

**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

BULLETIN

Volume 32 Number 3

December 1999

President's Message:

Society had full agenda at fall meeting in Syracuse

Fourteen members plus two spouses attended the semiannual meeting of the Society at SYRAPEX 199 in Syracuse October 3rd. I was encouraged by this turnout at my first meeting as President and hope that more will attend in the future.

Please refer to the Secretary's minutes elsewhere in this bulletin for a complete record of business transacted.

Certainly one of the highlights of the meeting was Bill Bauer's talk on postal history exhibiting. Hopefully, it stimulated more interest in exhibiting; it would appear this way from the questions Bill had from the audience. Promoting New York postal history exhibiting is one of our primary objectives as a Society. Thanks, Bill, for sharing your expertise with us.

Bill Hart reported on problems with the auction and has followed up with a new auction format and rules for consignors. You will find this elsewhere in the *Bulletin*. Please read it and send him material for our auctions.

Following approval by your Directors and encouragement of those at the fall meeting to have the Society take its initial steps in "cyberspace," I spoke with Glenn Estus and he has consented to compile a list of Society members with e-mail addresses and to create our website and act as its initial host. Glenn will have further information on these matters elsewhere in the *Bulletin*; thanks also to Doug Penwell for his input.

A personal highlight for me at the meeting was presenting Charles H. Sweeting with the first John S. Whittlesey Memorial Award for his 1998 book "200 Years of Cayuga County, NY Postal History." The award consisted of a N.Y. outline plaque plus a hardbound copy of James W. Milgram's recently published "United States Registered Mail 1845-1875" with appropriate book plate. Charles Sweeting is the founder of the Society and has served many terms on the Society's Board. The purpose of the John S. Whittlesey Award is to recognize a compiler or editor of a publication which adds significantly to the knowledge and/or understanding of some facet of N.Y. Postal History. Charlie's wife, Betsy, was present at the meeting and although the plaque and bookplate do not list her name along with his, she has certainly been a vital part of his accomplishment and this is fully acknowledged by Charlie in his dedication of the book.

Save the date now and plan to attend our annual meeting in 2000 - Sunday, May 7, at Graziano's Casa Mia Restaurant in Canastota, N.Y.

In closing, I wish to thank Steve Matte and Lou Call for agreeing to serve as the nominating committee for elections at our annual meeting next year, Alan Swift (SYRAPEX '99 Chairman) for the arrangements for our fall meeting at the Carrier Circle Holiday Inn in Syracuse, and our diligent Secretary-Treasurer, John Lange, for his ever-thorough meeting preparations.

Alan Parsons

SOCIETY NEWS

Contributions are always welcome for this feature; please send them to:

John Lange
ESPHS Secretary/Treasurer
373 Root Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3227

You may call John at (518) 882-6373. The best time is in the afternoon between 1 and 6.

Applicants for membership:

Heilman, Peter S., 480 Regina Lane, Belvidere, IL 61008-8526
Interests: PH of Schen., Alb, and Rens. Co.
Reference: APS 185566

We welcome the following new members:

Daisley, Elwyn, 109 E. 2nd St. Sheridan, IN 46060
Interests: US, Canada FDC, sheets, Post Cards

Duvall, Allen H., 104 Coral Dr.
Hendersonville, NC 28791-2204
Interests: VA, WV, NC PH, mineral springs, Canada used 1867-1967

Underhill, Wanda, POB 13727, Berkeley, CA 94712
Interests: Polar Phil. Hist., Penguins, cachets & self-decorated covers, stamp design/history

Tohn, Alan, (COVERMAN), POB 327, Oceanside, NY 11572
Interests: US and Worldwide cover dealer

Resnick, Stephen A., 4783 West Lake Rd. Cazenovia, NY 13035 (655-2810)
Interests: 19th C. interesting letters and autographs

ESPHS Bulletin

Published quarterly by the
EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY
APS AFFILIATE #28

John Lange, Secretary/Treasurer
373 Root Road
Ballston Spa, NY 12020-3227

Officers:

President: Alan Parsons
Vice President: *Dr. Joseph Rowbottom*
Secretary/Treasurer: *John Lange*

Directors:

(98) *Kenneth de Lisle*
(00) *Albert Guenzburger, Jack Haefeli, Maris Tirums*
(01) *John Nunes, Stephen Matte*
(02) *John Azarkevich, Louis Call, Gerald Wiley*

Auction Manager:

Bill Hart

Regional Representatives:

Western: *Ada Prill*
Mohawk/Hudson: *Maris Tirums*
Northern: *Stephen Matte*
Central/Southern: *Alan Parsons*

