



Who is working on their collections during social distancing? See Pgs.3-4

# 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

Courage is the mastery of  
fear, not the absence of  
fear. Mark Twain

Please note that the April Meeting Will Be a Virtual One, and the May Meeting has Been Canceled Due to Viral-Related Social Distancing

## The Veranda Chronicles

Well, how can I top that banner above announcing the cancellation of our April and May meetings? And, as previously shared, 2020 Lancopex has also been cancelled. Time will tell about holding our auction in June. All regional philatelic activities have been cancelled for the next few months, and many of the big shows have shut down as well, such as London and Ottawa. The jury is still out with the APS Show in Hartford in late August. It is the Great American Stamp Show that includes The American Topical Association and The American First Day Cover Society. Four months ago, who would have predicted that the world would be facing a health threat of such magnitude as we are with the novel Coronavirus COVID-19, along with its long-term social and economic ramifications?

There may be a silver lining for many of you who are retired or off work. With greater alarm promulgated almost daily, the

state governments are asking us to stay inside and away from crowds to reduce the transmission risks. Visiting our medical and pharmaceutical establishments is permitted, as is grocery shopping, but little else. But even here, great caution and discernment is warranted. As hard as this will be for many, this 'splendid isolation' will allow stamp and postal history collectors to have more time to focus on their collections, especially those items and activities that had been on the back burner due to lack of time.

Over the last several weeks, I have been at WellSpan Health working day and night at our Incident Command Center insuring our front-line teams can assess and test patients at our open-air centers and in our EDs across the 5 counties we serve here in Central PA. We are fortunate to have the staff and tools needed for the job. We are learning much about our national and regional healthcare delivery system, including what is working and where improvement is needed.

These lessons learned today will guide us in our future challenges. So what can the club do for you now? Paul is continuing with the newsletter to retain some degree of connection, and he is seeking your input for articles. Please send him your two-cents. Further, there are opportunities on the website. Do you have items for sale? List them on the website and work out your deals.<sup>1</sup> Do you have questions with any newly found stamps and/or covers? There is a section on the website to request help with this.<sup>2</sup> Why not revisit past presentations, lectures and exhibits? On the right side of page-1 of each newsletter is contact information for club leaders, and these can also be found on the main page of the website.<sup>3</sup> Use these resources to add some zest to your collecting while we wait out this healthcare crisis. Don't hesitate to contact us. May you all remain healthy and smart so that we can gather together in the not too distant future.

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<sup>1</sup><http://lcp-stamps.org/presentations/for-sale/> <sup>2</sup><http://lcp-stamps.org/presentations/research-requests/> <sup>3</sup><http://lcp-stamps.org/club-officers/>

## PSLC's April Meeting Goes Virtual

While our April physical meeting at Landis Homes is cancelled, we will be having a virtual meeting for those of you online. New member **Susanne Noble Uhl** has offered to set up this meeting for tonight. We worked to compile detailed instructions for you to load the software and to log on the meeting. If you are like Ed. in the digital business, then you'll need all the info you can get.

Being our club's first virtual adventure, we are keeping it loose, using this as a good opportunity

to stay connected. If this goes well, we'll consider further meetings in this format but with a bit more organized content.

Users will need a computer with both a microphone and camera. You can also join us by phone. The instructions are in the email that you already received a few days ago.

Our scheduled speaker for tonight, **Bill Schultz** sends us his best regards and will miss us. In the meantime, he shares an image of the **New First Responders**. →



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April 2020

Visitors are Always  
Welcome

PSLC meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://LCPS-Stamps.org)

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Be good to everybody around  
you, as you never know when  
someone is having a bad day.

## Royal Mint Conducts Collecting Survey of Britons

What caught my eye were the findings of a survey on collecting by the Royal Mint in the UK. This was briefly reviewed in *Stamp Magazine* (February 2020, Pg.-9). With great delight, I read that the top collectible was stamps, with coins not far behind!

Wanting more detail of the sample, numbers, and more, I went to the Royal Mint's website which provided some further information. But even here only a partial discussion of the survey was reported. Yes, indeed, stamps topped the list and coins were second. (See list below.)

The survey<sup>1</sup> contained a sample size of 2000 UK-based adults (no more detail given). Of this 83% (n=1660) admitted to collecting something during their lifetime, and of these, 57% (n=946) are still collecting. In this sample, the average amount spent was £1500 with 3.5% admitting to spending upwards of £10K.

The list follows with percentages available only for stamps & coins.

