

The Veranda in Winter

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County



The James Buchanan Chapter (#173) of the American Philatelic Society American Topical Assn., Chapter 118 Member, NY Federation of Stamp Clubs

Wednesday, 13 February 2019

Bourse Opens at 6:30. Business Meeting at 7:00 pm; Presentation follows George Younes, Host, Doug Milliken, Greeter

The Veranda Chronicles

Happy February - We are coming off a successful Winter Auction last month at our new meeting space, the Crossings Meeting Room at Landis Homes, in Lititz. Please take a minute to thank our auctioneers (Aaron & Mike); runners (Bob & Mark); auction chairs (Lou & Dick); hosts (Tony & Mrs. C.) for all their home baked cookies and other goodies; Len for providing the coffee at every meeting, and to Dennis B. for the Hershey's treats; our members who submitted quality material; and our ambitious members that bid energetically and won some great lots. There were a total of 145 lots consigned, 114 were sold, and the total sales amounted to over \$1,000. Photos of the event are posted on our website Photo Journal¹. I trust you are looking forward, as I am to our Spring Auction.

We were then delighted to support our friends at the White Rose Philatelic Society of York by attending YORCOPEX at the York Expo Center on January 25th and 26th. I trust many of you were able to pick up some new additions to your collection – I was fortunate to find a few stampless covers from the early 1800s. Please continue to support our regional dealers, at shows as well as online.

This year initiates an important phase in growing our hobby. The American Philatelic Society is kicking off 2019 with the APS Chapter Challenge² – to grow the APS Membership. During the months of January through June, the APS will provide an extra \$5 payment for each new member for any chapter that sponsors 10 or more new members between January and June. In addition, cash prizes of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be offered to the three chap-

ters who recruit the most APS members (min. 25). Results will be announced in August at the APS 2019 StampShow in Omaha, Nebraska.

As many of you know, I am beginning my 31st continuous year as an APS member, and it has been very rewarding. As your President and with our Society being the James Buchanan Chapter of the APS, I am inviting each of you who are not a member to consider joining the APS. Moreover, do spread the word to join our ever growing and dynamic club. It will go a long way to solidifying the future of the hobby that we care so deeply about. Finally, this month the Society is delighted to have member Robert Witkosky presenting on an area near and dear to him entitled "An Overview of Bosnian Philately: 1879-1918." See you at the club!

 ${\tt 1\ http://lcps-stamps.org/presentations/photo-journal/}$

2 https://stamps.org/Collect/Shows-Events-Calendar/StampShow

Program: Bosnian Philately-Bob Witkosky

At the start of World War I, Bosnian postal authorities employed their first use of semi-postal stamps by overprinting the 5 Heller and 10 Heller values of the 1906 Views issue stamps (Scott number B1 and B2). The overprints consisted of the year (1914), an additional value (7 Heller or 12 Heller), and four small squares. This is where it gets interesting: The printing office used three different types/fonts of the number "4", and three different types/fonts of the number "1"! The type III of the number "4" only occurred once per sheet, and there

were only 2000 sheets of the 5 Heller/7 Heller and 5000 of the 10 Heller/12 Heller sheets overprinted. There are only 2000 and 5000 of these stamps with the type III "4" available.



You will see examples of both of these at the February Club meet-

ing. If you have any of the Bosnian semi-postal stamps, bring them to the meeting; other printing variations will also be shown and discussed. Circle that date on your calendar – you won't want to miss "Bosnia"!!

Bob Witkosky retired from the U.S. Air Force and the DoD as an analyst. He is now a part-time philatelic dealer specializing in worldwide covers. Bob's personal collecting interest is Bosnian stamp and postal history. He divides his time between Denver, PA, and Baltimore, MD.

2019 Dues are Due! Renewal on Pg.-3

Volume 82, No. 2 February 2019

Visitors are Always Welcome

PSLC meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month (except August) at the Crossings Meeting Room, Landis Homes, 1001 East Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543 at 7:00 pm. Dues are \$10.00 a year. For club information call Paul Petersen at 717-299-5640

Website: LCPS-Stamps.org

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Censorship: Pg.-3

The Fortune of Local Shows

PSLC is a successful club in many ways, and one of these ways includes the presence of local stamp shows. These keep us connected to our dealers, fellow club members, and the hobby in general. There is nothing more fun than going with friends to a show, seeing others there, and encountering new collectors and dealers.

