Scribblings ...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian.

Vol. 15 - No. 4 www.rmpldenver.org 2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224 303.759.9921 July-August 2007 Email - rmpl@qwest.net

The Pioneers...

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Simply Scintillating"
By Jeff Modesitt

About the Author...

John Bloor cooks dinner for Anita in-between working on his many philatelic interests.

CANADA'S FIRST AIRMAILS

By John Bloor, RMPL Volunteer

Canadian airmail stamps can be divided into three periods. The pioneer airmails are the earliest group, consisting of seven major designs issued from 1918 to 1928. They were mostly issued for special events. There were also several pioneer flights in this period which carried small mails but for which no stamps were issued. In general, covers from these flights are quite scarce.

The semiofficial airmails (SOAs) were issued from 1924 to 1934 by private airlines which had contracts with Canada Post to carry regular mail by air into remote parts of Canada. The SOAs were (mostly) authorized by the Canadian Post Office and defrayed the airlines' cost for carrying the mail. These SOAs were superseded by the official airmail stamps, issued by the Canadian government from 1928 to 1946. This article will discuss only the seven pioneer airmail stamps and the flights for which they were issued. The catalog numbers are from the Unitrade Catalogue.¹

The first two stamps were issued by the Aero Club of Canada to be used on flights between Toronto and Ottawa in August, 1918. The design was based on a poster stamp issued to publicize the United Empire Loyalists, a group of Americans who relocated to Canada after the American Revolution because of their continued loyalty to the British monarch. Figure 1 shows a block of eight of a reverse die proof of this cinderella. The first airmail stamp (CLP1) is shown on cover in Figure 2. It sold for 25¢ but lacked a numeral of value. The second stamp, CLP2, released two days later, had



Figure 1. Reverse die proof of the United Empire Loyalists cinderella label that was used as a model for the first two Canadian pioneer airmail stamme

RMP Continued on page 2

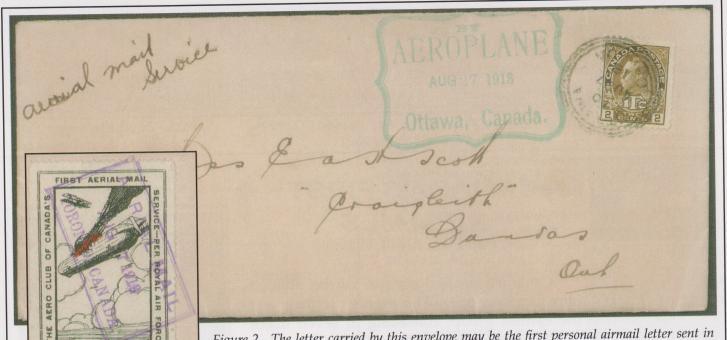


Figure 2. The letter carried by this envelope may be the first personal airmail letter sent in Canada. The insert shows the first pioneer airmail stamp and its cancel from the reverse of this cover.

"25" in each lower corner to show the value.

The cover in **Figure 2** may be the first Canadian personal airmail letter. The enclosure reads: "Ottawa, 27 August 18. Dear Bessie, This note is going to you by Royal air mail. See the stamp on the back. Expect to be home Saturday morning. Yours Sincerely, W.W. Scott".

The third pioneer airmail (CLP3) was also issued by the Aero Club of Canada, on the occasion

of an air race between Toronto and New York. The flight took place in August 25, 1919 and was billed as the "First International Aerial Mail Service". Figure 3 shows the stamp used on one of about 300 covers carried on the flight from Toronto to New York. Although there were simultaneous races from Toronto to New York and New York to Toronto, the stamps were used only on the Toronto to New York flight.

On May 28, 1920 a carnival was held in Toronto as a fund raising event for the Grand Army of Canada-United Veterans. In connection with this event there was a flight from Toronto to Hamilton, Ontario and back. About 50 copies (ten strips of 5) of a stamp (CLP4) were issued for the event and a small mail (probably 5 pieces outbound, 24 pieces on the return) was carried. This is the second rarest of the Canadian pioneer airmails. About ten mint stamps exist and there can be no more than about 29 flown covers. There is much uncertainty about the number of stamps issued and covers flown. This is a common problem with both the pioneer and semiofficial airmail stamps.

