

Scribblings



...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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Cuba Libre! – Stamps of the War of Independence

By Ron Hill, RMPL Member

Continued from January - February 2002 "Scribblings")

The so-called Treaty of Zanjón ended the 10-year war in 1878. Cuban General Antonio Maceo, the Bronze Titan, (Scott 238, 272, 315, 527, 909, 3644, 3711, 3780-84) opposed the treaty, but the Spanish agreed to a conference at Barraguá, hoping for the surrender of the General. The meeting failed (Scott 3910, C277) and Maceo left the country as the "bloodiest enemy of Spain".

The remainder of the important military trio, General Máximo Gómez Báez (Scott 240, 265, 315, 520, 910, 2849, 3713) left for Jamaica; General Calixto García Iniguez, (Scott 243, 268, 359, 360, 522, 911, 3714, 3970) left for New York. All three Generals later return in 1895 to renew the war.

The national hero, José Martí, was born in Havana in 1853. There are probably more Cuban stamps devoted to his life than of any other person. His words are quoted like Biblical sayings, he is referred to - even today - as *el apóstol*, the Apostle. In 1869, at age 16, he was sentenced to 6-years hard labor for his poetry and letters critical of Spain. After brutal treatment at hard labor, his sentence was commuted to exile in 1870. He returned briefly to Cuba after the treaty of Zanjón, but was soon deported. He became a writer for the *New York Sun* and others papers, as well as the new leader of Cuba's independence movement. In 1891 he formed el Partido Revolucionario Cubano (Scott 3406-7) and enlisted the aid of Generals Máximo Gómez and Antonio Maceo (Scott C38). On February 24, 1895, another uprising was called for, the Grito of Baire, in the Province of Camaguey.

Maceo headed for Guantánamo. Martí and Gómez landed at Las Playas, in Oriente, on April 11. On May 19, José Martí was killed in battle at the age of 42 in the small town of Dos Ríos.

Once again, new communications and postal service were needed. On October 16, 1895, new regulations were approved, and in November, the Cuban Foreign Secretary, Rafael M. Portuondo, authorized the Delegate in the U.S. and future President, Tomas Estrada Palma (Scott 270, 524, 621), to print bonds and postage stamps for the República de Cuba. These were printed in four denominations by the New York Bank Note Company.

The four denominations and the quantities printed are:



2 centavos
40,000



5 centavos
50,000



10 centavos
25,000



25 centavos
30,000

Contact was made with many foreign governments, including the U.S., with samples of the new stamps, requesting recognition of the new Republic. Typical letter reads, "Enclosed please find two (2) sets of postage stamps issued by the Republican Government of Cuba, the same being in actual use within the ranks and territory of the insurgents."

Gonzalo de Quesada, the Cuban Chargé d'Affaire in Washington DC, and Secretary of the Cuban Delegation, sent a letter to the President of the Committee of Foreign Relations in Washington DC, about a

week after the stamps were received in New York. It introduced, "... the Postage Stamps now in use in the Republic of Cuba". These letters were postmarked March 25, 1896.

Used stamps and covers were also offered for sale, knowing the popularity of philately at the time. Used covers went for as much as \$7.00 each, a definite rarity today.

The Puerto Rican patriot, Dr. Ramon Emeterio Betances was the general agent of the Cuban Republic in France and corresponded regularly over the years with Tomas Estrada Palma and Calixto Garcia and others in the New York delegation. He requested on March 5, 1896, to have stamps sent to him as quickly as possible. Then, on March 30, still not having them, wrote again, "Whatever happened to the stamps?"

Later, after the end of the war, the stamps, including those issued during the 10-year war were stored in the General Treasury on October 5, 1898. Years later, in 1935, the stamps were demonetized by President Carlos Mendieta, decreeing that the sale of the remaining stamps benefit the National Veterans Council, whose members made up the aging Mambi veterans from the fading wars of independence, years before.

Stamps remaining after the war Stamps sold in 1935

2 centavos: 22,191 19,749

5 centavos: 32,771 30,405

10 centavos: 12,828 11,120

25 centavos 18,806 16,900

Credits:

The Cuban Philatelist, Yamil H. Kouri; Vol XI, #32 1999

Historia Postal de Cuba, José Luis Guerra Aguiar (Scott 3293)

Edifil Catálogo Especializado de Sellos de Cuba; 1997

Who's Who on the Postage Stamps of Cuba, Albert F. Kunze; 1943

Notes:

1. All Scott numbers listed are from Volume #2, 2000, Cuba
2. Additional Scott numbers - Generals Who Died in the War of 1895
(Scott 3700-3702; 3824-3825)

News From the RMPL...

RMPL AT CHERPEX

The RMPL would like to express our thanks to the Cherrelyn Stamp Club for arranging space for us at the recent CHERPEX. Many of you stopped by the library table and said hello and some of you purchased some of our material. As always, we are glad to see those of you who support the RMPL but don't make it to the library on a regular basis.

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS

The March 9th Second Saturday at the RMPL program starting at 9:00 AM will be given by Sergio Lugo on the subject of "Jewish Welfare Board".

The April 13th 9:00 AM Second Saturday at the RMPL 9:00 AM program will be given by Gerald Derksen on the subject of "Cinderellas."

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 and hopefully you can find a parking space in our lot. Better yet, bring a friend and share the ride!

ADULT BEGINNING STAMP COLLECTING CLASS

The RMPL has scheduled a Beginning Stamp Collecting Class for Adults on Saturday afternoons starting on March 16th and lasting for 4 weeks. Several times we have scheduled the class but had to cancel because we had only one or two indicate an interest. In order for the class to be reasonably successful the instructors feel that there must be at least 5 participants. If you are interested please call the library at 303-759-9921 to let us know of your interest. Don't just plan on showing up for the first class. If we don't hear from at least 5 interested persons by March 11th, the class will be cancelled. Those who call will be kept informed.

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE

Many of you who use the library on a regular basis know that we have been working with a "split card catalog" -- part of our holdings were listed in the old fashioned way on cards stored in a card catalog cabinet and then, as the Librarian cataloged new material, it went into our new computer search system. We updated the computer used for that purpose and ran into trouble. The new computer that we purchased had a bad mother-board and we were without the computer search for almost 2 months.

We are most happy to report that we are now up and operating and that all of the books in the library, catalogs excluded, are now available through the computer card catalog system. As new materials are received they will be entered into the computer.

This modernization has been a monumental job and our Volunteer Librarian, Ellengail Beuthel, deserves many pats on the back for her efforts.

SILENT AUCTION LOT DONATIONS NEEDED

As most of you are aware we hold a silent auction in May in conjunction with ROMPEX. This auction is very important to the RMPL because in the past we have been able to raise enough money to pay for our general expenses for one month. We hope that this continues to be the case. Volunteers have been working on setting up lots from the material that we have on hand, but we find that we still need material, especially covers. When making donations for the auction please specify that they are for the silent auction.

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. 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.

DONATE TO THE RMPL

Most of you probably don't realize that about 99% of the material in the RMPL is there because some philatelist was generous enough to ship it to the RMPL. The material we receive ranges from an individual copy of a philatelic magazine to long runs philatelic periodicals; from a small envelope of stamps on paper (for the Kid's Club) to extensive stamp collections, and it comes from all over the world.

We accept literally anything related to the hobby of philately. Some material goes onto our library shelves for philatelic research. We try to sell the duplicate material. If it can't be sold we try to share with other philatelic libraries or donate it to interested parties. We try to find a use for all donated items.

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 to 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

At the start of this new year our Volunteers have been kept quite busy processing the many donations we have received. More and more philatelists from all over the world have heard that we will accept donated philatelic material and ship it to us. Frequently the material is common, but every once in a while we are most pleasantly surprised to be able to add some quality material to our holdings.

During the past several months we have received donations from the following persons: Bill Dunn, Sergio Lugo, Bob Wolf, Eddie Hackstaff, Charles Sandberg, Mrs. James Paul, Dasa Metzler, George Killian, Myron Molnau, Norm Camara, Tim Bartshe, Steve Schweighofer, Wm. F. Cox, Vic Crumbaker, Joe Crosby, Jim Davenport, C. F. Benoit, Fred Campbell, Robert L. Brown, Jim Peterson, Ward Crowley, Henry Worosello, Jack VanEns, Ron Hill, Gary Gibson, Jim Johnson, Glenn Mallory, Mort Turner, Roger Rydberg, Jeff Rydberg-Cox, Jan Heskett, Larry Parks, Eugene McGurder, Jim Mc Namee, Vi Weinman, Arapahoe Stamp Club, No. Colorado Philatelic Society, Daniel Y. Meschter, Owen A. Robb, Bob and Cathy Friedman, Nancy Schmidt Kridel, and Charles Mc Clure, Barbara Kean, Cherrelyn Stamp Club, Bill Gregory and Jack Willard.

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. Unfortunately some material just seems to show up and we do not know who donated it. We thank those anonymous donors, also.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We are sorry to have to report the death of Gil Sousa, a loyal RMPL member since 1993. Gill had been quite ill for at least the past year. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Anne.

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

Barry Craig David Lu Eldon R. Todd

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.

horrible on the other side of town. If you are planning to make a trip to the library during inclement weather, it would be wise to call ahead to make sure that the library will be open. If road conditions are such that it would be dangerous for our volunteers to get to the library or to get home we may close. In bad weather conditions our main concern is the safety of our Volunteers, so call ahead and save a trip.

WEATHER WARNINGS

As hard as it is to believe, March and April are the months of the most snow in Denver! Thus at this time of the year we can still have all sorts of weather problems. It can be nice on this side of town and absolutely

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

"Come and enjoy the activities"

March, 2002	February, 2002
Mondays..... Open 10-4	Mondays..... Open 10-4
Tuesdays..... Open 10-4	Tuesdays..... Open 10-4
Wednesdays..... Open 10-4	Wednesdays..... Open 10-4
Thursdays..... Open 2-8	Thursdays..... Open 2-8
Fridays..... Open 10-4	Fridays..... Open 10-4
Saturdays..... Open 10-4	Saturdays..... Open 10-4
March 2 - Meeting - 10:00 AM Scandinavian Collector's Club	April 3 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club 6:30 Trading - 7:30 Meeting and Program
March 2 - Meeting - 2:00 PM TOPical Philatelists In Colorado	April 6 - Meeting - 10:00 AM Scandinavian Collectors Club
March 6 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club 6:30 Trading - 7:30 Meeting and Program	April 6 - 1:00 PM Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class
March 7 - Meeting - RMPL Board 7:00 PM	April 6 - Meeting - 2:00 PM TOPical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
March 9 - Second Saturday at the RMPL 9:00 AM - Program by Sergio Lugo "Jewish Welfare Board"	April 10 - Meeting - 7:00 PM Denver Germany Stamp Club
March 9 - Meeting - 10:00 AM Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group	April 13 - Second Saturday at the RMPL 9:00 AM - Program by Gerald Derksen "Cinderellas"
March 9 - Meeting - 2:00 PM Universal Ship Cancel Society U.S.S. Colorado Chapter	April 13 - Meeting - 10:00 AM Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group
March 13 - Meeting - 7:00 PM Denver Germany Stamp Club	April 13 - Meeting - 11:00 AM Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
March 16 - Meeting - 1:00 PM - RMPL Kid's Stamp Club	April 13 - Meeting - 2:00 PM Universal Ship Cancellation Society USS Colorado Chapter
March 16 - 1:00 PM Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class	April 20 - Meeting - 1:00 PM RMPL Kid's Stamp Club
March 23 - 10:00 AM - ROMPEX/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop	April 23 - Meeting - 7:30 PM ROMPEX Committee
March 23 - 1:00 PM Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class	April 27 - Meeting - 10:00 AM ROMPEX/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
March 23 - Meeting - 2:00 PM China Stamp Society	April 27 - Meeting - 2:00 PM China Stamp Society
March 26 - Meeting - 7:30 PM - ROMPEX Committee	
March 30 - 1:00 PM Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting Class	

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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.

RMPL Board of Directors

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