

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

ISSUED BI-MONTHLY

JUNE 1979

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to thank the members of ESPHS for their confidence in electing me President of the Society. Bill Seifert is a hard act to follow but I will try to do my best. I will need the help of all the members. Any suggestions for future activities will be greatly appreciated. Some of the objectives I have are:

1. A better "Bulletin".
2. Increased membership.
3. Greater participation by more members.
4. Increased and improved activities.
5. New publications.

All of us who attended FOPEX were impressed with the quality of the exhibits and with the large assortment of material offered by the dealers. Congratulations to the Fort Orange Club for it's excellent show. List of awards are inclosed with this "Bulletin".

I want to call your attention to the reference in the minutes to the update of the New York Section of the "Stampless Cover Catalog". I urge you to cooperate in this project.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, MAY 13, 1979

The adjourned meeting convened at 11:00 A.M. in Meeting Room 5 of the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. There were seventeen members in attendance.

President Seifert called the meeting to order with two announcements. First, he explained that the regular annual meeting had convened on the first Sunday in May, at Albany. There being no quorum present, it was adjourned to the second Sunday. It was known by all through the President's Letter of April that this procedure would take place.

The President secondly asked for the formal election of officers for the coming terms. The Secretary reported that an unopposed slate had been nominated, details in the last President's Letter. It was moved by George Bernadt, seconded by Bill Bauer, that the Secretary cast one ballot in favor of the slate as follows:

President: Emma G. Koberg, Geneva, N.Y. Term 1979-80, 1980-81.

Vice President: Clifford Tuttle, Sidney, N.Y. do.

Secty-Treasurer: Kenneth de Lisle, Albany, N.Y. do.

Director: David Frosser, Watertown, N.Y. Expiring 4/30/82

Director: Charles Sweeting, Oswego, N.Y. do.

Director: Chester E. Wilcox, Richford, N.Y. do.

There being no discussion called for, the President asked for a few moments to thank those members who had cooperated with him during a somewhat trying term, particularly the committee chairmen. He then called for Emma Koberg to take the chair.

Amid applause, Mrs. Koberg thanked the nominating committee for the honor shown her and the other officers elected.

President Koberg's first official act was to appoint retired President Seifert as a director to fill the vacancy caused by her election to a higher post. She called for co-operation of the members in the coming term and stated that a progressive program was in the making, to be announced through the Bulletin.

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that his Annual Reports had been held back due to pressing duties on FOPEX '79 since the end of the fiscal year on April 30th, but that a report would be prepared and distributed. Awards Chairman Tuttle reported on our Awards Program, elsewhere detailed. President Koberg than asked that Bill Bauer be given the floor.

Bill was introduced as A.P.S. Secretary, a member of many societies including our own, but most importantly at the present time as New York State Section Editor of the American Stampless Cover Catalog.

Bill reported that work was already under way on the next edition. It is his plan to completely revise the NYS listing by adding many unlisted markings and eliminating those which seemed questionable, as well as confirming those which are correct.

He has broken the catalog listing in counties and plans to send a county listing to all persons who are known to collect that particular section.

The person receiving the list will be asked to check it against his own collection, making any notes which seem pertinent. Each collector will be asked to return the list to a central committee of the ESPHS for processing and perhaps clarification if there are any questions. We will be asked to get in touch with any non-member collector that we know of, for ALL information is essential.

There is an unresolved question at the present time on manuscript or hand-written post office identifications which cannot be answered until more thought has been given to the question.

We were cautioned on the matter of "proof of existence." It is the intention of the present editors to de-list any marking for which we or some reliable authority has not seen an example. The mere fact that a marking is listed does not prove its existence, due to the haphazard reporting of 40-50 years ago.

The discussion closed on a note of optimism that a reliable listing could be made before the next publication date for the ASCC.

On a question of future meetings, Mrs. Koberg announced that Bill Seifert had volunteered to sponsor the Albany Regional Meetings. A notice will be sent to nearby members prior to the meeting date.

For the central part of the state, Nick Todaro has volunteered to be the coordinator of regional meetings.

