

# Scribblings



...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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## United States Post Office Department Registered Package Envelopes - Part 1

By Jim Kilbane, RMPL Board Member

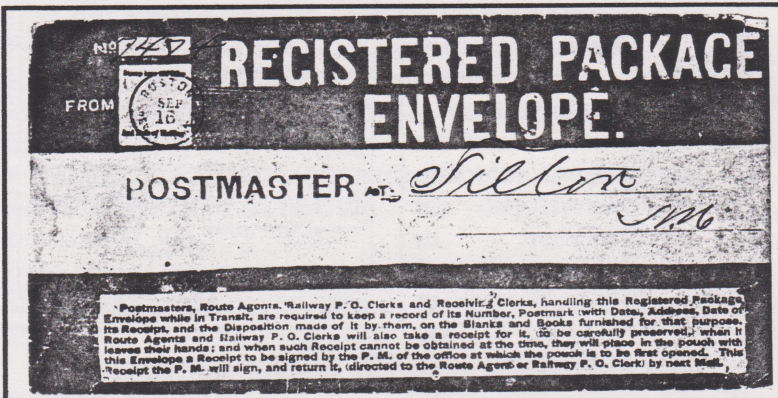


Figure 1

The purpose of this article is to explain what a Registered Package Envelope is and why it was used. I will also show several examples of the envelopes that I have found and how to distinguish various major varieties. The envelopes, starting in 1872, also show various routing, registered markings, dates and names of the individuals receiving the registered material.

These envelopes carried, or were attached to, registered mail. They were used from approximately 1867 to about 1911. The United States Postal Regulations of 1910 stated that post offices may continue to use the envelopes until July 1, 1911, or until their supply is

exhausted. They were then replaced with another system.

The United States Post Office Registered Package Envelopes were described in the May, 1867, "U.S. Mail & Post Office Assistant". This monthly semiofficial four-page newspaper of postal matters is one that many postmasters subscribed to, and gives the following description: "This Registered Package Envelope is of large size with two broad scarlet stripes printed lengthwise across both face and back. It is made so in order that it may be conspicuous and easily distinguishable from all other mail matter". Figure 1 illustrates the front of the first envelopes used with the reverse sealed with a wax seal and no written message or routing on the back. The envelope measures 10 inches long by 5 inches tall. This envelope was sent from Boston and received in Tilton, New Hampshire.

In 1872 the envelope was changed and a large green seal was issued. This seal was to be used to seal the envelope and was to be stamped with the date mailed from the sending post office. The front of the envelope is shown in Figure 2 and the reverse is shown in Figure 3. This seal was used from 1872 through 1878.

The lettering was in a shade of red perhaps orange. The reverse was used to indicate the routes used for transporting the package. Each line was suppose to indicate where the envelope was received.

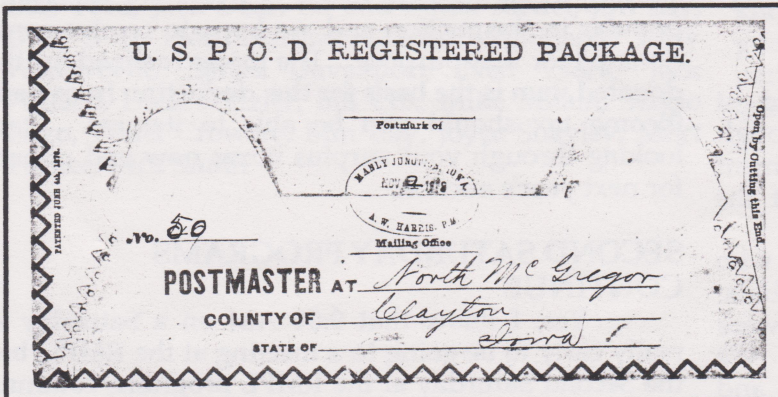


Figure 2

RECORD OF TRANSIT.	
Condition.	Signature.
Good or Bad.	By Whom Received and Date.
	<i>James Tilton</i>
	<i>Tilton N.H.</i>

**NEW INSTRUCTIONS.**

To facilitate tracing, a complete record must be made by every postal officer handling this package, as set forth in Section 486, Page 239, of the Regulations.

Should this package become damaged, it must be placed in a new Registered Package Envelope at the post office where the injury occurs, or, when damaged in the hands of an Employee of the Railway Mail Service, at the post office at the terminus of its route.

