

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 43 Number 3

December 2010

UP-COMING ESPHS REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

Saturday, February 19th, in conjunction with Cover Mania 13

Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave., Albany.

Saturday March 5th, in conjunction with BUFPEX 2011

VFW Leonard Post, 2350 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.

(see page 3 for details)

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**Use the enclosed AUCTION BIDDING SHEET to submit
your bids for our December *Bulletin* Auction of NYS postal history.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This is my 12th (and final) year-end message, the first having appeared in the December 1999 *Bulletin*. I will not be running for another two-year term at the annual meeting in May 2011. Six terms as President are enough, although I hope I can continue to serve the Society in other capacities. Postal history is in my blood.

2010 has been a good year for ESPHS, in spite of difficulties with our web site and lack of completion of our auction closing July 1, 2009. Another approach to "auction action" for our members begins with this *Bulletin*, and looks promising.

Success in 2010 came in the areas of publishing and exhibiting. Our two editors, David Williams (*Excelsior!*) and Bob Bramwell (*Bulletin*), supported by Drew Nicholson, Chair of the Publications Committee, and a host of article contributors, produced their full quota of issues for 2010 with quality products on schedule.

A high point of the year was having both David (Louisville, KY) and Bob (Pinehurst, NC) attend and speak at our annual meeting in May at ROPEX and then join in the discussion at the Board meeting after.

Our collective exhibiting efforts for the year resulted in first place at the fifth Sweeting Award competition, held at NOJEX May 28-30. Society member Bill Sammis exhibiting Maine carriers and locals took the NOJEX Reserve Grand and thus led the scoring for Empire State.

The win at NOJEX gave ESPHS the right to host the next Sweeting Award competition and this is scheduled for ROPEX 2011 May 13-15. Invitations have gone out to the postal history societies of the six New England states plus Ohio, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to join Empire State in the competition at ROPEX 2011.

Hopefully, ESPHS members who have postal history exhibits, and those contemplating such, will not have to be personally invited to join ESPHS in the

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Published Quarterly by the Empire State Postal History Society
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Mohawk: *vacant*
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Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*
Central: Bob Davison
West Central: *vacant*
Southern Tier: Alan Parsons
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Secretary's Membership Report

Accepted into Membership:

John Schorn, Silver Springs MD & Harvey Mirsky, New Hope PA

competition at ROPEX 2011, but will take the opportunity to sign up on the ROPEX website, www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html, or obtain an application from me. **ESPHS NEEDS YOU!**

In addition to the annual meeting in Rochester, four regional meetings were held this past year: Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse and at NOJEX in Secaucus, NJ for members residing on the NYC/LI Region. Four regions still need Regional Representatives—Mohawk, Lower Hudson, Leatherstocking/Catskill and West Central. Members residing in those regions or nearby should let me know if they have an interest in serving as a Regional Representative.

May the New Year bring to all our members great success in cover hunting, researching and writing articles for our periodicals and exhibiting postal history!!

Alan Parsons

alatholleyrd@aol.com

REGIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR ALBANY AT COVERMANIA 13 AND FOR BUFFALO AT BUFPEX 2011

The first Society regional membership meeting currently scheduled for 2011 will be held Saturday, February 19 in conjunction with Cover Mania 13 at the Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave., Albany. This hotel is just off I-90, Exit 5, four miles east of Thruway Exit 24. The meeting will be held at 2 pm but members should check the time and room location for the meeting when arriving at the Show.

Cover Mania 13 is a two-day show running from 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and from 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday.

BUFPEX 2011, the annual show sponsored by the Buffalo Stamp Club, will be held March 5-6 and will include a Society regional membership meeting on March 5 at 3 pm. Again, members should check the time and location of the meeting when arriving at the Show. BUFPEX is held at the VFW Leonard Post, 2350 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY.

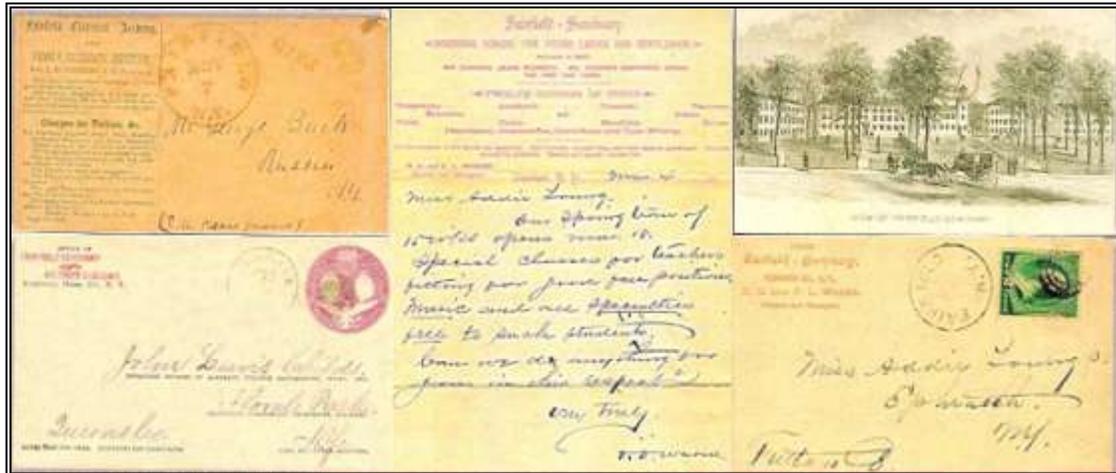
Regional meetings are open to all members, not just those residing in the area where the meeting is held. Non-members having an interest in postal history are also welcome. The meetings are held to better acquaint members with Society activities and to stimulate discussion of postal history topics. Feel free to bring a guest who is interested in postal history.

