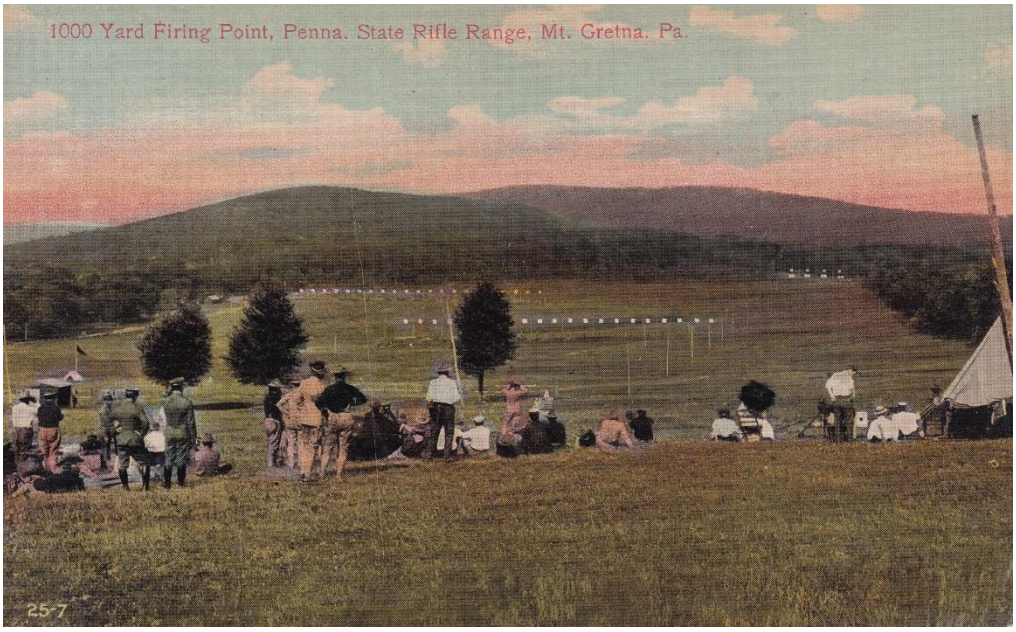
Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

May, 2022 **Number 34**

Philately as a mental Post-It® Note

An interest in history is one of the things that drew many of us to philately. My favorite stamp, the Scott 905 Win the War stamp, helped draw me into a lifelong interest in the World War that my grandparents and their contemporaries fought. The old Philco radio console that sat idle in a corner upstairs when my grandparents occupied the house that I now live in was a time machine, powered by the rare-earth element known as imagination. In retrospect that radio, whose electronics had long-ago ceased to function, helped to assure that I would always be checking my rear-view mirror, and occasionally pull off to the side of the road I'm traveling to reflect on what has passed, for both amusement and instruction.

Like most of us, I have enough ideas that have sprung from these little historical sticky notes that I could one day write a book. But if I never write a book, I'm more than happy to write a newsletter! This Memorial Day, I encourage us all to take our feet off the gas and reflect upon the milestones, destinations, and fellow travelers that are behind us. – Scott Ney



Remembering Air Mail Week

(Editor's note: the following text accompanied these commemorative air mail covers prepared for LEBPEX '97) The Lebanon Pa. Aero Philatelic and Stamp Collectors Club prepared a different cachet for each post office in Lebanon County in honor of National Air Mail Week, May 15 to May 22, 1938. Most of these cachets depicted a historical place in the town. For example, Fort Zellers is shown on the Newmanstown cover and the Isaac Meier house is shown on the Myerstown cover. The cachet shown here was prepared for Quentin Pa. and pictures a modern airplane in 1938. The cover was postmarked in Quentin, Pa. and addressed to Cornwall, Pa. The Quentin post office and the Cornwall post office are only two miles apart, so it is unlikely that this cover was ever flown.

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The April Meeting of the LSCC

The average age of those in attendance for last month's meeting was the lowest it's been in a long time. In April, seven members and friends of the club hosted four scouts from Troop 412 of Salem Lutheran Church. The grandson of one of our local dealers, who is a Webelos scout in Massachusetts, also joined us, and helped us to have a fine event.

The scouts satisfied requirement 7B of the Stamp Collecting merit badge by attending, and were able to demonstrate several of the other requirements adequately enough to have them signed off. All of the experienced collectors in the room were a great asset in the discussion, as all four of the scouts working on the badge are novices at stamp collecting. The most exciting part of the evening was at the end, when the scouts bulldozed through a large pile of stamps provided by Don Smith. They will require one or two more work sessions in order to complete all of the merit badge requirements, and when they do, I'll post a little notice in the newsletter.

