



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.**

Monday, July 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Picnic, Auction, and Special Speaker

Note: Special Location

This Meeting Will Be Held at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Boyertown

If you show up at Berkshire Commons you will be alone!

Our special speaker will be Ken Lawrence of the American Philatelic Society.

Picnic Note—

If you are coming to the picnic, make arrangements with Barbara Brown to bring a favorite dish. You can call her at 610-469-2758.

Again, please note the special time, date and location so you get to the meeting. We want to see your smiling face!

Do you like to win?

Carmen Spadaro, who helps every year at the stamp show, won the June 50/50 drawing for \$19.00. Good show!

We had no attendance winner, so the next drawing will be in August for \$20.00. That meeting will be back to our regularly scheduled time, date, and place.

You can have a philatelic legend

Think of some legends. Babe Ruth. Julius Caesar. Amelia Earheart.

Well, it's not likely anyone in our stamp club will reach that level. But we can be philatelically remembered.

And there are many ways that can happen.

Those who are lucky enough to have built a great collection may some day have it sold in a dedicated auction entitled something like: "The John Smith Collection of Colonial American Posts."

But there are many other easier ways to obtain eternal philatelic fame.

One way is to produce one or more covers honoring events. You can include your name in the cachet, sign the cachet, or enclose a card about the event and explaining why you created the cover, or, do all three.

If you do this, be sure to use an acid-free envelope and gummed stamps as they are more permanent.

The American First Day Cover Society can help you reach collectors looking for certain covers—you might some day even find your cover in an exhibit!

Event covers commemorating local events are also a good idea as you may be the only one documenting the subject.

You can issue covers for family history, for example, and pass them along to your heirs.

In times past, collectors would sometimes create a small rubber stamp with their name and mark covers or stamps in their collections.

This is frowned upon these days and

considered to be damage. But quite frankly, they increase the value of inexpensive stamps if the name of the collector is famous, such as President Franklin Roosevelt.

I have seen such markings on covers and find them quaint if they are on the backside and do not interfere with any postal markings. I feel that these markings are a part of the history of the piece, much like names carved into antique furniture.

If you want to stamp your name on the back of some low grade stamps, I don't see it will hurt.

Some experts in the past would sign stamps to indicate they examined them and found them to be authentic.

Remember, however, like rubber stamps, signatures (and particularly initials) can be easily forged. I would never trust them as proof of authenticity. But as a fun collectible on cheap stamps they can be a blast.

Another way to court philatelic fame is to write about stamps. It is likely that most journals will last for a long time into the future, possibly forever. Other writers may even reference your work and build upon—that is the ultimate compliment.

There are many other ways to philatelic immortality, such as serving as an officer in major stamp club, serving on the stamp advisory board, or giving a nice contribution to the American Philatelic Society.

Or, you can collect what you want, the way you want, and keep the enjoyment of your hobby all to yourself. That is the flexible nature of our hobby that everyone can pick from the smorgasbord of philatelic fun.