



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>

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

4th Wednesday/Month-Meet Virtually at 6:15 p.m.



Dr. Charles DiComo

The Veranda Chronicles

What a season . . . as I write this column a week ahead of our March meeting, the outdoor temperature is in the mid-60s, and I have already seen ten-inch daffodils in bloom. While they are beautiful to behold, I worry about a freeze. If one comes, I'm back inside with my stamps.

It was great to have Mr. Scott English, the Executive director of the American Philatelic Society, address our meeting last month. His words were both informative and encouraging, and if you were unable to attend, I urge you to [check out the slides](#) from his presentation to us on our award-winning website. There is so much in this hobby to enjoy, and we need to do all we can to keep it going for those who follow us, so that they may experience the same learning and enjoyment that we have had from philately.

One way that PSLC is working on this is through our 2024 Open House and One-Page Exhibition Night on November 13th. More information about the Open House will be forthcoming. We'll each have a part in this!

I was invited to do a program for the February 24th Philatelic Gathering held at the Chester County Historical Center. The program was entitled "*Who needs a doctor: This elixir will do!*" *A primer on U.S. revenue private die proprietary medicine stamps and nostrums.*" The Philatelic Gathering are great monthly sessions, and I encourage you to visit us. After the wonderful car-ride into Chester County, there is lots of philately and learning. After the philately, please join the rest of us for lunch at a nearby watering hole. The [.pdf slides](#) of my presentation are found on the Affiliate Page of the PSLC website under The Philatelic Gathering. A week after my presentation to the Gathering, I was honored to give the same talk, this one online to the Netherlands Collectors Society in Holland.

The philatelic season is here, though many would argue that philately is always in season. Start by saving the date for the two-day K² Lancaster Stamp Show on Friday/Saturday, April 19th-20th at the Farm & Home Center. If needed the directions to this venue are posted on the Home Page of our website. On May 4th is Delpex in New Castle, DE. The directions and tentative list of dealers is also on the [website](#). For the heartiest among us is APS's Great American Stamp Show on August 15th - 18th in Hartford, CT, only a 4¾ to 5¼ hour drive from Lancaster. It's one of the biggest shows in the country. Don't let this one pass you by. And then there is our Outdoor Bourse on Sunday, May 19th in Millersville. It's going to be a very busy season!

This month at the PSLC, Rob Sternberg starts us off on the 13th with "U.S. Earthquakes (Not) on Stamps." While my depth and breadth in philately aren't too bad, I have to admit that this topic will be new to me. Then on the 27th Cemil Betanov will tell us about "EFOs on Newspaper Wrappers." Wrappers I understand, but I'm looking forward to learning about the errors on these postal items of days gone by.

Signing out for now to get back to work. See you the 13th. – Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Upcoming Programs



Pinterest

U.S. Earthquakes (Not) on Stamps By Rob Sternberg

13 March 2024 – Landis Homes, 6:30 p.m. Dick Shaefer, host

I have been collecting on the International Geophysical Year for about 20 years. I started my other topical collection on United States (or sometimes I say North American) earthquakes about five years ago, again appealing to my interests resulting from a career in geophysics. But, there is no U.S. stamp commemorating an earthquake! The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee issued this criterion for stamp topics in 2019: “The stamp program commemorates positive contributions to American life, history, culture and environment; therefore, negative occurrences and disasters will not be commemorated on U.S. postage stamps or stationery.”

So, the United States part of my collection consists of mostly postcards (RPPCs, picture postcards, and postal cards), a few covers and letters, and a couple of Cinderellas. I prefer postcards that were: mailed, with the stamp not removed; postmarked soon after the earthquake, from near the epicenter; including a message about the event; legible with clear markings, and in good condition. At last count, I have items from 19 identified (and a couple of unidentified) U.S. earthquakes, 9 of which were in California. I have about 275 items, with the most (125) from the 1906 San Francisco earthquakes, 50 from the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake, and 35 (mostly unposted, and showing the geographic impact of the earthquake) from the 1959 Hebgen Lake,

Montana, event. I will share some examples, including interesting messages that were included on some of the cards and letters.



EFOs on Newspaper Wrappers By Cemil Betanov

27 March 2024 – via Zoom

We all know that lots of things can go wrong during the production and use of stamps, creating the fascinating and fertile collecting area of Errors, Freaks & Oddities (EFOs). Generally, we tend to notice EFOs on stamps, but they also occur on postal stationery. Some of the EFO types found on postal stationery mirror those found on stamps, others are specific to postal stationery. Compared to a stamp, you can imagine that it is substantially more complicated to manufacture an envelope, with its complex shape before it is folded and its elaborate folding and tricky gumming processes. During his presentation, Cemil will present EFOs found on newspaper wrappers. For some of these errors, you will say “what were they thinking?” A good time is assured!

