



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 33, No. 3

January 2001

Whole No. 122

It's time to consider a Bangor-area stamp show

The idea of an early summer stamp show in the greater Bangor area was endorsed at the December 9, 2000 meeting of the Maine Philatelic Society Board of Directors. But the question is whether a show can be put together in the relative short time. To do so will require the assistance of members in that area.

The Bangor show likely will take place in May or June at a location to be determined. The key is to find one or two people who would be willing to help set up the show with assistance from the MPS board. "It is very difficult to get people to volunteer to help organize something like this because they tend to be scared of the work involved, but I found that it was not that difficult to set up the Houlton show," said Max Lynds,

who single-handedly set up the northern Maine show last October.

To that end, an appeal is being made for members, particularly those in the greater Bangor area, to help. Help is needed in securing a location to hold the show and the logistics of the show on the actual date. Beyond that, board members will help with setting up the auction, organizing publicity and finding dealers.

If you are willing to help, please contact your president as soon as possible. Shows are also needed in western and southern Maine, so if anyone is interested in helping in those areas, contact the president. The MPS board is committed to hosting four shows a year around the state. ☐

We need a "pex"

In order to better promote our Houlton stamp show (scheduled for October 6, 2001), an acronym ending in "PEX" is needed. Suggestions are solicited. Among the names being considered are "INTERPEX" to show the international theme of the show, and "SPUDPEX" to illustrate the Aroostook potato industry. What do you think? Suggestions should be sent to the president as soon as possible to allow time for publicity. ☐

Vice President Robert Turmelle dies; Jim Foote elected to office

Jim Foote III of Manchester has been elected Vice President of the Maine Philatelic Society following the death of Robert Turmelle of Waterville. Mr. Turmelle, a long-time member and officer, died last fall.

Mr. Foote is also a long-time member and has served on the Board of Directors for several years. ☐

Sutton Island had its own post office

By Arnold Krommenohl
Of Mt. Desert

Sutton Island is the third largest of the five Cranberry islands. In the mid-1880s, the families living there subsisted by farming and living from the sea. Today the island is inhabited by seasonal residents enjoying their imposing cottages during the summer.

The post office opened on March 17, 1898 and closed on January 1, 1919. It reopened on March 31, 1919 and closed again on September 30, 1947. Clara Rice was the first postmaster on Sutton Island. After selling her house, her son Leslie

Continued on page 3



The Maine Philatelist is published quarterly by the Maine Philatelic Society, Inc.

The purpose of the Society, a non-profit Maine corporation, is to promote philately in the Pine Tree State. Membership is open to anyone. Membership applications are available from the Secretary, listed below. Dues are \$5 per fiscal year (ending in June).

A Life Membership is also available.

Contact the Secretary for details.

Articles for publication should be sent to the President/Editor at address below.

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Ray Gagnon of Lewiston (2002)

Max L. Lynds of Houlton (2002)

John E. Engle, M.D. of Waterville (2002)

PUBLISHING SCHEDULE

The Maine Philatelist is distributed to members in January, April, July and October of each year. Below is a list of deadlines for each issue and the anticipated mailing date. While deadline for copy (articles) is firm, the anticipated mailing date is just that -- a "best guess" of mailing.

ISSUE COVER DATE	DEADLINE FOR COPY	JOURNAL TO PRINTER	ANTICIPATED MAILING DATE
January	Dec. 15	Dec. 30	Jan. 15
April	March 15	March 30	April 15
July	June 15	June 30	July 15
October	Sept. 15	Sept. 30	Oct. 15

Maine stamp club meetings



Stamp clubs in Maine are invited to become members of the Maine Philatelic Society. We will publish, free of charge, meeting information and locations.

WATERVILLE STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the first and third Friday from September to May and on the third Friday only during June, July and August. Meetings are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Kennebec Valley Technical College (KVTC) on Western Avenue in Fairfield (Exit 35 of Interstate 95). For information, call 872-5107. Nonmembers are invited to attend.

BELFAST STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the third Thursday of the month at noon. The location changes each month. For information, call Dick Gerry, president, at 866-3583.

YORK COUNTY STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Sanford Masonic Hall, Elm Street, Sanford. Usual events include raffle, auction, presentations, refreshments, and an occasional visit from a stamp dealer. Dues are \$5 per year. For information, contact Secretary Tracey Levasseur, 329 Ross Corner Rd., Shapleigh, ME 04076.

