

PO'OLEKA O HAWAII



The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society

Number 48

July 1994

Well, Here We Go Again.....

With this editorial, we complete my second issue of PO'OLEKA and look forward to the future. The response to our first issue was very generous and we thank you for it. We are still in the experimental stages of desktop publishing, so if this looks still a bit home made with some scissors and pasting, that is exactly what it represents. I am working with a new word processing program, trying to figure out how to make good scanned illustrations and get the whole thing into a single document without the size exceeding that of my computer hard drive. You will be seeing some further improvements as this whole process gets more familiar. I would like to hear your suggestions for bettering the product.

Research is beginning on a continuing column for Hawaiian Town cancels. We are also working on articles about Fumigated Mail from the 1901 Plague in Honolulu and on the Island Curio Company postcards. If you know anything that would help us, the writers would be happy to hear from you. We still need articles on all subjects, but our principal deficiency is in Hawaiian material. Can you help us out?

Mahalo and Aloha until the October Issue



Louis D. Loucks
Editor

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PO'OLEKA O HAWAII

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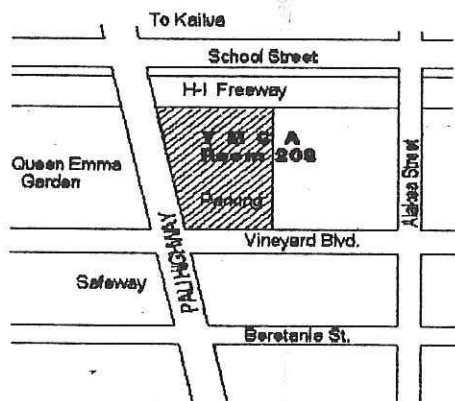
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Monthly Meeting and Monthly Swapmeet

The Hawaiian Philatelic Society meets at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Nuuanu YMCA in central Honolulu. Each meeting includes a short business session, a program or slide presentation and an auction of about 125 lots. A Swapmeet and board meeting is held at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of each month at the same location. We invite you to attend, meet your fellow members, enjoy the program and talk stamps. The public is welcome at all our meetings and we encourage you to become a member.



FANNING ISLAND BANKNOTES

by Keith Fitchett.

Reprinted by courtesy of PACIFICA, the journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain.

Editor's Note. Fanning Island is a part of the Line Islands and is located approximately 1,200 miles south of Hawaii. While not part of the Pacific Islands fought over during World War II, it was used for rest and recreation. The island has an area of less than 16 square miles and a population of less than 1,000.

Ron G. Garrett went to Honolulu in 1943 to arrange for a liquor concession for himself on Fanning Island, which involved sales to the U. S. garrison and to passing ships, and he placed his first order for 300 cases of bottles (liquor was almost impossible to obtain in Honolulu at the time, so there was plenty of scope for him to reap a good profit). He ensured that there would be no shortage of money on Fanning Island and Washington Island for his business by having 1000 promissory notes printed, and numbered 1000 to 1999, by the Honolulu Star Bulletin, "It being difficult if not impossible during that period of World War II to obtain currency from Australia", quoted from a letter of 28 January, 1974, sent by Bill Frew on Washington Island to the late Roy Botwright, in response to his earlier query, dated 11 March, 1972.

Garrett returned to Fanning Island in October 1943 on the "Comet", which also had on board Lt. Clifton Smith, who became the battery commander at Casady Airfield, Christmas Island. Once he arrived home he established production line manufacture of native fans, hats, shark-toothed

swords etc., which he proceeded to sell at enormous profit.

In 1945 the banknotes were demonetized and most were cut into halves, with 1/- and 2/- added in crayon to each piece so that they could be used as cinema tickets.

After the Pacific war ended, Garrett had accumulated enough money from his various business ventures to be able to afford to build himself a fine retirement home in Rabaul. Although Garrett returned to Fanning Island for a further year or two, certainly in 1968, he eventually retired to Rabaul, where he died in either 1975 or 1976.

Surviving banknotes usually comprise mismatched pieces. The number is printed on the right hand half. Those recorded up to the date of this publication (January 1992) include numbers:-

No. 1231, No. 1271 (entire banknote, has Canceled written diagonally across it between two ruled lines), No 1673 and No. 1942. The note shown below is a reconstruction.

