



Hamilton Township Philatelic Society



September 2006

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month (except July & August) at 7:30PM at the Hamilton Township Public Library, 1 Municipal Drive (off of Whitehorse Mercerville Road), Hamilton, NJ 08619

September 19th Meeting

The September 19th meeting will start at 7:30PM. Please come earlier if you wish to view the APS Circuit Books or if you have stamps or philatelic material to offer for sale or trade.

This month, we do not have a formal presentation. We would like to have everyone tell us "What I did (Philatelically) this summer" Did you have time to work on your collection? Perhaps you learned an interesting stamp-related fact. Please bring something to "Show and Tell" our fellow collectors. Our new president, Ed Murtha, will discuss some ideas for the club and ask us to join in with suggestions.

Our June Meeting

The auction at our June meeting turned out to be a great success. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and most items sold. There were a wide range of lots – stamps, covers, catalogs, and even some special stamp-related items. The winning bids ranged from \$1 up to about \$25. The 10% commission added a little something to the Club's treasury. As all the comments about the auction were very positive, we are thinking of having two auctions this year.

Plans for Future Meetings

Ed and Tony are working on a schedule of presentations for the club. Future presentations include, Jack Sack who will tell us about his Indian States collection. He promises to bring in a range of examples and discuss some history of the Indian States.

A Stamp Collecting refresher-type course is also being planned. The thought is that it should be a hands-on experience with a few stations, each

manned by a member. One member could show methods to soak stamps, another the use of various perforation gauges, or the merits and uses of different shaped tongs, or the use of long and short wave UV light, or using a stamp catalogue to identify stamps. I could go on but I think you get the picture. Everyone can help out with this presentation; so please think of an area in which you would like to be involved. We plan to call and ask each of you for your assistance. Remember it should be something simple; it is a refresher course.

Ed is planning on inviting several individuals from outside our Society to come and talk on various philatelic matters. More to come...

Local Stamp Shows

Hope many of you had a chance to attend the MERPEX show down in Haddonfield over the Labor Day weekend. The next big show is the Mega Event in New York City on October 5-8 at Madison Square Garden. The club is planning a train trip to the show for Saturday, October 8th. Talk to Tony Z. if you are interested in joining us.

2006 Calendar

Be sure to mark your calendar for the remaining meetings this year – September 19th, October 17th, November 21st, and December 19th.

The Newsletter Editor is interested in any news, items of interest, articles, suggestions, ideas, etc. Please write, call or email me – Jack Sack, 50 Merion Place, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648; sackj@att.net 609-896-8193

Past President's Message:

We can look back at the past year with much satisfaction. The club expanded its membership and held lively and informative meetings. At our last meeting, June 20, we conducted a successful auction, the first in a long time.

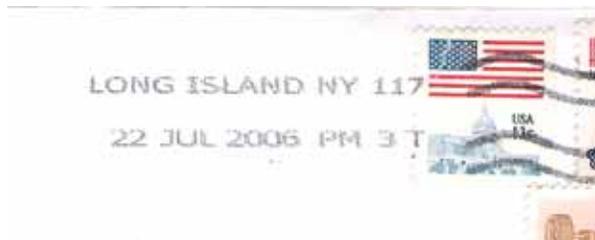
Prior meetings contained many very interesting and engaging presentations. Many members took an active role. I am sure that our newsletter was greatly appreciated.

Our capable new president, Ed Murtha, will certainly guide us successfully through the coming season/year. We welcome his and new Vice Pres. Tony's leadership and efforts at club activities. Hopefully we will continue to build our membership and experience active and stimulating meetings.

Between now and then, enjoy your stamp collecting and summer's final rays.

Looking forward to seeing all on Sept. 19.

Glenn Buzzi



Looking For....

Please remember to save those city spray on cancellations in your everyday mail. In particular, those from your Aunt Martha in Ft. Worth or your cousin in Boiling Green or Juneau. There are a good number of our members who are attempting to collect the nearly 300 city spray on cancellations. They would be most appreciative to receive them.

