

BULLETIN *of the Empire State*

Postal History Society

Volume 52 Number 4

December 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Bayside Stamp Show

Bayside, Queens, New York, Dec. 15, 2019,

Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, 2020

The Adria Hotel, 22033 Northern Blvd., Bayside Queens, N.Y.

Hours: 10-4:30. Info: Marilyn Nowak, marilynnowak@verizon.net

Capital District Third Sunday Stamp & Collectibles Show

Colonie, New York, Dec. 15, 2019,

Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, 2020

Colonie Recreation Center, 3 Thunder Rd., Colonie, N.Y.

Hours: 10-3. Info: Paul Lyngard, (518) 424-7920, Email: keithcards@aol.com

Cheektowaga, New York

Dec. 15, 2019

Third Sundays Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall, 2735 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y

Hours: Sunday 10-3. Info: Dave Tortorice, (716) 873-4280

Melville Coin, Stamp and Collectibles Show

Melville, New York Dec. 8 & 22, 2019,

Jan. 12 & 26, Feb. 9 & 23, Mar. 8 & 22, Apr. 12 & 26, 2020

Catapano Engineering Hall, 585 Broadhallow Rd., Melville, NY 11747

Hours: Sun. 8-2. Info: George Schultheis (516) 557-7096

Syracuse Stamp, Coin & Collectibles Show

No listings yet.

Second Sundays Maplewood Suites, 400 7th North St., Liverpool, N.Y. Thruway Exit 36.

Hours: Sunday 10-4:30. Info: Ed Bailey, (315) 452-0593

Information obtained from iStampshows.com. Please verify before going.

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APS Affiliate #28

web site www.esphs.us

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Mohawk: *vacant*

Lower Hudson: *vacant*

NYC/LI: Frank Braithwaite

Leatherstocking/Catskill: *vacant*

Central: Bob Davison

West Central: *vacant*

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

President's Message

The cooler weather has arrived, the leaves are changing their hue and blanketing our lawns, and the aroma of baked goods fills the air. This is one of my favorite times of the year and often brings me back to my youth. I do hope the same is true for our membership.

I am pleased to report since my last message we have added a new member to our roles, Francis Fergusson, past President of the Florida Postal History Society. With his collecting interests in Cortland, New Hartford, Holland Patent, Clark Mills, Clinton & Utica – I do hope he considers authoring an article or two for the *BULLETIN* and/or *Excelsior!* This brings our membership tally to 111.

While on the topic of the *Excelsior*, I am putting out another call for back issues. There is a gap in our online archive to fill, which spans all of the 1980's and most of the 1990's. As before, I ask that you contact me directly so we can work out a process by which I can take receipt of the paper copies, scan and process to PDF, then upload and make available for our constituents as I have done in the past.

Finally, as I stated in our last issue, we have a great Society with numerous volunteers who contribute to our success. I have heard from a number of you as to what you would like to see more of. Many suggested sharing a presentation, monograph or exhibit for posting on our website (www.esphs.us). Another was more members penning more articles on their favorite topic. All of the above shall ensure that our Society continues to grow, attract new members, and advance the knowledge of NYS postal history by means of educational and historical research - which of course is at the core of our Mission.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please call (914-450-3791) or e-mail (charlesdicomo@gmail.com). I'd be most pleased to hear from you. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Charles J. DiComo, PhD | *President, ESPHS*

BULLETIN DEADLINE

DEADLINE – The deadline for the **March 2020** issue of the *BULLETIN* is **March 1, 2020**. 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*. Submit to Larry Laliberte at largin1@verizon.net. And don't forget, an article of one page or more will get you an additional year's membership.

Secretary's Membership Report

New Member:

Francis Ferguson
P.O. Box 1206
Plymouth, FL 32768-1206
fergapk@gmail.com

Treasurer's Tidbits

From this side of the auctioneer's gavel, it would seem that the prices realized for Bill Thoman's twenty or so Cortland Covers lots sold in Schuyler Rumsey's Sale 88 held at SESCAL did very well. For example, lot #1847, a 'Stampless Cover Stock, 1784-1860s' estimated at \$10,000-15,000 sold for \$12K plus tip. Enjoy retirement Bill!

