



The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #C-104282 – ATA Chapter #127

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society (HTPS)

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Our **January 21 meeting** starts off the New Year with an **auction**. Why not bring in some of those items that have been lying around for a few years. We all have them and it is a good way to clean up your stamp area and ready it for new material.

Don Getzin has donated a very nice stamp, **U.S. #26**, to the auction. The stamp is very well centered for its type. Scott's 2019 CV is \$10.00 and the opening bid is \$2.50 – a good bargain. There are other items that are sure to attract your interest so don't miss it.



February's meeting brings back our long time HTPS member and record holding speaker.

Tom DeLuca is the owner of **Trenton Stamp and Coin Co.** located here in Hamilton Township. Tom has provided at

least one talk a year for 39 years and still running! The subject is a mystery, but is always informative.

STAMP IDENTIFICATION



The stamp in the Feb-Apr 2019 issue was Finland #M5 issued in 1943. **Hal Vogel** was the first to identify the stamp.

Here's an interesting issue to start the year. The stamp shown is an imperforated used example (handstamped) of the issue. It is violet in color.

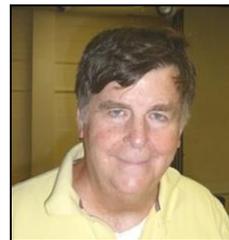
\$1.00 in mint U.S. postage stamps is waiting for the first correct responder.



In this Issue . . .

- *Prior Meeting Proceedings*
 - *Times Coins*
 - *Upcoming Events*
- . . . and much more!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope that you all enjoyed a very happy holiday season. I would like to thank **Don Getzin** for his informative talk on the three-cent coin and stamps of 1851.

Judging from the member's reaction, I would say that the holiday party was a success. I would like to thank all of the members who contributed food.

For the New Year, we have some exceptional programs scheduled. On St. Patrick's Day, **Robert Benninghoff** will present "Border between the Two Irelands" and in May, Nick Lombardi will be talking about "The U.S. Postal Inspection Service" --- the USPS' law enforcement arm.

A recent Fortune magazine article speculated that the USPS could privatize this year. The UK government initially retained a 30% stake in Royal Mail, but sold its shares in 2015, ending 499 years of state ownership. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Regards to all, Dennis Kennedy.

2020 Membership Dues . . .

It's time to pay your dues – still a bargain at only \$10.00. So help support our Society.

Please send a check or cash to the HTPS at the masthead address above, or see **Bill Chrietzberg** (Membership Chairman) or **Ken Steel** (Treasurer) at our next meeting.

HAMILTON USPS DISTRIBUTION CENTER VISIT

On November 26, nine HTPS members were provided a tour of the USPS Distribution Center in Hamilton. The Postmaster of Trenton, **Ms. Dona Colby**, the Distribution Center manager, **Mr. Russ Herrick** and USPS liaison/technician, **Mr. Nadi Atalla** guided our group around the Hamilton facility.



The volume of items handled each day is amazing. Security and the protection of employees are of paramount importance. Every item is pre-checked for explosives, radiation, and other hazards like anthrax. Multimillion dollar machines have been specifically designed and built for the USPS to find these potential hazards.

[Editor's Note: In September 2001, eighteen letters containing anthrax passed through the Hamilton postal facility and contaminated some equipment.]

Above the work floor and conveyor belts are enclosed walk ways with small windows or one way mirrors. These are used by the US Postal Inspectors to peruse and insure that all items are being handled and processed securely. The parcels/letters on the conveyor belts run a gauntlet.

Optical readers are connected to a bank of computer servers which are the nerve center of the operation. Once the item has been read, it is then redirected off the conveyor into one of a multitude of large rolling canvas carts.

The carts are aligned along the conveyor belts and each of these carts is labeled with a zip code. As the carts are filled with the scanned postal items, they are replaced and forwarded for packaging and shipping.

