

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

JANUARY 1st 1976 ISSUES

POSTMARKING DETAILS

On January 1st Tuvalu issue their first stamps. These are:

- (a) Set of 3 stamps commemorating TUVALU SEPARATION.
- (b) Provisional definitive set of 15 Gilbert & Ellice stamps overprinted TUVALU.

POSTMARKING

All covers bearing the separation commemoratives, will be postmarked at the bureau, with a special handstamp worded COMMEMORATION SEPARATION JANUARY 1st 1976.

First Day Covers bearing the provisional definitives will be available to collectors who have two choices:-

1. Complete set of 15 stamps on one cover postmarked Funafuti 1st January 1976, OR Commemoration Separation 1st January 1976.
2. A set of 9 covers each one bearing a full set of definitives, postmarked one on each of the 9 different islands.

(This set of 9 covers is strictly limited, due to the difficulties involved in obtaining the Postmark.)

The 9 islands in the colony are separated by several hundred thousand square miles of Central Pacific Ocean; they are served by ships which take several weeks to complete their journeys around the colony. On reaching the reefs surrounding each island, the boat is met by canoe and various merchandise for the island is transhipped to the canoes, then the islanders in their canoes await a high wave to return over the reef to safety.

Orders for these first day covers should be completed on enclosed order form.