



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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Issue: MARCH - APRIL 2021

MEETINGS HAVE STARTED AGAIN!!

Editor's Update:

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

I know we just had snow yesterday and its cold outside today but the temperatures are rising this week and "Spring is in the Air". On Tuesday March 1st the RSCC held its first meeting for two years at our new location, Calvary Lutheran Church in Laureldale. (**SEE PAGE 9 FOR A MAP**).

It was attended by 6 members. Dave Hunt did a presentation of the US Half Cent entitled "Half a Presentation". Three members brought items for a "Show and Tell" Session.

It was decided that the next meeting would be on Tuesday May 2nd when the evenings are lighter making it easier to locate our new meeting place. Masking mandates have now been lifted in Berks so no masks will be required.

We need members to do presentations so if you have something please contact Dave Hunt. (email:). Also need volunteers for snacks.

Does anyone collect Greece. If you do see the last page I have great album to sell.

Mike Bach

RSCC Treasurer's Report:

Current Account: \$ 2,352.63 as of 02/28/2022 : CD \$ 3,174.14 as of 12/31/21

Dues for 2022 are NOW DUE: If you have already sent me a check..Thank You.

IF NOT: Please send check payable to RSCC to my address above as soon as poss

Many Thanks, Mike

WE ALL FROM TIME TO TIME BUY AN ODD COVER ON A WHIM.

Here is a unusual use of One Penny Reds on a cover from Cardiff, Wales 10/26/1856 to New York 11/10/1856. Interesting way to affix stamps to a cover

Courtesy Of Ken Bleiler RSCC Member

Ken acquired this in a bundle of envelopes he acquired and was surprised when he came across it !



IF YOU HAVE AN UNUSUAL COVER YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OUR MEMBERS PLEASE SEND ME A SCAN AND A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF HOW OR WHY YOU GOT IT.

The Collector of Revenue

Some Moonshiners Couldn't Spell

APS 11/25/2021 - Member Only Exclusive.

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One of my long favorite areas of collecting has been the taxation of legal alcohol during National Prohibition (1920-1933). Most readers will know that this was an era in which makers of illegal beverage alcohol, usually called moonshiners, and smugglers of alcohol from abroad, usually called bootleggers, flourished. Remnants from the moonshiners are a wonderful addition to a collecting interest in the Prohibition era.

A property on Cold Spring Lane in the Jones Falls area north of Baltimore originally contained a building that operated as a flour mill as early as 1806. The Gambrill family acquired the property around 1830 and expanded the location to include a sawmill. The property included a railroad station. In 1861 Union troops came in and were garrisoned on the property. The Gambrills, who were Southern sympathizers, were unhappy and sold the property in 1862 to William Denmead. It was during this period that the name "Melvale" became associated with this area. Sometime between 1862 and 1872, the Denmeads built the stone building shown in Figure 1 and operated it as a distillery. The building, with its segmentally arched window openings, was architecturally distinguished by the cupola centrally located on the roof. Two warehouses and a boiler shed were added by 1880.



Figure 1. The stone building with distinctive cupola that became the Melvale Distillery.



Figure 2. Moonshiner's counterfeit front bottle label for "Melvale" Pure Rye Whiskey from the early 1920s.

