"Serving Lebanon and Berks Counties"

THE PATENT - OVERPRINT

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

October 2026
Number 85

The October meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, in the Community Room of the Lebanon Community Library. Please bring a small selection of items from one of your favorite collecting "topics"; a traditional country or postal history collection, a topic such as birds, animals, or World War II – anything to enlighten, entertain, and inspire your fellow stamp club members.

Mexico by the Numbers

By Richard Colberg

President: Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

What's with all the numbers? If you've come in contact with 19th-century Mexico stamps and/or postal stationery you've seen these overprinted numbers. And you've probably wondered what they were. Hopefully I can enlighten you.

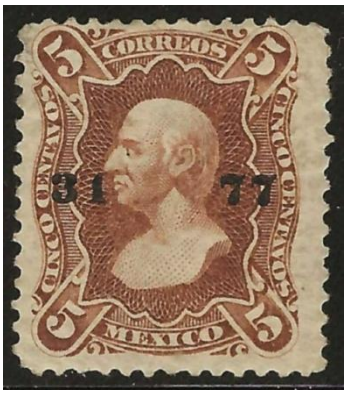

Figure #1

Apparently, the Mexico postal system had a serious problem with theft of its postage stamps in transit to the various post offices. To combat this, the stamps and postal stationery were overprinted at the local post offices in order to make them valid. The initial overprinting scheme was a two-number code as seen in Figure #1 above.

Initially each Mexican state was assigned a number from 1 to 61. The code overprinted onto the stamp or envelope was the number of the state first, followed by the last two digits of the year. Thus, on the stamp in Figure #1 above, the 31 at the left refers to the State of Orizaba and the 77 at the right refers to 1877. This

overprint would later evolve to include the shipping consignment number and the name of the state. This overprinting began in 1864 and ran to 1883.

I don't collect Mexico stamps; just postal stationery. Thus, all following examples will be items of postal stationery.

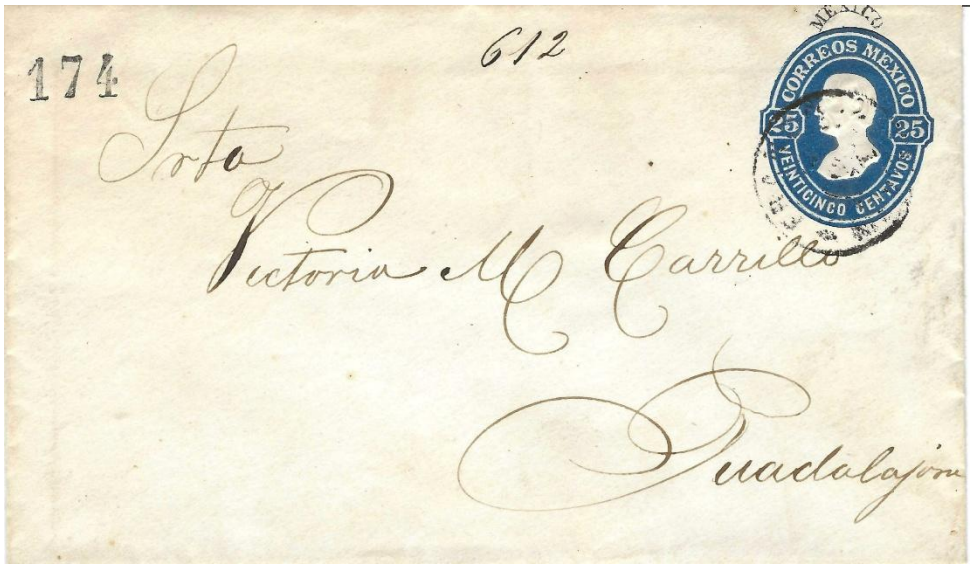

Figure #2

Figure #2 is an 1874 envelope with a **174** overprint as well as the name **MEXICO** above the embossed stamp. The number **1** refers to the State of Mexico and the number **74** refers to 1874

Figure #3

Figure #3 is an 1876-issue envelope with a **3777** overprint and no state name overprint. The number **37** refers to the State of San Luis Potosi and the number **77** signifies 1877.

