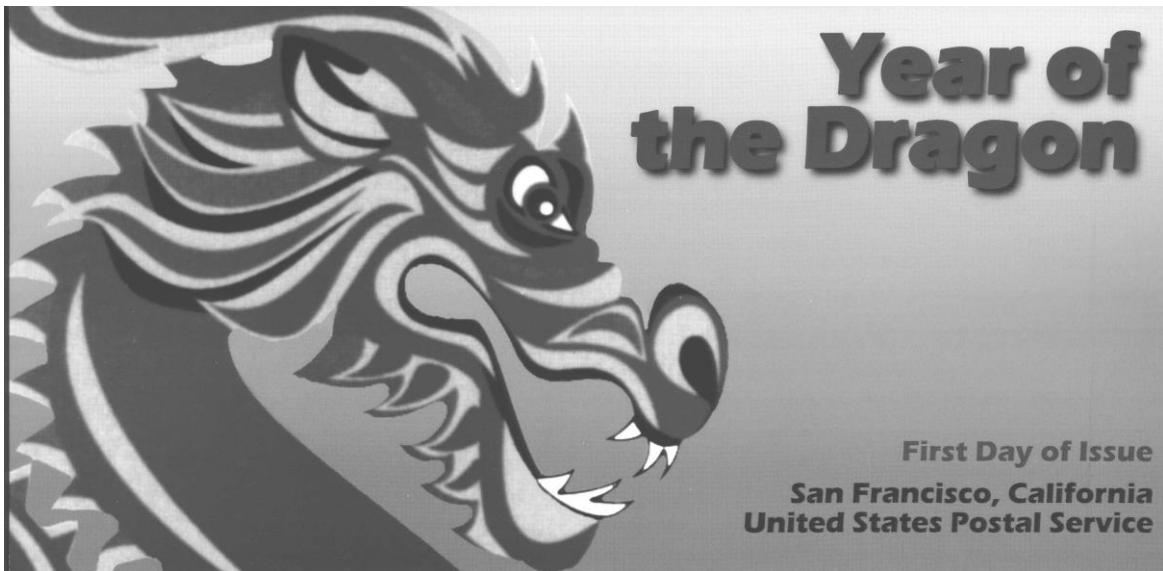


# PO'OLEKA O HAWAII

Year of the Dragon



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE



**The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society**

Number 61

January 2000

# Quarterly Calendar of Collector's Events

## January 2000

01/09	First Sunday Bourse	Queen Kapiolani Hotel, 150 Kapahulu Ave. 10AM - 4 PM
01/10	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	Nuuanu YMCA, Doors open around 7 PM
01/15	H.P.S. Stamps Youth Club	Manoa School, 3155 Manoa Rd. 1 PM - 3 PM
01/16	Hawaii Stamp & Coin	Room 307, 1040 Richards Street YWCA, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
01/17	Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.	Lois Opedal, 241 Kaha St., Kailua, 7:30 PM
01/24	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Nuuanu YMCA, Doors open around 7PM, Board Meets around 7:15 PM

## February 2000

02/06	First Sunday Bourse	Queen Kapiolani Hotel, Waikiki
02/14	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	Nuuanu YMCA, Doors open around 7 PM
02/19	H.P.S. Stamps Youth Club	Manoa School, 3155 Manoa Rd. 1 PM - 3 PM
02/21	Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.	Lois Opedal, 241 Kaha St., Kailua, 7:30 PM
02/28	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Nuuanu YMCA, Doors open around 7PM, Board Meets around 7:15 PM

## March 2000

03/05	First Sunday Bourse	Queen Kapiolani Hotel, Waikiki
03/12	Hawaii Stamp & Coin	Room 307, 1040 Richards Street YWCA, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
03/13	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	Nuuanu YMCA, Doors open around 7 PM
03/18	H.P.S. Stamps Youth Club	Manoa School, 3155 Manoa Rd. 1 PM - 3 PM
03/20	Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.	Lois Opedal, 241 Kaha St., Kailua, 7:30 PM
03/27	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Nuuanu YMCA, Doors open around 7PM, Board Meets around 7:15 PM

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Submit ad copy with remittance to the Editor.

