

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Vol. 11 - No. 3

2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224

May - June, 2003

www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com

303 - 759-9921

E-mail - info@rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com

Report from Oaxaca, Part One...

A PHILATELIC LIBRARY IN MEXICO

by Peter Laux, RMPL and MEPSI Member



Entrance to the Museo de Filatelia de Oaxaca.

Three RMPL members, Marc Gonzales, Bob Wolf and I recently had the pleasure of touring the philatelic library in Oaxaca, southern Mexico. We were in Oaxaca for the 2003 annual gathering of the Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International (MEPSI). The stamp show, named MEPSIOAXACA 2003, was organized and hosted by Museo de Filatelia de Oaxaca, which opened in 1998. The philatelic library is housed in a separate room within the museum complex.

The broad back wall is dominated by wall-to-wall bookshelves on a shallow mezzanine about eight feet off the floor. More than eight feet tall, the bookshelves reach to the wood-beam ceiling. And the mezzanine floor, the shelves, the ceiling, and all cabinet and display frames are made with matching wood. Even the library ladder matches! Beautiful!

The library is named in honor of one of the giants in Mexican philately, José Lorenzo Cossío. Born in Mexico City in 1902, Cossío was an enthusiastic exhibitor and prolific writer, often working into his efforts his extensive knowledge of botany, archaeology, geography and history of his country. Cossío was elected in 1958 to the MEPSI Hall of Fame, the society's highest honor. He died in 1975.

The shelves contain Sr. Cossío's personal library, over 6,000 items collected in his five decades with the hobby, donated by his son. Access to this valuable collection is restricted, but the museum has another library for popular use. Like RMPL, they have numerous programs promoting philately. Listed among Oaxaca's many attractions, the museum gets a fair number of visitors. And for philatelists, it's definitely worthwhile!



Shelves on the mezzanine level of the Cossío Library room.

*Peter Laux'
Report from Oaxaca
Part Two...*



THE MEXICAN COMMEMORATIVE STAMP THAT ISN'T!

The essay shown above came close to being a stamp issued to commemorate the philatelic exhibition held in conjunction with this year's annual MEPSI meeting.

About a year ago the Servicio Postal Mexicana (SEPOMEX) agreed to issue a commemorative stamp for the event, as they had done previously for international philatelic meetings in 1960, 1970 and 1979 in (Cont. on page 2)

Mexico City, 1983 in Hermosillo, 1985 in Mexico City, and 1988 in Monterrey. Our society name, Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International, was spelled out on the 1979 stamp (Scott No. C605) and on the 1985 souvenir sheet (Scott No. 1385.). The name of the 1988 meeting and exhibition in Monterrey, MEPSIRREY '88, was featured across the top of the stamp issued for that event (Scott Nos. 1545 - 47).



Stamp issued by Mexico for an international exhibition in Hermosillo, Sonora, in 1983.

There was no stamp issued for the MEPSI meeting in Guadalajara in 1992, but the 450th anniversary of the founding of that city was commemorated with five stamps that year. Nor was there a stamp for MEPSIRREY 1998 in Monterrey, because SEPOMEX of late has required stamp sponsors to pay a portion of design, promotion and production costs incurred to issue the stamp. They even had required participating Mexican states to pay toward their stamps in the recent *Turistico* series! Consequently, not all states are represented in that series, which was intended to promote tourism in Mexico. We learned about this policy first-hand last year when we approached SEPOMEX about doing a commemorative issue for the 2002 MEPSI meeting with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in Denver. Our colleagues in Mexico were so embarrassed about the figure quoted by SEPOMEX that they told us only "No way - forget about it!"

But for MEPSIOAXACA 2003, all was arranged and seemingly in order. We were all very excited about this stamp happening! Official release and first day of issue were to be at the exhibition on opening day. The winning design shows a pair of the Hidalgo Head issue (a classic stamp issued from 1868 to 1872) black ink on green paper, 12-centavos, overprinted with the numbers 23, for the Oaxaca postal district, and 71, for the year of issue of 1871. They are cancelled with a single Oaxaca postmark dated February 1872. Also shown is a facsimile postmark in the same style but dated February 2003, to be used at the exhibition. But alas, SEPOMEX late last year demanded an additional 100,000 pesos (about \$10,000!) from the organizers in Oaxaca. They were unable to raise the funds and the commemorative stamp was not issued. That's not the kind of "cancellation" we were looking forward to getting in Oaxaca! Nevertheless, the show went on to be a huge success. Great exhibits, a fantastic location, super hospitality and clear, warm weather all contributed to an unforgettable experience!



One of a set of three stamps issued by Mexico for an international exhibition in Mexico City in 1985.

News From the RMPL...