Our dealer friend, Mike Marino, pointed out that the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History offers a special membership for kids up to age 17; the greatest benefit of this membership is that they mail packages of stamps periodically to all youth members. Another great benefit is that the youth membership is complimentary for the first year, and only $10 per year thereafter; it's a very wise investment in the future of philately. Information on Spellman Museum memberships can be found on their website, Membership | Spellman Museum

Calendar of Events

The May meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club falls on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, and will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library. Please bring a favorite item or two from your collections for show and tell.

PSLC meetings

We are planning to hold **Virtual Bi-Monthly Meetings** until further notice, 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 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! And it is never too late to start planning ahead – speakers are requested.

- May 11: *Christmas Seal Collecting: Special Interests*, by Stanley Jones

- May 15: *Member Outdoor Bourse* at Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville, PA (check the PSLC website or April LSCC newsletter for more details)

May 25: *Stamps and Postal History of Tibet*, by Alan Warren. A journey through the postal documentation of this strange country, beginning with pre-stamp mail of the 19th century. Stops along the way include the British presence, the brief Chinese occupation in the early 1900s and their stamps, the British-Indian post offices, the three native stamp issues of Tibet, back of the book issues, and the literature of Tibet philately. The material extends up to the 1950s when Communist China took over Tibet's postal services. Some of the Tibet rarities will be shown as well as examples from interesting correspondences including Francis Younghusband, Sven Hedin, and Major Bailey.

June 8: *A Brief History of T. Kensett & Co., Food Packers and the U.S. Private Die Proprietary Canned Fruit Revenue Stamp they Briefly Issued in 1867.*, also Featuring an Update to the 1994 Census of Known #RP1a Stamps. By Charles J. DiComo, PhD

The Kensett Canned Fruit stamp #RP1a has been one of the more popular U.S. Private Die Proprietary Revenue stamps due to its design, the limited quantity issued (528,000) and its narrow use over a two month period in early 1867 before the tax on meats, shell-fish, fruits and vegetables was repealed on March 1, 1867. Dr. DiComo discovered and acquired a choice Kensett & Co. Canned Fruit stamp which sparked his interest in exploring the history of the Company as well as to revisit the 1994 Aldrich Census of existing RP1a copies available to collectors. Presented here is the initiation of that investigation. Four additional copies have been identified thus far, bringing the new 2022 Census to 31. He believes more may exist in other collector's hands yet to be shared.

Additionally, it is worth mentioning that this first attempt at a digital image census puts a "face" on the phrase "most are faulty", so often attached to many Private Die Proprietary stamps. In effect, most of the 31 copies illustrated are faulty to some extent, less his most recent find.

June 22: *Mexican Express Company Envelopes*, by LSCC president Dick Colberg.

A reminder that the struggle for liberty is always ongoing

Our post man brought this package for me a couple days before I wrapped up this newsletter. I don't want to open it quite yet; I'd rather think about where it has come from and the journey it has made.

Inside is a short set of stamps from Western Ukraine, which are overprinted stamps from Austria. They are a common issue, related to the World War I era Austrian stamps that I like to collect, and are the first Western Ukraine stamps that I've purchased.

The eBay listing caught my attention because they come from a seller in Ukraine. After the listing ended, the seller promptly contacted me on March 27 to congratulate me for winning the auction, and let me know that they'd be in the mail within the week. I relayed to him in response that my family and I are wishing the best for him and for Ukraine, and that these stamps will have a special place in my collection.

"I am very grateful for the words of support. Ukraine will win." My seller was hoping for fast delivery. One month later they arrived, on April 27; rather quickly I thought, considering where they had come from. Perhaps I'll wait for peace, and then open it. – Scott Ney

