



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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September's Meeting

The HTPS budget for the 2008-2009 year was presented, discussed and approved by the attending members.

During the "What I Did Last Summer" show and tell, Joe Seliga spoke about his trip to Poland and visits to some local stamp shops. Ed Naylor attended a show in Ashville and picked up some interesting items for his collection.

Don Bunker found a cover at the MERPEX show that was posted in 1953 to his best friend from Minnesota. Jeff Boyarsky bought a book on eBay about the life of George Washington. The book contained US-issued Washington stamps including the 1932 Bicentennial set.



Bill Case, Ron & Eileen Dobrowolski and Don Bunker

We handed out a new publication from PSE that contains color images of U.S. postage for the first 100 years. Dennis Buss showed an album he purchased from PSE that holds ONE copy (no varieties) of each design from that period. No more worries about identifying those Washington-Franklin issues!

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President's Message



If you are planning to attend only one HTPS meeting this year, consider the October meeting. Wade Saadi, the President of the American Philatelic Society, will be visiting with us. His talk will be on his gold medal winning exhibit, "Struck on Stamps" – a study of the evolution of early cancellations. It is a fascinating exhibit with incredible examples of early US issues.

Mr. Saadi was recently appointed to the Presidency of the APS after the untimely death of Nick Carter. Wade serves as president of CCNY and the USPCS. He is the chair of the NY2016 Organizing committee and is President of the NY2016 International Exhibition.

Another writer has joined our staff. Check out the article on the Cardinal Spellman Museum written by Ron Gonzalez. On the international front, roving reporter Frank O. Bollo reports on PRAGA 2008, the World Stamp Exhibition held in Prague, Czech Republic this past September.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 PM, but come earlier to check out the APS books, trade items of interest or just to socialize. We promise an enjoyable and interesting evening on the 21st . . . Ed

The Spellman Museum

... by Ronald H. González, MD

At the end of June, I had the opportunity to visit the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History. It is located on the grounds of Regis College outside of Boston, Massachusetts.



Cardinal Spellman (photo at left) began his philatelic interest in 1911 when he attended North American College in Rome, and was introduced to stamp collecting by Lawrence Killian.

After traveling in South America, then Bishop Spellman returned to Newton Center in 1938 with a collection of stamps from 12 countries. Sister Fidelma Conway, who taught in the parish school, was asked to be the caretaker of the collection. Bishop Spellman became the Archbishop of New York in 1939.

In 1948 Cardinal Spellman donated his collection to the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The collection was moved to Regis College's Library in Weston MA during 1955, where the Cardinal Spellman Stamp Society was formed to manage the collection.

The Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum received its certificate of incorporation in 1960 as an independent, not-for-profit, educational organization. The museum brought together the Cardinal Spellman Collection and the collection of the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia.

The museum was established and dedicated in 1963. The building was paid for by a donation from the estate of Mable Gilman Corey of New York City. The dedication ceremony was attended by 1500 spectators, including Cardinal Spellman, former Post Master General, James A. Farley and others. Cardinal Spellman died in 1967. By 1971 the museum was accredited by the American Association of Museums.

I was able to spend the whole afternoon at the museum. First, I viewed a collection of Zeppelin covers as well as other exhibits through the museum. My main interest was the philatelic library where I spent much of the time searching through the extensive collection of books, journals, catalogs, etc., for articles related to Puerto Rico stamps and covers. I was able to copy many articles from journals and catalogs.



Stamp from the Spellman Museum's Giles Exhibit

The afternoon went by so fast and by 5:00 PM I was exhausted. The staff was very attentive and helpful. The museum changes the exhibits throughout the year and also offers workshops.

The Riverside Stamp club has a monthly bourse at the museum. If you want more information about the museum or plan a visit, go to their website (my primary source for photos and facts used in this article), at www.spellman.org.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to Steve Hadjiyannis from the Merchantville Stamp Club for identifying last month's stamp as Epirus #55 (VLASTOS Catalog). Scott shows the design, but does not break out use or values.



How about this month's entry? Can anyone provide details as to issue or use? Fifty cents in mint US postage will be awarded to the first correct identification.

Philatelic Pieces – Praga'08 Show

... by European correspondent Frank O. Bollo

The next time someone tells you that stamp collecting is a dying hobby, tell them to come to Prague.

I had the opportunity to attend the PRAGA'08 International stamp exhibition held in Prague, Czech Republic last month. After a minor snafu –



the press office would not accept my credentials as a reporter for *the Hinge* forcing me to pay the 30Ck (US\$2) entrance fee – I entered the first exhibition hall. To my utter amazement, there were *thousands* of stamp and cover collectors filling the room.

