

BULLETIN



OF THE EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Volume 55, Number 1

January 2022

Presidents Message

Dear Members:

Another philatelic year is coming to an end and bearing in mind what has been occurring all around us, the ESPHS has fared quite well. I am pleased to report that our Society is strong: we continue to expand our website and are leveraging our Facebook page by promoting the Society, our Journals, and the joy we find in New York State postal history and philately.

I would like to extend gratitude to our officers, board, and membership for your ongoing trust in my leadership as President. I will continue to advocate for the ESPHS and share our State's rich history and the postal history that it fashioned. A hearty thanks to our Editors Jeff and Larry, who continue to publish stellar issues. It is with their leadership and research articles from our many members and friends that we shall sustain both the *Excelsior!* and the *Bulletin* well into the future.

I am pleased to announce that author, philatelist, and West Point graduate Martin (Jay) Joyce has made accessible to our members and guests through our website his recently published book entitled "*Postmarked West Point: A U.S. Postal History of West Point and its Graduates.*" His tome recounts the history of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York through postage stamps, postmarks, post offices named for West Point graduates and other postal history ephemera. It builds upon similar works, though much shorter in nature, published in *Assembly*, the journal of the West Point Association of Graduates (AOG), and *La Posta: The Journal of American Postal History*. The book, which recently won a Vermeil Award for literature at the 2021 Great American Stamp Show and is available in hard copy from Amazon, reflects Jay's renewed passion for the stories that postage stamps tell, along with a love for his alma mater. Enjoy this fantastic read at: <https://www.esphs.org/postmarked-west-point-a-u-s-postal-history-of-west-point-and-its-graduates/>.

And now on to the January *Bulletin*. Wishing all a blessed holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Charles

Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President*

December 2021

Published Quarterly by the Empire State Postal History Society

APS Affiliate #28

web site www.esphs.us

Officers:

President: Charles J. DiComo, PhD ('23)

charlesdicomo@gmail.com

Vice-President: David Przepiora ('23)

djprze@hotmail.com

Secretary: George McGowan ('22)

geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com

Treasurer: George DeKornfeld ('22)

docgfd@twc.com

Regional Representatives:

Northern: Gerald Wiley

Upper Hudson: Maris Tirums

Mohawk: *vacant*

Lower Hudson: *vacant*

NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite

Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*

Central: Bob Davison

West Central: *vacant*

Southern Tier: *vacant*

Western: David Przepiora

Directors:

('22): John Cali, Steve Kennedy

('23): Bob Bramwell, Heather Sweeting

('24): Brian Levy, Jeff Stage

Advertising Manager:

George McGowan (email above)

150 Burden Lake Rd.

East Greenbush, NY 12061-3602

Bulletin Auction Manager:

Vacant

Publications Committee Chair:

Lawrence Laliberte

largin1@verizon.net

15 Sunset Hill Ct.

Carmel, NY 10512-5027

Web Developer & Designer:

Charles J. DiComo, PhD

charlesdicomo@gmail.com

1298 Hammock Way, Lancaster, PA 17601-4695

Excelsior! (Semi-Annually) April and October

Jeff Stage, Editor

nyspostal@gmail.com

215 Westminster Ave

Syracuse, NY 13210

Bulletin (Semi-Annually) January and July

Lawrence Laliberte, Editor

largin1@verizon.net

15 Sunset Hill Ct.

Carmel, NY 10512-5027

EXCELSIOR! DEADLINE

The deadline for the [April 2022](#) issue of *EXCELSIOR!* is [January 15th](#) or earlier if possible.

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 questions or articles to Jeff Stage at nyspostal@gmail.com

Secretary's Membership Report

Address Change

Thomas X. Casey
5700 Arlington Ave #21-S
Bronx NY 10471-1524

New Member

T.P. McDermott
White Plains, NY 10601-1107

Deceased

Glenn Estus

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Hilton, NY

2022 Hilton Stamp Show and Philatelic Open House

February 20, 2022

Western Monroe Philatelic Society

Hilton Exempts Club, 135 South Ave.

