



# 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, September 3, at 7:30 p.m.**

**"Monaco"**

**...presented by Dr. Carlson Chambliss**

**This is guaranteed to be a great program.  
Be sure to join us.**

## **Reminder!**

Don't forget the Washington, D, C., bus trip to the postal museum is on **Thursday** (got that Mike!), September 26.

The Reading area pick-up will be promptly at 7:00 a.m. in the Route 724 Lowe's parking lot. Please be there early. It is very important that you be on time because there will be two more pickup points and the bus cannot wait for latecomers.

## **And the Winners are...**

Carmen Spadora won the 50/50 drawing of \$20.00 at the August meeting. Congratulations! The attendance drawing of \$20.00 would have gone to James Tyrell but he was not present. The pot will be \$25.00 next month.

Also...mark off Saturday, November 2 for the 13<sup>th</sup> annual club stamp show from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We need all our workers and buyers again!

## *Understanding Sheets can be a Pane*

No, there is no miss-spelling in the headline above, sheets can be a pane in philately.

A pane can be an entire sheet, or part of it. A sheet can have one pane, or multiples. Easy, huh?

The best way to remember the difference is to mentally picture many different windows.

In some cases, a window has just one, solid piece of glass. Other windows will have two, four, six, or some other number of window panes.

In the old days, before rotary presses, stamps were of course printed on flat sheets.

Sometimes, the stamps on a sheet were divided into block-shaped groupings with a space, or "gutter," between.

The printer would cut the sheets apart along the gutters (the purpose of which was to give a little wiggle room for this procedure) and the stamps would be shipped to post offices in these smaller, handier blocks called panes.

Some philatelists call themselves sheet collectors, some sellers call themselves sheet dealers. Collectors, including myself, walk into a post offices and ask to buy sheets of stamps because that is

how postal employees identify them.

But in reality, most stamps hit the market in panes and people are pane collectors, pane dealers, or should ask for panes at the post office.

Probably most sheets in the 1900's were printed with four panes. Typically, many stamps were printed in sheets of 400 which were formatted into four panes of 100 stamps each.

There were times when other configurations were used including sheets printed as one single pane.

A good example of that is the famous inverted Jenny stamp. That issue was printed in sheets of 100 and never cut down to less. This is a case where the word sheet and pane are the same thing, or perhaps we should say the stamp was printed in sheets and there were no panes.

Some modern stamps are offered in sheets by the post office through the philatelic center but since these stamps are rotary printed I personally count the entire roll of thousands as the correct sheet. Blasphemous as this may be to some it is one more example of how stamp collecting has changed in recent times. Don't despair, there are enough "old time" stamps to keep us busy.