



# The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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

Issue: August 2013

**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.**

**August 6, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.**

## **Vacation Show and Tell!**

It's summer time...time for a vacation! Bring along a philatelic or collectible item related to a vacation you have taken or would like to take and share it with us! Let's enjoy your dream vacation!

## **Important Bus Trip Notice!**

Fees for the bus trip to Washington, D. C. on September 26, 2013, are due by August 13<sup>th</sup>. Either see Roy at the August meeting or mail your check to Roy Baardsen at 379 Sioux Court, Sinking Spring, PA 19608-8913.

The total cost is \$50.00 and the check should be made out to "Reading Stamp Collectors Club." Please do not make out the check to Roy as it will involve a lot of extra work to move the funds around.

Also, note that there will be three pick-up points this year. The first one will be at Lowe's on Route 724. Be there promptly ***BEFORE*** 7:00 a.m.!!!!!! A second pick-up will be at Woodcrest Villa in the Lancaster area and a third in Shrewsbury, MD.

Ask Roy for details on these embarkation points.

## *A Freak is an Error, and an Error is a Die Variety*

It is interesting to me that a term can have one meaning in one hobby and another meaning in a different hobby.

A good example is the word error.

In stamp collecting, an error is generally a repeating manufacturing blooper.

The famous inverted Jenny stamp is an early air mail stamp in which one sheet was printed with the center vignette of the "Jenny" airplane flying upside down.

The stamp was printed in two colors. The center was the airplane, with a frame around it in a different color giving information such as the value.

I am not sure which was printed first, but my guess is that the frame was printed first and the airplane added second.

In any case, a sheet of 100 stamps was switched around and the airplane ended up flying upside down. This became a error stamp because even though only one sheet was printed, it was a replicated error.

If the stamp error is a "one of" type situation, it is usually considered a freak instead of an error.

If ink is haphazardly smeared onto a printing plate and several stamps get varying splotches of ink, that is a freak. Each stamp probably will have a different pattern of blotching.

In numismatics (coin collecting) it is

somewhat the opposite.

An error coin is just that, something goofy happened in the minting process for that coin.

For example, if the ejection mechanism in a press doesn't work, a coin may be hammered several times. Usually the coin bounces around each time and receives random punches from the dies. These are rare and valuable. There is at least one other way this error can happen, such as a coin accidentally passing back around the minting process a second time. These coins are called "double (or more) strikes."

Now, if in the process of making a striking (sometimes called a working) die the die *itself* receives a second, shadowy impression, all the coins it mints will show doubling and this is call "die doubling" since the die that impresses the coin is doubled itself. The coins minted by this die will be referred to as a "die variety." In stamp language this would be an error, but in coins it is not considered a error if the die repeatedly turns out coins with the same doubling.

(And just to be complete, there are many other ways in which die varieties in coins can be created.)

Which is most valuable? Basically in coins and stamps any dramatic and scarce difference can be of great value. But, if that difference has been repeated several times or several thousands of times many people can collect them, so the big dollars usually are for die varieties in coins and errors in stamps.