



# The Overprint

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

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**NO MEETINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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**GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND  
TO MEMBERS OF OTHER CLUBS WHO MIGHT RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER**

This edition has been a little delayed due to my workload and some personal commitments: anyway here it is. In line with Dave Hunt's sentiment in the last Overprint I too have missed the philatelic fellowship of the RSCC and PSLC for the past year, but that all changed last Sunday (May 16<sup>th</sup>) with the PSLC holding a mini-bourse at the Freedom Memorial Park in Millersville. There were 11 club members being dealers for the day (2 from RSCC) and quite a number of visitors. Sales may not have been stellar given the amount of material that was available for purchase but the fellowship with other club members for a good part of the day was excellent. A big shout out to PSLC, Particularly Paul Peterson and Lou DeFelice for their efforts in making this happen.

It seems that the CDC is relaxing restrictions for those who have been vaccinated and I trust that you all have and while we see restaurants opening up the same cannot be said for Senior Living facilities like where we used to meet in Exeter. I visit Roy Baardsen at a similar facility and they still have very strict rules. Visits are limited to 30 minutes, with masks even though everyone has been vaccinated and residents still cannot leave the premises except for doctor's visits.

If any of you have ideas or leads re a facility where we can meet please contact Dave Hunt, President ([dhhunt@ptdprolog.net](mailto:dhhunt@ptdprolog.net)). Trusting you are all doing well.

Mike Bach

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### **RSCC Treasurer's Report:**

Current Account: \$ 1,726 as of 05/15/2021 : CD \$ 3,156.04 as of 12/31/20  
98% of dues for 2021 have been collected with just 3 members not yet paid.

**As there have been no contribution from any RSCCC Members over the last two months,**

I have selected several articles that I have found at various internet sites for your reading enjoyment.

### POSTMEN ON STAMPS:

Vincent Van Gogh used his drinking buddy, postman Joseph Roulin, as the model for many paintings. I particularly like the one hanging in Philadelphia's Barnes Museum (shown right). It would be the perfect illustration for this post on the Netherlands' stamps except for the fact that Van Gogh was in Arles when he painted it, and Roulin was French. The "postes" on Roulin's cap is the giveaway. Nevertheless, the Netherlands rightfully claims Van Gogh as its own, for he was born in the village of Zundert.

**So should France or The Netherlands use this for a stamp. Thoughts???**



This got me thinking whether any countries have actually featured postmen (or postal service employees ) on stamps. So I did a quick search and came up with this selection:



The infamous USA issue to the left and GB's Postman Pat above

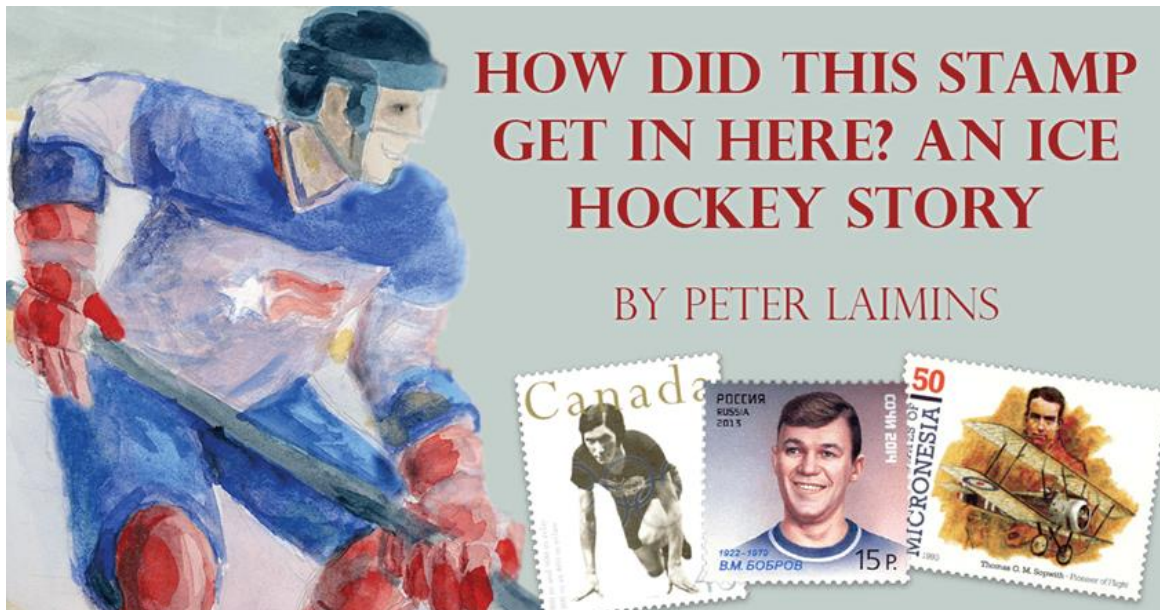


To the left from Finland a Postman delivering mail by van from Sudan a Postal Employee on a camel.