There was some discussion on a general meeting in the summer but no conclusion was reached. There was also some discussion of book and pamphlet printing and distribution, also purchase of material for the library.

A question from the floor brought Auction Manager George Bernadt to the podium. George stated the reason for suspension of the auction was lack of material. In the strong sellers market, collectors are reluctant to part with anything, even duplicates, in the belief that it will increase in value rapidly and in a short term. Consequently, all the auction receives is second-class or unwanted material. George stated he would conduct an auction in October, provided he had sufficient good material - that is up to the members alone.

Another question from the floor was with respect to the bi-monthly bulletin. Some of the problems were explained and discussed. Mrs. Koberg promised this continuity of communication would be one of her first programs and that a June Bulletin would be forthcoming.

Bob Waite then asked if the regular meetings, regional meetings or other gatherings could be made more interesting by a presentation. It was agreed this might bring in added participation if announced as a part of the meeting. On President's call for volunteers, Bernadt and Waite both stated they would be prepared to make a presentation when called on. On this note the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Respectfully submitted...


Kenneth R. de Lisle, Secretary

Empire State
Postal History Society

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TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT April 30, 1979

Due to the extreme pressure of FOPEX '79 during the latter days of April and the first part of May, a detailed financial report has not been prepared. The Treasurer sincerely regrets this delay and asks that his previous record be taken into account when the details cannot be delivered to the Executive Board until his return from vacation in late June.

However, our finances are sound. There has been some consideration by the Executive Board to bring the dues level to a more realistic sum, in order to maintain services. You will hear more of this during the coming year.

Bank Balances: Bank of NY Capital Region Apr. 30/78

Checking Account	\$ 507.98
Savings Accounts	<u>4,728.28</u>
	\$ 5,236.26

Bank Balances: Bank of NY Capital Region Apr. 30/79

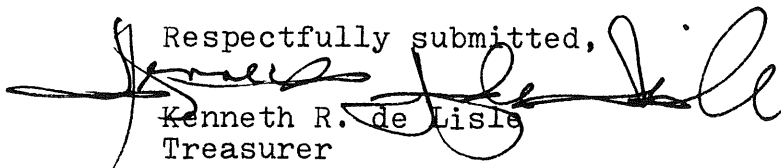
Checking Account	\$ 702.97
Savings Accounts	<u>4,487.83</u>
	\$ 5,190.80
Net Capital Cash Reduction	\$ 45.46

This (unaudited) figure is inclusive of several large non-recurring expenses, namely the support for FOPEX '79 voted by the Board last year to include subsidies and trophies.

Since the end of April, cash representing the sale of publications has been deposited which, if such action had been taken prior to the closing of accounts, would have resulted in a small surplus for the fiscal year.

A detailed accounting will be presented to the Executive Board in July and will be distributed to the membership in the next appropriate mailing.

Albany, N.Y.
May 17, 1979

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. de Lisle
Treasurer

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome to membership John H. Barwis, whose application was listed in the President's letter of March 27, 1979.

We have an application received from:

NANCY B. ZIELINSKI 50 Electric Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14613

References: James P. Flynn, Rochester, N.Y.
Warren C. Stevens, Rochester, N.Y.

Interests: Maine Postal History, esp. stampless period with an emphasis on manuscript cancellations.

Address changes: Thomas R. Stone NOW 6319 Stephen's Crossing
Mechaniscburg, PA 17055

Charles Molnar NOW 1030 Tote Road
Rock Creek, OH 44084

Robert Knight NOW 18 Gilchrest Road
Congers, N.Y. 10920

RESIGNATIONS: Stephen G. King, Donald McGowan.

Fopex '79 winners are to be congratulated for their showing in very stiff competition. Those who attended will verify the quality and quantity of postal history exhibits, strong in NY State.

Awards chairman Clifford Tuttle and spouse Evelyn are to be particularly thanked for their excellent choice of awards picked out and engraved on behalf of the Society.

