

BULLETIN OF THE
**EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ISSUED BI-MONTHLY

FEBRUARY 1978

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I regret to inform the membership that the Summer Issue of Excelsior (Whole No. 9) will not be distributed. The journal was printed and ready for distribution in September when difficulties arose on the content of one article. The matter was never fully resolved despite a special meeting of the Executive Board and subsequent efforts to clear the issue.

I am now formally announcing the decision of the Executive Board to suspend indefinitely the publication of Excelsior. At the same time I am exercising my decision to dissolve the Publication Committee. Both of these actions are effective on January 31, 1978. The Board will take the matter under advisement, announcements of positive action will come after the annual meeting in May.

In the meantime, we will expand our Bulletin to continue coverage of New York State postal history. Your April issue will be highlighted by the first installment of a comprehensive study of the postal markings of Ithaca, N.Y., including several types not listed in the Stampless Cover Catalog.

There will be a regional meeting of the Society in Albany on February 19th, at the Thruway House. All members who usually attend the Albany regionals will receive a postal card reminder. All members are, of course, cordially invited. The meeting will begin in the morning, with a break at noon for dinner and continue until any time the attendees want to stay. There is good trading and normally a fine selection of material for sale.

Please note the call for nominations for two members of the Executive Board to be elected this year.

William A. Seifert
President



UNIT 28

TREASURER'S REPORT - Four Months Ending December 31, 1977

Bank Balance, Checking Account Aug. 31, 1977, Bank of New York	\$ 496.92
Bank Balances Savings Accounts Aug. 31, 1977, Bank of New York	<u>4,541.54</u>
	\$ 5,038.46
Less Escrow Funds	<u>714.08</u>
Net Total - Bank Accounts	\$ 4,324.38

Revenue - Sept. 1 - Dec. 31

Regular Dues 1977-78	\$ 110.00		
Dues in Advance	10.00		
Registration Fees	<u>19.00</u>	\$ 139.00	
Sale of Publications	94.61		
Auction Commissions	133.93		
Bank Interest	<u>123.87</u>	<u>352.41</u>	<u>491.41</u>
			\$ 4,815.79

Expenses - Sept. 1 - Dec. 31

Printing: October Bulletin	24.66		
Excelsior No. 9	40.00		
Manuscript Supplement	<u>14.32</u>	78.98	
Postage: Oct. & Dec. Bulletin	37.11		
Secty-Treasurer	39.00		
Editor, incl. Telephone	<u>21.87</u>	97.98	
Supplies, Stationery, etc.	20.44		
Dues - SPA	<u>7.00</u>	<u>27.44</u>	<u>204.40</u>
			\$ 4,611.39

Reconciliation with Bank Accounts:

Bank Balance, Checking Account Dec. 31, 1977, Bank of New York	\$ 660.06
Bank Balances Savings Accounts Dec. 31, 1977, Bank of New York	<u>4,665.41</u>
	\$ 5,325.47
Less Escrow Funds	<u>714.08</u>
	\$ 4,611.39

It is gratifying for the Treasurer to be able to report continued financial health of the Society at a time when many organizations have to resort to life membership (a one-shot deal), contributing memberships, etc. to stay solvent. Note that sale of publications, auction commissions and bank interest alone produced \$352.41, in four months, equivalent to membership fees from an additional 70 members!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome to membership the following collectors whose names were published in the October Bulletin: Betty Miller, Lorraine Bailey, Michael Jarosak, Peter Mason, Arthur Laurion, James Easton, Richard Micchelli, Patrick Van Buskirk, Stephen King, Rodman Borgstede, Robert Frailey and Ronald DeAngelus.

New Applications Received:

INVARARITY, JAMES 1000 6th Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414

References: None required (APS #59863)

Interests: Industrial Post Offices

KIEFER, JACK C. Dept. Mathematics, White Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853

References: None required (APS #73931)

Interests: U.S. 19th century, esp. all "Jackson" stamps and stationery

HUNT, GEORGE R. 49 Iris Street, Mahtomedi, MN 55115

References: None required (APS #89685)

Interests: U.S. singles, blocks and plate blocks.

