

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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Email - rmpl@qwestoffice.net

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Displaying Lovely Women on Stamps: A Proposal From 80 Years Ago

By Paul Albright



Readers of the Denver Post newspaper opened their Sunday weekly magazine edition almost 80 years ago to find a full-page of attractive young

women adorning an assortment of postage stamp designs. "Making Fun of our Stamps," exclaimed the seven-

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Scribblings

Newsletter of the
Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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Editor

Jeff Modesitt (jeffmcolorado@gmail.com)

Copy Editors / Proofreaders

Don Beuthel
Ellengail Beuthel
John Bloor, Roger Rydberg, John Sinski
Steve Schweighofer

Librarian

Ellengail Beuthel

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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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through the RMPL.

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The President's Message

Once again the RMPL has been a happening place with the only slow-down being summer recesses for a few clubs. Ellengail has been working almost non-stop in order to catalog all our incoming donations. Volunteers have added thousands of stamps to our 5-cent volumes and hundreds to the higher-priced offerings.



If the sales books haven't filled your appetite for new material, please join us for the upcoming RMPL Bulk Lot Auction which will be held October 21st starting at 10:00 a.m. Viewing will be available during normal business hours from October 16th through the 20th. This year's material is a step-up from last year's offerings and is not to be missed. Given the uncertainty about Colorado's weather you want to have plenty of material to work with during those cold winter evenings!

For our membership, we will be holding our annual appreciation picnic on September 9th. The RMPL will supply beverages and the main meat entrées (probably ribs, burgers, and chicken). If you plan to attend, please RSVP and bring a side dish to share. The party will start at 3:00 p.m. with dinner anticipated about 4:00 p.m.

While we like to think that the philatelic world revolves around the library, there are some events worth noting in distant places. Richmond is a good example where the APS held StampShow 2017. Reports are that it was a fine event—and, yes, Steve McGill, RMPL Board member and world-class Machin collector, took the Grand award and earned an entry into the Champion of Champions next year! This is, we believe, the first time a Grand has been won at an APS StampShow using only modern (2nd half of the 20th Century) material! Congratulations Steve!

John Sinski

HELP WANTED

We need additional help at the **front desk** and for **stamp sorters**. Our volunteers at the front desk usually work a half-day (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.). It is a great way to get to know the membership, as well as the library's reference material. The work load is usually light with time for socializing, research, or working on your collection. Primary duties include checking books in and out and taking payment for purchased materials. Sorters work their own hours. Training is provided. Contact John Sinski or Howard Benson.

303-759-9921

(Continued from page 1)

column headline over a King Features Syndicate feature article published on November 28, 1937. Prominent on the page was the 25-cent design showing a slender secretary posed with a shorthand pad and pencil. She was flanked by a farm lass on a 3-cent design, a bathing beauty at the beach on the 10-center, and a cowgirl with lasso in hand on the 5-cent design.

“There’s a movement newly afoot to beautify our postage stamps,” declared the feature’s writer. “How better could this be achieved than by putting American beauties upon them! If World Fairs deserve commemorating with stamps, why not the world’s fairest?”

Noting that the “glories of Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon have inspired stamp designs,” it seemed appropriate to inspire postal patrons with other popular attractions – “Florida bathing beauties and California movie cuties.”

Then the writer got a bit more practical in advocating to have female lovelies on postage stamps. “Picturing Miss Iowa, Miss New York or Miss Oskaloosa on stamps... might even wipe out the postal deficit. For the number of philatelists would be multiplied by the thousands of youths interested in filly-telly, and what male would want his mail to go out with a 3-cent likeness of Jim Farley when there is a red-headed charmer on the 25-cent stamps?” Indeed, the writer suggested that “playing postoffice” might become a national sport and that attractive females on stamps might lead collectors to abandon their hunt for postal rarities.

There was even a political and economic comment that reverberates 80 years later. “Executives would forget those frowns the news from Washington gives them, with blondes, brunettes and redheads smiling up at them on the morning’s mail; and a tailor or a doctor could count on his bill getting a little attention.”

In the lower corner of the page, a grinning, pipe-smoking male collector is looking through an album presumably adorned by beautiful women on postage stamps.

The Sunday feature was put forward as “Ideas by D.B. Holcomb,” who was a prolific illustrator for King Features and other publications in the 1930s and 1940s. Dal Holcomb (1901-1978) was known especially for his vibrant magazine covers, posters, and advertising art, much of which depicted vivacious women in the designs.

“His distinctive magazine covers were drawn with a sense of humor,” wrote his grand-niece, Margery Vinton, as part of the family’s genealogical research. “The women were recognizable by the hourglass-shaped figures, rouged cheeks, victory roll or pin curl hairstyles and often-gloved hands.”

Holcomb’s designs for pretty women on stamps hinted at the pin-ups that became prevalent during World War II, but the U.S. Post Office was having none of it. Instead, the post office was engaged in producing a portfolio of postage linked to historically noteworthy events in U.S. history. Examples included the 150th anniversaries of the U.S. Constitution (Scott 798) and the Northwest Territory Ordinance (Scott 795) and commemorating Virginia Dare, who was the first English child born in the New World in 1587 (Scott 796).

This historical theme continued into 1938 with the first of the Presidential Issue definitives featuring profiles of long-dead presidents. The only female exception in that series was a prim and proper Martha Washington shown in profile and wearing a bonnet (Scott 805).

By 1940, the Post Office had printed one stamp showing graceful young women in a less formal pose, but that stamp was not an original design. This stamp (Scott 895) showing the dancing Three Graces (chastity, beauty, and love) was extracted from Sandro Botticelli’s 15th century masterpiece, “Primavera” (Spring).

While more women have appeared on stamp designs over the past 60 years, it was not until Marilyn Monroe was featured in the Legends of Hollywood series in 1995 (Scott 2967) that the postal service issued a stamp showing a sexy-looking, pin-up queen -- or as the 1938 newspaper article put it: a real “California movie cutie.”

(Thanks to Joe Lanotte for his work in splicing together the Denver Post image on page 1)



A sampling of postage in 1937-1940 when Holcomb was recommending female beauties instead of fairs, parks, and historical commemorations.



California, Florida, or Colorado -- the “cuties” had to wait until the 1995 Legends of Hollywood series that headlined Marilyn.

