

# PINEAPPLES

PIÑAS

ANANAS



The story of the pineapple (*Ananas comosus*) from its humble origins to a crop of major economic importance and its relation to man.

CORREOS DE COSTA RICA

IMPRESOS



Four centimos Wrapper for International Use

## Plan of the Exhibit

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

Let us begin our study of the pineapple with some technical information and terminology.

## 1.1 CLASSIFICATION AND TERMINOLOGY

The pineapple is classified by the binomial system of nomenclature of Carl Linneaus.



Sheet Stamp



Coil Stamp

The pineapple is in the family *Bromeliaceae*, the genus *Ananas*, and the species *comosus*. Common relatives you may know include ornamental members of the Bromeliad family.



*Tillandsia* sp. on upper branches; *Vriesea* sp. on lowers.

To assist you in understanding the pineapple plant, its various parts are shown and labeled below on this postal card from Ecuador.



Indicium (COPY)

Spiny variegated leaves

The Fruit

Used for propagation:

Fruit crown - used only after harvest

Slips - rise from stalk below fruit

Suckers - arise at axils or leaves

Ratoons - arise from underground portions of stems

## 1.2 ORIGINS

The pineapple is a New World plant.  
It is native to southern Brasil and Paraguay, especially in the Paraná-Paraguay River area.



Artist's Ink Drawing

Trail Color  
Plate Proof on Card ->



Red, 1929



Emerald, 1929



Violet-Brown, 1929



## 1.3 DISPERSAL

The AmerIndian natives cultivated the pineapple and spread it throughout the tropical New World.



Genuine



Genuine has clearer cross hatching in pineapple in U.R.



Probably Sperati Forgery



During his second voyage, Columbus discovered the pineapple on Guadeloupe in 1493 - where the pineapple is still an important local food - and again later in Panama in 1502.



Printer's waste and another bad stamp design - the coconut, watermelon, and citrus are not New World plants.

Portuguese traders and explorers brought the pineapple from Brasil...



... to India by 1548



... and to smaller islands.



... to the east and west coasts of Africa



## 1.3 DISPERSAL

The Spanish dispersed the pineapple throughout their tropical parts of their empire.



Captain Cook planted pineapples on various tropical Pacific islands in 1777 and 1778.



In 1838 Lutheran missionaries brought the pineapple to Australia where it still flourishes.



Cancelled: Ipswich June 27 00   Received: Brisbane June 28 00

Almost 100 years later, a pineapple tax was levied to improve and promote Australian pineapples.



## 2. CULTIVATION

The pineapple is now cultivated throughout the tropics and in some temperate climates.

A wide variety of distinct cultivated varieties (cultivars) have been developed to suit local soils, climates, and tastes. The obvious differences in shape and size are due to these differences.



The pineapple may be grown in small holdings like this 'plantation' in Tonga ...



Tonga Postal Card Cancelled: ? May 1910, Transit: Nukualofa 11-June 1910, Received: Wellington, NZ 20 June 1910

... or in large plantations for commercial use.



## 2. CULTIVATION

The pineapple is normally propagated vegetatively through ratoons, slips, or the tops of harvested pineapples, which are then set out in large fields ...



... and after 15 - 22 months, the juvenile green pineapples approach maturity.



Light Green



Dark Green



As most cultivars approach maturity,  
they become a gold or golden green color.

