

"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

The combined monthly newsletter of the Lebanon and Reading Stamp Collectors Clubs

September 2025

Number 72

The August meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Lebanon Community Library in historic downtown Lebanon. Scott Ney will give a presentation on "Civil War Pension Philately". There will be a slide presentation and a few albums of material to browse through during the slide presentation.

SECURITY (COMMERCIAL) OVERPRINTS ON GREAT BRITAIN STAMPS

By Richard Colberg

President – Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

September 2025

The Stamp Duty Act of 1853 required that a 1-penny duty be paid on receipts of £2 or more. At that time this duty was paid with revenue stamps. The Act of 1881 made it legal to pay those duties with postage stamps as well. From that time postage stamps were inscribed "Postage & Revenue". In 1920 the duty was raised to two-pence. On February 1, 1971, the practice was discontinued. Thus, we'll see overprints on stamps of all reigns from Queen Victoria through Queen Elizabeth II.

In order to prevent the theft of stamps intended for this fiscal use, some companies and official bodies had their stamps overprinted. This overprinting was sanctioned by the government. There are exceptions to every rule, however, and some overprinting was done by typewriter. For our purposes, overprints will be categorized as Official or Private. Official usage is shown for Gas, Electricity, Water, and local governments. Local governments used the overprinted stamps for a variety of receipting purposes. For private company receipting usage, many companies used a generic overprint of the form: Received £_____ for XYZ Co.

The overprinted stamps are not cancelled as we would define the term. The stamps were usually placed on a receipt or the original invoice. Then an official was supposed to sign and date the whole affair. This was not always done. The same procedure was supposed to be followed by private companies; again, not always following procedure.

I don't think anyone knows how many different overprints there are. Like precancelled and perfin stamps, these overprinted stamps are treated like orphans. Most stamp collectors will not buy one of these overprinted stamps for their collection because it is not a "real" cancellation. Many dealers won't handle or display them for the same reason.

Today there is a group that is active in sharing information on commercial overprints. They have a website: www.cosgb.org. It operates on a blog format where anyone can submit articles and findings. I have just under 200 different companies and government agencies in my collection and I estimate that this is about 1/3 of the number known.

On the following pages you will see some terms on government overprints that need to be explained.

- Boroughs – developed through the centuries with the amalgamation of cities and towns. These towns needed governing, and they eventually elected mayors and councilors, the representative being known as a Member of Parliament. In due course the town or district was granted the status of a borough.
- Corporations – were preceded by boroughs and incorporated then by the Municipal Corporation Act of 1835.
- Rural District Council – abbreviated RDC on the overprints.
- Urban District Council – abbreviated UDC on the overprints.

Following are selected pages from my collection.



One of my very favorite overprints is **Waifs & Strays**. The Waifs and Strays Society was founded in 1881 in South London – a poor area with many needy children. The founders were Edward de Montjoie Rudolf and his brother, Robert. In August of that year the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Archibald Tait, became President of the Society. As a result, the Society became known as the Church of England Central Home for Waifs and Strays. By 1890 there were nearly 1600 children; by 1905, more than 3400. The first Waifs & Strays overprint dates from 1924. In 1946 the Society was renamed the Church of England Children's Society and the overprints from that date reflect the name change. Can't you just picture Oliver Twist?

Aylsham Tithe Rentcharge. 143

N^{os} IN TITHE APPORTIONMENT *138-9. 723 to 730. 919-20-1-4 to 928-30 to 942. 1065 to 1070.*

In the occupation of *W^m. Calver & another.*

Received December *27th* 1895 from *J. B. R. Bulwer Esq.*
the sum of — *Sixty* — Pounds — *six* — shillings
and — *six* — pence for One Year's Tithe Rentcharge due to
the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England for the Land above
mentioned on the 1st October 1895.

L 60 5 6









Wm. Smith
For Smiths, Gore & Co.
Receivers to the said Commissioners.
16, Whitehall Place, S.W.

Smiths, Gore & Co. on a receipt.