Publications:

Please send items for *ESPHS Bulletin* to:

Glenn A. Estus, editor
POB 451,
Westport, NY 12993-0451
(518) 962-4558
e-mail: gestus@westelcom.com
ESPHS homepage:
<http://www.westelcom.com/users/gestus/esphs/esphs.html>

Articles for

The Journal of New York Postal History
are solicited and encouraged. Please send to:

Martin Margulis, editor
4159 Steck Ave. 113H
Austin, TX 78759-8511

Dropped due to non-payment of dues:

Henry A. Bordwell, Paul D. Bourke, Edward F. Deschl, Mark H. Fonda (additional information in Secretary's files), Jim Forte, Richard B. Graham, Mahlon H. Lord, Dennis R. Mallory, Michael O'Connor, Michael A. Puzio, Clayton R. Rowland

Nominations for Sec./Treas. and Directors:

Our May 7, 2000 meeting will be election time, but nominations close on March 20, 2000 (too late to be announced again in the March *Bulletin*). Details are in the Oct. 3, 1999 meeting minutes; positions open are the Secretary/Treasurer and four director slots.

ESPHS Website

Glenn Estus has created an initial ESPHS Website. The address is <http://www.westelcom.com/users/gestus/esphs/esphs.html>

If you have a comment or suggestion about the website, please contact Glenn at gestus@westelcom.com

TRADING POST

Each member is entitled to one free Trading Post ad of up to 25 words each year. The ads are always changing, so everyone is encouraged to keep their eyes open for new opportunities to sell/ trade/buy material.

POST CARD APPROVAL SERVICE- NYS views and RFD, RPO, and ship cancels. Contact: E. Beiderbecke, PO Box 155, Williamson, NY 14589-0155 (1/1)

I have New York Railroad Covers and Postcards. I will **swap for similar Pennsylvania Railroad material**. Contact: Sidney Fingerhood, 2225 Bryn Mawr Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003-2094 (1/1)

WANTED-Stampless covers from ANY STATE. Must be clean with strong (F-VF+) strikes. Send copies and prices to J. Haynes, Box 358, Allendale, NJ 07401 (1/1)

Wanted! Hudson River mail during stampless period. Will pay premium. Contact: Steven M. Roth, 1280 Twenty-First St, NW, Unit #209, Washington, DC 20036 (Telephone 202-293-6813), (e-mail: smroth@wizard.net) (1/1)

I have a large supply of New York Covers to sell-or trade for MICHIGAN material. Contact: Greg Stone, 2539 Bedford St #38A, Stamford, CT 06905 (e-mail: greg08331@aol.com) (1/1)

CLOSE VOTE MARKS THIRD ANNUAL deLISLE FOUR-PAGE EXHIBIT COMPETITION

Four succinct and informative New York postal history presentations were entered in the 3rd annual Kenneth R. deLisle Four-Page Exhibit Competition held at the Society's fall meeting.

Each exhibit dealt with a short but interesting chapter in the postal history of a New York locality, to wit (locality followed by name of exhibitor): Glens Falls - Bill Hart, Watkins/Watkins Glen - Al Parsons, Ballston/Ballston Spa - John Lange, and Camp Whitman - Drew Nicholson.

It was hard to choose the "best" entry among the four. Thirteen members cast ballots and the vote was split as evenly as possible: Watkins Fancy Cancels 1869-1875 received four votes and each of the other entries three votes. If the rules of the competition had required the winner to receive a majority of the ballots cast, we might still be voting!

Parsons was heard to remark, to anyone who would listen, that he did not vote for his own exhibit.

The next Four-Page Exhibit Competition will be held at the Society's semi-annual meeting in the fall of 2000 (exact date and location to be determined).

NEW YORK POSTAL HISTORY AWARDS PRESENTED FOR SYRAPEX '99 AND STEPEX '99

SYRAPEX '99, held October 2 and 3 in Syracuse, had two New York postal history exhibits entered in competition: John Lange's Waterford-Saratoga County, NY Town Markings in the Stampless Period and Al Parsons' Corning, NY to 1900, each a three-frame, forty-eight page exhibit. Judges for the ESPHS Award were Bill Bauer, Cliff Tuttle, Lou Call and Al Guenzburger. They selected Corning, NY to 1900 for this honor.

