

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Sherri Soraci-Jennings, Librarian

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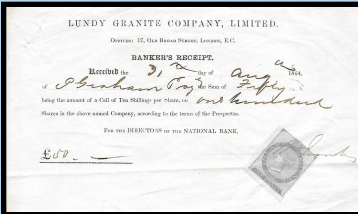
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Plácido Ramón de Torres: A Prolific Forger

By Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Translated by Ernesto Cuesta

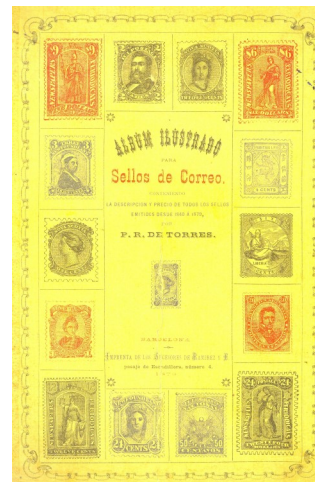


Fig. 1 (upper left). The first worldwide stamp catalog in Italian. Figs. 3 & 4. From the Torres "Álbum de Sellos"



Fig. 2. The first philatelic journal-"La Posta Mondiale"

forgeries, most of which have already been identified and described.

Born in Estepona (Málaga), he grew up in Italy where he learned the trade of lithographer. The editor and philatelic dealer Elia Carlo Usigli (1812-1894) discovered his professional abilities, his talent, and his passion for stamp collecting. He mentored him and used him to produce illustrations that he sold to European editors of the nascent stamp journals and catalogs starting in the mid-1860s.

Usigli introduced him into the world of forgeries. They imitated and commercialized the issues of the old Italian states as well as municipal stamps.¹ Torres even published the first worldwide stamp catalog in Italian (Fig.1) and within a year, the first philatelic journal, La Posta Mondiale (Fig.2). After the total failure of a common project in 1873/74, the Spaniard was forced to

(Continued on page 3)

Scribblings

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

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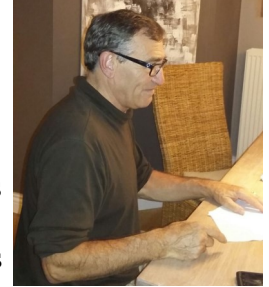
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President's Message

When this newsletter reaches you, Spring may be just over the horizon...or we may have two more months of unpredictable weather. Unlike the weather, the RMPL predictably continues on its mission to provide literature, stamps, supplies and other services to its members.



Things are progressing fast and the next big event will be the silent auction at RMSS in May. Hopefully, most of you will have replenished your slush fund and can contribute to the RMPL through the show auction. Put together by Paul Domenici, Gary Withrow, and team, the auction has something to offer almost every collector. Your participation is appreciated. We have one more potentially lean year before we can start selling some of our major donations due to the IRS' 3-year hold period on contributions valued over \$5,000. This is where each of you can step in, add to your collections, and help with our operating expenses. Please consider bidding. Thanks in advance!

Our online book sale is still going strong and a new list of available books is included with this issue. Some very interesting titles are available at great prices. There is probably no more economical way to build your philatelic library.

I thank all the members for their continued support and gracious donations.

Tonny

The RMPL Will be closed for the following holidays:

New Year's Day

Memorial Day

July 4th

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas

When Denver schools are closed due to weather, the RMPL will be closed.

(Continued from page 1)

leave Italy forever. He installed himself in Barcelona as a philatelic dealer and continued his work therein. In 1879 he published his *Álbum de sellos* (Stamp Album) which also served as an illustrated catalog with more than 1,200 of his illustrations (Figs. 3 & 4). After an agitated lifetime this “errant cavalier” started withdrawing from his philatelic and forgery activities towards the beginning of the 20th Century.

Course of the investigation

Reviewing all of the available philatelic journals of the 19th Century, I realized that most of them not



Figs. 5-10. Example of “private copies” that were sold as part of stamp packets.

only showed the same denominations of the illustrated stamps, which already defied the rules of probability, but additionally, they were identical even in their most minute details which pointed to a common origin. Experts in the field pointed to Jean-Baptiste Moens, Belgian philatelic dealer and editor of the journal *Le Timbre Poste*, who was considered by most on this side of the world as the Father of Philately.

Following this trail, I came upon the fact already mentioned above in the introduction, that Torres, with

Victoria.—We annex a cut of the new two penny value which we described last month. It is the same which figured in the latest number of the *Timbre Poste*, and would be excellent were it not for the eccentric substitution of a “D” for the “T” in the word Victoria. M. Moens explains this by assuring us that his engraver was suffering at the time from a severe cold in the head.



Fig. 11. A probable intended “eccentric substitution” rationalized as the result of a sick engraver.

the help of his mentor and, later on his own, had produced with the lithograph stones of his consigned illustrations his “minor forgeries.” They were collateral proofs and “private copies” resulting from his consigned work as philatelic illustrator that metamorphosed into forgeries when they were placed in the philatelic market within stamp packages (Figs. 5-10).²

In many of these illustrations, I was able to find “errors” that at first appeared to be accidental. In some cases, these had already been discovered, publicly denounced, and some even corrected (Fig. 11). Moreover, being illustrations, some errors here and there were not very significant. However, within the illustrations of the rural stamps of Russia, those called *zemstvos*, the percentage of forgeries was as high as 50% and that the errors and/or “jokes” also appeared in the corresponding forgeries that I was finding. I realized that such was not the result of accidental flaws, but rather that those errors and/or jokes were deliberate.³

I also discovered another facet of his activity: his “fantastic” work—stamps that could be classified somewhere between forgeries, jokes, or fantasies.⁴

When I discovered his collaboration with Swiss forger François Fournier, I realized that his outlandish activities were not limited to the realm of stamps, but also extended into the field of cancellations.⁵ The mixture of his fantasy creations, the errors and his forged cancellations, also invented or erroneous, eventually led to discovery of his forgeries of Argentina, Australia, and Italy.⁶

The way of understanding his work as a forger is undoubtedly completely contrary to the norm. There are forgers who have produced fantasy or bogus stamps as they are known in the Anglo-Saxon world. There are others who have produced jokes or mocks, but I only know one that in his limited scope of operations also intentionally included a few errors in a few of his forgeries - the Japanese Kishi Madai, sometimes erroneously called Kamigata.

