

ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1 P.M., AT ROPEX STAMP SHOW, ROCHESTER, NY

The 2008 Empire State Postal History Society annual meeting will be held at ROPEX 2008, the Rochester Philatelic Association's national stamp show, ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road, on the campus of Monroe Community College (MCC), south of the City of Rochester. It offers free parking, free admission and is handicap accessible.

For those traveling from the north on I-390, take Exit 15B. For those coming from the Thruway or points south on I-390, take the East Henrietta (Rt. 15A) Exit 14 and turn left at the off ramp light. Continue past Jefferson Road and the shopping plaza on the right side. Go past the Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Rd ramp at the light and take the first entrance on the right to the MCC Campus. Take a right turn onto the road that loops to the back of the campus to the ESL Centre.

ROPEX is a three day show, May 16-19. Hours are 11-6 on Friday, 10-5 on Saturday and 10-3 on Sunday.

The Show's meeting Room 1 will be used by ESPHS from noon to 2 pm on Saturday, May 17. From noon to 1 p.m. there will be a Society trading and lunch hour (bring your own covers and food), and from 1 to 2 p.m. the annual meeting takes place.

A restaurant and snack bar are onsite. Tickets to the Saturday evening Awards Banquet buffet are available for \$30 (checks payable to ROPEX and mailed by May 10 to ROPEX Banquet, c/o Ray Stone, 228 Giles Ave., Rochester, NY 14609).

ROPEX offers ESPHS its best opportunity to recruit new members and the Society will have a table at the Show. Members who can spend time at this table during Show hours are asked to contact Al Parsons, alatholleyrd@aol.com or 607-732-0181, with the dates and times they can help.

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

Officers:

President: Alan Parsons ('09)
Vice President: Dr. Joseph Rowbottom ('09)
Secretary: George McGowan ('08)
Treasurer: George Dekornfeld ('08)

Directors:

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

Auction Manager & Dealer Representative:

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80 Fredericks Rd.
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ESPHS Bulletin (quarterly)
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Excelsior! (semi-annually)
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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: David Przepiora

Secretary's Membership Report

Application for Membership:

John R. (Jack) Searles, 733 Front St.,
Olean, NY 14760-1101

Jack is currently in the process
of writing a book on the postal and
post office history of Cattaraugus
County.

New Members:

Al Starkweather, 5520 Gunn Hwy, Apt.
1406, Tampa, FL 33624-2847

Richard Erat, 1119 Fern Hollow Dr.,
Liverpool, NY 13082-5486

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Society members are urged to attend ROPEX 2008 and the Society's annual meeting on the second day of the Show. In addition, your help is needed at the Society table during the Show. Our table will have a display of Society awards and publications, membership information and applications, and free postal history related handouts.

ROPEX is by far the largest stamp show held in upstate New York. It draws between twenty-five and thirty dealers offering a wide range of stamps, covers, postcards and other philatelic material. There will be a minimum of 200 16-page frames of exhibits, plus daily seminars, both the US Postal Service and the UN Postal Administration, a youth area with StampCampUSA, and Show pictorial cancels and cachets.

On the opening day of the show, May 16, first day of issue ceremonies will be held for the new 72¢ and 94¢ international rate definitives in the Postal Service's Scenic American Landscapes series. The 72¢ Mexico/Canada letter rate stamp features a photograph of sunrise on the Androscoggin River in the 13Mile Woods community forest at Errol, NH; the 94¢ international letter rate stamp shows a photo of Trunk Bay on the northern coast of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The ceremonies, open to the public, will be held in meeting rooms 1 and 2 at the ESL Sports Centre beginning at 10:15 am and are expected to last until 10:45 am. There is no charge for admission. The ROPEX stamp show opens to the public at 11 am on May 16.

For an up-to-date list of ROPEX exhibits, dealers, schedule of events and further information about the show, please go to <http://www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html>. Questions? Email stampmf@frontiernet.net.

Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will find the report given by Frank Braithwaite at the 2007 Society annual meeting on the results of the survey sent to the membership in early 2005. Frank expresses disappointment that more of the surveys were not returned even though 55% of the membership DID participate. I personally think this is a good result, and Frank has done a good job summarizing the responses. It is now up to the Society's Executive Board to give careful consideration to the Survey's findings and respond where possible. Many thanks to Frank for his work on the Survey.

Our annual meeting at ROPEX will include financial and program reports, election of officers (Secretary, Treasurer and three Executive Board members at large) and opportunity for feedback and discussion.

