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From the RMPL's Scouts and Guides Special Collection...

British Scout Charity Christmas Post

By Frank Leitz

If you lived in Great Britain, you might receive a Christmas card with an unusual stamp and an unusual looking cancellation like the envelope shown below (Fig. 1) handed to you by a very young looking post person, possibly in a Scout uniform..

Mail delivery by Scouts is not new. One finds precedents during the siege of Mafeking in 1900, during the formation of the democratic government in Czechoslovakia in 1918, and during the Warsaw Uprising in 1944. However, while not so heroic, the Scout Charity Christmas Post is certainly the largest in terms of mail delivery and the longest-lived of such activities.

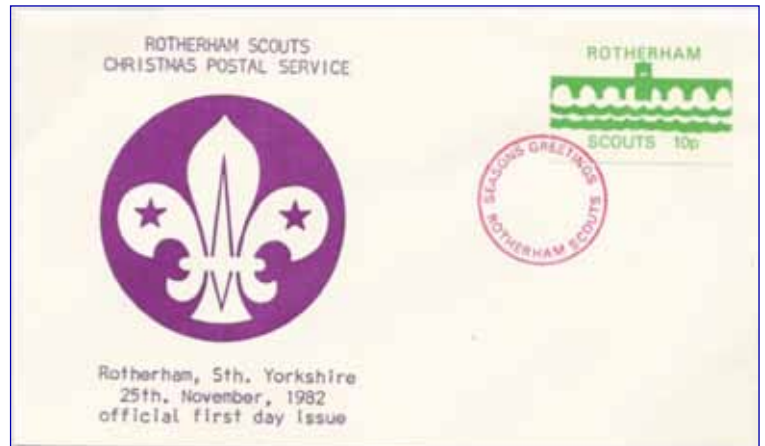


Fig. 1 A Rotherham Scouts Christmas Postal Service first day cover from 1982.

THE BEGINNINGS

This local post had its origin in the desire by the Thatcher government for privatization. A study by the Ministry of Finance, under whose purview the Post Office fell, led to the suggestion of two proposed exceptions to the government monopoly on delivery of mail that were converted to law. The first, high speed business mail, was never seriously taken up. The second, delivery of

Delivery of 1,000 cards in a year would be a small operation; the largest number reported exceeds 900,000.

Christmas and New Year's greeting cards by charitable organizations, was, by any reasonable measure, highly successful, and remains so to this day.

This was not intended to be an exclusive domain for Scouts and Guides. There are other organizations, churches etc., that have made use of it, but the predominant use appears to have been by Scouting Groups. This may be because it

fits very well with the aims of the program.

The birth of the British Scout Post is described in an article by John Holman in *The Cinderella Philatelist*, April 1982. This article was reprinted in the November 1982 *SOSSI Journal*, a publication of the Scouts on Stamps Society International.

License for this operation was published in the London Gazette of November 20, 1981. In strongly abbreviated form, it states:

(continued on page 2)

“The Secretary of State ... grants to any charity ... a licence for the conveyance of Christmas cards from one place to another. ... for the purpose of raising funds for the charity by, for or to whom the Christmas cards in question are conveyed... during the period beginning on 25th November in any year and ending on 1st January in the following year ... this licence shall continue in force from the date hereof until midnight on 1st January 2007.”

Christmas cards and charity are defined in the license. It was authorized by A. J. Mantle, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Industry. The Postal Services Act of 2000 appears to have removed the year 2007 expiry.

SCOUTING IN GREAT BRITAIN

For an American reader, it can be useful to know that a British Scout Group may consist of several sections; one or more Beaver Colonies, Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Senior Scout Troops and Rover Crews. These units are of progressively increasing ages and may be coeducational. There was a significant realignment in 2001. One finds reference to Scout Counties; these generally follow the boundaries of ceremonial counties in Great Britain.

POSTAL SERVICE OPERATIONS

There does not appear to have been any government guidance on how the postal service was to be carried out or any requirements for reporting on operations. Consequently each operation has its own character. The British Scout Association has supplied guidelines. Most operations issued adhesive stamps, after all, Great Britain is the home of the postage stamp, and many provide first day and commemorative covers.

The adhesive stamps run the gamut from essentially home-made to professionally printed (Fig. 2). In recent years peel and stick labels have become popular.



Fig. 2 Strip of five stamps issued se-tenant by the Woodseats Venture Unit in 1981.

A comprehensive description of such posts appears on the website <<http://johcra7.100webspaces.net/>>. This is a catalog entitled *Scout and Guide Charity Christmas Posts in Great Britain* by John Crabbe. It is well worth perusing. The study contains information on operations by more than 340 Scout and Guide groups. Technical information on these operations comes from the catalog or from the items themselves. The total number of documented operations increased from 19 in 1981 to a maximum of 180 in 1995 and 1996 and then declined to 100 in 2012. Delivery of 1,000 cards in a year would be a small operation; the largest number reported exceeds 900,000.

A simple, small system is described in an informational handout released by the Oakley Scouts and Guides Premises Management Committee after its first year of operation:

“Oakley is a village with approximately 6,500 residents, situated about 5 miles from Basingstoke. It has 7 Scout and Cub Sections, and 8 Guide and Brownie units, with a combined membership greater than 400. We hope to build new premises during 1982, and are therefore actively fund-raising.

“A service was organized within Oakley to raise funds towards the new premises with the collection and delivery of mail being done by Scouts and Guides. Various houses throughout the village were designated collection points, and customers asked to bring their mail to one of these houses, together with the appropriate donation of 5p per item. No adhesive stamps were used, but instead covers endorsed by a rubber stamp. Mail was collected daily and taken to a central point to be sorted and distributed to the appropriate collection points

for delivery. Several Scouts/Guides were allocated to each point and it was their responsibility to collect and deliver mail. Publicity was given in the local paper and the service aroused considerable interest and was featured on television and also in the national press."

Fig. 3 shows the handstamp used as part of this operation.



Fig. 3 The Oakley Scouts and Guides used only this handstamp on mail. The group did not print stamps.

For those who are geographically challenged, this area is close to the English Channel just north of the Isle of Wight. It appears to still be operating in much the same manner using no adhesive stamps, although between 1983 and 1991 the charge was raised from 5p to 10p. The service is free to pensioners.

THE FIRST SCOUTING DELIVERY STAMP

The first stamp was issued by the Weare and District Scout Group (Figs. 4 & 5).



Fig. 4 The original Weare stamp.



Fig. 5 The revised Weare stamp includes the year in the left margin.

The Weare group's operation description is taken from a write-up by its organizer:

"In 1980 we hoped to run a delivery service in our area and stamps were produced (5p each). However, at the last minute we had to cancel our arrangements as the Government hadn't passed the necessary legislation.

"On Nov. 1981 (leaving it rather late) the final bit of legislation was effected and we knew we could deliver cards for Christmas 1981 and we had very little time in which to make the necessary arrangements. Leaflets were duplicated and distributed by Cubs and Scouts.

