

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



H.E. Harris & Co.  
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The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the American Philatelic Society  
American Topical Association-Chapter 118  
Website: <https://lcpss-stamps.org>

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday/Month-Meet in Person at Landis Homes at 6:30 p.m.**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday/Month-Meet Virtually at 6:15 p.m.**

## The Veranda Chronicles

It was so great to see so many of you at our in-person meeting in January, the first in three years. I saw hugs, smiles and hellos, many dealers, a large bourse, a table full of giveaways, a dozen door prizes, and more. We gave out the name badges once more and collected dues...in person! It is as if we never left.

This was a time to thank the membership for their confidence in our club's leadership seen in the recent reelection of our officers. We were able to spot some of our new members

and lament the loss of others during 2022. We continue to have just over 135 dues-paying members.

But we are off to a good club year with nearly half the meeting schedule in place. We have auctions, bourses, education, and other opportunities to share with one another.

Kudos to Lou DiFelice and his friend with a truck, as they took a day and cleaned out our rented storage facility, the old junk that has piled up over the years and stored the → *Veranda Page-3*

**NOTICE: A different meeting room for the auction:** The Auction will be held on the ground floor of our regular building. It is the High Conference Room. When you enter make your first left at security and then your first right. This larger room has more table space, which insures us greater surface to display and inspect the lots prior to the auction proper.

**8 February 2023: Doors Open at 6:30 p.m. and Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m.**

Club Auction  
Dick Shaefer-Host

This is our first in-house auction since January 2020, and what a difference three years makes! It is a new decade in a new auction room and a new rule: The number of lots per member is **seven (7)**. Everything else remains the same.

**Instructions:** ☐ You'll receive a numbered paddle when you arrive. Place this number on all your items to be auctioned, and use this paddle during the auction when you are bidding. This will ensure that what you buy and what you sell are accurately credited and debited. ☐ Be sure that all your lots are accompanied by an accurate and detailed description, as this helps buyers to better understand what they are examining. ☐ Auction lot description forms have already been emailed, and hard copies will be available. You may also access this form on the website at any time. While the auction lot description sheets have been sent out and are available, you can make your own as long as the pertinent info is included. ☐ Fiscal transactions will only be made after the last lot has been sold. **See Auction-Page 3 →**

**22 February 2023 at 6:15 p.m. Virtual via Zoom**

A Humorous Look at the Wilksburg Stamp Club Souvenir Sheets: Part-I, The First Thirty Years

Stevan Cady & John Harding



The humorous sheets from the Wilksburg Stamp Show have appeared continually since 1960, and the current designer, John Harding is working on the 2023 issue for the WSC's annual show this spring. Many of us have seen a souvenir sheet or two of these and have wondered what they are all about. Tonight we'll learn the story behind the stories. These sheets started as a spoof on the many issues of U.S. and foreign stamps, especially those

stamps whose nature, by design or topic, invited a little parody. But vulnerable stamp issues were not the only targets for spoofing, as the souvenir sheets from Upper Slobbovia took aim at politics, current events, organizations, and much more. Join Stevan Cady, PSLC and WSC member, and possibly souvenir sheet designer, John Harding, for a top night of storytelling from a stamp collecting perspective. This will be Part-I, those souvenir sheets from 1960 through 1989. Part-II will be scheduled for late 2023.

**Volume 86, No. 2**

February 2023

**Visitors are Always  
Welcome**

\*PSLC meets in-person on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (Except August & December). Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17542. (See website for directions.)

\*PSLC meets virtually on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:15 p.m.

Dues are \$10.00 a year. For a sample newsletter, club information, and/or meeting links, contact Paul Petersen (See contact info below)

Website: [LCPSS-Stamps.org](https://LCPSS-Stamps.org)

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## 11 January Minutes & Treasury

Paul Petersen Acting Sect'y & Lou DiFelice, Treasurer

**Welcome:** Dr. DiComo started the face to face meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a PSLC greeting to all, "It is so great to be together at a meeting in person after three years of Covid-inspired isolation." He had many comments and announcements. He reminded all of us of the APS Star Route Awards received for the website and newsletter and then updated us on the former.

The website is up and running, and this combined with the Facebook page and YouTube channel has given us great visibility. He has also included pages for affiliates of the club to include the stamp societies of Harrisburg, Lebanon, Reading, and Philatelic Gathering. He has also given a page to the Lancaster Postcard Club. Among other items, these pages contain their societies' newsletters.

