

# Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Sherri Soraci-Jennings, Librarian

Vol. 33 - No. 3

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May / June 2025

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## Early German Postage Stamps 1850 - 1874

by Charlie Freise



figure 1, example of an early German postal history cover to France franked with Scott #18 and #19. Daniel Kelleher Auction #701, June 20-23, 2017, lot #2373.

As a general world-wide collector my philatelic interests are varied. I can bounce from subject to subject, begin one project only to get sidetracked by another.

One recent evening, while working on a program for the CYPHER Stamp Club, I discovered myself going down a rabbit hole of inestimable depths. With the television droning in the back-

ground, relaxing to the soothing guitar riffs and drum solos of AC/DC and Ozzy, out of nowhere I was gobsmacked. I began wondering what the circumstances were surrounding the German states discontinuing to issue their own postage stamps and issuing stamps for the First German Empire (figure 1). Little did I know how complicated and convoluted the answer would be.

I found myself researching the Roman Empire, Carolingian Kings, the Metzger Post, and the Thurn and Taxis postal monopoly. Please accept my apologies and understand the reasons behind condensing the following historical facts and events. The entire history behind the formation of the First German Empire will not fit in a single issue of *Scribblings*.

In 1798, the Holy Roman Empire was invaded and crushed by Napoleon's forces. The treaty of Lunéville (1801) and the mediatization of 1803 abolished most free imperial cities and secularized the ecclesiastical principalities. These territories, along with their inhabitants, were absorbed by different dynastic states. In 1806, upon the defeat of Prussia, Napoleon dictated the Treat of Pressburg which included the complete dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire. Napoleon established a German client state of France known as the Confederation of the Rhine (figure 2). This provided for the reshaping and redistribution of the territories and holdings of more than a hundred princes and counts, as well as those of hundreds of imperial knights. The holdings and territories were absorbed by the Confederation's

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# Scribblings

## Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

2038 South Pontiac Way

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**Web Page:** [www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.org](http://www.rockymountainphilateliclibrary.org)

**RMPL Auctions Web Page:** <https://rmplauctions.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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Charlie Freise

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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. It 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 Charlie Freise



Tonny Van Loij is on sick leave and is temporarily out of the office. Tonny asked me to let everyone know the Library is making progress on recruitment and spreading the news of the services available at the Library. The scholarship winners will appear in the next issue of *Scribblings*.

The March/April 2025 issue of the Air Post Journal is full of publicity for the RMPL and RMSS. On the inside cover is an ad for the RMSS. On page 41 there is an article about the American Air Mail Society attending the stamp show in May. Photographs of members Bruce Wasserman, Sergio Lugo, and Pat Walters appear on pages 70 - 72. On page 67, member John Bloor is recognized for his "Covering the World" article addressing Puerto Rican air mail cinderellas from the January/February 2025 issue of *Scribblings*.

Again, my sincere thanks to all the volunteers and members who have given their time to the RMPL.

Tonny Van Loij  
President

## NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

Our library continues to be a vibrant place. There was not a place to park in our lot today! Lots of visitors. Many people are looking for books! Luckily, we have them here.

We recently acquired a large donation of more than 100 books about Austrian philately, mainly in German. Anyone interested in Austrian philately should come by and check out these items.

Our periodical room continues to grow and improve. The Spellman Museum and Library have been very gracious in sending us copies of periodicals they no longer need. Our wonderful volunteers, Steve and Daryl, are working hard on these new periodicals and on our short-run periodicals. You should be able to find all those little-known journals now.

Do not forget about our vertical files. We have articles about all aspects of philately, along with a topical section, geographical section, and a section on US stamps by Scott number. If you cannot find a book on your subject, perhaps you will find an article that will help.

Stop by for a visit. Talking with fellow collectors is one of the joys of our library. And acquiring information as well.

Sherri Soraci-Jennings  
Librarian

# GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## AARP SMART DRIVER CLASS



Are you a driver aged 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 Smart Driver Class at the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. The class is four hours long and the cost is \$20 for AARP members (please bring your membership card) and \$25 for non-members (cash or check only, credit cards cannot be accepted). The next class is scheduled for June 10, 2025, from 9:45 AM to 2:00 PM. Please arrive no later than 9:45 am. To register for the class please call (303) 906-5197.

## SECOND SATURDAY PROGRAMS NEEDED

Sponsored by the RMPL, the Second Saturday programs are generally about an hour long and focus on a specific subject. The subject matter is not limited to philately. Attendance is open to anyone who has a desire to learn something new about a specific subject, or enjoys discovering something new about an area of philately unfamiliar to them. Please contact Jim Kilbane at: [aurora\\_80017@yahoo.com](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com) for more information.

## 2025 ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW

This is a continuing call for volunteers to commit a few hours of their time to help at this year's stamp show. Volunteers are needed to manage the registration desk, assist with floor management, setting up and taking down the exhibit frames, mounting exhibits and assisting with cachet sales. Contact Ron Lampo at [chairman@rockymountainstampshow.com](mailto:chairman@rockymountainstampshow.com) for more information on volunteering.

## SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER WANTED

The Library is searching for a talented individual willing to take over the maintenance and management of the RMPL Facebook page and begin an Instagram Account. The volunteer will need to dedicate a few hours each week to updating the information about upcoming events and activities in the region. If you are familiar with managing a Facebook page, or know of someone who might be interested, please call the Library at 303-759-9921.

## LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Additional help is needed in almost every area of RMPL operations, especially back-ups for publishing, assistance with auctions, and stamp mart operations. If you are interested in becoming more active with the RMPL, whether it is helping publish *Scribblings*, sorting donations for our stamp mart, or helping with library maintenance, please contact the Library at 303-759-9921.

