

E.S.P.H.S. BULLETIN

Volume 36 Number 2

September 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Fall Meeting November 9 at SYRAPEX '03

Dutchess County Postal History Presentation

Annual 4-page Exhibit Competition for deLisle Award

Set your sights on Syracuse!! Specifically, your Society's semi-annual (fall) meeting Sunday, Nov. 9, at SYRAPEX '03.

Sponsored by the Syracuse Stamp Club, SYRAPEX '03 will be held Nov. 8 & 9 at the Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle (Thruway exit 35), Syracuse. Hours are 10AM-5:30PM on Saturday and 10AM-4:30PM on Sunday. There is free admission and parking and the show will include a 20-dealer bourse, 48 frames of exhibits, show cover and cancel, U.S. Post Office and more.

ESPHS will hold its meeting at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in a room at the Holiday Inn near the show. When arriving please check at the show reception area for the meeting room location and change, if any, in the meeting time.

The Journal of New York State Postal History has been renamed *Excelsior!* and its new editor, Drew Nicholson, an ESPHS Board member and long-time Dutchess County postal history collector, will talk at the meeting on some aspect of Dutchess County postal history. The first issue of the new *Excelsior!* will be in circulation by the time of the meeting and Drew may look for feedback and seek new articles as part of his presentation.

Society members are encouraged to bring to the meeting **four pages of connected N.Y. postal history material** to be displayed on a table in the meeting room for the annual *Kenneth R. deLisle Award* competition. The winner is determined by vote of those present, taken at the conclusion of the meeting. The *deLisle Award* is a handsome walnut plaque outline of New York State, suitably engraved, and will be given to the 2003 winner at the 2004 annual meeting.

There will be a short business meeting, including an opportunity for members present to offer their comments and suggestions.

Before closing this *President's Message*, I want to personally thank those Society members, listed in Albert Guenzburger's article elsewhere in this issue, who exhibited in competition at ROPEX in June, and Ann Trigg, who exhibited her one-frame *Clarence, NY* non-competitively (Ann was the ROPEX liaison with the judging panel). All told, there were 28 frames of New York postal history on display.

Thanks also to Doug and Nancy Z. Clark, who entered their one-frame *Maine Way Mail* in response to the invitation for a multi-state postal history competition the Society sent out earlier this year. This was the only response from out-of-state, but it was clearly a good one, receiving a ROPEX Platinum and the ESPHS best single-frame postal history award (small Waterford clock).

(continued on page3)

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:

Fekete, George T., 111 Dale Road, Rochester, NY 14625-2009

Collecting Interests: 1932 Wash. Bicents, W-F issue (09-23), FD & Last Day of issue (correct rate & overpaid) commercial covers

Reference: APS #186511

Kabelac, Karl S., 105 Raleigh St., Rochester, NY 14620-4121

Collecting Interests: Local Rochester history (retired local history librarian)

References: American Library Assoc., American Association for state and local history, Organization of American Historians

Resigned: Tom Stanton & Harry Taber

Deceased: Jim Adams

Life Members: Dr. Louis T. Call and John M. Price. These two new Life Members join William Seifert, Charles Sweeting, Frederick Dykins, Jerry Kotek, Thomas Mazza, Daniel Knowles, Joel Shapiro, Leslie Byrnes and Larry Cherns. (John Cali expected to be added shortly)

(continued on page 7)

ESPHS Bulletin

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

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Secretary/Treasurer: John Lange ('04)

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('04): John Nunes, John Cali,
Drew Nicholson

('05): Louis Call, Heather Sweeting,
Gerald Wiley

('06) Albert Guenzburger, Bill Hart,
Maris Tirums

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Mohawk/Hudson: Maris Tirums

Northern: Gerald Wiley

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MULTI-STATE EXHIBITING COMPETITION PLANNED FOR ROPEX 2004

We'll try again to host a well-represented multi-state postal history exhibiting competition at ROPEX!! The ROPEX folks want us to do it for 2004, and this time the invitations/challenges will be mailed well in advance, not at the last minute.

ROPEX '04 will be held June 18-20, 2004, again in the spacious Webster Community Field House, with plenty of free parking, pleasant surroundings and easy access from the numerous interstates and equivalents serving Rochester and its suburbs.

Invitations/challenges again will be issued to those postal history societies who received them for ROPEX '03 (N.J., Penn., Vt., Mass.), and at least five more societies will be added to the list— Ohio, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Maine and Rhode Island. The four New England societies were omitted from the previous list for lack of a contact name; this has been remedied. Ohio has been added because it has a strong exhibiting tradition and many current active exhibitors (at StampShow 2003 in Columbus there were seven multi-frame Ohio postal history exhibits plus one multi and one single frame not in competition).