A GREAT BRITAIN SCHOOL SPECIMEN PROVIDES SOME INSTRUCTION

By Jeff Modesitt

Many of us have seen what are called “training school stamps” either as individual stamps or on cover. Cancellations vary, but in Great Britain they tend to be two wide vertical black lines as seen in the “Wilding” issues (Fig. 1) or, in a few cases, stamps or postal stationery items are struck with the word “CANCELLED.” All the schooling materials are pre-cancelled (“defaced”) before they are supplied to postal clerks attending instruction courses for the proper handling of the mail. Unlike many



Fig. 1. A series of Wilding stamps with typical Post Office training school cancels.

other countries, the Royal mail uses real postage rather than test stamps or cinderellas for their training materials, at least during the Elizabeth II reign. I suspect this is because services and rates have changed so rapidly that using make-believe material would not have the same training efficacy as using the real thing.

Since the ascension of Elizabeth II, there have been 37 primary rate changes with the last one occurring in March of this year. In addition, there have been changes to the types of services offered and how these services are processed. This has meant that training knowledgeable postal employees is not a one-time occurrence, but rather an ongoing effort.

The Source of Training School Materials

School training items are not for sale to the general public and are considered to always be the property of the Post Office (Fig. 2). However, postal clerks are allowed to keep their examination papers and, presumably, the other materials associated with their classes. Human nature, being what it is, means that quite a bit of this material finds its way into the philatelic market.



Fig. 2. A Post Office postal stationery Registered Letter used during a training school course.

Illegal But Commonly Bought and Sold

According to Marcus Samuel's and Alan Huggins' book *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain* “such stamps cannot properly be sold or given away by Post Office employees...and cannot properly be held by anyone other than with Post Office authority...” To paraphrase *The British Theft Act of 1968*, “a person receiving stolen property and knowing it was stolen while continuing to hold it may be guilty of the offence of receiving stolen property.” Training School materials are, however, to be found in numerous dealers' stocks and in an uncounted number of collections throughout the world, despite the threat of the Theft Act. Just be aware that, if you have any of these items, you really don't own them and they should be returned to the Post Office since they are deemed stolen property. Having made this disclaimer, training school material can sometimes be quite instructive to those of us not on the Royal Mail payroll, or in the case I am going to describe, very misleading.

Remember, It Is Training Material

The School Specimen cover (Figs. 2 & 4) was found on eBay and was offered by a dealer in India. I was interested because Swiftair is a special focus of my Great Britain rate collection. Swiftair was a priority delivery service offered by the British Post Office beginning on October 13, 1980 and discontinued October 9, 2003.

This Swiftair postal stationery registered letter School Specimen cover bears a £1.15½ indicium

which dates it to between February 1, 1982 and March 5, 1983 at which time the combined registration fee and inland postage rate increased to £1.16. It also carries a Swiftair label and is cancelled with a training school postmark. It includes a simple address denoting the general service area where the letter is to be delivered -- in this case, "Italy."

Hopefully, Not a Final Exam Cover

Several features of this cover make it interesting and instructive. First, the School Specimen postmark identifies the piece as having 1st class inland postage paid when, in fact, it is European destination Registered mail. It is also Express mail, indicating an even different level of service.

Often the postmark will confirm that an envelope is registered (Fig. 3), but in my collection, the incidences of registered postmarks seems to primarily occur on covers processed in major cities and at main offices. The type of postmark is, perhaps, not critical, although it could be confusing given the 1st class designation which is incorrect in this case. It may be that, as long as the registration label is attached, the lack of a "registration" postmark is irrelevant.

The cover's postage, however, is definitely confusing. While the Post Office printed registered postal stationery for inland use, no such comparable product exists for international applications. In the training school case, the cover is being sent to Italy by airmail (Swiftair) which is considered as part of a rate designation known as "Europe All-up." All-up simply means that the European mail item goes the fastest way and, regardless of the transportation method, is charged the foreign surface rate for the letter's weight.

The envelope's indicium states that it represents both postage and the registration fee. That is definite-



Fig. 3. A registered Swiftair letter fully paid (£3.67) bearing all the appropriate postmarks and labels.

Multiple Cost Factors

During this letter's rate period, registration fees were £1.00 for both inland and foreign destinations. The difference being that foreign destinations did not receive compensation should the item be lost or damaged (no insurance unless added separately). While the required additional postage was only 4p (15½ for inland 1st class versus 19½p for European destinations), there was a much larger cost discrepancy caused by the fact that this cover was going by Swiftair. Nowhere on the cover is there an indication of full fees being paid, nor are they represented by additional stamps.

From February 1, 1982 until September 5, 1988, the cost of Swiftair was an additional £1.50. This service replaced Express Delivery in 1981 and accelerated handling throughout the delivery process, not just at the final destination. In reality, the Swiftair designation was probably more a marketing tool than a substantive service improvement, but such changes tend to be confusing to the personnel responsible for handling and delivery, as suggested by the inaccuracies exhibited on the training cover.

Given these inaccuracies, the training school cover should have received a failing grade. Stamps should have been affixed representing all the service fees and the postage requirement for European delivery. The calculation would look like this:

Europe All-up for up to 20 grams	£0.19½
Registration to a foreign destination	£1.00
Swiftair	£1.50
Total Fees & Postage	£2.69½
Credit: Inland Postage & Registration	£1.15½
Amount of additional postage required	£1.54

Perhaps the cover was more instructive for its inaccuracies than it would have been had it received an "A."



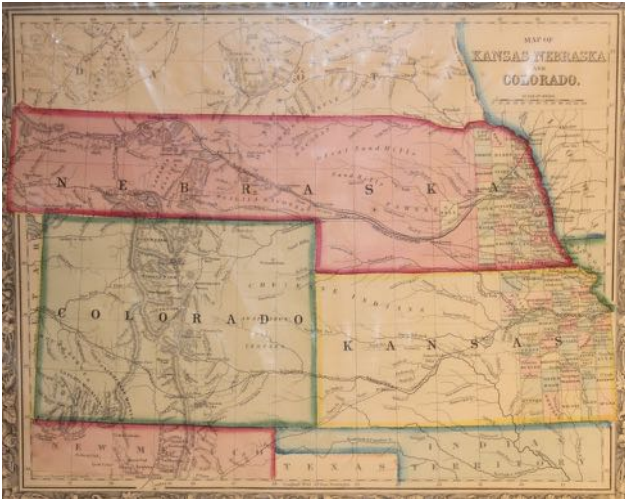
Fig. 4. Compensation clarification on the back of pre-stamped Registered envelopes.

ly not true for foreign destinations. This is probably the prime reason this type of stationery item was used as part of the training course. Despite being intended for inland use, registered postal stationery was often used internationally (see the note on the reverse of the training envelope in Fig. 4). Therefore, the stationery's indicium would always have incorrect postage for other than inland use. Proper handling for this type of use was not intuitive and certain adjustments had to be made to meet the required rate. They were not made on this particular training cover.

