

In This Issue

Some rarities escaped the attention of early collectors and are missing from the major collections that one would assume would hold them. This is the case with the **postal use of the 1857 embossed shilling stamps of Natal**, which became the subject of study by **Dr. Keith Klugman**. His research has unearthed only 10 covers with the shilling, almost all of which are illustrated here, along with analysis.

The latest offering of material found **In the National Postal Museum** comes from **Thomas Lera**, who is the Winton M. Blount Chair in Research at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. He prepared and coordinated the examination of a major collection of Peru in the Museum's holdings, which has three examples of the **Medio Peso Rose Red Error**, and includes an additional example on cover. Appointments to see this and other special collections are possible and encouraged by the museum.

Jim Kotanchik returns with his study of the exotic area of privately generated "seals" that were used for various reasons, often to close mail in fourth-class post offices. His account of *The Public Herald* "seals" offers an explanation of how these rarely seen seals came to be.

Returning to normal mail service after **The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake** was not an easy job. **Nick Lombardi**, who was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, tells how a **Registry Exchange Handstamp** was created to fill the void of the lost seals that had served that purpose.

Harlan Stone explains a unique example of **An Acceptable Swiss Pre-UPU Postal Card**, which itself may need explanation of how it was "acceptable." In the absence of postal agreements of the day, some forms of pre-printed cards were not accepted by foreign countries, but in this case, it was.

Previous discussions by **Carl Walske** have traced a famous German forger in his travels to Canada. In this latest installment, we have the first part of newly discovered information about where he traveled in his later years, in **Krippner in California**. Collaboration with specialists in a number of countries has managed to provide details that were once not suspected.

On the Cover: An extraordinary example of a block of four of the one shilling embossed 1857 issue of Natal, along with a 9d blue, paying 19 times the internal 3d rate, is the most spectacular example of the 10 known covers with the shilling stamp.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature covers talks by Hugh Feldman, Cheryl Ganz and Ross Towle. Also featured is a report on the exceptional visit by the Club de Monte-Carlo and the material shown by each of the members.