

Scribbblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian...

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2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224
303.759.9921

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Email - rmpl@qwestoffice.net

IN THIS ISSUE

The Traveling Post Offices of Ceylon1, 2



The Prez' Observations3
Auction Highlights3
RMPL Board Meeting....4-5
Changing Places5
The Changeling of Manchukuo6,7,8



Youth Activities8-9



Book Review.....10-11
What's New on the Shelves.....12
Display of Uncut Press Sheets.....13
CSA 10c Sheetlet Mystery Solved.....13
Donations14
New Members14
Second Saturday.....15
Meetings and Shows.15,16

The Traveling Post Offices of Ceylon

by Will Mahoney



Ceylon (known as Sri Lanka since 1972) is a teardrop-shaped, tropical island located 400 miles north of the equator in the Indian Ocean and less than 20 miles off the southeast coast of India (right).

It has an area of approximately 25,000 square miles – about the same as West Virginia and ¼ the size of Colorado. The island extends about 270 miles from north to south and 140 miles from east to west.

The country's largest city, Colombo, is located on the southwestern coast and has a metropolitan population of 2½ million. The dominant ethnic group, the Buddhist Sinhalese, emigrated from India in the 5th Century B.C. The second largest ethnic group, the Hindu Tamils, came from southern India between the 3rd Century B.C. and the 12th Century A.D. From the 16th Century until independence in 1948, Ceylon was dominated by Europeans; first the Portuguese, then the Dutch, and finally the British who made the island a Crown Colony in 1802.

During the colonial period, the British brought their particular brand of infrastructure to the island including their postal system and railroads. Ceylon got its first postage stamps in 1857. Ten years later, the first rail line (above) was completed linking the capital Colombo with Kandy, the major city in the southern highlands. That initial line was further extended to the southeast to the town of Bandarawela by 1894.



Continued on page 2

The Traveling Post Offices of Ceylon *Continued from page 1*

Mails between post offices along the rail lines were conveyed by train as soon as lines were in service. However, a particular type of railway mail service interests us here: The Traveling Post Office or T.P.O. According to the *Glossary of Philatelic Terms*, a T.P.O. is a post office established on a railroad train "having a staff of post office sorters to deal with the mail which is picked up and dropped en route. The cancellations used on board such trains usually bear the letters T.P.O. or R.P.O." T.P.O. cancellations are also found on mails conveyed by river boat such as in British Guiana (now Guyana) in South America and Gambia on the west coast of Africa (Fig. 1).



figure 1

Postmarks for T.P.O.s operating on river boats. The example from British Guiana on the left shows an abbreviation of T.P.O. Demerara River Steamer. The one on the right is from a T.P.O. operating on the Gambia River in West Africa.

In Ceylon, there were four T.P.O. routes established during the colonial period (E.B. Proud, 2006. *The Postal History of Ceylon*) as more rail lines were constructed to form a network throughout much of the island.

Mail service using a van (mail car) on the first line from Colombo to Kandy (and later extended to Bandarawela) was called the Main Line T.P.O.

Cancels were initially (from 1892) inscribed RAILWAY POST OFFICE (Figure 2), then UP/DOWN KANDY T.P.O. (1925) (Figure 3).



figure 3



figure 4

Down Kandy T.P.O. postmark on Scott 228 (left) from the 1920s or 30s. Down Bandarawela T.P.O. postmark from 1943 (right) indicates that this T.P.O. continued operating during World War II while some other Ceylon T.P.O. service was suspended.

"UP" indicated the train which went "up" from Colombo to Kandy, and "DOWN" was used on the train that went back "down" to Colombo. By 1930, cancellers bearing UP/DOWN B.W. T.P.O. (and later UP/DOWN BANDARAWELA T.P.O.) were in use (Figure 4)



Figure 2. Postcard cancelled in Kandy on July 28, 1907 and with the Main Line T.P.O. canceller the same day. The card would have been carried by rail to Colombo, then by ship and possibly also by rail to Calcutta, India where it arrived on 1 August.

The rail line from Colombo north to Kankasanturai at the northern tip of the island was opened in 1902. A branch of this line from Madawachchi northwest to Talimannar Pier (only 20 miles from India) was completed in 1913. In 1918, the Indo-Ceylon T.P.O. was established between Colombo and the ancient capital of Anuradhapura (Figure 5).



figure 5

1937 King George VI coronation issue with 1st day Up Indo-Ceylon T.P.O. postmark.



figure 6

The Jaffna T.P.O. was still operating in 1961 as evidenced by this postmark on Scott 362a.

It was extended via the branch line to Talaimannar Pier in 1926. From here mails were conveyed across the Gulf of Mannar by ferry for approximately 30 miles, then transferred to trains on India's Southern Railway. This T.P.O. was discontinued in 1941 in the early days of World War II.

In the meantime, a T.P.O. had been established on the Colombo – Kankasanturai train in 1924. It was called the Colombo – Jaffna T.P.O. (Jaffna being the largest town at the north end of the island). The train went all the way to Kankasanturai, north of Jaffna, but the T.P.O. only went as far as Anuradhapura. This T.P.O. was discontinued in 1929 and its service was amalgamated with the Indo-Ceylon T.P.O. At the end of World War II, the Colombo – Jaffna T.P.O. was reestablished, this time with the van continuing with the train all the way to Kankasanturai. It was still operating in 1961 (Figure 6).

In 1894, a rail line was completed from Colombo south along the coast to the principal southern city of Galle. A T.P.O. is known to have been used on that line starting in 1926. Portions of this line run along the edge of the beach. As a result, it was heavily damaged during the 2004 tsunami.

The Prez' Observations

With the passing of winter in the northern hemisphere and the onset of spring, a new freshness is in the air – which is palpably odoriferous. Perhaps it's the buds on the trees, or the morning dew or, much closer to home, the smell of freshly shampooed carpets, the glue used for carpeting, or the smell of newly rolled paint.

