

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian...

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2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224-2412
(303) 759-9921

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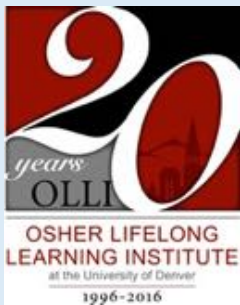
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Medals Lead the Way to a Better Understanding of the Evolution of our Hobby

By Jeff Modesitt



Figure 1. The obverse and reverse of one of R Rosenberg's medals showing two beautiful images of the Queen which probably date from 1837 and 1897

About a year ago while taking a break from printing the *Chronicle* at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's (RMPL's) printing facility, I noticed a member arranging a group of philatelic awards in an adjacent room. Two of these immediately stood out to my eyes as they bore very clear images of a young queen Victoria and one of her as a mature woman (Figure 1).

Since the Library had no immediate plans for these medals, I asked if I could keep them for a while until time permitted a little research. As can be seen in the images, these two medals were awarded during the 1897 London Philatelic Exhibition which opened July 22nd and closed on August 5th. The question of what happened during the ensuing 119 years that resulted in the RMPL's acquisition of these wonderful objects will probably never be fully answered. It does, however, open a window to the past that has given me a better understanding of our hobby then and how it relates to the now. It also raised my curiosity about the recipient of these medals and his philatelic focus and what might have happened to his collection.

(Continued on page 3)

Scribblings

Newsletter of the
Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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A basic membership with the RMPL is \$25 per year, and includes checkout privileges and *Scribblings*. Call for more information.

Knowledge is better when shared. Consider writing an article for *Scribblings* about your favorite philatelic topic.

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Web page — www.rmpldenver.org

The President's Message

Over the past year our volunteer base has been eroded due to illness and loss. So at the top of my agenda is to find some new volunteers to help those who are now working overtime in order to keep the library and its various activities running smoothly.



There are two areas where we could really use some help. First, we need more help at the front desk. Typically, our volunteers at the front desk work a half day (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.), but we certainly wouldn't turn down anyone who wants to spend a full day. It is a great way to get to know the membership, as well as the library's fabulous holdings. The work load is usually quite light with plenty of time for socializing and/or research and/or working on your collection. Primary duties include checking out books and taking payment for purchased materials. We will provide training.

Second, we also need help sorting stamps for stamp book sales or our auctions at the library. Our editor, Jeff Modesitt, had been responsible for much of the British material, but now does not have time to sort anything but Great Britain. Australia and New Zealand are two areas where material has piled up and any assistance sorting and pricing those two countries would be appreciated. If there is another country you like, know well, or want to get involved with, please let me know. Many of the "sorting and pricing" volunteers do this work at their homes on their own schedules.

Regarding the library facilities, there are a number of changes in the works. For those of you who have been in the annex recently, you probably noticed a new look. We have set up new tables in honor of Ron Mitchell and I think they look great!

We are also working on getting carpeting in the old garage area of 7070 and replacing the 7070 conference room carpet. Once the carpeting is installed, we will set-up new metal book racks in the Library/Catalog area of 7070.

Finally, we are getting a new cash register for the front desk that is more compatible with Quickbooks. The old one will be used for our auctions.

As you can see, there is a great deal of change occurring that will make the library even more functional and comfortable. Thanks to all of you who are helping make this possible.

John Sinski
RMPL President

(Continued from page 1)

Reviews of the library's Great Britain oriented periodicals coupled with google searches resulted in several records describing the 1897 event, its organizers, awards, and even a gossip column. Unfortunately, that search did not reveal much personally about the recipient of these two silver medals, one "A Rosenberg." Archival records, including those found in the periodical section of RMPL's holding, note his attendance at several London Philatelic Society meetings during 1897 and in one reference he is addressed as Herr Adolf Rosenberg. The two meetings at which he is recorded as attending occurred right around the time of the 1897 London exhibition, so it might be inferred that he was visiting from Germany during this period. At least one of his philatelic special focuses was Heligoland. Using library resources and the help of Steve Schweighofer, we were partially successful in tracking down a little more about Herr Rosenberg and, perhaps, one relative; but let's start at the beginning.

Mr. Adolf Rosenberg showed a most elaborate collection of Heligoland, unused, used and on covers. Also all known cancellations, blocks of four of the first issue unused and the 5 marks perf. 11 to 11 1/4. To this exhibit were awarded the silver medal of the section and the special silver medal given by Mr. R. Ehrenbach.

The inset above (1897 *American Journal of Philately*, page 394) shows a portion of a write-up on the 1897 exhibition awards as pertains to A Rosenberg where he received the two silver medals that are now in the RMPL. This must have been quite an accomplishment as only 8 gold medals were awarded and 36 silver medals. The bronzes were generally doled out to those who displayed albums. More on that later.

In addition to the "Class II" award (Europe), he received a special award from the "Committee" for "Class II Div 2A." *The Philatelic Record*, Vol. XXVI, January to December 1904, describes this class and division as a general collection of a German country including both unused and used, as well as multiples. Other classes included Great Britain (I), Asia and Africa (III), and America (IV). In addition, there seemed to be numerous subdivisions that included exhibits of only rare stamps, used only, unused only (with and without gum), youth exhibits, wrappers and envelopes, and special collections.

One way or another, all these categories might find their way into today's typical stamp show, but probably wouldn't fare very well. What I understand from the commentaries is that the stamps spoke for themselves. The prime categorizations were by geography, the condition of the material (mint or used), and by postal service (stamps, postal stationery, envelopes). A rare stamp was good, but having multiple copies was even better. Varieties, including color variations, printing plate flaws, misperforations and the like, were also exalted, as were multiple cancellation types. There appeared to be, however, no emphasis on "telling a story," or any interest in thematics. The category of "envelopes" was not explained clearly, so I am uncertain if documenting and

explaining the evolution of mail services was part of exhibiting "envelopes."

Two classes from the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 seem to have disappeared from modern exhibiting—albums and judged exhibits submitted by stamp engravers and producers. The names of these entrants are all very familiar to any collector of British stamps—"Perkins, Bacon & Co, L't., Thos. De la Rue & Co., Ld., Waterlow and Sons, L'd., and Bradbury Wilkinson & Co." (Spelling as used by John N. Luff in his commentaries of the exhibition. This is the same John Luff [Figure 2] for whom a major APS award is given annually.) Exhibiting must have been a very good and acceptable advertising method as all the well-known names were in evidence. Much of this information was found in the library's periodical collection, especially in the publications of various clubs.



