

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 43 Number 1

June 2010

Happy Summer Vacation!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This message will start with my thanks to editors David Williams (*Excelsior!*) and Bob Bramwell (*Bulletin*), and to Drew Nicholson, Publications Committee Chair, for their outstanding March 2010 issues mailed to the membership in March. Great work, and on schedule!

Copy for the September 2010 *Excelsior!* is due in the editor's hands by August 1, and for the September *Bulletin* by August 15, in order to stay on schedule.

The ballot for amending Article 2, Section 5 of our By-Laws was mailed with the March *Excelsior!* and *Bulletin*, more than the required 30 days prior to voting on the measure at the annual meeting in May. 52 ballots were cast, 51 in favor, one opposed. Article 2, Section 5 of the By-Laws now reads as follows, effective beginning with 2011 dues payments:

Any members who shall not have paid their annual dues by February 1 shall be held in arrears and shall be so notified by the Secretary. If the dues are not paid by March 1 the members shall automatically be dropped from membership and reported in the Society Bulletin.

I was very pleased that both David Williams, traveling from Louisville, KY and Bob Bramwell, traveling from Pinehurst, NC were able to attend ROPEX and take an active role in the Society's presence at the Show. Both spoke at the annual meeting, sat in on the Executive Board meeting, and helped out, along with David's wife, Patricia, at our table on the Show floor.

Additional help at the Society table came from Ada Prill, Larry Cherns, David Przepiora and George Fekete. Other members who signed in at the table or attended the annual meeting were Bill Sammis, Drew Nicholson, Heather Sweeting, Elwyn Doubleday, Larry Rausch, Ed Beiderbecke, Jack Ericson, Don Dolan, Craig Braack, Bill Howden and John Amberman.

Thanks to Heather Sweeting for taking minutes of the 2010 Society annual meeting; Heather's minutes (with input from Bob Bramwell) are included in this *Bulletin*. Highlighting the meeting were the presentations by Bramwell and Williams, and the discussions they developed. Bramwell's presentation, a proposal for member auctions in the *Bulletin*, received approval both at the annual meeting and the subsequent Board meeting and can be found in this *Bulletin*.

(Continued on Page 3)

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Secretary's Membership Report

Membership Reinstated:

Allen Bohart 5643 Charlotte Way, Apt. #51, Livermore, CA 94550

Application for Membership:

Richard Fuhrman 76 Station Rd, Great Neck, NY 11203-2426

Accepted into Membership:

Tom Auletta & William Howden

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The Board also approved Drew Nicholson's request for a special publication combining *The Index to the Mail Service of New York State 1837-1841* with a listing of routes originating out-of-state but serving offices within NYS and an article by Bob Bramwell explaining the usefulness of Robert Dalton Harris' *Postal Route Gazetteer Part I: New York State* together with the requested special publication.

In addition the Board approved purchase of a new printer for the Publications Committee, a new approach to Society exhibiting awards suggested by Nicholson, and hosting the next Sweeting Award multi-state postal history exhibiting competition at ROPEX 2011 if the competition at NOJEX 2010 two weeks away provided ESPHS with the opportunity to do so.

And since ESPHS won the competition at NOJEX 2010, which gave it the right to host the next competition, I wasted no time in announcing to the other societies competing at NOJEX that the next competition would be at ROPEX 2011.

Thanks to Society members Bill Sammis, Roger Brody, Ellen Rose, Ann Triggler and Ada Prill, who, together with myself, exhibited postal history at NOJEX and contributed to the winning point total for ESPHS. The Sweeting Award competition now returns to ROPEX, where it was first held in 2004.

Invitations to eligible societies will go out soon for the 2011 competition and ESPHS members known to exhibit postal history will be contacted and urged to exhibit at ROPEX 2011, scheduled for May 13-15, 2011. To those contacted: PLEASE RESPOND FAVORABLY!!

Our fall meeting this year will be held in Syracuse November 13 in conjunction with the Bailey Show, a popular bourse at the Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle. Save the date.

Alan Parsons
alatholleyrd@aol.com

**MINUTES OF ESPHS ANNUAL MEETING
May 25, 2010 at ROPEX Stamp Show, Rochester NY**

The Society's Annual Meeting was brought to order at 1 p.m. Members in attendance in person were Bob Bramwell, Elwyn Doubleday, George Fekete, Drew Nicholson, Alan Parsons presiding, Dave Przepiora, William Sammis, Heather Sweeting and David Williams. John Amberman, Carl Blazejewski, Craig Braack, John Cali, Larry Cherns, Bob Davison, George Dekornfeld, Don Dolan, William Howden, Brian Levy, George McGowan, and Larry Rausch were present by proxy and constituted a quorum.