Any additional comments or details of other surviving notes would be welcomed. Please submit questions or information (with SASE for reply) directly to:

Keith Fitchett,
37 MacFarland Crescent
Chifley, ACT 2606, Australia.



German East Africa

By Raymond M. DeHay

German East Africa has had many different owners within less than 100 years. Originally the Sultan of Zanzibar held the coast and exercised a nominal suzerainty over much of the eastern-central hinterland of Africa. In 1862, following a very brief war, Great Britain and France recognized the independence of Zanzibar, which became a British Protectorate. In 1884 and 1885, the Germans were eager to create a foreign empire, establish a presence in East Africa near the emerging mineral riches of the region and keep the British from a complete dominance of the area. The Germans made treaties with some of the inland chiefs and by 1886 had muscled the Sultan out of what became German East Africa. In November 1890 Germany paid the Sultan of Zanzibar 4 Million marks for the ceded area. By 1907 the inland tribes were forcibly pacified and German rule lasted until the First World War.

Postage stamps for German East Africa first appeared in 1893 using German stamps of the 1889 series overprinted "PESA". There were five values 2,3,5,10 and 25 pesas



Fig. 2

(64 Pesas = 1 Rupee). In 1896 a further overprinting "DEUTCH OSTAFRIKA" was added in an oblique position on the stamps (Fig. 1). In 1900, the colony received a set of the colonial issue featuring the yacht Hohenzollern. The 20 to 40 Pesa stamps were typographed and perforated 14. The larger 1, 2 and 3 Rupee stamps were engraved and perforated 14 x 14-1/2 (Fig. 2). In 1905 the values were changed to Hellars (100 Hellars = 1 Rupee) and the stamps were later issued on paper with lozenges watermark. This issue was in use until 1916.

During World War I, German East Africa was hotly contested. British, Belgian and Portuguese forces moved into portions of the colony and pursued the German defenders but they never fully succeeded in defeating them. In 1916 the British issued the 1913-1915 stamps of the Nyasaland Protectorate overprinted "NF" for Nyasaland Forces. The following year they overprinted the 1912 issues of East Africa and Uganda Protectorates with "GEA".



Fig. 1

The Belgian army also issued stamps for areas they occupied. In 1916, they overprinted Belgian Congo stamps (A21, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 30 and 31) with the text "RUANDA" and "URUNDI".

In the same year, the stamps were re-overprinted with additional text in French and Fleming

At the end of World War I, the colony was divided with the northern part mandated to Great Britain as Tanganyika. The Belgians received Ruanda and Urundi and the Portuguese gained a small territory called the Kionga Triangle, which they incorporated into Mozambique.

The British overprinted stamps of East Africa and Uganda with "GEA" (Tanganyika 1-8) followed in 1922 with the Giraffe series. (Fig. 3) In 1927 a set of King George V heads was issued for the Mandated Territory of Tanganyika. Finally in 1935, the stamps of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika came into use.

In 1925, the thrifty Belgians surcharged five of the already heavily overprinted stamps with additional values. The Portuguese never issued any stamps for the area.

The later political and postal history of this area can be followed in the Pages of your Scott Catalogue. Tanganyika became an

independent state in December, 1961 and a Republic exactly one year later. On 26 April, 1964 it joined with Zanzibar to form the Republic of Tanganyzia and Zanzibar. Renamed Tanzania in 1965, it's stamps were used throughout both territories after Zanzibar withdrew its stamps on January 1, 1968. What the Sultan of Zanzibar lost in 1886 had finally been reunited. All this interesting history has been preserved on postage stamps with various country names.



Fig. 3

Raymond DeHay is Second Vice President of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society and chairman of the programs committee. His collecting interests include France and German Africa.

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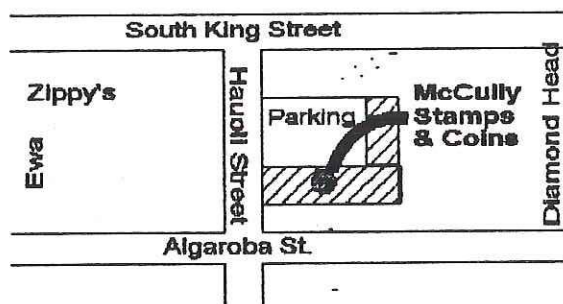
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REPERFORATION

By the Expert Committee, The Philatelic Foundation

This two part article is being presented by the kind permission of the Philatelic Foundation. It is the Societies belief that this information is of importance to all collectors who study or purchase material which may have been improved, altered or falsified and who want to increase their skills and awareness of the true nature of material offered to them.