The next pioneer airmail was a striking black



Figure 3. One of about 300 covers known franked with the third pioneer airmail stamp. The inset shows the stamp and cancel from the reverse of this envelope.



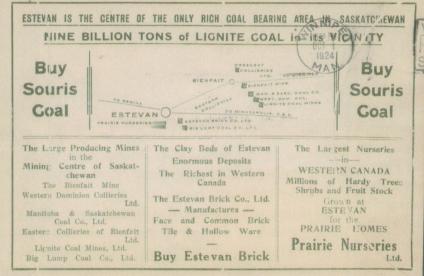


Figure 4: Fifth pioneer airmail stamp used on the front of a souvenir envelope for the Estevan to Winnipeg flight in 1924. Both front and back of this "all over" advertising cover are shown.

on deep red stamp (CLP5) issued for a publicity flight from Estevan, Saskatchewan to Winnipeg, Manitoba on October 1, 1924. Approximately two thousand specially printed envelopes advertising the coal industry of southern Saskatchewan were carried on the flight. Four hundred to five hundred of these envelopes were franked with the airmail stamp (**Figure 4**). The aircraft left Estevan as scheduled but traveled only 13 miles when engine failure followed by an accident ended the flight. The mail was carried the rest of the way to Win-



Figure 5. Facsimile poster stamps using the design of the sixth Canadian pioneer airmail stamp. These were produced by A.C. Roessler of East Orange, NJ.

nipeg by train.

The sixth and most famous, as well as the rarest, of the pioneer stamps is the olive green on yellow vignette (CLP6) printed for the flight of Sir John Carling from London, Ontario to London, England on August 29, 1927. After several delays the aircraft reached Harbour Grace, Newfoundland on September 5. It departed from there on September 7 but never reached England and was never heard from again. It is presumed to have crashed at sea. It had been thought that about 90 covers were prepared for the flight. Newer information indicates that

there were actually only 42 covers.² Only one of these covers remains. It is believed to have been removed from the mailbag prior to departure. Of the 100 copies prepared of the stamp, no more than 10 and probably only 5 or 6 examples are known today. Several reproductions of the stamp, in different colors and smaller size, are shown in **Figure** 5. An attractive postcard depicting the flight is shown in **Figure** 6.



Figure 6. Postcard showing an allegory of the London to London flight.

The last Canadian pioneer airmail stamp (CLP7) was issued by the Moose Jaw Flying Club for a special goodwill flight from Moose Jaw (Saskatchewan) to Winnipeg (Manitoba) on 17 August, 1928. Because government permission to carry mail on the flight was late in coming, few collectors knew of the flight and only 161 covers were carried. All of them had the pioneer stamp affixed. The stamp, photographically cropped from the back of one of the covers, is shown in Figure 7. The scarcity of these covers seems greater than the number flown would indicate, suggesting that relatively few have survived the ravages of time. The number of stamps printed is not known but was probably about 250, estimated from the number used on covers and the scarcity of unused examples.

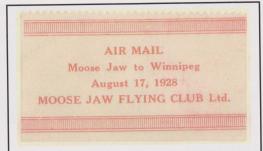


Figure 7. Seventh and final Canadian pioneer airmail stamp photographically cropped from the reverse of a cover carried on the flight.

The foregoing is a brief description of the first Canadian airmail stamps and a summary of the events surrounding the flights for which they were issued. More detailed information is available in the following references, all of which are in the RMPL.

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- 4. The Airmails of Canada and Newfoundland (American Air Mail Society, Mineola, NY, 1997).

News from the RMPL ...

RMSS BRINGS NEW LIBRARY MEMBERS

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2007 last May attracted several collectors who joined the library. Combined with others who joined, we are pleased to add ten new members to the rolls:

Larry Gold, Sheridan, WY
Collects U.S., British and French Colonies All before 1960.

Cliford A Mestel, Buena Vista, CO Collects U.S. Canada, Mexico, Ukraine.

