



# Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



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

**Doors Open at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, 12 April 2017**

Presentation & Business Meeting Begin at 7:00 PM. Joy Bouchard, Hostess

## From the West End

Greeting club members: Can't believe that Lancopex is around the corner and will be here in just over two weeks. Committee members have shared that all is going according to plan, and Manpower notes that another 15 volunteers are needed. So when the sign-up sheet comes around tonight, think of giving us a few hours of your time while shopping the bargains at the show.

Hats off to **Aaron Heckler** for taking on the roll of organizing the monthly 50-50 Drawing for the foreseeable future. In other clubs that I am in, many look forward to this activity. It also brings in a little revenue for the stamp club.

At the February meeting when there was a show of interest for the 50-50 Drawing, there was similar enthusiasm in holding silent auctions at the meetings. This was tried about five years ago, but it kind of died a natural death not long after it started.

To hold ongoing silent auctions at meetings, it will take someone dedicated to "accept the call," a champion, so to speak. This individual would do well to recruit a few other volunteers and come up with some format options to bring to the club members to see what would convert them into excited participants.

The silent auction is similar to a

bid board that is held at some shows. Here there is a bid sheet for each lot. Bidders write their name (or bidder number) along with what they are willing to pay. At the end of a pre-determined time, whoever entered the last bid wins the lot and pays the piper.

The whole process could also be part of the monthly stamp bourse.

Another option is to use email for posting and more. And perhaps the website is an option.

This is what the Silent Auction Champion would do, to come up with a streamlined method to bring philatelic lots to member's attention to be followed up with reasonable realizations. *Doug*

A Free One-Year Membership in the *American Philatelic Association* or the *American Topical Association*. Interested? Need More Information? See Pg-2

## Domestic U.S. Postal Rates 1792-1863

A presentation by Bill Schultz

We welcome back writer, exhibitor, philatelic judge, speaker and PSLC member **Bill Schultz** for another presentation on American philately. Tonight he will be speaking about the early postal rates. For a realistic perspective, Bill recommends considering these as the rates from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln! There were few rate changes in those first 77 years, about ten. Now consider how many changes there were in our time over the last 77 years since 1940. And just as astounding, the early rates went steadily down! Yes, the 1863 postal rates were much lower than in 1792.

Tonight's presentation will emphasize stampless covers. And those of you with enquiring

minds will definitely be wondering: *"Didn't stamps become available in 1847 and then made mandatory nine years later, in 1855?"* Yes, you're correct on both counts, but in government, the laws and regulations always contain some wiggle room. That's why they call it politics. Because of this, some mail was allowed to travel stampless up to the time of the Civil War. There were also some outright violations that were not caught.

Postal rates were set by Congress. So in 1792, the established rates were based on distances from the post office of origin to the letter's destination. The base rate consisted of a single page letter and the distance it travelled. But don't think that it's as simple

as this. If this were the case, Bill would need only about five minutes to show us a small number of covers. Further, the years of research he has done in this area might have been directed elsewhere! It is the nuances, exceptions, and regulations that make this study so interesting. The cover below is a 1767 British colonial rate from Boston, MA to Newport, RI



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**Visitors are Always  
Welcome**

PSLC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640.

Website: [LCPS-Stamps.org](http://LCPS-Stamps.org)

### PSLC Officers and Board

#### President:

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#### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:

Charles DiComo, 914-450-3791  
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#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:

TBA

#### Secretary:

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#### Interim Treasurer:

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#### Publicity:

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#### Newsletter Editor:

Programs, and APS Rep:  
Paul Petersen, 717-299-5640,  
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### Save the Date

#### 2017 Club Bus Trip

Day trip to the **National Postal Museum** in Washington, DC on Thursday, 21 September. Details will follow as they materialize. Prelim discussion at the meeting.

## VP/Webmaster Report

The bullets (•) below describe my activities over the last several months with regards to the PSLC website, Facebook page, and the *Stamp Insider*. These will be good promotional tools for PSLC and Lancopex. All will be upgraded regularly. Your input as to content, style, and topics is welcome.

•**New & Improved Website**, completely revamped, new features, new pages, updated weekly. See the Newsletter, and please visit the Site: [www.lcps-stamps.org](http://www.lcps-stamps.org)

•Contacted the **American Topical Association** to have our 5 year-old profile with them updated. This was taken care of in a few days.

•**Facebook Page**: I have assumed responsibility here, updated all, added a link from our website. I also update the FB page weekly with images of stamps, covers, etc.

•**Lancopex 2017**: I created a Facebook Ad for \$15.00 for 10 days and set up an advertisement to reach folks in the South Central PA region around it.

•**Stamp Insider**: I reached out to Editor, Al Starkweather. PSLC now has a feature page in this online publication with the first article in the March-April edition promoting PSLC, the new website, and Lancopex. Paul will write the bimonthly columns moving forward. See [www.stampinsider.org](http://www.stampinsider.org). You can sign up to receive this automatically on their homepage.

