

PO 'OLEKA O HAWAII



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From: Lt. John T. Nugent, President
HAWAIIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Members and Friends:

This issue of "PO'OLEKA O HAWAII" marks the completion of our Journal's first full year. We look forward, with your continued support, to many more successful years of publication.

The biggest event in Hawaii this year is HAPEX 76, honoring the 125th Anniversary of the world-famous "Missionaries". The October issue of this Journal will double as the program for that exhibit. Also, watch for the September 13th issue of Linn's Stamp News which will feature a special tribute to the Hawaiian Philatelic Society and The Hawaii Postal Museum.

I urge all readers of this Journal to make an effort to participate in HAPEX 76 in some way - as a volunteer worker, exhibitor, dealer, or visitor. Your HAPEX Committee has put in long hours on preliminary planning but the success of this venture depends upon your help. Admission will be free and the Show will include lecture programs, an auction, the annual Installation Dinner, and the largest dealers' bourse seen in Hawaii for a long time. More than 15 foreign postal administrations will participate. On display will be the Hawaii collection of the HONOLULU ADVERTISER, which garnered the highest award for the Western Hemisphere at Interphil, and other collections of "Missionaries".

We look forward to meeting you at HAPEX 76 on October 30th and 31st.

Mahalo and Aloha.



1976

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Swap Meet - the 4th Monday of each month at the
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THE HAWAIIAN SESQUICENTENNIAL ISSUE OF 1928

By Mr. L. J. Crampon

On August 13, 1928, two U.S. stamps were issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of the Hawaiian Islands by Captain James Cook. (Scott #647 and #648) These were the 2¢ carmine Washington of 1926 and the 5¢ blue Roosevelt of 1927 overprinted:

HAWAII

1778 - 1928

Although Scott lists the "Molly Pitcher" overprint before the two Hawaiian Sesquicentennial stamps, the "Molly Pitcher" was not released until October 20, 1928.

U.S. stamps had previously been overprinted but only for use in selected areas - Cuba, Guam, Philippines, Canal Zone, and Shanghai. The Hawaiian overprint was valid for postage within the United States, but due to the restrictions on the previous overprints and the thought that the Hawaiian overprints might be precancels, many postal clerks would not honor them. The two Hawaiian Sesquicentennial stamps were available only at post offices in the Hawaiian Islands and at the Postal Agency in Washington.

First day covers of both the 2¢ and the 5¢ stamps are available, although they were not cacheted as we now use this term. Nevertheless, a sticker was attached to some of these first day covers that bore the Seal of the Territory of Hawaii plus the following inscription:

1778

1928

CAPT. COOK SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
COMMEMORATING
150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY
OF THE
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
AUGUST 15-16-17-18-19-20
HONOLULU, OAHU
WAIMEA, KAUAI KEALAKEKUA, HAWAII

Mid-August was a rather unusual time to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Capt. Cook. On August 13, 1778, Capt. Cook and his two ships were crossing the Arctic Circle in the Kotzebue Sound off Alaska, at least 3,000 miles north of fair Hawaii. True, Cook had seen the Islands on the previous January 17th, had landed, and departed by early February. True, they were again to return, but not until late November of that year. On the day honored by the Sesquicentennial stamp, Capt. Cook was seeking a passage from the Pacific to the Atlantic, north of Alaska and Canada.

One may wonder why stamps featuring George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt were selected for this commemoration. Washington was a contemporary of Cook, but also were Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson and their portraits appear on U.S. stamps then in use. And also in use were stamps featuring Benjamin Harrison, who had tried in vain to get Hawaii annexed to the United States, Grover Cleveland, who had sought to replace Queen Liliuokalani on her throne after the 1893 revolution, and William McKinley, who had signed the documents that formally annexed the Islands. But the selection was made from a practical viewpoint: the 2¢ stamp was then used for regular mail and the 5¢ for air mail.

