



# The Hamilton Hinge



APS Chapter #1095-104282



Newsletter of the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society

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Vol. 1, No. 3

November 2007

## This Month's Program

This month we will be showing an APS slide show on "Detecting Forgeries" by Mark Rowe.

As described by the APS, "Just four months after the issuance of the first adhesive postage stamp in 1840, postal inspectors discovered a letter with a counterfeit stamp on it. Since then, countless stamps have been forged - not only rare or expensive stamps, but common ones as well."

"This program reviews the basics of forgeries, along with some of the techniques that collectors need to identify them. Postal forgeries, intended to defraud the post office of revenue, are covered, as well as philatelic ones, aimed at stamp collectors. This highly popular program, something of a detective story, also shows why today forgeries are as popular with some collectors as are genuine stamps."

We look forward to an interesting meeting. A Show 'n Tell is also planned as time permits. If you have an interesting philatelic item, please bring it with you.

As always, come early to review the APS Circuit Books, look at the displays, pick up free literature, and chat with your fellow philatelists. We look forward to seeing you on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### HTPS Meetings . . .

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Hamilton Township Public Library, 1 Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. Way (off of Whitehorse Mercerville Road) in Hamilton, NJ 08619.

### In this Issue . . .

*November 20<sup>th</sup> Program*  
*Fakes & Forgeries*  
*Philatelic Library*  
**. . . and much more**

## President's Message



At our October meeting, I believe we broke an all-time attendance record for the second month in a row. Thank you all for coming and for making the HTPS an active and interesting organization.

It was a pleasure to hear the presentation on the Anderson Cachets by Andrew Boyajian. We thank Andrew for taking the time to put together the talk and letting us look at part of his vast collection. I hope other club members will consider giving a presentation on their own collecting interests.

This month we will have another of the APS slide show presentations. The show last year on "Number Ones of the World" was both interesting and informative. This month, we will learn about detecting fakes and forgeries. I am sure it will be very interesting.

Coming up in December is our annual holiday party, and in January we will have an auction. Please plan now to attend both events.

I look forward to seeing you all at the library on Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> . . . Ed.

## October Meeting

We had another record turnout for last month's meeting. The business meeting covered a number of the club activities including our "Stamps for the Wounded" program, the A.P.S. circuit books, and future presentations. We also had a discussion of the club finances and ways to attract new members.

The highlight of the evening was Andrew Boyajian's talk on Anderson Cachets. For 45 years, from 1933 to 1978, C. Stephen Anderson produced First Day covers for every United States stamp issue.



The presentation included a discussion of the history of the covers, the changes in production methods that occurred over time, and the sometimes contentious relationship between Anderson and the people who serviced the covers for him. Andrew showed numerous examples of the covers, whose hallmark is an explanation of the stamp subject as well a related picture.

Andrew has written a book on the cachets including the various color varieties, which has been a daunting task since no production records were kept. We thank Andrew for an enjoyable and informative talk.

## Jockey Hollow Bourse

A collector / non-dealer Bourse is set for November 11 at the Parsippany PAL (off Rts. 287 / 46). Tables are \$25. Contact Hugh Merritt at 973-263-9012 or [hughtowaco@optonline.net](mailto:hughtowaco@optonline.net).

## Library Display

Our next library display will be in Lawrenceville early next year. We are looking for new material to include in the exhibit. Please see Tony Z.

## American Philatelic Research Library

When I was faced with the problem of having accumulated a number of revenue stamps from the various Indian States, but didn't have a reference catalog to identify or appraise their value, I turned to the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL), part of the APS, to borrow a book on Indian States Revenues.

The procedure turned out to be easy to use. I began by going on-line to the APRL webpage, and searching the card catalog:

<http://www.stamps.org/InmagicGenie/opac.aspx>

You can search by author, title or subject – for example a search on "Indian States" gave 553 results, but you can narrow your search with terms like "Indian States AND Revenues".

When you find what you are looking for, you can add it to your cart. Simply hit the request button, and send a note to the library with any additional requests. Within a few minutes, I got a reply from the librarian with telling me which volumes were available and what the total cost would be.