If you're getting a whiff of all of these – no you're probably not in the great outdoors – but rather at 2048 S. Pontiac Way or 7070 East Asbury – the addresses of our newly acquired building. With the help of many volunteers, work on the new facility is moving along quite nicely, and new occupants have begun moving in – these include *Scribblings* Editor, Ron Hill, the Map Collection, and Special Collections. The Special Collections area is also growing to include material from Bill Bauer, and we expect some also from Jim Ozment that will be maintained by the Colorado Postal History Society.

As late winter and early spring mature into full blown spring and early summer, be prepared for added aromas that won't mature until late summer. Yes the "green-thumb" garden club of the RMPL will be out in force, designing and developing the library's gardens. That hardy lot and their gardening implements welcome others that would like to join them in the development of the, soon to become favorite garden spot of the library. And while we're at it, look carefully at the next *Scribblings* issue. It will have a list of cuttings and plants/shrubs/trees that we hope to be donated and that our gardeners would love to plant.

In closing, we need not overlook the philatelic side of our endeavors as we look forward to the days of lengthening daylight. Coming up soon are a variety of shows (among which are Pat McNally's March bourse, May's Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, June's National Topical Stamp Show, and two post card shows in May and July). And we're getting close to active member #500 ever so certainly – we're up to 492 members and counting. With your enthusiastic support and promotion, we expect to reach that milestone before spring has fully sprung.

And here is an idea for something new and different that you might welcome into your world of philately. How about a new screen saver? To do just that, this will get you into the National Postal Museum's activity page devoted to images that can be downloaded and used as your own personal screen saver. Here is the URL address: http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/activity/8d_wallpaper.html

Sergio

NOTE: A researcher is seeking International Reply Coupons from around 1915 to 1925 for a special project. If anyone has examples or information on these items, please call me at the library. *Sergio*

U.S. No. 1 (XF) On Cover Highlights RMSS Auction



This year's Rocky Mountain Stamp Show silent auction is shaping up as one of the best ever. As usual, we have a very nice selection of over 200 lots of United States material out of a total of 620 lots. The featured item is a beautiful US No.1 on cover with a Philatelic Foundation certificate and graded 90 (XF) by PSE.

As most members are aware, over the past several years the RMPL has received a number of large donations that are held in reserve for three years according to IRS regulations. The first of these collections, from the Frederick Mayer estate, becomes available this year. A number of lots consist of material from this donation. These include some very nice mint Canada, early Denmark, Portugal, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic. In the latter two cases, we have ten large lots of material, each with a catalog value from \$150 to \$600 that will start at just 10% of catalog.

We also have some of the better material from the Bob Brown estate that was not included in the recent bulk lots auction including a nice U.N. #38 souvenir sheet along with additional German material from the Gene McGruder bequest.

Our objective is to sell all 620 lots to raise as much money as possible for the library. In this regard we have set minimum bids as low as is reasonable. Most U.S. lots are priced at 35% of catalogue or lower while most foreign lots are priced at 25% or lower. An illustrated catalog should be available by mid-April and bidding will start soon thereafter.

Dave Weisberg, Auction Manager

JANUARY 28, 2010 RMPL BOARD MEETING

This was the first board meeting held in the new 2048 Pontiac Way building. President Lugo thanked the many RMPL members who have been helping with improvements and renovation projects.

Committee Annual Reports:

Acquisitions:

Budgeted funds of \$2,000 per annum, including the purchase of new Scott Catalogues.

Auctions:

David Weisberg stated that unsold auction items are often sold and rung up as stamp sales which reduces the actual auction totals. The budget projections for financing the new building, developed in October 2009, charged the Auction Committee with raising about \$20,000 more per year through the sale of our special philatelic collections. An important item in this year's RMSS silent auction will be a very fine US#1 on cover that was a donation from a library member.

Building Maintenance:

The written report by Richard Palestro and Bill Crabbs was reviewed.

Donations:

The heading "Memorial" donations will be revised in future reports.

Grants:

John Bloor stated that the board needs to be informed well in advance of grant applications involving matching funds so that we have ample time to review the financial commitment.

Membership:

Roger Rydberg reviewed the annual report. Membership stands at 492 current active members.

Publications:

Sergio hopes to renew progress on the Danish Ore BiColors book in the near future. Sergio reminded the board that other publications are on hold and removed from the projected budget. Any new publications will require board approval. David Weisberg added that these books have had and will continue to have great value in promoting good public relations and publicity for the library.

Stamp Sales:

Howard Benson discussed the need for more office and storage space for stamp sales.

Technology:

Roger Rydberg requested additional authorization for \$800 for the committee in 2010 that would be added to a carryover amount of \$146.48 from 2009. This would give the committee a budget of \$946.48 for 2010. The motion was passed. Ron Hill also reported on the Konica-Minolta machine which is now five years old and has experienced mechanical problems in the printing of *Scribblings*. Konica-Minolta proposed the lease/purchase of a used newer model machine that is currently available. Concern

was expressed about how this would impact our budget. Ron Hill, Roger Rydberg, and Jan Belle were appointed to explore future copier options. John Bloor reported on the Borrowing-By-Mail program of the online catalog.

Scribblings:

Ron Hill stated that we can get a discount on paper if we buy in larger quantities.

Youth Committee:

Don Dhonau reported on the new checking account opened on January 22, 2010 in the name of the RMPL Young Stamp Collectors. The new account included the addition of the King Foundation funds (\$2,500) recently donated.

Volunteer Holiday Dinner Committee:

Dalene Thomas' report shows a savings over the amount budgeted. Sergio pointed out that there were increased costs for awards that brought the total to between \$2,800-\$2,900. It was recommend that Dalene also should check into other restaurants for next year including the Spaghetti Factory. If nothing better is found, we should continue with the White Fence Farm on a Friday evening.

Old Business

Library Rewiring:

The project is about 60% complete, and is planned to be finished by April. Outside lights will be installed.

Audit Update:

The audit has been conducted, but it will be about a month before the auditor gets back to us. They will make a presentation of their findings to the board.

By-Laws Changes:

Sergio asked that Roger Cichorz and David Weisberg present any proposed changes at the next board meeting. One proposal is to change the name to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Center and Library to reflect the expanding functions of the organization.

Priorities for Spending:

David Weisberg and Paul Lee previously presented a preliminary list of prioritized budget items for 2010 through 2013. This list was reviewed in detail and a number of suggestions and changes were discussed.

