

Special HTPS Auction Preview Issue



The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282



Newsletter of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

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Vol. 1, No. 5

January 2008

This Month's Program

This month we will holding our semi-annual members auction. Please see page 3 for some suggestions on how to prepare your auction lots and on how to fill in the auction sheet.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 PM in the basement community room of the Hamilton Library. Come early if you would like to pick up some free publications, check out the APS circuit books or chat with your fellow philatelists.

Our 2008 Schedule

We will be meeting on the third Tuesday each month. During the summer, we are planning informal meetings. The dates for 2008 are:

January 15th – Society Auction

February 19th – Tom Deluca Presentation

March 18th – “Walk Along Nassau Street”
by Steven Rod.

April 15th – FDC's by Fred Collins

May 20th – APS Slide Show

June 17th – Society Auction

July 15th – Informal Meeting

August 19th – Informal Meeting – HAMPEX '08

HTPS Meetings . . .

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Hamilton Township Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Way (off of Whitehorse Mercerville Road) in Hamilton, NJ 08619.

In this Issue ...

January 15th Auction
How to sell your stamps at Auction
... and much more

President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed our holiday party as much as I did. We heard some fascinating stamp related stories during our “Show ‘n Tell” and then we had time to socialize. There was a huge spread of holiday snacks that everyone enjoyed.



My thanks to everyone who contributed to the snack table.

This month we will be holding a club auction. This is an opportunity to sell some of your extra or unwanted stamp material. Please plan on preparing a few lots for the auction – you may be surprised on how one person's trash is another person's treasure.

One of the great pleasures of winter is to be able to spend more time indoors with your favorite hobby. Think about doing something special this winter with your stamp collection, perhaps by researching some of your unusual pieces and telling us what you found out.

See you on the 15th Ed

Our December Meeting

The first part of our December meeting was a members' "Show & Tell" There were a number of interesting presentations. For example . . .

Ron G. showed off his collection of the Puerto Rican stamps from 1893 commemorating the discovery of the island by Christopher Columbus.



It is the only Puerto Rican stamp designed and printed on the island. It is also the third commemorative stamp in the world and the only Puerto Rican stamp issued under Spanish rule that does not have the portrait of the King of Spain. However, the most unusual fact is that it was authorized for use on only one day, November 19, 1893.



Johnny R. showed off a First Day Cover of the Spiderman stamp on a comic book cover from the Trentonian newspaper.

Sherm B. showed off a Jeddo & Highland Coal Company stamp. These were issued by the Pennsylvania company and attached to the customer's bill at the scale station to certify the weight of coal being delivered.



Neil W. showed off a very small portion of his 55,000 cover and postcard collection. He displayed several first-day covers of the "Land Grant College" stamp (Scott # 1065) from 1955.



The second part of our December meeting was the holiday party. There was a wide assortment of food, drink, and good cheer. Several members brought in food with a stamp related theme.



Left: Jim C.'s Cranberry Nut Bread with Stamp Flags. Right: Ed M. sampling some of the many delicacies.

Last Month's Stamp Identification



Sid Morginstin has correctly identified one of last month's stamps as Scott # 68L1, "Floyd's Penny Post" 1c blue, from 1860. These stamps were used in Chicago in 1860-61 by Capt. John R. Floyd's private postal service to carry letters to or from the post office.

The stamp is in Tony Z.'s collection and catalogs for about \$150. Ironically, these stamps would be quite common if not for the great Chicago fire of 1871 which destroyed a large stock of both stamps and covers.

Society Auction

Its auction time again! Below is a description of the Auction process along with a sample Auction List sheet.

Selecting Items for Auction

Give some thought to what you want to sell and what will attract bidders. Usually a limit of five (5) auction items per member is in effect. Some **considerations** for creating lots:

- Put up items that fellow members collect.
- Set realistic minimum bids.
- Lots rarely get more than 20-25% of CV.
- Choice and unique items sell for more.
- Old catalogs, including foreign, are popular.
- Specialized reference publications are also good items.

