

The *H*amilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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HTPS April Program



This month we are honored to have another prominent philatelist speak at our meeting. Roger Brody is chairman of the United States Stamp Society, president of the Collectors Club of New York and a board trustee of the American Philatelic Research

Library. He has written articles on U.S. postal history for *Linn's Stamp News* and other stamp journals and is active in the Westfield Stamp Club.

Source: *National Postal Museum website*

Roger will give a talk on his gold medal winning exhibit of the U.S. Prominent American issues. This series of 30 different stamps was issued between 1965 and 1981. The set contains numerous printing, color, tagging and gum variations. We look forward to an informative and interesting presentation on this relatively recent definitive series.



The primary business at our April meeting is the nominations for HTPS Officers to take effect in June. Please consider running for one of the four positions listed on the last page of this newsletter. We also have Support Team duties (listed on the back page) that require member participation. Responsibilities for each position are posted at meetings and are available on our web site.

The document camera will be back in action so bring your Show & Tell items. The formal meeting starts at 7:30 PM but come earlier to look at the APS books, trade items of interest or to check out the poster boards and available free publications.

In this Issue . . .

- *March Proceedings*
 - *Document Camera*
 - *Andy Prokopetz FDC Collection*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



I hope that you were able to attend last month's meeting and enjoy Tom DeLuca's presentation on early Disney postcards as much as I did. Thank you Tom!

It is April and the time when the Society nominates its officers for 2009-2010. This is also the season when we start spending more of our time outside rather than in. Because of this, I would like to encourage and ask each of you to attend the next two meetings to participate in the nomination and election of officers.

I would also like to thank Tony Zingale & Jack Sack for their investigative work and subsequent purchase of the ELMO document camera. The camera is a wonderful addition. It sure enhanced the display of our Show & Tell items last month. We could finally enjoy looking at an item all together instead of waiting to view it.

As we get better acquainted with the other features of this device, I am sure we will be delighted even further by its capabilities. Good job Tony & Jack and thank you.

I look forward to seeing you on the 21st of April.

March Proceedings

... by Jack Sack

We had another large turnout for our March meeting. There were some interesting Show & Tell presentations. Andrew Boyajian donated a few Mongolian First Day covers, dated March 22, 1981, that he received from a collector in Mongolia. The covers commemorate the first Mongolian in space, Jügderdemidiin Gürragchaa, who circled the earth for seven days in 1981 as part of the Soviet "Interkosmos" program that allows non-Soviets to participate in Soyuz space flights.



Jeff Boyarsky displayed some hand-painted covers he received in an auction lot. Maryann Brownback spoke about an Internet site she found called MyPhilately (see separate article).

The highlight of the evening was a talk by Tom DeLuca on early Mickey Mouse postcards from the 1930's and 40's. The earliest cards, many produced in Europe, show Mickey as a more "devious" character involved in such activities as smoking and public drinking.



Later cards show a gentler Mickey involved in sending birthday or holiday greetings. Tom also showed many Mickey Mouse "rip-off" cards not sanctioned by the Disney Company. We thank Tom for a fascinating talk. Maybe he has convinced a few members to start a Disney collection.

Subway Catalogs . . .

Our thanks to Sherry at Subway Stamp Shop for sending us a batch of their new 2009 supply catalogs. We put them out at our March meeting, and they were scooped up quickly.

Document Camera

Well, it took some time, but we finally have our document camera up and running! The Elmo TT-02s was used during the March meeting for our Show & Tell and for Tom DeLuca's wonderful presentation on Mickey Mouse foreign postcards from the 1930's.



The TT-02s is connected directly to a projector or a computer and does not generate any heat. This allows us to closely examine stamps and other philatelic objects without causing damage.

We purchased the unit from TouchBoards in Long Branch, NJ. Our thanks to Jonathan Dolan for his assistance.

Stamp Identification

No one has yet identified last month's stamp. HINT: It is listed in the Scott catalog as a province. Take another look at the March's newsletter.

Meanwhile, here is another stamp issue to identify. Again there is not much information to help in discovery, but that's what makes it challenging. Five 1940's humorous postcards (linen-type) to the first correct identifier.

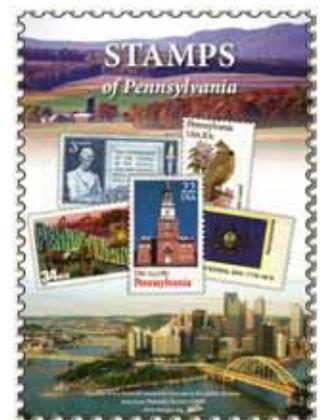


APS Stamp Album Pages

The latest addition to the APS PDF-album series highlights Pennsylvania related stamp issues.