The Map Room Revisited

RMPL Special Collections

By Steve Schweighofer



When needing a map, there is a tendency to make a quick search on the Internet and use what is found. But different maps show different things. Not only do the contents differ by map maker, but also by date of the map. In the map collection at the RMPL, maps can be examined of the same area at different and specified times. For example, the huge McConnell School Map, printed in 1894, a reproduction of which is in the map room, shows in amazing detail every hamlet in Colorado at that time. There are 700 places on the McConnell map that are not shown on maps of today!

So...where would a person look for a 1940s road guide to the British Isles, detailed maps of Taiwan of the early 1900s or a railroad valuation map of Oakes, Colorado? We have those and more in the map room!

When first started, the Library's map collection was only a couple of file drawers, initially donated and organized by Bill Dunn. This collection included mostly state road maps and National Geographic Society maps. Through the generous donations of maps and map cabinets the collection has steadily grown,

The maps in our collection exist mostly in two forms: flat maps in large specially-sized (wide and

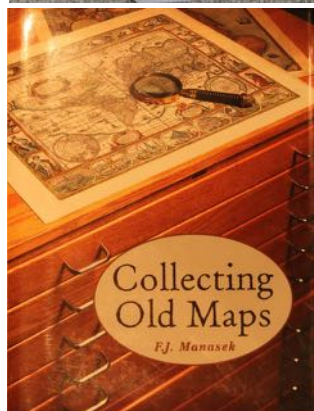
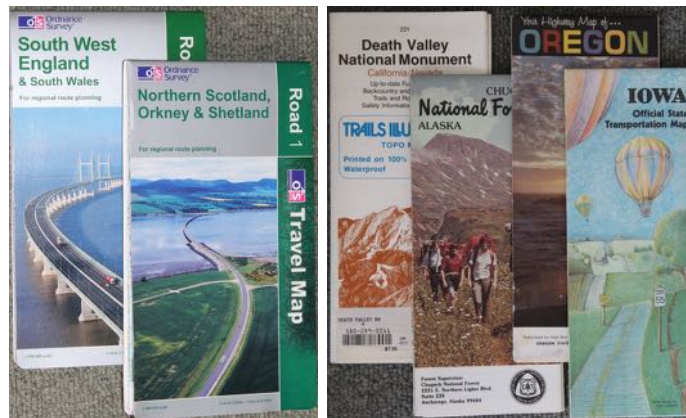
shallow drawers) and folded maps in filing cabinets. Both are organized in easily recognizable and understandable categories ranging from the entire world to regions and countries to cities and towns. This arrangement enables a researcher to quickly find the area of interest.

Colorado and California

The collections of maps for Colorado and California are substantial. Within Colorado there are separations by region, county and city, highway and even National Parks, National Forests and recreation areas. The following examples are types of maps most commonly used while researching in the map room:

Topographic maps are useful in studying the area around a town site, mine or region, or just determining the "lay of the land". Sure, topographical maps are available online, but those are usually the most recent editions and our collection has older maps dating to the early 1900s. Studying old maps for an area of interest can help to understand the political changes or history of an area.

Historical Maps, mainly of Colorado, show the locations of early settlements, trails and wagon roads. Some of these early roads have familiar names which we



recognize today as major streets and highways.

Railroad maps, many of Colorado and other nearby areas, show the locations of long-since-gone railroads and towns. We also have the World War I-era Colorado railroads valuation maps on microfilm.

Other Not-So-Common Maps

Outline maps: Especially for philatelists, these maps with simple outlines of countries and US states are useful as visual aids for specialty collections or exhibits to illustrate the location of a specific town or area.

Pioneer trails: Have you ever wondered at the exact locations of the Oregon Trail or the Santa Fe Trail, or what the areas are like today? These famous trails passed through or near Colorado and are examined in detail, each in its own book.

United States Post Office Department Post Routes: The RMPL collection includes railroad and related maps that show the route or method the mails traveled. The USPOD Post Route maps section is far from complete, but does contain several maps of Colorado and the surrounding states from different periods.

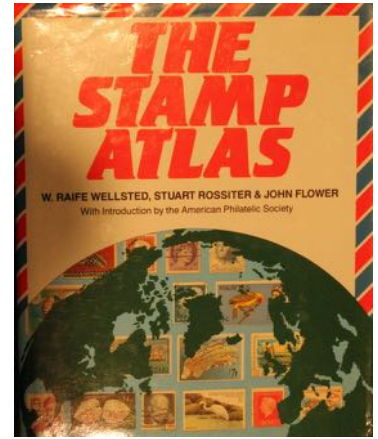
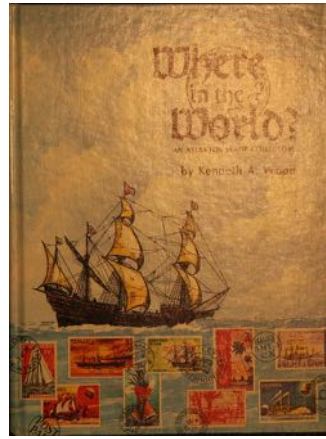
Out of this World

Yes, some of our maps are out of this world! We have maps of the Solar System, the Milky Way, even the Universe. We even have maps of the unseen world, including the depths of the oceans.

General world atlases of a wide range of years are also found in the main book collection in the main library building, but there are two books there that are also in the map room that are excellent starting places.

Where to Begin?

Where in the World? is logically arranged by continent, country and timeframe (main library call number 912 Wel). This volume provides a good introduction to maps.



The Stamp Atlas is also very helpful with research. Of the six sections in this book, the most useful are Section One, "Gazetteer of the Philatelic World Since 1840"; Section Two, maps of "dead" countries; and Section Three, maps of current stamp-issuing entities. Section Two is the largest of any section in this book and contains occupied lands and Confederate states (main library call number 912 Woo).

Do you want to learn more about maps or the history of maps? We have books and materials on how maps are made, how to read maps and even how to collect maps.

The maps now occupy their own room located in the north end of our new building (7070 East Asbury), sometimes called the Annex. That building is kept locked, but is always opened on request. Be sure to make the map room your next place to browse.

The 42nd Annual:

Cherpex

Presented by The Cherrelyn Stamp Club



**Friday September 22nd
and
Saturday September 23th**

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**

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If so, read about Amazon's charity program. Amazon has created a simple and automatic way for you to support the RMPL each time you shop at Amazon. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to RMPL. To shop at AmazonSmile simply enter smile.amazon.com on your computer web browser.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile enter smileamazon.com on your computer's web browser and select the RMPL to receive your donations. The AmazonSmile Foundation then will donate .5% of the purchase price of your AmazonSmile purchases to RMPL. To learn more about AmazonSmile select the 'program details' portion of their web site.

