



EMPIRE STATE
POSTAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

APS UNIT 28

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Meets twice annually

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AUXILIARY MARKINGS GALORE

By David Williams

This New York City cover represents another of my collecting areas — 1902 second Bureau postal history. For collectors of auxiliary markings it is a bonanza as well. The ten cents postage, representing two cents first class postage plus eight cents registry fee, is paid with five copies of Scott No. 319.



The registered letter was mailed on August 3, 1904. It bears a pink REGISTERED marking from Station P, New York, Post Office, as well as the typical mute Station P double oval killers and the five digit registration number. There are actually two registration numbers, but more about that later. The cover also displays the common NEW YORK, N.Y. / 8 - 3 / 1904 / REG'Y. DIV. double oval on the rear as well as a duplicate of the front Station P boxed marking.

There is no indication when the first attempt at delivery was made, but one can clearly see the 2ND NOTICE. / AUG 9, 1904. Also, on the middle left is seen a manuscript *Not found* along with a set of initials that presumably were those of the carrier on this route. A red UNCLAIMED. was applied to the cover along with the red pointing finger which reads Return / to Writer along with N.Y.P.O. REG. DIV. on the cuff.

What really caught my attention was the second registration number. I have no way of knowing which of the two was applied at the original mailing. However, it becomes clear why the second one was applied when we reexamine the back of the letter where we find another boxed Station P registered marking, but this one bearing the date of September 5, 1904.

Evidently the letter was returned to the sender, The New York Produce Exchange, Safe Deposit & Storage Company on this date. The postal clerk, in accordance with the 1902 PL&R, Section 871, paragraphs 1 and 2, reregistered the letter and applied a new registration number. However, he missed one rule of the PL&R, in that the letter was supposed to be marked with the words Reregistered after delivery or lack of delivery in the case of returned mail. ■