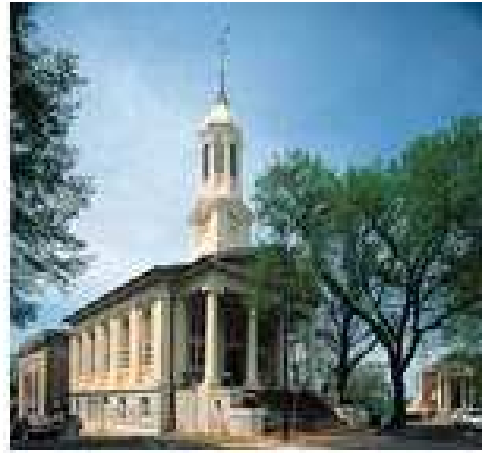


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Hobby Notes

- 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)

November 5th Program: Show-and-Tell

This month's program is a Show-and-Tell. This time try to bring a coin or a stamp or other collectible that is a fake, a counterfeit or bogus in some way. After Raymond's program on Chinese counterfeits and fakes last month, Bill Clair found counterfeit and "replica" U.S. silver dollars on a trip to Djakarta, and bought a few. Although he won't be with us in November (business travel again), Bill loaned a couple to Raymond to show us. So bring your own fakes, counterfeits, unauthorized reprints or other phantoms from your collection (in stamp collecting we call them "cinderellas") and we can scare each other with how good or how bad they are. [note: any old show-and-tell item is fine too, of course]

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Web Master Comes Forward !

Last month's appeal for a web master found instant results. Bob Faucet said that his daughter Cristy, a recent graduate of George Mason U. with a degree in Information Technology, would help us with revising our website or devising a new one, as the case may be.

After some discussion about whether to continue to use the current site and be obligated to make any changes through a third party, or create a new site under our own control, Tony and I asked Cristy to look at the latter. She said that many website providers charge for initial hook-ups, with an annual fee. She also said there are free services, that require advertising in lieu of a fee. In this case, the "advertising" is for us to include the firm name ("webofmonth") in our website address. That didn't seem like too great a burden, so we asked Cristy to move forward. She has produced a draft page for our comments, so we are on our way!

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:

December	3	[Holiday meal, or regular meeting?]
January	7	[Holiday meal, or regular meeting?]
February	4	TBA
March	4	TBA

Noted in passing...

Dwight Dunton held an "open house" at Rosehill, his 19th century home in Washington, Virginia. Dwight was a gracious and generous host. It is a magnificent restoration and renovation project, and I wonder where he finds the time for all the many tasks. Several Club members attended, and a pleasant time was had by all.

William Gross, a stamp collector and founder of PIMCO (a mutual fund), has donated \$8 million to the National Postal Museum for a new street-level gallery, which is expected to open in 2012. Gross has also loaned three rare items to the Museum: a 24c "Inverted Jenny" block of four; a July 2, 1847 cover – the earliest recorded use of a U. S. postage stamp; and the only Pony Express cover recovered from mail stolen by Indians. That cover was en route from New York to San Francisco when Indians in Nevada disrupted the delivery of the letter; and the Pony Express rider was overtaken (and purportedly scalped). The pony escaped with the letter pouch, however, which was subsequently recovered out on the plains, and the letters ultimately forwarded to their destination. This is the only known surviving cover and is notated on the front of the envelope "recovered from a mail stolen by the Indians in 1860." The cover was finally delivered in 1862.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

This month we feature the web site of Collectors' Universe: <http://collectors.com>

Collectors Universe is the largest provider of grading and authentication services, in-depth price guides, news and information, offering more expertise than any other collectibles firm. Its subsidiaries include Professional Coin Grading Service (PCGS), and Professional Stamp Experts (PSE). In addition, it also covers firms that specialize in sport cards and tickets, as well as autographs and memorabilia. This site has links to each of those services, and also to dealer sites and a "Collectors' Corner," with sales sections for stamps, coins, currency and sports cards. "Our Experts" lists the experience of the firm's authenticators.

