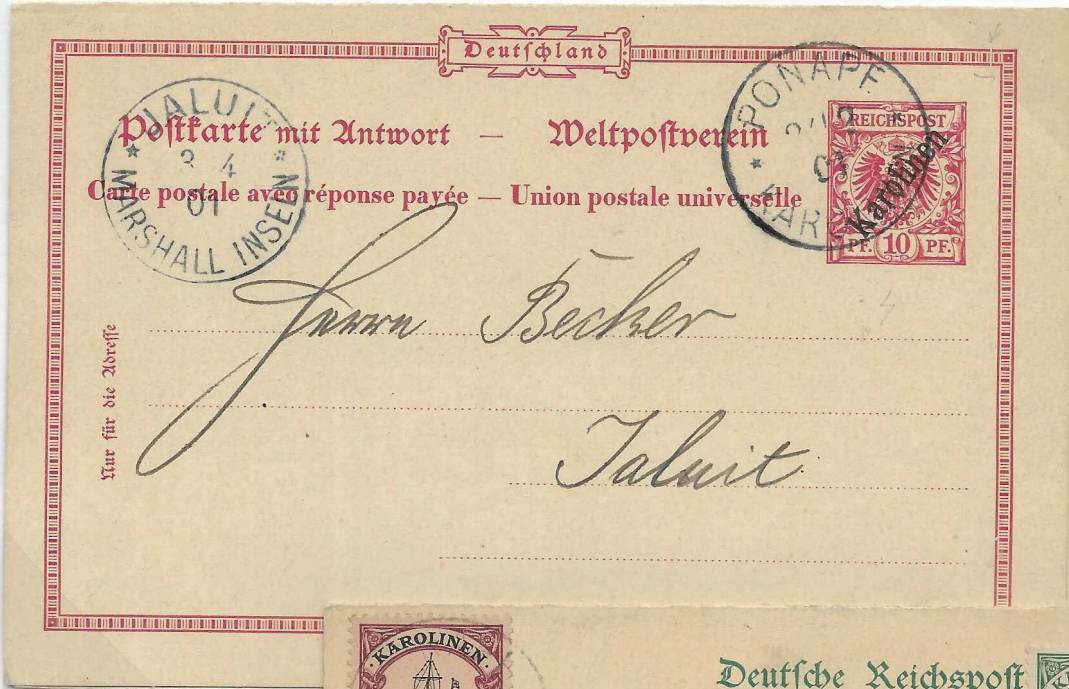


CAROLINE ISLANDS

Following the loss of Guam and the Philippines to the Americans, Spain was not in a position to administer its lesser Pacific possessions. Thus, the Caroline Islands were sold to Germany, which was in the market for colonies. The official transfer took place on 18 June 1899, but the first post office was not opened until October at Ponape, the administrative capital of the Eastern Carolines.

Ponape

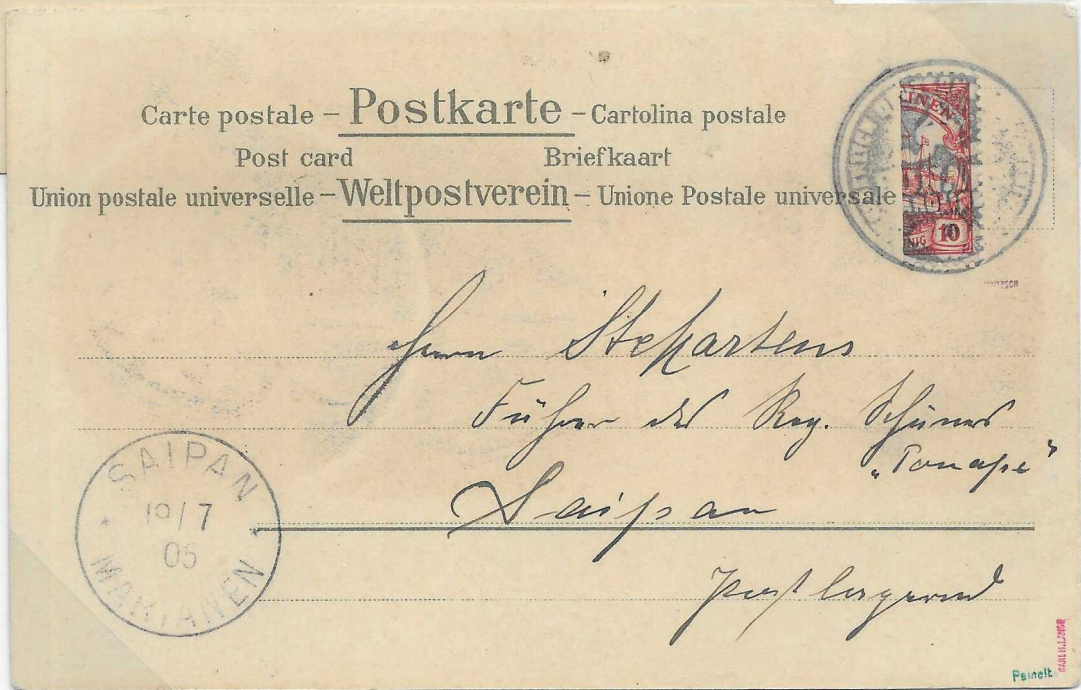


Postmark used from 12 October 1899 to 20 April 1905



Postmark used from 13 November 1905 to August 1914

A replacement postmark finally arrived and was immediately put into service in the fall of 1905. It differed from the original in that "(Karolinen)" was placed across the middle of the cds rather than at the bottom. This marking was used until the Japanese occupation at the beginning of World War I.



