



The Maine Philatelist

Vol. 33, No. 1

July 2000

Whole No. 120

Oddities exist on many Maine postmarks

By Bruce Corey
Of Westbrook

While looking for Maine postmarks, we sometimes find these with odd spellings, misplaced punctuation, words cut from the cancels and supposedly "unlisted" names. The following are a few examples that have been found.

The word "MAINE" was difficult to spell as found in the following cancellers: CEDAR GROVE, **MIANE**, four bar, 1912; MIDDLEDAM, **MANIE**, four bar, 1910; NORTH SEARSMONT, **MANIE**, four bar, 1913; WESTFIELD, **MIANE**, four bar, 1911.

Improper placement of punctuation made for interesting variations: ROUND, POND Maine (comma between "Round" and "Pond"), four bar, 1950.

Some postmasters adapted existing cancellers. Christmas was changed to Christmas Cove in 1911 and remained as such until discontinued in 1974. For some reason, the postmaster

removed "Cove" in the mid-1950s and used his unofficial "Christmas" canceller for several years. Hence, the canceller read "CHRISTMAS ---- MAINE" (four bar, 1956-1957).

North Newry was discontinued on June 30, 1953 and the post office was moved to Newry Corner. The new four-bar canceller had not been received by the postmaster, so the "North" was cut out and the same cancel used on the first day of operation on July 1, 1953. A new cancel was placed in use on July 16, 1953. Hence, ----- NEWRY MAINE (four bar, 1953).

The postmaster at Palermo wore out the old four bar canceller and went through two non-standard devices that he put together himself. Nearly 30 years earlier the post office at North Palermo was closed and the rubber canceller was retained at the Palermo Post Office.

So, the postmaster cleaned it up and removed the "North"
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This cover received MANY postmarks in its travels

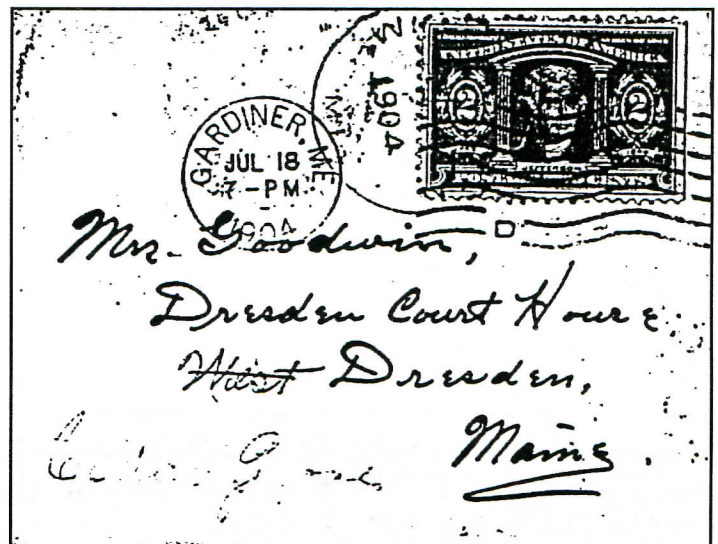
By John Bache-Wiig
Of Nogales, Arizona

The very small cover illustrated on this page was posted in Gardiner, Maine and originally addressed to Dresden. Before it reached the addressee in Cedar Grove, it had received eight more cancels and had been handled in five different post offices (twice in Richmond and West Dresden).

The five post offices were located in three different counties (Kennebec, Lincoln and Sagadahoc). The cover was never more than 10 miles away (Richmond) from the post office where it was posted (Gardiner).

All of the cancels are on a three and a half inch by two and three quarter inch envelope. Two of the cancels are DOANES (Iceboro 2/2 and Cedar Grove 2/3). These two post offices along with Dresden and West Dresden post offices are now DPOs.

