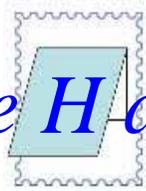




The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282



Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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HTPS February Meeting

Our February program will be a presentation on "Inside an Auction House" by Andy Kupersmit. Through the years, Andy has worked at a number of different auction houses, and is the owner of Andy Kupersmit Philatelics. He also serves as Dealer Liaison for New York 2016, is Secretary of NOJEX and



Treasurer of the New Jersey Postal History Society. Andy collects, among other things, Metuchen N.J. postal history. We look forward to his talk on the 17th.

As always, we encourage members to bring items for our "Show & Tell" segment. The meeting starts at 7:30 PM but come early to view the exhibits and to chat with your fellow philatelists.

Officer Elections

It's not too early to start thinking about the HTPS elections. Nominations are accepted at the April meeting. Election of Officers occurs in May and terms start at the June meeting.

A list of Officer and Support Team duties is posted online on our web site, and is available at our monthly meetings. Please consider running for an Officer position or volunteering for one of the Support Team activities.

HTPS Meetings . . .

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

In this Issue . . .

- *January Proceedings*
 - *GB's Machin Issues*
 - *New Stamp Show*
 - *Club Notices*
- . . . and much more!**

President's Message

Last month I was on the beach in the Dominican Republic and missed the meeting. However, I understand that all went well, with the auction being a highlight as usual. See the report by Jack Sack in this issue.



Our February newsletter features an interesting article by Contributing Reporter Joe Seliga on Great Britain's Machin definitive issues.

This month's presentation is by Andy Kupersmit on Auction House processing and procedures. I met Andy at NOJEX last spring and he graciously agreed to come down and talk to our group. I am sure you will find his presentation to be both interesting and informative. See you on the 17th.

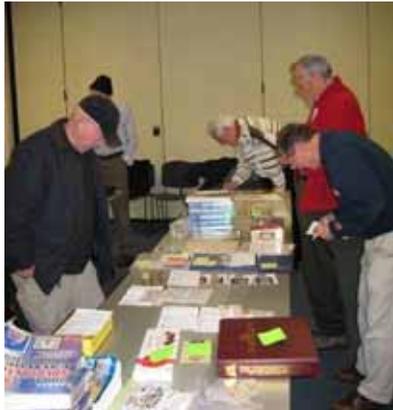
NOTE: Our thanks to Roger Kirby for providing this issue's masthead images from his web site (located at <http://www.theswedishtiger.com>). In addition to striking color photos, Scott #'s and stamp issue data, Roger's site includes eBay and Auction House prices for most of the stamps. Check it out!

January Proceedings

... by Jack Sack

HTPS members unanimously voted to second the nominations of Wade Saadi for APS President and the Stephen Rod group for the VP Board.

Last month's auction was a great success. Most items sold including a complete set of Scott catalogs, topical items and some individual stamps. Most of the lots sold at or near their reserve, but there were some exceptions.

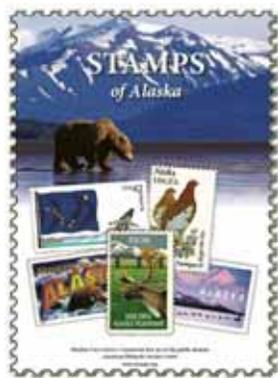


Two stock sheets of world revenue stamps provided for some heated bidding, reaching several times their estimated value.

It shows that unusual or "one-of-a-kind" items often do well at our auction.

Thanks to everyone who participated and to Jeff Boyarsky for his donation of lots for our group's benefit. The auction realized \$43 for the treasury.

APS Stamps of Alaska Album



Here is another in the series of APS created stamp albums with Alaska as the subject matter.

The 15 page PDF-formatted album has spaces and stories for 49 color-illustrated U.S. stamps and one pane. You can

download the album at www.stamps.org/albums/alaska.pdf.

Poster Boards ...

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

Stamp Identification

Sid Morginstin identified last month's stamp as a Nepal issue. Yes, it is Scott #10. Sid gets to pick from the HTPS gift box.



Here's an unknown issue (at least to the editors). So get out those stamp identifier books. The winner gets five FDCs from the HTPS sale boxes.

New Stamp Show

The Merchantville Stamp Club is hosting a NEW Stamp Show on most first Saturdays of the month starting on March 7.



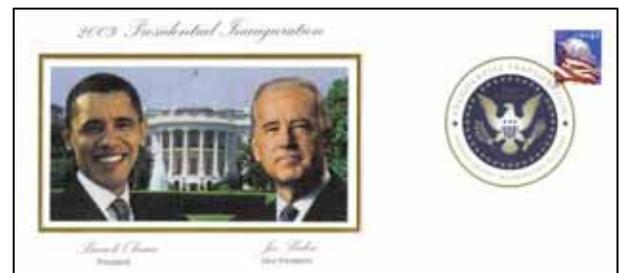
The location is the Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall at 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Avenue) in Pennsauken, NJ. Hours are 9 AM to 4 PM. Contact Dave Grayson at 856-667-3168 for further information or check the Poster Board at our meeting for future dates.

