

# PO'OLEKA O HAWAII



The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society

Number 77

January 2004

# Quarterly Calendar of Collector's Events

## JANUARY 2004

01/047	Hawai'i Quarterly Stamp & Coin	Queen Kapiolani Hotel, 10AM - 4PM
01/13	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM - 9:30 PM
07/17	H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club	Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1PM – 3PM
01/20	Winward Oahu Philatelic Society	Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St., #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM
07/27	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Linda Starr's House, Honolulu, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

## FEBRUARY 2004

02/10	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM - 9:30 PM
02/14	H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club	Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1PM – 3PM
02/17	Winward Oahu Philatelic Society	Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St., #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM
02/24	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Linda Starr's House, Honolulu, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

## MARCH 2004

03/08	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM - 9:30 PM
03/13	H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club	Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1PM – 3PM
03/15	Winward Oahu Philatelic Society	Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St., #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM
03/22	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Linda Starr's House, Honolulu, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

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### PO'OLEKA O HAWAII

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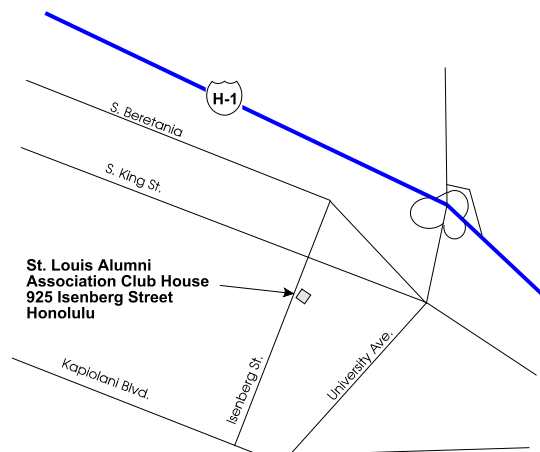
Articles and information for the publication should be sent to the Editor, C/O The Hawaiian Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 10115, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-0115 or by e-mail at GCHANG@ASTOUND.NET. Contact the editor for guidelines for preparing text and illustrations for submittal. It's easy to do.

Cover Illustration: Grinnell No. 19-20, 27, 43, 50-51 and 52-53

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## Monthly Meeting

The Hawaiian Philatelic Society meets from 7 PM to 9:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the St. Louis Alumni Association Club House in central Honolulu. Each meeting includes a short business session, a program or slide presentation and an auction of about 125 lots. 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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## Editor's Notes

By Greg Chang, Editor

Aloha! Happy New Year 2004.

As you may have noticed, this issue of the PO'OLEKA is a little thicker than normal. This is due to the good fortune of having an article written by Patrick Culhane, the great-great grandson of Charles Shattuck. Patrick writes about his findings about the mystery behind Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps. Part 1 is presented in this issue and Part 2 will follow in the April issue of the PO'OLEKA. Patrick is not a stamp collector. So, this will give us a different perspective in regards to the Grinnell Missionaries.

There are a couple of excellent websites that have further information on the Grinnells. First is the Post Office in Paradise – Lots of images and data. The other is from the National Postal Museum (part of the Smithsonian Institute). The websites are:

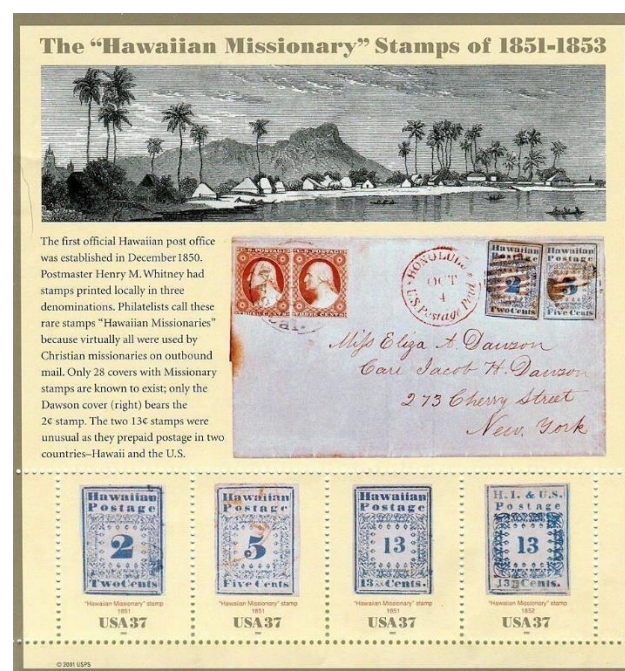
“[www.hawaiianstamps.com/mi\\_grinnell.html](http://www.hawaiianstamps.com/mi_grinnell.html)”  
and

“[www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/grinnell/index.htm](http://www.sil.si.edu/silpublications/grinnell/index.htm)”

Also in this issue are details for the latest release from the Hawaii Post which have released a set honoring the centenary of the first powered flight and the Chinese New Year 0 the year of the monkey. Plus details for the upcoming Pacific reef stamp pane.

Take care and the best of health to all. Until next time.....

Greg Chang  
Editor



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# ***Trail Of The Grinnells***

An Account of Discovery and 71 Hawaiian Missionary Stamps

by Patrick Culhane



This is a real-life detective story. The crime is theft. Not a theft of stamps, as one might expect, but of reputation. The story centers on whether a group of 71 stamps uncovered in 1918 really are - as a Los Angeles Superior Court judge declared in 1922 – philatelic forgeries and therefore “worthless pieces of paper”. Or are they genuine stamps of 1851 Hawaii – examples of the hand-printed, exceedingly rare and highly prized “Hawaiian Missionaries”? Hinging on the answer is a good deal of money, the reputations of stamps and families, and an important and romantic slice of Hawaiian postal history.

In February 2002 most of these stamps, widely thought to be forgeries, were submitted by their owners to one of the world’s pre-eminent authorities on the integrity of philatelic material, The Royal Philatelic Society London. The committee’s charge is daunting. They are to arrive at an opinion that if positive, would in one swoop add 71 stamps to the scant and highly valued 198 stamps accepted as genuine worldwide.

From a philatelic viewpoint, a positive opinion would almost certainly recognize the existence of a specific printing of the Missionaries that for 150 years has escaped the sanction of Hawaiian postal history and philatelic experts. David Beech, the Head of the Philatelic Collections of the British Library and President of the RPSL, has described the task of the Expert Committee as “the most important case of philatelic expertization in the history of the hobby”.

This is the story of the recent hunt for the truth about the 71 stamps that became known as the Grinnell Missionaries. It is not an exhaustive review of all of the accumulated evidence regarding the stamps, nor does it attempt to analyze all the opinions associated with them. It is, instead, a look at clues and the following of them – to enrich the facts that will serve as the light in which the stamps will forever be judged.

But first, we revisit how the stamps were granted their sorry reputation in the first place. That story begins in Los Angeles, in 1918.

## **The Find of the Hawaiians**

According to Mr. George Grinnell’s first hand account<sup>1</sup>, the find of the Hawaiian stamps occurred in June 1918. Grinnell visited a Mr. Charles Shattuck at his home in Los Angeles, at the referral of an acquaintance of Shattuck. A stamp collector and teacher, Grinnell asked Shattuck if he had any old stamps or family correspondence. Shattuck, then 79 years old, brought from his attic an old book of sermons, an envelope containing used stamps



removed from correspondence, and an old letter. Shattuck told Grinnell he had no interest in stamps and Grinnell was free to have them. Grinnell left with the stamps, thinking he had made a highly important find.