Only a limited number of copies of these makeshift commemoratives were issued, 5,520,000 copies of the 2¢

and 1,460,000 copies of the 5¢. Never had the United States issued so few copies of a 2¢ commemorative; never had the United States ever issued so few copies of any commemorative (except the high value - \$1.00 or over - Columbian and Trans-Mississippi issues) than they did of the 5¢ Hawaiian Sesquicentennial. (The only exception to this statement is the 2¢ imperforate Alaska-Yukon of 1909.) Thus Captain Cook and Hawaii were honored.

In 1929, Albert Pierce Taylor published his Sesquicentennial Celebration of Captain Cook's Discovery of Hawaii. In this book appeared the following article on the Hawaiian Sesquicentennial stamp:

"CAPTAIN COOK STAMP ISSUE"

"Approximately 100,000 of the 6,000,000 special surcharged stamps in commemoration of the discovery of Hawaii by Captain Cook, were disposed of yesterday at the local post office, it was announced by Postmaster J. Frank Woolley last night, said the HONOLULU ADVERTISER, August 13, 1928. Of this number about 75,000 of the two-cent stamps and 25,000 of the fives were disposed of, it was stated by the postmaster, explaining that the demand for the first day covers with special stamp was extremely brisk.

"Since this is the first time in history that the United States government has issued a surcharged stamp and the fact that Hawaii has been so signally honored makes the stamps of especial value to stamp collectors throughout the world, the postmaster explained.

"Early yesterday morning a line formed in front of the stamp window as eager purchasers of the souvenirs sought to be the first to make the purchase. To Delegate Victor K. Houston went the honor of making the first purchase. Postmaster Woolley personally sold to him 200 stamps, 100 of the twos and another of the fives. The sheets were also endorsed by the postmaster

signifying that they represented the first purchase.

"Stamp collectors from all over the world have filed application for purchase of the stamps it was stated. One collector in Washington has sent 1100 special covers to be stamped and mailed him while others have sent groups ranging from a dozen to a hundred with special directions for mailing. Practically all of these are air mail letters. One batch is to be sent to Seattle for cancellation for delivery in Los Angeles while another destined for Switzerland is to be sent to San Francisco for cancellation.

"The highest local purchaser yesterday was C. W. Best who bought \$300. worth. Many purchases of \$100 and \$200 worth were also made.

"Honolulu was the only place in the territory as well as in the entire United States where the stamps were on sale yesterday. They will go on sale today in the outside islands, the postmaster stated.

"When one considers that there are some 375,000 professional stamp collectors throughout the United States and several million amateurs, it is easy to realize the ultimate value of this special issue and likewise the value of first day covers," said the postmaster in discussing the sale.

"These stamps, one collector told me are worth at their face value after cancellation, two cents and working from this basis he declared that within a couple of years they will have a market value of at least 10 cents.

"Incidentally their sale means invaluable publicity for Hawaii; as much perhaps, as that provided by the tourist bureau advertisements. And it will be lasting publicity because the stamps will always be in demand after the issue has been disposed of by the post office.

"The postmaster stated that more than 2,000 air mail letters alone with the special stamps on had been sorted yesterday and indications are that a record shipment of first class mail will be made from here Wednesday when the Matsonia leaves for the coast.

"Many persons had specially prepared covers and the postmaster spent a busy day autographing them and signifying to the fact that they are first day covers."

* * * * *

STAMPS OF OLD HAWAII

Col. Pat Hogan, USAF-Ret,
427 Kawaihae St.,
Honolulu, H. I. 96825

-- WILL BUY OR SELL --

Stamps — Envelopes — Postcards

Covers — Revenues — Railroads

— Postmarks —

HAWAII FDC'S 647, 648, 799, 1153,
C-46, C-55, and C-84.

THE ST. LOUIS BEAR STAMPS OF 1845-47

In 1912, the Philadelphia banking firm of Charnley and Whelan changed partners. Townsend, the new partner, decided to clear out some of the firm's old correspondence. He paid \$50 to the Hemingway Paper Stock Company to take away and pulp the accumulation of paper.

In sorting through, Hemingway noticed that many of the old letters bore stamps issued by the Postmaster of St. Louis - there were 105 in all - including 20 of the rare 20¢ specimens.

Charnley and Whelan brought an unsuccessful suit against Hemingway who sold some of the stamps during his lifetime but bequeathed the bulk to a Masonic Lodge at his death.

