



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 p.m., Wednesday, 10 May 2017
Presentation & Business Meeting Begin at 7:00 p.m. Lucy Eyster, Host

From the West End

And what a Lancopex it was! It was good to see so many of you there, with a host of you serving as volunteers or exhibitors, or both. In next month's issue, Lou will have a better idea of the financial impact of the show, and Paul will have a full attendance report, stamp show digital images, and the results of the Dealer's Survey, one of the prime indicators of the pulse of the show.

This is a good time to thank the Lancopex Committee and all the other volunteers who made this event possible. I have never seen such club support at other stamp shows events.

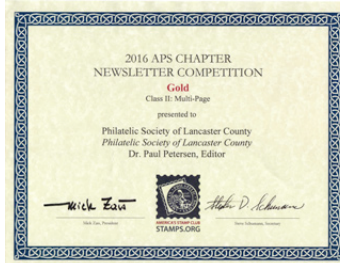
We had another winner of the 50-50 Drawing last month, so this

seems to be taking hold in the club. With two winners taking door prizes, two others winning free APS and ATA memberships, and Bill Schultz's two prizes during his presentation, the meeting had a semblance of a popular TV game show; you know, the ones people always watch but never admit to doing so. And who doesn't like to win a Major Prize? Let's find a champion to formulate, organize, and carry out a monthly silent auction.

Let's focus on the June auction, August picnic, and September baseball game. And I heard rumors that Deb Ehleiter has organized a December Dinner Committee, and they have made some

preliminary plans for this seminal event. Information on all our events will be forthcoming. So please take advantage of the comings and goings and other benefits of belonging to PSLC. Your ideas can prosper this club.

And congrats to our newsletter people for securing another APS Gold Award for 2016. **Doug**



Collectibles and Your Estate

A presentation by Patti Spencer, Esq.

While we may not like to think about the afterlife, there are two realities we need to accept. No matter where we go, we won't be bringing our stamps and covers with us. The other given is that we know our collections better than our heirs and friends.

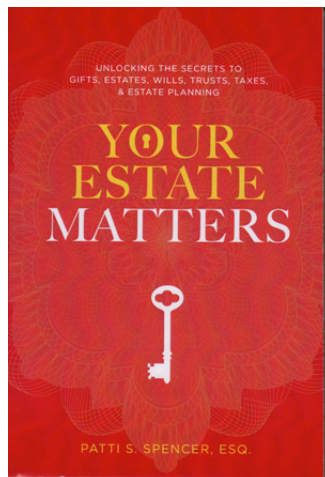
That being said, isn't it better to get everything in place on this side of things and prepare for the disposition of our collectibles while we are healthy, willing, and able?

Since no two collections are the same, the disposition of such varies considerably. Childhood albums, first day covers, and plate blocks might best be sold at cost or donated. One club member told her husband to keep a specified album-the good one, but call the stamp club or get a dumpster for the rest! If, however, one owns a Hawaiian missionary, a Z-Grille, or a even a 3-skelling yellow, then **Your Estate Matters**.

In reality, most of our collections fall somewhere in between. And what we really want is for our collections to go to a good home, one of our choos-

ing. Tonight's speaker will motivate you to start thinking about your collection's future.

Attorney Patti Spencer is an estate planning and taxation specialist. Augmenting her practice, she is an established speaker, author, and educator in the area of estates, trusts, taxation and more. She is a Fellow in the Am. College of Trust & Estate Counsel, named on the roster of the 50 Best Women in Business in PA, and maintains the designation of Super Lawyer, ranked in the top 5% of statewide attorneys. Many of us know Ms. Spencer from her newspaper column, "Taxing Matters" in the *Lancaster New Era* for many years. Her 2015 book *Your Estate Matters* is a wealth of helpful information, information that we all need probably sooner rather than later. Patti will be donating a copy for a drawing tonight. Get your questions ready.



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May, 2017

**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 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

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Ave et Vale

We regret the passing of long time stamp dealer Jack Ott, MD who passed away just a few days before Lancopex. Collectors all around will miss his friendship and integrity in all his dealings.

April Minutes and Treasury

Diane Meek & Lou DiFelice

Opening: President **Doug Milliken** opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and thanked **Joy** and **Dennis Bouchard** for the night's tasty snacks.

