



# The Overprint

**Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club**

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**Issue: June 2018**

**Most Meetings Held the first Tuesday of Every Month at 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Site: Berkshire Commons, 5485 Perkiomen Avenue (Route 422)  
Turn North on Lincoln opposite of the Dairy Queen.  
Proceed 300 feet, turn left on Washington and look right of center at the stop sign.**

**Tuesday, June 5th at 6:00 p.m.**

## **Picnic and Auction**

### **At St. John's Lutheran Church in Boyertown**

***Note the change in time!***

**Also, please bring prizes for the Ladies Bingo Games!!!**

**Be there 10-15 minutes before meeting start time**

**And please bring items the Picnic (covered dish, dessert etc.) and the  
auction and bid on new treasures for your collection!**

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#### **June Meeting:**

**Treasures Report: May 31, 2018**

**Cash on hand \$ 67.00, VIST Current Account - \$ 1,818.9 and VIST CD - \$ 3,007.86**

**Attendance Drawing:**

**Bob Steiniger won - \$20. It pays to show up !**

**50/50 Drawing:**

**Jim savage won \$ 22**

## **THE HISTORY OF MAIL BOMBS**

### **A Philatelic & Historical Study**

by Dale Speirs

**A new book from the Wreck & Crash Mail Society**

This 128 page soft cover book, with 60 color pages, provides a complete history of letter & package bombs. It sells for \$37.50 plus \$3.00 postage from the Crash and Wreck Society. Hacking communications systems is not a new thing that came in with the Internet. The postal system is just as susceptible to abuse of trust, be it theft, fraud, or striking out at enemies via mail bombs.

Philatelists seldom write about mail bombs for the obvious reason that there is little material available. Successful mail bombs are usually shredded by the explosion, and unsuccessful devices are confiscated by police as evidence. The closest one can get to exhibition material are hand stamped postal markings and labels, indicating that a letter has been inspected by security forces. Mail bombs are invisible postal history.

The first recorded mail bomb was in 1764 in Denmark. A mail bomb is known from 1881 in Australia, and in 1895 a letter bomb was sent to Baron de Rothschild in France, which exploded when he opened it. Letter bombs and package bombs have been sent through the mail for various reasons, such as revenge, political causes, terrorism, personal vendettas, or crazy people who have a grudge against society, like the famous unbomber.

The book gives a history and background of all types of mail bombs and the people who sent them. Many different types of letter bombs are shown and described, as well as the various types of markings and labels used by postal authorities to indicate that a letter or package has been inspected to check against bombs or chemicals, such as anthrax. The book provides a fascinating look into an often overlooked aspect of the postal service and philately.

(The above advertisement was found on the website of the Crash and Wreck Society. This London-based philatelic society has a dues schedule for the U. S. at \$25.00. Of course, the website itself is of great interest. Even if a stamp collector never collects mail bomb damaged mail, the book would be interesting to read. (The article is correct, in the time available, no example was found to illustrate this piece.)

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### **Another Reason to Miss Gummed Postage Stamps**

Scientists report that they will attempt to lift DNA from the gum flaps and behind the licked stamps on mail sent by the Zodiac killer in hopes of identifying him---finally! While some think too much time has passed and the material deteriorated, your editor has confidence it will succeed.

### **It worked on "Jack The Ripper"**

**In the case of the much older "Ripper" letters, DNA was extracted. Your editor never bought the book presenting it, but a researcher claimed to ID Jack by testing the stamps and envelope flaps. One problem, however, is of the massive amount of "Ripper" letters only a few are considered authentic and many experts accept none of them. With Zodiac, there is no doubt that he wrote letters.**

# MIKE'S PAGES

## FUTURE MEETINGS: 2018

### Reading Stamp Collectors Club

June 5<sup>th</sup>: Picnic / Summer Auction with Pottstown in Boyertown.. 6:00 pm start

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: The use of fake stamps in the mails of Russia. Presenter Kent Weaver

August 7<sup>th</sup> *"Banking in Pawling, New York: In the Village and Surrounding Townships, 1849 – 1929."*  
Presenter: DR Charles DiComo PSLC

### Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

June 13<sup>th</sup>: Spring Auction – Hosted by Paul Petersen

July 11<sup>th</sup>: History of the Schuylkill Canal in PPC's –  
Presenter Aaron Heckler.

