

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.

A Stamp Collectors Mailbox



We All Need One!!

The Veranda Chronicles

As I have always said, spring (and fall) are the busiest of philatelic seasons for us all. Several months ago, I was called upon by other nationally known leaders in the hobby to be part of the organizing committee of an online stamp club for learning, *Learning About Stamps Online*, or LASO. LASO has been designated by the American Philatelic Society as Chapter Member #1621. Please join us at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZ8BAuGUUCT4VO BapsetnidggbfcqP9vx6dswSO 150P1a3Q/viewform?us. There you may sign up to find many resources to advance your philatelic knowledge, whether you are a beginner or expert.

If you haven't already done so, check out the <u>ATA's One-Page Exhibit pages</u> on their website. Displayed are over 200 exhibits from 136 exhibitors from around the world. Seven (7) PSLC members contributed ten (10) of these exhibits; PSLC kudos to them all.

Since mentioning Artificial Intelligence (AI) in this column in the past, I continue to see more examples in my reading and on the news, along with receiving your input. There have been stories in Lancaster and York where a parent or grandparent is contacted by phone that their child or grandchild was in the hands of a perpetrator, one who gives them specific instructions for an electronic financial ransom to be deposited to ensure the child's safety. The perps even put the kids on the phone to verify the situation. One of the families recalled a past Scam Alert on WGAL TV. They called the school (or elsewhere) to see if the kids were safe and where they were supposed to be. Both situations did end well. The frightening issue is that the kids' voices were created by AI, and to the parents and grandparents, they sounded like the real thing over the phone.

One more AI created scam is via email, which appears just like an Amazon communication document page. It states that the customer's most recent order of _____ (fill in the blank) was not yet shipped due to non-payment. Would customer please resubmit their payment information as soon as possible, and their ____ would be shipped immediately. The communication provided the information for submitting their card number and all. This scam is also scary, not just the almost complete duplication of the Amazon pages but that the perps knew the specific item(s) ordered and on which date and by who. In the short time period that their actual order was shipped and in transit, their resubmitted payment would be in the perps' hands and long gone, probably somewhere overseas. And just the other night on the news was the story of a similar email scam with PayPal. One can never be too watchful.

So, while you are enjoying your spring collecting, also be vigilant. There are thieves out there in wolves' clothing seeking every way possible to steal what's important, whether it is your identity, reputation, house, accounts, and even your stamps.

To end on an upbeat note, remember that Kevin Kellman's Lancaster Stamp Show is coming up real soon, on Sunday, June 16th, four days following our auction. It will be held at the Farm & Home Center as always. 'Till then, happy collecting. *Dr. Charles J. DiComo*

Upcoming Programs

PSLC Auction

12 June 2024 Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

A short business meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Auction starts promptly after the meeting.

Procedures:

Please register for a numbered paddle when you arrive. Place this number on all of your items to be auctioned and use this paddle during the auction when you are bidding. This will ensure that what you buy and what you sell are accurately credited and debited.

Be sure that all of your lots are accompanied by an accurate and detailed description, as this helps buyers to better understand what they are examining.

Auction lot description forms have already been emailed and a limited number of hard copies will be available at the meeting. You may also access this form on the website at any time. While the auction lot description sheets have been sent out and are available, you can make your own as long as the pertinent info is included.

Fiscal transactions will be completed after the last lot has been sold. No early settlements will be made.

The Auction Committee recommends that you:

- Bring cash to pay for the items that you win
- Keep a running total during the auction of the items and prices of the lots that you sell and win
- Attach your sales information <u>very securely</u> to the lots you are entering into the auction. This will help avoid misidentification with other sellers' lots.

Bidding Rules:

- Minimum bids are \$1.00 per lot
- The minimum bidding increment is 50 cents.
- Only dues-paying PSLC members may participate in the auction.
- Auction participants are limited to seven (7) lots.
- You may also donate items to the auction, as donations are a welcomed, necessary source of funds for our operations, and help defray the cost of special events, storage lockers, newsletter, and website expenses, as well as advance deposits to secure special event locations.



American Topical Association 75th Anniversary: A Look at the Past and the Future By Dawn Hamman

26 June 2024 6:15 p.m. via Zoom



Come along with ATA president Dawn Hamman for a look at ATA's founding and progress through the years. After recapping where we've been, we'll explore the exciting future ahead for topical collecting!