Program: An excellent presentation entitled "The Postal Rates from 1792-1863" was given by **Bill Schultz**. Presentation door prizes were won by **Dr. DiComo** (a miniature George Washington sword that has been silver plated to serve as a letter opener) and **Paul Petersen** (a 1910 vintage era Lancaster Court House picture postcard).

Business Meeting:

Reading Matters: **Bob Kramer** won the drawing last month for a copy of speaker, **Jeff Stage's** mystery novel, *Chasing Jenny*. He offered it tonight to club members to read and pass on. Joy Bouchard accepted the book for this month.

Membership: Tonight's attendance was 45. **Lucy Eyster** held drawings for door prizes. **Deb Ehleiter** won a Disney stamp packet and a Pluto/Horizon miniature souvenir sheet. **Mike Matus** won a deluxe lighted magnifying glass.

Lancopex: **Lou DiFelice** gave a short report regarding the stamp dealer bourse. **Paul Petersen** provided an update on the show cover and passed around the sign-up sheets for both Manpower and Exhibitors.

May Presentation: Paul announced that the May Speaker, attorney **Patti Spencer**, will take questions in advance of her presentation next month. Please give these to him. He will send out an email reminder shortly.

ATA and APS Drawings: In the drawings for complimentary memberships, **Dennis/Joy Bouchard** won a free year with APS, and **Joe Berlin** won for ATA. Both have agreed to pay their own membership for the next 2 years.

Club Trip: **Roy Baardsen** gave a brief update on the club trip that will take place on Thursday, 21 September to the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC.

April 50-50 Drawing: \$61.00 was split with winner **Truyde Greiner** and the club. Congratulations-all!

Treasury: 1-31 March 2017

Opening:	\$3,701.22
Income:	\$818.00
Expenses:	\$292.11
Closing:	\$4,227.11
3-CDs:	\$6,993.77

Club Notes

Programs, Hosts & Shows

2017 Programs

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

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

12 July: Stampless Mail from U.S. to Europe. **Dr. Charles DiComo**. **Jim Ziogas**, Host.

9 August: Picnic

12 September: Fall Auction. **Lou DiFelice**, Host

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

8 November: Open House and One-Page Exhibits. **Len Kasper & Paul Petersen**. **Fred Mackey** and **Fred Sargent**, Hosts

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: A Philatelic Journey, **Scott English**

11 April: Making Postal History Sexy. **Bill Schultz**

9 May: TBA

13 June: Spring Auction

11 July: Philatelic Estates, Donations, and Appraisals. **Dick Colberg**

8 August: Summer Picnic

13 September: Fall 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**.

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

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

National Postal Museum Trip: Thursday, 21 September

Reading: Sat. 4 November, **Leesport Farmer's Market**, Route 61 just north of **Leesport**.

1st VP and Webmaster Report

Facebook: Each week I will add in a new Postal history article regarding Lancaster County. I'll "Like" and "Share" via my contacts and will cross-promote PSLC on the USPS Facebook site. And in season, I'll add weekly Lancopex promotion info.

FB Ads for Lancopex: Ads started on 1 April to target men & women ages 13-65+ within 100 miles of Lancaster. These will last 15 days with a budget of \$25. As of 10 April, we reached 800 folks.

Website Update: Club newsletters back through 2008 have been added to the website, with the latest, April being added on the 9th. Other additions include four new links to philatelic websites and two new PowerPoint presentations. The Officers & Staff page has been modified.

New WordPress Website: This new format will replace the existing one with a new theme, color scheme, and Society logo. I migrated all data from the current site to this new site (50 hours), which will be maintained on the Development Server at LLD.com. All updates are mirrored on the Development Server. The new site may be launched this coming May.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles J. DiComo
Webmaster

Book Review: *Chasing Jenny*

Donna & Chuck Kilgore enjoyed **Jeff Stage's** novel *Chasing Jenny*, enough to write and submit the following review, which was received with gratitude. **Chuck** bought his book at the PSLC meeting, and he notes that it is also available online.

