

# *BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society*

Volume 45 Number 1

June 2012



A smiling David Przepiora welcomes director John Cali (left) and member George Fekete to the Society's table at ROPEX 2012. See page 3 for a report on the Annual Meeting.

## **COMING AUGUST 4 – 5, INAUGURAL NORTHEAST POSTAL HISTORY & EPHEMERA SHOW AT ALBANY**

Also Featuring Stamps and Post Cards

*Guest Speakers will discuss Exhibiting and Postal History*

*Approx. 40 Dealers Expected*

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For Show Information, contact, **George McGowan** (geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com)

For Polish Community Center information, visit their web site **www.albanypcc.com**

**A Members Meeting Will Be Held**

A GREAT CHANCE FOR EASTERN MEMBERS TO CONVENE

**Coming this Fall: Regional Meeting at STEPEX**

Published Quarterly by the Empire State Postal History Society  
 APS Affiliate #28 web site www.esphs.us

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 Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums  
 Mohawk: *vacant*  
 Lower Hudson: *vacant*  
 NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite  
 Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*  
 Central: Bob Davison  
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 Southern Tier: Alan Parsons  
 Western: David Przepiora

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

W. Ron Pfeffer P.O. Box 144 Farnham, NY 14081

Album Closed: Walter Orton

**Life Membership Payment Schedule:**

At Ages 65 & Over \$200  
 At Ages 51 – 64 \$300

At Ages 40 – 50 \$350  
 At Ages 39 & Under \$400

## ANNUAL MEETING HELD MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> AT ROPEX

The Board's Annual Meeting and a general Membership meeting took place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. In attendance: David Przepiora, Carl Blazejewski\*, John Cali, Larry Cherns, George Dekornfeld\*, Charles DiComo\*, George Fekete, Brian Levy\*, George McGowan\*, Drew Nicholson, Al Parsons, Ada Prill, Heather Sweeting, Maris Tirums and David E. Williams (\* by proxy). A quorum was established.

Treasurer Dekornfeld's **Budget Report** was presented. The society's financial condition is strong, with about \$41,500 in bank and investment accounts. 2011 revenues of \$4,560 exceeded expenses of \$2,785, and the 2012 budget shows expected revenues of \$4,050 versus expenses of \$2,845.

The **Membership Report** stated that total membership was down about 10 and that fewer people were dropped for non-payment this spring. George Fekete purchased a Life Membership, which is available to all members. See page 2 for the schedule.

**Publications Chair** Drew Nicholson reported that our publications continue to be sent on time and produced with high quality content and layout. Several orders for the Oswego County Postal History book have been received, but no copies remain. Heather Sweeting will see about getting a few soft cover copies printed and bound. It is also hoped that the Robert Dalton Harris expansion will be printed in 2013. Drew also reported that as **Awards Manager** he had acquired a variety of historical books, tin plates and the like, to which plaques will be added as awards are presented.

David Przepiora reported that the **ESPHS website** is experiencing software issues and that he will work with Charles DiComo to resolve them.

Regarding **Bulletin Auctions**, the board decided that all lots remaining from John Nunes' final auction will be consigned to future *Bulletin* auctions, to benefit the Society. Al Parsons commented that auction descriptions are sometimes changed to fit the allowable space, but important information is sometimes left out. He asked if auction write ups should be limited in space and by number of lots.

The board reminds all members that the **Sweeting Competition** will take place in June 2013 at COLOPEX – Columbus Ohio. Every effort should be made for members to represent ESPHS with existing and new exhibits.

Under **Old Business**, the board reviewed the suggestion that a membership list (name, collecting interests) be made available to members. To meet objections to such a list by some members, an "Opt Out" choice was discussed. Opt Out could be chosen on Application for Membership and thereafter upon payment of Annual Dues. A decision will be announced during or after the general membership meeting at Albany in August.

Some items of **New Business** were presented. **George Fekete** offered to design and create a logo for ESPHS products such as hats, t-shirts and mugs, that could be locally produced or sold through an online retailer such as Café Press. He offered to investigate the costs for screen printing through a local company. **Al Parsons** suggested investigating and proceeding with incorporation of the Society for both legal protection as well as tax exempt status so that the Society could accept charitable donations. Costs of incorporation would be several hundred dollars. Al's proposal was well received.