Figure 2. John Nicholas Luff is considered to be the most prominent American philatelist of his time (born 1860-died 1938)

Albums were Major Class of Exhibits

The exhibition of albums was also one very different aspect of yesteryear's exhibitions. There were multiple classes of album exhibits that were arranged by the number of stamps--2,000, 4,000, 8,000, and unlimited--were the size qualifications. Each of these was further divided by gender, age, and for albums "of British manufacture." Naturally, Stanley Gibbons was a major sponsor of the album awards.

There was little information regarding the "engraver" and "stamp producer exhibits." It does pique one's curiosity and beg the question of how much early material such as proofs and essays might have ultimately come from this source. It will be worth a little extra effort to see if the British Library or British Philatelic Museum have any examples of these exhibits.

Awarding Medals

Another aspect of the early stamp exhibitions that I found interesting was that medals were awarded by either an individual or by “THE COMMITTEE.” Rosenberg received one of each. His Heligoland “Special” collection medal was awarded by Mr. R. Ehrenbach, Esq. which can be seen in the inset, and is also engraved on the medal (Figure 3). It may be that the individual who headed up each class was responsible for awarding medals within that



Figure 3. A Class II Silver medal presented by R Ehrenbach Esq to R Rosenberg at the 1897 London Philatelic Exhibition.

division. This aspect of exhibitions is very similar to, for example, medals awarded by specialist societies and clubs.

In Mr. Ehrenbach’s case, as head of the European Division, that would have meant he awarded himself the gold for his collection of “Austria, Austrian Italy, Hungary and Bosnia” where “every possible shade, perforation and variety of paper was presented, and included five copies of the 2kr orange, 1868, of Austria.” Mr. Castle, president of the exhibition and vice president of the London Philatelic Society, took care of that potential conflict and made the award to Ehrenbach. As an aside, Ehrenbach must have been quite the collector and organizer. In many of the club journals and exhibition material from around the turn of the century, Ehrenbach’s name appears frequently.

The London Philatelic Exhibition of 1897 Was a Royal Event

There can be no doubt that the 1897 exhibition had the aura of a royal event. The exhibition was opened by the Duke of York with one of the shortest speeches by a political figure ever (“I have much pleasure in declaring the exhibition open.”) and one of the first visitors was the Prince of Wales. The Duke of York was also the President of the London Philatelic Society.

It was undoubtedly held in 1897 to commemorate the Queen and take advantage of her 50th anniversary on the

throne to draw many of the world’s great philatelists to the birthplace of the postage stamp. The wording on the obverse, “VICTORIA REGINA ET IMPERATRIX 1837-1897,” clearly transfers royal legitimacy to the exhibition.

How the sponsors of the exhibition were able to get away with using an image of an aged monarch on the medal was initially a little surprising to me, given that no regularly issued Great Britain postage stamp bears such an image. However, Great Britain coinage does bear the image(s) of an older Queen. Given that her son was a very active collector, the use of her images on the medals was probably not an issue and was assuredly endorsed by her.

The designer of the medal places the two images of the queen with the younger one looking “forward” and the older on looking “back.” This is somewhat unusual as no image of her on a postage stamp of Great Britain of which I am aware portrays her in any pose except looking left. A number of colonies use an older image, such as Canada and New Zealand and her portrait in these countries may also show her looking to the right--but not Great Britain.

Regardless, these medals are works of art and great souvenirs of what was reported to be a fabulous event--one which foreshadowed many international philatelic events to follow.

World Stamp Shows Then & Now

The London 1897 exhibition was one of the mega-philatelic events of the decade, and a forerunner of today’s international shows. Yet, despite the 119 years that separated World Stamp Show NY2016 from the 1897 London event, much of the philatelic culture remains the same. Two prominent figures provided really enjoyable commentaries about the exhibition, John N. Luff and Edward Nankivell. While not well-known in the United States, Nankivell was a highly respected journalist and collector in the UK who wrote a book in 1902 that has recently been reprinted (Figure 4). To my mind, their observations could have been written about any show during the last 50 years. From the overall view of a surfeit

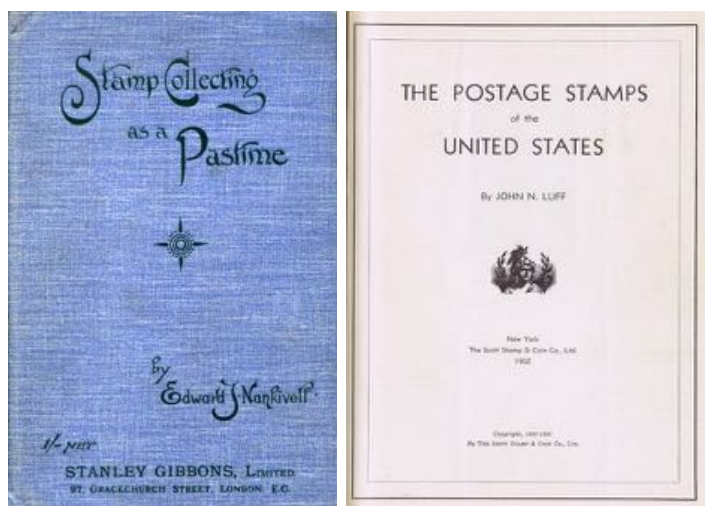


Figure 4. Nankivell’s original edition was published in 1902 and has recently been re-issued. Luff’s title page shows his book was published in 1902, but was copyrighted in 1897 by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, Ltd.

of exhibits to debate about medal allocation, commentary remains much the same.

John Luff is probably a familiar name to many of us who are members of the APS. Like Edward Nankivell, he also wrote a book on philately that was published in 1902 (Figure 5), but his copyright dates from 1897--the year of the great exhibition. He was president of the APS from 1907 to 1909 and was thought to be the most prominent American philatelist of his time. He was president of the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, editor of the Scott catalogs, and founder of the Collector's Club of New York. He was also one of the first serious researchers of U. S. philatelic material. Since 1940, the APS has given annual awards honoring his memory in three categories:

- ◆ Distinguished Philatelic Research
- ◆ Exceptional Contributions to Philately
- ◆ Outstanding Service to the American Philatelic Society.

Luff's observations were quite prescient about local shows and societies, as well as his recognition of the role that a major show fills for collectors of all levels.

I especially like the comments about collections resulting from expenditures of large amounts of money contrasted to those "evidencing philatelic knowledge." We still engage in the debate on how to make the exhibiting playing field as level as possible, and Luff's focus on philatelic knowledge, combined with his incredible philatelic influence, certainly must have been a factor in evolving exhibiting from quantity and variety toward understanding through telling a story about some aspect of the hobby.

Nankivell's description of the dealer's room as a "jungle" has to elicit a chuckle. Not being in that world, I wonder if today's dealers would vigorously nod in agreement.

Despite the information I have been able to gather about the exhibition, some famous figure associated with 1897 London, the philatelic cultural parallels between then and now, I still hope to find out more about the medal winner and his history. If any of our readers can shed light on his history or, perhaps, how the medals found their way to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, I would be most interested and appreciative!

