



The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #C-104282 – ATA Chapter #127

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS)

P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619

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



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March-April 2017

MARCH – APRIL MEETINGS

We are pleased to welcome back **Barbara Harrison** for our **March meeting**. Barbara first spoke at our meeting, a number of years ago, on philatelic exhibiting.

This time Barbara's presentation is based on her award winning exhibit – **An Old Fashioned Country Vet (1880-1940)**. The exhibit recently earned a Large Silver and ATA First Place at the 2017 Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition. Last year, it was awarded a Vermeil at MILCOPEX and Gold at MERPEX for Best Americana Exhibit, Best in Class, Display and Social Philately.

Our **April meeting** starts the HTPS election process with nominations for the four Officer positions. The Executive committee will meet on March 28 at the Hamilton library to discuss HTPS issues including identifying position candidates. All members are invited to attend.

Our speaker for April is **Hal Vogel**, noted polar philatelist, who will talk about the **"Postal History of the 1838-42 Wilkes Antarctic Expedition"**. The expedition was an epic undertaking and historical event. Hal's talk is based on his exhibit of the same name which earned a single frame Grand at the ROPEX 2016 show.

STAMP IDENTIFICATION

We have a different winner this time. **Ron Kane** correctly identified the Jan-Feb mystery stamp as France #J4 issued in 1863. He edged out both **Bill McCarroll** (who had identified the last two stamps) and **Bill Andersen**.



This month's mystery stamp looks like it could belong in the listings of several countries. We leave it to our readers to come up with the correct identification.

\$1.00 in mint U.S. postage stamps will be awarded to the first correct responder. BTW, we owe a few of you some postage stamps for your correct responses. So come to the next meeting and pick up your winnings.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- **Meeting Proceedings**
- **Disney Novelty Postcards**
- **\$2.00 Columbian Pane**
- **The Last Mail Train**
- **. . . and much more!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we near the end of our 2016-2017 philatelic year, it is time to nominate and elect officers. We also determine who will fill the many support positions (see last page for a list of current holders).

Like many organizations, we experience difficulty in filling officer and support positions. Some of our members belong to other groups and serve in some capacity there. Other members feel that it is too much work or that they cannot handle the duties of the position.

Still, we ask that you consider volunteering. Help is always available to complete your duties which, for most of the positions, are quite minimal. The odds are that you will enjoy the experience and also obtain satisfaction from your efforts in helping the HTPS to continue functioning successfully.

See you at the next meeting . . . Milt.

2017 Membership Drive . . .

We still have members who have not paid their dues. And yet, some regularly attend our meetings or various stamp shows in the area. So a final plea to pay the \$10.00 dues and allow us to continue running the HTPS. For those who decided not to continue their membership, please let us know the reason.

JANUARY MEETING PROCEEDINGS . . . by Jack Sack

There were 26 members and two visitors in attendance. **David Daily**, a previous visitor, joined the HTPS. He collects U.S. plate blocks. **Jiyun Kim** and her mother were first time visitors. Jiyun, who collects Korean stamps, also joined the HTPS at the end of the meeting

The minutes were not read – they are on the poster board and on our website. Treasurer **Dr. Ronald Gonzalez** reported that there was \$2,992.00 in the Treasury.



Vice President **Dennis Kennedy** reported on the preliminary meeting of the Stamp Evaluation Committee. They are working with the Cranbury library to hold a stamp evaluation program on a Saturday morning in March or April. Once the date is set, they will ask HTPS members to

distribute a flyer to other libraries, retirement communities, etc.

Ken Steel received an acknowledgement from John Hotchner for the 11.5 pounds of stamps we sent to the Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) program last month.

Ron Gonzalez reported that a picture of the HTPS contingent at the opening of the APS American Philatelic Research Library appeared in the current issue of the Philatelic Literature Review. The journal also acknowledged Ron's donation of his book on Puerto Rican related first-day covers to the APRL.

Jeff Boyarsky has volunteered to be the APS ambassador for our club, to help foster better communication between chapter members and the APS.

Sid Morginstin noted that he will have a table at the NAPEX show in McLean Virginia, June 9-11. It was also noted that the NOJEX show will be held at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark on the weekend after Labor Day (September 8-10).

