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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:

- *Extras or duplicates at home? - why not sell them at the Club auction?*
- *Give us your ideas for future programs (our cupboard is bare)*

May 5th Show-and-Tell

Here comes another show-and-tell. Bring us your tired, huddled masses... no, no, no...that's a different appeal. Just bring in some interesting stamps or coins or currency, or anything else you have. Have you started to collect a new country, or a new series of stamps or coins? Like many of you, I have been collecting the same thing for many years (Burma), and new stuff has become difficult to find (or just too expensive). So I have started thinking about a few new countries, like Mauritius or Brunei, and maybe some of the British North American nations, like Bermuda or Newfoundland. I like to search for varieties that others may have missed, or postmarks that make the stamp more rare than just the catalogue value. So if you are toying with the idea of a new specialty, show us a few new items, and tell us what you like about the new stuff.

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The Price of Gold

\$1200 an ounce? \$1300 an ounce? \$1500 an ounce? Where does it end and (more importantly), where can I find a stream to pan for the stuff? I hear that some abandoned mines in California have been re-opened based on the rising price of gold. I wonder if it will become worthwhile to re-open some of the Virginia gold mines.

And what is up with all the ads I get in the mail, and see in magazines, and even on TV? That there is a newly-released hoard of gold coins issued by the government. It seems that "the government" is always finding a new hoard. How can it lose or misplace so darned much of it, that it turns up monthly? Well, I suppose someone is buying the coins, or else the ads wouldn't continue. Gold fever makes people do strange things, and I suspect the folks running these ads are counting on that.

Can anyone tell me why people don't just visit a coin dealer?

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.wscc.site11.com/>

UPCOMING CLUB PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

June	2	TBA
July	7	TBA
August	4	TBA
September	8	TBA

Noted in passing...

I was surfing Wikipedia and stumbled across this bit of wonderment...

The Kingdom of Elleore is a micro-nation located on the island of Elleore in the Roskilde Fjord, north of Roskilde on the Danish island of Zealand. The island was purchased by a group of Copenhagen schoolteachers in 1944 for use as a summer camp. They proclaimed the island's tongue-in-cheek "independence" as a Kingdom, as a gentle parody of the government structure and royal traditions of Denmark. "Elleore Standard Time" is 12 minutes behind Danish time. Elleore is unoccupied except for a week-long annual gathering attended by dozens of its "citizens" and known as the "Elleuge" (meaning "Elle week"). The ceremonial enthronement of the reigning monarch takes place at this time. There have been six kings so far - Leo III has reigned since 2003.

The kingdom has issued numerous stamps and coins. The silver 11 Disser coin minted in 1969 is believed to be the first precious metal coin produced by a micro-nation, predating a 1970 release by the libertarian Atlantis project.

What fun.

WEB SITE OF THE MONTH:

last month I neglected to include the web site address for AAPE's exhibit page -

<http://www.aape.org/exhibits.asp>

This month's featured site is a Coin Collecting Guide for Beginners <http://www.coin-collecting-guide-for-beginners.com/>

The site includes a glossary, ideas on the many different ways to collect coins, and links to interesting topics within the hobby.

Upcoming Hobby Shows

May	8	Richmond StampFest
May	14-15	Postmaster's Collection, Flint Hill VA fire department
May	14-15	Fairfax Stamp Fest
May	14	ROAPEX, Roanoke VA
May	20-22	Richmond Coin Club's 7th Annual Coin & Currency Show
May	21	Virginia Beach Stamp Show

RAYMOND'S COLUMN

– NOTES FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

FAMOUS STAMP COLLECTORS

Many people know that Franklin D. Roosevelt collected stamps. He inspired many young Americans to join the hobby in the 1930's and 40's. Dwight Eisenhower collected stamps as a boy. Some other noted collectors are French president Nicolas Sarkozy, writer Ayn Rand, Agathon Fabergé (of the famous Russian jewelry family), and Francis Cardinal Spellman.

Some celebrity stamp collectors are (or were) John Lennon, Freddy Mercury and tennis star Maria Sharapova. Anatoly Karpov, the Russian former chess champion, collects chess and Olympic themes. Prince Rainier of Monaco, who married actress Grace Kelly, logically prefers Monegasque stamps and owns the most valuable stamp of Monaco, the 5 franc stamp of Charles III [Monegasque refers to Monaco].

