

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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September - October, 2001  
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## Is It or Isn't It? - A \$70,000 Stamp!!! (??)

The range of services supplied by your *Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library* probably isn't too well known to many of the members. Most individuals think of it only as a resource for catalogs, periodicals, or handbooks detailing some specialized phase of philately and unquestionably this constitutes the major use. We do appraisals, mentoring, sorting and cataloguing, but how many are aware that we do expertizing of stamps, at least on a limited basis. There are no experts like Herbert Bloch, Pat Herst, or Jacques Schiff available to the members, but there are individuals that are extremely knowledgeable in many philatelic areas.

Recently, a member of the RMPL asked us to "expertize" a stamp for a friend of his. The friend, claiming to be an accomplished philatelist, thought it might be a US Scott 596, which is perforated 11 X 11 and is a rotary printing. This one-cent green stamp of the 1922 Series (aka 4th Bureau issues) is one of the rarest of the US stamps and catalogs \$70,000.

When asked to "expertize" the stamp, we considered it a great honor to even be considered. After all, only about 12 stamps of this catalog number have ever been found, so when our local "expert" agreed to look at it, he immediately went to the RMPL stacks and began searching for information to use in confirming the characteristics of the stamp.

Being a US stamp, he turned first to the publications of The United States Stamp Society, known for decades as the Bureau Issues Association. Sure enough, there were two well-written articles that would be a great help.



By the time the actual stamp arrived from Maryland, our "expert", being the excitable type, could hardly contain himself. Let's remember all the characteristics: Green, actually a grayish green, not yellow green; Rotary printing, not flat plate; size of design 19 1/4 X 22 1/2 mm.; perforated 11 X 11; Kiusalas measurements should be 11-72 around (if you don't know what this means, look it up in the US Specialist Index); known with old style KANSAS CITY, MO precancel or else no precancel; only known used, not mint.

Using the RMPL binocular microscope with 7-45 power magnification, and with the PHIL-A-METER gauge with 1/4 mm distances ready, the Kiusalas gauge on the microscope platen, our "expert" gingerly slipped the tongs into the envelope to remove the alleged \$70,000 stamp. What's this - a local Union Bridge, MD local precancel on the stamp? Humph! Never known before with this precancel, but why not. All things are possible. The green color doesn't really have the grayish green cast. Must be the overhead fluorescent lights. Laying the millimeter gauge over the design under the microscope, it does indeed measure very close to 19 1/4 mm X 22 1/2 mm. Whoa!! Could it be? This is a rotary stamp, not flat plate. Let's measure the perfs using the Kiusalas gauge to see if it has been counterfeited. Hey, this doesn't measure 11-72, it measures 11-70. Something is not right. Check it again. Yep, it's 11-70. Well, what about the vertical perfs? They should be 11-72. Son of a gun, they aren't even perf. 11. They are 10 1/2 -75. This means that instead of being an 11 X 11 perf stamp, this thing is only an 11 X 10 1/2 perf stamp which is worth its weight in waste paper. A cheap, common stamp of the twenties and thirties! Why did this fellow think he had an 11 X 11 rotary press expensive stamp. Who knows? Bah Humbug!!



What a disappointment! Guess he better cancel the contract for the new Lexus SUV!

*Shown to the left is one of the twelve known Scott No. 569's. This one realized \$88,000.00 in a Siegel auction.*

----- Regnil S. Parclub  
RMPL member

# RMPL



## News From the RMPL...

### RMPL CLOSED

Please notice that the RMPL will be officially closed on September 1st and 3rd for the Labor day weekend. There is always a possibility that some of the Volunteers may show up to get some work done, even though we are closed. Should you really need to use the library on those two days you might call ahead to see if anyone is here and how long they plan to stay before you make the trip.

Also, please notice that the RMPL will be closed to all persons on September 11th. We are having the carpet cleaned on that day and really don't want anyone walking on the carpet until it is completely dry.

### SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS

Please notice - In order not to interfere with APEX on September 8th, the September Second Saturday will be held on the third Saturday - September 15th.

The September 15th Second Saturday at the RMPL program starting at 9:00 AM will be given by Jack Willard on the subject of, "Domestic Boat Mail". How often do you get a chance to learn about that area of philately?

The October 13th 9:00 AM Second Saturday at the RMPL program will be given by Greg Frantz on the subject of "Postal Reform - 1835 - UPU"

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.

### RMPL STAMP COLLECTING MONTH SPECIALS

On Saturday, October 20th, at 10 AM Bill Dunn will hold the first of our Stamp Collecting Month Specials - a training session on "Identification of the Washington-Franklin series". Here is an opportunity to get help with identification of this difficult series. You may bring samples to try the system.

On Saturday, October 27th, from 10 AM to 1 PM the RMPL will have the second of our Stamp Collecting Month Special. We will have a few very knowledgeable collectors ready to assist you with identification of stamps that you have had difficulty trying to identify. Obviously we are not going to guarantee that we can identify all items but we will try to give you some help.

Just another FREE SERVICE, courtesy of your friendly RMPL.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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 at the RMPL.

### -IN MEMORY OF -

The RMPL lost three good friends during the past two months. We are sorry to report that Charles Teed of Grand Junction died on June 29th. Charlie was most interested in the development of the RMPL, visited us at our old location, and contributed philatelic materials in our early days. His wife Lois recently donated philatelic items to the RMPL after Charlie, who suffered from Alzheimers, went into a care facility.

Col. Marshall Kean, Jr. of Colorado Springs passed away on July 23rd. Marshall also was indeed a friend of the RMPL and supported us with his regular contributions. Marshall was always interested in the progress of the RMPL and always encouraged us to continue to work hard to keep it growing.

Bill Lanskey of Aurora passed away at about the same time. Bill was a long time RMPL member and he used the library. Within the last several years he gave a Second Saturday at the RMPL program on the subject of DOX Covers.

Please keep their families in your prayers and thoughts. Our departed friends will be missed!

### AMERICOVER PARTICIPATION

The RMPL wants to take this opportunity to thank ROMPEX for making their table at the recent AMERICOVER available to the RMPL. Also, thanks should go the American First Day Cover Society for their cooperation in promoting the RMPL during the show.

We met many new people and did a lot of good PR work. We took along some of our FOR SALE material. You would be surprised at the number of 5 cent and 10 cent stamps we sold.

We gave tours through the RMPL during the show and many of those visiting the library were amazed at what has been accomplished and



promised to donate material in their collecting areas.

It was a lot of work, but it was a good weekend!

### DONATIONS, DONATIONS, DONATIONS!

We are pleased to inform you that 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. By now most of you know that we have a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity status with the IRS which means that the fair market value of the donated material may be taken as a deduction on your income tax if you itemize.

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!

During the past several months we have received donations from the following persons: Bill Bruakman, Ron Hill, Mort Turner, Don Beuthel, Lois C. Herrmann, Lloyd W. Shaw, George Griffenhagen, Dasa Metzler, Jim Davenport, Joe Lambert, Gil Sousa, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Kenny, Tim Bartshe, Gary Gibson, Roger Rydberg, Glenn Mallory, Sergio Lugo, Jan Marie Belle, Col. Peter Barreta, Jr., Blaine Thomas, Joe Coston, Owen Robb, Jeffrey D. Beller, Roger Cichorz, Dick Axtell, Betty Paul, Doug Crowe, Postal History Foundation,

We thank each and every one of them for their generous donation, whether it be large or small. These donated materials mean so much to the RMPL. Some material just seems to show up and unfortunately we do not know who donated it. We thank those anonymous donors, also.

We need duplicate copies of recent sets (1995-present) of Scott Catalogues. They sell easily on eBay and can be a great source of extra revenue for the library. Also, we often have visitors to the library who ask about acquiring newer catalogs. It would be nice to have them available for sale. Contact Ron Mitchell if you can help.

### ADULT BEGINNING STAMP COLLECTING CLASS SCHEDULED

The RMPL has scheduled a Beginning Stamp Collecting Class for Adults. This class will meet on

four consecutive Saturdays at 1:00 PM. If you are interested, or know of someone who is interested, please call the RMPL and get on our call list. If we get enough interested persons, at least 5, the class will start on September 15th. If we don't have enough to make it worthwhile, we will try again in the Spring.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

**Membership in the RMPL has reached 400**  
Congratulations to Donald Topczewski  
of Longmont.  
Don is the 400th person to join the RMPL and  
will receive membership number 500.

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

Rosaleen (Roma) Schultz	Ronald Hill
John VanVeen	Jan Jensen
David L. Albert	Geoff Dutton
Eric B. Rynar	Linda J. Elmer

We welcome them 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 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.

### HATS OFF TO RICHARD!

RMPL volunteer Dick Smith received a huge compliment from a writer to *Linn's Stamp News* Readers' Opinions page in the issue for June 25, 2001. Dick ran the kids area at ROMPEX, and a parent whose child spent a lot of time there was very impressed with how the child was treated as a fellow collector. One of the people Dick recruited to help run the table chatted with the youngster about a collection of Argentinean revenue stamps found in the buckets of free stamps, among other topics of conversation. The letter says the boy can't wait to go to another stamp show. Good job, Dick! We know you spent many hours getting ready for ...as you say... "the kiddies."



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

*"Come and enjoy the activities"*

**SEPTEMBER, 2001**

Mondays: September 10, 17, 24 Open 10-4  
Tuesdays: September 4, 18, 25 Open 10-4  
Wednesdays: September 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4  
Thursdays: September 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 2-8  
Fridays: September 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4  
Saturdays: September 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4  
**SEPTEMBER 1 & 3 - RMPL CLOSED - LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
September 5 - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program  
**September 8 & 9 - APEX Stamp Show**  
Buckingham Square Mall  
**SEPTEMBER 8 - SECOND SATURDAY MEETING**  
WILL BE HELD ON THIRD SATURDAY THIS MONTH  
September 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancel Society  
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter  
**SEPTEMBER 11 - RMPL CLOSED - CLEANING**  
September 12 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club  
September 15 - Second Saturday at the RMPL  
9:00 AM - Program by Jack Willard  
"Domestic Boat Mail"  
September 15 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group  
Notice change from normal 2nd Saturday date.  
September 15 - Meeting - 1:00 PM RMPL  
Kid's Stamp Club  
September 15 - Meeting - 1:00 PM  
Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class  
September 22 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
ROMPEX/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop  
September 22 - Meeting - 1:00 PM  
Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class  
September 22 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
China Stamp Society  
September 25 - Meeting - 7:30 PM  
ROMPEX Committee  
September 29 - Meeting - 1:00 PM  
Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class

**OCTOBER, 2001**

Mondays: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4  
Tuesdays: October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4  
Wednesdays: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Open 10-4  
Thursdays: October 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 2-8  
Fridays: October 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4  
Saturdays: October 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4  
October 3 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program  
October 6 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Scandinavian Collectors Club  
October 6 - Meeting - 1:00 PM  
Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class  
October 10 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club  
October 11 - Meeting - 7:30 PM  
Topical Philatelists In Colorado  
October 13 - Second Saturday at the RMPL  
9:00 AM - Program by Greg Frantz  
"Postal Reform - 1835 - UPU"  
October 13 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group  
October 13 - Meeting - 11:00 AM  
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists  
October 13 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society  
USS Colorado Chapter  
October 20 - 10 AM - 1 PM  
RMPL Stamp Collecting Month  
Special Assistance on Stamp  
Identification  
October 20 - Meeting - 1:00 PM RMPL  
Kid's Stamp Club  
October 23 - Meeting - 7:30 PM  
ROMPEX Committee  
October 27 - 10:00 AM  
ROMPEX/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop  
October 27 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
China Stamp Society

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.

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