

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Sherrí Soraci-Jennings, Librarian

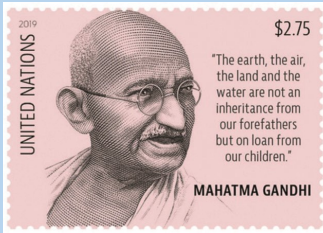
Vol. 28 - No. 5
www.rmpldenver.org

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

Sep / Oct 2020
Email - rmpl@qwestoffice.net

IN THIS ISSUE

Four Portraits by Martin Mörck..... 1



President's Message
by Tony Van Loij..... 2

RMPL Election Announcement..... 5

New on the Shelves..... 6

Never Been to Great Britain
By Jeff Modesitt 9

Special Rates or a Blind Eye?
by Jeff Modesitt 10



Finally, the First Letter to the Editor This Year! 12

A Bit of (Postal/Pecan) History by John H. Bloor 13

Second Saturday Programs
by Weisberg and McGill. 13

Donations..... 15

Editor's Letter..... 15

Librarian's Notes by Sherrí Soraci-Jennings..... 15

Activities Calendar..... 16

Four Portraits

By Martin Mörck



Portrait engraving is near to my heart because the portrait is fundamental to the history of engraving.

Over the past 400 years this art, which started in Europe, developed simply and symbolically to become more intricate and artistic. Claude Mellan's notable engraving, *The Face of Christ* (1649), is created from a single spiraling line that starts at the tip of Jesus' nose. Books began to be illustrated with engravings and so grew the number of engravers. Many traveled to the USA where the economy bloomed.

Security Factors

The American Banknote Company was established in 1795 in New York City and became the finest in its industry. Production started with a splendid visual element on bank notes, but at the same time and perhaps more importantly as a security factor. A system developed to engrave for the best expression and style along with the portrait's likeness. The rotary press increased the volume of bank notes produced and more and more countries began to print with ABN. Several similar printers grew around the world such

(Continued on page 3)

Scribblings

Newsletter of the
Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

2038 So. Pontiac Way
 Denver, CO 80224
 Phone: (303) 759-9921
 email: rmpl@qwestoffice.net
 Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily,
 Thursday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Closed Sundays & Holidays

Editor

Jeff Modesitt (jeffmcolorado@gmail.com)

Copy Editors / Proofreaders

John Bloor
 Paul Domenici, Roger Rydberg,
 Steve Schweighofer

Librarian

Sherri Soraci-Jennings

Scribblings is published bimonthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. The RMPL is a chartered Colorado nonprofit corporation and is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Membership subscriptions over that for the contributing membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic materials, may be deductible for US income tax purposes. The Library is a volunteer organization. Financial donations, philatelic books, stamps, supplies and donations of your time are welcome.

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.

President..... Tonny Van Loij
 Operations Manager Dasa Metzler
 Vice President Jim Kilbane
 Corresponding Secretary Bill Plachte
 Recording Secretary Paul Lee
 Treasurer Tim Heins, CPA

Directors: John Bloor, Steve McGill,
 Rich Palestro and David Weisberg.
 Director Emeritus: Dalene Thomas
 Ex-officio member: Don Dhonau

Officers and Directors may be contacted
 through the RMPL.

Web page — www.rmpldenver.org

President's Message

The last week in July, after almost 5 months, I finally got to talk with the person in charge of the libraries in the Tri-County area. I explained exactly what we are and what our purpose is as a library. She was very interested, congratulated us on having closed that soon and having precautions in line for the reopening.



So we are all good to go with the following guidelines: your temperature will be taken and if it is over 100 degrees, you cannot enter; no mask—no entrance; use hand sanitizer before doing something and use some wipes to clean where you have been working. If you bring a lunch or something to eat, you will have to find a place away from everyone; no open food is allowed inside (donuts, cookies, etc.). The guidelines are easy and sensible, so let's have fun.

I hope that all of you are still healthy and in a good state of mind after all these months the RMPL has been closed. All of us are ready to start getting back to normal, although that is going to take some time.

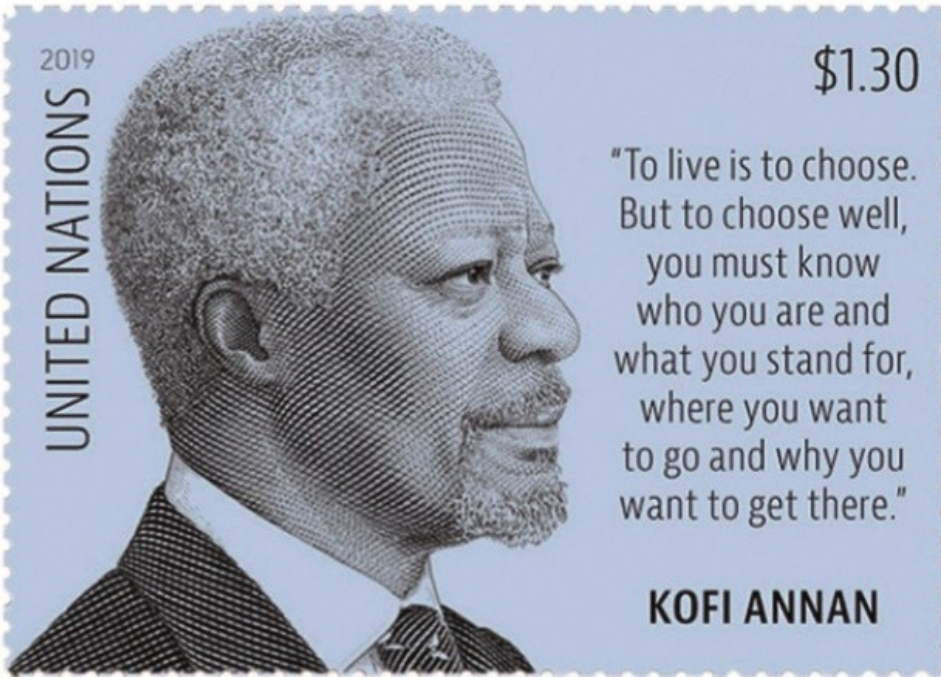
I have been busy keeping up with running/looking after the RMPL. We received several donations that I picked up or received in the parking lot here. I hope volunteers are ready to come back **because there is work to be done.**

A big thank you to members who have sent in their renewal dues. Many of you have donated graciously, big and small, it is all very much appreciated, especially in these months when we had no income. Since the minutes of the next board meeting will not be ready when *Scribblings* is printed, I can let you know that we are working on redoing the roof on the 2048 building. Richard Palestro has been working on that and we will make a decision at the board meeting.

I am also aware of the condition of the garden/wilderness lot which needs to be cleaned up since it is officially on the market now. Most of it used to be maintained beautifully by Stan, the gentleman who had the veggie garden. He decided not to do it this year because we were closed and there was the possibility that he would have no access to the shut-off valve should there be a problem with the irrigation.

So, hopefully we will see and meet each other again soon.

Be safe and stay healthy,
 Tonny



(Continued from page 1)

as China Banknote Printing and Minting Co. in 1908 aided by ABN and led by engraver Lorence Hatch. Engraved portraits became a sign of security and soon postage stamps followed.