"We were ready just before 3rd December. And some stamps were sold on the 1st, but no collections were made until the 3rd. We are a rural area and cover 11 villages but our service only included 9 of them as we didn't have enough boys in the other 2 to run a service. The total houses in these 9 villages are only about 600 so we weren't expecting mountains of mail.

"We had a lot of publicity last year after our proposed service was cancelled and this stood us in good stead this year as a follow up. HTV West came to the house on Dec 3rd and filmed the Scout postmarking (that's why some are a bit grotty!) and delivering the first of the cards to nearby houses. There was also a brief interview with my wife (who is the Scout leader). The film was shown that evening in the local news programme. There was plenty of publicity in newspapers

and we also had mentions on BBC Radio Bristol and independent Radio West. In addition a reporter from national BBC came along and interviewed men and some Scouts and this was included in a magazine programme at mid-day."

The Weare and District service continued until 2005 after which it was abandoned for lack of manpower.

Should you find yourself in Britain near the end of a year, it might be worthwhile to seek out one of the Scout posts and buy some stamps. You can't use them unless you have a friend in the delivery area, but you will have supported the local Scout Group and found an unusual philatelic souvenir.

HOW THE MATERIAL IS DISPLAYED

Stamps and covers from the early years of this post are included in the Scout and Guide Special Collection which will be available at the RMPL beginning in mid-May. An example page from this collection, electronically enhanced for this article, is shown in **Fig. 6**.



Fig. 6 A sample page from the RMPL's Scout and Girl Guide Special Collection which the author is preparing for public viewing beginning in May when the Scouts on Stamps Society International holds its annual convention at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show.

The Sower, A Common Little French Stamp, by Ashley Lawrence FRPSL; edited by Maurice Tyhler; published by the France and colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain (2012), perfect bound.

Reprinted with minor alterations from *Philatelic Literature Review*, vol. 62, 1st Quarter, 2013, pp. 78-80.

The Sower design of France was a long-lived (1903-1941) one, and is probably what most French collectors attempt to tackle when considering specialization. Even today one or more examples can be found in packets or mixtures. To say it was (and is) a major achievement of French stamp production and subsequent philately is surely an understatement. And, make no mistake, this book is an important and definitive work, albeit simply and wittily written by a master of the English language. My friend Ashley Lawrence's painstaking study of these stamps is a long-in-preparation labor of love!

As Ashley's title indicates, the Sower is even today an extremely common small-sized stamp. Whereas the Sowers (I prefer to use the plural) have been extensively studied in France by renowned philatelists since at least the early 1950s, this 2012 publication is both the culmination of their pioneering work and also the first detailed, comprehensive publication in the English language. Finally! Not only is it well written by a master of the language, it is a joy to leaf through and admire the excellent -- nay superlative -- 500 or more color illustrations, almost all of which are at full scale, and obviously almost all residing in the author's collections.

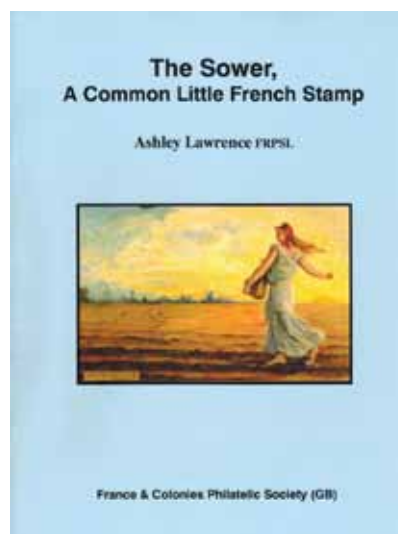
As an aside, I am a reasonably advanced Sower collector, but I specialize in, take pleasure from, and occasionally exhibit only a single face value, the 30 centimes cameo sowers. Thus I envy Ashley for his superlative collections. He certainly has more available shelf space in his stamp room than I can afford!

Whereas the exacting details of this study, including the many tables, may be daunting to the beginning collector they will assist perfectly the advance collectors who hitherto had problems understanding French (but will no longer have that excuse!). At the same time, just perusing the illustrations may be quite enough to get beginning collectors excited and started on their way to collecting, even specializing in Sowers, which can be done as cheaply (or expensively) as one's taste and finances allow. Therefore, it will serve both advanced collectors of this marvelous and varied material and beginners about to consider getting their feet wet.

OK now. How best to collect or write about the Sowers? One can do it by face value and Scott numbers, which makes absolutely no sense. Better chronologically, as per the French catalogs (I am not familiar with the Gibbons, of which Ashley makes some use of). He obviously agonized for some time over arrangement, but it does seem to work: chronologically but with important and useful asides, often

humorous to keep the narrative elegant and entertaining; which this book really is. Preliminary page *iv* explains his reasoning perfectly and is a "must read," as is every single page of this work, which explain in quite simple terms the origin of the Sowers, how each value was used postally at point in time, the politics involved, and much more.

In the first 15 chapters, Sower coverage is complete: sheet and coil stamps, booklets, stationery, usage, overprints, varieties, forgeries, shades and papers by year(s) of use, as post-World War I small change, etc. Most importantly, types and subtypes and distinguished on oversize cuts; not original by any means, but most necessary for their identification and again, all present in one single publication. The only other source I have in mind is the price list of that now dead find gentleman, Georges Monteaux, of which few examples might still exist. (But I digress).



The Sower, a Common Little French Stamp won the grand award at the New Zealand Philatelic Federation's 13th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2013.

Later chapters cover overprints and money stamps in great detail. Coverage of overprinted stamps for use abroad is adequate, albeit unspecialized. There's even a long, fascinating final chapter on Sower souvenirs and other collectibles for the true aficionado! These 22 chapters and followed by five very useful and detailed appendices, particularly the ones on paper types and printing methods, a fine Glossary of French philatelic terms, and a quite adequate Bibliography. I must mention that Lawrence does a great job of cross-referencing, should the reader get confused or lost; he is there for the reader every step of the way!

In summary, this is the only work in English to cover all one needs to know about the Sowers, for hesitant neophyte and specialist alike. As the Sowers recede to the distant philatelic past, this should remain the definitive study for eons to come!

Stanley J. Luft

RMPL Board Summary

Meeting of January 16, 2014

All Board members were present, except David Weisberg who was visiting family in San Diego. In addition, five RMPL non-board members were in attendance.

The meeting began at 6 p.m. The library supplied supper of pizza and salad. Our January meetings tend to run three to four hours, and supper is provided.

Financial Report

The financial report was reviewed and approved. The Library had income of \$134,908 in calendar year 2013, and expenses of \$129,721.

Financial Discussion

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the large amount of cash available as opposed to investing it in higher yield funds.

While such an approach appears to be unnecessarily conservative because it ties up funds without much return, the treasurer's experience is that expenses for payment are so variable, and have such huge swings, that he prefers to have a large cash amount on hand.

This has been a source of continuing controversy for nearly 15 years. Ever since large cash amounts were first made available to the RMPL through the donation of major collections.

The Treasurer, Bob Blatherwick, wants to keep cash in the Bauer Fund and in checking and savings.

Checking and savings accounts are the first line of payment; when these are exhausted Bob wants to dip into the Bauer Fund before considering the use of money market funds or the Librarian's Fund.