UNION RIVER STAMP CLUB

The Union River Stamp Club meets the first Thursday of each month at the Ellsworth Library, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Ralph Smith misses Maine stamp shows

Ralph Smith, former secretary of the national Perfins Club and a resident of Dryden, is now living in Leesburg, Florida. In a recent note to your Editor, he said he likes Florida living ("I miss Maine seasons, smells, air, sea, spruce, fir, but not the snow and ice.") but finds it difficult to find philatelic items he's seeking.

"We belong to two clubs here, Mt. Dora and Orlando, but most attendees are not really philatelists and (it's) slow in the summer months until the snowbirds arrive," he said. Ralph's wife, Dot, still collects Maine cancels.

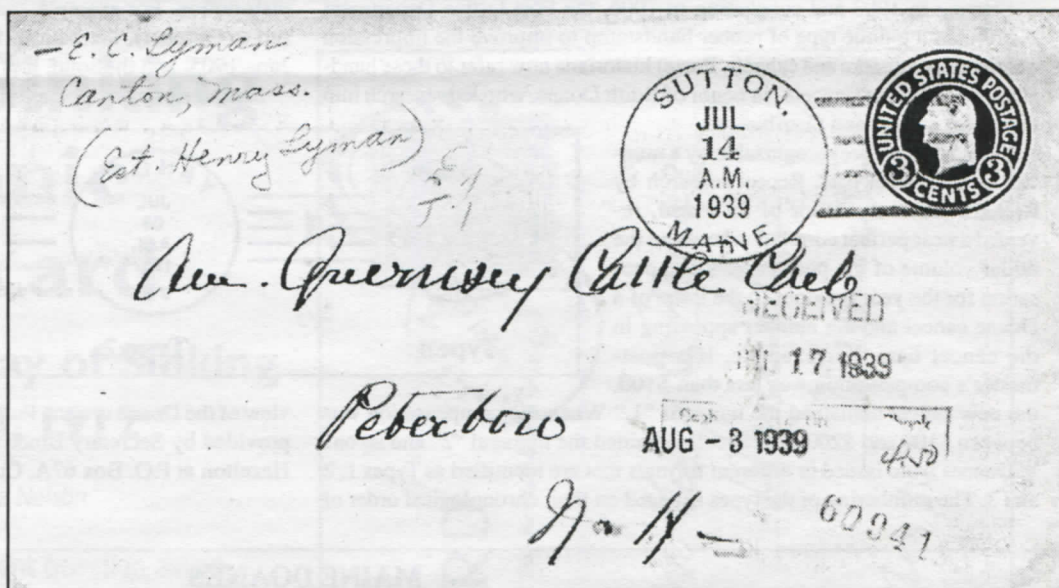
In his note, Ralph enclosed a newspaper article with photograph about the Ochopee Post Office, billed as the "world's smallest." Anyone interested in this Everglades post office should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to your Editor.

One of the Cranberry islands, Sutton had its own post office until the 1940s

Continued from page 1

Bunker became postmaster. Upon his death in 1921, his wife, Mattie, became postmaster, serving until the post office was closed in 1947.

During the summer season, the mail is transported to the island by Neal & Bunker's mailboat *Sea Queen* sailing out of Northeast Harbor. What now remains of a post office building is reduced to a trash can stamped "U.S. Mail" secured to the town float. ☐

