

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian...

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Email - rmpl@qwestoffice.net

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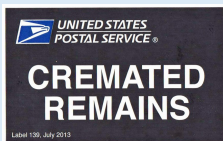
Dr. John Curtis

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## Concept Collecting: Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers

By Dr. John K. Curtis, FRPSL



The first U.S. and Great Britain wrappers

The interest and collection of postal stationery inclusive of newspaper wrappers has increased exponentially over the past decades. Stamp shows always include a large section of postal stationery in the exhibits. This renewed interest in postal stationery is mirrored by the number of new handbooks, catalogues and articles being published on this philatelic topic.

One aspect of postal stationery is post office postal stationery wrappers. These are open-ended paper sleeves bearing a prepaid post office indicium and are used to enclose newspapers and a wide variety of approved printed matter for mailing at concessionary postal rates. While each country can tell its own story, a common theme behind the introduction of the cheaper newspaper rate was due to the influence of newspaper proprietors seeking to reduce the distribution cost and increase circulation to a growing literate population.

Post Office wrappers first appeared in 1861 in the USA (above), followed three years later by New South Wales, Victoria in 1869 and Great

(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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Officers and Directors may be contacted  
through the RMPL.

Web page — [www.rmpldenver.org](http://www.rmpldenver.org)

## The President's Message

First, I would like to thank Jeff Modesitt for assuming the role of *Scribblings* Editor. He is doing a great job.

We're always looking for members to help with volunteer work. We could use more help at the front desk (day of your choice, all day or half day – 10:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 4:00).

We will provide training. We also need help sorting stamps for sale or auction at the library. If there is a country you like or know well, your cataloging efforts could be really helpful. This could even be done mostly at home on your own schedule.

We will hold the Large Lots Auction on October 22<sup>nd</sup> with previewing of lots beginning on October 17<sup>th</sup>. There are 274 lots with a value of \$131,000 and listed starting bids totaling \$10,719. I hope to see a good crowd for this event. The auction catalog has been included with this issue's mailing so there is ample time to review the offerings and submit your bids!

We will have the RMPL picnic on September 10<sup>th</sup> (the Saturday after Labor Day). I hope to see you there. Please remember to RSVP at the front desk or by phone so we have a count for the number of meals to prepare.

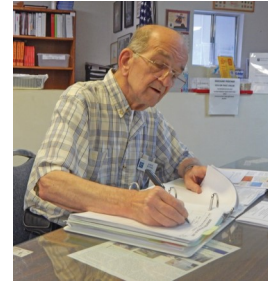
CHERPEX 2016 will be on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. I encourage you to give them your support.

The RMPL has gained 16 new members so far during 2016.

We now have a 13<sup>th</sup> video produced with The Military Postal History Society. Check it out on our web site or Facebook. If you have not seen our videos, you're in for a treat, so check all of them.

We have been continuing on a project to rearrange our periodicals to provide more shelf space for both periodicals and books.

John Sinski  
RMPL President



## Correction Notice

Paul Morton submitted the following information for those of you who might have occasion to attend meetings of the Rio Rancho Stamp Club, Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Meeting dates have been changed to the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. The meeting location can be confirmed by contacting Paul by email at [morton.paul@gmail.com](mailto:morton.paul@gmail.com), or by phone at (505) 867-9964.



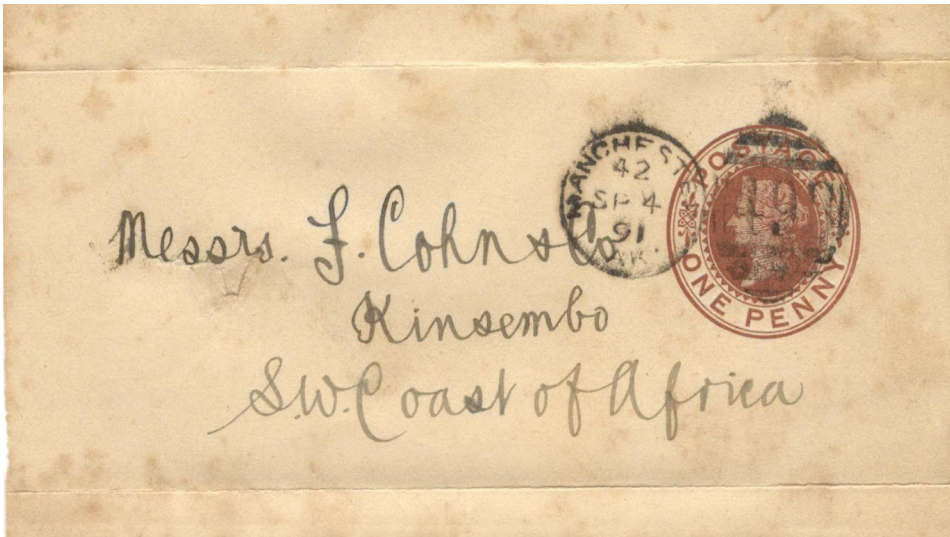
(Continued from page 1)

Britain on 1 October 1870 (page 1). From thereon 142 postal entities have issued wrappers and there are more than 2,000 basic types sold from post offices plus varieties including stamped-to-order types and several thousand bearing private overprints. Seeking an example of each different wrapper is a major challenge.

### Postal History

The term 'concept collecting' has been used in the title rather than 'how to collect'. As in any field of philately what to collect and how to collect is up to

There is no way of corroborating that directional manuscript marks were followed because wrappers do not show transit markings. Newspapers destined to overseas usually travelled in sealed bags, hence the lack of transit markings that appear on letter mail. There is considerable frustration for the postal historian in establishing the sailing dates and route followed without corroborating evidence. Establishing postal rates for different weight scales for this class of mail can be difficult to find also because of country rate changes and their dates. Despite these challenges a rates/routes approach to wrappers can be absorbing.



*Scarce destinations such as this one to Kinsembo on the "S.W. Coast of Africa" are exciting to find even though they generally do not contain additional information about specific routes.*

the individual. A purpose of this article is to identify and discuss some of the conceptual approaches that can be used in assembling a collection of wrappers. The first classification is to consider wrappers from the point of view of postal history or postal stationery. A postal history perspective looks at postal rates and routes to different countries and weight scales.

One of the major problems with wrappers is that they do not normally bear auxiliary markings and transit postmarks thereby making it difficult to prove certain routes were followed and the time taken in transit. Wrappers are a sub-class of all mail but as such are not good for postal history collectors compared to letter mail.

Ship names rarely appear and postmarks usually do not show readable dates. It must be remembered that this class of mail dealt with bulky newspapers and were sent at the cheapest cost to the post office.

