and learned that he is also a match & medicine collector.

Also in attendance was David Goodhart of Canton, OH. He joined PSLC in 6/20 and drove six hours to attend this show. It shows how philatelically hungry we are as collectors during these trying times. Every member has a story to tell.

The show was also an opportunity to promote Lancopex coming up on Saturday, April 30th. All but one of the dealers that weekend intends to participate in Lancopex. That they were pleased with this December show only reinforces their high opinion of Lancaster's collectors and their continued willingness to participate in a number of shows in the county.

And with so much on the fast track, the club leaders realized we never had officer nominations or elections. We have agreed to let sleeping dogs lie and continue in our positions to see PSLC through Covid-19.

Wishing you all the best for a wonderful new year in 2022. **CJDi**

"I can't taste my beer!"

"I can't taste my beer" was once the lead line in a commercial that promoted the advertiser's beer over that of their competitor's whose customers, so it is said, were loosing interest in their beer. This is not unique to beer drinkers, as it can happen to stamp collectors as well. The collectors and their collections just get tired and lethargic. The excitement has waned. They need a new kind of beer to get them going again, or in the case of stamp collectors something new to pursue.

When philatelic lethargy sets in what can we do? Where can we go? The simple example is to seek exposure to new things.

I believe that collectors who are in local clubs and general and specialized societies have the advantage. Their collecting rarely goes stale. This is because they read the journals/magazines and attend shows and club meetings. They talk to other collectors, visit dealers and their stock, and view the latest exhibits. This is a potential source of new ideas! They tell themselves "I can do (collect, exhibit, etc.) this stuff too."

A fellow collector told me that since I liked maps that I might like collecting maps on stamps. It took right away, and I have an album full to which I add regularly.

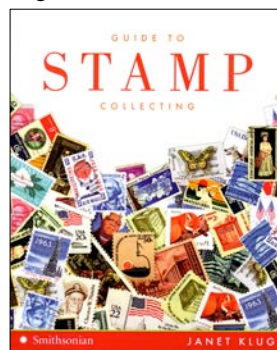
On the other hand I have a stamp-collecting friend who collects maps but not maps on stamps. It is individual preferences. I am sure that our members have many of the same stories to tell.

Over the years I have compiled books on stamp collecting, the "How to" books. I like the newer publications due to the greater number of illustrations that are in color. While I enjoy reading these, I also live in the hope that I will be able to someday lend them to many emerging collectors, both young and old.

On my shelf is Janet Klug's 2008 *Guide to Stamp Collecting* published by Harper Collins. In its ten chapters and glossary, all that would be expected in such an introductory volume is here. Also, included are many smaller vignettes and sidebars that illustrate some points Klug is making.

Books like these can provide even the most seasoned collector with the kernel or germ of a new idea, that spark for their collection. And new ideas are not limited to just what to collect.

The exposure may generate new and different ways to maintain and organize one's holdings. This will range from the type of album used to countless other ways of maintaining a collection.



Besides new ideas of what and how to collect, there are additional ways to teach using PowerPoint, Zoom, and podcasts, for example. With the computer, writers have much more access to vast audiences with all the digital enhancements at hand.

For some seeking excitement in exhibiting, there are regular columns in the society journals along with those dedicated publications to exhibiting. With the pandemic, one immediately thinks of the 'virtual exhibit.' There are always ways to improve.

Yes, these publications, paper and digital, add great color to all aspects of collecting.

Oldies but Goodies

Just recently some old philatelic publications came my way, however temporarily, allowing me sufficient time to enjoy them.



Included in the batch were the early issues of *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*. So why not start at the beginning with Vol. 1, No. 1, Whole # 1, an issue dated 5 November 1928.

The price for the 8-page pub was 2¢ per issue or \$1.00/year. As can be seen, the cover page is all advertising, as there is much of this through out. It's one way to keep the publication costs down. But this is a solid number of ads for a magazine that is brand new.

Though I could not find his name mentioned throughout, George Linn covered all the bases with an editorial and two feature articles, one on the Molly Pitcher overprint with a few other news articles.

There was also a 1-page article on precancels that was of interest to read. Nearly a full page was devoted to airmail, as it began its glory. A dealer was offering the '29 *Scott Catalogue* for \$2.00. In addition were want ads and lists, classifieds, & approvals, among others. Now at Vol. 95 and Whole # 4863, *Linn's* continues to thrive.



Please clip this 2022 dues renewal notice, complete, and mail to **Mrs. Barbara Buchanan**, PO Box 116, Conestoga, PA 17516-0116, with **\$10.00**, ☒ Checks only, no cash. Be sure to sign your check. Thank you in advance.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

For PayPal, see website.

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Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member. ☒ Make checks payable to **Philatelic Society of Lancaster County**. Also, please advise of any changes in address, cell number, or email address.

