

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Sherrí Soraci-Jennings, Librarian

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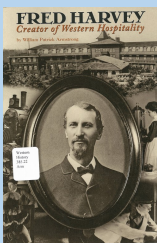
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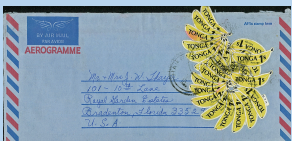
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BORN IN A POST OFFICE BOX???

By William Gum



Fig. 1. Santa Fe Post Office--the "place of birth" for up to 300 babies according to official records.

Throughout my life as a collector I've found the use of a Post Office Box quite advantageous. I fell victim to what we now call "Porch Pirates" way back in the early 1980s when a package containing a \$900 baseball card was stolen from behind the screen door of my Denver home. Post office boxes can be very convenient to a collector of small items, but are not without peril. I've had deliveries posted in the wrong box and occasionally been the recipient of a wayward package as well. But whoever heard of being BORN IN A POST OFFICE BOX (Fig.1)?

I don't want you to think that I was born in a post office box. I was delivered in a hospital like most of the rest of us born in the USA. My father was a scientist who worked for Shell Development Company and developed a dozen domestic patents and a half-dozen international patents involving chemical processes for the benefit of Shell. His best friend, Howard Hassell, was also a scientist. Howard was a New Yorker who graduated from Cornell University and was selected to work on the first atomic bomb in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

A phrase of the day was "Loose Lips Sink Ships." Any information that might be of value to the enemy was not to be spoken out loud. Even weather conditions were not allowed to be broadcast over the airwaves. The famous fireballer Dizzy Dean became a radio sportscaster for the St. Louis Cardinals during World War II. Good sportscasters master the gift of gab and at one game delayed by rain he droned on and on until finally, in frustration, he piped up with; "If you haven't figured out why the game hasn't started yet just stick your head out the window!"

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Scribblings

Newsletter of the
Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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

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President's Message

Hello to all members. There was a request in last *Scribblings* for a replacement editor. Until a few days ago there had been no response and I thought we would be publishing a mini-newsletter. It is with a giant sigh of relief that I can now announce that Jeff Modesitt's replacement has emerged. On June 15th, while I was reviewing our options with Jeff, Charlie Freise joined our conversation and agreed to become the next *Scribblings* editor! With only a few days to our publication deadline, this issue is jointly edited. In the future, please send your articles, comments, or suggestions regarding *Scribblings* to Charlie at vapid1000@gmail.com. Thank you, Charlie!



Moving on to a less pleasant subject— lately there are some disconcerting things happening at the RMPL. Over the last month or so, several members who do the sorting of stamps have reported that significant quantities of stamps have disappeared, including those from the Netherlands, Japan, China and Russia. This is very troublesome. The availability to purchase stamps by the members has always been on a trust basis. If you are a sorter or a purchaser who has taken philatelic material home during COVID and forgotten to return it, please let Tonny know! Problem solved! If work-at-home sorting is not the answer, then we have one or more “light fingers” amongst our members. If this trend of missing items goes on, we will be forced, either to stop selling or to implement less honor-based sales procedures.

We did not have the best years because of COVID 19 and knowing that we will have some major repair jobs on the property we can not afford losing income. Maybe we will have to install cameras, which I do not like.

We are also in need of volunteers for the following positions: Front Desk and stamp sorters. Richard Coil, who does the building cleaning on Thursday mornings could use some help, especially since Paul Domenici who does the same will need surgery and will be absent for 6 weeks. Paul also needs help with future auctions.

As you can see, the RMPL has some issues that need to be solved. If you have any ideas or comments, call me.

I do hope that COVID 19 will let us enjoy the rest of the year with no setbacks and that we can get to a normal schedule of club meetings.

Tonny

(Continued from page 1)

It was in this shroud of secrecy that Howard was whisked away to Los Alamos to begin work on the atom bomb - the Manhattan Project. He was not even allowed to tell his mother where he was going and he was not gone long before his mother was convinced that he lay dead on some battlefield in Europe. That is what she believed until she expressed her thoughts to a neighbor and was told; "Oh no! The government agent who did the background check on Howard told me he was going to New Mexico to work on a big bomb project!" Loose lips sink ships.

Everything about the Manhattan project was secret. According to the United States Government the



Fig. 2. Los Alamos Project.

community of Los Alamos, New Mexico did not exist (Fig. 2). Los Alamos was tucked high on a mesa well isolated halfway between Santa Fe and Espanola, New Mexico. Much to the chagrin of the local sheriff, Howard and his friends had great fun hopping into their car and speeding up and down the country roads. When the sheriff would take chase they would zoom up the mesa with a wave to the guard and the patrolmen were stopped at the gate and not allowed to proceed any further.

Inside the community of Los Alamos was a self-sustained city with all of the modern conveniences of the day. While Howard had to leave his mother wondering just what happened to him the scientists and other employees were allowed to bring their spouses to live with them while working on this secret project. Scientists are no different than other people when it comes to daily living and it was not long before more than one couple found themselves in a "family way."

This "familial phenomenon" created quite a dilemma for the authorities of the United States government. What do you type into the square labeled "place of birth" on a birth certificate when a child is born in a city that your government claims does not exist? The answer our leaders came up with was a POST OFFICE BOX in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Every child born in Los Alamos, New Mexico during the Manhattan project had post office box 1663 Santa Fe (Fig. 3) listed as their place of birth on their birth cer-

tificate. And that is the story of how people are born in post office boxes. Some estimates suggest 300 babies were born in that little post office box.



Fig. 3. P.O. Box 1663 mail.

MISNOMERS ABOUT THE ATOM BOMB

Stamps and covers have a wonderful way of telling stories but seldom do they tell the ENTIRE story. The story of the Atomic bomb is one such story. Over the years the popular story has morphed into the idea that the Atomic Bomb was unnecessary and a cruel use of power that displays an evil side of the United States and the harshness with which we treat other nations. This is hardly the case.

When my dad's best friend, Howard Hassell, was recruited to work on the first Atomic Bomb they all knew the potential of the great power that could be released by splitting the atom. The idea was clearly indicated in Einstein's famous equation $E=mc^2$.

There are two different ways of creating a nuclear explosion and they involve the opposite ends of the "Periodic Table of Elements" that we learned in chemistry. At one end of the table sits the hydrogen atom with its simple atomic structure. An atomic explosion occurs by forcing two hydrogen atoms together with such force that they combine and release a massive amount of energy exerted in the reforming of the atom's structure. The bomb created in this manner is called a "fusion" bomb or "hydrogen" bomb or the more familiar "H-Bomb".