Postal history extends to a study of destinations, auxiliary markings and postmarks. The author has undertaken two large destination studies: country, town and overseas destinations of the wrappers of the Australian Colonies (2010) and overseas destinations of the wrappers of Great Britain (2012) as well as over 70 country-specific studies. It is exciting to find exotic and unusual destinations. The destination of a GB wrapper show on the left was Kinsembo.

Tracking down that this was an early settlement on the west coast of Africa located between the Belgian Congo and Angola took

some effort but was enormously satisfying (2015). Auxiliary markings can range from underpaid, return to, censored, consular stampings, postman's delivery markings, registered and instructional markings such as Too Late; finding an example of the different types is another challenge. Postmark collecting is a popular field with special postmarks often found on this class of mail such as NPB for Newspaper Branch. Newspaper proprietors were sometimes allowed to use pre-cancelled wrappers so as to enable posting later in the day.

### Postal Stationery

The very nature of a post office postal stationery wrapper means that its natural categorization is postal stationery. However, different usages of wrappers qualify as a part of postal stationery. With regard to postal stationery per se, one approach may be to collect a specimen/mint/used/uprated/private

overprint for each post office type. One of the author's collecting areas is Argentina. There are about 83 different issues. Not all issues had Specimen overprints or private overprints, but all have mint/used/uprated such that "completeness" requires  $83 \times 3 = 249$ . Add in the 20 or so different Specimens and the 20 or so recorded private overprints the total becomes 289+. Add in the printing varieties and errors the total increases further to more than 300. Obtaining a copy of each of these has taken the author 12 years and gaps remain.

Argentina is an example of a country collection. Not all countries issued wrappers to this extent. Some countries issued only two denominations of wrappers; some countries issued four wrapper types. The point is that to make a country collection interesting it needs a critical mass. Some areas for country-collecting specialization are: Austria, Denmark, Australian colonies, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Mexico, Canada, Brazil, GB and, of course, the USA. Not only is the postal stationery collector interested in an example of each post office type, paper type and sizes should be considered. Interest will soon wane if only a few wrapper types have been issued.

It is worth discussing private overprints within the context of postal stationery. Private overprints of sender details and illustrations are sometimes added by the sender's printer after the wrappers have been purchased from the post office. In some countries the



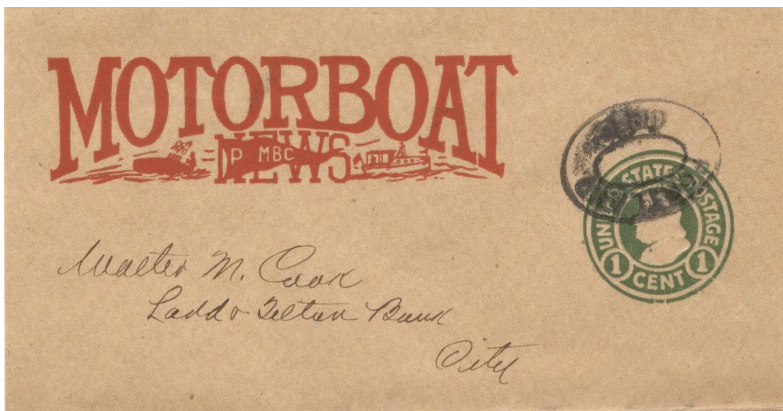
*Underpaid wrappers with postage due stamps applied are very hard to find.*

visually enhance a collection. If the overprinting is done by the government printer governed by post office regulations as to size, paper and format, but with PO indicium, the item is then referred to as a stamped-to-order or a printed-to-private-order wrapper and has legitimacy as a variety. The post office does not normally offer this service, leaving it to the sender to arrange the addition of extra printing if so desired.

Some of the most interesting conceptual approaches are the various usages of wrappers such as mailed registered. There are few registered wrappers and for some countries none extant. Finding an example of registered usage and tracking down the reason for this type of usage is yet another challenge. It is almost a paradox because if the contents were sufficiently important to warrant registration why would a wrapper be used and not a dedicated registered envelope? Blueprints, music scores, manuscript page proofs, share scrips might be contenders for a registered wrapper.

Another usage is underpaid. The attraction of postage due charges can be found in particular on GB wrappers addressed to Germany, Argentina wrappers addressed to Montevideo, Uruguay, and on incoming wrappers to Switzerland, France, New South Wales, USA, Barbados, Gibraltar, Trinidad & Tobago, Ecuador, Egypt, Argentina and GB.

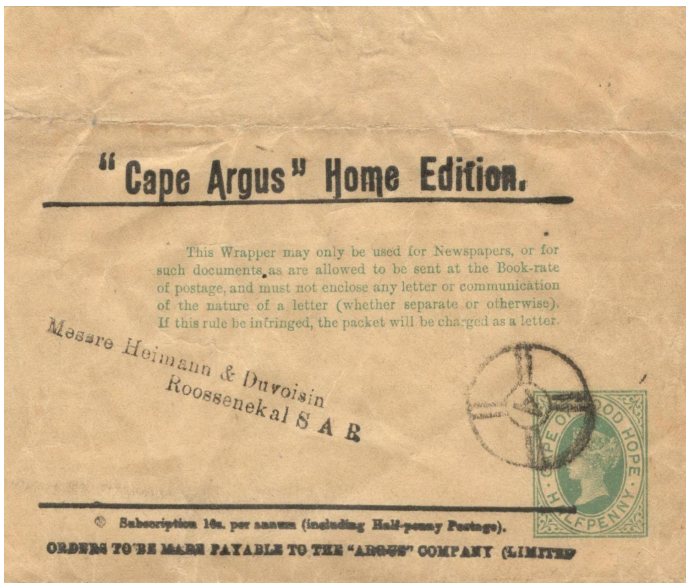
The author searched his database of 42,000 images of used post office postal stationery wrappers. These have been hand-collected daily since September 2003 from listings on the Internet site eBay. Less than 100 examples exist where a postage due adhesive has been added to the wrapper in payment of the postage due. Most wrappers show postage due charge marks



*Colorful private overprints can often offer visual appeal to an exhibit.*

post office will sell sheets of stamped uncut wrappers to facilitate the subsequent overprinting. These overprints often possess visual appeal in a postal stationery exhibit. What is not understood (even by some jurors) is that the overprinting, if added after the wrapper leaves the post office, does not increase the status of the wrapper. However, such wrappers





*Argus Wheel postmark on Cape Argus  
Cape of Good Hope Wrapper.*

as a handstamp.