A convoy of tractor trailers is continually supplying the Center and a similar convoy is taking the sorted and packaged material away to airports and other USPS Distribution Centers.

It is truly an amazing operation that runs continually 365 days a year. Our hosts were very gracious and very knowledgeable. We thank them for spending time with us and making us better informed about the internal workings of the USPS Distribution Center in Hamilton.

THE HOLIDAY PARTY

... BY **ED MURTHA**



Our December 17 **holiday party** was a huge success. Thanks to all who helped make this possible.

Some of the party highlights included --- **Eileen Dobrowolski's**

phenomenal deviled eggs, **Klaus Wagner's** unbelievably delicious stollen, **Glenn Buzzi's** gallon of Artic vanilla ice cream, **Ken Smith's** delicious cannoli's, **Jim Cope's** beautiful cheesecake and that was on just one table.



Another table had **Ken Steel's** mini muffins, **Tony Zingale's** wonderful fruit salad, a large holiday cookie from **Jerry Davis** and numerous varieties of cookies from other attendees.

The Society also provided a large hoagie and several pizzas. Both were consumed rather quickly. Thanks to all who contributed. It was an enjoyable evening with delicious food. We apologize to all who were not mentioned or recognized for their contributions to this annual event.

The Friends of the Library book storage area was made available to us. Several members did purchase books and CDs. Hopefully that will help pass the time



through the winter months. We thank the "Friends" for providing this opportunity to us.



Also thanks to all of you who helped arrange, pick up and clean up for the party and for that matter all of our events and monthly meetings during the past year.

Don Getzin provided another interesting and informative show and tell. He educated us on how the US three cent piece, called a trime, came about because of a postal rate change and a three cent stamp. A summary of Don's talk is on the next page.

THE TRIME: THE COIN THAT SAVED A STAMP

by DON GETZIN

(based on a presentation at the 12/17/19 HTPS meeting)

Sen. Daniel Stevens Dickinson (Fig. 1), Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, sponsored the bill that eventually became the Postal Act of March 3, 1851, effective July 1, 1851. This Act reduced the domestic postal rate by 40% - to 3¢ per ½ oz. for a piece of mail carried up to 300 miles to another post office, and to 6¢ per ½ oz. if carried more than 300 miles. However, this rate was only for **pre-paid** mail. For mail sent collect, which was the usual practice at the time, the rate remained 5¢ and 10¢ per ½ oz. respectively. This 40% discount was intended to induce postal patrons to pre-pay mail.

To meet this new rate, the Post Office was authorized to issue a new 3¢ stamp (Fig.2) and stamps of other denominations as they deemed appropriate. They decided to issue 1¢ and 12¢ stamps at the same time, but not 6¢ stamps.

However, the public was neither able to take advantage of this new lower postal rate nor buy these new 3¢ stamps because almost all silver coins had disappeared from circulation. There were, however, large copper cents still in circulation, but these heavy, clunky coins were despised and seldom used because they “wore holes in your pocket.”

The reason for the disappearance of most silver coins was that the value of their silver content significantly exceeded their face value. Speculators paid premiums for these coins, and then typically took them to New Orleans where they were melted into bullion and shipped to France where they could be sold at a 20% profit.

Little known to philatelists, however, is that Sect. 11 of this same Postal Act made it “lawful to coin at the mint and its branches, a piece of the denomination and legal value of three cents, or three hundredths of a dollar, to be composed of three-fourths silver and one-fourth copper ...” These coins (Fig.3) came to be known as:

- “trimes” (rhymes with dimes),
- “longacre’s trimes” (after the designer and engraver James B. Longacre) or
- “fish scales” (because of how small and thin they were).

Without the new 3¢ coins, the new postal rates and new 3¢ stamps would have been failures. So this coin – the Trime – saved the 3¢ Washington stamp of 1851!

