



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, June 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

German History and Culture on Postage Stamps

...presented by Dave Hunt

Next to Great Britain, perhaps the stamps of Germany are the most popular foreign country. This will be an enlightening presentation for all members.

Special Announcement—

Our annual picnic meeting will be Monday July 6 at 6:00 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown. If you have not yet signed up to bring a dish, call Roy Baardsen at (610) 927-3435. Ladies are invited to bring a prize for bingo!

The 50/50 drawing of \$19.00 was won by Stan Raugh. Doris Gates won the attendance drawing but was not present.

Join us for the next meeting and buy a ticket or two (or three...) and your name can be here.

Future Meeting Snacks to be provided by:

June: Mike Matus

July: Picnic

August: Jim Savage / Holly Springer

September: Dave Silcox

October: Stan Raugh



Above: Examples of German inflationary stamps with overprints.

In late 1923, the German economy was ravaged by hyper-inflation.

The government that succeeded the imperial authority of Germany's war time Kaiser could not print money fast enough.

Flooding the German economy with recklessly over-the-top amounts of paper money was making Germany's currency ever more worthless.

Part of the problem was trying to make payments assessed on it by the victorious nations, part was a desperate effort to spend Germany out of economic woes and the rest was a result of the damaged nation.

By August of 1923 utterly fantastic amounts were being overprinted on German stamps. By the end of the year, stamps were being denominated in the trillions of Marks.

These overprinted stamps are the collector's sandbox—endless opportunities for specialization.

There are plate varieties, shade varieties, surcharge varieties, double surcharges, inverted surcharges, and the usual suspect—postal usages.

The craziness ended in December of that year, when a new currency was printed. The Weimar Republic allowed

citizens to trade in one billion of the paper Marks for

one of the new bills. The trade was so one-sided, many did not even trade in their old money.

New stamps were denominated in Pfennigs in the amounts of three, five, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred. Quite a bit of difference!

Following is a chart of the rise on inflation and re-denominations of stamps in 1923 before the correction:

- 1923-JAN-15 -- 20 Marks / 150 Marks
- 1923-MAR-01 -- 40 Marks / 300 Marks
- 1923-JUL-01 -- 120 Marks / 800 Marks
- 1923-AUG-01 -- 400 Marks / 3,000 Marks
- 1923-AUG-24 -- 8,000 Marks / 60,000 Marks
- 1923-SEP-01 -- 30,000 Marks / 200,000 Marks
- 1923-SEP-20 -- 100,000 Marks / 750,000 Marks
- 1923-OCT-01 -- 800,000 Marks / 6,000,000 Marks
- 1923-OCT-10 -- 2,000,000 Marks / 15,000,000 Marks
- 1923-OCT-20 -- 4,000,000 Marks / 30,000,000 Marks
- 1923-NOV-01 -- 40,000,000 Marks / 200,000,000 Marks
- 1923-NOV-05 -- 500,000,000 Marks / 4,000,000,000 Marks
- 1923-NOV-12 -- 5,000,000,000 Marks / 40,000,000,000 Marks
- 1923-NOV-20 -- 10,000,000,000 Marks / 80,000,000,000 Marks
- 1923-NOV-26 -- 40,000,000,000 Marks / 320,000,000,000 Marks
- 1923-DEC-12 -- 50,000,000,000 Marks / 300,000,000,000 Marks

The source for philatelic information is in the German language *Michel Deutschland Spezialkatalog Vol. 1.*

This is just one of the many interesting areas of German philatelic studies. You are invited to explore as many as you wish!



MIKE'S PAGE

A German Anecdote from the hyperinflationary year of 1923.

In late 1923 a man goes to buy a loaf of bread and takes a wheelbarrow full of German Notes with him. He leaves the wheelbarrow with bank notes outside the bakery and goes in to ask if there is any bread. When he comes out the notes are in a heap in front of the bakery and the wheelbarrow is gone. It was stolen as it was worth more than the bank notes!!

CLUB HISTORY :

From the archives I found an OVERPRINT from 1982.

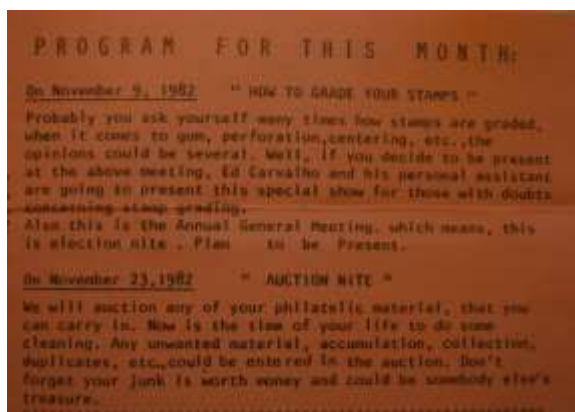
Here is part of the first page with the "header"



Recognize the stamp outline that was used?

And from the inside here is what the program looked like for November 1982.

YES.... two meetings per month!!!



JULY MEETING:

Monday, July 6 at 6:00 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown
Don't forget there is an AUCTION following the food. Bingo for the ladies.

OTHER AREA MEETINGS:

Wednesday, JUNE 10th PSLC LANCASTER Spring Auction

Eastern PA Stamp Show (EPASS), Allentown
June 25th Asbury Church, 11533 Springhouse Rd Allentown.

BALPEX, Baltimore Phil Soc. Sept. 4th - 6th
Baltimore Hunt Valley Inn, 245 Shawan Rd, Hunt Valley MD.

Also check out summer sessions at APS in Bellefonte PA.

"ON THE LIGHTER SIDE"



Keep those Zepps away from little kids !!!