NEW ON THE SHELVES

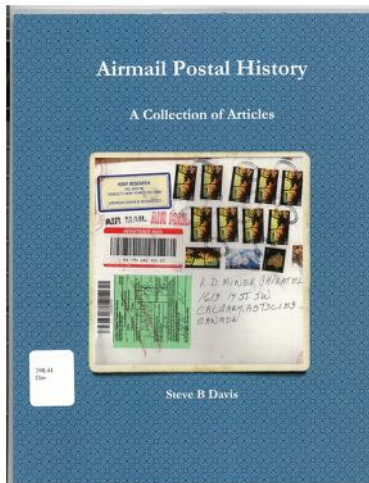
UNITED STATES

1987 Match & Medicine Census, compiled by Michael E. Aldrich

1991 Commemorative Stamp Collection, published by the United States Postal Service

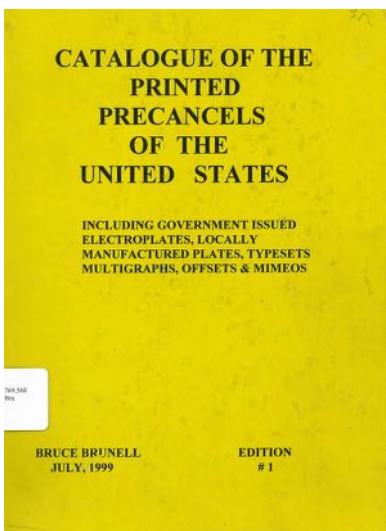
Airmail Postal History: A Collection of Articles, by Steve B. Davis

Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers, Cut Squares and Full Corners of the United States, 2nd Edition, edited by Allen Mintz



Catalog of the 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers United States, 2nd Edition, edited by Jerry Summers

Catalogue of the Printed Precancels of the United States, Edition #1 (July, 1999), by Bruce Brunell



Hoover Brothers' Precancel Catalog of the Washington Bicentennial Issue, 1935 (Second Edition), published by Hoover Brothers, New York

Illustrations of United States Perfins, compiled by Victor J. Van Lint & Margaret Van Lint

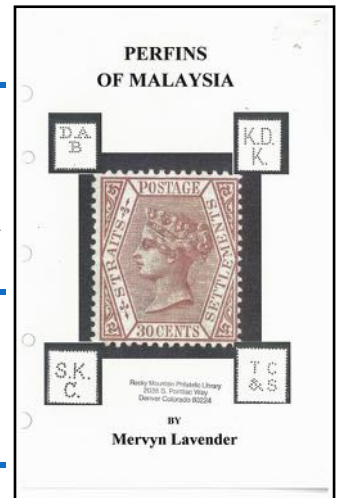
The Mitchell-Hoover Catalog of United States Bureau Precancels, Seventh Edition (1931), published by Hoover Brothers

U.S. Revs-Perfins: A Handbook of Perforated or Punched Initials and/or Designs to United States

Revenues and Fiscal Documents: Volume 1: Transaction Revenues; Volume 2: Commodities Revenues

Wildlife America: A Collection of U.S. Commemorative Stamps, published by the United States Postal Service

William Corliss Discusses Perfins on the Bureau Issue of 1902, by William Corliss



ASIA

The Perfins of India and Indian States, by Magnus Werner

Perfins of Malaysia, by Mervyn Lavender

AUSTRALIA and OCEANIA

Australia's Story in Stamps, by John Ross

EUROPE

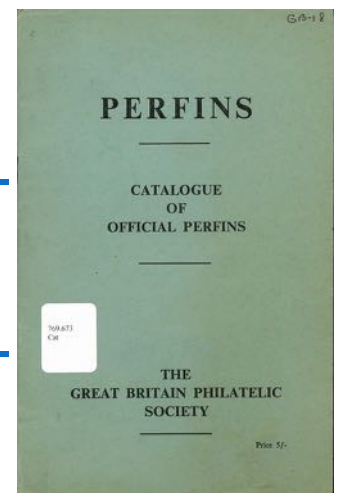
Austria Perfins, compiled by John J. Nussbickel

Bulgarian Perfins: Handbook and Catalogue, by Georgi Popov

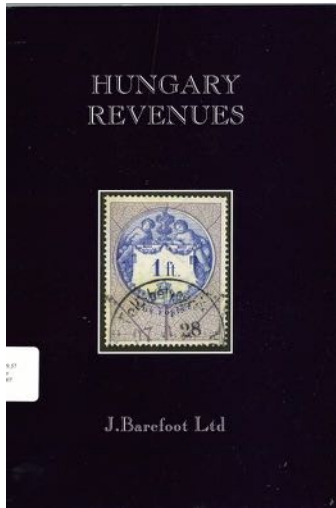
Catalog of Identified Perfins of Great Britain, Volumes 1 (A through F) and 2 (G through O) by Tomkins

Catalogue of Official Perfins: Section 1, Great Britain, compiled by Mary E. Thornton

The Handbook of Polish Perfins in G. Britain, 1980-1985, by W.Z.J. Nowicki



A History of British Postage Stamps, 1660 – 1940, by T. Todd



Hungary Revenues, 3rd Edition, published by J. Barefoot

The Introduction of Punctured Endorsements

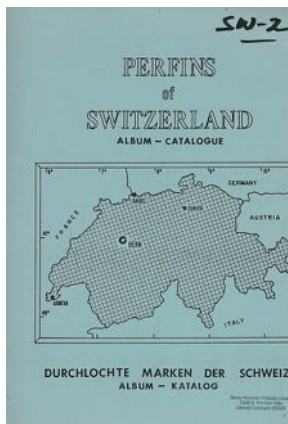
Ireland: Catalog of Perfins, compiled and edited by Richard L. Mewhinney

The Perfins of Great Britain: Catalog-Album, by Robert McKee and Basil Tomkins

Perfins of Great Britain: Letters S and W

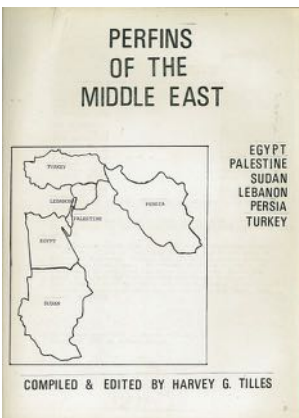
Swiss Perfins, by Martin Baer

Perfins of Switzerland: An Album-Catalogue Collated by Felix Ganz, Robert Hurlimann & E.J. Enschedé



Simplified Catalog of the Perfins of Great Britain: Volume 1 (A-I) and Volume 2 (J-End), by Tomkins