Dawn Hamman is a topical collector (of course!) and thematic exhibitor. She is a frequent speaker at stamp clubs and shows, and for Zoom sessions.

PSLC Calendar

Descriptions for many of these programs are found on the <u>PSLC website</u>

12 June 2024: PSLC Auction

26 June 2024: ATA's 75th Anniversary: A Look at the Past and the Future. Dawn Hamman

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: Collecting the Columbia Bank and Bridge Company. Scott Ney

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 June 16, 2024. For more info, contact Kevin Kellman at k2stamps@gmail.com or +1 (301) 524-9562.

<u>Save the Date:</u> On Monday evening 19 August 2024, PSLC will be hosting dinner with club member and storyteller Rick Barrett of Houston, TX. Venue and time details will be forthcoming as the date draws nigh. Come share a great evening with a great storyteller!

Many of you will remember Rick's past presentations to the club, and he will be with us again on 27 November telling us about Captain Tim, the Stamp Man of the 1930s Ivory Soap Stamp Club radio show. Captain Tim's "stamp club" was a virtual organization he led in collaboration with the H.E. Harris Co., which reached millions of young collectors over the airwaves three times a week. For questions or comments regarding this dinner, please contact Paul Petersen

To Paraphrase an Old Proverb: "You Can't Judge a Book Cover by Its Cover."

By Hal Klein PaPHS# 191



Hal Klein

Ok, before anyone asks, there is no family relationship between me and the individual shown on the cover's corner card. I've always claimed, to anyone who has attempted to spell my last name, that I must come from the "illiterate" side of the family. However, I digress.

I am a passionate collector of Lebanon County Pennsylvania postal history. I also have a specialty collection of the U.S. 2¢ Red Brown Second Bank Note Issue of 1883 (Sc# 210). Last fall, I passed on bidding when this cover appeared on eBay with an opening bid of one dollar. Why? I was unimpressed by the online images of the cover. The stamp was roughly separated from the sheet along the perf edges due to worn or damaged perforation wheels, the cancel was barely legible, and I had multiple pieces of correspondence between these two gentlemen.

Two weeks passed and a friend e-mailed me several links to Lebanon County postal history items for sale. One of the items selling that afternoon was... you guessed it, the subject cover and no one was bidding on it. For some reason, I had forgotten some of my original objections, so I bid on it and won.

When the cover arrived my first thought was, "...why did I buy this cover?!?" I haven't worked on my Sc# 210 postal history material since long before COVID. Nevertheless, after seeing it first-

hand, there was just something about it. Was it the stamp's sharp print impression or its deep rich color? I wasn't even paying attention to the barely legible cancellation. What was it about this cover? Unable to answer my question, I put it in my "to be worked on" cover box to gather dust or just be forgotten.

A 3¢-per-½ oz., Domestic First-Class Letter, Surface Rate had been established two years after the commencement of the U.S. Civil War in 1861. By 1883, the U.S. Congress reduced this domestic rate from 3¢ to 2¢. A new 2¢-per-½ oz., rate change became effective October 1, 1883, and lasted only 20 months, until June 30, 1885.¹ In conjunction with the rate change, a new 2¢ George Washington Large Bank Note stamp of 1883 (Sc# 210), was printed by the American Bank Note Company² (ABNC) at their printing plant in the Bronx, N.Y.

On July 17, 1883, the U. S. Post Office Department, FORM 3337, "Circular to Postmasters" announced the color of the new 2¢ stamp as "Metallic Red." On the day the stamp was released to the public for sale on October 1, 1883, the philatelic press described the color of the first stamps as "Dark Metallic Red-Brown." Throughout this stamp's printing (Sc# 210), between 1883 and 1886, ABNC changed ink color from the original "Metallic Red," which was allowable under the contract. In the period just before the stamps color change to "Green" (Sc# 213) in September 1887, the "American Philatelist" described the Brown (Sc# 210) end-of-life color almost perfectly as "...mud-colored." 5