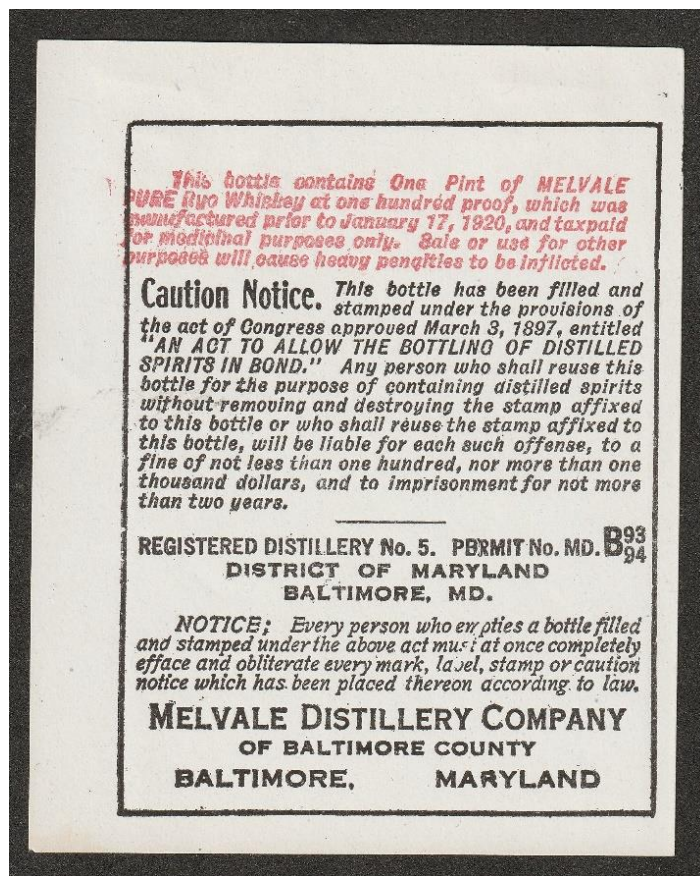


Figure 3: Back of Figure 2 counterfeit bottle label.

Shortly thereafter, the distillery and two acres of the grounds were sold to a group of locals led by John Cummings, a Baltimore commission merchant. Under the Cummings leadership, Melvale Rye Whiskey became one of the most premium of the pre-prohibition Maryland Ryes. Following the death of John Cummings in 1900, the leadership passed to William Cummings and his younger brother Alexander, two of John Cummings' sons. Continued expansion with excellent railroad access led the Melvale Distillery to become the largest whiskey producer in Maryland. A 1914 ad described Melvale Pure Rye Whiskey as: *Manufactured whiskey distilled from the highest grade rye. Its pronounced high flavor, character and bouquet make it most desirable for medicinal and other purposes.*

In January 1920, the 18th Amendment ushered in National Prohibition. Although the state of Maryland itself did not ban alcohol production and sales, the national ban affected the Melvale Distillery. The distillery was designated a "bonded warehouse" and the Cummings brothers managed to stay open for several years to produce grain alcohol for industrial purposes. The family sold the distillery in 1925. By 1928 the facility was converted to vinegar production.

Interestingly, during the early years of National Prohibition, a moonshiner decided to try to trade on the popularity of Melvale Pure Rye Whiskey. To convince the public of the authenticity of the product, the moonshiner printed bottle labels (Figures 2 and 3). They did a very nice job of copying the black part of the front bottle label. But alas, the red portion of the bottle label in Figure 2 has an extra letter “L” in the distillery name, MELLVALE.

To further impress the potential purchaser of the whiskey, the moonshiner also had counterfeits of the federally required green bottled in bond strip stamps printed (Figure 4). These are in the style of the Series of 1911 offset bottled in bond strip stamps (intended to seal over the bottle cap) that Internal Revenue was still using until mid-1922 (Figure 5), when the design was altered to reflect the changes of National Prohibition. The term “in bond” refers to alcohol that was aged in a bonded warehouse and bottled there without paying the federal tax on alcohol. Only when the alcohol was to be removed for sale did the distillery have to pay the federal tax on alcohol. The appearance of these counterfeit bottle strips is enhanced by imitating the orange change-of-date obliteration for production and bottling (produced Spring 1918 and bottled Fall 1922). But these strip stamps are clearly a very crude imitation of the Bureau of Engraving & Printing stamps produced for Internal Revenue. It would also appear that whoever introduced the extra L in Mellvale on the red part of the bottle label must also have done the same on the green bottled in bond strip stamps.



Figure 4. Moonshiner’s counterfeit bottled in bond strip stamp to accompany the bottle labels used in the early 1920s.



Figure 5. A genuine Series of 1911 bottled in bond strip stamp.

