

# BULLETIN

OF THE EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 55, Number 2

July 2022

## Presidents Message

June 2022

Dear Members:

Wishing all a happy spring and early summer as this edition arrives in your mailbox. Philatelic gatherings, stamp shows and bourses have returned and I hope each of you gets to partake in at least one after 2+ years away. If you get the chance, The Great American Stamp Show, previously known by many simply as “the Summer Show”, will take place at the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, Halls C & D in Sacramento, CA on August 25-28, 2022. There will be an abundance of dealers, exhibits and lectures. For those that cannot get to California, there will be numerous regional shows across NY State to whet your appetite.

I was quite excited this month to have attended a local Stamp Show here in Lancaster, PA—it was great to see all in 3-D and I managed to find a few pieces of NYS postal history (even one from Pawling, NY) for my ongoing research projects.

I am pleased to report that the Society is stable, and dues continue to come in. It is comforting to see nearly all of you renew, along with your generous donations. These will be put to good use in supporting our efforts to expand our website, leverage our Facebook page by promoting the Society, and of course to continue to publish our award-winning NYS postal history Journal *The Excelsior!* and this fine newsletter *The Bulletin*.

The Officers and Board appreciate your ongoing support of our leadership and efforts to share our passion for NYS postal history and philately.

Sincerely,  
Charles

Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President*

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## **EXCELSIOR! DEADLINE**

The deadline for the **October 2022** issue of *EXCELSIOR!* is **August 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](mailto:nyspostal@gmail.com)

### Secretary's Membership Report

#### Address Change

John Dowd  
P.O. Box 138  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764-0138

#### New Member

#### Tom Casey

389 Palazzo Circle  
St. Augustine, FL 32092-4509

#### Deceased

George Fekete

### TREASURER'S TIDBITS

Our Society's retention rate in the most recent renewal cycle remains excellent, telling me that our members are finding real value in the information provided both in *Excelsior!* and *The Bulletin*. Thank you to all who renewed promptly, and a special thank you and a tip of the hat to all those members that included donations above and beyond their membership dues. Twenty-six members did so, pumping some much-needed life back into our kitty. Sums ranged from five dollars to \$180.00 (!) and every single penny donated helps the Society with our publications costs which, as you can well imagine (given the quality of our publications), are quite pricey. And the winner is...

Mark Fonda's terrific article, *Stampless Covers Gush with Potential*, took the 'Best Article of 2021' prize, besting the nearest contender by just three votes. As slim as that margin may appear, compared to last year's contest, this year's voting was remarkably evenly spread out over the entire field. Clearly, the diversity in the topics brought to you by our authors was appreciated by the diversity of our members' collecting interests and corresponding votes. Congratulations Mark! Your award should appear sometime next month (once it has come through here so I can get some photographs of it).

Now would be a good time for many of you to consider writing an article for our journals. Not just to get into the next 'Best Article' contest, but you just might find sharing your interests and specialties with others, using the written word, to be a wholly gratifying exercise.

Enjoy your Summers, all!

George DeKornfeld, DDS ~ Treasurer

### BULLETIN DEADLINE

By Larry Laliberte

**DEADLINE** – The deadline for the [January](#) issue of the *BULLETIN* is [December 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](mailto:largin1@verizon.net). Larry Laliberte

*Bulletin*, January 2022 Vol. 55, No. 2

## George Fekete 1944-2022



George's love of life didn't end with his peaceful passing in Rochester, NY on February 8, 2022. Although he died at age 78 after a brief, courageous battle with cancer, he lives on in the hearts of his loving family and many dear friends.

Born in Buffalo, NY on January 21, 1944, George a.k.a. "Tom" was proud growing up in its Riverside neighborhood. His caring parents, Mary Rydzyk Fekete and George Fekete (both predeceased), encouraged him by word and example to pursue a life of inquiry, accomplishment and fulfillment.