Airmail usage is another category but examples are uncommon. Airmail usage did not occur before the 1920s and then only if an airmail fee had been paid. Seamail was the norm for this class of mail. There are examples of airmail usage from Australia to USA, from Argentina to Germany, Trinidad & Tobago to USA. There is no nexus but the spread of mail sent by air coincided with the decrease in wrapper usage. Likewise, the use of EXPRESS labels on wrappers is scarce with only two examples known to the author.

Censor markings do appear in a number of cases, in particular on wrappers sent to Russia and USA. However, they can be found on wrappers from other postal entities and are a specialized study. Some wrappers have been sent from consular offices and bear circular handstamps identifying the sender. These types of markings are uncommon.

Perhaps the largest category of handstamps applied to wrappers is merchant marks. These are usually purple handstamps in a variety of designs, often a double oval or a belt and buckle oval with name and address of sender. Such merchant marks can be found in different locations on the wrapper, often on the reverse on the flap, but commonly so too above and below the addressee details. Merchant handstamps are a cheaper alternative to private overprinting. The quantity of wrappers mailed may be less than what would make private overprinting economical. The merchant's address might be transitory – address changes in the late 1800s occurred frequently as merchants expanded and



*Merchant handstamps provide another collectible area.*

sought larger premises, or their businesses went into liquidation. Not much is written about merchant marks which can be found on the wrappers of many countries and offer clues into aspects of social philately.

A further concept categorization is overprints appearing on or next to the indicium. The nature of these overprints are surcharges, provisional rates, postal entity names on the wrappers of a different country, or they reflect specific usage or event, pre-cancels, and Specimen overprints. A literal count of all possible overprints and surcharges on worldwide post office postal stationery wrappers is approximately 750 including varieties. This includes a count of more than 300 pre-cancels, about 290 Specimen and about 80 surcharges. Others can be added when paper varieties and O.S. and O.H.M.S. setting differences are taken into account (Courtis, 2016). The reader will benefit from a copy of



*Control marks to identify inventory of wrappers for sale  
by an incoming postmaster.*

Kosniowski's catalogue (2016) by examining each of the identified listings of overprints and surcharges for paper varieties, wrapper sizes, watermarking, double and inverted overprints and font setting varieties.

There are 61 countries and postal entities with a total of 292 wrappers overprinted SPECIMEN or MUESTRA. While the basic Specimen overprint normally reads upward or downward on a diagonal, the study of Specimen overprints is a specialization in itself. Not all specimen overprints were for U.P.U. purposes; some overprints were for per favour distribution and were so marked using a cancelled-to-order cancel.

Like stamps, wrappers have their share of exotic and expensive material. Essays and proofs do exist-theoretically-but much of it is held in postal museums or gold medal collections. In rare cases, when it appears for sale on the philatelic market, it is highly priced and much sought after.

Other concepts for consideration are knives and multiples. The knife is the shape or cut of the flap. There are several types: straight edged, two and four corner chamfering with different degrees and length, shaped in the form of an arc, and pointed. Some countries used different knives according to their printer of the time. Multiples are sheets or parts of sheets of uncut wrappers and can be found both mint and used and command strong premiums.

### Sources of Wrappers

It must be remembered that many used wrappers are 100–150 years old. No country currently issues post office newspaper wrappers. In addition, there is a low collector base for wrappers. While dealers in philatelic material may hold high-end wrappers in their stocks and sell through catalogues via the traditional auction houses, there is less incentive for them to tie up capital in this type of postal stationery at the lower end, although, of course, dealers buy what they think they can sell at a profit. Sellers with wrappers for sale can improve their chances of sales by advertising to an international market. There are postal stationery dealers who advertise in the *American Philatelist* and elsewhere and who also maintain web sites.

Wrappers, like most philatelic matter, are a perfect product for sale on the Internet. In this way a range of worldwide wrappers can be viewed by an international market and then sold in a cost effective manner. Listing wrappers for sale on the Internet sites Stampstore, Delcampe and eBay can reach more than

a million interested collectors of philatelic material worldwide. The author has followed the eBay market on a daily basis for more than 12 years and has developed several databases of images, the mechanics of which appeared in *Scribblings* (Courtis, 2015). Anecdotally, an increasing number of sellers worldwide have turned to selling at least part of their material on eBay. This phenomenon is not a passing fad, but is increasing in popularity because it is transparent and affordable. Wrappers are not the type of philatelic product that attracts fraudulent manipulation, so caveat emptor is less of an issue. In Internet auctions there is no buyer's commission, and financial redress is offered in the event merchandise is "lost" in the mail or is not the transacted order.

### Conclusion

Sometimes referred to as the ugly duckling of postal stationery, post office postal stationery wrappers have not been accorded the attention they deserve. Part of the reason for this is that until now there has not been an up-to-date catalogue to assist collectors; the 1962 Higgins & Gage catalogue is incomplete regarding wrappers, has wrapper information scattered throughout its 19 volumes and contains outdated pricing information more than 50 years old. The Kosniowski catalogue of 1,000 pages dedicated to wrappers of the whole world is scheduled to be published in 2016 and will become the gold standard. Each issue of the 142 post office postal stationery wrapper issuing countries and postal entities is listed with illustrations of indicium in colour. This new catalogue should raise further interest in wrapper collecting.

Collecting the different wrappers of a single country, an area of the world, a period of time or selected themes can be straightforward or complex depending on the collector's personal approach to completeness. There are a number of conceptual approaches to give the collection a particular slant. These include postal history rates and routes, postmarks, auxiliary and instructional markings, postage due, registered usage, postal stationery with emphasis on post office issues, varieties stemming from paper type and size, printing differences and overprints on indicium including Specimen overprints.

### References

Courtis, John K. (2016 forthcoming), Overprints and Surcharges on Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers, *UPSS*

(Continued on page 8)



# Mid-Year 2016 RMPL Financial Report and 2015 Audit

## Mid-Year 2016 RMPL Financial Report



*Timothy Heins, RMPL Treasurer*

and donations of \$18,814, and stamp and publications sales of \$6,574.

Total expenses for the first six months of 2016 were \$23,586. The largest category of expenses was Recurring Building expenses (heat, light, water, etc.) of \$10,647. Other major expenses were Operations

The Board of Directors and members of the RMPL should be very satisfied with the financial results thus far in 2016. During the first half of 2016, the total income was \$61,678. The principal sources of income during this period were auction sales of \$28,591, membership dues

(*Scribblings*, office expenses, etc.) of \$6,002 and Technology (computers, copiers, etc.) of \$4,217.

These facts resulted in an excess of income over expenses (profit) of \$38,100 for the period. This profit was added to the checking account resulting in a balance at June 30, 2016 of \$50,950. The Spring Auction at the RMSS created the high income in the early part of the year which will not reoccur during the last six months of this year.

