

# ***BULLETIN*** *of the Empire State*

## *Postal History Society*

Volume 53 Number 2

June 2020

Due to the COVID 19 outbreak, many events have been cancelled. The web site from which this calendar has been drawn, iStampshows.com, has not shown any cancellations including shows scheduled for April and May. Please verify with organizers before heading out.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Bayside Stamp Show**

**Bayside, Queens, New York**

**Jun. 21, Sep. 20, Oct. 18, 2020**

The Best Western Queens Gold Coast, 22033 Northern Blvd., Bayside, Queens, N.Y. 11361

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

#### **Fort Orange Stamp Club**

**Colonie, New York**

**Oct. 18, 2020**

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

Hours: 10-3. Info George McGowan, (518) 479-4396, Email: geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com

#### **Melville Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show**

**Melville, New York**

**Jun 14 & 28, Jul. 12 & 26, Aug. 9 & 23 Sep 13 & 27, 2020**

Catapano Engineering Hall, 585 Broadhallow Rd., Melville, N.Y. 11747

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

#### **Northeast Postal History & Ephemera Show **CANCELLED****

**July 18 & 19, 2020**

Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, N.Y.

Hours Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-4. Info George McGowan, (518) 479-4396

Conditions permitting.

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

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**BULLETIN DEADLINE**

**DEADLINE** – The deadline for the Sept. issue of the *BULLETIN* is **August 20th**. 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 [largin1@verizon.net](mailto:largin1@verizon.net). Larry Laliberte

### *Secretary's Membership Report*

#### Deceased Members

*Gestwicki, Ralph*  
*Hart, William*

#### New Member

*The Postal History Foundation Inc.*  
*920 N. First Ave.*  
*Tucson, AZ 85719-6652*

### **INTRODUCING JEFF STAGE, OUR NEW *EXCELSIOR!* EDITOR.**

Jeff Stage, of Syracuse, N.Y., is the new editor for the society's journal, *Excelsior!*

Jeff likes to tell people he had a perfect career bookended by two dream jobs – sports writer and as an editor and writer for stamp collecting.

He grew up in Liverpool, N.Y. and received a bachelor's degree from State University College at Oswego. His full-time journalism career began in 1977 as a member of the sports department at the *Syracuse Herald-Journal*. After 5 ½ years in sports, he moved on and eventually worked as reporter and editor for every editorial department for the Syracuse newspapers (the H-J was phased out in 2001, with the morning *Post-Standard* becoming the city's lone daily). With changing times came difficulties in the newspaper industry and after nearly 36 years on staff Jeff was among the newspaper's first-ever group of employee layoffs in 2013.

Jeff took another path for a while and drove a taxi cab for 13 months before joining the American Philatelic Society in 2015, working as the editorial associate for Jay Bigalke, then editor of *The American Philatelist*. He remained at the APS in central Pennsylvania through August 2018 before returning to Syracuse to be closer to family and friends.

Jeff is a member of the APS, American Topical Association and most recently joined the Empire State Postal History Society. He's been slowly building a Central New York-based collection that is a general potpourri of items, from revenue stamps and commercial covers to mail of key personalities and philatelic events.

He looks forward to working with the society's officers and members along with the authors and contributors to the *Excelsior!* (P.S. The earlier contributions to the journal can arrive, the better. Short pieces – including a simple image (300 dpi jpegs are best) and description – are welcome. We already have a summer deadline looming!)

You can reach Jeff at [nyspostal@gmail.com](mailto:nyspostal@gmail.com).

## **WILLIAM (BILL) HART**



QUEENSBURY – William (Bill) J. Hart, 96, passed away with family by his side at his home at The Glen at Hiland Meadows on March 23, 2020. Generous, kind, and funny among friends and family, he also valued logic, precision, and order, earning him the family nickname “Mr. Spock,” which he tolerated with good humor. His attention to detail and accuracy also extended to his professional life and hobbies. As a recognized expert on U.S. postal history, accomplished amateur golfer, and chemical engineer, he was a role model for the younger generations of his family and an enthusiastic supporter of their interests and accomplishments.

Bill was born May 10, 1923, in Brooklyn, NY to the late J. Harry and Marian F. Hart. After his father passed away, Bill moved with his mother and siblings to the Ellenville, NY area in 1934 where he initially went to a two-room schoolhouse and ultimately graduated from Ellenville High School as salutatorian. He was the class president and captain of the golf team. He went on to the Mass. Institute of Technology, where his education was interrupted by World War II. He served in the US Army from 1943 to 1946 before returning to MIT, graduating in 1948 as a chemical engineer.

