

The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #C-104282 – ATA Chapter #127

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS)

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March-April 2016

MARCH – APRIL MEETINGS

The business activities for the March and April meetings are concentrated on preparing for the May elections. See the President’s message for further details.

HTPS member **Ronald González** is our speaker for the **March meeting**. Ron recently published the second edition of his book on FDC’s of US stamps related to Puerto Rico. He will speak on how to create and publish a book for sale on the Internet. This is a good opportunity for all potential authors to obtain some real-life details from a successful author and publisher.

For the **April meeting**, we are honored to have **Patricia Kaufmann** speak on Confederate States of America (CSA) postal history. Patricia has 50 years of experience in all aspects of the philatelic world. She is a leading expert on



CSA postage stamps and postal history.

In addition, she is an author, exhibitor, business woman, auctioneer and singer to name a few of her accomplishments!

Patricia will be speaking at NY2016 and will be selling and buying at her booth (#1365). For further details, check out Patricia’s website at www.trishkaufmann.com.

STAMP IDENTIFICATION

Ron Kane did it again. He was the first to correctly identify last issue’s mystery stamp as Peru # J1 issued in 1879. Ron collects the entire world up to the 1970’s, or so, giving him a good background for the odd or unusual stamp.

Rather than putting up another tough one, let’s give everyone a chance. I always liked this stamp. No clues as this one is too easy.



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

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- . . . and much more!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



March is always an important month for our organization. That is when we start discussing the HTPS Officer elections held in May.

Every year we ask our members to step forward and volunteer to serve in one of the four Officer positions or one of the ten support team functions. We are fortunate that about one third of our HTPS members serve or volunteer in some capacity.

Are you one of those members who help out? If not, why not? I know that some of you might serve in some capacity at another organization. But most of the HTPS positions do not require a lot of time. Perhaps you could partner with another member to share the responsibilities.

So in the next few weeks, think about helping out our organization by offering your time and effort participating in one of the HTPS Officer or supporting group positions.

HTPS Meetings . . .

Meetings are held each month on the **3rd Tuesday** at the Hamilton Township Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Way, off Whitehorse Mercerville Road, Hamilton, NJ (Mercer County). Doors open at 6:30.

JANUARY MEETING PROCEEDINGS . . . by Jack Sack

Our APS representative, **Dennis Kennedy**, advised us about the upcoming APS elections. The membership voted to support Trish Kaufmann, Jeff Shapiro and Robert Zeigler for the Board of Vice Presidents. **Ron González** spoke about his work acquiring FDC's for the new Priority Mail stamp featuring the "La Cueva del Indio" in Puerto Rico. See page four for details.



We had a surprise visit from HTPS member **Joe Pavelchak** (at right with Tony Zingale). Joe served as the first Secretary of the HTPS and later as Treasurer, before moving to Virginia about eight years ago.

Our semi-annual auction offered a variety of items with a few items generating spirited bidding. **Ed Muench** donated material with proceeds going to the HTPS.

FEBRUARY MEETING PROCEEDINGS

During the business meeting, President Boyarsky spoke about the upcoming NY2016 show. This once in a decade event is not to be missed. Details in our next newsletter.

Our featured speaker for the evening was long-time HTPS member **Tom Deluca** who gave a presentation on **U.S. Postage Currency**. Tom is the owner of **Trenton Stamp and Coin** located on Route 33 in Hamilton Square, NJ. Tom always surprises us with a wonderful presentation on a philatelic related topic. Not surprisingly, his 36th consecutive yearly appearance delivered the goods.



Also not surprisingly is that when Tom speaks on a subject, he brings supporting items that are unique and of the highest quality. This year was no different. Not



only did he have examples from all five Postal Currency issued sets for this elusive topic, but they were in pristine condition.

The column on the right ("Encased Postage") and the page 3 columns ("Postage / Fractional Currency") summarize the talk that Tom gave.

ENCASED POSTAGE

The Civil War economy created a shortage of United States gold, silver and copper coinage because they were hoarded for their intrinsic bullion value. But people still needed to purchase goods that required coins and vendors had to make change.