If checking and savings begin to be depleted, Bob would like to replenish those cash sources with income raised from the Country Lot Sale or our spring or fall RMPL stamp auctions.

Until such time as the RMPL's cash position is considerably strengthened, Bob is against locking up funds in more interest generating accounts that will consume time and energy to open and close should an emergency arise.

Old Business

- The Neas Estate bequest of \$20,600 was received.
- A Czech Library donation was received.
- Checks in the amount of \$1,000 each need to be sent to the APS for the Stamps Teach Program and the Young Philatelic Leaders Fellowship program.
- The Long Range Budget Planning document (three years) was once again reviewed and discussed (agreed upon in September), as was the new Open Endowment Program feature of the library (approved

in November). David Weisberg will promote the Open Endowment Program as opportunities arise.

- The RMPL Budget for 2014 was presented and approved. First reviewed in November, final financial numbers for the year made it possible to complete and approve the budget. For calendar year 2014, the budget projects income of \$117,710, and expenses of \$97,789.

New Business

- Members of the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI) who will be in Denver for an annual convention during the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May have scheduled a visit to the RMPL on Friday, May 16th from 2 to 6 p.m. All are invited to join us at the library.
- By unanimous vote, the board agreed to introduce three lines on the membership renewal form to facilitate accounting and disbursement of donated funds made at the time of membership renewals. One account is for General Operating Funds, a second account is for the Librarian's Fund, and the third account is for Mortgage Paydown. Renewing members wishing to make a donation are asked to check off the applicable fund for which they choose to donate over and above their regular membership dues.

Annual Reports

- Auctions
 - » \$49,000 raised in 2013 as compared to \$52,000 in 2012. Money comes from the Country Lots sale and the RMSS and Bulk Lot Auctions. Strong 2014 auction levels anticipated.
- Book Acquisitions
 - » Little purchasing activity this past year, but many books that were donated were added to the shelves.
- Building Pledges
 - » The fifth and final year has been completed with \$101,000 raised, 115% of the amount pledged. There were 176 donors during the five year period.
- Donations Provided
 - » A new report was generated by President Lugo to keep track of donations for Colorado Property Tax purposes; Treasurer Bob Blatherwick has agreed to continue tracking.
- Donations Received
 - » 327 received, down from 412 received in

- 2012
 - » Cash donations increased from \$5260 to \$16,835.
- eBay and PayPal
 - » \$1,267 raised in 2013, up from 2012.
 - » An attempt to introduce more payables via PayPal floundered as we could not find a way to differentiate categories. Also, various managers would not agree to take on the complications of using PayPal
- Maintenance
 - » Outside lighting planned for 2048 S.

- Pontiac Way not done as paving consumed nearly \$21,000
 - » Two electrical updates are planned in 2014, interior lighting fixtures and outside lighting for total of \$7,000
- Membership
 - » Up to 533 in 2013; 6 member deaths in the course of the year
- OLLI participation at DU
 - » RMPL instructors are taking part in their 6th semester of teaching this winter.

(continued on page 8)

Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library			
ASSETS/LIABILITY REPORT: 2013 Year: January 1 To Dec. 31,2013			
CASH (as of Dec. 31/13)			LIABILITIES:
Checking Account	\$18,753.75		2048 S. Pontiac Mortgage \$121,428.23
Savings Account	\$8,522.65		TOTAL: \$121,428.23
Liquid Savings Account (Bauer)	\$20,953.34		
Cash on Hand	\$91.29		
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (AS OF Dec. 31/13):			Outstanding Commitments as of 12/31/13:
Pay Pal Balance	\$100.00		(These are not included anywhere in the table. These may be paid/used during the course of this or subsequent years).
INVESTMENTS (as of Oct. 31/13)			Book Lending Fund Earnings
Bank Money Market	\$5,057.28		in 2012(\$33)+2013 (\$133) \$166.00
Credit Union 24 mo. CD	\$38,161.35		Youth Reserve Fund amount in
Credit Union Money Market	\$6,234.14		2014 RMPL Budget to Metro \$1,000.00
Credit Union Minimum	\$5.00		Youth checking account
Librarian's Fund Investment Account	\$95,533.99		Acquisition/Books memorials
(Principle = \$88,131)			received in 2013 \$1,210.00
Restricted Funds			National Park RMPL Book \$4,000.00
Acquisition(Books)	\$4,885.44		Colorado RPO RMPL Book \$3,000.00
Book Lending	\$500.00		
Youth Reserves (Metro Youth Checking)	\$229.17		
			Reserves: Administrative
			Property Tax-2013 to pay 2014 \$1,000.00
			Insurance - to pay in 2014 \$5,500.00
			Accountant/Audit-to pay 2014 \$3,500.00
			Librarian's Fund: Annually \$5,000.00
			Contingency \$2,500.00
			Total: Outstanding Commit.: \$26,876.00
			CY 2013:
			(Financial report in 1/16/14 Board Minutes)
			Income \$134,908.00
			Interest for Lib. Fund Invest. not included
			Expenses \$129,721.00
TOTALS:			
Cash & Investments	\$623,527.40		
Minus 2048 S. Pontiac Way Liability	\$121,428.23		
NET WORTH	\$502,099.17		

For the first time, the Assets/Liability Report for the RMPL for the year 2013 is included with the annual report.

- Open Album Endowment
 - » This is just beginning under David Weisberg's leadership.
- Publications
 - » Camp Genter book: Sold out with 71% of expenses recovered
 - » Denver Eagles book: 35 remain, with 83% of expenses recovered. The book won a large vermeil medal at Braziliانا 2013 in Rio de Janeiro in November.
 - » Danish Ore book: 5 remain with 11% of expenses recovered.
 - » Colorado RPO book: In early 2013, the board approved \$3,000 toward publication.
 - » National Parks book: In November 2013, the board approved \$4,000 toward publication.
- Scribblings
 - » A successful year with 108 total pages printed. The average cost, with 600 copies printed every 2 months, was \$14.75 per member for the year. .
- Special Collections
 - » Curators reduced the number of special collections by five.
 - » The room was rearranged to accept more special collections.
 - » A book at the front desk provides narrative on all special collections.
 - » It was a good year for organizing efforts by Russell Powers and John Peters.
- Stamp Sales Program
 - » \$18,000 sold, compared to \$15,000 in 2012.
- Technology
 - » Copy Machine Committee reports that the machines are working fine. 150,000+ copies made.
 - » Digitization: Arrangements have been finalized with the University of Denver to begin, again, a scanning project for a new *This Was Colorado* interactive internet presentation.
 - » Borrowing by Mail: There were seven transactions and \$136 dollars was taken in.
 - » Videos: Six were produced during the year at cost for equipment of roughly \$575. There is a possibility 11 more will be produced in 2014, with equipment charges of approximately \$210.
 - » Web page: Doing well with 27,199 hits during the year, an average of 75 per day.
- Volunteers/Special Events
 - » We had a very successful 20th Anniversary Picnic in August. It was agreed to hold a normal picnic in August 2014.
 - » The Volunteer Party in December was well received, but overcrowded. We will

probably have a change of venue in 2014. The RMPL Board agreed to increase the budget for the party.

