

Mobile Post Office Society

PUBLICATIONS

MARCH 2021-b

AFFILIATE NO. 64 - AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

www.eskimo.com/~rkunz/mposhome.html mobileposociety@comcast.net

POSTAL HISTORY OF MAIL TRANSIT, TRANSFER AND DISTRIBUTION BY RAIL, WATER, HIGHWAY AND STREET CAR.

NOW ACCEPTING PAYMENT VIA PAYPAL - SEE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW.

THE U.S. RAILWAY POST OFFICE POSTMARK CATALOG

This is an update of the original U.S.R.P.O. POSTMARK CATALOG Volumes I, II, and III, completed in 1995. Started by Charles L Towle, acknowledged Dean of U.S. railroad postal historians and completed by Fred Mac Donald. Recorded alphabetically are all reported RPO markings (currently more than 16,000) with route data, (such as shape, dimensions, colors, dates of usage recorded., unusual killers, special notes, mileages of routes, catalog numbers, etc.) plus a valuation system. All markings (actual size) are shown on the left hand page (about 30 to a page), with the descriptive material on the opposite right hand page. All pages are loose-leaf 8 1/2" x 11" punched for 3 ring binder filing. Issued in 56 page sections, three per year. *HARDCOPY SOLD OUT*

VOLUME I Revised 2001 (A-D)

VOLUME II Revised 2004 (E-N)

VOLUME III Revised 2006 (O-Z)

VOLUME IV Revised (see adjacent)

TEXT-SEARCHABLE CD-ROM, 4 VOLUMES \$30.00
USB Drive, add \$5. Dropbox by special request.
20% discount to members only

POSTAL MARKINGS OF U.S. WATERWAY ROUTES

(1839-1997)

A 196 page book on the history of U.S. postal markings applied to waterway mail. It combines research work initiated by C.L. Towle, J.L. Kay and H. Meyer along with a catalog of postmarks of all waterway routes and a partial listing of waterway and rail combination routes.

(MacDonald) (196 pages) (Hardbound) **PRICE DROP 20.00**

DIRECTORY OF RAILWAY POST OFFICES (1864-1977)

A listing of the Railway Post Offices operated by the U.S. Post Office Department and the U.S. Postal Service over railroads and waterways, including the dates of establishment, discontinuances and changes of name and operation. The author, John L. Kay, was an RPO Clerk who did extensive research in this field.

(Kay) Revised serially beginning 1997

Complete (455 pages) **Hardcopy Sold Out**

TEXT-SEARCHABLE CD-ROM, BOTH KAY DIRECTORY VOLUMES. \$25.00.

USB Drive, add \$5.

Dropbox by special request. Discount 20% to members only

U.S. ROUTE AND STATION AGENT POSTMARKS

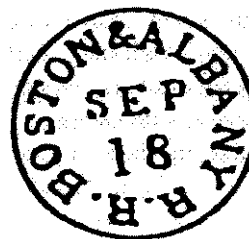
This book is also the work of the late Charles L. Towle. It covers the development of railroad mail, route agents and their duties, waterway mail routes and agents, station agent postmarks and the distributing post office. Section I has 1,569 railway route agent postmarks and 184 waterway agent postmarks listed and illustrated. Also included are route agent names, work periods and routes 1837-1861 (John L. Kay), postmark index, Station Postmarks indexed by station name and a selected bibliography.

(Towle) (485 pages, Hardbound) **40.00**

Addendum pages of new markings(48 pages)(Loose-leaf) **6.00**

TEXT-SEARCHABLE CD-ROM. CATALOG AND ADDENDUM. USB Drive, add \$5. Dropbox by special request. Discount 20% to members only

\$30.00



THE U.S. TRANSIT MARKINGS CATALOG - VOLUME IV

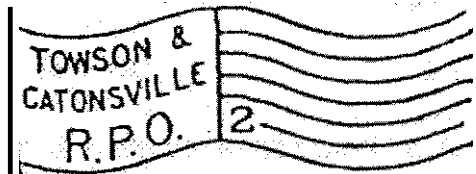
Revised catalog that was issued serially beginning in 1996. Originally begun by Charles L. Towle, updated and revised by Fred Mac Donald. The catalog consists of sections on Local Mail Agents, Transfer Clerks and Transfer Offices, Terminal markings (Rail, Truck and Air,) Air Mail Field RMS & PTS markings, Received and Due markings, Train Late and Auxiliary markings, and Separating Post Office markings. Same style as the U.S. R.P.O. Catalog. Note that this volume is included on the CD-ROM version of the catalog *HARDCOPY SOLD OUT*

