

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 44 Number 1

June 2011

UP-COMING EVENTS

**SYRAPEX – NOVEMBER 12-13
HOLIDAY INN @ CARRIER CIRCLE
ESPHS REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Mark your calendar now. Details in September *BULLETIN***

**REGIONAL REPS: WHY NOT ORGANIZE A GET-TOGETHER
THIS FALL IN YOUR DISTRICT IF SYRACUSE CANNOT BE
ON YOUR SCHEDULE**

**Happy Summer Vacation!
But First, Be Sure to Send Your Bids for Auction #2**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our annual meeting and election are behind us and President Alan Parsons has turned over the gavel to me after 12 years. As a director for the last 3 years I have had the pleasure of working with Alan and know firsthand the time and effort he has invested in the Society. Alan will continue contributing, as he will stay on as a director. On behalf of the Society: thank you, Alan, for your work and dedication.

Most of us have not had a chance to meet, so let me introduce myself. I retired as a police lieutenant after 30 years with the Cheektowaga Police Department and live in East Aurora NY. I have been a member of the Society for 27 years and a director for the last 3 years. My collecting interests are Buffalo and Erie County postal history. I have always had an interest in history, especially military history, and have served as president of the Cheektowaga Historical Association, where I am currently the treasurer.

I haven't given a lot of thought about where we need to go as an organization. We have a great society with many good volunteers who contribute so much to our success. I particularly want to thank Keith Bantz and Charles DiComo for stepping up their involvement as Vice President and Board member respectively. My first priority, though, will be to resurrect our web site. We have had problems recovering our domain name, but it is time to move on with a new one. A great web site is the best advertisement our Society can have. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about the Society, send me an e-mail. I'd be happy to hear from you.

David Przepiora (djprze@hotmail.com)

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 APS Affiliate #28 website suspended

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 West Central: *vacant*
 Southern Tier: Alan Parsons
 Western: David Przepiora

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Secretary's Membership Report**Applications for Membership:**

Terrence Hines, PO Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514
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Accepted into Membership:

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

ESPHS ACTIVITIES AT ROPEX 2011



Members of the philatelic and postal history societies of Ohio, New Jersey and New York meet prior to the MultiState Postal History Competition.



Ada Prill joins in as George DeKornfeld receives the ESPHS Best New York State Postal History award for his *Hudson, NY* exhibit at ROPEX 2011



Al Parsons conducts his final Annual Meeting, culminating 12 years as President



President David Przepiora presents Al Parsons with an ESPHS award in recognition of his many years of leadership ...

Al Parsons enjoys possession of the Sweeting Award Multi-State Exhibiting Competition on behalf of ESPHS (is that one of his Corning covers encased forever like fractional currency?)....

MINUTES OF SOCIETY MEETING AT ROPEX

Officers, Directors and Members convened on Saturday, May 14, 2011 at The Sports Centre at Monroe Community College, Rochester during ROPEX. Among those present were Alan Parsons, Bill Hart, John Cali, Drew Nicholson, George DeKornfeld, Heather Sweeting, Ada Prill, Maris Tirums, Brian Levy, George Fekete, Ann Triggle, David Przepiora, Larry Rausch and last, but not least, Nancy Clark. Represented by proxy were members Walter Orton III, John Amberman, Ellen Rose, Larry Cherns and Jack Erickson.

A quorum having been established, out-going President Al Parsons called the meeting to order. Minutes from the November 13, 2010 Board meeting were entered and distributed to those requesting a copy. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as entered; the motion was carried.

George DeKornfeld read the Secretary's report stating that renewals and new membership applications were sufficient to keep total membership in the Society at the 150 to 155 level. An application for membership was taken at our booth from a visitor to ROPEX. In accordance with the By-Laws, 2010 members who did not renew their membership by March 1, 2011 have been removed from membership. Again this year, Heather Sweeting will compile a membership directory listing those members who requested inclusion.

