

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 45 Number 3

December 2012

COMING EVENTS

BUFPEX 2013

Buffalo's Oldest & Largest Philatelic Festival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., March 2

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 3

VFW Leonard Post 6251, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY

For information: Robert Meegan r.meegan@worldnet.att.net

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A REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT BUFPEX

The meeting will be Saturday March 2 starting at 1:00 p.m.

President's Message

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be over and the Christmas and holiday season will be here and a New Year just around the corner. We as ESPHS members can be thankful for the members who make the time to become involved as officers and directors of our society. And the other active members who work behind the scenes to produce the society bulletin, the Excelsior journal and various publications. Examples of our volunteer projects being worked on: Al Parsons has been working on Not-For-Profit incorporation for our society; Drew Nicholson is preparing a Members List for distribution to our membership, and Doug Penwell is working toward completion of another edition to Manuscript Postmarks of New York State. Thanks to all who make the society a success.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

David Przepiora

Editor's Desktop

As Auction Manager I am pleased to point members in the direction of ESPHS Postal History Auction #5 in this issue, where there is a small new feature called **DOLLAR BOX MYSTERIES**. These are lots culled from material donated to ESPHS from the estate of John J. Nunes. Proceeds from their sale will go directly to the society. In this auction the mystery results from showing you only the "other" side of a piece of postal history that struck me as worthy of being started at the rock bottom minimum of one dollar. Lot descriptions offer clues for your inner Sherlock.

Bob Bramwell

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

Steve Zirinsky Ansonia Station, NY 10023

Life Membership Payment Schedule:

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

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

EXHIBITING AT STEPEX 2012 GARNERS AWARDS FOR ESPHS MEMBERS

Based on reporting by Al Parsons

The Elmira Stamp Club sponsored STEPEX 2012 on the weekend of October 19th at the American Legion Post in Big Flats, NY. The event featured 15 competitive exhibits, a dealer bourse, a Show Cover and the presence of the Elmira Post Office.

Congratulations are due to Andrew McFarlane of Bartonsville, Pa., who was awarded Grand and Gold for his *1968 U.S. Runway Airmail Stamp* exhibit. Closer to home, congratulations are also due to ESPHS members Al Parsons and Ada Prill, whose exhibits were recognized by the jury as follows:

Ada Prill, *What's a Telephone Good For?* (Gold – with felicitations)

Ada Prill, *Uh-Oh! Mistakes in U.S. Auxiliary Markings* (Gold)

Ada Prill, *Star Cancels of Delaware County, New York* (Gold)

Alan Parsons, *The Sullivan Commemorative of 1929* (Gold)

Alan Parsons, *Corning NY Postal History Including DPOs Now Serviced by the
Corning Post Office* (Gold)

DIPPING MY TOES INTO EXHIBITING

By Bob Bramwell

I now have about six months to make good on my promise to create the first exhibit of my postal history career, and I would like to address a few words of encouragement to any member who is thinking that creating an exhibit might be an exciting addition to collecting.

The first word is: *Give it a crack*. I've been Hoovering up Schenectady postal history for six years with some success. But now that I am working to present covers on exhibit pages I look at the "story" they tell instead of just filing them away in chronological order.

Then: *Pick an absurdly small scope*. I thought *Town of Schenectady* was a narrow topic, but since it has had a Post Office since 1793 my head started spinning as I tried to imagine organizing all that history. *Classic* postal history studies routes and rates and Schenectady, being right next to Albany, didn't have enough of either to fill even one 16 page frame. So I picked *Simplex Postal Markings, 1797 to 1875*. Schenectady's single post office used enough individual hand stamp devices to postmark, rate and obliterate adhesives in those 8 decades to make at least 2 frames, maybe 3. I consider that to be a project I can handle now, knowing I can add duplex devices in the future.

And then: *Let covers speak for themselves*. Read Ada Prill's updated edition of *The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook* and *APS Manual of Philatelic Judging*. I found myself wanting to "educate" anyone who viewed my exhibit, but a wise old fox told me "I'd rather have one sentence that is read than three that aren't". Keep it sparse.

Finally: *Make an electronic library of cover scans*. I use cover scan images to hold space – or spaces - on a page layout while I compose text in my word processing program (or Page Maker, if I were that sophisticated). This way, I have images handy without handling actual covers until I'm ready to mount them with those corner thingies.

DUTCHESS COUNTY GOES TO WAR: CELEBRATING THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE “DUTCHESS COUNTY REGIMENT”

By Drew A. Nicholson

An unfortunately little considered aspect of postal history in the 21st century is event covers. They were extremely popular a generation or two ago as a way for local communities and organizations to celebrate significant historical happenings. Today they are commonly found in dealers’ \$1.00 boxes as interest in them has waned.

George Lukacs, City Historian of Poughkeepsie, NY, an active contributor to the ESPHS, has successfully tapped into the concept of producing event covers/ephemera in order to celebrate significant historical events that have occurred in his city. I have written in these pages about an event cover previously prepared by George that celebrated the contributions of Nicholas Power—a man widely known as an editor and chronicler as well as a Poughkeepsie postmaster. On October 12th George hosted a celebration of the 150th NY Volunteer Regiment, “The Dutchess County Regiment,” which answered President Abraham Lincoln’s call for volunteers 150 years ago on October 12, 1862, when it departed from the Main Street Landing aboard the Steamer *Oregon* bound for service in Baltimore. (The sobriquet is applied to the 150th because it is one of very few regiments raised *entirely* within one county.) George has prepared two items celebrating this departure and is offering them for sale to the membership.

