



The *H*amilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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November-December 2013

November-December Meetings

Our Treasurer, **Ron Gonzalez**, will present our November program – titled “And Now What?” If something happens to you, would your heirs know how best to dispose of your collection? Ron will give some helpful advice on how to setup and document your collection in advance just in case. There will be time for questions following Ron’s talk.



In December, we will have our **annual holiday party**. Please bring a treat or a “show & tell” item (or both) to share with your fellow members.

Meetings start at 7:30 PM, but come early to check out the displays and items for trade / sale, or to chat with your fellow philatelists.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to **Bill Andersen** for correctly identifying last issue’s stamp as Korea #75 issued in 1947.



We have picked an interesting stamp this month. You have probably seen it before, maybe at **Don Bunker’s** table at Hightstown, thinking it is an Indian States stamp (It’s not!). The postmark should give you a clue.

There is a prize of 25 free stamps from our 10¢ boxes or albums for the first correct responder.

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- *William H. Gross Stamp Gallery*
- *Stamp Design Contest*
- . . . and much more!

President’s Message



As we close out 2013, I want to thank again all of the speakers who made presentations – talks, mini-talks, and show & tell – this past year. They are the backbone of our meetings. Even after being a collector all these years, I still learn

something at every one of our meetings. I hope everyone will think about giving a presentation – large or small – next year.

This month we begin our 2014 membership drive (see page 6). I trust you have enjoyed being a part of HTPS this past year and will renew your membership for 2014. We want to thank **Jack Sack** for organizing our HTPS membership roster and placing it on a database for easy access in the future.

The end-of-year meetings – Ron’s talk and the holiday party – should be fun and entertaining. I look forward to seeing you there . . . Jeff.

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, Hamilton, NJ (Mercer County).

Postal Airmail Route

... by Ron Gonzalez



These really exist – Giant Concrete Arrows That Point Your Way Across America.

Every so often, usually in the vast deserts of the American Southwest, a hiker or a backpacker will run across something puzzling: a large concrete arrow, as much as seventy feet in length, sitting in the middle of scrub-covered nowhere.

What are these giant arrows? Some kind of surveying mark? Landing beacons for flying saucers? Earth's turn signals?

No, it's **The Transcontinental Air Mail Route**. On August 20, 1920, the United States opened its first coast-to-coast airmail delivery route, just 60 years after the Pony Express closed up shop. There were no good aviation charts in those days so pilots had to eyeball their way across the country using landmarks.



This meant that flying in bad weather was difficult, and night flying was just about impossible.

The U.S. Postal Service solved the problem with the world's first ground-based civilian navigation system – a series of lit beacons that would extend

from New York to San Francisco. Every ten miles,

pilots would pass a bright yellow concrete arrow. Each arrow would be surmounted by a 51-foot steel tower and lit by a million-candlepower rotating beacon. (A generator shed at the tail of each arrow powered the beacon.)

Now mail could get from the Atlantic to the Pacific not in a matter of weeks, but in just 30 hours or so.

Even the dumbest of airmail pilots, it seems, could follow a series of bright yellow arrows straight out of a Tex Avery cartoon. By 1924, just a year after Congress funded it, the line of giant concrete markers stretched from Rock Springs, Wyoming to Cleveland, Ohio. The next summer, it reached all the way to New York and by 1929 it spanned the continent uninterrupted - the envy of postal systems worldwide.



Radio and yet to be invented radar are, of course, infinitely less cool than a concrete Yellow Brick Road from sea to shining sea, but I think we all know how this story ends. New advances in communication and navigation technology made the big arrows obsolete, and the Commerce Department decommissioned the beacons in the 1940s. The steel towers were torn down and went to the war effort.

But hundreds of arrows remain. Their yellow paint is gone, their concrete cracks a little more with every winter frost, and no one crosses their path much, except for coyotes and tumbleweeds.

But they're still out there.

[Primary source:

http://www.core77.com/blog/transportation/what_are_these_giant_concrete_arrows_across_the_american_landscape_25236.asp]

Postal Airmail Route (addendum)



Do you recognize this photo? It is a beacon tower atop Sherman Hill in the Rocky Mountains.

It served as an inspiration for one of my favorite stamps – U.S. #C11 (Scott), issued in 1928, commemorating the U.S. Transcontinental Air-Mail Route.



