

ANNUAL MEETING, SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1 P.M., AT ROPEX STAMP SHOW, ROCHESTER, NY

The 2009 Empire State Postal History Society annual meeting will be held at ROPEX 2009, the Rochester Philatelic Association's national stamp show, now located at ESL Sports Centre, 2700 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road, on the campus of Monroe Community College (MCC), south of the City of Rochester.

There is free parking, free admission, and both the building and the show itself are handicap accessible.

ROPEX is a three-day show, May 15-17. Hours are 11-6 on Friday, 10-5 on Saturday, and 10-3 on Sunday.

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 Exit 14 and turn left at the off-ramp light. Continue past Jefferson Road, the shopping center on the right, the Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road 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.

Society members attending ROPEX 09 on Saturday will be able to see David Przepiora's presentation on Buffalo postal history beginning at noon in meeting room 1 (upper level). David will be sharing the room with the Society trading and lunch hour (bring your own lunch and covers) taking place from noon to 1 p.m. From 1 to 2 p.m. the annual meeting will be held in the same room and include a report by Doug Penwell, Society member-in-charge of updating Manuscript Post Offices of New York State.

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.

Information regarding ROPEX 09 can be found at www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html.

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

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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, dougpenwell@mail.com, or land mail, P.O.Box 3525, Glendale, AZ 85311-3525.

As well, Doug and Glenn Estus are the New York State contacts for additions to the upcoming *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. If you have any additions or corrections, please contact either for information about how to send the information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Once again I invite the Society membership to attend ROPEX, upstate New York's major stamp show, and our annual meeting at 1 pm on the second day of the show, to be held in meeting room 1 on the first level above the Show floor.

At noon in the same meeting room Society Board member David Przepiora will be showing his power-point presentation on Buffalo postal history during our traditional trading hour prior to the annual meeting. This is a double treat for NY postal history collectors!

The annual meeting will feature a report by Doug Penwell on his progress with, and hopes for, an all-new updated edition of Manuscript Post Offices of New York State. Doug edited the Master Supplement (1999) to the Third Edition (Chlanda & Wilcox, 1984). The data from both publications has now been combined and entered in Doug's computer along with further updating since publication of the Master Supplement.

Doug needs to hear from Society members who have NY covers with manuscript townmarks and his presence at ROPEX 09 provides an excellent opportunity to give him the data he needs, to wit, the earliest and latest manuscript townmarks for each NY post office (unless already recorded), including, in the case of multi-county post offices, the earliest and latest dates for each county in which the office has been located.

In addition to Penwell, the annual meeting will include financial and program reports, election of officers (President, Vice-President and three Executive Board members at large), and opportunity for feedback and discussion.

As of mid-March, the ROPEX web site listed only one NY postal history exhibit, George DeKornfeld's Hudson marcophily. I will enter a single frame exhibit of 19th century RPOs that impacted the three NY counties I collect, but that still doesn't make a strong showing of NY postal history for a show of this size. There are frames yet to fill; ROPEX needs exhibits. Our members should have more than just two NY postal history exhibits at ROPEX! The exhibit entry form can be filled out and submitted online, www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html.

On the dealer front, the news is better. The ROPEX web site lists at least ten dealers offering postal history, hopefully including NY: Allego, Amberman, Baron, Britannia Enterprises, Christopher/Richard, Cover Connection, Hatton, Swed, Nunes, McCloud and Weisz.

Before I leave this message I want to thank (1) George McGowan for taking the initiative on a survey of our membership to determine extent of interest in a published Society membership list and obtain the information needed for this list. If you haven't filled out and returned the survey received with your 2009 dues notice, please do so a.s.a.p.

(2) Glenn Estus and Doug Penwell for agreeing to act as New York State coordinators for updating the American Stampless Cover Catalog, a project of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. They will need input from every Society member with stampless covers collecting NY postal history by geographic area. They are welcome to use the Bulletin to seek this help; answers to many questions about the project can be found at www.stamplesscovercatalog.com.

I look forward to seeing you at ROPEX and our 2009 annual meeting!!

Al Parsons
Alatholleyrd@aol.com

2009 REGIONAL MEETINGS HELD AT ALBANY & BUFFALO

Ten members were present at a Society regional membership meeting held on Saturday, February 14 in conjunction with Cover Mania in Albany: John Cali, Tim Holmes, Glenn Estus, Maris Tirums, Bill Hart, Larry Laliberte, George DeKornfeld, Elwyn Doubleday and Al Parsons.

