

# PO 'OLEKA O HAWAII



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Fellow Philatelists:

We are pleased to announce a Most Outstanding HAPEX-84 to be held on January 13, 14, and 15, 1984, in the Pacific Ballroom of The Ilikai Hotel, Waikiki, Honolulu.

Most Outstanding - for two reasons:

Firstly, the Show will be a project within the 1984 Hawaii Statehood Silver Jubilee celebrations; and

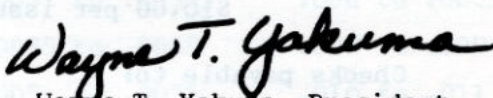
Secondly, there will be an extensive exhibition of the HONOLULU ADVERTISER/ATHERTON Collections of Hawaiian Postal Issues and Stationery.

All-in-all, this will be a HAPEX which will prove interesting, educational, and one which may never be duplicated!

Letter to dealers will be mailed out shortly.

Come and share the excitement with us!

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne T. Yakuma". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne T. Yakuma, President

1983

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Swap Meet - the 4th Monday of each month at  
the Kaimuki Christian Church, Honolulu,  
at 7:00 P.M.

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"PO'OLEKA O HAWAII"

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## HAWAII'S WHITE ELEPHANTS

### Those 6¢, 12¢, and 18¢ Stamps

By A. Harry Sharbaugh

In March 1871, the Kingdom of Hawaii issued 6¢ and 18¢ stamps (Figs. 1 and 2) to prepay the new Hawaii to U.S. letter rate of 6¢ (or multiples thereof). Later, in March 1875, a 12¢ black stamp appeared. The 6¢ rate went into effect on July 1, 1870 and lasted until December 31, 1881. Before this rate took effect, a letter sent to the United States needed both Hawaiian and U.S. postage stamps, but the new 6¢ Hawaiian rate paid both Hawaiian and U.S. letter fees. Only mail to points beyond the United States required additional U.S. postage. (Fig. 3)

On January 1, 1882, the rate for letter mail to the United States, Mexico and Canada dropped to 5¢, and mail to other U.P.U. countries went to 10¢ with the



Fig. 1. The common or "natural" usage of the 6¢ green - payment of the prevailing Hawaii - U.S. rate.

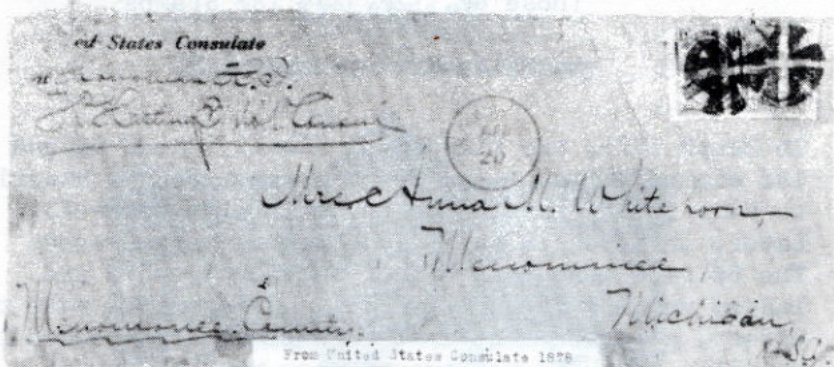


Fig. 2. "Natural" usage of the 18¢ lilac with a 6¢ green on this quadruple rate 1878 battered cover.



Fig. 3. "Natural" usage of a pair of 12¢ blacks with a 6¢ green to make up a quintuple (30¢) rate to the U.S. on this 1881 wrapper. An additional 25 cents in U.S. stamps was necessary to get the package to England.



interesting exception that mail to any Australian colony was 12¢. In November 1883, the color of the black 12¢ stamp was changed to red lilac, constituting another 12¢ stamp. This occurred even though ample stores of the old 12¢ black stamp were on hand.

In 1893, almost all remaining stocks of these 6¢, 12¢, and 18¢ stamps were overprinted. By this time the letter rate to Australia was reduced to 5¢. The only "natural" usage of a 6¢ multiple was the 12¢ fee for a local registered letter (2¢ inter-island postage and 10¢ registry fee). Other than this, the 6¢ multiples had no "natural" postal use and became the postal department's white elephants.