Preparing the Auction List Sheet

A description of each auction lot is entered onto the Auction List sheet as follows:

- Enter Seller's Name and Date at the top.
- Enter Item Name, Country or Scott #.
- Enter a Description of the item including condition, faults and catalog / retail values.
- Enter the minimum bid in 25c increments.

Use 2-3 lines if necessary and renumber the items on the Auction List sheet. Be realistic – common items usually go for a small fraction of catalog value.

Identifying the Auction Lot Items

The auctioneer does not have a copy of the Auction List sheet during the auction process. Therefore, it is important that you include a detailed description of the lot on the item itself.

- Identify the auction item with an **Item No.** from the Auction List.
- Make sure that the **Description** on the auction item **matches** the Auction List description.

You can use a label, write on a glassine or other envelope, or use a post-it note for larger items.

Auction Setup

Tables for auction materials will be available. Place your items on the table together with your Auction List form.

The Auctioneer will review items before the bidding begins. He may have some questions for you or ask for a more complete description of the item.

Now is your chance to look at the other items up for auction. Remember all items are SOLD AS IS. So check them out carefully.

Use tongs and magnifiers to check for hinge marks, faults, etc. Some stamp catalogs will be available for your use. For specialized items, talk to the Seller for details. Jot down items of interest for bidding. Plan your bidding strategy.

Auction Process



The Auction **starts** after the formal meeting is adjourned. The Auctioneer selects an Auction List, hands it to the Control Clerk and begins the bidding process. Members bid by holding up a card containing their bidding number.

Bidding on each item starts with the Seller's **Minimum Bid**. Increments are 25c for items under \$20 and 50c for items \$20 and above. The Auctioneer may change increments for an item based on competitive bidding.

No bids accepted after the Auctioneer calls the item and hands it to the Control Clerk.

Payments are made after ALL auction items are sold. Winning Bidders pay for their items in U.S. currency or coins.

After ALL payments are made, the Sellers are paid the Sales Price MINUS a 10% commission for the Club. Amounts are rounded to 5 cent increments as needed.

Auction List Sheet

We have included a copy of the Auction List sheet with this Newsletter. A copy is also available on the HTPS web site. Use either to enter your auction lots. Good luck !!!

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

Here is a sample completed Auction List sheet.

Auction List – Seller's Name: JOHN DOE			Date: 1-15-08		
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.	Scott 2004	US SPECIALIZED CATALOG – good cond.	1 00		
2.	Scott PB	Album, 1901-1964 Commemoratives, no stamps, some mounts – ex. cond.	2 00		
3	* DENMARK	#9 // 126 (8) USED – CV \$75+	5 00		
4	* NETHERLANDS	200 DIFF USED – CV \$45	5 00		
5	* FDC ALBUM	with 25 two-up Clear Pages	3 00		
7.					
8.					
9					
10.					

Total Sales _____
Club Commission (-10%) _____
Net to Seller _____

Auction Lot Listing

Here are SOME of the items up for auction along with the starting bids:

- Scott 2004 US Specialized Catalog (1.00)
- Scott 2004 WW Catalog, Vol. 3 G-I (1.00)
- Scott 2004 WW Catalog, Vol. 5 P-SI (1.00)
- Scott 2004 WW Catalog, Vol. 6 Sm-Z (1.00)
- FDC Album w/25 two-up Clear Pages (3.00)
- 1980 Lake Placid Album and Event Cover Collection (3.00)
- (2) Harris WW 2-Post Albums, 1840-1980, with a few stamps (4.00)
- 1991 Yvert French Catalog, in color (1.00)
- All American Album, 1847-1964, with a few stamps (1.00)

- Denmark early used #9 // 126 (8), CV \$75+ (5.00)
- 50+ Christmas / Nativity Worldwide Topicals (1.00)
- 25 QE II British Commonwealth (1.00)
- 50+ WW Revenues, Used / Mint (4.00)
- Germany 70 diff used, CV \$70 (6.00)
- Netherlands 200 diff used, CV \$45 (5.00)
- Scott PB Album, 1901-64 Commemoratives, no stamps, some mounts (2.00)
- . . . and much more !!!

