



Tonga

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MDCCCXCIX - PUBLISHED - BY - THE
MELVILLE - STAMP - BOOKS,
47, - STRAND, - LONDON, - W.C.

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Tonga's Rarest Stamp.
7½d., 1897, with centre inverted.



INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE present work has presented several difficulties which may not be readily apparent to every reader, but which appear to call for special mention. Tonga does not loom very large upon the political horizon, but as a philatelic study it is of very considerable dimensions. So extensive is the subject that we were obliged to consider whether it were better to condense the material at our disposal by strictly limiting our observations on the stamps and the circumstances of their issuance, or to divide the work into two or more parts of the Melville Stamp Books. It did not seem that the latter course was altogether justified by the amount of interest at present evinced by collectors of these curious and varied emissions. We have therefore set ourselves to produce a *précis* of the documental evidence relating to the issues, and to a moderately-specialized study of the stamps themselves.

It may therefore be acceptable to the reader if we indicate here briefly the lines which appear most promising of yielding results to further investigation and study.

The compound perforation $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ offers some scope to the student of perforation varieties.

The arrangement of the settings of the stars, and the extent of the varieties of the stars printed in 1891 on

the stamps of 1886-88, deserve further attention, together with the possibility of finding both the single line and compound (comb) perforations in the stamps so overprinted.

The 1893 surcharges will bear fuller investigation, as also will practically all the later overprints. The typewritten *Half-penny* overprints afford endless varieties, of which only a select few are quoted in the catalogue, though the number is extended in our check list.

The arrangement of the transfers used for making the lithographic stones for producing the 1895 series (portrait of King George II.) is worth fuller study.

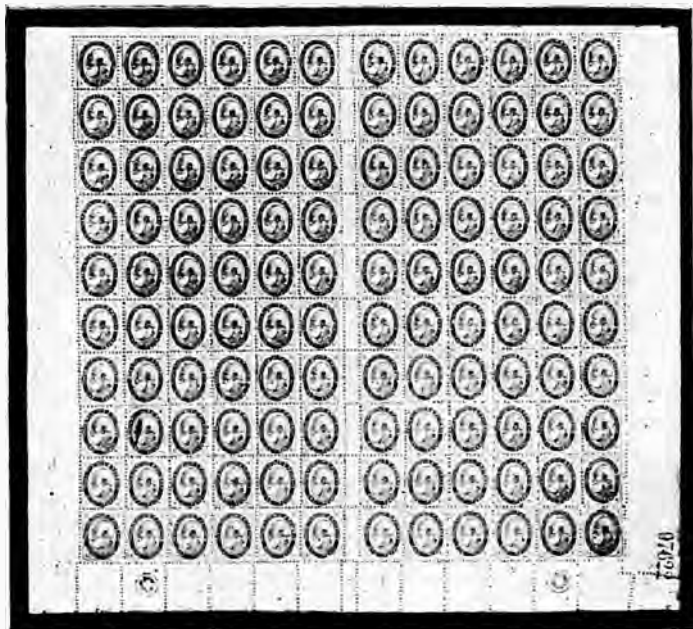
These are merely indications of the chief outlets for future philatelic energy in the sphere of Tongan emissions.

Our final difficulty has been adequate illustration. Having had the opportunity of illustrating complete settings of the surcharges practically all the way through the series of Tongan stamps, the size of our page and the necessity of keeping the booklet within the limits of one part has made it impossible to be quite so free with our illustrations as in other subjects lending themselves more easily to this style of treatment.

We have to express our indebtedness to the researches of Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, whose studies of the stamps of Oceania have been so uniformly thorough and documental that they must inevitably form the basis for all subsequent writings on Australasian and Oceanic issues. To Mr. W. H. Peckitt our thanks are due for the opportunities of inspecting many of the rarer items referred to in the course of the work.

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1d. Shewing the irregular
comb perforation $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.



T o n g a .

CHAPTER I.

The Islands and Their Posts.

TONGA was the name formerly applied to the southern section of the group which had been named the Friendly Islands by Captain Cook in 1777. The origin of the English name is attributable to the disposition of the natives as evinced by their reception of Cook, a disposition which to the British people has been again displayed in recent years, when Tonga became, by its own free choice, a British protectorate.

The name Tonga is now applied to the entire group hitherto known as the Friendly Islands, numbering about 150 islands, of which less than one-fifth are inhabited. They are situated in the Pacific, and are traversed by lat. 20° S., long. 175° W., the islands being disposed in parallel chains, of which the smaller or West chain is volcanic and the East chain chiefly of coral formation.

The area is 390 sq. miles and the population in 1908

(the latest census) was 21,695, foreign residents numbering 639. The inhabitants have been mostly converted to Christianity.

The largest of the islands is Tongatabu, on which is the capital, Nukualofa, where the native king has his residence. Other islands are Annamuko, Kotu, Hapai, Vavau, Tofoa, Eoa, etc.

The islands were discovered by Tasman in 1643; Captain Cook visited them in 1777. Treaties of perpetual peace with Great Britain, Germany, and the United States of America were ratified in the 'eighties. The Statutes and Laws of the Kingdom, as printed in 1888, describe the form of government as "that of a Constitutional Government under His Majesty King George Tubou his heirs and successors in accordance with the Constitution and is divided into three divisions

"1st The King Privy Council Cabinet [the Ministers]

"2nd The Legislative Assembly

"3rd Judicial."

The native King is required to take the oath of Coronation: "I solemnly swear in the presence of Almighty God to keep in its integrity the Constitution of Tonga and to govern in conformity with the laws thereof."

The person of the Sovereign is sacred. He is "the Commander-in-Chief of the forces on land and sea," he is "the Sovereign of all the Chiefs and all the people. The Kingdom is his."

The islands have been under British protection since 1899, the protectorate being proclaimed on May 19, 1900. British coin is the only legal tender, and Imperial weights and measures are in force.

The establishment of a post office appears to have commenced in 1886, and for a short time a quantity of the then current Fiji stamps, of the denominations 2d. and 6d.,* were used provisionally as Tongan stamps.

The following are some extracts relating to the chief provisions of the Postal Act approved by King George Tubou on December 23, 1888 :—

THIRTY-FIFTH CHAPTER.

[Kingdom of Tonga. Statutes and Laws, 1888.]

AN ACT.

PROVIDING for the Establishment and Regulation of Post Offices and the Conveyance of Mails.

Be it enacted by the King and Legislative Assembly of Tonga in the Legislature of the Kingdom assembled.

Section 1.—The Short Title of this Act is "The Postal Act."

— 2.—The Premier shall establish a Chief Post Office and appoint a Chief Postmaster, and may establish or appoint such other post offices or officers as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

— 3.—The Premier shall from time to time make regulations for the establishment and management of post offices and the receipt, despatch, carriage, and delivery of letters, packets, and newspapers, and for the conduct and guidance of all postmasters and other officers and servants of the Post Office, and such regulations shall be published in the "Tonga Government Gazette," and when so published shall be of the same force as if embodied in this Act.

— 4.—Relates to declarations to be made by officers upon appointment.

— 5.—Definition of town, country, and foreign letters, etc.

— 9-11.—Premier may make, alter, or amend scale of fees.

— 12.—Discretion of postmaster as to receiving letters, etc., of inconvenient size.

* With V.R. engraved, wove paper, perf. 10 or 10 × 12½, 2d. pale green, and 6d. carmine-rose.

— 13.—The Premier may authorise postage stamps indicating such amounts as may from time to time be deemed necessary for the purposes of this Act to be made and sold to any person applying for the same.