In 1970, Edward L. Willard released his comprehensive two-volume work, "The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887". The first volume contained a census of First Day Covers and a separate census by the number of covers, color, year, and month. The censuses, conducted by Robert Markovits, report 21 first day covers. A total of seventeen "Dark Metallic Red" ink covers were reported in the Color Census for the month of October 1883. Markovits named the four colors in Volume One as: Dark Metallic Red, Light Metallic Red, Orange Brown, and Brown. 8

It should be noted that the "Encyclopedia of the Colors of the United States Postage Stamps," considered by many as the color Bible for 19th and early-20th century U.S. stamps, does not illustrate "Dark Metallic Red-Brown" described by Willard and Markovits, and more importantly by the U. S. Post Office. The question is "why"? I strongly suspect White and Bower fail to understand the scarcity of the color of the first printing of Sc# 210, and they have a demonstrated lack of understanding of 19th-century printing—something Willard does. Volume 2, paragraph 3, page 13 of the "Encyclopedia of the Colors of the United States Postage Stamps," states, "There are many tints and minor variations of the red-brown shade. Analysis shows them to be merely the result of slight differences in thickness of ink disposition." This statement is not supported by chemical analysis in the "Encyclopedia."

Further, Markovits' color census in Willard's Volume I clearly divides the color of 1,935 covers mailed between 1883 and 1889 (75 months) into four colors: "Dark Metallic Red, Light Metallic Red, Orange Brown, and Brown," in which Willard concurs and clearly states, "Color is one thing and shade is another" -- a fact the "Encyclopedia of the Colors of the United States Postage Stamps" ignores completely. In those 75 months, the dark metallic ink stamps saw the heaviest

usage for five months, or a total of 109 covers (5.6% of the census). The Light Metallic Red began its significant appearance in January 1884 and saw heaviest use through July 1884 for a total of 125 covers (6.6% of the census). The two <u>non-metallic</u> browns represent the balance of covers and tallied 1701 covers (87.8% of the census).

This Lebanon County business-to-business cover demonstrates a solo usage of the newly released scarce first printing of the 1883 issue of a 2¢ Washington (Sc# 210) in Dark Metallic Red ink, paying the new single-weight (½ oz.) domestic letter rate on the second day of the new postal rate.



Hal Klein

Shown (with contents), the cover bears a black, 26mm circular date stamp post office entry postmark at, "MYERSTOWN / PA. / OCT 2 (1883)", a Lebanon County post office.



Hal Klein

Also, the cover has a black, 26mm, circular date, transit office back stamp from the main post office in the county, "LEBANON, PA. / REC'D. / OCT 3 / 1 PM (1883)," the following day, before

delivery to GREBLE (Lebanon Co.), PA. The stamp is canceled with a partial black, 18mm diameter Crossroads killer cancellation of the period. This *second day of issue usage*, 141 years after the stamp's release is important because of its first printing color.

Only twenty-one (21) first-day covers are known to date, based on Willard's, "The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887", and Certificates recorded with the Philatelic Foundation¹⁰ and the A.P.S.¹¹ A search and review of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries Inc.¹² sales for Sc# 210 covers revealed twenty-four (24) cover usages on the first day, October 1, 1883, with and without certificates with prices realized ranging from a low of \$300 to a high of \$1,600; average price \$705; median price realized of \$950. One cover to a foreign destination realized over \$5,000 and was excluded from the median and price averaging. Two second-day covers were included in one FDC lot realizing \$1,300. These were all Sc# 210 first printings. Descriptions were inconsistent in the usage of "first printing." No description used the term "metallic red." Covers returned a 'higher price realized' when the description included the term "first printing".

The cover's contents confirm its mailing on the second day of the new mail rate, for without the contents, I would not have realized the significance of this cover.

Meserstown, Pa, Och 2. 1883.

Lear Sir.

Your postal of yesterday at hand contents no ted.

If nothing happens I will be out in the forenoon or early noon as I would like to test my Transit.

If you come in this way before that time, and feel like it, you may take my instrument along out, if you don't come in Ill bring it on Salurday forenoon.

