

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 46 Number 3

December 2013

COMING EVENT: BUFFPEX 2014

Buffalo's Oldest & Largest Philatelic Festival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday March 1

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday March 2

VFW Leonard Post 6251, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, NY

President's Message

Members, our board had a good meeting at STEPEX on Saturday October 19. It was a long meeting with much discussion and accomplishment. Two issues in particular were discussed at length.

The main event was commitment to create an expanded and useful web site. We agreed to establish a budget of \$5,000.00 for its creation. The new site will be much more than we presently have and will give us a platform to improve as needed. We are planning on a public and members only site. The public portion will be designed to attract new members and the member's site will contain a library for your use. Our web master Dr. Charles DiComo is working on this project.

The other discussion was the site of our annual meeting next year. We would have liked to move it further downstate, but a lack of show venues outside NYC brought us to Albany for 2014.

David Przepiora



Attending the Board meeting October 19th in Big Flats were (L to R) Treasurer George deKornfeld, Publications Chairman Drew Nicholson, President David Przepior, *BULLETIN* Editor & Auction Manager Bob Bramwell, Director Al Parsons, Director John Cali (who magically produced this photo)

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Secretary's Membership Report

Welcomed Into Membership: Douglas Weisz
 Thomas J. O'Hagan
Honorary Life Membership: Al Parsons

Life Memberships are Available
For Details, Contact Membership Secretary George McGowan

STEPEX 2013 PALMARES

STEPEX 2013 was a full-featured show, with a room full of dealers and 16 exhibits filling frames. The following Society members' exhibits garnered awards as follows:

Gold and Grand Award

George deKornfeld, *Marcophily of Hudson, New York 1793-1919*

Gold, with Felicitations of the Jury

Ada Prill, *What's a Telephone Good For?*

Robert Bramwell, *The Schenectady Post Office Under Its Earliest Postmasters*

Gold

Ada Prill, *Uh-Oh! Mistakes in U.S. Auxiliary Markings*

Ada Prill, *Star Cancels of Delaware County, New York*

Alan Parsons, *19th Century Railroad Postal Markings Related to Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung & Tioga Counties, NY*

George deKornfeld, *Making Whitetail Venison Sausage*

Robert Bramwell, *The Simplex Hand Stamped Postal Markings of Schenectady, NY, 1797 to 1875*

Silver

Donald R. Dolan, Jr., *The Imperial Eagles of Mexico, 1864-1866*

DATA SOLICITED FOR MANUSCRIPT POSTMARKS

Data is still being solicited for the upcoming Fourth Edition of *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*. As editor I can use new towns in addition to newly recognized year, date, rate and stamp information missing from previous editions.

Please look over your covers and check them against the old lists. This is now the time for input into the format of the book. Plans are to retain most of the introduction section from the 1999 Master Supplement, but your suggestions are welcome.

This is your book! It is meant as a reference for all ISPHS members. How about a county cross-reference list? How about publishing this book in searchable, digital form? What information would you like to see included?

Please contact the editor at the email address below. Thank you again for all the reports received to date. Publication is currently slated for mid-2014.

Doug Penwell (dougpenwell@mail.com)

BULLETIN Editor's note: Doug's suggestion to consider publishing 4th Edition of Manuscript Post Offices as a searchable PDF in the ESPHS website esphs.us as an "instantly accessible" book is a topic being considered by webmaster Dr. Charles DiComo. Members' interest (pro or con) in this innovation and other matters concerning the web site should be communicated to President David Przepiora or me, Bob Bramwell, at your earliest opportunity.

MONEY ORDER BUSINESS STAMPS

By George McGowan

From time to time we come across a cover with the stamp canceled with a Money Order Business (M.O.B.) stamp, as shown in Figure 1. One can speculate about why this “misuse” would have occurred, but first let us review the proper use of these stamps.

The following is taken with thanks from *Chicago Postal Markings and Postal History* by Leonard Piszkiwicz: The United States Postal Money Order System was established by Act of Congress on May 17th, 1864. The service went into operation on Nov. 1st, 1864 with 140 post offices offering Postal Money Orders. Money Orders were intended to facilitate sending small amounts through the mails, and initially money orders could be purchased to transmit amounts between one dollar and thirty dollars. These limits were increased from time to time; at the beginning of the 20th century the limit was \$100.

Postal Money Orders could be purchased or redeemed at designated post offices, (Money Order Offices). When a Money Order was purchased, an Advice form was filled out (see Figure 2), and sent by the postmaster to the post office at which the Money Order was to be redeemed. A specific Official Business envelope was provided by the Post Office Department for this purpose (see Figure 3). The Money Order was compared to the Advice on redemption to insure that the Money Order was genuine and legitimately presented for payment. Both the Money Order and the Advice were to be stamped with a special M.O.B. Stamp showing the issuing office and the date issued.



