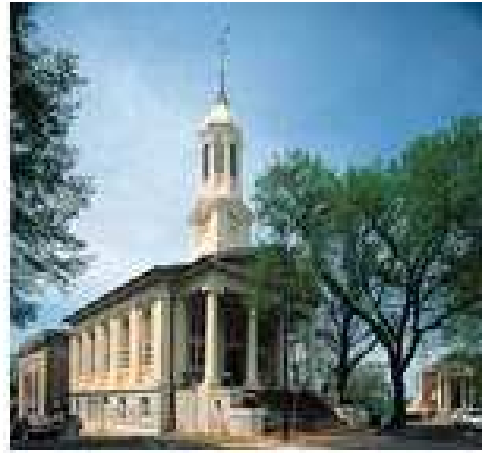


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Hobby Notes

- 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 nearly bare)

December 3rd Program: World Coin Search

This month's program is presented by Gregg Coburn, and will consist of opening and beginning to sort a fifty-pound bag of world-wide coins. Gregg will bring a bag that contains unsorted foreign coins, tokens and slugs that come from water fountains, vending machines, toll booths, retail stores and banks. The loose coins are nearly worthless, so they are collected, bagged and sold by weight. Current foreign coins, however, may have exchange value when they are sorted and consolidated. Gregg will explain how it may be profitable, and how individuals (such as himself) sort the coins. Then he will show us the methods he uses to sort through the huge number of coins.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Meeting information | 2 |
| About the Club | 2 |
| Upcoming programs | 2 |
| Noted in passing | 3 |
| Website spotlight | 3 |
| Upcoming Hobby Shows | 3 |
| Raymond's Column | 4 |
| At Last Month's Meeting | 5 |
| Club Officers | 6 |
| This month's stamp | 6 |

New Web Site --- Under Construction

Last month we announced in this space that Bob Faucet's daughter Cristy had volunteered to build a web site for the Club. We discussed whether to work with the site already established for the Club, or to create a new one. Because we would have more control over a new site, we decided to go that route. We also decided to try a free online provider, and see if it meets our needs (a paid provider may charge an initial fee, and then annual fees).

Cristy got right to work, and provided a working model for us to review. Tony and Brian looked at the first one, and made a few suggestions. Now it is time for the membership to review the work in progress, so we can let her know where we want to go with the project. Please have a look at the site at: <http://www.wscs.site11.com/index.html> so we can discuss it at the next meeting.

And it would be helpful for a volunteer to pass along the comments and suggestions to Cristy, and act as a coordinator for the project.

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 January 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 p.m. 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 about 9:00 p.m.

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:

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| January | 7 | Holiday meal at Ledo Pizza in Warrenton |
| February | 4 | TBA |
| March | 4 | TBA |
| April Fool's Day | | TBA |

Noted in passing...

Recently I visited a used book store in Manassas. While browsing through the hobby section, I found two shelves of coin collecting books and just one shelf of books on stamp collecting. Based on this, one could suppose that coin collecting is the more popular pastime. Despite the prevailing knowledge, I would like to believe that there are actually more stamp collectors than coin collectors - a silent majority. Perhaps they just keep all their books, rather than dispose of them at used book stores.

As many of you know, I collect Burma stamps and covers. Recently I inquired whether a second edition of *The Postal History of Burma* was planned, since much new information had surfaced since its publication. Edward Proud, the author and publisher, informed me that in January 2010, the International Postal Museum will be inaugurated and, among its activities, the Museum will begin a 5-year effort to create a virtual museum on the Web. He says that his entire library of Proud-Bailey publications will be on the site. Those books include dozens of scholarly handbooks on the postal history of the British Empire. Readers will be encouraged to submit additions and corrections to those volumes. I am delighted to hear of this development, and I hope that the books available online will be searchable. Clearly, a new world for collectors is developing.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

This month we feature the web site of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, which includes a directory of clubs by ZIP code.

<http://arthurj-w.tripod.com/i/xref/usa/club2.htm> The site sorts the nation into ten groups of ZIP codes, and you can find stamp clubs by state within those ranges.

The section "20000 through 29999" includes Washington DC, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Maryland. The clubs are listed by state. (The listing for the Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club needs some updating, and has some puzzling comments, perhaps from the webmaster).

Upcoming Hobby Shows

| | | | |
|----------|-------|---|--|
| December | 12-13 | Annandale Coin Show | annandalecoinshow.com |
| January | 15-7 | MetroExpo - Hilton Hotel in Herndon (Rte. 28) | |
| January | 30 | Charlottesville StampFest | |
| February | 6-7 | Fairfax StampFest | |

[Not much activity during the Holidays]

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

CHRISTMAS SEALS

At the end of the 19th and into the early 20th century, tuberculosis, also called the “white plague,” had no cure; physicians treating those with the disease tried to isolate them and special sanitariums developed. A doctor in Delaware, Joseph Wales knew that his sanitarium would soon run out of money and would have to close down unless he raised \$300 so he contacted Emily Bissell who had raised funds for the American Red Cross, but she could not raise the necessary money for the sanitarium. She recalled, however, a campaign in Denmark used to raise money for children with tuberculosis. In 1903 postman Einar Hoeboell, while busy sorting a large amount of Christmas mail in a post office near Copenhagen, noticed poorly clad children trudging along in the wintry weather and he thought that if he could sell a special label for placement along with the regular postage on the mail, he could raise money for needy children. The next year more than 4 million were sold and the money raised was used to build hospitals for treating children with tuberculosis.

