

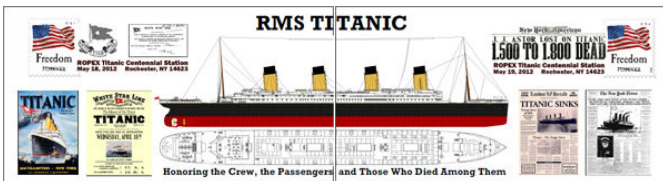


ROPEX Nears • RPA Members Vote in Linn's Poll
 You Can't Fool Uncle Sam
 The Rochester Postal Strike of March 22, 1970
 Call for Elections • Coins vs. Stamps • New Postal Rates
 New US Stamps • Next RPA Meetings • RPA Banquet-Last Chance

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The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

ROPEX Nears



Mark May 18-20 "busy" on your calendars as ROPEX 2012 takes place at The Sports Centre at MCC, same place as the last few years. Hours are 11-6, 10-5 and 10-3 Friday through Sunday, respectively.

Admission is \$3 daily, but RPA members get in for free. Just tell our door greeters that you're a member when you come in.

The show features around 30 dealers, award winning exhibits, meetings and seminars, the USPS, cancels, cachets and more. This year's theme honors the 100th anniversaries of the Titanic and our sister club, the Rochester Numismatic Association. Images of our unique 2 cover Titanic tribute are above and will be sold with special RNA cacheted covers as well.

We will be calling on you in April to see how you can help make ROPEX possible. Help is needed during setup on Thursday, as table workers throughout the show, and for take-down on Sunday.

If you have kids or grandkids attending Monroe county schools in grades 3-12, have them take part in our ROPEX Design-A-Stamp competition for cash prizes. Details and an entry form are downloadable on our web site or can be requested by writing to our mailing address. Entries must be received by April 15.

RPA Members Vote in Linn's Poll

RPA members who attended our January 26 meeting spent the evening voting in Linn's annual stamp popularity poll for U.S. stamps issued in 2011.

The poll asks voters to select the best design, worst design, most important and least necessary stamps in three different categories: Commemoratives, Definitive and Special Stamps, and Postal Stationery.

Here are the RPA club results.

COMMEMORATIVES



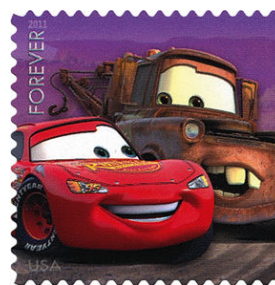
Best Design: Civil War



Worst Design: Jazz



Most important: American Scientists



Least Important: Pixar Films Send a Hello

Definitives and Special Stamps



Best Design:
Vanishing Species



Worst Design:
Art Deco Bird



Most Important:
Purple Heart



Least Important:
Celebrate

POSTAL STATIONERY



Best Design and Most Important: Common Tern



Worst Design and Least Necessary:
Pixar Films: Send a Hello

You Can't Fool Uncle Sam



The first and second trips of the Syracuse, Oswego and Rochester Highway Post Office took place with great fanfare and without incident on November 23, 1949. Its route transported mail among the three cities and points in between by a special bus. But as Paul Harvey used to say, "Here's the rest of the story."

The Government Accounting Office keeps records for everything related to contractual and financial matters dealing with government agencies, including the Post Office. In a response earmarked B-124464 dated September 7, 1955, the GAO wrote back to a Texas based firm that submitted a proposal to run the bus service for four years and turned out to be the low bidder, but failed to win the contract and wanted to know why.

Here are excerpts of that letter. The full text can be found online at <http://redbook.gao.gov/7/fl0034952.php>:

TO WESTEX TRANSPORT, INC.:

REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR TELEGRAM OF JUNE 24, 1955, AND A COPY OF A LETTER DATED JULY 19, 1955, FROM YOUR ATTORNEY TO THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, PROTESTING THE AWARD TO MESSRS. HAROLD L. TREU, A. F. BURBRIDGE AND C. C. MCCLENDON OF A CONTRACT FOR HIGHWAY POST OFFICE SERVICE BETWEEN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, AND WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA. YOU CONTEND THAT THE CONTRACT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARDED TO WESTEX TRANSPORT, INC., AND JAMES F. MOYLAN, A PARTNERSHIP, AS LOWEST BIDDER.

ON JULY 6, 1955, AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF YOUR TELEGRAM WAS MAILED TO "MR. GEORGE W. MASON, PRESIDENT, WESTEX TRANSPORT, INC., DALLAS, TEXAS," BUT IT WAS RETURNED UNDELIVERED BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS.

IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY THIS OFFICE, THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT HAS FURNISHED COPIES OF PERTINENT PAPERS AND REPORTS SETTING OUT ITS VIEWS IN THE MATTER, INCLUDING CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN YOUR ATTORNEY AND THE DEPARTMENT. THE INVITATION FOR BIDS, ISSUED APRIL 28, 1955, REQUESTED BIDS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, AND WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS. THE INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

MADE A PART OF THE INVITATION PROVIDED IN PERTINENT PART:

"2. THE LAW PROVIDES THAT NO PROPOSAL FOR A CONTRACT FOR HIGHWAY POST OFFICE SERVICE SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNLESS THE BIDDER IS A LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY OR COUNTIES TRAVERSED BY THE ROADS OVER WHICH THE MAILES ARE TO BE CARRIED, OR A LEGAL RESIDENT WITHIN THE COUNTIES ADJOINING SUCH (COUNTY) OR COUNTIES; EXCEPT THAT PROPOSALS FOR CARRYING THE MAIL TENDERED BY FIRMS, COMPANIES, OR CORPORATIONS SHALL BE CONSIDERED: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH FIRMS, COMPANIES, OR CORPORATIONS ARE ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN BUSINESS WITHIN THE COUNTIES IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS ARE RESTRICTED AS TO RESIDENCE.

"15. THE POSTMASTER GENERAL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ALL BIDS ON ANY ROUTE WHENEVER IN HIS JUDGMENT THE INTEREST OF THE SERVICE REQUIRE IT"

SEVEN BIDS WERE RECEIVED, RANGING FROM \$30,079.55 TO \$45,643.25 PER ANNUM, THE THREE LOWEST BIDS BEING AS FOLLOWS:

1. WESTEX TRANSPORT, INC., GEORGE W. MASON AND JAMES F. MOYLAN, 419 WEST GRAY, ELMIRA, NEW YORK \$30,079.55
2. LAWRENCE W. HACKENBURG AND S. PAUL GEARHART, 1803 MARKET STREET, LEWISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 33,916.75
3. HAROLD L. TREU, A. F. BURBRIDGE AND C. C. MCCLENDON, 323 EAST WATER STREET, ELMIRA, NEW YORK 34,970.00

ON JUNE 21, 1955, CONTRACT NO. HPO-72-C WAS AWARDED TO MESSRS. TREU, BURBRIDGE AND MCCLENDON, TO BE EFFECTIVE ON JULY 9, 1955. YOUR LOW BID WAS REJECTED BECAUSE IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS OF 39 U.S.C. 425A--- INCORPORATED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE INSTRUCTIONS, QUOTED ABOVE--- WERE NOT MET. THE SECOND LOW BID OF MESSRS. HACKENBURG AND GEARHART WAS REJECTED BECAUSE IT WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A BID BOND AS REQUIRED BY 39 U.S.C. 426.

To make the long story short and after an investigation by the GAO, it was discovered that Westex Transport Inc. of Texas had "hired" Mr. F. Moyan, a resident of Elmira, NY to act as their employee to get around a New York State residency requirement the contract called for. Further quoting from the September 7 GAO letter at its conclusion:

AND IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 15, 1955, TO THE DEPARTMENT FROM WESTEX TRANSPORT, INC., IT IS STATED---

"MR. MOYLAN IS A RESIDENT OF LONG STANDING IN THE CITY OF ELMIRA, NEW YORK AND HAS JOINED WITH WESTEX TRANSPORT, INC. IN THIS BID, AND ALTHOUGH EXACT DOLLAR REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT THE OPERATION HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED, MR. MOYLAN IS FINANCIALLY ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE NECESSARY FUNDS WHEREBY HE WILL PARTICIPATE ON A 10 PERCENT BASIS IN THE OVER-ALL PICTURE.

"WE HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY MR. MOYLAN WILL PERSONALLY SUPERVISE THE OPERATION AND WE WILL HAVE AN EXPERIENCED SUPERVISOR ON THIS OPERATION UNTIL MR. MOYLAN HAS GAINED EXPERIENCE ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF IT HIMSELF.'

MR. MOYLAN STATED IN A LETTER ALSO DATED JUNE 15, 1955---

"I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF ELMIRA, CHEMUNG COUNTY, NEW YORK FOR MANY YEARS AND I AM FINANCIALLY ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS VENTURE AND I WILL HAVE A 10 PERCENT INTEREST AS WELL AS A WORKING INTEREST BY PERSONAL SUPERVISION IN THIS OPERATION.'

