



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

Along with this great fall weather comes **National Stamp Collecting Month**, and I recall that line from our philatelic President back in the day, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who noted that “Stamp collecting dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, makes us better citizens, and in innumerable ways, enriches our lives.” One can’t argue with this. I encourage you to share our hobby, and invite your friends to our meetings, in-person and digital. I just read in the Wyoming Valley Stamp Club newsletter that they are holding a stamp-Halloween event for kids at their local public library. Good job WVSC.

I do want to take a paragraph to let you know that I hope to back in full form in a few weeks. I am assisting my parents relocating back to the East Coast from California, so I have been doing a lot of travelling down and back to Falls Church on a weekly basis.

My goal is to have a greater presence and return to presenting and sharing and attending the meetings, in-person and via Zoom, in the next few weeks and months. I appreciate everyone’s grace and patience as I tend to my family. Your vote of confidence in my leadership and all that our officers, board, staff, and volunteers do is always most appreciated. We have the Best Society in the Land, bar none!

While you haven’t seen me at our meetings much lately, I am keeping our award-winning **PSLC Website** up to date, posting new presentations to the **PSLC YouTube Channel**, and refreshing our **PSLC Facebook** page with content. Thanks to you, we continue to be strong on the membership front, and in the speaker’s bureau. I continue to promote the Society, the hobby, and the camaraderie, all of which help garner new members and keep our group stable. I continue to search and research, write and publish in numerous pulps when I can find a window of time, for peace of mind, and to share and shine a light on philately and postal history.

Regarding these activities I submitted a short article to *"The American Revenuer"* on a new find I made recently of a private die proprietary Match revenue stamp used illegally on a postcard piece to Europe. These stamps are like a gift that keeps on giving with an entire lifetime of the hunt and research. There is the paper, the printing, the errors, the subject and industry depicted on the stamp, and the ways they have been used and misused as uncovered through postal history. As president of Empire State Postal History Society, I am working with Jeff Stage, editor of society's journal, *"Excelsior"* to push out the October issue.

And let us not forget some of the upcoming PSLC activities with our **Open House and One-Page Exhibit Night** in November and our **Christmas Dinner** in December. There will be a Sunday Stamp Show on October 12th (more information on this show is below). In honor of Stamp Collecting Month, below I also share a montage containing images of stamps, a steel die for 3¢ 1851 Essay, and accolades from my archive. – Dr. Charles J. DiComo



Upcoming Programs



3.2 Wine and Beer Taxation

By Ron Leshner

8 October 2025

6:30 p.m. at Landis Homes

With the inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) came the promise of the end of National Prohibition. The repeal of the 18th Amendment would have to wait until December 5, 1933. But the President convinced the Congress to change the definition of intoxicating beverage from one half of one per cent alcohol to 3.2%. This would apply to both beer and wine. With that came new beer stamps on April 7, 1933. The introduction would lead to the use of the regular wine stamps beginning on May 1, 1933, and by the end of May, a new set of stamps denominated in ounces for fermented wine and fruit juice. We will explore some of the federal stamps used during 1933 for 3.2% wine and beer. To add a little to the story we will throw in some Pennsylvania tax stamps from the period.

Everyone's Servant: The 1950's U.S. Post Office

By Rick Barrett

22 October 2025

6:15 p.m. via Zoom

Today's postal service is an amazing, streamlined entity which serves America's population as best it can with the use of automation and innovation. The post office of yesteryear also performed an absolutely incredible amount of services for our nation, primarily with the help of manpower alone. PLSC member Rick Barrett shares some fascinating images and information from 75 years ago in his usual exciting fashion, while showing the incredible feats our post office department accomplished and built upon to carry out its mission!



