

HUNTSVILLE PHILATELIC CLUB NEWSLETTER

October 2009



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 quarterly 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

October 6th @ 7:00

One Page Exhibits

A presentation by John Burnett

October 20th @ 7:00

Philatelic Auction Night

Nov. 3 TBD

Nov. 17 Philatelic Auction Night

Dec. 1 TBD

Dec. 15 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 pietrj@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.

This month's newsletter and archives back to May 2005 may be viewed at our Southeast Federation web page:
www.stampclubs.com/news/news-huntsville.htm

STAMP CLUB NEWS

- If you are happy reading the PDF version of the newsletter on your computer, or print out your own paper copy at home, you could save the club some money by asking to receive only the emailed newsletter. To opt out of the postal mailed version, please send an email message to the club secretary at hpc-stamps@att.net
- At the last meeting club officers were elected for the 2009-2011 term. Please take note of our new officers and their contact information.
- Visiting our last meeting was **Paula Walton, Kathy Campbell's** pen pal and stamp trading friend from England.
- The first in a series of articles by new member **John Burnett** appears in this issue of the newsletter. This is nothing new to John as a former columnist at Linn's Stamp News.



Auctioneer **Dave Nicolas** shows one of the many lots available at our last auction meeting. Sales have been good, so bring your extra stamps to our next auction.

POST OFFICE BOX 252 GRAND CENTRAL STATION

JOHN BURNETT

Half the world went to war in September 1939 with the invasion of Poland by Germany and war declared by each of the British Empire countries during the early days of that month.

Kept secret for fifty years (under the official secrets act) after the end of the war was the existence of a communications route to Canada from Germany and a route from Canada to Germany.

Thomas Cook and Sons opened a PO Box, number 252, at Grand Central Station in New York City for the transmission of mail between the warring factions; this was sanctioned by both Canada and Germany, with all mail subject to censorship. The United States was an official neutral during the first two years of WWII.

This box remained in use until the United States entered the conflict in 1941.

Shown nearby is a cover from Germany, dated August 1941 simply marked to PO Box 252. We know this envelope and contents were forwarded to Canada because of the C. 57 censor strip used to seal the letter. "C. 57" censor mark was assigned to the Consular offices in Ottawa Ontario. Canadian military censors were assigned "DB" censor marks and consular offices were assigned "C".

There was also a Thomas Cook owned box 506 in Lisbon Portugal, this box remained open for the duration of WWII. Surprisingly covers to box 506 are much more difficult to find. I hypothesize that the reason is that paper in Germany at the end of the war was scarce and any that was around was used as fire starters or toilet paper. We must also remember that the eastern portion of Germany was controlled by the Russians and there was much relocation of people on short notice. I suspect they didn't carry their old letters but food and clothing in these forced relocations.

The postal history of WWII is a grand area for research and I suggest you look into the many ways it can be studied.



SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

October 3 - 4

MEMPHEX 2009

Memphis Stamp Collector's Society, Memphis East Marriott, 2625 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Memphis, TN Contact William Bartlett, rbart1124@comcast.net; 901-753-9266.

October 24

Annual CSRA Stamp Show

33rd GAPEX, Greater Augusta Stamp Club, Americas Best Value Inn, 3023 Washington Road (at I-20 Exit), Augusta. Contact Peter Igel, igelsp@bellsouth.net; 706-868-6769.

2009 NEW ISSUE CHECKLIST

January

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Statehood | <input type="checkbox"/> Year of the Ox |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon Statehood | <input type="checkbox"/> Edgar Allan Poe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Redwood Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Old Faithful |

February

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abraham Lincoln | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights Pioneers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Miami University | <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic Banner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Seal | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Bell |

April

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Wright | <input type="checkbox"/> Polar Bear |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Koi Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Heart |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tiffany Lamp | |

May

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Flag | <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Rings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wedding Cake | <input type="checkbox"/> The Simpsons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seabiscuit | <input type="checkbox"/> American Flag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Hope | <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Bell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love/King & Queen | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Lasker |

June

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Flag | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Julia Cooper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Dolphin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zion National Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Teton National Park |

July

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf Coast Lighthouses |
|---|

August

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flags of Our Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Television Memories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liberty Bell | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii Statehood |

September

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eid | <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving Day Parade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Cooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Supreme Court Justices |

October

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kelp Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Holidays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hanukkah | <input type="checkbox"/> Kwanzaa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Madonna & Child | |