

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

Our Library: Much More than Books and Chairs

By Peter Laux

Recently while using the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library to research an article, I became aware of the great breadth and depth of information available here.

My article included details about a controversial Mexican airmail stamp issued in 1939 to help finance a popular aviator's attempt to set a new record for nonstop flight from Mexico City to New York City. Of course I had already found general information about this overprinted issue in the popular catalogs available at the Library: Scott, Sanabria, Stanley Gibbons, and Michel.

Digging more deeply, I searched the popular philatelic press. In the weekly newspaper *Linn's Stamp News* and the quarterly journal *Mexicana* I found fairly recent articles about the controversial stamp and its protagonist, Francisco Sarabia. I came up empty in RMPL's vertical stamp clippings file, which is sorted alphabetically by subject, but I was impressed with the amount of easily found information available in it.

Then I noticed RMPL's extensive listings of long runs of several important philatelic publications. I jumped into the 1939 volumes to see if any had contemporary

reports on the Mexican stamp controversy. Sure enough, in the May issue of *The AirPost Journal* there is an article with the provocative title, "Mexican Manipulations Provoke Protests." This informative article also referred

to the similar situation with the controversial Amelia Earhart stamp of 1935. Again, I was able to find details about the Earhart overprint in a report published in the January 1940 issue of *The American Philatelist*.

I was most pleased to find these resources available at RMPL, and my article came together rather quickly.

If I had wanted to make a presentation out of the material I had gathered at RMPL, it could have been done right there. RMPL has entered the modern age in a big way. They have a state-of-the-art color copy machine, a digital camera, a sophisticated flatbed scanner and a digital projector.

Most importantly, the friendly and very savvy staff can help put together a first-class digital

presentation. They even have the computers to build and present the digital show.

A popular library event each month is the Second



MEXICANA
The Journal of the
MEXICO ELMHURST PHILATELIC SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL
Volume 39, Number 2 (Whole No. 153)
APRIL, 1990

Mexican Manipulations Provoke Philatelists

by J. Earhart
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THE AIRPOST JOURNAL
The New Trans-Atlantic Air Mail Stamp

Linn's Stamp News

The Amelia Earhart Stamp of Mexico
By JOHN N. MYER, A. P. S.

When is a stamp legitimate or legal?

THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Entered as second class matter, December 21st, 1917, at the post office at Baltimore, Maryland, under the Act of March 3rd, 1879.
Published Monthly.
Vol. 53, No. 4. JANUARY, 1940.

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Egypt, The Interpostal Seals of, by Ernest A. Kehr	
Mexico, The Amelia Earhart Stamp of, by John N. Myer	

Some of the sources of information Peter Laux found in the RMPL while he was putting together an article on a Mexican aviator who was famous in the late 1930s.

The American Philatelist for January
A CENTURY OF POSTAGE STAMPS
1910-1910

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Saturday Presentation, where a lot of the "home made" digital productions are presented to appreciative audiences. RMPL even has a sound system to ensure that all present can hear the speaker.

And there's much more to RMPL.

In addition to the usual books, catalogs, and runs of journals and newspapers going way back, they have a large collection of auction catalogs and an extensive map collection, both worldwide in scope.

The Western History book collection contains numerous old and rare volumes as well as many popular publications about Colorado and the American West.

Currently RMPL is building a collection of copies of philatelic exhibits, many in color. It is important to know that all items in the library have been properly identified and cataloged by a professional librarian using the Dewey Decimal System.

These days all sorts of information can be found on

the World Wide Web. RMPL has an Internet connection available for use by members and visitors. Moreover, RMPL staff are knowledgeable and willing to help new users become acquainted with this valuable source for philatelic information.

The place stays busy. In addition to numerous RMPL educational, social and business meetings, many local clubs meet here as well. Currently about a dozen philatelic clubs and groups use the facility on a regular basis. And every day collectors search through well-organized books full of bargain stamps to add to their collections.

Truly it can be called the center of philatelic activities in the region. And volunteers do it all!

From my experience RMPL offers much more than shelves full of books and chairs occupied for meetings. It is an invaluable resource for research, exchange of information, and having fun with a great bunch of people.

Come on by and see for yourself.

News from the RMPL ...

FORGERY REFERENCE COLLECTION

By Joe Lambert

Editor's note: For the last few years, well-known Denver dealer and RMPL member Joe Lambert has been donating US forgeries to the library for use as a forgery reference collection. Jim Kilbane, RMPL vice president, is maintaining it.

