

BULLETIN OF THE

# EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ISSUED BI-MONTHLY APRIL 1978

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In accordance with the By-Laws of the Empire State Postal History Society, I herewith issue the call to the ANNUAL MEETING to be held on Sunday, May 7, 1978 at 2:00 P.M. at Karrat's Restaurant, Route 5 west of Utica. Members are respectfully urged to attend the business meeting for the purpose of electing Executive Board members-at-large (3) and the trans-action of such other business as may lawfully come before it.

In addition, officers and board members are notified to attend the semi-annual meeting of the Executive Board which will take place at the same location on the same date, at 11:00 A.M. We will break for dinner about 1:00 P.M. There are a number of im-portant matters to take up, please try to come before the hour if possible.

There will be no auction on this date, Auction Manager Bernadt remarks he does not want to compete with the two meetings. See his announcement in the text of the Bulletin. However, as at a majority of meetings - there will be plenty of buying, selling and swapping. Come in the forenoon for the best buys.

Note we continue with bulletin supplements this month. Although a good deal of effort by both authors and editors goes into the supplements, I have not received ONE WORD, by letter, from any of our members either in favor of or against this format. Since the supplements add materially to the printing and distribution of the bi-monthly publication, the Executive Board would appreciate some feedback, in order to make plans compatible with the wishes of the majority. Please write me your comments, address is on the mailing face of the bulletin.

(Continued on Page 5)



UNIT 28

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome to membership James Inverarity, Jack C. Kiefer, George Hunt, Dennis Mallory, Don Stanton and Dr. Morton Laby, whose names were published in the February bulletin.

New Applications:

COLLECTOR'S CLUB OF CHICAGO 1029 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. 60610  
Att: Library Committee

BAUER, GEORGE J. 40-45 192 Street, Flushing, NY 11358

References: None required (APS #93908)

Interests: Single stamps: West Germany, Austria, Italy, Canada, U.S.A., U.N.  
and Post Office Directories

BUXBAUM, DAVID E. 2892 South Delaware Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53207

References: None required (APS #83479)

Interests: Postal History of Kings County, N.Y.(pre-1950); First Day Covers,  
music, literature and chess topicals.

COOKE, HENRY F. 6200 Dunrobin Drive, Bethesda, MD 20016

References: None required (APS #60434)

Interests: 20th Century U.S. Postal History; (research and collecting materials  
to illustrate major developments, changes in PL&R and technology since 1900

HART, WILLIAM T. 7 Clark Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801

References: None required (APS #57031)

Interests: 20th Century NY State town cancels; Early dates on cover 1847-1945;  
Glens Falls postal history.

WARDLE, ALFRED H. R.D. #1, Hinman Road, Barneveld, NY 13304

References: Two members of the ESPHS - Joseph Romanelli, J. Patrick VanBuskirk

Interests: Early U.S. stampless; Covers previous to 1890, both American and foreign.

The deadline for submitting nominations for Executive Board members-at-large passed on March 21. The following members received three or more nominating letters:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| John F. Haefeli, Jr. | Albany, N.Y.       |
| John A. Lange, Jr.   | Ballston Spa, N.Y. |
| Nicholas J. Todaro   | Oswego, N.Y.       |
| Robert A. Waite, Sr. | North Adams, Mass. |

All nominees have expressed their consent to nomination. Mail ballots are enclosed in this bulletin, please mail to the Committee on Elections. Ballots may be cast at the Annual Meeting on May 7, for those attending who desire to vote in person.

Two of our members appeared in national philatelic publications recently. In the U.S.P.C.S. Chronicle, Ken de Lisle concluded his article on Hudson River Ship Mail. In the March S.P.A. Journal, Cal Hahn authors an interesting article on "Answers to Some Confederate Puzzles?"

#### VETERAN COVER DEALER RETIRES

By now most of us have read that E.N. "Nort" Sampson, after 40 years in this business is retiring for reasons of health. Nort states he will continue dabbling in covers to a limited degree but will discontinue any type of regular cover activity. Nort edited the last two editions of the American Stampless Cover Catalog and has collaborated with David H. Phillips of North Miami on a new, greatly expanded edition which is expected in April.

