

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Sherrí Soraci-Jennings, Librarian

Vol. 29 - No. 2  
www.rmpldenver.org

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

Mar / Apr 2021  
Email - rmpl@qwestoffice.net

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Independent Mail Carriers  
1844–1845**  
by William Gum ..... 1



**President's Message**  
by Tonny Van Loij..... 2  
**RMPL Election Results ...** 6  
**The Big Bang** by Steve  
McGill and Jeff Modesitt.. 5



**New on the Shelves** ..... 9  
**Second Saturday Programs**  
by Jennings and Blanyer. 10  
**Covering the World**  
by John Bloor..... 11  
**An American Alpine Club  
Hidden Gem** by Eddie  
Hackstaff..... 13



**In Memory of David  
Weisberg –1937-2020**  
by Jeff Modesitt ..... 14  
**Donations** ..... 15  
**New Members** ..... 15  
**Letter to the Editor**..... 15  
**Activities Calendar**..... 16

## Independent Mail Carriers 1844–1845

By William Gum

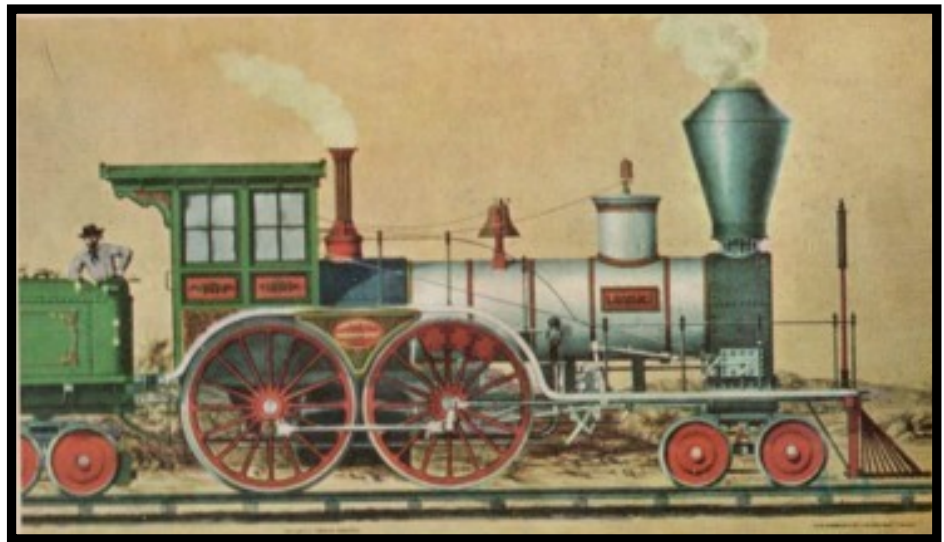


Fig. 1. The LAWRENCE – a 4-4-0 type 25-ton passenger engine constructed in 1853 and named for her builder, the Lawrence Machine Shop of Lawrence, Massachusetts. The 4-4-0 speaks to the wheel arrangement.

The battery to our Time Tesla is all charged up and we've set our coordinates for Buffalo, New York circa 1844 and 1845. We'll be riding the train lines to follow the mails from city to city. We are still at the dawn of the American Industrial Age and it's only been 10 years or so since Matthias Baldwin built his first locomotive by hand. He manufactured 40 locomotives the year before the panic of 1837 but only 9 in the year after.

The early locomotives were quite colorful and, if you've ever ridden the Silverton-Durango railroad, you may have experienced being hit by cinders and ash sitting in the open car behind the engine. The early locomotives looked like the Figure 1 image and we'll see a few on the stamps issued by the Independent Mail Carriers. They were basically side-mounted boilers on wheels.

Notice that the engineer in Figure 1 is dressed differently than the ones with the striped hats and coveralls. You'll be able to make out the same engineer on a couple of the local post and independent mail carrier stamps.

Buffalo, New York was chosen as our starting point because it is the home of Pomeroy & Co.'s Express, founded in 1842. Express shippers added mail to their package delivery lists and issued adhesive stamps after

(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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

President	Tonny Van Loij
Vice President	Jim Kilbane
Operations Manager	Steve Schweighofer
Stamp Manager	Dasa Metzler
Corresponding Secretary	Paul Domenici
Recording Secretary	Regina Domenici
Treasurer	William Douglas
Bookkeeper	Eddie Hackstaff

## Directors:

Eric Carlson ..... Rod Haenni  
Rich Palestro ..... Gary Withrow  
Ex-officio member ..... Don Dhonau

Officers and Directors may be contacted through the RMPL.

Web page — [www.rmpldenver.org](http://www.rmpldenver.org)

## President's Message

By the time that you receive this issue of *Scribblings*, we will already be two months into the New Year. So far the news is good. As far as I know, we have no members who have been hospitalized or worse due to COVID. If the pandemic situation improves throughout the year, I do hope that sometime this year we can go back to normal and can actually attend philatelic shows and bourses.



We had our election for Board members and Directors; you will see the results in this issue of *Scribblings*. The installation of the new Board will be during the board meeting held March 25th at 4:00p.m.

During the past year (even when we were closed), we received lots of donations. Thanks to our volunteer sorters, much new material has been added for sale. So come visit and look for some treasures. If you participated in our February auction, thank you. Since we were closed for several months due to COVID, our income was way down while our expenses stayed about the same. During these closures, the auctions helped us stay in reasonable financial shape.

Additional good news is that the Second Saturday programs are resuming. See the descriptions of the March and April events on page 14. Masks and physical distancing will be mandatory.

On another note, sadly ROMPEX, aka the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, had to be cancelled for 2021. Concerns about travel and accommodations were factors, but the showstopper was the designation of our new venue, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, as a location for hospital patients should other medical facilities become overloaded with COVID victims. Yes, these are strange times, but we are dodging most of the punches and looking forward to being able to more freely socialize with our fellow collectors.

