

In This Issue

Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land as it was then called, initiated its postal issues with some "primitive" stamps before the fine engraved issues arrived from Perkins Bacon. Up to now, the 4d stamp of the early issue was believed to have been produced from two different plates with one preceding the other. **Koichi Sato**, of Japan, has assembled evidence in **Tasmania: The Courier 4 Pence Issue** that shows that the two plates were used concurrently for the first supply, a finding that should change how these are regarded in the future.

The question of when the "**Dwarf**" prints of **New Zealand** were produced, either in 1855 as an experiment when the first local prints were printed, or in 1862 when a new printer took over, has long been a puzzle to students of these classic issues. How they were produced and then came to be used has equally been questioned. This study by **Robert Odenweller** has assembled the various thoughts of the past and analyzes the possible answers.

Ships with galley slaves seem to be staples of two millennia ago, with images of Ben Hur coming to mind. It may be a surprise that King Henry IV of France, at the end of the seventeenth century, had an ornate galley that was powered by religious and other prisoners. **Kees Adema** tells a powerful story of a Huguenot scribe who spent many years on board the King's ship in **Letters from a Huguenot Galley Slave: 1692-1705**.

Ed Grabowski continues his investigation of the various uses of stamps in Guadeloupe in the latest of his series, **Gleanings from the French Colonies: Guadeloupe—Printed Matter via the British Agency (Possible Resolution of a Standing Question)**. This long title discusses, in a short article, the very rare four cent time rate for printed matter at a time when stamps for that service may not have been available due to political turmoil in France.

Cover story, **United States Postage Due: Use of Special-Purpose Stamps** is offered by **Peter A.S. Smith** to show two most unusual covers on which stamps were employed by the post office worker to satisfy showing the payment of postage due. These are sometimes created by smaller offices that have a short age of the full range of regular postage due values available, coupled with an older stock of stamps that are of little use otherwise.

The **At the Club house** feature in summer issues usually has few meeting reports due to the summer recess. The report of one meeting that was missed earlier is accompanied by a few interesting other reports. One was written by Roger Schnell in response to a request for his observations about the ceremony where he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Also included are two Letters to the Editor, one commenting on and expanding information on a previous article by Ed Grabowski and the other on an editorial.

Correction: The list of results for exhibitors at Washington 2006 inadvertently omitted Steven Walske with his outstanding exhibit "Special Postal Routes during the American Civil War," which received a large gold medal and special prize, and was also the other candidate to the Grand Prix National, which was won by Bill Gross. Another award not mentioned was by a new member, John F. DiBiase, who received a gold medal for "The Fiscal Stamps of Western Australia."