

# *In This Issue*

**Patrick Maselis** continues his survey of early mail in Africa with **Prephilately of Central Africa: Case Study; Belgian Congo**. As with his previous study, things are not always what they seem to be, and sometimes depend on the contents of the letter for the full story. With the mail services so few, it was necessary to take advantage of any opportunity that presented itself, and often these were inventive.

The Division of Post Office Supplies provided official seals for damaged mail but the vast majority of smaller post offices could not apply for them. **Jim Kotanchik** tells how, until 1925, these post offices had to procure their own supplies and of the seals prepared by the **Morrill Brothers Printers**, some of which appeared as early as 1892.

**The Royal Philatelic Society London** offers a scholarship, to philatelists living anywhere, for the purpose of studying Commonwealth stamps or postal history. This **memorial scholarship** was established to honor **Julian Chapman**, an Australian collector who made a bequest for the purpose. Details may be found on page 236.

**Kees Adema** returns to our pages with a study of a letter that discusses an event of the ongoing Haitian Rebellion of 1791 in **A Haiti Vignette: 1796**. Trying to determine the route taken by a letter can often involve “detective work,” which he here uses to good effect.

**Cover Story** discusses a letter from Germany to a convict at Fort Leavenworth, but the addressee had **Escaped**. The analysis by **David Handelman** shows some unusual annotations on the registered with return receipt letter, which was to be opened only by the addressee.

**At the Clubhouse** features talks given from April to June by **Kees Adema**, **Arnold Selengut** and **Ken Kutz**. The Annual Awards Dinner is also covered, in which **Charles J. Peterson**, the latest recipient of the Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award was honored.

The Independent Auditor’s Report is found on page 246.

**On the Cover:** The only known cover with the “Issanghila 1883” handstamp, added in the Congo. The date “October 31” was added by hand, and note that the letters “SS” are reversed. Transit datestamps include “Liverpool Br. Packet, December 29, 1883” and “Great Yarmouth, December 30, 1883.” It arrived on the last day of the year, a journey of only two months.

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## **New Members/Deceased**

### **April 2008**

#### **New Members**

Dieter Esch, Nonresident  
John T. Hompe, Resident  
George Maseo (reinstatement), Resident  
Muhammad Rehman (reinstatement), Resident  
Paul Rotondo, Resident  
Xaoxi Wang, Resident

### **May 2008**

#### **New Members**

Jonas Hallstrom, Overseas  
Edward Matthews, Nonresident  
Charles McCarthy, Resident

#### **Deceased**

Robert Cunliffe  
Trevor Davis  
George Guzzio  
Dr. David Meriney