

2003 In Review

Paul Petersen

How fast the 2003 philatelic year has gone, and so much was done! It seems like I just started, and now it is time to give the gavel to Marilyn Shirley, next year's president. Al Shaub will be our new vice president. Don Weber and Lucy Eyster will continue as treasurer and secretary respectfully. While I have the title of club president, it is the members that make my job easy and the club so successful. Your years of experience and your willingness to pitch in make all the difference. As I review the year I hesitate to list names as I would hate to forget anyone, and if I listed everyone, there would be no room to print such a lengthy article. There are so many people to thank.

Lancopex was a great success last April. Dealers and participants were most pleased. New feedback sheets from participants attested to this. While stamp collecting may be declining in some venues, you could not tell it that rainy weekend at the Farm and Home Show Complex. Several of our members won awards for their exhibits in the Lancopex show, including one of our junior members.

Speaking of junior members, they continue to meet weekly for Junior Stamp Club, including a weekly summer session with swimming in the afternoon. Some adult members volunteered their expertise with the youth this summer with morning programs. Two members have established stamp clubs at local schools. In one of these settings, the students created the exhibit entitled "The American Revolution on Stamps" that was honored at Lancopex.

We saw APS slide shows on exhibiting and on the 1901 Pan Am issues. Successful auctions were held in January and June, and everyone got something they wanted for a good price. From our ranks we had slide presentations on Lancaster Postal History, WWII philately, the 1922 Irish overprints, and holograms on stamps. At one meeting, our expert members met with small groups and went over proper technique for using a variety of perforation gauges. This meeting format was popular, and we hope to have similar educational presentations on tagging, water marks, and more.

Perhaps the most visible change this year has been the new format for the club newsletter. Our editor has worked hard as have the reporters, and we now have a club photographer. The new format allows for color snaps and a logo, and publication of the newsletter has been supported by a club member.

And it was not all hard work and stamps. Our traditional August cookout was outstanding, and we all look forward to a Christmas buffet and presentation from the junior members this month. There have also been tough times. Some members or spouses or children have faced health crises. Let us all try to be available to support and encourage them when we can. After all, we are all members of the stamp family.

While this is my last official communication in print, I want to again offer my services for any member interested in converting part of his or her collection to slides for presentation at a club meeting. Thank you all for your personal support and for all you have done at the club in 2003.

Hosts for LCPS-2004 (Snacks)*

January _____ Jim Boyles
February _____ Lou DiFelice
March _____ Eleanor Wheeler
April _____ Dick Shaefer
May _____ Bill Snyder
June _____ Lori Hostetler

July _____ Bill Greiner
August _____ Club picnic
September _____ Paul Petersen
October _____ Mary Husson & Marilyn Shirley
November _____ Bob Stevenson
December _____ Christmas buffet

* Please note, If you can not make the meeting for which you are host, please arrange for another member to provide snacks in your place.

Minutes

November 12, 2003 Meeting, LCPS

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF LANCASTER

President Paul Petersen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with 36 members present. The Star Spangled Banner was sung by junior member **Illea Griffiths** and **Paul** expressed a special thanks to all vets for their service to their country. We were all reminded to check our name for accuracy in the soon to be released membership list. A list was passed around for signup for snacks for the 2004 meetings.

Marilyn Shirley reported that the December 10th meeting plans are progressing and passed around a signup sheet for attendance so the committee knows how much food to order. Members are encouraged to bring to the meeting a dozen cookies from their stash of Christmas goodies. The cost for the buffet is \$5 per person. Members are encouraged to bring their spouse or guest.

The treasurer, **Don Weber**, reported a balance in the checking account of \$1,809.71. The secretary, **Lucy Eyster**, read the September minutes (which had not been in any newsletter.)

Al Schaub was unanimously elected to the office of vice president for 2004.

The winner of the \$5 drawing (**Bob Larkin**) was not present. **Allen Wheeler** thanked everyone for the cards and kind thoughts received by him and his wife during their recent illnesses. **Ben Heller's** wife **Kate** and club member **Truyde Greiner** would also appreciate get well wishes.

After a short recess **Jim Boyles** presented a slide program on Lancaster city postmarks from the years 1795 to 1899. He finished his presentation by showing some Lancaster county postmarks on letters from 1800 through 1857. **Jim** expressed his thanks to **Paul** for his help with the photography.

Respectfully submitted, Lucy Eyster, Secretary

Did Columbus Have a Body-Double?

