

In This Issue

This issue features the final 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**. As mentioned in the previous issue, this is the final of his three sections on Thurn and Taxis, and covers the later, more mature aspects of the service. As a point of interest, the series received *The Collectors Club Philatelist Medal* for 2007.

In the National Postal Museum: Benjamin K. Miller's Orangeburg Coils, by **Cheryl R. Ganz**, Chief Curator of Philately, Smithsonian National Postal Museum shows the mint paste-up pair of the coil, along with a letter telling how it came to be created manually rather than using a coil machine.

Patrick Maselis, of Belgium, gives us **Prephilately of Central Africa: A Study of the Four Types of Letters Known, Case Study: Dr. Livingstone and His Mail**. This discussion shows how mail traveled in the early years in Africa, and that often the marks on the envelopes are not a genuine indication of where they originated or how they traveled.

Different techniques may be used to determine various aspects of postal history of the early years. **Interpreting On-Cover Survival Rates of Victoria Half-Lengths** offers a statistical analysis by **John Barwis**, who explains why some issues are rarely found on cover, along with the survival rates of certain denominations and issues.

In this month's **Cover Story** we have an account of how a letter traveled by air mail most of the way across the country and then was delivered by **Pneumatic Hotel Post** for the final leg of its journey. **David L. Straight** was able to puzzle-out some cryptic markings that suggested something more than the usual delivery process, and then continued his search for a now-deactivated system that had been used in 1927.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature covers only the talk by Peter McCann on Montserrat postal history, since the reports from the annual meeting, traditionally given in this issue, take most of the available space.

On the Cover: This December 29, 1772, cover was mailed in Neuwied, Germany, just northwest of Koblenz and prepaid to Cologne at the winter rate of five stuivers. Six stuivers paid the onward rate to Middelburg and one stuiver was added for the final leg to Flushing, making a total of twelve (XII) stuivers. Deciphering the marks on these early covers is not simple, but a better understanding of them comes from the articles on Thurn und Taxis by Kees Adema.

Apologies are due to **David Zemer** whose article on **The Panama Advertising Booklet of 1911** was inadvertently left off this page in the last issue, an oversight caught by a new member. It was not, as we hastened to assure the new member, due to the "modern" nature of the material. Not only do we welcome such material, but we endeavor to put a brief summary of each article contained in the issue on this page.