

SAIPAN MP 96950

Two double circle AFDS which I havn't previously seen have appeared recently. Illustration 11/3 is dated Sep 27 1995 and was on a letter from the Postmaster at Saipan. Illustration 11/4 is on a George L. Machado Jr. cover marking the increase in US Postal rates to International destinations. While new to me the device is obviously an old one since it shows use of 'CM' rather than the 'MP' abbreviation used in current datestamps.

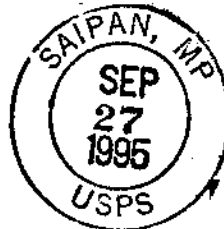


Illustration 11/3



Ill. 11/4

ROI-WAMUR APO AP 96557 (U.S. APO in the Marshall Is.)

In the last edition of the 'Bulletin' a double circle utility handstamp was shown as Illustration 10/11. Bernd Neuhaus points out that there are in fact two similar datestamps held at APO AP 96557. Illustration 10/11 shown here again as Illustration 11/5 and Illustration 11/6. The space between ARMY POSTAL SERVICE AND APO AP 96557-4 is clearly different in the two datestamps. My earliest sighting of Illustration 11/5 (The wider spacing) was on 30 Dec 1991. Illustration 11/6 (the narrower spacing) was first seen on 6 Aug 1993 on an advice of delivery card. It later appeared on Dec 15 1993 on a cover which, oddly, also bears a meter marking reading "APO SAN FRANCISCO/96555" the Zip Code for Kwajalein. This meter number is 388304. See Illustration 11/7.



Illustration 11/5



Ill. 11/6

GUAM

A price list sent out by dealer Todd Hall, P.O. Box 27322 SMP GU 96921 included several items new to me. Details are shown below.

NAVAL AIR STATION GUAM 96921

The price list includes a cover marking the closure on Mar 31 1995 of the Naval Air Station Guam. The cover bears the Barrigada GU MPO datestamp for that date. While this datestamp is appropriate - the Naval Air Station was located at Barrigada - it perhaps indicates that the Post Office at the Naval Air Station had closed prior to that date. An enquiry of the Postmaster at Guam MPO confirmed that the Naval Air Station Branch was closed but did not give the date of closure. My last cover from the NAS BR. is dated Dec 15, 1992. (See Illustration 11/8)

The Naval Air Station Branch was included in the list of Guam P.O.'s and branches supplied by the Guam MPO Postmaster in November, 1993 and reported in Bulletin No. 3

GUAM MPO GU 96921

The price list also offers examples of the rarely seen "GUAM, TT 96921" 4-Bar error used briefly in June 1979 - priced at \$5 each. This is shown in Robert Murphy's "A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" as Figure 1.2.

Another interesting cancellation offered is a slogan machine cancel dated 21 Jun 1994 on the standard GUAM 969 machine and reading "WWII GUAM LANDING 50th ANNIVERSARY". According to the list it had been intended that the machine cancel included the word 'Liberation' rather than 'Landing' but political problems caused the change and there was no publicity prior to use of the slogan 'for a few days in July 1994'. Unfortunately the slogan falls across a dark coloured stamp and will not copy for illustration here.

ASAN GUAM 96922

Todd Hall tells me that a special cancel was used on Sept 2 1995 at Asan. See Illustration 11/10. This may have been a special one-day postal station. Asan does not appear on the list of Guam P.O.'s and branches supplied by the Guam MPO Postmaster in November 1993 and reported in 'Bulletin' No. 3.

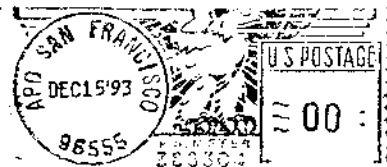


Illustration 11/7



Illustration 11/8

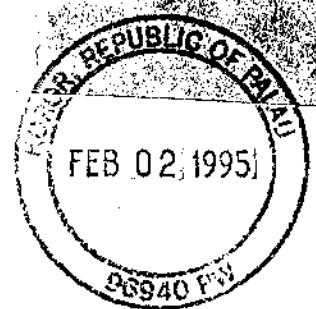


Illustration 11/9



Illustration 11/10
Bottom line of cancellation reads "Asan Guam 96922".

KOROR, PALAU FW 96940: Thanks to George L. Machado Jr I am able to show a clear impression of the large type Koror double circle handstamp shown in the last edition of the "Bulletin" as Illustration 10/14. George reports that he first saw this cancel used on registered mail in October or November, 1994. It was used to cancel the stamps on a cover produced by George to commemorate the admittance of Palau to membership of the United Nations on December 15, 1994. (Details available from George). Illustration 11/9 shows the datestamp used on the reverse of a Registered packet on February 2, 1995.

U.S. POSTAL RATES FOR INTERNATIONAL MAILS:

George L. Machado Jr. tells me that my report in Bulletin No. 10 that U.S. International Postal Rates increased on July 10, 1995 was in fact one day out. The correct date was July 9, 1995. (Postal Bulletin No. 21896 6-22-95 page 17) George has produced some fine covers marking the increase and postmarked at various locations in the U.S. (and former US) Pacific islands. Write to George for information about them if you are interested.