

ROPEX COVERS

Show theme is Birds of North America. Cancels and corresponding cachets designed by Joe Doles are available for \$2 each or a set of 3 for \$5 with a sase. Otherwise add \$1 for every three covers ordered to cover postage and handling. Send orders to: Ropex Covers, c/o RPA, P.O. Box 10206, Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610-0206.

PROGRAMS

May 13 — Ropex preparation night

May 27 — TBD

June 10 — Annual business meeting

June 24 — Year-end strawberry festival

*Shows / Bourses —
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WEST SENECA — JUNE 27

Stamp, Coin & Postcard Show. Harvey D. Morin VFW Post 2940, 965 Center Rd., 10-4. Free admission and door prizes. Contact: Bill Biddle, 716-828-1375. E-mail: blbiddle@aol.com

CLAYTON — JULY 24-25

26th Coin, Stamp, Postcard & Collectibles Show. Clayton Arena. Hours: 10-5, 10-2. Bourse. Contact: George Mingle, e-mail: gmingle@1000islandsschools.org

ALBANY — JULY 18

Capital District Stamp Show, Quality Inn, 3 Watervliet Ave., 10-4. Bourse. Contact John J. Nunes: 518-399-8395, e-mail: nunesnook@aol.com

The Collecting Gene — Continued from Page 24

York. Does the marking A. S. S. A stand for American Sailors and Soldiers Associations?

Or is it a forwarding marking for a cargo ship? [Editor's note: Kelly Field was a training site for aviators, observers, and mechanics, as well as being a supply and repair depot. This suggests that ASSA may have meant the Army Signal Supply Agency.]

Upon arrival in New York the letter landed in Camp Merritt, New Jersey. (red ink side corner) Camp Merritt was the hub for organizing and transporting thousands of AEF soldiers overseas. Joseph Sant and his brigade had already left for France. I am surmising that the letter then followed him overseas by the date 7 17 in blue under the Orly Seine marking and the SS Max (also in blue ... far bottom left side). Was SS Max a ship?

Joseph Sant was not located there either. A pointing hand forwarding mark in purple, and RETURN TO WRITER / UNKNOWN were stamped on the cover. The final marking — N. C. 10/29/1918 AAAP at Orly Seine — appears in red ink at the very top. The American Allies had established an airfield at Orly, France. The letter was likely shipped back to Fair Haven from there.

So, to end with a cliché, what goes around comes around. Sometimes it's the mail, Sometimes it's the collector gene!