

# FIRST REGULAR ISSUE

1948



*Cycad*



*Lily*



*Cycad*



*Sailing Ship*



*Lily*



*Sailing Ship*



*Farmer*

On this first regular issue of the Ryukyu Islands, the 5 sen and 20 sen values depict the native (Sotetsu) palm which provides leaves for decoration and a stalk for food in times of famine. The 10 sen and 20 sen values depict the Yuri, a lily which blooms throughout the Ryukyus during the Easter season. The 30 sen and 50 sen depict Chinese Junks which the Ryukyuan used to carry on trade with the south seas. The 1 yen shows an Okinawan farmer ready to face a new era after the sufferings of World War II.

# REGULAR ISSUE

1950



*Roof Tiles*



*Native Girl*



*Shuri Castle*



*Dragon*



*Women*



*Sea Shells*

On this second regular issue, the 50 sen depicts a Shi-shi or a ceramic lion which is set on roof tops to ward off evil spirits. The 1 yen features a typical beauty from the capital city of Shuri. The 2 yen shows the former main palace of the Okinawan kings which was completely destroyed during World War II. A Ryu or the massive head of a dragon carved in stone and set in front to guard the palace appears on the 3 yen. Okinawan ladies in ancient dress are shown on the 4 yen. The final denomination, the 5 yen depicts sea shells commonly found along the beaches of Okinawa.

# AIR MAILS OF 1950



*Dove & Islands*



*Dove & Islands*



*Dove & Islands*

This identical design for all three denominations depicts the Dove of Peace hovering over the Ryukyu Islands. The beginning of air mail service in the Ryukyus was a significant trend toward return to normal peaceful times.

## SPECIAL DELIVERY

1950



*Map & Sea Horse*

This stamp depicts a surrealistic sea horse entwined around a map of the Ryukyu Islands. It was designed by Katsugo Sakumoto of Yaeyama. This design was selected from a postage stamp design competition sponsored by the Ryukyus Post Office.

## FORESTRY

1951



*Tree Branch*

This is the first of a series of stamps to commemorate the afforestation movement throughout the Ryukyu Islands. The design also honors Saion, an Okinawan official who took a great interest in forestry and soil management. It depicts contour planting and pine tree culture which he had introduced.

## UNIVERSITY

1951



*University*

The dedication of the newly completed University of the Ryukyus is marked by this stamp. The central design shows a front view of the main building with an outline of Shuri Palace which formerly stood on this site and was destroyed during the war. A Ryu or dragon is depicted at the left. The legend reads "In commemoration of the Dedication of Ryukyu University."

## GOVERNMENT

1952



*Map, Dove, Bean Sprout*

Commemorates the inauguration of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands. The dove is an omen of peace, while the rising sun and the young plant symbolize a new era for the Ryukyu Islands which are depicted at the base of the design.

# OVERPRINTS

1952



*Roof Tiles*



*Shuri Castle*

The 10 yen surcharge on 50 sen was done at three different times resulting in three differences in the surcharging. Type I shows very little space between the bars, type II and type III both have wide spaced bars, but the latter has fine, thin print. In the case of the 100 yen on 2 yen, there is a small overprint (type II-A), large overprint (type II-B), and both small and large overprint on one stamp (type II-AB).

## AIR MAILS OF 1951-54



*Flying Goddess*



*Flying Goddess*

The design for these five denominations depicts a Goddess in Flight which is taken from a scene in Buddhist lore known as "Heavenly Maidens Scattering Flowers." The scene is symbolic of air mail letters as glad tidings from the skies.

## REGULAR ISSUE OF 1952



*Madanbasbi Bridge*



*Audience Chamber, Shuri Castle*



*Shureinomom Gate*



*Gate, Sogenji Temple*



*Bensaidoten*



*Sonohyamutake*



*Tamandun*



*Hoshobai Bridge*

On this third regular issue, the 1 yen pictures Madan Bridge now replaced with a modern concrete structure. The 2 yen depicts the Hall of Worship of Shuri Palace which was once a National Treasure. The 3 yen shows the classic Shurei Gate which is now replaced with a facsimile structure. The 6 yen depicts Soen Temple formerly dedicated to the ancestors of Royalty, but now rebuilt as a cultural center. The 10 yen shows Besaiten Hall, an ancient structure whose remains still exist in Shuri. The 30 yen pictures Sonohyamutake Wall, a place of worship in ancient Okinawa. It is a wall with an entrance to a forest. Over the gateway is a stone carving of the "Flaming Pearl." The 50 yen features the Royal Park where Kings of Okinawa and their courts were traditionally entombed. The 100 yen depicts Ishi Bridge which still stands over Hoshachi or "Life Saving Pond." Most of the historical sites depicted in this issue were destroyed during the fighting on Okinawa.

