



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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May 2012

May Meeting

The highlight of our May 15th meeting will be the election of new officers. With a full slate of candidates, it should be a hotly contested vote. Remember there are no absentee ballots, so you need to come to the meeting to have your voice heard!

Our program this month will be mini-presentations from HTPS members. These talks have always been a highlight of the year, showing off the great depth of stamp knowledge and interests of our members. The talks are enlightening as well as entertaining. This is one program you should not miss.

We will also have time for a few short "Show & Tell" items if there is something you would like to display to the group. Remember the formal meeting begins at 7:30 PM but come a little early to chat with your fellow philatelists.

See you on the 15th

Stamp Identification

WOW! No one identified last month's stamp so we are repeating the issue.

Take a good look this time. It is in Asia and obviously is not Japan or China. Check the back of the 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 ~7:00 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 2012*
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- . . . and much more!

President's Message



The heat and humidity of summer are just around the corner and now is the time to take the necessary precautions to protect and preserve your collection. The best place for your stamps and covers is in your archival quality album(s).

It is also important to remember not to overstuff your album with material. The pressure of pages with stamps pushing against each other for any length of time can damage your collection. Your philatelic material needs enough room in the album to "breathe." Store your albums upright, rather than on top of each other, to eliminate pressure.

If you do not have a good album, I would suggest placing your loose philatelic material in chemically inert plastic holders and then storing them in archival type boxes. Avoid storing them anywhere that has drastic fluctuations in heat or humidity, such as attics, damp basements, over-drying central heating systems, outside walls, closets and drafty windows.

Every year, I mention this possible problem because it has happened to me. I was upset at the loss of material and more so by my carelessness. Hopefully this will not happen to you.

I look forward to seeing you on Tuesday May 15th.

. . . Ed.

April Proceedings

... by **Jack Sack**



The highlight of our April 17th meeting was the appearance of one of our stalwart members, **Johnny Ranto**. Johnny has been under the weather for a while, but he was back in action and ready to work on some more of his unique cachets. We were all glad to see his return.

The business portion of the meeting included the nominations of club officers. After six years in office, **Ed Murtha** has decided to step down as our president. During his tenure, the HTPS has grown substantially with a membership of over 50 philatelists. Elections will be held at the May meeting. See the next page for a list of HTPS officer position candidates.

Ron Gonzalez gave us one last chance to order an official HTPS golf shirt. He will be sending in the order to the embroidery shop this week. Hopefully, we will have the shirts in time for our end of the year party.

President Murtha asked for help with the setup and breakdown of the **NOJEX show** over the Memorial Day weekend. Volunteers are needed on Thursday (May 24th) to put up the exhibits and on Sunday afternoon (May 27th) to take them down and help dealers pack up their tables. Please contact Ed if you are interested in helping out on either day.



Our speaker for the evening was **Tom Deluca** (pictured above), fellow HTPS member and owner of Trenton Stamp and Coin. Tom showed off his collection of fakes, forgeries and altered stamps.

Some of the examples that Tom displayed were rather crude attempts to fool unwitting collectors, but most of his altered examples would deceive even the experts. Examples included stamps that had been trimmed, re-perforated or re-gummed. In one case, cardboard backings from proofs of US Officials were carefully removed and passed off as regular stamp issues.



Above is a POOR example of a regummed stamp showing the added gum on the perf tips!

Tom made a point that even if a stamp has wide margins, there is no guarantee that the stamp hasn't been re-perforated. Many booklet stamps have extremely large margins which, even when trimmed or re-perforated, still appear to have jumbo margins.

Stamp alterers have been even more clever in an attempt to fool stamp collectors. One trick is to remove the gum from an inexpensive stamp and use it to regum a stamp from the same time period. Thus, the gum type of the altered stamp is correct for that issue. Another trick was to add a hinge mark to a regummed stamp – removing any suspicion that the stamp had been altered.

