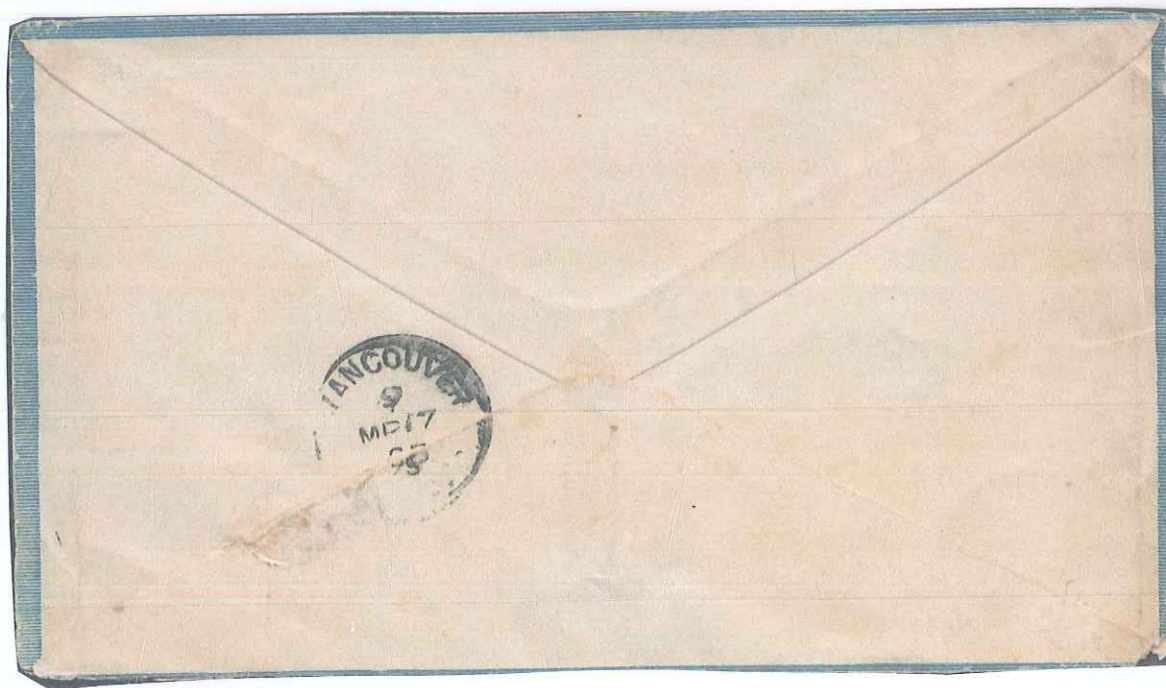


The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

This envelope was also sent in 1905, this time the stamp is cancelled on 12 FE 05 at Nuku'alofa. The 2½ stamp, SG 43, pays the correct rate for ½ ounce to outside the kingdom of Tonga. Addressed to Bordeaux, it unusually travelled via Vancouver with a transit cancel for MR 17 05 on the reverse. There are no French postal markings. This is the only copy of this envelope that I am aware of; other McLennan personalizations are found reasonably often.



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Donald McLennan was born in Baddeck, Cape Breton Islands, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1848, training as a doctor in The Maritimes. He practiced in California and then Hawaii before his appointment as the medical officer in Tonga in August, 1896, where he remained until the end of 1906. During his tenure he became friendly with King George II, and it is said that he had undue influence that was not always considered appropriate. He was a collector of foreign postcards and swapped material with collectors around the world. He also travelled a lot, within the kingdom, advising on health matters, generally.

McLennan had a number of rubber or metal stamps manufactured of his signature, address or initials and also had his own envelopes printed. This is McLennan's signature stamp, on an official envelope, dated June 3rd, 1905.

