

Scribblings



...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Vol. 8 - No. 2
Phone - 303 - 759-9921

2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224
www.collectors-mall.com/philib/RMPL.htm

March - April, 2000
E-Mail - rmpl@uswest.net

L.A.T.I.

Part 1

by Sergio Lugo
RMPL Volunteer

So what does a form of coffee have to do with a philatelic article destined for the readership of SCRIBBLINGS. Not much, I can tell you - unless you're sipping it while reading this article and its continuation in March-April issue of SCRIBBLINGS. But the subject being discussed here is a short lived airline (and its postal history legacy) that flew the transatlantic route at the onset of the Second World War. So go ahead and pour that cup of java and enjoy it while reading on.

In the late 1930s, Italy sought to join the ranks of other European nations with Transatlantic connections. Exploratory talks involving the development of airline service from Rome took place in the mid-1930s, with an experimental flight flown in March, 1938 between Rome and Buenos Aires, Argentina. In March, 1939, Argentina granted permission for landing and mail transport rights, followed in turn by Brazil in December 1938 and the granting of a route in July, 1939. Initially known as Ala Littoria Transatlantica (ALT), the fledgling airline was renamed Linee Aeree Transcontinentali Italiane S.A. (LATI for short).

To contend with the disruption of services resulting from the Second World War, Italy's (a then neutral nation) LATI took up the slack resulting from the inability of the German Lufthansa and French Air France airlines to operate. The route involved flight over neutral territory, specifically: Seville (Spain), Villa Cisneros (Rio de Oro, Spanish Sahara), Sal Island (Cape Verde Isles), Natal (Brazil) and Recife (Brazil). The airline used Savoia-Marchetti aircraft capable of carrying 200 kilos of mail. The 12/21/39 inauguration of service involved almost simultaneous departures from Rio de Janeiro eastward, and westward from Rome via Seville, Spain. The eastward bound flight, however, met disaster - crashing in North Africa. Note: the only other fatal crash during LATI's existence occurred in January, 1941.

Twice a month service followed for the next 6 months, with service reduced to once a month in June, 1940. To facilitate mail transfer, agreements were reached with other Latin American airlines regarding the transport and handling of LATI air mail. Within Brazil, most LATI mail was transported aboard CONDOR flights, thus leading to the CONDOR-LATI connection that enabled both airlines to survive for two more years.



Figure 1: First flight cover from the inauguration of LATI service to South America, the piece was cancelled in Rome on the 19th, received the LATI cancellation of the 21st, and taken aboard the west bound flight.

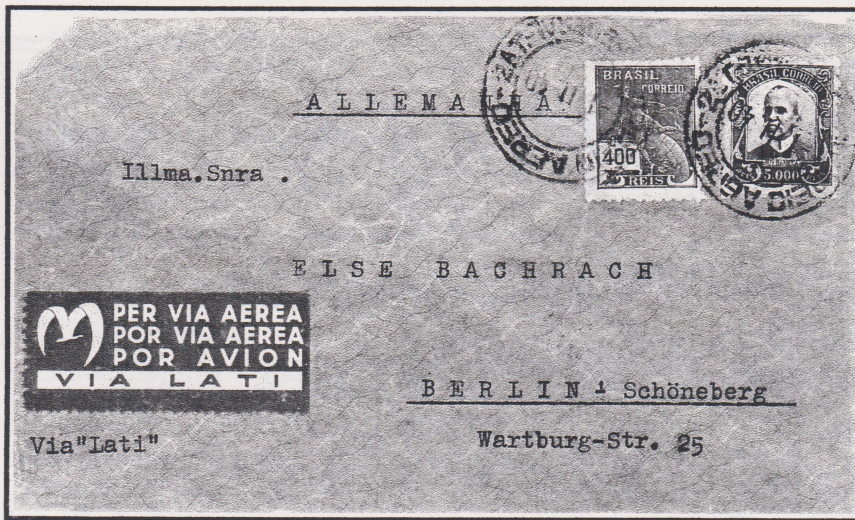


Figure 2: November, 1940 CONDOR-LATI flight. Brazilian air mail rates remained fixed at the levels established in 1939 for foreign destination service, that is 5400 Reis for service to Europe. Note the gull wing LATI etiquette.

