

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the American Philatelic Society

American Topical Association-Chapter 118

Mebsite: https://lcps-stamps.org

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

The Veranda Chronicles

This is it: fall, and the philatelic season is at its best. And it's just in time; I have returned from a long road trip filled with conferences and planning sessions, and I need a breather, as I am now co-leading the Gene Health Project as part of WellSpan's Precision Medicine Program. Here we are using the power of genetics and one's genome to promote their health. This has been my specialty, so I am glad to be back in it. It is so exciting, but it is also great to be back home and digging into my stamps and covers with my philatelic friends.

Yes, there is a lot going on this beautiful season. The day after my return I was pleased to attend the Capital City Philatelic Society (CCPS) Annual Stamp Show in Middletown, PA and engaged with several PSLC members and those from our affiliate clubs. I even found some new private die proprietaries for my research. For the "enquiring" philatelic mind, there is The Philatelic Gathering in West Chester coming up on October 21st and the Annual Sundman Lecture at the National Postal Museum in DC on November 2nd. Cheryl Ganz is the speaker and will address the U.S. Zeppelin postage stamps. There will be stamp shows in Lancaster on October 29th and in Reading on November 4th. If you haven't yet seen Kevin Kellman's stamp mobile, plan on visiting the Lancaster show.

As you see in this newsletter, the PSLC calendar is loaded. We have Mike Bach (UK Airmail) and Rick Barrett (Smokey the Bear) back with us this month, and Scott Ney (German Hyperinflation) and I (Early Perforations) take the stage in November. Paul is working on the December Luncheon/Dinner (More on this later) for December 13th and Mike Wilson returns on December 27th (Advertising Covers) via Zoom to round out the year. 2024 programming is starting to take shape.

Who knows, but I might need a break from philately by the time January rolls around, to spend more time at work. Hope you are enjoying this beautiful fall season with well-being in every way. The holiday season will soon be upon us; yes, I love this season. – Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Upcoming Programs



UK Inland Airmail: 1933-1943

By Mike Bach
Wednesday, 11 October 2023 at Landis Homes

This presentation depicts the story of the start of domestic airmail within the United Kingdom. In 1933 Imperial Airways (now British Airways) carried a substantial amount of mail around the world; however, zero was carried by air domestically even though there were many airlines throughout the United Kingdom. Why you may ask? The answer is the railways. However, it was to a railway company, The Great Western Railway Company specifically, to whom the Post Office turned to in 1933 start the first air letter service. After that there was a scramble, with entities sanctioned and (mostly) non-sanctioned by His Majesty's Postmaster General to imitate this service. There were many failures, but ultimately many successes. All the stamps on the covers being shown are termed as "Cinderellas" even though some were sanctioned by the Post Office. Most Mike will show us are fairly common, but others are extremely rare.



Only You Can Collect Smokey Bear

By Rick Barrett
Wednesday, 25 October 2023 6:30 p.m. Zoom meeting

Yes, Rick Barrett is back once more with another great collecting story, a fun philatelic talk merging postal history, the U.S. Forestry Association, his promotional Cinderella stamps, and the story of Smokey Bear all in one! An engaging storyteller and PSLC member, Rick will share his love for all three with us, while showing gems from the collection he has put together over the last 55 years. Be sure to enjoy another fast paced, eye-catching presentation of his, called "Only You Can Collect Smokey Bear". '