The probable routing was thus: posted at Gardiner at 2:20



Front of cover. See reverse on page 3.

a.m. on July 19, 1904. From there to Richmond, postmarked at 7:00 a.m. on July 19, 1904. Then to Dresden the same day, but without receiving mark; Richmond, July 20, 1904, 10:00

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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 year.

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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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.

PORTLAND STAMP CLUB

The club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Maine Veterans Home, 290 U.S. Route 1, Scarborough. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and usually ends about 8:30 p.m. Nonmembers are invited to attend.

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.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST STAMP CLUB

The Unitarian-Universalist Stamp Club has members throughout the U.S., and you don't have to be a Universalist to join. For information, send a business size SASE to George Barner, 8 Arlington Street, Kennebunkport, ME 04046-6343. Mr. Barner also edits the club's newsletter.

AUGUSTA STAMP CLUB

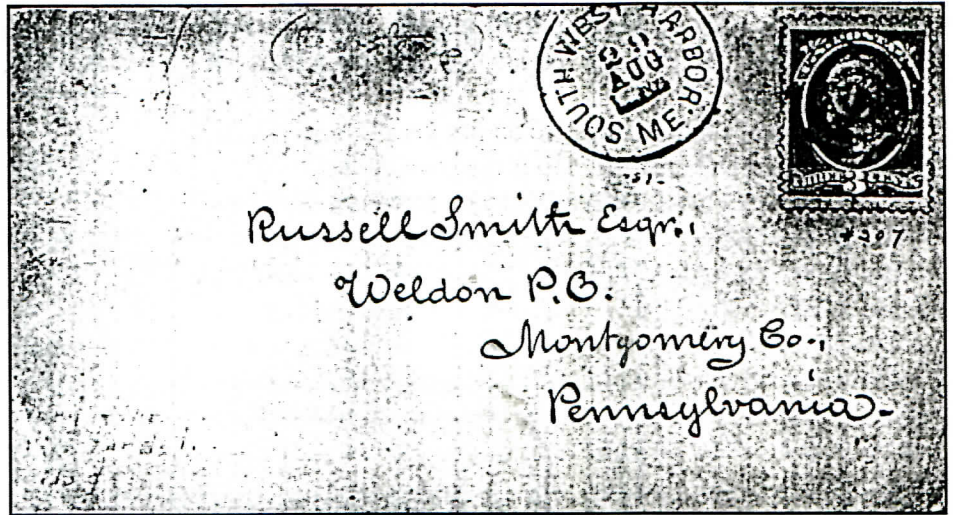
The Augusta Stamp Club meets every first and third Tuesday at the Buker School from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Nonmembers are invited to attend. For information, contact Ray Gagnon, 23 Sylvain Ave., Lewiston, ME 04240.

Early South West Harbor cover has nice target cancel

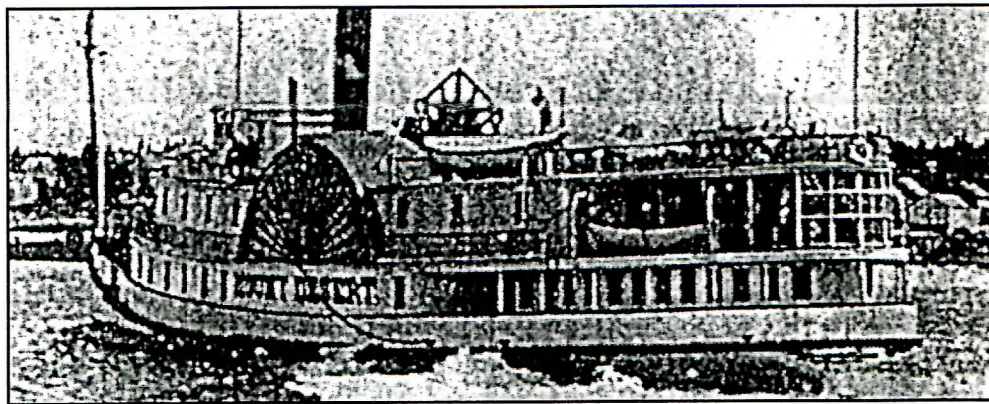
By Arnold R. Krommenohl
Of Mt. Desert

A letter posted from South West Harbor on August 29, 1883 for delivery to Weldon in southeastern Pennsylvania features a nice target cancel. The reverse side of the envelope has a New York transit postmark dated either August 30 or 31. The stamp (Scott #207) was issued in 1881.

