

# *BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society*

Volume 43 Number 2

September 2010

**FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2010  
In conjunction with Syracuse Stamp & Collectibles Show  
Put it on your Calendar and Bring your Entry for the  
DELISLE 4-PAGE EXHIBITING COMPETITION**

**Use the enclosed AUCTION CONSIGNMENT FORM to submit  
NYS Postal History to December's *Bulletin Auction***

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

If this *Bulletin* and *Excelsior!* arrive on our doorsteps before the end of September, we can all thank the heroic efforts of Larry LaLiberte, George Dekornfeld, Bob Bramwell and David Williams to "fill the void" created when Drew Nicholson underwent heart surgery (valve repair and bypass) August 16<sup>th</sup>. As Chair of the Publications Committee Drew has been the workhorse, with help from Larry, for proofreading, printing, collating, stapling and mailing the product of our two editors, Bob and David. Larry couldn't do it alone in Drew's absence so George, our Treasurer, has given up time from his dental practice to work at Drew's home with Larry.

To help lighten the load on George and Larry, *Bulletin* Editor Bob volunteered to print, collate and staple the *Bulletin* himself and then send it all in one package for George and Larry to mail with *Excelsior!* Bob's decision to do this work was made after investigating the cost to have it done commercially. He is saving the Society a lot of money, as are George and Larry.

Drew is recovering nicely from his surgery. He was home within a week and will be recuperating there for at least five weeks. He anticipated being able to help proofread *Excelsior!* before it was printed. *Excelsior!* editor David had health issues of his own following his move from Louisville, KY back to his former home in New Salisbury, IN but managed to recover and edit the September issue.

John Nunes, our auction manager, has had a bad case of shingles most of the summer and this, in turn, has further delayed completion of the Society auction closing July 1, 2009. John hopes he will be able to complete it as soon as his shingles clears up.

Speaking of auctions, I'm looking forward to the first of the new *Bulletin* postal history auctions both by consigning lots (deadline 11/15/10) and by bidding on the lots no later than 2/15/11 after the auction appears in the December *Bulletin*. I'm enthusiastic about this new program initiated by the *Bulletin* editor and I hope my enthusiasm is contagious.

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Lower Hudson: *vacant*  
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**Secretary's Membership Report**

**Membership Reinstated:**

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**Applications for Membership:**

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10417 Burnt Ember Dr., Silver Springs MD 20903-1337

Harvey Mirsky

P.O. Box 358, New Hope PA 18938

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Our Society website was shut down by the former webmaster on June 28. At the moment ESPHS has no “web presence”, but our new webmaster - David Przepiora - is working to restore it. David would welcome suggestions from Society members as to web hosts for, and contents of, an ESPHS web site. There already has been a lively exchange of e-mails on the subject among Society officers, but no decision has been made. David Przepiora can be reached at [djprze@hotmail.com](mailto:djprze@hotmail.com), by phone (716) 652-1076, or land mail, 1505 Emery Road, East Aurora, NY 14052-9729.

Before leaving this Message, I want to express thanks to the Society members who have agreed to write the ESPHS page in *Stamp Insider* for the next 12 months (each issue is for two months): Gerald Wiley, Nov/Dec 2010; Frank Braithwaite, Jan/Feb 2011; Maris Tirums, Mar/Apr 2011; Davis Williams, May/June 2011; Alfred Carroccia, July/Aug 2011 and George McGowan, Sept/Oct 2011, who also wrote the article appearing on page 8 of this *Bulletin*.

Since not all Society members receive *Stamp Insider*, the writers listed above should send their article to the *Bulletin* Editor at the same time it is submitted to *Stamp Insider*, to be included in the *Bulletin* as space permits.