For those who collect Dutchess County, this in from Congressman Antonio Delgado (NY19):
"Naming Local Post Office after Fallen Pine Plains Navy Hero", 10.30.2019.

There's no higher calling than to serve one's country and Senior Chief Petty Officer Shannon Kent answered that call with unparalleled devotion. On January 16th of this year, Senior Chief Kent of Pine Plains was killed in a suicide bombing while serving in Syria – her fifth combat tour in the Middle East. At just 35 years-old, she left behind a husband and two sons.

I'm proud that my bipartisan bill to rename a post office in Pine Plains in Senior Chief Kent's honor recently passed the House. I will continue to work to make this bill law to serve as a daily reminder of her heroism and sacrifice."

This notice is particularly poignant for my family, our having recently, after 30-years, moved out of Ancramdale (to the Catskills). We were formerly located within the Pine Plains Central School District, where our son attended school.

Dues renewal invoices will be going out soon. Please continue your much-needed support for our Society!

George DeKornfeld
Treasurer, Awards Chair, APS Liaison

EXCELSIOR! DEADLINE

The deadline for the [March 2020](#) issue of *EXCELSIOR!* is [January 20, 2020](#).

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.

“...nothing is more certain than death and taxes.”

Larry Laliberte

Today, we rely on insurance to protect our loved ones when one ultimately departs this world for the great album in the hereafter. It wasn't always that way because not everyone could

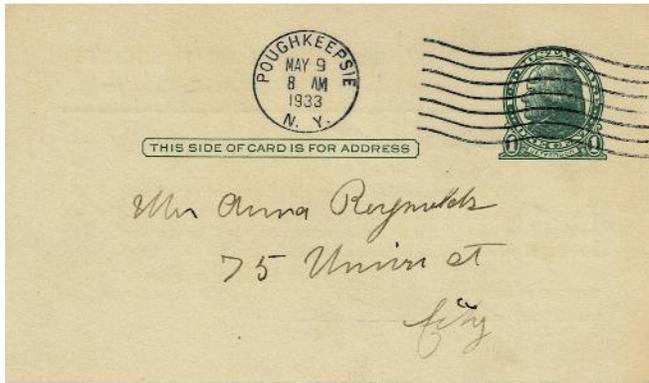


Figure 1. The front of the postal card, UX27, mailed on May 9, 1933.

afford insurance. The alternative was to belong to an organization that sponsored some sort of “Death Benefit” arrangement.

The postal card shown in Figure 1 was mailed on May 9, 1933 to one Anna Reynolds, 75 Union St, City. It is postmarked Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Nothing special here.

It is when the card is turned over that we see the whole story. The preprinted card, Figure 2, was sent by Mrs. Annie Schmadel as Secretary of the Death Fund of the St. Elizabeth

Society as an assessment upon the death of Mr K Baumbach. It is an assessment for 50 cents.

Searching the local newspaper on newspapers.com yielded no information on the parties but did reveal that the St. Elizabeth Society was associated with the Church of the Nativity in the city.

If this peaked your interest, look for “The Albany Boatmen’s Relief Association” article by Josh Furman in the next *EXCELSIOR!*

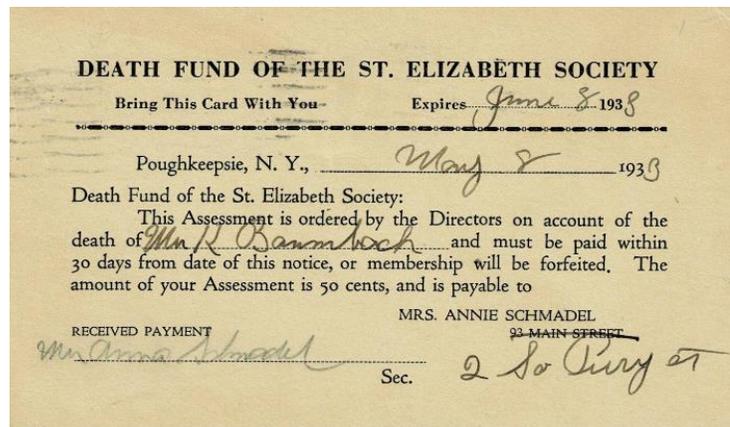


Figure 2. The preprinted side showing the assessment of 50 cents.

