

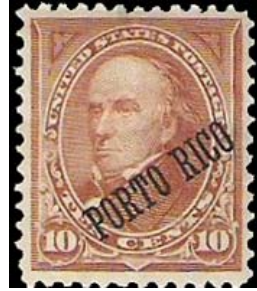
On occupation, the US government overprinted current BEP designs with the names of the territories. This method of localization ended in Cuba (1902) when it became an independent nation, Guam, in 1901, when the island became a federal territory (though local guard mail stamps were issued in 1930) and Puerto Rico in 1934 when it was granted Commonwealth status and used general US postage issues.



Hawaii Scott 32



Hawaii Scott 82



PR Scott 214



Cuba Scott 225



Guam Scott 11



PI Scott 225



Philippine Islands Under Japanese Occupation



Ryukyu Provisional

The Philippines Islands present the largest pool and most varied challenge to the stamp collector. Areas of specialization include provisional overprints of Spanish stamps, overprints of then current US issues, stamps produced by the BEP for the territory and the later Commonwealth of the Philippines (1935), Japanese occupational issues, and after July 4, 1946, another overprint phase when the Republic of Philippines overprinted Commonwealth stamps a few a short period until it could produce their own.

The United States issued and overprinted stamps for three additional areas: **Canal Zone (1904 - 1979), Danish West Indies (1917) and Ryukyu Islands (1945 - 1972).**

The Danish West Indies [now the American Virgin Islands] stamps and overprints were only valid for a six month period March and September 1917. Though a short period of time, this is a widely varied group because it includes all valid Danish issues from 1858-1917.



DWI



The Ryukyu Island Issues cover a 26 year period the US occupied Okinawa after WWII. There are two distinct periods: the provisional period (1945-1946) where overprinted Japanese stamps were used for local post and the occupation issues from 1947 – 1972.

The 228 designs issued during this last period were well executed and cover a wide range of interests by exploring the local island culture and the environment.



The longest occupational issues were for the Panama Canal Zone that we acquired by treaty after Panama 'won' independence from Columbia in 1903. The first issues were overprints of Republic of Panama issues. This practice continued until 1939. From 1939 to 1979 the CZ issued its own stamps.