He lived an incredibly full life during his 96 years. He and his wife, Marie Therese (Rese) married in 1949 at St. Ignatius in Chestnut Hill, MA. Rese then joined him in Glens Falls, NY where they raised their six children in the Halfway Brook Reservoir area. Bill had moved to Glens Falls, in 1948 after accepting a position at Imperial Color, Chemical and Paper Corp. in the pigment/pain industry. His expertise as a pigment specialist grew as he took on increasing managerial responsibilities. The company was acquired by Hercules Imperial and then by Ciba Geigy. He had many patents related to improving the quality of color for a variety of company products.

His professional expertise in pigments perfectly coincided with his childhood hobby of collecting US Postal Stamps, which accelerated when he inherited his father’s philatelic collection during the Great Depression. He became a well-known expert in United States postal history and an exhibitor of the highest standard with many awards at both the regional and national levels. His keen eye for subtle color differences and his attention to detail made him a valued member of the American Philatelic Society Expertizing Committee. He collected a wide range of postal related items including 1<sup>st</sup> Day covers, RFD cancels, and a family favorite, a wonderful exhibit of picture postcard from 1900 to 1950 of the Hudson River from Lake Tear of the Clouds to N.Y.C. Towards the end of his career, Ciba Geigy transferred Bill to their Westchester County office. He and Rese lived in Yorktown, where Bill retired and they lived until 2009. When Rese passed away, he moved back to Queensbury and settled into The Glen at Hiland Meadows.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Four months ago, who would have predicted that the world would be facing a health threat of such magnitude as we are with the novel Corona virus COVID-19, along with its long-term social and economic ramifications? I am hopeful that the lessons learned today globally will guide us in our future challenges.

During the past month of social distancing and working extended hours at my health system during this pandemic, I was searching for a story to motivate my colleagues. In the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Washington Post, a story was published on **William Lapschies** which I hope you will find inspiring.<sup>1</sup> Bill was born in 1916 and served in WWII. Shortly after the war, he was a salesman until settling into the family farm that he ran until 2014. He moved into a veteran's home in 2019. What is most remarkable about Bill is that he contracted the Corona virus in early March, and his course was like a roller coaster, often placing him in grave danger, especially when pneumonia set in. But he pulled through, making him the oldest known U.S. COVID-19 survivor. He was well enough to celebrate his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family. But this was not Bill's first pandemic. As a youngster, he survived the Spanish Flu of 1918-1920 that was all around him, even though he did not contract the virus. Amazingly, Bill made it through two pandemics-100 years apart.

And while we will not be together this summer at the APS, I hope to see many of you on the Zoom videoconference screen on June 23 at our **Annual Board** meeting. While it is not the same as being together, it is an opportunity to chat and be assured that the rest of us are OK. I will be emailing out an invitation to our officers, board with the details for the videoconference, along with a dial-in as well and the updated agenda on page 14. Anyone that wants more information on Zoom, I am happy to work with you to assist in set up and test. Just give me a call (914-450-3791) or e-mail ([charlesdico@gmail.com](mailto:charlesdico@gmail.com)).

As hard as this will be for many, this 'imposing isolation' will allow stamp and postal history collectors to have more time to focus on their collections, especially those items and activities that had been on the back burner due to lack of time. So what can you do for the club? How about penning an article or two for the **Bulletin** and **Excelsior!** Why not consider scanning one of your exhibits or monographs for sharing on our website? How about searching your library for back-issues of our Journal and Newsletter so that we can fill the gaps in our online archive?

I would like to thank **Frank Braithwaite** for doing just that; he was kind enough to mail a large box to my home with original issues of the *Long Island Postal History Society* Journals, Newsletters and founding documents. I have scanned and processed and all are now available online.<sup>2</sup> We need only a dozen or so more to complete the run. What an amazing resource!

