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Hobby Notes

- newsletter of the
Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club



Fauquier County Courthouse
in Old Town Warrenton

Special points of interest:

- Door prizes donations are **always** needed (especially coin-related)
- Give us your ideas for future programs (our cupboard is bare)

October 1st Program: Fakes from China and a Quiz

This month's program is on the many types of fake coins that are originating in China. Raymond Maguire will tell us about rare coins being faked, some of which are even encased in slabs with fake authentication documents. The quality is very good, so the fakes are a serious concern to all collectors.

In addition to the program, Tony Tripi has proposed a quiz on Superheroes. He will bring along the 20 questions, and the member with the greatest number of correct answers will receive a USPS sheet of Superhero stamps.

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HELP WANTED --- Web Master

For a very long time the Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club had has a web site. It covers the very basics of the Club -- when and where we meet -- but very little else. It has been suggested that the site could display the current newsletter, and an archive of previous editions. It could also include articles by members that encourage young collectors, promotions of future shows, and many other features. These are great suggestions, and I am sure that nearly every member has an idea for the web site. The site could promote both coins and stamps, as well as the Club itself, and it could be helpful in recruiting new members. But we need someone with the skills and the time to manage the content of the site. I know it's a tall order. Time seems like a big barrier, but once the gradual changes are completed (and there is certainly no time limit here!), maintaining the site would not take a lot of time. So the real need is for someone with the technical skills to do it, and I am sure there is someone out there who can. So how about it? Who can help?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Guests and new members are always welcome. Drop by and join us.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except for the December holiday dinner) at the SunTrust Bank in Warrenton. SunTrust is located at the intersection of Routes 17 & 29, in the Warrenton Center shopping center, near Rankin's Hardware (Enter the front doors

of the bank and go downstairs to the Meeting room).

The meetings start at 7:00 pm. We conduct our business, and then begin an informal 30-minute program, which alternates between coin and stamp coin topics. The program is followed by an auction of stamps, coins, and

other hobby items. We finish around 9:00 pm.

SunTrust Bank
680 Warrenton Center
Warrenton, VA 20187

ABOUT THE CLUB

"If you like stamps or coin, you're welcome to join"

The Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club is a not-for-profit organization based in Warrenton Virginia, but has members from all over the region, including Casanova, Manassas, Culpeper and Fredericksburg. Meetings are held each month, and the programs are broad enough to interest both stamp and coin collectors. Annual dues are \$12 for adults (although junior members pay no dues). Visitors and guests are always welcome. Prospective members shall be able to receive two consecutive editions of the newsletter before being dropped for non-payment of dues. The Club actively supports the Boy Scouts' merit badge programs, and has raised funds for local high school scholarships.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WS&CC:

November	5	TBA
December	3	[Holiday meal, or regular meeting?]
January	7	[Holiday meal, or regular meeting?]

Noted in passing...

Doug Harms reports that one cannot register a series of coins with The National Register of Historic Places. An unofficial website had given him the impression that such items could be registered, so Doug thought it would be worthwhile to enter the coins created by the Act of April 2, 1792. Too bad the suggestion wasn't accepted, and too bad that stamps and coins are not considered items of history by the general public. But we extend our congratulations to Doug for the effort.

Gregg Coburn emailed to me the September newsletters of the Alexandria Coin Club and the Rappahannock Area Coin Club. If you would like to see either issue, just send me an email and I will forward them to you.

Raymond Maguire found an article in the October issue of National Geographic, about a newly-discovered shipwreck on the coast of Namibia. Among other treasures, the wreck had over 50 pounds of gold coins, some of which are shown in stunning detail on p. 125.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

This month we feature the web site of L&C Coins, which includes a link to Coin Chat Radio: <http://www.coinchatradio.com/#>

At this site you can subscribe (free of charge) to live broadcasts (11 a.m. Central time, on Thursdays), and hear all of the previous 2009 episodes. Each show is about 40 minutes long, and has a coin-related interview, hobby headline news, tips for collectors, discussions on various topics and all the ads. Through the archive you can access shows going back to April 2008. The last show (September 24) had an interview with the President of PNG, and a very interesting discussion of the designs of the first five National Park quarters with the Secretary of the Fine Arts Commission [I didn't even know there were National Park quarters on the way!].

Upcoming Hobby Shows

October 10	Richmond StampFest, Richmond VA
October 17-18	Fairfax StampFest, Fairfax VA,
October 25	NOVA Stamp Show, Franconia VA
November 7-8	Vienna Quarterly Coin and Stamp Show, Vienna VA
November 13-15	VAPEX 2009, Williamsburg VA

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

GRAF ZEPPELIN STAMPS

The Graf Zeppelin immediately caught the imagination of the world upon its first flight in 1928. It later made its first trans-Atlantic flight, and its first round-the world flight in 1929. Even more interest was generated when it was announced that the airship would fly round-trip from Germany to the Americas and back, across the Atlantic.

