

*** HAPPY NEW YEAR ***



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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Vol. 5, No. 5

January 2012

January 17th Meeting

We start 2012 with our society auction so get your material ready for sale or come prepared to purchase some great bargains!

The auction starts right after the general meeting so come early to check out the offerings. Details are provided on the following pages.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to **Bill Andersen** for identifying last month's stamp. It was Montenegro #19 issued in 1893. There were a few issues with the Prince Nicholas I portrait – the differences being in the perforations.

Bill identified all the issues so we give him credit for a correct guess. Jack Sack analyzed the newsletter image and came up with the answer, but you need a doctorate to understand it. As he summarized though, the simple answer was --- ". . . anyone familiar with the budget of the Hinge's stamp identification editor would have immediately known that the stamp must have been the least expensive version, with a catalog value of \$2.10."

This month's stamp is more straightforward. No perfs to worry about with this issue. The stamp is the first in a set of three – all very colorful and detailed.



\$1.00 in mint US stamps to the first correct responder.

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.

In this Issue . . .

- *December's Proceedings*
- *Knowledge Is Power*
- *Society Auction*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



Happy New Year! I always find myself reviewing and evaluating things at this time of the year. I like to know if we are better off than we were a year ago and to think about how to improve in the coming year.

My year end review of our society finds it to be in good shape both financially and membership wise. That is thanks to all you. You have been generous both with time and support and I thank you profusely for that. The officers and board members are most responsible for making our society monthly meetings informative and interesting. They also provide us with an award winning newsletter that keeps us informed and entertained.

I am grateful to all of them for what they have done to make our society better. Our fellow HTPS members are extremely kind and supportive to all visitors to our meetings. This is a key reason why our membership continues to grow each year. Again, I thank you.

Lastly, I would like you to know that I will not be running nor accept the nomination as President, or for any other position within the society, when this term ends. Our society is in good shape, so this is a good time for a change; both for the society and for me. I am looking forward to the time when I can sit amongst all of you. See you on the 17th . . . Ed.

December Proceedings . . . by Jack Sack

The wet, raw evening did not deter a large turnout for our annual holiday party. President **Ed Murtha** opened the meeting with a flag salute and officer's reports. Ed also introduced our newest member, Andrew Keyso, who collects modern US stamps.



Hank Applegate (image at the left) reported on the presentation by Cheryl R. Ganz, Curator at the National Postal Museum, at last month's MSC meeting. He also noted that the MSC bourse is scheduled for January 7th after an absence of several months.

Ron Gonzalez updated us on the progress of the HTPS logo golf shirts. Some alternate items were proposed. A price list will be included with the February mailing. **Tony Zingale** gave a brief description on the auction that will take place in January (see related article).

For the Show & Tell, **Jim Cope** displayed a Trenton sleigh cancellation which totally obliterated the stamps on an envelope. **Sherm Britten** showed a prepaid Hallmark card envelope.

Andrew Boyajian passed around a map of the U.S. from the 1930's with the location of all the commemoratives issued up to that time. **Ron Gonzalez** exhibited an article he has written for "Possessions", the journal of the United States Possessions Philatelic Society. He also showed two covers that he recently purchased (see the next article).

The rest of the evening was spent with fellow members chatting about the past year and their upcoming philatelic pursuits. That was accompanied by the three full tables of cakes, cookies, snacks, ice cream and drinks. **Jim Cope** created a lighthouse-themed display of cookies.



The evening concluded with President Murtha wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Knowledge Is Power . . . by Jack Sack

Our treasurer, **Ron Gonzalez**, knows that in philately, as in many other endeavors, "Knowledge is Power!" At December's meeting, Ron showed some Puerto Rican airmail covers (one is shown below) purchased for a modest fee at a recent stamp show. However, the covers are from the rare reprinting of US airmail stationery. Obviously, the dealer was unaware of the differences of the reprint. Ron's knowledge led to his profit.



I can recall numerous occasions where my philatelic knowledge has led to profit or at least prevented me from making a philatelic mistake. For example, all US coil stamps have a height of 24.5 to 25.0mm. Thus, you can measure the height of a suspect coil see if it is "shorter" than a real coil. I have saved myself from buying such fakes by knowing this simple fact.

Recently, while thumbing through a well-worn album in a "10¢" box, I noticed a 1¢ Canal Zone overprint stamp type A15. The overprints occur in five fonts and most of the varieties are rather common but there is a poorly printed type III (Scott #46) which has a higher value. I noticed that the stamp had this rarer overprint, something a less knowledgeable observer would have missed.

I am always surprised at the number of collectors who do not own a catalog or other identification tools. While the cost of such material can be rather high, the rewards gained from reading the literature can be even higher. Knowledge is power!

Membership Dues . . .

HTPS dues of \$10.00 were payable by January 1st. Please pay at the January meeting with cash or check (payable to HTPS), or send payment to Ron Gonzalez at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

Society Auction

It's auction time again! Why not bring some of your duplicate, excess or unwanted philatelic material and put them up for sale?



Here are some **hints** for creating lots:

- ⇒ Put up items that fellow members collect (see list below). As always, condition is key; choice or unique items usually do very well.
- ⇒ Reference publications, especially specialized or color catalogs, are always popular.
- ⇒ Postcards, covers and ephemera also sell.

