



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #C-104282 – ATA Chapter #127

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS)

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Vol. 10, No. 1

August-October 2016

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER MEETINGS

This is the last of our ‘summer’ quarterly issues. Future issues will cover two months.

The **August meeting** is informal with no HTPS business being conducted. We do host our traditional summer exhibition (HAMPEX’16) and ask all members to bring a stock sheet or two highlighting a collecting interest.

We start the 2016-2017 season with the **September meeting**. The business portion of the meeting includes the presentation of the HTPS budget for approval by HTPS members in attendance. **Mac Sarreal**, president of the Merchantville Stamp Club, will present *“Japanese Occupation of the Philippines”*. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about an historic event as viewed through philately.



At our **October meeting**, Jeff Boyarsky will talk on one of his many collecting interests – vintage Halloween postcards. This is a fascinating subject with roots going back to ancient Celtic festivals. So get ready to see witches, goblins, jack o’ lanterns and much more.

STAMP IDENTIFICATION

Congratulations to **Bill Andersen** for correctly identifying last issue’s mystery stamp as Manchukuo #128 issued in 1938 to commemorate the founding of the Red Cross.

This month’s entry is a bit more of a challenge though the general area might be obvious. So – no more clues.

Get a \$1.00 in US mint postage, or an item from the gift box, for the first correct identification of this stamp.



IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- **Meeting Proceedings**
 - **HTPS Elections**
 - **MERPEX 2016**
 - **NY2016 Show**
- . . . and much more!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



There is no better way to start my first President’s message than thanking **Jeff Boyarsky** for his four years of service as our President. His commitment and support for our group is without question.

During Jeff’s service, the HTPS continued the varied presentations that highlight our meetings. Fortunately, Jeff has agreed to continue his support for this key area.

My goals are to maintain the HTPS structure established by my predecessors and to provide more opportunities for our membership to participate in HTPS programs.

The recent NY2016 show offered a lot of publicity for our hobby and hopefully rekindled the interest of previous collectors or perhaps attracted the interest of others. So another goal of mine is to attract some of those people to the HTPS.

Hope to see you at the August 16 meeting . . . Milt.

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.

MAY MEETING PROCEEDINGS

... by Jack Sack

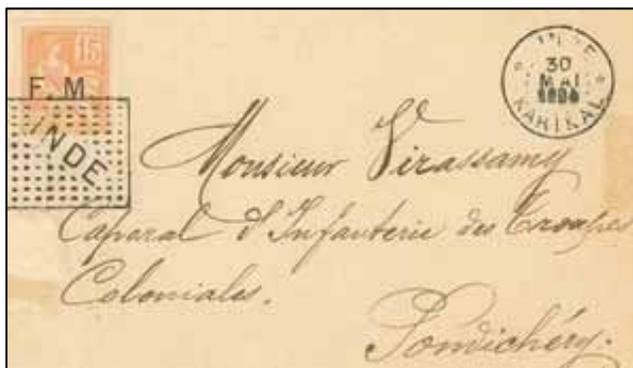


You have all probably seen these stamps – common French definitives overprinted with the initials **F.M.** – but do you know what they were used for? We had the pleasure of hosting our old friend and noted philatelist, **Ed Grabowski**, at our May meeting to explain it to us.

The initials **F.M.** stand for “**Franchise Militaire**” and were overprinted on stamps in the early 1900’s for French servicemen to mail free letters. Prior to that time, free-frank letters required a special endorsement and the signature of the soldier’s commander. Introduced in 1901, the FM stamps were designed to simplify the process. However, because of the difficulty of getting the stamps to troops in combat, they were primarily used by troops on station in French colonies while soldiers in war zones continued to use the old endorsement process.



While the mint stamps with the F.M. overprint are quite common, it has taken Ed over 30 years to find just 30 of the F.M. stamps used on cover. Below is a 1906 cover from Karikal in French India, cancelled with a square INDE postmark that uses a F.M. stamp for free postage.



