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**June 2007** 

Tonga has a history of revaluing stamps in recent years for both postal and fiscal purposes. This work is usually done by the government printer and is typified by the use of "x's" to obliterate the original value.

The Postal Authorities were waiting for new stamps to come from the printer Walshall in the United Kingdom. But these may not have been ordered as it required cold hard cash. In addition, the Post Office was going through a reorganization to become privatized. As a result of this, quantities of certain values ran low.

This recent spate of provisionals first started in October of 2002. Stamps were revalued using a stroke rather than "x's". These stamps were available countrywide for about a year, so I think it is safe to assume that the printings were about 15,000 each.

Since that juncture the Post Office revalued stamps one to two months in advance of anticipated demand. Which would mean that about 2,000 to 5,000 stamps are revalued at a time (see chart below).

Post Office Officials have indicated that these stamps are for postal purposes only and not for sale to collectors. Thus, these are not available through the Philatelic Bureau. In fact, the Post Office refused to sell them to the Philatelic Bureau. When one run the numbers, one can see why- if a 10s stamp has a printing of say 5,000 (100 sheets of 50), this would be a face value of \$T 500 (or US \$300). It would not take much for someone to "own" an issue. Not that the Post Office is concerned about someone getting a whole issue per se- but it would interfere with their ability to satisfy the public demand. If someone comes up to the counter to buy 10c stamps, they should be able to buy 10c stamps.

#### **Distribution:**

The distribution is uneven at best. Most stay in Nukualofa as this has the greatest need and thus the greatest number of stamps can be found here. However, an outer island could be using one of the revalued stamps that will show nowhere else, or minimally elsewhere. Remember, when the Post Office is providing stamps for the outer islands its concern is to provide the (say) 3000 10s stamps requested and is indifferent to the base stamp.

Number of Households* (2001):		Estimated Monthly Mail Volume			
Tongatapu	10,583	8,000			
Vava'u	2,625	2,000			
Ha'apai	1,298	1,000 (as per Sub Treasurer)			
'Eua	863	600			
Niuas	369	300			

<sup>\*</sup>Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry & Statistics Department, Government of Tonga (2001)

	8		~ ~ .	3611		
		EKU	Scott	Michel	Gibbons	
A.	Original value revised with a slash	10/02	1077 4	1.667	1.521	
	1. 5 on 55	10/02	1077A	1667	1531	
	2. 15 on \$1.00	10/02	1077B	1668	1532	
B.	Telecommunications Issue from 1991					
٥.	1A. 10s on 32s	09/03	1095a	1169	1533	
	1B. 10s on 32s	09/03	1095b	1670	1534	
	1C. 10s on 32s	09/03	1095c	1671	1535	
	2A. 10s on 42s	09/03	1096	1672	1536	
	2B. 10s on 42s	09/03	1097	1673	1537	
	2C. 10s on 42s	09/03	1097A	1674	1538	
	3A. 10s on 57s	09/03	1098a	1675	1539	
	3B. 10s on 57s	09/03	1098b	1676	1540	
	3C. 10s on 57s	09/03	1098c	1677	1541	
	3C. 105 0H 375	07/03	10700	10//	1311	
C.	New value in upper right					
	1. 15c on 55 Henga	09/03	1106	1678	1542	
	2. 20c on 55 Henga	09/03	1110	1679	1543	
	3. 45c on 55 Henga	04/04	1113	1680	1544	
ъ	05 (55 H) (1)	10/02	1000	1.601	1.5.4.5	
D.	05s on 55 Henga (sht no.s)	10/03	1099	1681	1545	
E.	New value in middle (tall numbers)					
	1. 05s on 55 Henga	12/03	1100	1682	1547	
	2. 10s on 55 Henga	04/04	1103	1683	1548	
	3. 15s on 55 Henga	12/03	1107	1684	1549	
	2. 20s on 55 Henga	12/03	1111	1685	1550	
F.	Challenge District and the later than					
Г.	Similar to D but new value is wider	02/04	1101	1606	1551	
	1. 5s on 55 Henga 2. 10s on 55 Henga		1101	1686	1551	
	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	06/04 (late) 02/04	1104 1108	1687 1688	1552 1553	
	Č	06/04		1689	1554	
	<ol> <li>4. 20s on 55 Henga</li> <li>5. 45s on 55 Henga</li> </ol>		1112	1690		
	3. 438 on 33 Henga	06/04 (late)	1114	1090	1546	
G.	60s on 70s Tu	03/04	1126	1691	1555	
**	CI. I					
Н.	Christmas	0.4/0.4	1120	1.600	1.776	
	1. 10s on 32s	04/04	1120	1692	1556	
	2A. 10s on 42s Type A	04/04	1121	1693	1557	
	2B. 10s on 42s Type B	06/04	1122	1694	1558	
I.	Olympics '92					
	1. 10s on 42s Boxing	06/04	1123	1699	1559	
	2. 10s on 57s Diving	06/04	1125	1700	1560	
т						
J.	Accident Prevention 1. 10s on 57s	06/04	1124a	1695	1561	
		06/04				
		06/04	1124b 1124c	1696 1697	1562 1563	
	3. 10s on 57s 4. 10s on 57s	06/04		1697	1564	
	4. 108 OH 3/8	00/04	1124d	1098	1304	

