



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282



Newsletter of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

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This Month's Program



We are honored to have Steven J. Rod as our speaker this month. Mr. Rod is a noted philatelic writer and the author of several books on philately including *"An Encyclopedia of United States Stamps*

and Stamp Collecting."

He is a Vice-President of the American Philatelic Society, as well as the exhibition chairman for NY2016, the next international stamp show that will be held in the United States in New York City in 2016.

Mr. Rod will speak to us about "A Walk Along Nassau Street" the famous street in lower Manhattan which had a number of stamp and coin dealers, and was the heart of the "Stamp District" of New York. We are looking forward to an enjoyable and educational evening.

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 to chat with your fellow philatelists.

HTPS meetings are held on the third 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 ...

..... *March 18th Program:*
"A Walk Along Nassau Street"
..... *Perforations, "Fortaleza" and Poached Eggs*

President's Message

I hope everyone enjoyed Tom DeLuca's talk as much as I did. Tom always comes up with an interesting topic and his presentation on George Washington was no exception.

This month, we have one of the big names in philately, Steven Rod, as our guest. Mr. Rod is a frequent contributor to Linn's Stamp News and other journals, and has written several books such as the "Introduction to Stamp Collecting" which I'm sure you have all seen. I hope you will come to our meeting on the 18th to hear Steven.



On another matter, the nominations will open for club officers next month. I have found the past two years to be a rewarding experience. With the help of many of our members, we have expanded our membership, brought in a number of outside speakers, and made the meetings both educational and fun events. As satisfying as it has been for me, it is important that we bring "new blood" into the HTPS leadership to keep the meetings fresh and the ideas flowing. I hope you will consider running for office Ed

February Meeting

The club was treated to another interesting presentation by club member and dealer Tom DeLuca. Tom has an amazing knowledge of stamps and postal history, and is always willing to share his expertise.

Tom's presentation was on stamps with George Washington's portrait. Depending on how you count, there are somewhere between 250 and 300 different U.S. stamps that picture Washington. That is not counting all the revenue, officials, and postal stationary that also show our first president.



Tom displaying the 1976 Washington at Valley Forge Souvenir Sheet (Scott # 1689).

Tom also showed some early covers containing Washington stamps and the different types of postmarks used during that period.



Cover from New York to Richmond bearing the 10c Washington from 1847 (Scott #2)

The evening ended with a lively discussion on a variety of topics. We thank Tom for his presentation.

Philatelic Pieces – Perforations

... by Tony Zingale

Here's a follow-up to December's column on perforation types. Most of us probably refer to the Scott catalogs when identifying stamps. Be careful though since Scott is not always accurate.

A good example, which was cited in December's article, are the early Switzerland issues, specifically #82-88 (design A20) issued from 1882-1904. These stamps are found in various perf sizes (from 9 ½ to 12) with a sizable range in catalog value.



Recently, I was cataloguing some of these stamps. I measured one stamp in question and found a perf size of 11 ¾. Hold on – my Scott 2006 catalog does not list this perf variety! However, when I checked my Multipress and Michel Swiss catalogs, both listed the 11 ¾ perf issue!

One more note. I recently purchased the Scott 2008 Classic catalog. I rechecked the Swiss issues and Scott now shows the 11 ¾ variety. However, it groups those issues with the 11 ½ issues unlike the foreign catalogs.

There many other examples where other catalogs – Gibbons, Michel, Ceres, etc – list stamps and varieties not found in the Scott catalog. For example, there are over 100 more Indian stamps listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalog that are not found in Scott. Gibbons also lists many watermark varieties not found in Scott.

Still, let's give Scott some credit. Their catalogs continue to improve with useful updates like pricing for cover use and added coverage of stamp-issuing entities. The addition of full color images of the stamps also helps with identification.

70th Anniversary of the “Fortaleza”

...by Ronald H. González, MD

On November 25, 1937 as part of the Possessions series, a stamp was issued that is related to Puerto Rico (Scott #801). It illustrates the governor’s mansion “La Fortaleza”, equivalent to the White House. Last year the stamp turned 70 years old! As I collect First Day Covers of the stamp, I wanted to obtain a cancellation showing November 25, 2007. One of the problems was that date was on a Sunday, and the post office is closed on Sundays.