The United States' Graf Zeppelin set of stamps was issued in 1930 in denominations of 65¢, \$1.35 and \$2.60 to commemorate the first round-trip flight to America and back. The stamps were first issued at the Washington, D.C. Post Office and the Philatelic Agency on April 19, and they were withdrawn from sale on June 7 (although purchases still occurred at the Philatelic Agency until June 30, 1930). The stamps did not fill any specific air mail rate at the time, but were released instead for promotional purposes for mail that would be carried on the historic flight. 1,000,000 stamps were printed in each denomination. Only 227,260 of the 3 million total stamps were sold, and only 61,296 of the \$2.60 denomination. The Post Office destroyed all of the unsold stamps. (Stamps sales for the Zeppelin stamps were relatively poor for many reasons. They were on sale for only a few weeks. Many people had lost their jobs in The Depression, and could not afford the stamps, which were very high-priced for the times. Collectors who could afford the stamps often were annoyed at the high prices, boycotted the sales, and then wrote letters of protest to stamp magazines).

The mail franked with the Zeppelin stamps was bagged and shipped to Germany by boat, and then picked up at Friedrichshafen by the Graf Zeppelin. The 65¢ and \$1.30 values were used for postcards and letters respectively, and were carried on the last lap of the journey (U.S.A. to Seville and Friedrichshafen). The \$1.30 and \$2.60 values were used on postcards and letters respectively, carried on the complete round-trip flight, Friedrichshafen-Friedrichshafen or Seville.

The Zeppelin stamps captured the imagination of the world, and hundreds of thousands of postcards, letters and packages traveled on the airship franked with these stamps. In 1933 the U.S. issued a special 50¢ stamp (Scott catalogue C18) for packages or mail on the Graf Zeppelin flight to the Century of Progress exhibition in Chicago, October 2, 1933.

Many of the stamps that were sold in 1930 and 1933 ended up on letters and postcards that traveled on the airship, so unused copies became scarce and expensive.

The Graf Zeppelin stamps were popular world-wide, and many countries issued their own versions. Some of them, and some handstamps that were applied to letters that were carried by the airship, are shown on the following web site:

<http://spot.colorado.edu/~dziadeck/zf/stamps.htm>.

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the September meeting, we began early plans for the 2010 Stamp and Coin Show. Emilio has been under the weather (we voted to send a get-well card) and although we hope that he will be able to chair the organizing committee once again, it is time to get started on the preparations. The John Barton Payne building (same location as last year) seems to be the best choice, but we cannot reserve it until December. In the meantime we need to settle on a Saturday in March, and at least one alternate date. If the building is not available, Gregg suggested that a building in Remington might be a suitable alternative.

Bill Miller suggested that we ought to re-visit the changes we made in September to the auction rules. He noted that under the revised rules, a large consignment by a member could result in a very large commission to the Club, and suggested a limit be restored to the amount of the commission. We discussed the matter and unanimously voted to make that change. The commission of 10% remains, with a maximum of \$5 to the Club. These rules will go into effect in January 2010.

Lee reported that his exhibit at the Griffin Tavern is going well, and that he will make three presentations there through September 11. Congratulations to Lee for doing so much to promote the hobby. He will also ask the Warrenton postmaster about the Club possibly touring the new carrier annex facility on Rte. 29, just north of Warrenton.

Brian reported that Tory Failmezger will be happy to give another presentation to the Club later this year; he will give us a date when his schedule is more certain.

Raymond, Bill Clair and Brian heard that Dominion Graders had gone out of business, with all of its graders having been hired by competitors. [Doug Harms later found out that this was inaccurate, having emailed Dominion and learning that although Mike Ellis is no longer a full-time grader, it has retained all of its other graders and is very much in business. Thanks to Doug for correcting this matter].

We welcomed Sally Halverson from the National Federation of the Blind. Sally told us of the work of the Federation, mentioning that only 10% of blind children are taught Braille. Then she told about the commemorative silver coin issued by the Mint to honor Louis Braille's 200th birthday. She had for sale some proof and uncirculated coins; a portion of the sales receipts are donated to the Federation.

For part of the program, we had a grand show-and-tell, including a copy of a Marshall High School newspaper from the 1940's that told of the gridiron exploits of Bill Miller, a star on offense and defense. We intended to have a quiz on female pioneers of airmail, but time got away from us.

We concluded with the auction.

- BCS

FROM THE EDITOR...

My apologies for the newsletter being mailed late this month. Loretta and I arrived at Dulles late Monday, and I was too tired to work on finishing the newsletter when we finally got home. Then domestic chores on Tuesday interrupted my editing, so the newsletter went into the mail stream Wednesday. I apologize for the inconvenience.

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This month's featured stamp

This month's commemorative stamp was issued in Hollywood, California to honor Gary Cooper, the 15th issue in the long-running *Legends of Hollywood* series.

Gary Cooper, who died in 1961 at the age of 60, was a popular leading man during Hollywood's "Golden Age." In 35 years of acting, Cooper was in over 100 films, and his strong, silent style was well-suited to roles in Westerns. He was nominated 5 times for Academy Awards in the Best Actor category, and won the Oscar twice (for *Sergeant York* and *High Noon*). He also received an Honorary Award from the Academy in 1961.

Cooper was also well-known for his role as Lou Gehrig in *Pride of the Yankees*.