Tonny

## Second Saturday Presentations are RESUMING

Knowledge is better when shared. Consider writing an article for *Scribblings* about your favorite philatelic topic or, for longer, more detailed subjects, contact Jim Kilbane ([aurora\\_80017@yahoo.com](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com)) to schedule a Second Saturday presentation.

(Continued from page 1)

Alexander Greig issued the first local post adhesive stamp in New York City February 1, 1842. The first Pomeroy adhesives were shipping express labels and

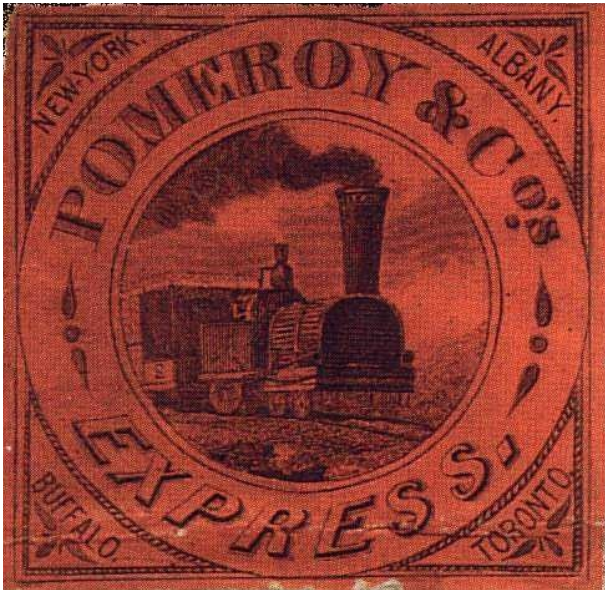


Fig. 2. An express label, issued by Pomeroy & Co.'s in 1842, featuring the image of a steam engine.

bore pictures of a locomotive as seen in Figure 2. In 1844, as an entry into the mail business, they changed their name to Pomeroy's Letter Express and issued stamps with the picture of an attractive woman shown inside an oval design (Fig. 3).

Buffalo was the Western hub of independent mail services founded by George Pomeroy, Crawford Liv-



Fig. 3. A new image for the newly renamed Pomeroy's Letter Express.

ington and Henry Wells. The name Henry Wells might ring a bell with you - he ultimately founded Wells Fargo & Company and served the western United States.

Henry Wells (Fig. 4) was the freight agent for the Erie Canal after which he worked for Harnden's Express. This was another large express company of the day that used hand stamps and did not issue adhesive stamps. Wells saw an opportunity to serve as a mail carrier west of Buffalo and broke off to form the Western Letter Express with partners William Fargo and Daniel Dunning. The company became better known as the Letter Express as they were the only carrier serving points west of Buffalo with stops in Duluth, Detroit, Chicago and western New York.

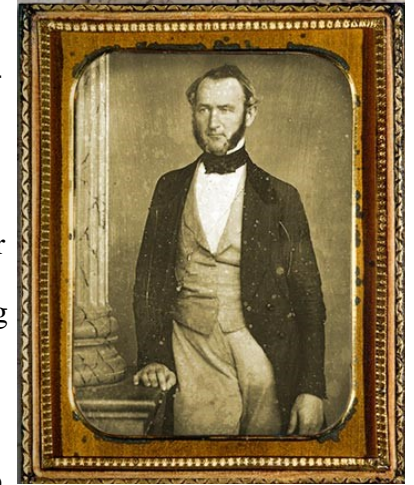


Fig. 4. Henry Wells in 1853 (Courtesy of the Wells Fargo archives).

They issued one stamp with a general waving a sword on it and another one of a woman in an oval sitting on cargo with a ship in the background as shown in Figure 5 with a used copy on the left (SC# 96L1) and an enhanced image on the right for clarity.



Fig. 5. (left) A used copy of the few stamps issued by Letter Express with an enhance image for clarity.

In looking at the Letter Express stamp one may ask why it says "Free" while noting that they sell at a rate of 20 for a dollar. In the early days, the postal service charged the RECIPIENT, not the sender for the mail fee. The local posts and independent carriers initiated the dawn of the prepaid stamp with the word "FREE" denoting that the letter was delivered free to the recipient.

One remarkable note about the independent mail carriers of 1844 and 1845 was their ability to coordinate with other mail express companies to get the letters to various destinations. While this type of coordination occurred, letters with more than one express company's hand stamp or adhesive stamp exist, but are very rare.

Here comes the Letter Express train now and mail heading farther east will get transferred to Pomeroy's for transit. The independent mail carriers came into being because they could deliver mail faster and at a lower cost than the US Post Office even though the letters changed hands between different companies.

In the early 1840s, the Post Office charged rates based on weight and distance. A simple half ounce letter was charged 6 cents for delivery not over 20 miles; 10 cents from 31 to 80 miles; 12½ cents for 81 to 150 miles; 18¾ cents for 151 to 400 miles, and 25 cents for deliveries over 400 miles. Buffalo is 372 miles from New York City and Duluth to New York City is over 1,250 miles. The independent mail carriers delivered the mail all that way for 5 cents to 6½ cents.

Let's follow the letters on Pomeroy's as they wend their way through Rochester, Syracuse, Rome, Utica, and Schenectady to Albany, New York.

ALL ABOARD!



Fig. 8. Brainard SC# 24L1 and American Letter Mail Company SC# 5L1 & SC# 5L3

In Albany, carriers switch again. Hale and Company, formed by James Hale, will take letters to New England. They headquarter out of Boston and ship to other parts of New York State, Boston and New England, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Once the "Hale Mail" arrives in Boston, some will be transferred to the Hartford Mail Route based in Hartford, Connecticut and serves New York, Boston and Philadelphia. Scott designated Hale's stamps as 75L1 through 75L6 and the Hartford Mail Routes as 80L1 and 80L3. Samples of both shown in Figures 6 and 7.

