



## Report of the Fall 2009 East Coast Oughtred Society Meeting

*Louis Gotlib*

The 2009 Fall Oughtred Society Meeting was held in Florham Park, New Jersey under the direction of Kate Matthews. Kate did a masterful job of planning, organizing and running the meeting. While the attendance was on the small side, the discussions, interactions and auction more than made up for the small number of people.

The meeting began with people setting up displays and enjoying a nice breakfast that was provided. New and old faces and collections wandered in over the first hour or so. As is typical at our meetings, people greeted old friends, scoped out available items and listened in to collecting stories from fellow members.

Attendees included (I have added some of my recollections of what people brought and I am sure that I omitted many interesting items – just blame it on my memory!)

Kate Matthews brought a nice set of magnesium Picketts for sale

Robert and Margie Ryan (member and guest)

Mike Frey brought in an impressive array of K & E items and who explained to me that he had been trying to acquire one of every K & E item from the year of his birth (which I won't divulge). Some items from Mike's table are shown below:



Ed Chamberlain, as always, brought an impressive collection for display and for sale. A few snapshots from Ed's Table are here:





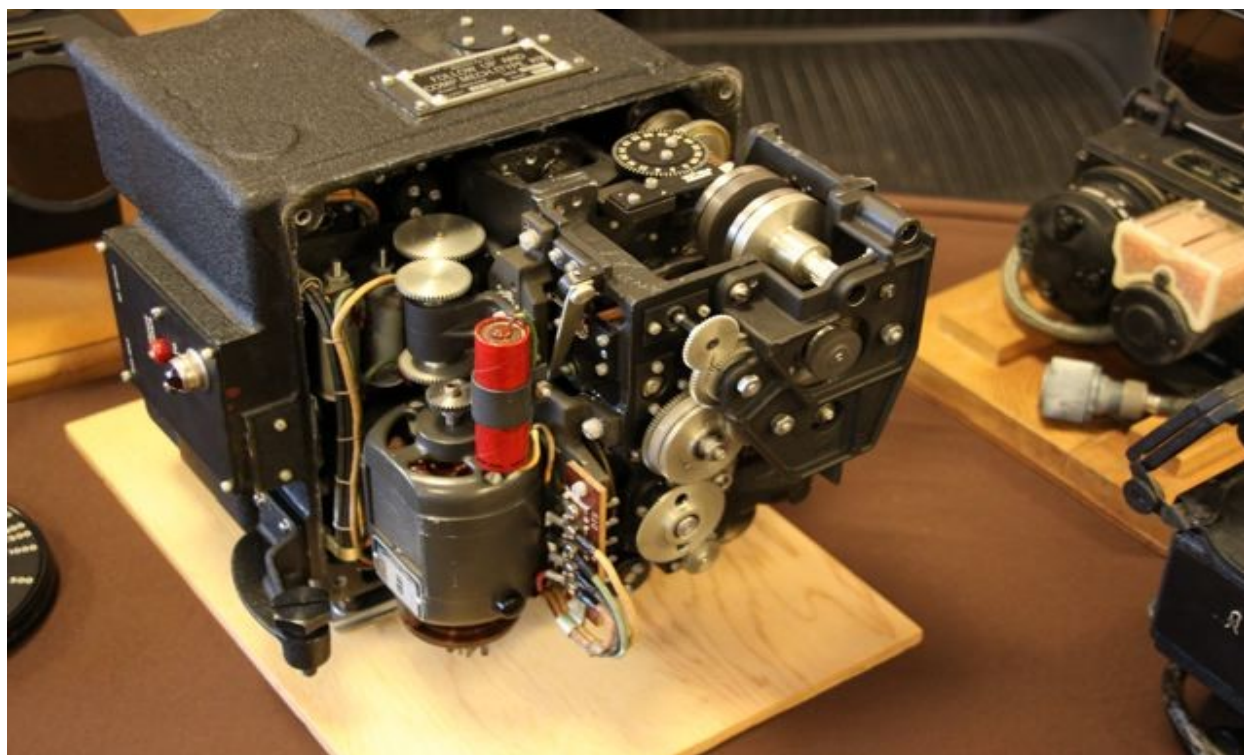
Nathan Zeldes came all the way from Israel. Here is a picture of Nathan's table:



Leighton Lee brought several fascinating items from his own museum, almost all related to the space program. One of the many interesting items Leighton brought is shown here:



Paul McConnell brought several bombardier sighting devices. Here is one such unusual item:



Ron McConnell traveled light but brought lots of fascinating stories. Louis Gotlib brought many chemistry related items and later served as auctioneer (more on this later). The Gotlib tables are shown here:





Ted and Fay Palen, brought many interesting items. Ted and Fay always bring many things to show and sell:



Tom Frank's collection of overhead display rules always amazes me



Conrad Schure left most of his own personal museum at home but nonetheless had lots of interesting items, including a K & E lamp:



Bob Otnes had a Curta Model II available at a true bargain (congratulations Mike Frey!) here is Mike eyeing his prize purchase:



Zack Fluhr, brought several interesting display items and who I later heard wheeling and dealing with Conrad. Here Zach and Ed catch up with each other:



Stefan Burr brought several bags of Picketts he had rescued from an art store (I'm still waiting for more details)

The morning was spent listening to assorted tales from more veteran collectors, including a nice mini-lecture from Bob on the value of building up a reference library and on how to obtain materials on-line to assist with this. Here, several people (from left to right: Mike, Ron, Fay, Stefan and Kate) listen in on Bob's discussion:





Lunch was a buffet with many nice items, although this business of only serving well done burgers in NJ is not sitting well with me!

Following lunch, we had the auction, which I must say was run with stunning efficiency and with witty side comments. The auctioneer, whose integrity was beyond reproach (or who's stated price for bribes was simply too high for this crowd) kept the pace moving along but kept up with our tradition of allowing ample time for anyone interested in an item. Items ranged from a few dollars to over \$3000 for a Cox's Duplex sold by Ed. I think that the bargain of the day was Mike's getting the Curta Model II for well under half the going price.

One interesting feature of this year's auction was proxy bidding for high priced items, to allow those who could not attend to bid on interesting items. Several items were up for bid using this approach and Kate did a wonderful job of making the proxy bids. Kudos to Kate and Clark McCoy for making this approach work so well. The meeting wrapped up in the late afternoon. Several people stayed for a group dinner.

Thanks to Kate for such stellar work and I know that Kate is already thinking about plans for next year's meeting. We'll be getting the date and location information out with more advance notice for 2010's east Coast Meeting and we look forward to a good turnout, with lots of interesting displays, discussions and sales.

A few other scenes- (thanks to Tom Frank for providing all the photos). Conrad and Leighton enjoy a lively discussion.





And here is auctioneer listening in. I have no idea what is so confusing!

