

SPECIAL POSTAL SERVICES MAIL

By courtesy of Brad Arch some examples of Certified, Registered and Recorded Delivery mail from the U.S. Pacific is shown on the previous page. (Page 3)

Illustration 8/9 shows a cover from Pago Pago, American Samoa dated March 24, 1966. The datestamp appears to be Murphy 2.11 - known between October 4, 1951 and March 20, 1966. ("A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" by Robert T. Murphy) This cover extends the known dates of use to March 24, 1966. The 1963 postage rate is used to pay postage on this cover e.g. 20c Certified fee plus 16c Airmail (2 x 8c per oz).

Illustration 8/10 shows a January 15, 1957 cover from Ponape, U.S. Trust Territory, cancelled by Murphy 1.2 known November 20, 1956 to November 20, 1965. The 1955 postage rate is used to pay postage on this cover e.g. 15c Certified Fee plus 18c Airmail (3 x 6c) totalling 33c.

Illustration 8/11 shows a March 27, 1962 cover from the Naval Air Station Branch on Guam. The stamps are cancelled by Murphy 1.5 known January 2, 1962 to December 26, 1965. The 1958 postage rate is used e.g. 20c Certified Fee, 10c Return Receipt, 30c Special Delivery and 7c Airmail. Total 67c.

Illustration 8/12 shows a Recorded Delivery cover from Kosrae to England cancelled with the current pictorial datestamp. The 1991 postage rate is used e.g. \$1.00 Recorded Delivery Fee and 50c Foreign postage - Total \$1.50.

Illustration 8/13 shows a Certified Mail cover from Pago Pago to the U.S.A. The stamps are cancelled by what appears to be Murphy 1.27 known from December 5, 1975. The 1991 postage rate is used e.g. \$1.00 for Certified Mail fee and 29c for Domestic postage. Total \$1.29c.

Illustration 8/14 shows a Registered Cover from Capitol Hill Rural Branch, Saipan, Mariana Islands to the U.S.A. Following USPS practice the stamp is cancelled with a dumb oval. The cover is backstamped by U.S. Pacific Islands Bulletin Illustration 5/5 and a Barrigada Guam Main Post Office datestamp. The \$5.00 stamp covers the Registration Fee (Minimum \$4.50) plus the domestic postage rate of 29c.

Brad comments that only Registered Mail receives special handling, hence the backstamping, and provides some indemnity for loss in addition to proof of posting and delivery. Certified Mail (Domestic Only) and Recorded Delivery Mail (International Only) provide only proof of mailing and proof of delivery.

From January 1995 charges for Special Services Mail were increased by the USPS as follows: Registration Domestic and International - Minimum \$4.85; Certified Mail and Recorded Delivery Mail \$1.10 - in all three cases plus normal postage.

TINIAN BRANCH, MP 96952 (SAN JOSE BRANCH) NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Edition No. 3 of the "U.S. Pacific Islands Bulletin" I listed cancellations used at this office from 1982. I said that I believed that Tinian had become a full post office on July 1 1984 when the name was changed from San Jose Branch and the Zip Code changed from 96950 to 96952. Recently while preparing an article on Tinian Post Office for another publication I checked through copies of "The U.S. Pacific Islands Newsletter" published during the 1980's by Michael Nohizuki in Hawaii. In a special issue of the Newsletter issued in June 1984 Michael reports that on May 24th, 1984 the U.S. Post Office issued a Bulletin announcing the opening on July 1, 1984 of a New Community Post Office (CPO) to be named Tinian, Mariana Islands, TT 96952-9998. I guess that a CPO is not a full post office but the Bulletin also seems to suggest that there was at that time no Post Office on Tinian. Checking through my collection I was only able to find one cover dated between February 1, 1982 and July, 1984. This cover was a philatelic cover bearing Murphy 1.4 and 2.5 dated Mar 12, 1984. In "A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" Bob Murphy reports that in early 1980 2.5 was held at Saipan Post Office as a reserve datestamp. Michael Nohizuki in the April 30, 1980 edition of the "U.S. Pacific Islands Newsletter" reports having received confirmation from Esther Chong, Postmaster Saipan, that Murphy 1.6 and 2.5 were held in reserve at Saipan. Is it possible that Murphy 1.4 had by that time been returned to Saipan and that my cover was produced in Saipan as a philatelic favour during a period when no Post Office operated on Tinian? I would very much like to hear of any covers from Tinian from mid 1982 to June 1984 - if possible photocopies and any comments on the proposition that San Jose Post Office had closed some time prior to July 1, 1984.

KWAJALEIN - APO AP 96555: Bernd Neuhaus reports two new APDS: Illustration 8/15 APO AP 96555 dated 26 OCT 1994. APO AP 96555-1 (not illustrated - will not reproduce) Postal is mis-spelled as "POTSEL". Can anyone provide a clear photocopy.

POHNPEI FM 96941: Edition No. 5 of the Bulletin reported the use of a very worn Pohnpei pictorial datestamp showing 1993 instead of 1994 and with the dateline up side down in relation to the words. A further commercial cover dated Dec 30 199? has been seen (Illustration 8/16) The dateline is noticeably sharp in contrast to the worn state of the rest of the datestamp.

COLONIA YAP: A "return address" stamp on a cover dated May 18, 1993 has been reported by Brad Arch. (Illus. 8/17)



(8/15)



(8/16)

**POSTMASTER  
COLONIA, YAP, F.M. 96943-9888**

(8/17)

LELU, KOSRAE, FM 96944: Brad Arch reports an earlier date for the APDS shown in Bulletin No. 3 as Illustration 3/7. This is May 20, 1993 on the back of a Registered cover.

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