



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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HTPS March Program



For our March meeting, we are pleased to have HTPS member Tom DeLuca provide the presentation. Tom is the owner of Trenton Stamp and Coin, located on Route 33 in Hamilton, and has been a

frequent speaker at our club. This year, Tom's topic is Disney-type material. Tom's presentations are always lively and interesting so put on your Mouseketeer hat and join us on the 17th.

Before the meeting or during the break, please check out the lists of HTPS Officer positions and Support Team duties that are available on our poster boards and on the literature table. Officer nominations are scheduled for April with elections in May. Most positions only require an hour or two of effort each month. Furthermore, previous office holders are always available for assistance.

Members are encouraged to bring philatelic-related items for our "Show & Tell" segment. Check out the February Proceedings write-up for the variety of materials presented last month.

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM but come earlier to look at the APS books, trade items of interest or just to socialize. We promise an enjoyable and interesting evening.

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 . . .

- *February Proceedings*
- *Louis Braille*
- *John Ranto Covers*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



Céad míle fáilte! or A hundred thousand welcomes in the language of my Irish ancestors!

I do hope that you will be able to join us on St. Patrick's Day. As you have probably already read and seen, Tom DeLuca is our guest speaker. His presentation will be on Disney collectibles and memorabilia. If you have ever attended any talk by Tom, you know that it will be interesting and informative.

To further whet your interest, April's speaker is Roger Brody. His presentation will be on the Prominent American Series. Our May speaker will be our own Dr. Ronald Gonzalez who will expand our knowledge of Puerto Rican Philately.

We need your help on adding new members. Why not bring a friend to a meeting? They may not be stamp collectors, but maybe they have an interest in the Olympics, Railroads, National Geographic magazines, Postcards, Naval material or Zeppelins (doesn't everyone love Zepps?). These are just some of the materials and topics covered over the last twelve months at our meetings!

Looking forward to seeing you on March 17th.

February Proceedings

... by Jack Sack

We had another large turnout for our February meeting including several guests who joined us for the evening. In fact, one of the guests became a member of the HTPS. There were many interesting "Show & Tell" presentations.



Jim Cope showed a New Zealand "Glow in the Dark" cover that featured recently issued lighthouse stamps. Joe Seliga

described the two volume Deegam Handbook on Machins that he obtained from the APS Library. John Ranto showed a framed set of postcards from the 1940's showing life at Fort Dix.

Don Bunker passed around a 1930 National Geographic article containing the first use of color aerial photographs. They were taken from a zeppelin. Dennis Buss commented on a recent TV show, *American Stamps*, describing the work of the designers who create U.S. postage stamps.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk by Andy Kupersmit on a behind the scenes look at an auction house. Andy is a professional auctioneer who has worked at a number of auction houses.

Andy gave an overview of the auction process, starting with the consignment of the material, proceeding through the preparation of the auction catalog, the actual auction, and ending with the final accounting.



He brought up a number of situations such as how a collection is divided into lots, or what happens when there is a question as to the authenticity of the material. Andy also touched on why people consign, or sell, their stamps and how you, as a collector, can maximize the value of a collection.

We thank Andy for a fascinating talk. Even the most experienced buyers in the room learned a thing or two on the inner workings of an auction.

John Ranto Covers

During the last two decades, John Ranto, a long time HTPS member, has created an unusual collection of first day and event covers. In addition to using traditional cachet formats, John often selects magazines, post office notices and other philatelic materials as a background for his work.

On the right, a Saturday Evening Post political cover is used in commemorating President Bill Clinton's 1997 inauguration.

John often lends his work to HTPS for display in a Library exhibit or on our poster boards. He has also donated material for sale to members with proceeds going to the HTPS Treasury.



Long overdue thanks to John for his support and contributions over the years.

MetroExpo Show

HTPS was well represented at the MetroExpo show held at the Holiday Inn in NYC on Feb 5-7. Ron Gonzalez, Ed Murtha, Jack Sack and Tony Zingale look ready to make some major purchases (or at least buy a hot dog from a NYC street cart).



New Member ...

We welcome Maryann Brownback to our group. Maryann is a generalist who prefers WW used stamps. She trades with several WW collectors and groups in Asia and Africa.

Philatelic Pieces – Louis Braille

... by Tony Zingale

Along with Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin, 2009 celebrates the 200th anniversary of Louis Braille's birth. Louis Braille was born on Jan. 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France.



At the age of three, he became blind due to an accident. In 1819 Braille earned a scholarship to the Royal Institution for Blind Youth in Paris, where he became an accomplished cellist and organist.