## RMPL AND APRL BOOK SALE

### COMING SOON

**There will be a joint RMPL and APRL Book Sale later this year. We will have an online catalog with hundreds of books available at attractive prices.**

**Additional details will follow in the upcoming months.**

## ARTICLES WANTED

The deadline for article submissions for the next issue of *Scribblings* is May 31, 2025. Please send your articles to Charlie Freise, [vapid1000@gmail.com](mailto:vapid1000@gmail.com)

## INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

**In the event of inclement weather the Library may close unexpectedly. Prior to venturing out, particularly when it is snowing, it is advisable to call ahead and make sure the Library is open.**



Celebrating SCENIC Colorado

# Rocky Mountain Stamp Show

## May 23-25, 2025

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

Sunday 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Arapahoe County Fairgrounds, 25690 East Quincy Ave., Aurora, Colorado

Attractions for all 3 days

What's in Your Attic?, a free collection evaluation

Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Workshop

Activities for youth and young adults

Also

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library's Silent Auction with 800+ lots



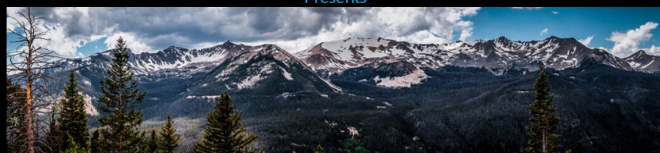
Guest Societies



Hosting



The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library  
Presents



The 31st Annual Silent Auction  
Held at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show  
May 23rd - May 25th, 2025



Lot #475



Lot #101



Lot #510



Lot #233



Lot #40



Lot #329



Lot #582



Lot #251



Lot #624

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

Auction closes at 12:00 PM (MDT), May 25th, 2025

View the catalog, scanned images of the lots, and open a bid sheet  
anytime at: [WWW.RMPLAUCTIONS.ORG](http://WWW.RMPLAUCTIONS.ORG)

## DENVER POSTCARD and PAPER SHOW

Fri-Sat July 18-19, 2025

Friday: 11:00AM - 6:00PM

Saturday: 9:30AM - 4:00PM

General Admission \$5.00

\$1.00 Discount with copy of  
web page

Early Bird Admission  
\$20 Friday at 10:00AM

Holiday Inn  
Lakewood, CO  
7390 W. Hampden Avenue  
Lakewood, CO 80227

[www.denverpostcardshow.co](http://www.denverpostcardshow.co)



continued from page 1



figure 2, map of the Confederation of the Rhine (1806 - 1813).

member states. Thurn and Taxis lost its mail service monopoly when Napoleon granted the Confederation of the Rhine (figure 2) the right to conduct postal services.

Throughout the 1800s until the late 1850s the former states of the Holy Roman Empire were engaged in a series of conflicts and wars. Loose alliances between the individual states and other countries had them fighting each other for decades.

In 1857, King Frederick William IV of Prussia suffered a stroke and was unable to rule. His brother, William, became Prince Regent in 1858, he was crowned King Wilhelm I in 1861. During this three-year period there was a shuffling of authority within the Prussian military. In 1860 a constitutional crisis arose as the parliament and the King both wanted control of the military budget. Otto von Bismark was appointed to the position of Minister-President in 1862 and resolved the crisis in favor of the war minister.

Bismark sought to form a unified German state linked to the Hohenzollern dynasty. Some historians believe this is one of the primary contributions to the creation of the later German Empire in 1871. In the first half of the 1860s both Austria and Prussia contended over who would speak for the independent German States. In 1866, after the defeat of Austria during the Austro-Prussian war, Prussia began to assert its dominance over the German states and defended German interests. With the 1866 Peace of Prague, Prussia pressured Austria and its allies into accepting the dissolution of the German Confederation (an association of German States under the leadership of the Austrian

Empire). This resulted in the formation of the North German Confederation led by the Kingdom of Prussia in 1867. The independent German states continued to issue their own postal stamps until 1868 (figure 3).

The postage stamps of the individual German states are an interesting area to explore. They were printed over a brief period (with the exception of Bavaria and Württemberg). They are found imperforate, perforated, embossed, and rouletted. The perforations range from 7 up to 14½. Some of the stamps were printed on thin paper, with or without silk threads, and a couple stamps from Prussia (Scott #21 and #22) were printed on Goldbeater's Skin. Many of the stamps were printed on different colored papers leading to a wide range of shades and color types. A variety of watermarks are found on some of the stamps, especially those from Bavaria and Württemberg.

(figure 3) Examples of Early Postage Stamps from the Different German States



left to right, Baden, Scott #15, 1862; Bavaria, Scott #1, 1849; Bergedorf, Scott #2, 1861; Bremen, Scott #3, 1860.



left to right, Brunswick, Scott #12, 1857; Hamburg, Scott #1, 1859; Hannover, Scott #18, 1860; Lübeck, Scott #4, 1859.



left to right, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Scott #5, 1864; Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Scott #3, 1864; Oldenburg, Scott #9, 1861; Prussia, Scott #1, 1856.



left to right, Saxony, Scott #13, 1856; Schleswig-Holstein, Scott #1, 1850; Württemberg, Scott #1, 1851.



*figure 4, Thurn and Taxis stamps for use in the German states.*



*Northern District, left to right:*

*first row: Scott #1, 1854; Scott #3, 1852; Scott #4, 1852.*

*second row: Scott #15, 1863; Scott #16, 1863, Scott #17, 1862.*



*Southern District, left to right:*

*first row: Scott #43, 1852; Scott #45, 1852, Scott #46, 1852.*

*second row: Scott #53, 1862; Scott #54, 1862; Scott #55, 1862.*

The remnants of the Thurn and Taxis postal system survived in Germany up to 1867 (*figure 4*). On January 1, 1868, the North German Confederation began to manage the mail and issue postage stamps (*figure 5*). With the creation of the North German Confederation Thurn and Taxis had to sell its remaining mail carrying privileges.

The North German Postal Union (Norddeutscher Postbezirk), to accommodate the different monetary systems in the various German states, issued stamps in

two currencies, groschen for the Northern District and kreuzer for the Southern District. The stamps are distinguished by framing the value number in a circle for groschen stamps and an oval for the kreuzer stamps. All the stamps were inscribed "Norddeutscher Postbezirk." A special 1/4 schilling stamp was issued for Hamburg with an additional inscription of "Stadtpostbrief Hamburg."

*figure 5, Stamps of the North German Confederation.*



*1868 issues, northern states, rouletted 8 1/2 to 11 1/2, valued from 1/4gr to 5gr.*



*1869 issues, northern states, perforated 13 1/2 x 11 1/4 and 14 x 14 1/2, valued from 1/4gr to 5gr.*



*1868 issue, Hamburg City postage stamp, rouletted 8 1/2.*



*1868 issues, southern states, rouletted 8 1/2 to 11 1/2, valued from 1kr to 18kr.*



*1869 issues, southern states, perforated 14 x 14 1/2, valued from 1kr to 18kr.*



figure 6 - Map of  
the North German  
Confederation  
1868 - 1871.



Tensions between the French Empire, led by Emperor Napoleon III, and the North German Confederation (figure 6) began to grow and a dispute concerning the new king of Spain resulted in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. At the time, the original North German Confederation had a population of about 30,000,000 with about 80% of those living in Prussia, thus making up about 75% of the future German Empire. Under these circumstances the southern German states (Baden, Bavaria, Hesse-Darmstadt, and Württemberg), previously opposing the Confederation, decided to join. Following the victory in the war with France, the German princes and senior military commanders proclaimed King Wilhelm I “German Emperor” at the Palace of Versailles. The transition from the North German Confederation to the Empire was completed when the Constitution of the German Empire took effect on May 4, 1871. France recognized the German Empire on May 10, 1871, with the Treaty of Frankfurt.