DIRECTORY OF ROUTE AGENTS

This is the companion publication to the DIRECTORY OF RAILWAY POST OFFICES (1864 - 1977), also by John L. Kay. This covers all the route agents in the 1837-1882 period.

(Kay)(168 pages) **Hardcopy Sold Out**

STREET CAR MONOGRAPHS



For a number of years, 14 cities in the U.S. operated street railway post office cars which picked up mail, cancelled and sorted it enroute. MPOS published a series of monographs covering these interesting operations. While most ran from the late 1890s until the early days of World War I, Baltimore had cars operating until 1929! These monographs cover historical synopsis, history of routes, maps, pictures and details of the cars and illustrations of various markings. (Most printed monographs are sold out. Contact literature rep for info.)

TEXT-SEARCHABLE CD-ROM. ALL 10 MONOGRAPHS PLUS CHATTANOOGA. USB Drive, add \$5. Dropbox by special request. Discount 20% to members only. \$30.00

***UPDATE* Now includes Collection/Distribution Wagons**

THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

This reprinted monograph covers the origin and development of the RMS, originally published in 1909. The author, Clark E. Carr, entered the postal service in 1861 and spent a quarter of a century in the service during the time the postal railway mail service was conceived, inaugurated and brought into a high rate of efficiency. His duties brought him into occasional contact with George B. Armstrong, who founded the service, with George S. Bangs, who established and put into operation the fast mail, and James E. White, who perfected the system,

(Carr) (48 pages, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2) 18.00

29 YEARS TO OBLIVION

This monograph, written by member Ed Bergman, contains detailed listings of the last operating trips for nearly 950 railway post offices that were removed from postal service during the period 1948 - 1977, together with a discussion of the causes and effects of this removal of a vital transportation service and communications link. Also included are a number of photos of RPO cars, and some illustrations of last trip cancels.

(Bergman) (79 pages) 7.00

U.S. NARROW GAUGE MAIL ROUTES & POSTAL MARKINGS

Complete with information on all narrow-gauge railroads in the United States. With changeover dates to standard gauge, listings of known markings with MPOS numbers, tracings of each style and alphabetical listing by state. Compiled by James Felton. 78pp., \$15.00

TEXT-SEARCHABLE CD-ROM VERSION \$10.00 (20% member discount on this only, no 40%. Dropbox by special request)

INTERNATIONAL TPO MARKINGS SERIES

Interest in transit markings extends beyond the borders of the U.S. With this in mind, MPOS has published several monographs dealing with markings used in other countries. These contain railroad route histories, listings of routes, illustrate equipment used and show maps of routes and illustrations of cancels applied. Titles issued so far in this series are:

DANISH RAILWAY POST OFFICES
(Goodbody, 27pp)

THE RAILWAY POST OFFICES OF SWITZERLAND (Goodbody, 26pp)

THE TRAVELING POST OFFICES OF CHILE
(Vamos)(32pp)
EACH VOLUME 8.00
ALL THREE VOLUMES 20.00

MAIL TRAVEL GUIDE/STATE DIRECTORIES This publication is now offered in searchable PDF format, by individual State or as a complete set. If you collect by State or Railroad name, this option will be of great usefulness to you. *Note: this is a railroad-focused list. Waterway (Steamboat) lines are not covered.*

COMPLETE SET - \$30.00

Single State \$ 5.00

2-4 States \$ 8.00

5-10 States \$12.00

20% discount to MPOS members.

Prices include mailing of a CD-ROM or Dropbox electronic transfer of files at your option.

Printed versions of individual States can be made on request. Contact MPOS for specific information if you would like hardcopies.

