

Every Significant DH Item And DH Usage Is Exhibited



Only proof not in BEP



New Item:

Only

Reserve Plate 24594

known



“Solo Gem”

(1 Pound)



“Holy Grail”

(1 lb + 30¢ SD)



Crossley Nursery

(2 lbs + 35¢ SD)

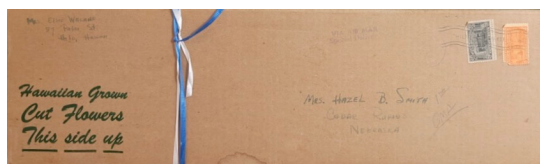


Crossley Nursery

(3 lbs + 45¢ SD)

New Item:

“...(This is the)
most sought-after
and colorful of
Prexie Era items.”



Complete Flower Box

Found in 2025

Note: In late 2023, I acquired the 3 lbs flower label Air Parcel Post item featured at page 114 of *Prexie Era Handbook*. In August 2024, I acquired only known **Plate Block 24594**. In 2025 flower box with flowers in box. With these acquisitions - **Every known significant Diamond Head piece is now in this 5-frame Exhibit.**



The 80¢ Diamond Head Stamp of 1952

The stamp was created to assist **COMMERCIAL** Hawaiian nurseries, to **pay with a single 80¢ stamp**, the postal rate to ship a pound of fresh flowers to the mainland (**Zone 8**). **Proof** that a shipment was **COMMERCIAL - REQUIRES** that **NURSERY'S LABEL** be saved along with the stamps. Collectors rarely saved anything other than the stamps. Therefore, in over **70 years since stamp was issued only 5 "Exact Intended Commercial Use"** items have been found. **Four of the 5** are in this exhibit.

The only known **"Exact Use"** item that is not in my exhibit is in **rough condition** and it has franking identical to another **"Exact Use"** item that is already in my exhibit. For a time I owned this 5th item and I traded it away.

Clearly, the **4 of 5 known "Exact Intended Commercial Use"** items in this exhibit at (Fm2/P4 to Fm2/P7) are **"AS A GROUP of FOUR"** the most philatelically important items.

To understand this exhibit, **VIEWER** needs to understand **FOUR KEY TERMS** used in this exhibit. See explanations of these **FOUR terms** on exhibit page Fm2/P3 that is also is attached to this synopsis.

The exhibit's **SINGLE** most **"Philatelically Important"** item/cover is exhibited at **Fm5/P1**. **Three plates** were used to print a total of **18.9 million** Diamond Head stamps. **Plates 24592 & 24593 printed 97% of the stamps. Without advanced notice to collectors Reserve Plate 24594** had **single** printing in **August 1955 of 520,00 stamps** (3% of stamps printed). The exhibit's **RAREST single ITEM** is exhibited at **Fm5/P1**:

Only 3% of DH stamps sold were printed using **Reserve Plate 24594**. **"Selvage"** is **almost always** separated from the stamp and discarded before stamp is used. **DH Reserve Plate 24594** was not used for over **3 years after** the **DH** stamp was issued in March 1952.

Therefore, there are **no** FDCs with plate blocks from **Reserve Plate 24594**. By **DEFINITION**, whenever **Plate Blocks** were used for postage on FDC, selvage with plate block number attached to a stamp always results. With block of four on a FDC **“Philatelic” Plate selvage** on would always be created attached to one stamp.

Reserve Plate 24594 was used once **without prior notice to collectors**. Therefore, **NO philatelic FDC’s exist with plate number selvage 24594**. The only way to know which of the three **DH** plates - #24592 - #24593 or #**24594** - printed a particular stamp is if **plate number selvage** remains attached to the stamp. Of **18.9** million stamps sold, only the single cover at **Fm5/P1** has a **DH** stamp with **plate number selvage 24594** still attached, which can **PROVE** that the stamp on the cover was printed by **Diamond Head Reserve Plate 24594**. The cover at **Fm5/P1** is **incredibly rare**. It is a **UNIQUE** item of great **“Philatelic Importance”**.

