

# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

An Affiliate of the American Philatelic Society: James Buchanan Chapter, # 173



## Club Meeting: Wednesday, 12 January 2011

Bourse opens at 6:30 PM and Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. **Tonight's host:** John Bray

**Stamp Trading** to Begin Following the Auction

## Message from the President

John M. Bray

Greetings and Happy New Year to all. First, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our outgoing Board members and also to those continuing on in their service to our Club. We are still in dire need of a Vice President and could really use a Public Relations Officer. I would also like to thank the Christmas Banquet Committee and the staff at Woodcrest Villa for the excellent preparation and service of the dinner. The Board met recently and hashed out some ideas to fill the three vacancies in our monthly programs. We'd like to hear what you want, but we'd love to hear what you will present. There are still two open-

ings for "Host" in May and June.

As I'm sure some of you are aware, the bulk of chores in the club are being done by a dedicated few. In order to remain viable, we need more volunteers; to host the meetings, to present a program, to become Board members, to help at LANCOPEX, to serve on committees, to help us engage the youth, and also to acquire new members. You may note that I called them chores: Believe me, we don't consider this a "fun time to be had" but rather, a duty to be performed, so that the Club can thrive and live on after our service.

With that being said, please

pause and reflect and see if you can become one of the few, the proud-a volunteer. This year I would like our main focus to be on engaging the youth, wherever and however that can be accomplished and to get some of them to join along with their adult. The Board came up with a few ideas, but we'd love to hear any that you may have in mind.

The program this month is, as per custom, an AUCTION. So get rid of some of your excess or unwanted material and/or acquire some new items-and please "Ask not what your Club can do for you, but what you can do for your Club."

jmb

## PSLC's 2011 Annual Winter Auction

**New for 2011.** The Auction Committee has announced that • Fiscal transactions will only take place after the last item has been sold. Further, they have recommended the following: • Bring cash whenever possible to pay for the items you win and • Keep a running total of items you have sold and

won based on the prices realized. • Finally, be sure to firmly attach your sales information (lot description, cat. value, min. bid etc.) to the item. This will insure that items are represented accurately.

The rules remain the same as in previous auctions. The minimum bid is \$1.00. The minimum

increment when bidding is 50¢. Each club member is limited to 10 lots. You will be assigned a number when you arrive. Please place this number on all your lots. Attach an item/lot description including catalogue number, value if appropriate, and minimum bid accepted. This will speed things up a great deal.

**Volume 74, Issue 1**

**January, 2011**

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PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa, 2000 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA at 7:00 PM. For club info, call Vern Marten: 717.371.9055

**President:**

John M. Bray

**Vice President:**

Vacant

**Secretary:**

Joy Bouchard

**Treasurer:**

Lou DiFelice

**Newsletter Editor:**

Paul Petersen; 717.299.5640

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## January Bio:

### Bob Rothen

Bob and his wife Lucille moved from NJ to Willow Valley in the summer of 2009 having retired from Lucent in 1996. Through some WV collectors and club member Clair Smith, he met stamp dealer Jim Boyles and joined PSLC shortly after.

Starting at ten with an national album as a Christmas gift, Bob added anything worldwide he could get until he specialized in U.S. and plate blocks as a teen. He took time off from collecting while in college and the Air Force. At this point he intensified his collecting of U.S. PBs, adding coils and booklets, collecting only multiples now.

Bob's other collecting interest is the U.N. which evolved through his employment in New York City. His New York set is complete, and his aim is get Geneva and Vienna caught up to date.

It was not until moving to Lancaster that Bob catalogued and organized his holdings with albums and spread sheets. This is now housed in a beautiful hand-made custom bookshelf that his nephew built for him. During his inventory he found a few pricey items that had been stashed away in glassines for all these years.

Following mechanical engineering education at MIT and USAF service at ATT-Bell Labs, Bob sustained a career with ATT/Lucent in the areas of energy, fiber optics, and communication, noting a variety of some very interesting and innovative projects on which he had the opportunity to contribute.

The Rothens have five adult children and ten grandchildren.

## "My Favorite Stamp"

### A compilation of PSLC members' favorites

The holiday season, past gifts, the advent of a new stamp year, and a club auction this month make us think about our stamps. While we may complete country and topical collections by filling spaces, there are often a few favorites to which we keep returning. If it is an inexpensive stamp, we may obtain multiple copies to hoard. If it is pricey, we may continually upgrade to obtain that perfect specimen. Some collectors make a specialty collection of their favorite stamp by obtaining endless varieties and unusual postal usages. For most it is a very subjective selection.

"My Favorite Stamp" theme was presented to the club members and many responses were received. As you peruse this column, you'll see a variety of reasons why a given stamp may be special to us.

