



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Stan Raugh, Editor
4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805
Tele: 610-921-5822

Issue: November 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, November 1, 2011

Show & Tell: "It's not what I collect, but I bought it anyway!"

You know how it is. You're at a stamp show. You collect X, Y, and Z. But out of the corner of your eye you see something outside your span of collecting that you just have to have. Maybe it brings back memories, or relates to an event in your life, or it's just beautiful. Bring it along to share with us all.

Saturday, November 5, 2011

The 11th Annual Reading Stamp Collectors' Club Show

Very Important Notice!!!

Our December 6th meeting will be a Christmas Banquet to be held at the same location as our regular meeting. This is a Tuesday evening.

You **MUST** pre-register **AND** pre-pay. The club is paying about half the cost, which will be \$9.00. Every member may bring one guest. Pay Roy Baardsen at the next meeting or mail your payment to him (check made out to the club) at 379 Sioux Court, Sinking Spring, PA 19608.

Finally!

After what seemed like an eternity, Kent Weaver won the 50/50 drawing of \$19.00. Your editor calls his long wait "statistical improbability." Thanks for participating, everyone, as this really helps the club.

Regarding the attendance drawing, we did not have the tabs to select a winner. But quick thinking Roy Baardsen, who keeps attendance, reported that the October drawing will be done in November and any winner awarded.

Ten things to keep your eye out for at a stamp show...

By Stan Raugh

Actually, there are a lot more things to keep your eye out for at a stamp show, but here are ten suggestions to ignite your interest—

1. Covers with stamps or postmarks that qualify as errors, freaks or oddities on them are usually worth a premium. A dealer in foreign stamps told me he aimed at attending 50 stamp shows a year because dealers so easily overlooked major foreign errors on covers.

2. Color varieties. Some are just fun to collect, but some stamp shades are worth a handsome premium. Just because the stamp comes with certification it doesn't mean the seller checked the color shade.

3. Sheets and scrap. Several modern stamps are much pricier in plate blocks than expected, yet end up in discount postage. Also, some plate numbers and positions are valuable.

4. The 100th anniversary syndrome. For example, we are coming up on the centennial of World War I. Now may be a good time to pick up top quality covers before the book and movie industry pumps up interest.

5. Pick of the litter stamps. If a dealer has 20 examples in stock of a stamp at the same price, be sure to pick the one with the freshest color, best margins and most perfect gum. In the future, it may make more of a difference than it does today.

6. Salvage markings are another plus and are particularly nice on foreign stamps.

7. Perfins on cover are also overlooked in big lots—the corner copy often solves the

mystery of what company the perfins protect.

8. Dealer displays. I have gotten several nice stamps at very good prices by looking through the material spotlighted by dealers. Look under the plastic table protectors and in any display folders on the table. Great bargains can be in plain sight!

9. Make notes as you read through philatelic publications. They often make recommendations for currently underpriced stamps.

10. Don't be afraid to ask a dealer what he or she thinks is the best buy on their table for less than "x" amount of money. I've really benefitted from this over the years!

Happy hunting at the show!

More Medieval Goodies...

Last issue, we discussed the origin of a "wake."

Now try this. In ye days of old, those folks who took baths often did so only once a year.

A tub of water served the whole family. Dad washed first, followed by mom, then the kids by age. If there was a baby, he was last to be bathed, often in dark, muddy water—hence the phrase, "don't throw the baby out with the bath water," which could have literally be done.

Officers for the 2012 year will be voted upon at the November meeting. There were no volunteers for any position and everyone was willing to serve another term. Also, don't forget the Nov. 5th stamp show! Any and all help is appreciated!