



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, February 7th at 7:00 p.m.

“19th Century Postally Used Valentines”

This will be a DVD presentation and is guaranteed to be a fun, seasonal program. Bring your sweetheart!

...And also bring a theme related philatelic item, such as a valentine stamp or cover.

Break out the Show Shovels!!!

No, it's not that your editor is going to expound on the virtues of life!

The problem can be deeper—it is snow. And if we get enough of it, any winter meeting would have to be cancelled. Generally, if the Reading or Exeter schools close for the day or dismiss early, the meeting is automatically cancelled. If that does not happen but the conditions are worsening, contact an officer before venturing out

Money,

Money,

Money!

At our January meeting, Kent Weaver hit the 50/50 jackpot for \$12.00! Which means our club also got \$12.00!!!

Unfortunately, Holly Springer missed the attendance award.

Postmaster General praised tobacco in 1918 enclosure

The November 2015 issue of The United States Specialist (journal of the United States Stamps Society), reproduced a letter extolling the virtues of tobacco.

About 1908, a Jamestown stamp was issued with tobacco in the vignette—then in 1918, Postmaster General (PMG) Albert Burleson sent a First Flight Cover to the New York Sun newspaper to be sold and the money deposited into the paper's Tobacco Fund "for our soldiers and sailors in France."

The PMG wrote that tobacco is "certainly a very beneficial and harmless substitute" for hashish and indispensable for those "in the trenches."

The First Flight Cover was in the first regularly scheduled air mail service and the letter said it may be the second cancelled for the flight—that is the second ever air mail cover of this nation. The first probably went to some dignitary or museum.

It is common belief that U. S. President Grant died of throat cancer due to alcohol, however, his drinking was over stated and some newspapers blamed his cigars.

Philately Blessed by an Abundance of Literature

There is a literal gold mine of information supporting the hobby of stamp collecting.

In comparison to, say, collecting Indian relics, buttons, war memorabilia, etc., we philatelists don't know how good we have it. In the three hobbies I just mentioned, resources are few and recent.

And I could add a lot of other collecting areas.

Just consider fakes. For decades there has been book after book after article on fake detection in stamps. In many hobbies, knowledgeable collectors were ousted if they wrote about fake detection—the top level collectors were afraid the fakers would read the books and figure out how to cover up their tracks.

This has not really happened in stamps or any of the other hobbies where detection "went public."

Because stamp collectors took the high road, philatelic collectors and dealers had access to information about fakes, and the thousands who used it saved millions of dollars. Not all bad pieces were ferreted out, but the numbers were cut and I am convinced that when collectors operate in a sea of ignorance the fakers are encouraged to do even more.

Collectors who spend a life studying a specialty and share their findings are a blessing to the rest of us and we should always be thankful to them.

MIKE'S PAGES

A TASTE OF VALENTINES

It seems that the writing of special notes and letters for Valentine's Day gained widespread popularity in England in the 1700s.

Papers made especially for Valentine greetings began to be marketed in the 1820s, and their use became fashionable in both Britain and the United States. In the 1840s, when postal rates in Britain became standardized, commercially produced Valentine cards began to grow in popularity.



According to legend, an English Valentine received by a woman in Massachusetts, inspired the beginnings of the American Valentine industry. Esther A. Howland, a student at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, began making Valentine cards (example above) after receiving a card produced by an English company. As her father was a stationer, she sold her cards in his store and as she attracted more business her hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts became the center of the American Valentine production.

URGENT !!!

**We do not have a program
for May**

Contact me Mike Bach if you are willing to do one or have an idea

FUTURE MEETINGS: 2017

Reading Stamp Collectors Club

February 7th:

19th Century Postally Used Valentines
DVD plus members to bring Valentine
on stamps

March 7th: Spring Auction

April 4th:

Members share your favorite covers

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County:

February 15th: 1938 PREXIES

Presented by Hal Klein

March 15th:

Chasing Jenny – A Philatelic Mystery
Presented by Jeff Stage of APS

April 12th:

U.S. Postal Rates: 1792-1869,
Presenter: Bill Schultz

THE MARKET PLACE IS OPEN AGAIN IN 2017

The following are offered by Mike Matus
(michael.matus@verizon.net)

#1. Spain- Scott #418 to 432 (missing E-8) with hinge remnants on some but generally no hinge.

Cat. Value = \$96.60

Selling Price = \$30.00

#2. U.S Album sheets - NO BINDER – NO STAMPS –just sheets, Beginning with #1 thru 1973.

Selling Price = \$3.00

#3 POPES VISIT TO AUSTRIA – AUGUST 1983.

Maxi Sheet – maxi cards – coins. **Selling Price = \$8.00**

#4. U.S.NATIONAL PARKS ISSUE Full set, both perf and imperf – Perf set w/ very lite hinge marks.....Imperf set has no gum (normal) and no hinge marks. Cat. Value \$9.45 Perf. And imperf. Set Cat. Value \$14.50

Selling Price \$8.00

#5. U.S.PARCEL POST – Q10 Mint. Cat.Value is \$280.00

Key Stamp to the set. **Selling Price \$70.00**

#6. U.S.DUCK STAMP – 1935 RW2 Mint.- Slight Gum Disturbance. Cat. Value \$700.00. Key to the set.

Selling Price \$150