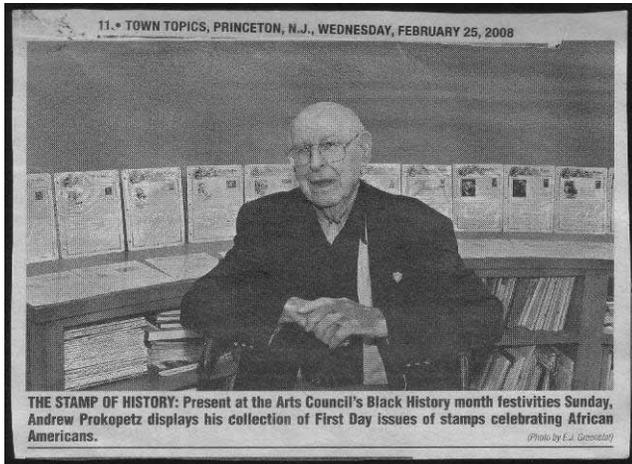
The album has space and information for over 170 color-illustrated U.S. stamps and six postcards issued by the USPS.

Download the pages from www.stamps.org/Albums/Pennsylvania.pdf.



Andrew Prokopetz's FDC Collection

Long time HTPS club member Andy Prokopetz recently displayed his collection of First Day Cover issues celebrating African Americans. The occasion was the Princeton Arts Council's Black History month festivities.



Source: *Princeton Town Topics*

Andy started his First Day collection about twenty years ago. He also keeps busy working on his other varied philatelic interests including U.S., Germany and Poland issues (to name a few).

MSC Bourse

The first Merchantville Stamp Club bourse was held on March 7 at the Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall in Pennsauken, NJ. Thirteen dealers provided plenty of material for the customers that showed up for the event.

Believe it or not, this is the best picture our Staff Photographer obtained. He claimed that people were busy looking at the dealer material and that's why we see so few faces. The Hinge now has an opening for a new photographer.



The next Merchantville bourse is scheduled for Saturday, June 6.

APS President's Challenge

Wade Saadi, the APS President, has come up with an interesting concept. He wants to use YouTube (www.youtube.com) as a method to reach out to internet users especially young people.

To that end, he has proposed a challenge to APS members. Make a video, upload it to YouTube, and have a chance to win a \$250 gift certificate for APS merchandise.

Go to www.stamps.org/videos/index.htm for instructions on making the video (even WITHOUT a camera). The site also includes links to help load the video to YouTube. Information on Wade's challenge is available on our literature table.

Web Watch – MyPhilately.Com

At the March meeting, Maryann Brownback talked about an Internet site called MyPhilately. The site, administered by Dan Brown, describes itself as "Social Networking for Stamp Collectors" and provides some interesting features.



Members can join groups, trade with stamp collectors or just chat online. My interest in forgeries, revenues and cinderellas was my reason for joining. My hope is to get some help in identifying some of my "unknown" items. Perhaps I can also trade some of my duplicates.

Try it out and let us know of your experiences with this new site including which elements were most useful or informative to you.

Newsletter Articles . . .

We are always looking for interesting items, articles, ideas or suggestions you might have. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; call us at 609-890-8211; email to hamilton@att.net.

HTPS Notices

Show & Tell: Please remember to bring an item or two of interest to the monthly meetings. This is an ideal way for all of us to share information and learn more about other collecting areas.

On-line Newsletters: HTPS Newsletters are available online at hamilton.home.att.net. One helpful advantage is that you can use the live links to Internet sites and email addresses.

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" while they decide on an album.

Stamp Donations: Please donate your extra stamps or philatelic material to the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. Contact Sherm Britton for details at a meeting or via the HTPS email.

USPS Rate Changes



On May 11, USPS postage rates will increase including:

- U.S. First Class Letter – 44¢
- U.S. Large Envelope – 88¢
- U.S. Additional Ounce – 17¢
- U.S. Postcard Rate – 28¢
- Canada First Class – 75¢

Details at www.usps.com/prices/pricechanges.htm.

HTPS Meetings . . .

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

Upcoming Stamp Events

4/2 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM.

4/4 – DELPEX '09 – Nur Shrine Center – 198 S. Dupont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM.

4/5 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Rt. 70 – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM (FIRST Sunday this month due to Easter).

4/11 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Routes 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.

4/16-19 – Spring MEGA Event – New Yorker Hotel – 481 Eighth Ave. – NYC – Thur to Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM – www.stamps.org – **NEW LOCATION!**

4/15 – MSC Meeting (See 4/2 MSC Meeting info).

4/19 – NESS 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Show – Wyndham Garden Hotel – 50 Kenney Place – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM.

4/21 – HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

4/26 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sun.) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpk (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

5/2-3 – VALPEX 2009 – Friendship Fire Company – 269 Green St. – Royersford, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM – <http://sfps.tripod.com>.

5/2 – JHSC STAMP BOURSE – Montville United Methodist Church – 29 Whitehall Road (Rte. 202N) – Towaco, NJ – 10 AM - 3 PM – 973-263-9012 – **NEW LOCATION!**

NOTE: See www.stampshows.com for additional or updated information on shows.

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