

# *BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society*

Volume 46 Number 4

March 2014

## **COMING EVENTS:**

**April 5 - 6**

**Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectible Show**

**Hours: Saturday, 10am to 5:30pm; Sunday 10am to 4:30pm**

**For information: Ed Bailey, 315•452•0593**

**April 20**

**Capital District 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Stamp & Collectibles Show**

**Troy Elks Lodge, 134 N. Greenbush Road**

**Hours: 10am to 4pm**

**For information: George McGowan: 518•479•4396**

**May 16 – 18**

**ROPEX 2014 – The Rochester National Stamp Exhibition**

**An APS “World Series of Philately” Event**

**Hours: Friday, 11am to 6pm; Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sunday 10am to 3pm**

**Location: Main Street Armory, 900 East Main Street, Rochester**

**Daily Admission: Adults \$3; Youth under 18 Free**

**July 26 – 27**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northeast Postal History & Ephemera Show**

**(See Notice on Page 3)**

## **President’s Message**

Fellow members, it has been a cold one the last three months, so I tried to escape some of it down south but they, too, were colder than normal. While away I had problems accessing my e-mail, so I am trying to catch up.

Well, we can look forward to some shows coming up to exhibit, examine exhibits, meet with fellow collectors and stimulate the economy by purchasing new material. The show in Rochester, ROPEX, will allow us to get together on Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Then we will have our annual meeting in Albany at the Northeast Postal History Show again on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Hope some of you can make it.

*David Przepiora*

*Editor’s Note: Please find the annual Dues Notice in this package and, as appropriate, send your payment promptly to Treasurer George Dekornfeld, 1109 Route 8A, Stop 2, Millerton, NY 12546*

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**Secretary's Membership Report**

No Activity

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



3RD ANNUAL

**NORTHEAST  
POSTAL HISTORY  
& EPHEMERA SHOW**

ALSO FEATURING STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

**JULY 26 & 27, 2014**

SATURDAY: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM • SUNDAY: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

AT THE  
Polish Community Center,  
225 Washington Ave Ext,  
ALBANY, NY 12205  
( [www.albanyppcc.com](http://www.albanyppcc.com) )

*As in the past, there will be nationally known speakers on the subject of Postal History.*

SHOW COMMITTEE: Tom Auletta, Elwyn & Anne Doubleday, Robert Dalton Harris & Diane DeBlois, George McGowan

INFORMATION: George McGowan [geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com](mailto:geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com) • SHOW SITE: [www.nphes.com](http://www.nphes.com)

Paid Advertisement

**PRICES REALIZED, AUCTION #7***(Closed Feb. 18 Due to Winter Weather)*

Our recently completed auction was supported by eight Consignors and nine Bidders; my thanks to all of them – including those bidders who were a bit shy of success. Here are the Prices Realized:

Lot 5	\$24.00	Lot 28	\$18.50
Lot 6	\$ 4.00	Lot 32	\$16.00
Lot 8	\$ 6.00	Lot 41	\$ 5.00
Lot 19	\$55.00	Lot 42	\$17.00
Lot 20	\$ 7.50	Lot 43	\$20.00
Lot 22	\$62.50	Lot 46	\$13.00
Lot 24	\$ 7.00	Lot 47	\$13.50
Lot 25	\$36.00	Lot 48	\$10.00

In this mailing you will find the Consignment Sheet for Auction #8. I hope each of you will spend a few minutes sorting through your New York State postal history to find those few *really nice covers* that “don’t fit” your current collecting interests. Read and fill out the Consignment Sheet, then send your consignment to me. ESPHS auctions are low-key mail sales, but they are special because there is *no Buyer’s Premium* and the Consignor *gets 100% of the Price Realized*. I do this for the fun of it, and so should you.

*Bob Bramwell*

## PITNEY-BOWES and “MAILOMAT”

By George McGowan

### Acknowledgement:

All data contained herein is taken from *Mailed via “MAILOMAT”*, by Douglas A. Kelsey, 1995, published by The Meter Stamp Society. Keep in mind that since its publication, new data may have surfaced.

