

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian...

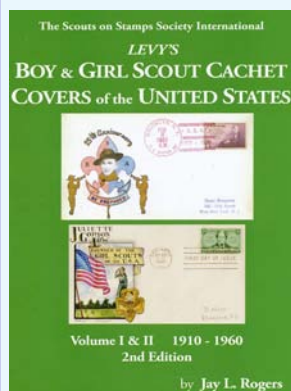
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## Is This Any Way to Treat a Stamp?

by Howard Benson

Some members of the RMPL may be familiar with the encased postage used during the War Between the States (1861-1865). This idea was patented by an enterprising New Yorker named J. Gault.

Many of us may not know about the similar use of stamps-for-coins in Europe and elsewhere after World War I and, to a lesser extent, World War II. Gresham's Law\* coin shortages resulted when copper, bronze, and silver coins disappeared from circulation to be used for war production and hoarded during European hyper-inflation. These items seem to be of greater interest to numismatists than to philatelists. Terms used to describe them include, *encased postage*, *kapselgeld*, *enkapselmarken*, *notgeld*, *timbres-monnaie*, *jetons-monnaie*, *emergency money*, *token* or, simply, *kapsels*.



Shillitoe & Co. 3c Washington (1861) design.

## Enkapselmarken



Dortmunder Actien Brauerie (DAB beer) celluloid and black background with 10 pfennig stamp.

In Germany, kapsels were used from 1917-23. The stamps involved were the Germania, Numeral, Iron Workers, Miners and Farmers designs. The kapsels were made of iron, celluloid, embossed and swaged (the process that produces the rolled-metal edge around the stamp) zinc, brass or aluminum with a celluloid or Eisinglass cover over the stamp so the value could be seen. Nearly all of the kapsels were round and about the size of a U.S. half dollar coin. As a consideration toward paying costs, businesses were allowed to advertise on the reverse of the kapsel since the gum side of the stamp was of no interest. Breweries and liquor were the most common advertiser, followed by cosmetics, department stores, haberdashers, chocolatiers and automobiles.

Continued on page 2

\*The expression "Gresham's Law" dates back to 1858, when British economist Henry Dunning Macleod decided to name the tendency for bad money to drive good money out of circulation after Sir Thomas Gresham (1519-1579). Often applied to the issuing of "kapsels".



## Is This Any Way To Treat a Stamp?

*Continued from page 1*

Kapsels are cataloged as follows: First, the advertiser's name. Second, the composition of the capsule (aluminum, brass, celluloid, etc.). Third, the composition of the window (i.e. plastic, glass, cellophane or Eisinglass). Fourth, the color of the kapsel interior if it is other than white. Fifth, the stamp inside the kapsel. There are about 820 different German kapselmarken of which 200 are fairly common, selling between €20-50. Scarce pieces can fetch in excess of €900! See examples illustrated below.

**Editor's Note: Seven German kapsels will be offered in the RMPL Silent Auction at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show.**



*Cub Scouts, celluloid pocket. Denmark, Wavy Line and Numerical 1 Øre stamp.*

To my knowledge, only 1 Øre stamps were used and they were replaced with a 1 Øre zinc coin at the end of 1941. I have references to approximately 1000 different advertisers. Prices are typically €3-6.

## France & Colonies

In France, kapsels were used from 1914-18. There were two kinds of issues. First, "semi-official" were tolerated by the State because they were issued against a deposit by the issuer in the Bank of France. These kapsels were valid in a relatively large area (a city, a department, or a province). Second, private issues by tradesmen, manufacturers and transit companies. These issues were not backed by anything but the value of the stamp inside. French kapsels were made of swaged aluminum, aluminum-nickel, and iron with polychrome advertising. Celluloid pockets and laminated pasteboard were also used.



*Crédit Lyonnais "semi-official" swaged aluminum kapsel with 25 centimes stamp.*



*Above, top: Opel, swaged aluminum-nickel with 10 pfennig Germania stamp.  
Bottom: Kumpers Amsterdamer Magen Bitter, with 100 pfennig Miners stamp.*

## Denmark

In Denmark, the King Christian X design, 25 Øre and Kronberg Castle design 10 Øre stamps were used in the 1920s. These kapsels were similar to the German examples and were primarily iron with polychrome. Most of the advertisers seem to be cigarette companies. Other Danish kapsels date from the WW II German occupation. The bronze coins of 1, 5 and 10 Øre disappeared. Aluminum coins of 2 and 5 Øre were put into circulation at the beginning of 1941, but no coins of 1 Øre. To replace the 1 Øre coin, the Wavy Line and Numeral design stamp was used. These kapsels were like little celluloid envelopes with an ad on thin cardboard backing the stamp and sealed to protect the stamp during handling.

The Sower No Ground design stamp was used with values of 5, 10 and 25 centimes. Values of 12<sup>1/2</sup>, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 75 centimes plus 1, 2, 5, and 10 francs are known.

Kapsel diameter was approximately 32 mm. Nearly 200 varieties of the round kapsels exist.

Advertisers include: chocolate, automobiles, financial institutions, dentists, municipal offices, and many others



France: The JTPF Thread Company used its spool cover design for its kapsel.

