

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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A NEW COLLECTING FRONTIER

By Frederick H. Campbell - RMPL Member

At one time or another in our philatelic careers, we reach an impasse. Financial constraints persuade us to forgo expanding a given collection. Sometimes we are fortunate enough to reach completion, but then often we lose interest in a country or topic, because there are no new items to acquire and to study. The profusion of new issues, often produced to empty collectors' pocketbooks, turns us away from certain countries and topics. Is there a financial solution to this sometimes frustrating dilemma?

Well, for openers you can hit up the boss for a raise, sell your extra car, hock the family jewels, strike it rich in the stock market, or make a million inventing a new mouse trap. These, and most other alternatives are generally not practical. What to do? Obviously one seeks an alternative country or topic. One such alternative is railway parcel stamps.



Danish RR Parcel Stamp
What's this stamp got to do with railroads?

In Europe (including all of the Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom), in Australia and New Zealand, and in many countries in Africa and Central and South America, parcel transportation is controlled by railways, now most being publicly owned. Since their invention, stamps have been sold by various railways and affixed to packages or way bills to indicate payment for transporting parcels to their destinations.

In United States, from early 1844 to July 1, 1845, private carrier companies introduced local stamps to indicate payment of fees on mail and packages. However, the government mail monopoly forced the private mail routes out of business.

Prior to the consolidation of railways under public ownership, in most countries by the middle twentieth-century, private railway companies produced their own stamps to indicate payment of parcel rates. The United States was generally an exception, except for the Kahalui Railroad Company on the island of Maui, Hawaii. That railroad used engraved parcel stamps with designs dominated by numerals. Over the years the stamps became quite valuable, an exception to the rule that railway parcel stamps generally are nominal in price, due to lack of demand among collectors.

In 1912, the United States Congress authorized production of Parcel Post Stamps to pay fees on fourth class, parcel mail. This set of 12 stamps appeared in 1913 along with a set of 5 Parcel Post Postage Due stamps, but soon thereafter, the Post Office Department changed its mind about the need for parcel post stamps. Parcel post stamps remained on sale, but regular postage stamps and parcel post stamps also were authorized for use both on first class and fourth class mail. No further parcel post stamps were produced by the U. S. after 1913 and gradually they disappeared from use.

In the United States, in the early decades of the twentieth century, railroads under contract with the postal service dominated the movement of parcels. After air transport became firmly established following World War II, parcel movements by rail declined steadily. Only recently have parcel movements by trains increased by use of flat cars to move United Parcel Service truck trailers inter-city. Today, most parcels still move inter-city by trucks or by airplanes. Railway parcel stamps never caught on in America,

In other parts of the world railway parcel stamps appeared in profusion because railways dominated parcel movements. For instance, in Belgium and Italy, parcel post stamps may be used interchangeably for both parcels and letter mail. As a consequence these stamps are listed in the Scott catalogs. The Italian parcel are numeral types, but the Belgian parcel stamps, especially the modern issues, are colorful depictions of railway scenes. For the most part, early French parcel stamps are also dull, numeral designs. However, after 1941, the French featured locomotives. The most recent such issue appeared in 1960. Packages traveling on the French National Railways still carry parcel stamps as franking. Parcel stamps from former French Colonies and overseas departments are also basically pictorials, many with railway scenes.

The countries in North Africa which have issued parcel stamps, such as Algeria, Morocco, and South



One of a series of 12 United States Parcel Post Stamps.

Book for Market 1941
Don Bergthol



Danish Private Railroad Parcel Stamps

Denmark leads the pack with the most colorful railway parcel stamp emissions. Before consolidation of most of the private railways into the Danish State Railway (Dansk Statsbaner of DSB) there was a profusion of smaller railroads in addition to the state-owned lines. Each issued their own railway parcel stamps. Many are very colorful, replete with a variety of railroad scenes and tourist attractions. Again, if one is a railroad buff, station cancellations are fun to collect and to locate their origins on a railroad map of the country.

If you crave a new collecting frontier, railway parcel stamps may be just your ticket. Scandinavian railway parcel stamps will make a great beginning, but don't turn down the stamps of any nation. You will find that even prosaic numerals with clear station cancellations will give you hours of pleasure as you trace the various routes. Furthermore, there is a wealth of literature on railway parcel stamps to guide you.

News From the RMPL...

