

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



UNIT 28

BULLETIN

MAY 1974

MEETING NOTICE

The next regular meeting will be held from 10:00 AM on, June 9, 1974 at the Ranch Restaurant, Utica. Plan to attend.

DUES NOTICES

Dues notices are included in this mailing. Members are requested to place their names and correct addresses when returning the notices. A membership card constituting a receipt will be returned. The return of the notice with your dues helps us maintain correct records and serves as a check on current addresses. Although, the fiscal year was changed in 1973, membership still runs to May 31 of each year.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER COLUMN

If you have questions on Postal History and Who doesn't, send them to Robert D. Harris, PO Box 175 Wynantskill, N. Y. 12198. Answer will be published in a future bulletin. Start sending in questions. Lets get this feature started.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

A list of current officers and members of the board of directors is inclosed for your convenience. Please address any suggestions to one of these individuals and be assured that your suggestion will be given every consideration.

FEDERAL POST OFFICES OF N.Y. STATE

Request all members screen " Federal Post Offices of N. Y. State" together with the supplements thereto and notify Emma Koberg of any errors or omissions. Suggest each individual screen the county with which he is most familiar and submit corrections. Include source of data so that reasons for changes may become part of the permanent record.

REGIONAL MEETING

A Central Regional meeting will be held August 4, 1974 at the Ramada Inn, Syracuse, N. Y. To reach Ramada Inn use exit 36 of the New York Thruway. Time is from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. It is hoped that many members will take advantage of this meeting and try to make the regional meetings a success. Material will be available for sale and exchange. Additional information will be given at the regular meeting in Utica June 9th.

FOR SALE

Photostat maps of postal routes of New York State in the 1860's. For each county map (plus immediate surrounding areas) price is \$2.50. Send orders to Calvet M. Hahn 127 W 56th St, New York, N. Y. 10019.

ROPEX

ROPEX will be held this year June 21-23 at the Flagship-Rochester Hotel, Rochester, N. Y. Enter an exhibit in the Postal History Class and plan to attend the show. For information write to John H. Kalbfus Chairman PO Box Rochester, N. Y. 14603.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome to membership Carl F. Baker, Edward J. Ross and Mrs. Susan McDonald, whose applications were published in the March Bulletin.

We also, announce the reinstatement of Gary Rosintoski, Carthage, N. Y.

The following applications have been received:

Payson H. Dickerman, Round Lake, N. Y. 12151

References: Eldridge M. Moore, Glens Falls, N. Y. and Lee S.

DeGraff, Fort Johnson, N. Y. (both members ESPHS)

Collecting interests: USA Postal Stationery and Post Cards
UN and Japan.

Gary S. Dunbar, 14915 Whitfield Ave, Pacific Palisades, Cal 90272

References: None required. (Member American Philatelic Research Library)

Collecting interests: NYS Postal History esp Otsego County.

Thomas E. Elnen PO Box 34 Skokie, Ill. 60076

References: None required (APS # 28220)

Collecting interests: Not given.

LYONS MAIL BAG FACTORY

Be sure to read the interesting story of the mail bag factory that was once located at Lyons, N. Y. This article was contributed by Mrs. Augustus Nelson.

EXPRESS MAIL

An interesting note from Petrie's Postal History of Western New York. During the War of 1812 postal routes became so important for military purposes that the Postmaster General Gideon Granger established a special Express Mail which was carried by a relay of post riders. One route from Buffalo via Avon, Bath and Williamsport to Washington made the trip in 4 1/2 days. Seems incredible when one considers the time that it takes today. Immediately after the termination of the war, this service was discontinued.

- Attachment 1 Lyons Mail Bag Factory
- 2 List of Officers and Directors
 - 3 Minutes of Annual Meeting
 - 4 Secretary's Annual Report
 - 5 Treasurer's Annual Report

Empire State
Postal History Society

THE LYONS MAIL BAG FACTORY

No doubt a great many of the railway mail clerks, who worked during the first quarter of this century, knew that the pouches, which held the mail, were made in Lyons, N. Y.

Locally the mail pouches were called mail bags. They were constructed with leather bases and covers, the sides being of heavy cotton cloth. Not only were the pouches made in Lyons, but damaged and worn ones were mended at the factory.

While the industry was closely identified with Myron C. Taylor and his family, mail pouches were made also by William Lauster in his broom factory next to his home on Canal Street in Lyons. Mr. Taylor started making pouches in 1891, but 10 years later, in 1901, Mr. Lauster obtained the contract from the United States Post Office Department.

