



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Stan Raugh, Editor
4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1806
Tele: 610-921-5822

Issue: April 2011

**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, April 5, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

LIBERIA

...presented by Kent Weaver

Liberia is a fascinating country, both for it's history and for it's stamps.
You will enjoy a program about a nation linked so closely to ours
in some ways and so different in others.

...The Translation Service of the American Philatelic Society (APS)

At the March meeting, Kent Weaver spoke of the translation service of the APS and a number of the members wanted more information.

The service, available to any APS member, will translate postmarks, markings, cover addresses and even contents for free or for a nominal fee.

If your request is for something small, you can send a digital copy to:

APStranslations@gmail.com,

Submissions by mail for either short or long requests can be sent to Bobby Liao at the APS.

For more information, go to the APS website and look for "Services" in the left-hand menu. Place your cursor over it and a drop-down menu will appear. The last and eleventh item is "Translations." Click on it.

History of Baseball Incomplete in the World of Stamps

by Stan Raugh

The stamps of the 1960's are among my favorites. They bring back memories of stopping at the local post office after school to beg clerks to tear off plate blocks from the corners of new commemorative sheets (or more properly, panes).

Those were the days, when the post office issued gummed stamps honoring subjects I liked that were in standard formats-- and the stamps were soakable.

One of my favorites was the baseball centennial issue of 1869, Scott 1381, which depicts a batter crouched and waiting on a pitch.

I became a baseball fan about 1964 at the age of 16 and this stamp was a hit (pun intended) with me.

I was collecting baseball autographs by mail and I bought tons of surplus First Day Covers for 20 cents each to send away to be signed in the 1970's. Unfortunately, I sold them all for a small profit.

The stamp commemorates the first season of baseball to be recognized as somewhat professional, in 1869.

That year, the Cincinnati Red Stockings put together a team of players from across the country and toured the nation in a perfect season. They did not lose a game until June of 1870.

The origin of the game of baseball is not clearly defined in stamps as no one knows how the game came into being.

There is a myth that the game was invented by Abner Doubleday in 1839 at Cooperstown, NY, where the Baseball Hall of Fame is located.

The legend contends that Doubleday, who later became a Union Civil War general, took time off from West Point to travel to Cooperstown to create a the national pastime.

Various "independent" councils, stacked with superstitious early baseball players and sporting goods company people, have arrived at the conclusion that Doubleday is the father of the sport. They were armed with the testimony of a man who saw the game when he was five years old and an old baseball found in a trunk.

In reality, there is no collateral verification that Doubleday would have been in Cooperstown in 1839. He also never claimed a special association with the sport.

More likely, the game evolved from many, many old medieval, English and colonial-American endeavors, some involving hitting a ball and running one or more bases. The most shared feature seems to be "three strikes and you're out."

If we ever settle the question, that alone should qualify as a stamp subject.