

MEETINGS, 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
TIME: 7:30 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., March 11, 1998

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

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NEWSLETTER FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 1990

MARCH 1998

STAMP OF APPROVAL!

Gosh, it seems like spring outside and this is the time to dwell on positive thoughts and make plans -- such as our upcoming LANCOPEX Show on May 2 and 3, 1998.

I was just thinking since Congressman Joe Pitts is a fellow stamp collector, why not invite him to our upcoming exhibit? We could have him sign autographs on our Show Program for an hour or so. We might be able to get a photographer from the paper to do an article!! -- Just an idea!

Please keep the weekend of May 2 and 3 open to help with our show. Every helping hand is appreciated.

A note of concern -- One of our club members, DON WEBER, has a daughter, Sally Roberts, who was in an auto accident. Sally has been in a coma for 5 or 6 weeks. Please remember the Weber and Roberts families in your prayers.

Marilyn Shirley, Pres.

host

DICK SHAEFER has generously consented to cater the goodies for the March meeting.

March

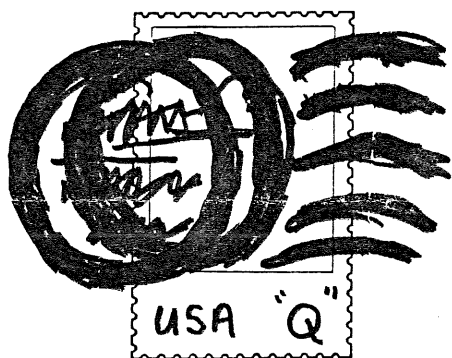
At our March Meeting, after we run down our club business, we will work on plans for the stamp show. After our refreshment break you can search through the Approval Books from the APS.

ASK PHIL!

Q: What do you think of the stamp designs, supplied by the U.S. Post Office to vote on?

A: I made a serious study of these designs and I reviewed all of the stamps already issued by the Citizen's Advisory Committee and I believe that I have discovered the tenor of their mind set -- so I offer more prospects for stamp designs for you to vote on. You may vote for one or all -- it won't make any difference.

1. New 33 cent value celebrating Wendy's New French Fries.
2. A souvenir sheet of 2 stamps honoring Birth of Babies to Madonna and Michael Jackson. (1st day - Intercourse, PA)
3. A pane of 20 unvalued, pre-raise in rate, stamps with a design of modern day cancellations.



4. Anniversary of the Creation of Bologna. (1st day - Lebanon, PA)
5. \$3.00 issue honoring Stamp Clubs of America. (Design shows Postmaster General making deposit at bank)

6. Honoring Democratic Party showing a donkey shooting the elephant.
7. Honoring Republican Party - showing elephant stepping on a donkey.
8. The First Failure To Fly a Balloon Around the World.
9. Pane of 20 stamps featuring famous rooms -- Lincoln Bedroom - Oval Office - The Rainbow Room - Elbow Room, etc.
10. A new issue of Famous Americans, designs based on the issue of 1939 including: Al Capone - Bonnie and Clyde - Charles Manson - Jesse James - John Dillinger - John Gotte - Aaron Burr - Fritz Kuhn - Pretty Boy Floyd - Alger Hiss Huey Long - Father Coughlan John Wilkes Booth and several senators and congressmen to be selected in a vote by the public.
11. A combined issue with Iraq celebrating Saddam's benevolence in allowing women and children to guard his 17 palaces from bombing.
12. Here is one you will certainly vote for:

A Cinderella honoring DONNA DEVINE, our newest member and MARSHALL ANDERSON AND LOIS HOSTETLER, who paid us a visit. We hope the last two will become members also.

(If you have any questions for "Phil Attilie", give them to MARILYN SHIRLEY or DICK DUDLEY and they will see that Phil gets them.)

BILL GREINER informs us that we will be offered a new set of APS Approval Books at our March Meeting. - There has been a leak that they will contain issues from the following countries:

USA - U.S. Revenues - British Colonies - Great Britain - France - Spain - Peoples' Republic of China - U.S. Postal Stationery and Ireland.

It's another chance to fill up some empty spaces in your albums. REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN GLASSINES AND TONGS, PLEASE.

SHOWING OFF

Preparations are already being planned for our Stamp Show in May -- Chairmen are formulating plans -- it would be pleasant if some of you would plan to have an exhibit at the show and creating an exhibit requires a bit of pre-thought, too.

To cover an Exhibit you have to write a short story with your stamps or covers. It must have a theme, a motif of your own creation. You must present your material neatly with simple descriptions - so as not to detract from the stamps themselves. Don't try to write the great non-fiction opus. When I was being demobbed from the army, a Chaplain spoke to us and said:

"When you are home again and dining with your wife, mother and children and you want the butter, ask for it, don't describe it." Anyone who was in the same war with Hitler will know what he meant.

