

Colorful Issues Complete 2016 Pacific Islands Programs

Under the leadership of Philatelic Collector, Inc., several South Pacific nations completed their 2016 Philatelic programs on a high note, with issues that were both beautiful and relevant, giving us a glimpse into life in these islands.

One such issue that exemplifies relevance is a “Queen Mother” issue—not one for the British Royal family but a souvenir sheet celebrating the 90th birthday of **Tonga’s** Queen Mother, Queen Halaevalu Mata’aho, whose contributions to women, children and education are long lasting and still being celebrated and cherished today.



Above Photo: Royal bridal party, Tonga, circa July 1947. Crown Prince Tupouto'a-Tungi and his bride Matahake, Princess Meleniate and her husband Prince 'U'i Felebaka.

Samoa welcomes visitors to the islands as well as through its postal issues. Demonstrating this is a colorful Samoa Tourism Definitive issue that reproduces photographs with exclusive rights from National Geographic Creative. Pictured below, these stamps depict the culture, entertainment, flora, fauna and landscape of the beautiful island of Samoa.



A glimpse into the history of the region is depicted in a Penrhyn Explorers sheetlet that marked the 200th anniversary of Penrhyn’s first encounter with foreign explorers.

In 1816, the crew of the Russian vessel, *Rurick*, commanded by Otto Von Kotzebue, traded with the Penrhyn locals. This issue portrays this history and tells the story of Von Kotzebue, depicting a recent aerial photo of Penrhyn, a portrait of Von Kotzebue, his route map, and a ship much like the *Rurick*.

These issues and many others can be viewed with additional information at the South Pacific Islands website of Philatelic Collector Inc., <https://pcistamps.com>.

