

BULLETIN

OF THE EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Volume 56, Number 2

July 2023

Presidents Message

June 2023

Dear Members:

Wishing all a pleasant spring and relaxing 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. If you get the chance, The Great American Stamp Show will take place at the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, Hall C in Cleveland, OH from August 10-13, 2023. There will be an abundance of dealers, exhibits and lectures. For those that cannot get to Ohio, there will be numerous regional shows across NY State to whet your appetite.

And while we will not be all together this summer, I am looking forward to seeing our Officers and Directors at our virtual 2023 Annual Board meeting. This shall be held on Tuesday, July 25 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The Zoom Video Conference details shall be shared via a separate communication. While it is not the same as being together, it is an opportunity to see one another, converse about the current state of our Society, and discuss our future plans to grow and share.

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 maintain and enhance our ESPHS website, leverage our Facebook page by promoting the Society to a diverse audience, and of course to continue to publish our award-winning NYS postal history Journal *The Excelsior!* and this fine newsletter *The Bulletin*. On that note, why not submit an article or two on your favorite subject for publication? How about sharing a presentation, monograph or exhibit for posting on our website (www.esphs.org)? Do you have any back issues of our journals to complete the online series?

All of the above shall ensure that our Society continues to grow, attracts new members, and advance the knowledge of the postal history of New York State by means of educational and historical research. I'd be most pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Charles

Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President*

+1 (914) 450-3791 or charlesdicomo@gmail.com

Officers:

President: Charles J. DiComo, PhD ('23)
charlesdicomo@gmail.com
Vice-President: David Przepiora ('23)
djprze@hotmail.com
Secretary: George McGowan ('24)
geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com
Treasurer: George DeKornfeld ('24)
docgfd@twc.com

Directors:

('23): Bob Bramwell, Heather Sweeting
('24): Brian Levy, Jeff Stage
('25): John Cali, Steve Kennedy

Advertising Manager:

George McGowan (email above)
150 Burden Lake Rd.
East Greenbush, NY 12061-3602

Publications Committee Chair:

Lawrence Laliberte
largin1@verizon.net
15 Sunset Hill Ct.
Carmel, NY 10512-5027

Excelsior! (Semi-Annually) April and October

Jeff Stage, Editor
nyspostal@gmail.com
215 Westminster Ave
Syracuse, NY 13210

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

Bulletin Auction Manager:

Vacant

Website Coordinator:

Charles J. DiComo, PhD
charlesdicomo@gmail.com
1298 Hammock Way
Lancaster, PA 17601-4695

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 **October 2023** 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

Treasurer's Tidbits – Part II errata

The collecting interest table that appeared in the January issue of the BULLETIN contained an omission of "Holland" in the collecting interests. It should read "Holland Patent". The corrected listing is shown below. Our apologies.

Ferguson, Francis	Cortland; New Hartford; Utica; Clark Mills; Holland Patent; Poland; Clinton
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And missed completely

McDermott, T.P.	Scouts on Stamps, Thailand
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Secretary's Membership Report

Address Change

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

New Member

John Lupia III.
13-A Cedar St.
Toms River, NJ 08757

Deceased

UPCOMING SHOWS

Albany, NY July 15-16, 2023 11 th NE Postal History and Ephemera Show, Loc. Polish Community Center, 225 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY. Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-4	New Haven, CT July 23, 2023 August 27, 2023 4 th Sunday Stamp Show New Haven Philatelic Society Loc. Annex Y.M.A. Club Woodward Ave, New Haven Adams Contact; Jesse Williams Email: redgyphoh@gmail.com Website: http://nhps1914.com	Pennsauken, NJ August 5, 2023 September 9, 2023 MSC Monthly Bourse Merchantville Stamp Club Loc. Martin Luther Chapel School Gym 4100 Terrace Ave. Pennsauken, NJ. Contact: James Natale Email: jnatale3307@comcast.com Website: www.merchsnvillestampclub.org/	Albany, NY October 15, 2023 Albany Fall Stamp & Post Card Show Loc. American Legion Hall, 4 Everett Rd. Ext., Albany, NY 12205. Hours: 9:30 - 4 Contact Mike Krug at (518) 875-6104
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Information obtained from American Philatelic Society and iStampShows.com