Marking used from 25 April to 13 November 1905

On 20 April 1905, a typhoon destroyed most of Ponape, including the building housing the post office. As a result, the cancelling device was rendered useless and postal operations shut down until the 25th. As the stock of 5 pfennig stamps was ruined, the Assistant Governor of the colony authorized the use bisected 10 pf. stamps to pay the post card rate. This "typhoon provisional" was then cancelled with the official seal of the postal agent.

CAROLINE ISLANDS  
Validation Marking

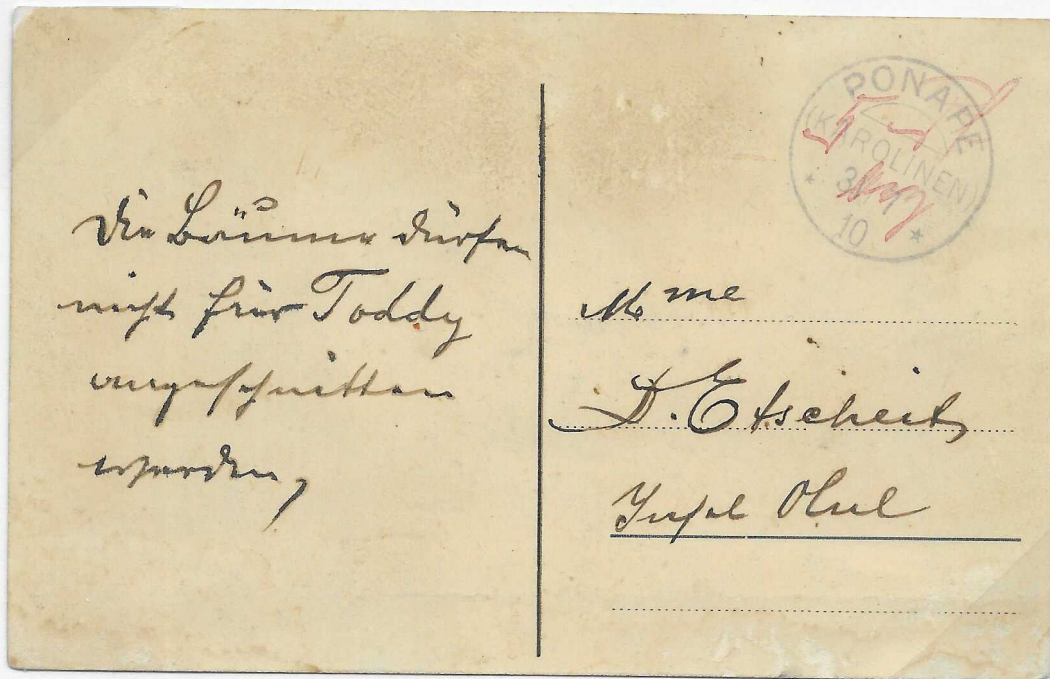
Ponape  
12 July 1910



APE (Karolinen).



Due to an unexpected arrival of the East Asia cruiser squadron on 2 July 1910 (*S.M.S. Nurnberg*, *Scharnhorst* and auxiliary vessels) supplies of the most needed denominations of 5 and 10 pf. stamps for mailing cards and letters back home ran out. To meet the demand, 500 copies of the 3 pf. stamp were surcharged "5 Pf." and 20 pf. stamps were bisected and used for 10 pf.. To confirm that these provisionals were properly used, it was required that the seal of the postal agent be applied near the postmark. Such markings were used from 12 to 31 July 1910.



Usage from 13 to 31 July 1910

The officially-sanctioned procedure to be followed in the event that postage stamps were not available was to accept cash payment at the postal counter and appropriately mark the mail matter. Having already created the provisional stamps on 12 July, Postal Agent Hollborn apparently decided to follow the regulation and began to utilize cash franking the next day. Note endorsement "5 pf. bez." to indicate payment of post card rate.

# ATTEST

HANS BOTHE

Bundesprüfer

Mitglied im Bund der philatelistischen Prüfer e.V. des BDPH und des APHV

D-1000 Berlin 42, Marienhöher Weg 34, Telefon 7 53 85 50

Nr. 2398

Datum 1. Juni 1981

Die zur Attestierung vorgelegte Postkarte

KAROLINEN = Roter Barfrankierungsvermerk

-----  
" 5 Pf / bez. " = Handschrift "HOLLBORN"  
-----

-----  
Tagesstempel "PONAPE KAROLINEN 31/7 10"  
-----

ist in jeder Hinsicht als E C H T zu bestätigen.

Die mit roter Tinte handschriftlich von dem Postagenten Hollborn auf Ponape vorschriftsmäßig und amtlich am 31/7 10 angebrachte Barfrankatur gehört mit zu den großen Seltenheiten der Dt. Kolonialphilatelie und ist als sehr beachtenswert herauszustellen!

Die zu beurteilende Postkarte zeigt alle notwendigen u. erforderlichen Echtheitsmerkmale in der Handschrift "Hollborn". Die attestierte Postkarte erhielt doppelte Prüfzeichen "BOTHE BPP".

