

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

September 2022

Number 38

The September meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library, 125 N 7th St, in historic downtown Lebanon. Our presenter this month, visiting us from the Reading Stamp Collectors Club, is Mike Bach, whose topic is the Queen Victoria Jubilee.

Updates to my French philatelic pursuits

By Dick Colberg

Labor Day weekend saw a flurry of philatelic activity on my part. On Friday I drove to Hunt Valley, MD to attend BALPEX. I've been going to that show for more years than I can remember. Though it is a fraction of its size in the bygone days, it's still a decent show.

I had no particular shopping list in mind (Always a dangerous thing!). So I went searching for unusual French covers. I found three as shown below.

The first is a cover mailed from the Council of Europe office in Strasbourg, France. Like the three United Nations offices (N.Y., Geneva, & Vienna) these stamps are only valid when used on mail sent from the post office within that building. This cover was mailed on Oct. 13, 1958. The stamps are Scott No. 102, 103, and 105 (that's O as in Official!) The stamps were issued in 1958. This cover, in my opinion, is mostly philatelic. I can't find any rate using 63 francs postage. 20 francs up to 20 grams, 35 francs for 20 – 50 grams, 35 francs for 50 – 100 grams, and 70 francs for 100 – 200 grams.



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The second piece is purely philatelic! This card was issued to raise money for the sick and wounded Free French military at the Alpine Front at Christmas-time, 1944. I've drawn a blank on identifying some of the lettering on the cancellation. S.S.M. and D.I.A. have me baffled. The F.F.I. and F.F.A. refer to the Free French military. The translation of the inscription on the card is: "For their Christmas! This card is sold for the benefit of the wounded and diseased F.F.I and F.F.A. of the Alpine Front, under the patronage of Colonel Thibault de Beauregard, Director of the Health Service of the First Alpine Infantry Division and Commander Chabannes, Chief-Physician of the Briançonnais health group." This card is #1630 of 5,000 printed. The Lorraine Cross on the handstamps and cancellation is a symbol of the health services. It looks like the card was sold for 48.80 francs over the 1.20 francs postage stamps (50F total). The total cost would have been equal to about \$1.08 at the time.



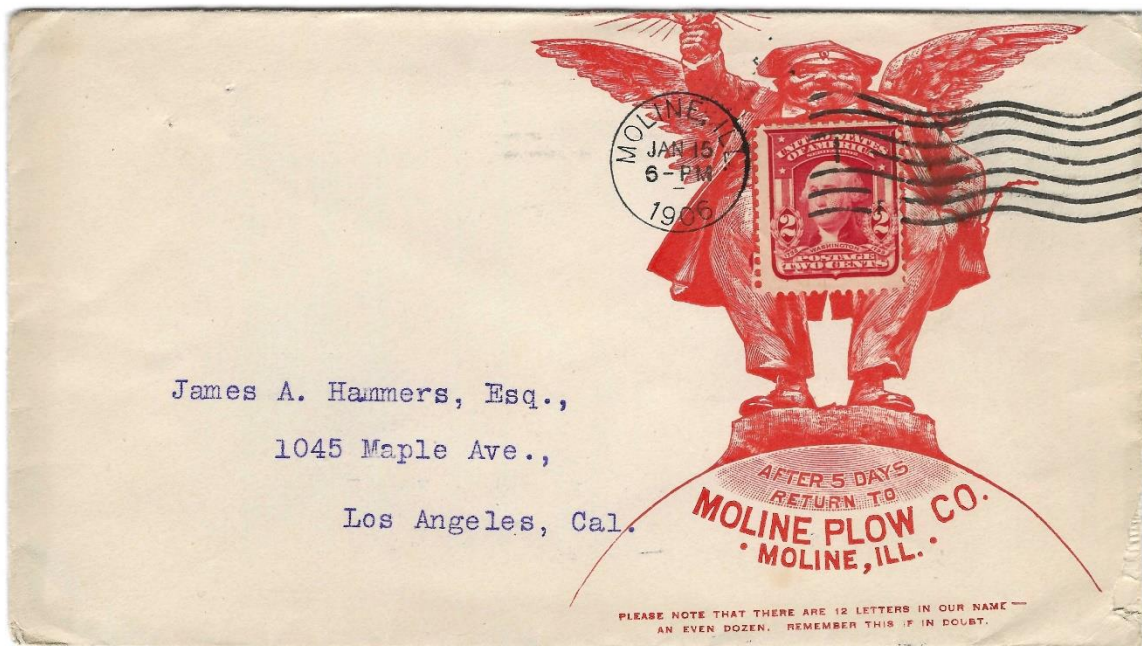
This next item is a head-scratcher! It is franked with the 30 and 40 centimes regular issue stamps of 1938, overprinted with **RF** in the upper left corner. The 10, 30, 40 & 50 centimes stamps were so overprinted and are Scott # 499-502. **BUT**, these stamps are also overprinted **GOVERNMENT PROVISoire** diagonally from lower left to upper right. This overprint is not listed anywhere that I can find! I enlisted the aid of a French friend who enlisted the aid of a member of the Académie de Philatélie, Laurent Bonnefoy. Laurent is of the opinion that this diagonal overprint is bogus! He also thinks the CDS is bogus because the time shown at the top 17 ³⁰ has the 30 underlined. He says that is not the French way. I'm not so sure about that but will accept his opinion. There is a receiving postmark on the backside applied at Cholet. It also has the minutes underlined in the CDS. The overprinted Lorraine Cross in the lower right corner is also Scott-listed. The CDS is