Never completely trained

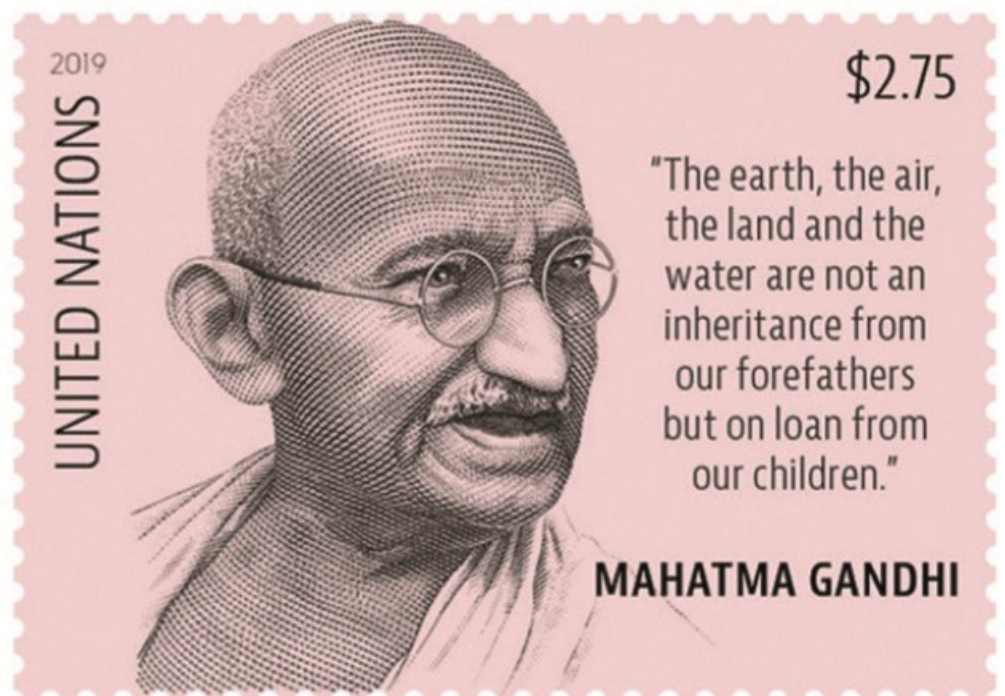
I have studied portrait engraving for decades and my fascination continues in this area where one never becomes completely trained. Today it is such that one does not get three months to oneself so shortcuts must be sought. The classic style originates such that one sees a portrait as an entirety.

The whole is clarified in a double pattern of spiral patterns of points that go over short strokes that again go over lines. With such method a line can go from light to dark. A line structure is principally directed out from the head's angle and thereafter to a secondary line in the opposite direction. This line's structure angles opposite the principal line and must not be more than 90 degrees to prevent a ripple. Neither can it be exactly 90 degrees creating a square. The lines must not cross opposite from where they are directed preventing dark flecks. After the first two line structures are engraved, one fills in with a thin short line that lies in

the parallelogram that has been created. These lines shall not shape the anatomy but only shape a soft impression. One shall also have different line tightness dependent upon how large the field is such that there should be larger distances between in the forehead and smaller distances between for nose and eyes. Since the line tightness becomes more open in the forehead, usually one lays in a row of support dots between the lines. Of course there are many ground rules, but if one follows these one can, thereafter, add one's own esthetic and style. All engravers have their own fingerprints.

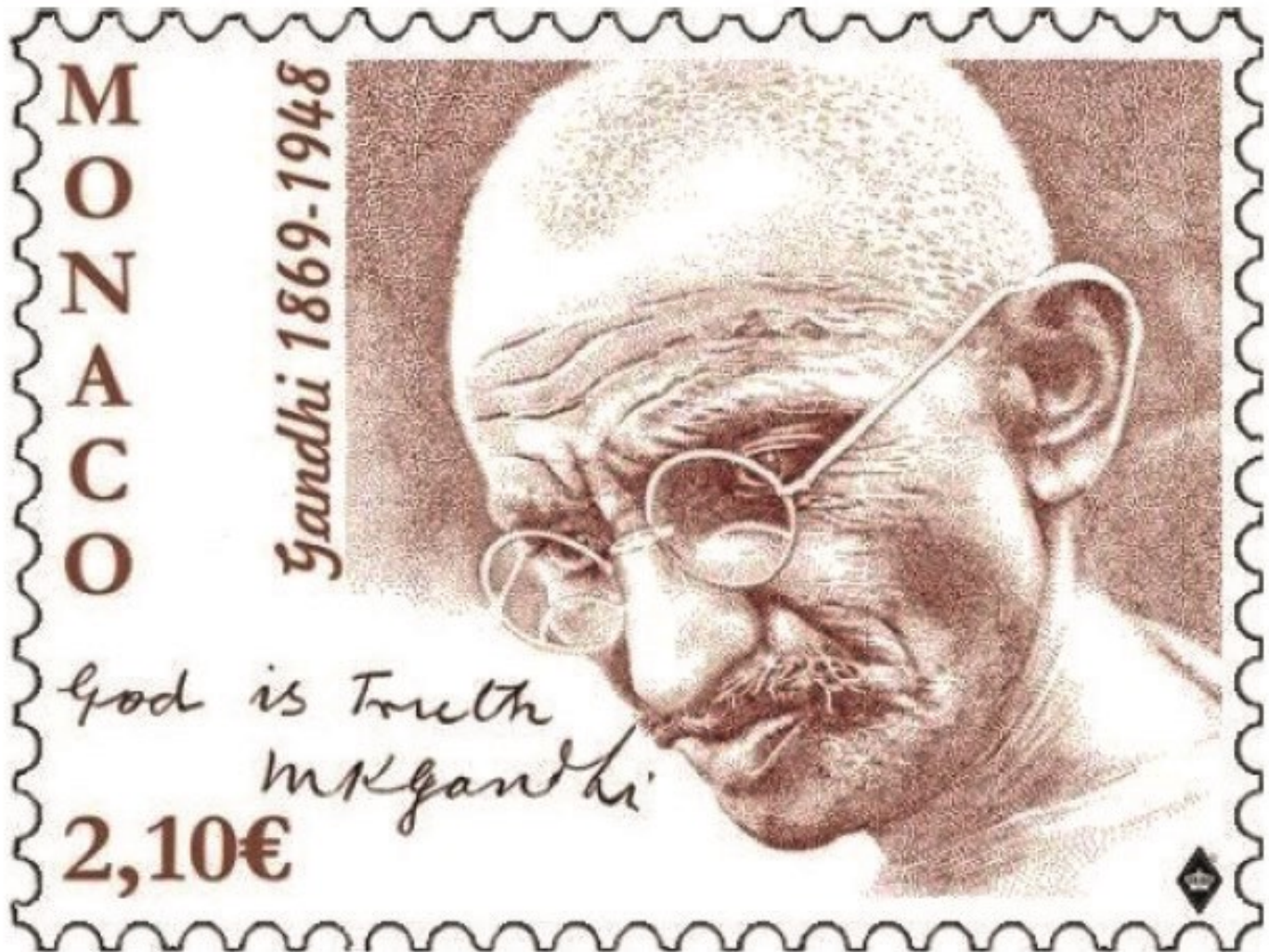
Nelson Mandela

I have engraved many portraits both on banknotes and postage stamps. Now I would like to describe four different portrait stamps I have made in the past two years. In 2017, I sat in a taxi with Thanawat Amnajan, Chief of United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA). We were on the way to the international stamp exhibition in Nanjing. Thanawat asked me if I would like to engrave a portrait stamp of Nelson Mandela, something to which it is difficult to say no. Later I learned that the UNPA budget could not allow an engraved stamp; it must be printed in offset but appear as engraved. It was a shame, but not unlike many other countries that cannot afford the extra cost of printing engraved is-



sues. It continued to be a splendid project where I more or less had a free hand to create a portrait on the basis of my own experience. I began to look for a photograph and knew approximately what I wanted—a picture that I could work with his facial expression and personalness. I found several different press release photos and began rough sketches. It became a portrait where I focused on his good-natured smile and a serious look – a man who smiled easily but also

