

**SWAINS ISLAND:** Christies auction in Melbourne Australia on October 26, 1995 included an envelope shown (reduced) as Illustration 12/15. The catalogue description reads "Undated envelope to Mr. Edgar Rolfe, Pago Pago bearing U.S. tied by two strikes of straight line "SWAINS ISLAND" h.s. in violet and with the signature of the island's postmaster (and owner) at top; the envelope with a few minor tone spots and central vertical crease. Rare, about five covers are recorded." The estimate was Aus\$1,000-1,500. The lot realised Aus\$1,600. The marking and signature appear to be those shown in Murphy as 1.0 and known between May 16, 1931 and February 28, 1934. Covers with this marking were illustrated in "Bulletin" # 4 as Illustrations 47 to 49. The stamp used on Illustration 12/15 appears to be the National Recovery Act 3c issued in 1933.

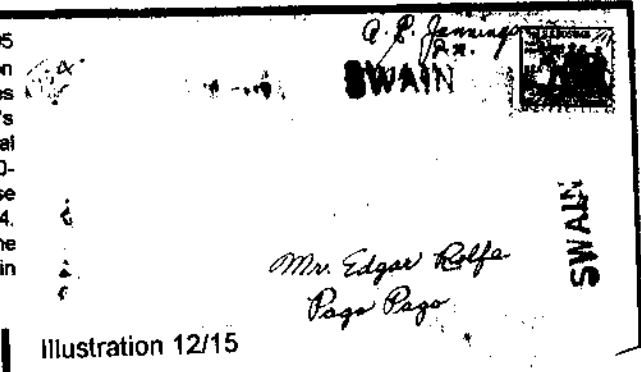


Illustration 12/15

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS:**

**CAPITOL HILL RURAL BR. SAIPAN M.P. 96950:** has been supplied with new datestamps. Illustration 12/16 shows the new 4-Bar seen on a philatelic card dated Dec 31 1995. The illustration may not copy clearly due to the dark colour of the stamp. The wording reads "CAPITOL HILL RURAL BR." in an arc around the top with 'SAIPAN MP' in a straight line below. "USPS" appears at the base of the circle. No Zip Code is shown. Illustration 12/17 shows the new double circle datestamp. Although this appears on the same postal card as the 4-Bar the date is shown as Jan 01, 1996. A Honolulu transit machine datestamp for 3 January 1996 also appears on the card.

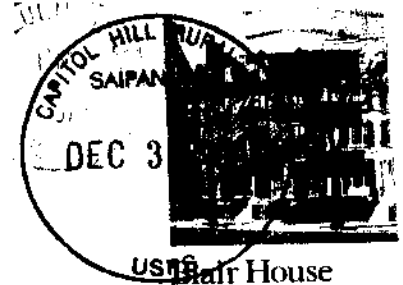


Illustration 12/16

**TINIAN MP 96952 (SAN JOSE RURAL BRANCH)** is using a new "old style" 4-Bar shown here as Illustration 12/18. This was first seen on Jan 27, 1996 used on a philatelic card also showing use of double circle datestamp Illustration 3/17 (See Bulletin # 3). The 4-Bar previously used - Illustration 3/16 - was last seen used on August 9, 1995 and appeared to be in good condition at that time. 12/18 could be an additional 4-Bar rather than a replacement - Tinian appears to be using two double circle datestamps concurrently. Illustration 3/15 was still in use on March 11, 1994 concurrently with Illustration 3/17 first seen on September 21, 1993.

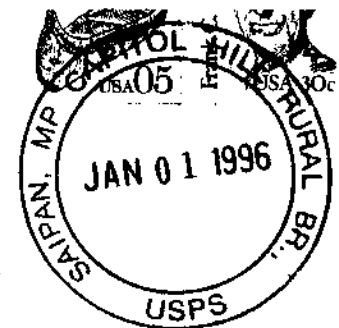


Illustration 12/17

**TINIAN M.P. 96952 (SAN JOSE RURAL BRANCH)** George M. Baka writes commenting on the review of cancellations used at this office which appeared in the December, 1993 edition of the Bulletin (# 3) and subsequent comments and updates appearing in editions # 4, 8, & 9. Commenting on whether the Tinian 4-Bar datestamp (Illustration 3/11 in Bulletin # 3) was first used in July, 1984 or on September 1, 1984 George confirms that he has in his collection philatelic covers showing the dates July 24, 1984 and September 1, 1984. These were obtained as a result of two requests to the Postmaster at Tinian following a report in the June 1984 edition of the "U.S. Pacific Islands Newsletter" that the USPS had announced the opening of a new Community Post Office at Tinian on July 1, 1984. One request was for a date of opening cancellation and one for a July 24, 1984 cancellation to mark the 40th Anniversary of the invasion of Tinian by U.S. forces during World War II. The possibility therefore remains that the new office did not open until September 1, 1984 and that the July 24, 1984 datestamp was backdated by favour. Has any reader a cover in their collection with any San Jose or Tinian datestamp dated between July 1 and September 1, 1984? Responding to my request for photocopies of cancellations dated between Mid 1982 and June 1984 George sends covers showing the following datestamps:- October 21, 1982 - Murphy 1.5 on a philatelic cover showing also the signature 'A. Hofschneider' (See Illustration 12/19) May 5, 1983, a cover showing Murphy 1.4 and 2.5, September 14, 1983 & April 27, 1984 covers showing Murphy 1.4. The September 14, 1983 cover also has the 'A. Hofschneider' signature but there are some differences between the two signatures. (See Illustration 12/20) None of the Murphy 1.4 datestamps are 100% clear & complete impressions and the final number ("0") of the Zip appears to be missing - possibly removed - or simply damaged?? Might it have been removed because the Zip Code for San Jose/Tinian had, in 1983, already been changed to 96952? Were these datestamps applied at Tinian or at Saipan? Does any reader know who A. Hofschneider is? - the Postmaster at Tinian? - or the postmaster or a clerk at Saipan?? My thanks to Mr. Baka for his input. This report extends the dates of use of some datestamps as follows:-  
Murphy 1.4 extend to April 27, 1984 - Note: All impressions seen during 1983 & 1984 show the final number ("0") of the Zip missing.  
Murphy 1.5 extend to October 21, 1982

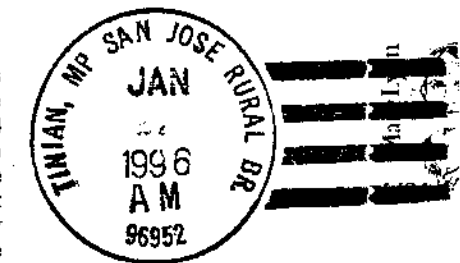


Illustration 12/18

**ROTA M.P. 96951:** George Baka confirms Jan 01 1995 as the first day of use of the new 4-Bar shown in the December, 1995 edition of the 'Bulletin' as Illustration 11/15. George sends photocopies of it used on a philatelic cover on January 1, 1995 and also a cover showing use of the old 4-Bar on December 31, 1994. Damage to the old 4-bar around the area of the word "Rota" which was noticeable in April 1993 had become very pronounced and probably lead to its replacement. See Illustration 12/21.

*A. Hofschneider*  
illus. 12/19 (Signature)



Illustration 12/21

*A. Hofschneider*  
illus 12/20 (Signature)



Illustration 12/20 (Datestamp)



illus 12/19 (Datestamp)