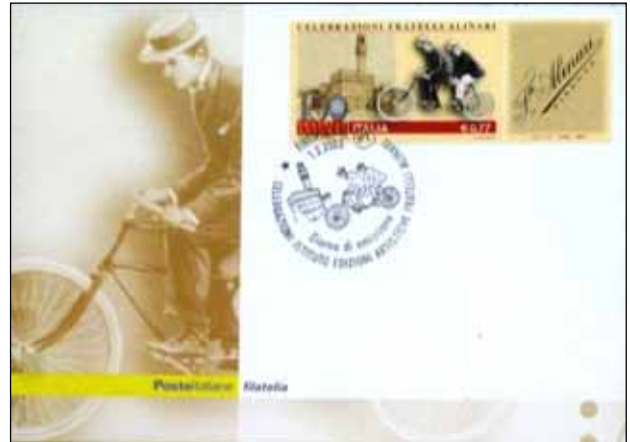
Our semi-annual auction was held, where a number of philatelic items as well as supplies and catalogs were sold. The auction provided great entertainment and added approximately \$100 to the club's treasury.

FEBRUARY MEETING PROCEEDINGS . . . by Jack Sack

A good turnout for a February meeting with 25 HTPS members and two visitors in attendance – **Robert Benninghoff**, a renowned stamp exhibitor, whose specialty is Irish Definitive Coil stamps and **George Dusichka** who signed the visitor form as **John**, his father, so that his dad will receive HTPS information.

As noted before, the minutes are not read, but are posted at the meeting and on our website. Treasurer **Dr. Ronald Gonzalez** reported that there was \$3,056.12 in the Treasury.

Ed Muench showed off a First Day Cover for an Italian stamp (Scott #2531) commemorating the Alinari Brothers photographic studio in Florence. The stamp shows the brothers riding a tandem bicycle. The cachet and cancellation also contain a bicycle.



VP **Dennis Kennedy** stated that the HTPS Stamp Evaluation is set for April 29 at the Cranbury Library at 10:30 AM. Flyers are being produced and distributed. Dennis also informed the members that he is looking into assisting Boy Scouts with earning their Stamp Collecting Merit Badge.

Ken Steel noted that he recently sent 7.5 pounds of stamps to the Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) program. Ken thanked our members for their donations.

Jeff Boyarsky has hired **Andrew Kupersmit**, a professional philatelist, to create a written estimate of his collection. HTPS member **Thomas DeLuca** offered to provide the Society with a presentation on appraising a collection for insurance and estate purposes. Tom strongly recommends that our spouses or children attend such a talk.

President **Milton Keiles** suggested a presentation on Philatelic Exhibiting. Visitor **Robert Benninghoff** offered to provide the HTPS a primer on exhibiting. **Bill Andersen** and **Jeff Boyarsky** are to contact Mr. DeLuca and Mr. Benninghoff to formalize the speaking offers.



After the business meeting, **Tom DeLuca** provided a presentation on Disney Novelty Postcards produced from the 1930's to the present. See the following page for a summary article on his talk.

DISNEY NOVELTY POSTCARDS . . . by Jack Sack

[Summary of the talk by Tom DeLuca at our Feb 21 meeting.]

For our February presentation, we were entertained by long time HTPS member **Tom DeLuca** and his collection of **Disney Novelty postcards**. Previously, Tom had shown us some of the early Mickey Mouse themed postcards from his vast collection. This month, he displayed more Disney cards from an unusual category.



A novelty postcard is one that has some unusual feature. There are over 100 classifications of novelty cards – some of the examples Tom showed were Die Cut cards which have unusual shapes and 3D cards that appear to have depth to them as in the example above with Shere Khan (the tiger) and Mowgli from *The Jungle Book* movie.

Another type of novelty postcards are Squeaker cards which have a noise maker embedded in the card so it makes a sound when you press on it.



A number of cards have movable or mechanical features such as a tab which, when pulled down, causes Mickey's legs to grow or a wheel that makes it appear that Mickey is writing, and then erasing, on a blackboard (shown at the left).

Most of the existing novelty postcards are unused, as they would likely have been ruined if actually sent as is through the mail. However, in order to be considered a postcard, it must have an area for an address and a place to put a stamp, so room was made for those uses.



Tom also showed cards containing a jig-saw puzzle, and others made from leather, embroidered fabric or other material attached to the card. The postcard above has a leather strap holding a simulated stack of books. And the books can be removed!



During WW II, Disney artists created roughly 1,200 insignias for the U.S. military, many for naval units. The insignia were widely used – on posters, equipment and on postcards which Tom showed.

After Mickey Mouse rode a goose in a patch for a Naval Reserve squadron stationed at Floyd Bennett Field in New York, the illustrations inspired naval artists to recreate the magic, designing their own logos in the Disney style.

Below is another very unusual fabric-type postcard that includes a Mickey Mouse tie, a tie pin and two silk labels all attached to a piece of postcard-sized material.



We thank Tom, as always, for giving us a fascinating talk about an unusual subject.

