

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

Nose, mouth and face to the glass...

Those Wonderful Animal Stamps

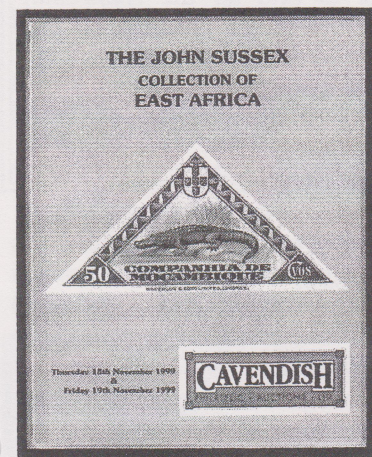
by Sergio Lugo, RMPL Board Member

How many times in the movies have we seen the little kid with his face plastered to the window/glass, eyeing the donut or the toy or the sneakers or the game being offered by the merchant among his wares? Now imagine yourself as that youngster, remembering something long ago that you hungered for, but you knew down deep you could not have.

As a kid, I grew up in the 1950s and early 1960s on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, only eight blocks from the stamp center of the universe, yes, Nassau Street! How I can remember Saturday mornings going from store to store for six blocks and peering in on those huge display windows full of stamps. There was always one set that made my mouth water, and I think perhaps most readers will readily conjure up an image of the set, the 1937 animals from Companhia de Mozambique. My, they were lovely then, and still are today.

One man among us carried his attraction to the issues of Portuguese East Africa to gold medal winning levels. Not unusually, when collections/exhibits reach such a comprehensive extent they are offered for sale in their entirety. Stumbling on such collections in auction catalogs is always a delight.

Their scope and comprehensiveness takes one's breath away. In this instance, the Cavendish auction of



The Cavendish auction catalog cover from November, 18-19, 1999.

November 18th and 19th, 1999 offered for sale the John Sussex collection of East Africa. The cover of the catalog, shown nearby, shows the alligator triangle stamp of the animals set.

In this one catalog, you will find Mr. Sussex' exhibits devoted to the colonies of the Portuguese Empire in Africa as they existed prior to the 1970s. There is page after page of color plates of covers, stamp artwork, imperforates of the animals set, and color proofs. There is enough to overwhelm a stamp collector's senses. Mozambique Company and its issues begin the procession of postal history items, with detailed Sussex explanations of virtually every cover. Here we learn of the existence of Transvaal-Mozambique combination covers, and there we read about pre-stamp material. Next we stumble on Lourenco Marques. There's a tongue twister for you.

Lourenco Marques is yet another Portuguese colony wrapped up in the mist of the

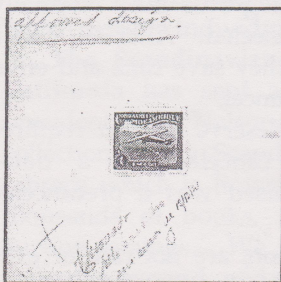
fog of long forgotten history, but conveniently found on a map on page 25 in the catalog. Turning to Zambezia (that was easier to pronounce), we begin our journey on a riverboat postcard lot and continue through the military expedition of the Barue Campaign of 1902. The flood of locations that one may find on the map come fast and furiously: Inhambane, Chinde Concession, Quelimane, Tete, World War I German related mail, World War I Portuguese military mail, Prisoner of War mail (yes, there were German POWs in Portuguese East Africa!), Nyasaland Field Force, Kionga, Nyassa and, of course, the Mozambique Company, including proofs, specimens, postal history, and airmail. In total, nearly 1300 lots of beautifully illustrated material that leaves the kid in you looking in like someone with their face pressed to a glass window.

And by the way, I secured the animal set about 20 years ago. I hope you have one, too.

Editor's note: Many of the auction catalogs on the RMPL's shelves have great stories in them. Take a look for yourself sometime.



Here is a design that was not issued. It is the original artwork of a rejected design for a Lion stamp in the regular issue set of 1937, lot 2855 in the Cavendish sale.



1 Escudo hand painted artwork for the 1935 "Airplane over Beria" set, Scott C1-C15, lot 3128 in the Cavendish auction.

News From the RMPL...

RMPL CLOSED

The library will be closed the following days because of holidays in November, December and January. Please make a special note.

November 11 - Veterans Day
November 27 - Thanksgiving Day
December 24 - closed at 1pm for Christmas Eve
December 25-27 - Christmas holiday
December 31 - closed at 1pm for New Year's Eve
January 1 -3 - New Year's holiday

Some clubs may still be meeting on the Saturdays the library will be "officially" closed. Also, it is not unusual for some volunteers to come in, so if you plan on attending a meeting or just want to drop by, please call ahead to see if the door will be open during holiday weekends.