# COMMODORE PERRY

1953



*Perry and Fleet*



*Shuri Castle Reception*

This set commemorates the centennial of Commodore Matthew C. Perry's first visit to Naha on May 26, 1853. The 3 yen value depicts Commodore Perry at a reception given in his honor by the regent of the Kingdom of the Ryukyu Islands. The 6 yen pictures the U. S. naval fleet in the port of Naha with a portrait of the Commodore.

## THIRD NEWSPAPER WEEK

1953

This stamp was issued to commemorate the third anniversary of Newspaper Week. It depicts a newspaper matrix in the form of a pencil superimposed on a portrait of Ota Chofu, an Okinawan journalist and political leader at the turn of the century.



*Chofu Ota & Matrix*



*Shigo Toma & Pen*

## FOURTH NEWSPAPER WEEK

1954

The fourth anniversary of Newspaper Week is marked by this stamp which shows a pen nib superimposed on a portrait of Toma Shigo, a leading Okinawan journalist and founder of Okinawa Asahi Shimbun.

## ARTS CRAFTS

1954-55



*Wine Flask*



*Ryukyuan Lacquerware*



*Ryukyuan Cloth*

Issued to introduce Ryukyuan arts and crafts. The design for the 4 yen pictures an Okinawan wine flask which is made of pottery and finished with splashed glaze. It is very small and made to wear around the waist. The 15 yen depicts a Ryukyuan lacquer dish used when offering sweetmeats to guests. The 20 yen is a sampling of the designs used in weaving "bengata" cloth for which the Ryukyus are famous.



# SWEET POTATO

1955



*Shrine & Sweet Potato Plant*

Issued to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the introduction of the sweet potato from China by Noguni Sokan, an Okinawan official. The central design features the Naguni Sokan Shrine which still stands on Okinawa and marks the spot where the official landed after crossing the China Sea with sweet potato seedlings. Sweet potato vines are shown on the left panel.

# ARBOR WEEK

1956



*Trees*

Issued to promote the afforestation movement throughout the Ryukyu Islands. Its modernistic design consists of rows of trees planted on the hillsides.

# NEW YEAR

1956



*Garland of Pine, Bamboo & Plum*

Issued primarily for use on New Year greeting cards. The design shows an Okinawan floral piece made of plum blossoms and pine branches entwined around a ring of bamboo and hung up to wish everyone health, wealth and happiness for the New Year.

# DANCERS



*Spring Dance*



*Summer Dance*



*Historical Drama*

Issued to introduce Ryukyuan classical dancing and drama. The dancer pictured on the 5 yen stamp is doing a spring dance with willow branches. The dancer on the 8 yen is doing a folk dance which is often presented by open air theaters in the summer. The 14 yen shows a dancer in a classical warrior's costume who is dramatizing a heroic scene taken from the history of Okinawan wars.

# DIAL PHONE

1956



*Dial Phone*

This stamp commemorates the inauguration of dial telephone service in Okinawa which replaced the old manual service. A desk dial telephone and the dial of the instrument represents the design. The legend on the left panel reads "In Commemoration of the Inauguration of Automatic Telephone Service."



## AIR MAILS OF 1957



*Goddess Playing Flute*



*Goddess Playing Flute*

The design for this set depicts a Buddhist goddess in flight and playing a flute which is a continuation of the theme in the earlier set. The notes from the flute are symbolic of letters carried by airplanes.

## NEWSPAPER WEEK

1957



*Pencil Rocket & Map*

This stamp marks the 7th anniversary of Newspaper Week. A pencil-sputnik taking off from Okinawa is the theme for this stamp.

