

"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

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

August 2026

Number 83

The August meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Lebanon Community Library. Tom Shott will share his finds and experiences at the big Boston 2026 philatelic expo.

A note from our president

Dick Colberg

From your president. Just a few tidbits for you. The July meeting of the LSCC was a small but resounding success! Just four of us, but really worthwhile. The main subject for the meeting was a review of a new book on the telephone stamps of France. This is a new book written by a friend of mine in the Paris stamp club.

He gives us a very in-depth review of the beginnings of telephone service in France. Initially, telephone service was available from small central offices. An unresolved question from our small group was, "How does the receiving party know they have a call coming in and where do they go to receive it?" I put this question to my friend and have yet to receive an answer. Maybe it's true what they say about France in the summer. Everyone goes on vacation for the months of July and August!

An added bit of karma in our meeting was the collection brought in by Don Smith. I had asked Don to bring in his collection of worldwide telegraph stamps. I thought it would add nicely to my treatment of the telephone stamps. AS it turned out, Don's collection also had the French telephone stamps in it!! I had tried to buy some telephone stamps for show and tell but was unsuccessful. Don to the rescue. Thanks Don!

As I'm writing this, BALPEX is taking place near Baltimore. When BALPEX was held at Hunt Valley I used to be a regular, but since its move to the Baltimore airport region, I've stayed away.

I believe Tom Schott will relate to us his experiences at Boston 2026 at the August 18th LSCC meeting. Be there or be square!

Regards,

Dick

The Early Post Offices of the United States

While searching for images of Thomas Jefferson's literary commonplace book online, I found a gem hosted by the Library of Congress: a List of Post Offices in the United States, published in Washington DC in 1803. These were the post offices as they existed when Thomas Jefferson was in his first term as President.

Quite interesting to note, the number of post offices was such that Lancaster and Lebanon in Pennsylvania were found on the same page! You can access the microfilmed images of this work via the link below.

[Volume 6: List of the Post-Offices in the United States \(Washington, 1803\) | Library of Congress](#)



LIST OF POST-OFFICES.

OFFICE.	COUNTY.	STATE.	DIST.
Lancaster,	Grafton,	N. H.	626
Lancaster,	Worcester,	MS.	462
Lancaster,	Onandago,	N. Y.	416
Lancaster,	Lancaster,	P.	117
Lancaster,	Garrard,	K.	621
Lancaster c. h.	Lancaster,	VA.	193
Lancaster c. h.	Lancaster,	S. C.	505
Lancaster,	Berkshire,	MS.	393
Lansingburg,	Rensselaer,	N. Y.	409
Laureltown,*	Suffex,	D.	153
Laurens c. h.	Laurens,	S. C.	588
Laytons,	Essex,	VA.	99
Lebanon,	York,	ME.	570
Lebanon,	Grafton,	N. H.	551
Lebanon,	Windham,	CT.	395
Lebanon,	Dauphin,	P.	167
Leedilton,	Westmoreland,	VA.	105
Leesburg,	Loudon,	VA.	43
Lee's Mills,	Washington,	N. C.	323
Lee c. h.	Lee,	VA.	460
Leicester,	Worcester,	MS.	440
Lemington,	York,	ME.	610
Lenox,	Berkshire,	MS.	380
Lenox Castle,	Rockingham,	N. C.	325
Leominster,	Worcester,	MS.	471
Leonardtown,	St. Marys,	MD.	68
Lewisburg,	Northumberland,	P.	207
Lewisfown,	Lincoln,	ME.	636
Lewisfown,	Suffex,	D.	178
Lewisfown,	Mifflin,	P.	177
Lexington,	Rockbridge,	VA.	213
Lexington,	Rowan,	N. C.	399
Lexington,	Fayette,	K.	548
Lexington,	Oglethorp,	G.	665
Leyden,	Oneida,	N. Y.	530
Liberty,	Bedford,	VA.	265
Libertytown,	Frederick,	MD.	44
Ligonton,	Amelia,	VA.	202

The LSCC and ESPER Stamp Society meet up at BALPEX

Jim and Scott drove to BALPEX a couple of Fridays ago, with the express intention of meeting one of Jim's friends at the show. We not only met his friend and mentor, Don Neal, there, but we also met Howard Ingram, ESPER president, who was manning the table. It was a successful trip for sure.