SPECIAL FEATURE

The History of the Ill-Fated Dirigible *Akron* and the Discovery of a Scarce “Souvenir of Balloon *Akron*” Fabric Postcard from 1912.

By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

In early December 2021, a colleague dropped off at my home a large box of well over 500 letters, postal cards and postcards from the Coleman and Gaskill families, longtime residents of Hammonton, New Jersey and the surrounding hamlets (e.g., Egg Harbor, Atlantic City). He was in the process of moving and found these items abandoned in an old barn and did not want to see them end up in a landfill without first being examined. Knowing my penchant for postal history and my affiliations with numerous philatelic Societies', he made sure they ended up in my care. The correspondence spanned from the early 1880s to the late 1960's. Much of this archive contained familial content: holiday cards; birth and wedding announcements; mourning covers; family photographs; as well as tax receipts, advertising and travel brochures, etc. There were also hundreds of postal cards and postcards from all across the country.

As with any archive that crosses my desk, I take my time sorting and organizing by object type, content and eventually chronologically. I also examine each and every envelope for contents, as well as their postal significance (rates, routes, cancellations, adhered stamps, etc.). After many hours over a few weeks, my efforts paid off with the discovery of a very scarce Souvenir of Balloon “*Akron*” postcard from 1912 (**Figure 1**).

As denoted on the postcard front, “This sample of fabric was cut from the Balloon *Akron*.” It further reads “which is to carry, Melvin Vaniman and party of six to Europe in October. “*Akron*” was made by The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. at Akron, Ohio, U.S.A., in 12 weeks. The Balloon is 258 feet long and 45 feet in diameter, contains 6,000 square yards of fabric; has greatest net lifting power of any dirigible ever made – 80 people. The expedition is being financed by Mr. F.A. Seiberling, president, The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co.”

So how and when were these fabric postcards created? As my friend Cheryl Ganz, FRPSL, Curator of Philately *Emerita* at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, shared with me in a personal communication, the cards were created by an unidentified publisher after the 1911 crash of the *Akron*. Tourists, who were eager for postcards and souvenirs, purchased the entire stock of the first printing. A second printing was later created with only the image side and required the attachment of a white paper backing mimicking the reverse shown in **Figure 2**. According to Cheryl, my example is thought to be only the fifth or sixth now known from the first printing.

It is in exceptional condition and the note on the reverse shown in **Figure 3** gives us a clue as to why. It reads: “*I will send this in the letter so you will get it all right. They often steal card like this out of the mail, Mom.*” This postcard was not sent through the mails, but found in a 1913-dated envelope to a Coleman family member. A firm reminder to check the contents of any covers we encounter – you never know what lies within.

So what of the expedition to Europe by Vaniman and his crew? Sadly, as reported by the *Western Newspaper Union News Service* on July 5, 1912, while “sailing out over the Atlantic ocean under perfect control and in view of several thousand interested persons, the great airship AKRON, in command of MELVILLE VANIMAN, with a crew of four men, exploded while more than 500 feet in the air and, shot down into the water a tangled mass, carrying to their death the daring aviator and his companions. Death is believed to have come instantly to the five men. In all the tragic history of disasters to airships or aeroplanes probably none was as sensational as that which brought to an end the greatest and most costly air craft ever constructed in the western hemisphere. Built to withstand the storms of the Atlantic, and to carry at least a dozen men across the ocean to Europe, the AKRON went to her doom in calm weather.”

Shown at left in **Figure 4** is a 1911 drawing of the *Akron* airship. In the middle, a Real Picture Postcard (RPPC) of the Air Ship *Akron* on the day of its final flight on July 2, 1912 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. On the right is a picture of Melvin Vaniman and his feline companion.

In closing, one has to wonder if members of the Coleman and/or Gaskill family were on the beach that day to witness the tragedy of the *Akron*. It could explain why they set aside the souvenir postcard as a remembrance in their family archive, which I am fortunate to be able to share with the philatelic community. ■