On the other end of the periodic table (at the time) was uranium - an unstable element that requires an additional electron to stabilize. Splitting this atom creates a massive release of energy and bombs made of this material are called "Atomic Bombs" or "A-Bombs."

But the creation of the atomic bomb was not an academic exercise. Howard and the other scientists were informed that not just the United States, but Germany and Japan were also working on nuclear weapons and that time was of the essence if the US was to win the war. This information is what the nuclear protesting apologists do not understand- it was not a question of deciding to drop a nuclear bomb on

an enemy - it was a question of who would do so first. One Los Alamos scientist was adamant that they should create a fusion bomb as it would be more powerful than the fission bomb but he was overruled as the balance of the scientists believed that they could create a fission bomb more quickly than they could a fusion bomb. The H-bomb advocate persisted and was allowed to work on that explosive while the balance of the group worked on the A-bomb.

One mishap almost ruined the project. Part of the process of the bomb making is to excite the atoms of the atomic material almost to the point of starting a chain reaction. One scientist went too far and started the chain reaction that would start a nuclear explosion. Seeing what he had done the scientist jumped onto the material with his body which stopped an explosion. The metal called cadmium absorbs extra electrons and saved the project because the cadmium in his body captured the active electrons and stopped the reaction. However, a week later he died of radiation poisoning. Even the gold fillings in his teeth were radioactive.

As they got closer to building their bombs they decided to prepare the material underneath the stands of Soldier Field in Chicago. Before they began they hung a large bar of cadmium above the fissionable material in case they overheated the mixture. One scientist asked; "You don't think that cadmium bar will save your life, do you?" Another replied; "No, but it will save Chicago."

Howard observed the test explosion at Alamogordo, New Mexico (Fig. 4) from one of the bunkers about 5 miles away from ground zero. He was surprised by the green, fused sand residue that was named "trinitite".

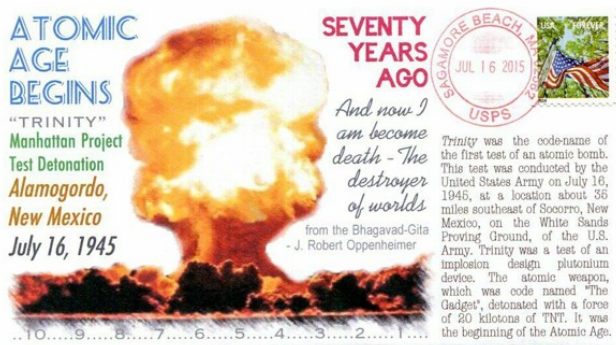


Fig. 4. COVERSCAPE computer designed 70th first Atom Bomb "Trinity" test event cover.

The biggest problem, surprisingly, wasn't getting the atomic material to critical mass. To set off the bomb required compressing the atoms together with great force. Conventional explosives encircled the atomic material to accomplish this result and getting the atoms to compress was the challenge.

THE DAY OF DESTRUCTION

On July 26th, 1945 President Truman demanded unconditional surrender or else suffer "prompt and utter destruction" after meeting his allies at the Potsdam Conference. The test bomb in Alamogordo was moved up two days so Truman would know if it worked before he left for Potsdam. Then the day came President Truman made the decision to drop the bomb and it was done on August 6th, 1945. (Fig. 5).



Fig. 5. This is a poster stamp issued to commemorate the use of the atomic bomb in World War 2. The first aircraft to drop an atomic bomb, the Enola Gay, was piloted by Colonel Paul W. Tibbets and targeted Hiroshima, Japan. The stamp is based on a design created for use by the United States Postal Service, but the USPS stamp was rescinded after protests from the Japanese government in 1994. This stamp is a cinderella stamp issued in 1995.

Conventional wisdom says that the US didn't want to take the great loss of human life attacking the main land of Japan. Detractors say the bomb was unnecessary and that Japan was already defeated - her navy too weak to launch an offensive and Japan was expecting a land invasion. Missing from the discussion was the fact that the scientists were racing to beat the Japanese to be the first to create the atomic bomb.

The scientists were very concerned that if the bomb failed to explode then the Japanese would recover it, reverse engineer it and get much closer to completing their own bomb. To prevent this the planners created seven or eight ways to make sure the bomb exploded. They designed it to explode on impact, at altitude, on radio signal, at a given temperature, with a timer and a couple of other ways as well.

The main goal was to have the bomb explode at a given altitude for maximum effect. It worked as planned and the destruction to Hiroshima was devastating and complete. America expected immediate surrender - but there was none. The US waited two days and after no surrender the speculation among the scientists was that perhaps the Japanese were waiting to see if this was the only atomic bomb we had or if there were more.

Truman issued the following statement:

The British, Chinese, and United States Governments have given the Japanese people adequate warning of what is in store for them. We have laid down the general terms on which they can surrender. Our warning went unheeded; our terms were rejected. Since then the Japanese have seen what our atomic bomb can do. They can foresee what it will do in the future.

The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished in this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians. But that attack is only a warning of things to come. If Japan does not surrender, bombs will have to be dropped on her war industries and, unfortunately, thousands of civilian lives will be lost. I urge Japanese civilians to leave industrial cities immediately, and save themselves from destruction.

I realize the tragic significance of the atomic bomb. Its production and its use were not lightly undertaken by this Government. But we knew that our enemies were on the search for it. We know now how close they were to finding it. And we knew the disaster which would come to this Nation, and to all peace-loving nations, to all civilization, if they had found it first.

That is why we felt compelled to undertake the long and uncertain and costly labor of discovery and production. We won the race of discovery against the Germans.

Having found the bomb we have used it. We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbor, against those who have starved and beaten and executed American prisoners of war, against those who have abandoned all pretense of obeying international laws of warfare. We have used it in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans. We shall continue to use it until we completely destroy Japan's power to make war. Only a Japanese surrender will stop us. (End of Truman's statement).

On the third day after the bombing of Hiroshima the US dropped the second of their three atomic bombs on Nagasaki. The initial plan was to bomb Kokura but it was clouded and smoke-screened so the plane proceeded to Nagasaki where the bomb was dropped at 9:44 AM on August 9th, 1945.

For several days negotiations about surrender began but Japan's leadership was split as to whether to fight or to surrender. Our scientists feared that Japan might well have completed their own atomic bomb and that was why there was no surrender. They only had one bomb left and knew that it would take several

months to make more atomic bombs. There would be no telling what would happen in the interim.

Truman initially halted conventional bombing as a sign he thought surrender would soon come but resumed it with impunity when he received signals that the Japanese might not be willing to surrender after all. He continued conventional bombing and made plans to drop the third, and final bomb directly onto Japan's Imperial Palace.

