

*“Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties”*

# **THE PATENT - OVERPRINT**

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

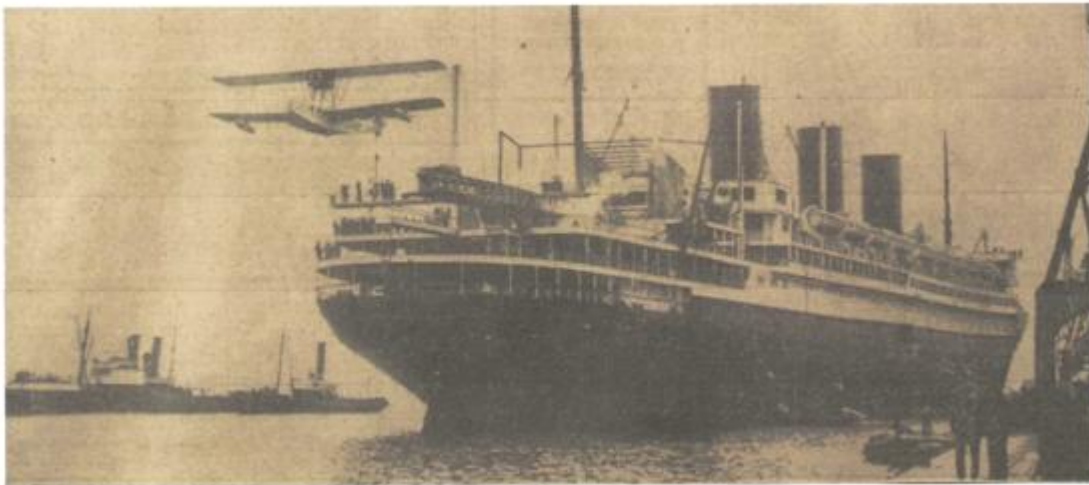
**April 2026  
Number 79**

The April meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lebanon Community Library at 125 M 7<sup>th</sup> Street in historic downtown Lebanon (17046). We are looking ahead to our May meeting, to be held on Tuesday, May 19. If you are interested in presenting on May 19, please let us know; even though the April edition of the newsletter is late, there will be a May issue, which will include further details for the May meeting.

## **The 10f surcharge on Berthelot and Pasteur: context and origin**

*By Vermillon Philatelie*

*Editor’s note: This item is shared with us courtesy of LSCC president Dick Colberg and has been translated with the help of Google AI. I made some minor edits of verb tenses and punctuation and omitted an illustration consisting of a postal document in French text. I trust that Vermillon Philatelie would not object to our little newsletter’s promotion of this interesting, not widely known subject.*



August 1928: in the middle of the Atlantic, aboard the ocean liner Ile de France, an experiment took place that would mark both postal history and airmail philately.

At the time, the crossing between Europe and America still took almost six days. But a question arose: how to speed up mail delivery without completely revolutionizing maritime infrastructure? The response was as audacious as it was short lived: to catapult a seaplane from the ship’s deck to deliver the mailbags ahead of time!

### A spectacular innovation

On August 13, 1928, several hundred kilometers from New York, a seaplane was launched from the ocean liner, carrying several bags of mail. Within hours, it reached the American coast, allowing for distribution almost 24 hours ahead of schedule. The experiment was a technical and media success.

But this time savings came at a cost: a specific air surcharge of 10 francs was applied to documents transported by this new method.



### An unexpected problem

On the return journey, the operation's success exceeded all expectations; the volume of mail to be transported by air increased significantly. However, on board, stocks of high-value stamps were lacking. It was in this emergency situation that one of the most fascinating issues of French philately was born: the 10 franc surcharge on existing stamps YT #243 red Berthelot (Scott C3) and YT #181 1f50 blue Pasteur (Scott C4).



Berthelot and Pasteur called upon for assistance

On August 16, 1928, due to a lack of time for supplies, it was decided, with the approval of the French consul in New York, to overprint stamps bearing the likeness of Marcelin Berthelot (90c) and Louis Pasteur (1.50 F).



Pair of PA n°3 Berthelot 90c and PA n°4 Pasteur 1f50 sold by Vermillon Philatélie in February 2026 for €4700

In total:

2,700 Berthelot stamps will receive the “10 F” surcharge

900 stamps underwent the same treatment

These stamps were used to frank mail benefiting from the air service of the ocean liner “Ile de France” on the return from New York to LeHavre on August 23, 1928.



#### Two very distinct types

These surcharges are divided into two types according to the distance between the number “1” and the first horizontal line: approximately six millimeters for the first type, and approximately eight millimeters for the so-called spaced overload. This distinction is essential in the study of these emissions. The variety of the reversed surcharge is also present on the 90c red Berthelot board. Thus, only five stamps have the double variety: reversed and spaced overprint.