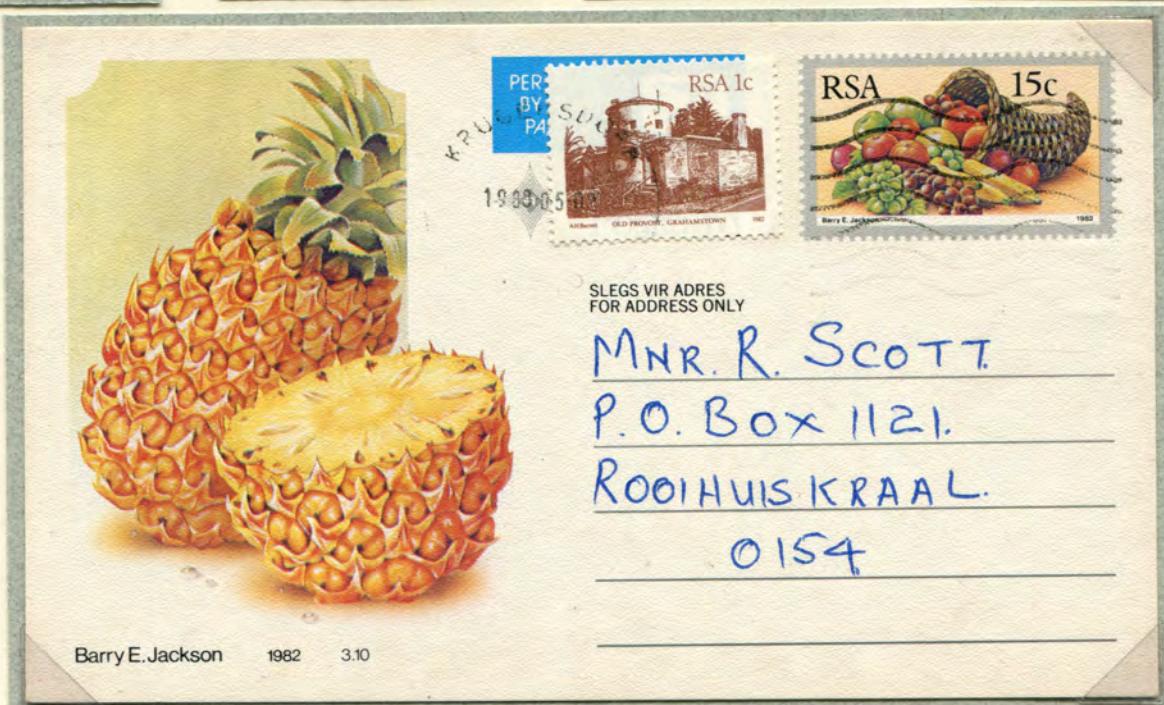


Unlisted imperforate variety

## 2. CULTIVATION

The timing of the harvest depends on the skill and experience of the grower.  
Harvesting is brutal work due to the spiny leaves.

Off to market.



## 2. CULTIVATION

Since the pineapple is grown only in the tropics and warm sub-tropics, we frequently find it grown near and used with other tropical fruits.

Lots of pineapples and coconuts on Maui...

... and a wide variety of fruits on Vanuatu. ->



Malaysia grows a variety of tropical fruits...

...but do not mix your addresses with your fruit.

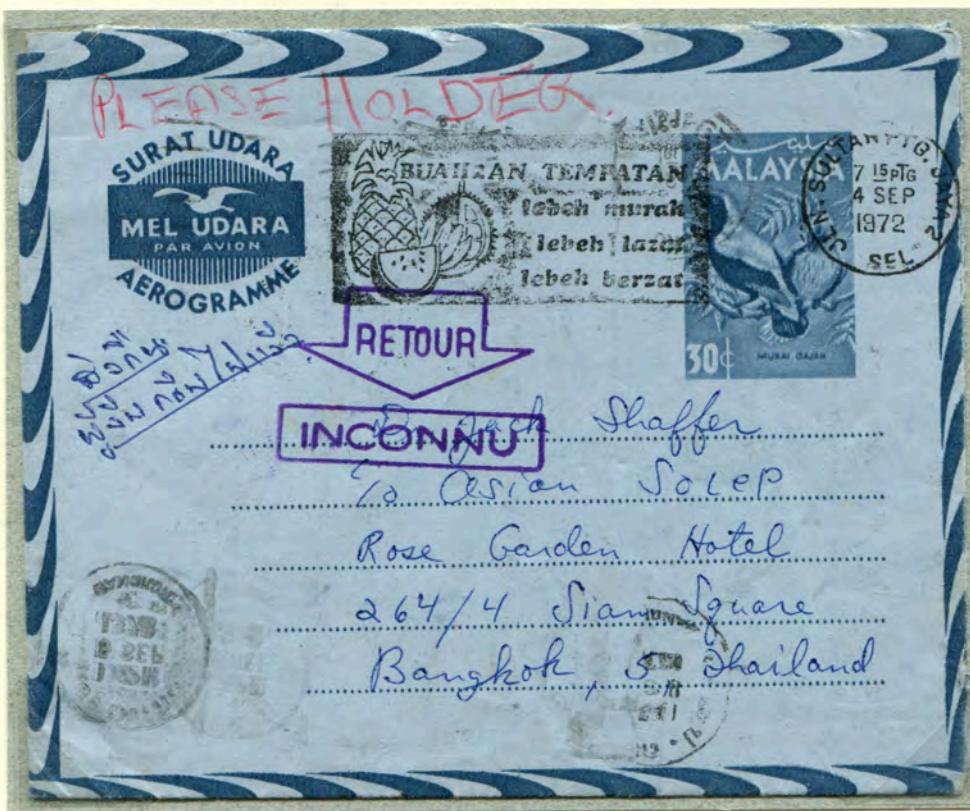
... including the pineapple.