A WATERFORD COVER

By Mark Fonda

The Civil War cover shown in **Figure 1**, is neatly docketed with Rev. A.(thur) T.(oppan) Pierson, Waterford (sender). Wikipedia.org has an extensive article about Rev. Pierson (DOB March 6, 1838 – DOA June 3, 1911) it notes he graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, in 1857 and Union Theological Seminary in 1869. Also, there is a list of “Pierson’s Pastorates i.e.: Waterford, NY (1860-1863) 1869.

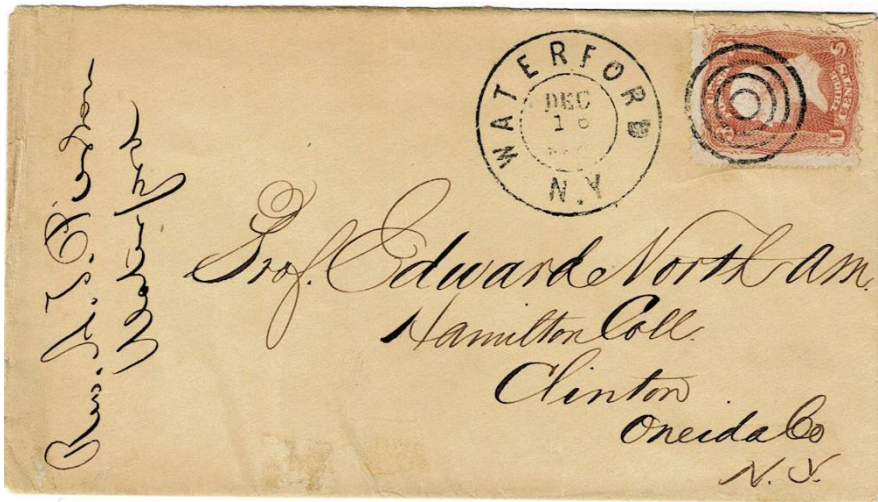


Figure 1. The cover from the Rev. Pierson to Edward North and postmarked at Waterford.

It is noted in N.B. Sylvester’s (1879) History of Saratoga County in the section on the Town and Village of Waterford “Rev. Arthur T. Pierson was installed pastor Oct. 6, 1863 [Presbyterian Church]... In this cover was undoubtedly news from Pierson to Prof. Edw. North re: his pastorate at Waterford and a theological discussion and most likely some views on the Civil War.

Surely, Pierson delivered fiery patriotic sermons and inserted quotes like Job 39: vs. 28:29 to depict the traitorous rebel south.

Job 39 vs. 28. She abideth among the rocks, and dwelleth among cragged flints, and stony hills, where there is no access. vs. 29. From thence she looketh for the prey, and her eyes behold afar off.

Much of the printed artwork of Civil War patriotic covers entailed Biblical quotes that were meant to draw an analogy between the design & quote, to the treason of the Southern secession from the Union, many times depicted with snakes. In the design shown in **Figure 2** cropped from an unused cover, there is an eagle “eyeing” a snake as pray crawling up the Old Glory flagstaff while perched on a rocky crag, which, much of the time enflamed the hearts of Northern letter senders.

Rev. Arthur Toppan Pierson continued his pastorate in Waterford until early 1869 when he accepted a call to the Fort Street Presbyterian Church, in Detroit, Michigan. He remained there until 1882.



Figure 2. The patriotic cover’s cachet.