**Plan to attend our Fall meeting in Syracuse November 13 (details in this issue)!!!**

Al Parsons  
alatholleyrd@aol.com

*Editor's Note:*

*Readers will notice that this issue does not include features we like to include in each number, especially color photos. Due to the fact that our Publications Chairman, Drew Nicholson, is home recovering from successful cardiac repairs – good to have a new motor every 500,000 miles! – the “B” team is keeping things simple for this go-around. I fully expect to return to a full-featured issue in December.*

*In that regard, please notice that a corrected **Auction Consignment Form** is included with this Bulletin. To make a satisfying auction offering in December's Bulletin I want, and **you** will want to see, many pieces of New York State postal history. Please take a few minutes now to find up to five covers from your accumulated material, fill out the Consignment Form and send it to me, Bob Bramwell, at P.O. Box 4150, Pinehurst NC 28374. Any questions? Email me at [rbramwell@nc.rr.com](mailto:rbramwell@nc.rr.com) or phone 910 295 5808.*

## **ESPHS MEMBER BILL SAMMIS TAKES RESERVE GRAND AT NOJEX 2010, LEADS EMPIRE STATE IN NOJEX POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITING COMPETITION**

William W. Sammis of Ithaca, NY, a longtime member of ESPHS, continued his winning ways as a postal history exhibitor by taking the Reserve Grand award at NOJEX 2010, the annual WSP show sponsored by North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs, Inc. in Secaucus, NJ the last weekend in May.

Bill's ten-frame exhibit, *The Expresses of Maine; Private & Postal 1840—1845*, even though not an exhibit of NY postal history, was the leading scorer for ESPHS in the Sweetening Award multi-state postal history exhibiting competition at NOJEX 2010. The ESPHS win was a team effort, with eight exhibits entered by five members in addition to Bill's:

Roger S. Brody, Gold, eight frames, *United States, Series 1902: the Post Office Enters the Twentieth Century*

Ellen N. Rose, Silver, one frame, *Utica's Handstamped Postal Markings: 1798-1855*

Anne M. Triggler, Silver, two frames, *Clarence Postal History*

Alan Parsons, Silver, five frames, *Corning, NY Postal History including DPOs Now Served by the Corning Post Office.*

Ada M. Prill, Silver Bronze, single frame, *Star Cancells of Delaware County, New York*

Anne M. Triggler, Silver Bronze, single frame, *Wales in Erie County, NY*

Alan Parsons, Silver Bronze, single frame, *19<sup>th</sup> Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties, NY*

Ada M. Prill, Bronze, single frame, *Uh-Oh! Mistakes in U.S. Auxiliary Markings*

Bill Sammis' success with his Maine postal history exhibit began in 2009 when, in his first time exhibiting, he took Reserve Grand at Philatelic Show in Boxboro, MA. He followed this with Gold at ROPEX 2009, and then took the Grand at NAPEX 2009 in McLean, VA. Bill competed in the Champion of Champions at StampShow 2009 but did not win; only one award is given in that competition. Although he did not compete in the C of C this year, he was pleased that the one exhibit keeping him out, the Grand Award winner at NOJEX 2010, became the Champion of Champions at StampShow 2010.

If you have to lose, it helps if you lose to the best!

## **ASCC VOLUME 1 UPDATE IS STILL ONGOING**

Updates for Volume 1 of the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, now owned by the U.S. Classics Society, can still be submitted. The current edition of Volume 1 was published in 1997 and the Classics Society wants to publish a new one. This is a valuable reference work for state and local postal history collectors but it needs to be updated.

The Classics Society has a website, <[stamplesscovercatalog.com](http://stamplesscovercatalog.com)>, dedicated to its ASCC Vol.1 update project. There are two New York State coordinators for the

project, Glenn Estus and Doug Penwell. Go to <[stamplesscovercatalog.com/input.html](http://stamplesscovercatalog.com/input.html)> to download the instructions for submitting data and send it to either Estus, P.O.Box 451, Westport, NY 12993-0451, [gestus@westelcom.com](mailto:gestus@westelcom.com), or Penwell, whose contact information is shown in the following announcement about the *Manuscript P.O.* book.

For those ESPHS members who do not have the current edition of ASCC Vol.1 readily available, the Society will have it at its Fall meeting in Syracuse November 13. In addition, copies of the current listings for specific NY post offices in Volume 1 will be supplied on request to Al Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, phone (607) 732-0171, email [alatholleyrd@aol.com](mailto:alatholleyrd@aol.com).

### **A NOTE ABOUT THE UPCOMING FOURTH EDITION OF THE MANUSCRIPT BOOK**, by Doug Penwell

*Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*, first published by ESPHS in 1972, has had three formal editions and one master supplement. In the near future, all of that old data will be consolidated into the Fourth Edition. But there is still time to submit data.

