

EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY



UNIT 28

BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 1975

ALBANY REGIONAL MEETING:

The meeting in Albany was held on Sunday, February 2, 1975, with the following 14 members present: Lange, Waite, Haefeli, Seifert, DeGraff, Chlanda, Rau, Perkins, Reynolds, Tuttle, Doolittle, Bernadt, Moore and de Lisle. Mrs. Evelyn Tuttle also attended with Cliff.

It was an interesting meeting for all, as a large assortment of covers were offered for sale and barter. Most all of those in attendance claimed new acquisitions.

The time of starting - 1:30 P.M. seemed satisfactory to the members and it was agreed to meet again, same time and place on Sunday, March 16, 1975. Meeting notices will go out to the regular devotees, but everyone is more than welcome. Come and bring a prospect with you. Don't forget, too, this is an active market for your surplus covers.

ROCHESTER REGIONAL MEETING

Weather was bad. It was a damp, foggy day but 15 hardy philatelists managed to attend the February 16, meeting at Rochester--Trenholm East Inn. Three dealer members had a large quantity of good material for sale and or trade. Three applications for membership were received. Accommodations at the Inn were excellent- a well lighted meeting room and a good restaurant. Warren Stevens gave a slide presentation of Airmails. It was most interesting and informative. Plans are being made for another Regional Meeting. Watch for future announcements.

ANNUAL ELECTION of OFFICERS

Attention is directed to Inclosure 2- Annual Election of Officers- If you wish to nominate an officer, it is of the utmost importance that the directions as given be followed.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED:

BURGESS, HARRY 1550 Sixth Street, Space 176, Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

References: Member E.N. Sampson (Sponsor); R.W. Davis, President NMPA
Interests: Stampless covers, New York State, specializing on Mexican War covers and New Mexico territorials.

RAPHAEL, MARVIN 267 Scholfield Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14617

References: Members E.M. Moore and John Weyerts
Interests: 19th Century covers, U.S. and CSA stamped or stampless.

We welcome to membership David H. Carnahan and Robert L. Kuehne, whose applications were published in the January Bulletin.

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Ken de Lisle told the Albany meeting of his appointment as Regional Representative for the centennial stamp exhibit, the Philadelphia International Philatelic Exhibition of May 29 to June 6, 1976.

His duties will cover publicity in the State of New York outside the NY Metropolitan area as well as securing exhibits from well-known collectors in the area covered; receiving mail applications from potential exhibitors; pre-screening of exhibits to insure that they meet requirements for exhibits at an international level and arrange for a tour group to the show.

In connection with the above, Ken would appreciate receiving the name and address of any stamp columnist or philatelic writer in your area, so that the name can be placed in the INTERPHIL '76 mailing list to receive news and information on the show. While this would be the writers for newspapers, we also would like to have the news in any club publication.

Send the name and address of your editor to Ken, address listed elsewhere in this Bulletin.

BOOTLEG LETTERS

Be sure to read Inclosure 3 by Ken de Lisle. It is most interesting.

Inclosure 1 Treas Report
2 Election of Officers
3 Bootleg Letters

Empire State
Postal History Society

TREASURER'S REPORT: 5 Months ending January 31, 1975

Bank Balances: August 31, 1974: Checking Acct. Bank of NY, Albany		\$ 319.03
Savings Accts. Bank of NY, Albany		<u>2,456.09</u>
		2,775.12

INCOME:

Dues: Current 1974-75	\$ 120.00		
Prepaid 1975-76	10.00		
Fees	<u>7.00</u>	\$ 137.00	
Sales: Manuscript Book		1.25	
Bank Interest		<u>61.93</u>	<u>200.18</u>
			\$ 2,975.30

DISBURSEMENTS:

Printing: Bulletin	\$ 84.87		
Membership Cards	<u>8.22</u>	\$ 93.09	
Postage: Bulletin	13.00		
Bulletin Prepaid	54.20		
Secretary	<u>9.76</u>	76.96	
Awards Trophy	12.34		
District Meeting Expense	<u>12.42</u>	24.76	
Payment 25% Interphil Guarantee		25.00	
Memorial Donation		<u>25.00</u>	<u>244.81</u>
			\$ 2,730.49
Bank Balances: Jan. 31, 1975: Checking Acct. Bank of NY, Albany			\$ 212.47
Savings Accounts, BNY, Albany			<u>2,518.02</u>
Cash on Hand			\$ 2,730.49

Operating Deficit, 5 months = \$ 44.63

Funds carried in three accounts: Checking account, no min. balance, no service fee.
Savings account, day of deposit to day of withdrawal - 5%.
Savings account, 3 months withdrawal notice, 5½%

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Yes, it is that time again. The Society holds its annual election each year on the first Sunday of May at the annual meeting.

The following 2-year terms expire:

George J. Bernadt	President
William A. Seifert	Vice President
Kenneth R. de Lisle	Secty-Treasurer
Robert Rau	Director (3 years)
Harry Taber	Director (3 years)
Nicholas Todaro	Director (3 years)

plus vacancy to fill the
term of the late Edna Nelson, expiring Apr. 30, 1976

The above active officers are eligible for re-election.

Article 4 of the By-Laws states: "... nominations may be made by any member in good standing. Nominations shall close March 20th.

Please send in your nominations to Kenneth R. de Lisle, 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208 before the deadline. You are cautioned that no name may be placed in nomination until you have first secured the consent of the nominee to stand for election. A ballot will be prepared containing the names of all those receiving THREE or more nominations.

Be sure to list the name of the member and the office for which you will nominate him or her, this is important. Some years we receive just a list of names and this is a waste of effort. So, THE NAME - THE OFFICE and your name AFTER YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE NOMINEE'S CONSENT.

BOOTLEG LETTERS - A REVISION: Submitted by Ken de Lisle

One of the fascinating aspects of postal history research is the finding of information which sets forth new facts or clarifies a heretofore "fuzzy" situation. It was my good fortune to run across such a find recently, while working on the microfilm records of Letters Sent by the Postmaster General.

Most of us have heard the term "bootleg letter." It is applied to a letter written in one location and carried privately to another, there to be put in the post office at a considerable saving in postage fee. For example, a letter written in New York City, carried upriver by a passenger on the steamboat and dropped in at the Albany post office is often seen. The rate between New York and Albany from 1792 to 1799 was 15¢ for a single letter. Up to 1816 it was 17¢ (25½¢ during the war rate period), 18¼¢ up to 1821 and 12½¢ from then until 1845. Yet, this same letter if carried on the boat by a passenger and dropped in at the Albany office cost only 1¢ if for an Albany addressee.

We have always considered this an illegal practice, hence the appellation.

However, scanning through Roll No. 19, I found the following:

August 11, 1815

Alexander Coffin, Esq., P.M.
Hudson, N.Y.

Sir: Your letter of the 7th is before me. If passengers in packet boats drop letters which they have brought with them into the post office you can charge only one cent on them, this for your trouble. You are not bound to receive for delivery but it would be difficult to avoid doing so, they may be dropt (sic) into your office without your knowledge.

RJM Jr.

This is quite informative, as it tells us while the practice was not really authorized, it was condoned and the term "bootleg" is a misnomer. Webster defines bootleg as "...to make, sell or carry (esp. liquor) illegally." Postmaster General Return J. Meigs, Jr., took the practical approach on the question and it can hardly be called illegal if he recognizes it and sets a fee on the product.

I, for one, will have to change the descriptive captions on one or more album pages!

Inclosure 3

