

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



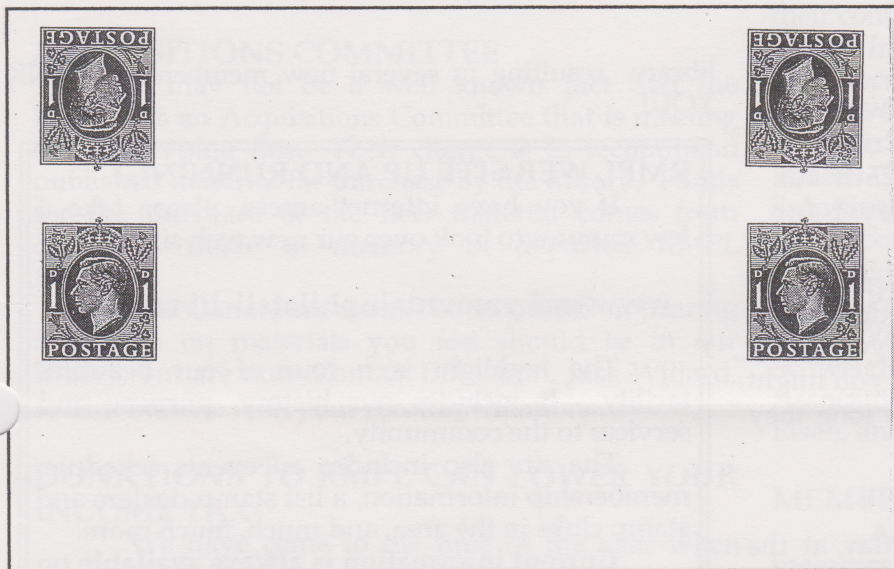
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November - December, 2001
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Printed To Private Order

by Jeff Modesitt, RMPL Member



Time was running out. My allotted three hours at ROMPEX 2001 had been exceeded by a full hour and there were still two dealers on my list. With a wife and friends expecting me shortly, I made the only decision possible. I stayed to finish my appointed rounds. ROMPEX 2001 comes but once a year and, without fail, yields some unusual or unexpected item. So far this year, I had not been blessed with that special something so the decision to stay was really made for me.

My focus was on Great Britain's postal stationary. It is not an area that appears to have garnered a large following and accurate, current information is difficult to find. Higgins and Gage is the English language

standard reference, but it was last updated in 1986. Michels, the German catalog is the most current, but is more difficult to use.

Far from being a deterrent, these factors attracted me to British Postal Stationary. My reasoning suggested that, since there were relatively few collectors who specialized in this material, there would be more material for me to sort through. My experience at ROMPEX 2001 now suggested differently. Four and a half hours of solid searching had yielded a paltry crop of dirty, scroungy covers that only a desperate collector could pretend to love. As I walked away from the last dealer, I knew that my family's ire would not be balanced by the warm feeling of success.

"Do you collect proofs?" The question almost didn't register, but as so many of us do, I automatically reached out for the proffered stack of material. On the top were two clear envelopes containing Great Britain 1/2d orange and 1d blue King George VI stamps. They very much did look like proofs, but were unlike anything I had come across before. Each envelope contained a 10 inch by 10 1/2 inch buff colored sheet with four unused stamps. Each sheet contained two pairs of stamps and was folded in such a way that the two tête-bêche were emphasized. The pairs were about four inches apart.

The stamps were unidentified, but I noted the price was clearly marked. "What are these?" I inquired.

"Don't know" came the answer.

"You're pretty proud of the price. Must be based on something."

"Nope. Just looked really unusual. Been in that pile forever."

It was just at this inopportune time that I recalled my waiting family and friends. Some gentle negotiation was called for, but that takes time—time I didn't have. This was, however, a very unusual item that would give me the warm feeling of success. The warm feeling won out over the wallet. I paid the price and headed for home.

My wife is a lot smarter than I am and knew my propensity to lose track of time while wandering

through the stamp bourse. She was delighted to see me home a hour earlier than expected. This was equivalent to winning a triple header. I was not in the dog house, found an unusual item, and could look forward to finding out whether my instincts were right or I was just one of those suckers of which Barnum was so fond.

The sleuthing proved a little more difficult than expected. I overlooked the listing in Higgins and Gage (KE 20 and 21), but found a very interesting reference to the material in an appendix of A. K. Huggins' British Postal History printed in 1970. Both of the items were products of a man named Victor Marsh. No, they were not forgeries, but seem to fall into the category of material "Printed to Private Order." These particular stamps were letter press postal stationary dies. Normally there are regulations covering the the placement of stamps on large sheets that are intended to be cut into wrappers or post cards. Many of these are printed and sold in the British Isles. Marsh was somehow able to interpret the regulations in such a manner that his Printed to Private Order sheets could be cut in ways that produced multiple impressions that looked like proofs.

