



Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

APS Chapter #1095-104282



December 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

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December 19th Meeting

This month, we will be having our annual holiday party. Please bring a small treat (cookies, juice, etc.) to our meeting to share with our members as we talk about our stamping experiences. If you are unsure of what to bring, call Tony at 586-7663.

At the end of the meeting, we will be holding a stamp auction. (see page 4 for more information)

As always, the 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.

As a reminder, our January 16th meeting will feature a presentation on India and Indian States stamps by Jack Sack.

Membership Dues: It's that time of the year again! HTPS dues remain at \$10 for the calendar year. Please bring a check or cash to the December meeting or send payment to Joe Pavelchak at 228 Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691

President's message

Our November meeting's refresher course seemed to be well received. I must thank all of you who participated. It was a job well done by all. The most pleasant surprise was the visit of four young men from Pennington, Princeton and Hopewell. They are new to stamp collecting and it was suggested that they visit us to possibly learn more. We thank their mentor, Mr. Rodgers, for suggesting this and Jacob & Jonathan's mother for being so kind to drive them to the meeting. We hope that Jacob, Jonathan, Ben, Aidan and other friends will be kind enough to surprise us again and again. They are always welcome.

This month there will be an auction and our annual holiday party. The auction is an ideal way to reduce your number of old catalogues or to get a few dollars for that partial Afghanistan collection that has been sitting in a box for years or to just to move some of your duplicate copies. Please participate. If you bake for the holidays or have someone who does, think about bringing a plate of cookies. It would be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting. Lastly, and most importantly, please have a wonderful, safe and healthy holiday Ed

We welcome new members Neil Wood from Levittown, PA and Sam Stia of Trenton.

Refresher Presentation

The presentation for our November meeting was on **Philatelic Essentials**. We thank the five members who spoke and demonstrated some of the fundamental tools and techniques used in stamp collecting. Members also had an opportunity to test their skills. Hopefully you all learned something new.

Before the talks began, members could look at some of the tools and examples used for the demonstrations. A poster board described some basic techniques including how to distinguish between U.S. Flat Plate and Rotary Press stamps. There was also a write-up on the layout and identifications of the single and double line U.S. watermarks.



Some of the Donated Publications & Catalogs

During the presentations, members made comments and observations which often led to new insights for all parties.

Bob Stolarz described the benefits of using **Bestine** which was developed for thinning rubber cement. This non-staining solvent also cleans up inks, oils and spray adhesives, and is sometimes effective in removing decals and labels. Bob has used this product as a watermarking fluid. It acts quickly and has no odor, but is highly flammable (so be careful).

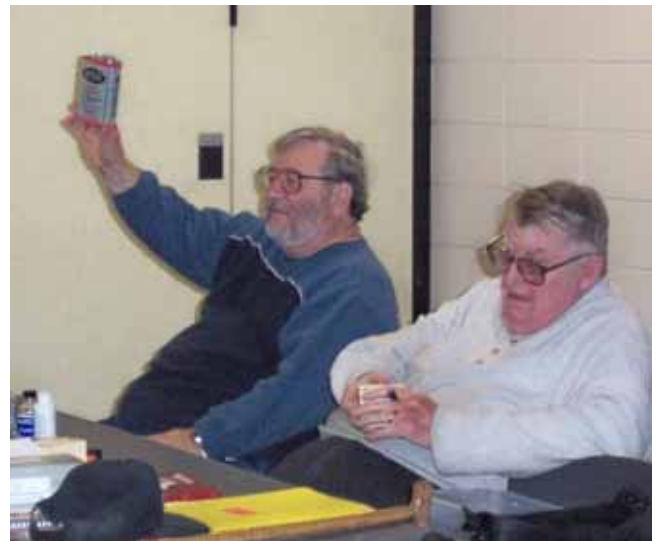
He also uses it to remove scotch tape (ouch!) from stamps. He found that it leaves a white powder residue that can be brushed off.



Poster Board on Philatelic Essentials

Special thanks to the **Businesses** that contributed publications for our presentation. We only have a few items left, so check the tables.

