

PO 'OLEKA O HAWAII



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1984

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THE ORDER FOR HAWAIIAN POSTAL PAPER OF JUNE 30, 1883

By Albert J. Schwalm

Postmaster H. M. Whitney's order for postal paper on June 30, 1883 was received by the American Bank Note Co. on July 17, 1883. With permission and through the courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution that portion of his letter pertaining to the Reply postal cards was published in my book "The Postal Stationery of Hawaii".

Because Whitney's letter also referred to an order for new stamps, the letter is of sufficient importance to warrant quoting it verbatim. The "NOTES" are my insertions.

The letterhead has the Hawaiian Coat of Arms imprint and just below HAWAIIAN ISLANDS and General Post Office. It is dated Honolulu, June 30th 1883 and addressed to The American Bank Note Co., New York City.

"Gentlemen,

The Hawaiian Gov't having decided to issue three new postage stamps, I have prepared and enclose herewith the details of the design and color of each. In a registered parcel, I also send a number of photographs of the statue and the portraits, which will enable your artists to execute their work well. (NOTE: Only the photo of the statue was in the Smithsonian files.)

1. A 25¢ Stamp

described in enclosure #1 (NOTE: See Figure 1), being a statue of Kamehameha I, to be printed in blackish purple ink, as shown in the 12¢ sample (NOTE: Scott #162) affixed to it. A profile view will be preferred, as it shows the face & helmet best, but it may be necessary to bend the arm, in order to bring it in the frame. Probably not more than the upper fluted stone of the pedestal can be presented. (NOTE: See Figure 2)

25^{cts} Stamp - Statue of Kamehameha I.

Lettering - on the left column - Kamehameha I.

" " right - Postal Union.

Below, on the pedestal - 1893 that the Stat. was made in Hawaii



Color of ink that this stamp is to be printed }
Like the U.S. 12 cent stamp, accompanying }
(a purpleish black)



This statue is erected in front of the Parliament-House in Honolulu, and represents Kamehameha the Conqueror addressing his people, and clothed in the royal feather robe worn by Hawaiian Kings a century ago.

FIGURE 1

(From Smithsonian Institution)



(From Smithsonian Institution)

FIGURE 2

2. A 50¢ Stamp

described in enclosure #2 (NOTE: See Figure 3), to be designed and printed as indicated therein. The largest photo of Lunalilo is considered the best picture of him.

3. A one dollar Stamp

described in enclosure #3 (NOTE: See Figure 4). This portrait should be engraved fully as large as that of her deceased husband Kamehameha IV, presented on the

#2

50 C. Stamp. Portrait of King Lunalilo.

Lettering on the oval above - Hawaiian.

" " below - Honolulu Keweenaw.

in a scroll below - Fifty Cents.



The design preferred for this stamp is the Argentine Republic 25 centavo stamp.



The color in which this stamp is to be printed is that of the Argentine Rep. 5-cent stamp, engraved by you, or perhaps a shade more of purple in the ink like that of the 8 ct. 75 issue of the Arg. Rep., printed by you.



(From Smithsonian Institution)

FIGURE 3

2¢ stamp, issue of 1864. The photo sent is the latest that has been taken of Her Majesty.

One Dollar stamp — Queen Emma.

To be engraved in oval style, — similar to the D.C. Hawaiian stamp of Kamehameha IV. (her husband.) and the D.C. Kamehameha V. The portrait to be of the same size.

Lettering above the oval frame — 100 Hawaii 100
below " " " Akahi Laka.

This stamp is to be printed in a high red — the same as the 1 centavo of the Argentine Rep. annexed: —

50 Pm.

(From Smithsonian Institution)

FIGURE 4

The portraits in the two new stamps (50¢ & \$1.00) I wish to be fully as large as those of Kamehameha IV & V issues of 1864 and '66. The last issues (the 1¢, 10¢ & 15¢ of '82) have not given as much satisfaction as the previous issues, chiefly on account of the reduced size of the portraits.

The colors in which these new stamps are to be printed, are particularly stated on each enclosure. If it be not possible for any reason to print them in the color ordered, I wish to be advised of it, and no other color to be used until approved of by me. The 50¢ stamp may be printed as stated in enclosure #2, a shade darker purple.

It may be unnecessary for me to urge that your artists take special care to make these new stamps above criticism, both as regards engraving and printing. Though a small people, we are proud of our postage stamps and wish to keep up the reputation which they have deservedly required in foreign countries, where a considerable demand for them exists. The new one of our ex-queen Emma, if well executed, will probably be much sought for, both here and in Europe, where she is well known.