**The Shattuck family home at 1251 St. Andrews Place  
Los Angeles, California – circa 1920**

Grinnell kept the news of the find quiet for several months, but eventually developed an agency relationship with S. L. Wood, former compiler of McKeel's Postage Stamp Catalogue and a collector himself. Through Wood some of the 71 were viewed by local collectors Colonel Taylor and B. W. H. Poole, who purportedly after examination pronounced the stamps to be good.

Shattuck died in November 1919, shortly before Grinnell's sale of some of the stamps and the subsequent controversy over their character.

### **The Sale**

On December 3, 1919 Grinnell contracted to sell 43 of the 71 stamps for \$65,000 to New York stamp dealer John Klemann. The contract of sale was written on a sheet of paper by Klemann while Grinnell and Wood watched. Wood acted as Grinnell's agent. Klemann took possession of the stamps and soon in turn sold a portion of the stamps to noted collector Alfred Caspary. After some examination Caspary held the stamps to be forgeries, and revoked the sale. Klemann then sought to recover from Grinnell and called upon the U.S. Secret Service to seize the stamps as counterfeit. By the end of December Klemann had filed suit against Grinnell in Los Angeles Superior Court.

### **The Trial**

Klemann v. Grinnell was tried in May and June of 1922 in Los Angeles, the delay attributed to the backlog of cases at the time. The trial attracted considerable attention from the philatelic community and beyond. Collectors and experts lined up to testify on Klemann's behalf. They claimed that visual examination of the stamps as well as their postmarks and cancellations showed significant differences when compared to the handful of accepted<sup>2</sup>

stamps brought to the trial. Adding to Grinnell's troubles: Shattuck's adult son and daughter testified that their father could not have given Grinnell any old stamps, because all the old family belongings had been burned in a fire decades before.

Still, according to at least one first-hand account, Klemann's contention that the stamps were forgeries did not seem to persuade the judge. The stamps appeared to be *different* from the accepted stamps, but not necessarily forgeries. Manuel Galvez, a Spanish philatelist, asked Klemann's attorney if he could be allowed to prove the stamps forgeries. Late in the trial Galvez testified that they had been created through a photoengraving process, using genuine stamps as models<sup>3</sup>. The process, he contended, had left as remnants the peculiar typographic details observed on the stamps in question – details not observed on accepted Missionaries.

Grinnell's attorney Oscar Lawler apparently had no credible rebuttal prepared. Shortly after the completion of Galvez' testimony Judge J. Perry Wood sided with Klemann, declaring the stamps were not genuine Hawaiian Missionary Stamps, and accepted Klemann's argument that by referring to the stamps as 'Hawaiian Missionary Stamps' that an implied warranty had been conveyed<sup>4</sup>. The judge's findings, while based in civil law, were nonetheless supported by the philatelic views of the time. On the basis of the judge's opinion the Grinnell Missionaries have been since assumed to be forgeries<sup>5</sup>.

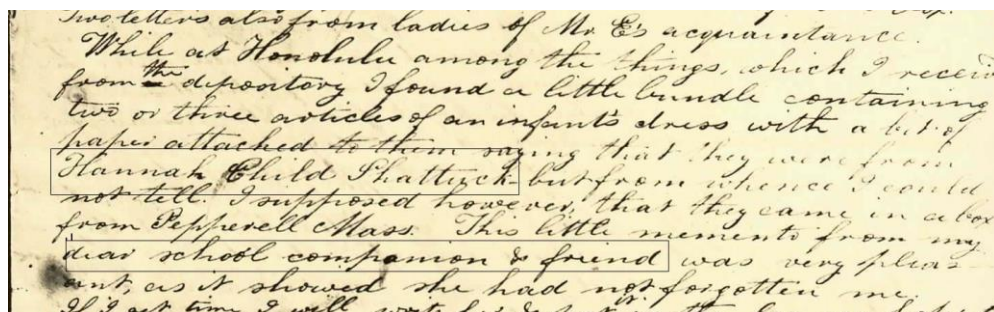
### Post-Trial Findings

A full year after the trial, in the summer of 1923, Shattuck's adult son Edward happened upon an old needlepoint sampler in their home. The sampler had been made by Charles Shattuck's late mother and dated to 1817. The discovery led the Shattucks to question the accuracy of their trial testimony that all old family belongings had been lost.

They searched the large family home thoroughly. They uncovered several other personal items dating from the 1850's and earlier, including family daguerreotypes. Convinced by the discoveries that Mr. Grinnell's story was true after all in November 1923 Edward Shattuck and Hana Robison, the adult children, executed sworn post-trial affidavits correcting their testimony and lending support to Mr. Grinnell's story of the find.

Grinnell clung to his belief in the stamps and for years attempted to overturn their reputation.

An important branch of his work was a search for any clue linking the Shattuck ancestors to Hawaii in 1851-1852. In 1924 his research yielded a critical fact: Charles Shattuck's mother, Hannah Child Shattuck, had been a childhood friend of a girl named Ursula Newell. Both girls were born in 1806 in Nelson, New Hampshire and the two had grown up together. Ursula went on to marry missionary John Emerson, part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Company of the Sandwich Islands Mission. The Emersons sailed to Oahu in 1832-1833, taking a post in Waialua, on the island's north shore. Grinnell's research in New England uncovered one of Ursula's journals, and an 1835 reference to the receipt of a package in Honolulu sent by Hannah Child Shattuck, her childhood friend. By then Hannah was living in Pepperell, MA.



Two letters also from ladies of Mr. E's acquaintance.  
While at Honolulu among the things, which I received  
from the depository I found a little bundle containing  
two or three articles of an infant's dress with a bit of  
paper attached to them saying that they were from  
Hannah Child Shattuck but from whence I could  
not tell. I supposed however, that they came in a box  
from Pepperell Mass. This little memento from my  
dear school companion & friend was very pleas-  
ant, as it showed she had not forgotten me.  
If I get time I will write her & put in the bundle what

Journal Entry of Ursula Emerson, dated 1835  
Found by George Grinnell through Oliver Emerson, 1924

Further, the handwriting on two pieces bearing stamps of the Grinnell find was thought by Oliver Emerson to be that of his parents Ursula and John Emerson respectively.

While Grinnell's research received considerable public attention<sup>6</sup>, the philatelic community remained unimpressed. In 1924, responding to Grinnell's publicity, John Klemann wrote for the American Philatelist "*It is not uncommon to affix counterfeit stamps to genuine letters and envelopes*".<sup>7</sup> While referring to old letters and handwriting, Klemann perhaps purposefully left unaddressed the more intriguing bit of evidence – that of a journal entry documenting correspondence between Mrs. Shattuck and Mrs. Emerson. And if, as implied, this relationship had been used solely to lend credence to the stamps, why had no one used the connection during the trial to bolster the case in support of them?

Grinnell's remarkable research, however, would come back to play a key role nearly 80 years later.

### **The Division**

The Shattuck adult children themselves died in the mid-1920s. Charles Shattuck's widow Elizabeth suffered from dementia. Responsibility for dealings with the matters concerning the stamps and with Mr. Grinnell fell to David Shattuck, Charles' eldest grandson.

Grinnell had long held that one day he would "get square" with Charles Shattuck's family. In 1927 the time had come. Then Grinnell still had 66 of the 71 stamps in his possession. David, who was 31 years old, and Grinnell met and - item by item - divided the find, with a law school friend as witness<sup>8</sup>. The Shattucks were re-united with 33 of the original 71 stamps. The interests of the families were, from this point, fully aligned.

