

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS) - March 24, 2019

The third meeting of 2019 took place on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at the Hamilton Township Library. All HTPS officers except Treasurer Ken Steel, who was sick, were present. There were twenty (20) members present.

The meeting began with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Dennis Kennedy. He read a report by Ken Steel that the club has a balance of \$4,300.07; he also said that Ken sent 3 pounds and 2 ounces to Stamps for Wounded.

President Dennis Kennedy said that all officer positions have been filled except that of NOJEX contact. The work time is estimated as an hour per year. He said that in the past HTPS members had helped set up the exhibits. That work does not have to be done now because NOJEX has joined with the ASDA to put on the show. The next show will be at the Hilton at the Secaucus exit (15W) on November 15-17, 2019.

The Stamp Evaluation Program will be conducted at the Hamilton Library on April 27, 2019. Help is needed in crowd control and evaluation. Start time for helpers would be 9:30 am. Previous programs had the following attendees, Cranbury (17) and Monroe (70).

President Kennedy said that he was going to visit the Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. and would be willing to pick up any stamps; they can be purchased as singles. Don Getzin said that he would be happy to give a plating workshop for the 1851 3¢ Washington imperforate. He has a 45 minute power point presentation. It would be followed by a hands on workshop. The total time would be about 1 ½ hours and would be for a small group. Tony Zingale said that it could probably be done at the Hamilton library.

The program for this meeting was short presentations by members.

The first talk was given by Milton Keiles. His topic was perfins, especially the Machin issue of the United Kingdom (UK). In 1857, Joseph Sloper invented a system of using post hole dies for documents. These were then used for postage stamps of the UK in 1868. The use of perfins began because of theft from commercial businesses and resale to the post office for cash. Joseph Sloper established a factory for the production of perfin dies; it was bombed during World War II. A UK perfin catalogue was developed by Roy Gault over a period of 22 year for the 258,362 different perfins. This catalogue has 3200 pages and is available on a flash drive. The listing are by die, then stamps are listed by reigns and values. Milton also has a checklist for the Machin decimal issues. Milton makes his own pages. Dr. Kane said that there is a US club which has many members, of which he is one. There is a US perfin catalogue which is about the same size as the US Specialized catalogue.

The second talk was by Andrew Boyajian. It was about the Highway Post Office (HPO). This service came into being because there were fewer mail cars on US trains. Mail had to be delivered to more towns. This service was established in 1941 and operated until 1975. There were 317 routes. The interior of the mail truck had a similar layout to those of mail cars on trains. A catalog of US HPO covers is available; Andrew has a 2004 issue. Andrew showed a number of covers during his talk: Harrisonburg, VA to Washington D.C. (trips 1 and 2) - trip 1 had a map showing all stops, while trip 2 had a fancy cancel made by cachet maker L. W. Staehle; Bucksport, ME to Portland, ME - rubber stamped cachet - final run June 30, 1974; Indiana State Fair; and Polpex 76 (Philadelphia). He also showed a photograph of FDR using the HPO, one of the inside and one of the outside of the bus. Andrew circulated the covers throughout the club.

The third talk was by Don Getzin. It was about The First US Postage Stamp. They were not Scott 1 and 2, which were for general use. Nor were they the New York Postmaster Provisionals, Scott 9X1, which were issued July 15, 1845, and were valid only to or from the city. The first U.S. stamps were the City Despatch Post local stamp (Scott 40L1; issued Feb. 1, 1842), and the carrier stamps Scott 6LB1 (valid starting Aug. 16, 1842) and Scott 6LB3 (issued Sept. 1, 1842). first stamps in use in the US were the Postmaster stamps produced only for use in lower Manhattan. They are listed in Scott as 40L1 issued Feb. 1, 1842 (1st US local stamp), 6LB1 issued Aug. 16, 1842 (first local US carrier stamp) and 6LB3 issued Sep. 1, 1842 (1st official US carrier stamp). All were gummed and were produced by Rawdon, Wright and Hatch. These stamps were under the City Despatch Post (Henry Windsor and Alexander M. Grieg) which

had three pickups per day from the boxes in Manhattan.

Don also brought the stamps to be seen by club members.

The fourth talk was by Don Getzin. It was about the world's first general issue postage stamps. In the UK, these were: Penny Black - May 6, 1840, Two Pence Blue -, Penny red - Feb. 1841, and Two Pence Blue - Mar. 13, 1841. They were printed in sheets of 240 12x20 rows, (there were 20 shillings in one pound and 12 pence in one shilling.). These stamps were produced by Perkins, Bacon & Company. Jacob Perkins was an American from Newburyport, MA.

The world's second general issue Postage stamp was Brazil's Bull's Eye - Aug. 1, 1843. Those issued were in 30, 60 and 90 Reis values. There was no country name on these stamps. They were designed by Perkins, Bacon & Company. Britain and Brazil fell out because of slavery (Brazil ended slavery in 1888.)

The world's third general issue Postage stamp were United States Scott numbers 1 and 2.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sidney Morginstin, seconded by Andrew Boyajian and passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:38 pm.

Respectively submitted, Joseph Francis Seliga, secretary