RMPL CLOSED

A reminder that the RMPL will be closed Saturday, May 24 and Monday May 26 for the Memorial Day weekend. This means the **China Stamp Society** meeting and the **RMSS Exhibition Seminar** will not take place in May.

THE BIG SHOW IS COMING

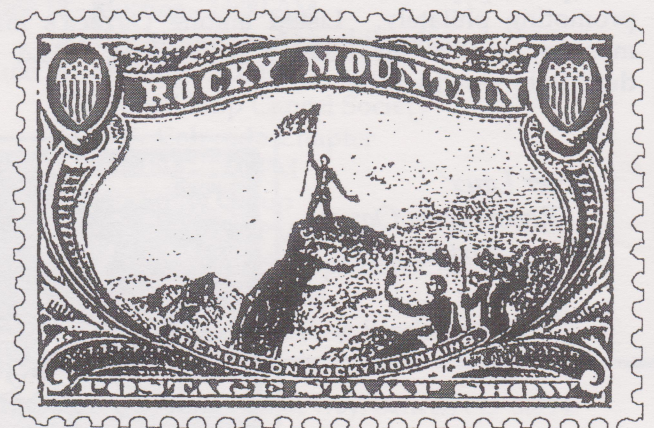
The **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show** is the annual not-to-be-missed event of the year in this part of the country and the library will be there in full force with a booth, silent auction and free stamps for youngsters.

The booth will be staffed by our friendly volunteers, including **Bill Dunn**. Bill's knowledge of stamps and the library is nearly boundless. If you have questions about stamps, he either knows the answer or knows how to get it. If you have not met Bill, this would be a good opportunity. He would enjoy meeting you.

The booth will be stocked with philatelic literature for sale and a wide variety of stamps and covers that have been donated over the years. Thousands of items are priced at just a nickel each ... everything from topicals to

covers.

This year's silent auction will also be available at the library table. There are 777 lots and two dozen of them



The logo for Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2003.

are Colorado postal history covers. There's a nice selection of U.S. stamps, including the Ducks. Other highlights include strong sections of Canada (75 lots), Germany (152 lots) and Switzerland (58 lots).

Richard Smith will once again be in charge of the RMSS Youth Table. He'll have all sorts of activities for youngsters and the RMPL is providing him with plenty of stamps to give away.

Show visitors may also tour the library. Transportation from the Holiday Inn to the building will be provided twice a day.

There will be 50 dealers, the U.S. Post Office and more than 4000 pages of stamps exhibits. "How-to" programs on beginning collecting, advanced and specialized subjects are scheduled.

The Mobile Post Office Society and the **Cal-Rev Society** from the American Revenue Association will hold annual meetings in conjunction with the show.

ATA NATIONAL SHOW IN DENVER

There will be a second major stamp show in Denver this year. **TOPIC**, The local chapter of the American Topical Association and the **Rocky Mountain Stamp Show** committee are active in helping with arrangements for the National Topical Stamp Show 2003, scheduled for June 27-30 at the Holiday Inn at I-70 and Chambers Rd.

The RMPL will have a display board at the show and will offer tours of the library twice a day. We look forward to meeting new collecting friends.

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership chairman has taken a vacation, so this month's list includes only those who joined through the first week of April. If you joined after that, you will be listed in the next issue of *Scribblings*.

The same is true for renewals. If your renewal comes in after the first week in April, your new membership card will arrive in June.

We are proud to welcome:

Charles D. Griffin, Littleton, CO (U.S.)

Elmer C. Hunter, Parachute, CO (U.S. singles and plate blocks and Germany)

Mark Keefer, Denver, CO (U.S.)

Paul Martz, Boulder, CO (Michigan Postal History)

Susan McMurran, Golden, CO

Terrence D. Murphy, Castle Rock, CO (U.S., U.S. FDCs, British Africa, Russia/U.S.S.R., Baltic States)

William Plachte, Denver, CO (FDCs)

Gerard Zschoche, Denver, CO (Germany)

PERIODICAL PICKINS

by *Sergio Lugo*

Well folks, it's been some time since you last saw one of my "Periodical Pickins" articles, but I'm back now. I happened to run across the very first one of these that I wrote for the *Scribblings* back about three years ago. The number of titles I counted at that time was in the vicinity of 560 periodicals. In preparation for this one, I decided to recount the titles. We've grown by nearly 350 to a total of 907. That's a lot of periodicals from which to pick.

So what's a Central American bird have to do with any of this. Simple enough - I chose to focus on the periodical *El Quetzal* for two main reasons. It's the only Q titled periodical in the library's holdings. (*You don't say!* - Ed.) Also, it's a relatively new addition to our collection.

