

Special "Year in Review" Issue



The Hamilton Hinge

APS Chapter #1095-104282

Hamilton Township Philatelic Society Newsletter

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President's Message



One of the many pleasures of philately is meeting people who share a common interest. In nearly all cases, I have enjoyed their company and look forward to seeing them again. I would like to believe that most of us feel the same way, and that this is the primary reason attendance at

HTPS meetings continues to grow each month.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, a number of your fellow HTPS members helped in the set up and take down of NOJEX in Secaucus, NJ. Many of us met new, fellow collectors who give up more than a few days a year to help run the largest NJ stamp show. It is their hope, and ours, that the show will help in the promotion of philately.

It also made us all aware of the massive amount of work that is needed to put on a stamp show. I thank all who helped at NOJEX. Those of you who could not help, I would like to encourage you to consider joining us next year or to plan on helping / attending MERPEX in Merchantville, NJ over the Labor Day weekend.

I would also like to suggest that sometime each week over this summer that you mention in conversation to others that you collect stamps, covers or postcards. You may be pleasantly surprised to learn how many of your friends and acquaintances share this common interest.

Philately is great hobby. It is also fun – even more so when you can share it with others . . . Ed.

HTPS Meetings . . .

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

In this Issue . . .

- *London Exhibition*
- *Society Auction*
- *The Year in Review*
- *Summer Philatelic Events*
- . . . and much more!

June Events

This is our last Newsletter for the 2009-2010 philatelic season. It is also a first for HTPS – eight pages is our largest issue to date.

June 15 is our last formal meeting of the season (July and August are trading and social gatherings). As usual, we end up with an auction. This time we have changed the process a bit so check out the auction write-up in this issue. Also consider bringing something of interest to auction off for your fellow members.

Take a look at the summer event schedule. We highlight over twenty philatelic events in the tri-state area during the next three months. Surely there are one or two that you can attend.

See you at the June 15th meeting.

Stamp Identification

Jerry McNew correctly identified last month's stamp as Manchukuo #138 issued in 1941.

This month we visit a different part of the world. Not much information in the design of this stamp, but there are other clues, so put on your thinking caps.

The first correct identifier can select an item from the gift box.



May Proceedings

by Jack Sack

Our May meeting began with the re-election of our current officers by acclamation for another term. The officers thanked the support staff, particularly Tony Zingale, for all their help this past year.

Plans were made to help setup the exhibits and dealer booths at the NOJEX show in Secaucus over the Memorial Day weekend (see the article on page 8). A group is also planning to help break down the show on Sunday afternoon.

Tony Zingale described the procedure for the Members Auction next month. A new feature will require each lot to have a short description attached to it. This will help the auctioneer describe each lot and insure there is no misunderstanding on what is being offered.

The presentation for the meeting was a series of "Mini-Talks". Rather than one member or guest giving a 30-40 minute talk, we asked four of our members to each give a short 5-10 minute presentation.

Ron Dombrowski started us off by describing a **Polish Government in Exile** cover he had found. The cover contains a number of stamps issued in England to support the efforts of the Polish forces in exile. Of particular note was that this cover was an actual correspondence rather than a piece of philatelic mail.



34-cent Longleaf Pine Forest Issue – 4th in the Series

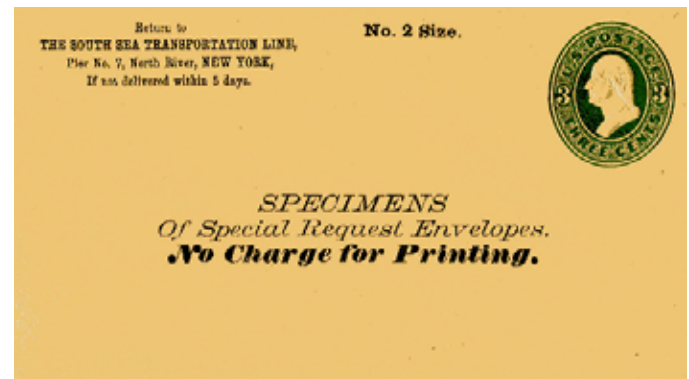
Francis Bizon gave a presentation on the **Nature of America Series**. For the past ten years, the Postal Service has been annually issuing sheetlets containing various wildlife habitats. Each issue has ten individual stamps for use on first class mail. The next sheetlet, due out later this year, is of the Hawaiian Rain Forest. Covers containing the individual stamps are very difficult to find and Francis is still looking for a number of used stamps to complete his collection.

