

BULLETIN of The Empire State Postal History Society

Volume 48 Number 2

June 2015

UP-COMING:

**4th Annual Northeast Postal History & Ephemera Show
(also featuring stamps & postcards)**

July 25 & 26

**Venue: Polish Community Center, 2225 Washington Ave. Extension
Albany**

For information contact George M'Gowan at GEOLOTUS2003@NYCAP.RR.COM

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With Summer Upon Us, Stamp Shows are on *Vacation*. Enjoy YOURS!

But pencil in these, compliments of APS Show Schedule:

OLEPEX 2015, October 3rd at B.P.O. Elks Club, Olean

ASDA Fall Show, October 23-25 at Hilton Hotel, 1335 Ave. of the Americas, New York City

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Members

The Board recently held a meeting at the ROPEX Show in Canandaigua. It was a good meeting with much discussion on important issues (Minutes of the meeting are on page 3 of this *Bulletin*). First let me say we are doing very well financially, thanks to our money manager and Treasurer. Second, we are holding steady on our membership. Third, we voted to move forward on a new and improved web site.

We have some suggestions on what is needed on the web site but I would like to hear from you. Send me an e-mail with your suggestions. We also need a web master. If you are interested let me know.

That is the good news. The bad is that we have a problem with lack of participation and communication with you, our members. Our editors devote a lot of time and effort to get out our newsletter and Excelsior!, our journal of New York State postal history, but they need your help. Please take the time to tell us about what's happening in your part of the philatelic world. Tell us about your favorite cover or about some interesting history you have discovered through covers. I'll bet there are hundreds of stories out there. Let us know about a new find you have discovered for your collection. If it's interesting to you it's probably interesting to others.

Let us know about local shows and local club activities. Be a member who contributes. In fact, contribute to our next edition of Excelsior! and receive a one year extension of your membership at no cost to you. Details on page 4.

David Przepiora

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APS Affiliate #28 web site www.esphs.us

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Mohawk: *vacant*
Lower Hudson: *vacant*
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Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*
Central: Bob Davison
West Central: *vacant*
Southern Tier: Alan Parsons
Western: David Przepiora

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Secretary's Membership Report

Welcomed into Membership:

Steve Main **Wildwood, Fla.**

Applied for Membership:

Keith Slater Watkins Glen, NY
Collecting Interests: Watkins Glen & Schuyler County

MINUTES FOR ESPHS BOARD MEETING

May 16 2015 at ROPEX Show, Canandaigua, NY

1. Present: Board – Przepiora, Nicholson, DeKornfeld, Parsons, Sweeting, Cali (by proxy)
Members – Penwell, Fakete, Prill and Rausch
2. Minutes of the Board meeting at Northeast Show 26 July 2014 read by Przepiora.
3. Treasurers' report and budget proposal given by DeKornfeld; assets continue to grow.
4. Membership report given by Nicholson, 8 non-paid at this time, follow-up on those to be made by Nicholson.
5. Awards report by Nicholson, one award to be presented at ROPEX. Discussion followed on artifact awards.
6. Website report by Przepiora. No change since last meeting. Much discussion on the importance of moving forward on an improved web-site. Many suggestions proposed for the site have been made and were discussed. Motion made by Parsons and seconded by Nicholson to have Fakete move forward with a previous web design incorporating improvements and stay within our previously set budget. P&C
7. Auctions: No report, but all thought auctions going well.
8. Publications report. Nicholson informed the Board that both editors are frustrated with the lack of submissions by members. Nicholson also read an e-mail by editor Bramwell which generated more discussion. Much more discussion took place on the future of our publications.
9. Board and Annual Membership meeting will take place in Albany at Northeast show Saturday 25 July 2015 and further Board meeting at STEPEX in October.
10. Old business - none
11. New business – none



**4TH ANNUAL NORTHEAST
POSTAL HISTORY
EPHEMERA SHOW**

ALSO FEATURING STAMPS & POSTCARDS

Mark Your Calendars!
10 a.m. – 6 p.m. July 25 & 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. July 26
THE POLISH COMMUNITY CENTER
 225 Washington Avenue Extension
 Albany, New York

WWW.NPHES.COM
WWW.ALBANYPC.CC.COM

CONTACT GEORGE MCGOWAN AT GEOLOTUS2003@NYCAP.RR.COM OR 518-573-5457

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PUBLISH IN EXCELSIOR! GET A FREE YEAR OF ESPHS!