At STEPEX '99 October 22 and 23 in Horseheads, NY (sponsored by the Elmira Stamp Club) four postal history exhibits were entered, one of which, Corning, NY to 1900, was ineligible for the ESPHS Award because it had already received it at SYRAPEX. The three eligible exhibits were: Waterford-Saratoga County, NY Town Markings in the Stampless Period, A Selection of Allegany County Manuscript Post Offices on 19th Century Covers (Bill Howden) and A Survey of Staten island (Richmond County) Postal History (Martin Margulis).

Judges for STEPEX '99 were Albert Guenzburger, Chief Judge, assisted by Maris Tirums and Roger Quinby. Their choice for the ESPHS Award was John Lange's Waterford-Saratoga County, NY Town Markings in the Stampless Period,

Al and John have received Waterford Crystal Clocks with appropriately engraved plates for their recent ESPHS exhibiting awards.

The next New York shows for which ESPHS Awards are available if sufficient entries are received (two minimum) are ROPEX 2000 in Rochester March 17-19, BUFFPEX 2000 in Buffalo March 31 - April 2 and Spring Postage Stamp MEGA event in New York City April 6 - 9. Society Members are encouraged to enter New York postal history exhibits in these shows, and to write to the following addresses for a copy of the prospectus:

ROPEX 2000 Exhibit Chair 130 Trafalgar St., Rochester, NY 14619-1224 Email:
ada@math.rochester.edu

BUFFPEX 2000 c/o Clarence Spitzer 417 Evans St., Apt. #1 Williamsville, NY 14221

Spring Postage Stamp MEGA Event c/o Ken Martin American Philatelic Society P.O. Box 8000
State College, PA 16803 Email: kpmartin@stamps.org

Letter from Auction Manager

To: E.S.P.H.S Members
 From: Bill Hart, Auction Manger
 RE: Future E.S.P.H.S Auctions

It has been apparent in the course of presenting the auction for several years that it has been running downhill. There are some obvious reasons. Those members with the more mature collections rarely bid, finding nothing new. In recent auctions, newer members are the predominant bidders. In general the bidding appears to be limited by the the distinctiveness of the material being presented. It is quite apparent that of the thirty or more larger offices across New York, the stampless cancels listed by Bernadt as most common really have no market. With manuscript cancels the earliest are the preferred lots. To get more bidders we need more distinctive material.

You all know that the auction exists for the benefit of the members to both buy and sell. It is necessary at this time to reestablish the need for an auction. The last seven sales have had a total of only 22 member consignors and only 7 have material in more than one sale. The slack was made up by myself and some outside sources. There is no member material on hand as this is written in early November. I believe that the current format is slanted toward the bidder. To get more consignors we need a different approach.

Henceforth, we will conduct a two-tier auction. One level will be for better material with bidding constraints and owner protection. The other will be for more common material with minimum description and a \$2.00 starting bid with no reserve. New buyers rules and consignor guidelines accompany this letter. Please read them carefully and send in your good material.

There will be no December auction. For the March 2000 Auction, material should be in my hands by January 15, 2000

New consignor's guidelines and bidder's rules are found on page 8

Prices Realized Auction #101

1	5.50	2	W	3	19.50	11	17.50	13	7.00
18	13.50	19	8.00	20	18.50	21	8.00	25	7.50
28	W	32	36.00	33	4.00	35	8.00	37	28.00
38	4.00	39	30.00	44	5.00	47	4.00	49	11.50
50	4.00	51	5.00	53	8.50	54	5.50	55	21.00
56	28.00	57	5.00	58	8.50	59	5.00	60	5.00
61	5.00	62	W	64	14.50	71	3.00	72	5.00
74	11.00	75	4.00	77	7.00	78	6.00	79	27.00
90	13.00	91	10.50	92	11.50	93	5.50	94	16.00
95	6.50	97	5.00						

The lots numbers unlisted had no bids. "W" is withdrawn for description error or insufficient bid. "T" is tie to the earliest bidder. There were 44 lots sold to 9 bidders. Lots 3, 11, 21, 49, 91, and 92 were the most active. Since there is no member material consigned at this time, a change in format is planned for the next auction. You have three months to send material in for the next auction, if you want it continued.

ESPHS Semi-Annual Meeting Syracuse, Oct. 3, 1999

Members Present: Lange, Call, Parsons, Davison, Wiley, Matte, Tuttle, Hart, Calkins, Przepiora, Micholson, Bauer, Guenzburger, Sweeting.

1. Award Committee, Chairman: Guenzburger:

Alan Parsons is the winner of the ESPHS competition at SYRAPEX with his three frame exhibit of "Corning, New York Postal History." Alan will receive the award at a later time, a beautiful Waterford crystal clock

There are also four qualifying exhibits for STEPEX '99 to be held in Elmira on Oct. 22, 23 so it is planned to give a similar award then.

