

HOWARD LEE passed away on 29th March, 2011. When I first came into contact with Howard in the late 1960's he was a dealer in covers resident in New York and a frequent visitor to Britain.

In the late 1960's he co-operated with Don Vernon and the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain to produce *Cancellation Study of the U.S. Territories in the Pacifica by Howard Lee (edited by D.H. Vernon)* – it included what I believe to be the first attempt at a study of Trust Territory cancellations.

Howard encouraged me to start publishing the *Bulletin* in the early 1990's and encouraged me to continue after my intended 4 or 5 years. He continued to provide information and advice to me through the 1990's until his health started to deteriorate and he moved to California to be near to his daughter. Shortly before his death he passed to me via Steven Zirinsky some correspondence with Bob Murphy about the short lived Branch P.O.'s on Babelthruap which I hope to feature in a future edition of the Bulletin.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

THE CHINESE FSM STAMPS:

I don't usually cover stamps in the Bulletin but I have reported the Chinese issues because they slipped out without notification and were not initially recorded in any catalogue. NY Dealer Steven Zirinsky (szirinsky@cs.com) tells me that they will be listed by Scott eventually. Steven now has mint copies of both issues of these uncatalogued Chinese friendship stamps. The 37c issued in 2004 consists of 2 se-tenant stamps.

The 2009 issue consists of 8 different 44c stamps issued in se-tenant in sheets of 16 – the top selva records the purpose of the stamps. Steve reports that both issues of these stamps got a lot of commercial use and he has seen numbers of them on commercial covers in his stock.

The 2009 issue also includes a miniature sheet featuring an ungummed plastic hologram version of two stamps from the set – Dave Trutwin tells me this was on sale earlier in the year on a Chinese site for \$20.

Steven remarks that the hologram miniature sheet is very stiff – he says that you would need a battle axe to separate the stamps. He does not see how they could be used for postage. The FSM Govt authorities told him that it was created as a souvenir sheet in the true meaning of the word – as a souvenir. All these issues are shown on the **bull66 website** courtesy of Steven and David. David has supplied a scan of a Chinese produced FDC of the 2009 set showing the Date of Issue as Sep 11 2009 – the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the PRC & FSM

Steven also has the stamps on his website <http://zirinskystamps.com/index.html>

POSTAL STATIONERY: NY Dealer Steven Zirinsky has sent a scan of a postal stationery postcard I don't recall seeing before – see **bull66 website**. He says that he understands

there are pre-stamped envelopes with 22c stamps, some with 25c revalued to 29c (and he assumes some at 25c also). Steven intends to do a study of FSM postal stationery from independence and would appreciate scans of anything readers of the Bulletin have. Steven understands that these envelopes are no longer on Post Office Counters. Post Offices stock commercially supplied plain envelopes and stick stamps on them if anyone requests a stamped envelope.

WENO CHUUK FM 96942: Weno has a new date-stamp with an horizontal date line – seen here from a philatelic cover dated May 24 2011 – see **Illustration 66/1** below. It was first reported by NY dealer Steven Zirinsky on a commercial cover dated May 9 2011. This cover can be found on the **bull66 website**. The commercial cover has 2 x Christmas 2010 \$4.94 + 3c First definitive + 10c flower def + 17c Fish def = \$10.18.



Illustration 66/1

WENO CHUUK FM 96942: Steven Zirinsky reports that the 44c Chinese FSM stamps were the only ones available in Chuuk for a while, but these ran out and were replaced by 44c coconut stamps. Lately they have been using 39c stamps plus whatever to make up the 5c needed.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS:

ULIGA/DELAP MI 96960: Steven Zirinsky reports a commercial cover cancelled by the Delap D datestamp dated Mar 11 2011. See **Illustration 66/2** below. However the envelope is one of a series all from the same address and presumably mailed at the same post office. All the other covers are postmarked at Uliga and Steven suspects that

