



# The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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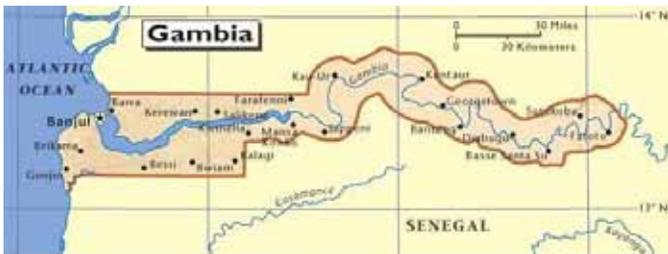


Vol. 3, No. 7

March 2010

## March Meeting

This month we welcome Gary Loew as our speaker. Gary's topic is *An Introduction to the Postal History of The Gambia*. The Gambia, a former British Crown Colony bordering the Atlantic Ocean, is the smallest country in Africa being less than 30 miles wide.



Map of The Gambia [Source: go.hrw.com]

Also don't forget to bring something for our Show and Tell segment. See you on March 16th.

## Stamp Identification

Last month's stamp was correctly identified by Bob Stolarz as Italy #N5, an Italian occupation stamp issued in 1918. That breaks a string of three months with no correct answers for our unidentified stamp.

This month's issue is an easier challenge since there are many clues in the stamp's design. Internet users can enlarge the image to get a better view. Let's see if that helps.

The reader with the first correct answer can select one item from the HTPS prize box.



## 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 . . .

- *Distinguished Sailors*
  - *ARIPEX '10 Stamp Show*
  - *It Started at MERPEX*
  - *Westfield Stamp Club*
- . . . and much more!

## President's Message



One of the most enjoyable feelings in our hobby is when we finally find that one elusive item that is needed to complete a set or acquiring that one unique cover. Unfortunately, it does not occur often enough especially as we advance in our collecting efforts.

A similar type euphoric feeling can be found by reading and researching for information on the stamps and covers in your collection. I have been trying to spend two hours a week reading philatelic books and also reviewing stamp and auction catalogues.

It is amazing what you can learn, and it has given me an even greater appreciation of my collections. Some of the books that I have been reading are from my library. In the past, I have also contacted the American Philatelic Research Library for out of print books or books that are not available in our local libraries. The Internet also contains a wealth of information on all aspects of the philatelic world.

We have spent a lot of time searching out items for our collections. I would like to suggest that we also spend some time doing more reading and research on the items that make up our collections. Hopefully, you will find this endeavor as rewarding and enjoyable as you have building your collection.

Erin Go Bragh! Happy Saint Patrick's Day! . . . Ed

## February Proceedings

by Jack Sack

Our February meeting was a welcome break from the recent snow storms and gave us a chance to see many stamping friends again. There were several visitors, including Hank and Mary Ellen Applegate, and Herb Kropnick and Kathy Daniels from the Coryell Ferry Stamp Club.

The show and tell included a discussion of the Bordentown & New York Stage Route which was established in the 1740's to provide rapid (three days) mail and passenger service from Philadelphia to New York via boat and stagecoach.

Our old friend and long time HTPS member Tom DeLuca gave his annual presentation. Tom talked about the "Back of the Book" (BOB) stamps issued by the USPS. Those stamps are usually found in the back of your stamp album, beginning with the semi-postals (prefix 'B') to Christmas Seals ('WS') as assigned by Scott Publications.



We thank Tom for his talk. Hopefully this will encourage the U.S. collectors in the audience to think about collecting the wide variety of BOB issues.

## Distinguished Sailors

by Ronald H. González, MD

On February 4, 2010, my wife and I had the opportunity to attend the first day ceremony for the 44¢ "Distinguished Sailors" stamps held at the Arleigh and Roberta Burke Theatre of the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. The honored sailors included:

- ⇒ Admiral William S. Sims (1858-1936)
- ⇒ Admiral Arleigh A. Burke (1901-1996)
- ⇒ Petty Officer 3rd Class Doris Miller (1919-1943)
- ⇒ Lt. Commander John McCoy (1876-1945)



The ceremony started at 10:30 AM and several dignitaries were present including Rear Admiral Edward K. Walker, Jr. Ret., President of the United States Navy Memorial, Honorable John E. Potter Postmaster General and CEO of the United States Postal System, Honorable

Juan M. Garcia, Assistant Secretary to the Navy, Vice Admiral Samuel J. Locklar, Director of Navy Staff and David A. Rosenberg, PhD, Naval Historian.

