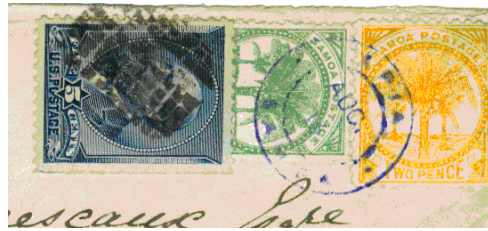


Fellowship of Samoa Specialists

American Philatelic Society Affiliate No. 240



1877-1881



1889



1886-1900

The Fellowship of Samoa Specialists, a group of avid collectors of Samoan stamps and postal history, was founded in 1979 by Jack Hughes. Today this group has members in a dozen countries who share their knowledge through **The Samoa Express**, our quarterly newsletter edited by Don Mee. For more information, please see the Fellowship's website at <http://www.samoaexpress.org/>.

Samoa provides a wonderfully rich and varied collecting area which can be narrowed or broadened to suit any collector's taste. Samoan philately and postal history dates from 1836 to now, beginning with the "Missionary letters" – covers without stamps. Later on a first "non-government" post office was opened by Mr. Griffiths, publisher of the newspaper *Samoa Times*. His stamps, inscribed SAMOA EXPRESS were not recognized by the UPU – and therefore the covers all show mixed frankings, using stamps of US, New Zealand or Australia. The Samoa Express stamps were extensively reprinted. The Express Post closed in 1881, and the Samoa Municipal Post Office provided postal service until 1886, albeit without issuing stamps.

In 1886, John Davis, a photographer, was appointed by King Malietoa Laupepa to be Postmaster for the Kingdom of Samoa. Davis issued stamps in three designs – the Palm Trees, King Malietoa, and the Flag. His postal agency operated until 1900. These stamps were also not recognized by the UPU, and required mixed frankings for foreign delivery.

Germany opened a "post office abroad" at Apia in 1886, using stamps of Germany which can be only identified by the postmarks. Germany made the western portion of the Samoan Islands a German Colony in 1900, and issued German stamps overprinted "Samoa". These were followed quickly by the Yacht stamps, then used throughout the German colonial empire. The eastern portion of the Samoan Islands, including the major harbour of Pago Pago on Tutuila, became a U. S. dependency on the same day in 1900, and remains a U. S. territory today.

The German Yacht stamps remained on sale until New Zealand occupation in August 1914. After all the stocks of German stamps were seized, they were overprinted G.R.I. (Georgius Rex Imperator) and surcharged with the necessary British denominations. After WWI, western Samoa was made a League of Nations mandate supervised by New Zealand and later a United Nations Trust Territory. After more than a century of colonial rule, Western Samoa became independent in 1962, and began issuing its own stamps.



1886-1900



1914



1969

Please join us!

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The Fellowship was initiated in 1979 by Jack R. Hughes, and now consists of 64 Fellows from throughout the world. The Fellowship's quarterly journal, *The Samoa Express*, is the main method of communication between fellows, but meetings do occur when two or more Fellows can get together, usually at National or International Philatelic Exhibitions. The largest gatherings to date have been at Auckland in 1990, San Francisco 1997, Melbourne 1999, San Francisco 2005, and Washington 2006. Fellows who allow their addresses, email or other contact details to be published in the journal are able to correspond directly with other fellows on matters of mutual interest. Our website is: <http://www.samoalexpress.org/>

All membership applications or enquiries should be addressed to our Editor and Treasurer:

Mr. D. A. T. Mee
23 Leo Street,
Christchurch, 8051
NEW ZEALAND
Fax: ++64 3 359 8605

Membership Application

Please send the following information to Mr. D. A. T. Mee (address above):

Name (surname, first name(s)): _____

Postal address: _____

Email address: _____

APS membership number (If applicable): _____

Subscription dues enclosed (and in what currency): _____

Please do or do not publish my address/email in the journal (please circle one)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Subscription dues: Irrespective of a Fellow's country of residence, subscription dues may be paid by any one of the following currency amounts:

US \$20, Aus \$20, Can \$20, NZ \$22, £12 or €15

A personal cheque in any of these currencies is acceptable and it is not necessary to add anything for bank charges. Cheques should be made payable to "Fellowship of Samoa Specialists". Otherwise, banknotes may be used for payment.

December 2010