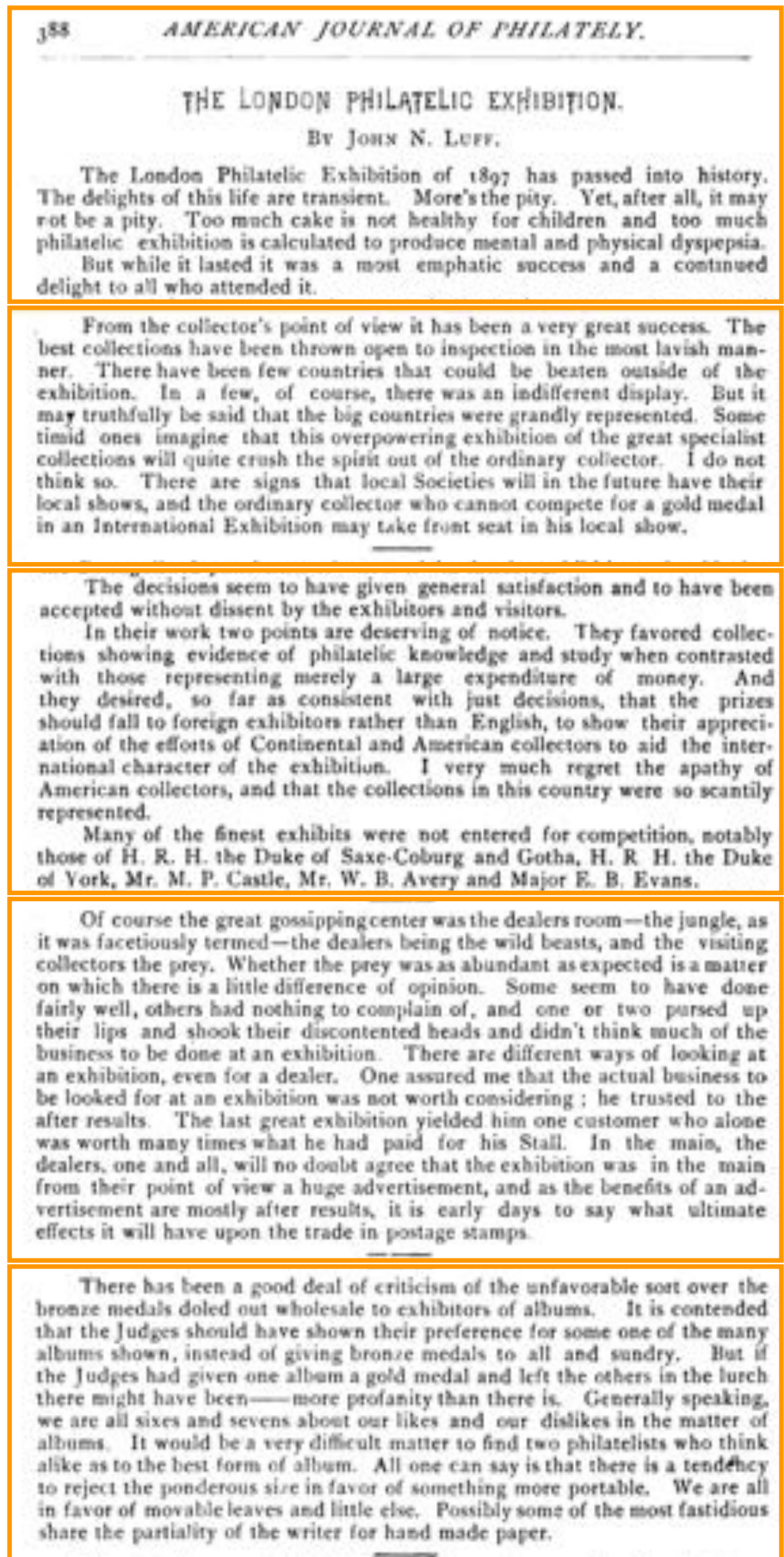
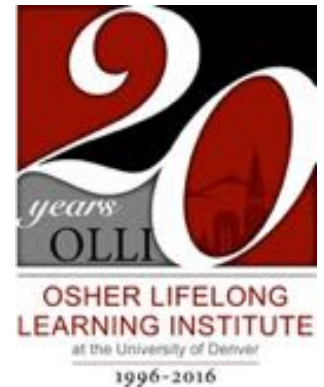


Figure 5. A medley of comments from John Luff (boxes 1, 2, 3) and Edward J. Nankivell (boxes 4 & 5) about the 1897 London Exhibition

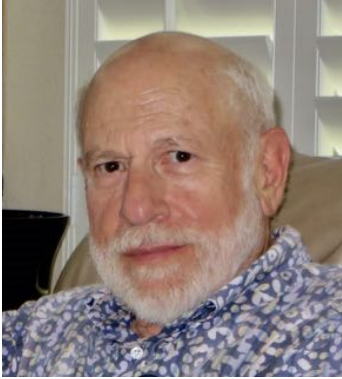
RMPL Members Present at OLLI



World History Through Stamps

The RMPL is sponsoring another Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) course as part of the University of Denver's adult education programs.

Dates and place: weeks of January 6, 2017 through March 3, 2017 at the Central Christian Church located on South Cherry Creek Drive between Colorado Boulevard and University Boulevard.



Steve Nadler

Facilitator: Steve Nadler:
phone: 303-322-3624;
Steve's e-mail:
SchlomoX@msn.com

**WORLD HISTORY
THROUGH STAMPS:
History, Geography,
Nation Building,
Propaganda, and War**

Program Objective: To provide participants an expanded view of world history and culture that is

communicated through the use of postage stamps.

Since 1840 postage stamps have been used to forward mail within cities, countries and around the world. Over 200 Countries large and small print and sell their history, culture, and propaganda on small colorful pieces of paper for all to use, read and see.

This will be a fascinating program with colorful presentations, discussions and a field trip, presented by facilitators and presenters who are collectors as well as professionals in their fields.

Comments about this program from past participants:

"Learned so very much – outstanding"

"So enjoyed this class – look forward to class this spring"

"Good class – the presenters were all interesting and well prepared"

"It is always interesting to me how much history and geography a person can learn from stamps.

Good class, very interesting."

Find answers to the following questions: Why are postage stamps so important? How are subjects chosen for postage stamps? Who selects them and why? Who designs stamps? What are dead Countries? Which ones are they? Why are they dead?