*Hans Bothe*

(Hans Bothe)  
BUNDESPRÜFER BPP

KONTROLLFOTOS siehe Beiblatt

Prüfgebiete: Ehemalige Deutsche Kolonien und Auslandspostämter

Die Prüfung erfolgte auf Grund der Prüfordnung des Bundes der Philatelistischen Prüfer e.V.

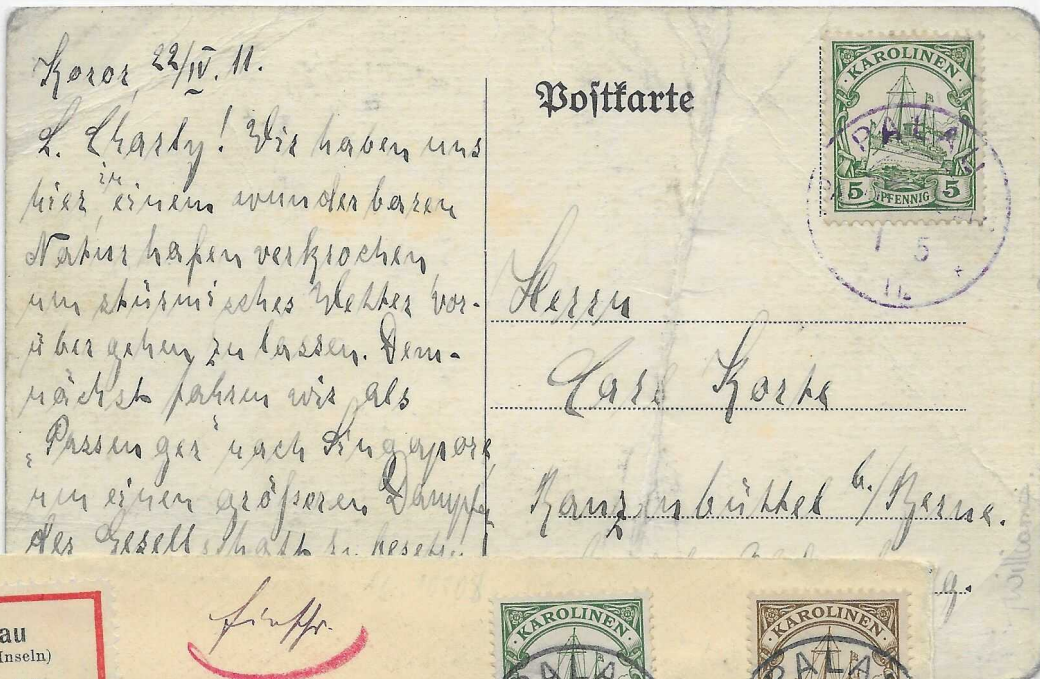
CAROLINE ISLANDS

To Ponape



Used in December 1912

Exceptional usage of the reply half of a Caroline Islands postal card from the Gilbert & Ellice Islands (a British protectorate) to Ponape and then forwarded to Jaluit in the Marshall Islands. Written at "Butaritari, 10 XII 12" by a Herr Kreisig. Because sender used a domestic rate postal card, stamps were added to meet (and overpay by one pfennig) the U.P.U. tariff. Vernon type 5 G&EIP "Postal Department" marking is very elusive in its own right.