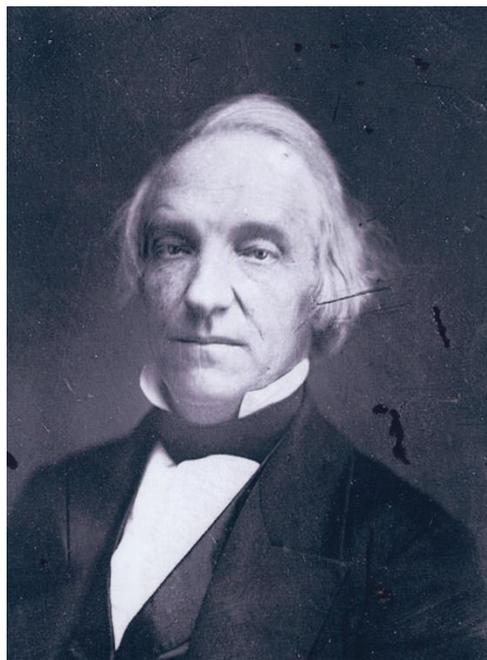


Fig. 1. Sen. Daniel Stevens Dickinson

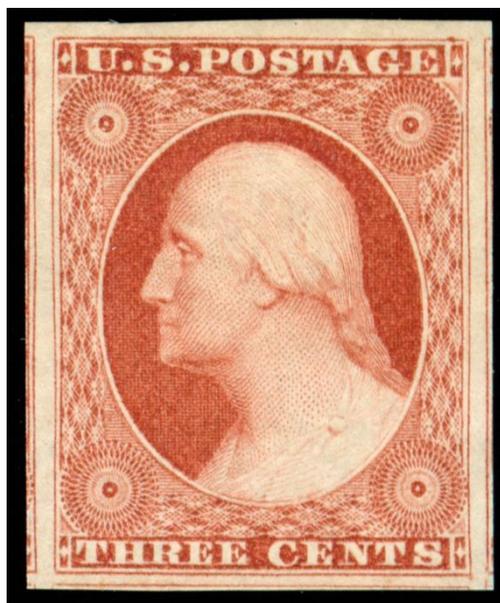


Fig. 2. 3¢ Washington Stamp, Issue of 1851.



Fig. 3. 1852 Trime – obverse and reverse

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2020 . . .

- 1/2 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 1/2-4 → Garden State Stamp & Cover Show – Bethwood Manor – 38 Lackawanna Avenue – Totowa, NJ – Thurs / Fri. 10 AM to 6 PM – Sat. 10 AM to 4 PM – tjacks@verizon.net. – 908-419-9751 (Tom).
- 1/4 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Martin Luther Chapel (School Gym) – 4100 Terrace Avenue – Pennsauken, NJ 08109 – 9 AM to 3 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.
- 1/5 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 8 AM to 4 PM – (973) 644-0099 (Joe Brattole).
- 1/11 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Town Inn (formerly the Ramada) – 1083 Rte 206 North – Bordentown, NJ – 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM – 215-287-9326 (Ryan) – hamiltonphilatelic.org/bordentown.
NEW LOCATION FOR THIS SHOW !!!
- 1/15 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/2 meeting for details.
- 1/19 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (3rd Sunday) – Sheraton Bucks County Hotel – 400 Oxford Valley Road – Langhorne, PA – 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM – (305) 393-6290.
- 1/19 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Fire Company #1 – 93 Parrish Drive – Wayne, NJ – 9 AM - 4 PM – REW Stamps-Coins LLC – STAMPREW@aol.com – 973-875-3793.
- 1/21 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Meeting starts at 7:15 PM – Society auction.**
- 1/26 → Old Bridge Coin, Collectibles & Stamps Show – First Aid & Rescue Bldg.– 200 Marlboro Road – Old Bridge, NJ – 8 AM to 1 PM – 732 740-4604.
(Does anyone know how many stamp dealers are at this show?)

HTPS Meetings . . .

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

February 2020 . . .