Mr. Lauster held his contract for only a few years, when he was underbid by William Taylor and his famous son Myron C. Taylor. The elder Taylor had operated a tannery for many years and his son had been involved in the textile industry after his graduation from Cornell in 1894. This gave them a great advantage in bidding for the contract. Mr. Lauster worked for Mr. Taylor as factory superintendent till his death in 1906.

Some time after William Taylor's death, the business was incorporated in 1910 as the American Commercial Corp. with Myron Taylor as President. The business prospered and was a leading industry in Lyons till the first World War. In the meantime, Myron Taylor became interested in other and larger enterprises. The factory closed in the summer of 1921, the building was torn down, the land was deeded to Myron Taylor who, in 1932, gave the land to the Village of Lyons for a park.

Submitted By:

Mrs. Augustus Nelson
Lyons, N. Y.

Attachment 1

LIST OF OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT George J. Bernadt
 1470 Wyoming Ave
 Schenectady, N. Y. 12309

VICE-PRESIDENT William A. Seifert, Jr.
 4 Russell Rd.
 West Albany, N. Y. 12205

SECTY-TREAS Kenneth R. deLisle
 54 Ramsey Place
 Albany, N. Y. 12208

DIRECTORS

Lee S. DeGraff
Fort Johnson, N. Y. 12070

Calvet M. Hahn
127 W. 56th St
New York, N. Y. 10019

Mrs. Augustus Nelson
20 Catherine St
Lyons, N. Y. 14489

Robert Rau
1 DeWitt Drive
Saugerties, N. Y. 12477

Harry S. Taber
PO Box 223
Sidney Center, N. Y. 13839

Nicholas Todaro
PO Box 225
Oswego, N. Y. 13126

Emma Koberg
295 Hamilton St Apt 21
Geneva, N. Y. 14456

Eldridge M. Moore
15 Miller Rd
Glens Falls, N. Y. 12841

Clifford Tuttle
20 East Pearl St
Sidney, N. Y. 13838

MAY 1974

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING:
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1974.

The meeting was opened at 2:00 P.M. by President George Bernadt. There were 23 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Minutes of the previous regular meeting (November 4, 1973) were approved as printed. Bernadt spoke on some correspondence received from members regarding more meetings or optional locations and stated this would be taken up in the course of regular business later in the meeting.

Annual reports were received from the Treasurer, Secretary and Awards Committee. Brief summaries were read, with full reports to be printed in the Bulletin. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the reports.

Clifford Tuttle, as Awards Committee chairman, spoke on his experience with other groups in the past year. He requested approval of a request by the Monticello Republican Watchman for permission to use the ESPHS listing of Sullivan County post offices, as part of the "Sullivan Days" newspaper feature this year. The members approved the request. President Bernadt instructed Tuttle to forward our approval, working with the newspaper on credits and publicity.

The Rochester delegation made a formal request for a postal history trophy to be offered at ROPEX 74, in addition to award certificates. Cliff Tuttle showed the silver bowl which had been purchased by the Awards Committee to cover such a request. Although presentation of a trophy is normally subject to approval by the Executive Board on a show-by-show basis, it was left to the discretion of the committee, which must be assured that a minimum of five qualifying exhibits are entered before the bowl can be presented.

A discussion ensued on obtaining a block of exhibits for ROPEX 74 by members. It was stated that a Court of Honor presentation (non-competitive) would be good publicity but that so little time was left between now and the show dates of June 21-23 that a good presentation could not be made. Bernadt ruled that the arrangements for such an event in 1975 could properly be the duty of a regional chairman, the subject of the next order of business.

The action of the Executive Board in setting up three regions, each under a separate planning or program chairman, was then announced. There will be a Metropolitan Region, including Long Island, New York City, Bronx, etc., and southern counties such as Westchester, Sullivan, Orange, Putnam, etc. A study by Emma Koberg shows we have 23 members in this area. The Central Region will include the upper Hudson counties, northern counties and areas west of Albany as far as Utica. A Western Region will include everything between Syracuse and Buffalo. There are 27 members in the central region and 23 in the western region.

Briefly, the members in each region will be encouraged to undertake local meetings, particularly if the gasoline shortage develops again or in the winter if long distance travel is difficult. Bernadt pointed out that the lines are drawn generally and there will be some overlapping. Naturally, all members will be welcomed to any regional gathering no matter what their home address, the main idea behind the concept is that no one would be asked to travel far to attend a meeting. A round trip of 200 miles seems about the limit.

