



The Overprint

The Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club
Stan Raugh, Editor

September 2018

Most meetings held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Berkshire Commons,
5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422).

Turn North on Lincoln opposite of the Dairy Queen, then proceed 300 feet
and turn left onto Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.

Tuesday, September 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Gargantuan Auction !!!

**Not since the days of Barnum & Bailey has such
enthusiasm preceded a spectacle like our Auction!**

Come one and all to bid and buy. See you there!

A BIG THANK YOU:

Dr. Charles (Charlie) DiComo for an amazing presentation on "**Banking in Pawling, N. Y. : In the Village and Surrounding Townships 1849-1929**". The content and collection of covers and bank notes was astounding!

Treasurer's report as of July 31st:

\$2,601.18 in checking; \$3,015.61 in our CD; \$61.00 cash; and \$10.00 in the attendance drawing. These figures are from the August e-mail edition.

Winners Galore!!

Celine Poulin-Lape was picked for our Attendance drawing in August. Unfortunately, she is a long distance member living in New York State. "Lucky" Mike Matus won the \$20.50 50/50 drawing. Congratulations.

Overprints: Let me count the ways they were used

At a recent club meeting, a question arose about overprints and your editor filed it away for a future newsletter.

An overprint is an additional layer of text or graphics added to the face of a postage stamp after it has been printed. This can be done for a variety of reasons.



The stamp above is an example of a U. S. stamp overprinted "Molly Pitcher" to honor an anonymous Revolutionary War heroine. This was much more frugal and quicker than designing a whole new stamp issue. Commemorative overprints are more common in many foreign nations.

Surcharges are a form of economically-driven overprints and are very common. On a surcharged stamp, the original value of the stamp is over-ridden by a new, usually lesser rate. This is a handy way to get stamps into the hands of customers when rates change too quickly to get new stamps issued in time.

Surcharge overprints may also be a way to use up surplus stock or for monetary changes (such as going from one currency form to another).

Change of function overprints are fun to collect because they document a new career for a stamp.

For example, general postage stamps could be overprinted for postage due usage. Or postage stamps could be re-designated for use as revenue stamps.

My favorite overprints are those earmarked for security duty. And of those, the neatest are the Kansas-Nebraska overprints. I call these the "Bonnie and Clyde" stamps.

They came about because post offices in the late 1920's in those two states were being robbed, the stamps stolen, then sold outside the area. So Washington decided to overprint stamps with either "Kans." or "Nebr." and ship them to their respective states. This way it would be much more difficult to sell off the stolen stamps at a discount to wary businessmen.

The most fascinating part of this whole effort was that for a while, the government toyed with overprinting all stamps! Imagine the joy collectors would have had assembling stamps from each of the states. As it is, there are a lot of errors, shifts in the locations of the overprints, etc. These stamps run from affordable to pricey and the irony of the situation is that probably a third of them are faked! Imagine, faked security stamps.

Wartime overprints have great historical interest. They occur frequently when armies over-run an area and there is a shortage of stamps for the conqueror. Provisional governments will seize the former stamps and with the help of a local printer overprint them with some sort of identification of the new government. Examples from WW II Germany with "Hitler Heads" heavily overprinted for use by liberating governments are popular.

Pre-cancels, stamps printed simultaneously with cancellations for bulk mailing, and "specimen" stamps printed to provide samples to foreign members of the worldwide postal union are also overprints. Can you think of others?

MIKE'S PAGES

Capital City Philatelic Society

Since 1925

FALL STAMP SHOW & BOURSE

Lower Swatara Firehouse

1350 Fulling Mill Rd., Middletown, PA 17057

Sunday, September 9, 2018, 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Directions: From I-81: Take I-83 South to I-283 (to Airport/Turnpike), then I-283 East toward Lancaster. Get off Union Street Exit, turn left onto north Union Street. At Fulling Mill Rd., turn left, continue to Firehouse. From the west, take I-83 North to I-283 (Airport/Turnpike), then continue to follow the above. Use MAPQUEST or similar program for alternate routes.

*Dealers—stamps, covers & postcards *Philatelic supplies, hinges, tongs, mounts, albums *Bid Board during show times *FREE stamps for youths—our effort to get young people interested in collecting stamps!

***EASY Parking! *FREE Admission!**

Bring a friend—Come on in and look around—Ask questions—Enjoy!

MARKET PLACE

No items sent in to be displayed.

Email what you want sold to mbach1@comcast.net and I will put them in next OVERPRINT

ALSO

RSCC offers a service if you want to downsize your collection.

WE have a relationship with Dutch Country Auction and our executive members can assist in getting your collect to them for Auction

Email or Call Roy for assistance:

Roykb@comcast.net or 610-927-3435

FUTURE MEETINGS: 2018

Reading Stamp Collectors Club

October 2nd : APS DVD

The American Revolution a Glorious Undertaking.

November 6th : TBD

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

Sept. 13th : Fall Auction

November 14th : One Page Exhibits

WANTED DEAD (USED) OR ALIVE (MINT)

Roy Baardsen is trying to find the following:



Norway 1943: Scott 261-266

10c, 15c, 20c, 30c, 40c and 60c

With overprint "LONDON 17-5-43"

Email Roy at roykb@comcast.net

Mike Bach is seeking:



Great Britain No. 1, Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879) — A255

Central African Republic: Scott 972

Issued July 27 1990 - 130F

Email Mike at mbach1@comcast.net

From Carl Barna Emmaus, PA

He is looking for a Polish or German stamp cancelled Jedwabne, used before 1942 or so.

If you have some that you wish to dispose of contact Carl at cbarna@hotmail.com

As a prelude to October's Program

The Stamp That Divided a Nation



Never underestimate the political power of the stamp. When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, the seceding Confederate states snatched up a good bit of government property. This included everything from forts to arsenals to thousands of post offices stocked full of stamps. Not wanting the enemy to profit off their goods, the Union recalled every U.S. stamp ever issued and declared them invalid for postage. Instead, people were allowed to exchange their old stamps for replacements, which the government had quickly printed with new designs.

The Stamps Made from Stolen Maps



During World War I, the Baltic region of

Latvia didn't have much to call its own. It was governed by Russia, and German forces were occupying much of the area.

In 1918, however, Latvia gained independence during the chaos and collapse of the Romanov Dynasty. In addition, German forces had retreated but not without leaving their mark on the new nation. Oddly enough, that mark was on Latvia's stamps.

Latvia suffered devastating damage during the war. Factories were destroyed or moved to Russia, and paper was in short supply. So when the young nation got ready to print its first national stamps, postal officials got creative and used the blank backs of German military maps and unfinished banknotes. Indeed, if you look on the underside of some Latvian stamps from this era, you'll see a tiny sliver of a military map used by the Germans during World War I.