

Large "95"

Rare

The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

It is not known when this item of postal stationery was issued. The Tongan inscription means "On the King's service". It bears a "TONGA GOVERNMENT FRANK" so does not need a stamp. The postmark is another of the very rare 1895 provisional Nukualofa datestamp with large figures. It is addressed by the postmaster, William Campbell, to a Mr Donaldson.



Postal Stationery of Tonga

On His Britannic Majesty's Service envelope, but with a Tongan Government frank, postmarked at Nukualofa on 28th August, 1940. At left is the rare "BRITISH CONSULATE/TONGA" cachet, initialised by the responsible officer on 26th August. There are no markings on the back.

O. H. B. M. S.

W. A. Boucher, Esquire,

c/- Messrs Spedding Limited,

Cr. Beach Road and Anzac Avenue,

Auckland, C. I.,

NEW ZEALAND.

British Consulate,
Nukualofa, Tonga.

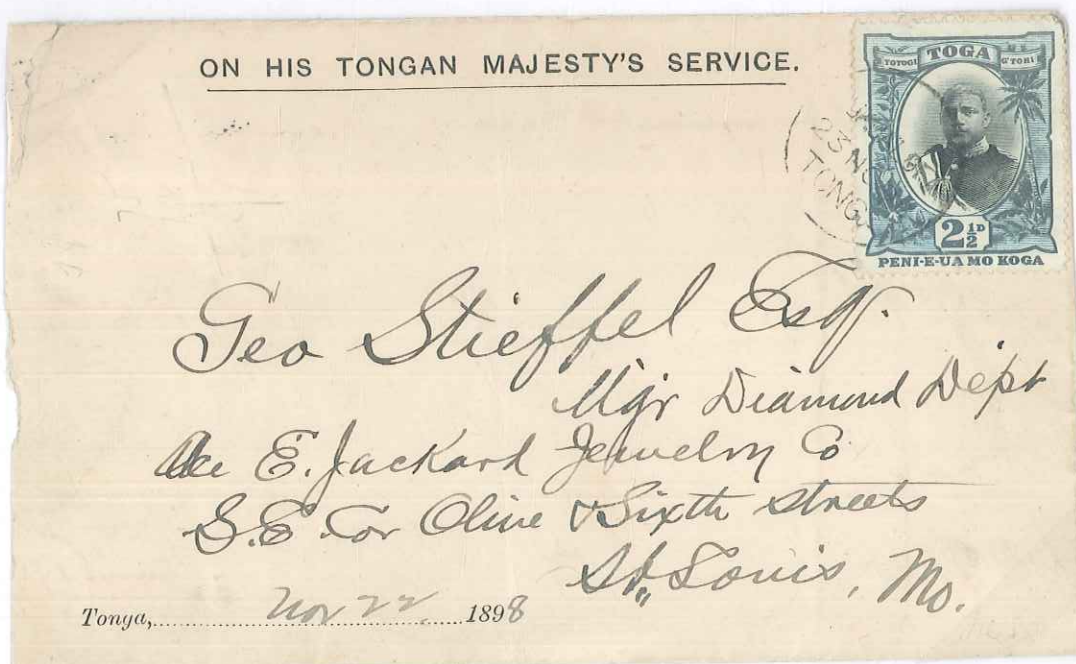


The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Two official envelopes are seen here, one with a stamp and one without. A stamp has NOT been removed from this envelope; it probably should have received a stamp to pay registration. The postmark is for 18th April 1911 at Nukualofa. The initials at lower right are those of the Tongan postmaster, J M Masterton.



This pre-printed "ON HIS TONGAN MAJESTY'S SERVICE" envelope is dated November 22nd, 1898 and is addressed to a large jewellery outlet in St Louis, Missouri. It would be nice to speculate that this letter was in relation to the forthcoming Tongan Royal Wedding, but who can say?



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

A pair of wrappers for the "Tonga Government gazette", dating from about 1895 and addressed to the stamp album manufacturer, Whitfield King, of Ipswich, UK.