Jeff Boyarsky next spoke on **Victorian Trade Cards** that he recently started collecting. The cards were created to advertise a company's product or service. They were in use primarily from the post Civil War period to around 1910. Jeff displayed some of the trade card types that were used for this purpose.



At the right is an example of a "Custom" card that contains the company name and product on the front. The back of the card often contained a description of the product's use and cost. For more information on this fascinating ephemera collectible, check out the site at <http://www.tradecards.com>.

The final talk of the evening was from Bob Stolarz on **U.S. Buyer's Cards**. These envelopes, overprinted "Specimen" on the face of the envelope (and sometimes also on the stamp image), were on display at Post Offices to show businesses what was available for sale with their address printed in the upper left corner. The printing process was usually offered at no charge to the postal customer.



A few other members had some Show & Tell items of interest. One pleasant surprise was Warren Scheible's mini-presentation on Civil War Fractional Postage Currency. Due to a lack of metal coins during the war, paper notes in denominations of 5¢ to 50¢ were used from 1862 to 1863. His talk included several examples of these notes.

We thank all of the speakers for preparing and giving their presentations. This new format of mini-talks was a big hit with the members and is sure to be added to our presentation schedule next year.

London 2010

by Les Timbres

The London 2010 Festival of Stamps was held last month at the Business Design Center in Issington, just north of central London.



It was an easy underground (subway) ride from my hotel. The area is noted for the many fine restaurants and pubs which I was able to verify. The festival marks the 100th anniversary of the ascension of King George V, “the philatelist king”, to the British throne in 1910.



I spent my first day in London at the Exhibition, viewing the exhibits and checking out the over 200 dealer stands. The **Royal Mail** stand, the largest at the exhibition, featured a

small exhibition from the Royal Mail archive. It also had a sales area featuring all of the stamps and philatelic material currently available from the British post office.

I met with many dealers including our old friend **Sandeep Jaiswal** who is an expert on Indian States stamps. Unfortunately, the high fees for tables prevented some of my favorite discount dealers from attending the show.



Also disappointing was the fact that not all of the exhibits were on display for the entire show. Thus, one had to make several trips to Issington in order to see them all.

The **largest letter** ever mailed through a postal system (23' x 32') was hanging from the ceiling of the hall (as seen in the upper right portion of the photo below).



I also saw the "**Treskilling Yellow**" stamp (pictured here). This is a misprint of the Sweden Scott #1 issue which was printed in yellow instead of the original green color. It was put on display at the show by David Feldman who sold it on May 22 to a private bidder. Details of the sale are not available, but it is believed that the selling price was over two million dollars.



The next day, I went over to the **British Library** for a tour of their Philatelic Collections given by the curator of the collection, David Beech. The Library holdings began with the Tapling collection in 1891. Thomas Tapling, a wealthy businessman and philatelist, had assembled a virtually complete world-wide collection of postage stamps. Upon his untimely death in 1891 at the age of 35, the collection was bequeathed to the Library.



This collection contains numerous rarities including the Hawaiian missionary stamps, the “Post Office” Mauritius, and the inverted 4 anna value Victoria issue from India (pictured left).

Over the years, various collectors and Government agencies have given additional material to the Library, making it the single largest philatelic collection in the world. While there are two other major collections in England, the Queen’s collection and the Royal Post Office archives, the Library collection covers the world whereas the other two contain mostly stamps from Great Britain and the colonies.

Mr. Beech gave me a tour of the collection which began with British Tax stamps from the 1700’s through the famous Tristan da Cunha overprints (pictured on cover below). The stamps were prepared by the postmaster of the island as semi-postals to pay for relief efforts following the 1961 volcanic eruption which forced the evacuation of the entire population. A single known letter was mailed using the surcharged stamps before the British Colonial postal authorities ordered the stamps to be destroyed.



London 2010 (continued)

Following the tour of the Library collection, Mr. Beech took us downstairs to show the **printing press** used to produce the 1840 Penny Black, often called the first postage stamp. The one pence valued Penny Black popularized the engraving process (also called intaglio) where a master plate could be repeatedly copied to individual metal plates, making each stamp on the sheet identical. Only the plate letters differed on the sheet.



