



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

One of the constants of the past 250 years of United States postal history is change, and there are changes coming to the Post Office. A first-class letter rate increase, from 73¢ to 78¢, is coming next week on the 13th. This amounts to a 6.8% increase, one that is close to the inflationary bubble of the day. In last month's *First State Philatelist*, the newsletter of the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club, editor Fr. James Lentini pictured the 2-cent 1925 Norse American Centennial stamp, an attractively engraved red and black issue. The point he makes is that the 2-cent postage rate 100 years ago would soon rise to the 78-cent rate today, a 3800% increase. This increase is double that of the expected U.S. inflation rate of 1736% over these last 100 years. Staggering! The handsome Forever® stamp above commemorating the 250th anniversary of the USPOD will be released 10 days after the next rate increase, on July 23.

Let's delve into this a little further and go back to August 1, 1958; this is when the 3¢ stamp rate increased to a 4¢, and though only a penny rise, it was a large 33% increase. Looking at the inflation data for the 1958 3¢ stamp rate by the [online inflation calculator](#) of the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, that 3¢ rate has only risen to 33.4¢ as of May, 2025. What I am saying is that the curve denoting the rise in postage rates since both the 1925 and 1958 issues far exceeds that of ordinary inflation. If stamp prices were based on inflation alone, since 1925, our current first-class letter rate would be about 35-cents.

For the USPS, there may be a gathering storm from what is coming out of Denmark's postal authority. By the end of the year, it is reported that Denmark will no longer be issuing stamps or making home letter deliveries; it will be parcels only. As in Denmark and the rest of the Western world, the decline in first class mail utilization in the United States continues rapidly. These are not good signs for the PO or stamp collectors. Postal customers have found faster, cheaper, and perhaps more efficient ways to pay a bill or send some correspondence. And folks here in our county are complaining of days without home mail delivery or pick up, and mail that they have sent and/or were expecting not reaching its proper destination. One of our PSLC members recently shared about two bills that he sent out in the preprinted company envelopes which were returned by the PO as undeliverable! There was nothing wrong with them. He went to the PO, and they made it right, but the bills may have arrived late, and he is waiting to see if he will have to pay any late fees. While considering himself an old curmudgeon, a dog too old to learn new tricks, he is giving serious thought to online bill-pay. And he adds that for monthly bills (power, water, cable, *et. al*), he will save \$9.36/year in postage for each company...that is until the next rate hike.

We have seen the reports in this newsletter and in the mainstream media about the vast increase in forgeries of U.S. postage. Likely we have all seen the steady advertisements for postal workers, an indication of a shortage of qualified personnel. In the past, a job with the USPS was a coveted and secure Civil Service position that required heavy screening, including testing, to get the most qualified of the many applicants for each vacancy. They only took the best (and occasionally, the most politically connected). Is this still the case? A colleague in York shared that she has had five different mailmen since the middle of last year. Does this cause one to lose confidence in the system? I don't know, however, despite all these misgivings, from what I glean from my many worldwide colleagues, here in the U.S., we still have the finest postal system on the planet. But nothing stays the same indefinitely, so we must not lose our vigilance.

Many collectors think of the summer as a slow time for collecting, preferring to getting out the album, stamps, and hinges on a cold winter night in front of the fire. But there is a lot going on during the busy summer we are in. APS Volunteer Week is July 14-18th in Bellefonte; the K² Stamp Show is Sunday, August 3rd; The Club picnic is Wednesday, August 13th; and the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) is August 14-18th. So, you have your pick for summer philatelic fun. Hope you can take advantage of it. Please join us on Wednesday for Mike Wilson's talk on crash mail. And remember that all of our happenings are on our website, which I update constantly, <https://lcps-stamps.org>). Happy Collecting! – *Dr. Charles J. DiComo*

Upcoming Programs



Tales of Disaster from the Early Days of Airmail By Michael Wilson

**09 July 2025
Landis Homes, 6:30 p.m.**

One of the most dangerous professions in the 1920s was air mail pilot. The life expectancy of the first air mail pilots was as short as 900 flying hours as they flew mail without parachutes, weather reports, wing deicers or radio guides. The legacy of those daredevil days of airmail is a plethora of crash and wreck mail to collect and study with fascinating and often sobering tales. Mike will share some of those tales using crash covers in his collection. The cover shown is one such survivor; postmarked Glendale, Calif., Jan 4, 430 PM 1929 with the auxiliary marking in violet "Damaged By Fire Jan 3 Fort Cook, Neb." The pilot is known to have survived the crash. Do you have crash and wreck mail covers? If so, bring them to the meeting to share!