Several other independent mail carriers served the New York - New England corridor. Brainard & Co (Fig. 8) worked the New York - Albany - Troy area.



Fig. 9. (left) A well-done forgery of the scarce W. Wyman stamp (SC# 149L1) with an original for comparison. (Courtesy of the Siegel Auction Galleries)

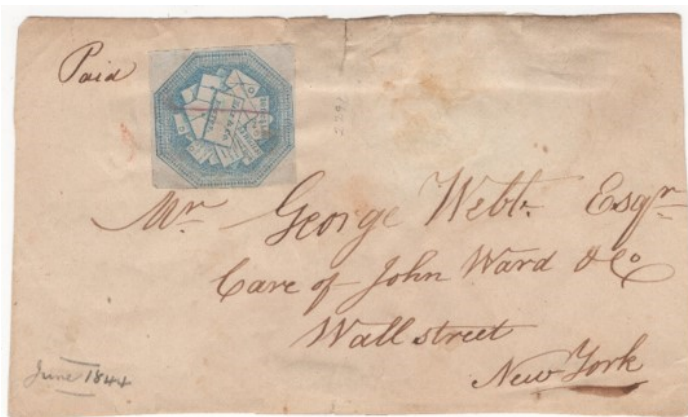


Fig. 6. (top left) Hale & Co (SC# 75L2); (bottom) Hale & Co (SC# 75L5) on piece;

Fig. 7. (top right) Hartford Mail Routes (SC# 80L1).

Charles Brainard worked for Hale for a time and exchanged letters with that firm. Overton & Co transported letter mail to Baltimore, Philadelphia, Albany Boston & greater New England. W. Wyman transported mail between Boston and New York. The American Letter Mail Company worked the Eastern Seaboard - Philadelphia - New York - Boston and presents quite an interesting story.

Up to this point all stamps shown are original 1844 - 1845 stamps. The W. Wyman (SC# 149L1), however, is not (Fig. 9). It has the look of an original of that era but is actually a very well-done forgery created in the 1860s. The genuine W. Wyman stamp is quite scarce and sought after by both stamp and railroad ephemera collectors.



Fig. 10. These Fisk & Rice items were not considered true local stamps, but express labels.

In 1848, Liberty Bigelow started up an express company in New England and in 1851 sold his business to Fiske and Rice. The Fiske and Rice items shown in Figure 10 are considered by experts to be express labels and not true local stamps:

Fiske & Rice's route ran from Boston through Fitchburg, Massachusetts; Nashua, New Hampshire;



Fig. 11. American Letter Mail Company SC# 5L1 (block of 4).

Worcester, Massachusetts; Keene, New Hampshire; Bellows Falls, Vermont; Burlington, Vermont, and into Montreal, Canada. Crofoot's Newburyport Letter Office operated between Newburyport, Massachusetts and Boston and connected with Hale & Co for letters beyond Boston.

This brings us to Lysander Spooner and his American Letter Mail Route (Figs. 11, 12, & 13). Lysander was an essayist, pamphlet writer, political philosopher and individualist anarchist. In his earlier

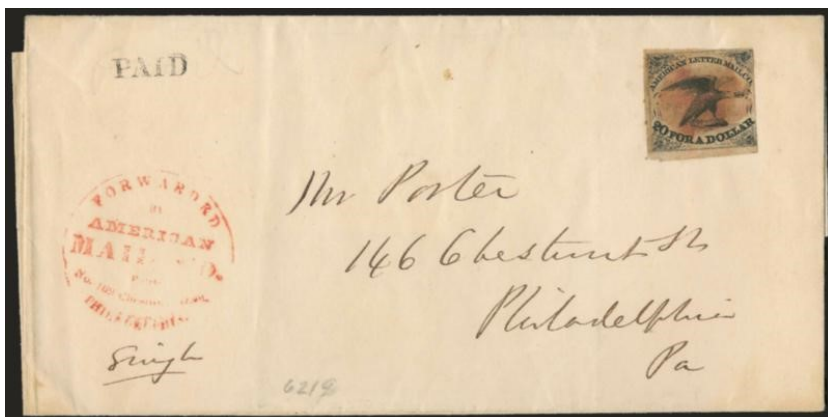


Fig. 12. A cover bearing both a red handstamp and a stamp. Both are not always found together. The stamp appears to be acid cancelled. (Courtesy of the Siegel Auction Galleries)



Fig. 13. American Letter Mail Company SC# 5L3.

years, he was an illegal lawyer. The laws of Massachusetts required law students with college training to intern for three years and those without college training to intern for five years before opening their own practices. Lysander, without college training, opened his practice after three years of internship. He fought the state claiming the law was inequitable and sometime later after he moved on the legislature changed the internship rule to three years regardless of education level.

Not surprisingly, Lysander also had a problem with the US Post office and often fought them on legal grounds. He believed that the post office rates were way over priced and unethical and believed that letters could be carried for no more than 5 to 6½ cents per letter. He argued that, while Congress provided that the government could carry mail, nowhere in the law did it prevent private carriers from also carrying mail. It was this interpretation that opened the way for the local and independent mail carriers to start competing in the early 1840s.

Lysander Spooner wrote a pamphlet entitled; "The Unconstitutionality of the Laws of Congress Prohibiting Private Mail." His American Letter Mail Company ran letters between Philadelphia and New York twice daily. His run-ins with the US Government drained his financial resources and he ended up closing his mail service. In a pyrrhic victory of sorts, the Post Office reduced its rates down to 5 cents, and then 3 cents a short time later. Perhaps we have Lysander to thank for the public demand that postal rates be kept low and reasonable. He also left us some beautiful local post stamps.