A full listing of the awards is enclosed with this Bulletin. Again, congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated in placing a wonderful cross-section of New York State Postal History on display. It was a most successful effort.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome to membership Mrs. Gordon Williams, Miamisburg, Ohio, whose application was published in the December Bulletin.

May 11 - 13, 1979

AWARDS

GRAND AWARD: Maurice R. Friend, M.D. New York, N.Y. Crete Postal History

RESERVE GRAND: Peter Shek, Staten Island, N.Y. Pre-Adhesive Hong Kong

LARGE GOLD WITH FELICITATIONS OF THE JURY:

Anton H. Zahm, Syracuse, N.Y. - New York State County/Postmaster on Cover

Maurice R. Friend, M.D. New York, NY - Greece PrePhilatelic 1821-1860

LARGE GOLD

Royden H. Lounsbery, Ithaca, N.Y. - New York State Postal History

Michael Jarosak, Stormville, N.Y. - U.S. Streetcar Railway Mail

George J. Bernadt, Schenectady, N.Y. - USPO Domestic Letter Rates 1799-

Royden H. Lounsbery, Ithaca, N.Y. - American Postal Markings 1845

Lesley M. Lorant, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. - The Perforated Cameo Issues of
Gambia 1880 - 1886/87

SMALL GOLD

Joseph Romanelli, Utica, N.Y. - The Utica Double Ovals 1829-53

Peter G. Huntsman, Montpelier, Vt - Brattleboro, Vermont 1794-1869

Louis T. Call, Delmar, N.Y. - Selected NY State Railroad Postmarks

Dr. Claus A. Wulff - Krone und Adler, The German Reichpost Issue 1889 -

Vera M. Bunkoff, Albany, N.Y. - Host Countries of the Olympics 1900

Louis T. Call, Delmar, N.Y. - First Issue Nesbitt Stamped Envelopes

John A. Lange, Jr. Ballston Spa, N.Y. - 3¢ U.S. Imperforate Stamp 1851 -

Arnold A. Leiter, Troy, N.Y. - D.O. Blood & Co. Local Stamps 1857

Vincent A. DeMase, Ormond Beach, Fla. - Canadian Postal Stationery of
the Victorian Era

LARGE SILVER

Emma G. Koberg, Geneva, N.Y. - Postal History of Ontario County

Austin B. Speed, Ashville, NC - Stampless Covers of NY State

Maris Tirums, Albany, N.Y. - Latvia Air Post Stamps and Covers

Herbert Moore, Carmel, NY - Music of 1776 on Stamps

SMALL SILVER

John A. Lange, Jr., Ballston Spa, N.Y. - Waterford, Saratoga County, N.Y.
Town Markings Stampless Period
Clifford A. Tuttle, Sidney, N.Y. - Sullivan County Postal History
John A. Lange, Jr., Ballston Spa, N.Y. - Saratoga Springs Town Markings
Stampless Period
Lawrence M. Peckham, Cobleskill, N.Y. - Schoharie County Postal History
Thomas F. McGrath, Albany, N.Y. - WW I U.S. Army Post Offices
Robert J. Seeke, Nassau, N.Y. - There's More to France Than...
Irving Miller, Schenectady, N.Y. - HolyLand Covers
Dutch Girl - Netherlands Postal Stationery
Eugene N. Gillett, Marcy, N.Y. - Birds of Prey
George J. Bernadt, Schenectady, N.Y. - The United States of Europe
Arnold Skoler, Utica, N.Y. - To Blazes with Philately
Anonymous - Covers of the U.S. 1851-57 Issue
Wayva F. Seitz, Albany, N.Y. - A Beginning Study of Nauru

BRONZE

Thomas F. McGrath, Albany, N.Y. - The Hudson River Mail
Anonymous - Postal Markings from Town of New Lebanon, New York
Douglas N. Clark, Lexington, GA - Street Car Mail in NY State
Anonymous - Albany, N.Y. Postal Markings on Circular Mail
Edward J. Ross, Granite Springs, N.Y. - Railway Mail Service in Vermont
Molly Connelly, Oneida, N.Y. - Churches on Stamps
Robert S. Bordon, Abington, Mass. - 47 Dead Countries