— 14.—Every postmaster shall keep on hand for sale without premium such quantities of postage stamps as shall be deemed sufficient, and shall sell the same to any person applying for them.

— 15.—Except in the cases expressly herein mentioned in that behalf, or in cases where any arrangement shall be made with the proper authorities of any foreign country as hereinafter provided for the postage upon every letter, packet, and newspaper, and all fees (if any) upon such letter, packet, or newspaper shall be prepaid, and such prepayments respectively shall be made by affixing thereon postage stamps not obliterated or defaced, and in default thereof such letter, packet, or newspaper shall not be transmitted or delivered, but opened by the proper officer and returned to the writer. Provided that postage on loose letters received from masters of vessels from places beyond the kingdom may be collected on delivery.

— 16.—Notwithstanding the enactment lastly hereinbefore contained, whenever it may happen that any postmaster shall not have any postage stamps of the requisite value for sale, the postage and fees (if any) upon any letter, packet, or newspaper may be prepaid in coin, and shall be acknowledged by such postmaster on the face or cover of such letter, packet, or newspaper.

— 17.—Letters, etc., insufficiently stamped but bearing lower postage rate to be sent, but double charge made on delivery.

— 18.—All foreign letters to be prepaid.

— 19.—The postage stamps upon all letters, packets, and newspapers shall be affixed upon the face thereof respectively and near the address written thereon, and no postmaster shall be bound to take any notice of stamps which shall be affixed elsewhere.

— 20.—Returns of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths transmitted by post need not be stamped.

— 21-22.—Relate to registration.

— 32.—The Premier may make arrangements for mail communications, contracts, etc.

— 45.—Whosoever shall fraudulently forge, alter, or imitate, or assist in forging, altering, or imitating, or shall use, offer, utter, dispose of, or put off, knowing the same to be forged, altered, or imitated, any stamp issued or made under the authority of this Act, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding four (4) years.

— 46.—Whosoever without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall be on the party accused) shall make, or cause, or procure to be made, or shall aid or assist in making, or shall knowingly have in his custody or possession, any plate peculiarly employed for printing any stamp used for the purposes of this Act or any Act relating to postage, or any die or seal peculiarly used for preparing any such plate or any plate, die, or seal, intending to imitate any such plate, die, or seal as aforesaid, shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding four (4) years.

— 47.—Whosoever shall make, or cause, or procure to be made, or shall aid or assist in making, or shall knowingly have in his custody or possession, without lawful authority or excuse (the proof whereof shall lie on the person accused), any mould, frame, or other instrument having thereon any words, letters, figures, marks, lines, or devices peculiar to and appearing in the substance of any paper provided or to be provided or used for postage stamps, or any paper in the substance of which shall appear any words, letters, figures, marks, lines, or devices peculiar to and appearing in the substance of any paper provided or used for postage stamps, or any part or such words, letters, figures, marks, lines, or devices, and intended to imitate the same, or shall cause or assist in causing any such letters, figures, marks, lines, or devices intended to imitate the same to appear in the substance of any paper whatsoever, or shall take or assist in taking any impression of any such plate, die, or seal as in the last preceding section mentioned, shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be liable, at the discretion of the Court, to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding four (4) years.



CHAPTER II.

Issues of 1886-88.



THE order for the first regular postage stamps of Tonga was placed with the Postmaster-General of New Zealand in 1886, and the following memorandum has been traced in the General Post Office, Wellington :—

POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND.

August 3rd, 1886.

To the Secretary for Stamps.

Memorandum from
The Secretary, Wellington.

Stamps for Tonga.

The Postmaster-General has agreed to print a series of postage stamps for the Government of Tonga. The plate for the penny stamp is now ready ; and Sir Julius Vogel would be obliged if the necessary instructions be given to the Stamp Printer to print 12,000 of the penny stamps. The cost of paper, printing, gumming, and perforating will be recouped to your department. The stamps are required immediately, and should be delivered to me. May I ask you to be so good as to retain custody of the die and plate until instructions received from the Government of Tonga as to their disposal ?

(Sgd.) W. GRAY, *Secretary.*

The stamps of the first series were of four denominations, uniform in design, bearing a portrait of the aged King George I. of Tonga to left in an oval, the whole design being modelled somewhat after the style of one of the familiar British Inland Revenue 1d. lilac stamps. A band of colour round the oval bears the inscription in white letters, TONGA POSTAGE AND REVENUE, and the value in words. The oval is squared up by a double-lined rectangular frame, the upper corners being filled in with slight ornamentation, and the lower angles with the value in figures.

The dies, of which there was one for each value, were prepared by Mr. A. E. Cousins, of Messrs. Beck & Cousins, Wellington. It seems probable that one die was used for reproducing the portrait oval for each value, but the oval band, lettering, and outer frame have differences which seem to shew that all but the portrait was freshly engraved for each value. As the differences do not seem to have been pointed out before they are enumerated here :—

1d.—The ornaments in the top corners are small, and the circular spots of colour in the angles are a good distance from the triangular frame lines. The letter N of TONGA is *nearly* level with the N of REVENUE. The down stroke of the G in POSTAGE is fairly distinct.

2d.—The corner ornaments at the top are much larger, the circular spots being close in to the angles. N of TONGA is nearly level with U of REVENUE. There is a widening at the lower extremity of the G, but no down stroke.

6d.—The ornaments are large, but the terminals of the curves are not so heavy. G of POSTAGE is like a C.

1s.—The ornaments are large and the terminals heavy. The G of POSTAGE is very nearly a complete circle.

There are very slight differences in the portrait oval, but these are probably defects of transferring the design from the original die to the subsidiary dies.

The dies were to be utilised for surface printing, and as Mr. Basset Hull, who has his information from the engraver, refers to electro-plates, they would be moulded to the required number of times in some soft substance, which would then receive an electro-deposit of metal which, when separated from the mould, would form the shell of the plate. The shell is backed by a layer of tin lead foil, the edges are bevelled, and the whole mounted type-high on wood or metal, according to circumstances.

The sheets of Tongan stamps of the first issue are composed of 120 stamps divided into two panes of sixty stamps (ten rows of six) as in the reduced-size illustration. The panes are separated by a space of $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. There is a circular plate mark above the second and eleventh stamps in the top row and below the same positions in the bottom row. A cross-shaped guide is also placed above number six in the top row and below number seven in the bottom row.



The paper used for printing the stamps was that known to stamp collectors as NZ and star ; the design consisting of a five-pointed star and the letters NZ, which complete watermark appears two hundred and forty times on the original sheet of paper, divided similarly to the paper used for the familiar Crown C.A. watermark used by the British Crown Agents for the Colonies. It is thus arranged in four panes of sixty watermarks. The upper two are separated by a space, in which are the outline letters NEW ZEALAND, which name is repeated at the top and bottom of the sheet. The long margins of the sheet contain the inscription, NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE, the letters being more widely spaced.

The occasion for the use of this paper, which had been specially manufactured for the production of New Zealand stamps, is partly gathered from the Memorandum quoted above. The stamps were prepared under the direction of the New Zealand authorities, and were printed at the stamp printing office at Wellington, New Zealand.