Chasing Jenny is an excellent mystery-even for the non-philatelist. It is well researched as to both the history of the inverted Jenny stamp as well as the background in Syracuse and the upstate NY area. (This was of special interest to **Donna** who

is from the area and enjoyed the references to Syracuse, Rome, and Old Forge in NY.)

The mystery, which centers around the theft of the stamp, is engrossing amid many unexpected twists and turns of plot. The characters are very well developed, as the author creates a history of each, as he weaves them (both the good guys and the villains) into the story.

Even if you know nothing of stamp collecting, this is a great read. We hope to see Miles again in a future book. **Donna & Chuck**

Linn's Cartoon Contest

It was reported last month that **John Hostetter** won the *Linn's* cartoon contest for February. But he wasn't that lucky this month! The USPS equipment read and cancelled his White House \$0.32 stamp and caption and sent it back to him in Lan-

caster making it too late for the April contest. Ed thought John's line was much better than the winner that was published in the 24th April *Linn's Stamp News*. John penned: "You're right, Vlad. It's not as impressive as the Kremlin, but it's much warmer."



**FROM THE GRAIN FIELDS OF VIRGINIA
TO A GIN DISTILLERY IN HOLLAND**

By Charles J. DiComo, Ph.D.

I recently acquired a stampless 1839 dated folded letter (FL) for my decade's old research study of the New York City (NYC) postal marking whereby the month of April is abbreviated with an "APL" as opposed to the more common "APR" (**Figure 1**). This circular date stamp (CDS) has been classified by Hubert C. Skinner as NYDM 52-3.¹ As an aside, my years of research have shown that the uncommon use of "APL" on domestic mail was utilized for a period of nearly 20 years, not only in NYC (1834-1855), but in a number of other cities in N.Y. State (e.g., Albany, Brooklyn, Hudson, Johnstown, Rochester, Utica), and States beyond (e.g., CT, MA, PA).² But this story is for another article.

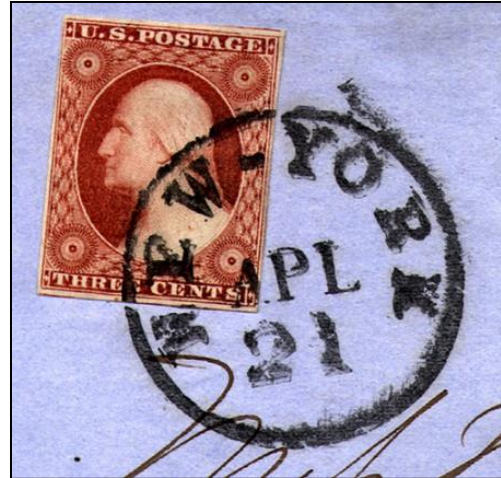


Figure 1. Skinner Type NYDM 52-3 CDS.



Figure 2. Folded Letter obverse, Richmond VA to Schiedam, Holland, 1839.

Soon after receiving this beauty, I quickly learned from the contents and numerous postal markings that this letter had undertaken a grand journey all in the pursuit of one of my favorite elixirs, Gin. **Figure 2** illustrates the obverse of the letter that was written by J.B. Brengeri on March 25th, 1839 in Richmond, Virginia. Due to the lack of a Richmond, VA CDS, the letter did not enter

the mails in that city, but was placed in another letter or pouch and sent to an agent in New York, who paid the 25¢ U.S. internal fee (note the light pencil “25” notation at upper left). The letter was received at New York on April 14th where the clerk added the red “**NEW-YORK/APL/14**” circular date stamp. He also crossed out “*Great Western*” at lower left written by Mr. Brengeri (who had been hoping to make that sailing) and placed the letter in a mailbag to be carried by the New York & Havre Line sailing packet *Duchesse d’Orleans* (Figure 3). That vessel departed New York harbor on 16 April 1839, a full 7 days earlier than the “*Great Western*” was scheduled to depart (April 23rd). The postal clerk did Mr. Bengeri a favor realizing the *Duchesse d’Orleans* was making the transit a week earlier.

