

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

While the long-standing rain is over for a while and some sunshine has returned, fall will soon be with us, and this means we'll be back to more indoor activities when the snow starts to fall. Philatelic events are coming up. In October there are shows by the Gettysburg, Wyoming Valley, and the Allentown clubs, followed by the November and December shows at the Farm & Home Center here in Lancaster. There will also be the Postal History Symposium at APS in November, and I reviewed this in my column last month. PSLC will be quite busy as well with twice monthly meetings including an Open House with single page exhibits in November and our December Dinner to wrap up 2024.

Along with **Mike Bach's** talk on the Swiss Bundesfeier this week, we are having a visit from member **Rick Barrett** from Houston while on an East Coast business trek. And he has offered to give a short presentation to follow Mike's PowerPoint. You will be getting double your money's worth on Wednesday evening. And the usual accounterments will abound with magazines and other give-away items and door prizes. Paul's wife said that if he does not make faster progress in cleaning out the sewing room and garage, the repositories of his and donated materials, she will help him to do so, and none of us want this.

And I am pleased that the Pennsylvania Postal History Society (PaPHS), of which I am one of the Directors, has appointed PSLC's own **Hal Klein** as editor of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*. He started with the August issue, and it is outstanding. There are articles by Gus Spector, Bill Schultz, and Rick Leiby. Further, in this issue, Hal wrote of his research regarding an 1883 Myerstown (Lebanon County, PA) cover franked with a Scott-210. Of importance is how the enclosed letter guided Hal to identify many attractive features of a cover that he had purchased before

developing buyer's remorse. Once he investigated this cover, he knew he had found a winner, one worth sharing with other collectors and postal historians.

If you are not a member of the PaPHS, you might consider joining the society. Many members consider the quarterly journal as one of the biggest draws. In addition to the impressive scholarship and illustrations, it is a resource to place want ads of needed items and to learn what is for sale or trade by collectors and dealers with similar interests. When new to Pennsylvania not that long ago, I found that the PaPHS membership with its networking was quite important given my interest in the subject. Everywhere I have lived, I delved into the local postal history. PaPHS members see one another at varied meetings where we share interests, find out what's on the block, learn what other members are reading, and more. I have gained colleagues and coresearchers for my studies, and my investigations have benefited from this. Knowing other members' interests, we keep an eye out for one another. From this process, I have added many new items that have helped my collections grow. So, give the PaPHS some thought. You won't regret this. If you're interested, please let me know, as I would be pleased to sponsor PSLC members into this beneficial postal history society. Ciao, Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Upcoming Programs



Swiss Bundesfeier (National Holiday) Postcards, 1911 – 1960 Mike Bach

9 October 2024 Landis Homes in Lititz

Following a brief history of Switzerland, Mike will describe the National Day of the Confederation that began in 1291. Starting at the beginning of the 20th Century, the Confederation was

celebrated annually, and the Bundesfeier continues to this day. Over the years the promotional Bundesfeier postcards have depicted several themes such as the family, children, labor, the sick and injured, famous men, transportation, and many others. Besides these attractive postcards, Mike will display a sampling of the stamps, cancellations, and other auxiliary markings on these items.

Bonus Feature: On a whirlwind trek to the East Coast and back to Houston, PSLC member Rick Barrett will be attending our meeting and giving a short talk on "One of the Most Unique Post Offices in the World!" It's a fun, fast story with a lot of visuals...part travelogue, inspired by some interesting postal history."





Ghost Stories of Greenland 23 October 2024

A Presentation by Ron Breznay

Snow and icy winds chill the desolate expanses of Greenland. But that is not all. Tales of ghosts and monsters also send shivers down the spines of Greenlanders.

Tusass, the postal administration of Greenland, issued four sets of two stamps each from 2020 through 2023 depicting the ghostly legends of the not-so-green land. The early people of Greenland were very dependent on nature due to the harsh climate of the huge island. They would hunt and gather when the weather allowed, and then hunker down during the long, bitter winters.