George played hockey as a youth, developed a lifelong love of reading, and became an avid skier, sailor, sports car enthusiast and photographer as an adult. He was a serious numismatist (coin collector) and philatelist (stamp collector), and took special pride in his niche coin and postal history collections which focused on his Buffalo heritage. He served as President of the Rochester Numismatic Association in 2017. George lived life to the fullest, and enjoyed taking on new challenges and adventures, even checking off skydiving from his bucket list at age 70.

George graduated from Buffalo's Hutchinson Technical High School in 1961, and completed his AAS degree in Metallurgical Technology at Erie Community College in 1965. He moved to Rochester, NY that same year to begin his career at Xerox Corporation. His love of science lead him to earn a BS in Physics in 1971 and MS in Materials Science in 1973 at the University of Rochester. In 1986, he earned an MBA in Finance at the University of Rochester through the Xerox Executive Development Program. George enjoyed a long and fulfilling career in research and development, finance and program management at Xerox and retired in 2000. He continued to enjoy all of his hobbies, but most of all he appreciated being enriched by every personal relationship with his family and his wide circle of friends. George's philately involvement included:

**American Philatelic Society** - Life Member since 1997. Elected to APS Board of Vice Presidents and served two-year term among slate of three Vice Presidents from 2003-2005; re-elected for 2005-2007, for a total of four years as Vice President. Certified for Appraisals capability.

**Empire State Postal History Society** - Life Member. George was welcomed as a new member in the ESPHS December 2003 Bulletin. He was also in a photo on the cover of the Bulletin in June 2012, along with David Przepiora and John Cali. In 2015, George was part of an ESPHS group for a Web Design / Development Project (we found a proposal he had secured in July 2015 to update the ESPHS web site, but do not know if this project was implemented or not. If you want to see or receive the proposal, please let us know).

(Continued on page 5.)

(Fekete continued.)

**Stamp Insider publication** - George authored numerous articles and bi-monthly "Site Seeing" and "Pondering Philately" columns, written between Nov. 2005 through Dec. 2010. Here is a link to his web page that included the various articles and columns:

**Rochester Philatelic Association** - Active member **ROchester Philatelic EXposition/ROPEX** - George was Chairman in 2004 of this annual stamp event; and on planning committee for several years.

George's postal collecting and stamp holdings/interests centered around:

- Postal history of Buffalo, NY, and especially of Black Rock, NY (zip code 14207; Buffalo neighborhood)
- Washington-Franklins
- Ryukyu Islands
- First Day & Last Day of issue (correct rate & overpaid) commercial covers
- Interrupted Mail
- Auxiliary Markings
- Fakes, Forgeries & Counterfeits
- Philately Science, Technology & Computers

### Mailing Cremated Remains

By T.P. McDermott ©

While performing my volunteer job of clipping and saving newspaper articles for two organizations, I came across an article in *The New York Times* newspaper of February 6, 2022 on "Cremation Borrows the Direct-to Consumer Playbook". In its third to the last paragraph, it reads: "In



**Figure 1:** Form 139 for "Cremated Remains."

the United States, cremated remains are legally required to be shipped via the Postal Service, and in 2019, it introduced a postage system called Label 139 for handling them." The label, **Fig. 1**, was designed to increase the visibility of these shipments and the caution with which they are handled. It's not cheap – shipping with Label 139 can cost \$100 or more – but it is effective."

USPS Publication 139 is titled *How to Package and Ship Cremated Remains* issued in 2019. It can be accessed on the USPS web site.



Let's interpret the article's words: the cost of mailing depends upon the choices that the undertaker makes. Does he use a standard USPS's Priority Mail or Express Mail box, and what size? Or, he could simply wrap his package in brown paper without any Priority or Express Mail symbols and have it transported without any special haste, maybe even cheaper. He can order the remains label on line or maybe the postal window clerk can find him one. I don't believe there is a special rate for use of the label. In our example, **Fig.2**, the undertaker wrapped the package in brown craft paper and completed a Priority Mail Express address label (11-B, March 2019 version PSN 7690-02-000-9996). That would call for Express Mail fees.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® PRIORITY MAIL EXPRESS®

