

# PO'OLEKA O HAWAII



Image courtesy of the Smithsonian National  
Postal Museum



Image Courtesy Patrick Culhane for the Shattuck Family

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

Number 78

April 2004

# Quarterly Calendar of Collector's Events

## APRIL 2004

04/04	Hawai'i Quarterly Stamp & Coin	Queen Kapiolani Hotel, 10AM - 4PM
04/12	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM – 9:30 PM
04/17	H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club	Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1 PM - 3 PM
04/19	Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.	Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St, #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM
04/26	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Linda Starr's House, Honolulu, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

## MAY 2004

05/10	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM – 9:30 PM
05/15	H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club	Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1 PM - 3 PM
05/15	Mini H.S.N.A.	Washington Int. School, 1633 S. King St., 9:30 AM – 4 PM
05/17	Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.	Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St, #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM
05/24	H.P.S. Executive Board Meeting	Linda Starr's House, Honolulu, 7:30 PM (Board Meets at this time)

## JUNE 2004

06/14	H.P.S. Regular Meeting	St. Louis Alumni Assoc. Club House, 7 PM – 9:30 PM
06/19	H.P.S. Stampers Youth Club	Victoria Bannan's House, Honolulu. 1 PM - 3 PM
06/21	Winward Oahu Philatelic Soc.	Lois Opedal, 14 Aulike St, #403, Kailua, 7:30 PM
06/28	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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Published quarterly by the Hawaiian Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 10115, Honolulu Hawaii 96816-0115

Subscriptions \$8.00 per year. All paid up members receive a subscription as part of their membership

Display advertising accepted at the following rates per issue:

Full page \$40.00, Half page \$20.00, Quarter page \$10.00.

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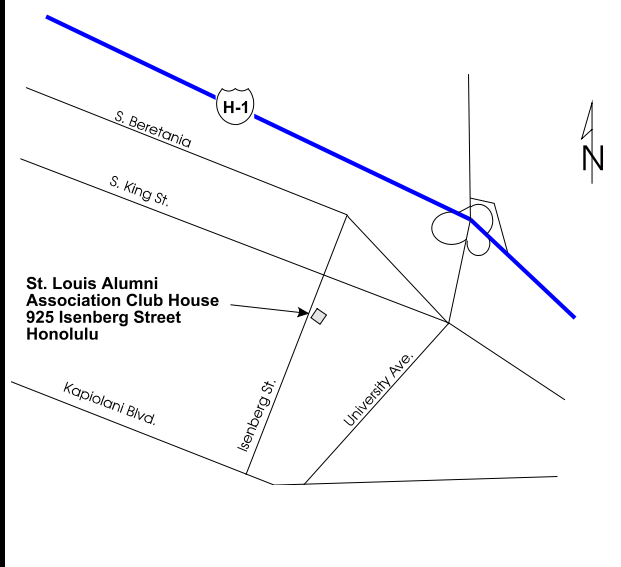
Articles and information for the publication should be sent to the Editor, C/O The Hawaiian Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 10115, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-0115 or by e-mail at [GCHANG@ASTOUND.NET](mailto:GCHANG@ASTOUND.NET). Contact the editor for guidelines for preparing text and illustrations for submittal.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

Cover Illustration: Hawaii Scott #1 compared with 2c Grinnell Missionary

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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! First of all, my apologies for getting this issue out so late. Here it actually is August – but the issue is for April.

Anyway, I believe that the wait was worth it. By now you should have gotten January 2004 issue of the PO'OLEKA. The featured article is Part 1 of Patrick Culhane's article on the Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps.

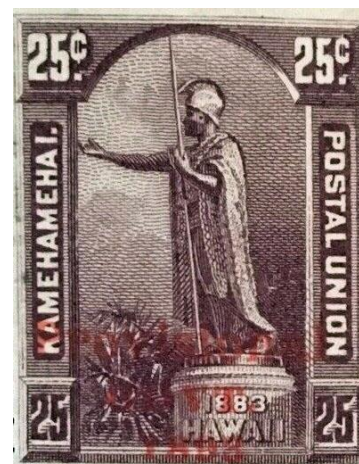
One major problem we had encountered was with the first printing of the PO'OLEKA was that the illustration that went with the article did not come out very well. To remedy this, a separate printing of COLOR illustrations was made. Using the same format with this issue, the turn around time (between submission of the issue to printing to distribution) is a little faster. Hopefully, you get this issue of the PO'OLEKA before a decision is made by the Royal Philatelic Society regarding the authenticity of the Grinnells. Still, even if you get this after the decision is made, there is a lot of background information presented to make the decision more interesting.

Also, in this issue are details for the set of stamps released from the Hawaii Post that honors the centenary of the Waikiki Aquarium.

On a closing note, I'd like to thank you all for the support you have given me. In addition, I would like to encourage you to help in getting articles for publication.

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

Greg Chang  
Editor



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*This is Part 2 and the conclusion of the series Trail of The Grinnells. In Part 1, published in January 2004, Shattuck descendent Patrick Culhane wrote of the history of the Grinnells and described the recent (2000) finding of historical connections of the Grinnell stamps to the Government Printing Office of 1851 Honolulu. In Part 2, Culhane describes the recent accumulation of physical evidence, the submission of the Grinnells to the expert committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and the controversies that have arisen even as the stamps are being evaluated by that committee. The committee is expected to announce an opinion in 2004.*

## Trail Of The Grinnells Part 2

By Patrick Culhane

### November 2000 - To Rutgers

The Wright-Reiman Laboratory of The Department of Chemistry, Rutgers University, is located in Piscataway, New Jersey, about 35 miles southwest of New York City. Dr. Gene Hall, Professor of Analytic Chemistry, performs his analyses in a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor laboratory, sharing the space with graduate students performing research. Dr. Hall had been contacted by Mr. and Mrs. Arrigo regarding the stamp project, and was interested in examining the stamps to add to his extensive research database of ink and paper samples. On a Saturday in November 2000 I arrived at his lab with seven Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps for him to analyze.

To the layman, Dr. Hall's lab first appears to be an erratic confluence of computers, refrigerators, beakers and books. Two advanced capabilities, however, are housed within the complex array of equipment. Raman Spectroscopy determines the chemical signature of a sample, and X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) determines the elemental signature. Together, the two tell a story of when an item in question could have first been manufactured. The earliest dates of the introduction of certain pigments are well known, and the use of certain elemental combinations is dated as well.

