



The *H*amilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619-0443

email: hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org website: HamiltonPhilatelic.org



Vol. 6, No. 7

March-April 2013

March-April Meetings

Welcome to our first double month issue. Two reasons for this – first, by combining two issues, we can afford to print in color – second, we can expand back to six (or perhaps eight) pages and run longer articles.

One concern we have is the lack of articles supplied by our members. The articles in this issue were written by two people – the Editor and Jack Sack. We need more input from our membership.

Please consider writing something for the HTPS newsletter – perhaps an article about your collecting interests or a favorite item. It does not have to be elaborate. A paragraph or two is enough. We can work with you to get it ready for publication.

The **March and April meetings** include the annual nomination of HTPS members for officer positions. The nominations are made in April, but we discuss the officer responsibilities at the March meeting. In May the election of officers is held.

March will highlight 5-15 minute presentations by HTPS members. The document camera and a PC for Power Point slides are available. Contact us if you need help. In April, **Bob Stolarz** will speak on “Philatelic Novelties.”

Stamp Identification



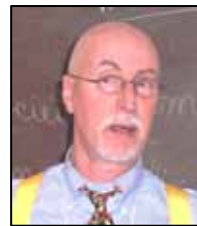
Congratulations to **Bill Andersen** for identifying last month's mystery stamp as Georgia #43 (1923).

This month's stamp is a much earlier issue. If you check the language and portrait, you should come up with the answer. \$1.00 in US Mint stamps to the first correct responder.

In this Issue . . .

- *February Proceedings*
 - *Collectors Club*
 - *Stamp Events*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message



How often have you purchased a stamp only to find it has been incorrectly identified? Many dealers purchase collections and don't take the time to double-check the identification. This is particularly true of the Washington-Franklin series, where the perforation or watermark can make a great difference in the value of the stamp.

It is important to be able to properly identify stamps. When a dealer sells you a mis-identified stamp, it may be an honest mistake, but it up to you to verify each stamp issue you purchase.

Reference books are available including *Stamp Collecting* by Stephen Diaz or, perhaps the best book for stamp research, *Fundamentals of Philately* by L.N. Williams. That book is out-of-print, but you can buy used copies on Amazon for under \$30.00. For US stamps, the identification guide by Charles Micarelli is a must for every collector.

See you on the 19th . . . Jeff.

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, Hamilton, NJ (Mercer County).

February Proceedings

... by Jack Sack

A good crowd was on hand for our February meeting. The formal meeting included a discussion on the upcoming APS elections. As a member of the APS, our club can cast a vote. **President Boyarsky** asked for input on selecting candidates for APS offices.

We had a record breaking five visitors to the meeting – from beginners to long time collectors. Hopefully they will return in the near future. Of particular note was 10-year old **Liam Stolarz** who collects ships, boats, and other watercraft on stamps. **Len DeGroot** won the 50-50 drawing and donated his winnings to give Liam a club membership. This significantly lowers the average age of our group!



Our speaker for the evening was long-time HTPS member, **Tom DeLuca**, who is the owner of **Trenton Stamp and Coin Co.** Tom's presentations are always an eagerly awaited event. In fact, this is the 33rd

year he has spoken at a HTPS meeting.

The topic this time was about questions he is often asked at his shop, from the relatively simple – “how do you use a perforation gauge?” – to the more difficult – “how do you put a value on a cover?” Here are some of his answers:

[1] What is the proper way to preserve a modern self-adhesive stamp? The stamp, including perforations, should NOT be removed from its backing. This requires removing all adjacent stamps – a sheet of 20 self-adhesives will yield 8 collectible stamps with the rest used for postage. Cut out the stamp leaving a small margin around the stamp.

[2] How do you go about identifying stamp varieties? Tom gave an example using the 2-cent Washington issues from the series of 1922. He began by turning the stamps over, and separated the stamps that were flat plate from rotary press issues by looking for ink dots on the reverse of the stamp. You could also have carefully measured the stamp design's width and length.



Tom then separated out the two coil stamps – one a vertical coil, the other a horizontal coil. The remaining stamps were turned face up to look for identifying marks on the stamp – in one case a “Nebr” overprint – to complete the identification process.



[3] How do you measure the perforations on modern self-adhesive stamps? Since one needs to keep the backing in place, it is difficult to use a metal perforation gauge. Instead, you can use a plastic gauge which is placed over the stamp. Tom showed how to measure the gauge of several modern U.S. stamps. The perforations on modern stamps are measured in 10^{ths} rather than in quarters of perforation units. Note that the perforation number is NOT the number of perforations along the edge of the stamp but rather the number of perforations in 20mm.

[4] What is a certificate and when should you get one? Tom showed off a typical certificate and what information it contains. He recommends getting a certificate for any stamp that is often counterfeited or is difficult to identify – particularly when there is a large price difference between the possible issues. Tom recommends using the Philatelic Foundation for expertising. For stamp grading, the choice is the PSE group.