### **Attempts at Rehabilitation**

Beginning in 1950 the Grinnell and Shattuck families cooperated with Herbert D. Sterling, a Southern California philatelist, in various efforts associated with rehabilitating the reputation of the Grinnells. Sterling had worked for about 2 years with Grinnell before his death in 1949, and thereafter became acquainted with David Shattuck, Charles Shattuck's eldest grandson and the family's representative. David was Treasurer of Technicolor Motion Picture Corporation at the time, and a busy man in his own right, and was willing to allow Sterling access to not only the stamps but also the various family 'relics', as he called them, that would assist those interested in the stamps.

Met with philatelic negativity at virtually every turn, Sterling was nonetheless a bulldog. In June 1951 he mounted an exhibition at HAPEx (Hawaiian Philatelic Exposition) displaying 12 of the Grinnells. Despite a wave of attention and a claimed 2000 visitors to his booth, the experience was tough going. In a letter written during the show to David Shattuck, Mr. Sterling wrote "*I have been cussed, discussed – and one man refused to shake hands with me – but I am still in the ring and they haven't brought in the guy yet that thinks he can throw me out*"<sup>9</sup>.

One visitor to his booth who *did* shake hands with him was George Linn, editor of Linn's Stamp News. The two men and their wives returned stateside together on a cruise, and Linn developed a deep interest in the stamps. By the time the ship arrived in San Francisco, Sterling had alerted Shattuck that Linn wanted to meet with him in Southern California before returning home. The relationship with Linn led to a series of newsletter articles focused on his views of the trial evidence and the further exposure of Grinnell's post-trial findings.

Viewed half a century later, Sterling's efforts seem to have emphasized contact with and acceptance by notable philatelic personalities over the development of substantive new facts. One such contact was philatelist Henry Meyer, co-author of "The Stamps and Postal History of Hawaii". In 1953 Sterling convinced Meyer to examine and evaluate the Grinnells.

One can infer from Meyer's conclusions a certain frustration. In a 1954 report Meyer wrote "*either the Grinnells*

*are all counterfeits, or every other copy in the world is a counterfeit*"<sup>10</sup>. His conclusion was based on differences in the apparent printer's typeface used to print the stamps, and the appearance of the ink color (both stamps and postmarks). He considered the possibility that the Grinnell stamps emanated from a separate printing of the Missionaries. Then he dismissed the notion as improbable given the find had been concentrated in one family. With no apparent evidence of an alternate printing of the Missionaries - other than the existence of the Grinnell stamps themselves - Meyer concluded in favor of the "accepted" stamps. The report was enough to discourage Sterling from continued pursuit. In a letter to David Shattuck, Sterling commented that as far as he was concerned, Meyer's report marked the "end of the trail".

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### **The Families Reopen the Case**

During each decade from the 1960's and the 1990's the families progressed the knowledge of the stamps in various ways. But it wasn't until 2000 that such efforts came together in a concerted way.

It was not burning philatelic interest that roped the present writer into a new chapter of this stamp saga. Rather, it was simply the 80-year-old family story – and mystery. It was my mother's great-grandfather – Charles Shattuck - who gave George Grinnell the 71 Hawaiian stamps. In 2000 I finally had some time on my hands for this effort. My aunt, Elizabeth Shattuck Johnson, had had custody of the Shattuck family's stamps and in the 1970's had devoted a sabbatical to their study. With a new generation interested in the hunt, she turned the stamps over to me. She also put me in touch with Mr. Grinnell's granddaughter Carol Arrigo, and her husband Vincent. An informal partnership of the two families soon developed.

We agreed it was time for modern technology to render clarity where there has been murkiness about the stamps and their character before. Old reports focused on visual inspection and drew conclusions with limited reference material. Ink and paper could now be analyzed with modern, non-destructive techniques to determine their components and suitability. Re-visiting the physical character of the stamps with modern means would not necessarily prove them genuine, but doing so could test long-held objections that had been developed based on visual inspection and anecdote.

Further, we hoped to discover historical facts that would illuminate the placement of the Grinnells, as they had become known, in Hawaiian postal history. It had long been assumed that the physical variations between the Grinnells and the accepted stamps could be explained by the notion of the Grinnells being vestiges of a yet unrecognized printing of the Missionaries. But the questions of Henry Meyer and others lingered. Why had all the known examples of such a printing become concentrated with one family – the Shattucks? Historical research might provide the answers.

### **Forensic Analysis**

The summer of 2000 brought contact with forensic document specialist and author James A. Blanco, a certified member of the American Board of Forensic Document Examiners. The proposition: First, determine if Manuel Galvez's theory - that the stamps had been produced through a photoengraving process - had any merit. Second, determine if the handwriting appearing on the reverse of stamps G-1<sup>11</sup> and G-2 matched the known handwriting of Ursula Emerson, from copies of letters written in 1835 and 1857. Third, determine if the handwriting on the reverse of stamp G-65 matched the known handwriting of her husband John Emerson.

In August I met with Mr. Blanco in Sacramento. After a brief discussion of the chain of events that brought old Hawaiian stamps to his office, he placed G-37, an unused 13¢ Grinnell under his stereo microscope.

"This was not photoengraved" was his quick evaluation, dismissing the technical basis on which the stamps had been sunk almost 80 years ago. He centered the microscope on the lower frame line of the stamp image, and





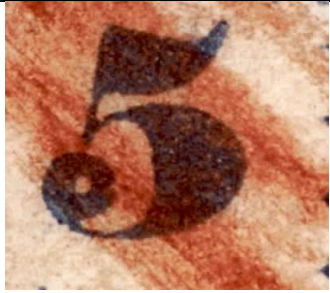

pointed out the “squeegee” effect of the ink begin forced to one side of the frame line – a characteristic “typographic effect”.



The "squeegee" effect – a “typographic effect”  
G-37 (Shattuck Collection)

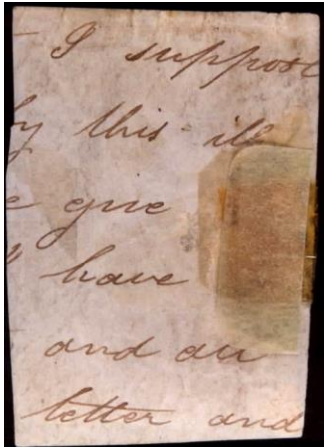
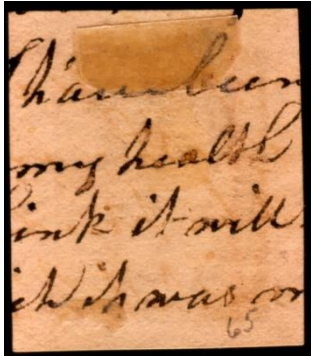
A photoengraving process, he explained, would leave its own characteristic remnants easily exposed under the scrutiny of such high magnification under fiber optic lighting. Those characteristics would include the appearance of a ‘grid’ over the image – the remnant of light passing through a screen filter used in the photographic process. There was no such grid. Manuel Galvez’ testimony – the elaborate thesis that tipped the scales in Klemann’s favor in the storied civil trial – was flat-out wrong. Blanco examined the other two stamps I had brought - G-28 and G-65, and reached the same conclusion.<sup>12</sup>

Blanco’s conclusion regarding the photoengraving theory was hardly a surprise to anyone who had carefully looked at the Grinnells and a sufficient number of accepted stamps. Such an examination quickly confirms that neither was derived from a photographic image of the other. The character of the typeface for certain design elements – e.g. the central numeral ‘2’ of the 2¢ stamp – is fundamentally different. The Grinnell has a curved ‘tail’ - in the accepted stamps the tail joins at a sharp upward angle, with no such curve. Clear differences are seen in the ‘5’ central numeral as well (see illustrations below). The Type II 5¢ value of the accepted stamps has a curiously small “n” in the word “Cents”. The same “n” is much larger in the Grinnells. There are numerous other examples.

