

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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May - June, 2004

www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.com

303 - 759-9921

E-mail - rmpl@qwest.net

Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

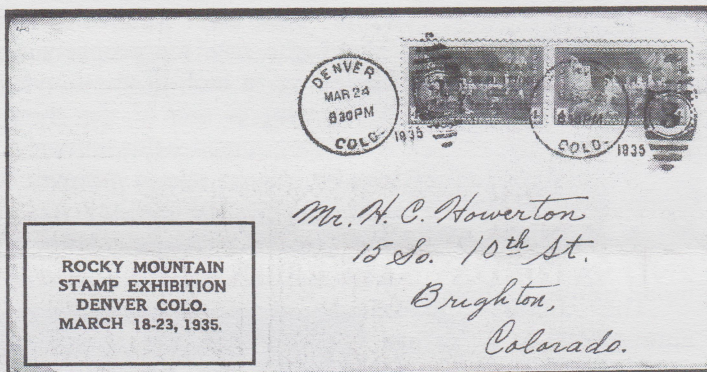
My first stamp show...

EARLY DENVER STAMP SHOWS

by Jack Willard, RMPL founder and Board Member Emeritus

As I remember it...

The first stamp show I attended was in an empty rented storefront in the 1500 block of Welton Street in downtown Denver in 1935. The Denver Stamp Club,



A souvenir cover from Jack Willard's first stamp show in 1935. The overprint is shown at the lower left.

already 30 years old at the time, was the sponsor.

It was nothing like today's shows, although the name was similar.

It was called The Rocky Mountain Stamp Exhibition. The show was open for six days, March 18-23. Stamps were exhibited in 4-page frames propped up on tables. Volunteers from the club had to stay in the store each night to protect the exhibits because everything was plainly visible from the street through large windows.

There were a few dealers and all were local. No dealers came in from out-of-town in those days.

I discovered a commemorative cover from the show in a group of covers from a recent donation to the RMPL. It didn't have a special cancel, but a pair of 4-cent Mesa Verde stamps from the 1934 National Parks series was affixed, with the left one overprinted in red, Rocky Mountain / Stamp Exhibition / Denver Colo. / March 18-23, 1935. The postal validity of the overprinted stamp was canceled by the overprint, so the second stamp paid the postage.

Stamp shows have a very long history in Denver, going back to at least 1887 when the Denver Stamp

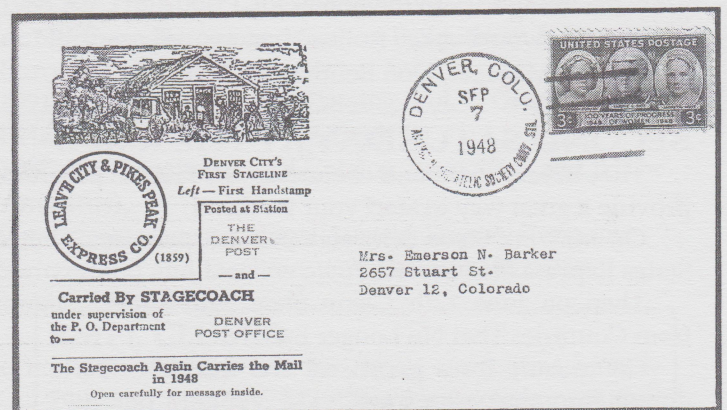
Collectors' League organized an exhibit. It boasted of a display worth \$600 to \$700, including a "complete" collection of the United States and examples from nearly every stamp issuing country in the world. There were write-ups about it in the *Rocky Mountain News* and *Denver Times*.

There was a major show in 1907 when the American Philatelic Society held its annual meeting in Denver. The organization met here again 41 years later and that exhibition turned out to be the "father" of ROMPEX.

Here's how it happened ...

H.A. "Doc" Davis and I went to the APS show in Chicago in 1946 to invite the group to hold its annual meeting in Denver in 1948. "Doc" had been Secretary of the APS for 29 years, so his request to hold a convention in his home town held a lot of weight with the APS leadership, and they agreed to come. "Doc" and I represented a coalition of several stamp clubs who agreed to sponsor the event.