The Tilles Catalogue of the Perfins of Great Britain, Parts IV (letters G, I, J), V (Letters L, M, N, P), VI (Letters R, T; Numeral Designs), and VII (Letters C, H), by Robert McKee and Basil Tomkins



Timbres Perfores de France, by R. Dedecker, M. Herbert, R. Janot, and Leger

MIDDLE EAST

Perfins of the Middle East: Egypt, Palestine, Sudan, Lebanon, Persia, Turkey, compiled and edited by Harvey G. Tilles

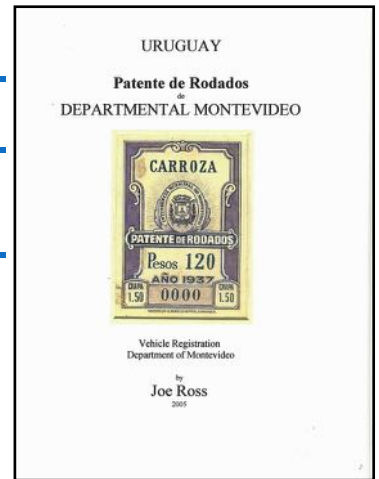
NORTH AMERICA

Resena Historica de las Estampillas Postales Usadas Durante el Periodo Revolucionario [in Mexico] de 1913-1917, by Cosme Hinojosa

SOUTH AMERICA

Revenue Stamps of El Salvador, by Joe Ross

Uruguay: Patente de Rodadas de Departamental Montevideo [Vehicle Registration Department of Montevideo] by Joe Ross



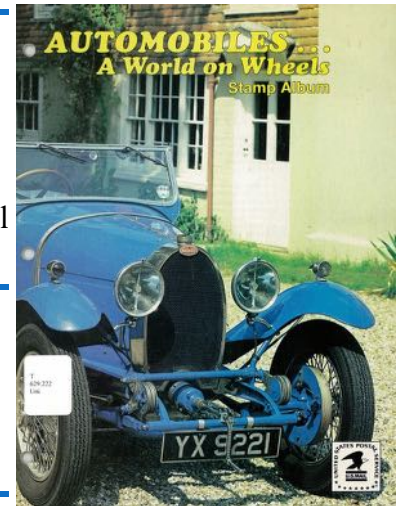
Uruguay: Revenue Stamps Draft (two editions-2004 and 2009), edited by Joe Ross

CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Bibliography of Cuban Aerophilately, by Ernesto Questa

TOPICAL

Automobiles: A World on Wheels Stamp Album, published by the Scott Publishing Co. for the United States Postal Service



Aviators & Aeronauts of Latin America on Postage Stamps, compiled by Paul G. Partington

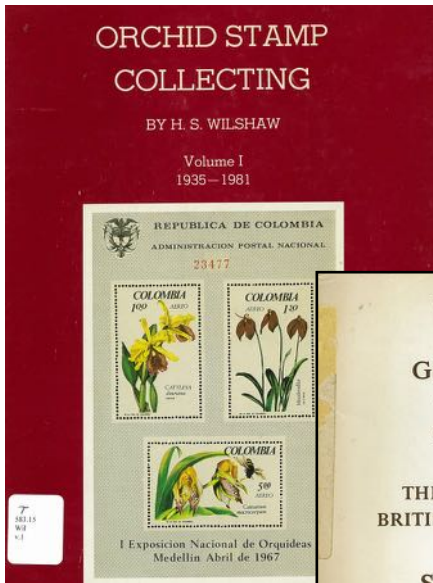
Bicycle Stamps: Bikes and Cycling on the World's Postage Stamps, by Dan Gindling

Collect Mammals on Stamps, by Hanne Eriksen and Jen Eriksen

Collecting Masons?, by J. David F. McKee

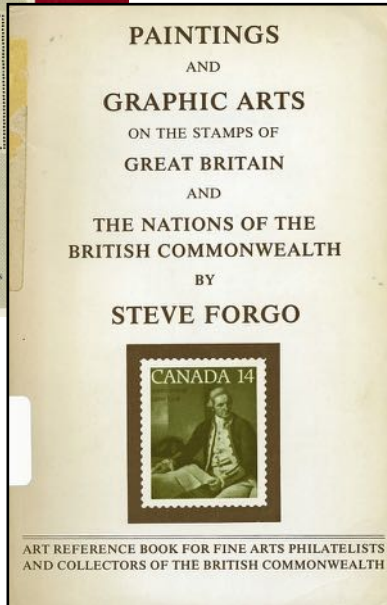
Catalogo de Sellos Tomatico Ferrocarril [Railway Stamp Thematic Catalog], published by DOMFIL

Filatelìa e Francescanesimo: Studio Filatelico sull'Ordine Francescano a Cura di Padre Silvestro Chiarello o.f.m., Volume Primo



The New Testament on Stamps, by Daryl R. Kibble

Orchid Stamp Collecting: Volume I 1935-1981, by H.S. Wilshaw



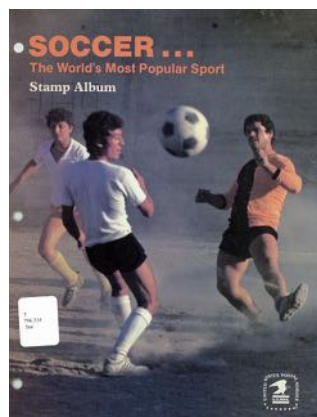
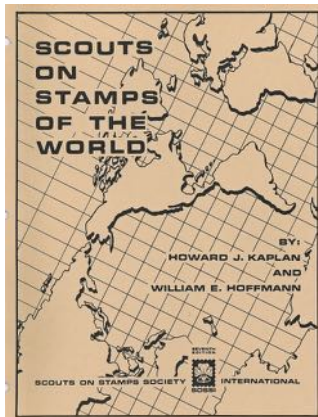
Paintings and Graphic Arts on the Stamps of Great Britain and the Nations of the British Commonwealth, by Steve Forgo

Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640): Belgian-Born Painter: Check List of Rubens Paintings Portrayed on Stamps and Issued From Many Countries of the World

The Philatelic Shakespeare, by Albert Spencer

Postal Stationery Associated With Railways, Part 1: East-Europe, by Hans Eriksson

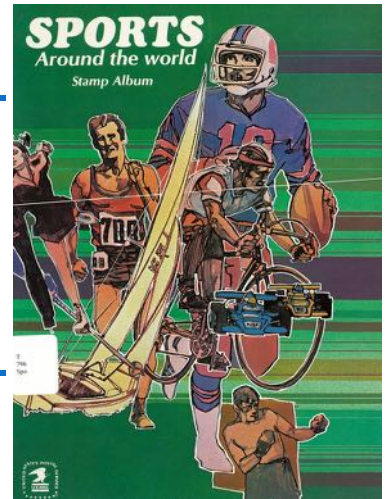
Scouts on Stamps of the World, by Howard Kaplan



and William E. Hoffmann

Soccer Stamps: A Comprehensive Checklist of the Soccer Stamps of the World, 1924-1980, compiled by Barbara W. de Violini