It's simple: write on any topic featuring New York State postal history that, with images, fills one or more pages. Send it to the Editor, who will format it for publication. When it is published, your ESPHS membership will automatically be renewed for the next year.

FINE PRINT: This offer applies to articles published in the next edition of Excelsior!



KATONAH NY Postmarks and Auxiliary markings on cover wanted, especially 20th century and advertising covers from all periods.

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www.esphs.us

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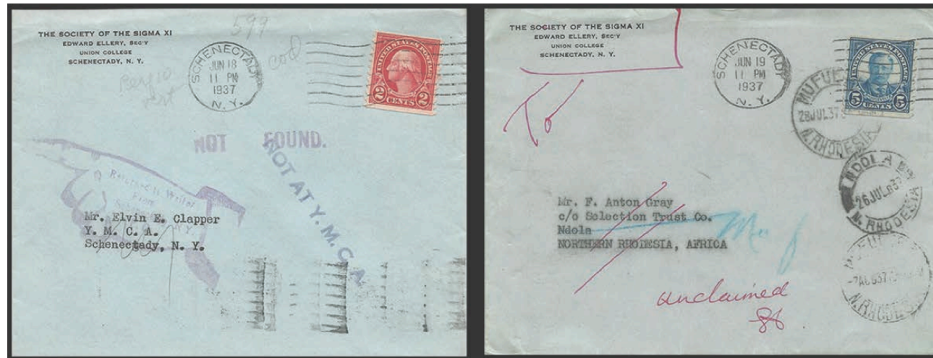
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**EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

**RETURN TO SENDER***By Robert Bramwell*

In keeping with the theme of *ROPEX 2015*, this is the story of a forlorn attempt to pry money from the pockets of graduates of Schenectady's Union College that had been admitted to Sigma Xi in their undergraduate days. The cause was an "Alumni Research Fund" to which "small annual contributions" were solicited, according to the letter that accompanied each envelope. The problem, in retrospect, seems to be that the committee appointed to reach into those pockets thought that all those graduates could be reached for the price of a postage stamp. Not so.

The first return to sender came from the society's home town — Schenectady — where the graduate could not be located at the YMCA, or anywhere else in town. The Schenectady pointing finger states "Return to Writer".

The other came from half way around the world — Ndola, Northern Rhodesia.

The letter to F. Anton Gray arrived in Ndola July 26 1937, but in his absence was passed to Mufulira, about thirty miles north, where he was definitely not found and the envelope was marked "unclaimed" and posted on August 7 for return to Sigma Xi in Schenectady.

Happily, these candidates for the Auxiliary Markings Club's Hall of Fame found their way into the philatelic marketplace rather than a college fireplace.

[*EDITOR'S NOTE:* Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, was founded in 1886 at Cornell University in Ithaca as an honor society for science and engineering. It is an international, nonprofit membership society of more than 70,000 scientists and engineers elected because of their research achievements or potential.] ■

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HOW RARE IS THIS?

By George McGowan

As collectors of postal history, we are always seeking new items for our collections. If we find something rare, that is icing on the philatelic cake. I wonder if we are missing something that may be rare, but we have overlooked it?



Fig. 1 Letter sent June 1883 from New York to a doctor in Brookline, Mass. Marked the same day in Brooklyn, NY and apparently determined in July 1883 to have been MISSSENT. Or is that a LATER pencil marking? The cover has no markings on its reverse.