PSLC Calendar

Descriptions for many of these programs are found on the PSLC website

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

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

8 November: Development of Perforations in the U.S. by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co.:

1855-57. Dr. DiComo

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

Scott Nev

13 December: December Dinner. Venue & time TBA

27 December: Advertising Covers with Interesting Philatelic Features. Mike Wilson

10 January 2024: PSLC Auction

14 February 2024: Future Glimpses of the Hobby – Nick Carter Award. Scott English

13 March 2024: U.S. Earthquakes (Not) on Stamps. Ron Sternberg

24 April 2024: Radio Reception Verification Labels. Ron Breznay

12 June 2024: PSLC Auction

14 August 2024: PSLC Picnic – Memorial Park, Millersville

11 September 2024: PSLC Auction

23 October 2024: Greenland Ghost Stories on Stamps. Ron Breznay

11 December 2024: December Dinner. Venue and Time TBA

Regional Stamp Shows



October 29: Lancaster Stamp Show being held on Sunday from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Farm & Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Affiliated Dealers: K2 Stamp Mobile (K2 Stamps & Collectibles), George Papandreou, Doug McCullough, Frank Soder, Papatella's Stamps, Lesley Botte, Hugh Clark, Jack Houser, Bill Snyder & Jack Zerby. 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

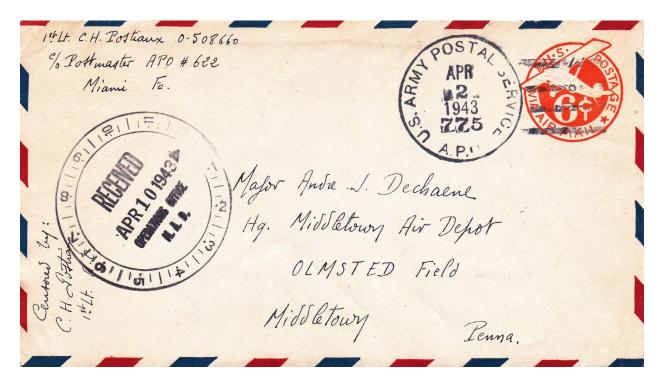


November 4: **Reading Stamp Collectors Club 22nd Annual Stamp Show**. Place: the Leesport Farmer's Market, Center Court Meeting Room, 312 Germant's Church Road, Leesport, PA 19533. Free Parking, Free Admission, Saturday, from 10 AM to 4:30 PM. For more information, contact Mike Bach at mbach1@comcast.net or leave a message at +1 (610) 937-2826

The Pilot and the Countess

By Tom McCormick

It is hard to imagine that this single wartime cover has led to a tale of drama and romance, worthy of Hollywood. But that is why I enjoy keeping my eye out for military postal history.



This cover came to my attention because it was addressed to "Olmsted Field," in Middletown, Pennsylvania, the town where I live. The envelope was in great shape for its age (80 years), the

postal markings were very clear, and it was hard to pass up with the offered rate of \$10. Unfortunately, there was no letter enclosed, so the subject matter remains a mystery.

The postmark shows that the cover entered the military postal channels at APO 775 (Marrakesh, French Morocco) in April 1943, six months after the Allied Invasion of North Africa. What caught my eye was that the sender, 1st L.T. C.H. Postiaux, did not indicate a military unit in his return address, but directed return correspondence for general delivery to the postmaster of APO 622 (Dakar, Senegal). This suggested to me that L.T. Postiaux was a military pilot who would transit frequently through the airfield at Dakar, and just happened to be in Marrakesh when he posted the letter. My father was a B-24 pilot in WW2 and I often heard how his bomber group flew from Nebraska to North Africa by the South Atlantic Route through South America. Both Dakar and Marrakesh were common refueling stops.

Morrison Field
West Palm Beach, FL
Marrakech
Prench Morocco

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

Belem
Brazil

SOUTH AMERICA

Natal
Brazil

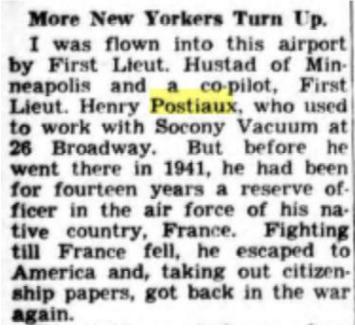
Map of South Atlantic Route. (Google Images – 392nd Bomb Group website)

I also noted that this letter had both a sender and a recipient with distinctly French sounding surnames. Under U.S. federal law, all commissioned officers must be U.S. citizens and L.T. Postiaux provided his U.S. officer ID number on his return address, so it is safe to assume both were U.S. Air Corps Officers.