FROM: ISLAND PARK, NY 11558

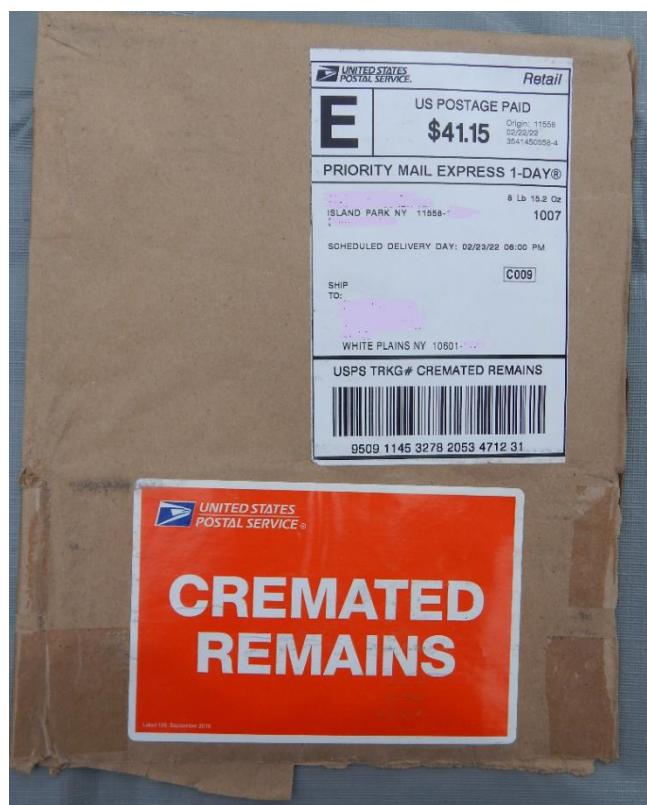
TO: WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601

10601

PEEL FROM THIS CORNER

**Figure 2:** Label 11-B that was on the package.

The package, **Fig. 3**, also had the traditional package address/tracking/postage paid label with "Retail" on its top edge. That word helps identify the source or who created the label, in this case, the USPS clerk with his/her computerized work station using the info found on form 11-B, then, printed and attach it to the package. It called for Priority Mail Express 1-Day service and included something **unusual**,



**Figure 3:** Photo of a portion of the wrapping paper used on the package.

the words **CREMATED REMAINS** which can be seen above the tracking field. However I don't believe any real special handling or transportation occurred and it arrived on the next day as promised. This almost nine pound package cost \$41.15 based on weight, distance and of course the one day express service. The originating point was Island Park, NY whose Zip code is 11558 and is located just east of NY City on Long Island's south shore. The destination of White Plains, NY 10601 is north of NYC. The distance between the two locations is 40 or so miles. Both locations are within the State of New York.

Also attached were two 139 labels which announced that the package contained **CREMATED REMAINS**. These two bright red labels measure 4x6 inches. The package measured 7 x 8½ x 4½ inches or 262 cubic inches. That's less than a fifth of a cubic foot.

Now, let's compare the directions in Publication 139 and its application to our subject.

Pub. 139 states that "The inner container must be strong, durable and constructed in such a

manner as to protect and securely contain the contents inside. It must be properly sealed and sift-proof. ...."place the container in a sealed plastic bag. Then, attach a label with the complete return address and delivery address on the sealed bag." ..... "place sufficient cushioning all around the inner sift-proof container." All of this is common sense.

For the "Outer Shipping Package" section, Pub. 139 states in the very first sentence that "cremated remains must (emphasis by the author) be shipped by USPS Priority Mail or Priority Mail Express International Service utilizing either a USPS produced or customer-supplied shipping package." You can order a kit from the USPS that includes a specially printed box with Label 139 on all six sides and necessary mailing labels.

In our case, our shipper, Kleinberg Funeral Services, of Island Park, NY chose to use their own shipping container wrapping it in brown paper. They applied only two Label 139s to the package, even though Pub. 139 states that a label should be placed on each side of the package.