In closing, I believe now is the time to “find a better way.” We have a great Society and this is time to look at different approaches to reach out and serve as many club members as we can. Give it a try. I’d be most pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President, ESPHS*

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/03/veteran-survived-coronavirus/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.esphs.us/journals/long-island-postal-history-society/>

## CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT DICOMO

Bill DiPaolo, Awards Chairman of the Sarasota National Stamp Expo, released the results from the Sarasota National Stamp Expo and Writers Unit 30 Literature competition. “I am speechless” was the reaction of Charles DiComo when informed that his article entitled “*New Plate Flaw Discovery: ‘Dash and Ink Trail’ on 3 cent 1851 Stamp*” that appeared in the *Chronicle* (259 Vol. 70 No. 3, Aug. 2018) was the recipient of the Grand Award and Large Gold. Additionally, his Ship Letter article on the Brig *Hayti* that appeared in the March 2019 *Excelsior!* won a Large Vermeil.

“Great honor/exposure for the ESPHS and our Journal. Thank you David W. for agreeing to publish my article” he said.

## EXCELSIOR! DEADLINE

The deadline for the Sept. 2020 issue of *EXCELSIOR!* is **mid-July** - the earlier the better.

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.

Submit articles to Jeff at [nyspostal@gmail.com](mailto:nyspostal@gmail.com).

## EDITOR’S NOTES.

This past quarter, we lost one of our cherished members with the passing of Bill Hart. I will always remember him with his little brown book that contained everything he needed to know about his collections.

I want to thank all of the members who have submitted articles to make this one of the better issues published in recent years.

Larry Laliberte

## IN SEARCH OF EDWARD REILLY

Requested by James and Margaret Reilly

The Empire State Postal History Society recently received an inquiry through its web site that resulted in a little research by a number of its members. The inquiry identified family ancestor Edward Reilly as the 6<sup>th</sup> letter carrier appointed to that function at the Tremont Bronx Post Office, and posed the question of how Edward's years of service to the Post Office Department could be determined. Upon request, the sponsor of this inquiry provided that Edward Reilly was born November 2, 1859 in Ireland and died December 7<sup>th</sup> 1926 having served 40 years as a letter carrier delivering mail directly to homes and businesses in the Tremont neighborhood of the west Bronx.

Member Bob Bramwell identified the biennial Official Register reports to Congress as a resource which over the decades listed Postmaster incumbents by Post Office, then added Postal Clerk incumbents, then added Letter Carriers. Access to these reports can be obtained through [www.archive.org/details/officialregister](http://www.archive.org/details/officialregister). At Member George DeKornfeld's guidance, Bramwell found that a Tremont Post Office located in Westchester County was first listed in the Official Register of 1863 under Postmaster Hiram Tarbox, Jr., with compensation of \$135.45 that year, passing \$12.73 to Washington. No letter carrier worked for the Tremont Post Office at that time (the letter carrier function was established 18 years later). 1873 was the last year the Tremont, Westchester Co. office was listed as such, with Hiram Tarbox still in charge at a salary of \$510. Tremont is an historic, well-populated, section of The Bronx. It is not surprising that a USPS office currently operates at 575 East Tremont Avenue. Perhaps not surprising as well is that the Edward Reilly family lived for decades, as proven by Census records, at 2320 Cambreleng Avenue in West Bronx about a mile from the Tremont Avenue post office.

When West Bronx was annexed into New York City effective in 1874, the Tremont office followed as part of New York Post Office (NYPO) statistics. This is why, with 1875 reports, the search for Edward Reilly on Post Office Department rolls shifted to New York City. Immediately, men named Reilly were found on NYPO rolls working as Clerks (Bernard, Hugh, Thomas) but in 1881 when the function of Letter Carrier was established under the Free-Delivery System, John Reilly became the first Reilly to work as a Letter Carrier for the New York Post Office. John Reilly was joined on the Letter Carrier rolls in 1887 by Edward Reilly. Even in that relative short space of time, the number of Letter Carriers in New York City grew so large that the two Reilly's would probably not have been aware of each other. But "our" Edward remained continuously on the New York City Letter Carrier roster up to and beyond 1911.<sup>Footnote 1</sup> But we will no longer see his name in the Official Register because the cost-saving decision was made in 1913 to eliminate listing the names of most federal employees in what had become a massive 2 volume series produced every second year.



Edward Reilly was always listed in the Official Register as “Born in New York”. We will see that New York Census records show him as a native of Ireland. This discrepancy may be attributed to the fact that he was most likely hired into the NYPO Tremont Branch at about the age of 30, having “grown up” from the age of 8 as a resident of the Tremont section of The Bronx.