On the 14th of August Japan sent word to the allies that they would accept surrender according to the terms the allies set forth. That night a couple of Japanese military officers and their troops entered the palace grounds and failed in a coup attempt. The next day, August 15th, 1945 the Japanese leaders signed the official surrender papers aboard the USS Missouri and World War II officially ended.

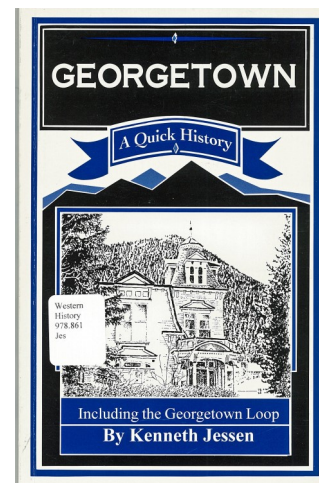
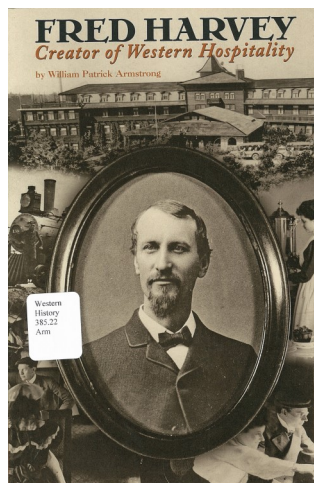
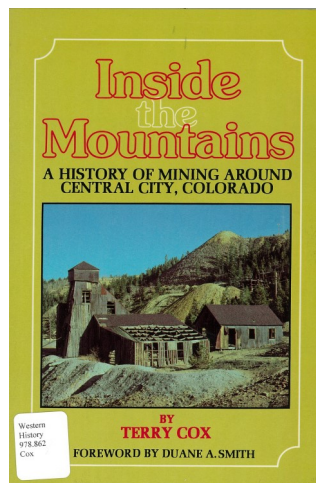
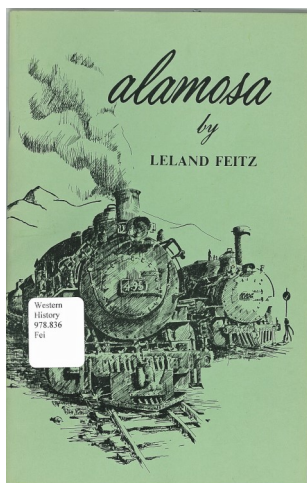


Fig. 6. Japan Empire authorities aboard the USS Missouri before the surrender ceremony.

Over the next 75 years, revisionists have tried to change this history to paint the United States as a bully that spilled unnecessary blood and acted more harshly than was necessary in defeating their World War II enemies. Perhaps a line from Dan Aykroyd in the war spoof *1941* said it best when making a spirited plea to America troops fighting each other when he screamed; "How about it? Do you want to be able to walk down Main Street USA with your best girl on your arm again or do you want to have raw fish heads and rice for Thanksgiving instead?"

It was bright, intelligent and dedicated scientific minds that saved this country 75 years ago. Today our country is being torn apart with division, anger and bitterness. Who will step up for America and win the INTERNAL peace? Perhaps somebody born in a post office box.

NEW ON THE SHELVES



UNITED STATES

The Air Mail Story [DVD]

Descriptive Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Hawaii (Sandwich Islands), by Walter M. Giffard

Directory of 10¢ [ten cent] 1847 Covers, compiled by Creighton C. Hart and Susan M. McDonald

Native Americans of Arizona, by Paul Nickens and Kathleen Nickens

Nineteenth Century Fancy Cancellations of Wisconsin, by Ray Van Handel

The Pony Express: An Illustrated History, by C.W. Guthrie

The Pony Express Guidebook, by John M. Townley

Postal Cards of the United States 1st & 2nd Editions (1936 & 1937), compiled by D.D. Berolzheimer, published by J.M. Bartels Company

The Post Offices of Massachusetts, by Lawrence M. Merolla

Warman's U.S. Stamps Field Guide, 3rd Edition, by Maurice D. Wozniak

ASIA

Catalogue of Chinese Stamps Taiwan Issues (1978)

The Origins of Airmail in Singapore & the Straits Settlements

AUSTRALIA and OCEANIA

The Australasian Stamp Catalogue, published by Seven Seas Stamps

New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials, by R.D. Samuel

COLORADO

Alamosa, by Leland Feitz

Central City, Black Hawk and Nevadaville: Early History and Settlement: 1859-1876, by John Osterberg

Colorado Ghost Towns, Remnants of the Mining Days, by Carolyn Bauer

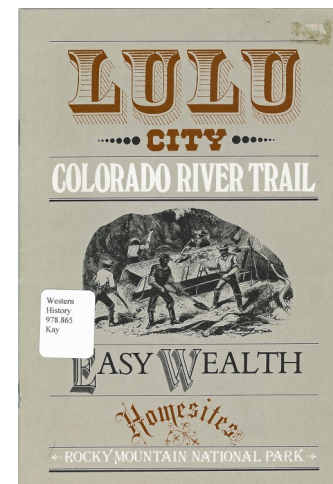
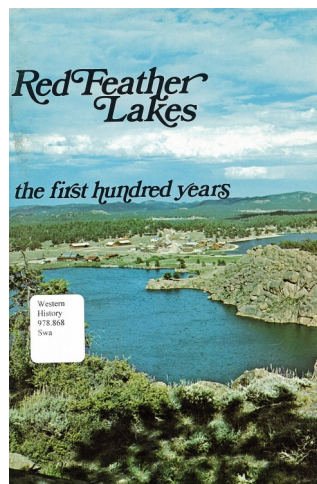
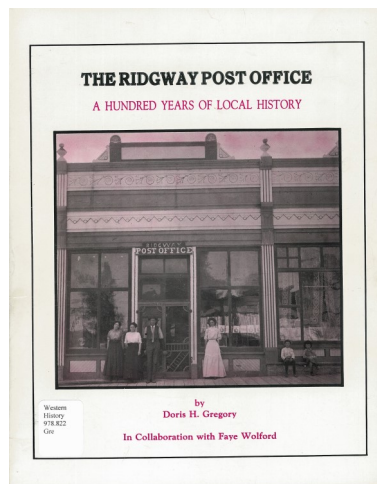
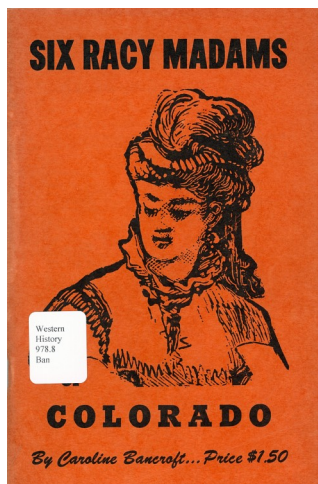
Colorado Trolleys, by Leland Feitz

