



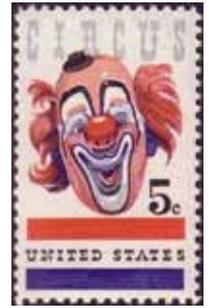
# The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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## HTPS May Program



We are honored to have one of our own, Ron Gonzalez, give the presentation at the May 19th meeting. Ron is a life-long stamp collector, specializing in the stamps of Puerto Rico. We look forward to Ron's insights on this topic.

In preparation for Ron's talk, we have a little quiz:

1. Who discovered Puerto Rico?
2. When was the first Puerto Rican stamp issued?
3. Who is Luis Muñoz Marin and why did the U.S. issue a stamp in his honor?
4. When was the last Puerto Rican stamp issued?

[Answers on page 4]

Also on the May schedule is the election of Officers for the 2009-2010 business year. The nominations remain open and include the following candidates to date:

- President ..... Ed Murtha
- Vice-President ..... Jeff Boyarsky
- Secretary ..... Bob Stolarz
- Treasurer ..... Ron Gonzalez

Bring your items for Show & Tell and try out the document camera. The business meeting starts at 7:30 PM, but doors open around 6:45 so come early to trade items of interest, check out the APS books, or just to socialize.

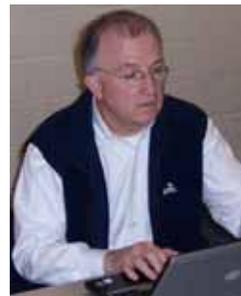
## HTPS Meetings . . .

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 . . .

- *April HTPS Proceedings*
- *USPS Postal Rate Changes*
- *NOJEX 2009*
- *The Deegam Handbook*
- . . . and much more!

## President's Message



April's meeting was jam packed with a lot of member participation. The document camera was well used with members showing and commenting on their new purchases, unusual philatelic material or a favorite item from their collection.

Roger Brody, who gave a talk on the 1965 Prominent American Series, displayed mint, never hinged, uncut 1-cent and 2-cent sheets of the 1902 Definitive Series. These sheets are true philatelic rarities and we thank Roger for allowing us to view them.



US #301: 2-Cent Washington

This month Ron Gonzalez will give the final presentation for our 2008-2009 season. We are already planning for an even better upcoming year.

I will be away, fishing, on the 19th of May, but come and enjoy our meeting.

## April HTPS Proceedings

... by Jack Sack

A full house was on hand for our April meeting. The main order of business was nominations for HTPS Officers – Ed, Jeff, Bob, and Ron were all nominated for re-election. Discussions included support for NOJEX setup and APS circuit books.

Show & Tell items included Ron G's cover from Puerto Rico that was forwarded several times. Ed Murtha showed a set of Sudan stamps that had been redrawn. Klaus described a World Atlas specifically designed for stamp collectors. Andrew had covers commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first U.S. stamp. Jeff showed several hand-colored covers and Joe Seliga's domestic cover from Botswana sparked a nice discussion.



The highlight of the evening was the presentation by the distinguished philatelist Roger Brody. Roger is an expert on the U.S. definitive series of 1902. For Show & Tell, he brought with him the only known uncut sheets of both the 1c Franklin and 2c Washington stamps from that series.

More recently, he has turned his attention to the US Prominent American Series of 1965. There was a great deal of experimentation in the printing, perforating, tagging, pre-canceling and gumming of postage stamps during the fifteen years of this series. That led to a number of variations in the stamps of this era. The many postal rate changes during this time gave rise to a challenging field of collecting --- finding examples of the proper stamp usage for each of the postal rates in effect.

Roger also provided background on the creation of some designs – such as the reason why the 6c Roosevelt stamp was replaced with that of Eisenhower in 1970 during the Nixon administration. We now understand that even modern American stamps can be the subject of interesting research. We thank Roger for taking the time to come and share his knowledge with us.

## USPS Postage Rate Changes

... by Jim Cope



The cost of mailing a First Class letter will go up to **44¢** on **May 11<sup>th</sup>**. Each additional ounce will cost you 17¢ more. Those square greeting card envelopes now cost 64¢ and large sized envelopes are 88¢.