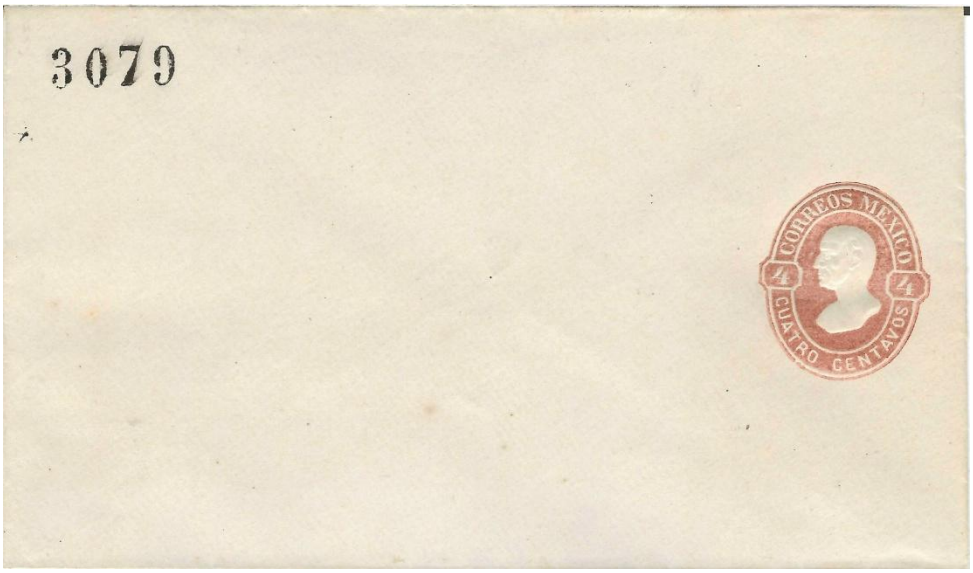

Figure #4

Figure #4 shows an 1879 envelope with a **3079** overprint and, again, no state name overprinted. The number **30** refers to the State of La Paz and the number **79** signifies 1879. Note that the embossed stamp image is out of place. This envelope catalogue value carries an 80% premium over the envelope with correct placement. In 1878 the states were all renumbered.

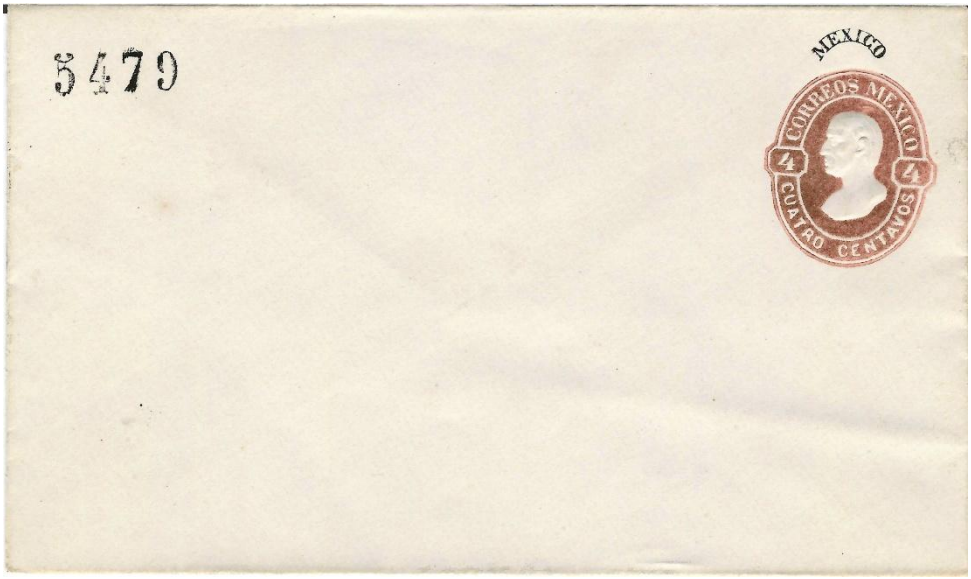

Figure #5

Figure #5 shows the 4-centavos envelope with the embossing placed correctly and overprinted **5479.** The number **54** denotes the State of Mexico (earlier it was #1, see Figure #2 above) and the number **79** refers to the year 1879. The State of **Mexico** is also included in the overprint (above the stamp imprint).

