

HPS

THE PERFORATOR



**July
August
September
2015**

**THE
NEWSLETTER OF
THE HOUSTON
PHILATELIC
SOCIETY**

EDITOR - JAY STOTTS

Send articles for publication, classified advertising (Free!), news of members, exhibit award information or anything else of general interest to club members to:

Jay Stotts
P.O. Box 690042
Houston TX 77269-0042
e-mail: stottsjd@swbell.net

Greater Houston Stamp Show is Under Preparation

We are on the eve of our annual stamp show, Greater Houston Stamp Show (GHSS), so now is the time to start planning your participation in the show. We assume that most of our club members will attend the show over the weekend of September 18-20, 2015 at the Humble Civic Center, but there are other opportunities than just attending.

Other details are shown in the flier on page 3. It starts with volunteering. Club members who volunteer are what makes GHSS the best philatelic event between St. Louis, Phoenix and Orlando. We need volunteers for a number of activities, especially those listed below.

- Set-up day, September 17, from 1-6 pm
- The Reception Table, all three days
- The Concessions Booth, all three days
- The Beginner's Booth, all three days
- Tear-Down on Sunday from 4-6 pm

Typically, volunteering during the show consists of 2 or 3 hour shifts. To volunteer, contact Show Chair Denise Stotts during an HPS meeting or get in touch with her by e-mail at stottsjd@swbell.net.

Another way several HPS members participate and enhance their collecting experience is by exhibiting. Exhibiting is a way to share their collection with the general public and at the same time compete for special awards and win a medal. This year's exhibit has already been filled, so entries are closed.

The main feature will be the annual single-frame color competition. At press time we have 15 single-frame Green stamp exhibits. This will be the country's largest and most impressive single frame competition other than the two APS sponsored national shows, Stampshow and Ameristamp Expo.

Attending the Awards Dinner is yet another way to enhance your weekend at the show. The dinner is held at the show hall shortly after the show ends on Saturday and is a come-as-you-are event. It is casual

(continued on page 3)

Houston Philatelic Web Site:
<http://www.houstonstampclub.org/>

Upcoming Philatelic Shows & Bourses

July 31 - August 1, 2015

Houston TSDA Bourse. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: www.tsdastamps.com.

September 18-20, 2015

Greater Houston Stamp Show. Humble Civic center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX. This will be our 19th consecutive year at this venue and the 68th edition of our show.

Our single-frame exhibit color this year is Green. We anticipate a very special competition within the Green single-frame competition. The exhibiting team Unhinged from New England has challenged our very own HPS exhibiting team, the Midnight Mavericks to a head-to-head shootout. Ron Strawser is coordinating those details.

Currently we have a slate of 33 dealers scheduled to attend the show as Bourse dealers.

November 6 - 7, 2015

Houston TSDA Bourse. Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7611 Katy Freeway (I-10 West, south side feeder road.) Bourse hours are 10-5 on Friday and 9-4 on Saturday. Web site: www.tsdastamps.com.

November 13 - 14, 2015

Mid-Cities Stamp Expo. This is the 28th Annual Exhibition and Bourse of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. The venue is the Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, Texas. Please note that if you wish to attend this show, currently their web site shows Saturday and Sunday hours, their past practice, but the dates indicate a two-day show to be held on Friday and Saturday. The dates on their web site, Nov. 13-14 also imply a Friday and Saturday show this year and word on the street is that it will be Friday and Saturday only. Please make sure to check their web site for updates as the show approaches. The Mid-Cities web site is: <http://mid-citiesstampclub.com/stampshow.htm>

Upcoming Meetings

July 20 ...

Isle of Man

William Drummond exhibits the postal history of this postal jurisdiction and will share his expertise with the group.

August 3 ...

Liberia Waterlow Stamps, 1892-1905

Bryant Korn will share his extensive knowledge on the Waterlow issues from this period of Liberia's stamp production.

August 17 ...

Third Quarter Floor Auction

Members are welcomed to bring up to three separate lots for sale in the auction. Auction forms are available to be printed off the club web site. Plan on bringing some cash to purchase some new material for your collections during the auction.