Initial discussion centered on updates to two publications important to NY postal history collectors. Doubleday reported on the Classics Society program for updating Vol. 1 of the American Stampless Cover Catalog (ASCC). Since updating would require access to listings in the current ASCC, Parsons offered to send photocopies of these listings to ESPHS members needing them to do updates.

Parsons reported on contacts with Doug Penwell regarding the status of Doug's updating the Society's manuscript book and then wound up the meeting by pointing out numerous exhibiting opportunities for NY postal history collectors in 2009: BUFPEX, MegaEvent, Philatelic Show, ROPEX, Expo400, STEPEX and SYRAPEX.

Four were present at the Buffalo regional meeting held Saturday March 7 in conjunction with BUFPEX 09 in Cheektowaga: David Przepiora, Jack Ericson, Cali and Parsons. There were others who stopped by to say hello and/or take membership applications.

The three Society officers at the meeting (Cali, Przepiora, Parsons) were not acquainted with Ericson; part of the meeting was spent getting acquainted. Ericson collects Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties and combines his interest in postal history with genealogical research. When we discussed the program to update Vol. 1 of the ASCC he agreed to report on the two counties he collects.

Having spent the previous two months in Arizona and unable to attend the Society Board meeting in Albany Feb. 15, Przepiora wanted to be filled in on Society activities since the

Board meeting in November, and this, too, was accomplished at the Buffalo meeting.

Whether the attendance is large or small, there is always something of value to take away from a meeting of postal history collectors.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED AT 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The Nominating Committee Chair for election of officers and Executive Board members-at-large (a/k/a Directors) at the 2009 annual meeting of the Empire State Postal History Society on May 16 at 1 p.m. in Rochester, NY is John A. Cali, 613 W. Fourth St., Fulton, NY 13069-3104, phone 315-592-4441.

Positions open are President and Vice President, each for a two-year term, and three Executive Board members-at-large, each for a three-year term.

Nominations to date:

For President, Alan Parsons (incumbent), Elmira, NY

For Vice President, Carl Blazejewski, Albany, NY (incumbent, Joe Rowbottom, retiring)

For Executive Board members-at-large—

Maris Tirums, Albany, NY (incumbent)

Bob Davison, Camillus, NY (incumbent)

Brian Levy, Seafood, NY (incumbent, Bill 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.

Thanks to a local Albany librarian we can list a site that shows an animated map of the formation of New York State Counties: http://www.familyhistory101.com/maps/ny_cf.html

Erratum: A missing line at the beginning of the 4th paragraph of the bottom article on p. 4 of the December 2008 *Bulletin* should have read: "For information on the 2009 Summer Seminar contact APS Summer Seminar, 100".

2009 BLOUNT POSTAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM TO EXAMINE IMPACT OF INTRODUCTION OF STAMPS ON POSTAL OPERATIONS

The fourth annual Winston M. Blount Postal History Symposium will be held October 30 – November 1, 2009 at the American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, PA. The Symposium is a joint venture of the National Postal Museum and the American Philatelic Research Library and alternates its location between the NPM and the APC.

In describing the subject of this year's Symposium the web site of the National Postal Museum states as follows:

"The introduction of postage stamps in 1840 represented a complete overhaul in the organization and operating principles of the British Post Office. The subsequent rapid introduction of stamps to nearly every country in the world before the end of the 19th century is tangible evidence of the worldwide adoption of similar post office reforms. The 2009 Postal History Symposium will bring together collectors of classic stamps with scholars and public historians of postal reform and post office operations to examine these highly collectable cultural objects through the lens of the post office reforms that gave rise to them."

On page 7 you will find the Call for Papers for the 2009 Blount Postal History Symposium, downloaded from the NPM web site. The schedule for the three-day event beginning October 30, much of it open to the public, will be announced in either the June or September Bulletin.

Completed proposals should be e-mailed to NPMResearchChair@si.edu. Notification of accepted papers will be issued in mid July. Conference papers will be posted on the National Postal Museum Website and will be considered for possible publication. Conference co-chairs are David L. Straight, Virginia L. Horn, and Thomas Lera.

A SHAMELESS PROMOTION

Your editor recently became the editor of the *Vermont Philatelist*, the quarterly publication of the Vermont Philatelic Society. If you would like to receive a pdf of my first issue, just send me an e-mail at gestus@vermontps.org. If you don't have computer access and would like to receive a hard copy send me 76c in postage at PO Box 451, Westport, NY 12993.