The Some Sunday Stamp Shows, are held in Lancaster by Kevin Kellman of Maryland about five times a year. (See calendar to the right for dates. These are also listed on our website.) Like our annual club show, Lancopex (coming this year on 26-27 April), the Sunday Shows are held at the Farm & Home Center here in town.



Above are **David Hunt** (L) and **Dr. DiComo** checking out some classical U.S. essays last December at the Sunday Show.

The York Stamp Show is usually held the last Friday and Saturday in January. This is larger than the Sunday Shows but a little smaller than Lancopex. The weather is a gambler's delight for this show just as it is for attending the Annual PA Farm Show in Harrisburg during the first week of January.



Above, dealer **Frank Souder** gets ready at his table as the show opened last month. What dealers like about the York show is that in bad weather they can drive right onto the bourse floor and unload their wares from there.

On the first Saturday of November, we are treated to the **Reading Stamp Show** hosted by our sister stamp club. Here the Lancaster members can help work the show in solidarity with the Reading collectors who always volunteer their time at our Lancopex show each spring.

January Minutes and Treasury

Paul Petersen, Acting Sect'y & Lou DiFelice

Opening: Dr. DiComo called the meeting to order at 7:10 allowing add'l time to peruse the auction lots. He promised a fast business meeting. Door prizes and 50-50 Raffle will be deferred to next month. He announced that the audiovisual amenities at our new site are in great working condition, and he displayed images from our website on the two big screens.

Lancopex & Open Board Meeting: Information on the date and place will be forthcoming.

Membership: There were 49 in attendance at the meeting. **Barb Buchanan** had updated club rosters for board members.

American Philatelic Society:
Paul Petersen presented Hal
Klein with an APS Article of Distinction certificate for his PSLC
Newsletter article, "A piece of
Postal History 70 Years Later."
Hal's article will be posted on both
the APS and PSLC websites.

Old and New Business:

Email: Paul apologized for the email issues for the December communications including the newsletter. He rebuilt his degraded distribution list, and all seems to be in working order. **Hosts:** He

passed around the sign-up for meeting hosts and greeters, as several more are needed. Picnic: The Pavilion at Memorial Park in Millersville is reserved for our 14 August Club Chow-down. Lancopex: Sign-ups will begin next month. APS Newsletter Competition: Due to declining interest, this annual event has been discontinued. Finally, Paul presented Lesley Botte a make-up door prize, as during the exchange in December, we were one short! Sorry, Lesley.

January Postage Increase: John Ahlfeld reminded membership of the postal increase starting on Sunday 27 January. First Class stamps increase from 50¢ to 55¢; Postcards remain at 35¢; Int'1 letters and postcards (<1oz.) remain at \$1.15; and the additional domestic ounce declines from 21¢ to 15¢.

Program: Following the business meeting was a very lively auction.

Treasury: 1 Nov.-31 Dec. 2018

Opening:	\$3,005.40
Income:	\$2,200.00
Expenses:	\$81.88
Closing:	\$5,123.52
2CDs:	@\$5 798 52

January PSLC Happenings

PSLC successfully navigated its first meeting at **the new venue** for 2019. Even given the dark night and greater travelling distance for some, attendance was more than expected. Just as impressive was the auction with 44 bidders.



Even more impressive is that 78.6% of the lots on the block sold, and some of the remnants sold after the meeting by private treaty. Eleven of these lots were donations to the club, and they brought in \$121.00 to our treasury. Auctions remain a most popular



PSLC activity several times a year. Those closing up the meeting shared that they heard nothing but positive remarks about the venue, no complaints about our new "digs." So this is a great start. President **DiComo** checked out the audio-visual, and fired up the bigscreens to all's satisfaction.



On 23 January a Lancopex and Open Board meeting was held in the conference room at The Viva Center. In attendance were (Alphabetical) Barbara Buchanan, Lucy Eyster, Dr. DiComo, Lou DiFelice, Bill Greiner, Len Kasper, Paul Petersen, and Richard Shaefer. Topics included the details and logistics of our April Show, the 2019 December Dinner, and some new membership issues.