Club President **John Bray** likes engraved stamps, especially in many colors. The top of his lot is the 1969 painting entitled "Old Models" by William A. Harnett (Scott-1385). John notes that the printing with its texture, color, and subject matter "speaks" to him. In general, it is a "clean" design.



Another engraving fancier, **Carol Petersen** has a budding topical collection of the engraved stamps of Czeslaw Slania. She collected San Marino and then realized that he had engraved many of them. Her all-time favorite item is the 1980 Christmas set. # 995 is depicted below. She has several copies for her various topical collections where these stamps fits right in, from Religion on Stamps to San Marino, *et al.*



**Dave Kenawell's** favorite is the black \$1.00 Cattle in the Storm (#292) of the Trans-Mississippi issue (1898). What calls his attention is the



portrayal of the hardships of man and beast in the settling of the west. The whole set is strikingly attractive.

Many remember the November (2010) presentation by **Diane Meek** on *Hearts on Stamps*. Her overall favorite is a 2009 LOVE stamp from Israel which has a yellow rectangular background and a large simple red heart standing in the middle.

**Col. Wm. P. Snyder** favors the 1991-1995 series of souvenir issues that commemorate the 50th Anniversary of WWII. This set includes five panes, one for each year of the war, along with hard cover presentation books containing historical info and stories behind the images depicted on the stamps.



The **editor** was given a 1976 French stamp commemorating the 60th anniversary of the battle of Verdun in WWI. This was from a speaker who had just presented on the "Stamps of the Great War" at a meeting of the *Western Front Association* in the late 1990s. This presentation was another event that led "Ed" to resume his collecting several years later.



**Roy Baardsen** collects Norway and a few years ago stumbled across the # 218 (1941). This is the rarest Norwegian 20th Century stamp, a deep claret 50 Öre with Lion Rampant and "V" for Victory. This completed Roy's entire Norwegian collection of at least one of >>



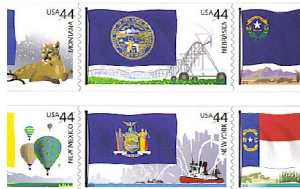


## Happy New Year PSLC for 2011

**"My Favorite Stamp"** from Pg. 2 every whole Scott number, though there are some varieties that he does not possess.

As a collector of China, holograms, and many other topical areas, **Lucy Eyster** clarifies that her favorite stamp is not a stamp! Her favorite is the 1991 Chinese hologram folder to commemorate the issuance of the first set of "Animals of the Year" that ran from 1980-1991. When she was shown this item by a dealer at a NYC show, it was love at first sight. The folder was designed to "Wish everyone healthy, happy long-life." This sparked her interest in hologram collecting.

**Bob Rothen's** favorites continue to be the current state flag coil stamps that are issued in sets of about 10 each year. He always orders two coil sets from the USPS Fulfillment Office, and they come attached to each other. He then carefully separates the two sets so that the stamps in each strip remain attached side by side. Bob



finds this fascinating and interesting as coil stamps are seldom seen this way, at least in his experience.

Club member **Bob Eppler** chose the 13th Amendment stamp of 1940 (902). This takes him back 70 years to when he was six and his

older brother took him to the post office to buy some stamps. There was some change left over, so Bob could buy whatever he wanted. This was his first stamp purchase. He was tired of the 3¢ purple Jefferson Prexie that everyone was using. He asked to see what was available and chose three of the stamps with Abraham Lincoln. He did not know much about amendments, Constitutions, etc. back then.



**Joy Bouchard** writes in about her favorite set which she purchased in the Bahamas while on vacation last fall. It is a beautiful set of flower stamps.

**Dick Colberg** has two favorites. His first is a Penny Black from the U.K. (Scott# 1) of 1840. Collectors may recall



that these sheets of 240 stamps had differing check letters in the lower corners to thwart counterfeiting. Dick was fortun-

nate to obtain one with his own initials, **R** and **C**.

Dick's other favorite is the oversized French 1949-50 1000fr black air mail (C27). It is a beautiful air view of Paris. His dad brought him foreign covers from work (Int'l Harvester Co.) when he was a kid. One was franked with ten of these. He soaked them off and used them to trade with friends, and years later he has 3-4 left. Since trading in his club back then was based on the



size of the stamp, he could get two large commemoratives for one of these beauties. Dick wishes now that he had saved that cover intact. Ten 1000fr stamps on cover at the 1950 exchange rate of \$0.05 to the franc is about \$500 (U.S.) in postage. What important documents might have been in that heavily franked cover?

§

**Club Trip:** Roy Baardsen wants us to begin thinking about a fall motorcoach trip. It is months away, but decisions should be made early. Do we desire a trip, and if so, where?

