

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



UNIT 28

BULLETIN

MAY 1975

MEETING NOTICE

The next regular meeting will be held June 29, 1975 at the Ranch Restaurant on Route 5 west of Utica. Be sure to attend. An interesting program will be presented by Tony Zahn.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE:

New York Postoffices, postmasters and net proceeds of each postoffice and contractor payments. These records are taken from the official Federal records and is the only set of records that actually gives the revenues for each office as well as the postmasters involved and is an invaluable tool for analyzing scarcity of covers. The originals from which these selections are made have sold for hundreds of dollars at auction and have graced the libraries of such students as Ashbrook and Norona. They are available for the following years for the price indicated.

Year	Pages	Price
1835	44	\$2.50
1837	44	2.50
1845	73	4.00
1847	75	5.00
1849	91	5.00
1851	75	5.00
1861	54	3.50

To order, Make checks payable to Empire State Postal History Society and submit your order to EXCELSIOR editor, C. M. HAHN, 127 W. 56th Street, N Y City 10019. Please allow at least one month for mailing.

Reference to the May 1975 minutes in this issue which states that the cost per would be \$1.50. At the time of the meeting the number of pages and the cost of printing was not available, so an estimate was given. After counting pages and obtaining firm cost of printing, the firm price is as given above.

MATERIAL FOR EXCELSIOR

The Excelsior editor is now preparing the current issue but seeks additional copy for the next issue. Please submit copy for the fall issue. Remember there is no member who doesn't have material for at least one good article--Don't be shy in submitting Proposals; the editor is willing to work with you on rewrite if you aren't an experienced writer.

BULLETIN OF THE
EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY 1975

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES: (Applications Received)

ALEXANDER, THOMAS J. 714 Commerce Bank Bldg., Kansas City, Mo. 64106

References: None required (APS #49208)

Interests : U.S. Classics to 1865; Historic Americana; Colonial;
Western Routes and Rates; Territories and Forts; Early Missouri

GREENWALD, EDWARD S. M.D. 39 Disbrow Circle, New Rochelle, N.Y. 10804

References: None required (APS #59536)

Interests: Civil War PH; Across-the-Lines Mail (Civil War); Prisoner-of-War Mail.

SCHWARTZ, RICHARD 168 Cherry Lane, River Edge, N.J. 07661

References: None required (APS #40879)

Interests: United States Locals and Carriers

We welcome to membership Alex L. ter Braake, C. Malcolm Nichols, Dick Edmond and Barbara Mueller, whose applications were published last month.

Those members who have prepaid their 1975-76 dues will NOT receive a notice with this Bulletin. All others will receive the gold colored reminder and are asked to fill it in and return with payment.

In order to save postage costs, membership cards will not be sent automatically when dues are paid. The cards will be held and enclosed with the next Bulletin mailing after payment.

ANOTHER FEDERAL POST OFFICE BOOK FOR SALE !!!!!

Our offer in the March-April Bulletin was over-subscribed. The top offer was \$30.00 for a spiral bound soft-cover copy in pristine condition, of which the Society received \$15.00 less the costs of postage.

The announcement of this success brought out another copy for bids. Our donor is willing to sell his like-new copy of the same important work, except this one is the hard cover library edition, gold lettering on spine, with all proceeds over \$15.00 (his original cost!) to go to the Society.

JUNE 30

Ken de Lisle will accept bids up to ~~50~~ 1975 on the same conditions as before, highest bid to prevail, not one step over the next lower bidder as is usual. Because this is a donation lot normal practice is being slightly bent as you see. Let's show this generous member his offer is appreciated by setting a new high for the book.

COUNTY LIST PRICE REVISION:

The Executive Board voted to increase the price of the Xerox copies of the county post office listings from 50¢ to \$1.00 per county for all orders received after this increase is posted in the May Bulletin.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual meeting of the Empire State Postal History Society was held at the Double D. Ranch Restaurant, Clinton, N.Y. at 2:00 P.M. May 4, 1975.

President called for order from 15 members and 2 guests assembled, a bare quorum for the transaction of official business. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

The first order of business was a discussion of the Executive Board meeting held a short time previous on the same day. President Bernadt reported the Executive Board had investigated costs for producing a publication based on the library's microfilm records of the Letters Sent by the Postmaster-Gen'l. The Executive Board decided to abandon any further action, due to high costs. The Board did, however, recommend printing and distribution, for the benefit of the Society such other publications, Xerox reprints, etc., as were within the limitations of our publication fund.

The Board also voted to recommend to the membership the holding of a mail and floor auction sale of postal history material and related documents. In response to a question from the floor, it was announced the material would not be limited to PH of NY State, but postal history generally. Details of the auction are noted elsewhere.

