The Overprint

The Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

Stan Raugh, Editor-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.

APRIL 2018

Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 P. M.

"Censorship of Mail During World War II"

By Bob Witkosky

When U. S. Grant accepted the surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army at Appomattox, the future President stated about the South that never had men fought so well for such a useless cause. General Grant did not live to see the Great War or he would have retracted his pronouncement. World War I was a war that should never have happened fought by the bravest of men. Twenty years later a new threat appeared with the advent of WWII This program touches a postal history moment and censorship during this second world conflict.

MARCH MEETING: was supposed to be an Auction, however due to a pending storm only 7 members attended. We had a Business Meeting and generally chatted for a while. No 50/50 drawing however the Attendance drawing was done. Todd Kreider would have won $ 10 but was not there so the pot is $ 15 in April.

TREASURER'S REPORT: All funds are now with VIST Bank. We have a balance of $ 4,417.14. Cash on hand of $ 67.00 and Attendance Pot of $ 15.00. It was agreed that $ 3,000.00 be transferred to a 14 Month CD earning 1.55%.

"Enhanced" Stamps Can Show Up Anywhere, Anytime!

Years ago, a museum curator told me every collection, whether it be a prestigious museum collection or small private collection has fakes in it—it's just that the owners don't know which ones are bogus. He then went on to verbally list some bad pieces in his own institution's collection that he discovered and assured me there were others no one has identified. And lastly, he said, it is a common joke among museum curators that they try to acquire "not the fakes made yesterday, but the fakes made the day before!"

Lately I have been thinking about faked, repaired and enhanced stamps and began assembling ideas in my mind for a program for our club. Coincidentally, a few weeks ago I got the March copy of *The United States Specialist* in the mail. It is the journal of the United States Stamp Specialist. Every collector of U. S. Stamps before 1945 should belong to this organization. In this issue, there were two short articles on the Washington-Franklin definitives of the early 1900's. Both pieces illustrate the above theme that every collection has fakes.

This is particularly true if the collector who assembled them was sloppy or unknowledgeable. Today, many philatelists are specialists. They join specialty clubs, become more aware of the finer art of enhancing stamps and are wary of the authenticity of any pricey stamps. However, the least valuable--but yet toyed with stamps and covers--can be the most vexing. Most collectors are likely to demand a certificate from a trusted third party when purchasing a $1,500 stamp. But a $20 stamp? Or even a $200 stamp, especially in the inventory of a major dealer, is often accepted without question.

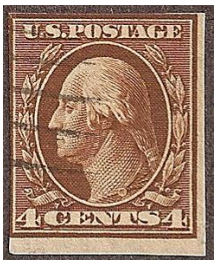
An article entitled *Even Cheap Stamps Get Faked Too* by Gerald Nylander illustrates three low-value stamps with fake perforations added to one or both sides of the stamp. Many older stamps, including Washington-Franklins bear a straight edge on one side. Many collectors find this unattractive (your editor calls these "positions pieces" and is very glad to get them at a reduced price, I cannot understand why they are not more valuable). Thus, for decades collectors have been creating fake perfs along the straight side. So many times those who did this quite innocently do not shave down the selvedge very finely and the quick way to spot them is a stamp with an usually wide margin. Stamp doctors will also use a similar procedure to turn sheet stamps into scarcer coil stamps.

The other article, with a title too long to print, addresses the case of a stamp album full of Washington-Franklins described as "excellent" in an auction catalog. The stamps were actually over graded and many were enhanced. My favorite was Scott 360 on blue paper that was actually dyed. The author immediately recognized it because it was a used stamp and no 360 is known used. The writer also spoke of a valuable Washington-Franklin stamp he bought on cover from a reputable dealer that turned out both a fake and to have originated on another cover. I say, buyer don't be aware—get the stamp certified instead!