This list will be updated on the HTPS web site so check for additional entries. Contact us if you want to add items to the web site list.

How to Sell at Auction

Last year I wrote about how to bid at an auction. Here is the other side of the coin – How to sell at an auction. Of course, the HTPS auction is a friendly, low value auction among friends, but what if you decided to sell a significant portion of your collection?

To Sell or Not to Sell

The first question is deciding if you really want to sell your stamps. Often you have worked on your stamps for many years, and will probably be disappointed at the final amount you will receive for them.

Perhaps, you can find a new angle to the collection. For example, if it is a mint collection, why not try to find a used example of each stamp. Another possibility is to give it to a young relative to get them interested in stamping.

Organize, Organize, Organize

Having looked at many auction lots, it is clear that a well organized collection will do better at auction than an unsorted Hodge-Podge or Mish-Mash of stamps.

I've always wanted to do the experiment of putting two lots up for auction – each with the identical set of stamps. One, however, would be neatly sorted in a stock book or dealer cards with catalog numbers. The other would be simply placed, unmarked, in glassine envelopes.

I wonder how the price of the lots would differ. It is certainly worth your time to organize your material before you send it in for sale.

On-Line vs. Mail vs. Public Auction



The next decision is picking the right arena for selling your stamps. You can submit your items to an on-line auction such as eBay, or to an auction house, either one that runs mail

auctions or a public auction.

If you decide to go with an auction house, you need to consider which one is the best for your material. Some auction houses specialize in low value accumulations and bulk lots, others in high value single stamps.

The second factor is the price you will receive for your stamps. Pick up an old catalog and prices realized list from several firms. How much did the lots actually sell for?



Beware, however, that some houses make estimates well above their real value in hopes of increasing the bids; others make low-ball estimates to make it look that they get high bids for material. If you have some expensive items, you should insist that they include a picture in their auction catalog.

Sit Back and Relax

Once you have consigned your material, it is time to relax and wait for the auction results. Online auctions occur frequently and end quickly, but require more work on your part. Public and mail bid auction results and payments can take months so be patient.

Stamp Identification

Here are this month's unidentified stamps. If you can identify them, please let us know. Sid M. identified one of the stamps from last month (see page 2).



Club Notices & Classified Ads. . .

Remember: All members in good standing can run a free 50-word classified advertisement each month in this Newsletter.

Stamps for the Wounded: Please save your extra stamps for the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. Sherm Britton is also interested in other worthwhile organizations which are looking for stamp donations.

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 (manila or black poly). Recycled items are fine. The idea is to supply new collectors with a "storage kit" before they decide on an album.

Library Notices: We have a stack of flyers and notices advertising our club to be posted on library and community center bulletin boards across Mercer County. Please take a few of these and pin them up as appropriate.

Date-Type Cancels: Tony Z. is working on a collection of 20th Century date cancels. He has 97 years and only needs 1912, 1913 and 1918 to complete the collection. Please keep a lookout for those dates. Also, any four-year dates are always welcomed.



HTPS Web Site: Please visit our website at hamilton.home.att.net. It still needs some work. 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 Z.

Upcoming Stamp Events

- 1/3 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken
- 1/4-6 – Garden State Stamp Show – Bethwood Manor – Totowa (please see Tony if you are interested in car pooling)
- 1/12 – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown
- 1/13 – Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill
- 1/15 – **HTPS Meeting – Library – Hamilton**
- 1/16 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken
- 1/26 – Woodbridge Show – Hampton Inn – Woodbridge
- 2/7 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken

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.

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