The Board also voted to recommend an increase in the price of "county lists" from 50¢ to \$1.00 per county, effective immediately on all unbooked orders. Both the above measure were approved by voice vote by the members.

A discussion ensued on sale of material at regular meetings and the payment for the cost of regional meetings. President Bernadt explained that some time ago the Executive Board authorized the payment of "reasonable" costs to promote regional meetings. While it was not spelled out, this authorization was intended to cover postage for invitation cards or other announcements and a reimbursement to the sponsor for telephone tolls rounding up a meeting. It was not intended to cover the costs of a meeting hall, which would be spending the Society's funds for the benefit of a limited group. The President asked that action be taken by the incoming administration to come to an understanding on the reimbursed costs.

There was a pro and con discussion on the establishment of a commission for the benefit of the ESPHS to be levied on all sales at club meetings. No case was made for professional dealers or members merely engaging in small sales or a way to make a difference in the class of activity. There was considerable support for some type of fee, yet it was acknowledged that the professional or part-time dealer bringing material had an effect in increasing attendance at the meeting. Witness the number (15) at the annual meeting, where most expected a longer business meeting than usual and little material to look at and as a result did not attend.

The next subject brought to the floor was an offer by Calvet Hahn to make available to the members certain interesting portions of literature in his personal library, at the cost of printing and a small profit to the ESPHS. Specifically, the New York State Post Office lists from the Federal Register were offered as a starting point. Cal stated he thought these would run from 10 to 20 pages and might be sold for \$1.50 each year. (ED: Later information on extent and costs is to be found elsewhere in this bulletin.)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

President Bernadt announced the results of the annual election. Since there was no contest the voting was light, only 22 ballots being received. The slate of officers was declared elected after a motion from the floor that the Secretary cast one unanimous vote in favor of adopting the recommendation of the election committee as follows:

President	William A. Seifert, Jr.
Vice President	Clifford H. Tuttle
Secretary-Treasurer	Kenneth R. de Lisle
Director	Harry Taber
Director	Warren Stevens
Director	Robert Waite, Sr.

Upon asking the question, the motion was carried and the President declared the election duly legal and effective.

President Bernadt then thanked the members for their cooperation in the past two years of difficulty in travel and meeting arrangements. He thanked the outgoing officers for their assistance to him and wished the incoming Board success. He then turned over the seat to President-elect Seifert.

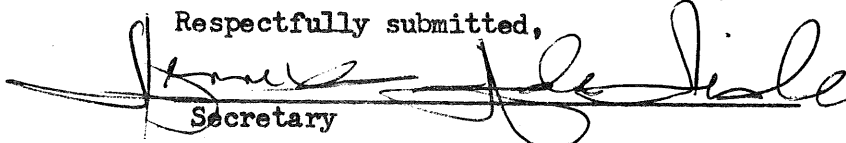
The new President announced his first appointment would be George Bernadt, to the vacant directorship created by Cliff Tuttle's acceptance of Vice-President. Seifert stated he was re-appointing the Finance Committee, consisting of the Treasurer plus himself and Director Bernadt.

The editor of Excelsior was continued in office and appointed chairman of the Publication Committee, the remaining members to be named at a later date.

President Seifert thanked the members for their confidence in him and asked for the same willing cooperation received by George Bernadt. New committee make-ups will be announced in the Bulletin as appointments are made and accepted.

The next meeting was set for the same place on June 29, 1975, at which meeting Tony Zahm will put up for display portions of his exception collection of Onondaga postal history and post office markings.

May 8, 1975

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary

CLUB AUCTION

Be sure to read the details for the club auctions. Keep this page of rules. Start collecting material for the auction.

PORT PUTMAN

Gerald Wiley submitted the interesting article on Port Putman.

Inclosure 1	Treasurer Report
2	Secretary Report
3	Auction
4	Port Putman

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER: May 1, 1974 to April 30, 1975:

The reconciliation of cash for the fiscal year, as shown on the consolidated fund statement amounts to a gain of \$153.03.

The breakdown by fund balances is as follows:

<u>FISCAL YEAR '74-'75</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>PUBLICATIONS</u>	<u>LIBRARY</u>	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
INCOME	\$ 553.75	\$ 10.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 129.99	\$ 695.74
EXPENSE	<u>549.90</u>	<u>28.31</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>578.21</u>
SURPLUS	\$ 3.85	\$ (18.31)	\$ 2.00	\$ 129.99	\$ 117.53
1976 Dues and Reg. Fees in Advance					<u>35.50</u>
CASH GAIN					\$ 153.03

As I have pointed out in a memorandum to the Executive Board, we have been kind to the printer and the USPS, their payments being over \$455.00, representing 78.8% of all expenses and some 80% of ordinary revenue.