The first supply delivered to Tonga had a single line perforation gauging $12\frac{1}{2}$, and a further large supply was

afterwards ordered, which were perforated by a comb machine gauging 12 by $11\frac{1}{2}$. This perforation, which is very familiar to specialists in New Zealand stamps, is not exactly to this gauge throughout, and a note in the catalogue under New Zealand 1878 issue describes it as giving "a gauge of 12 horizontally and $11\frac{3}{4}$ vertically. Single specimens can be found apparently gauging $11\frac{1}{2}$ all round or 12 all round, but these are all from the same machine." The arrangement of the comb was as in the diagram, with a central narrow spacing to



perforate on each side of the space between the panes. The sheets were placed in the machine indiscriminately, top row or bottom row first. The pins were not exactly straight, and the method of adjustment was not efficient, as will be seen from the irregular lines formed by the vertical perforations in the complete sheet (page 10).

Of shades there is little variety in the perforated 12 series, the 2d. and the 6d. being apparently more uncommon in the deep colours.

In the perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ series we get a longer range of shades, due, in most instances, to the inequality of the printing, some of the impressions of the 1d. and the 2d. being very badly inked.

Of postmarks on these stamps we have seen all the $12\frac{1}{2}$ series used with the cancellation "TONGA" inset between seven bars, and also with the circular date stamps with either "TONGA" or "NUKUALOFA."

Mr. Basset Hull believes that the bar cancellation was used for all cancelled-to-order stamps, but it is clear it was also used for postal purposes, although the bulk of the postally-used stamps were obliterated with the date stamp. The NUKUALOFA and other town date stamps had the town name conforming to the upper curve of the circle and the name TONGA across the centre.

The printings of the stamps may be classified as follows :—

Perforated 12½.				
<i>Date of Printing.</i>	<i>Approx. date Issue.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Quantity.</i>	
1886, Aug. 6	Aug. 27	1d.	12,480	
" " 13	" "	2d.	12,480	
" Sept. 20	Oct. 9	6d.	12,480	
" " 24	" "	1s.	14,880	

Perforated 12 × 11½.				
<i>Printings of</i>			<i>Value.</i>	<i>Total Quantities.</i>
<i>June 16, '87</i>	<i>Sept. 8, '88</i>	<i>Dec. 18, '91</i>		
48,480	25,440	26,160	1d.	100,080
60,240	25,440	26,280	2d.	111,960
	25,440	26,400	6d.	51,840
	25,440	26,160	1s.	51,600

On June 10, 1892, the Postmaster-General of Tonga, Mr. A. Campbell, wrote to the New Zealand Secretary, Mr. Gray, ordering, at the earliest convenience, 10,000 sixpenny Tongan postage stamps, "the colour of same to be deep yellow or orange."

By this time negotiations were proceeding with regard to the preparation of a new series with a new design, but the printers, in the absence of other instructions, used the plate of the 6d. stamp of the first design, which had formerly been printed in blue. The reason for requiring the stamp to be printed in orange is not

known ; the instruction may have been given under an erroneous impression that this was the original colour of the 6d. value. The Postmaster's letter to the Secretary at the G.P.O., Wellington, acknowledging receipt of the stamps in this colour, which, it should be mentioned, were on the NZ and star paper and perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, is dated August 15, 1892 :—

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo advising the despatch of one parcel containing a supply of Tongan 6d stamps printed in orange.

The stamps were received in due course, and I now beg to enclose the sum of 16s., being the cost of printing.

Although this letter might suggest that the stamps had been received at least some days prior to August 15, the other official entries Mr. Basset Hull has turned up seem, in the absence of dated postmarks, to fix this as the probable date of issue.





CHAPTER III.
Overprinted Stamps of 1891.



THE year 1891 marks the introduction into the Friendly Islands of the surcharging which has made Tonga a more complex task for the philatelist than one would at first sight expect. The *raison d'être* of the first surcharges is said to be the reduction of the postage rate from Tonga to Great Britain *via* San Francisco to 4d. There was no fourpence value in the original series, which was still in use at this date, so a quantity of 1d. and 2d. stamps in stock was despatched to New Zealand, where the overprinting was probably executed by the firm of Wilsons & Horton of Auckland. The 1d. stamps

were used to create the new 4d. value, and the 2d. stamps to provide an 8d. denomination for the double Tonga to England rate.

The numbers known to have been surcharged were :

4d. on 1d., 12,720

8d. on 2d., 3360

though Mr. Basset Hull points to the strong probability, judging from the market value, of there having been an additional quantity at least of the 8d. printed.

The surcharges were set up in a bold block type, and our Australian authority says "the overprinting was done by means of a forme containing 120 repetitions of the surcharge," which would allow of an entire sheet of two panes being overprinted at one impression.



The centre stamp is the variety without stop after pence.

The overprinting, which was all done in black, has only produced two small varieties. In the overprint "FOUR PENCE," the period is omitted on the second and third stamps in the sixth row, and the fifth stamp in the tenth row of the right-hand pane. Taking the whole sheet the varieties are numbers 68, 69*, and 119. The left-hand pane is void of any error.

*Not as given by Mr. Basset Hull—"69, 70, and 119."

OVERPRINTED STAMPS OF 1891. 25

In the EIGHT PENCE on 2d. overprint there is a variety with a short top to the T of EIGHT. The position of this we have not been able to identify, having not seen it in a larger piece than a block of nine.

The overprints are only known perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, and are evidently a portion of the June 16, 1887, printing, the two later ones having been intended solely for filling orders in hand from stamp dealers.

The stamps were entered as received by the Postmaster-General of Tonga, under the date November 10, 1891, which is, doubtless, the approximate date of issue.



In making the preceding provisional issues, the Tongan authorities overlooked a point with which other and more important postal and treasury departments have come into collision. They had raised the value of two of their stamp denominations by what is, after all, nothing more than a few letters in ordinary printers' type. There was little to prevent unscrupulous persons from purchasing 1d. and 2d. stamps at face value, and increasing their value by having them overprinted similar to the official surcharges. When this became clear to the Tongan authorities they adopted

an unique method of preventing such illicit designs being fulfilled. They overprinted all the unsurcharged 1d. and 2d. stamps with two small star-shaped designs, so that they could be at once distinguished by these marks if any were fraudulently turned into 4d. or 8d. stamps.

There does not appear to be any definite information as to the place or the manner of the star overprinting, and although the stars are generally found to be fairly uniformly placed in the top right and bottom left corners respectively, yet the appearance of varieties shewing three, four, and even five stars on one stamp, and the *se tenant* varieties of which we have seen

- 3 and 4, vertical pair
- 3 and 4, horizontal pair
- 4 and 5, " "
- 4 and 4, " "
- 5 and 5, " "

all on the 1d., seems to suggest that they could not have been printed in sheets, panes, or even large blocks at one time. The overprinting was done in black on the perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ stamps, though it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that copies may turn up with the $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ perforation, of which there was a supply on hand in Tonga at the time



Error. Four stars.



CHAPTER IV.
Issue of 1892.



IN 1890, during a period of acute financial stress, Mr. Basil H. Thompson, Assistant Premier of Tonga, conceived the idea of changing the series of postage stamps. Considering that the expenditure of £40 would provide an adequate new set, he was assured of a revenue of £200 by the sale of the stamps thus rendered obsolete to dealers. The project fell through for a time, when the estimates obtained from New Zealand shewed that the cost of the engraving alone of four dies would amount to £140, and that the proposed issue could not be effected on the lines intended under an expenditure of £160.

The correspondence throughout the negotiations is given in detail by Mr. Basset Hull, but we confine ourselves here to the portions having immediate reference to the subsequent issue, which resulted from a resumption of negotiations at the end of 1891. On December 31, 1891, Mr. A. Campbell, the Chief Postmaster, wrote to the Secretary at the Wellington G.P.O. that the matter of the new Tongan postage stamps had been reconsidered and that a new issue had been decided upon, requesting that the work be put in hand as soon as possible. The quantity of stamps required was stated as 25,000 of each of five denominations, 1d., 2d., 4d., 8d., and 1/-.