There is not one of the older generation of cover collectors who fails to remember Nort with a great deal of respect and affection. His way of business best epitomizes our understanding of high ethics in both buying and selling. Above all, he became as close to being a "personal advisor" to us as was possible. One need only leave a listing of his needs and sooner, rather than later, a mouth-watering selection came in the mail. Our collections have been enriched by the items he has turned up for us and we shall miss his cheery "HI" on the invoice. But, we know that in the hot-bed of Florida philately he will remain very much in the mainstream of postal history. Nort, we all wish you well.

#### EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS

We have recently concluded an agreement with the Southern Philatelic Federation for an exchange of publications between the respective societies. The SPF will regularly send us their journal and newsletter, while we will send them our own bulletin and supplements. Their publications quite naturally feature postal history articles concerning the southern states, which we know have a rich tradition.

The exchange of publications is a healthy sign of cooperation from which we both will benefit. Their publications are being placed in our library, details on loan of this or other society publications we receive can be had from David W. Prosser, librarian. In addition to the SPF we regularly receive the journals of the American Philatelic Society and the Postal History Society. We have recently begun to receive Bob Harris's (aGatherin') PS, a postal history journal which has received excellent reviews, by subscription. Bob donated the entire 1977 Volume I issues.

#### OHIO POSTAL HISTORY ROUTE MAP

We have received for inspection and review a copy of the Ohio Postal Route Map of 1870. It is an excellent reprint of the original, covering the eastern portion of Ohio and parts of Michigan on the north, Kentucky and West Virginia on the south and Pennsylvania on the east. The reprint measures 17"x24" in black and white. There is an accompanying color slide which indicates the mail routes in colors coded to represent frequency of service to each office. The cost of both is \$3.00 postpaid from James K. Gibson, P.O. Box 302, Mount Vernon, OH 43050. For members interested in Ohio or in postal history memorabilia, we recommend the map.

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

AUCTION NEWS

Auction Manager George Bernadt confirms the date of our next auction at Karrat's, same location as our last, beginning at 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 25, 1978. Lots will be on view from 10:00 A.M. until noon, when we will break for dinner. Deadline for material is April 15, 1978.

Because of the gratifying response to his appeal in the last bulletin, George has made this a little larger than usual and states it will run well over 200 lots. So bring your larger than usual check book. There will, of course, be no sale or exchange activity permitted, outside of the auction action, which is the principal reason for holding the sale on a date where no meeting will be a distraction.

Kindly remember, this restriction was thoroughly discussed and later approved by the Executive Board last year. There is no objection to sales activity AFTER THE AUCTION IS COMPLETED, but we will insist that there be none during viewing hours or while the sale is being called.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW YORK STATE PRICED CATALOG

The new edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalog is due for release in April, at a cost of \$30.00, plus tax. There is very little indication that there will be much change in the New York State Section except, possibly, price revisions. You will recall that the last issue contained an extensive revision of New York State, put together by Editor Nort Sampson with the help of a number of our members.

Of necessity, any catalog which encompasses the entire U.S.A. in a single volume, plus the special sections for independent mail carriers, inland waterways, ship markings, railroad markings, etc., is bound to be restrictive concerning individual states - particularly when that state has had a recent update.

Therefore, it seems to me, there is a crying need for a comprehensive, priced, up-dated catalog covering all aspects of New York State pre-stamp and stampless postal material, including manuscript markings.

For a state as large in numbers of post offices as New York such a task would be monumental for one individual to attempt and might take him years to complete, if working alone. However, if all the members of the ESPHS and their friends were to cooperate in helping with the work, it might be done in a relatively short time.

I am seriously considering beginning such a catalog. I have already sounded out a few of my fellow members with gratifying response. If you, the reader, feel you are interested in furthering such a project and would be willing to help, at least to the extent of making your material available for examination, or by sending us photocopies, descriptions, numbers held, etc. please write me at your earliest convenience.

I realize that replies to an appeal of this nature do not usually elicit much response, BUT, I believe that enormous benefits can be reaped by every student and/or collector of New York State covers and postal history. The benefits of the catalog publication should persuade you to think seriously on the matter.

Please let me have your opinion, even if unfavorable. If you are in favor, let me know of your willingness to cooperate by making your own collection a part of my project.. With all due respect,

GEORGE J. BERNADT, 1470 Wyoming Avenue  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12308

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 1

This month's issue contains the first installment of a fine article on the postal markings of Ithaca, N.Y.; a continuation of the post offices by county and year; the dues notice and a ballot for election of board members, plus the book order.