2011 DUES SET BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The fiscal year of the Society was set to January to December starting with 2011. At its November meeting, the Executive Committee set Dues at \$20 per year for renewing members and new members joining by June 30th. Members joining after June 30th will pay the same \$20 Dues, which will cover their membership through the end of 2012. This increase will allow the Society to _____

Fairfield and the Academy

By Gerald Wiley



The town of Fairfield in Herkimer County was incorporated in 1796. The post office in the hamlet of Fairfield was established in 1804 with William Smith as postmaster. Fairfield Academy, founded in 1803, underwent many changes during its lifetime of almost a century.

In 1809 it became Fairfield Medical College. It was chartered in 1813 as The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Western New York. The medical school closed in 1841, having graduated more than 500 doctors of medicine. It is considered the birthplace of Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, the School of Medicine of University of Buffalo, and Albany Medical College.

A cover mailed in 1854 advertised the Fairfield Classical Academy and Female Collegiate Institute with a “large and competent faculty” and stated “the pianist is a gentleman of superior qualifications”.

An 1889 cover enclosed stationery from Fairfield Seminary Boarding School for Young Ladies and Gentlemen offering twelve courses of study including telegraphy, elocution, violin, mandolin, guitar, shorthand, and typewriting.

From 1890 until it closed in 1902 the school was known as Fairfield Seminary and Military Academy.

The bicentennial of the founding of the town of Fairfield was commemorated in 1996 with a pictorial cancellation picturing an outline map of the town boundaries and the town hall. The cancellation was applied at the Fairfield Community Hall, serving temporarily as a station of the Middleville post office. The Fairfield post office had closed in 1995.

POSTAL HISTORY COURSE AT 2010 APS SUMMER SEMINAR TAUGHT SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE POSTAL SERVICE

ESPHS founding member Robert Dalton Harris and his wife, Diane DeBlois, continued their winning ways as APS Summer Seminar postal history instructors with a course entitled “Social Perspectives of the Postal Service” taught at the Seminar held June 20-25, 2010 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA.

With a class size of seven, there was plenty of opportunity for hands-on instruction, and Bob and Diane took full advantage of this. Fortunately, the classroom was large enough to hold all the business and post office archives they brought with them to use in their course.

The thrust of the course was to demonstrate the interplay between the Post Office and American business and culture, a vast subject organized by the instructors for the morning sessions under four headings and introductions as follows:

1.Travelers & the Mail: from Taverns to Jet Planes. Main idea: the social role of the postal function is to handle the desire for communication over distance with increasingly effective strategies.

2.Housing the Mail: from the General Store to Public Monuments. Main idea: the social role of the post office as a physical presence is a ‘nexus’ of commerce and communication.

3.Making up the Mail: Handcraft to Machine. Main idea: how the mail was handled was a ‘bottom up’ process, reflecting parallel technologies in other social spheres.

4.Commerce through the Mail: Business Stationery to Mail Order Business. Main idea: the primary social role of the post office has become to keep business moving.

Each afternoon session consisted of a power-point presentation tied in with the morning session, to wit, **Day 1** “Mohonk Mountain House: Self-Advertised 1870 to the Present,” **Day 2** “Post Offices as Tourist Attractions,” **Day 3** “The 19th Century Personal Letter” and **Day 4** “Hermes as an Advertising Icon.”

Our morning study yielded visual treats in the afternoon as a series of “Postal Images” were distributed to illustrate the main ideas of the sessions. Most were pictures of 19th century paintings or prints dealing with postal operations. Perhaps the most remarkable was an 1815 print on a cotton neckerchief entitled “A Geographical View of All the Post Towns in the United States of America and Their Distances from Each Other According to the Establishment of the Post Master General in the Year 1815.”

When the sessions concluded, each class member contributed a report to an anthology on social perspectives of the postal service, to be published by the instructors and distributed after the seminar. My report choice is Erin, NY, a hamlet in Chemung County with a post office since 1833 and still going strong.

Alan Parsons

We wished to include information on APS Summer Seminar 2011 in this issue, but details from APS are not yet available. However, the dates are set (**June 24 – 29**) and

enrollment is sure to proceed at a brisk pace, so consider marking your calendar now and making your reservations without delay. You will not be disappointed!

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

The Nominating Committee Chair for the election of Officers and Executive Board members-at-large (a/k/a Directors) at the 2011 annual meeting of the Empire State Postal History Society on **May 16 at 1 p.m. in Rochester, NY, is John A. Cali, 613 W. Fourth St., Fulton, NY 13069-3104 (tel: 315 592-4441).**

Positions open are President and Vice President, each for a two-year term, and three Executive Board members-at-large, each for a three-year term.

Nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chair by any member in good standing after obtaining the consent of the person nominated. Members may nominate themselves. The Nominating Committee Chair shall place in nomination at the annual meeting the names he has received and further nominations may be made from the floor if a second is received and the nominee consents.

Nominations to date are:

Drew, please provide proper information.

ESPHS IS FEATURED APS AFFILIATE

Each month, the American Philatelic Society has been featuring one of its Affiliates in the monthly APS E-Newsletter. Empire State Postal History Society, founded in 1969, is APS Affiliate #28 and is featured in the December 2010 E-Newsletter.

The ESPHS contribution, written by out-going President Al Parsons with photos provided by Rochester member George Fekete, should be available by the time you receive this edition of *Bulletin* but has not been published as this is being written.

Members who do not receive the E-Newsletter as result of their APS membership can find it on the home page of the APS website (www.stamps.org).