- Youth & RMPL Young Stamp Collectors Club
 - » It was a good year. There will be a continued effort to attract more young people in 2014.
 - » More activities are expected this year because of the participation of Scouts at RMSS.
 - » The RMPL board agreed to give \$1,000 toward youth group expenses.

The next board meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

RMPL's latest video ...

Security Elements of Postage Stamps, Part 1

By Steve Dixon

This video shows the various elements of a postage stamp that are used to prevent misuse, theft and counterfeiting. The first video covers misuse and theft. The next video, in production, will deal with counterfeiting.

The presentation covers old methods...



...as well as the new...



The story pits the government's fight to protect its revenue with the con man's desire to take advantage and manipulate the system.

The video was written by Steve Dixon, produced by Joe Lanotte and hosted by Eric Carlson.

You may take a look by going to the RMPL's website, rmpldenver.org. Click on "Videos" in the menu on the left.

Here is an opportunity to spend 10 minutes to learn about a fascinating area of stamp production that does not receive much attention.

PERIODICAL PICKIN'S

The EFO Collector

By Sergio Lugo

I always enjoy reading and reviewing, if not fully comprehending, the many journals provided by donors to the RMPL. This journal, I must confess, however, is one that I've never perused until this day. Fortunately, for those interested in the subject, we have a full run of the periodical from its first issue in 1979 until Volume XXIII in 2003.

In this case we are not talking about the twin brother of UFOs. Rather we are talking about the periodical/journal entitled The Error Freaks and Oddities Collector. And a quick visit to the internet revealed that the EFO Collector's Club (a unit of the American Topical Association) is very much still in existence, and its journal continues to enliven the world of philatelists who simply have to have those not-so-common issues of stamps, postal stationery, and covers bearing their specialty in their collections. In this case, we might as well begin with a definition of EFOs.

The novice in me looks at them this way (undoubtedly, waiting in the wings are those ready to pounce on my definitions quickly).

An "error" can be characterized as a stamp/postal stationery item that is abnormal because something went wrong in the production process. Think the inverted Jenny.

Such errors generally are easy to conceptualize. The problem comes when you get to "Freaks" and "Oddities." Differentiation between the concepts becomes more difficult.

"Freaks" are man-made or naturally occurring instances where a defect in the stamp catches your attention. Think of sun bleached stamps, stamps where colors migrate after production or perforations are run through the stamp design.

In the case of "Oddities," close observation is necessary. Those that literature tends to easily identify as examples are printings with constant plate varieties or plate blocks where

only a portion of the number remains after cutting,

Whew - that wasn't easy.

The EFO Collector journals in the RMPL stacks are black and white affairs illustrating many examples of E's, F's, and O's. Hopefully, their journal/periodical has advanced to color printing to illustrate the gems that can be found and the intense (sometimes) scrutiny necessary to identify them.

Articles in the periodical tend to be of a nice readable length of a column to three or four pages.

What is very noticeable is that the articles *always* contain examples of the EFO under discussion.

Articles go into great detail about the facts, or speculation, that may have caused a malfunction during the printing process.

Quantities are not addressed in the articles, and it does not appear that specialists writing on the topic enter into much discussion on values, except for errors.

Despite that reticence, the group's auctions do list minimum bids, and the minimums may be the surest way of trying to ascertain values.

Members appear to have active exchange networks to promote growth.

In the issues I looked at, there was no commercial advertising of any kind - which one (nowadays) might consider an error, or a freak, or an oddity.



Smithsonian Postal History Expert Coming to Denver

By John Bloor

History Colorado, the new name for the Colorado History Museum, presents many lectures on subjects related, appropriately, to Colorado history. The title of the final lecture of the current series, to be given on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 1 p.m. and again at 7 p.m., is "Colorado Mail Stories: By Train, Plane, and Pony Express". The speaker is K. Allison Wickens of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

According to History Colorado, "The geography and economy of Colorado prompted creative endeavors by the government, businessmen, customers and criminals to protect or hinder the delivery of mail. And though the short-lived Pony Express had its only Colorado stop in Julesburg,



that station is now a postal legend." It will be interesting to hear these mail tales.

Tickets to the talk are available from History Colorado by

phone at (303)-866-2394 or online at historycolorado.org. The price is \$8.50 for members, \$10.00 for nonmembers.

This talk will be of particular interest to members of the RMPL.

Icebreakers Involved in Rescue Featured on Stamps and Covers

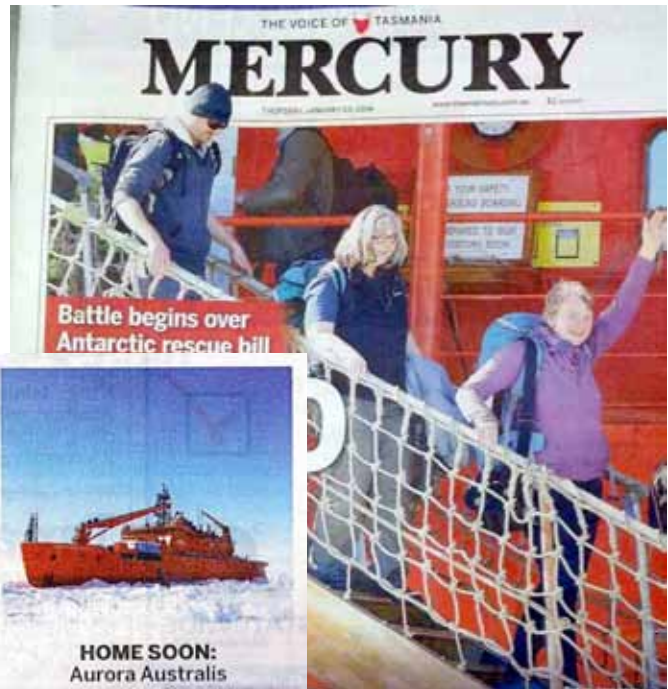
By Ron Hill

Ed. note: Former *Scribblings* editor Ron Hill visits Tasmania from time to time and is familiar with Australian icebreakers that were involved in a drama at sea that captured the world's attention.

