



The Greater

Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club

Founded 1935

American Philatelic Society - Chapter 18 ■ American Air Mail Society - Chapter 18
Successor to the Philadelphia Stamp Club and The Collector's Club of Philadelphia

February 2016 Newsletter - Volume 4, Issue 4

Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Our Featured Topic

for April

German History and Culture Shown in Postage Stamps

My personal take on the highlights of German history and culture from the House of Thurn und Taxis to modern Germany using German stamps as illustrations. The program was originally conceived for a German Heritage Society in Lancaster County, so it focuses more on the topical aspects of the stamps. I have a world-wide accumulation of stamps, but I am not a specialist in German philately. My specialties are US Errors, Freaks and Oddities and Great Britain (particularly the QV line engraved stamps). I am a member of the Reading Stamp Collectors Club and the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County and am treasurer and auction director for the Errors, Freaks and Oddities Collectors' Club.

Presented by Dave Hunt

Join Us For Dinner

Join us every month for dinner at the Willow Inn before the meeting! A group of us gather around the bar at 5:30 to socialize and then move on to the dining room at 6:00. There is a nice selection of American and Italian food, and Early Bird specials are offered. The Willow Inn is at 210 York Rd., where York Rd. and Easton Rd. merge, and is just a few hundred feet from the Giant Super Market.

If You Want To Advertise or Donate a Philatelic Item, Let Mr. Ed Know

BOARD CHANGES

See **NEW BUSINESS**
In the Minutes Column

Message from the Pres.

Acting President's Message April 2016

It's been a busy month. At the last month's meeting I agreed to fill the term of Tom Clarke, but also indicated I would not serve beyond this year. I have asked Norm Shachat to chair a nominating committee to select a slate of officers to be presented at our October 19 meeting. This slate, together with any additional nominations from the floor, will be voted on in November and take office immediately.

Because of travel I'll be unable to attend the April meeting, so Vice President Phil Russell will preside, but there is one item which should be decided on. It's close to the time for the 2016 American Philatelic Society elections. All members get one vote and the Club as a whole one which the Secretary will mail in. While it wouldn't behoove me to use this forum to electioneer for any candidate, I just point out one club member is running for Director at Large. Our own Mark Schwartz. While each ballot can vote for up to four director candidates, maximum effect is found if only one favorite is selected. Thus I urge the club, and any members so inclined individually, to cast a single vote for Mark Schwartz.

Our former President indicated the club should focus more on stamps that anyone could afford, so I offer three examples of low value stamps from Portugal's

continued on pg 2

OFFICERS

Acting President

Steve Washburne
215.843.2106

Vice President & Programs

Phil Russell
russell516@comcast.net

Treasure

Vince Costello
Vinman2119@aol.com

Secretary

Letty Moon
lettymoon@comcast.net

Newsletter

Ed Weisberg
edweisberg10@gmail.com

Show & Events

Alan Warren
alanwar@comcast.net

Stamp Club Meeting Address

GPS and CC

Giant Supermarket
Community Rm,
315 York Rd.
Willow Grove, PA 19090.

Stamp Club Address

GPS and CC

PO Box 446,
Willow Grove, PA
19090-0446

Message From The Pres.

continued from pg 1

1912-30 Ceres issue, one of the most complicated on the planet, with at least seven different papers, two perfs, and a variety of shades. Some are quite expensive, and it isn't just the top values. Constant plate flaws abound on these typographed issues and they aren't difficult to spot, even with my age weakened eyes. The three shown catalog the minimum in any catalog, were found in accumulations, and have been sold on eBay for much much more.

The misperf might be the easiest to spot, but the broken 'I' on the 1c, and the scratch on the plate (not on the stamp) of the 4c are quite obvious. It's fun to search for these and the hunt can be quite rewarding. Fortune favors the prepared eye!

