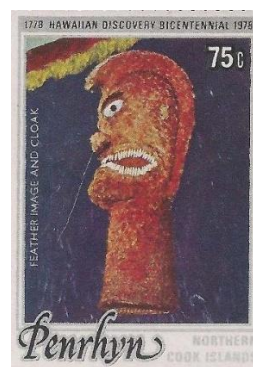
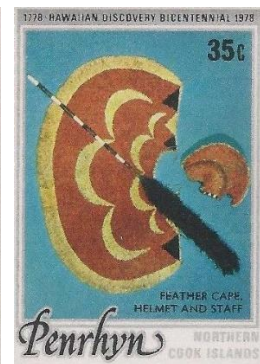
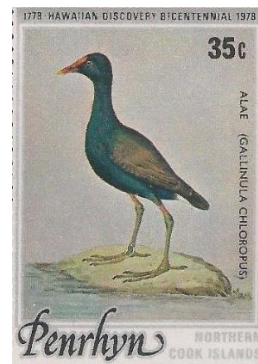
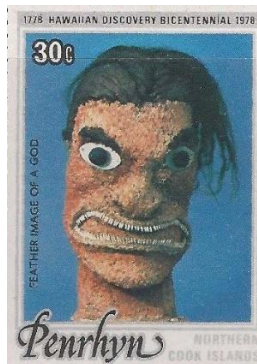
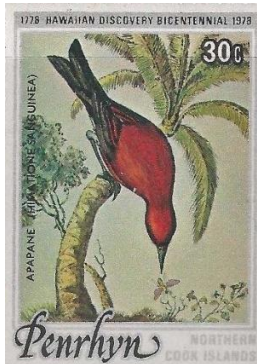
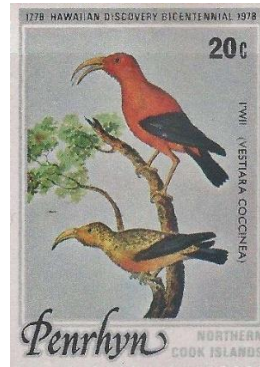


# PO'OLEKA O HAWAII



The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society

Number 74

April 2003

# Quarterly Calendar of Collector's Events

## APRIL 2003

04/13 Hawai'i Quarterly Stamp & Coin  
 04/14 H.P.S. Regular Meeting  
 04/19 H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club  
 04/21 Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.  
 04/28 H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting

Queen Kapiolani Hotel, 10AM - 4PM  
 St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM – 9:30 PM  
 Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1 PM - 3 PM  
 Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St, #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM  
 Wayne Yakuma's House, Kialua, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

## MAY 2003

05/10 Mini H.S.N.A Bourse  
 05/12 H.P.S. Regular Meeting  
 05/17 H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club  
 05/19 Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.  
 05/26 H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting

Washington Intermediate School 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
 St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM – 9:30 PM  
 Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1 PM - 3 PM  
 Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St, #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM  
 Wayne Yakuma's House, Kialua, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

## JUNE 2003

06/09 H.P.S. Regular Meeting  
 06/14 H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club  
 06/14 H.S. & C.D.A. Bourse  
 06/16 Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.  
 06/23 H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting

St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM – 9:30 PM  
 Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1 PM - 3 PM  
 Richards St. Y.W.C.A. 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
 Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St, #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM  
 Wayne Yakuma's House, Kialua, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

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Editor Greg Chang

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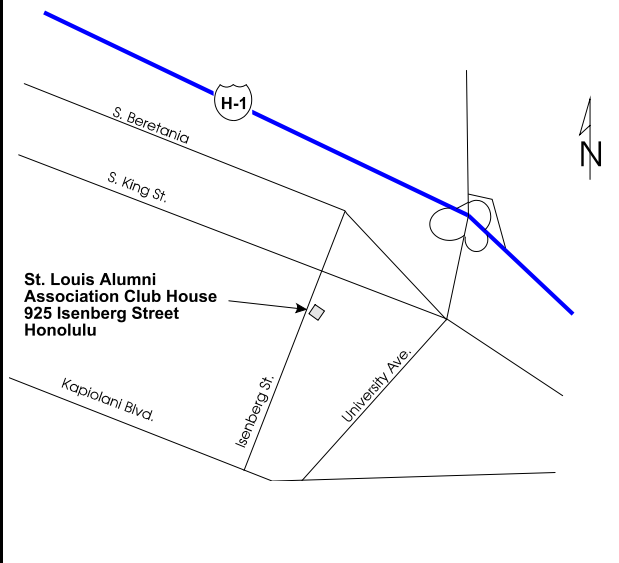
Articles and information for the publication should be sent to the Editor, C/O The Hawaiian Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 10115, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-0115 or by e-mail at [GCHANG@ASTOUND.NET](mailto:GCHANG@ASTOUND.NET). Contact the editor for guidelines for preparing text and illustrations for submittal.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

