

BULLETIN OF THE
**EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY**

ISSUED BI-MONTHLY

DECEMBER 1978

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This notice will be the official call to a special meeting in Albany on Sunday, January 21, 1979 at 1:00PM, for the purpose of balloting on the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws as outlined on the enclosed copy of Executive Board minutes. For those who cannot vote in person, please return your copy of the proposed changes with a YES or NO and be sure to sign your name, otherwise the vote is invalid. Send to Ken de Lisle, 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208 before January 15th. Meeting will be held at the usual Albany location, the Tom Sawyer Motor Lodge on Western Avenue; take Thruway Exit 24 to the Northway, SOUTH. Exit on Western Avenue (the southern end of the Northway) turn left and the motel is a few hundred feet, on the right side. Trading, swapping, etc. starts at 10:00 AM, the business meeting will be brief.

It is not too early to start thinking about nominations for the officers for the next term 1979-1981. The offices of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and three Executive Board members must be filled at the election of May, 1979.

Please submit your nominations as soon as possible to Secretary de Lisle. Of course, it is understood that you have the nominees' consent to accept the nomination and acceptance of the office if elected.

If our Society is to continue its growth we must have more participation by more members in its projects and day-to-day business. Let's overwhelm the Secty and have a real live election this year.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season,

William Seifert, Jr.
President



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We welcome to membership Robert M. Shaw, Murray Hill, N.J. whose application was published in the October Bulletin.

Application for membership has been received from:

WILLIAMS, MRS. GORDON (Rita) 10420 Washington Church Road,
Miamisburg, OH 45342

References: None required (A.P.S. #87747)

Interests: U.S. - Gt. Britain - U.N. - Japan - Postal History of
New York State and Ohio.

Several address changes have been received and will be incorporated into the new membership list being prepared. Bill Seifert would appreciate prompt forwarding of any change in collecting interest, mailing address, etc., if you have not done so within the last three months.

THE GOOD OLD USPS

Our main expense is printing and mailing, taking over 75% of our budget. Not that this is bad, we expect to have to pay for putting postal history data, news of our members, auctions, etc., into your hands. But with the latest changes and proposed changes in postage rates (all up) it is becoming very difficult to arrange our mailings. For example:

<u>Weight Not to Exceed</u>	<u>If Sent 1st Class</u>	<u>If Sent 3rd Class</u>	<u>If Sent Two Mailings Part each Class</u>
1 oz.	.15	.20	.35
2 oz.	.28	.20	.35
3 oz.	.41	.40	.35
4 oz.	.54	.40	.48
5 oz.	.67	.53	.55
6 oz.	.80	.53	.68

The above mailing costs assume the material is mailed flat without an outer cover or folded, stapled and addressed without the use of an envelope. To place in envelopes involves added cost which usually offsets the saving of multiple mailings (two classes for the same monthly item), especially at the 2-3oz. weight. Of course, the next problem we have to face (having turned in our small size postal cards) is the peculiar rule on "non-standard" pieces, the effective date for which has not been given.

One way to reduce postage expense is to reduce the weight of the mailing. We have been using what is known in the trade as 60lb. offset paper. This bulletin and some of the enclosure are done on 50lb stock. There is a small saving in paper cost but a potentially greater saving in postage if we can stay under the 2oz. limit per mailing, or include enough to take advantage of the 3.99oz 40¢ rate.

This month's larger mailing is because we are investigating the matter and did not mail anything in November. We shall continue to experiment with combinations calculated to produce a larger bulletin content without materially increasing the mailing cost.

THOUGHTS WHILE READING A BOOK - Ken de Lisle

Recently I was reading (re-reading) a copy of The Philatelic Almanac, 1st Edition, published by H.L. Lindquist (1936). It brings back memories of my first exposure to organized philately, although in retrospect some of the organizations to which I belonged were quite DIS-organized. The book is just a little more than 40 years old, yet most of the dealers who advertised there are no longer in business, even in name. A stark reminder that many, many stamp and cover dealers are one-man shows and their business does not survive them.