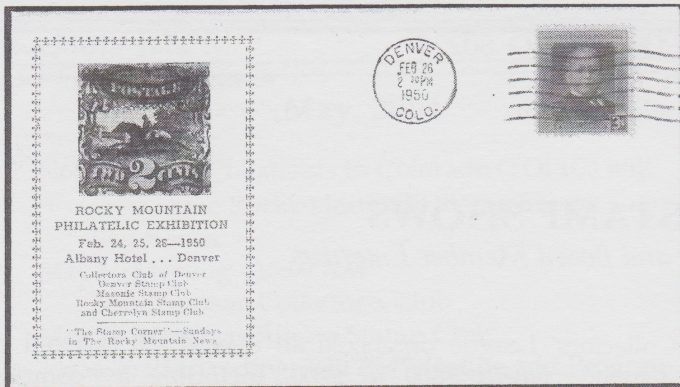
Twice a day during the convention, a stagecoach would make its way from the Denver Post to the Shirley Savoy Hotel, with two stops in between. It carried cacheted covers with an "American Philatelic Society Sta." cancel. I well remember the stage and its horses running past me and hundreds of others on 16th Street who



A "stagecoach cover" from the 1948 APS meeting in Denver.

Stamp Shows...continued from page 1.....

Money left over from the APS show was used to start the first ROMPEX, held in February, 1950. Again, there was a coalition of stamp clubs that got together to organize the show. It is gratifying to see the same spirit of cooperation between clubs in Colorado is still at the heart of the success of what is now The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show.



Cacheted cover from the first ROMPEX cancelled February 26, 1950.

Bibliography

The Stamp, Vol. II No. 6. August 1887, p.1 and Vol. II No. 8, October 1887, p. 102.
ROMPEX Archives, including Show Programs, 1950-2003.
The Denver Daily AP Ser, Vol. I No. 1, September 6, 1948

News From the RMPL...

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The library has lost two of its most valuable volunteers since the first of the year and so far, replacements have not been found.

We are proud of the fact that the library is open six hours a day, six days a week, and if we are to continue those hours, we must find more volunteers to work weekly three hour shifts on a regular basis.

We need people who are willing to help other collectors find information, check out and check in material, file periodicals, clippings and books, and do other routine duties.

This may be the chance you have been looking for to give something back to the hobby.

If you would like to learn more, please call our Operations Manager, Don Beuthel, at (303) 755-9328.

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

The library's Second Saturday 9:00 AM programs provide a great way to start your weekend.

On May 8th Steve Schweighofer will present "United States Express Mail Service."

Then on June 12th Glenn Shaw will show "Stamps from Countries That No Longer Exist."

Come early for a good seat and the best selection of donuts from the pastry tray!

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

The following people made contributions to the library in February and March:

Dick Axtell, John and Aurel Ball, Phil Beutel, Robert L. Brown, Fred Campbell, Erwin Chaim, Jim Davenport, Bob Domagata, Harry S. Emily, Arthur J. Faix, Nolan Flowers, Jr., Kenton Forrest, Gary Gibson, John D. Grigg II, Richard T. Hall, Robert W. Hisey, Frank Leitz, Harold Lord, Sergio Lugo and Cliff Lushbough.

Also, Glenn Mallory, Frederick Mayer, Charles McClure, Eugene McGurer, Mary Merkel, Harry W. Methner, Ron Mitchell, Carol and Bill Mobley, Jim Reichman, Betty Reid, Edwin Schaeffer, Morgan Sonsthagen, Colin Spong, Richard E. Taylor, Dr. Harvey G. Tilles, Alan Warren, Ed Watters, Vi Weinman, and George E. Wright.

SIGN IN, PLEASE!

There were at least fifteen to twenty visitors to the library one recent weekday, but only two of them signed the visitor's book. Since the RMPL is a nonprofit organization, it is important to show how it serves the public, and the visitor's book is one measure of that.