#### A point of focus for the expert

Since the original sheets were composed of 50 stamps, the spaced overprint (8 mm) only appears on the second-to-last row. Consequently, a copy exhibiting this overprint on the edge of the sheet must be considered a forgery.



Airmail post no. 3d Berthelot, spaced overprint  
attached to non-spaced, sold by Vermillon  
Philately in March 2026 for €3900

A presence on folds that is particularly rare

While the overprinted stamps themselves already attract interest, their presence on letters is much rarer. Due to their extremely short period of use and their use in a very specific context related to transatlantic air travel, few letters actually traveled with these frankings. Furthermore, not all of them were necessarily legibly postmarked or kept in satisfactory conditions, which further reduces the number of fully usable copies for study. Authentic letters, bearing stamps and postal markings consistent with this operation, thus constitute first-rate pieces, both for postal history and for a specialized collection.



**Lot 1171 - PA n°4 Pasteur  
10fr on 1fr50 blue cancelled  
TB - Signed x 2 / certif.**

Superb example. Light cancellation, rare in a cancelled form.

Signed Brun, Roumet and Roumet certificate (1998).

Price: 12,500 euros

**€4,500.00**

Buy

## Our annual outdoor meeting is set for June

Dennis Shoemaker has secured the site for our outdoor meeting at Cornwall Manor, on June 16, 2026. If we are unfortunate enough to be rained out on that date again this year, we're set up for a rain date on the date of the following month's meeting, July 21. This year we'll plan on meeting at the library if the meeting is rained out on either date, but we'll hope that the weather is great in June.

And just like last year, Paul Petersen of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County is excited to join us for the evening. We'll have more detailed information for you in next month's newsletter!

## 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 19, 2026	
June 16, 2026	Outdoor meeting at Cornwall Manor
July 21, 2026	(rain date for our outdoor meeting at Cornwall Manor)
August 18, 2026	
September 15, 2026	
October 20, 2026	
November 17, 2026	
December 15, 2026	LSCC Holiday Dinner

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 \(lcp-stamps.org\)](http://lcp-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. \(lcp-stamps.org\)](http://lcp-stamps.org)



The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046

Scott Ney, newsletter editor



# 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)

**Issue: 2026 - 04**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**TUESDAY May 5th 2026**

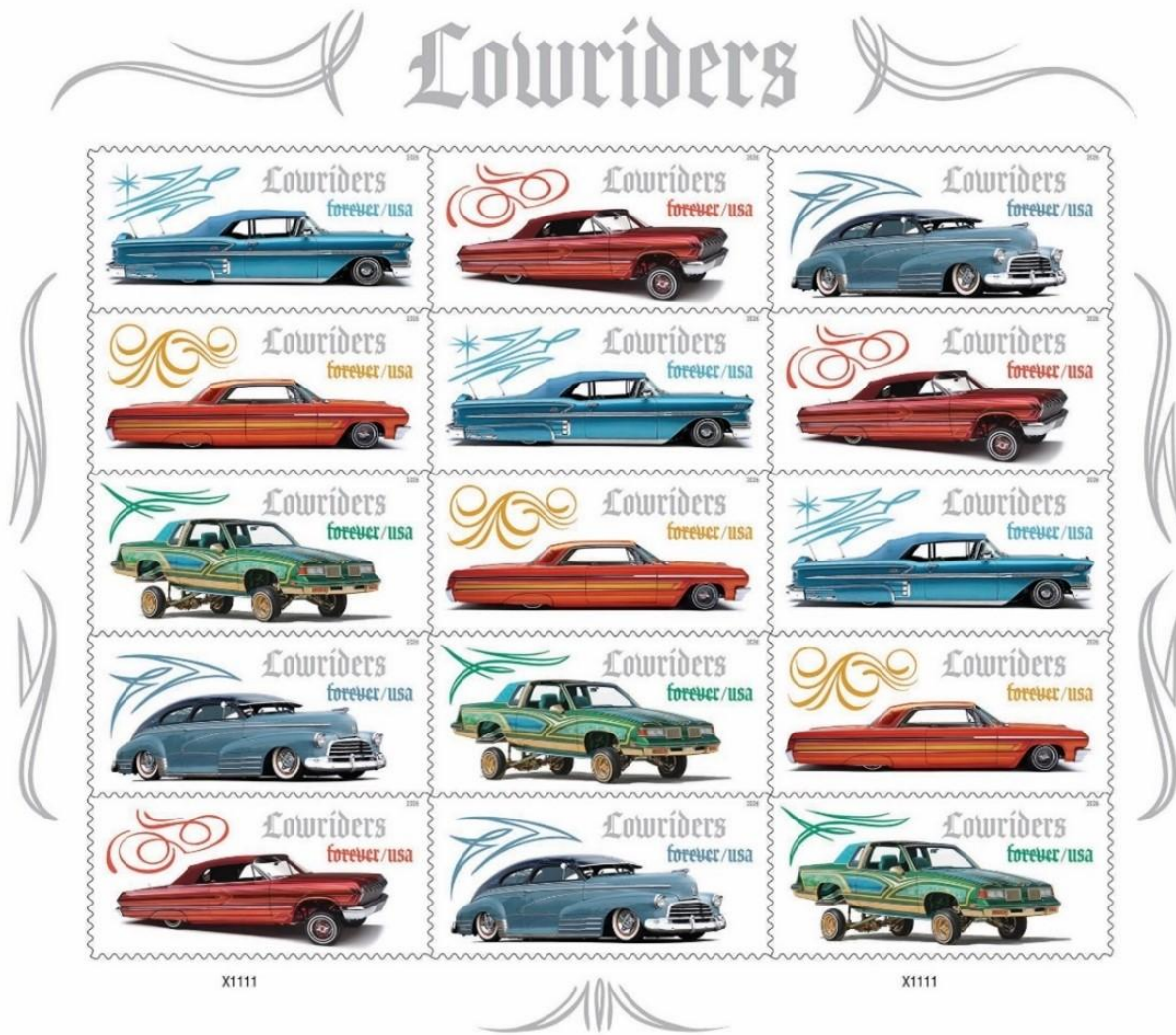
**TOPIC: Space Exploration on Stamps and Covers**