As a matter of fact, our investment income and dues paid in advance were the only reason we did not run a cash deficit in the past year.

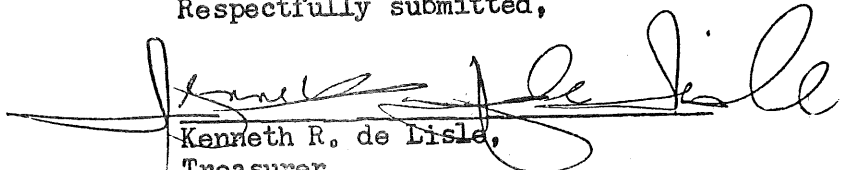
It is obvious that services cannot be increased (larger content to bulletin, more frequent journal) without an increase in revenue, or a decrease in the net expenses. To provide a quarterly journal and a useful bulletin will simply cost more money, particularly with the certain increase in postal rates.

We have been told that drawing from our cash reserve can solve the issue. In my opinion this is not true. ~~When~~ any organization eats into capital to pay current expenses, it is a dying group ~~Due~~ to expire when the money runs out.

I strongly urge the Executive Board to take up this problem as their most urgent task of the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Albany, N.Y.
May 4, 1975


Kenneth R. de Lisle,
Treasurer

See over for consolidated cash statement.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER: May 1, 1974 to April 30, 1975:

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

REVENUES, FISCAL YEAR 1974-1975

DUES: Current Dues, 1975-75	\$ 532.50	
Registry Fees	17.00	
Dues in Advance 1975-76	33.50	
Registry Fees	<u>. 2.00</u>	\$ 585.00
SALES: Federal PO Book	5.25	
Manuscript Book	<u>1.25</u>	6.50
Miscell: Publications, Adlets, etc.	9.75	9.75
Bank Interest	129.99	
Transfer to Savings from Checking	<u>300.00</u>	<u>429.99</u>
		<u>1,031.24</u>
		\$ 3,473.63

DISBURSEMENTS, FISCAL YEAR 1974-75

PRINTING: Bulletin	212.29	
Roster	50.92	
Membership Cards	8.22	
Dues Notices	5.76	
Public. Supplements	<u>11.61</u>	288.80
POSTAGE: Bulletin	117.28	
Journal	8.48	
Roster	10.90	
Secty-Treasurer	<u>30.34</u>	167.00
COMMITTEES: Awards	12.34	
Sectional Meetings	<u>13.86</u>	26.20
OTHER: Interphil '76 Advance	25.00	
Memorial Donation	25.00	
Stationery	27.26	
Refund of Overpayment	<u>2.25</u>	79.51
Cost of Investigation, Future Publicn	16.70	
Transfer, Checking Acct. to Savings Acct	<u>300.00</u>	<u>416.70</u>
		<u>878.21</u>
		\$ 2,595.42
Bank Balances: Checking Account, Bank of NY Albany, Apr. 30, 1975		39.15
Savings Accounts, Bank of NY Albany, Apr. 30, 1975		<u>2,556.27</u>
		\$ 2,595.42

Cash Gain 1974-75 = \$ 153.03

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: May 1, 1974 to April 30, 1975

To the President and Members in Annual Meeting Assembled:

The Empire State Postal History Society enjoyed a somewhat subdued year in 1974-75.

Membership began at 104. We added 17 new members, dropped 9 through resignation or death and now stand at 112. There are two applications pending. The net gain, exclusive of the pending applications was 8 members.

The Society called the annual meeting in May and there were general meetings in June, September, October and December. In addition to the general meetings, the Executive Board held their regular semi-annual meetings in May and October.

Regional meetings began to take hold, there being one in Syracuse in August, New York in November, Rochester in February and Albany in February and March.

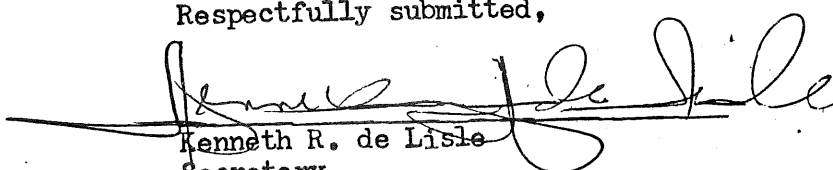
Only one issue of the postal history journal was published, distributed to all members in January. This equalled our previous year's production.

The bulletin was issued on May, July, August, October, November, January, February and April, one additional issue to the number in 1973-74.

