



The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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Vol. 5, No. 8

April 2012

April Meeting

Nominations for HTPS club officers will take place at the April meeting. The positions include President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer. Other support personnel are also needed to keep the organization running. We hope you will consider helping to keep our club strong and full of new ideas. The election will be held in May, and the officers take over at the June meeting.



Our speaker for April will be HTPS long-time member **Tom Deluca** – owner of Trenton Stamp & Coin. Tom always comes up with a great program. In the past, he has talked about everything from early Mickey Mouse postcards to George Washington on U.S. stamps. Let's see what he has for this year!

See you on the 17th.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to **Bill Andersen** for identifying last month's stamp. It was Egypt #7 issued in 1859.

Here's another tough one. Examine the markings carefully. Check the back of a Scott catalog or a stamp identifier book.



\$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 . . .

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- . . . and much more!

President's Message



One of the fascinating aspects of our hobby is the variety of things that interest each one of us. When I go to the Hightstown Bourse, my first stop is at Don Bunker's table. It is a wonderful sight to see collectors looking through the new treasures that Don brings each month.

Many times, if a fellow HTPS member is sitting at Don's table, I will ask to look at what they have selected. The items are varied. Some are looking for specific countries so they can fill some holes in a worldwide album. Others are looking for topical items; like birds, flowers or bicycles. And some are looking for anything that is different.

Last month's presentation by Dr. Steidley on the modern US Airmail issues was another perfect example of the variety of areas that we can collect. I could talk about Andrew Boyajian's numbered philatelic stamp packet forms, but I think you get the picture.

Do you find yourself in a philatelic corner because all the items that you need are too expensive or too difficult to find? Maybe it is time to expand your collecting interests. Philately is more than just collecting stamps. It can be whatever you want it to be, and at whatever price or challenge level you want it to be. The key is to have fun and to enjoy whatever you collect.

Look forward to seeing you on April 17th . . . Ed.

March Proceedings

... by Jack Sack



Our March meeting opened on a high note with the return of **Warren Scheible** (left). President Murtha wished the best for other HTPS members not able to attend. Hopefully, they will all be back with us next month!

The business meeting included a sales pitch for the HTPS logo golf shirts. Unfortunately, we are still below the minimum purchase number. If you would like a shirt, we will accept orders at the April meeting.

There was a discussion of several HTPS trips, including the **PNSE Stamp Show**, the New York show in April and a trip to the **Lakehurst Naval Air Station** this spring. Ed asked for volunteers to help with the setup and breakdown of the **NOJEX show** over the Memorial Day weekend. Please contact Ed if you are interested in helping out.

There will be an **executive group meeting** on Tuesday, April 3rd. If you are interested in helping out with the club, or just want to know more about the “behind the scenes” planning, please come by at 5 PM at the Capital Health Center on Whitehorse-Mercerville Rd.



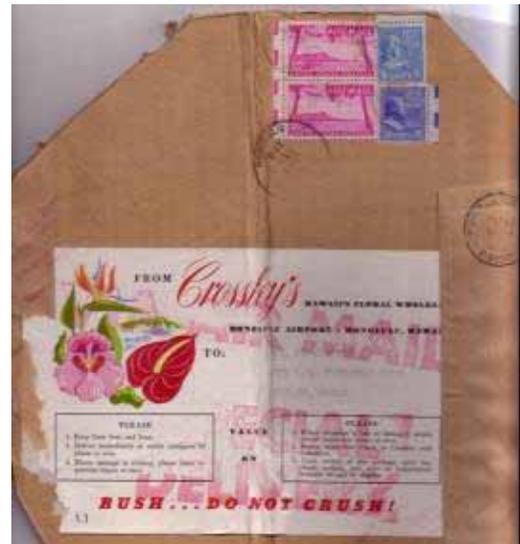
There was a brief Show & Tell. **Jeff Boyarsky** showed part of an uncut press sheet from the 3¢ Byrd stamp souvenir sheet (Scott #768). These press sheets were given by Postmaster General Farley to friends and dignitaries (including FDR). Stamp collectors forced the Post Office department to make the uncut sheets available to anyone, thus the origin of the “Farley Follies” stamps.

Our speaker for the evening was **Dr. K. David Steidley**, Vice President of the American Airmail Society (AAMS). His topic was modern US airmail stamps. Dr. Steidley collected US airmails with the thought of creating an exhibit showing covers with the proper use of each stamp. It turned out to be more difficult than imagined.



Dr. Steidley began his talk by describing the early history of US airmail service and the first issue of airmail stamps in 1918. However, trains were still faster than airplanes, less expensive, and delivered mail to the city centers. Thus, airmail service did not immediately catch on and was discontinued for a time in 1919.

