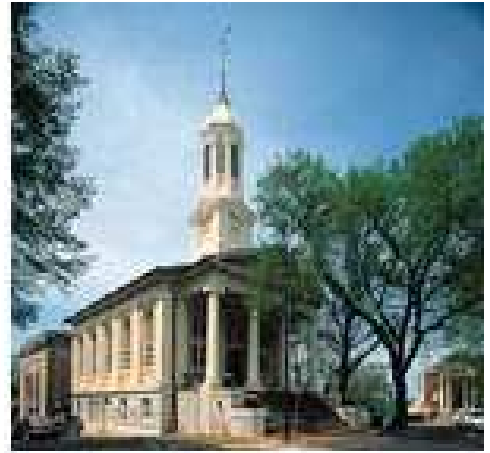


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Hobby Notes

- 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)*

February 3rd Confederate Currency

This month Gregg Coburn will give a presentation on Confederate Currency. I remember seeing Confederate stamp facsimiles when I was a beginning collector. I didn't know what a facsimile was, and bought a few, pleased with my treasures. Only later did I realize that they were simply reprints, without much value, and I learned a valuable lesson.

I expect that there are just as many Confederate currency reprints, facsimiles and forgeries, and I hope we hear about some of them.

As you are all probably aware, the 150th anniversaries of Civil War events are fast approaching, so this subject is very timely. Can anyone give us a presentation on Confederate philately?

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2011 WSCC Annual Stamp and Coin Show

The annual Stamp and Coin Show is fast approaching: Saturday, March 26 (hours: 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.). It will be held at the Boys and Girls Club of Fauquier at 169 Keith St., only a few blocks from the previous location, at the former site of the Old Town Athletic Club. (The John Barton Payne building was already booked on that date, and several of the dealers could not attend on our alternate dates. Rather than lose their business, we decided to change venues). The new location offers ample free parking on site, no stairs to climb, and a much larger space (so we will have plenty of room for displays). The downside is that we are unlikely to have as many off-the-street guests, as we had in Old Town Warrenton. This means that we will have to rely heavily on pre-show publicity, and any gimmicks we can devise to get people to stop by.

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:

March	3	TBA
March	26	WSCC Show
April	7	TBA
May	5	TBA

Noted in passing...

Recently I read an article by a stamp dealer who used to attend many shows each year. As internet use became more popular, he noticed that he did more and more business online, and less at shows. The more time spent at shows meant more online catch-up upon return. Fewer sales at shows meant that sometimes the income barely covered the expenses: table fees, hotels, meals and travel. More dealers are finding it unprofitable to attend shows, and that can mean a transition in the business that is, in my opinion, bad for the hobby. Collecting is best when it is a social activity (our Club meetings illustrate that). Moreover, when you meet with dealers in person and chat about the material you seek, you increase the likelihood of finding that item you have been looking for. Dealers see far more material in their travels than any collector is apt to find.

So keep that in mind when you come to our Show next month. Look at what the dealers have to offer, chat with them a bit, and buy something if you can. Remember, we are hosts, and we want them to come back again next year.

Help them help us, and we all win.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

This month we feature a page devoted to scans of Confederate currency:

<http://www.crutchwilliams.com/CSAimages.htm>

While Crutchfield appears to be a dealer, and I usually don't feature commercial sites, he lists many examples of the currency, and has a fine, detailed scan attached to each description. I am fascinated by these notes, and I look forward to hearing all about them from Gregg. There is also a link to <http://www.csanotes.com/index.htm> which has additional information and scans about the currency, and historical notes.

Upcoming Hobby Shows

February 5-6	Fairfax Stampfest, Elk's Lodge, Merrifield (Blair auction)
March 5-6	SPRINGPEX, Springfield VA
March 26	WSCC Annual Stamp Show

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Auction scams

People can get cheated at online stamp auctions in many ways. The seller may:

- offer stamps using images taken from other listings;
- misidentify stamps (lower value types advertised as higher value counterparts);
- alter stamps to make them appear items of greater value;

- offer stamps without revealing faults or imperfections. After the stamp is purchased, the defect is identified and the seller is notified, some will simply refund the payment. But other less scrupulous sellers may accuse the buyer of switching his good stamp for your bad one.

