



S c r i b b l i n g s

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Sherri Soraci-Jennings, Librarian

Vol. 32 - No. 3

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May / June 2024

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An Introduction to Early Egyptian Postal History

by Charlie Freise

Note: The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library has more than 50 different publications related to Egyptian philately. Stop by the Library and expand your philatelic horizons, share your adventures and discoveries with others.



Prior to the development of papyrus, the ancient Egyptians wrote letters on clay tablets using multiple languages, the most common being Akkadian. With the development of papyrus more than 4,000 years ago, the ancient Egyptians established the first postal system (*figure 1*). This postal system was used exclusively by the pharaohs and wealthy individuals. It is surprising to find much of the early correspondence is filled with flattering words and expressions for the benefit of the recipient. An interesting aspect of early Egyptian correspondence is the use of model letters. The model letters, or templates, were copied and used by less confident and inexperienced scribes. Officials frequently kept copies of important letters to cover themselves in case of loss, especially in the case of correspondence between royalty, temples and fortresses.



figure 1, this papyrus fragment, more than 4,000 years old, documents the use of an organized courier service in ancient Egypt.

privilege of using an express mail service. These courier services eventually became available to all residents and remained in use for thousands of years.

In the New Kingdom, royal letters were delivered by a system of couriers using mules or horse-drawn carts. Regular stations were established where couriers could change horses and refresh themselves. Correspondence was also transported by boat down the Nile and its tributaries. It is recorded that royal correspondence could take as little as nine days to travel from one end of the empire to the other. A secondary postal network handled the administrative correspondence and couriers delivered letters up and down the various levels of local government. There is evidence some high-ranking officials had the

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Scribblings

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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Denver, CO 80224

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Email: rmpldenverco@gmail.com

Web Page: www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.org

Instagram: The RMPL

Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Thursday 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Librarian

Sherri Soraci-Jennings

Library Officers

President:	Tonny Van Loij
Vice President:	Jim Kilbane
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Stamp Manager:	Dasa Metzler
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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. The Library Bylaws are available for review at the Library or you may obtain a copy upon request.

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

Officers and Directors may be contacted through the RMPL.

From the Desk of the President - by Tonny Van Loij



Greetings to all. I know most everyone is ready for the warmer temperatures. Colorado has another month or so in which we can expect snow.

It is time to start looking forward to the stamp show season. April is the month that really starts things off with WEST-PEX followed by PIPEX and RMSS to finish the trifecta.

An important topic at the Library is recruiting and retaining members. This discussion has been ongoing since the COVID quarantine and lockdown. The library lost about 25% of its membership due to the pandemic, aging and individuals losing interest in collecting whether due to employment, family matters or other reasons.

We have come up with new programs and community outreach. We continue to receive the same answers: younger people are more interested in social media and need instant gratification, the middle-age population does not have the discretionary income as in the past and the aged 60+ members are scaling down their collecting or stopping altogether.

I belong to a German stamp club and membership declined by 50% in the last 20 years for the same reasons. On the bright side, the club has an ongoing challenge. Members are encouraged to contact younger people in their neighborhoods, children of friends or relatives and talk to them. Interested children receive a 1-year membership at 1/2 price and lots of stamp collecting materials. This has resulted in 17 new youth memberships.

We are doing similar outreach but with less success. Youth membership at the Library is \$5 per year and they receive a small packet of topical stamps with every issue of *Scribblings*. We have contacted the local Boys and Girls Clubs and home school groups and there is little interest in what we have to offer. If you have ideas to increase membership, please pass them along.

On a sad note, Richard Truly, a long-time member, great friend, astronaut and wonderful person to talk to passed away unexpectedly. A memoriam notice is included in this issue of *Scribblings*.

Tonny Van Loij
President

MEMORIAL DAY CLOSURE

The Library will be closed Monday, May 27, 2024. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, in honor of military personnel who died while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

In Memoriam

Richard Harrison Truly (November 12, 1937 – February 27, 2024)

By John H. Bloor



Richard Truly died on February 27, 2024 at his home in Genesee, Colorado, at the age of 87. He was an astronaut, a Vice Admiral (3 stars) in the US Navy and a Director of the Colorado School of Mines, appointed by Governor Bill Ritter in 2010. He was also the head of NASA from 1989 to 1992, the first astronaut to hold this position. These and his many other accomplishments are discussed in obituaries in the New York Times and the Denver Post and probably elsewhere. Not surprisingly, the Internet also has long stories about Richard's life and exploits. He is being covered in *Scribblings* because he was also a stamp collector and a member of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library.

About ten years ago at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, one of the dealers with whom I was talking, pointed him out, saying that Richard was an astronaut but wanted to keep a low profile. Later in the show I was introduced to him and invited him to join the Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelic Club (RMAC). He did and he attended meetings for several years, up to the time that Covid 19 caused us to curtail face-to-face meetings, and later by Zoom. He always had interesting comments and often showed us interesting items from his collection of space shuttle-related mail. When he joined the RMAC, Bill Crabbs suggested renaming it the Rocky Mountain Aero and Astrophilatelic club or RMAAC, which we did.

Richard told us that he was the only stamp collector among the astronauts. When others were sent covers and other philatelic items, they often gave them to him. Although he never talked in detail about what he had, it is almost certainly a magnificent collection.

Richard went into space twice, on shuttle flights STS-2 (Columbia; 1981) and STS-8 (Challenger; 1983). On STS-2 he became the first astronaut launched into space on his birth-

day. With the STS-8 flight he became the first grandfather in space.

While orbiting the earth, he took many photographs which he put together into a PowerPoint presentation. He showed this to the RMAAC, narrating it himself, pointing out cities, land masses, and other landmarks. It was amazing to realize that he had been up there and that his knowledge was firsthand.

He was always willing to sign covers, pictures, and other documents. *Figure 1* is a cover from STS-8 with his signature in the upper left corner. The cachet shows the mission patch with the names of the crew. Richard was the Commander of the flight.



figure 1, STS-8 cover with Richard Truly's signature.

References

Alchetron.com
Denver Post, March 8, 2024; P. 12
Denver Post, March 10, 2024; P. 7

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



Beginning in 2024, membership renewal forms will not be mailed out with *Scribblings*. Members will receive renewal notifications as a separate letter with a preprinted return envelope for dues payment. This change will shorten the amount of time required for the mailing of *Scribblings* and eliminate the possibility of a renewal letter

being sent to someone other than the intended member.

Additionally, mailing labels have changed to include a member's renewal date in the upper right-hand corner of the label. This serves as a reminder when a member needs to renew. When payment for a member's renewal has been recorded, the renewal date on the mailing label will become the new renewal date.

Thanks for being a member of the RMPL!

The Second Denver Stamp Club Show

Come out and show your support for the oldest stamp club in Colorado.