# RMPL ELECTION RESULTS

## 2021 Election Results

### OFFICERS AND OPERATIONS



Tonny van Loij

Tonny van Loij  
Jim Kilbane  
Paul Domenici  
Regina Domenici  
Steve Schweighofer

President  
Vice President  
Corresponding Secretary  
Recording Secretary  
Operations Manager



Jim Kilbane

### DIRECTORS

Eric Carlson  
Rod Haenni  
Rich Palestro  
Gary Withrow

Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member  
Board Member

### Appointed by the President



Paul Domenici

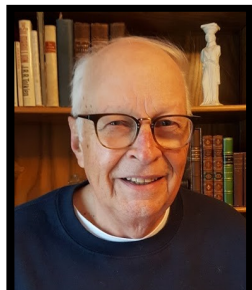
Dasa Metzler  
William Douglas  
Eddie Hackstaff

Stamp Manager  
Treasurer  
Bookkeeper

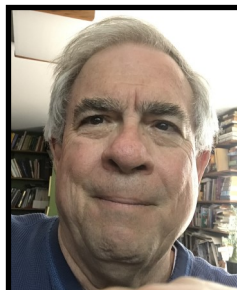
*The Treasurer and Bookkeeper were appointed after consulting with the Finance committee Chairman, Steve Nadler.*



Regina Domenici



Eric Carlson



Rod Haenni



Rich Palestro



Gary Withrow

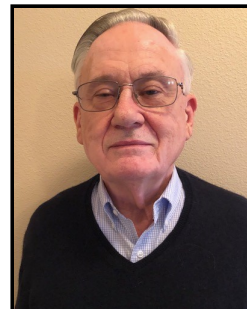


Steve Schweighofer

Thank you to all our members who voted!  
  
Appointed positions to the right



Dasa Metzler



William Douglas



Eddie Hackstaff

# The Big BANG!

By Steve McGill and Jeff Modesitt

Many of us use our hobby to learn more about history or reinforce what we learned decades ago during our formal school years. Commemorative stamps and event covers bring it alive through often stunning art work and cachets that illustrate almost any subject you can imagine.

Once in awhile, however, a stamp or cover catches your eye because there is no obvious explanation as to why or even what is being commemorated. Figure 1 provides one such example. The top Post & Go



Fig. 1. A cryptic Post & Go referencing the "Heligoland Big Bang 1947".

stamp is fairly easy to understand. From time-to-time, The British Philatelic Museum and Archives (BPMA) issues "commemorative" labels known as Post & Go stamps that recall notable stamp issues--in this case, the 1914 postage due stamps.

The second Post & Go provides a little more challenge. What relationship did *Heligoland "Big Bang" 1947* have with Britain and its history?

The answer is rather surprising and takes us back to the end of World War II. The two Heligoland islands are located in the Heligoland Bight (part of the German Bight) in the southeastern corner of the North Sea and had a population of 1,127 at the end of 2016. After WWII, Heligoland was governed by Britain and became the focus of what we might call a psychological operation. Heavily bombed during the war (Fig. 2), the population was evacuated and, in 1947, the largest island suffered the "Big Bang" or "British Bang."

According to historian Jan R ger, author of *Heligoland: Britain, Germany, and the Struggle for the North Sea*, Operation Big Bang was designed by the British to make a point. To do this, On 18 April 1947, the Royal Navy detonated 6,700 tons of explosives left over from WWII German munitions (Fig. 3).

"They're very clear that there's a symbolic side to this [operation] and that is the German tradition of militarism," R ger explained. "There's a sense that



Fig. 2. Heligoland after massive WWII bombing and before the "Big Bang."

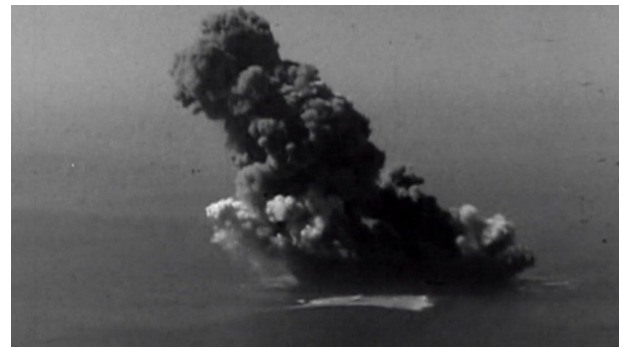


Fig. 3. The Big Bang!

Prussian militarism and its threat to Britain has to end and that's very much how Operation Big Bang is received in Britain." According to the BBC, the operation was carefully stage-managed - the old black and white pictures even include a close-up of a Royal Navy officer's finger triggering the blast. Aerial footage shows the entire horizon erupting in a huge grey curtain of mud, sand and rock. The explosion was heard and felt for hundreds of miles and was the biggest man-made non-nuclear explosion of its time.

Today, there is simply a large crater to remind us of the event (Fig. 4) and, of course, a Post & Go stamp.

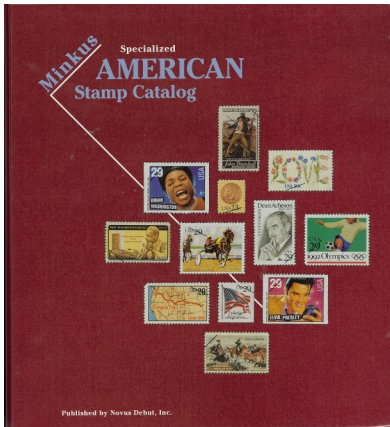


Fig. 4. Heligoland today.