## NEW YEAR

1957



*Phoenix*

This is the second stamp to be released for New Year greeting cards. The design shows a dragon and phoenix design in brilliant colors which are omens of good luck for the New Year. It is a design often seen on cotton prints.



POSTAL SERVICE

1958



*Ryukyu Stamps*

Issued to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the issuance of the first Ryukyuan stamp in 1948. The design reproduces the Sotetsu stamp of the first set, a dancer stamp from the 1956 set and an air mail stamp from the latest 1957 set. The legend on the top and right border reads, "In Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Issuance of Postage Stamps."

GATE OF COURTESY

1958



*Gate of Courtesy*

This stamp was released to commemorate the restoration and dedication of Shurei-no-mon or the Gate of Courtesy which was built in honor of a Chinese diplomat in the 19th century and destroyed during the fighting on Okinawa. The design on the stamp illustrates the restored gate. It is the first commemorative to be issued in United States currency.

NEW CURRENCY

1958



*Symbol of Yen & Dollar Sign*



*Symbol of Yen & Dollar Sign*

Due to emergency conditions, only one design was used for the fourth regular issue. The United States authorities decided within a very short time to convert the legal currency of the Ryukyu Islands from United States Military B-Yen to regular United States currency. The designing, printing and distribution of this issue was completed in a few weeks. The design depicts a dollar sign superimposed on a yen sign. These are the first Ryukyu stamps to be issued in United States currency.



NEW YEAR

1958



*New Year Dance*

Issued to service New Year post cards. The design shows two men performing a New Year dance in a lion's skin. Under the lion's paws are strings of gaudy balls which are tossed around during the street performances.

FORESTRY

1959



*Stylized Trees*

Prepared to promote the arbor movement in the Ryukyus. This design features hilltops turning green and a row of stylized trees.

AIR MAIL OVERPRINTS

1959



*Goddess Playing Flute*



*Goddess Playing Flute*

This surcharged provisional set was necessitated by the changeover from yen to American currency and new air mail rates worked out as a result of the Universal Postal Union Congress meeting in Ottawa in 1959.

## BIOLOGICAL

1959



*Moth*

Issued for the national conference of the Japan Biological Education Society at the University of the Ryukyus in Shuri. The design shows a rare moth, the *Attacus Atlas*, which is found chiefly on Yanaguni Island, south of Okinawa.

## NEW YEAR 1959

1959



*New Year Decoration*

This design for New Year post cards reproduces a gaudy New Year decoration which is made of a papier-mache shield surmounted with swords, spears, etc. and is the pride and joy of every Okinawan boy.

## FLORA-FAUNA

1959



*Hibiscus*



*Angel Fish*



*Shells*



*Butterfly*



*Jellyfish*

Issued to introduce the flora and fauna of the Ryukyu Islands. The 1/2c depicts a red hibiscus known as *Hibiscus Ross Sinensis* which grows in profusion throughout the Islands. The 3c illustrates an angel fish known as *Zanclus Cornutus*. The 8c pictures sea shells known as *Phalium Bondatum*. The 13c design is composed of a butterfly known as *Kallima Inachus Euerca*. A jellyfish appears on the 17c denomination. It is known as *Doctylometra Pacifica*.

# FLORA-FAUNA

1960



*Shells*



*Butterfly*



*Jellyfish*

This set was redesigned for technical reasons when it was reprinted. The characters "Rukyu Yubin" were made smaller to blend with the design. The butterflies on the 13c were reversed.

# 1960 OVERPRINTS



*Dollar Sign over Yen*

To meet the urgent need for airmail stamps, old stamps in yen values were surcharged in U. S. currency for the five airmail zones. Several different printings of the basic stamps were used for this purpose.

# UNIVERSITY

1960



*University Badge*

Issued to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Ryukyu University. The bronze badge is inscribed "Daigoku" or "University" and is worn by all students enrolled in the University.



*Flaming Olympic Torch*

# SPORTS

1960



*Runners*

To commemorate a joint athletic meet held in Nago City, this set was issued on November 6-7, 1960, by Okinawa and the 8th Kyushu Athletic Meet of Japan.

