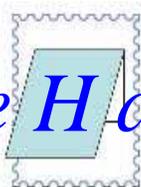


*** HAPPY NEW YEAR ***



The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619-0443

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January 2011

January Meeting

Well – another year has passed and we enter 2011 excited about the activities that lie ahead. Hopefully one of those pursuits includes philately.

Why not start the year with a visit to our January meeting? The highlight of this month's meeting is our semi-annual auction.

December Proceedings

We all look forward to our December holiday party, where we have the opportunity to socialize with our fellow philatelists. With a big crowd on hand and plenty of foods, desserts and beverages, this year was no exception.

The refreshments and 'goodies' included a cheese and cracker platter, a pyramid cake, ice cream treats, fruit salad and an abundance of cookies and cakes.

For Show and Tell, **Jim Cope** discussed his trip to Egypt and handed out book markers made of papyrus with pictures of various Egyptian gods and figures.

Thanks to all who brought items or just came to eat!

Stamp Identification

Last month's mystery stamp was first identified by **Bill McCarroll** as a copy of North German Confederation #3 issued in 1868.



We move to another century and another part of the world for this month's issue. Hopefully there are enough clues in the design to help you identify this used copy.

Be the first to correctly identify this issue and choose \$1.00 in stamps from the US Mint box.

In this Issue . . .

- StampAlbums.com
- [Society Auction](#)
- [USPS News](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



Happy New Year!

For some folks the past year was a tough one. If we believe some of the political pundits, things are changing and this new year is going to be much better than the last one. I am hoping that they are correct.

One of the many joys that I have with stamp collecting is that I can get lost while doing it. By lost, I mean my problems and the day to day cares seem to disappear whenever I really get involved with my stamps. It relaxes and refreshes me. I find that this respite from reality allows me to face my daily concerns with a more positive resolve.

It is my hope for all of us that this year is better than the last and that each of us can get "lost" in our philatelic items whenever we want or need to do it.

Regards, Ed.

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.

Fellow HTPS member **Bob Stolarz** sent me some album pages that he had obtained from the StampAlbums.com website. The pages were designed by Bill Steiner, a retired computer programmer, whose goal is to create a complete set of affordable world-wide album pages.

For \$30, you get either a CD or a 1-year web access to the currently available set of album pages. The set of world-wide pages are virtually complete to 2000 (most popular countries up to 2009). Simply print the pages you want using your home computer printer and instantly create your own album. There are templates for creating blank pages.

As a test, I compared the **Scott Indian States Album** with the StampAlbums.com album, using it to store some of my duplicate stamps.



There are a number of **advantages** to the StampAlbum pages. First is the cost. For \$30, you can download and print as many album pages as you wish. Even using high-quality heavy paper, an album page costs less than 5¢ as compared to as much as 50¢ for a Scott page.

You can also use a standard 3-ring binder to hold the pages, rather than the expensive oversized Scott binders. Even counting the web-access fee, binders, paper and printer ink, the entire India and States collection cost \$75 as compared to \$285 for the Scott albums.

For the Indian States, there was another advantage over the Scott album. The StampAlbum pages contain spaces for ALL issues including some that are considered minor varieties, or are absent altogether in the Scott catalog. Another advantage of the StampAlbum pages is that you can always re-print a page if you make a mistake.

The main **disadvantage** of the StampAlbum pages is that they do not include Scott numbers or many stamp images. However, the pages follow along in Scott order so it is relatively easy to find a space in the album provided you have your catalog handy. It might be a bit harder if you are starting a new collection and are not familiar with the stamps of a particular country. I ended up penciling in the Scott numbers as I worked on the album. Also, since the pages are 8½x11", some of the larger items such as U.S. panes do not fit into the album.

Despite a few drawbacks, I was very pleased with the StampAlbum pages both in terms of price and esthetic. If I did not already own the Scott albums, I would have used the StampAlbums.com pages for my Indian States collection. I strongly recommend you consider StampAlbums.com page for your next collection.

In Memoriam

Andrew J. Prokopetz, 95, of Princeton died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010, at the University Medical Center at Princeton.



Born in Roebling, NJ, Andrew was a Princeton resident since 1970. He was employed for over 25 years with the Congoleum Corp., and later was a bookkeeper for Mercedes Benz of Princeton.

He was the husband of the late Pearl S. Prokopetz. Andrew is survived by a son, Andrew T. Prokopetz; his life partner of 23 years, Irene Wilson; a stepdaughter and her husband, Eileen and Jim Mansfield; and step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Andrew organized and participated in many local activities, including sing-alongs at Elm Court in Princeton, and donated his time and love of ceramics to the elementary schools in Princeton.

Andrew was a long time member of the HTPS. His collecting interests included the U.S., Germany and Poland. He recently exhibited his collection of FDC's celebrating African Americans at the Princeton Arts Council's Black History month festivities.

We extend our condolences to Andrew's family and friends.

Society Auction

It's auction time again! Why not bring some of your duplicate, excess or unwanted philatelic material and put it on our auction table?



Here are some **hints** for creating lots:

- ⇒ Put up items that fellow members collect (see list below). As always, condition is key; choice or unique items usually do very well.
- ⇒ Reference publications, especially specialized or color catalogs, are always popular.
- ⇒ Postcards, covers and ephemera also sell.