The first stamps of the new German Empire were issued on January 1, 1872. The stamps were perforated  $13\frac{3}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{4}$  and have a small, embossed eagle and shield (kleiner brustschild) in the center (figure 9). The stamps were issued in two currencies, groschen for use in the northern states (table 1a) and kreuzer for use in the southern states (table 1b).

The small shield stamps were deemed an inappropriate representation of the German eagle and were re-printed with a larger embossed eagle and shield (grosser brustschild) (figure 10). The new stamps,

with the larger eagle and shield were released between June and November of 1872 (tables 2a and 2b). Both sets of stamps were issued with values ranging from  $\frac{1}{4}$ gr - 5gr and 1kr - 18kr. New values of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr and 9kr were released with the issuance of the large eagle and shield stamps.

Postal stationery items exist for the following values:  $\frac{1}{3}$ gr green,  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr red-orange,  $\frac{1}{2}$ gr orange-brown, 1gr rose, 1kr green, 2kr orange, 3kr rose, 7kr ultramarine, 9kr red-brown, and 18kr bister values. Examples of the eagle and shield stamps that are imperforate are cut from postal stationery items (figure 7).

Forgeries of the 5g stamp (figure 8) were made in Elbing (Elbinger Postfälschung). The forgeries were made by a postal worker of this town and are rather deceptive. Both the small and large embossed eagle and shield stamps were forged. The stamps typically have a horseshoe cancellation (Hufeisenstempel).



Figure 7, 1g postal  
stationery cut corner.



Figure 8, example  
of an Elbing 5g  
forgery.



figure 9, left, small embossed eagle and shield.

figure 10, right, large embossed eagle and shield.

Note the tail of the eagle in the small shield and different feather patterns between the two shields.



The eagle and shield stamps were designed by Heinrich G. Schilling, printed by Preußische Staatsdruckerei, Berlin. They were issued without watermarks, perforated 13-3/4 x 14-1/4, and typographed with embossing.



**Table 1a - Northern States - Small Embossed Eagle and Shield**

Michel Number	Scott Number	Value	Issued	Color Varieties	# of Varieties
MI 1	SC 1	¼ groschen	1 Jan 1872	Bright purple, violet to violet-grey	3
MI 2	SC 2	⅓ groschen	1 Jan 1872	Green, bright yellow-green to dark yellow-green	9
MI 3	SC 3	½ groschen	1 Jan 1872	Bright reddish-orange to cinnabar, orange-yellow	4
MI 4	SC 4	1 groschen	1 Jan 1872	Bright red-carmine, rose	4
MI 5	SC 5	2 groschen	1 Jan 1872	Dark grey-blue, ultramarine	2
MI 6	SC 6	5 groschen	1 Jan 1872	Bister-brown, ocher-brown	2





**Table 1b - Southern States - Small Embossed Eagle and Shield**

Michel Number	Scott Number	Value	Issued	Color Varieties	# of Varieties
MI 7	SC 7	1 kreuzer	1 Jan 1872	Emerald, green, yellowish- green	1
MI 8	SC 8	2 kreuzer	1 Jan 1872	Orange, red-orange, reddish-orange	2
MI 9	SC 9	3 kreuzer	1 Jan 1872	Carmine, red-carmine, rose	1
MI 10	SC 10	7 kreuzer	1 Jan 1872	Dark grey-blue, ultramarine	1
MI 11	SC 11	18 kreuzer	1 Jan 1872	Bister-brown, ocher-brown	1



**Table 2a - Northern States - Large Embossed Eagle and Shield**

Michel Number	Scott Number	Value	Issued	Color Varieties	# of Varieties
MI 16	SC 14	¼ groschen	1 Jun 1872	Bright purple, violet to violet-grey	3
MI 17a	SC 15	⅓ groschen	1 Jun 1872	Green, bright yellow-green to dark yellow-green	9
MI 18	SC 16	½ groschen	1 Jun 1872	Bright reddish-orange to cinnabar, orange-yellow	4
MI 19	SC 17	1 groschen	1 Jun 1872	Bright red-carmine, rose	4
MI 20	SC 18	2 groschen	1 Jun 1872	Dark grey-blue, ultramarine	2
MI 21a	SC 19	2½ groschen	1 Nov 1872	Brown-orange, medium reddish-orange, lilac-brown	4
MI 22	SC 20	5 groschen	1 Jun 1872	Blackish-ocher, ocher-brown, bister-brown	4



**Table 2b - Southern States - Large Embossed Eagle and Shield**

Michel Number	Scott Number	Value	Issued	Color Varieties	# of Varieties
MI 23a	SC 21	1 kreuzer	1 Jun 1872	Yellow-green, yellowish-green, blue-green	3
MI 24	SC 22	2 kreuzer	1 Jun 1872	Orange, yellowish-orange	2
MI 25	SC 23	3 kreuzer	1 Jun 1872	Bright red-carmine, carmine, rose	2
MI 26	SC 24	7 kreuzer	1 Jun 1872	Dark grey-blue, ultramarine	1
MI 27	SC 25	9 kreuzer	1 Nov 1872	Reddish-brown, lilac-brown	3
MI 28	SC 26	18 kreuzer	1 Jun 1872	Ocher-brown, bister-brown	1



**Table 3 - Overprints - Large Embossed Eagle and Shield**

Michel Number	Scott Number	Value	Issued	Color Varieties	# of Varieties
MI 29	SC 27	2½ groschen	8 Jan 1874	Brown-orange, brown	1
MI 30	SC 28	9 kreuzer	8 Jan 1874	Brown-orange, brown	1

**Table 4 - Postal Rates Between Northern and Southern German States and the Austrian Empire**

Distance in German Miles	North German States	South German States	Austro-Hungarian Empire (CM) (CM - Cisleithanian or "Lands Represented in the Imperial Council")	Austro-Hungarian Empire (OW) (OW - Österreichische Wirtschaft a term used to describe the economic system and policies of the Austrian Empire during the Habsburg dynasty).
0-10	1sgr	3kr	3kr	5kr
10-20	2sgr	6kr	6kr	10kr
20+	3sgr	9kr	9kr	15kr

Table 3 - SGR = silver groschen. Table 4 - A German mile wasn't a single, standardized unit; it varied regionally and historically, with some examples including the Landmeile (7,500meters - 4.66 miles, or 4.7 if rounded), the Postmeile (7,586meters - 4.7miles in Austria or 7,532.5meters 4.68miles in northern Germany), and the geographische Meile (7,420.54 meters - 4.61miles).