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1872-73



*Dragons & Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Imperial Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Crest & Kiri Tree Branches*

ENGRAVED ON FOREIGN WOVE PAPER

1874



*Dull Rose*

*Imperial Crest & Kiri Tree Branch*

1874



*Crest & Kiri Tree Branches*

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1874

Perforated 9½ to 12½ and Compounded  
ENGRAVED ON NATIVE LAID OR WOVE PAPER



*Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Imperial Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Crest & Kiri Tree Branch*

Perforated 11 to 12½ and Compounded  
FOREIGN WOVE PAPER



*Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Chrysanthemum Crest*





*Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Dragon & Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Imperial Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Imperial Crest & Kiri Branches*

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1875

*Perforated 9 to 13 and Compounded*



*Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Dragon*



*Wild Goose*



*Wagtail*



*Imperial Crest*



*Kiri Branches*



*Gorbank*

Without Syllabic Characters

*Imperial Crest  
& Kiri Branches*



BROWN



GREEN

*Imperial Crest  
& Kiri Branches*





Without Syllabic Characters

*Kiri Tree Branches with Ribbon*

1876



F?

*Imperial Crest & Kiri Tree Branch*

## REGULAR ISSUES OF 1876-77

Typographed Perforated 8 to 14 and Compounded

CMV



CMV

*Chrysanthemum Crest*

MLL  
CMV



F



CMV

CMV

MLL

*Imperial Crest, Star & Kiri Branches*

*Chrysanthemum Crest*

*Imperial Crest, Star & Kiri Branches*



F



F

*Sun, Kikumou & Kiri Branches*

*Imperial Crest, Star & Kiri Br*

*Sun, Kikumou & Kiri Branches*



REGULAR ISSUES OF 1879

CMV AY



Chrysanthemum Crest

CMV AY



Chrysanthemum Crest



Chrysanthemum Crest



Sun, Kikumon & Kiri Branches

REGULAR ISSUES OF 1883

CMV HC MVV



Chrysanthemum Crest

CMV HC MVV



Chrysanthemum Crest

CMV HC MVV



Imperial Crest, Star & Kiri Branches

REGULAR ISSUES OF 1888-92

CMV HC MVV



Chrysanthemum Crest

CMV HC MVV



Chrysanthemum Crest

CMV HC MVV



Chrysanthemum Crest

CMV HC MVV



Imperial Crest, Star & Kiri Branches

CMV HC MVV



CMV HC MVV



Sun, Kikumon & Kiri Branches

CMV HC MVV



CMV HC MVV



Imperial Crest & Kiri Branches

CMV



Sun, Kikumon & Kiri Branches

CMV



Kikumon



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

1894

This is the first commemorative issue released by Japan and marks the 25th wedding anniversary of Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito) and Empress Maru which took place in 1894.



*Cranes and Imperial Crest*



*Cranes and Imperial Crest*

## WAR WITH CHINA

1896

Released to mark the war with China, the designs feature portraits of Japanese Army Officers.



*General Yoshibisa Kitashirakawa*



*Field Marshal Arisugawa*



## REGULAR ISSUES OF 1899-1907

TYPOGRAPHED

Perforated 11½ to 14 and Compounded



*Chrysanthemum Crest*



*Chrysanthemum Crest*







Chrysanthemum Crest

## WEDDING

1900



Rice Cake & Marriage Certificate Boxes

This stamp commemorates the wedding of the Crown Prince Yoshihito and Princess Sodo-Ko.

## POSTAL SERVICE

1905



Symbols of Korea & Japan

This stamp was issued in commemoration of the taking over of the Korean postal service by the Japanese.

## MILITARY REVIEW

1906



Japanese Flag & Artillery



Japanese Flag & Artillery

The victorious military review of 1906 is marked by this set of two stamps.

## REGULAR ISSUES OF 1906

ENGRAVED



Empress Jingo



Empress Jingo



TAZAWA SERIES, UNMKD  
P.N. 121, 122, 131, 132 (C)

REGULAR ISSUES OF 1913

Typographed

Unwatermarked



Chrysanthemum Crest



Chrysanthemum Crest

Chrysanthemum Crest



Chrysanthemum Crest

TAZAWA SERIES, GRANITE PAPER WMK-E  
LARGE DIE TYPE A

REGULAR ISSUES OF 1914-30

Granite Paper  
Watermarked Wavy Lines



Chrysanthemum Crest

Chrysanthemum Crest

Chrysanthemum Crest



Chrysanthemum Crest



TAMAKA SERIES GRAVURE PAPER WAVE  
LARGE DIE TYPE 2' CNT.

