



The *H*amilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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Vol. 4, No. 9

May 2011

May Meeting

Spring is fully in bloom and so is our program for the May meeting. The business portion is highlighted by the election of Officers for the 2011-2012 season. The nominees are:

- ⇒ President: **Ed Murtha**
- ⇒ Vice-President: **Jeff Boyarsky**
- ⇒ Treasurer: **Ron Gonzalez**
- ⇒ Secretary: **Bob Stolarz**

We urge all HTPS members to attend the May meeting and cast their vote for the Officers.

The May meeting also includes mini-presentations given by our members including **Andrew Boyajian**, **Ron Dobrowolski**, **Warren Scheible** and **Bob Stolarz**. This has proved to be an enjoyable event so come to the meeting and learn something new about philately.

Stamp Identification

Last month's stamp was correctly identified by **Klaus Wagner** as Saudi Arabia #L171 issued in 1925.



This month's stamp has lots of markings, but be careful not to be misled. It is more difficult than it appears.

\$1.00 in mint US stamps to the first correct responder.

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 Proceedings*
- *NOJEX 2011*
- *Postal Rate Changes*
- *APS Headquarters Visit*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



I hope that you enjoyed Passover or Easter with your family and friends. With the beautiful weather of the past few days, I suspect that more than a few of us have found our interest shift to more outdoor activities.

Some of you know that besides stamp collecting, my other great passion is fishing. I have come to realize that, in some ways, these two hobbies are very much alike.

Whether I am off to a nearby stream to catch some trout (which I release to catch another day) or off to the Hightstown stamp bourse, the goal is the same – to take a few hours off from the concerns of the day and have a little relaxation.

Thus, it always irks me to see someone nearby getting more and more distressed if they haven't "caught" very much during the day – whether it is a trout or an elusive stamp for their collection. My advice is to remember that stamp collecting is not a contest, but rather a respite from the complexity of our lives.

Speaking of fishing, I will be away on the 17th for my annual Spring trip. **Jeff Boyarsky** will run the meeting with a full line-up of mini presentations. Remember to start thinking of items for our auction on June 21st and for the swap-meet on July 19th.... Ed

April's Proceedings

by **Jack Sack**

Another large crowd turned out for our April meeting. President **Ed Murtha** led the group through the business portion of the meeting. The main item on the agenda was the nomination of officers – our current officers were all nominated for another term. The election will be held at our May meeting.

Other business items included the need for volunteers to help set-up and take-down the exhibits at the NOJEX show in May. Please contact **Ed Murtha** if you are interested in helping out. Ed also asked for volunteers for the “Mini-Presentations” next month. While a full slate of presenters have been selected for May, contact **Bob Stolarz** if you are interested in presenting at a future meeting.

Sherm Britton reported that 10 pounds of stamps were recently shipped to the Vets. He thanked all the members who contributed to this good cause. We also welcomed another new member – **Bill Andersen** – who collects the U.S. 3-cent issues from the 1851-57 series.

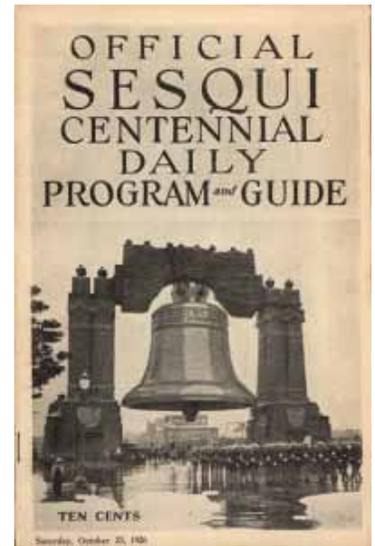


The main feature was a dynamic Power Point presentation by HTPS member **Hank Applegate** on the Philadelphia Sesquicentennial exhibition of 1926. The event, which ran from May through November 1926, celebrated the 150th anniversary of American Independence. The fair was located in South Philadelphia in the area of the current Navy Yard and the Sports Complex.



