

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I am happy to say that PO'OLEKA O HAWAII is back in business. After a prolonged absence we have found editors who are taking the time to get the publication back in business. It takes a certain type of person to take the editorship of a nonprofit publication and make it work. We are fortunate that Louis Loucks and Peter Burk have decided to take the bull by the horns and wrestle with it.

I am hoping that with the new editors we get some new enthusiasm in writing articles for PO'OLEKA. One of the hardest jobs for the editor is assembling enough interesting articles for each issue. For the Hawaii specialists it is your chance to share your expertise.

I would like to thank Lou and Peter for taking on this job and wish them the best in publishing the PO'OLEKA. Better yet, I also promise them an article or two this coming year.

Wayne T. Yakuma, President
Hawaiian Philatelic Society

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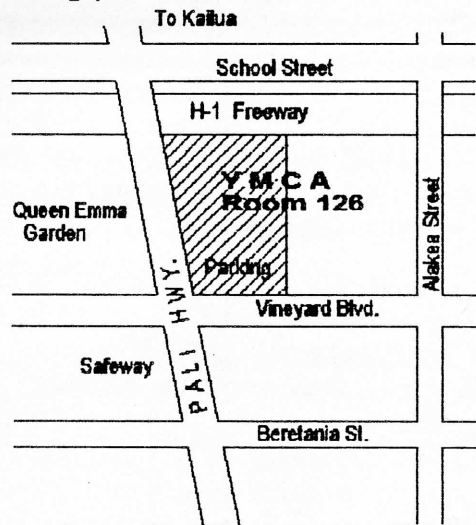
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Articles and information for the publication should be sent to the editor. Send a #10 SASE to the Editor for guidelines for preparing text and illustrations for submittal. It's easy to do.

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 slide presentation or other program 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.



FROM THE HPS AUCTION....

It is just after noon on a sunny day in 1904 and you are looking Diamond Head on Merchant Street in downtown Honolulu. To your left is the second Post Office, where Kalakaua served as postmaster from 1863 to 1865. On the right are the Shaefer Block, the Bishop Bank, Bishop Trust Offices, Campbell Block and finally Honolulu's two newest skyscrapers, the 5 story Judd Building and the 6 story Stangenwald Building. If you were to look at the same scene 90 years later, all these buildings, except for the Campbell Block, would still be in use and the scene, except for the new highrises looking over the roofs, would be much the same.

Our cover view is lot 799 in the May All Hawaiian Auction, for which a listing has been mailed to members. Each month the Society holds a called auction of approximately 125 lots with United States, Hawaii and foreign material represented. Mail bids are accepted from all members and the treasurer will act as floor bidder on your behalf. Some highlights of the next three auctions include:

MAY: Early stamps, a large group of town cancels from the rare to the not-so-rare, a full sheet of # 29 and a half sheet of #81 with the Flying Goose flaw. Forty lots of early and scarce postcard views of Hawaii by the Island Curio Store and Wall Nichols Company.

JUNE: A strong showing of U. S. officials, Canal Zone, British Commonwealth and 1 lot of WW I German fieldpost mail. Also a postcard booklet showing the U. S. Army in the days just after World War I. they all look clean, rested and happy.

JULY: U. S. mint plate blocks and booklet panes, 77 lots of Hawaii including town cancels and mixtures, Australia Roos.

Oren Spotts, the Society Auctioneer, is always looking for good material. Presently he needs lots in all categories and will welcome your contribution. If you live on the mainland, send a #10 SASE for an Auction lot sheet and summary sheet and instructions on preparing lots for us. It's easy to do and a great way to dispose of duplicates or those parts of your collection that no longer keep you up nights.

IN FUTURE ISSUES

Reperforation, A major article in two parts on how to detect reperforations, reprinted by courtesy of the Philatelic Foundation of New York. This article will be of great interest to those with scarce to rare perforation varieties or who are buying high value material.

