

In This Issue

Steve Walske leads off with an exceptional article that explains the changes in how mail was carried between the North and the South in **Civilian Mail to and from the Confederacy during the American Civil War**. For anyone who is not familiar with the history and conditions that affected the mail during those four turbulent years, this is the place to start. Many of the examples shown are rare, from the early Express companies to blockade mail and “Flag of Truce” mail, and even more so since they are limited to civilian mail.

The two-part article “**Pigs with Wings**” concludes in this issue. In the September-October issue Fred Gregory introduced the subject of **Sperati’s Hawaiian Numeral forgeries**. Here we see each of those forgeries illustrated (as far as they are available or known) with the “die proof,” the forgery, and the genuine position from which each forgery was made, compared side by side, with enlarged details of the important parts that distinguish them. The illustrations show how difficult it is to spot flaws in Sperati’s work. Some of the forgeries are far more difficult to find than the genuine stamps, and this work should help any who may have questions about them.

Ed Grabowski offers another gem from the French Colonies with **Manifestations of Madagascar Numeral Cancellations and the French Colonial Allegorical Group Type**. As is true with many rapidly developing postal systems, getting the job done was more important than keeping records. In this case, temporary numeral circular datestamps were issued and replaced with more permanent ones, leaving the only record of where they were used to the occasionally available proving cover.

Cover story provides an addendum to the fine pair of articles by **Constantin Mattheos** in the two previous issues. It offers a very early example of the UPU rate for newspapers from Greece to the United States. Also, the sharp eyes of reader Robert Stuchell identified a cancellation on one of the newspapers shown in the last issue, which, although not completely clear, he was able to identify as the much rarer destination of Izmir rather than what had previously been believed to be Constantinople. This just proves that reader feedback can be very useful.

At the Clubhouse is somewhat abbreviated due to the summer recess. **John Barwis** led off with “**Half-Lengths: The First Issues of Victoria, Australia, 1850-59**” which had just received the grand award at Stampshow. The talk by **Tony Dewey** on the 1½¢ **precancel of the United Nations** followed. At press time we were able to slip in a report of **Steve Washburne’s** talk on “**Portugal Classics**.”

Finally, members are urged to plan to attend the special Saturday meeting on February 18, 2006, when **Harlan Stone** will display and explain his APS Champion of Champions exhibit “**Switzerland 1862-1883: The Perforated Sitting Helvetia**.” This is the second in an ongoing series conceived by Harvey Mirsky to offer a more relaxed venue to observe the latest recipient of the Champion of Champions exhibit. Often there is little time at the exhibition after the award has been announced, and many club members may not have had the chance to see the exhibits in the various locations that the show is held each year.