Eager collectors were lined up three or four deep at many of the dealer tables. Wandering through the room, I noticed many differences to that of a typical American show. Most dealers use stockbooks, many without current prices, rather than cards or dealer books. This requires the buyer to remove and price each stamp based on the current Michel catalog. I also noticed very few sale items, and felt sorry for the many younger collectors in the room.

Only one dealer had a table with stamp packets, covers, hinges and assorted other stamping items with a sign "Něco o Euro" (Anything for a Euro). However, the most striking difference was the cost of stamps, sometimes priced at 3-4 times the Scott catalog value at the current exchange rate! Needless to say, I did not purchase many items.

In the next hall were the philatelic exhibits. Unlike many U.S. shows where the displays are sparsely attended, I found huge crowds examining the exhibits, mainly of Czech and Eastern European stamps.



The show also featured Queen Elizabeth's personal collection containing many rare stamps from the British Empire, including the famous Mauritius "Post Office" stamps. Unfortunately, I was unable to see the collection since there was a *four hour* wait to view the exhibit!

After a morning at the show, I was off sightseeing in Prague. Next month, I will report from the WIPA show in Vienna, Austria.

Library Exhibit

During the month of September, we set up and maintained three display cases at the Hamilton Township Public Library.



Part of a Display Case

The displays included FDC's, Plate Blocks, WW Topics, Postcard Types and a variety of Philatelic Publications.

Thanks to Sherm Britton, Don Bunker, Gary Mackunze and Andrew Boyajian for their donated material.

We will display similar philatelic material at the Lawrenceville Library in November.

HTPS Meetings . . .

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Hamilton Township Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Way (off of Whitehorse Mercerville Road) in Hamilton, NJ 08619.

Club Notices

Stamp Donations: Please save your extra U.S. and Worldwide stamps. We donate them to schools and to the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. See Sherm Britton for details.

HTPS Flyers: Pick up some advertising flyers at the next meeting. These can be posted on library and community center bulletin boards throughout the local area. Copies are also available on our web site in the About Us section.

Stock Pages and Binders: We are looking for contributions of binders and stock pages (manila or black poly). Recycled items are fine. The idea is to supply new collectors with a "storage kit" before they decide on an album.

Philatelic Donation . . .

Our thanks to Camille Nicholas, and the PSE organization, for their donation of publications to our group. The members particularly liked the new *U.S. Design Numbers Guide*.

Web Watch – HTPS Web Site

We recently made the following changes to our web site at hamilton@att.net.

- ⇒ **About Us Page:** Added links to PDF copies of the HTPS Application Form, HTPS Constitution, Meeting Agenda and Flyers.
- ⇒ **Programs Page:** Added a link to the APS Slide Show web site.
- ⇒ **Links Page:** Modified format to allow for new entries and structures.
- ⇒ **Sales Page:** Added new page for members and guests to list items for trade or sale.

Upcoming Stamp Events

- 10/11 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM - 4 PM
- 10/12 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM
- 10/15 – Merchantville Stamp Club (MSC) Meeting– Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM
- 10/17 – Stampstravaganza – Marriott Hotel – Route 73 – Marlton, NJ – 10 AM to 8 PM
- 10/18 – JHSC Collector Bourse – PAL Building – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 3 PM
- 10/18 – 3rd Saturday Stamp / Coin Show – Holiday Inn – Somerset, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM
- 10/19 – 3rd Sunday Stamp/Coin Show – Wyndham Hotel – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM - 4 PM
- 10/21 – HTPS Meeting – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM
- 10/23-26 – ASDA Fall 2008 Mega Event – Madison Square Garden – NYC – Thurs. to Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM
- 10/25 – Woodbridge Stamp Expo – Hampton Inn – Woodbridge, NJ – 9:30 AM to 5 PM
- 10/26 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp – Holiday Inn – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM
- 11/1 – Garden State Stamp Show – Community Fire Hall – Wayne, NJ – 10 AM to 5 PM
- 11/6 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM
- 11/8 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM - 4 PM
- 11/9 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM

The purpose of this Newsletter is to promote philately, inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to attend the monthly meetings of the Society.

----- HTPS Officers -----

President Ed Murtha
Vice President Jeff Boyarsky
Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Secretary Bob Stolarz

----- HTPS Support Team -----

APS Representative Sherm Britton
Membership Chairman Jack Sack
Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
50/50 Handlers Dennis Buss, Jim Cope