H. R. Harmer auctioned 71 of these stamps in New York in 1948 and realized \$43,220. Their present day worth is considerably greater.

* * * * *

Recent statistics show that philately is the hobby of about 16 million Americans and the field is male-dominated, with two out of three collectors being males. One out of six is under the age of 15, and one in four is over 55.

* * * * *

"HOKULE'A" COMPLETES VOYAGE TO TAHITI

By Ronald R. Russell

Hokule'a, the 60-foot ocean-going canoe constructed and manned by the Polynesian Voyaging Society, has made Bicentennial history sailing nearly 3,000 miles on the first leg of a round trip journey between Hawaii and Tahiti. The voyage was accomplished without the aid of modern navigational equipment or external support, and strongly suggests two-way communications may have been established between Polynesia and Hawaii as early as 500 to 750 A.D. Such communications are spoken of in early Hawaiian and Tahitian chants and legends.

Hokule'a's first landfall was made on June 1st on the small island of Mataiva in the Tuamotu Archipelago, 168 miles north of Tahiti. The canoe then sailed on to Papeete, arriving June 4th. The Mataiva landfall came after 34 days of sailing, many months of canoe-building and crew training, and years of planning and research.

The primary significance of *Hokule'a's* epic "Voyage of Rediscovery" is scientific. Because the twin-hulled, dual-masted canoe was designed and constructed according to methods practiced by the ancient Polynesians, the successful transit to Tahiti supports the theory that Polynesian canoes were not only structurally capable of crossing vast distances, but were directed by navigational methods far more accurate than previously assumed.

The degree of precision in ancient navigational techniques has been a central issue debated in world historical and scientific circles for many years. Assuming Polynesian explorers discovered Hawaii by chance, they still would have needed extremely accurate navigation to retrace the 3,000 miles to their

home islands. *Hokule'a's* 17-member crew proved the old methods of steering by stars, sun, wave patterns, and wind estimates were accurate enough to place the canoe only six miles off course after 1,300 miles of open sea travel. A six mile error at that point represents a heading error of less than one degree for a craft with no compass or sextant.

The *Hokule'a* is expected to return to Hawaii in mid-July, where an enthusiastic reception will be waiting.

In the meantime, the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Hawaiian Philatelic Society will be attempting to defray some of the costs of the voyage. The Hawaiian Philatelic Society is presently accepting orders for sets of two cacheted covers carried aboard *Hokule'a*, one for each leg of the round trip. The covers are available from the Society for \$6.00 per set. Those desiring a unique philatelic record of one of the most important historical/scientific events of the Bicentennial should send their checks to the Hawaiian Philatelic Society, Department PVS, P. O. Box 10115, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816. Allow six weeks for delivery.

* * * * *

AN UPDATE to the article entitled "Earliest Known Usages of Hawaii Postal Cards" by Theodore W. Bozarth, which appeared in the last issue of "PO'OLEKA O HAWAII" - Issue No. 3 of April 1976. In the listing, the following changes have been reported by the author since the printing of the article:

UX4 S4 15 Feb 1884 (with Wells Fargo frank)

UY1m M1 26 Mar 1884 (to Hana Maulu, Kauai) GDP

JUST 25 YEARS AGO

By Ronald Southard

Do you remember who said "It's better to put your money in the bank than to buy stamps"? Was it your wife who said "Stop wasting your money on those old pieces of paper" - or was it your husband who said "You're spending too much money on stamps"?

Maybe it was your brother who said "You'd be better off putting all your money in a savings account than buying some dumb old stamps".

Now, here are some facts. Investing money in stamps can sometimes be better than money in the bank.

Say, for example, that 25 years ago you had \$62.50 to spend on stamps or to put in your savings account. You decided to put it in your savings account which (presently) pays five percent interest annually. Today, your interest would be \$208.75, plus your original \$62.50, totalling \$271.25.

Now let's say that you decided to buy a mint stamp, U.S. - Scott #1 - for \$62.50. That stamp catalogued for \$62.50 just 25 years ago. Today, that stamp is worth \$500, and your so-called "interest" on that stamp would be \$437.50, plus your \$62.50 investment.

