

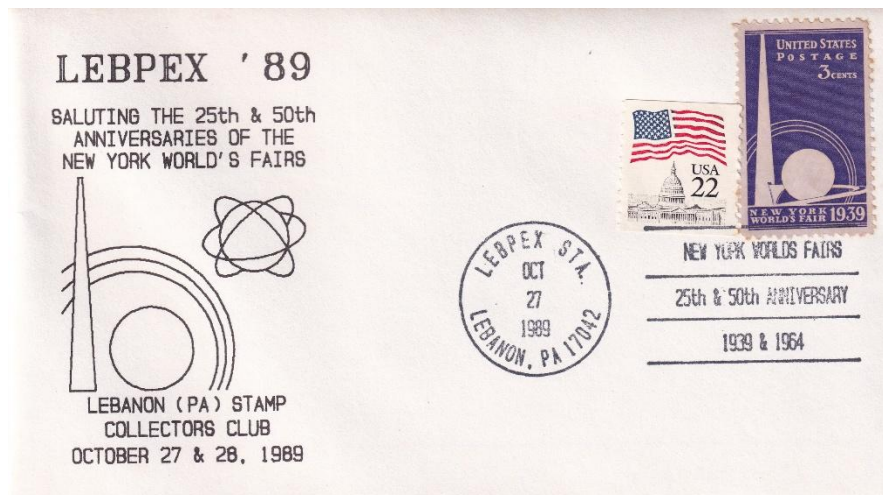
*"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"*

# THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

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

July 2025  
Number 70

The July meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. under the pavilion by the Bocce courts at Cornwall Manor. Please see below for directions on how to find us. If the weather foils our plans as it did last month, we'll meet in our usual spot at the Lebanon Community Library.



## Stamps, Covers, and Ephemera of the 1939 New York World's Fair: Take Two!

Our special visit from Dr. Paul Petersen of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County on June 17 was canceled due to the weather, so we will again welcome him in July for a special outdoor meeting 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".

Paul's presentation will be a hands-on experience through a variety of items from the fair such as postage stamps, labels, postcards, covers, paper ephemera, books, tchotchkes, maps, knickknacks, photos, and more, along with some of the history and stories of this a once in a lifetime storied event, the "World of Tomorrow". Thirty-two pages of Paul's exhibit will be featured. There will be party favors, door prizes, and give-away items for all.

Once again, the club would like to thank Dennis Shumaker for securing a meeting place for us at Cornwall Manor, at the pavilion next to the Bocce courts (see below for more details). There are three picnic tables which will provide seating for up to 18 people, and you are invited to bring along your own bag chair. Dennis has also promoted the meeting in the community, which will hopefully bring some visitors from Cornwall Manor.

Anyone with questions is welcomed to contact Scott Ney at [stnst2@aol.com](mailto:stnst2@aol.com) or 717-383-1736; however, please be advised that Scott won't be available on the day of the meeting, or before the meeting from July 11 – 14, due to a family commitment.

## **How to find us on July 15**

Here are directions from Lebanon:

Take Cornwall Road to the three-way intersection at the Cornwall Elementary School, and bear to the left, continuing to the stop sign at the intersection with 419 (the Root Beer Barrel and Rail Trail parking area are on the left). Continue onto Boyd Street, past the left turn onto 419 and the post office on the right, but do not use the first (main) entrance into Cornwall Manor, which is also on the right.

Keep following Boyd Street around, past the health center on the right, onto Rexmont Road, and drive a short distance until you see the Cornwall Furnace on the left (you will see Apple Hill Road is on the right). A few hundred feet further on the right is the old stone paymaster's building, where you want to make a right turn into the parking area.