For more information on Disney or novelty postcards, visit www.oldpostcards.com/disney-postcards.html.

\$2.00 Columbian Pane

... Source: **Linn's Stamp News (Online Edition)**

In a stunning discovery, a nearly intact pane of \$2 Columbian stamps has surfaced in Germany. The sheet, although separated into two parts, is the only known complete pane of 100 of the \$2 stamp (Scott #242) from the first U.S. commemorative series, issued in 1893.

Aside from its separations, the pane, with two imprint plate blocks at top and a natural straight edge at bottom, is in an excellent state of preservation, with fresh, never-hinged gum throughout.

The pane was auctioned Nov. 15 by the Munich stamp-auction firm of Hans Mohrmann, with little publicity and no online bidding. From an opening bid of just €10,000 (about \$10,625), the pane was hammered down for €510,000 (\$677,000) with the firm's 20 percent buyer's premium. The buyer was Stefan Hempfling, a local German-area dealer.

The Munich Columbians had been stored, folded up, in a parchment envelope in a bank safe. While the acid-free parchment kept the stamps' color and gum pristine, the folding weakened the perforations and the pane split into two parts, one of 30 stamps and one of 70.

The upper right-hand plate block of 10 has been called "spectacular" as shown below in the image cropped from the full pane. Only two plate blocks of six and one plate block of eight survive for the \$2 Columbian.



Donald Sundman, president of Mystic Stamp Co., exhibited a set of mint panes of the Columbian issue, from 1¢ up to the \$1 denomination (Scott #230-241), at NY 2016 earlier this year. His asking price for the \$1 pane was \$1 million. At the time, Sundman said he believed that no panes existed for the \$2, \$3, \$4 or \$5 values.

Asked whether he intends to preserve the pane or break it into singles and blocks for resale, Hempfling said he is open to either option, and that his decision would rest on prices. "I would be happy to sell it intact," he said, "Perhaps to a museum or to a wealthy American collector."

As of this date, it is unclear if the pane will be auctioned off intact or broken into pieces for sale.

THE LAST MAIL TRAIN

... Source: **MTM**

The Railway Postal Service (RPS) was a marvel, moving mail across the country, linking major cities and farm towns alike, in a net that bound the nation together. The last mail train ran in June of 1977 (NYC to Washington), ending 150 years of rail service. The photo below shows the inside of a RPS car (crowded and no A/C).



In May 2017, the Minnesota Transportation Museum (MTM), and the USPS, will operate "The Last Mail Train" from St Paul, MN to Osceola, WI. Departing at the end of National Train Weekend, Train #1 will haul mail in RPO car #1102, a 1914 Mail Combine. It is the only car still in active service on main line rail. For the first time in forty years, a RPO postmark on a working RPS car will be available for collectors.

The plan is to include a "caught on the fly" mail pickup from the 1916 Soo Line Depot in Osceola, Wisconsin. An example of such a pickup is shown below.



Commemorative envelopes, postcards and regular mail will be handled (with all profits supporting the Museum's education and restoration programs) through the Minnesota Transportation Museum, on Facebook or at www.minnesotatransportationmuseum.org

Also available through the MTM gift shop will be "Owney, a Lucky Dog" which is the story of the mascot of the Railway Postal Service, and "The Further Adventures of a Lucky Dog" – both books authored by Dirk Wales.

For more info, contact the MTM at 651-228-0263 or email to office@minnestatransportationmuseum.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2017 . . .

- 3/2 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 3/4 → Westfield Stamp Show – Westfield Municipal Center – 425 East Broad St. – Westfield, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM – www.westfieldstampclub.org.
- 3/4 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – 190 Tomlinson Mill Road – Marlton, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 3/5 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – gscsshow.com
- 3/11 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown Senior Center – 3 Municipal Drive – Bordentown, NJ – 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM – Call Ryan at 215-287-9326 – hamiltonphilatelic.org/bordentown.
- 3/16 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 3/2 meeting for details.
- 3/17-18 → Spring 2017 Postcard Expo – The Watson (formerly the Midtown Holiday Inn) – 440 West 57th Street – NYC – Fri. 12 PM to 7:00 PM – Sat. 10 to 5:00 PM – 410-939-0999.
- 3/18 → BuxMont Stamp Show – Benjamin H. Wilson Center – 580 Delmont Ave – Warminster, PA – 10 AM to 4:30 PM – 215-355-3908.
- 3/19 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM - 4 PM – REW Enterprises – 973-875-3793.
- 3/21 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Meeting starts at 7:15 PM – Barbara Harrison talk.**
- 3/26 → 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.
- 3/26 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Sheraton Bucks County Hotel – 400 Oxford Valley Road – Langhorne, PA – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM – www.coinzip.com/tri-state-fort-washington-coin-show.