Drew Nicholson presented the Membership Report and Treasurers Report on behalf of George McGowan and George Dekornfeld respectively. Membership total is stable from 2009, and the approximate dozen members unpaid at this time are listed elsewhere in this edition and are asked to send in payment of dues to Treasurer Dekornfeld to prevent being dropped. ESPHS finances improved by \$1,115 and the 2010 budget – which includes the 5th and final payment on our APS building fund pledge - calls for Revenues of \$3,497 versus Expenses of \$3,772. The Society goes into this year with \$37,167 in liquid assets.

Standing Committee reports were made as follows: **Awards Committee** received a request to find an alternative to the traditional small Waterford clock for exhibiting, as frequent exhibitors have a few of them. We have enough clocks on hand to cover 2010. Drew Nicholson, **Publications Chair**, reported that publications came in on budget last year, but only because no auction was published. Toner for our aging printer is increasingly difficult to find and expensive. Nicholson noted that production of an enhanced Index to the 1834 NYS mail routes with interstate routes added is being considered. George Fekete asked that ESPHS investigate using “on demand” printing from digital files as an alternative to stockpiling printed copies. **Auction Chair** John Nunes reported that the 2008/2009 auction is processed and ready to mail out.

President Parsons asked *Bulletin* editor Bob Bramwell to describe his proposal for semi-annual auctions to run as a feature of *Bulletin*. Bramwell stated he would undertake to administer member-consigned NYS postal history auction to appear in June and December, with any one member limited to 5 pieces, which would appear as color scans whenever a marking was in color. *Editor's Note: This proposal was later approved by the Board and is announced elsewhere in this Bulletin.*

Parsons then asked Journal editor David E. Williams to describe his proposal to create on the ESPHS website a *Members' Domain* similar to that of the U.S. Postal Classics Society to facilitate research and discussion among members. Williams also said previous editions of the Journal and *Bulletin* could be archived in such a domain and made available for view and printing as Adobe Reader-accessible PDF files. David Przepiora said there were still open questions about transferring the ESPHS domain name, or establishing a new one on a new webhost. This issue must be resolved with Glenn Estus in order to move forward with the website.

President Parsons reported on several items of business: ROPEX has asked ESPHS to host the Sweeting Award multi-state postal history exhibiting competition at its 2011 show. Parsons favors doing so if ESPHS members commit to at least 100 frames. Nicholson moved to accept; Sweeting seconded and the motion passed.

Parsons reported that the proposed **Amendment to ESPHS Bylaws** (date by which payment of dues must be received for membership to continue in good standing) was passed by membership in a vote of 51 to 1. The change becomes effective in 2011.

Election of Officers and Directors was reported out: running unopposed, Treasurer Dekornfeld and Secretary McGowan were reelected to new two-year terms to expire in 2012. Secretary McGowan stated that on many occasions he will be unable to perform a recording function at meetings so Recording Secretary duties will be performed “protem” when needed. Also running unopposed, Society Directors Cali, Nicholson and Nunes were elected to new three-year terms expiring at the 2013 annual meeting. President Parsons expressed his thanks for the service of these officers and directors.

Some items of new business were presented and discussed. Drew Nicholson suggested that ESPHS should make a concerted effort to **solicit memberships** from local historians (county and municipal level) throughout New York State because of the close link between their interests and some of the research being done by members. As Pawling’s official historian, he knows that NYS law requires every county to have a historian. Al Parsons stated that Bill Hart had delivered to the APRL in Bellefonte those **ESPHS files belonging to Ken deLisle** and entrusted to Bill. Parsons wants to make sure ESPHS does not lose any work on an **Index of Journal** articles or *Bulletin* content due to this transfer.

Prior to closing the meeting, President Parsons announced the next meeting, and Fall Membership meeting, at the **Bailey Show in Syracuse Saturday, November 13, 2010.**

Meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Reported by Heather Sweeting & Bob Bramwell

ESPHS SUPPORTS APS BUILDING FUND

Secretary George McGowan recently received acknowledgement from the American Philatelic Society for our five years of support for the APS Building Fund. In a nice note, APS President Wade Saadi thanked ESPHS for its contribution which, together with other contributions, has gone a long way in allowing APS to expand and modernize its headquarters and the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa.