Rounding Up Texas Post Offices: Identifying and Locating all the sites that a County has to offer

**By John Germann
23 July 2025
6:15 p.m. via Zoom**

The history of a county is encapsulated in its communities and their post offices. They reflect the hopes and dreams of the pioneers who put down their roots in these locations. Outside of postal records, some of those, which were destined to fail, are all but lost to history. For those that managed to succeed, there are still some charming remnants of their development over the years. John will share with us the joy of research in locating and mapping their sites, and then the ultimate joy of getting out on the open roads, paved and unpaved, to spend a delightful day (or two) visiting them and, in the process, uniquely discovering one's own county.



Stamps, Covers, and Ephemera of the 1939 New York World's Fair

By Dr. Paul Petersen of the PSLC

Sponsored by the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

Cornwall Manor

Rescheduled for July 15 – 6:30 p.m.

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club cordially invites the PSLC to join us at a special outdoor meeting of the club at Cornwall Manor in Cornwall, PA. This 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 once in a lifetime storied event, the *World of Tomorrow*. Thirty-two pages of the presenter's exhibit will be featured. There will be party favors, door prizes, and give-away items for all. Please contact [Scott Ney](#) for more information or be on the lookout for the July edition of the combined *Patent-Overprint* newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs.

PSLC Calendar

All meetings on the second Wednesday of the month are in person at Landis Homes, and all meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month are on Zoom. Descriptions for many of these programs are found on the [PSLC website](#)

09 July: Tales of Disaster from the Early Days of Airmail. Mike Wilson

23 July: Rounding Up Texas Post Offices: Identifying and Locating all the Sites that a County Has to Offer. John Germann

13 August: PSLC Annual Summer Picnic at Freedom Memorial Park in Millersville

27 August: Civil War pension philately. Scott Ney

10 September: Fall PSLC auction at Landis Homes

24 September: Graf Zeppelin & Hindenberg: U. S. Mails. Cheryl Ganz

08 October: 3.2 Wine and Beer Taxation. Ron Lesher

22 October: Everyone’s servant: the 1950s U.S. Post Office. Rick Barrett

12 November: PSLC Open House and One-Page Exhibition

26 November: The DC-4 Skymaster Plane. Tom Nichols

10 December: PSLC Annual Holiday Dinner

24 December: Open

US Stamps at Discount Prices: Part 2

By Wayne Heim

We have all heard the expression: “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” This is an expression that applies to many things, but it’s not something people usually associate with the purchase of online postage stamps. However, there seems to be a never-ending supply of US stamps available on the internet for prices that are just too good to be true.

Last month, we discussed the presence and prevalence of counterfeit United States Postage stamps on the market today, and this month, I would like to provide us with examples of bogus advertisements, to help train us to recognize fraud. If you have personal experience with counterfeit stamps that you would like to share, please contact the editor. Your feedback may help others from being scammed, and it will be shared anonymously if you wish.



Here is an example of a pop-up ad for bogus Forever® Stamps. In general, it’s a bad idea to click on pop-up ads, and this one in particular invites you to engage in a little bit of postal fraud. If you don’t know what a “pop-up ad blocker” is, ask someone to help you enable it on your computer or mobile device.

**we sell discounted New Sealed
Forever Stamps with no
expiration and self-adhesive. We
are constantly getting different
designs and varieties of stamps
message us if you are looking for
anything specific.**

Order More, Pay Less! Save up to 60%

Free shipping on orders over \$30

Ask yourself, "Would I trust a merchant who's advertising features basic grammar and punctuation errors?" If the answer is no, you will manage to avoid many scams. Errors of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and general carelessness are common characteristics of scam emails and advertisements.