THERE WERE STARS IN THOSE CARS

Author and MPOS member D. J. Rohrer spent his working life as a Railway Postal Clerk. This monograph has seventeen short stories about his reminiscences of the Railway Mail Service. Lots about life inside RPO cars but relatively little philatelic information.

(Rohrer)(24 pages) 6.00

MPOS SELECTION SERIES

These monographs are a collection of articles selected in the field of transit post office markings, history, modes of conveyance, routes, day to day operations of the Railway Mail Service, etc, and are generally too long to be published in TRANSIT POSTMARK COLLECTOR, but not long enough for monographs of their own. Contents are as follows:

VOLUME 1

- a. 1866 inspection tours of the restored postal service in the South (Stanton).
- h Mail contracts for Steamboat lines and railroads as restored in former Confederate territory.
- c. Regional organization of the Railway Mail Service(Towle).
- d. Early Austrian transit markings (Schoenfield).
- e. Rules and Regulation for the guidance of clerks in-charge of the Railway Mail Service (1935)
- f. Budd 1963 RPO car (Boucher - The Mixed Train).

VOLUME 2

- a. The RPO - What Was it?
- b. Instructions issued by the 2nd Asst. PMG, 1896 (Relative to the transportation of mail by railroad).
- c. The Grand Jct. & Durango RPO (Ozment).
- d. Trip Report Instruction for RPO Clerks (1916)
- e. Use of RMS schedules in researching (Towle)
- f. Instructions to Railway Postal Clerks (1883)

VOLUME 3

- a. Early St. Louis Street Car RPO Service (Schulz).
- b. 1902 Postal Laws and Regulations - Transportation of mail on electric and cable cars (Stanton/Truax).
- c. The Railway Mail Service(1899)
- d. Railroad Transportation of the Toms River & Philadelphia RPO (Wentzel).
- e. List of official abbreviations of RPO titles (1947)

VOLUME 4

- a. The Baltimore Streetcar RPOs - Daily Operation, circa 1919 (Baker).
- b. A Chronological History of the Highway Post Office (Jamick/Keller).
- c. Boston & Portland Railroad Mail Routes - The first Decade 1835- 1845 (Stanton).
- d. The foreign Mail Service at New York,
- e. Mail Service on the Suncook Valley Railroad(Moulton).

VOLUME 5

- a. The Railway Mail Service (Rice).
- b. New York elevated Train Mail (Margulis).
- c. A survey of Post Office Department Schedules of Mail Train Routes (Scheer)
- d. Post Office Work & Methods (Mayo - 1903).
- e. The U.S. Railway Mail Service (Bradley - 1901),
- f. Second Division RMS Schedule No. 1 (Nov. 1, 1877).
- g. Rules & Regulations for the Guidance of Employees in Terminal Railway Post Office (1931)

VOLUME 1 (38 pages) 7.00
 VOLUME 2 (64 pages) 7.00
 VOLUME 3 (48 pages) 7.00
 VOLUME 4 (52 pages) 7.00
 VOLUME 5 (48 pages) 7.00
 Volumes 6 - 11, ea, 10.00
 4 or more volumes, take additional 20% off total

SOME AVAILABLE AS PDF FILES AT HALF PRICE. CONTACT LITERATURE REP

THE FIRST HIGHWAY POST OFFICE

Introduction of highway post office service between Washington, D.C. and Harrisonburg, VA. by James H. Bruns. (84 pages) 12.00

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

Includes the work of George B. Armstrong in founding the RMS. Also includes a supplemental bibliography of National, State and Canadian transit mail literature. 1906 Reprint (31 pages) 6.00

COLLECTION & DISTRIBUTION WAGON SERVICE
(1896 - 1904)

This monograph, by James H. Bruns, Curator of the National Philatelic Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, is but one of many of his works. The 1890's were an innovative period for the US POD. Street Car RPOs were introduced to pick up, sort and cancel mail along prescribed routes; Rural Free Delivery was begun; Pneumatic Tube Systems were installed in several cities to carry mail to and from the main post office and selected cities; and two specially constructed Collection and Distribution Wagons, resembling miniature railway mail cars, were tried. This is the story of the latter experiment. A very complete history of this service in Washington, New York City, Buffalo and St. Louis. Includes pictures, maps, tables and a Postmark catalog section with cancel illustrations and a Scarcity Scale. (Bruns) (56 pages) 7.00