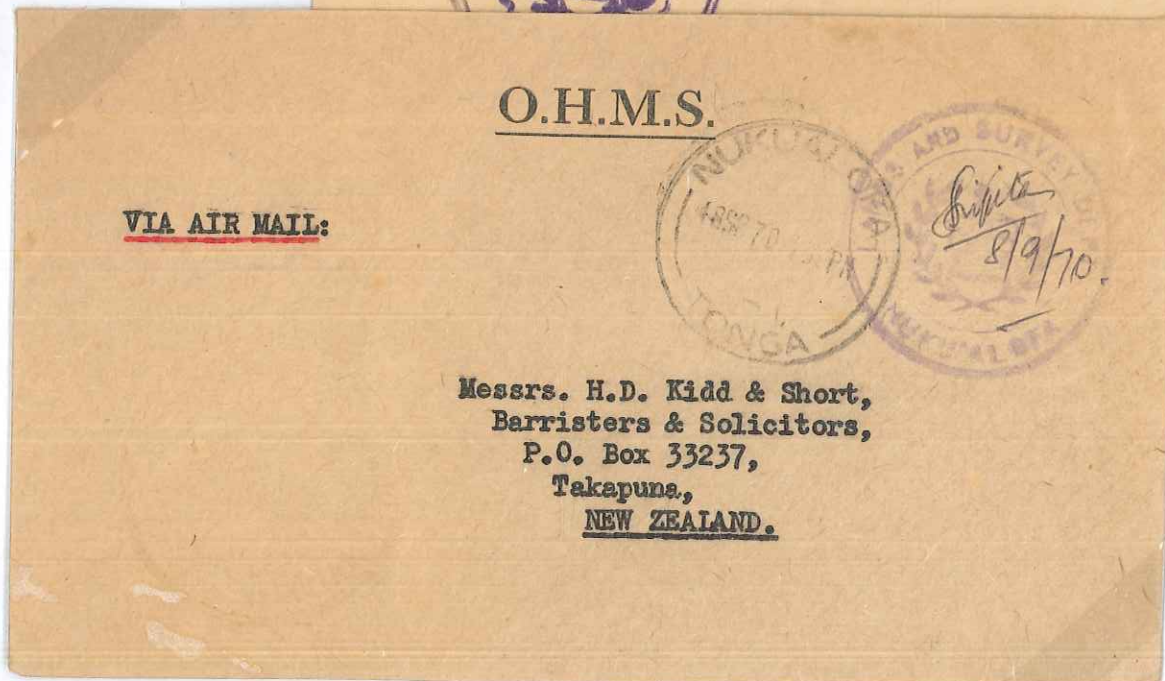
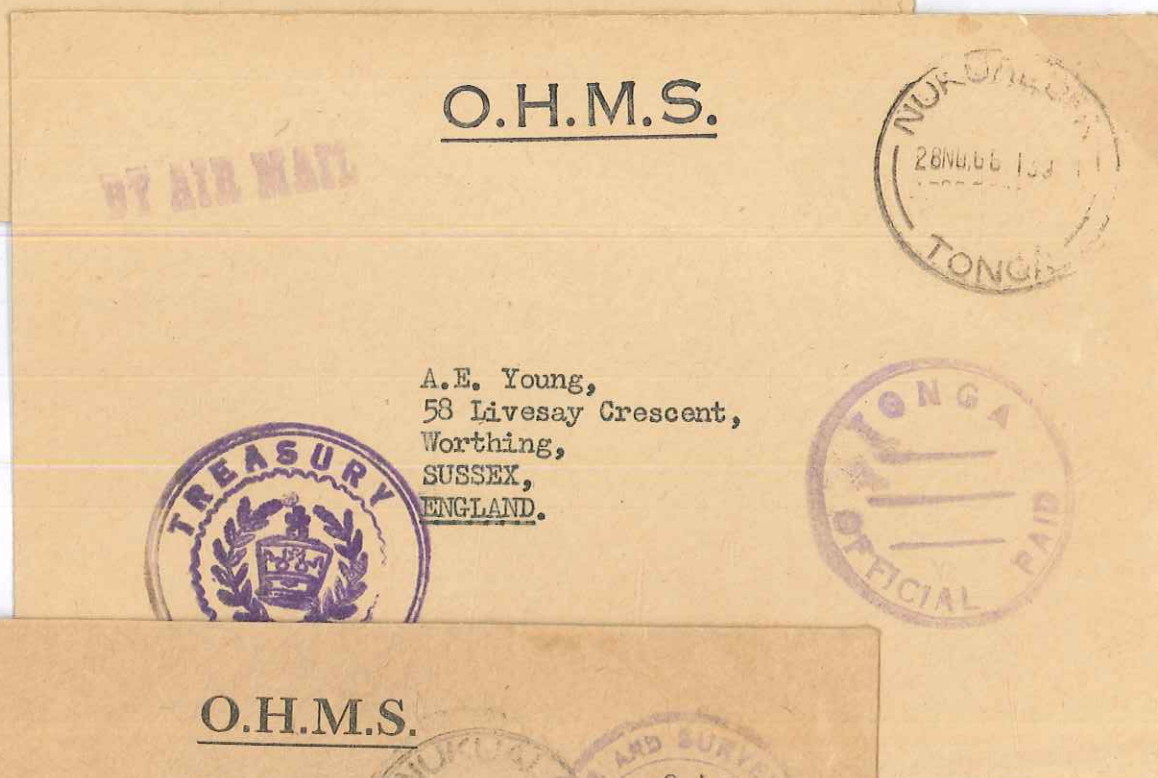
The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Another postal stationery item where the issue date is unknown, although it could not have been much before the date of this cover, 5/12/1900. It is not identical to the previous example being of different size and a different date at lower. Addressed to Auckland, the postmark appears to be 31 DE 00 at Haapai but it arrived in Auckland in December.



