

MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
Columbia Ave., Lancaster, PA

Mailing address:
L.C.P.S.
19 Circle Rd.
Millersville, PA 17551

Next Meeting - Wed., APRIL 11, 2001

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717) 872-2479

VOL.11, #4 NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990 APRIL 2001

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

It is Show Time! Yes it is the time of the year for our annual stamp show at the Farm and Home Center. A lot of the hard work has already been done by Jim Boyles and crew, as they set the stage for the actual show. As you all have discovered by listening to us as we talk stamp show, at our meetings, the planning starts in November to get ready for this two-day show. Now that we are almost to the show dates many final pieces must be put together.

Our April meeting will involve a lot of licking and sticking as we send show notices out to as many people as possible. This is followed by actual show setup on April 27, the show April 28 and 29 and tear down on April 29. A lot of work to be done in a couple of days, followed by a good (but tired) feeling that we put on a very fine stamp show.

The more people that get involved the easier it is for everyone. Everyone has different abilities and talents. Help where you can and give the club as much time as you can. This is the club's one chance during the year to show non-members of the area who we are and what we are about. We always make a good impression and this year will be no exception.

Above everything else, come and enjoy the show. We try to get dealers with varied stocks so there should be at least something for everyone. Now is your collecting interest is the inverted overprints of the northern most providence of Tibet you might not find such but at least come and look.

Dick Shaefer, Pres.

APRIL HOST/HOSTESS

Looks like TRUYDE AND BILL GREINER are the "lucky ones" to be scheduled to host the April meeting. We look forward to the shower of goodies they have in store for us.

APRIL PROGRAM

Yep! This is our official "licking and sticking" session. Everyone gets an opportunity to be part of our stamp show at this meeting. (We also have lots of fun "kibitzing" while we work). So don't miss it!



THISA AND THATA

Twenty-two members attended last month's club meeting.

ALLEN WHEELER was the lucky jackpot winner this month. ALLEN is saving his winnings to spend at the April 28-29 LANCOPEX 01 Stamp Show. Next month our jackpot will be \$5.00.

Some discussion was given to the upcoming show. Volunteers are needed during the day to man booths. The "snack table" can always use help. Coffee pots were also requisitioned from members for use at the snack table.

Our program for the night was a question and answer session which proved very interesting.

Did you know there are various catalogs for collectors. There is the beginners catalog, the amateur catalog and the advanced catalog.

How do you know what color "claret" really is -- or magenta, sepia, etc? Well, there is a color wheel you can get to help you identify the various colors of stamps. Ask Leslie Botte, I'm sure she could get one for you if you need one.

When the catalog says red-brown or brown-red, what is the difference? We were told the first color listed describes the second color, therefore, a red-brown stamp would basically be a brown stamp with a red tint. A brown-red stamp is a red stamp with a brown tint. Get it??

Internet buying was discussed. Those "in the know" advised us to be very cautious in doing this. You need to know the person/company and if they are reputable.

One person asked what to look for in buying a stamp -- the answer was if it is well centered and has good perfs -- buy it!

Collectors interested in Postal History may get confused in colors of envelopes, i.e., cream, pink, peach, off-white, ecru, etc. We were told you can get paper samples that will help you identify the shade of the envelope -- as many of these shades are very slight in color difference.

FIRST DAY COLLECTING

The writer takes to task such giants as the Franklin Mint, Fleetwood, Postal Commemorative Society, Uncover, etc., for their practice of selling FDC's and Special Event Covers tied to medals, coins, currency, et al, at vastly inflated prices for which there is little resale value.

(Editor's note)

(From THE STAMP COLLECTOR)
by Lloyd A. De Vries

I received two replies to my column of May 4th, "Where are the FDC Collectors?" and with two possible, plausible answers.

Reader James Jordan of Beverly Hills, CA suggests that the number of first-day cover collectors has not dropped. Rather, "first-day cover collecting has gone from being a fringe area, primarily for juveniles, to being a respected branch of philately (although still not accepted by some old-timers)."

James suggests that collectors are servicing fewer FDC's, as both the cost of the stamps and the number of stamps escalate. "Twenty or thirty years ago, it wasn't too difficult

to collect several cachets for each issue. Now, collecting even one cachet systematically can be a problem. Instead, he feels collectors are purchasing only certain issues.

James also suggests that membership in the American First Day Cover Society might increase "if some of the large cachet-makers would be willing to include flyers about the Society in shipments to their customers."

Several years ago, the USPS included stuffers in the first-day covers submitted to individuals (versus large servicers) that promoted the AFDCS. In the early years of the AFDCS, ArtCraft was a major supporter, both of money and facilities, but I don't know if it or any other large cachet-maker now is actively promoting membership.

However, I suspect that the vast majority of ArtCraft, Artmaster, and Farnam FDC's not serviced by individuals are submitted by "cover clubs" and subscription services, rather than these cachet makers themselves. These operations would have more access to potential members, I think.

James ends his letter with, "of course, we couldn't expect that from Fleetwood, Postal Commemorative Society, etc," and that brings me to the second letter. Erney Kope of Fort Pierce, FL has been buying FDC's and event covers from mass marketers like the PCS, Unicover, and the Franklin Mint.

He paid \$2.50 to \$5 for each cover, but now that he wants to sell, can't find an offer of more than 15 cents apiece. Are these companies just making suckers out of us by selling them to us knowing they have no value once they are sold?"

Yup, pretty much, I believe. They may not know that their products have little resale value, but I doubt if some care. Nor do some seem to care about the damage they do to first-day cover collecting, or stamp collecting in general.

Now, whenever I've written about these companies in the past, I've received letters scolding me because these companies produce beautiful cachets or nifty albums, and have really good service. This may be true, but, with little work, you can find goods and services just as good (maybe better) for much less money. One company sells its "members" ArtCraft FDC's at about twice the price that ArtCraft charges. Another produces excellent cachets, but you also have to buy its albums (they're included in the package) - and the plastic in these albums can react with the stamps, ruining your collection. For the same money, you can buy other albums whose plastic is inert.

If you like the material these companies send you, and are not concerned about the price or the resale value, then there's no problem. However, most of these companies use sales words like "rare," "valuable," "Heirloom quality" and other sales words to convince you that you will make money. "Limited edition" only means there is a finite number -- but that number could be in the millions and still be "limited."

Beware any "Society" that seems more interested in your credit history than your philatelic history. Read the fine print: If signing the "application" means you agree to buy covers from now until the third U.S. landing on Mars, it's probably a for-profit operation.

All of the major stamp collecting groups are non- or not-for-profit, and tell you so on their applications or in their literature. If you have any doubts about an organization, write the American Philatelic Society, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 (enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope).

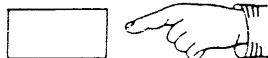
Erney Kope signed himself "a disillusioned former FDC collector." He asks if the AFDCS helps its members to advertise and sell material to each other. The answer is "yes." Members are entitled to two free non-commercial want ads a year in the journal, First Days.

ALL STAMP SHOWS SHOULD HAVE A COMPLAINT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE DEALERS, EXHIBITORS AND VISITORS. THEREFORE WE ARE ENCLOSING OURS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

Complaint Form

WRITE YOUR COMPLAINT
IN BOX BELOW

Write Legibly



LCPS OFFICERS

RICHARD SHAEFER, PRESIDENT
JAMES BOYLES, VICE PRESIDENT
DAVE STRAYER, SECRETARY
BEN HELLER, TREASURER

NEWSLETTER STAFF

MICHAEL SHIRLEY, GRAPHIC ARTS
MARILYN SHIRLEY, DATA PROCESSING