PSLC Calendar

Descriptions for many of these programs are currently found on the [PSLC website](#)

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

27 March 2024: EFOs on Newspaper Wrappers. Cemil Betanov

10 April 2024: Sweden Prestamp and Stampless Letter Postal Markings. Alan Warren.

24 April 2024: Radio Reception Verification Labels. Ron Breznay

08 May: Financing the War of 1812. Ron Leshner

12 May 2024: PSLC Outdoor Bourse, at Memorial Park in Millersville

22 May 2024: The Incredible Paris Bourse. Rick Barrett

12 June 2024: PSLC Auction

26 June 2024: Open

10 July 2024: Open

24 July 2024: The U.S. Virginia Dare Stamp. Mark Schwartz

14 August 2024: PSLC Picnic – Memorial Park, Millersville

28 August 2024: Open

11 September 2024: PSLC Auction

25 September 2024: The Civil War: A Postal System Divided. Trish Kaufmann

9 October 2024: Swiss Bundesfeier (National Holiday) Postcards 1910 – 1960 (with a little bit of Swiss History as an added bonus). Mike Bach

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

13 November 2024: PSLC One-Frame Open Exhibition. Members and Guests.

27 November: Captain Tim: The Stamp Man. Rick Barrett

11 December 2024: December Dinner. Venue and Time TBA

25 December: No meeting

2024 Lancaster Stamp Shows: These are held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601. The next show is scheduled for April 19 & 20, 2024. Scheduled to be on hand are Kevin Kellman's K2 Stamp Mobile, Doug McCullough, Frank Soeder, Papatella's Stamps, Lesley Botte, Hugh Clark, Jack Houser, Bill Snyder & Jack Zerby. Dealer info: 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 info, contact Kevin Kellman at k2stamps@gmail.com or +1 (301) 524-9562.

Chester County Philatelic Gathering: March 23 – A tour of U.S. Collecting Possibilities Based on Advertising Covers, by Mike Wilson, and Danish West Indies Postage and Revenues by Kean Spencer. For more information, visit <https://lcps-stamps.org/study-groups/>

A note of sincere thanks . . .

An extra special “Thank You” to American Philatelic Society Executive Director, Scott English, for bringing his show on the road and joining the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County at our February in-person meeting at Landis Homes in Lititz, PA.

Scott outlined what the APS and the hobby should be doing to reach the next generation. He focused on the expanded membership options, the launch of [StampEd](#), the new digital magazine aimed at young and non-traditional collectors, and the introduction of No Limit Learning, which aims at growing the APS online learning platform.

Scott presented the 2023 Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award to PSLC treasurer Lou DiFelice, in recognition of his many years of Local Service to our Society.

We are excited about the future of philately.

Dr. Charles J DiComo, PSLC President



An opportunity to exhibit at DELPEX

Our friends at the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club have invited us to participate in their Member Showcase at their [DELPEX show](#) on Saturday, May 4, 2024. The show is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located at the Nur Shrine Center, 198 South Dupont Parkway (U.S. Route 13 in New Castle, Delaware 19720). There are currently sixteen dealers booked to attend, and Dutch Country Auctions will be there as well:

DELPEX Show Stamp Dealers (and Table No.): 1. 10c Ryan-Ryan Terlecky; 2. Doug Iams; 3. Geezer's Tweezers-Philip Sager; 4. Engler Stamps-Brian Engler; 5. Papatella's Stamps-Mike Marino; 6 & 7. Dutch Country Auctions-Russell Eggert; 8. Albert's Stamps; 9. R.J. Marolda; 10. Eastern Shore Stamp Co.-Charlie Vaughn; 11. Robert C. Swed; 12. Hugh M. Clark Rare Stamps; 13. R.A. Houser Rare Stamps-Rick Houser, II; 14. Matalavage Stamps-Bill Matalavage; 15. L&R Stamps-Lesley Ann Botte; 16. Bob Heaton; 17. Frank G. Soeder; 19. Robert J. Loller.

To prepare your contribution for the Member's Showcase, the rules are:

1. One to six pages
2. Paper = 8.5 x 11, any kind, any color
(cardstock or cover stock is recommended because it is stiffer, but it is not required)
(you can even cut down old manila folders or album pages if you wish)
3. Design = any arrangement that you prefer
4. Text = any font, any size, any style, any amount; even handwritten
5. Your name on the back of every page (so we can get everything back to the correct person!)
6. Content = ANYTHING you would like
7. Pages [or a photocopy thereof] are due at the April 10 BVSC meeting, so that we can plan the layout of the exhibit frames.

Topic = these are SUGGESTIONS ONLY, you can choose ANYTHING you like!

§ Your favorite stamp

§ Your favorite cover

§ The oldest stamp(s) in your collection

§ Your most unusual stamp(s) or cover(s)

§ Something Delaware-related

We would like to have as many participants as possible!

Questions? Contact Greg Ajamian at 302-239-3631

The Precanceled Battleship Report:

The Antikamnia Chemical Company

By Stanley E. Jones, Brandywine Valley Stamp Club

Precanceled battleship collecting is one of the most interesting areas of revenue stamp collecting. There is an endless variety of proprietary drug cancels that offers many possibilities for specialization and collateral collections, such as medicine cards and advertising.

The Antikamnia Chemical Company of St. Louis, MO, employed one of the most distinct, elegant and readily identifiable precancels on the 5/8, 1 ¼, 2 ½, and 3 ¾ cent battleship proprietary revenue stamps (Scott numbers RB 23, 25, 28, 29). Chappell and Joyce [1] list six types of cancels on Battleship Revenues that were used by the Antikamnia Company.