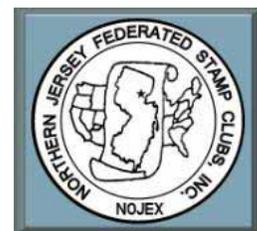
The new **Postcard** rate is 28¢. If you buy a Postal Card at the post office, the cost is 31¢. **Parcels** are \$1.22 for the first ounce. **International letter** one ounce rates also increased ... Canada is 75¢ ... Mexico is 79¢ ... Other Countries are 98¢.

Now is a good time to buy some of the Liberty Bell “Forever” stamps at 42¢ so you do not have to put on the extra two cents after May 11.

Details at [www.usps.com/prices/pricechanges.htm](http://www.usps.com/prices/pricechanges.htm).

## NOJEX 2009

The North New Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs will hold their annual exhibition on May 22-24 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, NJ.



HTPS is honored to be part of that organization. For several years, HTPS members have helped on the setup and dismantling of the dealer tables and exhibits. It's a lot of fun (and work) and a great way to meet fellow philatelists. HTPS is flying in our international correspondent, Frank O. Bollo, to cover the event.

Anyone interested in helping this year, please contact Ed or Tony. For details on NOJEX, check the Upcoming Stamp Events column in this issue or their web site at [www.nojex.org/](http://www.nojex.org/).

### Newsletter Articles ...

We are always looking for interesting items, articles, ideas or suggestions you might have. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; call us at 609-890-8211; email to [hamilton@att.net](mailto:hamilton@att.net).

## Philatelic Pieces – The DEEGAM Handbook

... by Joe Seliga

In a February 2009 newsletter article, I mentioned that the DEEGAM Catalogue is considered the bible for Machin collectors. The correct title is *The COMPLETE DEEGAM MACHIN HANDBOOK*®. Deegam is a word derived from the author's name, Douglas Myall.

I borrowed a 3rd Edition copy (pub. 2003) from the American Philatelic Society's Research Library. The print version is no longer being sold, but a CD version is available from the author for £39 PP. The CD version is updated every few months.



The print version is a very weighty book in many ways. It covers every aspect of the Machin postal issues, from postal rates to printing processes and everything in between: Colors, Papers, Gums, Luminescence, Perfin Patterns, Perforations, and Training Stamps. There are two four-ring binders consisting of 1,272 pages [5 $\frac{7}{8}$  x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "] on heavy paper weighing over eight pounds. Volume I has 13 chapters and 12 Appendices; Volume II has 9 chapters.

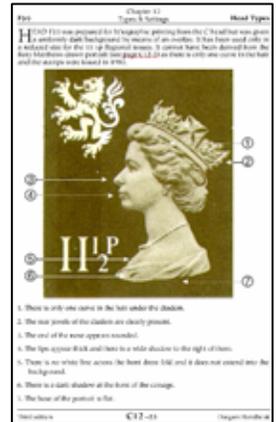
There is an old Chinese saying that every journey begins with a single step. Well that is probably what Mr. Myall had in mind when he wrote this handbook. He is a very clear writer who patiently explains every aspect of collecting Machins. He carefully describes the characteristics of the Machins that have been produced in sheet form, in booklet pane, self-adhesives and stationery. He is aided by 3,500 illustrations, many page-sized. The Handbook includes a 24 page glossary to help understand terms.

Mr. Myall has created a source book for general philatelists as well as those specializing in Machins. I read the Volume I introductory chapter three times to firmly fix the basics in my mind.

After the introduction, the next six chapters are devoted to key philatelic elements needed to identify Machin issues (this information can also be applied to other stamp issues). Some of the elements include:

- Postal rates.
- Print types --- intaglio, photogravure, lithography, letterpress, embossing and silk screening.
- Ultra-violet lamp use to examine stamps.
- Phosphor coated papers and inks.
- Perforation machines and their use.
- Reasons to collect used stamps on paper.

