

Scribblings



---from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Vol. 4 - No. 4

2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO, 80224

November 1996

Phone - 303-759-9921 E-Mail - RMPL@aol.com <http://www.collectors-mall.com/philib/RMPL.htm>

WHAT'S HAPPENING at the RMPL

"come and enjoy the activities"

NOVEMBER 1996

Mondays: November 4, 18, 25 Open 10 - 4

Thursdays: November 7, 14, 21 Open 2 - 8

Saturdays: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Open 10 - 4

November 2 - Meeting - 10:00 AM -
Scandinavian Collectors Club

November 7 - Meeting - 7:00 PM - RMPL Board

November 9 - Meeting - 1:00 PM - Colorado
Postal History Society

November 11 - RMPL Closed - Armistice Day

November 13 - Meeting - 7:00 PM - Denver
Germany Stamp Club

November 14 - Meeting - 7:30 PM - Topical
Philatelists In Colorado

November 18 - 1:00 PM - Volunteer Training
Sessions - Everyone invited

November 23 - Meeting - 1:00 PM - China
Stamp Society

November 23 - 1:00 PM - Volunteer Training
Sessions - Everyone invited

November 26 - Meeting - 7:30 PM - ROMPEX
Committee

November 28 - RMPL Closed - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER, 1996

Mondays: December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Open 10 - 4

Thursdays: December 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 2 - 8

Saturdays: December 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10 - 4

December 7 - Meeting - 10:00 AM -
Scandinavian Collectors Club

December 21 - 1:00 - 4:00 PM - **RMPL Holiday
Open House - Everyone invited**

December 28 - Meeting - 1:00 PM - China
Stamp Society

RMPL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

The Board of Directors of the RMPL cordially invites all interested parties to attend the annual Holiday Open house to be held on Saturday, December 21st from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. This promises to be a nice social event where friends of

the RMPL can spend some time socializing and celebrating the holiday season together.

LIBRARY IS BEING USED

As you can see from the schedules above the RMPL is being used on a regular basis by several of the local philatelic groups and we are pleased that we can provide a location for their meetings. In addition to meetings we are finding that members are using the materials in the library for research and that pleases us even more. It is indeed a delight to drive up to the library and find most of the off-street parking places occupied and to find people wandering through the stacks or sitting at a table looking through a book or periodical. That is what the library is for and it is yours to use. If you haven't taken the opportunity to see the new RMPL why don't you do so at your earliest convenience. I'm sure that you will be as pleased with what we have done as we are. Each time I open the door and enter the facility I still have to stop and say "WOW" to myself.

AUCTION

The Scandinavian Collectors group has asked that we announce that they will be holding an auction on Saturday, January 4, 1997, at 10:00 AM at the RMPL. The RMPL will receive a percentage of the proceeds.

OCTOBER WAS A BUSY MONTH

The RMPL held special activities every Saturday during the month of October to celebrate Stamp Collecting Month.

The first of these activities was Kids Day at the RMPL. We had about 8 children show up for our activities. They learned how to soak stamps, how to check a perforation, how to check a watermark, and some basic stamp collecting vocabulary. They saw a video on Stamp Collecting by "Radar O'Reily" (of MASH fame) and had orange juice and cookies. Drawings were held for prizes and each child took home a sack full of goodies such as coloring books, free packets of stamps, stamp trading cards, etc. A good time was had by both the children and the adults present.

The second Saturday - Bill Dunn gave a program on "How to Collect U. S. Stamps Without

Spending a Fortune." He pointed out that we collect vertically in price until it is too expensive and then we collect horizontally - that is, we get into specialties such as precancels, some aspect of postal history, topicals, airmails, postal cards or envelopes, revenues and other "back-of-the-book" material. Clean canceled used stamps at little cost can serve to fill many spaces. There are many facets to collecting -- just look at the numerous listings in the Specialized Catalog.

Approximately 15 persons were present at the RMPL on the third Saturday of Stamp Collecting Month which was devoted to a postal history study. Jack Willard presented a slide program showing early Colorado postal markings along with views of the various sites B. C. (before condos).

The last Saturday of the month was designated Stamp Club Visitation Day. On display were some of the more rare publications in our collection. Available for a donation were some philatelic materials that had been donated to the RMPL for this purpose. Attendance by stamp club membership was taken and the Aurora Stamp Club was the club with the greatest number of members present. They won a copy of the Ron Mitchell video on the Denver Eagles.