Figure #6

Figure #6 shows a 25-centavos envelope with **2282** and **ORIZAVA** overprints**. 22** corresponds to **ORIZAVA** and **82** signifies **1882**. This is an unusual placement of the state name, but not rare.

Figure #7

When the states were all renumbered in 1878, all stocks of unused envelopes were returned for renumbering. These envelopes were renumbered in 1882 and 1883. They received new control numbers and the word **HABILITADO** (rehabilitated). **HABILITADO** was added in the same color as the embossed stamp. The envelopes may or may not have gotten a new state name printed.

So, the envelope in Figure #7 was originally overprinted **5177** for **ZACATECAS** and **1877**. The new overprinting is **882** for **TUXPAN** and **1882**. The **HABILITADO** and **TUXPAN** overprints are both in blue to match the embossed stamp.

Figure #8

To complete this story, these overprints are also found on postal cards of Mexico. But only the first four. Postal cards were introduced in March of 1882, just at the end of the overprinting period. They only received the state number and date overprint.

Figure #8 shows Mexico's first postal card. It has a **5482** overprint signifying **MEXICO** (54) and **1882.**

A problem I see for the casual collector is where to find the explanation of the overprinted numbers. The Scott Catalogue tells us what the overprint is but they give no clues as to exactly what they mean. I find that some specialized Mexico references have this information, but not all.

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
October 20, 2026	A topic that I like to collect – LSCC members
November 17, 2026	Observations About My Stamp Sale – Joe Duke
December 15, 2026	LSCC Holiday Dinner

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)

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)

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 12)

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

Issue: 2026 - 10

NEXT MEETING:
November 3rd 2026

TOPIC: Flight or anything relating to Aero Philately

TREASURER'S REPORT:
Current Account as of 09/30/2026: $ 615.80
Savings Account as of 03/14/2025: $ 3,570.82

2027 DUES ARE DUE!!!

If you come to November's meeting you can pay me in cash.
Otherwise send me a check for $ 10.00 made payable to RSCC and mail to
Michael Bach, 12 Colorado Avenue, Sinking Spring PA 19608

Future Meetings:
December 1st **Christmas Dinner (spouses / significant others welcome)**

A new publication from SCOTT coming in 2027

Oct 9, 2026 By Linn's Staff

Scott Stamp LLC will launch a new quarterly publication, *Scott Posted*, in January 2027, expanding the company's publishing program into the growing communities surrounding postcards, Postcrossing and social mail.

The new magazine will complement *Linn's Stamp News* and *Scott Stamp Monthly*, but will have a distinctly different focus. Rather than concentrating primarily on stamp collecting, *Scott Posted* will explore the broader culture of sending and receiving mail. Postcards, Postcrossing, postal events, travel, mail art, collector gatherings and the people who continue to use the mail to connect with others will be among the subjects featured in the magazine.

The first issue is scheduled to be mailed in January 2027.

The new publication was announced Oct. 1 to a small group of Postcrossing members gathered at the Scott Stamp LLC offices in Troy, Ohio, for a World Postcard Day meetup.

"*Scott Posted* gives us an opportunity to reach people who love the mail but may not necessarily think of themselves first as stamp collectors," Scott Stamp LLC President and CEO Jay Bigalke said. "There is an incredibly active community of people sending postcards, attending meetups, participating in Postcrossing and sharing their mail online. We want to create a publication for them."

In recent years, *Linn's* has carried increasing coverage of Postcrossing meetups, postcard activities and other social-mail events. Much of that coverage will gradually shift to *Scott Posted*, where there will be more room to follow those communities regularly and in greater depth.

The distinction is intended to sharpen rather than narrow the publications. *Linn's* will remain focused on stamp collecting and philatelic news, while *Scott Posted* can devote substantially more space to an audience whose interests extend beyond traditional philately. The magazine grew in part from Scott Stamp LLC's increased involvement with postcard and Postcrossing activities during the past year.
Postcard meetups held in conjunction with philatelic events have attracted participants who sometimes overlap with traditional stamp collectors and sometimes represent an entirely different audience.