**1-Stamps** (38%); **2-Coins** (34%); 3-Refrigerator magnets; 4-books; 5-Vinyl records; **6-Postcards**; 7-Tickets; 8-Badges; 9-Soft toys; 10-Magazines; 11-Shells; 12-Football Programmes; 13-Marbles; 14-Keyrings; 15-Ornaments; 16-Comics; 17-Cassettes; 18-Mugs; 19-Toy cars; and 20-Legos.

Why do people collect? The responses do not appear to be mutually exclusive, but according to the Royal Mint, some collect for the fun it brings (50%); has a genuine interest in the item (37%); reminds them of a time or event (20%); to feel nostalgic (30%); to pass on to family (20%); part of one's legacy (33%). Further, twelve percent added that they have made new friends through their collecting pursuits.

In the *Stamp Magazine* abstract it was noted that in the study's breakdown by age group, there were greater than 50% active collectors in each age group including the 18-24 year-olds. Further, 20% of the respondents report continuing a collection that was passed on to them.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.royalmint.com/stories/collect/why-over-half-of-brits-love-collecting/>

## March Notes & Treasury

Paul Petersen, Secretary *Pro Tem* and  
Lou DiFelice, Treasurer

The March meeting was cancelled, but some activity has surfaced as noted below.

**In the Mailbox:** PSLC member **Bob Witkosky** sent us a heartfelt note of thanks for the card signed and sent by club members at the onset of his illness. He is looking forward to being back with us soon.

**PSLC's 2020 December Dinner:** Save the Date-9 December for our event. **Deb Ehleiter** reports that there is no longer a conflict for the slot on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, so we're are back on track.

**Program Speakers for 2021:** Given our meeting cancellations, the three speakers scheduled for March through May of this year have agreed to present their topics in 2021. This includes Alan Warren, Bill Schultz, and Ron Majors. See schedule to the right for details and mark your calendars. Sign-ups for 2021 hosts will be forthcoming. There are two open 2021 slots for speakers, 9 July and 13 October. Let Paul know if you have a topic of interest to share or a recommendation for a speaker.

**Membership:** **Barbara Buchanan** reports that only a small number of members still owe dues, and she asks that they would remit as soon as convenient

**Landis Homes Closure:** Given the need to protect their residents, **Fred Sargent** reports that LH regretfully is closing its doors to outside groups who meet in their

common areas. This will be until further notice, and it may impact our 2020 PSLC schedule.

**Lancopex:** Regarding the rescheduling of Lancopex in the fall, the Show Committee decided to postpone until 2021. The uncertainty of the virus in six months is one issue, while there would also be difficulty determining a free weekend given the vast array of other philatelic activities scheduled each fall.

**Useful websites:** **Johnny Martin** recommends the website<sup>1</sup> of the Nat'l Postal Museum for those who have not yet visited.

**Hal Klein** shared the link to the Smithsonian<sup>2</sup> with ten worldwide museums offering virtual tours.



**Door Prize Committee:** ↑ Lou (R) and Paul held a lunch meeting of the Committee, under quarantine conditions on 30 March, discussing the rental of another storage facility to hold all the great prize material.

**Treasury: 1-29 February 2020**

<b>Opening:</b>	\$4159.37
<b>Income:</b>	\$957.00
<b>Expenses:</b>	\$307.23
<b>Sum:</b>	\$4809.14
<b>2-CDs @</b>	\$5,818.10

<sup>1</sup><https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Special-Delivery-from-the-National-Postal-Museum.html?soid=1101650389475&aid=jg86UWSxRLU>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/ten-museums-you-can-virtually-visit-180974443>

**Len Kasper** shares the following of a Phila. mail robbery. The December 5, 1941 (2 days prior to the Pearl Harbor attack) edition of the *Washington Evening Star* newspaper posted an Associated Press article entitled "Loot from 1852 Mail Robbery Found in Philadelphia Attic". The article went on about the mailbag, stolen nearly 90 years earlier, "long before the Civil War", being found in an attic in Philadelphia, Pa. and was thought to be that stolen from a mail train station. Hidden for all these years, all the envelopes were opened. Obvious-

ly the thief had been looking for cash within the mailings. The article went on to say the real value would be in the stamps on the envelopes. Once word got out, Philatelists across the country were drooling over the prospect of pouring over thousands of cancelled envelopes for the now rare stamps affixed to them. President Franklin Roosevelt made known his interest, being that he was an avid stamp collector. There was no follow-up to whatever became of the mailbag after the article ran, but I am sure the President had "some" say about where it went.

