

MARSHALL ISLANDS STAMPS: In Bulletin # 16 I reported that most stamps issued by the Marshall Islands Post Office after August, 1989 were not listed in the 1997 edition of "Stanley Gibbons Simplified Stamp Catalogue". The reason given was that use commercially in the Marshall Islands had not been confirmed. I have since received a letter from Miss P. Basley, Deputy Catalogue Editor of Stanley Gibbons dated 17th March, 1997 which reads "Since our last correspondence [reported in Bulletin # 5] we have had an assurance from the Marshall Islands Postal Bureau (as distinct from the Cheyenne office) that all these issues produced by Unicover are on sale in the islands. We have to take such a categorical statement at face value and have thus been listing the stamps in the last few catalogue supplements in "Gibbons Stamp Monthly". We are not quite up to date yet but all issues to 1996 should appear in the next edition of "Stamps of the World" "

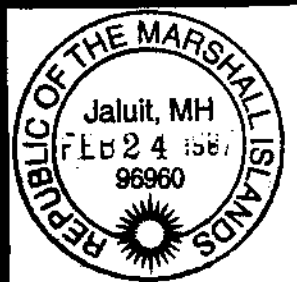


Illustration 17/5

JALUIT MH 96961: In Bulletin # 16 Bernd Neuhaus reported receipt of a cover from Jaluit - dated Dec 4, 1996 and bearing an impression of the "Postal Branch Opening Day" cancellation. [See Illustrations 6/2 and 16/18] I wrote to the Jaluit Postmaster on 21st February, 1997 enclosing a stamped cover and a photocopy of the Dec 4 1996 cancellation and asked that my envelope to be cancelled with that datestamp. On March 29, 1997 I received my cover back accompanied by my original letter with a typed note added reading "We regret to inform you that the above datestamp doesn't have the year 1997 and therefore we can't apply it to your envelope. We applied the new postmark that is used for Jaluit and hope it serves your purpose as well". My original letter bore an impression of a new version of the double circle with star at the base datestamp [similar to Illustrations 6/4 & 6/5] dated Feb 24 1997 [three days after posting in the U.K. - I therefore doubt this date is correct] {See Illustration 17/5}. However my cover was cancelled with what appears to be the same datestamp but with the date shown as Mar 21, 1997. [Illustration 17/6]. It arrived at my address on 29th March, 1997 - 8 days following the date of cancellation. The main difference between the older versions of this datestamp [Illustrations 6/4 & 6/5] and the new version [Illustrations 17/5 & 17/6] is that the outer circle is continuous e.g. not broken below the star, and the inner circle runs into the star. Note also the deformed second '9' in 1997. The Zip Code is shown as 96960 as on Illustrations 6/4 & 6/5 rather than 96961 as it appeared on the two original datestamps - Illustrations 6/2 & 6/3. Does anyone know if Jaluit has the Zip Code 96961? If your collection includes a commercial cover from Jaluit the Zip may appear in the return address.

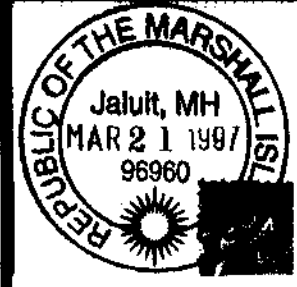


Illustration 17/6

JALUIT - OPENING CEREMONIES: Mr. Sailass Andrike, Postal Controller, MIPS confirms, via George L. Machado Jr., that there were no official opening ceremonies to mark the opening of Jaluit Branch P.O.

POSTAL CARDS & ENVELOPES: Honolulu Dealer George L. Machado Jr. tells me that Unicover have issued a set of 4 postal cards on behalf of the Marshall Islands Post Office. George, in conversation with Sailass Andrike, MIPS Postal Controller, confirmed that there were no immediate plans to issue a stamped envelope. Unlike FSM and Palau the Marshalls have never previously issued postal stationery. Mr. Andrike told George back in 1984 that the reason was that it was much more simple for him to submit a requisition to the USPS for X numbers of Envelopes and X numbers of Postal Cards. He does not specify a particular issue of the envelopes and postal cards and so takes 'pot luck' on what envelopes and cards are supplied. There was no charge to MIPS for the stationery and all revenue derived from the sales goes into the MIPS account. George surmises that these arrangements will remain in effect until the end of the Postal Re-organisation Act. [It would be an interesting exercise to produce a list of the particular issues of USPS envelopes and cards supplied to the MIPS - though in reality probably an impossible task at this late stage. I have never seen a commercially used Post Card from the Marshall Islands, nor any small size envelopes. I have seen commercially used examples of several of the larger size definitive envelopes. Perhaps such issues should be listed in postal stationery and stamp catalogues under the Marshall Islands heading?]

RECEIVED DATESTAMP: George L. Machado Jr. tells me that Illustration 16/14 is of a type of datestamp used by the USPS as a received datestamp on Special Delivery Mail. Where the words "MARSHALL ISLANDS" appears the inscription "Special Delivery Section" and the name of the PO would appear. Writing from memory I believe the cover referred to in Editon # 16 of the "Bulletin" was an ordinary mail cover. e.g. No special handling markings appeared on the cover.

METER MARKINGS - MAJURO MH 96960: Thanks to Gabe Pustel for a copy of a Postalia Meter from Majuro not previously reported in the 'Bulletin'. Illustration 17/8 shows Meter No. 958759 used on Mar 26, 1997 by Bank of the Marshall Islands, P.O. Box J, Majuro.

MAJURO MH 96960: Illustration 17/7 shows the cancellation on a card sent by Sailass Abdrike, MIPS Postal Controller to George L. Machado Jr. The card is backstamped in Honolulu with the date Sep 29, 1989.

MAJURO, MH 96960: The New York dealer Steven Zirinski has shown me 16 commercial covers postmarked at Majuro during late 1996. 8 of them were cancelled with Illustration 12/28 while the remainder were cancelled with the large Double Circle with Star at the Base.

EBEYE MH 96970: All Ebeye P.O. Box Numbers commence with the figure '5'. Thanks to Bernd Neuhaus.

EBEYE, MH 96970: Ebeye has now brought into use a revised version of the standard double circle and star datestamp. Thanks to Bernd Neuhaus this can be illustrated here as Illustration 17/9. This datestamp was first seen by Bernd on a philatelic cover dated April 2, 1997.

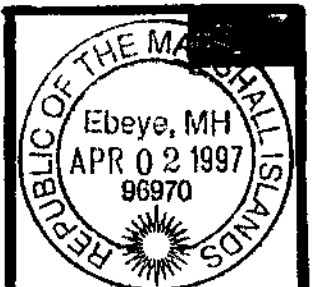


Illustration 17/9 →
 Illustration 17/8 ↓

MAJURO, MH 96960: Bernd Neuhaus reports that he has two copies of Illustration 16/15 in his collection. One dated Dec 4, 1996 is on an Advice of delivery card - ex Postmaster while the other is on a commercial cover dated Dec 2, 1996. In both cases the device is applied that the date appears upright and the lettering inverted.