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.

Inauguration Cover



We thank Jim Cope for bringing an Inauguration Cover to our January 20th meeting. The cover was particularly timely because it commemorated the Inauguration of President Barack Obama which took place earlier that day!

Philatelic Pieces – Machins (pronounced “May-chins” in England

... by Joe Seliga

Why collect Machins – those common definitive stamps of England? I got my start by going thorough the 2¢ boxes of used foreign stamps that Tony Zingale brings to the meetings. Not having enough time between activities at the meeting, I asked Tony if I could take the boxes home. He quickly agreed and I did. Even though my main interest is in the stamps of Poland, I have always been interested in stamps from all over the world, especially those that are well cancelled.



While going through the off paper box, I started setting aside those which had nice readable dates and town cancels. I noticed after a while that some of these were definitive British stamps with the head of Queen Elizabeth II as the design.

I went to my 2007 Scott catalog and noted that there were only six pages of listings, with four pages covering Great Britain and two more pages for those printed for use in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and Monmouthshire. Checking the catalog prices, I saw that many of the stamps were modestly priced. The highest price for a non-error used stamp was \$15 and there was only one of those. A little light bulb went off in my head thinking that maybe here was an opportunity to search for a small, easily collectable group of stamps. The Machin issues started in 1967, and there are now over 430 different stamps.

Despite the same design, the color combinations for the different denominations change as the rates change. There are also changes in the design of the bust of the Queen, in the size of the denomination numbers, and in the denomination placements. There are engraved stamps and those which have been printed by photogravure.

Here was my chance for a philatelic search that would include many aspects of stamp collecting. With this one set of issues, I could get to use my perforation gauge and magnifying glasses.

Going back to the 2¢ boxes, I picked out as many different issues as I could find, there being quite a few color and denomination varieties. At first, the syncopated perforations on some stamps confused me. I thought that the misshappen perms might have been caused by stamps being mangled in the sorting machinery. I checked the catalog and saw that this was the current manufacturing process for Machins first appearing in 1993.



I was hooked. This is a collection which will satisfy my searching needs and yet is inexpensive. My plan is to create pages to hold the stamp issues, although I have yet to determine how to group the stamps on the pages.

Should it be by denomination independent of when they were issued? This would enable me to highlight the different colors used when new sets are released. Should I organize by issue date, thus keeping the sets together? How about a separate section for socked-on-the-nose cancellations? Should I only collect the Machins of Great Britain or should I also collect the Regional issues?



I have already checked the internet for Machin information and found several sites including three different numbering systems for Machin Stamps:

- The Deegham catalog at: www.adminware.ca/machin/mdeegam.htm.
- The Andrew Hill International catalog at: myweb.tiscali.co.uk/design/gbdecimals.htm.
- The Connoisseur catalog at: www.connoisseurcatalogue.net/catalogue.htm.

My choices and opportunities are many and I look forward to some interesting searches. I sent to Great Britain for a one pound mission mixture, which hopefully will be filled with Machins. My thanks to Tony Zingale for helping me find a new collecting interest.

Club Notices

Dolores B. Scheible . . .

Warren Scheible, a long time HTPS member, lost his wife of 62 years on January 8th of this year. Mrs. Scheible was a lifelong area resident, and an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. She was also a member of the DeCou Senior Club and the American Legion Post 458 Auxiliary. We extend our condolences to Warren and his family.

USPS Rates: Some premium service prices have increased effective January 18, 2009. First class rates remain the same. Check out the price lists at <http://www.usps.com/prices/welcome.htm>.

On-line 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: Last call for HTPS dues. It's only \$10. So bring a check or cash to the next meeting, or send payment to Ron Gonzalez at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

Stamp Donation: Our thanks to Jack Sack for his donation of eight (8) pounds of U.S. off-paper stamps to the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. Sherm Britton handles this process for HTPS and our thanks to him also for his years of service in this effort.

Show 'n Tell: Please remember to bring an item or two of interest to the monthly meetings. This is an ideal way for all of us to share information and learn more about other collecting areas or topics.

Upcoming Stamp Events

2/5 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM

2/6-8 – MetroExpo – Holiday Inn – 440 W. 57th St. – NYC – Fri: 12 to 6 PM – Sat: 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM – www.metroexpos.com

2/7 – STAMP DAY – The Stamp Center – 4115 Concord Pike – Wilmington, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM – www.TheStampCenter.com

2/8 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM

2/14 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Hall – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM

2/15 – 3rd Sunday Stamp/Coin Show – Wyndham Garden Hotel – 50 Kenney Place – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM

2/15 – Money, Stamps & Postcard Show – Clifton Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM

2/17 – HTPS Meeting – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM

2/18 – MSC Meeting (see 2/5 MSC Meeting info)

2/22 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp – Holiday Inn – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM

2/28-3/1 – BuxMont Stamp Show – Benjamin H. Wilson Senior Center – 580 Delmont Ave – Warminster, PA – Sat: 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM

3/7 – MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – see 2/5 MSC Meeting (above) for address – 9 AM to 4 PM

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

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