However, the only one that operated in all of these realms and others at the same time was Plácido Ramón de Torres. His *modus operandi* is unique worldwide.

The revealing cancellation

The key to detecting many of the Torres forgeries was the existence of a peculiar and obviously fake cancellation, applied to some examples of the Torres forgeries of Buenos Aires, the so-named “barquitos” (“small boats,” Fig. 12).⁷ It is the cancellation [CORREOS; 7.1.66; II-III] that can be seen in some of said forgeries and can therefore be attributed to him. Note, in many cases, the year in the cancellation seems to be “60” due to the poor definition of the last digit. The “6” of the last digit is not closed and



Figs. 12 & 13. A telltale cancellation

can be easily confused with a “0”. This cancellation has already been documented on forged stamps of about twenty countries, not all Spanish-speaking countries where the use of this cancellation would have been justified, among them Jamaica (Fig.13) and the old German states.

Torres and Cuba

Regarding issues of the Philippines, I found a great number of his minor forgeries within the 13 illustrations of his *Album*, as demonstrated in a recent article published together with the specialist in Philippines forgeries, Nigel Gooding. In Cuba's case, I have been unable to find any minor forgeries within his 23 illustrations. I have also not been able to find any of his errors among his additional illustrations prepared for other editors. I only observed a nice error-joke in a Puerto Rico illustration that he produced for the German catalog Moschkau (Fig.14), a precursor of the later Senf Catalog.⁸



Fig. 14.

The 1862 Issue

Among the forgeries of this issue I note a type that bears in all of its varieties, both Spanish as well as Cuban, the already noted “CORREOS” cancellation.

The sad face of Queen Isabella is the most notable characteristic of this set of forgeries which will simi-



Figs. 15 & 16. Genuine and forgery.

larly be found in some of the forgeries of the 1864 and 1866 issues in which the facial expression of the Queen is notably languid and sad (Fig. 15, genuine; Fig. 16, Torres forgery).

Other than the ¼ Real denomination, none of the other four denominations that were issued in Spain were issued for use in Cuba. Torres does not appear to have known this fact when he produced his *Album* because he reserved space in it for all the denominations issued for Spain. He also made a mistake in reserving two spaces for the lowest denomination for which he showed an illustration. Although we are



Figs. 17 & 18. The green and blue forgeries are often considered proofs. Fig. 19 (upper right). The 2 Reales forgery exhibits a Torres “joke” as seen in the Fig. 20 enlargement: R8 rather than Rs.

pretty sure that they existed, I cannot show any corresponding minor forgeries.

I can also certify the existence of examples of the same denomination in different colors and possibly on different-color papers. For example, there is a ¼ Real printed in black on white paper and the 1 Real value in two colors: blue and green (Figs. 17 & 18). Some consider these forgeries as proofs and others consider them as fantasies. Some examples of the 2 Reales exhibit one of the typical jokes (Fig. 19) of the author. The abbreviation of Reales shows an “8” instead of an “S”, so that it reads “R8” instead of “Rs” (Fig. 20).

The 1864/66/67 Issues

In unison with the scheme of issues of the metropolis, the design is changed for the 1864 issue that two

years earlier is only issued as a single ¼ Real stamp which would in turn be surcharged with a “66” two years later. At the beginning of 1866 four new stamps of the same design were issued, now with the denominations 5, 10, 20, and 40 “céntimos de Escudo” followed by the year date and still imperforate as in the previous issues. This stamp issue would be replaced the next year with a new one with the year updated and perforated for the first time.



Figs. 31-33.

Torres introduced in the 1 Real stamp (PLATA instead of PLATA, Fig. 29) and in the 2 Reales stamp (inverted S in RS, Fig. 30).

The 1864 Stamp Surcharged “66”

The ¼ Real stamp with the “66” surcharge (Fig. 31) was also forged by Torres. It is odd that even though the illustration in his *Album* was a very fine imitation (Fig. 32), like all of his Cuban ones, no example of this minor forgery has been found. The forged sample shown in Figure 33 presents the same characteristics that are seen in the forgeries of the 1864, 1866, and 1867 issues of Cuba that will be analyzed later.



Figs. 21 & 22. Genuine and forgery.

Forgeries of the 1864 Cuba and Antilles Issues

Fig. 21 shows a genuine copy of the 1864 ¼ Real stamp issued for Cuba and Fig. 22 shows a Torres forgery. Besides the tone of the stamp, note the difference in the facial expression of the queen in both stamps. Also note the differences in the hairdo, the eyebrow, and the shading of the neck of the queen.

The 1864 Antilles Stamps

Figures 23 to 25 show the genuine 1864 Antilles stamps and Figures 26 to 28 show the corresponding Torres forgeries. Again, note the differences in the facial expression of the queen, the hair, eyebrow, and shading of the neck between the genuine and forged stamps. Furthermore, note the intentional errors that



Fig. 34 (top row) & 35 (bottom row).

The 1866 and 1867 Issues

The 1866 (Fig. 34) and 1867 (Fig. 35) issues do not show a redesigned stamp, just the same design with a change in the denominations, now in “céntimos” of an Escudo and a change of the year designation. The difference between the two issues is just that the 1866 issue is imperforate and the 1867 is perforated, a process that started being used in Spain already in 1865.