**Key Presenter: Jim Dormer**

Although we are meeting on Cinco de Mayo we thought that Space Exploration would be a better topic given the recent voyage of Artemis II around the moon and back.

Come join in exploring space with any material you might have.

# On March 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 the new Lowrider Stamps Came Cruising Into a Post Office Near You



SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Postal Service held a first-day-of-issue ceremony for its new Lowriders stamps today at the [Logan Heights Library](#). With this issuance, USPS celebrates lowrider car culture, rooted in working-class Mexican American/Chicano communities throughout the American Southwest.

“A lowrider is a masterpiece of engineering and artistry, a rolling canvas of art. They are often painted with murals that tell stories of family, faith and history,” said Gary Barksdale, the Postal Service’s chief postal inspector, who served as the dedicating official. “The lowrider culture is about creating a space to celebrate pride, a sense of belonging and building a community that is always there for each other.”

What, precisely, is a lowrider? It is a customized automobile outfitted with smaller-than-factory wheels — or “rims,” preferably with wire spokes — that reduce its height. Many include dazzling paint jobs, crushed velvet upholstery and welded-chain steering wheels. In addition, a special hydraulic system allows the driver, at the touch of a button, to raise and lower the chassis or run the vehicle through tricks, such as driving on three wheels or “hopping” (bouncing).

Lowriders reflect the owner’s imagination, craftsmanship and “Chicano ingenuity,” a trait associated with using unconventional thinking to solve problems. With a considerable amount of time, effort and expense, an older American car model, can be transformed into a one-of-a-kind rolling masterpiece. Traditionally, groups of owners show off their rides by driving slowly — or “cruising” — along a commercial corridor in a neighborhood or around a park.

Lowriding took off in the 1970s, but it was born in East Los Angeles and the Southwest borderlands in the 1940s. Discrimination at the time caused some young Chicano men to rebel and flaunt their differences. Mimicking the African American hipsters of the jazz world, they decked themselves out in zoot suits, two-tone shoes and broad-brimmed hats and called themselves “Pachucos.” Some of them lowered their cars chassis, becoming the first lowriders.

During the 1960s Chicano Movement, lowrider culture became one small but highly visible display of Chicano pride in the fight for dignity and self-respect. The car made a statement for its owner: I am here, I am somebody. Car clubs thrived, each with their own special plaque that members displayed in their car’s rear window. Most were male-only organizations, but in the late 1970s women started their own clubs, too, and today lowriding is a family tradition. Clubs continue to represent belonging and pride, and club members help raise funds for various causes while they showcase their lowriders in car shows and parades.

Lowrider culture has captured the attention of people around the globe. Clubs have formed in Japan and numerous other countries. At the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, a gorgeous lowrider model stops visitors in their tracks, when they visit the third-floor exhibit.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT:**

**Current Account as of 03/31/2026: \$ 765.80**

**Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: \$ 3,414.63**

## **Siegel’s April 21 Auction of the Kardasis Collection**

**By Charles Snee**

Among the covers in Siegel’s April 21 auction of the Kardasis collection is a cover franked with an 1869 3¢ Pictorial stamp that is tied by a complete strike of the blue negative Masonic Square and Compass fancy cancel of Painted Post, N.Y.

This exceptional mint, never-hinged United States 1869 3¢ ultramarine Pictorial issue stamp (Scott 114) will be up for bids during Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries’ April 21 sale of the Nick Kardasis collection of 1869 Pictorial stamps and covers.

