

The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Two philatelic covers addressed to stamp dealers on different continents that have been met before. This cover is franked with SG nos 12, 18, 21, 22, 23 & 24. There are no varieties. The postmark is Proud type D2, dated 27 Feb 1895, but with large "95".

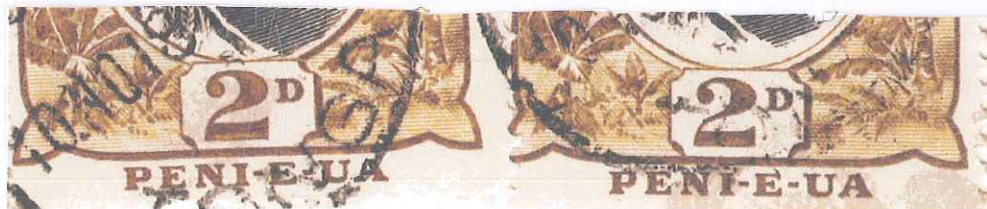


Mr Bickel was active in San Marino and at several German addresses. Here is a cover addressed to him in Baden-Baden, readdressed to Munich.. SG nos 46 – 50 are cancelled by the Nuku'alofa s/c (Proud D4) for 10th April, 1899.



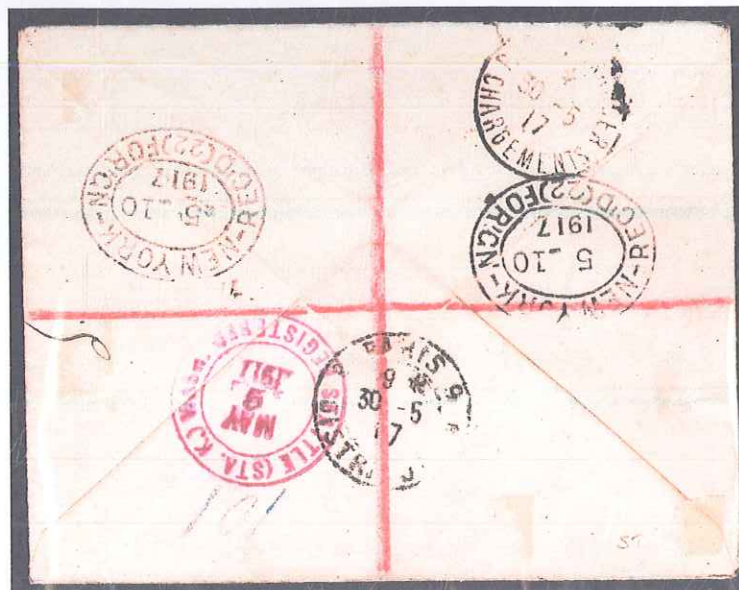
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This cover was posted in Vavau, addressed to the Pacific Trading Co in Auckland. The date on the postmark is 10th November, 1918. There is a New Zealand military censor hand stamp on the front (in red). The right stamp is a variety, "small 2", found in 7 positions in the sheet.



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1917 registered envelope to France from Vavau, postmarked on the 11th April. Franked with a 5d definitive of 1897 (SG 46); the registration oval at lower left front is from Vavau is different to the one illustrated in Proud's book. On the back are transit cancels for Seattle (May 5th with "5" inverted), New York (May 10th) and Paris receivers for the 30th.



Large O.H.M.S envelopes are much less common than small ones at this time. Since this is Government business, why were tamps added and why was an RLE not used? This item was postmarked at Nuku'alofa on 28th February, 1902 and signed by the Postmaster of the time, C M Lee. 6½d in stamps (SG 43 & 45) paid 4d registration and 2½d for the first ½-ounce in weight. On the back are transit cancels for Auckland, San Francisco and Cleveland, Ohio.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

REGISTERED.

Mr A. Albrecht,

1259 Broadway,

CLEVELAND.

U.S.A.

23303

2032

02.

Feb. 27.

61

Tonga,



Postal Stationery of Tonga

A Tin Can Mail over is seen here, addressed to "The Postmaster Niuafo'ou". WG Quensell, who was responsible for the plethora of cachets present, was NOT the Postmaster; this is a **non-philatelic** item of Tin Can Mail. It was posted at Nuku'alofa on 4th January, 1936 and received at Niuafo'ou on July 10th. The cachet at right centre is rated "C" in the Klug catalogue; all others are more common.



Yet another plain, brown envelope with a different "O.H.M.S." present at top. The item was posted at Nuku'alofa but the date is undecipherable. No postal marking is present on the back.



Postal Stationery of Tonga

I am unclear if this O>H>M>S envelope is a British one or if it has been left over from the previous Tongan King's reign. He had died 26 years prior to the issue of these stamps, so perhaps it is British. A first Day Cover of the stamps issued to celebrate 25 years since Queen Salote succeeded to the throne upon her father's death on 5th April, 1918. However, the stamps were late arriving and were not issued until 25th January, 1944. Lt. Cooke was a member of the detachment of the New Zealand army stationed on Tonga during the latter stages of WWII.