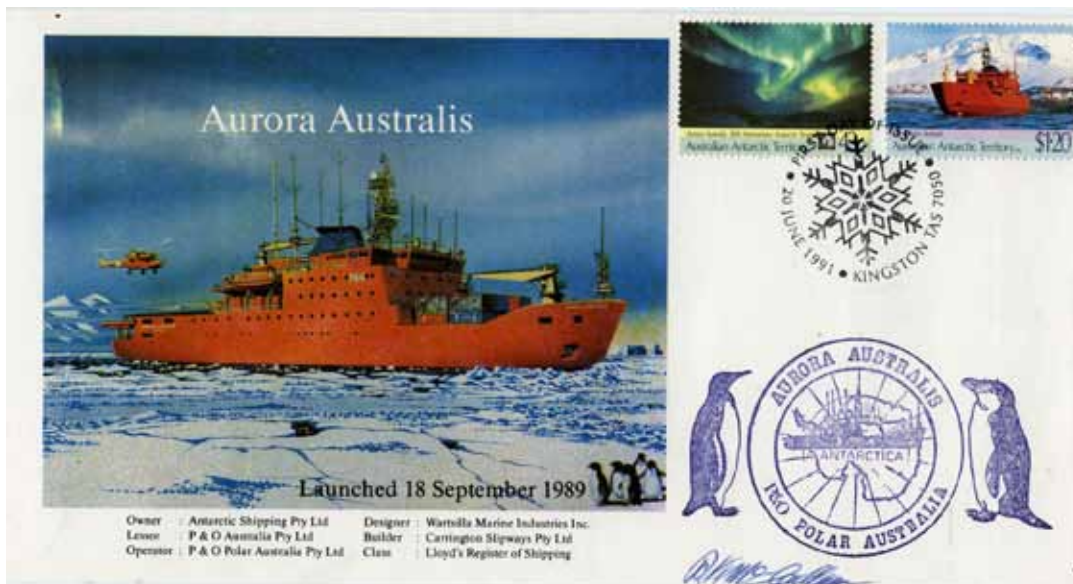
The Russian icebreaker *Akademik Shokalskiy* left New Zealand on November 28 and became stuck after a blizzard pushed the sea ice around the ship. It was frozen in Antarctic waters about 1,700 miles south of Hobart, Tasmania.

The Chinese icebreaker *Xue Long* later transferred the passengers by helicopter to the Australian icebreaker *Aurora Australis*, which also performed its regular scheduled duties at Casey Station, an Australian Antarctic base, before delivering the passengers to Hobart on January 22.

The *Aurora*, based in the Tasmanian capital, Hobart, is featured on numerous Australian Antarctic Territory stamps and covers. The French icebreaker *l'Astrolabe* is also based in Hobart and also took part in the rescue. It, too, is featured on many stamps and covers. (see below). The U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Polar Star*, recently overhauled, was in port in Sydney, and was called upon to assist in the rescues.



Above: Articles from The Mercury newspaper in Hobart that cover the return to dry land of 52 passengers who were stranded on the ice-locked Russian ship Akademik Shokalskiy in the Antarctic.



Left: Cover and stamp that features the launch of the Aurora Australis in 1989.



The French icebreaker, YAstrolabe, docked at Hobart, Tasmania. Photo by the author.



Left: Post card with YAstrolabe franked with a Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises (TAAF) stamp that shows the ship.



Above: A Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises stamp with YAstrolabe on a North Pole expedition.



Above: Cover and photo from the Chinese icebreaker Xue Long. The helicopter aided in the rescue. The cover is from the ship's 2011 visit to Fremantle Harbor near Perth in Western Australia.

The Prez' Observations

The Day in Which We Live

I mused today on something that will not be available to collectors a century or two down the road. I thought of it because of two lots I just acquired.

It occurred to me that we live in a great day for the hobby. We are able to collect and/or review material heretofore unknown because it has been nearly two centuries that "masses" have put their thoughts on paper, sealed them in envelopes and sent them across the globe to little known places.

Think about that. Millions upon millions of people have written in the form of hard copy, whether in English, German, Sinhalese, Javanese, Japanese, Chinese. Huge amounts of that correspondence are available for us to find today.

The Need for Preservation

But what about future generations? What will they have to explore and delve into as the written word dries up, as it is replaced by electronic key strokes? Future collectors and specialists, thirsting for knowledge and familiarity, won't be able to touch and feel the hard copy we have at our fingertips, nor will they be able to access the mounds of papers that crisscrossed the globe. There may be electronic records, but they may have been corrupted and damaged over the course of the years by heretofore unknown destructive elements -- a la nitrates in films.

So, what can we leave for future generations on the moon, Mars and beyond? We hope they might be able to delve into history should they get the bug to see how 19th, 20th and some 21st Century humans went about the business of communicating before the ether world was introduced.

They may find stamp collecting and postal history research that humans have done for decades.

There have also been numerous collections saved and stored away in safe environments in our libraries, archives, museums, and homes.

History is also preserved today in the form of video clips that tell stories of generations of writers.

If you appreciate the gist of this message, you may be motivated to promote the goal of preserving written materials. You may want to be part of an effort to preserve a glorious past that will benefit researchers in years to come. I hope you do your part.

Here's how the two lots I recently acquired prompted these musings.

Inspiration Number 1

I picked up a box of roughly 1,000 covers at a local auction. The letters were to and from Martha von Reuter, a German woman who emigrated to the U.S. at age 8 and died in Denver in 2004.

Most of the letters were written in German. I asked Reuben Asparger, the husband of RMPL member Dasa Metzler, to look at the material.

He was pleased to translate because the contents harkened back to his youth, before he fled Europe in the late 1930s to fight in five wars beginning in 1939 and continuing through the 1966 Israeli war.

The von Reuters were an aristocratic family who decided that their granddaughter needed to be out of the crushing atmosphere that followed the defeat of Imperial Germany.



An early letter from the Martha von Reuter correspondence, sent at age 7 or 8 by daughter Annelisse following the father's immigration to the U.S. in the wake of World War I. 80 pfennig paid the 3 gram rate in 1920 - probably representing the lowest expense for staying in touch over the miles. The postal card (Higgins and Gage # 120) was mailed from the von Reuter's hometown of Eisenach, Germany.

As Reuben read the correspondence, he learned the family members were very artistic. There were poets and authors here and there. He also learned the family *absolutely never* spoke of politics – whether in post WWI Germany, or the inflation cycle in post-war Germany, or the rise of Nazism in Germany, or the defeat of World War II, or the occupation of East Germany by the Soviets after 1945.

How strange. Many of us would have expected to see discussions, or at least mentions, about the major events that shaped world history.

Lastly, it was strange to learn that Germans residing in destitute East Germany sent money for the granddaughter's survival in post-World War II Kansas.

Inspiration Number 2

A cover lot sold to me by Rusty Morse proved to be rich on insight into post World War I mankind. It contained two distinct themes. The second one was an expensive cover from British occupied Palestine in July 1918, bearing a Palestine # 1. It is among the rattiest of covers I have ever

seen – but that quality does not detract from its remarkable postal history, discerned from intense digital, electronic cleanup of the scan.



Above: Original state of the Jaffa letter, affixed with Palestine # 1, of July 1918 by A. Owen to his brother Capt. A. Owen in the AEF. It took 22 months to reach Capt. Owen at his Topeka home, accounting for the disrepair of this cover.

Below: The same cover, cleaned up electronically so details may be seen more easily.



The letter was sent by an American working with Syria-Palestine Relief, a British social welfare organization working in the Middle East to alleviate the suffering of many civilians caught up in the war.

It was written in July 1918 when WWI was still going on, and therefore had to pass through British Palestine censorship.

An Internet query located a 48-page document

prepared by the Palestine censor office for the British Government in late 1918/early 1919 on the views contained on all letters censored of Palestinian-Anglo relations.

Virtually every conceivable ethnic view was taken into account and is, in fact, a remarkable presaging of the conflicts in that area for the next century and a half.