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that of the Marseilles train station. These are some of the first stamps issued after the liberation of Paris on August 25, 1944. This cancel, if legitimate, is just 14 days later (Sept. 8).



And, finally, in a recent eBay search of Moline Plow Co. covers I hit the Mother Lode. There were eight of them for sale. I needed one and bought it. There are now 119 Moline Plow Co. covers in my census, 50 of which are my collection.



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At the August meeting of the LSCC

Six members of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club were present at the August meeting at the Lebanon Community Library. One of our newer members, who we know affectionately as Navy Bob, was present with us. He's been with us for a few years now, but this is the first meeting that he's been able to get to since COVID shut us all down a couple of years ago. Bob's collecting interests are worldwide to 1970.

We had an open discussion for the first part of the meeting, which was very productive (your editor took more copious notes than usual to prove it). In response to a question from Jim J., our president Dick C. said a few words to us about what a certified appraiser does, and how to become one (see below, and be prepared to pay some tuition if interested).

We discussed the general question of where we get our stamps. Don, who collects worldwide telegraph stamps and Antarctica-related items, among other things, replied that over the years he's gotten about half his collection from stamp shows and meets. Friends and dealers he frequents know about his interest in Arctic philately, and are a great source of material. He laments that many of the people he used to visit shows with are no longer with us, or no longer engaged in the hobby.

One of Don's newest collections consists of alcohol stamps, of which he picked up a bunch of in Lancaster. Like many of us, he's enjoyed picking up binders of material to sort through. Over the years he has spent lots of time and treasure collecting on the topic of Pennsylvania, but has since moved on to other things. His son collected FDCs for a short time, but lost interest. As I'm sure will be the case with most, if not all, of us, his family will need to call a friend to evaluate his collection after he's no longer around to enjoy it.

Bob is a long-time stamp collector and 50-year member of the APS. He moved around every couple of years in his Navy career, so he was never much of a collector of covers and other bulky items. Bob has settled down in Berks County and has spent the last dozen years or so there in his retirement, and has also been a member of the Lehigh Valley Stamp Club.

In the early 1990's, Bob started buying and selling collections. In 1994, he put his stamps away, and they came out again during the lockdowns. He remarked that he has some stamps that have appreciated in value since he acquired them in the 70's and 80's, but some haven't appreciated in value so much. He is also active in buying and selling collections again, setting aside what interests him, and putting the rest in cards and boxes to sell and trade to other collectors in bourses and through the mail.

Dick received his appraiser certification through the Appraisal Studies program at New York University. While we are now in an age of online, long-distance learning, Dick traveled to New York for three years, once a week, to complete his coursework.

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For those interested in becoming a certified stamp appraiser, the Appraisal Association of America has an intensive course. If you need any pointers, Dick may be able to help – he wrote the exam! In fact, Dick is the only certified stamp appraiser in the country. While a certified appraisal is required for estate items in an IRS audit, a collection sold at auction or by other means will pass the muster, as the price it was liquidated for meets the IRS criteria for “fair market value”.