Postal Stationery of Tonga

Here are 3 different O.H.M.S. envelopes from 1960, 1966 and 1970, respectively. None are stamps but all have an official Government Frank instead. The first two covers have a "TREASURY/TONGA" FRANK but the third envelope has a signed "LANDS AND SURVEY DEPT/NUKUALOFA" frank, which is exceptionally rare. There are no postal markings on the reverse of any of these envelopes.



Postal Stationery of Tonga

Two plain, brown envelopes from 1931 are seen here. Both headed "ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE" and hence unstamped but with the "TONGAN GOVERNMENT FRANK" instead, in use some 7 years later than quoted by Proud. Both are registered although 1 has blue crayon and 1 red crayon for registration purposes. The signature at lower left is unknown. The upper cover was posted on 29th January and arrived at its destination on 26th February whilst the lower cover was posted in July, but has no receiver.

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

E R Smith Esq



ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

R Roberts Esq

430 Strand

*London W. C. 2.
England.*



Postal Stationery of Tonga

The postmark at top right is at Nuku'alofa on 6th October, 1914. The registration oval is Proud type R4, in use from 1909 to 1925. The upside down "REGISTERED" handstamp is quite common and is probably of American origin. The envelope is quite uncommon. On the back are transit cancels for Seattle (unusual) and New York and a Berne receiver for 4th December.

On His Majesty's Service.