Cover Illustration: Penrhyn 93-100

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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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# PO'OLEKA O HAWAII

The Quarterly Journal of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society

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Number 74

January 2003

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## Editor's Notes

By Greg Chang, Editor

E. Komo Mai! This issue marks the completion of my 5<sup>th</sup> year as editor of the PO'OLEKA. Many thanks for your past support and contribution to our publication.

Once again this issue has a couple of articles that are borrowed from the American Philatelic Society's Chapter Activities Committee's Website. The first chronicles the changeover of Hong Kong from British rule to Chinese rule. The second article depicts three Atlantic Islands – Ascension, St. Helena, and Tristan Da Cunha.

Recent sea creatures stamps from Tin Can Island are described in the following article. Similar cephalopods can be found off the waters of Hawai'i.

Details of the recent releases from the Hawai'i Post. A couple of subjects are honored – the first commemorates the Oahu Railroad. Like many abandoned railroad right-of-ways around the country, they are being converted to hiking and biking trails. The Hawaiian Railway Society still runs trains on the weekends.

To close out this issue, the potpourri section has a few covers with some questions.

Once again, many thanks for our past support. As always, any contribution to the PO'OLEKA you can make are always welcomed –

especially *articles*.

Until Next time...

**Greg Chang**  
Editor



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## What's Inside

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# Hong Kong's Philatelic Days of Thunder

By Tom Fortunato, [stampm@frontiernet.net](mailto:stampm@frontiernet.net)

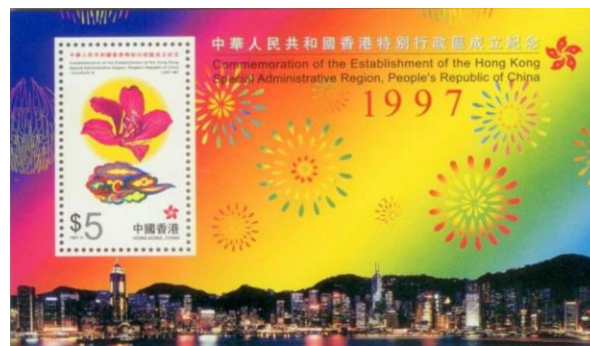
Chariman, APS Chapter Activities Committee

(Reprinted from the APS Chapter Activities Committee Website [www.stamps.cog/CAC](http://www.stamps.cog/CAC))

The last few days of independent Hong Kong were a philatelic once-in-a-lifetime opportunity or a nightmare, depending on one's point of view. The "thunder" came from collectors and speculators alike lining up at 22 post offices for the latest stamp issues.



Above is the last philatelic issue from British Hong Kong. This souvenir sheet was sold only between the hours of 8-2 on June 28. Although difficult to see, it bears the royal cypher of QEII, making it invalid for postage by 12:01 AM on July 1, the time of the official transfer of the territory to China. The special postmark was available on a hand-back basis for collectors July 28 at all post offices and July 29-30 at special philatelic branches. There was a limit of 10 per person for this sheet.



The first issues of Chinese Hong Kong were spawned on July 1 along with the commemorative postmark (if desired) depicted here. It, too, bore a HK \$5 stamp in a souvenir sheet, worth about US 65 cents at face value. Only 20 souvenir sheets per person could be purchased. Six additional stamps of various denominations were also on sale.

Hong Kong stamps continue to be popular throughout the Far East, especially in its new motherland, China. With a bustling secondary market for new Hong Kong issues, often at rates of 5-10 times face value, is it any wonder that the Hong Kong Post Office warned patrons that stamp values can eventually go down as well as up?