Reperforation of stamps is an easy way to "improve" a stamp's appearance or to try to change it into something better than it was originally. Every philatelist should have the ability to detect possible reperforated stamps as a part of his personal philatelic repertoire.

Expert committees are fine for the expensive stamps, but what does one do when a certificate costs more than the stamp to be examined? There are certain things a collector can do to protect himself and this article will address them. In order to help, though, it is important to point out why stamps are reperforated. By following some simple procedures the reader will learn more about his stamps and protect himself from most reperforations.

There are only four reasons for reperforating a stamp. They are:

To eliminate straight edges.

To eliminate faults.

To center a stamp.

To change a stamp's basic catalog number by changing the perforations on one or more sides.

Importance of Catalog Information

The first three cases are attempts to improve a stamp's appearance and condition while the last, the most dangerous, is an attempt to create an entirely new stamp. What can you do to protect yourself from reperforated stamps? Use the knowledge and "tools" available to you. What are these tools? Start with your Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue. Most of us never look, but it is filled with much useful information that remains relatively unchanged, so you do not even have to own the most recent edition. For purposes of illustration, this article will concentrate on the stamps of the United States since the greatest number of collectors in the

United States today collect them. In any case, the advice given here will be generally applicable to the stamps issued by other countries as well.

The first pages of the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps are devoted to basic stamp information. The terminology used in the catalog, stamp production steps, and sheet formats are shown and explained in this section. All of this information is helpful. Two general rules apply here. First, most flat plate printings contain straight edges and second, most stamps printed on a rotary press do not. There are minor exceptions to both rules, but they can usually be relied upon.

Reason for Straight Edges

We define a straight edge as a side on a stamp with no perforation teeth along it. How does it occur? That requires a bit more explanation. Flat plate printings were usually made from printing plates of 200 or 400 subjects. After printing, these full sheets were cut down into panes of a smaller size to ease their handling by postal employees. Sheets of 200 were separated into two panes of 100 each, while sheets of 400 were cut into four panes of 100 each. Sheets were separated by slicing between the panes. This step left these panes without perforations on one or two sides, depending on the sheet configuration. The side without perforations is called a straight edge. Generally speaking, most early commemorative issues had the straight edge on one side only, while most regular flat plate issues had straight edges on two sides. This translates into 10 of every 100 commemorative stamps, and 19 of every 100 general issue stamps with straight edges. One of the latter was straight-edged on two sides. Although straight edges are rarer, collectors prefer their stamps with perforations all around. For this reason, and because of the activities of reperforators since stamps were issued, straight edges are more likely day by day to be referred to in the past tense!

There are two ways a collector can determine where the straight edge was on a particular issue. The first goes back to the Scott specialized catalogue. Under the listing for a specific stamp or issue, we can find many hints. "Arrows" were guidelines engraved into the actual printing plate to help the printer align the paper for separating the panes and perforating them. These arrows point towards the straight-edge sides on commemorative issues or to the alignment points for perforation. The Scott catalogue listing of a "margin block of 4, arrow, R or L" indicates that blocks exist that straddle the arrow. This further means that perforations, not a straight edge, went horizontally through the sheet at the arrows. It finally implies that the issue was printed as a plate divided vertically into two separate panes, each having a vertical row of ten stamps without perforations on one side.

The statement at the beginning of the listing for the issue may be even more helpful. It may say, for instance, "Plates of 100 (10x10) subjects, divided vertically into 2 panes of 50." An example of this is the "Trans-Mississippi" issue, Scott Nos. 285-293. Where arrow blocks are shown but a side reference is omitted, one can assume that the original sheet format was divided horizontally, resulting in straight edges at top or bottom, such as in the Jamestown Exposition issue of 1907, Scott's Nos. 328-330. This may seem very complex, and there is a simpler way to remember these formats.