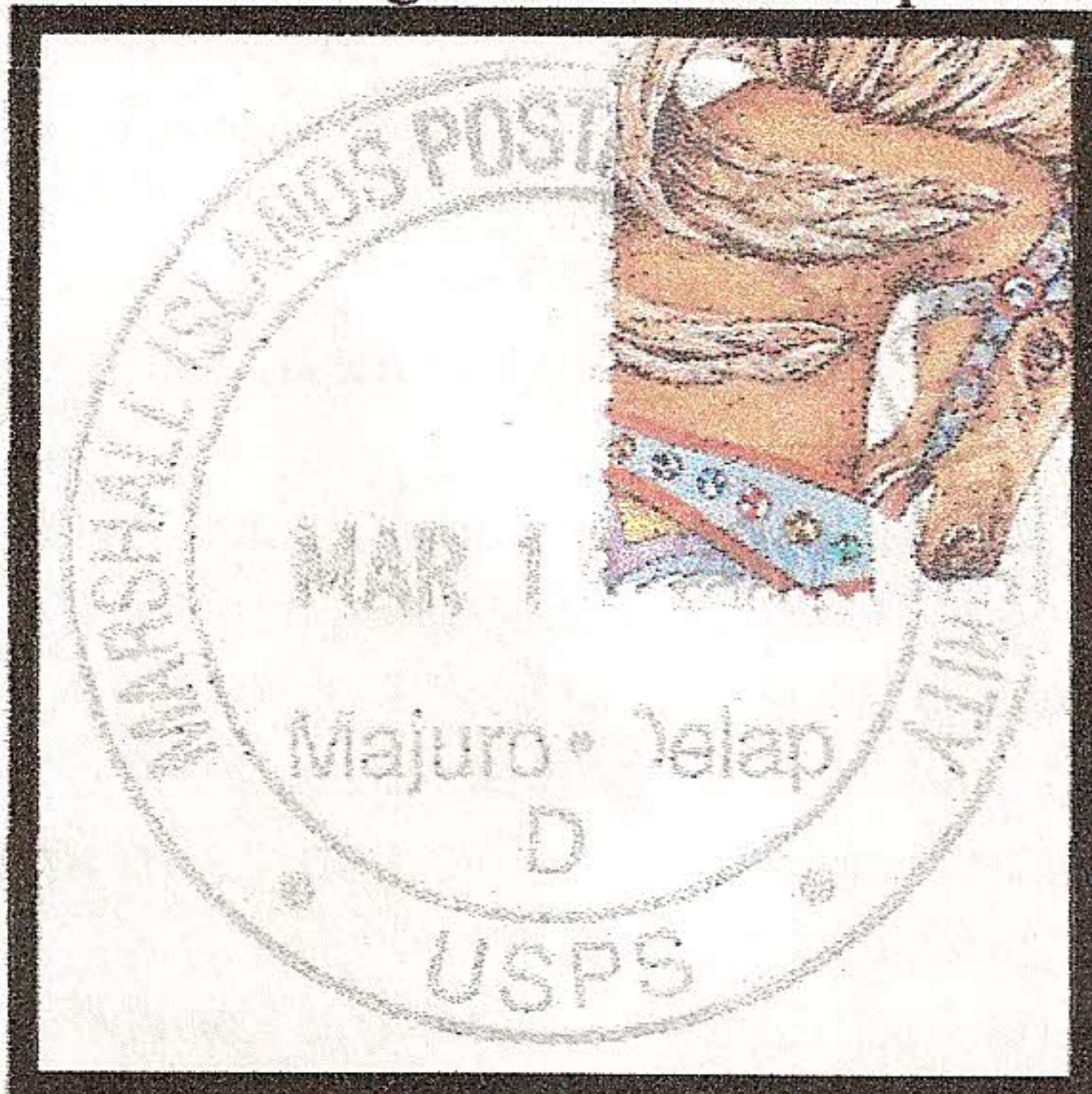


Illustration 66/2

that this also was posted at Uliga and got the Delap D cancel in error. James Mulik also

reports Delap D used on Jul 4 2011 on covers from a contact in Majuro who, he understands, posted the items at Uliga Post Office. On **Illustration 66/2** the D of Delap is damaged. On the covers received by James **Illustration 66/3** the whole word apart from the P is indistinct – possibly damaged or an attempt to delete.



Illustration 66/3

(Not true size – taken from e-mail attachment)

James also reports covers from Uliga showing use of Uliga A (**Illustration 63/6**) but incomplete – date not registering and with Honolulu Transit marking of 5 July 2011. Also Uliga C (**Illustration 63/8**) dated 4th July 2011. (See **bull66 website** for examples of covers received by James.)

DELAP MI 96960: James Mulik has received several covers posted by a friend in the Marshall Islands and date-stamped by the Delap C date-stamp – see **Illustration 66/4** below.. He does not know if these were posted at Delap.

