

1886

1888

TONGA NUMBER 1



DESIGN: Portrait of King George 1.

WATERMARK: N Z & Five pointed Star.

PERFORATION: First supplies delivered to Tonga were perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ but later this was changed to $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. 5 sheets (600) stamps were perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ by 10.

Dies engraved by A.E. Cousins and printed at the Government Printing Office, Wellington, N.Z.

12 x 11 1/2

0

1d TYPES

TWO DIES WERE USED FOR THE FIRST ISSUE OF TONGA, ONE FOR THE HEAD AND ONE FOR THE FRAME LINE. THE HEAD DIE WAS USED FOR ALL VALUES BUT A SEPERATE FOR EACH VALUE FOR THE FRAME AS THE UPPER ORNAMENTS AND LETTERING ARE DIFFERENT FOR EACH DENOMINATION.

THE PLATES CONTAINED 120 UNITS OR TWO PANES OF 60 OR 10 ROWS OF 6 WITH A GUTTER BETWEEN. FOR ALL BUT THE 6d THREE ELECTROS WERE PREPARED AND THESE WERE ASSEMBLED AT RANDOM TO FORM THE PLATE THUS CREATING THE VARIOUS TYPES OF THIS ISSUE. THESE VARIETIES ARE CONSTANT AND THE STAMPS CAN BE PLATED.



2 LEFT STAMPS NORMAL
2 RIGHT TYPE 2. POS.
40,41,46,47.

12x11 1/2

1d TYPES



TYPE 2: OVAL BROKEN UNDER FRONT LIMB OF "N" OF PENNY.



TYPE 3: OVAL BROKEN UNDER 2nd. "N" & "Y" OF PENNY.



TYPE 3: BREAK HERE EXTENDS UNDER "NN" OF PENNY AND ALSO PART OF "Y" OF PENNY.



TYPE 3 ON "FOUR PENCE" OVERPRINT.



BLOWUPS OF THE 1d SHOWING VARIOUS TYPES

2d TYPES



TYPE 2: OVAL BROKEN
UNDER TW OF TWO



TYPE 3: OVAL BROKEN
UNDER "WO" OF "TWO"



TYPE 4: OVAL BROKEN
UNDER "TW" OF "TWO"
AND UNDER "C" OF PENCE.



TYPE 4: WITH STAR
* OVERPRINT.

2d TYPE 4



BLOCK OF 6 ALL TYPE 4

A.A. ROSENBLUM WHO DID EXTENSIVE RESEARCH ON THE EARLY STAMPS OF TONGA AND ALSO PLATED THESE ISSUES MAKES NO MENTION OF TYPE 4 OF THE 2d THOUGH IT CERTAINLY EXHISTED. ONLY TYPES 1, 2, & 3 ARE MENTIONED IN HIS PLATING SEQUENCE.

6d TYPE 2



6d TYPE 2; TOP OF
"P" IN PENCE BROKEN

TYPE 2 ON 6d ORANGE
YELLOW (1892).

BLOCK OF 4 WITH 2
LEFT STAMPS TYPE 2
TWO RIGHT STAMPS "P"
SLIGHTLY FLATTENED.

1/ TYPES



TYPE 2 ONE SHILLING
OVAL BROKEN UNDER "NG"
OF SHILLING.



TYPE 3; AS TYPE 2 BUT
LARGER BREAK CONTIN-
UING UNDER "G".



PAIR LEFT STAMP TYPE 1,
RIGHT TYPE 3.

1891 OVERPRINTS



In 1891 the rate to England was reduced to 4d. Since there was no 4d. value in the first set a quantity of 1d. & 2d. were sent to Wilson & Horton of Auckland to be overprinted 4d. & 8d.



In November 1891 the remainder of the 1d. & 2d. values were overprinted with 2 small stars *. This was done to prevent fraudulent overprinting into 4d. & 8d. values. Two forms of the * exist, a short blunt star and a sharp pointed one.



VARIETY: No period after PENCE

VARIETY: 5 Stars



PERF. $11\frac{1}{2}$

PERF. $12\frac{1}{2}$

7+

OFFICIALS

Issued February 13, 1893



Official stamps were placed in use February 13, 1893 by overprinting Type A4 & A5 G. F. B. "GAUE FAKA BULEGA" (For Government Service) Of the 1d, 4d, 8d 6,000 were overprinted, of the 2d, 5,800 and of the 1/ 5,640. However a considerable number of these were ruined by climatic conditions and were later sold as remainders and a number also used later for the surcharges. Very few were actually used for Official use.

