

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian...

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COLORADO CARNATIONS VIA FIRST AIR PARCEL POST FROM DENVER TO KANSAS CITY

By Ravi Vora (Email: nusivar46@gmail.com)



Fig. 1. Fresh Carnations sent on first day of the Air Parcel Service from Denver to Kansas by United Air Lines. Fig. 2. United Air Lines parcel label affixed to the shipment.

This article is about an air parcel post package of carnations sent (Fig. 1) from Denver, Colorado by United Airlines on September 1, 1948 to the Second Assistant Postmaster General Paul Aiken, Providence Hospital, Kansas, then forwarded care of the Postmaster at Horton, Kansas (Fig. 2). The partial cardboard panel shown in Figure 1 has a bold tape denoting the contents, "FRESH CUT COLORADO CARNATIONS / RUSH."

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Scribblings

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

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

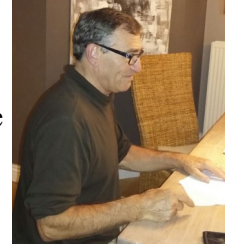
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The President's Message



Looking out the window during these frigid days of winter, I wonder if humans don't actually go into some kind of semi-hibernation. The last two months have gone by in a blur, and it doesn't feel like I have as much to show for in accomplishments as the elapsed time might suggest.

Maybe it has to do with the fact that we do not have too much control over what we do. On the other hand, I feel like I have been very busy. It has been steady and sometimes really busy at the library with many members and non-members visiting or expanding on their collections. We also received a good number of donations that will help with our finances.

One of our primary challenges continues to be volunteer recruitment and training which seems to be even more important lately with the ongoing health issue of some of our core volunteers. This issue was a topic of concern at our last board meeting. We are having some troubles doing what needs to be done in a timely manner because we do not have trained back-up volunteers for most operational positions. You know the pattern - new problems seem to spontaneously arise when there is no immediate resolution to the original issue.

Let's see if we can all work on that and maybe step up to the plate if you are not already a volunteer.

As always, my thanks to all for keeping the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library at the top of the philatelic world.

Tonny Van Loij

NEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need additional help in almost every area of RMPL operations, especially back-ups for publishing and stamp mart operations. If you are interested in getting more active with the RMPL, whether it be helping publish *Scribblings*, sorting donations for our stamp mart, or helping with library maintenance, please contact Tonny Van Loij or Dasa Metzler.

303-759-9921

(Continued from page 1)

In the Beginning

The US Post Office started the parcel post service in 1913 and launched the Air Parcel Post domestically on September 1, 1948 under the leadership of Second Assistant Postmaster General Paul Aiken. Unlike the first flights carrying air mail launched over 30 years earlier - for which much literature is available - very little is known about the first Air Parcel Post service introduced on September 1, 1948 in the USA and later to several foreign destinations.

Second Assistant Postmaster General Paul Aiken

Paul Aiken, a prominent democrat from Kansas and well-known to President Truman, was the Third Assistant Postmaster General from 1947 to 1950 and was instrumental in launching the Air Parcel Post Service. A lesser-known fact is that he was also an active stamp collector



Fig. 3. Second Asst. PMG Paul Aiken exchanging Stamp albums with Japanese collectors in 1948.

even while holding this senior position at the US Post Office. The Truman Library has a photo of Aiken exchanging stamp albums with two Japanese collectors (Fig. 3).

The First Day Package

United Airlines sent the fresh carnations parcel via Air Mail Special Delivery to Mr. Aiken who was then believed to be in Providence Hospital in Kansas City. He was evidently no longer at the hospital and the parcel was for-



Fig. 4. The 96-cent meter payment covered the cost of Air Mail Special Delivery, but not the forwarding fee.

warded to him in care of the Horton, Kansas postmaster where Mr. Aiken was from and had a residence.

Postal Rate Analysis

As shown in Figure 4, the parcel sent via Airmail Special Delivery bears a Denver COLO meter stamp of "96 cents" dated September 1, 1948 applied by United Airlines. The parcel was received in the Kansas City Post Office on the same day. This is evidenced by a hard-to-see receiving postmark in black (Fig. 5). The Kansas City postal clerk applied the violet "Fee claimed at Kansas City, Kans." (for Special Delivery) and "POSTAGE DUE: 59 cents" markings (Figs. 4 & 6). This amount was the cost of forwarding the parcel from Kansas City to Horton, Kansas. The Zone 1-2 forwarding fee from Kansas City to Horton was \$0.59 (\$0.55+\$0.04). The portion of the parcel that survives bears \$0.35 worth of US postage due stamps, which is \$0.24 short of the \$0.59 postage due fee. The part of the parcel presumably bearing the balance of the postage due stamps (\$0.24) is missing.



Fig. 5. "Kansas City, Kans." receiving mark "Sep. 1"

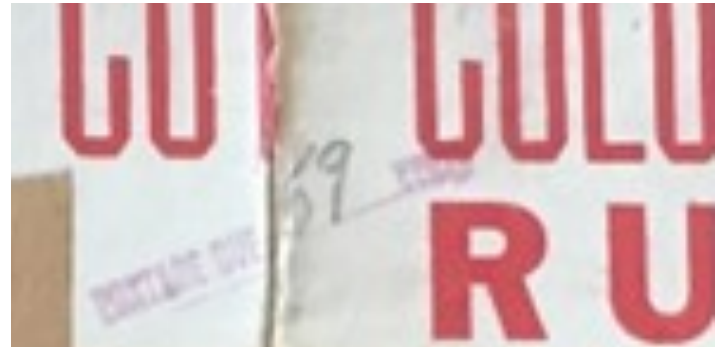


Fig. 6. Postage due of \$0.59 for forwarding.

New and Complex Rates

Air parcel postal rates were new and could be complex. According to *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999* by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, the air parcel rates effective September 1, 1948 varied by postal zone. Zones were determined by distance. The Denver to Kansas City distance of about 553 miles made it a Zone 14 rate. The first one pound or less cost \$0.65 and for each additional pound the rate was \$0.14.

The same reference indicates the Special Delivery rate for mail other than 1st Class mail was \$0.17 between November 1, 1944 to January 1, 1949. Based on that information, one can surmise the following:

Postage Paid by meter stamp: \$0.96
Less Special Delivery charge: (\$0.17)

This \$0.79 net calculation for the Air Parcel service would be correct for a parcel weighing 2 pounds or less. This weight seems reasonable for shipping fresh carnations in a cardboard box.