Comparison of ‘2’ and ‘5’ Central Numeral Typeface Design Accepted and Grinnell Missionaries		
National Postal Museum 1-II-UNC-1	Prominent Differences in Design	Shattuck Collection G-7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Tail' of 2 (Grinnell, right) sweeps in a curve, versus an angular joining of the tail to the base</li> <li>• Bottom left of base is pointed (Grinnell) versus blunted (accepted)</li> </ul>	
National Postal Museum 2-I-CAN-35		Shattuck Collection G-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top of flag has 'hockey-stick' shape in accepted (left); smoother curve rising more gently to the right in Grinnells</li> <li>• Base of flag 'dips' to meet 'post' in accepted; rises in curve in Grinnells</li> </ul>	

The handwriting examinations consumed more time and much concentration. Blanco examined the reverse of the piece backing stamp G-65, comparing it to a photocopy of a letter written by John Emerson, obtained from missionary archives. The piece is small, approximately 1” x 1”, with only four very short lines of written script available for analysis. The examination was inconclusive. While the writing *could* be John Emerson’s, there were some characteristics that Blanco could not correlate to the letter sample. Additional known samples of John Emerson’s handwriting might, he said, enable a match.

Next he examined a photograph of the reverse of the piece backing stamps G-1&2, comparing it to the journal entry written by Ursula Emerson in 1835, and a letter, also obtained from missionary archives, written in 1857. The piece backing the two stamps is larger than the piece backing G-65, providing 6 lines of script. The samples showed a consistency not only in the apparent shape of letters but also a “swift” character to the handwriting that is far more subtle. Blanco pointed to the slant of the letters and simulated the fast hand movement required to produce them. His verdict was relatively prompt: we have a match.

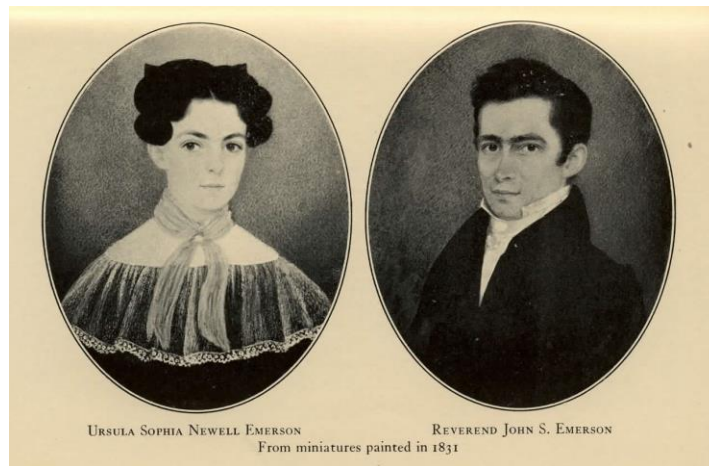
Handwriting on Reverse of Pieces Backing Grinnell Stamps	
G-1&2 (reverse) Courtesy Vincent and Carol Arrigo Grinnell Collection	G-65 (reverse) Shattuck Collection
	

Philatelists would be quick to point out that the confirmation of Ursula Emerson’s handwriting backing a stamp may not directly relate to the issue of authenticity. After all, a faked stamp can be affixed to an old letter or cover in order to enrich the cachet. Yet with the premise that the stamps *might* indeed be genuine, then the confirmation of the Emerson link can be viewed as another clue – one that if followed could lead to more knowledge about the origin of the stamps.

The clue, in this case, pointed clearly to John and Ursula Emerson. The road to the truth would most certainly pass through Oahu.

**To Hawaii**

*Pioneer Days in Hawaii* <sup>13</sup>by Oliver Emerson (1928) provides a vivid and moving picture of the lives of Oliver's parents, Ursula and John Emerson. It follows them from their childhood days in New England to their deaths in Hawaii, and in between describes the decades of development of the Congregational Mission in Hawaii. It also provides a rich account of the Emersons’ family life. I became aware of the book through Mr. and Mrs. Arrigo, and quickly located a copy.



**Ursula and John Emerson**  
Image from *Pioneer Days in Hawaii*

Given that Grinnell had already uncovered the friendship between Mrs. Shattuck and Mrs. Emerson, I read the book looking for *anything* that could point to a particular need for a good deal of correspondence between the women in the early 1850's. The Emersons' story was brought to life by colorful journal entries, often describing in detail the daily challenges of life in a far off land. Scattered between the journal entries are the Oliver Emerson's recollections of life growing up in Waialua – at the time an outpost on Oahu's north shore.

It was one such passage – a particularly painful one recalling the deaths of two of his brothers - that caught my attention and held it:

*“In 1849 came the first break in our family circle. My brother John, apparently a vigorous boy, died at the age of eleven of an affliction of the heart, and about three years later, my brother William, a fine boy of seventeen, became ill. In the hope that it would benefit him he was sent on a voyage with Captain Gelett, a wise, kindly friend, but the trouble was serious and he died at sea in July, 1852<sup>14</sup>.”*

There *had* to be a connection to William. Ursula Emerson and Hannah Shattuck were close friends. The Missionary stamps were issued in late 1851, and used for some years thereafter. Was William perhaps sailing back to the states for care? Was Ursula reaching out to friends to help in some way? Given the timing of the issue and use of the Missionaries, it seemed William's situation and the Grinnells might somehow be intertwined.

My sister Jolane Culhane is a professor of American history and knows the protocol associated with primary historical research. She also shares my passion for the stamps. In October 2000 she agreed to meet me in Honolulu to help research the Emersons and William.

Our plan was to examine any records possibly related to the Emersons in the various research institutions in Honolulu - the State Library, the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library, the State Archives, and the Bishop Museum archives. We also planned a thorough search of records pertaining to early Hawaiian postal history, particularly those coincident with Henry Whitney's tenure as first Postmaster and head of the Government Printing Office. It is known that the Government Printing Office, sharing facilities with The Polynesian newspaper, was the location of the printing of the Missionaries in 1851.