These productions of the moonshiners enhance our collections of the genuine stamps used during the Prohibition era, when it was only possible to purchase legally alcohol that was prescribed by physicians. Yes, this was called medicinal alcohol and not beverage alcohol!

Squirrels Appreciation Day - January 21st

Love 'em or Hate 'em they have their day

Squirrels (the nature's gardener) appreciation Day is celebrated in the USA every year on 21st January since 2001. Wildlife rehabilitation specialist, **Christy Hargrove**, founded National Squirrel Appreciation Day in Asheville, North Carolina.

Up until the mid-19th century, squirrels weren't present in American cities. The first documented introduction of squirrels on the urban parks occurred in Philadelphia's Franklin Square in 1847. Boston and New Haven followed suit later in 1850. But they faced some setbacks as often they are considered as damage causers and earned the name of pest, and they are labeled rodents. In reality, they are nature's Gardeners. Squirrels have the habit of burying the excess nuts they have collected under the ground. Most often either they forget or they would have collected more than what they could consume. These buried nuts will grow into trees, thus helping in refurbishing the environment.

According to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), there are over 200 species of squirrels, which are categorized into three types: tree squirrels, ground squirrels, and flying squirrels. These three categories are further broken down into many other squirrel types. The smallest species of squirrel is the African Pygmy and the largest squirrel is the black giant squirrel.

When talking about the species, squirrels in South India have dark stripes on their back. And there is an interesting story in our epic, Ramayana, about how they earned their stripes.

Lord Rama needed to build a bridge across the Indian Ocean to Lanka to rescue his wife Sita. All creatures wanted to help in this huge task. Lord Hanuman and all the others in Rama's vanara (monkey) army carried the largest boulders and rocks. All the smaller creatures helped too, even squirrels.



One squirrel was carrying pebbles when a monkey asked what he was doing there, the squirrel said he was carrying pebbles to build Lord Rama's bridge. The monkey laughed at the squirrel as if to say, "What can you do, you tiny squirrel?" But it was the pebbles that filled in the gaps between the boulders that made the bridge strong. Lord Rama lifted up the little squirrel, thanked him for all his hard work, and blessed him by stroking his back. Thus they earned their 3 stripes.

One of a Kind Stamps That We Love

As collectors, we can all agree that all stamps are wonderful. But some stamps just stand out from the rest, and are so wonderfully innovative, while being strikingly beautiful, that you feel the urge to own these. That is how we feel with these wonders.

The first issue comes out of Belgium, and the issue is a celebration of the success of winegrowing in the country. The five stamps are designed to resemble individual wine bottle labels, and each stamp highlights one of the five major wine regions in the country.

The souvenir sheet containing the five stamps is designed as a vine leaf, making it quite uniquely shaped. Can you imagine a better way to enjoy your collection, than by pairing this great set with a smooth bottle of Belgian white wine?



The next stamp is from Austria, and by now we know how innovative they tend to be, when it comes to stamps. However, they can still surprise, and they surely did with this wonderful winter-themed stamp.

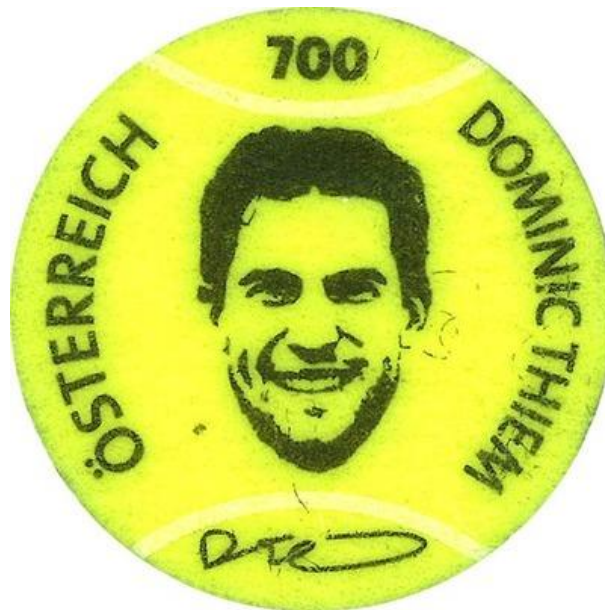
The stamp is shaped as a mitten, perfectly fit for the cold weather from when it was issued, and the mitten is beautifully decorated with snowflakes and a red reindeer.

