
APS UNIT 28

www.esphs.org
Meets twice annually

Membership info: George McGowan
P. O. Box 482, E. Schodack, NY 12063-0482
geolotus2003@nycap.rr.com, 518-479-4396



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

WHERE DID THE LITTLE POSTMAN COME FROM?

By Maris Tirums

Illustrated is a cover mailed by legendary stamp dealer and philatelic writer Herman Herst, Jr. in 1948. The cover bears a five-cent airmail coil stamp (Scott No. C37) to pay for airmail delivery from Shrub Oak, NY to Kodiak, AK.

What is particularly striking about the cover is the printed cachet of a running postman holding a large letter wherein Herst had typed the recipient's address.



Origins of the *Little Postman* are a mystery.

Does the running postman cachet look familiar? It should as it is currently used by John J. Nunes as his logo. He is the president of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies, the proprietor of NunesNook, a frequent presence at stamp shows big and small, and one of the principals of Metropolitan Expositions which puts on large philatelic sales events in New York City and the Washington, DC area.

Nunes recounts how he came to use the running postman logo. He saw an old Herst cover much like the one shown here and had liked the caricature so much that he asked Herst's permission to copy it. This occurred in the mid 1980s when the iconic Herst had already retired to Boca Raton, FL after a long career as a professional stamp dealer and writer. (Editor's note: Herst died in Boca Raton on March 31, 1999 at age 89.)

Herst replied to Nunes by saying that the running postman caricature was not copyrighted, that he did not know its origins, and that he had no objections to Nunes using it as a logo.

Herst had been a stamp dealer on New York City's Nassau Street, where literally dozens of stamp dealers had set up shops making that lower Manhattan area a stamp collectors mecca, before he continued his business in Shrub Oak, located in mostly suburban Westchester County just north of New York.

When did Herst first start using the running postman? Where did it originate and who first created it? Did other noted philatelists use it? If any *Stamp Insider* reader can answer any of these questions, we'd love to hear from you.

Is this New York postal history? You betcha.