# NEW ON THE SHELVES

## UNITED STATES

**Catalog of National and Service-Inscribed Precancels**, First Edition, November 2020



**Specialized American Stamp Catalog, 29th Edition (1993 Revised Edition)**, published by Minkus Publications, Inc.

**Official 1982 U.S. Stamp Guide**, by Marc Hudgeons

**Philatelic Exhibition Labels, Part Two: U.S.:**

M to Z, by James N. Drummond

## AFRICA

**Ethiopian Stamp Catalogue** (1970), published by the Imperial Ethiopian Government, Ministry of P.T. & T.



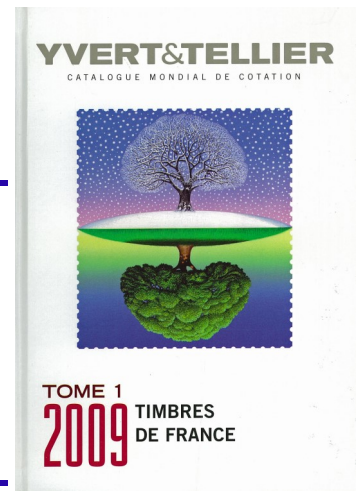
## EUROPE

**Bureaux Speciaux Franchises Contreseings Marques Administratives**: original plus supplement, by James Legendre

**Carrying British Mails: Five Centuries of Postal Transport by Land, Sea and Air**, by Jean Farrugia and Tony Gammons

**Catalogue des Bureaux Speciaux les Franchises: Marques Postales & Obliterations**, by James Legendre

**Catalogue des Estampilles et Obliterations Postales de France et des Colonies Françaises**, edited by Yvert & Cie

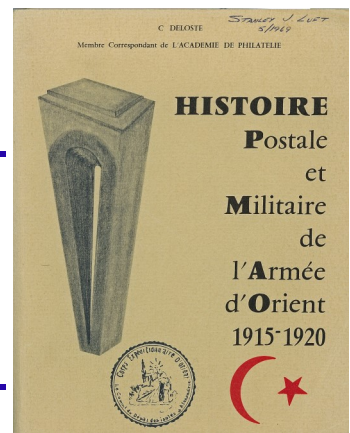


**Catalogue de Timbres-Poste: Cent Treizième Année; France: Emissions Générales des Colonies: Tome I France** (2009), published by Yvert & Tellier

**Cinderella Stamps of Bohemia and Czechoslovakia, Vol 3/1**, by Ch. J. Blase and T. Morovics

**French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Armies, 1792-1814**, by Stanley J. Luft

**Histoire de la Poste Navale: Acheminement et Distribution la Marine de Guerre Française, Tomes I and II**, by Jacques Meriaux



**The Postage Stamps of Gambia**, by R.E.R. Dalwigk

**World War I in East Africa: Civil Censorship**, by Regis Hoffmann

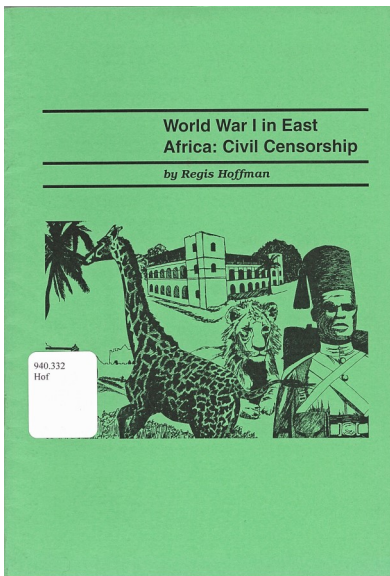
## ASIA

**Chinese Postal Savings Stamps**, by Albert J. Ciaffone

**List of [Chinese] Post Offices Using Chops**, by A.M. Dickie

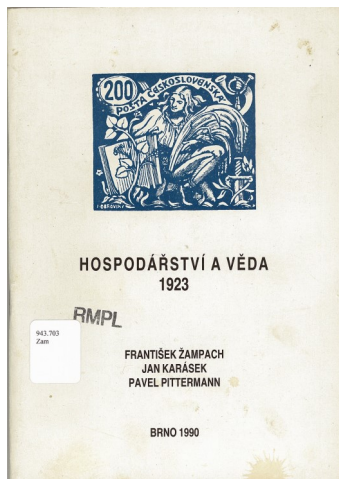
**Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue** (1975), published by the Japan Stamp Dealers Association [mostly in Japanese]

**Turk Pullari Borsasi: Cumhuriyet Dönemi** [Turkish Stamp Catalogue: Republican Period], 1983





**Histoire des Timbres-Poste de l'Empire,**  
Volumes I, II, and III, by Jacques d'Fromaigeat



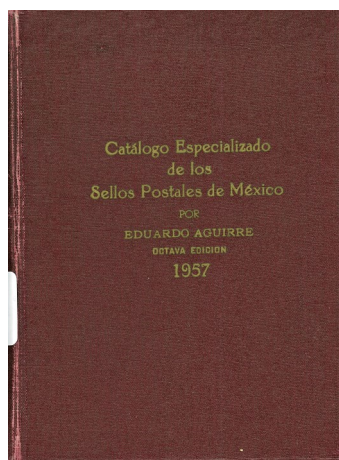
**Histoire Postale et Militaire de l'Armée d'Orient 1915-1920,** by C. Deloste