Club Notes

Programs, Hosts, Shows, and Events

2019 Programs

13 February: An Overview of Bosnian Philately: 1879-1918. Robert Witkosky. Host: George Youngs

13 March: The NY Postmaster Provisional Stamp of 1845. Mark Schwartz.

10 April: The Joys of Philately. Bill Schultz

8 May: The History of Printing on Stamps. Joseph Sullivan

12 June: Club Auction

10 July: TBA

14 August: Club Picnic: Freedom Memorial Park, Millersville. PA

11 September: Club Auction

9 October: Czeslaw Slania, Master Engraver-II. Dave Hunt 13 November: Open House and One-Page Exhibits. Len Kasper and Paul Petersen

December: December Dinner. Deb Ehleiter & Co. (Date to be determined.)

2020 Programs

8 January: Club Auction.

12 February: The Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps, 1855-1857. Dr. Charles DiComo

13 May: Canada's Role in Union & Confederate Postal Cross-Border Mail during the U.S. Civil War. Ron Majors

13 October: 1) GB Stamped to Order Stationary and 2) Royal Household Official Mail. Dave Hunt

2019 Shows/Events

Some Sunday Stamp Shows: 10 February, 30 June, 11 May, 27 August, 15 December, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

Red Rose Coin Club: Thurs., 21 February, *The Libertads*, 7:00 p.m. Farm & Home Center.

Lancaster County Postcard Club: Monday, 18 February,
Farm & Home Center.

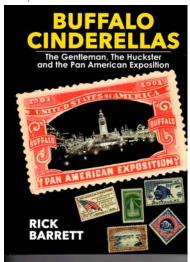
DELPEX: Saturday, 13 April, Nur Shine Center, 198 South Dupont Highway, New Castle, Delaware.

Lancopex: Stamp show of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County. Fri/Sat, 26-27 April, Farm & Home Center.

Buffalo Cinderellas

By Rick Barrett

The sub-title of this book is: *The Gentleman, The Huckster, and The Pan American Exposition*, and this says it all. For those who like history, World's Fairs, great stories, a little drama, Cinderellas, assassination, and more, this book is a must-read!



Last spring I saw the very positive review in the *American Philatelist*, and when The Reading and Lancaster Stamp Clubs went to APS for Scopex and Roy Baardsen's Carter Award in June, the book was on sale there.

While "Cinderellas" is in the title, these labels are the tie between the two characters, the good one and the other. Their life stories are enchanting, and Barrett's research about these men is exhaustive. There is extensive information about Buffalo, The 1901 Pan Am Expo, the USPOD stamp issues (#294-299) for the Expo, and some others, all tied neatly together.

Now for the best part...Save the date, Thursday, 23 May. The author, Rick Barrett just confirmed that he will be able to speak to our club that night. He will be on his spring East Coast trek for presentation and research engagements, and he is looking forward to his stop in Lancaster. Working to set up this presentation, I put Rick's book on top of my pile and was not disappointed as I just finished it.

Mike Marino is originally from Buffalo and contacted Mr. Barrett that he would like to get together if ever he came East. Over time, our people talked with Rick's people, and we are good to go in May.

The 2019 PSLC program schedule is filled, so we are offering a special meeting on the 23rd along with Dinner with Rick Barrett prior to the meeting. We are working on identifying the venue, so save the date. Detailed info will be forthcoming. Ed.⊠

How Britain Assisted Pre-WWII U.S. Mail Civil Censorship: Hal Klein

One of the more interesting areas of postal history study is pre-World War II U.S. civil censorship of the mails, the censor markings, and censor tapes. In the late 1930s, Americans were opposed to intrusion into their personal freedoms as much as they are today. While they had experienced censorship of their mail only 20 years earlier during WWI, they were reticent to permit civilian (military) censorship of their mails again after the outbreak of hostilities in Europe in the late 1930s.

Germany's Wehrmacht (Military High Command) began to censor German international mails in early 1939. England, France and other European countries quickly followed suit that same year. President Roosevelt (FDR) addressed the need for the civil censorship of communications with censorship plans beginning in late February/early March, 1939. Roosevelt instructed the United States Navy to plan censorship of cable, radiotelegraph, and radiotelephone circuits while the U.S. Army was to plan censorship of international and territorial mails1.

FDR formally declared and signed a State of National Emergency for Censorship on September 2, 1939². The U.S. actually began censoring outbound international mail on August 20, 1939.