Views of Old Hawaii, A brief history of the Island Curio Company, major producers of Postcards and Stereo views in turn of the century Honolulu.

German East Africa, an overview of the many changing administrations in Tanganyika and the stamps issued by six nations who had a part in the recent history of that country.

Computer Drawn Album Pages, How to prepare and update your own pages using a Computer Drawing Program.

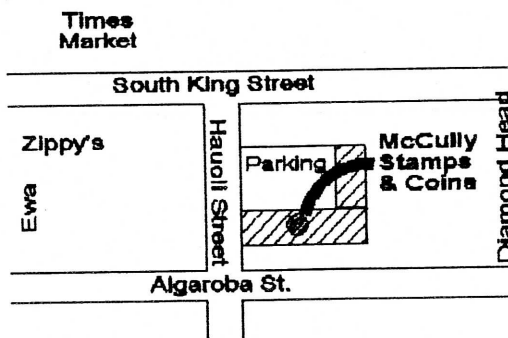
Town Cancel Update, a periodic update of new discoveries in Hawaii town cancels for which your input is needed. The first installment will discuss a major new cancel never before reported.

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GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Louis D. Loucks, Editor

A new set of APS sales books contains many interesting stamps but you are unsure just what you already own. You have stamps in albums, stock books, glassine envelopes and a box under the bed but cannot say exactly what your Transylvania collection really includes. You would like to make album pages for your collection but the multiplicity of paper types, watermarks, perforations and color shades has you confused. Do any of these sound familiar? I only mention them because they have all happened to me and a lot else besides. Maybe it's time to get organized.

Let me introduce myself. I am an architect, a long time resident of Hawaii but not a collector of Hawaiian material and the new editor of the Po'oleka. I resumed collecting in my forties to break a bad workaholic habit. Progressing through the U.S., Canada, Scandinavia, China (the overprints will drive you mad) I finally concluded that I didn't want to collect anything I couldn't read and thus arrived at the British Empire. I enjoy sorting, categorizing, peering at faint watermarks and dubious perforations. I am fascinated with color shades and cancellations. When the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalog entered my life, I was hooked.

I first collected British Africa for no better reason than that I had outbid everyone else for a two volume Scott album in fine condition. Then a local dealer, who was a better friend than he will ever know, sold me a beautiful Stanley Gibbons Imperial album ending with the year 1923 and containing a beginner's collection begun many years ago. Pressing his luck, he then offered me another Gibbons album, an Ideal ending in 1914, stuffed to overflowing with an old collection to which he had added choice items over many years. It took quite a while to pay for that one, but I will never run out of sorting, categorizing and peering work.

It's no good collecting the entire Empire according to Gibbons, you will never get there. For any given country, the Commonwealth catalog lists anywhere from two to ten times as many stamps as Scott does. Some small colonies are pretty straightforward; others are complicated beyond

rational explanation. Perhaps the most complex of all are the Australian States. My friendly local dealer, who was developing a close personal relationship with my bank account, had acquired a very large collection/accumulation that was especially strong in guess what. Every week on the local bid board he was feeding me a few Tasmanian Chalon Heads, South Australia and Queensland earlyies and other related goodies. Finally, to stop the hemorrhage, I agreed to buy the lot. Now I have a specialty and that brings me to my original subject. Maybe it's time to get organized.

First, let's define the problem. I will use Victoria as an example since that is what I'm struggling with right now. The 1994 Scott Catalog lists 336 stamps including varieties, Postal-Fiscals and Postage Dues. My 1991 Gibbons Commonwealth Catalog lists 1113 items covering the same ground. There are a dozen or so paper types over the years, eighteen watermarks including five varieties of the "V Over Crown" (Scott lumps them all together), and up to eight or ten color shades for a single design but spread over many series. The perforation varieties are daunting. Up to five perforators were available at one time with differing gauges and the workmen used them all simultaneously and apparently indiscriminately. There is no agreement on color names between the catalogs. Since Scott only gives one number for stamps having three or four perforations and a lot of color shades, getting the two number series together is a real exercise in imaginative deduction. The Australasian Stamp Catalogue lists fewer items than Scott. The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue is detailed enough but more or less ignores color shades and mixes perforation types together as varieties of the basic stamp (which is probably the best description of what actually took place). I am afraid to look too hard for a Victoria specialists' catalog since that would probably have three times as many stamps and a different numbering system and I don't think I can cope with that.

