

In This Issue

This issue is filled with fine articles. Leading off is the first half of **Via Mexico: Hawaii's Express Route 1835–1848** by **Fred Gregory**. The route across Mexico in the early days was risky, but much faster than any of the alternatives. A certain group of covers bears the marks of this service. It will be concluded in the next issue.

Filatelic Follies, by **Kees Adema**, concentrates on the thirteen years during which the French Republic constructed a new calendar with new month names and ten-day weeks. The dates involved could be confusing to those who are not aware of the differences.

Carl Walske concludes the article **Krippner in California**, where he has finally been able to trace the last days of the fabled forger. Little was expected when the search began, but these movements show how and where he moved after his days in Canada.

Last year's two-part article on **Plate 77** of the **Great Britain 1858–1879 1d Rose-Red** has attracted a great deal of attention. This issue offers the explanation by **Richard Debney**, the expert who had written the opinion that the numbers had been changed by painting in, where he gives the reasoning he used for that and his reasons for not accepting the information in the article.

A response to the comments is offered by **Abed Najjar**, who shows the reasons he feels that the argument previously raised is still valid.

In the National Postal Museum, the Winton M. Blount Chair in Research, **Thomas Lera**, gives an accounting of the extremely rare first stamps to appear in Japan, **The Sutherland Locals**. With a total of only 15 stamps known of the three different types, there would not be sufficient copies to make a one-frame exhibit.

Karol Weyna, a professional philatelist who now lives in Switzerland, is well versed in many of the world's rarities. Better than that, he knows how to weave a fine story. In **The Most Reclusive of Rarities, Tuscany's 4 Crazie Inverted Value**, he tells of a unique variety that has long been given less recognition than it deserves on the world stage.

Response to an earlier article on color balance was strong, so the next in a sequence of short articles on how to improve use of computer techniques is given by your editor in **Manipulating Illustrations, Leveling the Field**. This shows an easy way to make any scans of items for exhibit pages or articles level with respect to margins or design.

On the Cover: The unique 4 crazie inverted value of Tuscany is well known in the small circles of Italian philately, but has rarely been seen in recent years. As a major variety of a classic stamp-issuing entity, it deserves wider recognition.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature covers talks by Alex Ioannides and Governor Larry Hunt. The usual coverage of the reports given at the annual meeting are an essential part of the reporting of Club activities that must reach the members by way of this journal. The new program of speakers is now assembled and features many outstanding speakers from around the world, with a total of ten from overseas. Plan your visits to that and to the annual awards dinner on May 6, 2009.