

*"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"*

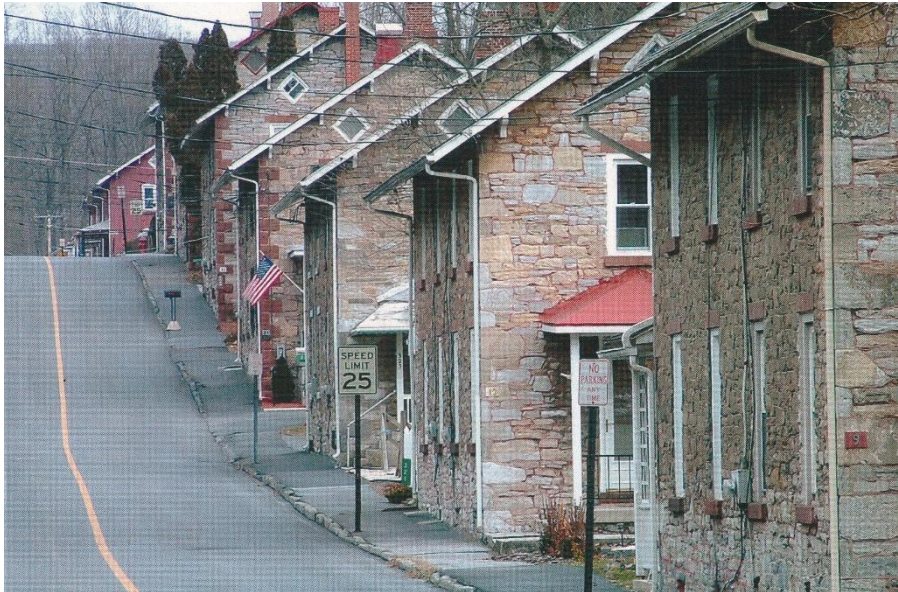
# **THE PATENT - OVERPRINT**

The combined monthly newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs

**April – May 2025**

**Number 68**

**The May meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library, 125 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, in historic downtown Lebanon.**



## **Details are coming together for a special June LSCC meeting**

Dr. Paul Petersen of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County will be joining us for a special outdoor meeting on June 17, on the grounds of Cornwall Manor. The topic of his presentation is The Stamps, labels, postcards, covers, and other ephemera of the 1939 New York World's Fair.

Dennis Shumaker has secured a meeting place for us at Cornwall Manor, near the bocce ball courts, that has three picnic tables which will provide seating for up to 18 people. Visitors are, as always, welcome, and Dennis will be promoting the meeting in the community, which will hopefully bring some visitors from there. More details will be provided via email, and available in the June newsletter. Anyone with questions is welcomed to contact Scott Ney at [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com).

# Maintaining and Expanding your Philatelic Knowledge

*By Dick Colberg*

At the March meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club, I continued my short “Basics of Stamp Collecting” series with a discussion about some of the many philatelic resources available to collectors. There is simply no way to advance in stamp collecting without having access to the many fine catalogues and reference books that are available. Almost every resource known to philately is available at the [American Philatelic Research Library](#), and for frequently consulted works on our special areas, we should all have our own private home libraries to refer to.

## **Catalogues**

For most American collectors, the Scott Catalog is the standard for U.S. and U.S. Possessions, as well as U.N. stamps, not to mention issues the world over. A set of them is prohibitively expensive for most of us, but one is available here to consult at the Lebanon Community Library, and used past years are normally available for purchase at steeply discounted prices compared to the new issues.

Online subscriptions are available for those who frequently utilize the Scott Catalogue, which has the baked-in advantage of not taking up any shelf space. In addition to their comprehensive worldwide catalogue, Scott has a U.S. Specialized Catalogue, and a Classic Specialized Catalogue, the latter listing worldwide stamp issues to 1940. These specialized catalogues are both contained in one volume, and used, outdated copies can occasionally be bought for a very reasonable price.