Many appeals have gone out to supply missing rate data for stampless entries and stamp information for later examples. In addition, there is a need for additional data about those offices that operated in more than one county. Will you please look over your covers today?

This is *your publication*. It is meant to benefit you. One of the ways this happens is by supplying you with information about what is "out there," and those items you can expect to find over time.

If a cover is recorded as "NYD," with no rate or stamp information, additional covers will only be valid reports if it can be clearly shown that they are not the same item reported previously. Covers from the stampless era into the Banknote period can be canceled with no indication of the year of service (NYD).

The third edition in 1984 is missing much information about rates and stamps. It would be preferable if this information could be included in the fourth edition. Your help with this task is once again solicited. **Submit data today** to:

Douglas Penwell  
P.O. Box 3525  
Glendale, AZ 85311-3525  
[dougpenwell@mail.com](mailto:dougpenwell@mail.com)  
(623) 931-5741

In addition, if you have a question about a NY State manuscript item, the editor would be happy to answer questions and solve "mysteries." If you read the article about misidentified manuscripts in the ESPHS Journal *Excelsior*, you know that even a record from thirty years ago can turn out to be incorrect.

If you find something unusual, consider submitting an article. The sharing of knowledge is why ESPHS was formed in 1967. Something you are familiar with might be the answer someone else has been seeking!

**ESPHS POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITORS TAKE NOTE:  
YOUR SOCIETY WILL HOST SWEETING AWARD  
COMPETITION AT ROPEX 2011 & NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

The Sweeting Award multi-state postal history exhibiting competition returns to ROPEX in 2011, where it was first held in 2004. Sponsored by the Rochester Philatelic Association (RPA), ROPEX is the only World Series of Philately stamp show in upstate New York. ROPEX 2011 is scheduled for May 13-15, 2011 at ESL Sports Centre on the campus of Monroe Community College, south of the City of Rochester – same location as in 2010.

The Sweeting Award competition is limited to the state postal history or philatelic societies of ten northeastern states: Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the six New England states (Vermont and Maine have state philatelic but not postal history societies). Each of the ten states will be invited to compete at ROPEX 2011.

ESPHS won the first Sweeting competition with Ohio Postal History Society placing second. Although by winning ESPHS had the right to hold the next competition at ROPEX, it instead deferred to OPHS, which then hosted and won the second competition, held at March Party 2006, Pennsylvania (PPHS) taking second.

OPHS also deferred and PPHS held the third competition at PNSE 2007. It won at its “home” WSP show and Massachusetts Postal Research Society (MPRS) placed second. When PPHS deferred, MPRS became the host for the fourth competition, held at Philatelic Show 2009.

**MPRS continued the streak of host society winners and deferred to New Jersey (NJPHS) to hold the fifth Sweeting competition at NOJEX 2010. ESPHS then broke the host winning streak and became the first of the competing groups to win the Sweeting Award twice. It also gained the right to host the next competition.**

If ESPHS wins the competition at ROPEX 2011 it will be the first society to win two successive Sweeting Awards. Whether or not this happens depends entirely on the willingness of its members to exhibit postal history at ROPEX 2011.

**Each postal history exhibit entered by an ESPHS member, whether it’s NY postal history or postal history of another category, and regardless of the medal level it receives, will count toward the Society’s point total in the competition. The scoring for the Sweeting Award is meant to encourage postal history exhibiting by having each and every such exhibit contribute to the team effort.**

Each competing society at ROPEX 2011 will have table space at the Show for recruiting new members and promoting its publications. There will be a Friday evening Dutch treat dinner for the exhibitors and others participating in the Sweeting competition and on Saturday morning a one-hour meeting of the competing Societies to report on current programs and hopes for the future.

Information for ROPEX 2011, including its exhibiting prospectus and entry form, can be found online at <[rpastamps.org/ropex.html](http://rpastamps.org/ropex.html)>. **Plan to exhibit at ROPEX 2011, even if you are not sure you will be able to attend.**

## **FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT SYRACUSE NOVEMBER 13; DELISLE 4-PAGE EXHIBITING COMPETITION TO FOLLOW**

Our Society's traditional fall membership meeting will be held this year on Saturday, November 13 at 2 p.m. at the Syracuse Stamp & Collectibles Show scheduled for November 13 and 14 at the Holiday Inn Carrier Circle just off Thruway Exit 35.