(Continued on page 4)

A Thank You from Club Video Productions

By Joe Lanotte and Sergio Lugo

Club Video Productions, a part of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, thanks the Denver Postcard Club for their donation to the video production unit. Their donation was in support of efforts made by the production unit in the making of *The Yellowstone Highway – 1915* and *The Lost Lodges of the Rocky Mountain National Park*. The *Yellowstone Highway* video is a presentation that was given by Lee Whiteley. *The Lost Lodges* video is a presentation that was given by Bobbie Heisterkamp. Both were recorded during regular meetings of the Club.

We also extend our sincere thanks to MaryAnn Bowman, who late last year made a substantial donation to the video production program. About two years ago the RMPL, in partnership with MaryAnn Bowman and the American Topical Association, produced our *Under the Big Top* video from exhibit materials of the late Roland Essig. As the name implies, it tells the story of Big Top circuses through the use of stamps and other paper ephemera. The video was such a success that late last year MaryAnn, who lives in Wisconsin, contacted the video team and asked us if we had equipment needs. We responded that we did. MaryAnn, in turn, made a substantial donation

that is allowing us to purchase much needed upgraded sound and recording equipment.

Such donations are staples of our efforts behind the video productions we design and develop for the RMPL, for clubs and for organizations wishing to have a video produced. Donations are essential to the building of the hardware and software capabilities of Club Video Productions. Expenses incurred by the video production teams, including the hundreds of hours they have committed to each of the current 21 videos we have produced are not reimbursed, reflecting the personal commitments of the production teams. Updated innovations in both the hardware and software arenas of our video capabilities are frequent. However, they are not cheap, and it is frequently not within the wherewithal of the RMPL's finances to sustain these increasingly expensive acquisitions. Donations to Club Video Productions have gone a long way towards improving the quality of our videos since we first began nearly six years ago.

Thank you to the Denver Postcard Club and thank you MaryAnn Bowman.

(Continued from page 3)

Now the puzzle is why did the Post Office in Kansas City deem the parcel to be underpaid by \$0.59 before forwarding it to Mr. Aiken in Horton, Kansas? One possible explanation is that neither the Air Parcel rates nor the Special Delivery mail rates included forwarding mail service.

A Colorado Claim to Fame

The importance of Air Parcel Post to the Colorado carnation industry was substantial. Initially, it may have helped solidify Colorado's premier position as a supplier of fresh-cut flowers, but such air services around the world also supported both national and international competition.

Today, Colorado is not typically thought of as a major flower production state, but in the mid-20th century Colorado was known as the "Carnation State" for its exceptional blooms and year-round greenhouse growing season. This floriculture boom was so great that at one time ten states depended entirely on Colorado for their flowers.

Colorado was a center of production and innovation in

the floriculture industry with as much as 7.4 million square feet planted with carnations. By 1974, Colorado was the largest producer of carnations in the world, but

that would all change almost in the blink of an eye when floral imports from Colombia began arriving in the United States in the 1970s.

Ironically and tragically for Colorado's growers, scientists from Colorado State University participated in establishing Columbia's carnation industry using information provided free to CSU by Colorado's growers.

References:

U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1999 by Henry W. Beecher and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz (Pages 67 and 248), Cama Publishing Company, 1999

Paul Aiken exchanging stamp albums with Japanese collectors: <https://www.trumanlibrary.org/photographs/view.php?id=22152>

Colorado: Carnation Capital of the World in the 1940s: [https://](https://www.historycolorado.org/event/colorado-nations-carnation-capital/2018/03/12)

www.historycolorado.org/event/colorado-nations-carnation-capital/2018/03/12



NEW ON THE SHELVES

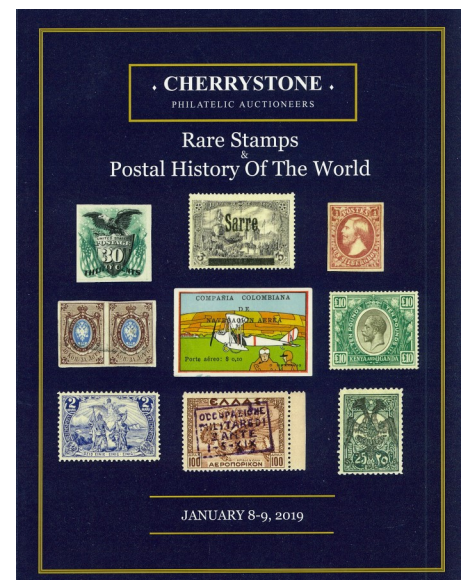
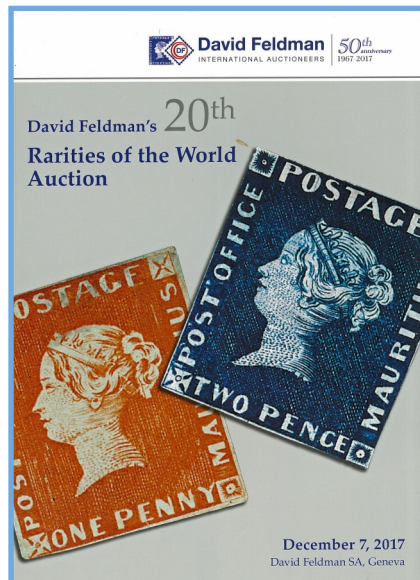
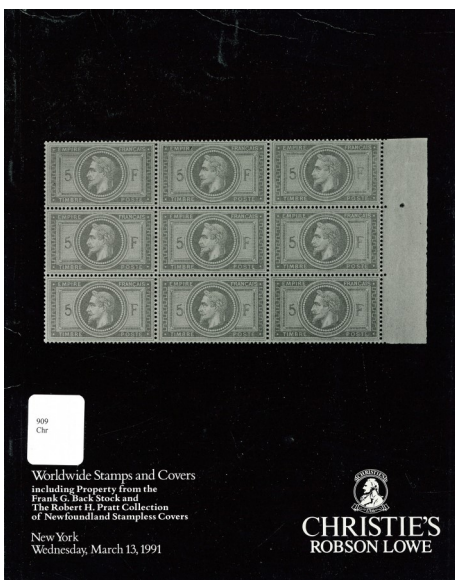
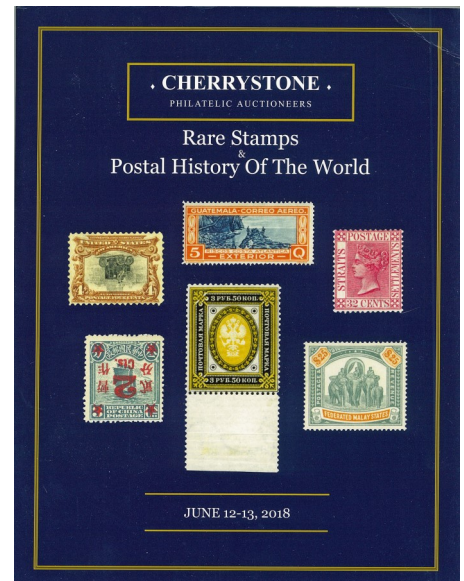
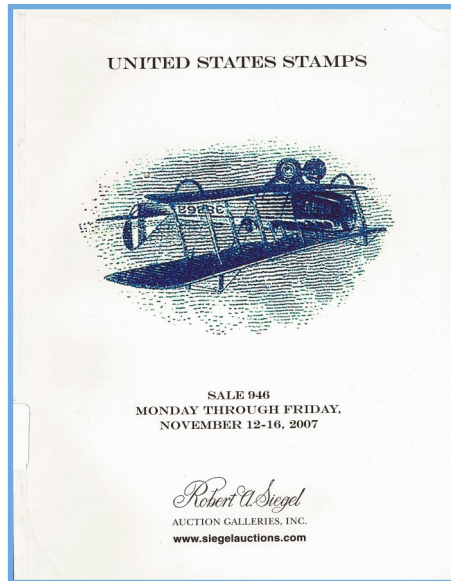
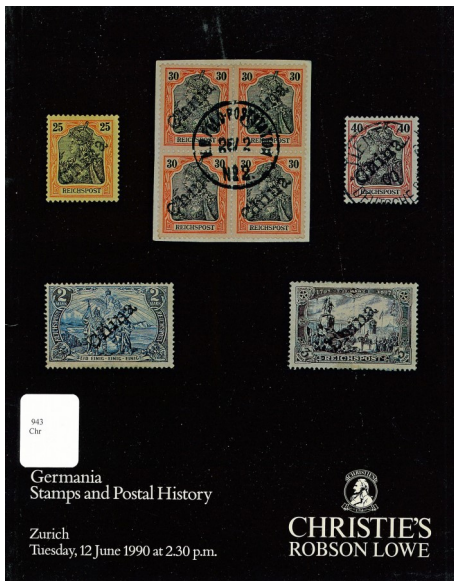
As those of you who visit the library regularly know, Ellengail Beuthel, our librarian extraordinaire, has been in the hospital. We hold her in our thoughts and wish her a speedy recovery!

