



Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

APS Chapter #1095-104282



October 2006 Newsletter

email: hamilton@att.net

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

October 17th Meeting

The October 17th 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 are delighted that noted writer George Amick will be giving a presentation. Mr. Amick is a journalist and stamp writer from Ewing Township who has been collecting stamps for nearly 60 years.

Mr. Amick has degrees in journalism from Ohio Wesleyan and Ohio State universities, was a Nieman journalism fellow at Harvard University and an Air Force veteran of the Korean War. He currently writes the "Capital Talk" column for the *Trenton Times*.



Mr. Amick has written the annual *U.S. Stamp Yearbook* published by Linn's Stamp News since 1988 as well as numerous articles on a wide

range of subjects in philatelic publications. His book *Jenny!* tells the story of the 24¢ inverted-center airmail stamp of 1918. He is in the APS Writer's Unit Hall of Fame. We are sure he will give us a very interesting presentation.

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Our September Meeting

Our first meeting after the summer break was a great success. It was good to renew old friendships as well as meet several new visitors to the meeting. Ed and Tony outlined some of their ideas for the coming year, such as the creation of a HTPS Library, and a club breakfast before the Hightstown Bourse each month.



The highlight of the meeting was the "What I did last summer" show and tell. A number of members showed off philatelic items they acquired during the summer. We were treated to many interesting stories, a view of some philatelic items picked up over the summer and even a souvenir. John Ranto gave each attendee a cover from the Quaker Bridge Mall Stamp Show held in October, 1983.

Presidents Message

Our September meeting was well attended and I thought quite enjoyable. It is always great to see everyone again after the summer and it was also nice to see some new faces. Thank you to all who shared their summer philatelic experiences with us. It is amazing and fascinating how philately gets entwined in our daily lives.

This month, we will have a speaker – George Amick. If you collect current US stamps, you have likely read or seen the annual Linn's US Stamp Yearbook. Mr. Amick has been the author of this book for the past sixteen years. On Monday morning, you will see Mr. Amick's picture on the front page of the *Trenton Times* with his Capital Talk column.

I am sure he will enlighten us about how he obtains the wealth of information that is contained in the Stamp Yearbook.

I will be unable to attend this meeting, so clap doubly hard for Mr. Amick and thank him profusely for making the time to come and talk with us.

Lastly, please remember to volunteer for our November refresher course. This is an ideal way for all of us to share our knowledge with others. As Tony mentioned at the last meeting, it only needs to be for a few minutes. Please think about it and volunteer.

I look forward to hearing all about the meeting at the Library on Tuesday October 17th.

Ed Murtha

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

Plans for Future Meetings

Ed and Tony are working on a schedule of presentations for the club. In November, we will have a stamp collecting refresher course. The hope is to give new collectors, and even the old-timers, some hands-on experience with various techniques.

In December, along with our Holiday party, we will hold another Auction so start now to plan on what to sell and be ready for some bargain buys!

Ed is planning other talks from individuals outside our Society and Jack Sack is working on an Indian States presentation. More to come ...

2006 HTPS Calendar

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

Local Stamp Shows

Hope many of you had a chance to attend the Mega Event in New York on October 5-8 at Madison Square Garden.

Besides the regular area shows this month, the BuxMont 2006 Stamp Show and Bourse will be held at the Wilson Senior Citizen Center, 580 Delmont Avenue, Warminster, PA on Saturday, October 28th. The show will feature 14 dealers as well as an exhibit of philatelic material and a U.S. Post Office. Please contact Tony for more information or if you need a ride to the show.

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!

Hamilton Township Library Display

Tony prepared an exhibit of stamp catalogs, magazines, and other philatelic materials for display in the main lobby of the Hamilton library. Here is one of the three display cases that were used.



The presentation has been very well received, and we have received several inquiries about the club because of the display. The display now will go on tour, the next stop being the Lawrenceville library in April.

November Library Exhibits

HTPS is displaying philatelic items at the Hamilton Library during November. Tony is coordinating this effort.

Please consider displaying something from your collection. ANY type of philatelic material is suitable including stamps, covers, postcards or publications. There are 3 display cases measuring 26x58 inches and a circular case with two 24 inch shelves.

The following displays are currently planned:

- Postcards (NYC, Humor, Fishing)
- US Naval Covers
- WW Souvenir Sheets
- Book of French Remembrances

We have the materials needed including poster boards and mounting supplies. The Poster Boards measure 22x26 inches and fill up fairly quick. However, any size display is welcome. We can create Title Headers and any other descriptions needed for your display.

HTPS Lending Library

Do you have any philatelic reference books you think might be helpful to your fellow collector? Are there any catalogs or other books you are interested in reading? The HTPS Lending Library is in operation and Klaus Wagner is coordinating the effort.

Borrowing a book is simple. Check out the available titles on the Poster Board listing. Then just ask! Any of these methods work:

- Ask Klaus at a Society meeting
- Email Klaus at kpwagner@comcast.net
- Contact the Society at hamilton@att.net
- Contact the owner directly

Klaus will contact the owner to request that the item be available at the next meeting. We have not provided owner phone numbers or email addresses. If you make direct contact with the owner, please inform Klaus about the items borrowed so he can update his records.

Adding publications to our Lending Library is also simple. Just give Klaus a list of your items. It would be helpful if the list is in the Excel report format as shown on the excerpt below, but that is not required.

