



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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March Meeting

It's not too early to start thinking about the nomination of HTPS members for officer positions. The formal process occurs in April, but we will discuss the positions and responsibilities at the March meeting.



Our presentation for March is "*Modern U.S. Airmails*" by **K. David Steidley, Ph.D.** Dr. Steidley has received numerous awards for his philatelic exhibits including the AAPE Gold Award of Honor at last year's NOJEX. This should be an interesting topic for our members as many of you collect U.S. stamps.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to **Bill Anderson** for identifying last month's stamp. It was French Colonies (Scott #2) issued in 1859.

Here's a tough one. Not much to go on here, but with a bit of research, the correct answer can be found. Below is an enlarged image of the top to help with the identification.



\$1.00 in mint U.S. stamps from the HTPS box to the first correct responder.

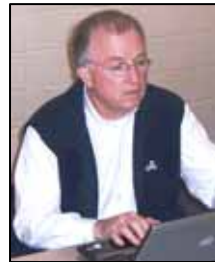
HTPS Meetings . . .

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 . . .

- *February's Proceedings*
- *GB Historic Postmarks*
- *Upcoming Events*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



How many hand-written letters have you received over the past week? How many envelopes or parcels over this same period have had current 2011-2012 commemorative stamps on them? If your household is like mine – not many.

Last month we listened to **Dr. Ed Grabowski's** wonderful presentation that included hand-written envelopes from remote places with classic stamps and mysterious markings. I thought of our present day postal service and use of stamps. My next thought was --- will stamps be part of our grandchildren's daily life?

I use Email and texting daily. There is also Tweeting and Facebook. All these communication methods are nearly instantaneous. So where does this leave our usage of stamps? What does it mean for our hobby? Unfortunately, I don't know and I do not believe anyone else knows either.

I would suggest that you carefully open, and save, any personal mail with a recent non-holiday commemorative stamp on it. There are not going to many of them. If you do not want to save the envelope, bring it to a meeting. I am sure a number of your fellow members would like to have it for their collections.

I will look forward to seeing you on the 20th. And I wish all of you a very happy St. Patrick's Day!!! Ed.

February Proceedings . . . by Jack Sack

Another full house attended the February meeting. After the flag salute and officer's reports, **President Murtha** asked us to wish well to our members who are "under the weather" and to hope for a speedy recovery so they can rejoin us in the society activities.

Ed also thanked all the members who provided stamps for **Sherm Britten** to send to various organizations including the Long Beach Stamp Club.

Among the other business items discussed were the trip to Lakehurst Naval Station and help with the setup of the NOJEX show – both scheduled for May. Please contact Ed if you are interested in either event. Other business included the design and printing of HTPS golf shirts. Please see the next page for details.

Ed also noted that there were several stamp shows coming up, including the Westfield Stamp Club show on March 3rd. The theme of this year's show is the 75th Anniversary of the Hindenburg crash. There will be talks by **Dr. Cheryl Ganz** on the Hindenburg and by former APS President **Janet Klug** on the United States Postal Service's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee.

Ed ended the business meeting by asking members to help out with club activities. All members are welcome to attend the officers meeting, scheduled for 5 PM on April 3rd at the Capital Health building near the library.

Our speaker for the evening was **Ed Grabowski** who is the vice-president of both the Westfield Stamp Club and Collectors Club of New York. Dr. Grabowski spoke about the French



Colonial "Navigation and Commerce" stamps issued from 1892 to 1932. The stamps consist of a common design with the name of the colony printed at the bottom of the stamp. There are 29 different colonial names, and up to 14 different denominations for each colony.

Each year, Ed prepares a postal history exhibit for one of the colonies. He hopes to eventually complete the exhibit for each of the colonial groups and exhibit it all at once in one place. His latest exhibit is on the stamps from French Senegal, located in West Africa between Mauritania, the Sudan, and Guinea.

Dr. Grabowski showed many of the overprints, postmarks and other markings used on covers from the area. There were numerous postal rates depending on the weight and destination, along with special rates for Military personnel, registration, and return receipts. There was also special franking to indicate payment of postage during times of shortages of postage stamps.



One of his covers ("From Nowhere to Nowhere" shown above) is from Ziguinchor, Senegal to Szabadka, Hungary. The interesting fact is that the cover is addressed to then 7-year old Elmer Milko, who later became one of Raoul Wallenberg's closest collaborators, and helped save thousands of Hungarian Jews.

Another interesting item was a 1902 postcard delivered by camel caravan to Algiers (aka Algiers) from Timbuktu (aka Timbuctoo). The cover took seven



months to reach its destination (so no complaining about the USPS). Note the marking "Voie Sahara par Caravan" at the bottom of the cover.



Dr. Grabowski ended his talk by giving a teaser for his next exhibit on the Indian Ocean Colonies. He showed a "Declared Value" cover from

Reunion, a small island in the Indian Ocean, franked with three postage due stamps.

We will have to wait until his new exhibit is ready to hear the whole story of this cover.

Stamp Trading

At the February member, we welcomed three visitors from the Monroe Township Stamp Club:

- **Al Schickler** collects WW pre-1955.
- **Jerry Farnum** collects WW post 1970 (no US).
- **Felix Zeppieri** collects WW.

