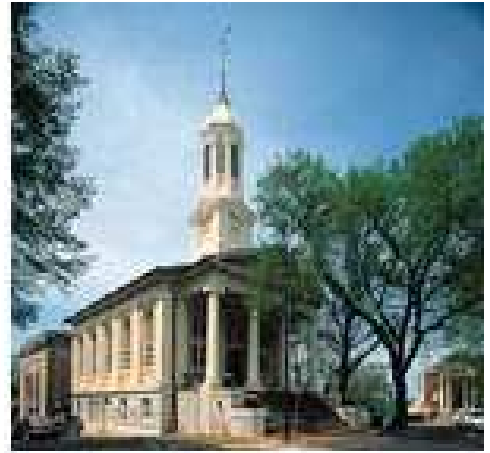


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Hobby Notes

- 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)*

April 1st Program: Show-and-Tell

Once again, our Show was a success. While the experience is fresh in our minds, it seems like a good time to discuss the event -- the planning, the preparations and how it proceeded. How many people attended, and did we get contact information from them? What were the total costs, and did we cover them with the table rentals? Let's talk about what we can do to attract even more people in the future, because when more folks attend, it is easier to attract dealers to take the tables. Lee's exhibit drew great interest, so let's consider other exhibits for next year's Show.

And what the heck - why not a Show-and-Tell at the end?

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Annual Stamp and Coin Show

The Club's 3rd Annual Show was held on Saturday, March 27. Very early Saturday morning everyone was busy preparing the room and the tables for the Show, and although it was chilly outside, the weather was clear all day. Final preparations were still being completed when the first customers arrived, and many spent considerable time both at the tables, and Lee's extensive collections of US History, Civil War, JFK and other material. A big tip of the hat goes to Lee for all his hard work providing a very interesting display, and of course to Emilio as well for his planning. Your Editor left early to prepare this newsletter, but I understand that the crowds were steady throughout the morning, and the afternoon was a little slower. Perhaps next year we could have a raffle or a drawing in the afternoon session, to keep the attendance high throughout the day.

And how about volunteers for next year's planning committee (there ought be at least two).

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. Our website address is:

<http://www.virtualstampclub.com/apswarrenton.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR WS&CC:

May	6	TBA
June	3	TBA
July	1	TBA
August	5	TBA

Noted in passing...

Raymond has written about the Pony Express in recent columns, including the story of the only known cover that was taken from a rider, and later recovered. The Pony Express was a private company, and although it charged an enormous delivery fee for each letter, the Pony Express was never very profitable; it went out of business after only a year and a half. The following item appeared in *Smithsonian* magazine:

150 Years Ago

“At the sound of a cannon in St. Joseph, Missouri, a bay mare and her rider race toward San Francisco, 1,800 miles away, in the April 3, 1860, inaugural run of the Pony Express. The 49 letters and 5 telegrams the pair carry will reach California 11 days and some 75 horses and 20 riders later, 10 days faster than stagecoach times. For 18 months the Express fights weather, wild terrain, Indians and robbers to speed mail to settlers lured west by land, gold and religious freedom, losing only one shipment. It yields to the telegraph, which links East Coast to West in October 1861.”

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

This month we feature Paper Money Facts, a new online reference for United States currency, “from Federal Issues to National Currency to Fractional Currency and even Encased Postage” <http://papermoneyfacts.com/index.html>

At the Show, Greg showed me a note from the Fauquier National Bank, and I loved it. So I surfed around this site and found a button for “National Currency,” and then “Virginia.” The chart lists banks by charter number, town and bank name. Of the many dozens of banks shown in Virginia, the only one I noticed from Warrenton was the Fauquier National Bank. Too bad the site does not have scans of the notes yet.

Upcoming Hobby Shows

April	17	Charlottesville Coin and Currency Show
April	17-18	Williamsburg Stamp Show
April	23-5	Dulles [Expo Center] Coin & Currency Show
May	1-2	Vienna Quarterly Coin and Stamp Show
May	7-9	Williamsburg Coin, Stamp & Paper Money Show
May	15-16	Fairfax StampFest
May	23-5	Richmond Coin Club 6th Annual Coin & Currency Show

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

OPERATION BERNHARD

Conceived very early in World War II, this German plan involved the counterfeiting of British pound notes in order to undermine and destabilize this sound form of money. The plan received its name from the S.S. officer, Major Bernhard Krueger, a meticulous textile engineer in charge of the program. He figured out how to duplicate the paper, printing and design of the notes. The plan received approval on September 18, 1939. Winston Churchill and President Roosevelt had also considered the forgery of enemy currency but advisers rejected the plan. When the counterfeit notes began to circulate, the arrogant directors of the Bank of England refused to believe their notes could suffer such expert forgery and in such quantities.

