

# *BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society*

Volume 44 Number 4

March 2012

## **ESPHS ANNUAL MEETING AT ROPEX 2012, ROCHESTER, NY SATURDAY, MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> TRADING HOUR NOON TO 1<sup>PM</sup> FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE ANNUAL MEETING**

The 2012 Empire State Postal History Society annual meeting will be held at ROPEX 2012, the Rochester Philatelic Association's annual national stamp show, The Sports Centre at MCC, 2700 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road on the campus of Monroe Community College, south of the City of Rochester.

ROPEX is a three-day show, May 18 – 20; hours are 11<sup>AM</sup> to 6<sup>PM</sup> on Friday, 10 to 5 on Saturday and 10 to 3 on Sunday. Parking is free and adult admission is \$3 per day (kids admitted free). Both the building and the show itself are Handicap Accessible.

Society members attending ROPEX 2012 on Saturday are encouraged to attend the traditional ESPHS discussion, trading and lunch hour beginning at 12 noon in Meeting Room #1 (upper level). Bring your own lunch, covers and other items for discussion. Guests are welcome. The membership's annual meeting will be held from 1 to 2<sup>PM</sup>, also in Meeting Room #1, and will include reports by Society officers and the election of officers and directors.

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.

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 David Przepiora at [djprze@hotmail.com](mailto:djprze@hotmail.com), with dates and times they can help.

More information for ROPEX 2012 can be found at [www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html](http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html).

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 APS Affiliate #28 web site www.esphs.us

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 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

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 ('13): John Cali, Dr. Charles J. DiComo, Drew Nicholson  
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**Secretary's Membership Report****Albums Closed:**

Jerry Kotek

Bill Sheetz

John Lange, Jr.

**Members who have not yet renewed for 2012 are reminded that dues of \$20 must be sent to Treasurer George DeKornfeld, 1109 Route \*A, Stop 2, Millerton, NY 12546 to arrive before March 31<sup>st</sup> to avoid being removed from the rolls.**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

Members, I can feel spring in the air because winter here in Western New York has been a mild one. I have had a great beginning to this New Year with additions to my Buffalo and Erie County cover collections. First I purchased a nice group of stampless Erie County covers from fellow Society member Doug Penwell. Then a week later I bought a group of Buffalo Steamboat covers from the Rumsey-Schuyler auction. Just like that, 44 new covers in hand to keep me busy for a while.

Well, stamp shows are just around the corner. First, Buffalo Stamp Club will host BUFFPEX on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of March (our Publications team may even put this issue of *Bulletin* in your hands in time to be a reminder). Then we have the Rochester ROPEX show on May 16 – 20 where we will hold our Annual Meeting on Saturday at 1<sup>PM</sup> followed immediately by a Board Meeting. I hope to see you there at the Bring Your Own Lunch Trade and Chat session that starts at noon before the annual meeting.

David Przepiora [djprze@hotmail.com](mailto:djprze@hotmail.com)

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO COLOPEX 2013**

The next Sweeting Award competition will take place at COLOPEX 2013 in Columbus, OH. While this WSP show is a ways off, the *BULLETIN* would like to shine a spotlight, figuratively, on philatelic exhibiting in anticipation of going after another Sweeting. For the next year, each edition of *BULLETIN* will include a short first-person description of the work, luck and joy that goes into mounting a successful exhibit. This will, of course, require those of you who already “exhibit” to volunteer a write-up based on your own experiences. Please do so, and encourage others to join you as a member of Team ESPHS.

### **33<sup>rd</sup> APS SUMMER SEMINAR COURSES TO BE CONDUCTED BY ESPHS MEMBERS IN JUNE AT BELLEFONTE, PA.**

Members George Fekete and Robert Dalton Harris will each present two-day “mini-workshop” courses on different topics during the 33<sup>rd</sup> running of American Philatelic Society’s popular *Philatelic Education Vacation* in beautiful Bellefonte, Pa.