MALLORY, DENNIS R. R.D. #1, Box 120, Cobleskill, NY 12043

References: None required (APS #67452)

Interests: Albany, N.Y. post cards; DEALER in U.S. stamps and PPC

STANTON, DON C. 8 Thomas Street, Springvale, Maine 04083

References: None required (APS #56679)

Interests: U.S. General; Chautauqua County NY postal history; Australia and States; Falkland Islands; British Solomon Islands

LABY, MORTON R., M.D. 19 Washington Avenue, Setauket, NY 11733

References: None required (APS #71315)

Interests: Postal history of Suffolk County, N.Y.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

John M.C. Peterson	NOW Discovery Farm, RD #1, Elizabethtown, NY 12932
Michael Heller	NOW 401 Scarsdale Road, Crestwood, NY 10707
Dr. Daniel Knowles	NOW 39 E. 12th Street, Apt. 308, New York, NY 10003
A.W. Peterson	NOW 2737 Chimney Springs Drive, Marietta, GA 30062

NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Yes, it is that time of year again. In accordance with the provisions of Article 4, Section 1 of the By-Laws I call for nominations for three persons to be elected to the Executive Board, to fill the expiring three-year terms now being served by Harry Taber, Nick Todaro, Bob Waite, Sr.

Any member may submit names of nominees, the only qualification being that the nominee has consented to stand for election. Nominees receiving the support of three or more members in good standing will be placed on the ballot to be mailed in April. The incumbents are, of course, eligible for nomination and re-election.

Please send the name of your nominees to Ken de Lisle, Secretary-Treasurer, at 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, NY 12208 before March 20th. In addition to nominations received from the membership I am appointing a committee on elections, to be sure that a full slate appears on the ballot. Last year only one nomination was received for the full slate of officers and three Board members; no election was held and the incumbent officers had to be held over. This is not the way the system is supposed to work.

Albany, N.Y.
January 31, 1978

William A. Seifert, Jr.
President

MANUSCRIPT POST OFFICE SUPPLEMENTS

President Seifert has asked that we announce his appointment of Henry Chlanda, New York City, as the new editor for continuing data on the New York State manuscript post offices. Henry is a close student of postal history with a particular liking for Dutchess County. He is well qualified to take over the painstaking work of Lee DeGraff and has accepted the assignment on a long-term basis.

Henry has asked that all correspondence relative to unreported markings and other relevant matters be directed to him at P.O. Box 637, Wall St. Sta. New York, NY 10005.

U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY

For the collector of U.S. stamps and postal history membership in the USPCS is very worthwhile. The quarterly journal Chronicle of the U.S. Classic Postal Issues is the only major publication devoted exclusively to United States 19th century philately. The recent addition of a section for prestamp and stampless interest makes the journal additionally attractive to the postal history buff. Our own membership is well represented in the official family and editorial staff, while other of our members contribute to the Chronicle. A recent article by Dr. Joseph Rorke listing the known "Black Jack" bisects on cover is a particularly fine piece of philatelic reporting. It should be in the possession of every collector of the 2¢ Jackson stamp.

Ken de Lisle would be glad to sponsor any of our members and will furnish an application blank on request.

HOW LUCKY WE ARE!

by

Charles H. Sweeting

Sometime ago, I had an opportunity to browse in the history room of the University of Missouri Library. An index to the American History Review caught my eye and quite naturally I had to scan for such key words as "mail", "post offices", "post roads", etc. A reference to this index referred me to an early volume of the Review concerned with postal records filed in the National Archives.

This volume of the Review did have a short reference to the postal records in the National Archives. It stated that in 1836 many of the previous papers and records of the Post Office were burned in a fire in the Post Office Building in Washington, D.C.