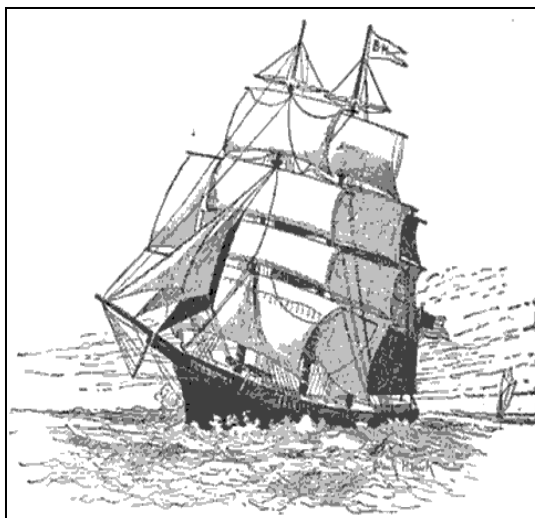


Figure 3. Sailing packet *Duchesse d’Orleans*³.

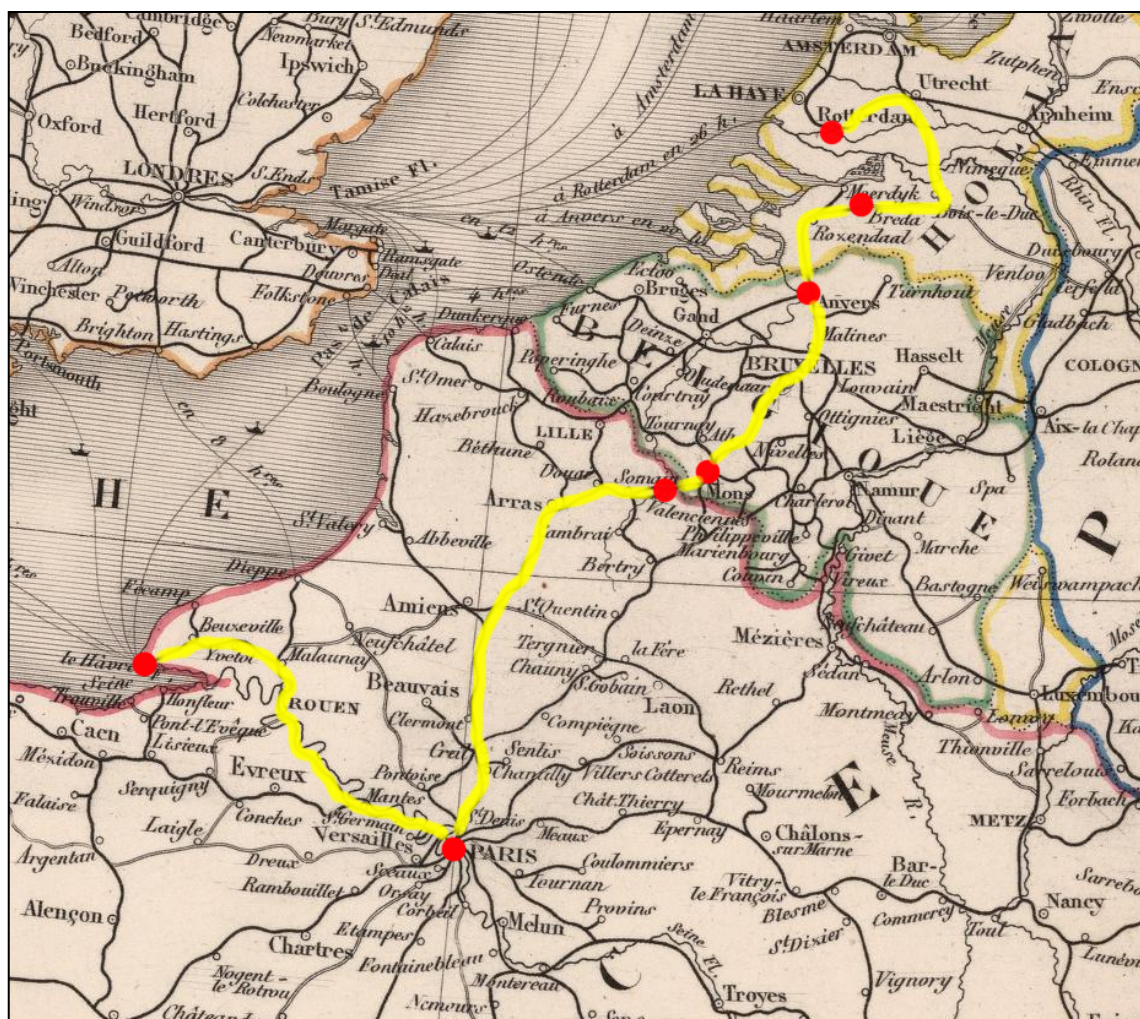


Figure 4. Route letter took from Le Havre to Schiedam, Holland⁵.