Value in sen



Value in cents



Cancelled: Sultan Petaling Jaya, 4 SEP 1972  
Backstamped: Dead Letter Office, Bangkok, 26 SEP 72  
Kuala Lumpur, 3 OCT 1972



## 2. CULTIVATION

The recently harvested pineapples are gathered for shipping in wooden crates ...



1 penney Australia Illustrated Lettercard Sydney NSW 30 Dec 1914 to Maigill, SA 2 Jan 1915

... unless the barges carrying pineapple crates, general cargo, and the mails burn - which happened to Young Bros. barge YB10 while in tow with barge YB2 by the tug ELEU from Honolulu, Oahu to Kaunakakai, Molokai, HT.



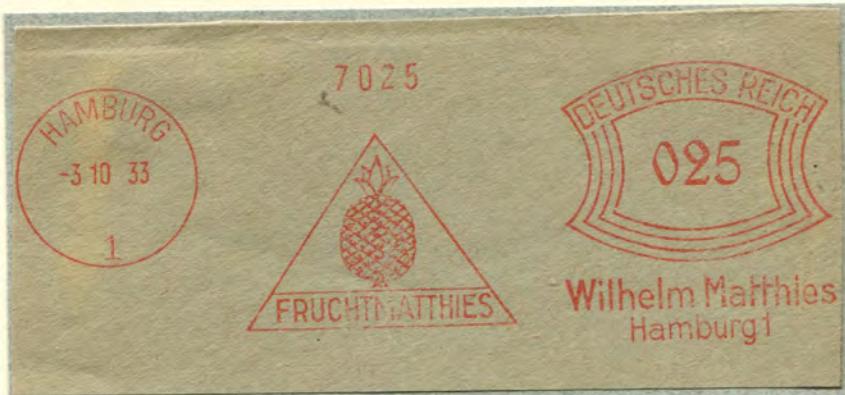
Letter from Dillingham Marine and letter from Captain John Flores,  
master of tug ELEU, concerning barge fire and damaged mail on back.

"The fire had so completely destroyed everything on board the barge other than a few items  
which were so closed packed and did not completely burn ...near to nothing salvagable."

### 3. PRODUCTS

Fresh or processed, the pineapple is delicious.

Fresh pineapples must be imported quickly since they have a limited shelf life.



Check out the fresh pineapples and other fruits available from...

a traditional bearer...



this Carmen Miranda look-alike or ...



Perf. SPECIMEN

... these local vendors.



Most pineapple is canned or processed for juice.



### 3. PRODUCTS

Pineapple juice, by itself or in combination with other fruit juices is popular...