During her illness, few new volumes have been processed and shelved so there will not be any book listings for this column. Instead, this space will be used to catch-up on our auction catalog listings and to highlight some recent auctions held by mostly well-known houses.

Over the last few years, *Scribblings* has had several articles that focused on the library's holdings, but these valuable collections still seem to be underutilized. There seems to be a misconception that these colorful and, in most cases, wonderfully produced catalogs are for experts only. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Knowledge

is one of the underpinnings of our hobby whether you are an expert or a beginner. Auction catalogs provide much that is beyond the scope of traditional catalogs such as Scotts or Stanley Gibbons, but they are also a great introduction for the beginner to see the potential breadth and depth of our hobby. From the beauty of the illustrations to the comprehensive descriptions of world class collections, the auction catalog is in a class of its own. Name auctions can be especially interesting with their ability to make a subject come alive, to see the whole picture, to, perhaps, introduce us to a facet of collecting about which standard references are mum.

Auction catalogs ought to be on your list of things to access every time you visit the library!





AUCTION CATALOGS Nov-Dec 2018

The Arthur Salm Collection of Bergdorf and Bremen, catalog for a Superior Stamp & Coin auction June 1999

Auction of Specialised Great Britain Stamps and Covers, catalog for a Grosvenor auction October 2017

Austria, catalog for a Christoph Gärtner auction at Praga 2018, August 2018

Balpex '94, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction September 1994

British Empire and Foreign Countries, Postage Stamps & Postal History, catalog for a Grosvenor auction June 2017

The "Carrington" Collection of the Province of Canada, 1851-1868: Stamps and Postal History, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction June 2002

The Clipper City Collection: Superb United State Stamps, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction September 2017

The "Doctor James Montgomery Dunlop" Collection of Great Britain & British Commonwealth, catalog for a Stanley Gibbons auction October 2017

The Grant Inman Collection, Part 7: Private Die Medicine Stamps, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction December 2017

The Kilbourne Collection: Confederate States Stamps and Postal History: Part One, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction June 2018

New York City Public Auction #256: The James P. Gough Collection of Postage Dues of the World, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction February 2003

New York City Public Auction #268, The William L. Welch Jr. Collection of the 5¢ Blue Taylor of 1875-1879, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction November 2003

New York City Public Auction #270: Featuring the Collection of Dr. Robert Rafajko, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction February 2004

New York City Public Auction #272: Ron L. Scott Collection of United States, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction February 2004

Stamps & Postal History of the World, catalog for a Stanley Gibbons public stamp auction February 2018

United States Stamps Featuring 19th and 20th Century Issues, High-Grade Commemoratives and Back-of-Book Issues, Postal Card Essays, Carriers and Locals, Confederate States, and Canal Zone Postal Stationery, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction July 2017

United States Classic Bureau Issues: the Award-Winning Exhibit Collections formed by Dr. Irvin Heimburger and Roger Brody, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction October 2017

United States, Confederate & Foreign Postal History, catalog for a Robert G. Kaufmann auction December 1988

United States Stamps Featuring the Senator Hank Brown Collection and the Estate of Arnold "Jake" Johnson, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction July 2018

The William A. Kelley Collection of United States Stamps and Covers, catalog for a Steve Ivy auction March 1989

Worldwide Philatelic Auction, catalog for a Harmer-Schau auction August 2017

AUCTION CATALOGS Jan-Feb 2019

The "Argent" Collection of 1875-1901 Mint United States Stamps, catalog for an H.R. Harmer auction October 2018

Auction of British Empire and Foreign Countries Postage Stamps & Postal History, catalog for a Grosvenor auction June 2018

Bennett International Rarities, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction November 2004

The Bert Boonstra Collection of the 1901 Pan-American Exposition, catalog for an H.R. Harmer auction October 2018

The "Chesapeake" Collection of U.S. Proofs and

Essays, catalog for a Matthew Bennett auction March 2006

Civil War Postal History: The Collections of M. Clinton McGee and Quin R. Frazer, catalog for a Robert G. Kaufmann auction September 1990

