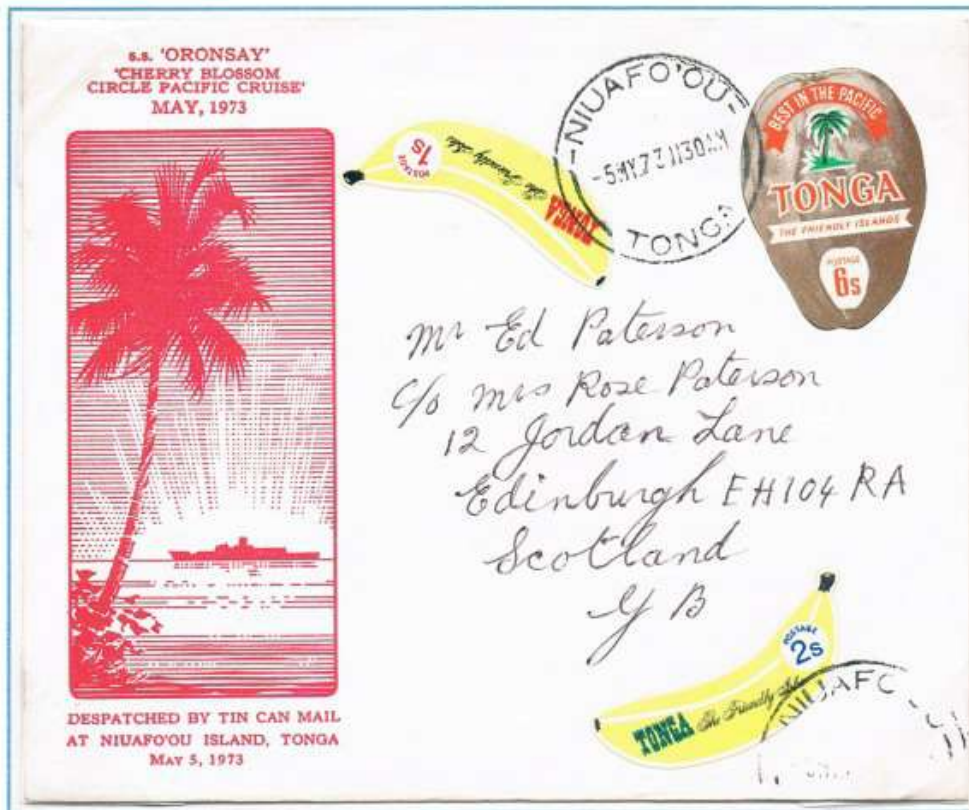


2 1962 to 1983 Resumption of Tin Can Mail

May 1973 S.S. Oronsay Cherry Blossom Circle Pacific Cruise



5.2 1962 to 1983 Resumption of Tin Can Mail

The International Date Line and the February 1973 S.S. Oriana Double Date Line Cruise

By crossing of the International Date Line travelling West you lose a day.

The Oriana crossed the International Date Line twice. The passengers lost a day in travelling in one direction and gained a day in the other.

By crossing of the International Date Line travelling East you gain a day

Polynesian
PUBLISHED DAILY BY THE M.S. MATSON LINES

That Day You Lose...
MERIDIAN DAY—WEST-BOUND
(See Reverse Side for Eastbound Crossing)
THE CROSSING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

In crossing the 180th Meridian, otherwise known as the International Date Line, one day is omitted. No doubt, the question will arise as to why one calendar day is lost. The reason for that lies in the kind of time that is universally kept. Probably few people realize when they look at their wrist watch, that the information conveyed by the hands of the watch is based directly on the position of this planet in space, in relation to the Sun. That is so because we keep Sun Time. The Earth rotates about its own axis so that only half of the sphere is turned towards the Sun at any time. The hemisphere facing the Sun thus experiences day, while the opposite side is plunged into the darkness of night.

The Earth rotates about its own axis every twenty-four hours. The Earth is a sphere—actually an oblate spheroid. This means that the planet turns through 360° of arc every twenty-four hours, or 15° of arc every hour. Therefore, the planet is divided into twenty-four zones — each containing 15° of arc, or one hour of time. A position from which to start this reckoning had to be determined upon. Because England's mariners had contributed so much to the art of navigation in years gone by, it was decided at an International conference, to honor England by drawing the first meridian through London—the exact spot is the Royal Naval Observatory at Greenwich, in the outskirts of London. That is why the first meridian is called the Greenwich Meridian, and the time is called Greenwich Mean Time.