Number of Stamps wanted

Of each of the three new stamps, print 50,000. We also require of old issues: viz:

Of the 2¢ Kalakaua stamp, print 750,000, to be printed of the color annexed (rose).

Of the 12¢ Leleiohoku, print 25,000, to be printed of the color annexed (lilac).

Of the 10¢ Kalakaua, print 25,000, to be printed of the color annexed (vermilion).

Of reply or double postal cards, 1¢ 5,000 copies to be printed of the color annexed (purple).

Of reply or double (2¢) postal cards, 5,000 copies to be printed of the color annexed (light blue).

These postal cards are to be printed from the old plates with the usual addition on the 2¢ reply card, in English - 'Reply' or 'For the reply', and on the 1¢ reply card, in English & Hawaiian 'Reply' - 'Pāne ma keia pepa'.

All the above are to be perforated, including the postal cards, if you have the facilities for perforating the latter, joined at the top. The number of postal cards wanted is 5,000 each, the figure having been altered.

(NOTE: The original figure had read 2,000 and altered to read 5,000. Whitney also added a marginal note alongside the order of reply cards 'I prefer having them hinged at the top - not at the sides'. Another marginal note was added by the American Bank Note Co. indicating that the cards are to be printed '30 On' on stock 22-1/2 x 28-1/2 inches. This size paper yielded 15 double cards.)

Concerning the Shipment

I wish part of each of the new stamps (the 25¢ 50¢ & \$1.00) say one half package of each, or 12,500 of each, to be sent by mail registered, making three packages and addressed to the Postmaster General at Honolulu. Specimen sheets or proofs of any or all of the new issues may be sent to me by mail whenever ready.

You will please to ship the balance of the order by steamer via Panama, addressed, 'To the Postmaster General, Honolulu Hawaii, Care of William Dimond & Co San Francisco' and to be insured for the full amount of your bill for engraving and printing.

I have also prepared designs for stamped envelopes which are much needed, but as the cost attending their issue will exceed the appropriation at my command, I shall have to defer ordering them unless you choose to wait payment till the action of our Biennial

Legislature which meets in 1884 and will vote the necessary funds in July of that year.

Your bill for the stamps now ordered by me will be paid whenever presented. I should like to receive the stamps as early as they can be executed.

Respectfully Yours, H. M. Whitney, P.M.G."

* * * * *

THE STAMP THAT REROUTED THE PANAMA CANAL

The site of the Panama Canal was probably determined by a Nicaraguan postage stamp sent to members of the U. S. Congress by an obsessed Frenchman, the engineer Philippe Jean Bunau-Varilla.

The U. S. fully realized the need for a canal across the midsection of the Americas when the battleship "Oregon", desperately needed for the Spanish-American War, took 68 days to reach the Caribbean from San Francisco.

By 1899, a bill was pending in Congress to build such a canal - but through Nicaragua, not Panama. This put Bunau-Varilla in a tizzy. He had worked on the French Panama Canal project until its failure in 1899, then devoted himself to selling the French rights to the United States.

Then, a fateful event: In May 1902, Nicaragua's Momotombo volcano erupted. The tragedy provided a golden opportunity for Bunau-Varilla. He found Nicaraguan postage stamps illustrating a smoking Momotombo and sent them to Congress.

The implicit question: Why not choose a country without volcanoes - Panama, for instance? And, in 1904, Congress so voted.

* * * * *

TWO ODD HAWAIIAN ITEMS FROM LONG AGO

By Clyde Carriker

After a few years of prowling through stamp stores, one cultivates the art of spotting the unusual and different. But, I did not see these items until the second time I visited an old-time dealer's stock and checked his backroom material.

The first item (Figure 1) is becoming almost antique by itself: a leather postcard which was popular many decades ago. Franked with a Scott #319, it is a socked-on-the-nose cancel of June 1, 1907 at 6 p.m. from the Honolulu Post Office. At the right of the CDS is a portion of a flag cancel. The the left is also a portion of the Columbus, Ohio, CDS of June 14. Not bad transit time in those days!

On the reverse side is a figure carrying a bag; above the figure is "Just Arrived". Vertically at the right is "HONOLULU" and "Jim", the sender's name.

In excellent condition, I believe the card had been sitting in the dealer's backroom, completely undisturbed, for years. The leather is not spotted nor soiled and is in much better condition than any other I have found over the years.

The second item (Figure 2), produced thirty years later, is the creation of some postal clerk aboard the cruiser Marblehead at Pearl Harbor, March 21, 1937. Whoever created this was either a student of Hawaiian history or had a friend who was.