With this issue, the U.S. Postal Service reduced the rate to 5¢ per ounce in an effort to increase the use of airmail service. However, starting with this issue, airmail stamps could no longer be used for ordinary postage. This is no longer true.

September Proceedings . . . by Jack Sack

At our **September meeting**, it was a pleasure to see many of our friends back for another year of HTPS fun. The main item of business was the unanimous approval of the 2013-2014 budget. We also added a new member – Roger Randall. Some of you know Roger from the Merchantville Stamp Club.



Our speaker for the evening was **Roger Brody** and the topic was U.S. Telegraph stamps. He started with a brief video on the history of the telegraph including Samuel Morse's machine and the subsequent improvements by Alfred Vail.

Roger described the U.S. Government's telegraph documentary stamps. These were issued to pay the tax imposed on telegraph transmissions to help finance the Civil War. They are included in the Scott's catalog as #R4 (at right) and #R19. Mint examples are relatively scarce!



Roger also spoke about private telegraph stamps, issued by independent telegraph companies to handle the prepayment or free franking of transmission fees. There

were numerous telegraph companies and stamps issued from the 1880 through the 1940's. Many of these stamps are listed in the Scott's catalog as Telegraph stamps with the prefix "T". We thank Roger for his informative presentation!



[Source: wikimedia.org]

October Proceedings . . . by Jack Sack



After a brief business meeting, **Hank Applegate** gave a talk on the ILA aviation show held in Frankfurt in 1909. It is considered to be the world's oldest "Air Show" and attracted over one million visitors over 100 days.

The show included exhibits of balloons, airships and numerous dirigibles including an early Zeppelin. The Wright Brothers' plane also made visits to the show. There were daily flying demonstrations



Hank showed many postcards and souvenirs from the show, including items postmarked from the show's own post office.



Zeppelin II over Festhall (main exhibition hall) entrance.

The next ILA, now considered one of the most important aerospace trade fairs, will be held in Berlin in May of 2014. We thank Hank for his outstanding presentation!

Check out Hank's presentation on our website.

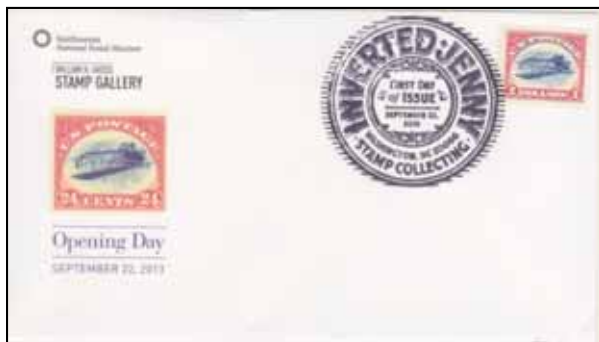
William H. Gross Stamp Gallery . . . by Ron Gonzalez



On Sunday, September 22, 2013, Jeff Boyarsky and I attended the opening of the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery at the Postal Museum of the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. After a three hour drive we arrived at the postal museum. As we exited the parking lot, we already were greeting familiar faces. John M. Hotchner recognized my HTPS shirt and immediately thanked us for the stamps we sent to the veterans.

After registering at the front desk, we headed downstairs to obtain a copy of the program which included two cacheted blank envelopes for the occasion. Downstairs, the postal service had set up a sales area for the stamps and a cancellation table.

We immediately went to work on the covers and programs and obtained the special cancelations for the inverted Jenny \$2.00 stamp issued in a souvenir sheet of 6. I cancelled a program and a few covers including one that commemorated the Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant David H. McNerney.



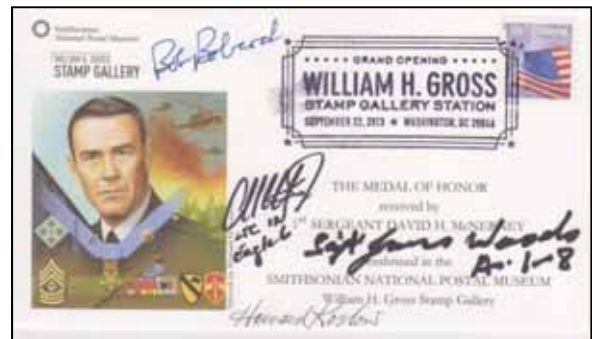
At 10:00 AM the gallery opened and we were the third on line entering the gallery! Inside many interactive stamp displays were mounted. On one side of the gallery, rare stamps and covers were displayed including a block of four of the inverted Jenny. The block was on loan from Don Sundman, the owner of Mystic Stamp Company.