During **Election of Officers and Directors**, George Dekornfeld, George McGowan, Brian Levy and Maris Tirums stood for re-election, while Class of 2012 director Bob Davison declined nomination to the Class of 2015. The slate of nominees was unanimously elected. Davison's seat remains unfilled at this time.

## ONE MEMBER'S THOUGHTS ABOUT PHILATELIC EXHIBITING

By George DeKornfeld

From the perspective of an outsider looking in, someone perhaps standing amidst the seemingly endless rows of frames at a stamp show, surrounded by page after page of neatly mounted stamps and covers, exhibiting can appear as an insurmountable task and one possibly better left to those blessed with a talent in graphics along with an innate gift for applying philatelic research. Perhaps, however, curiosity sets in . . . and then the questions start to arise: "Why would I bother to do something like this?" "What, if anything, is in this for me?" In this brief primer, let's address these questions and see which of the various answers may apply to you.

Organization of one's collection is but one facet that separates an *accumulator* from the more serious *philatelist* and *postal historian*. Most of us, as members of the ESPHS, likely can be numbered amongst the latter category, particularly since the term *postal historian* implies some performed level and love of research and study of philatelic covers. Exhibiting provides a perfect opportunity to take the organization of one's material to a higher level and to tell a story about it, which can be approached in various ways such as *classic postal history*, *marcophily*, etc.

Many of us collect postal history from smaller towns. Oftentimes these are towns we have a personal connection with. We might have been born and grown up there, we might live or work there now. This is a great area to consider for one's first exhibiting foray as not only is the passion for the material already present, but we already likely hold plenty of it. Smaller towns also tend to be more manageable in terms of what's available to collect. In my particular case (and this is my first exhibiting topic), I selected the marcophily of the city of Hudson, New York. My connection is that Hudson is the seat for the county in which I reside, Columbia. Since I've always enjoyed postal markings of all sorts, I found it relatively easy to tell my particular story by showing the various markings used in Hudson chronologically from 1793 (the first recorded marking) to 1920 (an arbitrary endpoint I selected) by choosing specific items from my collection to be described and placed on exhibit pages. Of course as I successfully bought more Hudson covers, I improved my pages.

Honest self-satisfaction is another main reason to exhibit. Once an exhibit has been put together, taken apart and reassembled, critiqued by friends and judges, adjusted and tweaked, added to and expanded, there comes a point where you won't believe how gratified you are each time you look through the pages and work to make them better. It takes some time and a fair amount of work (remembering all along that this is a labor of love) but the rewards in terms of pride in a job well done are well worth the effort and the necessary learning curve.

Speaking of rewards, you receive some of these in the form of various ribbons, show souvenirs, and awards presented to your exhibit at the end of each show. I freely admit to being somewhat of a "mug hunter". I really enjoy having a space in my stamp den where I display any ribbons and trophies my exhibit has been fortunate enough to have won. These further add to the self-satisfaction mentioned above, and pretty much any level of exhibitor and any level of exhibit will get something to take home from the show that he or she can be proud of.

Another biggie is the camaraderie the exhibiting world provides. As members of ESPHS, your exhibit will be viewed by fellow-members (and will count towards our society's effort to win and keep the Sweeting Award – the multi-state postal history society competition), all the while interacting and mingling with folks who share your interest in postal history. You can teach them about your exhibit while you learn from theirs. You can attend the Awards Banquet that accompanies most shows, enjoying great eats, drinks and conversations and anecdotes about our favorite hobby.

How to get started? If you're already one of those standing by the exhibit frames, catch one of the exhibitors or judges and get their take on the entire process. Ask exhibitors to walk you through their exhibits. Not only will you pick up on some of the "how-to's" but you'll learn something new at every frame – both about the topic and about the thought processes that put it all together.

I would also recommend several sources that are indispensable references. First and foremost, get hold of a copy of *The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook*, by Randy Neil and revised by our own Ada Prill. Get the Third Edition, printed by Subway Stamp Shop in 2006. I can't stress enough the value of this bible on exhibiting.

A copy of the rules of the game are also critical, and these are available as a PDF download from the American Philatelic Society's web page on exhibiting. Also available is the *Philatelic Judging Manual*, which explains what the judges are looking for (for us mug hunter types). The web site is <http://stamps.org/exhibiting>.