By the way, the entire Hong Kong region received torrential rains for more than a week after their day in the spotlight. Hope all collectors there are storing their treasures in a dry place! Happy stamping!

## Luxury of Travel (Islands of the South Atlantic)

By JACK Searles, searles@eznet.net

Published in the Olean Stamp Club Newsletter, APS Chapter 1442

(Reprinted from the APS Chapter Activities Committee Website [www.stamps.cog/CAC](http://www.stamps.cog/CAC))



Recently, I had a convergence of thoughts. While driving along, enjoying the freedom of movement and travel, I was thinking about the purchase of stamps I recently made for 25% of catalogue value. My mind began to wander and my creative thoughts began to flow.

You know, we are lucky. If you or I want to travel to another state or city or town we simply hop in our cars and away we go. This is truly a wonderful luxury that does not occur in many parts of the world. One of those places where this luxury of travel does not occur as regularly as here in New York State, is Tristan da Cunha.

Tristan da Cunha is a remote, almost circular island in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean discovered by the Portuguese explorer Tristao da Cunha in 1506. Tristan was formally annexed by the British during August of 1816. It has a whopping population of about 300 souls.

This island is the largest island in the Tristan group, composed of a series of smaller uninhabited islands, named Nightingale, Inaccessible, Middle and Stolenhoff, respectively. So what about the freedom of movement on Tristan? Well, the Royal Mail Ship St. Helena calls at Tristan only once per year, on its January/February voyage. Of course, that's the summer season for them. According to reports, the RMS St. Helena only stays for two to three days per year, during which passengers get ashore only if the weather is obliging.

But this is not the end of my story because you see, Tristan da Cunha is a dependency of St. Helena. St. Helena was also first claimed by a Portuguese navigator. He was Juan da Nova Castella, sighting land on May 21, 1502. The island was named for Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. After its discovery, this island was used by the Portuguese as a fresh water stop for their fleets returning from the East Indies.

During this time, its location was a closely kept Portuguese secret, until 1588 when '

the English navigator Thomas Cavendish located the island. The secret was out! From that year forward the island was intermittently used by the Portuguese, English and Dutch. In 1633, the Dutch formally annexed the island but did not occupy it. Occupation of the island had to wait until May, 1659 when the English East India Company claimed the island under a charter from Charles II. The first inhabitants of the island were company employees, English settlers and slaves from South Asia, the East Indies and Madagascar.

Still unable to place St. Helena? Well it is actually quite famous! You see, Napoleon was exiled to this land in 1815. With this famous dignitary came a large garrison of British soldiers and naval ships on constant patrol in case of a rescue attempt. When Napoleon died in 1821, almost all of the garrison was withdrawn.

But St. Helena has been visited by many other dignitaries, like Charles Darwin in 1836 on the homebound leg of his voyage on the Beagle. Dinizulu, the son of Cetwayo of Zulu War fame, and his entourage were confined on the island, as were 6,000 Boer prisoners of war during the Boer War.

With its up and downs, St. Helena survives with a current population of 5,800 individuals. The island economy has become almost totally dependent upon a single commodity, New Zealand flax, used as ropes and string. St. Helena is also serviced by the RMS St. Helena.

While this has all been interesting- to me at least- it is still not where I want to be. Rather my destination is another dependency of St. Helena located almost exactly in the middle of the South Atlantic, namely Ascension Island. Like St Helena, Ascension was first spotted in 1501 by Juan da Nova Castella, but the finding went unrecognized. The official discovery of this island had to wait

for Alfonso d'Albuquerque, who in 1503 rediscovered the island on Ascension Day.

Currently, this island has a population of about 1,350 individuals, of which 850 are St. Helenians, 100 Americans and 350 are British (165 of which are members of the Royal Air Force). Both the US and British Air Forces maintain a presence on this island.

So what does this have to do with stamps? Well, it was a wonderful deal on Ascension Island stamps at 25% of catalogue value that sent me on this trek. After all, you can't own Ascension Island stamps and not know where it is located- can ya??!! Well, look for it in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean, almost exactly between South America and Africa, far off the coasts of Brazil and Angola, respectively.