George DeKornfeld then submitted the Treasurer's report. Society assets (invested primarily in "unitary" money market funds) are close to \$39,000. ESPHS fulfilled last year its 5 year pledge to the APS, which will take some pressure off the expenditure line next year. A generous donation from out-going President Al Parsons was acknowledged with thanks. Over all, Society income exceeded expenses by almost one thousand dollars.

A discussion of Life Member qualifications and dues, plus the idea of scaling regular dues by age took place and will be continued at SYRAPEX.

Publications Chair Drew Nicholson reported that our journal **EXCELSIOR!** and the quarterly **BULLETIN** were being produced according to schedule. Given continuous price increases for paper, ink and mailing, Nicholson said additional revenue from advertising was an important objective. A suggestion was taken to inventory the Society's publications, several of which prospective authors are continuing to update with the idea of publishing new editions.

Status of the website was discussed. The domain name ESPHS.ORG has lapsed and is not available. ESPHS.COM was suggested as its replacement, and hosting site *land1.com* was recommended.

Mention was made that deceased member Bill Bauer's philatelic archives are now held by the APRL at Bellefonte, Pa.

Status of Auction #123 was discussed. That auction was never completed, due to the untimely death of John Nunes. While the lots have been received from Alice Nunes, the associated consignment records were lost in a computer hard drive crash. **To move forward all Consignors need to identify and claim their lots this year. To do so, contact George DeKornfeld by e-mail at gdekornfel@fairpoint.net or by USPS mail at 1109 Route 8A, Stop 2, Millerton NY 12546. State lot numbers or details of lot identification. Ownership of unclaimed lots will convert to ESPHS at yearend unless contested.**

Drew Nicholson agreed to become our Awards Manager. Three remaining Waterford clocks will soon be awarded, and Drew said he has some antique pieces that, with appropriate engraved placards, will make unusual and pleasing awards. Thereafter, he will come up with different types of awards. This proposal was motioned, seconded and approved by voice vote.

John Cali, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that candidates for the offices of President and Vice President for a 2 year term expiring at the annual meeting in 2013 were, respectively, David Przepiora and Keith Bantz. Candidates for three Director positions in the class of 2014 were Frank Braithwaite, Alan Parsons and Heather Sweeting, and that the candidate to fill the vacancy in the class of 2013 resulting from the death of John Nunes was Charles DiComo. Cali made a motion to accept the nominated candidates to the respective positions. George Fekete seconded the proposal and it was confirmed by unanimous voice vote.

The fact that Empire State Postal History Society once again won the Sweeting Award at ROPEX was announced with great satisfaction. As hosting society, ESPHS will determine a location for the 2012 competition shortly.

Newly elected President David Przepiora concluded the meeting by presenting his predecessor Al Parsons with an impressive cobalt blue “monument” engraved with an appreciation for his 12 years service as President and his many other contributions to the Society.

Motion to adjourn was made by George DeKornfeld and seconded by John Cali. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by
Heather Sweeting
Secretary Pro Tem

GREATER PARTICIPATION BY ESPHS EXHIBITORS WINS MULTI-STATE COMPETITION AT ROPEX 2011

Holding off a strong showing by the New Jersey Postal History Society, ESPHS won the Sweeting Award multi-state postal history exhibiting competition at ROPEX 2011 May 13-15 with five Society members entering four multi-frame and five single-frame exhibits of New York postal history.

New Jersey competed with three multi-frame exhibits, two of which took gold, with the third receiving vermeil. One of the NJ golds, a ten-frame exhibit by Robert G. Rose entitled *New Jersey Stampless Covers: Handstamp Marcophily* also received the ROPEX Reserve Grand award, giving this exhibit the highest single-exhibit point score in the competition.

Since ESPHS took only one gold and two vermeils it would have placed second behind NJPHS in the competition had the other six ESPHS exhibits not been present, receiving three silver and three silver-bronze medals to go with its single gold and two vermeils. Final score: NY 67, NJ 34. MA 10, OH 10. Massachusetts and Ohio each had a single exhibit receiving gold.