Since old inks and papers can be used to manufacture new items, such analyses don't necessarily pinpoint manufacture to a given date. However, if chemical or elemental properties observed in an item were introduced *later* than the appropriate date of manufacture of the item, that item is suspect.

It was just this criticism that was levied on the Grinnells at the time of the civil trial and several times since. Supposedly spurious reactions to ultra-violet light were attributed to the presence of aniline dyes. Similar arguments resulting from visual observation, without analytic substantiation, were levied against the paper of the stamps.

Dr. Hall's task was to ascertain if the chemical and elemental properties of the Grinnells were consistent with a manufacturing date of 1851. The scope of the analysis included the paper of the stamps, the blue ink of the stamp design, the paper of the pieces on which some of the stamps were affixed, and the postmarks and cancellations. The seven stamps I chose to take represented all three denominations (2¢, 5¢, 13¢) and three types of postmarks (two forms of circular date stamps, referred to as Meyer-Harris (MH) forms 236.05 and 236.11. and the black 7-bar killer).



The Raman machine looks like a large high-powered microscope appended to a big box and a personal computer. An area of the item is selected - such as a piece of blue of the stamp design - a beam of light is aimed, and the process activated. The computer screen begins to plot a signature in successive waves until a fully resolved signature of the pigment is determined. This signature is compared to known standards for identification. The area selected can then be changed (e.g. to determine the pigment of a red circular date stamp), and a new signature determined.

The XRF process encloses the stamp in a box with a window and operates for several minutes. A similar signature trace then documents the elemental properties.

By the end of the day's session, Dr. Hall's analysis had determined that the pigment of the blue ink of the stamps was prussian blue, a pigment dating to ancient times. The pigment of the killer cancel was lampblack, and that of the red circular date stamp cancels was vermillion.

Of critical importance: There was no use of aniline dyes in the ink of the stamps or in the postmarks. The ink of the circular date stamp postmarks matched chemically and elementally the ink of a certified genuine circular date stamp postmark of the same period provided by Mr. and Mrs. Arrigo. The day's general conclusion: All the inks on the stamps, postmarks and papers contained only pigments and chemical compounds that were available in the 1850's<sup>1</sup>.

I returned to Dr. Hall's lab twice over the next year, in February and September 2001. During the first of those visits, he examined the stamp paper in great detail, and discovered a second blue pigment - determined by the Raman to be *ultramarine blue* - embedded in the paper of the stamps as a brightening agent. From that point forward we kept a log of those stamps containing this pigment in the paper. The conclusions regarding the inks and paper remained consistent across all examinations - no pigments or compounds were inconsistent with 1850's manufacture, and chemical and elemental matches were observed to the ink of the circular date stamp postmarks from covers of the period.

### **A Fortuitous Contact**

The examinations at Rutgers raised the question of what such examinations would show about the accepted Missionary stamps. That of course would itself require the convergence of three rare elements: a collection of accepted Missionaries, the consent to have them examined, and the necessary equipment and expertise.

In the course of my visits to the east coast I had visited the National Postal Museum and had proposed the obvious: a chemical analysis of their Missionaries at nearby Rutgers. The museum was operating without a Director at the time, and declined on that basis. While there are Missionaries in the collection of Honolulu's Bishop Museum, no Raman Spectroscopy equipment was locally available.

In the late fall of 2000 I described this situation to a friend and former professional colleague over a casual lunch. It so happened she had a friend who could help. She referred me to Mr. Robin Shoolley-West. Mr. West is the former head of the Philatelic Collections of The British Library, which houses the Missionaries of the Tapling Collection.

I phoned Mr. West, and after hearing about recent findings he agreed to discuss the process with David Beech, current Head of the Library's Philatelic Collection. In early 2001 we began planning examinations in London of the accepted Hawaiian Missionary Stamps of the British Library's Tapling Collection.

### **To London**

On July 3 2001 I arrived at the British Library with Dr. Hall, Mr. West, and nine of the Grinnell stamps. Dr. Hall agreed to attend at the request of the families to bring his experience with the Grinnells at Rutgers to bear. Mr. Beech greeted us, and led us to his office. We were then introduced to the University College London chemists who would perform the analysis – Dr. Tracey Chaplin Ph.D., and Dr. Greg Smith, Ph.D., under the direction of Dr. Robin Clark, Ph.D..

Mr. Beech accessed the Tapling Collection Missionaries, and laid them on a table for all to view. I did the same with the Grinnells. For several memorable moments the two sets of stamps lay side by side - inviting our visual scrutiny, and challenging us with their obvious similarities.

The day was comprised of examination of five stamps of the Tapling Collection, and six Grinnells, including one severed pair on piece. The Raman analysis concluded that the pigment of the blue ink of the British Library stamps – all of them – was prussian blue, the same pigment of the Grinnells. It also concluded the red pigment of the circular date stamp postmark in the British Library's collection, as well as that of a red pen cancel, was vermilion – the same pigment present in the Grinnell postmarks. The pigment of the black "killer" cancels of the British Library's stamps was lampblack – the same pigment as in the Grinnell "killers".

Early in the examination Dr. Hall asked the examiners to carefully examine the paper of a British Library stamp, a 13¢ Type I stamp with a circular date stamp postmark. The Raman was centered on a blue speck invisible to the naked eye. The pigment: ultramarine blue. The paper of the British Library's stamp had ultramarine blue pigment embedded as a brightener. Next up, a Grinnell (G-65). Ultramarine blue embedded as well. Figure 1 illustrates a typical particle, magnified.

Subsequent analysis would show that of the Tapling Collection's 11 accepted Hawaiian Missionary stamps, one has paper that is absent the ultramarine blue pigment. Of 16 Grinnells of the Shattuck Collection examined for this feature over visits to Rutgers, just one is missing the ultramarine blue pigment. In short, this property is common, but not universal, in *both* collections.

Against the backdrop of the progress of the examinations various options for full expertization of the Grinnells were discussed. Through The British Library's cooperation, The Royal Philatelic Society London would be provided access for comparative purposes to the British Library's stamps if the families wished to submit the stamps to the RPSL. We parted in London committed to creating a written technical record of the day. But just by performing the rigorous analyses and comparisons a new chapter had been written on the Missionaries – both Accepted and Grinnells.

## **Rutgers - September 2001**

On September 6 and 7, 2001 I visited Dr. Hall to complete the examination of the Shattuck Collection stamps. With me were the finest examples of our collection of Grinnells – stamps I had been reluctant to put at any risk of travel. They included an unsevered pair of 2¢ stamps - an unheard of item among accepted Missionaries - and several other examples of the rare 2¢ denomination.