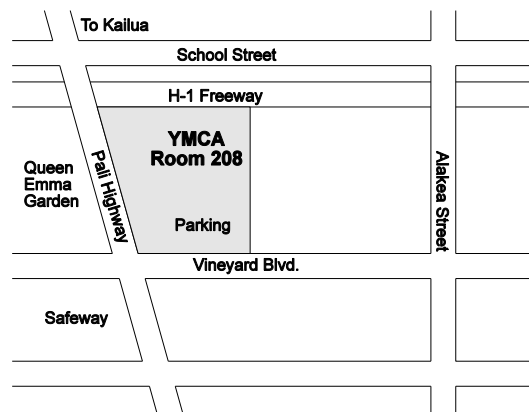
Articles and information for the publication should be sent to the editor. Send a #10 SASE to the Editor for guidelines for preparing text and illustrations for submittal. It's easy to do.

Cover Illustration: USPS Official FDC and Folder for Dragon New Year Stamp

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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 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.



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# PO'OLEKA O HAWAII

The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society

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Number 61

JANUARY 2000

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## Editor's Notes

By Greg Chang, Editor

Aloha! Happy New Year 2000 and welcome to the 61<sup>st</sup> issue of the PO'OLEKA O HAWAII. My apologies for getting this issue off a bit late. Finally accumulated enough material to put together an issue. Plus, with the holidays past, I will be able to better focus on putting together this and future issues.

Speaking of material, items submitted by members has been a little on the thin side. As always, any ideas or articles you have or consider are welcomed. Thanks to all whom have submitted articles in the past.

To kick off the featured article for this issue, the first day cover for the Lunar New Year stamp and folder sold by the U.S. Postal Service is illustrated on this issue's cover. The related article notes my observations of the ceremony. Stamp designer Clarence Lee was in attendance, unfortunately, I was unable to speak to him nor get his autograph.

Included are articles of varied interests. Henry Lyman gives us some insight on the Ultramar overprints. Another article describes a recent service the United States Postal Service is implementing- Mail Delivery Confirmation.

Finally, the last article describes how Fiji commemorated the coming of the new millennium.

In closing, hope the new year is going well for you. Take care and looking forward to writing to you again in the April issue.

Mahalo!

Greg Chang  
Editor



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## What's Inside

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# Lunar New Year Stamp First Day Ceremony

By Greg Chang

I was fortunate to be able to attend the first day ceremony for the new Lunar New Year postage stamp in San Francisco on January 6th. This year's stamp commemorates the Year of the Dragon, year 4698 of the lunisolar calendar. It is the eighth stamp issued for the Lunar New Year commemorative series. This was the fourth new year stamp first day ceremony I've been to. Besides this one I attended the ceremonies for the Rooster and Rat stamps which were held in San Francisco and the Dog stamp that was held in Sacramento. **Table 1** is a summary of the Lunar New Year stamps.

The ceremony was held in one of the lower level ballrooms of the Fairmont Hotel that is located on top of San Francisco's Nob Hill. An adjacent room was used as a sales area for stamps and cachets. A nearby hallway was used as a cancellation area. It was well attended by visitors, guests, and the media. Exhausted from climbing up Nob Hill to get to the hotel my office down near the Embarcadero, I managed to find a seat close to the stage with a few minutes to spare before the start of the ceremony.

Local television station new reporter, David Louie, was the emcee for the event. Honored speakers included Willie Brown (Da Mayor of San Francisco), Scott Tucker (US Postal Service District Manager of Customer Service and Sales), Nancy Pelosi (California Congresswoman), Clarence Lewis (US Postal Service Chief Operating Officer), Claudine Chang (Past National President of the Organization of Chinese

Americans), George Ong (National President of the Organization of Chinese Americans), Geomen Liu (President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce) and Clarence Lee (Stamp Designer and Illustrator). Also on hand were former San Francisco Postmaster General, George Kikuchi (Former San Francisco Postmaster), Michael Yaki (San Francisco City Supervisor), and Fred Lau (San Francisco Chief of Police).



