

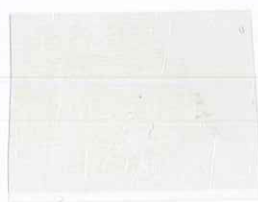
The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Only a few of the first issue were actually used, because new postage rates were introduced later that year. The remaining stock of Official Stamps was overprinted locally by hand, in pairs. Despite this, there are very few varieties, but the "D" is occasionally missing due to unequal pressure being applied, and there are very rare double overprints. The stamps were issued on 1st December, 1893.

Issued stamps:



Double overprint:



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Tonga has a long history of issuing Official Stamps. The first official stamps were printed in ultramarine from the 1892 postal issue and then overprinted in red with "G F B". These letters are an acronym for the Tongan words "Gaue Faka Buleaga", meaning "On Government Service". Five values were produced, 1d, 2d, 4d, 8d, and 1/- . They were issued on the 13th February, 1893. The 1d is known bisected on cover, but there were no printing nor overprint varieties.