Now I wanted to see what I could find out about the individuals identified on the cover. Here is a story I pieced together about L.T. C. H. Postiaux.

A news story posted in Aug 1943 from an airfield in Tunisia, by War Correspondent Gault MacGowan, revealed that an American pilot, "Henry Postiaux," who had flown him into the

warzone, had, in fact, served in combat with the French Air Force prior to relocation to the United States.



Extract from Aug 24, 1943 New York Sun (SOCONY stands for Standard Oil Company of New York. They acquired Vacuum Oil, a large oil company specializing in lubricants.)

Using information from this article that Henri was a resident of New York, I found his WW2 draft registration card.

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Draft Registration Card, Camille Henri Postiaux, Feb 15, 1942. (Ancestry.com)

Now I was convinced that the Henry mentioned as co-pilot in Gault MacGowan's column and the sender of my cover was, indeed, the same person. But the draft card also drew my attention to the name normally associated with next of kin – Countess Ostrowska. Since she shared the same street address, I thought she might be the owner of the building. I soon discovered that there was much more to this story.

Henri was born in 1905 in the northern French village of Onnaing, situated just a few miles from the Belgian border. In 1925, he received a degree in mechanical engineering from a prestigious Engineering School in Paris. In 1926, he joined the French Army as part of compulsory military service. During this service, he received a commission as an officer and learned to fly aircraft with the French Army Air Corps. Later, while remaining in the French reserves, he took a civilian position as an engineer with Air France and was based in Damascus, Syria, supporting the airline's Southeast Asia routes. In subsequent years, he took a position with SOCONY (Standard Oil Company of New York)-Vacuum, based in Lisbon, Portugal, where he managed the distribution of aviation resources for West Africa. In September 1939, his native country called him to active service and he was assigned as an instructor in an Air Corps Bombardment School until the German invasion of France in 1940. He saw six weeks of combat missions prior to being selected to fly the Commander of the French Air Forces to North Africa. Less than five days after his arrival in Morocco, France capitulated to Germany. Under orders of the occupiers, no French male citizen between ages of 18-45, to include demobilized service members, was allowed to leave the country, and that included Morocco.

The Countess Christine Ostrowski was born in Podolia, Poland, in 1910, the daughter of Count Gustave Ostrowski. In 1930, she married Baron Pierre Coche, an attaché assigned to the French Embassy in Poland. She relocated to Paris, but was divorced from the baron in 1933. She was very active in Paris society throughout the 30s, but was visiting her family in Poland in 1939 when Germany invaded. She managed to escape to Paris with a group of neutral diplomats just prior to the closing of the borders. She later fled to Morocco, awaiting United States clearance to join her brother, Count Stefan Ostrowski, a former official with the Polish Consulate in Chicago.

Christine and Henri had apparently been introduced in Paris at a social event and met again in Casablanca in the summer of 1940. Christine's temporary visa was approved in October and Henri was able to use his New York-based SOCONY contacts to secure his entry visa in December. In early January, under the pretext of the need to travel to Lisbon to rejoin his job with SOCONY, he departed Morocco, apparently with Christine as his traveling companion. Henri's pre-war Portuguese bank account proved useful in securing stealth transport to the Spanish port of Vigo and enabled them to board the S.S. Magallanes bound for New York.

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Manifest of the Magallanes, January 1941. (Ancestry.com)

In Manhattan, Henri was hired by SOCONY and took a flat which he shared with the Countess. It wasn't long before this 35-year old former pilot, with extensive knowledge and contacts in West Africa, came to the attention of the U.S. military. By 1941, the U.S. was actively sending Lend-Lease aircraft to the Allies in Europe and using West African airfields via the South Atlantic Route. By law, U.S. military officers had to be US citizens. Henri enlisted in August 1942 and in December 1942, a few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was granted U.S. citizenship and appointed as an Army Air Corps lieutenant. He was shipped overseas to West Africa and later assigned as a ferry pilot, moving aircraft into and out of theater.

