



The *H*amilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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February Meeting



Tom DeLuca, HTPS member and owner of Trenton Stamp and Coin, will be our guest speaker at the February meeting. Tom has been a frequent speaker at our meetings and always comes up with an

interesting topic to tell us about. In past presentations, Tom has shown off a collection of New Jersey postcards, talked about "Back of the Book" items, and gave some advice, from a dealer's point of view, on how to build up your stamp collection. He is a great proponent of the appreciation phase of stamp collecting, where one allocates time to take out your albums and admire the stamps you have acquired. We look forward to another great presentation.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 PM in the basement community room of the Hamilton Library. Come early if you would like to pick up some free publications, check out items for sale, or to chat with your fellow philatelists.

Stamp Identification



Last month's mystery stamp was not identified (Come On Guys!) This month we are giving you another chance to identify this unusual issue. We expanded the image a bit so that details are clearer. Check out the value and the Asian inscriptions. Those

who have an identifier may want to look in the Far East. Be the first to correctly identify this issue and choose **\$2.00** in stamps from the US Mint box.

In this Issue . . .

- *Our February Meeting*
 - *Thinking about the Future*
 - *USPS 2011 Issues*
 - *Upcoming Events*
- . . . and much more!**

President's Message



The weather did not cooperate last month, and I'm afraid a number of our members were unable to attend the January auction. I thank everyone who was able to make it and Andrew Boyajian for stepping in as auctioneer at the last moment. I'm rather confident that our June auction will not be hampered by a snow storm!

We have a busy schedule for the rest of the year. We have guest speakers for the next three meetings, starting this month with our old friend Tom DeLuca. In March, Robert Rufe will talk on the U.S. Special Handling Stamps, and in April, member Hank Applegate will speak on the 1926 Philadelphia Sesquicentennial issue. In May we will have another of our Mini-talks. Please let us know if you are interested in giving a short presentation on your collecting interests.

With Tony Zingale, our Newsletter editor, on foreign assignment, I have asked our past editor, Jack Sack, to step in and prepare our February issue.

I look forward to seeing you all on the 15th ...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

January Proceedings

Bad weather did not deter a nice crowd for our January meeting. Our thanks to **Andrew Boyajian** for handling the Auctioneer duties at the meeting. There were several nice items up for sale including three complete sets of Scott catalogs circa 2008-2009. The auction raised \$48 for the Treasury.

Thinking about the Future.... Jack Sack

On occasion, our club has been approached by non-collectors trying to sell a relative's stamp collection. Their relative had passed away without leaving any notes to their heirs on what to do with the valuable results of their lifelong passion. In most cases, the collector was not a member of a club like ours and the heirs have no idea of where to turn. I wonder how many widows have been burdened by, and possibly swindled, when they try to sell their late husband's collection. It has certainly given me the impetus to organize my stamps in case something ever happens to me.

When I look over one of these collections, the first thing I notice is the large amount of unsorted material, most likely the remainders of box or auction lots. We all have such stuff. Most of our time helping the non-collector is spent reviewing this material. For my own collection, I have placed large labels "Extra Material - To Be Donated" on my junk boxes. This will save my heirs many hours of effort.

For each of my main collections, I have made up general descriptions of the material, as if it were to be placed in auction, with a general estimate of its value, i.e. "India Used Collection 1854-1948. Early issues are damaged or space-fillers. (Note: A1-A3, 1,6,and 9 are all fakes) Auction Value \$200-300" and placed them inside the album cover. This should make it easy for someone to quickly ascertain the value of each volume.

I have also put together all my invoices, notes, and descriptions, along with a list of some dealers or auction houses that might be interested in the material. This should help my heirs dispose of the collection when the time comes.

The most important thing I have done, however, is attempt to promote stamp collecting among all of my nephews and nieces. On occasion, I have shown off my collection to them and have sent them junior stamp albums with envelopes full of used stamps. My greatest hope is that someone in the family will take up stamp collecting, and I will be able to pass along the collection to them.

Hopefully, the few hours it took me to annotate my collection will save someone many hours of work. I strongly urge everyone to do the same.

