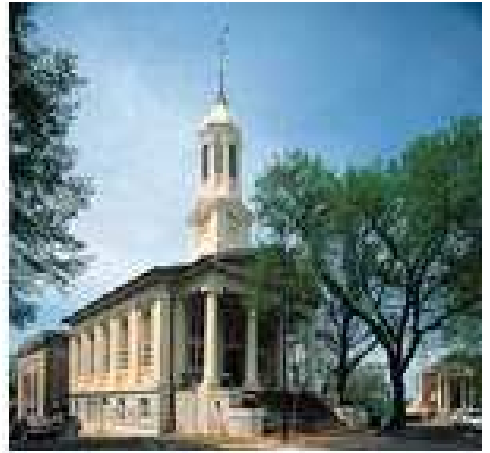


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# Hobby Notes

- 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)*

## February 4<sup>th</sup> Program: Show-and-Tell

This month's program is that ever-popular event: Show-and-Tell. Bring in an item that you think will delight the membership. It can be stamp-, coin-, or currency-related, but it doesn't have to be. Since this month is February, see if you can find an item in your collection that relates to Valentine's Day, or hearts, or love.

Well, if that's too tough, how about the birthday boys? Bring in something related to George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. There are countless coins and stamps picturing the images of Washington and Lincoln, so bring in the oldest example you can find.

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## Annual Stamp and Coin Show Next Month

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Stamp & Coin Show will be Saturday, March 27, at the John Barton Payne building in Warrenton. The Show runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but the doors open at 7:00 a.m. for set-up, so even if you don't have a table, the extra hands would be appreciated. The same goes for closing the Show. I believe that Lee Morrison intends to display portions of his collections as an exhibit, and he will certainly need assistance bringing in all the material.

Once again, Emilio has done much of the planning for the Show, and he may need some last minute help. Let's devote some time at Thursday's meeting to review the plans, and make sure the preparations are on track. We will have some time after the March meeting to finalize everything, but it is always best not to wait for the last minute.

## 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 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:

March	4	TBA
April	1	TBA
May	6	TBA
June	3	TBA

## ***Noted in passing...***

Doug Harms was unable to attend our Holiday meal because his new job took him to a coin show in Florida on that day - we look forward to hearing all about the show, the new job, and whether Club members qualify for a discount!

The web site for the International Postal Museum is not yet up and running. I mentioned in the December issue that it would be operational in January, but clearly it is behind schedule. This is the site that will include the full text of many philatelic reference books, and the one that I mention in this month's editorial on page 5. I will pass along any future news.

I recently had a look at the slide shows available from the APS. I was surprised to find there are over 130 titles. They cover a wide range of topics, and generally run about 30 minutes. Would anyone like to borrow one (or more) for future programs? The fee is \$8.50 per program. Also, the APS has now created stamp albums for nine states, and numerous topics - they are free to download and print. An album for the stamps related to Virginia is in the works.

### **WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:**

This month we feature the site of an organization devoted to Indian Head cents:  
<http://www.indianheads.org/>

The site includes designs, varieties, errors, patterns, grading, articles, collections and scans of the many tones of this coin (I was amazed at the range of colors). It has full-color scans with great detail - an aid to any collector. The Indian Head cent has long been a favorite coin of mine, and I recall the days when I would sometimes find one in change (much like the wheat pennies of today).

I imagine that there are many similar sites, that are devoted to a single U.S. coin, but this one is particularly well presented.

## **Upcoming Hobby Shows**

February 6	Alexandria Coin Show
February 6-7	Fairfax StampFest (+ Alan Blair auction on Saturday)
March 27	Warrenton Stamp & Coin Club Show
March 6-7	SpringPex
March 27	Richmond StampFest

# RAYMOND'S COLUMN

## – NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Duck Stamps

The Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act went into effect July 1, 1934, following the efforts of conservationists, to stem the reduction in the population of geese and ducks due to over-hunting, drainage and drought. Revenue from the sale of the Hunting Permit stamps went to the procurement of land for the National Wildlife Refuge System. According to the Act, anyone 16 years or older hunting ducks, geese or brant (a small goose about the size of a mallard having a black head, neck, and chest) must purchase a Hunting Permit stamp (popularly known as a “duck stamp”), affix it to their state hunting license, and sign across the stamp in ink. The first duck stamp had a denomination of \$1.

