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JUNE 2010

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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)*

June 3rd Program: Old Books or Show-and-Tell

This month we will either has a presentation about collecting and caring for old books, or we will have a Show-and-Tell.

Used book stores are treasure troves for both coin and stamps collectors, with the search for that occasional reference item that is long put of print and difficult to find. [In addition to books about stamps - not often found in used book stores - I look for old maps and histories of the countries that I collect].

But bring a Show-and-Tell item just in case. It can be any item at all. Or you can even relate an interesting story about, for example, a recent visit to an interesting local historical site. Did you know that Rectortown has a Farm Implement Museum, in a warehouse with Civil War significance?

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Annual Membership Dues

Dues are collected in June for the following club year (June to June). You are now asked to remit \$12 for the 2010-2011 period. We also need to update all our personal data to be sure it is currently accurate. Please fill in the information in the box on page three and either bring it to the next meeting or mail it with your check to :

Gerry Hoffman

6211 Old Glory Lane

Rixeyville, VA 22737-1958

If the club does not receive your dues or hear from you, your name will be dropped from the current newsletter mailing list after two months.

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.wsccl.site11.com/>

UPCOMING CLUB PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

July	1	TBA
August	5	TBA
September	2	TBA

Noted in passing...

Name:	_____
Address:	_____

Phone:	(Home) _____
	(Cell) _____
Email:	_____

If you provide an email address, we can save the considerable expense in time and money of printing and mailing your newsletter. Your email address will not be shared.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

This month we feature "the Postal History Website - Sites, Societies, Dealers, Literature and Items," found at <http://www.postalhistory.org/>

The site is useful mostly for the reference, listed by country and topics. For example. Under "Aerophilately," the site shows references to 17 sites with such headings as "The Pan Am Flying Boat Base on Wake Island," "Balloon Mail," "Airline Timetable images for Collectors," and "Flight Archives on the Philatelic Database." It lists over a dozen societies related to airmail and airlines, dealers of air related material, and dozens of books and articles. Most of the countries and topics are similarly notated. (Burma, sadly, has only a few entries).

Upcoming Hobby Shows

June	4-6	NAPEX stamp show
June	26	Richmond StampFest
July	10-11	Annandale Coin Show
July	17-18	Fairfax StampFest
August	7-8	Vienna Quarterly Coin & Stamp Show
August	12-15	Richmond - APS Stamp Show

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

O.M.G

Jim Ford, a Scottish philatelist, inherited his grandfather's collection which started with letters among family members. The Smithsonian wanted to display his 36 "Washington Pinks", on covers in a correspondence between a soldier and his father during the Civil War, valued at £18 million. Due to a gas leak in his house, much of his collection was removed and placed on the porch. Workers who were scheduled to remove damaged furniture took the stamps instead. They remain "lost." The collection contains 840 Penny Blacks (now valued at £6500 - £8500 each), dozens of Penny Blues, and the 36 covers franked with the Washington Pinks .

The Blue Mauritius, 1847, face value 2 cents. One of the first stamps authorized by the British Colonial Government. Twelve examples are known to exist with the incorrectly engraved "Post Office" (that error was corrected in later printings to "Post Paid"). When last sold on cover, the Mauritius Blue "Post Office" stamp sold for \$3.8 million.

The 1847 Mauritius "Post Office" 1 Penny Orange, of which 15 are known sold at auction in 1993 for \$1.1 million and was owned by Le Phi Long, a Vietnamese.

In 1958 Harry Winston mailed the Hope Diamond from his shop in Manhattan to the Smithsonian, registered, first class. The total fee came to \$145.29 of which the postage cost \$2.44 with the balance for \$1 million for the registration. It was less expensive and deemed more secure than sending the diamond by courier.

In Geneva, over the weekend of May 28, 2010, the Treskilling Yellow went to auction. The stamp was purchased by an international consortium of investors, which chose to keep its identity and the purchase price confidential for now. The auctioneer, however, states that "...it is still worth more than any other single stamp" including the even older "2 Penny Post Office Mauritius Blue" that sold for 1.5 million francs (then \$1.4 million) in 1993.



This 1855 Swedish stamp, which was intended to be green, is believed to represent the sole remaining misprint of the 3 shilling stamp . A schoolboy found this stamp in 1885, and sold it to a dealer for a few dollars. When last sold in 1996, it went for \$2.3 million.

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the May meeting, we welcomed 3 guests -- David McAlester (sorry David, I didn't get your address or email), Chad Vance and Ron Hamlett. Nearly twenty attended in all, in no small part due to the interesting program Raymond arranged for the evening. Sgt. Thomas McTeague, a local recruiter for the US Marine Corps, spoke first on challenge coins he had collected throughout his career, and then gave a riveting presentation on his career as one of the few gunsmiths in the Marines. He spoke about the extensive training he had received as a "2112." Only about 50 Marines work at this skill, and about half of them are stationed at nearby Quantico. They produce about 3000-4000 weapons each year, in addition to the 1000+ rifles that they rework. He spoke of making precision weapons such as sniper rifles, and he related some of his experiences while servicing rifles in war zones. Sgt. McTeague then fielded many questions, and kindly passed out his business cards - in case, I suppose, any members were inspired enough to enlist.

Brian gave an interim report about the database available at the Bealeton library, of companies that give grants to non-profit organizations. The list is long, and some future decisions need to be made before the Club can proceed further. Those issues will be presented to the members at a future meeting.

It was pointed out that Fauquier Library is asking for groups and individuals to "adopt" magazine subscriptions, as a civic contribution for these lean times. Bill Clair offered to ask about the Library's procedures, and which magazines are available for adoption.

We concluded with a yet another spirited auction.

- BCS

FROM THE EDITOR...

Somehow we managed to forget last month to nominate Officers for the elections in June. As I noted in the last newsletter, in recent years the President has served consecutive one-year terms, and then he cedes the chair to another member. Raymond is closing in on the end of his second term. We shall be nominating and electing a new President this week, so why not consider stepping forward? Many of the long-time members have already served in an elected position or two over the years, and a new member would both be appreciated and well-supported. By the way, Raymond has kindly offered to continue writing his column beyond his Presidency. If he does, that could be one less task for the incoming President

A member sent me his concerns about the monthly auction, that the very active auctions we have had recently might occasionally strain the Treasury's on-hand cash reserves. One or more vendors might not receive a timely settlement as a result. I don't often take part in the auction, and I confess to being puzzled at this issue - don't buyers remit the selling price as the first part of the settling? I suspect I have misunderstood the problem. In spite of your Editor's befuddlement, this is a topic we ought to discuss this month.

**WARRENTON
STAMP
AND COIN CLUB**

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This month's featured stamp

These are the 44-cent *Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet* special stamps, available as a Block of 10 stamps or a Pane of 20 stamps. On April 30, 2010, the USPS issued a 44-cent, Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet special stamp in ten designs, designed by Derry Noyes of Washington, DC.

With these 10 stamp designs, the U.S. Postal Service hopes to raise awareness of the need to adopt shelter pets. The pets depicted on the stamps were photographed by Sally Andersen-Bruce near her home in New Milford, Connecticut. All had been homeless at one time; all but one had been adopted when they were photographed.

