

U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN

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A quarterly newsletter about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall and Line Islands)

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

The Postal Datestamps of the Four Main Post Offices (Continued from Bulletin # 14)

PONAPE (POHNPEI)

Bridging the Gap - Murphy to July 11, 1984

Murphy 1.11 [Addenda] - March 15, 1983 to July 11, 1984\*

[\*Also used on covers backdated to July 11, 1984 e.g. Last Date of use of US stamps]

Murphy 2.8 [Addenda] - \*\*June 4, 1983 to July 11, 1984

[\*\*On June 4, 1983 was used on a receipt for P.O. Box rental. The other usages are on philatelic covers, including Last Date of Use of US stamps on July 11, 1984. In October, 1983 and December 1983 the date is misplaced in relation to the lettering, as illustrated in Murphy [Addenda No. 1]. There may well be 2 or 3 virtually identical APDS under this heading]

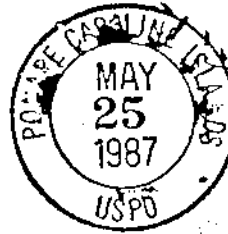


Illustration 15/1

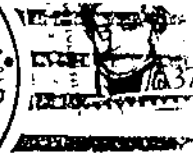


Illustration 15/2

Independence - July 12, 1984 to Date

Group 1 - Double Circle APDS - Old USPO Type

Illustration 15/1\* - May 13, 1985 to May 25, 1987

\*Appears to be Murphy [Addenda] 2.8, the two examples seen were on unclaimed covers and have the date upright in relation to the lettering, no philatelic use has been seen - see also the note under Murphy 2.8 above.

Group 1 - 4-Bar Datestamp - Old USPO Type

Illustration 15/2\*\* - July 19, 1984 to May 16, 1989

\*\*Appears to be Murphy [Addenda] 1.11

Group 2 - 'French' Type Datestamp

Illustration 15/3 - Seen only May 1, 1986 [Philatelic cover]

Group 3 - Double Circle APDS - New FSMPO Type

Illustration 15/4 - February 20, 1989 to July 8, 1996\*\*\*

\*\*\*On this latter date it was used to cancel the stamp on an ordinary commercial cover. Previous sightings have been of it used as a backstamp on incoming Registered mail, on Registration Receipt forms or on unclaimed mail. No philatelic useage has been noted, but an example of it appears on a sheet of paper supplied by the Pohnpei Philatelic Bureau showing the cancellations available on May 1, 1989 - e.g. Illustration 15/2, 15/4 and 15/6 together with a dumb oval cancellation.



Illustration 15/3



Illustration 15/4

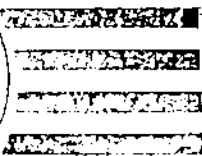
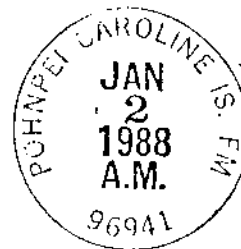


Illustration 15/5

Group 3 - 4-Bar Datestamp - New FSMPO Type

Illustration 15/5 - Seen January 2, 1988 and 1 November, 1990, apparently both used by favour.

Group 4 - Pictorial Datestamps

Illustration 15/6 - February 15, 1989^ to September 28, 1995

^George L. Machado Jr. informs me that the pictorial datestamps were authorised by the PMG to be used from May 22, 1989. This was the date on which the datestamp was available at all four Post Offices then operating in the FSM. The Pohnpei datestamp was however inadvertently used in the Philatelic Bureau on February 15, 1989 and May 1, 1989. The PMG has designated this use 'unofficial'.

Illustration 15/6a^^ - February 3, 1993 - March 14, 1995

^^Apparently, at least two identical pictorial datestamps were in use at Pohnpei. While sharp clear impressions appeared on philatelic mail, probably processed in the Philatelic Bureau, commercial mail was processed, at least during this period, with a badly worn datestamp, with the date reversed in relation to the rest of the datestamp. February, 1993 dates may in fact be 1994 as stamps on these covers were issued only in August & September, 1993]

Illustration 15/7 - Seen May 20, 1996 [on philatelic cover]

Note the differences to illustration 15/6 - the illustration above the date is much less detailed and does not touch the letters 'KOL' of KOLONIA. The stars in the state emblem below the date are more widely spaced, and the lettering is slightly larger.

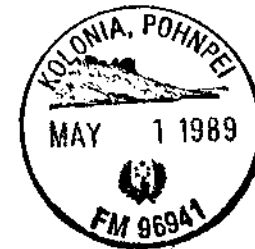


Illustration 15/6



Illustration 15/6a



Illustration 15/7



Illustration 15/8