The forgeries of these issues follow the same pattern as those of the preceding issues: the facial expression of the queen is sadder than in the genuine stamps, the appearance of the hair is different, the ornaments surrounding the head of the queen are more irregular, and the letters and numbers of the top and bottom cartouches are also more irregular and with the numbers of the year dates bunched closer together.



Figs. 23-30. The top three stamps are genuine and can be compared to the bottom three forgeries.



Fig. 36. Genuine stamp on the left.

Additionally, the identical measurement of the forgeries of both issues of 23 x 19.25 mm. clearly separates them from the genuine stamps which measure 22 x 19 mm.

In the 1866 issues, I find a 20c value in a light green color rather than the genuine bluish-green of the genuine stamps and another 20c stamp in the lilac color of the 5c value (Fig. 36). In the 1867 issues, I find 20c and 40c values with different color shades than those of the genuine stamps (Fig. 37).



Fig. 37. Genuine stamps at left and forgeries at right for both values.

The 1870 Issue

It is strange that for this issue (Fig. 38) I have only been able to identify one Torres forgery: the 40c rose value. It is shown at the right in Figure 39 together with a genuine copy of the stamp in the center



Fig. 38. Genuine 1870 issue (above).

Fig. 39. Torres forgery on the right, a genuine stamp in the middle and a Spiro forgery at the extreme left for comparison. The cancellation on the right is classic Torres and adorns forgeries of more than 20 countries.



and a Spiro forgery at the extreme left. Like the Spiro brothers, Torres didn't forge isolated stamps in an issue, but rather the entire set, except in the case of his minor forgeries. The almost illegible top inscription "CORREOS" and the missing engraver's initials [EJ] below the effigy distinguish his forgery from those of Spiro, Seguí, and some others of poorer quality.

Evidence that we are dealing with a Torres forgery is provided by the cancellation that was applied to the stamp which is fairly visible in the photo. It is a

"VF" cancellation, so named after the two letters VF placed in the center of the circle. This cancellation usually shows two words: the first one is only partially decipherable in some examples [...TII], the second word is "DOCIWL" and has no meaning in any language to my knowledge. A bold period along the margin opposite the two words completes this rare and attractive invented cancellation.

This cancellation appears in Torres forgeries of more than 20 countries and has been ascribed to him from forgeries from Argentina and Honduras that have been positively identified as his work.⁹

Summary

I am sure that eventually, after the publication of this article, philatelists will discover other "errors" and "jokes" in the Torres forgeries that will help produce an even clearer picture of his activities.

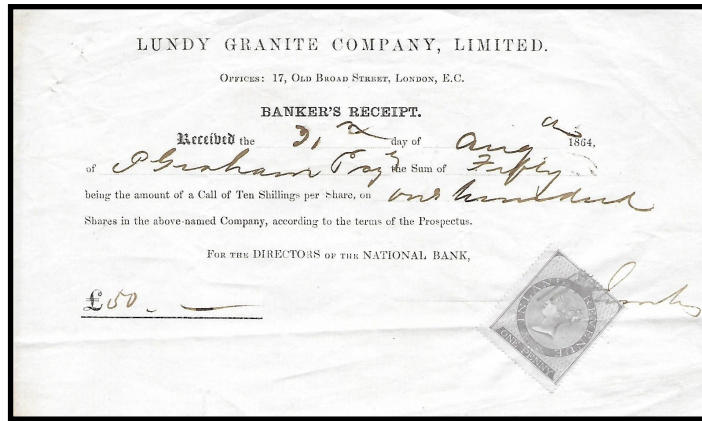
Acknowledgments

My thanks to Ernesto Cuesta who had faith in and supported my research project and prompted me to explore the Torres forgeries of Cuba. He also provided me with images of all of his collection of Cuban forgeries for the study. The same applies to Evert Klaseboer, author of the CD-ROM-Catalogue and its illustrations. It was he who started listing, ordering, and documenting the various cancellations applied to forgeries on a worldwide basis.

English translation by Ernesto Cuesta.

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British Revenue Stamp on Lundy-Related Banker's Receipt

By Roger Cichorz

Two articles on “Lundy Revenue Stamps” in recent issues of *The New Puffin Journal*, the periodical of the U.K. Chapter of the Lundy Collectors Club, reminded me of a Lundy-related revenue item I have in my collection. Obviously, this is not a Lundy stamp used as a revenue on some invoice, but rather a banker's receipt from the Lundy Granite Company, Limited, dated 31 August 1864 and franked with a Great Britain 1860 inland revenue 1d stamp tied by a manuscript cancel. I do not recall this item or any similar one ever being illustrated in past or current Lundy specialist periodicals (*The Puffin Journal*, *Lundy Collectors Club Philatelic Quarterly*, or *The New Puffin Journal*), and thought this uncommon ephemeron might be of interest to readers.

British inland revenue stamps were initially introduced in 1860 when the previously issued 1855 stamp depicting Queen Victoria inscribed “DRAFT PAYABLE ON DEMAND, OR RECEIPT” was overprinted “INLAND REVENUE”. New inland revenue stamps were issued later in 1860, so the stamp on this document represents a relatively early use. I presume the one penny denominated stamp on this banker's receipt served fiscal use indicating a required documentary fee was paid.

A number of British inland revenue stamps were issued over the next two decades, both surface printed designs depicting Queen Victoria, as well as embossed adhesives with an underprint. The Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1881 necessitated that dual-purpose stamps be issued for both postage and revenue; consequently, the Penny Lilac with the inscription “Postage and Inland Revenue” was issued in July 1881, superseding the older inland revenue stamps.

