

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**A REPORT ON THE SOVEREIGNTY BUSINESS;**  
 This review of two articles which appeared in the July, 1994 edition of "Pacific Islands Monthly" appears in the November, 1994 edition of "Ki-Tu News" (Kiribati and Fuvahu Philatelic Society). The articles, by David North, are titled "Special Report: The Sovereignty Business" and "Elvis, Marshalls and Junk Mail". In part the articles refer to the use of Agents by Pacific Territories to produce and sell stamps. In our area of interest Mr. North reports that the face value of Palau philatelic sales in 1991 was \$142,00 and in 1992 \$192,000. The Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) sells and promotes Palau stamps and sends 40% of gross revenues to Palau. In May 1993 IGPC promised a minimum of \$200,000 royalties. Mr. North was unable to gain equivalent figures for the Marshalls but estimates receipts as 1991 - \$600,000; 1992 - \$506,000 and 1993 - \$303,000.

**MARSHALL ISLANDS, PALAU AND MICRONESIA - DER POSTAUSLAUSCH MIT DEN USA UND DEN ANSLAND. ON**

Werner Eggart. In German, from the August, 1992 bulletin of the German USA and Canada Study Group. The article shows how the USPS is involved in processing mail from the Marshalls, Palau and the F.S.M. to the U.S.A. and other overseas destinations.

**SAMOAN CONTRACTS** by K.R. Lake (Gibbons stamp Monthly, December, 1994) is the last of a series of articles about Mr. Lakes travels in Asia and the Pacific during 1992 & 1993. In this article he contrasts the cheerful helpfulness of the postal staff in Western Samoa with the surly unhelpful reception he got in American Samoa. He visited the Pago Pago Post Office and asked to see the Postmaster explaining that he wanted to talk about Post Offices and Postal Services in American Samoa. "Why" said the clerk. "I am writing a series of articles about mail services around the Pacific". "This is the U.S. Postal Service. We don't deal in that kind of thing". After buying some stamps Mr. Lake again asked to see the Postmaster and got the response "He don't talk to anybody, especially palangi"(foreigners). Oh Dear!

**FORMER AMERICAN TERRITORIES USE NEW PICTORIAL POSTMARKS** by Steve Pendleton in the Feb. 22 1992 edition of "Stamp Collector". Simple listing of most of the pictorial postmarks in use at that time, with advice on getting covers serviced.

Kayangal

*Republic of Belau*



Celebrates its  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**REPUBLIC OF PALAU - INDEPENDANT OCTOBER 1, 1994**

One Minute past One on the afternoon of October 1, 1994 marked the end of 108 years of foreign administration in Palau. The Territory was occupied by the U.S. Army in 1944, ejecting the Japanese who had in turn replaced Germany as the administering country in 1914. Since 1947 Palau has been administered by the United States under a United Nations Mandate as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). The other political entities of the TTPI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands) broke away in 1986.

Independence followed the signing of a "Compact of Free Association" with the U.S.A. similar to that signed between the U.S.A. and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Under the Compact Palau will be responsible for its own internal and external affairs but the U.S. will remain responsible for Palau's defence and has the option of opening a Military base and conducting military training exercises in Palau.

The road to Independence for Palau has been long. The Palau Constitution contained a clause making Palau a Nuclear Free State. The U.S. felt this to be incompatible with their commitment to Palau's defence. The Palau Constitution contained a clause making a 75% majority of all voters necessary to change the constitution. Seven times Palau voters tried to change the constitution and seven times failed to reach a 75% majority - though they did reach a simple majority. They succeeded on the eighth vote after voting in 1992 to change the constitution to allow future changes by a simple majority.

Under the Compact of Free Association Palau will immediately receive US \$172 million, the first installment of US \$477 million which the U.S. will pay to Palau over the next 15 years. President Kuniwo Nakamura said this aid would largely be used for development programmes. He said that local

revenues were increasing and the National Government budget has been balanced for several years. Palau first issued stamps on March 10 1983 but unlike the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia has continued to use U.S.P.S. type 4 bar datestamps to cancel mail at the Republics only Post Office in Koror. Following independence the "National Postal Service" will operate as a "semi-autonomous public entity". No mention has been made of any intention to change the name of the Republic to BELAU - the name used by the British Post Office in its overseas mail price list. Palau government publications in the Palau language refer to the country as "Beluu er Belau" translating this into English as Republic of Palau. Palau has a population of 16,000 administered through 16 States.

PALAU 29c



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
 KOROR STATE

(Illustration 7/14)  
 Cover shown by courtesy of George L. Machado Jr. The article above contains material from the Honolulu "Star Bulletin" of September 30, 1994 (Thanks to James A. Klinger) and two editions nos. 20 & 21 of "The Palau Gazette"