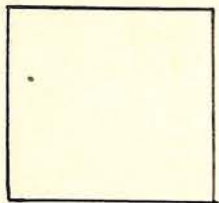


In December 1893 the Officials were surcharged with new values to conform with a reduction in rates on joining the U.P.U. Of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, $2\frac{1}{2}$ d & 5d 2,000 overprints were made and of the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d & 10d 1,500 each.

1894

Surcharged at "STAR" Office, Auckland N.Z.

Various errors as shown.



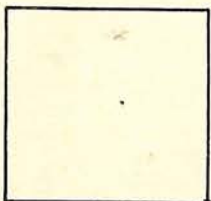
#21 Normal



21a "SURCHARGE"



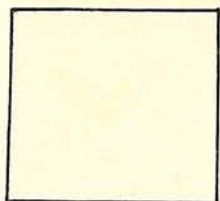
#22 Normal



22a DBL. SURCHARGE



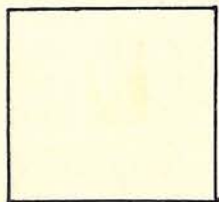
22b "SURCHARGE"



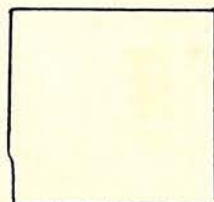
23 Normal



23a No period after surcharge
(poor registry)



#24 Normal



24a No Period after surcharge

76⁵⁰

10
13

1894 SURCHARGES

SURCHARGE.

HALF-PENNY

On One Shilling
Space between "E"
and "stop".



April 1894



SAME VALUE
FAULTY "S" IN
"SURCHARGE"

SURCHARGE

2½d.

On 8d Mauve



April 1894



SAME VALUE
No space between
"E" and stop

SURCHARGE

HALF-PENNY

½d on 4d.



November 1894



November 1894

SURCHARGE
2½d
On One Shilling

King George died February 1893 and was succeeded by his great grandson King George II. It was estimated stamps on hand would meet requirements untill a new set of stamps with the new King's portrait were prepared. However stocks of the ½d. and 2½d. of the previous overprints became exhausted. As their was now little use for the 8d. & 1/ values remainders of these were sent to the "Star" office in Auckland with instructions to surcharge the 1/ value with ½d. and the 8d. with 2½d. In November 1894 the supply of these was exhausted and a further supply was ordered this time using the 4d chestnut for the ½d surcharge and the 1/ King George I being surcharged 2½d.

TONGA

SURCHARGED AT THE "STAR" OFFICE



"NNY" OMITTED



"SURCHAP"

TISSUE PAPER WAS PLACED BETWEEN THE SHEETS
PRIOR TO SURCHARGING. SOME OF THIS PAPER
ADHERED TO THE SHEETS AND WAS REMOVED AFTER
THE SURCHARGE WAS APPLIED THUS CREATING THE
VARIETIES SHOWN.



"GE" & 2 1/2 ONLY
REST OMITTED.



"SU" & "D"
ONLY

1895 Provisionals

Prepared at "STAR" Office.



1d.



1½d.



2½d.

No "stop" after
surcharge



2½d.



7½d.

Since stocks of the previous provisionals were exhausted and the new George II issue was not ready more provisionals were required, but there were no stamps on hand to surcharge. All the plates had been destroyed so the required number of transfers from the 2d. die of the 1892 issue were made. The stamps then were given the required surcharges.

1895

No Wmk.

Perf. 12



HAAPAI Cancell.



Yellow



Orange Yellow

The first set of stamps of King George III were issued August 16, 1895. Denominations, 1d., 2½d, 5d, 7½d. Lithographed at the "STAR" office, Auckland N.Z. A poor printing job with many errors.

1896

1896

TYPEWRITTEN SURCHARGE

$\frac{1}{2}$ d on $7\frac{1}{2}$ d



VAEUA O BENI



VAEUA O BENI

$\frac{1}{2}$ d on $1\frac{1}{2}$ d



VAEUA O BENI

USED PAIR

-Penny-



VAEUA O BENI



VAEUA O BENI

HYPHEN BEFORE & AFTER PENNY

"HAFL" PENNY

In 1896 a shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps developed. To overcome this the Tonga P.O. first overprinted remainders of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ & $7\frac{1}{2}$ d values of the 1895 provisionals VAEUA OE BENI. These were later further overprinted "Half Penny" in English by typewriter.

A great many errors occur in the typewritten surcharge, most on the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d due no doubt to the primitive machine and inexperienced operator.