Because the Earth rotates from West to East, the Sun appears to rise in the East and set in the West. Consequently, the lands to the East of Greenwich see the Sun first and it is always later in the day to the East of Greenwich. Conversely, it is always earlier in the day to the West of Greenwich.

San Francisco lies 120° of longitude or arc to the West of Greenwich. Converted into time that is equal to eight hours, thus it is always eight hours earlier in San Francisco than in Greenwich. Tahiti is 149° of longitude to the West of Greenwich, therefore it is ten hours earlier in Tahiti than in Greenwich. As the International Date Line is 180° of longitude to the West of Greenwich, it is twelve hours earlier at the Date Line than it is in Greenwich. Now looking at it from the other side, the International Date Line is also 180° of longitude to the East of Greenwich, or twelve hours later at the Date Line than in Greenwich, traveling from West to East.

Thus, enroute Tahiti to Auckland, New Zealand, in the instant of crossing, we pass from a situation wherein we are twelve hours behind Greenwich to a situation wherein we are twelve hours ahead of Greenwich. In other words, we have pushed ahead twenty-four hours and that is why we push the calendar ahead one day.

S.S. 'ORIANA'
'DOUBLE DATELINE CRUISE'
FEBRUARY, 1973

DESPATCHED BY TIN CAN MAIL
AT NIUAFO'OU ISLAND, TONGA
FEBRUARY 8, 1973



Polynesian PUBLISHED DAILY BY THE M.S. MATSON LINES

That Day You Gain...
MERIDIAN DAY—EAST-BOUND
THE CROSSING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

In crossing the 180th Meridian, otherwise known as the International Date Line, one day is repeated. No doubt the question will arise as to why one calendar day is thus gained. The reason for this lies in the kind of time that is universally kept. Probably few people realize when they look at their wrist watch that the information conveyed by the hands of the watch is based directly on the position of this planet in space, in relation to the Sun. This is so because we keep Sun time. The Earth rotates about its own axis so that only half of the sphere is turned towards the Sun at any one time. The hemisphere facing the Sun thus experiences day, while the opposite side is plunged into the darkness of night.

The Earth turns about its axis every twenty-four hours. The Earth is a sphere, actually an oblate spheroid. This means that the planet turns through 360° of arc every twenty-four hours, or 15° of arc every hour. Therefore, the planet is divided into twenty-four Time Zones, each covering 15° of arc, or one hour of time. A position from which to start this reckoning had to be determined upon. At an International Conference, it was decided to draw the first meridian through London—the exact spot is at the Royal Naval Observatory at Greenwich, in the outskirts of London. That is why the first meridian is called the Greenwich Meridian, and the time is called Greenwich Mean Time.

Because the Earth rotates from West to East, the Sun appears to rise in the East and set in the West. Consequently, the lands to the East of Greenwich see the Sun first and, therefore, it is always later in the day to the East of Greenwich. Conversely, it is always earlier in the day to the West of Greenwich.

