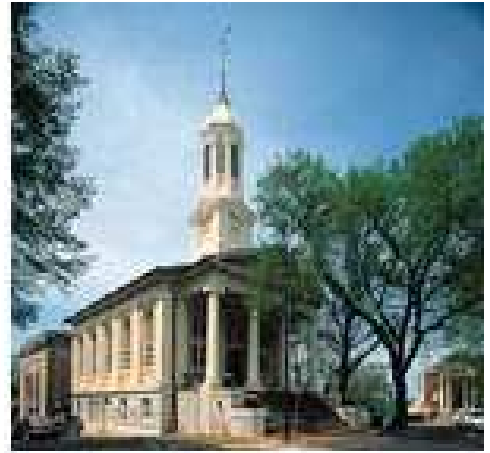


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# Hobby Notes

- newsletter of the  
Warrenton Stamp and Coin Club



Fauquier County Courthouse  
in Old Town Warrenton

## Special points of interest:

- *Door prizes donations are always appreciated*
- *Give us your ideas for future programs (our cupboard is bare)*

## August 4<sup>th</sup> Show and Tell

This month we will have, once again, a Show-and-Tell. Bring something that you like and that you think the rest of us would like. Show us your newest acquisition, or the earliest item you remember getting. Or tell us about how you decided what to collect. Or show us an error or an oddity. Show us a coin item that stamp collectors might know nothing about, or a stamp item that coin collector might not have seen.

For the newer Members, please note that we have in the past shown lots of unusual stuff besides stamps and coins --- photographs, bottles, propaganda leaflets, books, tokens, ration cards, metal-detected items. You get the idea. We don't all collect the same stuff, but we tend to be interested in just about anything. If it is new to us, or if it takes down memory lane, we will probably all like it.

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## WANTED: Newsletter Editor

I have decided to give up editing the newsletter. With this issue I will have completed seven years as Editor, and it is time. My final edition will be in December. That should give everyone a chance to think about it, and give the next Editor plenty of time to transition into it.

The task is not hard, once you get the hang of it. And it is much easier than it used to be, when all copies had to be prepared hard-copy for mailing. Now most members receive their newsletter by email, and only a few copies need to be printed, stapled, folded and stuffed into stamped envelopes. I can share my time-saving tricks, and pass along whatever else I have picked up along the way. Gerry helped me immensely when I first took over, and of course I will do the same to the next Editor.

After I became the Editor, I changed the format slightly, and many features were added over the years. I look forward to seeing the improvements and innovations the new Editor will make.

## HOBBY NOTES

### 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 topics. The program is usually 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 (and junior members pay no dues). Visitors and guests are always welcome. All 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	8	TBA
October	6	TBA
November	3	JFK in Stamps - Lee Morrison
December	1	TBA

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

If you didn't get a chance to see Lee's exhibit at the Manassas National Battlefield Park last month, you missed a treat. The Park Service observed the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas in a four-day event. Although most of you probably saw some of his material at the July meeting, it made quite an impression, displayed inside the historic Henry House. Lee tells me that on the first day, he had to share the two ground-floor rooms with the Postal Service (which was selling the anniversary stamps and the special cancellations). But the next day, Lee had both rooms to spread out, and it looked great. When I visited Lee on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> it was surprising how many people attended - since we suffered record high temperatures that day. The entire time I was inside, the rooms were filled with visitors. They were interested in the history portrayed, but did not seem to be stamp collectors. So a tip of the hat goes to Lee, once again, for promoting stamp collecting in Northern Virginia.

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

This month we feature a site dedicated to tracing the family history of people's names found on envelopes that passed through the mails... <http://www.philgen.org/>

The subtitle on the home page is: "Postal history helping genealogy, genealogy helping postal history." It seeks to provide a database that will help terrace a family through postal history, easiest with envelopes showing names and addresses of both the sender and the recipient. The site is new, and few states are represented (nothing from Virginia yet, but visitors are encouraged to participate).