Initially, Arthur Nebe, the Chief of the S.S. Criminal Police, wanted to use police files to recruit known counterfeiters but he did not receive approval. Major Krueger therefore canvassed the concentration camps including Auschwitz for the necessary experts to put the plan into operation. He found at least 39 and perhaps more than 100 for the work and they would receive instruction in engraving, printing, sorting and counting. The S.S. planned to keep the operation secret by killing the participants upon completion of the job but Major Krueger wished for its continuance so he could avoid the Eastern front. The work day lasted from 0700-1600, lunch 1200-1300, no Sunday work and best of all no roll call.

From 1942 until 1945, the program produced forged 5, 10, 20 and 50 pound notes in an amount which exceeded all of the reserves of the Bank of England, in a value of 132 million pounds but with a value of 650 million pounds at wartime exchange rates. The notes made up 15% of the total in circulation.

How to tell real from fake: See if the line going up the first serif N in ENGLAND meets the center (fake) as opposed to the L of the serif.

eBay features a 10 pound A.U. fake for \$122.50, U.S.D. and a 5 pound fake, circulated, for \$99.00, U.S.D.

Editor's note: counterfeiting during WWII extended even to postage stamps. In the nonfiction book and movie, *The Man Who Never Was*, British intelligence disguised a corpse to appear to be a courier with a briefcase containing letters falsely outlining an Allied invasion of Sardinia and Greece, when the real invasion was planned for Sicily. An elaborate identity was developed for the corpse and the letters were franked with counterfeit stamps and cancels. The body was dumped in waters off Spain. Spanish authorities found the body and sent copies of the letters to German Intelligence, and the ruse worked. Defense preparations were made in Sardinia and Greece, and maintained even after the Allied landings began in Sicily. -BCS

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the March meeting, we welcomed Malcolm McIntyre, Eva Weems and Dennis Carroll, and we hope that all will join the Club and attend our meetings. We hosted nearly 20 folks, certainly one of the largest turnouts in recent memory. Gerry reported that the treasury has about \$1100 in cash and checks. Emilio spoke about final plans for the Show, saying that rentals would cover costs, and that several tables remained available. Doug mentioned the annual Boy Scouts Merit Badge Midway in Culpeper, and Raymond volunteered to assist him with the presentation. Tony said that Cristy (our Club's web-master) can link past presentations to the site. No one in attendance had digital material that was used for any previous programs, but we all agreed to ask future presenters to provide any Power Point or slide shows, or even digital copies of handouts, so we can preserve this information on the site. Tony suggested publishing our web address in the newsletter, so that members can periodically check on its progress [I have printed the address below, as well as on page 2, in "About the Club"]

<http://www.virtualstampclub.com/apswarrenton.html>

Greg offered to bring pizza to a future meeting at cost, but we decided to decline the kind offer, since most of us usually eat supper just before the meetings.

Emilio said that the Bealeton library has a subscription to a database of foundations that give grants to educational organizations, and suggested that the Club might be able to obtain grants to fund scholarships. Brian volunteered to research the possibilities.

For Show-and-Tell, we saw a WWII German Luger and car stamps from Germany, heard about why the Postal Service made a double-sided Chinese New Year sheetlet (for good luck), and heard stories about coins, tokens, attics and stamp auctions.

We concluded with the auction, which was lively and more active than usual, thanks in part to the big turnout.

FROM THE EDITOR...

The Postal Service is expected soon to announce a reduction to five delivery days a week, probably eliminating Saturdays. Of all the cuts the USPS could make, I believe this one will make the least impact while saving a lot of money (try to imagine how much money is spent daily on gasoline for every carrier route in the nation). Other possibilities include a sharply reduced commemorative stamp program, and maybe even post office closings. Expect even more cost-savings measures.

In looking back over Club records, I realize that I had been mistakenly referred to our 2010 event as the 2nd annual Show, when we actually held previous Shows in both 2008 and 2009. I apologize for the oversight.

- BCS

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This month's featured stamp

This month's stamps honor the history and tradition of excellence in the Navy that began with the authorization for two warships by the Continental Congress in 1775. These stamps celebrate four sailors who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th Century: William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy, and Doris Miller.

The stamp pane identifies the four sailors, the approximate date of each photograph, and a ship named in honor of each sailor.

The stamps, designed by Phil Jordan of Falls Church, Virginia, were issued February 4, 2010.

- BCS