2. Secretary Lange: As of Oct. 3, there are only 9 dropped members, about 5% which is very good. At present, we have 175 members. Last year at this time we had 168 members.

3. E-mail addresses & web site, Parsons:

Suggestions have been received from Glenn Estus and Douglas Penwell suggesting their setup. The goal is eventual incorporation in the membership list. Parsons will contact Estus with the proposal of members sending Estus their e-mail address via e-mail (Guenzburger advice) with Estus then compiling a database. This would avoid the problem that Lange says that he encounters, that of partially illegible handwritten addresses. With regard to a possible web site, Parsons stated that the APS offers free services in setting up a web site. Parsons will investigate further. Offers for help on both items are solicited.

3A. John S. Whittlesey Award: Charles Sweeting

President Parsons presented Charles with a plaque and book for Charles's publication "200 Years of Cayuga County, New York Postal History."

4. Nominating Committee for May 7, 2000 elections: Steve Matte Chairman, Lou Call

Nominations close on March 20, 2000 as required by the Constitution. Nominations should be sent to Steve Matte, 33 Hidden Hills Drive, Glens Falls, NY 12804 (518-798-8014). If they are received by Steve prior to Nov. 10, 1999, they can be noted in the December, 1999 *Bulletin*. Each nomination requires three sponsors. The positions open are the following:

- 4.1 deLisle (98) director
- 4.2 Guenzburger (00) director
- 4.3 Haefeli (00) director
- 4.4 Tirums (00) director
- 4.5 Lange (00) Sec./Treas.

5. Location of Annual Meeting, May 7, 2000: Canostota, NY, Craziano's Case Mia Restaurant. Joe Rowbottom is requested to arrange.

6. Auctions, Bill Hart, Auction Mgr.:

Bill stated that material is needed, particularly items that will net \$5 or more. Lower priced items, even when combined together do not sell well.

7. Postal History Talk, Bill Bauer:

Following the meeting, Bill gave an interesting talk on exhibiting postal history. It was thought provoking and informative. More such talks would be good.

8. Kenneth R. deLisle 4 page competition:

Four exhibits were presented. The winner was Alan Parsons with his exhibit titled "Watkins Fancy Cancels." A plaque will be presented next May.

John Lange, Sec./Treas. 10/12/99

MANUSCRIPT DATA STILL NEEDED!

Just because the Master Supplement has been published doesn't mean that there is no more work to be done. Please look over your copy (*what do you mean, you haven't ordered one yet?*) and send new towns, dates, or corrections to the editor. If you have suggestions about format, they will be considered for the next edition. WE URGENTLY NEED DATA ABOUT MULTI-COUNTY OFFICES! Your contribution is appreciated.

SEND DATA TO:

DOUGLAS PENWELL
P.O. BOX 3525
GLENDALE, AZ 85311-3525
(623) 931-5741

e-mail: doupenwell@hotmail.com

Consignor Guidelines

The E.S.P.H.S. Auctions will be carried out in two parts where better material will be separated from the more common material. There will be no lotting charges and unsold lots will be returned without charge after each auction. Owners should classify material according to the following descriptions.

Better material will be described in detail. The owners **must** provide a minimum bid for each lot considered better material. \$10.00 will be the minimum starting bid, but a minimum value of \$20.00 is encouraged.

More common material will be given one line descriptions. The starting bid for each lot is \$2.00. Lots will have no reserves, but owners may provide an estimated value.

Bidding increments are \$0.50 up to \$10.00, \$1.00 from \$10.00 to \$40.00, \$2.50 from \$40.00 to \$100.00 and \$5.00 over \$100.00.

Auction manager reserves the right to combine or separate material submitted by the same owner into suitable lots, as well as to alter given descriptions for consistency and to withdraw lots.

NY postal history is preferred. Consignors are encouraged to provide descriptions for other types of material. No off-cover stamps are accepted. Please allow 6 months for material to be listed, since the auction is quarterly. The consignor's fee is 10% of the sale price to the Society's benefit.

If acknowledgement is required by the owner of the lots sent to the Auction Manager, a self addressed postal card or a list in duplicate with a SASE should be enclosed. Consignments should be sent to: E.S.P.H.S., Box 167, Shrub Oak, NY 10588.

Buyers' Rules

The auction is presented in two parts — the first having scarcer or better material and the latter with more common material.

Better material will be identified with minimum bids with minimum bids established by the owner. The minimums start at \$10.00. These lots will have detailed descriptions.