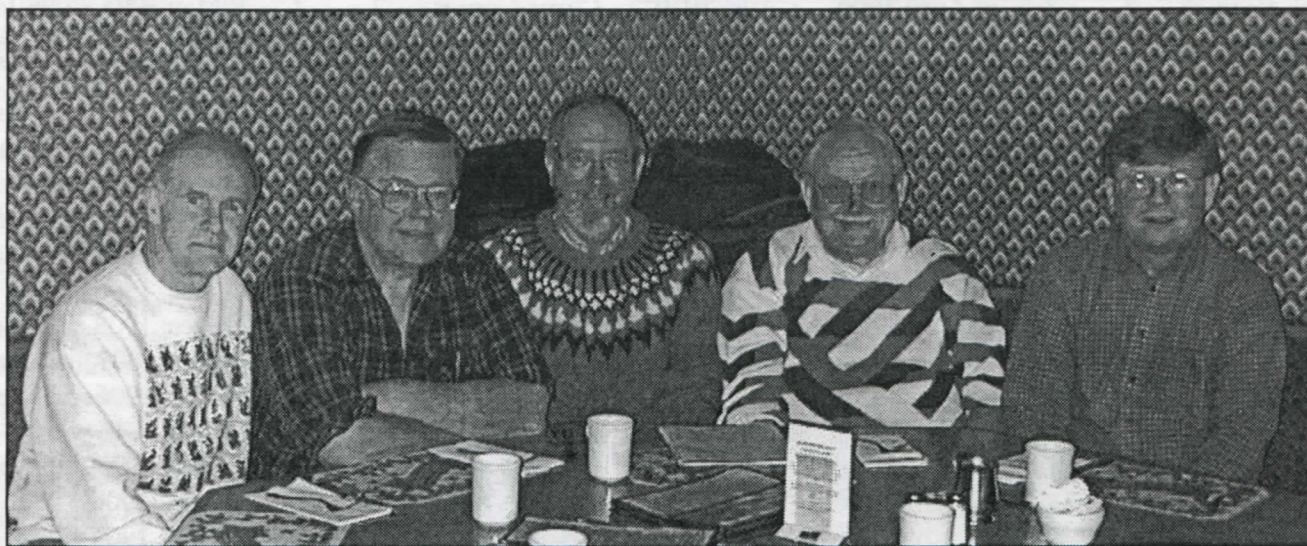


A July 14, 1939 cover with the Sutton, Maine datestamp. The letter was possibly sent by a summer resident since it has a Canton, Massachusetts return address.

Thurlow Pitts, "Captain of Stonington," authors World War II memoir

Edgar Thurlow Pitts of Stonington has been a member of The Maine Philatelic Society for a long time. He is frequently seen at stamp shows throughout the state. But many may not know that Mr. Pitts recently published an excellent memoir of his activities during World War II. The book is more, covering the decade from 1936 to 1945. It is written in the plain, unadorned style of the true Maine Yankee. Titled *Long Ago and Far Away*, the book chronicles Mr. Pitts' life from his days at the University of Maine to the end of the war. The 148 page softbound book is beautifully illustrated with vintage photographs covering what Tom Brokaw has called "the greatest generation." To order, contact Mr. Pitts at P.O. Box 14, Stonington, ME 04681 (e-mail: antares23@hypernet.com). The price is \$18.50 postpaid (Maine residents add 5% sales tax.)

Your Board of Directors at work...



Shown at Miller's Restaurant in Bangor for the December 9, 2000 Board of Directors meeting are, from left, Vice President James Foote III, President Everett L. Parker, Dr. John E. Engle, Secretary Bruce Hazelton and Max Lynds. Absent were Treasurer Rick Stambaugh, and Board members Ray Gagnon and Richard Warren.

Comprehensive Maine DOANES listing continues

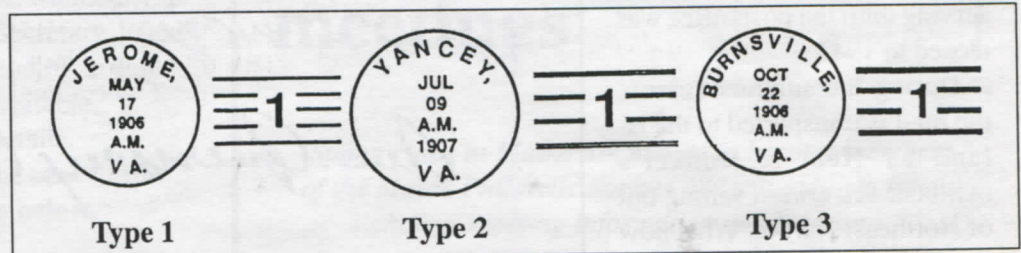
Starting in 1903 and concluding in 1906, the Post Office Department distributed a unique type of rubber handstamp to improve the impression quality of postmarks and cancels. Postal historians now refer to these handstamps as "Doane Cancels" in honor of Edith Doane, who led research into their background and distribution.

Doane cancels are recognizable by a number in the cancel bars. Recent research by Richard Helbock, editor of *La Posta*, revealed a near perfect correlation between the dollar volume of the postmaster's compensation for the year previous to the issue of a Doane cancel and the number appearing in the cancel bars. For example, if a postmaster's compensation was less than \$100, the new cancel contained the numeral "1." When the compensation was between \$100 and \$200, the cancel contained the numeral "2" and so on.

Doanes were issued in different formats that are identified as Types 1, 2 and 3. The numbering of the types is based on their chronological order of

distribution. For example, the five bar Type 1 cancel was issued in 1903 (up to October), the hollow, four bar Type 2 between October 1903 and June 1905, and the solid, four bar from June 1905 to the mid- 1906.

