

## Tonga

Provisional Issues 2002 thru 2004

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## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals

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 10 s stamp has a printing of say 5,000 ( 100 sheets of 50 ), this would be a face value of $\$ \mathrm{~T} 500$ (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) 300010 s 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 |

[^0]
## Tonga 2002-4

A. Original value revised with a slash

1. 5 on 55
2. 15 on $\$ 1.00$
B. Telecommunications Issue from 1991

| 1A. | 10 s on 32 s | $09 / 03$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1B. | 10 s on 32 s | $09 / 03$ |
| 1C. | 10 s on 32 s | $09 / 03$ |
| 2A. | 10 s on 42 s | $09 / 03$ |
| 2B. 10 s on 42 s | $09 / 03$ |  |
| 2C. 10 s on 42 s | $09 / 03$ |  |
| 3A. 10 s on 57 s | $09 / 03$ |  |
| 3B. 10 s on 57 s | $09 / 03$ |  |
| 3C. 10 s on 57 s | $09 / 03$ |  |

C. New value in upper right

1. $\quad 15 \mathrm{c}$ on 55 Henga
2. $\quad 20 \mathrm{c}$ on 55 Henga
3. $\quad 45 \mathrm{c}$ on 55 Henga
D. 05 s on 55 Henga (sht no.s)
E. New value in middle (tall numbers)
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 1. } & 05 \text { s on } 55 \text { Henga } \\ \text { 2. } & 10 \text { s on } 55 \text { Henga } \\ \text { 3. } & 15 \text { s on } 55 \text { Henga }\end{array}$
F. Similar to D but new value is wider

| 1. | 5 s on 55 Henga |
| :--- | ---: |
| 2. | 10 s on 55 Henga |
| 3. | 15 s on 55 Henga |
| 4. | 20 s on 55 Henga |
| 5. | 45 s on 55 Henga |

G. 60 s on 70 s Tu
H. Christmas

| 1. | 10 s on 32 s |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2A. | 10 s on 42 s Type A |
| 2B. | 10 s on 42 s Type B |

I. Olympics ‘92

1. $\quad 10 \mathrm{~s}$ on 42 s Boxing

EKU

12/03
04/04
12/03
12/03

04/0

| $04 / 04$ | 1120 | 1692 | 1556 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $04 / 04$ | 1121 | 1693 | 1557 |
| $06 / 04$ | 1122 | 1694 | 1558 |

06/0
06/04

| $06 / 04$ | $1124 a$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| $06 / 04$ | $1124 b$ |
| $06 / 04$ | $1124 c$ |
| $06 / 04$ | $1124 d$ |

Michel

1667
1668

095a
1095b
1095 c
1096
109
097
1098a
1098b
1098c

1106
$1110 \quad 1679 \quad 1543$
$11131680 \quad 1544$

1099

| 1100 | 1682 | 1547 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1103 | 1683 | 1548 |
| 1107 | 1684 | 1549 |
| 1111 | 1685 | 1550 |

## 02/04

06/04 (late)
02/04
06/0
06/04 (late) 1114
03/04
110
110
108
112

1126

都

1122

1123
1125

1124d

1699
1700

1695
1561
1562
1563
1564


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# Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals 

## A: September 2002



5 on 55


15 on \$1

## B: September 2003



10s on 42s
SG 1142-44 Scott 785 a-c


## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals

C: September 2003


15c


20c


45c

D: October 2003


05s

E: December 2003


05s


10s


15s


20s

F: February 2004


## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals

## 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



# Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals 

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



Regular \&
Inverted Overprint


Shifted Overprints


Double Overprint


Additional Diagonal Overprints


## Light Overprint



Shifted overprint with manuscript obliteration

## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals



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


## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals



## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals



Double (kiss) printing throughout sheet.


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

## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals



5c: part sheet showing light inking

## Tonga 2002-4 Provisionals



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

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[^0]:    *Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry \& Statistics Department, Government of Tonga (2001)

