

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2010



American Philatelic
Society Chapter 597
www.stamps.org



Germany Philatelic
Society Chapter 15
www.gps.nu



Southeast Federation
of Stamp Clubs
www.stampclubs.com



www.stampclubs.com/huntsville/index.htm

This newsletter is published monthly by the Huntsville Philatelic Club. Meetings are held on the First and Third Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fern Bell Recreation Center, 107A Sanders Road SW. Visitors are always welcome.

MEETING CALENDAR

- May 4** The 1937-42 Mufti stamps used to the US
May 18 Philatelic Auction Night
June 5 & 6 HUNTSPEX 2010
June 8 The 1937-42 Mufti stamps used internationally
June 22 Philatelic Auction Night

All regular club meetings begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Auction sellers are asked to arrive 15 minutes early to allow viewing of auction lots.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Heinrich Hahn hhahn@bellsouth.net
Vice Pres: Ray Pietruszka pietrij@mindspring.com
Treasurer: Mike O'Reilly mcoreilly@yahoo.com
Secretary: Arthur Cole hpc-stamps@att.net
Directors: Dave Nicolas (past president),
Kathy Campbell, Bob Adams, Don Hill, and Fred Muhl

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Huntsville Philatelic Club - P O Box 4384
Huntsville, AL 35815-4384

Annual dues are \$12.00 per individual and \$3.00 per additional family member. Dues are prorated for new members and renewals are payable in January.

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www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

STAMP CLUB NEWS

- April's first meeting began the first of a three-part presentation by **John Burnett** on Canada's 1937-42 Mufti stamps. Part 1 covered the domestic Canadian uses, part 2 will illustrate uses to the United States, and part 3 will focus on other international usages.
- April's auction night was well attended and resulted in spirited bidding with most lots sold.

HUNTSPEX 2010

- Dates: June 5 and 6 at the Bevill Center and Hotel
- Topic: 50th Anniversary Marshall Space Flight Center
- Exhibition: Prospectus and application available
- Ronnie Nixon has agreed to serve as exhibit judge
- Awards Dinner: Saturday evening at Soldatenstube
- Dealers will be Heinrich Hahn, Denny Peoples, Rusty R. Shoat, Bill Di Salvatore, Glenn Hanle, Dwayne Selix, Bill Vance, Tony Roozen, Louise Chouinard, James D. Myers, and Fred Brafford.
- BNAPS will provide a ribbon for the "Best BNA Exhibit" as we qualify with four BNA area exhibits.



On a recent trip **Kathy Campbell** stopped by the Post Office at the End of the World, Fin del Mundo post office at Tierra del Fuego National Park in extreme southern Argentina.

SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

June 5-6

HUNTSPEX 2010

Huntsville Philatelic Club, Bevill Center and Hotel,
University of Alabama in Huntsville, 550 Sparkman DR
(I-565, exit 12). Heinrich Hahn, 256-536-7785
http://www.stampshows.com/huntsville_hpc.html

September 24-26

SOUTHEASTERN STAMP SHOW

Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs, Cobb County Civic
Center, 548 S. Marietta Pkwy., Marietta, GA. Scott Mark,
mark_s@bellsouth.com, www.stampclubs.com

VERY RARE STAMP NEARLY A GIFT

-John Burnett

I want to tell you a story about how I came into possession of a block of stamps I could never have had afforded had not a friend nearly given it to me.

The year is 1945, I am just 5 years old, my dad has come home from WWII and he and I are going to the annual Christmas dinner of the British Columbia Philatelic Society.

My dad had been a lifelong stamp collector (specializing in the stamps and postal history of Austria). I must interject here that I do not remember these things I will relate to you, they were told to me by one of the participants in the story.

My dad and I were sitting at a table for four when a gentleman by the name of Abe Charkow walked in. There was a lot of anti Semitism in British Columbia at that time and my dad knew Abe would end up eating alone, he sent me over with an invitation for him to join us for dinner, which he did. A few minutes later a stamp dealer by the name of Fred Langer (an Austrian) came in. There were lots of ill will toward Germans and Austrians at the end of WWII and my dad knew he would eat alone (Fred had come to Canada in 1938 and was in no way involved in the fighting) and so he sent me over to invite him to join the three of us.

Now jump forward 40 years to 1985, my dad long gone but my mother was still living and I was visiting her. I had taken the afternoon and was at a local stamp store (Fred Langer was also gone by then). There was one other person in the store and the store owner introduced Abe Charkow, who simply asked if I was the son of John Burnett the former member of the BC Phil? When I said yes he then related the story I have just told above, as I say I have no recollection of going over to invite these folks to join us for dinner.

Abe said to me, "Here we were just after a terrible world conflict, a returned soldier, who had endured six years of war, a Jew, and a German, sitting together enjoying a dinner and a camaraderie based on our mutual hobby of collecting stamps".

Abe told me how he would be eternally grateful to my dad for being the gentleman he was and for his leadership at the club as concerns people and their individual beliefs and backgrounds.

He invited me to visit his office the following day, which I did, we spoke of what we collected I told him of my Small Queen collection and the frustration of not being able to afford some of the material that would elevate my collection to a gold medal level.



Abe pulled out the block of small queens shown nearby and asked me if I wanted to buy them. I looked at the largest known block of the "slate green" 5¢ small queen. I remember saying "Abe there is no way I will ever be able to afford such a show piece"! He replied "I didn't say how much I wanted for them"! An individual stamp in today's market sells for around \$1500 and here I was looking at a block of ten stamps! Generally stamps sell on an exponential scale i.e.: two sell for the price of three and three for the price of five etc. Here was a block of stamps that would easily be given a \$50,000 estimate in an auction catalogue and would probably sell for more than its estimate.

Abe was insistent I answer his question "would you buy them if you could?" "Of course" I answered, "but I never could". Abe's response was would you give me \$100 dollars for the block with a promise never to break the block up? He told me "this is a tribute to a man who saw only good in people and I hope taught his son to see the same good in all people and so today I own the largest known block of the 5¢ slate green small queen.

Abe had made enquires about selling the block but every dealer spoke of having to break up the block to be able to see the stamps.

Abe was rich (he owned much commercial real estate in Vancouver) and didn't need the money so he held onto the block of stamps until our chance meeting at Rock Point Stamps in 1985.

This darn hobby of ours allows us to make friends with all kinds of different people, it's a common denominator and we should work to get to know all its participants. The next time you're at a HPC meeting make sure you know something about the person sitting next to you. Be proactive in the club, give of yourself and you will be amazed how it will pay dividends over time.