Samples of each type are shown on this page. This is only a brief over-



view of the Doane system. Following is a listing of all known Maine Doanes, provided by Secretary Bruce Hazelton. Corrections should be sent to Mr. Hazelton at P.O. Box 67A, Cumberland Center, ME 04021.

MAINE DOANES

<i>Changes, updates from earlier listings</i>					Post Office	Type	No.	Earliest	Latest
Ashville	3	1	14 Jan. 1907	11 Dec. 1911	Cleveland	3	1	21 Jan. 1908	11 July 1918
Bayview	2	1	16 Aug. 1904	21 Aug. 1909	Cliff Island	2	4	5 Aug. 1904	15 July 1914
Belgrade Lakes	3	5	25 May 1906	27 Oct. 1914	Clifton	3	2	25 Dec. 1906	1 Jan. 1912
Berwick Br.	3	1	9 April 1907	1 Aug. 1910	Columbia	3	1	12 July 1906	31 Dec. 1906
Bradley	3	3	24 July 1906	11 April 1913	Convene	3		11 1911	
Bunker Hill	3	1	18 Aug. 1906	21 Dec. 1912	Cooks	2	2	7 Sept. 1905	
					Coopers Mills	2	3	15 March 1904	31 Oct. 1905
					Coopers Mills	3	4	11 April 1906	23 Dec. 1913
					Cornish	3		4 Nov. 1907	
					Costigan	1	3	1 Feb. 1904	21 Dec. 1906
					Cousins Island	2	1	2 Aug. 1905	20 Aug. 1908
					Cranberry Isles	3	2	13 March 1907	20 Nov. 1912
					Cumberland	3	2	7 May 1906	22 Aug. 1911
					Curtis Corner	2	2	9 May 1905	26 Jan. 1912
					Cutler	3	2	11 Dec. 1906	30 Dec. 1912
					Damascus	3	1	30 March 1906	14 Aug. 1911
					Dead River	2	2	23 Feb. 1905	28 Oct. 1908
					Deblois	3	1	21 Aug. 1906	6 Dec. 1909
					Debsconeag	3	1	8 Oct. 1906	10 Jan. 1911
					Detroit	3	3	4 Sept. 1906	4 March 1910
					Dexter	2	2	30 Dec. 1908	
					Dickey	3	1	29 Dec. 1908	22 Nov. 1920
					Dirigo Island	3	1	16 July 1907	29 Aug. 1912
					Dixmont	3	2	21 Feb. 1906	31 July 1913
					Douglas Hill	3	2	23 July 1906	12 Oct. 1916
					Dresden	3	2	13 March 1909	5 April 1912
					Dresden Mills	3	2	10 April 1906	1 July 1912
					Dryden	1	3	12 April 1904	24 Dec. 1924
					Dry Mills	1	1	23 April 1904	22 Sept. 1908
					Durham	3	2	20 June 1907	12 Aug. 1909
					Dyerbrook	3	2	21 Sept. 1907	31 March 1914
<i>Initial listings continued from last issue</i>									
Post Office	Type	No.	Earliest	Latest					
Cambridge	3	3	23 March 1906	15 Aug. 1912					
Camp Caribou	3	1	22 June 1907	4 Sept. 1909					
Canaan	3	4	15 Dec. 1906	18 Sept. 1909					
Canton Point	2	2	30 Aug. 1905	5 Dec. 1910					
Cape Neddick	3	3	26 April 1906	4 Aug. 1910					
Caratunk	2	3	31 May 1905	27 Dec. 1910					
Carroll	3	2	21 May 1907	26 Sept. 1912					
Carry Pond	3	1	23 Oct. 1905	5 Aug. 1910					
Cary	2	2	22 Aug. 1906	23 Nov. 1910					
Casco	2	3	6 July 1905	13 June 1912					
Cedar Grove	2	3	24 Jan. 1904	17 June 1911					
Center	2	1	11 Jan. 1904	13 Nov. 1907					
Center Lebanon	2	1	13 May 1904	13 Sept. 1910					
Center Lincolnville	3	3	11 Oct. 1906	23 Aug. 1911					
Center Lovell	2	3	31 July 1905	14 Nov. 1911					
Center Lovell	3	3	6 Aug. 1906	6 July 1917					
Center Montville	2	2	23 July 1904	8 March 1905					
Chamberlain	3	1	26 July 1906	2 June 1941					
Charlotte	2	1	25 Nov. 1904	23 Oct. 1905					
Chebeague Is.	3	5	26 July 1904	1 Sept. 1922					
Citypoint	2	2	22 Jan. 1904	22 Nov. 1912					
Clark Island	1	1	15 Jan. 1904	8 March 1907					
Clark Island	1	2	2 Jan. 1907	25 June 1907					
Clarks Mills	1	2	1903	27 April 1909					

The list continues in the next issue.

