

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

The Postal Datestamps of the Four Main Post Offices [concluded]

Group 5 - Revised Double Circle APDS

Illustration 15/8 - Seen January 10, 1995 [on an unclaimed cover]

Other Cancellations

Illustration 15/9 (Murphy 1.6) - Reported used on an FSM 22c Nan Madol stamp on March 25, 1985 [without year plug].

THANKS: I am grateful to George L. Machado Jr., Cy Kitching, Brian Cannon, Bernd Neuhaus, Michael Sewell and Joel Fassler for their help with this series. The series will continue to be updated in the Bulletin as new information appears. Please check your collection - additions and/or corrections would be welcomed.



Illustration 15/9 (Murphy 1.6)



Republic of the Marshall Islands
 Ministry of Finance - Majuro
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAL CARD

ANGELS! This stunning 1996 Heavenly Angels Christmas Coin can be yours at Face Value!

MARSHALL ISLANDS - UNICOVER PUBLICITY MAILINGS: - Howard Lee

For a long time I have suspected that UNICOVER, the agent for the Marshall Islands, prints the Majuro "postmarks" on their publicity mailings. The ink is too fine, the impressions too good, etc. Recently, I received two identical postcards from them, with the black "postmark" in apparently the same ink as the black printing on the card. However, in this case it was a postal stationery postcard, where the position of the stamp indicates does not change. So I drew lines to see if the relationship of the "postmark" to the printed "stamp" indicia remained constant. It does. To me this is proof positive that the "postmark" is printed when the card or cover receives its black impression. **Illustrations 15/10 & 15/11** show the "postmark" portions of the two postcards with the lines in place.

1. Line A from the right side of the "O" of "OF" through the "T" of "THE" goes through the 8th tooth of the simulated perf on the bottom of the "stamp" and the 3rd simulated perf. on the top of the "stamp".
2. Line B runs through the "I" of "FIRST" and the first "L" of "MARSHALL" and just kisses the "6" of the small 1996 year date on the bottom right hand corner of the stamp.
3. Line C goes through the "T" of "SEPT", through the upright ray of the star and through the 9th hole from the right of the simulated perf.

In addition, and I can't prove this, I believe that all mailings from Unicover originate in Cheyenne, Wyoming where the mailings are batched by Zip Code to assist the U.S. Post Office. Since the postal rates are the same for the Marshall Islands as for the USA it does not cost Unicover any more and saves the US Post Office substantial money. I can't imagine that these mailings are sent out in bulk to Majuro, and then immediately sent back. What a waste that would be.

UNICOVER PUBLICITY MAILINGS - Eric Baxendale

Unicover publicity mailings are sent to collectors in the U.S. who are on the Unicover mailing list. Unicover have refused to send them to collectors outside the U.S. - or at least to those known to me. The envelopes I have seen bear either Marshall Island or FSM stamps which are cancelled with either Majuro M.H. or Kolonia, Pohnpei 'datestamps'. These 'datestamps' are sometimes quite unlike any used at Kolonia or Majuro i.e. with wavy lines to the right. Other postings have the stamps cancelled with what appear to be handstamps which are similar - but not identical - to those used in the actual locations. The datelines, in particular, are often different to those used at Majuro and Pohnpei. Illustrated here are 4 different types of 'datestamps' known to me which have appeared on Unicover Mailings.

Illustration 15/12 is known to me only on April 3, 1995. At that time it was clearly different to any Kolonia 'datestamp' in use at Kolonia - but subsequently a virtually identical datestamp appeared on a philatelic cover from Pohnpei P.O. - See **Illustration 15/7**.

Illustration 15/13 appears on covers dated Jun 24, 1994, March 10, 1995 & June 14, 1995. At this time the datestamps in use at Majuro P.O. were clearly different. Unlike **Illustration 15/13** the outer circle was not complete - there was a gap directly below the star and the inner circle did not touch the rays of the star. However in July, 1996 Majuro started using a datestamp which is almost identical to **Illustration 15/13**. [The datestamps of Majuro are a complicated subject - I hope to illustrate the main varieties - and invite comments from readers - in a future edition of the Bulletin]

Illustration 15/14 appears on covers dated October 15, 1993 and November 12, 1993. I do not believe that Majuro holds a datestamp with wavy lines to the right.

Illustration 15/15 has been seen only on covers dated June 18, 1993. I do not believe that Pohnpei holds a datestamp with a series of wavy lines such as this.

All envelopes seen have a return address. For those bearing M.I. stamps this is usually the Ministry of Finance in Majuro - though the Jun 24, 1994 cover has the return address shown as "Stamps & Philatelic Center of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, One Unicover Center, Cheyenne." Those bearing FSM stamps have the return address shown as "Federated States of Micronesia Postal Service/Pohnpei/Official Business". There are no doubt other variations not known to me. I would be happy to illustrate new varieties sent to me by readers. [Thanks to Brad Arch, Bernd Neuhaus and David Anderson for sending me examples for illustration]

Illustration 15/10

Illustration 15/11

Ministry of Finance
 Republic of the Marshall Islands
 Majuro, MH 96960
 OFFICIAL BUSINESS