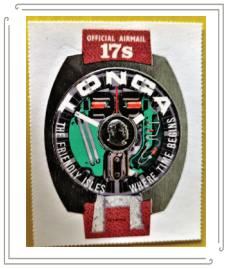
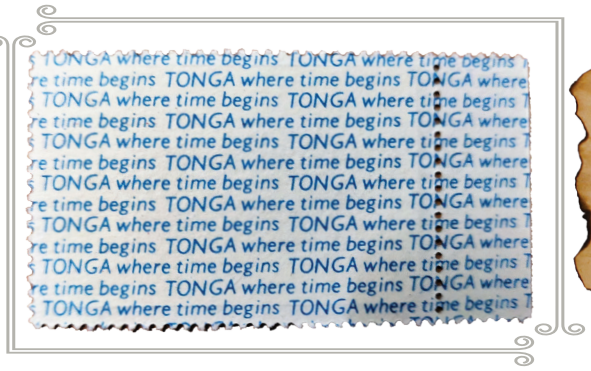
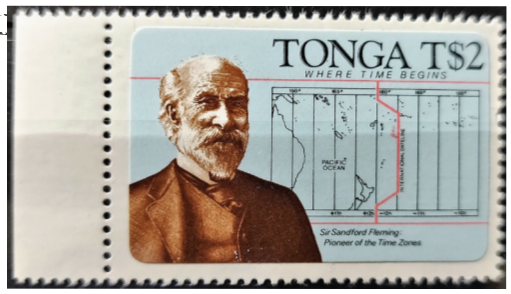


WHERE DOES TIME BEGIN?

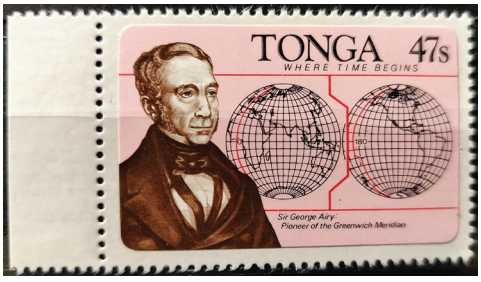


Does Time have a beginning or an end? Philosophers might argue on this for days, but fortunately we in philately are gracefully saved from this taxing question by one country that proclaims it is actually THE place 'Where Time Begins.'

The Kingdom of Tonga in the Pacific Ocean lies on the International Date Line, which defines the boundary of one day and the next. It is where you can be the first to greet a new day, a new year or a new millennium! Lying exactly 180 degrees from the Greenwich Meridien, it is an imaginary zig zag line that owes its existence to the concept of Prime Meridien at Greenwich.



In October 1884, twenty-six countries came together in the International Meridien Conference held in Washington to adopt Greenwich as the Prime Meridien to be used as a common zero of standard time. This was first proposed by Sandford Fleming, the then Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railways in 1876.



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