The details of the designs were entered into in a memorandum accompanying the letter of December 31, and we quote these with a few additional parenthetical notes to avoid reverting to the designs again.

DIRECTIONS.

One Penny Stamp.—Design marked A, Coat of Arms in the centre. When the word "British" appears the word *Tonga* to be substituted, and *Buleaga o Toga* to appear in place of the words "North Borneo" on the circular band.

1d. to appear in each of the top corners.

On the lower part of the circular band the word *Postage* to be engraved as in design.

On the same place where "cents 6 cents" is shewn in design, the words *Peni e taha* [One Penny] to be engraved.

Otherwise the design to be adhered to.

Colour of one penny stamp to be same as that marked "1" in accompanying sheet stamp [marked "1" was New South Wales, "One Hundred Years" 6d. value].

Four Penny Stamp.—Same design as penny stamp, but in top corners the figure 4d. to be substituted for "1d.", and the words *Peni e Fa* [Four pence] to be substituted for "Peni e taha."

Colour of stamp to be the same as that marked "III" in accompanying sheet [III = Bahamas £1].

Two Penny Stamp.—The King's Head (as per engraving) to be substituted for the Coat of Arms.

The figure 2d. in each top corner, and the words *Peni e ua* [Twopence] on the space where "cents 6 cents" appears in design.

Otherwise the design to be same as described for the one penny stamp.

Colour of stamp to be same as that marked II [II = Bahamas 5/-].

Eight Penny Stamp.—To be same design as the two penny stamp, but the figure 8d. in each top corner, and the words *Peni e valu* [Eight pence] substituted for "Peni e ua."

Colour of this stamp to be same as that marked IV [IV = Bahamas 6d.].

One Shilling Stamp.—Same design as eight penny stamp, but the figure 1s., in each top corner and the words *Silini e taha* [One Shilling] substituted for the words "Peni e valu."

Colour of stamp to be same as that marked V [V = Western Australia 2d.].

The design submitted may have been a drawing from a North Borneo stamp, as there is no 6c. stamp of that protectorate bearing any similarity, though the large 50c. stamp of British North Borneo presents a very close resemblance to the smaller frame design of the 1d. and 4d. values of Tonga. During the progress of the work of engraving the dies, the Chief Postmaster wrote (April 28, 1892) requesting that if it were not too late the design of the border might be slightly altered, so as not to be an exact copy of the North Borneo stamp. Apparently in accordance with this request the 2d. and 8d. stamps were engraved with a border of similar shape but differently ornamented and shaded.

The engraving of the dies was entrusted to Mr. A. E. Cousins, who received the sum of £175 for the five dies and an additional £5 for alterations made.

The electrotyping and mounting cost £5 per plate (£25 in all), and the printing of 128,520, 1/7 per 1000 (£10 3s. 5d.). Both the electrotyping and printing were done at the New Zealand Government Printing Office.

The stamps were forwarded to Tonga on October 13, 1892, and receipt was acknowledged by the Chief Postmaster, November 22, 1892. They were all on NZ and star paper, perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

The following is a list of the values and their respective colours, together with the number forwarded by the New Zealand authorities :

1d. rose.	108 sheets.	25,920.
2d. olive-black.	107 ..	25,680.
4d. lake.	107 ..	25,680.
8d. bright purple.	106½ ..	25,560.
1s. sepia.	107 ..	25,680.

From these figures it would seem that the sheets as sent to Tonga comprised 240 stamps each in four panes of 60 stamps, though, as Mr. Basset Hull states the plates contained 120 impressions, each sheet must have been passed through the press twice.

The 1d. stamp of this series was bisected for use as a ½d. value from 1893, Mr. Hull describing a cover used 8th June, 1893, bearing two 2d., two 1d. stamps, and half of a 1d. used for postage 2½d. and registration 4d. to England. We have seen other similarly contrived provisionals as listed in the check list at the end of this work dated 12th June, '94, 25th May, '94, and as late as 20th June, '95.



CHAPTER V.

Overprinted Stamps of 1893.

ON April 14, 1892, the Chief Postmaster wrote to the New Zealand Post Office Secretary ordering a series of surcharges to be made on stamps to be printed from the current plates but in new colours. The order comprised :

3400 stamps from 1d. plate, printed in blue and surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

3000 stamps from 2d. plate, printed in green and surcharged $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

3000 stamps from 4d. plate, printed in orange and surcharged 5d.

3000 stamps from 8d. plate, printed in red and surcharged $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The stamps were evidently required in connection with the adoption of Postal Union rates, the 5d. and d. being multiples of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. charge. The stamps were printed on the NZ and star paper, and perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ (line machine). The overprinting was done in carmine, and the total quantities believed to have been overprinted were :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d. ultramarine.	29 $\frac{1}{2}$ sheets.	7080 stamps.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d. green.	39 $\frac{1}{2}$..	9480 ..
5d. on 4d. orange.	39 $\frac{1}{2}$..	9480 ..
$7\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 8d. rose.	15 ..	3600 ..



Mr. Hull states that he believes a die was cut for each overprint, and a stereo-plate made therefrom, from which the surcharge was struck. The evidence of the stamps themselves scarcely bears this theory out. In the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d. it would appear that two rows of six (or possibly two rows of twelve, although this is not so likely—we have seen but part of the left pane of a complete sheet) of the surcharges were set up in type, and these two rows then stereotyped to make up the required number. The large pieces examined shew varieties in the length of the fraction bar of " $\frac{1}{2}$ d.," and these are repeated uniformly on the stamps in the same positions in alternate rows. Stamp number 5 in rows 1, 3 and 5 has a short bar $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (the longest bar is 3mm., and the shortest 2mm.). Stamp number 4 on rows 1, 3 and 5 shews the fraction bar slightly shifted to the right.

Similarly in the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d. green we find the third stamp in rows 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 shewing a raised stop variety. Further evidence is provided by a close examination of the positions of the surcharge. On an almost complete pane examined rows 1 and 2 start to the left of rows 3 and 4, 5 and 6 are back again, 7 and



8 to right, and 9 and 10 still further to left. This in itself may not be sufficient to shew that the overprints were built up in stereotypes from settings of 12, but taken with the minor varieties repeating regularly so far as the stamps have been available for inspection makes it fairly clear that they were not built up from a single cut die. Similar points are shewn by the 5d. on 4d., notably the third stamp in rows 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 having a slightly dropped *t* in FIVE.

The overprinted stamps reached Tonga by August 21, 1893, which is the probable date of their issue.

On October 11 of the same year, 1893, a further batch of surcharges was ordered by telegram :—

Please have printed from twopenny plate 10,000 stamps, colour green, and surcharged twopence halfpenny in black ; and from penny plate 5000 stamps, colour blue, and surcharged halfpenny in black. Kindly forward as early as possible.

A. M. Campbell, Tonga.

These stamps of which the actual printing was

2½d. on 2d. 52 sheets. 12,480.

½d. on 1d. 25½ „ 6120.

were from the original plates, and overprinted apparently by the same stereotypes as the carmine surcharges.

They are on NZ and star paper, but this time perforated by the $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ comb machine. The varieties of the long and short fraction bars are repeated in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d., and the raised dots in stamp three of rows 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. A variety occurs in the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. with the fraction bar completely gone. The bar is at most a very thin one, and is often scarcely perceptible, but it can usually be seen on looking closely. The variety in question shews no trace whatever of the bar. It may be caused by the damaging of the stereo, and probably occurred in stamp three in either the first or the fifth rows, where on a complete pane inspected the line is almost gone. Anyway, the variety is a third stamp in one of the alternate rows as it has also the raised dot.