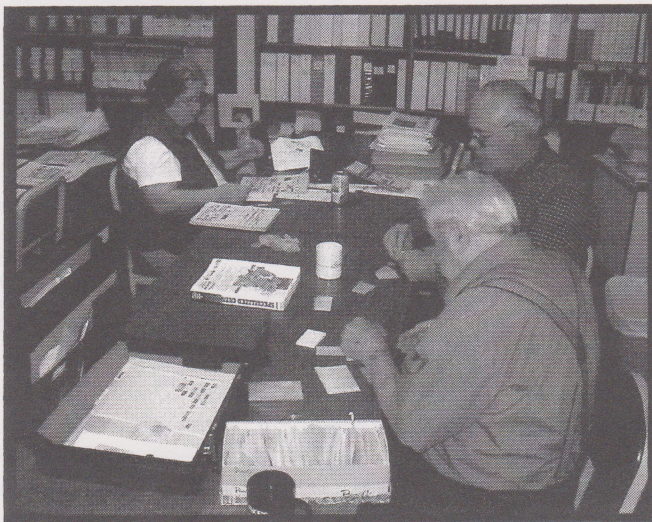
BAD WEATHER RMPL CLOSINGS

It's that time of year again when the weather is unpredictable. If there is a snowstorm, please call the library before coming over. It may close early so that volunteers may get home safely, or it may not open at all if there has been snowfall overnight.

If there is snow in the forecast or a sizeable amount on the ground, please call ahead. It would be a shame to have one of our members drive clear across town just to find the door locked.

The library number is (303) 759-9921, or you may call Don Beuthel at (303) 755-9328.

NICKEL BOOKS ARE A HIT



Volunteers Ellice Bleak and Thomas Surprenant, toward the top of the picture, sort stamps for the nickel books. Norm Camara, at the bottom of the picture, breaks down donations of stamps that come in and decides which ones are nickel book material.

Most any time you visit the library these days you will find someone going through our "Nickel Books." There are 40 binders bulging with inexpensive, and sometimes elusive, stamps.

Several volunteers have been busy putting stamps that have been donated into the books. There are now thousands of stamps sorted by country available for your inspection.

Nobody has time to put the individual stamps in Scott order, but most of them are sorted by country and the countries are in Scott order. That means Newfoundland follows Canada, and is not under the "Ns".

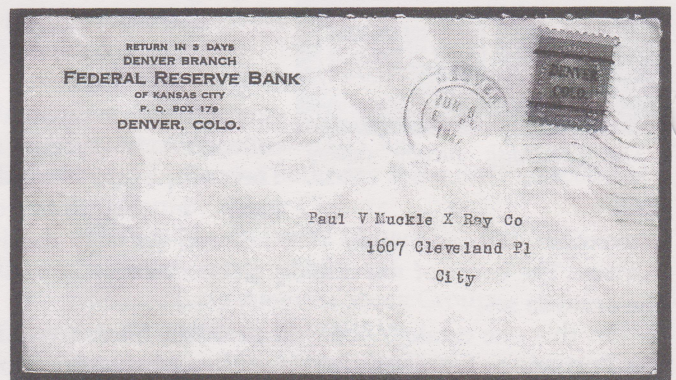
NICKEL BOOK HELP WANTED

This is an ongoing project. We are, for instance, looking for someone to help sort Korea, Japan, Republic of China and People's Republic of China. We also need someone to find all the Australian States stamps scattered through the binders and put them in one place after Australia. If you can help, let one of the volunteers at the library know.

Sales from the nickel books raise money to help pay the bills.

A CANCEL ON A PRECANCEL

by Bill Dunn, RMPL Vice President



A cover franked with a precancel that also has an interesting blue circular datestamp from June 6, 1927.

Shown nearby is an item that looks like any old cover with a cheap two-cent carmine Washington precancel, and to some extent it is.

But the interesting thing is the Denver circular date handstamp which was struck using blue ink. Normally, precancel stamps are not post-canceled. After all, that is the idea of precanceled stamps—they save time and effort in that they do not need another cancel.

Regulations of the Federal Reserve System required that any correspondence be canceled by a dated handstamp, even if the stamp used was a precanceled stamp.

These covers, while uncommon, are not rare or even very scarce. But a lot of philatelists wonder why a precanceled stamp was post-canceled with a blue circular datestamp. So as Paul Harvey says, "That's the rest of the story!"

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

The library's Second Saturday Programs are as popular as ever. Take advantage of this opportunity to see a good program and socialize with your fellow collectors.

Kickoff is at 9am and the final gun goes off at 10, so there will be plenty of time to get home to watch football. The coffee and donuts are compliments of the library.

NOVEMBER 8

Ron Mitchell will have "A New Look At the Denver Issue of Mexico," with insight into the postal system the rebels used during the 1914 civil war and the way the rebels' mail to the United States was handled.

DECEMBER 13

Roger Cichorz will present "Faroes Islands Postal History" Roger is the current president of the local Scandinavian Collectors Club and has been collecting Faroes Islands for years. The postal history of these 17 islands in the Danish realm is most interesting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The library has openings for one or two members who are willing to give three hours a week every week on a regular basis to help out with the various chores that are necessary to keep the operation running smoothly.