All three individuals expressed a desire to attend our meetings to trade their duplicates with our members.

We look forward to Al, Jerry and Felix joining us at the next meeting.

Golf Shirt Order Form . . . by Jack Sack

At the February meeting, we agreed to purchase white golf shirts with a HTPS logo (see below). This is a simplified version of the original design that was too complex for an embroidery logo. HTPS will pay for the setup fee. The shirts cost \$25-\$29 as shown on the order form below.



Note that we will be ordering the shirts immediately after the March meeting, so please bring a check or cash. If you cannot attend the meeting and still want a shirt, please mail your check to Dr. Ronald Gonzalez

in care of the HTPS.

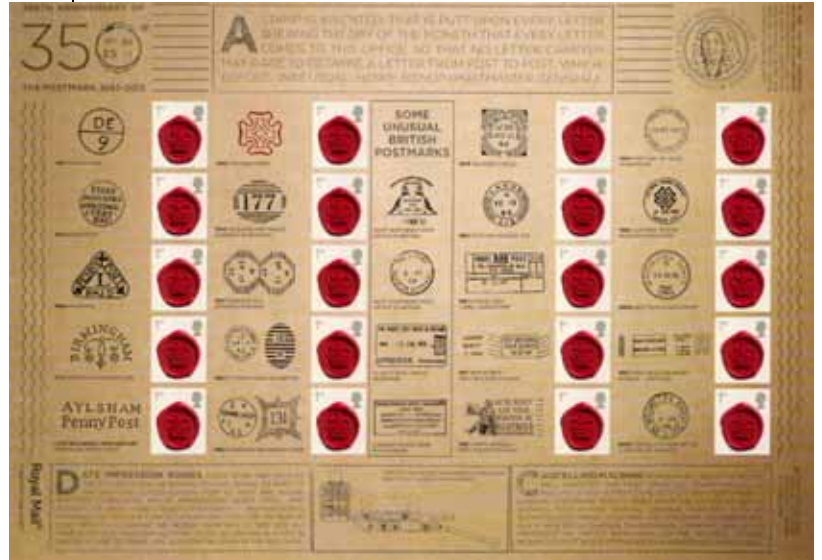
Due to the incredible demand for these shirts, we must set a maximum limit of 10 shirts to each member in good standing.

HTPS INSIGNIA GOLF SHIRT ORDER FORM (Prices include 7% NJ Sales Tax)			
QUANTITY	SIZE	PRICE	TOTAL
	SMALL	\$25.00	
	MEDIUM	\$25.00	
	LARGE	\$25.00	
	X-LARGE	\$27.00	
	XX-LARGE	\$29.00	
	XXX-LARGE	\$29.00	
	Total Due		

GB Historic Postmarks . . . by Tony Zingale

A recent issue of *Mekeel's & Stamps* featured an article on a sheet of stamps issued in GB last September. The sheet commemorated the 350th anniversary of the postmark and included over 20 examples of postmarks used in GB during that period.

The first postmark on the sheet is the **Bishop's Mark** (top row at the left on the image below --- dated December 9). That postmark is named after Henry Bishop who was Postmaster General in 1661.



The sheet contains many other familiar postmarks. Continuing with the top row, we have the **Maltese Cross** which was used as a cancel on GB's first postage stamp issues including the Penny Black (circa 1840). Many early postmarks were also used as cancels.

Next in line is a **square circle postmark** which is found on many GB and commonwealth issues from the 1800's in the early 1900's. The last postmark on the top row is a 1964 First Day handstamp.

Over 20 postmarks are included on the sheet including some Penny Post examples used in London and Essex during the 17th century. Also shown are numerical postmarks (which often indicated the city or origin), slogans and special event cancels.

The sheet also includes twenty 1st class "seal" stamps and some narratives on the history of postmarks and their use. For anyone interested in postmark or cancel topics, this should be an item of interest.

Upcoming Events

- 3/1 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – Doors open at 7 PM.
- 3/3 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 N. (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/3 → Westfield Stamp Show – Westfield Municipal Center – 425 East Broad St. – Westfield, NJ – Sat: 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/4 → Garden State Stamp Coin & Currency Show – PAL Building – 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/9-11 → Winter Postcard Show – New Yorker Hotel – 8th Ave. & 34th St. – NYC – Fri. 12 to 7 PM – Sat. 10 to 6 PM – Sun. 11 to 4:30 PM – \$7.00 Admission – www.metropostcard.com.
- 3/10 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.
- 3/16-18 → 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.

3/17-18 → BuxMont Stamp Show – Benjamin H. Wilson Center – 580 Delmont Ave – Warminster, PA – Sat: 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM.

3/18 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

3/18 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

3/20 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**

3/22 → MSC Meeting (See 3/1 MSC Meeting info).

3/25 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

3/30 - 4/1 → PNSE – Philadelphia Expo Center – Route 422 – Oaks, PA – Fri. & Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM – www.pnse.org

3/31 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse (See 3/3 info).

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 -----

- ⇒ Mar. 20 – *"Modern U.S. Airmails"*
(by K. David Steidley).
 - ⇒ Apr. 17 – Tom DeLuca – Always a Surprise!
 - ⇒ May 15 – Society Auction – One month early!
 - ⇒ June 19 – Member Mini-Presentations.
- 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.