

BULLETIN *of the Empire State*

Postal History Society

Volume 52 Number 3

September 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bayside Stamp Show

Bayside, Queens, New York –Sep.15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec 15, 2019

The Adria Hotel, 22033 Northern Blvd., Bayside Queens, N.Y.

Hours: 10-4:30. Info: Marilyn Nowak, marilynnowak@verizon.net

Capital District Third Sunday Stamp & Collectibles Show

Colonie, New York, Sep. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, 2019

Colonie Recreation Center, 3 Thunder Rd., Colonie, N.Y.

Hours: 10-3. Info: Paul Lyngard, (518) 424-7920, Email: keithcards@aol.com

Cheektowaga, New York

Sep. 15, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, 2019

Third Sundays Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall, 2735 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y

Hours: Sunday 10-3. Info: Dave Tortorice, (716) 873-4280

Melville Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show

Melville, New York Sep. 8 & 22, Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10 & 24, Dec. 8 & 22, 2019

Catapano Engineering Hall, 585 Broadhallow Rd., Melville, NY 11747

Hours: Sun. 8-2. Info: George Schultheis (516) 557-7096

Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectibles Show

September 8, November 10, 2019

Second Sundays Maplewood Suites, 400 7th North St., Liverpool, N.Y. Thruway Exit 36.

Hours: Sunday 10-4:30. Info. Ed Bailey, (315) 452-0593.

Information obtained from iStampshows.com. Please verify before going.

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APS Affiliate #28

web site www.esphs.us

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President's Message

Our annual meeting and elections are behind us and I am excited to be your newly elected President. I will of course remain on as your webmaster and will put on any other hats that the Society deems to ensure that the ESPHS remains relevant and shares its enthusiasm for New York State Postal History with as many collectors as we can.

This being my first President's message in our quarterly *Bulletin*, I thought I would introduce myself to our membership since I have yet to meet many of you in person. I am a life-long philatelist/numismatist and quite active in the philatelic community. In addition to my roles in the ESPHS, I am a Life Member of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, as well as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Chairman's Chatter*, Editorial Proofreader for *The Chronicle*, and Webmaster. I am also the current President, Web Designer & Web Developer of the Philatelic Society of Lancaster County. I served on the Council of Philatelists at the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum for 9 years and am a Charter member of The Philatelic Gathering, whose mission is to share our love of philately with others. I maintain active memberships in the American Philatelic Society (30+ yrs.), British North American Philatelic Society (20+ yrs.), Pennsylvania Postal History Society; and the Society of Paper Money Collectors. I have also held memberships in the Collectors Club of NY, the Carriers and Locals Society, the Postal History Society, and U.S. Stamp Society - to name a few.

I am currently an Executive at WellSpan Health, an 8 hospital, 19,000 employees, integrated health system in south-central Pennsylvania. I live in Lancaster, PA with my wife Kathleen of 20+ years and our two daughters, McKenna Rose (16) and Mia Santina (13).

We have a great Society with numerous volunteers who contribute to our success. But I would like to hear from more of you on how you can support that success. What would you like to see of your Society? Why not submit an article or two on your favorite subject for publication in our excellent journals? Why not share a presentation, monograph or exhibit for posting on our website (www.esphs.us)? All of the above shall ensure that our Society continues to grow, attracts new members, and advances the knowledge of the postal history of New York by means of educational and historical research - which of course is at the core of our Mission. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please call (914-450-3791) or e-mail (charlesdicomo@gmail.com). I'd be most pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Charles J. DiComo, PhD
President, ESPHS

DR. WILLIAMS MEDICINE COMPANY

Can Franchising Work in Spanish-America?

by Bob Bramwell

As a Schenectadian by birth, adopting its postal history was a natural when I fulfilled my stamp collecting objectives. Years ago when I bought the cover shown as **Figure 1** its appeal was the mute Schenectady oval, which is neither rare nor common. In researching and writing the Dr. Williams Medicine Company article appearing in the companion *EXCELSIOR!* to this edition of *BULLETIN*, I tried to fit this piece into the narrative but gave up when I accepted that, other than the crude rubber-stamped return address, every other connection to the content of that article was almost pure speculation.