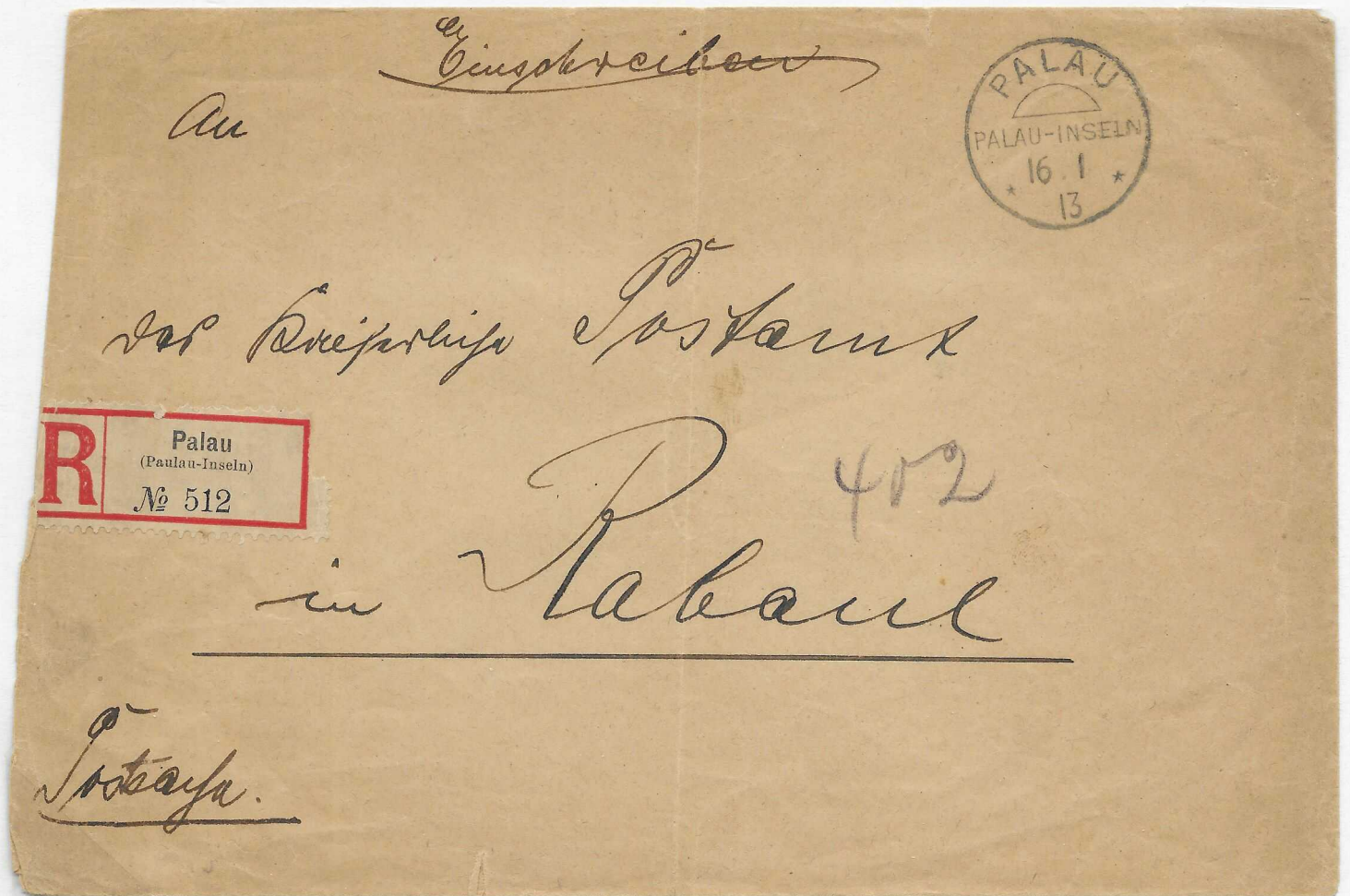


Postmark used from 4 October 1907 to August 1914

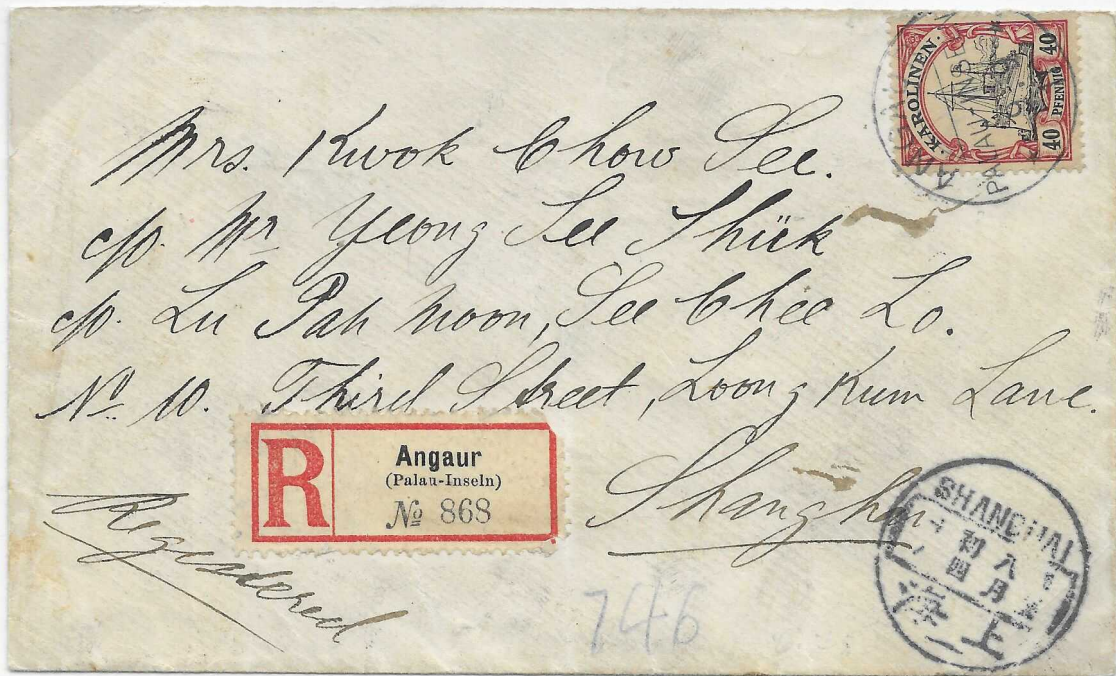
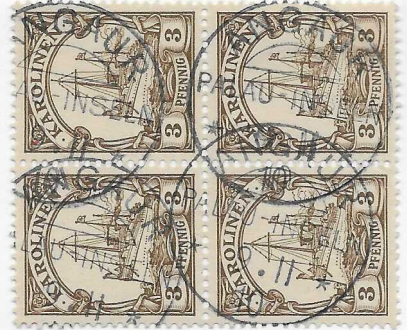
The fourth post office was opened in the colony in the chief town of the Palau Island Group. Only a single postmark was used from the opening date until the office was closed at the beginning of World War I.