Genuine imperforate examples of the 5g bister stamp exist. These were used in the town of Stettin (known as Szczecin in Polish), a few sheets of these stamps were given to the public. Other genuine imperforate stamps exist for the ½g and 1g values. It is highly advisable to have examples of these items expertised prior to purchasing.

Some of the small eagle stamps have a higher catalog value than the large eagle stamps. Forgers were known to iron out the large, embossed eagle and then add a new embossed image of the small eagle to make the stamp more valuable. The 2k stamp is an exception. In this instance the larger eagle is more valuable than the small eagle. Forgeries of the 2k stamp exist where the small eagle has been replaced with the large eagle.

Examples of stamps with inverted embossed images are forgeries. The forger, Georges Fouré is known to have made examples of the 7k stamp with inverted embossed images.

In conclusion, I found the journey through history and learning about early German postal history to be utterly fascinating. For the most part, collecting the early postal history of Germany, and the individual German states is affordable. Yes, there are certain stamps that are beyond the budget of the average collector, but the majority of the stamps and color varieties are reasonably priced.

(Note: If you want to learn more about early German postal history the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library has more than 60 different books and publications related to German Postal History. The Denver Germany Stamp Club meets at 7:00PM on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the RMPL. For more information on the Denver Germany Stamp club contact Pat McNally at [diealtemarke@comcast.net](mailto:diealtemarke@comcast.net)).

Sources:

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<http://catalogue.klaseboer.com/vol1/html/germa2.htm>

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/international-philately-europe-western-europe-germany/german-states>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage\\_stamps\\_and\\_postal\\_history\\_of\\_Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postage_stamps_and_postal_history_of_Germany)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/postal-system/History#ref367063>

[https://www.pvoller.net/new\\_stamps/germany/1872.php](https://www.pvoller.net/new_stamps/germany/1872.php)

*Fakes & Forgeries of Germany & Colonies*, by The German Philatelic Society Inc.

[https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/530-German\\_Realm/year/1872](https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/530-German_Realm/year/1872)

## ***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](mailto:aurora_80017@yahoo.com), if you are interested in presenting a program.**

**May 10, 2025 - 9:00 AM**

**Presenter: Steve Bonowski**

**"Discovering the Stamps of Poland, Part II, 1939 - 1950s"**

This program will cover the end of the 2nd Polish Republic in 1939. It continues into the issues of the 2nd World War, including both issues of the Occupation and the Polish military in exile. The issues of the immediate post-war period are intriguing and continue into the currency reform ("Groszy") in the early 1950s. The program will give an overview of some other 1950s issues.



**June 14, 2025 - 9:00 AM**

**Presenter: Eddie Hackstaff**

**"The 1933 Houston Mount Everest Flight"**

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1933 two aircraft took off from Purnea, India and became the first aircraft to fly over Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world. Not only was this flight an amazing first, but it was filled with philatelic events, danger, intrigue and a fine bit of insubordination.





# Covering the World



## A Colombian Cover

by John Bloor and Charlie Freise

The sixteen stamps issued for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 are commonly known as the Columbians. They are usually considered to be the first commemorative stamps issued by the United States although sometimes the 1869 pictorials are given this honor. They are also a set missing from many US stamp collections.

The attractive cover for this issue of *Scribblings* was provided by Charles Freise, editor of *Scribblings*. It has a partial set of the lower values of the Columbians, sent from New York City to Spa, in eastern Belgium. It was mailed on 15 February 1893, transited Bruxelles on 24 February, and reached Spa on 25 February. From manuscript notations on the back of the cover, it appears that delivery was attempted the same day and again (successfully?) on 26 February.

The total franking is 28¢ which paid the overseas UPU rate of 5¢ per ounce and the 8¢ registration fee. It contains a handwritten letter in French. This cover was purchased many years ago. At the time, it was claimed that fewer than thirty covers are known franked with Columbian stamps with a New York City registration label and with Belgium as the destination. This is the only recorded example of a Columbian cover to Belgium paying four times the first-class overseas rate. These claims cannot be verified; however, research continues to confirm their veracity.

The letter was sent by R. Hobart Smith, a well-known lawyer and collector of antiquities and coins (and perhaps stamps?) in New York City. It is addressed to the Count Alberic du Chastel, a collector of ancient coins with a fine collection of antiquities, music, books, (and perhaps stamps?). He was also reported to have a fine mustache! An interesting account of his adult life, written by Suzette, daughter of one of Count du Chastel's servants, is available on the web.

There is the possibility this is a philatelic cover. It was mailed one month after the stamps were issued from one collector to another (although neither is

Figure 1 - cover to Belgium franked with 8 stamps from the 1893 Columbian Exposition set.



Figure 2 - reverse of cover with Spa, Belgium receiving cancel.

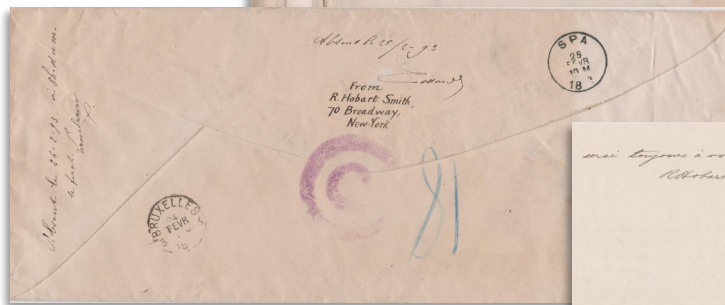
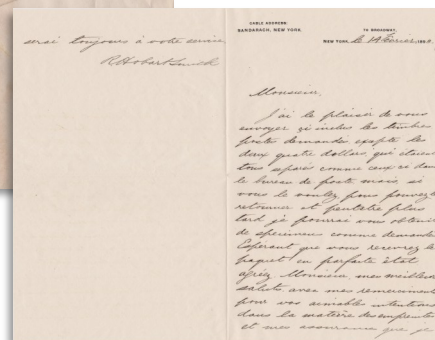


Figure 3 - handwritten note, in French, referencing contents.



mentioned as being a stamp collector). A handwritten note, in French, was included in the cover.

Using Google Translate the note refers to documents and two examples of the \$4.00, which were all separated at the Post Office. Smith offers to have the recipient return them and he might be able to obtain specimens as requested later. Smith mentions he hopes the "tub" arrives in perfect condition and thanks the Count for his careful actions related to the matter of the loans.