Delf Norona, a former member of ESPHS, advertised approval service. The Y. Souren Company, with a 2-page ad inside the back cover, wanted to buy SUPERB imperforate issues of the world prior to 1860, but only in pairs, blocks of 4 or larger pieces! Other names so familiar to collectors in 1936 which appeared in the book were Economist Stamp Co., Cross Stamp Company, Kenmore Stamp Company, Marks (of Toronto, Ont.), Warren H. Colson and many more which are now just names from the past.

However, some have survived, perhaps due to their corporate status. H.E. Harris & Co. still advertises its satisfied customers with photo and replica of letter of thanks, evidently a most successful method. Washington Stamp Exchange billed itself as "First Day Cover Specialists" and still does. The American Philatelic Society proudly announced its membership at over four thousand. The latest membership tally as of October 31, 1978, is 45,380!

More to the point, I am fascinated reading the list of stamp clubs in New York State and remembering their rosters. Albany had its Ft. Orange Stamp Club, still does - ESPHS member Bob Gallup is a 50-yr. plus member of that organization, now with an INC. after its name. I wonder how many people in the whole U.S.A. are uninterrupted 50-yr. plus members of the same local club? In Ithaca, the secretary of the Ithaca Philatelic Society was Robert A. Hutchinson, whose splendid article on the postal markings of Ithaca continues in this issue of the bulletin. The Rochester Philatelic Society listed ESPHS member James P. Flynn as its secretary, while Chet Wilcox shows up in the almanac as secretary of the Johnson City Stamp Club. All of these people today seem to have an active interest in postal history, but in 1936 were probably just plain "stamp collectors."

The back section of the Philatelic Almanac lists a number of hotels recommended by the various stamp clubs as being suitable for "philatelic headquarters"; indeed, many of them served as meeting places. The list was intended to guide visiting philatelists to reasonably-priced rooms. It is a safe bet that less than 10% of the hotels are still standing.

In Albany, the DEWITT CLINTON was recommended, 400 rooms and rates beginning at \$3.25 per night. In Geneva it was the SENECA HOTEL, rate at \$2.00. Binghamton had the CHARLTON, \$1.50 per night, \$2.00 with bath. Buffalo, the STATLER, at \$3.00. In those days one could usually stay 7 nights for the 6X rate.

In New York City the LEXINGTON was recommended, at \$3.50 single, but if this seemed high one could choose the HOTEL McALPIN, single with bath at \$2.50. On top of all this --- 5¢ '47s were listed by Scott at \$9.00, used, usual discounts to apply.

MANUSCRIPT POST OFFICES OF NEW YORK STATE

Editor Henry Chlanda reported to the Executive Board that his work on the manuscript offices is progressing quite well. Henry is trying to list, from every available source, not only the office of the marking but also the date, destination, rate of postage and any other supplementary data such as WAY, FWD, etc. Each office has its own file card on which each reported cover is entered. It is a monumental undertaking and Henry needs the co-operation of all of us in this study. Please refer to past bulletins for his requests for data.

Supplement #6 to the MANUSCRIPT POST OFFICES OF NEW YORK STATE is enclosed with this month's mailing. Note: it is the second this year. For those of you who still do not have this valuable book, it is still available, with supplements, from Ken de Lisle, 54 Ramsey Place, Albany, N.Y. 12208. Cost to members \$2.53 3rd Class.

POCKET LIST OF NEW YORK STATE POST OFFICES

We have replenished our stock of this item by a small reprint order. For those who wish a fresh copy, write same place, same price.

FORT ORANGE STAMP CLUB EXHIBIT - FOPEX '79

We will have a good showing in this show according to the returns from our Preliminary Survey form. Entries are coming in, too, from non-member postal history exhibitors.

With respect to the announced subsidy, there seems to be some misunderstanding on its application. WE REPEAT - the ESPHS in order to encourage and promote the study and display of NEW YORK STATE related exhibits will match the exhibitor with a payment to the show committee of \$3.00 per 16-page frame, up to a maximum of 10 frames per member, no strings attached EXCEPT it must be an exhibit of New York State postal history material. The Executive Board has authorized payment of the incentive also on a pro-rata basis.