April 2017 . . .

- 4/1 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – see 3/4 bourse for details.

- 4/6 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 3/2 meeting for details.
- 4/8 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown Senior Center – see 3/11 bourse for details.
- 4/13-15 → ASDA NY Spring Show – Hilton Hotel – 1335 Avenue of the Americas (6th Ave.), NYC – Fri. & Sat. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun. 10 AM to 3 PM – www.americanstampdealer.com.
- 4/16 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Wayne, NJ – see 3/19 bourse for details.
- 4/18 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Meeting starts at 7:15 PM – Hal Vogel presentation.**
- 4/19 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 3/2 meeting for details.
- 4/22 → DELPEX 2017 – Nur Shrine Center – 198 South DuPont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40N) – New Castle, DE – 10 AM to 5 PM – www.brandywinevalleystampclub.com.
- 4/23 → Old Bridge Coin & Stamp Show – Old Bridge, NJ – see 3/26 show for details.
- 4/23 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show – Langhorne, PA – see 3/26 show for details.

May 2017 . . .

- 5/4 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 3/2 meeting for details.
- 5/6 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – see 3/4 bourse for details.
- 5/7 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – Parsippany, NJ – see 3/5 bourse for details.
- 5/13 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Bordentown Senior Center – see 3/11 bourse for details.
- 5/16 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Meeting starts at 7:15 PM – Mini-presentations.**
- 5/17 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 3/2 meeting for details.
- 5/21 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Wayne, NJ – see 3/19 bourse for details.

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

DONATIONS

Thanks to HTPS members **Francis Bizon** and **Angelo Sanelli** for their donations of U.S. stamps on paper. Also thanks to **Jim Pryor** for his donation of thousands of US / WW stamps – most of which were separated by country.

Most of the donated material will be sent to the Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) program by HTPS member **Ken Steel**. Some of the US mint stamps will be used for postage or sold with the proceeds going to the SFTW.

We also received a box of material from **Ed Brooks** that is being reviewed. Look for that in the next issue.

New Members . . .

The HTPS added three members – a good start to the year. **Jiyung Kim** and **David Daily** joined at the January meeting (see proceedings on page 2).

George Michaels also joined us. George has a wide variety of collecting interests including Collins covers, Germany, Israel, Turkey, UN, Vatican and Scouts on Stamps.

George is a member of many philatelic groups including the APS, AFDCS, ATA, SOSSI and other societies directly related to his collecting interests. He is also a member and Officer of the Jamesburg Elks Lodge.

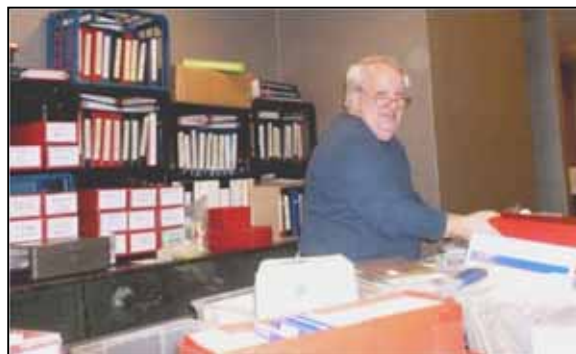
2016 ARTICLES OF DISTINCTION

Congratulations to **Gianluigi Soldati** – his article, titled **Chemistry on Stamps**, from the Nov-Dec 2015 issue of the Hamilton Hinge has been voted as the HTPS entry for the APS' 2016 Articles of Distinction award. We offer our thanks to **Jack Sack** for editing the article.

STAMP SHOWS

Jack Sack and your newsletter editor recently visited the monthly **Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show** now located in the Sheraton Bucks County Hotel in Langhorne, PA. We found a more spacious layout with room for more dealers than the prior location at Horsham, PA.

There are about 50 coin/currency dealers and up to 10 stamp dealers including two favorites – **Bruce Lord** (below) and **Jim Reeves**. So check it out on March 26.



----- 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 Ron Kane
ATA Representative Len DeGroot
Historian Joe Seliga
Membership Chairman Jeff Boyarsky
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. 21 – **“An Old Fashioned Country Vet (1880-1940)”** by Barbara Harrison
- ⇒ Apr. 18 – **“Postal History of the 1838-42 Wilkes Antarctic Expedition”** by Hal Vogel
- ⇒ May 16 – Member Mini-Presentations
- ⇒ June 20 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 18 – Sell / Swap Meeting (Informal)

We are looking for speakers for the 2017-2018 philatelic year (Sept. to June). Please contact us at the masthead email 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.