

The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

As previously mentioned, before the surcharge was applied sheets of these stamps were separated by sheets of tissue paper to prevent them sticking together. When it came to printing the surcharge, this tissue paper did not always separate from the stamp surface, leaving tissue on the stamps or, if the tissue was firmly adherent, skinning the stamps. The printers were not anxious to waste any stamps, so that we find stamps with surcharges applied over white, skinned areas, and in other cases to the still adhering tissue. Subsequent removal of the latter resulted in missing portions of the surcharge.



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The stamps were issued in two batches. A ½d on 1/- brown and 2½d on 8d mauve were issued in June, 1894 and a ½d on 4d chestnut and 2½d on the 1/- deep green came in November. On the ½d values, 5 stamps from each pane of 60 were incorrectly printed with "SURCHARCE" and 5 had a small "F". On the 2½d values, 3 stamps per pane had no stop after "SURCHARGE". In addition, the ½ on 1/- brown exists with double or treble surcharge, as shown.



Sergio Sismondo

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Syracuse, New York & Ottawa, Canada

TONGA, 1894.

Syracuse, New York, 2004.01.06.

I have examined the postage stamp issued by the Kingdom of Tonga in June of 1894, "**King George I**" One shilling brown, surcharged vertically in black in two lines "**SURCHARGE HALF-PENNY**", and showing the variety **double surcharge**, Scott Catalogue #22a; Stanley Gibbons #22c, unused, a colour reproduction of which is below, magnified to 125% of true size, and am of the opinion that:

The stamp is **genuine in all respects**, unused, with original gum, and is entirely free from faults or repairs at the time of examination. Previously signed by Alex Rendon. I have signed it.

Sergio Sismondo