POSTAL HISTORY

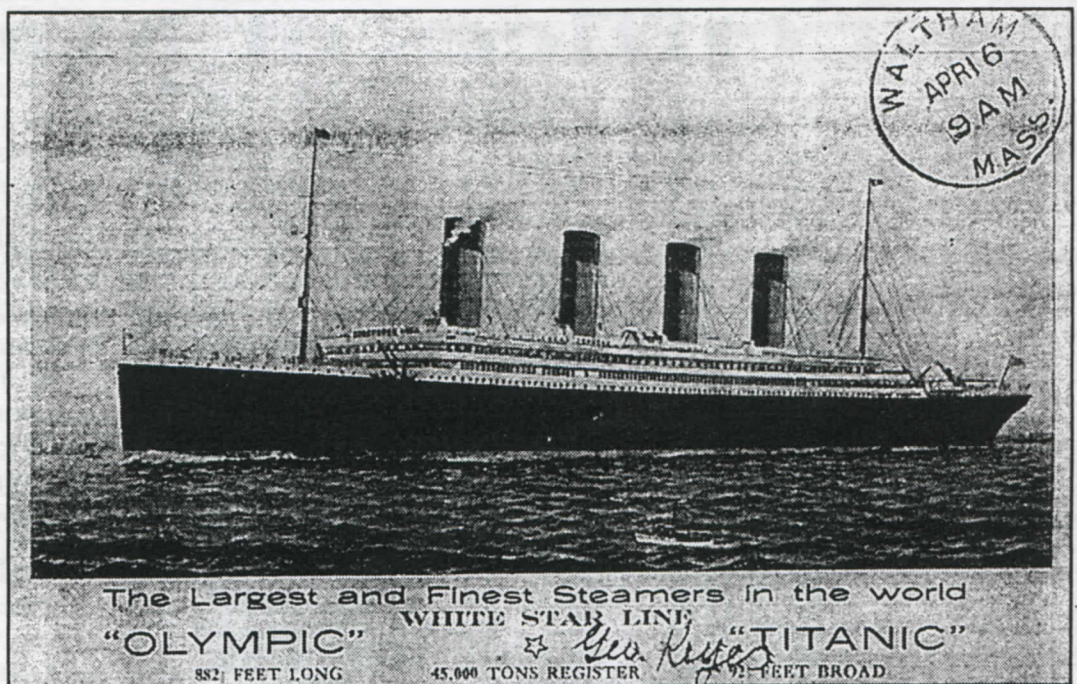
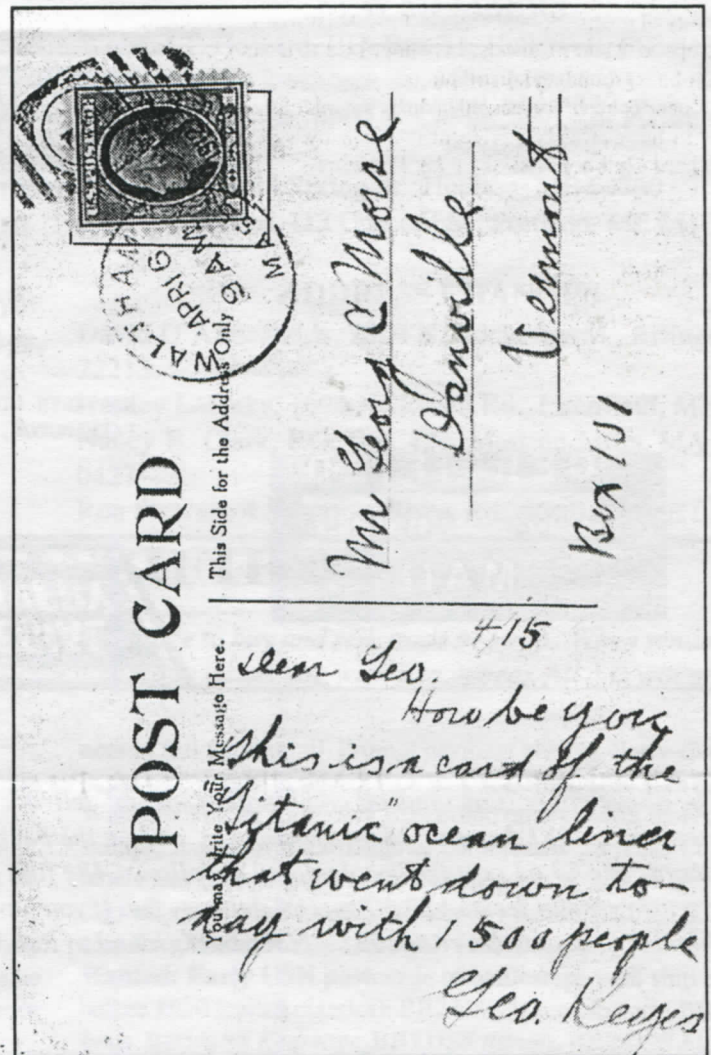
A Pre-Sinking Titanic Postcard