Other recommended catalogues are:

- a. Stanley Gibbons for Great Britain and British Commonwealth
- b. Brookman for Canada and BNA
- c. Yvert & Tellier for France and Colonies
- d. Michel for Germany and States
- e. Mellone's for FDCs
- f. Durland for U.S. plate numbers

## **Reference books**

Just about every specialty that is collected has its own reference material. For example, if you collect and study U.S. Airmail issues, there is the [American Airmail Catalogue](#), now in its seventh edition, which consists of five volumes. Visit the American Philatelic Research Library to see what is available. Some of the more popular, less available references may cut into your collecting budget, but if you're patient, you might be able to find a good deal from the used books available at the [APRL](#) or your favorite internet bookseller.

## **Societies and their journals**

Philatelic organizations like the [American Philatelic Society](#) exist to promote the hobby of stamp collecting, and a big part of that is disseminating knowledge through their websites and journals. Here is a list, which is by no means exhaustive, of organizations of collectors who may share your collecting interests:

- a. *The American Philatelist* (A.P.S.) for general knowledge; beginner to moderately advanced collectors.
- b. MEPSI for Mexico (*Mexicana*)
- c. BNAPS for British North America (*BNA Topics*)
  - i. RPO Study Group newsletter
- d. *The Penny Post* for U.S. carriers and locals
- e. *Collectors Club Philatelist* by the [Collectors Club of New York](#). (Advanced)
  - a. [Check out their substack](#)
- f. *The Canal Zone Philatelist* for Canal Zone collectors
- g. *Historian* for [PA postal history](#) (Almost every state has a postal history society)
- h. *Topical Times* for thematic collectors
- i. *First Days* for FDC collectors. AFDCS
- j. *The Chronicle* by the [U. S. Philatelic Classics Society](#)
- k. EFO collectors. Journal ?
- l. [France & Colonies Philatelic Society](#)
- m. COSGB, Commercial Overprints Society of Great Britain. Web.
- n. ARA, American Revenue Association. *The Revenuer*.

Also search the internet for blogs and other resources. I would like to make a special mention of The Pennsylvania Postal History Society's *Historian*, which is edited by our own Hal Klein. A new website is currently under construction, so check back later to see what the PAPHS has to offer.

Many of the above also have regular programs that are accessible to the collecting public; the APS sends a regular email newsletter to their members, which promotes these online opportunities.