I wanted to complete the census of the collection through his examination process. Dr. Hall wanted to exercise his new XRF (X-Ray Fluorescence) equipment, with a 40-micron beam affording more refined analysis than in the past. The results confirmed all previous examinations and identified just one stamp among the sixteen examined as not containing the ultramarine blue pigment. Further, 40-micron beam allowed for a refined description of the blue ink, as it could be more effectively isolated from other components. This indicated it to be a mix of the earlier-identified Prussian blue with zinc oxide (a white pigment) and barium sulfate (an ink extender)<sup>2</sup>. The Raman and XRF examinations were complete and fully documented.

### **Typographic Characteristics**

An aspect of the Grinnells that fascinates me is the evidence they provide themselves, particularly with respect to their apparent manufacture. What clues do their typographic characteristics alone contain?

While working on the Grinnells I acquired photographic images of accepted stamps from the British Library and the National Postal Museum for study. Recognizing the pitfalls in drawing conclusions from comparisons of photographs, and in particular steering away from repaired material, it is nonetheless possible to identify consistencies within the accepted stamps and others within the Grinnells.

There is no dispute regarding the fact that different typeface were used to print the Grinnells – in whole or in part. Given that, and putting the historical findings aside, are there features observed in the Grinnells that are common to the accepted stamps that confirm their status as a printing emanating from the same method and environment? And are there clues that can be gleaned from the other acknowledged printing of the Missionaries – that of the 13¢ “H.I. and U.S.” design (Scott 4), that we can use to explain the Grinnells?

One hunt was for typeface that was common to the printings – used in both the Grinnells and the accepted Missionaries. A candidate is the narrow inner frame line of the Type II stamp. This frame line has very small gaps that appear to the left of the letter “P” in “Postage”. There is varying opinion, even among experts, as to whether the inner frame lines emanated from the same flawed piece of typeface, or whether they represent a printing irregularity caused by the close proximity of the letter “P” against the frame line.

Two points of reference representing positions of apparent flaws are evidenced on the Grinnell and accepted stamps, as shown in Figure 2. The dash image between these points is larger in the accepted stamps (consistently) than in the Grinnells, yet the two gaps created are present on all Type II Grinnell and unrepaired examples of Type II accepted stamps (Scott 1, 2 and 3), to the best the author has been able to determine.



One can question the role of these minute gaps under the presumption that the Grinnells are indeed forgeries. What artist would go to the trouble of producing such minute replicative details – details barely visible to the naked eye – yet neglect to better replicate numerous more prominent features, such as the general shape of the central numerals of value?

Another hunt was for common characteristics that reflected the printing environment itself. Particularly if the printings were done closely in time, it is reasonable to assume that the general *types* of variations that occurred as a result of the process or environment might replicate even though the specific *instances* could be different printing to printing.

We do have among the accepted stamps one clear source of findings regarding printing-to-printing variation, in that the 13¢ value (Scott 3) underwent a design change and emerged sometime in early 1852 as Scott 4. This later design, whose earliest known use is dated to April, 1852, substituted the phrase “H.I. and U.S.” for “Hawaiian” in order to clarify that the rate was fully prepaid to United States destinations. Departures from Scott 3 letter and numeral typeface, aside from those required by the design change, are quite apparent in the Scott 4 printing. It is generally assumed this printing occurred in early 1852, although the exact time is unknown.

Yet even with a significant design and typeface change, the features that distinctively define the Type I and the Type II stamps – the relationship of the “H” in “Hawaiian” and the “P” in “Postage” – for some reason persist in the Scott 4 printing.

In the Grinnells, which only reflect the Scott 1, 2 and 3 designs, there is a change in typeface, yet consistency as well in the features clearly defining the Type I and Type II stamps.

Generally the Grinnells exhibit a pattern of consistent typeface across 2¢, 5¢, and 13¢ values (except letters and numerals pertaining to specific values). This is characteristic of the accepted stamps (Scott 1, 2 and 3) as well. However, there are exceptions to this rule.

In the accepted stamps the “n” of the word “Cents” was apparently replaced either before or after the printing of the 5¢ value (Type II), as it is smaller than the “n” of the other values. For the Grinnells, a similar substitution is evidenced, but not of the letter “n”. Rather, details of the shape of the lower right corner filigree element of the 13¢ value differ from that of the 2¢ and 5¢ values.

In the 2¢ Grinnell (Figure 3, left), the bud of upper part of the flower is angular, and the “w”-shaped detail at the top of the piece (above the small circle) slopes up and to the right. In the 13¢ Grinnell (Figure 3, right) the corresponding bud is more rounded in shape, and the “w” shaped detail is closer to the circle, sloping slightly down and to the right. Other differences are apparent as well.

The Grinnells evidence a truncation or shaving of the ornamental border piece just “north” of the lower corner ornaments (left and right side). This shaving removes the lower curled element of this piece on each side of the stamp. The same truncation occurs in the accepted stamps. Ironically it is the abutment of these truncated pieces that fueled the widespread notion that neighboring ornament images on Grinnells “overlap”.

Among the Grinnells there are examples of the ‘kiss print’ characteristic, wherein a faint double image is created in the printing process. According to the 1995 Honolulu Advertiser Sale catalog<sup>3</sup> only four accepted Missionaries are known to show the doubling effect. Of the 32 Grinnell stamps of the Shattuck Collection, G-7 (pictured, Figure 4) most distinctively shows doubling effect, visible in here in the border elements with a ghostly image up and to the right of each piece.

As noted earlier, the paper upon which the Grinnells are printed frequently, but not always contains ultramarine pigment brighteners. Based on analyses of the British Library stamps this holds true for the accepted stamps as well.

The thread linking the Grinnells to the accepted stamps is the set of inconsistencies that they share. Some might call these “consistent inconsistencies”. Variation in materials, typographic anomalies and the occasional aberration such as the “kiss print” are found in the accepted stamps. They are also found in the Grinnells.

As reproductions of Scott 1, 2, and 3 the Grinnells fail to “match” badly on major visual points – numeric and letter typeface, positioning of the two “types” relative to one another, etc. On minor or even minute points as reproductions they excel – the *relative frequency* of a pigment embedded in their paper; the presence and *relative frequency* of the “kiss-print” characteristic; the two minute gaps in a frame line in common with the accepted stamps.