Jim Joppy with ESPER president Howard Ingram, at the ESPER table outside of the main exposition room at BALPEX



Jim with his friend and philatelic mentor, Don Neal, chat at BALPEX. Don edits ESPER's award winning newsletter, *Reflections*.

Visit the website of the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections (ESPER) at the following link:

[ESPER - Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections | Learn Black History through Stamps | New York United States](#)

A Happy Hundredth Anniversary to our library



The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club would like to wish the Lebanon Community a happy 100th anniversary! The library provides our club with a place to get together every month, and a place for our community to get out of the weather and enjoy a good book.

If you would like to learn more about how you can mark the library's 100th anniversary celebration with a gesture of support, this link will take you directly to their Century Celebration page: [A Century Celebration – Lebanon Community Library](#)

The LSCC thanks the Lebanon Community Library for providing us with a safe and reliable place to meet, and we look forward to being a part of the library's next century of community involvement!

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
August 18, 2026	Boston 2026 finds and memories – Tom Shott
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 \(lcps-stamps.org\)](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

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 12)

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 - 08

NEXT MEETING:
TUESDAY September 1st 2026

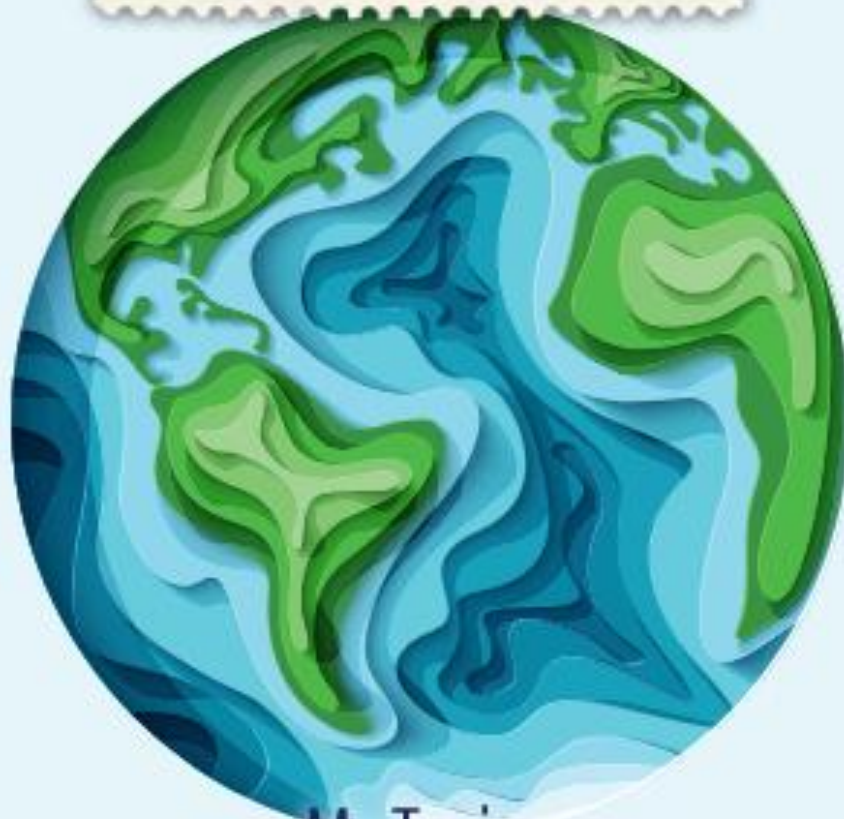
TOPIC: Automobiles

Club Members: this is a show and tell of anything to do with the above topic.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Account as of 07/31/2026: \$ 615.80

Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: \$ 3,570.82



My Topic:
International Geophysical Year
by Rob Sternberg

Introducing Rob Sternberg

My topic is the International Geophysical Year (IGY). I am a retired professor of geophysics from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. My specialties were the Earth's magnetic field and applying geophysics to archaeology. Besides stamp collecting, I like to keep up on the news via the *NY Times* and *The Guardian*, read the *NY Review of Books* and contemporary fiction, travel, food shop and cook, watch baseball (Phillies and Yankees) and cricket, view "good" movies, tutor for the GED exam, spend time with my family and in museums, at concerts and outdoors. I am a member of several philatelic organizations, including the ATA (since 2014) and the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County.