Info: Dave Bombard. E-mail dbombard1@rochester.rr.com

Boxboro, Massachusetts

Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs

April 29 – May 1, 2022

Boxboro Regency Hotel & Conference Center, 242 Adams Place, Boxboro,

Info: Jeff Shapiro, Email: coverlover@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.philatelicshow.org>

Canandaigua, NY

ROPEX – Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

May 20-21, 2022

Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 North Bloomfield Rd., Canandaigua.

Info: Tom Fortunato, Email: stampmf@frontiernet.net

Website: <http://www.rpastamps.org/>

11th Northeast Postal History and Ephemera Show

Albany, New York

July 16 & 17, 2021

Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext. Albany, NY

Melville Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show

Melville, New York

Dec. 12, 2021

Catapano Engineering Hall, 585 Broadhollow Rd., Melville, NY

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

Information obtained from iStampshows.com Please verify before going.

The Philatelist and the First Class Rider

By T.P. McDermott ©

The postcard in **Figure 1**, was sent to Miss Joyce Allen / Teela Wooket Camps / Roxbury / Vermont, USA. It was cancelled at Tuckahoe NY on Aug 2, 1938. It was back stamped at Roxbury, VT on Aug AM (morning) 3 1938.

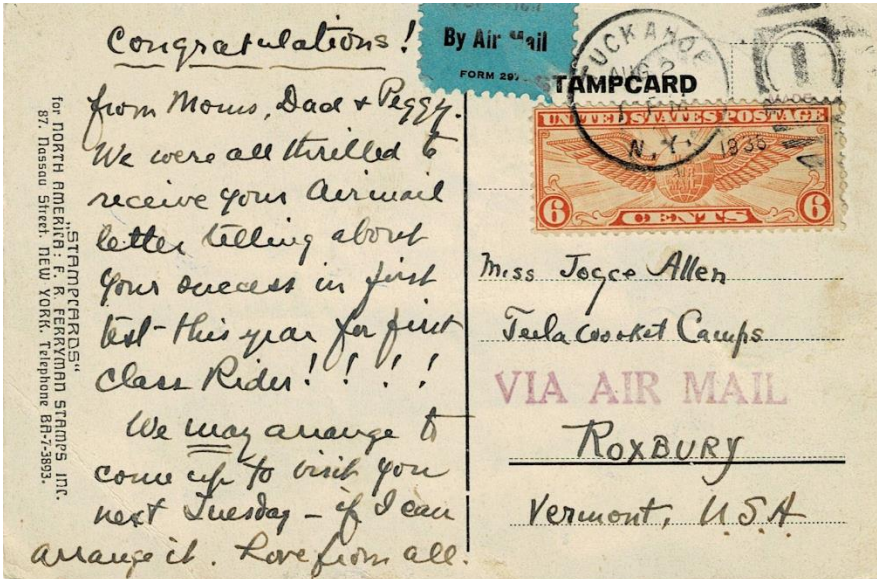


Figure 1: The post card from Tuckahoe, N.Y. to Roxbury, Vt.

The card's message reads "Congratulations! From Momes, Dad & Peggy. We are all thrilled to receive your Airmail letter telling about your successes in first test this year for first class Rider! ! We may arrange to come up to visit you next Tuesday if I can arrange it. Love from all."

Postal markings include an orange 6 cent airmail stamp (Scott #C19), a "VIA AIR MAIL" created by a purple rubber hand stamp located nicely in a clear space in the address, and a small, light blue stamp like, label which reads "By Air Mail". There is also a faint partial double

cancellation on the stamp.

The airmail etiquette (label) almost identified itself as Form 2978 as a part of its numbers was torn off. In an eBay search of airmail etiquette, I only found one other 2978 on another cover---- and that cover was cancelled at White Plains, NY, the county seat of Westchester County, NY, where the town of Tuckahoe and other cities mentioned in this article resides.