New Business

2010 Budget:

Sergio discussed the projected budget for 2010. The expense side of the budget lists the person responsible for each particular item. Many of the items on both the Income and Expenses side of the ledger need to be formalized. These will be further reflected in a revised budget to be submitted to the board by e-mail.

Changing Places

Every day sees volunteers painting, moving furniture or placing wallboard. It's a work in progress. And no two days around here are ever the same.

- A - Conference Room (new building)
- B - Scribblings Office (new building)
- C - New Stacks & Shelving Under Construction (new building)
- D - New Research Area Under Construction
- E - Mailboxes Relocated and In Use

Master Planning Committee Recommendations:

Ellengail Beuthel presented the highlights of the written report. Additional items discussed included need for a snow blower and a door and stairway connecting the two levels of the new building. It was stressed that guidelines need to be set regarding keys to open the 2048 building for club and other meetings. Also the board approved a series of guidelines for group meetings in the new meeting room.

UPSS and Czech Society Space Requests:

Library member, Ludvik Svoboda, presented a written proposal from The Society for Czechoslovak Philately for space to locate the society's National Library. Lewis Bussey, President of the United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS) also made a space request presentation. Lewis responded to board questions regarding the amount of space needed by UPSS, their need for an enclosed sole-use space, how the space would be accessed by potential users, and the number of people who may have an interest in using the archives. It was moved and seconded to postpone a decision on this proposal until the July 2010 board meeting.

Marketing Committee:

A written proposal to establish a marketing committee was presented by Ron Hill. It was moved and seconded to establish this committee. The motion was passed. The committee members include Ron Hill, Steve Nadler and David Weisberg.

Contract for Groups:

In addition to the guidelines previously discussed, Don Beuthel was asked to explore the need and mechanics for establishing contractual agreements for groups wanting to meet at the library and for organizations desiring space allocations in our facilities.

Gold Medal Receptions Suggestion:

It was suggested that library members who receive gold medals at national shows be recognized by a reception at the library, and that they present a program and take people through their exhibits. This matter will be taken up at the next board meeting.

Approval of New Members: It was moved and seconded to approve the new library members who have joined since the last board meeting. The motion passed.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010.



A



B



C



D



E

The Changeling

by Travis Searls and Simon Watt

This is a story of a stamp that was chemically treated by individuals seeking to change its color, the aim being to sell examples of these on the philatelic market as a variety, thereby making a profit. More interestingly though, this is a tale of cooperation between philatelists and dealers in America and China to uncover the fraud.

Our story starts in Manchukuo, a puppet state created by Japan in 1932, in the region of China known as Manchuria. With a population of well over 30,000,000 inhabitants and being regarded as one of the industrial centers of Asia, Manchukuo soon experienced rapid economic growth. Manchukuo issued its first postage stamp on July 28th, 1932

Initially China did not recognize Manchukuo or the use of stamps from Manchukuo as postage. Chinese postmasters obliterated the "Manchukuo" inscription on the stamps and applied postage due, thus costing the sender triple. The Sino-Manchukuo agreement of 1934 stated that postage stamps from Manchukuo would not bear the name "Manchukuo". Now showing only the official symbol of Manchukuo, a five pointed stylized orchid, these stamps came to be known as "China Mail."

In April 1937, as a result of a postal rate increase, the Manchukuo Post Office issued a set of three new stamps based upon the China Mail designs. This was the fourth China Mail issue. The values were 2 ½ fen, 5 fen, and 13 fen. Scott numbers 112, 113 and 115 apply. The stamp we are concerned with is the 5f Black, Scott 113, issued on 22nd April, 1937. The chemical forgery had its color changed from black to a reddish brown, close to the color used for the 13 fen (see below).



Scott 112



Scott 113



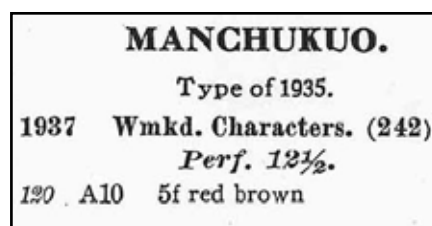
Scott 115

Before we move on to discussing the changeling, we draw your attention to the Scott catalogue numbers. You will notice that the three stamps shown above are numbered 112, 113 and 115. So what happened to the Scott number 114?

The number 114 was assigned to the 8f stamp. Scott assumed that, as with previous China Mail issues, the set would contain four stamps. This was indeed the

case, but instead of creating a new printing of the 8f, the existing 8f third China Mail stamp, issued in 1936, continued in use. When the error was discovered, number 114 was dropped from the catalogue and the gap in the numbering remains until this day.

Red-brown copies identical to the 5f black, Scott 113, began to appear on the philatelic market towards the end of 1937. Scott's very quickly found out about these stamps and decided the red-brown 5f represented a genuine new issue. They listed the new stamp in the January 1938 edition of *Scott's Monthly Journal*, awarding it the catalogue number 120. It should be understood that in the 1930's and 40's there was much competition amongst the producers of stamp catalogues, all of them wanting to be the first to bring readers news of anything new.



Above is the entry from the January 1938 edition of Scott's Monthly Journal

First reports linked these questionable stamps to a dealer in Tientsin and an example was said to have been sold for 500 francs. At this time, all known specimens appeared to be used copies with postmarks dated July 1937 and the town name unreadable. Specialist collectors were not convinced. Examples of the 2f stamp of the previous China Mail issue had been subjected to chemical tampering, changing the color from yellow-green to light blue as noted in Alexander Schumann's book, *Special Catalogue of the Stamps of Manchukuo*, 1941. Collectors were not going to be caught twice by the same scam.

The China Stamp Society had a dedicated Manchurian section in 1938 led by Major Elbridge Colby. Major Colby corresponded regularly with other collectors, writers and dealers, and it was not long before he started receiving letters voicing concerns about the authenticity of Scott 120.

