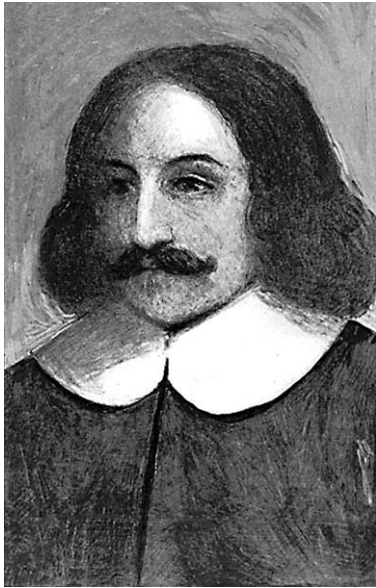


## 18<sup>th</sup> CENTURY COLONIAL MAIL

By Larry Reilly

Mail delivery in the colonies changed very little until the 1720's. Philadelphia was a hub of activity for printing and progressive thinking in this era. Newspapers were the most popular way for colonists to get information. Delivery of papers, as well as personal and governmental mail, was increasing rapidly. The government had appointed postmasters since 1698.



William Bradford became postmaster in 1728. He was the son of a printer and continued with this trade out of his home on Second Street.

Now, with his new appointment, he established the Post Office out of the same address. He published the "American Weekly Mercury" out of this location, much to the displeasure of Benjamin Franklin, who published its rival "The Pennsylvania Gazette". Franklin found it "impractical" for his paper to be delivered by "The Post".

In 1737, Colonel William Spotswood removed Bradford as postmaster and replaced him with Ben Franklin. The only address we know was Market Street, since no numbers were assigned to the buildings in those days and remained that way for 50 more years. Subsequently, to this day, no actual location has ever been pinpointed.

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In 1753, Colonel William Hunter and Franklin were appointed Postmasters General of the Colonies. New regulations were put into effect by Franklin such as delivery by carriers and the practice of advertising of unclaimed letters.

William Franklin, Benjamin's son, was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia in 1755. He was instrumental in implementing delivery once a week to New England and twice a week to New York City. Peter Franklin, brother of William, was appointed Deputy Postmaster in 1755. At this time, the British government forbade the "Publication of Improper Intelligence in Newspapers".

In 1759, Josiah Davenport was to become Postmaster of Philadelphia, but Peter Franklin held the post until his death in 1766. He was succeeded by John Foxcroft who was a relative of Franklin's wife. Ben Franklin's former foe, William Bradford, replaced Foxcroft. Bradford was the last Postmaster appointed by the Crown.

1774 brought the removal of Ben Franklin as Postmaster General, despite his efficient work transforming the Colonial Post from a losing investment to a source of revenue for the Royal government.

Next: 1776 Split from Britain

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The Board of Director's election is tentatively scheduled to be held prior to the auction on May 1<sup>st</sup>. As previously reported, four Club members in good standing will be elected to serve 3-year terms on the Board of Directors. Any member interested should let Al Carroccia or any of the Board Members know so we can prepare the ballots. Stay tuned for further information.



# BUFFALO STAMP CLUB

[www.buffalostampclub.org](http://www.buffalostampclub.org)

APRIL 2020

Alfred Carroccia

[Fuzzy9600@verizon.net](mailto:Fuzzy9600@verizon.net)

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As we are aware, the recent coronavirus pandemic has reached our area and is impacting our daily routines. Among them is Buffalo Stamp Club activities which have been **cancelled**. The decision is not only in compliance with protocols regarding social distancing and events involving more than 10 people but also common sense. The Club cannot risk the health of our more vulnerable members by holding Club auctions or meetings.

The Buffalo Stamp Club Board of Directors is monitoring the events unfolding and will be updating the membership regarding the status of future meetings. Information regarding future meetings will be immediately posted at the Club website [www.buffalostampclub.org](http://www.buffalostampclub.org). An email to members who provided contact information will follow together with phone calls. Stay informed!

It cannot be stressed enough that everyone remain vigilant, practice basic hygiene (wash hands!) and adopt social distance manners. We shall persevere and before long return to normal Buffalo Stamp Club events. Stay safe.