I have not seen anything in philately that offers more fun for your money. On the bright side, all these stamps were issued over only 62 years and there aren't going to be any more. I might say in passing that New South Wales may be even more complicated; certainly they were more creative in their use of perforators.

The first step in organizing this complex a subject is to get it all into one place and categorized as completely as possible. My approach (yours might be altogether different) was to create a comprehensive stock book with some elements of a reference collection and with possibilities for sorting color shades and perforations. I have two wooden cases with 100 small bins in each and can sort up to 10 sets times 20 varieties, aligning the same colors from one set to the next so you can see what matches what. Using a CADD computer program (I'll write more about this in another article), I made small sorting cards for each Gibbons item. You will find that the more information you get on a sorting card, the easier it will be later. My card gives the face value, Scott and Gibbons catalog numbers, watermark, perforation, color shade and first date of issue. The cards fit into manila stock sheets. You can take the cards out of the stock book to sort a given set or value and can rearrange the stock book without having to write anything on the pages themselves. You can also use the sorting cards as a guide for making custom album pages and can note on the little card what stamps you have in your final collection and whether they are satisfactory or you are looking for a better copy. Finally, you will potentially get all the color varieties and perforations sorted out on the stock pages that will help a lot in judging future acquisitions.

TYPICAL CARD AND DATA ENTERED

All this takes a certain amount of effort. Making the sorting cards occupied my spare time for three weeks alternating between making cards for a series and sorting the stamps into their proper places. The hardest part was getting the Scott numbers to match the Gibbons numbers. My solution was to find the cheapest Gibbons number that matched the Scott number and place it there. I decided that discarding damaged stamps was the wrong way to go. Even if they never find their way into the finished

collection, they still show color shades and other details that make the sorting job easier.

The completed stock book fills three small notebooks of 20 pages each. When I reached the end and could look back over the whole collection, several things became apparent.

Unusual perforation combinations are a lot more scarce than you would think, more so than would be indicated by relative catalog values. Scott doesn't differentiate prices, but does indicate that various perforations exist and I guess people do use their perf gauges.

Different color shades are fairly common. If you sort all the stamps of a common design into a single array, aligning the colors in each set above each other, you will soon work them out. Some sets have only one or two colors and these give you the basis for sorting the others into their places. Stamps do fade, colors appear changed on soiled or aged paper and heavy postmarks make colors appear darker. Color shades have slight differences due to over or under inking and other factors. A lot of my decisions are provisional and subject to change as I examine more material.

My accumulation has a thousand or so stamps but not enough varieties to make a set of pages that won't have that forlorn and empty look. I am working out a way to make pages that will look good now and be expandable to take more varieties as I acquire them. That is easier to do with a CADD computer program than with any of the desktop publishing programs I have tried out.

The next set of APS sales books that come to me should be very interesting. I hope they send a lot of Victoria. Given my luck, the selection will be mostly New South Wales.

Unless you all want to read a lot more of the windy expostulations of your esteemed editor, you will have to help us out by contributing articles of your own. A flood of excellent material may not stop him from sounding off, but it will surely slow him down. We publish articles and items of interest on any philatelic subject and hope to inject a little trivia from time to time just to keep things from getting too straitlaced. Give us your ideas and articles, keep PO'OLEKA green.