Official Mail

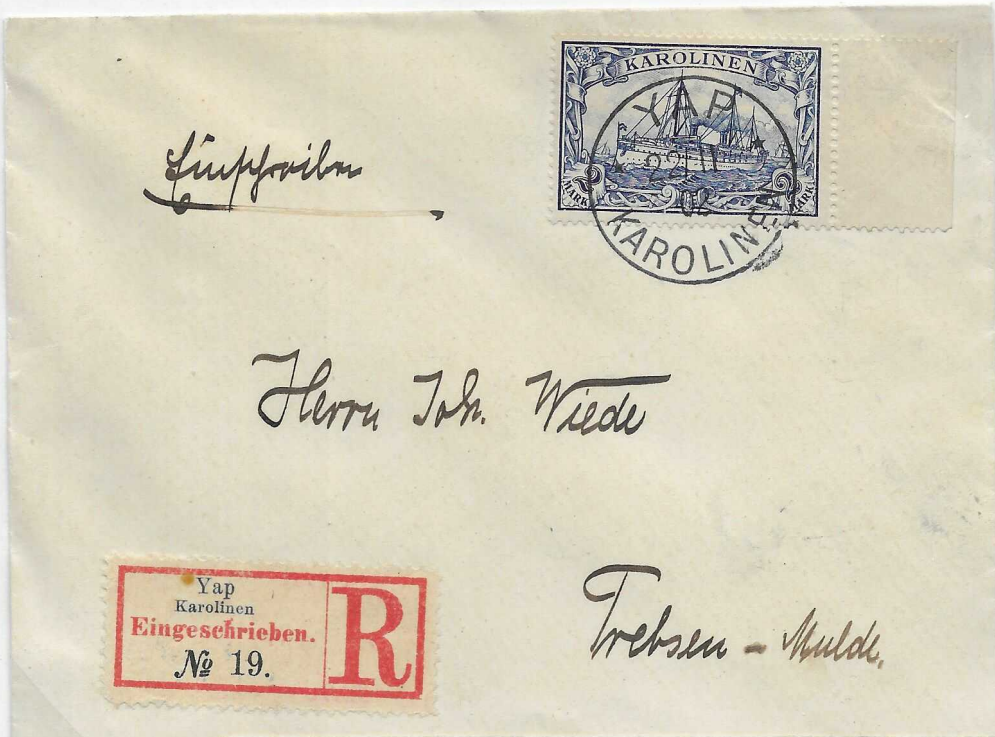


Example of official postal service mail. Manuscript "Postsache" in lower left corner of the envelope entitled this cover to be sent registered to the Imperial Post Office at Rabaul (New Guinea) free of postage. An unusual usage.



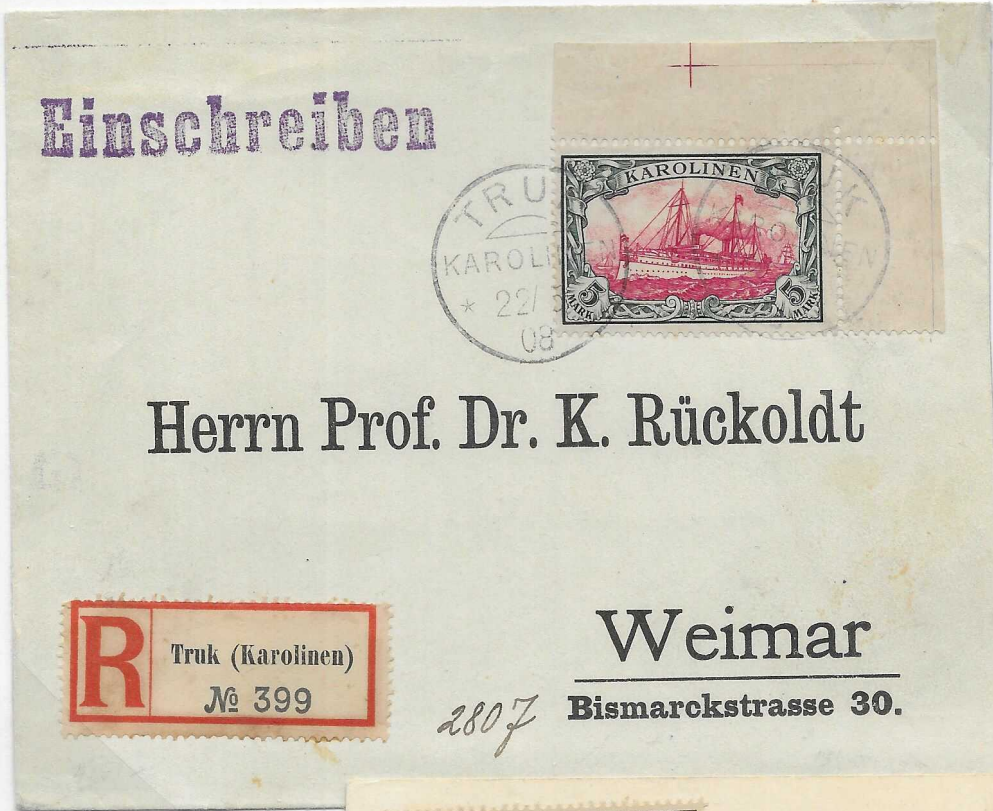
Postmark used from 18 February 1909 to August 1914

The second post office in the Palau Island Group was opened at the site of the German South Sea Phosphate Company. It utilized a single postmark from the opening date (see postal card above) until the Japanese occupation at the beginning of World War I.



Postmark used from 6 November 1899 to August 1914

As the administrative headquarters of the Western Caroline Islands, Yap was the second post office opened in the colony. Only one postmark was used from the opening date until the Japanese occupation at the beginning of World War I. (Although the official name was changed to "Jap" in 1904, this was only reflected in the spelling on the registration labels.)