Until December, 1940 LATI service was restricted to Brazil, where connections were made with CONDOR. Rates from Italy were 9.75 liras per 5 grams. Rates from Brazil were:

Table I:

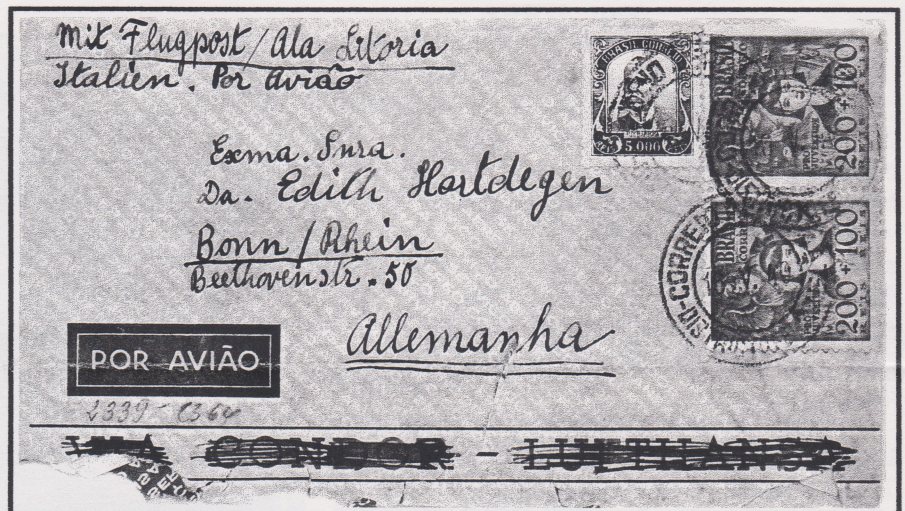
Air Mail Fee	= 5400 reis
Ordinary rate	= 700 reis
Registration fee	= 1300 reis

Italian rates for service to Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay consisted of:

Table II:

Surface Mail	= 1.25 liras per 5 grams
Air Mail	= 11.75 liras per 5 grams
Registered Mail	= 1.50 liras
Express Mail	= 2.50 liras

Figure 3: The only indication that this is a LATI cover is the "Italian" inscription in the upper corner. Until February, 1940 mailers were required by Brazilian postal regulations to pay a semi-postal tax for child welfare. Aside from the fact that this cover dates to May, 1940 this apparently explains the over franking of the rate by 200 reis and the use of the two semi-postal stamps found on the cover. The cover was censored in Germany.



...To be continued in the May - June issue of "Scribblings"...

News From the RMPL...

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS PLANNED

The educational meetings held on the second Saturday of each month continue to draw an increasing number of people. As has become traditional, the coffee pot is full and the "donut fairy" makes a visit. We realize that to get going in time to arrive at the RMPL for a 9:00 AM meeting on a Saturday morning takes some doing! We set that time purposely - you can come to the meeting and enjoy the philatelic informational hour, and still have time during the rest of the day for your shopping, "honey-do's", or other family activities. We hope that the attendance continues to increase. Pick a program and bring a friend.

The Second Saturday program for March 11th will be a slide presentation given by Jack Willard, assisted by Don Beuthel, on the subject of "Machine Cancellations of Colorado - to 1930". This should be of special interest to Colorado Postal History

collectors.

The Second Saturday program for April 8th will be given by Maury Pautz on the subject of "The Two Great Sieges of Malta". The program should be of interest because few of us know much about that subject.

We are always looking for people to present these Second Saturday Programs. We can arrange to get slides made of your material should you want to do it in a slide format. If you are interested in providing a Second Saturday Program, please contact Don Beuthel at 303-759-9921.