Each session of the course will be on a different subject using relevant postage stamps and correspondence (envelopes and postmarks) from around the world. Planned presentations and discussions are:

- ◆ "Thomas Jefferson" will visit the class in person and discuss why he rejected parts of the Constitution
- ◆ Stories about the Space Shuttle Program by retired admiral, astronaut and Commander of the Challenger Space Shuttle
- ◆ Where is Thurn and Taxis and why is it important to European history?
- ◆ New Zealand: Creating and evolving a national identity as viewed from the perspective of the nation's stamp program
- ◆ The explosion of enthusiasm for everything related to airplanes
- ◆ Afghanistan's 20th and 21st century history and its impact on the U.S. and the world will be shown through the designs of its stamps
- ◆ Field trip to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Denver, Colorado (RMPL is one of the largest philatelic libraries in the country and one of Denver's best kept secrets)
- ◆ Additional topics to be presented based on participant input during the first session.

Note about OLLI: More than 2,500 active adults (ages 50+) just like you have been taking classes at OLLI DU. Choose from 500 academic classes annually. Cost per term: \$130 for an unlimited number of classes (on a first-come first-serve basis). Typical class is two hours per week for 8 weeks. Go to the OLLI website at: universitycollege.du.edu/olli for complete information.

Help Needed

1d Red, Provisional Perf. 16 (SG36, SG Specialized C11)

By Ray Simpson and his associates, Graham Stockdale and Mike Williams. Please check-out your collections and see if you can provide some assistance!



Information needed

This is a request for help. Graham, Mike and I are attempting to construct a database of **dated examples** of this stamp (on cover, piece and dated singles).

The information required is:

- ◆ date and place of posting
- ◆ check letters of stamp(s)
- ◆ plate number (if known)

Scans are not needed.

Why is this information needed?

From 1855 the low value postage stamps were perforated by gauge 14 punch sets. Late in 1857 (and into 1858) some 1d Red and 2d Blue stamps were perforated by the old gauge 16 perforation punch sets, originally used between 1854 and 1855. The problem is that nobody knows how long the perforation gauge 16 punch sets were used and how many stamp sheets were perforated by them. All previously published estimates are suspect. We believe that the usage information requested will assist in compiling more accurate estimates. Our findings will be published in due course.

Sending the information

The most convenient way is to send it via the internet to either: g.stockdale100@btinternet.com, or raymar2103@aol.com. Alternatively, it could be sent via the editor of the journal in which this is published.

Guidance on identifying the stamp

For any collector to whom all 1d Reds look the same, the relevant stamps are those on white (not bluish) paper (see the images above). Apart from the date of usage, which will normally be between December 1857 and August 1858, the key feature is that stamps with perforation gauge 16 have 15 holes across the top and bottom, as opposed to the normal 13. If in doubt, send a scan and we will work it out.

Thank you for your help,

Graham Stockdale, Ray Simpson FRPSL, and Mike Williams FRPSL

We Need Volunteers

Please see John Sinski if you are interested in spending a little more time at the RMPL. Several positions are open, including manning the front desk and sorting donation material for the stamp books.

**John can be reached at:
303-759-9921**

WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES

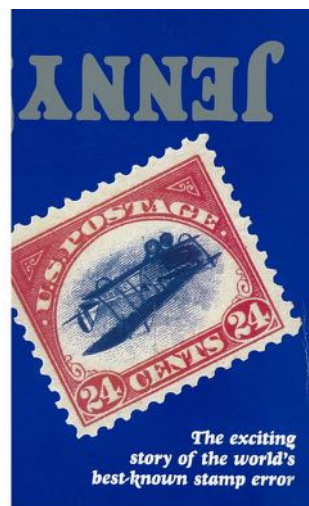
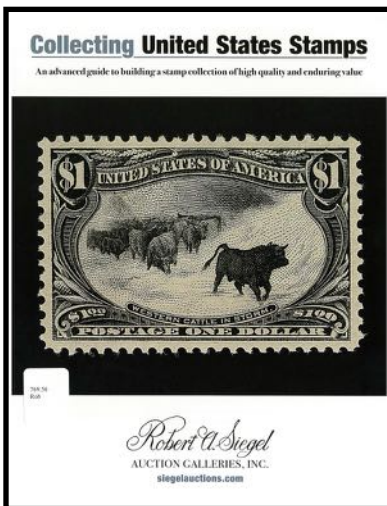
UNITED STATES

2000 National Five-Digit Zip Code Post Office Directory, Volumes 1 & 2, published by the United States Postal Service

Business Reply Mail: Regulations, Applications-Annual Renewals, published by the United States Postal Service, 1981

Collecting United States Stamps: An Advanced Guide to Building a Stamp Collection of High Quality and Enduring Value, published by Robert A. Siegel auctions

Jenny!: the Exciting Story of the World's Best-Known Stamp Error, by George Amick

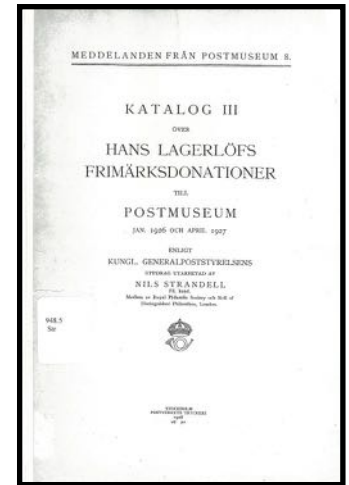
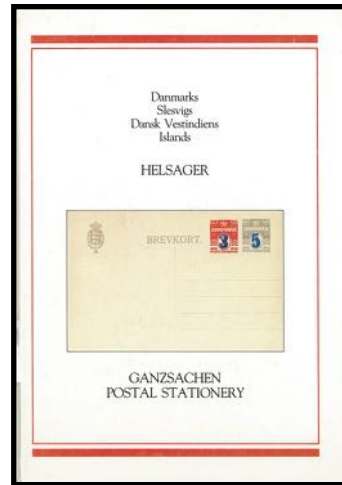


Kansas State Revenue Catalog, Nebraska Revenue Stamps, Revenue Stamps of New Hampshire and Vermont, 'Paid Under Protest' Cancels on New York Stock Transfer Stamps, Washington State and Cities Revenue Stamps, [multiple titles in one binder] by multiple authors

Rarity Revealed: The Benjamin K. Miller Collection, by Scott R. Trepel and Ken Lawrence

EUROPE

Catalogo Dei Bolli Postali Del Territorio Lombardo-Veneto Dalle Origini All'Introduzione Del Francobollo, by Paolo Vollmeier



Danmarks Slesvigs Dansk Vestindiens Islands: Ganzsachen Postal Stationery, by S. Ringstrom