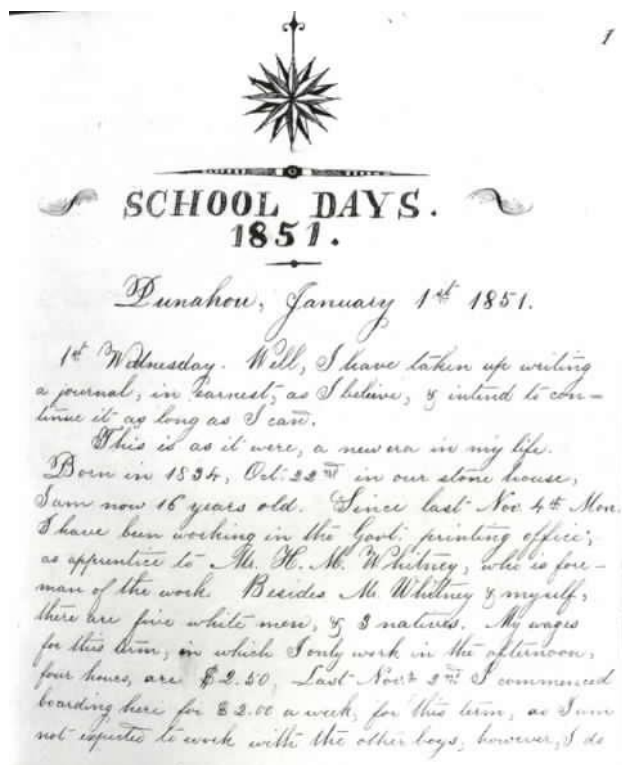
Our first stop was the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library, an important repository of correspondence and journal records of the Congregational Missionaries and their families. Following the clue provided by Oliver

Emerson's book, we wanted to examine anything related to William Emerson's illness and the voyage undertaken with Captain Gelett.

Just hours into the search I opened an old book entitled 'William Emerson's Last Journal'. A hand-drawn and intricate 'doodle' heads the first page. Underneath it, in beautifully handwritten script William Emerson, Ursula Emerson's then 16-year-old son, had penned the following stunning words:

*"School Days – 1851  
Punahou, January 1, 1851"*

*"... Since last Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. I have been working in the Gov't Printing Office; as apprentice to Mr. H. M. Whitney, who is foreman of the work. Besides Mr. Whitney & myself, there are five white men & 3 natives." 15*



**The first page of William Emerson's Last Journal, indicating William's employment as apprentice to Henry M. Whitney.  
Hawaiian Mission Children's Society Library.  
Used by permission.**

We had followed the William Emerson clue in the hope it would shed light on the circumstances of correspondence between Mrs. Emerson and Mrs. Shattuck. We had no idea it would lead us directly to the Government Printing Office of Honolulu, 1851.

With those two sentences pieces of the Grinnell puzzle finally started falling in place. How had Mrs. Shattuck come to have so many Missionaries - all appearing to be from a distinct but related printing? As it turns out, Mrs. Emerson's son worked as an apprentice under Henry Whitney in the very office where the Missionaries were printed in 1851.

The next days were spent gathering copies of many corroborating letters and delving further into William's personal story. The questions: How did he come to work at the Printing Office? Where was he at the approximate time of the issue of the Missionaries in late 1851? What were the circumstances of his death?

## William

The short life of William Emerson is described in his own journals and the letters of his family, friends and teachers. William was born in October 1834, the second son of the Emersons. Raised as a child in Waialua, he was educated as a teenager at Punahou School in Honolulu.

William's own writings reveal a sharp yet caring intellect combined with a thorough and detailed approach to matters of daily life. It was easy to read his accounts and to follow his progression from dutiful mission child to trusted hand in Honolulu's early post office.

Early letters evidence a fondness for correspondence and news. An 1848 letter to his older brother Samuel, then a student in New England, implores Samuel to reveal anything – including the smallest details - about life in the United States:

*"Could you remind my friends to write to me? Ask them to give a description of their homes, amusements, schools, etc. How they employ their time, and the surrounding scenery. Write to me about your voyage, when and where you landed, where you stopped, after you landed...Tell me all about it."*<sup>16</sup>

Later, in the same letter, overflowing curiosity gives way to serious thinking for someone not quite 14 years old, in a wish for the future:

*"Time flies away very fast. We will soon be men if we live, and have to engage in many duties and cares. Whether at work or study, or whatever we engage in let us both engage in it with earnestness".*

Another journal<sup>17</sup> tells of William meeting his future employer, Henry Whitney:

*"Jan 12, Sat (1850). I took breakfast at Mr. Clark's where I saw Mr. Henry Whitney & Mr. Samuel Ruggels. Mr. R. came here from California, and Mr. Whitney came round the horn, here to be editor of The Polynesian for the govt."*

William's interest in a printing career is first revealed in a letter from his teacher to Samuel dated October 11, 1850. Daniel Dole wrote:

*"Your brother William is thinking of becoming a printer. Mr. Whitney would like very much to have him with him in the Polynesian Office, and I think that your father favors the plan".*<sup>18</sup>

Just a month later, William was in Whitney's employ. He wrote to Samuel, with obvious pride:

*"I will now tell you something which may surprise you a little perhaps. I go down to the 'Polynesian' and work all the afternoon."*<sup>19</sup>

In the spring of 1851, William was occasionally working full days at the Printing Office and acquiring more responsibility in the Post Office, particularly when Henry Whitney was away<sup>20</sup>. During the next months, however,



William struggled with his health. Thinking the change to a more active environment might benefit his health, William left the Printing Office for work at the nearby Depository<sup>21</sup> (privatized in June, 1851 as Castle & Cooke<sup>22</sup>).

While at Honolulu's Punahou School in late September 1851 William wrote a letter to his mother in Waialua, advising of his continued health problems, but expressing his desire to stay at the Depository<sup>23</sup>. One week later, the Polynesian announced the availability of Hawaii's first postage stamps, in three denominations.

William's health declined in the fall. His parents were advised that he should be taken home to Waialua. By December William was back in Waialua, attempting to regain his health.

A letter from John Emerson to Samuel<sup>24</sup> describes what would be a fateful parental decision. In the hope that cooler, bracing air would be healthful for William, his father arranged for him to sail to the north Pacific on the whaler *Arctic*. The ship's captain was longtime family friend Captain Charles Gelett. William left Waialua for Honolulu at about noon on Monday March 15, 1852.

The *Arctic* sailed March 17, 1852 from Honolulu with William aboard. Months passed. In October 1852 the Emersons received a letter from Captain Gelett describing William's last days and finally his death and burial at sea on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1852<sup>25</sup>.

The timing of William's last months in Waialua (January, February and early March, 1852) corresponds to the dated postmarks among the Grinnells. The date of the last distinct postmark on a Grinnell stamp is March 15 (G-23) – the day William and his father left Waialua.

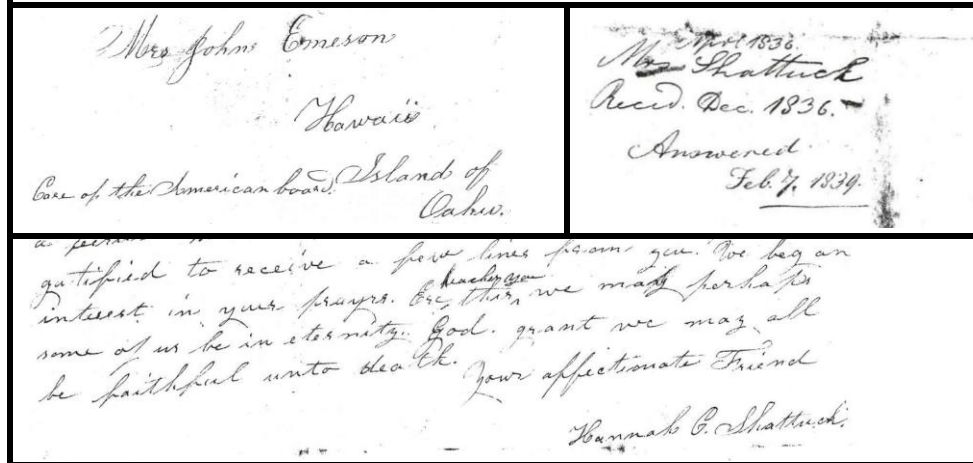


G-40 (Shattuck Collection)  
Postmark Dated March 14

### A Letter from Hannah

Our final research stop was Honolulu's Bishop Museum, whose archives house an extensive collection of Emerson family correspondence. One item found there was to have special significance. It is a letter written by Hannah Child Shattuck, Charles Shattuck's mother, to Mrs. Emerson in 1836<sup>26</sup>. It expresses Hannah's admiration for Ursula's work, and updates Ursula on events in Pepperell, MA and Nelson NH. Mrs. Emerson noted receipt of the letter and answered it. Earlier findings were limited to Ursula's references to Hannah. Now there was evidence of Hannah's writings to Ursula, and a first glimpse into Hannah's life, nearly 80 years after Klemann v. Grinnell.

