

**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**

**MARSHALL ISLANDS STAMPS:** I was looking through the 1997 edition of Stanley Gibbons Simplified Stamp Catalogue in my local library recently and noted that while the listing of FSM & Palau stamp issues run to the end of 1995 the Marshall Islands listings end with the Bird Definitives of 1990 and the Ships definitives of 1993. A note appears in front of the 1990 Birds listing which reads "Since August, 1989 a considerable number of stamps have appeared, issued on behalf of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. It has only been possible to confirm postal use of the following definitive issues." The Deputy Catalogue Editor of Stanley Gibbons contacted me during 1994 asking if I was able to confirm commercial use of commemorative stamps issued since Unicovert took over as philatelic agents for the MIPS. With the help of readers of the "Bulletin" I was able to supply photocopies of useage of some 'special/comemorative' issues on commercial covers. It appears that Gibbons remain unconvinced. However a number of special/commemorative issues of the MIPS from 1989 & 1990 are listed in the New Issues Listings in the February, 1997 edition of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly". Since I do not collect Marshall Islands stamps I am not able to say if all issues for that period are listed - but at least there seems to be some re-assessment of these issues by Gibbons.

**MR. SAILASS ANDRIKE, Postal Controller MIPS** visited Hawaii over the New Year holiday and called on Honolulu dealer George L. Machado, (POB 240093, Honolulu HI 96824-0093). Mr. Machado took the opportunity to raise some of the matters mentioned in recent editions of the "U.S. Pacific Islands Bulletin".

**Local Postal Rates:** Commenting on the remarks in Bulletin Edition # 15 referring to possible local rates of 19c, 29c or 32c, for mail posted in the Marshalls and for delivery within the Marshall Islands, Mr. Andrike said "no, we never raised it, it is still 12c". [I assume that 12c was the rate set in 1984 when the MIPS was first operational - at that time the US internal rate was 22c giving a 10c reduction for mail posted in the Marshall Islands and directed to addresses within the Marshall Islands]

**Handstamps:** Mr. Andrike said that they placed orders for two of each handstamp. If relevant, one was sent to Ebeye, Jaluit or Delap, the second is kept at Majuro as a reserve.

**Jaluit:** Mr. Andrike said that Jaluit re-opened in 1995 but could not give a specific date. [This contradicts the two letters from MIPS reported in Edition # 14 of the Bulletin which give dates in 1994]

**Postal Stationery:** Mr. Andrike said that even though the Marshalls were now issuing their own postal cards, all U.S. Stationery would still be honoured, but no mention of a cut-off date.

**Fancy First Day of Issue Cancels:** Going right back to the first issues of 1984, all FANCY first day of issue cancels were done in RED at Majuro proper. Majuro P.O. receives one (1) handstamp for each new issue. UNICOVERT FDC's are all done in black. Mr. Machado comments "You have two types of cancelled FDC's in my opinion, Majuro, Marshall Islands (Red) and Majuro, Wyoming (Black). Any expert should be able to differentiate between a handstamp and a machine stamp of the same cancel." [I am very grateful to George for sharing this information "from the horses mouth" with readers of the "Bulletin".]

**LOCAL POSTAL RATES:** Referring to the item in Editon 15 of the "Bulletin" Bernd Neuhaus reports receipt of a note from the Postmaster at Majuro, dated November 24, 1993 which reads "Our domestic rate is 12c per ounce for letter mail and 35c per pound for package mail"

**CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED:** Illustrations 16/9, 16/10 & 16/11 show in reduced size 3 covers from Majuro to an address in Chuuk. All bear different versions of a "Return Receipt Requested" cachet. I guess these were applied at Majuro - but of course the possibility must remain that they were applied at Chuuk. I am grateful to New York dealer Steven Zirinski for showing me these covers.

**Illustration 16/9:** Envelope addressed to Samuel K. Lanwi, P.O. Box 262, Majuro, MH 96960. Cachet: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED. Postage: 32c. Recipient: XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL, P. O. BOX 220, CHUUK, FH 96942.

**Illustration 16/10:** Envelope addressed to Samuel K. Lanwi, P.O. Box 262, Majuro, Marshall Is., 96960. Cachet: Return Receipt Requested Showing Address Where Delivered. Postage: 32c. Recipient: Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J., Acting Director, Xavier High School, PO Box 220, Weno, Chuuk FM 96942.

**Illustration 16/11:** Envelope addressed to Samuel K. Lanwi, P.O. Box 262, Majuro, Marshall Is., 96960. Cachet: RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED. Postage: 32c. Recipient: Rev. Patrick J. Sullivan, S.J., Acting Director, Xavier High School, PO Box 220, Weno, Chuuk FM 96942.