- 2/1 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/4 bourse for details.
- 2/2 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – Parsippany, NJ – see 1/5 show for details.
- 2/6 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/2 meeting for details.
- 2/8 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Town Inn – Bordentown, NJ – see 1/11 bourse for details.
- 2/16 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show – Langhorne, PA – see 1/19 show for details.
- 2/16 → Wayne Stamp & Collectibles Bourse – Wayne, NJ – see 1/19 bourse for details.
- 2/18 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Meeting starts at 7:15 PM – Tom DeLuca talk.**
- 2/19 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/2 meeting for details.
- 2/23 → Old Bridge Coin, Collectibles & Stamps Show – Old Bridge, NJ – see 1/26 show for details.

March 2020 . . .

- 3/1 → Garden State Stamp, Coin & Currency Show – Parsippany, NJ – see 1/5 show for details.
- 3/5 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/2 meeting for details.
- 3/7 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/4 bourse for details.
- 3/14 → Westfield Stamp Show – Westfield Municipal Center – 425 East Broad St. – Westfield, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM – www.westfieldstampclub.org.
- 3/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – Town Inn – Bordentown, NJ – see 1/11 bourse for details.
- 3/17 → HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Library – Hamilton, NJ – Opens at 6:30 PM – Meeting starts at 7:15 PM – Robert Benninghoff talk.**
- 3/18 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Pennsauken, NJ – see 1/2 meeting for details.

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

DONATIONS – KEN STEEL



Most of you know the Stamps for the Wounded Program Director, **John Hotchner**, is on the mend after taking a fall in New York City and breaking his hip. We have decided that we will hold off sending any further donations to

John for a while until he has completed his rehab.

If you have unwanted material that you wish to donate, please consider holding it for a few months. If that is not possible, bring it to a meeting and we will take it and hold it. Again and again, thanks to all of you who donate to this charity.

USPS RATE CHANGES

Some increases in U.S. postal rates are scheduled for **January 26, 2020**. Most regular domestic mailing costs remain unchanged. Priority mail (PM) costs and a few international rates increased. Following are the costs for some of the more commonly mailed items:

- Letters, Int'l, 1 oz (5c increase)..... 1.20
- PM Regular Flat-Rate Env. (40¢ increase).... 7.75
- PM Small Flat-Rate Box (40¢ increase)..... 8.30

For additional information, see the following website:

<https://www.stamps.com/usps/postage-rate-increase/>

SOCIETY AUCTION

Check out the HTPS website for details on the auction process. Meanwhile, here are a few considerations:



1. Fill out an **Auction List** form describing the lots you have for sale. Then complete **Lot Description** forms (or post-it notes) to match the items on the Auction List.
2. Be **reasonable** with pricing the items offered for sale. Common items usually sell for 5-15% of CV. Specialized or unique items often sell for more. But there are always exceptions.
3. Items are **SOLD AS IS** – so carefully check the lots before the auction starts. No returns accepted.
4. Winning bidders pay for their items first. Sellers are then paid MINUS a 10% commission as a donation to the HTPS.
5. Obtain a **bidder number card** at the sign-in table before the auction starts.

A two page write-up on the auction process, including auction forms and lot description forms, is available on our website. Contact us via email if you have any questions.

The objective of our Newsletter is to promote philately, educate and inform our members and the public, and to encourage other like-minded individuals to join the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society.

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

- ⇒ Jan. 21 – Society Auction
- ⇒ Feb. 18 – Always a Surprise . . . by Tom DeLuca
- ⇒ Mar. 17 – **“Border between the Two Irelands”**
... by Robert Benninghoff
- ⇒ April 21 – **“Mini Presentations”**
... by HTPS Members
- ⇒ May 19 – **“The U.S. Postal Inspection Service”**
... by Nick Lombardi
- ⇒ June 16 – Society Auction

We are looking for speakers for the 2020-2021 stamp season (starts in September). 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.