A flat rate Priority Mail envelope was used to mail five copies of the death certificate (which has a fixed cost of \$10 each). The Addressing/Tracking/Postage Paid label signified Priority Mail 1-Day service at the cost of \$8.95. The certificates arrived on the same day as the remains package. In lieu of a fancy, polished burial service, I wonder why the death certificates could not have been folded in fours and enclosed within the remains package.

Here is a question. Form 11-B has a preprinted unique bar code of its own, yet, the computerized address label shows a different tracking number. Could this package be tracked by either number? What is the Postal Service's protocol?

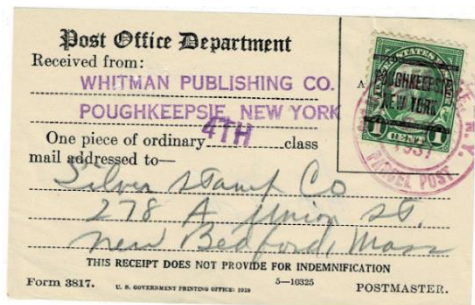
**JUNK OR Author's stand by notes:** I read or review printed daily editions of *The New York Times* and the Daily News of NYC. In olden days many businesses and industries paid good money to have professionals gather and collect news and other current information that was pertain to the buyer. It's known as "clipping services". The purpose was to support their public relations work group. In today's world this type of information is instantly available in-house via the use of internet search engines. I do clippings for two non-profit organizations: a philatelic library and a small cemetery.

### Proof of mailing Form 3817

**By Lawrence Laliberte**

Here is an interesting piece of postal history. It is a Form 3817 Proof of Mailing dated Dec 27, 1937.

It was submitted by Whitman Publishing Co., of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. for one fourth class item sent to Silver Stamp Co. of New Bedford, Mass. A pre-cancelled 1¢ Scott 630 paid the fee and that stamp was subsequently canceled with a Parcel Post cancel.



## A COLORFUL ADVERTISING COVER & INVOICE FROM 1919:

### No. 4 Fulton Fish Market, N.Y.C. ie: Lockwood & Winant – Fishmongers

By Mark Fonda



**Figure 1.** The colorful cover from "Lockwood & Winant."

This colorful Ad cover & Invoice, **Fig. 1 & 2**, noted receiving a shipment of (2) barrels of "fresh fish @ \$12.00 & \$16.00 respectively, less credit of \$4.90 & \$3.50 = \$8.40 for return/spoiled total payment \$19.60". A.C. Lockwood & W.A. Winant (Wholesale Commission Merchants) advertised lobsters, Terrapin, Green Turtle, Prawn, Soft Shedders, and Hard Crabs, Frogs, Hard and Soft Shell Clams, Scallops and Game at No. 4 Fulton Fish Market – Telephone 1065 Beekman. Quite a modern convenience for the time line.

The Fulton market was historically located in lower Manhattan, near the Brooklyn Bridge, just a few blocks from Wall Street. The market first opened on that site in 1807 on land donated to New York City, and at first was a general market for both fish and goods other than fish. In 1822 the fish merchants occupied a new Fulton Fish Market building, located on South Street between Fulton and Beekman Streets.<sup>1</sup>

Prior to 1850, housekeepers from Brooklyn and nearby areas would purchase fish directly from the market. However, since that time, wholesale customers were the primary buyers. The market gradually gained in importance, and in 1924 the market sold 384 million pounds of fish, 25 percent of all seafood sold in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

Fish typically began arriving at the market around midnight. Historically, fish was received at the port of New York City by boat, but subsequently, all fish was brought in by truck or air from other areas. The market was open from three to nine in the morning on Monday and Thursday and from four to nine on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Teams of loaders transported the fish from the trucks (ie: and combination of horse drawn wagons "iced up" in the case of Lockwood & Winant in the 1900's) to the stalls by hand trucks. Once the buyers chose their fish, the loaders reloaded the fish onto "iced up" trucks (horse drawn wagons of customers).<sup>3</sup>

DATE	FOLIO	PRICE
		1200
		1600
		78
		490
		350
		860
		1960

**Figure 2.** The equally colorful invoice.



**We call all shippers special attention to the following:**

**Take care of your fish as soon as caught and cool before packing to ship, use plenty of ice according to condition of weather.**