Steamships were the primary source of commerce and transportation for the coastal communities during the nineteenth century. An advertisement from the *Bar Harbor Record* newspaper of 1886 shows regularly scheduled sailings to Rockland, Portland and Boston. Mail dispatched from Southwest Harbor by the 2 p.m. steamship departure time, and traveling by rail from Boston, Portland or even Rockland could arrive at New York City the following day.



This South West Harbor cover has nice target cancel.



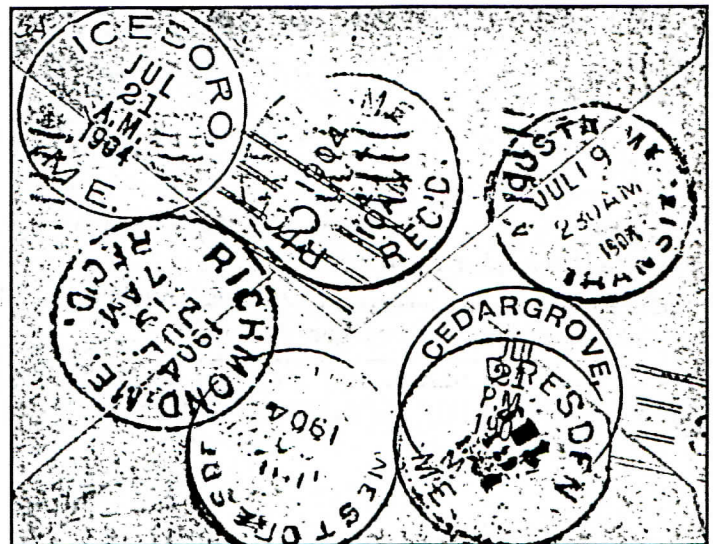
Steamer Mount Desert leaving the old Island House dock.

This cover received many postmarks but never traveled far from home

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a.m.; West Dresden, July 20, 1904 but without receiving mark; Iceboro, July 21, 1904, but without time in the morning; West Dresden, July 21, 1904, but without receiving mark; and finally, Cedar Grove on July 21, 190(4) in the afternoon (exact time of arrival unknown as there is no arrival time in the CDS).

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Bache-Wiig noted that his interest in Maine postal cancels goes back many years, but he became deeply involved about a decade ago when he began searching for where many of the DPOs had been located. It's arduous work, he said, noting that he was working on his third Maine atlas in a relentless search for places that no longer exist except in memory.)



Reverse of cover shown on page 1

Oddities of Maine postmarks make interesting collecting topic

Continued from page 1

on a canceller issued about 1907 to another post office. He finally had to order a new canceller when this one wore out. There were none left to make over! ----- PALERMO, MAINE (four bar, 1942).

In an economic move during the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Post Office Department closed many small, fourth-class post offices. Some were reopened as rural stations of the nearest larger post office. One of these was Hodgdon and the new canceller read in error: "HOULTON, MAINE, HOGDDON RURAL STA." (four bar, 1964). A rural station cannot be a station of itself. But that is exactly how the following cancel reads. It should have been "East" and does have the East Lebanon Zip Code -- maybe that's all that matters! "WEST LEBANON RURAL STA. WEST LEBANON, ME 04027" (four bar, 1995).

