

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Vol. 12 - No. 1

2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224

January - February, 2004

www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com

303 - 759-9921

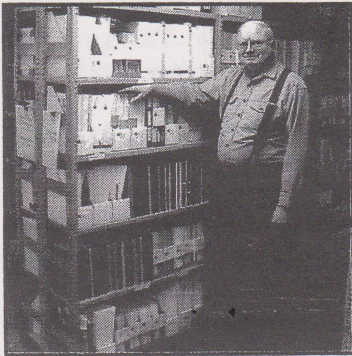
E-mail - rmpl@qwest.net

Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

Your active library...

THE STATE OF THE RMPL

by Ron Mitchell, RMPL President



Another milestone is reached: Vol. 12, No. 1 of *Scribblings*. As the library heads into its twelfth year it is stronger and healthier than ever, thanks to the support of its members. If stamp collecting is in a decline, you would never know it by judging the use of the RMPL.

We are near the beginning of my second year as your president, and it is a good time to look at how the library is doing. It has been my pleasure to follow through with several projects initiated by my predecessor, Don Beuthel.

MORE SPACE

One of the important items on this year's "to do" list was expansion. As you read this, a project to create new shelf space should be complete. Thanks to board member Steve Schweighofer, the "back room" has a new ceiling and lighting and a fresh coat of paint.

Workers were scheduled to begin installing compact shelving on December 22.

Things that were stored in the back room are now in two Tuff Sheds built on the west side of our building. Doors the back room have been taken off, and it is now a part of the library open to patrons.

The expansion committee, chaired by Peter Laux, began work last May, and the vision it proposed to the board has come to life. We now have a third more shelf space, enough to last four or five years at the current level of acquisitions.

The additional shelving has required that we reorganize the locations of catalogs, books, and periodicals. All the auction catalogs and many of the periodicals have been moved to the new shelves, and everything else has been spread out a bit. We no longer have to tug and push and hassle with trying to get a book off a shelf that is stuffed to capacity.

For your convenience, there is a diagram at the front desk that shows where the various materials in the collection are now located. Volunteers are always happy to help, too.

Please visit and look around. The changes make your library much more user friendly.

OUTREACH

Ten organizations are using the RMPL as a meeting place every month. If you know of a philatelic group that is looking for a new home, we would welcome them. Just give us a call.

We are in the process of reorganizing our web site. As the saying goes, it will be "bigger and better than ever," with information on the RMPL and stamp collecting in Colorado. I'll have more details in the next issue of *Scribblings*. Meanwhile, the old site is still worth a look at rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com.

We have given several programs at schools, clubs and retirement communities the past year, but this is an area that could be strengthened, so it is something to work on in 2004. We would like to hear from a member who might be able to help.

ACQUISITIONS

Donations continue to flow in and we appreciate every one. Donations are something we never take for granted.

One of our goals this year was to beef up the acquisitions program. Thanks to cash donations and memorials, it is headed toward high gear, with emphasis on buying books and monographs on postal history. Recommendations from members are welcome. If there is a book we should have in the shelves, please give us the title.

VOLUNTEERS

More than thirty volunteers keep the library open six hours a day, six days a week. They also make it functional, easy to use, and a fun place for stamp collectors. We have the best group of volunteers of any philatelic library in the country. There are large cities with no philatelic libraries precisely because they cannot assemble a group of volunteers to make it happen. Our volunteers are the heart of the RMPL and we owe them our thanks.

Stamp collectors tend to be "life-long learners," and the RMPL continues to be an important free resource that is available to help pursue knowledge and education that is not available anywhere else in our area. I am proud to be associated with it, and with its membership. *2004 promises to be just as much fun as 2003!*

News From the RMPL...

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The first board meeting of the new year serves as the RMPL's "official" meeting for purposes of fulfilling requirements of incorporation under Colorado law. Members are welcome to attend and if you have ideas for improving the library, now is the time to speak up. If you would like to have an item added to the agenda, call Ron Mitchell at the library (303) 759-9921 or on his cell phone (303) 507-4432.

The meeting will be at 7:00 PM Thursday evening, January 8th.

RMPL CLOSED

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library will be closed on Wednesday, December 31st at 1:00 PM for New Year's Eve and Thursday, Friday and Saturday, January 1st-3rd for the New Year's Holiday. Doors will be open on the 3rd for meetings of the Scandinavian Collector's Club and Topical Philatelists in Colorado.

