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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)

## August 5<sup>th</sup> Program: Palmer Smith: On Extra Billy Smith

Raymond made arrangements for Palmer Smith to speak with the Club. Mr. Smith is a professional painter, and I am sure many of you have seen him painting on the sidewalks of Old Town Warrenton.

Both of his parents came from storied military families, and growing up he was privy to many intriguing tales, some of which he may share with us. He is a direct descendent of Extra Billy Smith, and can tell us about the life of one of Warrenton's most famous early residents. Extra Billy Smith was a businessman who began a stage line from Washington to Culpeper, which eventually extended to Georgia, and 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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## ANA Videos

Gerry has obtained three videos from the American Numismatic Association (ANA) and will bring them along as a back-up plan, in case our speaker cannot attend. And if we do have a speaker, Gerry will provide the videos for the September meeting. The videos are:

- The Art of August St. Gaudens
- Secrets of the Dollar Bill, and
- Hobo Nickels

The videos were selected to appeal to both coin and stamp collectors. If you can think of topics you would like to see presented in future meetings, let us know - the ANA and APS have extensive DVD titles in their libraries, and the videos are there for the asking, often just for the cost of shipping.

## 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:

September	2	Coin videos from the ANA
October	7	TBA
November	4	TBA

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

A reminder - if the Club does not receive your dues or hear from you, your name will be dropped from the current newsletter mailing list after three months (that is, the August issue will be your last newsletter).

Gregg emailed me about BEP's new website and e-newsletter to inform the public about the newly-designed \$100 note coming early next year --

<http://www.newmoney.gov/newmoney/default.aspx>

Lee Morrison informs us that the Flint Hill P.O. will present a small show in September to show scenes and stamps that publicize the three new stamps for the month of July. The features will include the Negro Baseball League, The Sunday Funnies, and the New Boy Scout stamp. Lee will give us more information at the next meeting, with dates and times.

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

This month we feature the web site of the American Philatelic Society (APS), and particularly, the Society's feature of printable stamp album pages.

[http://www.stamps.org/Education/edu\\_AlbumPages.htm](http://www.stamps.org/Education/edu_AlbumPages.htm)

This month the APS holds in Richmond one its two annual Shows, and as has been its practice for many years, it marks the event with the release of a stamp collecting album featuring stamp relating to the host State.

<http://www.stamps.org/Albums/Virginia.pdf>

### **Upcoming Hobby Shows**

August	7-8	Vienna Quarterly Coin & Stamp Show
August	12-15	Richmond - APS Stamp Show
August	21	Charlottesville Coin & Currency Show
September	11-12	Fairfax StampFest

# **RAYMOND'S COLUMN**

## **– NOTES FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT**

Postage stamp olio:

**Security:** The Oxford Union Society in England began to overprint its stamps in 1859 to prevent stealing. More than 50 companies began to print the name of their business on the gum surface of the stamp and only a faint remnant of the name remained after using the stamp.

**Perfins:** perforated initials, invented by Joseph Sloper in 1858 and his technique allowed for perforating the stamp forming letters or designs. It took 10 years for application of his idea. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, 300 countries used this invention and the United States had 6500 patterns and in Great Britain, 23,000 existed. Very few of the early designs can find a match with the company which used them and new ones continue to appear.

**Grills:** since stamp reuse has always presented a problem, the use of a waffle iron type device in the U.S. from 1867 to 1871 served to disrupt the paper fibers and allowed a blotched pattern to occur when cancelled with ink. At a recent Robert Siegel auction, an 1867 Z grill stamp sold for \$935,000 U.S.D. The other known stamp like this resides in the Miller Collection at the N.Y. Public Library and cannot be sold.

**Ultraviolet coatings:** In the 1950's, BEP and other stamp producers in more developed countries began using fluorescent and phosphor ink to speed up the cancellation and sorting of stamped mail. Such inks can serve as a way to outsmart counterfeiters too.

**Microprinting:** as another way to outsmart counterfeiters, stamps can contain secret words printed nearly microscopically in size which prevents illegal reproduction.

**Holograms:** In 1988, Austria became the first country to use this technique for security and aesthetics. Other countries have copied the method.

**Inks:** optically variable inks contain film particles which alter the ink's color depending upon the viewing angle. Heat sensitive inks will change color when rubbed with a finger which produces sufficient heat.

**Hidden images:** in use since 1977, scrambled Indicia, will distort, intertwine, overlap, scramble images making them invisible to the naked eye but if a person uses a special viewing lens, the images appear.

**Perforations:** over the years, printers have used different types of perforations to deter counterfeiters. In 1993 British postal officials learned of a large production of counterfeit Machin definitive stamps with poorly formed perforations, which passed unnoticed by the general public. The post office then hired J. Enschede, Dutch printer to design a special elliptical perforation which gets intermingled with the usual type perforations.

## At Last Month's Meeting...

At the July meeting, the Treasurer's report noted a healthy \$1600 balance. We received acknowledgement from the Fauquier County Library of our adoption of three stamp- and coin-related publications, from the Club's donation of \$115.

Emilio suggested that we select a date for the Club's 2011 Show, so the sales of tables can begin. We discussed the matter, and decided that March 26 should be our first choice, with March 19 as a back-up date. We will not know for sure until the opening of reservations (for the John Barton Payne building) a few months before, but we have not had difficulty in the past.

We had a lively Show-and-Tell, which included an article about Herb Hash, professional baseball player from Culpeper who played for the Boston Red Sox in 1940-41.

We concluded with the auction.

- BCS

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

Last month I mentioned the free films shown at a Library of Congress facility just east of Culpeper, and promised to publish the website address:

<http://www.loc.gov/avconservation/theater/> --- select "Schedule" for a list of films for the next six weeks.

The printable stamp album pages, noted on the "Website of the Month" feature (p.3), now includes more than 25 titles, featuring State histories and other thematics, as well as pages for recent U.S. stamps. The APS' album pages list is growing rapidly, and could be an inexpensive way to persuade a new collector to join the hobby. The Virginia pages might be a good giveaway at our annual Shows in March.

Tony Tripi wrote to the National Stamp Dealers Association newsletter, suggesting that it publish a list of local clubs, and when and where they meet. The Editor thought it was a fine idea, began the list in the current issue --- and the Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club was the first club listed.

Tony also saw an item in the APS journal mentioning its listing of local Club information, and asking members to review and update it if necessary. He did, it needed revision, and Tony took care of it. Thanks, Tony.

Gerry submitted a very interesting article from the 19 July issue of *Newsweek*, which I was unable to fit into this issue. I will send the article as a second attachment along with this newsletter, and I will make a few hard copies for those members who do not have email.

## Current Officers

### WARRENTON STAMP AND COIN CLUB

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## *This month's featured stamp*

This month we feature the newest stamp that honors the Boy Scouts of America (or seems to). Issued on July 27, 2010, in Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia, the 44¢ *Scouting* stamp was designed by Derry Noyes, Washington, DC. The stamp does not mention it, but its issuance coincides with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts. In fact, the stamp does not show the Boy Scout's emblem, or mention BSA at all. The figures pictured are not in Boy Scout uniforms, and seem to be men rather than boys. Did the Boy Scouts fail to give its permission to the USPS to use its trademarks?

The Scouts have been previously honored several times, first in 1950 on Scott #995, (shown below) then #1145 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary), #2161 and #3183j.

Has any other group been honored on more different stamps?

