



Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

APS Chapter #1095-104282



November 2006 Newsletter

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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

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November 21st Meeting

This month, we are having a stamp collecting refresher course. There will be a series of very short presentations on some basic skills – stamp identification, handling and storage. This will be followed by a few stations where you can try some things out yourself – such as trying to identify the origin of some rather unusual stamps or using a dry watermark detector. It should be a lot of fun.

Be sure to bring along any stamps you are having trouble identifying, or any handy tools you use. This will be a good opportunity to learn something from each other.

As always, this month's meeting will start at 7:30 PM. 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.

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

Our October Meeting

The club was honored to have the noted writer, George Amick, speak at our October meeting. Mr. Amick gave a wonderful talk on the work that goes into design of US postage stamps and his work in preparing the annual Linn's U.S. Stamp Yearbook.



George Amick during his presentation

He passed around some of the original designs for various stamps issues and discussed the reasons why certain designs were rejected. We were treated to many interesting stories, and a rare inside look at what goes on behind the scenes before a new stamp is issued. We will all look at future stamp designs with a more discriminating eye – “Why was this design chosen?”

We thank Mr. Amick for his time and for providing us with a truly fascinating and thought-provoking presentation.

Presidents Message

I'm sorry I missed last month's meeting and the presentation by George Amick. I understand it was a very interesting talk and will long be remembered by those in attendance.

This month, we will have a refresher course on some of the "best practices" of stamp collecting – how to identify, prepare and store stamps. I hope you will find the information both interesting and useful. Most importantly, I hope you will chime in with your own suggestions and helpful hints. This is an ideal way for all of us to share our knowledge with others.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting at the Library on Tuesday November 21st.

Ed Murtha

Plans for Future HTPS Meetings

Here is the current schedule of activities for future HTPS meetings (subject to change):

November 21, 2006 – Stamp Collecting Refresher Course (see page 1)

December 19, 2006 – Society Auction & Holiday Party

January 16, 2007 – Presentation on Indian States Stamps by Jack Sack

February 20, 2007 – Presentation by Tom DeLuca (Trenton Stamp & Coin)

March 20, 2007 – Presentation on New Jersey Postal History by Robert G. Rose, President of the NJ Postal History Society

April 17, 2007 – Presentation on Zeppelin Covers by Henry Applegate

May 15, 2007 – APS Slide Show (subject to be determined)

June 19, 2007 – Society Auction

Library Exhibits

Take a look at our postal exhibits in place at the Hamilton Library during November. Thanks to Rita Cleary, Ed Murray and Tony Zingale for their contributions to the display.



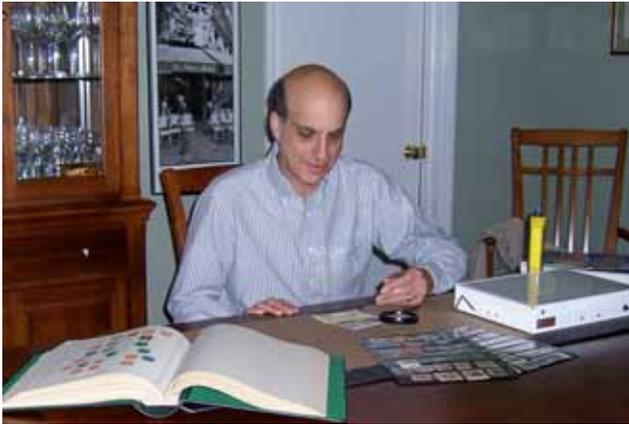
Part of the Hamilton Library Display

Next up is the Lawrenceville Library in April. We are looking for contributors. ANY type of philatelic material is suitable including stamps, covers, postcards or publications.

We have the materials needed including poster boards and mounting supplies. We can create title headers and any other descriptions needed for your display.

Stamp Collecting Hints

At this month's club meeting, we will be holding a philatelic refresher course. We plan a number of short presentations and demonstrations on various techniques. Hopefully, it will not only teach the novices about some of the materials and methods used in stamp collecting, but may even teach some of us old pros a things or two. I thought I would start things off with a short introduction of some of the things I have learned through the years.



The author at work

Tools of the Trade: Unfortunately, I do not have a dedicated stamping area so whenever I decide to, as my wife says, “play with my stamps”, I have developed a method to get everything I need in place quickly. I have a plastic shoebox filled with all the common things I need to identify stamps. This includes the obvious – tongs, perforation gauge, magnifying glass, watermarking tray and fluid, etc.

There are also a few things you might not think of – a small flashlight, for example, to carefully examine the back of the stamp for repairs, etc. I have a second box with all of my mounting supplies – mounts, hinges, cutters – used to mount the stamps in my albums.

Cataloging and Identification: One thing I do is to make careful notes about each stamp I add to my collection. As each stamp is identified, I place it in an inexpensive stock sheet with the catalog number below. I make simple notes on how I confirmed the identity (watermark, perf,

etc.) and whether there are any other attributes (condition, tears, etc). If it is a color variation or if there is a special explanation in the catalog for this stamp, I will also note it.

I use this information to enter comments in my computerized inventory lists. I also inscribe my id number on the album page underneath the stamp. This may seem like an awful lot of work, but you would be surprised how many times such detailed notes have helped me out. For example, for my King George VI collection, I am always looking for perf varieties and better cancellations. With my inventory lists, I have immediate access to what is in my collection.