Preparing Auction Forms

Enter your name and date (1-18-11) at the top of the **Auction List Sheet**. Enter a description of the item including Scott # (for stamps), condition, faults and catalog / retail values.

Auction List - Seller's Name: <u>JOHN DOE</u> Date: <u>1-15-08</u>				Minimum Bid	Sales Price	Number of Bids
Item No.	Item Name or Scott Number	Item Description and/or Condition (e.g., Blue Columbian, MNM, F-VF, Gum Crease)				
1.	Scott 2007	US SPECIALIZED CATALOG - Good cond.		1.00		
2.	Scott PB	Album, 1961-1964 Commemoratives, no stamps, some mounts - ex. cond.		2.00		
3.	X DENMARK	# 9/126 (8) Used - CV \$75+		5.00		
4.	X NETHERLANDS	200 DIFF USED - CV \$45		5.00		
5.	X FDC ALBUM	with 25 two-up Clear Pages		3.00		
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						

Total Sales _____
Club Commission (-10%) _____
Net to Seller _____

As for the Minimum Bid, be realistic – common items usually sell for 10-20% of catalog value. Use 2-3 lines, if needed, to describe the auction lot; then renumber the following items on the sheet.

HTPS Auction --- Lot Description	
Seller Name: _____	Item #: _____
Description: _____	
Item Value: _____	Min. Bid: _____

For each auction item, complete an **Auction Lot form**. This form is attached to (or inserted into) the

item to be auctioned. The information should match the Auction List Sheet which will enable the Auctioneer and support staff to quickly move through the lots.

If you wish to **donate** the sales proceeds for one or more lots to HTPS, please indicate on the Auction List Sheet or tell the Auctioneer.

All items are **SOLD AS IS** so check out the offerings before bidding.

Obtain a **bidder number** before the auction starts. Bidding starts with the seller's minimum bid as shown on the Lot Description form. Increments are usually 25¢ but the Auctioneer may change increments based on competitive bidding.

Payments are made by the winning bidders after all auction items are sold. The sellers are paid the sales price realized MINUS a 10% commission for HTPS. Amounts are rounded to 5¢ increments.

Member Interests

Here are some areas of interest to our members:

U.S. – Puerto Rico	Postcards
Australia – Botswana	Covers: Events, etc.
British Commonwealth	Antarctica
Canada	Bicycle Related
Germany	Fire Service
India & Indian States	Lighthouses
Poland	Military Related
Puerto Rico	Olympics – Patriotic
Scandinavia	Scouting – Sports
Sudan – Surinam	SON Cancels
Switzerland – Vatican	WW II Occupations
WW Revenues	Zeppelin Covers

USPS 2011 Issues

As announced by David E. Failor, the executive Director of the USPS Stamp Services Division, all 2011 commemorative program stamps will be issued as **Forever stamps**.

This should prove interesting since many of the issues over the past forty plus years can often be purchased at face value (or below) at local stamp shows.



But now, the 2011 stamps will "increase" in face value as the postal rates increase. What will that do to their value over the coming years?

Another helpful advantage is that we will not need to stock up on one and two cent stamps to cover the postal rate increases.

HTPS Notices

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.

On-line Newsletters: Our Newsletters are available online at HamiltonPhilatelic.org. This is a helpful advantage since you can use the live links to Internet sites and email addresses.

Membership Dues . . .

HTPS dues of \$10.00 are now PAST DUE. You can pay at the January meeting with cash or check (payable to HTPS), or send payment to Ron Gonzalez at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

Upcoming Events

1/2 → Garden State Stamp Coin & Currency Show – PAL Building, 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.

1/6 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM.

1/7-9 → Garden State Stamp & Postcard Show – Bethwood Manor – 38 Lackawanna Avenue (off Union Blvd) – Totowa, NJ – Fri. 10 AM - 6 PM – Sat. 10 AM - 5 PM – Sun. 10 AM - 4 PM.

1/8 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 1/6 MSC meeting for location]. 1/8 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.

1/16 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire Company #1 - 93 Parish Drive - Wayne, NJ - 9 AM to 4 PM.

1/16 – Money, Stamps & Postcard Show – Clifton Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM

1/18 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

1/20 → MSC Meeting (See 1/6 MSC meeting info).

1/23 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

1/28-30 – 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.metroexp.com

2/3 → MSC Meeting (See 1/6 MSC meeting info).

NOTE: For updated or additional information, see: www.stampshows.com – www.stamps.org – www.cliftonnj.org/stamp/stampshow.htm – www.postal-history.com/showpage.html.

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
Historian Joe Seliga
Membership Chairman Jack Sack
Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
NOJEX Contact Andrew Boyajian
Philatelic Donations Sherm Britton
Webmaster Jack Sack
50 / 50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ken Steel

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

- ⇒ Jan 18 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 15 – Tom DeLuca – Always a SURPRISE!
- ⇒ Mar. 15 – "U.S. Special Handling Stamps"
(by Robert Rufe)
- ⇒ Apr. 19 – "The 1926 Philadelphia
Sesquicentennial" (by Hank Applegate)
- ⇒ May 17 – HTPS Member Presentations

Newsletter Articles . . .

We are always looking for philatelic articles, ideas or suggestions. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; or call 609-890-8211; or email us at hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org.