Since nature was such a huge and decisive factor in the lives of Greenlanders, they had a tendency to personify it and make it alive. They developed taboos, spells, and amulets to deal with their challenging lives, which led to myths and stories to help understand their strategies. The stories began as oral narratives, and it was quite some time before they were written down, usually by European explorers and missionaries. The presentation will show the four issues of two stamps

each. The designs of the stamps were taken from a book, *Bestiarium Greenlandica*, edited by Maria Bach Kreutzmann, and these will be shown as well.

PSLC Calendar

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

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 2024: The Elusive Double Transfer on the Ives & Judd Match Company U.S. Private Die Proprietary one cent revenue stamp RO120dt. Dr. Charles J. DiComo

11 December 2024: December Dinner. Venue and Time TBA

25 December: No meeting

2024 K2 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 Friday and Saturday, November 22 - 23, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Looking further ahead, the final show of 2024 is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 21 and 22.

For more info about the K2 Lancaster Stamp Shows, visit the <u>PSLC homepage</u>, or contact Kevin Kellman at <u>k2stamps@gmail.com</u> or +1 (301) 524-9562.





Mike Marino

My visit to the Great American Stamp Show, 2024

By Mike Marino

Earlier this year my wife and I made the decision to downsize and move to MA to be closer to our daughter and grandchildren. We moved into our new home on July 26th. Additionally, I made plans to attend The Great American Stamp Show (GASS) in Hartford CT; just 90 miles down the road.

On Friday August 16th I left my wife to continue the unpacking and picked up my grandson, Connor, and his friend Sean at 7:30 am, both Boy Scouts in Troop 89 in Medfield, MA, and headed to GASS. It was nice to have some company for the drive.

I had been working with Connor on a topical collection of Scouts on Stamps, hoping to spark his interest in philately, with minimal success. At GASS, Scouts on Stamps Society International & the Boy Scouts of America were offering a six-hour session on stamp collecting. Neither 12 yr. old knew much about stamp collecting, yet both were excited about the opportunity to work toward another Merit Badge.

Upon completing the session, attendees would be awarded a Merit Badge. I dropped them off at the meeting room at 10 am and headed downstairs to the show. I had pre-registered, so there was no waiting to enter. It was very busy; dealer tables quickly filled up with collectors looking to add to their collections.

With the boys in class, I had 6 hours to view the endless aisles of impressive philatelic exhibits and visit dealers and societies I've only seen in related publications. It was nice to see a few familiar faces; APS personnel, club members and dealers from central PA. I attended the First Day Ceremony for the new Autumn Colors stamps. Lines were long for the various cancellations.

Given the recent move I had limited funds to spend, however I did acquire a few items for my collection and made several new connections. One of my goals was to find a local stamp club to join. There are several within 20-25 miles from home, but with Boston traffic, a 60-90 minute commute each way. This is very unlike the easy commute from Hershey to Lititz. For now, I'll keep searching.

Four o'clock soon rolled around, and it was time to pick up the boys. I was genuinely surprised to see how excited they were, excitement that is evident in these photos from the show. They thoroughly enjoyed the class and immediately asked if they could attend the show. I had put in several miles of walking already, but I agreed. They asked to see several stamps which they had learned about in class: the Inverted Jenny, George Washington's Free Frank (courtesy of the APS), and Duck Stamps, all on display. I believe they were fascinated.



Mike Marino

Then it was off to the Youth Area where they signed up for a Scavenger Hunt. They were instructed that there were numbered clues corresponding to the ten questions given to them throughout the bourse to find the answers. A few more laps around the bourse and the scavenger hunt was completed. It was fun chasing them around, answering additional questions along the way and watching them interact with the dealers who further peaked their philatelic interest. The boys each received a tee-shirt, a ball cap (philatelically related), pin back buttons and a bag of stamps to take home as their reward. More smiles; the boys were thrilled.