Type 1 is a handstamp cancel used on 5/8 and 2 ½ cent battleships, illustrated by Figure 1. Something that makes this interesting is that the handstamp cancel is listed by Chappell and Joyce [1] as a type in their checklist. They have carefully avoided handstamp cancels in their listing, preferring instead to only list printed precancels; yet, here they have chosen to list the cancel in Figure 1 as a type.

The stamp in Figure 1 was an extraordinary find because it uses the rare stamp cancel employed on the provisional private die stamp shown in Figure 2. The Antikamnia Chemical Co. was forced to use 1898 Provisional Private Die Revenue Stamps to continue their business when the Battleship Revenues were not available. The stamps shown in Figure 2 are very rare. I have never seen any of them. Figure 2 was borrowed from the 2014 Scott Specialized Catalog. Notice the stamp cancel that was placed on the 2 ½ cent denomination provisional in Figure 2. It is the same stamp cancel that was used on the stamp in Figure 1.



Stanley Jones

Figure 1. Antikamnia Chemical Co., type 1 cancel used on RB 23. This is the same stamp cancel that was used on the rare Provisional Private Die Revenue Stamp shown in Figure 2 below.

Internal Revenue Tax, 2½c

Stamps not being obtainable at time of sale and shipment of this package, will be paid on sworn returns thereof to COLLECTOR of INTERNAL REVENUE, 1st District of Mo.

The Antikamnia Chemical Co.,
FRANK A. RUF, Pres. & Treas.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

The Antikamnia Chemical Co. —
RS320/RS321 — RS320

SPECIAL NOTICE !

"This is a free sample removed from the laboratory for gratuitous distribution. Any person selling or exposing for sale this sample, at any time, will be liable to all the pains and penalties of the law, denounced against persons selling or exposing for sale unstamped articles taxable under Schedule B, War Revenue Bill."

The Antikamnia Chemical Co.,
FRANK A. RUF, Pres. & Treas. ST. LOUIS, MO.

The Antikamnia Chemical Co. — RS323

1898	Antikamnia Chemical Co., St. Louis	Imperf.
RS320	¼c black, yellow	550.00
RS321	2½c black	175.00
RS323	no value black, yellow	350.00

No. RS323 was for use on free samples not subject to tax.

Figure 2. Very scarce Provisional Private Die Revenue Stamps used by the Antikamnia Chemical Co. This figure has been copied from the Scott Specialized Catalog.

Types 2-4, listed by Chappell and Joyce [1], are also handstamp cancels. These are very scarce, and I have never seen any of them. *Types 5 and 6* are the most familiar of the printed precancels. *Type 5* is the very ornate monogram with the month and year printed below in bold type or the month, day, and year printed below in bold type. *Type 5* precancels are shown Figures 3-5.



Stanley Jones

Figure 3. *Type 5* precancels on 1 ¼ cent Battleships. The month, day, and year appear in bold type below the monogram. This cancel appears on both rouletted 5 ½ and hyphen-hole perf 7 varieties of the stamp.



Stanley Jones

Figure 4. *Type 5* precancels on 2 ½ cent Battleships. The date appears below the monogram in bold type with two styles used, month and year on the first line. Month, day and year on the second line. These cancels appear on both rouletted 5 ½ and hyphen-hole perf 7 varieties of the stamp.



Stanley Jones

Figure 5. Type 5 precancels on 3 ¾ cent Battleships. Bold type date below the monogram. The cancel appears on both rouletted 5 ½ and hyphen-hole perf 7 varieties of the stamp.

Type 6 is very similar to Type 5 with smaller dates in serif type beneath the monogram, Figure 6. This cancel appears almost exclusively on the 3 ¾ cent proprietary stamp RB 29.



Stanley Jones

Figure 6. Type 6 precancels on 3 ¾ cent Battleships. The date appears below the monograph in a small serif type. This cancel largely appears on the 3 ¾ cent denomination and almost exclusively on hyphen-hole perf 7 stamps.

Chappell & Joyce [1] have cataloged every conceivable variety of these cancels. Not only do the dates provide a distinct category, but the positions of the hyphens between the numerical dates are also included as a distinct variety. This is a very thorough and comprehensive list of Antikamnia cancels that allows for extensive collecting of this company. This single company

could provide a collector with a lifetime of interest. The variations are inexhaustible, and it is virtually impossible to assemble a complete collection.

One of the methods that the Antikamnia Company used to advertise its products is complementary calendars. Two of these calendars are shown in Figures 7, 7a, and 8. The graphic art and design for these early calendars is remarkable.



Stanley Jones

Figure 7. The front of a 1906 calendar showing two young nuns advertising an Antikamnia Chemical Co. product.

WITH BEST WISHES **AK** FOR THE NEW YEAR

1906
CALENDAR

Antikamnia Tablets
OPPOSED TO PAIN

For Headaches, Neuralgias, Women's Aches and Pains

USEFUL PRESCRIPTIONS

COUGHS: (Habitual or Occasional)
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—One every four or five hours.