Every collector has access to auction catalogs. Most of them photograph their better items, and occasionally these include sheets of stamps. Make note where the straight edges occur on the various issues, and keep this information in your personal reference file. If you don't have a file, it's a good idea to make one. It does not change and is as important as your wants list. Figure 1 illustrates a 1-cent "Trans-Mississippi" Fig. 1

stamp showing the clear remainder of a vertical guide line at left. This is shown for two reasons. First, as mentioned earlier, the Scott catalogue shows that this issue comes with side arrows and horizontal guide lines. Thus, any vertical line is the printer's guide for separating two panes that did not have vertical perforations. Therefore, this stamp must be reperforated at left.



The second reason to show this stamp is to make the point that even inexpensive stamps get reperforated. This stamp was donated to the PF's reference collection by a collector who bought it as sound!

The elimination of faults and the centering of stamps are quite dissimilar reasons for a stamp to be reperforated, but are very related. Typical faults are "pulled" or short perforations, stained perforations, tiny margin tears, thinning in the margin or along the perforations, creases, or even the removal of a cancellation that might be only on a stamp in its margin. By the removal of these problems, a stamp without faults results, one that will sell for far more than it would with the faults. Likewise, sound but off center stamps are sometimes reperforated to position the design equidistant from the perforations on all sides. The 2-cent "Black Jack" of 1863 is a prime candidate for this since it is almost always found off-center. This common stamp is not rare, but because of its over-sized impression, it is seldom found well-centered. It is not unusual for a very fine copy of this stamp to sell for many multiples of its catalog value. For a "Black Jack," a well-centered copy is rare.

As pointed out in the beginning, the removal of straight edges, elimination of faults, or the centering of a stamp are three different activities that can be grouped together as common reasons for reperforating, since their end product is the same.

They all result in a reperforated but "improved" example of the same stamp. Luckily for the collector, though, it is extremely difficult for the reperforator to match genuine perforations exactly. There are several reasons for this, and we will examine each. To simplify matters, we need another "tool"

for our use. In this case a cheap used or damaged copy of a stamp from the same issue will do nicely, or perhaps even several. The collector of U.S. stamps should have such a copy for every issue that he collects, and each copy should have a natural straight edge. Why? As it is a used stamp of little value, it can be safely assumed that the perforations on the other sides are original and not enhanced. Any value of an issue will do since they were all perforated in a

common manner. A 1-cent Columbian's perforations are the same as those on the \$5 value. A good perforation gauge such as the United States Specialist Gauge also helps.

Before beginning, we should make a quick study of how stamps are perforated. All perforated stamps of the United States more than a few years old were perforated by line perforators, as distinct from comb perforators.

Line and Comb Perforation

Line perforations require two separate applications of the perforating machine, one for the vertical perforations and another for the horizontal. Line perforations are usually created by a series of parallel perforating wheels, mounted on a rod, which are rolled across a sheet of stamps. The sheet is then turned 90 degrees, and the same or another set of perforating wheels, adjusted to the spacing between the stamps in the second orientation, is applied, resulting in a fully perforated sheet. While this is an over-simplification, the general idea is correct.

Comb perforation heads are so named since a single strike of the comb head in a piece of paper looks like a pocket comb. It can be applied either horizontally or vertically. The top of the comb makes the top row (or one full side when applied vertically) of perforations on the stamps. The "teeth" of the comb appear widely spaced and perforate the sides (or the top and bottom when applied vertically) of the stamps.

With comb perforations, all perforation holes are uniformly spaced around three sides of a stamp and every stamp in a sheet will have the perforation holes in almost the same location on all sides, and exactly so for those in the direction of subsequent strikes of the comb head. One usual characteristic that identifies almost all comb heads is that all corner perforations will usually meet in a single hole. Comb perforations are found on a great number of foreign issues.

Size of Perforation Hole

We may finish this discussion with a few additional points. When paper is pierced by a hard object such as a perforating pin, a hole results in the paper. The size of the hole is determined by two main factors: the diameter of the piercing object and the speed at which the paper is penetrated. These are physical rules that apply to stamp production. Using them, we can make

three safe assumptions about a stamp with line perforations.

First, the size of the holes on the top and bottom or the left and right should be about the same, since they were punched through the paper at the same time and speed by the same size perforating pins.

