



Where in the world is: Inini, Isle of Man, and the South
Moluccas?
Jack Searles



Map of French Guiana including Inini

Source: http://www.pickatrail.com/jupiter/map/french_guiana.html

Here we are again, this time with locations literally on the other side of the world from one another. First, let's start with Inini....or more accurately the Arrondissement of Inini. At this time you must be wondering...what is an Arrondissement? Well, according to Webster's an arrondissement is an administrative district of some large French cities and/or the largest division of a French department. The origin of this word is, of course, French. By logical deduction than Inini must be somehow associated with France. Well it is. The Arrondissement of Inini is comprised of the greater part of the French colony of French Guiana. This



French colony is located in northeast South America lying north of Brazil and east of Suriname. Inini, during the period 1930-1946 was separated from French Guiana and is composed largely of the interior portion of what would become the colony of French Guiana. This area was reorganized in 1947, reunited with French Guiana and recognized as an Overseas Department of France. In 1945 the population of this area was estimated at 5,000, with a capital at St. Elie. Much of the Inini is composed of dense jungle through which rivers and streams provide the major and easiest avenues for transportation; Inini has an area of 30,300 square miles. France used French Guiana between the periods 1852-1939 as a penal colony, which included the infamous Devil's Island. Inini is considered to be an inactive stamp issuing entity.

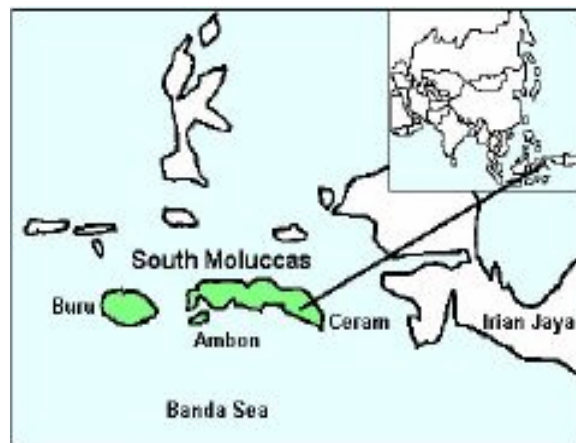


Coat of Arms Isle of Man

Then there is the Isle of Man. Geographically; the Isle of Man is part of the British Islands situated between England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales in the Irish Sea, west of Britain. The Isle of Man is a self-governing crown possession. The Isle of Man is a small country with a landmass of about 227 square miles and measures 33 miles by 13 miles. The Isle of Man has a rich history dating back to the fourth millennium BC when farming was introduced, the Manx Iron Age from 500 BC through 500 AD, the Celtic tradition through Christianity and the Viking rule of the 9th Century. During the mid 13th to early 15th century's sovereignty of this island passed frequently between Scotland, England and occasionally Ireland. By the 18th Century the Isle of Man had become a center for the smuggling trade, a



business which was ended in 1765 with the passage of the Re-Vestment Act and the purchase of the island for £70,000. During much of this period the Isle of Man used British stamps. After 1958 through 1973, British regional issues were used. On July 5, 1973, the Isle of Man postal administration separated from that of Great Britain and began the issue of specific and discrete stamps for the Isle of Man. The Isle of Man Postal Administration continues today to issue stamps on a regular basis oftentimes depicting colorful scenes and topics of local interest. The Isle of Man is now the annual location for a motorcycle race that has been commemorated several times on stamps issued for this country. The Isle of Man is currently an active stamp issuing entity.



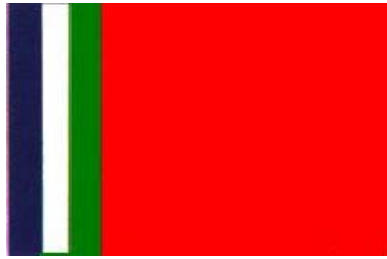
Location of South Moluccas

Finally, we come to the South Moluccas or Republik Maluku Selatan. **The South Moluccas** is composed of a large group of 150 islands in the East Indies, now part of Indonesia, in the Banda Sea. West of New Guinea. The main islands in the group are Ceran, Ambon and Buru. Approximately 1 million people live in the Republic of the South Moluccas. On April 25, 1950 the Malukan people declared their separation from both the East Indonesian State and the United States of Indonesia. The Republic



of Indonesia unsuccessfully attempted to negotiate a settlement with the Republik Maluku Selatan. On July 13, 1950 the Republic of Indonesia landed troops on the islands of Buru and Ceram. In November 1950, Indonesian troops occupied the island of Amboina. Moluccan resistance continued in the outer islands until 1955. During 1950, 17 Dutch Indies and Indonesian stamps were overprinted "Republik Maluku Selatan". Over the next year a series of pictorial stamps appeared on the market supposedly issued by the revolutionary government. Between 1951-54 a long series of South Moluccan issues were marketed in the United States, but there is no evidence that these issues were used in areas under Moluccan control. These stamps are considered a privately issued and are not valid for postage. These stamps are however listed in the Scott Stamp Catalogue. In 1966 the governments of the South Moluccas functioned as a government in exile in the Netherlands. In 1978, the Dutch government decided to regard the case of the South Moluccas as being closed, thus severing contact between the two governments. In 1991, the South Moluccas became a member of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO). In 1997-98, Moluccan separatism again emerged with the Indonesian economic crisis. In 1999 local riots and brutal Indonesian police repression revived local agitation for independence from Indonesia. The stamp issuing status of this country is considered to be inactive.





South Moluccan flag

Sources used:

Encyclopedia Britannica [Http://www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)

Isle of Man Web page [Http://www.isle-of-man.com](http://www.isle-of-man.com)

Kids almanac web page [Http://www.kidsplanet.com](http://www.kidsplanet.com)

Linn's Stamp News. Linn's world stamp almanac, 1982.

Linns Stamp News online [Http://www.linns.com/](http://www.linns.com/)

Merriam-Webster On line [Http://www.m-w.com](http://www.m-w.com)

UNPO Web Page [Http://www.unpo.org/](http://www.unpo.org/)

World animated flags [Http://auasgeo.span.cn](http://auasgeo.span.cn)

The Republik Maluku Selatan declared [Http://www.webcom.com/](http://www.webcom.com/)

Wood, Kenneth. Where in the world?: An atlas for stamp collectors, 1985.