(Above) The red 20mm x 41mm, boxed, pre-WWII U.S. censorship marking from my collection is on a post card from Ohio, censored at New York, N.Y. Censor Station, between August 27-28, 1939, to Germany.

Less than two weeks later the Order for Censorship was overturned by an Act of Congress and did not resume until Congress finally approved Censorship on April 13, 1942³, four months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the U.S. formally entering WWII. In the interim, censorship of U.S. international mails was undertaken by Great Britain at the British Censorship Station in Bermuda. Here there was a separate censorship section that was staffed by British personnel. Their purpose: to censor mails via ship and airmail to/from the United States. The personnel in the British section were "monitored" by a special unit of the U.S. Army.

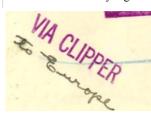


The business-to-business cover (to the left and below) demonstrates airmail between the Territory of Hawaii and England during WWII, via the continental U.S.

This double-weight, twoounce airmail letter, traveled via Clipper Mail to the mainland via "The Yankee Clipper" (to New York) on Eastbound Trip #421, and arrived in Bermuda on 24 Sept. 1941.



The cover was opened, censored, and re-sealed in Bermuda by British Examiner #2228; P.C. 90 indicates Bermuda, and; Type CL5-C⁵ is the tape form number. This is the earliest known usage (E.K.U.) of this form number The L.K.U. is 17 July 1942. This is the only known usage from this censor⁶. Mansell & Hatcher in Rawdon, Leeds was one of the longestestablished orchid nurseries in the British Isles. K.K. Young was an optometrist by day and a supplier of orchids to Mansell & Hatcher by night.



REFERENCES:

¹CIVIL CENSORSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES DURING WORLD WAR II; ©1980 Wilfrid N. Broderick & Dann Mayo, Civil Censorship Study Group, U.K. & War Cover Club, Jamestown, N.J. ²IBID 1

³IBID 1

⁴INTERCEPTED IN BERMUDA, The Censorship of Transatlantic Mail During The Second World War; Peter A. Flynn, ©2006 Collectors Club of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

PIBID 4.

⁷HANDBOOK OF CHINESE IN HAWAII; No. 20855; Editor, Stephen H. L. Chang; ©May 1950, American-Chinese Publicity Service, Honolulu, H.I.

Please clip this dues notice, complete it, and turn in to Barb Buchanan at the next meeting with \$10.00. You may also send it to her at PO Box 116, Conestoga, PA 17516-0116		
Name:	Phone:	
Email Address:		
ATA Member APS Member Please check the appropriate ATA/APS box(s) if you are a paid up member. ☑Make checks payable to Philatelic Society of Lancaster County.		

Musings: Some thoughts having entered 2019

So much of our energy from mid-November through mid-January addressed the December Dinner, the Winter Auction, and especially our relocation to the new venue at Landis Homes. And we seemed to have successfully transitioned to The Crossings Meeting Room with suitable acclaim.

Into 2019, our energy is directed to Lancopex, the website and newsletter, the sale of some exhibit frames, our partnership with The North Museum, and ed'l programs.

Sell your excess postage now. For starters, this is a lesson for postage holders and perhaps some hoarders. I enjoy older lick 'n stick face value issues. If I don't use at least 2 to 3 stamps on every outgoing piece of mail, I feel like I am failing the hobby. I am now finding some of this postage for sale below face value.

What I have is manageable and usable. However, there are some collectors and heirs with bins of postage just sitting around. At a recent show, I learned that the going rate for some dealers buying postage has dipped to 40%. An out-of-state stamp dealer that I know once shared that he had over \$100K worth of postage and was not sure if he could sell it.

At our November Open House a visiting couple brought in a Tupperware container of nicely organized and preserved 70s-90s stamp sheets, blocks, and p-blocks, material that they had inherited. They were wondering what it was worth. A local coin dealer offered them 80% of face value, but that was about five years ago. Thinking their stamps would increase in value, they held on to them!

I encouraged them to run back to that coin dealer without stopping and grab the offer if it still existed! If this did not work, I offered some ideas for a Plan-B. I never heard back from them. And did I mention all their Elvis sheets?

When I get calls and emails for advice with an inherited "stamp collection," more often than not it is postage, sheets and plate blocks. Sometimes there is an album in the mix and/or a box of covers, mostly FDCs or an "heirloom edition" of something. I help all I can to soften the blow and let them down easy. It is hard to be optimistic with such superfluous postage.