Postmark used from 1 May 1905 to August 1914

As the chief town of the central Caroline Islands, Truk was the third post office opened in the colony. A single postmark was used from the opening date until the Japanese occupation at the beginning of World War I.

# ATTEST

**DR. FRIEDRICH F. STEUER**

Mitglied des Verbandes Österreichischer Briefmarkenprüfer (VÖB)  
A-1010 Wien, Stubenring 6, Tel. 0222/512 18 80

Datum 8.7.92

Der zur Beurteilung vorliegende Einschreibebrief  
KAROLINEN

Einzel frankatur der MiNr. 19, 5 Mk. grünschwarz/rot  
Entwertung: "TRUK KAROLINEN 22/5/08"  
ist e c h t .

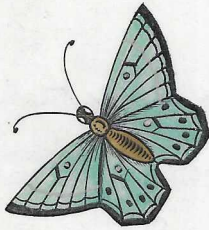
Es handelt sich um eine rechte, obere Bogenecke auf einem überfrankierten R-Brief mit zugehörigem R-Zettel No. 399, der den Postweg nach Deutschland korrekt durchlaufen hat. Rückseitig Ankunftsstempel "WEIMAR 31.8.08". Gute Zähnung und völlig einwandfreie Erhaltung der Frankatur. Der Brief wurde nicht signiert und ist auf Blatt zwei dieses Attestes abgebildet.



Dr. F. STEUER  
VÖB.

Prüfgebiet: Deutsche Auslandspostämter und Deutsche Kolonien.

Die Prüfung erfolgte aufgrund der Prüfordnung des Verbandes österreichischer Briefmarkenprüfer (VÖB) und bezieht sich auf den Zustand der Vorlage zur Zeit der Prüfung.



Kusaie, C. I.

June 23, 1891.

Dear Elizabeth.

I was sorry not to send you a letter by the "Morning Star" but I could not get it written. We miss Aunt Sadie very much but we hope she is where she will not have to suffer so much.

I have finished copying it with this letter. I, Frank and I, and two up to see a cataract to where the Girls' School pasture to where

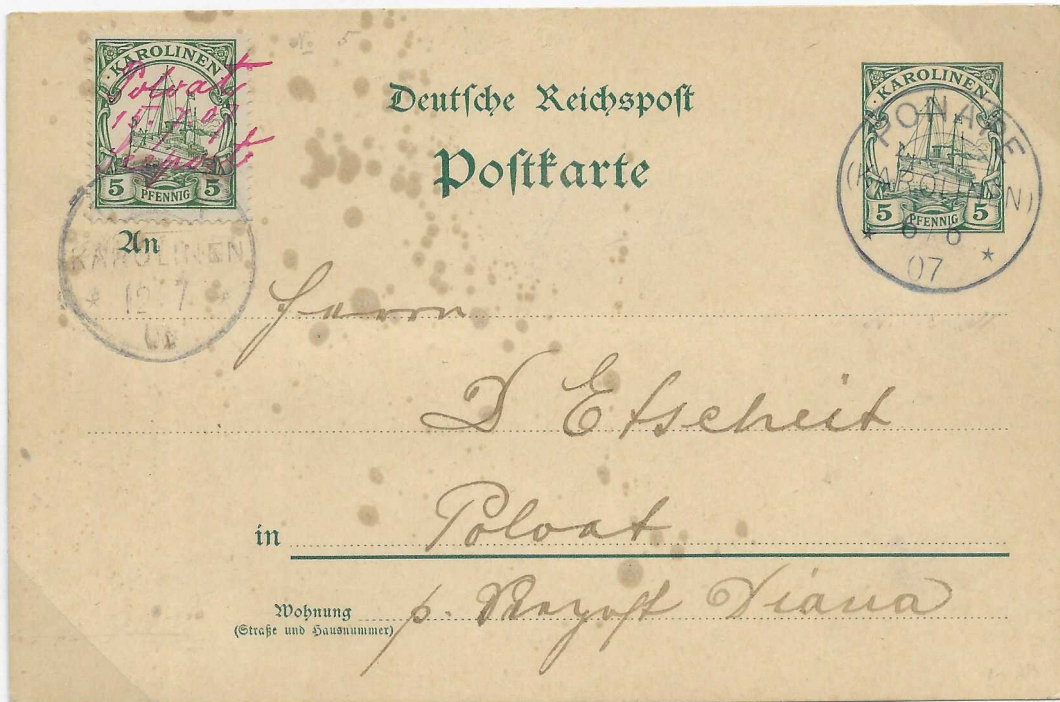


Miss Elizabeth M. Gardner  
 Newton Center  
 Mass.

U. S. A.

Dated Kusaie, C.I./June 23, 1891

No German forerunners exist from the Carolines, a Spanish possession until 1899. The Spanish postal arrangements were rudimentary, and mail was often sent via other channels. This letter, sent by missionary Pease to his niece in Massachusetts, was no doubt carried by an obliging ship captain and delivered to the German post office on Jaluit in the Marshall Islands four weeks later. Transit markings of Apia, Samoa and San Francisco.