The original Registered Package Envelope must not be removed, but, before enclosure in the new one, must be endorsed with a certificate stating its exact condition, to be signed by the Postmaster and the Railway Mail Employee to whom delivered or from whom received.

The new Registered Package Envelope must bear the address and registered number of the old one, and the postmark of the office at which the package is re-enveloped. The fact of re-enclosure must be noted on the record sheet of transit.

Receipts must be promptly given as required by Section 489, Page 243, of the Regulations.

Failure to comply with above instructions will be sufficient cause for removal.

A. D. HAZEN,  
Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Figure 3

Sometimes the envelope was in a closed pouch and not opened until its final destination, other times it was marked at each stop. This procedure was to continue from 1872 through 1911. The envelope, shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, was sent from Chicago to Waseoga, Minnesota. I do not find a listing for this Minnesota town. A "Registered Chicago P. O." wax seal impression seals the envelope. There are several routing marks on the reverse.

In 1878 the seal was then repealed and a new envelope was designed. The envelope bordered by a continuous diagonal line. The envelope has a patent date of June, 4, 1878. There are some minor varieties of this envelope. Each envelope received a different number assigned at the sending post office. These envelopes had a box for the Mailing Office stamp showing when it was sent. It also had address lines for the receiving postmaster's town, county and state. An example of the front of this envelope is shown in Figure 4 and the reverse in Figure 5. This envelope is



Figure 4

Number 50, from Manly Junction, Iowa going to North McGregor, Iowa. Both these towns are now ghost towns, Manly Junction lasted from 1877 to 1883 and North McGregor from 1866 to 1920.

Figure 5

...To be continued in the September - October issue of "Scribblings"...

## News From the RMPL...

### HOLIDAY HOURS - PLEASE NOTE

The RMPL will be officially closed for the 4th of July weekend on Saturday, July 1st; Monday, July 3rd; and Tuesday July 4th as well as our normal closing on Sunday. Notice that I said it will be officially closed - that does not mean that no one will be there. Most of the time when we are officially closed, there is someone there trying to get some work done without interruption. If you hope to use the library on one of those days we are closed, call first. There could be someone there.

### SILENT AUCTION SUCCESSFUL

The annual RMPL Silent Auction held at ROMPEX this year was a success. We sold enough items through the auction to take care of the payment of one month's expenses. That is the goal of the auction each year.

We would like to thank all of you who stopped by the table at ROMPEX and placed bids. Some of you even followed the directions that were given - bid early, bid often, and bid high. We especially thank the persons who did bid high and took home some lots. Also, we must thank those

people who donated the items for the auction. Their

generosity is greatly appreciated.

In an auction consisting of 1020 different lots it is natural that some of the lots did not receive any bids. These "remainder lots" are available at the library and you can take them home for the minimum suggested bid price on each lot. Stop by and take a look - there are some bargains there.

As we finish the auction for one year, it is time to start thinking about the auction next year and starting to accumulate items. Covers are especially popular in the auction and we hope to receive some donated for that purpose.. The prices realized for the donated item is the basis for the deduction from your income tax should you be able to itemize. Start looking through your surplus boxes now and donate for next year's auction.

### SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS CONTINUE

Yes, I know that 9:00 AM on a Saturday is really early to be going to a meeting at the RMPL; but the Second Saturday at the RMPL programs continue to draw. We seem to have a hardy group of early

risers who enjoy the donuts and coffee as well as widening their philatelic knowledge and the social side of philately after the program. One of the recent complaints heard was, "I had to park on the street - there were no parking spots left!" We love to hear complaints such as that. Give one of these upcoming meetings a try and bring along a philatelic friend.

The July 8th meeting will be given by Ron Mitchell on the subject of "The Denver Eagles." There is nobody in the Rocky Mountain Region, probably the world, who knows more about this subject than Ron and we are pleased to have him talk about this at the RMPL Second Saturday.

The August 12th meeting will be given by Jeff Modesitt on the subject of "New Zealand Universals". It is our understanding that Jeff is an expert in this field and I'm sure that we will learn much from him.

As we continue this series of programs we are always looking for someone to make these Second Saturday presentations. If you are interested in doing a program, or if you have suggestions for a program, we are interested in hearing from you. Contact Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328.