Member David E. Williams identified New York State Census information as a further resource because it identified heads of household together with their family members and any other residents in the place being surveyed. For this study, Williams extracted the following image of the handwritten page filled out in Bronx, New York by a 1905 Census Worker (the Manhattan heading scratched over).

**New York, State Census, 1905**

*Assembly District, Borough of MANHATTAN, County of NEW YORK State of NEW YORK*

*John D. Reilly*

Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Street.	House number.	NAME of each person whose usual place of abode on June 1, 1905, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on June 1, 1905. Omit children born since June 1, 1905.	RELATION. Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	COLOR, SEX AND AGE.		NATIVITY. If born in this country, write United States; if of foreign birth, write the name of the country.	CITIZENSHIP.		OCCUPATION, trade or profession of each person enumerated.		FOI
				Color or race.	Sex.		Age last birthday.	Number of years in this country.	Years in U.S.	Occupation.	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
2426		William Reilly	Head	M	48	Ireland	11	12	at school	1	
"		Maria A.	Wife	F	32	Ireland	5	12	at home	1	
"		John D. Reilly	Son	M	15	Ireland	15	12	at school	1	
"		Edward	Son	M	13	Ireland	13	12	at school	1	
"		Maria A.	Daughter	F	11	Ireland	11	12	at school	1	
"		John D. Reilly	Son	M	8	Ireland	8	12	at school	1	

Here, two images are spliced together to show *Reilly Edward, Head (of household), 48 (age), Ireland (Nativity), 40 (Years in U.S.), Letter carrier (occupation).*

This is that portion of the 1905 Census taken in The Bronx, a long-standing portion of southern Westchester County, NY originally settled and owned by Jonas Bronck in 1639. It shows resident Edward Reilly at age 48 living with wife Maria, age 32 and at least 4 children between 15 and 8 years of age. Also clearly entered is Edward’s occupation as a “Letter Carrier.” Edward’s age and years in the United States indicate he was born 1857 and immigrated to this country in 1865 at the age of 8. Edward is first listed working for the New York Post Office as a Letter Carrier in 1887 at the age of 30. Edward’s indicated 40 years of service upon his death in 1926 certainly fits an 1887 start date.

Footnote 1: The Free-Delivery System was established in 1881 to provide delivery to street addresses for no additional cost. “Letter Carrier” was the job title for Post Office employees performing this service. Letter Carriers named Reilly (spellings such as “Rielly” and “Riley” are ignored in this table) that worked for the New York Post Office between 1881 and 1913 were listed with the following given names in editions of the Official Register:



Letter Carrier	From	First Listed	No Longer Listed
John Reilly, aka John #1	Minnesota	1881	Beyond 1911
Edward Reilly	New York	1887	Beyond 1911
Owen J. Reilly	New York	1889	1893
Thomas J. Reilly	New York	1889	1899
Thomas Reilly	New York	1893	1905
John Reilly, aka John #2	New York	1895	Beyond 1911
Michael P. Reilly	New York	1895	1899
Francis H. Reilly	New York	1897	1901
John J. Reilly	New York	1899	1911
Hugh T. Reilly	New York	1901	Beyond 1911
Frank J. Reilly	New York	1907	Beyond 1911
Phillip Reilly	Ireland	1907	Beyond 1911
Thomas Reilly	Ireland	1907	Beyond 1911
William Reilly	New York	1907	1909

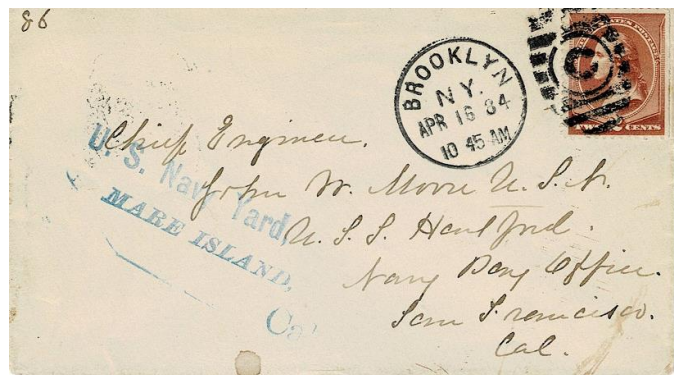
## A COVER FROM THE *U.S.S. HARTFORD*

By Mark Fonda

The *U.S.S. Hartford*, a sloop-of-War, steamer, was the first ship of the U.S. Navy named for Hartford, the capital of Connecticut.