Emcee, David Louie, noted that having so many high-ranking officials in attendance indicate the importance of the event. Congresswoman Pelosi, who was influential in getting the new year stamp series started, mentioned that this stamp series is a way to provide recognition and acknowledgment for the contributions Chinese-Americans have made to the American Society. Mayor, Willie Brown, urged Clarence Lewis to commit the USPS to having the first release in San Francisco for the final four stamps in the series.

In addition to speeches, the ceremony included a drum prelude by the Yellow River Drummers, musical prelude by the St. Mary's Bell and Drum Corps, songs by Ms. Lee's 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class from the Gordon J. Lau Elementary School, the St. Mary's drum corps, lion dancing by the Loong Mah Lion Dance Troop, and stilt walkers. The ceremony began at 10 AM lasted for approximately 1 hour.

After the ceremony lines formed to get autographs from some of the ceremony participants, stamps sales area, and first day cancellation area. I was unable to get any

autographs since it was so long and slow. However, I was able to pick up a few sheets of stamps and a special first day cover. Compared to the other ceremonies I have been to, this was the most interesting, having

so many high ranking officials as well as the designer, Clarence Lee in attendance.

**Table 1 - Lunar New Year Stamp Series**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Cat #</b>	<b>Denomination</b>	<b>Lunisolar New Year</b>	<b>First Day Site</b>
1993	12/00/92	2720	29c	Rooster	San Francisco, CA
1994	2/5/94	2817	29c	Dog	Pomona, CA
1995	12/30/94	2876	29c	Boar	Sacramento, CA
1996	2/8/96	3060	32c	Rat	San Francisco, CA
1997	12/5/96	3120	32c	Ox	Honolulu, HI
1998	1/5/98	3179	32c	Tiger	Seattle, WA
1999	1/5/99	3272	33c	Hare	Los Angeles, CA
2000	1/6/00	-----	33c	Dragon	San Francisco, CA
2001		-----	?	Snake	?
2002		-----	?	Horse	?
2003		-----	?	Sheep	?
2004		-----	?	Monkey	?

### Technical Details:

Issue: Lunar New Year - Dragon  
Denomination & Type of Issue: 33-cent Commemorative  
Format: Water-activated pane of 20 (1 design)  
Series: Lunar New Year  
Issue Date & City: January 6, 2000, San Francisco, CA 94188  
Designer: Clarence Lee, Honolulu, HI  
Engraver: N/A  
Illustrator: Clarence Lee, Honolulu, HI  
Art Director: Terrence McCaffrey, USPS  
Typographer: Clarence Lee, Honolulu, HI  
Modeler: Joseph Sheeran  
Manufacturing Process: Offset/microprint (dragon)  
Printer: Sterling Sommer  
Printed at: Tonawanda, NY  
Press Type: Akiyama, 628  
Stamps per Coil/Pane: 20  
Print Quantity: 56 million stamps  
Paper Type: Prephosphored, Type II  
Gum Type: Water-activated  
Processed at: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.  
Colors: Black, Cyan, Yellow, PMS-180C (Red)  
Stamp Orientation: Horizontal  
Image Area (w x h): 1.41 in x 0.84 in. / 35.81 x 21.34 mm  
Overall Size (w x h): 0.99 x 1.56 in. / 25.15 x 39.62 mm  
Full Pane Size (w x h): 7.24 x 5.94 in. / 183.90 x 150.88 mm  
Plate Size: 180 stamps per revolution  
Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four (4) single digits  
Marginal Markings: © USPS 1999 " Price " Plate Numbers " Plate Position Diagram