**Be sure that you tack on package two of our shipping cards with your name and address plainly marked on each card and if possible the weight and kind of fish in package.**

**We make daily returns when possible; if you do not get your returns within a reasonable time do not stop your shipment but write us and we will attend to it without delay.**

**We want shippers to be fully supplied with shipping cards so write us when you need them.**

**Figure 3.** The backside of the invoice contained all the information that a customer needed.

**Fig. 3** shows the back of the invoice which contains all the information that the customer needed.

The Fulton Fish market was primarily located in two open air structures, the “Tin Building” and the “New Building,” in which various dealers rented stalls from the Port Authority of New York with closed offices at the back of the stalls. Not only was the marketplace old and established, but many of the wholesalers at the Fulton Market were well established firms like Lockwood & Winant @ 4 Fulton Fish Market, NYC.

The New Building was opened in 1939 by Mayor La Guardia, after pilings of the old market building gave way in 1936 and the entire building slid into the river.

On November 14, 2005, after 180 years of operation in South Manhattan, the Fulton Fish Market which is the largest consortium of seafood wholesalers in the country, relocated its operations to the Hunts Point Food Distribution Center in the Bronx at an indoor 400,000 square foot refrigerated HACCP facility. The new Fulton Fish Market, now renewed, with its cast of characters, eager chefs and curious tourists all mingle over bushels of oysters, crates of lobsters and an endless kaleidoscope of sea creatures from near and far<sup>4</sup> (it is the second largest fish market in the world, surpassed only by Tokyo.

Perhaps more than any other institution, the Fulton Fish Market captures the spirit and tradition of old New York.

Ref. 1-4 <http://www.newfultonfishmarket.com/about.html>

## **BULLETIN & EXCELSIOR!**

### **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

## JUST PASSING THROUGH

By Lawrence Laliberte

I have two areas of collecting in Canadian postal history. The first is the Victorian Jubilee issue (1/2¢ to 10¢ on cover) and the other is Victorian era flag

cancels. It is not too hard to find the Jubilee issue on cover addressed to destinations in the U.S. Less common are covers to Europe. The cover in Figure 1 was mailed at the Spedina



Figure 1: The cover from Toronto to Scotland, via New York.

Ave. office in Toronto on May 7, 1898 and bears the 5¢ Jubilee stamp, Scott #54, paying the UPU rate for international mail at 1 oz. It is addressed to Dunfermline, Scotland. The mailer added the routing note "Via New York" in the upper left. Ship sailings were more frequent from New York than from Canadian ports. The Canadian rate charts of the era even mention that the rate was the same no matter which packet vessel, Canadian or U.S., transported the mail.

In Toronto, it was placed in a closed pouch headed for New York on its way to Glasgow, Scotland. The pouch would have been tracked using a way-bill system as describe in the "General Order", that appeared in "The Daily Postal Bulletin" of June 21, 1900, Figure 2. I was unable to locate an earlier order.

In Glasgow, the pouch was opened and the receiving mark applied on May 17, 1898, Figure 3, indicating a transit time of ten days.



Figure 3: The Glasgow receiving mark.

### **The Daily Postal Bulletin,** ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF GEN'L SUPT RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE. JAMES M. WHITE, GEN'L SUPT.

NOTE.—This number of the Bulletin consists of two sheets, Nos. 6193 and 6193a.

#### GENERAL ORDERS.

#### Foreign Mails in Transit—Way-Bill to Accompany Same.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF GENERAL SUPT R. M. S.,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 21, 1900.

#### GENERAL ORDER No. 477.

To insure the accurate handling of foreign closed mails at points of transfer, it is ordered, that hereafter all closed mails to or from foreign countries, whether made up by United States post offices or received from abroad and in transit through this country, shall be accompanied by a way-bill stating the destination and number of sacks forwarded. The way-bill should be prepared by first United States office of receipt and go forward with the mail to which it refers, inclosed in an unsealed envelope addressed to the postal line by which dispatch of mail is made. Postal clerks will endorse the way-bill, showing the dispatch intact or otherwise, and pass the same with foreign mail to connecting line to be delivered to postmaster at border or port office. If postmaster fails to furnish way-bill, such bill will be prepared by first postal clerk receiving the mail. The non-receipt of way-bill must be promptly reported to Division Superintendent.