Now that we have arrived at Ascension Island, what about its philatelic history? Well, the stamps of Great Britain, stamps in values ranging from 1/2d to 1s were used on Ascension Island prior to 1922. In that year, Ascension Island became a dependency of St Helena, and stamps of St. Helena overprinted "Ascension Island" were used for postage. Since the end of World War II, Ascension Island has participated in all the colonial omnibus issues.

All told, my catalogue tells me that through 1994 this island has issued a total of 574 commemorative and regular issue stamps, plus 6 postage due stamps. There is only one post office on the island, located in the town of Georgetown. Flora, fauna, and historical events are common themes on these very collectable British Commonwealth stamps.

Oh- and guess what? You can visit Ascension Island via the R.M.S. St. Helena which makes its rounds annually. So much for the luxury of travel!



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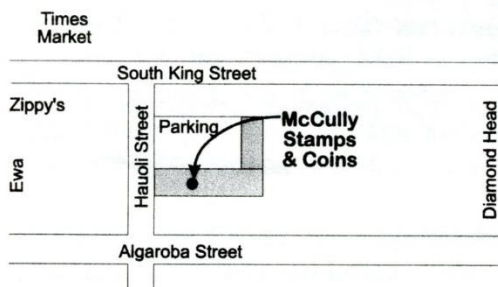
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## Niuafo'ou Mysterious Marine Creatures - Cephalopods

Information from the Tongan & Niuafo'ou website at [www.nzstamps.com/nzstamps/agencies/tonga/tonga\\_homepage.htm](http://www.nzstamps.com/nzstamps/agencies/tonga/tonga_homepage.htm)

As part of their focus on the wide variety of marine life around the islands of the Kingdom, Tong Post added Cephalopods to the 2001 Flight of the Fish issue, as Part II in the series (See PO'OLEKA Issue, #65, Page 7). The first day of issue was on July 25, 2002. The set consists of three stamps and a souvenir sheet.




**80 sentiti Octopus *Octopus vulgaris*** – Probably the most studied species of octopus, this distinctive cephalopod is found on rocky coastlines in tropical and subtropical waters. This octopus has adapted to live in very different habitats and lays approximately 250,000 eggs, which hatch out into planktonic offspring.


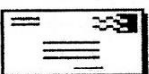


**\$1.00 Squid *Sepioteuthis lessoniana*** – Also known as the Common Reef Squid, this creature feeds on open water fishes and other marine life like shrimp. They often travel in schools and are often preyed upon by the mahimahi, tuna and even marlin and sharks. Like other advanced cephalopods, they have a complex brain, well-developed eyes and an elaborate nervous system. They can change colour to escape predators, confuse prey or communicate with other squid. They also move by water propulsion.



**\$2.50 Nautilus *Nautilus belauensis*** – Often described as the 'living fossil', this nautilus is found only in the water of the tropical Pacific where they live in the deep slopes of coral reefs. They can tolerate extremes of pressure and temperature migrating between 450 m and 90 m in depth. They swim in a see-saw motion generated by 'jet propulsion' and live in a unique compartmented shell, which they seal off as they grow. They are predators, feeding on shrimp and other crustaceans that they capture with their 38 or more tentacles.



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## Hawai'i Post Recent Releases

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

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### Hawaiian Railroads in O'ahu

Three stamps, a mini-sheet and a stamp booklet will be issued on April 6th 2003 that depict Hawaiian Railroads on O'ahu. This is Part One in a series. Part Two will be issued in 2004.

When Hawai'i Post's staff first researched this issue, we were amazed by the massive scope of railroads in Hawai'i. We had no idea that, at one time, there were 54 different carriers on all the major islands. 47 of these carriers were Sugar Trains which operated on the Sugar Plantations. There were 7 common carriers.

The first railroad track in Hawai'i was laid in 1857 next to the Honolulu Harbor. But the growth of railroads really took off when sugar cultivation began in earnest with the passing of the 1876 Reciprocity Treaty between the Kingdom of Hawai'i and the U.S.A. Cut sugar cane has to reach the Sugar Mill quickly for processing and the speediest method was by using narrow gauge railroad trains on portable tracks. As each field was harvested, the track was moved. Early in 1880, the Wai'anae Sugar Company was the first plantation to use a train which was a 0-4-2T Ipswich Class locomotive built by Ransomes & Rapier in England. The other

O'ahu sugar plantations quickly followed by laying tracks and importing their own trains.