The cost of borrowing the books for a month is rather expensive - \$13 plus return postage for the first book, but only \$1 for each additional book. In retrospect I should have added several books to my initial request.

## New Members

We welcomed two new members to the HTPS at the October meeting. Len M. collects U.S. and WW stamps, precancels and Olympics issues. Ron G. collects Puerto Rico stamps, covers and related items.

### Membership Dues for 2008 . . .

It's that time of the year again! HTPS dues remain at \$10 for the calendar year. Please bring a check or cash to the December meeting or send payment to Joe Pavelchak at 228 Windsor Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691.

## Forgeries & Fakes – Introduction

Here's a new column that will appear at times. Let's start with some **basic terms** including items not usually considered as a forgery.

**Bogus** (aka Fantasy) items appear to be regular postage issues, but they are not. This group includes labels for non-existent stamp-issuing entities and fictional denominations.



Ankh-Morpork Fantasy

**Cinderellas** encompass many items including bogus stamps and fantasies, fund raising labels, Christmas seals and other stickers that were produced for perfectly legitimate purposes

**Counterfeit** (aka cf or Postal Forgery) issues are imitations of philatelic items created to defraud the postal authorities.



Conf. States Facsimile

A **Facsimile** (aka Repro) issue is a reproduction of a genuine postage stamp, intended for educational or philatelic purposes, and not meant to defraud (stamp sometimes identified on back or front

**Fake** (aka Faux, Fraudulent) items are genuine stamps altered as to color, design, value, cancel, gum status, etc. to increase its monetary value for sale to collectors.

**Forgeries** are imitations of genuine philatelic items created by a private party to defraud collectors.

**Note** that the terms Counterfeit and Forgeries are often used interchangeably, and are often referred to as a **forgery** or a **forged item**.

**Propaganda** stamps are usually issued during war time when combatants forge the stamps of their enemies. During WW II, the Allies forged the Hitler head stamp so that their operatives behind German lines could mail letters without supporting the German government.

**Remainders** are not really forgeries, but are surplus stocks of legitimate postage stamps put into the philatelic market after being demonetized. Examples include some Nova Scotia issues (before it became a province of Canada) and German inflationary period stamps.

**Reprints** (aka Official Imitations) are issues authorized by postal officials, but **not** intended for postal use. They are usually produced from the original plates. Scott #'s 3-4 of the U.S. are reprints that used new plates.

**Production Methods and Techniques** for the creation of forged stamps vary. Fournier, the Spiro brothers and other forgers re-engraved plates attempting to match the stamp issued by postal authorities. Invariably their plates differed from the originals providing an opportunity to identify the forged item.



Bleached 2£ Kangaroo

Jean de Sperati was famous for bleaching a low value issue and then overprinting the paper with a high value of the same set. The forgery would be the correct size and have the proper paper, perforations, watermark, and sometimes even a cancel.

Numerous other forgery methods exist including:

- Reperforation
- Regumming (RG)
- Forged overprint
- False postmarks
- Repairs
- Color changes
- Fake cover use



RG 8c Columbian – Note Pf Tips

For additional background information on this topic, check out the Wikipedia entry at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philatelic\\_fakes\\_and\\_forgeries](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philatelic_fakes_and_forgeries).

Also look at the *Stamp Forgery Guide* at <http://www.filatelia.fi/forglinks/> for over 130 links and recommended forgery literature.

## My Stamping Bag

It is early Saturday morning. The rest of the family is asleep – but not me! I am quietly preparing my briefcase with all the essentials I will need for the day ahead. In a few short hours I will be on my way to another stamp show!

I am always amazed at the items that people take to a bourse. There are people who come with nothing, and must ask the dealer for everything including tongs and magnifying glasses.

On the other end of the spectrum is the collector who brings a rolling bag with a complete set of Scott catalogs. Finally, you have those who, in lieu of a want list, bring their collection to the show to see what stamps are missing!

A recent phenomenon has people bringing their laptop computer with them to the show. This does have the distinct advantage of having an up-to-the-minute want list – I have several times made the mistake of forgetting to mark my want list and ending up purchasing the same stamp twice at a show.

