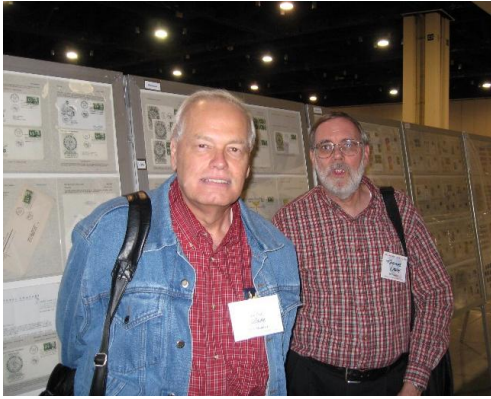


KPS Members at AmeriStamp Expo 2008

by Tom Broadhead

More than a dozen KPS members made the trip to Charlotte, NC on a nice weekend in the middle of January to attend the American Philatelic Society's winter show, AmeriStamp Expo 2008. A highlight of this show is the focus on single frame exhibits, and there were many spectacular ones featuring world-



class rarities. The single frame Champion of Champions award went to Harvey Mirsky's exhibit, "America's First Issue: Philadelphia Usages & Markings, an exhibit showing spectacular folded letters and covers with many examples of the first United States stamps, which were issued in 1847. Another eye-catching exhibit highlighted the 24 cent two-color U.S. Airmail stamp of 1918, famous for the single sheet of 100 with the upside down Curtis Jenny airplane. And, yes, the exhibit had a very fine example of that rare stamp – plus the original letter from a stamp dealer who purchased the error sheet of stamps from the man who purchased it at the Washington, DC post office. Charlie Wade

and Thomas Lane, shown here, spent some time examining the illustrated mail exhibits. (photo by Jim Pettway)

There were also many stamp dealers at the show, and they offered everything from stamps and covers for thousands of dollars to some that were only a few cents! The dealer bourse was neatly arranged in the Charlotte Convention Center, and the dealers were joined by representatives from many organizations, including the American Philatelic Society, American Stamp Dealers Association, American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the Germany Philatelic Society, and the Precancel Stamp Society. Visitors to the show were not as numerous as they had been only a few years before when AmeriStamp Expo was in Atlanta. (photo by Jim Pettway)



Our own KPS dealer member and Knoxpex bourse chair, Bill Muenzer was a dealer at AmeriStamp Expo and reported that the show had been a good one for him from the standpoint of sales. Bill's booth was not



only a popular place for purchasers, but also for KPS members who enjoyed Bill's comfortable chairs and hospitality. KPS members seen at AmeriStamp Expo 2008 included Charlie Wade, Tom Ringenbach, Randy Haese, Bruce Roberts, Jim Pettway, Gerald Schroedl, Tom Broadhead, Tony Torres, Adrean Mayor, Thomas Lane, Bill Muenzer, Ralph Dinwiddie, and Gary Rehberg, (Tom, Gerald, Jim, and Bill shown at left at Bill's table – photo by Bruce Roberts).

A sidelight interesting event at the show was the "give away" of a copy of C3a, the inverted Jenny airmail, by StampWants.com – a new internet stamp resource. I had announced this in a newsletter last year, and all it took was a free registration to be eligible to win. Two finalists were flown in for the ceremony, and the Miss New Jersey beauty pageant winner drew the winning name. Thomas Lane and I speculated about how much federal tax would be owed by the winner. Overall it was a good show. I hope that members who attended will have some good "show and tell" items for an upcoming KPS meeting program!