So Congress passed a law in early 1862 that allowed postage stamps to satisfy government debts of less than \$5. The public misinterpreted this to mean that stamps could be used for any debt or purchase. This law was a temporary solution due to the fragile nature of stamps.

In August 1862, **John Gault**, a Boston businessman, patented his idea of the **Encased Postage** stamp (example at right) consisting of an actual U.S. stamp folded and sandwiched between two covers made out of brass. Gault produced his currency using all eight of the 1861 issue U.S. postage stamp values in production (from 1 to 90 cents).



Gault sold the encased stamps to stores and businesses at a 20% markup over the face value of the stamp. He also sold advertising on the back of the encased stamp for an additional 2-cents for each item.



Lord & Taylor is the only issuer of encased postage stamps that is still in business today.

Encased postage production lasted until the middle of 1863 when the U.S. government-issued postal currency notes became popular enough to ease the coin shortage.

Today, encased postage stamps are very rare, especially in fault-free condition. Once Postal Currency notes became available, people removed the stamps from the encased postage pieces to use for mailing. Only about 5,000 pieces are estimated to have survived out of the 750,000 that were sold.

Encased Postage issues can be found in the Scott Specialized U.S. Catalog and are assigned the "EP" prefix.

Some of the narrative and images were taken from the following Internet location:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Gault

POSTAGE / FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

Postage and Fractional currency was introduced by the U.S. government following the outbreak of the Civil War. These notes were in use between August 1862 and February 1876, and were issued in 3, 5, 10, 15, 25, and 50 cent denominations across five issuing periods.



Francis E. Spinner, the U.S. Treasurer, created "Postage Currency" notes by proposing the use of postage stamps, affixed to Treasury paper. The design of the First Issue (10¢ at left) was based on Spinner's original handmade examples. Most values were printed in both imperforated and perforated edges.

As a security precaution, the government used the National Bank Note Co. to print the front of the paper and the American Bank Note Co. the back. Other printers were sometimes used for future issues.

Despite the authorization and issue of postage currency, postage stamps and encased postage remained a form of currency until the new postage currency notes gained widespread acceptance in the spring of 1863.

In 1863, Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, asked for a new currency design that was harder to counterfeit than the First Issue. One change was that future issues would no longer include images of stamps and would be referred to as "Fractional Currency."

Since stamp images were no longer used on the Fractional Currency notes, the Treasury used the same portrait of George Washington on all four notes of the Second Issue

At the right is the 5-cent value of that issue.



The new currency notes of the Second thru Fifth Issues were more colorful and were designed with several features for anti-counterfeiting measures including signatures, blue end paper, overprints, watermarks and silk fibers to name a few. The note to the right is the 50¢ value from the Fifth, and final, Issue which was designed in 1874.



Three people were depicted on fractional currency during their lifetime: Francis E. Spinner (Treasurer), William P. Fessenden (Secretary of the Treasury), and Spencer M. Clark (Superintendent of the National Currency Bureau). Both Spinner and Clark decided to have their portrait depicted on Fractional Currency notes which created controversy.

U.S. Representative Martin R. Thayer of Pennsylvania was an outspoken critic of Spinner's actions and was a force that led Congress to enact legislation stating "that no portrait or likeness of any living person hereafter



engraved, shall be placed upon any of the bonds, securities, notes, fractional or postal currency of the United States."

Postage and fractional currency remained in use until 1876, when Congress authorized the minting of fractional silver coins to redeem the outstanding fractional currency.

The Postage Currency notes (First Issues) can be found in the Scott Specialized U.S. Catalog and are assigned the "PC" prefix. The Fractional Currency notes (Second thru Fifth Issues) are found in the Krause U.S. Paper Money Catalog.

Some of the narrative and images were taken from the following Internet location:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fractional_currency_%28United_States%29

“LA CUEVA DEL INDIO” ... by Ronald H. González, MD

In mid January 2016, I became aware that the USPS was issuing a stamp related to Puerto Rico. The stamp was designed to pay the new Priority Mail rate of \$6.45. Dan Cosgrove was the artist who prepared three different designs and, together with the art director Greg Breeding, chose the image used.