COLD-IN-THE-HEAD:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—One every four or five hours.

FACIAL NEURALGIA:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—One every two hours.

FLATULENCY OR COLIC:
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—One every four hours.

HEADACHES: (All kinds)
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—Two every three hours.

INDOMINAL NERVOUSNESS:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—Two or three times daily.

LA GRIFFE:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—Two every two or three hours.

MENTRUAL PAIN:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—One every two hours.

HEMICRANIAL MIGRAINE:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—One every two hours.

NEURALGIA: (All kinds)
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—Two every two hours.

PAIN: (No Matter Where)
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—Two every three hours.

RHEUMATIC PAIN:
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—One or two every two hours.

REDUCED (After Exercise):
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—Two every three hours.

UTERINE AND OVARIAN PAIN:
R. Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets.
Sig.—One every two hours.

SCIATICA NERVE PAIN:
R. Antikamnia Tablets.
Sig.—Two every two or three hours.

The name itself tells what "ANTI-KAMNIA TABLETS" are. Anti (Greek—Against), Kamnia (Greek—Pain). Put together we have "Antikamnia"—The word translated means "Opposed to Pain"—a ready-to-relieve pain and suffering—The Coxeter or Menopausal.

"The chief claim advanced in favor of 'Antikamnia Tablets' over all other remedies is that their use is not followed by unpleasant after-effects. In certainty, safety and promptness of action, no superior has been found. They are especially noted in relieving Acute Neuralgia, Facial Neuralgia, Muscular Pain, Women's Pains, Hemicranial, Migraine, Influenza, Grippe, Grippal Pains, Ischemia, etc.

For facial neuralgia or toothache, pain about the gums and teeth, and also for the pain following the extraction of a tooth, administer one tablet and fill the cavity with finely powdered "Antikamnia Tablets." Where cavity exists in a tooth, or a pulp is exposed, administer one tablet and fill the cavity with finely powdered "Antikamnia Tablets."

For the pain of a tooth, and especially in prolonged or very severe cases, "Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets" will be found preferable. If the pain is over the inner border of the head, or some part of the arm, or in any part, whether inside, outside, between or pain of any other description, caused by exposure of irregularity, it will relieve the "Antikamnia & Codeine Tablets." This dose may be repeated every two or three hours.

Each "Antikamnia & Codeine Tablet" equals the "M. Menopausal."

For cough, whether dry or deep seated, add to the head, pain in the chest, grippe, influenza, etc., add one "Antikamnia & Codeine Tablet" to the above dose in the mouth, swallowing the tablet. Repeat every four or five and at bed time.

SAMPLES SENT TO PHYSICIANS UPON REQUEST.

The Antikamnia Chemical Company
ST. LOUIS, U.S.A.

English Office: 42 Victoria Road, LONDON
American Office: ST. LOUIS, MO., U.S.A.
French Office: 5 Rue de la Fille, PARIS

Duplicate of 1906 K Tablet Calendar "OPPOSED TO PAIN" Mailed on Receipt of Ten Cents, or Five Pence in Postage.

Stanley Jones

Figure 7a. The reverse side of the 1906 calendar shown in Figure 7.



Stanley Jones

Figure 8. A 1911 calendar advertising Antikamnia Chemical Co. products. Notice the change in direction for the advertising. In Figure 7, there were two very young, innocent Nuns pictured. However, here you see a very explicit, sexually suggestive picture.

Chappell & Joyce [1], list a very large number of precancels on RB 28, the 2 ½ cent denomination Battleship, Figure 4. The volume of this listing indicates that a large fraction of the Antikamnia business was subject to this tax rate. Precancels on RB 28 appear to have ceased on February 23, 1900. My collection includes a stamp with the last date, Figure 9.



Stanley Jones

Figure 9. The last precancel on the 2 ½ cent Battleship.

The reason for this appears to be Antikamnia's adoption of a private die stamp, RS 278, Figure 10. With less than a year remaining in the authority of the War Tax, the Antikamnia Chemical Company adopted the use of a private die revenue stamp with the denomination of 2 ½ cents. This ended the need for precancels on Battleship Revenues with that denomination. However, precanceled battleships with other denominations can be found after that date, and some of them are a part of my collection.



Stanley Jones

Figure 10. 2 ½ cent *Antikamnia Chemical Co. Private Die Revenue Stamp*.

The Antikamnia Chemical Company is a very fruitful collecting interest. There is enough variety to make it a worthwhile collecting area. However, be prepared for a challenge. These stamps are becoming hard to find. Most of what I have, I acquired more than seventy years ago.

Reference:

1. C. H. Chappell and Morton Dean Joyce, "Proprietary Revenues of 1898, Precanceled Varieties," American Revenue Association, 1957.

Early Berks County Stamp Collectors

By Louis J. Heizmann

Editor's Note: *This piece originally appeared in the July 1956 edition of the Historical Review of Berks County, as is reprinted here with the kind permission of current editor Charles J. Adams III.*

Stamp collecting has been called "The King of Hobbies" and "The Hobby of Kings." It is also the hobby of presidents, of maharajas, of millionaires – and of just plain boys and girls. All – the great, and the not so great at all – have pursued the quest earnestly, studiously; and all are healthier for it.