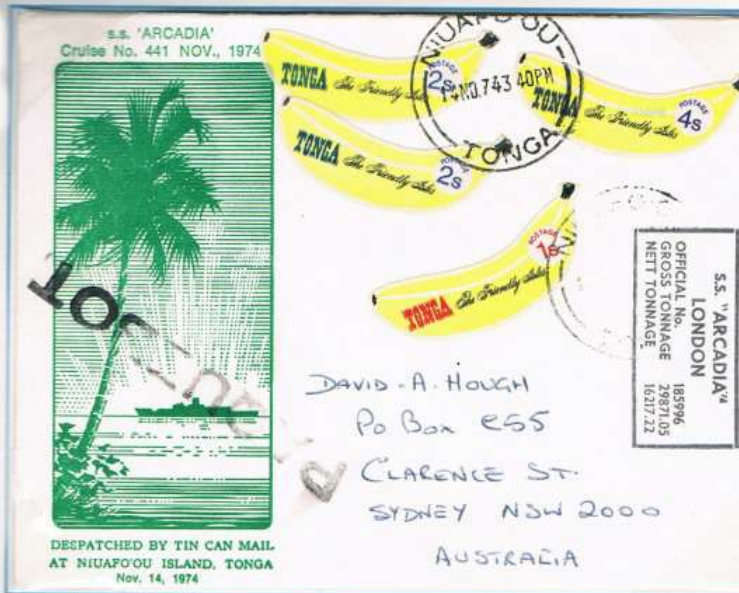
Suva, Fiji, lies 179° of longitude or arc to the East of Greenwich. Converted into time, that is equal to 12 hours. It is always twelve hours later in Suva than in Greenwich. The International Date Line lies 180° of longitude to the East of Greenwich. Therefore, it is always twelve hours later at the Date Line than Greenwich. But since the Date Line is the halfway mark around the planet, looking at it from the other side, it lies 180° of longitude to the West of Greenwich. Thus it is always twelve hours earlier at the Date Line than in Greenwich.

Enroute Suva, Fiji, to Pago Pago, American Samoa, in the instant of crossing the Date Line, we pass from a situation wherein we are twelve hours ahead of Greenwich, to a situation wherein we are twelve hours behind Greenwich. In other words, in point of time, we have gone back twenty-four hours—and that is why we retard the calendar one day.

Matson Lines published a leaflet explaining that by crossing the International Date Line, travelling West or East, you can either lose a day or gain a day. The above reduced copies are from an original in the possession of the author.

5.2 1962 to 1983 Resumption of Tin Can Mail

November 1974 S.S. Arcadia Cruise No. 441



A Steward's badge from the P & O Cruise Ship Arcadia



October 1980 M.V. Pacific Princess Cruise No. 4633



6. 1980 - 2000 Tonga Tin Can Mail Study Circle

6.1 History, memorabilia and Journal

The history of the Tonga Tin Can Mail Study Circle

Several Tin Can Mail collectors decided to form a society to promote and encourage research into Tin Can Mail. The Tonga Tin Can Mail Study Circle was formed in 1980, and its first Journal published on 1st January 1981.



This **original** of the Study Circle's logo has been taken from the March-April 2000 edition of the Journal.

A T/TCMSC 1990 Membership card



T/TCMSC

Member No. 7

Martin Baxendale

Good Thru 31 Dec '90

A T/TCMSC Estate Advisory Service sticker

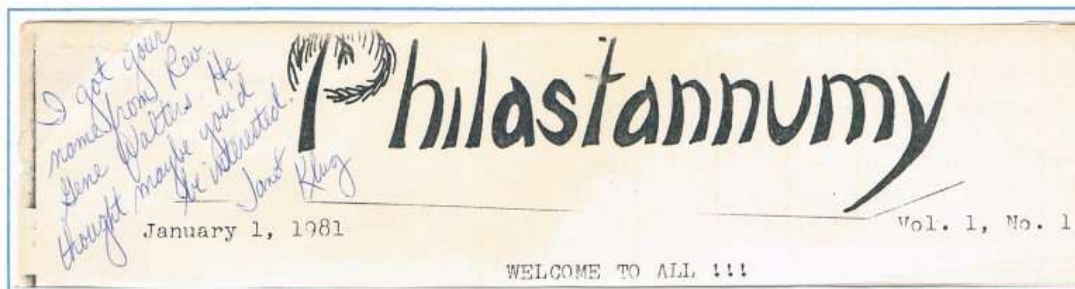
PROPERTY OF:
T/TCMSC MEMBERSHIP NO. _____
THE HEIRS OF A TONGA/TIN CAN MAIL STUDY CIRCLE MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, MAY, WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE MEMBER'S DECEASE, CALL UPON T/TCMSC ESTATE ADVISORY SERVICE FOR ASSISTANCE. WRITE:
T/TCMSC ESTATE ADVISORY SERVICE
C/O JANET KLUG
R.R. 1, BOX 370-B
PLEASANT PLAIN, OH 45162 USA

6.1 History, memorabilia and Journal

The history of the Tonga Tin Can Mail Study Circle

The Study Circle's first Journal, Volume 1. No. 1 was published on 1st January 1981 under the name "Philastannumy" which was thought to mean "The lover of tin".

