



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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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, October 7, at 7:00 p.m.

The Golden Celestial Auction

OK, it will be a little less than golden and the celestial part, well, I'm not too sure, but it does get across the point that our auctions are super! Show up with stuff to sell if you can and look for stuff to buy if you can. We love our stuff!

Tie A String Around Your Finger...

Remember, Saturday, November 1, 2014, will be our 14th Annual Stamp Show. It will run 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the same location as in recent years, the Leesport Farmer's Market.

It is important that as many members as possible drop in to meet our all-star dealer line-up. Your attendance is a clear vote to continue our show.

Selvedge

As there was no winner for the attendance drawing, the pot will be \$10.00 in October. The 50/50 drawing of \$15.00 was won by Jim Savage.

There may be one or two seats left for the bus trip. Call Mike Matus at (610) 927-3838 for details as Roy Baardsen has been hospitalized for over a month. Come to the meeting to get an update on Roy.

Confederate Fake and Fantasy Postmaster Provisionals

Beginning June 1, 1861, Federal postage stamps were no longer valid for use on Confederate mail.

It is interesting to think that before that date war was being waged between North and South and yet the Federal (Northern) government was running the postal service in the South.

Yet, that stopped June 1, 1861, via an agreement between the two warring powers. If they could have come to terms as cordially on other issues peace could have replaced conflict.

In any case, there were no Confederate postage stamps available until four and a half months later on October 16.

What was a poor Southern postmaster to do?

Answer: Make his own stamps or markings.

Many of these "Postmaster Provisionals" carry healthy price tags today and even were collectible immediately after the war.

A dealer/publisher by the name of S. Allan Taylor began publishing *The Stamp Collector's Record* October 1865 and produced 42 issues by the time he shut down in October 1876.

(Your editor finds it fascinating that the Battle of the Little Bighorn with Custer took place just months before this publication ended. Think of it, collectors are searching through stamp packets and mounting their finds while primitive warfare is playing out in the West.)

In any case, Taylor advertises and provides Confederate stamps in packets to his subscribers.

Some packets contained genuine stamps and local remainders, but some packets were salted with all sorts of fakes and fantasies he created by carving the design in a wood block, banding together several of his creative designs; then inking and printing them together.

Because he made only one of each design and printed several designs together, he had to be sure to closely cut the margins, often doing so erratically. But a few of his stamps exist with parts of totally different designs in the margins and no known multiples exist.

In addition, Taylor was known to be thrifty and would use any paper he could find. Many different stamps would be made of the same paper and ink. Yet, over 360 different inks and papers have already been identified.

Some of the stamps are quite interesting, for example, a Confederate one dollar stamp stating it paid "Blockade Postage to Europe." Another stamp features the Confederate flag.

In many cases he would carve a wooden block with a frame and cut out the center of the block itself. He would then slide in any handy vignette, allowing him to issue stamps for many different towns without having to constantly carve the frame.

This wonderful information is from the Third Quarter of this year's *Confederate Philatelist*. The Confederate Stamp Alliance is an active club with great benefits. Your editor is a life member. In addition, the values of most Confederate materials seem very solid and there is an increasing interest among European collectors in this area. This is particularly true in England.