



The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #C-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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Sept-Oct 2014

September-October Meetings

The 2014-2015 regular meetings start up on **September 16th**. The business portion includes a review and vote on the HTPS budget for the coming year. Many thanks to the Executive Committee members, particularly **Ron Gonzalez**, for their work in developing the budget.

The presentation schedule is undergoing changes due to timing conflicts. We have tentatively scheduled member **mini-presentations** in **September** and outside speakers for October and November.

We are finalizing presentation dates with some familiar faces to HTPS members including Gary Loew and Roger Brody.

We are also in discussion with some new speakers, but the timing needs to be confirmed. We will publish the presentation schedule in the Nov-Dec 2014 newsletter and on the HTPS website.

Stamp Identification

Congratulations to **Bob Holmes** for correctly identifying last issue's stamp as Malaya #N42 (Japanese occupation issued in 1944). Bob actually gave us the Stanley Gibbons number.



This month we have an unusual issue with a blue surcharge. Check the design markings carefully and get out those stamp catalogs and identification guides.

\$1.00 in mint U.S. stamps for the first correct responder.

In this Issue . . .

- *Meeting Proceedings*
- *Year in Review*
- *AFDCS, APS StampShow and MERPEX*
- *Items in My Stamp Room*
- . . . and much more!

President's Message

Our philatelic year ended in August and what a year it was for the hobby. HTPS members were treated to a mix of nearby major shows including NYC's ASDA and Metro-Expo, the AFCDS and NOJEX shows in NJ and the APS StampShow in Hartford, CT.



Many people say that the hobby is on its last legs, but the philatelic activities and events here in the U.S. and around the world seem to indicate otherwise.

The HTPS starts the 2014-2015 "season" with over 50 members and exciting speakers for the upcoming meetings. It will be difficult to match the six presentations for 2013-2014, but we are working on it. Also some newer members are moving into leadership roles bringing new energy and ideas to our group.

So come to our meetings and enjoy this wonderful and informative hobby.

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, Hamilton, NJ (Mercer County).

Meeting Proceedings . . . by Jack Sack

July's meeting was lightly attended due to bad weather. Unfortunately, our reporting and editorial staff was among the missing so we have nothing to report.

Congratulations to the few brave members who did show up for the meeting.

The **August** meeting was highlighted by HAMPEX'14 where members displayed a stock page or two of their collecting interests. The unanimous winner was **Jim Cope's** one-page exhibit of "Royalty on Stamps" (see below).



Of note was that Jim's was the ONLY exhibit – a sad commentary on member interest. We hope everyone will prepare an exhibit for next year's HAMPEX'15 in an attempt to give Jim more competition!

A few members bought in items for sale including **Don Bunker** and **Tony Zingale** who offered stamps, covers and postcard material in his never-ending attempt to reduce the hoard in his closets. Remember that all members can bring items for sale or trade to the meetings.

The Year in Review

The 2013-2014 HTPS philatelic year is over. Below are a few highlights of activities that HTPS members and guests experienced during the past twelve months at our meetings and events.

Our speakers for the year covered a range of topics as shown below:

- ⇒ *U.S. Telegraph Stamps* . . . by **Roger Brody**
- ⇒ *ILA* . . . by **Hank Applegate**
- ⇒ *And Now What?* . . . by **Ron Gonzalez**
- ⇒ *U.S. Postal Stationery* . . . by **Tom DeLuca**
- ⇒ *Small Is the Way to Go* . . . by **Ed Muench**
- ⇒ *Philately & International Mail Order Fraud* . . . by **Dr. Ed Grabowski**



Presenters clockwise from the top left.

HTPS member **Mini-Presentations** were provided by **Andrew Boyajian, Jeff Boyarsky, Jim Cope, Bob Stolarz** and **Neil Wood**. Their talks spanned a variety of topics from 'Exhibition Labels' to 'Olympic Postcards' to articles on stamp investing for profit.

During the year, a record number of HTPS members wrote articles for our newsletter including **Bill Andersen, Andrew Boyajian, Ron Dobrowolski, Ron Gonzalez** and **Sid Morginstin**. And, of course, many thanks to **Jack Sack** (at right) who again is our primary contributor. Apologies to anyone we missed.



Our thanks to all who contributed and helped us complete another successful season for our Society. We look forward to another enjoyable year.

AFDCS Show . . . by Jack Sack

August was a busy month for major stamp shows.

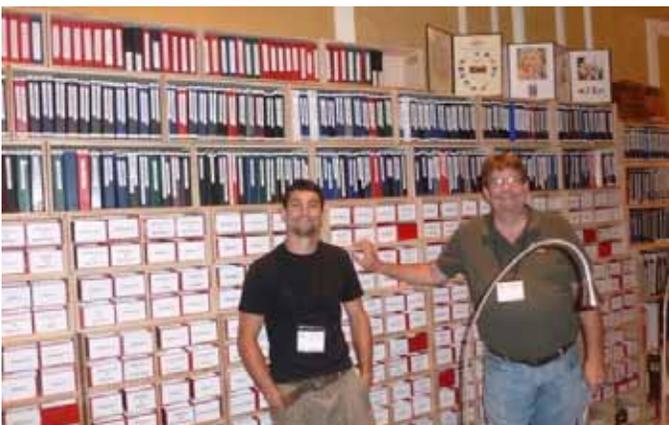
On the weekend of August 15-17, **AMERICOVER**, the annual show of the American First Day Cover Society, was held in Somerset, NJ.