I look forward to seeing you at ROPEX and our 2008 annual meeting!!

Al Parsons
atatholleyrd@aol.com

ESPHS EXECUTIVE BOARD AGAIN VOTES NO ON STAMP INSIDER SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SOCIETY MEMBERS

As it did in February 2007, the ESPHS Executive Board, at its meeting Feb. 17, 2008, rejected a motion by Board member John Nunes to have the Society pay for Stamp Insider subscriptions for its members not already receiving this bimonthly magazine through their stamp club memberships.

John Nunes is President of the organization publishing Stamp Insider and is in charge of the magazine's finances. According to the meeting minutes elsewhere in this Bulletin, 10 Board members were present Feb.17, the vote on John's motion was four in favor and four opposed, and as president I broke the tie by voting opposed. There was also one abstention, not reported in the minutes.

Three of the four votes in favor of John's motion were cast by Board members heavily involved in the publication of Stamp Insider: Heather Sweeting (Associate Editor), George McGowan (Advertising Manager) and Nunes (Financial). Each of the three also writes a full page column for the Insider.

Since a majority of the Board other than myself was opposed to John's motion when he made it at the meeting a year previous, I did not vote (I only vote in the event of a tie). After the vote, in a moment of weakness, I felt sorry for John and offered to pay half the cost of continuing the Stamp Insider subscriptions for another year (John had paid the entire cost for the first 12 months).

My "moment of weakness" (at my age you could call it a "senior moment") did not mean I would have voted in favor of the motion in Feb. 2007 if I had been able to vote. In fact, I was then, and still am, opposed to expenditure of Society funds for member subscriptions to a general interest philatelic magazine.

ESPHS will continue its Federation membership (this costs \$15 annually) and its page in the Club News section of Stamp Insider, assuming volunteers come forward to write this page. As was done when Society members first wrote one-page NY postal history articles for Stamp Insider, members contributing the page will be asked to send it at the same time for publication in our Bulletin.

John Nunes devotes his "President's Viewpoint" column in the upcoming May/June issue of Stamp Insider to the ESPHS rejection of "Stamp Insider Funding." He correctly states that this funding would cost the Society approximately \$600 (for the past twelve months it cost Nunes and myself \$328.50 each).

Quoting from John's column, "ESPHS has a substantial balance in its available investments and is fiscally able to make such a commitment." This is not necessarily the case. Our budget for 2008 projects a substantial deficit, especially so if our new Excelsior! editor gets the support he needs to publish quarterly (instead if semi-annually) beginning this June and through September 2009, when Excelsior! would then be back on schedule.

Nunes also fails to mention that our "substantial balance" is needed not only to cover anticipated current deficits, but also to pay the cost of publishing books authored or edited by our members as well as the cost of our exhibiting awards program (John is well aware of the awards expense since he is in charge of the program).

Near the end of his column John implies the Society no longer will be entitled to a page in the Insider if its members do not receive individual subscriptions. To my knowledge, having a club page in Stamp Insider has never been contingent on the club members having individual subscriptions.

ESPHS members who want to continue receiving Stamp Insider after the May/June 2008 issue can take out a one year subscription (six issues) for \$4.50 (check payable to Stamp Insider; identify yourself as ESPHS member), mailed to Ronald K. Ratchford, 1105 Union St., Schenectady, NY 12308-2805.

I would be happy to hear if you agree or disagree with the decision of your Executive Board not to fund member subscriptions to Stamp Insider. My e-mail address is alatholleyrd@aol.com, land mail, 809 Holley Rd., Elmira, NY 14905 and telephone, 607-732-0181. If you contact me by e-mail or land mail, please copy our Secretary, George McGowan, P.O.Box 482, East Schodack, NY 12063-0482, or geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com. Thank you.

Alan Parsons

Trading Post Adlets:

Waddington NY Covers wanted: Lisa Sizeland-Ross, 600 Caroline Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669

All postal & telegraph documents wanted. All non-postal ephemera always wanted. Fun Collection: Congo covers. Want lists wanted, Robert Dalton Harris, Box 477, West Sand Lake, NY 12196 (518) 674-2979, Agatherin@yahoo.com

New Hampshire for sale: Brian Levy, BELLOBL@AOL.COM

NEW *EXCELSIOR!* EDITOR WILLING TO PUBLISH QUARTERLY UNTIL BACK ON SCHEDULE; NEEDS ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS TO ACHIEVE GOAL

David E. Williams, the new editor of our semi-annual journal, *Excelsior!*, normally published in March and September and currently one year behind schedule, is both willing and anxious to publish quarterly beginning in June in order to have the September 2009 issue mailed to the membership in the same month it is dated.

