

U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN

An occasional bulletin about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including the successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall, and Line Islands.)

ISSUE NO. NINE **JUNE, 1995**

UPDATING MURPHY - AMERICAN SAMOA.

I have seen nothing in print about the postal markings used in American Samoa since Robert Murphy published "A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" in the early 1980's. This review of postal markings known to me does not pretend to be complete - I have had access to relatively few covers, commercial mail from American Samoa is rarely seen in Britain and Post Offices in American Samoa only respond irregularly to letters from collectors. I would appreciate additional information e.g. extensions to dates of use and photocopies of datestamps not recorded here or in Murphy. FAGA'ITUA was covered in "Bulletin" No. 3. No comments have been received concerning this item.

PAGO PAGO:

a) Datestamps recorded by Murphy

- Murphy 1.27 - extend to May 25, 1982 (on a commercial cover)
- Murphy 2.11 - Seen on March 24, 1966 on a (2) Commercial Certified cover.
- Murphy 2.13 - Seen October 13, 1982 on the reverse of an undelivered letter and on October 28, 1989 on a philatelic cover.

b) New Datestamps seen

FOUR BARS:

- Illustration 9/1 - Seen April 24, 1990 and May 5 1992 on Philatelic covers - The vertical lines and blotches across the bars are almost certainly caused by an elastic band being passed around the bars to hold the datestamp together following damage.
- Illustration 9/2 - Seen April 18, 1991 and June 15, 1993. These appear to be Illustration 9/1 but without the vertical markings on the bars. The June 15, 1993 device is slightly vertically oval but otherwise identical.
- Illustration 9/3 - Seen June 8, 1993 on a cover posted by a visitor to Pago Pago in the posting box at the Post Office. (The first known usage of "SAMOA" rather than "AS" on a four bar since Murphy 1.24.)

- Illustration 9/4 - Seen Mar 30 (1994) on a philatelic cover received in the U.K. in April 1995. I guess the real date of posting was Mar 30 1995.

APDS/UTILITY

- Illustration 9/5 - Seen August 22, 1990 on a philatelic cover (The first known sighting of "AS" rather than "SAMOA" on an APDS.)
- Illustration 9/6 - Seen June 15, 1993 on the reverse of a philatelic Registered Cover.
- Illustration 9/7 - This is Murphy 1.26 used without a date on a cover posted by a visitor to Pago Pago in the posting box at the Post Office on or about June 8, 1993. This has been helpfully(?) overstamped by an overinked machine datestamp in the U.K.
- Illustration 9/8 - This is very similar to Murphy 2.26 but whereas Murphy 2.26 is 52mm long from the first "P" of Pago to the last "9" of 96799 this marking is 54mm. The marking appears on a series of covers posted from the cruise liner "S.S. Oriana" between January 21, 1982 and July 19, 1983 and bearing British Stamps.
- Illustration 9/9 - Meter Mark seen in red on September 15, 1993 on a cover from the American Samoa Office of Tourism. Note that SAMOA is mis-spelled SAMON. The Meter Number appears to be R559B3.

- Illustration 9/10 - Meter Mark seen in red on March 24 '95 on a commercial cover from the American Samoa Department of Health.

(Thanks to Brad Arch for his help with this article)

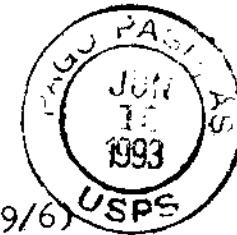
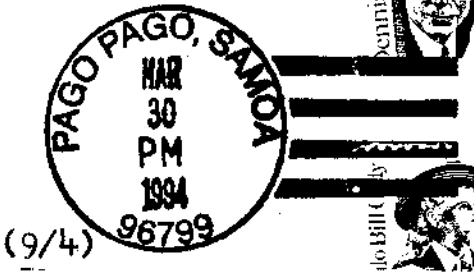
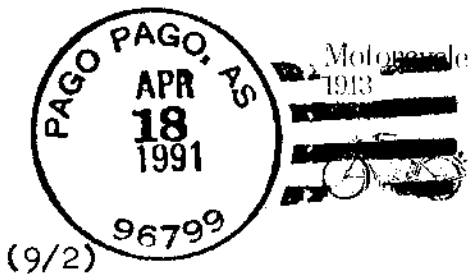
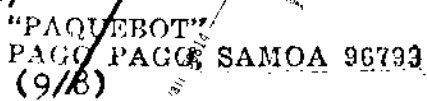


Illustration 9/7



(9/9)



See Page Two for Illustration 9/10