Detailed financial reports for the first six months of 2016 will be posted in the glass case in the entryway of RMPL. It is planned that the financial data for the year 2016 will be posted in January, 2017. Questions can be addressed to Timothy Heins, Treasurer at [rmpl@qwestoffice.net](mailto:rmpl@qwestoffice.net).

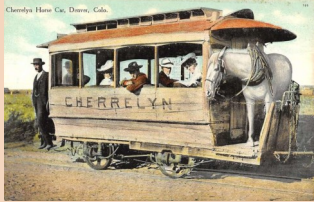
## 2015 Audit

The RMPL has engaged Taylor, Roth and Company to do an audit of the 2015 financial records. This firm has concluded their field work and should present their final report at the September 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's meeting. Interested RMPL members should attend this meeting to hear the CPA's report.

The 41st Annual:

## Cherpex

Presented by The Cherrelyn Stamp Club



**Friday September 23rd  
and  
Saturday September 24th**

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

Jefferson County Fairgrounds  
Exhibit Hall #3

15200 West 6th Avenue  
Golden Colorado 80401

Non-competitive **EXHIBITS!** (Prizes)  
(Call Eric Carlson at 303-694-4252 for more information)

**Dealers**

**Free Admission**

## The Only Club Stamp Show with Exhibits and Dealers in the Metro Denver Area

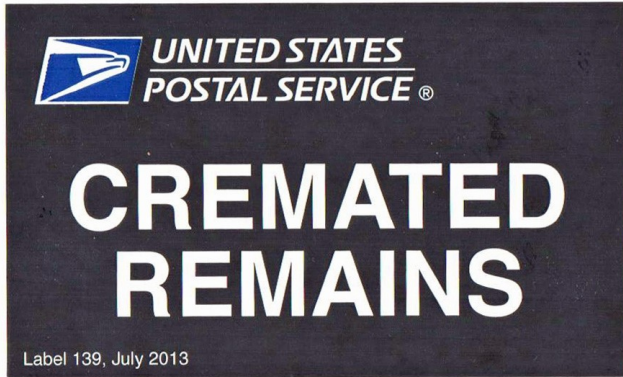
This September the Cherrelyn Stamp Club continues in its fifth decade of providing stamp collectors the opportunity to fill missing spots in albums with Cherpex 41. The history of Cherpex has taken many twists and turns both in venues and sizes of its show, but the energy and dedication of club members has not deterred them from putting on a show somewhere in the Denver metro area.

One of the mainstays of local (club) stamp shows used to be the opportunity to exhibit. Now, Cherpex is the only Denver area show that offers this option. Our goal is to encourage collectors to share their knowledge. The frames are all non-competitive, but there will be a prize awarded based on popularity. There will also be hourly drawings with philatelic books to be given to the winning numbers.

The club is the second oldest in Colorado having its roots in Englewood, but providing appeal to collectors in Colorado and beyond.

The club meets at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library on the second Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. If you have been looking for a friendly group to share your hobby with, we would love to have you visit us.

# All You Ever Wanted to Know About Shipping the Ashes of Your Family or Pet



By John H. Bloor

A few weeks ago I was at our local post office and saw a roll of labels previously unknown to me. The label says “Cremated Remains”. The clerk was kind enough to give me a strip of four copies.

On the web there is a surprising amount of information available related to this label. To find all of the information below, google “cremated remains label United States”. In addition to a picture of the label, there is a printable six page brochure titled “How to Package and Ship Cremated Remains” (USPS publication 139, October 2014).

At a funeral planning website (<http://www.imsorrytohear.com/blog/mailling-cremains/>) there is the statement “In the USA, there is only one way to properly mail cremated remains and that is via the United States Postal Service (USPS).” This site also has reprints of two USPS memos, from August and December 2013, about shipping “cremains” (apparently the proper contraction of the phrase “cremated remains”).

At the website of the Cremation Association of North America there is the following statement: “Effective December 26, 2013, the Postal Service

revised its *Mailing Standards of the United States Postal Service, Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) 601.12* to require mailers to use only Priority Mail Express service when shipping cremated remains. The Postal Service will no longer authorize cremated remains to be sent using Registered Mail service.” The revision to the DMM is titled “12.9.3 Cremated Remains”.

This label has also been described in the Postal Label Bulletin, issue 114, Summer 2014, page 14. This is published by the Postal Label Study Group and has a circulation of less than 100.

The label that I have is shown above (left). It is printed in white and blue on black and at the bottom says “Label 139, July 2013”. The other scan (right) was taken from the web. Note that the label appears blue and the information at the bottom of this label says “Label 139, September 2013 // PSN 7690-17-0000-0548”. If you order now from the USPS order website, it appears that this is the label that will be sent.

You can order one pair of these labels from the USPS website for free. However, when I tried to get two or more pairs at one time there was a message saying “Quantity entered is more than the maximum permitted value of 1.”

(Continued from page 6)  
Journal.

Courtis, John K. (2015, Building Computer Databases of Philatelic Information, *Scribblings*, Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, July-August pp. 4-5.

Courtis, John K. (2015), Rare Incoming Post Office Postal Stationery Wrapper to Kinsembo, *Belgian Congo Study Circle Bulletin*, Bulletin No. 168, June 2015, pp. 17-22.

Courtis, John K. (2012), A Guide to Great Britain Post Office Wrapper Destinations, *The London Philatelist*, September, Vol. 121 No. 1398, pp. 268-275.

Courtis, John K. (2010), Destinations of Australian

Colonies' Wrappers: Commonplace and Scarce, *Postal Stationery Collector*, Vol. 16 Issue #63, Part I Nov. 2010, pp. 73-78; Issue #64 Part II Feb. 2011, pp. 115-120.

Higgins and Gage (1964), *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, California.

