

BULLETIN

of The Empire State
Postal History Society

Volume 39 Numbers 3

December 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After a slow year in 2006, we hope to play catch-up in 2007, particularly in the first six months.

Elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, our retiring *Excelsior!* editor, Drew Nicholson, says he will complete and mail the three back issues at the rate of one per month for the next three months (February 15, March 15 and April 15).

This will leave the March 2007 *Excelsior!* for his successor, who, with a little luck and lots of help from our members submitting articles, could have this issue in the mail during June, to be mailed with the June 2007 *Bulletin*.

Again with a little luck and lots of help (more articles, please), the new editor could have the September 2007 *Excelsior!* mailed during its dated month with the September 2007 *Bulletin*, and WE WOULD BE BACK ON TRACK WITH OUR PERIODICALS PUBLISHING SCHEDULE!

Although retiring as *Excelsior!* editor, Drew will continue as chair of the Publications Committee and continue to print and mail our periodicals. The Hewlett-Packard laser printer we purchased for more color in *Excelsior!* remains at Drew's home.

A firm, workable timetable for all phases of semi-annual *Excelsior!* and quarterly *Bulletin* publication will be prepared and hopefully adhered to in the future. Once adopted, it will be published in the *Bulletin* for the benefit of those members planning to submit articles.

David Williams, an active member of the Society currently compiling data for a new edition of our Star Cancel book, has expressed a willingness to become *Excelsior!* editor, at least on a trial basis. His interest was reported at the November 12 Executive Board meeting and Drew Nicholson agreed to send him an article to edit for the September 2006 *Excelsior!* In addition, the Board requested one more "help wanted" be placed in the *Bulletin* to see if someone with editing experience might volunteer.

As he did with the last *Bulletin*, Glenn Estus will have this *Bulletin*, and probably the March 2007 *Bulletin*, printed and mailed in his home area, thereby helping to keep the way clear for the *Excelsior!* editor to meet his stated goals for producing the back issues. Many thanks, Glenn.

The November 12 Executive Board meeting in Syracuse had a long agenda and lasted two hours. John Nunes' proposal to have our periodicals printed and distributed as part of *Stamp*

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Published quarterly by the Empire State Postal History Society
APS AFFILIATE #28 <<http://www.esphs.org>>

Officers:

President: Alan Parsons ('07)
Vice President: Dr. Joseph Rowbottom ('07)
Secretary: George McGowan ('08)
Treasurer: George Dekornfeld ('08)

Directors:

('07): John Nunes, John Cali, Drew Nicholson
('08): Frank Braithwaite, Heather Sweeting, Gerald Wiley
('09): Maris Tirums, Bill Hart, Bob Davison

Auction Manager & Dealer Representative:

John Nunes
80 Fredericks Rd.
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ESPHS Bulletin (quarterly)
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Excelsior! (semi-annually)
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(845) 855-3387
email: dan.ddn@suscom.net

Regional Representatives:

Northern: Gerald Wiley
Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums
Mohawk: *vacant*
Lower Hudson: *vacant*
NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite
Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*
Central: Bob Davison
West Central: *vacant*
Southern Tier: Alan Parsons
Western: Jim Littell

Secretary's Membership Report

Application for Membership:

Ken Sultana, PO Box 640233
Oakland Gardens, NY
Interests: Kings County (Brooklyn)
References: APS #xxx392

Address Changes:

Charles Raffe
747 E. Main St.
Riverhead, NY 11901

We welcome the following new members:

Basket Historical Soc. of the
Upper Delaware Vally
Bramwell, Robert B.
DeSalvo, Glen J.
Fuhrman, Richard A.
Peloquin, G. Peter

Resignations: E. A. Schaetzke

Do you have material for the ESPHS member's auction?
Contact John Nunes for information

(President's Report--continued)

Insider magazine generated many questions and much discussion. The Board voted against it, but agreed to give John an opportunity to test the waters with the membership as a whole. His proposal should be appearing in this *Bulletin*. (ed. note: nothing was received in time for publication)

The main objections to John's *Stamp Insider* proposal centered on our loss of editorial control and identity as a specialist society, plus the potential cost to the Society. The \$3,000 charge proposed would be more than we are now paying for printing and mailing our periodicals. The charge appeared to be based on the amount needed by *Stamp Insider* to cover its annual deficit.