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

Second Saturday programs continue to attract good numbers of RMPL members and their guests even though they begin at 9:00 AM - an ungodly hour to be somewhere on Saturday mornings. Nobody in their right mind would schedule a program at that time! That is why we decided to set that time for the monthly RMPL Philatelic Education program - no competition. As has become the custom the coffee pot is working hard and to "sweeten" everyone's morning grumpiness, the donut "fairy" always makes a visit. If you haven't made it to a 2nd Saturday program, we hope that you will make an effort during May or June. The programs look most interesting.

The 2nd Saturday program for May 12 will be given by Herman Axelrod. Herman is going to educate us on the subject of "Collecting Precancels - Beginnings to Modern".

The 2nd Saturday program for June 9 is one that we had scheduled earlier but had to cancel. Betty and Jack Clark, long time residents of Trump, Co, assisted by Colorado Postal Historian, Erwin Engert will tell us about the "History of Trump, CO". This program would be a must for Colorado history buffs.

If you are interested in doing a 2nd Saturday program, or if you know of someone who should do a program, please contact Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328 or at the RMPL - 303-759-9921. We are always looking for persons with a degree of expertise in a some area of philately to help us learn, about their collecting area through these 2nd Saturday educational programs.

Africa feature railway scenes. On the other hand, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand will not receive prizes for artistic design of the year. For that matter, neither will those of Sweden and Norway with their stodgy numerals.

But design is not everything. For a railroad fan, who is also a stamp collector, cancellations, even on the numeral stamps, can be a fascinating sideline. Particularly interesting are socked-on-the-nose railway station cancels. In this connection, one of the most interesting countries to collect is Finland. There are an infinite number of varieties of the Finnish railway parcel stamps, both for the older private lines and for those lines currently consolidated into the national railroad. If you are hot for plate and printing varieties, you will love Finland's parcel stamps.

SILENT AUCTION AT ROMPEX

While you are at ROMPEX on May 18, 19 & 20 take time to visit the RMPL table. We will be having our annual RMPL Silent Auction during the show. Since this auction of donated material is a good part of our annual budget, we urge that you look

at these new lots and bid early and often. Try to take some of this home with you at the end of the auction. The remainders from last years auction will be available at a discount from the previous indicated minimum bid price, also. At least, stop and say hello.

RMPL'S BEST KEPT SECRET

by Dalene Thomas - RMPL Audio Visual Coordinator

One of the best kept secrets of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is the audio visual department. The widow of Bob Gonring, Diana Gonring recently donated his collection of slide programs to the library. The slide shows have been put into carousel slide trays and matched with scripts and/or tapes and are ready to use. These 10 new programs bring the total number of slide shows now available to 41. In addition, there are 9 trays of Colorado Railway slides.

The new slide programs include such varied topics as Art on Stamps, Beasts and Demons, Fishing, the Heart, Rubens, Public Health, and more. Be sure to check these out the next time you are in the library. These programs are great for use at club meetings. In addition to slides, the audio visual section includes 4 computer programs related to stamp collecting and a recent auction catalog on disk. There are 14 different

video tapes that be checked out, also. Don't overlook this valuable part of the library.

The RMPL is pleased to accept donations of slide shows. This is the best way to share with fellow collectors the efforts you have expended on putting together a slide program. For more information on the audio visual section of the RMPL or to make donations to this department contact Dalene Thomas at the library or at Dalene 1@qwest.net.

DONATIONS, DONATIONS, DONATIONS

The Volunteers at the RMPL have been hard pressed to keep up with the processing of all the material that has been donated, recently. We are so pleased to have this type of problem. Our collection of books, periodicals, and reference auction catalogs continues to grow. We are getting inquiries and donations from people who have heard about the RMPL from somebody. Many are people we know, but just as many donations come from names we don't recognize. We continue to accept all types of material related to philately. If we don't need it, we try to sell it using the proceeds to support the RMPL. If we can't sell it, we try to give it to interested persons. Very little goes out the back door. All of these donations, whether large or small are deeply appreciated.

The following generous persons have made donations to the RMPL during the past several months: Sergio Lugo, Ron Mitchell, Jack Dear, Roger Rydberg, Owen Robb, Justin Leenheer, Dorothy Crockett, Ruth Willett, Dasa Metzler, Jan Marie Belle, Tim Bartsche, Fred Campbell, Roger Cichorz, Korean Economic Institute of America, Art Weaver, Harold Lord, Peter Adgie, Ed Schenck, Bob Wolfe, Joe Crosby, Mark Silberman, Stan Luft, Charlene Plowman, Bill Rapp, Don Lovelace, Tom Crawford, Winifred Amsden, Silvin Landman, Loren & Miriam Brodahl, Colin Spong, Nancy Denney, Don Beuthel, Phil Beutel, Ernest Izarrd, Lloyd Richards, Bob Brown, The Collector's Club of Denver, and the United Postal Stationery Society.