ELECTRICITY

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p style="text-align: center;">E.E.B. (Eastern Electricity Board)</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">E.E.B./ C. Eastern Electricity Board Chilterns Sub Area</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Eastern Electricity Board</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">East Midlands Electricity Board</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">London Electricity Board</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">MANWEB Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board</p> |

GAS

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>Rochester & c., Gas Co.</p> |  <p>Romford Gas Co.</p> |
|   <p>Scottish Gas Board</p> |  <p>The Scottish Gas Board</p> |
|   <p>S.E.G.B. (South Eastern Gas Board)</p> |   <p>South Eastern Gas Board</p> |







WATER

| | |
|--|--|
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Bristol Water Company</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">Fylde Water Board</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Metropolitan Water Board</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">S D W Co. (Sutton District Water Co.)</p> |
| | |



GOVERNMENTS

| | |
|---|--|
|  |  |
| Epsom and Ewell Corporation | For the Friern Barnet Council |
|  |  |
| Greenock Corporation | Greenwich Parish |
|  |  |
| East Ham Corporation | Hammersmith Borough Council |

BANKS

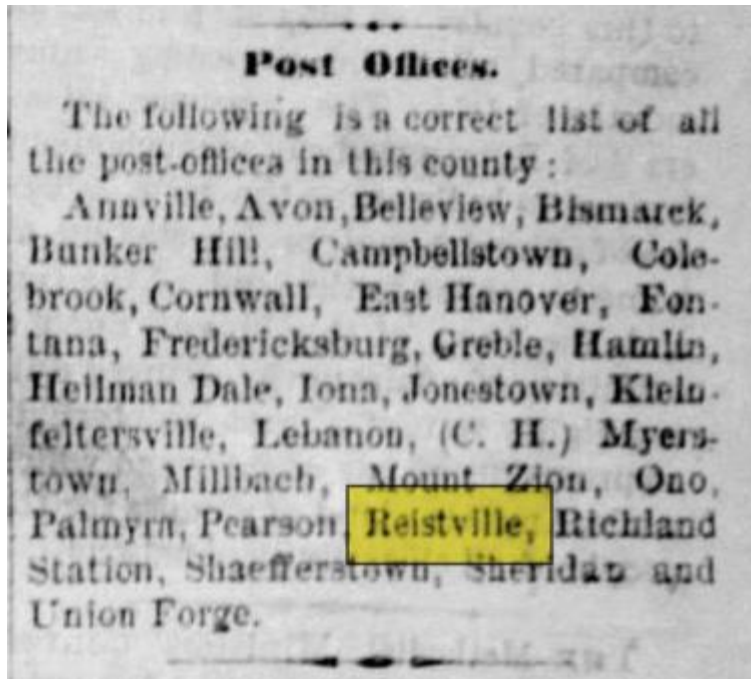
| | |
|---|---|
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Halifax Building Society</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">London County and Westminster Bank, Limited</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">London County Westminster & Parr's Bank Ltd.</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">Lloyds Bank Limited</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Mercantile Bank of India. Ltd.</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">Nat. Pro. Bk, Ld. (National Provincial Bank)</p> |

INSURANCE COMPANIES

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd.</p> |  <p>The Canada Life Assurance Company</p> |
|  <p>Commercial Union Assurance Group</p> |  <p>Legal & General Assurance Society, Ltd.</p> |
|  <p>Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd.</p> |  <p>The Prudential Assurance Co., Ltd.</p> |

COMPANIES

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Rylands & Sons, Limited - Manchester</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">Selfridge London</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">W.H. Smith & Son.</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">Spirella Co. Ltd.</p> |
|  <p style="text-align: center;">Surridge Dawson & Co. Ltd.</p> |  <p style="text-align: center;">Wm. Whitley Ltd.</p> |



From the *Lebanon Daily News*, Thursday, November 5, 1874 (p.1)

A list of Lebanon County Post Offices arranged by municipality

This list is based on the research of John L. Kay and Chester M. Smith, Jr. I've created it to help me organize my burgeoning Lebanon County Postal History collection. The list was checked against [A Gazetteer of Lebanon County 2007](#) by David J. Bachman, and other sources. Additions/corrections would be appreciated. – Scott Ney