Until next time,

Steve



CALL FOR SHOW ADMISSIONS VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Stamp Show NY 2016,

The show opens in less than 2 months! Your assistance is needed with show admissions immediately before and during the show! Complete information on volunteering can be found on the NY2016 website. To sign-up, just click on the link to the Volunteer Application Form and fill in your information.

Then hit the submit button.

The NY 2016 Volunteer Committee will take care of the rest. Other positions are open too.

Minutes From March's Meeting

The meeting started at 7:35 with 9 members present and one guest, Tom Geiger. A friend of Vince's, Tom visited us in Jan. also.

SECRETARY'S REPORT & MEMBERSHIP: We have 48 members. Rich Ortlip did not renew this year as he is not collecting stamps anymore.

Rich Majerick made a large donation of stamps for the Club to use for postage. Thank you Rich!

Alan Warren reported on several members. Jim O'Mara, who lives in FL, wants to be remembered to the Club members. Charles Fricke also would like to be remembered and says he is doing okay at Rydal Park in Abington. A get-well card was passed around and will be sent to Bill Schultz who will be having surgery soon.

An announcement was made about the DELPLEX 2016 Stamp Show & Bourse on April 23rd in New Castle, DE.

NEW BUSINESS: Acting President Phil Russell made a motion to appoint Past President, Steve Washburne, to finish out the term of President Tom Clarke, who has resigned. Alan Warren seconded the motion and it passed. Phil will continue as Vice President and program chairman.

A donation of philatelic material was again received from Jim Skidmore and was given to a member to appraise.

OLD BUSINESS: Robert Cohen thanked the Club for the receipt of our donation of \$201.40. It will be used by Boy Scouts who are working to obtain their Merit Badges in Stamp Collecting at the Merit Badge College held at Valley Forge Military Academy.

Ed Weisberg talked about auctions. He reported on the informal meeting of the Club member appraisers in late Jan. and he read their notes on procedures to use in the future when donations are offered, collected, appraised and dispersed. An article will appear in the April newsletter with an outline of these steps.

continued on pg. 3

Minutes From March's Meeting

continued from page 2

A question came up about where the Citation albums ended up which were donated by Karl Graf. It has been determined that they were taken to the Stamp Center to sell along with other material which did not sell at our last auction.

THE 50-50 was won by Phil Russell, who kept his expense and donated the winnings. The treasury made \$14. Thank you, Phil.

PROGRAM: We watched a DVD from our collection entitled: The US 1851-1857 Issues by the US Philatelic Classics Society.

SHOW & TELL:

Roger Coleman brought in a cover franked with a Hong Kong 5-cent revenue stamp. The revenue stamp was valid for postal use for ten days in Jan. 1938 because of a shortage of 5-cent postage stamps.

Tom Geiger, our guest, brought in an old album page which amused him. He received a set of George Washington Bicentennial stamps and found that the former owner had cut a page crooked around the border to fit a stamp which stuck out too far for a standard page, making an irregular looking page.

Ed Weisberg brought in two apparently identical strips of coil stamps. He challenged us to find which strip had an error. Alan Warren was the only one who found it. Alan and Ed then pointed out what we all missed: both had a backing strip on which subtle text was printed; on one this text was printed upside down.

Up Coming Shows & Times

April 23	Delpex Show , Nur Shrine Center Temple, 198 S. Du Pont Highway, New Castle, Del.
Apr. 23-24	Clifton Spring Show , 1232 Main Av @ Washington Av, Clifton, NJ
April 29-30	Lancopex , Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster Pa.
May 28-June 4	World Stamp Show New York Jacob Javits Center, New York, N.Y.
June 19-24	APS Summer Seminar , Bellefonte, Pa.
July 18-22	APS Volunteer Week , Bellefonte, Pa.

Future 2016 meeting dates

All Tuesdays - All start at 7:30 pm - All at the Giant

April 19th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, Aug. 16th

If you are interested in coming to a meeting, or finding out more about Philadelphia Stamp & Collector's Club, contact our secretary, Letty Moon..