I wanted the portrait to be similar to Mandela in design and frame, but seen from another perspective. Annan had been Secretary General of UN and had traveled far from his upbringing in Ghana to that position. It is known that he always had a simple and collegial manner and did not differ with people. Great warmth and large responsibility was in my mind as I worked. I wanted him to look very inward reflecting and optimistic above all. I gave him a discreet smile



sees that the way is long. The style was bank note engraving, but a bit simplified to adapt to the stamp format. I worked with UNPA in-house designer, Rorie Katz, on the design of the stamp and we agreed that the portrait should stand alone without an illustrated background and only a quote by Mandela on the side. A monochrome light sand tone colored background strengthened the warmth of the picture.

Kofi Annan

The following year Thanawat returned and requested me to make a second portrait stamp - this time Kofi Annan. I saw that this could be the start of a series and Rorie and I agreed that we should keep the same layout but use another color for background.

at the same time concerned about future challenges. Here again we included a quotation on the side of the portrait. This is what I think about when I make a portrait. Who was he, what did he think about, and what did he want? The issue was presented at the UN's headquarters in New York and at Stockholmia 2019 where I, Jan Eliasson, vice-president under Kofi Annan, and widow Nane Annan held short talks.

Gandhi

The next conversation with Thanawat dealt with continuing the series with a portrait of Gandhi. Now it was certainly a series! It had to be in the same style and layout—but with another expression since Gandhi had yet another personality and history. I thought

it should be a portrait where he spoke to a group of people. We started by looking at photographs in UN archives where we found the photo of Kofi Annan. Nearly all the photos of Gandhi are unclear but expressive. I decided on one where he spoke engaged among a small gathering. His look is focused on someone in his sight. His head turns as if to answer a question or an argument. I have given him two distinct looks in the eyes to emphasize his close presence in the discussion. This is how it goes to be excited about portraits - to follow the rules that pertain to angles and lines, stretches and dots that relate to each other to make a portrait engraving where it concerns the photograph and the personality, to follow the light and shadows, to direct the dramatic or peaceful. A portrait shall show the person behind the picture and that means that time is no longer valid, the technical problems are solved and I can make my own artistry.

Monaco

At the same time as the UN Gandhi portrait I was contacted by Monaco Post which meant hand-engraving – one of the few countries in the world that still issues stamps in steel engraving. They wanted me to design three varieties of a Gandhi portrait. Now I had two opportunities with a portrait of Gandhi. As usual, one makes three different designs of which Prince Albert chooses one. It shows how strongly he values Monaco's stamps. I began to look for photographs and decided on three entirely

different – smiling, laughing, and introspective. I created three different styles – one with strong expression of classic style, one with a softer expression, and one with a misty background. The last was designed only with dots and a dark background with a place for the quote, "God is truth." This was selected, so now I had to make a dot engraving in steel, "every engraver's nightmare." When one engraves with dots, one cannot make cuts; one must stick down a net in the steel plate, rotate and then scrape and cut away. It must be done several times until one gets the depths wanted and this means thousands of dots. But at the same time this was my favorite, so I sat in Beijing and engraved day after day with Danish radio in the background. The Chinese photographer, Hong Wei, who wanted me to make a design of him for a book, visited me and he photographed me while I worked on this stamp.

Pride

These are four portraits I am truly proud of. I got the time I required and I got control of the expression entirely for my manner. Personally, it could only have been better if the UN stamps had also been engraved. But clear lines printed in fine quality renders the portraits equal justice. I hope the series will continue, but that is for the future to tell.

Translation by Steve Lund
January 20, 2020

RMPL ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

This coming January 2021 there will be elections for all six Officers (President to Corresponding-Recording Secretary) and four members of the Board of Directors. The position of Operations Manager will be split into one that is responsible for processing all in-kind donations (stamps, literature - assisting the Librarian, covers, philatelic supplies, et.) and one that is responsible for Library operations (repairs, maintenance, supplies, special events, etc.)

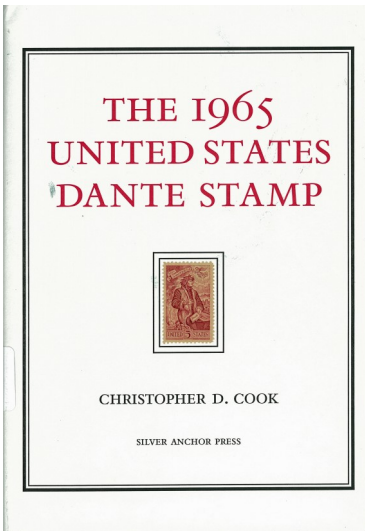
The Election Committee coordinating the election includes Gene Holgate, Steve Nadler and Alex Papp. The Election Committee is responsible for soliciting members to run for the various positions. All members are invited to participate by volunteering to run for any position of their choice. Candidates will be asked to provide a short biography and photo of themselves, to be published in the November issue of *Scribblings*.

Anyone with questions or comments should contact any member of the Election Committee. Their contact information is:

Gene Holgate: phone – 720 470 7000 email – nettigene43@comcast.net.
Steve Nadler: phone – 303 322 3624 email – schlomox@msn.com.
Alex Papp: phone – 720 639 0039 email – apapp5@comcast.net.