WESTCHESTER'S ORANGE SPRAY-ON POSTMARK

Terence Hines

Spray-on postmarks are now well known and are regularly used to cancel stamps. But starting in 1989 a different type of spray-on postmark was used to solve the problem of "stale" meter dates. These were meter stamps which were dated a day or more before the envelopes they franked were introduced into the mail stream. Such stale dates made it appear that the USPS was not delivering mail as promptly as they actually had. To solve this problem, spray on markings giving the date and location at which a metered mail piece entered the mail stream were instituted. The first such markings were tried on an experimental basis for a few weeks in Stamford, Connecticut in January of 1989. The experiment was deemed a success and the use of the markings was begun again in August of 1989. After that, such markings began appearing from mail processing centers around the country in 1990. Although intended for use only on metered mail, these markings occasionally were applied to stamped mail as well.

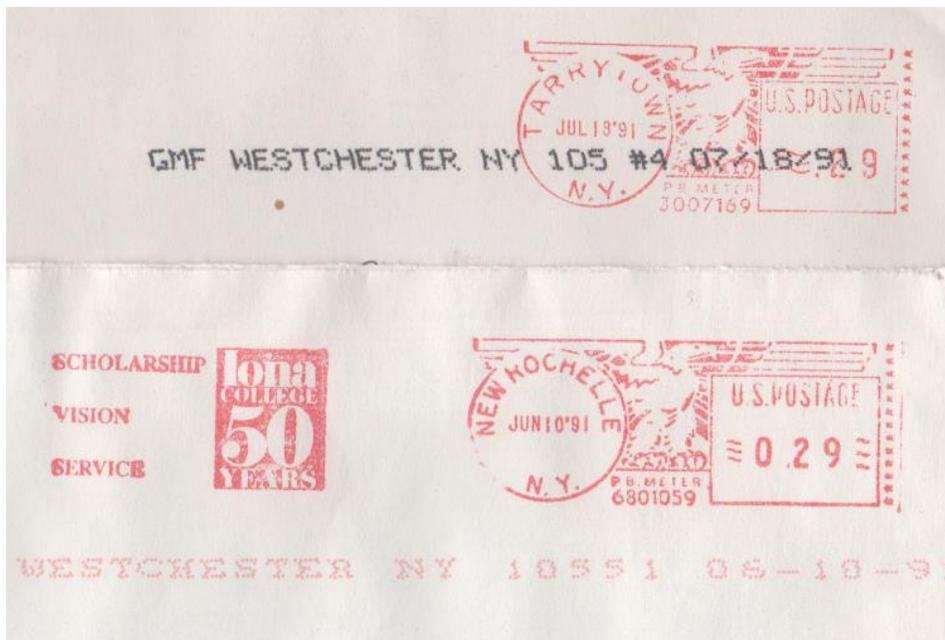


Figure 1 The Westchester spray on marking in black and orange.

With one exception all of these spray-on markings were in black ink. The exception was from Westchester County. In May and June of 1991 the Westchester markings were printed in orange. This was apparently due to an error in the ink that was shipped to the Westchester processing center. Since it was all that was available, it was used. When the regular black ink became available it was used. The orange ink was in use for less than two months. Given this short period of use and the fact that every-day metered commercial covers were not often saved, this marking is quite rare. An example of the orange marking and the subsequent black one is shown photographically cropped in **Figure 1**.