



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, April 3, 2012

"United Nations"

...presented by Dr. Carlson Chambliss

**This promises to be a nice primer on a area of collecting
with great historical interest and many opportunities—please join us!**

A note of appreciation for all our workers...

Since we have an opening on our front page, this is a good time to editorialize an important message.

In a day and age when many stamp and other clubs are struggling, we can be proud to be members of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club. Despite the loss of several members in recent times whom we all miss, we seem to be motoring along just fine. New members are joining and most are pitching in to help with club duties. I hesitate to give examples as your editor does not wish to slight anyone, but I am going to mention one just to illustrate my point. And that example is the kitchen at our stamp show. Yes, it's in between shows, but the kitchen staff shall not be forgotten. I am stunned every year at the stamp show when I see our members showing up carrying all sorts of goodies and equipment. It is not only the whole day of effort running the kitchen but the many hours of planning and preparation in advance. It looks like so much work that a lazy man like myself stares at the whole ordeal like a deer at night time blinded by headlights. The kitchen brings in a small amount of money for the show, but the real benefit is the great food handily available at the show. I am sure that we get an increased attendance because customers can easily pick up a good lunch. And many more are encouraged to stay longer by relaxing, eating, and then going back to the tables to buy. Dealers have told me it is so handy not to have to scrounge around to get someone to get them a take out meal. From bus trips to youth programs and beyond, we are blessed with dedicated workers!

Silent Auction Rules

All members are welcome to bring up to ten items to enter in the auction at all regular meetings (except those with a standard auction, joint meetings or special meetings such as the Christmas banquet, field tours, etc.)

Anyone offering material ***MUST*** use our standard form for each item entered.

The seller will list a description, reserve price, their name and own lot number.

At the beginning of the auction any interested bidder will initial the form and write in their bid. A bidder can start at the reserve or list a higher amount.

The bidder may want to check their bids as you can be outbid by another member. (The form is pretty explanatory and any officer can help with questions).

At an appointed time, the auction will close and the bidders will pay the owners for their successful lots.

The sellers will then pay the treasurer of the club a 10% minimum fee for the sold items.

In any disputes, the decision of the officers will be final. This is a new program and we will work out any wrinkles as we go.

Tips for Cross-Collecting

by Stan Raugh

One way collectors can find items of greater value than they can ordinarily afford is by searching "off road."

That means looking for stamps at a post card show or hunting for autographs in a box of dollar covers.

I recall reading an article in *Linn's* a few years ago about a collector who found a cover with a return address handwritten by Samuel Clemens in a discount cover box. His sharp eyes and mind knew that Samuel Clemens is the given name for write Mark Twain.

A couple issues later, another report arrived of a second collector who read the first article and found another example in a similar venue.

It could be that the two covers just happened to be part of an estate that was broken up, and the envelopes slipped into stamp collections. But it is also possible that either there were more covers in that group, or that they were part of a larger cache of correspondence and many more examples are floating around in dollar cover boxes.

Sometimes dealers acquire items they know are out of their specialty and guess at pricing. Usually, they guess too high, but sometimes they estimate too low or just want to unload material that is outside their specialty.

This is a great advantage for stamp collectors as the philately is really an assemblage of many smaller interests.