



# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

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

**American Topical Association-Chapter 118**

**Website: <https://lcps-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



Fellow PSLC members, we are enjoying a wonderful week of warm weather as I write this during our Native-American Summer in South-Central PA. But as my great uncle said almost yearly, eating season will soon be upon us with Thanksgiving and Christmas, and then, after New Year's, we have to get back on the wagon. So let me encourage you to use the few remaining fair-weather opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and the blessings and exercise it brings.

Philatelically, this is the Golden Season of the year with so much going on, and the PSLC, as you know, is leading the pack with a host of excellent educational programs. This is further augmented with fall Sunday Stamp Shows in October and December in Lancaster, and there have been other local shows in the Capital Region, Reading, Allentown, and more. Further still, I want to encourage you to enlarge your horizons through The Philatelic Gathering (TPG). These monthly meetings are held at the Chester County Historical Society in West Chester, PA and have been the host of some of the most accomplished researchers and collectors in the hobby.

Just last month at TPG, there were two very informative postal history presentations. **Ron Majors** talked about the mail correspondence between Canada and the Confederacy during the U.S. Civil War. Canadian correspondence with the Union Soldiers was well handled by the USPOD. However, to correspond with those in the Southern States it was another issue altogether, and here the excitement included blockade-runners, Flag of Truce Mail, some risky hand-carried mail, and the use of a variety of express companies. Ron showed some fine examples of rare pieces of mail. **Lou Glasgow** discussed the use of the Zeppelin airships as propaganda tools. The creator of these, Ferdinand Zeppelin, was a German observer with the Union Army in the Civil War. The early use of his rigid airships started in 1908, carrying mail and passengers. Zeppelins briefly became a fixture of philatelic culture after a successful trans-Atlantic flight. Zeppelin designer and manager Hugo Eckner promoted The Third Reich as he bedazzled the attendees of both the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, The Century of Progress, and the 1936 Olympiad in Berlin. Philatelic Gathering information is on my website, and carpooling is sometimes available. Just let me know if you are interested in joining us!

As I wrap up this month's communique, I encourage you to take these monthly opportunities that are available to expand our knowledge, understanding, and collecting pleasure in our fine hobby. The more we learn about philately, the greater the enjoyment we may derive from it. Warm wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving Celebration! – Dr. Charles J. DiComo

## Upcoming Programs



### **The Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Company: 1855-1857**

By Dr. Charles J. DiComo.

8 November 2023

Dr. DiComo will revisit the events preceding the purchase of the perforating machine by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. (TCC); review the inventors of the rotary perforating machine and the rouletting trial period by TCC with Perkins, Bacon and Bemrose in England; the conversion to a perforator by TCC, and the issuance of perforated 3¢ stamps in February 1857. Research has determined that examples of the stamp with a vertical line that looks like it was made with a felt-tip marker, are in fact proofs utilized during the perforation trials. The proofs are also on a thinner

paper that distinguishes them from normal stamps. Dr. DiComo's never-ending research has been in progress for decades and is in tribute to his mentor, W. Wilson Hulme, who pioneered this area and passed along his database and unpublished research prior to his passing in 2007.



## The Peak of the Post-Great War Hyperinflation in Germany and Eastern Europe

By Scott Ney

22 November 2023

One hundred years ago this month saw the climax of the most infamous bout of hyperinflation to occur in modern history. Surprisingly, there were worse cases of inflation to come, sometimes after war (Hungary in the aftermath of World War II) and sometimes after major social and political upheaval (Eastern Europe after the fall of the USSR).

The stamps that document the post-Great War inflation in Germany are very common; but one aim of this presentation is to demonstrate, with the help of readily available resources, that they are very collectable as well. This presentation also aims to show how numismatic and other non-philatelic contexts can provide collectors with a deeper understanding of the time in which they were issued.

## PSLC Calendar

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

**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 Ney

**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. Rob 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

**27 November 2024:** Captain Tim. Rick Barrett

**11 December 2024:** December Dinner. Venue and Time TBA

**2023 Lancaster Stamp Shows:** These are held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. The final show of the year will be held on 15-16 December.

**PSLC Meeting Winter Weather Alert:** In the case of threatening or inclement weather on the evening of any of our in-person meetings at Landis Homes (on the second Wednesday of the month), the PSLC Executive Committee will make a decision whether to hold or cancel the meeting. If the meeting is cancelled they will let **Paul Petersen** know, and he will send an email advising members of the cancellation. If you still have any questions on meeting night, please feel free to call Paul at 717-299-5640.