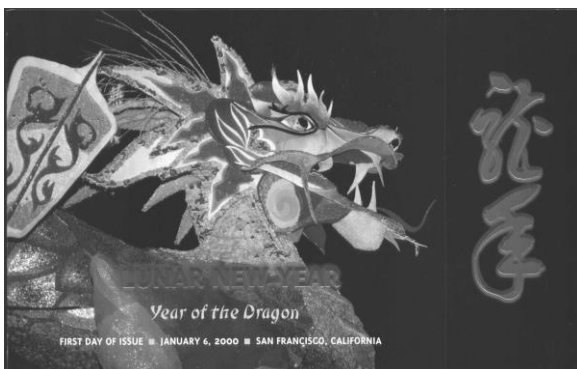
**Photos:**



**Yellow River Drummers**



**Unveiling of the Stamp**



**Program Cover**



**Lion Dancers**



**Clarence Lee Signing Covers**

# "ULTRAMAR" Overprint HAWAIIAN 1899 Issue

*By Henry Lyman*

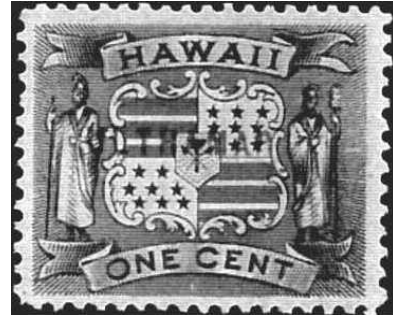
**H**awaii became a member of the Universal Postal Union, January 1, 1882 and enjoyed the postal rate of 5 cents per half ounce to the United States and rates according to the then prevailing schedule to other countries. At the Washington conference of the Universal Postal Union in 1897 uniform colors for stamps of the 1 cent, 2 cent, and the 5 cent denominations or their equivalent currencies were adopted. The following year the republican government of Hawaii ordered the colors changed for those three values, and at the same time had the word CENTS added to the design of the 5 cent value<sup>1</sup>.

Member nations of the U.P.U. were required to send samples of their newly issued stamps to the U.P.U. in Switzerland. These stamps were distributed to other member nations in order to provide them with samples of officially issued stamps.

Receiving authority overprints are applied by the country receiving the stamps distributed to them by the U.P.U., undoubtedly as a protective or control marking. Their philatelic importance stems from the confirmatory evidence they provide that the stamps were indeed specimens distributed by the U.P.U. Very few countries in fact applied receiving marks, simply leaving the stamps in normal unused condition. BENDON<sup>3</sup> records only eight countries who have applied a receiving overprint.

The best known of the receiving authority markings is the "ULTRAMAR" handstamp of the Portuguese Ministry in Lisbon. Records show that in 1900 the U.P.U. sent

the Portuguese Ministry a total of 25 stamps of each denomination which were hand-stamped and distributed to her overseas ("ultramar") colonies<sup>2</sup>.



## "ULTRAMAR" OVERPRINTED STAMPS

Reference:

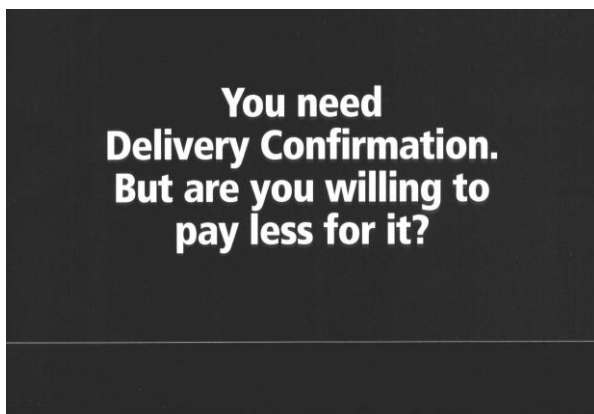
- (1) Meyer Harris "HAWAII" pg.89,247
- (2) George Alevizos Auction #86 July 1994
- (3) James Bendon "U.P.U. Specimen Stamps"



