

NOTES ON HAWAIIAN STAMPS.

By HENRY J. CROCKER, F. R. P. S.

The 1889 Issue of the 5c and 13c 1863 Type.

These stamps were printed from newly engraved plates made for the Hawaiian Postoffice in 1889 by order of Postmaster General Hill. The original plates were engraved in Boston by order of Postmaster H. M. Whitney in 1853, and the stamps he ordered came on thick white paper.

Postmaster Jackson ordered some of the 5 cent stamps in 1857, and Postmaster Clark ordered a lot in 1860.

Postmaster Kalakaua ordered both the 5c and 13c in 1864 and they were issued on ordinary white wove paper. This last lot were in 1900 classed as Reissues, but their being a regular issue is now proved beyond a doubt, and all catalogues will so recognize them from now on.

The original plates were shipped from Boston with this last order, arriving some time in 1865, and were defaced by Postmaster Brickwood, who had succeeded Kalakaua between the dates the stamps were ordered and the time of their arrival at Honolulu.

The full history of the above stamps are set forth in "Hawaiian Numerals," also in *Gibbons Weekly* of January 22nd, 1910, and *MEKEEL'S WEEKLY* of April 10th, 1910.

The original plates were practically destroyed in 1865 with the statement issued that there was no further use for them, and yet in 1889, twenty-five years later, one could go to the Hawaiian Postoffice purchase the 5c blue and the 13c red put them on letters and mail them to the United States, Europe and throughout the Islands. I make the claim, therefore, that these hitherto much neglected stamps are a regular issue of Hawaii. They are extremely rare in used condition; quite rare in unused condition, and better known with the word "reprint" across the face of the stamps. Only 10,000 of each value were printed, and I place them in my specialized collection as being a regular issue, for careful investigation proves this order by the Postmaster General, their receipt, payment and issuance by the postoffice, and their acceptance by local and foreign postoffices on letters as prepayment of postage.

I will proceed to give their history as I find it, and would be pleased to hear from anyone who possesses any data bearing on the subject.

The original plates as I stated were defaced by Brickwood in 1865, but having been left in the postoffice were discovered in 1887 by Mr. Wunderberg, a clerk, who reported the find. The Postmaster General sent the two plates to the American Bank Note Co. to be restored, as there had arisen a large demand for specimens of the old issues. Failing in their efforts to restore the plates the American Bank Company engraved an entirely new plate for each stamp, and on January 14th 1889, received an order from Postmaster General Hill to print 10,000 of each 5c and 13c. The stamps were not delivered until September 16th, 1889, but they remained in use in the postoffice at Honolulu from that date until August 19th, 1892, when the remaining lot, together with the reissued 2c of 1862 type which had appeared about the same time, were ordered surcharged with the word "Reprint" and thereafter they were sold through the postoffice at their face value until exhausted. To substantiate the

above we have the testimony of Walter N. Giffard in his Descriptive Catalogue of the postage stamps of Hawaii.—The records of the American Bank Note Company, and the following statement made recently by W. D. Westervelt, a prominent resident of Honolulu and President of the Historical Society. Mr. Westervelt says:

"In the later part of 1889 or early in 1890 Hiram Bingham (now professor in Yale) William Whitney (now Judge of the Circuit Court in Honolulu) and myself purchased at the Honolulu postoffice copies of these stamps (2c, 5c and 13c so called reprints). I, personally, and I am sure both my friends, placed copies of these stamps on letters addressed to the United States, and to other postoffices on the Islands. I remember that some of the letters posted at Honolulu reached their destination with the stamps removed having been abstracted evidently on the way. The above stamps were sold to me by the postoffice at the face value and were accepted by the postoffice for postage without question.



HENRY J. CROCKER.

I had a letter from Postmaster C. H. Dickey of Hoiku Baldwin Plantation who noticed I was using the 2c (1861 type which reappeared about the same time as the 5c and 13c) as a common stamp calling my attention to their rarity. I wrote him in reply that the postoffice at Honolulu had just received a consignment and that they were selling them at face value.

There was a good demand for these stamps and the impression was at the time that they were from the original plate. I think it was the discovery by Giffard that they were from a new plate that caused Postmaster Hill to have them marked 'Reprint' after they had been in regular circulation for two years."

We know the stamps are not reprints as they were printed from original plates, although they were the result of an attempt to copy the early type.