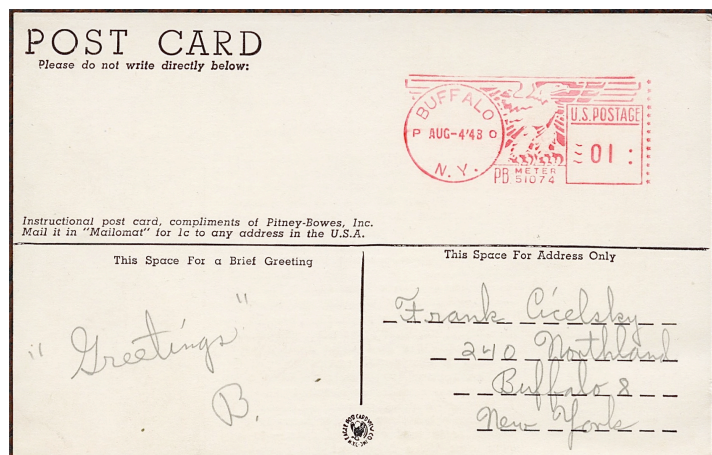
In the introduction to his book, Doug Kelsey writes “... the term Mailomat, copyrighted by Pitney-Bowes, Inc., refers to a self-service, coin-operated, public access, automated post office. Manufactured by Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Company with U.S. Post Office Department authorization, the Mailomat was a postage meter and U.S. mail box that allowed patrons to purchase postage, frank a letter, and deposit the letter in the mail, all in one operation. The Mailomat offered postal service at any time, day or night, and in places most convenient for customers: hotels, department stores, railway terminals, and other public places – even post office lobbies.”

Postage meters had been in use among business mailers since 1920 with growing positive popularity. Introduction of the Mailomat in 1939 was the first time a meter was made available for use by the general public. Mailomat installations remained in service until 1983, when the last was removed. The Mailomat was the most successful self-service postal station ever used in the United States.

To mail a letter or card in the Mailomat a customer deposited coins, dialed the desired postage value, and inserted the item. The machine automatically imprinted a postmark with indicia and deposited the item in a self-contained mail receptacle where it awaited pickup by a postal worker. The machine received the item from the customer, its deposit into the mail guaranteed.

There were one hundred fifty-five Mailomats placed in service at 235 locations in 68 cities in 28 states, as well as the District of Columbia and in Ontario, Canada. Although Mailomats were sometimes moved, each kept its own identity through its meter number. An extreme example is Mailomat #51102, which was used in New York City, Kansas City, Kansas, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Missouri, Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia. We know this because the postmark changed each time this Mailomat was relocated.

**Figure 1. Meter #51074 used in Mailing a post card from Buffalo on August 4, 1948.**





**Table A. Mailomats Used in New York State**

<u>Meter #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>First Day</u>
100	New York City	Specimen
101	New York City	Specimen
51001	New York City	5/17/1939
51002	New York City	
51003	New York City	11/28/1939
51004	New York City	12/4/1939
51005	New York City	1/11/1940
51006	New York City	1/11/1940
51008	New York City	2/3/1941
51009	New York City	5/15/1940
51010	New York City	
51011	New York City	8/13/1940
51013	New York City	8/16/1940
51019	New York City	
51020	New York City	9/5/1940
51022	New York City	8/16/1940
51026	New York City	7/25/1941
51031	New York City	
51035	New York City	5/8/1942
51036	Brooklyn	
51042	New York City	9/3/1947
51044	New York City	8/25/1947
ditto	Bronx	
51045	New York City	10/1/1947
51049	New York City	9/29/1947
51051	New York City	10/27/1947
51053	New York City	10/27/1947
51064	Syracuse	
51066	Rochester	5/20/1948
ditto	Niagara Falls	
51074	Buffalo	6/24/1948
51075	New York City	
51088	Buffalo	6/28/1948
51099	New York City	
51100	Syracuse	
51101	New York City	11/9/1948
51102	New York City	10/27/1948
51105	Syracuse	8/5/1948
51107	Rochester	9/2/1948
51116	New York City	
51118	Brooklyn	8/4/1952
51120	New York City	
51136	Rochester	6/26/1956
51143	Albany	11/16/1955
51148	New York City	10/31/1950
51164	Rochester	
51168	Brooklyn	4/29/1963

Missing dates mean the machine was first put in service in another state.