There are not many examples out there. If you find others let me know.

This could be a very small Topical collection





I am a thematic collector of ice hockey. I collect ice hockey stamps and ice hockey FDCs. I collect ice hockey cancels. I collect ice hockey meters. If it shows a hockey puck, I collect it. If it shows a goalie's mask, I collect it. If it shows a hockey stick, I collect it. If it shows ice hockey skates, I collect it. If it commemorates ice hockey at the Olympics it goes in my collection. If it commemorates the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), it goes in my collection. If it commemorates an ice hockey team it goes in my collection. If it shows a building that is used for ice hockey, I will collect it. If it commemorates ice hockey in any way, it goes in my collection.

However, if you were thumbing through my albums, every now and then you will spot a stamp and need to ask "Why is this stamp in here?" Take as an example this Canadian stamp depicting Lester Pearson (Scott 591). If you were a National Hockey League (NHL) cognoscenti you would be able to say why he is in my collection, but the average philatelist would be sore pressed to do the same. Lester Pearson is best known as a former Prime Minister of Canada and the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. (Lester Pearson was commemorated on another Canadian stamp (Scott 1825c) for the Canada Post Millennium Collection in the "Humanitarians and Peacekeepers" category.) The hockey cognoscenti would also know that the NHL at one time gave out the Lester Pearson Award to the most outstanding player in the regular season as judged by the members of the NHL Players' Association. The award was started in 1971 and in 2010 was renamed the Ted Lindsay Award, in honor of Ted Lindsay who had a significant role in establishing the NHL Players' Association. Lester Pearson, however, had other ties to ice hockey. In 1923, while a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England, he and other Canadian players were on the Oxford University Ice Hockey Club that won the very first Spengler Cup. The Spengler Cup is an invitational ice hockey tournament run every year between Christmas and New Year's in Davos, Switzerland. The tournament was started by Dr. Carl Spengler in 1923 as a way of combating the ostracism of German-speaking teams. The tournament still goes on today.

So, it's clear that Lester Pearson has a definite reason for being in my collection of ice hockey stamps. But what about this gentleman, Daniel Roland Michener (Figure 2)? This stamp from Canada, Scott 1447, was issued in 1992 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Order of Canada. Roland Michener was the first recipient of the award. Michener was also Governor General of Canada from 1967 until 1974. As the story goes, Michener discontinued the practice of having women curtsy before the Governor General because Maryon Pearson, the wife of his dear friend, Lester Pearson, refused to do so. Regardless of the truth of this story, the fact remains that Roland Michener's place in a hockey collection is mainly due to his association with Lester Pearson. Michener was a fellow teammate on that 1923 Spengler Cup-winning Oxford University Ice Hockey Club.

Two-sport athletes are far and few between. Some athletes are on a stamp for one sport, but they also participated in other sports. In Canada we have the example of Fanny Rosenfeld, shown on Scott 1610 (Figure 3), issued to honor Canadian Olympic gold medal winners. She won her gold medal in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics in the 4 × 100-meter relay and a silver medal in the 100-meter dash. The 100m dash proved to be controversial. The end was a photo finish between Fanny and the U.S. runner, Betty Robinson. The judges could not all agree on the winner and there was no photo-finish picture to look at. In the end the medal went to Robinson. Canada filed a protest but lost. As for the hockey connection, in the 1920s Fanny played hockey on her company's ice hockey team and on the Toronto Patterson Pats. In 1924, Rosenfeld help found the Ladies Ontario Hockey Association (LOHA), serving as its president from 1934 until 1939. After arthritis put an end to her athletic activities, she became a sports columnist for *The Toronto Globe and Mail* newspaper.