In the spring of 1968, several members of the ESPHS visited the National Archives and searched for relevant postal history items of New York State. Among the records we received were the Postmaster Generals' Letter Books and the Post Route Books. The Letter Books date from 1789, Route Books from about 1824.

All of this seemed contrary to the statement in the Review, concerning loss of the records in the post office fire. So I again checked the Review, finding a footnote to Report No. 134 of the House of Representatives, for the 24th Congress, 2nd Session. The Serial Set of Congress contains just such a record so my search led on again.

Report No. 134 of the House is titled "Conflagration-Post Office Building." It refers to a fire within the U.S. Post Office Building, at 3:15 AM on December 15, 1836. The report is an extensive one and declares the building was a total loss. It also contains statements of some 32 persons associated with the Post Office Department, who were at the scene and had knowledge of the building and its operations. Why do these records in the Archives exist today when the fire was so extensive? This question was still unanswered, so I read the statements from the 32 persons for some clues.

Supplement to the
Empire State Postal History Society Bulletin
February 1978

Amos Kendall was Postmaster General at the time, living opposite the east end of the post office building. His testimony is given on pages 34-37 of the report. The testimony relates how Mr. Kendall arrived at the scene of the conflagration and noted many people attempting to save books or records from the various offices. He directed that the salvaged materials be taken to his residence.

Specific mention is made that the books and papers of the Postmaster General and of the Inspection Office were salvaged. A statement is made that the books of the Appointment Office were also preserved. These records were saved primarily because of the accessibility of the lower floors of the building. Specific mention is made that all files had been destroyed, except such as were on the tables of the Postmaster General, the Second Assistant, and his clerk's, which were in small quantity. These files embraced all correspondence relative to the establishment of the post offices, appointment of postmasters and all matters appertaining to these subjects.

Thus it seems that many of the records postal historians search today for postmaster lists and county office lists were luckily saved because they were on the lower floors of the building; or on certain desks when the great fire consumed the post office and a majority of its contents. HOW LUCKY WE ARE!

COPYRIGHT LAW - 1978

Under the provisions of the new law which took effect January 1, a number of important changes took place. The one which we would like to call to your attention is that section which vests in the author, his estate or heirs, the ownership rights to any article for 75 years after publication, even if the article is not copyrighted - provided it appears in a periodical which copyrights the entire issue in which it appears. You have the right to protect your work individually, of course, but this is seldom done.

Thus, if you author an article in The American Philatelist, Chronicle, PH Journal, Stamp Collector, Linn's, etc. (all of which are published under copyright, you have not lost title or primary rights to your work. Permission to copy or reprint must come from you unless you have previously signed a waiver or release with the publisher.

Seventy-five years is certainly long enough! Our works are seldom productive of initial or repeat revenue as are plays, musical scores and compositions or exciting works of fiction. We have never heard of a philatelic article which the movies want to put into production, either. So our heirs will have little chance for residuals.

On the other hand, if you author an article for Excelsior or similar non-copyrighted periodicals your rights are not so clear. While you have a moral right to the work, legally you cannot prevent reprints or copies. Generally, permission is asked and granted on the honor system.

We plan to begin copyrighting our bulletins (because they now contain such interesting supplements) and other single publications. So when you see the copyright notice, you have not lost title to your contribution. If requests are received for permission to reprint we will forward the request to you.

1978 ROCHESTER EXHIBITION AND BOURSE

The Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc. is holding a stamp exhibition and bourse on April 14 - 16, honoring the 125th anniversary of the founding of the New York Central Railroad, a consolidation of several smaller lines between Albany and Buffalo. This is certainly a theme which could bring out postal history exhibits on the Central and its predecessor lines. The prospectus is available from Larry Moriarity, P.O. Box 3806, Brighton Sta. Rochester, NY 14610.

While we have no plans to participate as a unit there is no doubt a number of our members will exhibit and many will attend the show. It is well worth your visit.