Marsh evidently made a good business of selling these unusually cut items primarily because collectors thought they were proofs. When sales dwindled, he even tried to qualify their postal validity in "remote islands." Seems like Mr. Marsh was quite an operator who somehow managed to avoid the wrath of the usually staid British regulators. Nevertheless, Huggins seemed a little annoyed that Marsh's tête-bêche multiples even exist. I, however, am delighted and hope to find one of his postally used wrappers at next year's ROMPEX 2001.

News From the RMPL...

Please notice that the RMPL will be officially closed on November 22nd for Thanksgiving - December 24th & 25th for Christmas - December 31st & January 1 for New Years.

There is always a possibility that some of the Volunteers may show up to get some work done, even though we are officially closed. Should you really need to use the library on any of these days you might call ahead to see if anyone is here and how long they plan to stay before you make the trip.

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS

The November 10th Second Saturday at the RMPL program starting at 9:00 AM will be given by Steve Schweighofer on the subject of "Austrian Revenue and Documentary Stamps".

The December 8th 9:00 AM Second Saturday at the RMPL program will be given by Steve Schweighofer on the subject of "Christkindl"

All members and interested collectors are urged to participate. As usual the coffee pot will be "perking" and the donut fairy is expected to make an appearance. Hopefully you will make an appearance, also. These educational meetings are proving to be quite popular so get here early so that you can find a parking space in our lot. Better yet, bring a friend and share the ride!

RMPL AT APEX

The Board of the RMPL would like to publicly thank the Aurora Stamp Club for making a table available to the RMPL at APEX. This is always a good show and the RMPL was pleased with the results of participating in the show. We had a chance to meet many of our members and friends and were able to talk to people who did not know about the

library resulting in several new members. THANK YOU!

RMPL WEB SITE UP AND RUNNING!

If you have internet access, please take a few minutes to look over our new web site at:

www.rockymountainphilatelibrary.com

The highlight is a tour of our beautiful facility. It includes our history, purpose and services to the community.

The site also includes an events schedule, membership information, a list stamp dealers and stamp clubs in the area, and much, much more.

Current information is always available on the Ron's Chatter page. Check it out...

Since the site is brand new, not everything may be working. If you find a problem, contact Roger Rydberg at rmpl@att.net or click in the mail link at the bottom of each page.

We need your help in building our "links" page.

- Do you have a personal web page?
- Do you have a favorite philatelic web page?
- Do you have another favorite web site?

Send the complete address to Roger at the above address or submit it directly from the "Links" page.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW!

Several of our current Volunteers have indicated a desire to cut back on the hours that they are working at the RMPL thus we are in need of some additional Volunteers who can work on a regularly scheduled basis.

Openings are as follows: 2nd, 4th, 5th Wednesdays 1 - 4 PM; Thursdays, 2 - 5 PM; Fridays, 1 - 4 PM; starting in January, Mondays 1 - 4 PM. In

addition we can always use Volunteers to cover when others have to miss a shift. No experience needed. We will train. Call Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328 if you are interested in serving as a Volunteer for a three hour shift on a regularly scheduled basis at the RMPL.

EXHIBIT SEMINAR

The exhibit seminar continues to be held every fourth Saturday from 10:00 AM until? This very informal get together deals with every facet of exhibiting from how to get started and beginning principles to advanced tweezing of gold medal exhibits. Led by National and International exhibitors, Greg Frantz and Tim Bartshe, it brings together advanced and beginning collectors sharing pages from collections and turning them into pages of exhibits to be shared by all. Come and join in on the fun.

ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE

It may not be a well known fact that the RMPL has an Acquisitions Committee that is meeting as I am typing this. Their charge is to recommend published material for purchase by the library. Funds for the purchase of the new material comes from donations made in memory of departed RMPL Friends.

The Committee would be interested in hearing from you on materials you feel should be in our library, but are not. Contact Bill Dunn, Jack Willard, or Tim Bartshe with your recommendations.

DONATIONS TO RMPL CAN LOWER YOUR INCOME TAX

We have come to the time of the year when many people think of maximizing their deductions on their income tax. Should you want to donate material, or money, to the RMPL and use the deduction for your 2001 taxes we must receive it by December 29th (since we are closed on the 31st).

Most of you realize by now that the RMPL has a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity status with the IRS. This means that the fair market value of the material donated may be taken as a deduction on your income taxes if you itemize your deductions. If you live out of town, ship the donation us and the shipping cost is part of the value. If you live in the metropolitan area bring the material to the library. If you can't bring it to the library, let us know and we will try to make arrangements to pick up the donation. We would be most happy to work with you on any donations.

DONATIONS CONTINUE

As the Fall season has arrived and many people have started working on their philatelic collections again after enjoying other summer activities, donations to the RMPL have picked up again. We continue to receive donations of philatelic

material from all over the country and from several foreign countries. We accept all types of material related to philately ranging from books and periodicals to stamp collections and accumulations to philatelic memorabilia of all kinds.

If we don't need to keep the items that are donated for use in the library, we try to sell what we can to help pay the bills. If it is something we can't sell, we try to give it to a collector who will appreciate receiving it. Sometimes the material will be suitable for giving to beginning collectors or to our RMPL Kid's Stamp Club. Seldom does anything go out the back door!

We are pleased to report that we have received what we call a large contribution from Bill Rapp and one from his wife, Jean. They specified that the money be applied to pay down the mortgage, which we were most happy to do. We thank them for their continued generous support.

In addition during the past several months we have received donations from the following persons: Barbara Kean, Sergio Lugo, Mathew P. Zieringer, Jack Willard, Robley Rhine, Bob Wolf, Glenn Mallory, James Chapman, Ruth Willett, Ellengail Beuthel, Scandinavian Collector's Club Library, Jack Moyers, Jim Moorman, Steve Wineteer, Jerry Eggleston, Jim Lays, Ed Villano, Ward Crowley, Joe Neri, Terry Elmer, Postal History Foundation, Jim Johnson, Eldon Todd, Vi Weinman, Max Hickox, Joe Crosby, Steve Schweighofer, David Weisberg, American Topical Association, Empire Group, Joe Lambert, David Eisen, and Herman Axelrod.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

As a result of a recent mailing to RMPL members who had let their membership lapse, we are pleased to welcome the following persons who have chosen to reinstate their membership:

Larry Eigel Don Finley Robert L. Ortega

During the past two months the following persons have made the wise decision to join the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library:

Bill Crabbs Empire Group (Albert Chang)

Dottie Kaschube Barbara L. Keen

Clarence Rybowiak Kirby & Melinda Wright

We are pleased to receive them as members of the group and urge that they avail themselves of the opportunities that the RMPL offers. They will be receiving their membership cards with this mailing, as will those members who have renewed since the last mailing.

Some of you will be receiving a first, second, or third renewal notice with this issue of the Scribblings. After the third notice members are moved to the inactive list and will no longer receive Scribblings and other membership benefits.

As you renew, remember that anything above the basic minimum membership rate of \$15 per year is considered a contribution by the IRS and may be used

as a deduction when figuring your income tax. We urge that you respond promptly and generously.

ARTICLES AND PROGRAMS WANTED

We are starting to plan for the next year for our Second Saturday Programs and for the feature articles for Scribblings. If any of you would like to

suggest persons who have information that they should be sharing with us, or if you are interested in volunteering to do either of these endeavors, please leave a message at the library or contact Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328.

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

"Come and enjoy the activities"

NOVEMBER, 2001

Daily Hours

Mondays.....Open 10-4
Tuesdays.....Open 10-4
Wednesdays.....Open 10-4
Thursdays.....Open 2-8
Fridays.....Open 10-4
Saturdays.....Open 10-4

Special Events and Club Meetings

November 3 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
November 3 - Meeting - - 2:00 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
November 7 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
November 10 - - 9:00 AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
Program by Steve Schweighofer
"Austria Revenue & Documentary Stamps"
November 10 - 10:00 AM
Meeting - Mexico/Latin America Philatelic
Group
November 10 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancel Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter
November 14 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
November 17 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
RMPL Kid's Stamp Club
November 22 - RMPL Closed Thanksgiving
November 24 - 10:00 AM
ROMPEX/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
November 24 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
China Stamp Society
November 27 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
ROMPEX Committee

~ ~ Check out our Web Site ~ ~

~ Current news and events ~

[www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com/
Ron'sChatter.html](http://www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com/Ron'sChatter.html)

DECEMBER, 2001

Daily Hours

Mondays.....Open 10-4
Tuesdays.....Open 10-4
Wednesdays.....Open 10-4
Thursdays.....Open 2-8
Fridays.....Open 10-4
Saturdays.....Open 10-4

Special Events and Club Meetings

December 1 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
December 1 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Colorado Postal History Society
December 5 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
December 7 - Annual Volunteer's Holiday Party
~ Call the library for details ~
December 8 - 9:00 AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
Program by Steve Schweighofer
"Christkindl"
December 8 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group
December 8 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
December 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
USS Colorado Chapter
December 12 - 7:00 PM
Meeting - Denver Germany Stamp Club
December 15 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
RMPL Kid's Stamp Club
December 22 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
ROMPEX/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
December 22 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
China Stamp Society
**December 24th & 25th - Closed
Christmas Holiday**
**December 31st & January 1st - Closed
New Years Holiday**

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 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
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