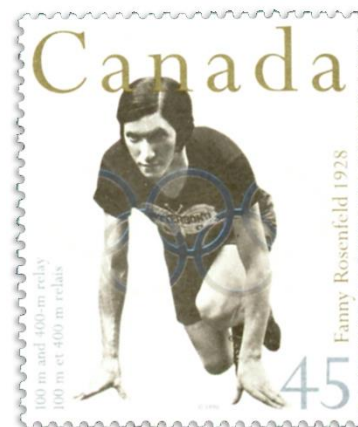
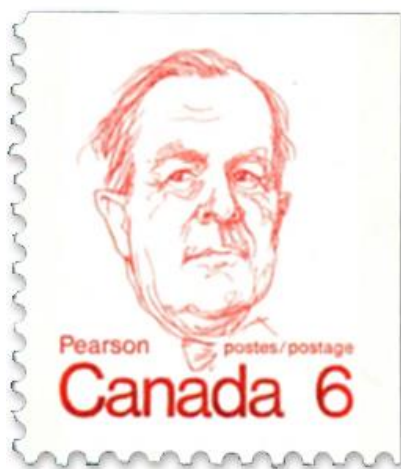


Figure 1. Lester Pearson, Canada Scott 591. Figure 2. Roland Michener, Canada Scott 144 7Figure 3. Fanny Rosenfeld, Canada Scott 1610

The next two-sport athlete has been honored on the stamps of several countries, from Antigua & Barbuda, Equatorial Guinea (Scott 7764), Montserrat (Scott 846), Nicaragua (Scott 900, Figure 4) and his home country, Russia (7705g, Figure 5). Many consider Lev Yashin the greatest soccer goalkeeper ever. He won a gold medal in the 1956 Olympic games in Melbourne, Australia. In 2002 the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) selected him as the goalkeeper on their list of the World Cup Dream Team. He played for the Dynamo Moscow team in the Soviet Top League, champions in 1954, 1955, 1957, 1959 and 1963 and runners-up in 1950, 1956, 1958, 1962, 1967 and 1970. But Lev Yashin also played ice hockey as a goalie, winning the Soviet Cup in March 1953, making him an unlikely addition to my ice hockey collection. After 1953 Yashin quit ice hockey to concentrate on soccer.

There is yet another two-sport Russian athlete depicted on stamps: Vsevolod Bobrov. Bobrov was the captain of Soviet football and hockey teams and awarded the Order of Lenin. He played for CDKA (Sports Club of the Central House of the Red Army) in the USSR championships from 1947 to 1957 and for the Air Force of the Moscow Military District from 1950 to 1953, serving as a player and coach during the first two seasons of the latter. He played 130 matches and scored 254 goals. At the World Championships, European Championships and Olympic Games, he played 25 games and scored 34 goals. Vsevolod Bobrov was captain of the national hockey team which won gold at the 1956 Olympics. Bobrov was commemorated as part of the "Sports Legends of Russia" stamp series in 2013 leading up to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics (Scott 7493b, Figure 6). Bobrov had a stamp issued highlighting his soccer playing (Scott 7890).

Another two-sport athlete is Ion Țiriac, the current president of the Romanian Tennis Federation and past president of the Romanian Olympic and Sports Committee from 1998 to 2004. His biggest accomplishment was winning the men's doubles in the 1970 French Open with fellow countryman Ilie Năstase. In 1975 he was the first man to play against a woman, Abigail Maynard, in a sanctioned tennis tournament. The first time Romania participated in an Olympic ice hockey tournament was during the 1964 Innsbruck games. The Romanian team, including Ion Țiriac, finished 12th out of 16 teams. In 2015 Romania honored him with a stamp (Scott 5724) showing him playing tennis, not hockey (Figure 7).

My favorite stamp showing a person whom you would never associate with hockey has nothing to do with athletics at all. As a matter of fact, you would be much more likely to associate him with *Peanuts*' Snoopy, who imagined elaborate dog fights with the Red Baron in the skies over France. Snoopy flew the Sopwith Camel single-seat fighter plane of WWI fame, which was built by Thomas Sopwith, founder of the Sopwith Aviation Company. Sopwith, however, was also a hockey player and won gold as a goaltender on the British team at the very first European Championship in 1910. In 1993 the country of Micronesia put Sopwith on a stamp (Scott 178d) from a set honoring Pioneers of Flight (Figure 8).