Friday, August 2nd 10:00 to 6:00

Saturday, August 3rd 8:00 to 4:00

Location

**Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
15625 West 10th Avenue
Golden, CO 80401**

Free Admission - Free Parking

15 Dealers

**Contact: Ken Luke at
safetyluke@hotmail.com**



That's a fail, huh?

AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS

Are you a driver age 50 or over? Would you like to receive a discount on your auto insurance? Would you like to learn the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment? If so, then consider attending the AARP Driver Safety Class at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. The class is 4 hours long and the cost is \$20 for AARP members (please bring your AARP membership card) and \$25 for non-members (cash or check only, credit cards cannot be accepted). The class will be held on May 8, 2024 from 9:45 am to 2:00 pm. Please arrive no later than 9:45 am for registration and bring your driver's license with you to class. You can register for the class by calling (303) 906-5197.

Held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW

Fri-Sat May 24-25, 2024

Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 9:30am-4pm

FREE Admission

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
25680 E Quincy Ave., Aurora, CO 80016
www.denverpostcardshow.com

WILLIAMS' World Famous SINGERS

The date for the 19th Annual RMPL Large Lots Auction has been changed to September 28, 2024.

This change was made to avoid conflicts with the NEWMEXPEX and WYPEX Stamp Shows held on October 26-27, 2024.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN Stamp Show

CELEBRATING NATIVE PLANTS OF COLORADO

MAY 24 - 26, 2024

Friday and Saturday 10:00AM - 6:00PM
Sunday 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds 25690 East Quincy Ave. Aurora, Colorado

GUEST SOCIETIES

HOSTING

DENVER POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW
FRI. and SAT. ONLY

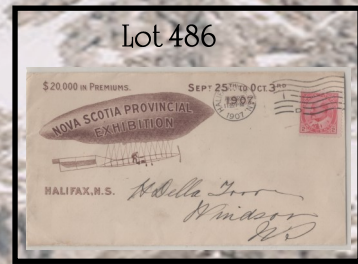
Special Guests
Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society
Colorado Native Plant Society

Attractions for all 3 days
What's in Your Attic?, a free collection evaluation
Denver Stamp Camp Activities for youth and Young Adults
Also the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Silent Auction with 750+ lots

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Presents

The 30th Annual Silent Auction
Held at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show
May 24th - May 26th, 2024



**** Over 800 Lots - No Buyers Premium ****

Auction closes at noon (MDT) May 26th, 2024

View the catalog and scanned images of the lots and open a bid sheet anytime at:

WWW.RMPLAUCTIONS.ORG

Auction Managers: Paul Domenici and Gary Withrow

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Egypt was an administrative division and province of the Ottoman Empire from 1517 until 1914. During the French Campaign in Egypt, from July 1798 to September 1801, it was intended to establish a full postal service enabling residents to easily correspond with each other. Records indicate the services benefited the expeditionary army and were used exclusively for official correspondence or the exchange of personal messages between military personnel. The failure of this system was the result of poor organization and the lack of qualified personnel. The majority of the local population was illiterate and had no complaints. They continued to rely on the established ancient courier systems and transmitting news by word of mouth. European businessmen and consular offices continued corresponding regularly with Europe through the port of Alexandria using dispatches and postal bags.

In 1805, with the ascension of Mohammed Aly, a postal service was organized in the interior of the country for the purposes of the state. The system consisted of a number of routes between Cairo and important provincial towns. Messengers traveled the routes on foot relaying correspondence from one station to the next. The distance from one station to the next was calculated to ensure handovers were completed every hour. In Lower Egypt (north of Cairo) routes were conducted on a daily basis and letters between Cairo and Alexandria were exchanged within 24 hours. Routes between Cairo and Middle Egypt, Upper Egypt, and the Sudan took place from once a week to once a month.

Postal services for the general public did not exist and foreigners, diplomats and businessmen relied upon a number of forwarding agents to transport the mail (*figure 2*). These agents did not handle in-country mail. They were focused on ensuring mail arrived by the quickest and best means available as well as ensuring mail destined for abroad received the same con-

sideration. Here is a short list of the more frequently used forwarding agents:

Escalon Frères & Cie in Alexandria
 Regny & Cie at Alexandria
 Briggs & Co. of Alexandria,
 Samuel Shepheard at the British Hotel in Cairo
 Nazio & Cie in Alexandria,
 Stef. di Gni. Popolam in Alexandria
 The Egyptian Transit Company in Cairo and Suez
 Thomas Waghorn



figure 2, An 1839 cover from India to London displaying a "Care of Mr. Waghorn, Suez" agent stamp in the upper left. This cover was offered in the Robert Siegel Auction Sale #1170, November 15-16, 2017, lot 4630, and sold for \$4,250.

Between 1835 and 1837, Thomas Waghorn established the foundations of a postal route between Cairo and Suez. He built rest stations and supplied guides, steamboats, horses and carriages for travelers. The route was used primarily for the transport of mail and so the passengers found little comfort. In 1837, Mr. Waghorn was appointed deputy consul to Egypt but soon fell out of favor with the authorities. In 1840, The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, backed by the British Government, competed with Waghorn and by 1844, when 300 of his horses died of a plague, he found himself out of business. He returned to England and ventured to speed the post in Europe. The government reneged on a deal to pay his expenses for the trials leaving him £5,000 in debt. He died on January 7, 1850, at his home in Islington, England.

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In 1820, Carlo Meratti, a native of Livorno, Italy, opened post offices in Alexandria and Cario. For a modest payment he operated the dispatch and receiving service for a number of years. The heads of the Egyptian postal service and the foreign consul offices were very pleased as his post operated regularly, it was secure, was widely used and appreciated by the public. His operation extended regular service between Cairo and Alexandria for the transmission of mails originating from, or destined for, Europe. Meratti continued to expand his service and established his head office in Alexandria. When he died in 1843, the business passed to his nephew, Tino Chini, a printer from Livorno. Tino Chini installed his brother, Amero Chini, as head of the Cairo office.

Beginning in 1821, Mohammed Aly, in consideration of foreigners, permitted the Egyptian postal system to transport private mail for Middle Egypt, Upper Egypt and the Sudan upon payment of charges. The charges for Middle Egypt varied from 10 to 30 paras (about \$1.00 today) for each dramme or dirhem (equal to 3.12 grams or $\frac{1}{10}$ ounce). Charges for Upper Egypt

varied from 3 piastres and 25 paras to 6 piastres and 3 paras (about \$8.00 today) per dramme. Foreigners complained about this arrangement due to delays and late arrivals. These complaints were attributed to the willful negligence of the head of the postal service who was not happy about the favorable arrangements granted to the foreigners.