# USPS Delivery Confirmations

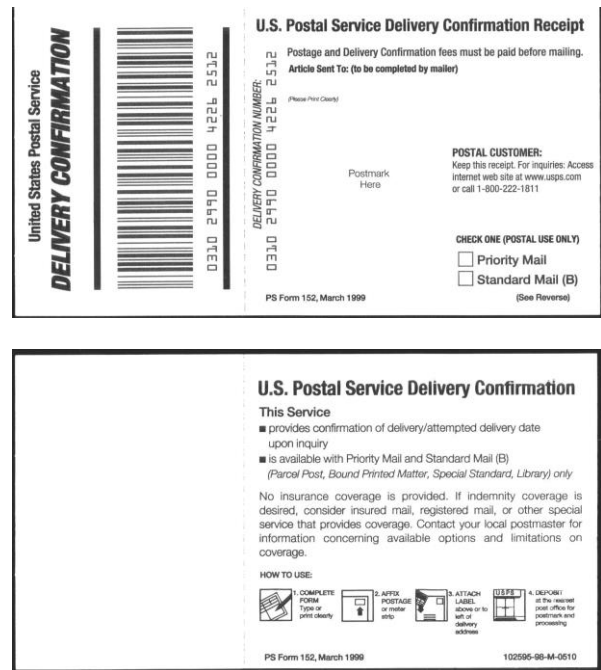
By Greg Chang

Last March (1999), the United States Postal Service introduced a new service called Delivery Confirmation. Similar to tracking systems available with Federal Express or United Parcel Service, the customer can obtain the delivery status of their mail by calling a toll free number or accessing the Postal Service's web site. Shown in **Figure 1** is the front and back of a postal service post card advertising this service.



**Figure 1 - Front and Back of Post Card**

Basic information is located on the fluorescent green and white delivery confirmation label (PS Form 152). **Figure 2** depicts the front and back side of the form. On it is a unique tracking number, bar code, place for recipient's address, and a place for a date stamp (proof of mailing). Once the label has been scanned into the



**Figure 2 - Front and Back of PS Form 152**

tracking system, it will provide the customer with information such as zip code and time for where and when the piece was received by the USPS, date of delivery or attempted delivery and zip code of destination. This information will remain available for 180 days.

Currently, the cost is 35 cents and is limited to use with Priority or Standard (B, book class) mail packages. It can be combined with other special services such as insured mail, COD, or registered mail. However, it cannot be combined with certified mail since typically customers use certified mail service on first-class letter size mail. Since this is just a mail tracking service, it does not guarantee delivery by a certain time and date nor does it obtain a signature for delivery.

According to the "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)" document on the delivery confirmation



website, the postal service prides itself in delivering over 99.99% of all items placed in its care. Their current scan rate is approximately 95% nationally. This means that the absence of a delivery scan on a mailpiece does not necessarily indicated that the item was not delivered. It is possible that the piece was delivered but the scan was not captured.

To illustrate the process, I've added images from some mail recently sent to the Hawaiian Philatelic Society. At the post office counter, the clerk scanned the bar code to log in the mail piece before stamping and handing back my receipt. **Figure 3** shows the receipt with a hand stamp as proof of mailing.



**Figure 3 - Sample Receipt**

Later in the day, I checked the postal service's website at [www.usps.com/cttgate](http://www.usps.com/cttgate). **Figure 4** shows that site with a box for the customer to enter the delivery confirmation number. Amazingly enough, there was some information showing that the item was received by the postal service.

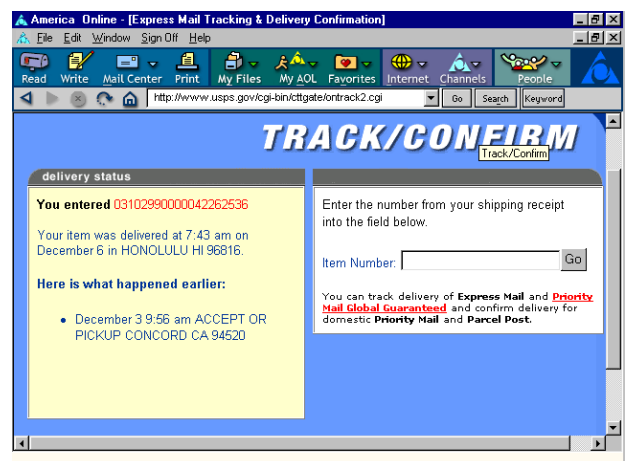
A few days later, I checked back to see if it had been delivered. Sure enough, the package was. In clicking a bar for more information, the window lists the tracking history. It notes that it took approximately three days to deliver the