Finally, a great group of collectors and exhibitors can be found as members of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors. This is the advocacy group for the exhibiting world, and is also an invaluable resource for the full range of exhibitors from beginner to accomplished. They provide a gratis critique service for members that includes evaluation of the Title Page and, separately, the body of your entire presentation. Their journal also provides great tips on improving exhibits, and it keeps members up to date on any proposed rule changes. Check out their web site at <http://www.aape.org/index.asp> or attend one of their open meetings held at many World Series of Philately shows. You'll be welcomed with open arms.

So go ahead ... do it ... jump in ... and if your comfort zone so dictates, start at one of the smaller local or regional shows such as STEPEX in Elmira, or SYRAPEX in Syracuse. Here the rules are less stringent and you can oftentimes get advice from national-level judges on how to make your exhibit ready for the national (WSP) arena if that is indeed your goal. Join other ESPHS members and help strengthen our society – all the while having a very enjoyable time expanding on what you already love to spend your time doing: working with postal history.

*Editor's Comments: George DeKornfeld was kind enough to kick off a quarterly series of articles providing a personal perspective on exhibiting by some of our members with that experience. In June 2013, Empire State Postal History Society will defend its hold on the Charles F. Sweeting Award mentioned by George, the competition being held at COLOPEX 2013 in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to quality, scoring in this competition recognizes the number of exhibits mounted by members of each Society represented. Multiple entries may be made by any member, but adding new exhibits by first-time exhibitors (and being one of those himself) is your editor's goal. Assuming I manage to enter an exhibit next year, I promise to write an article for the September 2013 Bulletin on my experience. The rest of you "never-timers", please join me in adding to our frame count!*

The following article written by ESPHS member Gerald Wiley was published in Stamp Insider, the Journal of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies:



**EMPIRE STATE  
POSTAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY**

**APS UNIT 28**

[www.esphs.us](http://www.esphs.us)  
Meets twice annually

Membership info: George McGowan  
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## WANAKENA SURVIVED THE LUMBER BOOM

*By Gerald Wiley*

When Herbert Rich came to Cranberry Lake in 1901, he found an ideal location for his logging and lumbering operations. He purchased 16,000 acres on the southwest side of the lake, located in Saint Lawrence County, and in 1902 the village of Wanakena was being constructed, along with logging camps, mills for processing the timber and several miles of logging railroad, all supervised by the Rich Lumber Company.

The post office at Wanakena was established in September, 1902 with George H. Bullcock as postmaster. In 1903 the six-mile Cranberry Lake Railroad connecting Wanakena and Benson Mines was officially opened, giving improved access to the outside world.

Before Wanakena, a settlement already existed on the north end of the lake, Cranberry Lake village. The post office there, established as Cranberry Lake in March 1891, operated under that name until May 1893. From then until late in August 1902 it was called Harewood, the name of the town. Then, back to the Cranberry Lake name which is still in use today.

In 1908 the Wanakena & Cranberry Lake RPO (Railway Post Office), a mail boat with post office aboard, was put into service to deliver and pick up mail around Cranberry Lake during the summer season. That service was discontinued in 1935.

When the Rich Lumber Company ceased operations in 1912, Wanakena survived, unlike many logging villages, with permanent residents enjoying the quiet life in a small Adirondack village. In 1912 the first students arrived at the New York State Ranger School, two miles from Wanakena, being erected on land donated by the Rich Lumber Company.

The Wanakena and Cranberry Lake post offices are still open for business. ■

## **REMEMBRANCES OF JOHN A. LANGE, JR.**

Founding Member John A. Lange, Jr. passed away February 6, 2012 as noted in March *Bulletin*. Life Member Bill Hart remembers John as “an exceptional student of 19<sup>th</sup> century postal history” and felt he had been rendered the ultimate compliment when his research into Cayuga County RFD route numbers, published in September 2010 EXCELSIOR drew a one word assessment from John. That word was “WOW”.

Glenn Estus points out that John was *The Man* for Saratoga County postal history, but he also collected the 1851-57 3c stamp and was suspected of having a complete 12 month calendar exhibit with 3c stamps featuring SOTN CDS's for every day of the year. *Ed: could they have all been New York State towns??*

In addition to being a Founder of the Society, John was an influential supporter. He served as Secretary and Treasurer from 1993 to 2005 and is credited with putting the Society on a strong financial footing, which continues to this day.