As communication with Europe became more regular and with the increase in foreign colonies, Tino Chini realized the Carlo Meratti post required additional help. Tino brought in a number of business associates from Italy to help maintain and strengthen his postal service. One of his associates, Giacomo Muzzi, originally from Bologna, was a competent typesetter. Muzzi soon became an invaluable aide and advisor eventually becoming director of the company. Muzzi knew how to grow the business and in a few years the modest Meratti post became a solid institution and was renamed "Posta Europea." It continued to gain in popularity and eventually replaced the government post, much to the pleasure of the public (*figure 3*). There are six Posta Europea cancellation types known (*table 1*).









figure 3, example of a Type 3 Posta Europea, Kafr-Zayat, cancel on an 1863 cover. This cover was found on eBay however it is misidentified as a cover from 1832.

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Table 1 - The six known Posta Europea cancellation types

TYPE	Description	Size	Locations the cancel was in use
1. 	Double oval with blank center.	Width: 37-38mm Height: 15-16mm	Alexandria and Cairo, in use from 1820 through 1849.
2. 	Double oval with the day and month in the center.	Width: 52-54 mm Height: 22-24mm	Alexandria and Cairo, in use from January 1, 1850 to the end of 1860.
3. 	Double oval with blank center. Handwritten date in the center.	Width: 42-46mm Height: 16-21mm Galiub is an exception with measurements of: Width: 35mm Height: 20mm	Atfe, Benha, Birket el Seb, Damanhour, Damietta, Galiub, Kafer Zayat, Mansura, Mehalla, Samanud, Suez, Tanta, Zagazik and Zifta. In use from January 1, 1857 through June 30, 1863.
4. 	Double circle with full date in the center.	Diameter: 28mm	Alexandria and Cairo, in use from January 1, 1861 through June 30, 1863
5. 	Double oval with full date in the center.	Width: 40mm Height: 26mm	Benha, Birket el Seb, Damanhour, Damietta, Kafer Zayat, Mansura, Mehalla, Samanud, Suez, Tanta, Zagazik and Zifta, in use from July 1, 1863 through April 14, 1865.
6. 	Double circle with full date in the center.	Diameter: 33mm	Alexandria and Cairo, in use from July 1, 1863 through April 14, 1865.

The Posta Europea cancellations are usually struck in black ink; examples are known in blue, green or grey-green. There are four different types of markings used in Alexandria and Cairo, and two different types used for other towns. Until June 30, 1863, the marks were applied to the front of the cover at the dispatching office. From July 1, 1863, the Type 5 and 6 markings were also applied to the back of the cover by the receiving office following the practice of foreign postal administrations.

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Table 2: Earliest and latest known dates for each Posta Europea cancel type by town.

	Town	EKU	LKU		Town	EKU	LKU
Type 1	Alexandria	Sep 3, 1847	Apr 7, 1848	Type 4	Alexandria	Jan 6, 1861	Jun 5, 1863
	Cairo	May 25, 1844	1849		Cairo	Jan 13, 1861	Jun 16, 1863
Type 2	Alexandria	Jan 1, 1851	Nov 2, 1860	Type 5	Benha	Oct 11, 1863	Mar 15, 1865
	Cairo	Jan 8, 1850	Sep 29, 1860		Birket el Seb	Nov 19, 1864	
					Damanhour	Jan 2, 1865	Mar 29, 1865
Type 3	Atfe	Aug 16, 1864			Damiata	Jul 24, 1863	Feb 21, 1865
	Benha	Sep 26, 1859			Kafr-Zayat	Jul 4, 1863	Apr 14, 1865
	Berket el Seb	Jan 13, 1857	Nov 7, 1858		Mansura	Jul 1, 1863	Apr 7, 1865
	Darmanhour	Jan 18, 1859			Mehalla	Jul 13, 1863	Apr 15, 1865
	Damiata	May 3, 1858	Mar 25, 1863		Samanud	Jul 4, 1863	Mar 29, 1865
	Galiub	Feb 21, 1865			Suez	Aug 18, 1863	Apr 14, 1865
	Kafr-Zayat	Jan 4, 1858	Jun 30, 1863		Tanta	Jul 7, 1863	Mar 28, 1865
	Mansura	Jul 16, 1857	May 1, 1864		Zagazik	Jul 1, 1863	Mar 15, 1865
	Mehalla	Apr 15, 1858	Jun 23, 1863		Zifta	Jul 25, 1863	Mar 20, 1865
	Samanud	Aug 17, 1857	Jun 29, 1863				
	Suez	Mar 5, 1860	Feb 17, 1863	Type 6	Alexandria	Jan 28, 1863	Apr 16, 1865
	Tanta	Jan 1, 1857	May 22, 1863		Cairo	Jul 13, 1863	Apr 18, 1865
	Zagazik	Aug 15, 1858	Jun 18, 1863				
	Zifta	May 24, 1859	Apr 24, 1863				

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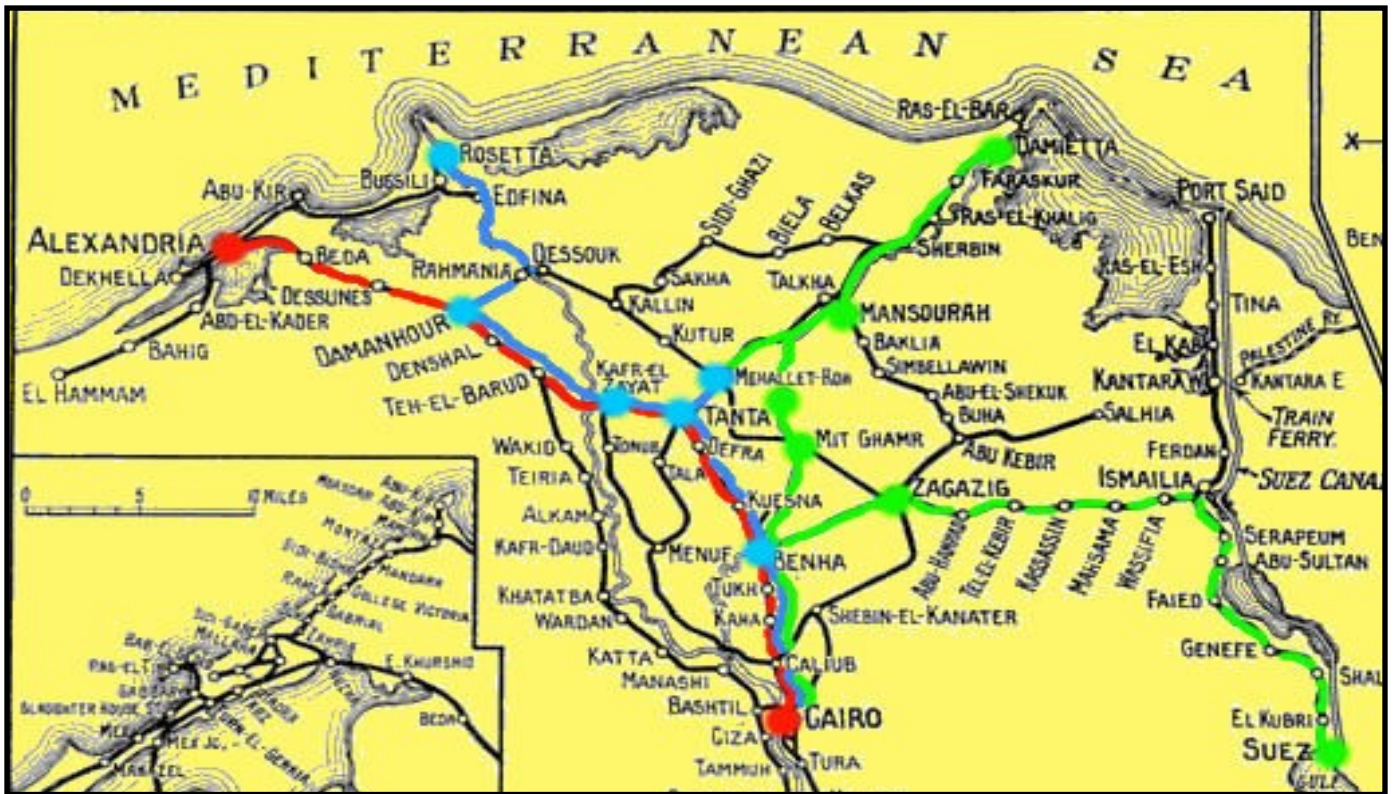