Using Ancestry, the on-line research program at my public library, I looked up our intended recipient, Joyce Allen. The 1940 US Census had a family of three at 195 Longrue Terrace, Yonkers, NY: the father, Theodore H. Allen age 58; wife Anna S. age 59; and Joyce, age 15 who was in her first year of high school. I believe Peggy would have been the family's pet cat. The father was a self-employed physician with three years of college. Via Ancestry, we found that he attended Columbia College in the years 1901 to 1903 where he was the class's treasurer for each year. He was also the team's basketball captain. He owned his home which had a value of \$12,100. This address is just east of Center Park Avenue (@Verona Ave) and easily located near Sarah Lawrence College. (Joyce wasn't an Alumni).

Lawrence Hospital and the towns of Tuckahoe (the postmark) and Bronxville may have been where our doctor practiced. There is no record that the father served in WWI. His age would have probably prevented him from being drafted as a medical doctor during WWII.

The 1930 Census listed another daughter, Margaret, age 18 who might have married an Edward W. Weaver on April, 11. 1936 and later no longer listed at the family address.

The postcard's image side, **Figure 2**, was produced by cutting common stamps and laying it out in the design of a horse and rider jumping over a fence barrier. A simple paste pot would have been used to hold/adhesive the cuttings in place. A written entry on that side reads: "Congratulations from a Philatelist to a First Class Rider."



Figure 2. The design was created by cutting up stamps.

otherwise. I picked four Scout cards and our subject card as I thought it was an interesting postal history item. He priced my pile at \$10!

How serious was our Philatelist? Stamp collecting would have been an ideal hobby for a physician. Or was he a collector due to the influence of President FDR? Was he a member of the APS?

We did a Wikipedia search for the town of Roxbury, Vermont which had a population of 691 in 2010, a growth of 20% over the 2000 population. Roxbury is in the heavily mountainous and forested area in the geographic center of Vermont. Wikipedia's Roxbury VT record also corrected our spelling interruption of the card's second address line, it reported that there is a Camp Windridge at Teeia Wooket which was an exclusive girl's camp established in 1913. It still features sports and horseback rides.

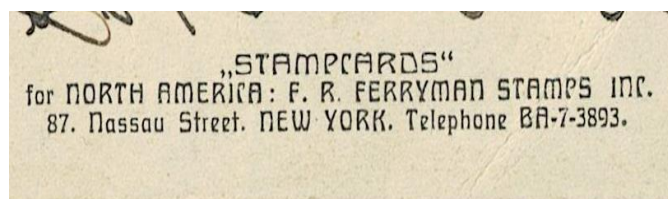
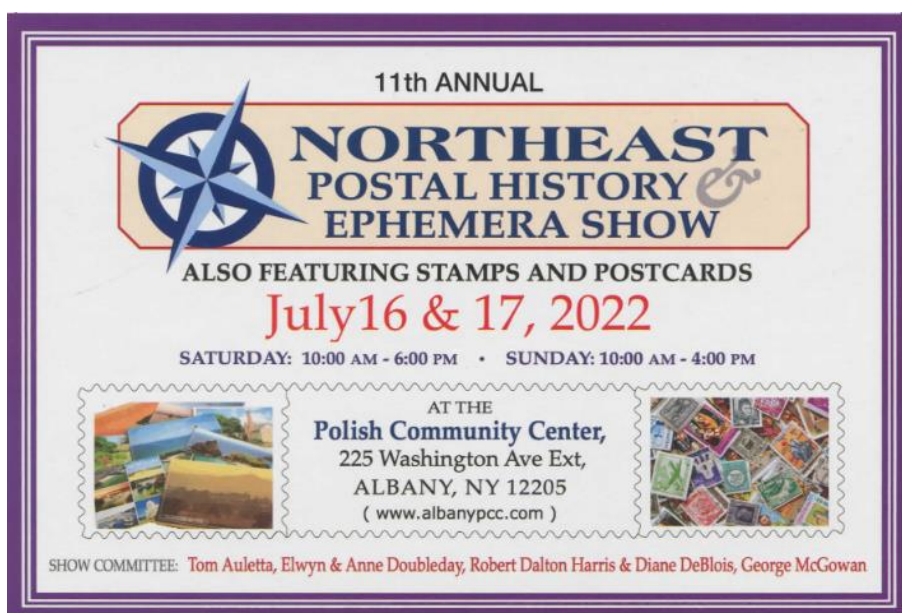


