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Editor's Note

As if following in the footsteps of the likes of Gil Plass and Geoff Brewster wasn't enough, I am overwhelmed with learning desktop publishing, trying to help the new president and secretary-treasurer rebuild the membership , and broadening my knowledge of the areas covered by our Society. Geoff has left us a backlog of articles, but I anticipate this being the biggest challenge facing us for the future, so I will at every opportunity remind everyone that we need articles to have a healthy journal.

We've added color and a few other changes in format. Delivery of the journal has also changed to reduce costs. The decision is to maintain the 6" x 9" size used to date, but we are looking for other ways to improve the journal, both format and content, and would appreciate you sending us your suggestions.

This issue includes Geoff's continuation of his serialized "Philippines Handstamped 'VICTORY' Issue" started in the 3rd Quarter 2006 (Whole No. 101), along with Ronald González's inventory of Puerto Rico provisional Coamo sheets of ten. I briefly discuss the results of the Robert A. Siegel Auction (February 2009) of the Whitpain collection of U.S. Possessions, which had a wealth of material. In addition, I hope from time-to-time to introduce the membership to journals, websites, ... of other societies with overlapping interests, as well as articles of possible interest published elsewhere. In this issue I introduce the newsletter, *The U.S. Pacific Island Bulletin*.

Finally, a new Cuban philatelic society has been formed, the International Cuban Philatelic Society, which has just published its first issue of an English-Spanish bilingual journal, *Journal of Cuban Philately*. For more information see their ad on page 27.

President's Page

Several new things are happening in the USPPS. Our energetic and talented new editor, Len McMaster, is now producing the journal using PC technology. The new electronic format will enable the journal to include a larger number of quality illustrations, with a significant reduction in production expense to the society. Plans are to return to a regular quarterly schedule, so if you like what you see, please send Len a quick note or email. Better yet, find a favorite item or topic that you might be willing to write up for inclusion in the journal; there will be plenty of room for a wide variety of simple but interesting articles, and possibilities to collaborate with other USPPS members.

The society is also working toward an increased level of member communication. At the recent APS summer show in Richmond, more than a dozen members took some time to stop at the society table where many new acquaintances and discussions took place. Plans are already in the works for a USPPS presence at other major shows, with opportunities for informal contacts as well as scheduled events. We are also exploring the possibilities for increased member communication through email and the USPPS website, so if you have not already given an email address to one of the USPPS officers, please consider letting us know.

A focused attention to membership recruitment is also underway. Interest in our collecting areas continues to be strong at several levels. Your officers are committed to making the USPPS a valuable part of those collecting areas, with lasting support for both our present and prospective membership. So let us know what you are thinking and please favor the USPPS with your continued membership and support!

Ray L. Coughlin Receives Philippine Society's Highest Award

Ray L. Coughlin, Philippine stamp dealer since 1970, received the International Philippine Philatelic Society's lifetime achievement award at the Society's meeting at the American Philatelic Society StampShow, August 14, 2010, in Richmond, Virginia. Ray's stamp business began in Maryland in 1970, then transferred to the Philippines, and back again to the United States in 1988, where he became the world's foremost dealer in United States possessions stamps and covers. The award cited his exceptional service and many years of dedication and promotion of Philippine philately.



The Coamo Sheet of Ten

by Ronald H. González, MD, USPPS 1082

The American forces landed in Puerto Rico on July 25, 1898, through the southern town of Guánica. Shortly after, many towns in the south of the island were occupied. Two days later, on July 27, they reached la "Playa de Ponce" (Ponce wharf). The next day, on July 28, the town of Ponce was occupied. It was not until August third that a post office was established, on the second floor of the customs building, at la "Playa de Ponce". As the American forces were advancing and occupying more towns, the Spanish military forces were retreating. At the same time, the postal employees were abandoning their posts and taking or destroying the postal equipment. Since there was no organized postal system, the need for a local mail service arouse.

The town of Coamo was occupied on August 9, 1898, but a military postal station, number 5, was not established there until September 9, 1898. In order to start local mail delivery between the towns of Coamo and Juana Díaz, and from there to other towns, the Mayor Mr. Florencio Santiago petitioned General James H. Wilson to create a provisional stamp. The stamp was to pay the rate of 5¢ per letter. The permission was granted and the stamp was printed in a hand press at a local print shop called "El Alba", owned by Mr. Hermnio W. Santaella. Fifty sheets of ten stamps, 500 in

total, were typeset printed in black ink on an unwatermarked yellowish paper. The stamps were imperforate and an uneven brownish gum was applied. There were two horizontal rows of five stamps per sheet. Since there were not enough number "5" characters, four different fonts were used. In essence each stamp is different due to the rudimentary printing process. They read "CORREOS" on the top, "5 CTS." in the center, and "COAMO" on the bottom, using a "grotesque" font for the letters "C" and "S" of "CORREOS" and the "sans serif" font for all the other letters. A control mark "F. Santiago" was handstamped in violet to avoid counterfeits. The stamp was first used on August 13 or 15 until about September 3 or 4. It was only used for about 18 days. Since there are no official records, the dates are debated.

Mr. Alfred Otto Tittman, a stamp collector himself, knew of the stamp's existence by way of Army Private Eldredge whom he met previously in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Private Eldredge had obtained a copy of the stamp from a war correspondent in the town of Coamo. On October 26, 1898, Mr. Tittman purchased the reminder of the sheets, from the mayor's secretary, Señor Marquez. For the remaining 310 copies, he paid 33.00 US dollars. Mr. Tittman then brought the sheets to the United States where he showed them to Charles H. Mekeel, a prominent stamp dealer, who cut and sold most of the sheets in singles. Some sheets were kept intact. The stamp was known to exist by American stamp dealers and speculators because Cpt. R. D. Potts, an Army officer, had purchased and used some of the stamps to mail his letters to his wife at the Presidio, San Francisco, CA. One of his covers was obtained by a dealer who published it in a philatelic journal of the period. Pott's covers are believed to be philatelic since the stamps were issued for civilian use only. A total of about 10 covers with the Coamo stamp still exist; three are those mailed by Cpt. Potts. The Coamo stamp used on cover obviously is extremely rare; some of the Coamo stamps on cover are not canceled, probably due to the lack of canceling devices in the town of Coamo. Only a few covers were marked postage due and no one knows if it was ever collected.