Your exhibit should show original research and philatelic knowledge. Try to have material that is in pristine condition. Most of all, your exhibit should have "Eye Appeal". That will draw it quickly to the Judges' attention. It will be judged by its treatment, research, knowledge, rarity and presentation. Use your imagination and creative ability; make a masterpiece and win a GOLD RIBBON!



HAT'S OFF TO LUCY EYSTER - who brought three guests to the February meeting. They were MARSHALL ANDERSON, DONNA DEVINE AND LOIS HOSTETLER.

Lucy is our Membership Chairperson and is doing a fine job of recruiting new members for us.

ARE YOU ADVENTURESOME?

Most U.S. tourists desiring new vistas to explore head for the safe, comfortable and predictable confines of our northern neighbor, Canada. The same thinking is applied by the U.S. stamp collector who having reached the outer limits of collecting U.S. naturally begins a Canadian collection. Considering that, in essence, you are an armchair tourist, why not strike out for unfathomed territory. Read, if you will, the following account which appeared in Linn's awhile back, direct your interest south and delve into the stamps of Mexico. This country's early issues are even more complex than those of the U.S.; numerous regular issues, many with low catalogue values, are difficult to find while unrecognized rarities languish in the dealers' penny boxes; modern commemoratives depict colorful topics, have intricate and artistic designs, low printings and are available inexpensively.

Mexico is a country with more than 90 million inhabitants. Its capital at Mexico City is the largest in all the world with almost 20 million residents.

Yet, in spite of Mexico's geographical size and large population, its philatelic tradition is poor.

Mexico's postal service is the Servicio Postal Mexicano (SPM). It is in charge of determining the annual program of commemorative issues and of issuing the postage stamps.

The SPM Philatelic Office is located in the main post office in Mexico City. It has two sales windows, one of which sells stamps issued from 1983 to date at face value. The other window sells stamps issued prior to 1983 at a pre-established premium above face value.

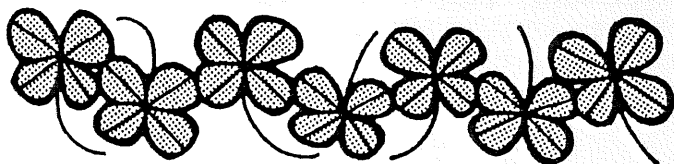
New Mexican issues are sold in the capitals of each of Mexico's 31 states. However, there are chronic complaints that new stamps always reach these outlying post offices long after they are issued, and that it is very difficult to obtain copies of all new stamps.

For most modern Mexican stamps the printing order is for 1 million copies per issue. Most of these are destined for postal use, but 300,000 are appropriated by the SPM Philatelic Office for sale to collectors.

While SPM does maintain a new issue service, it is confined to commemoratives only, and does not accept standing orders.

Mexico's well-known Exporta series of stamps, which has been in use continuously since 1975, may be a delight for the studious philatelist, but it has been something of a nightmare for the more casual collector.

As Dale Pulver has detailed in his regular columns on Mexican stamps in Linn's, there are now more than 10 issues within the series, and a host of papers, watermarks, perforations and phosphorescent varieties to pursue.



All Mexico's stamps are printed in the Talleres de Impresion de Estampilla y Valores, a branch of the Ministry of Finance. Because Mexico's bank notes are printed by a separate facility, this plant that prints the stamps is something of a second-class operation.

Mexico City has five established stamp dealers and perhaps 10-15 more who buy and sell stamps on a part-time basis. Collectors gather each Sunday to exchange stamps at Mexico City's legendary Bosque de Chapultepec.

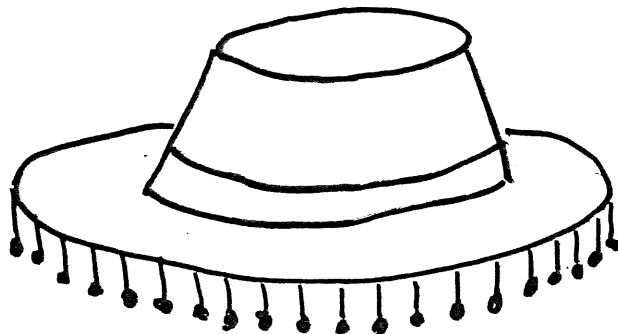
Philatelic exhibits at the national level are very rare in Mexico and take a great effort to organize.

To no one's surprise, Mexico City also boasts the largest stamp club in the country, with some 500 members. Outside the capital, as many as 20 cities have clubs numbering 15 to 20 members each.

The new SPM managers are said to be keenly interested in improving the subjects and quality of Mexico's stamps. They have appointed an advisory committee, promoted contests among stamp designers and are already giving thought to finding a replacement for Mexico's Exporta series.

I am confident that the improvement of Mexico's economic situation will allow many collectors who abandoned the hobby due to past devaluations to return to stamp collecting.

(Excerpts from article by Alejandro Grossmann)



N O T I C E

We hope to have an updated membership listing included with your next newsletter. If you have not paid your yearly dues of \$5.00, please do so immediately, as your name will not be included on the new listing unless we hear from you.

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