Unfortunately, the Lundy Granite Company, Ltd. was not in existence long enough to experience use of

the subsequent 1881 postage and revenue stamps. The Lundy Granite Company was registered on 18 July 1863 and operated for five years during which time it cut and worked the quarries on Lundy's east side. The company met with some initial success but eventually closed 19 November 1868 as the shipping of stone to the mainland and other problems presented persistent difficulties during its brief lifetime.

An extensive detailed account of the Lundy Granite Company, Ltd. and other quarrying activities on Lundy throughout its recorded history is given by the late A. F. Langham in his 1994 magnum opus, *The Island of Lundy*. Readers desiring more information on this subject are encouraged to consult this book and/or the other references cited below.

I wonder if documents with British revenue stamps exist for other Lundy-related companies or enterprises operating in the 19th Century? Readers are urged to look at their revenue documents and report any to the author at reichorz@comcast.net.

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A Scarce Postage Stamp That's Not a Rarity In Value

By Jack Van Ens

Collectors of postage stamps, coins and paintings often equate collectibles' rarity with their scarcity. In contrast, Bill Dunn (1927-2004), a founder of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (Fig. 1), taught collectors that the rarity and scarcity of heirloom stamps aren't always the same.

Bill "never met a valuable or cheap stamp he didn't like" observed fellow philatelist Ron Mitchell, who delivered a eulogy celebrating Dunn's encyclopedic stamp collecting knowledge.

He spoke during a funeral service held at Denver's downtown historic first church, Trinity United Methodist, on February 28, 2004.

Because that service included several participants who expressed gratitude for Bill Dunn's friendship, Ron Mitchell used talents honed as a reporter/anchor at a major Denver TV station to condense his script while delivering it.

Due to time constraints, Ron Mitchell deleted from the eulogy a description of Bill's enormous capacity to sort mounds of common stamps to discover scarce varieties. Bill exuded robust warmth as he greeted stamp collecting friends and visitors to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. "Many of us have seen Bill at the front table," wrote Mitchell, "with a huge pile of common stamps worth maybe a penny apiece. He would look up their values until he found one worth 75-cents or a dollar. Sometimes he would whoop and announce his discovery as if he had found one of the crown jewels."

President Ronald Reagan told of a fellow who stared at a manure pile that others hurried by. The guy blurted out, "There must be a pony in there somewhere!" Substitute "common stamps" for "manure," and you understand why Bill found treasures among stamp accumulations worth little.



Fig. 1. Bill Dunn - one of the RMPL's founders

He bestowed the title of "Premier Crown Jewel" on his wife Sue who put up with piles of stamps covering a large table in his home waiting to be sorted.

Bill charmed listeners with stories about stamp collecting adventures. He elicited laughs by sharing verbal sketches of colorful stamp collecting characters who he met (some rather odd). Well, let's be honest Bill enthralled listeners who suspected he invented occasional exaggerations. He exuded cracker barrel wisdom which mesmerized friends. Bill's memory stored obscure stamp collecting facts. This mental agility acted like a magnet attracting iron filings.

Blessed with a resonant voice, Bill sounded like philately's Delphic oracle. Having graduated from the Methodist academic mecca of Nebraska Wesleyan University, I suspect Bill, a renowned chemist, had lots of Methodist preacher blood in him. Bill got your attention and gained converts to stamp collecting. Not quite as convincing as Billy Graham, yet, nearly so.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warned "not to lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19). Similar mayhem affects some collectors of rare stamps. A philatelist brushed from a desk in his stamp den a mint 1918 inverted Jenny airmail stamp, worth over \$400,000. His housekeeper vacuumed beneath the stamp desk, sucking up the stamp, leaving it limp, creased and looking like worn carpet.

Bill Dunn collected some rare stamps. He devoted more hours, however, to cheap specimens, what he called "funny-looking things" with postal markings and printing oddities that appealed to collectors.

Bill discovered copies of a common purple stamp
(Continued on page 9)



Fig. 2. Scott #721 coil with a scarce plate number. Scarce but not a Valuable Rarity.

2019 RMPL Financial Report

By Tim Heins

During 2019 the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (RMPL) continued to experience a sound financial year. For the year of 2019, the RMPL had profit of \$16,849 compared with the 2018 profit of \$25,585. Income from membership dues during 2019 was similar to those of 2018. Income categories which declined in 2019 were auctions, stamp sales and society printing. The RMPL was fortunate to receive two large cash donations during 2019. One donation of \$5,000 was a will bequest. The other donation was \$2,000 cash designated for use toward RMPL's video program. Most expenses during 2019 were similar to those of 2018. The largest new expenditure (\$13,755) was the payments to the RMPL Librarian. The pay-

ments for the Librarian are made from RMPL's UBS stock brokerage account.

At the end of 2019 the cash in the checking and saving accounts totaled \$124,367. The UBS Librarian Trust Account ended 2019 at \$219,605.

The Board of Directors has contracted with an outside CPA to conduct a review of the financial records and to prepare the IRS form 990.

The details of the financial results for 2019 are posted in the entrance to the 2038 building. Persons with specific questions can address them to the RMPL Treasurer, Tim Heins, at timheinscpa@msn.com.

(Continued from page 8)

issued in the 1930s which featured painter Gilbert Stuart's iconic profile of George Washington (Scott #720). When issued, this stamp caused a philatelic storm. After the dust settled, Bill Dunn discovered scarce copies of this stamp, rarities worth pocket change.

The stamp's story unfolds like a mind-dulling, complicated chemistry experiment. Except to Bill's mind, of course. Sheets of this Stuart/Washington stamp were printed from different plates, each with a distinctive plate number printed parallel to a sheet's corner copy. Because of the plate number's proximity to the stamp, perforations often cut into the stamp design or severed the plate number.

