



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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Issue: October 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, October 4, at 7:00 p.m.

Errors, Freaks and Oddities

...presented by Dave Hunt

Possibly the most basic method of collecting stamps is the study of printing techniques-- and researching errors, freaks and oddities teaches philatelists much about printing technology.

There are few areas of philately not touched by "EFO's" as you can easily see from their inclusion in so many exhibits.

...And they are just plain fun to own.

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More about the bus trip!

In error, in the last issue your editor listed an incorrect date for the bus trip to New York.

The correct date is October 13, a Thursday.

Although enough have signed up to make it worthwhile to run the trip, there were a few seats available at press time for \$45.00. This is a good deal as a regular round trip ticket from Reading to New York is \$58.00.

Notes:

—The stamp club still has 12 covers commemorating the 100th anniversary of scouting. Only \$2.50 each, mailing included. Send your check made out to the club to our Treasurer, Mike Matus, at 157 Lucinda Lane, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

—At the September meeting, Richard Freitag won the 50/50 pot of \$18.00. Dave Crossland was not present for the \$25.00 attendance drawing.

Some upcoming events!

Remember to block out your calendar for our club's stamp show on Saturday, November 5th. Can you believe this will be our 11th event after reviving Reading stamp shows?

All of you who helped in the past, we thank you and hope you will again support the program. Many hands make light work!

If you have not worked at, or attended the show before, please join us this year. Many members have conflicts prohibiting them from attending meetings, but if you can, drop by and say hello as we will be glad to see you.

Also, another date to mark on your calendar is December 6th. That is the date of the ever popular Christmas party to be held again this year at the Berkshire Commons.

Be Glad to be Alive in 2011

In late Medieval times, say about 500 years ago, common people were unsure if someone was dead. It is believed that drinking alcohol in pewter often caused people to seriously pass out and create a particularly deceptive situation.

To be sure if they were gone, the body of such a person was laid out on the kitchen table for about three days.

During that time the family would eat around the body, keeping an eye out for their relative to show signs of life and wake up.

This is the origin of holding a "wake" in modern times!

The bad connection with pewter is also believed to be responsible for past thinking that tomatoes were poisonous—when it was actually the lead in the pewter.

Double Transfers in Stamps

Double transfers in stamps usually mean a repeating doubling of part of a stamp design.

Many were made in the Olden Days of stamp production.

To protect an engraved die, a "transfer die" was made. Often, there were three on a circular mandrel, each separately created by impressing a section of the mandrel into the original engraved die.

The transfer die(s) were then used to impress or "enter" the design of the stamps in rows on a metal printing plate. If for some reason an impression was not satisfactory, the transfer die could again be impressed to sharpen the design.

Sometimes, the first impression was burnished ("erased") off the plate incompletely, leaving a remnant of the design just a bit off the final impression. This gave the stamps printed in that location a doubling look for part or all of the design.

Sometimes, the first impression was allowed to remain and the plate maker just tried to drop in on the exact location to strengthen a design. A little bit off could cause a doubling on the stamps printed by that location.

My favorites are called foreign impressions. This happened when a plate was used to make stamps of a design, then the plate was burnished off and used to print a different stamp but the job was incomplete and part of the design of the first stamp would appear in the background of the second stamp.

I have only one such stamp in my collection and would like to have more, but they seem to be very unusual. As a general rule, the more modern the printing methods, the rarer any kind of transfer becomes.

—the editor