In order to accomplish this, he will need a great quantity of articles on NY postal history in a relatively short span of time! Readers, please take note!

Members will be receiving the September 2006 issue of *Excelsior!*, the final issue edited by Drew Nicholson, together with, or shortly after, this Bulletin. David Williams will start with the March 2007 issue. He hopes to have it in the mail no later than the end of June 08 and asks that articles for this issue be submitted to him as soon as possible because of the extra time he may need to get accustomed to his new role.

For an article to be included in his first *Excelsior!* he should have it well before the end of May. If an article can't be done this soon, it should still be completed and mailed as soon as possible and if received by the editor no later than August 1, it would likely be included in the September 2007 issue mailed to the membership in September 2008.

For the March 2008 issue (mailed December 2008) articles would need to be received by November 1, 2008; for the September 2008 issue (mailed March 2009), by February 1, 2009; for the March 2009 issue (mailed June 2009), by May 1, 2009, and for the September 2009 issue (mailed same month!), by August 1, 2009.

The new editor will use the same "specs" for article preparation as the previous editor, found on page 3 of the March 2005 *Excelsior!* and repeated here almost verbatim:

1. **Text** should be sent using Microsoft Word. If not possible, contact the editor for assistance.

- a. Use **Times-Roman** font only.
- b. **Font sizes**: Titles in 14-pt., sub-titles in 12-pt., general text in 11-pt and illustration descriptions in 10-pt.
- c. **Spacing**: The editor will adjust white space as needed, but will attempt to comply with the author's wishes.
- d. **Margins**: Leave one inch at the top and 1 1/4 inch on the sides and bottom. The editor will attach the footer.
- e. **Single column text** is pretty much standard in *Excelsior!* On occasion the placing of a chart or table as well as a small illustration may call for more than one column. If an author has any questions about this, please inquire.

2. **Illustrations**. Scan using 300 dpi and send them as jpg. Do not imbed them in the text; send them separately.

a. Leave a single line marker on the page at the left to indicate where the illustration is to be placed. There is no need to leave a space for the illustration; the editor will adjust each illustration's size for its location on the page during the editing process.

b. If at all possible, please back each item to be scanned with a piece of dark gray cardboard; following scanning adjust the size of the gray background to create a contrasting border between 1/8 and 1/4 inch around the item.

David Williams can be contacted by e-mail, davidewilliams@insightbb.com, by telephone at (812) 968-4559, or by regular mail at 2617 Byron Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2609. Please send him the *Excelsior!* articles he needs in order to fast track its publishing schedule and bring it up to date with the September 09 issue.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED AT 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Empire State Postal History Society will be held Saturday, May 17 at 1 p.m. The Nominating Committee Chair for election of officers and directors at this meeting is:

John A. Cali
613 W. Fourth St.
Fulton, NY 13069-3104
Phone 315-592-4441

Positions open: Secretary, two-year term (incumbent: George McGowan)
Treasurer, two-year term (incumbent: George Dekornfeld)
Three Directors, three-year terms (incumbents: Frank Braithwaite,
Heather Sweeting and Gerald Wiley (Wiley retiring))

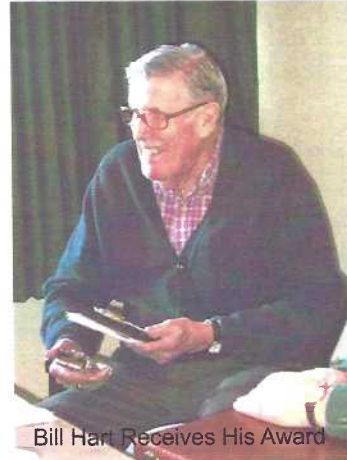
Nominations may be submitted to the Nominating Committee Chair by any member in good standing after obtaining the consent of the person nominated. In addition, members may nominate themselves. The Nominating Committee Chair shall place in nomination at the annual meeting the names he has received and further nominations may be made from the floor if a second is received and the nominee consents.