Major Colby wrote an article in the *China Clipper* (Vol.... II, #6, pages 5 & 6, Aug. 1938) raising some of these doubts. Shortly after receiving the article from Colby, the editor of the *China Clipper* was contacted by a Society member claiming to have made a perfect reproduction of the 5f "changeling" using a "common substance". Nobody had been able to obtain any real information about the red-brown 5f. Collectors such as Mr. B. Rio, a teacher based in Kirin, who had obtained a copy, felt that the stamp was genuine. The English

firm, Stanley Gibbons thought it was most likely a fake. Opinion was divided.

Roy Akagi, a respected author and collector, was at this time the New York representative of the South Manchurian Railway Company (SMR). He visited the SRM Headquarters in Dairen in early 1938 and then travelled on to Hsinking and Harbin. In the course of doing this, he made enquiries of the Manchukuo post office asking if the ref-brown 5f was a new issue or a variety. Officials at the Post Office of Manchukuo assured Mr. Akagi that the stamp had never been printed in brown.

On the basis of the color change experiment and the information supplied by Roy Akagi, Major Colby wrote to Mr. Hugh M. Clark, the president of Scott Publications Inc., in July of 1938, to say that he was "firmly convinced the stamp was a fake".

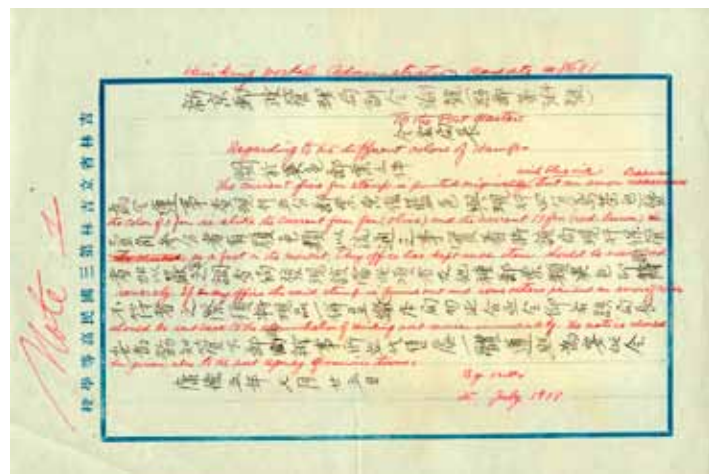


Scott 120

This is a scan of a color changed 5 fen, taken from the collection of Maj. Elbridge Colby.

On August 4th, 1938, Mr. Clark replied to Major Colby's letter saying that he also had letters from Roy Akagi and from A. S. Yaroshevitch, a dealer in Harbin, both saying the same thing. In his reply Mr. Clark writes "The experiments you showed me in your letter of 18th convinced me without a shadow of a doubt. I am keeping your letter with samples in our Reference Collection. The stamp is being omitted from the next catalogue. I am not even leaving it in "Tentative Listings". Sadly this information arrived too late, as the 1939 catalogue had already gone to print. The stamp was deleted from later issues. This is why you will not find a number 120 in the Manchukuo section of today's Scott catalogue.

You might have thought the debate would end there, but no! Major Colby received a further letter from the Kirin academic Mr. B. Rio. Included with this letter was what was reputed to be a transcript of Manchukuo Postal Administration Mandate #8681, issued on July, 25th, 1938.



Mandate #8681

This photograph is a translation sent by Mr. Rio to Major Colby. The blue characters read "Kirin Provincial Third Higher Middle School". This is written on school notepaper and not the original official postal document.

The translation reads as follows:

Hsinking Postal Administration Mandate No. 8681

To The Postmasters;

Regarding the Different Colors of Stamps

The current five fen stamp is printed originally with blue ink, but an error happened, to the color of the 5 fen is alike the current four fen (olive) and the current 13 fen (red-brown) as a fact in the market.

Any office has kept such an item should be examined severely. If any office the said stamp is found out and some others printed an error color should be sent back to the administration of Hsinking post service immediately. The notice should be given also to the post agency in various towns.

By Order 25th July 1938

Shortly after receiving this information, Major Colby wrote another article for the *China Clipper* (Vol... III, #2, page 21, Dec. 1938), informing members of this new development and printing a somewhat tidied and corrected version of the above text. The validity of the stamp was again disputed.

Akagi never doubted that the stamp was a changeling and was convinced that Mandate 8681 was simply an attempt by the Postal Authorities in Hsinking to find out what was happening, having been pestered by several overseas collectors. This view was supported by dealers such as Harry Tamer

Continued on page 8

The Changeling Continued from page 7

of New York and A. S. Yaroshevitch of Harbin, the publishers Scott, and Stanley Gibbons, and many of the philatelists of the China Stamp Society Manchurian Section. The main dissenter seems to have been Alexander Schumann who, on page 50 of his 1941 catalogue reprinted Mandate 8681 and stated that this was proof that the stamp was genuine (he may have changed his mind later).

In America and England, the collection of Manchukuo stamps came to a complete stop as a result of Pearl Harbor. Many dealers, such as Tamer and Schumann, issued their last catalogues in 1941 and many collectors sold their collections at this time. To collect the stamps of Japan or any of its satellites was considered unpatriotic.

Following the war, nothing of real significance seems to have been written about the philately of Manchukuo until Helen K. Zirkle wrote her book, *The Postage Stamps and Commemorative Cancellations of Manchukuo*. By this time it seems to have been generally accepted that the red-brown 5f stamp, once known as Scott 120, was a chemical changeling.



Test 96

As a footnote to the above, the authors of this article conducted a series of experiments to see if it was possible to reproduce the chemical change described above. The answer is that our test #96 produced a very satisfactory reproduction, and no, we are not going to tell you how we did it.

“Help”, You Are Needed

Work on integrating the two buildings continues. That will be taking hundreds and hundreds of hours by volunteers over the next several months. YES - that's right - Several Months.

WHEN CAN YOU HELP? Please consider coming to the Library on Thursday mornings (9 to 1pm) Don't be shy, we'll find something for you to do, and we'll always have those job assignments posted for easy reference. Right now, we're focusing on relocating books and periodicals, files and furniture. Later, remodeling the parking lot; developing a formal garden area, painting the exterior walls, moving more books and periodicals and much, much more.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Activities at the RMPL

by Dan Nieuwlandt, Tim Heins and Don Dhonau

During the fall of 2005 Peter Adgie had the vision to establish a group where young stamp collectors could be encouraged to expand and continue their hobby. This group, named the Metro-Denver Young Stamp Collector Club, became a registered Club with the APS. During its four year existence the Club has met the morning of the third Saturday of each month at the RMPL.