September 7 ...

Greater Houston Stamp Show Preview

This is our last regular meeting before we host our annual three day stamp show, the GHSS. At this meeting, the various committee chair person will be giving brief scenarios of their areas of responsibility. We will try to finalize our volunteer lists and will make last minute preparations. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please bring them up during the open forum meeting.

September 21 ...

Show Wrap-Up Meeting

In an open Forum meeting, each chair person will get the opportunity to report on their area of the show. We also would like to hear recommendations for improvements, etc. One traditional feature of this meeting is a show and tell for items purchased at the show.

October 5 ...

Treasure in the Trash

An all-participation discussion of great items rescued from the trash. Please bring an example to share with the group.

GHSS is Under Preparation

(continued from page 1)

dining featuring barbeque from Trigg's, famous for catering in the Houston area.

Tickets are \$17.00 per person - contact Denise early - tickets have been selling fast the last several years. The dinner includes three main events in addition to the meal. The exhibit competition awards are featured, sandwiched between our Stamp and Texas Trivia quiz with cash prizes and our annual color crayon drawing to determine next year's featured single frame color.

So, if you attend the show annually to shop and make contact with fellow collectors, consider expanding your participation.

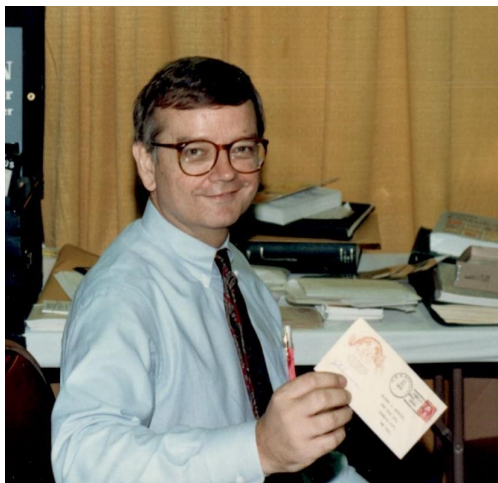
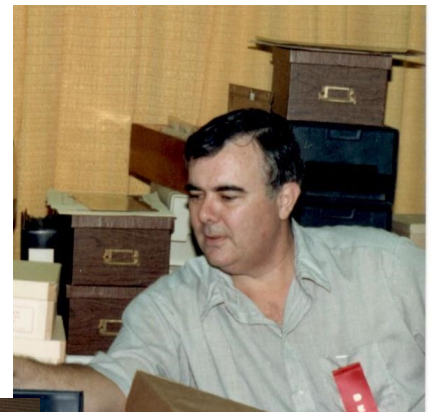
Flashbacks to HOUPLEX '87

The photos below are from our 1987 show, Houplex, 28 years ago. Thanks to Georgann Francis for sharing them.



Left: Mary Jane Menzel and Jack McMahan.

**Right: John Grosse
Lower Left:
Charlie Deaton
Below: Vernon Moore and Jim Kulwiki
Lower Right:
Georgann Francis**



Greater Houston Stamp Show

Sponsored by the Houston Philatelic Society

September 18 - 19 - 20, 2015

Friday 10am to 6pm

Saturday 10am to 6pm

Sunday 10am to 4pm

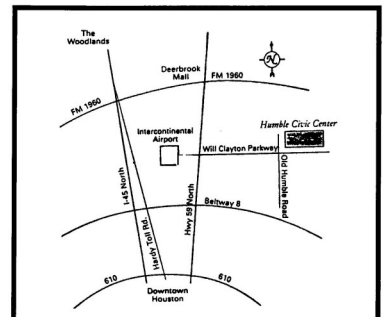
Free Admission
Free Parking

**Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Pkwy
Humble, Texas**

**33 Dealer Bourse
1200 Page Exhibit
U.S. Post Office**

Sam Houston
Philatelics Inc.
Floor Auction

For More Information:
Greater Houston Stamp Show
P.O. Box 690042
Houston, TX 77269-0042
www.houstonstampclub.org



Seebeck and the Hamilton Bank Note Engraving & Printing Co.