Confederate States Postal History Featuring the Collection of a Midwestern Gentleman and a Collection on Deposit with the Confederate Museum, catalog for a Robert G. Kaufmann auction March 1990

The Elite Collection of Extraordinary Quality Graded United States Postage Stamps, catalog for a Shreves auction December 2006

The "Elite" Collection: The United States Issue of 1847: A Study of the Proofs, Shades, Impressions, Plates, Paper, Cancellations, Rates and Usages, catalog for a Robert G. Kaufmann auction October 1989

The Elmer Campbell Collection of Germany and German Areas, catalog for an H.R. Harmer auction October 2018

The Gary Gilbert Collection of Certified and Graded Mint United States Postage Stamps, catalog for a Shreves auction February 2006

Hawaiian Postal History from the Steven C. Walske Collection, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction June 2013

The Jay Hoffman Collection of United States Stamps, catalog for a Robert A. Siegel auction May 2008

The Joseph Hackmey Collections of Classic Ceylon 1797-1870, Part II, Catalog for a Spink auction October 2010

The Joseph M. Mahfood Collection of Jamaica, catalog for a Spink auction January 2011

The Larry Lyons Collection: United States Postage and Revenue Stamps, catalog for a Shreves auction January 2000

Local and Carrier Posts, Western Expresses, catalog for a Robson Lowe and Paul Von Gunten auction March 1973

The Victor Hugo “Plate 77” Cover A Unique Philatelic Gem

By Abed Najjar



Fig. 1. (Left) An enlargement of the lower left stamp as seen on the Victor Hugo cover shown on the right. There are now 10 of these iconic Great Britain stamps known. Only these three stamps are known on cover or as multiples.

There is no doubt that the Great Britain Queen Victoria 1864 Penny red with a plate number “77” in the scrollwork on either side of the stamp is one of Britain’s rarest, most iconic, and most valuable stamps. Only a few examples are known to exist and Stanley Gibbons values a copy of the stamp at £600,000.

In the last few years, however, *three* examples were discovered on an 1865 cover sent from Guernsey to Brussels (Fig. 1). This is the first time this stamp has been found on a cover or in multiples and, as such, this find is unique.

Whilst the discovery of such a rare item is remarkable in itself, further research revealed information which has cemented its place not only as one of the UK’s greatest collectible rarities but a world-class philatelic gem. Not only are three of these incredibly rare stamps together on one cover, but that cover was in fact written and sent by famous playwright Victor Hugo (Fig. 2).

Hugo, author of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Les Miserables*, resided at Hauteville House in Guernsey and sent this letter to his publishers, Lacroix Verboekhoven, in Brussels. His handwriting on this cover was authenticated by Sotheby’s in Paris.

The cover which was marked “Pressee” (Urgent) was sent from Guernsey on Monday, the 27th November 1865, at the correct rate of 3d. Examination of the sailing records out of Guernsey in the archive copies of the ‘Guernsey Daily Star’ newspaper held at the Priaulx Library in St Peter Port indicates that it travelled on board the S.S. Brittany which sailed from Guernsey to Southampton under Captain Goodridge. The cover then travelled by rail to London and Dover and then by sea to Ostend and finally again by rail to Brussels, taking only one day to arrive at its destination.

Little did Victor Hugo know that by stamping and sending this letter he was creating a world class philatelic gem. The cover was found in an old-time collection of Channel Islands Postal History, built by a specialised collector who lived in Belgium. As such, this envelope remained, until recently, undiscovered for over 150 years in the very country to which it was sent.

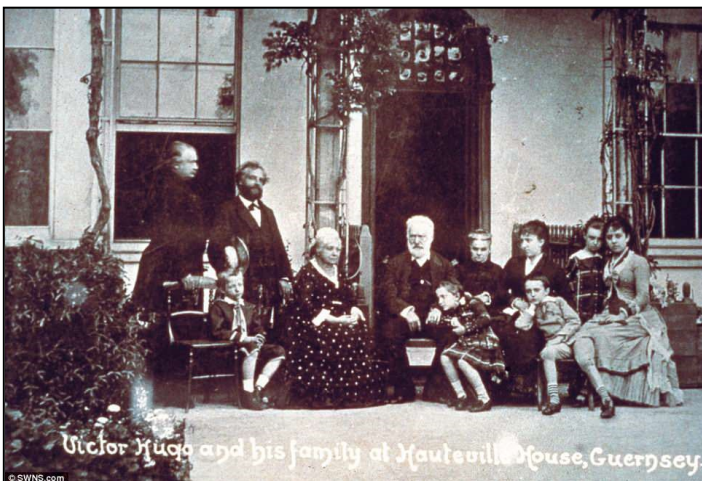


Fig. 2. Victor Hugo (center) is portrayed with his family in front of his Guernsey home.

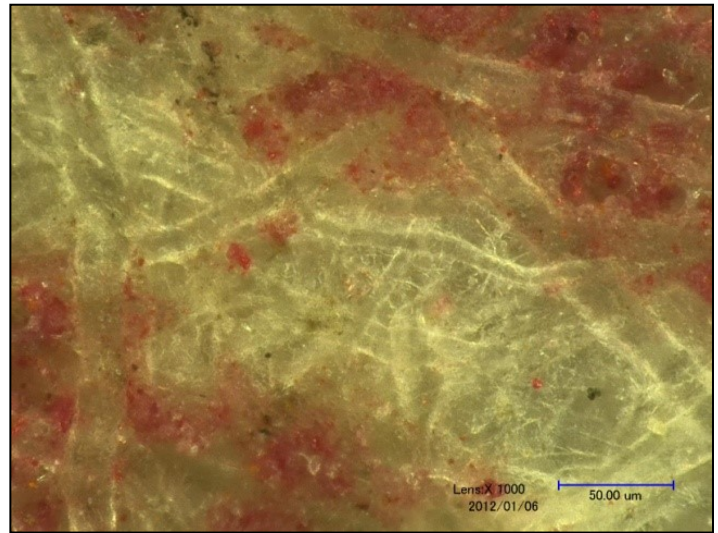
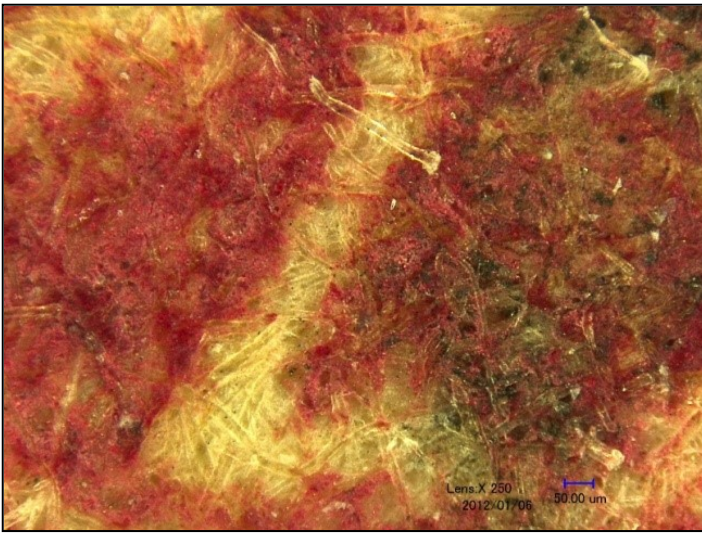