From Mr Ed

GREAT TRUTHS

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.

-- John Adams

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed.

-- Mark Twain

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

--Ronald Reagan (1986)

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

-- P. J. O'Rourke

Talk is cheap, except when Congress does it.

-- Anonymous

DELPEX 2016
STAMP SHOW & BOURSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016 • 10 AM - 5 PM
NUR SHRINE CENTER, 198 SOUTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
US, Foreign & Topical Exhibits • Show Cancel • USPS Substation
20 Dealer Bourse • Free Appraisals

400-Lot Bid Board Auction
Closes at 3:30 PM (On-line Catalog 3 Weeks Before Show)
Door Prizes on 1/2 hour.
Raffle • Free Stamps for Kids.
BRING THIS CARD FOR OUR DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

FREE ADMISSION
NUR SHRINE CENTER:
DuPont Hwy (US 13 & 40N,
0.1 mile north of US 13/40
Junction, 0.9 miles south of
Hare's Corner (Del 273))

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Procedures for Accepting Donations and Club Auctions

RECEIVING DONATIONS

A donor emails the president about a collection and when talking to the donor, the president gathers the follow information:

- What does the collection consist of.
- The quantities.
- Is it in boxes or loose.
- Where is it located (attic, basement).

The President arranges for a Club member to pick up the donation and get it to a club appraiser.

APPRAISER'S DUTIES

Makes a list of the donated items (the *Donation List*), with a copy of the list going to the Secretary.

- Separates items into those:
 - Saved for Club mini-auctions.
 - For donations to youth groups.
 - Kept for our Club Library.
 - Trashed as unusable.

Material for mini-auctions will be put on an *Auction List* and will be:

- Identified, divided into lots, & priced
- Assigned code numbers for record keeping.

This *Auction List* will go to the Secretary for tracking and Newsletter Editor for selection and listing in newsletter.

THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR will select about 10 lots per month from the *Auction Lists* for club mini-auctions

He will will notify the **APPRAISER** of which lots will be in the next month's auction 5-10 days before the next meeting so that the appraiser can bring the items to the meeting.

Descriptions of auction lots will appear in the newsletter the month of the auction

BIDDING

Minimum bids will be set at 50% of appraised value, and if no bids are received, a reduced bid amount might be accepted.

If no accepted bid is offered, the president and/or appraiser will decide how to dispose of the donated items that did not sell by:

- Taking to an auction house, such as the Stamp Ctr.
- Combining with other lots to offer again to the club at a later time
- Sell at local stamp shows if a free or minimally priced table is available



Going Once, Going Twice, Sold

We will have a mini auction at the end of the meeting. These are items donated to the club for the club's benefit.

BIDDING

Minimum bids will be set at 50% of appraised value, and if no bids are received, a reduced bid amount might be accepted.

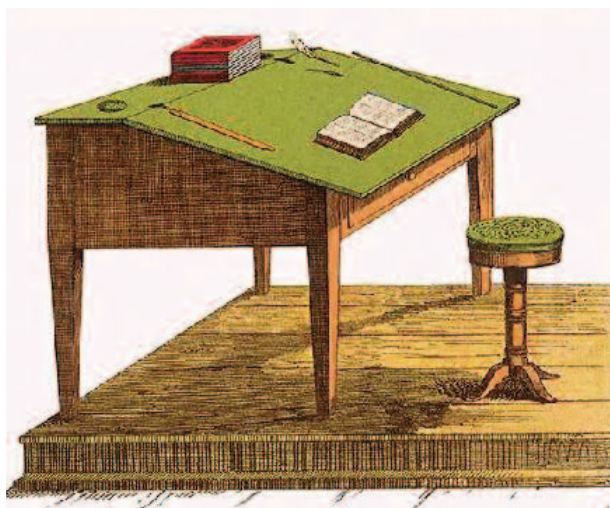
AP=appraised value, MB=Minimum bid, SC=Scott Catalog

Our appraisers are club members who specialize in certain areas of philately. They are not professional appraisers and neither the club or the appraiser is responsible for the authenticity or the value of the items.