## **S. Allan Taylor** **“The Prince of Forgers”**

*By Stanley E. Jones and Paul Petersen  
BVSC#35 and the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County*

Samuel Allan Taylor (1838-1913) was a master philatelic forger and was possibly the most colorful figure in philatelic history [1]. He was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and immigrated to New York at the age of twelve. He subsequently moved to Montreal, Canada, where he began his philatelic career. It is rumored that he once said that “Stamp collectors are fools and stamp dealers are knaves.” Perhaps, he said this to justify his activities as a philatelic forger. It is also rumored that many of his forgeries are better than the originals from which they were copied. It is certainly true that it often takes an expert to tell the difference. A very comprehensive report on the life of Taylor may be found at the link associated with reference #2 below. This is a

slideshow of highlights in Taylor's life and work, and mentions his many legal troubles that began at the age of eighteen.

According to Springer [1], Taylor eloped with a fifteen year-old girl and moved from Canada to Albany, NY, where he continued his philatelic career. His philatelic career wasn't just a series of nefarious philatelic activities. Taylor started the first North American stamp journal, "The Stamp Collector's Record." This must be regarded as a service to the philatelic community. He was also a stamp dealer, although that must be regarded with suspicion because he had contempt for stamp dealers and probably used his business to market his own products.

Taylor's products were wide ranging. According to Springer [1], he counterfeited all kinds of stamps, but was especially noted for U.S. Local Stamps. His forgeries were often better than the originals, which left collectors in a quandary. Soon, Taylor expanded his activities to include the creation of his own bogus stamps. The stamp shown in Figure 1. is a B.N.A. Fantasy Stamp produced by Taylor from a design credited to an associate, John Appleton Nutter [2].



Figure 1. *A Fantasy Stamp Design Credited to John Appleton Nutter, a Montreal Stamp Dealer, and counterfeited by S. Allan Taylor.*

Taylor also created stamps for other dealers to sell. Springer [1] notes a stamp that Taylor created for J.M. Chute, a contemporary stamp dealer in Boston, MA (Figure 2).



Figure 2. *A Stamp Created by S. Allan Taylor for J.M. Chute, a stamp dealer in Boston, MA. (Springer [1], p. 29).*



Taylor's versatility and ability to create new stamp varieties is legendary. There was even a society established called the SA Taylor Society to study his work. This society is no longer in existence, but it shows the interest and admiration that some collectors had for his extensive work. Taylor even produced a stamp with his own portrait in the vignette under the fictitious company heading "KERS CITY POST" [2].

It is Taylor who is largely responsible for most of the uncertainty in U.S. Local collecting. Co-author Stanley Jones [4] describes an interaction with an older collector, who described collecting U.S. Local issues as "skipping in a minefield." This is not an exaggeration. This collecting interest is replete with forgeries, counterfeits, and frauds. It is a shame that it is this way, because the stamps, themselves, are some of the most exciting and interesting items that the hobby has to offer. However, the hazards of this collecting interest have driven many sober collectors away from the area. Mr. Jones has a very modest collection of local stamps. It consists of one stock-book page, of no more than twenty-five stamps. Most of them are common and not worth counterfeiting. However, even in this small accumulation, three frauds and two reprints have been found. Two of these are the stamps pictured in Figures 1 and 2, and a third is the subject of an earlier article [4]. That is an astonishing percentage. Certainly, if we were betting, the odds would be against us. What makes this even more frustrating is the book values of many of these local stamps. To call U.S. Local book values "pricey" does not do justice to the scarcity of many of these stamps. A genuine copy always commands a high market value. However, the emphasis must be placed on the word genuine. There are so many high-priced stamps that may not qualify as genuine that a premium must be placed on those that pass the test.

We conclude this article with some final comments regarding Samuel Allan Taylor and his work. The volume and variety of Taylor's work is immense. He was absolutely prolific in his designs and their output. He forged stamps, invented companies, and produced an almost uncountable variety of colors and stamp variations. He felt that he was completely justified in this enterprise. A comment that he is said to have made offers this excuse: "If the fools were willing to pay money for bits of paper, why shouldn't he supply them?" (Springer, p. 24). Sherwood Springer is one of the Taylor experts who has pushed for an effort to catalog all of Taylor's work [2]. This work continues, and it is virtually impossible to assemble a complete collection of Taylor's stamps.

#### References:

1. Sherwood Springer, "Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps, ninth edition," 1980.
2. <https://www.pennypost.org/pdf/farrell/Taylor2018Presentation.pdf>
3. Sherwood Springer, "Springer's Catalog of U.S.A. Taxpays, B.N.A. Fantasies, and M.&M. Facsimiles, second ed., 1963.
4. Stanley E. Jones, "The New Jersey Express Company," to appear in *The First State Philatelist*.