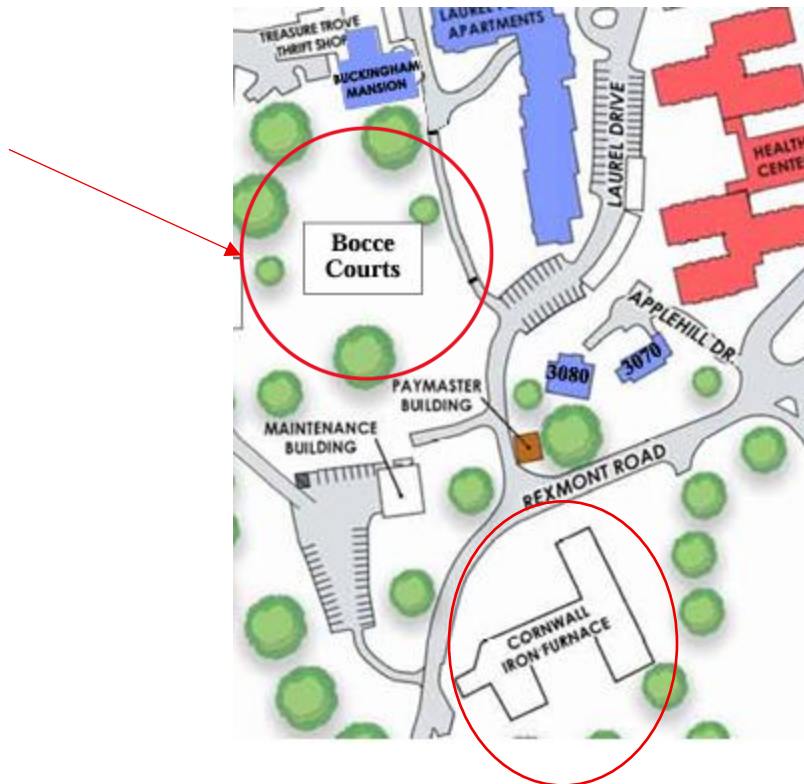
The first seven spots to the right in the parking area will be marked with cones; they are reserved for stamp club member parking. The road to the maintenance building is to the right where you'll be parked and the Macadam path to the pavilion at the bocce ball court is right there, just behind a stone wall.

Here is a simplified set of directions, including a link to a map of the grounds:

We are meeting at the picnic tables by the Bocce Ball courts on the Buckingham Campus. Here is a link to the map or the grounds on Cornwall Manor's website:

[https://cornwallmanor.org/content/uploads/2021/10/Buckingham-Woods-Campus-Map\\_October2021.pdf](https://cornwallmanor.org/content/uploads/2021/10/Buckingham-Woods-Campus-Map_October2021.pdf)

A smaller detail of the map below; notice the landmark at the bottom of the map – the Cornwall Iron Furnace. The Bocce courts can be easily accessed from Rexmont Road, by turning into the Cornwall Manor campus opposite the old Iron Furnace.



Here's a picture of the pavilion by the Bocce Ball courts where we are meeting:



Please come early! We'll try to have a sign and/or a person standing at the entrance off Rexmont Road to guide you there until about ten minutes after starting time.

## F.F.I. (FRENCH LIBERATION STAMPS) – 1944

*By Richard Colberg*

Over the course of the past ten years, as a result of having assembled two French postal history exhibits, I have been in contact with several French stamp dealers, mostly through Delcampe. I have allowed a few to put me on their email mailing list because they have interesting material for sale.

One such dealer is Vermillon Philatelie ([vermillonphilatelie.com](http://vermillonphilatelie.com)). Every couple of weeks Vermillon issues a newsletter featuring a handful of “specials”. For me, his “specials” are special because the material is somewhat out of the ordinary. But his specials are never really inexpensive!

In March of this year Vermillon ran a series of specials on the WW II liberation stamps of France. I found them fascinating to read about.

Most of you are probably aware that from the capitulation of France in 1940 through the end of the war, the Germans occupied the northern half of France as well as the entire west coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

While a long way from actual liberation, the French resistance considered the liberation a *fait accompli* from just after the D-Day landing on June 6, 1944. The very first liberation stamps were issued in June 1944. Various denominations of these issues were overprinted with various combinations of the Cross of Lorraine, dates, various forms of “freedom”, V (for Victory), F.F.I (French Forces of the Interior – Resistance), or the city of issue.

The material I downloaded from Vermillon was fascinating to read. I had no idea of the scope of these issues. The Vermillon articles referred to a book by Jacques Lion, *Les Timbres de la Libération* (The Stamps of the Liberation). Wanting to learn more I tried to find a copy of this book on the Internet. No go! I did find a copy in the library of the Collectors Club of New York and have borrowed it. I now find that my favorite book seller in Paris has a copy for sale. I have reserved it for when I return in September.

The book is a bit of a tough read in that it is all in French. I have learned that there are 129 different liberation issues. Whoa! That’s way beyond my imagination. That will pretty much keep me from trying to form a collection of this material. And it’s a bit pricey, too.