*Hartford* was launched 22 November 1858 at the Boston Navy Yard; sponsored by Miss Carrie Downes, Miss Lizzie Stringham, and Lieutenant G.J.H. Preble; and commissioned on 27 May 1859, Captain Charles Lowndes in command.<sup>1</sup>

*Hartford* served in several prominent campaigns in the American Civil War (1861-1865) as the flagship of Admiral David G. Farragut, most notably the Battle of Mobile Bay 5 August 1864. This is the ship that Farragut stood on the deck in the thick of battle & gave the command "...Damn the torpedoes, FULL SPEED AHEAD!!!"



**Figure 1:** The cover from Brooklyn to San Francisco.

Not one torpedo struck the *U.S.S. Hartford* and Farragut won the Battle of Mobile Bay in just over three hours, thus severing the Rebel South's supply lines and assuring Lee's surrender to U.S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865.

The cover in **Figure 1**, was mailed at Brooklyn, N.Y. on Apr 16, 1884 (Post Office 319, Washington Ave., Brooklyn, a few blocks from the Brooklyn Navy Yard) and is addressed to Chief Engineer, John W. Moore, U.S.N., *U.S.S. Hartford*, Navy Pay Office, San Francisco, Cal.

The cover (i.e.: according to multiple transit and rec'd cancels on the reverse) arrived at Mare Island, U.S. Navy Yard (Vallejo,) Cal. 25 April 1884.



**Figure 2:** The back of the cover showing the back stamps.

The table shows the chronology of the back stamps and **Figure 2** shows the back of the cover.

I can only surmise that this cover might have been sent by John W(m) Moore's wife (or family member) seeking a timely return of funds needed at home in Brooklyn, N.Y.?

The timing of this cover's arrival at Mare Island, Cal. seems to logically coincide with *Hartford's* return from flagship service in the Pacific Ocean arriving in San Francisco on 17 March 1884 (approx. one month earlier) and was laying over at Mare Island, (Vallejo) Cal. U.S. Navy Yard for re-fitting for future service.

Chronology of back stamps		
Date	Time	Location
Apr 16, 1884	11:30 AM	New York Transit
Apr 25, 1884	8:00 AM	San Francisco, Cal. Rec'd
Apr 25, 1884	No time	Vallejo, Cal.
U.S. Navy Yard, MARE ISLAND, Ca. On front of cover		

**Figure 3.**

John W(m.) Moore, U.S.N. Chief Engineer served with distinction throughout the Civil War in Admiral Farragut's command. He retired in 1894 at the rank of Commodore and was raised to



**Figure 3:** The U.S.S. Hartford at Vallejo, Cal., Mare Island.

the rank of Rear Admiral in 1906. He passed away in 1913.

According to the NECROLOGY site, Moore entered the U.S. Navy in 1853 as a third assistant engineer at the age of 21. During the Battle of Vicksburg, he is credited with using Mississippi mud as a paint component to camouflage ships. After the Civil War, he served as staff

engineer or as superintendent of construction on many ships including the *U.S.S. Oregon*.

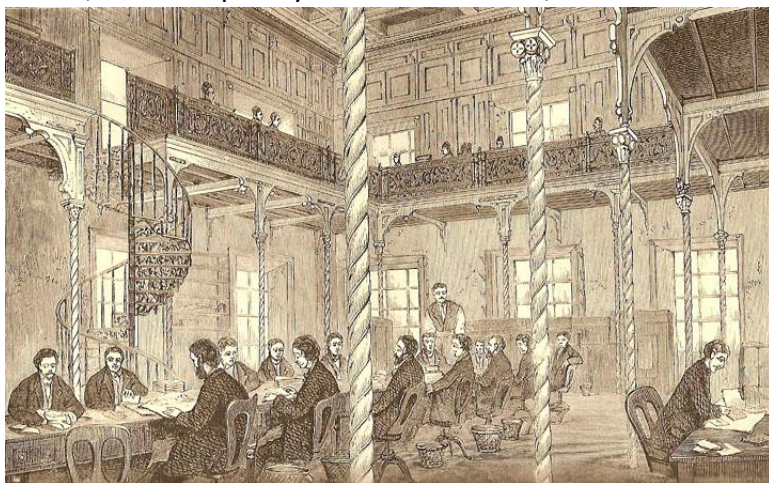
1: Wikipedia Para. 2 downloaded Apr. 21, 2014

