

**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

BULLETIN

Volume 34 Number 3

December 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Fall Meeting at CINCOPEX 2001

Before reporting on our fall meeting, I need to correct an omission from my President's Message in the September *Bulletin*. That Message should have included my own personal welcome to the Long Island Postal History Society members who have now become ESPHS members with the merger of our two societies. I am pleased you have joined with us and invite you to be part of our ongoing research and publication efforts, our member auctions, exhibiting competition, meetings, etc. For a list of ongoing projects and other areas where volunteers are needed, please see **HELP WANTED** elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. Finally, we owe John Lange a vote of thanks for his work in the merger.

Our fall meeting in Sidney October 7 attracted fifteen members and guests. Thanks to arrangements by Al Guenzburger, we were afforded a comfortable meeting room at the Sidney Public Library, where member Roger Curran's slide talk on 19th century U.S. cancellations could be enjoyed by all. Roger is president of the U.S. Cancellation Club, now celebrating its 50th year, and editor of its quarterly journal. We were also treated to a short presentation by returning member Rob Harris, editor of *The Postal History Journal*, regarding a *Journal* article drawn from John Lange's stampless exhibits.

Among those present at the meeting was Charles Sweeting, co-author with his daughter, Heather, of the Society's recent publication, a 513 page compendium of Oswego County PH. It is a massive and well-organized gathering of information and illustrations relating to virtually all aspects of postal operations in Oswego

County from the late 18th century to the present day. It was a pleasure to have Charles, along with his wife, Betsy, in the audience as our Secretary-Treasurer reported that the book had sold in just three months all but 20 copies of the 102 printed. Only 4 copies are now left.

Two excellent four-page exhibits were entered in the Kenneth R. deLisle award competition at the fall meeting: Bill Bauer's *Foreign Mails: Otsego County* and John Lange's *Saratoga County Post Offices With Corners*. The winner was to be determined by ballot of those present at the meeting. Unfortunately the score was tied at the end of regulation and there is no provision in the rules of this competition for sudden-death overtime! No winner could be named and the exhibitors are invited to return for the 2002 competition. It was an interesting and surprising conclusion to an excellent afternoon of postal history indulgence!

Before I conclude I want to express my thanks to Bill Hart for his work as our auction manager for the past four years. Bill has served the Society with distinction in many capacities, including that of president, and he can add auction manager to the list.

Thanks also to Roger Curran for making the long trip from Lewisburg, PA to bring us his excellent presentation on 19th century U.S. cancellations.

Last but not least, have a pleasant holiday and a happy new year!

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.

We welcome the following new member:

Garrity, Robert K., 275 Park Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Interests: World Classics, cancels, postal history, DPO's, Doanes

Applicants for membership:

Miller, Betty V. (Dusty), 104 W. Ivy St., East Rochester, NY 14445-1818
Interests: Alaska Territorials, Transports and Post Offices
References: Ada Prill & Ann Triggler

Ritchie, Galen B., 21 Pine St., Delmar, NY 12054-3407
Interests: USA (1847 issue), UK (Edw. VIII), Imperial Russia, Vatican City (Pius XI, XII), PH of NYS-Albany Co.
References: APS #189745

Reinstated:

Larry Cherns, Hugh M. Goldberg, Fred Maltz, Frank Mandel, Robert Outlaw, Lisa A. Sizeland Ross, Philip White

Dropped because dues haven't been paid:

Arden D. Callender, Thomas Greaney, Stephen K. Matte, Stephen M. Roth and Alan Tohn

ESPHS Bulletin

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Empire State Postal History Society
APS AFFILIATE #28

Officers:

President: Alan Parsons ('03)
Vice President: Dr. Joseph Rowbottom ('03)
Secretary/Treasurer: John Lange ('02)

Directors:

('02): John Azarkevich, Louis Call, Gerald Wiley
('03): Albert Guenzburger, Jack Haefeli, Maris Tirums
('04): John Nunes, John Cali, Drew Nicholson

Auction Manager:

John Nunes

Regional Representatives:

Western: Ada Prill
Mohawk/Hudson: Maris Tirums
Northern: Gerald Wiley
Central/Southern: Alan Parsons

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ESPHS Homepage:

<<http://www.westelcom.com/users/gestus/esphs/esphs1.html>>

REGIONAL MEETINGS SET FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH; ANNUAL MEETING MAY 5 AT CANASTOTA

Our first gathering for 2002 will be at Cover Mania III in Albany on **Saturday, February 16, tentatively scheduled for 2p.m.** Cover Mania will be held again at the Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave., Albany (use exit 5 off I-90). It is a two-day show (Feb.16-17) run by John Nunes, an ESPHS director and our new auction manager. Plan to spend time visiting the numerous cover and postcard dealers who will be there and be sure to check on the time and room location of our meeting when you arrive.