No one really knows how many of the Coamo sheets of ten still exist. Many experts and dealers estimate that about 9 or 10 still exist. They sporadically appear at stamp auctions. For the past few years, I have collected the images of the sheets from philatelic articles, stamp and auction catalogs, Internet sites and private collections. Also, I have obtained many images from the Philatelic Foundation's photo files. So far I am able to identify 21 different sheets. They are easy to identify by the location of the "F. Santiago" mark and the uneven cuts around the sheet. Also, I have

followed the provenance (pedigree) of many of them through the years. Since no one really knows how many genuine sheets exist, some sheets certified as genuine may be forgeries and vice versa. There are several constant differences, for example in the genuine sheet the stamp in Position 5 exhibits a break on the base of the letter "S" of "CTS." but in the counterfeit it is solid. Also the counterfeit sheet's paper appears whiter.

At the end of the article I have included a bibliography related to the stamp. I also want to thank the Philatelic Foundation for allowing me to use the images of many of the sheets depicted in this article. If any of you have any of the sheets or have any different ones, please let me know through the editor. Thanks.

Key to Figures:

Scale: ~1:3

- S# Sale Number
- R Realized Price
- E Estimated Price
- SB Suggested Bid
- PFC Philatelic Foundation Certificate

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.				
COAMO	солмо	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS	5 CTS.	5 CTS.
Солмо	COAMO	Солмо	Солмо	COAMO

Figure 1.

Tiny hole on second stamp at bottom left. PFC #115506 (1982) Christie's Robson Lowe (4/1983) R \$5,200 HR Harmer Inc. S # 2950 (3/2006), R \$6,500/E \$10,000 Seen in article "Plating the Coamo Stamp" Ex: Don Gaspar Garcia Roca



Figure 2.

Solid "S" On the stamp on position 5, part original gum, large margins, couple of minor gum soaks. VF Robert A. Siegel Auctions S# 283 (2/1965), R \$475/E \$800 Ex: No provenance documented



Figure 3.

Solid "S" On the stamp on position 5, margins all around, fresh, full original gum. Extremely Fine. Robert A. Siegel Auctions Auction S# 468 (3/1975), R \$1,000/E \$2,000 Ex: No provenance documented

CORRESO	CORREOS	CORRECS	CORBEOS	CORRECG
5 CTS.				
DOAMO	00440	ODAMO	GOAMO	ODAMO
CogREGS	COUREOS	CORRES	CORREOS	CORRECT
5 CTS	5 CTS	5 (TS	5 CTS	5 CTS.
COAMO	QO.LMO	COAMO	00AM0	ONAMO

Figure 4.

Tropicalized original gum, top right hand stamp with tiny spot at top. VF, PFC (2005). Robert A. Siegel Auctions S# 895 (6/2005), R \$8,000/E \$10,000 Ex: No provenance documented.



Figure 6.

Extremely fine, lightly hinged at top only affecting 4 stamps, original gum, PFC #296325 (1996) Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions (4/ 2007) R \$10,000/E \$10,000 Ex: No provenance documented.

	CORREOS			CORBEOS
5 GTS .	5. CPS.	5. CTS.	5 CTS	5 CTS
COANO	COAMO	OOAMO	OMAOD	OQAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORRECTS	CORREOS
5 ets	5 CFS	FCTS	5, CTS	5 GTS
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	ODAMO

Figure 8.

Slightly affected small gum stain, almost all original gum, PFC #33976 Mercury Stamp Inc., Theodore Sheldon Collections (6/1970) R \$195/E \$900 Ex: Theodore Sheldon.

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.	5 GTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS
COAMO	соамо	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 5.

Small thin on lower right stamp, original gum. Signed CH Mekeel on back (see Fig 16), PFC (1986) Nutmeg S# 16 (4/1999), R \$10,500/ E \$12,500 Ex: Rudman/Gallagher

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.				
COAMO	СОАМО	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS				
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 7.

Original gum, vertical crease through middle stamps, PFC #19637 Catalogo Filatélico de Puerto Rico, Hugo D. Storer (9/1977) Ex: Raúl Gandara.

CORREOS 5 CTS.			CORREOS	
5 UID.	Э U 10. солмо	O UID.	O ULO.	o ULO.
CORREOS	CORREOS			CORREOS
соамо	Солмо	соамо		COAMO

Figure 9.

Original Gum, PFC #36548 Carl E. Pelander, Cuba & Puerto Rico, Ferrars H. Tows Collection. Part III, (1/1949) R\$195/E \$700 Ex: Tows Robson Lowe & Nestor Jacob Auction, Hobby (5/1970) R? Ex:: Preston

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.				
COAMO	солмо	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS.
Соамо	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 10.

Genuine. ... nearly full original gum, lightly hinged, top right stamp with light staining. Signed by Mekeel on back. PFC #56085 (1976) Spink Shreves Auctions (11/2009), R \$5,000/ SB \$10,000 Ex: Raúl Gandara, Francisco Acevedo

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	1)	CORREOS
5 CTS.	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	5 CTS	CORREOS	5 CTS.
D ULD.	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	солмо

Figure 12.

Small thins on first stamp, PFC #18235 Stanley Gibbons Auction (5/1971) R \$850 Ex: No provenance documented



Figure 14.

Slightly thinned, thin spot on left, control markings retraced in black ink, PFC #39651

Kelleher Auction (5/1973) R \$1,300 (likely the sheet that AO Tittman gave Mr. Smith for the "The Metropolitan Philatelist" article)

Ex: No provenance documented



Figure 11. Genuine, some oily gum stains, PFC #27451 Harmer auctions (1/1964) R \$310/ E \$800 ... (1/1968) R \$450/E \$900 Ex: No provenance documented

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.	5 CTS.	SACTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS.
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	OMADO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS.
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO .	COAMO

Figure 13.

Solid "S" On the stamp on position 5, original gum, first stamp tiny thin. H R Harmer Auction (2/1971) R \$825.00/E \$900 Ex: No provenance documented

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.				
COAMO ,	COAMO	OOAMO	ODAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS.
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	ODAMO	COAMO

Figure 15.

Regumed, faded purple control mark. Age stains, PF Cert. #99445 San Juan Stamp Auction (5/1976) R ? Kaufman Auction, (5/1981) R \$2,400 / E \$2,600 Ex: No provenance documented

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.	5-CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS.
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO
CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS.
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 16.

Seven Santiago control marks. Almost full streaky gum, signed CH Mekeel on back (see Fig. 5) Harmer Auction (6/1978) R \$2,400 Ex: No provenance documented

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS:	5 CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS.	5 CTS
COAMO	COAMO	1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	COAMO	. 3X
		CORREOS	10 State 10	
5 CTS	5-CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS .
	COAMO	1.1.1.1.1	발생한 전 문문	1
COAMO	COAMO	COANO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 18.

Genuine, Solid "S" On the stamp on position 5 Image from the Philatelic Foundation archive, PFC #21803 Ex: No provenance documented.

CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS
5 CTS.				
OMMO	OLAOO	OMADO	COAMO	COANO
CORREOS	COMREOS	CORREOS	CORREOS	CORRECOS
5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS.
ODAMO	COAMO	COANO	QUANO	CDAMO

Figure 20. Genuine Image from the Philatelic Foundation archive, PFC #69079 Ex: No provenance documented

	CORREOS 5 CTS. 5	CORREOS CUTS. 5		CORREOS CTS
COAMO CORREOS		салмо	COAMO	COAMO
5 CTS	5 CTS ?	5 (TS 5	6 (TS 5	CTS.
COAMU	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 17.

Genuine, Small thin spot in position 3 stamp, Image from the Philatelic Foundation archive, PFC #151986 Ex: No provenance documented

新生活 法的问题	120月1日日二十三十	5 CTS.	5. GTS.	5 CTS
	COAMO		CORREOS	
5 CFS	57CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS	5 CTS
COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO	COAMO

Figure 19. Genuine, Solid "S" On the stamp on position 5 Image from the Philatelic Foundation archive, PFC #22072 Ex: No provenance documented

CORREOS CORREOS	CORREOS CORREOS
5 CTS. 5 CTS. 5 CTS	5 CTS. 5 CTS.
COAMO COAMO COAMO	солмо солмо
CORREOS CORREOS CORREOS	CORREOS CORREOS
5 CTS 5 CTS 5 (TS	5 (TS 5 CTS.
COAMO COAMO COAMO	Солмо солмо

Figure 21.

Genuine, P. H. A small thin in lower right stamp. Original gum. Image from the Philatelic Foundation archive, PFC #228195 Ex: No provenance documented. Bibliography

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I want to thank the Philatelic Foundation for allowing me to use the images of many of the sheets depicted in this article.





Philippines Handstamped "VICTORY" Issue

by Geoffrey Brewster, USPPS #2 (Continued from last issue, Whole No. 113)

Scott No. O41

The basic stamp is the 1938 10c rose carmine Fort Santiago with "O. B. / COMMONWEALTH" overprint definitive official, Scott No. O31. The date of issue is probably unknown. One reference—*Philippine Journal of Philately*, January–February 1949, p. 25—gives its date as November 8, 1944, from P. R. Quiñones, Chief, Research and Statistical Section of the Bureau of Posts, although Quiñones' source is not given. And the November 8 date is possible because this stamp exists with Type I of the "VICTORY" handstamp, proving that some copies were available for use that day. However, Damian Vicente Aldaba—in *AFF*, 1946–1947, p. 14—said that it was *not* issued on November 8, 1944, "but later." Capt. William S. Meyerson *guessed* its date of issue *might* be December 3, 1944. The Scott catalog has only "1944". The earliest use is unknown, at least to me; in fact, I do not record even one used copy, on or off cover. The quantity issued is 665, as reported by the Bureau of Posts.

Scott No. O41 exists with Types I and II of the "VICTORY" overprint. A copy with Type I is in Figure 54. Copies with Type II are probably about three times as common as copies with Type I, since of the 241 total copies that I record of Scott No. O41, 67 copies or 28% have Type I and 174 copies or 72% have Type II. I shall now discuss the specifics of Scott No. O41 by Type, as if each Type is a different stamp, and afterward will describe the stamp as a whole, with an overview of both Types combined.

Type I

All recorded copies with Type I have the printed overprint spaced 5.3 mm between "O. B." and "COMMONWEALTH", and virtually all of them have this overprint vertically centered near the middle of the stamp, with the bottom edge of the "B" just above or on top of the top edge of the Fort's roof and with "COMMONWEALTH" across the Fort's retaining wall, as in Figure 54. The printed

overprint varies in horizontal centering on recorded copies, being centered on 66%, a little off-center to the left on 13%, and a little off-center to the right on 21%. The "VICTORY" overprint on all recorded copies is located between "O. B." and "COMONWEALTH". with the great majority-91%having the bottoms of letters the of



Figure 54. Scott No. O41 Type I, unused. (Photo by Gilbert N. Plass)

"VICTORY" just above, touching, or on the tops of the letters of "COMMONWEALTH", as in Figure 54, and the rest—9%—having "VICTORY" close to, touching, or on the bottom of "O. B.". The "VICTORY" overprint varies in horizontal centering on recorded copies, being centered on 72%, a little off-center to the left on 15%, as in Figure 54, and a little off-center to the right on 13%. The color of the "VICTORY" overprint is violet. Impressions of "VICTORY" vary on recorded copies, being heavy on 48%, moderate on 46%, as in Figure 54, and light on 6%. The letters of "VICTORY" on recorded copies have some characteristics: the "V" often has a gap at the upper left and frequently or usually has a bend to the left—sometimes a gap—at the lower left; and the "Y" sometimes is thin or short at the upper right. Sometimes "VICTORY" has a line or part(s) of a line above it.

Type I is on record with several plate markings and position pieces, all unused: bottom plate number 129936; bottom plate number 131565; bottom half of right side arrow on selvage at right with guide line and straight edge at top, Pos. 5 LR; guide lines at left and top with straight edges, Pos. 1 LR; guide line at left with straight edge; guide line at top with straight edge; and selvage at right. These items prove that for Scott No. O41 with Type I, at least a lower right pane stock was used.

I record four plate number pieces on Scott No. O41 with Type I, all unused, all singles, three of B. 129936 and one of B. 131565. All of those with B. 129936 have most of the number trimmed or cut off, and the one with B. 131565 has half of the number trimmed or cut off. (One of the B. 129936 singles used to be in a block of four, but that block has since been broken up into singles.)

Regarding multiples of Scott No. O41 with Type I, I record seven, all unused, all blocks: three blocks of four; **one** block of six (2×3) ; and three blocks of $10 (2 \times 5)$, all

with straight edge and guide line at top. (There used to be on record another block of four, with bottom plate number 129936, but this has been broken up into singles. There also used to be on record another block of 10 (2×5) with straight edge and guide line at top, but this has been broken up into ten singles.)

I record no error of Scott No. O41 with Type I, but there are at least two varieties. On one of these varieties the period after the "O" of "O. B." is missing its upper right one-third, looking like a waxing crescent moon. I record two copies of this variety, both unused, one being the upper right stamp of a block of four, and the other being the lower left stamp of a block of four. On the other variety the period after the "O" of "O. B." is missing its upper left one-quarter; I record this on Pos. 12 LR of an unused block of 10 (2 x 5) with straight edges and guide lines at the left and top. (This stamp may exist with the same minor variety of a thin, extra, vertical line at the right that is recorded for Scott No. O41 with Type II, if any UR basic stock was used for Type I.)