PO'OLEKA O HAWAII
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(Issue No. 1, October 1975 to Issue No. 46, January, 1987)

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THE MYSTERY OF THE SPECIMEN OVERPRINT OF THE FIVE CENT BANK NOTE ISSUE OF HAWAII

L. J. Crampton

Little has been written about the SPECIMEN overprint on the Five Cent Blue Hawaiian Bank Note issue. They are seldom exhibited or found in a collection. This overprint is not a common stamp, but the same can be said of many Hawaiian stamps. Two examples of the SPECIMEN stamp are shown below:



It is not that this stamp was only recently discovered. It was known to collectors a century ago. In 1893 Walter Giffard wrote:

"It is evident that this stamp (Scott #32) became obsolete upon the advent of the 5 cent light blue in 1882 (Scott #39), as a number of the original issue overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN" have been seen in local collections here, which fact would tend to show that the same fate as regards overprinting was meted out to this stamp as was done to the 5 and 13 of the 1853 original issue, though not so general."
[1]

Others have briefly mentioned this stamp: Kenyon, Richards, Munk, Gill, Meyer and Harris, Davey and D'Assis, to mention a few. [2] Rather than repeat what has been written we here attempt to tie together the mystery of the SPECIMEN overprint on the five cent blue. To do so a bit of background is needed. Following the successful 1864 experiment with a two cent perforated stamp, Hawaii's first perforated five cent stamp was ordered, to be blue with a portrait of Kamehameha V. In April, 1866, 200,000 stamps were delivered in Honolulu. About 25,000 five cent stamps were issued annually. Past experiences with delivery delays led to a second order for 150,000 in May, 1866. The two printings are distinguished by their different colors. The original stamp was greenish

blue, the second stamp was bright blue.[3] Scott lumps these together as #32.

The five cent stamp paid postage for a half-ounce letter from Hawaii to the United States, not including delivery within the U. S. A postage convention, effective July 2, 1870, abolished the separate delivery rates; the new rate was six cents including delivery.

The six cent green, also with a portrait of Kamehameha V, was ordered on August 22, 1870 but the new stamps did not reach Honolulu until March, 1871. In the meantime three of the two cent stamps were used. There was no one cent Hawaiian stamp so a 5+1 cent combination was only possible with a bisected two cent stamp. On January 1, 1882, when Hawaii became a member of the Universal Postal Union, this rate was reduced to five cents. A new five cent stamp, the ultramarine variety, (Scott #39) was ordered and delivered in 1882. In the interim, packages of the old five cent stamps were taken from the vaults for use at post office windows. The old five cent blue could be purchased at the Honolulu post office until 1886.

With the arrival of the six cent stamp, the old five cent became obsolete and remained so for ten years or until the rate dropped back to five cents. However, a large stock of the five cent stamps, probably more than 210,000, remained.

No Problem. The Hawaiian Post Office had a precedent. On hand was a stock of another five cent stamp, the imperforate Kamehameha III (Scott #10). This older stamp had been first issued in 1853 and reissued in 1857 and 1861. When the new perforated five cent Kamehameha V stamp was issued, the older stamp became obsolete but collectors still wanted the old stamps. To satisfy this demand, the imperforate stamp was reissued in 1868 and sold at the Honolulu post office. It was soon over printed SPECIMEN (Scott #10s) and was available until 1896.

So, since the newer five cent perforated stamp was then also obsolete the obvious thing to do was to overprint it SPECIMEN and sell it to collectors and dealers. This reason for the SPECIMEN overprints is supported by the statements of Munk [4].

The illustration of this overprint appearing in Meyer and Harris [5] is probably the one used by Davey

for his statement that the overprint measures 18 x 2.5 mm [6]. The examples shown above indicate that there were at least two varieties of this overprint, the second of which measures 16.5 x 2 mm. An example of the second type of SPECIMEN overprint is shown by D'Assis [7]. These overprints were made with a handstamp, probably applied to single stamps.