The stamps were despatched to Tonga October 16, 1893, and they were probably placed in use early in November.

Before leaving this series, which was the last to be printed in the New Zealand Government Printing Office, it should be mentioned that the 1d. ultramarine is known without the overprint " $\frac{1}{2}$."





CHAPTER VI.

Overprinted Stamps of 1894 and 1895.

WE next come to a peculiar set of overprints ordered early in 1894 to be applied to the 8d. and 1s. stamps bearing the threequarters face portrait (to right) of King George I. The 4d. (Arms type) was also submitted to similar treatment a few months later, and the stock of 1s. stamps of 1892 series having presumably run out recourse was had to the 1s. stamps of the first issue shewing profile of King George I. All the original stamps were on NZ and star paper, and perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$, except a few of the 1s. green of the first issue, which have been found perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$. The overprints applied were :—

“SURCHARGE HALFPENNY” in blue on 4d. lake (of 1892).

“SURCHARGE HALFPENNY” in black on 1s. sepia (of 1892).

“SURCHARGE $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.” in black on 8d. bright purple (of 1892).

“SURCHARGE $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.” in black on 1s. green (1886, 1887-88).

The inclusion of the word SURCHARGE in the overprinting is peculiar and may possibly have been originally due to a misunderstanding on the part of

the printer when reading his instructions. The result of the inclusion of this word is that we get a few errors or varieties. All the overprints seem to have been impressed in panes of 60, not in double panes.



HALFPENNY in blue on 4d. lake. The first stamp on each pane (left and right panes) has a broken y in half-penny. The word SURCHARGE is spelt SURCHARCE on stamps 12, 24, 30, 48, and 60 also on both panes. On a sheet of two panes there has been a shifting of the position of the surcharge before the second pane was overprinted.

In this and the other overprints of this series we get a range of curiosities caused by the surcharging of stamps which were in a more or less damaged condition before the overprint was applied, and also, in a few cases, by poor printing. The original designs of the stamps have, in some cases, been entirely peeled off by adhering to the gum side of another sheet of stamps. The surcharge, when printed on this, has the appearance of having been impressed on a blank, perforated, piece of paper. In other instances only

small portions of the design on the surface have been cleared away.

Part of the overprint, two or more letters, missing on some copies, is due to uneven inking or some other defect in the impression.

SURCHARGE HALFPENNY in black on 1s. sepia. The broken y variety is not here, and a change occurs in the positions of the error SURCHARGE, which is now on stamps 6, 18, 30, 48 and 60 of both panes. The stop after SURCHARGE in some cases adjoins the final E. We have seen this stamp with the lines of the surcharge in changed positions reading :—

HALF-PENNY SURCHARGE	instead of	SURCHARGE HALF-PENNY
-------------------------	------------	-------------------------

Also with double surcharge shewing both styles.

SURCHARGE 2½d. in black on 8d. bright purple. After the word SURCHARGE there normally appears a period which is quite prominent. The varieties known without stop are supposed to occur, left pane, 3 and 13; right pane, 3, 13, 14 and 15. No. 3 on both panes *has* a very small raised stop of a different font, and this variety re-appears in the printing on the 1s. green in a different row, but still a third stamp in the row. No. 13 is without the stop in both panes, Nos. 14 and 15 in the right pane both do shew slight signs of the stop, which prints boldly enough on the left pane examined.



SURCHARGE 2½d. in black on 1s. green. The small raised stop variety occurs on No. 33. The no stop varieties are supposed to be 33, 37, 38, and 39, but only 39 on each pane is clearly without the stop, Nos. 37 and 38 the stop being defectively printed, and on No. 33 the period is quite a different one.

Apparently the supplies of the old stamps were giving out in 1895, and in order to perpetrate renewed surcharges a fresh supply of stamps had to be prepared. As recourse was no longer to be made to the New Zealand Government Printing Office, the new printers, who were the printers of the *Star* newspaper in Auckland, New Zealand, made a lithographic transfer of the 2d. design of the 1892 series, with portrait of King George I. The lithographed stamps were printed on plain unwatermarked wove paper, in sheets composed of two small panes of 24 stamps each (4 rows of 6), perforated by a single line machine gauging 11½ to 12.

The overprints are all in red on these specially prepared 2d. blue lithographed stamps, the denominations created by the surcharges being :—



“Surcharge one penny.”

“Surcharge $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.”

“Surcharge $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.”

“Surcharge $7\frac{1}{2}$ d.”

each overprint being in two lines reading upwards.

In the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. surcharge stamps 16 and 23 on the left-hand pane the large 1 of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. is serif-less. There are two types of the 2 of the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ d. One has a straight foot and the foot of the other turns up.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. is the only one of this set which has a period after the word SURCHARGE. The no stop error of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. occurs on the third stamp in the right-hand pane. There are two varieties of the 2 in the fraction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., one having a more open top than the other. The SURCHARCE error is reported here, but it does not occur on the left pane or on the first four vertical columns of the right pane. It must, therefore, be in the vertical columns 5 or 6 of the right-hand pane.





CHAPTER VII.

Issues of 1895 and 1896 (King George II.).



THE next change in Tongan stamps is to a complete new series of four values bearing a portrait of the new King, George II., great-grandson of the old King, who had died on February 18, 1893. The preparation of the stamps with the portrait of George II. did not begin until 1895, when the work was entrusted to the printers of the *Auckland Star*.

The design of the new stamps shews a full-face portrait of the monarch, not, we are told, a very good likeness. The portrait is in a circle surrounded by an oval band bearing the white letters on coloured ground, BULEAGA O TOGA — POSTAGE, and above, TONGA, on a curved band. A heavy tablet of colour below the

portrait circle bears the value in white numerals, and the design is filled out to an irregular-shaped rectangle by foliage and shading.

The stamps were lithographed in two sizes of sheets.* The 1d. and 7½d. stamps were printed in sheets of 48, divided into two panes of 24 each (4 rows of 6). The 2½d. and 5d. were printed in sheets of 72, in two panes of 36 each (6 rows of 6). The perforation is 11½ to 12 (single line machine).

There may be noted some slight variations in the value tablet of the 5d., due to defective transfers. There are two very distinct colours of the 7½d. value—yellow and orange. The serial numbers on our sheets are 1748 yellow and 1757 deep orange. The colours of the other denominations are—1d. grey-green, 2½d. rose, 5d. pale blue.

In 1895 and 1896 the 1d. value was bisected diagonally (right to left or *vice versa*) to do duty as a ½d. value, the stock of ½d. stamps having run out in November, 1895. Copies of this "split" provisional we have seen are—singles used at Vavau 16 Sp. '95; two 1d. and half 1d. postmarked PACKET BOAT (no date); a 6d. orange (1892) with half 1d., used at Haapia 29 Feb. '96; one 1d. and a half, used at Nukualofa 20 No. '95; two 1d. and a half used at Nukualofa 10 De. '95; and two 2½d., one 1d., and a half equalling 6½d. on a registered letter posted at Haapia 11 Sp. '96.

The portrait of George II., as depicted upon the stamps just described, did not give the Royal gentleman much satisfaction. The picture certainly is featureless.

* Mr. Basset Hull says "the sheets contained forty-eight stamps, etc.," but this is only correct as to the 1d. and 7½d.