My next stop was the **Guildhall** in the financial district which had a special display on George V (Queen Elizabeth's grandfather) who was King from 1910 to 1936. George was an avid stamp collector and his collection is the basis for the Queen's collection. Among



items on display was the rare 2d King Edward VII Tyrian plum stamp (pictured left). The stamp was prepared to replace the then current 2d stamp. A single stamp was mailed to George (then the Prince of Wales) by the post office on May 5th, 1910 prior to it being issued. The next day, his father

Edward VII died, George became king, and the stamp was never issued. The cover is the only known used example of the stamp. There were a number of other rarities on display as well as George V's stamp albums, catalogs and collecting tools.

The exhibit also contained a printing press similar to the one used to print the Penny Black. In this case, there were two gentlemen demonstrating the press by printing reprints of the **British Empire Exhibition** stamp of 1924 (pictured right). The "reprints" were in blue rather than magenta and brown, and did not include the portrait of King George V. The process is very laborious because the plates needed to be inked and cleaned for each sheet. The paper also needs to be dampened prior to the actual printing.



While I was in the neighborhood, I stopped next door at the **Bank of England** to see their museum on the history of money in England. Among the display items are coins

and paper currency used in England from Roman times to the present. The highlight of the exhibit was a two stone (28 pound) gold bar worth about half a million dollars which you can lift. The bar is kept inside a Plexiglas box with a hole large enough for your hand but unfortunately too small to remove the bar.

Later in the week, I returned to the **British Library** to hear a talk by Paul Skinner on Fakes and Forgeries. He showed examples from the Library collection of noted forgeries and compared them to the originals. Mr. Skinner told the stories of some famous forgers, such as Georges Fouré and Jean de Sperati.

While the British Library does not expertise stamps, their collection is available for experts for research and examination. Since the individual collections that the library has received have been kept intact, and not combined, they can track the lineage of each stamp. For example, every stamp in the Tapling collection was printed prior to 1891, and thus can be compared to any possible forgeries made after that date.

No trip to London is complete without a stop to visit the numerous **West End stamp shops**. As my hotel was located on the Strand, I was able to stop by the shops at odd times to check out their wares and talk to the proprietors. The biggest change since my last visit was the total refurbishment of the Stanley Gibbons shop. Gone are the tables of remainders and used books. Instead, the place has been completely redone with fancy displays. One nice addition was a display of the various electronic perforation gauges, magnifying devices, and watermark detectors. On my next trip I will bring some of my "difficult to identify" stamps to try out.



"Unknown collector" at Stanley Gibbons display wall.

Alas, as the ash cloud from the Eyjafjallajokull volcano was descending on London, I decided it was time to go. So I packed up my bag and headed to Heathrow Airport. I am looking forward to my next assignment at the APS StampShow 2010 in Richmond, VA this August.

Society Auction

The June meeting features our season-ending auction. Last year there were some incredible bargains and that is likely again this year.



Why not bring some of that duplicate, excess or unwanted material and put it up for auction? Here are some **auction hints** for creating lots:

- ⇒ Put up items that fellow members collect (see the list at the end of this page).
- ⇒ Reference publications, especially specialized catalogs, are always popular.
- ⇒ Postcards, covers and ephemera do well in the sale.
- ⇒ The condition of the item is key; choice and unique items do sell for more.

Preparing the Auction List Sheet

Enter a description of each auction lot onto the Auction List sheet as follows:

- ⇒ Enter Seller's Name and Date at the top.
- ⇒ Enter Item Name, Country or Scott # and a description of the item including condition, faults and catalog / retail values.
- ⇒ Enter the minimum bid in 25¢ increments. Be realistic – common items usually go for 10-20% of catalog value.
- ⇒ Use 2-3 lines, if needed, to describe the auction lot; then renumber the following items on the sheet.

Auction List - Seller's Name: JOHN DOE		Date: 1-15-08			
Item No.	Item Name or Scott Number	Item Description and/or Condition (e.g., Blue Columbian, MNH, F-VF, Gum Cross)	Minimum Bid	Sales Price	Bidding Bid Number
1.	Scott 2004	US SPECIALIZED CATALOG - Good cond.	1.00		
2.	Scott PB	Album, 1901-1964 Commemoratives, No stamps, some mounts - ex. cond.	2.00		
3	✗ DENMARK	# 9/126 (8) USED - CV \$75+	5.00		
4	✗ NETHERLANDS	200 DIFF USED - CV \$45	5.00		
5	✗ FDC ALBUM	with 25 two-up Clear Pages	3.00		
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

Total Sales _____
Club Commission (-10%) _____
Net to Seller _____

If you wish to **donate** the sales proceeds for one or more lots to HTPS, please indicate on the Auction List sheet or tell the Auctioneer.

A copy of the Auction List sheet is included with this Newsletter and will be available at the meeting.