Second, the opposite side perforations should have the same sharpness or roughness since they were created at the same speed. Fast punched perforations tend to be sharper and cleaner, while those applied at a slower speed tend to have a rougher appearance, with paper fibers extending into the holes and beyond the perforation teeth.

And third, the rows of perforations on opposite sides should be parallel to one another. This makes sense since the perforating wheels are mounted side by side on a straight rod or axle and are applied in the same motion. This does not mean to imply that the perforations must be exactly square to the stamp design. Perforations can and often are applied at a slight angle to the actual design. But one thing is sure: If the perfs at the top of a stamp slope slightly downward from left to right, the bottom should do the same and at the same angle. The same rules apply to the side perforations. They can slant but they had better do the same and to the same degree on both sides.

Now let's examine a few stamps using the points just covered. Figure 2 shows an unused 6-cent stamp of



Fig. 2

the 1869 issue, Scott No. 115 at left. It is a rather typical copy of the stamp showing some short perforations at bottom and left, with the top and right sides scissors-separated. While it has a strange appearance, there is nothing to make one unusually suspicious. However, when placed against the copy of the same stamp at right, several things become apparent. The right side holes in the left stamp are smaller, sharper, and gauge slightly differently than those in the reference copy on the right. A quick look

shows that the left side perforations on our questionable stamp compare favorably with those on the left of the comparison stamp. On both stamps the left side perforations appear to have larger holes. Incidentally, the top perforations of our questionable stamp match those on the right side. The left stamp is reperforated at both top and right. The issue comes with straight edges only on the sides, but in this example the design is centered. While there is nothing to show that the right side was originally straight-edged, the holes are too incorrect to be genuine. These perforations were added in one motion by a straight-line perforator, as were the new perforations on the left side of the stamp in Figure 1.



Fig. 3

The two-cent stamp shown on the right in Figure 3 appears to be all right, at first glance. However, when compared with the control copy on the left, it becomes apparent that the left side perforations are too rough to be original. While the top perforations are rougher than those at the bottom, they are basically the same and gauge similarly. The left perforations are a different matter. When compared with the straight-edged control copy's perforations, they are significantly different. The perforation holes are very rough compared to the right sides of either itself or the control stamp. In this case, the suspect perforations have been punched out one at a time on the left side. Single-hole reperforation tends to leave rougher holes with varying spacing. While it is not apparent here, there are some holes out of line, especially towards the bottom.



Fig 4

Figure 4 shows a different two cent Banknote stamp with a different problem that has been almost "cured". This stamp has been reperforated to center it, although the side worked on may not be too apparent. The holes on all sides are fairly uniform in size and sharpness, but the perforations at right show traces of another complete set of perforations along their outer tips. These partial perforations gauge q2, the same as the other sides and the new perforations at the right. Compare the right side with the right side of the perforated stamp in Figure 3. While both have long perf "teeth" on the right side, they differ greatly in appearance when examined closely. The one pictured in Figure 4 was expertly altered and passed by some good examiners. It remains a prime example of when a certificate is needed.

Regarding the stamp in Figure 5, we are concerned only with the top perforations. The first three holes



Fig.5

at left are uniform but placed much deeper than the rest of the row and are sharper. Why? No doubt there was a pulled perforation on this otherwise desirable stamp so the perforation holes were deepened to make it appear there were full perforations all around. The PF's Expert Committee refers

to a stamp that is reperforated on less than a full side as one with "improved perforations."



Fig.6

Is there anything wrong with the Columbian 4-cent error of color, Scott No. 233a, pictured in Figure 6? Not particularly, except for a natural paper inclusion and an unpunched perforation at the right. It is not uncommon for this issue to have unpunched perforation holes caused by missing perforating pins

perforation holes caused by missing perforating pins on the perforating wheel. Collectors tend to shun such copies, so certain people seek them out as a less expensive resource, then attempt to improve their appearance by punching out the missing perforation hole. If well done, this is almost impossible to detect and will usually not be described on a certificate.



Fig.7

Figure 7 shows a \$5 Columbian stamp with some strange perforations on the top. While one or two can vary in spacing, being closer to, or farther from, the perforation next to it, this has too much variation to be correct. Also, the depth of the holes is wrong. It varies too much to be normal, especially when compared with that at the bottom. This type of reperforation is seldom encountered these days, except on stamps that were rudely reperforated years ago. Reperforating equipment, like most technological devices, has improved over the years. Unless there is no room left in the margins of the stamps, many of them have been re-reperforated, especially those of sufficient value to warrant the extra work.