A Reading man, realizing he needed leisure-time relaxation after a hard day's work, selected stamp collecting. But what stamps to collect? He arrived at the happy idea of collecting the stamps of the country on the other side of the earth from Berks County. He did not know what nation it was; thought it might be China. It is Western Australia in these parts, if not in the East; he is a recognized authority on them and has written articles at the request of several stamp magazines.

That is the way with most adult collectors. They get so interested in the historical and geographical research that goes with stamp collecting that the accompanying physical benefits develop unnoticed. The collector, whether he realizes it or not, is building himself a wall against the assaults of circumstance. He saves to save himself. This applies whether he collects art, books, or stamps. If he collects art, he might find a few friends who can talk understandingly about it; if he collects books, perhaps a few more. But everywhere there are stamp collectors, ten million or more in the United States; every good-sized town has a stamp club around the corner where he can brag about his conquests or enviously listen to the triumphs of others. Reading and Berks County have had, and still have, their quota of stamp collectors with their triumphant or vexatious anecdotes.

Cliff Kissinger

In the late 1880's, two lads in Reading were particularly serious stamp collectors: Harry Kantner and Cliff Kissinger. One bright Sunday morning Harry Kantner invited Cliff to look over his collection. When Cliff left, Harry thought a valuable China stamp was missing. He followed Cliff to the street and accused him of the theft. Although Cliff denied it vigorously, Harry did not believe him and resorted to the only action an angry boy would think of. Sunday or no Sunday, he punched him then and there. The ending was happier than the event would indicate. Shortly afterwards Kantner found the stamp misplaced. He apologized to Cliff, and soon a close friendship arose between them.

Although but a boy, Kantner plunged into the publishing business by starting a stamp magazine, *The Pennsylvania Philatelist*. How many subscribers he corralled and whether he carried any advertisements is not known, but the magazine was successful from the start. Some time in August 1892, Cliff purchased a half interest in it. Ten months later he bought out Kantner, becoming the sole proprietor at the age of nineteen. Kantner remained as editor.

Cliff Kissinger was a restless, ebullient individual, with a curious habit of holding his head back; he was full of nervous energy which plunged him headlong into a series of stormy associations with national stamp clubs. The World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago in 1893. At that time there were three active national stamp clubs: The American Philatelic Association (Now A.P.S.), the Sons of Philatelia, and the United Philatelic Association. All three held their conventions in Chicago at about the same time. Kissinger scurried out there, and although he was but nineteen, he announced his candidacy for President of the Sons of Philatelia, the second largest of the three. The election was won by A.J. Russell of Hanover, Pennsylvania. The membership rejected Kissinger mainly because they felt the president should be at least 21. Cliff's

retort was an angry one. He and his followers claimed that he had been illegally counted out and that one delegate, an L.M. Lang, unlawfully cast 100 proxies for Russell that were intended for Kissinger. They withdrew from the convention and formed a fourth society, called the Philatelic Sons of America. Why stamp collectors insisted on being sons of somebody is curious.

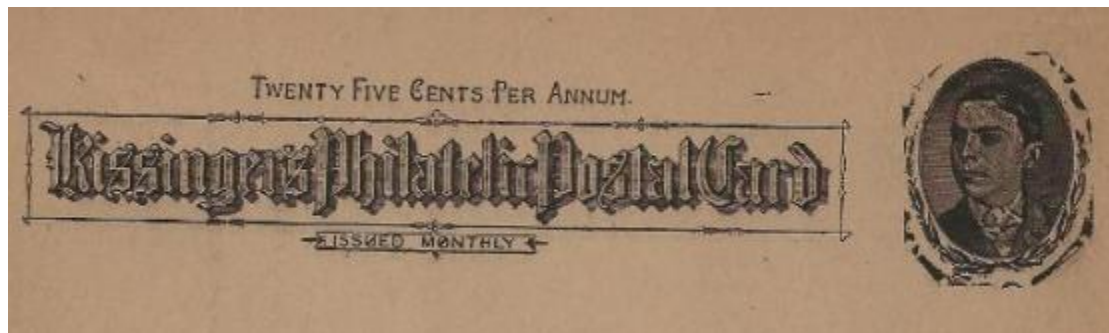
Kissinger was triumphantly elected president of the new group and immediately pulled a smart business deal. He had his magazine, *The Pennsylvania Philatelist*, made the official organ of the society. The third largest association was the United Philatelic Association, an upstart affair in which Cliff must have had a finger, for *The Pennsylvania Philatelist* was also made its official organ. At its convention Kissinger was elected president, whereupon it was unanimously voted to merge with the Philatelic Sons. Thus, Cliff got the "Sons" off to a good start. Through his efforts the membership increased rapidly, numbering 1,000 within three years.