Portions of letter from Hannah Child Shattuck (Pepperell, MA) to Ursula Emerson (Oahu) dated April 1836 – along with Mrs. Emerson's notation as to receipt (upper right section, below). Found October 2000 in The Bishop Museum Archives, P. Culhane



A few weeks later on a second trip I focused on the Bishop Museum's resources, reviewing and acquiring copies of a large number of additional letters pertaining to the Emersons. By the conclusion of both trips I had compiled an index referencing 23 pieces of correspondence acquired that related to William's role at the Government Printing Office, and the Emersons and their correspondence, including Mrs. Shattuck's letter. Adding to that were numerous notes taken from letters and journals that could not be photocopied due to their fragile nature. Further handwriting samples of John Emerson were also obtained to advance the study of the writing on the piece backing stamp G-65. Eventually, that handwriting would be certified as his.

I left Honolulu with the sense that the plausibility of an unrecognized printing of the Missionaries had been, for the first time, well established by historical findings. Given the links going back to the Printing Office, could there really be any doubt of the integrity of the Grinnells?

Yet the physical character of the stamps was critical to the case, and had not been fully addressed. Experts had long ago declared the stamps to be printed with ink tinted by aniline dyes not available until the 1870's. Similar arguments had been made regarding the postmarks, and the paper had been attacked as well. Were the experts right or were they wrong? We were about to find out.

- End of Part 1 -

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## About The Author

Patrick Culhane is the great-great-grandson of Charles B. Shattuck, the man who in 1918 gave 71 Hawaiian Missionary stamps to George Grinnell. Mr. Culhane holds a masters degree in statistics from Stanford University. Over a 15-year career at Fair Isaac Company he developed the industry-leading measures of consumer credit evaluation known as FICO ® scores. Today, when not working on research related to the Grinnells, he serves on corporate and non-profit boards, and provides consumer credit marketing advisory services to a leading financial services institution.

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- <sup>1</sup> George H. Grinnell, "Mr. Grinnell's Story of the Hawaiian Missionary Stamps" October 15, 1925, Shattuck family files.
- <sup>2</sup> The word *accepted* will be used as a general term for Hawaiian Missionaries thought to be genuine. This use is not meant to cast doubt on their integrity, but merely recognizes that some Missionaries have not been certified as genuine by philatelic experts.
- <sup>3</sup> Letter, Manuel Galvez to George W. Linn, September 14, 1951, private correspondence, Shattuck family.
- <sup>4</sup> John A. Klemann, *The American Philatelist*, "Res Adjudicata", Nov 1924: "Findings of Fact".
- <sup>5</sup> Henry A. Meyer, et al., *Hawaii, It's Stamps and Postal History*, (New York: The Philatelic Foundation: 1948), p. 117-121.
- <sup>6</sup> "Postage Stamp Romance with Wealth at the End", *The Boston Globe*, August 3, 1924.
- <sup>7</sup> John A. Klemann, *The American Philatelist*, "Res Adjudicata", Nov 1924: Initial page.
- <sup>8</sup> "Strong Box Mystery – Value of 33 stamps--- \$100,000 or nothing", *Los Angeles Times*, March 19, 1959.
- <sup>9</sup> Letter, Herbert D. Sterling to David S. Shattuck, June 29, 1951, private correspondence.
- <sup>10</sup> Henry A. Meyer, "Condensed Report on the Grinnell Missionaries", July 20, 1954, included in private correspondence.
- <sup>11</sup> Grinnell stamps will be referred to throughout by their catalog numbers (e.g. G-6), assigned by George Grinnell and published by George W. Linn.
- <sup>12</sup> James A. Blanco, "Report of Findings Re: Grinnell Missionary Stamps", April 10, 2001.
- <sup>13</sup> Oliver P. Emerson, *Pioneer Days in Hawaii* (New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1928).
- <sup>14</sup> Oliver Emerson's recollection as to William's date of death, as it turns out, was off by a few months - William Emerson died in April, not July 1852.
- <sup>15</sup> William S. Emerson, "William S. Emerson's Last Journal" Archives, Hawaiian Mission Children's Society (HMCS) Library.
- <sup>16</sup> Letter, William S. Emerson to Samuel N. Emerson, October 12, 1848, Archives, Bishop Museum: MsGrp 125 Box 2.11 Emerson Collection.
- <sup>17</sup> William S. Emerson, "Private Journal and Account Book 1848-1852", Archives, HMCS Library: "Children of the Mission: Emerson, Wm. S.".
- <sup>18</sup> Letter, Daniel Dole (Punahou, Oahu) to Samuel N. Emerson (Nelson, NH), October 11, 1850, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, Emerson Collection, D. Dole.
- <sup>19</sup> Letter, William S. Emerson (Punahou) to Samuel N. Emerson, November 15, 1850, Archives, HMCS Library: "Children of the Mission; Emerson, Wm. S.".
- <sup>20</sup> "William S. Emerson's Last Journal", Archives, HMCS.
- <sup>21</sup> Letter, John S. Emerson to Samuel N. Emerson, April 6, 1852, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, box 1.9 Emerson Collection.
- <sup>22</sup> Bradford Smith, *Yankees in Paradise – The New England Impact on Hawaii* (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1956), p. 311.
- <sup>23</sup> Letter, William S. Emerson to Ursula Emerson, September 27, 1851, Archives, HMCS Library, "Children of the Mission, Emerson, Wm. S.".
- <sup>24</sup> Letter, John S. Emerson to Samuel N. Emerson, April 6, 1852, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, box 1.9 Emerson Collection.
- <sup>25</sup> Letter, Charles W. Gelett to John S. Emerson, April 25, 1852 (received October 1852), Archives, HMCS Library, "Children of the Mission, Emerson, Wm. S.".
- <sup>26</sup> Letter, Hannah Child Shattuck to Ursula Emerson, April 7, 1836, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, box 4.1 Emerson Collection.

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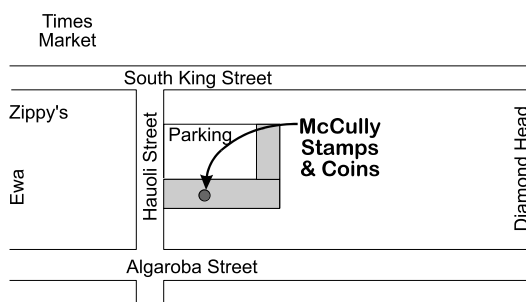
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# Hawai'i Post Recent Releases

Information from Hawai'i Post website [www.hawaii-post.com](http://www.hawaii-post.com)

## Centenary of the First Powered Flight

Three stamps and a mini-sheet were issued on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2003 to celebrate the centenary of the first powered flight.