Fig. 3. The authentication process required the use of modern forensic testing equipment to convince doubters that the cover was genuine. Showing that there was no tampering with the paper fibers where the “77s” were printed was of critical importance. These images show the critical areas at magnifications of 250x and 1000x.

Clearly, such an incredible philatelic discovery aroused some suspicion within the philatelic community. The UK’s Royal Philatelic Society Ltd had previously issued two certificates of opinion in 2006 and 2014 which declared the cover a fake, but comprehensive forensic testing using cutting-edge scientific equipment has demonstrated beyond any doubt that the stamps have not been faked or tampered with. In the January 2019 issue of their London Philatelist magazine, the RPSL Ltd published the fact that the two certificates “were returned and treated as void, that is not to have been issued, and the submission fees refunded.”

The cover now stands completely unchallenged as far as its authenticity is concerned. Furthermore, three fully recognized expert bodies in the USA have issued certificates of genuineness for the item.

In attempts to prove its authenticity, the owner subjected this cover to forensic testing at a level never carried out before on any philatelic item and as such the cover can be regarded as the most forensically tested philatelic item known and the only plate 77 stamps to have a “scientific clean bill of health.”

Leading forensic scientists and laboratories including The Radley Forensic Document Laboratory, Professor Gene Hall at Rutgers University in the USA, Reading Scientific Services Limited (RSSL) and others examined the item extensively and unanimously found that there was no evidence of any tampering or any disruption of the paper fibre and no evidence of any bleaching or the application of offending inks or paints in order to alter the numbers on either side of the three stamps.

As an example, illustrated are two images of the paper fibres from the right hand “7” on one of the stamps at magnifications of 250x and 1000x taken from a Keyence VHX600E digital microscope which clearly show that all the fibres are completely colourless and intact, as they should be.

The level of expertise of the forensic scientists and laboratories involved cannot be exaggerated, Robert Radley has, for more than five decades, been consulted in over 13,000 cases emanating from all over the world. Professor Gene Hall’s fields of specialisation include the analysis of faked banknotes, postage stamps, and documents which included the Archimedes Palimpsest and Reading Scientific Services Ltd. (RSSL), a British company owned by Mondelez International, provides scientific analysis, consultancy and product development services on a global scale.

This combination of scientific and philatelic expertise has demonstrated beyond doubt that this cover is genuine, making it a true world-class rarity that brings together the worlds of philately and literature, and now sets a new precedent for the use of forensic science in establishing the authenticity of rare philatelic items.

Forensic science has already found its rightful place within the Art world where it now assists in the authentication of paintings and early documents. It is also now finding its equally rightful place in the world of philatelic authentication.

As for the accepted handful of examples mentioned earlier, only seven copies were previously known. One unused copy was purchased by King George V and resides in The Royal Collection, two bequeathed copies, one unused and one used, reside in The British Library, a further used copy is in private hands and two more used copies were sold recently. One sold in 2012 for an amount believed to be c.£550,000 (\$700,000), and the other, a damaged copy, sold in 2016 for £495,000 (\$640,000). A seventh unused copy is known to exist but its whereabouts are unknown.

Note: The Victor Hugo image above was downloaded from the Internet - Credit: ©SWNS.com.

All other images are owned by A Najjar.

Changes in Postal Services are Nothing New

By Jack Van Ens

Trimming or expanding mail delivery has historically generated controversy. Thomas Jefferson proposed expanding mail delivery, even though few passable East-West trails existed. Lack of highways slowed letters from quickly reaching isolated pioneers. With the opening of new postal roads, Jefferson believed citizens remote from each other would become knit. By visiting a post office to collect mail, a pioneer reading letters felt a sender's touch in empathetic ways today's slapdash e-mails or texting don't.

Jefferson expected mail delivery to run as smoothly as his elegant writing style. After laboring over a letter's draft, he produced graceful, spare and lucid prose. In retirement, Jefferson exchanged copious correspondence with John Adams. Early-on friends, then political enemies, it was their quills on parchment that again brought them together.

At a hurried appointment in New York with President George Washington on Tuesday, February 28, 1792, Jefferson advised expanding mail service by "doubling the velocity of post-riders" from fifty to one hundred miles a day.



U.S. Post rider featured on 1973 stamp commemorating the U.S. Bicentennial and communication in Colonial times.

Then the treasury department headed by Alexander Hamilton governed the postal system. Secretary of State Jefferson proposed it be transferred under him because "the Treasury possessed already such an influence as to swallow up the whole Executive powers." Jefferson clashed with Hamilton who consolidated power at the top of the political heap. The Post Office employed far more federal workers than other federal offices.

Strong religious protests rocked this build-out of mail delivery. Furious debate rocked Washington from 1810-1840. This era churned with charges and rebuttals over how seven-day-a-week mail delivery would harm Sabbath observance. Presbyterians led the protest against postal employees working on Sundays. Why desecrate Sunday by delivering mail on the Lord's Day?

Presbyterians didn't get exercised over Saturday mail

delivery. This day marked the Jewish Sabbath, which ran from sundown on Friday until sundown on Saturday. Christians, to mark Christ's resurrection on the first day of the week, observed their Sabbath on Sunday.

Presbyterian professors at the College of New Jersey (later Princeton University) and at the adjacent theological seminary denounced the postal system for breaking the Fourth Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (*Exodus* 20:8).

In the early 19th century, "holy" didn't carry current negative connotations. Today, a holy person is perceived as insufferable—an uppity moral prig who chastises others for their faults. "Holy" in 1810 meant to keep Sunday distinctive by passing Blue Laws prohibiting work connected with mail delivery.

In 1810, Congress passed a law requiring postmasters to open their offices *any* days when mail was delivered. No house delivery of mail occurred in this era. Correspondence and parcels were placed in post office slots where citizens picked them up.