Blaine Thomas, Lakewood, CO Collects several topicals Ken Martin, Bellefonte, PA
Collects Blood Donation/Transfusion
R. R. Grace, Phoenix, AZ
Collects Mexico
Eric Rasmussen, Chugwater, WY.
Charlie Johns, Lakewood, CO
Collects Pre-1960 Germany and Area
Eugene Brink, Branson, MO
Collects U. S. and Scandinavian
Postally Used
Paul Huls, Westminster, CO

David A. Kent, New Britain, CT

Scribblings...July - August 2007

DONATIONS

It is always a pleasure to thank people who help the library by donating cash and philatelic materials. Their contributions are an important lifeblood of the organization and we take none of them for granted.

April and May donations were received from:
Peter Adgie, American Philatelic Society, Jeffrey D.
Beller, Carol Bond, Morris Borene, Peter Colwell, Jerry
Derksen, Joe Ditlow, Kenton Forrest, Bob Friedman,
Bob Gibson, Jennifer Hagen, Mildren Hamilton, Margaret Hertzog, Dr. Mark Hoskinson, Larkin Hosmer,
Barbara Kean, Richard Kostka, Richard Krug, Glenn
Mallory, Jason Manchester, A.R. McDonald, and John
McFee

Also, Eugene McGurer, Harry Methner, Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society, Int'l., Mike Milam, Helen Murphy, Thomas P. Myers, David Pietsch, Tom Pollard, James A. Pope, Joan F. Pope, Bill Rapp, Jim Redus, Roger Rydberg, Bill Schulz, Merrily Stewart, Marjorie Sykes, Tom TenEyck, Bob Thompson, Civia Tuteur, Mark Vainer, and Robert Zielinski.

ALBUM PAGE MAKERS WANTED

If you make your own album pages using a computer, your help is needed.

Your input will be used to develop a Second Saturday program on "How to Make Your Own Album Pages." Please contact Chuck James at (303) 985-8534 or apuejames@msn.com.

SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS

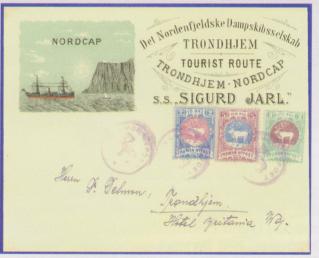


The tradition of Second Saturday programs at the library will begin its 13th year in August. There have been 144 programs with nearly two thousand attendees! If you haven't sampled this experience, now is a good time to try it out. We start promptly at 9:00 AM and end by 10:00 AM, leaving plenty of time for Saturday chores. Coffee and donuts are complimentary. Bring a friend.

JULY 14

Local Posts and Scenic Postcards of Norway By Sergio Lugo & Tom Surprenant

Sergio and Tom just returned from Norway and will regale us with tales of Norsemen, their local posts, and their towns.



A local post cover from Tromso, Norway around 1895, probably sent by a tourist.

AUGUST 11

"Modern New Zealand: Simply Scintillating" by Jeff Modesitt

Whether it is singles, strips, booklets, self-adhesives, locals, errors, or topicals, New Zealand's postal authorities are giving stamp collectors a full range of exciting opportunities!





Now you see it. Now you don't.

The case of the mysterious missing fern. It's just one of many fascinating facits of modern New Zealand philately Jeff will share.

NOT JUST A GOLD ... A GRAND!

Add another Gold Medal to Paul Albright's list

of philatelic lliterature awards.

Paul is the editor of *The Posthorn*, the monthly journal of the Scandinavian Collectors Club. It often wins high awards in literature competition.

The latest is a Grand Award from Colopex 2007 (Columbus, Ohio) in the Society Journals and Pe-

riodicals category.

Paul is an active volunteer at the library. He is a weekly library volunteer and is also one of three people who maintain the Scandinavian Collectors Club national library at the RMPL.

We congratulate him on his good work for *The Posthorn*.

DAVID SHAW, PHILATELIC WRITER

Library member David Shaw of Boulder collects music on stamps and has written three articles which were published recently:

"It's Brahms, not Schiller with a Beard" in *The German Postal Specialist*, April, 2007, pp. 153-155.

"Music on a 1991 Romanian Mozart Cover" in *Philatelic Literature Review*, First Quarter, 2007, pp. 22-24.