SPECIAL AWARDS

BEST 3-FRAME EXHIBIT - George Bernadt, U.S.P.O. Domestic Letter Rates
BEST 1-FRAME EXHIBIT - E.J. Ross, Railway Mail Service in Vermont
BEST JUNIOR EXHIBIT - Tina Lyngard, My Olympic Collection
RUNNER-UP JUNIOR - Beth-Ann Donovan, Olympics on Stamps
BEST TRANSIT - Louis T. Call, NY State Railroad Postmarks
BEST POSTAL HISTORY - Peter Shek, Pre-Adhesive Hong Kong
BEST U.S. POSTAL HISTORY - R.H. Lounsbery, American Postal Markings
BEST ON PRINTED PAGES - Harold S. Smith, United States of Indonesia
BEST RESEARCH, SPA MEDAL - Lesley M. Lorant, Perforated Cameo Gambia
A.P.S. MEDAL, BEST MEMBER - Maurice Friend M.D., Crete Postal History
BEST POSTAL STATIONERY - Vincent A. DeMase, Canadian Victorian Era
BEST U.S. BUREAU ISSUES - Robert Gallup, U.S. Parcel Post Issues
BEST TOPICAL - Vera M. Bunkoff, Host Countries of the Olympics
BRUNNER-UP - Herbert Moore, Music of 1776 on Stamps

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY AWARDS for NY STATE POSTAL HISTORY
(Except for last 2, are limited to members of the Society)

BEST EXHIBIT - William H. Bauer, Wheaton, Ill, Otsego County PH
RUNNER-UP - Nicholas J. Todaro, Oswego, N.Y., Glimpses of Oswego Co.
BEST COUNTY EXHIBIT - Emma G. Koberg, Ontario Co. Postal History
BEST SPECIALTY - Joseph Romanelli, Utica Double Oval Postmarks
BEST ONE FRAME - John A. Lange, Jr., Saratoga Springs Town Markings
BEST NON-MEMBER - Austin B. Speed, Stampless Covers of NY State
RUNNER-UP NON-MEMBER - Douglas N. Clark, Street Car Mail in NY State

JURY: Harry C. Meier, Jersey City, N.J. Chairman
Edward A. Williams, Buffalo, N.Y.
Howard J. Gaston, West Granby, Conn.
Lauretta Garabrant, Verona, N.J.

President's Message continued from page 1

Inoorder to have successful auctions there must be good material. If you wish to continue the auctions, dig out your good duplicates, search for some choice items and send them to George Bernadt. As noted in the minutes, George is willing to conduct an auction in October, provided he has sufficient lots by August 10, 1979. This is a firm deadline.

Membership renewals are now due. Notices were mailed March 27, 1979 with the President's letter. Please send your return if you haven't already done so.

We hope to have two Regional Meetings this summer. One in Albany, and one in Syracuse. Watch for further information.

In the next issue of the "Bulletin", I will announce my Committees and their Chairmen.

Emma G. Koberg

President

Empire State
Postal History Society

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FOPEX '79, ALBANY, N.Y.

At the national-class show held in Albany on May 11-13, 1979, our members did very well against stiff competition. In the non-postal history classification the following were successful:

Vera M. Bunkoff, Small Gold, Host Countries of the Olympics and BEST TOPICAL EXHIBIT

John A. Lange, Jr. Small Gold, 3¢ U.S. Imperfs 1851-1857

Arnold A. Leiter, Small Gold, D.O. Blood & Co. Local Stamps

George J. Bernadt, Small Silver, The United States of Europe

Robert Gallup, Best U.S. Bureau Issues, U.S. Parcel Post

In the postal history class, the following members:

Michael Jarosak, Large Gold, U.S. Streetcar Railway Mail

George J. Bernadt, Large Gold, U.S.P.O. Domestic Letter Rates, 1799 - 1845, and BEST THREE FRAME EXHIBIT - OPEN