For example, one of our members puts in an exhibit of 10 frames of New York State railroad markings - the Society will meet one-half of the \$60.00 frame fee. On the other hand, if it is an exhibit of railroad markings of the U.S.A. WE WILL ALLOW THE PAYMENT ONLY TO THE EXTENT OF THE PERCENTAGE OF NYS RAILROAD MARKINGS TO THE WHOLE EXHIBIT. With ten frames of markings, only four are from New York State, we will meet one-half the frame fee for FOUR FRAMES, or $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$24 = \$12.00. The Ex. Bd. was very explicit, our encouragement is toward the study, mounting and display of New York State postal history material.

If there are any members who have misunderstood the original rules, please get in touch with John A. Lange, Entries Chairman, to clear up the payment of their entry fee shortage.

Those who intend to exhibit but who have not yet turned in the Preliminary Survey form, please do so at once. We will allocate our fee incentive this month, the balance of the authorized budget will be spent on the awards. It is expected the award list will be published in our February Bulletin.

PRICES REALIZED SALE #7, November 5, 1978

<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Lot No.</u>	<u>Sold</u>
1	\$ 7.50	50	\$ 4.50	97	wdwn	145	\$ 6.50
2	9.00	51	9.00	98	7.50	146	wdwn
3	8.00	52	9.50	99	8.50	147	12.00
4	24.00	53	8.50	100	3.50	148	6.00
5	19.00	54	13.00	101	1.00	149	9.00
6	15.50	55	17.00	102	6.00	150	11.50
7	12.50	56	5.00	103	12.50	151	5.00
8	15.00	57	31.00	104	3.50	152	9.00
9	7.50	58	6.00	105	12.50	153	8.50
10	24.00	59	28.00	106	9.00	154	8.00
11	8.50	60	4.25	107	3.50	155	4.25
12	10.50	61	6.50	108	4.25	156	5.00
13	4.25	62	5.00	109	10.50	157	4.50
14	8.50	63	19.50	110	2.00	158	3.75
15	15.00	63A	5.00	111	5.50	159	2.00
16	9.50	64	8.50	112	2.00	160	5.50
18	8.00	65	8.00	113	4.75	161	2.00
19	24.00	66	8.00	114	4.50	162	38.00
20	19.50	67	4.00	115	2.25	163	4.00
21	2.00	68	26.00	116	16.50	164	9.50
22	11.00	69	7.00	117	3.50	165	6.50
23	9.50	70	11.00	118	5.50	166	15.50
24	9.00	71	13.00	119	9.00	167	6.50
25	25.00	72	21.00	120	2.00	168	2.00
26	17.00	73	7.00	121	12.00	169	Pass
27	4.75	74	7.00	122	9.00	170	8.50
28	4.75	75	10.50	123	2.00	171	2.00
29	2.25	76	1.00	124	2.25	172	5.00
30	3.75	77	7.50	125	11.50	173	10.50
31	5.50	78	2.00	126	13.50	174	12.50
32	4.50	79	Pass	127	10.00	175	10.50
33	8.00	80	8.50	128	2.00	176	4.00
34	20.00	81	3.00	129	18.00	177	5.00
35	5.50	82	5.00	130	11.00	178	3.50
36	5.00	83	8.50	131	10.50	179	12.00
37	4.25	84	44.00	132	5.00	180	11.00
38	4.75	85	7.50	133	7.50	181	15.50
39	12.50	86	3.50	134	3.50	182	8.00
40	20.00	87	4.75	135	6.00	183	6.00
41	6.50	88	10.50	136	2.75	184	15.50
42	38.00	89	7.00	137	Pass	185	2.00
43	10.50	90	4.00	138	2.00	186	13.00
44	38.00	91	4.25	139	11.50	187	12.00
45	16.00	92	8.50	140	2.50	188	5.00
46	8.00	93	2.00	141	36.00	189	5.50
47	2.00	94	8.50	142	15.50		
48	8.00	96	8.00	143	5.00		End of Sale
49	5.00	97	wdwn	144	8.50		\$1,712.25

Deadline for material for next sale is February 15, 1979. PLEASE read carefully the Auction Manager's item in this bulletin dealing with auction matters.

AUCTION MATTERS - A Message from George Bernadt, Auction Mgr.

There are two things of utmost importance I wish to point out to our membership.

First - the type of material being received for our auctions. If you study the prices realized, you will note that the good material will realize good prices and vice-versa. A large amount of poor and/or non-postal history material is being submitted. Much of it must be returned to the owners. So, as badly as we sometimes need material, it behooves you to use some discretion in what you send. (We are not desirous of becoming a repository for material you have been unable to unload elsewhere.) If we had not on hand a good backlog of lots from previous sales we would not have been able to hold a meaningful auction on November 5.