The logical question posed, then, is on the premise that they *are* forgeries how can the subtle characteristics be so *right* and the obvious characteristics be so *wrong*? And perhaps more importantly, on the subtle points, who would have been in a position to know what *right* was? Some of these subtle points, such as the inconsistency in the frequency of the ultramarine blue pigment in the accepted stamps, were only recently discovered.

### **A Theory Based on Facts**

The efforts described thus far focused on developing a richer body of factual evidence regarding the Grinnell Hawaiian Missionaries than existed before. In late 2001 I was made more aware, primarily through contact with philatelist Jeffrey Weiss, FRPSL, of the philatelic importance of theory. The facts may be compelling, but a theory or even multiple theories encompassing and linking the various facts together is a philatelic requirement.

Venturing from the acquisition of facts and motivated by this advice, I offer the following theory regarding the beginnings of these stamps:

The 71 Grinnells are the remnants of an unrecognized printing of the Missionaries. I do *not* hold them to be the only examples of this printing – others may surface or already be in collections, unrecognized as siblings to the Grinnells.

The pieces of letter type and ornaments were assembled from available supplies on the day of their printing – afterward they were returned to their cases for other jobs. One possible exception: the frame line rules and spacers may have been left in the clichés – they serving no other particular purpose.

The Grinnells were printed prior to December 1851. I have no strong opinion as to the timing of their manufacture relative to the printing of the accepted stamps. The timing comports with William Emerson's presence in and around the Government Printing Office and *The Polynesian* during 1851, and his absence very late in 1851 and early 1852.

Further confirmation of this timing is provided by the complete absence of the Scott 4 version of the 13¢ value Missionary among the Grinnells. Since the Scott 4 design is not found in the Grinnells, it seems clear the design had not yet been developed when the Grinnells were printed.

William Emerson may have sent stamps home to his parents in Waialua in late 1851. They were probably all of the variety we now refer to as the Grinnells. He may have taken more personally when he returned to Waialua late in 1851 to recuperate. It is possible William was given postmarking devices to postmark correspondence and act as postmaster during his expected stay in Waialua. Those postmarking devices would include those that created and have become known as the Grinnell versions of the MH236.05 and MH236.11 strikes.

William and his parents wrote letters and sent newspapers to William's brother Samuel Emerson in early 1852, when Samuel was living in New England. There was correspondence as well with Mrs. Shattuck. The used stamps among the Grinnells were used on this correspondence prior to William's voyage on the *Arctic* (March 1852). As noted in Part 1 of this article, William's last day in Waialua was March 15, 1852<sup>4</sup>. The last distinct strike of a date stamp on a Grinnell Missionary is March 15 (G-23).

The unused stamps – all those the Emersons had remaining - were taken by William on his voyage. The stamps were placed in the small Book of Sermons, and packed with his belongings. Held between the pages of the book the stamps would be protected until William had a chance to use them. He planned to use the stamps in correspondence to family and friends in New England, as had been the practice of his parents.

William would write letters – some requiring postage and others to family in Waialua – and then provide the letters to passing ships bound for Honolulu. We know such forwarding took place, since the news of William's ultimate demise came to his parents by letter in the fall of 1852 forwarded by a ship that met the *Arctic*.

The stamps, when used on the letters bound for America, could be postmarked in Honolulu. But William's health interfered. On the ship he was too ill to write more than an occasional journal entry, and he died before he had a chance to use the stamps. The stamps remained in the book, which was returned to his family when the *Arctic* returned to Honolulu<sup>5</sup>.

So how did Ursula Emerson's childhood friend Hannah Shattuck come upon the Book of Sermons with its unused stamps? And how did she come upon so many used stamps?

A possibility is that John and Ursula Emerson sent the book to Samuel Emerson in New England, who had retained William's and his parents' correspondence. It could have been a keepsake of William at that time. From Samuel it passed to his mother's father, Rev. Gad Newell, who gave it to Hannah. We have evidence that Hannah, though by then living in Pepperell Massachusetts, visited the Newells in Nelson, New Hampshire as early as 1835 and even then expressed great interest in news from Ursula in



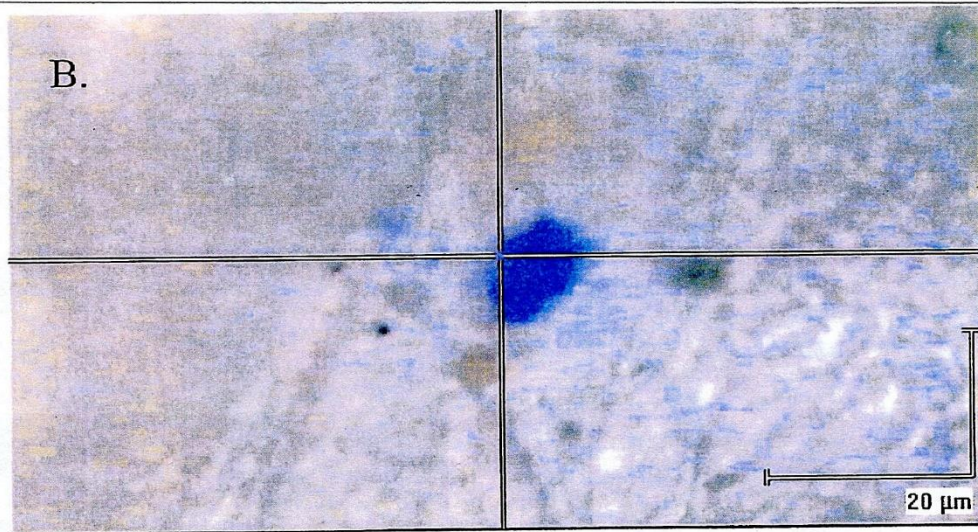
## Trial of the Grinnells, Part 2

### Illustrations and Figures

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Figure 1  
Raman magnification of Ultramarine Blue Pigment  
G-25 – Shattuck Collection