Finally, the author was writing to his brother in the American AEF who was about to embark on the mortal combat that brought Germany to her knees.

Because of the brother's movements, it took nearly two years to arrive at his home in Topeka, Kansas. The trip took its toll on the condition of the envelope. But it was that dilapidation that made it possible to electronically clean up its exterior appearance to reveal its secrets, such as the aforementioned Syria-Palestine Relief and the Palestine Censor office.

It also revealed, as did a second segment of the lot, that the brother was a medical Captain involved in roentgenology (otherwise known as x-rays) in the very earliest stages of that technology's development in wartime for the benefit of the wounded.

Further, the envelope revealed that the brother was serving with Mobile Hospital # 1, which for those of you who recall your situation comedy history sounds similar to M.A.S.H., the Mobile Advanced Surgical Hospital of the same name. And the reason it sounds similar is that the Mobile Hospital # 1 in which Captain Owen served was the experimental base from which all future forward military surgical hospitals evolved.

Amazing. And somewhere/somewhere I'll have the pleasure of writing about it.

And who says we can't pass down new information, new insights and knowledge! I don't, and I hope you don't either. Always look forward to the exciting things that can be learned via those bits of gummed labels that we seem to be playing with all the time.

Sergio

FAKES

Coil Waste Follies ... Again

By Joe Lambert



Is it #541 or a #493?

I bought an absolutely wonderful collection recently and couldn't be happier. It contained many sound examples of scarce and, in some instances, rare stamps. Even such a collection, however, includes the occasional mistake. The illustrated stamp was mounted as Scott #541, coil waste perf. 11x10, catalog value \$32.50 used.

One glance at the tight margins both top and bottom suggest strongly that this has been made from a coil by adding perf. 11 perforations both places. Further, the perforations may not gauge exactly correctly and certainly

don't look right...end of story, right?

Not quite. In this instance it's easier than that. The genuine #541 is rotary Type II, and this stamp is Type I, distinguished the easiest by the incomplete line in the toga rope. No need to look any further. It's the wrong stamp! It's a doctored used Scott #493, catalog \$4.50.

Who can guess how the original collector came into this stamp, but based on the rest of the collection we can comfortably presume that it was not acquired as a #541 look-alike to save money. Our takeaway from this might well be that one should be familiar with the stamps one is looking for, or at least obtain them from reliable sources....



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.

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

MARCH 8, 9 a.m.

Canal Zone Postal History and Stamp Survey

By Steve Nadler

The Canal Zone U.S. postal system lasted about 95 years (1904 – 1999). The most popular book about the Canal Zone is David McCullough's "The Path Between the Seas", 1977, which is great reading and covers the history of the creation of the Panama Canal – 1870 to 1914. So this is the 100th Anniversary of the completion of the canal.



APRIL 12, 9 a.m.

1500: The Year of Seven Distinct World Views

By Wesley Brown



Europe, 1482



Manuscript Chart 1556

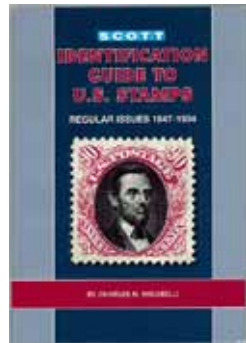
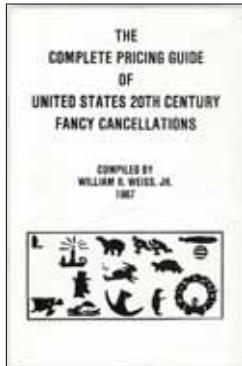
Remarkably, there was one time in history, around 1500 AD, when seven very different types of maps were being produced. Although some were contemporary printings of ancient maps, all were being made to represent geographical information for contemporary use and study, not as ancient specimens but as contemporary ways to understand geography. The presenter will explain each of these forms of maps, their time of use, and show illustrations of original examples from his collection.

(Wesley Brown has been a collector, student, and author of old maps for thirty years.)

WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES?

UNITED STATES

Catalog of Perfined Precancels of the United States, by John M. Randall and William Cummings, 1991
Civil War Patriotic Covers [a catalog]

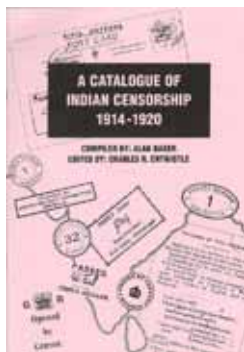


Complete Pricing Guide of United States 20th Century Fancy Cancellations, compiled by William R. Weiss, Jr., 1987
Scott Identification guide to U.S. Stamps: Regular Issues 1847-1934, by Charles N. Micarelli, 2006
U.S. Covers and Postal Stationery: Net Price List 77, published by David G. Phillips Co.

AFRICA

The Postal History of German East Africa, by K. Pennycuik, 1989
The Postal History of the South African Army Postal Service, by Edward B. Proud
Tristan da Cunha: Its Postal History and Philately, by James McKay, 1965

ASIA



A Catalogue of Indian Censorship 1914-1920, Compiled by Alan Baker, 1994

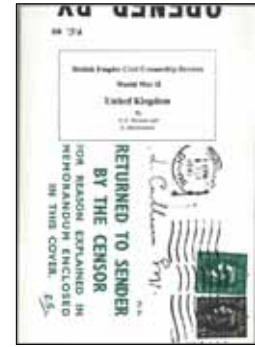
AUSTRALIA and OCEANIA

Postmarks of the Australian Forces from All Fronts, 1939-1953, by Stephenson Stobbs, 1976

COLORADO

A Checklist of Colorado Post Offices 1858-1988, by Richard W. Helbeck, 1989

EUROPE

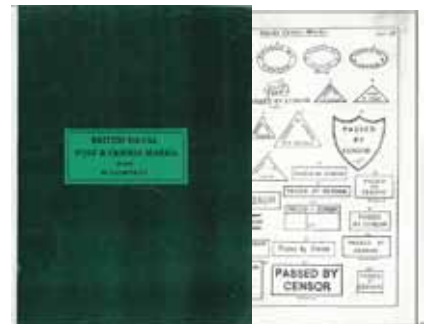
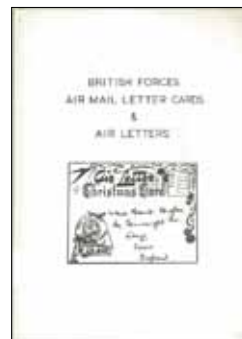


British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II: Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America, by Christopher Miller, 2006

British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II: Colonies and Occupied Territories in Africa, by John Little, 1978

British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II: Trinidad and Tobago, by R.G. Wike, 1993

British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II: United Kingdom, by A.R. Torrance and K. Morenweiser, 1991

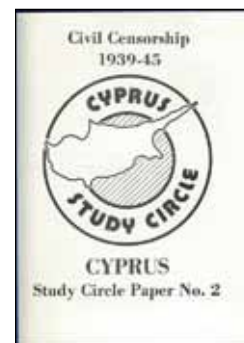


British Forces Air Mail Letter Cards and Air Letters, by O.R.J. Lee, 1983

British Naval Post & Censor Marks, by F.J. Carter, 1933

Censorship in the Royal Air Force 1918-1956, by N.M. Colley and W. Garrard, 1993

Censorship of the Civil Mails in Occupied Austria 1945-1953, by Richard A. Krueger, 1989

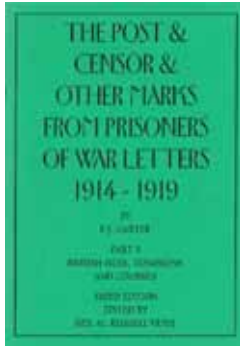


Civil Censorship 1939-1945: Cyprus Study Circle paper No. 2, by Alexander Ioannides, 2004

The Field Censor Systems of the Armies of the British Empire 1914-1918: Unit Allocations, I: War Office Based Types 1, 2, 3, 4, & 7, by F.W. Daniel, 1984

New on the Shelves, cont.