The theme of the AFDCS show was the 75th anniversary of ArtCraft covers – the oldest line of cacheted FDCs. Their debut was the 1939 World's Fair issue, and they have produced a cachet for every U.S. issue since that time.

The show also featured an auction by our friend **Andy Kupersmit** which featured a number of earliest known usage covers. Our own **Andrew Boyajian** received a bronze award for his exhibit "1984 USPS Olympic Stamp Issues: FDCs and Postal Cards."



There was a mix of stamp and cover dealers at the show, including **Chris and Tom** (photo below) from **Stamp Art** in Lincoln City, Oregon. They brought along about 400 boxes of stamps, a few hundred dealer books and binders, and other cartons of philatelic material.

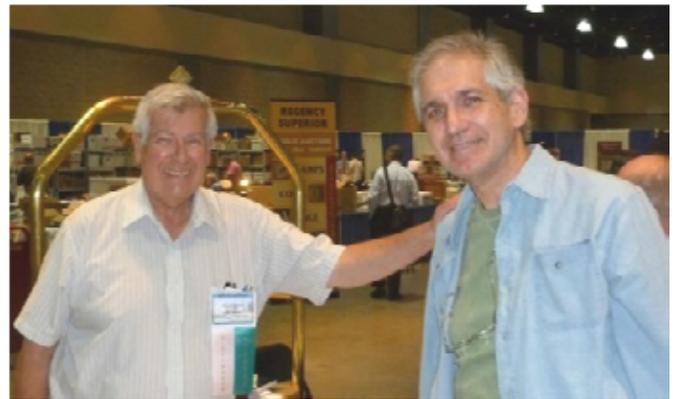


APS Stamp Show . . . by Jack Sack

The next show we attended in August was the **APS StampShow** in Hartford, CT. This is the largest annual postage stamp show held in the United States. There were over 100 dealers, thousands of exhibit pages, philatelic society booths and so much more.

On the first day of the show, the USPS issued the Hudson River School issue. The most crowded place at the show was the "Stamps in Your Attic" booth, where people brought in philatelic material for evaluation.

We said hello to some old friends at the meeting, including **Wade Saadi, Roger Brody** and cachet maker **Fred Collins**.



Fred Collins (on left) with HTPS member Tony Zingale.

MERPEX 2014

The month ended with the August 29-30 **MERPEX 2014** show in Pennsauken, NJ sponsored by the Merchantville Stamp Club. There were about 20 dealers at the show (including some who rarely come to our area), a USPS booth, and 60 exhibit frames.

The show also featured a raffle for a copy of US #1 and #2. The winner was Paul from Marlton, NJ.



Show cover commemorating the 350th anniversary of NJ.

Items in my Stamp Room . . . by Jack Sack

If you saw my “stamping” desk, you would not be surprised that it has the usual stamp accessories – tongs glassines, perforation gauge, and the like. But here are a few items I have on hand that one might not associate with stamp collecting. All of these items are available at Amazon or perhaps at the local grocery store.

ePure Citrus / Baby Powder [\$5.00]: Pure Citrus is perfect for removing self-adhesive stamps from envelopes. Simply spray on the stamp, wait a few seconds, and then left the stamp off with tongs. Use a stiff piece of cardboard to scrape off excess glue and then shake some baby powder on the back to dry it. There is a video on YouTube that demonstrates the procedure.



Professional Drafting Ruler [\$25.00]: Most perforation gauges have a millimeter ruler to measure souvenir sheets, etc. before cutting stamp mounts to size. I find an architect’s drafting ruler much easier to use than the clear rulers. Be sure the one you buy has millimeter markings.



10x Magnifier Loupe [\$10.50]: A loupe allows hands free stamp examination. Although a professional loupe cost more, it shows off the details much better than a plastic or cheap glass magnifier.



Vktech Card Punch [\$10.00]: The Vktech card punch creates the same size rectangular hole as in the old Scott 2-post albums. Scott charges \$2 for fly pages and 50c each per extra page. You can make your own album pages with high quality paper (or construction paper) and this punch.



Surgical Scissors [\$5]: A pair of sharp surgical scissors is useful for many tasks including cutting out stationary items and trimming excess paper around stamps before soaking.



Bestine / Eye-Dropper [\$15.00]: A previous article recommended Bestine as an inexpensive alternative to watermark detection fluid. Two additional items of use are a small plastic squirt bottle for “on the go” watermark detection and a fine eye-dropper. Slowly drizzle the Bestine on the stamp rather than dipping it into the fluid. Sometimes one can see watermarks that are otherwise hard-to-detect.