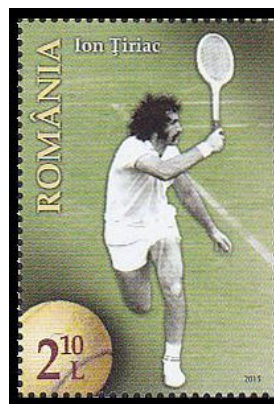
Lev Yashin, Russia Scott 7705g

Lev Yashin, Nicaragua Scott 900

Thomas Sopwith, Micronesia Scott 178d



Vsevolod Bobrov, Russia Scott 7493b



Ion Ţiriac, Romania Scott 5724

Several countries have issued stamps showing ice hockey arenas. Bosnia & Herzegovina issued a stamp (Scott 238) that showed the Zetra, an ice-skating arena built for the 1984 Winter Olympics. The stadium was used for ice hockey, figure skating and speed skating. It was almost destroyed in 1992 during the Bosnian war, but was rebuilt in 1997 and renamed the Olympic Hall Juan Antonio Samaranch. In 2018, Russia issued a stamp (Scott 7903b, Figure 9) showing the Platinum Arena located in Khabarovsk, Russia, home to the Amur Khabarovsk ice hockey team of the Kontinental Hockey League and former home of the Golden Amur hockey team of the Asia League Ice Hockey. Sweden issued a stamp (Scott 1730) for The Globe, an indoor arena located in Stockholm that is primarily used for ice hockey, and is the former home arena of AIK, Djurgårdens IF, and Hammarby IF. These are all examples of stamps that have a definite relation to ice hockey, but we can find even more obscure connections. In 2001 the United States Postal Service issued a sheet of stamp showing Baseball's Legendary Playing Fields (Scott 3510-3519). The sheet contained two examples each of 10 famous baseball parks. Among these stamps we had Wrigley Field and Fenway Park (Figure 10). The ice hockey connection? Both of these stadiums hosted an NHL Winter Classic game.

Of course, if you are a true fanatical thematic stamp collector you do not restrict yourself to stamps. As I said before, I collect anything that looks like a stamp or has been processed or provided by a post office and references ice hockey. Along those lines, there is another two-sport athlete who was honored not by a stamp but by a special cancel, Jaroslav Drobný. In honor of the 2002 French Open, or the Roland-Garros as the French call it, Drobný was featured on several cancels (Figure 11). Drobný was a member of the Czechoslovak national ice hockey team and played in the 1947 World Ice Hockey Championships in Prague and the 1948 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland. In the 1947 tournament he scored a hat trick and Czechoslovakia won its first World Championship title. In the ice hockey off season, Drobný played tennis and represented Czechoslovakia at the highest levels, including the Davis Cup, Wimbledon and the French Open. In 1949, while at a tennis tournament in Gstaad, Switzerland, he defected to the west. He was able to gain asylum in Egypt and won the French Open twice (1951 and 1952) while playing for Egypt.



Platinum Arena located in Khabarovsk, Russia. Russia Scott 7903



Jaroslav Drobný featured on a French cancel.

**Baseball's Legendary Playing Fields**

**Cooperstown Collection**

**Sportsman's Park, St. Louis**  
This St. Louis landmark had joint occupants—the Browns and the Cardinals—for 33 years. It hosted the high jinks of the Cardinals' Gas House Gang. The Browns' flamboyant owner once put a 65-pound, 3-foot-7-inch player up to bat.

**Tiger Stadium, Detroit**  
Opened in 1912 as Navin Field, Tiger Stadium was home to the Detroit Tigers for 88 seasons. It put fans very close to the field and featured a right field upper deck that jutted out ten feet farther than the lower deck.

**Ebbets Field, Brooklyn**  
Home to the game's most colorful fans, this Brooklyn park had quirks galore, including an angled right field wall and a sign that when hit won the batter a new suit. The Major League Baseball TV debut occurred at Ebbets Field in 1939.

**Yankee Stadium, New York City**  
Yankee Stadium has hosted more World Series games than any other ballpark. Deep to the power alleys but short down the lines, beyond its left-center field fence lie monuments and plaques honoring Yankee greats.

**Crosley Field, Cincinnati**  
Major League Baseball night games debuted at this Cincinnati park in 1935, with FDR switching on the lights from the White House. One of the game's smallest, most intimate stadiums, players had to run uphill to the outfield fence.

**Forbes Field, Pittsburgh**  
With expansive foul territory and deep outfield dimensions, this park was a pitcher's friend. Ironically, in the 61 years that the Pittsburgh Pirates called Forbes Field home, no one ever pitched a no-hitter there.