Regarding condition of Type I on Scott No. O41, my *estimate* of centering, based on copies in my records, is that 8% are just F, 52% are F, 22% are F–VF, and 18% are VF. Concerning gum, again based on the copies in my records, 70% are stuck to interleaving; 26% are disturbed OG, mostly meaning dulled OG or OG with many dulled areas or spots; and 4% are OG that is only slightly disturbed. According to recorded copies, although at least 50% are sound and have fresh color and paper, at least 25% are faulty to some degree, usually *not* seriously, however—frequently *just* some translucent staining. To summarize the condition of recorded copies of Scott No. O41 with Type I, nicely centered copies are not especially unusual, and most are sound and fresh, but the gum is likely to be imperfect.

I record 67 copies of Scott No. O41 with Type I, all unused: 19 singles, three blocks of four, one block of six, and three blocks of 10. A number of other singles exist that I did not record because when I began my census of Scott No. O41 I decided to record only multiples of unused copies, due to my assumption that the relatively large total quantity issued would make this stamp too difficult to track as singles.

Type II

Type II exists with both the narrow and wide spacing of the printed overprint, between "O. B." and "COMMONWEALTH": 5.3 mm and 7.2–7.5 mm (most of the latter measure 7.3–7.4 mm). Of the copies in my records, 59% have the narrow spacing and 41% have the wide spacing. This *may* indicate that the narrow spacing is more common than the wide spacing with Type II, but that the wide spacing is not unusually scarce with Type II.

The vertical location of the printed. overprint varies. On recorded copies with the wide spacing, the top of "O. B." is on a level with the top, middle, or bottom of "POSTAGE", and "COMMONWEALTH" is across the Fort's retaining wall. On recorded copies with the narrow spacing, about 75% have the top of the "B" of "O. B."

on a level with the top, middle, or bottom of the flag, and "COMMONWEALTH" varying across the Fort's retaining wall from across its top half to across all but its bottom portion; and about 25% have "O. B." just above the Fort's roof and "COMMONWEALTH" virtually across the Fort's retaining wall. The printed overprint varies in horizontal centering on recorded copies, the great majority—81% —being a little off-center to the left, 7% being centered, and 12% being a little off-center to the right.

The "VICTORY" overprint on all recorded copies is located vertically between "O. B." and "COMMONWEALTH", with the great majority-96%-having the bottom of the letters of "VICTORY" just above, touching, or on the tops of the letters of "COMMONWEALTH", and the rest-4%-having "VICTORY" close to "O. B.". The "VICTORY" overprint varies in horizontal centering on recorded copies, being well-centered on 86%, a little off-center to the left on 11%, and a little off-center to the right on 3%. The color of the "VICTORY" overprint is violet. Of recorded copies, the impression is moderate, meaning well inked and solidly struck, although often tending toward being heavy, on 94%; is heavy on 3%; and is light on 3%. There are two different overall characteristics of the Type II overprint on the recorded copies of this stamp: 82% have letters that are relatively thin and complete, with the "T" having a double nick, and 18% have letters that are relatively thick and incomplete, with the "T" having a single nick. This latter overall characteristic looks very similar to the appearance of "VICTORY" that is recorded on the 6c official, Scott No. O40A, and this is especially true on those copies of Scott No. O41 which have an impression of "VICTORY" that tends toward being heavy. These two different overall appearances of "VICTORY" suggest there were at least two overprintings of Scott No. O41 with Type II. Both of these different overall appearances of Type II may have one or more letters with the following individual characteristics, as copies are recorded with them: the "V" often has a gap or detached dot at the upper left, but sometimes is short at the upper left, and occasionally has a bend to the left at the upper right, and infrequently has a serif at the lower right; the "I" infrequently appears as if it might be dotted and infrequently has a blob at the lower right that joins it to the "C"; the "C" usually has a flat bottom; the "R" infrequently has a blob at the upper right that joins it to the "Y"; and the "Y" sometimes is short or thin at the upper right, and sometimes has a serif at the lower right. A horizontal line or part(s) of one infrequently appears above "VICTORY".

Type II is on record with many plate markings and position pieces, all unused: upper left plate number 129936, Pos. 3 UL; upper right plate number F129936, Pos. 3 UR; bottom plate number 129936 (actually, lower left, Pos. 48 LL); right half of top arrow on selvage at top with guide line and straight edge at left, Pos. 1 UR; top half of right side arrow on selvage at right with guide line and straight edge at bottom, Pos. 50 UR; bottom half of left side arrow on selvage at left with guide line and straight edge at top, Pos. 1 LL; "C" on selvage at top, Pos. 5 UR; guide lines with straight edges at top and right, Pos. 5 LL; guide line with straight edge at right and selvage at bottom, Pos. 50 LL; guide line with straight edge at right; guide line with straight edge at left; guide line with straight edge at bottom; guide line with straight edge at top; selvage at left and top, Pos. 1 UL; selvage at left and bottom, Pos. 46 LL; selvage at top; selvage at left; selvage at right; and selvage at bottom. These items prove that for Scott No. O41 with Type II, at least upper left, upper right, and lower left pane stock was used.

I record four plate number pieces on Scott No. O41 with Type II, all unused: UL 129936, two copies, one a single and one in a sheet of 50; UR F129936 in a sheet of 50; and B. 129936 (actually LL) in a sheet of 50 but only a very small portion of the number remains because the rest is trimmed or cut off.

Regarding multiples of Scott No. O41 with Type II, I record seven, all unused: one vertical pair, two blocks of four, one block of 10 (2 x 5), and three sheets of 50. (There used to be on record another block of 10 (2 x 5) but it has been broken up, perhaps into singles.)

I record no error of Scott No. O41 with Type II, but there is at least one major variety: no period after "O" of "O. B.", Scott No. O41a. I record two copies of this variety, both unused: one is a single with selvage at the left and top, but missing the upper left corner selvage, from Pos. 1 UL, with a few paper clip rust stain spots, toning, and creasing affecting the selvage; the other copy is the top stamp of a vertical pair, with the upper left corner tip torn off, three black rust stains, and two light toned spots. There is at least one minor variety, a thin, extra, vertical line at the right, 0.2 mm to the right of the design, on Pos. 5 UR F129936. There may be some other minor varieties on this stamp, all in "O. B.", but I do not know if those recorded are constant and thus merit listing. I mention them here for the record, in case one or more may be constant and listable; they are all unused. "O" with a nick outside at top, Pos. 21 LL; "O" with a nick outside at LL and its period with a tiny nick at UL, with a straight edge at bottom, from the tenth horizontal row of an upper pane; "O" with a nick outside at bottom right, from the eighth horizontal row of an upper pane; "O" with a nick inside at UL, from the ninth horizontal row of an upper pane; period after "O" missing UR one-third, looking like a waxing crescent moon, Pos. 37 UR (it seems different from that recorded on Type I): period after "O" missing LR one-third, from two positions, Pos. 15 LL and from the sixth horizontal row of an upper pane; period after "O" missing LR one-quarter, Pos 12 LL; period after "O" with flat bottom, from the ninth horizontal row of an upper pane; and period after "B" with a nick at LR, Pos. 40 UR.