Kapsels were also issued by the French Colonies. I know of New Caledonia, Kagu design 5 and 10 centimes and Landscape design 25 and 50 centimes. (below)



Nouvelle Calédonie et Dependances, Banque de L'Indo-Chine, swaged aluminum, red interior with Landscape design 25 centimes stamp.

Ivory Coast, River Scene design, of 5, 10, and 25 centimes and Madagascar, Transportation By Sedan Chair design, of 5, 10, 25, 50 centimes plus 1 and 2 franc were used. Also reportedly, Algeria and ~~Guinea~~ also issued kapsels. Prices range from €15 to €1000.

## Austria

In Austria, stamps with Post Horn, Coat of Arms, Allegory of New Republic, Symbols of Agriculture, Symbols of Labor and Industry, and Mercury designs were used. Kapsels were made of celluloid, swaged aluminum, zinc, zinc-nickel or iron with polychrome advertising. Other kapsels were thin cardboard sandwiches with a cutout covered with celluloid forming a window through which the faces of the stamps could be seen. Aschach City issued one of these with Mercury, Allegory (perf. and imperf. ) and Posthorn designs.

Another type was that issued by the Jacobi Cigarette Paper firm. This was technically not a kapsel but had two slits about 3mm apart through which the stamp was inserted. The cardboard was then folded to protect the stamp. Another kapsel was a *notgeld*

banknote with the Mercury design with the Republic overprint (DeutschOsterreich) stamp fastened to it with heat sealed cellophane. Other such banknotes used the Allegory and Posthorn design stamps.

## Other Countries

In Italy, the Victor Emmanuel III design, 5 centesimi green and 10 centesimi claret color are known in kapsels. I am confident many others exist. The advertisers are Pirelli tires and the Atlantic Hotel in Nice, France.

In Spain, the kapsels used stamps of the El Cid design with values of 5, 10, and 15 centimos. Other Spanish kapsels were made of cardboard with the stamp sealed on it with cellophane. The backs all had the Spanish coat-of-arms. This suggests a government role in the production rather than advertiser supported fabrication.



Spanish Coat of Arms, pale rose cardboard; with Especial Movil design, 15 centimos stamp.

Stamps used were Manuel Ruiz-Zorrilla design 25 centimos and what is probably a revenue stamp for "Especial Movil" (Special Incentive). The stamps in these examples are from the mid-1930's and probably are emergency money from the Spanish Civil War period.

In Argentina, kapsels used two Jose de San Martin designs. One, a Franco-Inglesa Farmacia swaged aluminum with a 1-centavo buff stamp. Two, Allemandi D.D.T. insect poison packet kapsel sealed with corrugated rollers containing a red 5 centavo stamp. Other countries that issued *kapselgeld* include Belgium (rare), Czechoslovakia (very rare), Greece (very rare), Norway (rare), and Poland, as well as numismatic novelties in the United States.

## Sources :

*Timbres-monnaie*, Doctor Pierre Broustine (1988).  
*Monnaie de Nécessité Françaises 1789-1990*,  
 Roland Elie and Victor Gadoury.  
*U.S. and Foreign Encased Postage Stamps*, Arlie R Slabaugh.

<http://www.notgeld.com/kapselgeld/>



With all but one member present, the newly elected members of the RMPL Board got down to business on the evening of March 19, 2009. While a summary of the board's deliberations is presented below, the full minutes of the board meeting are available to the membership upon request.

In the area of RMPL publications, the *Danish Øre Bi-color* book by Peter Bergh is expected to be published in the next several months. The Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS) Silent Auction Catalog is complete (and included with this *Scribblings*), and thanks to auction manager David Weisberg and past president Ron Mitchell for its timely publication. The auction's strength is in U.S. material, and first day covers.

The evening's main business centered on the electrical rewiring of the RMPL building. By unanimous agreement, the board accepted the proposal submitted by Rich Palestro and Bill Crabbs to rewire the building to meet electrical codes – beginning with the service panel. The work will be done in the summer and any building interruptions will be scheduled in advance and announced. The re-wiring is anticipated to cost approximately \$10,000. Don Beuthel will serve as liaison between the RMPL Board and Rich and Bill. Volunteers will also be needed to assist with certain tasks including removal and re-installing ceiling tile and insulation of ducts. The library will be closed on Saturday, June 20 for the weekend.

**Checkout Procedures for the Online Catalog** -Under the guidance of Roger Rydberg, the Technology Committee presented a proposal containing seven basic rules which were approved by the Board. Those rules are:

1. Only contributing level members of the library (whether in Denver or elsewhere) can check out books;
- (2) Fee will be \$10 plus \$3 per book;
- (3) Invoicing at time of checkout; shipping by USPS and insured;
- (4) Number of books available to checkout at one time will depend on level of membership, years of membership, and membership with other organizations;
- (5) Checkout period – 4 weeks from date of shipment;

- (6) Certain rare books will not be available for checkout;
- (7) Interlibrary loans will not be available.

The President appointed John Bloor as Online Checkout Manager, and Charles Cline as Assistant. They will be responsible for developing forms and procedures that will be reviewed and approved by the On Line Catalog Committee. Travis Searls will develop online protocols for checkout.

