



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.**

The Veranda Chronicles

The philatelic busy season is here with the first two-day stamp show of 2024 coming up later this month on the 19th and 20th, and who doesn't enjoy a good stamp show? It's not just the buying and selling, but the fellowship with other club members and perhaps opportunities to meet a few new faces of other collectors. Remember that this is a time to meet, greet, and engage the new people at the show and tell them about PSLC. They can visit us at our face-to-face meetings in Lititz and/or tune into our digital meetings. All the information that they need is on the website. I think that it has been obvious that when one visits one or two of our meetings, there is a good probability that they will join. We saw this during the onset of Covid-19, once we had Zoom capacity, as our meetings stretched across the country with collectors nationwide visiting, joining and participating. Based on the data of my latest spreadsheet-roster, we have 135 members on the books with 125 having already paid their 2024 dues. Like in previous years, PSLC is on a roll. So put on your recruiting hat.

At the last meeting, PSLC member John Ford, an administrator at Lancaster Country Day School shared that he circulated the images and ballots for the 2023 Linn's Stamp Poll among the students. This annual poll is where collectors and others identify and vote for their favorite U.S. stamps within the calendar year. He added that he was fortunate to secure over 100 completed ballots from among the LCDS students.

These annual polls are always very interesting, and the 2023 results are in this week's edition of *Linn's Stamp News* (April 8th, 2024). On page 23 of this issue is a note about the LCDS's student participation with an image of the large flat-rate Priority Mail envelope that John sent in. He franked it with a \$9.85 Pillars of Creation postage stamp-no metered labels for him. John

exemplifies the importance of adult mentoring of both young and potential collectors, as they are the future of the hobby.

I am on my hobby horse again about artificial intelligence (AI), as one of the recent developments in the news is about the “Voice Engine” program. It requires only fifteen seconds of one’s human voice to recreate it. It is not the first voice program, but it is the easiest for folks to learn to use and has the best results for an almost perfect clone of another person’s voice. So if you get a call from me asking for donations of gift cards for this charity or that, just hang up. Once again, we must be on our guard to determine if a given website is the real one and use the same caution regarding the voice on the phone. We even need to question the validity of the U.S. Forever postage stamps that we use if they had not been purchased from the USPS. It is rapidly becoming a very different world.

Hope to see many of you soon – Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Upcoming Programs

Sweden Prestamp and Stampless Letter Postal Markings

By Alan Warren

10 April 2024 – Landis Homes, 6:30 p.m.

Hosted by Twilla Schaub



Alan Warren

In this marcophily exhibit, Alan tells the story of postal markings used in Sweden, in the period primarily before the introduction of adhesive postage, from the 17th century to the mid-19th century and extending into the 1860s.

Alan's study explores the early types of mail including messenger mail, crown post, military mail, and general mail. The handstamp markings include the B and F crown marks, straight line, arc, and box cancellations. In addition to these cancel types, examples are shown of free letter, postage due, transit, and arrival markings. The last two focus on foreign mails. Some manuscript markings are also identified.



Ron Breznay

Radio Reception Verification Labels
by Ron Breznay

24 April 2024 – 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

One of the big fads of the 1920s was the radio reception verification stamp. A radio listener would send a letter to a radio station about their programs, along with a dime, and get in return a stamp with the station's call sign. The purpose of this system was for radio stations to be able to evaluate the reach of their signal. The EKKO Company of Chicago made the stamps and an album to put them in. Later, the Bryant Company, also from Chicago, issued its own stamps and an album. The presentation will present the history of the verification stamp program along with the stamps, albums, and other items.

Financing the War of 1812
By Ron Leshner

08 May 2024 – Landis Homes, 6:30 p.m.



Georges Carion: The Forger Who Went to Extremes to Deceive!
By Rick Barrett

22 May 2024 – 6:30 p.m., via Zoom

Treat yourself to a fun, enlightening tale of a stamp dealing “expert – turned – forger” who was active over 125 years ago. Storyteller and PSLC member Rick Barrett will share a fast-paced, image-filled presentation about the life of Georges Carion. The lengths this philatelic bad guy went to try to fool the public are astounding. You won’t want to miss this one!



