

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the
American Philatelic Society
Chapter 118 of the American Topical Assn.

Open House Begins at 7:00, Wed., 13 May 2015

Bluebird Commons / Woodcrest Villa. Paul Petersen. Host

Doors Open at 6:30-Come Early to Buy, Sell, and/or Trade

From the Desk of the President

It was a very busy month in April as we prepared for Lancopex, and from my informal talks with the dealers as I shopped the bourse, I heard very positive comments about the show. Paul has included their comments elsewhere in this newsletter.

Feedback from the members of the show committee was positive. The logistics went smoothly from the floor plan to the post office. There were fourteen frames of members' displays, and these were visited throughout the show. Food was great, and lighting

and temperature were perfect. There was a good number of customers, and while there were very few junior collectors, those who were there were involved in their collections. My mom was pleased with the quality if not the quantity of young collectors.

Sometime soon, we'll have a Lancopex Committee meeting to review this year and plan for next year. If you have any ideas or recommendations, please share them with us.

Perhaps the biggest kudos go to all the show volunteers, of which there were over 35 club

members bringing this event to fruition. And 100% of those who signed up turned out! Thanks again.

Winter has gone into hibernation, and spring and summer activities are upon us. Our summer picnic at Millersville Memorial Park will be here before we know it. We have an interesting program tonight and an auction in June. Dick Colberg will be talking in July about the express companies of Mexico. Then it's hot dog and burger time for the club in August. See you soon. **Bill**

DOOR PRIZES: These include items related to the U.S. international shows. Drawings will be held following the PowerPoint presentation, and the ticket stubs of all winners will be placed back into the hat for the Grand Prize, a U.S. 630-a White Plains Sheet

U.S. Internal Philatelic Exhibitions-Part I

PSLC members are looking forward to our bus trip to NYC next Spring to attend the



international show, officially known as the NY 2016: World Stamp Show.

The 2016 Inter'l Stamp Show

is the eleventh held in the U.S. These started in '13 and were subsequently held approximately every ten years since.

Tracking these shows over 103 years reveals the evolution of exhibiting and judging, the bourse, promotional stamp issues, show catalogs, First Day Covers and ceremonies, seals & Cinderellas, society meetings, dinners, and other philatelic related content.

Tonight will address the '13, '26, and the '36 shows, and perhaps the Centennial IPEX

of 1947 if time allows for it.



These seals represent the A and O of U.S. Internationals, the 1913 and the 2016 shows.

Volume 78, No. 5

May, 2015

Highlights

- U.S. Int'l Expos
- Lancopex Reviewed
- PSLC's Displays
- Young Collectors
- Minutes & Programs
- PSLC-*Topical Time*
- The Usual Suspects
- Musings: FDCs

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSLC Meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at The Bluebird Commons in Woodcrest Villa, 2001 Harrisburg Ave, Lancaster, PA 17601 at 7:00 PM. Dues are \$10.00. For club info, call Lucy Eyster: 717.735-2586

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Stamp & Cover Displays for 2015

Nine club members prepared stamp and/or cover displays for 2015 Lancopex, enough to fill 14 frames. Three years ago, PSLC leadership decided to implement new non-competitive displays at Lancopex in place of competitive exhibits

Mike Bach: British European Airways/British Airways Air Letter Service (1951-1983) (1-frame)

Lucy Eyster: JER's WWII Letters Home (1-frame)

Chuck Kilgore: American Baseball (2-frames)

Hal Klein: The Slogan Cancels (2-frames)

Diane Meek: Pennsylvania Toleware Covers (1-frame) (1)



RD Noble: Classical Era Precancels (1-frame)

Dick Osman: Sperati and Other Forged Stamps and Cancels (5-frames)

Paul Petersen: FDR-The Stamp Collecting President (3 pages)

Dennis Shumaker: A Confederate Postal History Sampler (10 p)

April Minutes and Treasury

Joy Bouchard and Lou DiFelice

Opening: Bill Greiner opened the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

Presentation: Trish Kaufmann, speaker on Confederate Postal History started the meeting with a well-delivered and illustrated presentation. Paul Petersen said that there were fifteen in attendance for the dinner with Trish.

Business meeting:

Minutes: The March Minutes and Treasurer's Report as presented in the April 2015 Newsletter were approved unanimously by voice vote.

Membership: There were two visitors tonight, Frank Stratton and Howard Chaundy. Attendance at the meeting was 49.

Drawing: Door prizes-gift coupons for Lancopex-were won by Dennis and Joy Bouchard.

Old Business:

By-laws: Given the lateness of the meeting and approval by membership, the discussion of the draft by-laws will be moved forward to May.