The stamp is created using a blend of cotton and polyester, giving it the true textile feeling.



Staying in Austria, we have another impressively innovative stamp. This time, the Austrian postal service decided to recreate the tennis ball in stamp form. The stamp depicts the famous Austrian tennis player Dominic Thiem, whose portrait and signature is printed in the stamp. The stamp itself is made from actual tennis ball felt, and the production process is largely by hand.

For tennis fans, and for fans of innovative stamps, this stamp should be near the top of the list of stamps to add to the collection. If that is you, you can find the stamp directly with [Nordfrim](#).



In Liechtenstein, the postal service is going extremely digital with their Crypto stamp 4.0. The stamp has an SQR code embedded, which will allow the owner of the stamp to verify that the stamp is genuine, when the code is scanned with a smartphone. The app for the stamp allows the owner to create a digital character, which can be used to solve puzzles through the app. Once all puzzles are solved, you will get an NFT of your character.

This all sounds very impressive, and the technical aspects of it are mind boggling.

The souvenir sheet below is a special edition issued in only 3200 copies, which are sold out from the postal service. If you want to get your hands on this, you can find it directly at [Nordfrim](#).



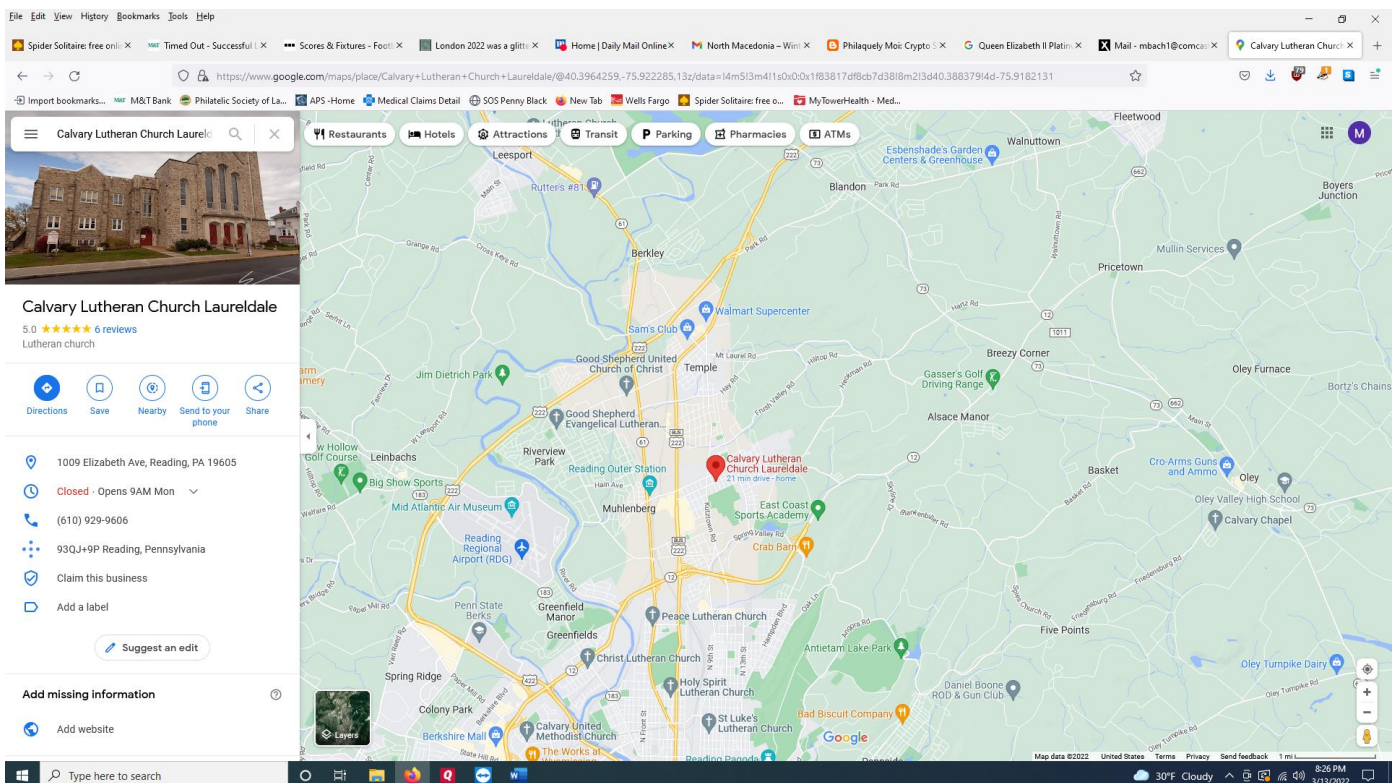
If you thought we were done with Austria, you were wrong - we have to include this great stamp, when talking about innovation. We all recognize the mask depicted below, as we have all been wearing them in public for months or even years, as the COVID-19 virus spread throughout the world.