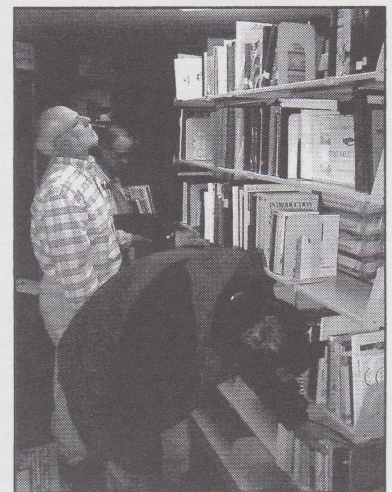
It has been more than three years since we went before the State Legislature to plead our case for property tax exemption, and we are beginning to look at another try. Our usefulness to the community is one of the things lawmakers will examine when they consider our request.

The next time you drop by, please take a moment to leave your name in the book.

2ND SATURDAY SALE RESULTS

The library made almost \$600 at a "garage sale" held the second Saturday in March. Space in the library is at a premium, so it was important to dispose of as much unneeded material as possible.

Happy buyers took away bargains on stamps and supplies, duplicate philatelic literature, and old shelves and cabinets no longer needed because of the recent expansion. Thanks to all who took part.



Buyers search some of the items available at the 2nd Saturday Sale in March.

BILL DUNN MEMORIALS

The RMPL board and volunteers are gratified that 73 contributions have been made to the library in memory of William S. Dunn. Bill passed away February 22. He was a library founder, and his dedication and hard work on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library are a major reason for its continuing success.

Several years ago, the board established a Book Acquisitions Program funded by memorial contributions. Bill was on the board at that time, and he recognized the importance of adding to the library's collection beyond accepting donations of books.

Appropriately then, memorials to Bill will be used to make significant additions to the RMPL shelves.

Our acquisitions committee, chaired by Sergio Lugo, will gladly accept suggestions for books you would like to see in the library.

DO YOU HAVE OLD SHOW PROGRAMS?

The RMPL is missing ROMPEX show programs from 1950-56 and 1958. If you have any of them, we would like to hear from you to arrange to photocopy them, or if you wish, to accept them as a donation.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW TIME

The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show committee has been working on your behalf for a year to get ready for the 55th Annual Show.

The dates are May 14, 15 and 16 at the Holiday Inn DIA, I-70 and Chambers Road. There is plenty of free parking in the convention area around back.

RMPL volunteers Sergio Lugo, George Wright and Don Beuthel, among others, are looking forward to greeting members and friends of the library at our regular booth.

There will be stamps and philatelic literature for sale, but the main attraction at our table will be the annual silent auction. Be sure to stop by, get a bidder number and look through the books of lots. You won't be disappointed with the selection this year.

The RMSS will have 45 national dealers on the floor, plus the U.S. Post Office will have a booth.

Collectors from all over the country who belong to three groups will be holding convention meetings and seminars. They are the United Postal Stationery Society, American Helvetia Philatelic Society, and Italy and Colonies Study Circle.

All this plus more than 4000 pages of stamp exhibits in judged competition.

See you there!

CHANGES ON THE BOARD

The vacancy on the Board of Directors created by the passing of Bill Dunn has been filled by Tim Bartshe. The library's by-laws allow the board to appoint replacements, and Tim was the unanimous choice.

Tim is a resident of Golden and runs his own geology consulting firm.

He is an active APS judge and attends more than a dozen exhibitions a year. He has won gold medals for his

Orange Free State and South African Republic collections.

Tim also gives seminars on exhibiting at stamp shows and hosts a monthly exhibiting seminar at the RMPL.