O'ahu Railway & Land Company was the main common carrier on O'ahu with its central depot in Honolulu (shown on the cachet) and ran around the island on 3 sides with a terminus at Kahuku, and also a branch to Wahiawa in the center of O'ahu. The O'ahu Railway & Land Company was started by Benjamin Dillingham who first landed in Hawai'i in 1865 from Massachusetts. He started out as a hardware merchant, bought land in west O'ahu and then wanted to develop it for agriculture but transportation was a problem - roads were rough and unpaved in rural O'ahu. He decided to build a railroad connecting his land with Honolulu. His railroad was first known as "Dillingham's Folly", but he proved everyone wrong because, from 1899 onwards, the company never missed an annual dividend to its shareholders.

The only operational railroad on O'ahu today is the Hawaiian Railway which runs every Sunday for enthusiasts using an ex-U.S. military 1944 Whitcomb 300 horse-power diesel-electric locomotive out of Ewa Railroad Station west to Kahe Point and return. It uses what is left of the original O.R. & L. Co. railroad tracks. The track



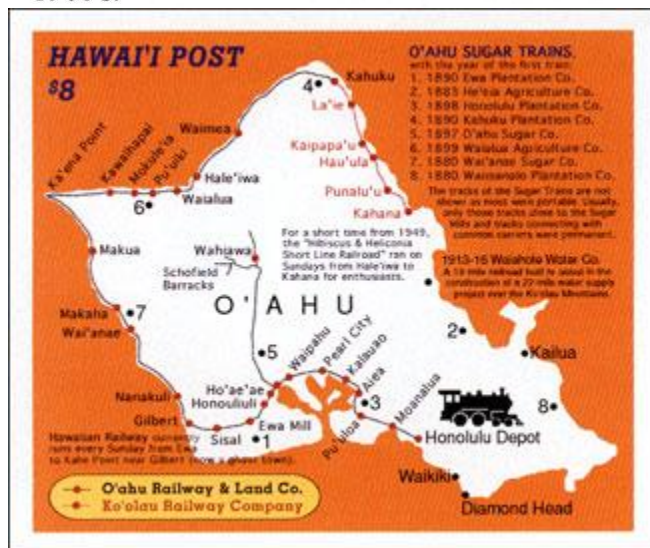


from Ewa to Nanakuli are on the State and National Historic Registers. However, the track from Kahe Point to Nanakuli is not in use due to improvements that are needed before the line can be extended.

The \$2 stamp shows a 1899 0-6-2T Baldwin Locomotive Works #16438 built for the Honolulu Plantation Company and named "Halawa".

The \$5 stamp shows a ex-U.S. military 1944 Whitcomb 300hp diesel-electric locomotive, O'ahu Railway #302 about to leave the Ewa Railroad Station in 2003.

The \$8 stamp, an unusually long stamp shows Waialua Agriculture Company's locomotive #3 (1900 Baldwin Locomotive Works #17385) and locomotive #5 (1900 Baldwin Locomotive Works #18701) in tandem (both 0-6-2T) hauling a large load of freshly cut sugar cane to the Waialua Sugar Mill on the North Shore of O'ahu in the early 1900's.



A booklet consisting of 3 panes containing 2 x \$2, 2 x \$5 and 2 x \$8 stamps was also issued. Each pane consists of 2 stamps and has a white margin all around. "© 2003 Hawai'i Post" is printed vertically on the lower right side margin & *Hawai'i Security Printers, Honolulu, Hawai'i.* is printed on the bottom margin of each pane.

The booklet is stapled twice at the left side. The front cover depicts a black-and-white photo of Ewa Plantation Company's locomotive #6 (1905 BLW #25710, 0-6-2T) hauling freshly cut sugar cane to Ewa Sugar Mill. The back cover has a list of the postage rates of Hawai'i Post.

#### Technical details of the stamps:

Colors: \$2, \$5, and \$8 stamps and \$8 mini-sheet - Multicolored

Size: 48mm x 32mm (\$2 & \$5 stamps), 100mm x 25mm (\$8 stamp), 84mm x 70mm (mini-sheet)

Stamps sheet size: \$2 & \$5 - 30 (5 across, 6 down), \$8 - 12 (2 across, 6 down),

Perforation: 12. Mini-sheet - imperforate.