On **Saturday, March 9**, we will meet at ROPEX, the Rochester Philatelic Association's annual WSP show held at the Diplomat Banquet Center, 1956 Lyell Ave., Rochester, just east of exit 21 off I-390. The meeting will probably be held in the late morning or early afternoon. Please check at the RPA table for the room location and time.

The regional meetings are held to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas. Informal reports regarding ongoing Society programs are presented and suggestions for new programs, research areas, etc. are welcome. Attendance at these meetings, as well as the annual meeting in May, afford an excellent opportunity for new members to become better acquainted with the workings of the Society. Regional meetings at the annual show sponsored by the Buffalo Stamp Club (BUFPEX), usually held in late March or early April, and at the Spring Mega Event in New York City April 5-8 will be scheduled (and announced in the March *Bulletin*) if enough interest is shown—please contact Alan Parsons by mail, phone or e-mail if you would like to have a meeting in conjunction with either of the aforementioned shows.

The location of the **Sunday, May 5, 2002 Annual Meeting** has been finalized. It will be the same location as the past several years, e.g. Graziano's Casa Mia Restaurant in Canastota, NY at exit #34. Access to the restaurant will begin at 9:30am and we will be provided with a private room for our gathering/meeting. We will have a Dutch treat luncheon following the meeting - that will occur about 12:30-1:00pm. Joe Rowbottom has agreed to arrange this with the restaurant. Plan ahead and bring some of your excess material to sell, as we will have some extra tables to show your covers!

Membership Address changes/corrections:

East Hampton Library
Long Island Collection
159 Main St.
East Hampton, NY 11937

Marshall, Robert
Box 240
Bayport, NY 11705

Forbes, Harlan B. Jr.
4800 Fillmore Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22311-5074

Sweeting, Charles
63 Ridgeway Sites
Oswego, NY 13126-6520

A FEW WORDS TO THE WISE COLLECTOR

by Doug Penwell

This article is in response to the experiences of an ESPHS member and the sale of his collection. Have you given any thought to the disposal of your collection? Many people spend many hours and a tidy sum of money on their postal history or other philatelic holdings. Yet, they fail to carefully consider what happens to this investment when it comes time to sell. Worse still is the burden they may place on their families or heirs with regard to disposal of these types of possessions.

A prominent Buffalo collector decided to sell his collection, and selected a dealer after this individual offered to help with the sale of his holdings. If the collector had the opportunity to "do it all over again," things would be markedly different. Of particular frustration was the collector's knowledge of what he had and what it should have brought on the philatelic market in relation to the actual realization. **WORD ONE:** Choose any dealer (or philatelic firm) with great care. Get a written contract! . This will protect you if things are not handled to your satisfaction. Any formal written agreement will do. Just don't trust your life's collecting work to a person's word. The dealer may see it as mere profit potential, and not view things with the same passion of the person who took many years to assemble a collection. Once the deal is done, it's too late to undo any damage caused by misunderstandings based on trusting things to individual memory.

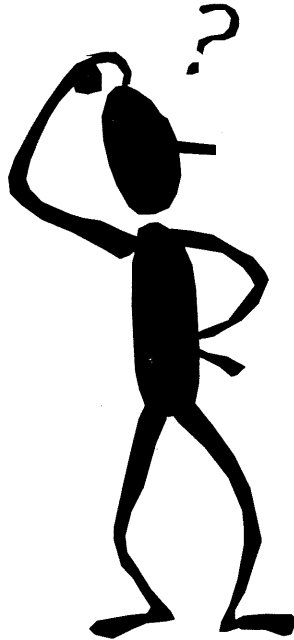
Be sure to include in your agreement adequate compensation for the dealer's time. Also

include some sort of penalty if certain criteria are not met. The dealer may know things about the market that you don't, and you may know things about your covers that the dealer is unaware of.