The library will also be closed for two Monday holidays: January 19th for MLK Day; and February 16th for Presidents' Day.

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

The Second Saturday programs continue to be a good time to socialize with other collectors and learn a thing or two as well. Coffee and donuts are provided.

The program for January 10th will be "Cyprus: WWII Civil Censorship of the Mails" by Alex Ioannides. Then on February 14th, Peter Laux will have "Archaeology on Stamps."

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

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

During the past two months donations have been received from Jenn Andersen, Katherine Ballard, Art Barber, Linda Barkley, Tim Bartshe, P. R. Beutel, Roberta Bourn, Ane Burkiewicz, Norm Camara, Fred Campbell, Dave Capra, CHICAGOPEX 2003 (through Jane Doyle), Roger Cichorz, Bill Cox, Doug Crowe, James Davenport, Jack Dear, Drue DeBerry, Gerry Dunn, Larry Egged, Arthur Laux, Martin Feibusch, Nolan Flowers, Jr., Joe Foley, Jim Fredlund, Gary Gibson, Mrs. Lou Groves, Eddie Hackstaff, Larry Hoague, Barbara Kean, Jim Lays, Justin

Leenheer, Burt Loring and Stanley Luft.

Also, Glenn Mallory, Mike Maselli, Eugene McGurer, Jim McNamee, Dasa Metzler, Bill Mobley, Jeff Modesitt, Joseph Napp, Betty Paul, Bill Plachte, Margo Pokempner, Bill Rapp, Min Ray, David Reitsema, Norm Ritchie, Carol Roy, Roger Rydberg, Ed Schenck, SESCAL 2003, Marc Silberman, Anne Sousa, Colin Spong, Richard Thomas Philatelics, Harvey Tilles, Felice Vainer, Steve Wemlinger, Steve Wineteer, and Matt Zieringer.

Every donation is important. We sincerely thank each person who contributed to the library during the past couple of months.

Sometimes material appears as if by magic and we have no idea who donated it. 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 may deduct the fair market value of their items if they itemize deductions on their income tax.

Even if you do not take a deduction, give us your name so that we can send a letter of appreciation.

WEATHER WARNINGS

A reminder that winter weather may require that the library close because of unsafe road conditions for our volunteers and patrons. If you plan to visit, please call ahead (303 759-9921) if bad weather is threatening or there is a fresh snowfall of three or more inches.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

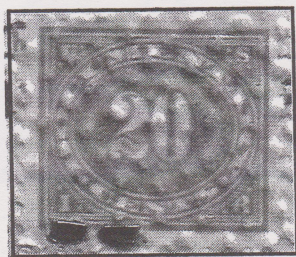
We are pleased to report that the following people have joined the library in the last two months:

Art Barber	Kent Brickell
Estella Grigy	Jonathan "Jeb" Love
George A. McCollum, Jr.	

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 considered a contribution by the IRS and may be used as a deduction when figuring your income tax. We ask that you respond promptly and generously.

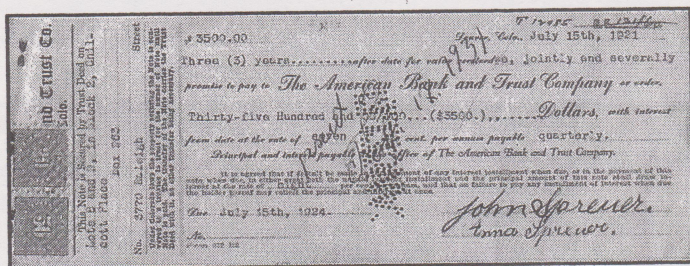
THE 'WAFFLE' REVENUE STAMP
by Bill Dunn, RMPL Vice President



A close-up of the 20-cent revenue stamp on the note shows how a roller cancel created lumps and bumps.