The members present voiced their interest in this arrangement, asking that it be given a trial next fall.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED

President Bernadt announced the appointment of Warren Stevens to be Western Regional Chairman. A tentative appointment has been made for the Metropolitan Region, subject to acceptance. The Central Region is open for appointment.

VP Seifert reported receiving a letter from the Utica Masonic Home Stamp Club, thanking him and the members for their efforts and success in obtaining donations of stamps and supplies. Members are urged to continue this worthwhile project and get in touch with Bill Seifert for details. ANYTHING is appreciated.

The President than brought up the subject of material for the postal history publication Excelsior, to be sent to Cal Hahn. Several persons reported they had sent material or were working on articles. They were urged to complete their contributions so that the next issue could be planned.

Secretary de Lisle then gave the results of the election for three positions as director, for which Koberg, Moore, Prosser and Tuttle had been candidates. Those elected were Tuttle as front-runner, with Koberg and Moore in a tie for the remaining posts. Dave Prosser was runner-up by a single vote, needing only one X to throw the election into a three way tie. It was pointed out by de Lisle that this proves one or two votes are important and with the results this close every vote counts. Yet, only 63 cards out of 100 were returned, in spite of the ease to mark a pre-stamped, pre-addressed card.

A request from the floor for a new membership roster was answered. The Executive Board has authorized the preparation and printing of a new roster, to be distributed as soon as possible after the dues canvass.

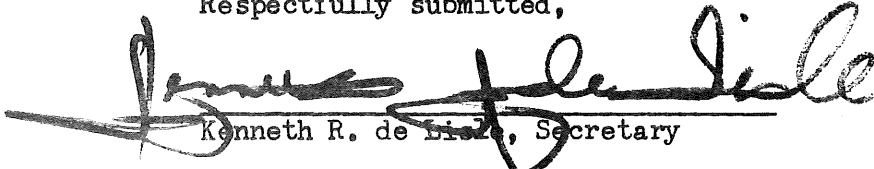
VP Seifert spoke regarding the USPS-sponsored postal history pictorial cancel, used at KAPEX 74 last week. He showed examples of the cancel which features William B. Winne, Albany's penny postman and first letter carrier. Cacheted envelopes are available from him, as advertised in the March Bulletin.

During a discussion on the time and place for our next meeting, Rochester extended a cordial invitation to gather at ROPEX 74. In view of the poor attendance at Rochester by any members except the immediate area last year, it was decided to remain in Utica. Therefore, our next meeting will be held in the same location as usual, Rizzo's Ranch Restaurant, Route 5 west of Utica, on Sunday, June 9, from 10:00 A.M. on.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was declared closed at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

May 6, 1974


Kenneth R. de Lisle, Secretary

Empire State
Postal History Society

Kenneth R. de Lisle
54 Ramsey Place
Albany, N. Y. 12208

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

To the President and Members in Annual Meeting Assembled:

The Empire State Postal History Society enjoyed another good year in 1973-74, although membership gains were not quite as rosy as last year. We began the year with 100 members, dropped 7 through resignation or non-payment of dues, added 10 new members and one through reinstatement. Our roster at the end of the fiscal year stands at 104.

The Society's meetings were reduced by the gasoline shortage to only four general meetings, two at Rizzo's (now the Ranch), one at Rochester and one at Sacandaga Reservoir. There was a sectional meeting at Albany in March.

In addition to these general meetings, the Executive Board met once at Rizzo's and once in Albany, at the Inn Towne Motel.

During the year our Bulletin was issued on seven occasions, keeping the members informed on roster changes, meeting dates, noting new publications of the Society, etc.

We also distributed to the members a solicitation for participation in the listing of post offices in each county, by year, from 1792 to date. This project is well along the road to completion.

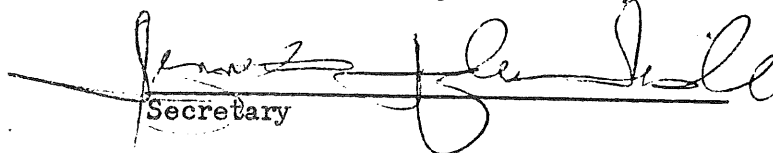
Two publications were printed and offered for sale in the past year. Both the Federal Post Office list (pocket edition) and the revised manuscript post office book have met with a warm reception, as can be seen from the account of sales in the Treasurer's report. A supplement to the manuscript book was distributed in March, the second supplement to the large Federal Post Office book is ready for printing.