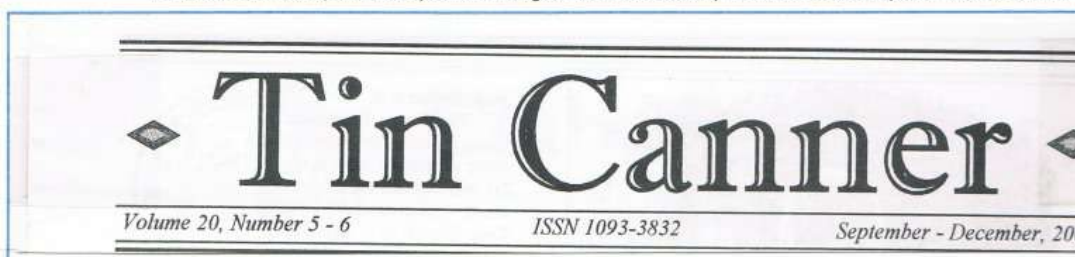
The title and welcome is an **original** of the first Journal, with a manuscript note by its editor Janet Klug.



It retained this title for only three issues, when it was renamed "Tin Canner" from Volume 1. No. 4 on 1st July



The final Journal Volume 20, No. 5 - 6 published at the end of 2000 covered the period September - December 2000. In December 2000, the Study Circle merged with the Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania.



Both the second and third Journal title headings are also **originals**.

7. 1982-1983 The end of the Tin Can Mail era

7.1 Government Philatelic Bureau information

Tongan Philatelic Bureau Official Bulletin, Tin Can Mail Issue 29th September 1982



A copy of the front cover of the Bulletin (reduced) (original in the possession of the author)

In it there is this report -

THE END OF AN ERA

1983 will see the end of a need for Tin Can Mail, as during next year a new airport will be opened, bringing Niuafou'ou well and truly into the 20th century.

The Tongan authorities, knowing that the impending construction of an airstrip would bring Tin Can Mail to an end, decided to issue on 29th September 1982 (the date of this Bulletin), stamps to commemorate the 1882-1982 centenary of Tin Can Mail.



A 1981 photograph of a Tin Can mail can being collected from the Head Post Nuku'alofa

7.1 Government Philatelic Bureau information

Tongan Philatelic Bureau Official Bulletin, Tin Can Mail Issue 29th September 1982

report from the same Bulletin as on the previous sheet (original in the possession of the author) about the Tin Can Mail centenary in 1982, and the issue of commemorative Tongan Tin Can Mail stamps on 29th September of that year.

TIN CAN MAIL STAMPS

This year to mark the centenary of this unique service, a set of four stamps and two souvenir sheets will be issued by the Tongan Post Office. These stamps will go on sale in Tonga on the 29th of September, although it might be a week or two before stamps reach Tin Can Island due to the unpredictable mail service. In addition to the stamps & souvenir sheets a special PHQ card will be available depicting the typical Tin Can Mail exchange featured on the souvenir sheet and the three low values.

For the lower values & souvenir sheet, Chris Mayger was commissioned to produce a painting based on the original drawing by Walsall Security Printers. Mayger is the leading seascape artist whose work can be seen on most seafaring book covers.

The top value shows a map of Niuafo'ou (as featured in Ramsays book Tin Can Island). The top value souvenir sheet shows a typical Tin Can Mail cover of the Quensell period. This value and souvenir sheet was designed by the Combined Philatelic Agency and Walsall Security Printers.

ART LITHOGRAPH PRINTS OF THE MAYGER PAINTING.

A limited issue of 250 full size (360mmx500mm) prints of the Mayger painting "Collecting the mail-Niuafo'ou" is being considered. If it is decided to proceed with this plan the prints will be produced on special art paper, all will be numbered with the first 100 being signed by the Artist.