## Crash Cover

*By Dave Silcox*

I have always enjoyed collecting postal history. Going back to the late 1960's, I acquired an interest in stampless covers looking for specific content relating to mining, railroad, and canal history. I branched out as the years passed by, expanding my interest from the anthracite coal region to Berks County, Pa. where I have lived for many years. In addition to just stampless covers, my interest expanded into later covers.

While in Italy last month, I discovered a crash cover from a United Airlines accident that I never knew occurred. It was a fantastic discovery for a local history buff like me.

The crash cover is from a United Airlines Flight 624, a Douglas DC-6 airliner that was a scheduled passenger flight from San Diego, CA to New York City. The four-engine, propeller-driven airplane crashed at 1:41 pm Eastern Daylight Time on June 17, 1948, outside of Aristes, Columbia County, Pennsylvania, resulting in the deaths of all four crew members and thirty nine passengers!

The cover shown above was recovered from that accident and certified by a postal officer from the Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pa. post office. Looking at the image, one can read the cancellation date and see the enclosed contents.

Flight 624 from San Diego had just completed a routine initial descent as part of its approach into the New York area, when the forward cargo hold fire indicator light illuminated, leading the flight crew to believe a fire was in that cargo hold. Although this later turned out to be a false alarm, the crew decided to discharge CO<sub>2</sub> bottles into the forward cargo hold, in an attempt to extinguish the possible fire.

While proper operating procedure called for opening the cabin pressure relief valves prior to discharging the CO<sub>2</sub> bottles, to allow for venting of the CO<sub>2</sub> gas buildup in the cabin and cockpit, no evidence was found of the crew opening the relief valves. Consequently, the released CO<sub>2</sub> gas seeped back into the cockpit from the front cargo hold and, apparently, partially incapacitated the flight crew. The crew then put the aircraft into an emergency descent, and as it descended lower, it hit a high-voltage power line. The aircraft burst into flames, then smashed through the trees on a wooded hillside.

A Civil Aeronautics Board investigation found that the concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced the pilots to a state of confused consciousness, probably leading to loss of consciousness.

Among the plane's passengers were Broadway theatre impresario Earl Carroll and his girlfriend, actress Beryl Wallace, Henry L. Jackson, men's fashion editor of *Collier's Weekly* and co-founder of *Esquire*, and Parker W. Silzer, the only son of George S. Silzer, the late governor of New Jersey. Most of the identified victims were sent home to be interred, but the bodies of the unidentified passengers were interred locally in the Aristes/Mt. Carmel area.

Today, the site of the crash is private property.

## **Notes on the Future of Philately**

*Submitted by Richard Colberg*

*Editors Note: These are Dick's notes taken at the Zoom meeting of the Collectors Club of New York, on October 4, 2023. Almost 150 collectors were in attendance.*

At the October 4, 2023, meeting of the Collector's Club of New York, held via Zoom, a panel discussion was held on the topic of "The Future of Philately". The panel was moderated by club president Larry Haber. The panelists were Matthew Kewriga of Kewriga Auction (USA), Victoria Lajer of Stanley Gibbons (UK), and Jonas Hallström of Corinphila Auction (Zurich). It was noted that through the marvel of Zoom the three panelists could appear at the same meeting and not have to travel to do so.

The first half of the meeting was taken up by the panelists responding to specific questions posed by the moderator. The second half of the meeting was a discussion of what the panelists thought philately would look like in ten years, 2033.

It was universally agreed that COVID-19 has changed the hobby forever. Because of the universal lockdown, many past and current stamp collectors now had time to devote to philately. Old collections, some long dormant, were brought out of closets and rejuvenated. These collectors,



perhaps lost to philately forever, were now becoming active and will perhaps stay at it longer now. COVID-19 was good for the hobby!

Stamp shows are still important, but post-COVID, their numbers are down. Shows that, pre-COVID, were marginally viable, have disappeared from the scene.

Stamp dealers are aging and are not being replaced in like numbers. A dealer attendee at the meeting opined that the younger dealers entering the scene are different. They are more attuned to technology. They don't need the physical presence of stamp shows to conduct business. They do their business online.

The economics and demographics of stamp shows have changed. There are fewer: shows, dealers, collectors, and exhibitors. These four factors all affect the financial viability of stamp shows. Small stamp club shows have all but disappeared, mostly due to the declining number of exhibitors at these shows.

Bourse only events will not work. (Editorial note: There are numerous examples of bourse only events that DO work.) The panelists were divided on this issue. Some felt that there needed to be an exhibition and a bourse in combination in order to maximize the number of attendees. Equally important is the socialization factor. While most stamp collectors are introverts, many of them need the socialization that is available at stamp exhibits. While collecting stamps is usually a solitary activity, some collectors eventually have the need to show others what they've done. These collectors become exhibitors!