*Think about a fall article regarding your predictions for USPS in 15 years. Given technology, budget, and austerity, change is coming.*

## Club Notes

### 2011 Programs & Hosts

**12 January:** Winter Auction. **Host:** John Bray

**9 February:** *Crash Mail*, A DVD by Dr. Steve Berlin; Discussant: Dick Colberg. **Host:** Dick Colberg

**9 March:** *Lick 'n Stick for Lancelopex*. + *ATA DVD "Eclectic Collecting"* + *Some of my Strange Stamps*, Lucy Eyster. **Host:** Dick Shaefer

**13 April:** *A Philatelic Tour of Bermuda*, Al Schaub. **Host:** Eleanor Wheeler

**11 May:** Auction. **Host:** TBA

**8 June:** *Precancels for Fun: Part III*, RD Noble and Woody Hann. **Host:** TBA

**13 July:** Errors, Freaks & Oddities by David Hunt. **Host:** Paul Petersen

**10 August:** Club Picnic.

**14 September:** Club Auction. **Host:** Lou DiFelice

**12 October:** Topic-TBA. **Host:** Lucy Eyster

**9 November:** Topic-TBA. **Host:** John Ahlfeld

**14 December:** Dinner.

**Upcoming Show Reminders:** *Some Sunday Stamp Shows*, Farm & Home Center: ● 5 December, ● 6 March, ● 26 June, ● 21 August, ● 2 October, ● 4 December (Please verify ahead with James G. Boyles - 394-5118.)

*York Stamp Show:* Fri/Sat: 21-22 January 2011 at the York Fair Grounds, Rt. 74, York.

**2011 OFFICERS:** Welcome new officers. **John Bray** rises from VP to President as John Ahlfeld moves to the position of Immediate Past President. **Joy Bouchard** assumes another term as Secretary, and **Lou DiFelice** takes over the account books from retiring treasurer, **Clair Smith**.



## 2011 PSLC Dues Notice

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this notice, complete it, and turn in with \$10 to Lucy Eyster at the January club meeting. You may also mail it to Lucy at 2001 Harrisburg Pk, B503, Lancaster, PA 17601

Please encourage your non-member stamp collector friends to join and enjoy the benefits of membership. Make this your New Year's resolution: "Every member get a member."

## Musings:

*Are the flags boring? ...Are stamps political?*

A while back I listened as a few non-collectors talked about the boring Liberty Bell and Flag Over The \_\_\_\_\_ (Farm, Porch, Forever, *et al*) stamps. How could our national symbols be boring?



On 9-11 (2001) my wife and I were out of the country and were amazed by the show of support from the Irish people to the Americans. There were U.S. flags in almost every window, and when folks realized we were from the U.S., they were most generous in their sympathy and support. One of my favorite issues debuted shortly thereafter, the "United We Stand" stamp.

When our symbols are on stamps, is it national pride or perhaps a political manifestation? Or both? From the very first stamp, the British Penny Black (see pg. 3) was a symbol of the U.K.'s sovereignty. It was the first stamp to travel proudly around the globe. Other countries followed suit picturing their leaders, founding fathers, flags, and other symbols of their state.

One of my first letters to the

editor at *Linn's* (15 December 2003) as a new collector (or better, a rejuvenated collector after a forty year hiatus) was in response to a writer who thought that politics associated with stamp collecting had no place in philatelic publications. I responded that if political coverage were omitted from *Linn's*, then it would be a very slim paper indeed.

Though a new collector, I still realized that for many stamp-issuing entities, their philatelic programs were all about politics. I recalled Franklin D. Roosevelt and the books on his role selecting stamp topics. There was no Citizen Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) back then.

And, if stamp subject selection is not very political, why is membership to the CSAC a presidential appointment and why are their deliberations secret? After many years, they have had to put term limits on the membership! One can not but marvel at the influence that Harvard's Henry Louis Gates, Jr. has had on the selection of stamp topics since his CSAC appointment a few years ago.

While contemplating this column, I came across a great 1937 Nicaraguan map-on-stamp (Scott # C 186) in the November issue of *Stamp Magazine* (Pg. 121). This map of the middle of Central America is quite

detailed in geography along with appropriate labels. This 10¢ green is the first in a set of seven similarly faced stamps

What makes this map of interest is the parcel of land at the northwest section of Nicaragua entitled "territorio en litigio" (territory under dispute). It appears to be within the Honduran borders. The disputed territory is printed in the color shade of Nicaragua.

But this large parcel of land should not have been in dispute, as the land clash had been successfully arbitrated by King Alfonso XIII of Spain in 1905. This stamp was Central American Machismo at its best.

Now in 1937 the Hondurans awoke to a Nicaraguan stamp to be used on international mail to all the world. A national insult? They felt robbed, incensed.

This brought out the armies of both countries to the border and the diplomats of three other nations into negotiations.

Honduras presented its ultimatum. To prevent full scale war, Nicaragua had to remove the stamp from sale, immediately!



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