



# The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #C-104282 – ATA Chapter #127

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS)

P.O. Box 3014, Mercerville, NJ 08619

email: [hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org](mailto:hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org) website: [HamiltonPhilatelic.org](http://HamiltonPhilatelic.org)



Volume 13, No. 4

Founded 1975

September – October 2020

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Hamilton Township Library is closed for **group meetings** until early 2021. We are providing **ZOOM Video Conference meetings** in place of the on-site meetings. If you want to receive ZOOM meeting notices, contact us at the masthead email address.



The **Oct 20 meeting** is highlighted by a presentation by **Ed Grabowski** titled “Guadeloupe Postal History – Revisted” (below is an introduction provided by Ed).

“It has been more than fourteen years since my Guadeloupe Postal History exhibit won the Grand Prix d’Honneur at the Washington 2006 International Show. I recently revisited this exhibit in a virtual talk for the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, and thought that members of the Hamilton Stamp Club might also enjoy hearing a version of this presentation. I plan to show some of the best items in the exhibit, and tell a number of my personal stories about this exhibit and some of its individual items, plus related tales about how someone can win a major international award with an exhibit of a single, small French colony. Also, I have identified a new category of postal history that I call HEL-covers, and will show a couple of these. My wife prefers to call them HELL-covers . . .”.

On Nov 17, **Robert Benninghoff** will talk on the **“The Border Between Two Irelands.”** Robert’s philatelic interests include a five frame Irish Coil stamp exhibit that has won several grand awards and two international Gold awards.



His current interests are focused on Irish Social / Economic and Political History of the early 20th century and spending time at the Irish National Archives in Dublin doing original research. One of these themes is the topic of his presentation.

## In this Issue . . .

- *Upcoming Events*
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- *Early U.S. Stamp Use*
- . . . and more!

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



We had our first full virtual meeting on September 15 – seventeen HTPS members attended. The feedback from the meeting was all positive.

Jack Sack’s presentation on “Collecting the World” covered many of the techniques he used to build a world-wide stamp collection with a reasonable cost basis. Check out a summary of his talk on the following page.

If you have not yet attended one of our virtual events, you should give it a try. All you need is a device with a camera that will get you on the internet. It can be a desktop or laptop computer, an I-pad, I-phone or an android phone.

We have chats every Tuesday at 7 PM. If you do not get the Zoom invitation, please contact me at [hamtwnphil@gmail.com](mailto:hamtwnphil@gmail.com) and I will add you to our list. I look forward to seeing you at our October 20 meeting.

Stay Safe. Dennis

## 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.

**(Due to COVID-19, on-site meetings are suspended and replaced by ZOOM virtual meetings.)**

## COLLECTING THE WORLD

... by International Correspondent **Frank O. Bollo**



Long time HTPS member **Jack Sack** kicked off the first of our virtual HTPS meetings with a presentation on “Collecting the World” stamps. With the Scott catalog now listing over half a million stamps, you might think it would be impossible to have a world-wide (WW)

collection. Jack showed how to create a collection with reasonable-spending.

His collecting rules are very simple – find an empty (or nearly empty) album, and fill it with stamps. Collect only 20th century stamps, no souvenir sheets, nor “back of the book” stamps (Postage Dues, Officials, Occupations, etc.). He tries to pay up to 20% of catalog value. He doesn’t care if the stamps are mint or used, their condition (e.g., damaged) or are fakes – such as the Danish West Indies stamp with a fake cancel shown here.



You already know that much can be learned from a country’s stamps such as geography, history, politics, culture and art. Collecting the world also increases one’s philatelic knowledge by learning about and being able to detect different stamp production methods.

There are a number of choices on storing your WW collection. The entire Scott International Album series (over 50 jumbo binders) costs about \$15,000 (plus shipping). There are other WW albums, such as the Minkus Global album, or one can simply use stock books to house your collection. Jack decided to purchase used Scott and Minkus specialty series albums.



Jack also had time to give a few “fun facts” of stamps from his collection. Did you know you might own a stamp from the collection of King Farouk of Egypt? When the king was overthrown in 1952, part of his stamp collection was purchased by Jacques

Minkus and sold over the counter at the Gimbel’s department store in New York. You can tell if you have one of the King’s stamps by his **cartouche marked on the back of the stamp.**



Another interesting fact regards the stamp commemorating the coronation of King George VI in 1937. It is the first Great Britain stamp showing the monarch in full-face. All previous stamps



had either silhouettes or side-views of the queen or king. Jack could not find any reason for this and, in fact, many early issues from the British colonies (such as the first issue from New Zealand in 1855) show Queen Victoria in full-face view.

Collecting the world is not without its problems. Many of Jack’s albums are from the old Minkus specialty series. It is not always obvious how to correlate the spaces in a Minkus album with the stamps in the Scott catalog. Many times, these old albums are missing pages, requiring him to create replacement pages using an on-line stamp album program (stampalbums.com).

Instead of plastic mounts, Jack uses “E-Z Dots”, available at many craft stores, to mount his inexpensive stamps. This allows one to reposition or remove the stamp without damage, and without the mess of using hinges.



Another consideration is keeping a stamp inventory so you know what you need. Jack has developed an elaborate set of Excel spreadsheets to keep track of all the stamps he has, and the ones missing.

However, the biggest problem of all is where to store this large collection. He took over a closet and built shelves to hold the ~100 binders housing his collection.



So, you see, it is possible to collect the world at a reasonable cost!