So, to be a little generous, let's even do this:

\$500.00	- Value of stamp today
- 271.25	- Bank savings and interest today
<u>\$228.75</u>	- Profit to date

The next time someone thinks you are a little deranged for spending money on those "little pieces of paper" show them the following list. They may want to start buying stamps too!

<u>Scott #</u>	<u>1950 Value</u>	<u>Interest at 5% for 25 Years</u>	<u>1975 Value</u>	<u>Profit</u>
<u>U.S. SINGLE MINT STAMPS</u>				
1	\$62.50	\$271.25	\$500.00	\$228.75
2	175.00	759.50	3000.00	2240.50
30	17.50	75.95	150.00	74.05
73	4.50	19.53	37.50	17.95
118	100.00	434.00	500.00	66.00
122	200.00	868.00	1500.00	632.00
230/245	383.95	1666.34	3513.25	1846.91
285/293	216.45	939.39	1651.50	712.11
294/299	20.95	90.92	178.50	87.58
323/327	28.25	122.61	174.00	51.40
328/330	8.75	37.98	54.00	16.03
397/404	93.10	404.05	683.75	219.70
548/550	4.90	21.27	28.00	6.73
551/573	34.95	151.68	222.66	70.98
C1/C3	15.50	67.27	160.00	92.73
C4/C6	16.00	69.44	138.50	69.06
C13/C15	123.50	535.99	1060.00	524.01
C18	9.50	41.23	60.00	18.77
E1/E16	59.05	256.28	459.60	203.32
<u>U.S. MINT PLATE BLOCKS</u>				
614/619	52.00	225.68	325.00	99.32
620/621	41.50	180.11	715.00	534.89
630	23.50	101.99	185.00	83.01
647/648	14.00	60.76	275.00	214.24
832/834	67.50	292.95	667.50	374.55
906	2.50	10.85	17.50	6.65

C1	22.50	97.65	725.00	627.37
C2	70.00	303.80	1100.00	796.20
C3	85.00	368.90	1350.00	981.10
C4/C6	113.50	495.59	3525.00	3032.41
C7/C10	10.50	45.57	392.50	346.93
C11/C12	6.25	27.13	355.00	327.88
C13/C15	860.00	3732.40	10300.00	6567.60
C18	67.50	292.95	725.00	432.05
C20/C22	12.75	55.34	307.50	252.17
C24	8.50	36.89	225.00	188.11
F1	25.00	108.50	550.00	441.50
<u>HAWAII SINGLE MINT STAMPS</u>				
5	75.00	325.50	550.00	224.50
6	27.50	119.35	225.00	105.65
7	175.00	759.50	2000.00	1240.50
8	40.00	173.60	200.00	26.40
9	18.50	80.29	90.00	9.71
27/28	35.00	151.90	200.00	48.10
<u>HAWAII MINT BLOCKS OF FOUR</u>				
30/34	47.75	207.24	302.50	95.27
42/49	153.10	664.45	956.50	292.05
50/51	70.00	303.80	675.00	371.20
53/64	61.50	266.91	399.25	132.34
65/73	148.00	642.32	965.72	323.43

* * * * *

JERSEY and GUERNSEY

By Walter P. Stoermer

On October 4, 1969, the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, located in the English Channel, issued their own postage stamps. The reason for getting independent Postal Authority was because the British Postal Service ceased as a function of the Department of the Civil Service and became an operation of a Government Corporation. This change was considered "incompatible" to the islands.

The islands had their own postage paper in the past, and their postal history (postal markings) date to the 18th century. During the World War II German occupation of the islands, they issued their own stamps. These were officially British issues, the German occupiers having been denied (by Berlin) their wish to use German issue stamps.

In 1948, Britain issued two stamps commemorating the end of the occupation. In more recent years, stamps for Guernsey and Jersey have been a part of Britain's regional series, which have also included issues for the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland, etc. These stamps were valid for mainland Britons, too.

