



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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HTPS Proceedings

November's meeting included the Secretary and Treasurer reports. Remember that copies of the reports are always available on our poster board.

Ron Gonzalez reported on local advertising. HTPS meeting notices and information appeared in *The Trentonian*, the *Hamilton Post* and in the *Meekel's & Stamps* magazine. Good job Ron!

The Railway Mail Service (RMS) presentation is reported on the next page. Thanks to Ed Naylor for providing a cover postmarked aboard a RMS train.



RMS Cover for the Twentieth Century Limited

It's not too early to start thinking about our January auction. Unique items always sell well. One idea when preparing your lots is to check out the Member's collecting interest listing on the Poster Board or at our web site.

HTPS Meetings . . .

Meetings are held 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.

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President's Message



I hope you all enjoyed the "History of Railway Mail Service" slide show.

December's meeting brings our annual Holiday party. We have commitments for soda, coffee, water, a fruit bowl and other goodies. Why not bake up something to share with our members?

HTPS dues for 2009 remain at \$10. That's a reasonable rate with the proceeds helping with our Newsletter publication and mailing costs, APS slide shows and other club expenses. You can pay at the meeting or check out the notice in this issue for mailing details.

This month brings another entry in our ongoing Forgeries & Fakes series written by Tony Zingale. Check it out and see if you have any of those issues in your collection.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 PM, but come earlier to check out the APS books, trade items of interest or just to socialize. Join us on the 16th to say good-bye to 2008. . . . Ed

November's Presentation

... by Jack Sack

At our November meeting, the club was treated to a fascinating APS slide program on the history of the Railway Mail Service (RMS). The program followed the evolution of the Railway Post Office (RPO), from simply using railroads to transport mail, up through the use of specially designed railroad cars to sort mail en route to speed delivery.

The RPO was staffed by highly trained postal clerks who were continually monitored by senior staff and tested annually on their ability to quickly and accurately sort the mail.



By some accounts, mail shipment by rail occurred as early as 1831. The first specially designed RPO railcar entered service in 1862, and by the 1880s a complex network of railway post offices allowed mail to be transported across the country in a remarkably short time. In 1930, more than 10,000 trains were used to move the mail into every city, town, and village in the United States.

The RPO remained a major part of the postal mail service until after World War II. The last RPO car ran between



New York and Washington, D.C. on June 20, 1977.

Mail carried aboard the Railway Post Office is a major collecting interest. Perhaps some of our members have "RPO" or "RMS" canceled covers they can show us at the next meeting.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to Andy Kupersmit for identifying last month's stamp as Turkey # M1. This is Andy's second win in a row.

Let's try a more obscure issue. The winner can pick \$1.00 in face value from our U.S. sales boxes.



Who can identify this stamp?

Web Watch – EXPONET Site

This Czech Republic-developed site, found at www.exponet.info, describes itself as a "VIRTUAL INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION."



It contains 449 high-quality online exhibits from 41 countries and 151 links to other exhibits. The entries are scans of actual exhibit frames and are organized by country, but can be viewed in other sequences. This is an excellent site for viewing specialized material.

Newsletter Articles ...

We are always looking for interesting items, articles, ideas or suggestions you might have.

You can write, call or email Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; 609-890-8211; hamilton@att.net.

Forgeries & Fakes – French Colonies

... by Tony Zingale

Some of the most forged stamps of the classic era are the Navigation & Commerce issues from 1892 to the early 1900's within many of the French colonies and territories.

Also called the "Tablet" issues, forgeries exist for most of the 500+ stamps and varieties that were produced throughout the French Colonies.

The notable forger, François Fournier (1846–1917), was especially busy creating forgeries of these issues including the low value stamps. Unlike some Fournier forgeries, these copies are very common and most have little value. Below is an example of a genuine issue followed by a Fournier forgery.



Real Stamp Issue



Fournier Forgery

Characteristics of French Colony forgeries vary and may include:

- The bottom left fruit in the cornucopia is not separated, but is attached to the rim.
- Fingers of the hands are poorly defined.
- Upper horizontal bar of the 'F' and 'E' of 'FRANCAISE' are shorter
- Irregular / uneven perforations.
- "Loaves" on the value tablets have no markings.
- Color differences.

The poor quality of most French colony forgeries usually makes identification easy to spot even with the naked eye. However, some examples require a bit more examination. Alas, the age of a stamp collection is not an indicator that the stamps are genuine as most of these forgeries were produced in the early 1900's.



Example of a high-quality Fournier forgery

Most collections will include at least a few of these forgery issues. Why not check out yours now?

For additional info on the Fournier forgeries, look at this eBay site (which was one of the sources for this article):

http://reviews.ebay.com/Fournier-Forgeries-on-French-Colonial-Stamps-Tablets_W0QQugidZ10000000003021375?ssPageName=BUYGD:CAT:-1:LISTINGS:3

Detailed information on forgeries, including issue examples, is found in the Stamp Forgery Guide at www.filatelia.fi/forglinks.

Club Notices

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.

Stamp Donations: Please save your extra U.S. and Worldwide stamps. We donate them to schools and to the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. See Sherm Britton for details.

Online Newsletters: HTPS Newsletters are available online at hamilton.home.att.net. One helpful advantage is that you can use the live links to Internet sites and email addresses.

Membership Dues . . .

It's that time of the year again! HTPS dues remain at \$10 for 2009. You can pay at the December meeting with cash or check (payable to HTPS), or send payment to Ron Gonzalez at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

APS Stamps of Texas Album



To promote their winter show and exhibition in Texas, February 20–22, 2009, the APS offers a free, downloadable 16-page *Stamps of Texas* album in PDF format.

The album has articles on Texas history and spaces for 58 color-illustrated, Texas-related U.S. issues.

Available at www.stamps.org/Albums/texas.pdf.

Upcoming Stamp Events

12/7 – Garden State Coin & Stamp Show – P.A.L. Building – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM – 4 PM

12/12-14 – MetroExpo NY– Midtown Holiday Inn – 440 W. 57th Street – Fri: Noon – 6 PM
Sat: 10 AM – 6 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM

12/13 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM

12/14 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM

12/16 – HTPS Meeting – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM

12/17 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM

12/21 – 3rd Sunday Stamp/Coin Show – Wyndham Hotel – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM

12/21 – Money, Stamps & Postcards Show – Clifton Recreation Center – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM

12/27 – Woodbridge Stamp Expo – Hampton Inn – Woodbridge, NJ – 9:30 AM to 5 PM

12/28 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp – Holiday Inn – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM

1/8 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM

NOTE: See www.stampshows.com for additional and/or updated information on shows.

Poster Boards . . .

Why not loan or donate something for display during our 3rd Tuesday monthly meetings? Any philatelic item, including scans, is fine. We prefer 8.5 x 11 Portrait or Landscape sized items, but we accept anything of interest.

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 Jeff Boyarsky
Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Secretary Bob Stolarz

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

APS Representative Sherm Britton
Membership Chairman Jack Sack
Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
50/50 Handlers Dennis Buss, Jim Cope