The cover in Figure 1 is interesting for two reasons. It was sent from New York City in June 1883 and seems to have been received in Brooklyn, NY the same day – although the date slug at both post offices did not register well. The simple observation is that the letter was addressed to Brookline, Massachusetts, not Brooklyn, NY, so clearly we have a missent letter here, and it is so marked in the violet oval. But we also have a pencil marking **July 83**. Why would it take more than a day to realize that Brooklyn, NY is not Brookline, Mass.?

Fig. 2 Letter postmarked May 24, 1909 from Toledo, Ohio to Clinton in Oneida County. The letter bears the violet straight line marking Missent to Canton, N.Y. If you look quickly at the handwritten address, the error in Toledo is not all that hard to understand.



Here in Figure 2 we have no mystery at all. An Ohio rube, not familiar enough with New York counties to think twice, takes the handwritten **Clinton** for **Canton** and bags the piece for Saint Lawrence County rather than Oneida. Case closed and 2 extra days for delivery, I would say.

Perhaps a missent item from New York or Toledo is not very rare, but how about an item missent to a small rural post office?



Fig. 3 Post cards missent to, respectively, Gainesville, Albion, Salem and Bolivar, New York. Even we might mistake Batavia for Bolivar.

How many letters went to Gainesville, Wyoming County, in error? One a week? One a month? If the answer is one a month, I would consider that a rare marking when you ask yourself how many have survived to make it into our collections.

Will collecting New York "MISSSENT" become as popular as New York Star cancels or New York RFD postmarks? Time will tell. Let me know what you think.

FILL A JOB OPENING

ESPHS will have an opening for the position of newsletter editor starting next January. After six and a half years as your *Bulletin* editor, I am hanging up my green eyeshade and blue pencil. Actually, I'll just be replacing the broken *shift key* on my QWERTY keyboard.

I followed in the able footsteps of Glenn Estus in June of 2009, and I would very much like to hand off to one of you so that there is a new editor firmly in place when Volume 49, Number 1, goes to press in March 2016. Modest word processing skills and some familiarity with the geography of New York State are about the only qualities I brought to the table (oh, yes, we do speak a dialect of English in North Carolina so there was that). Don't feel like you have to be a Tennessee Williams to put together a quarterly society newsletter. And don't feel like you can't make changes! In fact, some changes beside the editor might be good for the old rag.

So if you have the inclination to take this job on, feel free to get in touch either with me or Publisher Drew Nicholson. Our contact info is on Page 2.

Bob Bramwell

UPDATE ON MANUSCRIPT POSTMARKS EFFORT

Manuscript Post Offices of New York State, first published by your society in 1972, has had three formal editions and one master supplement. 1984 was the year that Lee De Graff's work was incorporated into Henry Chlanda and Chester Wilcox's 54 page Third Edition. This was followed by a few occasional Supplements, capped in 1999 by a Master Supplement (now out of print).

Since 1984, Doug Penwell has labored as researcher for and editor of new discoveries to improve the content of that seminal resource for collectors of New York State postal history. Last year at this time we sent out Doug's latest Supplement to the title, labeled #6. Doug and ESPHS both expect formalization of the information gathered from time to time into a Fourth Edition of *Manuscript Post Offices of New York State*. In this 4th edition, Doug will continue to refine distinctions in nomenclature such as "Free" franking versus "Free" rating. Doug also recognizes that there are some open issues for which he seeks input from members.

Many new ESPHS members may have an interest in manuscript covers from one or more points on the New York State compass but lack this resource due to its unusual publication history. If you fall in that category, please contact *both* Doug Penwell and Drew Nicholson and register your interest in seeing the Fourth Edition brought to publication before a 7th Supplement is needed.

Contact Doug Penwell (dougpenwell@mail.com) and Drew Nicholson (dan.ddn@comcast.net).

END