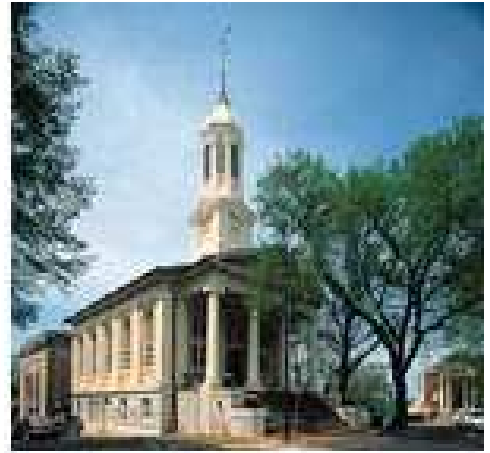


VOLUME 10 NUMBER 7
JULY 2010

MAILED
JUNE 28, 2010

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)

July 1st Program: Show-and-Tell

This month we will have a Show-and-Tell. Bring any old thing you want to share. In June we asked for Show-and-Tell, but we had a presenter after all, so bring what you meant to show us last month.

But we may have a presenter this time too. Raymond is attempting to make arrangements for Palmer Smith to attend. He is the great, great grandson of Extra Billy Smith, and can tell us about the life of one of Warrenton's most famous sons. Extra Billy Smith was a businessman who began a stage line from Washington to Culpeper, eventually extending to Georgia, which carried the U.S. Mail. As a Colonel he led troops at Manassas, Sharpsburg and Fredericksburg. He served in the in the Confederate House of Representatives, the U.S. House and Senate, and as Governor of Virginia.

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Election of Officers & Dues

At the June meeting, Bill Duckwitz was elected President of the Club. The Vice President position will be filled again by Tony Tripi, and Gerry Hoffman also agreed to continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Your Editor again agreed to continue in the unelected position of preparing the monthly newsletter.

Dues are collected in June for the following club year (June to June). If you haven't already done so, please 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

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:

August	5	TBA
September	2	TBA
October	7	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 a site that relates the life of "Extra" Billy Smith

<http://www.extrabillysmith.com/Extra-Billy-s-Life.html>

The site outlines the life and times of William Smith (1797-1887) of Warrenton. It traces his careers (military, business and politics), and also includes portraits and photographs. It explains the origin of Smith's nickname, and the surprising story of how he was elected as Governor of Virginia, and many other facts about this most interesting individual.

Upcoming Hobby Shows

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

A Really Big One is Sold at Auction

On Friday, June 25, 2010, a financially ruined Austrian, now jailed, placed his Maple Leaf coin into auction. He bought the coin directly from the Royal Canadian mint in 2007. One of only 5 produced, this coin has a hefty 30-inch diameter and a thickness of 1.2 inches. It had a face value of \$1 million Canadian, or 660,000 Euros when minted. Based on the price of gold at that time, the presumed purchase price ranges from 1.5 to 1.8 million Euros. Based on today's prices, the gold alone has an estimated value of 3.2 million Euros. Considering the exclusivity of this coin, bolstered by the rumor that Queen Elizabeth also owns one, this coin was expected to fetch as much as 4 million Euros. One of the insolvency administrators expressed his belief that this coin represents a very good investment. A representative of the Dorotheum auction house indicated that the demand for gold remains inexhaustible and Austrians love gold in any form.



When the auction was over, the 220 lb. gold Canadian Maple Leaf coin had been sold to Oro Direct, a Spanish precious metal trading company, which paid 3.27 million euros (about US \$4 million).

Raymond told me that, since Independence Day is next week, he had been searching for information about the first U.S. stamp issued commemorating our Independence. We all remember the Bicentennial stamps in 1976, but Raymond expected to find a stamp for the Centennial, on the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. There was none. He asked me about it, and I don't know. So we toss it out to the Members. Does anyone know the reason for this? Why did this historic anniversary pass without notice by the Post Office? A look at the catalogues shows that most stamps until the 1890's were portraits of Founding Fathers and other prominent figures. How did the idea of commemoratives originate? The first commemoratives were the issues of the Columbian Exposition in 1893 (and it was not a popular set, since the high values were priced beyond the means of many collectors). Having missed the 100th, the Post Office had to wait for the various 150th anniversaries before it could make up for its earlier omission, and in 1925 the Post Office issued the Lexington-Concord stamps. Many more stamps honoring Revolutionary War battles followed, and later a stamp marking the signing of the Constitution was issued. But what was the first postage stamp issued to commemorate the Fourth of July, 1776, our most important national holiday? Who knows the story?

- BCS

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the June meeting, we voted to "adopt" several coin- and stamp-related magazines at the Warrenton Branch of the Fauquier County Library, under the "Adopt a Subscription" program. The covers of the magazines will show that the Warrenton Stamp & Coin Club has adopted these magazines, which perhaps will lead to new members. Bill Clair made the arrangements. He also learned that the two other branches of the library (Marshall and Bealeton) do not carry any stamp- or coin-related magazines. We adopted three publications - *Numismatic News*, *Scott Stamp Monthly* and *Coin World* (the latter being a suggestion to the Library from us, as a better publication than the currently-offered *Coins*). The total expense to the Club is \$115.97.

For our program, we welcomed Andrew Orleans, a bookseller from Marshall, who spoke with us about collecting old books. He outlined the history of books, and explained the many types of printing and bookbinding; he brought along many examples from his own collection. Andrew identified many of the most popular websites for collectible books, and the location of some of the remaining used book stores. He also discussed the care of old books, maps and manuscripts, and then answered our many questions.

After the program we elected Bill as our new President, and re-elected Tony and Gerry to their positions. Thanks were extended to Raymond for his two years as President, and also for offering to continue writing a monthly column in the newsletter, which had been written by the current President for many years.

We discussed the potential issue of the Club having insufficient cash funds to pay the sellers of lots in the auction, if some or many of the lots are purchased with checks. We decided that this situation does not occur often, but it is worthwhile to ask members to bring cash for their purchases. If we do not have the necessary funds for payouts, then the Member will have to wait for the next month when Gerry can bring the cash for the payment due.

We concluded with the auction.

- BCS

FROM THE EDITOR...

A big tip of the hat goes to outgoing President Raymond Maguire. Raymond shared his enthusiasm and humor at the meetings, and always volunteered for any Club activity, no matter how busy his schedule. He presented fascinating topics in his monthly columns, of interest to both stamp and coin collectors. And now, even though his term has been completed, he volunteered to continue writing that monthly column. Thank you Raymond for a great couple of years.

- BCS

Current Officers

WARRENTON STAMP AND COIN CLUB

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ANA #C-173784

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Warrenton, VA 20187-4503

This month's featured stamp

This month we feature stamps of the pioneer Western stars of movies & television, issued April 17th.

The Cowboys of the Silver Screen stamps honors four extraordinary performers who helped make the Western a popular form of entertainment. Film stars from the silent era through the singing era are featured on the stamps:

William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.

Some trivia:

- after an injury ended his football career, John Wayne was given his first break in films by Tom Mix.
- William S. Hart and Tom Mix knew Wyatt Earp. They were pallbearers at Earp's Los Angeles funeral in 1929.