Figure 3. The card producers imprint.



Wanted: Basics for a Reference Article Part 2

By Jeff Stage

The first part of this article appeared in the June 2021 issue of the *BULLETIN*.

For an upcoming issue of the *Excelsior!* we would like to put together a compilation of reference materials and sources that would be helpful to members. These would be materials you use for your Empire State collections or general collecting that might be related to New York material.

If you have any such go-to materials, please share. We don't need a lot. I am thinking 2 to 6 paragraphs about each, with maybe an anecdote or testimonial as to why the references is important. (Think: What has this done for me?)

We can include books, specific magazines or journals (even out-of-print items), websites, etc. With the submission, please include any of the following that are appropriate: title, author (or editor or webmaster), publisher and/or society sponsor, exact web address, year of publication, a short summary of what it covers. Also, if you can include a note as to the availability – out-of-print, but retained by such-and-such society or American Philatelic Research Library; can obtain through Amazon, etc.

Once you submit an item to nyspostal@gmail.com we can send out an email telling folks it's been covered so no one needs to duplicate the work.

Jeff Stage, editor, *Excelsior!*

Election Results

The following persons were elected to posts in ESPHS followed by date of term: President: Charles J. DiComo, PhD ('23); Vice President, David Przepiora ('23); Directors, Steve Kennedy ('22), Brian Levy ('24), and Jeff Stage ('24).

We take awards



The Empire State Postal History Society is pleased to announce that President Dr. Charles J DiComo, PhD has been awarded a Large Vermeil at the American Philatelic Society Great American Stamp Show's 53rd Annual National Literature Exhibition and a Gold at SESCAL 2021 2nd Annual Literature Exhibition for his article which appeared in the February 2021 research issue of the 'American Philatelist' entitled "A Noteworthy Pre-cancel on Lancaster Watch Company's Advertising Covers"

At the APS Stamp Show, our *EXCELLSIOR!* Editor, Jeff Stage (and all our contributors) received a Vermeil in the Journals category.

Collecting New York State Auxiliary Markings

George McGowan

If you collect a town or a county, you probably already seek out auxiliary markings. Auxiliary markings are those hand stamped (larger post offices) and manuscript (small post offices) indicia that clarify a destination,

gives explanation to a delay, define changes in direction, and dozens of other instructions. Many auxiliary markings are collected just for their special reason, for example the pointed finger, mail delayed (for various seasons), the RFD system, and general delivery to name a few. They range from the obvious to the unusual. In **Figure 1**, we have a post card mailed from Brooklyn, NY to Triangle, Broome County. It was then forwarded to Chenango Forks, R.D. 2. Interesting that the Triangle post office had prepared hand stamps of local destinations complete down to the rural route number.