[5] What are essay and proof stamps? Tom explained the difference between an essay and a proof. An essay is a proposed design for a new stamp which may or may not be chosen. Proofs are trial printings of the original die or of the actual plate prior to production. They are used to check the plates for any imperfections.

[continued on next page]

[continued from previous page]

[6] What are Conservation stamps? The U.S. Duck stamps and many state hunting stamps are considered conservation stamps since proceeds from the sale are used for conservation purposes. One must be careful since this is not always the case. Some states use the proceeds for restocking and some states, such as Wyoming, have both conservation and hunting stamps. He lamented the fact that New Jersey and many other states no longer issue such stamps.



[7] How do you value a cover? Tom discussed some of the factors that influence the value of a cover – the overall look of the cover, the value of the stamp, and where the cover was mailed and sent. He showed a rather plain cover (corner segment below) with a poorly centered stamp. However, because of the rare postmark from Clay Banks, NJ, the cover is worth several hundred dollars.



Tom ended his talk, as he often does – by pressing the idea of spending time with your collection. He showed a few very common stamps that had some unusual designs – the first dog shown on a stamp and the Fort Bliss stamp that has a camel in the design! These are details you would not normally notice if you only bought a stamp and placed it in your album.

Only by spending time with your collection are you able to discover such information that adds to the joy of stamp collecting.

Our thanks to Tom for another entertaining and informative presentation – as expected and delivered!

Collectors Club

... by Jack Sack

Several HTPS members traveled to the February 20th meeting of the Collectors Club in New York City.



Before the meeting **Ed Murtha and Tony Zingale** began, a social hour provided an opportunity for members and guests to meet. We were able to chat with some HTPS friends including **Roger Brody** and **Ed Grabowski**. An exhibit, related to the evening's presentation, was also available for viewing.



After some announcements, **Ed Grabowski** introduced the speaker for the evening – **Danforth Walker**, pictured at the left, who is an expert on Indian States stamps.

Dan's talk was on the *Princely State of Soruth*. This Indian state, also known as Saurashtra, is located in far west India on the Arabian Sea. Soruth was one of the first states to issue postage stamps (1864), although they were not valid for postage outside the region and were virtually unknown to collectors until many years later.

Dan showed examples of the various printings and errors in the first issues of Soruth. Many of the stamps in his collection are unique examples and are not present in either the Scott or Stanley Gibbons catalogs. For many of the stamps, Dan had examples in both mint and used condition as well as on cover.



In several cases, Dan also has entire sheets of stamps. It was a truly amazing collection from this one entity! After a pleasant evening, the group returned home with some added philatelic knowledge.

Forgeries & Fakes – An Introduction

[Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a November 2007 HTPS newsletter article. Some new members have expressed interest in this important subject.]

Let's start with some **basic terms** including items not usually considered as a forgery.

Bogus (aka Fantasy) items appear to be regular postage issues, but they are not. This group includes labels for non-existent stamp-issuing entities and fictional denominations.



Ankh-Morpork Fantasy

Cinderellas encompass many items including bogus stamps and fantasies, fund raising labels, Christmas seals and other stickers that were produced for perfectly legitimate purposes

Counterfeit (aka 'cf' or Postal Forgery) issues are imitations of philatelic items created to defraud the postal authorities.



Conf. States Facsimile

A **Facsimile** (aka Repro) issue is a reproduction of a genuine postage stamp, intended for educational or philatelic purposes, and not meant to defraud (stamps are identified as such on the back or front).

Fake (aka Faux, Fraudulent) items are genuine stamps altered as to color, design, value, cancel, gum status, etc. to increase its monetary value for sale to collectors.

Forgeries are imitations of genuine philatelic items created by a private party to defraud collectors.

Note that the terms Counterfeit and Forgeries are often used interchangeably, and are often referred to as a **forgery** or a **forged item**.

Propaganda stamps are usually issued during war time when combatants forge the stamps of their enemies. During WW II, the Allies forged the Hitler head stamp so that their operatives behind German lines could mail letters without supporting the German government.

Remainders are not really forgeries, but are surplus stocks of legitimate postage stamps put into the philatelic market after being demonetized. Examples include some Nova Scotia issues (before it became a province of Canada) and German inflationary period stamps.

Reprints (aka Official Imitations) are issues authorized by postal officials but **not** intended for postal use. They are usually produced from the original plates. Scott #'s 3-4 of the U.S. are reprints that used new plates.

Production Methods and Techniques for the creation of forged stamps vary. Fournier, the Spiro brothers and other forgers re-engraved plates attempting to match the stamp issued by postal authorities. Invariably their plates differed slightly from the originals providing an opportunity to identify the forged item.



Bleached 2£ Kangaroo

Jean de Sperati was famous for bleaching a low value issue and then overprinting the paper with a high value of the same set. The forgery would be the correct size and have the proper paper, perforations, watermark, and sometimes even a cancel.