Deutsche Kolonien-Vorläufer, by Hans Grobe

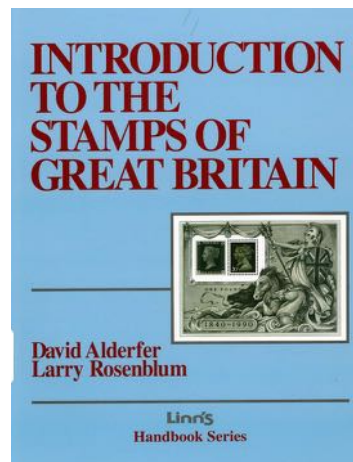
Frimärksdonationer till Postmuseum Jan 1926 och April 1927, by Nils Strandell

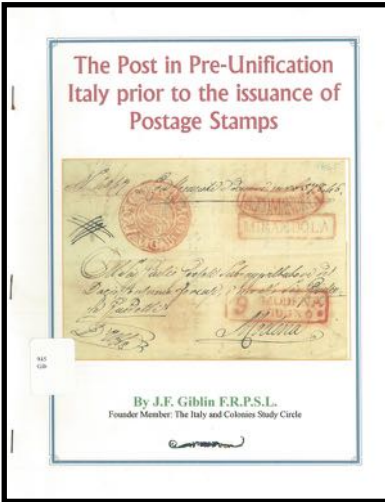
Grönlandsk Filатели: Frimærkealbum (1959)

Handbook of the Revenue Stamps of Germany and Switzerland, compiled by Fred. George C. Lundy

A History of Britain in Thirty-Six Postage Stamps, by Chris West

Introduction to the Stamps of Great Britain, by David Alderfer and Larry Rosenblum

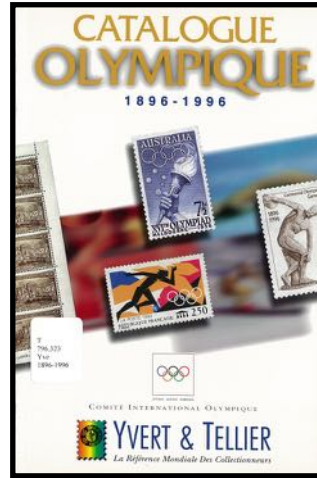




Katalog III över Hans Lagerlöfs

The Post in Pre-Unification Italy Prior to the Issuance of Postage Stamps, by J. F. Giblin

Republik Venedig Dokumentierter Katalog (Mit Postgeschichte), by Paolo Vollmeir



Notes on the Postal Tax Stamps of Ecuador, 1920-1957, by Robert A. D'Elia

TOPICAL

Basketball Postal Stationery, 2002, published by the International Filabasket Society

Catalogue Olympique 1896-1996, published by Yvert & Tellier

Centro di documentazione La Ghirada: Il basket nella filatelia di Elio Tomassini

La Partita del Centenario: 100 Anni di Basketball, by Luciano Calenda

Universiade 2011 Approaches Shenzhen, published by Universiade Shenzhen 2011

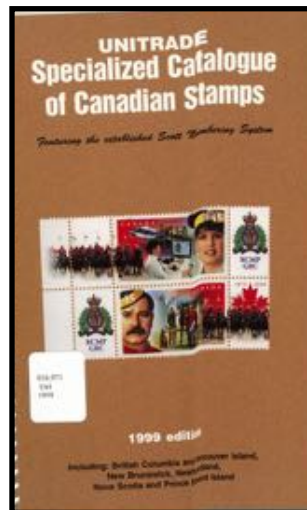
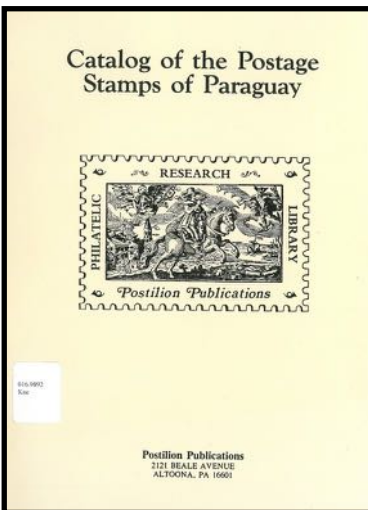
Worldwide Catalogue of Basketball Stamps and Souvenir Sheets, updates for 2001-2010, published by the International Filbasket Society

Les Timbres Fiscaux d'Allemagne [through 1939], by A. Forbin

Un Secolo Di Attivita'Dell'Unione Filatelica Subalpina, published by Unione Filatelica Subalpina

NORTH AMERICA

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps [including] New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Vancouver Island, and Newfoundland: 1999 edition, published by Unitrade Press



SOUTH AMERICA

Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Paraguay, by Victor Kneitschel

Chile: Los Correos Ingleses en Chile: Matasellos Usados en la Guerra del Pacifico: Sellos Peruanos Sobrecargados con Escudo de Chile, by Derek Palmer

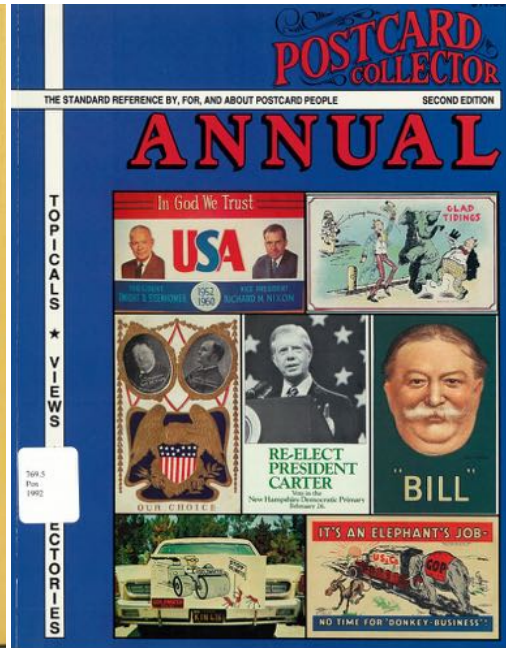
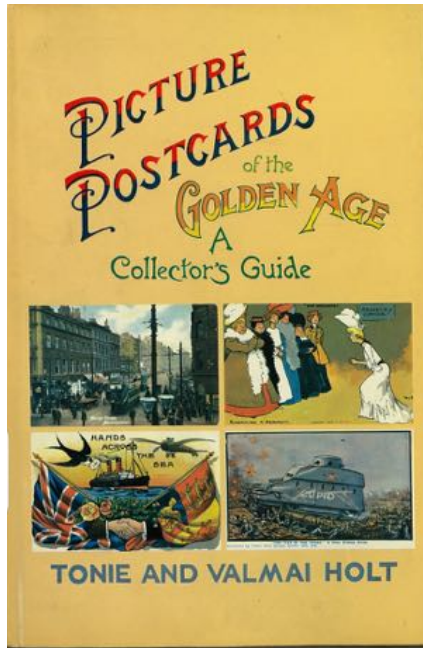
CINDERELLAS