The first issue presents scenes from the islands as well as heraldic symbols. Each stamp, with three exceptions, depicts from coinage the heads of kings or queens of England who were dukes or duchesses of Normandy of which the Channel Islands were a part prior to William the Conqueror's victory at Hastings in 1066. The three high denominations show full-width views of island harbors.

* * * * *

CHRISTMAS ISLAND (Pacific Ocean)

By Mrs. Beth Ashworth

Christmas Island, 1.59° N. Latitude, 157.30° W. Longitude, is the largest coral atoll in the Pacific. Christmas, Fanning and Washington Islands comprise the Line Island district of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony.

The land area is a few feet above sea level in most parts and much of its surface is covered with shallow salt lakes. Coral reefs encircle the Island and entry to the large lagoon is through Cook Passage.

During Captain Cook's third voyage, the "Discovery" and the "Resolution" anchored off Christmas Island from December 24, 1777 to January 2, 1778, during which time Cook observed a solar eclipse. The explorers noted that the Island had stunted vegetation and no fresh water, but there was an abundance of green turtles, fish and seabirds. This uninhabited Island was Cook's last landfall before the discovery of Hawaii.

During the next 80 years there were a number of visits from passing explorers, traders and whalers. The tales of shipwreck, hardship and rescue make fascinating reading but are beyond the scope of this article.

British and U.S. claims to Christmas and other Pacific islands have been disputed since their discovery. The passage by Congress of the Guano Act, August 18, 1856, permitted Americans to claim unoccupied islands in the name of the U.S.A. for the purpose of obtaining guano, a natural fertilizer. Of course, the British resented this Act as many of their claims dated back to Captain Cook and earlier explorers, but direct confrontations were rare.

Over the next thirty years, guano deposits on Christmas Island were worked by both British and American interests until the Island was formally annexed by Captain William Wiseman in the "Caroline", March 17, 1888. By Order in Council, dated July 31, 1918, it was incorporated into the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony, but it was not until 1939 that a branch of the Colony's Post Office was established there.

POSTAL HISTORY

Period Prior to 1914.

In 1902, the British Government leased the Island for a term of 99 years to a subsidiary of Lever Bros., the soap firm. The company was titled "Lever's Pacific Plantations Ltd.". While there is no evidence that any postal facilities existed during Lever's occupation of the Island, mail must have been carried to and from the plantations in company vessels or passing ships. No covers are known to exist.

The Rougier Period - 1914-1939.

The Lever venture was not very successful, and the company transferred its lease to Father Emmanuel Rougier in December 1913. He registered a company in London called "Central Pacific Coconut Plantations Limited". In his book published in 1914, he states "the intention is to populate the island with colonists and workers of all nationalities and colours". The colonization scheme was not successful and the last colonist was taken off by a passing yacht in 1919. Rougier made his headquarters in Papeete where he died in 1932. The company was operated by his nephew until 1939.

Rougier was responsible for printing local stamps to reimburse the company for transporting mail to the first connection with an official post office (usually British, French or U.S.) and affixing the necessary stamps upon arrival. Apparently the need arose in connection with the colonization scheme, though little is known about arrangements for inward mail. A few covers addressed to colonists on the Island exist with a local stamp attached.

There were four separate printings of the local stamp. The design, in five colors, depicts a yacht (presumed to be the "Ysabel May") anchored off a coconut-studded island with a blue sea in the foreground and a reddish sun in the background.

Local Stamps - First Issue:

5 Centimes. Perf. 12-1/2, no wmk., colors blue, orange, red, green, black. White calendar-type paper. Sheets of 4 stamps, rows 2 x 2. Usage approximately 1915-1924.

- Second Issue:

5 C. Perf. 11-1/2, colors blue, green, yellow, red, black. Colors generally paler than previous issue. Unused copies scarce. Sheets of 4 stamps, rows 2 x 2. Usage approximately 1924-1925.

- Third Issue:

10 C. No wmk., perf. 11-1/2, colors ultramarine, orange, red, green, black. Sheets of 4, rows 2 x 2. Usage approximately 1926-1934. Color of sea is definitely ultramarine compared with dark blue of previous issues. It appears that usage was temporarily abandoned or limited during the period 1928-1934.