Nicole Home Collection Aluminum Foil [\$4.00]: This is very thin aluminum foil used to check for engraved stamps. Place a small square of foil over your stamp and rub it with your finger. If engraved, an image of the stamp will appear on the foil. Thin foil works much better than heavy-duty foil (a 20’ roll of Nicole Foil weight less than half that of a similar length roll of most other brands).



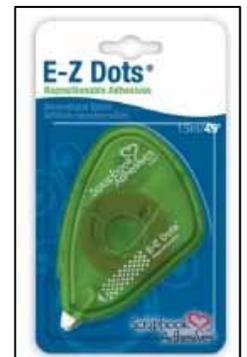
Scotch Brand Book Tape [\$4.00]: This can be used to repair old, damaged, or worn stamp album binders and is nearly invisible. With album binders costing \$30 or more, this roll of tape can often save a binder that might otherwise end up in the trash.



Ott-lite [\$10-\$25]: The Ott-lite emits a natural, balanced light that makes detecting color shades easier. You can buy a portable mini-light that costs about \$10 and is ideal for examining stamps at dimly lit shows. The larger, portable lamp with base costs about \$25 and runs on either batteries or AC.



EZ-Dots [\$5]: We have previously discussed the merits of glue dots for hinging stamps. Recently I removed stamps that were added to my album using EZ-Dots more than a year ago. I had no trouble. The fewer dots used – the easier to remove. Sometimes a few glue dots remained on the album page, the stamp, or on tongs. These were easily wiped off.



Upcoming Events

September 2014 . . .

- 9/4 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – www.merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 9/7 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.
- 9/12-14 → 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.
- 9/13 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- 9/16 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7:00 PM – Philatelic Presentation.**
- 9/17 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 9/4 meeting for details.
- 9/21 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 9/28 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

October 2014 . . .

- 10/2 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – www.merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 10/4 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – www.merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 10/5 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.
- 10/11 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

- 10/15 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 10/2 meeting for details.
- 10/19 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

10/21 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7:00 PM – Philatelic Presentation.

- 10/23-26 → Mega-Event (ASDA) – Hilton Hotel – 1335 Avenue of the Americas – NYC – Thur. to Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 3 PM – <http://www.americanstampdealer.com/>.
- 10/26 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

November 2014 . . .

- 11/1 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (at Merchantville Avenue) – Pennsauken, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – www.merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 11/2 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.
- 11/6 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – www.merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 11/8 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- 11/16 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 11/18 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7:00 PM – Philatelic Presentation.**
- 11/19 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 11/6 meeting for details.
- NOTE:** For additional and updated information, see www.stampshows.com, www.stamps.org and www.postal-history.com/showpage.html.

American Topical Association (ATA)

At the APS StampShow in August, we spoke with Vera Felts, the Executive Director of the ATA. She was very helpful in explaining the eligibility requirements for a group to become an ATA chapter.

The primary requirement is that a group needs at least three ATA members. The fees are \$30 per year. If an organization has six or more ATA members, no fees are charged for chapter membership.

So we are asking HTPS members, who also belong to the ATA, to contact us via email (see the masthead) or by phone at 609-586-7663.

Len de Groot is our ATA contact and will be handling matters pertaining to our affiliation with them.

There are many benefits in becoming an ATA member:

- ⇒ **Topical Time** – the ATA’s bi-monthly journal.
- ⇒ **Membership Directory** with 1,000 topical codes.
- ⇒ **Topical Checklists** (550) on paper or in Excel format.
- ⇒ **ATA Handbooks** on the most popular topics.

So why not consider joining this fine organization?

[Check out the website at americantopicalassn.org]

U.S. 1-cent Bobcat Issue

The USPS recently issued a one-cent stamp with a bobcat design. It is a nice looking item and can be ordered from the USPS site (www.usps.com/). Of course, it is only sold in rolls of 10,000 stamps for \$100!



We were at the APS StampShow in Hartford and some dealers were selling the stamp for 25¢ each. Luckily the USPS booth had the rolls of 10,000 and was selling the stamps for one-cent each with a minimum purchase of 50.

We bought a few hundred and are offering a pair to HTPS members for FREE. We will bring them to the September meeting for those interested.

We also have some of the 49-cent Fern coil issues in strips of five that we are selling at face value.



The objective of our 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 Milt Keiles
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 Ken Steel
Webmaster Jack Sack
50 / 50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ken Steel

----- HTPS Meeting Program -----

- ⇒ Sept. 16 – HTPS Member Mini-Presentations
- ⇒ Oct. 21 – TBA
- ⇒ Nov. 18 – TBA
- ⇒ Dec. 16 – Holiday Party / Show & Tell
- ⇒ Jan. 20 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 17 – TBA

We are looking for speakers for the 2014-2015 season. Please contact us if interested.

Newsletter Articles . . .

We always welcome philatelic articles, ideas or suggestions. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; or call 609-586-7663; or email us at hinge@HamiltonPhilatelic.org.