One final comment. A number of writers, including most of those listed above, indicate that such overprints were applied to most of the Bank Notes as well as to the Provisional and Republic issues. The earliest recorded distribution of such to UPU members was in 1886 and did not include the five cent blue from the 1860 issue (Scott #32) but the five cent ultramarine (Scott #39) was included [8]. The old five cent blue could not have been so distributed in 1886; the Post Office supply was exhausted several years earlier.

NOTES:

1. Giffard, Walter M., "Descriptive Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Hawaii". Thrums Hawaiian Annual for 1894, Dec. 1893, Honolulu, pp 107-108.
2. Kenyon, Brewster C., The Postal Issues of Hawaii, published by author, Long Beach, 1895, p 17; Richards, Charles F., A Check List of the Stamps of Hawaii - and More, published by author, New York, 1916, p 13; Munk, Herbert, "Hawaii", Kohl's Handbook, as translated in Collectors Club Philatelist, April 1942, p 137; Gill, Charles C., "The Stamps of Hawaii", Weekly Philatelic Gossip, Feb. 19, 1944, p 566; Meyer, Henry A., Frederic R. Harris and others, Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History, The Philatelic Foundation, New York, 1948, p 192; Davel, William A., "A Detailed List of the Stamps of Hawaii", Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History, The Philatelic Foundation, New York, 1948, p 340; D'Assis, Joe, An Informative and Descriptive Catalogue of Hawaiian Stamps and Related Issues, unpublished manuscript, San Leandro, CA, 1983, p 38.
3. Beardsley, Wallace R., "Hawaii: Five-Cent Kamehameha V Issues", The American Philatelist, Nov. 1963, p 104.
4. Munk, Op.Cit., pp 137-138.
5. Meyer, Op.Cit., p 192.
6. Davey, Op.Cit., p 340.
7. D'Assis, Op.Cit., p 29.
8. Schwalm, Albert, Hawaiian Stamps and Postal Stationery Sent to UPU for Distribution and Significant Facts on Hawaii & the UPU, unpublished manuscript, Houston, 1984.

HANDING OVER - FROM THE HAWAII TO THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

*Reprinted from Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal,
No 120, June 30, 1900, Page 266*

HAWAII - A Correspondent has kindly sent us a cutting (given in full below), from an American newspaper, showing that the stamps, etc., of these islands should be obsolete before this number is in print. The reference in the first paragraph is to the case of an official in Havana who is said to have succeeded in rescuing some \$35,000.00 worth of the United States stamps, surcharged for use in Cuba, which should have been burnt.

"Washington, May 20th. - There will be no Neely business in the Hawaiian Islands. The United States postal system will be installed there June 14th, but at the close of business on the 13th every one of the seventy-eight postmasters will be required to give a full account of all Hawaiian stamps, postal cards, etc., on hand, and the whole caboodle will be sent to headquarters here in Washington for destruction in the regular Government furnace, and by men under bonds to let no guilty stamp escape. Mr. Madden, third Assistant Postmaster-General, will have charge of this business since Hawaii is part of us, and he has fully prepared all his plans. Everything relating to stamps, registry system, special delivery, classification of mail and all finances relating to the postal business comes under him, and he today started Inspector Hall from San Francisco to begin the work in instructing the Hawaiian postmasters in Yankee fiscal ways. At the same time he ordered \$50,000.00 worth of stamps, postal cards, stamped envelopes and newspaper wrappers to be sent on. This supply is expected to last the islands ninety days.

On June 1st Inspector Flint, who is being put through a special course of sprouts in regard to Post Office finances, will start for Hawaii to help finish the work of preparation and to clear up any hard spots Hall may have struck. He will also carry a specially prepared letter of instructions from the chief of every division in Mr. Madden's bureau, giving every detail about handling post matter moneys, keeping records, making reports, etc., so that it is expected that the whole machine will be started in the islands on time, with even registry books and messengers ready to carry letters bearing Special Delivery stamps.