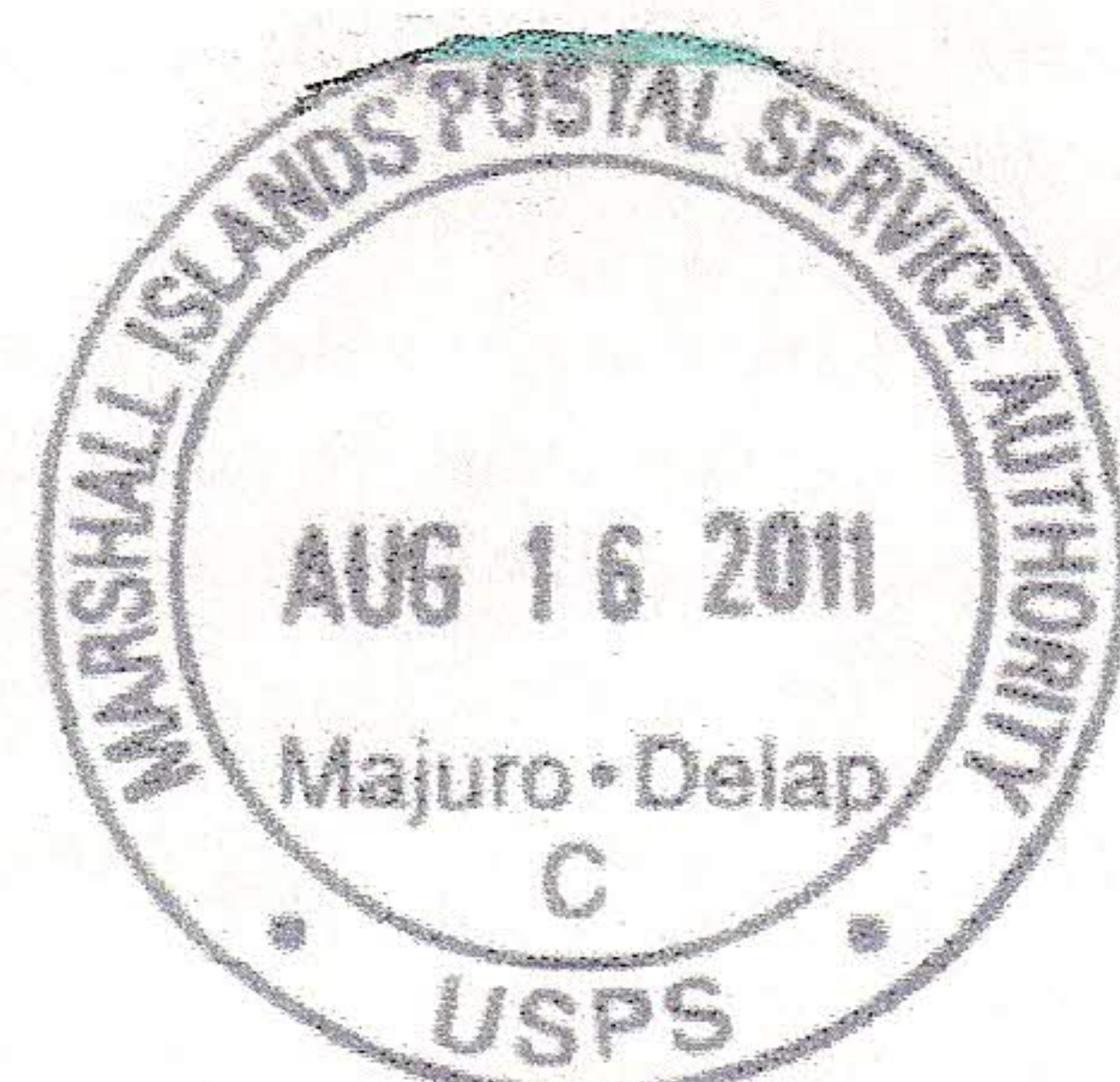


Illustration 66/4

(Not true size – taken from e-mail attachment)

EBEYE MI 96970: James Mulik has obtained several covers cancelled by Ebeye B **Illustration 65/11** on 22 July 2011 – some of these are addressed to Majuro. There is no indication on the covers of transit via Honolulu. See **bull66 website**

ULIGA MAJURO MI 96960: James Mulik has sent an image of a large size "Flat Rate Mailing Envelope" sent to the U.S. By Express Mail and bearing an \$18.30 Express Flat Rate stamp from the Special Rates series issued on July 7 2011. Also has Homeland Security Tape. See **bull66 website**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS:

SAN JOSE TINIAN CPU BRANCH MP 96952: Tinian used a new cancellation on April 25 2011 on a philatelic cover – I've not seen the designation C.P.U, previously –