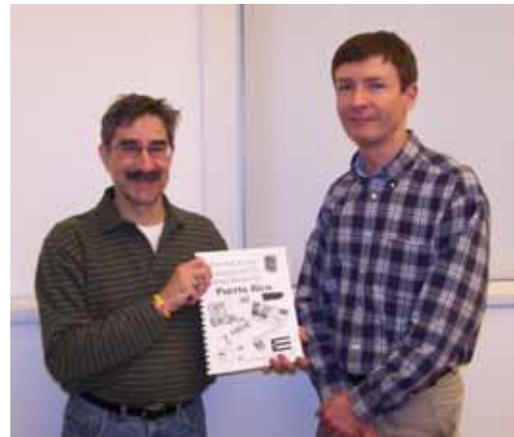
All four of the distinguished sailors had amazing Navy careers. After the ceremony I obtained the ceremony program, multiple first day cancellations and the signatures of many of the speakers.

After lunch at Union Station, I went to the Smithsonian Postal Museum and Philatelic Library. I met again with James O'Donnell who is a museum specialist. HTPS members had met with him during an earlier trip to the museum. I also met with Jack Feldman – a local stamp collector and friend of mine.

I had the opportunity to inspect the Floyd Leach and Eugene Michel reference collections of postal stationery. I was particularly interested in the Spanish and American postal stationery of Puerto Rico since they have multiple collections available for research in my field of interest.

With the help of Paul K. McCutcheon, branch librarian, I was also able to continue my search of articles related to Puerto Rico philately. Mr. Thomas Lera, Chair of Research, gave me a demonstration of their computerized camera for enlarging and studying postage stamps and covers.

Later on I was pleased to donate a copy of my book, "First Day Cover Catalogue of US Stamps Related to Puerto Rico" to Paul McCutcheon for use by the National Postal Museum library.

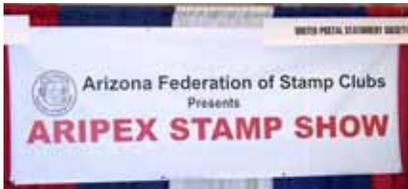


At the end of the day I had the opportunity to visit some of my family prior to my return to the hotel. Unfortunately I had to cut my visit short because of the impending snow storm forecast for that same day. On Friday evening, Washington was buried under 24-30 inches of snow, but by then I was already back in New Jersey. I look forward to another visit to the Smithsonian Postal Museum and Library.

## ARIPEX '10 Stamp Show

by Les Timbres

In my new assignment as a roving reporter for *The Hamilton Hinge*, I attended the 2010 ARIPEX stamp show. This event, now in its 52nd consecutive year, alternates between Tucson and Mesa, Arizona and is one of the APS World Series of Philately events.



I arrived at the Mesa Convention Center just in time for the 10 AM opening ceremony. There were over

forty stamp dealers at the show, many of whom I had never seen before.

My first stop was at A&D Stamps of Walnut Creek, California. Jim and Sue Dempsey carry one of the largest stocks of world-wide stamps. Unfortunately for us, they rarely come to the East Coast. I estimated that they have over 500 red boxes, not to mention the dealer books with the larger and more expensive items.



I next went to A-to-Z stamps, run by Michael and Cecilia Ball of Mesa, Arizona. Michael helps run the show and is the show contact for the dealer bourse. While A-to-Z might not have as many stamps as A&D, they allow the buyers to pick out the boxes themselves saving a lot of time, and they have very good prices.

My next stop was to look at the exhibits. There were over 250 frames setup – ranging from youth exhibits, created by local area schools, to APS World Series of Philately winners.



One of the most viewed exhibits was that from Don Price on "The Jenny" – the first US Airmail stamp issued in 1918. This exhibit included the rare inverted Airplane (Scott #C3a). Most interesting to me, however, were other examples of "Jenny" printing variations.