Buy Discount Forever Stamps In Bulk & Save!
Order More, Pay Less!
Save up to 60%

**FREE SHIPPING OVER
\$30**

**Fast shipping 2-7 days
delivery**

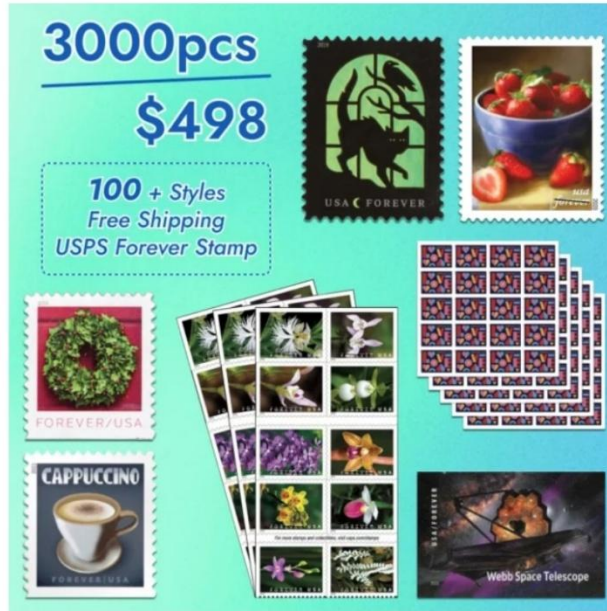


2024 Horses Forever
First Class Postage
Stamps
\$19.99 – \$149.99



2024 U.S. Flags Forever
First Class Postage
Stamps
\$19.99 – \$149.99

One fact you can always remember to defeat even the slickest stamp hucksters is: The USPS NEVER offers postage discounts! Whether you buy one or one-million stamps, the price is always the same per unit; in the case of Forever® Stamps, the current First-Class postage rate.



\$489 Get 3000 Forever Stamps, 100+ Styles Available

\$498.00

Here's another ad for "discount" postage. In addition to providing another opportunity to state that USPS *NEVER* offers postage discounts for any quantity of stamps, it's also an opportunity to point out that paying \$498 for 3,000 stamps means that you've paid less than 17 cents per stamp, a steep discount of more than 80%.

Sponsored


[stampsbuynew.com](https://www.stampsbuynew.com)
<https://www.stampsbuynew.com>

Forever Stamps 100Pcs
\$15.99 | Cheap Forever...

Largest selection of discounted Forever Stamps. We Aim To Meet Your Needs...

Sponsored


[buy-stampsdis.com](https://www.buy-stampsdis.com)
<https://www.buy-stampsdis.com>

Forever Stamps 100Pcs
\$19.99 | cheapest forever...

Choose different theme from Wedding, Animals, Festival and More on Stamps...

Here are two examples of web-browser ads that Google sells to generate revenue. It's worthy to note the maxim, "just because you saw it on the Internet doesn't mean it's true." Google and other Internet providers are protected from certain liabilities concerning the content that they host, so they have little if any incentive to protect us from these bogus ads.

Popular products



Here are more search results: even trusted websites sometimes provide a platform for third parties to defraud their customers!

DISCOUNTED POSTAGE STAMPS

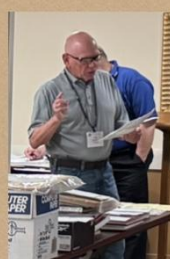
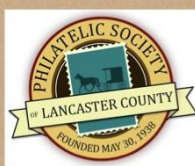


Here we see yet another hallmark of a scam – the limited time offer. Scammers want you to hand them your money before you have time to think about it. As a consumer, I've become skeptical of anybody who wants me to make a quick decision, whether they are peddling a legitimate product or not. I suspect many of us have learned that lesson, the hard way or otherwise!

Scenes from June PSLC activities

Courtesy of Dr. Charles DiComo

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County (PA) Summer Society Auction '25



Montage: Dr. C. DiComo

Landis Homes | June 11, 2025

On June 11, 2025, the Society held its Summer Auction to a packed house. Dr. DiComo opened the meeting wishing all good health and a relaxing summer; after which we moved on to door prizes, upcoming Stamp Show announcements, Secretary & Treasurer reports, a Membership update, and a hearty thanks to all 120 members far & wide. This is your Philatelic Club!

Then the Auction began – and there was active bidding from the first of the 102 lots. Thank you to the 40+ attendees & volunteers: Lou & Mike for tallying, Wayne with membership &

clipboards, auctioneer Aaron, runners David, Mark & Scott, Len & team for beverages & snacks, and all our sellers & buyers. Many, many lots sold (over 80%): excellent material; priced to move; club donation sales were strong (\$250!), and smiles across the board. Can't wait to see you all at our next meeting.

