



# The Hamilton Hinge

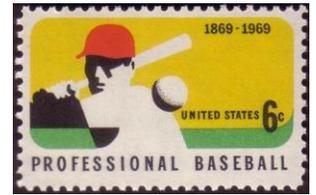


APS Chapter #C-104282 – ATA Chapter #127

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS)

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## CURRENT STATUS

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Do you remember reading that?? I wonder how many of us feel that same way now.

We are still awaiting additional information on how social gatherings will be in the future. We are most concerned about this since most of us fall into that vulnerable age group for this virus.

If you have not done so and you have an iPad, iPhone or laptop with a camera, please look at adding this app ZOOM to your device. It is a free application that allows you to have group conference/meetings. Many folks have been using it during the quarantine to communicate with family, friends, and associates. This maybe the only way currently for us to have a monthly meeting. My wife helped me set it up. It is simple and only takes a few minutes to do.

(The above quote is from the novel – Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.)

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have paid your 2019 – 2020 annual dues, you will not have to pay 2020-2021 dues. This recommendation was made by President Kennedy and approved by the Executive Board on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

## HTPS Meetings . . .

Meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month at the Hamilton Township Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Way, just off Whitehorse Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ (Mercer County). Doors open at 6:30.

## In this Issue . . .

- *Prior Meeting Proceedings*
- *KIUSALAS U.S. Specialist Gauge*
- *Upcoming Events*
- . . . and much more!

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Due to the Coronavirus the Township closed the library and we had to cancel the March – April – May – June meetings. As it stands now, more meetings will likely be cancelled.

All of us should follow the guidelines for social distancing and should only leave our houses in an emergency. There are numerous businesses that will deliver food. You may have to wait a couple of days to get the delivery, so plan ahead.

You can spend your free time going through your collection and putting aside duplicates to be in the clubs June auction.

Stay safe and I hope to see everybody at the next meeting, hopefully this year.

## STAMP IDENTIFICATION

No one identified the last issue’s stamp so we show it here again. This stamp is an imperforated used example (handstamped) of the issue. It is violet in color. Come on – hit those catalogs and find the answer!

\$1.00 in mint U.S. postage stamps is waiting for the first correct responder.



## PRIOR MEETINGS

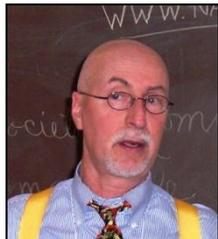
... by Joe Seliga

[**Editor's Note:** Minutes are not read at meetings, but are posted and are on our website.]

The **January 21 meeting** began with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. There were twenty-two (22) members and no guests in attendance. All officers except Treasurer **Ken Steel** attended.

**President Dennis Kennedy** reported that our current bank balance is \$4,589.84 and that we earned twenty cents interest as reported on the last bank statement.

President Kennedy noted that the HTPS funded part of the holiday party last year which was enjoyed by all. He asked the members in attendance whether we should repeat that this year. No formal vote was taken, but it appeared that those in attendance were in agreement.



President Kennedy said that through the efforts of **Jeff Boyarsky**, three albums of WW stamps were donated to the HTPS. Members can purchase stamps for 10 cents each; so far \$175 has been realized. The money will be donated to the Stamps for the Wounded group.

**Ed Murtha** spoke about the **American Philatelic Society** which was established in 1887. They publish a monthly journal, operate a lending library, do authentication of stamps and help local clubs. They gave us about 15 pounds of stamp supplies for the Hobby Day event at Hillsborough. Dues are \$45 per year. He urged all HTPS members to join this fine organization.

[**Editor's Note:** Last year, 30 of the 48 HTPS members also were APS members.]

**Joseph Seliga** asked members to consider running for Secretary at the May elections because this will be his last year in that position. President Kennedy said that the HTPS will need a new Treasurer as well.

A motion to adjourn was made by **Robin Rowand**, seconded by **Tony Zingale** and passed unanimously.

Our semi-annual **auction** was held at the meeting. Tony Zingale was the auctioneer. Thanks to **Andrew Boyajian** who donated several items including a 1983 NASA Space Shuttle Cover. **Don Getzin** donated 2017 and 2019 Scott U.S. Specialized catalogs and a VF-XF used copy of U.S. #26. The HTPS realized about \$75 from the auction.



