Ryukyu Islands

The Ryukyu Islands, also known as the Nansei Islands, are a chain of islands in the western Pacific, on the eastern limit of the East China Sea and to the southwest of the island of Kyūshū in Japan. From about 1829 until the mid 20th century, they were alternately called Luchu, Loochoo, or Lewchew, in an attempt to reproduce the Mandarin pronunciation Liuqiu. They stretch southwest from the Japanese island of Kyūshū to within 120 kilometres (75 mi) of the island of Taiwan.
RYUKYU ISLANDS
PROVISIONAL ISSUES
Miyako District
Stamps of Japan Handstamped
in Vermillion or Red
1946-47
Handstamp Surcharged in Black
with Two Japanese Characters

Same as
Scott 3X2
1 Y on 2 S
CRIMSON
Scott 3X26

Same as
Scott 3X2
1 Y on 3 S
BROWN
Scott 3X27

Same as
Scott 3X2
2 Y on 2 S
CRIMSON
Scott 3X28

Same as
Scott 3X2
2 Y on 2 S
VERMILLION
Scott 3X28a

Same as
Scott 3X4
5 Y on 5 S
BROWN LAKE
Scott 3X30

Same as
Scott 3X8
10 Y on 10 S
CRIMSON &
DULL ROSE
Scott 3X31
RYUKYU ISLANDS
PROVISIONAL ISSUES
Kume
1945

Okinawa District
Stamps of Japan
Handstamped in Black
1947

Same as Scott 2X15
10 c
RED ORANGE
Scott 4X1

Same as Scott 2X15
20 c
ULTRAMARINE
Scott 4X2

Same as Scott 2X22
50 c
DARK BROWN
Scott 4X3

Same as Scott 2X22
1 y
ULTRAMARINE
Scott 4X4

Yaeyama District
Stamps of Japan
Handstamped in Black
1948

Same as Scott 3X4
4 s
DARK GREEN
Scott 3X1

Same as Scott 3X4
5 s
BROWN LAKE
Scott 3X2

Same as Scott 3X4
7 s
ORANGE
VERMILION
Scott 3X3

Same as Scott 3X8
10 s
CRIMSON &
DULL ROSE
Scott 3X4

Same as Scott 3X22
50 s
DARK BROWN
( Imperforate)
Scott 3X9

Scott 3X6

Scott 3X10
10 Yen Surcharge

January 1, 1952
First printing

200,000 printed

Type A

Type B

June 5, 1952
Second printing

200,000 printed

Type A

Type B

August 12, 1952
Third printing

40,000 printed

Characteristics of the three printings

first printing

second printing

third printing

Type A

Type B
100 Yen Surcharge

June 16, 1952

10,000 printed
1958 Provisional Definitive Issue
Conversion to U.S. Dollar Currency

September 16, 1958

Issued without gum

Designs by Shin Isogawa and Masayoshi Adaniya

Quantities printed: 1/2 cent 1,000,000
1 cents 1,000,000
2 cents 1,000,000
3 cents 3,000,000
4 cents 1,000,000
5 cents 1,000,000
10 cents 1,000,000
25 cents 500,000
50 cents 250,000
100 dollar 250,000
1958 Provisional Definitive Issue
Conversion to U.S. Dollar Currency

April 20, 1961

Second printings issued with gum

25 cents  200,000 printed
50 cents  100,000 printed
Iriomote Government Park Essay

October 9, 1971

The stamp was proposed to commemorate the proposed Iriomote Government Park, but when the park authorization was rejected, the stamp was not issued.

In October 1971 the stamps were used as "validating labels" on currency conversion forms (dollars to yen).
RYUKYU ISLANDS
AIR POST STAMPS
1950

1951-54

1957

1960
RYUKYU ISLANDS
AIR LETTER SHEETS
1958-59

PAR AVION

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Metzger
P.O. Box 73
Koza
Okinawa

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Schickling
2451 Vistavia Road
Northwood Estates
Hanahan, South Carolina 29405
U.S.A.

AEROGRAMME

PAR AVION
V38 ... ANCIENT TSUBOYA WELL
Designer: Koya Oshiro
The well still exists but the cover and Banyon tree were destroyed in World War II. Wells in Okinawa were always considered important landmarks.
Thank you for taking a “tour” of the *The Ryukyu Islands* with us. These album pages have been prepared with items from the APS Reference Collection.

If you have duplicate stamps in your collection, please consider donating them to the APS Reference Collection to help us create future album pages.