RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS

There were four stamp societies in the Ryukyu Islands: The Ryukyu Stamp Club; The Pentagon Philatelic Society, Okinawa Chapter; The Ryukyu Philatelic Society; and The Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club.

1. The Ryukyu Stamp Club: This was an early club in Okinawa that published a bulletin in Japanese for a short number of years in the early 1950’s.

2. The Pentagon Philatelic Society, Okinawa Chapter: This Chapter published a newsletter called the “Ryukyu Philatelist” starting in January of 1950. In 1950, the membership included thirty-three members (twenty seven Americans and three Filipino regular members with three Okinawa associates. Noted members were Leonard Thoman, First Lt. Leonard J. Mills, and Elmer D. Rastorfer. Presently, it is not known how long this chapter remained active (likely only in the early 1950’s.)

3. The Ryukyu Philatelic Society: This Society was founded in May 1957. An English language club on Okinawa became an American Philatelic Society Chapter in 1960. They published a newsletter, “Post Script” from November 1969 through November 1977. The club existed into the eighties, but not sure if it is active any longer.

4. The Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club: This club started in July 1952, in Naha and published in Japanese. Their bulletin called “Ryukyu Yushu” was first published in February 1953, published monthly and was still publishing into the mid-1980s. Not sure if this club is still active.

The Ryukyu Philatelic Society and the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club were the two major philatelic clubs in Okinawa. Membership was opened to anyone who had philatelic interests, therefore club members were from both the foreign and local community. The purpose of the two clubs was to nurture friendship among the local collectors, disseminate information of interest to collectors and to promote philately in general. Starting in 1970 (and possibly earlier), the two clubs sponsored jointly RIPEX, an annual stamp exhibition.

In the following pages are examples of the promotional and souvenir items such as a stamp exhibits booklet and brochures, private commemorative cancellations, and examples of the Postal Services Agency official Commemorative Cancellations specifically for RIPEX and the Okinawa Stamp Exhibition.1

If any member has additional information or promotional and souvenir items not shown in this article, please contact the editor.

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1 The private commemorative cancellations and the commemorative cancellations formal listings can be seen in the Specialized Monographs, Part VII, Fascicle 7, Commemorative Cancellations, and Scenic Cancellation Authorized by Ryukyuan Postal Authorities, Private and Commercial Cancellations, and Small Japanese Commemorative Cancellations, First Edition which will be released in the near future.
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
Fifth Nago Stamp Club Show
Private Commemorative Cancellation
September 20-23, 1956
There is a possibility that there could be earlier private commemorative cancellations for the First to Fifth Okinawa Stamp Exhibition (1952 – 1956).
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
Seventh Okinawa Stamp Exhibition
Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club
Private Commemorative Cancellation
August 23 - 25, 1958

Sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
1959 Ryukyu Philatelic Society’s First Stamp Exhibition
May 23 - 25, 1959

Sponsored by the Ryukyu Philatelic Society

The President was Minoru Sera author of the book, *Ryukyu Handbook*, Vice President OYAMA Seigi, (known as Shorty and was a member of the RPSS), Judges for the show included stamp designers, ADANIYA Masayoshi, TAMANAH Seikichi, and MAESHIRO Yoshinao, and Philatelic Agent, KAKINOHARA Kei. Another member is George Machado Jr. (current RPSS member).
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS

Eighth Okinawa Stamp Exhibition

Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Department of Construction, and Communications and the Okinawa Times

Private Commemorative Cancellation

August 29 - 31, 1959

Sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Department of Construction and Communications and the Okinawa Times
Ninth Okinawa Stamp Exhibition
Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club
Private Commemorative Cancellation
August 27 - 29, 1960

Sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club
This stamp exhibition was sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Ryukyu Philatelic Society, and the Postal Services Agency.

This was the first Commemorative Cancellation to promote the Okinawa Stamp Exhibit.
Commemorative Cancellation CC-43
This stamp exhibition was sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Ryukyu Philatelic Society, and the Postal Services Agency.

Two different cachets were produced for this stamp exhibition.
Private Souvenir Sheet produced for the Eleventh Okinawa Stamp Exhibition, sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Ryukyu Philatelic Society, and the Postal Services Agency, held on August 25 – 27, 1962. The souvenir sheet showed two designs of the 10 sen value (No. 2) of the First Definitive Series in green and two designs of the First Air Mail Series (C1-3) in dark red. Many of the Souvenir Sheets had affixed the 1962 Philatelic Week Commemorative Stamp (No. 103) and Commemorative Cancellation (CC-43) on the back of the sheet.
A number of RPSS members exhibited in this show:
Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary,
NAKAGAWA Atsushi, Harold Peterson, and Howard Wallace.
This stamp exhibition was sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Ryukyu Philatelic Society, and the Postal Services Agency.
A number of RPSS members exhibited in this show:
Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary, John Fitzpatrick, George Baka,
OYAMA Seigi, NAKAGAWA Atsushi, and OMINE Noboru.
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, Ryukyu Philatelic Society, and Postal Services Agency
1971 RIPEX Stamp Exhibit
Commemorative Cancellation
November 27 - 28, 1971

Commemorative Cancellation CC-115

This stamp exhibition was sponsored by the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club, the Ryukyu Philatelic Society, and the Postal Services Agency.
A number of RPSS members exhibited in this show:
Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary, John Fitzpatrick,
George Baka, and NAKAGAWA Atsushi.
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club and Ryukyu Philatelic Society
1972 RIPEX Stamp Exhibit – Post Reversion
Commemorative Cancellation
November 25 - 26, 1972

Two Commemorative Cancellations postmarked for both days of the show.
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club and Ryukyu Philatelic Society
1972 RIPEX Stamp Exhibit – Post Reversion
Commemorative Cancellation
November 25 - 26, 1972
Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary, was President of the Ryukyu Philatelic Society and exhibited in this show; NAKAGAWA Atsushi was President of the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club.
Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary, was President of the Ryukyu Philatelic Society. This is the second commemorative cancellation used at the stamp show.
NAKAGAWA Atsushi was President of the Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club.
RYUKYU ISLANDS STAMP SOCIETIES AND STAMP EXHIBITIONS
Ryukyu Stamp Friendship Club and Ryukyu Philatelic Society
Okinawa ‘73 Stamp Exhibit – Post Reversion
Commemorative Cancellation
March 16 - 18, 1973

Postmarked March 17, 1973
Three Cancellations postmarked on March 16, 17, and 18 the three days the show was open.
A number of RPSS members exhibited in this show: Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary, John Fitzpatrick, John Coon, OMINE Noboru, and NAKAGAWA Atsushi. Note that there was also a Special Exhibit of Original Stamp Designs by the Okinawa Prefectural Museum.
There was a Special Exhibit by the Postal Service Section Okinawa Office of the 100 Yen Overprinted Kai Tei Provisional Stamp Sheet (No. 17).
Two cancellations postmarked on November 17 and 18, 1973.
A number of RPSS members exhibited in this show:
Carmine DiVincenzo, former RPSS Secretary, John Fitzpatrick, John Coon, TACHIKAWA Kenkichi, OMINE Noboru, and NAKAGAWA Atsushi.

There were three Special Exhibits: one by the Postal Service Section Okinawa Office of the 100 Yen Overprinted *Kai Tei* Provisional Stamp Sheet (No. 17) and another was the Okinawa Prefectural Museum of Original Drawings of Ryukyu Islands Stamps.