

# *BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society*

Volume 43 Number 4

March 2011

## **ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY MAY 14, 1 P.M., AT ROPEX STAMP SHOW, ROCHESTER, NY**

The 2011 Empire State Postal History Society annual meeting will be held at ROPEX 2011, the Rochester Philatelic Association's annual national stamp show, The Sports Centre at MCC, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road on the campus of Monroe Community College, south of the City of Rochester.

ROPEX is a three-day show, May 13 – 15; hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, 10 to 5 on Saturday and 10 to 3 on Sunday. Parking is free and adult admission is \$3 per day or \$6 for all 3 days (kids admitted free). Both the building and the show itself are Handicap Accessible.

For those traveling from the north on I-390, take exit 15B. For those coming from the Thruway or points south on I-390, take exit 14 and turn left at the off-ramp light. Continue past Jefferson Road, the Shopping Center on the right, the Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road on-ramp at a light and then take the entrance on the right into the Monroe Community College campus. Take a right turn onto the road that loops to the back of the campus, where The Sports Centre is located.

Society members attending ROPEX 2010 on Saturday will be able to attend a joint gathering of the postal history societies participating in the Sweetening competition to be held in Meeting Room #1 (upper level) from 11 to noon, followed by the traditional ESPHS discussion, trading and lunch hour beginning at 12 noon in the same room. Bring your own lunch, covers and other items for discussion. The annual meeting will be held from 1 to 2 p.m., also in Meeting Room #1, and will include reports by Society officers and the election of officers and directors

Since ROPEX offers ESPHS its best opportunity to recruit new members, the Society will have a table at the show. Members who can spend time at this table are asked to contact Al Parsons, [alatholleyrd@aol.com](mailto:alatholleyrd@aol.com) or (607) 732-0181, with dates and times they can help.

Information for ROPEX 2011 can be found at [rpastamps.org/ropex.html](http://rpastamps.org/ropex.html).

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APS Affiliate #28

website temporarily suspended

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Treasurer: George DeKornfeld ('12)  
gdekornfel@fairpoint.net

**Regional Representatives:**

Northern: Gerald Wiley

Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums

Mohawk: *vacant*

Lower Hudson: *vacant*

NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite

Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*

Central: Bob Davison

West Central: *vacant*

Southern Tier: Alan Parsons

Western: David Przepiora

**Directors:**

('11): Frank Braithwaite, Heather Sweeting, David Przepiora

('12): Maris Tirums, Brian Levy, Bob Davison

('13): John Cali, Drew Nicholson, Charles DiComo

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**Secretary's Membership Report**

**Accepted into Membership:**

Ralph Gestwicki, Elmira, NY  
Jesse I. Spector, MD, Lenox, MA  
Richard Tucksmith, New York, NY

*Members who have not yet renewed for 2011 are reminded that dues of \$20 should be sent to Treasurer George DeKornfeld, 1109 Route 8A, Stop 2, Millerton, NY 12546 now.*

*PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:*

This will be my last message. My sixth term as Society President expires at the annual meeting in May, and I am not running for a seventh two-year term. Six terms (12 years) is long enough. It's time for a younger President, a President with new ideas and a fresh perspective, a President who has more computer/internet/social media experience and savvy than I'll ever have.

I said in my previous PresMess that I had postal history in my blood, so I'll be keeping busy working on exhibits, articles for *Excelsior!*, and writing postal histories of the three NY counties I collect: Steuben, Chemung and Schuyler. Wish me luck!

If I'm not still on the Executive Board in some capacity I hope I'll be available to help if called upon. The Society is now 44 years old. I've been a member for over 28 years and a Board member for 19 years by the time of the annual meeting. Of the current Board, only Maris Tirums has served longer. If nothing more, I should be able to provide some "institutional memory."

I am deeply grateful to the Society members who have worked hard to keep ESPHS alive and well for the past 12 years. You know who you are. At my age (83) if I were to attempt a list of names, it would inevitably leave out deserving members, something I don't want to risk.

I regret we haven't grown in membership the last 12 years but I'm pleased with advances made in our publishing and exhibiting efforts. It's been a wild ride with its ups and downs, but we're still alive and well and poised for a promising future.

Plan to attend the annual meeting at ROPEX 2011 in May and give your new officers a rousing start. Thank you all.

Al Parsons  
alatholleyrd@aol.com

**32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL APS SUMMER SEMINAR INCLUDES COURSE  
*GEOGRAPHY AND POSTAL HISTORY: A "WRITER'S INSTITUTE"***

It's been called the "greatest week in philately" and for the third consecutive year the APS Summer Seminar will include a postal history course taught by ESPHS founding member Robert Dalton Harris and his wife, Diane DeBlois. A third instructor for the 2011 course will be Tara Murray, APRL Librarian.