Finally, where in the world is **SOUTH CABOO**? Most likely in Alaska; it's not listed in Maine as such. A closer look reveals a cancel from SOUTH CASCO with right spacing of the "C" and "S." The openings are filled with dried ink and paper fibers from postmarking letters. At least it makes an interesting postmark: "SOUTH CABOO, MAINE" (four bar, 1914).

Some Maine post office names were always one word. Occasionally when new cancellers were ordered, they came back as two words: "DEAD_WATER, MAINE" (four bar, 1926); "MACHIAS_PORT, MAINE" (four bar, 1912); "MEDDY_BEMPS, MAINE" (four bar, 1916). From then on, the cancellers remained one word for these post offices.

It was a different story at Kokadjo. I suspect the postmaster changed the wording in the cancel to go along with the spelling change on the postcards sold at the store. "KOKADJO, MAINE" (non-standard double ring four bar, 1917). When the cards were sold out, new cancel and cards were ordered and Kokadjo stayed the same.

What Maine post office had the largest four-bar canceller in the last century (this does not include self-inking cancellers)? "HARTLAND, MAINE" (swollen to oval shape 42x39, 22 [1920]); "McKINLEY, MAINE" (swollen to oval shape 35x44, 25 [1954]); "ORRS ISLAND, MAINE" (non-standard double circle 34x23, 21 [1941]).

In 1915, the Post Office Department issued a freeze on all new rubber cancellers. This was due to a rubber shortage brought on by the impending war in Europe. Postmasters with worn cancellers were instructed to use the discontinued SCDS (single circle date stamp), REC'D or the least used DCDS (double circle date stamp) such as C.O.D., M.O.B., PARCEL POST, REGISTERED.

The postmaster had to remove this wording from the cancel before he postmarked any mail. When this altered cancel wore out, the same would be done to another one. The fol-

lowing examples have been seen in Maine and only one postmaster had to go through two cancels before the rubber shortage was over:

ABBOT VILLAGE, MAINE:

"M.O.B." removed, 1915-17, maroon ink, DCDS;

ABBOT VILLAGE, MAINE:

"REGISTERED" removed, 1921-22, blue ink, DCDS;

CASCO, MAINE:

"M.O.B." removed, 1921-23, DCDS;

NORTH WATERFORD, MAINE:

"REC'D" removed, 1922, SCDS;

PORTAGE, MAINE:

"REC'D" removed, 1921, SCDS;

YARMOUTHVILLE, MAINE:

"REC'D" removed, 1916, blue ink, SCDS.

New Worcester Plantation was settled by Marines from Massachusetts who had been forced to find other work and a new place to live after the Revolutionary War. They finally decided to name their new town after Orangetown, Maryland. In March of 1788, Parson Noble went to Boston to have the name of the new Maine town registered. He told the clerk that it had been voted to name the town Orangetown.

The clerk filled in the legal forms, but his spelling was not the best. Therefore, Orangetown was written down ORRINGTON. It was not what the town members had requested, but they decided not to change the unique spelling.

On February 28, 1959, the postmaster at South Orrington retired and the post office was closed. But on March 1, 1959, the "South Orrington Rur. Sta., Orrington, Maine" was created for one reason -- "because the ground was frozen." The people who had picked up their mail at South Orrington were now on an RFD route. They would need some spring weather to thaw the ground so that posts and mailboxes could be installed.

The rural station was closed on May 29, 1959 when all posts were installed and mailboxes ready for the RFD service to start. The "South Orrington Rur. Sta." was closed one day early. Postmarks are not common as this rural station was open for only 77 days. It was the shortest one to operate in Maine.