Lancopex: Diane Meek reported that the new postmaster of Lancaster has promised representation of USPS at Lancopex and that the lady in charge of processing our cancellation devices for the show cover said that all is in progress and in good timing. Paul passed around the man-power sign-up sheet for additional

volunteers and the sign-up for frames for the stamp and cover display at the show. He predicts that there will be at least 12 filled frames. Members should bring their philatelic literature to the show for the Give-Away Table.

Rattlesnake Island Catalogs: Paul will have these available at the next meeting for the seven members at the March meeting who did not receive them.

New Business:

Treasury Report

Opening: \$5,016.00 (1 Mar)

Income: \$934.00

Expenses: \$487.88

Closing: \$5,462.12 (31 Mar)

3-CDs valued at \$6,905.79

Yet another Successful Stamp Show

Not just your usual suspects

This was our 30th year of hosting Lancopex. It was started by Jim Boyles in 1986 and held at Park City Mall.

The 2015 Show was a great success. Attendance topped last year, and the dealers were very pleased with their sales.

Nineteen of 22 dealers returned completed satisfaction surveys (86%). Of the nineteen, only one did not make his/her goals (5.3%). He stated that he did not have the hard-to-get stamps that his customers wanted this time.

On the food question, all were pleased. There were thanks for Trudy Greiner's generosity for lunch. One dealer said to "Please thank the wife of the club member who personally made such excellent brownies, lemon squares, and noodle salad." Another said that it "was the best macaroni salad I have eaten in five years, (pg.3)



No, these are not your usual suspects at Lancopex. They're at the 4 April Red Rose Coin Show. L→R: Doug Milliken, Ron Hess, Lou DiFelice, John Brownell, and Paul Petersen. Missing are Dick Shaefer and Scott Van Horn, also attending the show.



Miscellaneous Club Notes: Programs/Hosts, Notes, and Shows

2015 Programs

13 May: The U.S. International Shows: Stamps, Covers, Labels, and History. Paul Petersen; Paul Petersen, Host

10 June: PSLC Spring Auction; Lou DiFelice, Host

8 July: Express Companies of Mexico between 1855-1907. Dick Colberg; Diane Meek, Host

12 August: Summer Picnic

9 September: Fall Auction. Lou Leidig, Host

14 October: Great Britain's Line Engraved Stamps. David Hunt; Al Schaub, Host

11 November: Club Member 1-Page Exhibits and Open

House. Len Kasper & Paul Petersen; Len Kasper, Host

9 December: Dinner

2016 Programs

13 January: Winter Auction; Hal Klein, Host

10 February: Jamaica in World War II. An APS DVD video

9 March: The 5-Cent Return Rate. Bill Schultz

13 April: History and Culture of Germany on Stamps. David Hunt

11 May: Coins on Stamps & Stamps on Coins. John Brownell

8 June: Spring Auction

13 July: Civil War Covers. Dennis Shumaker

10 August: Summer Picnic, Millersville Memorial Park

14 September: Fall Auction

12 October: Open

9 November: '15 Open House

14 December: Dinner

PSLC in the News: PSLC's recruiting article from January was reprinted in the recent issue of *Topical Time* (→), and it was referenced in Wayne Youngblood's editorial (pg. 15) as having "very thoughtful responses indeed."

2015 Shows

Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: 14 June, 16 August, 20 Dec. Farm & Home Center, Kevin Kellman (K²), Manager, 301-371-4558.

The 30th Lancopex Continued....

(from pg. 2) while yet another was thankful for the meatballs, lemon bars, and macaroni salad.

What was special to the dealers at Lancopex were the people, the very dedicated club members who hosted the show. One dealer wrote "Have Lou there; the club members help the dealers." Cited as special are the returning customers, the comfortable venue with its layout and lighting, and the food. One dealer admitted looking forward to "meeting and talking with philatelic friends." It can be said that as much as the dealers appreciate the club members and customers for a good show, the latter also greatly appreciate the dealers' efforts. It is a symbiotic relationship; you can't have one without the other.

Regarding recommendations,

those responding said to keep the show going just as it is, but they did offer some suggestions such as additional advertising and recruitment of more young collectors. One dealer recommended to keep shoppers off the bourse floor until 10:00, while another would like an additional table. And for the bourse, it was recommended to keep the USPS and to have a dealer specializing in philatelic supplies.

As the dealers were packing up



Long time Lancopex dealer, Darrell Yeisley reported a good show.

and loading their vehicles, they commented that it was a good show and they are looking forward to returning in '16

The Lancopex committee was supported by many club volunteers, all of whom reported for duty to make it a great venue and sale. Now it is on to planning for Lancopex-2016.



Happy Collector

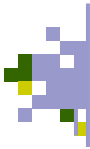
Ken Strayer and his son, Zach spend time at the youth table which has been run by Tryde Greiner (at right) for over 25 years.