NEW ON THE SHELVES

UNITED STATES



The 1965 United States Dante Stamp, by Christopher D. Cook

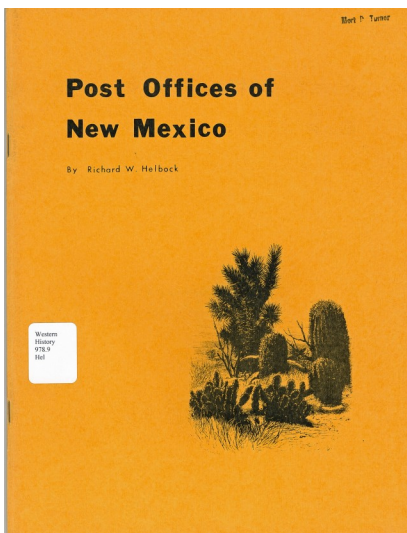
American State Papers, 1789-1833: Class VII, U. S. Post Office Department

Guidebook to the Philatelic Issues of the Wyoming Bicentennial Commission, by J. Rickie Walsh

Military Postmarks of Territorial Alaska, by Richard W. Helbock

Montana Post Offices: 1864-1974, by Dennis Lutz and Meryl Lutz

Oregon Post Offices, 1847-1982, by Richard W. Helbock



Post Offices of New Mexico, by Richard W. Helbock

Report of the Postmaster General: 1885 & 1894, published by the United States Post Office Department

Stamps of the United States and Possessions, published by Yohannessiantz Souren

United States Official Postal Guide, July 1933, published by the United States Post Office

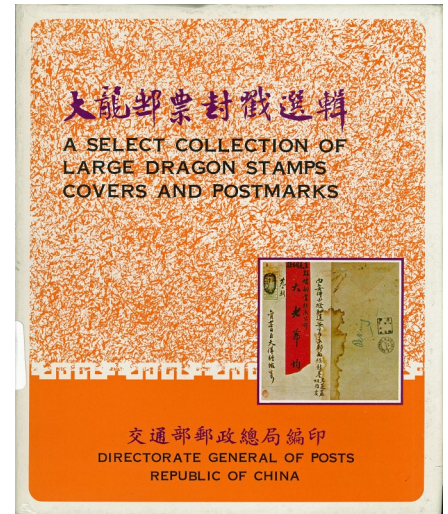
United States Official Postal Guide, July, 1939: Part I: Domestic Postal Service including International Money Order Business, published by the United States Post Office

ASIA

Borek Briefmarkenkatalog (1973-1974): Turkei

The Gold & Silver Currency Stamps of China and Formosa, First (1950) and Second (1952) editions, by William E. Jones

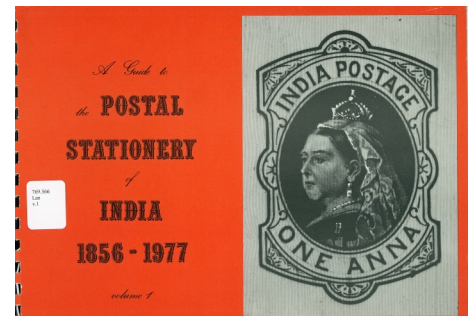
A Guide to the Postal Stationery of India, by Derek Lang



Japanese Stamp Catalog Illustrated in Color (1979) [in Japanese]

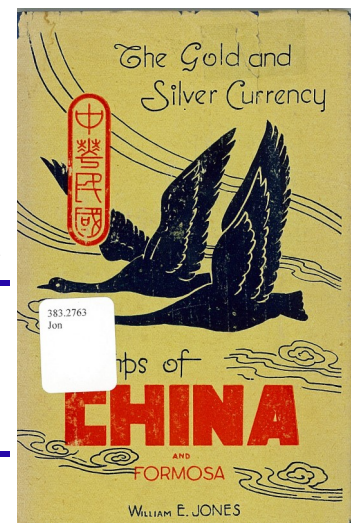
Korean Postage Stamp Catalog (1979)

A Select Collection of Large Dragon Stamps Covers and Postmarks, published by the Directorate General of Posts, Republic of China



Spesiyalize Turk Pullari Katalogu: Tugrali Pullar [Specialized Turkish Stamps Catalogue: Tugrah Stamps, Part I], by M. Ziya Ağaoğullan and M. Bülent Papuçcuoğlu

Türk Pullari Borsasi Kataloğu (1954 and 1957 editions), by Memduh Altunay



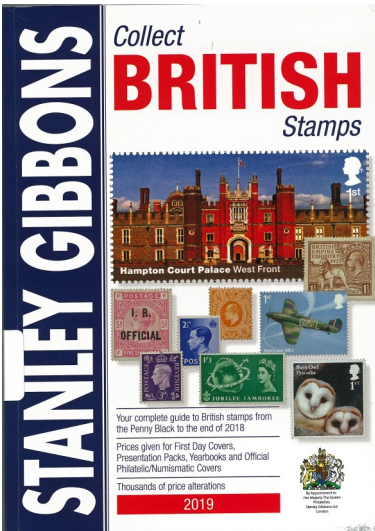
CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

La Timbrologie Haitienne 1881-1954,
by Léon Montès

COLORADO

History of the Fort Collins, Colorado Post Office

EUROPE



Le 25 Centimes Ceres de 1871 au Type I, by Pierre Germain

Aerogrammes, by Peter Jennings

Billig's Specialized Catalogues Vol. 4 Greece Large Hermes Heads, by Ernest W. Spink and Robert O. Truman

Catalogue des Entiers Postaux de France et des Pays d'Expression Française

Catalogue de Timbres-Fiscaux, by A. Forbin

Catalogue de Timbres-Poste (1967): Soixante-et-Onzième Année, Tome I: France, Anciennes Colonies, Pays d'Expression Française, Afrique du Nord, Andorre, Monaco, Sarre, published by Yvert & Tellier

Cento Anni di Interi Postali Della Repubblica di San Marino 1882

-1982: Elecazione Cronologica con Indici di Valutazione, by Luigi Pertile

Collect British Stamps: published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

Dallay France: Timbres de France: 5ème Edition (2005-2006), published by Dallay

A Description of the Mulready Envelope and of Various Imitations and Caricatures of its Design, by Edward B. Evans

Facit Special, 2013

The First Athens Issue of the Large Hermes Heads of Greece, by George M. Photiadis

Ilustrowany Katalog Znaczkow Polskich 1968: VIII Rok Wydania

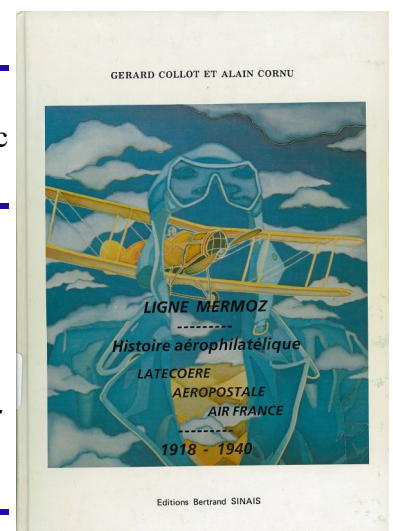
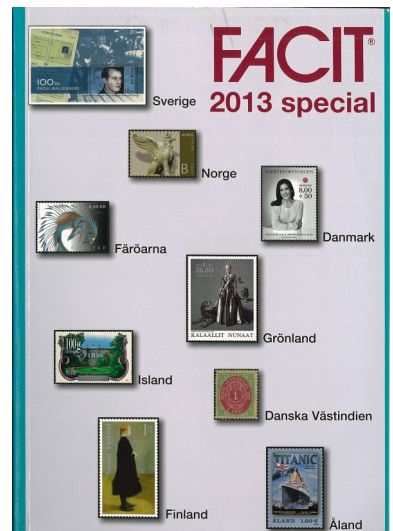
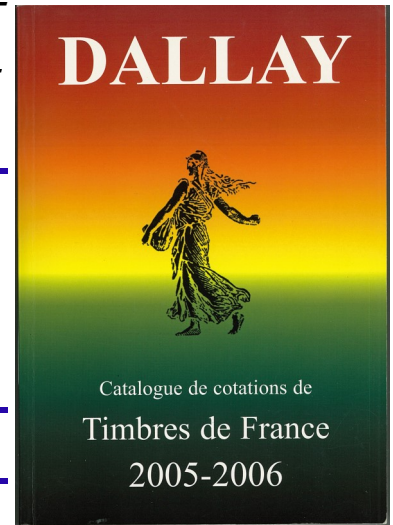
Die Landespost Serbien im Zweiten Weltkrieg (Teil I), by Hans J. Zydek

