

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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September - October, 2004

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Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

Before 1863, it wasn't free in the United States..

## CARRIER SERVICE

by Stephen B. Pacetti, RMPL Member

Today, we take for granted the Postal Service letter carrier who brings mail to our home and picks up outgoing letters for us. Ever since July 1, 1863 carrier service has been included in the price of a stamp. Before that, carrier service, if it was available, would cost you an extra penny.

A penny doesn't sound like much, but consider that in 1860 the cost of goods and services was far less than today and 1¢ was worth about 11¢ in today's currency. A penny was "real money" back then!

Carrier service within the same city was a bit of a bargain. For only 1¢, your letter to someone in the same city would be picked up from a mail box and delivered to the recipient's street address. The 3¢ letter rate was not charged because the letter did not "enter the mails".

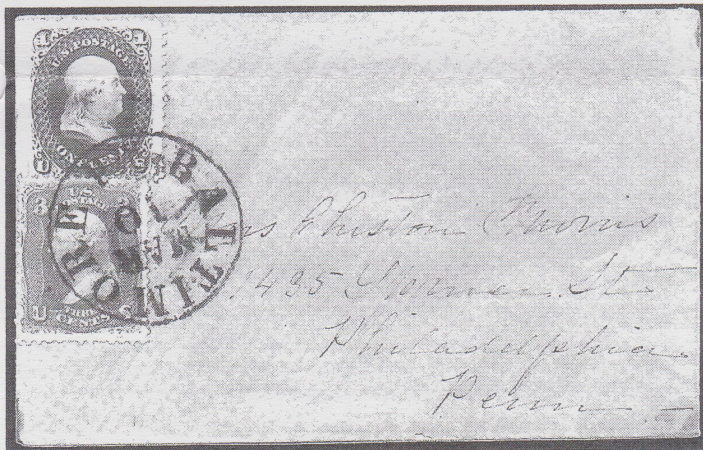


Figure 1. This cover postmarked in Baltimore and addressed to a Philadelphia street address is franked with the 1¢ blue Franklin (No. 63) which paid the carrier fee to the mails, and a 3¢ rose Washington (No. 65) which paid the first class letter rate to Philadelphia. The 1¢ delivery fee was paid in cash by the addressee.

By 1863, there were about 20,000 towns in the Union, but only 43 had carrier service. Most of these were the larger cities such as Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. Postmasters had authority to hire people to make the rounds of designated mail collection places and "carry" the mail to the post office for processing. They also would carry letters from the post office to local street addresses. These carriers were not Post Office Department employees, but independent contractors whose salary came from the 1¢ fee for delivery to the post office and another 1¢ paid in cash by the addressee for delivery to a house or business.



Figure 2. Called a local carrier cover, this envelope was picked up and delivered in New York City for only 1¢.

There were also dozens of private companies in the big cities that picked up and delivered mail locally and elsewhere. They competed with the POD quite

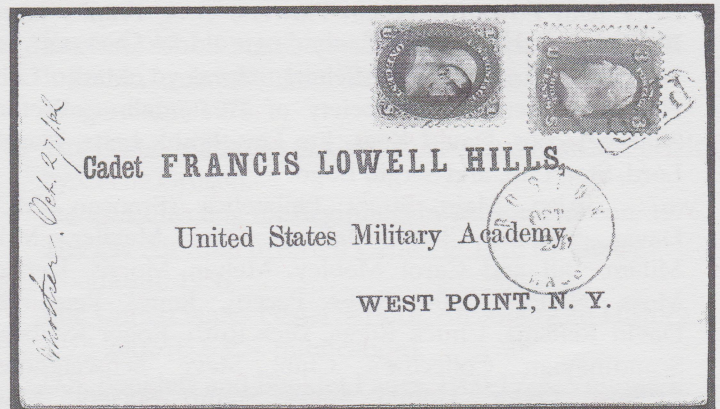


Figure 3. This cover postmarked in Boston and addressed to a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy is franked with the 1¢ blue Franklin (No. 63) which paid the carrier fee to the mails, and a 3¢ rose Washington (No. 65) which paid the first class letter rate to West Point, N.Y.

because Congress exercised its Constitutional authority to declare all roads as "post roads" and establish a POD monopoly on carrying the mail.

Early carrier service presents a fascinating study for the U.S. postal history collector because it not only gives us interesting covers to collect, but sheds light on our 19th century economy, government, and private enterprise.

## News From the RMPL...

### RMPL CLOSED

The library will be closed on Saturday, September 4 and Monday, September 6, for Labor Day.

### SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

A behind-the-scenes look at some great stamp collections and expert information on the weather will make our next two Second Saturday programs fun to attend.