If you have an advanced collection of some value, try to consign it to auction. One philatelic professional suggests you sell through the same places you purchased from. The collection that prompted this article was handled in a manner very displeasing to the owner. An extended period of time passed before he saw any money from his material. Contact information provided to him was ineffective in contacting the dealer, and he eventually had to resort to sending Certified letters. To this day, he is unsure exactly where everything went. **WORD TWO:** Get an itemized list of your holdings attached to the contract or written agreement. Then you can check this list against sales reports or settlement statements from the dealer or auction house.

LAST WORD: Just because someone seems nice and has known you a long time, doesn't mean they will act in accordance with your wishes or instructions. You might want to give them a small portion of your collection as a test to see how things are handled. You probably know, for example, some of the people who are likely to have the greatest interest in purchasing your material. A list of names given to the person handling your collection can be used to initiate "private treaty" transactions.

(continued on next page)



1931 Post Route Map:

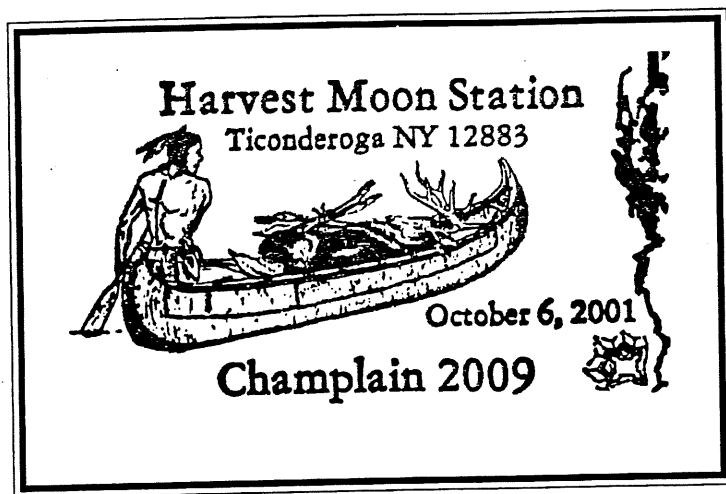
This announcement is especially aimed at the newest members and especially to the former LIPHS members who joined us as a group. Also, an invitation was extended at the bottom of the dues reminder notice. Unfortunately, two of the requesters didn't sign their names, and the returned notice became separate from their checks. So, if wanted, ask again!

The Post Office Department's 1931 NYS Post route Map will be given free to Society members requesting a copy. The map, in two sections measuring approximately 27" x 50" is entitled "Post Route Map of the State of New York showing Post Offices with the Intermediate Distances on Mail Routes in Operation on the 1st of January 1931". The map is an invaluable reference source for postal history collectors seeking to understand mail routes during the 1920's and 1930's.

The request for the map should be made by postal card directed to our Secretary/Treasurer whose address is on the second page of this *Bulletin*.

Additional sets are available to ESPHS members at \$7.00 each.

The map sections are not folded, but rolled and placed in a mailing tube about 37 inches long. The map will be mailed at the "media mail" rate, so may take a couple of weeks to arrive.



CHAMPLAIN 2009

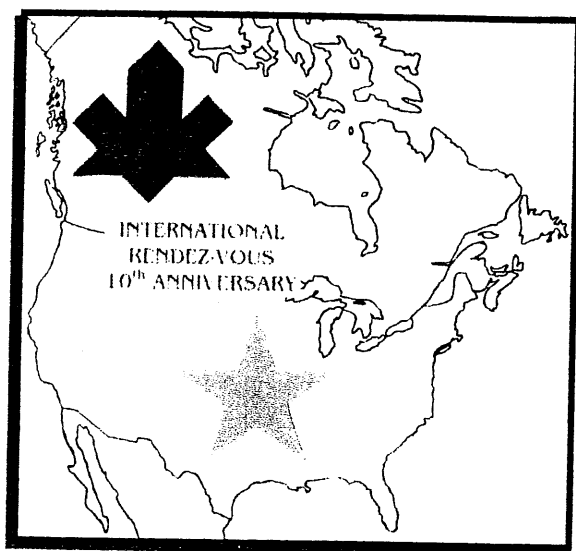
In anticipation of the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of Europeans into the Champlain Valley, the Ticonderoga post office and other local organizations are sponsoring pictorial cancels over the next few years. This is #2 in the series which begin in September, 2001.