However, there are several drawbacks to bringing your laptop. First, it does add weight that has to be carried around, and takes up considerable space at the dealer tables which is sometimes at a premium. There is also the risk, unless you are very careful, that you may mark a stamp as purchased only to later return it. It is only after I get home and have a chance to carefully examine a stamp, confirming its identification, and placing it in my album that I record a stamp as “Have”.

The biggest disadvantage, however, when using your computer as your want list, is the battery lifetime. One can only stamp as long as your laptop battery holds out – usually not nearly as long as I would wish!

### Holiday Party . . .

Next month we will have our annual holiday party. Please plan to bring a snack, drink or dessert item to our December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I have tried to make a compromise between taking all my stamping supplies and reference materials and not having what I need at the show. I purchased a special bag with multiple compartments to hold the following items:

**Catalogs** – I carry an old Scott “Classic” and the “U.S. Specialized” catalog. The prices are out-of-date, but the books have the needed reference info. I also bring along a Stanley Gibbons Indian and King George VI catalog. Finally my copy of the *Micarelli Identification Guide to U. S. Stamps* is invaluable for identifying the early US issues.



**Tools** – I bring my stamping tool kit which contains tongs, watermark detector and a small bottle of Bestine, perforation / ruler, magnifying glass, etc.

**Reference Card** – I also carry along a reference card containing color varieties of the early postage due issues, paper varieties of the US stationary, and examples of flat plate and rotary press printings, lithograph and engraved for identification of the Washington-Franklins.

**Want Lists** – These are stored on the computer in Excel spread sheets. Instead of bringing my computer with me, I print out updated want lists every few months. This allows me to easily take out the lists without taking over the entire counter. It also has the advantage of allowing me to hand the list over to a friend to look for missing issues at one dealer while I concentrate my time at another dealer.

**Stock Sheets** – I also bring a selection of stock cards and sheets in which to hold my loose purchases, ones not already in dealer sheets or 104 cards, along with a small notebook, so I can easily identify my purchases.

I hope this gives you some new ideas of what to bring to a show.

## Philatelic Pieces - Stamp Identification

One of my biggest peeves on returning home from a show is finding that a stamp I had just purchased from a dealer has been misidentified. While I have never had a problem returning the stamp for a refund, it is a big hassle, particularly when I need to mail back the stamp in question.

This often occurs with early U.S. stamps like the Washington/Franklin series. I have developed an identification kit that I can easily bring with me to shows in case there is a question.

A key component of my ID kit is the *Micarelli Identification Guide to U. S. Stamps*. This book does an excellent job in explaining and illustrating the differences among all the early U.S. Stamps. My only fault with the guide is that it does not note which varieties of a particular issue are special printing or rarities which usually need not be considered when determining a stamp's identity.



The two easiest tests on a stamp are the perforations (I bring the Linn's Multi-gauge) and the printing type. I bring my reference stamp, Scott #322 (a "flat plate" stamp) where I have cut off the corners. I can place this over the stamp in question and immediately see if it is the same size as a flat plate, or the larger rotary press version.

I used to bring a few sheets of thin aluminum foil to rub over a stamp in case I needed to confirm that a stamp is offset rather than engraved, although after seeing them side-by-side the differences are obvious.

Also handy is a small bottle of watermarking fluid (Bestine) in a small eye-dropper bottle along with a small tray. Sometimes it is hard to verify a watermark, particularly if only a small portion of it is visible on a stamp. I have become very careful in selecting stamps where the existence or lack of a watermark is very clear.

## Classified Ads . . .

**WANTED:** One **postally used** stamp from Abkhazia. La Agüera, Argentina (Cordova Province), Australia (British Occ. Forces), Biafra, Corfu (Italian Occupation of 1923), East Timor, Karella, Kionga, Peru (Provincial Issues), Southern Cameroons, Turkmenistan, and Upper Yafa. See **Jack Sack** for a complete list.

**WANTED:** One each **CDS or date-type** cancelled stamp for the years 1912, 1913 and 1918. Also need: **Used Surinam** #'s 437, C58, C65-66, C68, C70 – **Used Yugoslavia** #'s 87, 96, 754-55 (3 copies each) – **Used Singapore** #'s 63-64. Contact **Tony Zingale**.