He showed numerous examples of the airplane flying right-side up, but offset in various positions from the center of the stamp

After a brief lunch at the concession stand, I then returned to the "trading floor" to visit the other dealers at the show. My goal was to stop by each booth, and peruse their wares.

One dealer, Michael Jaffe, had a large selection of U.S. space fillers, mostly



back of the book items, at 10% of catalog. I was able to fill in a number of spaces in my album including several "Offices in China". Martin Shupe from California had a large selection of recent US stamps in used condition, some of which are very hard to acquire.

The Friday crowd was not as large as some dealers had hoped, but they expected larger crowds on Saturday and Sunday. I was able to find seats at almost every table, and had a chance to talk to many dealers and some of the other visitors. I was given many suggestions of what to do in Phoenix and Tucson on my next visit.

There were several door prizes awarded during the show (although I did not win one). They also announced that the person traveling the farthest for the show was from Anchorage, Alaska (2,500 miles). I traveled from my home in Paris, but they used HTPS' location in Hamilton, NJ (2,100 miles) as my starting point.

Unfortunately, I was only part of the way around the hall



when the announcement came at 6 PM that the bourse was closing. I completed my last transaction and proceeded across the street to the local pub to review my purchases.

The show was a welcome change – not only from the weather on the East Coast – but also for the number of dealers one rarely, if ever, gets to see back home. I'm already planning my trip to the next ARIPEX show, scheduled from January 14-16, 2011 at the Tucson Convention Center.

### New HTPS Member ...

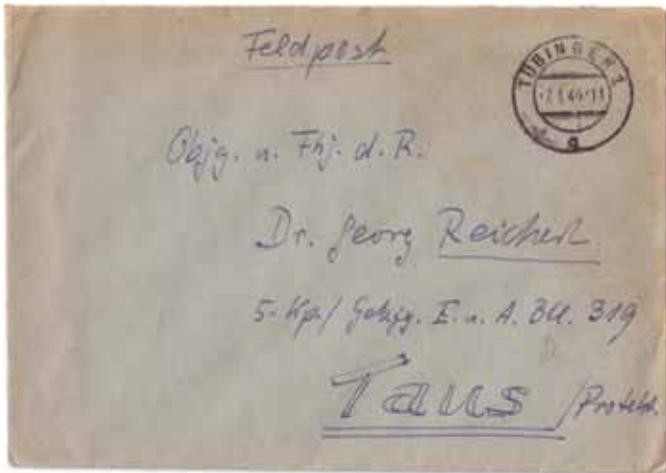
[Mary Ellen Applegate](#) has joined the HTPS family. Her interests include zeppelin issues, postcards and philatelic exhibits. She also collects gold coins. Mary Ellen's latest exhibit involves the [2¢ Sesquicentennial Exposition issue of 1926](#).

## It Started at MERPEX

by Joseph F. Seliga

Early one Saturday morning at last year's MERPEX show, a table drew my attention with its plastic boxes filled with covers. I seem to be drawn to covers since spending my time at the Cover Man's boxes at the NYC ASDA Mega Events the last couple of years.

The 50¢ box had lots of foreign covers. One that caught my eye had *Feldpost* written at the top with a bridge-type postmark of "2.1.44·11" (January 2, 1944 at 11 AM). It was addressed to a soldier named Dr. Georg Reichert and was stampless. I thought that was odd, since the Post Office in most countries requires you to put a stamp on the envelope, when you are sending a letter to a serviceman.



The address was mostly mnemonics which I didn't recognize. The word "gebirg" piqued my interest. This man was in a WW2 German Army mountain division, and they are special in any army. I was hooked and bought the cover. There was no letter, so I had to be content with deciphering the address and then try to figure out who the soldier was and what he did.

As you can see from the cover scan, in front of his name was *Objg. u. Fhj. d. R.* I assumed that this is the man's rank, but I don't know the meaning of the abbreviations. Following his name was an even more mystifying, *5.Kp./ Geb.jg. E. u. A. BU. 319*. All I got from this was that he was in the 5<sup>th</sup> company of a mountain division, most probably the 319<sup>th</sup> regiment since the Germans didn't have that many mountain divisions. The last line read in big letters, *Taus/Protekt*. That is not the name of any country known to me.