USPS 2011 Issues



The U.S. Postal Service has released the designs of its 2011 commemorative stamp program. There are currently 25 different stamp issues scheduled covering a wide range of topics from famous Americans, to the Indianapolis 500-mile auto race and famous animated film characters.

What is particularly new this year is that all of the commemoratives will be "Forever" stamps. They will be sold at the current postage rate



(44c) but will be valid for a 1oz. first-class letter, regardless of changes in the postage rates. A complete list of the new commemoratives, including pictures can be found on the USPS website:

http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2010/pr10_125.htm#3th

The Value of Altered Stamps...Jack Sack

In a recent article in *U.S. Stamp News*, John Hotchner discusses the relative importance of "condition" in pricing stamps. In evaluating a stamp, how much weight, for example, should you give to centering versus the brightness or freshness of the colors? While Mr. Hotchner does not give specific values associated with each aspect of a stamp condition, he has his own opinion on what he feels is most important.

This brings up a issue that I am constantly faced with. As someone who is more interested in filling a space than getting a prime example of a stamp, I often buy damaged or flawed stamps. How much is a damaged stamp worth? A true space-filler with a large tear might be worth only 10% of catalog value. So, what is the value of a stamp with a less serious flaw, such as a pinhole, or torn perforation, worth?

In the article, he also brings up the situation when a stamp has been altered in some way, such as having been re-gummed or having a repaired tear. As long as you are apprised of the doctoring, how much does it decrease the value of the stamp? For example, is a re-gummed stamp worth less than one with a hinged remnant or one without gum at all?

One issue that Mr. Hotchner does not bring up is when a stamp has been altered to make it appear to be more valuable, such as an added grill or having perforations removed to make it look like a coil stamp. Should it be considered a space-filler as it is no longer the original stamp?



With many Indian States issues, used stamps are often more valuable than mint copies. I have a number of genuine stamps with fake cancels. What is their relative value compared to either the original mint stamp or a

genuinely used example?

I would be interested to hear other collectors' options on the value of altered stamps.

Other Events

If time permits there are few stamp events that you might wish to consider attending or participating.

On Saturday, February 5th from 10AM to 5PM, the Stamp Center, 4115 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE will have their Annual Stamp Day Event. There will be several dealers a USPS station, a silent auction and door prizes as well as free starter kits for kids. It is wonderful event and they make a big fuss over all of the kids who visit. More info on the event can be found on the Stamp Center web site www.thestampcenter.com

On Monday February 21st at 8PM our own Dr. **Ronald Gonzalez** will be talking to the Coryell Ferry Stamp Club. Ronald's topic will be Philatelic Estate Planning. See Ron at our February meeting for directions to the meeting.

Each year we are reminded by Andrew Boyajian of the good work being done by the Quad City Stamp Club in Moline, Illinois with their Stamp Out Cancer Auction. The auction raises over \$10,000 for cancer research. This year, the auction takes place on April 10th. Please take a look at their website www.qcstampclub.com or better yet consider participating.

Lastly, take a quick look at all of the 2010 US Stamp issues and pick the one that you find to be the most appealing or attractive. At our next meeting, **Jim Cope** will do a quick survey/vote and then advise Linn's Stamp News of our vote. A complete list (including pictures) of the 2010 US commemoratives can be found on the website:



http://www.usps.com/communications/newsroom/2009/pr09_118.htm

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 advantage since you can then use the live links to Internet sites and email addresses.

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. Copies are also available on our web site in the About Us section.

Upcoming Events

- 2/3 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM.
- 2/5 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 2/3 MSC meeting for location].
- 2/5 → Stamp Day – The Stamp Center – 4115 Concord Pike – Wilmington, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM. (See article on page 3)

- 2/6 → Garden State Stamp Coin & Currency Show – PAL Building, 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 2/12 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.
- 2/15 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**
- 2/16 → MSC Meeting (See 2/3 MSC meeting info).
- 2/20 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire ggCompany #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 2/27 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/3 → MSC Meeting (See 2/3 MSC meeting info).
- 3/5 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 2/3 MSC meeting for location].
- 3/5 → Westfield Stamp Show – 10 AM to 4 PM – Westfield Municipal Center, 425 East Broad St, Westfield, NJ

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 -----

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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 -----

- ⇒ 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
⇒ June 21 – Society Auction

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.