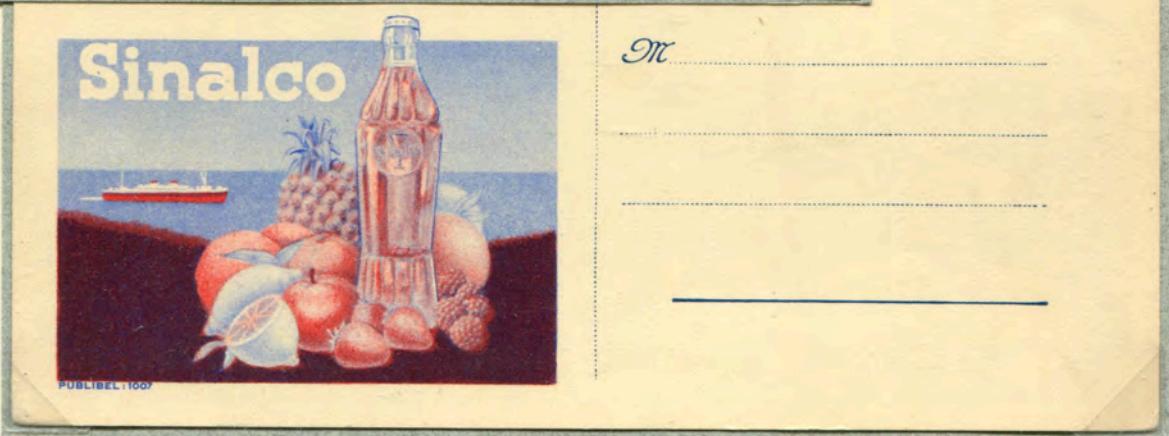
... in North America...

The high sugar content of the pineapple tempers the acidity of the grapefruit.



.. and in Europe.

SINALCO - oldest soft drink firm in Europe, founded in 1902. From Latin *sine alcohole* or without alcohol.



## 4. SYMBOLOGY

The pineapple has long been a symbol of hospitality and welcome.

The Carib Indians welcomed the Spanish  
with pineapple and other fruit (big mistake).

Welcome to the 2002 Mega-Event.

N.B. The banana is not  
a New World plant.



The carnival Pineapple Queen on St. Vincent  
will give you a welcome you will not forget!



William IV, known as *old  
pineapple head* due to an  
oddly shaped skull.

Never eat the  
Pineapple Fish.  
(*Cleidopus gloriamaris*)



Four stylized pineapples atop the entrance welcome us to the Martinique  
Pavilion at the 1931 French International Colonial Exposition.



## 4. SYMBOLOGY

The pineapple is an important part of Jamaican culture ...

from the five golden pineapples on the Coat of Arms designed in 1661 ...

... the pineapple watermark on its first postage stamps ..

... and the 1962 Independence issue.



1903 Issue



1910 Issue



Two pineapples grace a portrait of the Queen.



Booklet Pane (from margin of sheet stamps) and Inside Covers

A pineapple handstamp justifies the postage on this Official Mail.

### ON JAMAICA GOVERNMENT SERVICE

"NATIONAL ECONOMY  
OPEN Carefully  
RE-USE With Economy Label"

VN#6

462013/2

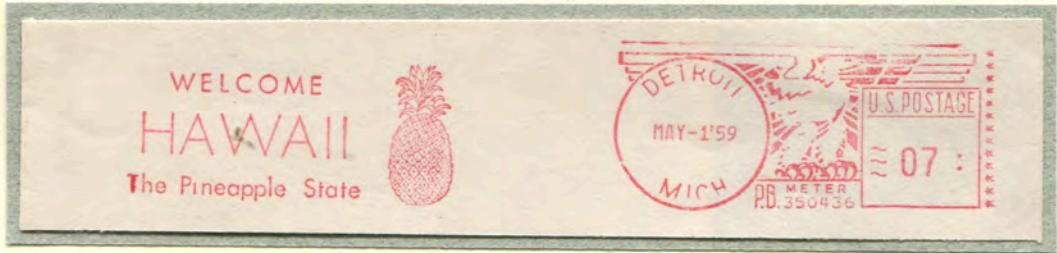
The Head Postmaster.  
Parcels Section.  
Toronto, Canada.



POST & TELEGRAPH HEADQUARTERS  
SOUTH CAMP ROAD,  
KINGSTON

#### 4. SYMBOLOGY

Hawaii is frequently known as the Pineapple State.



