

In This Issue

The display and talk by **Larry Lyons** in February was full of interesting material from the gold rush days of California. He showed that the mail services to three distinct areas developed into express companies because the U.S. Mail simply was not prepared to handle the needs of the many areas. In **Mail between San Francisco and the Southern Mines** he shows how different entrepreneurs set up ways to satisfy the needs that the post office could not, how some of them failed and others joined to make larger services.

The **In the National Postal Museum** feature for this issue discusses the **Lady McLeod cover** from Trinidad in the museum's collection. **Tom Lera** gives some of the history behind how the service was set up between the towns of San Fernando and capital city, Port of Spain. Among other reasons, the stamps were produced to pay the postage when the captain ran out of small change for letters.

The Cayman Islands surcharged various issues when supplies ran short, producing some rather rare covers. In **Cover and the Controversies**, one of these covers is analyzed by **Richard Maisel**. As is often the case, there is more that can be revealed by a close examination than meets the eye.

When the American Bank Note Company archives were sold, collectors received a rare opportunity to obtain interesting material. Sometimes that was not as clear as it may have seemed, as is shown by **Ross Towle** who analyzes the various forms in **American Bank Note Company Die Numbers, "Index Copy" Cards, and Print Orders**. Among other things, he shows how the same numbers appeared, but on different sequences, which could be confusing to the person who has only one or two of them to examine.

Always ready to spring something new, **Ed Grabowski** shows how he plans to use the idea of "elements" from thematic in a philatelic exhibit. In **Cover Story: Baden-Baden to Papeete; An Unusual Return Receipt Cover from 1894**, he examines the early mechanisms that were established for acknowledgement of receipts.

The **At the Clubhouse** feature reports on the two talks before the summer break; **Dila Eaton's** Paraguay and **Damian Läge's** Australasian Birdlife thematic.

On the Cover: As is pointed out in the Larry Lyons article on California gold rush covers, mail that needed registration, such as carrying money, usually got a colorful label. The front cover shows an example of a label on an envelope containing money sent from San Andreas to San Francisco via Wells Fargo & Co.

Notices

The Collectors Club one-frame competition will be held in the clubhouse on November 11. See page 282 for details.

The Board of Governors has approved a request by Debby Friedman to conduct a monthly stamp program for youth at the Club. This will be based on a program she developed for use near Albany. See page 308 for details.

Correction, from Robert Johnson

Mr. Frederick Lawrence has kindly pointed out a transposition of figures on the fifth line of text on page 212 of Vol. 88, No 4 (July–August 2009). The phrase should read "(1d and 2d for a letter from GW)" to tie in with the seventh and eighth line phrase relating to the same figures.