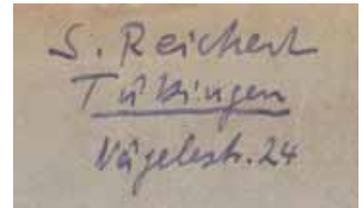
I brought the envelope to an HTPS meeting for "show and tell" or in my case "show and ask." Some members suggested that the Internet might provide answers. Good advice. First, I tried the Third Reich Study Group which is part of the German Philatelic Society. I contacted the

group chairman who confirmed that Dr. Reichert was an officer candidate in the mountain division.

Then I looked for a site containing information on the German Army during WW2. I found a site called "feldgrau" with a forum, where members could post questions. I made an application and after a few days, became a member. My posted questions received a response from Mr. Simon Harrold in the United Kingdom. Most of the mystery was solved.

Dr. Georg Reichert was an *Oberjäger* (NCO) und *Fahnenjunker* (Ensign) *der Regiment*. He was a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> *Kompanie* (company) of *Gebirgsjäger-Ersatz- und Ausbildungs-Bataillon 319* stationed in Taus, in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. The purpose of an *Ersatz- und Ausbildungs-Bataillon* is to provide training and instruction of new recruits for replacements for its allotted "home" Division. In 1944, the 319<sup>th</sup> Battalion was under command of the 418<sup>th</sup> Division.

There are still questions about this cover. The return address, as shown on the cropped back cover image, reads "S. Reichert, Tubingen, Najelesh.24" – most likely a family member. Yet no stamp was used.



The envelope does not have a field post number. I discovered that Feldpost numbers were briefly issued in October 1944 for a Reserve-Grenadier-Bataillon 319, but they were quickly withdrawn in November 1944. So how did the army postal service route letters to the men of this regiment?

I did not find the 418<sup>th</sup> Division in a list of German WW2 divisions. Why would a mountain battalion be the replacement source for the 418<sup>th</sup> Division? And why was this battalion stationed in Bohemia and Moravia from 1942 to 1944? I found that Goranska was in the part of Slovenia that was given to Germany after their invasion of Yugoslavia along with Stajerska and Koroska. I did find that during WW2, the Germans dug some catacombs under a town in Gorenska. I wonder why?

So I have a work in progress. I'm still searching for more information on Dr. Reichert. I will try the Reichert family genealogical site and the German military site on the internet.

I have been a researcher of military information in libraries and archives for quite some time. This cover provided a satisfying search over many weeks and will do so for many more. I hope that your cover discoveries provide you with as much enjoyment as mine have.

## Westfield Stamp Club

... by Tony Zingale

On January 28, Ed Murtha, Bob Stolarz and I attended the monthly meeting of the Westfield Stamp Club. It was an enjoyable experience, and we knew some Westfield members from our work at the NOJEX show. In fact, some members have made presentations at our meetings.

It took a little over an hour driving from Hamilton. We stopped for dinner at the Westfield Diner which is located just a few blocks from the meeting site.

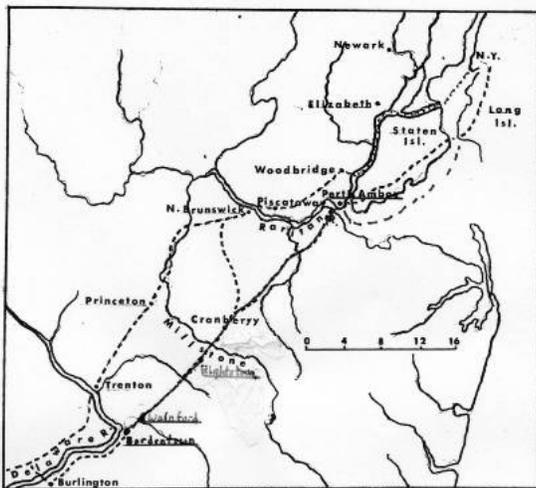
The meeting format is informal and the business portion was over quickly. There was some discussion on their annual show which is scheduled for March 6th. An auction of 20 items followed. The lots were described on a preprinted sheet. You submit items a month or so in advance so they can be reviewed and added to the sheet.