Regarding condition of Scott No. O41 with Type II, my *estimate* of centering, based on copies in my records, is that 2% are VG, 32% are just F, 37% are F, 5% are F–VF, and 24% are VF. Concerning gum, again based on the copies in my records, 2% are NG, 92% are stuck to interleaving, and 6% are disturbed OG, mostly

meaning dulled OG or OG with many dulled areas or spots. The majority of recorded copies — at least 66% — are sound and have fresh color and paper. However, many recorded copies are faulty: most of these have tropical or translucent staining, but some have rust stains, pieces missing, and scuffs, the latter occurring mostly on straight edged copies. To summarize the condition of recorded copies of Scott No. O41 with Type II, nice centering is uncommon and the gum is virtually always imperfect, but most copies are sound and fresh.

I record 174 copies of Scott No. O41 with Type II, all unused: four singles, one pair, two blocks of four, one block of 10, and three sheets of 50. Many other singles exist that I did not record because when I began my census of Scott No. O41 I decided to record only multiples of unused copies, due to my assumption that the relatively large total quantity issued would make this stamp too difficult to track as singles.

Types I and II Together

The printed overprint exists with both the narrow (5.3 mm) and wide (mostly 7.3 –7.4 mm) spacings. Most recorded copies have the printed overprint virtually centered vertically but a little off-center to the left horizontally. On recorded copies "VICTORY" is located between "O. B." and "COMMONWEALTH", usually close to "COMMONWEALTH". The great majority of recorded copies has a moderate impression of "VICTORY", but about 20% have a heavy impression. Of recorded copies, about 25% have Type I and about 75% have Type II. Of these, about one-third are nicely centered and about two-thirds are poorly centered; and the great majority—86%—are stuck to interleaving. Although about half or more of the recorded copies are sound and fresh, about 25% are variously faulty, although usually *not* seriously. All four positions—UL, UR, LL, and LR—were used as pane stock for this stamp. I record eight plate number pieces: two UL 129936, one UR F129936, four B. 129936, and one B. 131565. I record two copies of the variety with no period after "O" of "O. B.", Scott No. O41a. Some other varieties, all minor, also exist.

I record a total of 241 stamps, 36% of the quantity issued, all unused, and consisting of 23 singles, one pair, five blocks of four, one block of six, four blocks of 10, and three sheets of 50. Of these 241 copies, 67 or 28% are Type I and 174 or 72% are Type II, suggesting that copies with Type II may be about three times as common as copies with Type I.

My census of this stamp follows; it is incomplete regarding usused singles because I purposely did not record them when I began my census of this stamp, due to the relatively large total quantity issued, and it is probably incomplete regarding unused multiples since 1993, as I stopped recording and tracking most of them after that year. I am listing the few singles of which I happen to be aware.

Unused

Type I

- 1. P.F. Cert. No. 24946; Plass lot 1212 in Ivy, Shreve, & Mader Sale 7/10/1993 (no photo; Brewster collection). Figure 54 in this article.
- 2. B. plate no. 131565 (half trimmed off): Siegel Sale 374, lot 1858; Siegel Sale 872, lot 2459 (color photo).
- 3. Selvage at R.: Siegel Sale of Oct. 1971, lot 1472 (Brewster cut-out).
- 4. B. plate no. 129936 (mostly trimmed off): P.F. Cert. dated 1973; Wolffers Sale 63, lot 776 (*where interleaving has been removed*).
- 5 14. Friedl Cert. No. 11098 dated Oct. 13, 1977, for block of 10 (2 x 5) with SE and guide line at T., stuck to interleaving, that has since been broken up into 10 singles: all 10 singles offered over a long period in Wolffers Sales.
- 15. Block of 10 (2 x 5) with SE's and guide lines at L. & T.: Weisz Sale 1/27/1978, lot 1166; Harmer Sale 2976, lot 1866 (color photo).
- 16. Koerber Sale 2/10/1978, lot 2149.
- 17. Block of 4, LL stamp is variety waxing crescent moon for period after "O": Koerber Sale 2/10/1978, lot 2150.
- Block of 10 (2 x 5) with SE and guide line at T.: Rasdale Sale 248, lot 938; Bennett Sale 303, lot 2338 (color photo); Philstamps Mail Sale 12/10/2008, lot 714 (color photo cropped at T.).
- 19. UR stamp from block of 4, since broken up, that was Superior Sale 4/24/1978, lot 648: Brewster collection.
- 20. B. plate no. 129936 (mostly trimmed off), was LR stamp from block of 4, since broken up, that was Superior Sale 4/24/1978, lot 648: Brewster collection.
- 21. B. plate no. 129936 (mostly trimmed off): W. A. Fox Sale 120, lot 678.
- 22. Block of 10 (2 x 5) with selvage at R., SE at T. with guide line, and. B. half of right side arrow at UR: Gibbons of London Sale 10/18/1979, lot 175 (color photo); Siegel Sale 872, lot 2462 (*where it has been removed from interleaving*; color photo). [Actually, *this block has since been broken up*: Rumsey Sale 19, lot 2179, was Pos. 4 in this block.]
- 23. Block of 4, UR stamp is variety waxing crescent moon for period after "O": Brewster collection,
- 24. Block of 4 with SE at L.: Philstamps Mail Sale 12/5/1989, lot 599.
- 25. Siegel Sale 872, lot 2460 (color photo; shown on cover).
- 26. Block of 6 (2 x 3): Siegel Sale 872, lot 2461 (color photo).

Type II

- 1. Kelleher Sale 534, lot 1982.
- Block of 10 (2 x 5) with SE and guide line at B.: Friedl Cert. No. 11103; Central Suffolk Sale 31, lot 485.

