

U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN

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An occasional bulletin about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including the successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall, and Line Islands.)

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PALIKIR STATION, POHNPEI, FM 96941

Palikir, the site of the projected administrative capital of the FSM, is located about 5 miles from Kolonia. The first mention of Palikir I have been able to trace was at a conference of FSM Postmasters in January 1985 reported in the government news sheet "The National Union". This reads "They (the Postmasters) discussed plans for a Postal Service substation at the new FSM Capital complex in Palikir to handle mail for the complex, the Community College of Micronesia when it moves to Palikir (and for) Sokehs and Kitti (Municipalities)".

On October 10, 1989 Sintaro K. Ezra, Philatelic Bureau Manager, in a letter to me, wrote "Our Palikir Capital Station is expected to be opened on or before November 3 1989 to coincide with the dedication of our new Capital as well as in commemoration of our independence". He went on to promise to post a cover I had sent on the day the station opened at Palikir. That cover was not posted until much later and the first cover reported from Palikir is a commercial cover dated Jan 18 1990. This was cancelled with illustration 3/1 (below) proclaiming that day to be the "Postal Station Opening Day". However Jan 18 1990 may or may not be the actual opening day because 3/1 continued in use on a series of commercial and philatelic covers running through to April 02 1991. The first sighting of a cover bearing an ordinary (e.g. without the opening day statement) cancellation was on May 27 1991 (illustration 3/2) and this cancellation is currently in use.

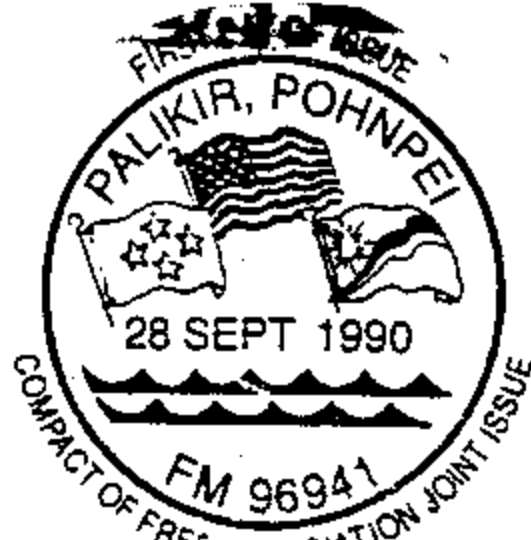
I have also seen one First Day of Issue datestamp bearing the name Palikir and this is illustrated as 3/3 below. There may be similar datestamps for other stamp issues. If you have copies please let me see them for illustration in a future edition of the "Bulletin". I am grateful to Joel Fassler of Washington DC for his help in researching this article. Mr. Fassler has access to a run of commercial covers originating in an FSM Government Department which, based on the return address on the covers, moved from Kolonia to Palikir sometime between Sep 22 1989 and Jan 18 1990. This run of covers features a Kolonia address and cancellation on Sep 22 1989. A Palikir (3/1) datestamp and return address on Jan 18 1990. A Palikir return address but a Kolonia cancel on Apr 04 1990. On May 26 1990 a Palikir return address and 3/1 again. This combination



(3/1)



(3/2)



(3/3)

PALIKIR (Continued)

continued on every cover to April 02 1991. There are several of these covers with a May 27 1991 date bearing 3/2. The contents of some of these suggest a despatch date earlier than May 27 1991. I also have a philatelic cover dated May 27 1991 - the cover I sent to the Philatelic Bureau for posting on the Postal Station Opening Day. It is possible to speculate from the above that, in error, only the day of opening datestamp was supplied to Palikir and that when this was realised a Kolonia datestamp was used for a time (Mr. Fasslers April 04 cover) but that subsequently 3/1 was authorised for continued use and a new device ordered. When the new device (3/2) was received at Kolonia the Postmaster at Palikir was instructed to cease use of 3/1 pending receipt of 3/2. The backlog of mail was cleared on May 27 1991 together with philatelic covers overlooked when the station opened. Alternatively 3/2 may be 3/1 with "Postal Station Opening Day" removed. All pure speculation of course. If any reader has comments on this or has covers which confirm or disprove the theories I would appreciate hearing from you.

MIDWAY ISLAND: In issue No. 2 a new 4 Bar cancellation was illustrated (2/2). A new All Purpose Datestamp with identical wording has now appeared (3/4). It is apparently identical to (2/2) but without the bars. It was impressed in red ink on a cover also bearing 2/2 in black ink.



