



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, March 5, at 7:00 p.m.

"The One That Got Away"

Presented by...

The Members of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Yes, you will be the stars!

**We want members to bring their tall tales about stamp collecting
and "the one that got away."**

**That is, the philatelic (or other collectible) item that you had a chance to get,
but passed it up and have lived to regret it!**

**Anyone who has collected anything long enough remembers
that one piece they could have had, but didn't buy it.**

Tell your sad story, console your fellow members and have fun!

The attendance drawing winner for February was Rev. Harold Hand. He was not present. The March drawing will be for \$15.00.

As so often happens, Roy Baardsen won \$18.00 in the drawing for the 50/50. Just kidding, it's time he finally won!

Don't forget...you can submit small adlets offering stamp material for sale in The Overprint. Deadline is the Friday after the meeting, but it is best to give them to the editor at the meeting. Thanks!

Thankfully, we collect stamps!

By Stan Raugh

I have in my lifetime owned a little bit, or more, of the many items than can be collected.

Now, I have never tried Elephant hairs, antique eye wear, or teddy bears. Not yet.

But I know something, or more, about many typical collectibles and I am beginning to believe that philately may be the best.

Repeatedly, world governments are cracking down on collectors and little by little it is becoming precarious to own many of the things that people collect.

Yet stamps have pretty much flown under the radar. India did enact a law prohibiting the exportation of older stamp issues, but it is still legal to own them. It is possible that since governments print their names on stamps they may assert that stamps were only sold (rented) to pay for a service and after that ownership should revert to the governments. Or that error stamps were never meant to be issued and must be returned.

But so far, I have not heard a whisper about it.

Gold and silver coins are an excellent investment because even if the collector market collapses, there is a residual bullion value to the coins. However, governments have been known to seize coins in times of economic stress, especially if they may fund an underground economy. Also, I have to wonder how long it will be until scientists figure out how to turn lead into gold or silver. The only difference between gold and lead is the number of neutrons, protons and electrons in the composing elements

and I am convinced that far out in the future these tiny building blocks will be easily re-arranged. We should not have to worry about that, but the threat of confiscation is real.

Indian relics are one of the best investments and in my opinion have outpaced precious metals in many of the past 50 or 100 years. The problem is determining authenticity—a difficult to almost impossible task in some situations.

A new technology may forever defeat all attempts at deceptively faking chipped stone artifacts. This should result in increased buyer confidence and rising valuations.

But again, government confiscation has been a very real threat and collections have already been taken and sometimes defaced by over-zealous prosecutors. I would not recommend this as a serious investment. Even museums have had to return items to native tribes and archaeologists have had to hand over items before completing studies.

I could go on, collectible after collectible, but stamps have largely been a safe area to collect and own. Hobbies should be relaxing and edifying. Collectors need to feel relatively secure and low-value stamp collecting is probably one of the safest areas to go to. Thankfully, we collect stamps.

Dues are Due

Dues for 2012 are due and payable if you have not at yet blessed our Treasurer, Mike Matus with you \$10 family payment.

You can pay Mike at the next meeting or mail a check to him at 157 Lucinda Lane, Wyomissing, PA 19610.