The F.M. stamps are really just ‘labels’ denoting free-franking so the denomination of the stamp did not always correspond to the current postal rate. Also, the stamps were only valid for paying the first weight level, but Ed found covers where two F.M. stamps were used together to incorrectly pay for heavier letters (example at the right).

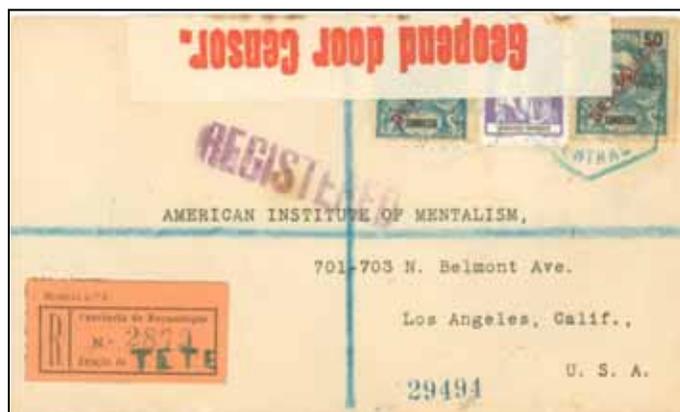


We thank Ed for taking the time sharing his philatelic knowledge with us. Check out our website for Ed’s presentation which includes all the F.M. covers in his “Franchise Militaire’ collection.

No talk by Ed would be complete without an update on our old swindler friend, **A. Victor Segno** (pictured) and his various business enterprises. Among his recent finds was a rare 1918 registered cover mailed from Tete, Zambesia to the American Institute of Mentalism in Los Angeles, CA.



The cover (shown below) is franked with two 50 reis Zambesia stamps, a 2½ centavos Lourenco Marques stamp and a Mozambique 1 centavo war tax stamp on the back. That is quite a mix of stamp issues. The equivalent of \$10 was enclosed to have Prof. Segno send some success waves towards the sender.



Ed recently obtained a Segno souvenir Success Spoon – a follow-up product to the Success Key (in



fact, an image of the Success Key is engraved into the handle). The bowl of the spoon has a view of their new office building and is inscribed “THE SEGNO

GRAM PUBLISHING HOUSE.” Like other Segno products, the spoon is designed to inspire success in both the giver and the recipient.

As always, Ed is always looking for more Segno letters and paraphernalia and he would be grateful if you would send any finds his way.

JUNE MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The election of HTPS officers for the 2016-2017 term was held at the June meeting with the following results:

- ⇒ President: **Milt Keiles**
- ⇒ Vice-President: **Dennis Kennedy**
- ⇒ Treasurer: **Ron Gonzalez**
- ⇒ Secretary: **Ed Murtha**

The auction provided some good bargains for members and guests. A few lots attracted spirited bidding adding to the evening's excitement.



JULY MEETING PROCEEDINGS

In July, a surprising turnout of 24 philatelists, including two first time attendees, showed up for the first of our two summer meetings.

In addition to the usual free publications, there were some good bargains at the sales tables especially for U.S. MNH postage being sold for 60-70% of FV.

ARTICLES OF DISTINCTION

In 2012, the APS created an archive on their website to honor authors of philatelic articles. Affiliates and clubs can submit one article from their newsletter or publication annually.



Three articles from Volume 9 of the HTPS newsletter, dated from Sept-Oct 2015 to May-Jun-Jul 2016, were nominated for the award:

- *"Chemistry on Stamps"* by **Gianluigi Soldati** (2015 Nov-Dec issue).
- *"Lundy Island Commercial Mail"* by **Sid Morginstin** (2016 Jan-Feb issue).
- *"La Cueva del Indio"* by **Ron González** (2016 Mar-Apr issue).

Check out the articles on our website's Newsletter screen and cast your vote via email (see the masthead). Only HTPS members are eligible to vote. If you do not have access to a computer, give me a call at 609-586-7663 and I will send you the articles.

The winner's article will be posted on the APS website and they will receive a certificate of achievement. This is a good opportunity to give credit for our newsletter contributor's and obtain some publicity for HTPS.

[Editor's Note: Special thanks to **Jack Sack** for his write-ups on meeting proceedings and presentations. Many of Jack's summaries deserve a place on the award nomination list.]