However, a philatelic market was emerging, so sales of these stamps to collectors and speculators occurred. Along with this, philatelically inspired covers bearing these stamps emerged.

If the Meyer-Harris data for numbers of stamps issued are reviewed, some interesting figures emerge. (See TABLE I)

It seemed to me that while the 6¢ green, Scott #33, on cover is common, all others on cover are difficult to locate. To further evaluate this, I reviewed just over 1,600 stamped Hawaiian covers offered for sale by the major U.S. auction houses over the past ten years. Two hundred and sixteen examples of usage of 6¢, 12¢, and 18¢ stamps on cover were located and tabulated. (See TABLE II)

TABLE II provides the numerical basis for some observations. Predictably the 6¢ green is fairly common with most examples used from 1/71 to 12/81, when the 6¢ rate was in force.

Surprising, however, is the rarity of the 12¢ black and 18¢ lilac on covers showing "natural" usage in paying multiples of the 6¢ rate in the 1/71 to 12/81 time period. Only two examples were identified! Most recorded usages of the 12¢ and 18¢ stamps

TABLE I

| <u>Stamp</u>                       | <u>Green</u>  | <u>Lilac</u>   | <u>Black</u>   | <u>Lilac</u>     | <u>Blue</u>    |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
|                                    | 6¢<br>(Sc#33) | 18¢<br>(Sc#34) | 12¢<br>(Sc#36) | 12¢<br>(Sc#46)   | 12¢<br>(Sc#78) |
| <u>Year Issued</u>                 | March '71     | March '71      | March '75      | Nov '83          | Oct '94        |
| <u>No. Issued</u>                  | 725,000       | 175,000        | 225,000        | 37,500           | 125,000        |
| <u>No. Overprinted<br/>in 1893</u> | 40,000        | 100,000        | 90,500         | 3,750 &<br>7,500 | X              |
| <u>No. Potentially<br/>Sold</u>    | 682,000       | 75,000*        | 134,500        | 26,000           | X              |
| <u>Unoverprinted</u>               |               |                |                |                  |                |

\* postal sales much lower

It is apparent that the 6¢ stamp was commonly sold while the others were relatively infrequently sold. In addition, many of the sales were purely philatelic sales reducing further the numbers purchased for postal use.

TABLE II

| STAMP           | TOTAL | COVERS WITH USAGE BETWEEN |           |           |           | DATE<br>UNCERTAIN |
|-----------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
|                 |       | 1/71-12/81                | 1/81-4/93 | 4/93-2/94 | 3/94-6/00 |                   |
| 6¢ Green (#33)  | 126   | 83                        | 9         | 0         | 1         | 33                |
| 12¢ Black (#36) | 8     | 1                         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 0                 |
| 12¢ Lilac (#46) | 1     | -                         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 0                 |
| 18¢ Lilac (#34) | 9     | 1                         | 2         | 0         | 6         | 0                 |
| Prov. Govt.     |       |                           |           |           |           |                   |
| 6¢ Green (#60)  | 8     | -                         | -         | 3         | 5         | 0                 |
| 12¢ Black (#62) | 19    | -                         | -         | 2         | 15        | 2                 |
| 12¢ Lilac (#63) | 1     | -                         | -         | 1         | 0         | 0                 |
| 12¢ Lilac (#69) | 4     | -                         | -         | 3         | 0         | 1                 |
| 18¢ Lilac (#71) | 19    | -                         | -         | 4         | 11        | 4                 |
| 12¢ Blue (#78)  | 21    | -                         | -         | -         | 21        | 0                 |
|                 | 216*  | 85                        | 14        | 15        | 62        | 40                |

- Means stamp not in use during this time period.