Royden H. Lounsbery, Large Gold, New York State Postal History

Royden H. Lounsbery, Large Gold, American Postal Markings and BEST U.S. POSTAL HISTORY

Joseph Romanelli, Small Gold, The Utica Double Ovals, 1829-1853 and BEST NEW YORK STATE SPECIALTY EXHIBIT (3 frames or less)

Peter G. Huntsman, Small Gold, Brattleboro, Vt. 1794 - 1869

Emma G. Koberg, Large Silver, Postal History of Ontario County, and BEST N.Y. STATE COUNTY EXHIBIT, (3 frames or less)

John A. Lange, Small Silver, Waterford, Saratoga County NY Markings

Clifford Tuttle, Small Silver, Sullivan County Postal History

John A. Lange, Small Silver, Saratoga Springs N.Y. Town Markings, *

Lawrence M. Peckham, Small Silver, Schoharie County Postal History

Thomas F. McGrath, Small Silver, WW I U.S. Army Post Offices

Thomas F. McGrath, Bronze, The Hudson River Mail

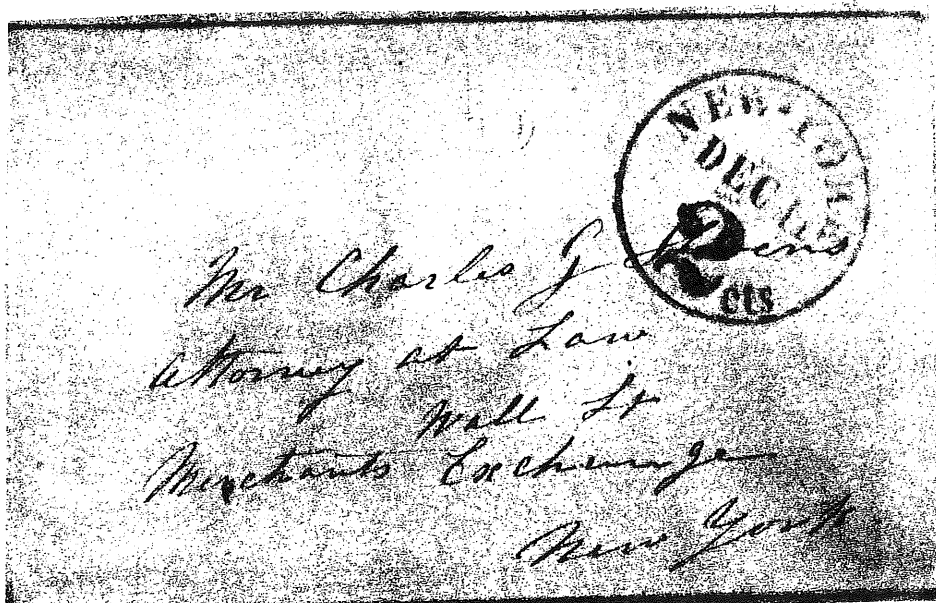
Edward J. Ross, Bronze, Railway Mail Service in Vermont, and BEST ONE FRAME EXHIBIT - OPEN

*also took Best 1-frame NYS Postal History award

The three top NYS PH Awards went to:

1. William H. Bauer, BEST for Otsego County Postal History
2. Nicholas J. Todaro, RUNNER-UP, Glimpses of Oswego County PH
3. Anton H. Zahm, LARGE GOLD with felicitations of the Jury
New York State County and/or Postmaster Markings on Cover

Our non-member awards went to Austin B. Speed, Ashville, N.C. for Stampless Covers of NY State BEST and Douglas N. Clark, Lexington, GA., Street Car Mail in NY State, RUNNER-UP.



A COVER TO THINK ABOUT
by Calvet M. Hahn

The illustrated cover is a well-known stampless variety from New York City representing the unpaid 2¢ rate. The marking of a 33½mm red circle NEW-YORK/DEC/11/2cts is recorded from July 22, 1845 to March 6, 1851. While a number of examples are poorly struck or appear to have 'breaks' in the outer circle, no constant 'breaks' are known. Thus dating of this marking from its appearance is impossible when it is within the known use period of the handstamp.