TIN CAN MAIL STAMPS, PHQ & FDCs


Please note that First Day Covers & cancelled stamps are all postmarked Nuku'alofa, the capital of the Kingdom of Tonga and not Niuafo'ou (Tin Can Island), as due to the remoteness of this island there is no guarantee that the stamps will reach there on time. However a special cancel will be applied to covers & PHQs on the first day of sale on Niuafo'ou.

| <u>DETAILS OF ITEMS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE BUREAU.</u> | | <u>Mint</u> | <u>Cancelled</u> |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | | T\$ | T\$ |
| <u>SHEET STAMPS</u> | 13s, 32s, 47s & T\$2 | 2.92 | 2.92 |
| (Stamps sold individually) | | | |
| As above FIRST DAY COVER(Nuku'alofa 29.9.82) | | - | 3.32 |
| As above FIRST DAY COVER(Niuafo'ou Date to be announced) | | - | 3.32 |
| GUTTER PAIRS | | 5.84 | 5.84 |
| GUTTER STRIPS(5 pairs all different) | | 29.20 | 29.20 |
| T/L PLATE BLOCKS OF 4 | | 11.68 | 11.68 |
| COMPLETE SHEETS | | 58.40 | 58.40 |
| <u>MINIATURE SHEETS</u> | (2 different sold in pairs) | 2.92 | 2.92 |
| As above but two First Day Covers(Nuku'alofa) | | - | 3.72 |
| As above but two First Day Covers(Niuafo'ou) | | - | 3.72 |
| <u>PHQ</u> | (Niuafo'ou Scene) | .20 | |
| As above Used First Day(3 cards with 13s, 32s & 47s) | | - | 2.12 |
| As above but Used in Niuafo'ou | | - | 2.12 |
| PHQs have stamps affixed to front. | | | |

PHILATELIC BUREAU
TREASURY BUILDING
NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

7.1 Government Philatelic Bureau information

Details of the forthcoming stamp issues are listed, and include the Tongan Tin Can Mail stamps to be issued in 1982



The Kingdom of Tonga

TIN CAN - CANOE MAIL ISLAND

TONGA

TONGA

TIN CAN MAIL

Mr. Sandy Linneman
11400 S. Olive St.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
U.S.A.

NO. 2631

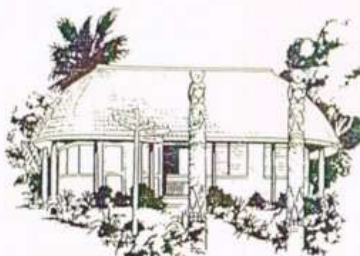
REG. NIUAFOU

Official Press Release

Crown jewel of the South Pacific

"A COUNTRY WITH A GREAT PHILATELIC HISTORY AND AN EVEN GREATER PHILATELIC FUTURE"

THE SOUTH PACIFIC IS ALWAYS POPULAR. TONGA'S NEW STAMP ISSUING POLICY WILL ENSURE FUTURE DEMAND
START YOUR COLLECTION IN 1981



The Tonga Visitors Bureau
Vasa Road, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga

PHILATELIC BUREAU
TREASURY BUILDING
NIUKU'ALOFA, TONGA
SOUTH PACIFIC

The Kingdom of Tonga

This first side of the information sheet is shown in reduced format.

The first Tin Can Mail stamps of Tonga were issued on 29th September 1982 to commemorate the centenary of Tin Can Mail.

The first stamps of Niuafou were issued on 11th May 1983.

RED CROSS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE DISABLED PEOPLE

9th SEPTEMBER, 1981. (Withdrawal Date: 9th September 1982).



To Commemorate the Tongan Red Cross and to Honour the International Year of Disabled People, the Post Office will issue a set of 5 stamps, with a Total Face Value of T\$6.08.

Designed and produced by Walsall Security Printers, Walsall, England.

Self-adhesive on perforated security backing, in sheets of 20 (2 panes of 10 stamps with centre gutters).