Figure 4 - Courier and Rail routes for Posta Europea.

RED

Posta Europea mail routes by courier and railroad 1820 - 1850.

BLUE

Posta Europea mail routes by courier and railroad 1850 - 1856.

GREEN

Posta Europea mail routes by courier and railroad 1857 - 1865.

Tino Chini was discouraged with the business due to competition from the government. Muzzi reorganized the business and successfully beat the state postal service. In 1854, with the expansion of rail service in Egypt, Muzzi followed the rail extensions and further expanded the influence of Posta Europea. The rail lines reached Kafr el Zayat, on the Nile River, and Posta Europea opened offices at Atfe and Rosetta in 1854. Offices were opened in Damanhour and Kafr el Zayat in 1855. Posta Europea offices were opened in Tanta, Benha and Birket el Sab in 1856. In 1856, Posta Europea entered into a five-year contract with the Egyptian Transit Administration for the transport of their mail from Alexandria and Cairo for an annual payment of 72,000 piastres (almost \$100,000 in today's money). The contract awarded a monopoly to Posta Europea that included fines for infringement. By 1857, additional offices were opened in Damietta, Mansoura, Mehalla, Samanoud, Zagazig and Zifta. A rail line from Cairo, across the desert, to Suez was opened in November 1859 and soon after an office was opened in Suez (figure 4 and table 2).

On March 5, 1862, the monopoly granted to Posta Europea in 1856 was extended an additional ten years by an edict of the Egyptian Viceroy. This edict permitted free carriage of Posta Europea mail bags on the

state railways and the company management transported all government mail free of charge. This arrangement almost eliminated the Egyptian postal service in Lower Egypt. The directors of Posta Europea soon found themselves in a position where they could not handle the volume of mail despite the size of their organization.

Chini and Muzzi sought the assistance of the Italian Postal Service in Turin. A young Vittorio Chioffi, from Milan, arrived to assist in solving the mounting problems in collecting postal charges and the increasing mail volume. In 1863, Muzzi introduced a system of prepayment by means of postage stamps (figure 5), something that had proven highly successful in many countries.



figure 5, example of an 1864 Posta Europea postage stamp for use in Egypt.

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Tito Chini, head of Posta Europea, died in a carriage accident in 1864. His heirs had no interest in his business and Giacomo Muzzi, upset by the death of Chini, left the business at the first opportunity. The young Vittorio Chioffi, determined not to give up, sent a letter to the Viceroy of Egypt on June 7, 1864, detailing the advantages of a prepaid postal system. He included the recommendation of a reduction in postal rates to a uniform rate of 1 piastre (40 paras, or 25 centimes) per 10 grams for any destination in Egypt for prepaid letters, 2 piastre for letters that were not prepaid. Chioffi asked for "the authority to issue, at his own expense, postage stamps bearing the engraved portrait of Your Highness, or your monogram, according to your wishes, to facilitate the payment of charges by the public for the delivery of mail." The Alexandrian Consul-General of Italy personally supported the letter from Muzzi.

The Egyptian Viceroy realized the significance of this suggestion and recognized the successes of the Posta Europea organization. The Viceroy, in his desire to acquire all the businesses capable of helping his country progress, decided to repurchase the Posta Europea monopoly. Although the 1862 ten-year contract still had eight years before expiration the Viceroy gave the order to end the operation as quickly as possible and at any price. The French banker, Dervieu, of Alexandria, settled the matter, paying compensation of 950,000 francs (about \$152,000 in today's money) to Giacomo Muzzi and the heirs of Tito Chini.

The Deed of Sale for Posta Europea was signed on October 29, 1864. On January 2, 1865, representatives of the Dervieu bank took over the business and the ownership of Posta Europea was transferred to the state. Muzzi was nominated as Director-General of

the new Postes Egyptiennes administration on behalf of the government of Egypt.

The first official postage stamps were issued on January 1, 1866. The set of seven stamps was valued from 5 paras to 10 piastres and featured different geometric shapes in the center with Arabic inscriptions (*figure 6*). Egypt was still a province of the Ottoman Empire and the black Turkish inscriptions on the stamps are commonly mistaken as overprints. The stamps were printed by the Fratelli Pellas firm of Genoa, Italy. They were issued in perforate and imperforate formats. There are a number of color and shade varieties, perforation varieties, one bisect and an inscription variety (10pi on the 5pi stamp). With the exception of the 1 piastre stamp all of the stamps are watermarked with an Egyptian pyramid and star (*figure 7*).



*figure 7,
watermark
#118.*

A word of caution, some of the early issues are quite expensive. As with many early stamp issues, one has to take care as fakes and forgeries are common.

Sources:

<https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/64-Egypt/year/1866>

<http://www.egyptstudycircle.org.uk/PostalHistory/pe.html>

<https://bigblue1840-1940.blogspot.com/2011/10/egypt.html>

<https://steelmailbox.blogspot.com/2017/09/mailboxes-history-mail-service-egypt.html>

<https://www.stampworld.com/stamps/Egypt>
Classic Egyptian Stamp Catalog 1866-1966, compiled by Prof. Sami M. Fereig



figure 6

first row, left to right, Egypt, 1866, Scott #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

second row, left to right, Egypt, 1866, #1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a and 7a.