Six o'clock quickly arrived and it was time to leave. We stopped for dinner where I was bombarded with more philatelic questions which continued all the way home. Connor asked, "When is the next show?" I replied "Boston 2026". Both boys asked in unison "Can we go, Can we go?". I replied, "Definitely!" It was a very long, enjoyable, and educational day. I was thrilled to see the boys so enthusiastic; they enjoyed themselves without their electronics and came away with a newfound interest in stamp collecting. Who said "Stamp Collecting is a dying Hobby?"



Mike Marino

Remembering Brandie and Lenny Kasper



Len Kasper

The losses that we have experienced in recent months also bring to mind fond memories of two of our youngest stamp show helpers. Many of us recall Len Kasper's grandkids helping us to set up and breakdown our LANCOPEX show, and when they were older, serving us in the show's snack bar at the Farm and Home Center where Len and his lovely wife, Karen, catered our show very successfully over time. On 22nd May 2021 the youngest two, Lenny IV (18) and Brandie (21) were tragically killed by a distracted tractor-trailer driver on their way home from an estate sale.

As a Rochester (NY) racing family, one never very far from the nearby Spencer Speedway, the Kasper grandkids have been remembered each Labor Day Weekend since their passing by the Speedway's racing officials, drivers, and fans. Len shared how Labor Day 2024 was extra special, as this night was intended to reach-out to the parents, Lenny III and Kathy, long-time members of the Speedway's family.

As the field of thirty 800 horsepower race cars rumbled onto the track, they all stopped in front of the grandstands. The track announcer brought his cordless microphone down onto the track, met with total silence from the 5000+ fans in the stands. He called Len and Kathy Kasper down to the track at the start/finish line and gave a short eulogy remembering the lives of Brandie and Lenny. Len and Kathy were presented with a beautiful, illuminated memorial for the kids, and were in tears from the wonderful outpouring of love and support by all those in attendance that night.

Pictured is Lenny IV in 2017 at 14, and Brandie (on the right with the checkered flag) at age 6 with her older sister, Morgan, when serving as the Trophy Girls at a Spencer race in 2006. – Paul Petersen



Len Kasper

Hal Klein takes the reins of the Pennsylvania Postal Historian

PSLC member Hal Klein has taken over the reins of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, the quarterly journal of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society. Hal has been a frequent contributor to the newsletters of the PSLC and the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club, as well as several other philatelic publications, and now takes the production of the *Pennsylvania Postal Historian* into his capable hands. If you are interested in submitting material to him for publication, contact him at editor@paphs.org. While you are at it, consider joining the PAPHS (ewww.paphs.org) if you are not already a member. Their colorful, high-quality journal is worth the cost of dues.



Dr. Charles J. DiComo

Who needs a doctor?

On October 3rd, PSLC president Dr. Charles J. DiComo delivered a lecture on U.S. Private Die Proprietary medicine revenue stamps and nostrums to members of the North Museum. His presentation was part of the North Museum's adult learning and engagement program. Charlie is also the president of the North Museum of Nature and Science. Charlie gave a similar presentation to the PSLC in March of 2021, which you can find on YouTube at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-x50pu0 RY

The September Philatelic Gathering

September 22, 2024 (West Chester, PA) – Ronald Lesher, USPCS Distinguished Philatelist, described the early Slaight lock seals used to secure bonded warehouses and distillery storage areas to ensure that the appropriate taxes would be paid. He showed examples of the locks and how the paper seals were installed. Anyone trying to defeat the lock would damage the telltale seal. Seals were printed in sheets of 54 (6 x 9) and with various numbering systems involving use of initial or ending letters and four different colors.

Dr. Vernon Morris, Jr., USPCS Prez., spoke about the postal history of the American colonies up to and including the Revolutionary War. He showed stunning examples of letters, some signed by Samuel Adams, George Washington, Lafayette and others. He showed rate tables and described the various stamp acts, the committees of correspondence and how the rates were expressed in different currencies as they changed. One set of rates was in effect for only six weeks.