The **13 MOST Significant items** in exhibit are noted by: ★ 

See **Fm1/P3** for only **DH PROOF** not in Bureau’s files. This **DH Proof** was the **next to the last PROOF** to **“Escape”** from the Bureau before the Bureau’s long standing practice of allowing VIP collectors to acquire a proof stamp was terminated.

Recent Acquisitions:

1 - (Acquired 2023) Five **Exact Intended Commercial Use** items are known - 3 of the 5 have been in my exhibit for years. I also owned the 5th **“Exact Use”** item. It was in rough condition & had franking **identical** to another **“Exact Use”** item in my exhibit so I traded this item away.

The other **“Exact Use”** piece was a superb **3 lbs. “Exact Intended Commercial Use”** item. I tried for years, to acquire this gem. In January 2024, the collector decided it belonged in my **DH** exhibit, so he accepted my offer. This 3 lbs. “Flower Label” piece is unquestionably the **FINEST “Exact Intended Commercial Use”** item known. (See: **Fm2/P7**).

2 - (Acquired 2024) An 80¢ stamp with “**Plate Selvage**” for **Reserve Plate 24594** (Printed 3% of DH stamps) was listed on Ebay. It is now in my exhibit. **I consider this cover the single MOST Philatelically Important DH item in this exhibit. (See: Fm5/P1)**

3 - (Acquired 2025) A complete 25 inch long flower box **with dried flowers still in the box** shipped from Hilo in 1955. **(See: Fm3/P1)**

Sources:

Fiset, *Prexie Era - 1938 - 1962*. Page 114. American Philatelic Society (2017).

Loran C. French, *Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Postage Stamps*. Page 315 (1979).

Sol Glass, *U.S. Postage Stamps 1945-62*. Bureau Issues Association (1954).

Mark Lomonaco, “Airmail Stamp,” *U.S. Stamp News* (Jan & February 1996).

Wawrukiewicz “U.S. International Parcel Post Rates, 1872–1996,” Page 216.

ALOHA – Four Keys to Understanding Diamond Head Exhibit

“Exact Intended Commercial Use”— Explained

80¢ stamp was created to aid a **Commercial** Hawaiian nursery to pay, with single stamp, to mail a pound of plants or flowers **to the mainland (Zone 8)**. **PROOF** of commercial use **REQUIRES** nursery label to be saved along with stamps.

Collectors rarely saved anything other than the stamps. Therefore, since stamp **was issued in March 1952**, only **five “Exact Intended Commercial Use”** pieces have been reported and **four of the five are in this exhibit.** 🌸

“Almost Exact Use”— Explained

Every **“Almost Exact Use”** parcel mailed from Hawaii to the mainland contained plants or flowers but did **NOT** have a label from a **Commercial** Hawaiian nursery. If it had

such a label, the item would be an addition to the five known **“Exact Intended Commercial Use”** items. Rather it is the sixth **“Almost Exact Use” item in exhibit.**

Zone 8 — Explained

Refers to destinations that are more than 1800 miles from the point of mailing. It also includes mail to or from APOs (Army Post Offices), FPOs (Fleet Post Offices) & U.S. territories and possessions.

“Non Air Parcel Post” Explained

Although the 80¢ Diamond Head stamp was created to pay for Air Parcel Post shipments, the stamp could also be used to pay for any postal service.