The two-cent rate was introduced for circulars July 1, 1845 and lasted until March 1847, at which time the circular rate rose to 3¢. Also on July 1, 1845, the rate for letters "not for transmission" was made a 2¢ drop letter rate. This rate lasted until the Act of March 3, 1851 reduced the drop letter rate to 1¢ each effective July 1, 1851. There was also a 2¢ carrier fee per letter in effect in New York until the Postmaster General used his discretion to create a 1¢ fee on February 3, 1849, confirming Postmaster Robert Morris' 1¢ collection fee notice of January 1, 1849. Finally, a branch post office rate of 2¢ had been authorized in New York in the early 1840's, for the Merchants Exchange branch.

Which of these 2¢ rates applied? The cover did not contain a circular. There are no marks showing a circular was in the envelope and there is a blue paper seal on the back which was used. As circulars had to be unsealed this idea is out. The most common assumption is that it is a drop letter. However, it is addressed to "Wall St. Merchants Exchange", an address which is not required for a drop letter and which normally indicates delivery. Thus, we can probably rule out the drop letter assumption.

ion. This leaves the two more esoteric--and valuable hypotheses. This could be a carrier-delivered letter or one from the Branch Post Office of New York.

The carrier delivery charge was 2¢ only for letters given to carriers for delivery through the carrier system, e.g. that did not pass through the post office itself. This rate lasted until 1849 in New York when a 1¢ rate was introduced according to Elliot Perry.

Barnabas Bates, assistant p.m. of New York from 1833-36, tells us that in the 1834 reorganization, the downtown merchants were given a Branch Post Office with a 1¢ charge for each letter delivered to it and 2¢ for each letter received from it. The 1¢ charge was dropped soon thereafter, but the 2¢ charge continued until the Act of March 3, 1847. As I note in my Carrier Service in New York in the Chronicle, this act under Section 10 read, "no additional postage shall be charged for the receipt or delivery of any letter or packet at such branch post office." On November 17, 1841 the Branch P.O. was moved from William and Exchange St. in lower Manhattan to the just rebuilt Merchant's Exchange.

Thus, depending upon the date of this envelope, it could have been a Merchants Exchange Branch p.o. 2¢ fee until mid-1847. Or, if it is after that date it could have been a carrier item until 1849. It is definitely not a circular and unlikely to be a drop letter.

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COVER QUESTION

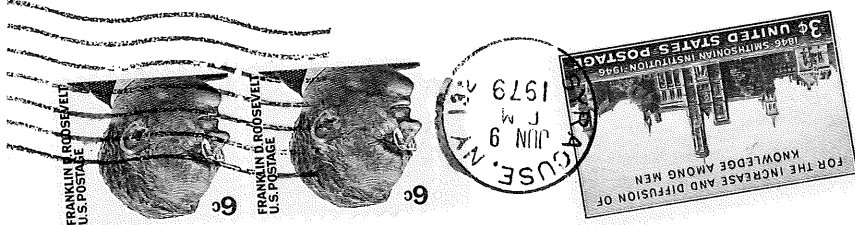
In August we published a question and illustrated a folded letter sheet of Sept. 1, 1799, originating in New York City and addressed to Newfield (no state written). It was rated 20 in NYC and had an added rate 3 in a different hand and a total of 23 (cents) to be collected. We asked --- what was represented by the 23¢ fee?

Only one solution was submitted, by Robert Dalton Harris, which we quote:

"Your problem cover, I believe, falls apart as follows:

Newfield is probably in Maine, but the office there (ref. Dow) didn't open until 1804. In 1810 a postal road served Newfield (PL&R 1825) so I'd guess the (illustrated) letter went through the mails to Portland for the 20¢ and then was carried by other arrangement to Newfield for 3¢, 23¢ to be collected."

Empire State
 Postal History Society
 NICHOLAS J. TODARO
 P.O. Box 225
 Oswego, N. Y. 13126



needed for the receipt or delivery
 on post office. On Nov-
 moved from William and Exchange
 rebuilt Merchant's Exchange.