Image from [Wikipedia](#)

Between 1821 and 1824, he developed a system of six raised dots that corresponded to letters and that could be read with a single fingertip. The first book in Braille was published in 1829. Louis Braille died in 1852 from tuberculosis.

Many countries are issuing stamps and souvenir sheets honoring his bicentenary. Below is a French stamp issued on Jan 4 of this year. Note that the braille dots indicate the face value of €0.55.



Image from [Blindiana Stamps](#)

For additional information about stamps that honor and aid the blind, and on upcoming Louis Braille issues, visit www.blindianastamps.com. This site is managed by Ken and Gunilla Stuckey from Sweden. The Stuckey's have collected stamps related to this topic for more than 40 years.

Newsletter Articles ...

We are always looking for interesting items, articles, ideas or suggestions you might have. You can write Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; call 609-890-8211; email to hamilton@att.net.

MSC Stamp Show

Don't forget to visit the stamp bourse hosted by the Merchantville Stamp Club on Saturday, March 7.



It is held at the Temple Lutheran Church Parish Hall at 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave.) in Pennsauken, NJ. Hours are 9 AM to 4 PM.

Stamp Identification

Ralph Phillips identified last month's stamp as an Armenian local from the 1920s. Scott lists it as #281 (but notes "not regularly issued or used"). It is also listed in Michel as #145.

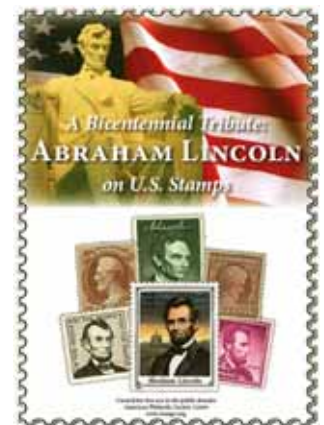


This month we have a somewhat plain looking stamp with a sparse amount of philatelic information present. First correct guess receives \$1.00 in mint postage from the HTPS sale boxes.

APS Stamp Album Pages

Two more sets of APS-created stamp album pages were released in February. The first group houses a bicentennial tribute to Abraham Lincoln.

The 16 page PDF-formatted album has space and information for over 90 color-illustrated U.S. stamps, cut squares, postcards and other Lincoln philatelic items issued by the USPS.



Download the pages at www.stamps.org/albums/lincoln.pdf.

The second group of PDF-formatted album pages house all the 2008 USPS stamp issues including Postal Stationery. Download the pages at <http://www.stamps.org/Albums/2008Issues.pdf>.

Both groups can be punched to fit into standard 3-ring binders.

HTPS Notices

In Memoriam . . .

Virginia 'Ginny' Britton, wife of Sherman Britton, a long time HTPS member, passed away on February 3. Mrs. Britton, a lifelong area resident, had retired as a registrar with the George Washington Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

She was past president of AARP Chapter 355. An avid gardener and Philadelphia Phillies fan, she collected frogs and enjoyed cooking for her family. We extend our condolences to Sherman and his family.

HTPS Flyers: Pick up some advertising flyers at the next meeting. These can be posted on library and community center bulletin boards throughout the local area. PDF links are also available on our web site in the About Us section.

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" while they decide on an album.

Stamp Donations: Please donate your extra stamps or philatelic material to the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. Contact Sherm Britton for details at a meeting or via the HTPS email.

Poster Boards . . .

Why not loan or donate something for display during our 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 philatelic interest.

Upcoming Stamp Events

- 3/5 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM
- 3/7 – **NEW** MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – See above for address – 9 AM to 4 PM
- 3/8 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Rt. 70 – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM
- 3/14 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Routes 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM
- 3/14 – Westfield Stamp Show – Municipal Center – 425 East Broad Street – Westfield, NJ – 10 AM to 5 PM – westfieldstampclub.org
- 3/14-15 – CASDA Stamp Show – Doubletree Guest Suites – 515 Fellowship Road N. – Mt. Laurel, NJ – Sat 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun 10 AM to 4 PM
- 3/15 – NESS 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Show – Wyndham Garden Hotel – 50 Kenney Place – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM
- 3/17 – HTPS Meeting – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM**
- 3/19 – MSC Meeting (See 3/5 MSC Meeting info)
- 3/20 – Philly's Phriday Phest – Radisson Hotel – US Route 1 at Old Lincoln Highway – Trevoise, PA – 10 AM to 8 PM
- 3/22 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sun.) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpk (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM - 4 PM
- 4/4 – DELPEX '09 – Nur Shrine Center – 198 S. Du Pont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM
- NOTE:** See www.stampshows.com for additional 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