Rob Sternberg

When did you start collecting this topic? What attracted you to the subject or fascinates you about it?

The International Geophysical Year took place in 1957-1958. It indirectly influenced my interest in science and eventual decision to get a Ph.D. in geophysics. In the early 2000s, I felt an itch to start collecting something. Rather than sports cars, I decided to develop a philatelic collection on the IGY, partly in anticipation of its upcoming 50th anniversary. Its influence on my science education, my career in geophysics, its role in geopolitics, the space race and Antarctic exploration made it an engaging topic.





Is there a particular stamp(s) in your collection that is a favorite or was a special or challenging find or acquisition?

For obvious reasons, the International Geophysical Year stamp (Scott 1107), issued by the US in 1958, is central to my collection. The IGY stamp is found on approximately 300 covers.

How do you organize and store your collection?

I store over 150 stamps and more than 600 covers from over 50 countries in Vario pages in seven 3-ring binders. Scans of all are publically available on the Flickr photo sharing website (www.flickr.com). I maintain spreadsheets with a catalog of my collections with links to the scans in Flickr.

Have you shared your topical collection with others? For example, have you publicly displayed or competitively exhibited, published an article or book or catalog, or given a seminar or presentation?

I have not exhibited. I have given talks and presented shorter posters to philatelic and geoscience audiences. I was interviewed about the stamp for a philatelic magazine. A list of these are at <https://bit.ly/sternbergIGY>.

Is there an elusive (rare or expensive) stamp that you would like to add to your collection? If so, which one?

Most IGY stamps are readily available on eBay and are not expensive. The IGY was also the 3rd International Polar Year. I have recently been looking at two more expensive Soviet Union stamps from the 2nd International Polar Year in 1932-33, SU 34 and 35.



Russia 1932 Second International Polar Year

Are there any variations or related stamps that you would like a postal service or country to issue to enhance your collection?

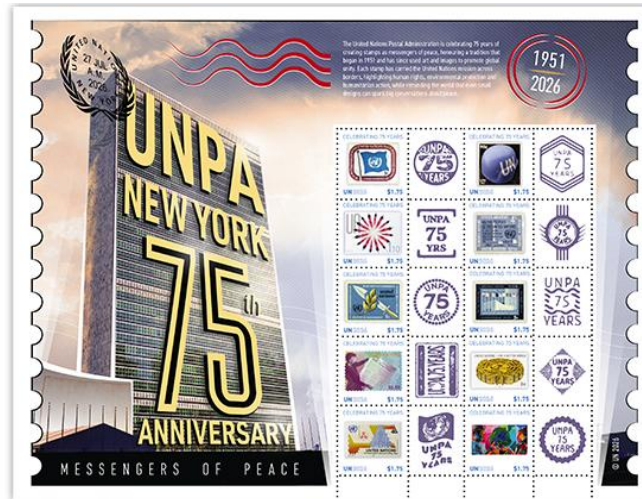
The 4th International Polar Year is coming up in 2032-33. I hope to see some stamps issued for that event.

Has the ATA been helpful in building or organizing your topical collection? Have you used any of the ATA's available services or purchased any of their materials or products?

ATA resources have educated me about topical and thematic collecting. I have used ATA Checklist #354 - Intl. Geophysical Year. I have bought books on topical collecting. ☺



U.N. Postal Administration marks its 75th anniversary



Jul 28, 2026 By David Hartwig

The United Nations Postal Administration celebrated the 75th anniversary of its New York City office July 27 with a pane of 10 \$1.75 stamps and se-tenant (side-by-side) labels.

