

BULLETIN

of The Empire State
Postal History Society

Volume 41 Number 3

December 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SET:
Saturday, February 14, 2 p.m., Clarion Hotel, 3 Watervliet Ave.,
Albany, NY, in conjunction with Cover Mania 11
Saturday, March 7, 2 p.m., VFW Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Ave.,
Cheektowaga, NY, in conjunction with BUFPEX 09

For those who wonder why a Society *Bulletin* dated December 2008 arrives in late January or early February 2009, look no further than myself. I regret, and apologize for, my tardiness, but take solace in the fact that time-sensitive news included in this *Bulletin* would have been omitted if it had been mailed in December.

Looking back, highlights for 2008 include three issues of *Excelsior!* and four *Bulletins*, George DeKornfeld's receipt of the Society's exhibiting award at ROPEX and David Prezepiora's power-point presentation on Buffalo postal history at the fall membership meeting.

2008 "lowlights" include disappointing attendance at the annual and fall meetings, 26 members dropped for non-payment of dues, lack of entries in the deLisle four-page exhibiting competition at the fall meeting, and our July 1, 2008 auction still in limbo at year end.

2008 opened with the appointment of David E. Williams as the new editor of *Excelsior!*, succeeding Drew Nicholson. Drew remains Chair of our Publications Committee and has the responsibility for printing and mailing our periodicals. When he resigned as *Excelsior!* editor in late 2006 our semi-annual journal was behind schedule, and Drew committed to edit it through the September 06 issue.

The March 2006 *Excelsior!* appeared in early 2008; September 2006 is still unpublished. David Williams started with the March 2007 issue and both of the 2007 *Excelsiors* were mailed to the members in 2008, thus accounting for the three issues received by the members last year: March 2006, March 2007 and September 2007.

When he took over as editor, David Williams announced an ambitious schedule; beginning in June 08, and assuming a sufficient quantity of articles, he would prepare *Excelsior!* for publication quarterly until it got back on track with the September 2009 issue published in the month of its date. David has thus far kept with this schedule; in late December he sent the March 2008 *Excelsior!* to Drew for printing and mailing; this issue should be received by the members in January 2009. David plans to have the September 2008 *Excelsior!* sent for printing and mailing in March 2009.

It's imperative for the success of David's publishing schedule that our membership keep supplying him with articles on New York postal history! If he succeeds, it will mean the receipt of four *Excelsiors!* in 2009, not counting the still unpublished September 2006 issue.

On January 7 I received an email from Doug Penwell, Society member-in-charge of updating our *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*, now in its Third Edition (Chlanda & Wilcox, 1984) with a Master Supplement (1999) edited by Doug. The data from both publications has now been combined and entered in Doug's computer, subject to corrections in known data, further updating and possible changes in format.

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 ('10)
 Treasurer: George Dekornfeld ('10)

Directors:

('09): Maris Tirums, Bill Hart, Bob Davison
 ('10): John Nunes, John Cali, Drew Nicholson
 ('11): Frank Braithwaite, Heather Sweeting, David Przepiora

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

Auction Manager & Dealer Representative:

John Nunes
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 Scotia, NY 12302

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ESPHS Bulletin (quarterly)
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Excelsior! (semi-annually)
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 Louisville, KY 40205-2609
 (812) 968-4559
 email: davidewilliams@insightbb.com

HARRY S. TABER, 1915-2008

Harry S. Taber, one of the founders of the Empire State Postal History Society and its first Secretary, died at his home in Sidney Center, NY November 19, 2008. He was 93, having started his life in Herkimer, NY April 3, 1915.

In her article headed "ESPHS Celebrates 40 Years of NY State Postal History Study" in the December 2007 Bulletin, Heather Sweeting credits Harry Taber and her father, Charles Sweeting, with laying the groundwork for the formation of the Society when they sent out surveys in 1966 to NY postal history collectors.

Harry served many years on the Society's Executive Board and contributed articles to the Society journal and Bulletin. His passion in philately was the flag cancel. He was a founding member of the American Flag Cancel Society, now known as the Machine Cancel Society. The post office in Sidney Center, where he lived, was the last office to use a flag cancel.

Harry took an active interest in the Federation of Central New York Philatelic Societies, qualifying as a Federation judge and subsequently judging stamp shows sponsored by Federation member clubs.

Harry is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Naomi, three sons, six grandchildren and by great-grandchildren. Memorials may be sent to the Sidney Center Emergency Squad.

Doug hopes to have the 4th Edition ready for publication in late 2010. He will be attending our annual meeting at ROPEX in May and prepared to discuss his work at that time. For those unable to attend the meeting and have questions, please contact Doug either by email, dougpenwell@mail.com, or land mail, P.O.Box 3525, Glendale, AZ 85311-3525.

Society members who have NY stampless covers need to provide Doug with data on their manuscript towns, including earliest and latest dates for each county in the case of multi-county offices, missing information from previous editions and corrections for errors in those editions. There will never be a better time to do this, and if it isn't done soon, it will be too late!

