



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Stan Raugh, Editor

4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560

(610) 921-5822

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Most meetings held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting site is Berkshire Commons, 5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422)

Turn north on Lincoln opposite the Dairy Queen.

Proceed 300 feet, turn left on Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.

Tuesday, August 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

World War II Stamps

Courtesy of Paul Peterson

Paul is an accomplished philatelist and member of the Lancaster-club. This should be an excellent presentation.

Please Also Note:

**The deadline for payment for the October bus trip is
August 13, 2014**

**Please make your check payable to
"The Reading Stamp Collectors' Club"
(Details are on the enclosed flyer)**

Topical Association Figures Informative

One of the most interesting stamp collecting organizations I belong to is the American Topical Association (ATA).

Located in Carterville, Illinois, dues vary by length of time and whether you receive your journal by print or electronically.

As in the case of almost every specialty stamp club, you can get information through the American Philatelic Society's website.

My May-June journal is especially interesting. Not only is the normal news present with affiliate updates, ads, and great topical articles; but also a listing of new checklists.

Since the charge for checklists is based on the number of stamps listed, the update notes how many stamps are attributed to each of the topics.

This latest update is for nature topics and is very revealing as it reports worldwide how many stamps were issued—or how much interest there is—for each category.

For example, 7,158 stamps have been issued regarding endangered animal species of all kinds. This probably includes insects and plants. Yet, only 223 stamps have centered on zoos and zoology. I would interpret this as indicating that zoos are not seen as important in preserving animals on the brink of extinction, however, only 210 stamps were issued for wildlife conservation. But, the

popular topic of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) got 818 stamps.

This could mean that stamp issuing bodies can make money selling WWF stamps to the many topical collectors. Or it could, doubtfully, mean that the WWF is recognized as having the answer to saving endangered species and should be promoted.

There are more. Camels and dromedaries got 696 stamps. Mice, rats and rodents got 596 stamps. But cuddly Koalas have only graced 75 stamps.

Surprisingly, canaries got only 30 stamps, the same number as loons. But vultures have been depicted on 226 stamps. Is this the result of good marketing strategy?

Pigeons get 447 listings. But I can justify that as I like pigeons and think everyone should buy lots of pigeon stamps. If they didn't have such an undeserved bad reputation I would have a pigeon loft and lots of these beautiful and friendly birds.

Mushrooms and fungi rack up an amazing 3,397 stamps! But wait, orchids weigh in at 4,399 philatelic appearances.

Meanwhile, earthquakes are documented only 52 times on stamps but marigolds made it 57 times and morning glories 127 times. Hurricanes, cyclones and tornados got an embarrassing low of 34 stamps. I pity the poor natural disasters, they don't get no philatelic respect.