The RMPL board thanks Joe for his generosity and for his vision in seeing that such a collection will one day be an important part of the library's holdings.



Examples of frequently faked stamps. The perfs have been altered so they look like coils. Left: Scott #352. Right: Scott #409.

I contribute my fakes, as I find them, to RMPL. This serves two purposes.

First, it takes them out of the philatelic market, which is very important to me. It is very annoying to see the occasional auction lot consisting of certified fakes. Granted, the certifiers make mistakes from time to time, but in my opinion putting these on the auction market provides the tools for the unscrupulous dealer to deceive inexperienced collectors.

Second, my contribution and those of others should, in time, provide a reference collection of well done and badly done fakes, so that anyone who would like to learn about them has the hands-on material to do that.

Forgeries should not be confused with fakes.

• **Forgeries** are creations from scratch. There are very few forgeries of US stamps because the laws governing counterfeiting apply and a few cents at a time is scarcely worth it.

There have been some famous forgeries. They are subject to confiscation by the Treasury Department, but one occasionally sees them at auction. These are not a major risk to the philatelic community.

• **Fakes** are stamps made to look like other, more valuable stamps, by adding or removing perforations, lines of color, or other features. These are plentiful and a great risk to the community.

I do not include in this category stamps that have been regummed or reperfected only to make a better appearing copy of what they are. Those are a different category.

The most important lesson from fakes is to know that they exist, that some of them are very well done (hard to detect), and to be careful of the sources used to obtain stamps that are subject to faking.

The most frequently faked items are coils from flat plate printed stamps (made from imperforate stock or trimmed sheet stock) and a couple of out-of-series Washington Franklin items, Scott #'s 461 and 519.

There are many other things faked, in other ways. Building a holding of all these in RMPL will help those who refer to them to know what to be suspicious of, and why.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to those who have joined the library in recent weeks:

Kenneth Creamer - Longmont, CO
Patricia Dewey, Aurora, CO
John Canady, Boulder, CO
Christine Hansen, Denver, CO
Holman Treue Hocking, Lakewood, CO
Fredric Patz, Aurora, CO
Bill Douglass, Aurora, CO
Mary Ellen Markel, Aurora, CO

WE HAVE COLOR...

The library has acquired a new, professional Konica Minolta color copy machine. This page and color pages in the Silent Auction catalog were printed on the new copier, and the plan is to eventually print all of *Scribblings* in color on a regular basis.

Members are welcome to use the color machine for philatelic purposes at the rate of 50¢ a page (one side), or about half what is charged by Kinkos and most other stores like it.

We are pleased to be able to offer this service to our members

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS

May 14

Glenn Shaw, library volunteer, has put together a program called "Occupation Stamps." These are stamps issued by the invaders after they conquered a country or area.



Examples of occupation stamps: Left, Chile occupation of Peru, 1882. Center, French occupation of Hungary, 1919. Right, German occupation of Romania, 1941.

May 14 is the Saturday of the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. Plan to start your day with coffee and donuts at the library, then head on over to the show.

June 11

Charlie McClure will present a program on his specialty, "Souvenir Cards." From their beginnings as a promotional tool in 1954, to their routine use into the 1990s, Charlie will take us through the fun of collecting the cards.

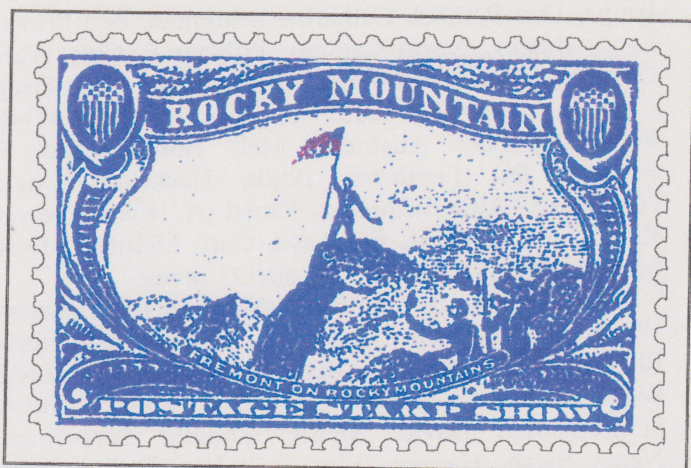


Part of a souvenir card issued for the International Airmail Exhibition in Manchester, England in 1973. It depicts three of the rarest airmail stamps.