Sammelwut und Bilderflut Werbe-geschichte im Kleinformat [poster stamps]

POSTCARDS

Collecting Picture Postcards: an Introduction, by Anthony Byatt





Picton's Priced Catalogue and Handbook of Picture Postcards and Their Postmarks, by M.R. Hewlett, Ron Mead, Joan Venman, and B.H. Swallow

Picture Postcards of the Golden Age: A Collector's Guide, by Tonie and Valmai Holt

Picture Postcard 1982 Annual [No. 3], compiled and edited by Brian and Mary Lund

Postcard Collector Annual, 1992 and 1993 [2nd and 3rd editions], edited by Deborah Lengkeek

Rare & Expensive Postcards: Book 1, Revised, by John M. Kaduck

MISCELLANEOUS

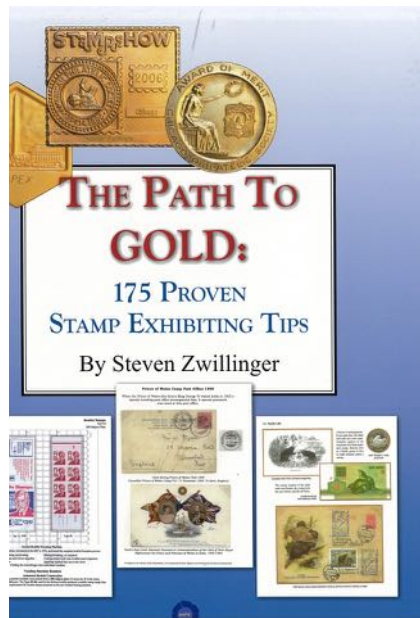
I Dirigibili Zeppelin: Documenti Postali (di precursori 11 1937), by Mario Onofri

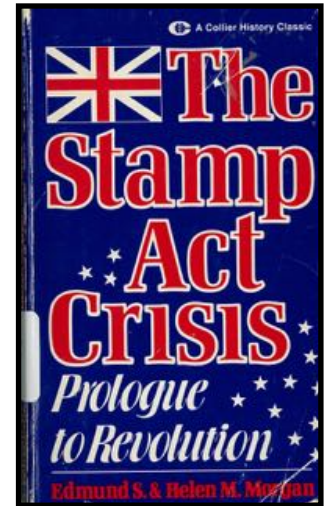
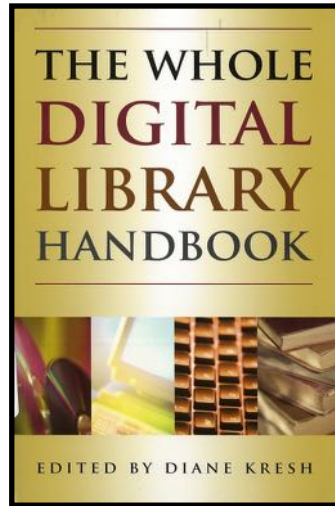
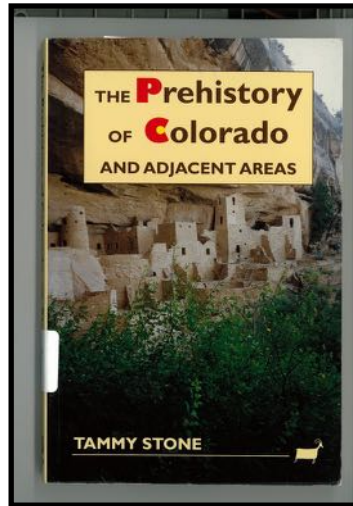
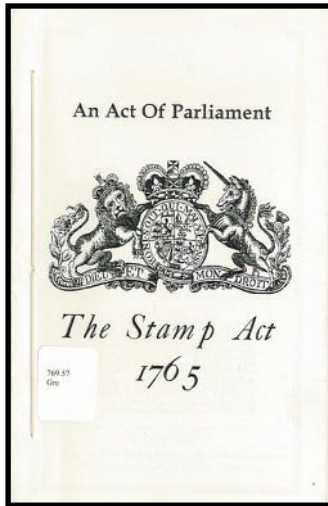
Die Kleine UNRRA-Studie, published as the UNOP Handbuch 82

The Path to Gold: 175 Proven Stamp Exhibiting Tips, by Steven Zwilling

Put a Stamp On It!, by Herman Herst, Jr.

State Revenue Catalog: Addenda Supplement [sic], 1960, by Elbert S.A. Hubbard





NON-PHILATELIC

Great Britain-Laws, Statutes, etc.: An Act of Parliament: The Stamp Act of 1765

The City's Masterpiece: The History of the Sydney G.P.O., published by Australia Post

The Prehistory of Colorado and Adjacent Areas, by Tammy Stone

The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution, by Edmund S. & Helen M. Morgan

The Whole Digital Library Handbook, edited by Diane Kresh

AUCTION CATALOGS

2003 Rarities of the World, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction May 2003

2005 Rarities Sale: Fine and Rare Stamps, catalog for a Millennium Philatelic auction October 2005

205 Stamp Auction, catalog for a Corinphila auction June 2016

Australasia, catalog for a Millennium Philatelic auction April 2008

Australian Colonies: The Trevor Hiscock Collection, catalog for a Mossgreen auction September 2016

Bulgaria 1878-1893: The Earl Galitx Large Gold Collection, catalog for a Corinphila auction June 2016

The Eliot H. Weisman Collection of Important Mint United States Stamps and Plate Blocks, Catalog for a private collection sale by Shreves Philatelic Galleries May 1998

Fine and Rare Stamps: the 2004 Rarities Sale, catalog for a Millenium Philatelic Auction October 2004

France Collection "Besançon" (Part I), catalog for a Corinphila auction June 2016

The Grant Inman Collection, Part 1: Newspapers & Periodicals, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction June 2016

The Grant Inman Collection, Part 2: Officials, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction September 2016

The Grant Inman Collection, Part 3: First, Second and Third Issue Revenues, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction October 2016

The Hanover Collection of Superb-Quality United States Stamps, Part 2: 20th Century and Back of Book Issues, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction October 2016

The James B. Hamlin Collection of Great Britain and British Empire, catalog for a Spink auction September 2016

The Lawrence S. Fisher Collection of Classic United States First Day Covers and Earliest Known Usages, catalog for a Shreves auction May 1996

(Continued on page 13)

TRITE TALK LEAVES BEHIND NO HISTORICAL TRAIL AND FEWER STAMPS

BY DR. JACK R. VAN ENS

Ever feel at a loss for a word? Occasionally, we hesitate, leaving blanks in previously smooth-flowing conversation. Then a word sticks to the back of your throat. You're unsuccessful forcing it to the tip of your tongue.