Written on Day of Sinking
April 15, 1912

by Bruce Nelson

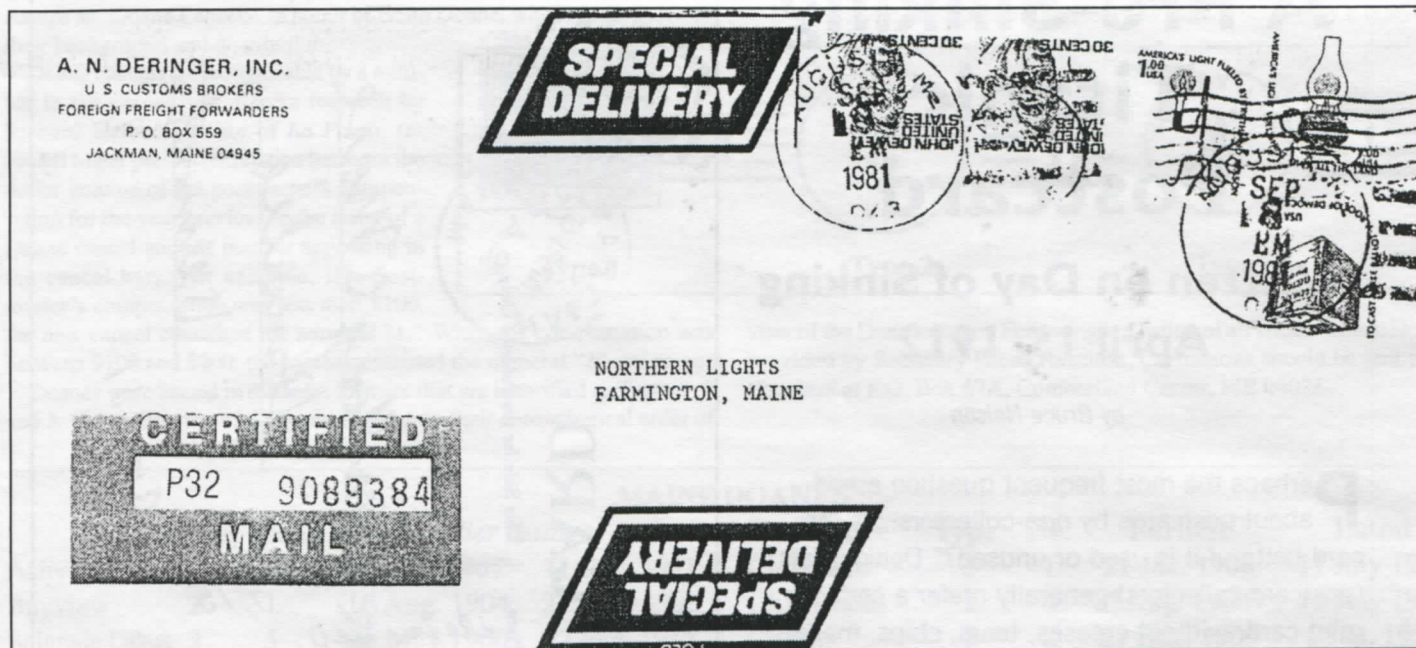
Perhaps the most frequent question asked about postcards by non-collectors: "Is the card better if it is used or unused?" Deltiologists (postcard collectors) generally prefer a perfectly mint card, without creases, tears, chips, marks, abrasions, writing on the front, or other defects. Postal historians who are now getting deeply into postally used postcards are searching for postmarks, messages, events, and other details which bring the card to life. This Titanic postcard is such an example.