There are many well-known collectors, although most are famous for their collections and award-winning exhibits. Thai collector Ad Indusophon is has exhibited her gold medal collection of Cape of Good Hope triangle stamps; she built a foundation to promote the hobby among youngsters. Hiroyuki Konai had the greatest of all Mauritius collections, which included 6 of the 27 Mauritius "Post Office" stamps, (the most ever owned by one person). He had unused copies of both the one penny and two pence "Post Office" error stamps (perhaps the most famous stamps in the world), and the "Bordeaux" cover with both the one penny and two pence stamps, called "the greatest item in all philately." The collection was sold in 1993, and the Bordeaux cover sold for the equivalent of about \$4 million.



Some other collectors you may care to investigate include Cyril Harmer (of the famed auction house), Philip Ward, Jr., Pichai Buranasombati and Dr. Arthur Woo.

At Last Month's Meeting...

At the April meeting, we welcomed Chet Walker, who joined the Club as a junior member. Chet is a stamp collector.

We are all invited to Dwight Dunton's house, Rose Hill, on Saturday, May 14th, beginning at 2 pm. This will be the Club's second visit to Rose Hill - Dwight kindly hosted us some time ago, when the renovations his historic home were still in progress. Now they are complete, and Dwight wants us to see the results of all his hard work. I was particularly impressed with the quality of the brick-work on the chimney. If you haven't been there, you are in for a treat. You can view photos at <http://eieiowe.com/Site/Welcome.html> - just select one of the tabs at the top of the page. Directions will be available at the May meeting. Rose Hill is on Rte. 211, in Washington, VA.

New member Frank Gniazdowski (pronounced NAZ-DOS-SKI) told us about the Junior Duck stamps that he displayed at the Show. They were listed in the standard catalogues for the first time only a few years ago, and interest in them is growing. Frank also collects ducks, revenues, telegraphs and "BOB" (back-of-the-book - Scott's lists airmails, revenues, special delivery, officials, and many other issues after the regular issues, thus, in the back).

Raymond contacted the Warrenton *Times-Democrat* about the photos it published of our Show. If the photographer will give us copies, perhaps we can post them on our web site.

It was suggested, and the Club agreed, that any future flyers should identify the WSCC as a not-for-profit organization, and that any donations to the Club are tax deductible.

Tony gave his report on the recent Show. The Show made \$350 after expenses. He noted that the Boys and Girls Club was better than the John Barton Payne building. But even this room was too small for any expansion, and we might consider using the Warrenton Armory in the future. The Boys and Girls Club cost \$200, but we had to provide tables and chairs. Although the Armory costs \$350, tables and chairs are provided, and kitchen facilities are available. Tony noted that some visitors to the Show complained about a lack of parking - in the future, Club members should move their vehicles away from the entrance after unloading. He said that the raffle brought in \$115, after expenses of \$100. He reports that the dealers were happy, although they felt fees seemed high for the size of the show. \$40 for a table was suggested, compared to the \$60 we charged this year. Tony suggested that we expand the exhibits, and provide free donuts. He suggested a possible date for next year as March 24th 2012. In general discussion, Members praised the venue, the parking, the signage (thanks to Gisela and Bob), a greeter at the entrance, giveaways, the raffle and door prizes throughout the day. It was suggested that we ought to have Club hand-outs and membership forms available. Tony suggested that the register of visitors be transcribed, and that the list should be retained to announce next year's Show. All were pleased that attendance was steady throughout the day. Many folks helped make the Show a success, and the Club thanked Tony for his great work, especially for having taken over the task when Emilio passed away.

We had time for a Show-and-Tell, and concluded with our usual auction.

-BCS

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This month's featured stamp

This month we feature the first of the series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The Ft. Sumter stamp is a reproduction of a Currier & Ives print, "Bombardment of Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor," circa 1861. The Bull Run stamp is a reproduction of a 1964 painting by Sidney E. King titled "The Capture of Rickett's Battery." The painting depicts fierce fighting on Henry Hill over an important Union battery during the Battle of First Bull Run.

The stamp pane's background photograph shows a Union regiment assembled near Falls Church, Virginia circa 1861.