## **DONATIONS CONTINUE AT FANTASTIC PACE**

Every two months as I write this portion I am faced with the problem of trying to say thank you in a way that is different than the way I wrote it in the last several issues. There are only so many ways that we can say thank you. Those of us who work through the incoming donations, material and monetary, continue to be completely amazed at the generosity shown by our donors. We never dreamed that the RMPL would grow at such a rapid rate; but it has, and we simply say THANK YOU. We try to send a letter acknowledging receipt of the donation whenever we know who the donor is but there are some times when we don't know the donor. We thank all of you so much!!

Donors for the last two months include: Glenn Mallory, Jim Morman, Loren Brodahl, Colin Spong, Len Schmidt, Phil Beutel, Bob Brown, Tim Bartshe, Paul Crissman, Alan Hofsetz, Bill Dunn, Mort Turner, T. W. TenEyck, Ken Stone, Marie Bock, J. R. Lapierre, Lois Teed, Jack Dear, Ed and Linda Riedel, Jim Lay, U P S S, Don Beuthel, Martin Wilkinson, Kitty Wentworth, James Davenport, Neil Clark, Jack Willard, Dasa Metzler, Bill Cox, Mike Milam, Sergio Lugo, Ward Crowley, Min Ray, Joyce Snavley, Mort Turner, Dick Smith

## **MANY VISITORS DURING ROMPEX**

We were most pleased to welcome quite a few visitors to the RMPL during ROMPEX. One of the most noteworthy visitors was Bob Lamb, Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society. Almost to a person these people were amazed at what has been accomplished in such a short time. In many cases these visitors promised to send materials that they had accumulated for the library - in many cases materials that will extend the coverage of the library. It's fun to show a first time visitor around the library and to hear their comments of amazement.

## **ADULT BEGINNING STAMP COLLECTING CLASS PLANNED**

We plan to give an Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting class this Fall. While the exact dates are not known at this time it is expected that the class will be on Saturday afternoons from 1-4 starting in September and continuing into October. If you know of someone who would be interested in taking such a class please encourage them call the RMPL at 303-759-9921 and get their name on the list. The size of the class will be kept small for more personal attention. This is for beginners - we literally start with "this is a stamp" and go from there. This is a service of the RMPL and there is no charge for the class.

## **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

With each issue of The Scribblings some of you will receive information regarding your membership in the RMPL. For those who have renewed your membership recently, you will receive a new membership card. For those of you whose membership is about to expire, or has expired, you will be receiving a 1st Reminder, a second Reminder or a Final Reminder. We hope that you will respond promptly and generously.

We have found that when a person visits the RMPL for the first time it is almost a given that they will really consider membership. The thing that we need our current members to do is to let their friends know about the RMPL or even better, bring their philatelic friends to visit the library. Letting people know that we are here seems to be a big problem and you can help. I'm sure that with a little effort on your part we could increase the membership to the RMPL quite easily.

The following are new RMPL members:

Gary Schrader	Martha Brummett
Robert E. Lamb	Daniel R. Seigle
Arline Goebel	W. David Ripley, III
Janice & Larry Weinstock	

*...What's Happening at the RMPL...*

*"Come and enjoy the activities"*

**JULY 2000**

Mondays: July 10, 17, 24, 31 Open 10-4  
Tuesdays: July 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4  
Wednesdays: July 5, 12, 19, 26, Open 10-4  
Thursdays: July 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 2-8  
Fridays: July 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4  
Saturdays: July 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4  
July 1 - RMPL Closed  
July 3 - RMPL Closed  
July 4 - RMPL Closed  
July 5 - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program  
July 6 - Meeting - 7:00 PM RMPL Board  
July 8 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM  
Program by Ron Mitchell  
"The Denver Eagles"  
July 8 - Meeting 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society  
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter  
July 12 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club  
July 19 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Arapahoe Stamp Club  
July 15 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Philately Group  
July 29 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
China Stamp Society

**AUGUST 2000**

Mondays: August 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4  
Tuesdays: August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4  
Wednesdays: August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4  
Thursdays: August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Open 2-8  
Fridays: August 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4  
Saturdays: August 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4  
August 2 - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program  
August 9 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club  
August 12 - Second Saturday at the RMPL  
9:00 AM  
Program by Jeff Modesitt - "New Zealand  
Universals"  
August 12 - Meeting - 11:00 AM  
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists  
August 12 - meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society  
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter  
August 19 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Philately Group  
August 22 - Meeting - 7:30 PM  
ROMPEX Committee  
August 26 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
China Stamp Society

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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 materials, are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes. The RMPL is an Internal Revenue Service designated 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

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