Stamps & Mini-sheet design: Enelani. Layout & Pre-press: Enelani.

Printer: Hawai'i Security Printers, Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Printing Method: 4-color (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black) printing process. Sheet margin markings: HAWAII POST (top middle), "Traffic Light" showing 4 colors used in printing (lower left side), © 2003 Hawai'i Post (lower right side, upper left side on \$8 stamp sheet) & *Hawai'i Security Printers, Honolulu, Hawai'i.* (bottom middle)

Paper: GPA coated white stock with water-activated gum on the back.



## 130th Anniversary of Father Damien de Veuster's arrival at Kalawao on the Kalaupapa peninsula, Moloka'i



Two stamps and a mini-sheet were issued on May 10th 2003 to celebrate the 130th Anniversary of the Arrival of Father Damien de Veuster at Kalawao on the Kalaupapa peninsula, Moloka'i.

Leprosy had spread rapidly in Hawai'i by 1865, and it was decided by the Board of Health to separate the lepers from the rest of society. In 1866 a leper colony was established at Kalawao (shown on the \$8 stamp), on the Kalaupapa peninsula of the island of Moloka'i in Hawai'i. This remote outcrop of land is surrounded by rough seas on 3 sides and 2,000 feet high cliffs on the other side (see the map on the \$5 stamp). At first, priests and officials only visited occasionally. Chaos ruled the leper colony as there was no strong leader and not much in the way of law and order. Drunkenness and debauchery were common.

On May 10th 1873, Father Damien (a Catholic priest, born Joseph de Veuster in Tremeloo, Belgium) stepped ashore for the first time at Kalawao. He volunteered for this duty for a short period of time, but stayed a lifetime. His arrival brought order and a new spiritual awakening for the lepers at the colony. When he first arrived, there was a small wooden church named Siloama Church (shown on the \$5 stamp) which was Protestant and completed in 1871. Siloama means "healing spring" and comes from the book of St. John in the New Testament (9:1-

11). St. Philomena, the Catholic Church was also made of wood, prefabricated and shipped in pieces from Honolulu to Kalawao in 1872. In 1888, a storm blew off the steeple. As luck would have it, one of Father Damien's patients was a stone mason who helped him rebuild St. Philomena Church into a more substantial and much larger structure (shown on the \$8 minisheet). Both churches survive to this day.

Father Damien selflessly cared for the sick and dying, but eventually succumbed to leprosy himself and died of complications caused by bronchial pneumonia on April 15th 1889. In 1893, a monument was erected at the settlement in his memory with the inscription "Greater love hath no man than this. That a man lay down his life for his friends." Despite strenuous objections from the residents of the settlement and elsewhere in Hawai'i, his remains were exhumed in 1936 at the request of the Belgian Government and are now interred in the crypt of St. Joseph Chapel in Louvain, Belgium.

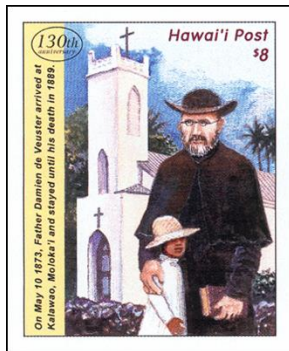
Leprosy is currently called Hansen's disease and has been totally curable since the 1940's. Only a few souls who used to have Hansen's disease are left at Kalaupapa today and they are free to leave anytime, but many have chosen to stay. Because of his good works, Father Damien is currently being considered for sainthood by the Vatican. The beatification process was started in 1938. He has already gone through the stages of "Venerable" in 1977, then "Blessed" in 1995, the next stage being "Saint".

Today, you can visit Kalaupapa by taking a small plane which lands on a landing strip on the peninsula. Or you can ride a mule down the paths that cling to the steep cliffs (the traditional way to go). You cannot visit independently. You must either arrange a tour or get written permission to enter what

is now called "The Kalapaupa National Historical Park" (established in 1980 by President Carter).

The \$5 stamp shows a portrait of a young Father Damien with a map of the Kalaupapa Peninsula and a small picture of the original church - Siloama at Kalawao.

The \$8 stamp shows a portrait of a young Father Damien with an aerial view of the Leper Settlement at Kalawao on the Kalaupapa Peninsula in the 1880's.