The Executive Board meeting was held in the morning and our traditional fall membership meeting in the afternoon on November 12. Attendance at the membership meeting was disappointing, consisting only of Executive Board members plus one non-member.

Those who did attend the membership meeting were treated to an excellent presentation by Dave Proulx, the original compiler of our Star and County & Postmaster Cancel books and now active with the Postmark Collectors Club, where he serves as Curator of its museum and library at Old Lyme Village, Bellevue, Ohio.

Dave showed a video he narrated of the museum and library, then talked about its collection and finished his presentation with recollections of his personal collecting experiences and his many years as a stamp and cover dealer. It was both entertaining and enlightening.

Dave brought literature about the Post Mark Collectors Club as well as back issues of the monthly PMCC Bulletin to the meeting. Because of the low attendance much of this literature remained after the meeting and will be taken to Covermania for distribution there.

Not long after the meetings on November 12 Maris Tirums, acting Secretary-Treasurer since John Lange retired in mid-2005, completed turnover of the Secretary records and duties to George McGowan and the Treasurer records and duties, including our bank accounts and T.Rowe Price fixed income fund, to George Dekornfeld. These two new Society officers, welcomed in the last *Bulletin*, are now "fully installed."

Maris Tirums was reelected a Society director at the annual meeting in May and has agreed to serve on the Finance Committee consisting of the President, Treasurer and one other member of the Executive Board. The Finance Committee is preparing a budget for 2007 to be adopted by the Executive Board at its meeting February 17 and then published in the March 2007 Bulletin.

The second \$1,000 installment of our \$5,000 five-year pledge to the APS-APRL building fund (Match Factory renovation creating American Philatelic Center) was mailed November 18 and has been gratefully acknowledged by the APS. If you haven't been there yet, the APC in Bellefonte, PA is clearly worth a visit!

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(President's Report--continued)

PLAN TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE ESPHS REGIONAL MEETING IN 2007 (tentative schedule in this Bulletin) AS WELL AS THE ANNUAL MEETING AT ROPEX IN ROCHESTER MAY 19. LEARN ABOUT THE SOCIETY AND MEET OTHER NY POSTAL HISTORY COLLECTORS.

Happy collecting and best of everything in 2007!!

Al Parsons
alatholleyrd@aol.com

**A CALL FOR HELP:
NEW EDITOR NEEDED FOR *EXCELSIOR*!**

Excelsior!, The Journal of New York Postal History, published twice-yearly (March and September) by ESPHS, needs an editor starting with the March 2007 issue to be mailed no later than June 2007.

Duties involve soliciting and assisting prospective authors with the help of the Society Publications Committee, receiving and editing articles submitted, preparing layout of 25 to 35 pages twice-yearly and forwarding same electronically to the Publications Committee for printing and mailing.

The new editor will join the Publications Committee and, with the exception of the March 2007 issue, follow production deadlines to be established by the Committee. Printing and mailing of the March 2007 issue, if necessary, could be delayed until June 2007.

Experience as an editor and postal history collector preferred but not required. Membership in ESPHS is required. Persons interested should contact either Drew Nicholson (contact info on p. 2) or Al Parsons, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905, phone 607-732-0181, email alatholleyrd@aol.com. Please state qualifications for the position.

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR ROPEX 2007

With the amendment of our Bylaws in 2006, we are no longer required to hold our annual meeting on the first Sunday in May; the only requirement now is to hold it during the first six months of the calendar year. At its meeting November 12 in Syracuse the Executive Board voted to have our annual meeting this year on Saturday, May 19 at ROPEX, the annual WSP show produced by the Rochester Philatelic Association.