Reservations have been made for our Member's Bourse 21 May and the picnic on 9 August, both at Freedom Memorial Park in Millersville.

Dr. DiComo reviewed the 2023 educational programs noting that the meeting slots are over 50% in place. He encouraged members to start scouring their material for the February auction. Format will be as in Pre-Covid-19 times, and info will be forthcoming.

He recognized our re-elected officers, all who were in attendance and thanked them for their past and continued service: **Dr. DiComo**, President; **John Hostetter**, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, **Wm. Greiner, III**, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, **David Weichert**, Secretary and **Lou DiFelice**, Treasurer.

He thanked outgoing Membership Chairman, **Barbara Buchanan** for her years of dedicated service and welcomed **Tom Nichols** who will be assuming this position. He thanked **Fred Sargent** PSLC member as Landis Homes, resident and **Lou DiFelice** who both worked with the venue's administration regarding our reinstatement for meetings in 2023.

Dr. DiComo thanked **Vince Kneizys** and **Wayne Heim** for tonight's snacks and **Len Kasper** for reviving the coffee and hot drink service. He extended appreciation to **Suzanne Noble-Uhl** for hosting the digital-virtual meetings on Zoom since starting in April, 2020. **Steve Kennedy** is to be lauded for his editing of the video recordings of the meetings for placement on the PSLC YouTube channel for all to enjoy.

Finally, Dr. DiComo paid tribute to **Truyde Greiner** who passed away just before Christmas. He noted her near half-century dedication to education, philately, PSLC, and much more.

Both **Bob Kotanchik** and **George Hauber, Sr.** lauded **Dr. DiComo** for his unwavering efforts over the past years to hold the society together.

**Attendance:** 40

**New Business:** Paul's clipboards were passed around to membership to: 1. Sign up for

providing snacks at future meetings and 2. Pick a date for providing a feature presentation if interested in doing so.

**PSLC: Financial report 1-31 December 2022**  
 Opening Balance: \$4772.85  
 Income: \$375.00  
 Expenses: \$239.53  
 Closing Balance: \$4908.32  
 CD's #4101 & #4901 Total: \$6067.66

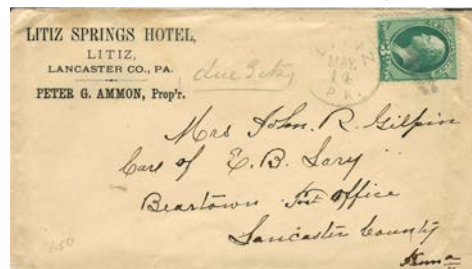
**Approval of Financial Report and Proceedings of December's Meeting:** Approval was unanimous by voice vote.

**This Evening's Doings:** Tonight's highlight was a member's bourse where many had items on display at the tables provided for sale or trade. This was both busy and well-received.

There were 12 door prizes awarded and a table of give-away items from postal ephemera and stamp odds & ends to philatelic journals.

### Show, Tell, and Ask

**Dick Colberg** showed a cover that he notes is not a rarity but interesting from its local origins and other variables. This is a corner card from the Litiz Springs Hotel, ca. 1875, to Beartown, Lancaster County. The LITIZ/PA. CDS was in use from the mid-1870s until the name spelling was changed to LITITZ on 1 February 1881. The Beartown Post Office existed from 28 May 1832 until 15 February 1927. Beartown was/is located near the intersection of Route 322 and Narvon Road, between New Holland and Honey Brook.



The Litiz Springs Hotel became the General Sutter Inn in later years. The hotel dates to 1764, 8 years after the founding of Litiz. John A. Sutter, of Sutter's Mill and 1849 California gold rush fame, retired and moved to Litiz in 1871. He was born on 15 February 1803 and died in Litiz on 18 June 1880. He lived at the Litiz Springs Hotel until his death. Sutter is buried in Litiz. The General is also credited with the founding of Sacramento, California.

Apparently in response to recently found information, a statue of Sutter in the courtyard of the current hotel, was removed in June 2020. Apparently, Sutter had mistreated the Indians out west.

The cover has a pencil marking of "due 3 cts". While the cover is franked with 3-cent First Class postage, the envelope shows indications that it may have contained a thick enclosure. So, it may indeed have been overweight.

## Club Notes

Programs & Shows  
 2023 Programs

(Description of many of these programs are on the PSLC website.)