•**Stamp Insider promo cards**: Al will send 200 of these for our Lancopex show, they promote us – we promote them.

•**New WordPress Site**: Paul's daughter-in-law, Heather, set up a basic shell of a site. I previously spent two weeks (~30+ hours) working on migrating over existing web site content, while updating a new site for future launch. Stand by for more on this....

•**Request for Presentations and Exhibits**: Please contact me with your PowerPoint or PDF for posting. We already have 10+ and would like more for our members.

Thanks, **Charles DiComo**

## Good News for Our Philatelic Souls

**Cartoon Contest**: It was announced in the 27 March issue of *Linn's* (Pg. 6), that

**John Hostetter** was the winner of the philatelic cartoon caption contest. The caption was centered around the \$5 Black Alexander Hamilton Stamp of the Liberty Series (Scott 1053) with John's caption stating: "I've arrived! I'm on money, I'm on stamps, and now I'm on Broadway!"



**Across the Ocean**: Emailing from France, **Dick Colberg** shared that the day after his arrival in mid-March was a stamp show in Alençon. Given his time crunch, the parents of the president of his local stamp club took his exhibit on **French Railways** to the show, mounted it there, and then returned it to him. Dick further shared that his exhibit was one of only five others compared to 5-6 years ago when there were about 20 exhibits. All are quite concerned over the state of exhibiting.

**Upgraded Door Prizes**: The Membership Committee has invested in an array of new prizes to include stamp packets, tongs, magnifiers, cans of Pure Citrus, stock books, gauges, and more. Hold on to your ticket!



**Free APS and ATA memberships**: This month will be a drawing for a free membership in either APS or ATA for any PSLC member who has never been a member in these organizations. There is the gentleman's agreement that the winner will pay his/her own dues for the next two years.

**Magazines for Lancopex**: Please donate any pre-owned stamp journals to Lancopex for the give-away table. You can bring them to the April meeting

or to the show directly on 28-29 April. These could include *Linn's*, *Scott's*, *AP*, *Topical Time*, and many others.



**Revenues For Sale**: At tonight's meeting, **RD Noble** will have even more revenue boxes for sale. There will also be many "Officials" (Scott O) and revenues R264 to R734 at 50% catalogue value.

**Philatelic Mystery**: At the March meeting, **Bob Kramer** (left) won a copy of the speaker, Jeff Stage's novel *Chasing Jenny*. Bob said that he will make it available to other members of the club who are interested in reading it. ↓



**Related**: In the March/April issue of *Stamp Insider*, **Dr. DiComo** was lauded for his total revamping and upgrade of the website of the Empire State Philatelic History Society. **Paul Petersen** was appointed to the Education Committee of APS. This group is currently advising on online educational course development and the Master Philatelist Certification Program among others.

**Non-payment of Dues**: The Membership Committee has just sent out final notices to club members with dues in arrears. If this is you-and we know where you live-please contact Lucy Eyster as soon as possible at

717-735-2586 to make arrangements to pay your 2017 PSLC dues.

**Lancopex Preparation Night**: Each year we send out 1500 advertising postcards for the April show. **Michael Bach** prepares these for the club through the support of his company. The cards are sent to APS members in the area along with other past registrants of the show. The task includes adding stamps and mailing labels to each of the cards. Cards remaining are used to hand out at other shows by our dealers and at post offices and local bulletin boards. It is a lot of work, but about 25 members remained after the meeting to get this done. Below is one of several work teams that participated. It is made up of the following members: Standing, left to right are **Daisy Detweiler** and **Len Kasper**. Seated, left to right are **RD Noble**, **Woody Hann**, & **Aaron Heckler**. ↓



**Multi-Task Collecting**: Below are pictured stamp club members who are also coin collectors and are working the 1 April Red Rose Coin Show at the Farm & Home Center. Pictured on the right is **John Brownell** with PSLC President **Doug Milliken** on the left. Coin collector **Scott Kennedy** is in the center. **Ron Hess** worked at the Registration Desk. Several other PSLC members collect coins and are members of the Red Rose Coin Club.



**Doug and Paul** have talked for years about conducting a survey examining the overlap of stamp, postcard, and coin collectors correlated with demographic data and other collecting interests. These could make for some sexy Venn diagrams. But alas, both mourn the fact that their statistical acumen is even older than PSLC.

## March Minutes and Treasury

Paul Petersen and Lou DiFelice, Acting Secretary & Treasurer

**Opening:** Pres. Doug Milliken opened the meeting at 7:05 pm and welcomed new and old to the club.

**Program:** Jeff Stage from APS started off and talked about his novel, a philatelic mystery entitled *Chasing Jenny*. He included some teasers into his book along with some of the highs and lows of writing a first time novel. Most interesting was the research he needed for the book along with the methods to obtain this information. Jeff held a trivia contest with the winner receiving a copy of his book. **Bob Kramer** won this book. Jeff also shared about APS benefits and offered some discount memberships.