Scott #318

FAKE OR REAL?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Scott #346

MIKE'S PAGES

FUTURE MEETINGS: 2018

Reading Stamp Collectors Club

April 3rd : **Presenter: Bob Witkosky**
"Censorship of Mail during WWII"

May 1st **: APS DVD "History and Scope Of Aerophilately" Sponsored by the AAMS Members to share their own Aerophilatelic Item(s).**

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

April 11th **: Presenter: Bill Schultz**
How we judge Exhibits with points in North America

May 8th **: Presenter: Vera Felts**
State Symbols of PA on Stamps

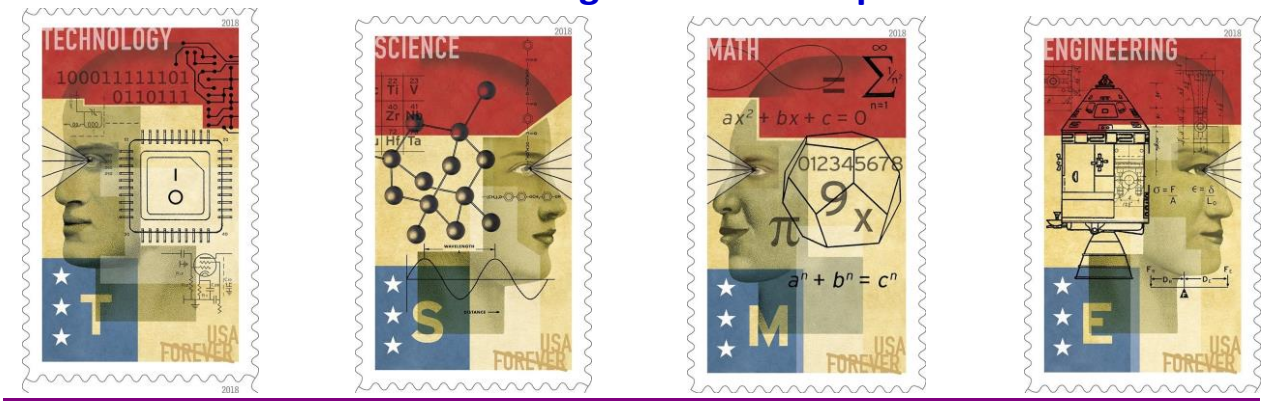
CLUB DUES - FINAL, FINAL, FINAL REQUEST – LAST CHANCE

Club Dues for 2018 were due on December 31st 2017.
IF YOU HAVEN'T PAID BY MARCH 31st
YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP LIST
Make check payable to the Reading Stamp Collectors Club and send to
Roy Baardsen, 370 Sioux Court, Sinking Spring PA 19608

"IN THE NEWS"

STEM Education Forever Stamp Issue - April 6th

What is wrong with the stamps below?



These stamps celebrate the role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in keeping the United States a global leader in innovation and providing new opportunities for all Americans to learn and explore the world. Each of the four stamps features a collage of faces, symbols, drawings, and numbers that represent the complexity and interconnectedness of the STEM disciplines. In 2015 the Department of Education established the Committee on STEM Education and explained, "The United States has developed as a global leader, in large part, through the genius and hard work of its scientists, engineers, and innovators. In a world that's becoming increasingly complex…it's more important than ever for our youth to be equipped with the knowledge and skills to solve tough problems, gather and evaluate evidence, and make sense of information… subjects collectively known as STEM."