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](#)

08 October: 3.2% Wine and Beer Taxation. Ron Leshner

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

Looking ahead: Programs for 2026

January 14: Winter PSLC Auction

January 28: Century of Progress: Aerophilately of the 1933 – 1934 Chicago International Exposition (Part I). Jim Haxby

February 11: Open

February 25: Century of Progress: Aerophilately of the 1933 – 1934 Chicago International Exposition (Part II). Jim Haxby

March 12: Open

March 25: Lutheran Charity Seal Collecting (1910 – 1977). Stanley Jones

April 8: Open

April 22: Open

May 13: The Decimal Era of Canadian Postal History. Ronald E. Majors, OTB, Ph.D

May 17: PSLC Outdoor Bourse

May 27: Open

June 10: PSLC Spring Auction

June 24: National Airmail Week. Jim Haxby

July 8: Air Crash Covers: Preserving the Legacy of Airmail Pioneers. Mike Wilson

July 22: Open

August 12: PSLC Annual Picnic at Freedom Memorial Park in Millersville

August 26: A Journey to the Ney Post Office: A Rural Mountain Post Office in Late 19th Century PA. Scott Ney

September 9: PSLC Summer/Fall Auction

September 23: Open

October 14: Open

October 28: Open

November 11: Open

November 25: Open

December 9: PSLC Annual Holiday Dinner

December 23: Open

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 next show is on October 12, from 10:00 – 4:00 p.m.** The final show of 2025 is scheduled for December 20 and 21, 2025.

Affiliated Dealers for the October 12 show include the K2 Stamp Mobile, Rich Kline, Leslie Bodie, Tony Coccio, Doug McCullough, Brian Engler, Richard Feretti, the Estate of Bob Noble, Wayne Gehret, Sugar Plumb Philatelic, Eastern Shore Stamp Co., Bill Matalavage, Joe Volutza, and Ward Wilcox.

Pizza is provided for lunch. 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.

Siege of Paris Balloon Mail . . . Not!

By Richard Colberg

President of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

August 16, 2025 – Most of you know that I spend half of every year in France. Thus, I have many philatelic contacts in France, too. One such contact is the Paris stamp auction firm, Behr. They are located on Rue Drouot along with several other stamp dealers.

Behr has a large stamp auction every 6-8 weeks. I get their catalogue online as well as hard copy. I have never bid in their auctions! But a nice policy of theirs is that after an auction closes, the unsold lots are available for immediate purchase for 20% UNDER the catalogue starting price. I have picked up some nice Hawaii stamps this way. Hawaii doesn't seem to be a big seller in France – all to my benefit. I picked up my one and only Siege of Paris balloon flight cover this way, too.

Behr also sends out monthly emails to their mailing list, usually pushing some of the pricier items in their current catalogue. Their email this week interested me. It is titled "*The Letter Carrier in Besieged Paris.*"

Most of the literature about the Siege of Paris balloon mail alludes to the existence of private mail services, though details are sketchy. The Behr newsletter confirms this non-balloon mail service with two letters, the first-sent letter **and** the answering letter, confirming the private delivery service.

The Siege of Paris occurred during the Franco-Prussian war and lasted from September 19, 1870, to January 28, 1871, 131 days. The siege was quite effective, with little or nothing getting into or out of Paris. Thus, this confirmation of a private mail delivery service is extraordinary. For a few years Paris had been the epicenter of hot air balloon flights. So, it didn't take long for the French to figure out that they could use hot air balloons as a means of getting mail (and people) "safely" out of Paris. During the siege, sixty-seven balloon flights are recognized and memorialized. These balloons carried more than 24,000 pounds of mail. On average that's a balloon flight every other day! Imagine the assembly line!

It is interesting to note that Siege of Paris balloon mail is rarely found in U.S. stamp auctions and when it is, it is quite expensive. The Behr firm, however, regularly has 100-200 balloon covers in every sale! The prices range from about \$200 to a few thousand. They are well written up, and the balloon flight is noted (almost all balloons were named).

The first letter, Figure #1 below, dated October 23, 1870, left Duras for Paris via Rouen via Mr. Pelvilain, a merchant. The letter arrived in Rouen on October 26. In the letter, we see "Today I received your letter of the 14th which I received on the 20th. You spoke to me about Mr. Pelvilain. I wrote him to send you my little not by any means." In other words, Pelvilain is used as a conduit to bring the message into Paris.



Figure 1

The second letter, Figure #2 below, is dated October 26 and is signed by Pelvilain himself. He confirms, "I am pleased to announce that the letter you sent me for Mr. Pelletier has left for Paris by secret messenger. May God protect him!" And "Your letter of the 23rd has reached me; it can only be sent by the next messenger." The reply letter arrived in Duras on October 31st and shows the corner card of PELVILAIN / TRANSIT ET COMMISSIONS / ROUEN.

