



# The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club  
Stan Raugh, Editor  
4217 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Temple, PA 19560  
(610) 921-5822

Issue: November 2014

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.

**Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading Stamp Collectors' Club**

## **Stamp Show**

**...in the Leesport Farmer's Market Banquet Hall**

**--And--**

**Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

**"Stained Glass on Stamps"**

**...presented by Dave Hunt**

**Be sure to join us for this program as Dave has promised  
that everyone will leave glassy-eyed!**

## **When It Rains.....???**

Recently, it was reported in The Overprint that the phrase "raining cats and dogs" was a medieval phrase based on the report that dogs and cats would wander up onto thatched roofs and slip down into homes when rain made the roof slippery (or slippy if you are from central Pennsylvania like your editor).

Super history sleuth and member Dave Hunt challenged this "historical fact" recently and made a case that based on his knowledge and personal examination of thatched homes in England this was not logical.

So, it was time for your investigative reporter/editor to get the facts. He decided to conduct countless interviews, visit major archives and build a thatched hut in the backyard, borrow the neighbor's animals, throw them up on the hut and water the roof with a hose.

But instead, he spent a half hour on the internet.

Even though the report of wet dogs and cats falling on helpless homeowners came from an historical newsletter, it seems that, and other medieval "facts" are probably not true.

Actually, no one seems to know how the phrase "raining cats and dogs" began. Some think it was born out of animal-laden tornadoes. In any case a whole list of stories showing up in the 60's and 70's from an unknown source are thought to be a hoax.

H-m-m-m...thatched roofs. Sounds like an award-winning thematic stamp collection to me.

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**Note:** There will be NO newsletter for December as that meeting will be the Christmas dinner party. You can sign up at the November meeting or call Pete Baney at (610) 926-4372 for information. Tentatively the dinner will be on Tuesday, December 2 at our usual meeting location

## **It's In the Numbers...**

As you may now have guessed, your editor is fascinated with numbers. It is why I work Sudoku puzzles rather than crossword puzzles.

In The Pennsylvania Beekeeper, a very interesting newsletter, it is reported that humans have about 100 trillion microbes in our "gut" which aid in digestion.

Recently on a TV documentary an astronomer suggested that there are probably billions of planets with conditions similar enough to earth to support life as we know it.

But, did you know that it has been estimated that there are over three million postage stamps and two-to-three times that many revenue stamps!

Imagine the challenge that those philatelists who "collect the world" face. At one time, like about 1900, there was a much smaller number of stamps and less competition for them and assembling a somewhat complete collection was more possible.

An interesting challenge today would be to take a certain year, say 2006, and collect one of each stamp issued worldwide for that year.

Believe it or not, there would be some toughies and it would cost a bundle and require a lot of album space.

Anyone up to the task?

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Roy is back...after several weeks in the hospital and nursing care, Roy Baardsen was at our October meeting.

And he returned with a roar. First, Roy won \$20 in the 50/50 drawing. Then, his name was pulled for the attendance drawing and he got \$10. Winning both drawings is a feat I do not ever recall happening before and I was with the club as both of these contests were added about 15-18 years ago. Congratulations, Roy, on your recovery and thrilling all attendees with your winnings!