The diamond-shaped message refers to the attempt to bring Samoa and Tahiti into the Kingdom of Hawaii's sphere of influence. The addressee was a well-known U.S. Navy cover collector from Neeles, California.

Pretty good hunting for one dreary afternoon!



Figure 1

March 21, 1937

Fiftieth Anniversary

of the commissioning of

His Hawaiian Majesty's Ship

"KAMILOA", Royal Hawaiian Navy

in preparation for the "lost

cause expedition" to Samoa

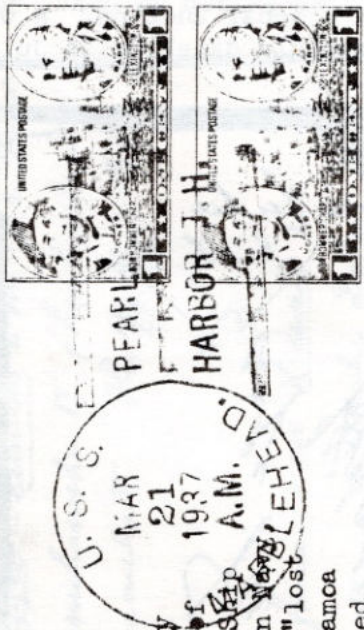
and Tahiti in attempted

annexation to the

Kingdom of

Hawaii,

1937.