Glenn Estus

Call for Papers

The Fourth Annual Postal History Symposium

October 30 - November 1, 2009

American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania

Call for Papers Deadline -- July 1, 2009

Sponsored by

American Philatelic Society, American Philatelic Research Library
Smithsonian National Postal Museum

Post Office Reform

The introduction of postage stamps in 1840 represented a complete overhaul in the organization and operating principles of the British Post Office. The subsequent rapid introduction of stamps to nearly every country in the world before the end of the 19th century is tangible evidence of the worldwide adoption of similar post office reforms. The 2009 Postal History Symposium will bring together collectors of classic stamps with scholars and public historians of postal reform and post office operations to examine these highly collectable cultural objects through the lens of the post office reforms that gave rise to them.

The Symposium will be held in conjunction with U.S. Classics 2009, the national philatelic exhibition hosted by the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society. Panels will be interspersed with opportunities to view award-winning exhibitions of classic stamps and postal history. On Friday evening, October 30, 2009 there will be a reception and the keynote address will be delivered by Richard John, professor of history and adjunct professor of communication at the University of Illinois, Chicago. His publications include *Spreading the News: The American Postal System from Franklin to Morse*. The U.S. Philatelic Classics Society's banquet for Classic 2009 will be on Saturday evening.

Located 15 miles from State College, Pennsylvania, the American Philatelic Center is home to the 40,000 member American Philatelic Society, the largest stamp collecting organization in the nation, and the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) dedicated to supporting and advancing postal and philatelic scholarship.

Papers

Proposals for symposium papers may be submitted either as individual papers or in panels. Possible themes for papers include - examination of the reform impetus behind these revolutionary postal reforms; the economic impact of post office reform; the effect of reform on letter writing and correspondence patterns; post office reform as related to the telegraph and private express companies; how reform changed the method of payment for conveyance of mail from the recipient paying the fee, to the sender prepaying in the form of a postage stamp; transportation of the mail by private carriers replaced by the government postal system; cancellations were developed to prevent the reuse of stamps; categories of types of mail with varying fee structures; and biographical studies. Papers outside the post office reform theme will be considered.

Deadline for proposals - July 1, 2009

Proposals should be no more than one page and be accompanied by a one-page curriculum vita with contact information (e-mail, phone, and address).

Minutes ESPHS Executive Board Meeting 2/15/09

Present: Alan Parsons, Bob Davison, Drew Nicholson, John Cali, George DeKornfeld, Heather Sweeting, John Nunes.

Alan Parsons called the meeting to order and stated that for records keeping purposes he would be using a digital recorder to tape the meeting.

A motion was made by Alan Parsons to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Moved by Drew Nicholson and seconded by Heather Sweeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

George DeKornfeld gave the secretary's report stating that renewals were coming in along with two member resignations. No other changes were noted since the September meeting. Drew Nicholson stated he is coding Excelsior mailing labels to correspond to member renewals.

Discussion took place regarding the Frank Braithwaite email asking the board to consider electronic voting by board members in absentia. Alan Parsons stated he was not opposed to the idea and suggested that Braithwaite draw up a proposal for the policy. Pros and Cons of the idea were discussed.

Pros – Members who ill or unable to travel could still participate. Inclement weather issues, family obligations, etc that sometimes prevent members attending would still allow them to vote on issues.

Cons – Less members at meetings, lack of face to face discussion and interaction on issues. John Cali suggested holding meetings that were not in conjunction with a show event as we once did in Canastota, as dealers and members that work for dealers sometimes have difficulty leaving the floor to attend meetings.

It was suggested/discussed that a policy be established in proviso so that under certain circumstances electronic voting could be used. The bylaws for the Annual Meeting provide for proxy voting. Phone or internet voting could be more useful than voting in absentia by proxy.

After much discussion a motion was made by Alan Parsons to table the establishment of the policy for now, but to have Braithwaite develop a possible proviso. DeKornfeld and Cali moved and seconded the motion. All were in favor of tabling the motion. It was noted that the proposed policy could be emailed to the board for review and mailed to those lacking internet access.

The treasurer's report was given by George DeKornfeld. A discussion took place

regarding the maturation of the club CD's and reinvesting the money when they mature. Bob Davison suggested adding a line entry on the budget table that indicated the clubs total income and loss for the year.

The APS pledge of \$1000 was discussed and it was felt that our commitment to the APS should continue to be honored. Motion was made to accept the budget by DeKornfeld. Nicholson and John Cali moved and seconded the motion which was unanimously accepted.