In June 1897 Tonga left behind the welter and confusion of the many provisionals, surcharges and overprints and engaged De La Rue to make a new set as per the above card. These stamps were among the finest ever issued and have been a delight to collectors for many years. The same designs except for portrait and watermark changes have been in use for over 50 years certainly a record for any country especially such a remote group of Islands. Actually Tonga took great pride in its postal system and it was the equal if not superior to that of many large countries. This was due in no small measure to the influence of the British missionaries who arrived on the Island as early as 1797. Later the missionaries were to become a strong force in Tonga and as they wrote home and remitted funds and up-to-date postal system was necessary.

No. 44 to 51

Wmkd. Turtles

By De La Rue



Vivid Colors!!



KINGS!!



SHADE

CORAL!!



SCENES!!



BREADFRUIT



PARROTS!!



The Friendly Islands comes of age at last with this beautiful set.

TONGA

1897

MINT

1897



1897
ISSUE



2588⁸⁵

21/8



A bisected 1d used as a $\frac{1}{2}$ d for the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d rate. A cover front only from Nukualofa 8 Oct. 1904



Bisected 3d used with regular 1d to make up the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d postage rate to England. According to Stanley Gibbons only the 1d, 3d & 4d were bisected officialy. On the reverse the normal Apia transit mark in German 19-3-00 and arrival mark of Manchester, Ap. 19-00, 3P.M.

HISTORICAL NOTE: By the Anglo-German Treaty of 1899 the U.S.A. gained control of the Western Islands of the Samoan Group, Germany acquiring the Eastern ones hence the Apian transit mark. By the same Treaty England gained a Protectorate over Tonga.



Type I
Thin "2"



Type II



$\frac{1}{2}$ d Dark Blue

Unused Copy

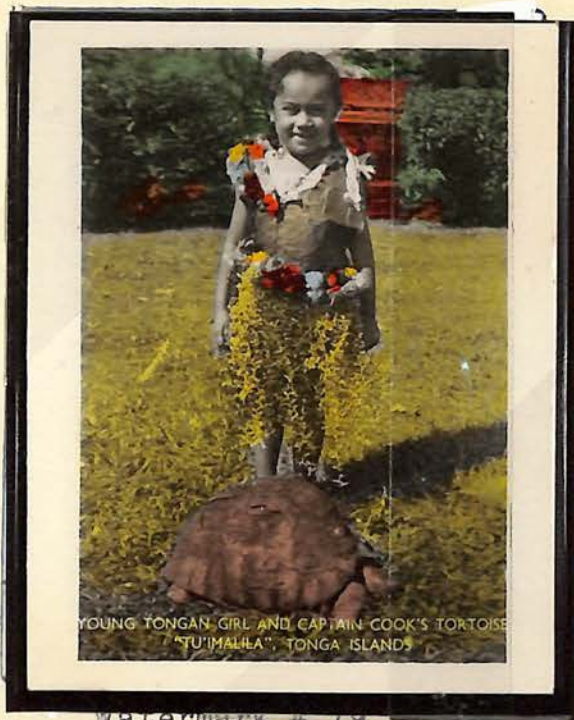


PAQUEBOT Cancell.

No. 1 of the 1897 series show the Arms of Tonga the work of Rev. Dr. Shirley Baker a prominent figure in early Tongan development. Dr. Baker was Premier for 10 years under King George 1 and was the power behind the throne in the last years of the King's reign.



The "Turtle" wmk.



The model for Left in Tonga 1776 it was a blind citizen un- Caught in a brush blind. The large picture was put hoof.

the Turtle wmk, by Capt. Cook in treated as an hon- till it died in 1966 fire it was totally dent visible in the there by a horses

Watermark # 19

1d Deep Red & Black



Mint Copy



Brown Shade



Manuscript cancell. 8/4/27



Nukualofa Cancell



Haapai cancell.

This stamp shows the Breadfruit Tree of Capt. Bligh fame.

copy

24

T O N G A

1897 2d KING'S HEAD



1st. Printing #28,29,30 WITH HILT

The original die of the King's Head showed a half length portrait of the King in uniform with the top of the sword hilt showing. From this die a plate of 60 impressions was made. This was the plate used for the 1st. printing of the 1st. value, the 2d.

It was then decided to remove the hilt and this was done by burnishing off the hilt seperately on each of the 120 impressions on the two working plates. This plate was used for all subsequent printings of all values.

However the master plate still contained the hilt. Later it became necessary to make a new plate (plate 111) and since the master plate contained the hilt the new working plate also contained the hilt again. However this plate was used for the 2d value only this being the only logical explanation of why the hilt reappeared on later printings of the 2d value.

