



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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**Most Meetings Held the first Tuesday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Site: Berkshire Commons, 5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422)
Turn North on Lincoln opposite of the Dairy Queen.
Proceed 300 feet, turn left on Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.**

Tuesday, August 2, at 7:00 p.m.

German Colonies – Warships

Presented by Bob Steiniger

Join us, and enjoy this interesting presentation for the last meeting of the summer.
Bob is a dealer and longtime faithful member of the club.

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**If you have something from the early German era (Post German States)
bring it along and share it with your fellow club Members**

NEW MEMBER:

**Please welcome Johathan J. Escott who join our club back in June
Jonathan is retire and primarily collects the U.S.A.**

Can You Answer This Riddle?

- It will be held Saturday, November 5th at the Leesport Mkt. Banquet Hall!
- It will run from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- It will be the 16th time it happened in the new millennium!
- There will be great food, spacious accommodations and excellent lighting!
- There will be no cost to enter and parking will be FREE!
- Some of the greatest people on earth will be there—including you!
- Of course, it is the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club annual show!



One of the most famous of all the men accused of being a "stamp forger" was Francois Fournier (above). But was he really deserving of that designation? Fournier allegedly thought of himself as a manufacturer of art objects—although at least some of his creations tended to have clumsy lettering that was fat and not all in line.

So what did our subject do and how did he get involved?

Born in 1846 in Switzerland, he immigrated to France and fought for his adopted nation in the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War, which was won handily by the Germans. In 1903, at about the age of 57, he moved back to Switzerland, settled in Geneva, and bought a bankrupt stamp business the next year.

Fournier began printing reproduction stamps and built this part of his enterprise into a large, respected business never in trouble with the law. In the early years he was on good terms with collectors and dealers and all was well. From 1910 to 1913 he published a combined journal and price list. The Geneva dealer claimed he had agents in 23 countries and 10,000 approval customers and 10,000 catalog customers. His last price list totaled 3,671 different stamps for sale, although not all were his work.

Fournier claimed to see himself as a champion of the average collector who could not afford to buy the original material and pay high dealer prices. He claimed to only reproduce stamps from dead countries or demonetized issues. **And, he attacked the sale of remainders and reprints as unethical.**

However, the creative artist would not mark his stamps as copies, either, so philatelists argue whether he was naïve or just unconcerned. The continental European World War I and the aging stamp dealer's health interrupted business and Francois Fournier died in 1917. Charles Hirschburger, an employee, unsuccessfully took over the remains of the company and died in 1927. Some stamps were then burned, some sold to collectors and some sent to a museum.

MIKE'S PAGE:

THE MARKET PLACE:

I have not heard from any members recently so will start this up again in September. The good news is that some items previously listed have been sold. Let me know what you want to list by August 20th and it will be in the next issue.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Reading Stamp Collectors Club:

September 6th : BRITISH LINE ENGRAVED STAMPS - DAVE HUNT
I have seen this presentation and can't wait to see it again, It's Excellent

October 4th : FALL AUCTION

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County:

August 10th : MID-SUMMER PICNIC

September 14th : FALL AUCTION

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:



“20 years as Stamp Club Chairman
and they send my retirement card by E-MAIL”