I am happy to announce that ESPHS Secretary George McGowan has agreed to act as our advertising manager, a position vacant far too long. Thanks, George, and thanks also to David Przepiora, the newest member of our Executive Board, for his excellent power-point presentation on Buffalo postal history at the fall membership meeting. I'm hoping he will be willing to repeat this at the annual meeting.

At the beginning of this message I said my failure to meet the December deadline had at least resulted in items being included in this Bulletin that otherwise would have been omitted. The news from Doug Penwell was one such item, two others are the subject of following articles: an invite by email January 6 to compete in a multi-state postal history exhibiting competition and news by land mail c. January 5 of courses being taught at APS Summer Seminar 2009.

Please read the following articles and also plan to attend one or more Society meetings this year, prepare an exhibit of New York postal history for BUFPEX, ROPEX, StampExpo400, STEPEX or SYRAPEX, write something for Excelsior! and/or the Bulletin, and you'll be a better postal historian/collector at the end of 2009 than you were at the beginning! I hope to see many of you at Cover Mania in Albany February 14 & 15.

Al Parsons
alatholleyrd@aol.com

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED AT 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 annual meeting of the Empire State Postal History Society will be held Saturday, May 16 at 1 p.m. at ROPEX in Rochester, NY. 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: President, two-year term (incumbent: Alan Parsons)
Vice-President, two-year term (incumbent: Dr. Joseph Rowbottom III, retiring)
Three Directors, three-year terms (incumbents: Maris Tirums, Bob Davison and Bill Hart (Hart 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.

ESPHS TO COMPETE FOR SWEETING AWARD IN MULTI-STATE POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITING COMPETITION AT PHILATELIC SHOW 2009

ALL ESPHS MEMBERS CURRENTLY POSSESSING NY POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITS OR THINKING OF PREPARING AN EXHIBIT OF NY POSTAL HISTORY, PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

ESPHS has accepted the invitation of New England's Philatelic Show and the Massachusetts Postal Research Society to participate in a multi-state postal history exhibiting competition with up to nine other state postal history societies at Philatelic Show 2009, Boxborough Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA, May 1-3, 2009.

At least three exhibits (one frame or multi-frame) will be required to participate in the postal history competition. All exhibits will be judged in open competition and receive appropriate show medals. The exhibiting prospectus may be downloaded at www.nefed.org/09_prospectus.pdf.

The Sweeting Award, initiated by ESPHS at ROPEX 2004 in memory of Charles H. Sweeting, its first president, will be presented to the society scoring the most points in the competition. In addition, the host society will sponsor awards for the best multi-frame and single-frame exhibits in the competition, and ESPHS will have its Waterford Small Lismore Clock award for the best New York postal history exhibit in the competition.

Philatelic Show is a WSP show. In addition to ROPEX, other WSP shows hosting the Sweeting Award competition to date have been March Party in Cleveland and PNSE in Valley Forge. At each event the host society has won.

Society members are urged to help "bring home" the Sweeting Award by joining the ESPHS team in the postal history competition at Philatelic Show 2009!

COURSE ON POSTAL HISTORY TAUGHT BY DIANE DeBLOIS AND ROBERT DALTON HARRIS INCLUDED IN 2009 APS SUMMER SEMINAR ON PHILATELY

Two highly-regarded postal historians, residents of upstate New York and both well-known to ESPHS, Diane DeBlois and her husband, Robert Dalton Harris, will be teaching a four-day course entitled "Postal History" as part of the 2009 Summer Seminar on Philately June 21-26 at the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA.

The APS announcement of its 2009 Summer Seminar describes the course as follows: "Postal History, with Diane DeBlois and Robert Dalton Harris, is a new course in United States postal history --- a 'behind-the-scenes' tour of how the mail system actually worked, particularly at times of reform or innovation: the mapping of the system, introduction of the first postage stamp, registry, money order, Rural Free Delivery, Air Mail, etc. Students will work from the evidence backward, a 'hands-on' approach to understanding the markings on mail by using covers and documents from the 1830s to the 1930s. Students are encouraged to bring their own examples, especially the puzzling ones!"

Having taken the course entitled "Cultural Projects in Postal History" taught by Diane and Rob at the 2008 Summer Seminar I can personally attest to their thorough preparation and lively, thought-provoking presentation. Their 2008 course exceeded expectations and I predict the 2009 course will do the same. Unless the course has already filled, I will be there again.

Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823; phone 814-933-3803; fax 814-933-6128; email educate@stamps.org; website: www.stamps.org.

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY BOARD MINUTES NOVEMBER 8, 2008

The Executive Board of the Empire State Postal History Society met 10:00 A.M. Saturday, November 8, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Carrier Circle, Syracuse, prior to the Society's 2008 fall membership meeting. The Board meeting was called to order by President Alan Parsons.