**8 February:** Club Auction

**22 February:** The Wilkinsburg Souvenir Sheets. Stevan Cady & John Harding

**8 March:** The Postal History of *Condom*. Dick Colberg

**22 March:** The 2022 Europa Issues: Myths and Legends. Ron Breznay

**12 April:** Dining Cars-Epicurean Pleasure on the Rails, Bill Schultz

**26 April:** GAR-First Days: First Day Covers and History of the 1949 Grand Army of the Republic Issue. Dave Plunkett

**10 May:** EFOs-An Emphasis on Fold-overs, David Hunt

**21 May:** (Sunday) Outdoor Bourse in Millersville

**24 May:** The Stamp Man, Rick Barrett

**14 June:** Club auction

**28 June:** Enhancing a Philatelic Collection or Exhibit with Ephemera and Artifacts, Edwin Andrews

**9 August:** Club Picnic, Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville, PA

**27 September:** A Prize Agent, A Naturalist, and A Navy Captain: A Penny Black Story. Mike Wilson

**11 October:** British Internal Airmail: 1933-1934. Mike Bach

**25 October:** Only You Can Collect Smokey the Bear. Rick Barrett

**22 November:** The Peak of Post-Great War Hyperinflation in Germany and in Eastern Europe. Scott Ney

**13 December:** December Dinner. Venue & time TBA

### 2023 Events

**Lancaster Stamp Shows:** These are held at the Farm & Home Center in Lancaster, 1383 Arcadia Road. Tentative dates include 12 February, 28-29 April, 18 June, 27 August, 29 October, and 15-16 December. *PSLC will try to confirm these shows with you as the times draw near.*

**12-16 June Dates:** APS Summer Session, Bellefonte, PA (In-person and online.)

## 25 January Non-Proceedings

Unfortunately we had no proceedings this evening due to a security issue with Zoom. The meeting had to be cancelled. As I understand it, with Suzanne being away for training and unavailable to host tonight's meeting, prior to the meeting, she gave Mike Bach the magic codes and all to host on his end. But when Mike signed on, Zoom noted that the account was being opened on a different computer, his not Suzanne's. This triggered the need for a failsafe authorization, one that Suzanne would have to request and then receive on her device to pass to Mike. Due to her unavailability, Mike was unable to reach her to request this additional code. We believe that this is resolved for now.

As was shared with me, we have had two virtual meetings a month for three years; so one glitch in all this time (about 1.5%) is within tolerance. But this is still hard to take when Mike was ready to share with our typical 25-40 members and visitors in attendance. Mike has been rescheduled for his British Airmail talk on 11 October in person.

I'll use this newsletter space for several announcements that I did not have the opportunity to share last p.m., and for further information that came in since the meeting.

**Change in meeting room for auction:** Landis Homes has been very flexible with PSLC and are offering us their larger Conference Room to hold our auction this month on the 8<sup>th</sup>. This will take place on the first floor of our regular building. Instead of heading diagonal-right for the elevators, turn left, and the meeting/auction room is on the right. You can't miss it.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** Yes, we are

*(Continued from Pg.-1)* **The Auction Committee recommends that you:** Bring cash to pay for the items you win. Keep a running total during the auction of the items and prices of the lots you sell and win. Finally, please attach your sales information very securely to the lots you are entering into the auction. This will help avoid any misidentification with other sellers' lots.

**Bidding Rules:** Minimum bids are \$1.00 per lot. The minimum bidding increment is 50¢. Only dues-paying PSLC members may participate in the auction. Auction participants are limited to seven (7) lots. You may also donate items to the auction, as donations are welcome, a necessary source of funds for operating a viable club, such as special events, storage lockers, newsletter and website expenses, and advance Lancopex Deposits as needed.

back in person and it is winter. In case the weather is bad or if it is predicted to be so, here is how we'll inform you if the meeting is cancelled: The Executive Committee will make a decision on holding the meeting. If cancelled, they will notify Paul who will send out an email notifying you of the cancellation. For those who do not have email, give Paul a call, and he will let you know the status of the meeting.

**Owl Hill Bistro:** Landis Homes is opening their bistro to the outside. This venue is on the ground floor of the building where we meet in the Crossings Meeting Room in the High Conference Center. This is an opportunity to meet and connect with friends ahead of the meeting. Approximately one week prior to the second Wednesday meeting, Paul will send out the monthly menu to membership. Since this is a new program, and given that the Owl Hill Bistro closes at 6:30 p.m., guests should be there by about 5:30 or before 6:00 p.m. for sure. To insure that there will be sufficient staff and availability of favored menu items, they would like our members to call in a week ahead of time with their tentative reservation and what they would like to eat. This means advance planning, and once we reach critical mass from club members dining at the Bistro, the process may become easier. So keep an eye out for the menu and contact information coming your way a week before the meeting.