In 1812, the Presbyterian General Assembly—which functions like an ecclesiastical Supreme Court, Congress and the White House rolled into one body—called for a repeal of the law opening post offices on Sunday. The General Assembly also demanded that Uncle Sam to stop Sunday mail delivery.

Presbyterians started a mail campaign against Sunday post office openings, but Congress didn't budge. In 1815, legislators were swamped with hundreds of petitions against Sunday mail service. Christians accused Jefferson of lacking faith because he was the chief advocate of Sunday mail delivery.

In 1827, Princeton University and the Seminary next door passed edicts that left the hamlet isolated from the world on Sundays. Presbyterians supported a petition calling for a community "ordinance prohibiting stages, wagons etc., from passing through the town on the Sabbath." Princetonians walking to church detested street dust churned up by mail delivery wagons soiling Sunday-best clothes.

Most stamp collectors don't favor cuts in mail service. Fewer mailed letters adds up to less stamps canceled for collectors. If letter writing continues its death spiral, won't citizens feel remote and isolated?

Former President Barack Obama appreciates a strong writing habit, whether expressed in a diary or by letter. He says, "...writing has been an important exercise to clarify what I believe, what I see, what I care about, what my deepest values are—that the process of converting a jumble of thoughts into coherent sentences makes you ask tougher questions."

Today, cutting Saturday mail delivery stirs debate, reminiscent of when communities were stamped with controversy over Jefferson's advocacy of Sunday mail service.

Calling All Clubs

By Joseph Lanotte

Do you want to generate interest in the philatelic field in which your club specializes? Would you like to share your expertise in your philatelic field with others having the same interests? Are you looking for an outreach program to attract new members to your club? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, then please read on.

As you are all probably aware, in today’s world when people are looking for information on any subject the most likely place for them to go to is the Internet. The Internet is the information highway of today and will remain so for the foreseeable future. If you want people to know about your club, you need to get your club’s name out in front of them on the Internet.

When a member or guest speaker provides a presentation at your meetings, hopefully you find the presentation both interesting as well as informative. So think about this: What if that presentation was video-taped and posted on the Internet for the world to see? What a great way to get some free advertising for your club while at the same time sharing your expertise with folks from around the world.

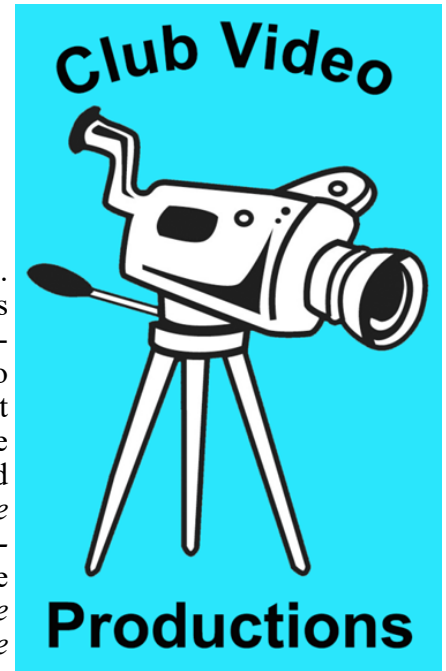
For the past six years the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library has sponsored the creation of video tutorials. During this time the video team, made up solely of RMPL volunteer members, has produced 21 videos about numerous philatelic subjects, with over

18,000 viewings.

Some of the videos are of club presentations. There are two presentations that were recorded at the Denver Postcard Club, one about *The Yellowstone Highway of 1915* and the other about *The Lost Lodges of the Rocky Mountain National Park*.

We also have a recorded presentation at the Arapahoe Stamp Club dealing with Stamp Forgeries and Fakes, as well as two recorded presentations from the Second Saturday Programs, one dealing with French Indochina Expositions and another about Mourning Covers and Stamps.

All of our videos are posted on the RMPL website via YouTube, giving the world easy access to find and view all of the RMPL videos. We invite your club to consider letting us play a part in making your club more successful through video. For further information, please contact Joe Lanotte at clubvideoproductions@gmail.com. Joe can also be reached at 303-680-9400.



It's Income Tax Time Again

By Tim Heins



RMPL members are aware of the many benefits of being a member of the RMPL. But, in addition, it is possible that making a contribution to the RMPL may have earned RMPL members a charity donation deduction on their 2018 Federal and Colorado income tax returns if you itemize. Because RMPL is a 501(c)(3) charity RMPL members who renew their membership at a level above the Contributing Member level of \$25 can utilize the amount above \$25 as a charitable deduction. State income tax rules for members who live outside Colorado may differ. Consult with your income tax professional to determine whether this opportunity applies to your income tax situation.

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

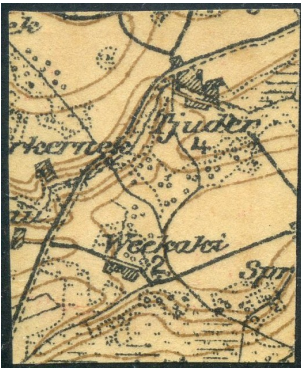
March 9, 2019--9:00 a.m.

Exploring Latvian Map and Banknote Stamps

Presenter: Paul M. Holland

Note: This will be a remote presentation

Among the great philatelic curiosities of the early 20th century are Latvian map and banknote stamps, which arose due to severe paper shortages following World War I. These include the first stamps of Latvia printed on the backs of surplus German infantry maps, and other early stamps printed on partially printed sheets of banknotes of the various post-war factions, then contesting for control of Latvia. Besides historical and philatelic background, this talk will discuss identifying different infantry maps, banknote stamp printing errors and control numbers, and will include rare full sheets of the banknote stamps.

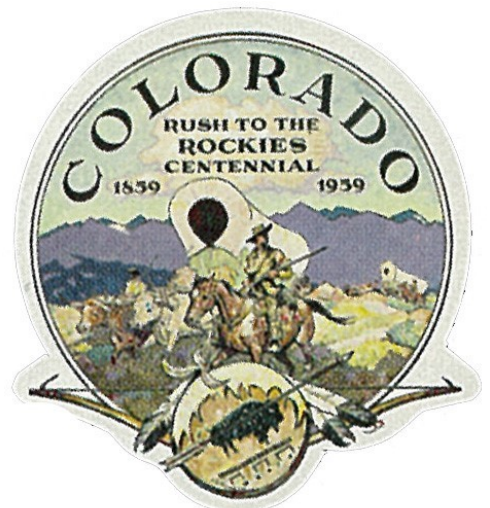


April 13, 2019--9:00 a.m.