Plagued by these verbal hesitations, we use filler words. It's lingo, the meaning of which rarely lasts, disappearing as does a puff of smoke.

When the right words escape them, many talkers interject "like" into their chats. Repeated *ad nauseam*, this word gains likability in conversations. It saves us from embarrassing verbal pauses.

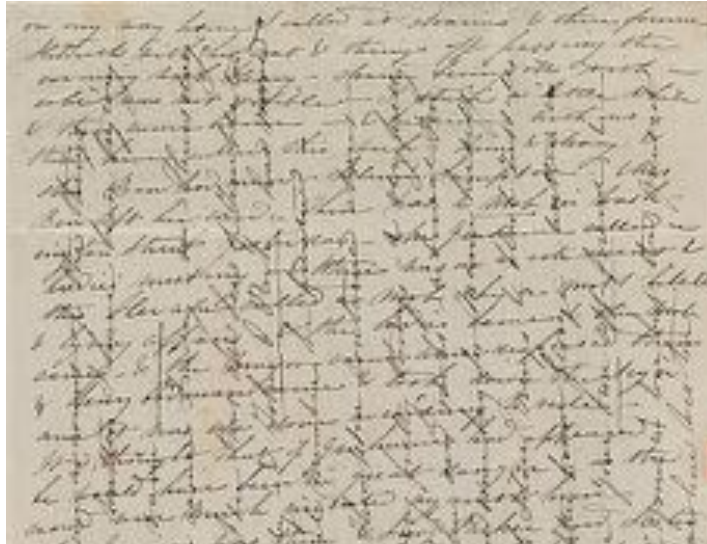
Scott R. Trepel, who heads Siegel Postage Stamp Auctions in Manhattan, describes a conversation overheard between two UCLA students hooked on using "like." It littered their language, like trash strewn on a highway. "The word "like," Trepel laments, "has spread through young American vernacular—now here it comes properly used—*like* venereal disease through a bordello."

Listen to the "like-speak of these West Coast collegians: "Literally, I was like, are you *kidding*? The super-shuttle only comes around campus like every 45 *minutes*? He was like 'yeah' and like totally rude about it. And I was like 'I have class in 30 minutes' and am going to be like super late. And like, he didn't even care!" (*The Siegel Dispatch*, Spring 2015, p. 2).

Repeatedly using the filler-word "like" infects our talking like a cancer and robs stamp collecting of its vitality. We seldom write letters that are weighted with memorable expression.

Philatelists collect stampless covers of the 18th century and 19th century envelopes with sometimes-rare stamps affixed. Such covers often include letters.

In the past, corresponding was an art. Writers graced missives with elegant cursive hand-writing



Writers of the past simply couldn't get enough on a single page of paper (cost doubled with the second page) which resulted in cross writing.

and filled letters with quotable turns-of-phrases. They wrote for the ages and were aware of future generations peering over their shoulders, eager to read about a writer's triumphs and travails.

Thomas Jefferson polished exquisite prose by reading in bed before retiring. He read ancient Greek and Roman poetry and the biblical Gospels in their original Greek. At dinner, Jefferson spun stories. Guests benefited from his expansive vocabulary, enticing wit and ability to make words

dance on the page and in speech.

Sometimes skeptical of Jefferson, John Quincy Adams wrote in his diary in 1804 how Jefferson captured attention by spinning stories. "Mr. Jefferson tells large stories, and you never can be an hour in this man's company without something of the marvelous, like these stories." Adams said he was turned-off, however, when Jefferson went on-and-on about what quality he liked in fine French wines.

Stamp auctioneer Trepel worries what literary collections will yield in years ahead, with fewer people writing notes and more "likes" in our speech. That's because, laments Trepel, our minds are blitzed with sound bites, "the rapid-response, pithy writing styles inspired by email (the new Old School of



Like what's not to like?

communication), texts, Facebook posts, Instagram, and Tweets.” Verbally “winging it” has replaced substantive writing and informed speaking that Jefferson modeled.

Today’s writing is often chatty, casual and cursory—correspondence that doesn’t produce a supply of stamps on envelopes worth mounting in albums. Our culture declines, too, when language lacks precision and settles for simplistic “likes.”

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us to speak concisely and use simple words that suggest what’s sublime. He instructed followers to “say simply ‘Yes,’ or ‘No’” (*Matthew 5:37*). Today, some of us blurt out like “yeah” or “nah.”

Winston Churchill didn’t appreciate glib political hacks who gave likable stump speeches that lacked weight. England’s war-time Prime Minister scorned an adversary who “spoke without a note, and almost made a point.”

“Clutter is the disease of American writing,” warned William Zinsser, who instructed authors through his classic manual, *On Writing Well* (1976).” Clutter burdens writers who use fat words

with thin meanings, sound verbose and jam sentences with filler-words like “like” in order to keep up with the Kardashians.

“...the secret of good writing is to strip every sentence to its cleanest components,” wrote Zinsser. “Every word that serves no function, every long word that could be a short word, every adverb that carries the same meaning that’s already in the verb, every passive construction that leaves the reader unsure who is doing what—these are the thousand and one adulterants that weaken the strength of a sentence. And they usually occur in proportion to education and rank.”

There’s much at stake here. Historians and stamp collectors will lose future source material if Instagram instantly conveys words light as popcorn. Tweets pass on what’s trivial. Some emails are so mundane that we delete them. What’s left for historians and philatelists to collect when crafted letters disappear?

What remains when there’s little left in speech and writing to cherish, memorize and infuse with grandeur in our hearts, minds and spirits?

WHAT’S NEW ON THE SHELVES

(Continued from page 11)

The “Lionheart” Collection of Great Britain and British Empire: Part VI, catalog for a Spink auction July 2016

Nepal: Classic Issues and Postal History: The Dr. Wolfgang C. Hellrigl International Large Gold Medal Collection, catalog for a Corinphila auction June 2016

The Peter Sharrer Collection of United States Classic Postal Markings, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction October 2016

Public Auction #35: The Robert de Keyser Collection of Leeward Islands Queen Victoria-King George V & The David Bunin Collection of British Collection of British Commonwealth, catalog for a Victoria Stamp Company auction June 2016

Saint Louis Stamp Expo, catalog for a Regency Superior auction April 2016

The Skywalk Collection of Nova Scotia Stamps and Postal History, catalog for a Schuyler Rumsey auction September 2016

The Steven Walske Collection of United States-France Transatlantic Mail, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction May 2016

Tom Frommer’s Grand Prix Pioneer Australian Air Mails, catalog for a Mossgreen Auction September 2016

United States and Foreign Postal History, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction March 1996

Scribblings Needs Articles

Please consider sharing your expertise and experience with the membership! Articles should be sent to Jeff Modesitt at:
jeffmcolorado@gmail.com
(phone 720-624-9024)

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

Second Saturday programs are sponsored by the RMPL 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.
His email is aurora_80017@yahoo.com

November 12th, 9:00 a.m.