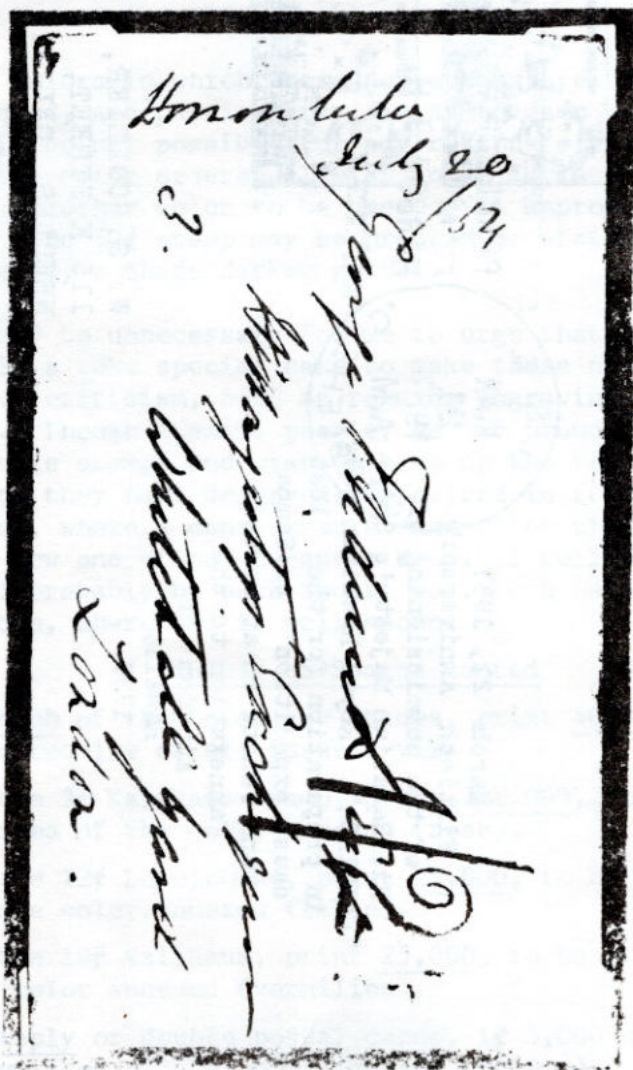


W. S. COLLIER,
115 K STREET,
NEEDLES, CALIF.

Figure 2

* * * * *

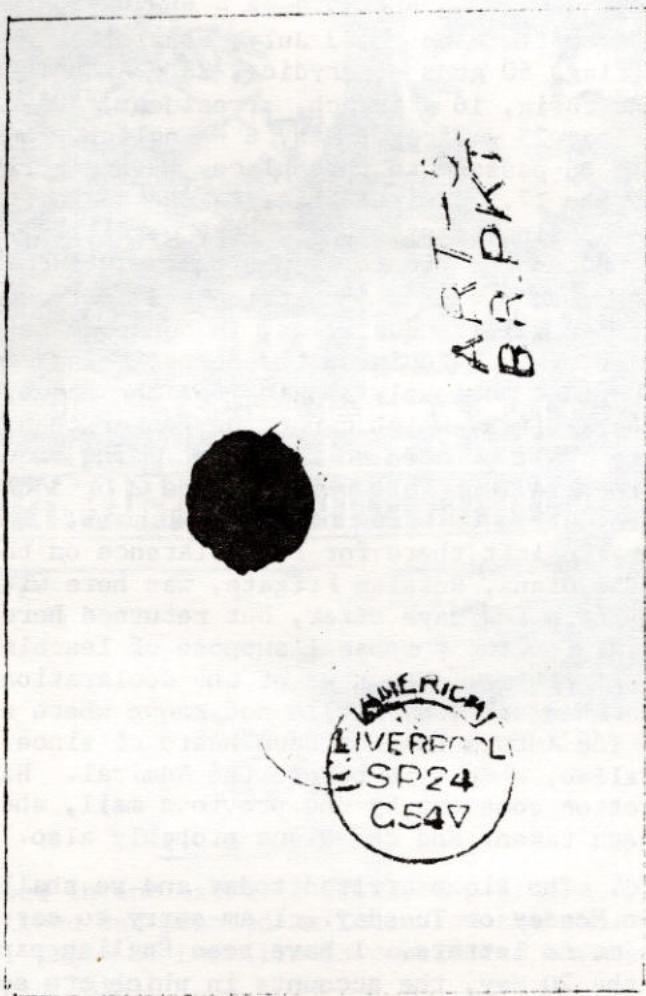
Mr. John Bruhn of Norwich, England, picked up this cover some time ago at a local auction. A wonderful "find" - with a Honolulu dateline of July 20, 1854.



On the reverse side, the poor marking over the "America - Liverpool" strike is a railway mark, with an indecipherable letter or letters at the

top, then SP - 25 / 1854.

According to Meyer, Harris, it would appear that this letter must have been passed to the WAVELET, leaving Honolulu July 23, 1854 and reaching San Francisco on August 14th.



However, the content of the letter enclosed in this envelope is interesting too, with reference to the Crimea, and we quote it herewith:

Amphitrite, Honolulu.

July 20 /54

My dear George

I wrote to you before sailing from Valparaiso, which place we left on the 30 May - and arrived at Nukahiva, Marquesas, on the 30 June - the united squadron sailed from there on the 3 July, consisting of the Forte (flag) 60 guns - Eurydice, 28 - Artemise, 28 - Obligado, Brig, 16 - French, President, 50 - Amphitrite, 25 - Virago, Str, 6 - English. We had a very good passage to this place, having arrived here on the 17. Admiral Price is the senior officer, but tho' acting together, and very cordially, there are no orders for him to assume the actual command. I am sorry to say that Amphitrite has lost a good deal of her sailing qualities, in consequence of her bottom being very foul and the copper being much worn. We are anxiously looking for the Pique, and when she arrives, which cannot be longer than a few days, we shall proceed to the North. The Pique is known to have left Valparaiso on the 2 or 3 of June, to go to Callao to bring on the next mail. The Trincomalee left there for Port Clarence on the 29 May. The Diana, Russian Frigate, was here with her, and sailed a few days after, but returned here in ten days, for the purpose I suppose of learning the state of affairs. The news of the declaration of war had then arrived. It is not known where she is gone. The Aurora has not been heard of since she left Callao, some time before the Admiral. Had the declaration come out by the previous mail, she must have been taken, and the Diana probably also.

23rd. The Pique arrived today and we shall all sail on Monday or Tuesday. I am sorry to say she brings me no letters. I have seen English papers up to the 20 May, the accounts in which are somewhat vague as to proceedings in the Baltic and Black Sea. I fear that the reported loss of the Tiger is true. The King has been afloat this morning with Virago and steamed round the squadron, which manned guns and saluted, a sad waste of powder, which I fear will become a scarce article with us, unless they

send out a supply of that and other stores. It really is a very serious consideration at this time. We have not been able to obtain anything like authoritative information as to the place where the Russian squadron may be gone. I am obliged to close this earlier than I expected and in a great hurry, as the vessel that carries the mail to San Francisco is coming out of the harbour.

Love to all, from yr affte bro. C.F.

* * * * *

STAMP OF VANITY

Acting solely on his own authority, a Canadian postmaster once ordered the printing of a postage stamp bearing a portrait of himself.

He was Charles Connell, postmaster general of New Brunswick. In 1860, as the province was switching from British shillings and pence to Canadian dollars and cents, it fell to Connell to order a new set of postage stamps.