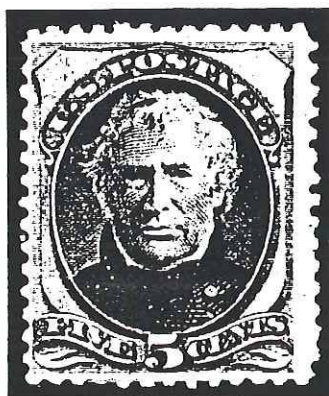


Fig.8

The next type of pure reperforation is shown on the right side of the 5-cent Banknote pictured in Figure 8. A close examination of the right side perforations shows them to be doubly punched. While this might occasionally occur, although rarely in normal stamp production, the lack of evidence of similar doubling on the left side tends to condemn the stamp. This type of reperforation is usually done on a single-pin perforator rather than by more modern and sophisticated equipment. Each hole

is punched individually, and the device used creates a partially punched second hole slightly closer to the stamp design than the completely punched hole.

the block pictured in figure 9 is shown to illustrate another method to determine reperforation. Since this method can be the trickiest and does not work all the time, it is being addressed last. It involves perforations that fall between stamps in pairs, strips, blocks or even larger multiples.



Fig.9

When a sheet is perforated by a line perforator, two applications are needed. The perforating devices are passed across the sheet between the stamp designs on it. The sheet is then turned 90 degrees and perforated a second time. The resulting rows of perforations are parallel to one another and usually fall about the same distance away from each stamp design in the same row. So if a vertical row of perforations is located close to the left side of a stamp it will be further away from the right side of the same stamp and the other stamps adjoining this stamp will have more or less the same centering across the horizontal row. This centering usually does not vary much across a sheet, especially within blocks or small multiples. These observations apply to the issues after 1894 more than to those before.

To better determine the centering of a stamp, it sometimes helps to use a "mask" such as a black

plastic stock card. Placed along a row of perforations and over another stamp in a pair or block, a stock card will mask other stamps and allow the viewer to see a stamp's centering without distraction and without separating the item.

To a viewer using this technique, the block in Figure 9 looks too narrow. The vertical perforations down the center between the stamps are well centered, equidistant from the stamps on either side. The vertical perforations on the block's right side appear closer to the stamps on the right than do the vertical perforations in the center to the stamps on the left, but the vertical perforations on the block's left side are far closer to the stamps on the left than are the center perforations to the stamps on the right. Additionally, some of the perforation holes along the left side appear strange and gauge slightly off, although not enough to illustrate effectively. The block is reperfected at left, along both stamps. While no traces remain, this left side was a normal straight edge on a sheet of 100. Since it was cut close to the stamps, there was not enough ROM to space the perforations properly, so they were added closer to the stamps than they would normally fall.

It may be noticed that much of this discussion is written without referring to or using a perforation gauge. This does not imply that perforation gauges are useless, but rather shows other ways to detect reperfacting. Now let us address perforation gauges. They consist of either rows of spaced perforation holes or vertical lines that gradually diverge up the gauge.

For U.S. stamps, the best available gauge is the United States Specialist Gauge. This gauge is good because it displays the actual configuration of perforation holes created by the government printers. The dots showing the perf holes are the exact diameters of the genuine perforation holes found on the issues. Of course, actual perforations might vary depending on the speed at which they were punched,

but they are generally very close in size to the dots on the specialist gauge. That is the good news. The bad news is that some very sophisticated reperfacting equipment is also based on this gauge. In spite of this, it can be used quite effectively with a little common sense. For instance, if the side of a stamp being gauged has holes slightly wider spaced than those pictured on the gauge, the other side should be spaced the same. If the perforations are slightly closer spaced than the gauge, again, the opposite side should be the same.

Why is the gauge not the absolute authority and why accept slight uniform differences, side to side or top to bottom, Differences may be due to paper shrinkage.