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Seeing Stars

By David E. Williams



While many collectors of New York postal history collect specific towns or counties, there are those that like to collect specific types of cancels on cover. These may include stampless markings, Doane cancels, flag cancels, or fancy cancels. One type of fancy cancel to be examined here is the star cancel.

One type is probably a misnomer, since to date there have been more than 80 design types of star cancels reported from New York State. They range from the simple five-pointed solid star to very ornate, intricate designs. Many were handmade and can be fairly crude looking. They are found mostly from the mid 180s to the beginning of the twentieth century, although they are known both before and after these dates. They also exist in combination with both county and postmaster cancels. They are found in a wide range of colors and shades.

The bible for star cancel collectors is *Star Cancels of New York State* edited by Dave Proulx and published in 1987 by the Empire State Postal History Society. Proulx listed 70 star types and more than 600 New York post offices that used star cancels. When one takes into consideration different combinations of post office, star type, color, and year of use, more than 900 collectible varieties were listed.

Since its publication nearly 25 years ago, another 500-plus new records of star cancels from New York State have been reported and documented.

These consist of many previously unreported post offices, an additional dozen new star types, as well as newly reported combinations of post office, star type, color and year of use. New finds are made quite often. The existence of the Internet and eBay, with its wide diversity of postal history material, makes new discoveries much easier than ever to find. It is an interesting facet of postal history for the collector looking for something different in which to specialize.

GREATER PARTICIPATION BY ESPHS EXHIBITORS WINS MULTI-STATE COMPETITION AT ROPEX 2011

Continued:

ESPHS Treasurer George DeKornfeld's eight-frame exhibit, *The Marcophily of Hudson, New York, 1703-1919*, took the single gold awarded ESPHS in the multi-state competition. This exhibit also won the traditional ESPHS award for the best NY postal history exhibit winning vermeil or gold and the RPA Dusty Miller Award for best postal history exhibit by an RPA member.

Utica New York's Stampless Handstamp Markings, a single-frame exhibit by ESPHS member Ellen Rose, took one of the two vermeils awarded Empire State. This exhibit also took the ESPHS award for the best single-frame exhibit in the Sweeting competition; Ellen's husband, Bob, took the ESPHS award for the best multi-frame exhibit in the competition.

Al Parsons' five-frame exhibit, *Corning, NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Serviced by the Corning Post Office*, received the other vermeil given the ESPHS exhibitors in the Sweeting competition; Parsons had two other exhibits in the competition, *The Sullivan Commemorative of 1929* (five frames, illustrated mail), and *19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties, NY* (single frame), both awarded silver.

Ada Prill entered two single-frame exhibits to support the Empire State team: *Star Cancels of Delaware County, New York* took silver, and *Un-Oh! – Mistakes in U.S. Auxiliary Markings* received silver-bronze. Ann Triggles, better known as a topical exhibitor but happy to collect and exhibit postal history of two communities in Erie County, contributed a two-frame exhibit, *Clarence, NY*, and a single-frame exhibit, *Wales in Erie County, NY*. Both received silver-bronze.

Please note: Both Ann Triggles and another long-time ESPHS member, Roger Quinby, received golds at ROPEX 2011 for multi-frame exhibits not eligible for the multi-state postal history exhibiting competition. Ann's gold was awarded for her eight-frame topical exhibit, *Ichthyology(Fish)*, and Roger's for a traditional exhibit, also eight frames, *The First Postal Cards of the Republic of Finland: The Saarinen Postal Cards 1917-1930*.

The Sweeting Award postal history exhibiting competition at ROPEX 2011 was the sixth in a series beginning at ROPEX 2004. ESPHS won the 2004 competition and has now won the last two. The stipulations for the Sweeting Award, a large plaque with panels for 36 entries, require that the competition be held at a WSP show in any one of the six New England states plus NY, NJ, PA and OH.