The postal history societies and their exhibitors competing at ROPEX '04 will again be welcome at a Friday evening social gathering at a nearby restaurant (probably Hedges Nine Mile Point), and invited to participate in a panel discussion (probably on Saturday) on the future of State postal history societies.

New wrinkles may be added at ROPEX'04, particularly in the awards department. At the very least, ESPHS will provide awards for best multi-frame and single-frame exhibits entered in the multi-state competition, as well as best ESPHS exhibit awards in both categories if sufficient qualifying entries are received.

One prominent postal history exhibitor (not from N.Y.) would like to see an award for the Society having the best showing in the competition. This will be given serious consideration. If anyone else has any suggestions for "new wrinkles" please contact Al Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, phone (607) 732-0181, email, alatholleyrd@aol.com, as soon as possible.

The bottom line is this: *be prepared to exhibit at ROPEX '04*. It's important that we have postal history exhibits at all New York shows, national, regional or local, but if there is a good response to our invitation/challenge for ROPEX'04, it will be doubly important we have them, in quantity as well as quality, in Webster NY next June!!

The exhibiting prospectus for ROPEX '04 can be downloaded at www.geocities.com/rpastamps/ropex.html or obtained by contacting Tom Fortunato by email at stampmf@frontier.net, by phone (585) 621-1670, or by mail at 42 Maynard St., Rochester, NY 14615.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

The venue for our fall meeting is attractive and centrally located. Our last fall meeting at SYRAPEX was in 1999, with 16 persons attending and four exhibits entered in the *deLisle* competition. We haven't equaled or surpassed those numbers in either category since. Can we do it this year? Let's hope so!! See you at SYRAPEX!!

Alan Parsons
atatholleyrd@aol.com

Rockwell Kent, Artist, Author, Activist

He may not be as familiar to the rest of New York State, but Rockwell Kent, who lived in Ausable Forks (Essex/Clinton County) was well known to the North Country. In 2001, the Rockwell Kent Gallery was opened at Plattsburgh State University as a part of the Plattsburgh State Art Museum. The information below comes from the website devoted to Kent at <<<http://www2.plattsburgh.edu/museum/rkent1.htm>>>.

"Rockwell Kent (1882-1971), artist, author, and political activist, had a long and varied career. During his lifetime, he worked as an architectural draftsman, illustrator, printmaker, painter, lobsterman, ship's carpenter, and dairy farmer. Born in Tarrytown Heights, New York, he lived in Maine, Newfoundland, Alaska, Greenland, and the Adirondacks and explored the waters around Tierra del Fuego in a small boat. Kent's paintings, lithographs, and woodcuts often portrayed the bleak and rugged aspects of nature; a reflection of his life in harsh climates.

"A political activist, Rockwell Kent championed social causes from the 1930's until his death. Although Kent insisted that he never belonged to the Communist party, his consistent support of radical causes contributed to a decline in his artistic popularity during the 1940s and 1950s. In the latter decade, the State Department revoked his passport. Kent sued for its reinstatement and emerged victorious in landmark Supreme Court case. He became very popular in the Soviet Union, and in 1957, half a million Russians attended an exhibition of his work. Subsequently, he donated eighty paintings and eight hundred prints and drawings to the Russian people. In 1967, he was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize."

Kent was also known for creating a set of philatelic labels for the island of Greenland in the mid 1940s. The Plattsburgh Post Office used a pictorial handcancel to honor the opening of the Kent Gallery. 3 months before Kent was honored by inclusion in the American Illustrators sheet issued on February 1, 2001.



EXTENSIVE SOCIETY ACTIVITY AT ROPEX 2003

The Society's exhibiting participation at ROPEX '03 is well covered in Al Guenzberger's article elsewhere in this issue (Al is a Director of the Society and was on the Judging Panel at ROPEX). The purpose of this present article is to report on other aspects of ESPHS participation in the most recent edition of upstate New York's only national-level (WSP) show.

ROPEX '03 was held in June, instead of March, and in Webster, east of Rochester, instead of its previous location on the western edge of the City. The Webster Community Field House, the new site, provides ample space not only for dealers, exhibits, youth activities and club/society tables, but for collateral exhibits/activities as well, e.g., a working model railroad and a Corvette on display in the center of the floor (the Show was honoring transportation anniversaries).

As a result of this new-found wealth of space, the Society had its own table at ROPEX, perhaps for the first time (?), to promote its activities, display and sell its publications, and generally give it visibility throughout the entire three-day show. Our table was located near the entrance, in a cluster including the UNPA, APS and the Rochester Philatelic Association.