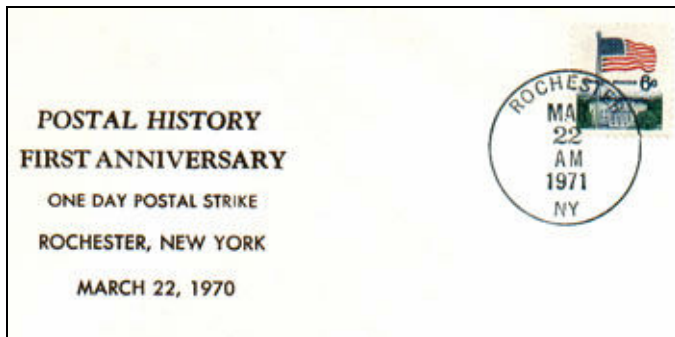
UPON THESE STATEMENTS, WHICH MAY FAIRLY BE SAID TO INDICATE THAT MR. MOYLAN INDIVIDUALLY WAS NOT INTENDED TO BE THE PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE PARTY BUT THAT HIS NAME WAS USED IN THE BID IN AN EFFORT TO SHOW COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS, WE FEEL THAT THE CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES WAS NOT UNREASONABLE. IT MAY ALSO BE SAID THAT THE BID, CONSIDERED AS BEING OFFERED BY A "FIRM," FAILED TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, SINCE THE "FIRM" WAS NOT ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN BUSINESS IN THE VICINITY.

YOU ARE ACCORDINGLY ADVISED THAT IT IS OUR CONCLUSION THAT THERE APPEARS NO PROPER BASIS UPON WHICH THIS OFFICE WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN QUESTIONING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TAKEN IN THE MATTER."

Yes, that's a potato chip stamp, issued last year from Åland, an archipelago of small islands of Swedish speaking Finns! Crisps are a major export there!



The Rochester Postal Strike of March 22, 1970



The dollar cover above was an interesting find. Having been 10 years old at the time and never heard anything about Rochester's one day postal strike, it didn't take long for a quick Google search to uncover the local and national implications behind it.

Major unrest was brewing throughout the postal union mail carrier ranks in the New York City area in early 1970 over wages and benefits, so much so that a first of its kind strike broke out on Wednesday, March 18. It quickly spread first across northeast Post Offices and eventually across the entire country as individual town and city postal employees made decisions whether to stay on the job or strike over the following days.

Two days later the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Installations and Logistics held a meeting with top ranked military and postal officials to discuss the situation and discuss ways the military could assist with postal operations should they be needed. By Saturday, March 21, contingency plans under the code name "Operation Graphic Hand" were in place to deploy 4,500 Army, Navy and Air Force personnel to New York City, Boston and Philadelphia should they be needed. The Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Lieutenant General R. G. Stilwell, was appointed director of the Postal Augmentation Task Force and sent a "Warning Order" of pending action to all branches of the military later that evening.

It is noted that others held protests of their own in favor of a walkout in Rochester. Factions of

the "Students for a Democratic Society" in particular rallied here as well as in New York, Boston and New Haven fanning the walk out flames. It was estimated that 85% of the New York region postal workers were on strike by Saturday night, including nearby Buffalo and Syracuse.

Rochester postal union leaders called workers in for a meeting to discuss the situation on Sunday, March 22 and voted to join others on strike. It is unclear whether or not the Rochester walkout took place immediately. The Postmaster General and other government officials called for calm and announced that labor negotiations would take place on Monday. Another vote was held later by union employees in the day and it was agreed to suspend Rochester's local strike for a five day cooling off period. Buffalo workers did the same.

While the local situation remained status quo, the national strike reached its peak the next day, Monday. President Richard Nixon declared a national emergency and the military deployment plans began with the cooperation of Post Office management.

The New York City region was priority number one. Active Army and Air Force units were called in from Fort Dix and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, a total of 755 men, arriving on the scene at three major post offices by 10 PM. Eventually Task Force New York serviced 17 post offices and required 2,472 servicemen through Wednesday, March 25.

Complete details of the operation were found online, including the now unclassified "US Army After Action Report: Operation Graphic Hand, 1970" released May 8, 2009 under the Freedom of Information Act, which can be found at http://www.governmentattic.org/2docs/Army-AAR_Op-GraphicHand_1970.pdf. Quoting the document, it summarized:

"Throughout the operation, military forces and postal authorities were successful in

responding to the ever-changing postal labor situation. During the operation there were no confrontations between federal forces and postal employees or the civil populace.

a. In performing their augmentation duties, under the supervision of postal supervisors, service personnel performed the following tasks:
(1) sorted mail
(2) transported mail to substations and other areas
(3) delivered bulk mail to businesses and charitable organizations (no residential deliveries were made)

b. According to postal officials, in performing the tasks listed above, service personnel:
(1) processed 12.8 million pieces of outgoing primary mail (letter mail leaving New York City).
(2) processed 4.4 million pieces of city primary mail (letter mail for delivery in New York City).
(3) cased over 3.2 million pieces of mail for city delivery.
(4) delivered nearly 2 million pieces of mail to business firms and charitable organizations.
(5) delivered 3.2 million pieces of mail to callers.
(6) effected delivery of 11,986 registered letters.
(7) loaded or unloaded 96 trailers of mail.

c. Postal supervisors stated that the overall performance of military personnel in the augmentation role was better than could have been expected from new civilian postal employees.”

