

KOSRAE TT 96944

On March 15, 1977 Kusaie was made a separate district of the Caroline Islands - at that time part of the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. At the same time the island name was changed back to the native spelling of KOSRAE.

A four bar datestamp reading "KOSRAE, TT/96944" was first seen used on August 6 1977 (Murphy 1.4) (A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands by Robert T. Murphy). In Addendum No. 1 to this publication Bob Murphy records a similar datestamp (Murphy 1.5) It had been assumed that one or both of these datestamps (Amended by the removal of "TT" in 1984) had continued in use at Kosrae until the introduction of the new "FM" designated 4 Bar datestamp on January 1 1988. However Joel Fassler has identified a third similar datestamp which appeared in 1984. So far I have identified only 5 sightings of this datestamp April 12 1984 and July 9 1984 (Illustration (6/11)) and with the "TT" removed on Sep 28 1984, Nov. 21 1984 and May 2 1986 (Illustration 6/12)

These three datestamps, Murphy 1.4, Murphy 1.5 and Illustration (6/11) can be differentiated by reference to 4 points.

- A - The distance between the comma following KOSRAE and the bottom of the vertical of the first 'T' of 'TT'.
- B - The length of the top edge of the top bar of the 4 bars
- C - The position of the top bar of the 4 bars in relation to the letters 'TT'.
- D - The distance from the bottom of the vertical of the 'K' of KOSRAE to '11 O'Clock" on the first '9' of 96944.

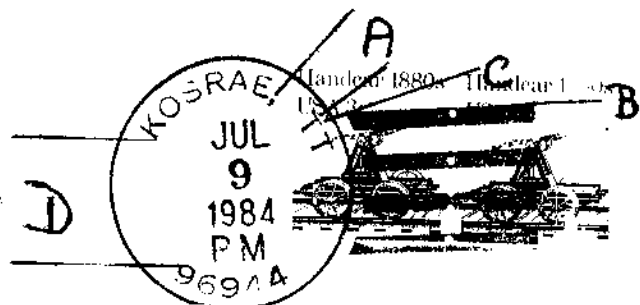


Illustration (6/7)

	A	B	C	D
Murphy 1.4 (6/9) Aug 6 1977 to Jan 24 1984	5mm	22mm	Opposite second 'T'	17 mm
Murphy 1.5 (6/10) Nov 16 1982 to May 2 1986	3½mm	25mm	Opposite second 'T'	15 mm
Murphy 1.5 with "TT" removed Illustration (6/13) Seen Jul 1 1987	-	Not Clear	-	15 mm
Illustration (6/11) April 12 1984 to July 9 1984	5mm	25mm	Opposite first 'T'	17 mm
Illustration (6/12) e.g. (6/11) with "TT" removed Sep 28 1984 to May 2 1986	-	25mm	-	17 mm

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