All postmasters on the island will be instructed to report to and deposit with the Postmaster of Honolulu, who will in turn deposit with the sub-treasury at San Francisco. Two of the Hawaiian cities will start with free delivery. A full supply of pouches, registry sacks, brass locks, and other paraphernalia was also shipped yesterday."

HAWAIIAN REFLECTIONS

By Peter Burk

Peter Burk is the First Vice President of the Society. A widely respected member, he also heads up the STAMPERS youth program. Peter has the amiable ability to see life and stamps in a little different way and to present his conclusions in a happy and thought provoking manner. Enjoy Peter's meditations on what might have happened if Columbus luck had been just a little different.....

GEOGRAPHICAL WHAT IF?

ABOUT MR. COLUMBUS.

An observation 500 years after the fact.

In fourteen hundred ninety two Columbus sailed the ocean blue. He set a course he thought was best toward India, by sailing West.



1¢ COLUMBUS
in sight of OAHU.

He had no map of how to go, no indication that would show a great new land, unknown before, would block his way to India shore.



2¢ COLUMBUS
lands at WAIKIKI.

But, WHAT IF somehow, this new land did NOT exist on scale so grand? Suppose Columbus sailed on through, until the land which came in view turned out to be HAWAIIAN ISLES ??? ...COLUMBUS stamps might have these styles ?



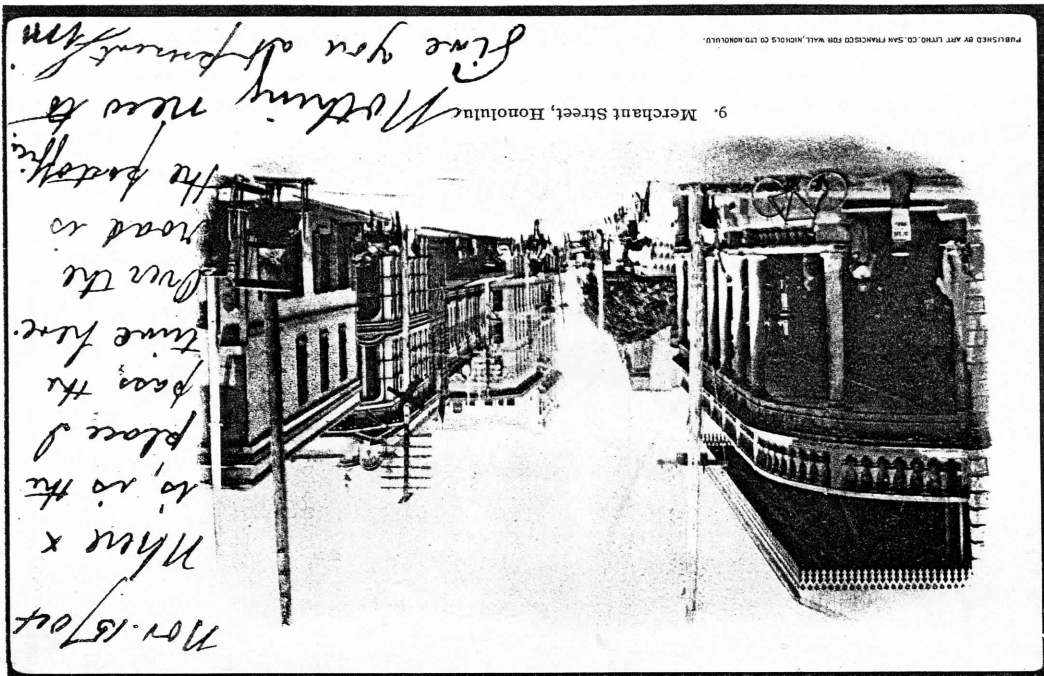
10¢ COLUMBUS
presents native
Hawaiians.



11¢ COLUMBUS
visits at Honaunau.

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PO'OLEKA O HAWAII

From the
May
Auction
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THE HAWAIIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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