Color Reference: Certain U.S. stamps, such as the early postage dues and cut squares, have numerous color variations. Many times the description in the catalog does not include all of the known shades that a stamp may have. Frankly, this is one area where I find dealers often have incorrectly identified the color variety of a particular stamp. To solve this, I have started my own reference collection of such stamps that I can bring to shows and compare. Below is the color chart for the 1917-1923 Postage Dues series and the 2c Washington Envelopes from 1907-1910 (note that for identifying paper color one should usually look on the back of the envelope which is less likely to have been faded by sunlight Jack Sack



Web Watch

This is a new feature for our newsletter. Each month we will highlight a segment of the Internet that deals with a specific philatelic area. This month we present **Internet Links to US philatelic material**.

First up ... <http://www.1847usa.com/Default.htm> containing an incredible amount of information and quality images on US stamps issued from 1847 thru 1970. This site was awarded the Grand Prix d'Honneur as the outstanding philatelic site of 2003. Here's an example of the information provided.

The main section tabs include:

- Identifier – Provides information on sets and singles to help classify US issues.
- Washington Franklins – Images and charts help identify this large and tricky group.
- Watermarks – Includes printable templates for watermarks found on US stamps.
- Plate Layouts – Key to identifying the one and three cent stamps of the 1851 issue.
- Flat Plate, Rotary or Offset – Provides templates to differentiate format types.
- Secret Marks – Close-up images help identify all the 1873 and 1879 Bank Note issues.

3c Washington of 1851-1861						
	Year	Scott	Issued	Perf	Printer	Type
	1851	10	20,000,000*	none	TCC	orange-brown
	1851	11	340,000,000*	none	TCC	dull-red
	1857	25	39,000,000	15.5	TCC	I
	1857	26	600,000,000	15.5	TCC	II
	1857	26A	33,000,000	15.5	TCC	IIa
	1875	41	479	12	<i>Continental</i>	<i>Reprint</i>

Other section tabs on this site include a Glossary, Philatelic Literature, Paper Types, Private Perfs, Gum Breakers and Links to other US specialized sites.

Other US Internet Sites

<http://www.theswedishtiger.com/usstamps/> is a great site highlighting US issues from 1847 to 1932. Included are Provisionals, Regulars, Commemoratives, and a large BOB section with Federal Ducks (to 2002), Revenues, Officials and Locals. Other sections provide images of 1850-60's cancels, 19th century Advertising covers and Civil War covers. Links to other sites are also provided.

<http://members.aol.com/jlkcsa/index.htm> – This dealer site covers Confederate stamps and postal history. Although it has a confusing structure, it includes information not found elsewhere. The section on forgeries and facsimiles includes images comparing real and forged items.

<http://www.hawaiianstamps.com/index.html> – This site deals with Hawaiian postal history up to 1900 when it became a US Territory. Also included are sections on Postal Cards, Locals and Postal Markings.

<http://postalhistory.com/> – A dealer's US Postal History site with a wide range of Postal Covers, State Postal History and Military Covers. Also includes a complete US Post Office listing.

<http://www.precancels.com/> – HUGE Precancel site covering US (and some Foreign) types. You won't believe the amount of material presented.

<http://www.pbbooks.com/markings.htm> – Books and other publications on US postmarks, machine cancels and meters.

The HTPS Lending Library is in operation.

Klaus Wagner has organized the HTPS lending library. If you have any reference books you are willing to lend out or there is a catalog or book you are interested in reading, check out the available titles on the Poster Board listing.

We have been offered a collection of old stamp magazines as part of our Lending Library. Do you have a basement or other area we can use to store the collection?

APS Membership Drive The APS special membership drive ends this month. They are offering a discounted membership to non-APS members for \$19. Talk to Ed Murtha if you are interested.

HTPS Web Site Plans are underway for our own HTPS website on the internet. If you would like to help out or have some favorite websites you'd like to tell us about, please contact Tony.

Stamps for the Wounded Please save your extra stamps for the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. See Sherm Britton.

Spray-on Cancels Please remember to save those city spray-on cancellations in your everyday mail. A number of our members who are attempting to collect the nearly 300 city spray-on cancellations.

Are you interesting in having breakfast at the Americana Diner before the Hightstown Bourse or need a ride to the show? Please see Tony.

Upcoming Stamp Events ...

November 11th – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Post, Hightstown, NJ



Don Bunker's table at the Hightstown Show

November 13 – Philadelphia Weekday Monday Stamp Show – Radisson Hotel, Trevoese, PA

November 15th – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ (also December 7th and 20th)

November 19 – Hasbrouck Heights Bourse – Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

November 24-26th – WESPSEX Coin, Stamp & Paper Money Show – Westchester, NY

November 25th – Pitman Show – Masonic Hall, Pitman, NJ

December 8-10 – The Metropolitan Stamp Show – Holiday Inn Midtown, New York, NY

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 Society

President Ed Murtha
Vice President Tony Zingale
Treasurer Joseph Pavelchak

Secretary Klaus Wagner
APS Representative Sherm Britton
Newsletter Editor Jack Sack