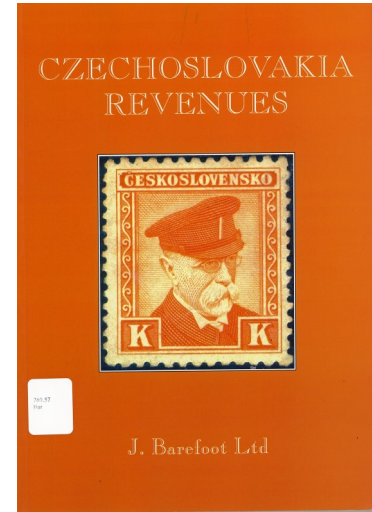
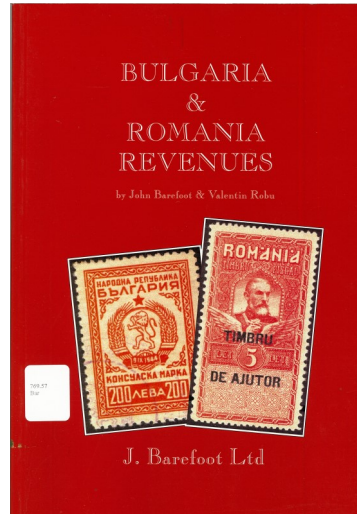
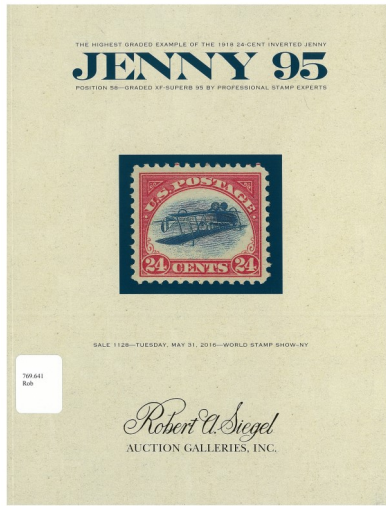
Kosniowski, Jan (2016 forthcoming), *Newspaper Wrappers: Catalogue of Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers of the Whole World*.

## Acknowledgement

I thank Allan Gory most sincerely for his insights, suggestions and comments on an earlier draft.



# WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELVES



## UNITED STATES

*The 2004 Commemorative Stamp Yearbook*,  
 published by the United States Postal Service

*Jenny 95: The Highest Graded Example of the 1918  
 Inverted Jenny, position 58, Graded XF-Superb  
 95*, published by Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 2016

*Postage Stamps of the United States 1847-1859*,  
 published by the United States Post Office Dept.

## ASIA

*Far East Collector's Guide: Stamps, Postmarks and  
 Record-Breaking Auction Results from the Far  
 East Market (2011)*, published by Gibbons  
 Stamp Monthly

## EUROPE

*Bulgaria & Romania Revenues*, by John Barefoot  
 & Valentin Robu

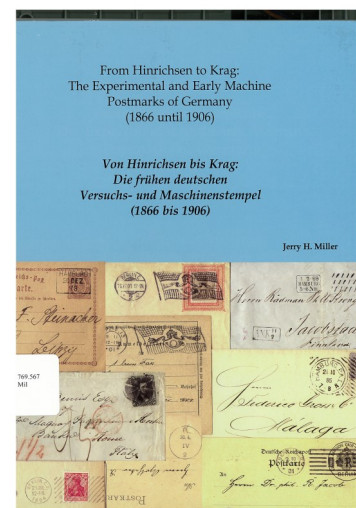
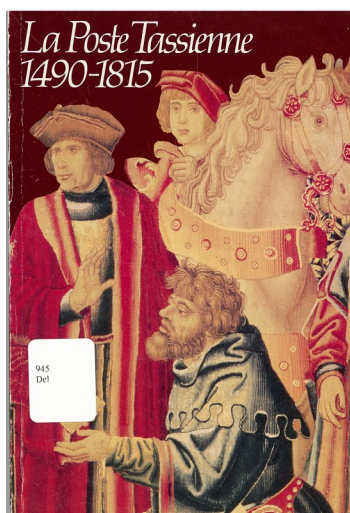
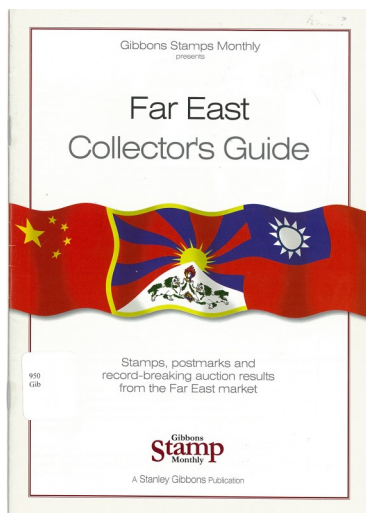
*Czechoslovakia Revenues*, published by J.  
 Barefoot Ltd.

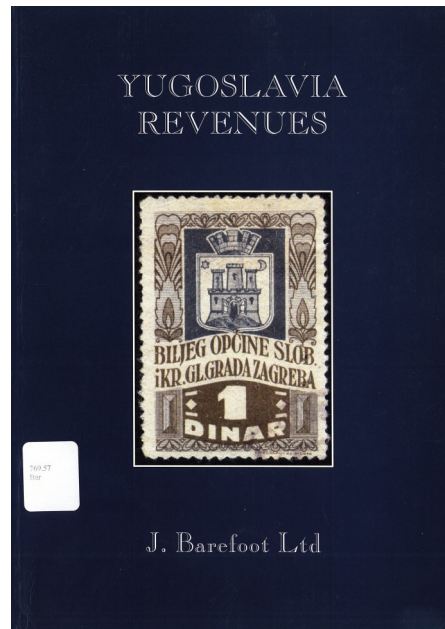
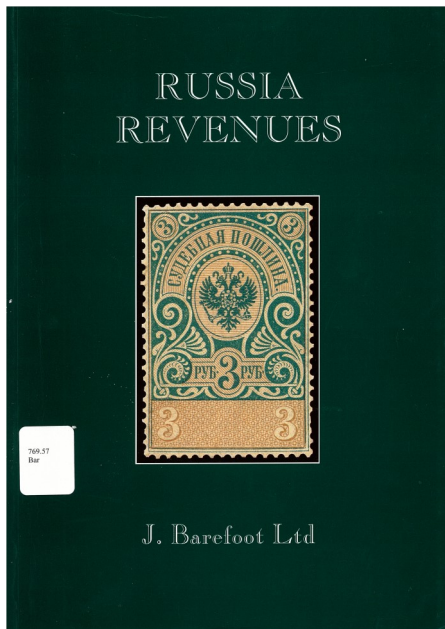
*From Hinrichsen to Krag: the Experimental and  
 Early Postmarks of Germany (1866 until 1906)*,  
 by Jerry H. Miller

*La Poste Internationale en Belgique sous les  
 Grandes Maitres des Postes de la Famille de  
 Tassis*, by Berthe Delepinne

*Netto-Katalog: Austria, Österreich, 24<sup>th</sup> auflage 1969*

*Russia Revenues*, published by J. Barefoot Ltd.