## Club Notes

### Programs, Hosts & Shows

#### 2020 Programs

(Note that April and May meetings have been cancelled related to the virus.)

**10 June:** Club Auction. (**Host slot needs to be filled.**)

**8 July:** The Development of Perforations on U.S. Postage Stamps During the Toppan, Carpenter Era, 1855 – 1857. Dr. Charles J. DiComo. Dennis Shumaker, Host

**9 September:** Fall Auction. Thomas Nichols, Host

**14 October:** 1) GB Stamped to Order Stationary and 2) Royal Household Official Mail, Dave Hunt. Lou DiFelice, Host

**11 November:** Annual Open House and One-Page Exhibits, Len Kasper & Paul Petersen.

**9 December:** December Dinner. Deb Ehleiter & Co.

#### 2021 Programs

**13 January:** Club Auction

**10 February:** 1890: The Jubilee Celebrations of the Penny Post. Mike Bach

**10 March:** The U.S. 1933 Byrd Antarctic Stamp: Production, First Day & Other Uses. Alan Warren.

**14 April:** Exploring Postal History. Bill Schultz.

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

**9 June:** Spring Auction

**14 July:** Open date or U.S. Int'l Philatelic Expos, Part-II. Paul Petersen

**11 August:** Summer Picnic. Millersville Memorial Park

**8 September:** Fall Auction

**13 October:** Open Date

**10 November:** Open House and One-page Exhibits

**8 December:** December Dinner.

#### Of Local Interest 2020

**Due to the recommended restrictions placed on the citizenry from the COVID-19 virus, all regular meetings and shows of the PSLC, Red Rose Coin Club, the Lancaster Postcard Club, Sunday Stamp Shows, and the Philatelic Gathering are cancelled for the time being.**



## PSLC During Social Isolation and Distancing

Ed. ☒ called for input from membership to share what they have been doing and what is next planned for their stamp and cover collecting during this mandated period of social isolation and distancing due to the dangerous spread of the Covid-19 Coronavirus, both across the U.S. and around the world. Many responded, and their input is greatly appreciated.

**Al Schaub** was first to reply and sets the tone for this time of isolation: "It was with great disappointment that I learned of the cancelling of both the April club meeting and our annual show. However, what is now our current reality, I believe our club leadership made a very wise decision. Also disappointing are the many social activities, lectures, fitness workouts, etc. that Twilla and I have had to cancel. However, like Spiderman and the other superheroes, to the rescue is Philatelyman (or is it Philatelywoman?). Under his/her leadership this period of self-quarantine will free-up time to go through a stack of philatelic magazines, get around to properly identifying some "ambiguous" stamps, mount a bunch of stamps in their album homes, and do further research on some covers that are rich in historical value. Gee, thanks for your help Philatelyman (or is it Philatelywoman?!)"

**Doug Milliken** suggested that a good topical collection would be one that contains stamps that have recognized the successful elimination of communicable diseases over time.



Being the successful meteorological clairvoyant that he is with our picnic, Doug stands out here as well. As noted in the 6 April 2020 *Linn's* (Pg.-12), Iran issued a stamp on 17 March honoring the medical professionals fighting the Covid-19 outbreak in that country.

**Lou DiFelice** shares his philatelic activity: "As we all have added time in our daily schedules resulting from the recent Coronavirus protocol implementations, I convinced myself not to catch up on my sleep but to incorporate a daily routine to keep me moving and motivated. This includes about 2 hours per day that I allocated to getting my US collection in order and stock booking all duplications.

"I have set several goals, which I am working on now. Within the last year, I purchased two different US albums void of any stamps and have merged them with my existing Scott National album to form a triumvirate US presentation for both mint and used materials.

"As much as I desire, a good portion of the albums will remain with missing examples of the most coveted items that are financially beyond my reach. Having stated that caveat, I have managed to put a quite decent representation of US materials in the three albums. The groundwork for filling my albums began with identifying and stock booking all of my accumulated material, and the process became one of transfer rather than search and ponder. Once one gets into the rhythm, filling the albums becomes an easy task. In the process, I am relearning things regarding the basics of stamp collecting which has added to the enjoyment of the entire process.

"I encourage all club members to keep at it and share what you may be doing or have stumbled upon with the club, so that this all becomes a positive when we exit at the conclusion of this present situation."