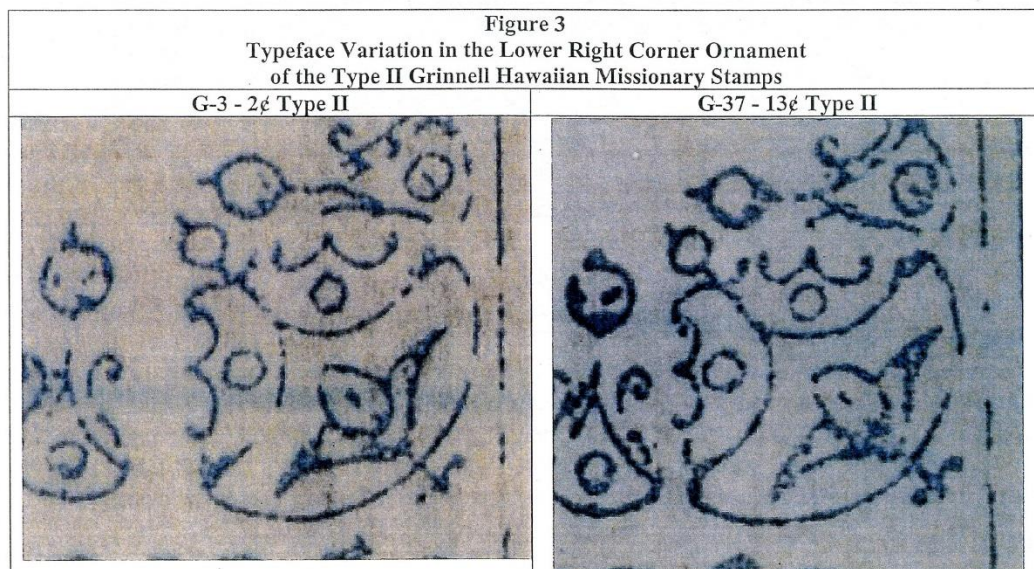
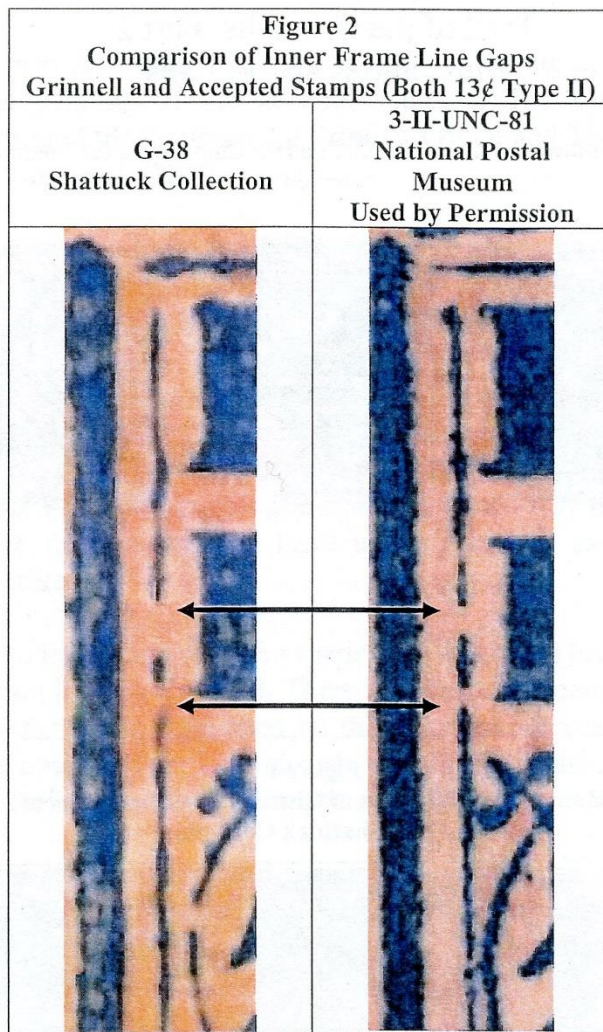




Figure 4  
Double Image "Kiss Print" in  
Ornamental Filigree Image,  
G-7 (2¢ Type II)

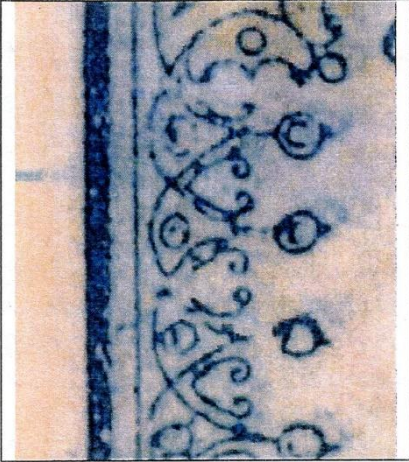
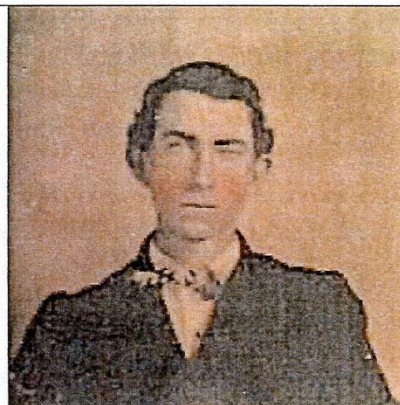
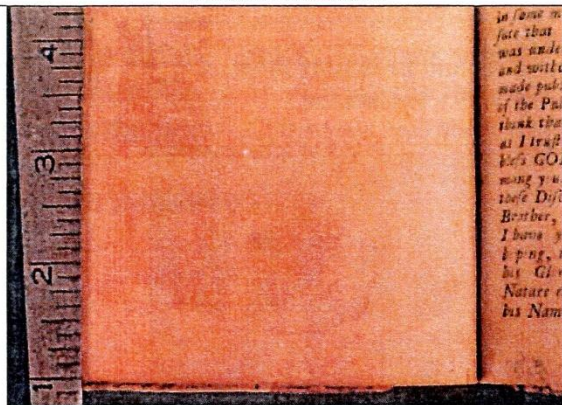


