

In This Issue

The conclusion of “**Via Mexico**”: Hawaii’s “**Express**” Route 1835–1848 by **Fred Gregory** leads off the issue with Mexico and other forwarders and the rate and paid marks. A discussion of British Consular and Packet Marks leads into the close of the via Mexico route.

Vernon Morris returns to our pages with some research that shows that new findings are always possible in **The Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellations: Two Discoveries**. He discusses why the Philadelphia Carriers chose to ignore the Postmaster General’s arbitrary and inconsistent fee structure, and gives the latest date for an Eagle Carrier stamp.

Most philatelists would find it hard to conceive of a machine stranger than the Lecoq printing machine, let alone know what it was. In the latest of a feature styled **On the Hunt**, we have **Wolfgang Maassen** and **Karl Louis** who have put together a fascinating article **In Pursuit of the Most Unusual Printing Machine in the World**. Lost for over a century, they found an almost complete working version in Portugal.

In support of the preceding article, **Thomas Lera** returns with **In the National Postal Museum: Peruvian Stamps Printed on the Lecoq Printing Machine**. He illustrates a number of the more interesting varieties from the Museum’s Bernard Peyton collection, and what is probably a first day of issue cover of the “Trencito” 5 centavo stamp, which some could argue as being the world’s first commemorative stamp.

Ed Grabowski’s coverage of the French area extends this time to the **Use of Madagascar’s First Stamps: The Typeset Issue of 1891**. Very little has been written of these issues, and the examples of the covers he shows are his typically fascinating material.

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, Adjusting Questionable Input**. This shows an easy way to make any scans of items for exhibit pages or articles improved with respect to color.

The keeper of the **Roll of Distinguished Philatelists** has issued information about the latest to be selected. A one-page feature explains the Roll to those who may be new to the world of philatelic honors.

On the Cover: The Eagle Carrier used in combination with a pair of the 12¢ to Liverpool, England, is a very clean and thus far unique combination of the two stamps on cover.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature covers the talks since early February, with Larry Lyons, Diane De Blois and Robert Dalton Harris, John Birkinbine, and Andreas Hahn and Alan Holyoake. Please note that a limited supply of the superb 64-page booklet that was commissioned by Alan Holyoake for the talk is available for \$5 to cover postage and packaging, as long as supplies last.