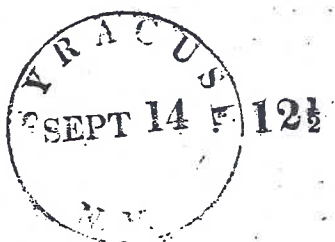
Having this table at future ROPEX shows presents an excellent opportunity for membership recruitment and Society promotion in general. Anyone interested in planning for this opportunity at ROPEX 2004?

ESPHS member John Flannery (who lives in Webster) recommended an excellent restaurant on the shore of Lake Ontario (about a mile and half north of the show site) for a Society-promoted dinner Friday evening. John also made a map and copied it, along with the menu, for reference/distribution at our table. By 1 p.m. Friday, when John had to call in the final reservation number, we had 20 members and guests signed up. Hedges Nine Mile Point Restaurant exceeded expectations, everyone had a good time, and John Flannery's efforts in this endeavor are greatly appreciated.

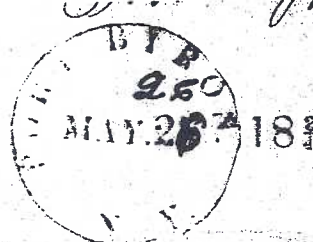
The Webster Community Field House is attached to Webster Thomas High School and on Saturday afternoon the Society utilized a nearby conference room for its scheduled regional meeting. There were nine in attendance: Martin and David Margulis, Bill Bauer, Al Guenzburger, Heather Sweeting, Bill Hart, Drew Nicholson, John Cali and Al Parsons (presiding).

(continued on page 8)

Attached Rate Cancel Devices



Syracuse 1831
(Onondage County)



Port Bryon 1833
(Cayuga County)

ROPEX 2003 ESPHS Exhibits and Awards

submitted by Albert Guenzburger

ROPEX 2003 was held in Rochester, NY June 20 - 22, 2003. The show had enough State Postal History exhibits to convince the Awards Committee to present two ESPHS awards.

The multi frame exhibits, with the name of the exhibitor and the award level were:

Selections of Long Island Postal History, John Price, MD; Silver

Otsego County, NY, William H. Bauer; Gold

19th Century Ship Mail Through New York City, Martin Margolis; Vermeil

Examples of Early NY State Postmarks Used by Railroad Route Agents, Railroad Postal Clerks and Station Agents, 1830's - 1880's, Louis T. Call; Vermeil

Single Frame Exhibits:

19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung and Tioga Counties, NY, Alan Parsons; Vermeil

New York State RFD Hand Cancels, William J. Hart; Silver

Maine Way Mail (Included since we invited the exhibit), Doug and Nancy Z. Clark; Platinum.

The award for the best Empire State Postal History multi Frame exhibit went to Louis T. Call for his exhibit of Examples of early NY State Postmarks used by Railroad Route Agents, Railroad Postal Clerks, and Station Agents 1830's-1880's. (The exhibit by William H. Bauer was not eligible since it won the award last year.) This was a large Waterford Clock. The award for the best single frame State Postal History exhibit went to Doug and Nancy Z. Clark for their exhibit of Maine Way Mail.

Some comments from a judge's point of view that may help those planning to exhibit:

Make sure the title is appropriate. A title such as Cancels of Such and Such Counties will lead the judges to expect examples of all the cancels, a very broad field in most cases. A better title might be Types of Cancels of Such and Such Counties during the Civil War. This limits the scope and the judges' expectations. A Title Page and/or synopsis might clarify the matter but the judges will note the title and expect what it implies. This is esp. true for single frame exhibits.

Don't use fancy features such as a border around each page. It takes up space that might be better used for something else. A thin border around exhibited items is OK. You might use borders or matting to highlight significant items. Do not overdo this. Use it only for truly significant items.

Get your title and/or synopsis pages in early. You can still change the title page as the exhibit is prepared, but it gives the judges time to do their homework.

The judges were impressed with the NY State Postal History exhibits and the Awards Committee is pleased that the ESPHS Awards Program has gotten so many exhibits into shows.

Society Members Prill, Fekete & Flannery Win Contested APS Elections

ESPHS Western Regional Representative Ada Prill, a resident of Rochester, teamed with another Rochester resident and a new Society member, George Fekete, and with Ken Lawrence, a resident of State College and former APS Vice-President, to win a contested election in May for the American Philatelic Society Board of Vice Presidents.

In the same election Society member John Flannery of Webster, N.Y. came in first in a field of ten candidates for one of four positions as Director-at-Large on the APS Board. This was John's second run for Director-at-Large, having just missed two years ago.