In regard to the APRL, both Wade and Ellen Peachey, Interim Librarian of APRL, mentioned the ESPHS archival material donated by Bill Hart, which has now been merged with similar material from the estate of Bill Bauer and other items already on file.

POSTAL HISTORY AUCTIONS RETURN TO *BULLETIN*

Starting with this June issue of *Bulletin*, ESPHS will offer members in good standing the opportunity to consign postal history material to auctions that will close twice each year on February 15th and August 15th. Details of each semiannual auction are contained in paragraphs that follow, but as Auction Administrator and Editor of *Bulletin* I want to make a few important introductory points about these auctions.

First and foremost, these member auctions supplement, and do not replace, those auctions conducted from time to time by our Auction Manager John Nunes. John will review any item descriptions for appropriateness at my request, since I am not a postal history expert.

Second, members may consign **up to five (5)** pieces of NYS postal history (and closely related documentary material) to these auctions and will be solely responsible for describing the origin, markings, contents (if any) and reserve that will accompany the scan that will show each consigned item (see examples on the following page).

Finally, after we have some experience with these auctions we may see the necessity to make changes to the program. For instance, the auction cycle provides for the possibility that a High Bidder will not make payment, in which case the item will be offered to the Second High Bidder, adding many days to the cycle. Were this to happen often, the auction schedule might become unsustainable. Notice that we are charging no Buyers Premium or Consignors Concession for ESPHS. If our expenses become too high this would have to change. *Help me use email for every possible communication by providing your current email address and notifying me when it changes.*

Semiannual Auction Schedule

Schematically, T^0 is either June 30 or December 31, the dates by which members will have received *Bulletin*. Each milestone date that is part of the auction schedule follows T^0 .

T^{45} : Deadline for Bids to be sent to Administrator (surface mail or email; no phone).

T^{60} : Deadline for Notification to High Bidders (surface mail or email as available).

T^{90} : Deadline for Payment from High Bidders, including 5 business days for check clearing).

T^{105} : Deadline for Notification to Second High Bidders as necessary.

T^{135} : Deadline for Payment from Second High Bidders; Deadline for Receipt of Consignments for upcoming Auction.

T^{150} : Deadline for Mailing Lots to Paid Winners & Unsuccessful Consignors.

Sample Auction Lot Presentations

We intend to illustrate every consigned Lot in a two column page format with enough text to describe all markings, including docketing, contents, and condition of paper on a five step scale of Faulty, Average, Good, Very Good, Excellent with faults described. Material with color markings will appear in color. Each Lot that has a reserve set by the Consignor will show the reserve as the Minimum Bid, otherwise the Minimum will be \$1. **Consignor must supply this descriptive information along with the consigned item and mailing instructions; Auction Administrator will edit submitted information for consistency of required information.** See Instructions To Consignors below.



red Albion (Orleans) cds on FLS – faint but legible – 1844 – ms 10; red PAID Comm'l content on good paper, light file folds. Min \$



red Canandaigua (Ontario) cds – 1850s? – imperf stamp lost/removed from top right – Avg Ew/oC to Grafton Oh. – few stains & scrapes at right. Min \$



blue Syracuse (Onondaga) integral rate cds – 1851? pencil notation – Good Ew/oC to Worcester, Ma. Min \$



red Utica (Oneida) oval on FLS – 1831 - ms 25 - 2X rate on Faulty paper reinforced with non-archival tape; some tears. Min \$

Some abbreviations that will be used include Envelope with content (Ew/C); Envelope without content (Ew/oC); Double rate letter (2X); Triple rate letter (3X); Folded letter sheet (FLS). Any year date not reasonably certain from the postmark or content or docketing will be followed by ? Scans by email are free; Copies by mail are \$0.50

Instructions To Consignors

1. Select up to five items of New York State postal history and write a full description of each piece covering all major markings and content, including docketing (if any). State a Reserve or state No Reserve.
2. Pack lots individually for safe transit, state on your enclosure your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address if you use one. Mail them to Bob Bramwell, PO Box 4150, Pinehurst NC 28374 using USPS services (First Class/ Priority Mail/ Insured / Registered Mail) of your choice. *I will acknowledge receipt by email or telephone message.*
3. Mail with enough time for your consignment to reach me before the Deadline of T¹³⁵, which will be October 15, 2010 for December 2010 Bulletin. Consignments received after October 15, 2010 will be acknowledged but may be placed in the following auction.
4. Consignors may state “Advance to next auction if unsuccessful” in which case an unsold Lot will be entered into the next semi-annual auction (once per lot).