“Collecting Papua New Guinea”

Presented by David E. Weisberg



A number of British, and German colonies and Australian territories evolved into the country we now know as Papua New Guinea. This talk will illustrate this transition and the stamps the different entities used as well as their postal history. And why I stopped collecting PNG.



December 10th, 9:00 a.m.

Streetcars Named Desire (Philatelic)

(Apologies to Tennessee Williams)

Presented by Steve Nadler

Do you know how many cities in the United States processed and postmarked mail on streetcars? The first correct answer from Second Saturday attendees naming all of them will receive a streetcar postmarked cover. Streetcar postmarks are part of the postal history of the United States and a popular collecting subject amongst travelling post office (TPO) postal history collectors. This program will show you some of the common to rarest postmarks along with some unusual incoming and destination mail.



Arlington & South Baltimore (7/30/1900) to Richfield Springs, New York (731/1900) forwarded to London, England (8/9/1900) forwarded to Koln, Germany (8/10/1900)



NEW MEMBERS

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

Donn Livingston, Denver, CO - Collects United States.

Adam Amos and Kimberly Jensen, Littleton, CO.

Ronald E. Korzeniowski, Sr., Irvona, PA - Collects U.S., Poland, German Occupation, Canada, and General Foreign.

DONATIONS: AUGUST 1-SEPT 30, 2016

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following members made donations to the library (August through September) (alphabetized by first name). We thank each and every one who has contributed, many of you multiple times. Here are the people and organizations who contributed during this period.

Andrew Wacinski
 Carole Dianne Sundine
 David Ball
 Erling Fossum
 George Killian
 Gregory Frantz
 Holly Dennis
 James Gerson
 Kerstin Meyers
 Leslie Gorsuch
 Martin P Bratzel
 Michael R McClurg
 Penelope Schwind
 Peter Jeannopoulos
 Ravi Vora
 Richard R Morris
 Robert Lafley
 Robert Martin
 Russell W Struckman
 Scandinavian Collectors Club
 Severt L Kvamme
 Will Gum

**For the Record: Next Board Meeting:
 Thursday, November 17, 2016**

RMPL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY**Meeting of September 15, 2016**

Prepared by President John Sinski

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

All Board members present except Dalene Thomas, and David Weisberg. Roger Rydberg, Steve Nadler, and Ken Roth were also present. The July Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

RMPL Audit Report

Taylor, Roth & Company performed an audit of the RMPL and provided a final report dated September 14, 2016. Tim Heins noted that the RMPL received a clean opinion on this audit and introduced Ken Roth to discuss the audit report and findings. Ken fully discussed the complete report with the board members. Several deficiencies were noted in internal policies and procedures and recommendations were given and discussed. The Finance Committee will review recommendations and report back to the board on updated procedures.

Financial Report

Tim Heins presented copies of the Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheets for Jan 1 – Aug 31, 2016.

Net Income for this period of 2016 was \$29,310.04. Tim distributed and discussed an RMPL Fixed Asset Listing.

Old Business

John Bloor reported that Linn's will be publishing a Directory and recommended RMPL place an ad. The Board approved John's draft ad and \$195 cost.

A new cash register compatible with Quick Books will soon be purchased and the current one will be used for auctions.

Over 60 people attended the RMPL Picnic on Sep 10 and the event received good feedback.

Agreement between American Topical Association (ATA) and RMPL on Video production has been received.

New Business

Carpeting and shelving are being considered for the Library/Catalog area of 7070.

Steve Nadler announced that preparations were underway for a winter OLLI program sponsored by RMPL with the University Of Denver. It will run from early January to mid-March 2017. Volunteers are needed.

Reservations for RMPL's Volunteer Holiday Party have been made at White Fence Farm for Sunday, December 18th at 4 P.M. Chicken and fish will be the dinner choices.

New RMPL members were approved by Board. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



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 at the library by the Operations Manager, Howard Benson. Clubs should check the calendar regularly and notify Howard at (303) 521-6216 of any changes or updates. All requests to reserve meeting time and space for philately related meetings other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled by Howard well in advance.

******November 2016******

- November 2 Wed-Aurora Stamp Club**
6:30 p.m. Trading
7:00 p.m. Meeting
- November 5 Sat-Meeting-10:00 a.m.**
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- November 5 Sat-Meeting 1:00 p.m.**
Topic Group
- November 9 Wed-Meeting 7:00 p.m.**
Germany Stamp Club
- November 10 Thu-Meeting 1:00 p.m.**
Cherrellyn Stamp Club
- November 10 Thu-Meeting 6:30 p.m.**
Denver Postcard Club
- November 11 Fri Veterans Day Library **CLOSED****
- November 11 Fri-Meeting 7:00 p.m.**
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**
- November 12, 9:00 a.m.**
Program by David Weisberg
Papua New Guinea
- November 12 Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.**
Mexico/Latin America Club
- November 17 Thu-Meeting 7:00 p.m.**
RMPL Board of Directors
All members are welcome
- November 19 Sat-Meeting 9:30 a.m.**
Denver Young Collectors
- November 19 Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.**
Postmark Collectors Club
- November 19 Sat-Meeting 1:00 p.m.**
Colorado Postal History Society
- November 20 Sun-Meeting 2:00 p.m.**
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club
- November 22 Tue-Meeting 7:30 p.m.**
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- November 23 Wed-Meeting 11:00 noon**
Denver Stamp Club
- November 24 - 27 Library **CLOSED****
Thanksgiving Weekend

******December 2016******

- December 7 Wed-Aurora Stamp Club**
6:30 p.m. Trading
7:00 p.m. Meeting
- December 8 Thu-Meeting 2:00 p.m.**
Cherrellyn Stamp Club
- December 8 Thu-Meeting 6:30 p.m.**
Denver Postcard Club-No Meeting
- December 9 Fri-Meeting 7:00 p.m.**
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**
- December 10 9:00 a.m.**
Program by Steve Nadler
Streetcar Mail
- December 10 Sat-Meeting 10:00**
Mexico/Latin America Club
- December 10 Sat-Meeting 11:30**
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelic Club
- December 14 Wed-Meeting 7:00 p.m.**
Germany Stamp Club
- December 17 Sat-Meeting 09:30 a.m.**
Denver Young Collectors
- December 18 Sun-Meeting 2:00 p.m.**
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club
- December 24-26 Library **CLOSED****
Christmas Holiday
- December 28 Wed-Meeting 11:00 a.m.**
Denver Stamp Club
- December 31 Library **CLOSED****
New Year's Eve

**May your Holidays
be Full of Joy and Contentment
and some really cool
new Stamps and Covers!**