**Yugoslavia Revenues**, published by J. Barefoot Ltd.

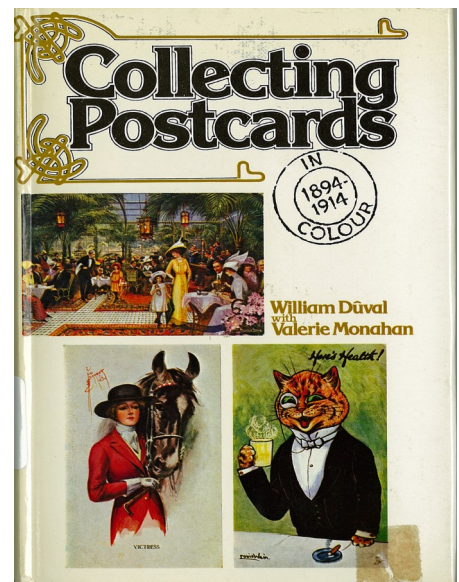
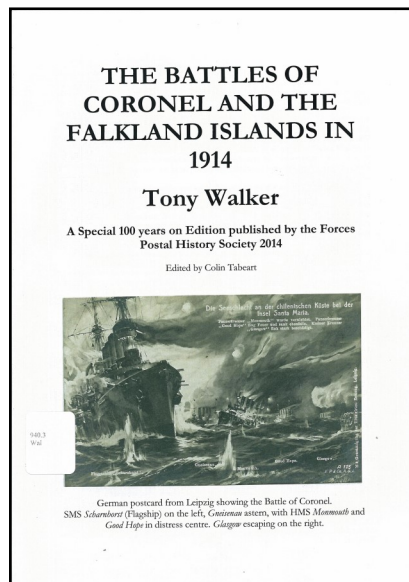
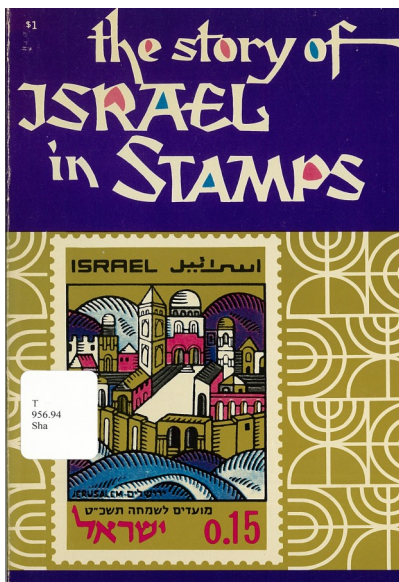
**Postcards Picturing PSNC Mailships Calling at the Falkland Islands Between July 1900 and September 1917**, published by the Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group

**MIDDLE EAST**

**The Story of Israel in Stamps**, by Maxim and Gabriel Shamir

**POSTCARDS**

**Collecting Postcards in Colour:1894-1914**,



**SOUTH AMERICA**

**The Battles of Coronel and the Falkland Islands in 1914**, by Tony Walker

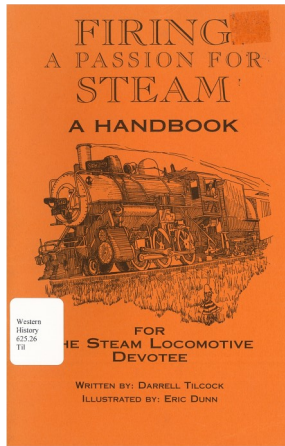
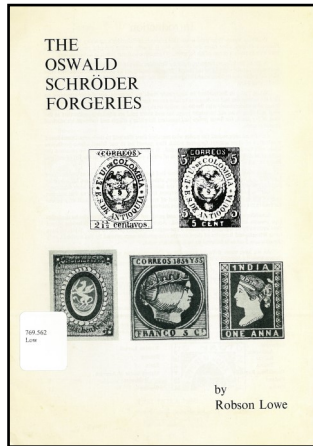
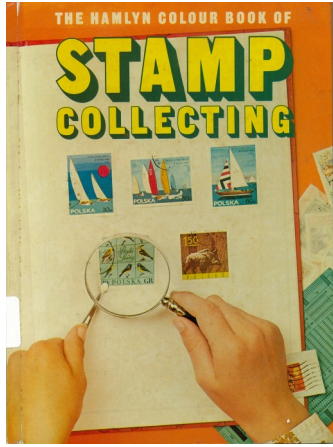
by William Dūval with Valerie Monahan

**The Michelsen Affair and the "Reprints" of the \$5 and \$10 of issue of the United States of Colombia**, by Dario Diez

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**The Hamlyn Colour Book of Stamp Collecting**, by Angus P. Allan





**The Oswald Schröder Forgeries, by Robson Lowe**

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**AUCTION CATALOGS**

**Christoph Gärtner 34. Auktion: Worldwide Rarities**, catalog for a Christoph Gärtner auction June 2016

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**The Civil War and Confederate States Featuring the Jefferson Collection with Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals**, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction June 2016

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**La Filatelica Mexicana**, catalog for a Fernando Pérez-Maldonado auction August 2014

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**La Filatelica Mexicana**, catalog for a Fernando Pérez-Maldonado auction March 2015

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**La Filatelica Mexicana**, catalog for a Fernando Pérez-Maldonado auction October 2015

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**Rarities Auction: Worldwide Stamps and Postal History**, catalog for an H.R. Harmer auction at World Stamp Show NY 2016, June 2016

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**Worldwide Rarities**, catalog for a Christoph Gärtner auction May 2016

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**NON-PHILATELIC (Railroads)**

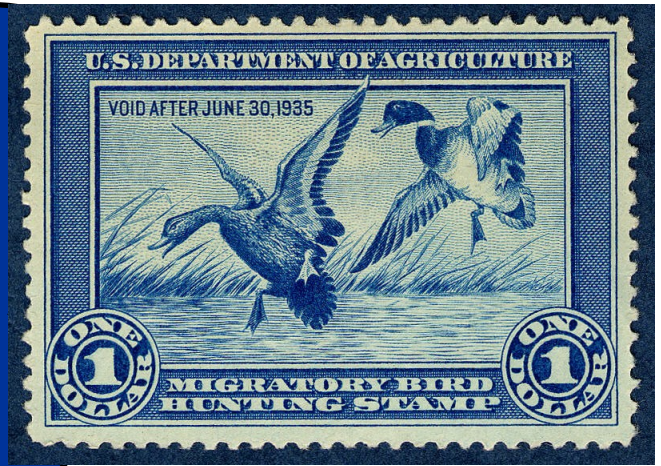
**Firing a Passion for Steam: A Handbook Written by a Steam Locomotive Fireman for the Steam Locomotive Devotee**, by Darrell Tilcock

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A decorative border of colorful balloons (blue, pink, orange, and purple) surrounds a central light blue text box. The text inside the box reads:

**RMPL PICNIC**  
September 10th  
Starting at noon  
Bring a side dish  
Hamburgers, Hotdogs, and  
Soft Drinks provided  
Please RSVP (303-759-9921)  
John Sinski or the sign-up sheet at the  
front desk

The artwork for the first stamp (1934-1935), showing a pair of landing Mallards, was created by Ding Darling in about an hour. The rush was due to a sudden printing deadline. Darling, the Pulitzer-Prize winning American cartoonist and dedicated conservationist, had just recently been appointed the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey by FDR.