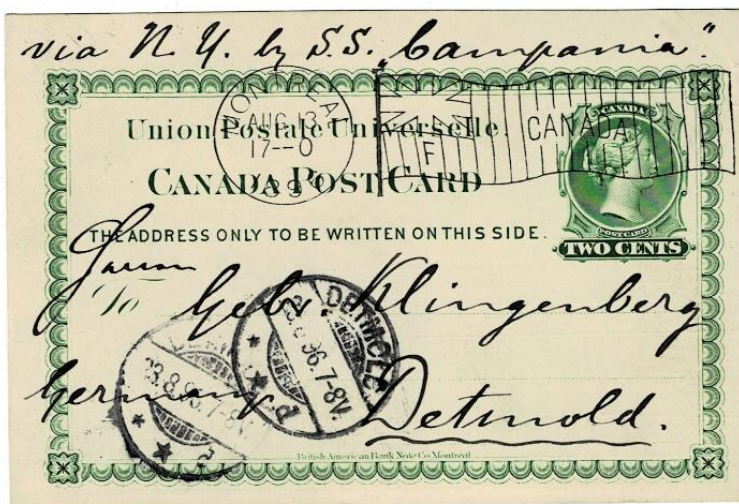
Mails regularly exchanged between the United States and Canada and Mexico are not covered by this order, but closed mails passing through this country to or from Canada or Mexico must be accompanied by way-bill.

JAMES E. WHITE,  
General Superintendent.

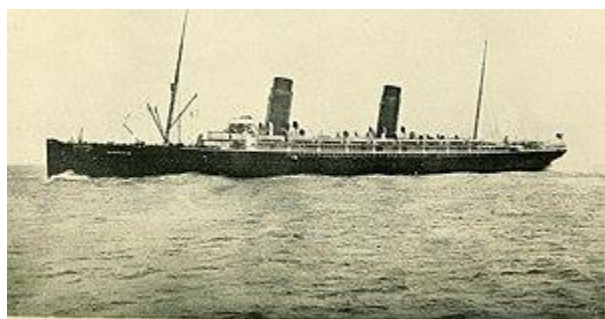
Figure 2: The Daily Postal Bulletin from 1900 describing foreign mails in transit.



Our second example, **Figure 4**, originated in Montreal, PQ, on Aug 13, 1896 as is shown by the Type 1 flag cancel. It is addressed to Detmold, Germany and is on the 2¢ post card specifically intended for international use. This is one of the least ornate flag cancels that came into use in this time period. The writer apparently knew the schedules as not only did he direct the routing through New York but specified the ship, S.S. Campania. This trip also took ten days as is indicated by the Aug. 23, 1896 Detmold receiving mark.



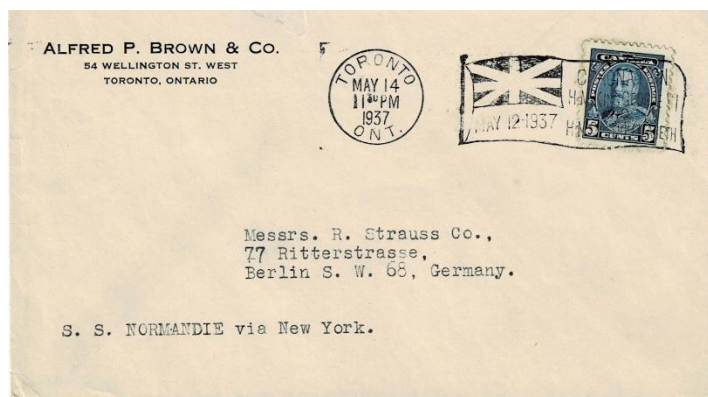
**Figure 4:** International post card from Montreal to Germany via New York.