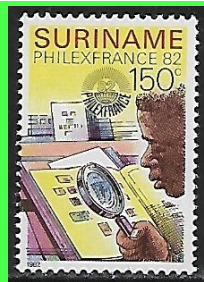
The number of low face-value stamps used is unusual, but it may have been a matter of convenience and availability. One wonders, too, what could have weighed four ounces and fitted into a #10 envelope. Regardless, it is an unusual and probably unique cover.

That is it for now. Send me information about your favorite cover for the next issue.

### Sources:

1. <https://www.sparealites.be/histoire-de-la-famille-du-chastel-de-la-howarderie-au-chateau-de-la-havette>
2. <https://archive.org/details/catalogueofgreat00soth/page/n9/mode/2up>
3. <https://new.coinsweekly.com/whoswho-sammler/du-chastel-de-la-howardries-1842-1919-alberic-2/>





# YOUNG COLLECTORS CORNER

by Charlie Freise



Visit [CYPHERStampClub.com](http://CYPHERStampClub.com) to learn more about stamp collecting.

## FEBRUARY 2025 Superhero Theme

Dan Nieuwlandt presented a program focusing on "Superheroes" on stamps from around the world. Dan also discussed well known cartoon and movie characters featured on postage stamps. Tonny Van Loij donated many Disney and Harry Potter stamps and covers. Each child was able to select three or four of the covers for their growing collection. The children also took part in a "Mad-Lib" activity titled "So, You Want to be a Superhero."

## March 2025 First Day Covers

Dan Nieuwlandt gave a program focusing on First Day Covers, from the early days to present. Discussions covered when the first cachets appeared, how the cachets became a commercial success, and the difference in value between cachet types. The subject of hand painted cachet makers was also included. One of the club members, Cooper Collins, gave a short presentation on how he makes his own cachets for covers. He discussed how he researches the information in the USPS Postal Bulletin and sends his covers to the Stamp Fulfillment Center for the cancels. The club members also went over the requirements for the Club Single-Frame Competitive Exhibit at the upcoming stamp show. Children will be preparing their individual pages in April and May.



Aria, and Kaia selecting some superhero first day covers.

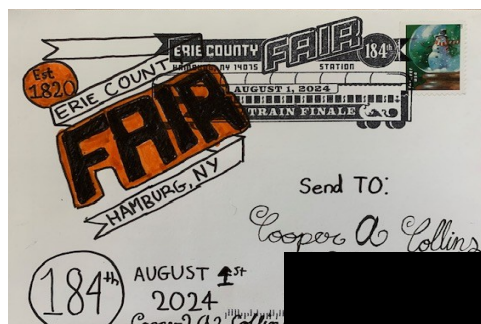
Cynthia, Kaia, Aria and Genevieve selecting some Disney covers, Harry Potter stamps and first day covers.



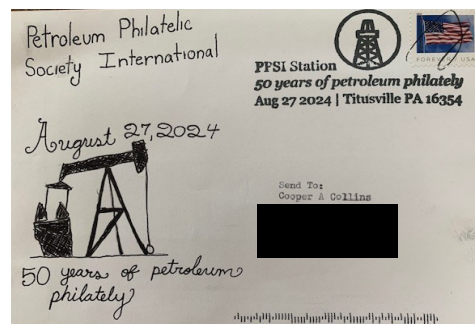
The CYPHER Stamp Club Superheroes!



Cooper, his father Tim Collins, and Regina Domenici listening to the first day cover program.



Examples of the hand drawn cachets and first day covers Cooper has made.





## WHAT IS AN HPO COVER?

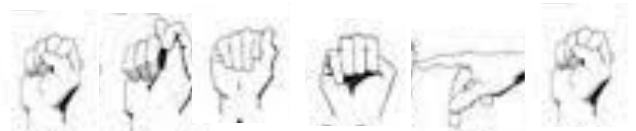
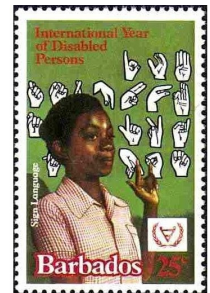
The term "HPO (Highway Post Office)" is used when describing a cover that was processed and cancelled on a post office bus. The first highway postal route began on February 10, 1941, from Washington, DC, to Harrisonburg, Virginia. Operations were delayed several years until the end of World War II. After the war, 400 routes were established between 1948 and 1955. Inside the bus was a sorting table with pigeonholes for sorting the mail. There was storage for as many as 150 mail bags in the back of the bus. With the development of mechanical sorting methods, the highway postal service was phased out. The last run of the Highway Post Office was on June 30, 1974, in Ohio.



*Example of a highway post office (HPO) cover found in the National Postal Museum. The circular date stamp and cancellation indicate this cover was carried on the first experimental HPO route.*

## Another Way of Communicating

It is estimated that more than 430 million people in the world have disabling hearing loss. Nearly 35 million children are included in this number. American Sign Language (ASL) has existed for more than 200 years. It is a combination of the French Sign Language (LSF) and ASL developed by Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and Laurent Cleric. They are also the founders of the first school for the deaf in America. Stamps featuring sign language have been issued by many countries, a few are pictured below. Using the ASL chart can you decipher the sign language message? (Answer key is on page 19).





# New Publications for our Members

## ASIA

*Vignettes of Russia: The non-postage Stamps of Imperial Russia Issued Prior to August, 1914*, by Emile Markovitch

## EUROPE

*30 Jahre Gesellschaft für Postgeschichte Graz 100 Jahre Stadt Stockerau: das Postwesen das Militärwesen alte Ansichten*

*60 Jahre Briefmarken-Sammlerverein Donau 100 Streiflichter durch die Welt der Philatelie Festschrift*

*110 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelistenclub Vindobona Wien 1880-1990: Beiträge zur Postgeschichte*

*120 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelisten Club Vindobona: 150 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke 125 Jahre Österreichische Briefmarke: Festschrift Die Deutsche Reichspacketpost*, von Charles Henry Hull

*125 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelistenclub 350 Jahre Post in Ried: Festschrift 250 Jahre Post in Lilienfeld: 1743-1993*, by Kurt Bellak

