

## The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

The type-written provisional surcharges resulted from yet another stamp shortage. Remainders of the 1½d and 7½d provisionals were first overprinted in Tongan, and then further overprinted in English by type-writer. The sheets of 48 were split into 2 panes of 24 for the Tongan surcharge. Allowance for printing was made for a wide selvedge at either side of the sheet. Left panes thus have the inscription reading upwards, right panes have it reading downwards. The only error that is not rare is a double "V" of the first word "VAEUA".

The English overprint was added by utilising the office type-writer. As a consequence, there are hundreds of varieties extant. The rarest are said to be the inverted overprint and those with full stops instead of dashes. There are 144 errors listed in one catalogue. There are 2 perfs. Approximately 4500 of the 7½d and 1250 of the 1½d were issued, commencing in September, 1896.

