

In This Issue

Van Koppersmith starts an investigation into a problem that has puzzled top level collectors of Confederate issues for years. **The Postmaster's Provisionals of Mobile, Alabama**, were printed by lithographic process on a stone of unknown size and makeup. The margin includes an inscription that can be seen on a few stamps. For years, research by Lawrence Shenfield was thought to be the final word on this inscription, but Koppersmith has found some anomalies that complicate the answer. This introduction details his findings and shows new elements to the puzzle.

Jean de Sperati is well known for his forgeries. **Fred Gregory** tells of how good the forgeries were of **Hawaiian issues**, good enough to fool some experts, and how difficult it is to find some examples of the "gen uine" forgeries. This is an introduction to the subject, with a thorough coverage and illustration of each forgery and its identifying characteristics to follow in the next issue.

The conclusion of the two-part article on the **Large Hermes Heads Used for Postage on Newspapers, Magazines, Books and Printed Matter (1861-1886)** by **Constantin Mattheos** shows printed matter, books, magazines, bisects and mixed frankings using this classic issue. Richly illustrated with many examples, it is a fitting finish to a very interesting study that shows the depth one can find in printed matter.

Ed Grabowski, turns to the classic era of **Guadeloupe** showing covers that illustrate the primarily used rates, along with others that seem to be overpaid. His explanation of the **elusive 25 cent rate** required him to consult an important volume on postal rates that yielded some very interesting results and three important covers.

Cover story, by **Tom Mazza**, shows a **Boyd's** local post stamp used to pay "to the mails" in combination with the **New York postmaster's provisional**. It is the only known example of any local post adhesive being used in connection with any postmaster's provisional.

At the Club house covers the final meeting before the summer break, where **Bill Ainsworth** showed his **Lincoln vignettes**. The independent auditor's report follows, in a one-page summary, but the full report is available on request.

Four pages of book reviews catch up on some important books, including the latest production by the Collectors Club, *The United States Five Cent Stamp of 1856*, by Richard Frajola and Frederick Mayer. Recent acquisitions by the library fill two pages, with particular thanks to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., for their current catalogues. A notice mentions the amnesty given to those who may have borrowed books and kept them a bit longer than usual, or who have just forgotten where they came from.

Page 308 gives notice of the next One Frame Competition. Resident members will receive notices, but non resident members and overseas may also participate, if they wish. Contact the Executive Secretary for details about this December 7 event.