Annville Township

Annville/Anville (1813 – present)

Bethel Township

Fredericksburg/Fredericksburgh (1842 - present)

Greble (1862 – 1905)

Hamlin (1861 – 1904)

Monroe Forge (1862 – 1871)

Mount Zion (1838 – 1915)

Stumptown (1825 – 1842)

Cold Spring Township

Cold Spring (1852 – 1853)

Lotell (1909 – 1939)

Ney (1881 – 1903)

Pearson (1872 – 1877)

Cleona Borough

Cleona (1890 – present)

Cornwall Borough

Meadowville (1827 – 1833)

Cornwall (1833 – present)

East Hanover Township

East Hanover (1825 – 1907)

Indiantown Gap (1941 – 1946, 1951 – 1953)

Ono (1853 – present)

Seltzerville (1841 – 1853)

Heidelberg Township

Achey's Corner (1857 – 1861)

Kleinfeltersville (1868 – present)

Reistville (1874 – 1905)

Schaefferstown/Schaeffersburg (1820 – present)

Waldeck (1900 – 1905)

Jackson Township

Cocena (1892 – 1894)

Jonestown Borough

Jonestown (1813 – present)

Millcreek Township

Millbach (1850 – 1861, 1868 – 1905)

Missemer's Mills (1858 – 1865)

Newmanstown (1878 – present)

Sheridan (1865 – 1964)

Mt. Gretna Borough

Chatauqua (1894 – 1899)

Mt. Gretna (1899 – present)

Myerstown Borough

Myerstown (1813 – present)

North Annville Township

Bellegrove/Belle Grove (1887 – 1903)

Bellevue/Bellview (1846 – 1861, 1869 – 1871)

Bettinger (This is a name change for Bellegrove that never went into effect! I'll share the details in a future newsletter)

Syner (1881 – 1903)

Coheva (1891 – 1902)

Heilmandale/Heilman Dale (1858 – 1867 and 1871 – 1913)

Palmyra Borough

Palmyra (1813 – present)

Richland Borough

Richland Station (1858 – 1903)

Richland (1903 – present)

South Annville Township

Fontana (1872 – 1902)

South Lebanon Township

Avon (1863 – 1905)

Bomberger (1891 – 1892)

Mt. Hope/Farmers' Hope (1836 – 1843)

Iona (1874 – 1905)

Prescott (1876 – 1930)

Rexmont (1890 – present)

Yawdim (1884 – 1891)

South Londonderry Township

Campbelltown (1819 – present)

Colebrook (1853 - present)

Lawn (1889 – present)

Swatara Township

Bunkerhill/Bunker Hill (1872 – 1910)

Union Township

Alger (1898 – 1903)

Greenpoint (1898 – 1914)

Lickdale (1884 – 1935)

Union Forge (1858 – 1860, 1861 – 1884)

Onset (1890 – 1922)

West Cornwall Township

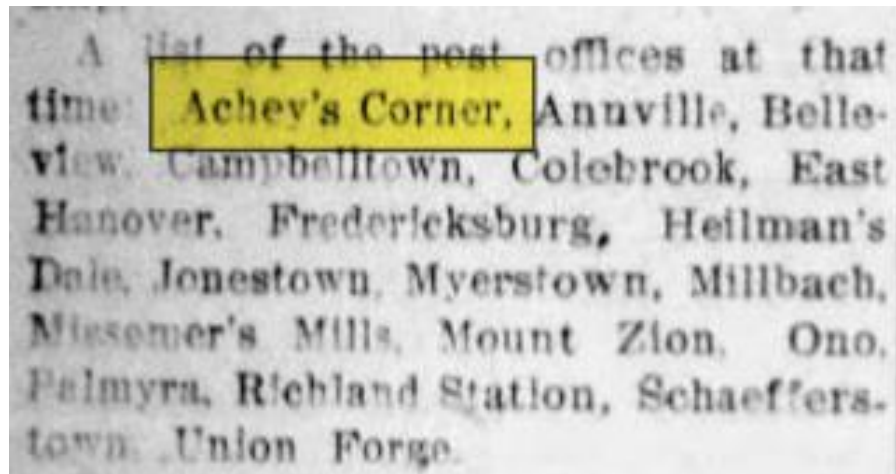
Bismark (1871 – 1918)