Who was Prof. Edward North? North was an 1841 graduate of Hamilton College and was the nephew of both college President Simeon North and the Rev. Asahiel Norton of the Society of Clinton which was a predecessor to the Stone Presbyterian church. He taught Greek and Latin at Hamilton between 1843 and 1902, being the longest tenure of any teacher in college history.

Called affectionately “Old Greek”, North owned the house just up the hill from the Arbor on the North side of College Hill Rd. He was very active in Clinton, NY civic activities and politics. North was a poet, teacher and a man of letters who tried daily to immerse Hamilton students in the music of Homer’s verse. He knew Hamilton history thoroughly as he lived it for 65 years connecting the past with his present times.

Allison’s 1889 Historical Sketch of Hamilton College cordially relates North’s influence and contributions to Hamilton. Allison wrote that “Professor North represents the college. He is the most prominent figure... his life has long run parallel with her life. She has no better exponent of her culture.”

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BULLETIN DEADLINE

By Larry Laliberte

DEADLINE – The deadline for the **January 2024** 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. Larry Laliberte

12th ANNUAL

**NORTHEAST
POSTAL HISTORY
& EPHEMERA SHOW**

ALSO FEATURING STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

July 15 & 16, 2023

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

AT THE
Polish Community Center,
225 Washington Ave Ext,
ALBANY, NY 12205
(www.albanypcc.com)

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

HOBART HAPPINESS

By George F. DeKornfeld, DDS

Living as I do, in a small, rural area of New York State (Village of Hobart, Town of Stamford) it becomes quite difficult to maintain and feed a hometown postal history collection due to the dearth of material available. It didn't take long after moving here to clean out the usual sources (favored dealers, eBay, and the like) leaving me nothing but a hope and a prayer that my dose of daily e-mails would occasionally include an automated notification that something new had become available. Stamford, known as the 'Queen of the Catskills' and with a comparatively busier Post Office, does OK in the notifications department, but Hobart? Rarely to hardly ever! So it was with a wagging tail that I pounced upon an email notification the other day resulting in my welcoming a new Hobart cover (**Figure 1**) into my collection a few days later. And it's a World War II Patriotic cover to boot!

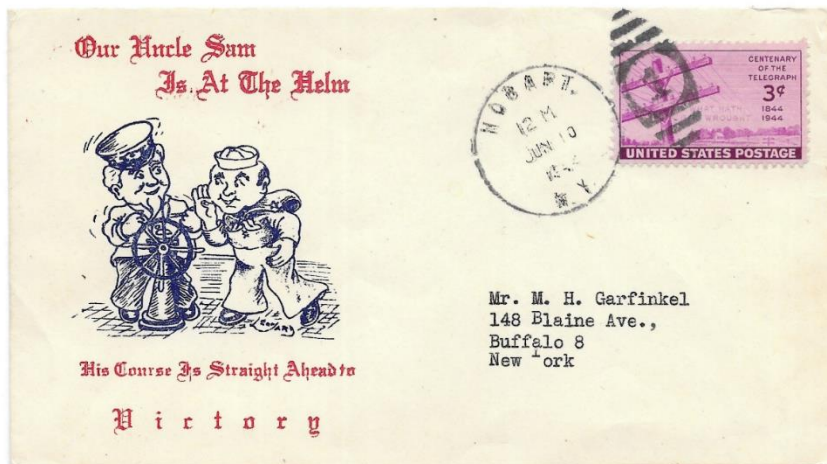
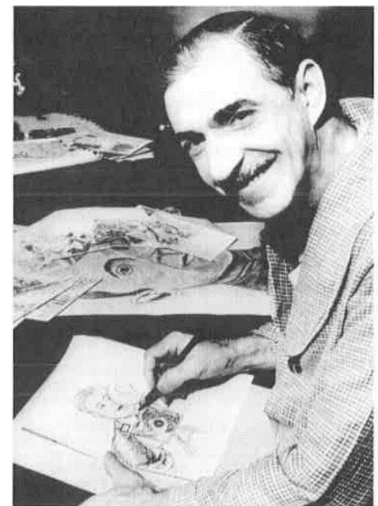


Figure 1. The World War II patriotic cover mailed from Hobart, NY.