Selling Colorado

Presenter: John Bloor

Back in the days before television, most advertising was done in print. It was meant to be discarded but some of it has survived and comprises one type of paper ephemera. Colorado used many brochures, poster stamps, and other paper items to promote the state and the cities and sites in it. The advertising was often very attractive and shows us what was used to attract visitors and their money to Colorado. I will show you some of this material and describe the places depicted in it.



RMPL Board of Directors Meeting—February 7, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. All Board members were present except Steve McGill. The normal January meeting was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for today. Guests included Joe Lanotte, Jeff Modesitt, and Don Beuthel who was sitting in for Librarian Ellengail Beuthel. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Financial Reports

Treasurer Tim Heins discussed several financial reports that were included in the meeting handouts. The individual reports included:

- ◆ *Transaction List by Vendor for November through December 2018*
- ◆ *Revenues and Expenses for January through December 2018*
- ◆ *Balance Sheet as of October 31, 2018*
- ◆ *Revenues and Expenses Budget Overview, January through December 2019*

This report has two columns comparing 2018 with 2017. After accounting for the reinstated property tax exemptions, the report shows that the library made just over \$40,000 in 2018.

This report shows the budget for 2019. Treasurer Tim Heins noted that he has added a budget item of \$2,000 for the video production program. This is in response to needs identified by video program head Joe Lanotte and a \$2,000 donation received from MaryAnn Bowman specifically for the video program. A second donation of \$150 was given by the Denver Postcard Club for the program. This increases the video budget item to \$2,150.

The board agreed to allow Joe Lanotte to make purchases for the video program up to \$2,150 without advance approval. Anything over this amount will need the president's approval. Joe also will be supplied with a copy of the library's tax exempt form to use in making purchases.

Tim has included estimates for the employment of a librarian. This currently includes amounts for salary, benefits, and taxes. There was discussion as to whether the new person would be an employee or a contractor. A decision on this requires further research and may be partially determined by IRS regulations and the hiree's other employment circumstances.

Tim also put a line item in the budget for Outreach Consulting. This may involve contracting with a public relations company or advertising firm, although most of the actual implementation will probably need to be done by the Library. Rich Palestro suggested doing a better job of promoting RMPL at RMSS. John Bloor suggested that we make better use of our website. Don Buethel mentioned that years ago we asked APS for a list of their members in Colorado and neighboring states. This was then used to directly contact people who were not RMPL mem-

bers with a promotional mailing. Jim Kilbane suggested contacting Dave Reitsema of the Guatemala Philatelic Society. They have a budget to pay someone to promote their society in various ways. In only a few months they have added 20-25 new members. It would be good to learn what kinds of things they are doing.

A subsequent vote of the board via email approved the 2019 budget.

- ◆ UBS Account
 - ◆ Property Insurance Quotes
- After discussing the bids from State Farm and The Hartford, it was moved and seconded that we renew our property insurance with The Hartford for \$5,081. The motion passed.

Technology

Jim Kilbane reviewed the following reports that were included in the meeting handouts:

- ◆ Membership
 - ◆ Society Production Printing
 - ◆ RMPL Production Printing
 - ◆ Borrowing By-Mail
 - ◆ Book Sales through Philatelic Literature Clearing House
 - ◆ Acquisitions and Related
 - ◆ Video Productions
- The membership for 2018 was 486. This is up three members from 2017 and down from a high of 533 in 2014.
- David Weisberg pointed out that the money we make from this activity accounts for about 75% of the cost of the copier.
- This includes the costs for auctions, library use, membership, and Scribblings.
- Three requests were filled in 2018.
- No books were listed in 2018.
- John Bloor encouraged people to submit any book requests to him, but be sure to include a little information about the book plus ordering information.
- David suggested that we give some thought to the philatelic relevance of some of the books in the western history section of the library.
- This is a very detailed report of the program which includes equipment purchased, donations, production schedule, and an equipment budget request. Also included is a list of the current videos showing the number of times each was viewed.

Old Business

- ◆ Status of Search for New Librarian
- In lieu of Ellengail's absence, Don Beuthel led a discussion on the status of hiring a new librarian. To date, two people have expressed interest in the position. One person has experience as a library administrator, but no experience in cataloging. The second person is a member

(Continued on page 14)

of the library. This person works part-time at an area library and has experience with cataloging. A third person has yet to be contacted, but this should occur in the next week.

Don reviewed a handout outlining the qualifications, responsibilities, and job description for the RMPL librarian. It was agreed to wait a week so the third person can be contacted. Then, with Ellengail's recommendation, a final selection can be made by the board via email.

APS Elections

It was moved and seconded that RMPL second the nomination of candidates for APS offices. The motion passed. Tonny will sign the APS form letter as RMPL President and Bill Plachte will sign as Corresponding Secretary.

New Business

◆ OLLI

Reporting for Steve Nadler, Tim Heins stated that in 2018 fourteen people attended the spring OLLI program. Only three people enrolled in the fall session, and the program (according to OLLI rules) was cancelled. No OLLI program is scheduled for 2019; however, Steve may consider applying for a session in the fall.

◆ RMPL Video Program

Joe Lanotte stated that the RMPL video program has grown to 21 programs. The format for packaging sets of the programs for sale is now changing from DVDs to flash drives. This will significantly reduce production time. The production cost per set is about \$6.00.

It was moved and seconded that we sell the flash drive set of all 21 programs at \$6.00. The motion passed.

◆ Silent Auction Featuring Country Lots and Covers

Dasa Metzler reported on several improvements to the former Country Lot Auction. It will now be conducted in a silent auction format. All items will be displayed. Stamps will be shown with protective covers, many listed with catalog numbers, and there will be few duplicates. Currently there are over 350 lots. First day covers and pickle jars of stamps will also be included. The auction is scheduled for March 23, 2019 from 10 a.m to 4 p.m. Advance viewing will begin on Monday March 18. An announcement of the newly formatted event will appear in *Scribbings* along with a catalog and bid sheet.

David Weisberg added that he currently has 800 lots for the May auction. He also mentioned that he has a large collection of press sheets. Twelve to fifteen of them will appear in the RMSS auction on a trial basis to see how they fare.

◆ Concrete Work in Rear of Building

Rich Palestro reported that he has been unable to find the name of the contractor that Bill Crabbs contacted. There will be further discussion on this project, and work will be scheduled during warmer weather.

◆ Audit

It was moved and seconded that we hire Jones Mertsching CPAs to conduct a full audit of the RMPL fi-

nancials and also prepare a Form 990 at a total cost of \$4,900. The motion passed.