HTPS LIBRARY — REGIONAL CATALOGS					
Country / Topic	Year	Description	Color	Other Info	Owner
Africa	1997	Michel, Vol 4, Nord- und Ostafrika			Tony Z.
Asia	1998	Michel South Asia		India & Southeast Asia	J. Sack
British Commonwealth	1979	Numerical Cds / Glossary Handstamps, Helms / Hornet		2 books in 1	Tony Z.
British Commonwealth	1991	Stanley Gibbons Standard, Part I		Complete British empire	Ed M.
British Commonwealth	2000	King George VI, Murray Payne		Excellent reference for KGV1	J. Sack

We ask and expect that all borrowed items be treated with care and returned in the same condition as received.

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 or covers to donate, please bring them to the next meeting and see Sherm Britton.

A Stamp Collecting Vacation in London

Whenever I go traveling, whether on business or for pleasure, I always try to check out the stamp collecting scene at my destination. Last years' trip to London was no exception, and given the timing of the trip coincided with a major stamp show, it had even more emphasis on my favorite hobby.

Late September is the time of the STAMPEX fall show, usually held at a small convention hall in Issington, just north of central London. The first thing you notice is how formal the show is, with many people wearing jackets. The front of the hall had a large British Post Office, with all the currently available stamps for sale. The central hall had about 50 dealers, both British and European (and even a few Americans). Most of the booths, however, were very small and there are no chairs or stools to sit on. This reminded me very much of many of the booths at the recent Washington Expo.

The main problem, however, was the cost of the material. The English prefer high quality material, and are willing to pay a premium for it. While I picked up a few odds and ends on the main floor, I thought the prices were too high. The bargains can be found in the balcony area, which contains a number of smaller dealers, many with large cartons of covers, old catalogs, and less expensive stamps. I spend most of my time "upstairs."

The center of the stamp collecting universe, at least for the British Empire, is the Stanley Gibbons store, located on the Strand in downtown



London. The front of store contains supplies and albums.

While I was tempted to buy a few things, I was worried about carrying heavy books back home. The rear of the store contains the stamp counter with hundreds of stamp albums to look at. While the looking is free, it only takes a short time to

realize that these, too, are very pricy. In the middle of the store, there is a small book rack containing a selection of used catalogs and stamp-related books at discounted prices. I suspect these books come from estates that Gibbons is liquidating. As the selection is changed at random times, I always try to stop in whenever I am in the neighborhood to see if anything new has arrived.

There are a number of other stamp dealers in the same area. I always stop at Vera Trinder, located in a basement shop, just around the corner from Gibbons. The shop deals mostly in stamp supplies. They have a bin of overstocked and outdated catalogs where I found a number of nice catalogs at around £3 (~\$6) each.

There are also numerous weekly or monthly stamp bourses around London. One of my favorites is held on Saturday mornings at an underground parking garage near the Charing Cross train station. There are about 15 dealers set up on folding tables. While the lighting is not great, and there is the occasional car trying to exit the garage, the dealers have a nice selection of lower cost material. For example, I picked up a number of Indian States covers at 50p (~\$1) each.

If you are ever in London, don't forget to visit the Queen's Philatelic collection at the British Library. While only small portion of the collection is on display to the public, it is certainly worth a visit. However, you need to arrange in advance if you wish to see more of the collection or to use their massive reference library.

Of course, London is not the only place where you can have a stamping vacation. In Paris, be sure to visit the open air stamp bourse just off the Champs Elysees on weekends. In Madrid, the Plaza de Mayor has an open air bourse on Sundays. Wherever you travel, be sure to check out the philatelic scene. You never know what you might find.

... Jack Sack

Barbara Harrison

Many of you remember Barbara Harrison who gave an excellent presentation on her post card collection last year. That exhibit, *The Golden Age of Postcards: 1898-1918*, won an APS Gold!

We were pleased to learn that she received numerous awards at the MERPEX show last month for her *Grandma's House* exhibit including the Grand Award, Best Americana, and Most Popular exhibit.

APS Membership Drive

The American Philatelic Society is holding a membership drive this month. It is a very good deal. APS is offering a discounted membership to non-APS members who belong to HTPS. I believe it is \$19 vs. \$38 and is only available up to 11/30/2006. Talk to Ed if you are interested.

HTPS Web Site

Plans are underway for our own HTPS website on the internet. Tony is spearheading the design of the site. Besides information on the HTPS and our meetings, we plan to have back issues of the newsletter available to download, and links to other philatelic websites.

Next month, we will start a "Web Watch" column in newsletter. Each month we hope to discuss a different topic related to philately and the world-wide-web.

If you would like to help out with this endeavor, or have some favorite websites you'd like to tell us about, please contact Tony.

Some Upcoming Stamp Events

October 9th – Philadelphia Weekday Monday Stamp Show – Radison Hotel, Philadelphia Northeast, Trevese, PA

October 14th – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Post, Hightstown, NJ

Are you interesting in having an informal breakfast before the Hightstown Stamp Bourse each month? Do you need a ride to the show? Please see Tony.

October 15th – Hasbrouck Heights Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

October 18th – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ.
Other meeting Dates in November are:
November 2nd and 15th

October 22th – Woodbridge Stamp Show – Hampton Inn, Woodbridge, NJ

October 22th – Fort Washington Stamp & Coin Show – Holiday Inn, Ft. Washington, PA

October 28th – BuxMont 2006 – Wilson Senior Citizen Center, Warminster, PA

November 24-26th – Westchester Coin, Stamp & Paper Money Show "WESPNEK" – Westchester County Center, Westchester NY

November 25th – Pitman Show– Pitman Masonic Hall, 334 Lambs Road (off Route 55, Exit 53A)

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