



The Overprint

Newsletter of the Reading Stamp Collectors' Club

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**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.**

Saturday, November 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

19th Annual Stamp Show

Leesport Farmer's Market Banquet Hall

<AND>

Tuesday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m.

The Development of Perforations On U. S. Postage Stamps 1855-1858

By Dr. Charles DiComo

Treasurer's Report:

Cash in Bank	\$ 2,374.18 as of 09/30/2019
CD	\$ 3,078.09 as of 09/30/2019
Cash in Hand	\$ 30.00
Attendance Drawing	\$ 5.00

Club News:

--Our November meeting was graced by the attendance of out-of-state member Celine Poulin-Lape. She came to Pennsy to visit Roy Baardsen after surgery and stayed for a meeting!

--**Officers for the 2020 year were elected.:**

David Hunt will be our President; Kent Weaver, M. D., our Vice President; Mike Bach, Treasurer; and Stan Raugh, Secretary/Newsletter Editor.

A host of supporting roles will be provided by others including Pete Baney, former President, who will work with organizing the show kitchen and storing club items for Club table at the show and Mike Matus, who will organize programs and snacks for our meetings.

The attendance drawing at the November meeting was won by Eric Eidle who won \$5.

That's O. K. Eric—it's a start. Hope next time it's more.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Mike Bach and our club. Each got \$21.

Our November program will be a real good one. I searched the web for information on the origin of perforations and found one on Wikipedia. After copying down some facts I continued searching and found a philatelic website vouching the material I had was correct. When I scrolled to the bottom, guess who created the webpage—our speaker, Dr. DiComo. I'll let him tell the story!!!

19th Annual Stamp Show: An Opportunity Not to Lose

I, editor, can hardly recall the years before our club had a stamp show. Then our club sponsored it's first in a motel. A few years later it was moved to our current location.

Just as there is concern about aging stamp collectors and the future of the hobby the same factors throw shadows on the future of stamp shows. The ease of buying on the internet has obsoleted stamp stores and possibly will undercut stamp shows.

This week my wife and I drove past the site where Ringling Bros. circus once pitched it tents in north Reading many decades ago. The main tent could hold 10,000 people, along with a huge traveling zoo called a menagerie and large side show. I collect circus memorabilia, especially post cards and often dream about what it would have been like in the 1930's--and before--to see the sights, smell the smells and hear the noise at one of those shows. They were gone before I was born.

Perhaps stamp shows will one day be a thing of the past and future collectors who know they once existed will lament their passing. Don't miss attending at least one stamp show a year while they still are here to enjoy. If these wonderful opportunities go away, you will regret it.

**MEMEBRS SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR IMPORTANT
INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

RSCC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON MENU

**YR Club in Wyomissing
December 14th Noon to 3:00 pm**

YOUR CHOICES

Soup du Jour

Entrées

Pistachio Chicken & Brie with Fig Reduction

pan-seared chicken breast filled with creamy brie & pistachios
served with Chef's potato & vegetable du jour

Panko Crusted Salmon with Pesto Cream

salmon crusted with buttery panko crumbs topped with pesto cream
served with Chef's potato & vegetable du jour

Beef Tenderloin with Marsala Cream

served with Chef's potato & vegetable du jour

All entrees served with mixed green salad

Apple Crisp

Coffee or Tea

Cost per Person

\$ 20.00 including one alcoholic drink

\$ 15.00 with non-alcoholic drink

**If you wish to attend, please email Michael Bach at mbach1@comcast.net
with number attending and your choice of entrée.
Payment must be received no later than December 6th**

This Day in History... October 15, 1860

Did An 11-Year-Old Girl Convince Lincoln To Grow A Beard?



U.S. #1113 – Lincoln received Grace's letter while sitting for this portrait.



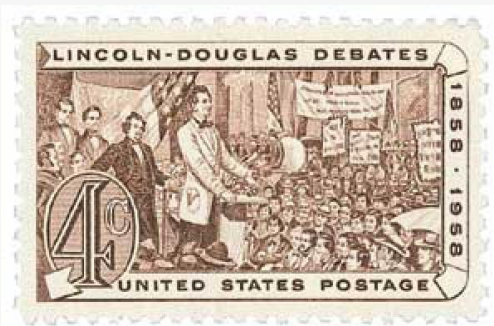
U.S. #4380-83 – Lincoln was the first U.S. President to have a beard, though some before him did have side burns.

On October 15, 1860, 11-year-old Grace Bedell wrote a letter to Republican presidential nominee Abraham Lincoln. She suggested he grow a beard – which he did shortly after!

During the 1860 election season, young Grace Bedell saw a picture of Abraham Lincoln and told her mother he'd look better with a beard and that she intended to tell him so. And in fact, she did. On October 15, she wrote a letter to Lincoln, telling him she wanted him to be president and that she would vote for him if she could. She also urged him to grow a beard. Grace told Lincoln he would be "much improved in appearance, provided you would cultivate whiskers."

Young Grace further promised to convince her brothers to vote for Lincoln if he grew a beard. "You would look a great deal better as your face is so thin. All the ladies like whiskers and they would tease their husbands to vote for you and then you would be President," she explained.

When he received the letter, Lincoln was sitting for a portrait with artist George Peter Alexander Healy. Healy had traveled from his home in Chicago to Springfield, Illinois to spend three days painting the presidential nominee. Visitors noted that Lincoln looked, "Grim as fate, sanguinity his expression, occasionally breaking into a broad grin... He chatted, told stories, laughed at his own wit – and the humor of others – and in one way and another made a couple of hours pass merrily and never once lost his dignity or committed himself to an opinion."



U.S. #1115 – A beardless Lincoln at the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas Debates.



U.S. #1114 is based on a sculpture that sits in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building.

During one of Healy's visits, Lincoln began laughing uncontrollably when he opened Grace's letter. Lincoln recounted the letter to Healy, "As a painter... you should be a judge between this unknown correspondent and me. She complains of my ugliness."

It is allowed to be ugly in the world, but not as ugly as I am. She wishes me to put on false whiskers, to hide my horrible lantern jaws. Will you paint me with false whiskers?" But Healy refused, and painted one of the few beardless portraits of the future president Lincoln (as pictured on U.S. #1113).



U.S. #UX48 – A 1962 postal card picturing a beardless Lincoln.

Lincoln was so amused by the letter that he wrote back to her four days later. "As to the whiskers, having never worn any, do you not think people would call it a piece of silly affectation if I were to begin now?" Despite Lincoln's comment, that he thought it might be odd to change his appearance, he had a full beard by the time he caught the train for the capital for his inauguration.

Grace's letter may not have been the only reason for Lincoln's decision to grow a beard. Another reason for Lincoln's new fashion may have included concerns about his youth. At age 51, Lincoln was the youngest person elected President at the time, and he may have added the beard to suggest maturity.



U.S. #77 was America's first mourning stamp.

Along the way to the capital, Lincoln stopped in Bedell's hometown of Westfield, New York, told the crowd of her letter and asked to meet her. In later years, Grace recalled their meeting: "He climbed down and sat down with me on the edge of the station platform. 'Gracie,' he said, 'look at my whiskers. I have been growing them for you.' Then he kissed me. I never saw him again."

Posted on [October 15, 2016](#) by [MysticStamp](#)