Quentin (1918 – present)

Location unknown

Amor (1892 – 1895)

Bangor (1856 – 1857)



“Map of Lebanon County Made in the Year 1860”, in the *Evening Report*, Lebanon, PA – Thursday, September 26, 1918 (p. 4)

Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Calendar

Please contact the editor if you are interested in presenting at one of our monthly meetings.

| Date | Presenter and Subject |
|--------------------|--|
| September 16, 2025 | Civil War Pension Philately – Scott Ney |
| October 21, 2025 | |
| November 18, 2025 | |
| December 16, 2025 | Holiday Dinner at The Rotunda Restaurant and Pub |

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County for hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)

The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:

[Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun. \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)



The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Lebanon, PA 17042 – 17046

Scott Ney, newsletter editor



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

**Meetings held at Calvary Lutheran Church,
1009 Elizabeth Avenue in Laureldale.**

**Elizabeth Avenue crosses Kutztown Road in the Muhlenberg Township area.
(About a mile north of Rt 222)**

**Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.
(doors open around 6:30 for pre meeting social time)**

TUESDAY October 7th

THE TOPIC IS:

“Halloween”: A presentation by David Hunt

**Those attending this meeting please bring any philatelic item
pertaining to Halloween. Werewolf, Ghouls, etc. allowed!!**

RSCC TREASURER'S REPORT:

Current Account as of 07/31/2025: \$ 1,285.80

Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: \$ 3,414.63

Horse Stamp for Swiss Soldiers' Mail

Article from "Stamp Collector" magazine September 2025

During World War I and World War II, Swiss men and women were required to defend the country's borders, writes *Christer Brunstrom*. The soldiers had to be away from home for weeks or months, and they obviously wanted to maintain contact with family and friends back home. Fortunately, letters could be mailed for free provided they had been duly endorsed by the commanding officer of each unit.

It was in this context that someone came up with brilliant idea of having special stamps printed to identify soldiers' mail from various army units, and a number of such stamps were printed during the Great War (World War I). These "soldiers' stamps" caught the attention of many Swiss Collectors.

With the start of World War II, the previous scheme was reintroduced but now on a much larger scale. At first, there were a number of excesses that forced the postal and military authorities to provide guidelines for these military issues, which not only identified the mail sent by servicemen on active duty but which were also sold to collect funds for benevolent causes.



The picture to the left accompanied the article which I transcribed'

According to the new guidelines, each army unit was only allowed to issue one stamp a year, they should not resemble Swiss regular stamps and they must NOT show a denomination. The stamps usually only exhibit a short version of the unit's name.

A typical example is the illustrated stamp depicting a Swiss officer riding his horse. The "E.P.R.A." acronym is short for "*Eidg. Pferderegieanstalt*". This was a specialized army unit in charge of horses that were used for various purposes during the war years.

It just so happens that I own three blocks of Swiss Army Stamps (see below)
with one being the feature in the above article plus some singles



The “Ideal Stamp” that the Post Office never issued

By Bonnie & Roger Riga - Scott Stamp Monthly July 2003

In 1912, a contest to create the “Ideal Stamp” for British postage was held in conjunction with the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition in Great Britain. Unfortunately, the design chosen as the winner was never adopted by the British Post Office. However as part of the Exhibition the stamp was printed and sold to the attendees.

The Junior Philatelic Society, now the National Philatelic Society, held the competition because they considered the then-current stamp style to be unacceptable. The winning designer was T. S. Harrison who worked for Waterloo and Sons Ltd., printers who created many stamps for Great Britain and Commonwealth countries.