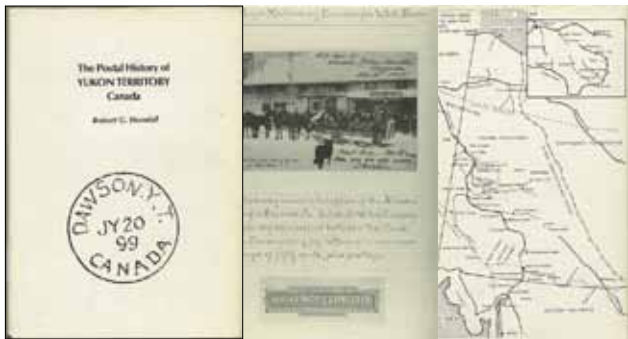
Free French Censorship in Syria, by William C. Robertson, 1990
Italian P.O.W. and Internees in Africa, by Giorgio Migliavacca, 1980
A Postal History of Spain, by Theo. Van Dam, 1972



The Post & Censor & Other Marks from Prisoners of War Letters 1914-1919, Part I: British Isles, Dominions and Colonies, 3rd Edition, by F.J. Carter, 1996

NORTH AMERICA

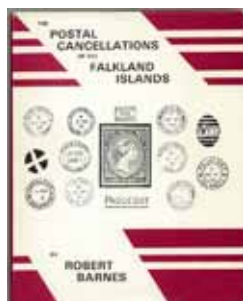
Newfoundland Cents Issue Covers: A Census, by Robert H. Pratt, 1989



Postal History of Yukon Territory Canada, by Robert G. Woodall, 1976

SOUTH AMERICA

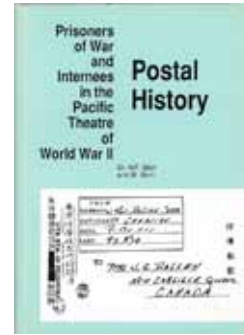
Origenes de las dos Primeras Emisiones de las Estampillas de Correo de Venezuela, by Santiago Hernandez Ron, 1956



Postal Cancellations of the Falkland Islands, by Robert Barnes, 1982

POSTAL HISTORY

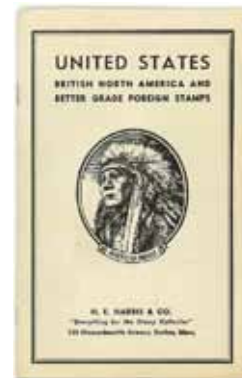
Civil and Military Censorship During World War II: Postal History, by H.F. Stich and J. Specht, 1993



Prisoners of War and Internees in the Pacific Theater of World War II: Postal History, by H.F. Stich and W. Stich, 1991
World War Two Censor Marks, published by the Forces Postal History Society, 1984

MISCELLANEOUS

Brookman Stamp Prices: United States, United Nations, & Canada, 1993
Santos-Dumont and the Conquest of the Air Volume 2, by Aluizio Napoleão, 1945
Santos-Dumont: the Air Pioneer, by Alexandre Brigole, 1943
Stamp Collecting as a Pastime, by Edward J. Nankivell, 1902



United States, British North America and Better Grade Foreign Stamps, 1935, published by H.E. Harris & Co.

AUCTION CATALOGS

The 1847 Gold Rush Collection Formed by the Late Robert R. Johnson, catalog for a Daniel F. Kelleher auction February 2003

NON-PHILATELIC (Railroads)

The Illustrated Encyclopedia of North American Locomotives: a historical directory of America's greatest locomotives from 1830 to the present day, by Brian Hollingsworth, 1984

The RMPL is open six hours a day, six days a week.

New on the Shelves, cont.



The Southern Pacific: 1901-1985, by Don L. Hofsommer, 2009

NON-PHILATELIC

Arizona Place Names, by Will C. Barnes, originally published in 1935. This is a 1988 reprint from the University of Arizona Press.

RMPL Videos on Line

- The Security Elements of Postage Stamps, Pt. 1
By Steve Dixon
- Jewish National Fund: Labels with a Purpose
By Dasa Metzler
- Tasmania, Pt. 1: Pictorial Stamps 1899-1900
By Ron Hill
- Tasmania, Pt. 2: Pictorial Stamps 1901-1913
By Ron Hill
- RMPL Youth Stamp Club
By Don Dhonau
- U.S./German Seapost
By Sergio Lugo

To view, go to our web page at www.rmpldenver.org, and click on "Videos" in the menu on the left. You're in for a treat!

Scouts at the RMSS

Scouts who would like to have a page on exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May have just one chance to qualify. They need to attend a workshop at the RMPL on Saturday, May 3rd.

More details are on page 19.



Return books on time...

- Books are loaned for two weeks.
- If you call before the due date, you may renew for two more weeks
- Please print your name and telephone number legibly when you take out a book or other publication.

BANANA BELT STAMP CLUB
Buena Vista/Salida Colorado

BANANAPEX
STAMP SHOW
Saturday April 12, 2014
10 AM to 3 PM

Salida Masonic Lodge
140 West 3 Street, Salida, CO 81201
STAMP DEALERS BOURSE
STAMPS & SUPPLIES
FREE ADMISSION

Bring in your collection for appraisal and/or sale.
BANANAPEX 2014 is sponsored by the
Banana Belt Stamp Club
of Buena Vista/Salida, Colorado
Contact: Bananabelstampclub@live.com

NEW MEMBERS

The RMPL is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the library in the past two months.

Mark Kastler, Centennial, CO - collects U.S. stamps and covers

Sheila S. Kowal, Denver, CO - general interest collector

Bernard Marek, Highlands Ranch, CO - collects worldwide

Allen Smith, Parker, CO - collects U.S. stamps

Robert Todd, Manitou, CO - collects U.S. stamps

DECEASED

We are saddened to learn of the deaths of two of our members:

Jim Hino - Saks Coin and Stamps, Colorado Springs, Member number 329

Dr. Benjamin S. Wood - Denver, Member number 1034

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2014
7 PM

All members are welcome!

DONATIONS

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following have made donations to the library the past two months. We thank each and every one who has contributed.