## THE 1862 EXPLOSION OF DEAD LETTER OFFICE EMPLOYMENT

By Bob Bramwell

From the beginning of the U.S. postal system there was recognition that dead letters, a nasty heritage of the Royal Post, would have to be dealt with. On October 17, 1777, Congress authorized the paid position of Inspector of Dead Letters and Ebenezer Hazard was quickly appointed to the position with compensation of One Hundred Dollars per year for which, at the end of each calendar quarter, he was to personally open and inspect such dead letters as had been accumulated at the General Post Office (he was also Surveyor of the Post Office for more money). It was his duty to discover and report to Congress any “inimical schemes” referred to in those letters, and also to return to their owners any amounts of money or items of value those dead letters contained. History told them that the owners of some valuable dead letters would never be discovered, so the Inspector of Dead Letters had to accept responsibility for undelivered money.

With his 1782 appointment as Postmaster General, Ebenezer Hazard appointed one of his Assistants to form an Office of Dead Letters. That Office rumbled along for decades. Its employees received and opened dead letters, separated contents between “valuable” and “other”, and attempted to return the “valuables” to their owners. All the time, the number of dead letters arriving at the Dead Letter Office each year grew, but its clerical workforce had been constrained in 1835 to twelve.<sup>1</sup> In fiscal 1860, PMG Joseph Holt’s plea for authority to hire temporary clerks to “experiment” with a concerted effort to return more than just the “valuable” dead letters was approved in Congressional Act of Feb 27, 1861. Using accumulated left-over money from dead letters, four temporary clerks were hired, but not added to permanent staff. This became the first part of the Dead Letter Office workforce we now know by name<sup>2</sup>.



An 1876 rendering of the Dead Letter Office shows a sanitized view of the establishment. There were still plenty of men, but the ladies had the mezzanine floor to themselves which was historically accurate.

Then the War of the Rebellion made its impact as mail along all routes involving “disloyal states” was sent to the Dead Letter Office, to be inspected for insidious schemes. With a war on and a serious drain on manpower apparent from early on, Congress responded with Section 6 of the Act of Jan. 21, 1862, which authorized employment of women



by the Dead Letter Office. With 16 DLO male clerks identified by name (and presumably excused from military service under that section), 16 ladies to be hired were also identified by name. The DLO doubled in size and were listed as a work group in the Official Register. Amidst considerable growth of the Executive branch as measured by biennial Official Registers, turnover set in among the Ladies at the General Post Office. By 1865, 6 of the DLO Ladies had departed, but 29 new hires had arrived, although which ones were hired into the DLO cannot be determined. By 1867 one more original DLO Lady departed, and 19 ladies were added to GPO payrolls. By 1869 seven more of the original DLO Ladies departed, while 25 new ladies were hired in. Other students of the Dead Letter Office have concluded that the Ladies excelled in reading terrible handwriting, thus earning their growing role throughout the General Post Office.

If there were an undocumented Congressional plan, it might have been that these ladies were expected to work during the course of the war then return to hearth and home. For 14 of the 16 1862 Ladies, the war was their term of employment in the Dead Letter Office. It took one young woman a few extra years to outgrow Washington's charm. And then there was Mrs. A.K. Evans. I have learned nothing of her life except that Mrs. A.K. Evans' name appears in every edition of Official Register among GPO Clerks from 1863 through 1893. In the final years, her name is surrounded by a coterie of career women to help celebrate her 30-year medal at retirement.

Coterie? Career Women? You betcha. During those 30 years from 1863 to 1893, the number of Ladies working at the GPO in any one year grew from the initial 16 to 133. It is impossible to know how many worked in the Dead Letter Office at any one time. But many of them after the war had terms of service little shy of Mrs. Evans. In fact, it might have been a first step in the changing face of the American office. The Official Register tells us that in 1863 there were 95 male clerks in permanent positions at the General Post Office, including the 16 in the Dead Letter Office. At the same time, there were 16 female clerks in permanent positions at the General Post Office, all in the Dead Letter Office. In 1893, the comparable accounting of clerical positions shows 294 male clerks and 133 female clerks in permanent positions at the General Post Office. In those 30 years, women took on 31% of clerical positions.



This 1900 era imagining of the Dead Letter Office shows only two ladies, but they are working with the men, which may have become the norm.