This Club is open to all youth ages 8-14. Activities include philatelic programs provided by adult advisors Dan Nieuwlandt, Tim Heins and Don Dhonau, supplemented by guest speakers. Other activities include games and exercises based on philatelic themes. Time is also provided at each meeting for the young collectors to work on their own collections and/or exhibits. Although the Club collects no dues from its members the Club has been financially self sustaining.

Expenses are funded by gifts from local stamp clubs and individuals, and most recently, by a grant from the Kenneth King Foundation. The Club welcomes new members and especially philatelic donations from individuals and clubs. For two years we have also worked with an additional group weekly at Annunciation Elementary School in downtown Denver.

Of special interest to the King Foundation is the potential for linking the many experienced collectors at RMPL with the youth in our library program, as well as outreach to children in public and private schools, scouting organizations, children being homeschooled, other youth clubs, etc.

Members of the RMPL are asked to think about contacts you or your family have with children and youth. Can you interest them in a field trip to the library for a youth program, or provide contact with a library, school or youth organization? The youth leaders are also looking for adult collectors who would be willing to share their particular collecting interest at a youth club meeting, or by submitting a one page write-up of a topic that can be illustrated by 6-8 stamps. (The stamps should be common enough for us to gather 30-40 to distribute to a classroom of children).

We thank the Kenneth King Foundation for their \$2500.00 grant and their confidence in us. We thank each of you who has supported the youth program in the past. We welcome any and all of your new energy and ideas !

2010 projects being developed include work with McKinley-Thacher Elementary School in Denver, Scout Merit Badge work, and possible public library programs with children/stamps.

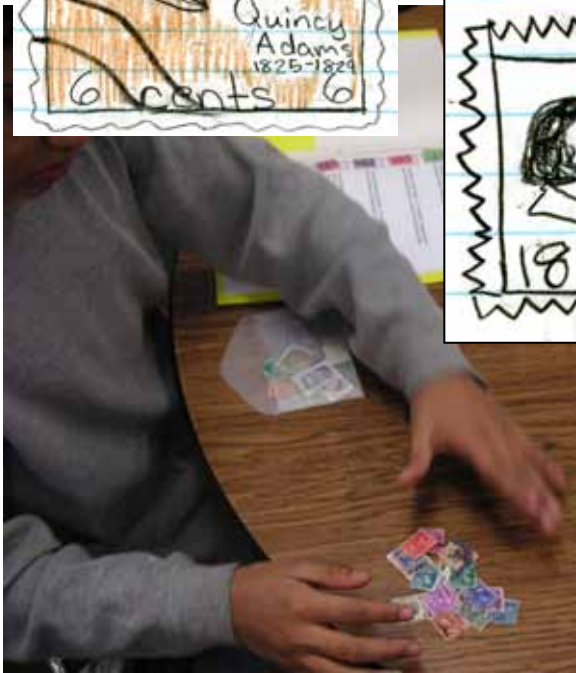
On the occasion of the recent Presidents Day, a special program was held with the 5th Grade class at McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School. On the opposite page are photos of some of the activities.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



"Someday I Want to be the First Woman President - Then When I Die I Want to Have My Own Purple Stamp", Anna

"My name is Liam; that's "mail" spelled backwards", Liam



Packets of stamps, a special workbook featuring US Presidents, and a discussion about Presidents by Don Dhonau, led to an enthusiastic response by the students. They designed stamps and wrote short letters and comments about the experience. **"Are You Going to Come Again?", "Where Can I Buy Stamps?" and "My Dad Thinks my Stamps are Cool, Since he Wanted to Collect Stamps but Never Got Around to it". See some of their artwork and comments above.**

Understanding Transatlantic Mail

Volume I (2006); Volume 2 (2009) by Richard F. Winter,
Published by American Philatelic Society

Reviewed by Steve Pacetti

Note: Both volumes and the other books mentioned are available at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. Volume I was reviewed in *Scribblings* (July-August 2006, Vol. 14, No. 4). For a review of Volume II, it would not be incorrect to just reference the Volume I review and say "ditto", but it deserves more. *Understanding Transatlantic Mail (UTM)* is not two separate books, but one big book that is divided into two volumes to avoid an unwieldy size, and to get the information in Volume I out to collectors as soon as it was available. So, what follows is a combined review.

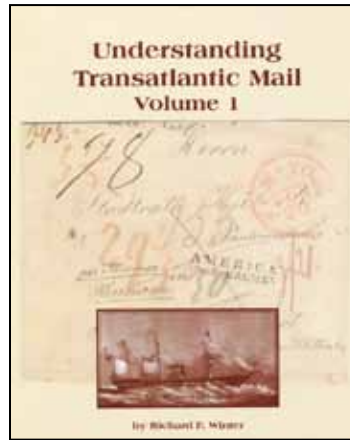
Postal history is the study of postal rates, routes, and markings. Thus, the postal historian is interested in knowing how much it cost to mail an item, how it traveled to its destination, and what is the meaning of the various hand stamps and manuscript markings found on covers. There are few covers more challenging than 19th century mail to and from European countries, and beyond, before the 1875 General Postal Union simplified international mail rates.

Enter *Understanding Transatlantic Mail*, the first major work on this subject in many years. Dick Winter is well known to postal history collectors because he has been researching and writing articles for more than 25 years in such publications as *The Chronicle* (the journal of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society) and the *American Philatelic Congress Book*. For his efforts, Winter has received numerous prestigious awards, including the APS's John N. Luff Award for Distinguished Philatelic Research, the Liechtenstein Award of the Collectors Club of New York, and signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

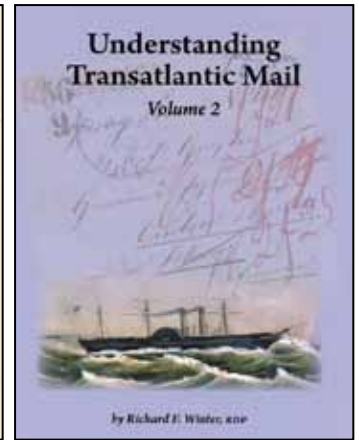
In Volume I of UTM, Winter pulls together all of his studies of the earliest four U.S.-European postal arrangements--Bremen, British, Prussian, and French--in chronological order, and analyzes in great detail hundreds of covers mailed from and to the U.S. In Volume II, he follows with the Hamburg, Belgium, Netherlands, North German Union, and Switzerland mails.