**Polo Grounds, New York City**  
This storied ballpark—onetime home to the Giants, the Yankees, and, briefly, the Mets—was the site of the entire 1921 and 1922 World Series. The horseshoe-shaped field hosted one of the most famous home runs: the 1951 "Shot Heard 'Round the World."

**Comiskey Park, Chicago**  
A symmetrical park that favored pitchers over hitters, this South Side Chicago landmark featured graceful arched windows. In 1933 it hosted the first All-Star Game. A fan of gimmicks, the owner installed the first exploding scoreboard in 1960.

**Fenway Park, Boston**  
Boston's intimate Fenway Park has the Green Monster, a 37-foot-high left field wall. Red Sox fielders who mastered its unpredictable caroms became legends. The home run that ended game six of the 1975 World Series made history there.

**Wrigley Field, Chicago**  
Uncovered outfield walls, a hand-operated scoreboard, and more day than night games are just a few of the reasons fans everywhere love Chicago's Wrigley Field. When the wind blows out, scores can enter double digits; when it blows in, Wrigley is a pitcher's delight.

**Shibe Park, Philadelphia**  
The first Major League Baseball concrete-and-steel stadium, Philadelphia's Shibe Park featured a 34-foot-high right field wall, as well as a facade with stately columns and a French Renaissance cupola.

USA 34  
x20  
\$6.80

PLATE POSITION

For all topical collectors, consider taking a closer look at which stamps you collect. If you collect football stamps, do you have the stamp showing Gerald Ford? If you collect baseball stamps, do you have a stamp of Michael Jordan? It pays to look outside the box now and then. Who knows? You might start a new collection.

*The article "How did this stamp get in here?" is the first of several publications that make up the web-only aspect of the American Philatelic Society and The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's historic joint issues celebrating ice hockey. The American Philatelist and The Canadian Philatelist joint issues are now available to read online.*



## Peter Laimins

Peter Laimins has two stamp collecting interests: ice hockey and Latvia. He is a member of the American Philatelic Society (APS), the American Topical Association (ATA), Sports Philatelists International (SPI) and ArGe Baltikum. As many collectors do, he started out collecting stamps in grade school and dropped it when he reached high school. He took it up again in the 1980s and met Joe Lacko at a meeting of Sports Philatelists International at the 1992 World Columbian Stamp Exposition (WCSE '92) in Rosemont, IL. Joe showed Peter that there was more to collecting ice hockey stamps than just stamps. In 1994 he and Joe published "The Philatelic Catalog of Ice Hockey" (available from the APRL at HE6183 .I15 L186p 1995). Once the book became too unwieldy to carry around to stamp shows, Peter moved his entire catalog to his website at [www.laimins.com](http://www.laimins.com).

# Imperforate 1914 2¢ Washington coil in demand

May 19, 2021, 10 AM Courtesy of Linns Internet Site



*2¢ carmine George Washington horizontal coil stamp, type I (Scott 459) is a good buy in unus, hinged condition and in mint, never-hinged condition at full Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers values or more. Image courtesy of Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries.*

## **Stamp Market Tips by Henry Gitner and Rick Miller**

On June 30, 1914, the U.S. Post Office Department issued an imperforate 2¢ carmine George Washington coil stamp, type I (Scott 459). The stamp was printed by rotary press and issued in horizontal coils.

The Scott *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers* values a single stamp in unused, original gum condition at \$200 and in mint, never-hinged condition at \$300.

We have tipped this stamp three times in the past, most recently in the April 29, 2013, issue of *Linn's*. It is still in demand and a good buy at full Scott catalog values or more.

The stamp is valued in used condition at \$1,300, but expertization is required to ensure an in-period usage.

Most examples are well centered. It is hard to find one in a grade below fine-very fine.

Unlike other coil stamps of the period, this issue is difficult to successfully fake by trimming the perforations. It is the only imperforate 2¢ Washington type I coil stamp produced by rotary press, so pairs must be genuine. Singles could only be faked by trimming the perforations from a 2¢ Washington coil stamp perforated 10 vertically (Scott 453), and the resulting margins at the side would be very small and unconvincing.