In the same area they were demonstrating the process of printing engraved stamps using an old press. On the other side of the gallery, there is a display of an almost complete US stamp collection, plus proofs, essays and signed plate proofs of US stamps.

There is much to see at the museum from stamp displays to touch tables to mail processing and transportation methods. Artifacts on display include a set of rusty mail keys from the RMS (Royal Mail Ship) Titanic to a 1950's stamp machine (shown here).



At 11:00 AM we attended the ceremony for the Medal of Honor. Sergeant David H. McNerney, an avid stamp collector, was the recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Vietnam War. His stamp collection as well as his medal was donated to the Smithsonian Museum by his family.



After several speeches by dignitaries and the key note speaker General Raymond T. Ordierno, Chief of Staff United States Army, the medal was placed on permanent display. Later on, I obtained the cancellation and signatures of the speakers. I also obtained General Ordierno's autograph on the program.

Next up was the First Day Ceremony for the inverted Jenny stamp. Speakers included Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe and Cheryl R. Ganz, PhD, the lead curator of the postal museum. The family of the original purchaser of the inverted Jenny sheet of 100 stamps, Mr. William T. Robey, attended the event.

At the end of the day we went for a late lunch and then back home. It was a great trip!

For more info, visit the museum site at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/stampgallery/index.html.

Upcoming Events

November 2013 . . .

11/2 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

11/3 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.

11/7 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

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

11/17 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

11/17 → World Money, Stamps & Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM.

11/19 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

11/20 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

11/24 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

December 2013 . . .

12/1 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.

12/5 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

12/6-8 → MetroExpo – Holiday Inn – 440 W. 57th St – NYC – Fri: 10 to 6 PM – Sat: 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 3 PM – www.metroexpos.com.

12/7 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

12/8 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.

12/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

12/15 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

12/15 → World Money, Stamps & Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM.

12/17 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

12/18 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

January 2014 . . .

1/2 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

1/3-5 → Garden State Stamp & Coin 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.

1/4 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

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

Stamp Design Contest

The first annual HTPS Stamp Design contest is scheduled for our December meeting. We will select the **most appealing stamp from a member's collection**. Below is a strong candidate for the 'best in show' award. Beautiful engraving!

Stamps must be scanned at 300-600 bpi and the image emailed to us or delivered to **Tony Zingale** by Dec 1. We can assist those without computer access.

Only single stamps may be entered. The actual stamp must be shown at the December meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, arrange to deliver the stamp to Tony Zingale.

The stamp images will be shown during the December party and the attendees will vote on their favorite. The winner will receive a choice of stamp tongs, a 5-pack of stock sheets or \$3.00 in mint U.S. postage.



2014 Membership Drive

This month we begin our 2014 membership drive. As Jeff said, we trust you have enjoyed being a part of HTPS this past year and will renew your membership for 2014. The dues for 2014 will remain at \$10.

With our new database, we thought it would be a good opportunity to update our records. Everyone will receive a printout of their current information. We would appreciate it if you could review this and correct and update the information. As the membership information was kept on several different spreadsheets, there may be out-of-date information.

There are also selections for receiving email from us and to let us know whether you wish to receive our award winning newsletter, the Hamilton Hinge, by mail or email.

Please return the information form, along with your dues, either at one of our meetings or via mail at the club's Post Office Box. Make your check payable to the "Hamilton Township Philatelic Society".

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Sack at 609-896-8193 or through our email address on the letterhead.

The objective of our 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 Jeff Boyarsky
Vice President Andrew Boyajian
Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Secretary Bob Stolarz

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

APS Representative Jon Madsen
Advertising and PR Bill Andersen
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 -----

- ⇒ Nov. 19 – “*And Now What?*” by Ron Gonzalez
- ⇒ Dec. 17 – Holiday Party / Show & Tell /
- ⇒ Jan. 21 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 18 – Tom DeLuca – Always a Surprise!
- ⇒ Mar. 18 – “*Small Is the Way to Go*”
by Ed Muench

We are looking for a speaker for the April 2014 meeting. Please contact us if interested.

Newsletter Articles . . .

We always welcome 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.