DEVINNY STUDENTS VISIT THE RMPL

by Edna Wright

On Tuesday, October 29, 1996, thirty students along with their teacher Linda Lohman, and a visitor from Devinny Elementary School in Jefferson County were hosted on a field trip at the RMPL. Don Beuthel and George Wright instructed them in various areas of philately. They were treated to refreshments, drawings for prizes were held, and as each child left, he/she was given a bag of stamps, stamp publications, coloring books, trading cards, and a small stamp album and activities designed to interest them in the world of philately.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank our present volunteers for their work in the past 3 months. They are: Maury Pautz, Ron Mitchell, Bob Blatherwick, Nick Bede, Joe Weinman, George Snyder, Roger Rydberg, Dalene Thomas, Sergio Lugo, Linda Warman-Holt, and Dan Thomas. They are working regular shifts on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and since we reopened they have unpacked and processed many boxes of material.

There have been several additional people who have expressed an interest in serving as a volunteer for a day other than the three days we are open presently, but we haven't had enough persons volunteer for a specific day to allow us to open on that day. It takes 4 persons to do the two three hour shifts for each day. If you are interested in working a three hour shift on a regular basis on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays,

or Sundays please call Don Beuthel at 755-9328. We would like to be able to be open more days each week.

We will be needing a replacement Volunteer for Dan Thomas who will be moving to Arizona in the near future. Dan has been working the Saturday afternoon 1 - 4 shift by himself. Is there anyone out there who could work regularly on Saturday afternoons? We would like to have two persons on each shift whenever possible.

A replacement Volunteer will be needed for Bob Blatherwick on the Monday afternoon shift from 1 - 4. Bob will not be available from January 1st through April 15th since he works for H & R Block during that time period. Is there anyone who might be available on alternating weeks for this time period? We already have one person who has volunteered to work on alternating weeks.

We will be needing a replacement Volunteer for Ron Mitchell for the 5-8 shift on Thursday evenings starting about the 1st of January. Ron teaches a class at DU on Thursdays thus he will not be available to the RMPL for about 10 weeks. Is there anyone who would be willing to take his place as a volunteer for that time?

All who are interested in any of these openings please call Don Beuthel at 755-9328 as soon as possible.

WANTED and Desperately Needed NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

As indicated previously Dan Thomas will be moving to Arizona in the near future. In addition to serving as a Volunteer for the RMPL, he has been our Public Relations Coordinator. We hope to start a very aggressive public relations campaign early in 1997. Anyone who is qualified and is interested in assuming this position please contact a member of the board as soon as possible.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING MEETINGS

We will be holding a Volunteer Training session on Monday, November 18th at 1:00 PM and on Saturday, November 23rd at 1:00 PM. All of our regular volunteers and RMPL officers and Board are asked to try to arrange to be at one of these sessions. All persons who think that they might be interested in becoming Volunteers (or Substitute Volunteers) are asked to attend one of the sessions. In fact, any person interested in learning more about the RMPL and it's operations is invited to attend.

DONATIONS CONTINUE

We are pleased to report that donations to the RMPL continue at a most pleasing pace.

Recent donations of material have been received from the United States Postal Service, Bob Rogers, Roger Cichorz, Bill Dunn, Peter Laux, Rusty Morse, Stuart Silverberg, Joan Grady, Adolf Schwartz, Sherman Pompey, Sergio Lugo, Bob

Schrenck, Bob Brown, Scott Smith, Jack Willard, Don Beuthel and Fred Campbell.

We hope that we have not forgotten to mention someone. We thank each and every one of you for your support of the RMPL!!

As the year comes to a close, we should take this opportunity to suggest that donations to the RMPL, both monetary and fair market value for materials, can help to ease your taxes due for the year. We are a 501 (c)(3) public charity and such donations are deductible to the extent of the law.

MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED

The West Side Stamp Club has started a RMPL Memorial Fund with contributions in memory of David Hunter and Bob Gonring - both long time members of their club. The purpose of the Memorial Fund is to provide funds for the RMPL to use to acquire philatelic literature - to actually buy material as it becomes available through auctions or sales. Suitable bookplates will be used to indicate purchases from the fund. A Memorial Fund Acquisitions Committee will be appointed to select materials for purchase with these contributions.

We think that this is a wonderful idea and one that all groups and individuals should keep in mind as a meaningful way to provide an appropriate memorial to someone who has passed away.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASING

We are pleased to announce that we have been receiving new members at a most pleasant rate. Once people see what we have and what we are trying to accomplish, they almost always want to be a part of the RMPL.

One of our early financial goals was to drastically increase our membership. We hope that each of our members will renew their membership at the proper time, and then bring a friend to see the facility and the materials that we have received as donations. Hopefully they could be convinced to become a member. That would double our present membership and help to ease the financial burden.

We have reached a new milestone - the RMPL membership is now international. J. Chris Harrison of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, who was in town for a geological convention visited the RMPL and was so impressed with our operation that he insisted on a membership. He spent over 4 hours using the materials that he found and wished that he had more time to spend in the library.