These two letters were found together in the Pelletier archives and confirm that the first letter was sent by secret messenger (of Mr. Pelvilain) and was received in Paris.

Shown by the blue arrow is an indistinct CDS dated October 28th. I'm assuming this is the Paris receiver.

It is extraordinary that these two letters survived together to confirm a bit of postal history.

le 26 8bre 1870

Petitain
ROUEN

← En tête
à Sec!

par le bonheur de vos amours que le fait que vous
 m'avez fait M^{lle} Bellier est partie pour Paris dans 2^o
 par messenger sera Dieu que Dieu le portera
 Quand à celle que M^{lle} Bellier vous a amenée elle
 ne m'est pas parvenue les tentatives pour sortir Paris
 n'ayant pu réussir
 J'espère faire partir un autre messenger dans 7 ou
 8 jours
 Recevez Monsieur l'assurance de ma considération
 très distinguée

De Petitain

Note Let Du 23 m'arrive les lettres qui elle apporte me
 parviennent parter que par le prochain messenger

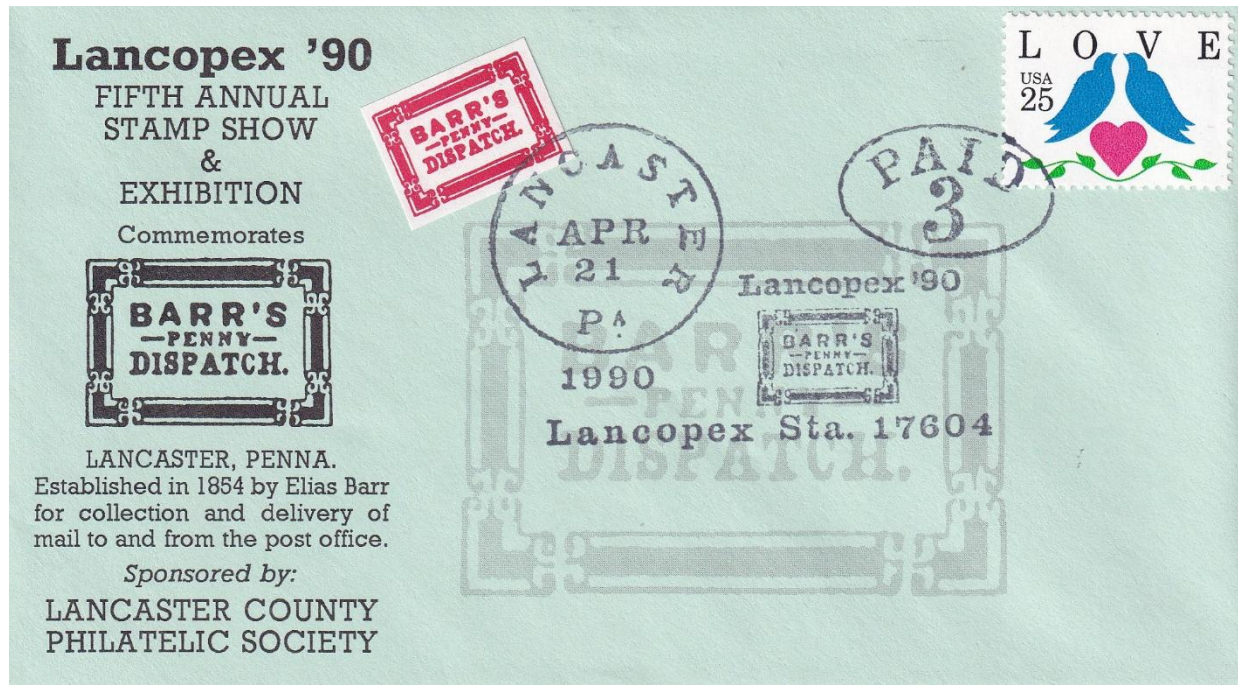
Figure 2

Datedlined Rouen 26 October 1870. (8^{bre} = Octo-bre; Octobre in French.)

Welcome to our new Membership Chair

A few grateful words of acknowledgement are due to Wayne Heim, our outgoing Membership Chair. Wayne's was the smiling face that greeted us at the door for many of our in-person meetings for the past few years. Wayne has transitioned the important duties of Membership Chair into the capable hands of Dan Martin.

