

In This Issue

The popular article **Larry Lyons** offered last year on mail service to the southern mines during the California gold rush is followed here by **Mail Between San Francisco and the Northern Mines**. As before, the U.S. Mail was unable to provide service to the vast influx of prospectors, so private companies were allowed to do so.

When forces of the “Mahdi” took over Sudan, very little mail was generated. **Patrick Maselis** continues his coverage of Africa in **Mail from the Sudan during the Mahdist Rule (1885–1898)**, showing two of the three known surviving examples.

One of the best ways to find previously unknown covers is to publish an article or book about them. **Bob Odenweller** shows a remarkable addition to the known covers in **New Zealand: The 1d London Print of 1855 on Cover, a New Discovery**.

Advice of receipt (“A.R.”) or “return receipt” service is little known in the U.S. before the UPU. **David Handelman** shows that the service did exist and shows examples in **Early International U.S. AR**.

The **In the National Postal Museum** for this issue features **Father Mathew—Temperance Reformer**. Combining material from a number of Smithsonian NPM collections, **Thomas Lera** shows essays and a proof of a Private Die Proprietary Medicine Stamp prepared for an unsuccessful nonalcoholic drink, from the Eagle collection.

With two previous articles referring to early mail from Cape of Good Hope and nearby countries, **A New Earliest Known Letter to the U.S. from Southern Africa** pushes the clock back earlier with an account by **Mark Schwartz**, in which he illustrates a cover from 1805. As with the New Zealand cover mentioned above, new material seems to be lurking everywhere.

Harlan Stone unveils a **Swiss Underpaid Wartime Emergency Route Cover** in this issue’s **Cover Story**. Although the postage was correct for the usual route, the letter was rerouted via a temporary service that required, for 18 days, a higher amount of postage.

At the Clubhouse gives not only the usual reports from the Annual Meeting, but also an unusual report on a feature after the usual meeting was over. Steven Rod had worked for months assembling 40 exhibits, each to fill half of one of the 20 exhibit frames, to show the wide range of interests shared by Club members. The full list of the participants is accompanied by a brief mention of items shown. Hats off to Steve for an outstanding job in preparing all the materials and organizing the exhibit.

Also, preceding this feature is the illustration of a photographic copy of a 1661 map of New Amsterdam that was presented to the Club by David R. Beech, past president of the Royal, on the occasion of the exchange visit by Club members at the Royal Philatelic Society London on May 14 last year.

On the Cover: The unique Swiss cover to California, bearing the 50 centimes postage for the route via Belgium that was closed at the beginning of the Franco-Prussian war. The postage via the 18-day temporary route was 80 centimes, with the deficient postage collected when the letter was delivered in California.