As all goes according to plan, we'll be meeting in person on 8 February for an auction, and then again on Zoom on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with **Stevan Cady** for a presentation of the first 30 years of the Wilksburg Souvenir Sheets. Until then. **Ed. ☒**

**←Veranda Pg.-1** remaining frames temporarily in a free facility, Lou's garage. This savings in rental fees will save PSLC a great deal of money. This meeting will be an auction, the first of three, I believe this year during our in-person sessions. Please be sure to read the auction directions to maximize both your sales and winnings. **🍏 CJDi**

Below is an interesting cover that **Mike Bach** will discuss with us next time.



## Ave et Vale

Mary Husson

Mary passed away in August, and as she joined the club in 1989, she left as one of the most tenured members of PSLC. Stamp collecting was in the family, or she married into this. She was the wife of Fred Husson who was the brother of another long-serving club member, Marilyn Shirley, one who held just about every office in the club during her many years with us. Mary helped Marilyn and her family every August as the latter hosted the club's picnic at their home. Marilyn's son, Mike Shirley, Mary's nephew, shared that his mom and aunt collected and traded stamps almost every week together for as long as he could remember. "They just enjoyed it so much, stamps and their lifelong friendship."

When nighttime driving became difficult, Mary cut back on some of her activities, but when PSLC changed their meeting venue in January of 2019 to Landis Homes in Lititz, Mary was back with us, as our sessions were held in her building! She noted, "I felt like I never missed a thing. It was so much fun getting back together with the presentations and auctions and all, and especially seeing many of my collecting friends again." Then Covid-19 changed things, with necessary isolation and the suspension of our meetings in March 2020. But even here, Mary enjoyed the newsletter that kept her up-to-date, and she expressed this to us. No matter what one believes, it is hard to imagine that Mary Husson, Marilyn Shirley, and Truyc Greiner haven't already started a Heavenly Stamp Club. And with Roy Baardsen there awaiting them, I'm sure that they will be seated at the best table.

## Literature Awards

Club president **Dr. Charles J. DiComo, Ph.D.** just received two Vermeil awards at the 2023 Sarasota National Stamp Expo & Writers Unit 30 for articles published in philatelic journals during 2022. These winning articles are listed below.

*H. H. Warner & Co. "Safe Remedies" Major Double Transfer of Central Vignette on 6¢ Medicine Stamp, RS258dt, which appeared in The American Revenuer, Second Quarter 2022 (Vol. 75, No. 2), pp. 59-61. Also....*

*A One-Day Wonder: Name of post office on Long Island became Jones Beach for a single day in 1932. This appeared in The Excelsior! October 2022, Whole No. 36/New Series, pp. 3-6.*

Both articles are available on the PSLC website for anyone interested in reading them. Further, there are others of his articles and presentations on his web Spotlight page.



## Captain Tim and the Ivory Stamp Club Album

I've heard other collectors utter the same thought: "In my free time, it would be fun to get an old worldwide album, a simplified one and fill it with all my extra (and simplified) WW stamps." At the club auctions I've obtained a few albums that would do very nicely. And I have also considered a Captain Tim's Ivory Stamp Club Album, given its visual appeal, interesting presentation, and place in philately during the Great Depression.

These albums are plentiful and inexpensive, and they offer a wide range of countries. However, upon close inspection, and even in the best copies I have seen, the pages are too thin, too brittle, and too brown, and they would not sustain the addition of many stamps without the pages breaking or separating from the album itself.

In going through these albums, it is sad to see, in a few cases that the stamps have been pasted in place, as seen in one of my better albums (below). This will not be my retirement stamp album of the future.



These albums have an interesting history, as they were important items in the middle of The Great Depression, when stamp collecting played such an important role in boosting the morale of America's citizens.

To get the show going, Proctor & Gamble (P&G) approached H.E. Harris, and The Ivory Stamp Club was formed. P&G was the producer and sponsor, especially promoting their product, Ivory Soap, still in demand today. Harris supplied the stamps.