## REGULAR ISSUES OF 1914-30



Watermarked  
Wavy Lines



Chrysanthemum Crest

Chrysanthemum Crest

Chrysanthemum Crest

Empress Jingo

Empress Jingo

## EMPEROR YOSHIHITO ENTHRONEMENT

1915



Enthronement Hall



Enthronement Hall

Yoshihito, 123rd Emperor of Japan, was born in Tokyo on August 31, 1879. He ascended the throne in 1912, and his reign was declared the era of Righteousness.



# POSTAL ISSUES

MV  
HV  
CM-V



*Ceremonial Cap*

## EMPEROR YOSHIHITO ENTHRONEMENT

1915

MV  
HV  
CM-V



*Imperial Throne*

## EMPEROR HIROHITO NOMINATION

1916

H-M  
CM-M



*Mandarin Duck*

HV  
CM-V



*Mandarin Duck*



*Ceremonial Cap*

Hirohito was born on April 29, 1901 to Emperor Yoshihito and Empress Sodako, and became Prince Heir Apparent in 1916. Because of his father's ill health, Hirohito became prince regent in 1921.

## PEACE ISSUE

1919

CM-M



*Dove and Olive Branch*

CM-V



*Dove and Olive Branch*

M-M  
CM-M



CM-M



*Dove and Olive Branch*

This series, featuring the dove and olive branch, was issued to celebrate the restoration of peace after World War I.



# JAPAN

## POSTAL ISSUES



*Chrysanthemum Crest*

### FIRST AIR MAILS

1919



*Chrysanthemum Crest*  
val m  
Cent = 40

### CENSUS SERIES

1920

Japan's first complete census in 1920 showed a population of 55,963,053. Of this number, 18 million lived in cities and nearly 38 million in rural areas.



*Ancient Census Officer*



*Ancient Census Officer*



*Meiji Shrine in Tokyo*



*Meiji Shrine in Tokyo*

### MEIJI SHRINE

1920

Meiji Tenno, born in 1852, was emperor of Japan from 1868 until he died in Tokyo July 30, 1912. He is credited with having led Japan out of feudalism.

### POSTAL SERVICE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

1921



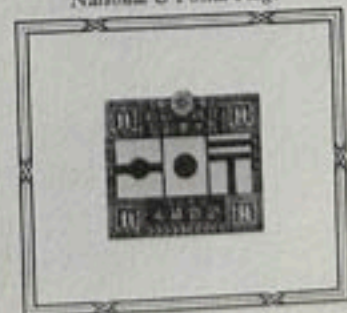
*Tokyo Communications Department*



*Tokyo Communications Department*



*National & Postal Flags*



Japan's modern postal service began in 1871 when a mail route was inaugurated between Tokyo and Osaka. A service for foreign mail started the next year.



CONSTITUTIONAL INAUGURATION

1947

日本國憲法施行記念

*In Commemoration of the Enforcement  
of the Constitution of Japan  
-May 3, 1947-  
Ministry of Communication*



*The Constitution of Japan (excerpt)*

*Government is a sacred trust of the people, the authority for which is derived from the people, the powers of which are exercised by the representatives of the people, and the benefits of which are enjoyed by the people.*

*We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationship and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world.*

*(Constitution Popularization Society)*

日本國憲法一抜萃  
 吾等日本國民は、國民の尊嚴を信託によるものであつて、その權  
 威は國民に由來し、その權力は國民の代表者がこれを行使し、その  
 福利は國民がこれを享受する。  
 日本國民は、恒久の平和を希し、人間相互の關係を支配する條  
 基を理想として自覺するものであつて、平和を愛する諸國民の公正と  
 信義に信賴して、われらの安全と生存を保持しよりと決意した。

憲法普及會

昭和二十二年五月三日 逓信省 費備登圖

印刷製法