**Dr. DiComo** has been a bit busy with virus testing and all, but he found some Prexies on piece that he passed on to **Hal Klein**, given his expertise in the research of this area. Stay tuned. (*See May Issue to come.*) While still working, now mostly from home with limited travel, **Scott Ney** checks in. "My wife did the grocery shopping on Friday, March 20, perhaps the final Friday before Pennsylvania was turned on its ear by the COVID-19 pandemic. After witnessing the depleted shelves, long checkout lines, and a confused individual with a shopping cart full of toilet paper, we were sitting at home that evening and she asked, 'When do you think they will be sending us those little books?' The little books she was referring to were ration

books, which I have spent the past winter collecting.



"Rationing was the federal government's way of dealing with wartime shortages, and as more things became scarce, more were rationed. And, as war production brought the country out of the Great Depression and put more money in worker's pockets, it was also a way to distribute scarce resources fairly and combat against hoarding (I don't think toilet paper was ever rationed, but a lot of other things were).

"My grandparents had saved a few of the red ration tokens that were issued towards the end of the war in an attempt to simplify the system, but I had never studied rationing on the home front. I have learned a lot in the past few months, but it will have to be sufficient for space reasons to suggest searching on the Internet for rationing on the home front like I did (I am planning to do a presentation about it at the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club, but this will have to wait for this current virus crisis to blow over when events start to return to normal).

"In addition to ration books and tokens, there are certificates, coupons, and many other kinds of memorabilia available for a ration collector. After some diligent searching, I tracked down the Society of Ration Token Collectors (SRTC) on eBay, paid my dues, and joined.

"For \$24, you can purchase their profusely illustrated 2200-plus page CD-ROM catalogue, which is updated every year, and get a one-year membership in the club, which also includes a quarterly newsletter. While rationing is generally regarded as a branch of numismatics, the SRTC is also an affiliate of the APS. They say rationing is one of the most vividly remembered aspects of life on the home front, and my collection is as much a tribute to my grandparents and their generation as it is a fun philatelic diversion."

**Bob Kramer** shared that "I've been going thru my duplicate U.S. postal cards. With few postal card collectors, these are abundant. Here I've found some dates, ads, color variations, etc. that I've moved back into the main collection. A great idea is to just be able to exchange boxes of stamps, covers, etc. with others and go thru them. Even if you come up empty-handed this would be a great way to spend an afternoon or evening alone or with others. I can foresee a huge auction after 2 months or so of cabin fever."

**George Hauber, Sr.** notes that "I've been helping a fellow resident here at Landis Homes to review his father's collection. I'd heard about it several years ago, that it has been in a box in the attic. A few weeks ago we went through the collection. We unpacked some older albums, U.S. and WW, several cigar boxes of loose stamps, a shoebox of covers, and some smaller boxes filled with glassines, as well as assorted paperwork.



"Well, immediately a few items rose to the surface and the fun began. (See U.S. #1 above) This scan is just one of the examples of what was found. Some items have already been scanned, listed on eBay, and sold. There are more gems to look through."

**Joe Wibel** writes that "Your email got me started on a project that has been calling my name. I am a new PSLC member with a large 20<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. collection, but I also uncovered a box of 87 covers which were passed to me by my parents many years ago. Largely franked with the very common George Washington 720s, the covers provide a timetable of my parents journey in the 1930's and 1940's through the postmarks and the addresses on these covers. I will be sending you a detailed article about this soon." (*See Pg.-4 →*)

## PSLC During Social Isolation and Distancing-Continued

**Ron Majors** was our scheduled speaker for May. While this has been cancelled due to COVID-19, Ron has agreed to reschedule his presentation for next May. He reports that "Besides teaching my wife how to do our income taxes, I am spending some time on putting together exhibits for the Canadian Postal History Society convention in Hamilton, ON in July (hope it is still on) and for BNAPEX in Halifax over Labor Day weekend. I am also adding my latest additions to my Access philatelic database of all my postal history. I scan each item, assign an inventory number to it, and decide whether it should be in a safe deposit box or not. I normally enter the information on covers as I get them but this year I have been stockpiling them, so it is requiring more time than usual. I have also written a couple of articles for my *Pence-Cents Study Group (BNAPS) Newsletter*. And I do some occasional scanning of eBay and Stamp Auction Network websites looking for another cover or two—hoping that my "competitors" don't see them before I do!"

**Rob Sternberg:** As a geophysicist, much of Rob Sternberg's collecting is related to the philately of the International Geophysical Year (IPY) of 1957-58. This was a two-year multi-national study of the earth, space, and its environment. Philatelically, nations issued stamps, covers, and other philatelic items documenting the extant earth and positing the ideals of the future earth in the decades and centuries to come.