"U.S. Ballet Postmarks" in the Fine Arts Philatelists publication *Journal of Fine and Performing Arts Philately*, March 2007, pp. 3-6.

If you have had articles published in the philatelic press, let the editor know and the information will be passed along to other *Scribblings* readers.

RMSS 2007 ONE OF THE BEST EVER

Your editor wants to take a bit of space to hand out kudos to everyone who helped with this year's Rocky Mountain Stamp Show.

The awards banquet was one of the highlights. Not only was it well attended, but there was a wonderful enthusiasm and spirit of fun in the room provided by members of the Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International, the American Society of Polar Philatelists, the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, and local folks from the Colorado Postal History Society, Post Mark Collectors Club, Scandinavian Collectors Club, and Topical Philatelists in Colorado.

The banquet is just one example. Everything ran smoothly. Hats off to Steve Schweigofer and the RMSS 2007 committee!



Nick Follansbee, in Denver for the national convention of the Mexico-Elmhurst Philatelic Society International, couldn't resist buying a few stamps from the nickel books during his visit to the library.

VIP VISITORS

More than two dozen collectors from out of town visited the library during the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show in May. Some had been to the building before, but most took a tour offered by the RMPL which included transportation from the hotel to the library.

Some visitors probably didn't sign our log, so the list may not be complete. Current members are noted by an asterisk. Ruth and Lyman Caswell, Des Moines, IA, Mike and

Nancy Dermody, Grand Junction, CO*, Juan Días, West Covina, CA, Jim Dobbin, El Paso, TX, Cheryl Edgcomb, Knoxville, PA, Nicholas Follansbee, Medford, OR, John Elsey, Garden City, KS*, R. Randall Grace, Phoenix, AZ*, Dennis Hassler, San Rafael, CA, Carl LeMar John, Tucson, AZ, and Dick Julian, York, PA.



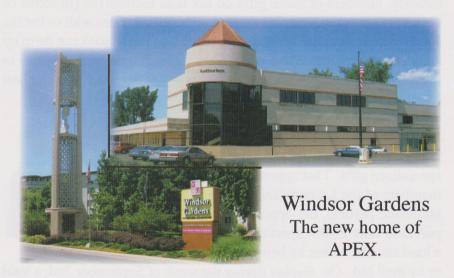
Bob Brown (left) and Maury Pautz (right, next to door) gave several tours to RMSS attendees.

Also Barbara Kean, Colorado Springs, CO*, Allen Klein, Sherman Oaks, CA, Barry Kues, Albuquerque, NM*, Ken Martin, Bellefonte, PA*, Tom Myers, Lincoln, NE, David Pietsch, Irvine, CA,, Eric Rasmussen, Chugwater, WY, Bert Schapelhouman, Magalia, CA, Harold Schultz, El Paso, TX, Denise Stotts, Houston, TX, Civia and Paul Tuteur, Chicago, IL*, George Wagner, Lincoln, NE, Heinz and Juana Wagner, Cyn, NE, and Janice E. Weinstock, Portland, OR*.



A tradition changes...

The annual Aurora Philatelic Exhibition was held successfully for many years at the Buckingham Square Shopping Center. The center closed, so the Aurora Club has found a new venue and the show will be held the last weekend of September instead of the second weekend.



APEX 2007

Windsor Gardens Community Center. East Alameda at South Clinton St. September 29 & 30 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday 10:00AM - 4:00 PM Sunday

Exhibitors
Contact John Bloor at aerophil59@yahoo.com

BULK LOTS AUCTION



SEPTEMBER 8, SATURDAY AT RMPL 5:00 PM



You've seen the stamp auction at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (RMSS), and you've seen our sales wall at the RMPL. Now its time to take in another sales spectacular at the RMPL!