\* The total number of covers was slightly less than 216 (namely 206), because 8 covers each bore two or more different stamps from the above list.



occurred after the 6¢ rate was reduced to 5¢. All but one of these late usage covers shows what I consider "unnatural" usage, namely as part of a philatelically inspired franking (Fig. 4) or blatant overpayment of a later lesser postal rate. Most of these covers also appear after 'legal' usage of these stamps had passed (in 1893). The sole "natural" post - '82 usage - I saw was a double 12¢ rate cover to New Zealand in 1891 franked with a 12¢ black, two 5¢ blues and a 2¢ rose.

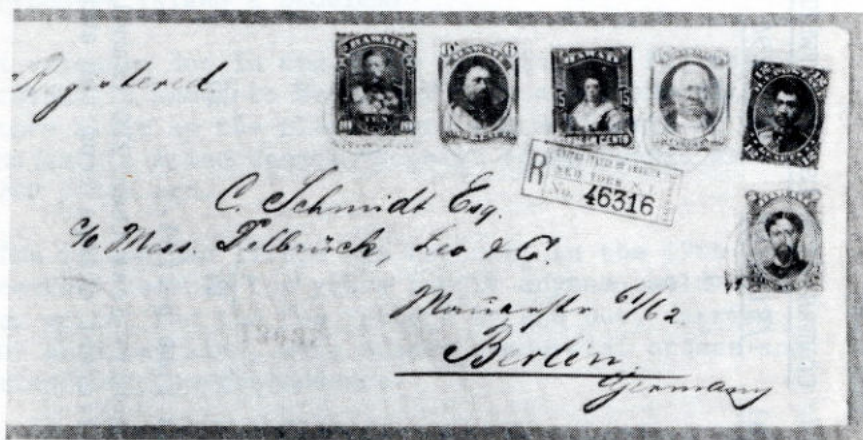


Fig. 4. "Unnatural" usage of the 6¢, 12¢ and 18¢ stamps along with various other Hawaiian stamps on this 1891 66¢ philatelically inspired cover to Germany.

The 12¢ lilac appeared in 1883 and its appearance on cover is quite rare. It is seen showing "natural" usage on a solitary 1890 cover paying the 12¢ rate to New Zealand. (Fig. 5)

The 1893 existing stocks of all these stamps were overprinted. The resultant stamps retained their fairly useless denominations. Also, the 12¢ New Zealand rate changed to 5¢, leaving the local registered cover the only "natural" 12¢ rate of which I am aware. (Fig. 6) Despite this, many examples of these stamps exist on cover. Undoubtedly most of these were philatelically inspired. The cover in



Fig. 5. "Natural" 1890 usage of the 12¢ lilac to pay the Hawaii-New Zealand letter rate.

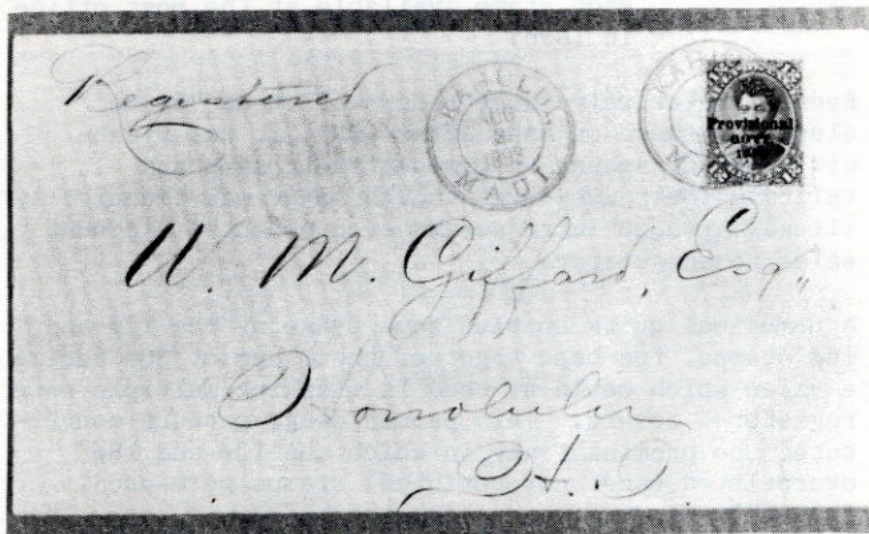


Fig. 6. This 12¢ lilac with black PROV. GOVT. 1893 overprint shows a "natural" use of a 12¢ stamp paying the 2¢ interisland rate together with the 10¢ registry fee on this 1893 local registered cover.