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, aurora_80017@yahoo.com, if you are interested in presenting a program.**

May 11, 2024 - 9:00 AM

Presenter: Eddie Hackstaff

"The 1932 Flying Carpet - With a Side Trip to Mount Everest"

One of the 20th century's greatest flying adventures. It was a dream of Richard Halliburton to explore the world. In attempting to achieve this goal, over the 18 months from 1930 - 1932, he would create a truly amazing story that includes an amazing flight to Mt. Everest.



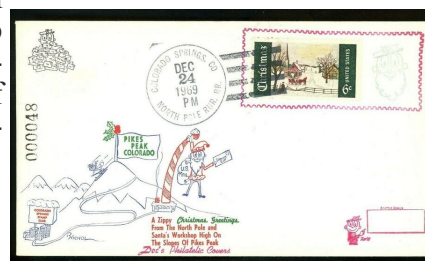
Moe Stephens (seated) and Richard Halliburton (standing) with the Flying Carpet.

June 8, 2024 - 9:00 AM

Presenter: Daniel Culbert

"Put Some ZIP Into Your Collection"

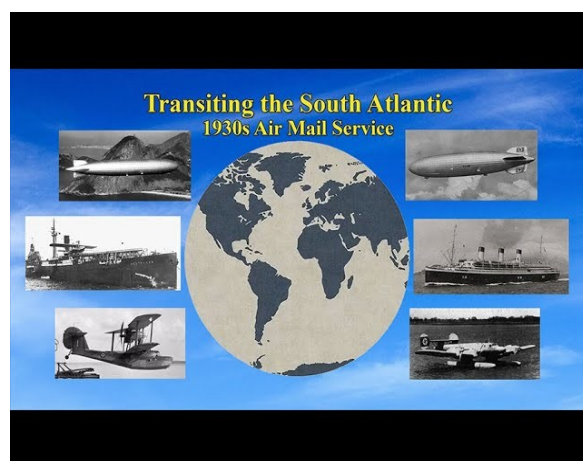
Dan visited the RMPL a couple years ago and gave a presentation on his collection of Francisco Morazon on Central American Stamps. He returns this month with a new presentation, "Put some ZIP Into Your Collection." He will cover (pun intended) some background about the US ZIP code system, and give an overview of how Mr. Zip was used on US stamps to encourage the adoption of this technology. Beyond the selvedge markings and slogans, the cartoon has been a popular collectible as both blocks and singles. Mr. Zip has appeared on the covers of stamp booklets, labels in booklet panes, and on cinderellas and cachets. And some of his cartoon-like relatives have even shown up on some foreign stamp booklets that promote the use of postal codes in other countries.



Transiting the South Atlantic 1930s Air Mail Service

by Sergio Lugo

The RMPL Video Production Team just released the fifth video of 2024, "Transiting the South Atlantic - 1930s Air Mail Service." This presentation was developed for the South American Study Unit as well as the German Philatelic Society Club at the RMPL. The video explores the development and operation of catapult planes, including seaplanes and Zeppelins, that flew in concert with Deutsch Lufthansa and Syndicato Condor airlines. The airlines delivered mail on catapult routes to and from South America in the 1930s. The video is 21 minutes in length and the second in a series devoted to the Syndicato Condor Airline of Brazil. Here is the link to the new YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FoTekFWQTNl>



The RMPL Video Production Team thanks you for your patience and appreciates you subscribing to our YouTube channel, we now have over 750 subscribers. There are 46 videos available on our site and more than 73,000 visitors have watched our productions. Your continued support and rating the videos on YouTube is gratifying and empowers the team to complete an additional five videos by the end of 2024.



Covering the World



A Palestine – Israel Transition Cover

by John H. Bloor

After almost three decades of British control of Palestine, on 20 April, 1948 the British Mandate of Palestine ended. Twenty-four days later, on 14 May, 1948, the State of Israel was formed. During this interim period there was no official government in the area and no officially printed stamps. Many different “unofficial” stamps were used to frank mail. These included both Jewish National Fund stamps and Palestine Mandate stamps, overprinted and un-overprinted (1).

Mendel Shapira, a philatelist, realized the need for emergency postage for the pending Jewish state (1). He created an airmail stamp for the Palestine Air Transport Company (PATCO). These are known in several colors, with and without the red overprint “airmail” in Hebrew. They are inscribed “Palestine/Land of Israel” and are the first stamps to use the name “Israel”. Other groups also printed stamps to help keep the mail moving.

Subsequently, the question arose of whether these stamps were genuine or fakes. In the absence of any official postal system, proof of genuineness was the presence of a postal cancellation and that the letter had travelled through the mail and reached its destination (1). The cover shown here (Figure 1a,1b) was mailed on May 5, during the interim period, from Haifa, Palestine, to Los Angeles, California. Unfortunately, there is no Los Angeles receiving cancel and the cover was not registered, so there remains some question as to whether it ever reached California. Other similar covers are known and together they provide the basis for the claims that the PATCO labels are genuine airmail stamps.

Arguments against the genuineness of the PATCO stamps are presented in the second article (2). Shapira wanted to organize a letter and parcel delivery service with AVIRON, a small air transport company operating between Haifa and Tel Aviv. This did not work out for several reasons (2) but not before Shapira had designed and printed labels that were to be used to indicate prepayment of the transport service. According to Forsher (2), Shapira was left with many useless labels which he started using on his personal mail, sometimes without any valid postage stamps. Since there was never a service for which these labels were authorized to pay postage, this is the basis on which Forsher and others claim that these are “fake” stamps. It seems unlikely that this disagreement will ever be

resolved. Meanwhile, the stamps and covers with the PATCO labels remain very collectible and are interesting to collectors of Israeli philately, world air mail, and cinderella stamps.



Figure 1a: PATCO cover front.



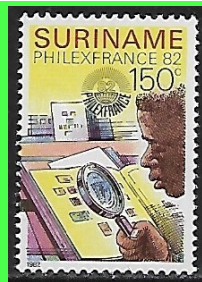
Figure 1b: PATCO cover back.

Sources:

- 1 - PATCO Palestine Air Transport Company Air mail Stamps of the Early Israel Interim Period, Raymond Groden. *The Israel Philatelist* Vol XII #4, pages 365-367.
- 2 - The AVIRON stamp, pages 106-108, *The interim period Postage Stamps of Israel: March 10 July 1948*, by Bruno J. Forsher; a Handbook of the Society of Israel Philatelists (1969)

Young Collectors Corner

by Charlie Freise



Visit CYPHERStampClub.com to learn more about stamp collecting.

Postage Due Stamps

Postage Due stamps paid the insufficient postage on the mail. If it cost 60¢ to send a letter and only 40¢ was paid then 20¢ postage is due. France issued the first Postage Due stamp in 1859. Almost every country has issued Postage Due stamps. Like air-mail stamps, knowing how to identify foreign postage due stamps is a valuable skill. Today, these stamps are rarely seen on pieces of mail.