- 3. Block of 4 with selvage at L.: Siegel Sale 528, lot 296 (*the long perfs at T. have since been shortened*; Brewster records).
- 4. Block of 4: Cherrystone Sale 11/29/1978, lot 2154.
- 5. UL plate no. 129936: Stampazine Sale 1184, lot 1359 (photo misnumbered 1350).
- Sheet of 50 with B. plate no. 129936 (only a very small amount remains, the rest having been trimmed off): P.F. Cert. No. 79039; Siegel Sale 579, lot 507 (no photo; Brewster collection).
- 7. Sheet of 50 with UR plate no. F129936: Siegel Sale 588, lot 1744. (With variety waxing crescent moon for period after "O" on Pos. 37 UR; but this seems different from a similar variety recorded on Type I.)
- 8. Vertical pair, T. stamp variety no period after "O", Scott No. O41a: Bennett Sale 176, lot 627.
- 9. Sheet of 50, supposedly with UL plate no. 129936: Philstamps Sale 11/7/1993, lot 892 (no photo; went unsold).
- 10. Selvage at L. & T. but missing at UL, variety no period after "O", Scott No. O41a: Siegel Sale 856, lot 910 (color photo).
- 11. Brewster collection.

[There used to be a block of $10 (2 \times 5)$ with selvage at B. & SE at R., that has since been broken up, that was Unknown Sale & Unknown lot (Brewster cut -out): the LR stamp from this block was a single in Simmy Sale 123, lot ?]

Used (off cover)

Type I

None.

Туре II

None.

Covers

Type I None.

Type II None.

(to be continued)

The "Whitpain" Collection of United States Possessions

by Len McMaster USPPS #680, HC-71, Box 86A, Capon Bridge, WV 26711 pegnlen@aol.com

There have been many fine auctions of U.S. Possession material in the past including W. Parsons Todd's collection (Siegel Auction 531, May 1978), Gill Plass' collection (Ivy, Shrever & Mader Auction, July 1993), the Drucker Family collection (Siegel Auction 856, February 2003), and most recently Bill Schuman's (Whitpain) collection (Siegel Auction 969, February 2009). Consisting of approximately 1,000 lots, the Whitpain collection had something for almost everyone, including the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai, Canal Zone, Cuba, Guam, Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Samoa – postal history as well as the overprinted stamps.

Trying to characterize the whole sale would be tough, particularly by someone only interested in the 1898 1¢ Franklin overprints, as there were lots with "complete sets" of imprint and plate number blocks, specimens, special printings, and every imaginable variety. However, there was a lot of material, which interested even me, and while I could not afford as many lots as I would have liked, it was the most exciting auction I have ever observed. The following is a sampling of the lots and their prices realized, not including the 15% commission. [Descriptions and photographs are from Siegel Auction Galleries, and the catalog numbers in parentheses are from the *Scott Catalogue of United Stamps and Covers*.]

The first lot was a 2ϕ stamp (279B) used on cover during the Boxer Rebellion with a military station no. 1 (Peking) postmark dated November 24, 1900, lot 501, that realized \$800 vs. an estimated \$500-750, and we were off to a great start. This was followed shortly by a registered cover with three 1ϕ (279) and one 10ϕ (283) stamps postmarked August 2, 1902

by the U.S. Postal Agency (Shanghai), lot 507, that realized \$2,600 vs. an estimated \$2,000-3,000.

A used "Shanghai China" Darrah Type II overprint of the 1911 10¢ registration stamp (F1) postmarked U.S. Postal Agency, Rec'd, December 9, 1913, lot 513, realized \$800 vs. an estimated \$300-400. A set of the Office in China overprints (K1-18), lot 514, realized \$750 vs. an estimated \$2,425; but the \$2 dou-



Lot 513 (F1-var)



Lot 754 (84b)

ble surcharge on \$1 stamp (K16a), lot 526, realized \$10,500 vs. an estimated \$8,500, and K16a used on piece, lot 527, realized \$15,000 vs. an estimated \$8,000.

There were 204 Canal Zone lots. A bottom imprint and plate number block of six of the 1904 1¢ stamp (4), lot 651, realized \$600 vs. an estimated \$925, and a bottom imprint and plate number block of six of the 1904 2¢ stamp (5), lot 659, realized \$1,100 vs. an estimated \$1,000. A 2¢

booklet pane of six with the left vertical row without the overprint (53d), with both PF and APS certificates, lot 697, realized \$11,700 vs. an estimated \$15,000. A "Zone Canal" overprint error on the 1925 2ϕ stamp (84b) with right plate number, lot 754, realized \$1,400 vs. an estimated \$500.. A top right plate block of four of the 1925 2ϕ stamp (97), lot 795, realized \$1,200 vs. an estimated \$475; whereas a left top block of four with the overprint missing on the two left column stamps (97a), lot 797, realized only \$4,500 vs. the \$6,500 estimate.

There were only 86 Cuba lots. A set of specimen overprints, including the 1-10¢ (221S -226S) plus an additional set of the 1-5¢ (221S-225S) showing both horizontal and diagonal overprints, lot 852, realized \$4,500 vs. an estimated \$2,000. Two bottom imprint and plate number blocks of six of the 1¢ and 2¢ (221, 222A), lot 856, realized \$800 vs. an estimated \$1,150. A 2¢ inverted overprint on the 2¢ stamp (222Ac), lot 860, realized \$3,000 vs. an estimated \$5,500. A 1¢ overprinted "special printing" (221SP), lot 877, realized \$1,700 vs. an estimated \$625. An 1899 2¢ booklet pane of



Lot 860 (222Ac)

six (228b), lot 902, realized \$12,000 vs. an estimated \$3,750. A top imprint and plate number block of six of the 10¢ special delivery stamp (E1), lot 908, realized \$5,250 vs. an estimated \$6,000.

There were 194 Guam lots, including Guam Guard mail. A complete set of imprint and plate number strips of three (both numbers and positions) of the 1¢ overprints (1) from the first printing, lot 954, realized \$350 vs. an estimated \$720. An imprint and plate number block of six of the 3¢ overprint (3), lot 966, realized \$3,500 vs. an estimated \$1,600. A bottom imprint and plate no. block of six of the 50¢ overprint (5), lot 969, realized \$350 vs. an estimated \$775; interesting because \$350 is 33% less than the

\$525 realized in the 1978 Todd sale (lot 1206). An overprinted 10¢ Type II stamp (9), lot 1000, realized \$2,300 vs. an estimated \$4,000. A bottom imprint and plate number block of six of the overprinted \$1 Type I stamp (12), lot 1010, realized \$32,500 vs. an estimated \$16,000. A 5¢ overprinted stamp with "Special Surcharge" (5SP), lot 1026, realized \$1,600 vs. an estimated \$1,000. A cover with a single $1 \notin (1)$ overprinted stamp postmarked "Guam, Isl. Guam" June 14, 1905, lot 1055, realized \$120 vs. an estimated \$200-300. A Guam Guard Mail overprint of the 2ϕ (M1) with top plate number, lot 1105, realized \$120 vs. an estimated \$400; but you might want to read Joe Napp's discus-



Lot 1105 (M1)

sion of this item in *Napp's Numbers, Volume Two: The Philippine Islands Issues during the American Administrative Period, 1906-1946*, page 319.