The stamps are for use from the UNPA post office at the U.N. headquarters in New York City. The \$1.75 denomination pays the United States Postal Service rate for international mail.

The pane combines stamp-on-stamp designs with labels showing simulated postmarks containing variations of the text “UNPA 75 years.” The pane follows a format similar to that used for a 2016 sheet celebrating the 65th anniversary of the UNPA’s New York office (Scott 1136) and a 2021 sheet celebrating its 70th anniversary (1269).

The UNPA issued its first stamps on United Nations Day, Oct. 24, 1951 (Scott 1-11), and one of the stamps released on that day is featured on the pane.

The stamp-on-stamp design on the first stamp in the column on the left reproduces the 1951 3¢ stamp showing the U.N. flag (Scott 4).

The other early U.N. stamps reproduced on the sheet feature U.N. headquarters buildings and include the 1960 4¢ U.N. Headquarters and Preamble to the U.N. Charter stamp (Scott 83) on the second stamp in the column on the right and the 1963 5¢ General Assembly Building stamp (119) on the stamp below.

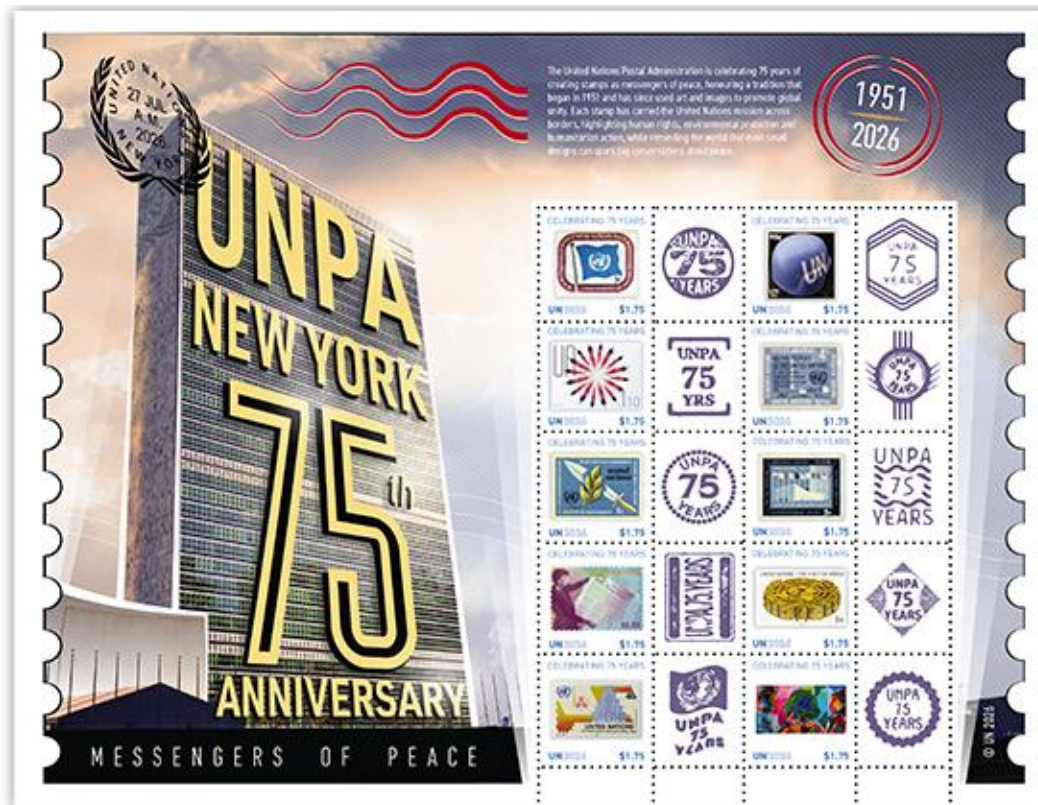
Two of the stamp-on-stamp designs deal with peace and security. The 1973 8¢ Olive Branch and Broken Sword stamp (Scott 234) appears in the middle of the left column, and the 2007 90¢ Helmet of U.N. Peacekeeper stamp (940) appears at the top of the right column.

