JANUARY – FEBRUARY MEETINGS
Welcome to the New Year! As usual, our January meeting showcases one of our semi-annual auctions. You probably have some extra philatelic items lying about so bring something to sell and be prepared to buy some of the many items up for sale.

Our February meeting brings back Tom DeLuca, a long-time HTPS member and 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. His 36th yearly appearance promises more of the same.

The business meeting starts at 7:15 PM, but doors open at 6:30 so come early to socialize, check out the displays, free publications and items for trade or sale.

STAMP IDENTIFICATION
Bill McCarroll was the first to correctly identify our prior issue’s stamp as Russia --- Offices in China #1 issued in 1899. Thought that one would be harder, but we did get quite a few correct responses.

Hopefully, this month’s design is more difficult. No clues this time.

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

IN THIS ISSUE . . .
• Meeting Proceedings
• Lundy Island Commercial Mail
• Updated FDC Catalog
. . . and much more!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Happy New Year to all our members and friends!

Many of us take this time to review our past year’s accomplishments or think about improving our lives. Some of us make up lists of tasks to do at work, home or in retirement.

And some of us turn to our hobbies. For those involved with philately, we have much we can do including a review of our holdings, or creating a list of key items needed for our collections, or making a commitment to learn more about our wonderful hobby.

For HTPS members, why not think about helping our group by running for office or volunteering for one of the support positions? You can start out by bringing something to sell at our January auction.

Let’s all do something to help increase our enjoyment of philately. I am looking forward to seeing you at the January 19 meeting.

2016 Membership Drive . . .
Don’t forget – it is time to pay your Dues – still only $10. A bargain considering all that the HTPS offers. So send a check or cash to HTPS at the masthead address above, or see Jack Sack at our next meeting.

Also, remember that the club will waive one year’s dues to any member who either brings a new member to the club or joins the APS for the first time.
**NOVEMBER MEETING PROCEEDINGS ... by Jack Sack**

A good crowd was on hand for our November meeting. We quickly moved through the business phase including approval of an APS slate for the 2016 elections and planning for the December holiday party.

**Ron González** presented his new book on Puerto Rico related First Day Covers (see article on page 4). Ron will be talking about how he put together his book at our March meeting.

Our presentation for the meeting was provided by **Sid Morginste**n on *Lundy Island Commercial Mail*. Lundy is a small island off the west coast of England, which until 1968 was privately owned and claiming to be independent of the United Kingdom.

Lundy is now owned by the National Trust and is home to numerous plants and animals, most notably the puffin bird. There are about 25 residences, 25 rental cottages, and up to 20,000 visitors each year. Check out the article on the next page for more details of Sid's talk.

**DECEMBER MEETING PROCEEDINGS ... by Jack Sack**

The December holiday party always brings out a big crowd. HTTPS calendar cards with 2016-2017 meeting dates were distributed. The cards are always available at meetings for drop-offs at libraries, stamp shows, etc.

**Ken Steel** reported that we have received acknowledgements from **John Hotchner** for the philatelic donations sent to the “Stamps for the Wounded” program.

**Roger Randall** noted that the Merchantville Stamp Bourse will be moving to a new venue in Marlton, NJ next year. Information, including dates and directions, is available at [www.merchantvillestampclub.org](http://www.merchantvillestampclub.org).

**Jeff Boyarsky** advised that there are volunteer opportunities at next year’s NY2016 Stamp Show. See the NY2016 website at [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org) for more information. You can reach the Javits Center (location of the show) by NJ Transit, bus and the ferry from Weehawken, NJ as well as Park & Ride lots in East Brunswick. There is also a subway stop at the site.

A local resident, **Rita**, brought in her father’s collection to see if it had any value. Along with the stamps, was a “Saco Stamp Finder and Identifier” from 1952. The card contained pictures of many hard to identify stamps.

**DECEMBER PROCEEDINGS (CONTINUED)**

Some members remembered having used such an item, but there is little information on the internet regarding the Saco & Whitman Co.’s Identifier Wheel. The company also sold stamp packets and approvals.

The holiday party offered lots of treats including cakes, cookies, coffee and drinks. **Jim Cope** continued his tradition of designing a cake with a theme. This year’s delicious cake was titled “The Cope FIRE Garden” and featured photos of Jim’s garden planted with red and yellow flowering plants to simulate fire.

The US-issued stamps on the sticks represent some of the flowers Jim and his wife Nancy planted in their garden. The photos show plastic fire helmets on the fence, toy fire trucks and a ladder for the climbing plants to complete Jim’s tribute to fire fighting.

Jim has been a member, and former Chief, of the Hamilton Fire Company since 1955. Although he does not “ride the trucks” anymore, he stays active with the Mercer County and New Jersey Firemen’s Associations serving in various positions.

In fact many of Jim’s family members – father, brother, uncles, cousins, etc. – were, and are still, members of the Hamilton Fire Company. Nancy was also active with the Ladies Auxiliary group.
LUNDY IS. COMMERCIAL MAIL  ... by Sid Morginstin

Lundy lies 12 miles off the SW coast of Devon, England. The granite outcrop island is 3 ½ miles long and half a mile wide.

Lundy’s postal history began in 1929, when the island’s owner, Martin Harman, issued stamps to offset mail service costs. Originally, Lundy stamps were placed on the envelope’s back. The British post office now allows their use on the front of the envelope.

The 1939 LUNDY to USA cover below has an island cachet and is back stamped with three Lundy stamps.

This 1938 cover back has a Lundy Atlantic Coast Airlines ½d stamp (at top) that paid for the air service which ran from 1935-1939. Service was stopped during WWII and restarted in 1950. At the bottom, three “Puffin on Rock” cancels tie the first set of Lundy stamps to the cover.