Members in attendance were Alan Parsons, Bill Hart, George McGowan, Drew Nicholson, John Cali, and Bob Davison. A quorum was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A multi-state postal history exhibiting competition for the Sweeting Award will be held May 1-3, 2009 at Philatelic Show in Boxboro, MA. ESPHS has been invited to participate, along with the postal history societies of nine other states, as required by the rules for the Sweeting Award. The Sweeting award scoring will be used to select the winner of the competition.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Society annual meeting and Executive Board meeting held May 17, 2008 at ROPEX were tentatively approved. Because of gaps in the Executive Board meeting minutes, Drew Nicholson recommended we use a digital recorder to assist the Secretary in future meetings.

2008 MEMBERSHIP REPORT: The report, prepared by George McGowan, showed that 72 reminders were sent out, 12 resignations and 33 renewals received. Twenty-six were dropped for non-payment. One death was noted. There are 157 paid members. Information on members has been contained on 3x5" cards. The last published membership list was in 2005. There was a question on what information should be contained on any updated member list.

George McGowan noted that there is an under-utilized member exchange. It was suggested that production of a list include collecting interest and email address. Other recommendations were made toward improving the roster. It was decided to update the members' email addresses and collecting interests with the intent of distributing a new list, and to canvass the members for their preference as to what information about them should appear on the new list.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: Drew Nicholson reported his final issue as editor of *Excelsior!* (Sept. 06) would be in the mail by the end of this year, and complimented the two issues (March 07 and Sept. 07) done by the new editor, David Williams, since taking over earlier this year. He noted there was a continuing need for articles for both *Excelsior!* and the Society's *Bulletin*. George McGowan reported he had spoken with Jack Haefeli and was going to work with him on publication of an Albany County postal history using the format of the book on Oswego County postal history written by Charles and Heather Sweeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Unable to attend the meeting, George Dekornfeld sent updated status reports to be distributed at the meeting. It was noted that the operating deficit in 2008 through October was due to a substantial increase in publishing expenses. The Society's investment in the T.Rowe Price Spectrum Income Fund was discussed with President Parsons indicating he would be contacting Dekornfeld regarding same.

AUCTION: There is no report at present. The auction is in limbo due to the auction manager's computer crash. Hopes are that the auction chair will have a back up should such a thing happen again. Discussion indicated that graphic density in the auction cover illustrations is also a concern.

AWARDS: Our supply of the Waterford clocks used for our exhibiting awards was said to be dwindling. Replacement cost was a concern as it has been difficult to obtain them at a reasonable price. The same is true of the plaque in the shape of New York State given to the winner of the annual deLisle competition. Awards manager John Nunes had advised Parsons it would cost \$150 or more. Parsons reported he would be

able to cut this price in half through the generosity of a skilled woodworker friend who offered to prepare the NYS-shaped wooden base for the cost of the wood alone.

MEETINGS: The next Executive Board meeting, as well as a regional membership meeting, will be held at Covermania in Albany February 21-22, 2009. The annual meeting was tentatively set for ROPEX in Rochester May 15-17. A suggestion was made to include an agenda for meetings in future issues of our Bulletin. Also consider teleconferencing for Executive Board meetings.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Consider letter for automatic reappointment but include at large members. Drew Nicholson to assist on the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Cali, secretary pro tem

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

DO YOU HAVE NEW INFORMATION TO UPDATE *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*, now in its Third Edition (Chlanda & Wilcox, 1984) with a Master Supplement (1999) edited by Doug Penwell?

If you collect manuscript markings from offices that operated in more than one county, Doug Penwell would appreciate any data that can be provided. Please include Month, Date, Year and rate or stamp (franking) information.

Send new information to Doug either by email, dougenpenwell@mail.com, or land mail, P.O.Box 3525, Glendale, AZ 85311-3525.

Secretary McGowan recently received a letter from Henry Scheuer. Henry collects, among others, the 5-cent JFK stamp FDC postmarked May 29, 1964, from all known US towns and cities.

He provided his inventory of NY towns and cities which includes an impressive number of 386 different NY cancels. Henry would like to know the existence of any similar cancel from any other towns or cities.

His address is: Henry Scheuer, PO Bx 535, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159

A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

- **BILL HART'S e-mail address** as published in the March 2006 *Excelsior!* was **incorrect**. The correct address is: <bill.nysph@verizon.net>. I apologize to Bill for this glaring error.
- **The long overdue Sept. 2006 issue of *Excelsior!*** is obviously not enclosed with this *Bulletin*. The last two weeks in June and all of July have found me "up to my ears" in other work (retired? Huh!). However, immediately after Stampshow 2008 (which I will be attending) the final *Excelsior!* under my editorship will be put together and published.
- **Below is an illustration of a new discovery** both in the fields of Empire State postal history and flag cancels. When the view side is taken into consideration, this post card will be an excellent example of the uniting of postal history *and* history! It is only the SECOND example of this cancellation so far uncovered. The full story—in an article outlining the when, the where and how—will appear in the March 2008 issue of *Excelsior!*, which should be published by the end of this year. This is just a teaser!

D.A.N.



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