

In This Issue

Many philatelists have heard of the early postal services offered by Thurn and Taxis, but not many are aware of the way the service developed and the problems that accompanied that start. **Kees Adema** offers an account of those beginnings in the first half of an article titled **Thurn und Taxis: The Origins of Modern Postal Services**, with a further subtitle **The Netherlands–Italy Route c.1500–1700**.

This portion, through 1700, will conclude in the next issue, but later in the year we will see the final portion that covers from 1700 to the end of the Holy Roman Empire.

Mark Lorentzen follows an earlier article on the Rayon System from Denmark to the Old German States with a new glimpse at unusual inbound mail, in **Early Junk Mail: Price Circulars from Great Britain to Denmark, 1850–UPU**. Although the first words of the title may suggest a subject worth avoiding, the second part explains it all. The rarities shown here attain that status simply because their counterparts were largely discarded.

The story of a stamp with a short life of just under two months is recounted by **James Cross** in **The First Panama Postal Tax Stamp**. Domestic mail of the early 1930s is not easy to find, and properly used examples of a stamp to venerate Simón Bolívar during its short period of use are few, even on philatelic envelopes.

A new feature starts in this issue, styled “On the Hunt.” The idea was proposed by **Carl Walske**, who gives an accounting of how he pursued **Fournier Forgeries in Geneva** and managed to obtain some key examples, leading to what is one of the three most complete assemblages of Fournier forgeries available, either in private hands or museums.

Another new feature is styled **In the National Postal Museum**. The leadoff article in this series is by **Scott Trepel**, who shows four covers with an unusual affinity in **Rarity Revealed: The Benjamin K. Miller Collection**. As an author of a book bearing the same name, about the Miller Collection from The New York Public Library, Trepel discusses how three letters to a young lady in the few years at the end of the use of the 1847 issue are related to a cover with a bisect of the 10¢ stamp, mailed on the last day of use of that issue.

On the Cover: An engraving of a typical mail delivery in the Thurn and Taxis service, by Jan Both, a Dutch artist who is considered a painter in the second tier; the first tier of seven painters includes Rembrandt, Vermeer and the like. He did not make many engravings and was, like his brother Andries, an important representative of the second generation of Italianists, painters who moved to Italy and specialized in Italian landscapes. He lived from 1615 to 1652, with his final ten years in Holland.

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.