This 1946 FIJI to LUNDY cover, at the left, took over four months to reach its destination in Lundy.

1949 USA to LUNDY airmail cover has the Lundy stamp cancelled in blue (early known use).

The 1954 LUNDY to the USA cover back (below) uses five LUNDY JUBILEE YEAR postmarks, commemorating the 25th anniversary of Lundy stamps, to tie the full set of the 1954 air mail issue to the cover. The cancels were also used on the 1953 QEII Coronation issue.

1963 NEW ZEALAND to LUNDY cover (reduced at the bottom) addressed to the Lundy Field Society at the Old Light (house) with a LUNDY EUROPA postmark on a one puffin Lundy Europa stamp.

1967 ZAMBIA to LUNDY airmail cover addressed to the Manor Farm Hotel – the only hotel on the island.
1972 LUNDY to the USA cover with a DELAYED BY STORM postal marking. The cover was not delivered in the USA and returned to Lundy receiving multiple postal markings on the front and back. A 1p Lundy stamp was added to pay the fee to return the letter to the island.

This 1994 MICRONESIA to LUNDY cover does not have a Lundy stamp. The cover was addressed to the island management so only a postmark was used.

2003 LUNDY to the USA postcard with a 50 puffin stamp (1 puffin = 1 British pence) commemorates the Lundy Collectors Club 9th Triennial Anniversary Tour to the island. The photo depicts the Battleship HMS Motagu’s shipwreck near Lundy in 1906.

These are just a few of the many covers shown in Sid’s presentation. Check out the full story on our website for an enlightening look at the philatelic history of this unusual stamp issuing entity.

Updated FDC Catalog

HTPS member Dr. Ronald H. González recently completed the second edition of his book – the First Day Cover Catalog of US Stamps Related to Puerto Rico.

This 8 1/2 x 11 spiral bound catalog is in full color with more than 200 pages of US Postal Service issues from 1937 to 2010 related to Puerto Rico.

The catalog includes covers commemorating Fortaleza, Jibarito, La Garita, Oil Lamp, Ponce de Leon, Luís Muñoz Marín (shown below), Americas, Columbus landing, second Roberto Clemente, Tropical Birds, Jose Ferrer and Julia de Burgos among others.

Ron worked for 15 years compiling, organizing and cataloging more than 500 First Day covers. This book is a must for any Puerto Rico FDC collector. Cost is $50.00 with free shipping for now. Payments in US dollars only.

For further information, you can email Ron at --- rongon17@comcast.net.
UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2016 . . .

1/2 → MSC Stamp Bourse – NO SHOW THIS MONTH !!


1/7 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 Route 130 North (Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – Opens at 7 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org.

1/7-9 → 43rd Garden State Stamp & Cover Show – Bethwood Manor – 38 Lackawanna Avenue – Totowa, NJ – Thurs. 10 AM to 6 PM – Fri. 10 AM to 5 PM – Sat. 10 AM to 3 PM – tjacks@verizon.net. * NOTE: Thurs. to Sat. *

1/9 → 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.

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


1/20 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 1/7 meeting for details.


February 2016 . . .


2/6 → MSC Stamp Bourse – Marlton Elementary School – 190 Tomlinson Mill Road – Marlton, NJ – 9 AM to 3 PM – merchantvillestampclub.org. NEW LOCATION !!!


2/13 → 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.


2/17 → Merchantville Stamp Club Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – see 2/4 meeting for details.


March 2016 . . .


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.

Society Auction at January Meeting

Check out the HTPS website for complete details on the auction process. Meanwhile, here are a few tips to help you achieve success:

1. Fill out the Auction List Sheet with lot descriptions and the starting bids. Create a Lot Description form for each item to match the Auction List description and starting bid.
2. If you wish to donate sales proceeds to the HTPS or other organizations, indicate so on the Auction List.
3. Be reasonable with the items offered for sale. Common items usually sell for 10-15% of CV. Specialized or unique items can sell for more.
4. Items are SOLD AS IS – so carefully check the auction lots for content and quality before the auction starts.
5. Winning bidders pay for their items first. Then the sellers are paid MINUS a 10% commission for HTPS.

Auction forms were included with our mailed newsletters and are available on our website. Contact us via email or the HTPS website if you have any questions.

Donations

Our thanks to Jim Cope, Ron González, Ed Muench, and Jack Sack for their donations of philatelic material including stamps, covers, supplies and 10 Scott catalogs dated from 2006-2010.

We will auction off the catalogs in January. Since there is no complete year set, we will start the auction bids at 50-cents to $1.00 depending on catalog condition.

USPS Shipping Rates

The latest increase in USPS shipping rates is scheduled for January 17, 2016.

The rate increases does not affect letters, postcards, First-Class flats or any of the “forever” rates.

Many of the increases involve Priority Mail services both for domestic and international customers with price increases from 9.5% to over 15%. First Class Package Service costs are also increased as is Standard Post (used for shipping large or heavy packages) which is now called Retail Ground.

UPS has also announced a rate increase effective December 28, 2015 and FedEx has scheduled an increase effective on January 4, 2016.

---------- HTPS Officers ----------

President ...................... Jeff Boyarsky
Vice President .................. Milt Keiles
Treasurer / Publicity ............ Ron Gonzalez
Secretary .......................... Bob Stolarz

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ATA Representative .............. Dennis Kennedy
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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 ----------

⇒ Jan. 19 – Society Auction
⇒ Feb. 16 – Tom DeLuca (always a surprise)
⇒ 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

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.