This is another opportunity to enjoy a program about your hobby. Presentations start promptly at 9:00 AM and run for an hour.

GET READY FOR THE BIG SHOW!

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2005 will be May 13, 14 and 15 at the Holiday Inn DIA, John Q. Hammons Trade Center ad I-70 and Chambers Rd. in Aurora.



RMSS President Jerry Eggleston and a host of volunteers have been planning the show for the past year, and here is what's on tap:

- 45 national dealers
- U.S. Post Office booth
- Cash buyers
- "How-To" programs on beginning collecting
- Seminars on advanced and specialized subjects
- Free stamps and activities at the Youth Booth
- More than 4000 pages of stamp exhibits

The United States Classic Society and Scandinavian Collectors Club will hold their national conventions in connection with RMSS 2005, so the exhibits will have some powerful U.S. classic and Scandinavian material.

BID AT THE SILENT AUCTION

The RMPL's 11th annual Silent Auction will be held at the library's table at RMSS 2005.

The lots are available for bidding now, at the library, and on May 13, 14 and 15 at the show. Please note that the action ends at 11:00 AM on Sunday the 15th and winning lots will be ready for pickup beginning at 12:30 PM.

Once again, Norm Camara has done a wonderful job of preparing the sale. There are a tremendous number of hours involved, and we can't thank Norm enough for his hard work.

The 5¢ and 10¢ stamp books will not be available at the show this year in order to make more room for show attendees to look over auction lots and place their bids. The stamp books will continue to be available during regular hours at the library.

RMPL CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

The library will be closed Saturday, May 28 and Monday May 30 for the Memorial Day weekend.

This means that the Exhibiting Workshop and the China Stamp Society meetings, normally held on the fourth Saturday of each month, will not convene in May.

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS

The following people and organizations donated cash, philatelic literature or other philatelic materials to the library during February and March:

Randy Alexander, Herman Axelrod, Jan Belle, Phil Beutel, Don Beuthel, Catherine Bridgman, Bob Brown, Lewis Bussey, Norm Camara, William F. Cox, Ward Crowley, Donald Dohonau, Sue Dunn, John Elsey, Catherine Fechner, Paul Fletcher (Brusden-White Publishing, NSW Australia), Mel Flotno, Jeffrey E. Fossum, Jim Fredlund, Eddie Hackstaff, David Henninger, Alex Ioannides David A. Kent, George Killian, Joe Lambert, Jim Lays, Gary McIntyre, Dasa Metzler, Mike Milam and Gawain O'Conner.

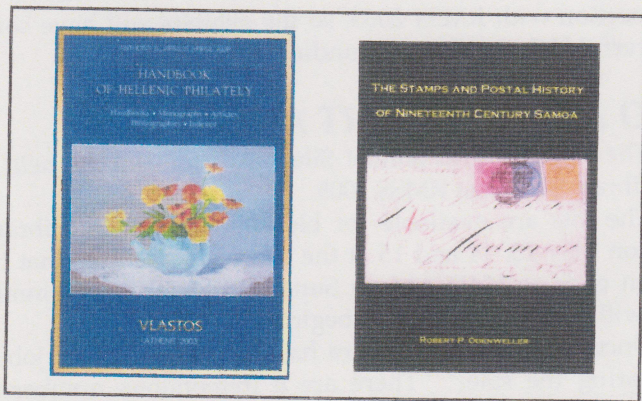
Also, Stephen B. Pacetti, Fredric Patz, Jim Peterson, William Rapp, Donald G. Raupp, Robley Rhine, Norm Ritchie, Margaret B. Rochelle, Roger Rydberg, Scandinavian Collectors Club, Ed Schenck, Steve Schweighofer, David Snyder, Thomas Surprenant, Nancy Swan, Harvey Tilles, Jack Van Ens, Andrew Wasinski, Donna Johnson Wiebe, Ruth Willett, Steve Wineteer, Bob Wolf, Betty Woods, Henry Wordsello and George Wright.

ADDITIONS TO THE SHELVES

Here are some of the items recently added to the RMPL collection:

WORLDWIDE

Catalogue Descriptif Illustré de Toutes les Enveloppes et Bandes-Postales by Arthur Maury, circa 1912.



Forgeries of Czechoslovak Postage Stamps by Ing. J. Karásek, Z. Kvasnicka and B. Paulícek, 1966.