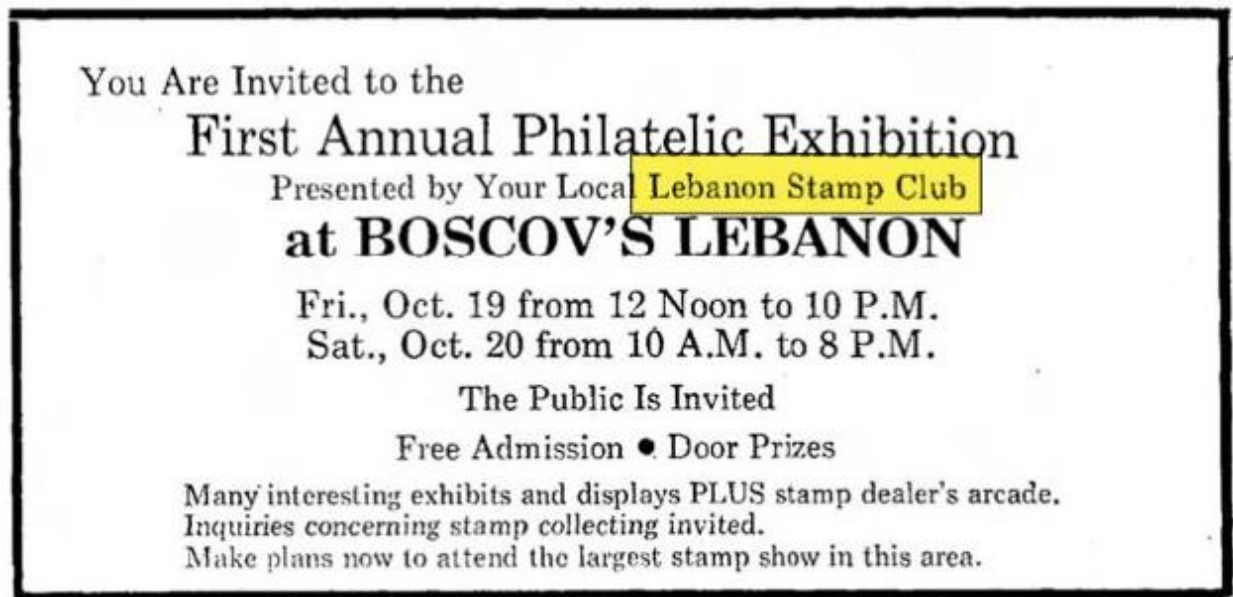
## **Auctions and their catalogues**

Auction catalogues have always been kept as resources by collectors, and we've probably reached the pinnacle of their usefulness as far as printed items. Since at least the 1990's, they've provided collectors with color illustrations and have documented for us dreamers the finest collections of others with great discipline and, perhaps, even greater resources.

In the age of the internet, printed catalogues are disappearing, but this will also give most collectors even greater opportunities to access to them, as many auction houses keep their past auctions and their results online for collectors to refer to. Below are some suggestions for reference:

- a. Siegel Auctions. New York based; mainly better U.S. stamps and covers
- b. Spink; mainly better U. S. and foreign stamps and covers
- c. Kelleher; medium priced worldwide stamps
- d. Harmer; better U.S and British Commonwealth
- e. Eastern Auctions; Canada and BNA
- f. Cherrystone; moderate to better U.S. and foreign stamps
- g. Behr for France
- h. On-line (e.g. eBay, Hip Stamp, and Delcampe)

### Do you remember LEBPEX?



[LEBPEX in the News](#) is now available on the [LSCC's affiliate page](#) of the [Philatelic Society of Lancaster County's website](#).

LEBPEX in the News is a compilation of clippings found in past editions of the *Lebanon Daily News*. Part One is related to Lebanon Stamp Club exhibitions prior to the first LEBPEX, and Part Two consists of advertisements and news items from LEBPEX shows, from the first exhibition in 1973 to the last in 2001. Check out *LEBPEX in the News* and enjoy a stroll down memory lane!

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

Please contact the editor if you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings.

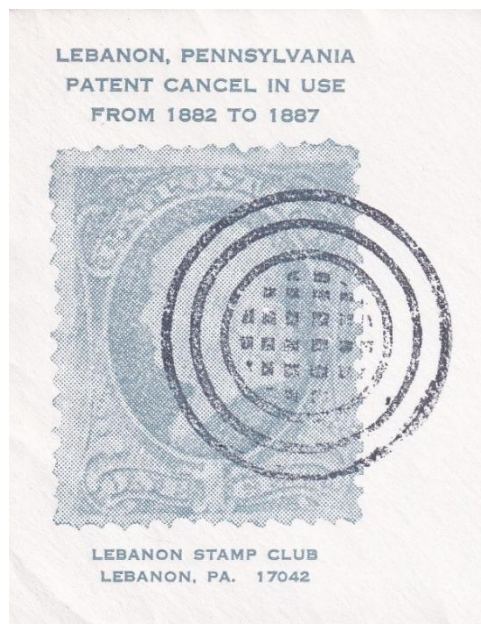
Date	Presenter and Subject
May 20, 2025	Bring an item or two to share with the club!
June 17, 2025	The Stamps, labels, postcards, covers, and other ephemera of the 1939 New York World's Fair – Paul Petersen (A special presentation at Cornwall Manor)
July 15, 2025	It's a Rum Tale – Mike Bach
August 19, 2025	Civil War Pension Philately – Scott Ney
September 16, 2025	
October 21, 2025	
November 18, 2025	
December 16, 2025	Holiday Dinner at The Rotunda Restaurant and Pub

**The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County for hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:**

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)

**The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:**

[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. \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)



**The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046**





# The Overprint

## **Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club**

Meetings held at Calvary Lutheran Church,  
1009 Elizabeth Avenue in Laureldale.