Publications report: Alan Parsons stated that the *Excelsior!* header should be changed to reflect that Drew Nicholson is the Publication Chair of the ESPHS and not the publisher of the *Excelsior!*. The ESPHS is the publisher. Also discussed was the web site which needs updating. G. Estus has expressed that he would like to step down from the position of Webmaster if a replacement can be found. Motion was made by Nicholson and seconded by DeKornfeld to contact member Rick Erat and see if he was interested in taking over the position. A second motion was made by Alan Parsons that if Rick Erat accepted the position and took over the site that he be allowed to migrate the site to a host /place of his choice if so desired. Motion was seconded by Drew Nicholson. Both motions were unanimously accepted.

Auction Report: John Nunes stated that because of the failure of his hard drive he lost all of the previous auction bids. The fairest thing to do was to simply run that auction again allowing bidders to rebid. Monies showed in the budget for last year really reflect the earnings from the 2007 auction. There is no 2008 income reported because of the loss of data. *(ed note: good computer practice dictates that you don't really have a computer file unless you have **at least 2 copies** of the file--one in a location separate from your computer.)*

Awards: Alan Parsons said the latest Ken De Lisle Award would be delivered to John Lange. He found a place that would make the awards for \$50. John Nunes reported that we still have three more Lismore Waterford clocks to award. The society need to purchase one more to cover all of this year.

Motion was made by Alan Parsons to hold the annual meeting at Ropex. Nicholson and DeKornfeld so moved. All were in favor. John Nunes offered to host the ESPHS table next to his booth if the club wanted that and if it was possible.

Motion was made to have the society participate in the EXPO 400 in September. Nicholson and DeKornfeld moved and seconded the motion. All voted in favor except for John Cali who abstained.

Drew Nicholson made a motion that the club not participate in the Pittsburgh APS show in August.

John Nunes suggested having an ESPHS table next to his booth if show organizers would allow that. Drew tabled his motion until Nunes reports if this is possible. Motion seconded by George Dekornfeld and all voted in favor.

Nominating report: John Cali reported receiving nominations for Carl Blazejewski, Vice President, Alan Parsons for President, and Directors Maris Tirums and Bob Davison. Bill Hart's seat is vacant. It was suggest that Cali develop a form letter that could be published in *Excelsior* and the *Bulletin* so that members could send in their nominations. The report was accepted unanimously.

A final motion was made by Drew Nicholson and seconded by Dekornfeld to table agenda items 13-17 until the next meeting. All voted in favor.

Heather Sweeting (Secretary pro tem)

Postcard Collections wanted....any quantity, any subject, Also any postal history of Ulster County (NY). E-mail or call Nancy Foutz, nfoutz@earthlink.net, (845) 687-0175

Solo usages of ANY 13c stamp (1902-1980) Benjamin Harrison on cover. Long Island postal history. Frank Braithwaite, 56 Morewood Dr. Smithtown, NY 11787 fbraith@optonline.net

Wanted: Natural History related philately. Example: Advertising covers for Indian relic / fossil / mineral dealers pre-1970. Museum correspondence. Write first: Stan Raugh, 4217 8th Avenue, Temple, PA 19560-1805

WANTED: SARATOGA COUNTY, NY

Better grade stampless covers wanted for exhibition purposes from these towns:

Ballston, Ballston Centre, Ballston Spa, Ballston Springs, Barkersville, Batchellerville, Bemus Heights, Birchton, Burnt Hills, Charlton, Clifton Park, Concord, Conklingville, Corinth, Coveville, Crescent, Day, Deans Corners, Dry Dock, Dunning Street, East Day, East Galway, East Line, Edgecombs Corner, Edinburgh, Elnora, Fortville, Galway, Gansevoort, Grangerville, Greenfield, Grooms Corners, Hadley, Hagedorns Mills, Half Moon, Jonesville, Ketchums Corners, Malta, Maltaville, Mechanicsville, Middle Grove, Milton Center, Moreau, Mosherville, North Galway, North Greenfield, Northumberland, Pope's Corners, Porters Corners, Providence, Quaker Springs, Rexford Flats, Round Lake, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs, Schuylersville, South Ballston, South Galway, South Glens Falls, South Greenfield, Stillwater, Victory Mills, Vishcers Ferry, Waterford, Wayville, West Charlton, West Day, West Greenfield, West Milton, West Providence, Wilton

Send on approval or a photocopy with price to:

John A. Lange Jr.
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Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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