Ted Harrington, also of Milwaukee. This cachet is listed as #6055 in Lawrence Sherman's *United States Patriotic Envelopes of World War II*, 2nd Edition.

Borkowski (**Figure 2**), born of Polish American parents, was a veteran of World War I (32nd Division, Cavalry Field Artillery, rank of Private) who ended up in a wheelchair due to the lingering effects of a gas attack suffered during a battle in France's Alsace Lorraine region. According to his son, Leonard Jr., Leonard Sr. who had worked in the past as a movie theater projectionist and as a baker, had no formal art training save for a program sponsored by the Milwaukee County

Mailed from Hobart to Binghamton in 1944 and franked by a 3-cent 100th Anniversary of the Telegraph issue of 1944 (Scott 924), the envelope sports a cachet created by Milwaukee commercial artist, Leonard Leopold Borkowski (October 21, 1892-November 5th, 1946), the cover having been sponsored and vended by producer



(Milwaukee Sentinel)

Figure 2. Artist L.L. Borkowski.

Extension Service and provided to handicapped veteran 'shut ins.' In either 1938 or 1939, one of their instructors visited the family home and provided Dad with a series of art lessons (1).

Harrington (1902-1984) sponsored printed patriotic and ship cachets, Borkowski in many instances providing the artwork, cachets which he simply signed 'Leonard.' **Figure 3**, taken from the September 2009 edition of *First Days* shows us the same cachet as found in my example, also of 1944 vintage, but bearing a different patriotic slogan. Clearly, Harrington tried to get as much mileage as he could from a single one of Borkowski's efforts.

UNCLE SAM SHALL EVER
SAIL THE SEVEN SEAS



IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY



Mr. Charles R. Dale,
404 South Fairview St.
Lock Haven, Pennsylvania

Figure 3. A variation of the cachet using the same artwork.

Rapidgraph cartography pen. "Action lines" abound in his cachets, which are filled with the movement of soldiers, airplanes, and bombs.

On a depressing (and all too common) note, sometime after Borkowski's passing, his wife, unaware of any current or potential future value, threw away all of the remaining covers in Leonard's collections (3).

Borkowski's cachets have found their way into the collections of several 'big name' collectors such as those of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and French President, Charles De Gaulle (4). It seems I am now in good company!

- (1) *Leonard Leopold Borkowski Sr.: World War II Patriotic Cachet Designer: Addendum* by David S. Zubatsky. *First Days*. AFDCS. September 1, 2010.
- (2) Sherman, Lawrence. *United States Patriotic Envelopes of World War II*. 2006. James L. Lee Publishing, Cary, Ill., p63.
- (3) Ibid.
- (4) Ibid.

Thanks to Foster Miller and Basil Copeland who, on Delphi's *The Stamp Collecting Forum*, provided information on and research sources regarding this cachet.

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Business Reply Envelope

By T.P. McDermott ©

Seeing an unusual cover on eBay with the words Boy Scouts of America (BSA) caught my eye. It was a Business Reply Envelope (BRE) that was self-addressed to the BSA [National Headquarters] at 2 Park Avenue New York, N.Y., **Figure 1**, since it did not have a postal zip code nor the earlier two digit city

zone code, I knew right away this was a older philatelic item for topical Scouts on Stamps collectors. Also a BRE would be an unusual element in a philatelic exhibit as it is different than plain regular postage stamps. I have never seen a scouting organization using BREs to pay incoming mail. I quickly placed a high bid on it which turned out not to be necessary.