Elizabeth Avenue crosses Kutztown Road in the Muhlenberg Township area.  
(About a mile north of Rt 222)

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.  
(doors open around 6:30 for pre meeting social time)**

**TUESDAY May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**TOPIC: "My Favorite Cover"**

**Presenter: All Members**


**Those attending this meeting should bring their favorite  
cover**

**to share with other members.**

**How and why did you get it?**

**Why is it special to you?**

As our meeting is the day after Cinco De Mayo, this month I thought it appropriate to feature these items commemorating Mexico's National Holiday . . .



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<i>Issue Date:</i> April 16, 1998	<i>Printer:</i> Stamp Venturers
<i>First Day City:</i> San Antonio, Texas	<i>Manufacturing Process:</i> Gravure
<i>Designer:</i> Carl Herman, Laguna Niguel, California	<i>Colors:</i> Magenta, yellow, cyan, black and line red
<i>Engraver:</i> Arnotek Industries	<i>Image Area:</i> 1.04 x .76 inches or 26.41 x 19.30 millimeters
<i>Illustrator:</i> Robert Rodriguez, Pasadena, California	<i>Stamps per Pane:</i> 20
<i>Typographer:</i> Carl Herman	<i>Plate Numbers:</i> "S" followed by five single digits
<i>Modeler:</i> Donald H. Woo	<i>Marginal Markings:</i> © USPS 1997, position diagram, plate numbers, price
<i>Art Director:</i> Carl Herman	

## Cinco de Mayo




This year, the U.S. Postal Service extends its Holiday Celebrations stamp series beyond the winter season for the first time. This 32-cent stamp commemorates the annual May 5 Cinco de Mayo celebration, a national holiday in Mexico that is honored by Mexican Americans and Latin Americans generally.

In the 1820s, Mexico won its independence from Spain, but Mexico's struggle for sovereignty continued for decades. Internal power struggles and threats from European nations perpetuated instability and division.

When France began to invade the strategic town of Puebla in 1862, however, indigenous Mexican forces assembled a resistance. Outnumbered and outgunned, the Mexicans nonetheless defended their positions, then scattered the French troops on May 5, 1862. Though the French captured Puebla one year later and ruled Mexico until 1867, Cinco de Mayo celebrates this tremendous victory against imperialism.

Today, Mexican Americans celebrate the holiday with speeches, parades, and festivals, complete with food, singing, and other amusements. In Los Angeles, a three-day fiesta centers around Olvera Street.

Here, first-time stamp illustrator Robert Rodriguez captures the spirit of the dancing that traditionally accompanies these festivals.

Souvenir Page © 1998 U.S. Postal Service 9808

## USA – Mexico Joint Issue - April 16, 1998







**I came across this article from Linns Stamp News in one of my Stamp Feeds. An interesting commentary and I think some comments made have driven many of us from collecting US stamps. – Mike Bach**

## **Course corrections needed with USPS stamp program**

### ***U.S. Stamp Notes by John M. Hotchner***

The United States Postal Service issues a constant stream of stamps that they expect will interest the public, hopefully turning non-collectors into collectors. Their ultimate objective is to fill their own coffers, and I don't argue with that motivation. After all, this arrangement is a win for both the Postal Service and the hobby.

My problem with the stamp program is that the USPS is no longer issuing many stamps that celebrate the history of our great country. This direction began to change radically while I was a member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2010.