**Spray-on Cancels:** Please remember to save those city spray-on cancellations in your everyday mail. A number of our members are attempting to collect the nearly 300 different city spray-on cancellations.

**Stamps for the Wounded:** Please save your extra stamps for the Stamps for Wounded Vets program. Sherm Britton is also interested in other worthwhile organizations which are looking for stamp donations.

## Stamp Identification

Here are this month's unidentified stamps. If you have any ideas of what and where these are from, please let us know.



The Newsletter Editor is interested in any news, items of interest, articles, suggestions or ideas you might have.

Please write, call or email me – Jack Sack,  
50 Merion Place, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648;  
[hamilton@att.net](mailto:hamilton@att.net); 609-896-8193.

## Club Notices . . .

**Classified Ads:** All members in good standing can run a free 50-word classified ad each month in this Newsletter. Send them to the editor.

**Lending Library:** Need a catalog or reference publication? Check out the HTPS Lending Library. Borrowing a book is simple. Just scan the available titles on the Poster Board or online at our web site. Then contact Klaus Wagner at [kpwagner@comcast.net](mailto:kpwagner@comcast.net). Also note that the Hamilton Library has a complete set of Scott catalogs (Vols 1-6 and U.S. Specialized).

**On-line Newsletter:** The HTPS Newsletters are available online at [hamilton.home.att.net](http://hamilton.home.att.net). One advantage is that many of the articles in the on-line version have live links to Internet sites and email addresses.

**HTPS Web Site:** We added links for the Lending Library publications to the Programs page. Also updated the Meetings page to include a calendar thru 2008 and a map showing where our group meets. If you would like to help out with the site, or have some links you'd like to tell us about, please contact Tony Z.

**Stock Pages and Binders:** We are looking for contributions of binders and stock pages (manila or black poly). Recycled items are fine. The purpose is to supply new collectors with a "storage kit" before they decide on an album.

**APS Sales Books:** The club has ordered some blank APS circuit sales books for members to make up with their duplicates. If you would like to prepare a book, see Jack Sack.

## Upcoming Stamp Events . . .

- 11/04 – [C&W Stamp Show](#) – VFW Hall (479 South Avenue E) – Cranford, NJ
- 11/04 – [G.S. Coin & Stamp Show](#) – PAL Center – 33 Baldwin Road – Parsippany, NJ
- 11/10 – [Hightstown Stamp Bourse](#) – Am. Legion Hall – Rtes 130 & 33 – Hightstown, NJ
- 11/11 – [Collector Stamp Bourse](#) – PAL Center – 33 Baldwin Road – Parsippany, NJ
- 11/11 – [Sunday Stamp Bourse](#) – Holiday Inn – Sayer Ave & Rte 70 – Cherry Hill, NJ
- 11/14 – [Merchantville Stamp Club](#) – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ
- 11/16 – Friday Stamp Show – Radisson Hotel – Philadelphia, PA
- 11/17 – Lehigh Valley Stamp Expo – Merchant's Mall – Allentown, PA
- 11/18 – [Hasbrouck Heights Show](#) – Holiday Inn 283 Rte 17 S. – Hasbrouck Heights, NJ
- 11/18 – [Money & Stamps Show](#) – Clifton Center – 1232 Main Avenue - Clifton, NJ
- 11/20 – **HTPS Meeting – Hamilton Library – Hamilton, NJ**
- 11/24 – West Jersey Stamp Show – Masonic Hall (I-295 Exit 32) – Cherry Hill, NJ
- 12/06 – [Merchantville Stamp Club](#) – Temple Lutheran Church – Pennsauken, NJ
- 12/08 – [Hightstown Stamp Bourse](#) – Am. Legion Hall – Rtes 130 & 33 – Hightstown, NJ

**NOTE:** Internet Links have been added to some of the events listed above.

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The purpose of this newsletter is to promote philately, inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to attend the monthly meetings of the Society.

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### Officers of the Society

President ..... Ed Murtha  
Vice President ..... Tony Zingale  
Treasurer ..... Joseph Pavelchak

Secretary ..... Klaus Wagner  
APS Representative .... Sherm Britton  
Newsletter Editor ..... Jack Sack