Bottom line: There is a new game called "How many 3¢ stamps can you fit on your PP&L bill?" If you do not want to play this game, sell your postage now!

This holds true even with some foreign issues. J. Leone is a UN collector and makes an annual shopping trek to their NYC head-quarters for his commemorative stamps. In his letter to the editor in a recent *Linn's* (28 Jan.'19), he stated "you lose half the value of your purchase as soon as your transaction is complete (Pg.-3)."



Further support for immediate sale of your postage comes from the selling side. A full-page ad in *Linn's* (17 Sept.'18, Pg.-37) was devoted to selling U.S. postage in bulk. Selling prices ranged from 53% to near face value. One has to wonder what percent of face value is being offered to the postage holders in order to be able to sell at such deep discounts.

What about your sealing wax? My wife's activities in her fountain pen website have been interesting. Pen pals have enjoyed her multiple franking with older U.S. stamps, and a few are trying it themselves. The content of the letters often includes discussion of the pens and inks used and how they work with a variety of writing papers.



Let me jump ahead to the RF cover above and tie this together. This was a gift from **Dick Colberg** on his last trip to France. It is now one of my favorites with everything on it I like. This includes three stamps from my favorite RF commemorative set, the Sower that were clearly cancelled on 8-10-05. It is registered, and there is attractive penmanship applied with a firm hand.



I showed this cover to my wife who also inspected it and immediately posted it on the fountain pen website. In a short amount of time, eleven responded with "likes," whatever these are.

I was impressed, so I asked what they "liked" about it, The classic look? The penmanship? The stamps? The "Wow Factor?" What? "None of this," she said. "They all really loved the red sealing wax on the back that has such a nice impression." Then she pointed out the pristine condition, still thin and flexible as it was over 113 years ago.

So what is this about the sealing wax? I hate to receive great stamps on postcards and letters only to find them scuffed...or worse. And much the same thing happens to sealing wax, sometimes arriving cracked, chipped, or incomplete. My wife always said that this sealing wax material has to be hard on the automated mail handling equipment. She envisions the technicians having to clean out the pieces when they get stuck in the apparatus.

Then just the other day, she received a letter from the UK, and on the back was the spot where the sealing wax used to be, picked right off, it seemed. She emailed her pen pal to share what happened only to find out the rest of the story.

The pen pal indeed applied sealing wax and an accompanying impression. As she was completing her task, her mum stopped by on her way to the PO and offered to take the letters along and post them.

Then at the Royal Mail counter, the mother was told that there is an additional charge to post letters with sealing wax! So to save some money (int'l postage over there is quite pricey, at or above \$2.00 U.S. equivalent for int'l mail up to 1 ounce), she popped off the wax seal with her fingernail! One wonders

how long it will take for the USPOD to levy a similar surcharge for letters with sealing wax or ban its use entirely if problems have been encountered with their automated machinery. Several of the writers have a beautiful calligraphic script. Some others use sealing wax on their fine stationary. It would be a shame to lose much of this due to modern technology and the need to be in such a hurry.

Uncancelled Mail: At 1300 we are finding that about one in six incoming U.S. covers goes uncancelled, especially during the busy holiday season. I read about this in my UK philatelic magazines in the letters to the editor. Here there is griping about beautifully franked covers crossed out with a brio (UK's pointed markers or ball point pens). We got one recently. (See cropped image below.)



Last summer New Zealand tried an experiment. They would not cancel their mail and see what happened. I am not sure what they thought would happen, but they unceremoniously ended the experiment after a few months!

I was sharing with David Hunt about a batch of British stamps I had that were not cancelled, ballpoint or other. He said the UK does not cancel its 2nd class mail. Then fast-forward to the 12 November issue of **Linn's** (Pg.-3) where there is a letter on the subject from **David Hunt**. Most of us know Dave's expertise in UK philately and postal history. UK policy, Dave writes, is to cancel first class mail with a date

UK policy, Dave writes, is to cancel first class mail with a date stamp. Other classes are not cancelled. For parcels, which they don't always cancel, clerks encourage the labels made at the counter with dates and other info. For those posting parcels with stamps, Royal Mail depends on the self-stick adhesive and die cuts to prevent re-use. Dave finds that when he receives a UK parcel with stamps not cancelled in the UK, the USPS sees it as its duty to use their brio!