- Fourth Issue:

10 C. No wmk., perf. 11-1/2, colors greenish blue, yellow, red, green, black. Denomination in blue. Stamps printed in sheets of 8, consisting of two horizontal panes of 4 stamps each, in rows of 2, with a gutter 22.5 mm wide between. Usage December 25, 1934 until opening of Colony post office February 14, 1939.

Local Stamps - Cancellations.

Type 1.

The Palm Tree Cancellation. This consists of two large concentric circles (39mm and 51.5mm respectively) between which are the words CENTRAL PACIFIC COCOANUT PLANTATIONS, LTD. (above) and CHRISTMAS ISD.

(below). The center of the seal is filled with the device of a coconut palm. This type is an impression of the company's seal rather than a cancellation designed for postal purposes. The approximate date of despatch can be determined from the date of cancellation when the first regular postage stamps were attached. The seal is generally struck in black but purple is known to exist. Most covers from this period are "philatelic" in nature, and were generally addressed to "Fred Reinhard, philatliste, 41 Rue Bantiger, Berne, Suisse" and "A.C. Roessler, Newark, New Jersey" and were cancelled at Tahiti. Usage approximately 1918-1928.



Type II

This consists of two concentric circles interrupted in the middle with a space intended for the date line. There are four birds in flight in the upper arc and a coconut palm in the lower. This rubber stamp device remained in use until 1934, although most examples of usage occur in the period 1924-1925. Exact date of first usage is unknown.



Mrs. A. L. Lear

80 Portsmouth Road
Piedmont
California

Type III

This came into use with the printing of the fourth issue of local stamps December 25, 1934. It was a single-lined circle 32.5mm diameter, rubber-stamp cancellation with CHRISTMAS ISLAND above and CENTRAL PACIFIC OCEAN below and a date in three lines in the center. The date is found in two forms: (a) cancelled month, day, year in use until 1937, and (b) cancelled day, month, year in use during 1938. Most covers of this period were A.C. Roessler promotions. We noted in one advertising insert Christmas covers from Christmas Island - 3 for \$1. They are at least 200 times that value today!



Handwritten:
Mrs. A. L. Lear
827. Dough.
Piedmont, Calif. U.S.

Carriers: Most covers were carried in vessels registered as owned by Rougier which we assume maintained regular communication with the Island.

- Ysabel May - 135 tons - the only vessel owned by the company, acquired 1916 and sold to a French firm in Tahiti prior to being destroyed by fire off Huahine October 25, 1918.
- Roy Somers - 315 tons, schooner, 1925-1931.
- Marechal Foch - 383 tons, 3 masted schooner, 1932-35.
- Tooya - 597 tons, twin screw motor vessel, 1935-1939.

In addition, passing ships carried mail to various Pacific ports, with Tahiti being the most common. U.S. and British Pacific cancellations are relatively scarce.

Period II. - Gilbert & Ellice Islands Post Office - February 14, 1939 to the present date.

The first official post office was opened February 14, 1939. George V issues were used at first, followed by George VI when they became available. The cancellation consisted of a single-lined circle, 29mm in diameter, with POST OFFICE above and CHRISTMAS ISLAND below. The date was a single line across the center.



This post office has remained in use ever since with the exception of the period 1942 to 1948 when the Island was garrisoned by New Zealand and U.S. forces during World War II.

Period III. - U.S. Army Post Office.

The U.S. Army operated APO 915 between February 11, 1942 and October 12, 1948. Four different cancels of the single-lined circle type were used. Type I bore the inscription "American Base Forces APO 915" with three-line date in the center. Type II - an order dated July 1, 1942 ordered the removal of APO numbers. This was done at Christmas Island by filing off the APO number and leaving a blank space after APO at the bottom; this order was rescinded on March 10, 1943. Type III was a new wording of the original with the APO number restored. It reached Christmas Island by August 1943 and continued in use until a new type came into use in March 1945. Type IV - this was a single-lined circle with "U.S. Army Postal Service" above and "A.P.O." below. The four-line center recorded month, day, year and APO number. It continued in use until the U.S. forces departed in 1948, and the Colony cancellations resumed when the Gilbert & Ellice post office branch re-opened.