Lot 1145 (213a)

There were 221 Philippine lots including the OB overprints. Leading my interest was a copy of the 1¢ inverted overprint (213a) with a PF certificate, lot 1145, which realized \$67,500 vs. an estimated \$32,500. The same stamp sold for \$29,000 vs. an estimated \$13,500 in the Drucker sale (lot 838); and while I don't remember the details, it sold for around \$3,000 in 1990. A copy of the 5¢ inverted overprint (216a) with a PF certificate, lot 1163, realized \$5,500 vs. an estimated \$3,750. [Both 213a and 216a were discussed in Geoff Brewster's article in the 2^{nd}

Quarter 2003, whole no. 88, pp.20-24; and the 216a sold in this auction is pictured in figure 4 of the article.]

Lot 1221, a top imprint and plate no block of six of the 1903, 50c Orange (236) realized \$70,000 vs. an estimated \$17,500. This block realized \$2,300 vs. an estimated \$550 in the 1978 Todd sale (lot 1491); and \$16,000 vs. an estimated \$4,000 in the 2003 Drucker sale (lot 856).

The highest price paid in the auction was the \$220,000 realized vs. an estimated \$75,000-100,000 for lot 1233, a bottom imprint and plate number block of six of the 1903 \$5.00 overprint (239). In the 1978 Todd sale this block (lot 1509) realized \$27,000 vs. an estimated \$4,000. A not so close second in the Whitpain sale was the \$125,000 realized vs. an estimated 38,500 for lot 1283, a bottom imprint and plate number block of six of the 18907 10¢ Special Delivery Bureau of Insular Affairs Special Printing



Lot 1327 (236-var)

(E2A). According to the Siegel catalog, Todd was reported to have owned this block as well, but sold it privately just prior to his death.

A set of seven Bandholtz blue "OB" overprints on the 1-50¢ overprinted stamps (226, 227, 229a, 230, 233, 236, & 240), lot 1327, realized \$1,300 vs. an estimated \$300-400. [Note: For those Philippine collectors not familiar with The website Philippine Philatelist at http:// www.philippinephilatelist.net you owe it to yourself to check it out. One of the many collections

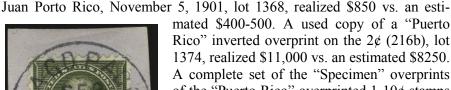
displayed is Dr. Tommy Sim's collection of Official Business overprints,

which is quite impressive, but an ongoing reeffort; search s e e http:// www.philippinephilatelist.net/Collections/ USPI/tagle/Tagle%20Officials% 20Introduction.html]

There were 71 Puerto Rico lots. A complete set of 24 of the "Porto Rico" overprinted 1¢ (210, 210a) imprint and plate numbers in strips of three, lot 1360, realized \$900 vs. an estimated \$1,080. A block of 15 1¢ "Puerto Rico" overprinted stamps (215) and a single 8¢ (213) on a registered cover postmarked San



Lot 1374 (216b)



mated \$400-500. A used copy of a "Puerto Rico" inverted overprint on the 2ϕ (216b), lot 1374, realized \$11,000 vs. an estimated \$8250. A complete set of the "Specimen" overprints of the "Puerto Rico" overprinted 1-10¢ stamps (212S-216S), lot 1379, realized \$10,000 vs. an estimated \$8,750.

Finally there was one Samoa lot of eight 1895-98 Bureau Issue stamps on separate pieces canceled Pago Pago, Samoa, September 25, 1901, lot 1425, that realized \$500 vs. an estimated \$400-500.

Lot 1425 example

This Siegel Auction catalog will remain

one of the best references for U.S. Possession material in years to come. [See http://www.siegelauctions.com/dynamic/sales.php?sale no=969 for a complete list with prices realized.]

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 7/1/2009 - 6/30/2010

by Geoffrey Brewster, USPPS #2

INCOME STATEMENT

Income:

Membership Dues for $7/1/2009 - 6/30/2010$ (not including any paid before $7/1/2009$)	\$1,825.00
Membership Dies for $7/1/2010 - 6/30/2011$ (including only those paid before $7/1/2010$)	1,890.00
Membership Dues Prepaid for 7/1/2011 – 6/30/2012	70.00
Back Issue Sales	110.00
Gifts	21.00
Total Income	<u>\$3,916.00</u>
Expenses:	
Publications (<i>Possessions</i> #113 typesetting & printing) President, Secretary-Treasurer, & Editor (refunded for expenses during fiscal year 7/1/2008 – 6/30-2009, as refund was requested & paid 7/10/2009)	\$3,500.06 955.96
Web Site renewal	72.35
Total Expenses	<u>\$4,528.37</u>
Excess Expense over Income	<u>(\$ 612.37)</u>

The above expenses of the President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Editor were incurred as follows. President (including the USPPS Representative to the A.P.S.), \$5.16, all for postage. Secretary-Treasurer, \$885.63, virtually all for two things: \$770.59 postage for mailing *Possessions* Whole

Nos. 109, 110, 111, and 112 to the membership; and 100.10 for photocopying and mailing *Official Business* Whole No. 41 and the 7/1/2009 - 6/30/2010 Dues Notice to the membership. Editor, 65.17, virtually all for four things: 21.59 for a copy card for 500 photocopies of manuscripts and proofs; 17.15 postage for sending articles on hand to appointed editor Labbe; 9.67 postage for sending manuscripts and proofs to our printer; and 13.69 postage for communication with authors.

CASH ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance on 7/1/2009	\$3,689.67
Income	3,916.00
Subtotal	<u>\$7,505.67</u>
Expense	(\$4,528.37)
Balance: Cash on Hand 6/30/2010	<u>\$3,077.30</u>

Our United States Possession Society

needs everyone's help ...

Invite others to join us. If you'd like us to send them a sample journal, send the request to the secretary.

We need articles for the journal. Scholarly articles are nice and they help us all grow, but other articles are fine, e.g., tell us about a favorite postal history item from your collection, ask the membership a question about a postal history item you can't explain, review a new book, tell about a recent auction you participated in, ... כלכ

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Visit our website at http://www.uspps.net/ and let us know what you think. An electronic version of the index to the first 100 whole numbers of *Possessions* is now available and can be downloaded or searched on-line. If you are a dealer-member and want to be listed as such on the website, contact the webmaster, at patlabb@aol.com, or the journal editor.