**Approval of the February Minutes & Treasury:** As recorded in the March Newsletter, these were approved unanimously by voice vote.

**Membership:** Lucy Eyster introduced tonight's visitors. Eighteen still need to pay dues. Meeting attendance was 46.

tendance was 46.

**Drawing:** Betty Lentz won the drawing for the door prize.

**50-50 Drawing:** Aaron Heckler conducted our club's first 50-50 Drawing in recent times, and this was won by Deb Ehleiter with \$22 going to PSLC. **VP/Webmaster Report:** This was given by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Dr. DiComo and is detailed on page-2.

**Revised Picnic Committee:** Paul Petersen announced that there will be a picnic in August! **John Hostetter** has volunteered to assume the duties of retiring Picnic Committee member Lucy Eyster for our summer soiree.

**Lancopex:** Committee reports were given. The show seems to be on track. Sign-ups for patrons, show volunteers, and display pages and frames were circulated. The show cover with cachet and cancel is in progress. The USPS has signed up for several tables with the participa-

tion of 2-4 postal workers. Members' pre-owned stamp magazines are needed for the give-away table at the show. Following the meeting there was a good turnout of club volunteers to frank and address about 1500 advertising cards for Lancopex. These will be put into the mail stream a few weeks ahead of the show.

**Dinner with the speaker:** There was a good turnout at Olive Garden with speaker Jeff Stage. Paul passed around sign-up sheets for dinners on 12 April with speaker **Bill Schultz** and on 10 May with speaker **Patti Spencer, Esq.** Dinners are held at 4:15 at Olive Garden ahead of the scheduled meeting time.

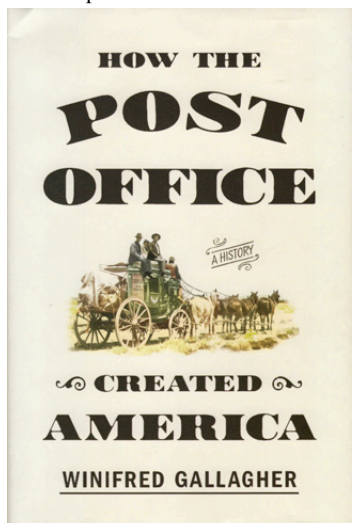
**Treasury:** 1-28 February '17

Opening:	\$4,3262.04
Income:	\$580.00
Expenses:	\$1,240.82
Closing:	\$3,701.22
3-DCs:	\$6993.77

## The USPOD and America: A Book Review

Gallagher, Winifred (2016). *How the Post Office Created America: A History*. NY: Penguin.

This is not a book of rates and routes for the established postal historian. Instead, it is a history of the Post Office and its influence on American exceptionalism.



Yet routes have been important to the shaping of America. The first post roads were north and south, and these united the colonies when needed the most in transporting correspondence, newspapers, docu-

ments, and others. Newer post roads followed, and these went west. In time, railroad tracks were laid congruent with the post roads, and then the telegraph lines followed. Add in the rivers, and the American network becomes obvious. And if one overlays the early airmail routes, these followed suit.

Gallagher traces the history of the USPOD from pre-Ben Franklin through the 7/1/71 Affair when the USPOD was fundamentally transformed into the USPS. She then goes into the technical age with high-speed mechanization including the Internet and the challenges this has caused for the Post Office.

Other trials still looming include financial deficits, labor costs, an inert and deaf Congress, the need for modernization and upgrading, competition, and the demise of 1<sup>st</sup> class mail.

The book is replete with illustrations, and the first page of each chapter contains a U.S. stamp, the image often relating to the content of the chapter. There are many vignettes of the postal players, politicians, and custom-

ers across the years. Expanded attention is paid to the stories of women and minorities who benefited from the social justice of the Post Office.

American history and the growth of the USPOD go hand in hand. Just consider the following: Pre-paid postage and simplified rates, Rural Free Delivery, money orders, Postal Savings Bank, Parcel Post, low newspaper rates, and home delivery, *et. al.* These are just a few of the innovations of the Post Office, but look at what they did for literacy, commerce, communication, family unity, and the nation's security.

Mail order, for example, assured the growth of new companies such as Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck in Chicago along with the start of their mail-order catalogs in 1872 and 1888 respectively. These stores helped build the Chicago, regional, and the U.S. economies in general. And appreciate how citizens benefited by the ability to purchase hard-to-get items in both their urban and rural homes. The PO's development paralleled that of America, each contributing to benefit the other.