Traternally yours

This It Aline

In summation: The year of mailing has been determined, as follows:

- First-Class Letter Surface Rate dropped from 3¢ to 2¢ on October 1, 1883¹
- The 2¢ Washington of 1883 (Sc# 210) was released on October 1, 1883²
- USPOD color description of the original stamp was "Dark Metallic Red"²
- The stamp on this cover fits the FIRST PRINTING description of "Dark Metallic Red"
- The cover has a post office entry postmark at, "MYERSTOWN / PA. / OCT 2 (1883)"
- The letter (contents) is dated: "Oct. 2, 1883", the second day of rate
- The cover is back stamped, "LEBANON, PA. / REC'D / OCT 3 / 1 PM (1883)," the following day; appx., 7 mi., from Myerstown, Lebanon Co., Pa.

This is why I have to say, "you can't judge a book cover by its cover."

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Richard Coldberg, and Dr. Charles DiComo for their help and guidance in reviewing this paper.

References:

- 1. "United States Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999, Rev. Second Ed.," ©1999 Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz; Cama Publishing Co., Portland, OR.
- 2. Online history of American Bank Note Company (ABNC), New York, N. Y.; internet, last accessed 2024.
- 3. "FORM 3337; July 18, 1883; Circular to Postmasters; Two-Cent Postage On And After October 1, 1883, U.S. Post Office Department", U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.; July 18, 1883.
- 4. "The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887, Volume I" "by E. L. Willard ©1970; H. L. Lindquist, New York, N. Y.; pp.35.
- 5. "American Philatelist" Volume 1, No. 3, Page 20; Issued March 10, 1887; American Philatelic Society, Bellefonte, PA.
- 6. "The United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887, Volume I & II"; Edward L. Willard ©1970; H. L. Lindquist, New York, N. Y.
- 7. Ibid #3; pp 36.
- 8. Ibid #3; pp 37-38.

- 9. "Encyclopedia of the Colors of the U.S. Postage Stamps; Volume II," ©1980, R. H. White & W. R. Bower; Philatelic Research Ltd., Germantown, MD.
- 10. Philatelic Foundation, New York, N.Y.; First Day Cover certificates: 20; Second Day Covers: none; Last accessed: *May 2024*.
- 11. APEX (A.P.S.), Bellefonte, PA.; First Day Cover certificates: 1; Second Day Covers: none; Last accessed: *May 2024*.
- 12. Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries Inc., 21 West 38th St., New York, N.Y. 10018; Last accessed: *May 2024*.

A fine showing by the PSLC in the Fourth Annual ATA One Page Exhibit

Please give a round of applause to the PSLC members who participated in the 4th Annual ATA Virtual One-Page Exhibits. Overall, there were 136 exhibitors from 19 different countries compiling > 200 exhibits.

There are fourteen (14) categories in which these exhibits are distributed, and our seven (7) members contributed ten (10) exhibits as noted below.

Culture: Pat Tucker, Fairy Tales and Folklore: My Favorite Topics

Philately: Rob Sternberg, The United States Stamp for the Int'l Geophysical Year Rob Sternberg, Mail Sent Soon After the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Paul Petersen: Ed's Family Crash Mail

Sports: Tom Nichols, Jackie Robinson #42-First African American Baseball Player to Play in the Majors

U.S. History: James Joppy, *African Americans Born in Pennsylvania on U.S. Stamps*Mike L. Wilson, *Milestones in Wisconsin's History in Four First Day Covers*Paul Petersen, *The U.S. Centennial and Beyond*

World History: George Hauber, Sr. A Brief History of the Philippines as Found in One Stamp Design Paul Petersen, Seeking World Peace and the Ideal: Communists on Stamps

At our 13th November meeting, **Len Kasper** will be hosting our 2024 Open-House, the first since our last pre-Covid event in 2019. We invite all our friends and display our members' One-Page (or more) Exhibits. In the past we posted these on the wall and then went around the room while the exhibitors discussed their material. This year we hope to add a screen display of some or all the

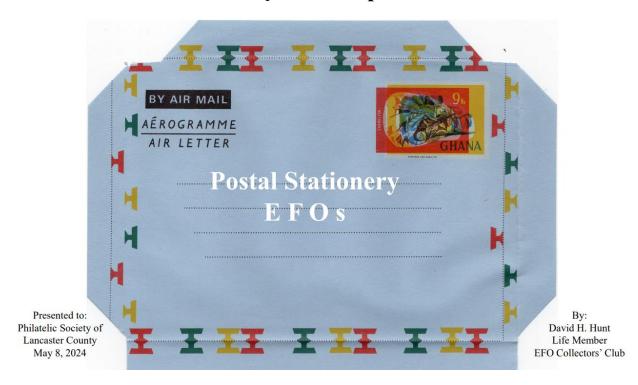
exhibits. This way we'll get to see both the originals and the enlarged display on the screen. Details and technology to be worked out.

