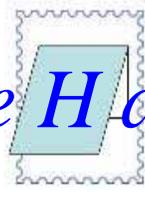




The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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November's Program

This month Tony Zingale will reprise his 2006 presentation on "Postmarks and Cancellations" for the benefit of our new members.



The talk will include postmarks from the stampless era, postal handstamp varieties, early U.S. machine cancellations and use of current technology. Can anyone identify this early postmark?

Members are encouraged to bring in an example of an unusual cancel or postal marking for our show and tell.

National Postal Museum

Todd Tucker has volunteered to arrange a DAY trip to the National Postal Museum located next to Union Station in Washington, DC.

Plans are to leave early morning via Amtrak (or by car), visit the museum, have a lunch or dinner and then back home. Two of the suggested dates include Saturday, November 21st and Saturday, December 12th.



Source: NPM website

Interested members can contact Todd via email at tth0924@optonline.net or by phone at 732-861-3941. His initial goal is to identify interested members and match up dates satisfactory to all.

For additional information, check out the museum's web site at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/>.

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 . . .

- *National Postal Museum*
- *Missile Mail*
- *Searching for Covers*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



How often do you look at your collection? All of us have spent a good amount of time building our collections, but my guess is that few of us just take the time to look at we have. For me, it is not as often as I would like.

Looking through your collection can often remind you of things that could still be added. There are certainly a number of items that I could add without breaking the bank. The problem is finding them. Another reason to review your collection is the good memories that spring up when looking at your stamps and covers.

My memories are many and varied. My cousin, Michael Mulcahy, who got me interested in collecting stamps when I was eight. My Aunt Mary would visit the Post Office in her little Pennsylvania town and buy me nearly every new regular issue US stamp in Plate Block format from 1956 to 1971. My brother, Rick, while on US Embassy duty, sent me every Sudan issue that he could acquire from the main Post Office in Khartoum. These memories remind me of very enjoyable times with really great people.

So take some time and look through your collection this month. Recall the happiness and enjoyment that you had building it and maybe even share that experience with your spouse, children, or a good friend.

Hope to see you on the 17th . . . Ed.

October's Meeting

... by Jack Sack

It was great to see so many people at our October meeting. The business portion of the meeting was highlighted by a standing ovation for Sherm Britton for his many years of service as our APS representative.

The evening's theme was "Airships" and the show and tell was highlighted by Ron Dobrowolski displaying some Zeppelin covers and postcards from his personal collection.



An APS slide show titled "Airships of the United States" showed the use of these aircraft in our country from the 1920's to date. The airships served both a military use to observe naval operations, and a promotional purpose by entertaining crowds at state fairs and other events. The slides included pictures of the zeppelins and covers for some of their international flights.

A recurring theme was the unfortunate crashes of many of the rigid zeppelin airships, resulting in the decommission of that fleet by 1935. Non-rigid blimps replaced the use of zeppelins.



Postcard flown on the 1930 Graf Zeppelin Europe Pan-America Round Trip. Source: Ron Dobrowolski.

Zeppelin-related philatelic items including stamps, flown covers and postcards are a popular and fascinating collecting topic.

Stamp Identification

Bob Stolarz came closest to correctly identifying last month's stamp. It was Ukraine #2 issued in 1918.

This month we have another interesting item so get out those catalogs and give it a shot. First correct responder gets to pick an item out of the gift box.



Missile Mail

... by Jeff Boyarsky

You may find it interesting that mail has been delivered by missiles and rockets. On June 8, 1959, the Navy submarine USS Barbero, stationed off the Florida coast, successfully fired a Regulus missile carrying 3,000 letters to the USS Naval Station at Mayport, Florida.

The Postmaster General, Arthur Smithfield, believed this could be the future of mail delivery. Most of the mail was addressed to President Dwight Eisenhower and other government officials. The letters were postmarked "USS Barbero June 8, 9:30 AM, 1959." It worked, but the anticipated cost precluded widespread use.



Rocket use for mail delivery goes back to 1931, when an Austrian, Friedrich Schmiedl, successfully delivered over 100 pieces of mail between two Austrian villages using a V-7 experimental rocket.

In 1934 Gerhard Zucker was deported back to Germany for "mail fraud" after several attempts to send a rocket between two Scottish islands resulted in an unfortunate explosion that destroyed 1200 pieces of mail.

Stephen Smith, Secretary of the Indian Airmail Society, also had a keen interest in Rocketry. Between 1934 and 1944, Smith launched more than 250 rockets. Eighty flights contained mail. One was the first to traverse a river; another was the first to carry a parcel. In 1992 India issued a stamp (#1427) commemorating the 100th anniversary of Smith's birth.



The earliest US delivery of mail by rocket was in 1936 when two rockets were used to transport mail from Greenwood Lake, NY to Hewitt, NJ on the other side. The rockets crashed on the frozen lake and the Hewitt postmaster dragged the mail bags to the Post Office.

There is still some thought of using missiles or rockets to deliver mail anywhere in the world in under an hour. This is a great area to collect if you can find the items.

[Source/Verification material from Wikipedia]

COVERS! COVERS! COVERS!

by Joseph Seliga

I find myself drawn to cover collecting for a variety of reasons. One is that with the large number of stamp issues, many stamps are infrequently seen on letters.

I'd like to believe that stamps are being issued for some purpose other than printing pretty labels simply to make money. So a cover is proof that they were used for their intended purpose.