The stamp issue depicts a view of a famous cave in Puerto Rico located on the Atlantic Sea shore line. It is called “La Cueva del Indio” (The Indian Cave), as inside there are numerous petroglyphs (shown below) from the “Taino” Indians dated about 1000 years ago. These were the original inhabitants when Christopher Columbus landed on the island. The cave is located near the town of Arecibo, on the North West shore of the island.



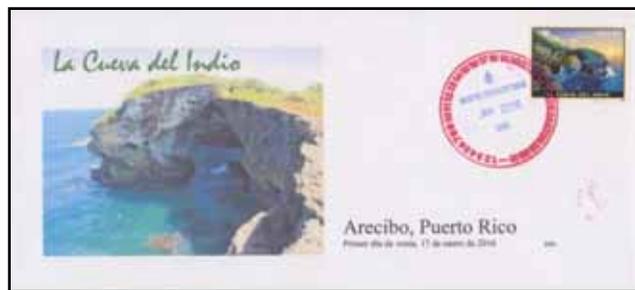
The first day of sale was set for January 17, 2016 in Washington, DC – on a Sunday! There was no official first day ceremony planned. To make matters worse, the next day was Martin Luther King Day, a federal holiday, when all post offices are closed!

An internet search revealed that two Post Offices in the Washington DC area would be opened – the Friendship branch on Wisconsin Avenue and the branch at the National Postal Museum.

The week before the first day sale, I called the Friendship branch post office and made contact with a friendly employee. After a few phone calls, she was able to secure two panes of the stamp for me. She assured me she was going to notify the window clerks I was coming from New Jersey on Sunday to buy the stamps and to obtain a window “hand back” postmark. At the same time, through Facebook, I made contact with my friend Felix L. Perez-Folch, Jr. who made similar connections at the National Postal Museum Post Office branch.

I left New Jersey on Saturday and stayed overnight at my son’s apartment in the Washington DC area. Early on Sunday, I began my odyssey. Expecting the worst and hoping for the best, I went to the first post office on my short list – the Friendship Branch. To my surprise, everything went according to my plan.

The two panes reserved for me were there so I purchased them and obtained a few hand back Friendship Station postmarks on envelopes with cachets that I had designed (shown below). The postal clerk used a hand stamp device with a red rotary dial that indicated the day of the month.



I say surprised, since it is my experience most window clerks at the post offices are not familiar with the Post Office Manual regulations that allow “hand back” postmarks (see POM regulation #231.6). You can do an internet search, download and print the regulations yourself for future references.

At the post office branch at the National Postal Museum, I met up with Felix (shown to the right of me). We went to the post office window and were able to obtain and apply that site’s postmark to a few more covers (see example below). This branch used a regular circular dial hand stamp.



At the end, everything went as planned and I was able to obtain my first day of sale postmarks for the stamp from the first day city of sale.



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2016 . . .

- 3/3 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 3/5 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – 190 Tomlinson Mill Road – Marlton, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 3/5 → Westfield Stamp Show – Westfield Municipal Center – 425 East Broad St. – Westfield, NJ – 10 to 4 PM – www.westfieldstampclub.org.
- 3/6 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.
- 3/12 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown Senior Center – 3 Municipal Drive – Bordentown, NJ – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM – Call Ryan at 215-287-9327 – hamiltonphilatelic.org/bordentown.
- 3/15 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Ron Gonzalez Talk.**
- 3/16 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 3/3 meeting for details.
- 3/20 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 3/20 → Old Bridge Coin & Stamp Show – First Aid and Rescue Squad Building – 200 Marlboro Road – Old Bridge, NJ – 8 AM to 1 PM – 732-740-4604.
- 3/X → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – NO SHOW in MARCH.

April 2016 . . .

- 4/X → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – NO SHOW in APRIL.
- 4/3 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – www.gscsshow.com.
- 4/7 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.

4/9 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown Senior Center – 3 Municipal Drive – Bordentown, NJ – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM – Call Ryan at 215-287-9327 – hamiltonphilatelic.org/bordentown.

4/17 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.

4/17 → Old Bridge Coin & Stamp Show – First Aid and Rescue Squad Building – 200 Marlboro Road – Old Bridge, NJ – 8 AM to 1 PM – 732-740-4604.