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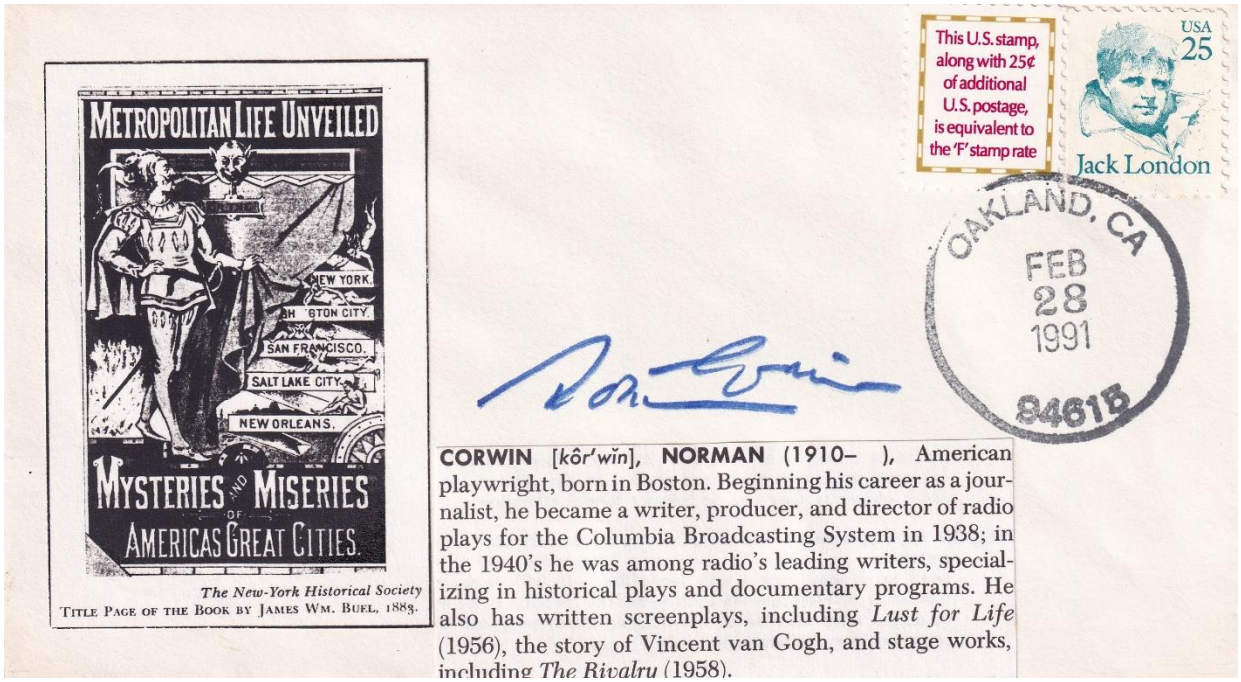
Remembering the Greatest Generation



The following prayer concluded the CBS radio program *On a Note of Triumph*, which was broadcast on the evening of V-E Day, May 8, 1945, and released as a book and record set the day after a special rebroadcast a short time later. The prayer's author, Norman Corwin, is widely recognized among the finest writers of his generation. Corwin, addressing much of his prose to the American G.I. ("*Take a bow, little guy")*, packed more than a decade of world events into this hour long program, and after almost 80 years, the lessons for the world that it contains are as fresh as the ink of the typewriter ribbon that set them to paper.

My grandparent's generation, as I fondly refer to them, sacrificed a lot, but received back in full measure many of the blessings of liberty which were unobtainable to most of their parents and grandparents. There's always a danger of losing the gifts of liberty and prosperity they've passed down to us, if we do not take the time to reflect upon the experiences they went through to secure them. As Corwin put it, "*A little civil thinking every day, that is the homework.*" – Scott Ney

Lord God of trajectory and blast

Whose terrible sword has laid open the serpent

So it withers in the sun for the just to see

Sheathe now the swift avenging blade with the names of nations writ on it,

And assist in the preparation of the ploughshare

Lord God of fresh bread and tranquil mornings,

Who walks in the circuit of heaven among the worthy,

Deliver notice to the fallen young men

That tokens of orange juice and whole egg appear now before the hungry children;

That night again falls cooling on the earth as quietly as when it leaves your hand;

That Freedom has withstood the tyrant like Malta in a hostile sea,

And that the soul of man is surely a Sevastopol which goes down hard and leaps from ruin quickly.

Lord God of the topcoat and living wage

Who has furred the fox against the time of winter

And stored provender of bees in summer's brightest places,

Do bring sweet influences to bear upon the assembly line:

Accept the smoke of the milltown among the accredited clouds of the sky:

Fend from the wind with a house and a hedge, him whom you made in your image,

And permit him to pick of the tree and the flock

That he may eat today without fear of tomorrow

And clothe himself with dignity in December.

Lord God of test-tube and blueprint

Who jointed molecules of dust and shook them till their name was Adam,

Who taught worms and stars how they could live together,

Appear now among the parliaments of conquerors and give instruction to their schemes:

Measure out new liberties so none shall suffer for his father's color or the credo of his choice:

Post proofs that brotherhood is not so wild a dream as those who profit by postponing it pretend:

Sit at the treaty table and convoy the hopes of little peoples through expected straits,

And press into the final seal a sign that peace will come for longer than posterities can see ahead,

That man unto his fellow man shall be a friend forever.

(471) On a Note of Triumph - YouTube

'On a Note of Triumph' : NPR

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