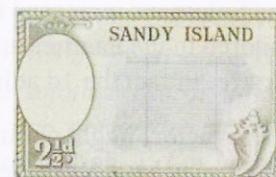


Presumably nobody has attempted to look into the philatelic history of Sandy Island. However, I show my proposed stamp design depicting a map of the territory.



Tokelau collecting on eBay

From Tony Burgess

One of my daily website checks is to see what is on offer on eBay for Tokelau items; and whilst it contains a large percentage of muh [*] stamps, there are other items worth taking a second look, so it is often very interesting.

Starting prices on eBay often start very low, so no reserve; but occasionally some are set at retail; example two Tokelau Air Drop covers had a starting price of U.S. \$200. It has to be remembered that eBay sellers do not have high overheads that retailers and auction houses do; also you do not pay VAT or similar taxes. Another advantage that eBay has over many of the big auction houses, is that all items are illustrated in colour, otherwise you would not even bother to bid unless you knew the seller very well. Successful bids are usually well under the normal retail prices, so is a popular way for collectors to expand their collection, in addition you get to view many more items per year than you would in a room full of auction catalogues.

Those who watch the UK TV programmes "Bargain Hunt" quickly realise how difficult it is to buy retail then try to sell at auction to make a profit.

What to look for in Tokelau items: Used stamps, check for non FDC dates; Covers especially registered including registered FDC; Mini sheets or blocks that may be missing from your collection; and of course Union Islands items.

Paying eBay with PayPal is a very good system, and gives you confidence; the only real problem is the occasional seller with a poor feedback record so they should be avoided, also some who are setting starting prices too high. Look also at the number of items a seller has recorded. Be careful also with certain countries which have problems with their postal service, as your stamps may have a higher than normal risk of being stolen.

Now I have snookered myself, more will be bidding against me; but it is still good for Tokelau collecting.

Vanuatu – Two Variations on a Recent Meter Marking.

From Steven Zirinsky.



Royal Tour 1958 – Can You Help with Details.

The illustration is taken from a postcard sent by A.G. Wickens to his dentist in Windsor, Berks, with a manuscript date "Wellington, N.Z. 6 Feb 1958". As can be seen the postcard carries an airmail etiquette of NZ-NAC the New Zealand airline, but does not carry an adhesive, which suggests that it was transported in the "royal" equivalent of a diplomatic bag. The message on the card refers to "Plenty of sunshine from Fiji onwards", and indicates that the sender will visit his dentist on his return on 10 March 1958.



We would be interested to find out which member of the royal family was making this tour and whether Fiji was included as part of the tour, or only included as a transit stop. If you can add any further details the Editor would be delighted to hear from you.