



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, September 6 at 7:00 p.m.

British Line Engraved Stamps

...presented by Dave Hunt

**This will be a very informative presentation
about stamps made the way stamps are supposed be made!**

Pennies from Heaven!

Actually, it's dollars from Treasurer Mike and they showered at the last meeting.

Richard Jay Ross won \$21 in the 50/50 drawing. However, Mike could not award the \$15 attendance drawing as Rev. Hinkley was not present. It will be a \$20 prize in September. Please attend the meeting, buy a ticket for the half and half drawing and sit back and relax—you could win either pot of money and buy more stamps!

Off topic...I mean way off:

Not stamps, but we have a few members interested in the Pottstown Maroons and their 1925 NFL championship.

The Hamburg Area Historical Society will be holding a meeting about the "stolen" championship on October 6th probably at Hamburg High School. Call Kathy Maberry at 610-562-9008 or Brian Riegal at 610-562-5642 for times, etc.

Notes on British Line Engraved Stamps

Until I had to research this topic, your editor knew almost nothing about British stamps. After researching British stamps your editor still knows almost nothing about British stamps.

But what has been learned is that when searched on the web, it appears that only the earliest British stamps were line engraved. This includes the famous Penny Black, first printed in 1840.

Two other stamps in this category are the Two Penny Blue and the One Penny Red. Another few, extraordinarily rare stamps round out the roster. All of these stamps basically completed their run by about 1870.

Your editor was under the impression that there were more, some as commemoratives in the 1900's—but this was assumed, not known. Expert Dave Hunt can clarify this at his presentation for us lesser lights. (This is why I like stamp club, instead of spending hours, days or years trying to find this out, I can get a quick answer!)

Line engraved stamps are printed with the “lines” or drawn part of the design engraved into the metal. This forms a recess that allows a pool of ink to settle in. When heavily pressed paper is pushed into the little “inkwells” a raised, high quality print results. Another name for this approach is “intaglio.”

Ben Franklin would be proud to see How His Post Office Grew

In 1789, the United States Post Office Department (POD) had a whopping 75 post offices. They took in \$7,510 and had expenses of \$7,560. Believe it or not, that was an outstanding result for the time.

A site on the United States Postal Service (which the old POD morphed into on July 1 of 1971) website gives the stats for 1799, 1790 and every five years after—a very enlightening look.

By 1800, there were already 903 local offices and revenue totaled \$160,620. Expenses were only \$117,893, giving a healthy profit.

By 1840, the picture was gloomier. A total of 13,468 post office generated \$4,543,522 in income against costs of \$4,718,236. This trend would continue, being serious by 1855.

The year Lincoln was elected President the 28,498 post offices did better than eight and a half million in revenue, but cost nearly fifteen million to operate. That was 1860.

Of the every five year stats, the most post offices were reported at a total of 76,688 in 1900. Downsizing followed.

In 1945, profitability returned and the 41,792 post offices earned almost one and a third billion dollars and spent a bit more than one and an eighth billion dollars. This was the end of the “classical” era of stamp collecting—what a great chapter of communications history!

MIKE'S PAGE:

I could not resist having a short commentary:

British Line Engraved Stamps

As the Brit in the Reading Club this topic is dear to my heart. I saw Dave do this presentation at a Lancaster Meeting and am so glad that he agreed to do it for us.

IT IS A "MUST SEE" PRESENTATION

The number of stamps are few but are true CLASSICS as they started the very hobby we are now so passionate about.

Here are a few examples to whet your taste buds.

It all started with the.....



Followed shortly thereafter by:



Part of a sheet of 240 stamps

Then later on came the half penny bantam. Can you imagine a sheet of 480 stamps!



Dave has some amazing examples and a presentation loaded with information

THE MARKET PLACE:

I know that members are interested but I did not receive anything to put in by this Saturday's deadline. We will try again in October. Send details by September Saturday October 24th

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Reading Stamp Collectors Club:

October 4th : FALL AUCTION
Dig out what you don't want

November 1st Double presentation
Kent Weaver - Forgeries on covers
Mike Matus - Reading Park Postcards

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County:

Sept 14th : FALL AUCTION

October 12th : Bill Schultz – 5 cent
Enclosed rate and
Q & A session with mark Schwartz APS
Director.