While the meeting will have committee reports and planning discussion, it also should include a short talk and/or visual presentation on some aspect of New York postal history. If anyone is willing to do this, please contact Alan Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, phone (607) 732-0181, email [alatholleyrd@aol.com](mailto:alatholleyrd@aol.com).

As always, the Fall meeting will be informal and open for discussion on any topic germane to NY postal history or the state of the Society. Visitors are welcome. The meeting will conclude with the annual Kenneth R. deLisle Competition.

**ESPHS members need to bring to the meeting four pages of connected N.Y. postal history to be displayed on a table. The winner of the deLisle Award is determined by vote of those present, taken at the conclusion of the meeting. The award is a handsome walnut plaque outline of New York State, suitably engraved, and will be given to the 2010 winner at the 2011 annual meeting.**

At the 2009 Fall meeting Glenn Estus and Bob Bramwell each brought an excellent 4-page display. Unfortunately they were the only two exhibitors and the voting ended in a tie. Since no award was made, they can enter the same exhibits again this year. While the exhibit has to be present to compete, the exhibitor does not.

**Plan to attend in 2010, and plan to compete!**

### **The Trading Post**

**Where Members Meet To Buy, Sell or Trade NYS Postal History  
and Promote Research Projects**

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, plus name and contact information. Send to *Bulletin* Editor)

*Editor's Note: I encourage members Richard Fuhrman, Tom Auletta, William Howden and Allen Bobart to take advantage of their annual opportunity to post a Trading Post ad. Remember, any member in good standing can, and should, take advantage of this easy way to get your collecting objectives publicized.*

## POSTAL HISTORY COURSE AT 2010 APS SUMMER SEMINAR TAUGHT SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE POSTAL SERVICE

ESPHS founding member Robert Dalton Harris and his wife, Diane DeBlois, continued their winning ways as APS Summer Seminar postal history instructors with a course entitled “Social Perspectives of the Postal Service” taught at the Seminar held June 20-25, 2010 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA.

With a class size of seven, there was plenty of opportunity for hands-on instruction, and Bob and Diane took full advantage of this. Fortunately, the classroom was large enough to hold all the business and post office archives they brought with them to use in their course.

The basic thrust of the course was to demonstrate the interplay between the Post Office and American business and culture, a vast subject organized by the instructors for the morning sessions under four headings and introductions as follows:

**1.Travelers & the Mail: from taverns to jet planes.** Main idea: the social role of the postal function is to handle the desire for communication over distance with increasingly effective strategies.

**2.Housing the Mail: from the general store to public monuments.** Main idea: the social role of the post office as a physical presence is a ‘nexus’ of commerce and communication,

**3.Making up the Mail: handcraft to machine.** Main idea: how the mail was handled was a ‘bottom up’ process, reflecting parallel technologies in other social spheres.

**4.Commerce through the Mail: business stationery to mail order business.** Main idea: the primary social role of the post office has become to keep business moving.

Each afternoon session consisted of a power-point presentation tied in with the morning session, to wit, **Day 1** “Mohonk Mountain House: Self-Advertised 1870 to the Present,” **Day 2** “Post Offices as Tourist Attractions,” **Day 3** “The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Personal Letter” and **Day 4** “Hermes as an Advertising Icon.” Study in the a.m. became visual treats in the p.m.

In addition to the afternoon programs, a series of “Postal Images” were distributed to illustrate the topics of the morning sessions. Most were pictures of 19<sup>th</sup> century paintings or prints dealing with postal operations. Perhaps the most remarkable was an 1815 print on a cotton neckerchief entitled “A Geographical View of All the Post Towns in the United States of America and Their Distances from Each Other According to the Establishment of the Post Master General in the Year 1815.”

The course is not over yet; learning never ends. Each class member is writing a report as a contribution to an anthology on social perspectives of the postal service, to be published by the instructors and distributed after the seminar. My report choice is Erin, NY, a hamlet in Chemung County with a post office since 1833 and still going strong.

Stay tuned!

Alan Parsons



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