



Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

APS Chapter #1095-104282



January 2007 Newsletter

email: hamilton@att.net

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month 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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January 16th Meeting

This month, Jack Sack will give a presentation on his collection of India and Indian States stamps. While he has been collecting stamps from the sub-continent for only a few years, he has built up a very nice Indian States "Reference Collection" concentrating on finding examples of stamps and forgeries from each of the forty States. He promises to pass around a number of stamps, and to test your skills in identifying the fakes from the genuine articles.

We should also have some time for "Show & Tell". If you have an interesting stamp, article or story to tell, please bring it to the meeting.

As always, the 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.

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

President's Message

Over thirty members and guests turned out for the auction and our annual Christmas party. This was the largest crowd ever to attend an HTPS meeting in recent memory. Thank you all for coming and making the auction and party a great success! I would like to thank all of you who brought some goodies for the party and those who donated items to the auction for the benefit of the club's treasury.

This month, one of our members, Jack Sack, will give a talk on his collection of India and Indian States stamps. I am sure he will give us an interesting presentation and may give you some ideas on how to research and organize your own collection, no matter the subject. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting ... Ed

Plans for Future HTPS Meetings

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

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

Our December Auction



The highlight of our December meeting was a members' auction. Over fifty lots of stamps, covers, and other philatelic material were put up for bid. While some items had only a few bidders, a number of the lots had some serious competition and furious bidding.



Examination of the Lots prior to the Auction

In addition to the items put up by club members, a number of the lots were donated to the club, with all the proceeds being added to the HTPS treasury.

The December meeting also included our annual Holiday party. Many members brought in food and beverages for the event. This gave us a chance to mingle and chat over a cup of coffee and a cookie or piece of baklava.

The hit of the snack table was Jim Cope's decorative "Stamp Cake". It took a while before someone had the nerve to cut into the beautifully decorated cake that reminded us of the 1973 U.S. Christmas issue.



We all look forward to our next Society Auction scheduled for next June.

How I Started Collecting India

When I start talking about my collection, the first question people usually ask is “How did I start collecting Indian stamps” ?

Several years ago, while I was looking for a new collecting interest, I happened to run across a Stanley Gibbons stamp album for King George VI. I subsequently purchased the album and began accumulating all the stamps from the British Commonwealth issued during his reign (1936-1952).

Along with stamps from all of the commonly known colonies (Bermuda, South Africa, Gibraltar, etc.), the album also contained spaces for stamps of India and the Indian States that were issued during this period.



Although this was the period when the Indian States were being combined to form the Dominion of India (1947), there were still about 20 states that were issuing stamps. Unlike the stamps from most of the colonies that contained the portrait of King George along with scenic views, many of these stamps had pictures of the local Maharaja or Nawab.

As I built up my KGVII collection, I became more and more interested in these unusual stamps. I would review web pages and auctions that included material from this region. Eventually, I began to collect all Indian and Indian States stamps, not just those from the mid 20th century.

Hopefully, you will enjoy the presentation on India and Indian States. Perhaps, it will prompt you to explore this remarkable area of philately.

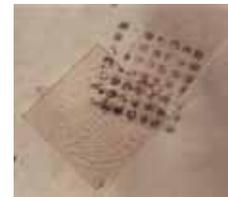


Jack Sack

The Five Periods of Indian Stamps

As an introduction to this month's presentation, here is a brief description to the five periods of Indian Stamps

1. The first “stamps” of India were issued in the **Sind Province** (now part of Pakistan) in 1852. These stamps are actually wax impressions and are usually considered forerunners to the stamps of India.



2. The **East India Company** issued the first stamps valid for postage throughout India in 1854. The first issues were printed in India but later issues were printed in England.



3. After the 1857 rebellion against the East India Company, there was the formation of the **Crown Colony of India** in 1858. Stamps, now simply reading “India Postage”, were issued, containing an image of the current reigning monarch. This practice continued for 90 years through the reign of King George VI.



4. Following World War II, India was granted **Dominion** status, and the first stamp without the portrait of a monarch was issued in 1947.



5. The **Republic of India** was formed in 1950. The first post-independence stamps were issued on January 26th of that year.



Stamp Identification

We ran a bit late with our Refresher presentation in November 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. Answers will be given next month.

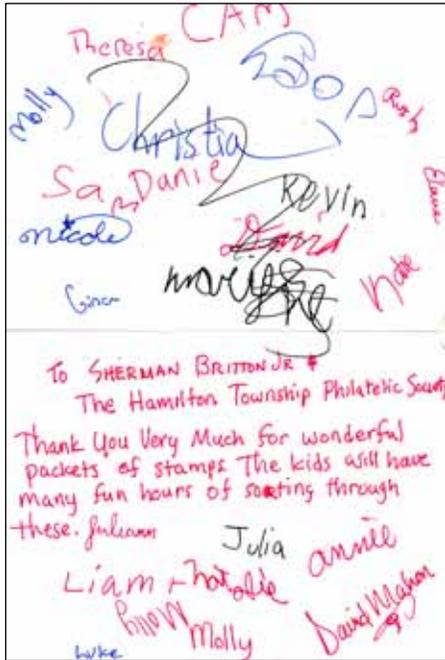


Some online sites that may help in identification include:

- http://www.glassinesurfer.com/stamp_identify/a.shtml
- <http://www.askphil.org/b25a.htm>

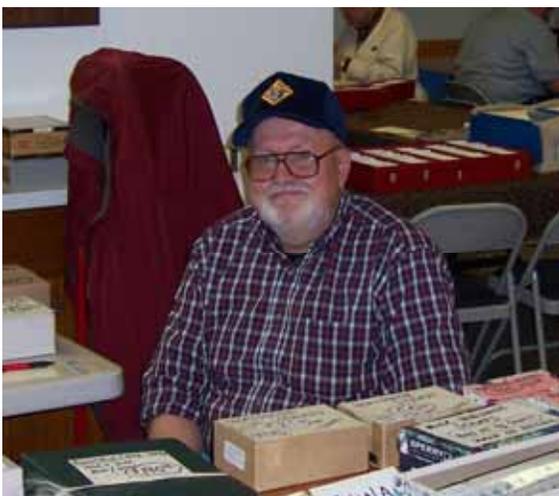
Save Your Extra Stamps

Remember to please save your extra stamps for Sherm Britton to send to the “Stamps for Wounded Vets” and other worthy programs. Here is a thank you note that Sherm Britton received from the St. Joseph’s School for the stamp packets he sent:



Thank You

Our thanks to Woody Fairess for his donation of a box of U.S. stamps for our new members, some of whom are just starting out as stamp collectors. Woody is President of the Merchantville Stamp Club and has a dealer table at the Pitman show.



Woody Fairess at the Pitman Show

Web Watch – Indian Stamps

I have found the internet to be an invaluable source of information for stamp collectors. This is especially true for a collector of Indian stamps, where it is difficult to obtain information from other sources, such as the philatelic press. Whether it is looking for stamps for my collection, obtaining information on new issues, or researching a stamp in my collection, the internet is the first place I go.



The Indian Postal Administration, Indiapost, has its own website <http://www.indiapost.gov.in/>. Unfortunately, it is not very informative and does not sell stamps on the site, although you can set up a standing order account for new issues.

Fabio Alarici’s website has a very nice page of references about and dealers of Indian Stamps: <http://digilander.libero.it/fabioalarici/clink/india.html> Another source is Mehul Shah’s site: <http://www.geocities.com/Colosseum/Park/6286/> Of particular note is the section which gives a cross-reference of Scott and Stanley Gibbons catalog numbering. Also see Madhukar & Savita Jhingan’s excellent web page: <http://www.stampsofindia.com/> which includes a listing of the current Indian stamp program.

My best purchases of Indian stamps on the web have come from the eBay auction website (www.ebay.com). Try entering “Indian States” (or your favorite collecting subject) under the “Stamps” category.

You can find immense amounts of information by searching the World Wide Web no matter what your stamp collecting specialty is,

New Member ...

We welcome Gerald Davis as a new member of the HTPS. Jerry collects used United States stamps.

HTPS News and Events ...

Library Display: In April, we will exhibit at the **Lawrenceville Library**. We are looking for contributors. ANY type of philatelic material is suitable including stamps, covers, postcards or publications. We are also looking for people in each community to visit their local library every month or so to restock our flyers and posters.

During our November "Refresher Course", Bob Stolarz described the benefits of using **Bestine** which was developed for thinning rubber cement. This non-staining solvent cleans up inks, oils and spray adhesives, and is usually effective in removing decals and labels. Bestine is available at Michael's Art Supplies stores.

Newsletter via e-mail: Our Newsletter is now available via email. If you would like to receive it that way, please let us know and provide us with your email address. We will also include the newsletters on the HTPS website.

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.

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.

Upcoming Stamp Events ...

January 13th – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Hall, Hightstown, NJ Some members meet for breakfast at the Americana Diner before the show. If you would like to join us or need a ride to the show, please contact Tony.

January 17th – Merchantville Stamp Club (also on February 1st and 21st)

January 21st – Third Sunday Stamp Bourse – Courtyard Marriott, Lyndhurst, NJ.

January 28th – Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show – Holiday Inn, Ft. Washington, PA

February 9-11th – The Metropolitan Stamp Show – Holiday Inn Midtown, New York, NY

Remember to tune into Rita Cleary's radio program, "The Faces of Life" which airs from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on alternate Mondays on WDVR-FM, 89.7 in Delaware Township and 91.9 in Lawrence, Princeton and Trenton. It can also be heard on the web at www.wdvrfm.org.

On Monday, January 29th, Rita will be interviewing Tom DeLuca from Trenton Stamp and Coin. Tom will speak on ways people can begin and build a stamp or topical collection. Rita welcomes your questions, both prior to the interview or via email or phone while on air. The email address prior to the show is: keepitreal08628@yahoo.com.

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