**Figure 4 - Screen Shot of the USPS Delivery Confirmation Web Site**

package from San Francisco to Honolulu. **Figure 5** shows this part of the screen.

In conclusion, for a mere 35 cents, this appears



**Figure 5 - Tracking Information**

to be a pretty good add on service. Unfortunately, it is limited to priority and standard (B) mail. However, it does bring some peace of mind knowing that the item you sent is delivered.

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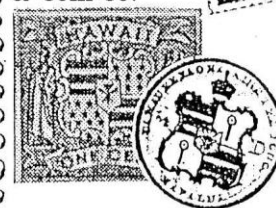
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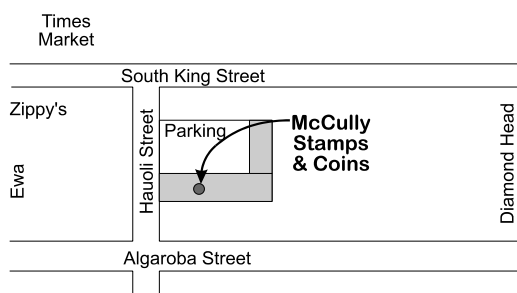
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# Fiji Millennium Stamps

Information from the Post Fiji web site ([www.stampsfiji.com](http://www.stampsfiji.com))



## Set of Four Fiji Millennium Stamps Released January 1, 2000

**F**iji is an island nation centrally placed in the mid-South Pacific, composed of more than 330 individual islands lying between longitudes 175 and 177 West and latitudes 15 and 22 South. Its multi-racial diversity and ethnicity, along with a warm climate and an even warmer welcome from its people, have long contributed to Fiji being a popular tourism destination.

Witnessing the first rays of sunshine of the new Millennium was cause for champagne corks to fly in a variety of locations, several challenging Fiji's claim to be the first such vantage point in the world. Fiji is the only easily accessible country to have the date line (the 180<sup>th</sup> meridian) running through some of its islands; for years, Fiji has proudly proclaimed that it is, literally, where each new day begins.

But the Millennium had to be more than a party. As the world made ready for 365 days of the Year 2000, Fiji sought to depict the spirit of the new century and one of the ways it did this was with the very special release of a series of eight stamps four artist's concepts of this intriguing island nation; four of which commemorate some of the country's endemic and unique flora and fauna.

Perhaps artist Jane Borg put it most succinctly: "I just wanted to show the world the harmony

that is Fiji... how the people here work together, reaching out as one and looking at a bright new future. I love this country because of its people, the inherent friendliness..." Her philatelic illustration depicts the outstretched hands of three of Fiji's most prominent races.

Artist Joe Nasau depicted a Fiji history linking the last century with the new one: a giant sailing canoe called a drua which aided these master mariners in covering the 650,000 square kilometres of ocean which makes up Fiji; and a warrior beating the ceremonial lali alongside a temple called the bure kalou. The lali is still used today, a call to prayer, to councils, as a greeting to visitors... and now as a greeting to the Year 2000.

Fourteen-year-old student of LDS Technical College, Myron Williams thought the country's flag best-illustrated the past and future of a nation which, as he depicted with a vibrant dateline, marks the dawning of not only a new day, but a new era.

### **ENDEMIC SPECIES**

Rich in bird and plant life seen nowhere else on earth, Fiji greets the new Millennium by giving special pride-of-place to four of its most remarkable endemic species, illustrated by Muni Deo Raj. Chosen were the national flower, the seldom-seen Tagimaucia; the Crested Iguana,



### Millennium Souvenir Sheet Featuring Endemic Species of Fiji

first discovered about two decades ago; Red or 'Sacred' Prawns found in only two Fiji pools; and the Fiji Petrel, a bird so rare it has been sighted live only once in the last 145 years!