The symbol of the fair was a massive 80 foot replica of the Liberty Bell with 26,000 lights. The bell also appears on the U.S. stamp (Scott # 627).

There were five main exhibition halls, as well as a number of smaller structures built by foreign nations and states. In addition, there was a re-creation of a street in colonial Philadelphia and an amusement park for the kids.



Hank's presentation led us through the fair grounds using post cards and other

memorabilia to highlight various sites. Also included were covers and several cancellations and postal markings from the Model Post Office located at the exhibition.

Hank also displayed covers flown on the several contract airmail services (CAMS) that operated from Philadelphia to New York and Washington during that period. Rubber and steel cancellation devices used at the Model Post Office were included. Shown below is a cover from the special week long extension of CAM 13 during the National Air Races.



Even though the fair did not draw large crowds and ended in bankruptcy, several structures, including the Ben Franklin Bridge and the original Municipal Stadium in South Philadelphia, remained as a legacy.

We thank Hank for providing us with an interesting day at the Fair.

For additional information on this fascinating topic, please **check our website** for a copy of Hank's talk including all the images.

USPS Rate Changes

Effective, April 17, 2011, selected USPS postage rates took effect including:

- Postcards \$.29
- 1st class, 1 oz (unchanged)..... \$.44
- 1st class, 1 oz (odd size) \$.64
- 1st class, 2 oz \$.64
- 1st class, 2 oz (odd size) \$.84
- 1st class, 3 oz \$.84
- 1st class, 3.5 oz \$1.04
- 1st class, 4 oz \$1.48
- Canada or Mexico, 1 oz \$.80
- Other international, 1 oz..... \$.98



A new 64-cent stamp was issued in April of this year (pictured at the left). The stamp can be used for 2 oz mailings and is especially suited for wedding invitations.

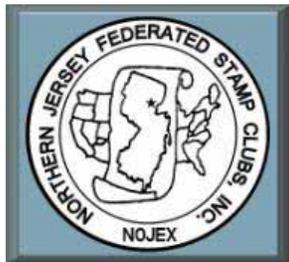
Some commercial class customer rates also changed. For additional information, see the USPS website at www.usps.com/prices.

NOJEX 2011

The 48th annual exhibition of the **North New Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs** is scheduled for **May 27-29** at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, NJ just off Exit 16W on the New Jersey Turnpike.

HTPS is a member of NOJEX and has worked with the organizing committee for several years on the setup (Thursday, May 26) and dismantling (Sunday, May 29) of the dealer tables and exhibits. It's a great way to meet fellow philatelists and also get a bit of exercise in the bargain. As usual, HTPS will cover the event with one of our international correspondents – this year Les Timbres has the honor.

Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Ed or Tony. For further details on NOJEX, check their website at www.nojex.org.



Statue of Liberty Stamp

Issued in December of last year, the latest Statue of Liberty stamp looked like another fine addition to the large number of such issues worldwide (23 in the U.S. alone). The non-denominated (44¢) first class forever stamp was issued in coil strips of 100 alternating with a U.S. flag issue.



Source: Reuters

USPS officials were surprised when a collector notified them that the image was not taken from the statue designed by sculptor Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi and located on Liberty Island in NYC's harbor. In fact, it was based on a photo of a half sized replica located outside of the New York–New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, NV (image at right from the hotel's website).



Quoted in an April 15 Reuters article, Roy Betts, a USPS spokesman said "We certainly regret having made the error." Betts partly blamed Getty Images, the stock photography company that supplied the image, for ambiguously labeling the image in its database. While the image is simply titled "Statue of Liberty," the keywords attached to it include "Nevada" and "Replica Statue of Liberty - Las Vegas," although Betts say this information was added only after the USPS raised the point with Getty.

The USPS became aware of what it is calling a "mischaracterization" about a month ago, Betts said. News of the mix-up was first reported in the latest issue of Linns Stamp News, a magazine for stamp enthusiasts.

Betts also reported that 3 billion stamps have been printed and they will not be pulled from the market. An ATM pane of 18 is scheduled for an April release and double-sided booklets of 20 are planned to be issued in September of this year.