The Epic of Larimer County, by Shirley Rietveld Parrish

The Georgetown Loop: A Capsule History and Guide

Georgetown: A Quick History Including the Georgetown Loop, by Kenneth Jesse

Ghosts of Boulder County, by John K. Aldrich



Ghosts of Clear Creek County, by John K. Aldrich

Ghosts of Summit County, by John K. Aldrich

Ghost Towns of Cripple Creek District, by Leland Feitz

Inside the Mountains: A History of Mining around Central City, Colorado, by Terry Cox

Las Animas County Ghost Towns and Mining Camps, by F. Dean Sneed

Lowry: Military Base to New Urban Community, by Thomas J. Noel and Chuck Woodward

Lulu City, Colorado River Trail: Easy Wealth, Homesites; Rocky Mountain National Park, by Glen Kaye

Monument's Faded Neighbor Communities and its Folk Lore, by Lucille Lavelett

Pike's Peak Pioneers, by Ivan W. Brunk

Place Names in Colorado, by J. Frank Dawson

Platoro, Colorado, by Leland Feitz

A Quick History of Lake City, Colorado, by Margaret Bates

Red Feather Lakes: The First Hundred Years, by Evadene Burris Swanson

The Ridgway Post Office: A Hundred Years of Local History, by Doris H. Gregory

Six Racy Madams of Colorado, by Caroline Bancroft

The Springs of Manitou, by Bettie Marie Daniels

and Virginia McConnell

Thirty Pound Rails: The Denver & Rio Grande Narrow Gauge, by Kelly Choda

Thompson Valley Tales, by Kenneth Jessen

Wells Fargo in Colorado Territory, by Turrentine Jackson

EUROPE

Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Part Eight, by Keith Tranmer

Catalog of Bavarian Perfins, by John Needham

British Commonwealth: Air Mail Digest 1-10

A Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the U.K., Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Eire, Volumes 1, Volume 2(I), and Volume 2 (II), by R.G. Booth

The Cito Mark: A Preliminary Article on the Forerunners of Special Delivery Stamps, by Edith M. Faulstich

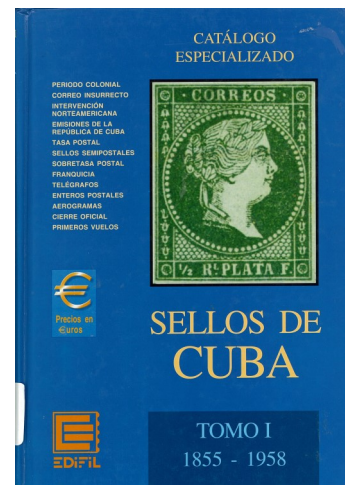
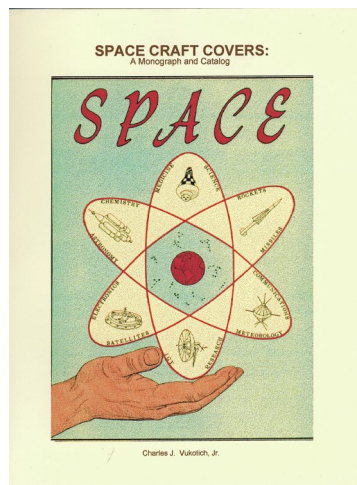
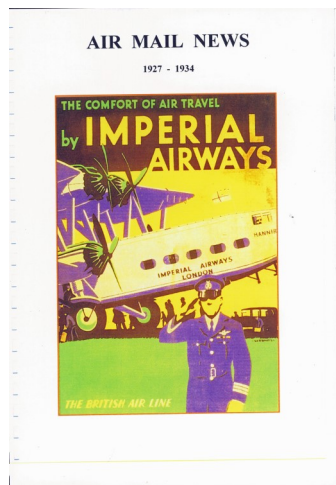
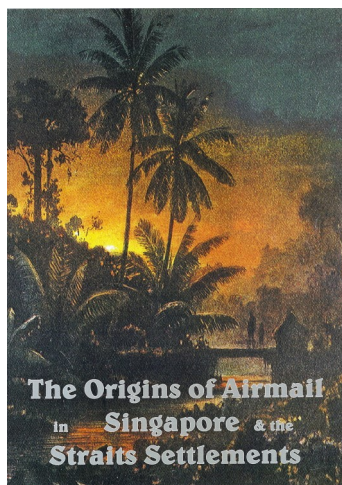
Denmark's Numeral Cancellations, 1852-1884, by Henry K. Tester and Glenn F. Hansen

Émissions de France: Vol. III, Les Timbres Français Perforés, by Colonel Lebland

G.B. Official Perfins, by T.A. Edwards and B.C. Lucas

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue, 15th Edition (1990)

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue, 28th Edition (2013)



Hellas/2012: Stamp Catalogue and Postal History, Volumes I-IV, Published by A. Karamitsos

NORMA Suomi Erikoisluettelo [Finland Special Catalogue]: 1845-1984, 1845-1985, and 1856-1995

Perfins of Hungary, by Vojtech Maxa

Perfins of Switzerland

Polskich Obozów Jenieckich w Niemczech w Latach 1942/45

Postkrieg-Spezialkatalog 1948-1994 [Postwar Special Catalog 1948-1994] [Germany], by Dedo Burhop

POKO Issues of the Netherlands, by Burton E. Bauder

Timbres Perfores France et Colonies, 2nd Edition

Timbres Perfores France. Supplement 1993, by R. Dedecker

Les Vignettes Françaises d'Aérostation et d'Aviation des Origines a 1940, by Georges Naudet

MIDDLE EAST

Mesopotamia: Part I, Indian Postal Agencies and the Campaign 1868-1921, by Philip Cockrill

Mesopotamia: Part II, Occupation Surcharges for I.E.F. Baghdad, Ira and Mosul 1914-1919, by Philip Cockrill

NORTH AMERICA

Canadian Tagged Errors and Tagged Perfins, 2nd Edition, by Ken Rose

Catalogue & Guidebook of Canadian Official

Stamps, 6th Edition

Checklist and Catalog Canadian Postage Stamp, Perforated and Overprinted OHMS and "G", by Roy Wrigley

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

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina Perforated Stamps, by Walter B.L. Bose

Catálogo Unificado Especializado de Sellos de Cuba: Tomo I (1855-1958), and Tomo II (1959-2005)

