

Synopsis Chicagopex 2025 8/22/2025
Fiji King George VI Definitives 1938 – 1956

Purpose: The exhibit presents a study of the Fiji King George VI Definitives 1938 – 1956 with a focus on printings, plate flaws, and uses.

Importance: This is one of four exhibits currently being shown of this issue. There are many scarce and several rare items shown, so the exhibit would be difficult to duplicate.

Treatment and Organization: The exhibit is organized by value. For each value, printings and plate flaws are shown in chronological order, followed by postal history in chronological order.

Philatelic Knowledge, Personal Study, and Research: I have been collecting and studying this issue since 1990. My research has focused on finding and identifying the numerous printings (123 in total) and understanding the numerous airmail rates of the colony.

Rarity: Rare items are marked with colored dot and a rarity statement is provided. Printings under 100,000 stamps are noted in *italics* (example - Quantity: *96,600*). Printings under 50,00 are noted in **bold** (example – Quantity: **45,600**)

Highlights

5/ Booklet from 1940 by De La Rue. 1300 booklets were made but only 25 are known to exist.
6d solo use on 1949 registered letter from small town of Tavua (population 2,227) to rare destination of Patan, Nepal and backstamped Indian Embassy Nepal.
5 shilling solo use on 1946 commercial airmail letter from Suva to China via Hong Kong.
High values (2/6, 5/, 10/ and 1 pound) on piece 1951 from Lekuva to American Samoa. Any none first day use of the 10/ and 1 pound values are especially rare.

Condition: Condition of the stamps is very high. Condition of the covers is very high considering the humid and hot climate of Fiji.

Track Record: This is the first time the exhibit has been shown.

Bibliography:

Best source for printings and plate flaws: Duberal, R. F. and Bryan A. Jones, *Fiji Postage Stamps Issues of the King George VI Period*, 2018.

Best source for postal rates: Rodger, J. G, and Edward Proud, *The Postal History of Fiji*, 1999. Surface rates page 155, and airmail rates page 158.

Title Page Chicagopex 8/22/2025
Fiji King George VI Definitives 1938 – 1956

Introduction

This five frame traditional exhibit of Fiji King George VI definitives 1938-1956 focuses on printings, plate flaws, and postal history.

The initial eleven values were issued April 5, 1938. Between 1940 and 1950, eleven additional values and die changes were issued, along with ten perforation changes, and one surcharge. A total of 123 printing were made between 1938 and 1956. The stamps were gradually replaced by Queen Elizabeth II definitives issued between February 1, 1954 and November 2, 1956.

Stamps

Stamp printing was divided between two firms: De La Rue (12 values) and Waterlow (10 values). Printing was by intaglio, on pre-gummed paper in one stage (single color) or two stages (two colors).

For each printing, the reverse is displayed to illustrate paper color, gum color and the visibility of watermarks.

Information given for each printing: date, plate numbers, ink color, paper color and texture, and quantity printed. Plate flaws positions are noted by row/column.

Postal History

This exhibit contains examples of village postmarks, surface and airmail letters and postcards to unusual destinations, censorship, forwarded mail, ship mail, mixed uses, postal stationery, and revenue use.

Rare Items

Color dot indicates rare item.

Exhibit Organization

Exhibit is organized by value. For each value, printings and plate flaws are in chronological order, followed by postal history in chronological order.

Page	Value	Content
		Frame 1 (1-16)
2		De La Rue
3		Waterlow
4		Booklet
5-8	½d	Printings: 9
9-14	1d	Printings: 11
15-16	1½d	Printings: 10
		Frame 2 (17-32)
17-20	1½d	Continued
21-26	2d	Printings: 11
27-29	2½d	Surcharge Printings: 1
30-32	2½d	Printings: 6
		Frame 3 (33-48)
33-35	2½d	Continued
36-41	3d	Printings: 9
42-47	5d	Printings: 10
48	6d	Printings: 10
		Frame 4 (49-64)
49-53	6d	Continued
54-58	8d	Printings: 3
59-64	1/-	Printings: 8
		Frame 5 (65-80)
65-67	1/5	Printings: 5
68-70	1/6	Printings: 3
71-73	2/-	Printings: 11
74-76	2/6	Printings: 7
77-78	5/-	Printings: 8
79	10/£1	Printings: 1, 2
80		Epilogue