Remember, we can't improve unless we know what improvements you'd like - send a letter to the editor telling us what improvements you'd like to see, or anything that you'd like to talk about.

U.S. Pacific Island Bulletin

The U.S. Pacific Island Bulletin is a newsletter about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including Guam, Midway Is., the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall and Line islands). The first Bulletin was published in May 1993 and continues today, sent to subscribers three to four times a year.

The information included in the Bulletin is described by its editor, Eric Baxendale, as based on information supplied by its readers and from his own observations. It appears to primarily cover modern day stamps and postal history from the islands, but there are numerous updates to Bob Murphy's A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Island, which

U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN

A Quarterly Newsletter about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific ar of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the succer islands)	
Website: http://www.postmark-micrones	a.myby.co.uk/bull62/bull62.html
ISSUE NUMBER SIXTY TWO	MARCH, 2010
EARLY GUAM TO	SAIPAN

Steven Zinnsky (<u>szimnskyitzs.com</u>) has sent this scan (**Illustration 62**/1) of an early Guain cover. The cancellation appears be Marphy 1:5 which according to Bob Marphy was used ashore between Feb 7 1900 and Jaby 13 1900 during the Navy Department inistration on Guain. This interesting cover originates at Government House Agana Guain according to the inscription on the top left the cover and is addressed to the German Administration in Saipan. The receiving postmark of the German Post Office in Saipa is to the bottom left of the cover. The cover appears to have been 16 days in transit.

The Imperial Court,

U.S. Pacific Island Bulletin issue no. 62, (March 2010) with early Guam cover

AMERICAN SAMOA:

ANTERICA: THE TROPICAL FRONTIER-AMERICA'S SOLTH SEAS COLONY: For the first 19 years of American Samo's 1 year history as a possession of the U.S., the islands were under the administration of the sease experience like for the 109 that experience like for the as the human story behind this not very smooth sailing? dy in his just released book (Title recents an analysis, of this era and gr presents on analysis of this era and in non-expert terms (245 pages, maps including many historic photographs lished before – available through the 1 of Hawaii Press) (Samon News)

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESLA:

COLONIA YAP FM 96943: I am grateful to blub dealer George L. Machado Jr. (19:0.B. 33 Honolulu HI 96824) for sending a First of New Postal Rates cover – May 11 2009 Ildel by Illustration 31/19 (As with ration 31/19 this example measures

39mm across the date-line

POHNPELFM 96941: Twe been shown a couple of commercial covers addressed to the U.K. both cancelled by Illustration 55/5 but with the concentric circles. On September 14th er had 3 x 40e Fish defini re+1x4 nitive = \$1.24 (The 1 ounce rate nal Large Envelopes - however was small and square as was the er mentie and on De ere 1 x 78c Fish

PONAPE PRE-CANCELS: In 1962 pre-Alled stamps appeared allegedry rosso-istaken issue of a pre-cancel device. tory, together with that of the similar on Islands Pre-cancels can be found on th

WENO CHUUK FM 96942: Steven Zirinsky has sent a scan of a commercial cover with 2 x 22e Christmas stamps cance Illustration 58/5 on Dec 1 2009. See on the bull62 website.

POSTAL STATIONERY USED AT TRUK: David Trutwin has sent a sean of a commercial cover postmarked at Truk on Oct 6 1984. This is a postal stationery envelope – business size is a postal stationery envelope – business size with the printed 20e stamp showing the FSM flag. The cover is shown on the bull62 website.

U.S.P.S. RESTRICTS USE OF E.S.M.P.S. FOR COMMERCIAL PARCELS: The USPS has requested the cooperation of the FSM PS to protect the postal services from relates to high commercial mail containing betal nuts oot, breadfruit and eigarettes passing USPS from the FSM. The USPS are ting a a clause in their agree 'S which allows them to limit all o nts of these g Ily all consignments of these goods of but after further consultations be SPS and the FSM it was agreed that a parcels (or up to 200 eigarettes) for

could be quite useful. An example is a note in the March 2009 issue (No. 59) where a reader reports "... a scan of three stamps showing clearly that [a Pago Pago cancel described in Murphy as 'a probably roller'] is indeed a roller." And the latest issue briefly describes a cover postmarked May 8, 1901 AGANA, GUAM to Saipan, shown in the figure of the *Bulletin*'s cover (opposite page).

An index to the first 51 issues and an archive of past issues can be found on Joel Fassler's website:-http://www.jrsportfolio.com/phila/uspib/ index.htm. Current and back issues are also available by mail or e-mail in return for a small contribution to cover costs - currently \$2 per issue for the printed version by surface mail to countries outside Europe. A CD of past issues can be made available on request.

For more information, contact Eric at uspibulletin@hotmail.com



International Cuban Philatelic Society http://www.philat.com/ICPS

The society was organized at the beginning of 2010 for the purpose of promoting Cuban philately and philatelic friendship among its members. We sponsor studies and research into the stamps and postal history of Cuba. We are committed to assisting our membership and the public, in general, in becoming more familiar with all aspects of Cuban philately and we look forward towards sharing that knowledge with you through these Internet pages and later through a more active participation in the society.

The **International Cuban Philatelic Society** publishes an English-Spanish bilingual journal, *Journal of Cuban Philately*, containing a wide variety of articles on Cuban philately and news and announcements to keep our members informed of society meetings, activities, and events. The society also conducts periodic auctions of Cuban philatelic material and literature where members are able to sell their duplicate material and buy needed items for their collections with total confidence because all items sold through our auctions are backed by a guarantee of authenticity for the lifetime of the purchaser. Additional information on the journal and auctions can be found elsewhere in the Internet site by using the links provided.

We hope you find the society of interest to you and we welcome any inquiries you may have both about the society or about any aspect of Cuban philately regardless of whether you join.

> Ernesto Cuesta P.O. Box 34434, Bethesda, MD 20827, U.S.A.



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USPPS David Durbin, Secretary 2270 Rule Avenue, Unit #C Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Future USPPS Meetings-Events We are currently planning on having a USPPS presence at the following show; let us know if you are planning to attend: **VAPEX 2010** will be held November 12-14 at the Lexington George Washington Inn & Conference Center, 500 Merrimac Trail, Williamsburg, Virginia. For more information on the show , see http:// vaphilatelic.org/VAPEX.htm. In addition to having a society table, there will be a USPPS meeting with Len McMaster presenting a talk on the broken letters found on the Cuba, Guam, Philippines and Puerto Rico overprinted stamps.