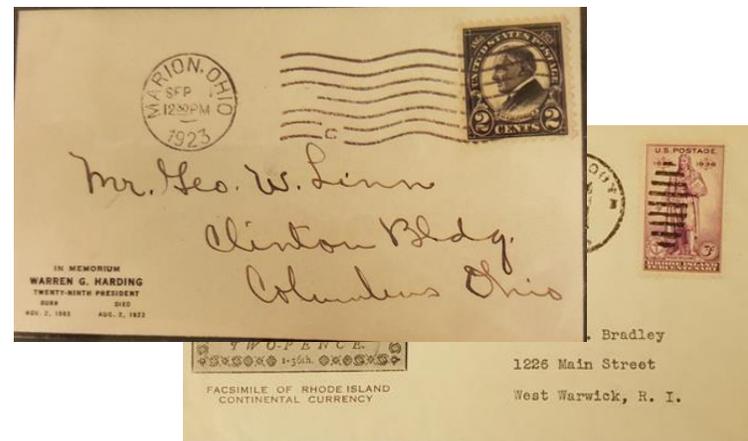
The **February 18 meeting** featured a presentation on "**First Day Cover Collecting**" by **Tom DeLuca** – the owner of Trenton Stamp and Coin Co. located here in Hamilton Township. Tom has provided at least one talk a year for 39 years and still running!



**BELOW: Scott #610 -1923-** Warren Harding cover – The 1<sup>st</sup> commercially produced cover and **Scott #777 -1936-** Rhode Island Tercentenary – Early cachet cover

**Scott #630 -1926-** White Plains issue – First issued at International Philatelic Exposition held in NYC.

**Scott #2966 -1995-** POW&MIA issue – limited edition Colorano painted cachet. One of 74.



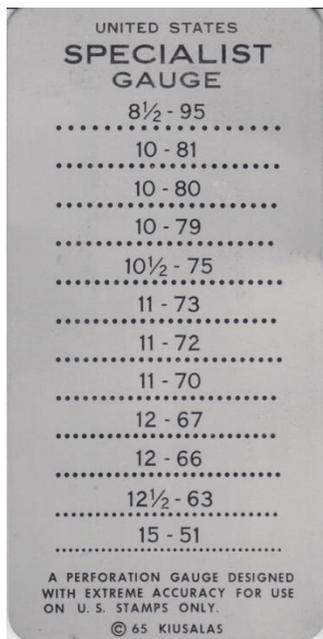
## THE KIUSALAS U.S. SPECIALIST GAUGE

... by Don Getzin

Some of the biographical information in this article was taken from an Internet story entitled "Frequently Asked Questions on Richard Kiusalas and His Perforation Gauges" by Julian Goldberg.



Richard A. Kiusalas invented the U.S. gauge (shown below) and a similar Canadian gauge. He patented both items in 1965. He and his father Augustus were stamp dealers from Massachusetts. He was suspected of fraudulently perforating straight edges on stamps. Also, he and his father were caught forging pre-cancel overprints on a U.N. stamp and selling these forgeries to collectors.



The Kiusalas U.S. Gauge reading consists of two parts: 'G' and 'S'. The 'G' value matches the standard perforation gauge – i.e., the number of perforations (holes) in 2 cm. The 'S' reading represents the number of thousands of an inch between perforations.

Thus, a Kiusalas gauge reading of 8½-95 means that the stamp is perf 8½ with holes 95 thousands of an inch apart, or 0.095" apart. The mathematical

relationship between 'G' and 'S' is  $G = 787.4/S$ . The G-value is rounded to the nearest half, incorrectly in the case of 10-81 and 15-51.

An important feature of this gauge is that the "dots" that represent perforations are of the correct size. That is, they approximately match the hole (perforation) size on actual U.S. stamps.

The Kiusalas gauge lists a gauge 11-73, which does not exist on any U.S. stamp. It is suspected that Kiusalas attempted to convince collectors that this gauge was used on Scott #544, a rotary press sheet waste stamp.

Another problem with the Kiusalas U.S. Gauge is with the U.S. perforated Issue of 1857. This is the first U.S. perforated issue, and it was produced by Toppan, Carpenter and Company. Scott lists the gauge as 15½, but Kiusalas lists it as 15-51. If the "15" is correct, then the calculated hole separation is 0.0525", and the Kiusalas reading should be 15-52, not 15-51.