Presidents Message:

On behalf of all the members of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society, I wish to thank Sherm Britton and Glenn Buzzi for their many years of service to our club. Sherm and Glenn have been the vice president and president of this Society for what must seem like forever to them. During their terms in office, they have been instrumental in the development and present growth of the Society. We thank them for all of their hard work and hope that we can continue and improve on what they have started.

With the arrival of this newsletter, it is the reminder that the monthly meetings are about to begin again. A number of topics and presentations have been planned for the upcoming meetings and we are most appreciative to those of you who provide us these wonderful presentations. There is always a need for more and the very best presentations have come from you. So please think about sharing your philatelic knowledge. It is a fantastic way for all of us to learn more about other areas of philately.

Lastly, I would like to encourage every one to solicit other collectors to join our society. Maybe, the next time that you are visiting Tom DeLuca's store or when you are sitting at some dealers table at a local bourse, ask the individual that is next to you if they belong to a stamp club and invite them to join us at a monthly meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the Library on Tuesday September 19th.

Ed Murtha

Show & Tell

Please remember to bring an item or two from your own collection to the monthly meetings. This is an ideal way for all of us to share information and learn more about other areas of stamp collecting. In particular, the topic for the September meeting is "What I did last summer".

FEATURE ARTICLE BY DENNIS BUSS

Stamp Collecting for the Future Circa 1937

While traveling to Charlottesville, Virginia this past Thanksgiving, my wife and I decided to stay over in Hagerstown, Maryland since we had a late start on our trip. The next morning we explored Hagerstown and found an interesting used bookstore. While browsing the hobby section, I found *The Stamp Collectors' Round Table* edited by Foster W. Loso and published in 1937 by the Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York. I decided to purchase the book because of a fascinating chapter entitled "Planning the Album of the Future" by Charles Robert Morris, a former member of the Union County (NJ) Philatelic Society. Morris described his frustration with commercial stamp albums of the time.

As a collector of modest means, he found that both world-wide and specialized stamp collections could not be shown to advantage because the printed albums were organized by country and date of issue. The many blank spaces revealed the inadequacies of his collection which he could not hope to overcome.

What to do? Morris describes his dilemma and solution as follows:

Three years ago when I was confronted with this problem I gave it considerable thought. I had parts of two old collections, which, if combined, would not make one good one; and yet there was good material in both that I did not want to discard. Finally, I decided to arrange the stamps by subject rather than by countries and to do it in such a way that it could be expanded, indefinitely.

How did Morris's system work? Based on the Dewey decimal system used in libraries, Morris modified the subject topics into the following categories: 000 General; 100 Human Beings; 200 Human Activities; 300 Human Creations;

400 Nature; 500 Transportation; 600 Scenery; 700 Intellect; 800 (Blank); 900 Miscellaneous. These groups could be further broken down into subheads. For example, group 100 was divided as follows: 110 Rulers; 120 Political; 130 Professional; 140 Arts and Letters; 150 Military and Naval; 160 Science and Invention; 170 Exploration and Discovery; 180 Social Workers; and 190 Miscellaneous. Morris anticipated that each of these categories could be further developed. Thus, the profession group (130) would contain 131 Theological; 132 Medical; and 133 Legal. Further refinements were possible. With the theological group, for example, he suggested the categories of 131.1 Ministers and Priests; 131.2 Saints; 131.3 Madonnas; 131.4 Monks; 131.5 Nuns, etc.

Morris described how he developed a three ring binder album for each main group and designed his own pages. Thus, one album was devoted to the 300 subject topic of Human Creations with all of its subcategories. Depending upon the number of stamps that could be classified into the various subcategories, he developed pages accordingly. He concluded his chapter with an eight page outline of all of his suggested subject topics and subcategories.

Since Morris proposed his system in the late 1930's, I decided to update his outline to reflect new developments in human experience which he could not have anticipated or aspects of human life he neglected. For example, under 240 Exploration and Discovery, I added 241 Space Exploration and under 230 Arts and Crafts, I reorganized his list and added Photography after Painting as a subcategory.

Morris's chapter is interesting from a number of perspectives. It anticipates the post-war emergence of topical collecting as a major development in the hobby. It also anticipates the on-going debate among philatelists and topicalists: what's more important – the subject depicted on the stamp or the way in which it was

manufactured (perforations, watermarks, printing methods, plate positions, etc.)?