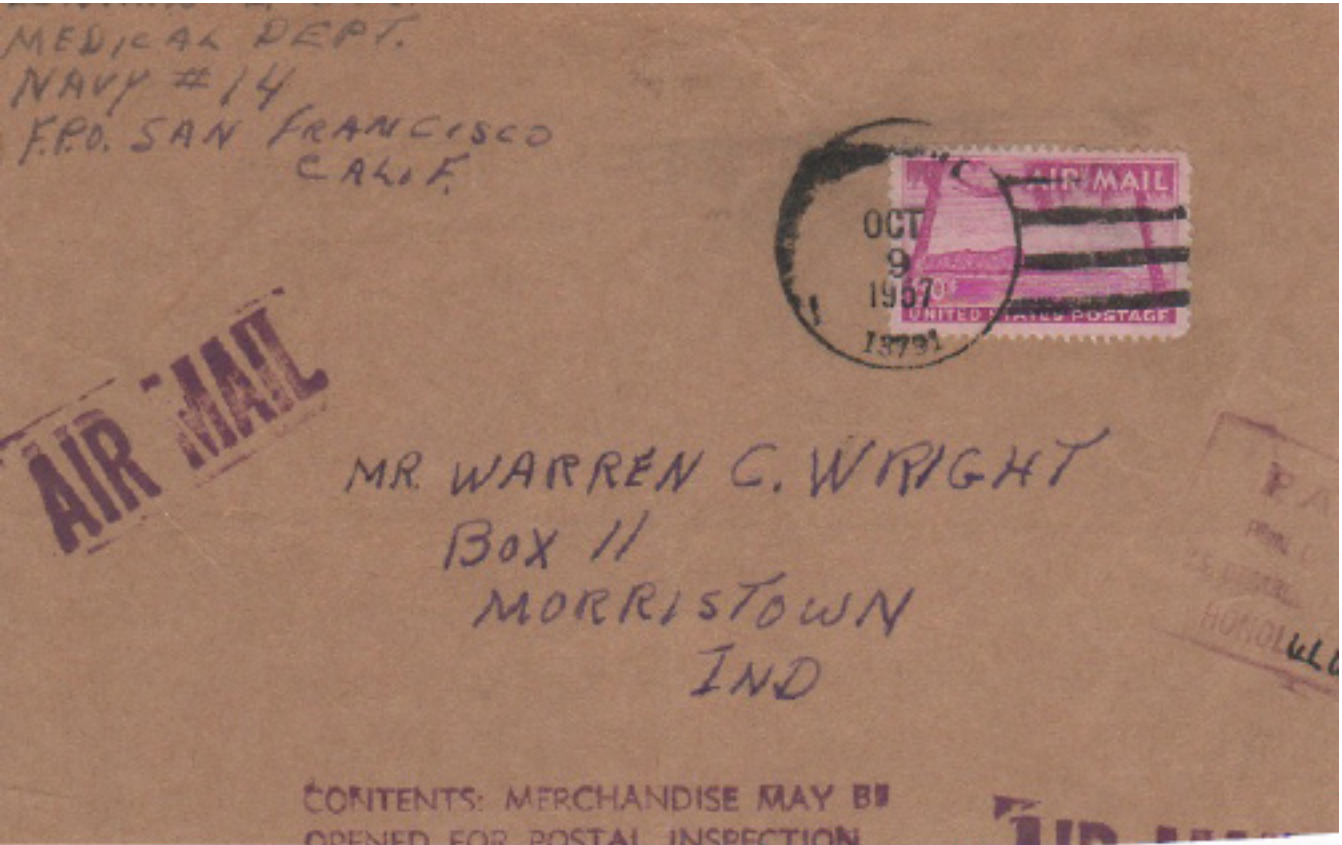
Therefore, the page header **“Non Air Parcel Post” ALERTS** viewer **“even though the exhibited items on the page use Diamond Head stamps - the items are NOT Air Parcel Post USAGES.”**

Only **“Exact Use”** item not exhibited has identical franking to “Holy Grail” and is in poor condition – it is not suitable for this exhibit.

“Almost Exact Use”

Piece below, cut from parcel of plants air mailed to mainland, had **agriculture inspection** handstamp but did **NOT** have

label from Hawaiian nursery so it’s **NOT** an **“Exact Use”** piece. Rather it’s an **“Almost Exact Use”** item, one of six in this exhibit.



