



The

# Overprint

**Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club**

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**Issue: March 2019**

**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<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

*Spring Auction !!!*

**Bring your extra stamps and your wallets!  
But don't forget your pre-auction preparation.  
Starting two weeks before the auction, assemble the items  
you wish to enter into the auction.**

**One week before the auction, begin conditioning  
your favorite technique for signaling your bid to the auctioneer.**

**Two days before the auction, practice fast  
wallet-opening skills to enable you to rapidly pay for lots.  
Be sure to eat healthy and get plenty of sleep for the month.  
You may also ask a family member with a camera  
to come along and take "auction action photos" of your bidding!**

**See you there!!!!**

## *Post-World War I Plate Numbers a Mish-Mash of Sizes, Form*

The well-known Washington-Franklin series of definitive stamps began in 1908 and continued for about 20 years. It is a fertile area of collecting with hundreds of catalog numbers and endless varieties—a lifetime is not enough to completely master this series (plus a lot of money)! After World War I, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) faced resource challenges. There was a shortage of some materials and personnel skilled at engraving printing.

**Thus, odd-looking plate numbers began showing up.**

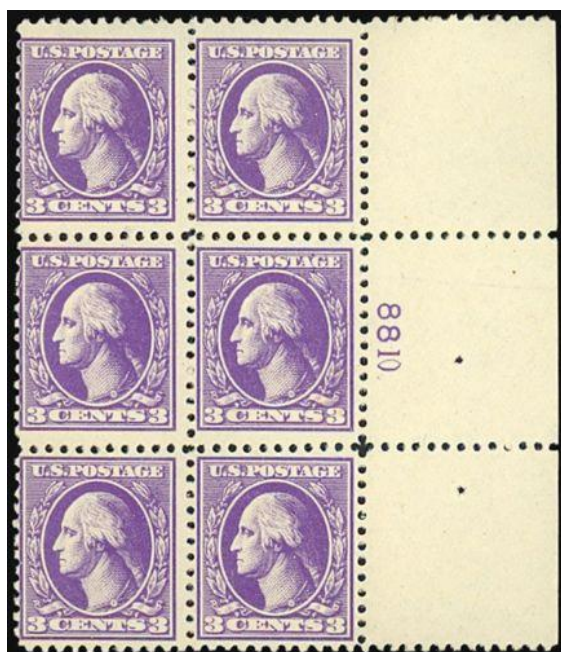
The BEP began using master photographic negatives, which were used to make many copies. From each of these negatives, a zinc plate was made. Plate numbers generally were added to the negatives prior to creating the zinc plate, but not always. Either way, it appears that BEP staff were scrounging up numbers wherever they could get them.

Generally, there were two sizes of numbers, 2.7 and 3.1 mm high. However, other sizes exist, such as 2.2 mm, and some between 3 and 4 mm. There was also a 3.1 mm in bold face. To make collecting even more interesting, **BEP workers sometimes mixed the sizes of numbers in a plate number! For example, for the three-cent Scott #529 plate number 8674, the "86" is smaller than the "74."**

There are other interesting oddities. For Scott #527, the two-cent stamp on plates 11226 and 11233, a number one is missing for both plates. For Scott #525, a one cent stamp, plate number 10049 reads 10 49 as the middle digit is missing.

Yet another—for Scott # 530, a three cent issue, plate number 8800 was made into 0088. And Scott # 529, a three-center with plate number 8568 was issued with the two 8 numerals inverted. Scott # 528B, a two cent stamp with plate number 13130 was printed with the entire number upside down.

**Many dozens of plate numbers were hand drawn. Some might not even be noticed if a collector wasn't aware of them. Others were scruffy to downright ugly. Also, not all plate positions will show these anomalies.**



**Above is an example of a hand-drawn plate number.**

## OPEN UP YOUR CHECKBOOK

### 'Treasure of the Republic' in Kelleher and Rogers auction



By Michael Baadke

The upcoming Kelleher and Rogers auction taking place March 15-16 in Hong Kong includes a popular rarity often identified as one of the “Four Treasures of the Republic.”

China's 3¢ blue green Junk stamp, originally issued in 1915 as part of the first Peking printing, was surcharged in red in 1922 to create the 2¢-on-3¢ stamp.