The design shows the profile of King George V, whose reign began in 1910, within a wide oval inscribed “INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION”. A crown is positioned above the king’s head at the top of the oval and the value appears on a smaller banner at the bottom. The oval portrait is set upon a rendition of the royal coat of arms, which displays three lions passant in the first and fourth quadrants, the

rampant lion of Scotland in the second quadrant and the harp of Ireland in the third quadrant. Some examples from Ebay are shown below:



At the Exhibition, the Ideal Stamp was printed by the Printex process in sheets of 240 and is known in both typograph and recess printing. Reportedly, at least 24,000 stamps were produced at the show. The stamps were both perforated and imperforate, and came in many varieties of colors, 20 at least including 4 shades each of blue and brown. The stamps were sold at the expo for 1 penny each, but today they sell for considerably more.

It has been reported that a slightly larger version of the design was produced for the French International Exhibition in 1913. Since the recess printing would be slightly larger, it is uncertain that this is another printing, rather than stamps left over from the earlier show.

However, Glenn H Morgan, in his catalog of British stamp exhibitions, states that the Paris sheet size was 108 items (12/9) and without other marginal lines that characterized the Jubilee Sheets. These larger stamps are only found Imperforate and come in 3 colors - green, red and mauve.

For a stamp that the post office rejected, the Ideal Stamp has certainly led a long and storied life. That's the fun of Cinderellas: There is always a story behind the stamp, if you can find it.

The "Cinderella" below is an item I purchased at the Allentown Stamp Show earlier this year. It measures 3.6 by 3.2 inches. This is an example of the 1913 issue highlighted above.



This was one of my all-time favorite TV shows... so ahead of its time...

Royal Mail celebrates Monty Python with Aug. 14 issue

Aug 11, 2025, 9 AM



By David Hartwig

Great Britain's Royal Mail celebrates the comedy series *Monty Python's Flying Circus* with a set of six stamps in an Aug. 14 issue, and a souvenir sheet included with the issue marks the 50th anniversary of the movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

"From TV sketches to massively successful movies, and chart-topping albums to sold-out live shows, the team known collectively as Monty Python — and individually as Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin — have dominated the comedy landscape for almost six decades," Royal Mail says.

The stamps in the set of six are presented in three se-tenant (side-by-side) pairs, and the souvenir sheet contains four additional stamps. All 11 stamps in the issue are valued at the first-class rate (currently £1.70).

The stamps in the set of six show a montage of characters and sketches from the television series *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, which ran from 1969 to 1974. Four stamps in a souvenir sheet included with the issue feature stills from the 1975 movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* along with a quote.

The sketches portrayed on the stamps in the set of six include "The Spanish Inquisition," "Upper Class Twit of the Year," the "Nudge nudge" innuendo sketch and the "Spam" comedy sketch.



In a presentation pack included with the issue, film journalist Tom Huddleston explains that all of the members of the Monty Python comedy group were “nice middle-class boys from respectable homes” who had attended universities such as Cambridge and Oxford.

“But while all six had studied ‘serious subjects’ — ranging from medicine and law to history and political science — each had discovered along the way that they had not just a passion but a talent for writing and performing comedy (or, in Gilliam’s case, crafting satirical magazine strips),” Huddleston says.

According to Huddleston, the audience who watched the first episode of the sketch comedy series *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* on BBC1 in the fall of 1969 represented the week’s lowest audience figures.

“Of those who did tune in,” Huddleston says, “not many seemed to like it: the show scored poorly on the Audience Appreciation Index, while BBC bosses branded parts of the programme ‘appalling,’ ‘cruel’ and ‘disgusting.’ “

As the series continued with 12 more episodes, the audience numbers improved enough for the BBC to continue the program another year.

“Sketches about dead parrots, transvestite lumberjacks and men with three buttocks may have scandalized the BBC’s top brass but they were a big hit with other sectors of society, notably college students, musicians, dropouts and schoolkids, who thrilled to the show’s absurdist wit, bursts of wildly inventive animation and staunchly anti-establishment position, poking fun at Army majors, priests, bankers and the government,” Huddleston says.

The popularity of *Monty Python’s Flying Circus* continued, and the show eventually aired 45 episodes across four series.

The Monty Python comedy group then wrote and performed in the 1975 movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, which parodies the legend of King Arthur through a series of sketches and loosely connected scenes.

Gilliam and Jones directed the movie, which helped establish Monty Python as a major force in comedy and influenced later films, television and stage productions.



Mike Bach, newsletter editor