HOW GOOD IS YOUR MATH?

The denomination of each stamp on this page is included in the description. Unless you are familiar with the country and language you might not know what the value is. Without duplicating the stamps add their denominations to equal the following numbers:

- Which stamps when added together equal 17?
- Which stamps when added together equal 36?
- Which stamps when added together equal 43?
- Which stamps when added together equal 62?
- Which stamps when added together equal 101?
- Which stamps when added together equal 235?



Australia
(8p), 1958,
Scott #J92.



United States,
(3¢), 1930,
Scott #J72



Great Britain
(11p), 1975,
Scott #J87



Ecuador (2¢)
1896,
Scott #J2



France,
(1¢), 1882,
Scott #J11



Egypt (20m),
1960,
Scott #J52



China (10¢),
NE Provinces,
1948,
Scott #J7



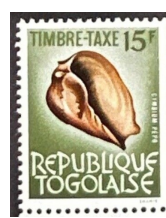
Sweden, (12¢)
1874
Scott #J5



Portugal,
(30¢) 1967,
Scott #J65



South West
Africa (6p)
1931,
Scott #J90



Togo, (15¢)
1964,
Scott #J62



Bulgaria (25¢)
1884,
Scott #J2



Canada (24¢)
1978,
Scott #J39



Mexico (4¢)
1908,
Scott #J4



Austria (14p)
1913,
Scott #J39



Singapore,
(50¢), 1973,
Scott #J8a

There are many different combinations possible and you may come up with one different than listed in the **answer key found on page 18**. How many different combinations can you come up with?

New Publications for our Members

UNITED STATES

The Post Offices of Rhode Island, by John S. Gallagher

The R.F.D. Golden Jubilee, 1896-1946, by Gwendolyn M. Aaberg

The Territorial Post Offices of Arizona, by Sheldon H. Dike

Understanding the Grill Stamps of the United States, by Jan Hofmeyr

NORTH AMERICA

Allan Steinhart, Postal Historian: Significant Postal History Articles and Anecdotes...New and Old Directions in Postal History are Described

A Postal History of Labrador Before Confederation - An Exhibit, by Kevin O'Reilly, published by the British North American Philatelic Society Ltd.

The Standard Canadian Plate Block Catalogue: Including the Imprints and Marginal Inscriptions of British North America

Transatlantic Mail to and From British North America From Early Days to U.P.U., by Jack C. Arnell

EUROPE

Österreich 1850-1918: Spezialkatalog und Handbuch, von Ulrich Ferchenbauer

Rakousko 1850-1918: Monografie a Specializovaný Katalog, by Pavel Hírš

Specializovaný Katalog Československých Poštovních Známeč, ved. Vladimír Bernášek

The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland: Being a Survey of British Postmarks From 1660 to 1940, by R. C. Alcock and F. C. Holland

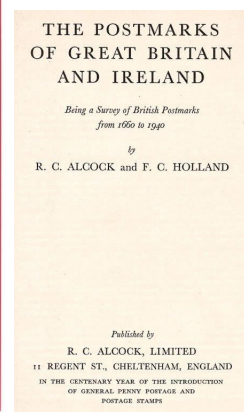
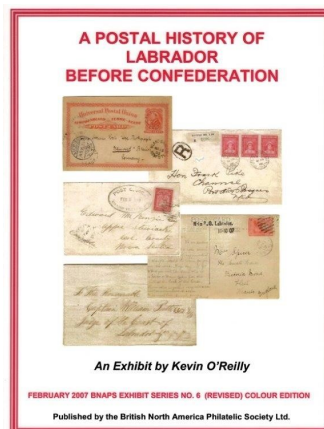
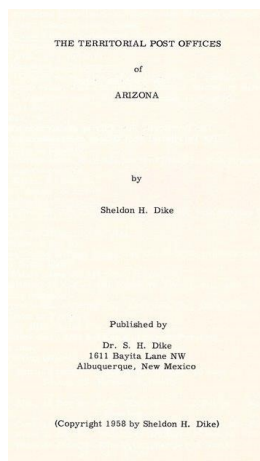
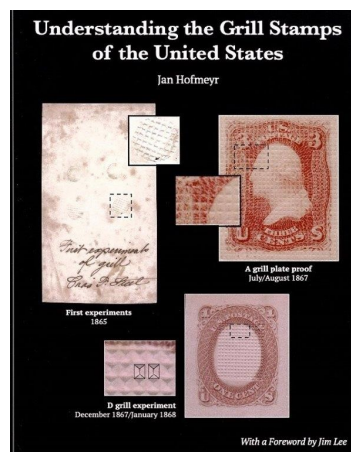
The Sokols in Philately: Postal, Commemorative Postmarks and Postcards, by Brian C. Day

Wörterbuch zur Deutschen Postgeschichte

Zumstein Katalog Schweiz/Liechtenstein Campione UND Vereinte Nationen, Genf = Catalogue Suisse/ Liechtenstein Campione et Nations Unies, Geneva

TOPICAL

Himalayan Birds on Stamps, by M. Lokeswara Rao



New Publications for our Members

COLORADO (RAILROADS)

Georgetown and the Loop, by
P. R. "Bob" Griswold, Richard H. Kindig, and
Cynthia Trombly

The Railroads of Coors Field: A Brief History of Railroad in the Vicinity of Coors Field, by Kenton H. Forrest

The Ski Train, by Steve Patterson and
Kenton Forrest

NON-PHILATELIC (RAILROADS)

America's Railroads: The Second Generation, by Don Ball, Jr.