## STAMP COLLECTING INCREASED DUCKS' SURVIVAL LUCK

BY DR. JACK R. VAN ENS

Most on-lookers regard stamp collectors as gentle folk. Their identity as “philatelists” is derived from the ancient Greek word for “love.” Collectors relish retreating to quiet stamp dens and serene libraries dedicated to this hobby. Here, in silence, they delight in mounting stamps in albums and are pleased to fill every space on pages.

Who associates stamp collecting with protest marches full of passion that capture national headlines? Such havoc rocked the 1930s in Colorado and spread to other states on the Great Plains. During the Great Depression, stamp collectors raised an earth-shattering quack against duck hunting that wiped out huge flocks and pushed mallards towards near-extinction.

Led by stamp collecting President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, philatelists didn't want to allow reckless hunters to clip ducks' wings by slaughtering this fowl.

Their incensed president vowed to stop such wanton destruction. FDR's stamp collecting ire exploded. The president turned his love for the hobby into public policy that protected waterfowl by outlawing duck annihilation. On March 16, 1934, two years after entering the Oval Office, Roosevelt signed the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Act. Its short-hand name is the Duck Stamp Act.

Roosevelt believed collecting stamps “dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, makes us better citizens, and in innumerable ways, enriches our lives.” By the end of his life, FDR had amassed 1.2 million stamps in 150 volumes.

Amid howls of protest from hunters who detested government infringement on their right of unlimited duck bounty, FDR rallied stamp collectors to his cause. He didn't realize his cure for the duck demise would work so effectively. Later, the president was forced to sign legislation to thin the exploding duck population, especially in eastern Colorado.

The 1934 Duck Stamp Act required gun-toting American hunters to each buy a handsome \$1 stamp, sign it, and then post it on a valid state hunting license. Hunters and collectors bought these stamps protecting ducks, geese and swans at local post offices, which offered a new specialty for philatelists who prized these stamps as works of art.

Duck stamp revenues paid salaries for federal agents who collected fines from poachers. The federal government efficiently managed money



*The 1934 Duck Stamp Act was signed into law by FDR on March 16, 1934*



realized from this program, converting 98 cents of every Duck stamp dollar into the purchase, care and enhancement of federal wetlands and marshes.

In 1940, protecting pristine wetlands matured into the National Wildlife Refuge System. My backyard in Arvada Colorado abuts the smallest federal nature preserve in the nation. My wife and I hike its trails along ditches where ducks paddle and procreate.

Rice University historian Douglas Brinkley in *Rightful Heritage: Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Land of America* traces FDR's success in funding waterfowl protection through issuing special duck stamps. "FDR, the passionate philatelist, loved stamps too much to allow last year's duck issue to be anything but irresistible," observes Brinkley (p. 281). Designers and engravers competed to win the coveted nomination of their entry as the next duck stamp.

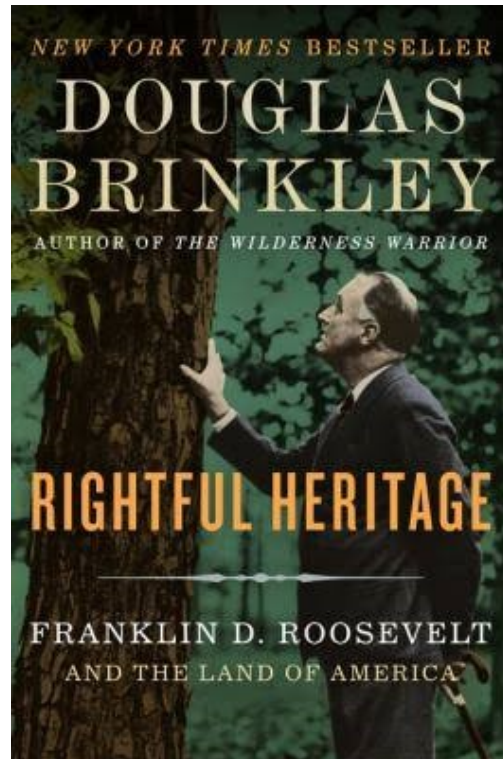


Sometimes, a grand legislative idea over-produces. Ducks under FDR's protection propagated at a wild rate. Brinkley tells how they formed dark clouds on Colorado's Eastern Plains, rivaling windswept dust bowl storms.

"In October 1942, 700,000 mallards congregated in northeastern Colorado, devouring unharvested grain due to a wartime shortage of farm labor," reports Brinkley, "principally in the cornfields



*An iconic image of FDR surrounded by some of his 150 volumes and 1.2 million stamps.*



bordering the Platte River. Due to the skyrocketing number of ducks, FDR instructed Secretary of Agriculture [Claude R.] Wickard to issue a 'community permit' authorizing any properly licensed hunter living along the Platte River to shoot mallards in the fields at all hours of the day during the period of enforcement" (p. 532). Such a measure softened farmers' anti-duck protests provoked by the fowl eating grain and leaving stubble in cornfields.

Last March, I asked Professor Brinkley on a C-Span segment taped at the Tucson Book Festival if his book mentioned how valuable stamp collecting was for FDR. He shot-back, "Are you a plant in the audience? Your comment about FDR's dedication to stamp collecting is right on target. The hobby familiarized the president with geography and wildlife concerns. That's because stamps tell stories. And FDR mastered stories behind stamps, often learning about natural calamities that needed remedy."

Since the first Duck Stamps were issued in 1934, their sales have raised more than \$850 million to protect wildlife on six million acres that make-up part of our national wildlife refuges.

Next time someone says stamp collecting is merely a sedentary hobby that thrives on "pasting stamps" in albums, speak up. Don't duck what history teaches. Philatelists in the 1930s joined forces with an activist stamp collecting president whose conservation policies restored wild fowl on the Great Plains and in other refuges protected by the U.S. government. Duck stamps are proof of these remarkable achievements.