Joe D. our resident expert on stamps with inverted centers, started collecting as a kid in the early 1950's. His older brother picked up the hobby first, from his uncle. Like most kids he got an album and filled it with general worldwide issues. His uncle was a great source of new stamps, and he got lots of packets from the chain stores where he grew up in New England. When he got a little older he got into mail-order approvals, and has boxes and boxes of mint sets and short sets from H. E. Harris and other stamp firms that are still in their original envelopes. This has left him with a lot of duplicates, which he states is a reason he tries not to buy so much anymore.

Joe has been a member of the LSCC since about 1990. Nowadays, he gets a lot of his new material on the internet through auctions. His favorite dealer to buy inverts from is Salinger in New York. Joe also collects duck stamps, and from a young age he has appreciated Tannu Tuva issues for the story they have to tell, and he has a lot of them.

Joe shared that he likes to use the Stamp Auction Network (SAN), which is an amalgamation of internet auction sites. You can follow specific topics on there to get alerts when new items become available. He noted that he uses eBay but “it's not as good as it used to be”. eBay can be a good place to get a bargain, but true bargains are getting much harder to find than the increasing number of misidentified stamps listed on the site, which presents a danger for novices and less-experienced collectors. He also uses eBay and SAN to do research.

The APS online stamp marketplace was also cited as a good place to buy stamps. The APS circuit book program remains a good option as well, and expensive stamps that are discounted due to a fault or deficiency can be found at a great discount. Dick gave two examples of “oddball auctions” as good places to buy specialty items (e.g., look for British material in a Canadian auction, look for French Balloon Mail in a British auction). He has sometimes come away with material for his specialized collections for very decent prices in these places where not many other people are looking for it.

When many of us began collecting stamps, we had a general interest in them which began to evolve into a more specific focus later on. Dick attended his first stamp club meeting four years after he graduated from college, and eventually joined the APS (he's a 48-year member). When he began to specialize, he bought an album dedicated to the Victorian era of Great Britain. From there, he bought albums for France and other countries that he wished to specialize in.

Dick appreciates the beautifully engraved stamps that France issued, and noted that they are, for the most part, very inexpensive. He has over six thousand French stamps, including

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revenues, and has exhibited covers from his collection of railroad cancels here in the United States and over in Europe.

On the subject of downsizing, Joe shared that he's been putting his accumulation of boxes that don't contain interesting material aside, and focusing on what is worthwhile to him. This is great advice, because time and energy is a limited resource for most of us. He's interested in liquidating this material, but several of us noted that selling on auction sites can be very disappointing. After commission and other fees are paid, the prices realized might not always be worth the effort of preparing the items for sale, even for more expensive items. Many premium stamp auction houses won't accept material with a value under \$200, and many auction houses will not sell expensive stamps without expert certificates.

The dangers of holding onto unwanted items include damage and destruction. Items that are not cared for properly are subject to the ravages of humidity and the appetite of pests such as silverfish. Don and others noted that they've looked at an otherwise valuable collection that was ruined after it was tossed aside and left to the elements.

The appearance of grading and slabbing, which has helped turn the sports card industry into something resembling a high-stakes gambling operation, has also had its effects on the value of stamps. Of two stamps with the same eye appeal, one flawless MNH and one with a light hinge remnant or pencil notation on the back, the latter will become less desirable for no other reason than the penalty given to it by the company that graded it.

The subject of the declining value of our stamp collections was a recurring one, but something that everyone agreed upon is that we collect stamps because we love to do it. And just as there are new avenues to sell and trade our stamps, there will be new collectors to take our old stocks off of our hands, and hopefully enjoy them as much as we are enjoying them now. – Scott Ney

Searching the Moravian Church Archives at Bethlehem

Back in March, Dick told us about a trip that he and Hal took to the Moravian Church Archives in Bethlehem, PA, to look for old material from Lititz. He discovered several interesting, early pieces from Lebanon, Lititz, and other places in Lancaster County.

Now we can read about some of his discoveries in the August 2022 edition of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*. His essay, *Searching the Archives*, is illustrated with pictures and graphs, and runs from page 11 to page 16. Please check out the Pennsylvania Postal History Society's website at www.paphs.org.