The Postmark and Cancellations of Surinam, by A.M. Benders

Sellos Perforados Argentinos, by Walter B.L. Bose

TOPICAL

Blumen auf Briefmarken [Flowers on Stamps], by Leo Sikula

Cartes a Jouer en Philatelie Repertoire, by Guy-Pierre Gerlinger

Czwrwony Krzyz w Filatelistyce (Katalog) [Red Cross in Philately (catalog)], by Leslaw Zabiliski

DAN Schiffe der Reederei J. Lauritzen im Antarktis-Einsatz (1952-1987) [Ships of the Shipping Company J. Lauritzen in Antarctica-in Use (1952-1987)]

Fossilien und Saurier in der Philatelie: Marken, Stempel, Ganssachen der Palaeontologie. Nachtrag 1979-1982, by Johan Chr. van Soeren

L'Arco: Catalogo Tematica [Archery: a Thematic Catalog], by Carlo Condarelli

Il Baseball

Il Baseball Nelle Impronte Delle Affrancature Meccaniche Statunitensi

Mycophilatelia, by Giorgio Migliavacca

Preistoria e Filatelia, by Anna Potenza

MISCELLANEOUS

2008US/BNA Stamp Catalog, published by H.E. Harris

Air Mail News: 1927-1934 [selected articles]

Bridging the Pacific: A Priced Chronology of Projected, Attempted and Successful Pacific Flights from 1919 to 1951, compiled by John C.W. Field

Brookman United States, United Nations & Canada Stamps & Postal Collectibles, 2008 edition

H.E. Harris & Co.'s Catalog of Airmail Stamps [of the World], fourth edition (1943)

An Illustrated History of Stamp Design, by William Finlay

Legends and Tales of the Rockies, by Amanda M. Ellis

Men and Mail in Transit [DVD]

Michel: Nordeuropa 2009/2010

Michel: Sud- und Südostasien 1998

Michel: Übersee-Ergänzungen 1976

Philatelic Workshop

Railroad Perfins of the Railroads of the United States and Canada, edited by James P. Harris

Relations Aéropostales Entre l'Europe et l'Amérique du Nord 1919-1945 [Postal Air Mail Connections Between Europe and North America 1919-1945], by Joseph Bergier

Report on the Progress of Civil Aviation 1939-1945: The Wartime Postal History Collector's Answer to a Thousand Questions, by John Wilson

Stamps and Aircraft, by James Watson

Stamps of the United States, U.S. Possessions, & British North America, 2nd Edition (1956), published by H.E. Harris & Co.

Suicide Legends, Homicide Rumors: The Griffin Mystery, by Maryjoy Martin

Space Craft Covers: A Monograph and Catalog, by Charles H. Vukotich Jr.

United Nations Philately [with integrated supplements], volumes 1-5, edited by Arleigh Gaines [real name Ronald Ginns]

Wartime Airmail: Great Britain Transatlantic and Beyond, by Charles R. Entwistle

Wartime Airmails: The Horseshoe Route

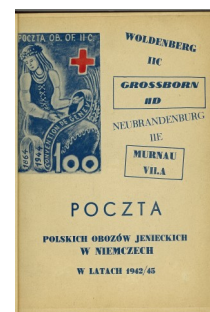
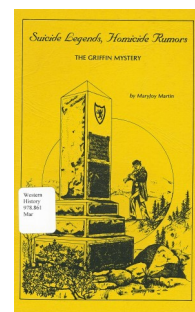
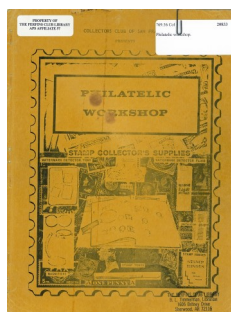
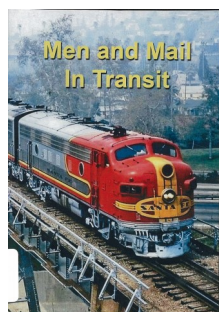
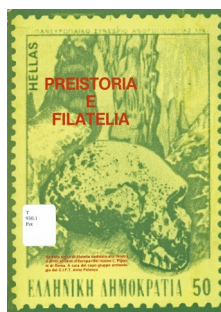
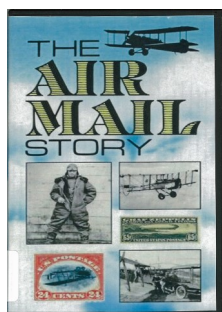
Wartime Airmails: The Trans-Pacific Route 1942-1945, by Robin M. Startup

CINDERELLAS

A Catalog of the Tuberculosis Seals of the World, by Dick Green

NON-PHILATELIC

Fred Harvey: Creator of Western Hospitality, by William Patrick Armstrong



The Army Will Make a Man or a Hobo Out of You

By Paul Albright Jr.

This article was originally published in the Military Postal History Bulletin, April, 2021 (Vol. 59, No. 3) and has been slightly edited to meet the Scribblings' format.

My father left home at 17 to seek his way in the world. In this case, "home" was a railroad boxcar sitting adjacent to the Colorado & Southern Railroad tracks alongside Fossil Creek, on the edge of Fort



Fig. 1. Eighteen-year-old Paul L. Albright (then a private) in a picture post card taken in Manila.

Collins, Colorado. The boxcar had been converted into a residence for my grandfather, a section foreman on the C&S, and his wife and two sons.

In March, 1919, Paul L. Albright (Fig. 1) traveled by train to Kansas City to enroll in the Sweeney Auto Mechanical School. After receiving his mechanic's



Fig. 2. Fort Mills on Corregidor Island, Philippines.

certificate, he visited friends and relatives in southern Illinois where he had been born in 1901. Less than three months after his 18th birthday – and without informing his parents – he enlisted for three years in the Army. Following basic training at Jefferson Barracks in Missouri, he shipped to Fort Mills, which was located on Corregidor Island in Manila Bay in what was then the U.S. territory of the Philippines (Fig. 2). En route, his transport stopped at Vladivostok, Russia, for four days in August to deploy troops and supplies as part of the American Expeditionary Force intervention in Siberia. (Figs. 3 & 4.)