# GET YOUR WALLETS OUT, RAID THE PIGGY BANK SELL SOME CDS

## British Guiana One-Cent Magenta to be sold



**The world famous British Guiana One-Cent Magenta and a plate block of the USA 'Inverted Jenny' are to be sold by current owner Stuart Weitzman, in a Sotheby's auction featuring just three treasures from the entrepreneur's collection.**

The 'Three Treasures – Collected by Stuart Weitzman' live auction will take place at Sotheby's New York on 8 June 2021, and will feature just three incredibly rare items:

- The 'fabled and elusive' 1933 Double Eagle Coin
- The sole-surviving example of the British Guiana One-Cent Magenta, known as the most famous and valuable stamp in the world;
- The Inverted Jenny Plate Block, the most well-known and sought-after American stamp rarity

The Double Eagle coin and the British Guiana stamp will be offered with estimates of \$10/15 million each and are poised to set new world auction records in their respective categories.

The Inverted Jenny will carry an estimate of \$5/7 million, set to eclipse its own record for an American philatelic item.

Richard Austin, Sotheby's Global Head of Books & Manuscripts, said:

'As the most aspirational objects in their respective collecting fields and each with their own illustrious provenance, the Double Eagle, the British Guiana and the Inverted Jenny all hold an indelible place in history, and in our collective imagination.

'Each treasure is unique in its own right: the 1933 Double Eagle as the only legally owned example, the British Guiana as the only one known, and the Inverted Jenny as the only plate block from a unique sheet of stamps. It would be a true privilege to present just one of these sought-after rarities at auction but offering all three one-of-a-kind treasures together in the same sale is a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence.'



Stuart Weitzman pioneered luxury shoe design as founder of his eponymous company and is renowned for creating 'high-end shoes'.

Beyond his highly successful career in fashion, Weitzman is a lifelong philatelist and numismatist with a deep appreciation for one-of-a-kind objects. Growing up collecting stamps and coins at an early age in Queens, New York, he fulfilled his boyhood pursuits at the highest echelon with his acquisition of the Double Eagle in 2002 and the British Guiana and Inverted Jenny Plate Block in 2014.

The British Guiana was loaned to the Smithsonian National Postal Museum where it has been on public display since 2015 in its own special exhibition.

All of the seller's proceeds will benefit charitable ventures, including The Weitzman Family Foundation, which supports medical research and higher education such as the Stuart Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. Other major Foundation projects include a museum in Madrid, the first of its kind, devoted to Spanish Judaica.

Weitzman said: 'I had a life-long dream of collecting the single greatest rarities in the two great collecting areas of stamps and coins and then placing these extraordinary treasures, hidden away for decades, on continuous public view. I determined to do that, and I did that. That was my dream. Today my dream is to leave a legacy of charitable works to which the proceeds from the sales of these treasures will go.'

**Watch the video report from CBS news... <https://youtu.be/wc2x45qP66c>**

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**AND for those of you out there that collect oddities, here is a new issue from Estonia  
Common poppy – a postage stamp with a seed: Issued 05-20-2021**



The common poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) is an annual flowering plant that blooms from May to August. The plant is 16-90 cm tall, with large flowers with a diameter of 7-8 cm and has four petals. Unlike our other *Papavers*, it prefers habitats that are rich in lime.

The common poppy's bright red flower stands out. However, the bees and bumblebees see it completely differently, because their eyes do not see red colour, but perceive ultraviolet light instead. Of course, when it comes to pollinating, the insect's vision is much more important than humans'. Luckily, human eyes also see the common poppy as pretty and thus the weed has become a popular decorative plant.

In addition to Europe, the common poppy is also found in North and South America, Australia and New Zealand.

## **THE MARKET PLACE**

The Reading Stamp Collectors' Club received a number of donations early in the year and I have been storing them thinks they could sold at a meeting or our show. The next page features several items that are available for sale. If you wish to purchase any item send me an email: [mbach1@comcast.net](mailto:mbach1@comcast.net) or call my cell phone 610-937-2826

**Ken Bleiler (RSCC Member) has this to offer: Call 610-683-6362**

I have two albums of Vatican City stamps that I would like to sell. The stamps are mint and are on pages specifically designed for the stamps. The Scott numbers included are 203 to 606, C24 – C32, C22 – C23, C35 - C44, C45 – C46, C47 – C52, C53 – C 54, C 55 – C 58,C 59, C 60 – c 62, J19 – J24and 897a (used). I would sell all for \$50.00. C 22 lists for \$35. and C 23 is \$105. These are the highest priced stamps. My catalog is a 2013 so prices could be higher.