**New Business** included selection of Jim Kilbane to serve as the RMPL representative and spokesman at the August APS Stampshow in Pittsburgh, Pa.

There is a need for volunteers at the RMPL Table at RMSS. Volunteers are needed to cover 2-hour shifts at the table and to assist with the RMPL silent auction on Friday and Saturday working with David Weisberg and Don Beuthel. Interested volunteers please contact Sergio or Dalene Thomas as early as possible.

The RMPL has scheduled tours of the library for visitors at the RMSS Show on the mornings and afternoons all three days of the Show.

In other business the board appointed Howard Benson as Stamp Sales Manager, replacing Sergio Lugo. Further, Bob Blatherwick was appointed official representative to RMSS, replacing Steve Schweighofer, who was thanked for his service. An offer by a member of the library to provide legal advice (upon request) was accepted by the board.

**Philatelic Librarians Meeting** - A national meeting of philatelic librarians from across the U.S. will be held at the RMPL on Monday and Tuesday, May 11 and 12, 2009. **The library will be closed both days.** Ellengail Beuthel and Roger Rydberg are preparing the agenda, which will include updated information and implementation procedures for the Union Catalog of philatelic libraries presently hosted on the APRL catalog web site, the RMPL Online Catalog project, presentations on the digitization of the RMPL holdings, and on the RMPL's background and history.

## USS Indianapolis Survivor To Address Local Chapter

**The local chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society will hold a special meeting at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show.**

Paul J. Murphy, survivor of the sinking of the *USS Indianapolis* in July 1945, will address the group during the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show. The ship, carrying a crew of 1200 men, was torpedoed and 880 sailors died. The 317 survivors, without food and water, were near death when rescued.

For information on the meeting, see the Show Program.

## Denver Postcard & Paper Show

May 1, Noon-8:00 pm  
 May 2, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Jefferson County Fairgrounds,  
 Golden Colorado

Contact Dede Horan  
 303-667-6212 or 303-220-9116  
 e-mail: [DenverPostcardShow@comcast.net](mailto:DenverPostcardShow@comcast.net)

## *The Prez' Observations - Sergio Lugo*

Having recently been installed as the RMPL's president it is my honor to address you about the library as we enjoy its 16th year of existence. As others have often said – never did the founders envision the phenomenal growth and success achieved by the library. As one of those founders, I can well agree with that sentiment.

My purpose in providing this message is not to fall back on the phrase “we never expected to have grown so big,” but rather to focus on the future support that we need from you, our members, to operate and improve the library and to provide for its financial well being and its *esprit de corps* in the future.

That task lies before us, you and me, and will require the same dedication in years to come as that shown by the earlier supporters of the library. As we keep our doors open, expand services, and meet the demands and requests of our members and collectors that same commitment is needed

We cannot rest on our laurels, but need to continue promoting the energetic endeavors that are still demanded to make the RMPL one of the outstanding philatelic libraries in the country - and continue to be one that our future members will join with pride.

Your continued support of the library is welcome and appreciated and needed. Your physical presence shows to the community the vibrancy of the hobby. Your willingness to help out where you can will never be turned down and will always be welcomed. You can be assured that your work has had an immeasurable impact, and will continue to have an impact in unforeseen ways in years to come. A “job well done” to all of you and many future “jobs well done” as more of you step forward to advance the hobby and the RMPL. And as most of you know, I will continue to shake your hand, welcome your participation and encourage your commitment to the hobby and to the library.



## **APS To Hold Two-Day Seminar in Denver**

### **Exhibiting For The Prize**

**APS will be holding a two-day seminar, May 13-14, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza DIA hotel, on the two days just preceding RMSS. The special RMSS hotel rates will apply for the days of the seminar.**

Rich Drews, an APS and FIP accredited judge will conduct the seminar with Tim Bartshe assisting. Students will explore how judging takes place in all of the various exhibiting divisions. Starting with a quick review of basics, this course will delve into intermediate and advanced level topics of exhibiting to help exhibitors who wish to win a grand award or beyond, or to compete at the challenging international levels.

Students will learn what separates silver and vermeil from gold and what it takes to reach the

sought-after grand award level. They will also discover what considerations, including treatment, succinctly conveying knowledge and research, and difficulty of acquisition, will affect award level. They will gain insight into what is in the mind of judges as they make their decisions.

Exhibitors are encouraged to bring their exhibits for assistance and comparison with a wide range of successful exhibits in all disciplines.

#### **TO RESERVE:**

Cost: \$195.00 for APS members; \$295 for non-members

Hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm, May 13 & May 14, 2009

#### **CONTACT:**

Gretchen Moody, APS Director of Education  
814-933-3810 or [gretchen@stamps.org](mailto:gretchen@stamps.org)

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES?

