

## German Postal Agencies in the Pacific 1886-1914

**Purpose:** Using Covers, cancelled stamps, postal stationary and used picture post cards the exhibit shows the postal history of Germany from 1886 to 1914. Each protectorate, colony, offices abroad, and sea post markings are represented. Historical events are briefly described for each area shown.

**Background:** In 1872 the German states and confederations came together to form the German Empire under King of Prussia, Kaiser Wilhelm Fredrick Ludwig von Hohenzollern (Name of the Kaiser Yacht seen on stamps) despite pressure, he opposed empire expansion. However his Grandson Kaiser Wilhelm II, age 29, favored expansion to colonies in the Pacific and Africa. German companies, traders, merchants and missionaries had sought such expansions from the beginning. The USA, Great Britain, with Commonwealth members New Zealand and Australia), France in Indo China, Japan, and China all had reasons for involvement in the Pacific region. Germany's late arrival was not always seen by the other nations as a welcome development. Coaling stations for merchant and naval war ships was essential. Traders on the Islands came from all of the nations mentioned and were in most cases hired by German companies as representatives, given their knowledge and having established a working relationship and trade with the island natives.

**Organization:** The exhibit starts with two protectorates that became colonies. Major German companies, one in New Guinea and one in the Marshall Islands, where instrumental in the development of the Pacific region, providing economic advantages. The exhibit ends with covers from German 'Deutsche Seepost' boat routes that tied the colonies together and supported merchant routes, with profits from copra, shells, cocoa, 'Beche-de-mer' sea slugs (to China), and phosphate. Each section of the exhibit will give the opening and closing dates of the postal agencies. The philatelic examples will be within those date ranges. Brief Background information will explain the island conflicts and relationships between nations that would impact postal delivery and agencies. Items are presented in chronological order by date. The stamps will be given issue dates by the German government. Scarce and unique items are matted in blue including mail between the colonies. When appropriate to the story, incoming mail is included.