Instructions To Bidders

1. Bulletin auctions will be “silent”; bids will be known only to the Bidder and the Auction Administrator. Bids are maximum price commitments. Bids for an amount less than the stated Minimum will not be accepted. Auctions will be open for bidding until the 45th day after December 31 or June 30 as the case may be. Bids submitted by surface mail must be postmarked and email bids must be sent no later than midnight on that 45th day. Phone bids will not be accepted. Bidders may increase their maximum price bids within the 45 day timeframe. In the event of two equal bids for a lot the bid sent earliest will have preference.
2. Bidders *must* include Name, Shipping Address, Telephone number and Email Address (if available) together with their bid or bids. Bidders *must* also specify their preferred method of delivery for any Lot or Lots won. Basic delivery service will be USPS First Class, above which Bidders may specify services of their choice (and expense).
3. Bidding Increments and other Auction Rules will be set forth on a Bidding Form.

Delivery

1. Winning Bidders will receive an invoice by surface mail or email showing the Lot or Lots won, the Sale Price per lot and postage for the delivery method requested. \$1 will be added for protective packaging. No Buyers Premium will be added.
2. Upon receipt and check clearance by the Treasurer, Lots will be sent by Administrator according to the specified delivery method.

REGIONAL MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH NOJEX



The NY Metro

Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Kings, Richmond, New York, Bronx, Westchester, Rockland

Fellow collectors, not a lot to report this Bulletin, but we did have a regional meeting at NOJEX 2010, on Memorial weekend. In attendance, besides myself, were ESPHS President Alan Parsons, Brian Levy, Caroline Scannell and Peter Peloquin. After a short welcome, we discussed the need for articles for the Metro section of Excelsior and the multi-state postal history competition that was happening at the show. (Details from Pres. Parsons elsewhere in the Bulletin) The meeting was then handed over to Pres. Parsons so he could recap the Board and membership meetings from ROPEX. None in attendance had been to ROPEX, so this was welcome information. One item decided on at this meeting was participation in the multi-state postal history competition at ROPEX 2011. That means that we have 11 months to get our New York postal history exhibits together. Let's make a good showing at ROPEX 2011!

If any of you have any news that is pertinent to our collecting area, please contact me at fbraith@optonline.net and I will include it in the next Metro section in the Bulletin. I hope you all have a great summer.

Frank Braithwaite

The Naval Lyceum, Brooklyn



Imagine a USO for sailors in the 1840s. The Naval Lyceum was such a place, first located in Brooklyn and later moved to Annapolis. Imagine an FPO in 1845. The Naval Lyceum was that place. Mail intended for sailors in "the fleet at sea" was best sent to the Naval Lyceum, whose staff determined the foreign port where a ship would next call. Letters were then forwarded to a U. S. Consul or diplomatic office by whatever supply vessel could be expected to intercept or service that sailor's ship. Triple rate cover from Schenectady with U. S. Naval Lyceum forwarding stamp on front and back.

MISSENT AND FORWARDED

The following article was written by Society member Frank Braithwaite for the ESPHS page of *Stamp Insider*, the bi-monthly magazine of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies. It was published in the May/June issue of *Stamp Insider*. Frank is our Regional Representative in the New York Metropolitan area.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

There are several reasons for forwarded mail: sender error, like sloppy or incomplete address, could account for the letter going to the wrong Post Office until the postal clerk figures out the correct address (Coram and Comac frequently got each others mail) or the addressee may have moved on and left a forwarding address or returned home. A new Post Office with a similar name to an existing one may occasionally have mail forwarded to it for the first few years of its existence. I have two covers addressed to Smithtown Branch in its first few years of establishment that were forwarded from the Smithtown P.O. only a few miles down the road. Letters addressed to Central Park, NY were a regular source of confusion for postal clerks that were more familiar with the park in Manhattan than the town on Long Island. Letters were missent to the city often enough that the residents of Central Park changed their name to present day Bethpage.