John Bales

Tim Bartsche

Howard Benson

Steve Bonowski

Sue Dunn

Anthoony Forde

Erling Fossum

John Gehrig

James S. Gerson

Tom Goodyear

Jim Guerson

Mr. & Mrs. T. Higel

Gene M. Holgate

R. Izzard

Charles Klein

Joe Lambert

Richard T. Lansing

Frank Leitz

Lisbeth Lord

Donald Lovelace

Jill Lowy

Lain McCoy

Steve McGill

Gary McIntyre

Ms. Jean Melamed

John Melamed

Philatelic Society for

Greater Southern

Africa

David Phrthemuller

Bill Porter

Precancel Stamp

Society

Dayna Roane

Owen A. Robb

Richard Ruth

Gary Shaver

Marisa Showalter

Society for Czecho-

slovak Philately

William Stolfus

George Van Trump, Jr.

Jack VanEns

Bob Weatherbee

Anne Yates

SHOW NEWS



Volunteers Needed

By Steve McGill, Show Chairman

RMSS is looking for volunteers for the 2014 show to be held May 16-18. If you would like to volunteer for exhibit frame put-up and take-down this year on the 15th and 18th, I would request that you contact Tonny Van Loij at tvanloij@gmail.com as soon as possible.

There are also volunteer slots for front desk, youth, What's in Your Attic and other functions. We would be most grateful for your participation.

We are also looking for additional committee chairs and chair understudies to be filled on a longer term basis. We have positions open for new chairs of, Featured Events, Club Focus and Volunteer Manager.

These are positions that will aid our growth into the future. Additionally, we would like to attract understudy chair positions to back up, Bourse, Exhibits, Marketing, Program, Societies and Web Site.

If you are interested in any of the longer term functions please contact me at steve.mcgill@comcast.net.

Our growth into the future depends on folks willing to commit time and effort to the show. We believe that we are building an aggressive strategic plan that will address the changing landscape of the collecting community and invite you to share in this effort.

Our next committee meeting is March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the RMPL.

Great Silent Auction Planned at RMSS

The library's Silent Auction for the May Rocky Mountain Stamp Show promises to be one of the best ever.

There will be approximately 775 lots in the auction concentrated in several strong areas.

Many of us have holes in our United States collections simply because the missing items are just too expensive. This will be your opportunity to fill those gaps with sound stamps at very low starting bids including dollar value Columbians. They may be a little off center or have heavy cancels, but they will enhance your collection.

The featured area of the auction, however, will be more than 100 extremely fine stamps from Canada and Canadian Provinces starting with an attractive Canada Scott #1. Another example is a nice used Scott #9 which has a catalog value of \$3,600. The starting bid has not yet been determined but it will probably be less than \$900.

There will also be a number of British Commonwealth stamps including early Cape of Good Hope triangles and many newer mint NH sets. Great Britain itself starts with a sound Scott #1.

A full catalog will be distributed with the next issue of Scribblings.

It's Bananapex Time!

Take a two-and-a-half hour drive to Salida on Saturday, April 12, and enjoy Bananapex!

It will be held in the Masonic Lodge at 140 W. 3rd St. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free and there will be a stamp dealers bourse with stamps and supplies. You're welcome to bring collections for appraisal and/or sale.

Support our stamp collecting friends in the Rockies, just a few miles southwest of Denver.

Scouting Exhibits at RMSS



*The Scout Merit Badge
for stamp collecting.*

Scouts who would like to exhibit a page at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show this May are encouraged to attend "Workshop 1" at the RMPL on Saturday, May 3rd, from 1 to 4 p.m. This will be the only opportunity for Scouts to qualify to exhibit at the Rocky Mountain Stamp show.

Please register by calling Don Dhonau at (303) 322-6039, or online at www.rockymountainstampshow.com.

The workshop will be on exhibiting and organizing collections. Any theme may be used, including non-stamp exhibits.

RMPL members, please let your Scouting friends know of this opportunity!

Oldest Clubs in Area Now Meeting at RMPL



DENVER STAMP CLUB

The latest club to announce plans to hold monthly meetings at the RMPL is the prestigious Denver Stamp Club, founded in 1905, the oldest club in Denver.

The meetings in recent years have been held at a church in central Denver.

Members say they are delighted with the opportunity to move their meetings to the library. They like the location and feel moving the meeting venue will attract new members to their monthly get-togethers.

The club will gather on the fourth Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the meeting room in the annex.

All collectors are welcome! There will be a "no host" pizza lunch, and plenty of talk about stamps and postal history.



CHERRELYN STAMP CLUB

The story is similar for Cherrelyn Stamp Club, founded in Englewood in 1939, the area's second oldest club.

Members are anxious to attract more collectors to their ranks with programs, picnics, parties, and club sponsored auctions.

You're invited to join them for good conversation and plenty of philately.

The club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. Cherrelyn also hosts Colorado's largest club-sponsored stamp show. The 39th annual "Cherpex" is planned this fall at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds.





What's Happening at the RMPL...

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday 2 - 8 p.m.. Closed Sundays and Holidays. Phone: (303) 759-9921

Meeting times and places sometimes 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 of any changes or updates at (303) 755-9328. All requests to reserve meeting time and space other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled by Don well in advance.

MARCH 2014

- Mar 1** - Meeting - 10 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Mar 1** - Meeting - 1 p.m.
TOPIC - Topical Philatelists in Colorado
- Mar 5** - Meeting - Aurora Stamp club
6:30 p.m. trading, 7 p.m. meeting
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**
- Mar 8** - 9 a.m.
Program by Steve Nadler
Canal Zone Postal History and Stamp Survey
- Mar 8** - Meeting - 10 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- Mar 12** - Meeting - 7 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- Mar 11** - Meeting - 2 p.m.
Cherrellyn Stamp Club
- Mar 13** - Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- Mar 14** - Meeting - 7 p.m.
Austria-Hungary Club
- Mar 15** - Meeting - 10 a.m.
RMPL Young Stamp Collectors Club
- Mar 16** - Meeting - 2 p.m.
Great Britain & Commonwealth
Collectors Club
- Mar 25** - Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee



APRIL 2014

- Apr 2** - Meeting - Aurora Stamp club
6:30 p.m. trading, 7:00 p.m. meeting
- Apr 5** - Meeting - 10 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Apr 5** - Meeting - 1 p.m.
TOPIC - Topical Philatelists in Colorado
- Apr 8** - Meeting - 2 p.m.
Cherrellyn Stamp Club
- Apr 9** - Meeting - 7 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club
- Apr 10** - Meeting - 6:30 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- Apr 11** - Meeting - 7 p.m.
Austria-Hungary Club
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**
- Apr 12** - Meeting - 9 a.m.
Program by Wesley Brown
1500: The Year of Seven Distinct World Views
- Apr 12** - Meeting - 10 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Study Group
- Apr 12** Meeting - 11 a.m.
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
- Apr 13** - Meeting - 2 p.m.
Great Britain & Commonwealth CC
- Apr 17** - Meeting - 10 a.m.
RMPL Young Stamp Collectors Club
All members are welcome!
- Apr 22** - Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- Apr 26** - Meeting - 9:30 a.m.
Postmark Collectors Club

Scribbings is published bimonthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Ron Mitchell, Editor, 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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