Only one issue of the postal history journal was issued during the year. The difficulty of publication lies not with funds or editorial effort, it lies squarely on the lack of material.

Emma Koberg has compiled an interesting list of the members by area which can be summarized briefly here. In the New York Metropolitan area, including locations within easy travel distance of New York, are 26 members. In the area central to mid-upstate are 27 members. Within easy distance of Rochester are 23 members. None of these numbers are duplicating, with some overlap it should be very easy to have a well-attended regional meeting in the three locations.

Apr. 30, 1974

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

Attachment 4

Empire State
Postal History Society

Kenneth R. de Lisle
54 Ramsay Place
Albany, N. Y. 12208

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 1973-74

To the President and Members in Annual Meeting Assembled:

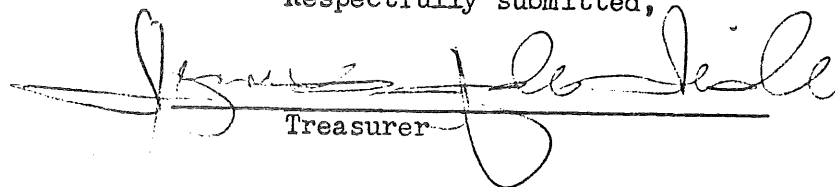
Attached hereto is the consolidated statement of revenues and disbursements for the year ending April 30, 1974, showing revenues of \$942.86 and disbursements of \$454.77, for a net surplus of \$488.09.

Following is a reconciliation of the revenues, disbursements and surplus, by fund:

	<u>Operating Fund</u>	<u>Publication Fund</u>	<u>Library Fund</u>	<u>Investment Fund</u>
Revenues	\$ 531.00	\$ 279.50	\$ -	\$ 107.36
Disbursements	<u>237.31</u>	<u>202.46</u>	<u>15.00</u>	<u>-</u>
SURPLUS	\$ <u>293.69</u>	\$ <u>77.04</u>	\$ <u>(15.00)</u>	\$ <u>107.36</u>
Total Fund Surplus Plus Prepaid Dues		\$ 463.09 <u>25.00</u>		
Consolidated Surplus, per statement		\$ 488.09 <u> </u>		

April 30, 1974

Respectfully submitted,


Treasurer

Empire State
Postal History Society

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND DISBURSEMENTS: 1973-74

Bank Balances: Checking Account, Bank of New York, Apr. 30, 1973	\$	335.38
Savings Accounts, Bank of New York, Apr. 30, 1973		<u>1,618.92</u>
		\$ 1,954.30

REVENUES, FISCAL YEAR 1973 - 1974

<u>DUES</u> : Current Dues, 1973-74	510.00		
Prepaid Dues, 1974-75	25.00		
Registry Fees	<u>10.00</u>	\$ 545.00	
 <u>SALES</u> : Federal PO Books	 35.00		
Federal PO Pocket Lists	144.50		
Manuscript PO Books	<u>100.00</u>	279.50	
 Miscell: - Film Rental, Adlets, etc.	 11.00		
Bank Interest	<u>107.36</u>	<u>118.36</u>	<u>942.86</u>
			\$ 2,897.16

DISBURSEMENTS, FISCAL YEAR 1973 - 1974

<u>PRINTING</u> : Bulletin	90.71		
Journal	15.00		
Ballots	4.98		
Federal PO Lists	112.35		
Revision of Manuscript Book	74.16		
Supplementary Shhet for Ms. Book	<u>9.95</u>	307.15	
 <u>POSTAGE</u> : Bulletin	 58.04		
Journal	9.64		
Ballots	<u>8.00</u>	75.68	
 Secretary's Expenses, incl. postage	 36.08		
Refund of Overpayment	<u>1.00</u>	37.08	
 Trophy Committee		13.86	
Additions to Library (Old NYS PH Publications)		15.00	
Fee for Copyright on Manuscript Book		<u>6.00</u>	<u>454.77</u>
Cash on Hand			\$ 2,442.39

Bank Balances: Checking Account, Bank of New York, Apr. 30, 1974	\$	316.11
Savings Accounts, Bank of New York, Apr. 30, 1974		<u>2,126.28</u>
		\$ 2,442.39

Consolidated Surplus = \$ 488.09 for year.