

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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2038 S Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224

303 - 759-9921

Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

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E-mail: rmpl@qwest.net

## AIRMAIL STAMPS -- FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS?

by John H. Bloor

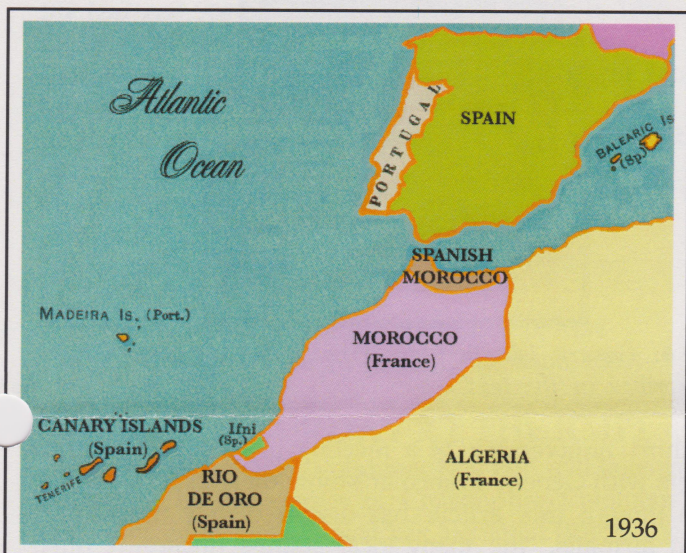


Figure 1. The Canary Islands are in the Atlantic Ocean, 600 miles southwest of Spain.

Our daughter spent a semester in high school as an exchange student in the Islas Canarias, named for packs of wild dogs reported to roam the islands (Latin: *canis*; the canary bird was named for the islands.)

This autonomous community of Spain is a group of seven volcanic islands located in the Atlantic Ocean about 200 miles northwest of North Africa and 600 miles southwest of Cadiz, in Spain (Figure 1). As a lark, I decided to see if the *Scott Catalogue* listed any stamps from the Canary Islands.

To my surprise, there are 53 airmail stamps listed as local issues from the Canaries. They are located at the very end of the Spanish listing and are numbered 9LCx where

"L" is for local, "C" is for airmail, and "x" is a number from 1 to 53.

The *Sanabria World Airmail Catalogue* (1966 edition) has ninety different major numbers, some for issues not included in *Scott*. Other important references for these and other Spanish Civil War issues are the *Galvez catalogue* (*Catalogo Especializado Galvez de los Sellos de España Correos y Telégrafos*), last published in 1959 and reprinted in 1970; *The Postal History of the Canary Islands* (1987) by Ronald G. Shelley; and *A Guide to the Postal History of the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939*, edited by Ronald G. Shelley.

The war began on July 17, 1936 in Melilla, a Spanish garrison city in North Africa. The Nationalists, led by General Francisco Franco (*El Caudillo*), rose up against the Republican government of Spain, headed by President Manuel Azana. It ended in April, 1939, with a Nationalist victory. Prior to the war, airmail service between Las Palmas (Canary Islands), and Madrid and Seville was provided by *Lineas Aereas Postales Españolas*, a Spanish company. This service ended at the onset of the war. The chief postal administrator at Las Palmas made arrangements with Lufthansa, a German airline, to carry mail to and from the islands on its South American route. This service operated from October 30, 1936 until April 27, 1938.

To pay for this service, Republican and, later, Nationalist stamps were locally surcharged. Although the overprints often included Nationalist propaganda



Figure 2. Scott listed Canary Islands airmails. From left: 9LC1, 9LC19, 9LC22, 9LC28 and 9LC31.

RMPL

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messages, the stamps were authorized by the government and paid for a real service. They were not simply Nationalist advertising. Collectors should be aware that many forgeries of these overprints exist. Examples of these stamps with genuine overprints are shown in **Figure 2**. A commercial cover franked with some of the airmails is shown in **Figure 3**.

Other "airmail" stamps were issued by the Canary Islands during the war. Several of these are shown in **Figure 4**. The top two are local surtax stamps issued for Las Palmas and Santa Cruz de Tenerife, respectively. Many imperforate color trials are known.