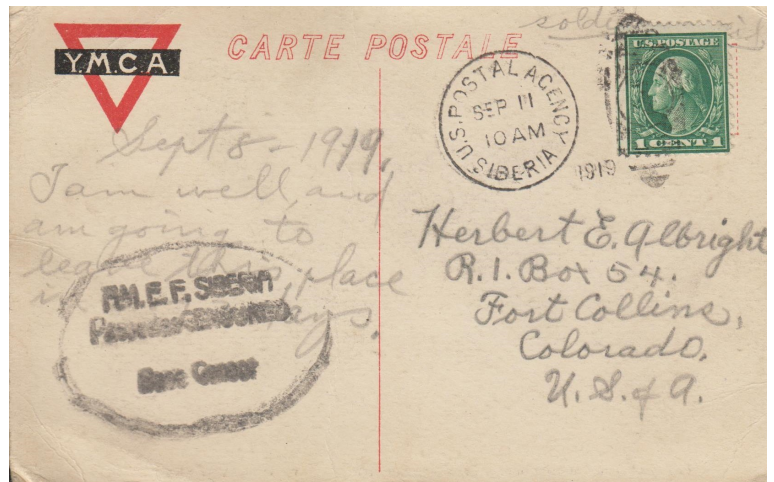


Fig. 3. Albright posted this censored picture postcard and one letter during his four-day stopover in Vladivostok in September, 1919. "I don't like Siberia at all," he wrote in his letter (not shown). "There is nothing interesting except a few coal mines...I am sure glad I don't have to stay here."

His mother was not happy that her oldest son had joined the Army without his parent's knowledge or permission. In her letters, Retta Albright repeatedly raised the possibility of contacting military authorities to have him released and returned home.

For months, Albright tried to assure his parents that he liked the Army and his assignment as an ambulance driver on Corregidor Island; that he was well fed and adequately clothed; and that he was saving his wages. In January, 1920, Albright, who had been promoted to corporal, noted the arrival of American soldiers who had been serving in frigid Siberia. This may have stirred a fervent, patriotic reaction to his mother's persistent complaining about his having joined the Army. On February 3, 1920, he sent this handwritten letter to his mother:



Fig. 4. Albright spent 35 days on the “USAT Logan” as it transported troops and military supplies across the Pacific in August and September, 1919. “This is the ship that I had my first spell of see (sic) sickness on,” he wrote on this card. “It is a very good boat. Travels about 15 miles an hour.” Some 1,200 soldiers disembarked in Siberia before the Logan moved on to Nagasaki, Japan, and then to the Philippines to conclude the voyage.

“The Army is all right and I don’t care who I tell it to. If any of those people go to saying anything against it, tell them that this is the reason I enlisted. I enlisted because I thought it my duty, I wanted to see some foreign country, I wanted to learn a trade, I wanted to serve my country. There are many young men (who) died in France in defence (sic) of the good old U.S.A. So, am I, or any other young man, any better than they?”

“It is absolutely necessary that we should keep the Philippine Islands guarded because they are ignorant and very weak. We are missionaries of civilization and Christianity, are we not? It is not that we do not love home and our loved ones, but that we do. These people ask our help. How can we refuse?”

“Would Jesus refuse a lamb refuge from a lion? No! Then neither will we refuse the Islands refuge from Japan and Spain. Japan would jump on the islands the minute we left the harbor. This is the reason I enlisted, and also to help out my countrymen who were already here. We all (most of us) love home as good as well as any one, and it is true that the Army will make a man or a hobo out of you.”

Despite this ardent declara-



Fig. 6. Albright showing off his gas mask issued while stationed on Corregidor Island in Manila Bay.

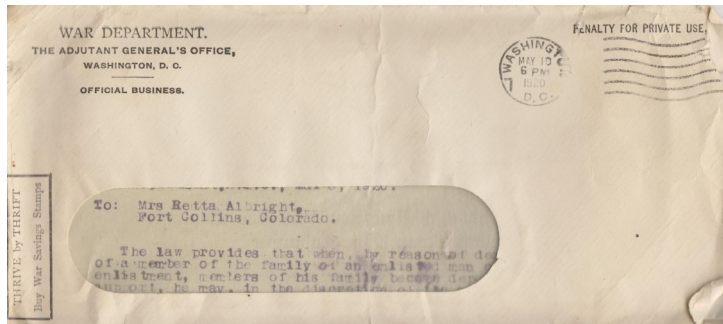


Fig. 5. The War Department letter of May 10, 1920, rejecting Retta Albright’s request that her son be returned from the Philippines. In addition to the name and address, a portion of the adjutant general’s letter can be seen through the window envelope.

tion, his mother did not drop her objections. On April 26, 1920, Retta Albright wrote the adjutant general’s office in Washington that her son had left home at age 17, had joined the Army without her consent, and “I need my son at home. He is to (sic) young to be in the Army. I need his assistance at home very bad.” The adjutant general’s office denied her request since her son was 18 years old when he enlisted and there was no evidence that he was needed at home because of a death or disability in the family. (See Figure 5).

My father completed his military service in 1922 having experienced everything from the frozen tundra of Siberia, the need to be prepared (Fig. 6), and the joys of having a few dollars left over to buy local goods to send home (Fig. 7). In civilian life, he utilized the mechanical, telegraphy, and Spanish language skills that he had learned in the Army. And he did not become a hobo.

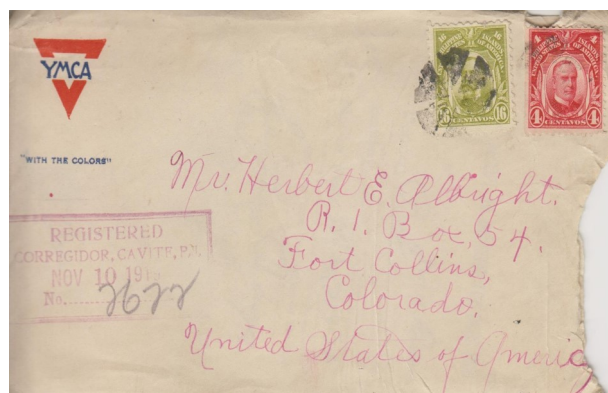


Fig. 7. Albright mailed this registered cover on November 10, 1919, and it arrived in Fort Collins, Colorado, on December 15. Enclosed was a customs receipt for some leather bags and silk fabric being sent to his family. Most likely the letter was attached to the shipped parcel. Franking the cover is a four-centavo William McKinley (Philippines Scott 291) and a sixteen-centavo Rear Adm. William T. Sampson (Philippines Scott 296). McKinley was the 25th president of the U.S. and Sampson was victorious in the Battle of Santiago de Cuba in the Spanish-American War.

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



July 10, 2021--9:00 a.m.