While stamps and postal history will naturally appear in its pages, *Scott Posted* is being developed around a broader mix of subjects involving postcards, mail, people and places. Planned content includes profiles of collectors and senders, postcard destinations, postal events and meetups, travel features, mail-related projects, artists and creators, and other aspects of the international postal community.

The print edition will be published four times a year. An annual subscription will cost $49.99 and include four print issues. Each quarterly issue will arrive with a pack of 10 postcards, giving subscribers 40 postcards during a full subscription year.
Those postcards will feature work by known artists and creators in the postcard-mailing community. The program is intended to introduce readers to different artists and styles while providing subscribers with postcards they can collect or put back into the mail.

The digital edition of *Scott Posted* will be available free of charge, an approach intended to introduce the publication to as broad a postal audience as possible. The postcard packs will accompany paid print subscriptions.

The inaugural cover carries the headline "The Joy of Sending," a theme that reflects the direction of the new publication.

Presales for the annual print subscription are now underway, with the first issue scheduled for January 2027.

To subscribe, visit https://scottstamp.com/store?c=magazines.

BRITISH CASTLES

Great Britain's Royal Mail commemorates castles from all four nations of the United Kingdom with 12 stamps in a May 21 Issue. "Castles are among the most recognizable features of the UK's landscape, and this stamp issue celebrates the skill, ambition, and design, as well as the durability, behind these remarkable structures from across the nations," said David Gold, director of external affairs and policy at Royal Mail. Eight first-class stamps issued in four vertical se-tenant pairs feature different castles from around the United Kingdom.

England:

Warwick Castle is on the banks of the river Avon in the city of Warwick about 95 miles northwest of London. It was originally a wooded fort built in 1068.
It was rebuilt in stone in the12th century and refortified on the town side in the 14th Century. In 1604 James I granted it to Sir Fulke Greville who converted it to a country house. It remained in the Greville Family until 1978. It has been owned by several companies since that date and remains a museum and open to the public

BamburghCastle is a majestic coastal fortress perched on a volcanic basalt crag overlooking the North Sea in Northumberland, England. The site dates back 420AD as a Celtic Fort. It is about 330 miles northeast of London. Originally built in the 11th century it was destroyed by artillery fire during the wars of the Roses. It fell into disrepair until it was bought from the crown by a Victorian industrialist William Armstrong who restored it to its current condition. It remains in the Armstrong family and is open to the public

Wales:

Pembroke Castle, located in Southwest Wales is a remarkably preserved medieval fortress and celebrated as the birthplace of King Henry VII in 1457 It is the largest privately owned castle in the country. Underwent a notable six-week siege in 1648 led by Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War, resulting in damage before 19th- and 20th-century restoration. It is currently owned by a trust

Raglan Castle, located in Southwest Wales Near the border with England by Sir William Thomas. It was largely built in the 15th Century. Underwent a brutal ten-week siege in 1646 led by Oliver Cromwell during the English Civil War, resulting in its walls deliberately put beyond military use. The owners declined to restore it and it became first a source of local building materials, then a romantic ruin. It is now a tourist attraction.

Scotland:

Stirling Castle is located about 36 miles Northwest of Edinburgh. The castle dates from at least early 12th century, present buildings mostly built between 1490 and 1600. Before the union with England, Stirling Castle was also one of the most used of the many Scottish royal residences, very much a palace as well as a fortress. Several Scottish Kings and Queens have been crowned at Stirling, including Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1542, and others were born or died there. It is currently owned by the James Erskine 14th Earl of Mar a Scottish Peer.

Urquhart Castle is a ruined castle that sits beside Loch Ness in the Highlands of Scotland. The castle is about 13 miles Southwest of Inverness. The present ruins date from the 13th to the 16th centuries, though built on the site of an early medieval fortification. Urquhart played a role in the Wars of Scottish Independence in the 14th century and was subsequently held as a royal castle.It was largely abandoned by the middle of the 17th century and partially destroyed in 1692.
It is currently owned by Historic Environment Scotland

Northern Ireland:

Dundrum Castle a ruin standing over the town of Dundrum, County Down, Northern Ireland.about 26 miles south of BelfastIt was constructed by John de Courcy, sometime near the beginning of the 13th century,[11] following his invasion of Ulster. It was made over to Lord Cromwell in 1605 and sold to Sir George Blundell in 1636. It was repossessed by the Parliamentarians, who dismantled the castle in 1652, The castle and grounds were placed in State Care in 1954.