A Century of Passenger Trains: And Then Some, by Jackson C. Thode

Images of Western Railroading, by
Steve Schmollinger

Mountain Mainlines of the West, by
Ronald C. Hill

Narrow Gauge Pictorial: Rio Grande Southern and D&RGW Motive Power

Narrow Gauge Steam Locomotives, by
Brian Solomon

Rails to the Rim: Milepost Guide to the Grand Canyon Railway, by Al Richmond

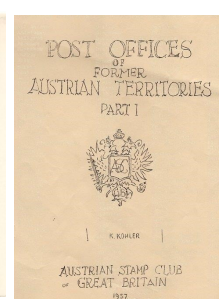
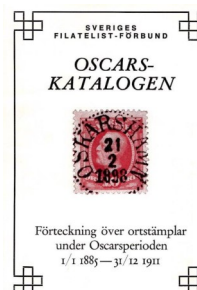
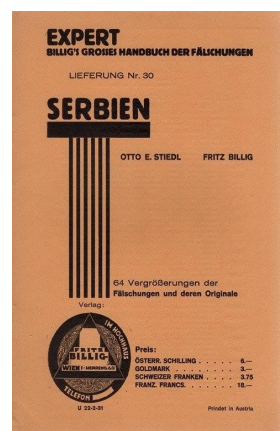
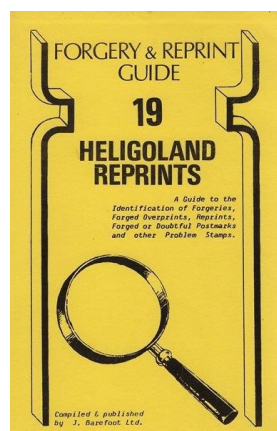
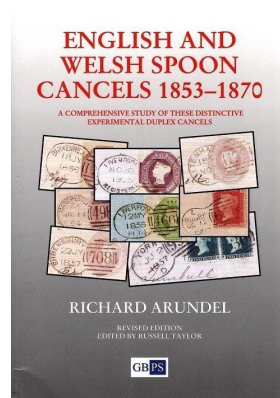
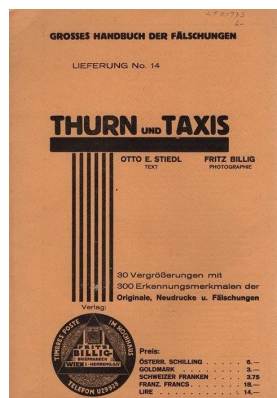
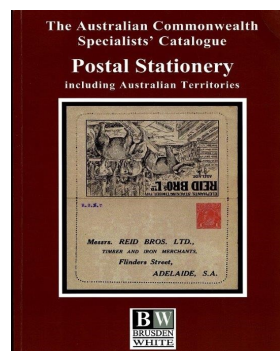
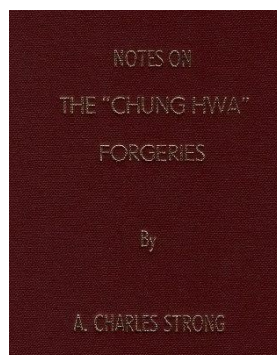
Sunset on the Rio Grande Southern, by
James L. Ehernberger

The Great Book of Trains: Featuring 300 Locomotives Shown in Over 160 Full-Color Illustrations and More Than 500 Photographs, by Brian Hollingsworth and Arthur Cook

The Historical Atlas of North American Railroads, by John Westwood and Ian Wood

The Spirit of Steam: The Golden Age of North American Steam, by
William L. Withuhn

Union Pacific Prototype Locomotive Photos: 4-8-8 Northern



RMPL Board of Directors Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting March 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM

Board Members Present: Tonny Von Loij, Jim Kilbane, Bill Douglass, Eric Carlson, Steve Schweighofer, Gary Withrow, Charlie Freise, Paul and Regina Domenici. ZOOM Attendee: Rod Haenni.

In-person visitor: Steve Nadler, ZOOM visitors:- Rich Palestro, Roger Rydberg.

Old Business:

Prior meeting minutes were approved by the Board email in January.

Installation of new RMPL Board member Charlie Freise, gratitude expressed to retiring member Rich Palestro.

Treasurer's report (Bill Douglass):

The proposed 2024 budget was approved. The latest financial statements were approved.

- First Bank Checking account: \$164,642
- Liquid Asset First Bank account: \$170,733
- Total Vanguard account: \$494,140
- Current assets: \$829,722
- Fixed assets: \$611,033.48
- Total assets: \$1,142,014.61

Paul Lee's "Parks, Postmarks and Postmasters" revised book publication (Jim Kilbane): Jim reports the cost for any soft or spiral-bound publication would be more than \$100 per issue. The only financially viable method is to provide a digital download on our website. Jim will determine if the material is in digital format and the Board will make a decision next meeting.

Auction recap (Paul Domenici and Gary Withrow): The February auction was a big success resulting in approximately \$26,000 gross income and a final net of \$22,000. Thank you to all who supported the auction.

Membership recruiting follow-ups:

- **Charlie:** Personal contact with the Boys and Girls clubs and the YMCA indicated little to no interest. What the Library had to offer is not active enough

for their programs. There has been no response from any of the Home School groups contacted.

- **Paul:** Denver Post /Denver Gazette never returned calls to publish an RMPL article. One option may be to submit RMPL information in writing to the News Desk.

Board of Director election proposed improvements (Regina Domenici):

To increase the opportunity for Library member participation, the Board discussed the following:

- Increase the total number of Directors from 4 to 6.
- Decrease the Board member's term to 2 years.
- The Director's term limit will be set at 2 two-year consecutive terms.
- Stagger the number of positions open for election annually to promote bench strength.

Eric and Regina will collaborate on presenting different bylaws options for the Board to consider regarding election changes. The Board will examine election bylaws revisions at the next meeting.

BOLD scholarship (Gary Withrow): The Scholarship Committee reviewed 191 applications and selected 5 finalists. The Board voted on two winners which were announced on the BOLD.org site. An article with more information will be published in a future issue of *Scribblings*.

New Business

Steve Nadler recommended restarting philately programs with the University of Denver "Osher Lifelong Learning Institute" (OLLI). In the past, programs offered by Library members (Steve Nadler, Steve McGill, Tim Bartshe and others) focused on subjects tied to philately, such as world history through stamps, etc. This idea would need more volunteers to step forward and manage the program if we decide to try it again.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

The next meeting is May 16, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Regina Domenici

Recording Secretary

DONATIONS

The library thrives on the enthusiasm and generosity of its members. The following societies, clubs, and individuals made donations to the Library since the last donation listing. These donations were made from January 19, 2024 through March 14, 2024. Thank you!

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

**Denver Stamp Club
International Cuban Philatelic Society
Mounts and More
Scandinavian Collectors Club**

George Anema	Harl Hargett	Dasa Metzler	Thomas Pollard
Cynthia Bennett	Chuck Howard	Douglas Moore	Tom Pool
John Bloor	Leigh Jones	Bill Moran	Timothy Schlieker
Stephen Bonowski	Nam Le	Joe Neri	Joseph Serota
Roger Cichorz	James Lee	David New	Martin Severe
Kathy Crabbs	D. Leeke	Dan Nieuwlandt	Edwin Smith
Paul Domenici	Sergio Lugo	Kathleen Ott	Jack Van Ens
William Douglass	Clark Lyda	Stephen Pacetti	Tonny Van Loij
Diane Dubois	Elizabeth Marshall	Alexander Papp	Linda Warman-Holt
David Durbin	Richard Marshall	John Pfeiffer	Robert Whyte
Michael Fay	Gary McIntyre	Dean Polemi	

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to new members who have joined the library from February 2, 2024 through March 14, 2024.

**Kerri Forsythe
Daniel Grobani**

**Jim Lindale
Peggy McBride**

**Paul McNamara
Michael Thompson**

Please Note: New members and membership renewals received after March 14, 2024, will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Scribblings*.

Answer Key - "How Good Is Your Math?" from page 14 - Young Collectors Corner.

Here are a few possible combinations, you may come up with your own unique combinations. How many different combinations can you come up with?