ROPEX has moved to a new location: ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road on the Monroe Community College Campus. It is a three-day show, with our meeting on the second day. According to the ROPEX website, we have the meeting room from 1 to 2 p.m.

ROPEX offers our best opportunity to recruit new members and we will have a table at the show. Society members willing to spend time at this table during the show are asked to contact Al Parsons, alatholleyrd@aol.com or (607)732-0181 with the dates and times they can help.

For further details on ROPEX 2007, including an exhibiting prospectus, go to <http://www.geocities.com/rpastamps/ropex.html>.

Have You.....

-found a new Doane cancel? Send the information to Maris Tirums.
- discovered a new star cancel? Send the information to David Williams
- a new early or late manuscript cancel? Send the information to Doug Penwell
- a new RFD cancel? Send the information to Bill Hart
- checked the ESPHS website (www.esphs.org)?

Manuscript Project: an update from the Editor

At this point (11/22/06), about half of the 1984 book (3rd edition) has been entered into the computer. This was not done previously. As you may recall, the 3rd edition was published in 1984 BC (before computers). After this is done, the editor will probably want to examine the file cards that were the recording medium for manuscript postmark data in the early days of ESPHS.

Note: If you have not done so, please thank Chet Wilcox and Henry Chlanda for their efforts. Everything the current editor is doing is an extension of that pioneer work.

There have been several records corrected from erroneous listings in the 1984 work. During computer entry, what appear to be duplicate dates exist for adjacent towns on some of the pages. This may be a coincidence, but now is the time to make corrections. If you can, please check your holdings to see if you can find mistakes in your counties of interest. While this applies mostly to the 1984 book, the editor would appreciate your looking over the 1999 Master Supplement also.

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**Minutes of the Nov. 12, 2006 Executive Board Meeting
10:30AM Syracuse, NY**

Present: Al Parsons, Maris Tirums, John Cali, John Nunes, George McGowan, Heather Sweeting, Bob Davison, Bill Hart, Drew Nickelson

President Al Parsons called the meeting to order at 10:30 and promptly added two items to the addenda.

The minutes of the May 7th annual meeting, which appeared in the June/Sept *Bulletin* were accepted as published. (HS, 2nd BH) accepted.

Maris reported that the transfer of the society finances, accounts, records, and duties to the new treasurer, George Dekornfeld, and the secretarial records and duties to the new Sec., George McGowan, will be completed in the near future.

Membership update and discussion of the dues schedule followed. Dues for 2008 are yet to be determined. The \$20.00 presently being collected will be for all members and applicants from the present to Dec 31, 2007. Glenn Estus will be advised to update the web site to reflect same.

Outgoing Treasurer Maris reported that all bills and expenses are paid as of this date.

Publication Committee report: Drew reported that he feels bad about not getting the *Excelsior* out on time and will get the three overdue issues out at no cost to the society. Bill made a motion that they come out one at a time as soon as they are ready. (2nd AP) Drew withdrew the offer to fund the remaining three, but will fund the first one out. Motion passed

Drew stated that he will carry on as publications committee chair.

There was a discussion to limit the size of the *Excelsior* to 32 pages. This will be left up to the Pub. Comm.

Member David Williams has expressed an interest in becoming *Excelsior* editor.

John Nunes proposed to join the *Stamp Insider* and *Excelsior* together to share editorial, printing, and mailing expenses. (2nd GM) Many different ways to do this (and not do this) were discussed as well as different finished products. A vote on the proposal was defeated. Maris suggested, and John proposed, to give the membership time to study this proposal and act on it. The Publication Committee will digest all comments and report to the board.