60

25 2/3

1897 KING'S HEAD
Frame Plate Variety "THIN 2"

Pos.
#34



Pos.
#44



Pos.
18

Both Blocks First Printing, With Hilt



"THIN 2" on cover cancelled 10 oct. 1918 WITH HILT

2d KINGS HEAD



Type 11 NO HILT Different Shades



1905 No Hilt



1910 No Hilt



1912 No Hilt



1915 With Hilt



Cover cancelled 1903, NO HILT

No. 42

Blue color Fluoresces Green

2½d Black & Blue



PAKETBOAT Cancell.



HAAPAI



No Fraction Bar in "½"



VAVAU

No. 43 Olive Green & Black

Turtle Wmk.

Perf. 14



Mint

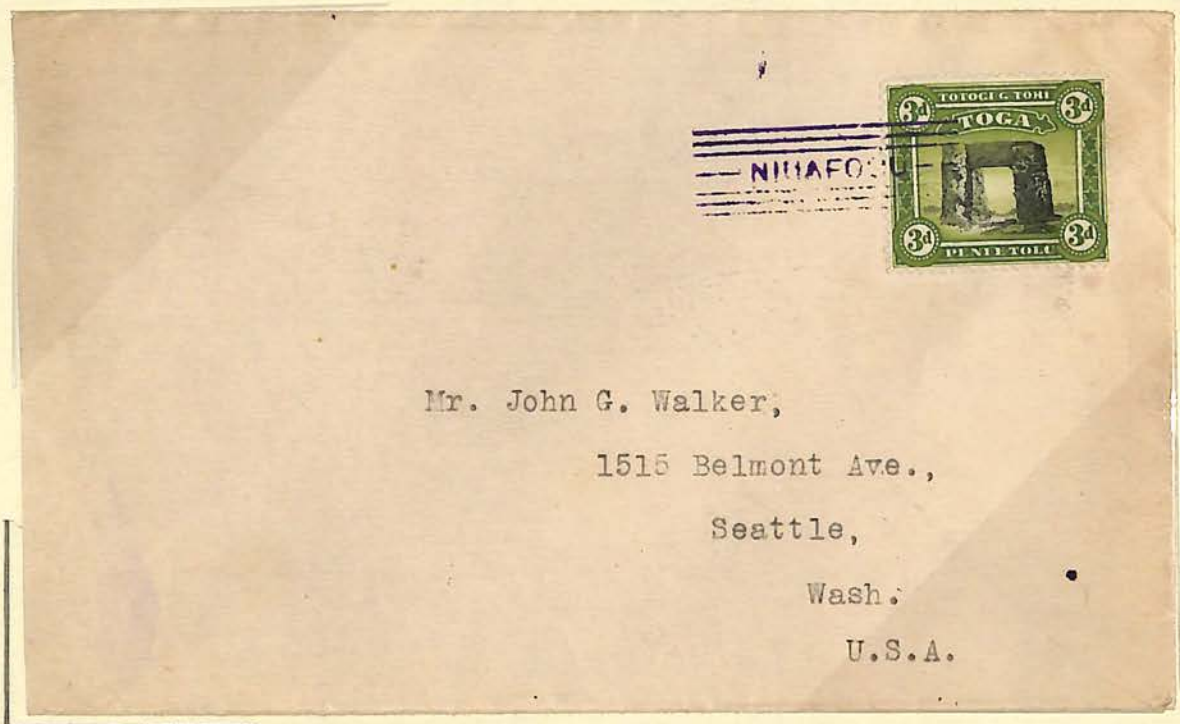


Manuscript cancell. 4/9/27



VAVAU Cancell.

Depicting the Haamoga Trilitheon, dating back to 1200 A.D. The upright monoliths of hardened coral are 17 feet high and the cross piece of the same material is 19 feet across and contains a cup like depression supposedly for human sacrifices!!. Each stone weighs about 50 tons. It is on the island of Mua where also may be see the terraced tombs of the ancient Kings of Tonga.



A color cancell. of Niuafou the famous Tin Can Island. This is evidently a souvenir cover as it bears no markings or any indication that it went through the mail.



#38,40,41 & 42 on registered cover with postmark of Nukualofa, Suva Fiji registration and transit mark 15 May 1916. Registered London E.C. 25 JU 16 and black arrival P.M. Registered 25 JU 16 Birmingham.

2d WITH HILT



#48 & 49 On cover to same address P.M. Nukualofa 17 Dec. 1915 9 A.M. Transit mark Suva Fiji, 28 Dec. 1915 Registered. Backstamp London Registered 31 Jan. 1916, Registered P.M. Birmingham also 31, Jan 1916.