## 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](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com)

**September 10, 9:00 a.m.**

### “A Gallery of Czesław Słania Intaglio Stamps – Denmark”

Presented by Steve McGill

This is a representation of the stamps engraved by Czesław Słania for Denmark between 1962 and 2005. As a gallery, the exhibit contains enlargements of selected stamps and background on the principal artists whose artwork was selected for engraving. Słania engraved 1,080 stamp images during his life of which Denmark was responsible for approximately 300.



The presentation is designed for viewing pleasure and is not a study of rarity. Rather, the subject printings are common stamps that highlight the works of the artists and the skill with which Słania interpreted these drawings and photographs to relate the character of the country over four decades. Słania is considered one of the world's great engravers.

**October 8, 9:00 a.m.**

### “Early Zeppelin Stamps” (1908 – 1913)

Presented by Chuck James

Almost all of the stamps covered will be 100-plus years old. In addition we will cover the development of the Zeppelins and their colorful history.

Each stamp has its own story with lots of phyletic action. Included will be some cinderella stamps issued to take advantage of the very popular Zeppelin airship and Count Zeppelin's fame.

Before the program, it is suggested that our library's *Scribblings* of September-October 2012 Vol. 20 – No. 5, be reviewed for lots of additional information on the 1912 stamps (top row of stamps in figure).

### Early Zeppelin Stamps





**NEW MEMBERS**

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

- ◆ Vine Del Giudice, Denver, CO - Collects Worldwide (Postal, Revenue, etc.)
- ◆ Peter Freitag, Lakewood, CO - Collects U.S.
- ◆ Norman Singer, Denver, CO - Collects U.S. Early Issues
- ◆ Linda Spilka, Denver, CO
- ◆ Charles Thomason, Aurora, CO - Completing Father-In-laws' U.S. Collection
- ◆ Katherine Burns, Denver, CO - stamps, old books, postcards, and old maps

**DONATIONS—JUNE 1-JULY 31, 2016**

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

Andrew Wacinski	Micheline Fulkerson
Carol Roy	Nancy Huntzicker
Carolyn Gray	Nolan Flowers
Chuck Hutchcraft	Norman Ritchie
Colorado Postal History Society	Paul Albright
D. Boyd Barker	Paul Nelson
Dan Rosenthal	Richard Houck
David & Jolayne Lowell	Robert Lafley
Eric Sonsthagen	Robert R Menter
Erling Fossum	Roger Cichorz
Gary D Hart	Scandinavian Collectors Club
George Anera	Sherry Fritz
George Killian	Sonya Erickson
Glenn Mallory	Stephen Placetti
Greg Frantz	Steve Bonowski
Harriet Ingold	Theresa Smith
Henry Vos	Tim Bartshe
James Reilhman	Tom Kean
John Bloor	Tonny Van Loij
John Gardner	Warren Cation
Jonathan Bennett	Wesley Brown
Kathryn Potter	William Crabbs
Linda Pace	
Linda Sparks	

**For the Record: Next Board Meeting:  
Thursday, September 15, 2016  
at 7:00 p.m.**

**RMPL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY****Meeting of July 21, 2016**

Prepared by President John Sinski  
Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

All Board members present except Bill Plachte. Roger Rydberg was also present. The May Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Financial Report**

Tim Heins presented copies of the Profit and Loss Statements and Balance Sheets for January 1 – June 30, 2016. Net Income for the first half of 2016 was \$38,100. (See Tim Heins' report on page 7.)

Taylor, Roth and Company began our audit the week of July 18. They should have our final report ready for the September Board Meeting. They will also prepare our Form 990 Tax Return.

World Stamp Show NY2016 expenses were discussed and approved for payment.

During the APS Show in Portland, Jim Kilbane will represent the RMPL.

Xerox will credit RMPL \$1,100 for misapplied taxes on our Printing/Copying Equipment.

**Old Business:**

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

The RMPL picnic is scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> starting at noon. Hotdogs and hamburgers will be served. Beverages also provided. Attendees will be asked to bring potluck picnic items as well.

Agreement between American Topical Association (ATA) and RMPL on Video production had not yet been received from the ATA (signed copies have since been received).

**New Business:**

Due to proposed building projects, the following committees were approved by the Board:

◆ **Long Range Planning Committee**

David Weisberg      Steve McGill  
Brian Kramer      John Sinski      Paul Lee

◆ **Facilities Management Committee**

Bill Crabbs      Rich Palestro  
John Sinski      Howard Benson

New RMPL members were approved by Board and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 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.

### \*\*\*September 2016\*\*\*

**September 3 to 5** Saturday through Monday  
Labor Day Holiday – **Library Closed**

**September 3** Sat-Meeting-10:00 a.m.  
Scandinavian Collectors Club

**September 7** Wed – Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 p.m. Trading  
7:00 p.m. Meeting

**September 8** Thu-Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
Cherrellyn Stamp Club

**September 8** Thu-Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Denver Postcard Club

**September 9** Fri-Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

#### Second Saturday at the RMPL

**September 10** 9:00 a.m.

Program by: Steve McGill  
A Gallery of Czesław Ślania Intaglio Stamps – Denmark

**September 10** Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Mexico/Latin America Club

**September 10** RMPL picnic--RSVPs required

**September 14** Wed-Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Germany Stamp Club

**September 15** Thu-Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
RMPL Board of Directors  
All members are welcome

**September 17** Sat-Meeting 9:30 a.m.  
Denver Young Collectors

**September 18** Sun-Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club

**September 27** Tue-Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show committee

**September 28** Wed-Meeting 11:00 noon  
Denver Stamp Club

### \*\*\*\*October 2016\*\*\*\*

**October 1** Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Scandinavian Collectors Club

**October 1** Sat-Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
Topical Philatelists in Colorado (ToPiC)

**October 5** Wed-Meeting Aurora Stamp Club  
6:30 p.m. Trading  
7:00 p.m. Meeting

#### Second Saturday at the RMPL

**October 8** 9:00 a.m.

Program by: Chuck James  
Early Zeppelin Stamps (1908 – 1913)

**October 8** Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Mexico/Latin America Club

**October 8** Sat-Meeting 11:30 a.m.  
Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelic Club

**October 10** Columbus Day **Library Closed**

**October 12** Wed-Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Germany Stamp Club

**October 13** Thu-Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
Cherrellyn Stamp Club

**October 13** Thu-Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Denver Postcard Club

**October 14** Fri-Meeting 7:00 p.m.  
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

**October 15** Sat-Meeting 9:30 a.m.  
Denver Young Collectors

**October 16** Sun-Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club

**October 17** Mon-noon  
Begin Viewing for RMPL Large Lots Auction

**October 22** Sat-noon  
RMPL LARGE LOT AUCTION

**October 26** Wed-noon  
Denver Stamp Club