But the bottom-line now for you is to start to put together your pages of items you wish to share. There are no rules other than no comma splices or split infinitives.

The link below will take you to the ATA exhibits. It is easy to navigate. But be forewarned, once you get started, it will be hard to break away, as there are so many interesting exhibits to see. Leave yourself some quality time.

https://ataexhibits.com/mope/

Links to May's PSLC presentations



U.S. Postal Stationery Errors, Freaks, and Oddities, by David Hunt

https://lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/2024-05-08-Hunt-David-EFOs-Stationerv.pdf

StampED: The Spring issue of the free APS magazine is now available; check it out at: https://stamped.pub/

The Journal of the Empire State Postal History Society

Excelsior!

"Louisiana to Le Havre, France: A 6-week Journey in 1841 via the Rhône out of NYC"





Charles J. DiComo, PhD ESPHS & PSLC President **PaPHS Board of Directors USPCS Life Member**



Louisiana to France: A 6-week journey





The front and back of a transatlansent in 1841 from New Orleans to France via New York City.



An etching of the commercial harbor at Le Havre, France. from Joseph Morlent's "Album of the trip to Le Havre and the Sur-

Excelsior!, The Journal of the ESPHS, April 2024, Whole No. 39, pg. 9

https://lcps-stamps.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/DICOMO-CHAS-SFL-NOLA-to-France-Excelsior-202404WN39-NSp9.pdf

Check out the interesting story of this cover's journey here: https://lcps-stamps.org/wp- content/uploads/2024/04/DICOMO-CHAS-SFL-NOLA-to-France-Excelsior-202404WN39-NSp9.pdf



June 6, 2024 - D-Day + 80 years

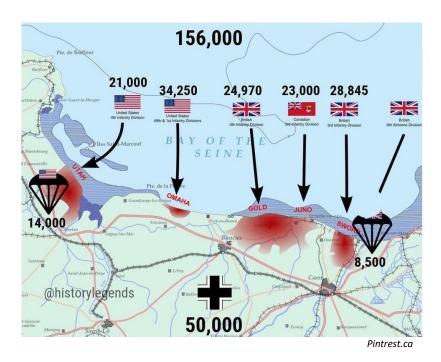
Freedom - brought to you by the Greatest Generation.

Thinking of my family, and your families, and all those that have served, and who are currently serving, on this 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

We honor the heroes who stormed the beaches of Normandy: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword, and liberated a continent and fought across the islands in the Pacific.

Never forget their courage & sacrifice.

Dr. Charles J. DiComo *PSLC President*











Dr. Charles J. DiComo



Dr. Charles J. Dicomo

Research Requests

Members of the PSLC may submit requests for research at no cost. Please email your requests to the editor for consideration.

Research Request: Pawling, Patterson & surrounding PO's, Dutchess & Putnam Co., NY: Stampless, Classic, Modern; Postcards, Bank Checks, Advertisements, Victorian Trading Cards, Bank Tags, Currency. Includes Pauling(s), Pawling(s)ville, Campbell(s)ville, Pawlings, Pawling, N. Quaker Hill, Quaker Hill, Farmer's Hill, Stonehouse, W. Pawling, Holmes, Haviland Hollow, Wingdale, Wing's Station. Looking to see images and also acquire. Contact Dr. Charles J. DiComo at charlesdicomo@gmail.com or +1 (914) 450-3791

Research Request: U.S. Private Die Proprietary 'Match & Medicines' Revenues, issued stamps, posttax labels, facsimiles on original packaging (bottles, boxes, tins), wrappers, product inserts, almanacs, billheads, etc. Looking to see images and also acquire. Contact Dr. Charles J. DiComo at charlesdicomo@gmail.com or +1 (914) 450-3791

Research Request: 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 <u>Overholt Distillery</u> or <u>Henry Clay Frick Coal Mines</u>. 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.

Research Request: 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. If you ever met of did business with Mr. Long, he'd love to hear from you as well.

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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 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.