Paper, by its very nature, is not a uniform substance. but is made of a watery mixture of vegetable fibers of some sort to which is added cementing and sizing agents. The whole substance is subjected to pressure and evaporation in the process of drying. Once it has been made, paper can expand or contract by a very small amount depending on the climatic conditions to which it is later subjected. All paper has a characteristic called "weave" or mesh, which is caused by the elongated shape of the fibers, which line up parallel to one another in the paper-making process. Depending on the moisture available, these fibers tend to swell or contract across their short axis. If very humid, the paper tends to expand in the direction across the mesh, while in dry conditions it will contract. This is an over-simplification of a complex subject but sufficient for our purposes. Simply put, the original perforations were created under constant conditions and though the paper may have changed size due to a change in humidity, the gauge of the original perforations will have changed equally on both sides. If the spacing on one side varies much from the other, you have a right to be suspicious.

End of Part 1.

PORTRAIT ENGRAVING.....

Portrait work is the highest type of line engraving and requires a patience that is difficult to conceive.Ten to fifteen years of study and practice must be devoted to picture engraving before an engraver will be able to produce a credible portrait and then, after such a thorough training, not more than one craftsman in a hundred will make the grade and become a first class portrait engraver. From this it can readily be seen why there are not more than 20 men in the world today who are capable of engraving the fine portraits that are required for postage stamps.

The time required to engrave a portrait for a stamp varies according to the size of the subject and the detail involved, but as a rule from three to eight weeks are required to produce a first class vignette.

From Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving, James H. Baxter, American Philatelic Society, 1939, p. 10-11.

HAWAIIAN TOWN CANCEL FORUM

Louis D. Loucks, Editor

Collecting Hawaiian town cancels is, to me, one of the most interesting aspects of the hobby. During the monarchy, there were approximately 100 post offices on six islands, many with several cancel types. Since the publication of E. J. Burns "Additions to Hawaiian Postal History" and the HPS Hawaiian Town Cancels Supplement published in the summer of 1979, there have been many discoveries which have gone undocumented or under-documented. Additional finds after 1986 have not been collated or reported by the Society. A extensive revision of the Mayer-Harris and Burns works is sorely needed. As the years go by and the memories of older specialists are lost to us, it seems less likely that comprehensive revisions are going to be made. Reporting and comment on individual finds will be a major source of future progress in this field.

There are few truly comprehensive town cancel collections, mostly assembled in the 1920-1950 era and largely in local Hawaiian hands. At least two of these collections, (the Fitzpatrick collection and the Burns collection now owned by the Honolulu Advertiser) are still intact and Mr. Fitzpatrick has consented to make his knowledge available as a consultant to this column.

We also have a member who wants to begin talking with other collectors about Territorial era town cancels. This is a field that was once active but seems to have gone underground.

We would like to begin a dialogue between town cancel collectors. First, we would like to make this column a forum where new material can be introduced, illustrated and discussed, questions can be asked and answered by your fellow collectors. Second, we are beginning publication of information on the post offices of Hawaii, organized as manual

pages which can be slowly assembled into a whole. Third, we would like to know how you collect and display cancels, make pages and writeups and we would share this knowledge with your peers.

If you have items in your collection that you feel are new or additions to current knowledge, please send them to us for inclusion in the column. A good description of the item with a full size, clear photo or copy illustration will give us a basis for comment. We will try to publish all items and comments received and as many of the illustrations as are relevant. We will field questions and print answers from your fellow collectors. Please send your contribution directly to the editor:

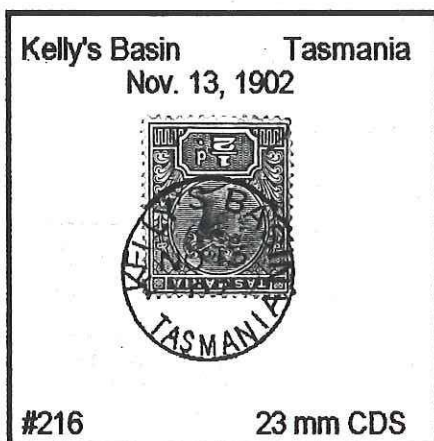
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

You may use a pen name or your own, but you must include your name and address for our records. Where extensive and broadly informative contributions are received, they may be published as articles in Po'oleka.