A) Which stamps when added together equal 17?

Ecuador (2) and Togo (15)
United States (3), Mexico (4) and China (10)
France (1), Ecuador (2), United States (3) and Great Britain (11)

B) Which stamps when added together equal 36?

South West Africa (6) and Portugal (30)
Mexico (4), South West Africa (6), Sweden (12) and Austria (14)

C) Which stamps when added together equal 43?

United States (3), China (10), and Portugal (30)
South West Africa (6), Sweden (12) and Bulgaria (25)

D) Which stamps when added together equal 62?

Sweden (12) and Singapore (50)
United States (3), China (10), Canada (24), Bulgaria (25)

E) Which stamps when added together equal 101?

Ecuador (2), Canada (24), Bulgaria (25) and Singapore (50)
China (10), Great Britain (11), Portugal (30) and Singapore (50)

F) Which stamps when added together equal 235?

All of the stamps when added together total 235.



First Locomotive on a Postage Stamp

New Brunswick, a province of Canada, issued a set of three diamond shaped postage stamps in 1851. With the change to a decimal based currency in 1860 a new set of stamps was required. This new set of five stamps included a 1¢, recognized as the first postage stamp featuring a locomotive.

The stamp is believed to feature the locomotive Osskeag No. 9 of the European and North American Railway. This company had just extended its rail lines from Saint John to Shediac. New Brunswick stopped issuing postage stamps when the province became part of the Canadian Confederation in 1867.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

One of the most rewarding aspects of completing each issue of *Scribblings* is working with a fine group of individuals who dedicate their personal time ensuring the Library continues to support its members.

The Library president, Tonny Van Loij, is serving a third consecutive term. Don Beuthel was the last president to do so more than 20 years ago. Jim Kilbane has served as the Library vice-president for more than 30 years. This speaks highly of how much they are valued by the volunteer staff and membership.

Not a day goes by at the Library where you will not see Steve Schweighofer running between the buildings, fixing something, rearranging shelving space, organizing publications and cleaning the property grounds. He has been serving as the Operations Manager for the past three years and was just elected for another three-year term.

Dasa Metzler has served as the Stamp Manager for many years. You will find her, hiding in her office, surrounded by cartons, boxes, stacks and piles of stamps, covers and assorted philatelic material. She sorts the material for the volunteers who stock the stamp books on the shelves.

Paul and Regina Domenici joined the Library a few years ago and are now invaluable to the Library organization. They have made significant contributions and improvements to the Library auctions, membership records and community outreach.

Sherri Soraci-Jennings has been an active member of the Library since its beginning. She stepped in as the Librarian after the passing of Ellengail Beuthel several years ago. She can be found, ensconced in her office, sorting and cataloging the many donated books, periodicals, catalogs and pamphlets that arrive daily.

We cannot forget the efforts of Sergio Lugo, Gary Withrow, Joe Lanotte and Pat McNally. They have greatly expanded the social media influence of the Library through the Video Production program and posting their presentations on YouTube for the entire philatelic community.

Of course, there are countless other volunteers, too numerous to mention by name, who are busy at the Library every day. These individuals dedicate countless hours sorting stamps, arranging material in the stamp books for sales, assisting the Library officers, manning the front desk and assisting members.

Scribblings, is just one of the many benefits a member receives upon joining the Library. It is a bi-monthly publication featuring news concerning what is happening at the Library, clubs, auctions and shows, as well as articles and information related to world-wide philately.

Scribblings would not be possible without the coordinated efforts of Tonny Van Loij, Paul and Regina Domenici, Steve Schweighofer, John Bloor, Sergio Lugo, Jim Kilbane, Sherri Soraci-Jennings, and the members who provide the great feature articles found in *Scribblings*. As the editor, my job is to put everything together.

Now and then I have the opportunity to speak to editors of other philatelic journals and there is one common theme among us all - the lack of material submitted for publication. Become a more active Library member, write a short article about your favorite philatelic item or subject and share your interests with other philatelists.

Charlie Freise
Editor

Scheduled Library Events



The RMPL Operations Manager, Steve Schweighofer, maintains a calendar of reserved club times. Clubs should check the calendar regularly and notify Steve (steve.schweighofer@comcast.net) of any updates or changes. Requests to reserve meeting space and time for philatelically related meetings other than those listed here must be approved and scheduled with Steve well in advance. Call the Library or the appropriate club to confirm the place and time.

Hours of Operation:
 Mon - Sat: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 Thu: 5:00 - 8:00 PM
 Closed Sundays and Holidays
 Phone: (303) 759-9921
 Email: rmpldenverco@gmail.com

MAY 2024

May 4 Sat - meeting 10 AM
 Scandinavian Collectors Club

May 4 Sat - meeting 1 PM
 Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)

May 8 Wed - meeting 7 PM
 Denver Germany Stamp Club

May 9 Thu - meeting 2 PM
 Cherrelyn Stamp Club

May 11 Sat - 9AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
 Presenter: Eddie Hackstaff
"The 1932 Flying Carpet - With a Side Trip to Mount Everest"

May 11 Sat - meeting 10:30 AM
 Mexico/Latin America Club

May 12 Sun - meeting 1 PM
 Denver Postcard Club

May 16 Thu - meeting 4 PM
 RMPL Board of Directors - visitors welcome

May 18 Sat - meeting 9:30 AM
 CYPHER Stamp Club

May 19 Sun - meeting 1 PM
 Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club

May 27 Mon - **Closed for Memorial Day**

May 29 Wed - meeting 2 PM
 Denver Stamp Club

JUNE 2024

Jun 1 Sat - meeting 10 AM
 Scandinavian Collectors Club

Jun 1 Sat - meeting 1 PM
 Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)

Jun 8 Sat - 9 AM
Second Saturday at the RMPL
 Presenter: Daniel Culbert
"Put Some ZIP Into Your Collection"

Jun 8 Sat - meeting 10:30 AM
 Mexico/Latin America Club

Jun 8 Sat - meeting 12:30 PM
 Rocky Mountain Aero & Astrophilatic Club

Jun 9 Sun - meeting 1 PM
 Denver Postcard Club

Jun 12 Wed - meeting 7:00 PM
 Denver Germany Stamp Club

Jun 13 Thu - meeting 2 PM
 Cherrelyn Stamp Club

Jun 15 Sat - meeting 9:30 AM
 CYPHER Stamp Club

Jun 16 Sun - meeting 1 PM
 Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors Club

Jun 26 Wed - meeting 2 PM
 Denver Stamp Club

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

30th Annual Silent Auction - May 24 - May 26, 2024
 held at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

The 2024 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show - May 24 - May 26, 2024

2nd Annual Denver Stamp Club Show - Aug 2 - 3, 2024

19th Annual RMPL Large Lots Auction - Sep 28, 2024
 (Note the change in the date of the auction)