At 482 and 571 pages, these are big, heavy books, nicely stitch bound in dark blue hard back and gold lettering, with handsome dust jackets, and printed on high quality paper stock. But, please don't be put off by their size. You do not need to read the volumes cover-to-cover. The strength of UTM is in the book's organization. Winter gave a lot of thought to presenting his research and it shows.

The writing style is tight and succinct. No unnecessary verbiage. It's also clear, understandable, and consistent throughout, using the common definitions and other stylistic techniques he provides in the Introduction. Footnotes--and there are hundreds--are on the same page as the referenced text. No flipping back and forth to find



Volume I



Volume II

a citation. He uses bold type for postmark wording and figure (illustration) references so that scanning down a page to find something is much easier.

And there is help in deciphering manuscript postal markings. Throughout the books and in five appendices, there are too many tracings to count of those arcane squiggles written on so many covers by European postal clerks. You won't find every manuscript marking on your covers, but it's great start.

Perhaps worth the books' prices alone, is an accompanying CD-ROM for each volume containing high resolution, color images of the covers illustrated in each volume, organized by Figure number in "folders" for each chapter. A brief text description accompanies each image. It's almost like having your own world class collection of transatlantic covers. The CD is kept in a clear plastic protective sleeve inside the back cover.

I do not want to oversell UTM, however. You will not have everything you need to fully understand every detail of your transatlantic covers with just these two volumes. You also should have a good postal rate book, such as Charles J. Starnes' *United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1847 to GPU-UPU* (Leonard H. Hartmann, 1989), and a mail ship reference, such as Walter Hubbard and Richard. F. Winter's, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-1875*, (U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, 1988) so that you know how your cover traveled.

Which brings us to the Bibliography in UTM. It's loaded with every reference to the subject that most of us could ever ask for, all arranged neatly under broad general headings, such as "Postal Markings", and by each mail service.

Also, study the Index--carefully. It's different from the typical index in that it has been customized to fit the way Winter describes all the covers he analyzes. For example, under "postmark" (in Vol. II) there follows a nine page list of the verbatim wording of hundreds of postmarks illustrated in the books. So, you look at a

postmark on your cover, find the wording in the index, and then go to the examples cited. And, the index in Volume II is cumulative, giving you the page number(s) in the appropriate volume. A very nice bonus. In the Preface, Winter gives credit to the late Charles J. Peterson for devising the index. Peterson is also a familiar name among "classics" students, having been a long time editor of *The Chronicle*, among many other achievements.

So, here is a basic technique to use UTM: First, you must study the Introduction. It's only 14 pages, including illustrations. Here, Winter provides definitions of commonly used terms, tells you what postal markings are important (with ample tracings), gives you his system for analyzing covers, and outlines the basic characteristics of each postal arrangement covered in Volume I and II. You only need the Introduction in Volume 2, if you wish, because the text is cumulative.

Next, you study the Table of Contents to familiarize yourself with Winter's overall plan. Each mail service is covered in one chapter, divided into chronological sub-chapters beginning with pre-postal convention (treaty) arrangements, to convention inception and subsequent changes, until 1875. Note that printed matter (e.g., newspaper wrappers), not just letter mail, is included.

Then, look at your cover--front and back--and apply what you learned in the Introduction about identifying the applicable postal arrangement. Go to the Table of Contents, run your finger down the applicable postal convention until you find the time frame (date) on your cover, and you're there! Turn to that page to find a more detailed discussion of the convention and copious examples of similar covers analyzed in detail for you.

Applying this to the folded letter (**shown above**), first we see that the letter is from New Orleans, addressed to Marseille (France) and is franked with a 5¢ and 10¢ adhesive from the 1857 series. In the Introduction, Winter tells us that the color (red orange) of the large New York foreign exchange office postmark in the upper right corner, means the postage was fully paid (whether the word "paid" is there or not). In this case, it reads: NEW PAID YORK/SEP 11/3.

Next, a quick look through the Introduction of either volume of UTM, reveals examples of several postmarks similar to the small black octagonal postmark in the middle of the cover, and that they are found on mail carried under the U.S.-French convention. Now, in the index under "postmark", the exact wording of the postmark can be found as: ET. UNIS. SERV. AM. D./25 SEPT 58/HAVRE. Five page references are given, and

we find this wording means the letter is from the U.S. by American direct service to Le Havre (France) where the letter entered the French mail system. It's fairly obvious, then, that a U.S.-French mail treaty applies--but which one?

The year date is 1858, which is confirmed by the hand written date on the inside of the letter. Looking down the Table of Contents of Volume I, we see under Chapter 5, French Mail, an entry "Postal Convention of 1857", and a sub heading "American Direct Service, 1 April 1857 - 31 December 1869" (page 363). At page 363 and following, you will find detailed information about the letter rate (15¢ for up to ¼ oz.), and that the "3" in the New York hand stamp means that 3¢ was credited to France. (Test: what does the red orange "PD" in a box mean? Hint: check the index under "postmark" And, what is that blue oval hand stamp all about?)



Further study using North Atlantic Mail Sailings will show that the letter left New York City on September 11, 1858 (the date of the New York postmark) on board the Vanderbilt European Line's North Star, a contract mail ship, and arrived in Le Havre September 25.

Finally, UTM is not just for U.S. collectors. Mail also traveled to the U.S. and specialists in the European countries covered by the postal conventions will also benefit from Winter's analysis of many covers arriving on our shores from abroad. France specialists, for example, will certainly benefit from a greater understanding of the 19th century French mail service (which takes up some 240 pages) and Winter's explanation of many incoming letters from France.

