

In This Issue

The conclusion of **Edward Liston's** study of **The "China Clay" Variety of the 1908–1910 Washington–Franklin Issue** offers his analysis of the conditions that faced the makers of the paper that was used for stamps classed as "China Clay" in recent years. He shows the difference between the earlier definition and the current one that was established by Roy White.

Al Kugel gives an interesting overview of **The Postal History of Bosnia–Herzegovina, 1842–1918**, that illustrates the different systems of carrying the post in a small country of low initial literacy. Nicely illustrated and with no previous similar coverage, this is an excellent introduction to this area.

In **Postal Pigeon Perils**, **Kees Adema** gives us a look at some of the early uses of pigeons to convey mail as early as 1572, but extending to World War II, where the use of pigeons was carefully scrutinized by the German Occupation in the Netherlands. This is the third of a series of articles projected on Netherlands philately.

Usage of unusually high denominations of stamps is often philatelic in some countries. **Ed Grabowski** discusses the **Use of the Two Franc French Allegorical Group Type Stamp**, showing examples of a cover with the proper rate before the stamp was available, along with a cover which bears the single stamp in what may be a unique single commercial use.

In 1854, a huge paddle steamer, **the Golden Age**, sailed from Sydney to Panama with mail in an attempt to cross the Pacific and shorten the time needed for the mails between Australia and England. Although a technical success, as **John Barwis** points out, it was a financial failure, costing much more to operate than the revenues generated. His account shows mail both before and after the sailing, the time taken and costs involved, and ends by following the fate of the ship that was ultimately sold to Mitsubishi.

Cover story, by **Bill Liaskas**, relates how his recent visit to a major show in Athens made him aware of a possible third first day of issue cover from the Ionian Islands. His cover is shown on the cover of this issue, and he hopes that the publicity generated here might help to unearth the missing cover.