(3/4)



(3/5)

SAIPAN MP 96950: A new 4 Bar and All Purpose Datestamp are in use at Saipan. The new 4 Bar differs from one seen on Sep 13 1991 in its slightly smaller lettering and the position of the 'P' of 'MP' in relation to the top bar. The All Purpose datestamp is oval shaped in contrast to the round shape of the APDS in use on Jul 18 1988. The lettering is however very similar and could be the same APDS which has become distorted (Illustrations 3/5 and 3/6)



(3/6)

LELU, KOSRAE FM 96944: A new All Purpose datestamp (Illustration 3/7) is in use at Kosrae. First seen on Nov 17 1993 it has probably been in use for some months. Issue No. 2 included reference to a similar APDS used a Colonia Yap on Jun 2 1983 (2/3)



(3/7)

KWAJALEIN FPO AP 96555: Issue No. 2 featured a listing of cancellations and APDS used at Kwajalein since 1984. In this issue Meter Machine Postage Imprint Markings not shown in Murphy are listed.

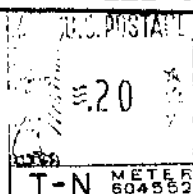
PB 602493 is illustrated in Murphy as Fig 3.1 in use to Aug 16 1982. It was still in use by Global Associates on Sep 24 1984 but with a different datehead (Illustration 3/8).

PB 3570327 (Possibly PB3370327) Indistinct impression - In use at the Post Office on October 26 1993. The Datehead reads "ARMY POSTAL SERVICE APO/96555"

T-N 604552 shown in Murphy Addenda No. 1 as in use by "unknown user" in Mar 1982. Now seen on Bank of Hawaii envelope dated Mar 5 '82.



(3/8)



(3/9)

I acknowledge the help given by Bernd Neuhaus and Cy Kitching in the preparation of the above item.

TINIAN MP 96952 (SAN JOSE RURAL BRANCH) Northern Mariana Islands

In "A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" and Addendum No. 1 Robert Murphy takes us up to 1982. The purpose of this article is to carry the story forward to the current date. Some matters need clarification e.g. I believe that Tinian became a full Post Office rather than a Branch on 1 Jul 1984. Was Cancellation no. 3/11 brought into use on that date and what is the Zip Code on that cancellation? Later Cancellations suggest that the office later reverted to "Branch" status. When did this occur? Any information received will be included in a future edition of the "Bulletin".

Four extensions to dates of use recorded by Murhy have been noted.

Murphy 1.5 extend to Feb 1 1982

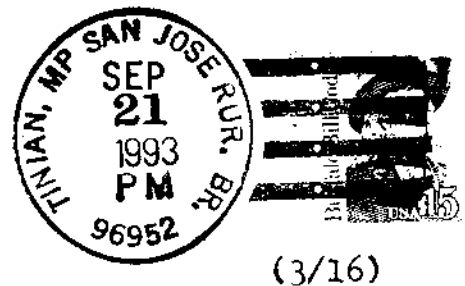
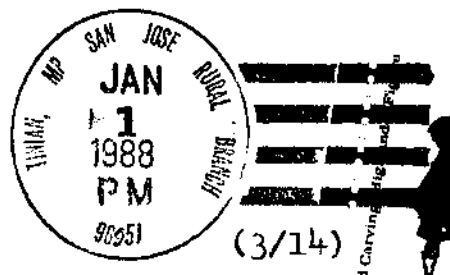
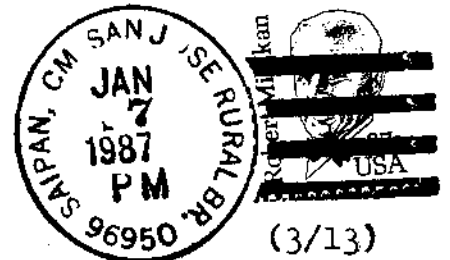
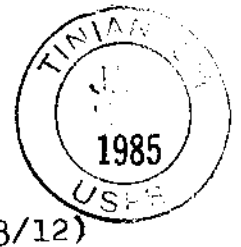
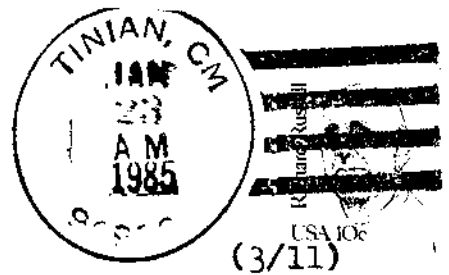
Murphy 2.3 extend to Feb 1 1982

Murphy 2.5 extend to Mar 12 1984 ) See note under Fig. 2.5 in Murphy

Murphy 1.4 extend to Mar 12 1984 ) page 107 - could also apply to Fig 1.4 ?