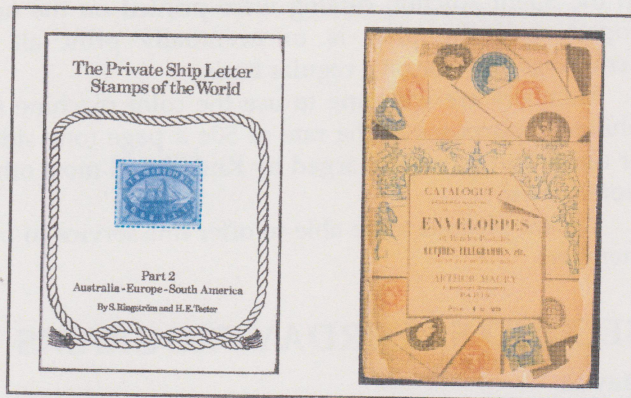
Handbook of Hellenic Philately by Anthony B. Virvilis, 2003.

The Krag Cancelling Machine: An Introduction and Catalog by Richard E. Small, 2000.

The Postmarks and Other Markings of Mandate Jerusalem (1917-1948) by E. Glassman and M. Sacher, 1982.

Prisoners of War, Internees and Refugees in the European Theatre of World War II: Postal History by Dr. H.F. Stich and W. Stich, 1990.

The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World: Part 2: Australia-Europe-South America by S. Ringström and H. E. Tester, [no date, probably late 1970s].

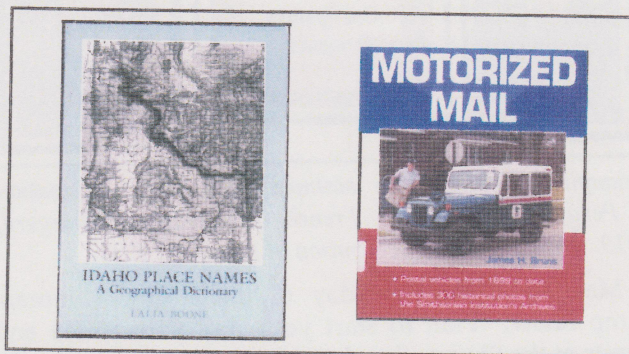


The Stamps and Postal History of 19th Century Samoa, by Robert P. Odenweller, 2004.

Les Timbres de Fantaisie by Georges Chapier, [no date].

UNITED STATES

American History through United States Stamps by Omega Williamson, 1975.



Idaho Place Names by Lalia Boone, 1988.

Motorized Mail by James H. Bruns, 1997.

A Stamp Collector's History of the United States by Samuel A. Tower, 1977.

The Stamps and Postal History of Hawaii by Henry A. Meyer and others, 1948.

TOPICALS

Boy Scout and Girl Guide Stamps of the World by Gordon Entwistle, 1957.

The Handbook of Basketball Philately by George E. Killian, 1991.



ALEX IOANNIDES JOINS EXHIBITING WORKSHOP

International exhibitor and APS accredited judge Alex Ioannides will join Tim Bartshe and Greg Frantz in helping exhibitors and would-be exhibitors at the RMPL/Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Exhibiting Workshop on each fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the RMPL.

The three men are very active in their philatelic pursuits (all are judges and have exhibited internationally), and it's not unusual for one or two of them to be out of town at shows on weekends. With the addition of Alex to the lineup, people wanting help with their exhibits can be assured at least one of these experts will be in town and available on fourth Saturdays.

The workshops emphasize "treatment" within an exhibit, meaning how material is presented to tell a compelling story, with a beginning, middle and ending.

The sessions began four-and-a-half years ago, and have proven to be of great help to many collectors. They are free and open to all, from beginners to experienced exhibitors.

The fourth Saturday in May falls on Memorial Day weekend and the library will be closed, so the next session will be the fourth Saturday in June.

Alex is a regular volunteer at the library on Monday afternoons. We are fortunate that he has also agreed to be a leader in the Exhibiting Workshops.

THE RMPL AND T-REX

Many of our patrons would normally reach the library from southbound I-25, exiting on the E. Evans Ave. ramp. That ramp has been closed in recent years due to the T-Rex construction project. It has presented a driving challenge, with detours suggested by exiting on So. Colorado Blvd. or Yale Ave.

It has been worse. At one point, all four on and off ramps at I-25 and Evans were closed. The good news is three of them are back open.

The Highway Department says the fourth ramp will remain closed until early 2006. Until then, the best we can do is recommend Colorado Blvd. or Yale Ave.

100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION...