- Amos Press: Stamp Collecting Made Easy
Scott Monthly Journal
Product Guide
- Mystic Stamps: U.S. Stamp Catalog
Scott Specialized Catalog
- PSE: Grading & Expertizing Guide
- Stanley Gibbons: Various Product Catalogs
- Subway Stamp Shop: Product Catalog



Bob Stolarz (holding Bestine can) with Don Bunker.

Refresher Presentation (continued)



Dennis Buss (standing) with Joe Seliga (at his right), Jim Cope and Bob Kahrman (at his left).

Don Bunker presented and demonstrated some of the methods and tools used to detect **watermarks** on postage stamps including:

- Holding the stamp up to a bright light.
- Shining a flashlight up against the stamp face.
- Use of watermarking fluid.
- The Safe Signoscope electronic detector.
- Use of the Morley-Bright Inst-A-Tector.

Don also explained that patience is needed in identifying watermarks. Practice is essential. He suggested starting out with some common and easily detected examples such as the crowns on early Great Britain issues.

Ed Murtha's presentation covered the care and **storage** of philatelic items. Ed cautioned that stamps should never be stored in attics or basements, and that stamp albums and stock books should be stored upright and NOT flat.

Tony Zingale displayed and demonstrated the use of several common **philatelic tools**. The use of spade-tipped tongs and perforation gauges were among some of the items discussed. Tony also showed how templates could be created to help distinguish between Flat Plate and Rotary Press stamps.

Dennis Buss described some basic techniques for **soaking stamps**. His first step is to separate out those stamp papers that may run or bleed. These items need to be soaked by themselves.

Dennis' preference is to soak the stamps in a tub of lukewarm water. When the stamps separate from the paper, he places them face down onto a paper towel. When they dry, he transfers them to a drying book. He puts the stamps face up onto the glossy pages of the book, and places a heavy object on the book to flatten the stamps.

Dennis also discussed the need and use of the Stamp Lift and Stamp Press.



Don Bunker and watermark kits; Rita Cleary looks on.

Stamp Identification: We ran a bit late with our Refresher presentation and not all members had a chance to test their stamp identification skills. So we decided to bring back the 29 stamps of unknown origin for a second go round.

We put the stamps on the Poster Board so check them out and test your abilities. Jack Sack has the answers. A special prize will be given to the member (or group of members) with the highest correct total.

Society Auction

Its auction time again! Attached is a description of the Auction process and a **submission sheet** to enter your lots. We have a limit of five lots per member although exceptions are possible.

If you wish to donate the sales proceeds to the Society for one or more lots, please indicate so on the Auction form.

Some **considerations** for creating lots:

- Put up items that fellow members collect.
- Set realistic minimum bids.
- Auction lots rarely get above 20-25% of CV.
- Choice material can sell for more.
- Old catalogs, including foreign, are popular.
- Specialized reference material is also good.

Here is an example of a completed Auction sheet with some representative lots.

Auction List – Seller's Name: TONY ZINGALE Date: 6-20-06

Item No.	Item Name or Scott Number	Item Description and/or Condition (e.g., Blue Columbian, MNH, F-VF, Gum Crease)	Minimum Bid	Sales Price	Winning Bid Number
1.	U.S. # 330	Jamestown HV - MH - CV \$150-	25 -		
2.	U.S. # 3555	13"x11" Mounted & Framed Color FDC			
X	(olympics)	sold by USPS for \$39.95 (see back)	3 ²⁵		
3.	X Conf. States	Springfield Facsimiles (12) - 'Real' CV \$6000-	3 ⁵⁰		
4.	X Colorado FDC	Collection - 20 diff - RV \$40-	4 -		
5.	X GB #1	Used 4 m - Pos MD - Red MC - CV \$280-	42 -		
6.	X ROMAN St. #17	Counterfeit - MH - APEX cert. - 'Real' CV \$190-	4 -		
7.	X U.S. Box	Mixture - Stamps - Covers	5 -		
8.	X W.D. Box	Mixture - Stamps - Covers	5 -		
X					

