



The *H*amilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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December 2011

December Meeting



2011 is coming to a close. That means winter time, end of the year celebrations and the HTPS annual **holiday party** on December 20th. Please bring a small treat – a cheese and crackers, ice cream treats, fruit salad, or cookies – to share with our members as we talk about our stamping experiences. Or why not add your homemade

specialty?

We will have time for another of our “**Show & Tell**” segments so bring in a favorite item from your collection or a philatelic story to share with your fellow members. That way, we can enjoy good food while looking at our member's philatelic interests.

Also it's not too early to start thinking about our **January auction**. Start looking through your extra material for items to put on the auction block on January 17th.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to Bill McCarroll for being the first responder to correctly identify last month's mystery stamp as Thrace #N69 issued in 1920. It was an overprint of a Greek design #A25

This month, we present another classic issue that may require a bit of thinking and research to arrive at the answer. We enlarged the image a bit to better see the inscriptions.

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



In this Issue . . .

- *November's Proceedings*
- *Stamp Trivia*
- *USPS Rate Changes*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



With all of this delightful weather that we have had the past few weeks, I am finding it difficult to believe that it is December. As we approach this holiday season, I hope that this year has been kind to you and yours.

For those who have had some health issues, our hope is that you are on the mend and that these issues are now behind you.

I suggest that you think about giving stamps as a holiday gift this year to your children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews. If you have an artist in your family, maybe they would like a hand painted cachet. Younger children find stamps with flowers or animals of interest. It may go for naught, but we need to encourage the younger generation to think about stamp collecting.

I look forward to seeing you at our annual Holiday party on December 20th.

Happy Holidays! 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.

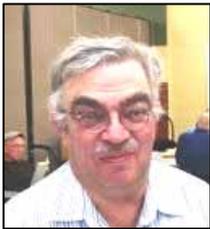
November Proceedings . . . by Jack Sack

The unexpected switch of meeting rooms did not deter a large contingent from attending our November meeting. Attendees were given an added bonus – a “calendar pen” – compliments of **Don Bunker**.

The business meeting included a report by **Jeff Boyarsky** on his presentation on stamp collecting at his housing development. He thanked **Andrew Boyajian** and **Bill Anderson** for their help. **Ron Gonzalez** brought up the idea of having T-shirts made with a HTPS logo which received a positive response from the group.

It was also noted that the 2012 membership dues are now due. **Ed Murtha** reminded the group about the special presentation at the MSC by **Cheryl R. Ganz**, Curator at the National Postal Museum, on Lakehurst postcards by Rell Sam Clements. He also gave a brief summary of the upcoming HTPS schedule of speakers and events, including December’s holiday party and January’s auction.

Ed also reported that several HTPS members, **Johnny Ranto**, **Warren Seibel** and **Sherman Britten**, were not feeling well and wished them all a speedy recovery.



Ed then introduced our speaker for the evening, fellow member **Sid Morginstin**. Sid, the second president of the HTPS, is a dealer/auctioneer, and the author of several books on Israeli postal stationery and other philatelic items. Sid gave a

nice introduction to the field of “Holy Land Philately.” This topic can be divided into four parts – the Ottoman Period, the British Mandate, the Interim period and Israel.



The Ottoman period runs from the early 1700’s until World War I. A number of European countries, including Italy and Russia, maintained post offices in the Ottoman Empire for official correspondence. The stamps from this

period include both overprints of existing stamps as well as those issued specifically for the Ottoman offices.

The British Mandate describes the period from the end of WWI until 1948. Stamps from this period have the marking EEF, referring to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. While the postal system was set up for the military forces, it was used by the general population as well.



The Interim period refers to the time in early 1948 when the British forces withdrew from the region. Without a unified postal system, local governments used a variety of labels or overprints as postage stamps. This area of Holy Land philately is one of

the most challenging. Sid cautioned us about the abundance of counterfeit material claiming to be from this era.

Finally, Sid touched on the multiple varieties of the first Israeli issue of May 1948. He explained the reason for the first “tabs” on Israeli stamps – they are used to explain the description on the ancient coins – and are now a required part of any collectible stamp. Many of the early Israeli commemoratives honored Jewish holidays and famous Jews.