Emily Bissell made her own Christmas label, with a picture of the red cross surrounded by a holly wreath over the greeting “Merry Christmas.” The American Red Cross let her use their symbol, and thus the Christmas seal was born in the United States in 1904 (Canada followed in 1908). The American Red Cross distributed the Christmas seals until 1920 when the National Tuberculosis Association took over the task. In 1980, on the 119th anniversary of her birth, the USPS issued a 15¢ stamp in her honor.



CHRISTMAS STAMPS AROUND THE WORLD

Canada issued the first Christmas stamps in 1898. The design showed a map of the world highlighting the British Empire and the words “Xmas 1898.” The stamps may really have commemorated a visit by Prince Edward and did not function as Christmas stamps. Canada did not issue its second Christmas stamp for 66 years. Austria, in 1937 issued a Christmas stamp showing a rose with the Zodiac signs. Brazil followed suit in 1941 and during WWII Hungary issued a special Christmas stamp. Cuba began in 1951 and between 1954-1957, Haiti, Luxembourg, Spain, Australia, Lichtenstein and Korea issued Christmas stamps. The U.S. began in 1962. Since 1990, the Palestine Postal Association has issued Christmas stamps.

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the last meeting, we discussed whether or not to re-new the Club's ANA membership. The dues has risen to \$75 per year, and the issue was whether we received sufficient benefit to justify the expense. The amount of the dues seemed to be the main issue, so Raymond decided to send a letter to the ANA asking why the dues was increased so much, and to inquire if there could be a discount in the dues for non-profits.

We decided that December would be a regular meeting and, like last year, we would have our Holiday meeting / meal in January. Gregg said that the new Ledo Pizza would be a good site - it has a private back room that can be reserved, and it is conveniently located near the new Harris Teeter in Warrenton. He will check on its availability.

Lee Morrison reported that the Warrenton postmaster had agreed to the possibility of a Saturday tour of the new carrier annex for Club members during business hours. We agreed that it would be best to schedule a tour next year to avoid the Christmas rush, so we will discuss possible dates at the December meeting. Lee also mentioned that he had attended the first day ceremony for the stamps honoring four Chief Justices of the United States, and he showed us the souvenir covers he had created for his collection.

We discussed planning of the 2010 Annual Stamp and Coin Show. Lee asked to inspect the room, to decide where to display the framed pages of his collection. It was believed that the Library could arrange a visit. Emilio said that the John Barton Payne building accepts reservations for 2010 beginning on January 4th, so we need to finalize the date (and alternate date) for the Club's annual stamp and coin show. The Boy Scouts' Merit Badge Midway will be on March 13, and since we have provided advisors in past years for the Stamp Collecting and Coin Collecting merit badge sessions, he suggested we should not create a scheduling conflict. We decided that the first choice for our Show will be Saturday, March 27, and our alternate date is March 20.

Emilio is seeking a volunteer to be an Advisor for the Stamp Collecting merit badge.

Lee announced that he will display pages from his collections at the Flint Hill Christmas Show at the Griffin Tavern on Saturday, December 12th, and between Christmas and the New Year.

We discussed the Club's website that is under development. Gerry said that we should consider a "members only" section, with a password entry, that could include a copy of the auction sheet, and other subjects not appropriate for non-members. Emilio said the Richmond Coin Club has a site that could be a good example for us, and that it could viewed at <http://www.richmondcoinclub.com/>

The program was a show-and-tell, with a theme of fakes, counterfeits and odd items. We saw counterfeit silver dollars made in China, forged cancellations on Burma covers, a trade dollar from Maui, tokens, fake foreign coins and many other treasures.

Doug showed a new updated auction sheet that he created, to accommodate changes that the Club voted to begin in the new year.

We concluded with the auction.

**WARRENTON
STAMP
AND COIN CLUB**

APS #182214
ANA #C-173784

Address correspondence to:

WSSC
c/o Gerry Hoffman
6211 Old Glory Lane
Rixeyville, VA 22737-1958

Current Officers

President:

Raymond Maguire 540-428-7023
ranganoa@hotmail.com

Vice-President:

Tony Tripi 540-347-9212
tripi@earthlink.net

Secr./Treasurer:

Gerry Hoffman 540-937-2201
gahajaja@erols.com

Newsletter Editor:

Brian C. Saxe 540-349-0940
bcsaxe@yahoo.com
5329 Forrest Court
Warrenton, VA 20187-4503

This month's featured stamp

In December we feature one of the Christmas issues. Since 1978, the theme of each "traditional" Christmas stamp has been the Madonna and Child.

The 2009 Christmas stamp features ***Madonna and Sleeping Child***, by Italian artist Giovanni Battista Salvi, (1609-1685), also known as Sassoferrato. The painting depicted on the stamp shows the Madonna clothed in red and holding the sleeping Christ Child in purple cloth. From each of the two top corners, the childlike face of a cherub looks down from the clouds. The painting is currently in the collection at the Hearst Castle in California.

