

BULLETIN

of The Empire State
Postal History Society

Volume 41 Number 2

September 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2008 FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2:00 pm NOV. 8
HOLIDAY INN CARRIER CIRCLE, SYRACUSE,
in conjunction with Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectibles Show.
Presentation and talk on Buffalo Postal History by David Przepiora
Annual four-page exhibit competition for Kenneth R. deLisle award

Rather than dwelling on Society shortcomings, some of which, including the lateness of this *Bulletin*, are my own fault, I will start this message by looking forward and emphasizing the positive. (*editor's note: the extreme lateness of this issue is entirely my fault. I misread an email from the President Parsons.*)

I am definitely looking forward to our fall membership meeting at the Holiday Inn in Syracuse, just off Carrier Circle (Thruway Exit 35). The meeting will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, November 8, in the Atrium area adjacent to the Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectibles Show scheduled for November 8 & 9.

Our speaker for the meeting, following a short business session, will be the Society's newest Board member, David Przepiora, formerly of Cheektowaga and now residing in East Aurora, NY. David has been a Society member and postal history collector for many years and will talk on "Buffalo Postal History."

David retired from the Cheektowaga Police Department in September 2007 but still serves as president of the Cheektowaga Historical Association. While an active member of the Police Department he co-authored the history of the Department found on its website, www.town.cheektowaga.ny.us/police/history.html.

Following David's talk and any follow-up questions or discussion, the meeting's "desert" will be the viewing and voting in our annual four-page exhibit competition. PLEASE BRING TO THE MEETING FOUR PAGES OF CONNECTED N.Y. POSTAL HISTORY TO BE DISPLAYED ON A TABLE FOR THE KENNETH R. DELISLE AWARD. The winner is determined by vote of those present. The deLisle Award is a handsome walnut plaque outline of New York State, suitably engraved, to be presented to the 2008 winner at the 2009 annual meeting.

As another positive looking forward, the second issue of *Excelsior!* by its new editor, David Williams, should be received prior to, or concurrent with, this *Bulletin*. It went to the publisher (Drew Nicholson) by digital transmission September 30 for printing and mailing. This will be the September 07 issue of our semi-annual journal.

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 APS AFFILIATE #28 <<http://www.esphs.org>>

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 ('11): Frank Braithwaite, Heather Sweeting, David Przepiora

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Secretary's Membership Report:

New Member

George Lukacs, 207 Overocker Rd.,
 Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Dropped for non-payment of dues (even after 2nd reminder):

Arvind Agarwal
 Basket Historical Society
 Lynn Bissell
 Craig Braack
 Harlan Forbes
 Richard Fuhrman
 Bob Garrity
 Gerald Hof
 Burt Hulbert
 John Flannery
 Ray Jacobs
 John Kendall

Charles Kennedy
 Miles Kletter
 Vince Martonis
 Steve Matte
 Brendan McCann
 Bob Outlaw
 Pete Peloquin
 Fred Snitzer
 Gerry Tenney
 Henry Wilelmi

The new editor is doing his best to maintain his projected quarterly production until *Excelsior!* is back on schedule with its September 09 issue, but he can't do it without articles from Society members to fill the pages. He wants his next issue (March 08) to go in the mail before the end of this year.

If you have something you can write about New York postal history, long or short, hopefully with illustrations (covers, etc.), please send it to David Williams as soon as possible but no later than December 1.

In the meantime Drew Nicholson, the previous *Excelsior!* editor, is completing his final issue (September 06) and should have it in the mail by year end.

In the June 08 Bulletin I wrote in my PresMess that I planned to write a letter to the editor of *Stamp Insider* correcting a misleading ESPHS statement by its editor appearing in the July/August Insider. My letter was written and submitted in time for the Sept/Oct Insider but did not appear. The letter has been resubmitted for the Nov/Dec Insider and I have been advised by the editor that it WILL appear in this issue.

Also in the June 08 Bulletin, in an article in pages 10 & 11, I pleaded for help from our members (those who have belonged for 28 years or more) about questions I had regarding the 1980 edition of "New York State Post Offices Extant by County & Year, 1792-1969" published by ESPHS. To date, I've had no response.

Plan to bring a four-page exhibit to the fall membership meeting November 8 and to send an article on some aspect of NY postal history to David Williams before December 1. The greater our membership participation, the better our Society. Thank you.

Al Parsons
alatholleyrd@aol.com

Trading Post Ad

**Wanted: Durant and Raquette Lake, N.Y. ephemera, photos, covers, etc.
Eric Sullivan, 42 Patricia St., Binghamton, NY 13905. (607) 797-4915**

Do you have a Trading Post ad? sent to the editor. addresses on page 2

The Lure of Slogan Cancellations By Heather Sweeting

Many collectors focus on collecting covers from a certain county, town, stamp issue, or type of cancel. In looking for these older issues much modern postal history is left by the wayside and can be picked up quite reasonably. One such area of interest is slogan cancellations, which first appeared in the 1930s. Their heyday was the 1960s. They started to be phased out by the 1990s.



A slogan cancellation is a type of special die used in conjunction with a machine cancellation. Most of the major machine cancelers, such as American, Universal, Barry, Columbia, and International, used slogans. The slogan is usually found to the right of the circular date stamp on the cancel and, in many cases, enclosed in a box, or between parallel lines. Slogan cancellations often had a public-service message, such as *Pray for Peace*, *Loose*



Dogs Will Bite, and the humorous *Fight Your Insect Enemies* were typical. Most slogans were limited to a maximum of three lines, with fewer than 20 letters per line.



Groups and organizations could apply for slogan cancels for events considered to be of general public interest and importance, but not for-profit undertakings. Most slogans were used for about a six-month period. Very few specialized town slogans are found on current mail with the switch to regional mail centers, and the ones that are, are now often sprayed across the face of the stamp. The *John Adams Power of the Letter* slogan appeared on mail this spring in conjunction with a television miniseries on HBO.

I have started compiling a database of slogans used in just New York State, i.e., specific to its towns, not those used nationally. For example, Poughkeepsie had a cancel for the Centennial of Vassar College in 1961. Little Falls had a cancel for its 150th anniversary. The United States Postal Slogan Catalog by Moe Luff is a superb reference regarding these cancels, but was last revised in 1975, so there are many modern ones that are unreported. Do you have any interesting slogan cancels in your collection?

(ed note: this was the ESPHS page in the September/October issue of the Stamp Insider™, published bimonthly by the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies.)