The following comments were in response to the question of what the hobby would look like in ten years:

Stamp exhibit judges are aging out. As they retire, and even die, they are not being replaced in like numbers. Attracting new, younger, judges is critical to the future of stamp exhibits.

Judging needs to be "modernized". That needed some explanation. What the panelist meant was that the judges needed to be more attuned to more recent (modern) stamps. Exhibiting is changing with the advent of more topicals and more recently issued stamps being exhibited.

There followed a discussion, still on the issue of looking ten years ahead, of the changing demographics of stamp collecting and exhibiting.

One panelist felt that exhibiting would become more "elitist". By this he did not mean in a snobbish way. He meant it in an intellectual way. Exhibitors would find new, unexplored, topics as well as, perhaps, more novel approaches to exhibiting them.

Stamp collectors as a group are aging rapidly. This is OK and blends nicely with the paragraph above.

Young collectors are entering the hobby later. This is good and should not be feared. These new collectors tend to be more mature and have more money to spend. One panelist felt that we should not spend a lot of time trying to lure the younger, 8 – 12 years old, youth into the hobby. Let them find their way in at a later age.

The number of collectors will be fewer, but they will be more involved. More will become exhibitors.

Collectors and their exhibits will be found in two tiers: traditional and newer issues. Traditional philately will be as we know it today; stamps, postal history, topicals, etc. Newer issues will be just that, very modern stamps, and probably less postal history.

This is an important issue and I am grateful to the Collectors' Club for giving it the air time. – Dick

## **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
Charles Anderson	11/21/2022	1
Donald Barron	11/28/2022	1
Stevan Cady	11/21/2020	3
Charles Deutsch	11/14/2018	5
Scott English	11/15/2016	7
Steve Korich	11/21/2022	1
Robert Kramer	11/12/2014	9
Jeff Levan	11/14/2018	5
Vernon Morris Jr. MD	11/15/2020	3
Thuan Pham	11/11/2015	8
James Stycharz	11/22/2020	3
Brian Wagner	11/13/2019	4

# Here are the answers to September's Stamp Quiz!

*Courtesy of George Hauber, Sr.*

## Stamp Quiz – **Answers**

Test your philatelic knowledge base and see if you can answer the following: (Circle one: a b c)



Sc#PH385

1. Where was this stamp first printed?  
a. at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C.  
b. at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in San Francisco, CA  
c. at the Philippine Bureau of Printing in Manila
2. The engraving was created from?  
a. a photograph of a Filipino lady working in the rice fields  
b. an itinerant artist's sketch of his sister **Your choice!**  
c. a live model in typical Filipino dress of the time
3. This stamp was entitled:  
a. Le Cou-ca-racha  
b. La Filipina  
c. Lady with a basket
4. How many varieties were printed?  
a. 12 variations  
b. 20 different over-prints  
c. 3 different colors
5. How many were printed?  
a. 500,000  
b. 3 million  
c. 7 million **Plus** (over a 10-yr span)
6. This postal rate was for?  
a. first-class letter  
b. airmail envelope  
c. small package



## PSLC Officers

<b>President</b> Dr. Charles J. DiComo 914-450-3791 charlesdicomo@gmail.com	<b>First Vice President</b> John Hostetter 717-394-9626 jhostetterjr@gmail.com	<b>Second Vice President</b> Bill Greiner III 717-471-2354 sunfighter@verizon.net
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## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. For society information and meeting links, contact Paul Petersen ([pcpetersen@comcast.net](mailto:pcpetersen@comcast.net)).

Visit us on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@philatelicsocietyoflancast7393>

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

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



The PSLC is honored to be selected a winner of the 2022 APS Star Route Awards for our website. The Society website ([lcp-stamps.org](https://lcp-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.

### **Reminder: the PSLC is collecting dues for 2024!**

Dues remain at \$10 for yet another year. That is less than 84 cents per month. Where can you find a better deal!?

Please submit your dues at your earliest convenience, to help us avoid unnecessary follow-up. If for some reason you decide not to renew your membership, which we sincerely hope would not be the case, we would like to be made aware of that also.

There are multiple ways you can submit your renewal payment:

1. You may renew **IN PERSON**: 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.
3. You may renew **WITH PAYPAL** (Family and Friends): Directions for paying online can be found on the **Philatelic Society of Lancaster County Web site, Page 1**. Payment, along with any changes to your renewal (address, phone, email, etc.) should be sent to [charlesdico@gmail.com](mailto:charlesdico@gmail.com).

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. If you have any questions, please contact membership chair Wayne Heim at [heimwayne@gmail.com](mailto:heimwayne@gmail.com)

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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.