- Lot 1 "Legends of Baseball" picture pack of 20 different stamped (.20) post cards.
AP-\$10.00 MB-\$5.00
- Lot 2 Sheet of (100) Canada Postage Due stamps J18
AP - \$10.00 MB-\$500
- Lot 3 Showguard Precision Cutter
AP-\$4.00 MB-\$2.00
- Lot 4 Hong Kong 1984 "Year of the Rat" MNH
SC 423-439 AP-\$48.75
- Lot 5 Group of 17 Portuguese stamps
CV-\$479.25 MB-\$271.75
- Lot 6 Group of 9 FDC of "Nature of America" souvenir sheets
CV-\$66.75 MB-\$33
- Lot 7 Group of 40 FDC of "Flags of Our Nation"
CV-\$80.00 MB-\$40.00
- Lot 8 Group of US Plate blocks, MNH
MB- \$1.00 over face. Special price for quantity purchase.

WE NEED STUFF TO AUCTION

Remember, all proceeds will go to the club. Why not auction off your duplicates, or items you no longer collect. They are wanted by the club members. You can make money for the club. If you have a philatelic item that you would like to **donate** to the club, bring it to a meeting.



A Learning Experience

Hard And Soft Paper

By Herman Herst, Jr.
(Reprinted from Mekeel's)

Many collectors experience considerable trouble in sorting out the stamps issued by various Bank Note Companies. Between 1870 and 1888, three different companies printed our U.S. stamps. It was not until 1895 that Uncle Sam took on the job himself....

Each of the three Bank Note Companies used definite characteristics in printing, so that in almost every case, a stamp can be attributed to the proper printer.

There are several cases where the design of the stamp itself is similar, and the difference lies in the paper on which the stamp is printed. As far as the regularly issued stamps are concerned, collectors can follow this rule of thumb: stamps printed on the hard paper are emissions of National and Continental Bank Note; those on soft paper are from the American Bank Note Co.

The exceptions to this rule are not likely to confuse, since they are for the most part rarities that are seldom encountered.

With this fixed in mind, one need only be able to separate the

hard from the soft papers, and each of the three printings falls right into place. Study of the catalog will disclose the so-called "secret marks" which were applied to the stamps printed by Continental so that their work would not be confused with those printed by National, its predecessor. A stamp without secret mark is a National; since only the National grilled its stamps, a grill also assures that this company printed it.

With the secret mark, since the stamp may be either Continental or American, the paper test comes into play. There are two quick, simple ways to do this. One is to hold the stamp to the light. If the light comes through evenly, without paper texture being visible, the stamp is on hard paper. When holding to the light, be sure to look at the back of the stamp rather than the front, since the color of the design would make looking at the paper somewhat deceptive. If, on the other hand, the paper seems to be thicker and more porous, it is the soft paper.

One can then bring into play the second test: holding the stamp near your ear, give the paper a little flick on the corner, not enough to crease or damage it, of course.

If you have any tonal ear, the difference between hard and soft paper will be apparent in a short time. Being no musician, we cannot state the difference in octaves, but a hard paper will give a tone far, far up the scale, while the flick on a soft paper stamp will give a dull, bass sound. If the "light test" indicated a hard paper, and the "sound test" corroborates it, your identification is probably correct. If the two seem to conflict, it calls for further study.

Now what are the benefits of all this? Just to set at rest the sneers of those who may think that all this is a waste of time, we might suggest that if you were to find an example of the 7¢ vermilion printed by the National Company, but on the soft paper, you'd be sadly mixed up, and you'd sit down and write us an indignant letter. But save your wrath; it would simply mean that you had found one of the rare exceptions, in this case, Scott No. 196, cataloguing at \$2,250.00!

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