According to the course syllabus, students will learn how mapping, routing and modes of mail transportation affect U. S. postal history. A prerequisite for the course will be declaration of a project to link with geography. The goal of the class will be for each student to produce a publication ready article, edited by the instructors, and published in a monograph.

Afternoon sessions will be held in the Library where, with the assistance of the Librarian and instructors, students will research their own projects and write and revise their articles.

Hosted at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA the 2011 Summer Seminar begins with a Sunday evening reception June 19, followed by four days of classes and socializing, and ends with a breakfast session (continued on page 5)

## **DEATH OF DR. JOHN NUNES ESPHS, LEAVES BIG VOID IN UPSTATE NY PHILATELY**

John J. Nunes, a Society director for over twelve years, Auction Manager and Dealer Representative plus being in charge of awards for ESPHS, died suddenly January 16<sup>th</sup> while attending UNIPEX in Toronto. John was 69 at his death and had been an active dealer, using the trade name NunesNook, well before retiring from his professional career in 2001. John's many contributions to philately in general, and to ESPHS in particular, will be widely missed.

## **DR. CHARLES J. DICOMO NAMED TO FILL EXECUTIVE BOARD VACANCY CREATED BY DEATH OF JOHN NUNES**

At its meeting February 20, 2011 in Albany, the ESPHS Executive Board appointed Dr. Charles J. DiComo of Pawling, NY, to fill the vacancy created by the death of director John Nunes. This action was taken pursuant to the Society Constitution Article 4, Section 4: *Vacancies occurring during a term of office shall be filled by the Executive Board and any appointee shall serving until the next election.*

John Nunes had been reelected to a new three-year term as a director at the 2010 annual meeting. As his replacement, Dr. DiComo will need to run for a two-year term as a Society director (class of '13) at the 2011 annual meeting in Rochester on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. DiComo, a member of ESPHS for four years and a collector of stamps and postal history for over 30 years, currently serves as a Director, Secretary, and Webmaster of the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society and on the Council of Philatelists of the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum. He specializes in the U. S. three-cent stamp of 1851 – 1861, with interests in plating & plate varieties, color varieties, postal history and cancellations.

Dr. DiComo is Corporate Compliance Officer for Aureon Biosciences, Inc. where he has worked since the Company's inception in 2001. He holds a Ph.D. in genetics from SUNY. A warm welcome to the ESPHS Executive Board, Charles DiComo!

## **CONSIGNORS' HELP NEEDED TO COMPLETE AUCTION 123**

The 649-lot postal history auction 123 put together by John Nunes and originally closed on July 1, 2008 was corrupted by the crash of Nunes' computer. John decided to repeat the auction, which closed on July 1, 2009. Before his death, John stated to the Board that he had "Closed Out" the auction but had not notified winners or collected funds. Among John's material at his death, the box containing auction 123 lots has been found, which also contains a partial list of winning bidders but no list of consignors.

The Society would like to complete auction 123 if possible, but needs all consignors to come forward. Consignors who know the numbers assigned to their lots should provide this information to Treasurer George DeKornfeld *without delay* at [gdefornfel@fairpoint.net](mailto:gdefornfel@fairpoint.net) or 1109 Route 8A, Stop 2, Millerton, NY 12546 or (518) 329-1295. Other consignors should obtain a copy of the auction catalog from Al Parsons, again without delay, at 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905. In addition, the box of lots will be available for inspection at the Society table at ROPEX 2011, May 13 – 15 in Rochester.

*Please take note: The following plea for help will be reprinted and sent for distribution at March Party (Cleveland, March 18 – 20), PNSE (Philadelphia, April 1 – 3), ASDA Spring Postage Stamp Show (NYC, April 7 – 10) and Philatelic Show (Boxborough, MA April 29 – May 1). ESPHS members are especially urged to enter their postal history exhibits as soon as possible!*

## **ENTRIES NEEDED FOR NORTHEASTERN MULTI-STATE POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITING COMPETITION AT ROPEX 2011**

Calling all current or prospective U. S. postal history exhibitors belonging to a philatelic society of the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Maine: YOUR HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED!

New York's Empire State Postal History Society (ESPHS) is hosting the 2011 exhibiting competition among the postal history/philatelic societies of the ten northeastern states listed above, to be held at ROPEX 2011, May 13 – 15, at Rochester, NY. The winning society will receive the Sweeting Award, named for the first president of ESPHS, and the right to host the next competition.