With the temporary changes in our lifestyles, Rob has been spending more time in his home office, and cleaning up everything there, including his IGY collection. Never knowing what one can find, he just uncovered a purchase he made a while back on eBay, a collection of IGY stamps from the son of virtuoso violinist Jascha Heifetz.

Rob's plan is to continue to do research on the results of the IGY's deliberations along with the uncovering of other philatelic items. He wants to form these into a competitive exhibit. He will be seeking guidance in the proper means to formulate an exhibit.

**Dan Martin** reports on he and his son Johnny's philatelic activities. "Besides learning how to teach remotely after 31 years in front of students, Johnny and I have had some time to work on stamps. At the end of February a family friend had given us his father's collection. Among other things, it contains eight binders of US plate blocks from the 1930s to the 1960s. We are enjoying organizing and studying these stamps. Another treat was for Johnny's birthday where he received a DVD entitled *Freaks & Errors: A Rare Collection* (2017) which is a documentary about stamp collectors. The film is quite enjoyable, and the producers interview different collectors and talk about, for example, the sale of the Inverted Jenny and the British Guiana 1¢ Magenta. Available on Amazon. "Johnny and I do miss the monthly meetings and fraternity, and we hope all stay safe and healthy."



**Fred Sargent** is PSLC's liaison with Landis Homes where we have our meetings. He says that they are taking good care of him and Judy as well as the other residents. He will be letting us know when LH lifts the quarantine and we can resume our meetings. In the meantime, with his additional time, he has decided to follow up on his plate number cancels, of which he has many, and detailed study is warranted. "Now I have no excuse," says Fred.

From Elmcroft Senior Living, **Roy Baardsen** reports that he has sold much of his collection since his living space footprint has declined. He is making improvement with his ambulation using a walker, and hopes to shed this soon. He has kept his Scandinavian collection of many volumes, and he enjoys working with these.

**Len Kasper** shares with us that "I spend about 8 hours a day working on my stamps."



"I had two full files loaded with stamps to sort and put in books, so this period of isolation has given me extra time to get caught up on my backlog."



"I also have 21 active overseas stamp traders where we exchange 200-250 worldwide stamps per mailing. Now I have time to get them all accommodated as well."

**Tom Nichols** writes: "During this time of social distancing I have several projects that I have started. One of the projects is a non-stamp collecting project, I am building a closet in our bonus room over our garage. If we sell the homestead in the next couple years we can now list it as a 4-bedroom house. Plus, it's another place to hide stuff out of sight."



"One of my stamp collecting projects which I just finished is my illustrated publication on the postal history of the DC-4 SkyMaster plane design used on U.S. postal material between the years 1946 to 1958. I have sent the material off to a publisher, just waiting to get a copy back."

"I am also creating several other publications on the postal material issued during the 1940's. This will

take a while based on the four months the DC-4 SkyMaster publication took to complete.

"In case I find some idle time, I will continue working on a collection of bureau precancels around the 1939 Vertically Coil stamps of the presidents."

**Lucy Eyster** continues her collections of wacky stamps and holograms where she is at Woodcrest Villa. Her task now is to inventory them, preferably on a Microsoft spreadsheet or database application. She is open to assistance from computer savvy club members to help her begin this.

**Ron Hess** reports that he is first using his time to get some needed projects done around the house, and for completing these he will reward himself with time to work on his coins and stamps.

**Deb Ehleiter** sent a quote to share with you: "This situation is very bad and will get worse - BUT we are also one day closer to getting this figured out."

**Musings:** There is no need to share any further details of "the virus," as it can be found 24 hours a day on TV, much more than is probably necessary. The perpetual running death count on the right side of the screen is a troublesome reminder.

Through all of this, one can observe the continuum of examples from epic heroism through hoarding to despicable phone and Internet virus-related scams.

It would be easy to get discouraged. Some mornings I wake up and think, that I oughta go off my diet, quit my outdoor bike riding and floor exercise routine, and melt into my lounge chair eating ice cream and Oreo cookies dunked in buttermilk while watching Netflix or reading romances all day. It is easy to lose good habits and form bad ones. But we can't go there. We must keep our routines, help others, maintain our faith, and stay encouraged.

An appropriate quote: "Courage is a special kind of knowledge: the knowledge of how to know what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared." In his years leading up to the unprecedented formation of Israel followed by his almost lifetime leadership of this state, David Ben Gurion certainly knew all varieties of uncertainty.

Ed.✉