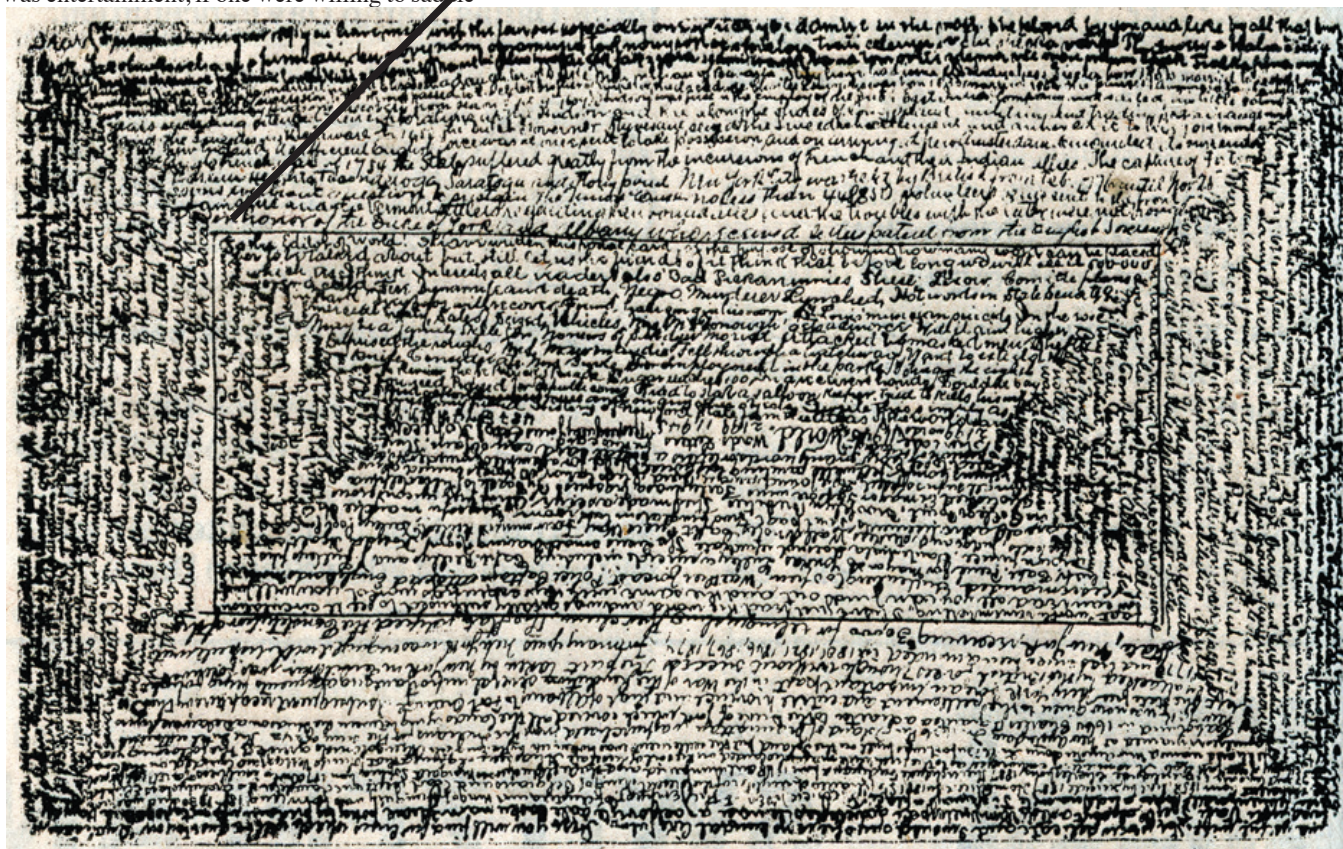
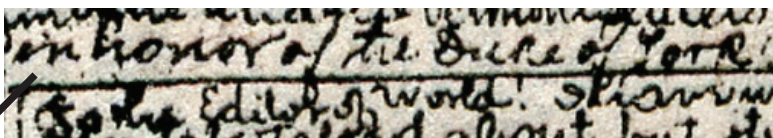


# Speaking of Stamps

by Herman Herst, Jr. (From STAMPS Magazine, July 21, 1984)

In the old days, people had a good deal more time on their hands than is the case today.

There was no radio, no television. There was entertainment, if one were willing to saddle



up old Dobbin, or get the carriage from the barn.

Singing hymns in the parlor was an exciting way to spend the evening, if one could afford the gaslight.

And with a little patience and a lot of ink, one might try to break the record for the number of words that could be put on one of Uncle Sam's one-cent postal cards.

Otto Kopiecki had other ways to spend his time. He sent a letter to the Editor of the *New York World*, telling that person the

story of financial relations between the State of New York and the City of New York, between 1801 and 1894, the year in which the card was sent.

Did the Editor of the *World* publish this letter? In fact, to be more to the point, did the Editor even read the card? It is doubtful.

But Otto did do something that spared us a great deal of time in this day and age when there are so many great demands on us for time. He told the Editor of the *World* that his message consisted of 2,199 words, comprising 11,945 letters.

I hope he is correct. I have no intention of disputing his count. In fact, I have been reading the message off and on for several months now, as the time is available. I am up to 1801. In that year, the State paid the City \$30,000, in exchange for which the city gave up its claims to monies that it claims to have advanced the State during the War of the Revolution.

I have a long way to go. Keep tuned in.

[To my knowledge, if Herst did finish reading the card, he did not write about it again...which would have been very much unlike him. Online readers, use your pdf magnifier to read what you can. JFD.]