Navy #14 (Barbers Point, Oahu, Hawaii) to Indiana — October 1952
1 pound air parcel post to Zone 8 = 80¢

Faint maroon hand stamp at right: **“Passed Agricultural Inspection Honolulu Hawaii”**

Only 5 **“Exact Use”** Items Exist –
4 of them are on the next 4 pages

1

Tongg’s Ranch Nursery

Solo

Discovered 2018

2

Ebesu’s Hilo Nursery

“The Holy Grail”

Discovered 2002

3

Crossley Nursery

Two Pound + SD

Discovered 2012

4

Crossley Nursery

Three Pound + SD

Discovered 2012

Aloha ... THE 80¢ DIAMOND HEAD STAMP OF 1952

EXACT INTENDED USE: Shipping Flowers and Plants by Air From Hawaiian Nurseries to U.S. Mainland

SUBJECT

Traditional exhibit of 80¢ stamp created to pay, with single stamp, air parcel post rate for grower to ship 1lb. of flowers to Zone 8 (>1800 miles).

CONCEPT

When Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson visited Hilo, Hawaii in Nov. 1951, an orchid grower requested an 80¢ stamp to facilitate shipping his flowers to the mainland.

DESIGN

Donaldson liked idea & he sketched design featuring Diamond Head. His sketch was not kept but BEP gave him 2 designs to chose from and he chose "Two Palms" design.

PRODUCTION

1st Day of Issue – March 24, 1952

Total stamps Printed: 34.7 mil

Total stamps Sold: 18.9 mil

Total stamps Destroyed: 15.8 mil

USAGE

36 difficult to find Air Parcel Post items, including 4 of 5 known

Exact Intended Commercial Use.

(From March 26, 1952 thru 1960)

DIFFICULTY OF ACQUISITION

This expensive stamp was not used frivolously — it was primarily used on heavy parcels. The stamps were discarded. Exemplary usages are difficult to find.

IMPORTANCE

Only U.S. stamp created for a specific air parcel post rate & 89,846 FDC's – record for high value stamp.

3 Plates Used for Diamond Head Stamp



Reserve Plate #24594 - One printing for 3% of stamps.



Photo courtesy of: HILO TRIBUNE-HERALD 🌸

NOVEMBER 1, 1951 - Postmaster General Jesse Donaldson and his wife being greeted upon arrival in Hilo, Hawaii by Hilo's postmaster (at left of Mrs. Donaldson) and other dignitaries. Later in day, at a luncheon for local businessmen, Hilo orchid grower Yaichi Hirose asked Donaldson to issue 80¢ stamp to pay, with a single stamp, to ship a pound flowers by Air Parcel Post from Hilo to the mainland - ZONE 8.

Donaldson liked the idea. Five months later, on **March 26, 1952**, in Honolulu, they held the **1st Day Celebration** for the new 80¢ stamp.

Exhibit Plan

SUBJECT FRAME / PAGE

Forerunner 1 / P2

Concept & Design 1 / P3

Production 1 / P4

Production Issues 1 / P5

Perfins & Precancels..... 1 / P6

First Day Celebration.... 1 / P7 to 2 / P2

★ ALOHA! Four Keys Explained.. 2 / P3

★ Air Parcel Post
Exact Intended
Commercial Use..... 2 / P4 to 2 / P7

★ Almost Exact Use.... 2 / P8 to 3 / P3

★ Air Parcel Post
To Zone 8..... 3 / P4 to 4 / P4

★ International
Air Parcel Post..... 4 / P5

Non Air Parcel Post

Domestic 4 / P6 to 4 / P7

Int'l AO Rate..... 4 / P8

Int'l Mixed Use..... 5 / P1 to 5 / P8

Int'l SOLO Use..... 6 / P1 to 6 / P7

Late Usage..... 6 / P8

KEY

🌸 = Original Research

★ 13 Unique Items