The Publication Committee will contact Dave Williams and allow him to provide input and gain some experience in producing the 3rd yet unfinished *Excelsior*. A motion by John, (2nd HS) to also give any other prospective editors some input as well. John suggested Al Starkweather, editor of

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November 12 minutes (continud from page 6)

The Stamp Insider and *The Philatelic Communicator*, be contacted by the Publication Committee to also provide input for the 3rd yet unfinished *Excelsior*. Bill asked to amend said motion to include that any editor be a member of ESPHS. Motion passed

Auction Manager John Nunes reported that the next auction will be March of 2007.

Awards chairman (John) displayed the awards that he secured, to the members present. Very nice Waterford Crystal.

We still are in need of some regional reps. Also, the membership is encouraged to return the survey recently circulated.

Drew will do the printing on the Constitution and By-laws. John Nunes and George McGowan will update the society's application form.

Through the chair, Glenn Estus asked if there was electronic storage of the membership data, and, could this data be retrieved in different forms. The secretary is willing to learn and to look into it.

New Business: Budget, Maris and George Dekornfeld will prepare a budget for the coming year. John asked that between \$125 and \$550 be added for ESPHS members to continue to receive the *Stamp Insider*.

It was decided that the next annual meeting will held at ROPEX in Rochester the 2nd week in May of 2007. The time will be 1:30 on Sat.

2007 will be the 40th anniversary and it was asked if we wanted to do some sort of celebration. Heather will produce a short history of the 40 yr period. The next Nominating Committee will be formed by the President.

Motion to Adjourn at 1:30 PM (MT, 2nd BH) passed

Respectfully Submitted:
George McGowan

Manuscript book update (continued from page 5)

Next year (2007), a few updates will be included in ESPHS publications. This will include new data, but that can be and is encouraged to be submitted at any time (address below). After the 1984 book is in the computer, that data will be merged with the 1999 Supplement. Finally, new data recorded since that time will be added. At this stage, the project is slated for completion in late 2007 or early 2008.

Douglas Penwell, Editor, P.O.Box 3525, Glendale, AZ 85311-3525

REGIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR ALBANY AND BUFFALO

At least two ESPHS regional meetings will be held during the first three months of 2007: (1) Albany on February 17 in conjunction with Cover Mania IX at the Clarion Hotel just off I-90 Exit 5 and (2) Buffalo on March 3 in conjunction with BUFPEX 2007 at the VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga.

Both meetings are tentatively scheduled for 3 p.m. Showgoers should check at the welcome table for location and time of meeting.

Stay tuned for a possible NYC/LI regional meeting at the ASDA Postage Stamp Mega Event March 15-18 at Madison Square Garden. Contact Regional Rep Frank Braithwaite, fbraith@optonline.net or 631-265-4307 (business phone), for information.

Regional meetings are held to provide interaction among Society members, updates on Society matters and an opportunity to express concerns and offer suggestions. Non-members interested in postal history are invited to attend in the hope they would become members.

REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN ROCHESTER DEC. 3

A regional meeting for the Society's West Central Region (Monroe, Wayne, Livingston, Ontario, Yates and Seneca Counties) was held in Rochester December 3 in conjunction with the RS Stamp Show produced by Society director John Nunes.

Attending were Ada Prill, George Fekete, John Nunes, John L. Leszak and Al Parsons. Discussion centered on finding websites useful to postal history collectors for listing in a handout available at ESPHS meetings.

A number of good suggestions were made, and the list should be available in time for the annual meeting May 19 at ROPEX.

New York State Discussion Group Created

Are you interested in exchanging ideas and information about New York State Postal History. I have created a Yahoo! Group for that purpose. If so, open your web browser and type in "<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nysph>". That will lead you to the group. At the present time you need my permission to join the group. This is a security precaution to make sure that spammers, etc. don't access the group. Currently (January 7), we have 7 ESPHS members participating.