Bob Stolarz's bid of \$1.00 won a small 'sheet' of three stamps with an Olympics theme. The item was later identified as



Switzerland #1086a. Ed Murtha won some booklets from Sweden. You pay immediately after your winning bid. All auction proceeds go to the club.

The presentation that night was a Power Point show titled "The Bordentown Stage" by Robert Rose, President of the New Jersey Postal History Society. Bob spoke about a stage route which operated from Philadelphia to New York City during the Colonial period (approx. 1740 - 1792 with a break for the Revolutionary War).



New Jersey's Colonial Post Roads.

As Bob related, "Cargo and passengers were transported by "stage boat" from Philadelphia and transported up the Delaware River to Bordentown and then by "stage waggon" to Perth Amboy before being ferried to lower Manhattan. The full trip took three days. The stage route passed through Walnford, Hightstown and Cranberry along a path that is Route 130 today.



TRAVEL BY STAGEWAGON NEAR TALENTON, N. J. Watercolor by Pavel Petrovich Svirin (1787-1839), The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund, 1912. Reproduced courtesy of the Museum.

Bob displayed a small selection of folded letters with a "Bordentown Stage" manuscript notation.

Also shown were the six known covers with the "Bordentown & New York Stage" handstamp. There are no postal markings on the covers, and there is some question as to whether this route was contracted by the U.S. Postal System or was handled by a private carrier.



The cover shown above is addressed to "Capt. William Smith" in "Hydestown" (known today as Hightstown).

The Westfield Stamp Club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located at 425 East Broad Street. Meetings start at 8:00 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday). There are no meetings during July and August. Dues are \$8.00 a year.

For further details, check out the club's website at <http://westfieldstampclub.org/default.aspx>.

[Editor's Note: Images provided by Bob Stolarz and Robert Rose from his presentation.]

## HTPS Notices

**Passing:** Bruce Berenson, noted photographer and teacher, died on Jan. 25, 2010. Bruce was the son of HTPS member Herman Berenson. He taught at the Arts Council of Princeton. Bruce's art work and portraits earned many photographic awards. We extend our condolences to the Berenson family.

[Source: [www.nj.com/obituaries](http://www.nj.com/obituaries)]

### New HTPS Member . . .

**Denne Keller** is a welcomed addition to our group. Denne collects Worldwide issues especially Souvenir Sheets. He is also the owner of Marlton Stamp & Coin and has a table at the Hightstown, Merchantville and Ft. Washington shows.

## Upcoming Events

- 3/4 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM.
- 3/6 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 3/4 MSC Meeting for location].
- 3/6 → Westfield Stamp Show & Exhibition – Westfield Town Hall Community Room – 425 East Broad Street – Westfield, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/6-7 → BuxMont Stamp Show – Benjamin H. Wilson Center – 580 Delmont Ave – Warminster, PA – Sat: 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM.

- 3/7 → Garden State Coin & Stamp Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd (off Route 46) – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/13 → 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/13-14 → CASDA 2010 – Doubletree Guest Suites – 515 Fellowship Road North – Mt. Laurel, NJ – Sat: 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/14 → 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Stamp Bourse – Holiday Inn – Rt. 70 – Cherry Hill, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/16 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**
- 3/18 → MSC Meeting (See 3/4 MSC Meeting info).
- 3/21 → NESS 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Stamp & Coin Show – CALL to VERIFY location ... 973-875-3793.
- 3/27 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 3/4 MSC Meeting for location].
- 3/28 → Coin, Stamp & Postcard Show – Ramada Inn – 1083 Route 206 North (near NJ Tpke Exit 7) – Bordentown, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM.
- 3/28 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

**NOTE:** For updated or additional information, see [www.stampshows.com](http://www.stampshows.com) and [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org).

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  
Parliamentarian ..... Jerry McNew  
Stamp Donations ..... Sherm Britton  
50/50 Handlers ..... Jim Cope, Ed Murray

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

- ⇒ Mar. 16 – "Postal History of The Gambia"  
(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
- ⇒ Sept. 21 – TBA
- ⇒ Oct. 19 – TBA

**Looking for Speakers  
for the 2010 – 2011 Season.**