



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282



Newsletter of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

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This Month's Program

This month we will be having an APS slide show on "Basics of Stamp Exhibiting" by Regis M. Hoffman.

As described in the APS website, "many collectors would like to become involved with stamp exhibiting, but are not sure how to begin. This program introduces the basic concepts of stamp exhibiting and illustrates, by example, many useful and important techniques.

The author takes the viewer from step one (deciding on a subject) to the final phase, which involves editing, revising, and improving the end result. This is done in a clear, easy-to-understand manner, which is one reason why this program is among the most popular titles in the library." It should be an informative presentation.

There will also be plenty of time for "Show and Tell" if you have an interesting philatelic related item to share with us.

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.

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President's Message

I am sure everyone enjoyed Fred Collins' presentation last month as much as I did. It was a real treat to learn the inside story of how First Day Covers are prepared.



This month we will have another APS slide show. A number of us have thought about exhibiting but don't know where to begin. This presentation will help get us started. I hope to see a HTPS member exhibit at a show in the future.

Next month marks the final formal meeting of the season with our semi-annual auction. There is an incentive on preparing your lots in advance (see the note on the next page).

This summer we will have informal meetings with a swap meet in June and a members' exhibition in July. More about this next month.

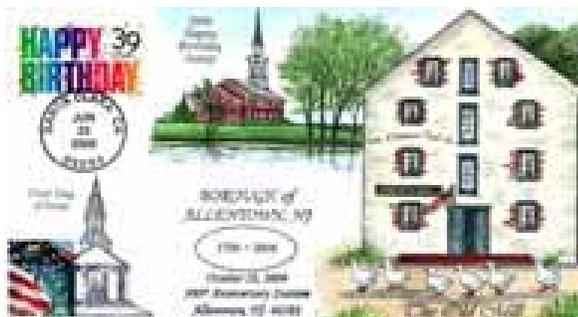
Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the May meeting, but I look forward to seeing you in June....Ed

April Meeting

Last month, the HTPS was honored by a visit from First Day Cover maker, Fred Collins. Fred has been producing hand-painted covers since 1978.

He explained the process on how he, along with his illustrators and painters, design the cover layout and paint the covers. He showed off a number of his covers, and proudly displayed the complete Lewis & Clark cover series he has been working on for several years.

The biggest complement he gets is when someone returns a cover, saying "I thought you said these were hand painted!" Fred also told stories on some of the trials and tribulations, including spilled paint and trying to get a First Day Cover cancelled in a second city.



As a special surprise, Fred gave each attendee an original, hand-painted cover commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Borough of Allentown, New Jersey. The cover included a special cancellation from the town on October 28, 2006 as well as a first day cancellation of the 39c Happy Birthday stamp from the same year.

We thank Mr. Collins for his presentation and for the gift to our members.

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

Auction Preview

Next month we will be having our member's auction. We would like to try and preview as many items as possible in next month's Hinge and on the web. If you have your auction lots prepared, please bring them to the May 20th meeting. As an added incentive, all lots sent in advance will be auctioned off first. We will have lot description forms available at the May meeting.

PSE Guides

We would like to thank Camille Nicholas from the Professional Stamp Experts firm for sending us copies of the Stamp Market Quarterly, which provides a comprehensive pricing guide to graded U.S. stamps.

Unlike the Scott catalogs, which list the price for only one grade of stamps, usually VF, the PSE guide gives prices for all grades of stamps from average to superb. She also sent us copies of the latest edition of the PSE Guide to Grading U.S. Stamps.

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.



Bob Stolarz was the first to identify both of last month's stamps. One was from Liechtenstein and the other was from Manchukuo during the Japanese occupation.



Helping at a Stamp Show

... by Jack Sack

As one of the 12 members of the North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, we have been invited to help out at the NOJEX show over the Memorial Day weekend. If you are interested in helping out, please see Ed or Tony.

I had the pleasure of helping with the show last year. Unfortunately, I could not assist with the set-up of the show on Thursday. However, I was told it was a rather dirty job, since many of the display easels had not been touched for over a year. Each display had to be assembled and cleaned before the exhibits could be mounted. If you help on Thursday, be sure to bring some work clothes with you.

On the last day of the show, I helped at the entrance / information desk. I was kept busy with questions from people ranging from restaurant recommendations to transportation. This year, I plan to bring with me a list of local eateries as well as some maps and New Jersey Transit bus and train schedules.

The nicest part of working the desk was seeing a number of families, including kids, coming to the show. I don't think the hobby is dying out as fast as people say!

After the doors closed, I helped with dismantling the exhibitions. A number of exhibitors wished to personally remove their own displays. My job was to open the display cases and watch while they removed their material. For insurance purposes, I then had to walk them to the exit where they signed out that they had taken the display with them.

Many of the exhibitors were not present, in which case I personally removed the material and packed it for shipment. This was a little scary since some of the exhibits contained expensive or irreplaceable philatelic items. After everything was packed away, we started to store the easels. It was then that we noticed that there were still some frames on display. Someone who had taken down their own exhibit had forgotten to take everything with them!

From my one day helping at NOJEX, I learned how much effort is required to run a stamp show. While it was a lot of fun helping out, and I plan to help out this year, I have no interest in organizing a show ourselves. I hope to see you all in Secaucus. Stop by the information booth and say hello

Be sure to watch your e/mailbox for next month's special "Year in Pictures" Newsletter. There will also be instructions for the auction and plans for the summer meetings...

Club Notices . . .

Election of Officers: We will nominate and elect Officers in May to be effective at the June meeting. We have candidates for two positions: Ron Gonzalez for Treasurer and Bob Stolarz for Secretary. We welcome other candidates including those for the President and Vice-President positions.

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 purpose 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.

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

The highlight of the month is the NOJEX show over the Memorial Day weekend at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus. The show runs from 10 AM to 6 PM on Friday (May 23rd) and Saturday (May 24th), and from 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday (May 25th). There will be over 250 exhibition frames and 40 dealers at the bourse.

5/10 – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, NJ

5/11 – Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ

5/17-18 – VALPEX '08 - Friendship Fire Company - Royersford, PA

5/18 – Saddle Brook Show – Holiday Inn – Saddle Brook, NJ

5/20 – HTPS Meeting – Library – Hamilton

5/21 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ

5/23-25 – NOJEX – Secaucus, NJ

5/24 – Woodbridge Stamp Show – Hampton Inn Woodbridge, NJ

5/25 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show – Holiday Inn, Ft. Washington, PA

6/5 – Merchantville Stamp Club – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ

6/7 – West Jersey Stamp Show – Masonic Hall – Cherry Hill, NJ

6/8 – Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ

6/14 – Hightstown Stamp Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, 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.

----- HTPS Officers -----

President Ed Murtha
Vice President..... Tony Zingale
Treasurer Joseph Pavelchak
Secretary Klaus Wagner

----- HTPS Support Team -----

APS Representative Sherm Britton
HTPS Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Newsletter Editor Jack Sack