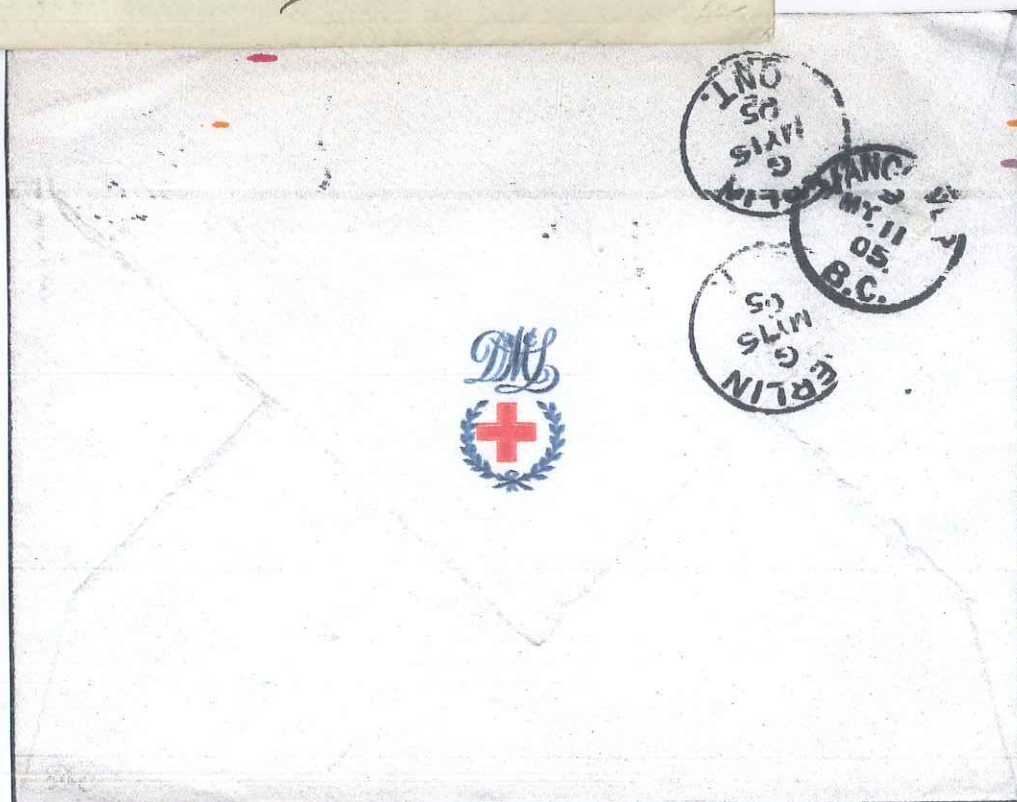
ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

D. McLennan
TONGA

Tonga, *June 3rd*. 1905

The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Addressed to a Mr Schmalz in Berlin, Canada (the town changed its name to Kitchener in 1914), this envelope shows another of Dr McLennan's fancy cachets on the reverse. The envelope is franked by a 2½d King George I definitive, SG 43, cancelled by the Proud type D3 s/c cancel of Nuku'alofa of 8 AP 05. On the reverse are transit cancels of Vancouver for MY 11 05 and Berlin receivers for MY 15 05. Several cards and covers have the large **TONGA** rubber, which is thought to be another of McLennan's cachets.



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

This cover is most likely addressed to McLennan's bank. Posted at Nuku'alofa on 15 DE 05 the single circle postmark (Proud D3) cancels a 2½d King George II stamp (SG 43) paying the correct rate for mail weighing less than ½ ounce outside Tonga. The transit cancel on the reverse is for Seattle, Washington on JAN 12 1906, but there is no Californian postmark. There is yet another of Dr McLennan's marks on the reverse.



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga


Tonga always had problems with ½d stamps until the stamp issue of June, 1897 from which series these stamps are taken. Postage paid at Nuku'alofa on 6 AU 02 is 9½d which does not accord with any Tongan postal rate. The nearest would be 4d registration and 2 x 2½d (9d), paying for the second weight step to 1 ounce. I assume, therefore that this cover is philatelic. Dr McLennan's indicium is on the reverse, together with a San Francisco transit cancel Aug 25 1902. The owner has stamped the arrival date at Omaha, Nebraska as 29th August



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

A postal stationery envelope sent by Dr McLennan to Honolulu on 28 SP 98. The message reads " Sep 28, 1898/Mr McInerney Honolulu/ Mrs MacLennan said something about sending you stamps. I have forgotten what the instructions were but send this set of stamps herewith enclosed she has probably written to you. Yours truly D MacLennan Tonga So.Seas".




 Sep 28, 1898
 Mr McInerney
 Honolulu
 Mrs MacLennan said
 something about sending
 you stamps. I have forgotten
 what the instructions were
 but send the set of stamps
 herewith enclosed.
 She has probably written
 to you. Yours truly
 D MacLennan
 Tonga So. Seas