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

Who, What, Where, When, Funding, and How the Golden Gate Bridge came into being

Presenter: John Blanyer

There Will Be No August Second Saturday Presentation

RMPL BOURSE

Saturday - July 31, 2021

2048 S. Pontiac Way

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

No admission charge

Dealers

- Ed Bailey:** *Specialty: U.S. Stamps, Covers, and Collections*
email address: edwardbailey@comcast.net;
- Die Alte Marke:** *Pat McNally: Specialty Germany*
email address: diealtemarke@comcast.net
- Mounts and More:** *Eric Carlson: Specialty: Supplies; British Commonwealth.*
email address: margeric@comcast.net
- Postcards and More:** *Dede Horan: Specialty: Worldwide postcards, limited U.S. Postal History.* email address: pstcrdsnmore@gmail.com
- Ptarmigan Collectibles:** *Sergio Lugo: Specialty: Postal History, Postcards, Paper Ephemera, Worldwide stamps.*
email address: lugopspe@q.com
- Gary McIntrye:** *Specialty: Postal History*
email: ghmci38@icloud.com
- Steve Nadler:** *Specialty: Postal History, Postcards*
e-mail: schlomox@msn.com

Coronavirus guidance from Tri County Health will be followed.

For further information, please contact Pat McNally

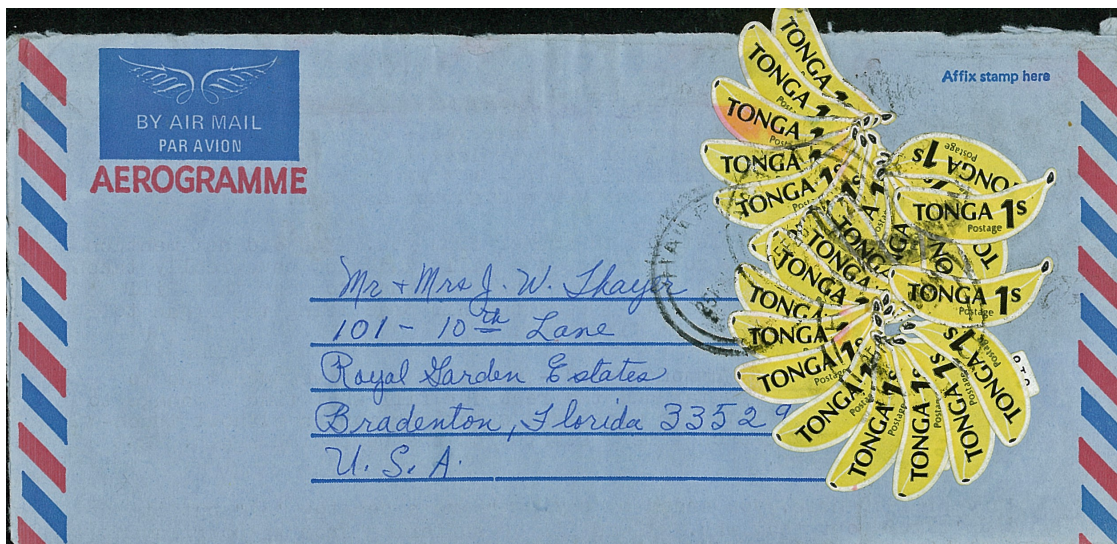
COVERING THE WORLD

Interesting covers from around the world

By John Bloor

This is the fifth in a series of columns in *Scribblings* titled “Covering the World”. Each issue will have one or two pages displaying one to four covers that we hope our members find especially interesting or attractive. All of our members are asked to contribute scans of covers along with brief information about the cover and why you like it. The cover can be anything – your favorite cover, a new addition to your collection of which you are particularly proud, or just something that caught your imagination. Please send scans and descriptions to John Bloor, at aerophil59@yahoo.com. The more members who contribute, the more interesting it will be for all of us.

Tongan “banana stamp” Cover



Since I learned of them, Tonga’s banana stamps, and the many other die-cut self-adhesives issued from 1963 to about 1980 by this small country in the South Pacific, have fascinated me. Most of the stamps themselves are easy to come by but finding them on cover is another story. Many of these covers were sent to family by missionaries, Peace Corp workers, and other expats (expatriates); and by tourists. There were both Catholic and Mormon missions on the island. Mail from Niuafo’ou (aka Tin Can Island) is also worth mentioning. Steve Pendleton wrote about these covers in the *Scott Stamp Monthly* (August 2002, p 40), available at the RMPL.

That these stamps were self-adhesives that are stable over many years is worth noting. The first attempt at this by the USPS, the dove weathervane Christmas stamps (1974, Scott #1552) was a failure. Most of the remaining dove stamps are discolored from the gum bleeding through the stamp paper. The US did not succeed in making a stable self-adhesive stamp until 15 years later in 1989 (Scott 2431), 26

years after Tonga’s success.

The “bananas” on this cover are arranged to roughly resemble a hand of the fruit as it is found growing on a banana plant. There appear to be nineteen 1 seniti stamps but they are hard to count due to the overlap. These were issued in 1978, and are from the last of three different sets of banana stamps.

This aerogramme was sent from Tonga to a Florida address, probably to the writer’s family. The long letter talks about personal and family matters without indicating why the sender was in Tonga; it does not appear that they were native Tongans. The name in the return address is “Koppe” and the letter appears to be signed “Ona”.

Although the cancel is mostly illegible, it appears to be Ha’apai; this is also included in the return address. Most Tongan mail is from Nuku’alofa, the capitol and only large city. While Ha’apai may not be a rare cancel, it is much less common than ones from other post offices.

RMPL Board of Directors Meeting—May 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. All Board members were present except Gary Withrow. Guests included Librarian Sherri Soraci-Jennings, RMPL volunteer Calvin Timpe and Financial Committee members Steve Nadler and Steve McGill.

Financial Report-Bill Douglass

The May profit and loss statement shows RMPL checking account balance is \$136,537.33. This amount includes the first May auction deposit. An investment account (Librarian Fund) of \$225,000 is currently being managed by a local investment firm. The Finance Committee is investigating options for managing these funds and will make a recommendation at the next meeting. Excess amounts in the checking account will be transferred to the investment account as determined by the Treasurer. A motion was passed to change the name of the Librarian Fund to RMPL Investment Fund and allocate this money for general use. President Tonny Van Loij will provide a courtesy notice of this change to past Librarian Fund donors. To maintain RMPL 501(c)(3) status, a CPA has been hired to complete the mandatory annual IRS Form 990.

Old Business

By-Laws: A motion was passed to approve Eric Carlson's revisions to the bylaws regarding Board members volunteering hours in some capacity and acceptable conduct of all Library members.

Open position: At this time, no one has come forward to replace Jeff Modesitt as editor for *Scribbings* and the auction catalogs. In lieu of the usual 16-page edition, the July/August issue may be shorter.

Technology Report: Tonny Van Loij

AV Equipment: Donations have been received to cover the entire cost of new equipment for RMPL video production. Computer upgrades and new AV equipment for the meeting room are a work in progress.

