

In This Issue

At the outset of the Civil War, President Lincoln called for troops from various states. Patriotic and illustrated envelopes were prepared by both sides. Adams Express Company offered free mail-carrying service to members of the New York Seventh Regiment. **Dr. James W. Milgram** outlines some of the turmoil and mail services of the time in **Postal Usages of New York Troops at the Outset of the Civil War**.

The first issues of Greece were prepared in Paris, with different individuals taking part in the process. The original design has a small line that became broken at some point in the preparation of the die, and this break shows on all stamps. Some experts feel that it was deliberately done as a “secret mark” and others think it was accidental. **Dr. Nicholas Asimakopulos** offers here his opinion on **Barre’s Secret Mark: What? Why? Who? How?** and illustrates why he feels it was done deliberately.

David Handelman has chosen a provocative title for his article, **Don’t Get Personal**. In it, he traces various ways in which U.S. correspondents indicated mail that was restricted to be delivered only to the designated addressee, with some interesting wrinkles. Besides showing some twentieth century examples, he shows an 1884 cover and discusses the likelihood of earlier examples of restricted delivery.

Although the Swiss Postal Department imprinted private stationery that had the senders’ imprint from 1907 to 1930, a rare forerunner appeared in the 1870s, created to help the return of empty flour sacks to millers. **Harlan Stone** discusses and illustrates these in his article **Official Printed-to-Private Order Cards for Two Millers in Zurich**.

Cover Story features a former governor of the Collectors Club and his personal recollection of a long-vanished rarity in **Ezra Cole, on the “Ice House” Cover**. Although Ezra died some years ago, he was interviewed by **Dr. Stanley Bierman**, who provided the transcript and notes from which this article was prepared. The full 150 pages of the interview and other materials from Bierman’s holdings will be sold in April.

On the Cover: The “Ice House” cover, now being held as evidence by the F.B.I. in Indianapolis, is the only known example of the U.S. 90¢ stamp of the 1869 Pictorial issue on cover, and was stolen from Club member J. David Baker many years ago. Many collectors feared that it had been lost forever, until it reappeared in January 2006, offered for sale to Charles Berg of Stamp King, in Chicago, who provided us with the color scans.

Two features are normal for the issue that appears in March/April: the announcement of the **Alfred F. Lichtenstein Award** recipient, this year going to **Thomas J. Alexander**, of Kansas City, Missouri, and the reports presented at the **annual meeting**, which was held on January 10. On the sad side of the ledger, we occasionally lose a valued member and present an obituary. In January, the sudden death of **W. Wilson Hulme II**, caught the philatelic community by surprise, both for his youth and lack of warning of any health problem.

Note: The Annual Awards Dinner, shown in the program booklet as being on May 9, has been changed to May 2, to secure adequate room space at the Cornell Club. Please note the change and plan to come to honor Tom Alexander.