Glenn Estus

2nd 2006-2007 DUES NOTICE

A change to the calendar year from a fiscal year ending April 30, approved at the 2006 annual meeting, resulted in an eight-month fiscal year ending December 31, 2006. To avoid the need for a prorated short period dues payment, the meeting approved a single \$20 dues assessment for the balance of 2006 and all of 2007, thus allowing more time for consideration of a new annual dues rate beginning in 2008. Dues for the period May 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007 are now payable. Please make your check for \$20 payable to ESPHS and send it (with your free Trading Post ad if you wish) to ESPHS, c/o George McGowan, P.O.Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482

2nd 2006-2007 DUES NOTICE

If you haven't paid your dues yet, you will find a separate dues sheet and addressed envelope enclosed. Please return it as soon as possible.

EARLY 2007 EXHIBITING OPPORTUNITIES

Empire State encourages its members to exhibit New York postal history, particularly at shows held in New York State. It helps to publicize the Society and recruit new members.

A suitably engraved Waterford Crystal Timepiece is available for an ESPHS Award at each of the following shows during the first half of 2007 IF there are two or more NY postal history exhibits entered and the exhibit getting the award receives at least silver (non-WSP show) or vermeil (WSP show):

BUFPEX 2007, March 3-4, VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga; sponsored by the Buffalo Stamp Club; uses standard 16-page frames, APS or Federation qualified judges, three medal levels (Gold, Silver, Bronze) and accepts both single frame and multi-frame exhibits. For exhibiting prospectus and entry form contact Bob Meegan, (716) 655-5583 or r.meegan@worldnet.att.net.

ASDA POSTAGE STAMP MEGA EVENT (WSP), March 15-18, Madison Square Garden, 4 Pennsylvania Place, NYC; contact Dana Guyer at APS, (814) 933-3803 ext. 218, or stampshow@stamps.org; website, www.stamps.org/directories/dir_Mega_Event.htm

ROPEX 2007 (WSP), May 18-20, ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester; sponsored by the Rochester Philatelic Association; contact Tom Fortunato, stamptmf@frontiernet.net; website, <http://www.geocities.com/rpastamps/ropex.html>.

Book Review: Wedding of the Waters

The ERIE CANAL and the MAKING of a GREAT NATION

Author: Peter L. Bernstein

2005, W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. \$24.95

This book, written by an economic consultant and popular author is a must read for collectors of New York State Postal History and those interested in how the canal contributed to the settlement of New York. Five parts, 20 chapters and 381 pages illuminate the formation of modern New York State from it's beginnings as a post-colonial region.

Mr. Bernstein discusses the political, social and economic forces and their impact on the outcome of the construction of the canal. Students of New York history may know about DeWitt Clinton, but how about Cadwallader Colden, Christopher Colles, Thomas Eddy, Jesse Hawley, Gouverneur Morris, Elkanah Watson or Canvass White? These men were some of the leaders who prompted the New York State Government and it's people to support the project.

Originally proposed near the turn or the Nineteenth Century, the Erie Canal can also be viewed as an extension of the Hudson River. The Hudson was a vital thoroughfare from the time of the first settlement at what is now Albany. The canal might too be considered a union of the smaller canal projects such as that completed by the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company.

Although there is no postal history in this book, it can show immediate effects on the postal development of New York State. Towns with the "port" suffix were a direct result of the canal. Many of these towns have recorded examples of postmarks from the time of their establishment or shortly thereafter. This differs from some of the smaller hamlets that did not benefit from the connection with the greatest economic engine of it's time.

Writers note: Collectors may encounter stampless or other covers with "canal" written on them. Occasionally these are offered as canal mail or canal markings. Canal boat captains were authorized to collect fees for letters deposited with them, but these letters usually were to be entered in the mails at the next available post office. Canal boat captains legally were not entitled to open mail bags they were hired to transport or to apply postal markings to mail.

Reviewed by Douglas Penwell

(ed. note: I also have read this book and most heartily recommend it as a good "read". It makes one appreciate the farsightedness of our New York State leaders in the early part of the 19th Century.)