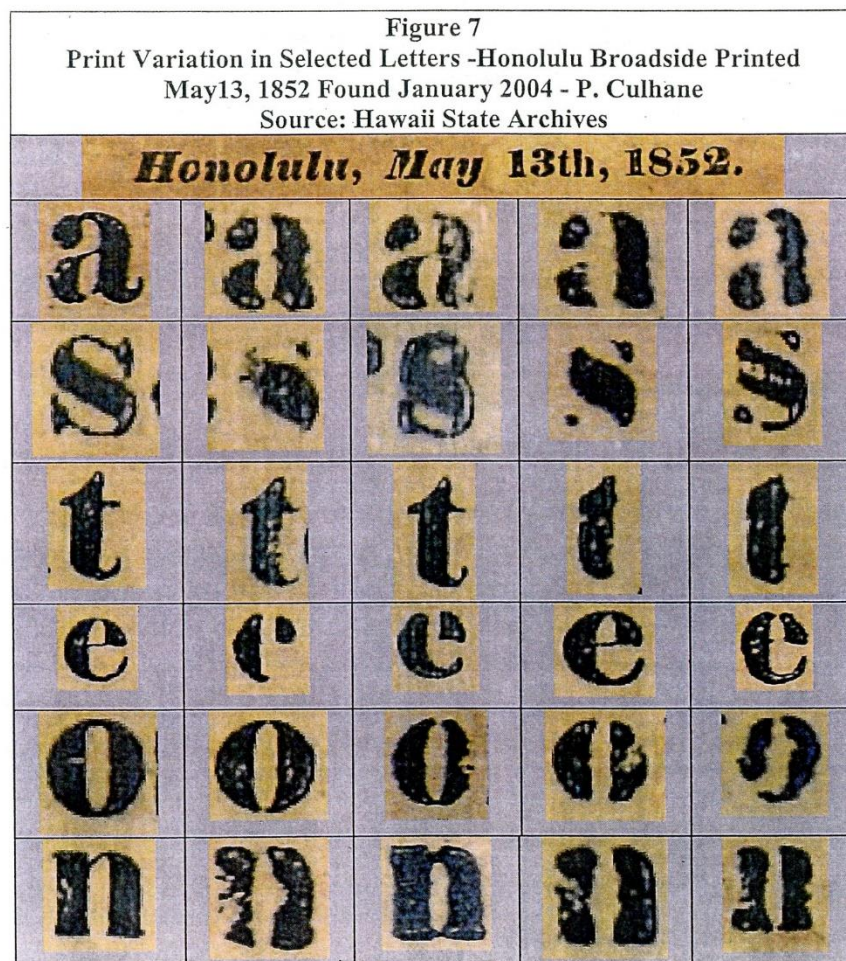
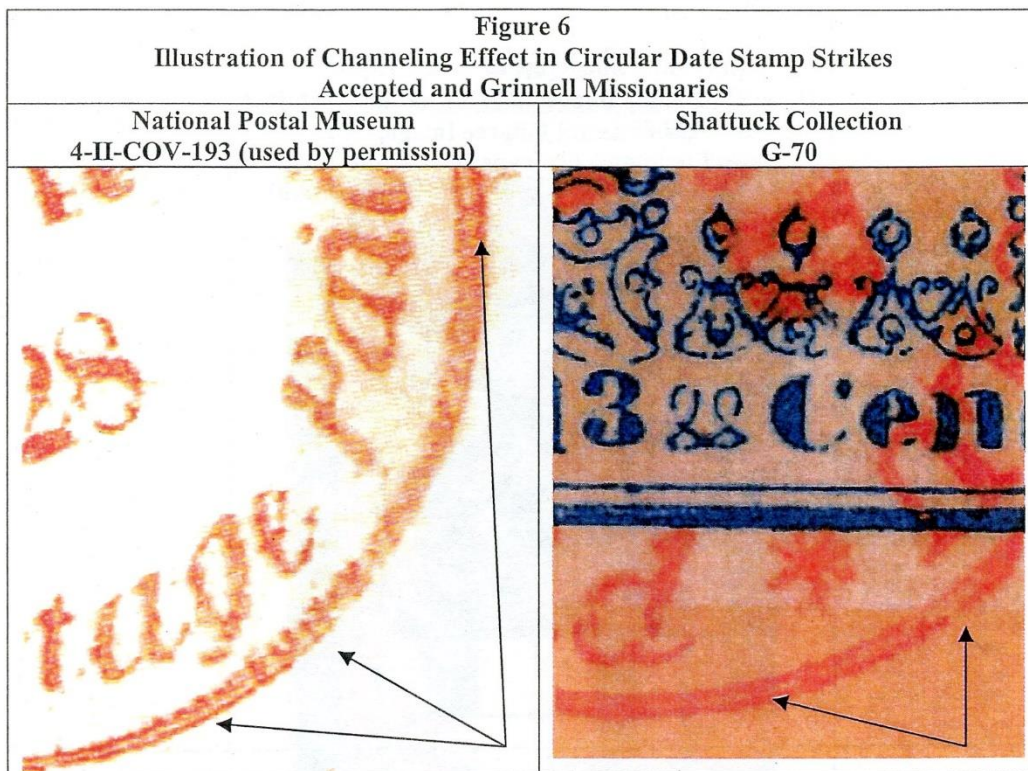
Figure 5

Stamp-sized Discolorations  
*Discourses on Recovery from Illness*  
Book of Sermons

Charles Boynton Shattuck, 1859  
(at 20 years of age)









Hawaii<sup>6</sup>. Sophia Newell, Ursula Emerson's mother, died in 1840. Knowing that Rev. Newell was a widower and without his only daughter, who was in Waialua, Hannah stepped in to help her friend's father as he aged, and that this put them into greater contact. Rev. Newell died in 1859 at the age of 95.

Alternatively it is possible that Hannah befriended Samuel, who would have been coping with his brother's death without his parents at a great distance from his home in Waialua. From Samuel, she could have obtained the book and the correspondence.

The above theory comports with various facts and circumstances. The stamp-sized impressions that are within the Book of Sermons are limited to pages that delimit Sermons themselves. The most distinct impressions are on the reverse of the page beginning the sermon "Discourses on Recovery from Illness". This sermon in particular relates to William Emerson's circumstances at the time. The theory also accounts for the unused stamps found exclusively within the book, the lack of any Grinnells with postmarks dated after March, and the accumulation of both the used and unused stamps with Hannah.

For her part, Hannah must have had some interest in the stamps, since according to Charles Shattuck (as told to Grinnell) he as a young boy and his mother together had cut at least some of the used stamps off the letters upon which they had been sent.

Hannah died in Pepperell in 1856 at the age of 50<sup>7</sup>. This was more than three years before John and Ursula Emerson returned to New England for their first visit since sailing to Hawaii in 1832. The Emersons arrived in New England in 1860<sup>8</sup>.

When the Emersons arrived Charles Shattuck was 21 years old, and living with his father on the family farm in Pepperell (see Figure 5). Among the things he owned were the keepsakes from his late mother. Among those were the Book of Sermons and the stamps his mother had collected in his youth.

Those stamps were to become known as Grinnell Missionaries over sixty years later.

### **The Submission**

In February 2002 29 of the 32 stamps of the Shattuck Collection, and all the stamps of Mr. and Mrs. Arrigo's Collection of Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps were submitted to the Expert Committee of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Three of the Shattuck stamps – one of each value – remained in California as a way to mitigate the risk of loss of all the Grinnells. Knowing that the committee would be particularly interested in the circular date stamp postmarks, all the examples of those postmarks were included in the submission. The Committee was assured I would send the other stamps should it be necessary for their evaluation to do so.

