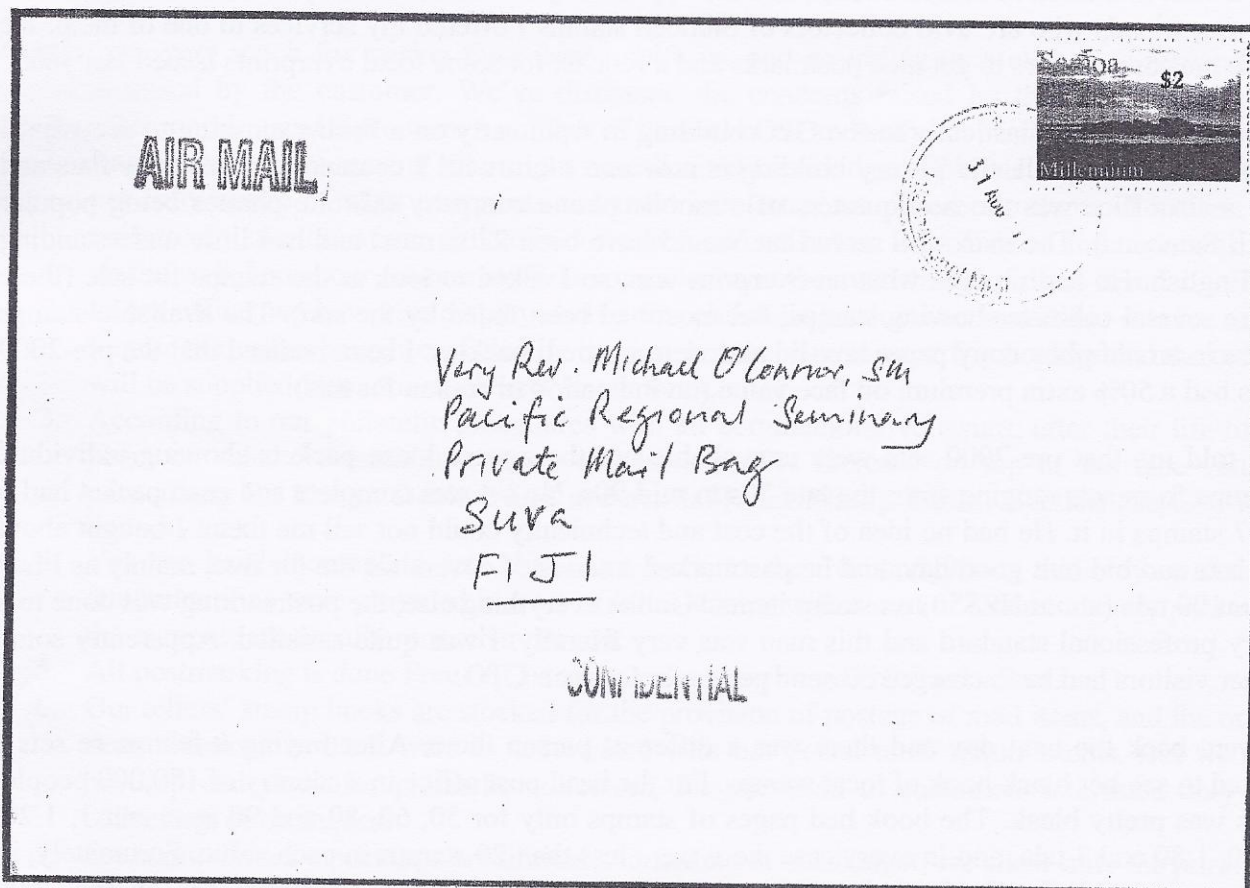


2011 Samoa Provisionals (continued)

Courtesy of Steven Zirinsky, I can illustrate an example of the 2 tala provisional used on 31 August 2011 on an oversize Air Mail envelope to Fiji.



Cover Story

The pre-1900 Samoa Frank on our cover illustration came from the 2011 Schuyler Rumsey auction of the Jack Hughes collection. At Lot 2485 it was described as:

(Official Business) Samoa Frank Stamp, sharp strike of circular flag emblem (SF23) on cover to Suva, Fiji, with reddish violet "H.M. Customs, Apia, Samoa, Nov 29, 1899" double circle cachet date stamp and "w/Certificate" notation, reverse with G.P.O. Suva, Fiji, 27 Dec. 99 receiving cds.... It was estimated at US\$2,000-3,000 and sold for \$4,000 plus B.P.

Though this frank stamp and a larger version were mentioned in Volume V of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (p. 701), and curiously in *A Postal History of the Samoan Islands, Part II, 1914-1918* (p. 43), few examples have been reported. The small one, in addition to appearing on this cover, was said to exist on a "memorandum giving details of the printings of the Palm Tree issues...." and the larger one on an unaddressed "envelope" (Vol. V), "cover" (*PHSI*) or "yellow card" (Hughes auction). The only dated evidence of its use seems to be the Suva backstamp on the illustrated cover and there is no evidence of what office despatched it from Samoa or how it was conveyed to Fiji. The illustrations on *PHSI* p. 44 are stated to be at actual size, but it seems more likely that the dimensions in Vol. V and the auction catalogue are more accurate.

There is not much evidence for the Vol. V statement that "It is probable that these (the franks) were used by Davis before or after the closing of the office on February 28, 1900."