Nicholas Frederick Seebeck was notorious to stamp collectors of the 1890's. The story has been told countless time in the last 100 years, but is certainly worth telling again.

Seebeck was born in Germany on February 19, 1857, but was brought to the United States at age 9.

Stamp Dealer and Publisher

In his teens, he engaged himself in philately as a stamp dealer, becoming familiar with the hobby, collectors and what drove them.

He also became a job shop printer in New York City and his business also handled stationery, paper goods, etc.

He soon combined his two specialties and started actually producing stamps in 1879. He printed stamps for the Dominican Republic and for the state of Bolivar in Colombia.



A young Nicholas Seebeck.

In the mid 1880s he came up with a scheme to make money based on his experiences both in the stamp dealing and stamp printing businesses.

His plan was ingenious. His plan required some business changes first. In 1884, he sold his lucrative stamp business to another dealer, a man named Gustave B. Calman. He took the proceeds and invested them in a distraught New York banknote firm, the Hamilton Bank Note Engraving & Printing Co.

Hamilton was a major printer of millions of railroad tickets and other transportation tickets, but they were in trouble due to the national financial Panic of 1884.

Seebeck invested his stamp business proceeds into Hamilton. The company was stagnant, but on May 1, 1885, an arrangement was made with Seebeck. He gave up his stationery business, transferring those assets to Hamilton. He also invested his stamp business proceeds to inject capital into the banknote business.

Conversely, Hamilton appointed Seebeck the company's Secretary and General Manager and issued him 5000 shares in the company.

In 1886, Seebeck made a stamp buying trip to the West Indies and Latin America. This gave him a chance to acquaint himself with their mannerisms and customs.

In 1888, he engaged Calman to dispose of the stamps. At this time, Calman, a wholesale stamp dealer, had become the largest dealer in stamp remainders in the U.S. Seebeck also engaged him to play a role in his "plan".

The Plan

By 1889, Seebeck was ready to launch his plan. He obtained letters of introduction from his brother-in-law, Ernest Schernikow who was the Salvadorian Consul in New York City.

His plan was to offer to print stamps at Hamilton for countries free of charge. In exchange, The countries would annually return the unsold remainders back to him. He intended to sell these remainders on the stamp collector market. He also would retain the printing plates and the rights to reproduce

stamps as needed. He also intended to secure a 10-year contract, creating the need for each country to generate the need for additional new stamps each year since the remainders had been returned to Seebeck.

At this time, Hamilton was prospering, largely due to Seebeck's activities on their behalf, so they went along with almost anything he proposed.

He set sail in January, 1889. He was unsuccessful obtaining contracts with Costa Rica or Guatemala, but in March he obtained a ten year deal with El Salvador and the following month made a deal with Honduras and Nicaragua. Unsolicited, Ecuador became a customer in 1891.

Collector Outcry

Almost immediately, the collecting community complained. For these stamps, there apparently would be an unending supply of reprints.

Collectors of the period also considered it abusive for countries to issue long sets with high face values. For them, too many unnecessary stamps were being released. Collectors also perceived that, if

they purchased these stamps, they could never increase in value due to the fact that there could always be more printed.

Collectors tended to limit themselves to collect only the used versions, assuming these were genuine and had more potential value, which led to a flood of cancelled-to-order stamps.

Many collectors, because of the reasons listed above, regarded the stamps as only labels and refused to collect them.

Seebeck was surprised by the outcry and wrote numerous letters to the philatelic press in defense of his acts. He contended that if he hadn't thought of the plan and executed it, sooner or later someone else would have. He explained what a great business deal it was for both Hamilton and the countries involved.

The U.S. 1894 Stamp Contract

In the middle of all this, Hamilton, with the comfort of knowing they were printing the stamps of several countries, put in a bid for the U.S. stamp printing contract.