<sup>1</sup> It was not until 1835 when newly appointed Postmaster General Amos Kendall laid out a conceptual structure for the Post Office Department. The Postmaster General would have three Assistants, each Assistant with a Chief Clerk, and each functional unit with a Principal Clerk and each unit with twelve clerks.

<sup>2</sup> 1861 *Official Register*, page 2\*. Biennial editions of *Official Register* published the names of all clerical employees working in any branch of the General Post Office in a single section, Clerks. I suspect the typesetters received handwritten lists from the many discrete departments, sorted the names in order of salary but not by alphabet, so clerks from the same department with equal salaries ended up being listed together in the *Official Register*.

### **Treasurer's Tidbits & Awards Report, June, 2020**

And the Winner is: Dr. Charles DiComo is the winner of the 2019 Best Author Award for his article, From the Front Lines: Lt. Col. William G. Belknap's First Hand Account of The Battle of Monterey During the Mexican-American War in 1846, that appeared in the September edition of *Excelsior!*

Charles narrowly squeaked out his victory over George McGowan's New York Rural Stations article, taking first place by just a single vote! Only around 30% of the membership bothered to return their ballots which is a shame. A better response would not only have demonstrated more involvement in our Society but would also have provided valuable insights into the types of articles the membership prefers, useful information for our authors to have. This being the first time out, hopefully the numbers will improve next time around. A picture of Charles' award will appear in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. Thank you to all those that voted!

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Membership renewals are pretty much done for this cycle, with only a handful of members not yet heard from. A tip of the hat and a heartfelt 'thank you' to members Joel Harrington and Brian Levy for their donations above and beyond their dues remittances!

George F. DeKornfeld, DDS  
Treasurer – Awards Chair

## Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 23 June 2020

Video Conference via Zoom

Facilitated by Dr. Charles J. DiComo

(Meeting shall start promptly at 4:00 PM and end by 5:10 PM)

### Zoom Video Conference Line to be Emailed to Officers and Board

Topic	Discussion Leader	Time
Administrative Matters		
1. Information: Opening Remarks	DiComo	4:00-4:03
2. Decision: Approve Board Minutes 20MAY2019 ROPEX	Przepiora	4:03-4:05
3. Information: Treasurer's Report/Budget	DeKornfeld	4:05-4:10
4. Action: Approval of Budget	DeKornfeld	4:10-4:12
5. Information: Membership Report	McGowan	4:12-4:17
6. Information: Advertising Report	McGowan	4:17-4:22
Share Information		
7. Decision: Future Meeting Locations	ALL	4:22-4:25
8. Update: <i>Excelsior!</i> Report & Search For New Editor	Williams	4:25-4:30
9. Update: <i>Bulletin</i> Report	Laliberte	4:30-4:35
10. Auction Manager Report	Bramwell	4:35-4:40
Outreach & Sense of Belonging		
11. Action: Publications Committee Report & Future Plans	Nicholson	4:40-4:45
12. Action: Awards Committee Report & Future Plans	DeKornfeld	4:45-4:50
13. Action: Website Report & Future Plans	DiComo	4:50-4:55
Management Excellence		
14. Other Business/Remarks for the Good of the Hobby	ALL	4:55-5:05
15. Closing Remarks	DiComo	5:05-5:10

All agenda items are annotated as: **Decision** - those requiring a Board motion and action. **Action** - those requiring follow-up action but not a Board decision per se. **Information** - those that are for information only.



## MORE THAN MAIL DELIVERY

By Larry Laliberte

The United States Post Office provided more services than just delivering the mails. For a period of time, they could sell War Savings bonds as is shown in the illustration at left. They used their Money Order Business (M.O.B.) cancel to validate

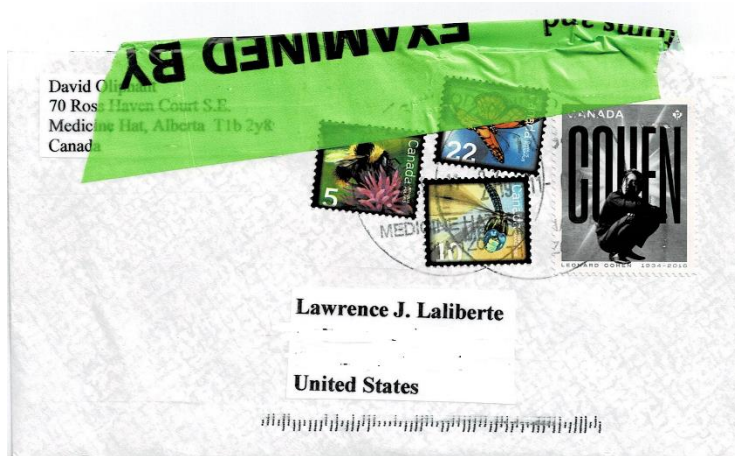
this Series E War Savings bond on May 17, 1945.