A VISIT TO THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS IN BELLEFONTE, PA by Joseph Francis Seliga

Our trip to the American Philatelic Society (APS) Offices in Bellefonte, PA included **Dr. Ron Gonzalez**, **Ed Murtha** and the author. Ed picked me up at my house at the crack of dawn, i.e. 7 am. We stopped for breakfast at a restaurant just outside Harrisburg; being about halfway, it was a good place to stop, walk around and get something to eat. Of course, with such amiable companions, the trip went quickly, and we arrived at APS Headquarters just before noon.



Ron Gonzalez & Ed Murtha outside APS Headquarters

The APS sign isn't visible from the road because the HQ building is at the back of the complex. **Ron**, having been there before, guided us to our destination. We signed in and were told that our tour guide, **Gretchen**, would be



available at 3 pm. We headed to the library to look at periodicals and books. Ron and I had our lists on hand. It is recommended that you prepare for your visit by creating a list of publications

by searching the online American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) catalog.

The librarian quickly found the books that I had on my list. While waiting, I looked around and found that there were several other areas that would be of interest to any philatelist. The first was a table with five boxes of postcards and covers, at 10¢ each. I bought several dollars' worth. Next were four book racks, two of which were chock full of catalogs, books and pamphlets that

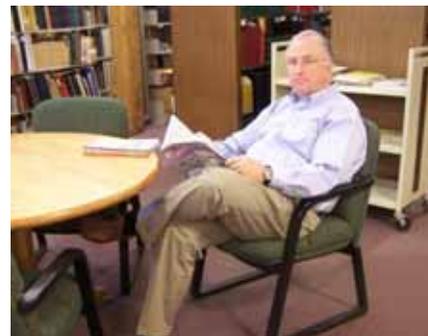
sold for \$1 each. I bought one book, *The New Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook* by Randy L. Neil, and two catalogs, one for US Postcards to 1980 and a Stanley Gibbons for Balkan stamps, 2nd edition, issued in 1982. The other two bookcases had higher priced volumes for half price.

I realized that it wasn't possible to read all of the books, catalogs and periodicals that were on my list while I was there. The librarian told me that I could borrow them



and return them by media rate mail. There was no initial charge, as there would be if you asked to ship them by mail. The library also has a self serve photocopy machine for 20¢ per copy. The main library has open stacks, so you can browse and find other items that you might have missed in your catalog search. Books are separately shelved from society newsletters.

Ed (pictured at right) is checking the English version of Linns. The APRL Annex, with three miles of shelves, is not open to the public, but can be accessed by the librarian.



Three o'clock came quickly.

Gretchen arrived and gave us a complete tour through all of the buildings in the complex. The Match Factory was not built all at once. There was an original building and many add-ons through the years. We saw them all:

- American Philatelic Research Library
- Editorial Office for the American Philatelist
- Expertizing Room, where they receive 60 requests per week and service them for a modest fee
- Sundman-Mystic Exhibition Hall
- On-Line Sales Division
- Circuit Books Sales Division
- Shipping Department

- Education Department Offices;
- George & Carole Kramer Philatelic Gallery;
- American Philatelic Research Library Annex;
- Lounge and seminar rooms;
- Special Meeting Room funded by the American Airmail Society and
- Post Office, on loan from the Smithsonian Museum, with **Ron, Joe and Ed** about to enter.

The tour included the people working in each section, all of whom were gracious and friendly.

Gretchen told us about OTTO's Pub, a micro-brewery in State College that happily was on the same street as our motel. Good food, with good companions at dinner got us in the right mood to prepare for Thursday.

On Thursday Ed took us to APS HQ via the scenic route, which interestingly enough also included his favorite fishing spots, one of which is named Fisherman's Paradise. We now understand why he fishes in this area. It is absolutely gorgeous.

Thursday was the day for our examination of the Sales Division circuit book sections. Before going there, I got the items that I wanted to take with me and brought them to the librarian to be listed and packed.