N.B. The Society holds three (3) Auctions a year at the Club (Winter, Spring & Autumn). Auctions are for Society Members-only. However, anyone can join the Society for \$10.00 the night of an Auction and get yearly access. Material for sale is broad in scope, from stamps, postal history, albums, ephemera, supplies, etc. – both International and U.S. There is always something for everyone at a reasonable price. Why not stop by, grab a paddle and have some fun? – Dr. DiComo



The K2 Lancaster Stamp Show was a great way to beat the summer heat. The show was very well attended, the room was cool, and there were plenty of stamps and covers, from A to Z, along with supplies and camaraderie. There were smiles on everyone's faces. Even this old dog found a few pretty U.S. Private Die Proprietary Revenues. See you again in August! -- Dr. DiComo

Upcoming Regional Stamp Shows

2025 K2 Lancaster Stamp Shows: These are held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center of Lancaster County, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster 17601. The first show of 2025 was held on Sunday, February 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **The next show will be on August 3**, followed by shows on October 12 and December 20 and 21, 2025.

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

August 14 to 17, 2025: Great American Stamp Show '25. LOCATION: Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Dr., Schaumburg, IL, 60173. HOURS: Thursday to Saturday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. COST: Admission is FREE! Pre-registration is recommended to help you save time and avoid on-site registration lines. Co-hosted by the American Philatelic Society (APS), the American Topical Association (ATA) and the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS). Sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS).

For more information, visit the [APS website](#).

Recent presentations posted on the PSLC website



[“The Centennial of the 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake”](#), by Rob Sternberg (2025-06-25)



[“Some Unusual Newspaper Wrappers”](#), by Cemil Betanov (2025-05-28, Show & Tell & Ask)



[“First Appearance of Lincoln on Stamps,”](#) by Ronald Leshner (2025-05-14)

Recent uploads to the PSLC YouTube Channel

["The Ivory Stamp Club with Captain Tim Healy" - Rick Barrett](#)

[Overprints on Newspaper Wrappers – Cemil Betanov](#)

[A Republican Soldier in the Spanish Civil War – Jaume Balsells](#)

Authors Wanted

This is YOUR philatelic club, and the PSLC newsletter is YOUR newsletter! Why not join our great contributors to ensure that there is enough interesting content to provide every month for your club members to enjoy? Articles may be submitted to newsletter editor Scott Ney (stnst2@aol.com). Scott is happy to work with you if you need guidance. Topics need not be “scholarly”; sharing what you like to collect and why you collect it is always a recipe for interesting philatelic content!

PSLC Member Anniversaries

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date Joined</u> | <u>Years</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Cemil Betanov | 7/20/2020 | 5 |
| Keith Bloss | 7/12/2023 | 2 |
| Tom Bowman | 7/20/2020 | 5 |
| Gareth Diem | 7/08/2009 | 16 |
| Henry Harrison | 7/29/2021 | 4 |
| Hal Klein | 7/10/2013 | 12 |
| Keith Lichtman | 7/16/2018 | 7 |
| Steven Rod | 7/31/2023 | 2 |

Member Requests and Notices

PSLC Members may submit a notice of collecting interests and requests for research at no cost. Please email your requests to the newsletter editor for consideration.

The Philatelic Relic: I maintain a modest kiosk “The Philatelic Relic” on eBay. I am a philatelist, researcher, collector, postal & social historian, lecturer, editor, award-winning author, etc. My archive of stamps, postal history, ephemera, etc. is available to all. Reach out to me anytime at charlesdicomo@gmail.com with your wants & needs. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Link: [The Philatelic Relic | eBay Stores](#)

PSLC Officers

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| President Dr. Charles J. DiComo 914-450-3791 charlesdicomo@gmail.com | First Vice President John Hostetter 717-285-2484 jhostetterjr@gmail.com | Second Vice President Bill Greiner III 717-471-2354 sunfighter@verizon.net |
| Secretary David Weichert 717-342-3120 stampsbydave@gmail.com | Treasurer Lou DiFelice 717-572-3419 loudifelice@gmail.com | Publicity Len Kasper 717-723-1864 hotrodparts33@aol.com |
| Membership Chair Wayne Heim 717-725-7192 heimwayne@gmail.com | Program Manager Paul Petersen 717-299-5640 pcpetersen@comcast.net | Website Coordinator Dr. Charles J DiComo 914-450-3791 charlesdicomo@gmail.com |
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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 as a winner of the 2024 APS Star Route Awards for our website and newsletter. The Society website (lcps-stamps.org), our 24 – 7 virtual presence where philatelists all over the world can access our resources, is the winner of a Large Gold award. Our monthly [newsletter](#), which exists to inform you of upcoming Society events and give you a creative outlet to provide interesting philatelic content, is the winner of a Large Vermeil award.