Dunluce Castle is a now-ruined medieval castle in Northern Ireland, the seat of Clan MacQuillan. It is located on the edge of a basalt outcropping in County Antrim, and is accessible via a bridge connecting it to the mainland. It is located about 56 miles north of Belfast. The castle was abandoned because of the impoverishment of the MacDonnells in 1690. Exterior shots of Dunluce Castle were used in Game of Thrones for Pyke of House Greyjoy on Pyke Island. Castle is now in the care of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency

In addition to the 8 individual stamps The Royal Mail also issued a mini-sheet of Royal Castles. It features two from England, **Windsor and Dover**, one from Scotland, **Balmoral** and one from Wales **Caernarfon**

CHRISTMAS TREAT

Edible-Inspired Holiday Stamps

USPS Turns Custom Christmas Cookies into Festive Stamp Art

Edible-inspired holiday stamps are transforming familiar seasonal traditions into collectible postal artwork. The U.S. Postal Service's Christmas Cookies Forever stamps feature actual cookies created, baked, and decorated by designer Kyrie Johnson before being photographed by artist Sarah Cramer Shields. The four designs depict a decorated Christmas tree, Santa Claus, a wrapped present, and a stocking, translating handcrafted baked goods into functional stamp designs. The collection is available nationwide in booklets of 20 Forever stamps.

For USPS, the release connects an everyday postal product with the nostalgia and creativity surrounding holiday baking, potentially increasing its appeal among collectors and seasonal shoppers. Using physical cookies rather than

illustrations also gives the collection a distinctive handcrafted quality that can generate interest beyond traditional stamp collecting. The approach demonstrates how organizations can reinterpret recognizable traditions through unexpected design formats, creating seasonal products that combine functionality, storytelling, and collectible appeal.

Image Credit: U.S. Postal Service

And Finally:

A couple of interesting items up for grabs (if you can afford them)

LeVasser collection anchors Siegel's Oct. 13-15 U.S. stamp sale

Oct 8, 2026 By David Hartwig

Among the standout rarities in the sale is a paste-up pair of the 1908 1¢ blue green Franklin vertical coil stamps (Scott 316) with a Scott catalog value of $375,000. The value is shown in italics, indicating an item that trades very seldom.

The pair has original gum, with the bottom selvage of the upper stamp used to join the two strips. Siegel describes it as one of only 10 recorded pairs of Scott 316 and the only known paste-up pair. The auction firm's census records seven pairs, three line pairs and five unused singles, for a total of 25 surviving stamps. None are known used. The 1¢ vertical coil was among the first government-produced coil stamps. According to philatelic researcher Max G. Johl (1900-57), these early coils were experimental and apparently attracted little attention from collectors and dealers when they were produced.

To make the coils, regular sheets of 400 stamps were perforated in only one direction and cut into strips of 20. The strips were then pasted together to form rolls. The pair offered by Siegel comes from one of those joins, with the selvage of one strip attached to the next.

Siegel will offer the only recorded example of the 5¢ Millbury, Mass., postmaster's provisional printed on white paper (Scott 7X2). Siegel estimates the stamp at $30,000 to $40,000.

The stamp is on a large piece bearing a clear March 8 (1847) Millbury circular datestamp. It is tied by a broad stroke of red ink and also by a horizontal file fold.

The Millbury provisional was issued in 1846 while Col. Asa Holman Waters III was postmaster. According to Siegel, most of the duties of the office were carried out by his deputy, local jeweler Henry Waterman, who was directly responsible for issuing the provisional. Waterman succeeded Waters as postmaster in 1848.

The Millbury issue features a portrait of George Washington and is one of two U.S. postmasters' provisionals bearing portraits. The other, issued in New York City, also shows Washington and is believed to have influenced the Millbury design.

I will give you an update of the realized bids in next month's Overprint

The Reading Stamp Collectors Club
Mike Bach, Newsletter Editor