RMPL ELECTION RESULTS

The RMPL Election Committee composed of Bill Braukman, Bob Brown and George Wright has counted the ballots that were returned (over 100) and has declared Sergio Lugo the winner for the open Board of Directors seat created by the untimely death

of Joe Weinman. The rest of the slate of officers was returned to office by an almost unanimous vote. The Board wishes to thank all members who took the time to vote. In addition we want to thank the other five candidates who ran for the open Board position for their willingness to serve the library.

BAD NEWS !!!

We have received some very bad financial news for the RMPL. The Bill which would have provided us property tax relief was proposed to the State House of Representatives by Rep. Steve Johnson. This Bill, HB 1102, would have exempted 501 (c)(3) public libraries from the burden of paying property tax. The RMPL as well as 2 other small libraries would have benefited greatly from passage of this bill.

Several of the RMPL officers appeared before the House of Representatives Finance Committee and the vote was 13 - 0 in favor of the Bill. The Bill was sent to the House Appropriations Committee where it was defeated on a 3 - 8 vote. Those voting in favor of the Bill were: Reps. Steve Tool (R-Ft. Collins), Gayle Berry (R-Grand Junction), and Bob Bacon (D-Ft. Collins). Those voting NO were: Reps. Debbie Allen (R-Aurora), Joyce Lawrence (R-Pueblo), Gary McPherson (R-Aurora), Todd Saliman (D-Boulder), Nancy Spence (R-Littleton), Abel Tapia (D-Pueblo), Val Vigil (D-Pueblo), and Brad Young (R-Lamar).

The financial implication for the RMPL amounts to over \$300 per month which represents over 1/5th of our monthly expenditures. It will take over 250 fifteen dollar memberships just to pay the property taxes each year. This means that we still will not be able to purchase new books for our library and will continue to have to be dependent upon contributions of the new material.

We are greatly disappointed because we had such high hopes that the inequality of the tax application would be corrected. No public library should have to pay taxes!! We will have to try again to correct this.

We do want to publicly thank Rep. Johnson for his efforts on our behalf. He has indicated that if the membership of the House Appropriations Committee changes he would give thought to reintroducing this issue. Needless to say we will keep in contact with Rep. Johnson and will continue to work to get property tax relief.

DONATIONS TO RMPL CONTINUE

Those of us who are actively involved with the RMPL on a daily basis continue to be amazed at the generosity demonstrated by the philatelic community. We continue to receive donations from literally all over the world. These donations may be in the form of boxes of philatelic literature, or they may be an envelope of used postage stamps for our RMPL Kids Program. They may be the latest issue of a periodical, or they may be a copy of the newest philatelic book

published. They may be mint U. S. stamps for postage, or a collection that they inherited. They may be in the form of cash, or they may be in the form of furniture or equipment for which the RMPL may have a use. Each donation, no matter what form, no matter how large or small, is deeply appreciated.

As I have indicated before, we like to acknowledge receipt of the donated material with a letter. This can be used to verify your donation with the IRS since the RMPL is a 501 (c)(3) public charity and such donations may be deductible on your taxes. Often donations just appear with no indication as to the source of the donation. We thank all of you who are in this anonymous category.

During the past several months we have received donations from the following: Topical Philatelists In Colorado, Scandinavian Collectors Club, SESCAL, Robert Wolfe, Colin Spong, Michael C. O'Reilly, Jim Davenport, United Postal Stationery Society, Steven Peckar, Brian Kelly, Norm Ritchie, Larry Zier, John Gaudia, Tim Bartshe, Anton M. Kofranek, Jeanne Garnett, Peter Adgie, Joann Curran, Mort Turner, Heather Gardens Stamp Club, H. Carl Anderson, Jr., Stan Luft, Jeffrey D. Beller, Eliot A. Landau, Sherri Jennings, Civil Censorship Study Group, Steve Wineteer, Dasa Metzler, Terence Quirke, Max Hickox, Bob Brown, Shirley Pope, William Crabb, Virginia L. Weigot, Tom Teneyck, Don Beuthel, Peg Swanson, Bill Dunn, Joe Thompson, and Robert and Carol Mitchell of Apple Travel.