In movie making, a body-double is someone whose body build and features are nearly identical to those of a star actor or actress. The body-double substitutes for the star in dangerous or sexually explicit scenes.

In arriving in the New World in 1492, is it possible that Columbus had a body-double? Philatelic research suggests that he may have feared the New World natives and, as a result, sent a body-double for the initial contact with them. If so, his choice of a body-double would fail to meet Hollywood standards!

If you wish personally to research this historical mystery, check out US Scott 230 and 231.

Al Schaub
Editorial Bits & Pieces

Double Bar Code

Some of your mail will soon include two bar codes. The bar code below the address has been in use for some time. Termed the Postnet code, this series of bars describes in machine readable language the delivery point. The new code, termed Planet, will appear above the address block. This new code will allow USPS to identify the mailer and delivery date. Once Planet is in operation, bulk mailers will be better able to coordinate mailings with related TV or newspaper advertising. So keep your eye out for mail with the bars above the address-and compare that set of bars with those below the address.

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting-the Club's annual Christmas Buffet-will be held at the Maple Grove Community Center at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 10. The cost of the buffet is \$5.00 per person. In addition, members are asked to bring a dozen cookies to complete our meal.

An American Christmas Sampler



Scott, 1205, 1962
First US Christmas stamp



Scott 1254-1257, 1964
First set of four US Christmas stamps



Scott, 1321, 1966. First stamp with religious art

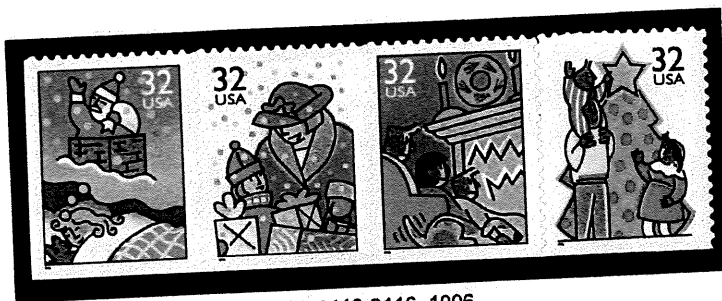


Scott 1444 & 1445, 1971

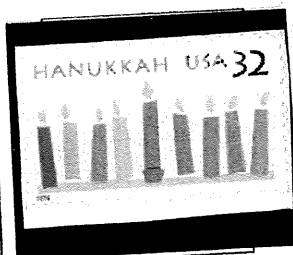


Scott 2107 & 2108, 1984

Beginning in 1970, multiple Christmas stamps were issued—one depicting a traditional Christmas scene; the other religious art. Scott 1444 & 1445, above left, and Scott 2107 & 2108, above right, are examples. Except for 1974 and 1977, the multiple stamp pattern has continued. Booklets were first issued in 1989, using both religious art and a traditional scene, Scott 3113-3116, below, is an example of the traditional scenes. Similar booklets have followed each year since. Stamps honoring Hanakkah and Kwanzaa were issued in 1996 and 1998, respectively. The 2003 stamps are depicted at the right below.



Scott 3113-3116, 1996



Scott 3118, 1996
Hanakkah



Scott 3175, 1998
Kwanzaa



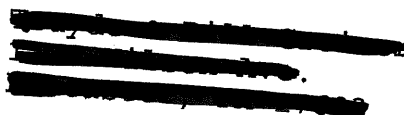
2003 religious art stamp



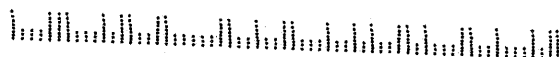
2003 traditional Christmas stamp



19 Circle Road
Millersville, PA 17551



17603+4723



STAMP SHOWS

York Stamp Show

The Greater York Stamp Show will be held at the:
Commonwealth Fire Company
2045 N. Sherman Street
On Sunday, December 7th.

Hours:

10 am-4 pm.

Contact is Bob Jensen at 755-3067.

Publisher: Tuyen Tran & T & D Design, Inc.
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The deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is the 20th of each month. Items can be sent to the editor or to either reporter or the photographer by mail, email, or telephone.

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The Cat in the Hat Cancellation

The holiday cancellation slogan—depicted below—in use by post offices nationwide, including Lancaster, is Dr. Suess's Cat in the Hat. A Cat in the Hat movie has already been released, and a stamp is scheduled for release in March 2004. The USPS is using the movie to promote the use of Priority Mail services over the holiday.



Happy
Holidays
from the
U.S. Postal Service!