PSLC Calendar

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

- 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:** Georges Carion: The Forger Who Went to Extremes to Deceive! 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. Open to all PSLC 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

Please see the full calendar on the PSLC's website: [Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun. \(lcps-stamps.org\)](https://www.lcps-stamps.org)

Some Sunday Stamp Show: April 19

Where: Lancaster Farm and Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601.

When: April 19 & 20, 2024.

Who: 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.

Questions?: Contact Kevin Kellman at k2stamps@gmail.com or (301) 524-9562.

DELPEX 2024: Saturday, May 4

The Brandywine Valley Stamp Club's annual [DELPEX show](#) is 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). This year's DELPEX celebrates the Universal Postal Union. 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.

Visit brandywinevalleystampclub.com/Delpex.php



"Collector's Handbook" by Elmer R. Long (folklib.net)

Elmer Long

PSLC member Rick Barrett is excitedly searching out material of ANY kind pertaining to well-known stamp and First Day Cover dealer Elmer R. Long. Rick is putting together a presentation and talk for 2025 and is trying to complete a set of Mr. Long's little "Collector's Handbooks" which came out at least annually from 1935 to 1964. If you have any of those, or any correspondence or interesting paper material relating to Elmer Long, please contact Rick at rickbarrettmail@comcast.net anytime.

Rick's search for the "holy grail" would be an unmitigated success if he connects with anyone who knew or interacted with Mr. Long, who's famous "Department Store of Philately" was located nearby in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Thank you for any assistance or referrals you can provide...it will certainly help Rick deliver a great presentation to the PSLC next year!

Pennsylvania Postal History: West Overton, PA

Terry Hursh is looking for covers from West Overton (1861 – 1902) and Broad Ford (1861 – 1956) in southwestern Pennsylvania. West Overton Post Office was located in Westmoreland County, and Broad Ford was located in Fayette County. Terry is also searching for material related to the Overholt Distillery or Henry Clay Frick Coal Mines.

Anything that you can share about these places in the past might be of great interest to Terry. Please contact him at revhursh@gmail.com.



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“Lady Erskine & the Prominent Philadelphia Cadwalader Family”



Charles J. DiComo, PhD
PSLC & ESPHS President
PaPHS Board of Directors
PaPHS Member #605



Figure 1. 1841-dated “mourning paper” FLS from Munich, Germany to Philadelphia, via New York City. Sent from The Lady Erskine to her nephew George Cadwalader, Esq. on delayed learning of the passing of her brother.

Lady Erskine and the Prominent Philadelphia Cadwalader Family

by Charles J. DiComo, PhD | PaPHS #605

This article shall explore the author, The Lady Erskine, and the contents of the stampless folded letter (SFL) illustrated in Figure 1. She penned this letter on a sheet of unwatermarked, black-edged mourning paper to her nephew George Cadwalader on her delayed learning of the passing of her brother, Thomas Cadwalader, of the prominent US military family from Philadelphia.

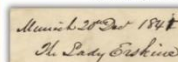


Figure 2. Deciphering on the reverse confirming receipt in Philadelphia reads, “Munich 20th Dec. 1841, The Lady Erskine”.

The stampless letter was written in Munich, Germany, on December 20, 1841, and appears to have been carried privately across the Atlantic Ocean to New York due to the lack of markings such as a vessel name, the typical red New York “SHIP” handstamp, or the proper postage (2c Ship Letter fee) for such a journey. The letter is addressed to “George Cadwalader, Esq. Philadelphia United States of America” and is docketed on the reverse flap “Munich 20th Dec 1841 The Lady Erskine”. Upon arrival in New York City, the letter entered the mail, and the postal clerk canceled it with a red “NEW-YORK APR 20” CDS and a black manuscript marking of “12 1/2” (to cover the US inland rate for a distance between 80-150 miles from New York to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania). There is also a black wax seal typical of the period, but the FLS was roughly opened, and I cannot make out the crest.