The activities will be a presentation from the American Philatelic Society honoring this 100th birthday and recognizing the Denver Stamp Club as the eighth oldest active club in the APS records.

The Denver Stamp Club will be turning 100 years old in December of 2005. Please help us celebrate by marking your calendar NOW and then plan on joining us at our anniversary banquet on November 21, 2005. Among

BILL DUNN SALE A SUCCESS

Fifty RMPL members bought items from Bill Dunn's collections on Saturday, March 19. More than half the items sold, so to say the sale was a success is an understatement. There were 38 people lined up waiting to get in when the building opened at 10:00 AM.

Bill was a founder of the RMPL and left his stamp collections to his widow, Sue, and the library with the proceeds to be split 50-50. He passed away in February, 2004.

Members of the board extend their sincere thanks to all those who took part.

...the rest of the story

By Sue Dunn

The rest of the story regarding the sale of Bill's stamps is Ron Mitchell. It is with a grateful heart that I thank him for his steadfast purpose in fulfilling Bill's wishes for the disposal of his philatelic material. Ron and the RMPL Board were God's blessing to me through their guidance and support during the process. Last April Ron came to the house, went to the "inner room" upstairs, looked around at the stamp situation, said "O my gosh" and went to work giving hundreds of hours in organizing and displaying all the material.

During Bill's illness Ron spent time discussing Bill's stamps with him. Bill had made a list of some of his stamps with their value and the names of people he thought would purchase those items. Ron immediately contacted those people making all of the arrangements for their purchase and delivery.

As Ron sorted and categorized the material, he developed a web page, scanning material allowing computer viewing by potential buyers.

Bill had directed that one-third to one-half of the proceeds from the sale of his philatelic material go to the RMPL. A step toward fulfilling that request was made when Ron and the RMPL Board of Directors developed a plan for the use of the money.

Ron made and directed detail plans for the March sale of Bill's material. He designed a slide program featuring the material, presenting it for the January RMPL Second Saturday program and wrote the feature story for the February "Scribblings", describing Bill's material available for the March sale.

The evening preceding the sale, Ron spent several hours at the library arranging the philatelic material he organized by category and subject and was back at the library by 7:00 am the next morning. Helping Ron that day were Don Beuthel, Maury Pautz, Dave Capra, Roger Rydberg, Sergio Lugo, Gene McGurer, and Steve Schweighofer.

The RMPL and stamps were Bill's passion. Most important to Bill however, were the wonderful friendships he made during his years of stamp collecting and involvement with RMPL. The success of the sale would not have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of Bill's friends. I especially thank Ron Mitchell and so appreciate all of you who helped make Bill's wishes come true.

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

May 2005

Note: The Scandinavian Collectors Club and Topical Philatelists in Colorado (TOPIC) meetings, usually held at the RMPL, will be held at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show.

May 2 thru 12 - RMPL silent auction lots for the RMSS available for viewing and bidding at the library.

May 4 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading; 7:30 PM Meeting and Program

May 11 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club

May 13 thru 15 - RMPL Silent Auction at the RMSS

May 14 - 9:00 AM

Second Saturday at the RMPL

Program by Glenn Shaw

"Occupation Stamps of the World"

Mexico/Latin America Study Group - No Meeting
See you at Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

May 14 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter

May 21 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Russia Study Group

May 28 and May 30 - RMPL CLOSED
Memorial Day Weekend

The Exhibiting Workshop and China Stamp Society will not meet in May because of the Memorial Day Weekend.

June 2005

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

June 4 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club

June 4 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
TOPIC - Topical Philatelists In Colorado

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

June 11 - 9:00 AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
Program by Charlie McClure
"Souvenir Cards"

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

June 11 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter

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

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

June 25 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
China Stamp Society

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

Monthly Stamp Show Schedule...

May 6 - 7 - 9th Denver Postcard Show - "Postcard and Paper Odyssey 2005" - Jefferson County Fairgrounds, West 6th Av at Indiana St., Golden, CO
Contact: Dede Horan, 303.667.6212 - Denverpostcardshow@msn.com

May 14 - 16 - Rocky Mountain Stamp Show - ROMPEX - Holiday Inn - DIA, I-70 at Chambers Road, Aurora, CO
Contact: Jerry Eggleston, President - E-mail: info@rockymountainstampshow.com
Web: www.rockymountainstampshow.com

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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
Members at Large: Tim Bartshe - Sergio Lugo - James L. Ozment - Steve Schweighofer - John H. Willard (Emeritus)