The event items prepared for this celebration once again illustrate George Lukacs’ talent for design: both the official event cancellation and the overall design of the covers are his creations.

Figure 1



Figure 1 shows a #10 ivory parchment paper envelope that not only exhibits the official event cancellation but also uses a well known patriotic image in conjunction with a list of some of the major campaigns in which the regiment participated (unlike many of New York State’s volunteer regiments, the 150th served throughout the war); the stamp chosen is from the ongoing series commemorating the Civil War. It is available for \$5.00 postage paid.

Figure 2

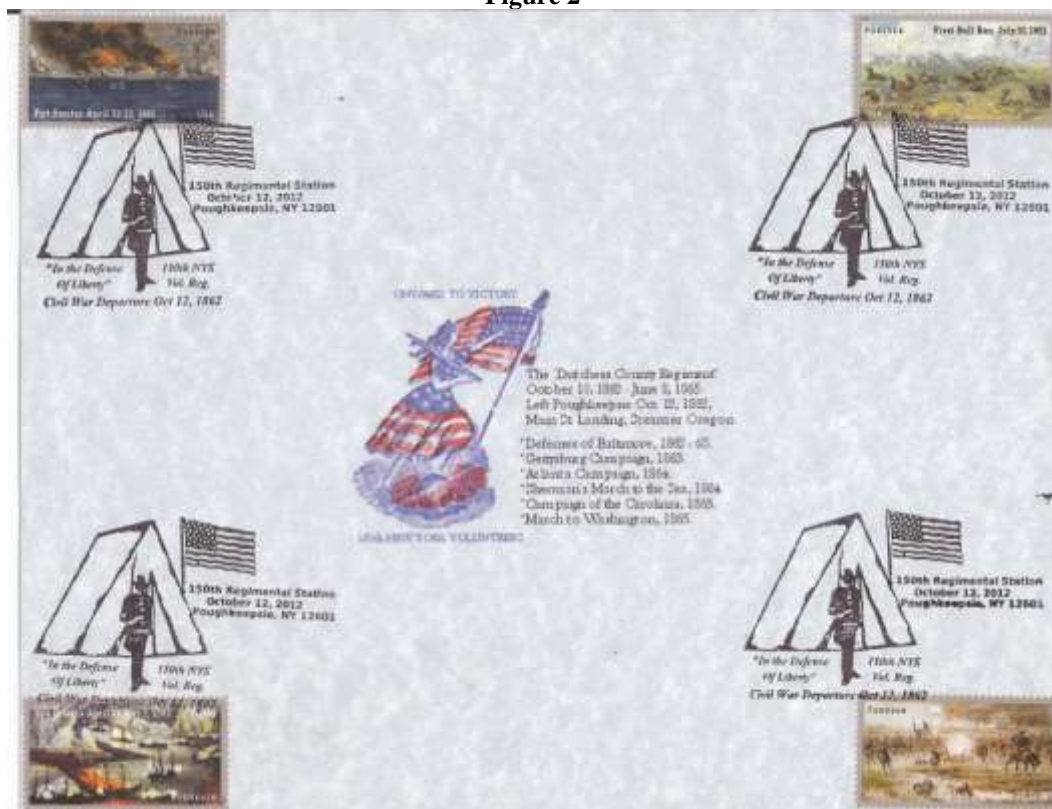


Figure 2 is printed on an 8 1/2 X 11 inch sheet of light gray parchment paper which includes four different Civil War commemoratives, all postmarked by the official commemorative cancellation; the patriotic image and list of campaigns that appear on the cover above dominates the center. This is offered for \$7.50 p.p. Signed covers exist for both items and are available for \$1.00 extra. All are available from George Lukacs, 207 Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, <saltglazed@aol.com> The major portion of the funds raised through the sale of these items will be donated to the 150th Regiment Re-enactors group.

The event items were serviced in the main Poughkeepsie post office on Mansion Street. An exhibit of Civil War-era postal, photographic and documentary artifacts honoring the 150th Regiment were on display. The artifacts came from the collections of George Lukacs and Pawling Village Historian Drew Nicholson.

A special ceremony organized by and under the direction of George Lukacs, was held in the post office lobby. It was attended by a number of local community leaders, including Poughkeepsie Mayor John Tkazyik, Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, the newly-appointed Dutchess County Historian William Tatum III, Dutchess County Legislator Michael Kelsey, and Poughkeepsie Postmaster Patrick O'Connor. The 150th Regiment was represented by Michael Peets and Rick Schisler. Messrs. Tkazyik, Molinaro, Tatum, Lukacs, Kelsey and Nicholson all spoke briefly describing the history of the 150th Regiment and its contributions to the war effort.

The event covers bring recollections both of America's history and past ways of collecting. Perhaps the membership of the ESPHS can help re-ignite interest in history and collecting event covers by supporting George Lukacs' endeavor.