While Henri was overseas serving his new country, Christine and her brother, Count Ostrowski, were on a public tour around the U.S., giving a first-hand account of the German invasion of Poland. When not traveling, Christine easily fit into society life in New York City. By the summer of 1944, Henri's time overseas was complete and he was reassigned to a newly-created air transport command located in Nashville. Once settled, he traveled to New York, married his countess, and both returned to Nashville as a happy military family.



Capt. and Mrs. Henri Postiaux, pictured at their apartment in Royal Oaks, are cosopolitan new additions to Nashville's Army group. Captain Postiaux, a naturalized merican citizen who was a member of the French Army before the fall of France, is ationed at Berry Field. His wife is the former Countess Christine Ostrowska of Poblia, Poland.

The Tennessean, Sunday, June 11, 1944 p. 31. (Newspapers.com)

If this were a movie, it would be time for the sun to be setting over Nashville and the credits to be rolling on the screen. Unfortunately, this story doesn't end so well for the pilot. The war ends in 1945 and Henri and Christine move back to New York City, where he is rehired by SOCONY. They are soon divorced and Christine becomes Mrs. Pierre Haas by January 1946. This marriage to a wealthy Swiss businessman and heir to a family fortune gives Christine access to the life she was always destined to lead. While this marriage doesn't last long either, newspaper accounts show her as the toast of Paris society, living in a villa on Majorca, and visiting South Florida on her yacht. As for Henri, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease in November 1945 and died alone in a VA hospital in June 1947. He is buried in a National Cemetery on Long Island.

MAJ. Ducheane, the recipient on my military cover, was born in Belgium and immigrated to the United States when he was nine years old. It is unlikely that he ever met Henri Postiaux prior to the war. I discovered several interesting stories from his full military career that put him at various times on the front pages of both local and national newspapers. However, since he wasn't married to a countess, it is probably best to save those stories for another time.

As I mentioned, I live in Middletown, which is not far from the Harrisburg International Airport. Middletown (more specifically the location of our current airport) was the site of Fort Meade during the Spanish American War and Olmsted Army Airfield during WW2. This has provided me with a new focus for my philatelic interests, that of military postal history, especially of South Central Pennsylvania. I find that the few clues I find on a cover enable me to piece together the personal stories behind the lives of the senders and recipients.

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE IAP SYMPOSIUM



The fifth symposium of the Institute for Analytical Philately (IAP) will convene virtually on October 10 and October 17.

The IAP will have all speakers deliver their papers online at a Zoom[©] webinar. This will allow us to admit more participants than if we held the meetings in person. There will be time for questions and answers as part of the webinar.

The symposium's first session will begin at 10 AM EDT on Tuesday, October 10, 2023. Five speakers will address attendees throughout the day, ending at about 3 PM. The second session will start at 10 AM a week later, October 17. Five speakers will present papers that day.

Most presentations will address aspects of color in philately. Topics will include the use of Raman micro spectrometry, color analyses of various stamps, results from video spectral comparator (VSC) analyses and more. While several presentations are technical in nature, most of them should be understandable for non-scientists.

The IAP is publishing the papers prior to the symposium to make them available to institute members and symposium attendees. Cost of the publication is \$20 to United States addresses, \$30 to foreign addresses, payable through PayPal or by check. Checks payable to "Institute for Analytical Philately" can be mailed to Bruce Marsden, IAP Treasurer, 6685 Cuttalossa Road, New Hope, PA 18938.

Information on registration is available on the IAP website, <u>www.analyticalphilately.org</u>. The symposium itself will be free.

The tentative speaker list is below, and questions can be submitted through our website.

Institute for Analytical Philately Fifth International Symposium Speaker Schedule October, 2023 All times Eastern Daylight Time (U.S.)