Examples of misidentifying stamps includes U.S. Scott #35, which appears very much like Scott #34, but with very different values. Such differences often must be identified using a loupe and a good reference book. Naturally, that is not possible online. Similarly, Scott #35 with trimmed perforations may be posted as #15 or #13. Again, the values vary significantly. Most commonly misidentified on eBay are Scott #'s 479 & 480, two 1913 issues often advertised as their more valuable twins of 1903, Scott #'s 312 and 313. The difference is about \$800 for the \$2 stamp (#'s 312 and 479) and about \$2,300 for the \$5 stamps (#'s 313 and 480). The designs are identical - the earlier stamps, however, are watermarked, while the later ones are not, and also there are perforation differences.

What to do? You can bid with confidence with a well-known and reputable dealer. At an online auction like eBay, the feedback feature can be very helpful. A good web site for stamp scams: www.scads.org/shame/shame (stamp collectors against dodgy sellers).

Dad's Rare Stamps and Coins is a site mentioned several times and it appears to target large dealers and known collectors by offering a small collections of top-end stamp items at absurdly low prices, e.g. an Inverted Jenny for \$5.98.

The message here, "if something appears to too good to be true, it probably is."

As an interesting side note, Linn's reports that an 1851 1 cent Franklin sold a few weeks ago on eBay for \$32,300, despite the seller describing it as a Scott #9 with a catalogue value of \$160. Bidders thought they saw the possibility that the stamp was actually a much more rare Scott #5, which catalogues at \$85,000. The difference lies in minor details of the frame ornaments in the design. Only ninety examples are known to exist, and the active bidding indicates that many collectors were willing to take the chance of finding a gem. Once the bidding increased to \$3000, and he had received over 50 inquiries the seller realized something was up. Although the seller apparently thought about withdrawing the stamp to have it expertised, and potentially being able to sell at a much a higher price, he said he decided against it. He chose to let the auction run its course, saying it would be dishonest to end the sale after so many had already placed bids.

- BCS

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the January Holiday meal/meeting, we wined and dined and had a great time. Even the spouses seemed to enjoy themselves. Most of us were fortunate enough to see the stamp collections of the young Grants, who shared their topical collections with nearly every table. Such gatherings make it nearly impossible to speak with or even greet everyone else, but I don't think that spoiled the evening for anyone. Ledo Pizza seems like a fine location for us - a separate room where we won't disturb anyone else with our loud chatter, and plenty of good, affordable food. That's hard to beat.

FROM THE EDITOR...

At the February meeting we ought to begin finalizing plans for the Show, since there will be only one more meeting before the event. Because we will be in a new site, there are many details that will need to be addressed, many of them at the last minute (outdoor signage, welcome table, guest register, youth table, arranging tables and chairs, taping down extension cords - all of which will be at least slightly different from past years. We could use extra help before the Show begins)

Dwight Dunton has kindly offered his home as a meeting site when the weather is warm - we ought to chat about and decide on a month and date that is convenient for him.

Last month I discussed a newly-found error stamp (10¢ Lindberg airmail with a double impression), but was unable to find a scan of that stamp. Here it is, from the cover of the H.R. Harmer catalogue for its Spring sale. Again, it pays to examine all your collectibles - you never know when you might find something that no one has ever noticed, even over 80 years its appearance.



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STAMP
AND COIN CLUB**

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This month's featured stamp

This month we feature the Year of the Rabbit stamp, featuring two kumquats and a depiction of a rabbit in the upper left corner.

The USPS began its *Celebrating Lunar New Year* series in 2008. This is the 4th stamp in that series, which will continue through 2019 with stamps for the Year of the Dragon, Snake, Horse, Ram, Dog, Monkey, Rooster, and Boar.

For the Year of the Rabbit, which begins February 3, 2011, the art depicts kumquats, which are eaten for luck and given as special gifts. The stamp was designed by Ethel Kessler of Bethesda, Maryland.

The stamp is non-denominated. Though it can be barely seen in the scan above, it is inscribed "FOREVER" in the lower right corner. (Perhaps for counterfeit deterrence, the Postal Service has long crossed out the denomination when publishing photos or scans of its stamps. Anyone know the facts?)

This is the first issue I have noticed with no plate number on the pane.

