

Previous Articles - 71

Fiji File

Following on from John Ray's correction of our typos in the "Fragmented Fiji" article, he kindly supplied additional details of the colony's issue.



1½d Scratches

John indicated that the topic of Silver Jubilees was raised recently among members of the Pacific Islands Study Circle following the discovery of a scratch on the frame of the Fiji 1½d value. Fortunately another member has a large block which includes the scratch which has made it possible to determine the position. It is also clear that the scratch extends to the stamp immediately below as well. It is most noticeable as it crosses the sword on stamp 7/5.



At the time of John's message, another 1½d frame scratch appeared on eBay. This one was a heavy line in the left hand margin but without an indication of position.

3d shades

John also sent a scan of plate blocks illustrating the difference of what we usually refer to as the indigo frame shade but which also shows considerable difference in the rendering of the vignettes.



Print quantities

With his researches in the De La Rue Day Books, John was able to provide this table which, besides print quantities, (including part sheets), gives dates and requisition numbers. From late August, it appears further demand came exclusively from dealers.

Date	Reqn.	1½d	2d	3d	1/-	Notes
19350214	4319	39,600				+421 specimens
19350214	4319	21,000				For dealers
19350214	4319		594,000			+ 421 specimens
19350214	4319		18,000			For dealers
19350214	4319			33,000		+ 421 specimens
19350214	4319			13,500		For dealers
19350214	4319				19,800	+ 421 specimens
19350214	4319				10,200	For dealers
19350826	4319/2	32,000				
19350826	4319/2			16,000		
19350826	4319/2				13,200	
19350829	4319/2	4,000				For dealers
19350829	4319/2			3,550		For dealers
19351113	4319/3	6,000				For dealers
19351113	4319/3				6,000	For dealers
19351217	4319/4	16,235				For dealers
19351217	4319/5		8,700			For dealers
19351217	4319/5			8,000		For dealers
19351217	4319/5				6,240	For dealers
Totals		118,835	620,700	74,050	55,440	
To Fiji		71,600	594,000	49,000	33,000	
For dealers		<u>47,235</u>	<u>26,700</u>	<u>25,050</u>	<u>22,440</u>	
		118,835	620,700	74,050	55,440	

External mails

John added the following notes.

Direct mails to/from Fiji in 1935 were all by surface.

The Canadian-Australian Royal Mail Line operated a four-weekly service: Sydney-Auckland-Suva-Honolulu-Vancouver.

The Matson Line had a three-weekly service linking Fiji with Sydney, Auckland, Honolulu and San Francisco.

Fiji had access to the Sydney-Singapore-London airmail service which began in December 1934 but mail between Suva and Sydney was carried by sea.

The airmail postage rate from Fiji to the UK was 1/10½d per half ounce initially, reducing to 1/7½d in 1936.



Set + further 3d and, on reverse, 2d x2, (total: 2/1½d, being 3d registration and 1/10½d the ½ oz airmail rate to UK via Australia) on registered airmail cover to Liverpool, tied by Suva Reg cds for 29 No 35 with ms "...flown Sydney - London".