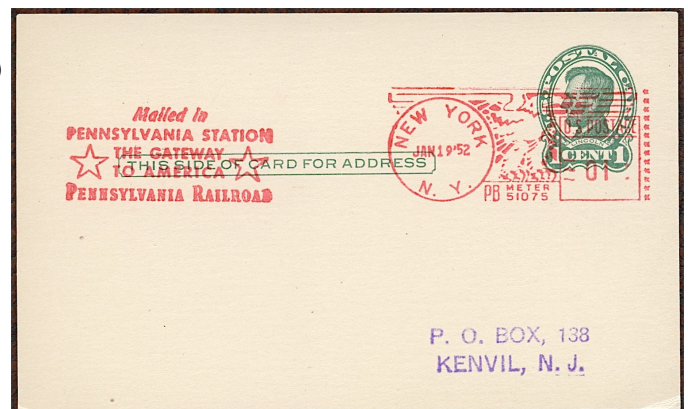
In the same way that other postmarking devices of the period added slogans to the design of their machines, Pitney-Bowes incorporated slogans into Mailomat imprints. There were ninety-one different slogans in all, with two varieties. Not all machines used slogans, and some slogans were used for very short periods of time – making this a challenging aspect for meter marking collectors.

Kelsey assigned a number to each different slogan design. The 32 slogan designs used on mail originating in New York State – all on machines located in New York City – are listed in Table B. Notice that, unlike most slogans of the period, these relate to and promote businesses, primarily railroads.

**Table B. Mailomat Slogans**

Design #	Slogan	Meter #
11	37 <sup>th</sup> National Business Show	51008
13	Defense Exposition	51022
14	National Business Show	51006
15	National Business Show	51049
16	National Business Show	51102
17	World Trade Fair	51099 (used only on Apr 12, 1960)
19	Buy US War Bonds	51002, 51020, 51035
20	Back The Attack	51002, 51035
21	PRR Worlds Fair	51006, 51009, 51011, 51022
22	PRR, Route of ...	51022, 51003, 51010
23	PRR on Duty	51003, 51031
24	PRR on Duty (redrawn)	51031, 51075
25	NYCRR Empire State Express	51026, 51006
25A	The above Slogan, inverted	51006
26	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Limited	51026
27	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Limited – Chicago	51006
28	Grand Central Station	51006, 51003
29	The Pacemaker	51042, 51120
29A	The above, enlarged	51003, 51120
30	NYCRR Private Room	51120
31	PRR Gateway	51031, 51075
32	New Haven RR	51026, 51003, 51006, 51026, 51042, 51120
33	New Haven RR Logo	51120
34	Salmon Tower	51020
35	Salmon Tower (condensed)	51020
39	Macy's	51003, 51002, 51006, 51009, 51011
40	McCreery	51004
43	Edwards & Son	51105 (Syracuse)
49	Edwards & Son	51107 (Rochester)
57	Include Postal Zone	51011, 51002, 51053, 51148
61	Mail by Air	51006
65	Mail Your Christmas	51011, 51035

**Figure 2. Slogan 31 used on meter #51075, prepared by a collector in New York City.**



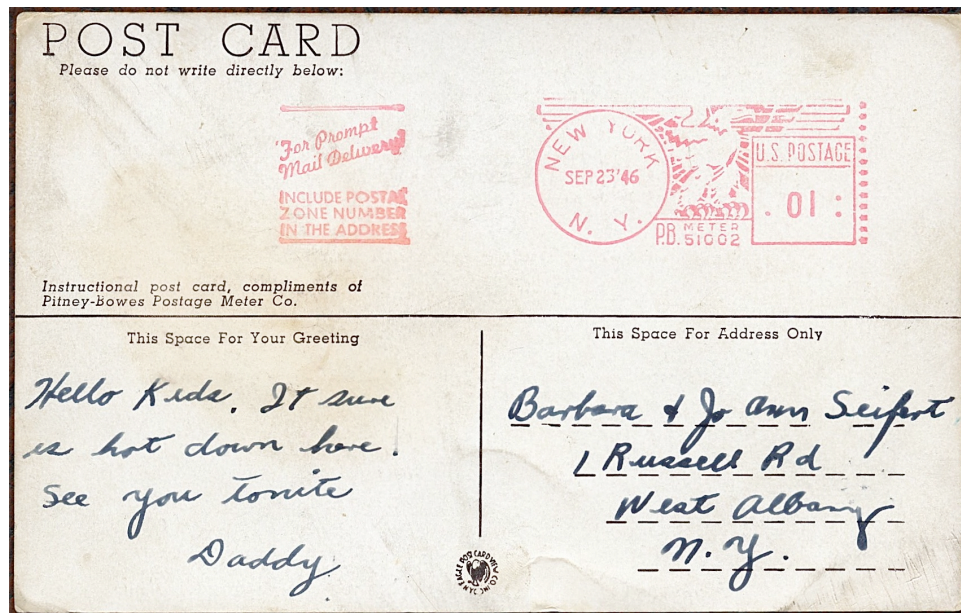


Figure 3. Slogan 57 on a Pitney-Bowes “instructional” card posted through Mailomat on September 23, 1946. The greeting added at left makes it clear that Daddy knew the post card would be delivered that afternoon in West Albany, before he arrived.