PSLC Article Goes National

There is some evidence that others read our newsletters. Recall the composite article in the January PSLC Newsletter regarding recruitment for the hobby. Members were asked to pick a side: Should we recruit young vs. older collectors? It was well received as additional opinions were published in the March and April issues. It is an important topic which we would all like to see solved hopefully in our lifetime.



In late January, Mary Ann Bowman, a mover and shaker for youth philately, asked Ed's permission to reproduce our article in her "Youth in Topics" column in *Topical Time*, the journal of **The American Topical Association** (PSLC is an ATA chapter). As such, the edited PSLC article was included in the March-April issue (pgs 81-83), just about two full pages. It included input from John Brownell, Len Kasper, Doug Milliken, Vern Marten, Fred Mackey, Hal Klein, Eleanor Wheeler, Lou DiFelice, Paul Petersen, and Dick Schaefer. Mary Ann referenced Dick Colberg's lengthy Guest Editorial on recruiting, but she did not include this with the reprinted article. Thanks to all.



Musings: May 2015

Rethinking First Day Cover Collecting...

First Day Cover (FDC) collecting is alive and well. The longer I'm in the hobby the more I can learn, write about, and apply.

My most recent impression of FDC collecting was perhaps like many of yours—the purchase of each new issue with the stamp, **First Day of Issue** cancel, and some form of cachet or illustration on the left side of the envelope. This form of FDC collecting was very popular, but the luster has faded, and retirees are having a hard time selling their FDC collections. When they do it is often at a steep discount of their investment. Dealers, on the other hand, admit that they can't pay much for FDCs as there are fewer shoppers and they, the dealers, end up storing and transporting boxes and boxes of FDCs that are hard to unload.

This was made clear when the club received a donation a few years ago of over 1K modern FDCs from the 1950s to the early 1990s. Bob Rothen helped me with this, and he organized them and found a perfect presentation box. The covers were pristine, most with attractive engraved black and white ArtCraft cachets. Members could take home the box and pay 10¢ for each cover they took—the honor system. There were no takers. I sold a few at club meetings and to

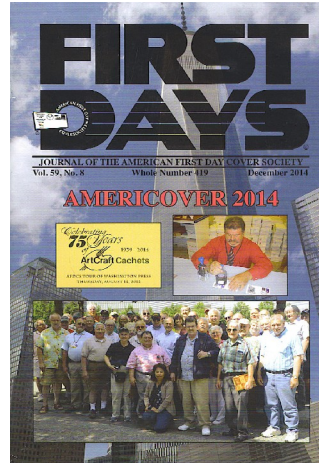
non-club friends of mine. I just passed them on to APS.

I am not critical of the modern FDCs, as I use these for philatelic proselytizing, giving friends covers with a stamp and cachet on a topic of their interest such as trains, bicycling, cars, or others. Perhaps this might stimulate their philatelic nerve juices.

To start, collectors years ago tried to match each new stamp to the earliest cancellation they could find, or in technical terms, the earliest known usage (EKU) of each stamp. By regulation, every stamp is to be issued on a specific date, and this means on a specific date in selected or every post office across the nation. But let's get real on this. It's a big country with one of, if not the largest postal systems in the world.

This means that on a specific date and time, the many thousands of postmasters will release a given stamp according to regulations. And for the most part, they do pretty well in this...but not always.

Perhaps they ran out of the current stamps and popped the seal for the new batch a



wee bit early. Maybe a PM's mother-in-law was a stamp collector, and a good impression was warranted. Or the PM could have done a favor cancel for a friend. No matter the reason, some stamps got out early. And in the universe of problems, did it really make a difference, I mean, did anyone lose their head because of this? Early releases add zest to the hobby.

Because some stamps were issued early, this action bred an additional variant to collecting, a.k.a. the EKU (earliest known usage). This is a dynamic way of collecting, as earlier cancellation dates are found and reported and placed on the market.

In 1937 the US developed a cancel containing the following **"First Day of Issue"** in the killer bars. These stamps were available on cover with cancel in the city where the stamp was released (often with a formal ceremony) and from the "Big" USPOD and USPS facilities which sold them via the mail for up to thirty days following the release. This is what some call the beginning of modern first day cover collecting.

Some FDC collecting is topical such as those from an event (i.e. the 1933 Chicago World's Fair) or a theme (i.e. Halloween, NBA basketball). Many collectors seek covers by their favorite cachet artist(s). There are some beautiful extant illustrations.

The 12/14 issue of *First Days: The Journal of the American First Day Cover Society* opened my eyes to the universe of FDC collecting. Perhaps this was due in part to an article on the 1939 NY World's Fair! It really piqued my interest. It was FDC collecting from a perspective I had never imagined. Check out afdc.org, the organization's website. Ed



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