The artwork was standard for the most part: The latest locomotive was depicted on the one-cent stamp, a portrait of Queen Victoria on the 10-cent, a steamship on the 12-1/2-cent, and Edward, the Prince of Wales, was on the 17-cent. But the 5-cent stamp showed Connell himself.

The governor of New Brunswick didn't care for the Connell stamp, and the postmaster resigned under pressure - but not before buying up all 5000 sheets of the stamp, which he is said to have thrown into a huge bonfire in his garden. Connell kept a few stamps for himself, however, and some have since fallen into the hands of fortunate collectors.

Today, the Connell issue is worth a good deal more than the stamp hastily printed to replace it.

* * * * *

In 1899, the following article appeared in a Montreal daily newspaper:

WHAT MAKES A STAMP RARE

Mere Scarcity Not Enough To Explain High Prices

"The fact that the German Postal Museum not long ago paid the tremendous sum of \$9,022 for a single specimen of the Mauritius twopenny postage stamp" said a stamp dealer, "suggest the question, what goes to make a rare stamp?"

The usual reason given for the high price of certain issues is their scarcity; but there are many stamps which are called rare regardless of the number of them in existence, a good example being the Mauritius issues.

These stamps are regarded by collectors as the rarest in the world, yet there are as many as twenty five of them known to be extant. On the other hand, there are other issues which are far more scarce, such as the Western Australia fourpenny blue stamp, of which there are only four known, and yet none of them has ever brought a higher figure than \$2,000.

The Mauritius issues of 1847 are said to have been designed and engraved by a watchmaker, and were issued by the Mauritius postmaster to carry invitations to an official ball. Of a total original issue of five hundred, there now remain but twenty five specimens.

Each one of these bits of paper is worth from four thousand dollars up to the price paid by the German Museum, which is the highest ever given for a single stamp. A specimen of the one penny Mauritius was discovered not long ago in the album of a French schoolboy collector and was sent to London, where it was sold at auction, bringing the sum of \$7,200. The Prince of Wales was the buyer.

The Hawaiian stamps are held next to the Mauritius in point of rarity. All are very scarce, but the two-cent stamp of 1851 is the most valuable, a specimen having brought \$3,500 at a recent sale.

These first issues were known as missionary stamps. They were discovered by accident.

A stamp collector visiting the Hawaiian Islands heard that a missionary had one of his rooms papered with stamps. Upon examining the walls of this room a number of the highly prized varieties were found whose existence had not previously been suspected. The visitor succeeded in removing half a dozen of the stamps in fairly good condition, and they are now the only ones of this issue known.

The other Hawaiian issues are said to owe their scarcity to the fact that nearly the whole supply was destroyed by the burning of the Honolulu post office. Another explanation of their rarity is that a stamp dealer went to Honolulu some years ago and bought up every stamp he could get, thus cornering the supply and holding them at his own price.

After the Hawaiian stamps come those of British Guiana. These are even scarcer than the famous Mauritius, but bring a much smaller price. Here again is illustrated a peculiar phase of this fascinating hobby.

The British Guiana stamps have absolutely no attractive qualities to recommend them to the collector. Some of them were printed on ordinary wrapping paper, and all were set up in type at a local printing office. The stamps very closely resemble ordinary round post office cancellations, with the value 5¢ the center.

The 1856 one-cent stamp is unique, the only one known being in the possession of a collector in Paris. Of course it is hard to tell what it is worth, but if sold at auction it would probably bring a higher

figure than that paid for the Mauritius two penny issue.

The two-cent British Guiana is also very valuable, only eleven of those being known. One of these stamps has brought \$3,000 at auction.

* * * * *

LOVERS' LETTER SCHEME LED TO FIRST POSTAGE STAMP

In 1837 while making his appointed rounds, a British postman delivered a letter to a maid working at a local inn.

Seeing that the letter was sent collect, the damsel returned it to the mailman. "You will just have to destroy it", she said. "I can't pay the postage."

Sir Rowland Hill, an English schoolmaster who was staying at the inn, overheard the conversation. Sympathizing with the maid, he gallantly paid the charge.

"I'm sorry you did that", the maid said. "My sweetheart and I have adopted the plan of putting our messages on the outside of letters. We read those messages and then turn the letter back. In that way it doesn't cost us anything to exchange messages."

The maid's scheme made Sir Rowland think about the English Post Office Department and how it operated. Hill began examining the postal system, which was complicated and generally inefficient.

Many of his observations and proposals were later adopted. He proposed that all mail be prepaid and that postage stamps be used to indicate payment by the sender - and in 1840, the "Penny Black" stamp appeared in Britain.

* * * * *