Another reason to collect covers is that you get to see the entire postmark or cancel that was applied at the time of mailing. Usually stamps are too small to show the complete cancellation. Tied-on cancellations (that span the stamp and cover) are proof that the stamp was indeed used to mail that letter.

Recently, I found a German Souvenir Sheet (Scott #1145), issued on May 15, 1974, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Federal Republic. On the same cover were two other stamps



issued that day – Scott #1143 for poet Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock and Scott #1146 for the World Cup Championship being held that year in Munich.

Admittedly, the cover is a bit the worse for wear, but how often do you find a cover with all of the stamps issued on the same day, and one being a souvenir sheet to boot?

Another area of interest is when a philatelic friend uses a new set of stamps on mail to another friend. I was lucky to find several of these at

the April Mega Show in NYC. One has the words of the poem “Waltzing Matilda” spread across the five Australian stamps issued on



May 7, 1980 as Scott #741. I didn't know that Waltzing Matilda was a poem later set to music. I always thought of it as a marching song. But that is what stamp collecting is about, learning new facts about the culture and customs of a country.

Another Australian cover contained Scott #1857-61 issued on July 24,



2000 to commemorate four Australian recipients of the Victoria Cross, the highest war medal awarded by Great Britain.

Both covers are at the forefront of my small Australia collection.

How many people know that the Channel Islands, located between southern Great Britain and Northern



France, were occupied by Germany throughout WW II? Well they were, and a set of two stamps were issued by Great Britain on May 10, 1948, the 3rd Anniversary of the Liberation of the islands. The stamps were sold at Post Offices in the Channel Islands, but were valid for postage throughout Great Britain. This cover has the 2½d value (Scott #270). Now, I will search for the 1d stamp on cover to complete the set.

Collecting covers introduces you to some interesting people. When you are rummaging through a box, it is just as easy to look for several countries as it is for just the one you seek. At some shows, you would need days to search through the dealer's stock. You can ask other cover seekers to look for your collecting interest and do the same for them.

I met two people at the Mega Event show and we did just that. In fact, we each found a cover that the other wanted. They found a Botswana cover with Scott #23 and



#25, from the bird set issued in January 1967. I'm sure that the delight they saw on my face was the same as the one that I saw on theirs when I found a cover from Lithuania for them.

What a wonderful a day it was – getting to spend an afternoon looking for covers, chatting with two like-minded individuals, and then combining our purchases to qualify for the lower quantity rate!

HTPS Notices

APS Representative: Jon Madsen has volunteered to serve as our representative with the APS. His duties include handling the APS circuit books. Welcome to the Support Team, Jon!



A heartfelt "thank you" to Sherm Britton for his years of service as the APS representative, and also for his numerous other contributions to our society.

New Members . . .

HTPS welcomes two new members. Len Coleman's collecting interests include U.S. used plate blocks and blocks. Ed Muench concentrates on bicycle-related items including stamps and covers.

Upcoming Stamp Events

- 10/31-11/1 – Garden State Stamp Fair – La Quinta Inn – 38 Two Bridges Road (Rte. 80, Exit 52) – Fairfield, NJ – Sat 10 to 6 PM – Sun 10 to 5 PM.
- 11/1 – Garden State Coin & Stamp Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM – 201-584-0424.
- 11/5 – MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM.

- 11/7 – MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 11/5 MSC Meeting for address].
- 11/8 – 2nd Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Rt. 70 – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 11/13-15 – Fall Postcard Show – New Yorker Hotel – 8th Ave. & 34th St. – NYC – Fri. 12 to 8 PM – Sat. 10 to 6 PM – Sun. 11 to 4:30 PM – \$7.00 Admission – www.metropostcard.com.
- 11/14 – 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Routes 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.
- 11/15 – NESS 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Show – Wyndham Garden Hotel – 50 Kenney Place – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM.
- 11/15 – Money, Stamps & Postcard Show – Clifton Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM - 5 PM – 201-694-8991.
- 11/17 – HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**
- 11/18 – MSC Meeting (See 11/5 MSC Meeting info).
- 11/22 – Coin, Stamp & Postcard Show – Ramada Inn – 1083 Route 206 North (NJ Tpke Exit 7) – Bordentown, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM.
- 11/22 – Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sun.) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- NOTE:** See www.stampshows.com for additional or updated information on shows.

The objective of this Newsletter is to promote philately, educate and inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to join the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society.

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

President Ed Murtha
Vice President Jeff Boyarsky
Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Secretary Bob Stolarz

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

APS Representative Jon Madsen
Membership Chairman Jack Sack
Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
NOJEX Contact Andrew Boyajian
Stamp Donations Sherm Britton
50/50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ed Murray

----- HTPS Meeting Program -----

- ⇒ Nov. 17 – "Postmarks and Cancellations"
(by Tony Zingale)
- ⇒ Dec. 15 – Holiday Party / Show & Tell
- ⇒ Jan. 19 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 16 – Tom DeLuca Presentation: TBA
- ⇒ Mar. 16 – "Gambian Philately" (by Gary Loew)
- ⇒ April 20 – Presentation or Slide Show: TBD
- ⇒ May 18 – "The ABC's of Philatelic Exhibiting"
(by Dr. Edwin Andrews)
- ⇒ June 15 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 20 – Informal Meeting: Swap & Trade
- ⇒ Aug. 17 – Informal Meeting: HAMPEX '10