Much has been written about the Wright Brothers first powered flight on December 17, 1903 at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk in North Carolina, U.S.A. Their four successful flights on December 17, 1903 dramatically change the world especially as far as tourism and the military is concerned. Although these stamps issued by Hawai'i Post celebrate the centenary of powered flight, they are more about how airplane flight has affected the Hawaiian Islands.



The \$2 stamp pays for extra charges, such as additional weight. It shows the Curtiss biplane Model D, very similar to the Curtiss P18 piloted by J.C. Bud Mars for the first powered flight in Hawai'i. The Curtiss biplane was sent to Hawai'i from California in pieces as freight via a ship and then re-assembled in Honolulu. Bud Mars took off from Moanalua Polo Field (just west of Honolulu at 2:30pm on Saturday December 31<sup>st</sup> 1910. He made a series of four flights which consisted of loops, taking off and landing each time at the Moanalua Polo Field. After the first loop, the biplane was officially christened the "Honolulu Skylark"

with a bottle of Champaign. An estimated 3,000 Hawaiians watched the spectacle (many paying \$1 for the privilege) which made headline news in the "Honolulu Advertiser" the next day.



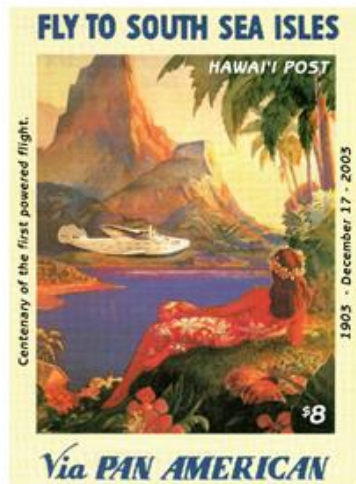
The \$5 stamp prepays the Overnight rate. It shows a McDonnell-Douglas DC-10 operated by Air Hawaii in 1985. Although the airline did not last long, it is typical of the kind of tourist jet that services Hawaii every day by many different airlines from all over the world.



The \$8 stamp prepays the Same Day rate. It shows the supersonic Concorde jet just after taking off and before retracting its landing gear and raising its nosecone for the supersonic flight. Before it ceased flying in 2003, the Concord made several trips to and from Hawai'i, but not as a regularly scheduled flight. The stamp celebrates the supersonic jet's arrival at the Kailua-Kona Airport on the Big Island in 1996 on its way



around the world. Affluent passengers paid about \$60,000 for each round-the-world ticket. It was the Big Island's first visit by a supersonic jet.



The \$8 mini-sheet prepays the Same Day rate. It shows a colorful art-deco poster originally drawn by artist P.G. Lawler for Pan American Airways in the late 1930's. It promoted their clipper flying boats to Hawai'i and the Pacific. It shows a wahine watching the landing of a Boeing B-314 flying boat on a lagoon somewhere in the Pacific. The mountain peaks are more like those on Moorea in the French Polynesia than Hawai'i, although Pan-Am never flew there. In 1939, the round-trip airfare from San Francisco to Hawai'i was about \$500 – a lot of money back then which on the very rich could afford. The last clipper flight was on April 8, 1946 from Honolulu to San Francisco. After the clippers, Pan-Am used more economical land-based aircraft. Until its demise, Pan-Am was one of the airlines that helped the dramatic development of Hawai'i as a tourist destination.

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**Chinese New Year – The Year of the Monkey**

The Chinese Lunar New Year dates from 2600 BC, when Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first cycle of the zodiac. The Chinese lunar calendar is a yearly one, with the start of the lunar year being based on the cycles of the moon. Because this cycle fluctuates, the beginning of the year can fall anywhere between late January and the middle of February. In 2004, the Lunar New Year falls on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

People born in the Year of the Monkey are usually very successful. They are very ambitious, and if they cannot get started immediately, they become discouraged and sometimes abandon projects. Good at making decisions, they tend to look down on others. They have a deep desire for knowledge and have excellent memories. They are strong willed but their anger cools quickly.

Famous people born in the Year of the Monkey include: Lord Byron, Julius Caesar, George Lucas, Omar Sharif, Elizabeth Taylor, Harry S. Truman & Leonardo da Vinci.

Two stamps will be issued on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2002 to celebrate the Year of the Monkey. They depict two different views of Chinatown, Honolulu. Unlike many other stamp issuing entities, Hawai'i has a substantial percentage of the population who are of Chinese descent. Consequently, Chinatown in Honolulu is much larger compared to many other cities on the mainland.

猴



The \$5 Stamp shows a modern street scene in Chinatown, Honolulu.

The \$8 stamp shows the Manuakea Marketplace, Chinatown, Honolulu.

Both stamps are from current photographs taken recently.



The first day issue postmark is shown above.

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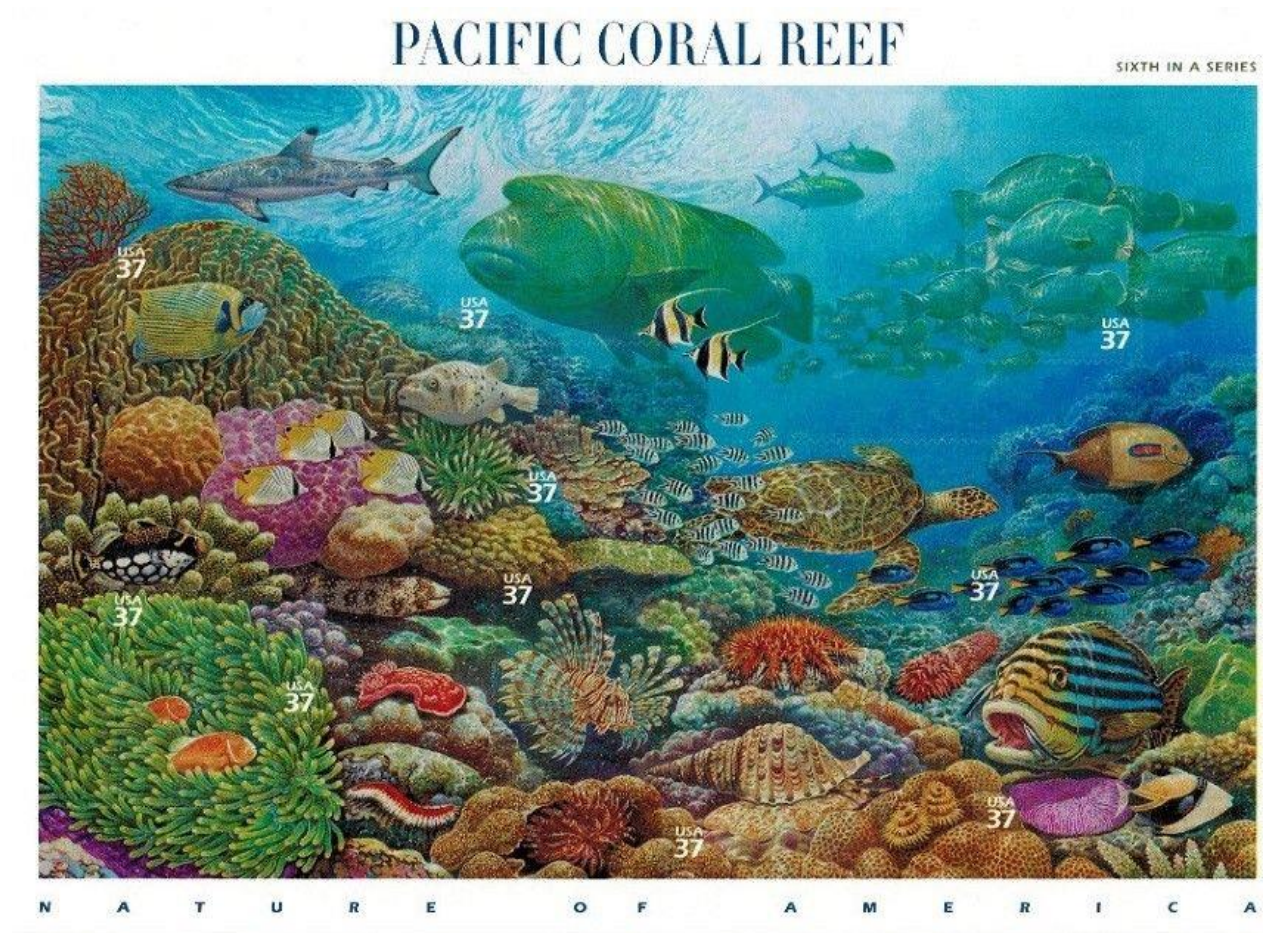
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## Pacific Reef Stamps

