

# *In This Issue*

We have fewer articles this month in order to make space for some longer ones. The first is a familiar subject, which is coming to a close next month. The other long article deals with a subject that should be covered in depth in a single issue. We plan to return to our usual mix in the next issue.

This issue sees the first half of a two-part article by **Kees Adema** on **Thurn und Taxis: The Mail Route to Italy from the Dutch Republic in the Eighteenth Century and the Demise of the Reichspost**. This is the final of his three sections on Thurn and Taxis, and covers the later, more mature aspects of the service.

**In the National Postal Museum: The Clarence H. Eagle Collection, Bob Rose** discusses one of the exceptional holdings that can be examined at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum, which is located adjacent to Union Station in Washington, D.C. The items illustrated should whet the appetite of any interested researcher. Appointments to see the special collections are possible and encouraged.

**Bill Ainsworth** was intrigued by a well-traveled cover that was featured in the November–December issue. He selected one of his own that had a similar long journey, but in this case was a registered letter to Afghanistan in the Banknote era. **Cover Story: An Attempt to Deliver a Registered Letter to a Difficult Frontier Destination** tells of the failure of the letter to reach its destination.

**On the Cover:** Normally, the item selected to be shown on the cover of the magazine is selected from the longer articles and chosen for reader appeal. This issue is different. We have chosen to show the item discussed in the Cover Story feature. As the only known cover to Afghanistan during the Banknote period, this makes an interesting item to give the special treatment of appearing on the cover, particularly since it was returned to the dead letter office after five months of travel.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature wraps up a number of talks and events for the end of the year. Besides the Annual One-Frame Competition, we have two Club members who recently signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, Paulo Comelli of Brazil and Peter McCann.

A notice has been passed to us about an event that will take place in 2009 that requires a certain amount of forward planning. The Club has participated with ten one-frame exhibits in previous MonacoPhil shows, effectively being considered the representatives of the United States. Other countries and major groups have also participated. Kees Adema has put together books of photocopies of the pages that were on display.

At the most recent event, an exceptional book was prepared, illustrating virtually all of the major pieces from the Roman States, to accompany a display of much of the material. A similar book is planned to cover Belgian philately and promises to be the final word in reference material on Belgium. If any member has material that would qualify as world-class material, please contact the editor who will pass the information to those compiling the book. The next MonacoPhil will be held from December 4 to 6, 2009, where the material will be on display. We would also expect to have another “team” showing from the Club, so any one interested should contact us.