

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (Continued)

KWAJALEIN APO AP 96555: Bernd Neuhaus has sent a photocopy of another 4-Bar in current use at APO AP 96555. While similar to **Illustrations 12/22 and 12/23** shown in Edition #12 of the Bulletin the position of the 'A' of Army and the 'E' of Service varies in relation to a line drawn along the top of the third bar from the top. It seems apparent that a number of similar, but slightly different 4-Bars have been supplied to this office. See **Illustration 15/17 and 15/18** [originally shown as **Illustration 12/23**]

KWAJALEIN APO AP 96555: Bernd also reports that **Illustration 12/25** remains in use. He noted it used on an undeliverable Registered item on 5 September, 1996.

EBEYE, MI 96970: Thanks to Bernd Neuhaus for the opportunity to illustrate a Meter from The Republic of the Marshall Islands. See **Illustration 15/19**. The meter number appears to be 956133, the date of use is Feb. 8, 1988. This is the first meter from RMI illustrated in the Bulletin. The return address shown on the envelope bearing this meter is "Office of the City Manager, POB 5929, Ebeye". Bernd believes that the Royal Insurance Corp. also used a Postalia Meter in 1988.

AMERICAN SAMOA:

METERS: Thanks to Gabe Pustel for photocopies of two meters not listed in "A Postal history/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" by Robert T. Murphy.

PB 464665 was used on April 25, 1974 by Apasuga High School (**Illustration 15/20**)

PB 905695 was used on Aug 4, 1972 by the Government of American Samoa Community College with rather a nice slogan. (**Illustration 15/21**)

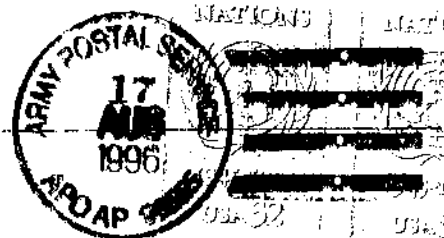


Illustration 15/17



Illustration 15/18



Illustration 15/21

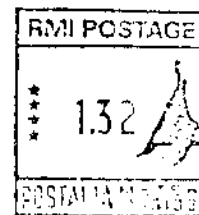


Illustration 15/19

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

CHUUK, FM, 96942: The Double Circle APDS shown in Bulletin # 14 as **Illustration 14/5 & 14/5a** has re-appeared. It was seen on August 30 1996 on a cover containing a letter from the Postmaster at Chuuk. On this occasion the date is almost upright in relation the the lettering of the datestamp.

CAPITAL STATION PALIKAR, POHNPEI FM 96941: The postal markings of this station were featured in Bulletin # 3, with updates & corrections in Bulletins # 4 & 5. Steven Zirinski has shown me a commercial cover from this station which brings forward the first use of the current datestamp - **Illustration 3/2** - to May 16, 1991. The datestamp is smudged and the year unclear but a datestamp applied to this certified mail cover by the receiving Post Office or the addressee confirms the year as 1991. The gap between last known use of **Illustration 3/1** and first known use of **Illustration 3/2** is now down to 6 weeks. Can anyone help to close that gap ?



Illustration 15/20

APUSAGA HIGH SCHOOL
 OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

THE MIND TRAVELLER is the title of a series of programmes shown on BBC TV during November, 1996. The series is introduced by author and neurologist Dr. Oliver Sacks. Two of the programmes have featured the populations of places in our area of interest. **Umatac, Guam** was featured because a high proportion of the population suffer from a disorder similar to Parkinsons disease. The island of **Pingelap, FSM** was featured because 8% of the population have no concept of colour. They think that the rest of us "are distracted by it and don't pay enough attention to to texture, tone and shape".

PALAU ISLANDS is the title of an article by Wolfgang Haberland which appeared in the Fourth Quarter 1995 edition of "Possessions" the journal of the United States Possessions Philatelic Society. It gives a brief overview of postal activity during the German period and some background to the issue of stamps by Palau in 1983.

CANTON (KANTON) ISLAND, PHOENIX ISLANDS, REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI:

The November, 1996 edition of "Ki-Tu News" The journal of the Kiribati & Tuvalu Philatelic Society [c/o Mike Shaw, 88, Stoneleigh Ave., Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8XY, U.K.] includes a long, fully illustrated article titled "Kanton - Postal History Notes" Canton was claimed by both Britain and the U.S. and had both a British (Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony) and a U.S. Post Office at various times between July 14, 1940 and July 11, 1979. The postmarks and First Flight Covers of the U.S. Post Office are covered as are the Pre-Cancels and the Mailers Postmark Permit used in 1960. The British P.O. closed in February 1968 when the British evacuated the island. The U.S. Post Office closed on 23 April, 1965, but re-opened in early 1971 to serve a newly installed instrumentation station - part of the guided missile test programme. The U.S. Post Office on Canton Island finally closed on July 11, 1979. The Gilbert Islands achieved independence on 12 July, 1979 and by agreement with the British & U.S. Governments took control of the Phoenix Islands and the postal facilities on Kanton. The Gilbert Islands changed the name of their country to the Republic of Kiribati. Kiribati stamps and a datestamp were used but what appears to be the the old USPO Registration cachet is used on Registered Mail. Initially the postal clerk at Kanton serviced covers for collectors but I have had no response since 1989 - neither have my requests been returned as undeliverable. In January 1996 I asked the Kiribati Philatelic Bureau if the P.O. at Kanton had closed. Mrs. Bereteba Tokia replied ".....it is with regret that delays caused from Kanton are beyond the Bureau's control. Actually the Post Office still exists on Kanton Island." The "Ki-Tu News" article illustrated a 1991 Registered cover showing that the P.O. was at that time still using the USPO Registration cachet with the current standard Kiribati double circle datestamp to cancel the stamps. According to "Ki-Tu News" the islands population at the 1990 census was 45 - all I-Kiribati. Nine of these were employed in the cash sector. I am not clear what is the cash sector. The "Ki-Tu News" article refers to an Australian air charter company using Kanton as a stop-over and to a U.S. Tracking Station there being on a "care & maintenance basis". I had heard that Kanton has an air service on the Christmas Island to Honolulu route, but this is not mentioned by "Ki-Tu News". Does any reader have information ?