**Encourage a fellow philatelist to join
The Maine Philatelic Society.
It's the best deal around!**

PIONEER POSTCARDS

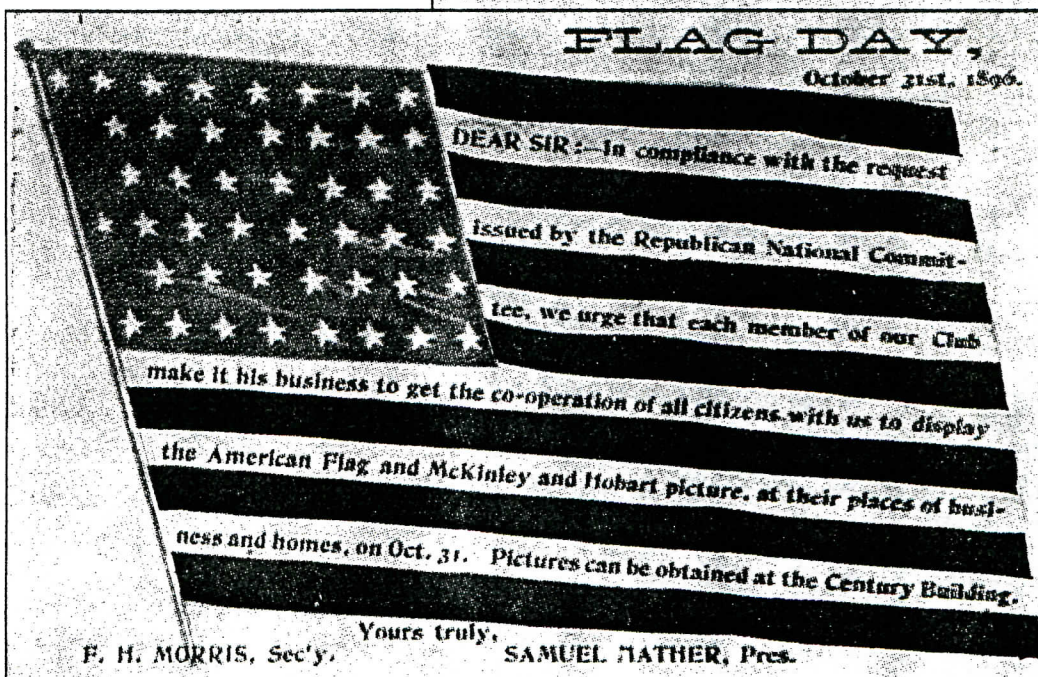
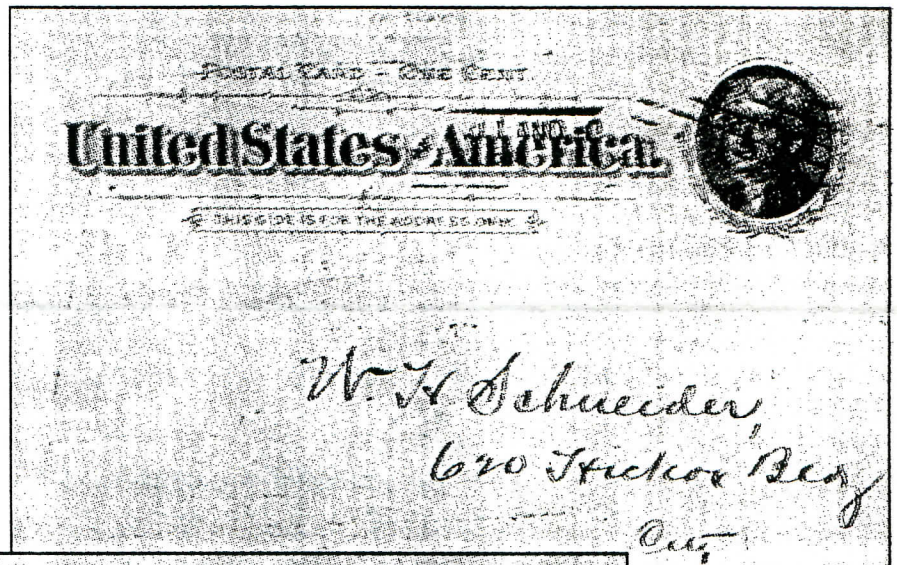
FLAG DAY 1896 Political POSTCARD

by Bruce Nelson

This spectacular 1896 U.S. government postal card takes advantage of Flag Day to promote presidential candidate McKinley and vice president Hobart. Not only does it have eye-catching graphics, but coincidentally it was bought at a New York philatelic show exactly 100 years later to the day on Oct. 31, 1996.