Frequently, material shows up and we don't know who was the donor. We thank each and every one of you, even if sometimes we can't properly respond to and publish the acknowledgement of the donation.

If you know of someone who needs to dispose of philatelic material please have them contact the RMPL. We continue to have a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity status with the IRS which means that you may deduct the fair market value of the donation from your taxes if you itemize your contributions on your return.

RMPL'S SECOND BEST KEPT SECRET

As a result of the donations like those mentioned above, the RMPL now has a lot of stamps that are available. While we are not trying to give local stamp dealers competition, many collections have

been received and have been put on to stock pages. You can obtain these for your collections at attractive rates. The more valuable stamps and covers are put into our Silent Auction. We now have a United States section with many nice mint and used stamps. These are available daily at the RMPL. Proceeds go to help pay the costs of keeping the library operating.

Also, we have a large quantity of materials that would be suitable for beginning children's groups. If you know of such a group, please contact Bill Braukman or Dick Smith at the RMPL and we will see that the group receives some material for their use.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Some of you will be receiving a first, second or final renewal notice with this issue of the Scribblings and those of you who have renewed your membership recently should be receiving a new Membership Card. After the third (final) notice members are moved to the inactive list and no longer will receive the Scribblings and other membership privileges.

As you renew, remember that any amount over the basic \$15 membership rate is considered a donation and may be used as a deduction on your income tax. We urge that you respond promptly and generously.

During the past several months the following persons have become members of the RMPL:

Glenn L. Hodson George G. Matson
Roger Trimmer

We ask that RMPL members make a special effort to bring their philatelic friends to visit the RMPL and urge that they become members. Naturally, we think that every stamp collector should be a member of the RMPL and for your help toward that end would be appreciated.

RMPL/ROMPEX EXHIBITING WORKSHOP

If you looked carefully at the list of RMPL activities for the past 4 months, you noticed that the RMPL and ROMPEX have been sponsoring exhibiting workshops on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. These sessions under the leadership of Tim Bartsche and Greg Frantz, both accredited APS Judges, have been well attended. The idea of the workshops is to help experienced exhibitors to improve and to help beginning exhibitors get off to a good start. Get ready for APEX in September. All interested parties are invited to attend.

RMPL KIDS STAMP CLUB

After the April 21st meeting the RMPL Kids Stamp Club will suspend activities for the summer. Their next meeting will be September 15th. At that time all interested children are invited to participate. For information call Felice Vainer at 303-751-7657.

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

"Come and enjoy the activities"

May, 2001

Mondays: May 7, 14, 21 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4
Thursdays: May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Open 2-8
Fridays: May 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4
Saturdays: May 5, 12, 19 Open 10-4
May 2 - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
May 9 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
May 12 - Second Saturday at the RMPL
9:00 AM - Program by Herman Axelrod
"Collecting Precancels - Beginning to Modern"
May 12 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group
May 12 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
USS Colorado Chapter

May 18, 19, 20

RMPL Silent Auction at ROMPEX

May 26 - RMPL CLOSED
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
May 28 - RMPL CLOSED
MEMORIAL DAY

June, 2001

Mondays: June 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: June 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: June 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4
Thursdays: June 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 2-8
Fridays: June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4
Saturdays: June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4
June 2 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
June 6 - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
June 9 - 2nd Saturday at the RMPL
9:00 AM - Program by Betty & Jack Clark and
Erwin Engert - "History of Trump, CO"
June 9 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico / Latin America Philatelic Group
June 9 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
June 9 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society -
USS Colorado Chapter
June 12 - Collector's Club of Denver
June 13 - Meeting - 7:00
Denver Germany Stamp Club
June 23 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
ROMPEX Exhibiting Workshop
June 23 - 2:00 PM - China Stamp Society
June 26 - 7:00 PM - ROMPEX Committee

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

will be in attendance at:

ROMPEX 2001

Join us on May 18 - 20, 2001

Holiday Inn - DIA - John Q. Hammons Trade Center
I-70 at Chambers Road (Exit 283) Aurora, CO

Please Help Support your PHILATELIC LIBRARY
by BIDDING in the

RMPL Annual Silent Auction

Catalogs are available from: RMPL, 2038 So Pontiac Wy, Denver, CO 80224

Auction lots will be available for viewing daily and will close at NOON Sunday, May 20, 2001.

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Donald G. Beuthel, Editor

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