www.zirinskystamps.com

## Tonga 2002-4Provisionals:Prices

		EKU	Scott	Michel	Gibbons
K.	Niuafo'ou Christmas '91 10s on 42s	06/04	1128	1703	1565
L.	Niuafo'ou Longhorned Beetle				
	1. 10s on 42s	06/04 (late)	1127	1701	1566
	2. 10s on 57s	06/04	1129	1702	1567
M.	Similar to E but new value much larger and thicker				
	1. 5c on 55 Henga	09/04	1102	1704	1568
	2. 10c on 55 Henga	08/04	1105	1705	1569
	3. 15c on 55 Henga	08/04	1109	1706	1570

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#### A: September 2002





5 on 55

15 on \$1

#### B: September 2003



10s on 32s

SG 1139-41 Scott 784 a-c



10s on 42s

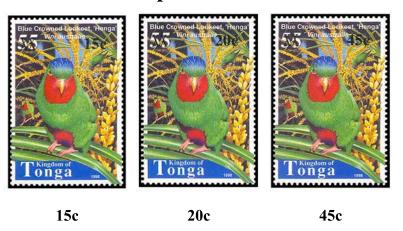
SG 1142-44 Scott 785 a-c



10s on 57 s

SG 1145-47 Scott 786 a-c

C: September 2003



D: October 2003

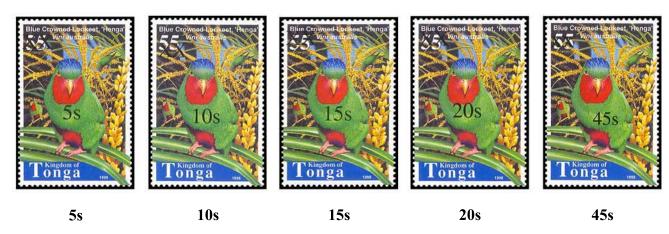


05s

E: December 2003



F: February 2004



G: March 2004



60s on 70s

H: April 2004



10s on 32s



10s on 42 s (Type A)



10s on 42 s (Type B)