*Harry Whit
126 So. 15th St.
Newark,
N.J.*

Period IV. - British Atom Bomb Tests.

British Forces established a Field Post Office on the Island between March 26, 1957 and June 29, 1962. It consisted of a small single circle inscribed

"B.F.P.O." above and "CHRISTMAS ISLAND" below with a two-line date in the center. A wide range of covers was despatched from the Island during this period.



*J. S. Kennedy Esq.,
Barrister,
Jerome,
S. & F. C.*

Period V. - U.S. Atom Bomb Tests.

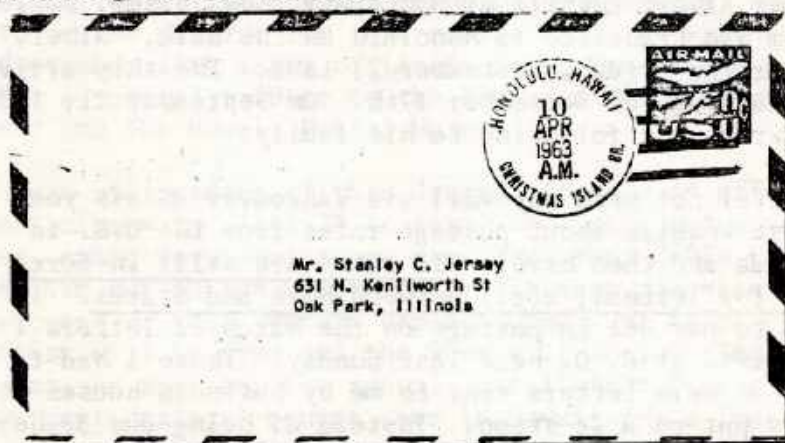
Between April 25, 1962 and July 11, 1962, a large task force converged on Christmas Island when the U.S. conducted a series of 27 upper-atmosphere explosions with British cooperation. APO 86 was operated from February 8, 1962 to August 30, 1962. The handstamp was a single circle with "Army & Air Force Postal Service" above and "APO" below, four lines for the date, and APO number in the center, and the usual four killer bars at the side.

James J.



Period VI. - Branch of the Honolulu Post Office.

After the tests, a caretaker force remained to safeguard U.S. facilities and equipment. The contractors, Holmes and Narver, Inc., under contract to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, requested a post office for the convenience of their employees. It was a civilian contract branch of the Honolulu Post Office, performing most of the regular services, but differing from most U.S. Post Office branches in that the contractors provided and paid the salary of the postal clerk, Samuel J. Kalani, Jr. Normally these contract branches do not cancel mail unless they operate at great distances from the Main Post Office (in this case, approximately 1100 miles). This branch operated from September 15, 1962 until September 21, 1963, and was probably the first U.S. civilian post office on British soil. Only one cancelling device was used.



Christmas Island has stepped back from the pages of history and resumed its sleepy Pacific Island status. During a recent visit, I noticed that many relics of the atom tests remain - serviceable roads, a fine airstrip, and comfortable tropical housing. I made my own postal history standing in the post office under a corrugated roof with the relative humidity at 90°.

The foregoing is intended as a very brief outline of the Island's postal history. It is always difficult to condense a mass of information into outline form and not degenerate into vagueness. It would take a handbook of at least 100 pages to do justice to this subject.

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS OF 1898

James Albert Tuthill of Montclair, New Jersey, sailed from San Francisco to Honolulu on the bark, "Albert", departing Friday, September 2, 1898. The ship arrived in Honolulu on September 17th. On September 21, 1898 he wrote the following to his family:

"Better not send any mail via Vancouver unless you first enquire about postage rates from the U.S. to Canada and then here. Old rates are still in force (5¢ for letters, etc.) between here and States. I had to pay 46¢ in postage on the batch of letters I received at P. O. here last Sunday. Those I had to pay on were letters sent to me by business houses who only put on a 2¢ stamp. Instead of being due 3¢ here, they are double the amount of unpaid prepaid postage, or 6 cents."

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