Ligne Mermoz: Histoire Aérophilatélique Latecoere, Aeropostale, Air France 1918-1940, by Gerard Collot and Alain Cornu

Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Postzegelhandelaren: NVPH Special Catalogus van de Postzegels van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen (1977; 36th Edition)

La Marianne de Cheffer, by Jean-Luc Trassaert

La Marine Nationale Française: Historique des Bâtimens de Guerre, Les Oblitérations Navales, Les Agences à Terre, by Jean Baudeloque





New Studies of the Transport of Mails in Wartime France 1870-1871, by Gardner L. Brown, Ernst M. Cohen, and Stephen C. Walske

Les Noms "Révolutionnaires", by James Legendre

Poland Locals, by A. Hall

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps including British Columbia and Vancouver Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island: 2014 Edition

SOUTH AMERICA

Imperio do Brazil 1843-1889: Commemorating the First Postage Stamps of Brazil and Containing Articles on Other Issues of the Empire

POSTAL HISTORY

Further Insights into U.S. Postal History, 1794-2019, by Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz

TOPICAL

Pennsylvania on Stamps, published by the Keystone Federation of Stamp Clubs

Philatelic Issues Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, by James G. Reichman

MISCELLANEOUS

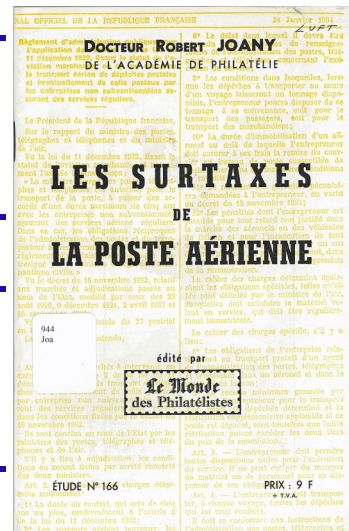
Brookman United States, United Nations & Canada Stamps & Postal Collectibles (2003)

By Mörck, by Jon Nordström

Erivan Collection, by H.R. Harmer

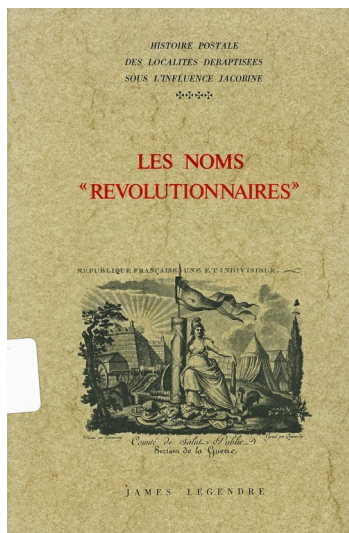
Les Estampilles Postales de la Grande Guerre, by Stéphane Strowski

History and Evolution of Metered Postage, by William K. Thomas



Spain, Portugal, Andorra (Spanish) Colonies

Sassone Catalogo dei Francobolli di Grecia (1976; 35th edizione)



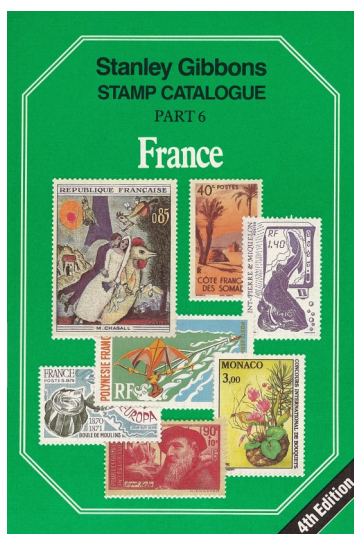
Sassone Catalogo dei Francobolli di Polonia (1977; 36th edizione)

Sassone Catalogo dei Francobolli di Ungheria (1976; 35th edizione)

Stamp Catalog: 1982-83 Edition, published by Minkus Publications

Spink/Maury Catalogue de Timbres de France, 120ème Edition (2017)

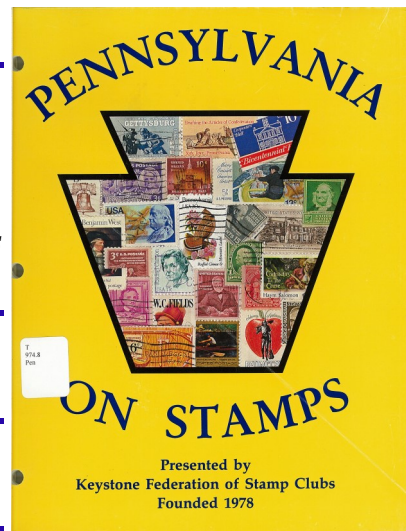
Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue: Part 6 France: Fourth Edition, 1993



Les Surtaxes de La Poste Aérienne, by Robert Joany

NORTH AMERICA

Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue: With Pictorial Postcards and Advertising Business Corner Cards, 5th Edition (2002), by John Walsh and John G. Butt



Never Been to Great Britain

By Jeff Modesitt

Here is an interesting cover that presents some unusual aspects (Fig. 1). Franked by four Great Britain Wildings and postmarked August 31, 1955 at the Sydney, Australia GPO, it never touched Great Britain. The postmark is smeared making further details difficult to read. It bears 4d postage for "SURFACE MAIL," which would have met the Inland rate for 6 ounces or a Foreign letter rate for an ounce. The letter, however, should qualify for the British Empire rate, but there is no 4d rate that fits. Judging by the shabby condition of the envelope, my bet is the cover carried 4 to 6 ounces of printed paper which would require exactly the postage applied. I don't know enough about OHMS mail to tell which rate should apply, but if you do, let me know.



Fig. 1.

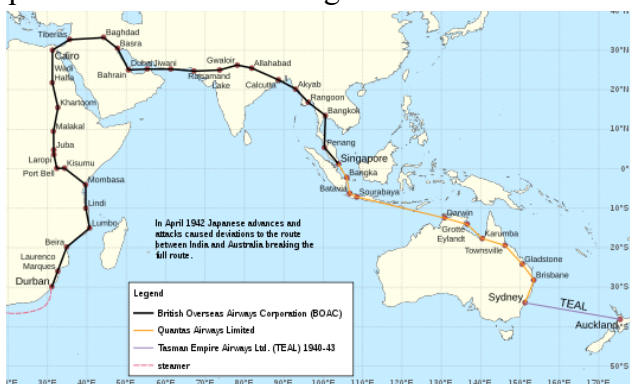


Fig. 2. The WWII Horseshoe Route

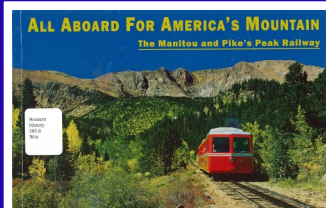
British ship to Sydney. Mail from a British ship would bear Great Britain stamps and be accepted at the next port to be processed. The 26-day delay between the "SUPTG. NAVAL STORE OFFICER" date stamp and the Sydney postmark suggests that the ship probably didn't sail immediately. Once in Australia, the letter would have continued on to New Zealand. If the entire trip to New Zealand was by ship, the route followed might have been similar to the World War II Horseshoe Airmail Route shown in Figure 2.

