

The second meeting of the calendar year took place on Tuesday, Feb 19, 2019 at the Hamilton Township Library in room 2. The meeting began at 7:20 pm with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Dennis Kennedy. All HTPS officers, were present. Twenty-two (22) members 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. It was available on the back table for all to review

Jack Sack said that he attended first day ceremonies for the cactus stamp in Mesa, AZ on Feb. 15, 2019. He prepared twenty cachet covers to be handstamped for the first day. The post office person told him that his were the only ones one that day. Ron Gonzalez said that he prepared cachets for the Love stamps which had their first day in Puerto Rico on Jan. 10th. Tony Zingale reported that he received dues from Bill Anderson. Bill recently moved to New Hampshire to be near his son. Bill's letter included a note saying "***I miss your meeting more than anything else in New Jersey.***" Tony Zingale also said that he will help anyone prepare for next meetings members mini presentations.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ron Gonzalez and seconded by Andy Boyajian. It was approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:35 pm.

The presentation began at 7:35 pm. This excellent presentation was "Understanding the Washington-Franklin Issues" by Tom deLuca. There are 210 major and 75 minor Scott numbers for these stamps. These stamps were issued from 1908 to 1932 in six sets. These were primarily busts of the men. In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt suggested that a bust of Abraham Lincoln be added to the series.

Tom discussed five different items: printing, perforations, watermarks, paper quality, and centering. The talk concentrated on the production and how to tell the stamps apart. Tom had many copies of the stamps to illustrate the different sections for his talk. The color differences and image sharpness for the different printing methods were easily seen when projected onto the screen.

The printing of these stamps has been by flat plates, rotary press and offset press. Flat plate printing is done in panes of 400, which are then cut into four sheets, each of which has 100 stamps and two plate numbers. The stamps are sold as sheet stamps, coil stamps and booklets. Coil stamps are made by pasting sheets together. Booklets are made by pasting sheet strips together. They are cut into panes of six. They do not have separate Scott numbers. Flat plate printing can often be confirmed by checking the gum-side on mint stamps because often there are ink transfers on that side. Rotary printing doesn't have ink transfer on the gum side. Offset printing was done on the one, two and three cent stamps because of the demand during World War One.

Perforations are the number of holes in 20 millimeters. Four perforations were used on this series, 12, 10, 11, and 12 ½ as well as imperforate stamps. The first set was perforated 12, but they were hard to separate at the Post Offices. This was changed to perforation 10, but the stamps ripped at the Post Offices. The eventual compromise was perforation 11.

Three types of paper were used on this series, regular, bluish and china clay. Of these, there were only 700 to 800 printed on china clay. The bluish paper was actually grey and was dark and dense.

Watermarks are impressions into the paper. This was an anti-counterfeit action of the Post Office. Two types were used, single line USPS and double line USPS.

Unlike the United Kingdom, the watermarks were not centered for United States stamps.

Stamp colors were universally agreed to and were used to distinguish between denominations because of illiteracy; one cent - green, two cents - red, three cents - purple, and four cents - brown. Also because of illiteracy, the spelled one and two were replaced by numbers.

The watermarks and perforations are listed in the table for each set of printings.

Set	Perforation	Watermark
1st	12	Double Line
2nd	12	Single Line
3rd	12	Single Line
4th	10	Single Line
5th	10	None
6th	11	None

Centering or lack thereof of coil stamps, was caused by shrinkage of the stored gummed stamps, perforated only in one direction.

The presentation ended at 8:32.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Francis Seliga, secretary



Single line #190



Double line #191