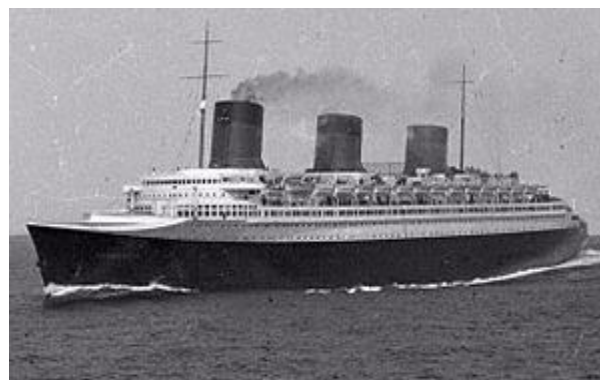
**Figure 5:** The RMS Campania.

crossed the Atlantic in less than six days, and on her second voyage in 1893, she won the prestigious Blue Riband, previously held by the Inman Liner SS City of Paris.

A more recent example, is the cover shown in **Figure 6**. This one was mailed from Toronto, Ont. to Berlin, Germany and is postmarked May 14, 1937 with a flag cancel that reads "Coronation, H.M. King George VI, and, H.M. Queen Elizabeth, May 12, 1937". This cancel was in use from May 10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> only. The specific ship requested was the SS Normandie, **Figure 7**. At the time of her entering service, she was the fastest, crossing the Atlantic in 4.14 days.



**Figure 6:** 1937 cover destined for Germany aboard the SS Normandie.



**Figure 7:** The SS Normandie.

## UPCOMING SHOWS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Albany, NY</b> <b>July 16 &amp; 17, 2022</b></p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> NE Postal History and Ephemera Show, Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Clifton Falls, NJ</b> <b>Sept. 10, 2022</b></p> <p>Clifton Falls 2022 Stamp Coin Cover Currency Postcard Collectables Show, Clifton Stamp Society, Clifton Comm. Recreation Center, 1232 Main Ave., Clifton Contact: Tom Stidl Email: <a href="mailto:stidl@verizon.net">stidl@verizon.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.clifton-stamp-society.org/">www.clifton-stamp-society.org/</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Syracuse, NY</b> <b>Sep. 11 &amp; Nov. 13, 2022</b></p> <p>Syracuse Stamp Show, Holiday Inn &amp; Suites, 400 7<sup>th</sup> N St., Liverpool, NY 13088 Hours: 10-4:30 Contact: Ed Bailey Phone: (315) 452-0593</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hilton, NY</b> <b>Oct. 2, 2022</b></p> <p>Hilton Stamp Show &amp; Philatelic Open House, Western Monroe Philatelic Society, Hilton Exempts Club, 135 South Ave., Hilton Contact: Dave Bombard Email: <a href="mailto:dbombard1@rochester.rr.com">dbombard1@rochester.rr.com</a></p>
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Information obtained from American Philatelic Society and iStampShows.com

## THANK YOU MEMBERS

We would like to thank the following members who included a donation with their renewals to defray our publishing costs.

## AVAILABLE EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

### *Star Cancels of New York State*

*Edited by David Proulx*

1987, 44 pages, Illustrated, Soft cover, Stapled.

List price \$10.00; Member price \$8.00. Plus postage (**10 in stock**)

### *County and Postmaster Cancels of New York State*

*Edited by David Proulx*

1990, 44 pages, Illustrated, Soft cover, Stapled.

List price \$10.00; Member price \$8.00. Plus postage (**132 in stock**)

If you wish to purchase MORE THAN ONE COPY of a title, please contact the ESPHS Publications office: Lawrence Laliberte, Publications Chair, 15 Sunset Hill Ct., Carmel, NY 10512-5027 or e-mail at [largin1@verizon.net](mailto:largin1@verizon.net). We will work with you to achieve the best publication/shipping rate discount. Registered dealers are always welcome and receive the standard professional discount; a larger discount is made available to those dealers who are members of the ESPHS