Accompanying the stamps were several volumes of evidence submitted by each family. My submission included general background collected over the years, as well as historical and physical evidence – much of it recently acquired. Historical material focused on the letters and journal entries I had found in Honolulu documenting the relationship between the Shattucks and the Emersons, and William

Emerson's role in the Government Printing Office. Physical evidence centered on the work of James Blanco, Dr. Gene Hall, and the British Library comparisons.

Exactly 150 years after William Emerson's last fateful winter, most of the Grinnells were reunited in London, half a world away.

### Debate Continues

The submission of the Grinnells sparked considerable publicity, starting with Linn's Stamp News (March 18, 2002). Included in that issue was an article by the late Varro Tyler entitled *Logic Suggests One Conclusion: Grinnell Missionaries Genuine*. Dr. Tyler questioned whether anyone had the resources and capability to create the Grinnells (as forgeries) prior the find in 1919.

In response, observers holding the Grinnells to be forgeries created their own publicity. Now that old assumptions about the Grinnells had been called into question, new allegations surfaced. One web site<sup>9</sup> claimed a fifteen-year long correspondence with the owners of the Grinnells with no access afforded to the stamps for study.

Another new claim: the Grinnell postmark devices were made of metal, unlike the boxwood that the author contended was used to produce the genuine strikes<sup>10</sup>. The basis for such a conclusion: a "channeling" aspect to the circular impressions. However examples of the offending channeling are readily found in accepted strikes as well. A comparison of an accepted and a Grinnell strike, each with channels, is shown in Figure 6. Arrows indicate the channel effect. Another clear example among accepted strikes may be found in the illustration of lot 90 of the 1995 Honolulu Advertiser Sale<sup>11</sup>.

The dates of the Grinnell postmarks were cited for not matching sailing dates for ships carrying mail from Honolulu<sup>12</sup>. The underlying assumption is that postmarks were not applied until ships were ready to sail. Yet there are two problems with this logic.

First, there are known and accepted examples of strikes dated days before a ship date, calling into question the presumption that strikes were not applied in Honolulu until the ship was ready to sail. One need not look far to demonstrate this. Lot 1 of the 1995 Honolulu Advertiser sale is a letter and cover postmarked Jan 18 (1853), supposedly carried on the *Excel*, which according to records departed Honolulu a full four days later<sup>13</sup>.

Second, it is not logical to believe that the Emersons would hold mail in Waialua until a Honolulu ship date was imminent, since in 1852 a trip to Honolulu was an overland journey on horseback lasting several hours if not a full day<sup>14</sup>. Instead, the letters were taken to Honolulu when convenient given other needs, with anyone happening to make the trip on a given day. Further if one accepts the theory that the Grinnell circular date stamps were applied in Waialua, there is no reason to assume a necessary correlation between ship dates and date stamps.

Finally there has been published contention that the typeface used in the printing of the Grinnells did not exist in Honolulu in the 1850s – based on the lack of observed usage of that typeface in other documents that survive today<sup>15</sup>. Comparisons of the letters of the Grinnells and accepted stamps were shown, and note was taken of differences in details and voids of the letters. This article prompted me to review



period printed materials in Honolulu in January 2004. In reviewing period broadsides it became apparent that the types of variation seen between the accepted stamps and the Grinnells, such as inconsistencies in typeface use, presence or absence of details, and differing shapes of void areas are found in period documents.

One particular broadside, dated May 13, 1852 demonstrates typeface similar though not identical to that used in the stamps. Moreover, it shows the very kinds of voids and irregularities in details that have been criticized in the Grinnells. Examples of letter variations are shown in Figure 7.

### **Awaiting an Opinion**

It is April 2004. The RPSL Expert Committee has had the majority of existing Grinnells for the last 26 months. They have a wealth of historical material, studies on the stamps, and detailed comparisons with accepted stamps. The committee has an unprecedented opportunity to view the large number of Grinnells together – to observe their variations, the flaws from copy to copy and the damage to some that ensued from use.

If the opinion is negative I expect the basis for that opinion will be published. At that time, the nature of the concerns will be evaluated and further study will be undertaken. If objections remain, I have confidence they can and will be addressed over time. Said another way, my confidence in the stamps is complete. Forgery is simply not consistent with the reality of the historical facts. There is no doubt room for further discovery, but my personal conviction is that they are genuine – proven so by the weight of historical and physical evidence.

If the opinion is positive, then another opportunity presents itself. For the Grinnells, by their sheer number, by their unrepaired condition, and by the fact that they represent what appears to be majority of survivors of a given printing of the Missionaries, have their philatelic stories to tell. Those philatelists with the curiosity and insight to explore the Grinnells for those stories should, I believe, be given that opportunity.

The challenges the Grinnells present to philately are healthy. In their very rich ambiguity, they call to question the judgments of the past, pose questions, and put people on airplanes in the 21<sup>st</sup> century trying to find answers. They are not simple - they disrupt the accepted order of things. They push philatelists to look hard and to question their logic and preconceptions. That inquiry should be invigorating to the hobby.

With all the attention on scientific study and philatelic debate, it is easy to forget that - like much in philately - the Grinnells transport those with genuine interest to a different world – this one of an early spring 152 years ago.

There on the high seas of the northern Pacific Ocean William Emerson, apprentice to Henry Whitney, struggled just to live. While physically weak, he found the energy to leave us a vivid reflection of hope and determination – a picture that would likely be left uncovered were it not for the Grinnells. The following is from his journal, written in March 1852, on board the *Arctic*, with just over three weeks to live:

*"Tuesday 30th Lat 23 degrees 48 minutes, Lon 177,23... Last Saturday I went up to the main top gallant cross trees, where the whale man looks out for whales, and stood a few minutes with him, while he sat down. I had to rest several times in going up for I am not as strong as I hope to be at the end of the voyage. It was about ninety feet high where I stood and a grand sight it was too, being all alone out to sea with no land in sight, nothing but one great expanse of waters for miles and miles, all around you.... I felt the blood flowing through my veins."*<sup>16</sup>

The complex story of the Grinnells continues to be a story of discovery. These small objects seem to conspire to draw people into their orbit. A dying young printer and his parents. An old man and a teacher. The United States Secret Service and a Los Angeles court. Two families, modern scientists, philatelists of four generations, and an expert committee. All these have been drawn together by the 71 objects known as the Grinnells.

Today we know so much more about them, yet there is still much more to learn. It is my hope this discovery will continue in a spirit of earnest inquiry, spearheaded by the best philatelic minds.