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On January 2, 2004, the U.S. Postal Service will issue a pane of stamps depicting life along a Pacific coral reef. Postmaster General John E. Potter will introduce the pane of 10 – 27 cent stamps during a first day of issue ceremony at the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu.

The new stamps will provide a glimpse beneath the water's surface of life on a Pacific coral reef. Some of the sea life that include Clown Triggerfish, Sea Anemone, Reef Blacktip Shark, Emperor Angelfish, Snowflake Moray Eel, Lionfish, Triton's Trumpet, Hawksbill Turtle, Crown-of-thorns Sea Star, and many varieties of coral.

The pane is based on a painting by artist John D Dawson of Hilo, Hawaii. He illustrates a typical coral reef of the western Pacific Ocean near Guam that includes more than 30 different marine animals. Test on the back of the pane identifies 27 species of animals, fish, and invertebrates.

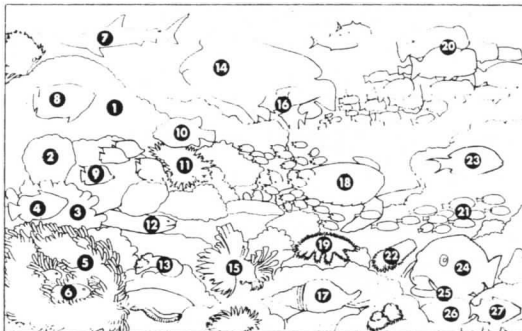
The Pacific Coral Reef stamp pane is the sixth in a series of stamps that promote appreciation of major plant and animal communities and is the first to show the complexity and beauty of an aquatic ecosystem. Previous issues in the series were Sonoran Desert, Pacific Coast Rain Forest, Great Plains Prairie, Longleaf Pine Forest, and Arctic Tundra. Further information can be found on the U.S. Postal Service's website at [www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov).

# PACIFIC CORAL REEF

Coral reefs and their surrounding waters are complex ecosystems supporting thousands of different life forms. But like the biologically rich rain forests of the tropics, they are also fragile realms, sensitive to temperature changes, and highly vulnerable to human activities that exploit their resources.

Reefs can stretch for miles in the clear, shallow waters of the tropics and subtropics. Built up primarily by coral polyps, tiny organisms that secrete calcium carbonate, these massive structures protect the shores of nearby landmasses from wave-induced erosion while providing food and shelter for countless creatures.

The stamp pane depicts a coral reef near Guam, a United States territory in the western Pacific Ocean. In this scene, a large humphead wrasse eyes its neighbors as a blacktip shark prowls in the distance. Meanwhile, a spectacular lionfish—one of many reef dwellers characterized by elaborate patterns and bright colors—forages among the coral for shrimps, crabs, and small fish.



- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Blue Coral<br><i>Heliopora coarctata</i>                | 10. Black-spotted Puffer<br><i>Arothron nigropunctatus</i> | 19. Crown-of-thorns Sea Star<br><i>A. centrotus planci</i>    |
| 2. Mound Coral<br><i>Porites</i> sp.                       | 11. Staghorn Coral<br><i>Acropora</i> sp.                  | 20. Bumphead Parrotfish<br><i>Balbonetopon muricatum</i>      |
| 3. Antler Coral<br><i>Pocillopora eydouxi</i>              | 12. Snowflake Moray Eel<br><i>Echidna nebulosa</i>         | 21. Palette Surgeonfish<br><i>Paracanthurus hepatus</i>       |
| 4. Clown Triggerfish<br><i>Balistodes conspicillum</i>     | 13. Spanish Dancer<br><i>Hemirhamphus sanguineus</i>       | 22. Prickly Red Sea Cucumber<br><i>Thaliaster ananias</i>     |
| 5. Magnificent Sea Anemone<br><i>Heteractis magnifica</i>  | 14. Humphead Wrasse<br><i>Chelinus undulatus</i>           | 23. Orangeband Surgeonfish<br><i>Acanthurus olivaceus</i>     |
| 6. Pink Anemonefish<br><i>Amphiprion perideraion</i>       | 15. Lionfish<br><i>Pterois volitans</i>                    | 24. Oriental Sweetlips<br><i>Plectropterus volitans</i>       |
| 7. Reef Blacktip Shark<br><i>Carcharhinus melanopterus</i> | 16. Moorish Idol<br><i>Zanclus cornutus</i>                | 25. Bluestreak Cleaner Wrasse<br><i>Cybaeoides dimidiatus</i> |
| 8. Emperor Angelfish<br><i>Pomacanthus imperator</i>       | 17. Triton's Trumpet<br><i>Tridacna</i> sp.                | 26. Mushroom Coral<br><i>Clavularia</i> sp.                   |
| 9. Threadfin Butterflyfish<br><i>Gobiodon aureus</i>       | 18. Hawksbill Turtle<br><i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>      | 27. Wedge Picassofish<br><i>Rhinocentrus rectangulus</i>      |

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The U.S.P.S. held the First Day of Issue for the **Pacific Coral Reef** souvenir sheet at the Waikiki Aquarium on January 2, 2004. The Society put together a last minute First Day Cover (actually 65 lb card cover piece, 8½" x 11") to contain the souvenir sheet (6¾" x 9¼") with an appropriate cachet. Only 100 of these full size FD's were prepared. As a special offer to H.P.S. members as long as supplies last, the FD cards are priced at \$10.00 each or two for \$15.00. Each FD card will include the backing paper from the souvenir sheet for identification of the depicted corals and fishes. Mail payment to the H.P.S., P.O. Box 10115, Honolulu, HI 96816-0115.



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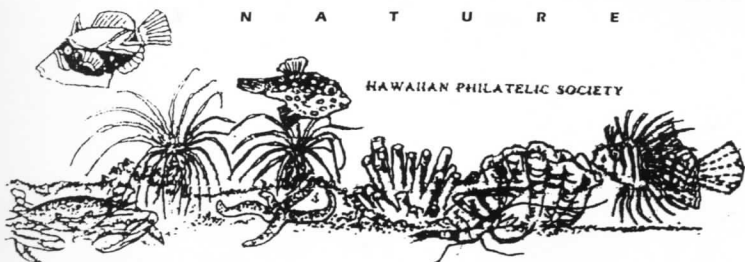


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