Error SURCHARGE.

and it cannot be marvelled at that an effort was made to have a revised edition. The 2½d. stamp was redrawn and a fresh lithographic stone made and printed from in vermilion. On this the now familiar SURCHARGE freaks made their reappearance, printed in black, and not losing sight of the inevitable SURCHARGE error. The new portrait was little more successful than the old. The *Australian Philatelist*, which had described the first edition of the portrait as having a "boiled owl" appearance, dubbed the revised counterfeit presentiment as having a "benevolent burglar" aspect. The stamp was not issued without surcharge.



The stone evidently bore 48 repetitions of the original design, of which one pane of 24 is a transfer from the other. A variety occurs with a so-called stop after the word POSTAGE, which is No. 11 on each pane.

The SURCHARGE error occurs on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value, Nos. 6 and 18 on the right-hand pane, and No. 6 (and probably No. 18) on the left-hand pane.



The shortage of halfpenny stamps drove the postal authorities to desperation in 1896, and they had a quantity of the lithographed three-quarters-face portrait type of George I. already surcharged $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., overprinted VAEUA OE BENI (half penny) in black, reading vertically either up or down. Before these were put on sale they received a type-written surcharge "Half Penny" in English. There are various errors in the spelling of the type-written value, and some have large round stops after Half and after Penny, instead of hyphens. A list of these varieties is reserved for the check list.

The used copies seen have all been dated August or September, but without the year.



CHAPTER VIII.

The De La Rue Issue of 1897-1899.

THE "Tonga Government Gazette," May 27, 1897, contained the following:—

NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that on and after Tuesday the 1st day of June, 1897, a new series of stamps will be issued by the Tongan Postal Department, *viz.*:— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 10d., 1/-, 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, which alone will be available for postal purposes: and on and after the said day, *viz.*: 1st June, 1897, stamps of all former issues will be withdrawn from circulation and can no longer be used for postal purposes.

By Order of the Premier,

WILLIAM CAMPBELL,*

Postmaster-General.

CHIEF POST OFFICE,

NUKUALOFA,

27th May, 1897.

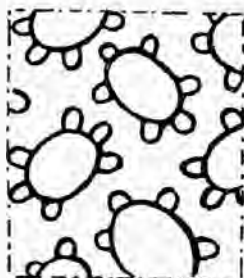
The new series of stamps had been prepared from photographs illustrative of local scenery and products, and includes a handsome portrait of the King, George II., and a representation of the Tongan arms. The

* Successor, but no relation, to the former Chief Postmaster, Mr. A. Campbell.

engraving of the dies and plates was entrusted to Messrs. De La Rue & Co. of London, who produced a series of *taille-douce* engravings of beautiful workmanship and rich colouring, which does much to mitigate the crudeness of the earlier postal emissions of the Friendly Islands.

The stamps were printed on white wove paper watermarked with numerous small designs of turtles, a special dandy roll having been procured by Messrs. De La Rue for the purpose. The perforation gauges 14, and all, except the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. and 2/6, are bi-coloured.

The designs and colours are as follows :—



$\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep blue.—The Arms of Tonga, bearing the motto KOE OTUA MO TOGA KO HOKU TOFIA. Above is the native rendering of the name of the country TOGA ; below the shield is a ribbon bearing the letters TOTOGI G' TOHI, signifying *letters paid*, and below this in one straight line VAEUA-OE-PENI = half penny (vae = division, ua = two ; *i.e.* an equal division in two parts). The whole design is divided into two parts, one of which, occupying two-thirds of the design,

contains the shield and inscriptions in words, and the other, which gives the stamp the appearance of the front of a "half-bound" book, contains the value in figures and an ornamentation of leaves.

1d. black and red.—Vignetted in black on a *plaque* background of red is a bread fruit tree with spreading branches. The inscription PENI-E-TAHA is Tongan for one penny, taha = one (see illustration, p. 53).

2d. sepia and bistre.—The vignette of George II. is in the sepia colour enclosed in a bistre-coloured frame with an oval opening. The value in figures is in a tablet below the oval, and below this, outside the rectangular shape, is PENI-E-UA = two pence.

2½d. black and blue.—Similar to 2d., but portrait in black and frame printed in blue. PENI-E-UA MO KOGA = *lit., two pennies and a piece.**

Error.—A stamp exists in the sheet of the 2½d. with the fraction bar missing from the value tablet.



* * The ordinary way of expressing a plural number with a fraction added. To be more exact would entail using the cumbersome expression 'Peni-e-ua moe vaeua oe peni.'—*Basset Hull.*

3d. *black and yellow-green*. — A view of the Haamonga monument, described by Mr. Basil Thompson* as consisting of "two upright monoliths of hardened coral, neatly squared, and across them rests a similar stone mortised into their summits. Each of these three stones must weigh, at least, fifty tons. I climbed them and found upon the top of the cross stone a cup-like depression, very carefully cut. The only tradition preserved is that the stones are the property of the Tui Tonga, and are called Haamonga, but their meaning is now forgotten. . . . There is a legend that the Haamonga stones were brought by the god Maui in a gigantic canoe from Uea (Wallace Island), and that you may see there great holes in the rock whence they were quarried. A European even assured me that the stone is of a kind not found in Tonga at all. This part of the story, at least, is not true, for the stone is mere coral, hardened by exposure, of exactly the same quality as the reef close by."

The view is in black on a yellow-green background, of which there is a very deep shade variety. PENI-E-TOLU = threepence.



* *Diversions of a Prime Minister.*

We have seen this stamp bisected and used on entire original with a 1d. stamp making 2½d., the rate to England, the letter being addressed to London.

4d. green and dull violet.—A bunch of bread-fruit shewn in a soft green colour (of which there is a deep shade variety), on a ground design in dull to deep violet. PENI-E-FA = four pence.

5d. black and orange.—The portrait design with the frame printed in orange. PENI-E-NIMA = five pence.



6d. vermilion.—A cluster of coral in oval, the frame being the same as used for the portrait stamps. PENI-E-ONO = sixpence.

7½d. black and green.—Portrait in black, frame in green. PENI-E-FITU MO KOGA = seven pennies and a piece.

This 7½d. stamp exists with the centre inverted.

10d. black and carmine.—Portrait black, frame carmine. PENI-E-HOGOFULU = ten pence.

1s. black and brown.—Portrait black, frame brown. SILINI-E-TAHA = one shilling.

There is an error known of this stamp with the second hyphen of SILINI-E-TAHA missing.



2s. black and ultramarine.—A view of the island of Haabai, with sailing vessels in the foreground. The view is in black in an ultramarine frame with an arched opening. SILINI-E-UA = two shillings.



2s. 6d. indigo violet.—A parrot perched amid tropical foliage and surrounded with an ornate upright oblong frame. Printed in one colour from a single plate. SILINI-E-UA PENI-E-ONO = two shillings and sixpence.



5s. *black and brown-red*.—A view of Vavau harbour in black, in frame similar to 2s. stamp, but printed in brown-red. SILINI-E-NIMA = five shillings.

The plates for all the stamps had sixty impressions, which, owing to the large size of the stamps, covered the superficial area of 120 ordinary-sized Colonial stamps. Mr. Hull is able to give the following list of items contained in Messrs. De La Rue's invoice :—

Engraving an original	½d. Postage	Plate.
	1d. Tree	..
	1d. Duty	..
	3d. Arch	..
	3d. Duty	..
	4d. Breadfruit	..
	4d. Duty	..
	6d. Postage	..
	2s. 6d.	..
Blank Duty Plate for use with	Portrait of King.	
..	Scenes.	
Scene Plate for 2s.		
..	5s.	