The new officers were installed following the APS general membership meeting August 9 at StampShow in Columbus, Ohio.

It is quite remarkable for a relatively small APS affiliate to find three of its members on the 11-member APS Board at one time. Congratulations to Ada, George and John, and may their deliberations be wise and fruitful!

Secretary/Treasurer's Report (continued from page 2)

Address Changes:

Laliberte, Lawrence, Delete "PO" in "PO Box 1311

Schmitt, Frederick P, Schmitt Investors, Ltd., PO Box 387, Northport, NY 11768

Sharbaugh, Harry, 1 Cross St., Erving, MA 01344

Addition to complimentary list:

Everett L. Parker, The Maine Philatelic Society, 719 Moosehead Lake Rd., Greenville, ME 04441-9727

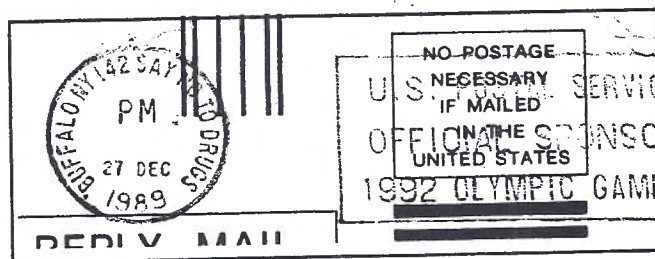
Donations: Edmund Bashista, \$5.00, Harry Dow, \$10.00, Thanks to both of you!

Scheduled to be dropped due to non-payment of dues (three letters have received no response; will not receive September Bulletin or Excelsion! unless their dues are received prior to 8/25 mailing): East Hampton Library, Fred Kunzwiler, Fred Maltz, Queensbury Public Library, ~~Stephen Resnick, Lisa Sizeland-Ross~~, and Edith Wyckoff

Secretarial Note: One June *Bulletin* was returned to the Secretary minus the address label. If the person who didn't get that *Bulletin* will send John Lange a postal card, it will be forwarded.

Have You.....

-found a new Doane cancel? Send the information to Maris Tirums.
- discovered a new star cancel? Send the information to David Willimas
- a new early or late manuscript cancel? Send the information to Doug Penwell
- a new RFD cancel? Send the information to Bill Hart



A 2 theme machine cancel from Buffalo:

“Just Say No to Drugs” & “Official Olympic Sponsor”

The earliest known use of the “Official Olympic Sponsor” is Dec. 26, 1989.

(Extensive Society Activity: continued from page 5)

Discussion of ESPHS membership recruitment dominated the first part of the hour-long meeting; those present were asked to take a supply of the Society’s promotional leaflet/application form to distribute at their local club meetings and shows. Suggestions were also made for ways to use Society publications as tools for membership recruitment.

Bill Hart talked about a new approach to his N.Y. R.F.D. project. By using 1905 through 1931 Postal Guides he hopes to provide a structure for research in, and for reporting, N.Y. R.F.D. markings.

President Parsons expressed his thanks and appreciation to Martin Margulis for his work as editor of *The Journal of New York Postal History* and for his other service on behalf of the Society. The new editor, Drew Nicholson, took the floor briefly to ask for support and to advise on the deadline for the September issue. The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

ESPHS received good publicity in the ROPEX show program, and at the banquet Saturday evening your Society president was privileged to present the ESPHS exhibiting awards. Tom Fortunato, ROPEX 2003 chairman, and the ROPEX Committee were perfect hosts and made our visit both pleasant and productive.

SHOW SCHEDULES FOR ESPHS AUCTION MANAGER, *EXCELSIOR* EDITOR

Both John Nunes, the Society's auction manager, and Drew Nicholson, *Excelsior* editor, work as dealers at New York shows. John Nunes has his own business (Nunes Nook), while Drew Nicholson assists dealer Larry Winum of Walden.

John Nunes is willing to discuss and/or receive consignments for Society auctions, and Drew Nicholson likewise for *Excelsior* articles, at any of the shows where they are set up.

Here is a preliminary schedule of shows and bourses where either one or both will be available for the next two months:

Sept. 14—Syracuse Stamp & Coin Show (both)

Sept. 21—Latham Stamp, Postcards & Covers Show (Nunes)

Oct. 17-18—STEPEX, Horseheads, NY (Nicholson)

Nov. 2—R S Stamp Show, Rochester, NY (both)

Nov. 8-9—SYRAPEX, Syracuse, NY (both)

This list is probably not complete; persons interested in meeting either John or Drew at a show should contact him ahead of time to determine if he will be there.