Upcoming Hobby Shows

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| November 7-8 | Vienna Quarterly Coin and Stamp Show, Vienna VA |
| November 13-15 | VAPEX 2009, Williamsburg VA |
| November 15 | Winchester Stamp and Coin Gathering, Winchester, VA |
| November 28-29 | Fairfax StampFest, Fairfax, VA |
| December 12-13 | Annandale Coin Show annandalecoinshow.com |

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

PONY EXPRESS

This system for the delivery of mail ran for only 18 months beginning in 1860 in order to get information back and forth to California from east of Missouri. The Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Co., run by Russell, Majors and Waddell, handled freight and passenger service between these areas and wanted a government contract to handle mail as well. So, starting April 3, 1860, they bought 400 horses of different types, stationed them along the route which ran from Sacramento, California through Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and ended at St. Joseph, Missouri. In order to recruit the appropriate employees, the company used the following ad, "Wanted: skinny, wiry fellows not older than 18 years, expert riders willing to risk death daily, orphans preferred." Buffalo Bill Cody joined the organization at age 15. Initially delivery occurred once weekly, and then increased to twice weekly. The 2000-mile route took one week. The Civil War and the completion of the telegraph in November 1861 led to the demise of the Pony Express. Wells Fargo became involved in 1861, when Russell and his partners could not meet expenses.

Genuine Pony Express covers bear either Central Overland or Wells Fargo markings, with authenticity determined in part by operation dates. The Central Overland and Pikes Peak Express Co. ran the route from April 1860 to March 1861 and then Wells Fargo from April 1861 to November 1861. Effective July 1, 1861 a Wells Fargo cover charged a \$1 fee per ½ ounce, while the price of a letter of the same weight was \$5 one year earlier. Competition had lowered the prices, but not the costs.

The cover shown below was recently offered for sale for \$17, 000.



At Last Month's Meeting...

In October, we welcomed stamp collector Bob Fitch of Gainesville. He collects U.S. (mint, never hinged), and worldwide stamps. If we are lucky, maybe he has a favorite part of his collection that he would like to share with us at a program in the future.

Gregg Coburn told us that he is now a Director of the Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA); congratulations and huzzahs were extended.

We discussed a date for the Stamp and Coin Show. It was agreed that March seems to be a good month, and we initially settled on either Saturday, March 6 or March 13; we will make the final determination at the November meeting, after everyone checks their calendars for any conflicts [In fact, Emilio later learned the annual Boy Scouts Merit Badge Midway is scheduled for March 13]. Tony suggested that we could use the back wall at the John Barton Payne building for Lee's exhibit, to leave ample room for the dealers' tables, and to draw the visitors through the room.

Bob Faurot said that his daughter Cristie is a recent information technology graduate, and would like to us help re-design our web site. Brian and Tony will contact her.

Lee said that he had heard nothing more from the Warrenton postmaster about a tour for Club members of the new carrier annex off Rte, 29, north of town.

Dwight invited one and all to an open house at his 1865 home; he has been renovating it for a number of years, and he estimates it is about one-third done.

For the program, we heard about counterfeit coins created in China, and how serious the problem has become. A large percentage of ancient coins sold on ebay are, in fact, fakes from China. Even certificates and slabs are faked, so they can longer absolutely guarantee authenticity.

We had a quiz on Super Heroes, Tony donated a prize of a pane of Super Heroes stamps, and Bob Faurot answered the most questions to win the prize. [Either the test was very tough, or my youth was not as wasted as I remember].

We concluded with the auction, which once again generated much interest and active bidding on some lots. Bring in your duplicates and unwanted stock - we have a market.

- BCS

FROM THE EDITOR...

Raymond's program was a new subject to me. I vaguely knew that many products are counterfeited in China, but I had no idea how widespread the problem was in coins. I took just a quick look at one source of the counterfeits cited by Raymond, in a search on the internet for "Big Tree Coin Factory" -- I got about 873,00 hits. One article quotes the owner as saying that he knows of over 100 competitors in the counterfeit coin business. He notes also that what he produces is perfectly legal in China. Another article says that the fake coins are quite accurate, but the mixture of metals is usually inaccurate, so the weights are off. I am sure they are working on that problem now. What a shame that some people would work so hard to undermine a wonderful hobby. Imagine if those folks would devote their considerable energies to a legitimate pursuit.

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This month's featured stamp

This month's commemorative stamps were issued in New York to celebrate the Thanksgiving Day Parades held across the country. The stamps, in four different vignettes, were designed by Howard Paine of Delaplane, Virginia.

At first I assumed the stamps honored the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, that event created to kick-off the Christmas buying season [note: I saw Christmas items for sale in Home Depot weeks ago - times change]. But the careful wording of the news release reminds me that the Postal Service cannot provide free advertising to a private company (not without compensation to that company, or without a release from that company). I cannot think of many other Thanksgiving parades are held "across the country."

Still, the stamps are colorful and depict a piece of real American culture.