For each auction item, complete an Auction Lot form. This form is attached to (or inserted into) the item to be auctioned. The information should match the Auction List Sheet which will enable the Auctioneer and support staff to quickly move through the lots.

HTPS Auction --- Lot Description	
Seller Name: _____	Item #: _____
Description: _____	
Item Value: _____	Min. Bid: _____

Auction Process

Look over the auction items before the bidding starts. All items are **SOLD AS IS**. Plan your bidding strategy based on what you see, not what is written on the auction sheet. Talk to the seller for details on larger or mixed lots. Jot down items of interest for bidding. Philatelic accessories and catalogs are available for your use.

Bidding starts with the seller's minimum bid. Increments are 25-50¢ depending on the price. The Auctioneer may change increments based on competitive bidding. No bids accepted after the Auctioneer calls the item. Obtain a bidder number before the auction starts.

Payments are made after all auction items are sold. After the payments are received from the winning bidders, the sellers are paid the sales price realized MINUS a 10% commission for HTPS. Amounts are rounded to 5¢ increments.

Member Interests

Here are some areas of interest to our members:

U.S. – Puerto Rico	Postcards
Australia – Botswana	Covers: Events, etc.
British Commonwealth	Antarctica
Canada	Bicycle Related
Germany	Fire Service
India & Indian States	Lighthouses
Poland	Military Related
Puerto Rico	Olympics – Patriotic
Scandinavia	Scouting – Sports
Sudan – Surinam	SON Cancels
Switzerland – Vatican	WW II Occupations
WW Revenues	Zeppelin Covers

The Year in Review

What a busy year! Here are some thoughts, highlights and images from the 2009-2010 season.

HAMPEX '09, held during our August meeting, was a lot of fun. About 10 members developed and displayed exhibits which were mounted on poster boards.

Entries included stock sheets with WW Service Organization stamps, New Jersey Waterfowl issues from 1984-1995, U.S. Christmas Seals from 1913 to 1969, Montenegro stamps including occupation issues and the history of the State of Bahawalpur told through its stamp issues. Everyone was a winner!

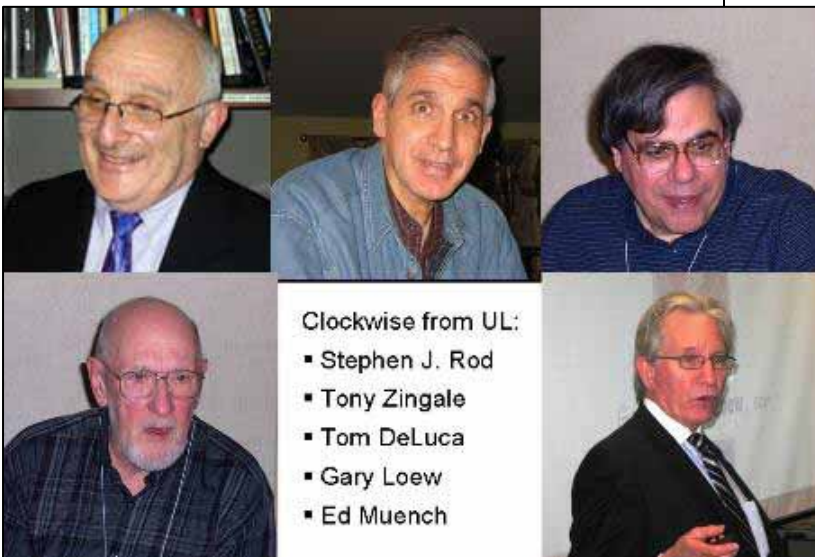
We used some of the HTPS entries for our exhibits at the Hamilton and Lawrenceville libraries.



Exhibits were setup at the Hamilton and Lawrenceville library branches during the months of September and October 2009 respectively. Thanks to those who donated material for the display cases.