As he looked for non-philatelic covers for his exhibit, he soon learned that many of the modern US airmail stamps are quite rare.



For example the 80 cent Hawaii Diamond Head airmail stamp of 1952 (Scott #C46) was issued to pay the airmail rate for air shipment of orchids from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland. David showed one of the few non-philatelic covers (above) where the stamp was used for this purpose.

There are many other cases where airmail covers franked with the appropriate stamps are difficult to find. David is always on the lookout for such items. If you come across one, please let David know.

We thank Dr. Steidley for a delightful evening. Hopefully, he has enticed some of you to start collecting airmail stamps and covers.

Stamp Soaking

. . . by Angelo Sanelli

An article in the December 2009 issue of *The Hamilton Hinge* provided tips on soaking self-adhesive stamps off paper. Here is another technique to consider.

I use a can of PURE CITRUS lemon air freshener. It is safer than Bestine and you can purchase it at Shop Rite for less than five dollars.



[NOTE: Ron Gonzalez first told me about using the spray.]

Spray just a small amount on both sides of the stamp and paper allowing a few seconds to dissolve the glue. Then SLOWLY remove the paper from the stamp keeping the stamp as smooth as possible.

There is almost always some glue left on the stamp but you can apply the spray again to remove it. If it is still sticky, apply talcum powder on the back of the stamp using a powder puff. If you use hinges to mount the stamps, you have to remove the powder or else the hinge will not stick to the stamp.

There are some self-adhesive stamps that can be removed by soaking in water. Linn's newspaper often has articles on this subject. In addition, there is a lot of information on "soakable" self-adhesives on the Internet. Here are a few sites:

- ⇒ Linn's: www.linns.com
- ⇒ eHow: www.ehow.com
- ⇒ bidStart: www.bidstart.com

George Amick Donation Update

In our January 2012 issue, we reported on George Amick's generous donation of stamps, Showgard mounts and stamp albums.

We are pleased to report that we donated most of the stamps to the Stamps for the Wounded program. Other items were auctioned off. We will donate those proceeds to a school stamp program in George's name.

New Member . . . HTPS welcomes Jerry Farnum as the newest member of our group. Jerry collects worldwide stamps and is interested in trading with fellow members.

An Unusual Stamp Collection . . . by Jack Sack

A popular collecting interest is to collect the first stamp of every country in the world. There are albums designed for that purpose and even a society, the First Issues Collectors Club, devoted to such collectors. Unfortunately, the first stamp of many countries can be quite expensive – hundreds or thousands of dollars, Mauritius #1 (the one penny orange) is worth over \$500,000!

An alternate scheme is to collect the **LAST stamp of every country**. There are hundreds of "dead" countries that are no longer issuing stamps. Either the country has been divided (USSR, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia), combined (German States, Tanganyika and Zanzibar) or simply changed its name (Rhodesia, Siam).

In most cases these "last" stamps are very reasonably priced. Here are a few examples (with images below) that are all valued under \$1.00 in used condition:

- ⇒ **Soviet Union (USSR) #6055** commemorating Russian Historians.
- ⇒ **East Germany (GDR) #2852** issued for the 41st Astronautics Congress.
- ⇒ **South Vietnam #513** issued for Agriculture Day.



There is no "Last Issue" catalog to help in our search for countries that are no longer issuing stamps. So the first step is to identify the "dead" country's last issue, and then search for the stamps in question. I have been assembling such a list – so far I have identified about 550 "dead" countries, not counting occupation stamps such as the German occupation of Alsace and Lorraine.

There is still a question on how to handle a "dead" country that becomes "alive" again, such as Montenegro or Serbia.

Considering how modern mail service is going, there may be many more last postage stamps from other "dead" countries.

Upcoming Events

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 – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 N. (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – 9 AM to 4 PM.

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

4/4 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – Doors open at 7 PM.

4/14 → DELPEX 2012 – Nur Shrine Center – 168 South Dupont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM.

4/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

4/15 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

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

4/17 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

4/18 → MSC Meeting (See 4/4 info).

4/19-22 → ASDA Spring Show – New Yorker Hotel – 481 Eighth Ave. – NYC – Thur. to Sat. 10-6 PM – Sun. 10-4 PM.

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

4/28 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse (See 3/31info).

4/28-29 → 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.

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 -----

- ⇒ Apr. 17 – Tom DeLuca – Always a Surprise!
- ⇒ May 15 – Member Mini-Presentations
- ⇒ June 19 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 17 – Swap Meeting
- ⇒ Aug. 21 – HAMPEX '12

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.