The message printed here from the Republican National Committee was to display the McKinley and Hobart pictures along with the American Flag on Oct. 31, 1896, then Flag Day. Patriotic postcards during the pioneer period are quite rare and this multicolored card is a super example. In case you did not count, there are 45 stars on this flag.

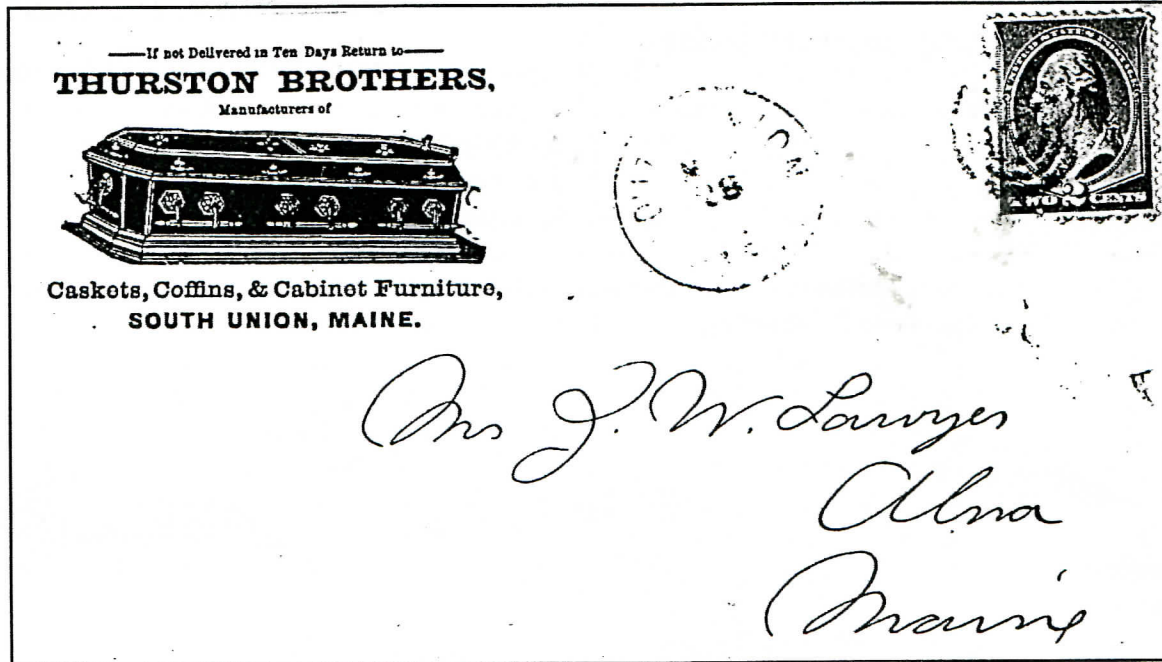
Write to Bruce Nelson, P.O. Box 3565, Portland, ME 04104.



Reverse of card, shown at the top, is depicted at 84 percent. Card shown above is actual size.