The big society, the A.P.A., did not remain unconquered for long. Somehow or the other Cliff got himself elected secretary of that society. Then he got into trouble. At the 1896 Minnesota convention he lost his secretaryship. Mr. Roy B. Bradly, in the official magazine of the Association, made this spiteful accusation: "Clifford Kissinger happened to be secretary of the American Philatelic Association and while on his annual holiday excursion he happened to "take in" the annual meet. Being defeated by other members for office, or withdrawing after he held the poorer hand, he presented a modest bill for some \$19.90 for meals enroute to the convention. Let's see. It's about two days' travel from Reading to Minneapolis – six meals at over \$3.00 per meal. The average railroad price is 50 cents. However, we have no doubt that most of the members were glad to get rid of him at any price."

Another national stamp club, the Society of Philatelic Americans, today the second largest in the nation, was founded in February 1894. Cliff was admitted as a member three months later. His career in this society was also hectic. He neglected to pay his 1897 dues and was suspended. Next year he was reinstated but forgot to pay his dues and once more was suspended. Despite such negligence, the irrepressible Kissinger was elected president in 1913, and in every succeeding year until 1919. Prior to this election Kissinger had moved to Allentown, but now he returned to Reading, opening an office in the Kissinger Building, 335 Walnut Street. He announced that the 1915 annual convention would be held in his home town on August 5, 6, and 7, and he appointed Frederick Fox as chairman of the committee on arrangements and designated the Berkshire Hotel as convention headquarters. He issued a long letter detailing the hotel rates, trains from the west (with stop-overs at Niagara Falls), and the program of business sessions. He had photos made and distributed of the Berkshire Hotel, the Schuylkill Curve, a mountain scene replete with cars, a view of Penn Street. Trips were planned over the Neversink Mountain and Mt. Penn to the Pagoda. The convention was held in due course; how many attended is not known, but there exists a photograph of 43 delegates, probably near the total number. At the meeting he called for a membership of 1200 by the end of the year; at the end of the year he had 1363.

Elected with Kissinger was an energetic secretary, C.V. Webb, When the first World War swept Webb into the army, progress began to sputter. The sales manager followed, and Cliff appointed a close friend of his, H.S. Swenson, to that important position. Swenson was a poor stick but

Kissinger stood by him. When, after the war, the efficient old manager demanded his position back, Kissinger ruled him out. Mutterings arose, caustic comments were made, gang rule was charged. It was whispered that Kissinger was but a front for Webb. Webb himself stated that if it had not been for him Kissinger could not have made the remarkable showing in membership. The wolves were howling. At the 1919 convention another man was elected president.



eBay listing

Cliff Kissinger was not a “shrinking violet”. In addition to *The Pennsylvania Philatelist* he now published *Kissinger's Philatelic Postal Card*, on which the news was printed on an imitation postal card. He had thousands printed. From the stamp on the upper corner he lifted the portrait of President Jefferson and substituted his own. His *Philatelic Postal Cards* went third class, no stamp needed. It is a wonder how he got them by the postal authorities. Today his unique postal pieces are collector's items.

George Hetrich

Early in life Dr. George Hetrich of Birdsboro became a student of local history, and he remained so all his life. This led into collecting antiques, coins, and postage stamps at a time when most people looked upon such oddments as worthless. With another Birdsboro stamp enthusiast, Charles Nagle, a telegrapher and tower man on the old Wilmington and Northern Railroad, he hunted items in old homes, in abandoned farm houses. He secured stamps from his patients and canvassed the country post offices. In 1916, 1917, and again in 1919 the post office issued by mistake sheets of stamps with the famous “five cent error” – in which one and sometimes two stamps on a sheet were engraved with the numeral five instead of the numeral two. The doctor picked up at country post offices from 75 to 100 of these sheets. Today they are worth \$125 per sheet.

At the doctor's suggestion George Pflum, an employee at the old Ziegler's drug store on Penn Square, obtained permission from his employer to soak off the stamps from the medicine bottles stored on the second floor and to keep them. He sold some to the doctor at prices of from 10 to 25 cents per lot. In one of these ten penny lots was the 4c green and black proprietary revenue stamp with the head of Washington engraved upside down. The doctor did not notice this irregularity, sold the lot to Mr. Heffner, a stamp dealer on Walnut Street, who did catch it and resold the stamp to a Philadelphia dealer for \$200. A second one turned up on a bottle of Nature's Hair Restorer. George Pflum, in picking over a number of soaked off stamps, noticed that one

looked “kind of queer.” Throwing it to one side he examined it later. The head of Washington was inverted. He offered it to C.E. Sussman of St. Louis for \$125, compromised for \$75. Today the stamp is quoted at \$5,000.

Because of the extraordinary demands of the Civil War upon the Federal Treasury, Congress passed the revenue act of 1862, which provided that revenue stamps should be affixed to boxes of matches, proprietary medicines, perfumery, and playing cards as well as to documents. Manufacturers were permitted, at their own expense, to have their names engraved on the face of the plates. Thus the stamps printed from plates carried their label, a valuable advertising medium. They are known among collectors as “match and medicine stamps.” Doctor Hetrich became a specialist in them. His match and medicine collection was possibly the finest ever sold at auction, brining his estate over \$8,800. His entire collection sold for over \$20,000.