Social Media: The RMPL Instagram account created by Rod Haenni now has 200 followers. The site features the library and included May auction information. The account can be found on Instagram by searching: The RMPL

Operation Manager Report-Steve Schweighofer

Auction Catalogs: Steve Schweighofer moved a large number of auction catalogs down to the annex,

freeing up 42 feet of shelf space.

Keys: Over the years, library key ownership has been lost and there is no way to know how many keys exist. The Board favors Rich Palestro's recommendation to replace standard keys with key fobs because of higher level of security provided. Rich will investigate options and present several bids for Board decision.

New Business:

Auction Report: Paul Domenici

The May auction total sales were \$14,449.00. After deducting for expenses (printing, advertising, supplies, etc.), the Library netted approximately \$12,497.00.

Parking: Current Library parking does not meet County standard. The stretch behind both buildings can be used to add 11 spaces. Steve will obtain bids to grade, repave and stripe this area so the Board can make a decision before the next meeting.

Donations: Tim Bartshe has graciously offered to donate his books, periodicals, research materials and office furniture to RMPL. Tonny and Steve McGill will meet with him to determine what the Library will accept.

Garden Improvement: Tonny expressed gratitude to all of the volunteers who helped with garden clean up: Steve Schweighofer, Jerry Hager and John Blanyer.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Regina Domenici, Recording Secretary

AUCTION RECAP

The RMPL held a live auction on May 21st and 22nd in the Library Meeting Annex Room which featured better U.S. and W.W. singles, sets and covers. There were a total of 91 bidders who participated (74 absentee and 17 live). The number of live bidders was less than usual, perhaps due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Winning bids totaled \$14,449.00. After deducting for expenses, the Library made \$12,497.00. Thanks to everyone who submitted bids!

The RMPL Auction Team

Breaking News We have a New Editor!

Finding a new editor took longer than anticipated, but several days ago Charlie Freise stepped to the plate. With publication only a few days away, there was no way Charlie could get up to speed, so this edition is an unexpected marshaling of the troops. Fortunately, there were several articles in the "to be published" file. There were also the usual contributors to the *Scribblings*' publication process who, in a matter of a few days, compiled the Donation and New Members lists, the Board minutes, the calendars, and sundry information that comprise this edition.

Most of those responding to the call have been involved in the *Scribblings* effort for years. Now that we have a new editor, I am hoping that a few more of our members will step up and support our new editor.

Before undertaking the job, Charlie asked what part of the job was he likely to find most difficult. Two areas came to mind: getting members to realize that they have knowledge and experiences worth sharing, and the technical aspects of making the publication presentable. Charlie will handle the technical aspects, but only you, our members, can help with the creative input. Write an article and make Charlie's job a whole lot easier!

Respectfully,
Jeff Modesitt

NEW MEMBERS

- ◆ Barry S. Kues, Albuquerque, NM – Collects Postal and Postcards
- ◆ Elaine Marie Benavides, Longmont, CO – Collects USA, and Israel
- ◆ John Bartlett-Powers, Denver, CO – Collects U.S., Israel, Plants, and Art
- ◆ Shelby R. Collins, Beaumont, TX – Collects Worldwide, Collections and Lots

Donations

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following people made donations to the library since the last donation listing. These donations were made between April 3 and June 2, 2021. Thank you!

Denver Post Card Club	Marion Kreith
Postmark Collectors Club	Ken Luke
Club	Deepak Malhotra
Carl Almquist	George Meier
Keith Barany	Dasa Metzler
David Bard	Robert Miller
Jonathan Bennett	Douglas Moore
John Bloor	Helen Nelson
Stephen Bonowski	Patricia Nociero
Lyman Caswell	David Petersen
Sue Clem	William Plachte
Peter Colwell	Charles Reed
John Cool	David Reitsema
Joe Copczak	Roger & Marty Rydberg
Tom Czapla	Robert Schlesinger
Donald Dhonau	Cosimo Sciotto
William Douglass	Graham Squire
David Durbin	Ludvik Svoboda
David Edmondson	Christopher Thomas
Judy Fernandez	Maureen van Camp
Joan Grady	Jack van Ens
Ronald Hill	Maureen Vieregg
Dave Knipstein	Amy Wieting
Michael Kostiuik	Gordon Yale

For the Record: Next Board Meeting:
Thursday, July 22, 2021
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, Steve Schweighofer. Clubs should check the calendar regularly and notify Steve of any changes or updates at steve.schweighofer@comcast.net. All requests to reserve meeting time and space for philatelically related meetings other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled with Steve well in advance.

****** July 2021 ******

Jul 3 Sat-No Meeting
Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)

Jul 7 Wed-Meeting 6:30 PM
 Aurora Stamp Club

Jul 8 Thu-Meeting 2 PM
 Cherrelyn Stamp Club-call to verify

Second Saturday at the RMPL

Jul 10 - 9 AM

Presenter: John Blanyer

Golden Gate Bridge— Who, What, Where, When, Funding, and How the Golden Gate Bridge came into being

Jul 10 Sat-Meeting 10 AM
 Mexico/Latin America Club

Jul 11 Sun-Meeting 1 PM
 Denver Postcard Club

Jul 14 Wed-Meeting 7:30 PM
 Denver Germany Stamp Club

Jul 17 Sat-Meeting 9:30 AM
 Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors' Club

Jul 18 Sun-Meeting 1 PM Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club

Jul 22 Thu-RMPL Board Meeting 4 PM
Open to all!

Jul 28 Wed-Meeting 11 AM
 Denver Stamp Club

Jul 31 Sat-local dealers bourse 10 AM

****** August 2021 ******

Aug 4 Wed-Meeting 6:30 PM
 Aurora Stamp Club

Aug 7 Sat-No Meeting
Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)

Aug 11 Wed-Meeting 7:30 PM
 Denver Germany Stamp Club

Aug 12 Thu-Meeting 2 PM
 Cherrelyn Stamp Club

Second Saturday at the RMPL

Aug 14 - 9 AM

No presentation—Summer Break

Aug 14 Sat-Meeting 10 AM
 Mexico/Latin America Club

Aug 14 Sat-Meeting 11:30 AM
 Rocky Mountain Aero and Astrophilately Club
 Everyone welcome

Aug 15 Sun-Meeting 1 PM
 Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club

Aug 21 Sat-Meeting 9:30 AM
 Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors' Club

Aug 25 Wed-Meeting 11 AM
 Denver Stamp Club

Aug 28 Sat-Meeting 1 PM
 Colorado Postal History Society

RMPL BOURSE!
July 31st-See page 12 for details

No August Second Saturday presentation