### Mailomat Publicity Cards

An important source of information about the Mailomat was the publicity cards produced by Pitney-Bowes to inform customers in the operation of the machines. These cards were of the post card size and style, and were also mailable with space for a short message and an address. Figure 5 shows the most popular of these cards, of which there were four varieties of design.

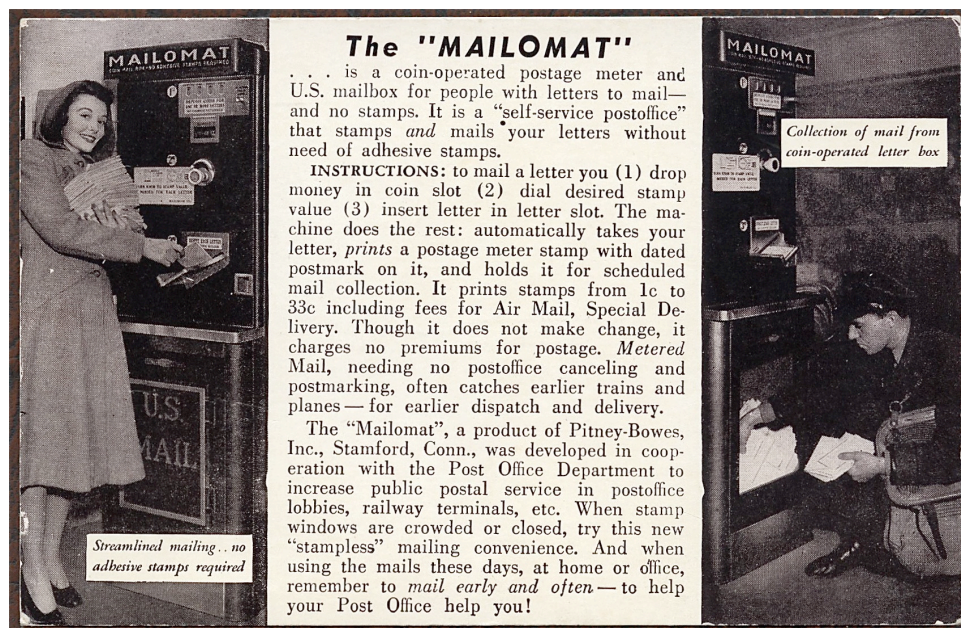


Figure 5. Mailomat lasted for 47 years, and was the most successful coin-operated self-service, public access post office ever used. New York had the largest number of machines, with Ohio and Washington, D.C. coming in a distant second place.





## EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

### APS UNIT 28

[www.esphs.us](http://www.esphs.us)

Meets twice annually

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## MCKINLEY'S SUMMER WHITE HOUSE

Washington, D.C., can be very hot and humid in the summer. Before air conditioning, many of the Washington elite would escape to a cooler and dryer climate in the summer. In 1897 and 1899, President William McKinley found refuge in northern New York at the Hotel Champlain, built on a bluff overlooking Lake Champlain just south of Plattsburgh. The Library of Congress has a photograph of McKinley with the 26th US Volunteer Infantry on the hotel's lawn (above right).

Even though he was on *vacation*, the affairs of state still needed attention. An 1897 cover, possibly from McKinley himself, to the Acting Secretary of State in Washington, D.C., is post-marked with a double circle "HOTEL CHAMPLAIN / Clinton Co., N.Y." date stamp (top left). I assume there is no "FREE" marking because the corner card contains the word "OFFICIAL."

Alvey Adey was a career diplomat who was Acting Secretary of State while Secretary of State John Sherman was in ill health. Adey was second Assistant Secretary of State from 1886–1924.

The hotel was built in 1889 and 1890 by the Delaware & Hudson Railroad Company as a summer resort. The three-story, 400-guest hotel sat high above Lake Champlain on an overlook called Bluff Point. It was served by both the D & H and Lake Champlain Steamboat Company.

The hotel used a number of cancels with Clinton County as part of the name, perhaps to ensure people would know where the hotel was located. An 1892 example is shown beneath the Executive Mansion cover. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1910. A new building was used from 1911 until the hotel and post office closed in 1951. The hotel's summer post office operated from 1890 to 1950. Clinton Community College now occupies the site. ■

1892 cover from Gerald Wiley collection

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Member Gerald Wiley provided this article for the ESPHS page in Stamp Insider, the publication of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies.