

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224

January - February, 2003

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Attention RMPL Members

Please use the enclosed ballot to elect the RMPL officers for the next 3 years.
Deadline - must arrive at the RMPL by February 1, 2003

THE STATE OF THE RMPL

by Don Beuthel, RMPL President

Following the custom established by President of the United States, who gives the State of the Union report, and the Governor of Colorado, who gives the State of the State report, each year we have paused at the start of the year to reflect on what we have done, determined where we are, and ponder where we are going. Frequently a brief article has been published in the Scribblings informing you of our conclusions.

This year, things might be a little different because it is an election year -- Now don't get disgusted at the thought of an election after what we have endured national and locally these past few months. This election will not have any nasty TV commercials, or mud slinging debates. The RMPL By-Laws require an election every 3 years. That time has arrived and I feel that it is time for a change in leadership - new ideas, new directions. This can be accomplished very easily. All you have to do is to vote for the candidates of your choice.

Do you realize that it has been more than 10 years since a small group of interested people met in my recreation room to discuss the possibility of establishing a philatelic library in the Denver Metropolitan area. At times it seems such a long time and at other times it seems like only yesterday. My goodness-- What we have accomplished in that 10 year period of time boggles the mind.

Presently we have approximately 11,500 books in our collection - no more than 2 of any one book. We have close to 60,000 issues of periodicals - no more than 2 of any one issue. These periodicals represent nearly 1000 different publications. We have nearly 11,500 different better quality auction catalogs - we have kept only one of each. We are open 6 days per week, 6 hours per day. We have an All Volunteer staff of almost 30 who keep the doors open and keep the library functioning. We have approximately 325 dues paying members of the RMPL.

Over the past year we have continued to add to our collection thanks to the continued generosity of many, many philatelists from all over the country, actually all over the world. A new Acquisitions Committee has been appointed consisting of Sergio Lugo, Ron Mitchell, and Jim Kilbane. They are most interested in what you feel should be acquired for the library collection. Contact one of the members of the committee to make suggestions.

We can see an increased use of the library materials, also. At the time of writing this, with almost a month to go, there have been almost 1500 persons sign the register in 2002. At times we have been asked, and have been able to provide information over the phone relative to specific stamps. Some of these calls are local, but some have been from other parts of the country.

We have advised hundreds of people, mostly non-collectors, regarding the value and disposition of collections that they may have inherited or have in their possession.

We are pleased with our web site. If you haven't seen it you should make the effort to do so. We have provided meeting space for 9 different philatelic groups on a regular basis, thus fostering the hobby of stamp collecting as a whole.

We finally have our computerized card catalog and search function operating the way we feel it should.

We continue to be fiscally sound - we pay our bills on time - we make the mortgage payments promptly and have worked to substantially lower the balance owed on the principal. We pay our property taxes, with some misgivings, but there is nothing we can do at this time to correct that situation.

Our membership shows a very small but steady growth. We have kept most of our Volunteers and now have a strong group, most of whom have specific duties to perform during their hours of volunteer work. We are fairly current on the cataloging of the new materials received.

All in all, I am quite pleased with where we are, what we have been able to accomplish over the years, and what we have done the past year.

Pondering the future - this falls under of the leadership and vision of the new president. I don't want to infringe upon his ideas for our future, but there are a couple of obvious needs with which we will have to deal.

We need to increase our membership. There are still at least several thousand philatelists in the Denver Metro Area who are not members of the RMPL - some of whom may not know of our existence. We will be attempting to contact many of them during January and February. You can be of great help with this. Suggest to that philatelic friend that he needs to become a member of the RMPL.

Due to increasing space problems, we need to establish an Expansion Fund and to determine what form this expansion should take - additions to the present location, acquisition of a new site, ???.

We need to encourage donors to continue to think of the RMPL. Hopefully we will continue to receive the donations that will add to our research and reference materials.

These are only a few of the obvious needs for future years. I'm confident our new president will have many ideas on how to accomplish these obvious needs as well as suggest others that need to be solved.

With this, I place the RMPL in the hands of our new President. I will not be leaving. Actually, I will continue to do many of the duties that I have been doing. The main difference is that the buck no longer stops with me. We will have a new person who will make the final decisions. Thanks to each of you for all of your help and cooperation over the time that I have been President. I think that it has been an amazing 10 years!

News From the RMPL...

RMPL BY-LAWS REVISIONS

Notice is hereby given that at the annual meeting to be held on January 9, 2003, the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library will vote to approve or disapprove the following changes to its By-Laws:

1. That Article 3, of Section 1 of our By-Laws be amended to add to the Board the voting position of Director of Operations. This position will assume some of the duties and responsibilities now held by the President. The types of duties will be determined by the President and the Director of Operations, as approved by the Board of Directors.

2. That Article 3, Section 1 of the RMPL By-Laws be amended to provide for a Recording Secretary and for a Corresponding Secretary. Those duties will be defined by the Board of Directors.

3. That Article 3, Section 1 of the RMPL By-Laws be amended to provide for the non-voting, honorary position of Director Emeritus and that these positions be filled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Comments about these changes should be directed to any Board member.

RMPL CLOSED

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library will be officially closed on Wednesday, January 1st for New Years Day; Monday, January 20th for MLK Day; and Monday, February 17th for Presidents' Day. Some of the Volunteers show up on days when we are officially closed to get work done while no one is around. Should it be necessary for you to use the library facilities on any of the above days, please call 303-759-9921 to see if anyone is present and how long they plan to stay.

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

Second Saturday at the RMPL programs continue to have good attendance. On any given Second Saturday

you will find 10 to 20 persons at the RMPL for the 9:00 AM instructional program. The coffee pot is working overtime and the "donut fairy" has made the expected magical appearance. If you haven't attended one of these, you should make the effort to attend. Get here early because the parking lot fills up fast.

The Second Saturday at the RMPL for January 11th features a program by Jan Marie Belle on the subject of "Japanese Antarctic Polar Exploration."

The February 8th Second Saturday at the RMPL will be a program by Cliff Lushbough on the topic of "Chemicals on Stamps."

We look forward to seeing you at one, or both, of these presentations. This is a great time to introduce a friend to the benefits available through the RMPL.

We are always looking for persons who are willing to do a Second Saturday presentation. There are many openings in the 2003 calendar year at this time. Why not share your knowledge with the other members. To volunteer, or to suggest someone else, call the library at 303-759-9921 or call Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328.

DONATIONS CONTINUE

Donations to the RMPL continue at an unexpected high rate. The officers and the Board of the RMPL feel that we have been most fortunate to have such a generous group of regular donors. If we do not have a direct use within the RMPL for some of the material that has been donated, we try to share it with someone or some organization who can make use of it. Almost nothing goes out in the trash sacks. Some of the donated material is sold and the money is used to help pay the bills each month. Don't worry whether we can use your donation. Just get it to us and we will find a use for it.

During the past several months donations have been received from Steve Schweighofer, Jack Willard, Bob Ainsworth, John Bloor, Dasa Metzler, Warren Bower

Estate, Len Schmitt, U P S S, Kathe Gustafson, Steve Peckar, Steve Nadler, George Snyder, Bob Brown, Harold G. Lord, Glenn Mallory, Bob Wolf, Ward Crowley, Maury Pautz, Ed Schenck, Mort Turner, Mildred Clark, Gloria Foxworthy, Jan Marie Belle, David Percel, Rita Fasching, Mike Maselli, Tim Bartshe, Jim Johnson, Donald Beuthel, Herman Axelrod, Dick Smith, R, J, Peterson, Heather Gardens Stamp Club, CHICAGOPEX 2002, Aurora Stamp Club, Joe Crosby, Bill Rapp, Clyde Jennings, Mike Milam, Roger Cichorz, Jeanne Rapp, Peter Bergh, and Colorado Postal History Society.

Keep those donations coming. It doesn't matter if they are large or small, we appreciate every one.

Many times materials just appear on the tables or on the counters, and we have no idea who the donor might be. We thank those anonymous donors, also.

Remember that the RMPL has a 501 (C)(3) public charity status with the IRS. This means that donors of material to the RMPL may deduct the fair market value of the donated items should they choose to itemize their deductions on their income tax. Now is the time for you to start looking through your accumulations of philatelic materials and donate the items that you don't need anymore to the RMPL. That way you can use these deductions on your 2003 return. We have even been known to accept contributions of money.

We continue to accept all types of material related to philately. If you live out of town and wish to donate, ship the items to the library. If you are in the local area bring the items to the library during our normal library hours. If you can't bring the material to the library, call at 303-759-9921 and we will try to make arrangements to pick up your donation.

RMPL SLIGHTLY AFFECTED BY T-REX CONSTRUCTION

If you use I-25 going South to get to the RMPL you should be aware that the East Evans Exit off of I-25 is closed. You will have to get off at Colorado Blvd. going South and make a left turn on to Evans going East. Other than the construction related congestion on I-25, it is still easy to get to the RMPL.

WEATHER WARNINGS

With the weather the way it has been for the past year this announcement may seem ridiculous to some of you but --- We could be facing inclement weather conditions at any time during the winter months. In bad weather conditions, our main concern is the safety of our Volunteers. If road conditions are such that it would be dangerous for our Volunteers to get to the library or to get home, we will close. Remembering that conditions vary greatly across the Metropolitan area it would be wise to call the library at 303-759-9921 to check to see if we will be open.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our membership list shows a very slow but steady growth. Each renewal period we lose a member or two, but

generally we get more new members than we lose.

We are pleased to report that the following people who have joined the library in the last two months:

Stephen P. Hart James D. Fredlund
Timothy Heins David Strang
Philip C. Cooley

Some of the members of RMPL 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.

AUCTION WATCH

Sergio Lugo

"There Still are Sacred Cows Out There"

The popular idiomatic expression "There aren't any sacred cows" found wide currency in American culture over the past 30 years. As a means of introducing you to the world of the auction catalogs maintained by the RMPL, I'm here to tell you that there still are sacred cows - notwithstanding popular assertions to the contrary - and they can be found in the auction catalogs of the RMPL.

For the past two years as I break away from inventorying periodicals, I (together with David Capra, George Synder and Jim Kilbane) have been slowly proceeding through the auction catalogs of the RMPL (numbering in excess of 15,000), identifying groupings of auctions that warranted mention in a composite index that has gradually grown to well over a thousand captions. Thus far, I'm only through the C's (specifically half way through the Christies, Robson Lowe catalogs). It's slow and tedious work, but the library is gradually acquiring a composite index (as stated, already over 1000 caption headings) to various auctions. The auction catalogs (some dating back to the 1940s) provide a tremendous mother lode of information and illustrations on stamps, covers and postal history - which was my original beacon - if only someway could be found to gather the information together and present it to the library membership. As the index grows, we hope you will find it of use in pursuing your philatelic interest. Please note - it is impossible for me to list every single entry for auction items. As stated, I choose to identify major groupings of items (generally 10 or more items that are illustrated and not too common) or, alternatively, really odd and unusual auction material. You can help, should you choose. If you spot something that you would like included in the index, please feel free to identify it, write down the relevant information (auction house, date, and subject) and leave me a note. If

there are any volunteers that would like to work with me on the project, you're more than welcome to do so. We'll keep you busy, and you'll be amazed at what you learn - seriously. Now, what "sacred cows" are we talking about.

The Christies, Robson Lowe auction of March 28, 1990 featured the stamps and postal stationery from the George Ulrich Collection of Ceylon, India and Indian States. Beginning with lot 1571 and continuing through lot # 1636, the "Sacred Cow" issues of the Indian State of Bundi were presented. At the time of its auction, the "Sacred Cow" collection (spanning the years 1914 to 1941) was considered the most exhaustive and comprehensive

study of the issue ever assembled. The "Sacred Cow" issue consists of a central vignette of Bundi's ruler, surrounded by two cows (apparently sacred). The stamps were printed in red and green, and were also overprinted for official mail purposes. The description makes reference to the definitive study on the issue, namely: "The Sacred Cow Issues of Bundi" by R.J. Bennes, B.Sc., published by the India Study Circle for Philately. Regrettably, the RMPL does not have a copy of the work, but if someone were to secure and donate a copy, than we'd know that we most definitively have a "Sacred Cow" in our stacks.

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

"Come and enjoy the activities"

January, 2003

Daily Hours

Monday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Tuesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Thursday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Friday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed Sunday and Holidays

Jan 1 - RMPL Closed - New Years Day
 Jan 4 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
 Scandinavian Collector's Club
 Jan 4 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
 Topical Philatelists In Colorado
 Jan 8 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Denver Germany Stamp Club
 Jan 11 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
 Program by Jan Marie Belle
 "Japanese Antarctic Polar Explorations"
 Jan 11 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
 Mexico / Latin America Philatelic Group
 Jan 11 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
 Universal Ship Cancel Society
 U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
 Jan 18 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
 RMPL Kid's Stamp Club
 Jan 20 - RMPL Closed - MLK Day
 Jan 25 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
 RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
 Jan 25 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
 China Stamp Society
 Jan 28 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

February, 2003

Daily Hours

Monday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Tuesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Thursday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM
 Friday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
 Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed Sunday and Holidays

Feb 1 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
 Scandinavian Collector's Club
 Feb 1 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
 Topical Philatelists In Colorado
 Feb 5 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
 6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
 Feb 8 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
 Program by Cliff Lushbough
 "Chemicals on Stamps"
 Feb 8 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
 Mexico / Latin American Philatelic Society
 Feb 8 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
 Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
 Feb 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
 Universal Ship Cancellation Society
 Feb 12 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
 Denver Germany Stamp Club
 Feb 15 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
 RMPL Kid's Stamp Club
 Feb 17 - RMPL CLOSED - Presidents' Day
 Feb 22 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
 RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
 Feb 22 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
 China Stamp Society
 Feb 25 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 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 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
 Members at Large: Sergio Lugo - Ron Mitchell - James L. Ozment - Maury Pautz - John H. Willard