The *Duchesse d'Orleans* sailed the Atlantic for nearly three weeks and arrived at the port of Le Havre, France where the double-circled red-orange “**OUTRE-MER LE HAVRE 8 MAI 39**” handstamp⁴ was applied at the upper right (**Figure 2**). The letter then traveled across Western Europe by rail passing through five cities and three countries before arriving at its final destination in Holland. The cropped map of France, Belgium and Holland in **Figure 4** highlights the route (in yellow) the letter took once arriving in France, as well as the major cities where postal markings/rates/weights were applied or where the letter crossed a border (red dots).

First stop **Paris**, where the blue double-circle “**PARIS 15 (60) 15 9 MAI 39**” handstamp was applied to the reverse (**Figure 5**). From there it traveled to the border office of Valenciennes, where the clerk added the “**7½**” for the weight of the letter in grams and the large black “**120**” rate (see **Figure 2**, upper left). At the border of France and Belgium, the letter was exchanged, where it proceeded on to Bergen (Mons) and then Antwerp. At the border of Holland, the letter was exchanged, where the limited-use, orange two-line script “**FRANKRYK OVER BREDA**” handstamp was applied to the reverse (**Figure 5**). This marking (canceller 327) translates to “France over Breda” and was used after 1 January 1837 for mail received from France: mails for France could be forwarded through Belgium; Breda became the border office; connecting with Paris and Valenciennes.⁶



Figure 5. Folded Letter reverse, showing blue **PARIS** handstamp and orange script “**FRANKRYK OVER BREDA**”.

The letter is nearing the end of its 410 mile overland trip – the final leg through southern Holland – to Schiedam on the outskirts of Rotterdam. Upon arrival at Schiedam, the clerk applied the red “**SCHIEDAM 11 MEI**” receiver handstamp seen at right. The recipient was a Loopuyt & Co., founded in 1772, and distillers of Gin. We can confirm that they received this letter as their docketing notation can be seen on reverse flap in **Figure 5**, “1839 J.B. Brengeri 25 Maart, onto. 11 Mei”.



To summarize the transit, the 1839 folded letter written (and mailed) on March 25th followed this course:

Richmond → NYC → *Duchesse d'Orleans* → Le Havre → Paris → Valenciennes → Bergen (Mons) → Antwerp → Breda → Schiedam, Holland.



The contents of the folded letter, written in French which I translated, discuss the export of Virginian grain for spirits production and the import of Loopuyt Gin to the United States. Of note, the **P. Loopuyt & Company** is still in business today in Schiedam and during my travels through Holland over recent years, I have had the pleasure of imbibing of this delicious elixir over fascinating conversation and cuisine. To the left is seen a picture of a bottle of Loopuyt Dry Gin, Schiedam, Holland, 2017. Little did I know, I would also own a piece of Loopuyt history.

In closing, my decades-long studies of the NYC “APL” postal marking have brought me much joy as I search for new varieties, new cities, and new destinations. One never knows where your research will take you. And in this case, my recent acquisition of this letter took me on a three week journey from the fields of Virginia, across the Atlantic Ocean, through Europe via Rail, to a Gin distillery in Holland. And all from the comfort of my recliner!

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Richard F. Winter for sharing his vast knowledge with this fledgling postal historian and his contributions to the analysis of this letter. However, any errors or an omission is the author’s responsibility.

References

1. Skinner, H.C., 1992. *The cancellations and postmarks of New York City: 1845-1876, their usage and their postal history*, in Trepel, S.R., and Stone H.F., U.S. Postmarks and Cancellations: The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series, Textbook No. 3, pp. 79-108. New York, The Philatelic Foundation.
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