Soccer: The World's Most Popular Sport Stamp Album, published by the Scott Publishing Co. for the United States Postal Service



Sports Around the World Stamp Album, published by the Scott Publishing Co. for the United States Postal Service

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste: Sports et Scoutisme, by Clément Brun

World Football Cup 1982, by S. Nathan

Topical Perfin Listing, prepared by C. M. Swanson

MISCELLANEOUS

Catalogue and Price List of Perforators: Catalogue of the B. F. Cummins Co. Perforating Machines

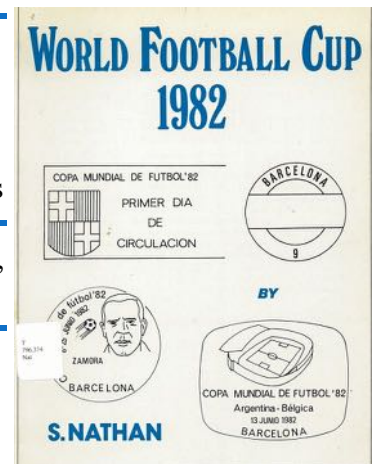
Fakes, Forgeries Experts, No. 17 (2014)

The Introduction of Punctured Endorsements, published by the Perfins Club

Railroad Perfins of the United States and Canada, compiled by the Perfins Club

The Unlucky Giant (Flugschiff Do-X – 1929-1933), by John C. W. Field

World Perfins Catalog: African, American, Asian, and European Sections, edited by Robert J. Schwerdt



STAMP COLLECTING PROMOTES HEALTH CARE

By Dr. Jack R. Van Ens

How can stamp collecting help restore health to our fractured nation, if not the world? Let's look at what the critics say versus what collecting stamps offers.

The Critics

Skeptics reject stamp collecting as an agent for curing our nation's ills because stereotypes about the hobby dupe them. To start with, they are suspicious of stamp collecting's formal name, "philately." It sounds uncouth. Stamp collecting's natural state of focus and contemplation bothers them. It is like being forced to hear a year's worth of dry sermons from a joyless preacher. Others deride collectors because they wear shirts that require plastic pocket protectors in which to jam a fistful of Bic pens and perhaps a stamp tong or two.

The major claim, however, is that philately is too dull for the younger generation. There are even those who claim that philately is too passé and, believe it or not, too sedentary for good health. These critics conveniently forget the five to seven hours a day that a typical youth now spends in front of a video screen.

An Alternative Approach

Repurposing some of that five to seven hours of screen time toward stamp collecting and, perhaps, postal history could produce some really positive benefits. Here are a few ways that can occur.

Stamp collecting encourages curiosity, self-education, and independent action. Stamp collectors are "citizens" of a hobby that fights parochialism. Philatelists of both sexes often qualify as Jeffersonian "educated gentlemen."

Researching stories behind stamps enlarges mental horizons. Collectors become world travelers in their stamp dens, even those on fixed incomes. Philatelists peruse the world by researching what's commemorated on stamps. Knowledge gained from stamp collecting frees us from parochial nonsense and local prejudices.

Better understanding of world history, current events, technology, and politics (to mention only a few areas illustrated by stamps) impacts our nation in proportion to the number of citizens who are stamp collectors because philately supplies ingredients that mold valuable citizens. This hobby hones the intellect, instills wisdom about different cultures and teaches dynamic history so we don't blunder on, repeating the past's mistakes.

A Foundation of Freedom and Cultural Progress

The British government, after appointing Benjamin Franklin to co-share the highest post office job in America, fired him in 1774 for his political rebellion. A few years later, Richard Price, an English radical who empathized with Ben's love for freedom, wrote about why he found America attractive. "A Spirit," Price claimed, was arising in the Western world. This spirit promised "a State of Society more favorable to peace, virtue, Science

and liberty (and consequently to human happiness and dignity) than has yet been known.... The minds of men are becoming more enlightened, and the silly despots of the world are likely to be forced to respect human rights and to take care not to govern too much lest they should not govern at all." Richard Price's

outlook on healthy colonial America is analogous to the benefits philately bestows on its practitioners.

Thomas Jefferson, whose legacy includes posting almost 20,000 extant letters, died before postage stamps were first nationally stuck on envelopes July 1, 1847. However, do you remember what he proposed to the Virginia legislature in 1779 to make our nation healthier?

Making our Nation Healthier

Jefferson drafted "A Bill for Establishing Cross Posts." By "cross posts," he imagined a grid of new roads branching off from the main north-south route intersecting Virginia. Jefferson wanted this network of roads enlarged so that Virginia no longer regarded Massachusetts as remote. Once new roads were constructed, Virginia's towns would be less isolated. Carrying the mail from and to isolated hamlets, messengers traveling these postal roads increased communication among citizens.

Public Intelligence

Jefferson believed cross posts promoted "the more general diffusion of public intelligence among the citizens of this commonwealth." This "public intelligence" is much different than the input a typical youth now gets from the myriad of video games that dominate the market and time of our children and grandchildren. The difference might be critical.

How? Historically, citizens then stayed in touch with each other by letter, shared common strengths and coped with cultural differences. What resulted was a more just, more humane and more intelligent society. Postal roads helped realize this dream. Robust health emerged, vital for a flourishing Republic.

In contrast, today's youth spend inordinate amounts of time challenged by fictional games that focus on violence and often idealize ethical and moral behavior that is the antithesis to historic U.S. values. There is literally no human interaction, only manipulation against an unseen



Jack Van Ens/Thomas Jefferson

(Continued on page 13)

Free Mail for Servicemen Ends Further Comments

Gents:

Just got the latest issue of *Scribblings* (July/August 2017) from the RMPL, and read the article by Sergio on page 13 with his "wager". The subject, as you will recall, is a Dec. 31, 1947 letter, mailed on the last day of free mail for servicemen in World War II. As it happens, I have another cover with the original letter mailed on that day, this one from James DeVoss, who you may remember eventually became the longtime executive secretary of the American Philatelic Society. I wrote it up a couple of years ago for the online philatelic magazine *Stamp Insider*, the bimonthly journal of the Federation of New York Philatelic Societies.

I enjoy *Scribblings*, and was pleased to be able to visit the Library again in May when I was at RMSS.