We want to begin our Post Office Manual with the island of Kauai. We will be publishing four towns in the next issue if we can get information to do so. The first four offices will probably be Eleele, Hanalei, Hanapepe and Kapaa. We want to discuss the town; the location, postmasters and dates of operation of the office and illustrations of good strikes of as many of the cancels as we can. If you have information, clear full cancels or want to comment on any of the Kauai offices, please write us now. A postcard view of any town during the monarchy era would be an interesting addition.

I was the society's auctioneer and wrote up the monthly listings including many town cancels. I saw a lot of stamps with three or four legible letters of a town

name but only a few full strikes and almost no good clean covers. Obviously, today's collectors have to work with more limited material than was available half a century ago. I collect older Australian material, including town cancels. I have tried a number of ways to file and illustrate a constantly growing collection (after all, I have about 8,000 potential post offices to deal with) but have never been entirely successful. I want to share with you a little invention of my own, the do it yourself town cancel. In the next issue I will be writing on how to make examples of cancels on a computer but for now, here is a sample



I print these little babies on cards and mount them in Showgard mounts on my pages. It's easy to re-arrange them or to remove one for study without disturbing things too much. If there is an interest in these as a means of display, let me know and perhaps we could develop a program to make them up "in the privacy and comfort of your own home".

Grab a pen and paper, send in your contribution now. Better yet, bring your material to the next regular or board meeting and discuss it with us face to face. We are a small enough group that we have a unique opportunity to share and benefit from each others knowledge. I eagerly look forward to the future of this column.

WANTED TO BUY

Hawaiian Postal History
Especially 1900 to 1959

Alaska Postal History
1867 to Present

Yukon Postal History
1885 to 1959

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Fancy Cancels, Fort Cancels
Accumulations and Collections

Hawaii Stamps and Postal History
Town Cancels and Accumulations

STEVE SIMS

1769 Wickersham Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
Phone: (907) 563-7281
LIFE MEMBER APS

KURT STREEPY

Route 1 Box 101
Odon, Indiana 47562-9737

We are looking for:

Hawaii (All Categories)
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We have available:

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HAWAIIAN REFLECTIONS

By Peter Burk

A VISITOR IN HAWAII

My visiting friend had money to spend
and a long list of presents to buy --
To fill a big sack and take them all back
so the gang would know he's a good guy.

I showed him around some stores in the town
but nothing he saw was quite right.
Black lava didn't do and neither bamboo,
nor even a chinese red kite.

We decided to stop at a monkeypod shop
and found a new world through the door.
In that little store there were carvings galore:
in racks, on the walls, on the floor.

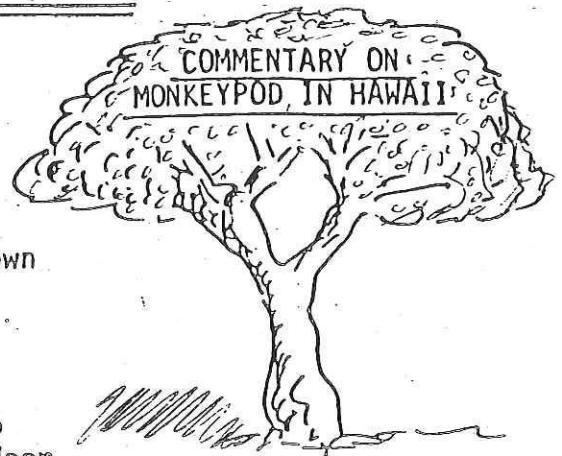
It was exciting to behold the things to be sold
and this was the place, this we knew.
The wood carved so nice and just the right price,
near endless variety too.

Carved samurai swords and cribbage scoreboards ---
carved statues in corners were stood:
Some scalloped edge bowls with delicate scrolls,
all made from the monkeypod wood.

I marvelled at how, from a monkeypod bough,
so rough and uneven outside --
The workman could know where to cut it just so,
revealing the beauty inside.

And later that day, as we continued our way,
a truth was revealed ... as it should ...
When I took him to see a great living tree
made ENTIRELY of monkeypod wood!

As only God can define and only God can design
a genuine monkeypod tree,
So only God can correct and only God can direct
a genuine person out of me...



.. a Place in the
FOREST ..



27 OCT 1958

.. Poinsettia ?
or HAWAIIAN
PALM TREES (?) ..



30 OCT 1985

ALL TREES ARE
BEAUTIFUL



9 OCT 1978

HAWAIIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
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