Illustration Number : Period Seen:

- 3/11 Seen Jan 23 1985
- 3/12 Jan 23 1985 to Apr. 28 1987
- 3/13 Aug 6 1985 to Oct 22 1987
- 3/14 Jan 1 1988 to Aug 17 1988  
(Note the incorrect Zip Code - 96951 is Rota)
- 3/15 Feb 26 1988 to Dec 7 1990.
- 3/16 Dec 19 1989 to Sep 20 1993
- 3/17 (Slightly larger) Seen Sep 21 1993  
circle than 3/15)



THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLICATION is to gather and record information about the Postal Services and Cancellations used by U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (excluding the Phillipines and Hawaii) and the postal services now operating in places previously served by the U.S. Post Office. The information published comes from my collaction and from information supplied by correspondents. Nothing published purports to be the last word on anything.

If you can correct or add to anything published I would be delighted to hear from you. All new information will be published in a future issue of the "Bulletin".

If you have an interest in a particular Post Office or area and would like to write an article for publication in the "Bulletin" I'd be glad to hear from you. If you feel you have information which would interest others please let me have it. If you see anything published about our area of interest please let me have a photocopy. If you have sufficient information for an article or cancellation study but do not have the time to write it up please let me know. I will gladly write it up for you.

2/15 + 3/10 Revision of date

F.S.M. POST OFFICES, STATIONS & BRANCHES

In a letter dated September 14, 1993 Sintaro K. Ezra, Philatelic Bureau Manager lists F.S.M. Post Offices, Stations & Branches open on that date as:-

Kolonia, Pohnpei:: Wone, Chuuk:: Colonia Yap:: Lelu, Kosrae::  
Pingalap Branch, Pohnpei:: Mwaokilloa Branch, Pohnpei::  
Palikar Station, Pohnpei::

This list suggests that the following offices have closed:-

Ohwa (Last noted May 27, 1991)  
Ulithi (Last noted Feb 25, 1992)  
Fefan (Last noted Sep 27, 1989)

If any reader knows the date any of these offices closed or has seen covers cancelled later than those shown above please let me know. I would also like to see photocopies of any "Opening Day" cancellations from Ohwa, Ulithi and Mwaokilloa. This information will be used to produce articles on these offices in a future issue of the "Bulletin".

GIBBONS STAMP MONTHLY for November, 1993 has an interesting article by Kenneth R. Lake titled "Micronesia Now". Mr. Lake reports on his recent travels in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is., F.S.M., Palau, and the Marshall Islands during which he visited many of the Post Offices. He takes a somewhat jaundiced view of the services provided in some locations.

FAGA'ITUA BRANCH, American Samoa

American Samoa is a difficult area for the collector of modern postal markings. Postmasters rarely respond to philatelic requests, the standard of postmarking in the Branches is often abysmal even on philatelic covers and it is believed that datestamps bearing Branch office names are held at Pago Pago and sometimes applied to collectors covers. These are not always identical to the cancellations held at the branch.

Bob Murphy takes us up to 1983 in his Addenda No. 1  
Extend Murphy 13.2 to Dec 9 1988

One new cancellation has been seen applied clearly and carefully in black ink (illustration 3/18)

I suspect that this device may be held at Pago Pago. Any views on this would be welcome.

Note the place name is mis-spelled "FAGA'ITUR"

Illustration 3/18 Jun 22 1990 to Jul 10 1991



(3/18)

GUAM POST OFFICES & STATIONS

The Postmaster Guam Main Post Offices lists the following Post Offices and stations as open on 5 Nov 1993:

POST OFFICES

Main Post Office, Barrigada GU 96921  
Agana Post Office, GU 96910  
Tamuning Post Office, GU 96911  
Andersen AFB BR. P.O., Yigo GU 96929  
Naval Station BR. P.O. Santa Rita GU 96915  
  
Money Order Unit No. 1 USPS Agana GU 96919  
Money Order Unit No. 2 USPS Agana GU 96910  
Money Order Unit No. 3 USPS Dededo GU 96912

CONTRACT STATIONS

Dededo, GU 96912  
Yona, GU 96914  
Merizo, GU 96916  
Inarjan, GU 96917  
University of Guam Sta.  
/Mangilao, GU 96923  
Sinajana, GU 96926  
Agat, GU 96928  
Yigo, GU 96929  
NAS Station, Barrigada  
/GU 96913  
Santa Rita, GU 96915

THIS IS A NON PROFIT MAKING READER SUPPORTED PUBLICATION

If you know anyone interested in our area of interest please let them see this "Bulletin".

The next "BULLETIN" will be published in March/April, 1994