The old WAR ECONOMY envelope, which looks like it has been through one, bears the printing "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE." Evidently supplies at the office in Singapore from which it originated had received no new stationery (ironic) that acknowledged the QEII's three-year-old reign.

It was sent from the Naval Stores Office in Singapore, as noted by the black stamp that appears both on the front and back, to the Navy Secretary in New Zealand. Mailed on August 5, 1955, it was not postmarked until August 31st.

Why the delay?

The fact that Singapore stamps are not used suggests the letter was probably put in a pouch to be transported by a



(Continued from page 8)

NON-PHILATELIC (Railroads)

All Aboard for America's Mountain: The Manitou and Pike's Peak Railway, by Claude Wiatrowski

Great American Scenic Railroads, by Michael Swift

The History of North American Rail, by Christopher Chant

The Illustrated Book of Steam and Rail: The Historic Development of the Train and an Evocative Guide to

the World's Great Railway Journeys, by Colin Garratt and Max Wade-Matthews

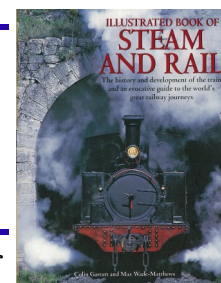
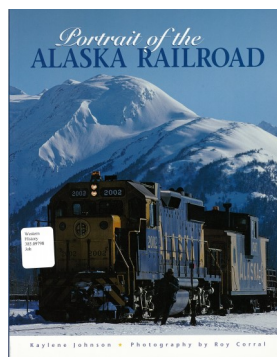
Portrait of the Alaska Railroad, by Kaylene Johnson

Ride Guide to the Historic Alaska Railroad, by Anita Williams and Linda D. Ewers

NON-PHILATELIC

The Diamond Match Company: A Century of Service, of Progress, and of Growth, 1835-1935, by Herbert Manchester

List of Equivalent Town Names of Czechoslovakia (German-Hungarian-Czech-Slovak)



Special Rates or a Blind Eye?

By Jeff Modesitt



Fig. 1. an early outgoing cover showing “RELEASED BY CENSOR” and the blue British Philatelic Association (BPA) mark. (Courtesy of Jack Forbes)

During WWII, the British post office was faced with a multi-sided dilemma. With the early successes of the German army, there was a concern that wealth might be smuggled out of the country making it even more difficult than it already was to finance the war. Philatelic material was included in the list of potentially high-value items that could travel out of the country undetected in dealer shipments. Stamps, however, were considered part of the government’s security concerns for a reason more important than their potential value.

Almost from the beginning of adhesive stamp issuance, codes had evolved based on their positioning on the envelope. Most of these codes were romantically driven, but there was always a possibility that stamps could be used for more nefarious purposes – either by their placement or by messages hidden in a typical want list delivery to a foreign agent masquerading as a collector. This resulted in the proposal that “no postage stamps be allowed into or out of the country.”¹

A Most Practical Solution

You can imagine the hue and cry that followed from the country’s dealer population. Ever practical, the government (the Board of Trade) decided to turn to these very same protestors to become the expert filters through which exports and imports of stamps had to travel. The rationale was probably straightforward—the dealer group was relatively small and were generally known to each other, so who was better suited to know what shipments were normal and what correspondence was not? That is how the British Philatelic Association (BPA) became part of the war censorship program (Fig. 1). The “Control” system (Fig. 2) was employed from 1940 until 1953 and the blue oval marking, most often signed by W. G. Worsell, is familiar to those of us interested in postal history.

What is the Proper Franking?

Johnson and Peet’s *British Postal Rates 1937 to 2000* (Fig. 3), one of the bibles on British postal rates², list the overseas Registered surface rate as 6d, consisting of a 3d fee and first step postage of 3d. The two covers illustrated in Figures 4 & 5 each show the BPA mark as well as a separate red censor mark with “PASSED PER 34” (best seen on Fig. 5)

5.1 Registered			
Rate date	Registration Fee	First Step Surface	Total
1 May 1923	3d	2 ½d	5 ½d
1 May 1940	3d	3d	6d
1 Jun 1949	4d	3d	7d
1 Oct 1950	4d	4d	8d
1 Jun 1952	6d	4d	10d

Fig. 3. the Johnson and Peet “Special Services: Overseas, Surface” rate table. These rates are for Foreign destinations and exclude British Empire destinations.

INITIAL CONTROL PROCEDURE

When the control program was put into action in August, 1940, out-going mail was first inspected by Censors who eventually were present at the B. P. A. office at Berners St. then turned over to the B. P. A. for processing. The boxed “RELEASED BY CENSOR” stamp was placed on the item before it went to the B. P. A. staff. (This particular rubber stamp was used exclusively for philatelic mail, and was in use until April, 1941 when it was replaced by the universal style—an octagonal shaped unit with crown, PASSED, and PER 34 designation, which was used as long as censorship was in effect.) An item would then be checked, and subsequently receive the oval hand stamp, approving its export. Three versions of the approval rubber stamps were used successively over the period of this program.

Fig. 2. An explanation of the process followed by the BPA when mail involved either import or export of philatelic material (from Jack Forbes’ exhibit “The British Philatelic Association’s Role in the United Kingdom’s Import and Export Control 1940-1953”).



Fig. 4. One of the early covers to bear the censor stamp "PASSED PER 34". The 2d franking is ½d short.



Fig. 5. One of three similar Stamped to Order (STO) envelopes in my possession with 5½d franking rather than the required 6d. These covers were mailed over a three-year period to the same recipient.

that was employed from April, 1941 until censoring was not required by war security efforts.

These are two of about 10 similar covers in my collection that all seem to be under-franked and all without any postage due requirement noted. The Figure 4 cover is the outlier in that it is the only non-registered item that I have that is under-franked. The proper postage for this envelope would have been 2½d.

Since six of the covers were from a single dealer, Oswald Marsh, including the two shown above, I began looking into the possibility of whether there was a special unpublished rate for certain exports or if the BPA was turning a blind eye and letting certain dealers under-frank their shipments and correspondence.

When in Doubt, Turn to the Experts

To explore the possibilities, I turned to two fellow collectors. Michael Peach wrote an article in 2009 (*Philatelist Extraordinaire* by Michael Peach in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, July 2009, pp.45-48) on Oswald Marsh which noted that Oswald Marsh was highly respected and very much a straight arrow. That made it very unlikely that he would jeopardize his reputation and business to save ½d on important customer correspondence and valuable shipments.

Jack Forbes, my second contact, had created an outstanding exhibit, *The British Philatelic Association's Role in the United Kingdom's Import and Export Control 1940-1953*, which delves into the details of all aspects of the BPA censoring and monitoring process. From those pages, I learned that the BPA received material only after it had passed through an initial censorship as explained in Figure 2. The role of the BPA was limited to "determine value and suitability

of the stamps being exported or imported." They had no role in determining proper franking.