Most interesting to me, however, is the challenge that Morris presents. If stamps indeed represent and depict the human experience and the natural world, why not develop a collection using his system? Now that Morris's future is here, maybe it is time to re-conceive the stamp album as a kind of encyclopedia. I just might buy a packet of world wide stamps and try my hand at sorting them using his categories.

P.S. If anyone is interested in seeing my modification of Morris's subject outline, I'll be glad to share it with you. Perhaps you have suggestions for categories I neglected or for organizing it differently.

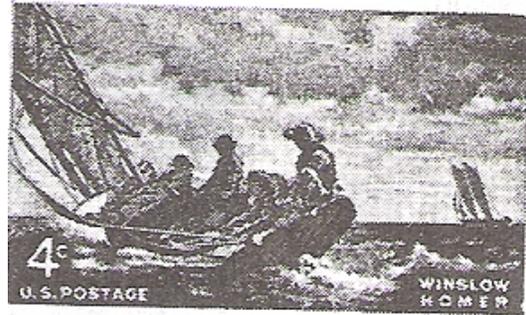
Dennis Buss

Stamps for the Wounded

Reminder – Please save your unwanted and extra stamps for the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. If you wish to participate and have stamps; please bring them to the next meeting and see Sherm Britton.

APS Membership Drive

The American Philatelic Society is holding a membership drive this month. It is a very good deal; APS is offering a 50% discounted membership to non-APS members who belong to the HTPS. A 15-month membership (10/06-12/07) is only \$19 (vs \$38 normally) and is only available up to 10/31/2006. Talk to Ed if you are interested.



My Favorite Stamp

Back in 1962, while I was in third grade, I learned that a local post office was going to be the site of a First Day of Issue ceremony for a new stamp showing the Winslow Homer painting "Breezing Up". While I couldn't attend the ceremony in person, I did send away for a First Day Cover, of the new stamp. I carefully prepared five envelopes with my return address boldly written across the front (at the time, I knew nothing about cachets or unaddressed covers) and mailed them with a postal money order for 20¢ .

A few days later, I received the covers back in the mail with the Homer stamp attached, postmarked Gloucester, Mass on December 15, 1962. I was hooked! I remember going to the local post office to find out when the next new issue would be coming out and where I should send my envelopes.

Every time I see the "Breezing Up" issue, I remember my "first" First Day Cover. What is your favorite stamp?

Jack Sack

Some Upcoming Stamp Events:

(See Tony Z. if you need details)

September 7th - Merchantville Stamp Club - Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ. Other meeting Dates for September and October are: September 20, October 5, and October 18.

September 8-10 - Philadelphia National Stamp Expo - Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA.

September 9- Hightstown Stamp Bourse - American Legion Post, Hightstown, NJ Other dates are October 14 and November 11.

September 15-17 - Metropolitan Stamp Show - Holiday Inn, New York, NY.

September 17 - Hasbrouck Heights Stamp Bourse - Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. Also on October 15.

September 24 - Woodbridge Stamp Show - Hampton Inn, Woodbridge, NJ. Also on October 22nd

September 24 - Fort Washington Stamp & Coin Show, Holiday Inn, Ft. Washington, PA. Also on October 22.

September 30 - October 1 - Clifton Stamp Cover and Postcard Show, Recreation Center, Clifton, NJ

October 1 - Cherry Hill Stamp Show - Holiday Inn - Cherry Hill, NJ

October 5-8 - Fall Mega Event - Madison Square Garden, New York City, NY

October 7-8 - Garden State Postcard Show - PAL Center, Parsippany, NJ

Is there any interest in having a informal breakfast before the Hightstown Show? Do you need a ride to a show or want to join us on the train to New York for the Metropolitan show or the Mega Event? We can discuss this at the September meeting

The purpose of this newsletter is to promote philately, inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to attend the monthly meetings of the Society.

Officers of the Club

President	Ed Murtha
Vice President	Tony Zingale
Treasurer	Joseph Pavelchak
Secretary	Klaus Wagner
APS Representative	Sherm Britton
Newsletter Editor	Jack Sack