Dave Kent

This article was originally published in the November/December 2015 Stamp Insider (website www.stampinsider.org) and is being reprinted by permission of the author.

Free Mail for Servicemen Ends

There is custom of giving servicemen — and now women — free mail privileges in wartime. Traditionally free mail has been available only to those stationed overseas in combat zones, but World War II was of such scope and breadth that all members of the military enjoyed the privilege, no matter where they were located.

World War II was thrust upon a nation that was shocked that we were forced into it, despite the fact that it had been raging across the world for more than two years. There was a lot of scrambling to gear up for the war, and granting free mail to servicemen was a small detail that was overlooked until four months into the war. It was finally approved by Congress on Friday, March 27, 1942. However, it was not announced in the *Postal Bulletin* until Wednesday, April 1, and most postal historians accept that as the first day of free mail. Oddly, when approving the measure, Congress also specified that the privilege would end on December 31, 1947, which must have seemed impossibly far away.

The war ended well before that, of course, in early September 1945, but the end date of free mail was never changed. Here is a cover noting the arrival of that date. It was mailed by a serviceman from Arlington, Virginia, site of our national military cemetery. The sender notes in an enclosed letter that "Many of our men gave their lives during the recent struggle. It is therefore fitting that this cachet be postmarked at Arlington."

If you have been involved in organized philately for a while, you might well recognize both the name of the sender and the addressee of this cover. Then-major James T. DeVoss remained in the Army after the war and eventually rose to the rank of colonel. He was obviously an avid philatelist, and when he retired from the Army in 1961 he became the executive secretary of the American Philatelic Society. He guided the expansion of the services offered by the society, and helped increase its membership to more than 50,000 before he retired again, in 1981. The addressee was also an important figure in philately. Harry Weiss of Holton, Kansas was a philatelic writer from the 1930s into the 1960s. At the time this cover was mailed, he was the editor/publisher of a small but influential magazine titled *Weekly Philatelic Gossip*. Today servicemen and women stationed in Afghanistan can still send free mail, but, alas, most of them send emails instead.

By Dave Kent

1100 N. Kentucky St.
Arlington, Virginia
31 December 1947

Dear Friend & Fellow Philatelist,

The Armed Forces 'Free' mail privilege expires today. This cachet was designed and multilithed in order to provide a souvenir of the franking privilege which was extended to all active members of our fighting forces for a period of 69 months.

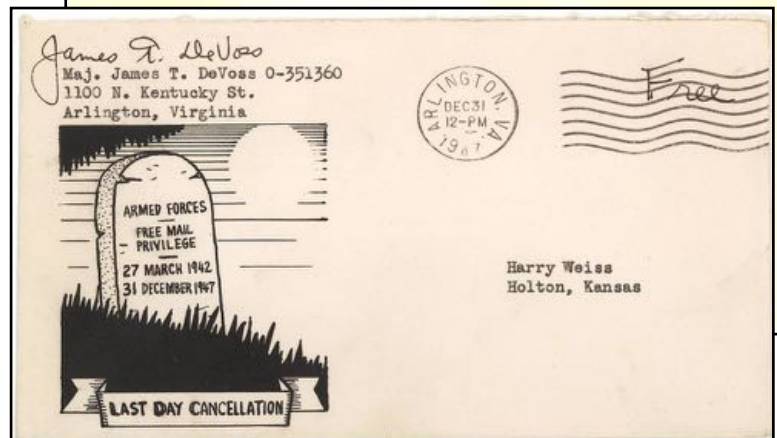
Many of our men gave their lives during this recent struggle. It is therefore fitting that this cachet be postmarked at Arlington, Virginia, the site of the Arlington National Cemetery where a large number of our heroes have been returned to rest.

I would appreciate very much in hearing from you, at least a line or two. If you liked this special cachet of an event which will probably pass almost unnoticed at least by those outside of the Armed Forces.

A very happy and prosperous New Year to you. May your philatelic interests, acquisitions, and achievements be even greater in '48. Philately has every reason to be proud of its past. Let's make our efforts worthy of the future.

Very sincerely yours,

James T. DeVoss
James T. DeVoss
Major, GSC



An Interesting Cover to Research

By Robert Bell

For a few years I have been collecting window envelopes and recently purchased this one (Fig. 1) which had an unusual label on it.

It reads "**P4500. Will you please return the cover of this letter as it is required for official purposes by the Head Postmaster of ... (Bristol hand written).**"

Below that is the statement that the letter may be handed to the postmaster or sent to you local Post Office. There is a clear Bristol CDS on the label dated 16 Oct. 1959.

The envelope is franked with a meter cancellation with a 1/2 value. Initially, I incorrectly read this as a halfpenny, but I have been told that it is in fact 1 shilling 2 pence. The rate for Inland Printed Papers from October 1, 1957 to October 1, 1961 was 2 pence for up to 2 ounces, so the cover appears to be over franked by a shilling. There was no 1/2 rate for Inland letters regardless of weight.

If this was part of a bulk rate printed papers mailing, there may have been many shillings overpaid.

Another philatelist has told me that the Post Office recognized this overpayment and wished to compensate the company H.J. Packer and Co. for the overpayment. That all seems very logical if you believe that the Postal Service at that time had a good heart!

I wonder, however, if there may have been some other reason for the use of this label? Does anyone



Fig. 1. A "scarce" label with an uncertain purpose on a grossly over franked envelope

have another window envelope with a similar label and a different explanation for its use?

Further, is the label catalogued in any book? And do other countries have similar labels - perhaps the meter collectors may know?

Any and all thoughts welcome! I can be reached at: rmsbell200@yahoo.com

(Continued from page 11)

algorithm. In effect, children are becoming isolationists in fictional worlds of their own creation.

A stamp mounted on an album page looks too tiny to amount to much, but it represents something real and important to a real society and culture. Jefferson realized the massive influence of letters sent by post. Though small, stamps have enormous potency. They can act like the biblical mustard seed "which when sown upon the ground is the smallest of all seeds on the earth; yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs..." (Mark 4:31-32). Postal communication laid the groundwork for reasoned discourse, reliable citizens, and a renewed bridging of cultural divides.

Postage stamps highlight an important figure or a pivotal event shaping history. Philatelists delve into stories behind stamps. These stories, precious as our

children, help build a strong national identity. Educated citizens are representative of democracy's building blocks. A healthy Republic furnishes soil in which wise patriots grow. Philately acts like fertilizer to produce a bumper crop.

Here's a much-overlooked cure for restoring public health to our nation: collect stamps. It might be one of the best healthcare investments this country could make!