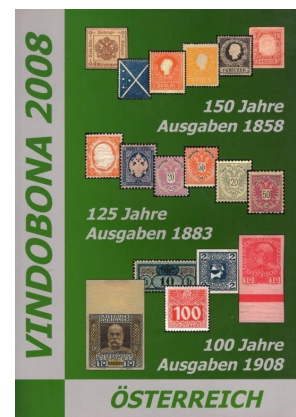
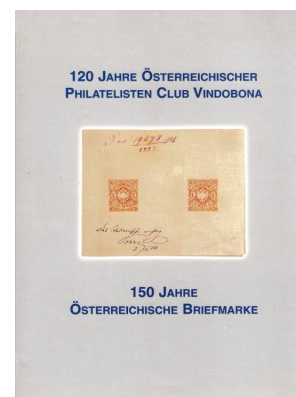
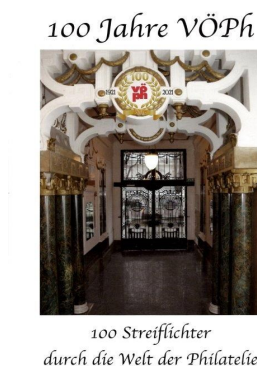
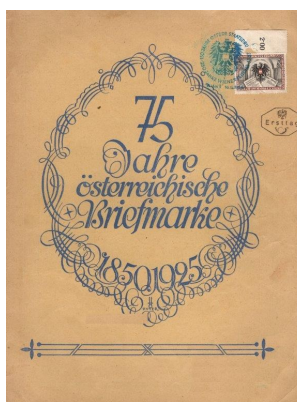
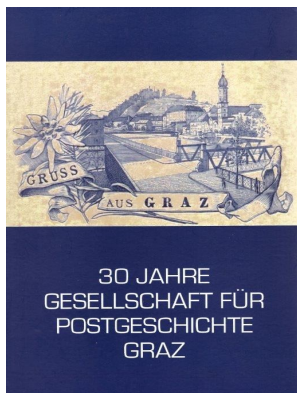
*Az Osztrák posta bélyegei Magyarországon 1850-1867; Magyarország bélyegei 1867-1871 (The Stamps of the Austrian Postal Administration in Hungary 1850-1867; The Stamps of Hungary 1867-1871)*, by Madarász Gyula

*Der Bahnhofbriefkastenstempel: in der Österreichischen Reichshälfte der Monarchie, die Weiterverwendung der Stempel in den Nachfolgestaaten Österreich, Tschechoslowakei, Polen und Jugoslawien sowie auch die Stempelneuausgaben in Österreich und der Tschechoslowakei*, by Robert Lipp

*Catalogo Prefilatelico e Storia delle Corriere e Poste del Lombardo-Veneto*, by Alfredo Banci

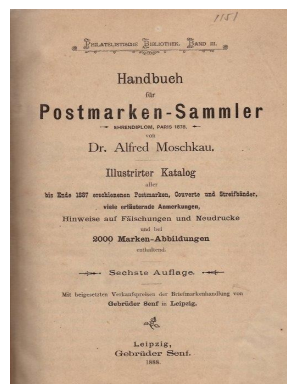
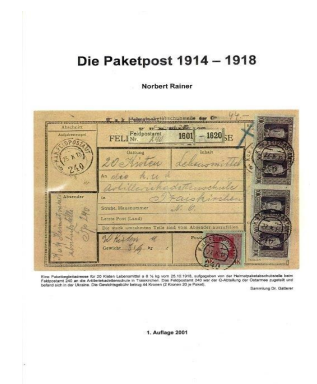
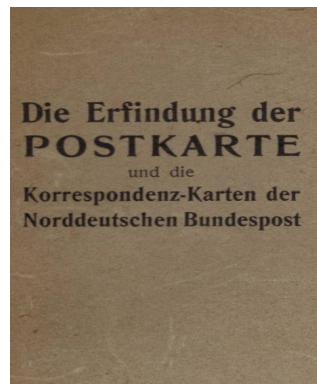
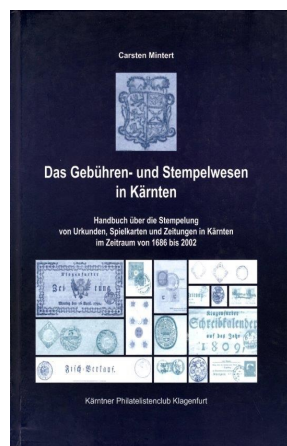
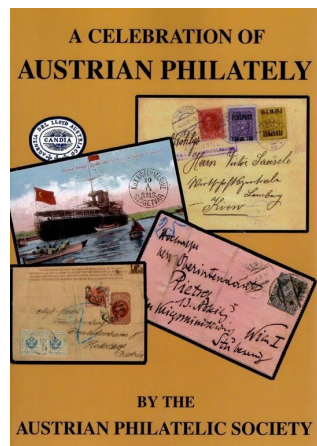
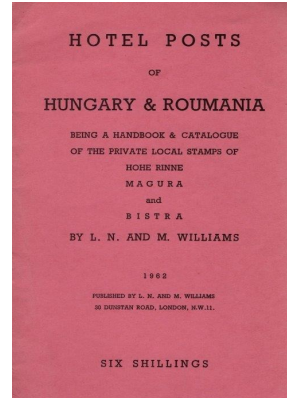
*A Celebration of Austrian philately: 1948-2008*, by Ingrid Kuzych

*Dienstanweisung für Postablagen (um 1900)*, by Erich R. Wolfel





# New Publications for our Members



## EUROPE (continued)

***Die Erfindung der Postkarte und die Korrespondenz-karten der Norddeutschen Bundespost (The invention of the postcard and correspondence cards of the North German state post),***  
by F. Kalckhoff

***Das Gebühren - und Stempelwesen in Kärnten: Handbuch über die Stempelung von Urkunden, 125 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelistenclub Vindobona 1880-2005: Beiträge zur Postgeschichte Grosses Handbuch der Abstempelungen von Altösterreich und Lombardei-Venetien.***

***Handbuch und Katalog: Notmassnahmen in Österreich***

***Mai 1945 bis Währungsreform: Barfrankaturen, Gebührenzettel, Klecksstempel, u.a.m.,***  
by Herbert Stephan

***Hauptnachtrag,*** by Edwin Müller

***Handbuch für Postmarken-Sammler,***  
by Alfred Moschkau

***Hotel Posts of Hungary and Roumania,***  
by L. N. and M. Williams.

***Being a Handbook and Catalogue of the Private local Zensurstempel, -streifen und -zettel in Deutschland und Österreich ab 1945,***  
by Kurt Paul

***Illustrierter Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutsche Postkarten ab 1945,*** by Walter Beckhaus

***Illustrierter Katalog der Barfreimachungs- und Frankostempel nach dem 8.5.1945,*** by Kurt Paul

***Ein Jahrhundert Österreichische briefmarke: Festschrift***

***Katalog der Firmenfreistempel von Österreich 1925-1954: Teil II A, Teil II B, und Teil III,***  
by Rudolf Mayr



# New Publications for our Members

## EUROPE (continued)

*Katalog der Rekozettel Österreichs von 1885 bis 1938, mit einem Anhang : Katalog der Rekozettel Ungarns von 1890 bis 1921 als Vorläufer der Österr. RZ im Burgenland*, by Otto Krause