There were a few countries I never heard about, and one I looked up, Epirus. A review of this in Wikipedia and Scott's Classic (2019) shows that this 'country' on the Adriatic had a long and checkered past that would necessarily result in some interesting postal history if one could keep up with it.

The H.E. Harris Co. of Boston published the albums in 1934 and 1935. Harris was becoming a large and successful album and stamp approval service of the era, many saying that it was the largest stamp company in the world. Having gone through a few iterations since Harris's death in 1977, the albums continue to be published under the

Harris name through Whitman Publishing. There is a good range of products starting with inexpensive albums for children.

The Ivory Stamp Club Album contains room for about 4,000 stamps and is about 40 percent illustrated. There appears to be over 400 countries represented (I did not count.). For some countries there are spaces for only an issue or two: *i.e.* Heligoland, Seychelles, and Sarawak.

In the front of the album are some stories about stamps with interesting histories or stamp subjects. There is the "Welcome to the club" information..., ordering instructions for the packets, and a list of some advantages of using Ivory Soap.

In the back of the album is a thorough country index along with stamp collecting basics from hinging to forming a club. The inside back cover contains short bios and comments from eight 'Famous Collectors' including FDR and King George V.

The Proctor & Gamble Corp continues to be well-known for their household and cleaning products, among others. In 1934 they began The Ivory Stamp Club of the Air where the album played a big part. The radio host was Captain Tim Healy, a former officer in the ANZACs during WWI. He had a splendid career with a specialty in intelligence and counter-intelligence. But storytelling was what set him apart, especially his spy narratives. And as a stamp collector, he was the perfect fit for P&G's radio show.

One story that I remember hearing about is how Captain Tim uncovered an enemy spy ring around a naval base. The foreign spies placed the stamps in different positions on the outgoing covers to indicate how many ships left the port, the kind of ships, and the formation as well. The postmark served as the date of their intelligence report. As a stamp collector, Captain Tim knew something about this scheme and caught them all.

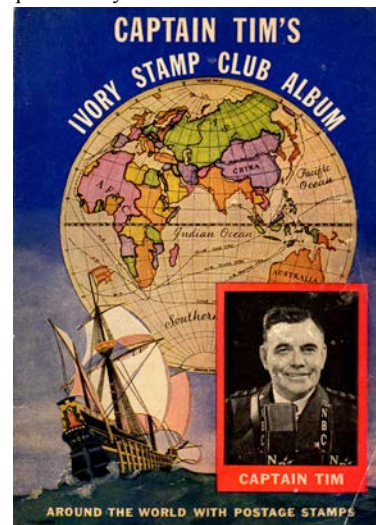
The way the club worked was that customers would send in their membership application to Proctor & Gamble along with two Ivory Soap wrappers, the proof of purchase, and 10¢. Upon acceptance, the new members received the album (132 pages), an ID badge, some hinges, and a few starter stamps. They were ready to go.

As they listened to the radio show they learned about history, WWI, geography, philately, and cleanliness, especially that obtained by using Ivory Soap. This was all through the voice of a great storyteller, Captain Tim.

With The Great Depression, a stamp-collecting president (FDR), and some free

time, stamp collecting really grew. Stamps were available from envelopes in businesses, banks, and other source mailrooms, and the staffers were usually pleased to provide these to collectors, especially the kids that hung around.

What P&G and Harris provided were the mentorship, guidance, and motivation to those in the club. They could all become stamp collectors with only a little bit of capital outlay.



Once in the club, the new members had the opportunities to purchase any number of country stamp packets (n=122 countries). There were 5¢, 10¢, and 20¢ varieties, and each order required an Ivory Soap wrapper. Prices were on a sliding scale. The nickel version packets contained from one or two to a dozen stamps, and the number of stamps increased with the price. This was a win, win, win situation for the P&G and Harris entrepreneurs, and new collectors.

The address for all correspondence was to P&G in Cincinnati. The H.E. Harris Co. and Boston were mentioned little, other than the listing in small print as publisher of the album. But at the end of the album were a few pages of H.E. Harris Co. stamp products such as advanced albums, bundles, large packets, and some supplies. Is it speculation to assume that all transactions, stamp sales, and postmarks were all done in Cincinnati by P&G personnel?

The 15-minute radio show was broadcast three times a week at 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. Eastern Time. By the last broadcast in 1936, there were 2.5M club members. It is estimated that 40M stamps were distributed. P&G thrived and helped to launch the H.E. Harris Co. to become one of the best stamp companies. Ed. ☒