**Hospodárství a Věda 1923,** by Frantisek Zampach, Jan Karásek, and Pavel Pittermann

**Hungary, 1919, Stamps & Forgeries,** by P. Clark Souers

**Katalog Ceskoslovenskych Postovnich Znamek 1945-1991**

**L'impression des Timbres Française par les Rotatives: Pt. 5: Nouveaux Francs en Typographie, 1959-1981**

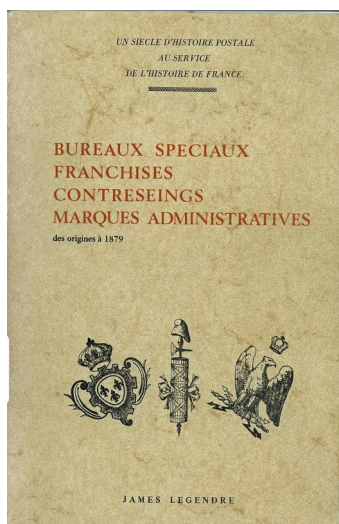


**The Postage Stamps of Great Britain,** by Wm. Ward

**La Poste Maritime Française Historique et Catalogue. Encyclopédie de la Poste Maritime Française,** by Raymond Salles

**La Poste Maritime Française Historique et Catalogue,** Tome IX, by Raymond Salles

**Le Service Postal Militaire Française en Orient Pendant la Première Guerre Mondiale: 1915-1923,** by Bertrand Sinaise



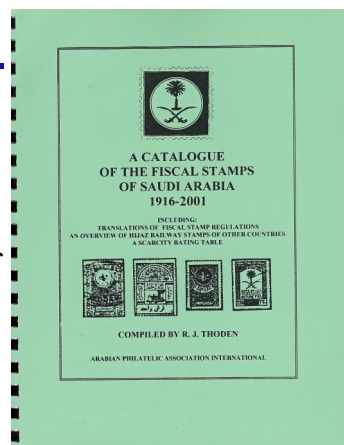
**Reengraving Repairs on the Fifth Column of the 1874-81 3 Krajcar Type I Stamp,** by Steven Arato [bilingual Hungarian/English]

**Tien Vervlogen Jaren [Ten Years Gone By] [in Dutch] [KNILM airline]**

**Les Timbres-Poste Français,** by L. Demoulin

MIDDLE EAST

**A Catalogue of the Fiscal Stamps of Saudi Arabia 1916-2001:** Including Translations of Fiscal Stamp Regulations, an Overview of Hijaz Railway Stamps of Other Countries, a Scarcity Rating Table, compiled by R.J. Thoden



NORTH AMERICA

**Canada: the Admiral Flaws,** by Hans Reiche

**Catálogo Especializado de los Sellos Postales de México 8th Edition (1957),** by Eduardo Aguirre

**Constant Plate Varieties of the Canada Small Queens,** by Hans Reiche

**The Stamps of New Brunswick,** by Bertram W.H. Poole

**The Stamps of Prince Edward Island,** by Bertram W.H. Poole



TOPICAL

**Las Ciencias Médicas en la Filatelia Cubana,** by Ernesto Bello Hernandez

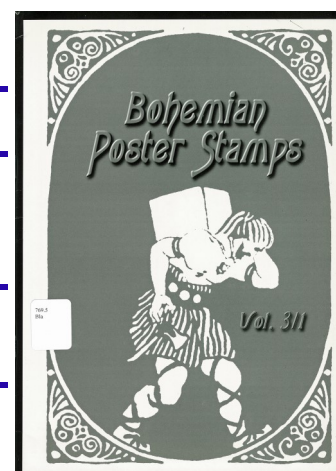
**La Partita del "Centenario": 100 Anni di Basket,** by Luciano Calenda

**Topical Digest No. 7/ Handbook No. 78**

MISCELLANEOUS

**Michel Briefmarken Katalog Europa-Ubersee (1938)**

**Postleitzahlen-verzeichnis ABC-Folge**



## 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](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com)

March 13, 2021--9:00 a.m.

### Ancient Egypt: The Time of the Pharaohs

Presenter: Van Jennings

A philatelic look at Ancient Egyptian history with a discussion of their lives, religion, myths, monuments and more.



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

### Who Controls Who?

Presenter: John Blanyer

All about computers from Concept to Present and everything that will amaze you!



# COVERING THE WORLD

Interesting covers from around the world

By John Bloor

This is the third in a new series of columns in *Scribblings* titled “Covering the World”. The idea was suggested by our editor, Jeff Modesitt. 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 (less than 100 words, although I’m flexible) 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. I will be in charge of assembling the column so please send scans and descriptions to me, John Bloor, at [aerophil59@yahoo.com](mailto:aerophil59@yahoo.com). The more members who contribute, the more interesting it will be for all of us.



Steve Bonowski, one of our members, submitted the cover below for inclusion in this column. Steve collects/accumulates covers from Portuguese colonies. This cover is interesting because it is from Coloane, a small island which is part of Macau, a former Portuguese colony. With a population of 9,300 in 2013, one would expect that covers postmarked from Coloane would be quite uncommon.



The Coloane/Macau cancels are mostly illegible but the registration receiver from Fairview, New Jersey dates the cover to August 18, 1952, almost 70 years ago. I was unable to find anything about the Coloane post office online, so it may no longer exist or perhaps it was renamed when the People’s Republic of China “repatriated” Macau from Portugal.

These two airmail covers are from Moçambique on the east coast of Africa, another former Portuguese colony. They were carried on feeder flights created to transport mail from the colony to the Imperial Airways route which ran up the center of the continent, from Cape Town to London. From 1932 to 1937, payment for this service used provisional airmail stamps as seen on these covers. These provisional stamps are not listed in the Scott catalogs but are in the Sanabria World Airmail Catalog last published in 1966. The RMPL has a copy of this catalog. They served as both variable rate postage stamps and airmail etiquettes.

The first cover shows the earliest of these labels. It is from Beira in Companhia de Moçambique, the “government” of Moçambique which preceded its becoming a colony. The six subsequent provisional airmails were issued by Colónia de Moçambique. These labels all had a space to enter the air mail postage fee. This cover has a “Salisbury, S. Rhodesia” transit marking on the reverse. Salisbury is on the Imperial Airways route and

is where the envelope was transferred to the flight to Europe.