## Club Notes

### Programs, Hosts & Shows

#### 2017 Programs

**12 April:** U.S. Postal Rates: 1792-1869, Bill Schultz. Joy Bouchard, Host.

**10 May:** Collectibles and Your Estate. Patti S. Spencer, Esq.

**14 June:** Spring Auction. Dick Shaefer, Host.

**12 July:** Postal History Classics. Dr. Charles DiComo. Jim Ziogas, Host.

**9 August:** Picnic

**12 September:** Fall Auction

**11 October:** Madison, FL: 1861 3-cent Postmaster's Provisional, Trish Kaufmann

**8 November:** Open House and One-Page Exhibits. Len Kasper & Paul Petersen. Len Kasper, Host

**13 December:** December Dinner

#### 2018 Programs

**10 January:** Winter Auction. Dr. DiComo, Host

**14 February:** The Overrun Countries Series Under a Printer's Loupe. Hal Klein

**14 March:** Scott English: A Philatelic Journey

**11 April:** TBA

**9 May:** TBA

**13 June:** Spring Auction

**11 July:** TBA

**8 August:** Summer Picnic

**12 September:** September Auction

**10 October:** TBA

**14 November:** Open House and One-Page Exhibits

**12 December:** December Dinner

#### 2016-17 Shows/Events

**Some Sundays Stamp Bourse:** Sunday, 4 June, 13 August, & 17 December. Farm & Home Center.

**Delpex:** Sun, 22 April, Nur Shine Center, New Castle, DE

**Wilkpex:** S/N, 22-23 April, Gateway Hall, Monroeville (Pitt)

**APS Summer Session,** 25-30 June, Bellefonte, PA

**APS Volunteer Week:** 17-21 July, Bellefonte, AP

**National Postal Museum Trip:** Thursday, 21 September

## Musings: Where are our WWI commemorative stamps?

On 6 April, one hundred years ago, after several provocative incidents, progressive President Woodrow Wilson declared war against Germany and Austria. With this act, the U.S. entered the First World War, the greatest world cataclysm known to date.

The question arises...Where is the USPS recognition of this American anniversary on a stamp? Being an armchair WWI historian, I have waited patiently since 2014, the start of the Great War Centenary, to see American WWI stamps. Where are they? But let's look at some related commentary.



*Linn's* of 27 March (Pg.-14) contains Bill McAllister's bio of **Benjamin Franklin Bailer**, the U.S. Postmaster General from 1975 to 1978. He was also a hallowed collector in his own right with a great interest in historical items related to the 1<sup>st</sup> American PMG, **Ben Franklin**. Bailer's organizational successes have been well promulgated in the philatelic press

since his death on 2-20-17 at 82.

In 2006, Bailer was named to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC), the presidentially appointed organization that selects stamp, a group whose deliberations are not recorded, where members are forbidden to discuss their business transactions.

Unfortunately, Bailer resigned in protest from the CSAC in 2014. His letter of resignation made the rounds of hobby publications.

Bailer's concern was that many on the CSAC felt that they were being left out of the process of choosing stamp designs. He also observed that CSAC was becoming more interested in marketing stamps for the USPS whose budget was in regularly in arrears. Finally, Bailer recommended a reorganization of the CSAC with fewer artists and marketers, those who promote glitz and glamor that is more reflective about themselves than it is about the substance of the stamps and the desires of the American people.

In a related Letter to the Editor in the same edition of *Linn's* (Pg.-8) Thomas Olsen in his opinion entitled "Hobby Rejuvenation" remarked that "he stopped col-

lecting U.S stamps a few years ago mainly because of the subject matter chosen by the CSAC and the USPS...and also...the high costs..."

For the last several years, members in my WWI study groups, *The Western Front Association* and *The World War One Historical Association* have been writing to the CSAC requesting stamps to commemorate the war and to honor those who served and died. So where are the U.S. stamps?

Recall the elaborate stamp and map sheets with hardback presentation packs in the early 1990s to commemorate WWII. A great gesture, but what about WWI?



I accumulate WWI related issues more than dedicated collecting. My wife episodically checks the new issues, and for birthdays, etc., she gets some for me. In my holdings since 2014 alone are the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many other Commonwealth Nations. Then there is Poland, Austria,

France, Belgium, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Turkey, South Africa, Ireland, Luxemburg, Latvia, Marshall Islands, Gambia, the Faroe Islands, and a few others. Many are souvenir sheets along with a few presentation packs. These were accumulated without trying very hard! In the 16 April of *Linn's Stamp News* (Pgs. 11-12) is a feature about an upcoming joint Canadian-French issue regarding the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April, 1917. Both are souvenir sheets. Where is the U.S. on this list?

A few years ago as I waited, I said, "Surely there will be U.S. stamps by 2017." Now I am thinking (hoping) "Oh surely there will be a WWI stamp in 2018!" Given some of the USPS issues over the last few years, I'm not so certain any more. Ed



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