The first RMPL BULK LOTS auction, scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2007 beginning at 5:00 pm. The generosity of

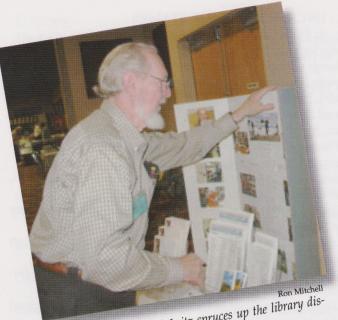
our many donors over the past 15 years has been overwhelming – not only in terms of their time, but also in regard to their gifts. Unfortunately, numbers of those gifts do not lend themselves (in terms of volunteer hours) to stripping down for the RMPL sales wall or for the RMSS Silent Auction, leaving us little choice but to package them up and offer them for sale to a convenient buyer at a convenient price to that buyer. Such "sole source" selling was not necessarily in the best interests of the Library.

In consequence, a new approach is being taken for large, bulk gifts and/or specialized gifts. That approach offers members of the Library (and/or other interested parties), the opportunity to purchase bulk and/or specialty lots in a loud auction, either by being present



or by mail bid. On display during the week of September 2nd, a total of 70+ bulk lots will be put up for auction by auctioneer Sergio Lugo. Those 70+ lots will be fully detailed in a catalog that will be sent out with the next issue (September/October) of *Scribblings*. The auction will begin at 5 pm, and is anticipated to close at 7:30 pm.

PLAN TO ATTEND!



Ron Mitchell RMPL Volunteer Frank Leitz spruces up the library display.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

This year's RMSS featured a silent auction to raise money for the library. It was a huge success with prices realized totaling \$8,000.

Stamp Camp USA was another big success, with more than three dozen youngsters taking part under the direction of Cheryl Edgcomb from Knoxville, PA.

Stamps in Your Attic was a new feature. There was a steady stream of people who brought collections in for experts to give guidance on value and disposal.



Stamp Camp USA participants put together 3-D displays as part of their philatelic projects with help from Maria Molina. The youngsters are from Community School for the Gifted in Littleton.



Stamp Camp USA provided plenty of stamps for the youngsters to search through to find just the right ones for their projects. Left to right, Kathy Porter of the Olathe Press, Peter and Walter Nieuwlandt and Janessa Tofield.



Ron Hill

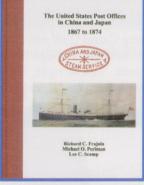
The Stamps in Your Attic table often had people standing in line waiting for advice on the value of a collection and how to dispose of it. Here, Peter Adgie and Sherri Jennings help people evaluate their "treasures."

ADDITIONS TO THE SHELVES

The additions listed this issue are all from the library of Frederick R. Mayer. Mr. Mayer passed away last February and his wife, Jan, made the donation.

Everything in the donation is worthwhile, but it greatly enhances the library's holdings of literature from Central America, Portugal and Portuguese Colonies, fakes and forgeries, and encased postage.





Forwarding Agents page

POs in China & Japan

UNITED STATES

The Clarence Brazer Collection of United States Essays and Proofs, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, 1990.

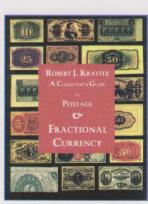
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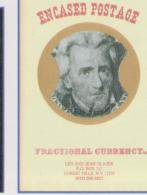
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The United States Five Cent Stamps of 1856-1861 compiled by Henry W. Hill, 1955.

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Collector's Guide

Encased Postage

U.S. - ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS & FRACTIONAL CURRENCY

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Colorado [Dates of charter and short histories of banks in Colorado], [no author], [no date].

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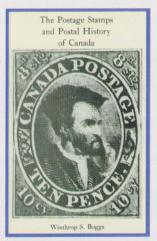
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Stamps & Postal History of Canada

CANADA

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Rural Post of Cyprus 1886-2000 by Ken Lewis, [no date] [Compact disc].

PORTUGAL & COLONIES

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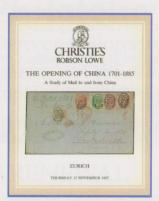
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GREENLAND

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Opening of China Auction



Postal History of New Caledonia

CHINA

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OCEANIA - NEW CALEDONIA

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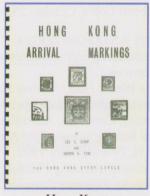
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British Empire Forgeries



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EXHIBITING

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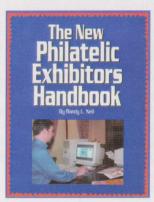
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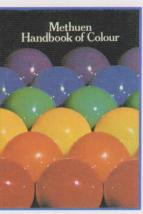
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Exhibitors Handbook



Methune Handbook

COLOR

The Color Handbook: Universal Identity System: 1,500 Different Colors, Edited by Franklin R. Bruns, Jr., published by Collectors Institute, Ltd, Omaha, Nebraska, 1975.

