



The Overprint

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

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, May 5 at 7:00 p.m.

“Number Ones of the World”

Pull up your favorite easy chair, throw your feet up on the hassock, and get out the buttered popcorn...our meeting will be a DVD produced by the American Philatelic Society on the first stamp issued by many nations—a popular collect area. Considering that there have been thousands of stamp issuing entities, this is a large topic.

POST DVD

**BRING YOUR NUMBER ONES TO THE MEETING AND SHARE WITH OTHER MEMBERS
MANY OF US HAVE THE PENNY BLACK BUT DOES ANYONE HAVE A U.S. NUMBER
ONE OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY.....BRING IT ALONG AND SHARE**

At the April meeting...

...we had a good time with an auction that started slow then picked up steam. A nice selection of material was offered. It is really amazing how many lots do sell, considering that many collectors are specialists.

Thanks to those who offered items for auction!

The April 50/50 drawing was won by Richard Jay Ross for \$23.00. Thanks to those who buy tickets as the club's split was also that amount to help pay for programs.

Attendance drawing of \$5.00 was won by Rodney Reeder. How about 100 per cent attendance for May!!!

Number Ones of the World an Interesting Area of Study

Everything on this earth, has a beginning. And a stamp issuing body is no exception.

(At left is the first stamp issued by the United States in 1847.



Also issued was a ten cent stamp with George Washington.)

The practice of collecting the first stamp issued by a number of countries, or even all of

them is known as collecting "Number Ones."

This derived from the Scott Catalog system as numbering all the stamps each stamp issuing body produces beginning, of course, with the number 1.

At first, this seems to be a very limited collection. It is easy to think that a collector would have only one stamp from the U.S, Japan, Germany, Russia, Brazil, etc. There are only so many countries.

But in fact, stamp issuing bodies number in the thousands. Many can be as small as provinces or even cities.

Add to that the fact that there are many categories—for example, in the U.S. alone there is a number one for postage due stamps, for air mail stamps, for many revenue categories, etc. Normally, these are not automatically thought of as number ones, but they can be.

It is also easy to think that collecting number ones will primarily be a set of stamps from the 1800's when many

large nations first issued stamps. But in fact, there are hundreds of modern stamp issuing entities dating after World War II—many in Africa and Asia but also on other continents.

The study of number ones can be quite enlightening. They can tell the story of a nation (or smaller political division) and a new phase of mail handling.

For the United States as an example, there were earlier stamp issuing countries. What drove our nation to try stamps was the tremendous loss of revenue that was suspected due to postmasters playing around with the mail. Stamps were optional from 1847 to mid-1851 when new issues became mandatory and stamp revenue soared.

U. S. 1, the Franklin stamp pictured here sells for about \$300-500 in nice used condition although higher grades go for higher prices and can easily hit \$700 or \$800, still used. Other factors, such as some color varieties, desirable cancels, or certain plate positions can also elevate value.

Contrast that with many modern nations where number ones can be handily affordable. Semi-postal stamps can be very reasonable in cost as the intention was to print as many as could possibly be sold. Really, to us, all stamps are number one!

THE "QUEEN" OF NUMER ONE'S



MIKE'S PAGE

CLUB HISTORY :

Mike Matus has provided me with a box of old OVERPRINT's and other stuff that I will share over the coming months.

For those of you who know, this will be a reminder and those of you who have forgotten or never knew, this is how the club began.

In the middle of 1929 four employees of Richter and Eiler, Architects started to collect airmail covers and created the Reading Aero-Philatelic Society. By 1930 they proposed that the club be expanded to include "men" interested in Philately as a whole.

A constitution was drafted an approved and on March 12th 1931, the first meeting of the Stamp Collectors Club of Reading was held.

As early as October of 1932 the combined clubs held their first Stamp and Cover Exhibition. The Cinderella Stamp shown below was issued for the third exhibition held from the 6th to 14th of October 1934 at the Historical Society of Berks County.



These were created in three colors. These kind of Cinderella Stamps for Exhibitions were very popular in the 1930's to 1960's.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SNACKS:

MAY	Kent Weaver
JUNE	Dave Silcox
AUGUST	Jim Savage / Holly Springer
SEPTEMBER	Open
OCTOBER	Open
NOVEMBER	Open

Thank you all for volunteering, we look forward to the provisions you will provide.

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FUTURE MEETING – TUESDAY JUNE 2ND

DAVE HUNT WILL BE DOING A PRESENTATION ON GERMAN HISTORY AND CULTURE IN POSTAGE STAMPS

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ON LIGHTER SIDE



SADLY I STILL WORK SO STAMPS GET RELEGATED TOO OFTEN