Stamp collectors protested because either the Stuart/Washington profile or the plate number was defaced. Appeasing these philatelists' grievances, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing moved the plate number 3½ millimeters from Stuart/Washington stamp's design. Previously, it had been positioned 2 millimeters from its design.

More dread erupted from Stuart/Washington coil collectors who specialized in discovering traces of the plate number at the bottom or top of the coil (Scott #721). With the plate number moved too far from the stamp's design, the numerical trace seldom, if ever, appeared. Sick of collectors grouching about the new plate number placement, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing restored the plate numbers to their original positions.

If this tedious plating information bores you, its mind-numbing possibilities spurred Bill Dunn's uncommon passion to search for scarce rarities of this very common stamp (Fig. 2).

He sorted through zillions of these Stuart/Washington coils printed during the interim when plate numbers were widely spaced from the stamp



Fig. 2. Bill Dunn searching for rarities!

design. On one or two copies—maybe three—he discovered faint traces of plate numbers between 21592 and 21814 used during the interim.

“Eureka!” roared in Bill's heart. He found what's equivalent to a mother lode of precious ore: very, very scarce copies of a common Stuart/Washington coil stamp worth ... pennies. But the thrill of discovery for Bill was worth more than owning gold.

Hearing Bill tell of it, his voice swelling with sheer joy, you'd think his find ranked as the Eighth Wonder of the World. Alongside marriage to his dear wife Sue, Bill was infused with devotion to finding stamps peculiar, odd and so common that other collectors overlooked these philatelic gems worth pennies.

NEW ON THE SHELVES

UNITED STATES

Abbreviations and Misspellings in United States Railway Post Office Postmarks, by Jim Mehrer

Catalog of United States Stamped Envelope Essays and Proofs (Second Edition Revised 2019), by Dan Undersander

A Description of United States Postage Stamps Issued by the Post Office Department from July 1, 1847 to December 31, 1934

Guide to Identifying U.S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks, by Jim Mehrer

A Historical Reference List of the Revenue Stamps of the United States: Including the Private Die Proprietary Stamps (1899), compiled by George L. Toppan, Hiram E. Deats, and Alexander Holland

The Lipman Postal Card: Forerunner from Philadelphia, by Robert L. Toal

Official Catalog of U.S. Plate Blocks: Listing and Pricing of U.S. Plate Blocks 1901 to Date [1970], by Charles J. Demuth

United States Postage Stamps Illustrated and Identified: 8th Edition (1949), published by Scott Publications

AFRICA

Revenue Stamped Paper (Papel Selado) of Moçambique, by John K. Cross

EUROPE

Alsace-Lorraine 1918-1920: de l'Effondrement de l'empire Allemand au Rattachement à la France: Tarifs et Règlements Postaux, by Robert Abensur

Altösterreich-Lexikon, vom Altbrief bis zur Briefmarke, by Karl Huber

Billig's Philatelic Handbook. French Philatelic Facts, by Brainerd Kremer

I Bolli di Franchigia Militare: Dalla Repubblica Cisalpina al Regno d'Italia 1796-1814, by Luciano Previato

Catalogue Bureaux Ambulants 1845-1865; Cachets de Gares 1854-1860, by Jean Pothien

Catalogue des Cachets Courriers-Convoyeurs, 1852-1966, by Jean Pothien

Catalogue des Cachets Courriers-Convoyeurs-Lignes 1877-1966, by Jean Pothien

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste: Cent Dix-Huitième Année (2014), Tome I: France, Emissions Générales des Colonies, published by Yvert & Tellier

Couleurs et Nuances, Timbres de France: Période Classique 1849-1900, by Gérard Bermejo and Jean-François Brun

Dictionnaire Historique des Timbres & Griffes "Standard" de l'Administration de Posts: 1792-1914

Essai sur "Les Semeuses": d'Une Collection Etude a la Portée de Tous, by Louis Barrier

From Hinrichsen to Krag: The Experimental and Early Machine Postmarks of Germany, by Jerry H. Miller

Histoire Postale et Militaire en Dehors des Deux Guerres Mondiales: Poste Militaire Française dans le Monde Postes Étrangères en France, by C. Deloste

Histoire Postale et Militaire de la Deuxième Guerre Mondiale: Postes Militaires Françaises; Alliées et Ennemies, by C. Deloste

Histoire Postale et Militaire de la Première Guerre Mondial: Postes Militaires Françaises; Alliées et Ennemies, sur les Front Française, by C. Deloste

L'Impression des Timbres Français par les Rotatives, 3rd Edition, Parts 1, 2, and 3, by Vinck de Winnezele, le Baron

Le Legioni Polacche in Tialia 1797-1806, by Luciano Previato

La Marianne de Cocteau, by Jean-Luc Traessaert

La Marianne de Decaris, by Jean-Luc Traessaert

La Marianne de Muller, by Jean-Luc Traessaert

La Marianne à la Nef, by Jean-Luc Traessaert

Monographie des Timbres de France de 1903 et 1906 au Type Semeuse, by Jean Storch and Robert Françon

Oblitérations de France sur timbres Detaches, by Armand Mathieu

Ordinary Mail by Diplomatic Means During the Siege of Paris 1870-1871, by Ernst M. Cohn

Paris et sa Poste [Paris and its Posts], by Roger Valuet

The Philatelic Foundation Seminar Series, Textbook No. 2: Philatelie à la Française

Les Poinçons "Semeuses" du Musée Postal, Vol. I: Semeuses Lignée, Semeuses de 1906, by Pierre de Lizeray

Les Poinçons "Semeuses" du Musée Postal, Vol. II: Semeuses Inscriptions Grasses du 1c. au 20c., by Pierre de Lizeray