August 8<sup>th</sup> Summer Picnic, Memorial Park, Millersville PA

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## SCOPEX 2018

### Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> at APS in Bellefonte

This is not a bus trip but a proposed joint car-pooling effort to this stamp show with the Lancaster Club. The stamp show is presented by the Mt Nittany Philatelic Society. While at the APS, do some research at their new library or go to the store. Plenty to do for a fun day out.

We are trying to assess how many of our members will be going to give the APS a heads up. Contact Roy Baardsen if you want to sign up via email at [Roykb@comcast.net](mailto:Roykb@comcast.net) or call 610-927-3435

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## I N T H E N E W S

The next two pages pertain to coming events in the month of June:

1. USPS New Issue - First US Scratch and Sniff dedication ceremony will be on June 20<sup>th</sup>. If you want some you better get to the Post Office before Lucy (PSLC member) buys the lot. This falls into her Topical Collection.
2. The second page relates to the FIFA World Cup (Soccer) which "kicks" off on June 14<sup>th</sup> Russia, with the final on July 17<sup>th</sup>.  
I have picked this and shown some of the issues by Russia. I never seen a country gouge collectors so much. I have counted at least 58 stamps to date.  
**And the tournament hasn't started yet!!**

## First U.S. scratch-and-sniff stamps

The first-class forever stamps will add “the sweet scent of summer to letters of love, friendship, party invitations and other mailings” the USPS said in its release. A first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony, free and open to the public, will take place on June 20 at 6 p.m. local time the *Thinkery* Children’s Museum in Austin, Texas.



The stamps feature illustrations of frosty, colorful, icy pops on a stick. Today, Americans love cool, refreshing ice pops on a hot summer day. The tasty, sweet confections come in a variety of shapes and flavors.

Ice pops are made by large manufacturers, home cooks and artisanal shops. In recent years, frozen treats containing fresh fruit such as kiwi, watermelon, blueberries, oranges and strawberries have become more common. In addition, flavors such as chocolate, root beer and cola are also popular. Some frozen treats even have two sticks, making them perfect for sharing.

There are 10 designs – each showing two different treats – that will be sold in booklets of 20. The artwork showcases is from Margaret Berg, of Santa Monica, California, who depicted the whimsical illustrations in watercolors. The words “Forever” and “USA” appear along the bottom of each stamp. Art director Antonio Alcalá of Alexandria, Virginia, designed the stamps with Leslie Badani of Alexandria, Virginia.

A Postal Service spokesman declined to say if the 10 stamps would have the same or a variety of aromas, noting that information will be released when the stamps are issued. He also noted that the technology used for the stamps will also be explained at that time.

The U.S. is a bit behind the world in scratch-and-sniff technology on postage stamps. Bhutan issued the world’s first such stamps in 1973 with stamps that smell like roses, according to an article published May 1, 2015 in Linn’s Stamp News. The *American Topical Association* lists 114 stamps on its check list of scented stamps. Roses remain a popular scent on the list along with such fragrances as chocolate, vanilla and coffee, according to the article in Linn’s. Other scents you can find on stamps include honey, cinnamon, pine, apple, lemon, sweet-and-sour pork and fire (burnt wood).

# FIFA WORLD CUP – RUSSIA 2018

## RUSSIA GOES OVERBOARD WITH STAMP ISSUES



### RUSSIA IN PRIOR WORLD CUP TOURNAMENTS

1958, 1962, 1966, 1970, 1982 AND 1986

### PRIOR WORLD CUP

1990, 1994, 2002, 2014



### FOOTBALL IN ART



### THE STADIUMS (1 OF 3 SHEETS)

## THE MASCOT





**MASCOT WITH TROPHY AND SOCCER BALL  
BALL**

**ZABIVAKA THE WOLF**

**ZBIVAKA KICKING, HEADING AND DRIBBLING A**

**(Plus a sheet of 9 stamps)**

**PLUS 3 SHEETS (NOT SHOWN) FEATURING 7 RUSSIAN SOCCER LEGENDS ( 21 STAMPS) !!!!**