A Few Words....(continued from previous page)

At some point, you should also do research by contacting other collectors about their experiences in this area. They will probably be more than happy to give you suggestions and cite examples of what worked and what didn't. To all, happy collecting – and don't let the sale of your covers (or stamps) ruin what was an enjoyable hobby!

HELP WANTED: AN UPDATED CHECKLIST

1. Chairperson for Publications Committee; job description available from Society president.
2. Chairperson for Membership and Marketing; job description available from Society president.
3. Editor/coordinator for compilation of New York RFD cancels.
4. Articles for the *Journal* and *Bulletin*.
5. Lots for the Society auctions (send to John Nunes).
6. Information on all N.Y. Doane cancels in your collection (send to Maris Tirums, P.O. Box 5475, Albany 12205 a.s.a.p.—he's hoping to publish soon! Do not send info or photocopies you have already sent to Maris).
7. Information on any new towns, star types, colors or years of use of NY star cancels not contained in the original book by David Proulx—send photocopies to David E. Williams, 7115 Abbey Woods Dr. NE, New Salisbury, IN 47161
8. Information on N.Y. manuscript post offices updating or supplementing that contained in the 1984 book edited by Chlanda & Wilcox and the 1999 Master Supplement edited by Penwell – send to Douglas Penwell, Manuscript Postmark Coordinator, POB 5325, Glendale, AZ 85311.
9. Information on N.Y. county and postmaster cancels not contained in the original book by David Proulx, also send to Douglas Penwell.
10. Send list or inventory of early Society Publications in your possession to Bill Bauer, P.O.Box 519, Unadilla, NY 13849-0519.
11. Exhibits of N.Y. postal history for shows in New York State. Such exhibits are also encouraged for shows in other states, but are especially needed for New York shows. When entering, please inquire as to availability of ESPHS Award; if exhibits chairperson not aware of this award, have this person contact Albert Guenzberger, P.O.Box 215, Guilford, NY 13780-0215; (607) 895-6531.



ROUSES POINT, NY, September 29, 2001



On September 29, 2001, Canada Post used a special cancellation for a meeting of the Plattsburgh Stamp with other stamp clubs from Burlington, VT and Montréal, Québec.

Oswego County, NY Postal History book:

This hardbound 510 page book authored by Charles and Heather Sweeting is now nearing a sellout. *As of 11/19/01 only four copies are left for sale out of 102 copies printed* - and the expected review in the American Philatelist hasn't even appeared. The price to ESPHS members is \$32.00 postpaid from the Secretary/Treasurer. The book was shrink-wrapped by the printer, but that wrapping will be removed before shipping. (Two copies of the book have been discovered with a large middle section of about 30 pages which were inverted in the printing process). Members are asked to inspect their copies; if defective, the book should be sent back to the Secretary/Treasurer and a replacement copy will be provided and the postage expense will be refunded.

Although the minutes of our fall meeting indicate that 50 more copies will be printed, that printing has been put on hold due to a concern by the Secretary/ Treasurer that 50 more sales are unlikely. Estimated book dealers, such as Subway/Hartmann/ Bansner/Lee could probably buy 20-25, but that would leave us with extra unsold copies. A fewer reprint quantity was considered but not implemented because of the binding cost.



HASTINGS, OSWEGO Co. N.Y.

illustrations from *Doane-Thompson Catalog of U.S. County & Postmaster Postmarks, 1990*

Nominations Needed for Officers/Directors:

The Annual Meeting of the ESPHS will be on Sunday May 5, 2002 at Graziano's Casa Mia Restaurant, Canastota, NY (Thruway exit #34. Details of this meeting will be in the March 2002 *Bulletin*. The Nominating Committee Chairman for this election is: John A. Cali, 613 W. Fourth St., Fulton, NY 13069-3104

Positions open:

Secretary/Treasurer (04), Incumbent is John A. Lange, Jr.