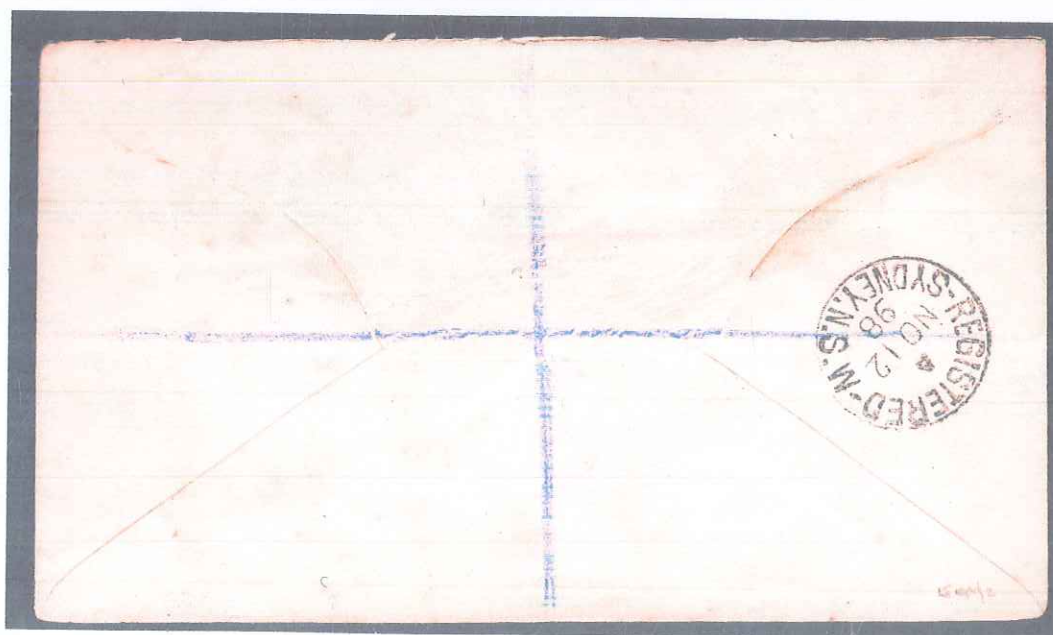
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A registered cover sent from Nukualofa to Steyrermühl in Austria. Posted on December 13th, 1909 it carries stamps to the value of 9d, which pays 4d registration and 5d for 1 ounce to Europe. The seal on the flap on the reverse is from the "KAISERL DEUTSCHES VICE CONSUL IN NUKUALOFA"



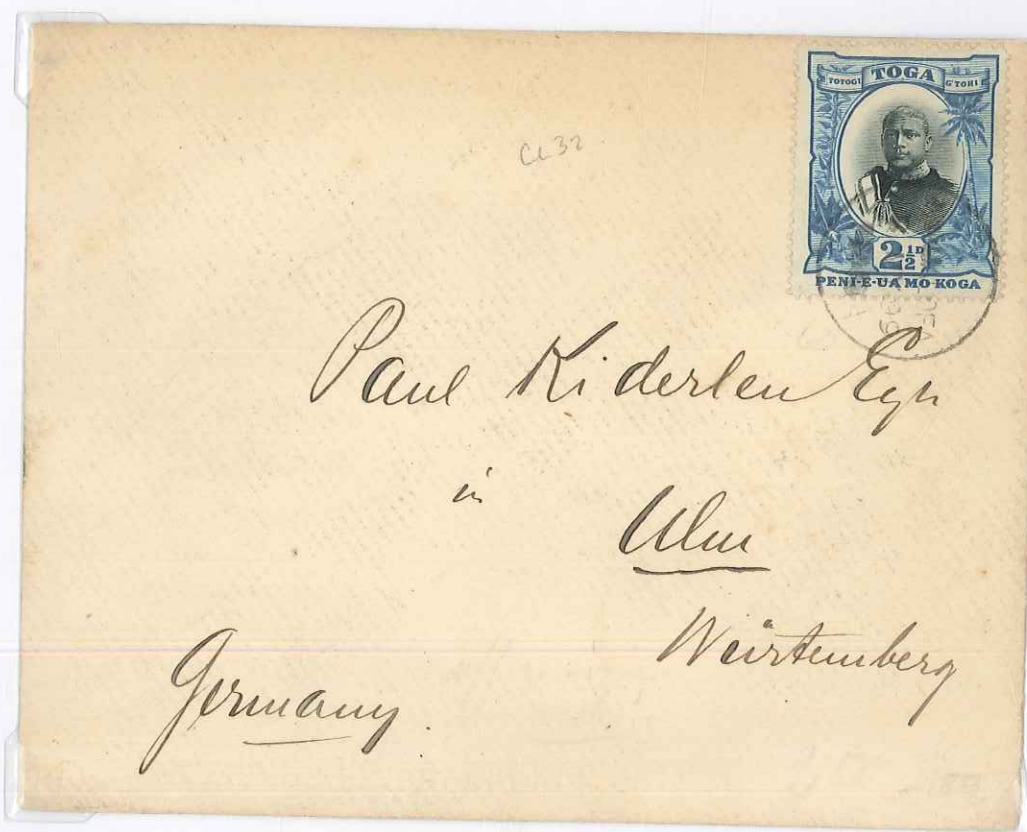
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This envelope displays further examples of SG 43, the 2½d definitive of 1897 together with examples of a 1d breadfruit, SG 39 and the ½d blue, SG 38.. The envelope is franked by stamps to the value of 6½d, paying 4d registration and 2½d for postage up to ½ oz. It was posted at Vavau on 26th October, 1898 and arrived at Sydney on November 12th. The registration oval is the one illustrated in Proud's book. The Vavau s/c cancel was only in use from 1896 to 1899.



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An official envelope, bearing the arms of Tonga on the reverse, to Ulm in Germany. The postmark is Nukualofa/15 MY 99. On the reverse are postmarks for San Francisco (JUN 2/1899, New York (Jun 8/10 AM/1899 and a German station (bahnhof) cancel for 19 IV 99.



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The left stamp of these has no fraction bar. The stamps are cancelled by Nukualofa s/c for 18 AU 24.

Robert Denny was the postmaster at Nukualofa.



