

TUVALU PHILATELIC BUREAU

NEWS AND VIEWS

PHILATELIC BUREAU, G.P.O., FUNAFUTI, TUVALU, CENTRAL PACIFIC

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No: 1 MARCH 1976

OUR STAMP BUREAU

Our Philatelic Bureau was established in December 1975, in order to mail brochures to the many collectors who had requested details of our stamps and services, prior to release of our first issues on 1st January 1976. The Bureau was very soon overwhelmed with requests, by cable and letters from collectors all over the world.

At one time the Tuvaluan staff had to be increased to 23 to cover the volume of orders and requests. It was soon possible to clear the backlog, and we would like to thank all those customers, who were so patient during this difficult period, and assure them of our prompt, courteous and efficient service in the future, however we would respectfully draw to your attention that sometimes there is a period of two weeks between aeroplanes and that if we service your order the same day as it is received, as we frequently do, it may take three weeks to reach you.

STAMP PROGRAMME 1976 - FUTURE ISSUES

April	"New Coinage"	5c	10c	15c	35c
July/December	"Permanent Definitive Series"	15 Values.	Details Later.		
October	"Christmas Issue"	5 Values.	Details Later.		

OUTER-ISLAND POSTMARKS

All islands within the colony have their own postal services, and handstamps. Most of the postal officers are also the Radio Operator and undertake their postal duties when required. Customers pre-stamped covers may be sent to this bureau for onward transmission to the islands, but customers using this service must appreciate that long delays of up to 4 months could occur, and that we cannot be responsible for the quality of the handstamp.

TEN QUESTIONS

- DO YOU KNOW ? - Tuvalu for a collector is FAKATUPU
- DO YOU KNOW ? - Tuvalu consists of nine islands; Nantomea, Nantunanga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukunetau, Nukunaelae, Niulakita and the capital island of Funafuti.
- DO YOU KNOW ? - The Population of these Islands is in the region of 10,000 persons.
- DO YOU KNOW ? - The population are mostly polynesians
- DO YOU KNOW ? - The nine Island which comprise Tuvalu are spread over an area of over one million square miles
- DO YOU KNOW ? - The 'Nivanga' the Colony vessel visits all the Islands with supplies of food, raw materials, building requirements, medical supplies, school books and other essential supplies at regular intervals.
- DO YOU KNOW ? - Tuvalu uses Australian currency and that the Australian Dollar is equivalent to approximately \$0.80c U.S. and 63p Sterling.
- DO YOU KNOW ? - The word Tuvalu means a group of eight.
- DO YOU KNOW ? - Funafuti was almost entirely destroyed by a hurricane in October 1972 and most of the buildings on the island destroyed.
- DO YOU KNOW ? - Funafuti was occupied by American forces during World War II and that most of the population was evacuated to the nearby island of FUNAFALA.

PROVISIONAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE

The demand for the series of 15 provisional definitives overprinted TUVALU on the obsolete Gilbert & Ellice Islands stamps has so far been greater than expected. Only a strictly limited number of these definitive stamps exist and no more will be overprinted. Stocks of some of the denominations are running low and you are strongly advised to acquire your sets at an early date as the entire set of 15 stamps will be with-drawn from sale when the new pictorial definitives are issued, these are already in an advanced stage of production. We have had many requests from collectors for various watermarks and for your guidance listed below is a complete table of watermarks of our entire stock we have available, in both mint and used condition.

BLOCK	C.A.	WATERMARKED	3c	5c	8c	10c	25c		
SPIRAL	C.A.	WATERMARKED	1c	2c	3c	4c	6c	15c	
			20c	35c	50c	\$1	\$2		

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

Why not place a Standing Order ?????

The Advantages:-

1. Your requirements are made up for you automatically on the day of issue.
2. This saves you postage in that you do not have to order each set separately.
3. An invoice/statement of account is enclosed with each sending.
4. All orders are sent, AIRMAIL post free.
5. Any surplus 'SPECIMEN' stamps are distributed to standing order account customers.

Please note: Standing Order customers will only receive their orders providing they are sufficiently in credit at time of despatch.

REMITTANCES

Please send all remittances (together with your order) direct to the Philatelic Bureau by:-

International Money Order
Bank Draft
Certified Cheque
British Postal Order

addressed to:- The Manager, Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau, Funafuti, Tuvalu, Central Pacific.

On no account must remittances be sent to banks in Tarawa or Fiji as delays of up to 2 months have been experienced.

Customers are strongly advised to remit in AUSTRALIAN currency, postage stamps and international coupons are not accepted.

SPECIMENS

A small quantity of most issues are overprinted 'SPECIMEN' for circulation to the editors of philatelic publications and large dealers.

Any surplus SPECIMEN stamps will if available be distributed to Standing order Account customers. We regret that under no circumstances can we accept orders or requests for these stamps.

POSTAGE CHARGES FROM TUVALU

As from 1st February 1976 new postal charges were levied, a shorter list is as follows:-

<u>SURFACE:</u>	<u>Zone 1</u>	<u>Zone 2</u>	<u>Zone 3</u>
Letters per 20g.	10c	15c	15c
Printed Papers per 20g.	10c	10c	10c
Postcards	10c	10c	10c
<u>AIRMAIL:</u>			
Aerograms 15c			
Letters per 10g.	20c	30c	35c
Printed Papers per 10g.	20c	15c	20c
Postcards	10c	15c	20c

Registration Fee 25c

NO EXPRESS SERVICE

- Zone 1 = Australia and Pacific
- Zone 2 = Asia (Except Middle East and USSR)
- Zone 3 = Africa, America, Europe and Middle East.

International Money Order

It is our intention to issue these bulletins at regular intervals and if space permits to include an autobiography of a member of our Staff. We have decided to start with Mrs. Aonga Kofe our secretary and typist, after all, how else can we get this bulletin typed.

Mrs. Kofe joined the Philatelic Bureau in January, having worked for two years as a typist/clerk for the superintendent of the development authority.

Aged 26 years she has been married for two years to Silinga Kofe, an Executive Officer with the Tuvaluan government, and has one little boy of one year old.

Aonga was born on the nearby island of Vaitupu, and came to Funafuti with her parents soon after birth, she was educated at the Immaculate Heart College in Tarawa and King George V School also at Tarawa to complete her education. Aonga has passes in History, English Language, English Literature and several other subjects.

After leaving school, Aonga worked for the Cooperative Wholesale Society before moving to the British Phosphate Commissioners at Ocean Island where she spent 3 years as a typist before returning to Funafuti where she joined the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Development Authority.