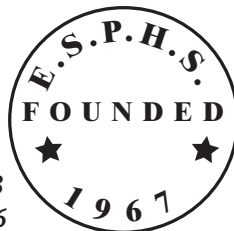

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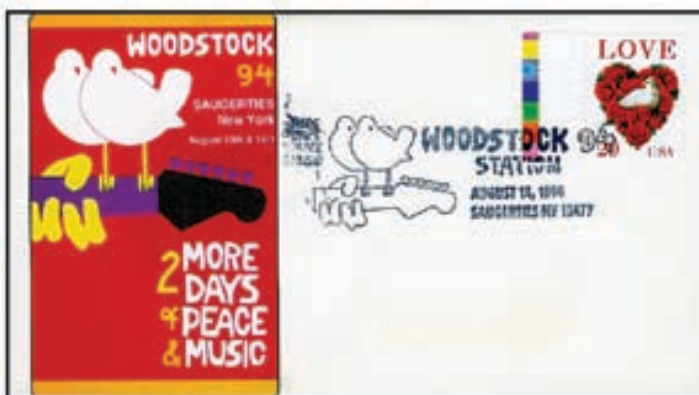


EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

WOODSTOCK SPECIAL EVENT CANCEL

By Maris Tirums

Do rock 'n roll and postal history have anything in common? For the pure postal history collector who disparages any cover which bears a hint of philatelic usage or noncommercial character, the answer most likely is no. But, for the postal history collector who is more liberal minded when



it comes to what covers to keep, the answer is a resounding why not!

Every year across New York State, there are probably several hundred special event cancels that are approved for use by the U.S. Postal Service, usually for just one to three days. As philatelists, we have all seen them, bought them, collected them, and perhaps even helped produce them through our affiliation with a stamp show, stamp club, or other local organization.

Illustrated here is a souvenir cover bearing a special event cancel for WOODSTOCK 94, a massive two day long outdoor rock 'n roll concert held at Saugerties in Ulster County. This was the second WOODSTOCK concert following the original very famous event held during August 1969 near Bethel in Sullivan County. Neither concert took place in Woodstock although the 1994 affair, organized to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the first concert, was just 10 miles from that village.

The pictorial cancel shows two doves sitting on the neck of a guitar. This graphic was part of the official poster for the concert, shown as the cachet. The organizers of WOODSTOCK 94 must have included at least one collector who was aware of the value of promotion through the use of a special event cancellation. Was a post office actually set up at the concert site? I don't know.

Collectors of covers with special event cancels usually seek out cancels that fit a certain topic (e.g. trains, baseball or motorcycles) or that were used within a certain geographic area. As an Ulster County collector, the WOODSTOCK 94 cover from Saugerties fits well in my postal history collection.