The purchase price for this bond was \$18.75 and could be redeemed after 10 years for its full face value of \$25.00. However, it would continue to earn interest until May of 1985 at which time its value was \$114.54. A chain of beneficiaries probably could not be established so the bond could not be redeemed so it ended up on E-bay.

## SOME MODERN POSTAL HISTORY

By Larry Laliberte

Both of my parents were born in the Province of Quebec. This probably explains my affinity for collecting Canada's stamps including all manner of revenues from that country. As such, I buy from many dealers from across the border.



**Figure 1.** The first example received.

About 10 days later, I received another envelope, this one a 6x9 that had been opened by the same authority. This time, I could clearly see the emblem of the Dept. of Homeland Security. See the top of **Figure 2**. The tape is supposed to seal the opening so the contents remain intact. Due to carelessness, in this instance, the inspector completely missed the opening. Fortunately, all of the contents remained in the envelope for the remainder of its trip.

About a week later, I received another 6x9 from a different dealer. This time it had a yellow tape as shown in **Figure 2** at bottom. The inspecting authority was Canadian with the initials "CBSA". A web search showed that this authority was Canada Border Services Agency.

I can only wonder why, all of a sudden, I was targeted for inspection. From now on, I will not use the words b\*\*b, ter\*\*t\*, ex\*\*\*\*\* in my e-mails or articles. I can't think of any time that I have except my article on Iona Island that appeared in the March 2018 issue of the *EXCELSIOR*!

It was an interesting couple of weeks for modern postal history that has not been repeated.



**Figure 2.** The following two examples.



## GREAT AMERICAN STAMP SHOW UPDATE

5/18/2020 From the APS web site: American Philatelic Society <newsletter@stamps.org>

We have been in regular communications with event staff and the leadership of the Connecticut Convention Center. At this point, we continue to work with our partners at the American Topical Association and the American First Day Cover Society to plan. Many dealers and exhibitors are planning and members are still registering to attend the show, [slated for August 20-23, 2020](#). Our first priority in planning for the event is the health and safety of our members, dealers, and guests.

### BULLETIN

#### ADVERTISING & CLASSIFIED ADS

ESPHS members are entitled to one classified ad per year of 25 words not counting contact info. For larger ads, refer to the table. Send ads as a Word doc to the editor at [largin1@verizon.net](mailto:largin1@verizon.net). Send payment to the editor via check payable to Empire State Postal History Society at 15 Sunset Hill Ct., Carmel, NY 10512-5027


Ad Size	One-Time Placement	Two Issues	Full Year (Four Issues)
Classified (max 25-words)	\$10	\$18	\$27
1/4 Page	\$30	\$58	\$97
1/2 Page	\$50	\$90	\$160
Full Page	\$125	\$230	\$400

#### ONONDAGA POSTAL HISTORY FOR SALE



FOR SALE: Large collection (24+ volumes) of the very earliest Onondaga Postal History covers, which is nearly complete until early 1900's. There is also a great deal of Post Office history in the notes and some very early covers from Syracuse. The wish is to obtain several bids for the collection. It would also be ideal if the new owner would write a manuscript from the holding and accompanying information. The preference is to keep the material in New York State and maybe even in Onondaga County. Interested parties may contact Al Swift directly at [agsses@aol.com](mailto:agsses@aol.com)

9TH ANNUAL



**NORTHEAST  
POSTAL HISTORY  
EPHEMERA SHOW**

ALSO FEATURING STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

**JULY 18 & 19, 2020**

SATURDAY: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM • SUNDAY: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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AT THE  
**Polish Community Center,**  
225 Washington Ave Ext,  
ALBANY, NY 12205  
( [www.albanypcc.com](http://www.albanypcc.com) )

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SHOW COMMITTEE: **Tom Auletta, Elwyn & Anne Doubleday,**  
**Robert Dalton Harris & Diane DeBlois, George McGowan**

**CANCELLED**