Bids were due on November 15, 1893 and there were three bidders: Hamilton (\$179,294.40), the reigning printer, the American Bank Note Co. of New York (\$162,401.61) and Charles F. Steel of Philadelphia (\$146,454.93). After the bids were announced, Steel and American began to attack one another. Formal protests were filed by both. Hamilton also retained their formal rights during hearings.

About two weeks after the bid date, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and printing was allowed to submit a bid as well. They undercut Steel by \$28,000 and were awarded the contract, launching a 100 year era of Bureau Issues.

The End of the Era

Seebeck passed away of tuberculosis at the age of 42 in 1899. At the time, he had just regained control at Hamilton, but effectively, the era of Latin American Seebecks had come to an end.

Today, there is a great following of Seebeck students. They struggle to identify original printings from the reprints. They also seem to relish postal history of the period for the countries involved. Covers certainly provide usages of the original printings.



1897 El Salvador 100 Centavos, Scott #170

Call for Directory Information

It is time for the annual update of the Houston Philatelic Society Directory. Any members who would like to add their name, collecting interest or email address to the directory, or who would like to change information already there, please email John Germann at jghist@comcast.net or phone 281-493-3938.

John J. Germann, 12102 Whittington Dr., Houston, TX 77077-4911

Award Winners ...

Editor's note: Please report your activities as an exhibitor and we'll give you the spotlight here in the Winners' column.

St. Louis Stamp Expo, March 27-29, 2015, St. Louis, MO:

William Drummond - "Ellan Vannin: Isle of Man" - Vermeil medal.

PIPEX, May 8-10, 2015, Portland, OR:

William Drummond - "Ellan Vannin: Isle of Man" - Vermeil medal.

Classified Ads:

Members may place philatelically related Buy, Sell, or Trade ads in The Perforator free of charge. HPS Dealer-Members may place free classified or feature ads in The Perforator at no charge as well. Member ads will run indefinitely until the advertiser requests a change or cancellation. Send copy to the editor.

Wanted: Mint and used stamps and postcards from China (year 1878-85). David Wu, Houston, TX
freefoodwater@yahoo.com
832-276-2956.

Wanted: U.S. unusual postal history material; 1887 large banknote issue, 10¢ through 15¢ Washington/Franklin issues. Also, U.S. 19th century green cancels. David Willig, Houston, TX, cbhz3@hotmail.com. 713-201-2042.

Buy/Sell/Trade: Texas Postal History. Email John Germann or phone him at 281-493-3938. jghist@comcast.net.

Stamp Position Open: Sam Houston Philatelics has need of an individual or two to assist on our growing auctions, retail and mail sales. Interested individuals please call Bob Dumaine. Must be bondable. 281-493-6386.

Morocco stamps & covers. Do you have in your collection examples of stamps and covers showing cancellations from Mogador, Morocco? I am gathering images of the many cancellations used in Mogador for a study of the postal systems operated in that city up to 1956. This includes stamps of Morocco, French Morocco, German Offices in Morocco, British Morocco Agencies, Gibraltar, Spain and Spanish Morocco, and local issues. Also includes stamped and stampless covers originating in Mogador and handled by French, German, British and Spanish postal systems, the state-run Cherifien post, local postal carriers, maritime carriers and the Catholic Church. Contact: Rich Bajenski at RBajenski@hotmail.com, or locate me at HPS stamp club meetings.

The Houston Philatelic Society....

Enjoy the fun of stamp collecting by sharing your interests with fellow collectors at an upcoming HOUSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY meeting.

When : First and third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM

Where : West University United Methodist Church, 3611 University Blvd., Houston, TX

Visitors and new stamp collectors are always welcome.

Officers:	President: Ardy Callender	Vice-President: David Willig
	Secretary: Jay Stotts	Treasurer: Larry Ballantyne
	Past President: William Fort	Webmaster: Jonathan Topper
Board of Directors:	Rich Bajenski	Clayton Finney
	Tom Herbert	John Germann
	Denise Stotts	Stan Katz
		Ron Strawser
		Bryant Korn
		Jonathan Topper