Since the GPO had responsibility for monitoring the franking, I was at a loss to explain why so many covers seemed to have incorrect franking. Two possibilities rose to the top. First, the war effort in Britain left the postal authorities shorthanded with, perhaps, inexperienced clerks who really didn't pay much attention to the franking as long as there was some. This possibility was negated by the fact that my covers span an eight-year period. Not every clerk over this period could be unaware of the correct postal rate to the U.S. and Canada.

In fact, the British postal employees were exceptionally well-schooled and diligent, so the likelihood that they were wrong meant that another explanation must be the answer.

Of course, the easiest explanation was that there was some kind of special rate and that, in fact, turned out to be the case. Initially, I could find no record of this in the Johnson and Peet book, but the evidence was still all on the side of a legitimate 5½d rate to the U.S. and Canada. All but one of my Marsh covers is registered which means that there was special attention paid to its posting. I have been told by British collectors specializing in registration level service that great care is taken with securely monitoring these items.

Michael Peach came to the rescue after he reviewed a draft of this article, pointing out that the U.S. had been granted the same status as a number of the commonwealth countries. To paraphrase his email, the book "*British Civilian Postage Rates of the 20th Century*" by Michael Furfie³ notes the basic rate for registered mail from 1 May 1940 to 30 September 1957 was for countries covered by the Empire Rate

that included the USA. It was known as the Preferred Rate.” The U.S. was dropped from inclusion on the “British Empire” (Preferred Rate list) on September 30, 1957. That meant that all my Registered covers that seemed to be under-franked had accurate fees and postage (5½d) for the rate period ending April 30, 1949, after which the registration fee went up 1d.

Maximizing Foreign Exchange Inflow

The rate seemed unreasonable given that it was essentially the same as the rate charged to the British people for inland registration services. It didn’t seem to make much sense. Perhaps, there was a rationale that made this rate viable.

After reviewing Jack Forbes’ exhibit synopsis, however, a very likely additional factor popped-up. To quote his exhibit, “the cessation of hostilities in 1945 eliminated the Security aspects of the CONTROL process, but the Foreign Exchange concerns remained for non-sterling areas. As a consequence, the involvement of the BPA was extended many years...”

Yes, part of the answer might be “follow the money.” Britain was desperate for capital inflow and the sale of stamps was a very profitable source of funding, but, as it turns out, it certainly didn’t cause the U.S.’s inclusion on the A-list because of WWII. A check of Furfie’s notes on page 62 shows that the

U.S. had been receiving preferred treatment since 1908.

As a final comment, please take a look at what is happening today as letter and package rates around the world sky-rocket. With Trump’s threat to leave the UPU only a few months ago, the UK had to establish a separate zone for parcels that only includes the U.S. I don’t know about you, but expensive communications certainly influences where I do business. Low rates grease the wheels of global commerce; high rates cause us to self-isolate.

Note to self: Check every source before writing the article. The RMPL has a copy of both of the rate books herein mentioned.

My thanks to Michael Peach and Jack Forbes for so graciously sharing their expertise with me and keeping me out of trouble.

¹ Forbes, Jack, *The British Philatelic Association’s Role in the United Kingdom’s Import and Export Control 1940-1953*.

² Johnson, Robert and Peet, Gordon, *British Postal Rates 1937 to 2000, self-published, 2000*.

³ Furfie, Michael, *British Civilian Postage Rates of the 20th Century, self published, 2000*.

Finally, the First Letter to the Editor This Year!

To *Scribblings* Editor,

In 2004 my husband and I took a cruise around the Hawaiian Islands on the Norwegian Cruise Line *Wind*. Instead of landing briefly in Mexico, to satisfy the requirements of the Jones Act, we sailed South 1,000? miles to Kiribati. Actually Fanning Island. The island had been completely taken over by the cruise line. Every native I spoke to, especially those in the 18-24 age group, wanted a job for the cruise line company. Not many real buildings and those were built by NCL. But it had a post office. As an active stamp collector, I had to mail an envelope to myself, using the Kiribati stamps which were sold to me on the island.

Many months later, I received my envelope. The postmark said, Christmas Island. Obviously the “mail” went from the smaller island to the main island. It was only postmarked when it got to the larger island.

Over the years I have managed to misplace the

envelope, but I just wanted to add this small anecdote to fellow members of RMPL.

Joan Grady, member since 1993

For those of us who might not know about the Jones Act, here is some background information and its potential relationship to our hobby:

The Jones Act is Section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, which provided for the maintenance of the American merchant marine.

Perhaps its most lasting effect is its requirement that goods shipped between U.S. ports be transported on ships built, owned, and operated by United States citizens or permanent residents.

Joan subtly injects in her note an interesting issue for the postal authorities that is currently pertinent to the financial deficits experienced by the post office. Perhaps one of our members could dig into this and give us a report on what impact it might have on international mail costs.

A Bit of (Postal/Pecan) History

By John H. Bloor



Fig. 1. A 1978 advertising cover from Sherard, Mississippi.

A few years ago, I found the cover pictured here at the Denver Bourse run by Sergio Lugo and Pat McNally. It was in the stock of Carol Mobley, a postcard and paper ephemera dealer in the Denver area. It was a gorgeous picture of large pecans and pecan trees on an advertising cover (Fig. 1) from a pecan merchant in Mississippi. I was attracted to it because of the beautiful cachet and the address, which was in Buffalo, NY, where my wife and I used to live. It also had interesting contents.

When I showed the cover to my wife, she immediately noticed that it was sent to an address on Fairchild, in Eggertsville, NY, a suburb of Buffalo. She remembered that Ede Hoechst, a friend of ours, had lived on Fairchild St. When she called Ede who now lives near Phoenix, Arizona, she immediately recognized the addressee as one of her neighbors. She recalled that the neighbor was known for making pecan pies and thought that John H. Sherard, Inc was probably the source of pecans for the pies.

The enclosed letter was, unsurprisingly, an advertisement for pecans with a letterhead similar to the cachet. There was also a recipe (Fig. 2)

for Blonde Brownies, which used pecans.

The cover was postmarked in 1978 from Sherard, Mississippi. The town was founded in 1874 by the Sherard family and is located in the northwest corner of the state. Current maps suggest that Sherard has now been absorbed into Clarkson, a nearby town. If so, the Sherard post office may also be closed and the cancellation gone. John H. Sherard was born in 1927 and died in 2009 at the age of 82.

Why the cover and contents were saved and how the cover got to Denver are mysteries. The seller thought that it was in a large lot of covers from a dealer in Texas. You never know the stories that you will find in a box of old covers.

BLONDE BROWNIES	
1 Cup broken pecans dredged in a little flour	1½ Cups sifted flour
1½ Sticks Oleo or butter	2 Eggs, well beaten
1 Cup dark brown sugar	½ Teaspoon salt
1 Cup granulated sugar	1 Teaspoon vanilla
	1 Six oz. pkg. semi-sweet Chocolate drops.

Melt in double boiler the Oleo or Butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar. When cool add to the beaten eggs, then add flour, salt, vanilla, and pecans. Pour into 9" x 13" pan, greased and floured. Sprinkle with semi-sweet chocolate drops. Bake about 35 minutes in 325 degree oven. When cool, cut into squares. Makes about 2 dozen.