## Upcoming Hobby Shows

August	6-7	Vienna Quarterly Coin & Stamp Show
August	27	Charlottesville Semi-Annual Coin Show
August	28	Franconia Stamp Show - Volunteer Fire Department
Sept	2-4	Baltimore MD BALPEX
Sept	10-11	Fairfax StampFest
Sept	24	Virginia Beach Stamp Show
Sept	23-25	Virginia Numismatic Convention and Coin Show

# True First Flight Covers

Lots of times I follow lots on eBay that I would never consider buying - ones that don't fit in my collection. I like to look at them, and learn the market for such material. Recently I watched a couple of 1911 India first flight covers. They represent the first airmail anywhere (not counting balloon mail) in the world, from Allahabad on February 18, 1911. The French pilot Henri Pequet carried a mail bag with approximately 6,000 letters and 400 post cards. The flight was from Allahabad to Naini, India. This small hop of only five miles made history: it was the first official airmail.

Most first flight covers mark the first time a flight was made between two cities, and there are many, many of those. But this one claims to be the first of the first. And even though there are over 6,000 covers in circulation, there has always been a decent demand for the covers. In recent years, the price was usually about \$200. No more. Since we have reached the 100th anniversary of the event, I assumed the interest would be greater, and it was. Two similar registered covers, with the special cancel commemorating the flight, sold for over \$1000 each. The cover below was illustrated in an article about the occasion. If you wish to read more about this fascinating flight, you can see a reprint of the article on:

<http://www.navhindtimes.in/panorama/first-airmail-flight-world>



## At Last Month's Meeting...

At the June meeting we welcomed guests Max Rinehart and George Arvan, and they attended again in July. Lee Morrison presented a program on Civil War stamps, and he showed us examples of Confederate issues, as well as Confederate currency. He had many books and other reference material. He will present this material at the National Manassas Battlefield Park at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas.

In new business, we discussed the possibility of advertising on the Comcast (cable) Community Bulletin Board. The cost is \$20 per month. In January, February and March we may run several advertisements for our March 2012 Show. We tabled the matter for now, and will re-visit the idea as the Show grows nearer.

Raymond suggested that the Club might want to create a presence on Facebook.

We closed with an unusually active auction.

-BCS

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

I did not prepare a July newsletter, so here's a few things that I think happened at the June meeting: The Officers were re-elected. Bill remains President, Tony is Vice President, and Gerry will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer. The campaign and election were exciting, even without caucuses and primaries. Congratulations to all three. I remember that the annual dues will now run from January to January (with members getting a 6-month freebie between now and then), but I don't recall if the terms of office will follow that pattern - will the Officers terms expire in January, rather than June? [I should pay more attention].

Raymond is in Europe, and will miss the August meeting. He will likely share stories of his adventures upon his return. Bill Miller emailed to me that he would probably miss the meeting as well, as he must tend to his wife, Betty. I assured Bill that our thoughts are with him and Betty.

The price of gold continues to rise, as financial uncertainty reigns in government and the financial arenas. And traditionally, in times of uncertainty, non-collectors turn to collectables for investment. Well, we have all seen where that leads - rapidly rising prices, especially for quality material. But we have also seen how the high prices can drop sharply after the "bubble" bursts. It looks to me like the time is ripe for a run-up in prices. If it does come to our hobbies, the best policy may be to wait it out. What goes up, must come down.

**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

**Current Officers**

President:

William Duckwitz 540-364-2467  
wduckretired@msn.com

Vice-President:

Tony Tripi 540-347-9212  
tripi@earthlink.net

Secr./Treasurer:

Gerry Hoffman 540-937-2201  
gahajaja@erols.com

Program Coordinator

Bill Miller 540-347-2482  
billmiller2482@yahoo.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 stamp is the commemorative for author Mark Twain, the 27th in the Literary Arts series. Twain (1835-1910) wrote novels such as *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. His *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is widely considered one of the greatest novels in American literature. The stamp portrait shows Twain as an older man; the steamboat in the background evokes a way of life along the Mississippi River that played a huge role in many of Twain's works, as well as in his own life.

Born Samuel Clemens, Mark Twain adopted the name from his time working as a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi River. Big steamboats needed about 12 feet of water - two fathoms, or "mark twain" in the cry of the leadsman who measured the river's depth - to float safely.

