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Greetings from Milwaukee!

I am writing on behalf of the Milwaukee Philatelic Society, Inc. to invite your Society to participate in a Midwest multi-state postal history exhibiting competition to be held next Fall at Milcopex 2005. Milcopex 2005, Wisconsin's own national level stamp exposition, will be held at the Baton Rouge ballroom of the Four Points by Sheraton Milwaukee Airport Hotel on September 16-18, 2005.

This competition, modeled after one originating at Ropex 2004 in Rochester, NY, involving several state postal history societies from the Northeastern U.S., is intended to encourage postal history exhibiting by members of state postal history societies in the Midwest. Other than the usual frame fees for individual exhibitors, there is no cost to your society for participating in the Midwest state postal history society competition.

We at Milcopex 2005 are inviting the postal history societies from North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin to compete for a special society award with points based on medal level and participation by society members. Absent objection from the participating societies, we intend to use the same point system developed for Ropex 2004, a copy of which is enclosed. Of course, each exhibitor would be competing for his or her own awards, as well as contributing to their society's point total.

As an APS World Series of Philately show, the individual MILCOPEX Grand Award winner is eligible for the annual "Champion of Champions" competition at Stampshow.

Although we would love to have you and your members attend in person, there is no requirement that either the participating societies or individual exhibitors do so. The exhibitor application, which should be available by mid-January on our website at www.MilwaukeePhilatelic.org or directly from me, will permit the exhibitor to identify society memberships to insure proper credit to the society.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience regarding this invitation so we can include all participating societies in the publicity. If you have any questions, please let me know.

We look forward to seeing you at Milcopex!

Robert Henak
Exhibit Chairman
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**SCORING SYSTEM AND RULES APPROVED BY PARTICIPATING SOCIETIES AND
USED AT ROPEX 2004 FOR MULTI-STATE POSTAL HISTORY EXHIBITING
COMPETITION**

Points for Medal Levels:

Platinum - 12

Gold – 10

Vermeil – 8

Silver – 6

Silver-bronze –4

Bronze – 2

Bonus points for Grand – 4; Reserve Grand – 3; best in multistate multi-frame

p.h.competition (unless already receiving Grand or Reserve Grand) – 3; best in multistate single frame p.h. competition - 2

One bonus point to be added to the medal level points if at least 80% of the exhibit relates solely to the state of the exhibitor's participating postal history society.

Points for Participation:

Largest number of exhibitors – 10

Largest number of multi-frame exhibits -- 5

Largest number of single-frame exhibits -- 5

Largest number of exhibits of postal history of a single state -- 10

Rules of Competition:

Only exhibits by Society members will be eligible to participate in the competition.

Exhibitors belonging to more than one participating State Postal History Society may exhibit postal history from more than one state and have the exhibit and exhibitor's participation counted for each Postal History Society to which the exhibitor belongs.

Exhibits of U.S. postal history not specific to a single state are eligible to compete as long as the exhibitor belongs to one of the Societies invited to compete. In order to be eligible for the best in multistate postal history exhibiting awards (multi-frame and single frame), at least 80% of the exhibit must relate solely to the state of the exhibitor's participating postal history society.

State-specific illustrated mail exhibits, as well as display class postal history exhibits, by participating society members are eligible for the competition.

Previous multistate postal history single and multi-frame competition winning exhibits will not be eligible for the same award for five years, but can still compete in the interim and contribute to the point scoring for their Societies.

Scoring will be done by a panel consisting of one representative from each participating society.

“Postal history” will be given a broad definition, but will not include exhibits generally classified as traditional, thematic, postal stationery, revenue, Cinderella, aerophilatelic or astrophilatelic. Issues as to an exhibit being “postal history” for purposes of the competition will be resolved by the scoring panel.

Societies participating at ROPEX '04: ME, MA, VT, OH, NJ, NY