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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. He may be reached at [patrickculhane@earthlink.net](mailto:patrickculhane@earthlink.net).

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<sup>1</sup> Gene S. Hall, Ph.D., "Elemental and Chemical Analyses of Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps" (Department of Chemistry, Wright-Rieman Laboratories, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ: Jan 7, 2001 and February 14, 2001. (From study begun November 2000.)

<sup>2</sup> Gene S. Hall, Ph.D., "Consolidated Report on the Elemental and Chemical Properties of the stamps of the Shattuck Collection of Grinnell Hawaiian Missionary Stamps" (Department of Chemistry, Wright-Rieman Laboratories, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ: February 2002. (From study begun complete September 2001.)

<sup>3</sup> Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., *The Honolulu Advertiser Collection – The Stamps and Postal History of Hawaii*, Sale 769, November 1995, p. 64.

<sup>4</sup> Letter, John S. Emerson to Samuel N. Emerson, April 6, 1852, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, box 1.9 Emerson Collection. Timeline established by Emerson's statement "Monday noon William and I were on the way to Honolulu, and he was all in readiness to go on board at 2 oclock Tuesday PM... William sailed on the King's birthday, March 17<sup>th</sup> " (Wednesday).

<sup>5</sup> Letters, John S. Emerson to Samuel N. Emerson, November 13, 1852 and January 30, 1853, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, box 1.9 and box 1.97 respectively, Emerson Collection.

<sup>6</sup> Letter, Hannah Child Shattuck to Ursula Emerson, April 7, 1836, Archives, Bishop Museum: MS Grp 125, box 4.1 Emerson Collection.

- <sup>7</sup> *Pepperell Index to Deaths 1755-1962*, Pepperell MA Town Hall, Records; Page 5, Book G.
- <sup>8</sup> Oliver P. Emerson, *Pioneer Days in Hawaii* (New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1928).
- <sup>9</sup> "Post Office in Paradise" web site, <http://www.hawaiianstamps.com>, Grinnell Missionaries
- <sup>10</sup> "Post Office in Paradise" web site, <http://www.hawaiianstamps.com>, Grinnell Missionaries
- <sup>11</sup> Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., *The Honolulu Advertiser Collection – The Stamps and Postal History of Hawaii*, Sale 769, November 1995, p. 94.
- <sup>12</sup> Calvet M. Hahn, *The United States Specialist*, "In Re Grinnell", June 2002.
- <sup>13</sup> Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc., *The Honolulu Advertiser Collection – The Stamps and Postal History of Hawaii*, Sale 769, November 1995, p. 19.
- <sup>14</sup> William S. Emerson, Unbound journal entries, Archives, Hawaiian Mission Children's Society (HMCS) Library: "Children of the Mission: Emerson, Wm. S.". An entry dated January 9, 1850, states "Punahou. Came over from home (Waialua) today – I was 5-1/2 hours on the road 32 miles considering Punahou, came on Sarrel and led GPK (Mother's horse) for Nathaniel to ride on."
- <sup>15</sup> "Post Office in Paradise" web site, <http://www.hawaiianstamps.com>, Grinnell Missionaries
- <sup>16</sup> William S. Emerson, "William S. Emerson's Last Journal", Archives, HMCS Library.

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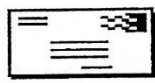


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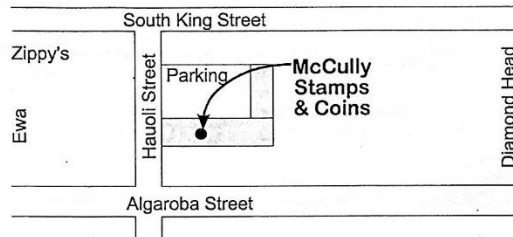
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# Hawai'i Post Recent Releases

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

## Centenary of the Waikiki Aquarium



Three stamps and a stamp booklet were issued on March 19th 2004 depicting Hawaiian fish and to celebrate the Centenary of the Waikiki Aquarium.

The Waikiki Aquarium, located in Kapi'olani Park at the Diamond Head end of Waikiki Beach, opened in 1904. It is the third oldest public aquarium in the United States and has been a part of the University of Hawai'i since 1919. It is open to the public. For more information visit the aquarium's website: <http://waquarium.mic.hawaii.edu>.



The \$2 stamp prepaays additional postage, such as extra weight. It shows the Kihikihi fish or Moorish Idol (*Zanclus cornutus*). It

The \$5 stamp prepaays the Overnight rate. It shows the Paku'iku'i fish or Achilles tang (*Acanthurus achilles*). It grows from 2 to 10 inches long and is found only around the exposed reefs of the Pacific islands including Hawai'i. It feeds on algae.



The \$8 stamp prepaays the Same Day rate. It shows the Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a or Reef triggerfish (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*). In 1984, it was voted the state fish of Hawai'i. It grows from 3 to 10 inches long and is found in the Pacific Ocean. In Hawai'i it is found in the shallow outer reefs. It is omnivorous.



The \$8 stamp prepaays the Same Day rate. It shows the Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a or Reef triggerfish (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*). In 1984, it was voted the state fish of Hawai'i. It grows from 3 to 10 inches long and is found in the Pacific Ocean. In Hawai'i it is found in the shallow outer reefs. It is omnivorous.



The special postmark for this issue shows the Nenuke fish or Brown Chub (*Kyphosus bigibbus*).

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. "© 2004 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 current photo of the Aquarium and the Hawai'i State fish - humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a. The back cover has a list of the postage rates of Hawai'i Post.

The thirteenth booklet was issued on March 19th 2004 depicting Hawaiian fish and to celebrate the Centenary of the Waikiki Aquarium. The Booklet consists of 3 panes containing 2 x \$2, 2 x \$5 and 2 x \$8 stamps. Each booklet pane consists of 2 stamps and has a white margin all around. "© 2004 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 cover is of white card stock and is stapled twice at the left side. The cover shows a modern photo of the Waikiki Aquarium together with the Humuhumu-nukunuku-a-pua'a or Reef triggerfish (*Rhinecanthus rectangulus*) at the lower right corner. The back cover explains Hawai'i Post's postage rates.

Booklet panes (unstapled) without the booklet cover can be ordered - both mint, used and on First Day Covers.

#### Technical details of the stamps:

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

Size: 32mm x 48mm (\$2 stamp), 48mm x 32mm (\$5 & \$8 stamps).

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

Perforation: 12.

Stamps 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), © 2004 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.



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