A HISTORY OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

A reprint of material originally published by the Columbian Correspondence College, Washington, D.C in 1913, this monograph provides a capsule history of the establishment of the U.S. Post Office and proceeds through the stagecoach era, the first use of railways in the carriage of mail, and the establishing of railway mail service; also a brief discussion of the daily life of a Railway Mail Clerk. *Available in .PDF format for computer use* (36 pages) 5.00



U.S. HIGHWAY POST OFFICE COVER CATALOG

Besides the preface, this catalog includes an HPO cover valuation system; alpha index of all 410 HPO routes; 30 pages of first trip and last trip.HPO details, with cancel illustrations; an HPO cancel type chart; experimental RPO routes prior to 1941; temporary HPO routes since 1941; HPO fairs, exhibits and special events; the Butterfield Overland Mail Caravan; special HPO first trip folders: and the "RPO Bus". (42 pages) (Loose-leaf) 14.00

NOW AVAILABLE AS A SEARCHABLE PDF FOR COMPUTER USE. PRICE \$7 FOR DROPBOX, \$8 IF YOU REQUIRE A CD. NO DISCOUNTS.

TRANSIT POSTMARK COLLECTOR

This is the MPOS bimonthly newsletter containing articles on RPO and HPO operations, postal history and all other subjects of interest to the SCOPE of MPOS members.

Back copies are available as follows:
Individual Issues, if available 2.00

VOLUME VII (1980-1982)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00
VOLUME VIII (1983-1985)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00
VOLUME IX (1986-1988)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00
VOLUME X (1989-1991)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00
VOLUME XI (1992-1994)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00
VOLUME XII (1995-1997)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00
VOLUME XIII (1998-2000)(Hardbound)(Index)	20.00

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

COLORADO RR GUIDE Volume I , No. 2; July 1893 issue of the Official Railway Guide to Colorado. *SOLD OUT*

CENTENNIAL CATALOG OF ARIZONA RAILWAY
POSTAL MARKINGS

Charles L. Towle (47 pages) \$8.00

MAIL TRAIN SCHEDULES - RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

An RPO clerk's value to his crew rested on his knowledge of schemes and schedules.. MPOS has reprinted early schedules of three divisions. Each contains an introduction by Charles L. Towle, in which he describes the value of schedules to persons researching RPO route changes.

SEVENTH DIVISION 1888 - Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico and the Indian Territory (20 pages) 3.00

EIGHTH DIVISION 1887-1888 - Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah & Washington. This reprint also includes of general orders, showing weekly changes in the orders over a period of several months. (60 pages) 4.00

CROSSREFERENCE: NEWS FROM THE CITIES Index to the Streetcar column in Transit Postmark Collector. NEW COMPILATION 2019 by D. Clark. (This is included if you purchase the streetcar set on CD-ROM.) 8.00

1868 OVERLAND MAIL CONTRACT

A reprint of letters and telegrams presented to the House of Representatives relative to contracts for carrying the overland mail. 6"x9" soft bound (82 pages) 8.00

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLICATIONS

Please add 5% of total to total order price for shipping charges. FREE SHIPPING if you pay by check or cash. Payment must accompany your order. Books are shipped as Media Mail in the USA. All publication prices are subject to the MPOS Member's discount of 20%, limited to one copy of each publication. MPOS PATRON members are entitled to a 40% discount on hardbound books, but limited to one copy of each publication. The 40% discount does not apply to the CD-ROM versions of literature. PAYPAL PAYMENT NOW ACCEPTED - send to mobileposociety@comcast.net

All publications are 8 1/2" x 11" stapled soft cover unless otherwise noted. Please write your order on a separate sheet and include your name, mailing address and Membership No. along with your check payable to MPOS. MPOS does not ship on credit.

**Send your order and payment to
MOBILE POST OFFICE SOCIETY**

PO BOX 1058
POULSBO WA 98370

**MPOS GUARANTEES SATISFACTION, INCLUDING FULL REFUNDS
NO QUESTIONS ASKED**