REGIONAL MEETINGS IN ALBANY AND BUFFALO

The first 2008 ESPHS regional meeting took place in Albany February 16 in conjunction with Cover Mania, a two-day bourse run by Society board member John Nunes at the Clarion Hotel on Watervliet Ave.

A dozen persons attended the meeting, with Al Parsons, Society president, chairing and doing most of the talking.

Al presented Bill Hart with his award for the best NY postal history exhibit at STEPEX 07, a suitably engraved small Lismore Waterford Clock. Bill Bauer, recipient of the ESPHS award for his exhibit at PNSE 07 in Valley Forge, PA, was unable to attend the regional meeting but received his Waterford Clock prior to the meeting.



Bill Hart Receives His Award

Discussion at the meeting centered on the Society's publishing activities and exhibiting awards. Free handouts included a new one entitled "What Is Postal History?" Glenn Estus was present and acknowledged the need for updating portions of the Society's website. The meeting lasted an hour.

Thanks to John Nunes for making the arrangements and providing a comfortable meeting room for our regional meeting in Albany February 16.

The Buffalo regional meeting was very informal, taking place March 1 at the Buffalo Stamp Club's annual show (BUFPEX) held at the VFW Leonard Post on Walden Ave. in Cheektowaga.

Advance notice of the meeting was inadvertently omitted from the December 07 Bulletin and efforts to reach David Przepiora, our Regional Representative in the Buffalo area, were unsuccessful. To his credit, David had sent out invitations to a regional meeting for late 2007, but no one came.

When Parsons was recruited to help judge the exhibits at BUFPEX he took the opportunity to set up an ESPHS table on the show floor with our handouts and a literature display. Although he placed signs at the show for a 3 pm meeting, the event primarily consisted of individual conversations, at the table or elsewhere, with Society members Larry Cherns (our lone Canadian member), Al Carrocia, Walter Orton, John Cali and Irv Tesmer. Cherns and Orton exhibited at the show, and non-members Bob Meegan and Tom Fortunato helped enliven the conversations at the table. Among handouts picked up at the Society table as well as the show entrance were our promotional brochures and membership applications.

Thanks to the Buffalo Stamp Club for its hospitality at BUFPEX 2008!

ESPHS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2008 1:00PM

Those present: Al Parsons, John Nunes, George DeKornfeld, Drew Nicholson, Bill Hart, John Cali, Bob Davison, Heather Sweeting, Maris Tirums, and George McGowan

The board listened to Conrad Novik, who is the chairman of the up coming 400th anniversary Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Stamp Exhibition to be held in Sept. of '09. He announced the 3 day events exhibit chairman is Tom Fortunato, and the show chairman will be John Nunes. Also discussed were the availability of a show cachet, a campaign for a USPS stamp to be issued in conjunction with the event, and other general questions. Those present offered what help they could, & thanked Conrad for speaking.

Drew asked guidance as to whether we should raise the cost of our publications because of postal increases, and, asked for comments on how to issue an article by Bob Harris, which, because of its length, may need to appear in two *Excelsior!* issues. The board commented, but left the final decision up to the publication committee.

George D. announced that his budget proposal is ready, and it was decided to begin discussion via email.

John N.. made a motion that "a 3/4 majority is needed to overturn a previously adopted executive board election decision". 2nd George M. Al declared that this motion is "out of order" John appealed that declaration, 2nd Heather Al defended his position stating that this changes the by-laws

John N. wants to propose this motion for a vote to all the membership at the annual meeting.

After a brief discussion, Maris asked if we are to vote as to John's motion being out of order. Drew called the question. Al volunteered to withdraw his "out of order" so that discussion on motion #1 could proceed. We then moved back to motion #1. Bob D. expressed concerns about repercussions of this in the future. A vote was taken and motion #1 results were a 4 to 4 tie with the president voting nay, motion defeated

John N. made a 2nd motion " the executive board rejects the previous election of Al Starkweather in November as editor of *Excelsior*, and appoints assistant editor, Dave Williams as the editor" 2nd George M.

This motion/vote was made in order to legitimize President Parson's previous internet vote which some members deemed improper according to our by-laws.

After a lengthy discussion in support of and opposed to the motion, Bob D. suggested

that whomever is elected, serve a one year trial period beginning Mar. 1st. After which time the board will evaluate their performance. Drew moved to amend the motion, 2nd by George D., to include this suggestion. A vote on the motion was a 4 to 4 tie and the president broke the tie voting yes, the motion was passed.