WWW.PAPHS.ORG

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Figure 5. Portrait of The Lady Erskine, by Gilbert Stuart, Philadelphia Museum of Art.



Figure 7. Portrait of George Cadwalader, by Thomas Eakins.



Figure 8. Portrait of John, wife Elizabeth, and daughter Ann, by Charles W. Peale.



Figure 10. Portrait of David Montagu Erskine by Gilbert Stuart 1802.

Pa Postal Historian, Feb. 2024, Whole No. 237, Vol. 52, No. 1, pp. 5-9

The Philatelic Society of Lancaster County is pleased to share Dr. Charles J DiComo’s recent article entitled “Lady Erskine and the Prominent Philadelphia Cadwalader Family,” published in the February 2024 issue of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, the Bulletin of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society (Vol. 52, No. 1, Whole No. 237, pp. 5-9).

We thank Editor-in-Chief Martin K. Miller for publishing his work in the PaPHS Journal. Why not visit the <http://paphs.org> website & consider joining?

Dr. DiComo’s article explores the author, ‘The Lady Erskine,’ and the contents of the stampless folded letter (SFL) she penned on a sheet of unwatermarked, black-edged mourning paper to

her nephew George Cadwalader on her delayed learning of the passing of her brother, Thomas Cadwalader, of the prominent U.S. military family from Philadelphia.

The letter was written in Munich, Germany, on December 20, 1841, and appears to have been carried privately across the Atlantic Ocean to New York due to the lack of markings such as a vessel name, the typical red New York “SHIP” handstamp, or the proper postage (2¢ Ship Letter fee) for such a journey.

The letter is addressed to “George Cadwalader, Esq. Philadelphia United States of America” and is docketed on the reverse flap “Munich 20th Dec 1841 The Lady Erskine”.

While the news acknowledged in this stampless folded letter was undoubtedly a sad affair for The Lady Erskine, the existence of the missive is a postal history treasure. Not only does the letter provide an interesting investigation into the methods of transit, it also serves as the catalyst for exploring details of a prominent Philadelphia family.

To view the full original article, visit:

https://lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/DiComo-Chas_Lady-Erskine-Cadwalader-PA-Historian-237V52N12024.pdf

Dr. Charles J. DiComo is President of both the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (PA) and Empire State Postal History Society (NY). He is a Life Member of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, and the editor of its award-winning *Chairman’s Chatter*. His other philatelic contributions include director of the PA Postal History Society and emeritus member of the Council of Philatelists and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Charlie’s biography and links to some of his other work are found here: <https://lcps-stamps.org/member-spotlight/>

Club Member Anniversaries

Compiled by Tom Nichols

Name	Date Joined	Years
Steve Brooks	04/05/2021	4
Roger Cadenhead	04/19/2018	6
Anthony Coccio	04/25/2015	9
Barbara Edwards	04/05/2021	4
Harold Hand	04/27/2019	5
Wayne Heim	04/10/2018	6
John Hostetter	04/30/2016	8
Robert Larson, Jr.	04/26/2014	10
Michael Marino	04/13/2016	8
Douglas Milliken	04/11/2012	12
Scott Ney	04/10/2018	6
Tom Pantano	04/26/2013	11

Name	Date Joined	Years
Carol Petersen	04/29/2007	17
Robert Rufe	04/25/2021	3
Fred Sargeant	04/28/2012	12
H. Shumaker	04/27/2008	16
William Skelly	04/25/2015	9
Rob Sternberg	04/27/2019	5
Alan Warren	04/15/2019	5
David Weichert	04/27/2019	5
Robert Witkosky	04/28/2018	6

PSLC Officers

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

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 (lcp-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.