## APRIL CALENDAR

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Auction (cancelled)**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>: Presentation (cancelled)**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>: Auction (tentative)**

Leonard Post, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga

**Auctions** begin immediately following any business and announcements which starts at **7:15 PM**. Get here early enough to view auction items. Seller deadline for submitting Lots is **6:45 PM**

**Presentations** begin at **7 PM** in the Happy Room.

## OFFICERS

President: Bob Meegan ([meeagan9697@roadrunner.com](mailto:meeagan9697@roadrunner.com))

Vice President: Alan Davis ([ddavis504@roadrunner.com](mailto:ddavis504@roadrunner.com))

Secretary: Al Carroccia ([fuzzy9600@verizon.net](mailto:fuzzy9600@verizon.net))

Treasurer: Tim Carey ([careystea@gmail.com](mailto:careystea@gmail.com))

Membership Chairmen: Casey Kielbasa & Dan McNess  
([dmcness@mac.com](mailto:dmcness@mac.com))

Auction Committee Chairman: John Leszak  
([coverconnection@gmail.com](mailto:coverconnection@gmail.com))

Auction Manager: Dan Sherwood

Auction Registrar: Kelly Kreuzer ([slothlover4ever24@gmail.com](mailto:slothlover4ever24@gmail.com))

Advertising & Publicity Coordinator: George Gates  
([gghg53@aol.com](mailto:gghg53@aol.com))

Bourse Chairman: John Leszak ([coverconnection@gmail.com](mailto:coverconnection@gmail.com))

Other Directors: Larry Cherns ([katchke@hotmail.com](mailto:katchke@hotmail.com)),

Pam Kreuzer ([slothlover4ever24@gmail.com](mailto:slothlover4ever24@gmail.com)),

Bennie Passantino,

Paul Moore ([paulmoore@verizon.net](mailto:paulmoore@verizon.net))

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members!

**Chris Bole** - No indication of collecting interests

**Peter Charette** - Collects US.

**Roy Wilson** - Collects US, BC and SA.

**Paul Zymanck** - Collects US, worldwide.

### THE STAMP JAR

The stamp jar made its annual appearance at BUFPEX. For \$1, a person was entitled to three guesses at the number of the stamps in the jar. The numbers were far and wide ranging from 32 to 126,000 stamps!

The winner of the stamp jar was Alan Davis. One of his guesses was 12,500. The total number of the stamps in the jar was 12,850, a difference of 350.

When asked what he will do with the jar, Alan responded that is grandkids needed something to occupy them when they visit!

### ELMER J. LANGE, Jr.



It's always sad and unfortunate when we lose a club member, and a long-time member at that. Elmer passed away March 4, 2020 and was 86 years old. Our prayers, thoughts, and condolences go out to his family, friends, and those members who knew him. Rest in Peace.

### BUFPEX NOTES

BUFPEX, which took place February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> at the Leonard Post, was another huge success. A little snow Friday night and Saturday morning did not stop a strong crowd on Saturday. Fifteen dealers and the United States Postal Service took part in the bourse and all reported healthy sales. Many thanks to John Leszak for coordinating the bourse.

Eleven exhibits filled 38 frames for our viewing pleasure. Although some were "non-competitive", many competed for awards in certain categories. Thanks to the judging of Bob Meegan and Tom Fortunato, who evaluated the exhibits and determined the winners. Also, thanks to Bob for organized the exhibits and thanks to all those members who helped in setting up and tearing down of the frames.

A silent auction was held during BUFPEX with many quality lots, including a US Scott 1 and 2! While the Scott 1 did not sell, the Scott 2 did. Again, thanks to John Leszak and Paul Moore who ran the auction.

The commemorative show covers were popular during BUFPEX. The great staff at the USPS table led by Alison Potenza accommodated requests and assisted with the show cancels.

Thanks to those members who helped at the Club hospitality table welcoming visitors to BUFPEX. Many expressed interest in joining the Club and took with them the show program which was prepared by Bob Meegan and Alan Davis. Again, thanks to everyone for a successful BUFPEX!

# PICTURES FROM BUFPEX 2020

FEBRUARY 29 & MARCH 1, 2020