Fig. 7 apparently displays one of each of the stamps available at the post office window in 1896 in such a philatelic array.



Fig. 7. "Unnatural" philatelic usage of the 6¢, 12¢ and 18¢ overprinted stamps along with what appears to be one of each stamp available at the post office in 1896.

Because relatively large stocks of these "white elephants" were on hand after 1893, it was financially advantageous to promote their sale and tolerate their use, even though usage was technically illegal. These large stocks even promoted discount sales to speculators.

A numerical quirk enabled some usage of the 12¢ and 18¢ stamps, for used together their sum of 30¢ became a value which could be used in franking multiple rate registered covers. This paired usage pattern constitutes one prominent way in which the 12¢ and 18¢ overprinted (and unoverprinted) stamps were used. (Fig. 8)

The other dominant usage pattern of these 6¢, 12¢, and 18¢ stamps was to overpay postage on local or U. S. covers. (Figs. 9 and 10) A group of such local covers is noted in the years 1898-1900 bearing





Fig. 8. Usage of the 12¢ and 18¢ overprinted stamps to make up a 30¢ fee on this registered cover to France. Other examples of this quasi-natural 30¢ unit are seen on other covers bearing 35¢, 40¢, 55¢ and 95¢ total postage.

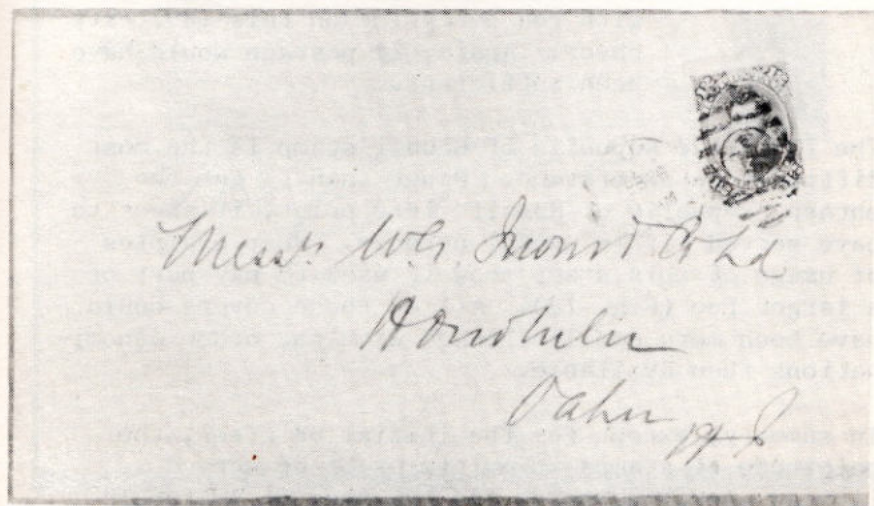


Fig. 9. "Unnatural" Feb. 1894 usage of the 12¢ lilac with red overprint stamp. There is no evidence of the cover being registered. As a 'city letter', 1¢ postage would have been adequate.

overpayment with 18¢ stamps, possibly representing a final attempt to glean at least some use from these "white elephants". (Fig. 11)