*That modest provisional issue is known with a very desirable variety: the inverted surcharge (Scott 247a).*

The example in the upcoming auction is described by Kelleher and Rogers as

“a wonderfully fresh and nicely centered example which, while without gum, is absolutely sound, Very Fine, a splendid and desirable example of this great rarity ...”

The auction firm adds,

“We note 15 unused examples, along with two examples used on cover,” and has provided an estimate of \$500,000 to \$600,000 in Hong Kong dollars, which is roughly equivalent to \$63,700 to \$76,500 in United States dollars well ahead of the actual sale date.

The opening bid is set at HK\$250,000 (US\$31,850).

The value given for this rarity in the 2019 Scott *Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers, 1840-1940*, is \$175,000, a figure printed in italics to identify the stamp as being difficult to value accurately.

The stamp in this sale is accompanied by a 2018 Experts and Consultants Ltd. photo certificate.

Anyone going to bid on this fine rarity

## LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

### Moon landing stamp caption contest



By John M. Hotchner

This year will mark the 50th anniversary of the first landing of astronauts on the moon.

Two of the three men who left Earth on the July 16, 1969, *Apollo 11* mission, Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, were the first humans to walk on the moon, on July 20. Astronaut Michael Collins continued to orbit the moon in the *Apollo 11* Command Module.

**The U.S. Postal Service celebrated the landmark event by issuing a 10¢ airmail stamp (Scott C76) Sept. 9, 1969, about six weeks after the crew returned safely to Earth on July 24, 1969.**

During the Apollo program, 12 astronauts walked on the moon between 1969 and 1972. But it was Armstrong’s first step on the moon that captured the attention and the imagination of the world. That moment is captured on the stamp, which will be the March cartoon caption contest subject.

Armstrong’s first words on the moon,

**“That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,”**

are hard to beat for marking the occasion in a formal way, but your challenge is to come up with something **a bit less serious**.

You are invited to put yourself in the space suit and consider what you might be thinking or saying as you take your historic first step. You can address the space program, the mission itself, the politics of the era, how the mission relates to stamp collecting, or anything else you think is appropriate.

Put your entry (or entries) on a postcard if possible and send it to me, John Hotchner, Cartoon Contest, Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125; or email it to [jmhstamp@verizon.net](mailto:jmhstamp@verizon.net). If you send an email, it is essential that you include your postal mailing address.

There will be two prizes given to the winners: one for the best philatelic line, and one for the best non-philatelic line. The important thing is to use your sense of humor, because entries with a humorous twist have the best chance of winning a prize.

**SO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PAY FOR A POSTCARD, SEND ME YOUR BEST ONE LINERS AND I WILL PUT THEM IN THE NEXT ISSUE AND THE ONES OUR READERSHIP THINK IS THE BEST IN EACH CATEGORY WILL WIN A PRIZE COURTESY OF THE RSCC**

**SEND ENTRIES TO [mbach1@comcast.net](mailto:mbach1@comcast.net)**

## RSCC MEETING INFORMATION:

### TREASURER'S REPORT AT AS February 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

Checking Account: \$ 2,308.39      CD \$ 3,043.09      Cash \$ 45      Attendance \$ 5:00

Carl Madiera won \$ 23: on our 50/50 and

Carlson Chambliss won \$ 30 Attendance Drawing: It pays to show up.

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### Member News:

Roy Baardsen has been in rehab for his knee all month but good news he is going home on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Stan Raugh has had chest pains and went to the ER only to find a 70% blockage of one artery. He has had a stent put in and is home gaining strength and doing treadmill workouts. We wish both Roy and Stan speedy recoveries and hope to see them at future meetings

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## THE OVERPRINT MARKET PLACE

No items sent in to be displayed.

Email what you want sold to [mbach1@comcast.net](mailto:mbach1@comcast.net) and I will put them in next OVERPRINT

ALSO

RSCC offers a service if you want to downsize you 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](mailto:Roykb@comcast.net) or 610-927-3435

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## **A "EUREKA" MOMENT - I FOUND IT**

For over 5 years I have been looking for Central African Republic Scott # 972, the Commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Penny Black. The only country I was missing. Periodically I would go to Hip Stamps and search CAR under 1990 with no success, However 2 weeks ago up pops not only Scott # 972 but also the stamp in a mini-sheet.

Needless to say I purchased them instantly, I now have them and the search is over.

Persistence Pays Off or

**Even a blind pig finds an acorn once in a while**

