

## APS UNIT 28

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Meets twice annually

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EMPIRE STATE  
POSTAL HISTORY  
SOCIETY



## RETURN TO SENDER

By Robert Bramwell

In keeping with the theme of *ROPEX 2015*, this is the story of a forlorn attempt to pry money from the pockets of graduates of Schenectady's Union College that had been admitted to Sigma Xi in their undergraduate days. The cause was an "Alumni Research Fund" to which "small annual contributions" were solicited, according to the letter that accompanied each envelope. The problem, in retrospect, seems to be that the committee appointed to reach into those pockets thought that all those graduates could be reached for the price of a postage stamp. Not so.

The first return to sender came from the society's home town — Schenectady — where the graduate could not be located at the YMCA, or anywhere else in town. The Schenectady pointing finger states "Return to Writer".

The other came from half way around the world — Ndola, Northern Rhodesia.

The letter to F. Anton Gray arrived in Ndola July 26 1937, but in his absence was passed to Mufulira, about thirty miles north, where he was definitely not found and the envelope was marked "unclaimed" and posted on August 7 for return to Sigma Xi in Schenectady.

Happily, these candidates for the Auxiliary Markings Club's Hall of Fame found their way into the philatelic marketplace rather than a college fireplace.

[*EDITOR'S NOTE:* Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, was founded in 1886 at Cornell University in Ithaca as an honor society for science and engineering. It is an international, nonprofit membership society of more than 70,000 scientists and engineers elected because of their research achievements or potential.] ■