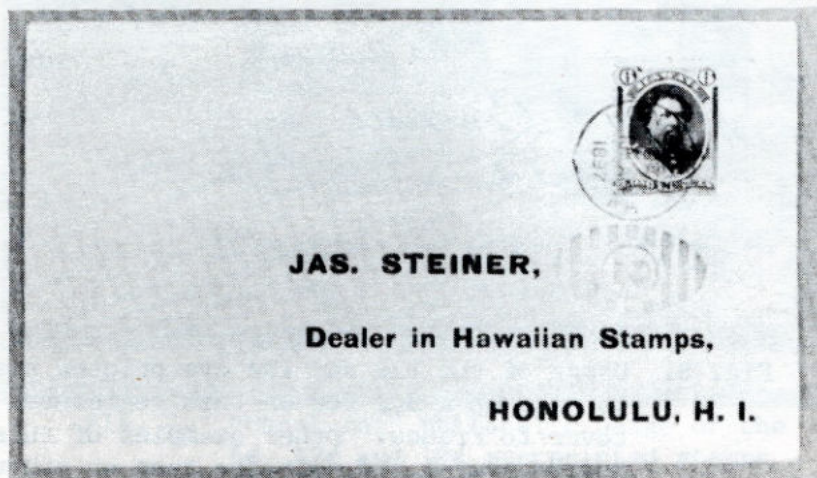


Fig. 10. "Unnatural" usage of the 6¢ green with red overprint on this 1897 city cover. Again, 1¢ postage would have been sufficient.

The final 12¢ Republic of Hawaii stamp is the most difficult to understand. Other than to get the phrase "Republic of Hawaii" into print, it seems to have served little useful purpose. Most examples of usage of this stamp show it used to pay part of a larger fee (Fig. 12). All of these covers could have been more easily franked with the other denominations then available.

In summary, except for the initial 6¢ green, the multitude of stamps in multiples of 6¢ served limited useful purpose, and examples of "natural" or purely postal usage are quite rare. Most of the covers bearing these stamps do so in "unnatural" ways, often philatelically inspired usage or overpayment of existent rates.



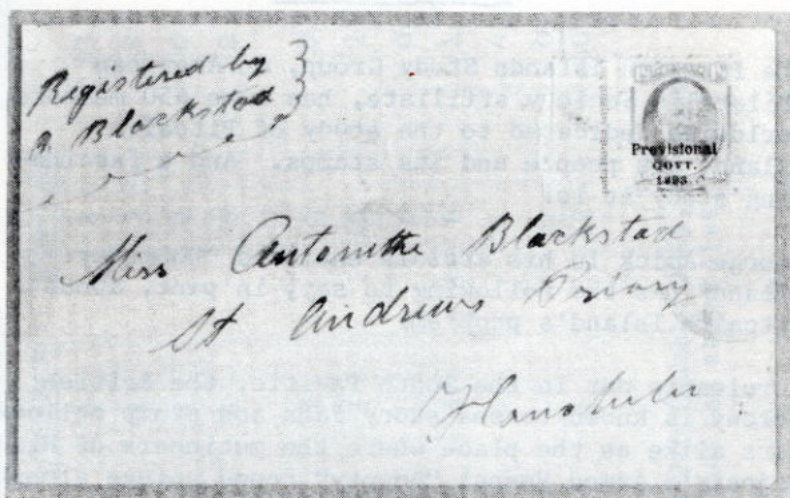


Fig. 11. "Unnatural" usage of an 18¢ stamp on a Nov. 1899 registered cover. 12¢ (2¢ postage and 10¢ registry fee) would have sufficed.



Fig. 12. Usage of two 12¢ stamps and a 1¢ stamp to pay a 25¢ rate. A single 25¢ stamp or multiples of the 5¢ and 10¢ stamps could have done this.

\* \* \* \* \*



## PITCAIRN ISLAND

The Pitcairn Islands Study Group, an American Philatelic Society affiliate, has some 450 members worldwide dedicated to the study of Pitcairn Island, its people and its stamps. And a fascinating study it is!

George Amick in his article entitled "Doomsday Island" has the following to say, in part, about Pitcairn Island's problem:

A volcanic dot in the South Pacific, the British colony is known to sea story fans and stamp collectors alike as the place where the mutineers of His Majesty's Armed Vessel "Bounty" found refuge almost 200 years ago.

The island had little use for mail in the 19th century because for years hardly anyone could read or write, and the few letters in and out, carried by ship captains, were mostly commercial orders and missionary correspondence.

In this century, Pitcairn mail was processed first through the British consul on Tahiti, and later by the U. S. postmaster in the Canal Zone. In 1927, New Zealand gave the islanders their first official postal service by setting up a sub-agency there, with Edgar Christian as postmaster.