Also, Maury Pautz has assumed the duties of Recording Secretary. Maury has been on the board as an at-large director since the fall of 2001 and is a regular weekly volunteer at the library.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We are pleased to report that the following people joined the library in February and March:

William B. Mahoney - Collects British Colonies, definitives, King George V Imperium Key Plates and Postmarks

Bill Schattle - Collects Colorado Postal History, Airmail Plate Blocks, Ryukyu Islands, Mountains on Stamps

C. Larkin Hosmer - Collects U.S. stamps

Norman H. Pence - Collects Oklahoma Postal History

Dick Seeley - Collects U.S. Some Foreign

Jan Cilpido - Collects Triangular Stamps, Trees

Bill & Carol Mobley - Collects Picture Post Cards

Art Berg - Collects World, Paquebot, Ship Postcards

NEW BOOKS

Here are some of the books which have been added to the shelves recently:

CATALOGS

Catalog of the Shanghai Postal System. Edited and published by L. F. Livingston, 1971 reprint from The American Philatelist.

APS Numbers, Vols. 1 and 2 by Joseph M. Nap. A Study of the Plate Number Combinations created by the Overprinting of U.S. Postage Stamps for use in the United States Possessions and Administrative Areas 1899 - 1946. Published by Grounds for Divorce Publications, 2000.

Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone edited by Irwin J. Gibes. United Postal Stationery Society, 2003

Great Britain Revenues. Edited and published by J. Barefoot, 2002.

Austria Revenues. Edited and published by J. Barefoot, 2002.

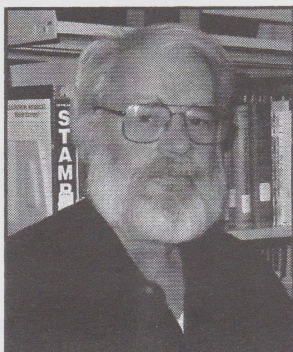
Three books by W. Donald Thomas and published by the Aeronautic & Air Label Collectors Club:

1986 Air Transport Label Catalog, Vol. 1: Europe, Section A: Northern Europe and Section B: Southern & Eastern Europe.

1991 Air Transport Label Catalog, Vol. 2: Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand.

1987 Air Transport Label Catalog, Sections A and B (The Americas).

Pix Briefmarken Catalogs: Austria, France, Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Vatican, 1952-1986.



Jerry Eggleston is the president of Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2004.

RMPL CLOSED

The library will be closed on Saturday, May 29th and Monday, May 31st for the Memorial Day weekend.

What's happening at the RMPL...

"Come and enjoy the activities."

~~ Daily Hours ~~

Monday.....10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Thursday.....2:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Tuesday.....10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday.....10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Wednesday....10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Saturday.....10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Closed Sundays and Holidays

May, 2004

Note: TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC) will meet at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show this month.

- May 1 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
- May 5 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading; 7:30 PM Meeting and Program
- May 8- Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Steve Schweighofer
"United States Express Mail Service"
- May 8 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- May 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U. S. S. Colorado Chapter
- May 12 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- May 22 - Workshop - 10:00 AM
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
- May 22 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
China Stamp Society
- May 29 thru 31 - CLOSED**
Memorial Day Weekend

June, 2004

- June 2 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading; 7:30 PM Meeting and Program
- June 5 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
- June 5 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- June 9 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- June 12 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM
Program by Glenn Shaw
"Stamps from Countries That No Longer Exist"
- June 12 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico / Latin American Study Group
- June 12 - Meeting - 11:30 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
- June 12- Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter
- June 19 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Russia Study Group
- June 24 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- June 26 - Workshop - 10:00 AM
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
- June 26 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
China Stamp Society

Monthly Stamp Show Schedule...

May 14 - 16

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show - ROMPEX

Holiday Inn - DIA
I-70 at Chambers Road
Aurora, CO

FREE ADMISSION →

RMSS 2004 ENTRY COUPON MAY 14, 15, OR 16, 2004

Present this coupon at the ticket counter to receive your free admission.

**FREE - FREE - FREE
THREE DAY SHOW ADMISSION**

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

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado nonprofit 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 and *Scribblings* Editor: Ron Mitchell - Operations Manager: Don Beuthel - Vice-President: Jim Kilbane - Corresponding Secretary: Robert Brown - Recording Secretary: Maury Pautz - Treasurer: Robert Blatherwick - Members at Large: Tim Bartshe - Sergio Lugo - James L. Ozment - Steve Schweighofer - Jack Willard (Emeritus)