Fekete’s topic is *Computers and Philately: How to Organize Your Philatelic Material*. Using readily available software, George will demonstrate how the philatelist can efficiently track and present his or her material. Bring a laptop or tablet.

Harris, together with Diane DeBlois, will present *Telegraph Postal History* focusing on the cultural intersection of the mail system and telegraph services, and giving the student awareness of the collectible evidence of the telegraph as postal history (but no free samples)

For information about the full range of activities that comprise Summer Seminar for 2012, visit the APS website [stamps.org](http://stamps.org) and click on Upcoming Events.

## **SOCIETY LOSES THREE MEMBERS**

Long time ESPHS member **Jerry A. Kotek** passed away on October 31, 2011 in his home town of York, Pa. according to his daughter, who wrote to advise the Society of his death.

As a young man, Jerry was a good enough bowler to consider becoming a professional. Instead, he was drafted into the Army and served during the Korean war as a communications specialist. After his Army service, Jerry graduated from Farleigh Dickinson University with a degree in industrial engineering. Jerry and his wife Florence moved to York in 1963 when Jerry went to work for York Borg-Warner and experienced a long career.

Jerry had a passion for stamp and post card collecting. He was an active volunteer in the White Rose Philatelic Society and shared his stamp collecting enthusiasm with the Colonial York Junior Stamp Club. He was a founding member of the York Post Card Club and had a life long interest in the stamps of Czechoslovakia, where his parents were born.

*From information provided by Susan Kotek Sprague*

We have just received word that **John A. Lange, Jr.** died on February 6<sup>th</sup>, in the fullness of his years. John has been a member of ESPHS since 1969. I can only imagine the contributions he made to philately, postal history and stamp clubs in his lifetime since I never met John face to face and I have been a member only five years.

I can say, however, that as soon as I joined ESPHS and announced my interest in the postal history of Schenectady, John was Johnny-on-the-Spot with encouragement and insights from his years of specializing in neighboring Saratoga. When I started contributing to our journal, he always sent me an “atta boy”. When I took on editorship of *Bulletin* he was one of the first to write a note thanking me and saying he was sure I’d do a good job (see what courage he had?). When we brought auctions back as a regular feature in full color, John consigned to every auction – all of his lots sold in Auction 3, which closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> – giving me yet another important level of support.

I’m sure that other members will remember John in their own, fuller, context, but I will miss John very much.

*Bob Bramwell*

**William C. Sheetz** of Newark, N. Y., passed away on August 15, 2011. He was 96 years old. Mr. Sheetz was a long-time member of Empire State Postal History Society and also a member for 55 years of the American Philatelic Society. He was a member of the Western New York Postcard Club, the Finger Lakes Stamp Club and was a past president of the Wayne County Antique Dealers Association.

Although a stamp collector for many years, he later collected the postal history of Wayne County and portions of Ontario County. He and his wife, Carol, operated an antique store in the area and enjoyed summers in their cottage on Sodus Bay.

Bill served in Co. L, 348<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during World War II and was awarded two Bronze Stars during that conflict.

Bill was a good friend and fellow collector of New York State postal history who will be greatly missed.

*Provided by Doug Penwell*

**ANNOUNCING THE INAUGURAL  
NORTHEAST POSTAL HISTORY & EPHEMERA SHOW  
ALSO FEATURING STAMPS & POSTCARDS**

Held **August 4 – 5, 2012** at the Polish Community Center  
225 Washington Ave. Extension, Albany, NY  
*Guest Speakers will discuss Exhibiting and Postal History*  
*Approx. 40 Dealers Expected*

For Show Information, Contact **George McGowan** ([geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com))  
For Polish Community Center Information, Visit Their Website [www.albanypcc.com](http://www.albanypcc.com)



**The Trading Post**

**Where Members Meet To Buy, Sell or Trade NYS Postal History**

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 to Purchase:** Sc. #26 and 26A *multiples* on or off cover. Contact Greg Hanson  
at [hansong441@aol.com](mailto:hansong441@aol.com), or (206) 799-2249.