In his introduction to the sale catalog, Siegel president Scott Trepel provides a cogent overview that gives potential bidders an appreciation for the exceptional stamps and covers that will cross the auction block:

“Nick Kardasis has quietly, but with great determination, collected stamps for the past 40 years. One of his principal areas of focus has been the 1869 Pictorial Issue, the first United States postage stamps to depict images other than portraits of famous Americans. Nick was drawn to the 1869 stamps’ colors and designs, and he eventually developed a passion for examples with brilliant colors, choice centering, and unusual cancellations — ideally, all of those attributes combined when possible. Applying his rigorous condition

standards to determine which stamps would gain entry, Nick chose only those that *resonate*. The result is a collection that may be described as the first and only one of its kind — a statement of fact rather than an auctioneer’s hyperbole. ...

“Robson Lowe, the legendary British auctioneer and my former employer, once told me that he could always tell what kind of collection he was about to view from observing the gardens around a collector’s home. This certainly applies to Nick, who personally tends to his bucolic and colorful gardens. The colors and shapes that make a landscaper’s palette beautiful may also be found in stamp collections, in which the engravings, colors and cancels come together in aesthetically pleasing forms. ...

“Nick arranged his stamps on pages in sets and part sets, in groups that he found pleasing to the eye — or, as he might say, resonate. We have presented sections in this sale catalogue that will help collectors see the different attributes, such as superb centering, colored and fancy cancels, and rare multiples and varieties. Still, we urge everyone to look carefully at every page and lot to fully appreciate the stamps in this collection. Never before have so many 1869s of such outstanding quality and character appeared in one auction.”



Illustrated above is the 3¢ ultramarine Pictorial (Scott 114) from the set, which is in mint, never-hinged condition and possesses a right selvage margin showing part of the arrow guideline.

“The 3c 1869 Pictorial represents a radical departure from the portraiture of all previous issues,” Siegel said. “The theme of improved postal communications was chosen for this value as well as the 2c (postal carrier on horseback) and the 12c (*S.S. Adriatic*, for transatlantic mail). The 3c locomotive train was possibly intended to celebrate the imminent completion of the transcontinental railroad.”

The stamp comes with 2018 graded superb 98J certificate from Professional Stamp Experts. The “J” suffix in the grade means that the stamp has jumbo margins.

According to Siegel, “This stamp stands alone as the highest graded Scott 114 in any condition (Mint N.H., hinged or used). None of the other values of the 1869 series boast a stamp graded above 95J in Mint N.H. condition.”

Professional Stamp Experts’ Stamp Market Quarterly assigns a value of \$16,000 to this graded superb 98J mint, never-hinged 3¢ ultramarine Pictorial stamp.

A highlight of the afternoon session is a lovely cover franked with a 3¢ ultramarine Pictorial stamp that is tied by a bold, complete strike of the blue negative Masonic Square and Compass fancy cancel of Painted Post, N.Y.

In the lot description, Siegel states that the cancel “seems to float above the stamp.”



The circular date stamp to the left of the fancy cancel is dated Sept. 2 (no year date), and the cover is addressed to New York City.

A 1999 expertizing certificate from the Philatelic Foundation in New York City states that the cover represents a genuine usage of the 3¢ ultramarine Pictorial stamp and the Masonic Square and Compass fancy cancel.

Siegel is offering this eye-catching on-cover example of the blue negative Masonic Square and Compass fancy cancel of Painted Post, N.Y., with an estimate of \$400 to \$500.

**If you thought it was expensive to send mail from the USA to around the world: take a look at the new rates from Great Britain.**

**Exchange rate is currently \$ 1.30 to GBP 1.00**

## **Royal Mail's March 26 definitive stamps meet new international rates**

Three definitive stamps in a March 26 issue from Great Britain's Royal Mail meet new international postage rates effective April 7.

The stamps all feature a portrait of King Charles III against a different color background. The king's effigy appears to the left of a barcode printed in the same color as the stamp and separated by a simulated wavy-line die cut. The barcode can be scanned with a smartphone.



**A GBP 3.60 (\$ 4.68) stamp covers the international standard rate for letters and has a background color of what Royal Mail calls purple heather.**

The other two stamps pay rates for large letters (up to 35.3 centimeters long, 25cm wide and 2.5cm thick) weighing up to 100 grams: an aqua green £3.80 stamp for Europe and a sapphire blue £4.60 stamp for the rest of the world.

Cartor Security Printers printed the self-adhesive stamps by gravure. Each stamp is perforated 15 by 14.5 and measures 39 millimeters by 30mm.

**Note: Current Letter Rate from USA to Europe is \$ 1.70  
..... and we wonder why the USPS is losing money !!!**

**The Reading Stamp Collectors Club**

**Mike Bach, newsletter editor**