The Austrian postal service created this stamp in the form of an FFP2 mask, and used a complex production technique to create a cloth stamp with embroidery, that closely resembles an actual face mask. They even managed to include the ear loops in the design.

This would be a perfect addition to your collection, as it tells the story of the last couple of years for all of us. You can find it directly with [Nordfrim](#).



MAP TO OUR NEW MEETING LOCATION

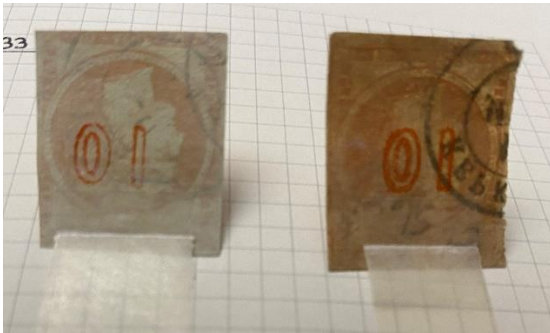


ANYONE OUT THERE COLLECT GREECE?

I am looking to sell an album of 130 pages with stamps from 1861 through to 1997. There are also 5 pages of Charity Stamps and several pages of Greek Occupation stamps.

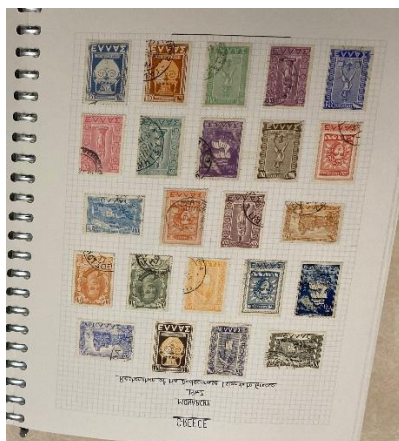
Approx. 1,500 stamps

The first page is a gem and could have some value as several have numbers on the reverse.

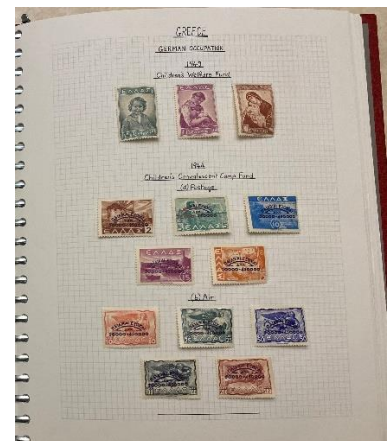


To the left are reverse images of the two orange
10 L

Above upper row to the right



Sample Pages



If interested contact me (Mike Bach) at mbach1@comcast.net