

The eighth meeting of the calendar year took place on Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018 at the Hamilton Township Library in room 2. The meeting began at 7:15 with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Dennis Kennedy. All HTPS officers, except vice-president Robin Rowand were present. Twenty-two (22) members and two visitors attended the meeting. Everyone was asked to put their name on the sign-in sheet and to check the members list of collecting interests. The collecting interest list was redone by Dennis Kennedy.

The board on which the minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurers report are usually posted was absent. Ken Steel reported that in the latest bank statement which ended on 23 October 2018, we received 14 cents in interest which gave us a total account balance of \$3,319.64

President Kennedy said that he visited the Library of Congress on his trip to Washington, D. C. He took the opportunity to get a library card.

Ron Kane announced that HTPS will conduct third Stamp Evaluation Program at the Hamilton library on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Help will be needed to make this as successful as the previous two. The needs will be defined during the coming months.

Ken Steel said that for the month of October and November, 14 pounds 11 ounces were sent to the Stamps for the Wounded.

President Kennedy said that Harold Gattsek died on Saturday, November 17, 2018.

The Christmas party will be held at the December meeting, Dec. 17, 2018.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron Gonzalez and seconded by Andy Boyajian. It was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:25 pm.

The presentation began at 7:30 pm. The presentation at this meeting was "Campione d'Italia, A Geographic Anomaly" by Bruce Marsden. It was done using Power Point. Campione is a town totally surrounded by Switzerland and Lake Lugano. It is about ½ kilometer from Italy. It is not a part of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and its stamps are accepted for mail only to Switzerland and Liechtenstein up to 1959. It did not have any interactions with Fascist Italy. Campione came into being in the late 1700's, when Napoleon was in control of northern Italy. The city was asked if it wanted to be a part of Switzerland in 1798, 1801 and 1848. It declined all three times. A casino is its current main economic engine.

Stamps from Campione are listed on page 807 in the Zumstein catalog; the last page of the catalog, the index is on page 808. Switzerland has four official languages; ~ German 68%, ~ French 23 %, ~ Italian 9%, ~ 0.5% Romansh (~10,000 speakers). They are not listed in Scott because Campione is not part of the UPU.

Mr. Marsden's was a fascinating presentation, replete with many examples of letters (13) and postcards (4). This Italian village has printed three sets of stamps. Its first issue, May 20, 1944, was of five stamps; 5, 10, 20, 30 centimes and 1 franc. The currency used was French. Printing was done in Switzerland. A few imperforate sets were made and also some overprinted SAGGIO (specimen in Italian). Campione made so much money from the stamps that they printed a second set on June 28, 1944. The stamps had the same design and values but were printed on a different type of paper and with perforations of 11 instead of the 11 ½ used for the first set. The third set has views of Campione and of renaissance buildings in Italy.

Many of the postcards and letters seemed to be philatelically oriented. Quite a few were registered, both postcards and letters. One of the letters was a first day of issue, May 20, 1944 which was then remailed, and sent registered on May 23, 1944. A postcard had an additional 5 centimes stamp added because the text was too long! He showed a non philatelic letter that was sent to a veterinarian. Another had a one franc stamp which covered the expense of 20 centimes for a letter, 20 centimes for registration, and 60 centimes for the express fee. Yet another example was for the maiden flight of KLM Amsterdam to South Africa on Oct. 5, 1946 with a Campione stamp and two Swiss stamps. A second airmail use was for the Swissair inaugural flight in 1947 to La Guardia Field in New York City, United States; it had a Campione stamp and a Swiss stamp. Mr. Marsden also showed a letter from Campione to Liechtenstein; because Campione stamps were valid in Switzerland and with Liechtenstein's relationship to Switzerland, it was valid there as well. In 1950, Ronald Childs of Tionesta, PA sent a letter to the Postmaster in Campione asking for a letter with a Campione stamp. The Postmaster in Campione sent a reply with a Swiss stamp and a note saying that mail to the United States with a Campione stamp was not permitted.

The presentation ended at 8:28.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Francis Seliga, secretary