Three stamp-on-stamp designs address human rights and international cooperation. The fourth stamp in the column on the right shows a 1988 3¢ stamp (Scott 521) showing the U.N. emblem and the text “For a Better World.” A 2013 \$1.10 Circle of People stamp (1058) appears second in the left column. The fourth stamp in that column shows the 2018 \$2.50 stamp (1194) commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The remaining stamp-on-stamp designs feature U.N. institutions. The bottom stamp in the left column reproduces the 1992 40¢ stamp (Scott 615) showing the U.N. University building in Tokyo, and the bottom stamp in the right column shows the \$3.15 United Nations Economic and Social Council stamp (1375), issued earlier in 2026.

In addition to the stamp-on-stamp design, each of the new \$1.75 stamps includes the text “Celebrating 75 Years” at the top, “UN 2026” at the bottom left and the denomination at bottom right.

The UNPA calls this pane of 10 stamps and labels a “special event sheet.” The left side of the sheet depicts the United Nations Secretariat Building with the text “UNPA New York 75th Anniversary.” A simulated postmark is superimposed near the upper-left corner of the building.



Prior Anniversary Panes



Counterfeits surface for the Boston 2026 stamps

Dec 9, 2025

Philatelic Foreword by Jay Bigalke Courtesy of Linn's



When the Boston 2026 World Expo stamps were issued in August, their blend of intaglio engraving and full-color offset printing was a welcome technical highlight. They garnered steady collector interest and were not viewed as especially high profile. That is why the latest development caught many by surprise: counterfeit versions are now appearing online.

This marks only the second known attempt by modern counterfeiters to imitate an engraved United States stamp. The first was the 2015 Rose and Heart Love stamp (Scott 4959). For years, many assumed that the technical complexity of intaglio printing made stamps printed this way an unlikely target. These new fakes now prove otherwise.

A collector who examined them firsthand offered this assessment: "Looks like our assumption that the Chinese would not counterfeit engraved stamps is wrong. I have sheets of the Boston 2026 commemorative that are fake. [They have the] Usual bright green tagging and rose-glow paper of counterfeits, but the surface is raised and feels 'engraved.' It does feel rougher than the authentic stamps."

Magnification makes the differences even more clear. Genuine engraved lines are crisp and smooth. The counterfeits show ragged edges and uneven strokes. Even at 600 dpi, the contrast stands out. And, as with today's common counterfeit forever stamps, the paper, adhesive and tagging differ noticeably from issues produced by the USPS.

These new counterfeits raise new questions about what lengths counterfeiters are willing to go and how closely they are watching U.S. production methods.

For everyday collectors, the best advice remains simple: purchase from trusted USPS sources or reputable dealers and be skeptical of bulk online lots sold far below face value. The authentic Boston 2026 stamps are still easy to identify upon close inspection as shown in the comparison above.

Amazing Stories: Recent Counterfeit Prosecutions.

Georgia, Alabama men accused in \$1.7 million counterfeit-stamp operation:

On June 30, an Alabama man pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering in connection with the purchase and distribution of millions of counterfeit postage stamps. A Georgia man charged in the alleged scheme made his initial appearance in federal court July 22.

The April indictment and other court records allege that in January 2024 the two defendants used suppliers in China to purchase the counterfeit postage stamps listed as “Patriotic Series American Independence Day Doodle Stickers,” according to the Department of Justice.

California woman sentenced in counterfeit-postage case:

Lijuan “Angela” Chen was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$158,288,991 in restitution for her role in a counterfeit-postage scheme.

From January 2020 through May 2023, Chen and Hu mailed or caused to be mailed more than 34 million parcels bearing counterfeit postage labels, resulting in more than \$150 million in losses to the Postal Service, according to the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Central District of California. Chen was arrested and prosecuted but Hu fled to China where he now resides.

The Reading Stamp Collectors Club

Mike Bach, newsletter editor