On the day of the Titanic sinking, George Keyes wrote this card to his brother-in-law Georg Morse in Vermont, saying, "Dear Geo, How be you. This is a card of the 'Titanic' ocean liner that went down today with 1500 people." It is postmarked front and back in Waltham, Mass., at 9 a.m. April 16, 1912. For Mr. Keyes to have at hand a Titanic advertising postcard to use for this purpose is remarkable. Perhaps he was in the travel business or the maritime field. In any case, here is a good example of how the message, postmarks, and topic turn a fine card into a great one.



Maine Cover of the Quarter

A postal history feature
by Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan



The above cover is an unusual combination special delivery, certified mail, return receipt cover. The cover is tied by September 8, 1981 Augusta, Maine postmarks, and on the back are the adhesive tab remnants of a green return receipt postcard. The \$3.63 postage is calculated as follows: 18¢ first class one ounce letter rate plus 75¢ certified mail fee plus 60¢ return receipt fee and \$2.10 special delivery fee. If you have a candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a photocopy of your cover against a black background to Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840.

Post Offices of Maine

A regular
feature



This photo shows the post office in Ashville, Maine. The post office, located in Hancock County, was established on November 9, 1886 and the name was changed to Gouldsboro on June 14, 1880. This photograph shows the William Pettee house, where the post office was located at the time.

Thanks to Secretary Bruce Hazelton, who loaned the photo. Do YOU have a photo of an old post office? Send it to the editor with as much information as you know about it.

Visit The Maine Philatelic Society on the Internet!

Thanks to the efforts of Board Member Max Lynds of Houlton, the Maine Philatelic Society now has a presence on the Internet. If you have a computer with Internet capability, type in the following URL:

<http://www.ainop.com/users/max/mps.htm>

You will be taken directly to our homepage. If you have ideas about what we could add to the homepage, please let Max know by contacting him at:

max@ainop.com

Secretary's Report *Bruce Hazelton Secretary*

NEW MEMBERS

Richard T. Howard, P.O. Box 31, Hallowell, ME 04347
John Clement, 2 Summit St., Milo, ME 04463
Arthur J. Scarano, 4800 S. Chesterfield Rd., Arlington, VA 22206-1017
Frank Peltier, 28 Spring St., Houlton, ME 04730
Paul O'Halloran, 113 Concord St., Portland, ME 04103

ADDRESS CHANGES

David D'Alessandris, 2900 N. Rochester St., Arlington, VA 22213.
Hartley LaDuke, 1690 Hallowell Rd., Litchfield, ME 04250
Nancy B. Clark, P.O. Box 427, Marston Mills, MA 02648-0427
Ron Stewart, 4 Schooner Ridge Rd., #3, Bath, ME 04530

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Classified advertisements are free to members. You may use this space to buy and sell, trade or swap. When sending an advertisement, please mark it for the Classifieds and indicate how many issues you wish it to appear. All ads will appear twice and be removed unless otherwise indicated.

WANTED

Wanted: modern (since 1970) U.S. covers. I am especially looking for junk mail transportation coil PNC covers, Express mail, postage dues, insured mail, Certified mail, auxiliary markings. Rob Washburn, P.O. Box 840, Skowhegan, ME 04976-0840. (4-01)

Wanted: Maine hunting and fishing stamps on license. Will pay a minimum of \$10 each for every license I need. Also want Maine (and other New England states) Old Home Week seals. Terence Hines, P.O. Box 629, Chappaqua, NY 10514-0629. (4-01)

Information needed to further research on Maine NARROW GAUGE RPOs. Need RPO, month, day, year, train no. ME 4 BAR COLORED cancels, need P.O. name, month, day, year, time, color. Will respond to all information received. Bruce L. Corey, 108 Marilyn Ave., Westbrook, ME 04092-4624. (4-01)

Wanted to buy: Maine fancy cancels on cover or postal cards, stampless to 1920 only. Let me know what you have. Gil Roderick, 52 Fern St., Bangor, ME 04401. (4-01)

Collector is looking for covers from Houlton Air Force Base Station. If you have same, please contact me. Telephone: 538-9788 (home) or 532-2291 (work). My e-mail is max@ainop.com Max Leigh Lynds, P.O. Box 761, Houlton, ME 04730-0761. (4-01)

Wanted: perfins used in Maine, on cover or off (with good town cancels). Special interest in AJS (Auburn) and RB (Bangor) -- users not yet identified. Will buy or trade. Vince McDermott, 53 Willow Grove Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011-2969. (4-01)