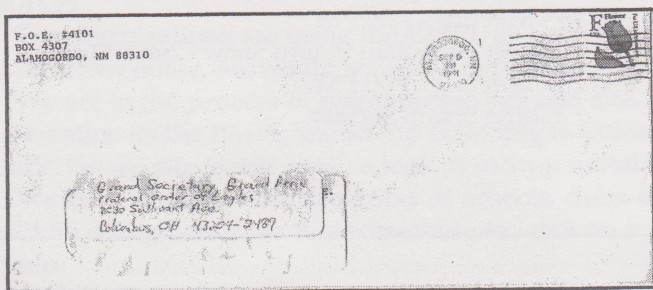
Many years ago, I found the strangest looking revenue stamp in an assortment I had bought at a show. It looked like it had been placed in a miniature waffle iron because there were lumps and bumps all over the stamp. I threw it aside and some time later looked at it again and again, trying to find some explanation or reason for the

waffle-like appearance. I decided it had been done purposely and not done on some whim or for ulterior purposes. But why? It has taken more than 30 years to solve that mystery. In a donation to RMPL, there was a cancelled promissory note and on the left hand side were two revenue stamps, neatly cancelled by some sort of rolling device that creates a waffle-like impression essentially identical to the one I had encountered many years before. This waffle-like impression was used to cancel the stamps and prevent re-use again. I guess if one waits long enough, answers will come...



The promissory note found in an RMPL donation that solved the "waffle" mystery.

**UNIQUE MISSING COLOR ERROR
FOUND BY RMPL VOLUNTEER-**



The cover with Scott 2518, yellow omitted error received APS Certificate No. 151353 on November 3, 2003.

Eugene McGurer stumbled on a cover with the Tulip "F" stamp coil (Scott 2518) completely missing its yellow color. He made the discovery back in 1991, but set it aside when skeptics said it must have been doctored somehow, especially since it is the only reported copy.

Recently, he sent the cover to the American Philatelic Society Expert Committee for an opinion, and low and behold, last November he received a certificate saying "the stamp with yellow omitted error, used on cover, (is) genuine in all respects."

Gene is a regular Tuesday volunteer at the library, and agreed to let *Scribblings* break the news, so you're reading about it here first!

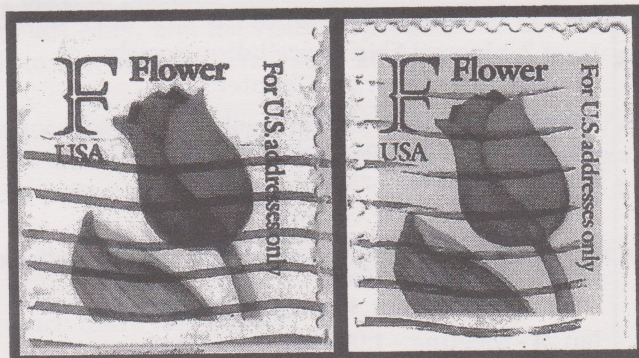
The library's copy of Stephen Datz' 1996/97 Catalogue of Errors on US Postage Stamps shows that stamps with a color omitted are rarely found in a quantity of just one.

A single copy of the 1982 15-cent Mt. McKinley stamp with yellow omitted is noted, but no value is given.

A comparison might be drawn with the 22-cent Pan American Games issue of 1987 which is missing the metallic silver color. Thirty have been reported, and the value is put at \$1,750. It is possible that the unique 1991 Tulip "F" stamp coil with yellow omitted is worth many times that.

Gene says he contacted the organization that mailed the letter soon after he discovered it, but other stamps on the roll had already been used and were no longer available for inspection.

Congratulations, Gene, and thanks for sharing your discovery with us. It is the kind of a once in a lifetime occurrence most stamp collectors can only dream about.



The missing color error is shown here on the left with the properly printed version on the right for comparison.

**Stamp Show Schedule
January - February 2004**

**CHERPEX
February 7 - 8, 2004
Lakeside Shopping Center**

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.

January, 2004

Jan 1 -3 - RMPL Closed - New Year's Holiday
Jan 3 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
Jan 3 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
TOPical Philatelists In Colorado
Jan 7 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading; 7:30 Meeting and Program
Jan 10 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Alex Ioannides
"Cyprus: WWII Civil Censorship of the Mails"
Jan 10 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group
Jan 10 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
Jan 14 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
Jan 17 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Russia Study Group
Jan 19 - RMPL Closed - MLK Day
Jan 24 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
Jan 24 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
China Stamp Society
Jan 27 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

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

February, 2004

Feb 4 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading; 7:30 Meeting and Program
Feb 7 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
Feb 7 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
TOPical Philatelists In Colorado
Feb 11 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
Feb 14 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Peter Laux
"Archaeology on Stamps"
Feb 14 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico / Latin American Philatelic Society
Feb 14 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
Feb 14 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter
Feb 16 - RMPL CLOSED - Presidents' Day
Feb 21 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
Feb 21 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
China Stamp Society
Feb 25 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
Feb 28 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
China Stamp Society

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)