In the case of the **Kansas and Nebraska overprints**, one method of detecting a forged stamp is to examine the “gum breakers” - the ridge lines on the back of the stamp. During the production of the definitive series of 1927-1939, three different gum breakers were used, but only one type is found on true Kansas / Nebraska overprint issues.

Usually the modifications of adding / removing perforations or regumming added a great “value” to the stamp, there are also examples where even a relatively common stamp has turned out to be an alternation. The lesson from Tom's talk was “Buyer Beware!” Even when you are sure the stamp you own is genuine, it could possibly be a fake!

We thank Tom for his enlightening talk. I'm sure we will all take a much closer look before we purchase our next stamp – knowing that it might have been altered.

The ASDA Show

. . . by **Jack Sack**

A few HTPS members traveled to New York for the ASDA Spring Postage Stamp Show, held at the New Yorker Hotel on April 22nd. The hotel is located directly across the street from Penn Station, making the commute from Hamilton via the NJ Transit train very convenient.

The only disadvantage of the venue is that the hall is broken up into a number of small rooms. This is one show where you need to do a tour of the bourse in advance so you can plan your day.



Tony Zingale, Jack Sack and Ron Gonzalez at ASDA

There was quite a crowd waiting for the doors to open at 10 AM. Once inside, we found about 30 dealers, many of whom do not often come to our local area. The USPS and UN postal administrations were on-site selling their latest issues. We spread out around the hall, often communicating via cell phone to let the other know of possible “philatelic finds” or other items of interest.

I found some good items for my various collections and Tony purchased some covers. Ron’s primary interest is Puerto Rico philatelic issues including commercial and commemorative covers.

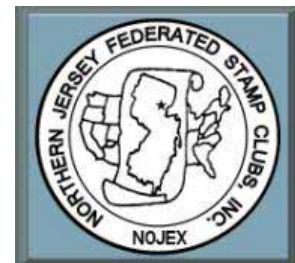
We ran into a number of friends of the HTPS at the show including several dealers and Wade Saadi who was at the show promoting NY2016, the World Stamp Show being held in New York in 2016.

After a long morning of stamping, Tony and I decided to have lunch at Gallagher’s, one of the famous steakhouses in New York. It gave us a chance to compare our stamp purchases. We then returned to Penn Station for the trip home after a memorable day stamping!

NOJEX 2012

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 before the show) and dismantling (Sunday, the last day) 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 again 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.

HTPS Elections

The business portion is highlighted by the election of Officers for the 2012-2013 season. The nominees are:

- ⇒ President: **Jeff Boyarsky**
- ⇒ Vice-President: **Andrew Boyajian**
- ⇒ 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** and **Jack Sack** among others. This has proved to be an enjoyable event so come to the meeting and learn something new about philately.

Website Update

Check out the website listed below for some basic info on stamp collecting. The site also contains links to other sites providing more advanced details on the hobby.

<http://www.redenvelope.com/guide/stamp-collection-beginners-philatelic-resources>.

Our thanks to Ms. Kristi Reed and her student, Brittany, for alerting us about the site.

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.

Upcoming Events

5/3 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – Doors open at 7 PM.

5/5 → POCAX 2012 – Double Tree Guest Suites – 515 Fellowship Road North (near I-295 & Tpke Exits) – Mount Laurel, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

5/6 → Garden State Stamp Coin & Currency Show – PAL Building – 33 Baldwin Ave. – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM.

5/12 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

5/15 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.**

5/16 → MSC Meeting (See 5/3 info).

5/20 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

5/20 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

5/25-27 → **NOJEX 2012** – 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).

5/27 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

6/2 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 N. (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ. – 9 AM to 4 PM.

6/7 → MSC Meeting (See 5/3 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 -----

⇒ May 15 – Member Mini-Presentations
⇒ June 19 – Society Auction
⇒ July 17 – Swap Meeting
⇒ Aug. 21 – HAMPEX '12

We are looking for speakers for the 2012-2013 season.

Newsletter Articles . . .

Do you have an idea for a philatelic article or a suggestion for our newsletter? Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; or call 609-890-8211; or email us at hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org.