Occasionally, postal clerks, in their haste to process mail, sent mail to the correct town (name) but in the wrong state. Fig. 1 is a cover sent from Huntington, NY to Easthampton, Mass, missent to Easthampton, NY. The clerk noted "Missent & Forw" and sent it on its way. Fig. 2 was sent from Fort Wayne, In. to Huntington, NY. Although there is no missent notation from Huntington, In., it was obviously sent there in error and forwarded. However, the P.O. managed to misdirect it again, as noted by the "Missent to Hempstead" (NY) handstamp. There is no receiving backstamp, but I assume it got to its final destination.

Considering the amount of mail processed by the Post Office, the numbers of errors like these are small, and that it what makes it such a thrill to find them.

The Trading Post
Where Members Meet To Buy, Sell or Trade NYS Postal History
and Promote Research Projects

All members in good standing may submit one notice to **The Trading Post** each year.

Trading Post ads should relate to New York State or other collecting interests
or a New York State research project on which you seek members' help.

(3 line maximum including name and contact information. Send to *Bulletin* Editor)

WANTED – Ramapo Works, Ramapo N.Y., Wyckoff N.J., Faber's Mills and Faber VA; any Monroe County IN. Marge Faber, PO Box 1875, Bloomington IN 47402 or faber@bluemarble.net

I AM LIMITING MY COLLECTING TO MICHIGAN COVERS and have many non-Michigan covers to sell/trade. What are your collecting interests? Contact Greg Stone, 618 Wild Dunes Circle, Wilmington NC 28411 or michcovers@ec.rr.com

Editor's Note: I encourage members Tom Auletta, William Howden and Allen Bobart to take advantage of their annual opportunity to post a Trading Post ad. Remember, any member in good standing can, and should, take advantage of this easy way to get your collecting objectives publicized.

For information or rates contact Advertising Manager George McGowan as listed on page 2.

Wanted: Saratoga County, NY

Better grade stampless covers wanted for exhibition purposes from these towns:

Ballston, Ballston Centre, Ballston Spa, Ballston Springs, Barkersville, Batchellerville, Bemus Heights, Birchton, Burnt Hills, Charlton, Clifton Park, Concord, Conklingville, Corinth, Coveville, Crescent, Day, Deans Corners, Dry Dock, Dunning Street, East Day, East Galway, East Line, Edgecombs Corner, Edinburgh, Elnora, Fortville, Galway, Gansevoort, Grangerville, Greenfield, Grooms Corners, Hadley, Hagedorns Mills, Half Moon, Jonesville, Ketchums Corners, Malta, Maltaville, Mechanicsville, Middle Grove, Milton Center, Moreau, Mosherville, North Galway, North Greenfield, Northumberland, Pope's Corners, Porters Corners, Providence, Quaker Springs, Rexford Flats, Round Lake, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs, Schuylersville, South Ballston, South Galway, South Glens Falls, South Greenfield, Stillwater, Victory Mills, Vischers Ferry, Waterford, Wayville, West Charlton, West Day, West Greenfield, West Milton, West Providence, Wilton.

Send original on approval, or a photocopy, with price to:

John A. Lange, Jr.
373 Root Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 882-6373 johnlangejr@aol.com

**Postal History Consignment to ESPHS Auction
Opening December 2010 with Bids Closing February 14, 2011**

Consignor (print): _____

Mailing Address: _____

eMail Address: _____

Telephone: _____

**Consignments must reach me by October 15, 2010; please mail as early as possible.
Address to: Bob Bramwell
P. O. Box 4150
Pinehurst, NC 28374**

Acknowledgement:

I hereby consign to ESPHS for auction _____ (up to five) lots of New York State postal history and accept the auction terms published by ESPHS June 2010. I affirm that I own and have authority to sell the enclosed philatelic material. I request that unsold lots be | | returned to me, or | | advanced once to the next auction. I request that unsold lots be returned to me by the following service: _____.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Typical Descriptive Information:

Postmark (Town & County)	Date Established; Date Closed
Backstamp(s)	Year of Posting, if determinable
Rate Marking; Paid/Unpaid	Auxiliary Marking(s)
Docketing, if present	Nature of Content, if present
Condition of paper	Special Attributes, if any
No Reserve, or Reserve Amount \$ _____	

Write Lot Descriptions on Reverse; Staple additional sheets if necessary.