<u>Speaker</u>		<u>Paper Title</u>	October 10 Start Time
Kravitz	Mel	Raman Micro Spectrometry Determination of the Violet and Blue Ink Molecular Compounds Used in the Registry Hand Stamp Cancel of the U.S. Post Office in the Latter 19th Through the Middle 20th Centuries.	10:00 AM
Thompson	Anthony	Colour Analysis Using a Scanner for Newfoundland's 1939 Royal Visit Stamp Break	11:00 AM 12:00 PM
Judge	Richard	A Spectrographic Study of Three Issues Catalogued as Prussian Blue Errors	12:15 PM
Sampson	Russell D.	Colorimetric Analysis of Used Specimens of Canada Scott No. 223	1:00 PM
Hofmeyr	Jan	The Shades of the U.S. 1861 3¢	1:45 PM

<u>Speaker</u>		<u>Paper Title</u>	October 17 Start Time
Lam	Thomas	Color Analysis and Microfade Testing of the 1918 Curtiss Jenny U.S. Airmail Stamp	10:00 AM
Brinkley	Danny	Examination of 1851 3¢ Stamps from Plate 1 in its Early State	11:00 AM
		Break	12:00 PM
Thompson	Anthony	Analysis of Ink Bleeding in Newfoundland's 1939 Royal Visit Stamp – Unexpected Findings	12:15 PM
Hosseini	Majid	Identifying Wet-Print and Dry-Print Varieties of Ahmad Shah Qajar's 1911 - 1921 Issue: A Machine Learning Approach	1:15 PM
Ullom	William	Solving the Dilemma of Expertizing Postal Markings on Off-Cover Adhesives	2:15 PM

Club Member Anniversaries

Compiled by Tom Nichols

Here we recognize members who have joined in July since 1997. Congrats to all of the collectors listed below:

Name	Date Joined	Years
Robert Coradi	10/25/2020	3
Jacob Fehl, Jr.	10/12/2016	7
John Heitzmann	10/31/2012	11
Mark Jardel	10/10/2012	11
Daniel Martin	10/30/2018	5
Johnny Martin	10/30/2019	5
David Plunkett	10/25/2020	3
Bill Schultz	10/12/2016	7
Mark Schwartz	10/12/2016	7
Kerry Wetterstrom	10/08/2014	9
Eleanor Wheeler	02/19/2001	22

A Day at the Stamp Show

What a great day attending the Capital City Philatelic Society (CCPS) Annual Stamp Show in Middletown, PA.

Ran into many Philatelic Society of Lancaster County and affiliate stamp club members & friends who came from far & wide.

Also acquired a nice selection of U.S. Private Die Proprietary Revenues and associated ephemera. They will be getting water baths to remove the 160 years of crud, gum, adhesive, pencil marks, perf chads, hinges, etc., then a drying under light pressure between blotting paper overnight.

I've already spotted a few very nice double transfers, two scarce experimental silk paper varieties and two handstamp cancels I need for my calendar collection. – Dr. Charles J. DiComo



A few U.S. Private Die Proprietary Revenues acquired at the CCPS Stamp Show today!



Treasurer's Corner

Submitted by Lou DiFelice, PSLC Treasurer

PSLC Financial Report Sept 01-- Sept 30, 2023

Opening Balance on Sept 01 \$5386.63 Income: \$455.00 Expenses: \$726.00 Closing Balance on Sept 30 \$5115.63

