

In This Issue

The conclusion of the two-part article by **Kees Adema** on **Thurn und Taxis: The Origins of Modern Postal Services**, continues with the Roermond Reichspost Office, 1640-1702. With material that one observer commented “belongs in a museum” he illustrates the difficult times that faced the growth of this early service that turned into a model for modern postal systems.

Carl Walske has managed to unearth more information about Emil Reinhardt Krippner’s activities and provides a **Postscript to “Krippner in Canada.”** His earlier articles attracted the interest of the German journal *Philatelie*, which has excerpted some of Walske’s information. Those wishing even more about Krippner’s earlier activity may look there for details.

In the September/October 2003 issue, **Kurt Kimmel** discussed his research on the Escuelas issue of Venezuela. At the time, a reconstruction of the rare 90 centesimos plate seemed far beyond reach, but some major finds permitted him to offer **Venezuela 1879 “Escuelas 90 Centesimos”: Research Completed**, in which he is able to show the full plating in a way that can be used by future students.

Harlan Stone returns with an article, **Bally’s Use of Printed-to-Private-Order Envelope**, in which he has discovered not one, but two examples of a very rare Swiss postal stationery creation of 1876. Two firms, the watchmaker Le Coultre and shoemaker Bally, contracted with the postal department for imprinted stamps on envelopes, but until recently only a few copies of the Le Coultre version were known.

In the National Postal Museum continues in this issue with a description of the major facilities for research available in the museum’s library. A main aim for this series is to attract students to use materials held in the library that would be essential to their studies.

Tom Mazza shows a very rare cover, bearing all three denominations of stamps of the U.S. 1851 issue to pay a rate seldom used, in **Cover Story: An Unusual French Connection**.

On the Cover: The pair of Venezuela 90 centesimos Escuelas from the bottom left of the sheet provided a vital clue to the size of the sheet with the notation that 84 stamps were to be found on each sheet. Until recently, pairs and a few blocks were all that were believed to exist, so such a clue was vital to the final effort to plate the issue.

Correction: Scott Trepel informs us that the article on the Miller Collection on display at the National Postal Museum states that bisects were used at “Oxford, Mississippi,” where in fact it was Oxford, North Carolina.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO COLLECTORS CLUB MEMBERS—CALL FOR EXHIBITS

We will be holding the annual One Frame Competition on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at the clubhouse. A prospectus will be mailed to resident members in late August. Others wishing to exhibit should contact the Executive Secretary, Irene Bromberg, at the Collectors Club (212-683-0559 or collectorsclub@verizon.net) to request a prospectus as soon as possible. Please note that the competition is being held a month early this year.