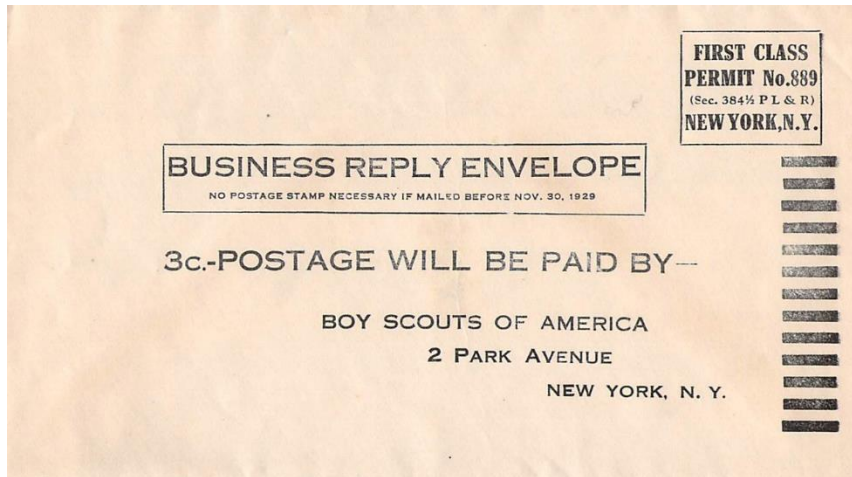


Figure 1. The early business reply envelope with the dated expiration date.

The concept of business reply mail allows businesses to distribute to their customers or potentials, an envelope or a postcard with preprinted mail address and instructions that the postage will be paid by the business after mailing & delivery by the post office. The idea is --- it might encourage a potential customer to take immediate action to engage in enterprising business with the envelope provider. It is cheaper than providing customers with already stamped envelopes because a large number would be wasted due to lack of interest by many of the customers. Over the years, I was under the impression that the business had to pay a double rate postage fee upon receiving the returned envelope. That's not true! Finding an ancient web site of USPS, I read that a several hundred dollars fee was required to setup the scheme. The fee cost vs. the distributed tens of thousands BRE but only receiving a few hundred returns can still make it worthwhile. Publishers were prime users of this service with subscription sign up postcards and/or receiving payment via reply envelopes. (Remember not too long ago, magazines (and newspapers) needed a huge number of subscribers as they made most of their money from advertisement based upon the number of magazines sold and distributed.)

Upon receiving my lot in the mail, I noticed that it had the unusual notice of "No postage stamp necessary if mailed before Nov 30, 1929." **Figure 2.** An expiration date was something I have never seen on BREs.

Our envelope is unused. The sealing gum on its flap was never moistened. Our BRE has two stamp hinge remains on its back side so we must assume that a previous owner must have thought it was a special item and had mounted it in his collection.



Figure 2. Blow up of the legend from the Figure 1 card showing the expiration date.

We wonder why the BSA had a reason to use BREs? Was there a fund raising drive going on? By 1929, the BSA had an excellent repertoire with the public that I think they would not have a need to encourage an immediate response by satisfying the return postage. Also it was not addressed to the magazine subscription departments of either *Boys Life* or *Scouting*. Can any of our readers offer some suggestions?

Sources of saved BREs were the result of mailroom employees who save stamps for collectors.

They pulled and saved:

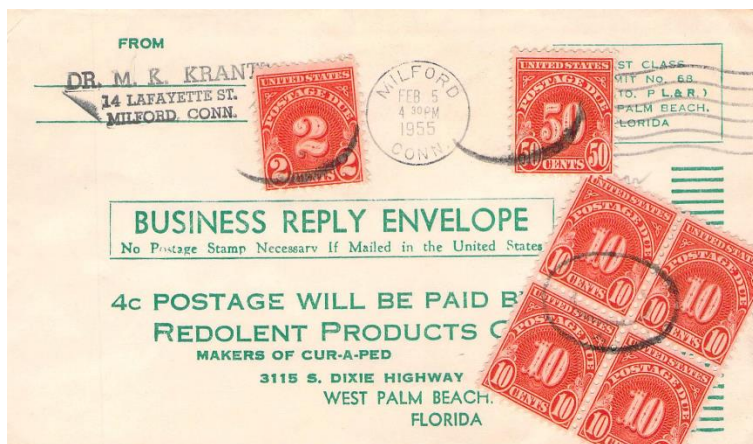


Figure 3. A later BRE from 1955 with 92¢ in postage due stamps paying the postage and fees for 23 envelopes.

