

In This Issue

This issue features only four articles rather than the usual six or seven. The two longer articles could potentially have been broken into two parts, but the general desire to keep such information intact overruled making space for more.

Early mail from some countries to the United States is often very difficult to find and it is equally difficult to analyze the various rates. In **The Orange Free State and the Cape of Good Hope: The ½ oz Letter Rate to the United States of America** we find a perfect example of this combination of problems. The authors **Robert Allison** and **Robert Johnson** have searched archives and compared covers to fill in the gaps in knowledge that have eluded previous searches. Still, they welcome any refinement to their findings, knowing that some gaps may require information that is not available to them.

Sometimes the simple varieties elude all notice. **The Machine-Made Panama Booklets of 1916** by **David Zemer** continues the discussion of booklets that started in these pages in the January 2008 issue. Those were a bit more difficult to identify than the ones in this current article, but the rarity of each is less appreciated than might be expected. Indeed, the machine-made booklets of this article are yet to be listed in Scott's, but a reconsideration might be in order based on the findings shown here.

The **In the National Postal Museum** feature continues with a discussion of **The 5 Centesimos Stamp of Uruguay** by **Thomas Lera**, who holds the Winton M. Blount Chair in Research at the Smithsonian's NPM. He illustrates and discusses two of the more notable and recognizable varieties, on cover, from the John M. Taylor Uruguay collection held by the Museum.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature covers a talk given by Keith Steiner on the Hawaiian Numeral issues, the annual awards dinner, at which Harlan Stone received the Lichtenstein Memorial Award, and a talk where Bob Odenweller substituted for Les Lanphear, who could not attend due to family emergency.

The final article is **New Zealand: Inks Used for the Early Chalon Heads**, in which **Bob Odenweller** shows how modern examination of classic stamps can reveal details that were not possible to detect in the early years of philately. In this case, as part of the research work for a new book on the first issues that will be released later this year, he examined stamps from the first four issues and made a startling discovery about the composition of the inks. This may enable new tests that could solve the enigma surrounding some of the more exotic early varieties.

On the Cover: An official cover from the Consular Office, Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, dated October 17, 1872, as it passed through the Cape of Good Hope, bears three of the shilling stamps. It was forwarded to Philadelphia.

Correction

In a recent article referring to new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the authorship of *Forgeries of Portugal and Colonies* was incorrectly attributed. That book was by D.J. Davies. The Secretary to the RDP Board of Election regrets the error.