AN ESSAY OF ONE OF THE TWO DESIGNS FOR THE SET TO BE ISSUED ON THE 9th SEPTEMBER THE VALUES AND SIZES WILL BE:

29S, 32S, 47S SIZE 24.6mm x 32mm
T\$2, T\$3 SIZE 33mm x 49mm



IMPORTANT NOTICE
THE TREATY SET WILL FEATURE THE WEDDING OF HRH. THE PRINCE OF WALES AND LADY DIANA SPENCER

FORTHCOMING STAMP ISSUES

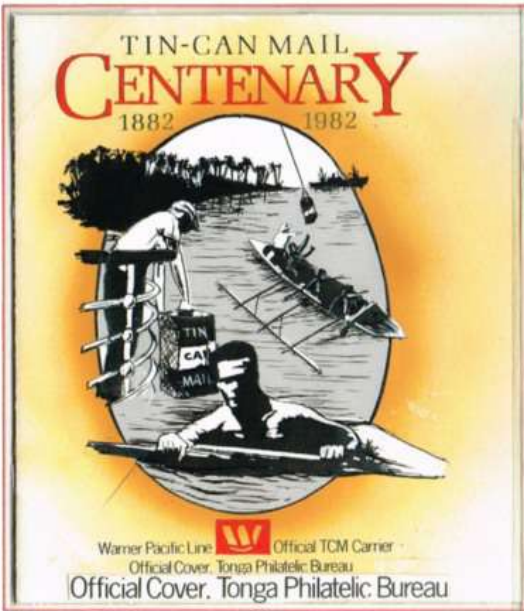
- 1981 Centenary of the Ratification of the Treaty between Tonga and Great Britain 1881, depicting King George Tupou I, Queen Victoria and the Wedding of Prince Charles & Lady Diana.
- 200th Anniversary of the Discovery of Vava'u by Maurelle, the Spanish Navigator, depicting Sailing Ships & Early Maps.
- 175th Anniversary of the capture of the Port-Au-Prince, depicting the sailing ship 'The Port-Au-Prince' etc.
- 150th Anniversary of First Books printed on Tonga on a press supplied by Missionaries (The Christmas issue).
- 1982 Additional Definitive Values, required for new postal rates.
- 75th Anniversary of Scouting and the 125th Anniversary of the Birth of Lord Baden-Powell (Founder of the Scout movement).
- Sports Events of 1982 (Commonwealth Games, World Cup etc.)
- Tin Can Mail

THE ABOVE PROGRAMME IS SUBJECT TO ALTERNATION.

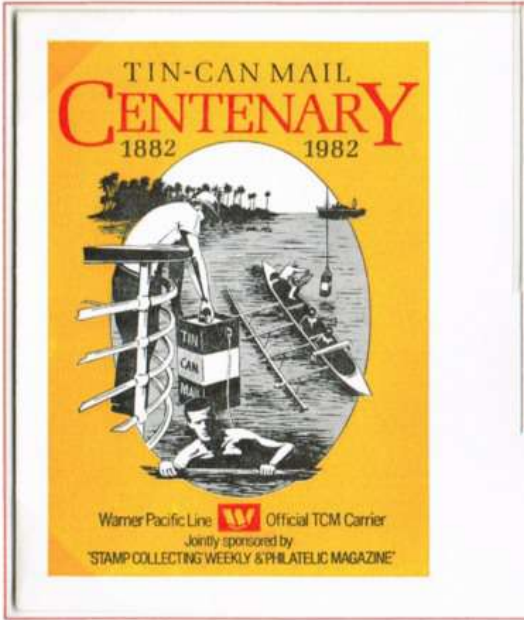
The Kingdom of Tonga
ancient polynesia

7.2 1982 The First Tin Can Mail stamps of Tonga

The 1982 Tin Can Mail Centenary Artwork. The original mock-up on card with two overlays for the design of the Official Cover



The original design had the words 'Jointly sponsored by STAMP COLLECTING WEEKLY & MAGAZINE' printed at the bottom left, but this was changed to 'Official Cover, Tonga Philatelic Bureau'.



On 29th September 1982, Tonga issued its first Tin Can Mail stamps to commemorate the centenary of Tin Can Mail 1882 - 1982.

The wording was subsequently changed back to that in the original artwork 'Jointly sponsored by STAMP COLLECTING WEEKLY & PHILATELIC MAGAZINE' with the additional words 'THE PHILATELIC BUREAU NUKU'ALOFA TONGA SOUTH PACIFIC'.

7.2 1982 The First Tin Can Mail stamps of Tonga

An article (original) in The Tonga Chronicle for 24th September 1982 about the forthcoming issue of Tin Can Mail stamps

New Stamp issue To Mark Tin Can Mail

Tonga will celebrate the Tin Can Mail centenary at Niuafu'ou, the Kingdom's northern most island, with a special new stamp issue, to be released next Wednesday, September 29.