La Poste Pendant la Guerre et l'Occupation (1870-1872), by M.G. Dreyfuss

Le Service Postal de l'Armée de Morée [in French and Greek], by Sophocles G. Nicolaïdès

Les Tarifs Postaux Française 1627-1969, by Jean-Paul Alexandre, C. Barbey, Jean-Françoise Brun, G. Desarnaud, and R. Joany

Timbres de France Marianne 1984-1985, by J. Storch, R. Francon, and Jean-Françoise Brun

Les Timbres-Poste au Type Pasteur, by Jean Storch and Robert Françon

Les Timbres-Poste au Type Semeuse Camée de 1907, by Jean Storch and Robert Françon

Unusual Mail in Occupied France 1870-1871: Little-Known Activities of Smugglers, Censors, a Propagandist and Others, by Ernst M. Cohn

L'Utilisation des Entiers Postaux & Apparentes dans la Philatelie Thematique, by J.A. Desimpelaere

Die Vorphilatelistischen Stempel Niederösterreichs [The Prephilatelic Cancels of Lower Austria], by Karl Kühn

MIDDLE EAST

Fakes and Forgeries: Iran; an RMPL Reference Guide

NORTH AMERICA

Canadian Silks by Colorano: A Personal Tribute to Ray and Jennie Novak, by Gordon Payne

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

World's Rarest Airmail Stamp: The Black Honduras, by Ken Lawrence

POSTCARDS

Price Guide for Pioneer Postcards: The Story of Mailing Cards to 1898 with an Illustrated Checklist of Publishers and Titles (1979-1980), by James Lewis Lowe

MISCELLANEOUS

1919-2019, 100 Years of Corinthila: From a Stamp Shop to a World-Famous Philatelic Auction House, by Wolfgang Maassen

Lost Countries: Exotic Tales from an Old Stamp Album, by Stuart Laycock and Chris West

Minkus World Wide Stamp Catalog 1974-1975, Volume Two

Nowherelands: An Atlas of Vanished Countries 1840-1975, by Bjorn Berge

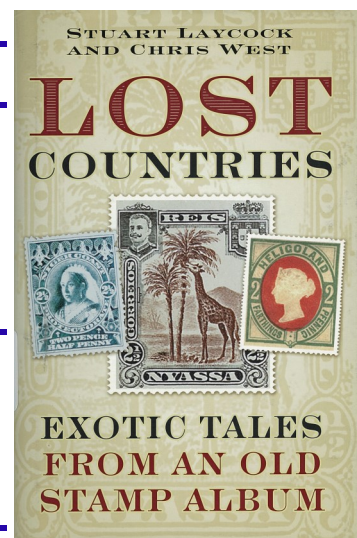
Scott 2019 U.S. Pocket Stamp Catalogue: United States, Canada, United Nations, published by Amos Media

Stamp Catalogue: Supplement No. 1, 1989, published by the United Nations Postal Administration

Stamp Hunting, by Lewis Robie

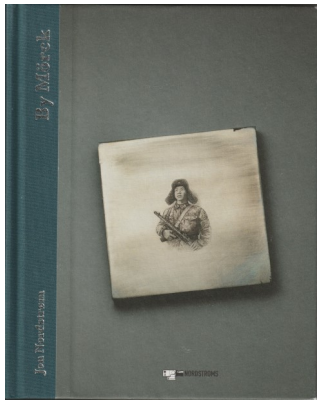
The Stamp Identifier Collector's Dictionary, published by H.E. Harris

War Dates 1839-1859, 1959-1979: A Geographical and Chronological Listing of Wars, Revolutions and Major Political Events



By Mörck

By Chris Dahle



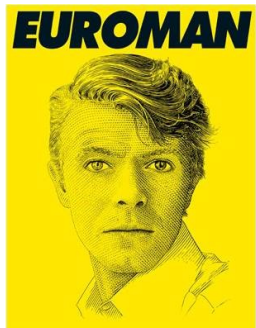
Written by Jon Nordström and translated by Morten Hjelm the volume is 256 pages, 7½ by 9½ inches, hardbound, illustrated in color and black and white. ISBN: 978-87-998151-0-4.

Editor's note: This coming May, Martin Mörck will be presenting a program at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS) sponsored by the Scandinavian Collectors Club (SCC).

The presentation is scheduled on May 23rd at noon. This is a rare opportunity for our collecting community to hear in person from one of the great artist and stamp engravers of our time. Both the RMPL and the SCC libraries have copies of this book.

Martin Mörck is a Norwegian by nationality, who grew up in Sweden and now lives in Denmark. He is by some accounts the greatest living stamp engraver, with over 800 stamps engraved to date. He is only surpassed by the great Czeslaw Slania with over 1000 engravings to his name.

This book is a treasure. There are 54 pages showing the stamps he has engraved. He started engraving for the Swedish Post in 1978, but has done stamps for Åland, Denmark, Faroes, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Jersey, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montserrat, United Nations and the United States. Most of the stamps have been commemoratives, but he has also done Danish Wavy Line and Queen Margarethe definitives. Besides stamps he does engraved illustrations for magazines and currency notes. Perhaps his best-known magazine illustration is a portrait of David Bowie for *Euroman*.