More common material will have a one line description and require a starting bid of \$2.00. This group will have no lot reserves but some lots may be given estimated values.

Sale will be at one increment over second highest bid. Tie bids go to the earliest bidder by mail or phone [(914) 245-1825]. The latter must be confirmed by mail. Bidding increments are \$0.50 up to \$10.00, \$1.00 from \$10.00 to \$40.00, \$2.50 from \$40.00 to \$100.00 and \$5.00 over \$100.00

Payment is expected to be sent within 5 days after receipt of lots. **Checks should be made out to E.S.P.H.S.** and sent to Box 167, Shrub Oak, NY 10588.

Photocopies will be sent at \$0.10 per lot and a SASE. No copies of lots with more than three items. Incorrectly described material may be returned within 5 days. This is exclusive of condition, which will be described to the best of the auctioneer's ability. Relatively little postal history is pristine. No returns of lots containing more than 3 items.

AN ULSTER COUNTY SAMPLER

by Maris Tirums

(the ESPHS page which appeared in the Nov./Dec. 1999 *Stamp Insider*)

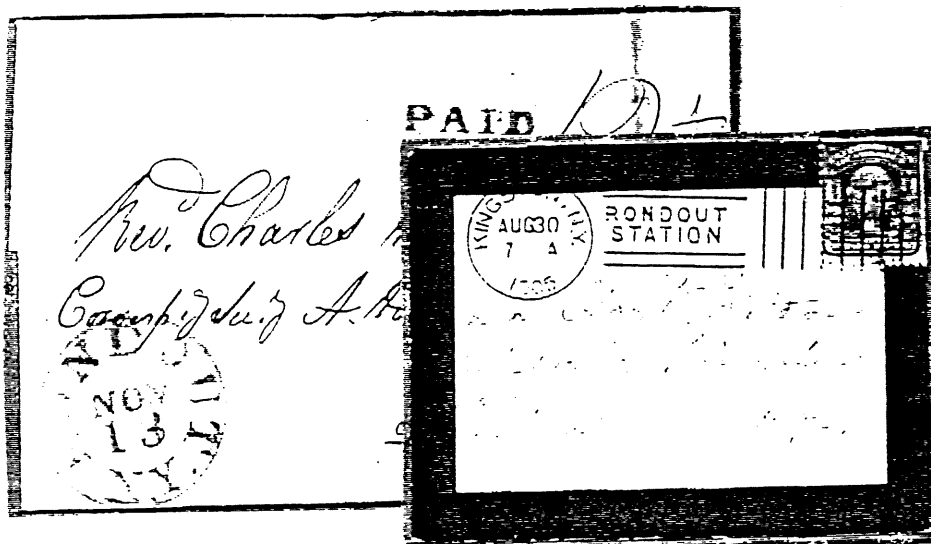
New York State was comprised of ten original counties when statehood was first established on July 26, 1788. Ulster County, located on the west side of the Hudson about midway between New York City and Albany, was one of those original ten counties. The postal history of Ulster County is among the earliest of the State, and indeed, of the United States.

Kingston is Ulster County's only city. The post office at Kingston was established on June 12, 1792. Kingston was New York State's first capital for a brief period in 1777, and today is the Ulster County seat.

The Rondout Creek is a major tributary to the Hudson River. In the 19th century, a bustling, industrial and commercial community known as Rondout formed on the north side of the Rondout Creek. Kingston was located a short distance north of Rondout, and as the area developed, the two communities became joined first physically, and then politically as Rondout and Kingston were united in May 1872.

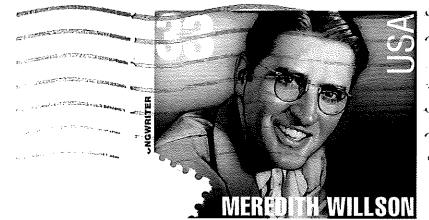
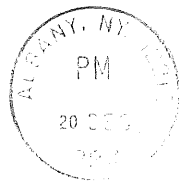
For many years after Rondout was united with Kingston, the post office in the southern part of the City retained the name Rondout, and in 1898, this became the Rondout Station of the Kingston post office. This designation was used on machine cancellations used at that post office.

Shown here is a stampless cover with a RONDOUT circular date stamp from 1838. The second illustration is of a black-bordered "mourning-" envelope with a Rondout Station machine cancel from 1905.



ESPHS
373 ROOT RD.
BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020-3227

FIRST CLASS LETTER RATE



Estus, Glenn
P O Box 451
Westport, NY 12993-0451