

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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The next edition is available for 50p to U.K. & US \$1.00 to overseas addresses post paid. (UK, US, FSM stamps or US \$1 bills)

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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)