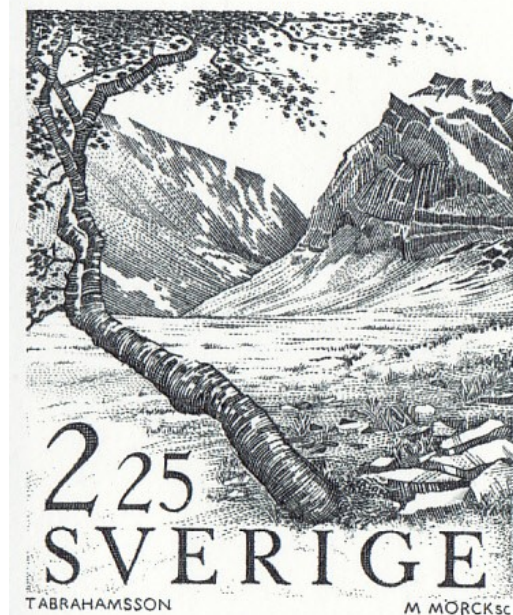


The book is almost verbatim transcriptions from conversations that the author had with Mörck, translated into English for publication. They range from topics about the process he uses, to recollections of his youth, to his interests outside of his work. One of his early hobbies was boat building. He is especially interested in Arctic exploration and has done a series of stamps for Greenland Post on this subject. He is a stamp collector, too, as was his father before him. He specializes in Norway No. 1 covers carried on steamers between towns in Norway.

to do the engraving. In China, he established an engraving school when he was working on a project for China Post.

The section on how he does his work is very interesting. He explains in some detail about the way in which the subjects are chosen, then the preparation of preliminary artwork, and finally talks about the engraving process itself. One of his major accomplishments was producing the largest engraving on a stamp, featuring Winston Churchill, for Jersey Post. It was designed in collaboration with Wang Hu Min, China's most popular designer. It turned out to be a larger project than he anticipated, in more ways than size.

Mörck is an innovator in the field. He has developed a method for transferring images to the steel plates using a photographic process, making it easier



There are many illustrations. They cover his travels as a young man and show his work as an engraver. The book finishes with enlarged illustrations of stamps he has done. The magnified images emphasize the skill and beauty of the engraver's work.

The book itself is a fascination. The section on growing up is printed on different color paper, called Munken Cream 15. The rest of the book is printed on Arctic White paper. Many pages show photos of engraved plates, with the pulled print on the opposite page, just a single image on each page. With so much thought put into making it a different kind of book, it was disappointing to find some of the stamps illustrated upside down in the first section!

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 14, 2020--9:00 a.m.

British India Combination Franking Postal History

Presenter: Ravi Vora



Represents 40 years of searching, collecting and re-search:

- ◆ Mail bearing stamps of India with those of other countries
- ◆ Factors leading to franking of Indian mail with other countries' stamps
- ◆ Mail either originating in, sent to, or sent via India

April 11, 2020--9:00 a.m.

A Brief History of History

Presenter: Steve McGill

The Millennium offered many countries the opportunity to reflect on the past 100 years and many did so by issuing a series of stamps. Most of these efforts seemed, to me, to fall short of a well thought-out chronology of the period. An exception was the Marshall Islands, a U.S. dependency. The Postal Administration of the Islands issued a lengthy series of large format stamps for each decade within the 100 years and placed them on beautifully executed cachet envelopes. This presentation will touch on highlights from each decade and remind of the breadth of events in the past century.



RMPL Board of Directors Meeting—January 16, 2020 (Summarized)

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. All board members were present. Paul Domenici and Gary Withrow were the only guests. The minutes of the September meeting were approved as amended. The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Financial Reports

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

- ◆ **Transaction List by Vendor**-November through December 2019
- ◆ **Revenue and Expenses**-November through December 2019

This report compared 2019 with 2018. The difference was mainly due to the addition of our paid librarian in 2019 and the full audit in 2019.

- ◆ **Balance Sheet** as of December 31, 2019
- ◆ **Revenue and Expenses**-January through December 2019

Old Business

Feasibility of Sale of Vacant Lot

The property is zoned B-4 which allows external storage. There are almost no comparable properties in the immediate area, so the search area was expanded. The value of the property is estimated at \$30 - \$33 per square foot or between \$295,000 and \$335,000. Currently, properties of this type are not selling fast. The board agreed that we first notify the membership via *Scribblings* of our idea and ask for feedback.

Will Bequests to RMPL

David Weisberg is developing a plan for people to include the RMPL in their estate planning. He will present the plan to the board at a future meeting.

Directors Liability Insurance

Tim reviewed bids he received from various insurance companies. It was recommended that for now we stay with Great American for our D&O insurance. A motion to do this was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Fire Department Inspection

Rich Palestro discussed various options for exiting the rear door of 2038 in the event of a fire. It was moved and seconded that we place a sign at the rear door stating that "This Door to Remain Unlocked During Occupancy." The volunteer desk staff will be instructed about this policy.

Overdue Policy

The only change is that the loan period has been increased from two weeks to three weeks.

New Business

Cancellation of Cleaning Service

It was moved and seconded that we discontinue

our cleaning service and have the volunteers perform these duties as we did in the past. The motion passed.

Property Insurance

Tim reported that The Hartford has greatly increased our property insurance rates due to their recent re-evaluation. This is far beyond our current rate and the property valuations by Arapahoe County. Tim will request a reassessment of the Hartford appraisals, and look into hiring a private assessor. Since a decision on this matter is needed by March 1, a decision by the board will need to be made via email.

Alarm Sensors on West Windows

Due to old and faulty sensors on the west side of 2038, and after recommendations by the fire department, it was moved and seconded that they be replaced with wireless sensors. The motion passed.

New Volunteers

Dasa Metzler reported that we have five new volunteers for various library functions, and all are working out well. Jim Kilbane added that he contacted a person who is interested in working on our long-unused Facebook page.

Holiday Closures

It was moved and seconded that the library will be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The motion passed.

Weather Closures

Several options regarding library closures due to bad weather were discussed. Options included phone message, sign on front door, message in *Scribblings*, emails, etc.

Telephones

Tonny was told that he could upgrade the library phones, especially those that are unreliable.

