

# *In This Issue*

**Nick Lombardi** investigates a little known early version of a **U.S. Registry Label and Receipt of 1907** that was developed to speed transactions at busy post offices. Many examples of these are likely to reside unrecognized for what they are in collections that concentrate on other features of the covers, yet their usage period of three years renders them a new target for those who know what to look for.

Following on the last issue's article on the two franc usage in French Colonies, **Ed Grabowski** continues with a discussion of the **Use of the Five Franc French Allegorical Group Type Stamp**. Although the five franc is more commonly found used philatelically, this shows what is very likely a commercial use and explains why.

**The 90-Cent U.S. Postal Envelopes of the Nineteenth Century** are usually considered to have been a philatelic creation, but **Jamie Gough** builds a case that **They Had a Genuine Purpose**. He shows the various ways high postage was paid and how the developing idea of parcel post played a part.

In a five-part serial in 1996, for which he earned the *Collectors Club Philatelist* Medal, **Constantin Mattheos** discussed the Large Hermes Heads of Greece. On receiving the F.I.P. Grand Prix d'Honneur at Capex '97, he could no longer show those issues, so his interest turned to the printed matter of those issues, which he had not given as much attention before. He found it to be a fertile area, and with the **Large Hermes Heads Used for Postage on Newspapers, Magazines, Books and Printed Matter (1861–1886)** he continues the study. This was too long to be contained in a single issue, and will be concluded in the next.

**Cover story**, by **Ian Paton**, offers a glimpse into the politics of canals in the 1850s and combines it with hotel markings and mail services, in **1852—Washington Hotel and Michigan Canal**. The illustrated cover, although its free frank was originally misidentified by the seller, was traced instead to William Seward, then a senator from New York, by the author's efforts.

**At the Clubhouse** is particularly rich this issue. Reports on meetings starting in April include **Jan Berg's** showing of nineteenth century **Samoa**, which was fresh from a grand award at Westpex. On May 4, **Ron Leshner** showed some early revenues in a talk labeled "**Booze, Carriages, and Watches: Taxing the Luxuries, 1781–1817.**" The **Annual Awards Dinner** followed a week later, with presentation of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award to **John Hotchner**. Then came **The Monte Carlo Collection of U.S. Classics, 1847 to 1869**, as presented by **Charles Shreve**, who was finally able to reveal the identity of the owner as William H. Gross. Although we were unable to get a report on the special meeting held to feature the 2004 Champion of Champions, Omar Rodriguez, for this issue, the meeting was well attended and will be continued in the future.

The first two weeks of June saw six members of the **Royal Philatelic Society London** come to the Club on June 1 to display 13 exhibits in one of the best attended meetings of recent years. The reciprocal visit to London on June 9 by 15 members who represented 31 exhibits was equally well received, in what may well become a tradition between the two organizations. Each produced a booklet explaining the material on display, a few of which are available. See page 198 for details.