But this empty envelope presents questions I wish to bring to the table of New York State postal historians for their contributions, so here goes.

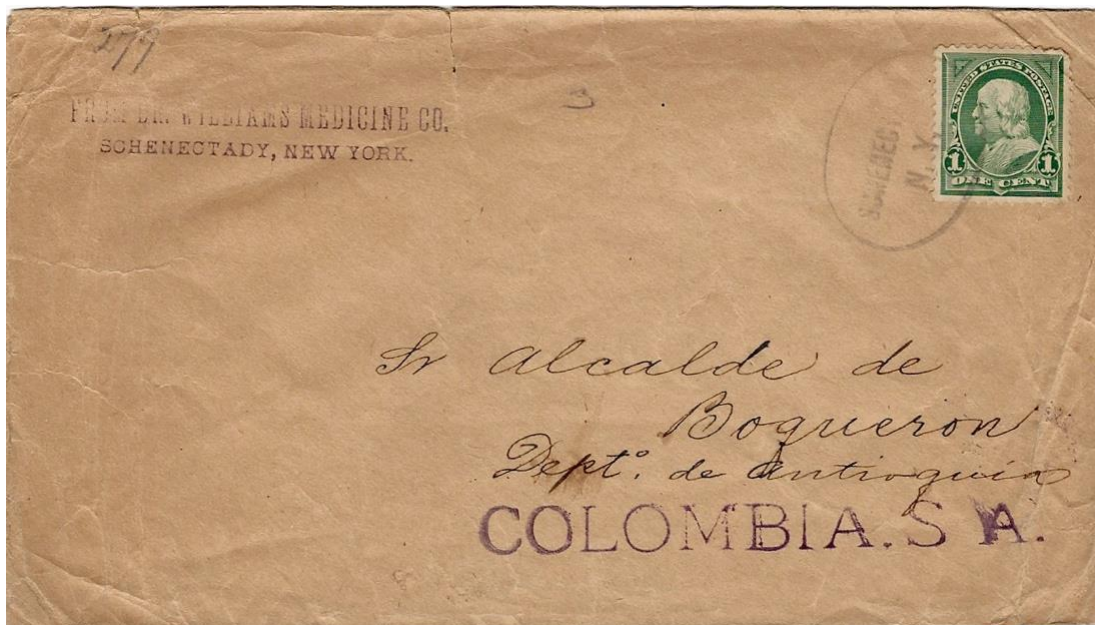


Figure 1. Cover from Schenectady, N.Y. to Colombia. S.A.

With no markings other than the Schenectady mute oval – used primarily for commercial Circulars – when did it enter the mails? The perf 12 1 cent green Sc. #279, first issued January 17, 1898, establishes the earliest possible date of mailing – but is open-ended until 1902’s regular issue. March 20, 1898, is the only datable example of this marking that I have.

How would you get a letter from the U.S. carried to and delivered in Colombia for a penny?

The cover has pressure markings suggesting that several folded sheets were inside the envelope. Enough of the original sealant remains on the flap so I believe the cover was sent unsealed as commercial mail. Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union in 1881. The contents of this piece must have met the definition of Printed Matter or Commercial Papers, qualifying it for the applicable one-cent-per-2-ounces rate set by the Congress of Berne in 1874 for those uses. Mail from the U.S. to anywhere in Colombia in the late 1800's arrived by steamer at the surprisingly modern and industrialized Caribbean seaport city of Barranquilla. If a reader has the equivalent of Theron Wierenga's important *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875* extending into the 20th century, please advise me.