Most of us know Dan, who along with his son Johnny, has been a member of the PSLC for seven years. He eagerly took on the role of promoting the Society picnic these past couple of years, and he did a fine job. We welcome him into his new position with our Society.



The September Philatelic Gathering

September 20, 2025 – Attendees were enthralled with Bob Myers showing very rare balloon mail covers from the 1870 Siege of Paris titled “1870 Siege of Paris Balloon Mail, including Military Mail not seen since 1998.” He described seven types of military balloon siege mail: National Guard, Rhine Army, Mobile Guard, the New 2nd Army, Marine Infantry, Paris Hospital mail, and Prisoner of War mail. In an adjacent room he showed more material including pigeon-post and boule de Moulins items.

Mike Wilson then discussed air crash covers and the era of airmail pioneers, titled “Air Crash Covers: Preserving the Legacy of Airmail Pioneers.” He defined crash covers and interrupted flights. The USPOD used 200 pilots during the period 1918-1926. 35 of them died while on duty. He described the special cachets used on crash mail and showed an example of an “ambulance” cover used to carry damaged mail. His sources for details include newspaper articles and the

American Air Mail Society's catalogue of air crash covers by Henri Nierinck. – *Dr. Charles J. DiComo*



**The Philatelic
Gathering**

September 20, 2025
C. DiComo, PhD

**Chester County
HISTORY
Center**

Photo Credit:
Alan Warren

PAR BALLON MONTE
M^{me} de la Guennivie
Asson du Poitou
Vienna



DAMAGED BY FIRE JAN 3
SOUTHBROOK N.H.
Mr. Thomas H. Purdy
Rt # 559 of M. C. A.
Columbus,
Ohio.

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Recent presentations posted on the PSLC website

 [Civil War Pension Philately](#), by Scott Ney (2025-08-27)

 ["Rounding Up \[Texas\] Post Offices: Identifying And Locating All The Sites That A County Has To Offer."](#) and the  [Accompanying Text](#), by John Germann (2025-07-23)

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

Recent uploads to the PSLC YouTube Channel

[U.S. Civil War Pension Philately - Scott Ney](#)

[Rounding Up Texas Post Offices - John Germann](#)

[The Centennial of the 1925 Santa Barbara Earthquake - Rob Sternberg](#)



The North Museum of Nature & Science is looking for new volunteers to help in nearly every area of the museum, from feeding the animals and running planetarium shows to researching exhibits and helping with fundraising. Whether you prefer to engage with visitors or help with more "behind the scenes" work we have a place for you.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our preschool programming, planetarium operation, exhibit development, and fundraising. For more info on current pressing needs, check out our profile on volunteer match at <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/org38164.jsp>

Active volunteers enjoy unlimited visits to the Museum, The Art Gallery, Live Animal Room, Planetarium, and special volunteer-only events!

For general inquiries, visit our website: <https://northmuseum.org/volunteer/> or email Molly Wolanski (mwolanski@northmuseum.org)

Scientifically Yours, Dr. Charles J. DiComo, PhD Email: charlesdicomo@gmail.com

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.

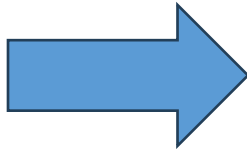
The Philatelic Relic: I maintain a modest kiosk “The Philatelic Relic” on eBay. I am a philatelist, researcher, collector, postal & social historian, lecturer, editor, award-winning author, etc. My archive of stamps, postal history, ephemera, etc. is available to all. Reach out to me anytime at charlesdicomo@gmail.com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

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



PSLC October Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Joined</u>	<u>Years</u>
Robert Coradi	10/25/2020	5
Jacob Fehl, Jr.	10/12/2016	9
Alan Hall	10/25/2024	1
John Heitzmann	10/31/2012	13
Mark Jardel	10/10/2012	13
Daniel Martin	10/30/2018	7
Johnny Martin	10/30/2018	7
David Plunkett	10/25/2020	5
Bill Schultz	10/12/2016	9
Mark Schwartz	10/12/2016	9
Kerry Wetterstrom	10/08/2014	11


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The James Buchanan Chapter #173 of the American Philatelic Society
Chapter #118 of the American Topical Association



PSLC Officers

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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.