They are not in the same class as the U. S. 1847 type where the plates were remade to furnish stamps to make up the full set for the Centennial, for these latter were not used for postage.

They are much rarer than most collectors estimate. Very few collectors

have them, especially without the word "reprint," and as they fulfilled every point required of a regular issued stamp, I fail to see why they should not be catalogued as such. They always have been confused with the 1869 issue which led to their neglect by collectors.

The Manuscript 5c on 13c 1863.

This Provisional Stamp has been recognized by all standard catalogs for many years, but some writers on Hawaiian stamps have cast doubt at various times on its authenticity, as they could find no reason for its existence, or its issuance by the Honolulu post office.

I think the first reference to this surcharge was in *Le Timbrophile* of Dec. 1865, wherein it states:

"An undoubtedly genuine specimen has a place in the fine collection of that distinguished amateur writing under the nom de plume of a 'Parisian Collector.' The copy in question was obtained by its owner from a source leaving the authenticity unimpeachable."

In my work on Hawaiian Numerals, I devoted a chapter to this interesting stamp, and made the statement that Alva K. Clark thought the surcharge occurred during Postmaster Jackson's regime. H. M. Whitney was postmaster from 1851 to 1856, Joseph Jackson from July 1856 to August 1859, and Alva K. Clark from 1859 to 1863.

I came to the conclusion, after taking all information into consideration, that the surcharge was made in 1856-7 and so listed it. I have since received a fine lot of envelopes of this period, the stamps and postmarks showing the approximate date this stamp was issued, and to my mind showing a reason for its necessity.

Envelope No. 1 was used in 1855 and prepaid a letter of over ½ oz. The 5c and 13c Hawaiian are shown in the upper hand corner with a beautiful red "Honolulu U. S. Postage Paid May 11" cancellation. In the upper right hand corner is a 12c black U. S. 1851-6 stamp cancelled at San Francisco, June 20th. The 5c is on thick white paper.

Envelope No. 2 was posted in 1856. In the upper left hand corner is a 12c U. S. 1851-6, and a 5c Hawaiian (thick white paper) cancelled with the San Francisco postmark. The upper right hand corner of the envelope bears the red cancellation "Honolulu U. S. Postage Paid."

The next envelope is most interesting and was posted at the time the shortage of the 5c Hawaiian caused the Provisional stamp to be issued. In the upper right hand corner is the 5c on 13c Provisional, and a 12c U. S. 1851-6 issue, both beautifully cancelled "San Francisco, July 16, 1857." In the upper left hand corner is "Honolulu, June 27th, U. S. Postage Paid" and in the lower left is the postmark of destination, New Haven, Sept. 4th, 1857. This is the most perfect exemplification of this stamp I have ever seen.

Envelope No. 4 was used in 1860 and bears in the upper left hand corner a 12c U. S. 1851-6 and a 5c Hawaiian (thin white wove) beautifully cancelled, "San Francisco, June 11th, 1860," and in the upper right corner the "Honolulu U. S. Postage Paid May 23rd." This is not by any means the earliest date these latter stamps were issued, but I illustrate it to show the same postage rate

was in existence all these years, and in no instance was the 13c stamp used other than for its face value except where it was surcharged with the manuscript "5," and was accepted by the post office as being a five cent stamp.

Mr. Jackson ordered the second lot of 5c Hawaiian stamps in 1856-7 and there would seem to be no question that before they arrived the first requisition would be exhausted, and he was forced to make a Provisional by taking the 13c stamp and surcharging it "5" in ink.

The 13c Hawaiian was not used as frequently as the 5c for the Hawaiian post office carried United States stamps on sale for use between the two countries, and there are instances where letters from Hawaii were stamped only with U. S. stamps, the Hawaiian post office collecting their rate in cash, and stamping the letter to that effect.

The first requisition of the 13c stamp lasted until 1864, when Postmaster Kalakaua ordered a second requisition of the 13c and a fourth requisition of the 5c.

Kaluakua, like Jackson, ran short of 5c stamps, and while awaiting the engraved ones from the United States, was forced to have a type set stamp printed in Honolulu.

A Rare Find In Hawaiiiana.

Since my book on Hawaiian Numerals was published I have been in receipt of many letters from various portions of the globe; many containing congratulations on my establishing the status of the so called reissues of the 1853 type.

Many of the letters are very interesting and there are incidents arising from the publishing of this book which may prove interesting to my readers.

