

Pearl Harbor 🍀 Its Postal History

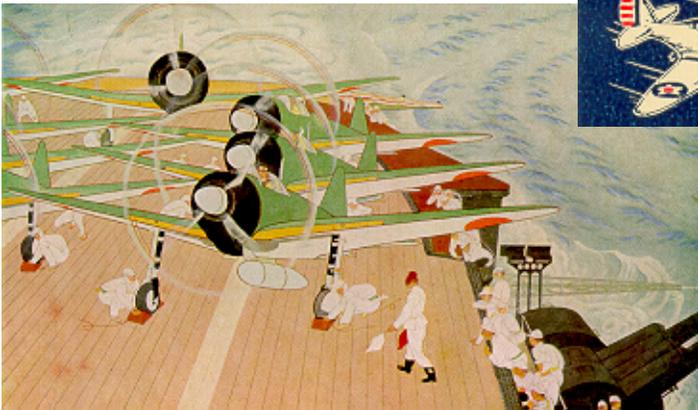


A prewar cover with a Crosby photo cachet and postmarked by the mail room on the destroyer minelayer USS Tracy, one of the vessels in the harbor when the attack occurred.

Sticker used on mail during the war.



Colorful Japanese postcard depicting dive bombers being prepared for takeoff on the morning of the attack. Printed and sold after the raid.



A \$1,500 find! An example of Pearl Harbor-related mail is this 1940 cover which is the only known usage of a 1938 definitive stamp on a cover sent from tiny Johnston Island in the Pacific. To Honolulu via the Pearl Harbor naval post office from a sailor aboard the USS Wright.

Johnston Island is a 60-acre coral atoll used in the war era as a strategic base for U.S. Navy patrol aircraft.

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There are many different kinds of mail that would be considered "Pearl Harbor-related." In essence, collectors are interested in postally-used covers (which can be even more desirable if the contents are intact) not only to and from Hawaii in the weeks before and just after the attack, but also mail from a much broader period to and from the 116 named ships that were in the harbor on the morning of the attack. Either kind of mail can be military--related mail or civilian mail (such as letters to and from sailors on the vessels, soldiers at Schofield Barracks, or airmen at Hickam Field.

Another important related area is the collecting of covers bearing patriotic slogans and artwork that were produced and in use after the attack and all during the war.

What's most valuable? We have found that there is growing serious demand for covers containing letters from sailors and other military personnel who are telling of their actual experiences during the attack. A seemingly common piece of mail like this that has been stored in a shoebox for 60 years could be worth as much as \$500 or more.

And naturally, if one finds a cover actually postmarked on the day of the attack, he can be assured of having a very important and valuable piece of United States postal history!

At left: An unusual patriotic cover postmarked from Pearl Harbor exactly one year after the attack and from the commandant of the