As early as 1904, proposals were made for Pitcairn stamps, but it wasn't until 1937 that the British took the idea seriously. There was no way that the Pitcairners could tax themselves to pay for schools and other needs, but collectors would buy Pitcairn stamps, and passengers on visiting ships would want to put them on their mail.

Those stamps, incidentally, have risen spectacularly in price in the past four years, doubling, tripling and in a few cases quadrupling in value before

leveling off. Speculators were able to make this happen because of the limited printings and the basic popularity of the stamps with collectors.

Now, its people, most of them descendants of those mutineers and the Tahitian women they brought with them, are having to face up to the possibility that they will have to abandon their island. Their number, once over 200, has been declining for years and now hovers around 50.

It is an aging population. The young adults are eager to leave and seek their way in the world that lies over the horizon. Their home is less than two square miles in area. It lies in the empty ocean, 4,100 miles west of Panama, and 3,300 miles east of New Zealand.

If the islanders do have to leave, it will cause hardly a ripple in the big world. Only stamp collectors will know about it; they will mourn the end of the colorful stamps - stamps whose sale has for years provided the money for Pitcairn's public works.

The last chapter in the strange and romantic history of Pitcairn Island may now be unfolding. Today, Pitcairn contemplates its future!



\* \* \* \* \*



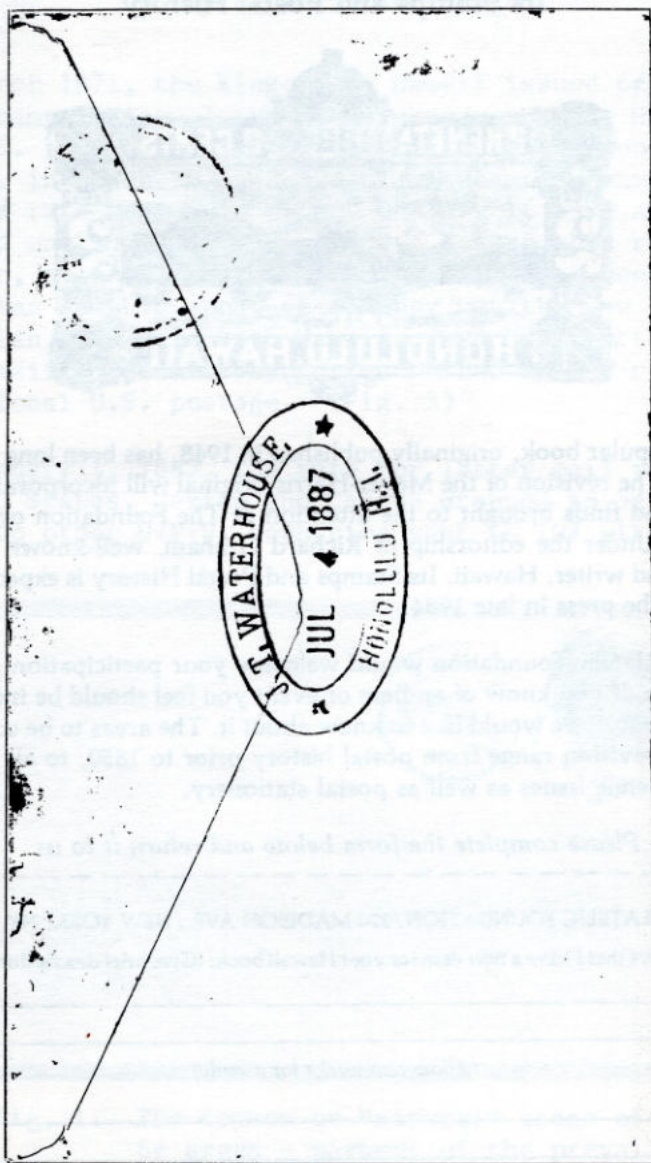
1884 Postal Stationery Envelope - UPSS15 / Scott U9

10¢ - blue interior - black Honolulu date stamp,  
Jul 5 1887 - violet company backstamp, Jul 4 1887 -  
red London receiving mark, Jul 29 87.