Directors (05), Incumbents are John Azarkevich, Louis Call and Gerald Wiley

Nominations close on March 20, 2002. Three nominating signatures are required for each nominee. Nominations need to be sent to the chairman, John A. Cali, to be received by him by March 20, 2002. However, it is very desirable to have these nominations printed in the March *Bulletin* and this can occur if they are received by Mr. Cali by Feb. 22, 2001.

Minutes of Fall ESPHS Meeting, Oct. 7, 2001
Revised Oct. 24, 2001

1. This meeting was held at the Sidney, NY Library, a short distance from the Cincopex show held at the Elks Club. The following members attended: Bauer, Conrow, Curran, Guenzburger, Harris, Lange, Nicholson, Nunes, Parsons, Prill, Sweeting and Todaro (present for Curran's talk). Guests present were Diane DeBlois, Betty Miller and Betsy Sweeting.
2. The Long Island Postal History Society has joined us as a group as announced in the September Bulletin, making our member count as of Oct. 4, 2001 equal to 192.
3. Robert Harris has rejoined the ESPHS (he is editor of the *Postal History Journal*) and showed a printer's advance copy of the latest issue. It contains a short article showing the use of postal route information to describe how a stampless letter traveled. The article is intended to be the basis for an expanded treatment in the ESPHS Journal.
4. Spring meeting site for Sunday, May 5, 2002: Canastota was proposed.
5. Oswego County, NY Postal History book by the Sweetings is selling well. Lange has 15 copies left as of Oct. 4; Sweeting has 6 copies left. A proposal was made by Lange to print 50 more copies; the binding cost will be \$10 per book (original binding of 100 was \$7.20 ea.). No more mailing envelopes are needed. The Finance Committee members present (Lange & Parsons) decided to proceed with the additional printing. Secretarial note: On Oct. 12, the needed paper was delivered to BOCES with an estimated printing completion date of Nov. 2. Estimated future sales to Subway/Lee/Bansner/Hartmann are 20-30 copies, to our members 10-15 and to people influenced by the book review, 5-10.
6. Tom Mazza's proposal for a tri-state (NY, NJ, PA) exhibit were discussed by Nunes/Guenzburger. The details are not yet settled, but NOJEX, Memorial Day weekend is the target. Whenever this is settled, Guenzburger/Nunes agreed to submit the appropriate entry form and info directly to the *Bulletin* Editor, Glenn Estus. Target dates for that submission would be Nov. 15 (for Dec. issue) and Feb. 15 (for March).
7. Awards Committee Report by Guenzburger: Within budget; John Lange was awarded the ESPHS best NY Postal History Award at Cincopex with his exhibit "Saratoga Springs, NY Stampless Covers, 1816-1855" - a handsome Waterford Crystal Clock. The Kenneth R. de Lisle Award for the best four page of NY PH again was not awarded - this time there was a tie vote (Bill Bauer's "Foreign Mail, Otsego County") and (John Lange's "Saratoga County Post Offices with Corners").
8. Nominating Committee for 2002 spring elections: President Parsons will contact John Cali for the chairmanship. Positions to be filled are Secretary/Treasurer, 2 yr (04), Incumbent, John A. Lange, Jr. and Directors, 3 yr. term (05); Incumbents are Azarkevich, Call and Wiley. A item related to this is the appointment by the Executive Board to replace Matte (04) who has been dropped. This will be the subject of an accompanying ballot for the officers/directors.
9. Auction Manager: John Nunes agreed to be nominated by Lange, Parsons seconded. This will be another ballot question for officers/directors.
10. Following the business portion of the meeting, Roger Curran gave a presentation on 19th Century Cancellations on US stamps/covers. It was a very thorough and fascinating talk, concentrating on the early classics and NYC uses. Thanks, Roger!

John A. Lange, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer, ESPHS

STRONG SHOWING OF N.Y. POSTAL HISTORY AT CINCOPEX AND STEPEX; ESPHS AWARDS MADE

John Lange's comprehensive, well-organized 60-page showing of *Saratoga Springs Stampless Covers, 1816-1855*, took Gold and top NY postal history honors at CINCOPEX '01 held in Sidney, NY, October 6-7. John received the ESPHS Award for this show, a Waterford Crystal timepiece, at the awards presentation. Other N.Y. postal history exhibitors at CINCOPEX, and their medal levels, were Ada Prill, *Star Cancels of Delaware County, N.Y.* (Silver), Nicholas Todaro (two exhibits), *Oswego, N.Y.—From a Forest to a City: Some Postal History as Illustrated by Mail Pieces* (Silver) and *First Issue of the USPS by All the Post Offices of Oswego County, N.Y.* (Bronze), and Martin Margulis, *A Survey of Staten Island (Richmond County) Postal History* (Bronze).