2 CD's: \$6079.80

PSLC Officers

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President
Dr. Charles J. DiComo	John Hostetter	Bill Greiner III
914-450-3791	717-394-9626	717-471-2354
charlesdicomo@gmail.com	jhostetterjr@gmail.com	sunfighter@verizon.net
Secretary	Treasurer	Publicity
David Weichert	Lou DiFelice	Len Kasper
717-342-3120	717-572-3419	717-723-1864
stampsbydave@gmail.com	loudifelice@gmail.com	hotrodparts33@aol.com
Membership Chair	Program Manager	Website Coordinator
Wayne Heim	Paul Petersen	Dr. Charles J DiComo
717-725-7192	717-299-5640	914-450-3791
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Newsletter Editor	APS Rep	ATA Rep
Scott Ney	Paul Petersen	Paul Petersen
717-383-1736	717-299-5640	717-299-5640
stnst2@aol.com	pcpetersen@comcast.net	pcpetersen@comcast.net





The PSLC is honored to be selected a winner of the 2022 APS Star Route Awards for our website. The Society website (leps-stamps.org) is our virtual presence; where all can access current and past issues of our award-winning PSLC Newsletter; in addition to useful philatelic links, exhibits, presentations, useful resources, affiliates, member spotlight, regional stamp shows, history and awards, etc., with links to our PSLC YouTube Channel and Facebook page.

General Information

Visitors are Always Welcome!

PSLC dues are \$10.00 a year. For existing members who want to renew their membership for 1 or more years, and/or make a donation to support our Society activities and programs, you can use PayPal-Friends by remitting payment to President Charles J. DiComo, PhD at charlesdicomo@gmail.com and denote in Notes section the reason for payment, your name, and how many years you are paying. Venmo can also be used @charlesdicomo. For new members, please mail/email your Membership Application along with a check or money order to Treasurer, Lou DiFelice.

We meet in-person on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (Except August & December) at 6:30 p.m. in the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17542. See our website for directions.

We meet virtually on the 4th Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. For society information and meeting links, contact Paul Petersen (pcpetersen@comcast.net).

Visit us YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@philatelicsocietyoflancast7393/videos

Visit us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/philatelicsocietylancastercounty

Our mailing address is: PO Box 6053, Lancaster, PA 17607

Hello Stamp Collecting Friends, and warm fall wishes from PSLC Membership!

As the temperature cools, and we see the leaves changing color around us, we are reminded that it is time, once again, to renew PSLC memberships for the upcoming year, or beyond, if you so choose. Dues will remain at \$10 for yet another year. That is less than 84 cents per month. As Dr. DiComo has said numerous times: "Where can you find a better deal!?"

Please submit your dues at your earliest convenience to help us avoid unnecessary paperwork. And, if for some reason you decide not to renew your membership, which we hope would not be the case, we would like to be made aware of that also. That would save us the time and energy of "badgering you" for delinquent dues.

There are multiple ways you can submit your renewal payment:

- You may renew <u>IN PERSON</u>: Submit a check (no cash) in the amount of \$10 payable to PSLC to me at the membership table when attending our monthly, in-person meeting. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at Landis Homes, 6:30 pm.
- 2. You may renew **BY MAIL**: **Print** and **complete** the **attached form** and **submit** it, with your **check** to Lou DiFelice, 1024 Woodridge Blvd., Lancaster, PA 17601-2251.
- You may renew <u>WITH PAYPAL</u> (Family and Friends): Directions for paying online can be found on the <u>Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Web site</u>, <u>Page 1</u>. Payment, along with any changes to your renewal (address, phone, email, etc.) should be sent to <u>charlesdicomo@gmail.com</u>.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request, as we look forward to twelve more months of interesting, entertaining, mind expanding philatelic presentations.

Sincerely,
Wayne Heim, Membership Chair heimwayne@gmail.com
Please clip this 2024 Dues Renewal Application, complete, and mail to Lou DiFelice, 1024 Woodridge Blvd, Lancaster, PA, 17601-2251 with \$10.00, Checks only, no cash. Be sure to sign your check. Thank you in advance.
Name:
Phone:
Email Address:
\Box Please check here if you do not require a new membership card. This action will save the club time and the cost of postage.
Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member:
ATA Member □ APS Member □
Make checks payable to Philatelic Society of Lancaster County. Please advise of any changes in address, phone/cell, email, or change in ATA/APS status.