Budget

Tim Heins reviewed the 2020 budget overview which was included in the meeting handouts. He made projections based on the 2018 and 2019 figures. This left a deficit of about \$11,350 for 2020. It was generally felt, however, that with some decreases in expenses and an increase in sales (auctions) we should be able to close this deficit.

The money we receive from the various societies currently covers about 75% of our society printing costs. It was moved and seconded that we raise the society printing rate by ten percent. The motion passed. This would help the library budget and not be a major issue for the societies.

The proposed budget also shows an anticipated increase in our property insurance.

Tim retained expenditures for outreach and publicity in the budget. While nothing was done in this

(Continued on page 15)

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.

Charles Peterson	James Gerson
Christopher Cook	James Reichman
Dasa Metzler	Jeff Modesitt
David Weisberg	Jim Fredlund
Dennis Newman	John Priccico
Ernesto Cuesta	Judy Faulder
Estate Inventory Services	Mark Carapella
George Vantrump, Jr.	Nolan Flowers
Great Britain & Colonies CC	Steve Bonowski
Herman Axelrod	Scandinavian CC
	Tom Moore
	Virginia Daniel

(Continued from page 14)

regard this year, it was hoped that we might get something going in 2020.

It was moved and seconded that the 2020 budget, as amended, be approved. The motion passed.

New Printer for Use with Auctions

Paul Domenici and Gary Withrow requested that we purchase a printer for use at our various auctions. The board agreed to this acquisition.

Meeting Time

It was decided to schedule the March meeting at 4:00 pm. This is to be a one-time change to see how it works for everyone.

Member Approval

All new members joining since the last meeting were approved.

RMSS

Jim Kilbane reminded everyone of the upcoming show in May. The show will feature the Scandinavian Philatelic Society, the UN Postal Administration, and stamp designer/engraver Martin Mörck will be there.

Other handouts

Other handouts submitted at the meeting were:

- ◆ Book Sales Report through October 31, 2019
- ◆ Membership Report through December 31, 2019
- ◆ Technology Report for 2019
- ◆ RMPL Production Copy Machine Report for 2019
- ◆ RMPL Society Production Printing Report for 2019

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Paul Lee

Recording Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

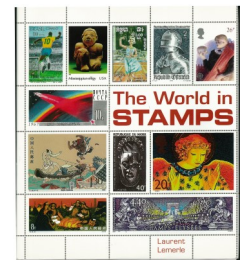
The RMPL is pleased to welcome the following new member who joined the library during the past two months.

- ◆ **Michael Larkin**, Castle Rock, CO - Collects USA
- ◆ **Charles Speltz**, Lakewood, CO - Collects U.S. Stamps
- ◆ **Bruce Pesch**, Ames, IA - Collects U.S., World, and Cycling
- ◆ **Doug Jacobson**, Thornton, CO
- ◆ **Ivanna Jacobson**, Thornton, CO - Youth Member - Collects Animals, Cats and Dogs
- ◆ **Daniel Jacobson**, Aurora, CO - Youth Member - Collects Ships, Trains, and Planes
- ◆ **Gabriel Jacobson**, Aurora CO - Youth Member - Collects Old Stamps and Presidents
- ◆ **Mike Wilder**, Denver, CO
- ◆ **Kenneth Campbell**, Longmont, CO - Collects U.S., GB, and Austrian Empire

Librarian's Notes

By Sherri Soraci-Jennings

One of the most colorful books in the library is titled *The World of Stamps*. It's an exploration of world history utilizing postage stamps to tell the story. This full-color, 255-page book begins with prehistoric man and shows stamps all the way up to the millennium issues of various countries.



The author, Laurent Lemerle, chose thousands of items to illustrate his sections, which range from a history of mankind and man's beliefs, to art, culture, science and inventions, to society and competitive sports, and everything in-between. Different countries depict the same concepts in vastly different ways, which are on display here.

The book has a beautiful section on nature as well. You can marvel for hours at the different stamps depicted in this wonderful book. It's a challenge to think up a theme that is not represented here! Anyone looking for a new topic to collect will find something of interest in this volume. It can be found on our Topical shelves under T 769.56 Lem.

For the Record: Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, March 19, 2020
at 4:00 p.m. -- **NEW TIME**



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 2020****

- Mar 4 Wed**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Aurora Stamp Club
- Mar 7 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Mar 7 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- Mar 8 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- Mar 11 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club—Joint Meeting with
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Mar 12 Thu**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Cherrelyn Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL
Mar 14 - Sat 9:00 a.m.
Program by Ravi Vora
“British India Combination Franking Postal History”

- Mar 14 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Club
- Mar 19 Thu**-4:00 p.m. **New Time**
RMPL Board Meeting
Open to all!
- Mar 21 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors
- Mar 22 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club
- Mar 24 Tue**-Meeting 7:00 p.m. **New Time**
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- Mar 25 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club

****April 2020****

- Apr 1 Wed**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Aurora Stamp Club
- Apr 4 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Apr 4 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- Apr 8 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club—Joint Meeting with
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL
Apr 11 - 9:00 a.m.
Program by Steve McGill
“A Brief History of History - the Millennium Covers of the Marshall Islands”

- Apr 11 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Club
- Apr 11 Sat**-Meeting 11:30 a.m.
Rocky Mountain Aero and Aerophilately Club
Everyone welcome
- Apr 12 Sun**-1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- Apr 16 Thu**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Cherrelyn Stamp Club
- Apr 18 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors
- Apr 19 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club
- Apr 22 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club
- Apr 28 Tue**-Meeting 7:00 p.m. **New Time**
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

Stamp Bourse

March 28th in the meeting room

Winter Weather!!-If in doubt, call!!!
When Denver schools are closed due to weather, the RMPL will be closed.