I knew it was not going to be easy, since not too many employees are capable or willing to apply a cancellation on a Sunday. I prepared several covers and sent them to two different post offices in San Juan, Puerto Rico, with not much hope of obtaining any of the covers back. I even called one post office in mid January, left a message, and never received a response.



To my surprise, at the end of January 2008, more than two months later, I received one of the group of covers I sent in November 2007, with the covers properly cancelled (see figure above). I don’t know if it was luck or perseverance, but I got some of the covers with the November 25, 2007 cancellation as desired. They don’t have the “Fortaleza” stamp affixed, because I was afraid of the covers would not be returned. Already they are part of my collection.

I just hope I don’t have to go through the same scenario in 2012, when the stamp turns 75 years old! Enjoy collecting stamps and covers.

The British “Poached Egg” Label

...By Jack Sack

One of our members, Don Bunker, obtained an English cover with a very unusual “stamp” affixed (see Figure). Along with two King George VI ½d stamps (Scott # 235), was a stamp of exactly the same size with an oval symbol but without any writing. Fortunately, the cover came with an article written by Herman Herst, Jr. describing what it was.



In the 1930’s, the British wanted to use a dummy stamp for testing stamp vending machines. The post office produced the “Poached-Egg” label in 1937 and distributed it to companies that were making the machines. Some of these test stamps found their way into general circulation, and in some cases, were even used to avoid the proper payment of postage. The oval design was referred to as a “Poached-Egg”, and thus became the name of the test stamp.

Stamp Identification

Here are this month’s unidentified stamps. If you have any ideas of what and where these are from, please let us know.



We Are Not Alone . . .

The Chapter Activities Committee of the American Philatelic Society has now placed their newsletter on the web at www.stamps.org/cac so you can check out what other stamp clubs are doing. While you are there, look at page 8 of the Fall 2007 issue (hint: the HTPS is mentioned).

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.

Current commemoratives on covers

Please save any envelopes you receive with current commemoratives. There are a number of club members who collect modern used U.S. Stamps. Remember there is no better way to promote our hobby than to use stamps on all your mail.

Future HTPS Schedule

- Apr 15th – Cachet Maker Fred Collins
- May 20th – APS Slide Show
- June 17th – Society Auction
- July 15th – Informal Meeting – Swapmeet
- Aug 19th – Informal Meeting – HAMPEX '08

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,
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hamilton@att.net; 609-896-8193.

Upcoming Stamp Events

March is a busy stamp show month, including the Mega event at Madison Square Garden in New York. On the same weekend there is the “Bux-Mont” show held at the Senior Citizens Center just off Street Road in Warminster, PA as well as the Hightstown bourse. Please see Tony if you are interested in car-pooling to any of these shows.

- 3/1 – West Jersey Stamp Show – Masonic Hall (I-295, Exit 32) – Cherry Hill, NJ
- 3/6-9 – MEGA Event – Madison Square Garden, New York City
- 3/6 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ
- 3/8 – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, NJ
- 3/8-9 – Bux-Mont Stamp Show – Wilson Senior Citizen Center – Warminster, PA
- 3/10 – Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ
- 3/15 – Third Saturday Stamp Show – Sheraton Four Points Hotel – Routes 1&9 – Elizabeth, NJ
- 3/15 – Westfield Stamp Show – Town Hall – Westfield, NJ
- 3/16 – Third Sunday Stamp Show – Wyndham Hotel – Route 80 & GSP – Saddlebrook, NJ
- 3/18 – HTPS Meeting – Library – Hamilton, NJ
- 3/19 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ
- 3/28 – Woodbridge Stamp Show – Hampton Inn – Woodbridge, 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	Secretary	Klaus Wagner
Vice President	Tony Zingale	APS Representative	Sherm Britton
Treasurer	Joseph Pavelchak	Newsletter Editor	Jack Sack