As you can imagine, the print runs of these overprinted stamps are small. And they are counterfeited. Expertization is a must. I would have thought that the liberation stamps would only be issued from the occupied parts of France. Wrong! These issues come from occupied as well as non-occupied parts of France. The very first issue was from non-occupied France, Sainte-Foy-la-Grande, in southwestern France, not far from Bordeaux.





**Annemasse – near Swiss border**



**Sainte-Foy-la-Grande  
The first liberation stamp**



**Baccarat**



**Gourdon (Near Ste. Foy)**



**Nice – F.F.I.**



**Nice – Front National**



For the second year in a row, I was honored to be asked to place flowers at the World War II monument in our hometown in France during the VE Day observance.

The current mayor is standing second from the right, arms crossed. The immediate past mayor is to his right in the blue jacket. The previous mayor served for 25 years. Some of his grandkids are standing on either side of me.

Regards, Dick Colberg

## Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Presenter and Subject</b>
July 15, 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)
August 19, 2025	It's a Rum Tale – Mike Bach
September 16, 2025	Civil War Pension Philately – Scott Ney
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 August 5th**

Postponed from July due to storms and flooding

**THE TOPIC IS: "Historic Events"**

**Presenter: All Members**

**Those attending this meeting should bring a philatelic  
item pertaining to an "Historic Event" to share with  
other members.**



# DID YOU KNOW:

July 2018

## U.S. Postal Service Will Pay \$3.5M for Stamp Copyright Infringement Case



**LAS VEGAS VERSION**



**NEW YORK VERSION**

A stamp that mistakenly featured the image of a Statue of Liberty replica in Las Vegas instead of the original New York Statue will cost the U.S. Postal Service \$3.5 million in a [copyright infringement lawsuit](#). Las Vegas sculptor Robert Davidson, who created the replica Lady Liberty in the facade at the New-York-New York casino-resort on the Las Vegas Strip, sued the Postal Service five years ago over its 2011 “forever” stamp design .

The stamp featured the face of his Lady Liberty, which his attorneys argued in court filings was unmistakably different from the original and was more “fresh-faced,” “sultry” and even “sexier.” The Postal Service had been issuing the stamps for at least three months before discovering it was not an image of the New York statue.

Postal Service attorneys argued Davidson’s design was too similar for him to claim copyright. Federal Judge Eric Bruggink sided with Davidson last week and agreed his work was an original design with a more modern, feminine and contemporary face. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 he ordered the Postal Service to pay \$3.5 million to the artist – a slice of the \$70 million the service made in profit from the stamp.

Postal Service spokesman Dave Partenheimer said in an email that the agency was reviewing the decision and would comment “if and when appropriate.”

Todd Bice, Davidson’s attorney, said in an emailed statement that his client was pleased with the court’s decision. “As the court noted, Mr. Davidson’s artistic creation of the Las Vegas Lady Liberty is highly unique and attractive, which is what prompted the US Postal Service to select a photo of his work for the second ever Forever Stamp, over hundreds of other images,” he said. Court documents show Davidson said he wanted his sculpture, like the rest of the casino-resort’s facade, to have the feel of New York’s iconic skyline without duplicating it. This court recognized the significance of his work.”

**What would your verdict have been?**

## Mulready Envelopes and Letter Sheets

Mulready envelopes are elaborately decorated, pre-paid envelopes and letter sheets issued in the UK in 1840, at the same time as [the Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp](#). Issued in both one-penny and two-penny denominations, the Mulreadys were regarded by many people of the time as an embarrassing Folly. Apparently their elaborate, fanciful design was considered paternalistic and condescending, hence they saw little use, and were withdrawn, but are popular collectibles now.

They are essentially the earliest stamped envelopes. [Rowland Hill](#), their sponsor (and the man generally considered the inventor of the postage stamp), expected them to be the primary vehicle for letters, and issued stamps as well almost as an afterthought. But the public preferred stamps. Most of the Mulready stock had to be destroyed, making them rather scarce today.

The Mulready (*Artist/Designer, William Mulready; Engraver, John Thompson; Printers, William Clowes & Sons*) was issued in two denominations, One Penny (black ink on cream paper) and Two Pence (blue ink on cream paper), in two different colors to distinguish the denominations, and in two different formats - unfolded envelopes and unfolded letter sheets. Envelopes were still a novelty at the time, as the prior postal rates had been based not on weight but on the number of sheets of paper, and an envelope counted as one sheet, doubling the rate. Note that there is no stamp or indicium in the design, merely the postage value printed at the bottom. It was only later, when stamps became the standard way to pay postage, that stamp-like images were printed on postal stationery.