(Editor's note: For those of you who might be a little confused by Jack's picture on page 11, know that Thomas Jefferson couldn't do a better interpretation of himself than Jack does. If you haven't had a chance to catch one of his presentations, take a look at a Denver Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) schedule where he typically performs during the winter and spring sessions.

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 address is: aurora_80017@yahoo.com*

**September 9, 2017—9:00 a.m.
Iceland Travel and Stamps
Presented by Steve Nadler**



**October 14, 2017—9:00 a.m.
Presented by Chuck James**

This Second Saturday program will cover the early Sudan stamps before the Camel Postman and then most of the stamps to around 1948. Pages from my custom Sudan album will be used as the background information for the stamps and related varieties. Most varieties are from the overprinted Camel Postman stamps.



Over 20 of these varieties will be covered. However, there are some stamps that were not the Camel Postman and have their own stories of why they were produced and used.

NEW MEMBERS

The RMPL is pleased to welcome the following new members who have joined the library during the past two months through August 10, 2017.

- ◆ **Jim Basso**, Aurora, CO - Collects U.S. Plate Blocks
- ◆ **Jerry A. Katz**, Minneapolis, MN - Collects U.S. Scott # E12 and #563, 4th Bureau Issue Die Proofs, Henry Hammelman (a pioneer FDC servicer), and W. Irving Glover (an Assistant Postmaster General in the Coolidge and Hoover Administrations)

RMPL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting of July 20, 2017
Prepared by President John Sinski
Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

All Board members were present. Roger Rydberg, Tonny Van Loij, and Phil Parrish were also in attendance. The May Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenses by Vendor Mar-Apr 2017, Income and Expenses Mar-Apr 2017, and Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2017 were distributed and discussed, led by Tim Heins. Property taxes have been paid and Taylor Roth was paid for preparing our IRS 990 Form. Our Westerra CD has matured and we need to re-allocate these funds.

Tim credited Rodger Rydberg for assisting in getting insurance through APS for our leased Xerox equipment. Tim called attention to the continued discrepancy between cash register reports and actual deposits. Though actual deposits are often more than register tapes show, volunteers are encouraged to be more careful in sales.

OLD BUSINESS:**PUBLIC/COMMUNITY RELATIONS POSITION**

RMPL member Phil Parish expressed interest in this position, discussed his background and explained some of his ideas. Phil sees a real need to attract younger folks to the hobby, citing a recent study showing the average age of stamp collectors is now around 64 years.

NEW BUSINESS:**RMPL BULK-LOT AUCTION**

The bulk lot auction is scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the library meeting room. The catalog should be ready for inclusion with *Scribblings* during the last week of August. David Weisberg indicated that we have better items than last year (about 10% supplies and 90% stamps).

MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

John Sinski proposed that we hold the picnic on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at the library and insert an announcement in *Scribblings*. It was approved by the board.

GARDEN CLEANUP & MAINTENANCE

Work on the garden should be completed before the picnic. Work has been underway. Hiring a lawn service was suggested but it was decided to postpone that until next year. The vegetable garden was not planted due to

DONATIONS: May 30, 2017 to July 29, 2017

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following people made donations to the library (May 30, 2017 to July 29, 2017). We thank every one who has contributed (alphabetized by first name). Here are the people and organizations who contributed during this period.

American Philatelic Society	L. Frederick Moose
Andy Murin	Lois Arlen
Betsy O'Sullivan	Margery Langmuir
Bette Engert	Mary Ann Bowman
Colleen Hillmeyer	R Izzard
Dan Ganz	Rebecca Merle
Darryl Evertsen	Rick Barrett
Dave Felice	Robert Lafley
David Alderfer	Roger Cichorz
David Koerber	Scand. Collectors Club
Dede Horan	Stephanie Briggs
Eckhard Pobuda	Steve Bonowski
Eugene Brink	Terrence Murphy
Hugh Kron	The Porch
Joan Banko	Thomas Pollard
Joe Pepper	Warren Coteron
John Gehrig	Wayne Jackson
Judith Dewitt	William Benjamin
	William Plachte

the illness of our neighbor Stan Buller who has been maintaining it for years. We wish him good health.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dalene agreed to help us once again coordinating the party which is scheduled for December 3rd at Blue Bonnet Café at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLICATIONS BINDING

Sue Dunn has requested that we pay to have some periodicals bound to improve appearance and lessen space needs. David Weisberg said he would make calls to check prices for the work.

GARDEN SHED

An expenditure of up to \$1,500 was approved to purchase & install a small shed next to the building near the garden for equipment storage.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

It has been reported that sometimes visitors are not welcomed or asked if they can be helped. This and register operations indicate a need for renewed training. Howard Benson is working on the volunteer notebooks and plans training sessions in the near future.

New RMPL members were approved by Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Please note NEW Board Meeting time is 6:30 p.m.

**For the Record: Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, Sept 21, 2017 at 6:30 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 philatelic-related meetings other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled by Howard well in advance.

****September 2017****

- September 2 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- September 2 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- September 2 & 4 Sat & Wed - Library Closed for Labor Day**- except for regularly scheduled meetings in the annex
- September 6 Wed**-Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 p.m. Trading
7:00 p.m. meeting
- September 8 Fri**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL

- September 9 9:00 a.m.**
Program by Steve Nadler
Iceland Travel and Stamps
- September 9 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Club
- September 9 Sat**-RMPL Member picnic 3:00 p.m.
- September 13 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Germany Stamp Club
- September 14 Thu**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Cherrelyn Stamp Club
- September 14 Thu**-Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- September 16 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors
- September 17 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain and Colonies Collectors Club
- September 20 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Arapahoe Stamp Club
- September 21 Thu**-Meeting 6:30 p.m. **(New Time)**
RMPL Board of Directors-All members are welcome
- September 26 Tue**-Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- September 27 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club

****October 2017****

- October 4 Wed**-Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 p.m. Trading
7:00 p.m. Meeting
- October 7 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- October 7 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- October 8 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- October 9 Mon- Library Closed for Columbus Day**
- October 11 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Germany Stamp Club
- October 12 Thu**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Cherrelyn Stamp Club
- October 13 Fri**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL

- October 14 9:00 a.m.**
Program by Chuck James
Sudan Stamps up to about 1948
- October 14 Sat**-Meeting 10:00
Mexico/Latin America Club
- October 14 Sat**-Meeting 11:30
Rocky Mountain Aero/Astro Philatelic Club
- October 15 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club
- October 16-20-RMPL Bulk Lot Auction viewing**
- October 18 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Arapahoe Stamp Club
- October 21 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Postmark Collectors Club
- October 21 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors
- October 21 Sat-RMPL Bulk Lot Auction 10:00 a.m.**
- October 25 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club
- October 28 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Colorado Postal History Society