### ASIA

- Tannu Tuva* (a stamp album, containing many stamps)  
*Tannu Tuva Catalog*, by Richard C. Kanak  
*The Stamps and the Territory of New Guinea 1925-1932 Huts Issues*, by Rad Heward, Robert Garratt, and David Heward

### EUROPE

- Bush-Cass Catalog of AMG: Revenue Stamps of the Allied Military Government in Europe 1945-1954*, compiled and edited by Harry Cass and Joseph Bush (1956)  
*Catalogo Raybaudi dei Drancobolli e delle Serie di Europa e delle Colonie Italiane*, by Raybaudi Massilia  
*Der AM Post Plattenfehler Catalog*, by Otto Krogmann  
*AM Post Plattenfehler- Handbuch die Druckbilder der Schalterbogentypen*, by Otto Krogmann  
*AM: Schalterbogen; Handbuch Catalog 1-35*, by Otto Krogmann  
*Die Briefmarken des Vatikanstaates, 1929-1976*  
*Die Deutschen Unberdruckmarken vom Jahre 1923: Forschungsergebnisse und Abarten-Katalog*, by Albert Burneleit  
*The Forty Lepta Large Hermes Head Stamps of Greece*, by Louis Basel  
*Die Frank-Marke: Eine Britische Propagandafälschung für das Generalgouvernement (A British propaganda parody for the General Government)*, by Wolfgang Schweitzer Baldus  
*German-English Philatelic Dictionary, No. 11 (1992)*  
*German Philatelic Society, Reference Manual of Forgeries, Vol. 7*, by Werner M. Bohne. 1987  
*Handbuch AM Post, Teil K: Lochungen in AM Post Marken. (Perfins)*  
*Hyper-Inflation in Germany, 1923: Postal History and List of Rates From 1906-1923*, by Gerhard Binder  
*I Francobolli dello Stato della Citta' del Vaticano, 1929-1976*  
*Il Libro dei Francobolli d'Italia Valori Postale 1994*, by Poste Italiane  
*I Tascabili Bolaffi: Svizzera, 1978*  
*The Life and Work of Charles Whiting and the Beaufort House Press*, by Michael Salmon  
*Magyar Belyegekek Arjegyzeke (Price list of the Hungarian Stamps)*, 1985  
*Michel Deutschland Spezial-Katalog 1937*  
*Michel-Farbenfuhrer: Farbentafeln für Briefmarkensammler (colour-tables for stamp collectors) (locked case)*  
*Officiele Belgische Postzegelcatalogus*, published by Belgische Beroepskamer van Postzegelhandelaars  
*The Offset Berlin Post Office Stamps of 1920*, by David W. Barnette  
*Plattenfehler Catalog AM-Post, Deutscher Druck, 1998*  
*Postleitzahlen-Verzeichnis: Abc-Folge, 1984*  
*The Will Payne English Companion to the Michel 'Deutschland-Spezial' Katalog. This section: Germany: The German Reich, 1872-1833.*

### SOUTH AMERICA

- Los Timbres Proporcionales de 1884-1888 y su Utilizacion Como Sellos de Correos*, by Fred G. O'Neill  
*NYRBA'S (New York, Rio, and Buenos Aires) Triple Crash and Outlaw Flight Covers and Postal Markings*, by Julius Grigore, Jr.

### TOPICAL

- Cyclisme & Philatelie: Catalogue Thematique de la Bicyclette, 1890-2006*, by Piet Hein Hilarides  
*Stararchitekten und Philatelie: Kunst im Gross- und Kleinformat*, by Josef Joraschek

### UNITED STATES

- Datz Philatelic Index of United States Postage Stamps*, by Stephen R. Datz  
*First Mail West: Stagecoach Lines on the Santa Fe Trail*, by Morris F. Taylor  
*Hebert's Standard Plate Number Single Catalogue: Mint and Used United States Stamps, 21<sup>st</sup> edition (2006)*, by Rick Burdsall (editor)  
*Historical Catalog of U.S. Postal Card Essays and Proofs DVD*, by Bill Falberg and Dan Undersander  
*Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1950s*, by Michael Mellone and Monte Eiserman  
*Michigan Postal Markings: The Machine Cancellations*, by David M. Ellis  
*Political Campaign Stamps*, by Mark Warda  
*Saga of the Pony Express*, by Joseph J. Di Certo  
*William J. Bomar's Postal Markings and Postal History of United States Expositions, DVD*, by William J. Bomar and David Savadge. Updated 2007.

### MISCELLANEOUS

- All Colour Book of Stamps*, by Kenneth Baker Chapman  
*A History of Wreck Covers Originating at Sea & on Land Together with Some Notes on Accidents to Air Mails*, by A.E. Hopkins  
*Linn's Stamp Identifier*, by Donna O'Keefe  
*Philatelic Literature: Compilation Techniques and Reference Sources*, by James Negus  
*Rare Stamps*, by L.N. Williams and M. Williams

### NON-PHILATELIC - GENERAL

- British Residents at the Cape 1795-1819: Biographical Records of 4,800 Pioneers*, by Peter Philip  
*The Chicago Manual of Style*, by University of Chicago Press. 14<sup>th</sup> Ed., 1993, 921 pages.  
*The Warwick Bros.&Rutter Picture Postcard Handbook 1903-1912*, by Michael J. Smith



## WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES?

More than a third of this issue's list of new acquisitions is non-philatelic books about railroads. Many are from the railroad and model railroad estate of David Genau and were donated by his wife, Sharon Genau, at the suggestion of RMPL member Steve Schweighofer. David Genau was a telegrapher for the Colorado and Southern Railway and a model railroader. His father was an engineer for the Union Pacific Railroad in the days of steam. The collection of well over 150 books was owned by both father and son.