The \$8 minisheet (above) pays the Same Day rate. It shows a portrait of an older Father Damien with one of his young patients outside St. Philomena Church (the Catholic church he rebuilt at Kalawao) on

the Kalaupapa Peninsula. The scene was painted by local artist Wayne Takazono.



The special postmark for this issue shows the bronze statue of Father Damien by artist Marisol Escobar that stands in front of the State Capitol Building in downtown Honolulu.

#### Technical details of the stamps:

Colors: \$5, and \$8 stamps and \$8 mini-sheet - Multicolored

Size: 48mm x 32mm (\$5 & \$8 stamps), 84mm x 70mm (mini-sheet)

Stamps sheet size: \$5 & \$8 - 30 (5 across, 6 down).

Perforation: 12. Mini-sheet - imperforate. Stamps & Mini-sheet design: Enelani.

Layout & Pre-press: Enelani.

Printer: Hawai'i Security Printers, Honolulu, Hawai'i.

Printing Method: 4-color (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black) printing process.

Sheet margin markings: HAWAII POST (top middle), "Traffic Light" showing 4 colors used in printing (lower left side), © 2003

Hawai'i Post (lower right side) & Hawai'i Security Printers, Honolulu, Hawai'i. (bottom middle)

Paper: GPA coated white stock with water-activated gum on the back.

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## Potpourri

Odds and ends submitted by various members. Answers can be submitted to the editor c/o HPS or by e-mail at [GREGGC353@YAHOO.COM](mailto:GREGGC353@YAHOO.COM).

### Battleship Airmail Cover

A territory ari mail cover was submitted by Donald DeWhitt. The cover was sent to Los Angeles, California around September 1940 franked with US 20c airmail stamp. Scott #C9. A pictorial image is on the left side of the envelope depicting a Hawaiian scene with a Clipper flying over Waikiki and Diamond Head in the background. The words "Air Mail Hawaiian Islands to USA" are printed below the scene. What makes this unusual is that instead of re and blue stripes along the border of the cover, there are red and blue battleships.

Donald surmises that the stationary itself originated in Honolulu and possibly was sold there or even out of a naval ship's store. He believes that this is not a philatelic event cover and has come across a similar cover dated April 1940 aboard the *USS Arizona*.

Are covers such as this one well know in Hawaii? Any information regarding this or similar items are appreciated.



### Volcano House Cover

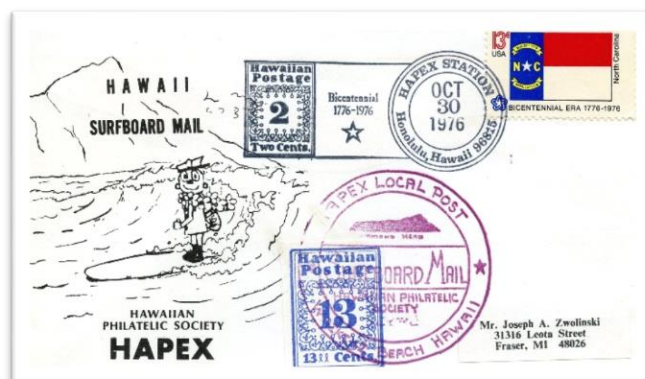
Henry Lyman, HPS #19921004, submitted a cover from an old Richard Wolffers Auction

catalog (#48, dated April 22 – 24, 1976). The cover has the 5c blue King Kamehameaha V on it with a Volcano House hand stamp. A secondary Honolulu postmark is dated Nov 26, 1890. The cover hammered for \$1150. Anyone know the whereabouts of this item?



### HAPEX 76 Cover

Here is a nice cover I recently purchased. The cachet depicts Mr. SIP surfing in the waves Waikiki beach.





Ilene & Wayne Productions

# Hawaii



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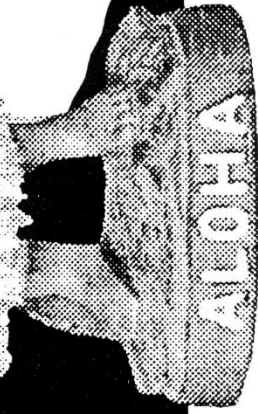
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