The middle stamp is one of a set of three charity stamps, not really an airmail, issued for Las Palmas. It shows a plane in flight over a seacoast. The bottom stamp has an airmail overprint issued to commemorate



**Figure 3.** Commercial cover from Las Palmas to Lisbon, Portugal, canceled October 30, 1937. Note the military censor marking in the lower right. Franking is with three different overprinted Canary Islands airmails (Scott 9LC13, 9LC23, 9LC25) and a Spanish stamp.



**Figure 4.** Canary Islands stamps not listed in Scott. They are described in the text.

the third anniversary of a meeting in June 1936 of army officers with General Franco at Monte de la Esperanza.

Although this article has discussed only the Canary Island airmails, the many local stamps (including other airmails) issued by both the Republicans and Nationalists during the Spanish Civil War are a popular subject for Spanish and other airmail collectors. Most of them are not listed in Scott.

The Scott, Sanabria and Galvez catalogs may be found in the RMPL.

## News from the RMPL ...

### TWO GROUPS ORGANIZING

Two new groups will hold organizational meetings at the library in July. Please consider giving them your support.

#### CLASSICS SOCIETY

The Local Chapter of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society will meet at 6:30 PM Thursday, July 14. For more information, contact Steve Pacetti at sbp57@comcast.net. Anyone with an interest in classic U.S. stamps is welcome, and that includes just about everyone who collects U.S.

#### YOUTH CLUB

The Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club will

meet at 10 AM Saturday, July 16. Contact Peter Adgie at pwfadgie@comcast.net. Parents are welcome and youngsters age 7 - 17 are encouraged to bring their friends, even if they don't collect stamps. Stamp collecting is a great hobby to learn, and to enjoy during summer vacation.

### RMPL CLOSED

The library will be closed on Saturday, July 2nd and Monday, July 4th for the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

### SILENT AUCTION A HUGE SUCCESS

There were 54 bidders who won lots at the RMPL's Silent Auction at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May.



We thank them all, and hope they enjoy their new "treasures."

Also, we tip our hat to Auction Manager Norm Camara. He spent countless hours preparing the lots, and his hard work paid off in a big way for the library.

### NEW TO THE RMPL SHELVES

New books arrive weekly, so it's a good idea to check the NEW BOOKS shelf when visiting the library. Here are some examples:

*Linn's U.S. Stamp Facts of the 19th Century* edited and written by Eliot A Landau, Michael Laurence, Denise McCarty, Donna O'Keefe and Jerome Wagshal, 1999.

*Check List of the Postage Stamp Booklet Covers of the United States* classified by Fred A. Neill, 1955.  
*Cross - Channel & North Sea Shipping Services, Part II* by Roger Hosking and Philip Cockrill [no date].

*Le Basket-Ball et la Philatelie Francaise* compiled by "Juillet," 1991.

*United States Territorial Postmark Catalog* by E. N. Sampson, 1950.

*Inland Routing Markings of Japan in the 1870s* by Matsumoto Jun Ichi, 2003.

*A Numerical Order Listing of Postcards in Karl Lewis's 1905 Catalogue* by James E. Jacobson, 2003.

### SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

On July 9th, RMPL volunteer Ron Hill will take us with him on the journey of Christopher Columbus' first voyage in 1492. Ron has personal ties to the area where Columbus landed in Cuba, and calls his program "The Cuban Connection."

The August 13th presentation "A Walk into the Future" will be given by RMPL volunteer Peter Adgie. Peter says the hobby is under assault by declining interest (we need to get more kids involved) and technical changes by postal services and in the way people communicate (e-mail).

### NEW MEMBERS

**Randolph V. Laurienti** - Aurora, CO - Collects U.S. Classics, Airmail, and Federal Ducks

**Edward Watters** - Boulder, CO - Collects U.S., Canada, Queen Victoria, and Mexico.

**Roy J. Atkinson** - Denver, CO - Collects First Flights, Covers, Postmarks

**Richard L. McConnell** - Omaha, NE - Collects U.S., Canada, WWII Patriotic Covers, Nebraska Postal History

**George V. Shalimoff** - Sebastopol, CA -Collects Russia-Imperial and Soviet periods

**Ken Kreager** - Platteville, CO

**R.H. Jayne** - Gloschire, England - Collects "The American Wild West", Cowboys, Indians, Railroads, Ranching, and National Parks

**Gordon McIntyre** - Seattle, WA - Collects Baltics, Scandinavia, Isreal, E. Europe, and Airmail

**Laurence T. Tempest** - Parker, CO

### SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Approximately one out of seven RMPL members donated philatelic material or cash during April and May. We received an average of one donation every day, and that is a remarkable show of support which we do not take for granted. Every donation is important and we appreciate it.

