



### **Postmark Atlanta**

Atlanta Stamp Collector's Club  
January 2005 Newsletter  
by Mark Heffernan

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I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. There is quite a bit upcoming in the first couple of months, so once again this is going to be a longer newsletter than usual.

**Dues are now being collected.** The cost of dues in 2005 is \$10.00. The dues cover the cost of this newsletter as well as the awards that the club sponsors at the Southeast Stamp Show (formerly Peach State). In the last newsletter, I neglected to mention where to send your dues payment. I will be handling the collection of dues this year for the club, if you wish to mail your dues payment, my address is listed at the top of this newsletter. Please also send any address changes to this address as well. (Checks should be made out to the Atlanta Stamp Collectors Club, as usual.)

**The annual club party** was held at Tony Roozen's house on December 9<sup>th</sup>. We had about twenty attendees and the White Elephant auction brought in \$76, to be donated to the Ponce library. It was decided by members present to up this figure to an even \$100. Many thanks to all those who came to the party, donated items for the auction and the bidders/buyers. Several Atlanta club members also attended the Button Gwinnett Christmas party, hosted by Gordon Brick. The Gwinnett party featured a Yankee Swap-where gifts were chosen by a number system-if you had a higher number you could take someone's already opened gift or take a chance on a wrapped gift. A boxful of stamps and a bottle of wine traded hands quite frequently during the gift exchange.

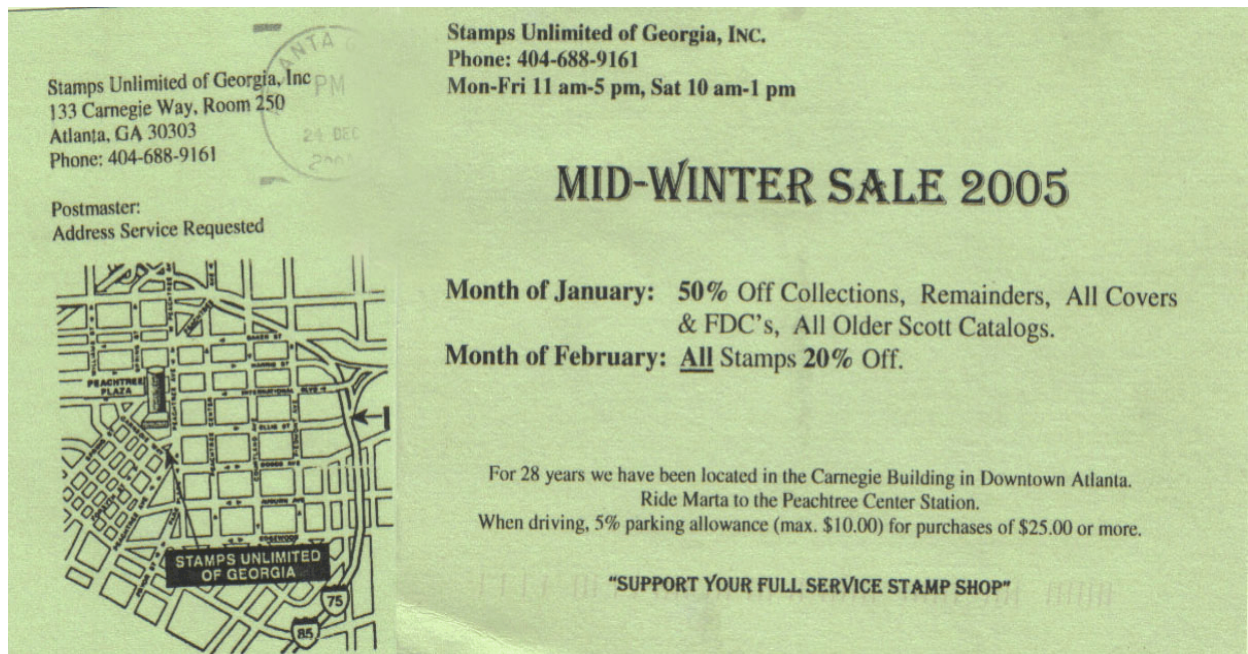
### **Upcoming club events-**

**Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005**-Normal club meeting cancelled. We look forward to seeing you at the joint meeting hosted by the Cobb County Stamp Club on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005**-The Cobb County Stamp Club is hosting a joint meeting of the three metro Atlanta stamp clubs. Please check out the map for directions, the meeting will start at 1:30 pm. Please also check out my short history on joint meetings below.

**Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2005**-An APS slideshow will be presented, most likely on exhibits.