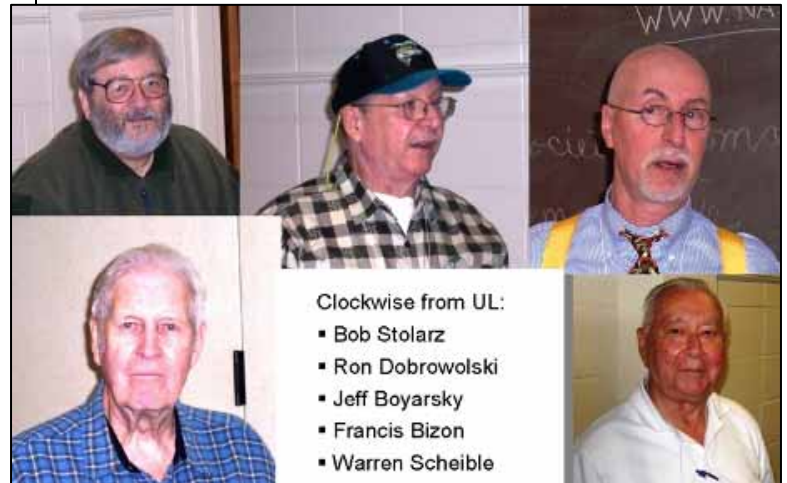
Presentations for the 2009-2010 season were varied and covered a range of topics:

- ⇒ Steven J. Rod . . . on . . . Philatelic Literature
- ⇒ Tony Zingale . . . on . . . Postmarks & Cancels
- ⇒ Ed Muench . . . on . . . Bicycle Philately
- ⇒ Tom DeLuca . . . on . . . U.S. Back of the Book
- ⇒ Gary Loew . . . on . . . Gambia Postal History



During the May meeting, we held our first **HTPS Member Mini Presentations**. Five members spoke about their collecting interests:

- ⇒ Bob Stolarz . . . on . . . Specimen Postal Stationery
- ⇒ Ron Dobrowolski . . . on . . . Poland Gov't in Exile
- ⇒ Warren Scheible . . . on . . . Civil War Paper Coinage
- ⇒ Jeff Boyarsky . . . on . . . Victorian Trade Cards
- ⇒ Francis Bizon . . . on . . . Nature of America Series



Slide Shows took the spotlight in October with "Airships of the United States" which was well received by our members, and in April when we showed another APS slide show – "The American Revolution: A Glorious Undertaking" which recounted the birth of our country as shown through U.S. postage stamps.

The annual **HTPS Party** in December was another success with plenty of food and drink as evidenced by HTPS member Joe Seliga (pictured right) checking out the "goodies" table. Hot items were an added attraction this year with Bill Case's offering of meatballs, sausages and franks.



Our semi-annual **Auctions** in January and June are always a lot of fun with a chance to obtain some great bargains for your collection.

Our thanks to all who contributed and helped us complete another successful season for our group. We welcome all philatelists to our meetings and look forward to the next twelve months.

Summer Philatelic Events

Lots of shows on the schedule for the next three months. Hope you can make it to some of them.

June 2010 . . .

- 6/3 → MSC Meeting – Temple Lutheran Church – 5600 N. Route 130 (at Merchantville Ave) – Pennsauken, NJ – 7 PM.
- 6/5 → Postcard Show & Sale – Union Fire Hall – 1396 River Rd. (Rte 29) – Titusville, NJ – 9 to 5 PM.
- 6/5 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 6/3 MSC Meeting for location].
- 6/6 → Garden State Coin & Stamp Show – P.A.L. Building – 33 Baldwin Rd – Parsippany, NJ – 10 AM to 4 PM – 201-584-0424.
- 6/12 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – Rtes. 130 North & 33 East – Hightstown, NJ – 9:30 AM to 4 PM.
- 6/15 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Hamilton, NJ – 7:30 PM.**
- 6/16 → MSC Meeting [See 6/3 MSC Meeting info].
- 6/20 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse (NESS) – Holiday Inn – 129 Pehle Ave. (Rte. 80 & Garden St. Pkwy – Saddle Brook, NJ – 9 AM to 4 PM.
- 6/27 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – Holiday Inn – PA Tpke (Exit 339) & Rt. 309 – Ft. Washington, PA – 10 AM to 4 PM.

July 2010 . . .

- 7/1 → MSC Meeting [See 6/3 MSC Meeting info].
- 7/3 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 6/3 meeting info for address].
- 7/9-11 → MetroExpo – Holiday Inn – 440 W. 57th St – NYC – Fri: 12 to 6 PM – Sat: 10 AM to 6 PM – Sun: 10 AM to 4 PM – www.metroexpos.com
- 7/10 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – [See 6/12 show for address and time].
- 7/20 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – Sell & Swap Meet. 7:30 PM**
- 7/21 → MSC Meeting [See 6/3 MSC Meeting info].

7/18 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse (NESS) – [See 6/20 show for address and time].

7/23-24 → East Coast Coin, Stamp, Postcard Show – Wildwood Convention Center – Wildwood, NJ – Fri: 11 AM to 6 PM – Sat: 10 AM - 6 PM – www.rksportspromotions.com.