By agreement of the four Societies participating at ROPEX 2011, the next competition will be hosted by the Ohio Postal History Society at COLOPEX 2013 scheduled for June 7-9, 2013 in the DiSalle Center, Columbus, OH This will be the first time the competition has been held at COLOPEX, a WSP show, and the second time it has been hosted by OPHS (its first was at March Party in 2006).

Taking a year off between competitions is expected to whet the appetite for more postal history exhibiting among members of the 10 State postal history/philatelic societies included in the Sweeting Award competition.

ESPHS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXHIBIT HONORING NICHOLAS POWER, POUGHKEEPSIE'S FIRST POSTMASTER

A ceremony will be held honoring Poughkeepsie's first postmaster, Nicholas Power, beginning at 10 a.m. on September 21st at in the Poughkeepsie post office located on Mansion Street; an exhibit of Dutchess County postal history will open immediately thereafter at the old Poughkeepsie Journal Building diagonally opposite. Opening remarks will be made by the Mayor of Poughkeepsie, John Tkazyik. The event is being organized by George Lukacs, City of Poughkeepsie municipal historian, a member of the ESPHS. He is being assisted by Drew Nicholson, Village of Pawling municipal historian, also a member of ESPHS.

It is expected that the postal history exhibit will be available for public viewing through that weekend. ESPHS members interested in providing items for the exhibition illustrating Dutchess County postal history should contact George Lukacs (207 Overocker Rd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603/ saltglazed@aol.com) or Drew Nicholson (18 Valley Dr., Pawling, NY 12564-1140/dan.ddn@comcast.net). This is not a juried show; it is designed to make the general public more aware of the historical importance of postal history. It is expected that several ESPHS members will participate. This is the second time that Lukacs has organized an exhibition of postal history in Poughkeepsie, the first being an official event during the H-F-C Quadricentennial Celebration in 2009.

An official cancellation for the event has been approved and a complementary cachet is currently being designed by Lukacs. Covers will be available for sale at the exhibit and servicing by mail will be available. Contact George Lukacs for cost and further information at the address shown above.

But who was Nicholas Power and why is he being so honored? He was born on April 19, 1760 and died on September 21, 1811. Yes, he was Poughkeepsie's first postmaster but he is also known for being the editor and founder of *The Country Journal*, a weekly printed in Poughkeepsie beginning August 11, 1785. It was subsequently renamed *The Country Journal and Poughkeepsie Advertiser*. Its name was later shortened to *The Poughkeepsie Journal*, which exists today as the leading newspaper in the Mid-Hudson Valley and proudly announces on its masthead: "Founded in 1785."

Nicholas Power was appointed the official printer of New York State's "Constitutional Debates Convention" held at Poughkeepsie. (He had previously begun including parts of Alexander Hamilton's "Federalist Papers" in *The Country Journal*.) The 86-page "Journal of the Convention" was printed by Power; it describes the NYS ratification process of the "U.S. Constitution" that was successful by a **single** vote!

There is no debate that Nicholas Power contributed greatly to Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County and American journalism and history. And on the 200th Anniversary of his passing, his achievements will be so recognized and honored. George and Drew hope

to see you there; they are sure you will enjoy both the exhibit and a trip to historical Poughkeepsie!

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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: NYS and Vt. *County* and *Postmaster* covers, **PAID 3 in circle** covers, *Essex/Clinton County* postal history, *Vt. RFDs, Vt. Doanes*. Glenn Estus, PO Box 451, Westport, NY 12993 (gestus2002@yahoo.com).

Wanted: Postal records and private correspondences. Always buying and selling U.S. postal and telegraph history and ephemera. Contact Robert Dalton Harris, P.O.Box 477, West Sand Lake, NY 12196 (AGATHERIN@YAHOO.COM)

Student of 3-cent 1861 (Scott 65) on cover with NYC and Brooklyn cancels. Please send photocopies & asking price to OPRYSKO, PO Box 218, Baldwin Place, NY 10505.

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 johnalangejr@aol.com