

Fig. 1. This Catskill (Cat's Creek), New York cover was machine cancelled with an American flag #1 (used 1894-1920s). The date stamp or "dial" is July 1, 1905.

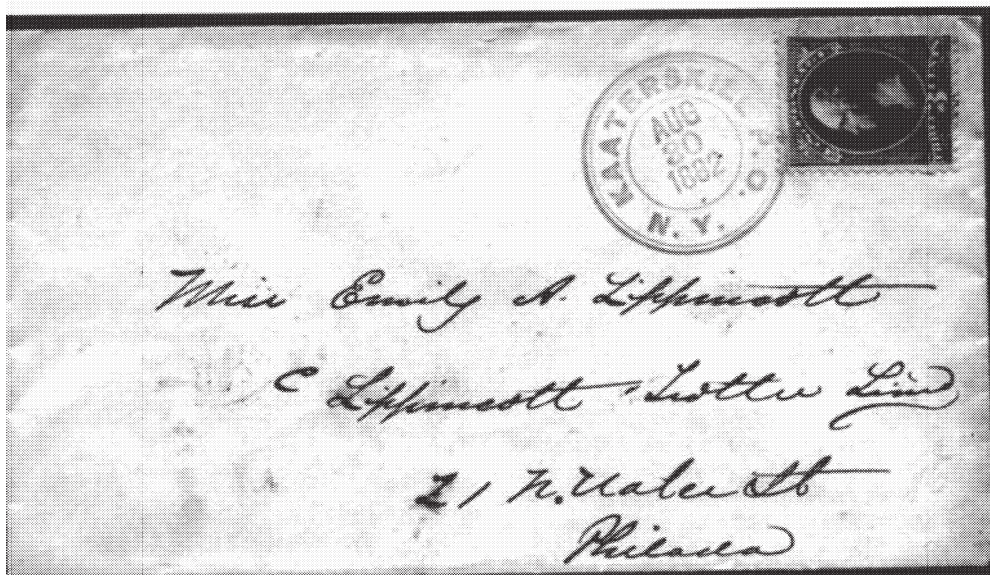


Fig. 2. The author found this rather rare cover at the World Stamp Show NY 2016. It is postmarked from Kaaterskill P.O., New York on August 20, 1882. "Kaaterskill" or "Catskill" is Dutch for "Cat's Creek."

I attended the World Stamp Show in New York City and was able to find a significant feline postmark I would like to share with my fellow COSSU members.

The scenic Catskill Mountains and the town of Catskill are in upstate New York. A few theories exist about the origin of the name; the most reliable one is that it is derived from the Dutch "Kaatskill" or "Kaaterskill" which means "Cat's Creek" due to the abundance of mountain lions once in the area. That name was given to the area by a 17th century Dutch explorer.

The town of Catskill, in Greene County, was established in 1788 in the area that was purchased from natives in 1678 for some trinkets. The post office was established in 1800 and is still active. Fig. 1. There was also a Catskill Station post office in bordering Columbia County that was active from 1867 until 1910.

The Kaaterskill, Green County post office was active from 1882 until 1925, and Kaaterskill Station post office from 1914 to 1917. These postmarks are much more difficult to find, however, I did come across one at the show during my philatelic hunt. The Kaaterskill cover

is postmarked with a triple ring violet circular date stamp (CDS). No cancellation/killer is visible. Fig.2.

While it is not too difficult to obtain postmarks from Catskill, I was able to find one with an unusual error, the year "1939" is reversed from left to right and also it is upside down. It was probably produced by Universal machine cancels. Fig.3.

By the way, there was also a Catskill post office between 1890 and 1905 in Colfax County, New Mexico. It was a lumbering and sawmill town that had a good life until 1902 when timber became scarce and sawmills began closing down. Today it is a ghost town, and I assume that it wouldn't be easy to find a postmark from this town. But as we all know, sometimes we get lucky. 🐾

*Author's Note: Being a feline philatelist, my original goal has been to compile a U.S. list with feline related postmarks, and I was able to discover that there are almost 150 places related to wild and domestic felines. Many of them are elusive, though eBay and other web resources have been helpful. -G.B.*

Fig. 3. This Catskill, New York postmark was cancelled on a 1¢ Jefferson postal card on December 13, 1939. Notice the upside down error in the "1939."