4/19 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Patricia Kaufmann presentation.

4/20 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 4/7 meeting for details.

4/23 → DELPEX 2016 – Nur Shrine Center – 168 South DuPont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40N) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM. www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com.

4/23-24 → Spring Stamp, Coin, Cover & Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Ave. – Clifton, NJ – Sat. 10 AM to 5 PM – Sun. 10 to 4 PM – www.clifton-stamp-society.org.

4/24 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Williamson's Restaurant – 500 Blair Mill Rd – Horsham, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM – 305-852-7678.

May 2016 . . .

5/1 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.

5/5 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.

5/7 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – 190 Tomlinson Mill Road – Marlton, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.

5/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown Senior Center – 3 Municipal Drive – Bordentown, NJ – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM – Call Ryan at 215-287-9327 – hamiltonphilatelic.org/bordentown.

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

WESTFIELD / DELPEX SHOWS

The annual **Westfield Stamp Show & Exhibition** is scheduled for **March 5**. Many of the Westfield club's members have provided presentations at our meetings over the past decade. So let's return the favor and attend the show. Check out their website at www.westfieldstampclub.org for more information.

On **April 23**, the Brandywine Valley Stamp club will hold their annual Stamp Show and Bourse (**DELPEX 2016**). This show attracts with dealers we do not normally see in our area. Check out the club's website at: www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com.

DELPEX 2016
STAMP SHOW & BOURSE
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016 • 10 AM - 5 PM
NUR SHRINE CENTER, 198 SOUTH DUPONT HIGHWAY
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
 US, Foreign & Topical Exhibits • Show Cancel • USPS Substation
 20 Dealer Bourse • Free Appraisals

400-Lot Bid Board Auction
 Closes at 3:30 PM (On-line Catalog 3 Weeks Before Show)
 Door Prizes on 1/2 hour Raffle • Free Stamps for Kids
BRING THIS CARD FOR OUR DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

FREE ADMISSION
 NUR SHRINE CENTER:
 DuPont Hwy (US 13 & 404),
 0.1 mile north of US 13/40
 Junction, 0.9 miles south of
 Harris Corner (Del 273)

Sponsored by Brandywine Valley Stamp Club • www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com

POSTAL RATE DECREASE

... by **Bugsy Bellagio**

The USPS has announced a rare drop in postal rates effective Sunday, April 10. The decrease results from the expiration of a temporary rate increase ordered in late 2013. The following rates will change:

- First Class Letters . . . 49¢ to 47¢
- Additional Ounces . . . 22¢ to 21¢
- International Letters . . . \$1.20 to \$1.15
- Postcards 35¢ to 34¢

For the last few months, Las Vegas bookmakers have been swamped with gamblers anxious to bet on the new rates. We all remember that the betting on the 2013 postal rate changes totaled over \$200 million or about double the amount bet on the Super Bowl that year.

The total amount bet on these latest postal rate changes will not reach the 2013 level since the announcement came earlier than anticipated.

[**Editor's Note:** Bugsy Bellagio – pictured at the right – is our Western U.S. correspondent headquartered in Las Vegas. He has resumed his HTPS reporting duties after a short stay in a local jail for counting cards at the Flamingo's blackjack tables.]



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 -----

Advertising and PR Bill Andersen
 APS Representative Dennis Kennedy
 ATA Representative Len DeGroot
 Historian Joe Seliga
 Membership Chairman Jack Sack
 Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
 NOJEX Contact Andrew Boyajian
 Philatelic Donations Ken Steel
 Program Coordinator Bill Andersen
 Webmaster Jack Sack
 50 / 50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ken Steel

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

- ⇒ Mar. 15 – “How to Publish a Book for Online Sales” by **Ron González**
- ⇒ April 19 – “Introduction to Confederate States Postal History” by **Patricia Kaufmann**
- ⇒ May 17 – Member Mini-Presentations and Show ‘n Tell
- ⇒ June 21 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 19 – Sell / Swap Meeting (Informal)

We are looking for speakers for the 2016-2017 meetings. 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.