We thank Sid for taking the time to present a small portion of his vast knowledge of Holyland philately. Hopefully, he has generated some interest in collecting stamps from this area of the world.

USPS Rate Changes

Effective, January 22, 2012, selected USPS postage rates will change for single-piece First-Class Mail including:

- Letters (1 oz.) – 45¢ (up 1¢)
- Letters additional ounces – 20¢ (unchanged)
- Postcards – 32¢ (up 3¢)
- Letters to Canada / Mexico (1 oz.) – 85¢ (up 5¢)
- Letters to Other Countries (1 oz.) – \$1.05 (up 7¢)

Prices also will change for priority mail and other postal services. More information on the new pricing is available at: <http://pe.usps.com/>.

Stamp Trivia

. . . by Jack Sack

We found this stamp trivia on the APS website (www.stamps.org) – Is there significance to a stamp being placed upside down on an envelope? Perhaps...

One reason is that some individuals developed elaborate codes to convey messages that could be transmitted by seeing the outside of the envelope. Prisoners often use this technique to send messages.

According to The American Philatelist, February 1985, page 154, the following position codes were used (assuming the person was not just in a hurry or was not in need of glasses):

- ⇒ Stamp upside down in the left corner – I love you.
- ⇒ Stamp crosswise in left corner – My heart is another's.
- ⇒ Stamp straight up and down in the left corner – Goodbye sweetheart.
- ⇒ Stamp upside down in right corner – Write no more!
- ⇒ Stamp in the middle at the top – Yes!
- ⇒ Stamp in the middle at the bottom – No!
- ⇒ Stamp diagonally across the right-hand corner – Do you love me?
- ⇒ Stamp diagonally across left-hand corner – I hate you.
- ⇒ Stamp in top corner at the right – I wish your friendship.



This use of stamps to convey messages is not a new idea. Below is a 1902 Swedish postcard describing the meanings of stamps in various positions. Maybe this is a good idea for a stamp exhibit.



Source: www.jaysmith.com/Resource/Articles/scan_codes.html

APS "Philatelic Articles of Distinction"

As we reported last month, the APS has asked Clubs and groups who produce a publication to submit an annual "best article" winner from the publication.

HTPS' 2010-2011 nominations include:

- "The Richmond Show" by Les Timbres (Sept. 2010)
- "Expert Markings" by Tony Zingale (Nov. 2010)
- "Altered Stamps" by Jack Sack (Feb. 2011)
- "A Visit to the APS" by Joe Seliga (May 2011)

Check your Newsletter copies or our website to review the articles. A vote will be taken at the December meeting or you may send an email with your selection. Votes for other articles are allowed.

Articles will be uploaded and archived on the APS website by topic with a link to the HTPS. A certificate of achievement will be presented to the author.

Royal Mail 2011 Christmas Issues



Each year, Britain's Royal Mail issues Christmas stamps alternating between non-secular and secular themes. This year's theme is the Nativity. The seven stamps (shown above) are inspired by verses from the Gospels of Mathew and Luke, and recognize that 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible.

Membership Dues . . .

HTPS dues of \$10.00 are payable by January 1st. You can pay at the December meeting with cash or check (payable to HTPS), or send payment to Ron Gonzalez at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619.

Upcoming Events

- 12/3 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran **CANCELLED** 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ.
- 12/4 → Garden State Coin, Stamp & Currency Show – PAL Building – 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 12/9-11 → 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.metroexpos.com.
- 12/10 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
- 12/14 → MSC Meeting – St. Cecilia School – 4851 Camden Avenue – Pennsauken, NJ – Doors Open at 7 PM.
- 12/18 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

12/18 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 5 PM

12/20 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**

12/xx → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn (PA Tel. (610) 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. W. **NO DEC. SHOW** to 4 PM.

1/5 → MSC Meeting (See 12/14 MSC meeting info).

1/6-8 → 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.

1/7 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ.

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 -----

- ⇒ Dec. 20 – Holiday Party / Show & Tell
- ⇒ Jan. 17 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 21 – "Postal History: French Colonial Allegorical Group Type - Use from Senegal & French Sudan (by Edward Grabowski)
- ⇒ Mar. 20 – "Modern U.S. Airmails" (by K. David Steidley)

We are looking for speakers for late 2012 dates.

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.