Numerous other forgery methods exist including:

- Reperforation (RP)
- Regumming (RG)
- Forged overprint
- False postmarks
- Repairs
- Color changes
- Faked cover use



RG Columbian – GUM on Pf Tips

For additional background information on this topic, check out the following sites:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philatelic_fakes_and_forgeries

www.filatelia.fi/forglinks/ (links to forgery sites)

princelystates.com/CurrentIssue/ff-04-01a.shtml (India)

www.hgitner.com/reperfung.html (reperfed stamps)

www.jlkstamps.com/fakes/fakecsa.htm#spring (CSA)

Jerry McNew



Jerry McNew has completed his overseas adventures and says “hello” to the HTPS membership.

His journey started in Romania where he taught Science and Chemistry at Bucharest Christian Academy. For the last year and a half, he taught at Hope International School in Phen Penh, Cambodia. He was able to do some “stamping” in Romania but not much in Cambodia which he described as a “philatelic wasteland.”

Some members remember that Jerry often brought an accumulation of stamp material to the meetings and offered stamps for sale at 8 for a \$1.00. Many members found excellent bargains in those boxes and albums, and purchased much of his stock when he left.

After his return to the states, he moved to Ann Arbor, MI. His son and granddaughter are close by. Jerry told us that he welcomes your email contact at jerrymcnew@gmail.com.

Transition

Source: Nelson Funeral Home



Amelia Betty Hampton Berenson, 86, of Williamsburg died on February 17, 2013. Amelia was the wife of long-time HTPS member **Herman Berenson**.

Amelia was born December 28, 1926, in New York. She was employed by Lawrence Township Public School, in New Jersey, as a school librarian. Some years ago, she moved to Williamsburg, VA. She was a shopper extraordinaire for whom returning or exchanging purchases was equally satisfying.

She loved lunch at Moon Asian Bistro and Sunday breakfast at the Chickahominy House. Her two little dogs were her "baby girls" and served as companions and pillows. Amy never forgot and always forgave. The most generous person in the world, she gave the world to her family.

The HTPS members extend their condolences to the Berenson family.

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 Jeff Boyarsky
Vice President Andrew Boyajian
Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
Secretary Bob Stolarz

----- HTPS Support Team -----

APS Representative Jon Madsen
Advertising and PR Bill Andersen
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. 19 – Member Mini-Presentations
- ⇒ Apr. 16 – “*Philatelic Novelties*” by Bob Stolarz
- ⇒ May 21 – Member Mini-Presentations
- ⇒ June 18 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 16 – Swap Meeting
- ⇒ Aug. 20 – HAMPEX’13

We are looking for speakers for the 2013-2014 meeting programs. Please contact us for details.

Newsletter Articles . . .

We always welcome 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.

Upcoming Events

3/2 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzexkfun/>.

3/2 → Westfield Stamp Show – Westfield Municipal Center – 425 East Broad St. – Westfield, NJ – Sat: 10 AM to 4 PM.

3/3 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.

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

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

3/15-17 → 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.

3/16 → BuxMont Stamp Show – Benjamin H. Wilson Center – 580 Delmont Ave – Warminster, PA – Sat: 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM.

3/17 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

3/19 → HTTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

3/21 → MSC Meeting – [see 3/7 meeting for details].

3/24 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

3/24 → Stamp Show – Hilton Garden Inn – 530 West Pennsylvania Ave. (PA Tpke Exit 339 & Rt. 309) – Ft. Washington, PA – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.

4/4 → MSC Meeting – [see 3/7 meeting for details].

4/5-7 → PNSE – Philadelphia Expo Center – Route 422 – Oaks, PA – Fri. & Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM – www.pnse.org

4/6 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [see 3/2 bourse for details].

4/7 → Garden State Coin & Stamp Show – Parsippany, NJ – [see 3/3 show for details].

4/13 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Hightstown, NJ – [see 3/9 show for details].

4/11-14 → ASDA Spring Show – New Yorker Hotel – 481 Eighth Ave. – NYC – Thur. to Sat. 10-6 PM – Sun. 10-4 PM.

4/12-14 – Stamp, Coin & Paper Show – Westchester County Exhibit Hall – 198 Central Avenue – White Plains, NY – Fri. 12 AM to 6 PM – Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM.

4/16 → HTTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7 PM.

4/17 → MSC Meeting – [see 3/7 meeting for details].

4/20 → DELPEX 2012 – Nur Shrine Center – 168 South Dupont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM.

4/21 → Clifton Money, Stamp and Postcard Show – [see 3/17 show for details].

4/27 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [see 3/2 MSC stamp bourse for details].

4/27-28 → 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.

4/28 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – [see 3/24 show for details].

5/2 → MSC Meeting – [see 3/7 meeting for details].

5/4 → POCAX 2013 – Double Tree Guest Suites – 515 Fellowship Road North (near I-295 & Tpke Exits) – Mount Laurel, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

5/5 → Garden State Coin & Stamp Show – Parsippany, NJ – [see 3/3 show for details].

NOTE: For updated or additional information, see www.stampshows.com, www.stamps.org and www.postal-history.com/showpage.html.