

In This Issue

New forensic examination by a separate laboratory, conducted after the appearance of the earlier part of this article and using additional equipment, has verified the findings of previously reported labs regarding the irregular strip of three of the **Great Britain 1858–79 Rose-red Plate 77** stamps. In this issue, **Abed Najjar** discusses those findings, a possible explanation for them, and study for the future.

The Indian subcontinent returns to our pages with **Dan Walker**'s account of a new discovery, in **Soruth—Its First Issue and an Unrecorded Variety**. This tête-bêche pair is illustrated on the front cover (see below). The existence of stamps from this country appears to have been a well-kept secret for some twenty-five years.

Inexpensive stamps can pose interesting questions and involve innovations in printing. **Joe Hahn** shows how a bicolored stamp can be produced from a single plate in **A Most Unusual Issue: The 1906 Escalon Stamps of El Salvador**.

Dr. Jovan Velickovic is recognized as a top expert in Serbian philately. His account of **The Serbian–Turkish War; An 1877 Letter from Knjazevac to Belgrade** discusses a unique cover from a small town that had just recovered from the ravages of war.

Always a source of interesting material from Switzerland, **Harlan Stone** delves into the explanation of **An Unpaid Letter from “Outside” the UPU** by consulting with five other postal historians to find an answer that explains the rating of this postage due cover.

Apparent rarity can surrender to careful observation. **Steve Washburne** gives a brief encounter with a dealer that shows what is wrong with a Portuguese stamp, in **What's Wrong Here?**

Technology can be a wonderful tool, but sometimes it can be designed to try to help too much. **Bob Odenweller** addresses the questions of how to outwit scanners to get more accurate color in **Color and Philatelic Scanning**. An added bonus is a simple technique for straightening images after they have been scanned, making it unnecessary to put in too much work in getting them straight in the first place.

In this issue's **Cover Story, The Odyssey of a Letter**, we hear about the Homeric travels of a letter during World War II. **Alex Ioannides** has little more than a multitude of markings to decipher, but manages to trace its long journey, returning to the sender after having traveled for over seven months and a calculated distance of some thirty thousand miles.

On the Cover: The unique cover with a tête-bêche pair of the first issues of Soruth, an Indian Princely State, was recently discovered by Dan Walker. His mentor and former editor of the *Collectors Club Philatelist* was Don Haverbeck, who contributed many articles on various subjects dealing with India and its states and would have been pleased to see this new discovery.