The second cover (actually only a cover front) appears to have a handmade air label. It resembles



the printed labels in the wording, the color of the paper, and the presence of a space for inscribing the air mail fee. The space for the fee is preceded by “Afranchissement perçu”, similar to the notation on the Moçambique Company label but different than later colonial labels which read “Taxe Perçu”. The cover was sent from Tete, capital of the state of Tete in western Moçambique. The air label partially over-

lies the Tete postmark and the cover appears to have gotten wet. Perhaps the hand-written blue provisional label replaced a printed label that washed off (but why the stamps and registration label appear unaffected is odd); or perhaps the post office ran out of air labels. Presumably the cover also went through Salisbury, but this can't be verified due to the absence of the back of the envelope. This cover is certainly unusual and may be unique.



# An American Alpine Club Hidden Gem

By Eddie Hackstaff

After exhibiting my “Expedition Mail of the Himalaya—Mt. Everest Region” exhibit at the 2019 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, I was approached by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library to give a presentation on the subject at a Second Saturday program. The presentation was a great success and afterwards, I was approached by one of the attendees who told me about a book he had seen at the American Alpine Club (AAC) Library that contained multiple labels from the 1924 Mt. Everest Expedition, expedition markings, Tibetan stamps, and a letter from the expedition.

I made arrangements to meet with Katie Sauter, the AAC Librarian, at the American Alpine Center in Golden, Colorado to coordinate giving my presentation to the AAC and to get a look at the book. Katie was a wonderful host as we discussed plans for the presentation and she showed me around the library and its collections (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Eddie Hackstaff And Katie Sauter at the AAC

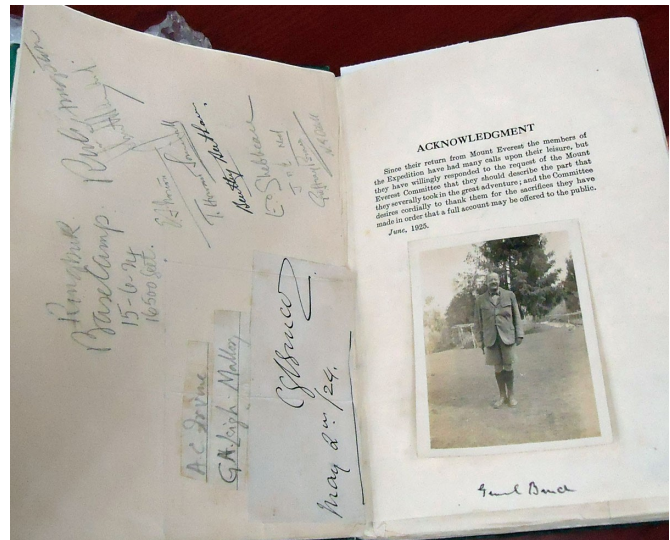


Fig. 2. The signature page signed by the expedition members.

Then came the moment I was waiting for, I was taken into the special collections room and Katie pulled out a copy of *The Fight for Everest: 1924*. At first glance the book was a bit rough around the edges, but once opened I could tell immediately that it was a very special book.

The book was given to the library as part of the John M. Boyle Himalayan Library. It is believed that Boyle acquired it through purchase. It was Charles M. Inglis who assembled the book and its contents. Right after opening the book, I noticed a page had been glued in that was signed by the expedition members while in base camp on June 15th, 1924. The signatures of Sandy Irvine, George Mallory, and Charles Bruce had been added separately (Fig. 2).

Next came a page where seven on-piece expedition labels were glued-in with three different expedition markings: the Tibet marking, the Base Camp marking and the Tractor Expedition marking. The facing page had a three-page letter from Capt. J. Noel to Charles M. Inglis while Noel was in Yatung, Tibet, dated 8 July 1924 [Figure 3]. The letter was a rather simple one where Noel had “returned to Yatung in advance of the main party.” He asked Inglis to send him a fishing net and talked about additional filming plans.

The last addition to the book was on page xi where copies of Tibetan stamps (SC 1-5), a Sikkim  
(Continued on page 14)

# IN MEMORY OF DAVID WEISBERG –1937-2020

by Jeff Modesitt



Even if you did not know David personally, every member of the RMPL has benefitted from his work at the Library. For years, David captained our auction program, an endeavor that not only took immense amounts of time, but required broad-based knowledge of almost every aspect of philately.

If that were not enough, he served on the RMPL Board of

Directors and, in his spare moments, could often be seen searching through the mart books to add missing items to his Japan, Papua New Guinea, and worldwide collections.

Born in Portland, Maine in 1937, he graduated from Deering High School in 1955 and then MIT (1959 & 1961) with degrees in Civil Engineering. While he didn't talk much about his career, he was a published author and spent a significant part of his work years doing graphics for missile guidance systems. He also owned two hobby store businesses. Once he retired, David went on to become the first male President of the Cancer League of Colorado. We will miss David, his enthusiasm for the Library, his business wisdom, his energy, and mostly his smiling face.



*(Continued from page 13)*

stamp, and a Christmas card from the expedition were glued on to the page (Fig. 4).

This was a wonderful experience and just goes to show how a simple philatelic exhibit can open the doors to new and wonderful discoveries in unexpected places. Feel free to contact me at [eddie@hackstaff.com](mailto:eddie@hackstaff.com) with any questions.



Fig. 3. Eight Mountain Everest Expedition labels, several markings tied to the stamps (Tibet and Main Base Camp at 17,000 ft), and a letter to C.M. Ingles.



Fig. 4. A page containing the first five Tibetan stamps and a Sikkim stamp showing Everest.