Please note - if you do not find a dues notice in this mailing, your dues for the membership year ending May 31, 1979 have already been paid.

I urge all members to take part in the election. I have appointed Ralph Reynolds the chairman of the temporary committee on elections. Do return your ballot to him at the address indicated.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 7th,

William A. Seifert, Jr.  
President

COLLECTED POSTAL HISTORY NOTES OF ONTARIO COUNTY

This book is being printed, at long last. The response to our solicitation for orders indicates a press run of 100 will satisfy the membership demand, allowing a surplus for repository libraries and outside orders. But, the supply will not last long.

We have decided to handle the sale in the following manner. This issue contains a definitive order blank. Pre-publication paid orders will be taken immediately. The orders will be filled in the following sequence:

- First: All those members who filled out and mailed the original blank.
- Second: All those members who now send a paid order.
- Third: All those non-members who have indicated their desire - in this group are a number of Ontario County libraries.

The prices as indicated on the order blank are \$5.00 for pre-publication orders, which includes packing and mailing costs; \$7.50 for non-members sending a pre-publication paid order. Orders received after publication will be \$6.00 to members and \$8.00 to non-members.

We wish to make it understood we are reserving the right to limit quantities to one copy per member because of the limited printing. Members who ordered in excess of one copy in December will be back-shipped if there are enough copies. We do want this to be as widely distributed as possible.

**PAID ADLET:** Collectors interested in the following counties drop a SASE to Ken de Lisle, 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208 for a listing of manuscript offices available: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, Steuben, Wyoming. ONLY THESE COUNTIES AVAILABLE.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANUSCRIPT POST OFFICE EDITOR

As the new editor of Manuscript Post Offices of New York State I hope to substantially increase the scope and usefulness of the catalog. When available, exact dates will now be listed. Members of the ESPHS are encouraged to report ALL the manuscript covers in their collection, not just new listings or early and late dates. It may be possible to eventually establish rarity factors as a guide to scarcity.

Please record as much information as possible about each cover on the listing sent in. Free franks, county designation, year dates and abbreviations are all worth noting. For example, if you have the same office spelled or abbreviated differently, please call our attention to it by noting the exact spelling or abbreviating in your listing. Some collectors have even included rates and destinations for stampless covers. If there is any doubt about a town name, state, date, etc., please indicate with a (?) when reporting. Some early covers have only the rate and the town of origin can only be ascertained from the contents or "docket", which is the notation found on so many indicating the sender, date of the letter and sometimes the post office of origin. This docketing usually was placed in the upper part of the folded letter sheet when it was filed, on the long one-third vertical (usually blank) face. Covers without a town strike or manuscript identification should be treated as manuscript post offices.

A record for each town (post office) will be maintained in a card file. It is important to establish the total range of manuscript post office dates. The determination of the date of first or interrupted use of handstamp town markings would help considerably in delineating the period of manuscript use. The American Stampless Cover Catalog provides some help for the early period but the post-1855 period will require help from the county or town collectors. Obviously this is a long term project and one that can never be said to be completed.

The ultimate postal history reference collection would be a photo or photocopy of each cover listed but its feasibility is doubtful due to the expense and effort involved. It is worth noting that cover files of this sort are necessary for proper expertization of covers. My cover files of Dutchess County have kept me clear of several doubtful items in the past year. They undoubtedly repose in some collection at the moment with their true nature unknown. Incidentally, most auction firms do not necessarily withdraw items when informed of their doubtful pedigree. And even if withdrawn their future history will remain unknown.

Aside from the expertization help, a comprehensive record of New York State manuscript post offices would aid all postal historians. It will save the researcher both time and money as rising prices create a greater dispersal of covers. Our own Empire State Postal History Society can be a pacesetter for all the other state societies to follow. I am certain there are many unreported manuscript office covers in the hands of our members. If each and every one of you would just take a little time to list your holdings and forward to me, I assure you the information will be of great value in our expanded effort. I also assure you the source will be kept confidential.

I shall look forward to hearing from you, not only with a listing but with any comments or suggestions that would benefit our publication, Manuscript Post Offices of New York State. My address is P.O. Box 637, Wall St. Station, New York, NY 10005.

HENRY CHLANDA