Methuen Handbook of Colour, 3rd Ed., 1978.

MISCELLANEOUS

Anniversary Philatelic Exhibition: ANPHILEX, New York 1896-1996, Commemorating the 100th Year of the Collectors Club of New York, [no author]



Grand Prix Club page



Rare Stamps page

The Grand Prix Club Book 1950-2000, compiled and edited by David J. Springbett.

The Money & Stamp Manual, [no author], [no date]. From the Money and Stamp Brokerage Company, Inc., NYC.

Rare Stamps of the World, Claridge's [auction house], London, July 1995.

Rogers Postal Booklet Catalogue, ed. by Jacques H. Rogers, 1947.

Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, Colorado 80224

Phone: (303)759-9921 Email: rmpl@qwest.net

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The RMPL is an IRS 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

...What's Happening at the RMPL... "Come and Enjoy the Activities"

Monday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Thursday 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM Tuesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Friday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Closed Sundays and Holidays Wednesday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

JULY 2007

July 4 - CLOSED for the holiday

July 8 - Meeting - 2:00 PM

Machin Study Group

July 8 is a Sunday and the library will be open for this meeting only.

July 11 - Meeting - 7:00 PM Denver Germany Stamp Club

July 14 - 9:00 AM

Second Saturday at the RMPL

Program by Sergio Lugo and Tom Surprenant "Local Posts and Scenic Postcards of Norway"

July 14 - Meeting - 10:00 AM Mexico/Latin America Study Group

July 14 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
U.S.S. Colorado Chapter

July 19 - Meeting - 7:00 PM RMPL Board All members are welcome

July 21 - Meeting - 9:30 AM - Noon Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club

July 25 - Meeting - 7:30 PM Israel Stamp Club

July 28 - Workshop - 10:00 AM RMSS/RMPL Exhibiting Workshop (please call for reservations)

Do you have extra postage? Consider making a donation to the RMPL to help pay for *Scribblings* mailings.

AUGUST 2007

August 1 - Meeting - Aurora Stamp Club 6:30 PM trading; 7:30 PM meeting August 8 - Meeting - 7:00 PM

Denver Germany Stamp Club

August 11-9:00 AM

Second Saturday at the RMPL

Program by Jeff Modesitt

"Modern New Zealand - Simply Scintillating"

August 11 - Meeting - 10:00 AM

Mexico/Latin America Study Group

August 11 - Meeting - 11:30 AM

Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists August 11 - Meeting - 2:00 PM

Universal Ship Cancellation Society U.S.S. Colorado Chapter

August 18 - Meeting - 9:30 AM - Noon Metro Denver Young Stamp Collectors Club

August 22 - Meeting - 7:30 PM Israel Stamp Club

August 25 - Exhibit Workshop - 10:00 AM (Please call for reservations.)

August 28 - Meeting - 7:30 PM Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee

NOTE: Meeting times and places sometime change, especially during the summer months. It's best to call the library before going to a meeting for the first time to confirm the place and time.

...Show Schedule ...

September 29 & 30 APEX 2007 Aurora Philatelic Exhibition

 $Windsor\ Gardens\ Community\ Center.\ East\ Alameda\ at\ South\ Clinton\ St.$

Hours: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Sunday.

Contact: Sergio Lugo at lugopspe@msn.com

Exhibitors contact: John Bloor at aerophil59@yahoo.com

October 6 & 7 WYPEX 2007 Wyoming Philatelic Exhibition

Hitching Post Inn Resort and Conference Center, 1700 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY, 82001.

Hours: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Sunday.

Contact: Robin Wilderness at wilderness0269@msn.com

Scribblings is published bimonthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 S Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224. The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado nonprofit corporation. Membership subscriptions over that for the regular membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic materials, are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes. The RMPL is an Internal Revenue designated 501 (c)3 charitable organization.

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