(Thirteen Plates).

Portrait of King.

Making 20 Working Plates, 60 set each, of the superficial area of 120 set Postage.

Making a Dandy Roll for producing Turtle watermarked paper.

The stamps charged for were—

Denomination.	Sheets.	Number of Stamps.
$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2000	120,000
1d.	2020	121,200
2d.	996	59,760
$2\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1992	119,520
3d.	1018	61,080
4d.	500	30,000
5d.	986	59,160
6d.	500	30,000
$7\frac{1}{2}$ d.	500	30,000
10d.	469	28,140
1s.	486	29,160
2s.	500	30,000
2s. 6d.	500	30,000
5s.	500	30,000

The error of the $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. with inverted centre is a very rare stamp, one sheet of sixty only having been known to have been printed thus. It was discovered quite by accident among the sheets in one of the post offices.

On June 1, 1899, King George II. (Taufa 'ahau) married, and the event was the occasion of celebrations, including a commemorative surcharge on the 1d. stamp of the 1897 series. The surcharge, printed in black, reads: "T-L 1 June 1899"—the initials of the bridegroom (Taufa 'ahau) and the bride (Lavinia). There is an error on this stamp which would antedate the nuptial ceremony ten years, "1889" being given instead of 1899.



1d. Overprinted "T-L 1 June 1899"
for wedding of the King and Lavinia.
Error "1889" *se tenant*.



CHAPTER IX.

Official Stamps.



IN 1892 the regular issue of Tongan stamps was adapted to the purposes of a series for Government departmental purposes. The plates of the 1892 issue were printed off in blue by the New Zealand Government Printing Office, and then overprinted G.F.B. in carmine. The letters G.F.B. signify Gaue Faka Buleaga, which, freely translated, may be taken as meaning "On Government Service," although Mr. Basset Hull gives, as a more precise rendering, "Work appertaining to the Government."

The numbers printed were :—

1d.	50 sheets.	6000 stamps.
2d.	49 "	5880 "
4d.	50 "	6000 "
8d.	50 "	6000 "
1s.	47 "	5640 "

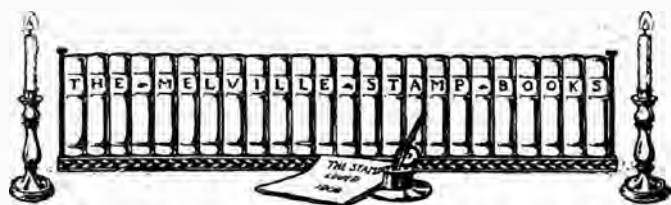
The date of issue is given by the Chief Postmaster, Mr. A. Campbell, as February 13, 1893.



At the end of the same year, owing to the adoption of Postal Union rates, these official stamps were surcharged to provide $\frac{1}{2}$ d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 5d., $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 10d. denominations. The overprinting consists of large figures of value printed sideways in black. The supply of these was evidently provided out of the total printings referred to above, and, consequently, could not have been large.

The issue of the provisional official stamps is ascribed to December, 1893.





CHAPTER X.

Bibliography.

VERY little has been written upon the stamps of Tonga beyond Mr. A. F. Basset Hull's able articles in the *Philatelic Record* (XX.), revised and extended in the *Monthly Journal* (XIII.). The student will do well to consult also the files of the Australian philatelic journals.

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P.J.G.B.—Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.

P.R.—Philatelic Record.

S.C.A.—Stamp Collectors' Annual.

S.C.F.—Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly.

S.G.M.J.—Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.

NOTE. Roman figures thus—V.—denote the volume, and Arabic figures 135 indicate the page. In a few cases the date takes the place of the volume number.

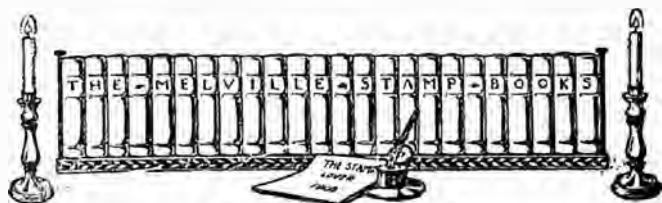
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CHAPTER XI.

Check List.

1886.—Engraved by A. E. Cousins, and typographed at the New Zealand Government Printing Office. Watermarked NZ and star. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1d. rose-carmine.

2d. violet.

2d. deep violet.

6d. blue.

6d. deep blue.

1s. green.

1887-92.—The same, but perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

1d. rose-carmine.

1d. deep rose-carmine.

1d. pale rose.

2d. pale violet.

2d. violet.

6d. blue.

6d. deep blue.

6d. orange (1892).

1s. pale green.

1s. deep green.

1891.—Provisionals. Overprinted in black. Perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

4d. on 1d. rose-carmine.

No stop after PENCE.

F of FOUR over E of PENNY.

F of FOUR over PE of PENNY.

8d. on 2d. violet.

Short topped T in EIGHT.

1891.—Overprinted with stars to prevent fraudulent imitation of preceding provisionals. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1d. rose-carmine (2 stars).

3 stars.

4 stars.

5 stars.

3 and 4 stars (vertical pair).

3 .. 4 .. (horizontal pair).

4 .. 5 .. " "

4 .. 4 .. " "

5 .. 5 .. " "

2d. violet (2 stars).

1892.—Engraved by A. E. Cousins, electrotyped and printed by the Government Printing Office, Wellington, New Zealand. Watermarked NZ and star. Perforated $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$. Designs—Arms of Tonga, 1d. and 4d. values; Portrait of King George I., 2d., 8d., and 1s.

1d. rose (Arms).

Half used as $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (cut diagonally from right to left, or left to right; or cut horizontally or vertically).

Half used with 2d. as $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Half used with 1d. as $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Half used with 2d. + 2d. + 8d. = 1s. $0\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Half used with 1d. + 1d. = $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Half used with 1d. + 1d. + 2d. + 2d. = $6\frac{1}{2}$ d.

(Postage rate $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to England + 4d. registration.)

2d. olive-black (portrait).

4d. lake (Arms).

8d. bright purple (portrait) shades.

1s. sepia (portrait).

1893.—Provisionals. Overprinted in carmine. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

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

Short fraction bar.

Long fraction bar.

Fraction bar shifted to right.

1d. ultramarine, overprint omitted.

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

Raised stop after d.

5d. on 4d. orange.

Dropped I in FIVE.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 8d. rose.

1893.—Provisionals. Overprinted in black. Perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

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

Short fraction bar.

Long fraction bar.

Fraction bar shifted to right.

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

Raised stop after d.

Fraction bar omitted.

1894.—Provisionals. Overprinted in blue and black. Perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. in blue on 4d. lake (of 1892).

Error SURCHARCE for SURCHARGE.

Broken Y in HALFPENNY.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. in black on 1s. sepia (of 1892).

Error SURCHARCE.

HALFPENNY SURCHARGE instead of SURCHARGE HALFPENNY.

Double surcharge.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. in black on 8d. bright purple (of 1892).

Without stop after SURCHARGE.

Small raised stop after SURCHARGE.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. in black on 1s. green (1886, 1887-8).

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1s. green, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Without stop after SURCHARGE.

Small raised stop after SURCHARGE.

1895.—Provisionals. Created by producing lithographed transfers from the 2d. of the 1892 issue. Overprinted in carmine. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12.

1d. on 2d. blue.

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

“1” of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. without serif.

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

Error SURCHARCE for SURCHARGE.

No stop after SURCHARGE.