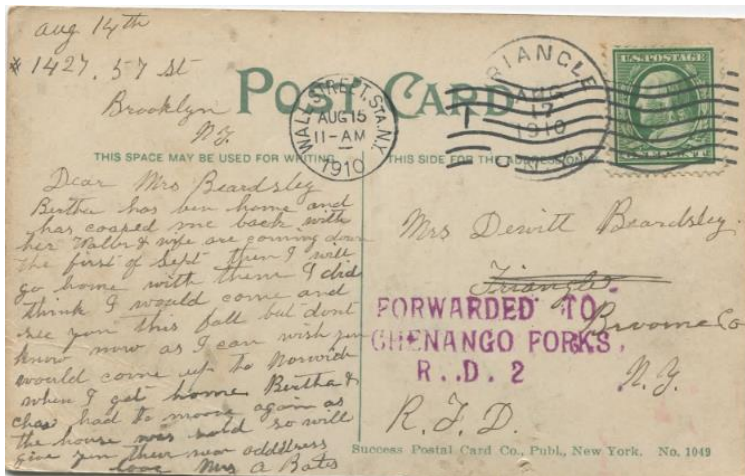


Figure 1. "FORWARD TO CHENANGO FORKS R.D. 2".

In **Figure 2**, we see a cover posted at Lestershire, NY to Richmond Hills, (Queens Co.) which by now has become a station of Jamaica, Queens. It is marked "Cannot be found" and "Return to Sender". Because of all the "confusion" on the face of the cover, it is also marked "Do not use this envelope or wrapper again"

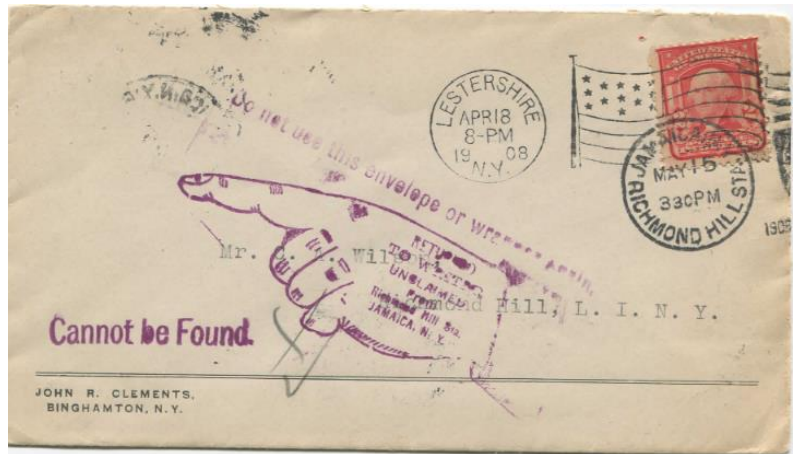


Figure 2. "Cannot be Found" and pointing hand.

Presented here as **Figure 3** is one of the unusual. It was mailed from Fitchburg, MA to NYC. It is a return-reply card and the message is a complaint about not receiving some goods paid



Figure 3. "FICTITIOUS - NEW YORK, N.Y. (I.S.)" and pointing hand.

for but not delivered. It carries the markings "FICTITIOUS" and "Return to Sender". It is identified as New York, NY, (I.S.). Could the "I" stand for Investigation?

Figure 4, I believe is another unusual marking, "received without postage at Syracuse, N.Y." It has been my experience that when an un-canceled piece of mail is received, it is just canceled with the receiving post office canceler. Who knew?



In **Figure 5**, we see a post card mailed from NYC to Troy, NY marked “Received in bad condition at Troy N.Y. The card appears to have run through a modern washing machine with folds, creases and a piece missing. Repair tape was added later.



should have been here two years ago". A long time later I learned what they meant. That was the late January three day snow storm of "66 that dumped one hundred and twelve inch of snow on the city, the majority of which fell on the last day. Some locations had more. It shut down the city, the trains, all the roads, and the mail. If you are from upstate NY and my age, you may fondly recall that momentous event. There is not the space here to give Auxiliary Markings their proper significance. I invite you to seek them out as they will be a wealth of information for the Postal Historian.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

DEADLINE – The deadline for the **July** issue of the *BULLETIN* is **June 1st**. 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*. Submitting a one to four-page article will get you a one year extension on your membership Submit to largin1@verizon.net. Larry Laliberte