Fig. 2. Blonde Brownies recipe

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY



Second Saturday programs are sponsored by the RMPL and attract a friendly group of folks who are interested in a specific subject, or who are interested in learning more about an area of philately that may be new to them.

Contact Jim Kilbane if you would like to present a program. His email address is: aurora_80017@yahoo.com

September 12, 2020--9:00 a.m.
Collecting Japan Stamps and Covers
Presenter: David Weisberg



October 10, 2020--9:00 a.m.
Modern British Counterfeits
Presenter: Steve McGill

When the first British stamps, the penny-black, were issued, there was great concern about the possibility of printers creating forgeries and selling them to the public, thereby denying the post office of revenue. The solution at that time was to put 'check-letters' (A, B, C, D, etc.) in the corners of the each stamp. This required a printing plate to be produced with each stamp having a

different combination of letters – an expensive process to deter forgers.

The modern era has faced the same threat of revenue theft but those engaged in attempts to counterfeit British stamps have advanced technology available to them and can produce extremely accurate (except for the phosphor bands) renditions of the Machin stamp. The post office unwittingly enabled the sale of 'discount postage' when it adopted the No-Value-Indicated stamps in the past decade and permitted stamps to be sold at multitudes of small outlets such as gas stations and other business locations.

This presentation will cover the technologies employed as the British post office combats the incursion of forged stamps into the mail-stream and the counter-efforts of the forgers to keep up with stamp design changes.

Chapter 5 Section 4: New Forgeries

Something of an "arms race" seems to have broken out between Royal Mail and the forgers (believed to be principally the Ukraine and China). Forged printings with anti-reuse ovals and overprints - with and without source codes and year - having been found in the mail stream and in some cases passing through despite simulated phosphor bands produced only with varnish.

Type I **Type II**

Appearance of faux phosphor/fluor bands under long-wave UV is shown along with the simulated oval die-cut type.

ROYAL MAIL ROYAL MAIL **ROYAL MAIL ROYAL MAIL**

Angular Ellipse: No Date or Security Code but with flattened ROYAL MAIL Overprint

Normal Ellipse: No Date or Security Code but with normally curved ROYAL MAIL Overprint

The agglomerated text on the heads of the forgeries above appears to be faithfully reproduced.

Type III

No Date but Security Code 'S' and with ROYAL MAIL Overprint

Type III is a faithful reproduction but the artwork was taken from a Book of 6, hence the 'S' security code. The forger produced the stamps in Books of 12, thereby using the incorrect security code instead of a 'T'.

Genuine Book of 12 from Which Forgery Artwork Was Drawn

Donations

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following people listed by first name made donations to the library since the last donation listing.

Carla Galletti	John Thorpe
Carol Mobley	Jonathan Muller
Charlie Johns	Kathy Crabbs
Charlie Reed	Kenneth Luke
Charlotte Minor	Leo Baran
Dalene Thomas	Michael Mason
David Durbin	Miriam Schoenig
David Schwartz	Mr. Russell
David New	Nadine Peterson
Ernest & Jean Hinck	Nolan Flowers
Gerald Gettel	Paul Domenici
Gretchen Olson	Reid Klion
Institute for Analytic Philately, Inc.	Richard Schneider
James Ehrenberger	Robert Kinne
Jean Corriveau	Roger Cichorz
Jeff Brandes	Tonny Van Loij
John Bloor	UPSS Publications
John Taylor	Vernon Evenson
	William Plachte

Editor's Letter

It is GREAT news that the Library has reopened. However, it didn't happen with three rubs on the magic lamp and, kazaam, everything was ready to go. The COVID situation thinned our active volunteer base, but the level of work required to run the library didn't disappear.

Like most of the membership, I have noted these efforts mostly from afar. It is easy to read the occasional email detailing potential progress, only to learn in the next email that hopes of reopening were dashed for the umpteenth time. It is harder and more uncomfortable for me (and perhaps you) to imagine the daily calls to authorities; the monitoring of the library facility itself; and the Board meetings that had to deal with the shifting sands of COVID information.

I know that there are many people who deserve my gratitude. I don't know who they all are, but I do know for certain that our president has been through a nightmare of uncertainty and has succeeded in moving the library toward a resumption of normality.

Many of you don't have the opportunity of co-opting these pages, but I do. On your behalf and mine, I simply want to say:
"THANK YOU, TONNY!"

Jeff Modesitt and the Membership

We Have Our Work Cut-Out Cleaning Up Our Grounds

If we could only get our gardens to grow like these weeds! No water, no cultivation, no attention-



no problem! If you are interested in reclaiming this situation back from its current Jurassic period look-alike to the present, give Tonny a call.

Librarian's Notes

By Sherri Soraci-Jennings

The book I checked out has been damaged. What do I do?

First of all, keep all the parts. Most book problems can be fixed. If the book is too badly damaged, it can be replaced. When you check an item out of the RMPL, you are responsible for making sure that the book returns, with all of its constituent parts, even if the book has fallen apart. Jackets, maps, CDs and even the books themselves can be mended by the librarian, who knows how to accomplish effective repairs. If part of a book doesn't come back, it can cost the library quite a bit of money for a replacement. Remember that most of our books were donated by someone. They may not be new-looking. Our books get a lot of use, and sometimes get tired of keeping themselves in one piece. But our holdings can be rare, and difficult to replace. So don't throw any part of a book away. Just let the librarian know what happened, and she'll attend to it!

For the Record: Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, October 15, 2020
at 4:00 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.

******September 2020******

- Sep 2 Wed**-No Meeting
Aurora Stamp Club
- Sep 5 Sat**-No Meeting
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Sep 5 Sat**-No Meeting
Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- Sep 9 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club—Joint Meeting with
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Sep 10 Thu**-Meeting tentative 2:00 p.m.
Cherrellyn Stamp Club-call to verify
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**
Sep 12 - 9:00 a.m.
Program by David Weisberg
Collecting Japan Stamps and Covers
- Sep 12 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Club
- Sep 13 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- Sep 19 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors
- Sep 22 Tue**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee
- Sep 25 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club
- Sep 27 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club

******October 2020******

- Oct 3 Sat**-Meeting tentative 10:00 a.m.
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Oct 3 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- Oct 7 Wed**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Aurora Stamp Club
- Oct 8 Thu**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.
Cherrellyn Stamp Club
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**
Oct 10 - 9:00 a.m.
Program by Steve McGill
Modern British Counterfeits
- Oct 10 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Mexico/Latin America Club
- Oct 10 Sat**-Meeting 11:30 a.m.
Rocky Mountain Aero and Aerophilately Club
Everyone welcome
- Oct 11 Sun**-1:00 p.m.
Denver Postcard Club
- Oct 14 Wed**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Denver Germany Stamp Club—Joint Meeting with
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Oct 15 Thu**-4:00 p.m. **New Time**
RMPL Board Meeting
Open to all!
- Oct 17 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Denver Young Collectors
- Oct 21 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.
Denver Stamp Club
- Oct 25 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club
- Oct 27 Tue**-Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

Please verify all meeting
dates and times!

Welcome Back