**Seeking Cattaraugus County:** Covers & Postmarks prior to the 1930's. Contact me at  
[searles@roadrunner.com](mailto:searles@roadrunner.com).

**WANTED:** Express Company Postal History; Business School Practice Stamps & Covers;  
Locals, Forgeries, incl. Confederate Stamp Forgeries. **Buy or Trade.** Contact Bill Sammis,  
436 Thomas Road, Ithaca, NY 13850-9653, or [cds13@cornell.edu](mailto:cds13@cornell.edu)

**Postcards wanted:** Small towns in NY; Real Photo (RPPC) anywhere; Foreign small towns.  
Nancy Foutz, 18 Jacobsen Lane, Stone Ridge, NY 12484. (845) 687-0175. Write or Call  
first, please.

**WANTED:** NYS stampless, especially Hudson River mail, War of 1812, and Long Island.  
Keith Bantz, 90 East Second St., Deer Park, NY 11729, or (631) 940-8400.

**OFFERING:** Large inventory of U S Stampless covers. All States, incl. many NY hand stamps and manuscripts. Cortland Covers, Box 371, Homer NY 13077, or [ccovers@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ccovers@twcny.rr.com)

**WANTED: ITHACA NY** Postal History. 1806 – 1815: all rates except 12 ½ ¢; 1815 – 1816 War Surcharge; 1816 – 1845 rates 12¢, 20¢, 25¢, 30¢, 37 ½ ¢, 50¢, 55 ½ ¢, 56 ½ ¢; 1845 – 1851 rates: 2¢ drop, 15¢, 20¢, 30¢. Contact Stefan Jaronski at [bug@midrivers.com](mailto:bug@midrivers.com)

**OFFERING:** 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. Web site: [www.postal-history.com](http://www.postal-history.com). Jim Mehrer, 2405-30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL 61201.

**Collector/Student Seeks** 3¢ 1861 on cover with NYC cancels, especially fancy cancels, geometrics, patents. Also looking for advertising & corner cards on same. Oprysko, PO Box 218, Baldwin Place, NY 10505

**WANTED:** Broome County, NY covers, esp. smaller offices; also photos or scans of Broome Cty Post Office buildings and postmasters. For a list of towns see index at [www.broome-county-postal-history.com/coversindex2.html](http://www.broome-county-postal-history.com/coversindex2.html). David E. Williams, 7115 Abbey Woods Dr. NE, New Salisbury, IN 47161

**WANTED:** Selected Oneida County Stampless covers. Email or send for my Want List. Jack Hilbing, 1430 Little Yankee Run, Centerville, OH 45458, or [jack@hilbing.us](mailto:jack@hilbing.us)

**OFFERING:** New Hampshire. Large accumulation in glassine envelopes, labeled by town. Most 1880 – 1915; covers and cards. Contact Brian Levy for details at [bellobl@aol.com](mailto:bellobl@aol.com)

**WANTED:** Special Delivery uses; NYC Pneumatic Mail; Clocks; Printed NYC PO Notices; Brooklyn Hi Value 1980 – 1997 uses; C24 to Unusual Destinations. [rmarkovits@aol.com](mailto:rmarkovits@aol.com)

**I have lots of Postal History Wants that you can see at my want list page:**

[http://users.westelcom.com/gestus/Want\\_List.html](http://users.westelcom.com/gestus/Want_List.html) Glenn Estus, PO Box 451, Westport, N.Y. 12993, [gestus@westelcom.com](mailto:gestus@westelcom.com)

**OFFERING:** 100's of "new" items added to my website [www.postalnet.com/dontocher](http://www.postalnet.com/dontocher) Included are classics (inc. stamps) through W/F and several hundred WWII, Prexie and Transpost covers. Contact [dontocher@earthlink.net](mailto:dontocher@earthlink.net)

**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](mailto: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 (or else I missed it)! It's easy to do by letter or email so be sure to let the rest of us know what floats your philatelic boat!

Bob Bramwell, *Editor*