1 BRE with postage due stamps --- Found on the top envelope of a bundle of returned envelopes. The USPOD records the payment of the entire pile's fees on the top envelope. It resulted in the saving of BREs with high value postage due stamps. Mailroom employees who saved stamps for collectors would put aside this top envelope while junking the rest after their processing. Now a days, billing and payment are done electronically.

2 Individual BREs returned from overseas or foreign lands since they required the stamps of originating country to pay the international mail.

3 Envelopes which have special artwork on them which were saved due to their usually appearance.

Currently, BREs are known as Business Reply Mail (BRM) and for larger items such as packages there are Business Reply Labels used for returning e-Commerce merchandise.

See Editor's note on next page.

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Editor's Note: According to "*U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999*" by Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, business reply mail was established on May 29, 1928. At that time the legend "No postage stamp necessary if mailed before _____ (a date not less than last day of month 1 year after time of distribution.)" was required. Referring to our cover, backing up the date would give us a distribution date of approximately November 1928. That would make it a very early use of the service. A minimum of 1000 pieces was required to be mailed with a 10% return expected.

In April 1929 the legend was changed to read "No Postage necessary if mailed in United States".

Also of note, the statement "3¢ POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY" (the addressee). The 1st class rate at the time was 2¢ with the additional 1¢ paying the Business Reply Mail fee.

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Treasurer's Tidbits

Well, once again we have another dues renewal cycle in our rearview mirrors and I'm happy to report that our member retention rate continues to be excellent, keeping in the upper nineties percentage wise. The membership's generosity was also once again displayed in the amount of individual donations that were included with dues remittances. A special tip of the hat goes out to member Joel Harrington who again came through with a sizeable donation just as he has done over the past several years! Even so, small donations still added up to a princely sum, a great help to our society in this day and age of inflation along with supply line issues (such as with the paper supply) having put a real strain upon our publications budget. Thank you one and all!

Voting for the best article / author for 2022 had us in a three-way tie for so long that the necessity for a run-off vote was rapidly turning into a reality as the deadline for this issue of our *Bulletin* approached. Fortunately, the late arrival of a ballot, literally 5-days before the publication deadline, broke the tie proving that every single vote counts.

And the winner is:

A One-Day Wonder by Charles J. DiComo, PhD & Terry Shaw, PhD.

Thanks to all those who submitted articles! If you've never submitted one, please consider doing so, and if you already have: encore, encore! Submissions keep our publications at the high level of interest and quality we've come to expect and seeing something on N.Y. State postal history you penned and care deeply about in print is tremendously satisfying. Plus, you never know, you might walk away with next year's best article trophy!

Until next time, happy collecting!

George F. DeKornfeld, DDS Treasurer

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Election results

Results came in too late for the last BULLETIN, so here they are:

George McGowan, Secretary (2024)
George DeKornfeld, Treasurer (2024)
John Cali, Director (2025)
Steve Kennedy, Director (2025)

From Jeff Stage, Excelsior Editor

Greetings all and I hope you are having a fabulous spring. Things are a bit slow at the moment here over at the home office of the *Excelsior*! Content submissions have been down a little bit over the last couple of issues – fall 2022 and spring 2023 – but I think I can say the content remains diverse and intriguing.

So, now is a great time for you to take a crack at telling membership (and others who read our great journal) your stories connected to New York state postal history.

I think I can only reiterate that I am more than willing to help you craft your article.