### 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.

It was brought to our attention that some people did not receive recognition for donations made during the open/close/open confusion caused by COVID operating restrictions. If you were not recognized as a donor, please contact Tonny and accept our sincere apologies for our lapse. Your donations are always welcome and very much appreciated.

Alex Papp	John Palcso
Anna Frantz	Katrina Hegebus
Barbara Hoffman	Kent Dvorak
Ben Meyer	Lewis Bussey
Bob Thompson	Luke Kenneth
Clark Soyers	Pat Kittelson
Dasa Metzler	Patty Swenson Harms
Dennis Leczinsk	Paul Domenici
Eddie Hackstaff	Randy Nilson
Erl Fossum	Rita Cook
Ernesto Custa	Ronald Hill
George Brinkworth	Ruth Caswell
Herbert Delane	Sue Dunn
J. Trumpler	Tom Pool
Jack Van Ens	Tonny Van Loij
Jeff Modesitt	Walter Talbot
John Bloor	William Plachte

### NEW MEMBERS

- ◆ Douglas Diehl, Aurora, CO – Collects Worldwide to 1980
- ◆ Alan G. Roeckel, Aurora, CO – Collects Railways
- ◆ Chris Frey, Denver, CO – Collects U.S. Mint

### Letters to the Editor

Jeff,

The reason I'm writing is to inquire about *Scribblings*. First, reading each issue is hands-down one of the highlights of being a RMPL member, and I'm not blowing smoke - you've done a great job, and many times I have thought about asking you how I can help.

In the last couple of issues I have noticed mention about turning it digital and frankly, I think that would detract - stamp collecting is a tactile sport, and I imagine that many members who now read *Scribblings* cover-to-cover would not do so if it came as an attachment to an email. Having said that, I'm not on the Board and don't have any idea of the (1) real financial status of RMPL or (2) how many \$\$ the printed issues cost. Or, is money really the issue - are you or somebody on the Board pushing to turn it digital because it would be better for the library? If it's money, I would think somebody (or a group of members) could be enticed to make a donation to take this off the table. Just a thought.

Best, Richard Truly

#### Editor's Response

Dear Richard,

The issue of digitization has drawn comments from a number of our members. When I receive even a single comment, it means the topic is a hot issue, so this one is a major concern for our members!

Actually, we already digitize, but use the digitized versions for proofing and posting to the web site. That we can, if necessary, deliver a high quality PDF gives us flexibility should finances require belt-tightening, but I do not think that is in the cards. Most of us, myself included, would rather read the hard copy! On the other hand, storing a PDF version can save space. That is where I see some of the members asking for a digital version. There is also the possibility that we could supply new and old members with digital back issues for a very modest fee. I am not sure what that would entail, but many of the larger philatelic groups offer that service now.

To allay your fears, there is no one pushing to eliminate the physical publication of *Scribblings*. I brought it up in the Board meeting because of the unknown impact that the COVID situation might have on the Library. Having a plan "B" is always a good idea. Now that we are open and have had some experience operating under social gathering guidelines, it seems that we can financially meet our obligations without resorting to draconian cost-cutting. This is not to say that donations would not be appreciated, so please do not let me deter you in that regard!

Warmest regards, Jeff

**For the Record: Next Board Meeting:  
Thursday, March 25, 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](mailto: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.*

**\*\*\*\*March 2021\*\*\*\***

- Mar 3 Wed**-No Meeting  
Aurora Stamp Club
- Mar 6 Sat**-Meeting 10 a.m.  
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Mar 6 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- Mar 10 Wed**-No Meeting  
Denver Germany Stamp Club—Joint Meeting with  
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Mar 11 Thu**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
Cherrelyn Stamp Club-call to verify
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**  
**Mar 13 - 9:00 a.m.**  
Presenter: Van Jennings  
**Ancient Egypt: The Time of the Pharaohs**
- Mar 13 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Mexico/Latin America Club
- Mar 14 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
Denver Postcard Club
- Mar 20 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.  
Denver Young Collectors
- Mar 24 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.  
Denver Stamp Club
- Mar 25 Thu-RMPL Board Meeting** 4:00 p.m.  
**Open to all!**
- Mar 27 Sat**-Meeting 10 a.m.  
Postmark Collectors Club
- Mar 27 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
Colorado Postal History Society
- Mar 28 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m. (email will confirm)  
Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club

**\*\*\*\*April 2021\*\*\*\***

- Apr 3 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Scandinavian Collectors Club
- Apr 3 Sat**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
TOpical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)
- Apr 7 Wed**-No Meeting  
Aurora Stamp Club
- Apr 7 Wed**-1:00 p.m.  
Denver Postcard Club
- Apr 8 Thu**-Meeting 2:00 p.m.  
Cherrelyn Stamp Club
- Second Saturday at the RMPL**  
**Apr 10 - 9:00 a.m.**  
Presenter: John Blanyer  
**All about Computers from Concept to Present and  
Everything that will Amaze you!**
- Apr 10 Sat**-Meeting 10:00 a.m.  
Mexico/Latin America Club
- Apr 10 Sat**-Meeting 11:30 a.m.  
Rocky Mountain Aero and Aerophilately Club  
Everyone welcome
- Apr 11 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
Denver Postcard Club
- Apr 14 Wed**-No Meeting  
Denver Germany Stamp Club—Joint Meeting with  
Austria-Hungary Stamp Club
- Apr 17 Sat**-Meeting 9:30 a.m.  
Denver Young Collectors
- Apr 25 Sun**-Meeting 1:00 p.m. (email will confirm)  
Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club
- Apr 28 Wed**-Meeting 11:00 a.m.  
Denver Stamp Club

**Please verify all meeting  
dates and times!**

**Second Saturday  
presentations have resumed!**