Usage from June 1907 to December 1908

In the Marshall Islands, trading vessels were obligated to pick up and deliver mail at small islands on their routes, but no such regulation applied to the Carolines. When Captain Jeschke of the Schooner *Diana* extended his trading into the Carolines in June 1907, he continued the "Atoll Mail" practice whereby he cancelled stamps by manuscript (at times involving philatelic manipulation). As an example, the above card -- mailed at Ponape on 6 June 1907 with stamp added and suspiciously postmarked at Truk on 12 July -- was theoretically delivered to Herr Etscheit based on the manuscript marking "Poloat/15.7.07/Seepost."



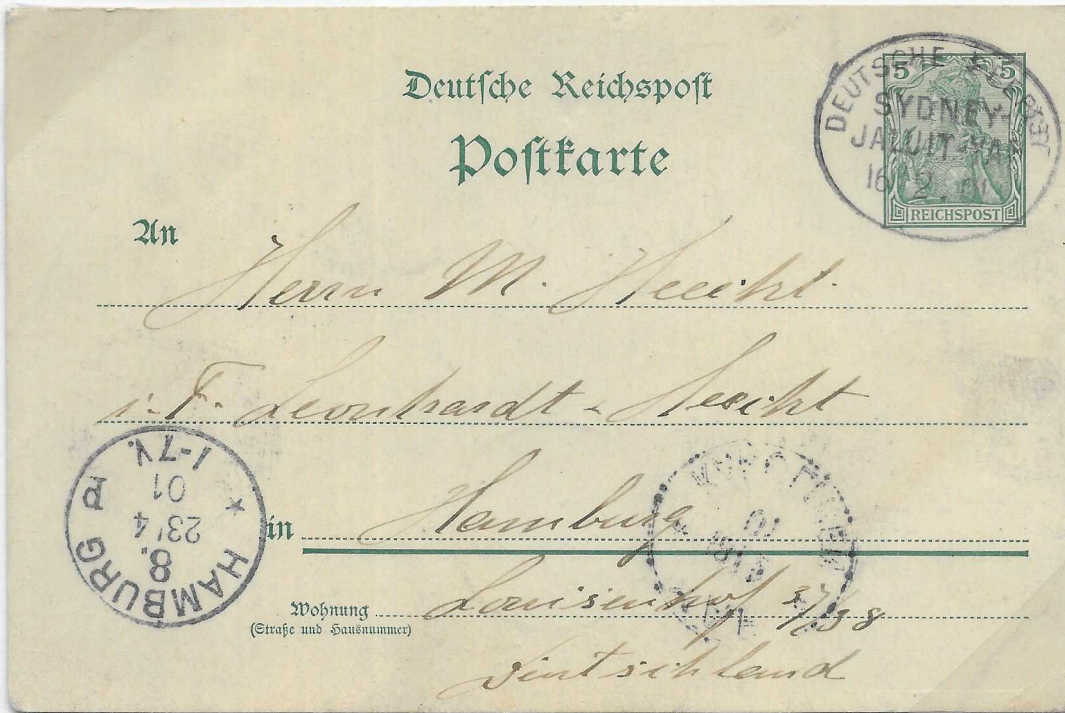
Postmark used from February 1905 to July 1914

Seepost markings exist on stamps of the Carolines from several of the lines serving the German Pacific possessions. Above covers have the identifying mark "b" in the cds, indicating that they were mailed on the Steamer *Germania*.