On September 11, there will be a tribute to RMPL founder Bill Dunn with the program "Bill Dunn's Stamp Collections." Bill regularly worked on nearly a dozen different collections before he passed away last February.

On Monday, October 4, the USPS will release ten cloudscape stamps. The following Saturday, October 9, our own meteorologist, Maury Pautz, will present "Clouds: Ten Reasons to Look Up."

The RMPL's Second Saturday programs begin promptly at 9:00 AM, with coffee and donuts and a group of good people. Everyone is welcome.

### THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

The following people made contributions to the library in June and July. We thank them very much. Such donations are essential to the growth and health of the library.

Paul Albright, Aurora Stamp Club, Ted Bahry, Tim Bartshe, John Bloor, Jim Brodie, Robert Brown, Henry Burkiewicz, John Buvinger, Norm Camara, Steven Cohan, David and Andria Cooper, Joe Coston, Sue Dunn, Mrs. Betty Jean Edwards, Nolan Flowers, Greg Frantz, James Fredlund, Gary Gibson, Larry Grant, Eddie Hackstaff, Jan Heskett, Chris Hoff, Michael Horsley, Mark Luby Howard, International Society of Guatemala Collectors, Sharon Jacobs, David Kent, Jim Lay, Frank Leitz, Harold Lord, Stan Luft, and Sergio Lugo.

Also, Main Street Philatelics (Branson, MO), David Mallon, Glenn Mallory, Dasa Metzler, Mike Milam, Bill and Carol Mobley, Melvin Morris, Derrick Moss, NAPEX 2004, Steve Pacetti, James Reichman, David Reitsma, Chuck Riggs, Dick Ruth, Roger Rydberg, Scandinavian Collector's Club, Steve Schweighofer, Richard Taylor, United States Stamp Society, Mark Vainer, Dave Weisberg, Mike Wenkel and Winter Park Stamp Shop (Winter Park, FL).

For more information:

Evans, Donald L., The United States 1c Franklin 1861-1867 and an Introduction to the Postal History of the Period, 1997.

"U.S. Carrier Fee System Ends" by Donald B. Johnston  
*The American Philatelist*, June, 1963, pp. 657-662.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

We are pleased to welcome the following people who joined the library in June and July:

Robert H. Whyte

### BILL'S GARDEN

Sue Dunn, RMPL founder Bill Dunn's widow, has taken on the job of creating and maintaining a beautiful flower garden behind the library.

Bill enjoyed gardening all his adult life, and always had beautiful flowers and landscaping at his home.

Ever since the RMPL bought the building on South Pontiac Way in 1996, he wanted a garden out back to



*Bill's Garden is outside the back door of the library and gives folks in the neighborhood across Asbury Avenue to the north some relief from the weeds that used to grow here.*

replace the eyesore of a bunch of weeds. Finally, last summer, he planted a few lilies, but they didn't bloom and required more work than he was able to give.

Bill passed away in February, and in the spring, the lilies he planted the year before started to come up and bloom between the weeds.

Sue saw the lilies as a challenge to move forward with her husband's wishes for a garden. With the advice of a friend who is a master gardner, she planned a way to make the 30-by-12-foot plot come to life.

Sue spent many, many hours planting and caring for the flowers, and the result is a wonderful sight to see. We thank her very much for her efforts.

Stan Buller, our neighbor behind and across the street from our building, keeps an eye on the garden and has assumed the task of keeping the weeds out. This is no small matter, and we all owe Stan a big thank you, too.

Step out the back door and take a look at the Garden!

## SCRIBBLINGS ON THE INTERNET

One of the new features on the RMPL's internet page is a copy of the main article from *Scribblings* going back several issues. It makes a big difference to see articles on the internet, because the format allows for color reproductions of covers and stamps.

Another bonus is the ability to include material that has had to be edited out because of limited space in the printed edition. John Bloor's article, "Semiofficial Airmail Stamps of Great Britain," from the June-July issue, is an example of including additional information in the internet version.

Our internet address is:

[www.rockyountaiphilatelibrary.com](http://www.rockyountaiphilatelibrary.com).

## STAMP BOOKS ON CD

The library has several books on compact disk available for checkout. They have been available for some time, but see very little use, so our librarian, Ellengail Beuthel, has put them together in a convenient place at the front desk.

Here are the titles:

Catalogue of Civil War Era Photography Revenue

Stamp Cancellations compiled by Bruce Baryla, 1997.

Encyclopedia of Stamps by Richard Sine, 1994.

Forgeries of Classic Japanese Postage Stamps

by Thomas Zane, Ron Casey and Lois Evans-de Violini, 1997.

Mexican-American War, 1846-1848 by Mark Banchik, (an exhibit) 2002.

