

The David Golden Collection of Hawaiian Stamps and Postal History

WE ARE FAST APPROACHING THE 200-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL of the first American missionaries in Hawaii in April 1820. Yet it was only 40 years after the Pioneer Company reached the islands, and only a decade after Hawaii's first stamps were issued, that the world's stamp collectors were clamoring for this island kingdom's postage stamps. As early as the 1860's, former postmaster general Whitney was receiving letters asking for Hawaiian stamps. In 1864 the first philatelically-inspired printing of Numerals was made to answer the demand from collectors. This long and lasting legacy of Hawaiian philately is a tribute to the islands' important place in world geography and the Kingdom of Hawaii's rich history.

Although the Hawaiian Islands received and conducted business with American and European maritime travelers as far back as the 18th century, it was the arrival of the evangelical Christian missionaries from Boston that had the greatest impact on the indigenous Hawaiian population. From their first encounter with King Kamehameha I to the annexation of Hawaii in 1898, Americans greatly influenced Hawaiians in areas of religion, culture, business and communication. Therefore, the study of Hawaiian postal history and stamps is closely tied with the development of the United States postal system. It is impossible to understand one without the other.

Hawaiian mail communication during the 19th century reflects the profound changes that occurred throughout the world and, in particular, the United States. While today's fortunes in moving information are made with the 0's and 1's of the digital world, 19th century fortunes were made with sail and steam by men such as Cornelius Vanderbilt. People relied on ocean vessels to communicate between the remote Pacific islands and homes thousands of miles apart. Journeys were measured in months, and ship captains were stewards of valuable mail bags. As new routes were established across Mexico, Panama, Nicaragua and eventually the continental United States, the distances and communication times were shortened. Steam-powered engines enabled ships to navigate without the obstacles of wind and current, and they replaced horse-drawn stagecoaches with iron-horse locomotives.

America's Manifest Destiny, fueled by population, capital and a political appetite for expansion, brought Hawaii closer to the United States, and the United States closer to conflict with other nations. Resolution of the 1844 Oregon Boundary dispute with Great Britain, the U.S. military victory over Mexico and the acquisition of California created new boundaries. Within a year, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill, creating one of the greatest migrations of people in history and accelerating the settlement of the West. All of these events profoundly impacted the postal systems of Hawaii.

The 1849 Treaty of Friendship between the Kingdom of Hawaii and the government of the United States specifically mandated the establishment of formal postal relations between the two countries. The immediate result was Whitney's "Letter Bag" mail at the Honolulu offices of *The Polynesian*, the official Hawaiian government newspaper. Starting with the first trip on November 2, 1850, the *Polynesian* Letter Bag was a collection point for mail to and from Hawaiian correspondents. This arrangement was quickly followed by the establishment of the first official post office at Honolulu, effective December 21, 1850. The inaugural post office legislative act was modified on June 18, 1851, effective September 13, and it authorized Postmaster General Whitney to issue Hawaii's first postage stamps (the original document is offered as lot 63).

David Golden, an accomplished philatelist, built his Hawaii collection with great passion over 50 years. Items in the collection can be traced back to such esteemed collectors as Ferrary, Crocker, Caspary, Lichtenstein, Tows, Knapp, Admiral Harris, Krug, Lilly, Ambassador Middendorf, Boker, Ostheimer, Ishikawa and Twigg-Smith (Honolulu Advertiser). These great collectors regarded Hawaiian stamps and postal history as one of the most significant of all philatelic subjects. The Golden collection, presented in the pages of this sale catalogue, confirms that judgment.

HAWAIIAN POSTAL HISTORY RE-DEFINED

Since its publication in 1948 the Meyer-Harris book (*Hawaii, Its Stamps and Postal History*) has been the standard reference to Hawaiian stamps and postal history. Within the next year, the research of Fred Gregory (assisted by Steven C. Walske), will be published by The Philatelic Foundation. Gregory's website, *Post Office in Paradise* (www.hawaiianstamps.com), has been the internet oracle for Hawaiian philately. The book, to be released in more than one volume, will go far beyond the "Meyer-Harris revision" contemplated by philatelists for so many years and should become the new standard reference. For this reason, we have been guided by and drawn heavily from Fred Gregory's book (in manuscript form) and his website.