MERPEX 2016

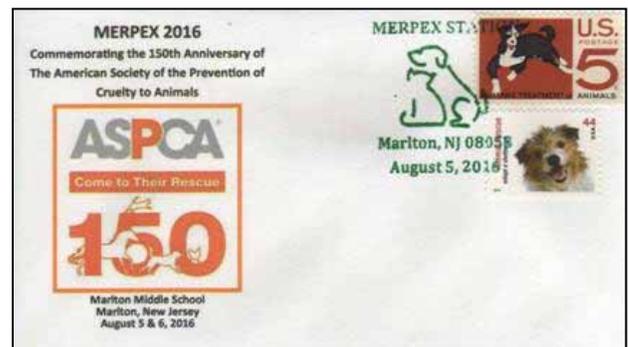
After a hiatus in 2015, the MERPEX exhibition and bourse is back. Sponsored by the Merchantville Stamp Club (MSC), this mid-summer event is back at a new location and show date.



MERPEX 2016 will be held August 5-6 at the Marlon Middle School, 150 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlon, NJ. Show hours are Friday from 10 AM to 5 PM, and Saturday 9 AM to 4 PM. Admission and parking are free. [Note: The show building is NOT the same as the MSC monthly bourse building, but is adjacent to it.]

The show features:

- ⇒ 60 frames of stamp exhibits.
- ⇒ 20 dealers offering stamps, covers and other collectibles.
- ⇒ USPS table with current postal items.
- ⇒ Show cachet and cancel honoring the 150th anniversary of the ASPCA.



For directions and other MERPEX information, visit the [show website](#).

NY2016 SHOW

... by Jack Sack

We hope many of you had a chance to attend World Stamp Show NY2016 last month at the Javits Center in New York City. An international stamp show of this magnitude is held only once a decade in the US and it was only a train ride away from Hamilton!



Everyone has their own favorite memory of the show – from seeing some of the world’s rarest stamps including the British Guiana 1 cent magenta (shown at the left), or visiting the USPS booth or the 50

foreign postal administrations, or picking up that elusive stamp from one of the 150 vendors, or viewing the over 4,000 exhibit frames.

The show also included hundreds of presentations, including one by our own Ron Gonzalez (pictured at the right). His talk was on Puerto Rican stationary Note that Ron is wearing a HTPS t-shirt.



There was a new stamp issue almost every day providing an opportunity not only to attend a First Day of Issue ceremony but also to purchase and postmark the stamp on the actual date of issue. If you were fortunate enough, you might have had a chance to get into the auction room to see the inverted Jenny being sold for over \$1.4 million (Sadly, I was not able to attend).



The thing I will remember most is the excitement at the show and the opportunity to meet fellow collectors from around the world. It was clear that the hobby of stamp collecting is still going strong! I hope you will all be around to visit the next international show in the U.S. – Boston 2026.

VOLUNTEERING AT NY2016

... by Jack Sack

A stamp show like NY2016 is not possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers. The HTPS should be proud that a number of our members gave their time and hard work to make the show a great success. Much of the volunteer work, such as preparing the exhibit frames, was not seen by the general public. However, their efforts were still greatly appreciated and essential to the success of the show.

Due to my good looks and great personality, I was asked to be a “Roaming Greeter / On-Call” volunteer. There I am pictured below in a volunteer shirt with HTPS members **Ron González** (leftmost) and **Andrew Boyajian**. My post was at the convention hall entrance, directing people to the registration area and meeting rooms, and answering any questions they might have (Number one question – “Where are the rest rooms?”).



My most interesting time was working in the Operations Center, a room few visitors even knew about, located behind the registration area. Though I had the rather mundane task of sorting the medals for the awards ceremony, it gave me the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes.

After years of preparation, you would think that every contingency had been considered. Rather, it seemed every few minutes there was a frantic call from a staff member with another problem. A society decided to hold an ad-hoc meeting and needed a room. A group of school children arrived and needed a chaperone to take them to the youth area. USPS personnel arrived for the First Day ceremony and the guards would not let them into the room. A South American commissioner arrived, and they needed to find a Spanish language interpreter. And that was just in the first few minutes I was there!