According to the ROPEX 2011 web site, [www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html](http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html), as of March 7 only two exhibits qualifying for the competition had been entered. Scoring for the competition is based on medal levels awarded to exhibits, and all medal levels contribute to the total team score. Thus new postal history exhibitors belonging to one of the competing societies are not only welcome, but strongly encouraged to enter.

Exhibits qualifying for the competition do not have to be postal history exhibits of the state of the society to which the exhibitor belongs. As long as the exhibitor belongs to one of the competing societies, he/she can exhibit postal history generally, postal history of a U. S. stamp or stamp series, or even illustrated mail so long as it relates primarily to a single state.

Compete rules for determining the winning society as well as the donor stipulations for the Sweeting Award can be found on the ROPEX 2011 web site.

While plenty of frames were still available as of March 7, they will begin to fill up in late March and early April, closing at the end of April. If you want to be part of the competition, do not wait until the last minute to send in your entry form. ROPEX is a World Series of Philately stamp show.

## **32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL APS SUMMER SEMINAR INCLUDES COURSE ENTITLED *GEOGRAPHY AND POSTAL HISTORY: A "WRITER'S INSTITUTE"***

{continued} and one more opportunity to use the Library, Sales Division, expertizing reference library and other resources at the APC on Friday, June 24. For the full list of courses taught, social activities, tuition charges, local accommodations and more, please go to [www.stamps.org/education/edu\\_summerseminar.html](http://www.stamps.org/education/edu_summerseminar.html).

## **BILL HART AWARDED HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

William J. Hart, ESPHS member since 1981, former President, longtime Board member and prolific author and exhibitor of NY postal history, was awarded an honorary life membership by the Society's Executive Board at its meeting February 20 in Albany.

The action by the Executive Board was taken pursuant to Article 7 of the By-Laws. This article creates a separate class of membership known as Honorary Life Member, attainable only by vote of the Executive Board, and granted for meritorious service to the Society.

Bill Hart served one term as President of ESPHS (1989-1991) and multiple terms, starting in 1984, as one of the Society's nine directors. He has been our APS Representative for at least 15 years and still holds this position.

An acknowledged authority on New York State RFD postal history, Bill's articles on this subject have appeared in a number of issues of *Excelsior!* and his exhibit of NY RFDs has taken awards in both national and regional shows. He has been a strong contributor to Empire State's success in multi-state postal history exhibiting competition.

Bill has formed and exhibited collections of other areas of NY post history as well, notably its early 20<sup>th</sup> century postal history. This collection was the basis of a two-part article for *Excelsior!*, Part I in March 2008 and Part II in September 2008, under the heading, *New York State Service Markings*.

Clearly Bill Hart meets, and far exceeds, our By-Laws requirement for Honorary Life Membership of meritorious service to the Society over a period of years. Thank you, Bill, for all you have done!!

## **DECEMBER 2010 *BULLETIN* AUCTION CLOSES**

by Bob Bramwell

Join me in offering congratulations to these 10 ESPHS members, all of whom submitted winning bids in the December 2010 postal history auction featuring 30 lots of New York State postal history – all of which were presented in full color:

Carl Blazejewski	Drew Nicholson
George DeKornfeld	Al Pugliese
Morton Laby	Martin Quencer
John A. Lange, Jr.	William Rapp
George McGowan	Maris Tirums

You cannot have an auction without lots, so I want to thank the following members for their consignments, two-thirds of which were claimed:

Tony Crumley	Glenn Estus	Allen Fink
Bill Hart	Morton Laby	Al Parsons

A Consignment Form accompanies this edition of *Bulletin*. Help make the June 2011 postal history auction even bigger and better by selecting up to five nice pieces of New York State material and consigning to our upcoming auction by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD AT ALBANY AND BUFFALO

As announced in the December *Bulletin*, two regional Society meetings have been held so far this year, the first one for the Upper Hudson Region, held in Albany February 19<sup>th</sup> at Cover Mania 13, and the second for the Western Region, held in Buffalo March 5<sup>th</sup> at BUFPEX 2011.

Six members attended the Albany meeting: Steve Matte, Drew Nicholson, Bill Hart, Larry Cherns, Maris Tirums and Al Parsons. No minutes were taken (none required) but the discussion centered on exhibiting at ROPEX 2011 and the status of the Society's auction program following the sudden death of John Nunes.