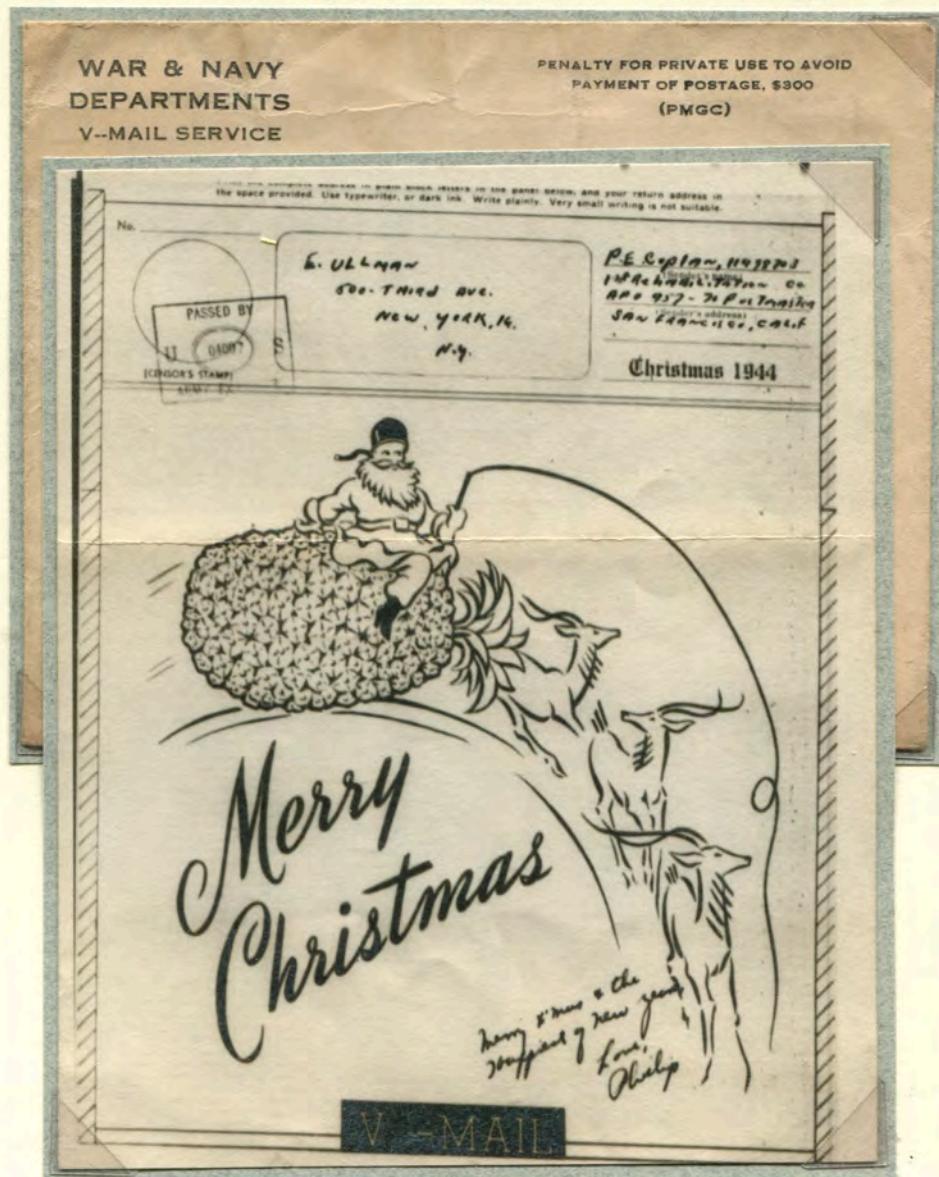
The U.S.S. PREBLE (DM-20) celebrated Christmas at Pearl Harbor, H.Terr. with this special holiday pineapple cancel.



The pineapple was a symbol of hospitality for Japanese immigrants to Hawaii ...



...and a pineapple and other tropical fruits helped Guyanese celebrate Christmas in 1974.



## 5. FINAL STOP

Let us conclude our story of the pineapple at...  
... a pineapple festival on Martinique or ...

MARTINIQUE



97216 Ajoupa-Bouillon  
obacs-ajoupa.com



... at the annual Nambour Stamp Fair ... →



20 cent Postal Card - Indicium same as picture.



held at the one and only  
**BIG PINEAPPLE** - a  
working pineapple  
plantation and tourist  
attraction in Nambour,  
Qld, Australia .



Indicium  
70% COPY