

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS) Draft - April 14, 2019

The fourth meeting of 2019 took place on Tuesday, April 14, 2019 at the Hamilton Township Library. All HTPS officers were present. There were twenty-four (24) members present. The meeting began at 7:15 PM with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Dennis Kennedy. Ken Steel reported that the club has a balance of \$4,340.03.

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). The election of officers will be held at the May 21, 2019 meeting. The business meeting ended at 7:26 pm.

The program for this meeting was *The Era of the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type (1892-WWI): The French Pacific Colonies, New Caledonia and Dependencies (French Oceanic Settlements)* by Ed Grabowski. He said that this program would only be about New Caledonia and would focus on usage to and from small villages. Noumea was the capitol of New Caledonia; its dependencies were the Loyalty Islands, New Hebrides and Wallis & Fortuna. New Caledonia is 50 kilometers wide by 500 kilometers long. It has issued 53 stamps. The Allegorical Group has two figures on it, one representing Navigation (female) and one representing Commerce (male). The first cover that he showed was a letter from Etiot to Sura Fiji, mailed on Jan 17, 1893 with a 25 centimes stamp. Next was a printed matter notice from Noumea to Djibouti with a 5 centimes stamp. He said that there was a military concession rate of 15 centimes instead of the normal 25 centimes rate. It was denoted by an etiquette signifying military use. The next cover was from the small village of Outbuche purportedly mailed on January 23, 1898. After Ed's careful examination of the front and back of the cover, he discovered that it was a phony piece and was made up of parts of two letters, one for the front and one for the back, carefully glued together.

He showed a cover with advertising on the envelope; New Caledonia was the only colony to do this. New Caledonia had a French prison on it. Another cover was from prisoner to his sister in France sent in 1894 and had a French postage due stamp on it. The next cover was a Jubilee cover with the Cagou bird stamp on it. To prevent philatelic sales Paris limited its use to local use only. Another cover showed the use of a Jubilee stamp as a postage due. Ed said that this was the only cover with this use that he has seen. He showed covers from small villages, La Foa - old style Date stamp, Gomen - cachet of telegraph office, Gomen - double weight registered letter with an inverted overprint, Teoudie - provisional cancel, and Kanakas - blocks. Another cover was from Caulnes, France to Ile des Pins, dated June 21, 1897 to prisoner #3375; the prison was closed earlier. Another cover was from Poindimie to Noumea sent to Bishop Fraysee about the Reformation. A cover from Nehoue mailed on October 30, 1906 had a double overprint, first in black and the second in gold. The next covers were Pacquet Boat mail; because of the mountain range in the middle of the island, there were two primary routes, one on the East coast and another on the West coast. The pickup points were alphabetized for French use.

Ed said that he would return to give a talk on Mae Edna Wilder and her scams for the NYIS such as *How A Fat Girl Became Thin* and *How I Developed My Bust and Removed My Wrinkles*.

The presentation ended at 8:19 pm.

Respectively submitted, Joseph Francis Seliga, secretary