Jere Hess Barr

A most persistent Berks collector, more so perhaps than Dr. Hetrich, was Jere Hess Barr. Certainly, he was more widely known in the stamp world than any other local collector. He was a member of the leading philatelic societies in the United States, a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and a member of the Postal History Society of London, of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, and of the Collectors Club of New York. He helped organize and was the first president of the Reading Stamp Club. When the American Philatelic Congress was formed, he got behind it with a will, seeing in it a long-coveted opportunity to further the study of stamps. The congress publishes annually a Congress Book containing papers submitted by its members, the result of their research. Jere wrote a paper for the very first book and contributed to thirteen of the twenty annual numbers. He edited ten of the twenty, and continued his literary labors locally by writing the stamp column in the Reading Eagle.

Jere Barr began collecting stamps in 1886 at the blissful age of ten. His grandfather owned the Henry Clay Furnace at Mariette. One day little Jere started to rummage through the old papers in the furnace office and came across a lot of documents stamped with the beautifully engraved Civil War revenues. Taking a fancy to them, he collected all he could find and saved them. On one of the deeds was a \$20 Probate of Wills, even then a rare stamp. In time he became a recognized authority in that intricate part of stamp collecting. In his last years he limited his interest to them and to stamped envelopes of the Ionian Islands, Lombardy – Venetia, and the nineteenth century. His Lombardy – Venetian covers received a gold medal at the 1947 New York Show, and his Sardinian covers won the grand award at the Atlantic City exhibition.

Jere Barr would have been a stamp collector in any case. It was in the cards. The Government Post Office was the direct cause. In the first years of its life the post office charged such high rates and gave such poor service that independent mail routes sprang up all over the country from Maine to California. The government delivered the letters to the local post office where they stayed until the owners came and got them. Letters to be mailed had to be carried to the post office; there was no collection or delivery. In 1855 Elias Barr established in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Barr’s Penny Dispatch for local collection and delivery. The service carried letters

throughout Lancaster, to and from the post office, at one cent per letter. He sold a one cent rectangular stamp of red wove paper, type set on the face "Barr's Penny Dispatch", surrounded by a heavy broken border. Later he issued the same stamp on green wove paper. Eventually the Government reformed its ways and legislated the private posts out of business. Today Barr's Penny Dispatch stamps are catalogued at well over \$100. Elias Barr was Jere Barr's grandfather.

Other Prominent Collectors

Another local collector who had it in his bones was Daniel B. Nagle, who owned and operated a drug store at Eleventh and Marion Streets. He was the son of Dr. Hetrich's old friend, the telegrapher and tower man on the old Wilmington and Northern Railroad. Like his dad, Dan poked around in the likely places where old stamps might be found. In a cheap "mission" mixture he picked out one of the five or six known copies of the five centesimos blue and black Canal Zone stamp with the two centesimos head on it instead of the regular five centesimos portrait. It is so rare that today it would bring \$1,250 in the market place. All the while he kept an attentive eye on the medicine bottles that passed through his hands. From them he obtained several 4c black and green proprietary revenues with the Washington head upside-down. On two packages received from the Bell Chemical Company of Orangeburg, N.Y., he got two of the scarce 3c violet stamps from the only Orangeburg coil ever issued. Stamps from it are catalogued at \$1,200 on cover. Dan Nagle had a general collection, but he specialized on stamps of the West Indies and Bavaria and in foreign covers.

Another collector worthy of remark was Wheaton B. Kunhardt, a man of many talents and many hobbies. He was for many years president of the Carpenter Steel Company and at his death chairman of the board. His specialty was Confederate States Postmaster's Provisionals. He assembled his collection with such care and thoroughness that it was bought intact by King Faud of Egypt. It descended to his son, King Farouk, and when his subjects got tired of their pudgy playboy and exiled him to Europe, the collection was seized as property of the state and sold at auction in Cairo.

Printing the center of the stamp upside down can occur only when the stamps are bi-colored. Bi-colored stamps are those printed in two colors in which the central picture, or vignette, in one color is surrounded with an ornamental frame of another color. Two printings are required, one for each color. If, through carelessness, the sheet is sent through the second pass in reverse, the part printed in the second color will be upside down and the stamp will have an inverted center. These are known as inverts. The Government goes to great pains to prevent inverts from getting through to the public. Nevertheless, some got through; they are scarce and bring high prices. Mr. Roubenot of Washington D.C. purchased at a Washington stamp window a sheet of inverts, sold by an unobserving clerk for ordinary postage at the ordinary postage rate. The Government demanded it back. He refused to return it; it was a legitimate sale and he was entitled to his purchase. Today, one stamp from that sheet is quoted at \$1,500.

Mr. Gustave Oberlander, of Wyomissing, had a notable art collection and an equally arresting stamp collection. In it were two inverts, the 24c carmine and blue air post stamp showing the

airplane flying upside down, and the 1 c green and black Pan American picturing the ship on its funnel. This exciting collection turned out to be more valuable than Mr. Oberlander suspected. One night he invited the Reading Stamp Club to his home to see his stamps. Proudly he showed them a complete mint sheet of a hundred of the 1c stamp issued by the Government in 1851. One of the members, inspecting it closely, discovered that the ninety-ninth stamp in the sheet was the rare type three, plate two, with top and bottom lines outside the labels broken in the middle; it was listed at \$2,500 unused. The happy owner treated his guests to sundry bottles of imported German wine.