3 Copies of 2d "WITH HILT"



The

Toledo Stamp Co.,

Toledo,

Ohio,

U.S.A.

REGISTERED

42628



31

40 (2 Singles) 41 (3 Singles) 43 & 44 Registered from Vavau 18 MR. 1915 3.20 A.M. Backstamped Seattle Wash. April 10, 1915 & Toledo Ohio April 15, 1915 both in Violet.

No. 52

View of Vavau

5 Shilling



Highest value 5/ on cover registered from Nukualofa Ap. 10 1899. Backstamped San Francisco, Calif. May 5, 1899. New York May 12 1899. Additional cancell. Baden Baden 22/5/99 and additional Molfratshausen 23 Mai. 99.



3 Shades of 1d Value



2 Shades of 4d Value



2 Shades of 5d Value



2 Shades of 6d Value



Unusual Can-
cell.



AUCKLAND
"LOOSE LETTERS"



"Socked-on-the-nose"

Wmk. Tortoise

20th. Anniversary of QUEEN SALOTE Accession



Tablet at foot dated "1918 - 1938"

Issued October 12, 1938

NH



The Royal Family with Queen Salote
in the center with her two sons and
their wives.



Queen Salote Accession on First Day Cover



Same set used on Censored cover in 1943



HA'APAI REGISTRY LABEL used in 1947



A scarce cancellation of NIATOBUTABU
T. & T. DEPT. On Keppel's Island it
no longer functions as a P. O. but
has only a telegraph station.



Die II



1942 - 49 Watermark changed to Multiple Crown & Script C A.

PUNCHED SPECIMEN



2d. QUEEN'S HEAD

TYPE III



In 1949 Printings were made from a new frame plate. The numeral of value is now a different shape, the foot of the "2" being longer. In script watermark only. This is Type III.



Type III
Cancelled 18 Oct. 1950

Pair Cancelled Jan. 16, 1951

T O N G A

Do NOT Fold.

HOLD FOR ARRIVAL.

T.O.M.H.
M.V. "Matura"

R
No. **3884**
NUKU'ALOFA,
TONGA.

G.P. Bairbridge,
SHERMAN P.O., B.C.
CANADA.

IF NOT CLAIMED WITHIN 7 DAYS RETURN TO BOX 1243, G.P.O.-VANCOUVER.



1942-49 Watermark change Registered from NUKUALOFA 6-7-49 transit mark Suva Fiji
9 July 49. Receiving mark Vancouver A.M.F. July 13, 1949

Lt. A. D. McCoy, Jr. O-271113
 77th C. A. (AA)
 APO # 930, % Postmaster
 San Francisco, Cal.



Mrs. A. D. McCoy Jr.
 Mayesville, S. C.

U. S. A.



*A. D. McCoy Jr.
 Lt Col 77th C.A.*

APO #930 WAS ASSIGNED TO TONGA IN MAY 1942 AND
 WAS SUSPENDED JUNE 14, 1944. COVER CANCELLED
 JAN. 8 1943

APO #930 WAS ALSO ASSIGNED TO NUKUFETUA, ELLICE
 ISLANDS BUT THIS WAS NOT UNTILL APRIL 15, 1945



Two souvenir covers probably prepared by a soldier stationed in Tonga, one in June 1943 and the other in Oct. 1943 from stamps purchased at the P.O. They are probably the set with Crown & CA wmk. which appeared in 1942. The 2 copies of the 2d. are both Type II but in two distinct shades.

20-

20-

WAR SOUVENIR COVERS



The 4 values to finish the set prepared by the same soldier. Crown & CA watermark.



It seems that the older values with Turtle wmk. were still available at the P.O. The 7½ & 10d values did not appear with the Script CA wmk.



1944- 25 January. Silver Jubilee of Queen Salote's Accession. Inscribed at foot 1918-1943.



A souvenir First Day cover of Queen Salote Jubilee set.



Same set registered from NUKUALOFA 8, Oct. 1944. Back-stamped San Pedro Calif. Nov. 20, 1944 & Portland Ore. Nov. 23, 1944. NOT CENSORED.



2000
10003

846

R. Neil Campbell

200 Milam Bldg.

San Antonio, Texas

R
No. 579
NUKU'ALOFA,
TONGA.



Cover showing use of REGISTRY LABEL in 1944 from NUKU'ALOFA.



REGISTRY LABEL from VAVA'U Post Office sent in 1950