Don't worry about style that much (I will take care of that), just always remember to submit separate individual jpegs or tiffs of your images. Embedding your images within text makes production more difficult. Also, please send those images at a high resolution – 600 dpi or more.

Also, I prefer publication of articles without endnotes or footnotes. Again, this has a lot to do with production and editing. If I edit a section that includes such a notation, a lot of messy things can happen. Most footnotes can really be referred to in regards to journalism style, such as "... xxx xx xxxxx, according to the Such-and-Such Catalog ..." Then, we just put the full catalog info in a resource listing at the end. If your note is something more complex that seems necessary we can include it as a box or sidebar within the layout.

If you think this doesn't work, consider what you read elsewhere such as Smithsonian magazine or National Geographic. You generally won't find endnotes or footnotes.

I will have a main story that, at this point, will lead the October issue, but I need several smaller articles to fill us up. My main article is one I am writing for The American Philatelist on philately linked to the New York State Fair, which I will adapt for our purposes.

Feel free to send articles along to our editorial email – nyspostal@gmail.com (But, at this time of year I don't look constantly at that email so feel free to send me a heads up to my personal email - centerstage98@yahoo.com)

Thank you and Happy Spring and Upcoming Summer.

Our Members receive recognition

The April 25, 2023 issue of the *Canadian Stamp News* ran a half page article that it picked up from our Facebook page that was posted by President Charles DiComo. The CSN article's title was "'Silent' language of stamp placement." It describes the meaning of a stamps orientation and placement on a cover.

Charles DiComo won Vermeil medals at Sarasota National Stamp Expo on January 20-22, 2023 for his article on "H.H. Warner & Co. "Safe Remedies' Major Double Transfer of Central Vignette on 6¢ Medicine Stamp RS258dt:" and in association with Terry Shaw for "A One Day Wonder: Name of Post Office on Long Island Became Jones Beach for a Single Day."

Our member Lawrence Laliberte deserves mention for his recently published article titled "Life Through the Eyes of Annie Dall – Student 1884-1887" which appeared in the Dutchess County Historical Society's 2022 *Yearbook*. The 30 page article was gleaned from 25 letters (no covers) sent by Annie to her best friend Clara in Whitson, NY which was located just outside of Sing Sing. The article describes her life at Lyndon Hall School in Poughkeepsie. Some of the topics covered were courses studied, meals, travels around town, religion, etiquette, the Mock-Hop and concerns about the Whitson Postmaster reading her letters.

Editor's Musings

While studying some Stampless Folded Letters that I acquired, the question arose. What exactly is a sheet of paper? Was there a size standard? The example that prompted this question measured approx... 12 x 17 inches. After searching a few publications, I called Charlie DiComo and this is what he searched out.

There are a few references one can look to, both by A.J. Valente, the relevant one for this conversation is entitled "*Rag Paper Manufacturing in the U.S., 1801-1900*"

What happened during the rag recession of 1850-1858 was the price of paper nearly doubled (too many Fourdriniers chasing too few rags). Previously, the public (merchants, businesses etc.) had used post paper or foolscap (whatever was available) for letter writing. These were the ubiquitous folded letters.

So it was that the successful paper mills, such as the South Lee Mill, began producing letter paper. They divided a sheet of post paper, then approximately 11"x17", to make an 8½"x 12" page (in approximate dimensions). There were already a number of envelope makers who ramped up production to meet the new demand. Many such cheap envelopes were of straw or straw-manila construction. Thus, the sheet of letter paper with a cheap envelope came to about ½ the cost of the former folded letter sheet.

There was also "note paper" that began use at this time (1851). Note paper was about ½ the size of letter paper, and thus employed the smaller note envelope (some called Ladies Envelopes). Early varieties of note envelopes are somewhat scarce, but became evermore popular in the mid-1850s.

Also, about this time (1851) the Post Office began offering 3 Cents stamps. So, now the combination of cheaper paper, cheap envelopes, and cheaper stamps brought about the paradigm shift in mailing activities.