This is an outstanding reference work by a world class postal history scholar that should be added to the personal library of every serious classics collector.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES?

UNITED STATES

Handbook on U.S. Luminescent Stamps,
by Alfred G. Boerger

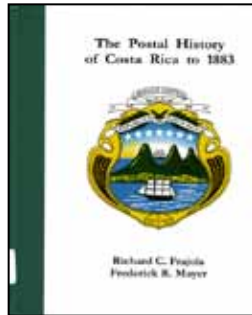
*Postal Manual (1954): Chapter 1, Post Office Services
(Domestic); Chapter 2, International Mail,*
by United States Post Office Department

NORTH AMERICA

Slogan Postal Cancels of Canada,
by David H. Proulx

AFRICA

East African Airmails to 1939, by Bill Colley
South African Stamp Colour Catalogue,
by Stanley Gibbons



CENTRAL AMERICA

*The Postal History of Costa Rica to 1883:
the Frederick R. Mayer Collection,*
by Richard C. Frajola and
Frederick R. Mayer.

TOPICAL

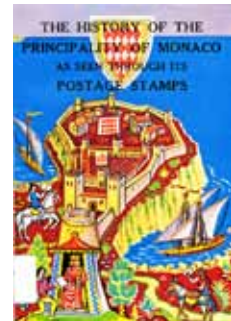
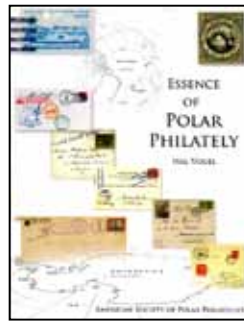
America on the Map
Collect Fish on Stamps, by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.
Marc Chagall on Postal Stamps, by Mark Shleifer
(ATA Handbook 159)
Perforated Hearts: Hearts on Stamps, by Benedict A.
Termini (ATA Handbook 158)

EUROPE

A Brief History of Bulgaria, by R.J. Crampton
Bulgarian-English Dictionary, by R. Russev
Collect British Stamps, by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.
Collecting British First Day Covers,
25th Edition, 2006, by N.C. Porter
The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Printings,
3rd Ed., 1979

*Europäische Blocks Spezialkatalog, West-Europa
(mit DDR und Jugoslawien), 9th Edition,*
published by Sieger

*The History of the Principality of Monaco as Seen
Through its Postage Stamps,* by H. Chiavassa
Michel Postgebühren-Handbuch Deutschland, 2004
*Port Departures of German Ships World Wide,
1855-1875, Vols. I and 2, (in German)*



ARCTIC & ANTARCTIC

*Essence of Polar Philately: an Encyclopedia of Polar
Philately,* by Hal Vogel

MISCELLANEOUS

Artcraft First Day Covers 1984
The 'Blue Eyes' Collection of Fine & Rare Stampboxes,
Spink Auction Catalog, 15 July, 2009
*Brookman Stamp Prices, United States,
United Nations, & Canada, 1992 edition*
*Hammond's Historical Atlas: A Collection of Maps
Illustrating Geographically the most
Significant Periods and Events in the
Development of Western Civilization,*
by Hammond, Inc.
A Key to Stamp Collecting,
by Douglas B. Armstrong
Stamps, a Hobby Handbook, by Michael Briggs
Stamps as an Investment (1935), by R.D. MacGuffin
*Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia:
A Classifying Research Work,*
by Frederick Langford

NON-PHILATELIC

*Colorado: Mapping the Centennial State Through
History,* by Vincent Virga and
Stephen Grace
The West of the Texas Kid, 1881-1910,
by Thomas Edgar Crawford

Display of Uncut Press Sheets



Long time RMPL member, Peter Adgie, now residing at the Wind Crest retirement community in Highlands Ranch, recently displayed part of his collection of uncut press sheets. The photos were taken in January upon the arrival of the first sheet of the new year, the Chinese Lunar Year commemorative stamp.

CSA 10c Sheetlet Mystery Solved

On a recent day at the library, a first-time visitor appeared that morning and proceeded to stump the first three volunteers who responded to his inquiry. He presented a sheetlet of stamps bearing a strong similarity to Scott #6 of the Confederate States of America (CSA). It has no gum, similar color, sharp design. However the 10c denomination is unlisted in Scotts.

At that point, George Snyder, volunteer at the front desk, stepped forward, and pointed out what the others were missing. There is a note in Scotts that states, "The unissued 10c design A4, was privately printed in various colors for philatelic purposes. Counterfeits of the 10c exist". George, the acknowledged Confederate expert at the RMPL, however, was still puzzled. Not having seen one in his lifetime of collecting, he began searching the library for clues. Within minutes, a possible answer was revealed in *Collectors Guide to Confederate Philately*, by John Kimbrough and Conrad Bush.

The full sheetlet brought in by the visitor is known as the "Atlanta Block" and the book further notes that the sheetlet is called the "20c Altered Plate". DeLaRue of London was known to have prepared 2c and 10c typographic plates by altering previous designs. Stamps were never officially printed from these altered plate; however the 10c plate was successfully shipped past the



"Atlanta Block" of 70 Confederate stamps.

Union blockade. The book further states, "It is known, however, that the 10c plate was looted and broken up into sections. One of these sections was a Block of 70 with an advertisement for an Atlanta bookseller - thereby becoming known as the 'Atlanta Block'. Reprints and impressions of this plate have appeared since 1888".

DONATIONS

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following members have made donations to the library over the past two months. Pledges toward financing the building purchase and increased contributions have eased our new financial obligations. We thank each and every one who has contributed now and has also pledged continuing support over the next four years.