**Mid Winter Sale at Stamps Unlimited.** Tony Roozen has announced an upcoming sale at his store. Please check out the postcard on the next page-it has all the details:



## **A Short History of Joint Meetings of the Metro Atlanta stamp clubs.**

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Cobb County will host its third joint meeting and the ninth overall since the joint meetings began in 2002. I thought it seemed time to reflect a little on the joint meetings, from their beginnings in 2002 up until the present day.

### **The very first joint meeting-Bob Lamb comes to Atlanta to discuss the APS Match Factory project.**

As many of you are aware, the big issue in 2002 in the stamp collecting world was the APS' decision to purchase an old match factory in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania as their new headquarters. This was (and still is) a very controversial move by the APS. It was decided by the club to invite an APS staff member or officer to discuss the match factory project. Bob Lamb, Executive Director of the APS agreed to come to Atlanta and a date for the meeting was set, **May 16, 2002**. Since the visit of an APS officer would be of benefit to all Atlanta area stamp collectors, it was decided by the club to invite members of the Cobb County and Button Gwinnett stamp clubs to attend. The Atlanta club provided refreshments (sodas and snacks) and members of all three clubs were invited to bring auction lots as well. Bob made a short statement and took questions from club members. As a matter of fact, there were so many questions, we had to cut the question and answer session short so that we could hold the auction! In what would become a tradition, the auction was very large with many varied lots. Attendance: about 50 members.

### **Button Gwinnett hosts the second joint meeting**

The following month, the Button Gwinnett stamp club brought up the idea of hosting a joint meeting at their meeting location in Lilburn. The club voted to host a joint meeting and set a date of **October 16, 2002**. A program was to be featured as well as a large auction. The

original program had to be cancelled so Dave Hill gave a book report on The Chalon heads, a mystery novel where postage stamps feature prominently. Attendance: about 40 members.

### **Cobb County takes up the challenge: The third joint meeting**

Cobb County hosted the third joint meeting on **January 8, 2003** at the Jewish Towers on Howell Mill Rd. This was the first joint meeting that did not feature a program, just a large auction. It is also notable that this meeting was held on a Wednesday, when Cobb normally meets on Sundays. This has been the only joint meeting not held on a regular meeting day. Atlanta decided to hold its two regular meetings on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> as well. Afterwards, it was decided that so many meetings held down attendance. Since this time, whenever a joint meeting is held, Atlanta will cancel one of its two monthly meetings in favor of the joint meeting. Attendance: about 35 members.

### **Return to Atlanta, the clubs fifty year anniversary as a member of the APS**

The joint meeting returned home to Atlanta in May 1st, 2003, as Atlanta celebrated its fiftieth year as an APS chapter. This was also the first joint meeting held at our current meeting location at the Ponce De Leon branch library. No program was featured, but a potluck dinner was held and Bob Lamb of the APS returned to present the club with our fifty year certificate. Attendance: about 50 members.

### **Button Gwinnett ends 2003's joint meetings on a high note.**

Button Gwinnett invited Bob Davidson of the Chattanooga, Tennessee stamp club to attend the joint meeting on October 15th, 2003. Bob gave a program on U.S. stamps used in China, which was very well received by the members present. Attendance: about 35 members.

### **The joint meeting returns to Cobb county-and moves to Sunday**

After last year, Cobb County moved their joint meeting to Sunday, in line with their regular meeting day. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004, we were treated to a program given by Jerry Goldoff of the Cobb County club on the Great Britain postal strike issues of 1971, another very well received program. Attendance was up from the previous year and also up from the meeting at Gwinnett. Attendance: about 40 members.

### **Atlanta hosts another joint meeting-the seventh so far**

Atlanta hosted its third joint meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Unlike previous years, which featured either a guest speaker or potluck dinner, Atlanta went for something simple: only featuring a large auction. Attendance was down from the previous year-only 40 members in attendance.

### **Button Gwinnett hosts the 8<sup>th</sup> joint meeting**

Button Gwinnett also opted for simplicity during their joint meeting held on October 20, 2004. A short business meeting was held, followed by a large auction. It is also notable that this was

the first joint meeting where attendance dipped below thirty five members (I counted 30 in attendance)

As we approach the upcoming joint meeting in January hosted by Cobb, and Atlanta's in May, it's worth noting what seems to be a trend: those joint meetings that feature some sort of program (guest speaker, club member program, potluck dinner, etc) have better attendance than those that don't. Perhaps this serves us as a reminder that the joint meetings should be considered something special-not just to serve as large auctions. Atlanta hosts the next joint meeting in May and the 10<sup>th</sup> overall-we (the Atlanta club) should consider what we would like to do for this meeting (a program? potluck dinner? something else?) to make it special and worth the drive for members of the other two area clubs.