The proceeds from the sale of the first stamp in 1934 generated considerable funds for the Agency - 90% of the money went to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department and 10% paid for printing, distribution of the stamps, as well as enforcement of the Act. The one dollar denomination of the duck stamps lasted for 15 years, but has risen steadily since then. It increased in 1949 to \$2, 1958 to \$3, 1972 to \$5, 1979-1980 to \$7.50, 1987-1988 to \$10.00, 1989-1990 to \$12.50, 1991 to \$15.00. It has remained unchanged since. From 1934 to 1983, the revenue from the stamps amounted to \$256 million and allowed the acquisition of 878,000 acres for migratory birds, and purchase of another 454,000 acres and for obtaining easements along 1,150,000 acres. Over the past fifty years the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department has acquired more than 3.5 million acres.



The first duck stamp, “Mallards Dropping In,” was designed by Ding Darling, the Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist for the *Des Moines Register*. First year sales amounted to 635,001 stamps. Catalogue values for this 1934 stamp (Scott #RW1) now approach \$1000 for an unused example, and over \$100 used. Each year’s stamp has a new design. By 1938, over a million stamps were sold, and the peak year for sales occurred in 1971, with 2,426,058 stamps.

Unused issues prior to 1941 are very rare because the 1934 law stated that all unsold stamps after the year of issue must be destroyed. An amendment in 1942 permitted the unsold stamps to be turned over to the philatelic agency of the Post Office for sale.

The Fish and Wildlife Agency conducts an annual contest open to all interested artists for the following year's stamp. Media allowed include, watercolor, oil, pen and ink or etching pencil; entries can be black-and-white or color but must be 7” wide and 5” high. Maynard Reece, another famous duck stamp artist, won the contest five times between 1949 and 1971. Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Iceland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and many other nations also now issue duck stamps.

## At Last Month's Meeting...

In lieu of the January meeting, we had our traditional Holiday meal, this year at Ledo Pizza in Warrenton. We had a private room for the Club, and many spouses and family members were in attendance. A pleasant time was had by all. We all talked and munched and talked and drank (courtesy of the Club), and Raymond said a few words about the past year and the year ahead. I think it was the best Holiday meal yet.

- BCS

### **FROM THE EDITOR...**

Recently I wrote that the publisher of a popular series of books on British Commonwealth postal history has decided to place all of its books online this year. In addition, the web site will accommodate submissions of new information for the books, so each one can be made current by world-wide readers as well as the author. It was not clear to me if the information from readers will be checked for accuracy before being added or if, like Wikipedia, it will be merely subject to "peer review." I confess I am not comfortable with the concept of everyone having the ability to change any online entry, especially when the reference may be relied upon by others as fact. Even if the peer review corrects misinformation (and I understand it occurs is fairly quickly on Wikipedia), who is to say that my research will not happen before a piece of blather is corrected? Anyway, all that is premature, since we do not know how the information will be posted, and how it will be updated.

But what I really intended to chat about is how simple it is, in the digital era, to review the known data, and either add to it, or expand upon it. This is particularly true for a work such as *The Postal History of Burma* by Edward Proud. Besides a great deal of scholarly text, this book identifies and illustrates all the known postal markings from every known town and city in Burma, and shows the known dates of use for each. It is a massive tome. But as I go through my own collection, I have found many items which expand what is "known," that is, what is listed in the book. I have examples of markings that were used earlier or later than shown by Proud. I have markings that are not recorded at all, and (rarely) a town that is not recorded. The remarkable thing is that the author compiled such a comprehensive book, that there are actually very few examples like this. The 900+ page book was published eight years ago, and so far I have found only about 50 examples in my collection that expand upon the text. But what fun it is to look for them! I continue to reviewed the material in my collection against the illustrations and dates, and yet I also find myself looking at every Burma item offered on Ebay for some new bit of information. And I make "finds" regularly - dozens so far. I don't even have to buy the item - it is easy to copy and paste the scan of the item I find on ebay, and file it in my research folder to pass along later.

As many other folks do the same thing, and we help update the known information, all Burma collectors will benefit from the additions. And it can occupy me forever - which is the whole purpose of a hobby after all, isn't it?

## Current Officers

### WARRENTON STAMP AND COIN CLUB

APS #182214  
ANA #C-173784

Address correspondence to:

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

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*

This month's stamps are the Love stamps, traditionally issued to use on Valentine's Day cards. (this one was actually issued in 2009). Since the beginning of the popular series in 1973, the Love stamps have featured a wide variety of designs, including heart motifs, colorful flowers, and the word "LOVE" itself. With these stamps, the Postal Service is paying clever tribute to the world's favorite "game" with the issuance of the King and Queen of Hearts. The stamps are the designed of Derry Noyes, of Washington, DC.