New Zealand Stamps: A Virtual Album by New Zealand Post, 1997.

A Study of the Swiss Federal Administration-issued Stamps, 1850-1854, and Their Forgeries. by Anton Kofranek, 1999.



The library's CD collection is located at the front desk.

## THE OFFICIAL RMPL SCRAPBOOK

Our historian, Dalene Thomas, has put together a magnificent record of the RMPL's history by creating a 60-page state-of-the-art scrapbook.

"Scrapbooking" has become an important hobby, with stores devoted just to providing supplies for books and pages. Dalene has embraced the fun and creativity in a big way and has put her talents to work for the library's benefit.

The new scrapbook is available for all to enjoy on the coffee table behind the meeting area.



Part of a page in the library's new scrapbook, featuring, besides the pictures, little postmark dials from all over the country.

## NEW BOOKS

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

Biographies of Philatelists and Dealers by Brian Birch, 2003.

"Contract to Print Canada's First Postage Stamp 1851" (from a Matthew Bennett auction catalog).

The Financial Management of Your Coin/Stamp Estate by D. Larry Crumbley and Tony L. Crumbley, 1978.

Guidelines for the Duties and Accreditation of National Commissioners, Jurors, Expert Groups by Dr. Eliseo Rubén Otero, 2004.

Isle of Man Postmarks by A.J.P. Massy, 1969.

The Last Stamps of Newfoundland by John Ayshford, 1978.

Liberian Philatelic Material by O. E. Lynch and Robert W. Brown, 1972.

Liberties: Rates & Usages by John Allen, [no date].

Montana Territorial Postmarks by Wesley N. Shellen and Francis Dunn, 2003.

Narrow Gauge to Silverton by John Hungerford, [no date].

Nevada Express: Wells, Fargo & Co. and Other Letter Expresses 1857-1895 by James Gamett, 2002.

Pakistan Overprints 1947-1949 by M. Arif Balgamwala, 2000.

Paper Gold: How to Make Money and Hedge Against Inflation by Investing in Postage Stamps by Kal Wagenheim, 1976.

The Postal Markings of Guatemala = Sus Marcas Postales by Cecile Gruson.

Stamp Collecting for Beginners by Burton Hobson, 1976.

The 24¢ Air Mail Inverted Center of 1918 by Henry Goodkind, 1956.

The United States Postal Service: An American History 1775-2002 [U.S.P.S. publication].

U.S. Booklets and Booklet Panes, 1900-1978, Volume 1: Flat Plate Regular Issues by Donald B. Littlefield and Sam Frank, 2004.

World Atlas [Barnes and Noble], 1960.

Canada and the United States by Charles J. LaBonde,

# 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

## September, 2004

September 1 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 PM Trading; 7:30 PM Meeting and Program

### September 4 - 6 CLOSED

Labor Day Weekend

September 4 - Meeting - 10 AM  
Scandinavian Collectors Club

September 8 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club

September 11 - 2nd Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM  
Program by Ron Mitchell

"Bill Dunn's Stamp Collections"

September 11 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Study Group

September 11 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society

U. S. S. Colorado Chapter

Note: Topical Philatelists in Colorado (TOPIC)  
will meet at Buckingham Square during  
APEX 2004 on Saturday, September 11,  
at 2:00 PM.

September 18 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Russia Study Group

September 25 - Workshop - 10:00 AM  
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop

September 25 - Meeting - 1:00 PM  
China Stamp Society

September 28 - Meeting - 7:30 PM  
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

## October, 2004

October 2 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Scandinavian Collectors Club

October 2 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
TOPical Philatelists in Colorado (TOPIC)

October 6 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 PM Trading; 7:30 PM Meeting and Program

October 9 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM  
Program by Maury Pautz  
"Clouds: Ten Reasons to Look Up"

October 9 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico / Latin American Study Group

October 9 - Meeting - 11:30 AM  
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists

October 9 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society

U.S.S. Colorado Chapter

October 13 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club

October 16 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Russia Study Group

October 23 - Workshop - 10:00 AM  
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop

October 23 - Meeting - 1:00 PM  
China Stamp Society

October 26 - Meeting - 7:30 PM  
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

## Monthly Stamp Show Schedule...

Sept. 11 - 12

**APEX 2004 - Aurora Stamp Club**, Buckingham Square Shopping Center, East Mississippi at South Havana, Aurora, CO, Contact: Tom Surprenant, E-mail: mpautz@hotmail.com

October 9

**Colorado Stamp Show**, Embassy Suites Hotel - Southeast, 7525 E Hampden A, Denver, CO, Contact: 20th Century Classics - Pat Dowling, P.O. Box 7536, Colorado Springs CO 80933, 719.598.7307 - 20thonline@adelphia.net

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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)