This donation, plus a few other new titles in the list, is part of the Western History Collection (WHC), the largest of several specialized collections held by the RMPL. More accurately called the Western History and Railroad Collection, it comprises about 1,200 volumes. More than 90% came from Jack Willard's personal library which he donated in 1993 when the RMPL first opened. Joe Crosby, of Oklahoma City, recently donated a complete run of the *Colorado State Historical Society Journal*, a major contribution to the collection. Other recent donations came from Tom Suprenant and from the estate of Bob Brown

Although many of the books are non-philatelic, a very significant part of the collection is about the history and operation of railway post offices (RPOs), post offices on interurban trains and trolleys, highway post offices (HPOs), express companies (e.g Pony Express), and related subjects. There is also a long (1869 to 1970), but incomplete, run of *Official Guide of the Railways* (railway timetables and maps). A number of the publications deal with the postal history of the western states. All of this is valuable for understanding routes and rates of covers (postal history) and is an important research tool for collectors, exhibitors, and judges.

Now that the RMPL card catalog is available online, it is even more accessible to non-philatelic historians. It is hoped that more now will learn about and use this resource as a supplement to other collections of books and documents about the history of the West.

John Bloor

### WESTERN HISTORY - COLORADO

- Cog Railway to Pike's Peak*, by Morris W. Abbott  
*Colorado Memories of the Narrow Gauge Circle*,  
by John Krause and Ross Grenard  
*The Epic of Larimer County*, by Shirley Rietveld Parrish  
*High Rails Over Cumbres: The Story of the Cumbres and Toltec  
Scenic Railroad*, by David Sumner  
*Rails Around the Loop: The Story of the Georgetown Loop*,  
by Gary Morgan

### WESTERN HISTORY - RAILROADS

- The 4-10-2: Three Barrels of Steam*, by James E. Boynton  
*8444 (Union Pacific Steam Locomotive) Along an Open Track*,  
by Ed and Sally Kochanek  
*American Steam: The Photos of Ben F. Cutler*,  
by Robert A. Le Massena  
*America's Bicentennial Queen, Engine 4449: The Lone Survivor*,  
by Richard K. Wright  
*America's Colorful Railroads*, by Don Ball, Jr.,  
*B & O Thunder in the Alleghenies*, by Deane Mellander  
*Beaumont Hill: Southern Pacific's Southern California*,  
by John R. Signor  
*Cab-Forward: The Story of Southern Pacific Articulateds*,  
by Robert J. Church  
*Call the Big Hook*, by Samuel A. Dougherty  
*A Century of Southern Pacific Steam Locomotives, 1862-1962*,  
by Guy L. Dunscomb  
*The Challenger Locomotives*, by William W. Kratville  
*Daylight Reflections*, by Nils Huxtable  
*Donner Pass: Southern Pacific's Sierra Crossing*,  
by John R. Signor  
*Growing Up With Trains: A Southern California Album*,  
by Richard Steinheimer and Donald Sims  
*Growing Up With Trains II: A Northern California Album*,  
by Richard Steinheimer and Ted Benson  
*Handbook of American Railroads*, by Robert G. Lewis  
*Horsecars, Cable Cars, and Omnibuses*, by John H. White, Jr.

- The Love of Trains: Steam and Diesel Locomotives Around the  
World*, by Victor Hand and Harold Edmonson  
*New Orleans Steam Spectacular!*, by Joseph A. Strapac  
*Northern California Railroads: The Silver Age*,  
by Fred Matthews  
*Railroading Through Cajon Pass*, by Chard L. Walker  
*Railroads: An American Journey*, by Don Ball  
*Rails in the Shadow of Mt. Shasta: 100 Years of Railroading  
Along Southern Pacific's Shasta Division*, by John R. Signor  
*Rails to the Rockies*, by Gregory LePak  
*Rio Grande Diesels: A Pictorial History - vol.1*,  
by Joseph A. Strapac  
*Rio Grande Diesels: A Pictorial History - vol.2*,  
by Joseph A. Strapac  
*Rio Grande Glory Days*, by Gilbert A. Lathrop  
*Rio Grande West: A Contemporary Glimpse*,  
by Ronald C. Hill  
*The Search for Steam: A Cavalcade of Smoky Action in Steam by  
the Greatest Railroad Photographers*, by Joe G. Collas  
*Southern Pacific-Santa Fe Tehachapi*, by John R. Signor  
*Trolleys and Streetcars on American Picture Post Cards*,  
by Ray D. Applegate  
*The Twilight of the World of Steam*,  
by Ron Ziel and Mike Eagleson  
*Union Pacific 3985*, by William E. Botkin, Ronald C. Hill, and  
R.H. Kindig  
*USRA 2-8-8-2 Series (Classic Power 3)*, by Thomas Dressler  
*Western Pacific's Diesel Years*, by Joseph A. Strapac  
*Wheels rolling West: A Photographic Salon of  
Western Railroading*, by Dave Styffe and Ted Benson
- ### WESTERN HISTORY - GENERAL
- The Journey of the Corps of Discovery: Lewis and Clark, an  
Illustrated History*, by Dayton Duncan  
*The Way to the Western Sea: Lewis and Clark Across the  
Continent*, by David Lavender  
*Westward Visions: The Story of the Oregon Trail*,  
by David Lavender

