

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (Continued)

METERS - POHNPEI FM 96941 (Capital Station, Palikar): Thanks to Gabe Pustel I am able to illustrate an interesting meter cover. Illustration 17/17 shows the cover, [reduced to fit the page] franked by Postalia meter # 962494 used by the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, P.O. Box PS 3, Palikar, Sokehs, Pohnpei State, FM 96941 on Feb 20, 1997. The cover originated at Palikar despite POHNPEI appearing in the meter datehead. Apparently as late as February 1997 the postal clerk at the Congress had not familiarised him or herself with the revised postal rates and an additional 5 x 1c stamps had to be added to the cover to make up the 32c rate to Guam. The additional stamps are cancelled by the Palikar datestamp. This is the first example I've seen of an item with a Palikar return address. It appears that Box Numbers at this station have the prefix PS - I guess for "Palikar Station".

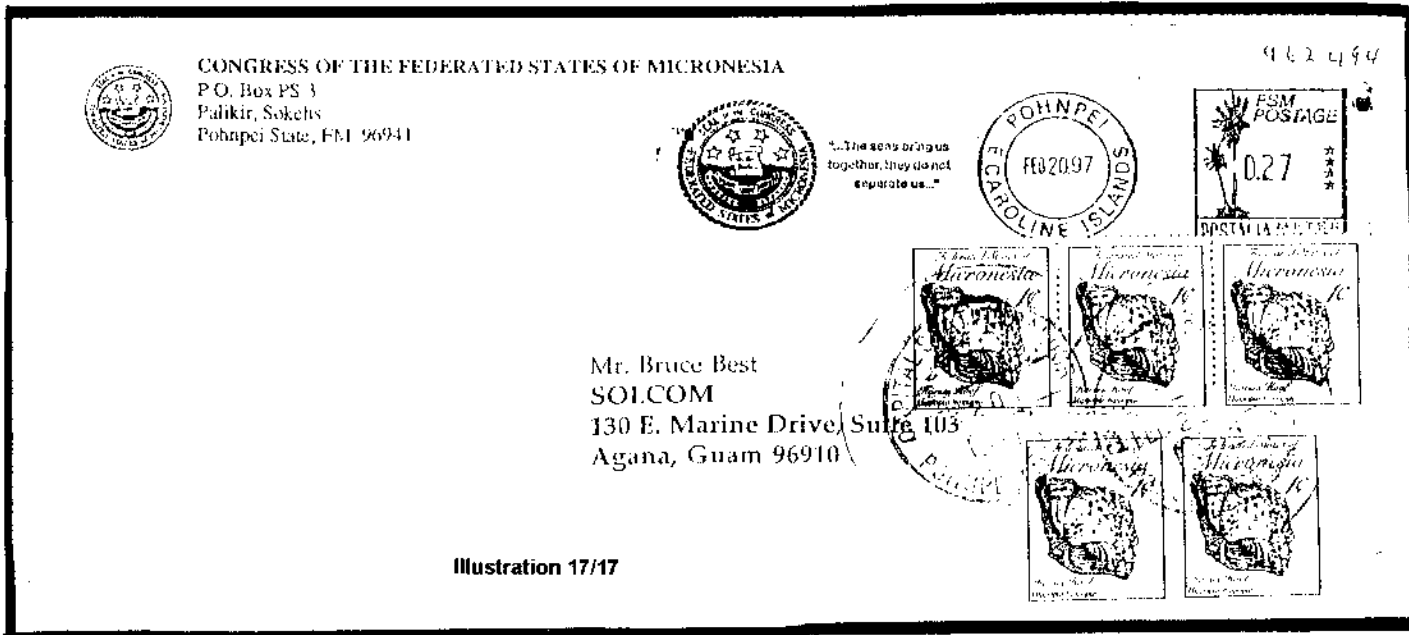


Illustration 17/17

STEVEN G. ZIRINSKY IN LONDON: Steven will be at the London Stamp & Postal History Fair (organised by Chris Rainey & Trevor Davis) at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London on October 30th, 31st and November 1st, 1997. If you expect to be there, drop a note to Steven at P.O. Box 49, Ansonia Station, N.Y. N.Y. 10023, telling him what you would like to see. Steven holds stocks of modern covers from most parts of the Pacific, including Registered and local useage. I'm sure he would be glad to see you.

GUAM EARLY COVERS - EXTENSION TO MURPHY DATES: The June 1st, 1997 Mail Auction by Philstamps of San Bernardino, California included 4 Guam covers from the early years of the U.S. administration. These included a Registered cover to Spain [date illegible] bearing impressions of Murphy 1.2, 2.1 & 2.2 described as "all three of the old Spanish postmarks". Estimate \$2200 - \$2500. One cover - Lot 143 - had an impression of Murphy 2.3 dated Aug 23, 1900. Murphy gives the First Date of use of this device as December 24, 1900. We can now extend the dates of use of Murphy 2.3 to read "from August 23, 1900 to January 11, 1902". The catalogue description reads "Lot 143 - 1(pair), 7 tied by violet straight line Agana, Guam cancels on registered cover to U.S. Agana Guam Registry h/s dtd Aug 23, 1900. Light soiling, hinge marks on reverse, Manila r/s of Sept 5, 1900 and San Francisco registry h/s of Oct 10, 1900. VF and sacarre ! - Estimate \$700 - \$800." Murphy describes his Fig 2.3 as the "First Registration marking used at Agana". Although used here on a Registered cover, no registration number appears within or just outside the impression of Murphy 2.3 as was illustrated in Murphy, instead a straight line dater is applied across the centre while the cover bears the Registration handstamp of Manila, Phillipine Islands accompanied by two numbers, both apparently applied by a numbering device. The stamps are cancelled by what appears to be Murphy 1.5 - though this is unclear on the catalogue illustration which is unfortunately too pale to reproduce here.

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An Index to the "Bulletin" is maintained on a word Processor and updated with every issue. Copies are available on request at the cost of printing and postage. 50p to U.K. Addresses, 60p to Addresses in the rest of Europe, U.S. \$1.25 [85p] to the Rest of the world.

Your letters are welcome. News about the islands, corrections and or additions to anything appearing in the "Bulletin", copies of interesting covers from your collection etc. --- all are welcome for publication in the "Bulletin".

All illustrations in the "U.S. Pacific Islands Bulletin" are given a unique "Illustration Number". The first part of the number indicates the issue in which the illustration appeared while the second part indicates the unique number of that illustration within the issue. e.g. Illustration 12/5 indicates the 5th illustration in Issue # 12 of the "Bulletin".

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