The total bill according to the Department of Defense audit cost taxpayers \$2,846,249.80, which paid for the equipment, transportation and other deployment expenses for the total force of 26,007 reservists and guardsmen, of which 16,836 actually augmented post office operations.

Quite a story uncovered through a dollar cover! Does any RPA member have a story about that time in our very own “postal history”?

Call for Elections

This is an official call to all members for nominations for a RPA Board seat that will begin July 1 and run for three years through June 30, 2015.

Chuck Schultz holds the expiring Board position at this time.

Any member may make his or her intentions known about running for the position by informing any current RPA officer by April 15.

Coins vs. Stamps (from an article in Coin World)



In the December 5, 2011 issue of Coin World, Paul Gilkes wrote that it would cost a collector \$23,500 to purchase each coin offered by the U.S. Mint during calendar year 2011. To put that number into perspective, the average per capita income in Ohio in 2009 was \$24, 830.

Stamp collectors have it easier, as the cost to buy 2011 issued U.S. stamps and postal stationery dropped to \$77.01, even though more varieties were issued in 2011 than in 2010.

New Postal Rates

In case you've been hiding under a rock, new postal rates went into effect January 22!

1 ounce... 45 cents	Post cards.... 32 cents
2 ounce... 65 cents	Express flat
3 ounce... 85 cents	rate envelope...\$18.95
Priority small flat rate box.....\$ 5.35	
Priority medium flat rate box....\$11.35	
Priority large flat rate box.....\$15.45	

New US Stamps



Forever (45¢) Stamps Unless Otherwise Noted

March 24 Cherry Blossoms Centennial
 April ? José Ferrer
 April 7 William H. Johnson

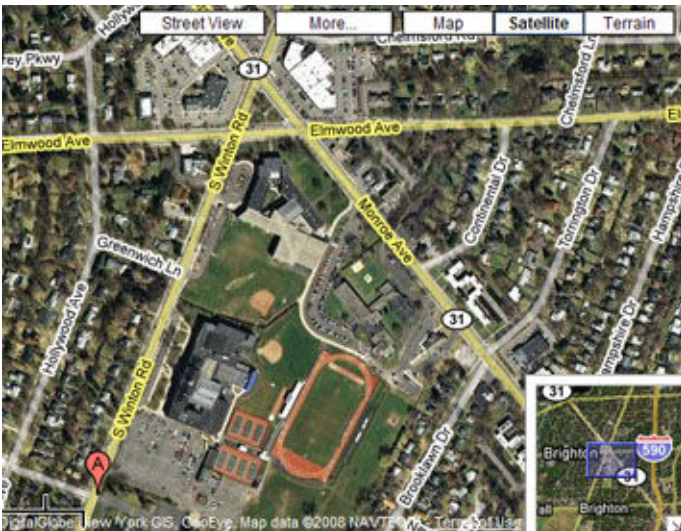
April 21 20th Century Poets (10 designs)
 April 24 Civil War (2 designs)
 April 30 Louisiana Statehood
 May ? Great Film Directors (4 designs)
 May ? Bicycling (4 designs)
 May ? Pixar Films: Mail a Smile (5 designs)

Next RPA Meetings

Thursday, Mar 8..... RPA Banquet (off-site at Cerame's Italian Villa)
 Thursday, Mar 22..... Stamp Bingo
 Thursday, Apr 12..... ROPEX Prep Night
 Thursday, Apr 26..... Kiloware Night
 Thursday, May 10..... "Egypt and its Stamps Travelogue" by Don Osborne
 Thursday, May 24..... TBA
 Thursday, Jun 14..... Annual Business Meeting
 Thursday, Jun 28..... Season End Strawberry Festival

The Rochester Philatelic Association
PO Box 10206 Brighton Station
Rochester, NY 14610-0206

RPA Meetings are at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church
 1200 Winton Rd South, just south of Brighton High School



RPA Banquet-Last Chance

The annual RPA banquet will be at 6 PM, Thursday, March 8 at Cerame's Italian Villa, 3450 Winton Rd. Call Ray Stone at 585-266-2524 for reservations by March 1. It is a buffet with salad, roast beef, baked ham, Italian meat balls, pasta with sauce, roasted potatoes, potato salad, bread and butter, coffee/tea, éclairs and canolis. Cost is \$15 per person, with the club subsidizing the difference.

We can always use articles for upcoming Hinges & Tongs issues.
 Email Tom at stampmf@frontiernet.net