*Katalog der Rekozettel von Österreich: Postleitzahlen*, by Otto Krause

*Katalog der Vorphilatelistischen Poststempel von Lombardei und Venetien (Catalogo dei timbri prefilatelici del Lombardo-Veneto)*, by Max Kleb und Anton Kumpf-Mikuli

*Kleine Post und Markenkunde von Kärnten*, von Ingo Waste und Karl Dinklage

*A Magyar Posta Bélyegelőtti Bérmentesítéseinek és Bélyegzőinek Kézikönyve (Handbuch der ungarischen Vorphilatelie) (Handbook of the Hungarian pre-Stamp Mail)*, by Andor Bér

*A Magyar Díjegyves Postai Nyomtatványok Katalógusa: (Az Önálló Magyar Postaigazgatás Kibocsátásai) 1869-1975*

*A Magyar Díjegyves Postai Nyomtatványok Katalógusa: 1867-1982*

*A Magyar Díjegyves Postai Nyomtatványok Kézikönyve*

*Nach dem Großen Krieg*, by Helmut Kobelbauer

*Postgeschichte und für die Aktiven Teilnehmer an der Klubmeisterschaft 2005 als Kopie zur Verfügung gestellt*

*Post Offices of Former Austrian Territories (Parts 1, 2 and 3)*, by K. Kohler

## EUROPE (continued)

*Post- und Telegraphen-Museum Wien: Jubiläumsführer 1889-1959*

*Priručnik maraka Jugoslavenskih zemalja: Bosna, Medjimurje, Prekomurje Volume 2 [NO vol. 1]Annullamenti del Lombardo-Veneto*, by Raffaele Alianello

*Provizorni Razitka Ceskoslovenska Übergangsstempel der Tschechsklowakei (Postal Place Names in Poland), Nazwy Pocztowe na Ziemach Polskich Postortsnamen in Polen*, by G. K. Kay

*Die Postzensur Handbuch und Katalog: Geschichte, Typen der Stempeln und riefverschlüsse mit ihrer Bewertung (Vol. 1 and 2)*, by Karl Kurt Wolter

*125 Jahre Österreichischer Philatelistenclub Vindobona 1880-2005: Beiträge zur Postgeschichte Die Stempel, Rekozettel und Sonstigen Postalischen Aufkleber des Hauptpostamtes (Parts 1 and 2)*, by Ernst Forstner

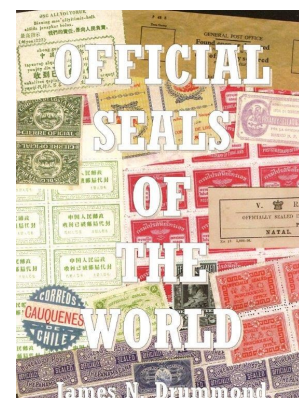
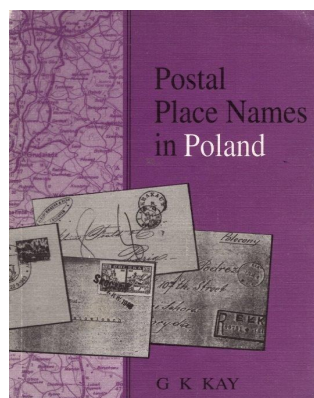
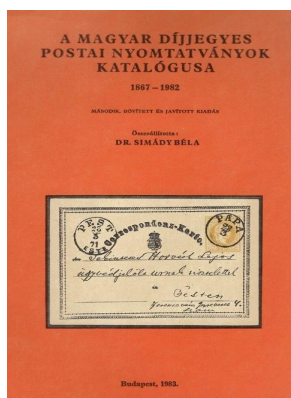
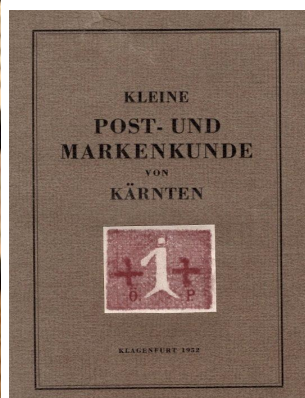
*Theorie und Praxis der Briefmarkenreparatur Vindobona 2008 Österreich: 150 Jahre Ausgaben 1858, 125 Jahre Ausgaben 1883, 100 Jahre Ausgaben 1908*

*Western Ukraine 1918-1919: A Specialized Philatelic Catalog*, by Inger Kuzych

## MISCELLANEOUS

*Official Seals of the World*, by James N. Drummond

*Stamps of Hohe Rinne, Magura and Bistra*, by L. N. and M. Williams



# *RMPL Board of Directors Meeting*

## **Board of Directors Meeting March 20, 2025**

March 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 2:59 PM

**Board Members Present:** Tonny Von Loij, Jim Kilbane, Bill Douglass, Steve Schweighofer, Bill Blankemeier, Eric Carlson, Paul Domenici, Regina Domenici, Charlie Freise, and John Peters. Rod Haenni and Gary Withrow attended via ZOOM.  
**Visitors:** Ray Vreeland and Nancy Barlowe.

### **Old Business**

The prior meeting minutes were approved via email in January.

**Financials (Bill Douglass):** The Board reviewed financial statements through February 2025, and they were unanimously approved.

**Membership recruitment (Nancy Barlow):** Marketing expert Nancy Barlow presented components of her re-branding plan, including a vibrant new RMPL logo featuring the Library name with a date cancellation against a mountain background. She also presented examples of social media pages advertising the RMPL and CYPHER youth club.

**Special Delivery of Dreams Scholarship Update (Regina Domenici):** 842 college students applied for one of four \$2500 scholarships. The Scholarship Committee presented 10 finalists: 5 for the two-year awards and 5 for the four-year awards. Three of the four winners selected by the Board are stamp collectors. Results will be announced April 7, 2025, on our scholarship platform BOLD.Org. followed by an announcement in *Scribblings*. A motion was approved to continue with four \$2500 scholarships awards. Two scholarships will be awarded to the two-year/trade school students, and two scholarships will be awarded at the bachelor's degree level.

**February 2025 Auction (Gary Withrow and Paul Domenici):** Gross earnings were \$24,065, with the auction net sales being \$20,770. The Auction team thanks all who supported and participated in making the event a success.

**New Location Update:** Ongoing search for new location options for additional storage: Steve Nadler has agreed to be the chairperson of the relocation commit-

tee, which includes Gary Withrow, Paul Domenici, Ray Vreeland, Steve Schweighofer, and Tonny Van Loij.

**Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) (Regina Domenici):** Ten attendees completed the CPR certification and First Aid training class on March 5, 2025. A future class will be scheduled for early summer.

### **New Business**

**The 2025 Volunteer Dinner (Paul Domenici):** Arrangements are made for the 2025 Volunteer Dinner on December 7, 2025, at Maggiano's in Englewood. The dinner menu will be served from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM to accommodate those who prefer driving in daylight hours.

**Parking lot repair (Steve Schweighofer):** Steve presented two bids to repair the damaged asphalt in the parking lot. Considering the possibility of moving, a decision was tabled at this time.

**35mm Slide Conversion (Charlie Freise):** Software request to continue the 35mm slide digital conversion: Microsoft will no longer support the Publisher program beginning in October 2026. A motion was approved to spend \$300 to purchase new software allowing Joe and Charlie to continue with the project.

**Recruitment of Lapsed Members:** A suggestion was made to send a letter detailing all the benefits of the RMPL to prior members who have not renewed membership.

Date of next meeting: May 15, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 PM followed by a closed executive session.

Final adjournment at 4:52 PM.

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 17, 2025, through March 20, 2025. Thank you!*

### SOCIETY AND CLUB DONATIONS

**Cherrelyn Stamp Club  
Denver Stamp Club  
International Cuban Philatelic Society**

**Scandinavian Collectors Club  
The Denver Foundation**

### INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

**Janell Baker - from the estate of Thomas Crane**

Bryan Bashaw  
Daniel Bennett  
Jonathan Bennett  
Peter Bergh  
Sewell W. Black  
William Blankemeier  
Phil Chipouras  
Roger Cichorz  
Jean Corriveau  
Chris Cross  
Donald Dhonau  
Paul Domenici  
Mike Dumoulin  
David Durbin  
Harold Effner  
David Forsyth

Michael Gilchrist  
Kenneth Goss  
Katrina Hegedus  
Ernest Hinck  
Charlie Hoffman  
Gene Holgate  
Chuck Howard  
Ruth Idler  
Sherri Jennings  
Leigh Jones  
Jordan Judkins  
Craig Kamen  
Farley P. Katz  
Bruce Kilpatrick  
Reid Klion  
Jason Knezel

James Lee  
James Luey  
Clark Lyda  
John Marquardt  
Bill Massman  
Gary McIntyre  
Robert Miller  
Ronda Morgan  
Richard Morris  
Alexander Papp  
Vincent Pastor  
Stephen Pero  
Terri Pobuda  
Dean Polemi  
Tom Pool  
Kay Rasmussen

Steven Reeder  
Bill Schattle  
Daryl Schmitt  
Joseph Serota  
Robert Thompson  
Don Todden  
Pamela Tofoya  
Jack Touseull  
Jack Van Ens  
Larry D Walling  
Brad Walters  
Greg Winker  
Rick Worthy

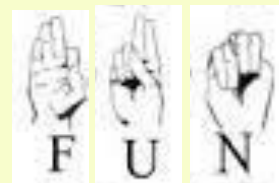
## NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to new members who have joined the library from January 17, 2025, through March 20, 2025.

<b>Christy Carpio</b>	<b>Victor Sestokas</b>
<b>Duncan Halstead</b>	<b>Pamela Tafoya</b>
<b>Jeff Hayes</b>	<b>Mark Tyx</b>
<b>John Landrum</b>	<b>David Wheelock</b>
<b>Frank Senz</b>	<b>Rick Worthy</b>

**Please Note:** New members and membership renewals received after March 20, 2025, will be acknowledged in the next issue of *Scribblings*.

### Another Way of Communicating (answer key):



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:rmpldenverco@gmail.com)

## \*\*\*MAY 2025\*\*\*

**May 3 Sat** - meeting 10 AM  
 Scandinavian Collectors Club  
**May 3 Sat** - meeting 1 PM  
 Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)  
**May 8 Thu** - meeting 2 PM  
 Cherrelyn Stamp Club

**May 10 Sat - 9 AM**  
**Second Saturday at the RMPL**  
 Presenter: Steve Bonowski  
 "Discovering the Stamps of Poland, Part II, 1939 - 1950s"

**May 10 Sat** - meeting 10:30 AM  
 Mexico/Latin America Club  
**May 11 Sun** - meeting 1 PM  
 Denver Postcard Club  
**May 14 Wed** - meeting 7 PM  
 Denver Germany Stamp Club  
**May 15 Thu** - meeting 3PM  
 RMPL Board of Directors, all are welcome  
**May 17 Sat** - meeting 9:30 AM  
 CYPHER Stamp Club  
**May 18 Sun** - meeting 1 PM  
 Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors  
**May 22 Thu** - meeting 1 PM  
 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show setup  
**May 22 - 25 Thu - Sun - closed**  
 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show  
**May 26 Mon** - closed for Memorial Day  
**May 28 Wed** - meeting 2PM  
 Denver Stamp Club

## \*\*\*JUNE 2025\*\*\*

**Jun 7 Sat** - meeting 10 AM  
 Scandinavian Collectors Club  
**Jun 7 Sat** - meeting 1 PM  
 Topical Philatelists In Colorado (TOPIC)  
**Jun 8 Sun** - meeting 1 PM  
 Denver Postcard Club  
**Jun 10 Tue** - meeting 9:45 AM  
 AARP Safe Driving Class  
**Jun 11 Wed** - meeting 7 PM  
 Denver Germany Stamp Club  
**Jun 12 Thu** - meeting 2 PM  
 Cherrelyn Stamp Club

**Jun 14 Sat - 9 AM**  
**Second Saturday at the RMPL**  
 Presenter: Eddie Hackstaff  
 "The 1933 Houston Mount Everest Flight"

**Jun 14 Sat** - meeting 10:30 PM  
 Mexico/Latin America Club  
**Jun 14 Sat** - meeting 12:30 PM  
 Rocky Mountain Aero and Astrophilatelic Club  
**Jun 15 Sun** - meeting 1 PM  
 Great Britain and Commonwealth Collectors  
**Jun 21 Sat** - meeting 9:30 AM  
 CYPHER Stamp Club  
**Jun 23 Mon** - meeting 7 PM  
 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show Committee  
**Jun 25 Wed** - meeting 2 PM  
 Denver Stamp Club

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**May 23 - 25, 2025 - Rocky Mountain Stamp Show - RMPL Closed during this period.**  
**May 26, 2025 - Closed for Memorial Day**  
**June 10, 2025 - AARP Safe Driving Class, 9:45 - 2 PM**