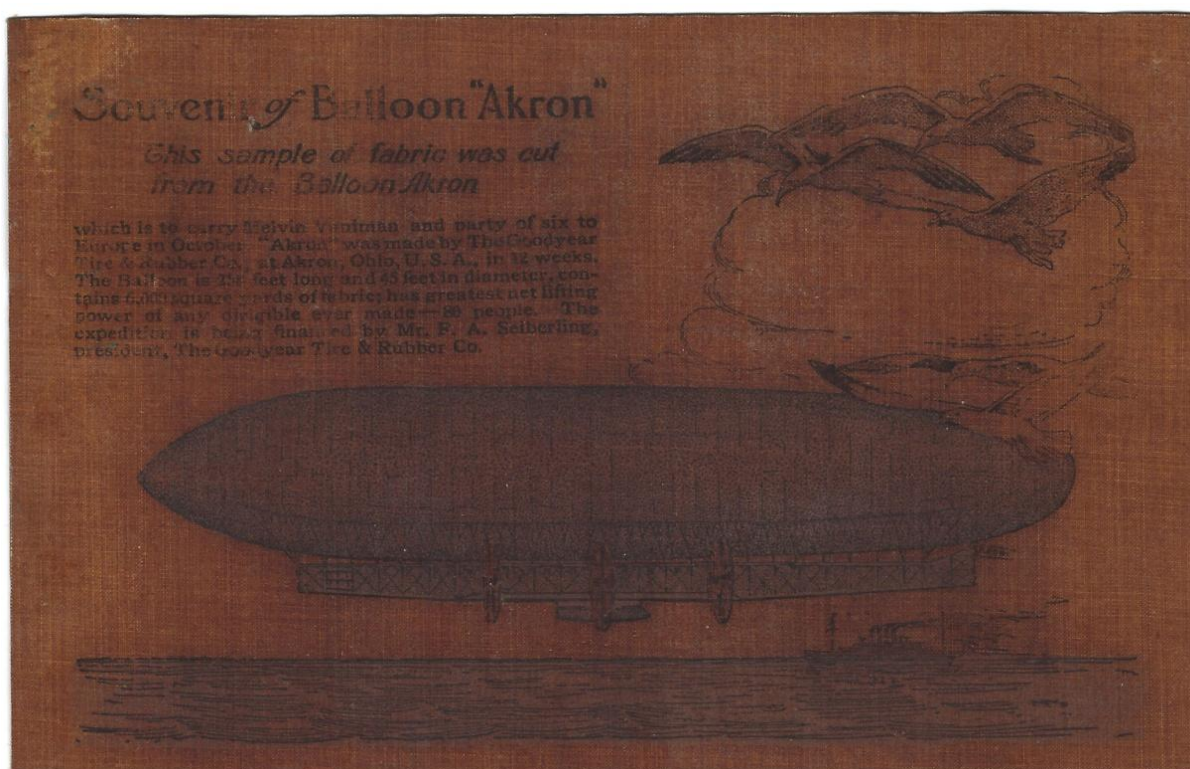


Figure 1. Souvenir of Balloon "Akron", unidentified publisher, ca. 1912, divided back printed postcard on fabric that was cut from *Akron* after a crash during a test flight, 1911.