The Tagimaucia (*Medinilla waterhousei*) - Fiji's national flower is rarely seen by anyone for two reasons: it grows only around Lake Tagimaucia in Taveuni and a lone mountain top in Vanua Levu, both area rugged and difficult terrain, and because, when not in flower, it is difficult to spot. But when it is in flower, the snow-white petals hanging from bright scarlet covers on this climbing vine are as bright and gaudy as a Christmas decoration. Little wonder, then, that a Fijian legend enhances the vines' heritage. The legend is a love story, of course, about a beautiful young girl betrothed to a wealthy but old man. When she runs away rather than marry, she becomes lost in the bush and falls asleep. When found, it was said that a beautiful red and white flower appeared wherever her tears touched the vine. Tagimaucia, in Fijian, translates as 'crying in your sleep'.

The Crested Iguana (*Brachylophus vitiensis*) is the most recently discovered of two Fiji iguanas, one banded, one crested. Discovered by Dr. John Gibbons in the early 1980s, the Crested

Iguana may have arrived in Fiji, at least in egg form, from South America, floating on current-carried vegetation. The large, bright green reptile has been found in large numbers on Yaduataba, an island off the coast of Vanua Levu. Sometimes a metre long in length, the iguana lives high in the branches of Yaduataba's trees, well camouflaged by its coloration. It is not aggressive - but has sharp claws.

Red Prawns (*Parhippolyte uveae*) probably exist in Fiji because their bright red colour created village superstitions, which promised shipwreck, even death to those

who were tempted to remove them. Called sacred prawns by Fijians (or 'ura buta' - cooked prawn - because of their colour) they are found in only two locations in Fiji: the island of Vatulele and Naweni Village on Vanua Levu. Both habitats are lava rock pools with salty, brackish water, near but not connected to the sea. In both locations, villagers need chiefly approval to approach the ponds, and both areas practice a solemn ritual of 'calling the prawns' to which the prawns seem to respond.

The Fiji Petrel (*Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi*) is perhaps the world's rarest bird. A naturalist on board 'HMS Herald' collected a single specimen from Gau Island in 1865, transporting its carcass to the British Museum. Fiji biologist Dr. Dick Watling, assisted by Ratu Filipe Lewanavanua of Gau, were convinced the bird was not extinct. In seven visits to the island and 61 days of combing its rugged terrain and dense rainforest, the two were rewarded with the capture, in April 1984, of a single adult Fiji Petrel which flew into their mist net, possibly in response to amplified calls of another island seabird. The Fiji Petrel, seen for the first time in 145 years, was photographed and released. Further searches proved fruitless, and the dark



chocolate-coloured bird with pale blue feet has never been sighted since.

Fiji greets the new Millennium with something almost as rare as it's featured endemic species: an offer of peace and tranquillity.



### Technical Details

<b>Title</b>	<b>Fiji Where The New Millennium Begins</b>
<b>Value</b>	<b>\$60.00 pack</b>
<b>Artists</b>	<b>Jane Borg, Joe Nasau, Myron Williams and Muni Deo RAJ</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Kim Gravelle</b>
<b>Printer</b>	<b>Southern Colour Print</b>
<b>Process</b>	<b>Offset Lithography</b>
<b>Stamp Size</b>	<b>35mm x 27.22 mm</b>
<b>Set</b>	<b>145 x 70mm</b>
<b>Stamp</b>	<b>50 (2 x 25)</b>
<b>Format</b>	
<b>Perforation</b>	<b>13.7 per 2cm</b>
<b>Gauge</b>	
<b>Paper</b>	<b>CA Watermarked</b>



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 DEALER BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE

# Potpourri

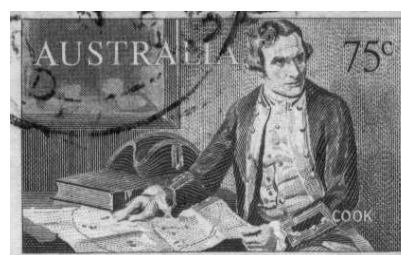
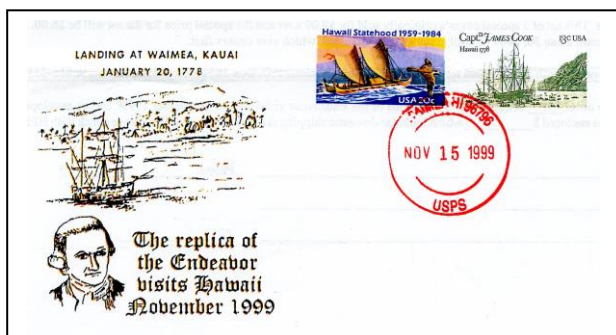
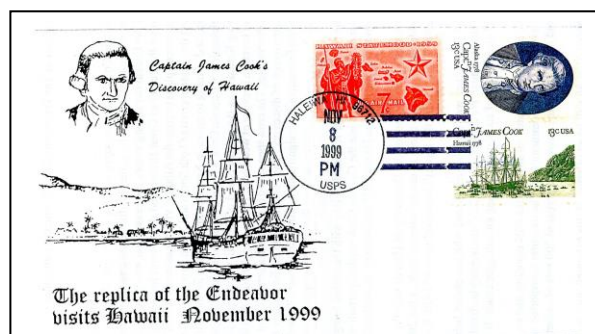
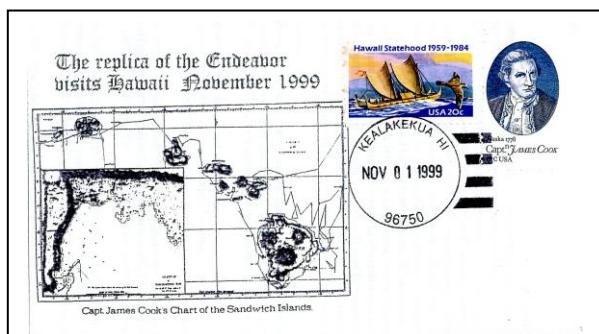
## Missing Break

In Fred Gregory's article on Honolulu Barred Ovals (No. 59, Page 9), the image shown on Figure 5 does not show a break to the circle. The following shows the break:



## Endeavour Visit Commemorative Covers

Three covers commemorate the visit by the replica of the HMS Endeavour. These are available through the Hawaiian Philatelic Society.



... IN THE

BEGINNING ...

# BAPTISM DAY

STAMP  
SIGNATURES

God hath already smiled upon each little child  
when He breathed into each, breath of life.  
It is God's greatest joy to create girl or boy,  
then loan Baby to man and his wife.  
God gives each Baby chance  
to grow strong and enhance  
human worth in a world  
full of woes.  
God commands man and wife  
to protect tiny life,  
and instruct about Truth  
as child grows.

... God creates  
girls and boys ...



15 FEB 1979

Because God consecrates every thing He creates,  
when a Baby is born "it is good."  
Mom and Dad have this loan of God's own flesh and bone  
to bring up in Right Way as they should.

... God teaches  
Higher Education ...



14 NOV 1962

Thus on Baptism Day  
man and wife come to pray  
for the knowledge and strength  
to do Right.  
And the child will be taught  
of the wonders God wrought,  
and will grow to be great  
in God's sight.

Little bundle of power gaining strength every hour,  
great potential at time of the birth.  
Tiny child represents part of God's Providence  
to establish His Kingdom on earth.  
In what way will child grow  
as the years come and go?  
Worldly path leads to  
sorrow and strife.  
But we all can rejoice  
in the alternate choice:  
Path toward God leads to  
Eternal Life.

... as the years  
come and go ...



21 MAY 1982

v/pwb jr 20 June 1987

11/17





## HAWAIIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

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