7/25 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – [See 6/27 show for address and time].

7/30 → Philly Phriday Philately Phest – Radisson Hotel – Roosevelt Blvd (Rt. 1) & Old Lincoln Highway – Philadelphia, PA – 10 AM to 8 PM.

August 2010 . . .

- 8/5 → MSC Meeting [See 6/3 MSC Meeting info].
- 8/7 → MSC Saturday Stamp Bourse – 9 AM to 4 PM – [See 6/3 meeting info for address].
- 8/12-15 → APS StampShow 2010– Richmond Convention Center, Richmond, VA. – www.stamps.org/Stampshow/index.htm.
- 8/14 → 2nd Saturday Bourse – American Legion Post – [See 6/12 show for address and time].
- 8/15 → 3rd Sunday Stamp & Coin Bourse (NESS) – [See 6/20 show for address and time].
- 8/17 → **HTPS MEETING – Hamilton Township Public Library – HAMPEX 2010. 7:30 PM**
- 8/18 → MSC Meeting [See 6/3 MSC Meeting info].
- 8/22 → Tri-State Coin & Stamp Show (4th Sunday) – [See 6/27 show for address and time].
- 9/3-4 → MERPEX XXXIV – St. Cecilia School – 4851 Camden Avenue – Pennsauken, NJ – Fri: 10 AM to 6 PM, Sat: 9 AM to 5 PM.

NOTE: For updated or additional information, see www.stampshows.com, www.stamps.org and www.postal-history.com/showpage.html

Newsletter Articles . . .

We are always looking for philatelic articles, ideas or suggestions. Contact Tony Zingale at P.O. Box 3443, Mercerville, NJ 08619; or call 609-890-8211; or email us at https75@gmail.com.

On Thursday, May 27th, six HTPS members helped on the setup of the NOJEX event held on May 28-30 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, NJ. We all helped transform a bare exhibition hall into a philatelic bourse and exhibition within a day.



From the left: HTPS members Es Murtha, Tony Zingale, Jon Madsen, Jeff Boyarsky, Joe Seliga and Ken Steel.

It was a lot of work, but very enjoyable as you see the 40 dealer tables and 266 exhibition frames take shape. We worked under the direction of the NOJEX group which has run this event for 47 years.

By lunch time, most of the dealer tables were in place so we took a break and enjoyed the cold cut buffet.



Working with the exhibition frames is the most enjoyable part of the work. In most cases, you assist the exhibitor who is present, but at times the exhibit is mailed in. At the left we see Ken Steel, assisted by Ed Murtha, mounting sheets from a mail-in exhibitor into a frame.

An important job was securing the frames after the exhibit sheets are mounted. Most exhibits contain valuable or unique items. Jon Madsen (pictured right) is securing the bottom of the frame with hex screws. Jon, being a rookie, was assigned this tiring job. His dancing background certainly helped him move about as he completed the task.



On Sunday, I returned with Jack Sack to help take down the exhibits – a much easier job than the setup. With all the dealers present, and collectors walking about, it was nice to see the results of our work.

The objective of this Newsletter is to promote philately, educate and inform our members and to encourage other like-minded individuals to join the Hamilton Township Philatelic Society.

----- HTPS Officers -----

- President Ed Murtha
- Vice President Jeff Boyarsky
- Treasurer / Publicity Ron Gonzalez
- Secretary Bob Stolarz

----- HTPS Support Team -----

- APS Representative Jon Madsen
- Meeting Room Setup Joe Seliga
- Membership Chairman Jack Sack
- Newsletter Editor Tony Zingale
- NOJEX Contact Andrew Boyajian
- Parliamentarian Jerry McNew
- Philatelic Donations Sherm Britton
- 50 / 50 Handlers Jim Cope, Ed Murray

----- HTPS Meeting Program -----

- ⇒ June 15 – Society Auction
- ⇒ July 20 – Informal Meeting: Swap & Trade
- ⇒ Aug. 17 – Informal Meeting: HAMPEX '10
- ⇒ Sept. 21 – *"The ABC's of Philatelic Exhibiting"*
(by Dr. Edwin Andrews)
- ⇒ Oct 19 – *"The Bordentown to NY Stage"*
(by Robert Rose)
- ⇒ Nov. 16 – HTPS Member Mini-Presentations
- ⇒ Dec. 21 – Holiday Party
- ⇒ Jan 18 – Society Auction

**Looking for Speakers
for the 2010 – 2011 Season.**