Here are the people who gave:

Paul Albright, Herman Axelrod, Dick Axtell, John B. Aycrigg, Andrew Baer, Phillip Beutel, Donald Beuthel, John Bloor, Joyce Boyer, Bob Brown, Norm Camara, Roger Cichorz, Mildred W. Clark, Joe Coston, Joe Crosby, R. L. DeBus, Art Everett, B. L. Geldmeier, Michael Horsley, Ernest Izzard, George Killian, Joe Lambert, Jim Lays, Frank Leitz, Harold G. Lord and Sergio Lugo.

Also, Mary Ellen Markel, Gene McGurer, Michael and Elizabeth Mead, Mike Milam, Bill and Carol Mobley, Joe Neri, Steve Pacetti, Kim and Dawn Post, Brittany Price, Bill Rapp, Doris E. Roth, Dick Ruth, Scandinavian Collectors Club, Steve Schweighofer, George Snyder, Morgan Sonsthagen, Jay D. Tebo, Jack VanEns, Andy Wacinski, Linda Watson, Art Weaver, David A. Wilson, Bob Wolf, George Wright and M. P. Zieringer.

### RECENT VISITORS

The library had almost two dozen visitors from out-of-town during the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May.

Some expressed amazement at what has been accomplished the last twelve years with our great group of volunteers.

It is always a delight to show people through the facility and we are proud to show it off.



RMPL visitors George and René Shalimoff of Sebastopol, CA and Richard McConnell of Omaha, NE. George was General Chairman of WESTPEX for many years and now serves as Vice Chairman. Richard works on the Omaha Stamp Show committee and exhibits Nebraska Railroad Post Offices.



# What's Happening at the RMPL...

"Come and enjoy the activities"

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  
Closed Sundays and Holidays

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

## July 2005

**July 2 thru 4 - CLOSED**  
**4th of July Weekend**

July 6 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 PM Trading - 5¢ Box - APS Circuit  
7:30 PM Program and Meeting  
July 9 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM  
Program by Ron Hill  
"The Cuban Connection"  
July 9 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Study Group  
July 9 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society  
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter  
July 13 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club  
July 14 - Organizational Meeting - 6:30 PM  
Local Chapter of the U.S. Philatelic  
Classics Society  
July 16 - Organizational Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club  
July 16 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Russia Study Group  
July 23 - Workshop - 10:00 AM  
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop

## August 2005

August 10 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Denver Germany Stamp Club  
August 13 - Second Saturday at the RMPL - 9:00 AM  
Program by Peter Adgie  
"A Walk into the Future"  
August 13 - Meeting - 10:00 AM  
Mexico/Latin America Study Group  
August 13 - Meeting - 11:30 AM  
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists  
August 13 - Meeting - 2:00 PM  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society  
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter  
August 13- The Aurora Stamp Club will have  
its annual summer picnic at the Adams  
County History Museum. Call Cliff for  
details and directions. (303) 364-5471  
August 20 - Meeting - 2 PM  
Russia Study Group  
August 23 - Meeting - 7:00 PM  
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee  
August 23 - Workshop - 10:00 AM  
RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop

## Monthly Stamp Show Schedule...

### July 15 - 16 - Rocky Mountain States Postcard Show

Jefferson County Fairgrounds Auditorium, West 6th Av at Indiana St, Golden, CO  
Contact: Erwin Engert

### July 29 - 30 - Colorado Stamp Show Bonanza

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

### Sept. 10 - 11 - APEX - Aurora Stamp Club

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

*Scribblings* is published bimonthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 S 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: Bob Blatherwick  
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