Mrs. F. Reinhard.
41 Bantigerstrasse.
Switzerland / Berne



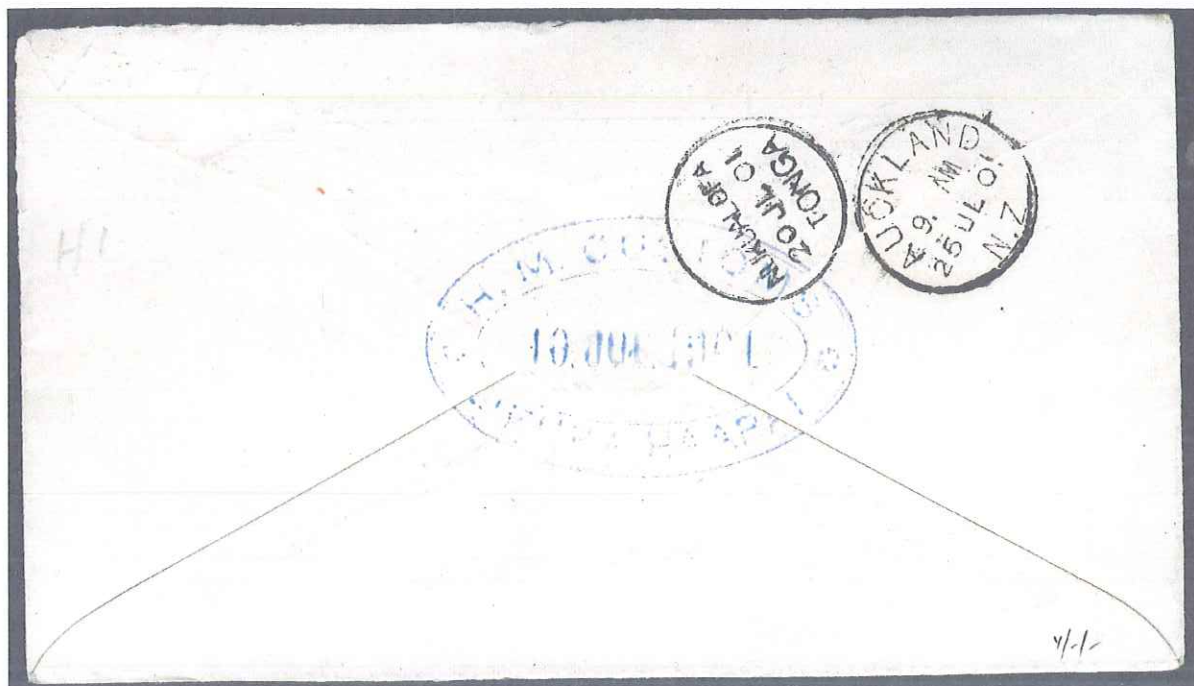
REC'D



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Postal Stationery of Tonga

In the early years, no stamps were necessary when official mail was sent (although stamps were used occasionally). This cover was posted in Haapai and dated 10/7/1901 at bottom left. The Frank at top right states "TONGA GOVERNMENT/HAAPAI". On the reverse is a most unusual oval cachet that does not appear to have been described before. It reads "H M CUSTOMS/8 JULY 1901/NEIAFU HAAPAI". There is also a Nukualofa transit cancel for 20th July and an Auckland receiver for 25th July.



Postal Stationery of Tonga

This envelope is headed "O.H.T.M.S." — "On Her Tongan Majesty's Service" in order to distinguish from the British King's service. I am unable to discover whose initials are present at left. Post free, since this is official business, there is a Tongan Government Frank instead of stamps. The cancel at lower left is the Nuku'alofa s/c for 2nd May, 1908 (Proud type D5) first introduced 2 weeks' previously. An arrival s/c for Sydney on May 16th is present on the back. The letter is addressed to Conrad Lieber at Learmouths Ltd. Much postal material exists both to and from Lieber, a businessman with a large Tongan interest.

O.H.T.M.S.

Mr C. M. Lieber

C/o Learmouths Ltd

13. R D Chambers

*P. A. Street
Sydney*



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Tonga,



Postal Stationery of Tonga

Certainly the largest O. H. M. S. envelope that I've seen from Tonga, so far, sent from Radio Nuku'alofa to Speddings in Auckland, New Zealand, on 2nd April, 1945. There are no postal markings on the back. Stamps pay 7d, which was the rate for between 3 and 4 ounces at that time.

O. H.



Messrs Spedding Lt
P. O. Box 462
AUCKLAND,

C. I. (N. Z.).