PAID ADLET

WANTED: Covers from SKADEM CORRESPONDENCE 1850 - 1865. Will buy or trade.
Herbert P. McNeal, 520 Lakemont Avenue South, Winter Park, Florida, 32792.

TABLE OF FEDERAL POST OFFICES EXTANT BY YEARS, 1792-1969

With this issue of the Bulletin we begin distribution of the table first planned over three years ago. It is published as a separate, for loose-leaf filing. This installment covers the counties of Albany, Allegany, Broome, Cattaragus, Cayuga, Chautauqua and Chemung.

As mentioned in a previous Bulletin, one may find slight discrepancies between this table taken from the large post office book we published, compared with other lists compiled from official records as the New York State Legislative Manual. It is very difficult to get any two lists to agree due to the less than perfect records or reports which were issued. However, we believe it will serve a purpose and a large number of our members have cooperated in compiling the data. Special thanks must go to Chet Wilcox, who picked up the project when it seemed to lag and who has done all of the typing.

We are checking into the original compilation and will furnish a foreword to the table, listing those who made it possible. It is not considered an index will be necessary as all the counties appear alphabetically. A final note - you will see that the Bronx is missing. Since only one office was there established, in 1962, it will be foot-noted at the conclusion and the office included with the state totals from 1962 to 1969.

AUCTION NEWS

"Feast or famine" seems to be the story of our ESPHS auctions. Last time we were swamped with material, this time zilch, so reports Auction Manager Bernadt.

So - we are forced to postpone the deadline for submission of lots to Apr. 22, with a tentative auction date of June 25th. More on that in a later edition of the Bulletin. Meanwhile, if the members wish the auction to continue, please send your postal history covers or collateral material NOW!

There is no dearth of buyers so dig out those duplicates and turn them into hard cash for items you really need. Incidentally, a glance at the Treasurer's report shows that each sale returns something over \$130.00 to the Society.

1978 INTERNATIONAL SHOW AT TORONTO

CAPEX 78 will be held in Toronto, Canada from June 9 to 18, 1978. International stamp exhibitions under the patronage of the FIP are permitted once each ten years in any country, so with our own at INTERPHIL in 1976 - the 1978 show in Toronto will be the last one convenient to us for a long, long time.

Those who attended INTERPHIL and took advantage of our bus excursion will remember the economy and convenience of the trip. Toronto is just about far enough to make an excursion feasible. A minimum of 40 people is necessary, although group participation can be made with travel agents for smaller excursions. If you have any interest in such a trip, please let President Seifert know as soon as you can.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY 1977 - 1979

PRESIDENT William A. Seifert, Jr.
4 Russell Road, West Albany, N.Y. 12205

VICE- PRESIDENT Clifford Tuttle
20 E. Pearl Street, Sidney, N.Y. 13838

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

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	Calvet M. Hahn	1979	Charles H. Sweeting	1979
Terms	Emma G. Koberg	1980	Harry S. Taber	1978
Expire	Eldridge M. Moore	1980	Nicholas J. Todaro	1978
	Robert Waite, Sr.	1978		

EDITORS AND COMMITTEES - February 1, 1978

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PO Supplements P.O. Box 637, Wall St. Sta. New York, NY 10005

Chairman: Clifford Tuttle,
Awards Committee 20 E. Pearl Street, Sidney, NY 13838

Chairman: Kenneth R. de Lisle
Finance Committee 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, NY 12208

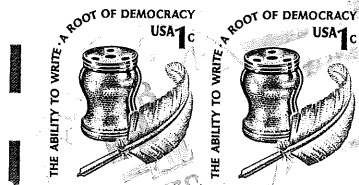
Librarian: David W. Prosser
7664 State St. Road, Watertown, NY 13601

President Seifert - Ex Officio all Committees

Auction George J. Bernadt
Manager 1470 Wyoming Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308

Please address all general correspondence on Society matters to either President Seifert or Secretary de Lisle. All other letters should be addressed to the proper editor or committee chairman.

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