Our member, John F. Bruhn, of Norwich, England, has submitted this envelope, front and back, for the information of Hawaiian postal stationery buffs.

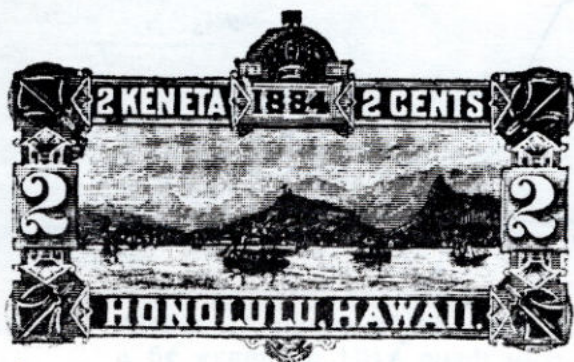


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The Philatelic Foundation  
announces the publication of a revised edition of

## HAWAII

Its Stamps and Postal History



This popular book, originally published in 1948, has been long out of print. The revision of the Meyer-Harris original will incorporate new facts and finds brought to the attention of The Foundation over the years. Under the editorship of Richard Graham, well-known philatelist and writer, *Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History* is expected to be off the press in late 1984.

The Philatelic Foundation would welcome your participation in this revision. If you know of an item or event you feel should be included in this book, we would like to know about it. The areas to be covered in this revision range from postal history prior to 1850, to all postal and revenue issues as well as postal stationery.

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☐ I believe that I have a new item for your Hawaii book: (Give brief description) \_\_\_\_\_

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## HAWAIIAN ENVELOPE THICKNESSES

By Albert J. Schwalm

A recent survey was made of over 100 Hawaiian stamped envelopes to determine the exact thickness of the paper used in their production.

It is known that these envelopes were produced on thin, medium and thick papers. Prior to the survey, it had been determined that the measurements were approximately .003, .004 and .005 thousands of an inch.

Using a precision paper thickness gauge procured from the Ames Co. of Waltham, Ma., the thicknesses varied as much as .0001 to .0005.

It should be taken into consideration that after a period of 100 years since the envelopes were produced, many causes could affect the paper, such as climate, humidity and transmission through the mails.

Rather than destroying the condition of some unused envelopes with the flaps stuck down, measurements were made at double thickness. The gauge was used at various points on the envelope for both single and double paper.

### ANALYSIS

| <u>Reviewed</u> | <u>Paper</u> | <u>Single</u>  | <u>Double</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 14              | Thin         | .003 to .00325 | .006 to .0065 |
| 68              | Medium       | .0035 to .0045 | .007 to .009  |
| 21              | Thick        | .005 to .0055  | .010 to .011  |

\* \* \* \* \*



## REPUBLIC OF PALAU INITIATES POSTAL OPERATIONS

By Michael Schulsinger

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, a United Nations trusteeship administered by the United States, currently moving toward complete internal self-government, is breaking up into three Free Associated States, the Republic of Palau, The Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Mariana Islands, to the north of Guam have chosen to remain in the United States as the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, similar to Puerto Rico.

As a part of this independent process, the United States will be permitting the Free Associated States to operate their own postal systems and issue postage stamps. The Republic of Palau took over the operation of the U.S. Post Office at Koror on 11/1/82.

\* \* \* \* \*

### "A HISTORY OF THE STAMPS OF HAWAII: 1851-1900"

This informative history contains eight full-color 5x7 photos of all Hawaii issues; a price comparison between 1970 and 1980; and a rarity list of sixty Hawaiian stamps. Available for \$5.00 postpaid.

Also For Sale: Hawaii #5 to #82; all Officials; all Revenues; all Kahului Railroads; all the Envelopes and Postal Cards; a large stock of Envelopes and Cards postally used; a large stock of Hawaii Town Cancells, stamp varieties, proofs and essays.

All Hawaii's First Day Covers: #647, #648, #799, #1153, #1682, #1733 and #1963; the Airmails: #C-46, #C-55 and #C-84; and the Iolani Palace #UX-81.

For further information or for Bank Vault viewing:

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