Chapter 12: Deegam Types and Settings are key to identifying the Machin issues. Type refers to the Queen's head design, size and location. Settings refer to the design and placement of numerals. The illustration at the right shows the Machin Head Type F(r).



The Handbook establishes three basic levels for Machin identification. Level 1 includes the value, color and shape of the stamp design. Level 2 adds paper, gum, phosphor types, printers and method of printing. Level 3 evaluates perforations, coils, sheets, booklets, types and setting of the head and value, phosphor bars, and direction of printing.

Currently, I only collect Machin stamps of different values, colors, types, settings and perforations. These attributes are gleaned from all three of Mr. Myall's levels. I did not consider luminescence because I do not have a UV lamp; also luminescence detection can be affected by soaking cancelled stamps.



Volume II contains detailed information on each Machin issue. The Handbook doesn't contain pricing, but it does include a rarity factor that replaces the price information normally found in a catalogue.

Mr. Myall has devised a numbering system correlating to his three levels of Machin identification. A complete Deegam number has three

components, separated by a decimal, that correspond to the three Levels described earlier. Some stamp vendors use the Deegam numbers in their price lists.

The Deegam Handbook includes the Machins of Hong Kong, the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Somaliland. The Handbook also provides details about other definitive issues of Great Britain including:

- Wilding Issues: Queen Elizabeth II photographs.
- 1840 Anniversary Issues: Showing the two Queens.
- Castle Series: High Values.
- Country Regionals: Replaced Scotland and Wales Machins in 1999; England and No. Ireland in 2001.

[Images obtained from *The COMPLETE DEEGAM MACHIN HANDBOOK*® with permission from the author]

## HTPS Notices

**June Auction:** It's not too early to start thinking about the HTPS June auction. Have any unusual or unique items - why not pack them up to sell at our annual end-of-the-season event?

**NOJEX Contact:** Thanks to Andrew Boyajian for agreeing to be the HTPS contact with the North New Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs' organization. You can help out too! Why not volunteer for one of the HTPS Officer positions or as a member of our Support Team. The list of duties is posted at meetings and is available on our web site.

**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.

### Answers to the Puerto Rico Quiz (on page 1):

1. Christopher Columbus (1493).
2. The first Puerto Rican stamps, Cuban overprints, were issued in 1873.
3. Luis Muñoz Marin was the first *popularly* elected governor of Puerto Rico.
4. The last Puerto Rican stamps were U.S. overprints issued in 1900. Stamps of Puerto Rico were replaced by those of the U.S.



## Stamp Identification

Congratulations to Bob Holmes for identifying April's mystery stamp. It is an 1870 French issue, either Scott #N7 or #N14 (German Occupation). No stamp ID this month.

## Upcoming Stamp Events

- 5/2 – JHSC STAMP BOURSE – Montville United Methodist Church – 29 Whitehall Road (Rte. 202N) – Towaco, NJ – 10 AM - 3 PM – 973-263-9012 – **NEW LOCATION!**
- 5/2-3 – VALPEX 2009 – Friendship Fire Company – 269 Green St. – Royersford, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM – <http://sfps.tripod.com>.
- 5/7 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM.
- 5/9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Routes 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.
- 5/10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Rt. 70 – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 5/17 – NESS 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Stamp & Coin Show – Wyndham Garden Hotel – 50 Kenney Place – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM.
- 5/19 – HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**
- 5/20 – MSC Meeting (See 5/7 MSC Meeting info).
- 5/22-24 – **NOJEX 2009** – Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel – Two Harmon Plaza – Secaucus, NJ – Fri. / Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 3 PM – Admission \$2.00 Fri. & Sat. (Sun. is Free) – [www.nojex.org](http://www.nojex.org)
- 5/24 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4<sup>th</sup> Sun.) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpk (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 5/30 – Postcard Show & Sale – Union Fire Hall – 1396 River Rd. (Route 29) – Titusville, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – Donation \$3.00
- NOTE:** See [www.stampshows.com](http://www.stampshows.com) for additional or updated information on shows.

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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.

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### ----- 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  
NOJEX Contact ..... Andrew Boyajian  
50/50 Handlers ..... Dennis Buss, Jim Cope