Recent new members include Stan Luft, Clarence W. Brown, Mary Patricia Komich, Barbara J. Anderson, Chris Hahn, Bob Easterly, Peter Laux, Theo Crawford, Paul Tyler, and Fred Campbell.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION

Among the many books that have been cataloged recently you will find the following:

COLORADO'S MOUNTAIN RAILROADS by Robert A. LeMassena

DIETZ CONFEDERATE STATES CATALOG

EVERYWHERE WEST by Patrick C. Dorin

THE MOFFAT ROAD by Edward T. Bollinger

NARROW GAUGE IN THE ROCKIES by A. Bray Dickinson

RAILROAD MAPS OF NORTH AMERICA

by Andrew M. Modelski

SANITARY FAIRS by Alvin Robert Kantor

Our Librarian, Ellengail Beuthel, has a large backlog of materials to be cataloged so there will be new items appearing all the time. Generally these will be placed in the New Book area for a period of about 1 month and then placed in their proper location on the regular shelves.

RMPL RECEIVES GREAT PUBLICITY

Our friend, and RMPL member, Joe Foley, who now lives in Maryland, devoted his entire column in Stamp Collector for 10/28/96 to the story of the RMPL. We want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Joe for writing such a great story.

Seldom does an organization get such great publicity and I'm sure that it will generate nationwide interest in our library. Frequently when we get a small write-up in a philatelic newspaper this is followed by a number of letters offering to donate materials or asking for information about the library - membership costs, etc. I'm sure that an article as prominent as this will generate many responses. Thanks, Joe!!!

Since many of you do not subscribe to Stamp Collector we have included a copy of the article for you to read.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Try the Auction Catalog Collection

by Ron Mitchell

"Oh, the humanity of it all!" That was the cry of the radio announcer as the "Hindenburg" crashed on May 6, 1937. Thirty-six people died.

Just as you can find slices of many historic events in the RMPL, you can also find information and graphic evidence of the events of the "Hindenburg" tragedy.

The obvious source for data about the crash and dirigibles in the library would be in books and periodicals. But another, often overlooked, source is the auction catalog section.

For instance, a dozen lots of "Hindenburg" crash mail were included in "The Alan L. Belinkoff Collection of Zeppelin Post Mail of the World" sale held by Steve Ivy Philatelic Auctions on November 21, 1989. The lots, valued at from \$2,000 to \$7,500 each are described as the single largest offering of "Hindenburg" crash covers ever to

appear in one sale. There are striking color photos of each lot.

There are also color photos of most of the more than 1,000 lots of dirigible postal history in the catalog, beginning with the first flights that carried mail in 1911. The catalog is loaded with information about Zeppelin flights, too.

Zeppelin mail is an extremely specialized field. Many, many, catalogs of the 6,000 or so in the RMPL have themes of a more general nature. There is a good chance you won't have to look long to find one or more that match your philatelic interest.

Some auction houses specialize in one specific area. Here are a very few examples:

Michael H. Bale, Holy Land
Northland Auctions, Scandinavia
Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., EFOs
Bexar Stamp Auctions, Mexico
Michael Rogers, China & Asia

Areas such as Confederate postal history, US 1847s, or advertising covers are not hard to track down. Interested in US 19th century fancy cancels? Try John A. Fox catalogs for November 14, 1960 and April 27, 1961.

Collectors with an interest in Colorado postal history will enjoy the Richard Frajola sales and Christie's/Robson Lowe's "The David Jarrett Collection of United States Postal Markings" from October 9, 1990, lots 53-127. Colorado Territorial covers, all shown in color, sold for \$55 to more than \$6,000 each.

Stunning color photos of stamps and covers are in many of the larger auction house catalogs, including Ivy Shreve and Maeder, Keystone, Matthew Bennett, Christie's, Habsburg, Feldman, Sotheby's, Valley, Heinrich Kohler, and Interphila.

Catalogs are filed by the names of the auction houses, in alphabetical order. You won't be disappointed if you spend some time in the auction catalog section in the RMPL.

Duplicates of some of the better catalogs are for sale. A list is available from the RMPL for an SASE or contact the RMPL via E-Mail and receive your list free. RMPL@aol.com

***** AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST - THE BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE RMPL HOPE THAT EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU HAS A MOST JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEST WISHES FOR A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!**

<http://www.>

by Iona Macintosh

Good News-Great News

The RMPL is on the WEB

A **"GREAT BIG THANK YOU"** goes to Larry and Carmen for their support of the RMPL and their hosting of our home page.

Check out our home page at::

<http://www.collectors-mail.com/philib/RMPL.htm>

Then - Click on the Packrat

Please send your responses to RMPL@aol.com

A new "Thank You" goes to Bill Helbock at LaPosta Publications for his support of the RMPL. Bill has offered a supply of sample publications to the RMPL. Please stop by and pick up your copy and better yet, **subscribe today** - it is a great publication for all stamp collectors and postal historians. If you are not familiar with LaPosta stop by the library and check it out - We have all the issues from Vol. 1 No. 1 to the present.