◆ By-Laws

The proposed changes in the By-Laws made by past president Sergio Lugo at his final board meeting as president in 2015 have been found. Eric Carlson has been coordinating this effort and will be at the next meeting to discuss the status and present his recommendations.

◆ Library Closings

Tonny will look into ways of notifying people when the Library will be closed due to bad weather. At present the simplest ways may be through the phone messaging system, and/or via the RMPL website.

◆ Approval of New Members

It was moved and seconded to approve all new members who have joined since the last meeting. The motion passed.

◆ Announcements

Volunteers are still needed to help as assistants to various leadership positions.

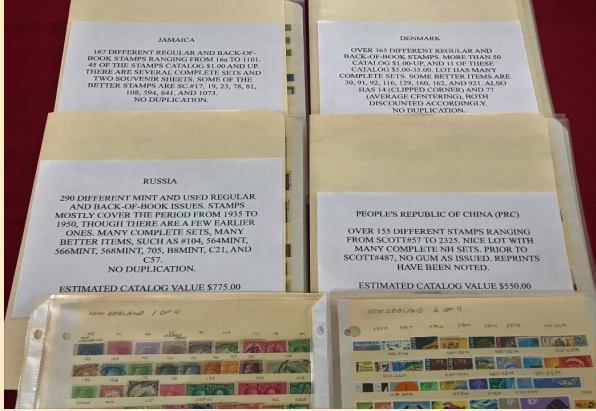
The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Paul Lee
Recording Secretary

REMEMBER TO BID!

Country Lot Auction 2019

**Viewing: March 18th through March 23rd
in the RMPL Annex Building**



This year's auction has 367 Lots.
Bidding closes 4:00 p.m. March 23rd.
The earliest bid will be awarded the lot
in the event of a tie.

Letters to the Editor

Several issue ago, I asked for comments about the style preferred for reporting the bimonthly Board of Director meetings. The issue was whether to summarize each report or to print it in its entirety. I received two responses which expressed somewhat, but not entirely divergent opinions.

Jeff,

You asked for reactions from the membership. As much as I enjoyed (?) reading the minutes of the RMPL Board, I probably would vote in favor of a synopsis version in order to provide more space for articles that appeal to the various collecting interests within the membership. In addition, one must think of the future. Paul Lee does a good job with the minutes; his successor(s) might not do as well and that could prove awkward for publication in Scribblings.

Paul Albright

Hi Jeff:

You asked, I'm answering. I hope there are others. Summaries are for the weak-minded and those that can't wrap their heads around anything. I think you can get my drift at the outset.

Detailed minutes: (1) inform, (2) provide a flavor on the issues involved, and (3) are a record for future leaders and members that can be referred to. As such they provide an alternative to the silly, unwarranted and destructive opinions and stances of those who wish to administer willy-nilly or without regard to a host of considerations that have informed and guided issues.

So, I think you can conjecture up my stance on the matter.

Regards,
Sergio Lugo

Both readers pointed out very valid issues. Given that the two responders "enjoyed (?)" the presentation of the minutes, especially the impressive skill of Paul Lee, our Recording Secretary, to make them readable, I will continue to print as much of the Board proceedings as space will reasonably allow. The RMPL is a very complex organization and I think it behooves us all to understand the challenges that our **entirely volunteer** crew goes through to make it work. I also agree with Paul's point regarding philatelic oriented articles. Access to information is what we are about and I can only hope that *Scribblings* finds itself overwhelmed with a plethora of articles. The answer to that problem is simple - an expanded edition. Go ahead and make my day!

NEW MEMBERS

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

- ◆ Dmitri Belikov - Ukraine-Russia, USA
- ◆ Tim Collum
- ◆ Erick Lee Erickson - German Hyperinflation 1922-1923, Reichspost
- ◆ Juul Dijkstra - USA 1930s Greek Hermes
- ◆ Gary Patterson

DONATIONS:

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following people made donations to the library during the last two months. We thank every one who has contributed (alphabetized by last name). Here are the people and organizations who contributed during this period.

Paul Albright	Susan McCannon
Arapahoe Stamp Club	Steve McGill
Richard Aspnes	Dasa Metzler
Art Barber	Carol Mobley
Margarett Bakker	Jeff Modesitt
MaryAnn Bowman	Douglas Moore
Steve Bonowski	Kris Nelson
George Brinkworth	Randy Nilson
Susan Dechert	Steve Pacetti
Harold Effner	William Plachte
Richard Fesker	Tom Pool
Nolan Flowers	SCC Chapter 27
Gene M. Holgate	George Van Trump Jr.
Kristin Howland	Robert Smetana
Jerry Hudson	William Stolfus
Laura Johnson	Carole Sundine
Richard Landrum	Kathleen Whitcomb
R. J. Lansing	Alan Wolcott
Stan Luft	Grace Wright

For the Record: Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, March 21, 2019
at 5:00 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, Dasa Metzler. Clubs should check the calendar regularly and notify Dasa at (303) 322-1231 of any changes or updates. All requests to reserve meeting time and space for philatelically related meetings other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled with Dasa well in advance.

******March 2019******

March 2 Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club

March 2 Sat-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)

March 6 Wed-Meeting 2:00 p.m. (New time)
Aurora Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL
March 9 Sat 9:00 a.m.
Program by Paul M. Holland
“Exploring Latvian Map and Banknote Stamps”

March 10 Sun-1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club

March 13 Wed-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club-Joint Meeting with
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

March 14 Thu-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Cherrelyn Stamp Club

March 16 Sat-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors

March 17 Sun-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain and Colonies Collectors Club

March 21 Thu-5:00 p.m. **RMPL Board Meeting**
Open to all

March 26 Tue-Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

March 27 Wed-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club

******April 2019******

April 3 Wed-Meeting 2:00 p.m. (New time)
Aurora Stamp Club

April 6 Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m..
Scandinavian Collectors Club

April 6 Sat-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)

April 10 Wed-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club-Joint Meeting with
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

April 11 Thu-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Cherrelyn Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL
April 13 9:00 a.m.
Program by John Bloor
“Selling Colorado”

April 13 Sat-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Club

April 13 Sat-Meeting 11:30 a.m.
Rocky Mountain Aero/Astro Philatelic Club

April 14 Sun-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club

April 20 Sat-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors

April 21 Sun-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club

April 23 Tue-Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

April 24 Wed-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club

Reminder: **Country Lot Auction**
Viewing is during regular RMPL hours: March 18-23, Bidding closes at 4:00 p.m., March 23, 2019