No new publications were issued. Two supplements to prior publications were distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

Albany, N.Y.
May 4, 1975


Kenneth R. de Lisle
Secretary

Incl 2

POSTAL HISTORY AUCTION:

As a result of a suggestion made to the Executive Board, a discussion thereof and later unanimous approval voted at the annual meeting of the Society, it has been decided to release details of a postal history auction sponsored by the ESPHS. Rules and regulations discussed and approved are:

- 1) Material meeting the established criteria will be accepted from all members, who will submit material for auction fully described in their own words. Descriptions may be edited or changed by the auction manager, if warranted in his opinion.
- 2) Material submitted must be of a postal history nature. Sets of stamps or single items in mint condition will not be accepted nor will cancelled stamps unless the cancellation has postal history merit.
- 3) Material WILL NOT be limited to New York State postal history, but postal history, generally, will be accepted, including covers, etc., postal markings, related documents or literature.
- 4) Each lot offered for sale must have a minimum retail or selling value of \$3.00, items of lesser worth may be rejected. Several items may be combined in one lot to reach the minimum.
- 5) Commissions will be scaled as follows:

All items sold up to \$5.00 per lot will pay 20% commission, min. 50¢.
Over \$5.00 to \$10.00 will pay 15% commission.
Over 10.00 to \$50.00 will pay 10% commission.
Over 50.00 will pay net \$5.00 regardless of realization.
- 6) Return lots on which no bid received will pay 25¢ service fee. There are no charges other than the above to sellers.
- 7) Purchasers will pay postage and insurance costs, unless picked up at the sale.
- 8) Mail bids will be accepted from bidders known to us up to the day of the sale. Sale will be a public floor sale, at a regular meeting.
- 9) For the first sale, time and place to be announced later (expected for Fall) send material to Ken de Lisle, 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208. Lots of value must be sent properly registered or insured. The ESPHS nor the committee accept any responsibility for the loss of uninsured material.

So let's go members! Send in your duplicates or other material for sale. We have an active PH membership, you can learn their interests from the recent membership roster, it pays to aim for their special fields. In addition, we have a good mailing list of non-members who regularly bid on postal history, our printed list will receive wide circulation.

If this first sale is a success, we plan to make it a regular feature, perhaps twice annually at spring and fall meetings. The public will be invited, thus increasing exposure of the Society to non-members.

Port Putnam, Jefferson County

by Gerald F. Wiley

In Post Offices of New York State 1792-1969 the Jefferson County post office of Port Putnam is listed as having been established during the last quarter of the year 1807 with Richard W. Esselstyn as first postmaster. Its disposition is listed as "no information".

In 1801 Abijah Putnam came from Rome, N. Y. and settled on the shore of the St. Lawrence river in what is now the town of Cape Vincent. He located approximately two miles below the present village of Cape Vincent and called the place Port Putnam. In 1805 he sold his property of 231 acres to Peter Sternbergh and John Macombs, who made improvements and drew up a plan for what they hoped would be a prosperous village. The outlook seemed favorable because of its location at the outlet of Lake Ontario and at the terminus of the Great Black River state road from Johnstown in Montgomery County. It was also connected with Kingston in Upper Canada by ferry.

Unfortunately, the settlement at Port Putnam did not grow as expected and was eventually abandoned after James D. LeRay had a survey made at Gravelly Point in 1811 and renamed it Cape Vincent in honor of his son Vincent.

The post office at Cape Vincent was established January 29, 1817 with Richard M. Esselstyne as postmaster. This was presumably the same Richard Esselstyne who is recorded in Post Offices of New York State as postmaster of Port Putnam with the middle initial "W". The reference works from which most of the information used

in this article was gathered mention a Richard M. Esselstyn but not Richard W. Esselstyn.

It seems likely that the post office at Port Putnam operated from 1807 until the Cape Vincent post office was established in 1817, with Richard Esselstyn transferring from Port Putnam to Cape Vincent as postmaster.

Port Putnam is not listed in E. N. Sampson's American Stampless Cover Catalog or in ESPHS's Manuscript Post Offices of New York State . If any postmarks have survived they are probably manuscript markings.

Do readers of this bulletin have any Port Putnam markings? If some could be located perhaps the history of the post office there could be pieced together to fill one of the small gaps in New York State postal history.

Material for the above article was taken from History of Jefferson County by S. W. Durant & H. B. Peirce, published in 1878 by L. H. Everts & Co. of Philadelphia, Pa. and an article "Cape Vincent" by Mrs. W. A. Casler included in the book Jefferson County Centennial 1905 compiled by Jere. Coughlin and published by Hungerford- Holbrook Co. of Watertown, N. Y.