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 Kon-Tiki brev 1947, med beskrivelse og certifikat fra Erik Hess  
 1971

The Kon-Tiki letters.

The envelopes are of a kind with inside pattern - a multiple Marca Salas - and on the outside fitted with a symbolic drawing, made by the rafts navigator. The idea of a raft mail occurred late and so the rest of the expeditions money was not enough to frank the issue, then consisting of about 2000, packed tightly in a shoe box. But some got an ordinary Peruvian stamp.

After 101 days drifting across the Pacific, the raft Kon-Tiki was thrown on the reef of Raroia in Polynesia, August the 7th, 1947.

In spite of the extraordinary humidity, the hot sun, insects etc., the mail was still in good condition when some weeks after stranding, delivered in the post office of Papeete, Tahiti. The unfranked got now a Polynesia Tax franking. Some letters were sent back to the post office of Lima, Peru. Others were used by the expedition members and some were even said to be disappeared in Papeete. Still the shoe box contained the most when stowed away in the Kon-Tiki Museum in Oslo, Norway. Somehow, these letters were almost forgotten. The raftsmen seldom met and so 23 years past until finally the letters were divided between the raftsmen still alive.



Certification

To whom it may concern, I herewith declare the letter above - a genuine one. It was on the raft Kon-Tiki from Peru to Polynesia in 1947. In case of doubt, the Philatelic Club of Larvik, Norway, would be able to identify a Kon-Tiki letter.

Larvik, the 13th of April 1971

*Erik Hesselberg*  
 Navigator on the raft Kon-Tiki.

*Erik Hesselberg*  
 Kristiansand. 3.11.71.