Two weeks later at STEPEX '01, sponsored by the Elmira Stamp Club at the Arnot Mall in Horseheads, NY, Martin Margulis came away the big winner by taking Best in Show as well as best NY postal history with his powerful 80-page New York related airmail exhibit, *National and International Airplane Mail To, From and Through New York (to 1946)*. He, too, has received a suitably engraved Waterford Crystal timepiece for having the best exhibit of New York postal history in a non-WSP show with at least two NY postal history exhibits (one must be Silver or better).

The New York postal history exhibiting at both CINCOPEX and STEPEX far exceeded the minimum requirements for the ESPHS Award. In addition to Margulis, three other exhibitors of N.Y. postal history at STEPEX earned Gold: Bill Howden for *19th Century Manuscript Post Offices of Allegany County, N.Y.*, Ada Prill for *Star Cancels of Delaware County, N.Y.* and Al Parsons for two separate exhibits, *Cancels and Cachets on Sullivan First Day Covers* and *19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties*. Two other STEPEX exhibits qualified as N.Y. postal history, both one-framers: Robert Markovits, *The New York City Commemorative Airmail of 1948—Dedicated to the Firemen and Policemen of New York City* (Silver) and Harold vonHagn, *Pan American Exposition 1901* (Bronze).

In order to encourage exhibiting of New York postal History, our Society has an excellent awards program. Exhibiting opportunities in the next six months include ROPEX, March 8-10 (frames are almost filled—contact Tom Fortunato, 42 Maynard St., Rochester 14615-2022; stamptmf@frontiernet.net); Mega Event (NYC), April 5-8 (contact Ken Martin, APS, Box 8000, State College, PA 16803; kpmartin@stamps.org); and BUFPEX, late March or early April (contact Ann Triggles at 4865 Spaulding Dr., Clarence, N.Y. 14031; atriggle@buffalo.edu). Keep in mind as well the possibility of exhibiting at NOJEX in Secaucus, N.J., May 25-27 in the proposed tri-state postal history exhibiting competition (further details in the March 2002 *Bulletin*).

John Nunes appointed Auction Manager:

The Executive Board has appointed John Nunes as ESPHS Auction Manager, effective immediately. John replaces Bill Hart who has served with distinction for the past several years. Thanks, so much, Bill for your dedication. The first Auction will be in the March 2002 Bulletin. Needless to say, material is solicited, including any lots which did not sell in previous auctions. Send to:

Dr. John J. Nunes (518) 399-8395
ESPHS Auction Manager
80 Fredericks Rd.
Scotia, NY 12302

Sellers are encouraged to write a description of their lot(s) as an aid to the Auction Manager.

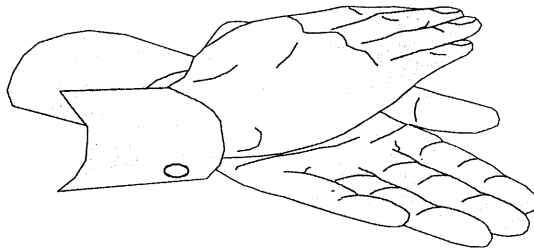
A Final Note from Bill Hart

"Sale No. 106 Final Results:

01 \$37 14 \$45 31 \$15 52 \$15 56 \$15

This auction only had a dozen lots from one new consignor. The remainder were carried over from the previous auction at reduced value. I regret my tenure had to end this way. There will be no December auction as I only had a handful of material from one new consignor.

I would like to thank all of those who provided me with their material over the dozen auctions I have carried out. Likewise I hope that all of you successful bidders are pleased with what you gained. I can truthfully say that it was work and time consuming, but it was a worthwhile learning process. Bill Hart"



Thank You, Bill

John Cali appointed Director: The Executive Board (per Article 4 of our Constitution) has appointed John Cali (04) to complete the term of Stephen Matte, who is no longer a member.

Welcome to the Board, John!