# Alphonse Mucha – Designer Of the First Czech Stamps

by Ludvik "Lou" Svoboda (adapted from *The Czechoslovak Specialist*)

At the end of World War I, the postal authorities of the new Czechoslovak Republic had no experience whatsoever with issuing and printing stamps. All stamps and other postal material in use in Czechoslovak territory since 1850 had been under the jurisdiction of central Austrian postal authorities in Vienna. The shortage of supplies due to the war resulted in a lack of good quality paper and inks, as well as experienced personnel capable of producing stamps.



The original idea was to simply overprint existing Austro-Hungarian stamps with "POSTA CZECHOSLOVENSKA 1919" to reflect the new political status of the Czechoslovak state (at left).

The first Finance Minister of the new republic, Dr. J. Rasin, proposed that a new series of stamps be issued, designed by a well known Czech artist. Alphonse

Mucha was selected. Although there are many versions of how he was selected, one story stated that he was asked to prepare and submit – in one day – designs for all of the new stamps.

Mucha was born in Moravia in 1860. He studied art and painting in Prague, Vienna and Paris and between 1904 and 1912 spent considerable time in America. While here he was commissioned to produce a 20-panel mural titled, "The Slavonic Epic", a theatrical fresco depicting episodes of Slavic history.



Alphonse Mucha's artistic flamboyant style and employment of folk art motifs is well represented in his paintings, graphics,

and, especially for all of the new stamps of liberated Czechoslovakia (1968 stamp, above left, honoring Mucha).

Compounding the task facing Mucha was the fact that the new republic wanted to continue the former practice of issuing, in addition to regular postage stamps, postage due, newspaper and special delivery stamps. The last two were completely useless in the new republic. Nevertheless the seventy-year tradition of newspaper stamps in the Austrian empire was continued and although the previous Austrian special delivery stamps were used exclusively for newspaper deliveries to troops in the field during the war, they were not needed in the new republic.

In the basic design of the first regular issue, Mucha chose as its main motif a silhouette of Hradcany Castle with the rising sun in the background and with St. Nicholas church and the old Prague quarter in the foreground.

Due to the intricacy of the design many difficulties were experienced in the printing process. Many corrections to the design were made resulting in several distinct types (identified as Types A to E). The first Hradcany stamps were issued December 18, 1918, with the green 5 haleru and the red 10 haleru denominations. Additional denominations were later added, from 1 haler to 1000 haleru, the last of which came out early in 1920.



**Why Hradcany Castle?** The castle was the seat of Czech kings in Prague and represents a sacred symbolic abode to which the nation entrusts its future destiny. The sun rising behind this sacred symbol reflects the resurrection of the nation, a new day of freedom after a long period of darkness.



**For the postage due and special delivery designs, (above)** Mucha chose ornamental and cultural elements going back to his flamboyant and ethnic art themes. For the newspaper delivery stamps his design is highlighted by a falcon, the symbol of the Czech gymnastic organization, the Sokols.

The last and artistically best of Mucha's designs is the Hussite stamp, "The Right To The Chalice". The design (right) shows a Hussite priest holding a chalice. The stamp was printed very carelessly and the colors were printed in very dark shades. Very soon after their introduction the stamps were recalled due to the intervention of the Catholic Church hierarchy.



The day of issue of the first two Hradcany stamps, December 18, 1918, is now observed annually by Czechs as "The Day of the Czechoslovak Stamp". A number of modern stamps have been issued to memorialize the talents of Alphonse Mucha.

When the Germans marched into Czechoslovakia in 1939, Mucha was one of the first to be questioned by the Gestapo. He died shortly afterwards at the age of 79, as the nation lapsed back into six years of darkness again.

## Editor's Note:

**The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society will hold their annual meeting at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, May 15-17.**



## DONATIONS

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following have made donations to the library in the past two months. Thank you.

Paul Albricht  
Jens Aarnaes  
Aurora Stamp Club  
Ben Aycrigg  
Ted Bahry  
Barbara J. Belina  
Art Berg  
Donald Beuthel  
Ellengail Beuthel  
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Joan Schmidt  
School Dames  
Dinner Club  
Cherie Schwartz  
Ron Schwartz  
Travis Searls  
Jerry Spangler  
Tom Suprenant  
Dalene Thomas  
U.S. Stamp Society  
Jack Van Ens  
Dr. Elliot Wagner  
David Weisberg  
Wichita Stamp Club  
Steve Wineteer  
Joe Yrisarri

## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to those who have joined the library in the past two months:

**Alfred E. Staubus**, Columbus, OH - Collects U.S. Officials and Large Newspaper Stamps.

**Ron Schwartz**, Denver, CO - Collects Flag Cancells, Colorado DPO's and Post Cards.

**William J. Clair**, Warrenton, VA - Collects Imperial Airways.

**Dwight Monberg**, Littleton, CO – Collects Modern U.S. (1940-present), Canada, Newfoundland.

**Ruth Ann Bolz**, Arvada, CO – Collects Topical, Multi-faceted Individual Interests.

**Charlene Putnam**, South Grafton, MA – Collects United States and World.

**Fred A. Jensen**, Denver, CO - Collects Plate Number Coils, U.S. Used, Colorado Postal History.

**Phillip B. Parrish**, Castle Rock, CO - Collects Occupation Stamps, Cuba, Iran.

**Usmomirskiy Ilya**, Centennial, CO - Collects U.S. and Russia Stamps.

**Philip D. Kearney**, Windsor, CO - Stamp Dealer, Long's Peak Philatelic

**Donald P. Englehardt**, Denver, CO - Collects U.S. Mint stamps

**Jonathan Topper**, Houston, TX - Collects Latin America, Texas Postal History

## PROGRAMS AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

### Centros de Hoja - Some Unique Cuban Collectibles

Centros de Hoja, or "center of the sheet" is the name of these collectible stamps. Or, rather the blocks of stamps found only in this unique position. These are the intersecting gutters at the center of the sheet. Typically these vertical and horizontal lines divide the 400-stamp imperforate sheet into four panes of 100 stamps each. Three different stamps were printed this way in 1926 and then not again until 10 years later in 1936. This presentation will discuss and describe the entire history of the Centros de Hoja of Cuba.

To be presented by RMPL member Robert Littrell, of Cascade, Colorado. 1:00 PM Friday, May 15, 2009.  
Check show Program Book for exact location.





## SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Second Saturday programs are sponsored by the library and attract a friendly group of folks who are interested in a specific subject or who are interested in learning more about an area of philately that may be new to them. Contact Jim Kilbane if you would like to present a program.

e-mail: [aurora\\_80017@yahoo.com](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com)

**The programs begin at 9:00 AM and are over by 10:00 AM.**

**Doughnuts and coffee are complimentary and all are welcome.**

**MAY 9**

### *Fiji - In The Eyes of a Philatelist* by David Plunkett

This presentation will cover the history, cultures, languages, and scenery of Fiji, the beautiful South Pacific country and former British Colony, in the eyes of a philatelist. David Plunkett is a lifetime philatelist whose world opened up for him as he learned about the countries he was collecting. After many years of continually studying Fiji through philately and other means, he finally visited Fiji at age 35 in 2001, and has since made a total of 12 trips there. He will tie in the stamps of the country with present day and historical Fiji from a personal perspective.

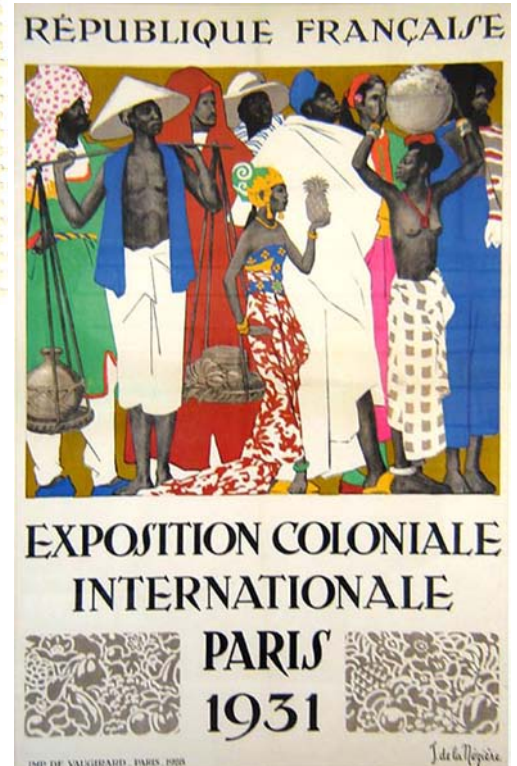


**JUNE 13**

### *Preparing to Dispose of Your Collection* by David Weisberg

Most of us have spent many years putting together collections that only we know what they contain. If you decided to dispose of a collection tomorrow, you probably have a good idea of how to go about it. But what if you were not around to handle this complex process? The amount of effort put into preparing your heirs to handle this task can mean the difference between them receiving a minimal return on your years of effort or receiving the full value of your collection. Today's talk will provide some guidance on what steps should be taken to see that the latter occurs. We will examine how to place a realistic value on a collection, how to describe the collection with emphasis on key items and what steps to be taken to maximize the potential value and minimize the time and effort to do so. Family members and spouses are welcome and may also find it informative.

## PROGRAMS AT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW



### **French Stamp Designer & Poster Artist - Joseph de la Néziere**

This presentation will cover the history of the 1938 Marie and Pierre Curie semi-postal omnibus stamp issue by France and twenty one French colonies to raise funds to combat cancer. Famous artist and designer Joseph de la Néziere was selected to design these special stamps.

To be presented by *Scribblings* editor, Ronald Hill, Saturday, May 16 during the France & Colonies Philatelic Society meeting at RMSS. Check show Program Book for time and location.