#### I: June 2004



10s on 42s



10s on 57s

#### J: Prevent Accidents



3

K: June 2004 (Niuafo'ou) Christmas '91



10s on 42s

#### L: June 2004 (Niuafo'ou) Longhorned Beetle





10s on 42s

10s on 57s

#### M: August 2004



5c

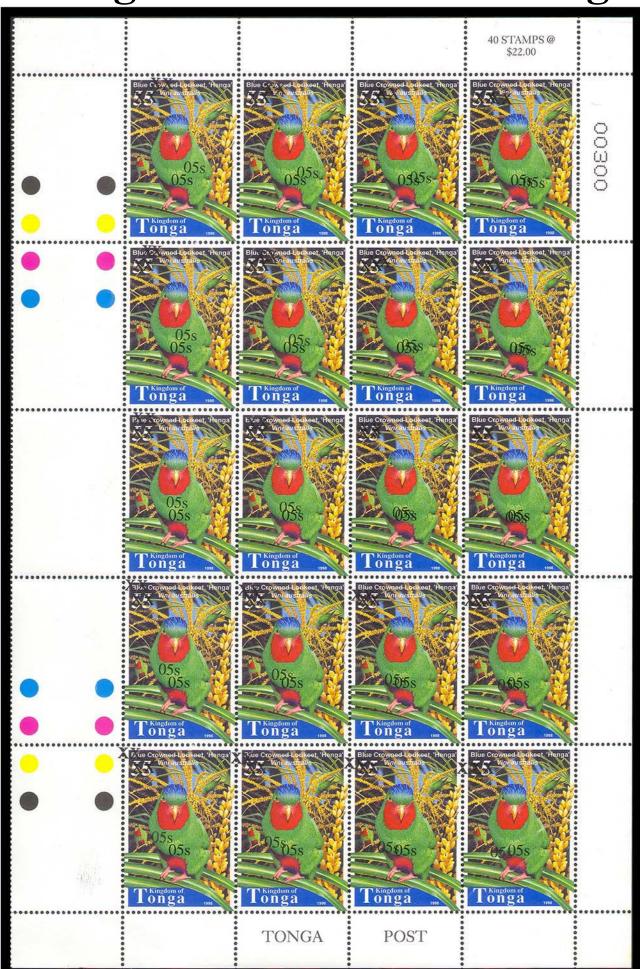




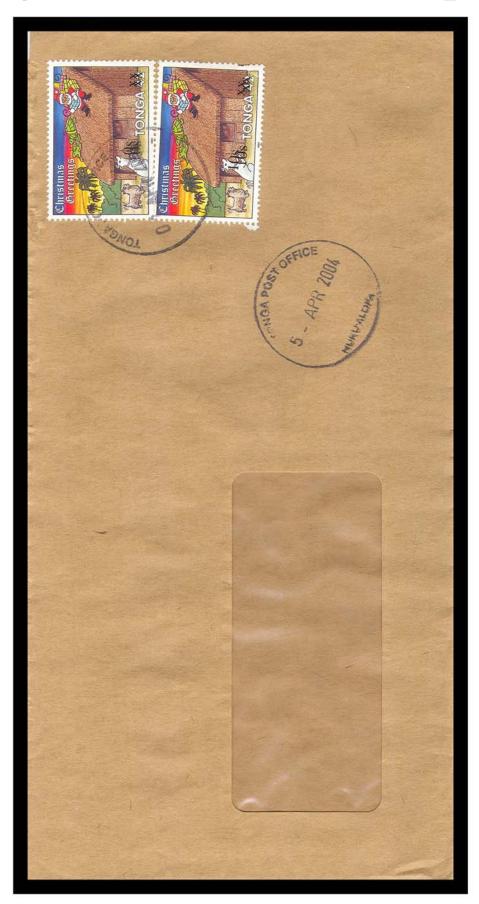
10c

15c

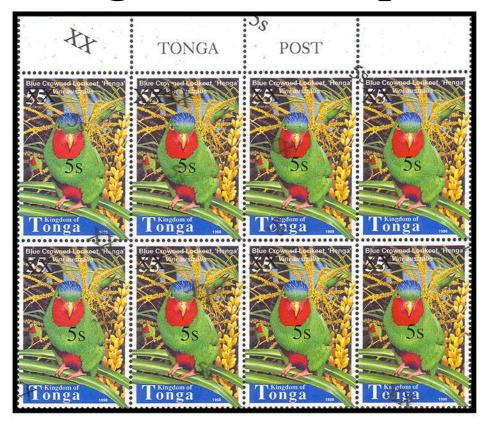
### **Tonga 2004 Double Printing**



## **Tonga 2004 Double Overprint**



## Tonga 2004 Overprint Varieties





Additional Diagonal Overprints



**Light Overprint** 







Regular & Inverted Overprint



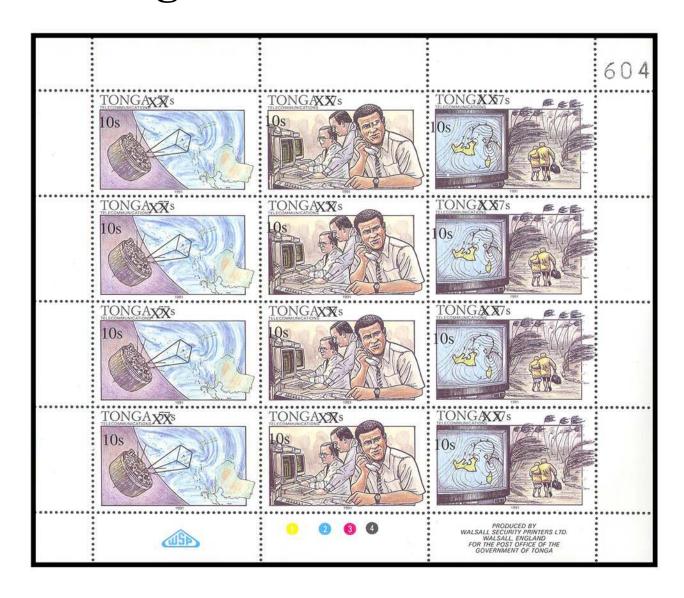