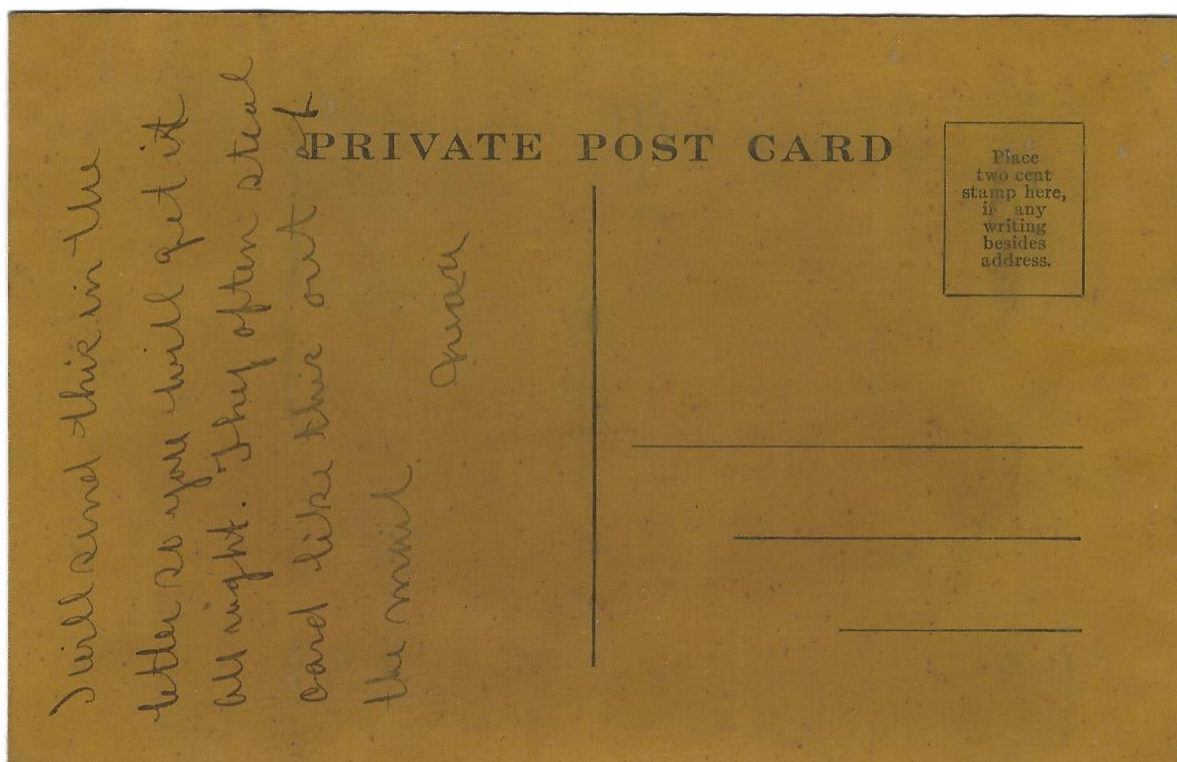


Figure 2. Reverse of the Souvenir of Balloon "Akron" fabric postcard, with printed, divided back. There is a blank space at left for a message; lines at right for the addressee; "Private Post Card" at top, and a framed-box at upper right for postage.

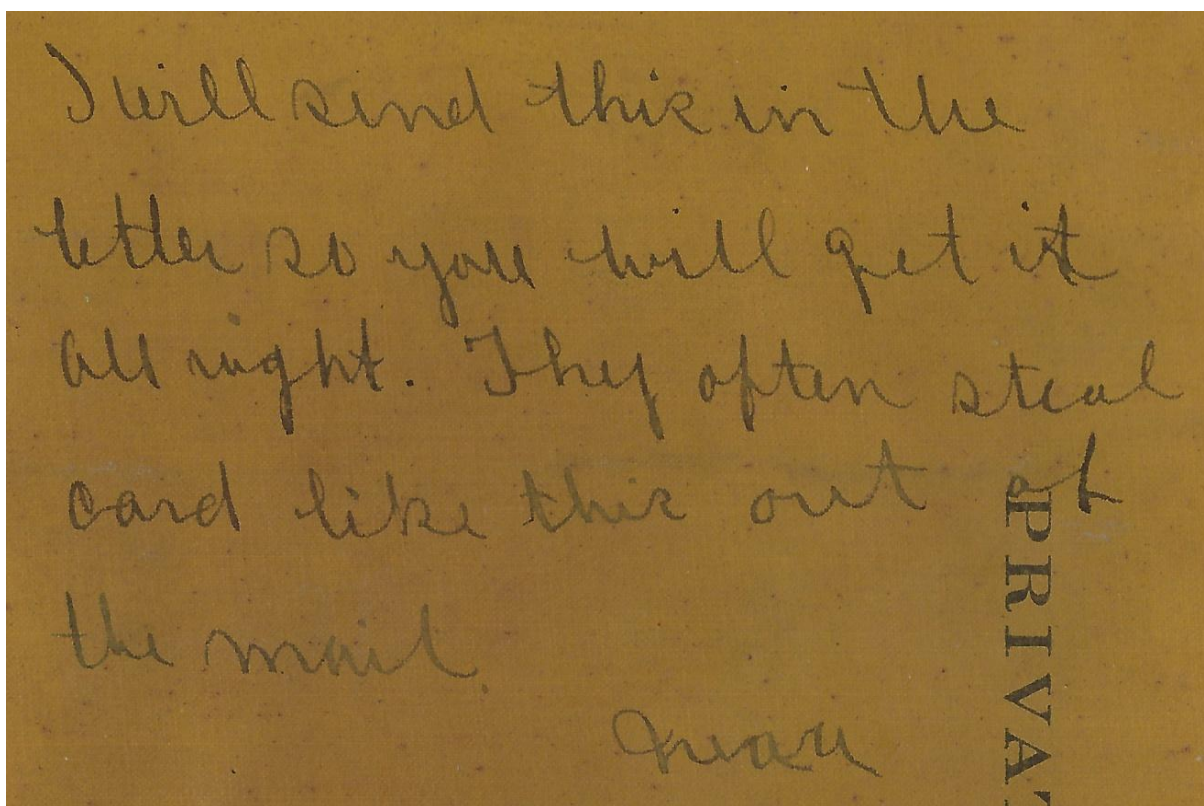


Figure 3. Reverse of "Akron" fabric postcard rotated ninety degrees clockwise to show the note the sender wrote to the Coleman family, transcribed as follows: "I will send this in the letter so you will get it all right. They often steal card like this out of the mail, Mom."



Figure 4. Left: 1911 drawing of the *Akron*. Middle: Real Picture Postcard (RPPC) of Air Ship *Akron* on the day of its final flight, July 2, 1912, Atlantic City, NJ. Right: Melvin Vaniman and his feline.

References

1. <http://www.gendisasters.com/new-jersey/703/atlantic-city%2C-nj-airship-akron-explosion%2C-jul-1912> (last viewed January 6, 2022), Airship AKRON Explosion - Airship Hurlled to the Sea. Submitted by Stu Beitler, Atlantic City, NJ, published in the Eagle Valley Enterprise Colorado, July 5, 1912.