READING STAMP COLLECTORS' CLUB
2018 PROGRAM

Date	Program	Presenter	Snacks by
2 January	**NO MEETING**	**N/A**	**N/A**
6 February	***"The Railway Post Between Serquigny and Rouen, a French Railway story."***	**Dick Colberg, PSLC**	**Jim Savage & Holly Springer**
6 March	**Spring Auction**	**Members**	**Mike Bach**
3 April	*"Censorship of Mail During WWII"*	Bob Witkosky	David Hunt
1 May	APS DVD: "*History and Scope of Aerophilately*" Sponsored by the American Air Mail Society (AAMS)	Members, Share your own Aerophilatelic item	TBD
??????	Picnic / Summer Auction (DATE TO BE DETERMINED)	Summer Joint Meeting, Pottstown Club in Boyertown	N/A
3 July	The use of fake stamps in the mails of Russia	Kent Weaver	Kent Weaver
7 August	*"Banking in Pawling, New York: In the Village and Surrounding Townships, 1849 – 1929."*	Dr. Charles J. DiComo, PSLC	TBD
4 September	Fall Auction	Members	TBD
2 October	"*The American Revolution: A Glorious Undertaking*" APS DVD:	Members, Share your own American Revolution item	TBD
6 November	TBD	TBD	TBD
X December	Christmas Dinner	Members	N/A

THE OVERPTINT MARKET PLACE

The following have been submitted by Jon Escott. You can contact him via email jjsipoo@ptd.net or phone is 610-779-8702 (home) or 610-406-8787 (cell).

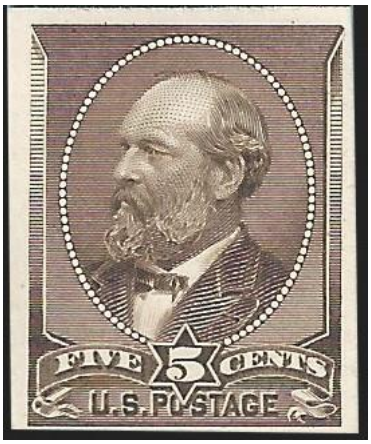
Germany Scott #B23 - B27, MiNr 425Y - 429Y, 5 unused stamps Charity Coat of Arms – Price $20 (CV $55.75)

*** German Empire - Scott #366-384 set of 19 unused stamps 1928 -1932 Ebert /Hindenberg Issue - Price $50 (CV $ 104)**

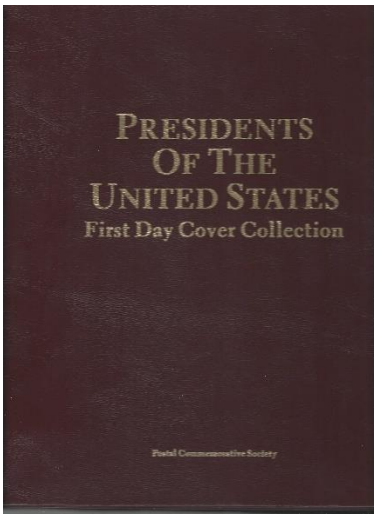
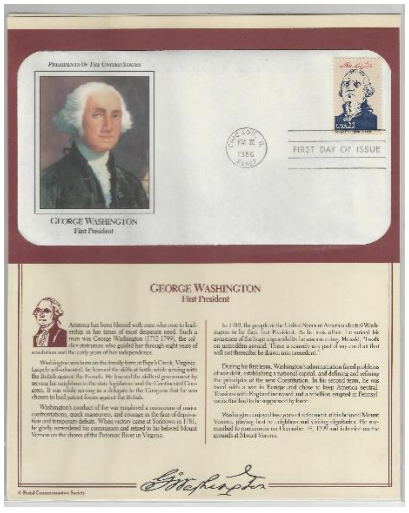
*** German Empire - Scott #366-384 set of 19 used stamps 1928 -1932 Ebert / Hindenberg Issue –**

Price: $16 (CV $ 32)

Also from Jon:
U. S. Proofs on card (see scans)
*** 205P4 5c Garfield gray brown - Price: $8 * 207P4 3c Washington blue green - Price: $12**
*** 210P4 2c Washington red brown - Price: $12 ***



U. S. Presidents First Day Cover Collection 3-ring binder includes 36 covers, George Washington through Lyndon Johnson and the White House with descriptions in protective sleeves. Price to Sell at $18 - (50 cents per cover plus you get a free binder)



EXAMPLE ===>>>