We urgently need quantities of used Japanese stamps from the period of 1876 (Old Koban Series) through 1955. Dealer stocks, accumulations, bundle material from this period needed for our specialist customers. Will buy anything and everything (used only) at fair prices or will select only what we must urgently need at

near to full Scott retail. Prompt payment always. Forty-five years in the trade! John B. Head, P.O. Box 7, Bethel, ME 04217. (4-01)

Wanted: Maine Express Covers (and others): with labels, hand-stamps, manuscript markings or cornercards. Express Company labels and stamps (such as for newspapers, parcels or free franking) off cover also sought. William W. Sammis (Bill), 436 Thomas Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850-9653. (4-01)

Wanted: Early USN postcards of battleships with ship cancels before 1920 (called classics): BB2 USS *Massachusetts*, BB4 USS *Iowa*, BB5 USS *Kearsage*, BB7 USS *Illinois*, BB8 USS *Alabama*, BB9 USS *Wisconsin*. I have other BB covers and postcards for trade. Also interested in topicals, especially flowers on stamps, and Antarctic stamps. Louis C. Bakula, P.O. Box 150, West Poland, ME 04291-0150. (4-01)

Wanted: Any PPC with Lake Cobbessseeconte (Manchester, Maine as well). Also any PPC with rural railroad scenes as well as RPO covers in the lower price range. Gary Clark, 3607 Landings Way Dr., Apt. 107, Tampa, FL 33624. (4-01)

Wanted: Postal history of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific, St. Pierre & Miquelon and Newfoundland. Some stamps also needed. Let me know if you have anything to offer. Everett L. Parker, HC 76, Box 32, Greenville, ME 04441 (4-01)

FOR SALE

Precancel approvals: town and types 15¢, classics, 1922-26 general, bicents, prexies, perfins available. Buro approvals starting at 5¢. Good mixed precancel lots. 2,000-\$25.00; 10,000-\$110.00. Mixed buros, 2,000-\$25.00, 10,000-\$110.00. Dick Laetsch, 108 Ashswamp Road, Scarborough, ME 04074. e-mail: precancel@aol.com (4-01)

For sale: DPO, Macy, ME - Doane 1906 on PPC, Rarity 8. First \$75.00 takes it. Carl A. Burnham, RR1, Box 559, Limington, ME 04046. Telephone 637-2871. (4-01)

President's Message

By Everett L. Parker

The MPS Board of Directors has been busy, as you will see from our page one articles. We have a lot to do, and with your help -- and I mean **YOU!** -- we can accomplish so much. I continue to be amazed at the number of people who are willing to help the Board with its projects. And if you live in the greater Bangor area, you know from reading the front page that we need your help in organizing a stamp show this spring in that area. But we need help also with a show in southern Maine and another in western Maine. We were very happy with the Houlton show last October, and it's time to add more. Won't **YOU** contact me to see how you can help? It won't take a lot of effort on your part, I guarantee. But it can make a big difference.

Thanks, too, to the many people who have written articles for publication. I'm "using them up" as fast as space permits, but please consider writing something if you haven't in the past. Do you have a favorite post office? Let me know. Has a postal clerk been a help in your collecting needs? Let me know and we'll let everyone else know about it.

Condolences to the family of our former vice president, Robert Turmelle, who died last fall following a long illness. Bob hadn't been able to attend Board meetings for some time, but he is sorely missed. ☹

Maine Philatelic Society
HC 76, Box 32
Greenville, ME 04441-9727

Are YOU on the Internet?

Here is a list of MPS members with e-mail.

Joe Antizzo = joeantizzo@aol.com
George Barner = gbarner@cybertours.com
Al Barth = abarth@bdc.bethel.me.us
Chuck Brand = shakerdom@hotmail.com
Tom Cieslinski = singcies@mint.net
Gary Clark = gclark1@tampabay.rr.com
Nancy B. Clark = nbc@Cape.com
David Costain = dcostain@midmaine.com
Dr. John Engle: Edward22772@Yahoo.com
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Henry Stevens = hstevens@stamps.win.net
Henry G. Turnbull = AZNPTHGT@webtv.net
Richard Warren = dickw@midcoast.com
Edwin F. Whitney = edwhitney@clinic.net
Kennedy L. Wilson = k-mew@midcoast.com

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

If (6-00) appears after your name on the mailing label, it's time to renew your dues!