Who and where was the Addressee? The English translation reads "Mr. Mayor of Boqueron, Department of Antioquia." The handstamp COLOMBIA, S.A. was added before bagging at the New York City post office. A town name Boqueron exists in two different Departments of Colombia. Antioquia is 35 miles from Medellin. The other is close to Bogotá. The writer in Schenectady obviously knew that distinction had to be made. In the 1890's this Boqueron was a small town deep in forested terrain; certainly not a commercial center but large enough to have a mayor and postal service. "Boqueron," by the way, means "anchovy" if that helps explain anything.

Why would Dr. Williams Medicine Company write to the Mayor of Boqueron? I speculate that Dr. Williams Medicine Company had previous success in England setting up agents to represent them and distribute their then-famous Pink Pills for Pale People. The company took advantage of the UPU one-cent rate to flood large Spanish-American countries' pools of town mayors – names unavailable in Schenectady but assumed to be locally respected – hoping to duplicate the successful establishment of agents in that huge market.

How did this cover survive? We hardly ever know, do we? Particularly when there is not a single Colombian postal service marking, and no further U.S. postal markings. The only thing I can point to is a half-inch bundling string tear at the top center of the cover that sure looks like official postal service to me! But really, I hope it means this cover was one of a large number of Dr. Williams Medicine Company letters that accumulated in the possession of Mr. Mayor in office space set aside for his Pink Pill franchise business.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

DEADLINE – The deadline for the **December 2019** issue of the *BULLETIN* is **December 1, 2019**. The editor is always looking for short (1/2 page, 1 page, 1 ½ page or 2 page) articles to fill spots in the *BULLETIN*. Submit to Larry Laliberte at largin1@verizon.net. And don't forget, an article of one page or more will get you an additional year's membership.

Secretary's Membership Report

Address Change:

Mark H. Honda
(CDPC) Capital District Psychiatric Hospital (Unit L)
75 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, NY 12220
518-549-6995

EXCELSIOR! DEADLINE

The deadline for the **March 2020** issue of *EXCELSIOR!* is **January 20, 2020**.

As an incentive, submitting a one to four-page article will get you a one year extension on your membership and a five-page article will get you a two year extension. Just think – if you write regularly for *EXCELSIOR!*--you'll have the potential of earning free membership for life! And, think about how you will enrich yourself and others.

EASY OPENING

By Larry Laliberte

When searching through a dealer's stock for items of interest, I occasionally come across items that appear to be very common, such was the case with the cover shown in **Fig. 1**. It was

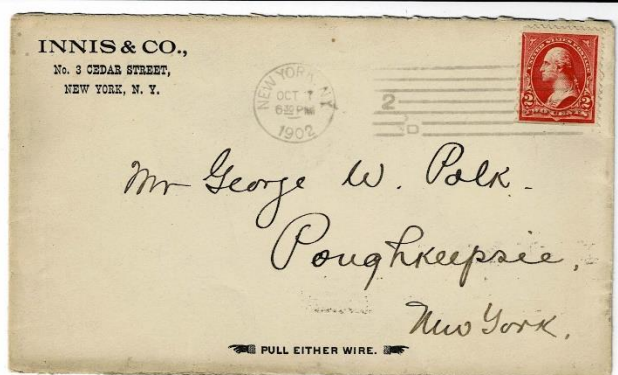


Figure 1: Patent envelope.

mailed from New York City to Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (my collecting interest) in 1902. Looking closer revealed the instructions at the bottom telling you to "PULL EITHER WIRE". A wire was inserted at the bottom of the envelope during manufacturing to facilitate opening the envelope.

This is one type of "Patent" envelope that can occasionally be found.

Questions: Does anyone know who manufactured this envelope? Did the probable added expense of the envelope keep it from becoming popular? Did the protruding wires cause problems with the cancelling machines? I checked the *Postal Bulletin* up to 1910 and couldn't find any references.

If you have any answers to these questions, please let me know at largin1@verizon.net.