<p>Randy Alexander Wayne Arden Arapahoe Stamp Club Richard Axtell Daniel Barr Tim Bartshe William Blankemeier John Bloor Eugene Brink Lyman Caswell Colorado Postal History Society G. William Caughran William Crabbs Ernesto Cuesta Don Dhonau Peter Ditlow</p>	<p>Nolan Flowers Greg Frantz Gary Gibson Leslie Gorsuch Carl Groff William Gum Jack A. Harlan John Herzog John Herzog Mark Hoskinson Chuck James Ed Jarvis Fred Jensen Jerome Kasper Brian Kelly Don Koontz Severt Kvamme</p>	<p>Robert Lafley Richard Lansing Robert Littrell Stanley Luft Clifford Lushbough Waverly Machamer Dasa Metzler Jim Moorman Joe Neri Randy Nilson Eleandra Norden Alan Parsons Steve Peckar Phillip Purcell Roger Quinby Charles Reed</p>	<p>Richard Ruth Robley Rhine Estate Stephen Schumann Webster Stickney Ken Stone Victor Stone David Straight Charles Summers Ludvik Svoboda Dalene Thomas Peter Thy Eldon Todd Mark Tyx Bob Walters Emily Warner George Wright</p>
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We have tried to include all recent donors on this list. It has been checked and re-checked but because of its length and with new donations coming in, we may have overlooked or incorrectly listed someone. This list above includes only recent donors who have donated since the January-February issue of *Scribblings*. We apologize if any names were overlooked. They will be included in the next issue.

CARPET SQUARE DONATIONS



Purchasing one-square foot of new carpet for the RMPL building renovation is a popular and easy fund raising opportunity. Carpet Squares is an ongoing program to raise additional funds for the library. On the front table of the library is a large chart where you can enter your name when you purchase individual carpet squares for only \$25 each.

The following have purchased carpet squares recently:

<p>Bob & Carol Blatherwick John & Anita Bloor Charles Cline Don Dhonau Jerry Eggleston Greg & Anna Frantz Gary Gibson Marc Gonzales Ronald Hill & Judith Wright</p>	<p>Gene Holgate Latin America Study Group Frank Leitz Sergio & Pam Lugo Steve Pacetti Phil Purcell Roger & Marty Rydberg George Snyder Blaine & Dalene Thomas</p>
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NEW MEMBERS

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

Our current membership stands at 492+

John R. Pfeiffer – Denver, CO

Burton Eaton, –Watkins, CO

Jeff Tyler – Castle Rock, CO
Collects Colorado Post Cards and Postal History

Tom Pool – Golden, CO
Collects Worldwide, Pre-1940

Sandra Higel – USAF Academy, CO

Donna Dyson – Aurora, CO
Collects Mint Plate Blocks; Mint Sheets

Ronald Hancock – Littleton, CO
Collects General Items

Philip Varley – Littleton, CO
Collects Great Britain, Brit Colonies, Malta



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

**The programs begin at 9:00 AM and are over by 10:00 AM.
Doughnuts and coffee are complimentary and all are welcome.**

MARCH 13, 9:00 AM

Selling a Family Collection by Blair Froistad

I will share my experiences in the sale of my Dad's stamp collection after his death. I acted as a Trustee of his estate and knowing very little about stamp collecting or the value of his collection, had the responsibility of gaining fair value for the sale of his collection for estate valuation and realized-cash purposes. I learned a great deal through the process, beginning with an independent appraisal, to evaluating different sale options, to the final sale through a large stamp auction house. My hope is that my experiences will help others who might end up in my same position make solid decisions to realize the greatest value for their collections.

APRIL 10, 9:00 AM

Ceylon's Traveling Post Offices by Will Mahoney



Will continues his discussion of the Traveling Post Offices of Ceylon which is also featured in this issue of *Scribblings*. Ceylon got its first postage stamps in 1857. Ten years later, the first rail line was completed linking the capital Colombo with Kandy, the major city in the southern highlands. There were four T.P.O. routes established during the colonial period as more rail lines were constructed to form a network throughout much of the island.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

May 14-15-16, 2010

Crowne Plaza Hotel, DIA, Chambers Road & I-70

Complete information at: www.rockymountainstampshow.com

**324 Exhibit Frames (filled); 40+ Stamp Dealers;
Youth Activities; What's In Your Attic;
Tours of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library**

Visiting Societies & Collecting groups: Women Exhibitors (WE); Rossica Society of Russian Philately; Midnight Mavericks; Bittersweet Exhibitors; St. Louis Bears.

For all other information contact John Bloor, RMSS President - aerophil59@yahoo.com

DENVER STAMP EXCHANGE BOURSE

March 20, 2010 - 9:00 am-5:00 pm - Quality Inn; 200 W. 48th (at I-70)

OTHER SHOWS

**Bananapex - April 10, 2010 - 10:00 am-4:00 pm -
Community Center, Buena Vista. CO**

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW - Denver - June 25-26-27, 2010

e-mail: americantopical@msn.com - phone: 618-985-5100



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 Operations Manager, Don Beuthel, at the library. Clubs should check the calendar regularly and notify Don (303-755-9328) of any changes or updates. All requests to reserve meeting time and space other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled by Don well in advance.

MARCH 2010

- March 3** - Meeting-Aurora Stamp Club.
6:30 PM trading, 7:30 PM meeting/program
- March 6** - Meeting - 1:00 PM
TOPIC - Topical Collectors in Colorado
- March 6** - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- March 10** - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- March 11** - Meeting - 6:30 PM
Denver Post Card Club
- March 13** - 9:00 AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
Program by Blair Froistad
Selling a Family Collection
- March 13** - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- March 13** - Meeting - 11:30 AM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter
- March 18** - **RMPL Board Meeting 7:00 PM -
All members invited**
- March 20** - Meeting - 9:30 AM
Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club
- March 21** - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors
- March 23** - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- March 24** - Meeting 7:30 PM Israel Stamp Club

APRIL 2010

- April 3** - Meeting 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- April 3** - Meeting - 1:00 PM
TOPIC - Topical Collectors in Colorado
- April 7** - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 PM Trading; 7:30 PM meeting/program
- April 10** - 9:00 AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
Program by Will Mahoney
Ceylon's Travelling Post Offices
- April 10** - Meeting 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- April 10** - Meeting 11:30 AM
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
- April 14** - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- April 15** - Meeting - 6:30 PM
Denver Post Card Club
- April 17** - Meeting - 9:30 AM
Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club
- April 18** - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors
- April 27** - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- April 28** - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Israel Stamp Club

**SNOW? Heavy snow can occur almost any time, especially during March and April.
If snow is forecast, please call ahead to be sure the library is open before visiting.**

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