## **MEMBER WALTER J. ORTON**

Walter J. Orton, a member of ESPHS who lived in Grand Island for many years, passed away October 23, 2011. Walter served as an Army Lieutenant during WWII and had a long career with Union Carbide in Niagara Falls after his period of service. He was also deeply involved with the ministry of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church on Grand Island.

## **RESULTS OF AUCTION #3**

By Bob Bramwell

Thanks to exciting material consigned by Morton Laby, Bill Hart, John Lange, Jr., Al Parsonss and Bill Powers *Bulletin* Auction #3 attracted some aggressive bidding and successfully closed with over 70% of lots claimed. Congratulations to George Dekornfeld, Maris Tirums, Roger Curran, Robert Marshall and “Big Al” Pugliese.

Not coincidentally, this edition of *Bulletin* is accompanied by presentation of Auction #4 and its Bid Sheet. Don't file this away until you are sure you've submitted your bids on everything that might fit in with your various collecting interests.

The following article written by ESPHS member Maris Tirums was published in Stamp Insider, the Journal of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies. Keep informed of the goings-on at the stamp club in your area with an on-line subscription.



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## NRA PROPAGANDA ON BUSINESS MAIL

By Maris Tirums

These covers mailed from New York post offices bear the National Recovery Administration blue eagle. NRA implemented the National Industrial Recovery Act adopted June 16, 1933. Similar covers from large and small businesses in the early 1930s show use of mail to propagandize a government program. NIRA was passed during Franklin D. Roosevelt's first 100 days as president. The New Deal legislation included union collective bargaining rights expansion, fair competition industrial codes, and regulation of working standards and some commodities.

The NRA emblem has an eagle with outstretched wings. One claw holds lightning bolts while the other holds a cog representing business and industry. Above the eagle is NRA MEMBER while WE DO OUR PART is printed below. Businesses were encouraged to display the emblem as a sign of cooperation with the NRA and as a patriotic gesture. Commercial mail from 1933–1935 often includes the emblem as an adhesive label, printed on the envelope, or hand stamped.

The first cover is machine canceled BUFFALO, DEC 13 1933, N.Y. on a three-cent Washington regular issue (Scott No. 720). The sender, Direct Sales Company, used a blue hand-stamp of the NRA eagle which appears under the circular date stamp.

The second cover, machine canceled ANDOVER, DEC 19 1935, N.Y. on a three-cent Michigan statehood centenary commemorative (Scott No. 775), was sent by the Dairymen's League Co-operative Association and has a printed NRA eagle below the mailer's logo and address. The Supreme Court had declared NIRA unconstitutional on May 27, in a case brought by a New York City poultry company. This had little practical effect as NIRA would have expired in June without congressional reauthorization. By then, Congress was very unlikely to have done so.

The Post Office Department issued a stamp (Scott No. 732) publicizing NIRA. FDR drafted a sketch for its design. This chapter of US history can be studied through this issue and several other stamps with subjects associated with New Deal legislation and personalities. Likewise, postal history items paint an interesting picture of this chapter of our history. ■



## 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)

**I have many N.Y. covers to sell, or to trade for Michigan postal history.** Please advise your collecting interests to Greg Stone, 618 Wild Dunes Circle, Wilmington, NC 28411 michcovers@ec.rr.com

**Thousands of NYS postal history items on view at our office/gallery,** plus older picture postcards. Call Tom Auletta (518) 877-3027. Azusa Collectibles, 258 Ushers Rd., Suite 203, Clifton Park, NY 12065.

**WANTED: MANUSCRIPT POSTMARKS** on stampless covers. Pls send copies with prices to J. Haynes, Box 358, Allendale, NY 07401.

### ESPHS Members:

If three lines do not allow enough space to express your research requirements, collecting interests or philatelic business, Advertising Manager George McGowan welcomes your inquiry. Here are our rates for publication in **either** four consecutive issues of *Bulletin* **or** two consecutive issues of our journal EXCELSIOR:

Full Page	\$100	Half Page	\$ 60
Quarter Page	\$ 40	Eighth Page	\$ 25

Computer-ready art in PDF format is welcome. Ads provided in color will be printed in Full Color for 125% of the above Black and White rates. Contact George McGowan with any questions.

Bob Bramwell, *Editor*