Fig. 1 A post card mailed at Newcomb, N.Y. on Aug. 12, 1922. The 1¢ stamp was inexplicably canceled with a MOB stamp.



Fig. 2 A Postal Money Order Advice issued at Gilbertsville, NY and directed to Hartwick, NY and “validated” with the issuer’s Money Order Business stamp.

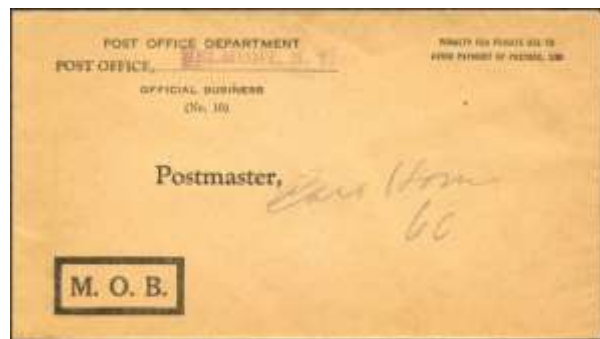


Fig. 3 Special envelope for transmitting Money Order Advice forms from the issuing to the redeeming Money Order Office.

Use of the M.O.B. stamp was specified in the *Postal Laws and Regulations*, and the 1913 edition provides a succinct summary of permitted and prohibited usages:

§1140. The special dating stamp, known as the M.O.B. stamp, shall be used for stamping money order supplies, but shall not be used in postmarking letters.

This instruction concerning use of the M.O.B. stamp was repeated through the mid-1940's but was not mentioned after the 1946 *PL&R*.

Therefore, knowing that these stamps were not to be used on regular mail, what might be the circumstances to explain their existence on the same? One explanation is that the stamp, for whatever reason, was inadvertently picked up. Another circumstance is the use of the M.O.B. stamp as a philatelic favor. Another explanation could be that a postal clerk not familiar with the relevant postal regulations misused the M.O.B. stamp. One could even speculate that the stamp was used temporarily to replace a lost or damaged postal hand stamp intended for its own special purpose.

Fig 4 MOB stamp used as a philatelic favor at the Cochection Center, NY P.O.



RETURN IN FIVE DAYS TO
BUFFALO SPECIALTY COMPANY
BUFFALO, N. Y.



Fig. 5 MOB stamp used as a Receiver at the Vail Mills, NY P.O.?

Page No. _____ **REGISTRY DISPATCH RECEIPT CARD** Form 3830
Rev. 12-8-39

CAUTION—Dispatching office must draw a dispatch list across any blank space after last entry. See Sec. 1122, P. L. & R., 1913

REGISTERS	*Original Reg. No. or Jacket or Lock No.	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	Postmark of Office or R. P. O. dispatching the registered mail.
	359	Warrensville, VT	UPPER JAY, N. Y. DEC 20 1941

*Write "L" before number if piece is Registered Letter or "M" if article value.

RECEIVED *One* *77. Country* *J.P.*
Dispatching office of check must note on this card any article contained in box condition; and correct office thereon, if any, as prescribed by Sec. 1114, P. L. & R., 1913.

Fig. 6 MOB stamp used on a Registry Dispatch Receipt Card (Form 3830) at the Upper Jay, NY P.O.



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

APS UNIT 28

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AUXILIARY MARKINGS GALORE

By David Williams

This New York City cover represents another of my collecting areas — 1902 second Bureau postal history. For collectors of auxiliary markings it is a bonanza as well. The ten cents postage, representing two cents first class postage plus eight cents registry fee, is paid with five copies of Scott No. 319.



The registered letter was mailed on August 3, 1904. It bears a pink REGISTERED marking from Station P, New York, Post Office, as well as the typical mute Station P double oval killers and the five digit registration number. There are actually two registration numbers, but more about that later. The cover also displays the common NEW YORK, N.Y. / 8 - 3 / 1904 / REG'Y. DIV. double oval on the rear as well as a duplicate of the front Station P boxed marking.

There is no indication when the first attempt at delivery was made, but one can clearly see the 2ND NOTICE / AUG 9, 1904. Also, on the middle left is seen a manuscript *Not found* along with a set of initials that presumably were those of the carrier on this route. A red UNCLAIMED. was applied to the cover along with the red pointing finger which reads Return / to Writer along with N.Y.P.O. REG. DIV. on the cuff.

What really caught my attention was the second registration number. I have no way of knowing which of the two was applied at the original mailing. However, it becomes clear why the second one was applied when we reexamine the back of the letter where we find another boxed Station P registered marking, but this one bearing the date of September 5, 1904.

Evidently the letter was returned to the sender, The New York Produce Exchange, Safe Deposit & Storage Company on this date. The postal clerk, in accordance with the 1902 PL&R, Section 871, paragraphs 1 and 2, reregistered the letter and applied a new registration number. However, he missed one rule of the PL&R, in that the letter was supposed to be marked with the words Reregistered after delivery or lack of delivery in the case of returned mail. ■