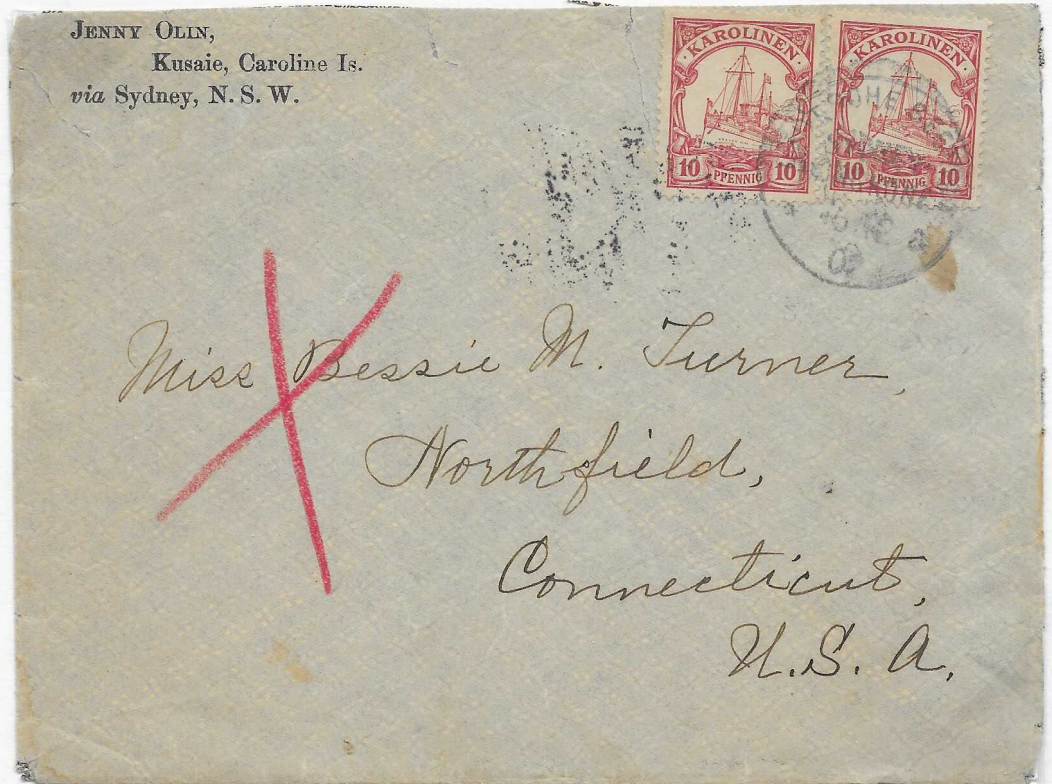
CAROLINE ISLANDS

Sydney-Jaluit-Yap Seepost



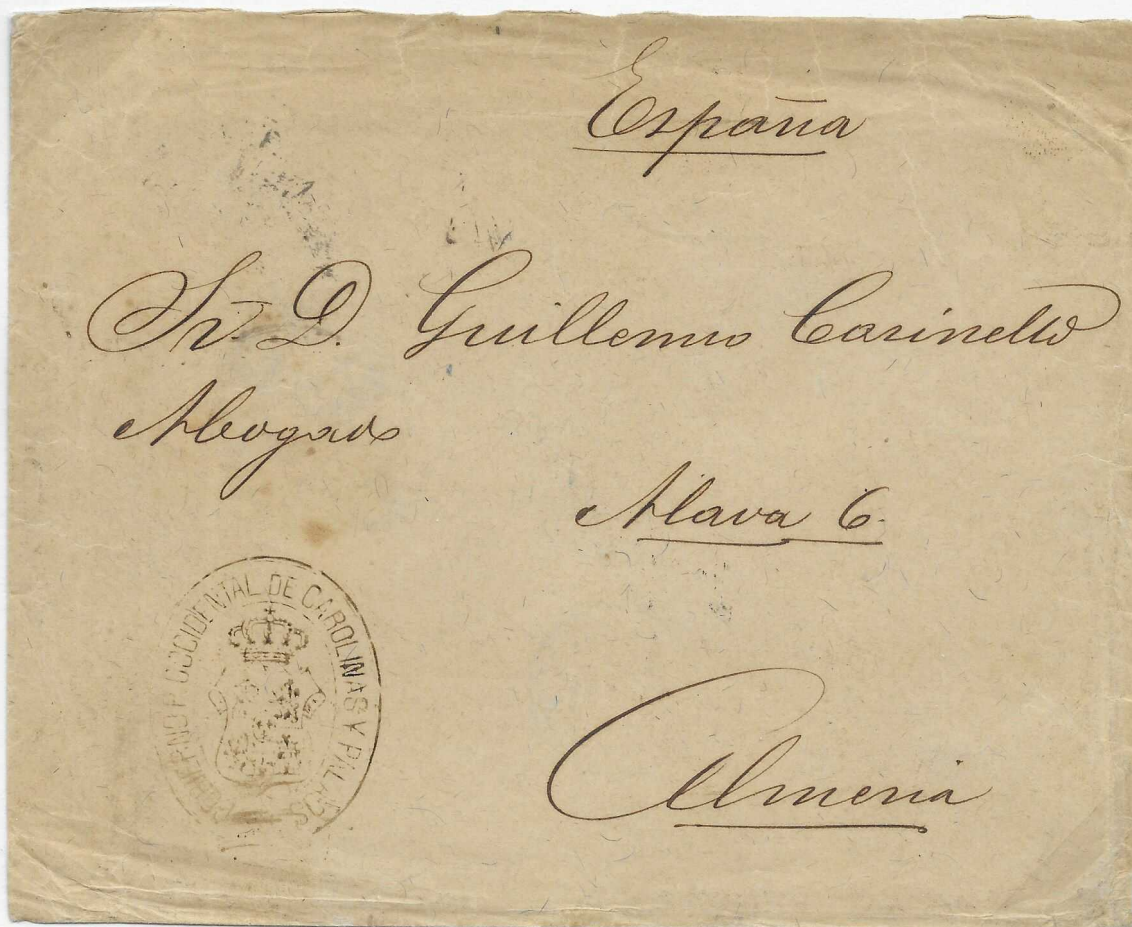
Postmark used from January 1901 to June 1902

Sydney-Hong Kong Seepost



Postmark used from May 1902 to January 1905

Steamships of the Jaluit Company operating westward from Australia at the beginning of the century made stops at Ponape and Yap. Postcard was mailed by the First Officer of the Steamer *Oceana* as the ship approached Yap (transit backstamp dated two days later). When the route was extended to Hong Kong in 1902, a new cds was introduced to so indicate. This postmark on the cover has the identifying mark "a," indicating that it was also mailed on the *Oceana*, which provided such service from June 1902 through the end of 1903.



Spanish mail despatch of June 1899

Ownership of the Caroline Islands was officially transferred to Germany on 18 June 1899, but the District Commissioners did not arrive to take over the administrative duties until 13 October at Ponape for the Eastern Carolines and on 3 November at Yap for the Western Carolines. In the interim, the Spanish officials continued to function. The above official cover bears a cachet inscribed "Government of the Western Carolines and Palaos" around the Spanish coat of arms. It was backstamped in transit at the U.S. Military Station No.1 in Manila (date illegible) and at Hong Kong on 2 July 1899, and has a receiving mark of Almeria (Spain) on 29 July. Under the circumstances, such covers can be regarded as a form of "forerunner."