Dick's presentation, *The Postal History of Lititz, Pennsylvania*, delivered to the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County this past January, is available here: [The Postal History of Lititz, Pennsylvania By](#)

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[Richard Colberg For P.S.L.C. Jan. 12, 2022 \(lcps-stamps.org\)](#). If I am not mistaken, the idea behind his fruitful trip to Bethlehem was conceived during the discussion at the meeting. – Scott Ney

Calendar of Events

In September, Mike Bach of the Reading Stamp Club will be visiting us with his program, The Jubilee Celebration of the Penny Post. Those of you who have seen Mike before in Reading or at the PSLC know that he's a well of knowledge with a spout of creativity. The presentations I've seen him give at the PSLC have been very popular, and have drawn an audience from as far as Australia! I had the privilege of sitting next to Mike at Lancaster's bourse this past May, and learned more about "dealing stamps" in one day observing him at his table than I have wondering around a dozen shows in the past few years. You'll be glad you stopped by to meet him. Save the date: September 20th at 6:30 PM.

LOCAL STAMP SHOWS

Capital City Philatelic Society

Since 1925

FALL STAMP SHOW & BOURSE

Lower Swatara Firehouse

1350 Fulling Mill Rd., Middletown, PA 17057

Saturday, September 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Directions: **From I-81:** Take I-83 South to I-283 (to Airport/Turnpike), then I-283 East toward Lancaster. Get off Union Street Exit, turn left onto **north Union Street**. At Fulling Mill Rd., turn left, continue to Firehouse. **From the west**, take I-83 North to I-283 (Airport/Turnpike), then continue to follow the above. Use MAPQUEST or similar program for alternate routes.

***Dealers--stamps, covers & postcards *Philatelic supplies, hinges, tongs, mounts, albums
*FREE stamps for youths—our effort to get young people interested in collecting stamps! *Food Available**

EASY Parking! FREE Admission!

Bring a friend--Come on in and look around--Ask questions—Enjoy!

October 9: **Some Sunday Stamp Show** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Table fee is \$120 for 8 feet "L's" (8" front & 8" side) with an 8" back table. Setup starts 8:00 AM. For more information, contact [Kevin Kellman](#) at k2stamps@gmail.com

December 16-17: **Some Sunday Stamp Show** 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Table fee is \$120 for 8 feet "L's" (8" front & 8" side) with an 8" back table. Setup starts 8:00 AM. For more information, contact [Kevin Kellman](#) at k2stamps@gmail.com

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Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Events



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](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! And it is never too late to start planning ahead – speakers are requested.

September 14: **Postal History Research Resources**, by Steve Kennedy. Steve will provide a roadmap with a long list of resources that postal historians can use to discover information on the many interesting aspects of a cover. Even simple covers provide an opportunity to learn more about the political, social, legal, and financial aspects of our predecessors. He will also provide some interesting tools and online sites for you to use in your research.

Bio – Steve Kennedy is the President of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society (PaPHS). He has been involved in stamp collecting and postal history for almost 40 years. His main interest is Philadelphia postal history with a focus on transatlantic mail. Steve also has a large collection of letters addressed to Elie Beatty, the Cashier of the Hagerstown Bank in Maryland, and Howell Cobb of Georgia. Steve has won literature awards for writing philatelic articles and for website design.

September 28: **“Pure Adulteration”**, by Ron Leshner. A revenue study on the federal taxation to enforce the safety of our food supply prior to the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. This includes oleomargarine, process or adulterated butter, mixed flour, filled cheese, and meat inspection. States enacted inspection fees on fertilizer and cattle feed for similar reasons. Various revenue issues, covers, hand stamps, and other documents and ephemera will be examined.

October 12: **“Half-A-Program”** (inspired by “The Half-A-Collection” exhibited by Clyde Jennings), by David Hunt. A brief survey of the 1/2-cent stamps of the U.S. Between 1925 and 1959 the U.S. Post Office Department issued ten different stamps denominated 1/2-

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cent, divided equally between definitive stamps and postage due stamps. The “Half-A-Program” will also include a look at the 1/2-cent stamps of the Canal Zone.

October 26: **“My Grandfather was a Postmaster”**, by Rick Barrett. For years there has been a fascinating story that in the 1920s, Grandpa Barrett was a postmaster in a tiny fishing and hunting town in Ontario, Canada. Yet after years of wondering, several interesting documents confirming his appointment finally surfaced in some family estate materials. Grandson Rick Barrett will show these remarkable official documents, along with a number of very interesting philatelic items and other visuals, and talk of family-related postal history. Join us for a captivating and enjoyable personal tale which combines ancestry with stamp collecting.



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