Here is a list of a few volunteer responsibilities:

- Assist library patrons with finding materials in the computerized card catalog (training will be provided).
- Help answer questions about philately. If you don't know an answer or how to find it, you simply refer the person to another volunteer who might be able to help.
- Put books, monographs, price catalogs, magazines, newspapers, clipping files, and auction catalogs in their proper places on the shelves.
- Keep the shelves neat and clean and the books in their proper order.

Sometimes the happiest volunteers are those who are working on a project of their choosing. The project may even be the volunteer's own idea, and not necessarily something they are assigned to do. We are flexible.

If you feel you can devote the necessary time, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Don Beuthel at (303) 755-9328.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

The RMPL has received large donations recently which deserve individual recognition.

The Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California has sent a check for \$1,500 through its president, Paul Nelson. The SPLSC has given its entire collection to the Scandinavian Collectors Club National Library which is housed here at the RMPL. There are thousands of books, price catalogs, monographs and auction catalogs. We are happy to see the national SCC collection expand, and we are also delighted to receive a such a large cash donation.

Bill and Jean Rapp of Pittsford, NY, have each given \$2,500 to our literature acquisition fund. They ask that the RMPL add foreign postal history books, especially

from England, France and Germany. This gift will provide a much needed boost to the library's foreign sections. Every member and patron of the library will benefit from the Rapp's generosity. We cannot thank them enough.

Tim Bartshe of Golden, CO, has donated his general worldwide collection consisting of 27 volumes of Scott's International albums. He recognized the material was just gathering dust because his focus now is on his specialized collections, judging and exhibiting. So, he made some space on his shelves by making this wonderful donation to the library. We will make good use of it by selling it and raising funds.

OTHER DONATIONS

Every single donation is important to the continued health of the library, so keep them coming! We appreciate all of them. Here are donors from the past couple of months:

Barbara Anderson, Herman Axelrod, Katherine Ballard, Bill Bauer, Phillip Beutel, Don Beuthel, Richard Byne, Norm Camara, Roger Cichorz, Ward Crowley, Bill Dunn, Nolan S. Flowers, Jr., B. L. Geldmeier, Estella Grigg, Alan Hanks, Jo Ann Hays, Larry Hoague, Mrs. Edward Horton, Jim Johnson, Dolores Ann Jones, George Killian, and Charles LaBlonde.

Also, Jim Lays, Frank Leitz, Bob Locke, Stanley Luft, Glenn Mallory, Frederick Mayer, Dasa Metzler, Mike Milam, Ron Mitchell, Bill and Carol Mobley, Vance and Marge Nelson, Madeline O'Brien, Marc Silberman, Colin W. Spong, Tom Ten Eyck, Dalene Thomas, Richard Thomas, United Postal Stationery Society, Mark Vainer, Vi Weinman, and George Wright.



A new wall was put in where there was a garage door opening into the library's "back room." Independent contractor Steve Benson did the work.

EXPANSION UPDATE

The library's expansion project will be well on the way to completion by the time this issue of *Scribblings* reaches you. Work started in early October with a new wall in the back room where a garage door used to be. That wall now looks like the rest of the library from the

outside, and is suitable for a regular room on the inside.

The new compact shelving will be installed in the back room before the end of November, if the schedule holds. Then the library will have 40 new bookcases to add to the 107 we now have. That sounds like a lot of new space, but at the rate we are growing, we will run out of room again in four to five years.

At this point, though, the expansion will serve our needs very nicely.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Bob Lupe, Denver, CO (General collecting interests)

Lee H. Dillon, Bolingbrook, IL (Postally used 1st airmail designs)

Chuck James, Lakewood, CO (United States)

Tom Breay, Littleton, CO (Dealer, Carlton Stamps - Collects West Europe, Scandinavia, Japan)

Richard Coan, Littleton, CO (Scouts on stamps)

Mathematics, Masonic, Airplanes, Lighthouses, Maritime)

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.

What's happening at the RMPL...

"Come and enjoy the activities."

November, 2003

- November 1 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
- November 1 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
- November 5 - Meeting
Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading 7:30 PM meeting and program
- November 8 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Ron Mitchell
"A New Look at the Denver Issue of Mexico"
- November 8 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- November 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancel Society
U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
- November 11 - CLOSED for Veteran's Day**
- November 12 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- November 15 - Meeting - 10AM
Postmark Collector's Club
- November 15 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Russia Study Group
- November 22 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
- November 22 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
China Stamp Society
- November 25 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- November 27 - CLOSED - Thanksgiving Day**

December, 2003

- December - Aurora Stamp Club and
Topical Philatelists in Colorado,
Holiday parties in member's homes
- December 6 - Meeting - 10AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
- December 6 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Colorado Postal History Society
- December 10 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- December 13 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Roger Cichorz
"Faroes Islands Postal History"
- December 13 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- December 13 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
- December 13 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancel Society
U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
- December 20 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Russia Study Group
- December 24 - CLOSED at 1pm for Christmas Eve**
- December 25-27 - CLOSED for Christmas holiday**
- December 31 - CLOSED at 1pm for New Year's Eve**
- January 1-3 CLOSED for New Year's holiday**

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

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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)