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

Crowne Plaza Hotel, DIA, I-70 & Chambers Road - May 15-16-17, 2009

MORE THAN 40 DEALERS

SATURDAY AWARDS  
BANQUET



MORE THAN 300 EXHIBIT  
FRAMES

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

[www.rockymountainstampshow.com](http://www.rockymountainstampshow.com)  
for complete information

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### BACK AGAIN

Popular three-day program for kids includes workshops and organized group activities. Individual conferences will be held with scouts working on Merit Badges and families considering homeschooling with stamps.

## WHAT'S IN YOUR ATTIC

### BACK AGAIN

Our group of experts will review old collections large and small. If you found or inherited a family collection, bring it in and we will offer recommendations or advice. See RMSS web page for complete details.

## International Societies Attending

### France & Colonies Philatelic Society

<http://www.drunkenboat.net/frandcol/FCPSHome.html>

The France & Colonies Group was organized in 1941 by seventeen philatelists who were interested in the stamps and postal history of France and the French community. Incorporated in 1961 as the France & Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., the membership has grown to over 400 collectors throughout the American continent and overseas. The Society's interest in French philately includes the colonies, offices abroad, Monaco, Europa, territories and the new independent republics.

### Cuban Philatelic Society of America

<http://www.philat.com/cpsa>

The CPSA was organized in 1971 to promote Cuban philately and philatelic friendship among its members. The CPSA sponsors studies and research of stamps and postal history of Cuba. It has grown from a small group of collectors in the Miami area to several hundred members throughout the world. CPSA has members in Canada, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. The society publishes a bilingual journal, *The Cuban Philatelist*, as well as an active Internet site and a number of auctions throughout the year.

### Society For Czechoslovak Philately

<http://www.csphilately.org>

The Society for Czechoslovak Philately (SCP) is an international organization founded in 1939 which is devoted to the collecting, study, education, and publicizing of all aspects of philately represented by geographic areas of the former Czechoslovakia. The group, originally named the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society, started small but grew quickly. Collectors from many parts of the United States joined and soon thereafter, philatelists from other countries joined. The SCP currently has members in 35 states and 18 countries. The society's journal, *The Czechoslovak Specialist* has been published continuously since 1939.

## Local Organizations

Colorado Postal History Society

USS Colorado Chapter - USCS

Postmark Collectors Club - Colorado Chapter

Scandinavian Collectors Club - Colorado Chapter

TOPIC - Topical Philatelists In Colorado



## What's Happening at the RMPL...

*"Come and Enjoy the Activities"*

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Thursday 2:00 - 8:00 PM. Closed Sundays and Holidays. Phone: 303.759.9921

**Meeting times and places sometime change. It is best to call the library or the club to confirm the place and time. A calendar of reserved club times is kept by Don Beuthel at the library. Clubs should check the calendar regularly and notify Don (303-755-9328) of any changes or updates.**

### MAY 2009

- May 2** - Scandinavian Collectors Club will meet at RMSS (May 15-17)
- May 2** - TOPIC, Topical Philatelists In Colorado will meet at RMSS (May15-17)
- May 6** - Meeting, Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 pm trading, 7:30 pm meeting/program
- May 9** - 9:00-10:00 am  
**Second Saturday at the RMPL**  
Program by David Plunkett  
*Fiji - In the Eyes of a Philatelist*
- May 9** - Meeting - 10:00 am  
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- May 9** - Meeting - 11:30 am - USS Colorado Chapter  
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
- May 11-12** - **LIBRARY CLOSED**  
PHILATELIC LIBRARIANS MEETING
- May 13** - Meeting - 7:00 pm  
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- May 16** - Meeting, 9:30 am-Noon  
Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club
- May 23** - **LIBRARY CLOSED** Memorial Day
- May 27** - 7:30 pm - Israel Stamp Club

**NOTE: The library will be closed May 11 and May 12, 2009 for the National Meeting of Philatelic Librarians at the RMPL**

*Visitors and members should confirm with individual*

### JUNE 2009

- June 3** - Meeting, Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 pm trading, 7:30 pm meeting/program
- June 6** - Meeting, 10:00 am  
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- June 10** - Meeting, 7:00 pm  
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- June 13** - 9:00-10:00 am  
**Second Saturday at the RMPL**  
Program by David Weisberg  
*Preparing to Dispose of Your Collection*
- June 13** - 10:00-11:00 am  
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- June 13** - 11:30 am  
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
- June 18** - 7:00 pm  
RMPL Board Meeting - all welcome
- June 20** - **LIBRARY CLOSED**  
ELECTRICAL WORK (see note below)  
Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club  
Cancelled
- June 23** - Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- June 24** - 7:30 PM - Israel Stamp Club

**NOTE: The library will be closed Saturday, June 20, 2009 and all weekend for the installation of new electrical wiring.**

*clubs about the time and place of their activities.*

*Scribblings* is published bimonthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Editor, Ronald Hill, 2038 S Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224. The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado nonprofit corporation and an IRS designated 501 (c)3 charitable organization. Membership subscriptions over that for the regular membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic materials, are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes.

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