HOT SITE OF THE MONTH

LaPosta a Journal of American Postal History

<http://www.teleport.com/~laposta/>

And remember - Iona is available 24 hours a day to help with your philatelic research - and, as always - I love E-Mail!

Scribblings is published bi-monthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO, 80224.

Donald G. Beuthel
Editor

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado Non-profit corporation. Membership subscriptions over that for the annual regular membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic library materials are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes. The RMPL is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

RMPL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Donald G. Beuthel
Vice President	Jim Kilbane
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Treasurer	Robert Blatherwick
Board Member	James L. Ozment
Board Member	John H. Willard

Dedication created Rocky Mountain library



*This 'n'
That*

Joe Foley

On Aug. 3, the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library celebrated the opening of its new building.

I'm about to tell a tale about a great group of stamp collectors — but let me admit right now that I'm prejudiced. I was fortunate enough to have lived in Colorado for eight years. In 1983 I followed my paycheck back east but still cherish the friendships of those years in the Denver area.

For many years some of the collectors in Denver had been setting aside various items of philatelic literature against the day when they might be able to put a library together. As I recall, Jack Willard even had his philatelic periodicals bound.

In 1993 a local collector, and an old neighbor of mine, Dave Capra, had a 1,600-square-foot vacancy in one of his small units. He offered to make it available at no charge for a philatelic library until such time as he could lease it. The Denver gang recognized that the term was indefinite, but it was an opportunity to get started. The Rocky Mountain

Philatelic Library (RMPL) was born! With 70 members from Colorado and throughout the country, they opened their doors on Aug. 1, 1993.

The following spring I was chairing the jury at Rompex in Denver, and Bill Dunn, one of the prime movers of the RMPL, gave several of us who were at the show a tour of the library. I was impressed with a number of factors. First and foremost was the enthusiasm backed up with "sweat equity" of the Denver collectors supporting the library.

Next was the professional touch brought to bear by the RMPL's president's wife, Ellengail Beuthel. She had recently retired from the Denver public schools where she had worked as a librarian, supervised cataloging and technical services, and served as library planner. The RMPL is one of the very few to have the guidance of a dedicated person with a master's degree in library science and solid hands-on professional experience. Also, the cataloging is maintained on a computer, and the library placed a realistic priority on obtaining tools of the trade such as photo copiers to make the facility user-friendly.

Over the past three years there have been some milestones — some good, a few not so good. Near the end of 1993 the first issue of the bimonthly RMPL newsletter *Scribblings* appeared. In May 1994 the RMPL was approved under section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code as a tax exempt non-profit organization. In September the RMPL benefactor, Dave Capra, had the opportuni-

ty to lease the space the library was using but was able to provide them with a smaller facility on the same generous terms. Around the same time the group got quite a boost from the local 5 o'clock news on TV.

The library formed a task force to secure a permanent location early in 1995. No sooner was this done than the existing facility had to be vacated. About the best the group could do was to move the entire collection into storage. There followed a series of cost estimates, approaches to money raising and some very close encounters with prospective real estate. It was a year that would have put the seal of doom on most organizations facing the frustrations and disappointments that the RMPL contended with.

Maybe it's the mile-high climate or maybe it's the pioneer stock that opened the West in the first place, but these folks persevered. A request for help from the Tiffany Fund was rebuffed.

Financially, it looked like they had to go it alone. They did just that. The March 1996 *Scribblings* gives an account of what they did. I don't think there are any millionaires in this group — just some very dedicated stamp collectors. Yet in a period of about a year they put together a financial package that should be the envy of any and all philatelic organizations.

Early this year, they bought a 3,300-square-foot building with plenty of off-street parking at a convenient location. Some renovations were needed and completed, the material retrieved from

storage, and the grand re-opening of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library took place.

If you have a chance, visit this library. Its hours are Monday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Tuesday 2 - 8 p.m. The address in Denver is 2038 S. Pontiac Way (one block west of Quebec and one block north of Evans). The phone number is (303) 759-9921.

Good philatelic libraries are important resources for our hobby and for the perpetuation of stamp collecting. Granted, if you know exactly what you want, members can borrow by mail from the Collectors Club of New York or the American Philatelic Research Library in State College, Pa.

Early on I came to appreciate the value of being able to browse through the stacks at the Collectors Club when I first worked in New York in the mid 1960s. There is just so much information in journals that has never been properly cataloged that there is really no substitute for this approach.

If you want to make an investment in the future of philately, an investment that will be immediately put to work by a committed and dedicated group of volunteers who themselves have provided financial support, the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is it! Mailing address is 2038 S. Pontiac Way, Denver CO 80224. Remember, your donation is tax deductible. In fact, my contributions have been matched by the firm I retired from. Support has been received from collectors as far away as New York and Oregon.