Half as many members attended the meeting in Buffalo: David Przepiora, Irv Tesmer and Parsons. Przepiora and Parsons discussed Society website matters before Tesmer arrived. At that point it was a matter of getting reacquainted with a longtime Society member, postal history collector and authority on Western New York postal history.

At Buffalo the Society is able to display its literature and membership brochure and offer free postal history related handouts at a table on the show floor. This helps publicize the Society even when its Western Regional meeting is sparsely attended.

Reminder: 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 also are welcome. The meetings are held to better acquaint members with Society activities, receive feedback from members and stimulate discussion of postal history topics.

## 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. Send to *Bulletin* Editor)

**WANTED:** Stampless covers from these **Saratoga County** towns: Barkersville, Clarksboro, Concord, Craigsboro, Dry Dock, Dunning Street, Fortsville, Gansevoort, Gansevortville, Grangeville, Greenfield & Greenfield Centre. John A. Lange, Jr. at [johnalangehr@aol.com](mailto:johnalangehr@aol.com)

**MEXICAN AIRMAIL and First Flight covers wanted**, through 1939. Single covers, collections, accumulations, etc. Stephen Reinhard, PO Box 110, Mineola NY 11501 or [Sreinhard1@optonline.net](mailto:Sreinhard1@optonline.net)

**WANTED: Dead Post Offices (DPO) in Jefferson County, NY.** Email to Marvin Quencer at [mquencer@northnet.org](mailto:mquencer@northnet.org). Put *Envelopes* in Subject line.

**EASTERN EXPRESS COMPANIES:** BUY, SELL or TRADE their postal history (or just correspond about this fascinating area). Bill Sammis at [cgs13@cornell.edu](mailto:cds13@cornell.edu).

**WANTED:** Selected Oneida County stampless. Email or send for want list. Jack Hilbing, 1430 Little Yankee Run, Centerville, OH 45458. email to jack@hilbing.us

**GLEN COVE NATIVE seeks postal covers from Glen Cove, NY 1943 and before.** Will trade First Flight or event covers. Joseph V. Gallagher, 275 Wolf Hill Rd, South Huntington, NY 11747 ; phone 631-398-8813 or deantovar@aol.com

**Seeking PAWLING (Dutchess County):** all periods and spellings of town name; also Pawlingsville and Campbellville. Call, send p.c. or scan to email. Drew Nicholson, 18 Valley Dr. Pawling, NY 12564-1140; phone 845-855-3387; dan.ddn@comcast.net.

**Ithaca NY Wanted:** 1806 – 1851 high rates (20 cent & higher); 1815 – 1816 War Rates; Attached-Rate covers; #s 1, 2, 12 and 63 on cover. Stefan Jaronski at bug@midrivers.com.

**HUDSON, NY covers wanted,** pre-1920; Scott #1 and #2 covers a particular want. Also **Columbia Count, NY** postal history pre-1920. George DeKornfeld at gdekornfel@fairpoint.net.

**WANTED: Special delivery uses – NYC pneumatic mail, clocks.** Printed P.O. notices, NYC – Brooklyn; Hi-Value 1980 – 1997 uses; C24 unusual destinations. Robert Markovits at rmarkovits@aol.com.

**Seeking SHEPARD'S SETTLEMENT postal history.** Please send copy with price to Norm Shepard, 741 Deerfoot Rd, Deland, FL 32720.

**WANTED: Adirondack Hotel Covers & Ephemera, pre-WW1.** Art Groten, PO Box 30, Fishkill, NY 12524. Email to artgroten@optonline.net

**100's of "new" items added to my website, POSTALNET.COM/DONTOCHER.** Included are classic (inc. stamps) through W/F and several 100 WWII/Prexie/Transport covers. Email to dontocher@earthlink.net

**U.S. Postal History Mail Bid Sales:** 5,000+ lots in each catalog, always including many New York listings. Send \$3.00 for next issue to JIM MEHRER, 2405 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 or visit website WWW.POSTAL-HISTORY.COM

**WANTED: Postal history of ALBANY COUNTY.** George McGowan, (518) 479-4396 or email to geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com.

**WANTED: Postal history of all Schenectady County Post Offices** from founding to WWII. FLS, covers, documents, photos; RPOs, DPOs, Yup, *anything & everything!* Scans & Ask Price to Bob Bramwell rbramwell@nc.rr.com (910) 295 5808 Thanks!

**ESPHS Members:**

If you receive this edition of Bulletin and your Trading Post ad is not here it means you haven't yet submitted one! It's easy to do by letter or email. (or perhaps you haven't renewed your membership)