**Double Overprint** 



Shifted overprint with manuscript obliteration

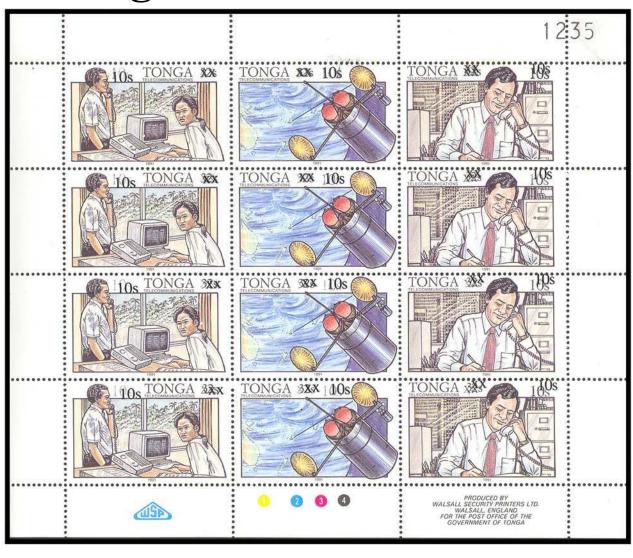


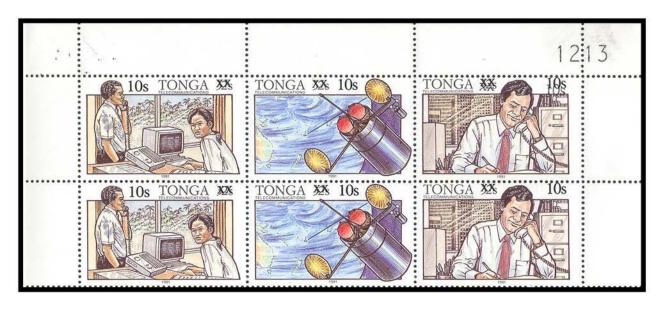
Sheet showing shifted overprint exposing part of the original value on the third stamp

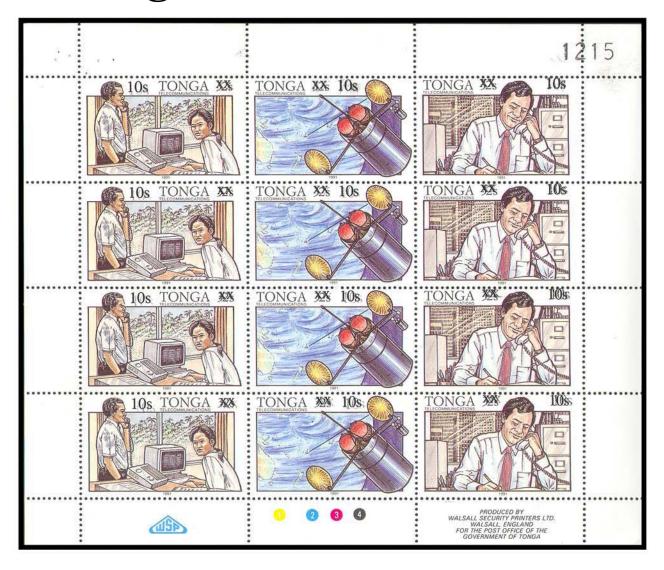




Double Overprint Bouble Overprint 8



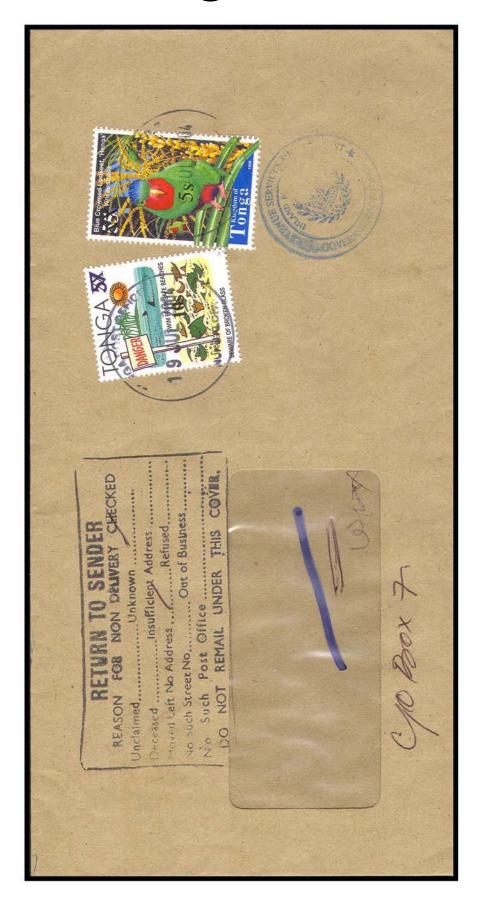




Double (kiss) printing throughout sheet.



Additional ink spray thoughout row. Additionally, on the last stamp the "x's" are on a damaged stamp.





5c: part sheet showing light inking











Shifted (Raised) Overprint. End result is that the last stamp has no obliteration.