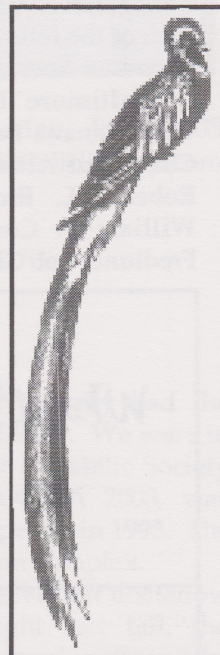
El Quetzal is the journal of the International Society of Guatemala Collectors. Guatemala is a small Central American nation south of Mexico, along the Gulf of Mexico.

The magazine has been in publication for more than 50 years, dating back to 1950. RMPL holdings begin with issue #297 (March, 1999)

and continue through to the present day. And for whatever reason, the Society insists on having the publication mailed from Guatemala. Every issue we have is franked with colorful Guatemalan stamps, cancelled with a fancy Guatemalan handstamp, and impressed with the seal of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs. Talk about V.I.P. treatment!

There are plenty of topics for *El Quetzal* to tackle, especially in light of the many disruptions experienced by the Guatemala postal service over the years. Packed within *El Quetzal's* 16+ pages are messages from El Jefe (the President), editorials, esoteric discussions of specific Guatemalan timbrological matters, Guatemala's postal rates, and mail sale items.

For more information on the society (APS affiliate #36) and its extremely readable journal look up *El Quetzal* next time you're in the library. Alternatively, for further information on the collecting of Guatemalan philately or on the society, contact David Reitsema (an RMPL member and president of the society) at DReitsema@msn.com or the society's website at www.guatemalastamps.com.



The Quetzal, a bird seen on many Central American stamps, is the logo for the Int'l. Society of Guatemala Collectors.

Mark your calendars...

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW 2003

MAY 16, 17 & 18

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW 2003

JUNE 27, 28 & 29

Both Shows:

Holiday Inn, I-70 and Chambers Rd.

DONATIONS

It's always a pleasure to receive large gifts and we would like to gratefully acknowledge a gift of \$1,000 from the **United Postal Stationery Society**.

The life of the library continues to be enriched with donations of philatelic material and cash. We thank each of the following people or groups for their donations, no matter how large or small.:

Baltimore Philatelic Society, Columbus Philatelic Club, Banana Belt Stamp Club, Heather Gardens Stamp Club, Paul Albright, Richard D. Axtell, Dr. John Bloor, Robert L. Brown, Linda Campbell, Roger Cichorz, William F. Cox, Pat Dowling, Jeffrey E. Fossum, Jim Fredlund, Bob Gibson, and Paul Graitge.

Also, **Doris Haas, Ron Hill, Peter Laux, Glenn Mallory, Jason Manchester, Eugene McGurer, Mike Milam, Bill Rapp, Roger Rydberg, Carl F. Schaver, Ed Schenck Jr., Steve Schweighofer, George Snyder, Colin W. Spong, Tom Ten Eyck, Eldon Todd, Gary Uhlmann, Mark Vainer, Bob Willard.**

WELCOME CCD

Another group has been added to the list of clubs which meet at the library. We welcome the **Collectors Club of Denver**. There are now 13 groups that meet regularly at the RMPL. It is truly "The Philatelic Center of the Rocky Mountain West!"

What's happening at the RMPL...

"Come and enjoy the activities."

Daily Hours

Monday..... 10 AM - 4 PM
 Tuesday..... 10 AM - 4 PM
 Wednesday..... 10 AM - 4 PM
 Thursday..... 2 PM - 8 PM
 Friday..... 10 AM - 4 PM
 Saturday..... 10 AM - 4 PM
 Closed Sundays and Holidays.

May, 2003

- May 3 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
- May 3 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
- May 7 - Meeting
Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading 7:30 PM meeting and program
- May 10 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Tim Hammonds
"Offset Lithography and Color Printing"
- May 10 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- May 10 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancel Society
U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
- May 14 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- May 17 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Russia Study Group
- May 24 and May 26 - Library CLOSED
Memorial Day weekend

Do you have extra postage? Please consider donating it to the RMPL. It takes a lot of postage to mail *Scribblings* every month.

June, 2003

- June 4 - Meeting
Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading 7:30 PM meeting and program
- June 7 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
- June 7 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
- June 11 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- June 14 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Jim Lays
"Interesting Postmarks of the World"
- June 14 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- June 14 - Meeting - 11:30 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
- June 14 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancel Society
U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
- June 21 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Russia Study Group
- June 24 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- June 26 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop

Scribblings is published bi-monthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224.

Ron Mitchell, 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: Ron Mitchell - Operations Manager: Don Beuthel - Vice-President: Bill Dunn - Secretary: Robert Brown - Treasurer: Robert Blatherwick - Members at Large: Jim Kilbane - Sergio Lugo - James L. Ozment - Maury Pautz - Steve Schweighofer - Jack Willard (Emeritus)