Today, the committee is top-heavy with artists and marketers, and the stamps issued focus heavily on fruits, flowers, animals, art of various types, crafts, antiques, and pop culture.

Virtually all of these issues are multi-stamp releases with up to 10 different designs per issue, while the occasional issue with gravitas or a history component is often issued as a single stamp.

Precious little of this output is of interest to confirmed stamp collectors, or people likely to become serious collectors. Most of our hobby's adherents who collect U.S. issues do so because they have a great deal of interest in American history and love the older U.S. stamp issues that celebrated that history.

Indeed, if what I am hearing from a wide variety of U.S. stamp collectors is accurate, the Postal Service's present emphasis on pretty and less substantive stamp subjects is pushing formerly serious collectors out of the hobby, or alternatively, causing them to end their U.S. collections at the year 2000.

Combine this with the rising costs of U.S. first-class mail, and high face values of Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express and other special service stamps, and I would bet dollars to doughnuts that there is a net decrease in revenue from stamp collectors despite the increasing rates.

I'm not suggesting that the less substantive subjects be ignored. They all have their place, along with flag stamps, Christmas and other holiday stamps, and stamps recognizing the diversity of America's population.

What I'm saying is that these subjects and the less substantive ones noted above are now crowding out worthy subjects that have historical merit and/or celebrate the accomplishments of Americans who have contributed to making this a better and more advanced country and world.

What I'm asking for is that some semblance of balance be returned to the program. An early opportunity will be the issues now being planned for the 250th birthday of the United States in 2026. Announcements about those might be dropping soon, and I hope to be pleasantly surprised.



## Back to RSCC Postal History – Post WWII 1946 to 1948



ENJOY THESE POST-WAR  
COVERS. DO ANY OF YOU  
REMEMBER THESE OR EVEN  
HAVE THESE?  
IF YOU DO, CAN YOU SHARE  
THEM WITH ME?

LATE USE  
CANCELED IN 1952

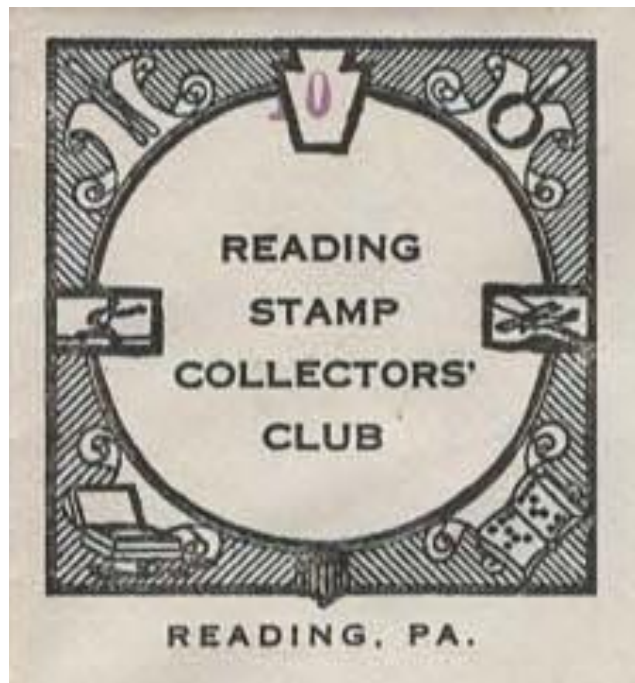


SENT TO SEATTLE, WA ON  
NOVEMBER 13TH 1948 DURING  
THE EXHIBITION WITHOUT A  
STREET # RECANCELLED ON  
NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> AND MARKED  
UNCLAIMED.  
HOW IT CAME BACK TO  
READING AND TO THE CLUB, I  
HAVE NO IDEA.



PLAIN CARD, CANCELED ON  
LAST DAY OF THE EXHIBITION  
BUT WITH NO ADDRESS





## Reading Stamp Collectors Club – Reading, PA