Total Sales _____

Club Commission (-10%) _____

Net to Seller _____

Member **collecting interests** include:

- US – Early Used Singles
- US – Mint Singles
- US – MNH PBs (tops and UR positions)
- US – Panels
- British Commonwealth
- Canada
- Czechoslovakia
- Danzig
- Denmark
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Iceland
- India & Indian States
- Ireland
- Israel

- Netherlands
- Poland
- Scandinavia (postally used)
- Sudan

Topical interests are Animals, Boy Scouts, Fire-related Issues, Counterfeits, Forgeries, Fakes, Lighthouses, Ships and Technology Issues.

All lots are sold AS IS. Please review the lots carefully before bidding. The Society will deduct a **fee of 10%** from each lot's final sale price. This fee will go directly into the Society treasury.

Library Exhibits

Again our thanks to Rita Cleary, Ed Murray and Tony Zingale for their contributions to our November philatelic exhibit at the Hamilton Library.



Next up is the **Lawrenceville Library** in April. We are looking for new contributions. 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.

Newsletter via e-mail

The HTPS Newsletter will now be sent to all members that have supplied us with an email address. It will be an attachment to an email as an Adobe PDF document. The newsletter will also be mailed to these members. If you would like to receive an electronic copy and did not receive the December issue, please ask Ed to add your email address to the list.

The pictures and illustrations look much better than in the printed copies in the newsletter. Our plan is to include the old newsletters in the HTPS website

Web Watch – Philatelic Agencies

If you are a collector of new issues, you might consider purchasing your stamps directly from a country's philatelic sales agency rather than through new-issue dealers. This month's Web Watch column describes some of the philatelic sales agencies on the web.



For U.S. collectors, the U.S. Postal Service sales agency can be found on the web at www.usps.com. The website lists over 100 stamp items currently available from the post office. Although the stamps are sold at face value, they add a \$1 handling fee plus the cost of Priority Mail return postage, usually around \$4.

Many foreign countries also have philatelic sales agencies. For example, French stamps can be purchased from La Poste (www.laposte.fr) and British stamps from the Royal Post website at (www.royalmail.com).



In addition to any postage and handling charges, you need to be aware of any fees your credit card company charges for currency exchange.

There are two very good websites that list many of the more than 150 worldwide philatelic agencies: <http://www.askphil.org/b38a.htm> and Fabio Alarici's excellent website: <http://digilander.libero.it/fabioalarici/>

Some countries, such as the United Nations (see: unstamps.un.org) allow you to place standing



orders for new issues, and will send you a package every few months with the latest stamp issues. The advantage is that you do not need to place individual orders as each new issue is released. Many times they have no or smaller charges for standing orders than for individual orders. However, they usually require a deposit in order to have a standing order account.

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 are attempting to collect the nearly 300 different city spray-on cancellations.

Stock Pages and Binders: We are looking for contributions of binders and stock pages (preferably the black poly type). Recycled items are fine. The purpose is to supply new collectors with a “storage kit” before they decide on an album.

Christmas Trees: Joe Pavelchak is offering “cut your own” Blue Spruce or Douglas Fir trees at his farm for only \$30 (any available size). Contact him at 609-448-1339 to make arrangements for a weekend pickup. The farm is located at 228 Windsor Road in Robbinsville

Lending Library: 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.

HTPS Web Site: Plans are underway for our own HTPS website on the internet. 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.

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

Some Upcoming Stamp Events

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

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

December 9th – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Hall- Hightstown, NJ [Note: if you are interested in having breakfast at the Americana Diner before the show or need a ride to the show, please contact Tony].

December 17th – Old Bridge Coin & Stamp Show – Rescue Squad Building – Old Bridge, NJ

December 17th – Hasbrouck Heights Bourse – Holiday Inn, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

December 20th – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church, Pennsauken, NJ

December 30th – West Jersey Stamp Show – Masonic Hall, Pitman, NJ

January 5-7th – Garden State Stamp Show – Bethwood Manor – Totowa, NJ

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