Off we went to look at the circuit books. So here we are, happy as bugs in a rug, each checking the circuit book of his interest. Bring your magnifier, tongs, per gauge, list of what you need and some glassines or stock sheets for your purchases.

We looked at current books and also remainder / retired ones which you must buy for a set price. This is a great way to retire a circuit book, especially for widows or widowers or for those who don't want to remount the remains in a new book. Was I surprised when I found that the first book I examined was one that had many of my APS identifier stamps in it from 1985? If I only had waited these twenty years or so, I could have bought them for a fraction of what I originally paid.

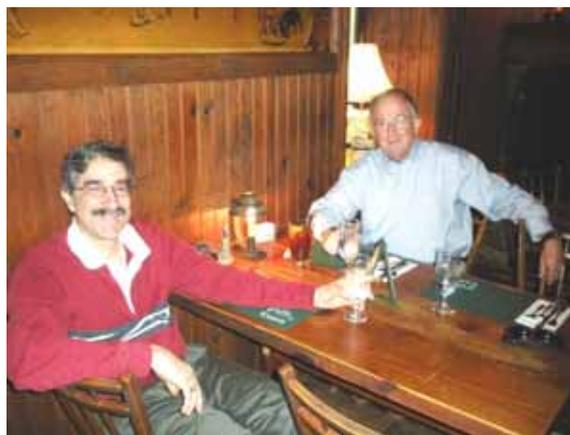


We left the APS HQ just after noon and wound our way to Boalsburg, the home of the 28th Division Museum, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit that was mobilized many times by the Federal government. The unit chased Pancho Villa in Mexico



and served on the front lines in WW I and WW II. Ed found some information about an uncle of his who was in that division during WW I.

We left the museum about two pm and stopped at Duffy's Tavern in Boalsburg where we had an excellent lunch in a tavern built in 1816. Notice that **Ed and Ron** are anticipating a great lunch – and it was!



After lunch, we started for home arriving there about 7:30 pm. I advise all collectors to visit the APS. You will thoroughly enjoy yourself.

Upcoming Events

4/30 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM –
[See 5/5 MSC meeting for location].

4/30-5/1 → Spring Stamp, Coin, Cover & Postcard Show
– Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main
Avenue – Clifton, NJ – Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM –
Sun. 10 to 4 PM – www.cliftonnj.org/stamp.

5/1 → Garden State Coin, Stamp & Currency Show –
PAL Building – 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany,
NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.

5/5 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600
Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) –
Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM.

5/7 → POCAX 2011 – Double Tree Guest Suites – 515
Fellowship Road North (near I-295 & Tpke
Exits) – Mount Laurel, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

5/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post –
Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ –
9:30 AM to 4 PM.

5/15 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire
Company #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ –
9 AM to 4 PM.

5/17 → **HTPS MEETING** – Hamilton Township
Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

5/18 → MSC Meeting (See 5/5 MSC meeting info).

5/20-22 → Spring International Post Card Show – Hotel
New Yorker – 8th Ave. & 34th Street – NYC –
Fri. 12 to 7 PM – Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun 11
AM to 4:30 PM – Admission \$7.00.

5/22 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) –
Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 –
Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

5/27-29 → **NOJEX 2011** – Meadowlands Crowne Plaza
Hotel – Two Harmon Plaza – Secaucus, NJ –
Fri. / Sat. 10 to 6 PM – Sun. 10 to 3 PM –
Admission \$2.00 Fri. & Sat. (Sun. is Free).

6/4 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM –
[See 5/5 MSC meeting for location].

6/5 – Postcard Show & Sale – Union Fire Hall – 1396
River Rd. (Rte 29) – Titusville, NJ – 9 to 4 PM.

NOTE: For updated or additional information, see:
www.stampshows.com – www.stamps.org
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 -----

- ⇒ May 17 – HTPS Member Presentations
- ⇒ June 21 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 19 – Swap Meeting
- ⇒ Aug. 16 – HAMPEX '11

We are looking for speakers for our 2011-2012 program.

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.