RMPL KIDS STAMP CLUB

As indicated in the last issue of Scribblings, a youth stamp club has been started under the direction of Felice Vainer. After several meetings it appears that things are going well and they are looking for new members. The kids are having fun and learning about stamps. They meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM at the RMPL. The boys and girls of all ages are sorting through stamps, sharing collections and stories, and enjoying this fun hobby. For additional information please contact Felice Vainer at 303-751-7657.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

With each issue of the Scribblings we send out membership renewal information. Some of you will be receiving our First Notice, or Second Notice, or Final Notice. We hope that you will renew your RMPL membership with promptness and generosity. Those who have renewed recently should be receiving your current membership card.

The following members are new RMPL members:

Craig Anderson	Gerald Derksen
Ned R. Husman	Jeffrey C. Lindstedt
Harold G. Lord	Glenn W. McDonald
Randy Nilsen	David W. Percel
Jack Sayers	Jennifer Suggs

RMPL PRESIDENT GOES TO JAIL...

Yes, it's true, President Don goes to jail on March 16 for Muscular Dystrophy. Bail has been set at \$1000.00. PLEASE HELP BY SENDING YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE RMPL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - payable to Muscular Dystrophy.

ATTENTION, MEXICO & LATIN AMERICA ENTHUSIASTS!!

Join us for the initial meeting of the Mexico/Latin America Philately Group on Saturday, March 18th at 10:00 AM at the RMPL. Let's see what we can get going. I'll bring donuts. Questions? Contact Peter Laux at 303-388-4659 or Laux@mho.net.

RMPL ON THE ROAD

The RMPL would like to thank the Cherrelyn Stamp Club for providing a table for the RMPL at the recent CHERPEX. We will have a table at the upcoming WESTPHILIA on March 25th & 26th at the Lakeside Mall and we thank the West Side Stamp Club in advance for their generosity in providing this.

At the present time we are working very hard getting lots ready for the Silent Auction at ROMPEX on May 19, 20, and 21. It looks like we will have many good items for your bidding pleasure, but we could use donations of some nice cover items of all kinds. Last year people said there weren't enough cover items on which to bid at the auction.

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

"Come and enjoy the activities"

MARCH 2000

Mondays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: March 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4
Thursdays: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 2-8
Fridays: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Open 10-4
Saturdays: March 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4
March 1 - Aurora Stamp Club 6:30 Trading
7:30 Meeting and Program
March 2 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
RMPL Board of Directors
March 4 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
March 8 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
March 9 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
TOPICAL Philatelists In Colorado
Program: Creating a TOPIC Program -
Photographing Your Stamps- Roger Rydberg
March 11 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Jack Willard - "Machine Cancellations
of Colorado to 1930"
March 11 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Club
USS Colorado Chapter
March 18 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Philately Group
March 18 - Meeting - 1:00PM RMPL Kids Stamp Club
March 25 - Meeting - 2:00 PM China Stamp Society
March 28 - Meeting - 7:30 PM ROMPEX Committee

APRIL 2000

Mondays: April 3, 10, 17, 24 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: April 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: April 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4
Thursdays: April 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 2-8
Fridays: April 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4
Saturdays: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4
April 1 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
April 5 - Aurora Stamp Club 6:30 Trading
7:30 Meeting and Program
April 8 - Second Saturday at the RMPL 9:00 AM
Program by Maury Pautz - "The Two Great
Sieges of Malta"
April 8 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
Rocky Mountain Aero Philatelists
April 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
USS Colorado Chapter
April 12 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
April 13 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
TOPICAL Philatelists In Colorado
April 15 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Philately Group
April 15 - Meeting - 1:00 PM RMPL Kids Stamp Club
April 22 - Meeting - 2:00 PM China Stamp Society
April 25 - Meeting - 7:30 PM ROMPEX Committee

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 more than 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.

RMPL Board of Directors

President: Donald G. Beuthel Vice-President: Jim Kilbane Secretary: William S. Dunn Treasurer: Robert Blatherwick
Members at Large: Sergio Lugo - Ron Mitchell - James L. Ozment - John H. Willard