

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS) - Nov. 19, 2019

The November meeting of 2019 took place on Tuesday, Nov 19, 2019 at the Hamilton Township Library. All HTPS officers except Vice President Robin Rowand were present. There were twenty-eight (28) members and two (2) guests present.

The meeting began at 7:15 pm and ended at 7:32 pm.

The meeting began with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Dennis Kennedy.

Treasurer Ken Steel reported that the club has a balance of \$4,781.51 and that the last interest payment was \$0.20. He said that he sent a \$300 donation to Stamps for the Wounded, but it had not been cashed yet. Sid Morganstin asked whether some of the funds could be placed in a CD to realize higher interest. Another voice said that CD's were not paying a large interest. It will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Ed Murtha said that he wanted to speak to John Hotchner about Stamps for the Wounded at NOJEX, but Bob Rose told him that Mr. Hotchner fell and broke his hip after leaving the Collectors Club and on his way to the train station. He spent a week in the hospital.

President Kennedy said that the tour of the Post Office facility on Route 130 in Hamilton, NJ would take place on Tuesday at noon on Nov. 26th.

Dennis Kennedy said that he and Ed Murtha went to Washington D. C. by train and visited the Stamp Museum. The senior round trip fare was \$106. It is about a 2 ½ hour ride each way.

President Kennedy said that at the December meeting, there would be hoagies and pizza's provided by HTPS and that people could bring drinks and desserts.

President Kennedy said that the stamps in three donated stamp books are for sale for \$0.10 each; the proceeds will be going to Stamps for the Wounded.

Dr. Ronald Gonzalez showed the latest book that he has produced; it includes military post offices cancellations in Puerto Rico, ships named after towns in Puerto Rico and for those ships that stopped in Puerto Rico.

Andrew Boyajian showed a book, titled Bunny Mail, that he recently purchased; it was published by Viking/Penguin. He bought this volume from a book sale. It is considered a pop-up style for young kids.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Boyarsky seconded by Andrew Boyajian and passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:32 pm.

The HTPS guest speakers this month were Bill Chrietzberg and Marc Spinner. The title was Fakers Come - Fakers Go. The presentation was in two parts: early U. S. Stamps by Bill Chrietzberg and Confederate stamps by Marc Spinner. Bill said that he became interested in fakes when he sent in US #77 for a certificate and he was told that his stamp was a Plate Proof #77P3. He showed Scott #7 which was purchased by him and turned out to be #24 with the perforations removed. Also shown were: #8A which was really Scott #24; Scott #353 which was really Scott #344, Scott #352 which was really Scott

#343. All of these were passed around the audience for their examination. Bill said that to protect oneself when buying at auctions, one should ask for an extension. An extension requires a certification before purchase. Bill read a portion of the book about Raul de Thun, a Belgian who moved to Meridia, Mexico. His tools and stock were purchased by the American Philatelic Society (APS), cost not disclosed. James DeVoss was the negotiator for the APS. He wrote a book about these fakes. A question was asked about the counterfeiting of certificates. Sid Morgenstin said that Israeli certificates were being counterfeited.

Marc Spinner's part of the presentation was about each of the fourteen (14) Confederate stamps. His power point presentation had blowup sections of the stamps showing how to tell fakes. He said that there are several books about these stamps, one by John Kimbro and another Dietz. The latest is The Springfield Facsimiles of Confederate Postage Stamps by Steven M. Roth, Francis J. Crown. Jr. and Patricia A. Kaufmann; published in 2017 by the Confederate Stamp Alliance. Marc said that 95% of Confederate Stamps were genuine. He said that S. Allen Taylor produced facsimiles of Confederate Stamps and added marks to be used to tell them from genuine stamps. There are three categories of fakes, Springfield, Birmingham, England and New York. The fakes produced by Mr. McIntosh copied the illustrations in the Dietz book, which had secret marks. The determination of fakes is made difficult because of the poor printing practices of the Confederate printers. Marc listed some good rules to follow in determining genuine and fakes in regards to covers, some are: Is this the correct postal rate?, Does the cancel look right? Has the cancellation been altered?

Someone said that no cost certificates are provided by Bill Crow for a British colony. This presentation started at 7:40 and ended at 8:34.

Respectively submitted,
Joseph Francis Seliga, secretary