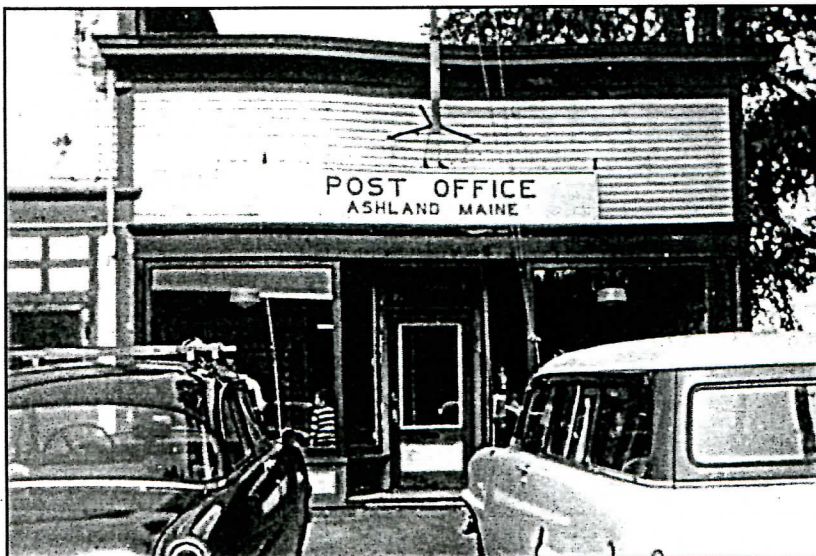
A postal history feature
by Rob Washburn
of Skowhegan

Maine Cover of the Quarter



This cover is a nice illustrated advertising cover from South Union, Maine. South Union no longer has a post office (it was discontinued on April 30, 1953). The attached stamp is US #213. If you have a candidate for Maine Cover of the Quarter, please send a photocopy of it 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 Ashland (Aroostook County). The post office was established on June 15, 1868 and is still operating. The post office was formerly known as "Aroostook." This photograph shows the post office in 1956. 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.

Don't forget
MPS Fall Stamp Show
October 7, 2000
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Gentle Memorial Building
Main Street
Houlton, Maine
For information, contact
Max Lyons
P.O. box 761, Houlton, ME 04730

Secretary's Report Bruce Hazelton Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

No new members to report this quarter.

ADDRESS CHANGES

No address changes to report this quarter.

This quarterly Secretary's Report will provide current members with names and addresses of new members and address changes of members as well as other pertinent information from the Secretary. Please remember that new membership applications, address changes and dues should be sent to the Secretary at the address listed on page 2.

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

Wanted: affordable U.S. classics. I am looking for U.S. Scott #140 in any affordable condition including space filler grade. Can you help? Bob Gross, RR4, Box 7295, Gardiner, ME 04345 (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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. (4-00)

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)

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 (4-00)

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. (4-00)

For sale: U.S. Souvenir Pages: 10 notebooks embossed "American Commemorative Collections" with 369 souvenir pages, from 12 January 1983 to 24 April 1992. My cost was \$725.38. Please make me an offer. Richard Carr, 283 Pool St., Biddeford, ME 04005. (4-00)

President's Message

By Everett L. Parker

It's election time again, and if you visit page 2, you'll see a slate of officers who are due to stand for election. With the Maine Philatelic Society, an election is an easy task. In fact, I'm not even going to send an election ballot as such. The reason is that we can't find enough people to run for office. Hence, I'm asking that when you renew your dues (which are now due), please send a note to Bruce indicating your election preferences, or elect the slate.

Now I know I'm just wasting ink and space saying this, but if you are at all interested in serving on the Board of Directors, PLEASE let me know. We currently have unfilled seats because no one volunteers. There isn't much involved, and due to a general lack of interest, there are few meetings requiring that you travel any distance.

I am also again in need of articles for *The Maine Philatelist*. We've had many good writers submit articles for the past several issues, and now the well is running dry. I know that there are many of you doing research, so how about sharing that wealth of information with other members? Now is the time to do it! The future is in your hands!

-- Everett L. Parker

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

TO:

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

Are YOU on the Internet?

In order to offer more rapid communications, we will publish e-mail addresses of Maine Philatelic Society members and officers ONLY if they wish to be listed. Please e-mail your address to the president to be included here.

- 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
- Nancy B. Clark = nbc@Cape.com
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- Edwin F. Whitney = edwhitney@clinic.net
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