Other collectors have come and gone since Harry Kantner and Cliff Kissinger fought over a China stamp that was not lost. Dr. Hetrich's gig rattles no more over the rutty roads of Berks County carrying the doctor from place to place, saving stamps and saving lives. The tower man on the old Wilmington and Northern pokes no longer in deserted barns and dusty garrets for rarities of the stamp world. Just the same, collections are being assembled today in Reading and Berks County as fine as any King Faud would have wished to buy. Their owners are healthier, happier, easier to live with, for doing it.

Author's note: *The information on Cliff Kissinger was obtained from an article in the S.P.A. Journal, History of the Society of Philatelic Americans by N.R. Hoover, sent me by James B. Shaner of Kutztown. The information on Dr. Hetrick was gathered from several people, but mostly from Daniel Miller of Birdsboro. That on Daniel Nagle and Mr. Kunhardt from Jere Barr.*

A little more about Artificial Intelligence (AI)

I've heard from a few of you regarding my comments on the additional care we need to take with our personal identities published in last month's newsletter. With the ongoing development of AI and the possibilities of misuse we need to remain vigilant. I'm glad that you are talking this seriously. We can never be too careful. Given all we have to gain through this growing phenomenon, we also know that it is a two-sided coin, or possibly, a two-edge sword. A club member shared with me a related incident from not too long ago.

He and his wife took long weekends in Cape May once to twice a year until Covid-19. It is a quiet town, and if one wants excitement, Wildwood, NJ is just a short drive north. Cape May is like an old Victorian town; in fact they don't even allow the fast-food chain joints to move in.

His wife was searching several of the Cape May websites, and found a remodeled building right on the square of the Washington Street Mall, a closed off area of several blocks with cobblestoned roads and quaint shops. There was a picture of a new "girly" show venue with the neon lights and all in the windows. It was graphic in promoting their brand of entertainment. This corner building used to be a Christmas shop. And now this?

How did the town board allow this to happen? Residents and vacationers alike expressed their outrage. But with further online sleuthing, this remodel turned out to be an AI created image superimposed over the town Christmas shop - Ho, Ho, Ho!

It's a harmless AI prank, they say . . . for now, that is. The club member said that on screen one could not see anything other than the "remodeled" building.

So that's the story my friends, another example of how we can be misled. Use your search engine for "AI Research in the Fortune 500 Companies," and you'll see all that's going on. Like so many new ideas whose time has come, it all starts with good intentions for improving business, commerce, communication, your personal finances and spending, medical care delivery, city planning, all types of research, entertainment and literature, and our overall way of life. And that is fine, but consider this . . . when gun powder was first invented in China centuries ago, some said "How can this be used this against our enemies?" The same can be said with early aircraft development and our national defense. I'm certain that the potential for AI is great, but so is the potential for harm. We can't let our guard down. Do any of you have a related story? If so, please share with me. – Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Club Member Anniversaries

Compiled by Tom Nichols

Name	Date Joined	Years
Frederick Boland	03/09/2016	8
Caroline Ford	03/13/1999	25
Catherine Kotanchik	03/07/2021	3
Vern Marten	03/13/2002	22
Patricia Tucker	03/30/2021	3

The February Philatelic Gathering in West Chester

On February 24, 2024, Philatelic Gathering members and guests kicked off the 2024 speaker's bureau with two excellent lectures by two well-respected philatelists and postal historians. The first was by Bob Myers on his award-winning exhibition titled "UPU British Commonwealth and Empire Protected Specimens," the largest such collection in private hands outside of the world's museums and the Queen's Collection. He brought along his exhibit of rarities and displayed it for all to see.

This was followed by Dr. Charles J. DiComo's presentation, "Who Needs a Doctor? This Elixir Will Do! A Primer on U.S. Revenue Private Die Proprietary Medicine Stamps and Nostrums." He followed up his most entertaining lecture with a hands-on exhibit of U.S. private die proprietary revenue stamps and product labels used on their original packaging as intended (bottles, boxes, and wrappers). All are excited to see him return later in the year to expand the study to Percussion and Friction Matches revenues and wrappers.

Links to the presentations are found at the following addresses:

<https://lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-02-24-Myers-Bob-UPUBritishCommonwealthEmpireSpecimenStamps.pdf>

lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-02-17-DiComo-Chas-WhoNeedsADoctorThisElixirWillDo.pdf

Greetings from The Philatelic Gathering



Dr. Charles J. DiComo

PSLC Officers

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

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 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 2023 APS Star Route Awards for our website and newsletter. The Society website (lcps-stamps.org) is winner of the Grand Champion and Large Gold awards. It is our 24 – 7 virtual presence, where philatelists all over the world can access current and past issues of our Vermeil Award-winning *PSLC Newsletter*, in addition to useful philatelic links, exhibits, presentations, useful resources, affiliates, member spotlight, regional stamp shows, history and awards, etc. Please check out our PSLC YouTube Channel and Facebook page.