Gregory has divided Hawaii's postal history into eight periods:

Pre-Postal Period — up to November 2, 1850

First Treaty Period — November 2, 1850, to June 30, 1851

Second Treaty Period — July 1, 1851, to May 16, 1855

Third Treaty Period — May 16, 1855, to August 30, 1863

Fourth Treaty Period — August 30, 1863, to June 30, 1870

U.S.-Hawaii Postal Convention Period — starts July 1, 1870

UPU Period — starts January 1, 1882

U.S. Post Office Period — starts June 14, 1900

The First, Second, Third and Fourth Treaty periods are defined by the basic United States domestic postage rates that applied to mail to and from Hawaii. Within a period, there were different applications of the rates (sometimes through error), and these are further classified as Sub-Periods. The combination of Hawaiian and United States postage for each article of mail is reflected in the stamps and postal markings. Inter-island mail was not subject to postage charges until August 1859, when the 1¢ newspaper and 2¢ letter rates were established.

The 1870 Postal Convention between the U.S. and Hawaii established a reciprocal 6¢ per half-ounce rate for each letter, eliminating the need for dual postage and accounting (excepting letters addressed beyond the U.S.). When Hawaii joined the Universal Postal Union on January 1, 1882, the prevailing UPU rates applied. Following annexation in 1898, the Hawaiian post offices were incorporated into the U.S. Post Office Department on June 14, 1900.

ARRANGEMENT OF SALE

Tuesday, May 24, at 1:30 p.m. (lots 1-193)

Mail from Hawaii to U.S. 1820-50 *Lots 1-19*

U.S.-Hawaii Mail via Mexico *Lots 20-36*

Inter-Island Mail *Lots 37-47*

Mail to and from Hawaii *Lots 48-62*

Honolulu Post Office Markings *Lots 63-103*

Royal Family and Official Mail *Lots 104-113*

Forwarders' Markings *Lots 114-130*

Wells, Fargo & Co. *Lots 131-147*

U.S. Stamps Used from Hawaii *Lots 148-182*

U.S. Stamps Used to Hawaii *Lots 183-193*

Wednesday, May 25, at 1:30 p.m. (lots 194-483)

Kamehameha Issues *Lots 194-337*

Numerical Issues, Scott 12-20 *Lots 338-483*

Thursday, May 26, at 10:30 a.m. (lots 484-599)

Numerical Issues, Scott 21-26 *Lots 484-551*

1860 Essays, Kamehameha IV Issues *Lots 552-599*

Thursday, May 26, at 1:30 p.m. (lots 600-923)

Royal Portraits Issues *Lots 600-677*

Hawaiian Town Postmarks *Lots 678-684*

Provisional Government Issues *Lots 685-776*

Final Issue *Lots 777-802*

Officials *Lots 803-817*

Postal Stationery *Lots 818-859*

Postal Cards *Lots 860-873*

Revenues *Lots 874-914*

Kahului Railroad *Lots 915-919*

Grinnells, Balances & Groups *Lots 920-923*



DAVID GOLDEN (1915-2007)

Mr. Golden started collecting fine art as a young man and had been active in philatelic pursuits for 60 years. His greatest passion of study and collecting was Hawaiian postal history. He also formed extensive collections of Mexico, U.S. Carriers and Locals, U.S. specialties, Worldwide Airposts, U.S. Possessions, Confederate States, Afghanistan and Ukraine. Mr. Golden was a longtime member of the Collectors Club of New York, American Philatelic Society, Mexico Elmhurst Philatelic Society International, U.S. Philatelic Classics Society and The Royal Philatelic Society of London. Mr. Golden and his brother, Stephen Gould, were co-founders of Stephen Gould Paper Co. Inc., a world-wide packaging design and manufacturing company.