I received one letter which I quote, "I have just come across three plates of the Hawaiian Numerals, if you are interested in them they will be for sale at the best offer," etc.; I answered asking for a chance to inspect the plates and they were forwarded.

The plates of the one cent numeral consisted of two horizontal rows of five each, a solid electro of ten reproductions of one die they all being placed closer together than our U. S. postage stamps. The two cent numeral plate consisted of three horizontal rows of five stamps each and are made up the same as the one cent.

The five cent numeral plate consisted of one horizontal row of five stamps and the plate is made up the same as the preceding two. As will be seen by the

illustration in my book, all Hawaiian numerals were type sets and a plate consists of two vertical strips of five each; hence these faked plates proved of little interest to me. I have had, however several stamps printed from these plates submitted to me for my opinion and would advise any person issuing them to cease at once (or the matter will be exposed).

Another experience nearly gave me heart disease for it was almost too good to be true. It came about as follows: Mr. H. M. Whitney was the first Postmaster of the Hawaiian Islands and was the man who issued the rare Missionary stamps. He also designed and had engraved in Boston the 5 cent and 13 cent issued in 1853, on thick white paper: now catalogued at \$50 and \$18 respectively. In the ordinary course of events his son became the possessor of his estate and amongst other things, of his early correspondence and papers young Whitney made up a bundle of them and sent them to San Francisco for sale; and, his agent knowing of my great interest in these things brought them to me and I soon effected a purchase to be closed on inspection. Glancing through the various envelopes bearing old Hawaiian stamps I found one with no stamp on it but bearing the following inscription "One complete sheet all genuine not to be cut."

\$30 to \$50 each.
13 cent stamps.

Inside the envelope were the twenty stamps and the following document.

Hawaiian Islands. } S. S.
Island of Oahu. }

Personally appeared before me, H. M. Whitney of Honolulu, on the Island of Oahu, Republic of Hawaii, who being duly sworn deposes and says:—That the thirteen cent Hawaiian postage stamps annexed hereto are genuine stamps of the issue of 1853, and that the same have been in his possession for over forty years, and are part of the first edition issued of the said stamps.

H. M. WHITNEY.

[Seal.] Subscribed and sworn
before me this 19th.
day of June A. D. 1897.
W. J. FORBES.
Notary public for the
First Judicial circuit.

This unique sheet now graces a page in my collection but notwithstanding the instructions of the old man, someone had cut the sheet into ten pairs; even in this condition the sheet is unique. Then I came across a package of envelopes each bearing a copy of the two cent Litho-

graphed of 1861 on both the horizontal and vertical laid papers, catalogued from \$5 to \$15 each.

I selected the finest and added another magnificent page to my collection. These envelopes were all addressed to H. M. Whitney but in some cases the natives spelled the name H. M. Wini; that being their pronunciation of the name. I then found an envelope endorsed as follows:

"Old Stamps Used and Unused
not cancelled.

Sent some of the oldest to
G. D. Gilman and sold well.
Not used or assorted. Rare old
13 cent very valuable Hawaiian
stamps. H. M. Whitney.

This envelope contained one copy of the 2 cent Missionary a copy which recently sold in Paris for \$4,600. Four copies of the 13 cent H. I. & U. S. Postage Missionary worth \$1,000 each and one copy of the 13 cent Hawaiian Postage worth \$800. How my eyes glistened and my heart beat as I gazed on this magnificent lot. I will refer to them later on.

Another lot of stamps consisted of a set of six each of the 1871-76 issue in mint condition. The best on each sheet being the 5 cent blue, bluish, catalogued at \$1.50 and the 18 cent rose \$2.50. There were ten of these cards.

Then there were two envelopes addressed to H. M. Whitney, Boston, with Pomeroy's Express stamps on them in fine condition.

Another envelope contained some fractional currency issued in 1863 and the balance of the bundle was an assortment of various used stamps of later issues than those mentioned.

A second look at the missionaries showed me that they were printed in black on thin white paper and I became convinced that I had before me the original proofs of these rare stamps, but a careful comparison with my original copies convinced me that Mr. Whitney had probably received them from some party in early days who desired to get his opinion as to whether they were near enough like the original to stand muster or that they had been made for illustration purposes. To those familiar with the genuine stamps these forgeries could be easily detected but to the inexperienced, they would have proved dangerous. I do not remember of having seen any other copies of these dies except in the Descriptive Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Hawaii published many years ago.—*Hobbyist*.