While I plan to volunteer again at the Boston 2026 show, I think I will pass if they ask me to help with the organizing committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 2016 . . .

- 8/4 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 8/4-7 → **APS StampShow 2016** – Oregon Convention Center – Portland, OR – 110+ dealers – Thurs. to Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 4 PM – Complete details at stamps.org/stampshow-ss.
- 8/5-6 → **MERPEX 2016– Marlton Middle School** – 150 Tomlinson Mill Rd – Marlton, NJ – Fri. 10 AM to 5 PM – Sat. 9 AM to 4 PM – Directions / info at www.merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 8/7 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – 973-335-0555.
- 8/13 → 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.
- 8/16 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – HAMPEX'16 (member exhibits).**
- 8/17 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – See 8/4 meeting for details.
- 8/21 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 8/21 → 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.
- 8/28 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Williamson's Restaurant – 500 Blair Mill Rd – Horsham, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM – 305-852-7678.
- ### September 2016 . . .
- 9/1 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 8/4 meeting for details.
- 9/3 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – 190 Tomlinson Mill Road – Marlton, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 9/4 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – Parsippany, NJ – See 8/7 show for details.
- 9/10 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown, NJ – See 8/13 bourse for details.

- 9/14 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 8/4 meeting for details.
- 9/18 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Wayne, NJ – See 8/21 bourse for details.
- 9/18 → Old Bridge Coin & Stamp Show – Old Bridge, NJ – See 8/21 show for details.
- 9/20 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Mac Sarreal Presentation.**
- 9/24-25 → Fall Stamp, Coin, Cover & Postcard Show – Community Recreation Center – 1232 Main Avenue – Clifton, NJ – Sat. 10 to 5 PM – Sun. 10 to 4 PM – www.clifton-stamp-society.org.
- 9/25 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Horsham, PA – See 8/28 show for details.
- ### October 2016 . . .
- 10/1 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton, NJ – See 9/3 bourse for details.
- 10/2 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – Parsippany, NJ – See 8/7 show for details.
- 10/6 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – See 8/4 meeting for details.
- 10/6-9 → ASDA NY Fall Show – Hilton Hotel – 1335 Avenue of the Americas, NYC – Fri. & Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 3 PM – www.americanstampdealer.com.
- 10/8 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown, NJ – See 8/13 bourse for details.
- 10/16 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Wayne, NJ – See 8/21 bourse for details.
- 10/16 → Old Bridge Coin & Stamp Show – Old Bridge, NJ – See 8/21 show for details.
- 10/18 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – “Halloween Postcards” by Jeff Boyarsky.**
- 10/19 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – See 8/4 meeting for details.
- 10/23 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Horsham, PA – See 8/28 show for details.
- 10/29 → Eastern PA Stamp Show (EPASS) – Jordan United Church of Christ – 1837 Church Road – Allentown, PA – 10 AM to 3:30 PM – greatzmer.wix.com/aps#!epass.
- NOTE:** For additional info, see www.stampshows.com and www.postal-history.com/showpage.html.

What an incredible site with many, many functions including a stamp catalogue of **750,000+ stamps** with over 700,000 color images and over one million stamps for sale. The catalogue's features are impressive especially the ability to search for a stamp topic within a country (e.g., Olympic stamps issued by France). Try it out !!!



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 Milt Keiles
 Vice President Dennis Kennedy
 Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
 Secretary Ed Murtha

----- **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** -----

- ⇒ Aug 16 – HAMPEX 2016 and Sell / Swap Meeting (Informal)
- ⇒ Sept 20 – **“Japanese Occupation of the Philippines”** by Mac Sarreal
- ⇒ Oct 18 – **“Vintage Halloween Postcards”** by Jeff Boyarsky
- ⇒ Nov 15 – **“Early Postal Cancels”** by Bill Schnug
- ⇒ Dec 20 – Holiday Party / Show ‘n Tell
- ⇒ Jan 17 – Society Auction

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