The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

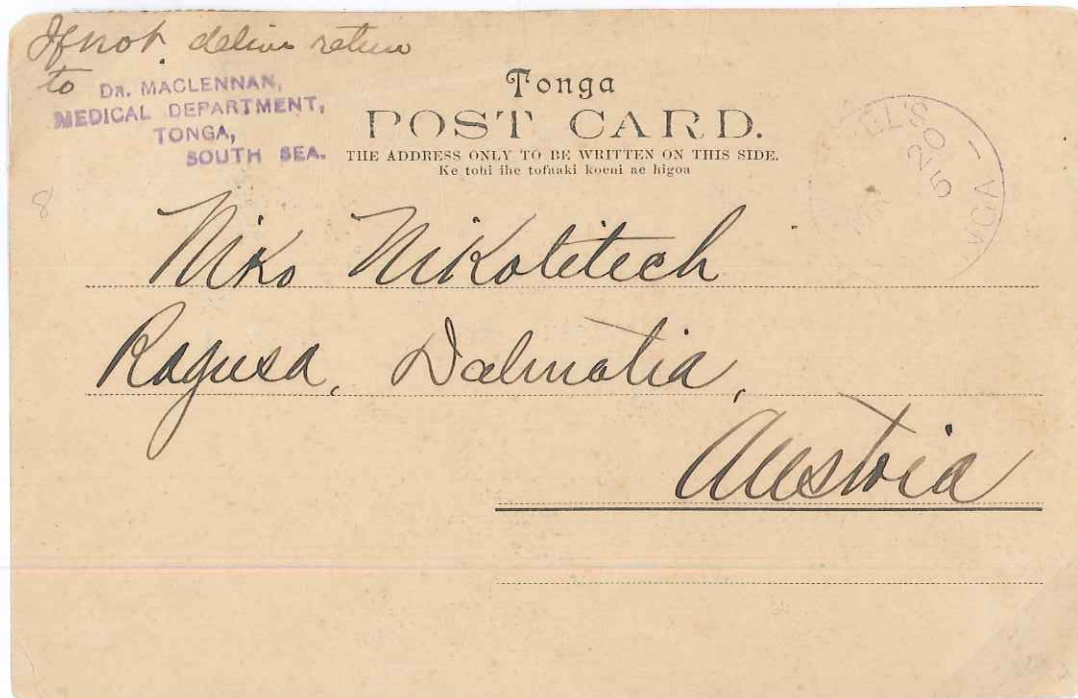
When the Prime Minister of Tonga, Shirley Baker, was summarily dismissed in 1890, the Government appointed Basil Thomson as the Deputy Prime Minister (to a native chief). Thomson was based in Fiji at the time, serving as Commissioner of Native Lands. Thomson returned to Britain owing to his wife's illness in 1893. He was subsequently recalled to Tonga in 1899, because of his ability to speak Tongan, when The King needed to be persuaded that his kingdom should be established as a protectorate of The United Kingdom. Thomson and McLennan became firm friends on this visit. On his second return from Tonga, Thomson was soon appointed Governor of Dartmoor Prison.

This registered envelope was sent by McLennan to Thomson, addressed at The Athenaeum Club, in London. As he had taken on his new role it was re-addressed to him in Princetown. Dated 28 JA 5 at Nuku'alofa, this registered envelope is franked with the 2d and 1/- stamps of King George II (SG 41 & 50). 1/2 pays 4d registration and 10d for up to 2 ounces of mail. Dr McLennan's address at The Hospital is found on many cards and a few envelopes. On the reverse is an Auckland registered s/c transit cancel for 5 FE 05 and London receivers for 10 MR 05.



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

This card, and the next two, were all postmarked at Keppel's Island (now properly known as Niuatobutabu) on MR 20 05. There is a faint postmark for Keppel's at top right on this card (Proud D2). On the other side is a 1d ovava tree definitive, SG40, paying twice the postcard rate to Europe. This is cancelled by the Nuku'alofa s/c Proud type D4 postmark. The card is addressed to Ragusa, Dalmatia, now Dubrovnik, Croatia, and although there is no receiving cancel, the addressee has dated it "May 10 - 05".



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

This card has a picture that is very similar to an official government postcard issued in 1906. There is a 2½d definitive stamp on the picture side, cancelled at Nuku'alofa on 25th March, 1905 and a Keppel's Island postmark as before, on the address side for MR 20 05. The card is addressed to Copenhagen, Denmark but there is no receiver. The card is dated by McLennan "May 20 - 05".



The Stamps and Postal History of Tonga

Dated on the back by McLennan "6-15-05", this card was sent to a fellow collector in Vlasim, Bohemia (now Vlašim in The Czech Republic). The card is franked on the back by a New Zealand 1d universal which is cancelled at Auckland on 24 JU 05. It arrived at Vlašim on the 9th October. On the face is a Tongan ½d stamp, SG 38, tied to the card by a Keppel's Island cancel used on the same date as the previous cards – MR 20 05. McLennan's return address is present on front and back.

At the least, these cards must have received their cancels at Keppel's by favour. However, since the known date of use of this cancel is limited to MR 20 05, it is quite possible that it is entirely bogus!