If, on the other hand, the "51" is correct (i.e., a hole separation of 0.051"), then the calculated perf is 15.44, and the Kiusalas reading should be listed as 15½-51, not 15-51. This collector believes that 15½ is the correct gauge for this issue, and therefore that the correct Kiusalas reading should be listed as 15½-51.

In the image above, the size of the black dots match the perf size on a perf 15½ Scott #25.

It should be noted that some older U.S. stamps have shrunk over the years in one direction or another. Therefore their perms might not exactly match on adjoining sides. However, the gauge values on opposite sides of the stamp must always match. If not, then the stamp has been fraudulently perforated (i.e., reperfed) along one side or the other.

Just to clear up a common mistake, a perforation (or perf) is a HOLE. The small pieces of paper between perms are PERF TIPS or PERF TEETH, not perms. It is therefore impossible for a stamp to have a "short perf" or a "pulled perf" as a fault.

Kiusalas U.S. Specialist Gauges can occasionally be found on eBay for \$25 to \$30. They are sometimes available from James E. Lee. at P.O. Box 3876, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3876. Call him at (847) 910-6048 or email to [jim@jameslee.com](mailto:jim@jameslee.com).

## DONATIONS – KEN STEEL



No stamps have been sent to the Stamps for The Wounded in the past few months. John Hotchner who runs this program took a bad fall in NYC and has been on the mend and the Society has not met recently to contribute its usual philatelic material.

Before all this hit, we must thank **Hal Vogel** for his donation of WW stamps. Also, thanks to **Pegi Stempel** for her donation of WW stamps on paper.

When we get together next, why not donate any of your excess material to the SFTW? You can clean up some space at home and help the causes they support.

## OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

Dennis Kennedy – President

Robin Rowand – Vice President

Joe Seliga – Secretary (pro tempore)

Matt Visco – Treasurer

Joe Seliga wishes to retire from the Secretary position. He has been in this position (and others!!) for several years and he deserves and needs a break. If you attend most of the meetings or if you want a good reason to attend more, why not offer your services? Talk to Joe and/or Dennis and let them explain the job and hopefully you will say yes and help the Society out.

The Society is always in need of volunteers, as well as, new ideas and thoughts. That said, even if you do not have ideas or new thoughts, come forward and please offer to help. The more help the easier the load and the better things usually run. Who knows, it could be fun, enjoyable, and even make some new and/or even better friends who share that similar interest as you – Philately.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOJEX is still scheduled for Oct 23 - Oct 25 at the Meadowlands Hilton.

The APS Summer Show in Hartford, CT has been cancelled.

As you know, all local Philatelic Shows, Bourses and Exhibits have also been cancelled. Stamp Auctions are

still being held.

Once things open, we will be adding them back in this section of the Hamilton Hinge.

### ----- HTPS Officers -----

President ..... Dennis Kennedy  
Vice President ..... Robin Rowand  
Treasurer ..... Ken Steel/Matt Visco  
Secretary ..... Joe Seliga

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

Advertising and PR ..... Matt Visco  
APS Representative ..... Ron Kane  
ATA Representative ..... Len de Groot  
Facebook Coordinator ..... Matt Visco  
Historian ..... Joe Seliga  
Membership Chairman ..... Bill Chrietzberg  
Newsletter Editor ..... Tony Zingale  
NOJEX Contact ..... Ron Kane  
Philatelic Donations ..... Ken Steel  
Program Coordinator ..... Jeff Boyarsky  
Webmaster ..... Ed Murtha  
50 / 50 Handlers ..... Jim Cope, Ken Steel

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

- ⇒ Sept 15 – Dr. Jack Sack – Collecting the World, as well as, other noted HTPS presenters.
- ⇒ Oct 20 – To be determined
- ⇒ Nov 17 – To be determined
- ⇒ Dec 15 – To be determined
- ⇒ Jan 19, 2021 – To be determined

We are looking for speakers for the 2020-2021 stamp season (starts in September). Contact us at the masthead email 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 609-586-7663 . . . or email us at [hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org](mailto:hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org).

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

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