Bob Myers brought an unusual show-and-tell item. He put together an exhibit of stamps and covers related to Queen Elizabeth II. He made copies of the material into book form and sent a copy of the book to King Charles. He was surprised to receive a letter from Buckingham Palace a few months later, thanking him for his thoughtfulness in assembling the collection and sending a copy to the Royal Family. Bob circulated the thank-you letter and the envelope in which he received it.

A montage of the proceedings is on page 15. For more information on the Philatelic Gathering, attending and/presenting visit here: https://lcps-stamps.org/study-groups/.

Staying safe while "cyber stamping"

October is Stamp Collecting Month, but there are several other topics it shares commemorative honors with. A frequent topic of concern here in the PSLC is, unfortunately, cyber safety. Email fraud such as "phishing" has invaded our inboxes, and we are doing our best to inform each other of the dangers that can be inherent in matters as simple as checking our email. Please read the following memo, courtesy of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Office of Administration, and discuss any of your questions and concerns with a trusted computer "expert" (child, grandchild, another club member, etc.) who has the knowledge to address them.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

October is best known for Halloween and all things scary. It also marks National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The threat of cybercrime is a real-world fright and it's important that we are vigilant and understand the risks posed by technology and our online activities.

Governor Shapiro recently proclaimed <u>October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month</u> in Pennsylvania, so each week this month, we are partnering with StaySafeOnline.org to highlight a different cybersecurity topic.

Watch What You Click!

Phishing is one of the most common ways that bad actors trick users into clicking a malicious link or providing sensitive information. Emails, text messages, QR codes, Internet pop-ups, and social media can all be used for phishing.

In lieu of a time machine, use the below tips to protect yourself and your online accounts from cyber threats:

- Don't panic! If an email sounds urgent or threatens negative consequences, do not click
 on anything or enter any information until you take a minute to check its legitimacy. Many
 phishing emails try to create a false sense of urgency in hopes that you act before you
 have time to think.
- **Hover to verify links**. Use your mouse cursor to hover (do not click) over any links. You should see a pop-up that shows the actual address of the link.
- Double check for small inconsistencies. Look for red flags such as strange email addresses or slight misspellings in hyperlinks. For example: "likedin.com" instead of "linkedin.com"
- When in doubt, call the sender. If you receive an email from a normally trustworthy source that seems suspicious or slightly off, call the source on the phone to verify. It is possible the sender's email may be compromised.

American Philatelic Society Warns Public of Fraudulent Online Store

The APS has advised the stamp collecting community that there is a fraudulent online store operating. Hopefully it has already been shut down (please *do not* try to visit!), but, even if it is, there are thousands of other bad actors who are or will be engaged in online fraud, and we'll need to be vigilant. The following was shared with APS members:

The American Philatelic Society, a trusted name in the stamp collecting community, is issuing a warning to the public about a rogue online store, www.superstampcenter.com, that is engaging in fraudulent activities. This website has been found to be cloning the online stores and product descriptions of legitimate businesses, including the <u>APS Stamp Store</u>, and other reputable sellers on HipStamp and eBay.

Fraudulent Activities Identified:

• **Cloning of Online Stores** The rogue website has copied the layout, design, and content of legitimate online stamp stores.

- **Fake Product Listings** They are posting products they do not possess, using descriptions and images from authentic sellers.
- **Discounted Prices** These fraudulent items are often listed at significantly discounted prices to lure unsuspecting buyers.
- **Impact on Consumers** Customers who purchase from this fraudulent site risk receiving counterfeit products or no products at all, leading to financial loss and disappointment. We urge the public to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of online stores before making any purchases.

Steps to Protect Yourself

- 1. **Verify Website Authenticity** Check the URL and ensure it matches the official website of the seller.
- 2. **Inspect the Business Operators** Check the business organization pages of the website to see if it seems a legitimate business. Such website pages might include the following: about, contact, customer service, returns, and shipping.
- 3. Look for Reviews Search for reviews and feedback from other customers.
- 4. **Contact the Seller** Reach out to the seller directly through verified contact information.
- 5. **Report Suspicious Activity** If you encounter a suspicious website, report it to the relevant authorities.