**[Editor’s Note:** Since Mr. Frank O. Bollo was found not guilty of using Venetian canal waters (see June 2011 newsletter) to remove postal markings on stamps and covers, we have reinstated him to his former position with our publication.]



## EARLY U.S. STAMP USE

... by Don Getzin



This is a "show-and-tell" that I presented at the Aug 18 virtual meeting. And yes, I own all the items shown here. All the cover stamps are Scott #11A (type II). The pair is Scott #11 (type I).

The first three items were **folded letter sheets**. All had "chalk" green "YORK PA" circular datestamp cancels. All were from the same source (York Bank). All were addressed to the same person (Sam or Samuel Stock, Esq.) and in the same handwriting. And all had a file crease just to the left of the stamp. They certainly were all part of the same correspondence. However, I bought the first one from a dealer in Corona CA; the second one from a dealer in Mesopotamia OH; and the third from a dealer in Bellefont PA. So the correspondence was scattered across the country, but I managed to reunite these three pieces. I found that quite odd, and satisfying!

The **second group** of three items are **covers**. All had "AMHERST MS" CDS cancels; all were addressed to the same person (Mr. Cyrus Humphrey) and in the same handwriting. Again, they were all likely part of the same correspondence. However, the first cover was canceled by an orange or orange-red CDS, the second by an ultramarine or light blue CDS, and the third by a bright green CDS. I found it unusual that such a small town used three separated colors for its cancellations. Was it artistic license, or were they experimenting with the colored cancels, to see which looked or worked best?

The **US #11 pair is position 48-49R7**. I recently acquired it. It was quite pricey! The PSE certificate says it is OGPB, but I don't see any hinge mark. They grade it 100J ("J" stands for "jumbo"), which is the highest possible grade. I can find no other OGPB pair with that grade, even though I checked the PF, PSE and used Siegel's power search. That would make it a UPT - a "unique population tops." That is, it is the highest known grade and no other OGPB pair shares that grade. That term (UPT) and another term (PT - i.e. tops, but shared) were created by Raymond Lieberman, the founder and editor of the on-line magazine "100J". The magazine is devoted to stamp grading and highly graded stamps.

The pair was undoubtedly manufactured from a larger piece - probably a block of 12. Portions of 10 stamps surrounding the pair can be seen. Apparently it was economically worthwhile for someone to chop up the original block, but what are the ethics in doing so?

"YORK PA"  
Folded  
letter  
sheets



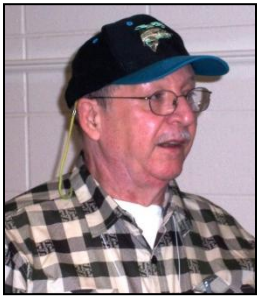
"AMHERST  
MS"  
Covers



US #11  
OGPB Pair



## RON DOBROWOLSKI PASSING



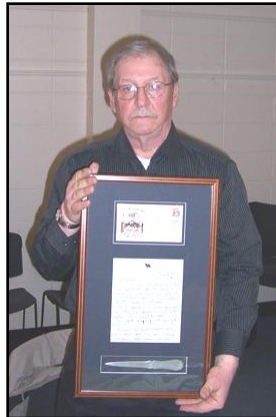
Ronald V. Dobrowolski, 78, of Trenton, passed away on September 21, 2020. Born in Trenton, he has been a lifelong area resident. He was a member of Holy Cross Church and served in the National Guard. Ron worked at Trane Inc. in Trenton.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Eileen, son David, daughter Catherine, their spouses and many nieces, nephews and friends.

An avid fisherman and hunter, he would hunt deer, waterfowl and ducks. Ron hand carved Delaware Duck decoys and decorative decoys.

Ron was a member of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS) and the Merchantville Stamp Club. Among Ron's many philatelic interests was Zeppelins, German WWII related items and other historical pieces. He also developed presentations and exhibits based on his philatelic collections.

At a 2008 HTPS meeting, Ron displayed framed items that memorialized the airship **U.S.S. Akron**, which crashed off the New Jersey coast on April 4, 1933. Rear Admiral William Moffett, along with 72 others, perished in the disaster. The display includes a letter opener, made from the same metal as the Akron's frame, which was given to Admiral Moffett in 1931 when the ship was christened.



In September 2010, Ron's first exhibit, titled **Birthdays of a Sadistic Monster**, contained postal history examples of stamps issued to commemorate Adolph Hitler's birthdays before and during WWII. The exhibit was first shown at MERPEX 2010 and was well received with multiple awards for its content and presentation.



On behalf of the HTPS membership, we offer our condolences to Ron's family and friends.

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

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 Vice President ..... Robin Rowand  
 Treasurer ..... Matt Visco  
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### ----- HTPS Meeting Program -----

- ⇒ Sept 15 – **“Collecting the World”**  
via ZOOM . . . by Jack Sack
- ⇒ Oct 20 – **“Guadeloupe Postal History Revisted”**  
via ZOOM . . . by Ed Grabowski
- ⇒ Nov 17 – **“The Border Between Two Irelands”**  
via ZOOM . . . by Robert Benninghoff
- ⇒ Dec 15 – To be determined  
(usually a Holiday party)
- ⇒ Jan 19, 2021 – To be determined  
(usually an auction)

We are looking for speakers for next year's meetings. 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 3014, Mercerville, NJ 08619 . . . or call 609-586-7663 . . . or email us at [hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org](mailto:hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org).