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

1895.—Portrait of King George II. Lithographed by the printers of the *Auckland Star*. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ to 12.

1d. grey-green.

Bisected for use as $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. rose.

5d. pale blue.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ d. yellow.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ d. orange.

1895.—Provisionals. Portrait of King George II. redrawn. Overprinted in black.

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

SURCHARCE for SURCHARGE.

Stop after POSTAGE.

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

Stop after POSTAGE.

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

Stop after POSTAGE.

1896.—Provisionals. Overprinted with value in Tongan VAEUA OE BENI on lithographed provisionals of 1895, and further overprinted with typewritten value "halfpenny" in violet.

½d. on 1½d. on 2d. blue.

½d. on 7½d. on 2d. blue.

The varieties are very numerous, including :

Tongan inscription reading up.

" " reading down.

Raised E in OE.

" N in BENI.

Dropped BENI.

Typewriting errors :

Double f in "half."

" hlf " "

" hl " "

" a " "

" l " "

" second n in Penny.

" y " "

" ny " "

Half for Half.

" " " with Penny omitted.

Hwlf for Half.

P Penny for Penny.

Two hyphens after Penny.

Comma instead of hyphen after half.

Hyphen over comma after Penny.

Half.

H of Half over "P of" Penny instead of over "e."

H in Penny altered to P.

Penny twice on one stamp.

No hyphen after half.

Many of the above are repeated with the large round stops instead of hyphens after Half and Penny.

1897.—Engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co., London. Watermark turtles. Perf. 14. Centre portion in first colour.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep blue.

1d. black and red.

2d. sepia and bistre.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. black and blue.

Fraction bar missing.

3d. black and yellow-green (shades).

Half used with 1d. as $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

4d. green and dull violet.

5d. black and orange.

6d. vermilion.

$7\frac{1}{2}$ d. black and green.

Error, centre inverted.

10d. black and carmine.

1s. black and brown.

Second hyphen of value missing. "SILINA-E
TAHA."

2s. black and ultramarine.

2s. 6d. indigo violet.

5s. black and brown-red.

1899.—Overprinted "T-L 1 June 1899" to commemorate the wedding of Taufa 'ahau (George II.) to Lavinia. Overprint in black. Perf. 14.

1d. black and red.

Error, 1889 for 1899.

Official Stamps.

1893.—Same designs as regular issue of 1892, printed in ultramarine, and overprinted G.F.B. in carmine. Watermark NZ and star. Perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

1d. ultramarine.

2d. "

4d. "

8d. "

1s. "

The same, but with new value in figures overprinted in black, in addition to G.F.B. in carmine.

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

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

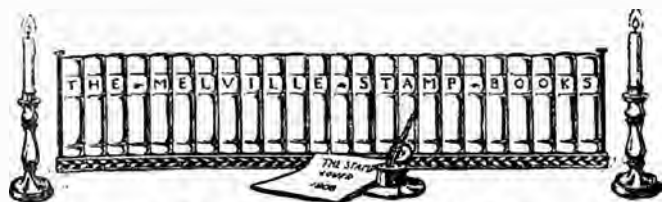
5d. on 4d. "

$7\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 8d. "

" $7\frac{1}{2}$ " instead of " $7\frac{1}{2}$ d."

10d. on 1s. ultramarine.





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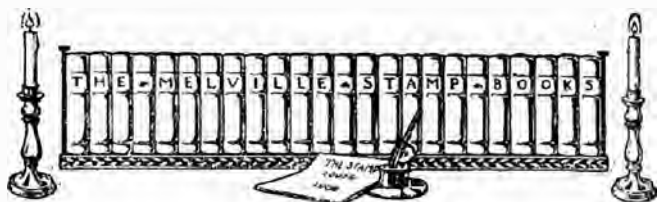
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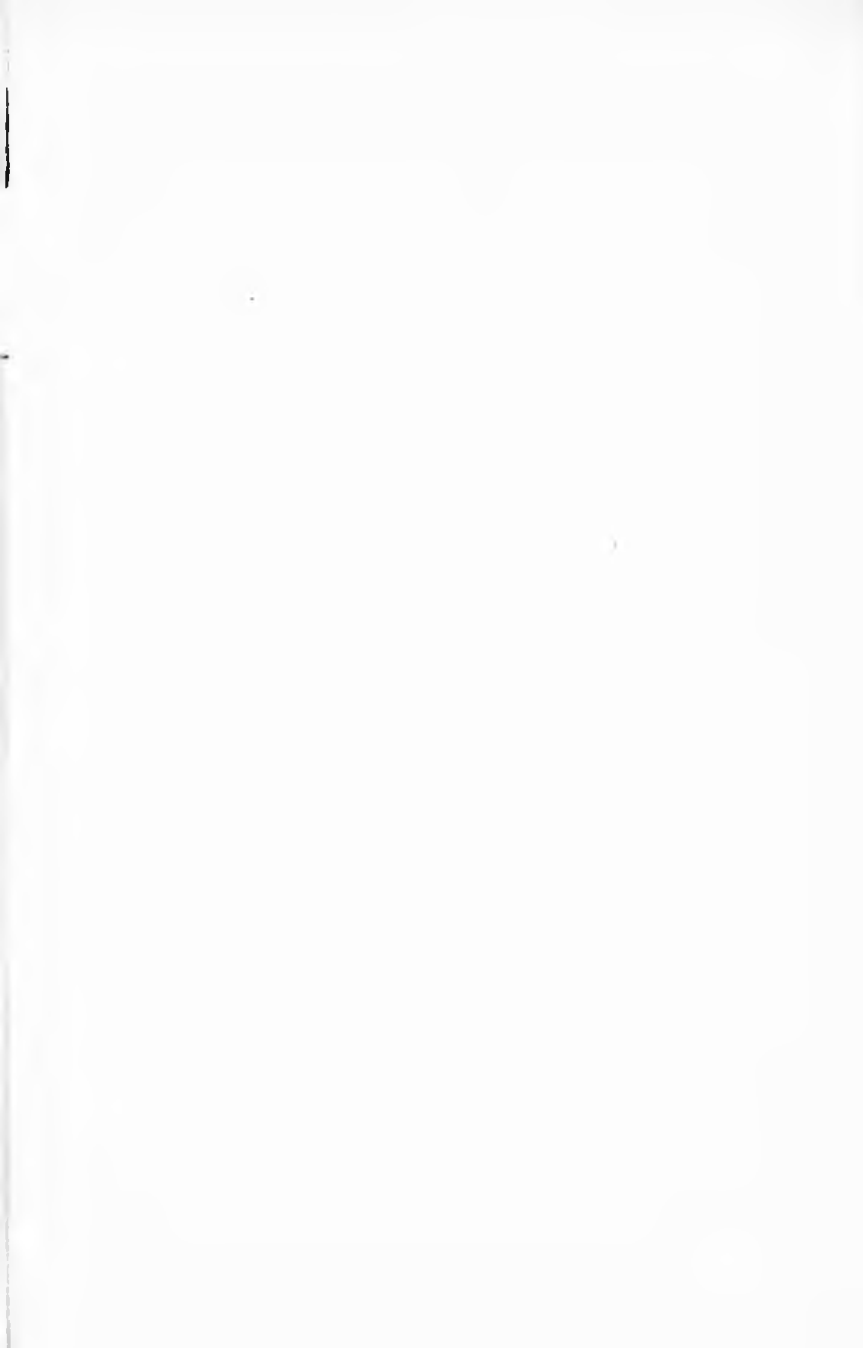
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