The issue will include four values T\$2.92 and two miniature sheets T\$2.92.

According to the Philatelic Executive Agent, Mr Alan W. Benjamin, this issue is the major event in the Tongan Philatelic calendar and is not only being celebrated on the Islands, but throughout the Philatelic world.

The romantic concept of Tin Can Mail was only seized upon by the outside world during the 1930s and then not by Philatelists but by the luxury cruise liners that ploughed the South Pacific, for during that decade a regular feature stop was off Niuafu'ou, where excited passengers crowded the rails to see mail being lowered to waiting outrigger canoes. It was only through the participation of these cruising passengers that philatelists discovered the romance of this little known island.

Tin Can Mail has been going on for 100 years, the only total break was from 1946 to 1962 when violent volcanic eruptions made the Island temporarily uninhabitable, and the 1,200 islanders were evacuated for their own safety.

For sixteen years until 1962, the Island remained uninhabited, today in spite of its remoteness and the unpredictability of the volcano, Niuafu'ou or Tin Can Island as it is often known is again a thriving community.

1983 will see one of the few remaining palm fringed South Sea Island paradises brought into the 20th Century, when the new airport, now under construction, comes into service.

Tin Can Mail is not only being celebrated in Niuafu'ou and the rest of the Tongan group, but also in many other parts of the world. The Tin Can Mail Study Circle of America is producing a special cover and is having these sent to Niuafu'ou in the traditional manner. The Princess Cruise Liner, the Pacific Princess will be making a special mail stop on October 5, 1982.

The British Post Office is having a special commemorative hand-stamp postmark in Greenwich, Stamp Collecting and the Philatelic Magazine, two British Journals, are sponsoring a special commemorative cover, with facilities to have these sent to Niuafu'ou via Tin Can Mail.

Such was the popularity of Tin Can Mail, the report highlighted that this issue is the major event in the Tongan Philatelic calendar, and is not only being celebrated on the islands but throughout the Philatelic world.

The report goes on to talk about the romantic concept of Tin Can Mail, seized upon by both philatelists and the luxury cruise liners and their excited passengers who crowded the rails to see mail being lowered to waiting outrigger canoes.

.....and 1983 will see one of the few remaining South Sea Island paradises brought into the 20th century, when the new airport now under construction, comes into service.

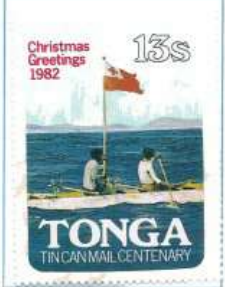
The report concludes that the British Post Office is having a special commemorative hand-stamp postmark Greenwich, an example of which is illustrated below.



7.2 1982 The First Tin Can Mail stamps of Tonga

Tonga's first Tin Can Mail stamps to commemorate the 1982 Tin Can Mail centenary

The first Tin Can Mail stamps issued by Tonga on 29th September 1982 showing outrigger canoes collecting the mail from a passing ship, and, on the T\$2 value, an aerial view of the island



The 13 senti value was also overprinted 'Christmas Greetings 1982'



The T\$2 value, with gold instead of white lettering was also issued in a miniature sheet

This sheet has the SPECIMEN overprint

7.3 Niuafu'ou's Air Mail Service

Stamps were issued by Tonga and Niuafu'ou to commemorate aviation in Niuafu'ou

On 11th May 1983, Tonga issued a set of four self-adhesive stamps



Also on 11th May 1983, Niuafu'ou issued two commemorative stamps



In 1993, Niuafu'ou issued two stamps to commemorate the 10th anniversary of aviation in Niuafu'ou



In 2002, Niuafu'ou issued a miniature sheet of three stamps featuring three different types of mail aeroplane



7.4 Inauguration of Niuafu'ou airport

The airport on Niuafu'ou and Royal Tongan Airlines.

The construction of an airstrip and terminal in 1983 brought an end to the Tin Can Mail service

Mata'aho Airport, (or Queen Lavinia Airport) the airstrip and terminal on Niuafu'ou



Niuafu'ou was serviced by Royal Tongan Airlines operating out of Fua'amotu airport on Tongatapu