It is an established fact that for NYS postal history items valued from \$5 to \$75, our E.S.P.H.S. Auctions bring the best realizations ANYWHERE, but not for junk!!!

Second - lot descriptions. There are four areas for consideration. We first describe the physical condition of the fls or cover itself, with the usual symbols F VF etc. Thus, when a cover is described as VF the description refers to the condition/appearance of the item, NOT the postal marking(s). The markings are separately described and unless there is specific reference to any weakness, it may be assumed the markings/strikes are clear, complete and legible. Because we do not have unlimited space for each cover, slight defects such as a letter or two in the marking not being superb may not be mentioned. In a marking with U.S.EXPRESS MAIL the last L may be weak and we cannot make all these points detailed, BUT it will be a clear, legible strike, unless we say otherwise.

Third, the contents. These will be described only if they are unusual or if they add appreciably to the value of the item or assist in the dating. Last, where stamps are involved, these should be considered as "average" unless otherwise described. Vendors AND purchasers should be aware of the meaning of the word "average", it differs with the particular stamp. Refer to any good stamp manual (Linn's) or to the description of condition in the popular price lists (Harris, Brookman).

It would be a great help if you would indicate the Scott number when submitting stamped covers. If you don't know, say so! But don't then accuse the auction manager of error if he down-grades your hopes.

NEXT AUCTION DEADLINE - FEBRUARY 15, 1979.

EDWARD NORTON SAMPSON

For the second month in succession, we sorrowfully record the death of one of our members, who was most importantly a national figure in philately. "Nort" Sampson passed away at Clearwater, Fla. October 29, after a long illness. He will be missed by all of us. On the occasion of his retirement some time past, we printed our thanks and appreciation for his advice and assistance to many of us.

Empire State
Postal History Society

Motion by George Bernadt, seconded by Robert Waite, that the following resolution be approved by the Executive Board:

RESOLVED:

That the Constitution of the Empire State Postal History Society be and is hereby amended, by adding the following new ARTICLE -

ARTICLE 7: DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

In the event that this Society shall dissolve, disband, or for any reason cease to function as set forth in Article 2, then the property and other tangible assets of the Society including, but not limited to, cash on hand, funds on deposit in the name of the Society, accounts receivable, stock of publications, contents of the library and any office equipment, shall be transferred to another philatelic society duly authorized and incorporated under the Laws of the State of New York, or to a New York State historical society or museum which has a significant interest in the postal history of New York State.

Choice of the institution receiving these assets shall be made by majority vote of the Executive Board meeting in regular or special session.

It is the intent of this article that none of the funds or other assets of the Society, at the time of dissolution, shall inure to the benefit of any individual member or members.

and be it further resolved,

That the By-Laws of the Empire State Postal History Society be and are hereby amended, by adding the following new ARTICLE -

ARTICLE 7: LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. There shall be a separate class of membership, known as "LIFE MEMBER." Membership in this class shall be attained only by majority vote of the Executive Board, meeting in regular or special session.

Section 2. Life membership shall be granted generally for meritorious service to the Society over a period of years. No person with less than five (5) years membership in the Society shall be eligible for election to Life Membership.

(Resolution Continued)

ARTICLE 7: LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Section 3. Life members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of regular members, including the right to vote and to hold office.

There shall be no annual dues assessed to Life Members and they shall be free of such payment for life.

and be it further resolved,

That this resolution be brought before the membership of the Empire State Postal History Society for action in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution, at the earliest opportunity.

After a short discussion, President Seifert called for a vote by the Executive Board.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

President Seifert declared the resolution approved by the Executive Board and stated steps would be taken to bring it before the membership for their decision.

CERTIFICATION:

I, Kenneth R. de Lisle, duly elected and acting Secretary-Treasurer of the Empire State Postal History Society, do certify this is a true copy of the motion for resolution inscribed on the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held in Albany, N.Y. October 1, 1978.

Albany, N.Y.
October 2, 1978


Kenneth R. de Lisle

Supplement to:
THE BULLETIN OF THE EMPIRE STATE POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
December 1978