Preparing Auction Forms

Enter your name and date (1-17-12) at the top of the **Auction List Sheet**. Enter a description of the item including Scott # (for stamps), condition, faults and catalog / retail values.

Auction List - Seller's Name: <u>JOHN DOE</u>		Date: <u>1-15-08</u>			
Item No.	Item Name or Scott Number	Item Description and/or Condition (e.g., Blue Columbian, MNH, FVF, Gum Creased)	Minimum Bid	Sales Price	Phone Number
1.	Scott 2004	US SPECIALIZED CATALOGS - Good cond.	1.00		
2.	Scott PB	Album, 1961-1964 Commemorative, No stamps, some mount - ex. cond.	2.00		
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DENMARK	#9//126/8 Used - CV 475+	5.00		
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NETHERLANDS	200 DIFF USED - CV 445	5.00		
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FDC ALBUM	with 25 two-up Clear Pages	3.00		
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

Total Sales _____
Club Commission (-10%) _____
Net to Seller _____

As for the Minimum Bid, be realistic – common items usually sell for 10-20% of catalog value. Use 2-3 lines, if needed, to describe the auction lot; then renumber the following items on the sheet.

HTPS Auction --- Lot Description	
Seller Name: _____	Item #: _____
Description: _____	
Item Value: _____	Min. Bid: _____

For each auction item, complete an **Auction Lot form**. This form is attached to (or inserted into) the

item to be auctioned. The information should match the Auction List Sheet which will enable the Auctioneer and support staff to quickly move through the lots.

Obtain a **bidder number** before the auction starts. Bidding starts with the seller's minimum bid as shown on the Lot Description form. Increments vary at the discretion of the Auctioneer.

All items are **SOLD AS IS** so be careful with your bids.

If you wish to **donate** the sales proceeds to the HTPS, please indicate that on the Auction List Sheet.

Payments are made by the winning bidders after all auction items are sold. The sellers are paid the sales price realized MINUS a 10% commission for HTPS. Amounts are rounded to 5¢ increments.

Member Interests

Here are some areas of interest to our members:

U.S. – Puerto Rico	Postcards
Australia – Botswana	Covers: Events, etc.
British Commonwealth	Antarctica
Canada	Bicycle Related
Germany	Fire Service – Fish
India & Indian States	Lighthouses
Poland	Military Related
Puerto Rico	Olympics – Patriotic
Scandinavia	Scouting – Sports
Sudan – Surinam	WW II Occupations
Switzerland – Vatican	Zeppelin Covers

Stamp Donations

The HTPS members express their gratitude for a very **LARGE** donation of stamps and albums courtesy of **George Amick**. George is the author of the annual *Linn's US Stamp Yearbooks*. He also writes a weekly column for the *Times of Trenton*.



The donation included six boxes of stamps on paper (mostly US), a box of mint Marshall Is., Micronesia and Barbados, a box of Showgard mounts and three stamp albums.

We will donate the bulk items to the Stamps for the Wounded group and auction off the other items with the proceeds going to school stamp programs sponsored by HTPS and the Merchantville Stamp Club.

Thanks also to **John Ranto** for his donation of US coil flag stamps for use on Newsletter mailing postage.



HTPS Notices

Stamp Donations: Please donate your extra stamps or philatelic material to the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. Contact Sherm Britton for details.

New Member . . . Welcome to Andrew Keyso as the newest member of our society. Andrew collects U.S. commemoratives (preferably mint issues).

Upcoming Events

- 1/5 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – Doors open at 7 PM.
- 1/6-8 → Garden State Stamp & Postcard Show – Bethwood Manor – 38 Lackawanna Avenue (off Union Blvd) – Totowa, NJ – Fri. 10 AM - 6 PM – Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM – Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM.
- 1/7 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 N. (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 1/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

1/15 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

1/15 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM

1/17 →HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

1/18 → MSC Meeting (See 1/5 MSC Meeting info).

1/22 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

2/1 → MSC Meeting (See 1/5 MSC Meeting info).

2/4 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse (see 1/7 Bourse).

2/11 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

NOTE: For updated or additional information, see: www.stampshows.com – www.stamps.org www.postal-history.com/showpage.html.

The objective of this Newsletter is to promote philately, educate and inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to join the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society.

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

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

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

APS Representative Jon Madsen
Historian Joe Seliga
Membership Chairman Jack Sack
Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
NOJEX Contact Andrew Boyajian
Philatelic Donations Sherm Britton
Webmaster Jack Sack
50 / 50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ken Steel

----- HTPS Meeting Program -----

- ⇒ Jan. 17 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 21 – *"Postal History: French Colonial Allegorical Group Type - Use from Senegal & French Sudan"* (by Edward Grabowski)
- ⇒ Mar. 20 – *"Modern U.S. Airmails"* (by K. David Steidley)
- ⇒ Apr. 17 – Tom DeLuca – Always a Surprise!
- We are looking for speakers for late 2012 dates.

Newsletter Articles . . .

We are always looking for philatelic articles, ideas or suggestions. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; or call 609-890-8211; or email us at hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org.