Keep in mind that the Mulreadys and Penny Blacks were part of a major postal reform, in which the rate scale was dramatically revised, from [a system based on the number of sheets of paper and the mileage](#), to one based simply on weight. It was called Island Penny Postage (also Inland Penny Postage, and Uniform Penny Post), which meant that all letters sent within the UK went for a single fixed rate of One Penny per half-ounce.



The cover above is a wonderful rarity, a Mulready envelope with a Penny Black, cancelled on their joint Day of Issue, May 6, 1840, making this the First First Day cover of all of Philately! Sold for \$18,500 in 1999

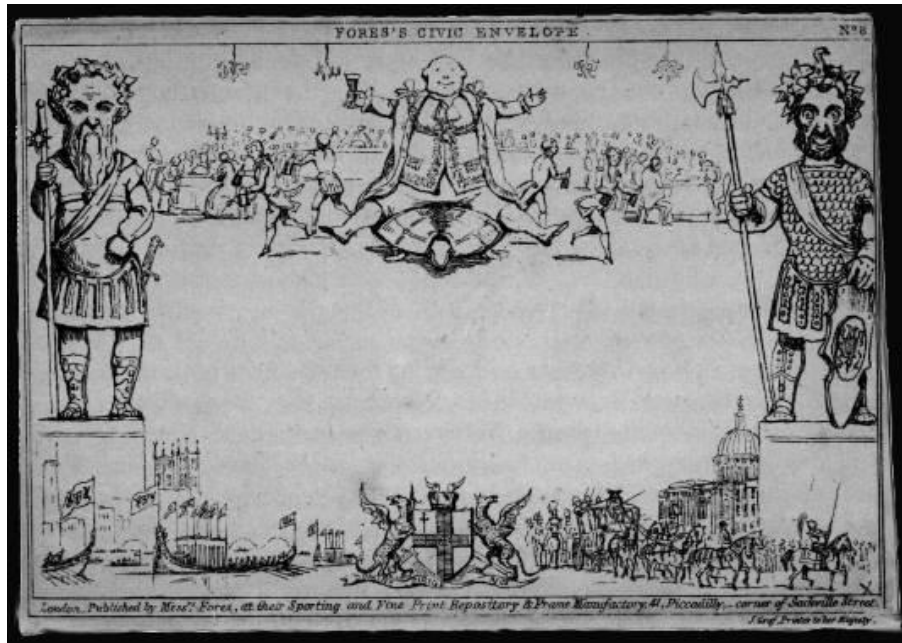
## Mulready Parodies, Lampoons & Caricatures

Despite their failure, we have the Mulreadys to thank for other popular collectibles. Many amusing and fanciful imitations, parodies, and lampoons were published, leading to a long tradition of beautiful illustrated envelopes, both printed, and hand-drawn. Moreover, their status as "Firsts" has given them a place in the hearts of collectors, and led to their reproduction for many purposes over the years.

*"Everybody has, we presume, before this time, had an opportunity of examining those very extraordinary specimens of British Art - the penny-post envelopes. On the merits of the design for those absurdities we have never heard but one opinion. From Sir Robert Peel down to the lowest kitchen wench the new covers have been laughed at by every man, woman, and child of the community who has the slightest perception of the ludicrous. Anything more ridiculous could hardly be imagined..."*

*(London Times, September 2, 1840)*

## Examples of Mulready Caricatures







Much of the public shared the reaction to the Mulready of the writer of that *Times* editorial and the publishers of these parodies, which sold among them many more copies than the item they caricatured. Many are scarce and valuable today. There is an entertaining and informative book, "The Mulready Envelope & Its Caricatures" by Major E B Evans (first published in 1891), which recounts the history of the Mulreadys themselves, and explains the meanings of the Imitations and Parodies, most of which are obscure to the modern viewer.

**Editors Note:** It has been suggested that stationers at the time thought the introduction of the Mulready Envelope was a threat to their business and instigated the negative press deriding the envelope and promoting the caricatures, leading to the end of the Mulready in September 1840.