John N. made a motion that "the Stamp Insider continue to be distributed to ESPHS members for 2008 and the cost be paid for by ESPHS", 2nd Heather. George D. made a motion to table, 2nd Drew but these were both withdrawn. A vote was called and the results were 4 to 4 tie with to president voting nay, motion defeated.

It was suggested that notification of this be put in the next Bulletin along with a subscription form for The Insider so that ESPHS members can subscribe if they want to.

The meeting ended at approx 2:30

Respectfully Submitted: George McGowan, Secretary

Trading Post Adlets:

Wanted: Hudson River mail stampless covers; Long island stampless covers; War of 1812 war rates. Keith Bantz, M.D. (631) 775-9493, keithphilately@cs.com

Wanted: Any and all Long Island covers (except Brooklyn), especially Greenport and North Fork towns, Ken Pitt, PO Box 87, Catharpia, VA 20143

My NY RR Depots for your PA RR Depots, still seeking a Chemung, NY Erie RR Depot, S. Fingerhood, 2225 Bryn Mawr Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003

Trade or Buy Canada/US OLD/NEW. Elwyn J. Daisley, 109 E 2nd St., Sheridan, IN 46069-1145

Seeking 18th and 19th Century Dutchess County, particularly Pawling. send scan of contents also for SFL in advance. Drew A. Nicholson, 18 Valley Dr., Pawling, NY 12564 or dan.ddn@comcast.net

Wanted: Advertising covers featuring Indian relic dealers or covers with enclosures discussing American archaeology or relic collecting. NY, PA, OH preferred but other states ok, Stan Raugh, 4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805

Wanted: Adirondack Hotel Covers and ephemera, pre-1920, Art Groten, PO Box 30, Fishkill, NY 12524

Survey Results

In the winter of 2005, approximately 175 surveys were mailed to members. Ninety-six were returned, with a variety of responses. Members had a wide variety of collecting interests listed and most have belonged to the ESPHS for 5 or more years. It was a slight disappointment that only half of our members responded, and many surveys were incomplete, but here are the results;

- °More than half read *Excelsior!* cover to cover, the balance, only what interests them.

- °They wanted more articles on cancels, stampless, downstate, and updates on Kay/Smith...Less upstate and modern postal history.

- °Some expressed an interest in writing for *Excelsior!* A list of those interested will be given to President Parsons and the new editor.

- °Most wanted to continue to receive a print copy of *Excelsior!*, although a few suggested an electronic copy in addition to the print copy.

- °Half reported visiting the website occasionally. Several comments were made about updating its content more often.

- °The Library idea elicited the most comments of any question posed. Those who liked the idea seemed lukewarm about it, while those who opposed it, strongly opposed it. Most thought it would be waste of resources and that the APS Library or Collectors Club Library was sufficient.

- °Of those who do not attend our Annual Meeting, the most common response was...too far to travel, followed by no time and scheduling conflicts. Many said they would attend if there was a show in conjunction with the meeting, and if there was car pooling setup.

- °The exhibiting question was left blank more than any other. Those that did express an interest in exhibiting will have their names passed on to President Parson.

- °There were several comments on the timeliness of *Excelsior!*.

- °Many members wanted the Annual Meeting to alternate locations to give them a chance to attend. Many of our members are aging and travel is not always easy for them.

A "PERFECT STORM" COVER

Glenn Estus

This recently discovered New York Mills (Oneida County) cover is what I call a "perfect storm" cover. At certain times ideal conditions arise to make a situation unique: This cover is such a cover.

What are those conditions? (1) It's a county postmark that is listed in none of the standard county postmark references. (2) It's an arc cancellation, which are seldom seen. (3) It's a red cancel which is nicely applied to the stampless envelope. and (4) IT MAY BE THE EARLIEST KNOWN NEW YORK MILLS since, according to Kay and Smith, the post office was established on December 8, 1832.

The letter is datelined December 30, 1832 and is from a brother to his sister in Auburn with news of the family including their grandfather's illness.

Do you have a PERFECT STORM cover? Why not write a small article about it and sent it to either *The Bulletin* or *Excelsior!* editors?



A reminder: each member
may use ONE FREE
Trading Post Adlet a year
(25 words or less)

THE E.S.P.H.S.
TRADING POST

A reminder: each member
may use ONE FREE
Trading Post Adlet a year
(25 words or less)

Mail your adlet to Glenn Estus (address on page 2) or gestus@esphs.org