The American Philatelic Society is a leading authority in the stamp collecting community. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in the philatelic marketplace.

The IGY and the American Stamp Collector and Dealer

There were some familiar looking items on the front of the September issue of *The American Stamp Collector & Dealer* magazine. The cover story was all about the International Geophysical Year (1958). This ASC&D article was by Rodney Juell, a monthly columnist for this publication. However, the reason that the cover items looked so familiar is that the article was about **Rob Sternberg** and his research and collection of this 1958 event. Many of the recognizable items are ones that he showed during his <u>April 2022 presentation</u> to PSLC (a link to the video on our YouTube channel is <u>here</u>). There is no need to scan the article for Rob, <u>as he has his own copy</u>; he helped write it. Nice job, Rodney and Rob!





Dr. Charlies J. DiComo

Member Requests and Notices

Members of the PSLC may submit a notice of collecting interests and requests for research at no cost. Please email your requests to the newsletter editor for consideration. We will run your items for a minimum of three months unless otherwise directed.

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 <u>rickbarrettmail@comcast.net</u> anytime. If you ever met or did business with Mr. Long, he'd love to hear from you as well.

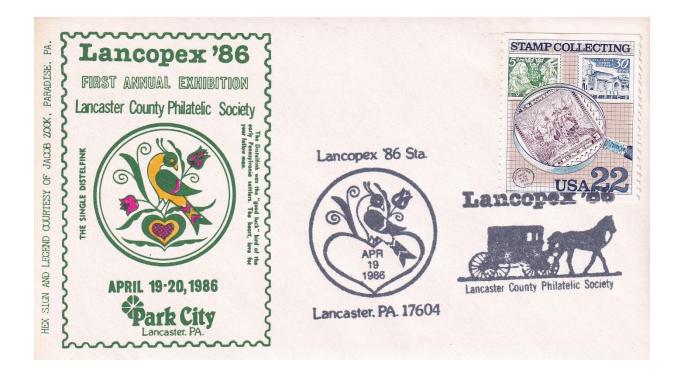
Research Request: Looking for the following DC-4 Skymaster plate blocks: C32 – 23493 LL&LR, 23494 LR, 23523 UL &LR; C33 – 23590 UL. Please contact Tom Nichols at tnicholspa@gmail.com.



PSLC Member Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	Date Joined	<u>Years</u>
Robert Coradi	10/25/2020	4
Jacob Fehl, Jr.	10/12/2016	8
John Heitzman	10/31/2012	12
Mark Jardel	10/10/2012	12
Daniel Martin	10/30/2018	6
Johnny Martin	10/30/2018	6
David Plunkett	10/25/2020	4
Bill Schultz	10/12/2016	8
Mark Schwartz	10/12/2016	8
Kerry Wetterstrom	10/08/2014	10

Happy PSLC anniversary!



PSLC Officers

President	First Vice President	Second Vice President
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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.

The PSLC is collecting dues for 2025!

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, please make us aware of that.

There are multiple ways you can submit your renewal payment:

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

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this request, as we look forward to twelve more months of interesting, entertaining, mind expanding philatelic presentations. If you have any questions, please contact membership chair Wayne Heim at heimwayne@gmail.com			
Please clip this 2025 Dues Renewal Application, complete, and mail to Lou DiFelice, 1024 Woodridge Blvd, Lancaster, PA, 17601-2251 with \$10.00, Checks only, no cash. Be sure to sign your check. Thank you in advance.			
Name:			
Phone:			
Email Address:			
\Box Please check here if you do not require a new membership card. This action will save the club time and the cost of postage.			
Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member:			
ATA Member □ APS Member □			
Make checks payable to Philatelic Society of Lancaster County. Please advise of any changes in address, phone/cell, email, or change in ATA/APS status.			