

SAMOA

Samoa was formerly an independent kingdom comprising seven islands located some 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii. Internal dissension caused Britain, Germany and the United States to intervene in the late 1890s. This resulted in partitioning the territory, with the Germans taking the western islands and the United States the eastern group on 2 December 1899.

Apia
20 April 1900

Forerunner



The first post office in American Samoa was not opened until 20 July 1900. During the seven months between acquisition and the establishment of U. S. postal service, mail was usually sent via the German postal agency at Apia in Western Samoa. Above cover originated from the U.S.S. *Abarenda*, which arrived in August 1899 and served as our station ship at Pago Pago until 1902. (This ship was a collier and had a crew of only 40 men.)

SAMOA
Tutuila

Pago Pago
9 December 1900

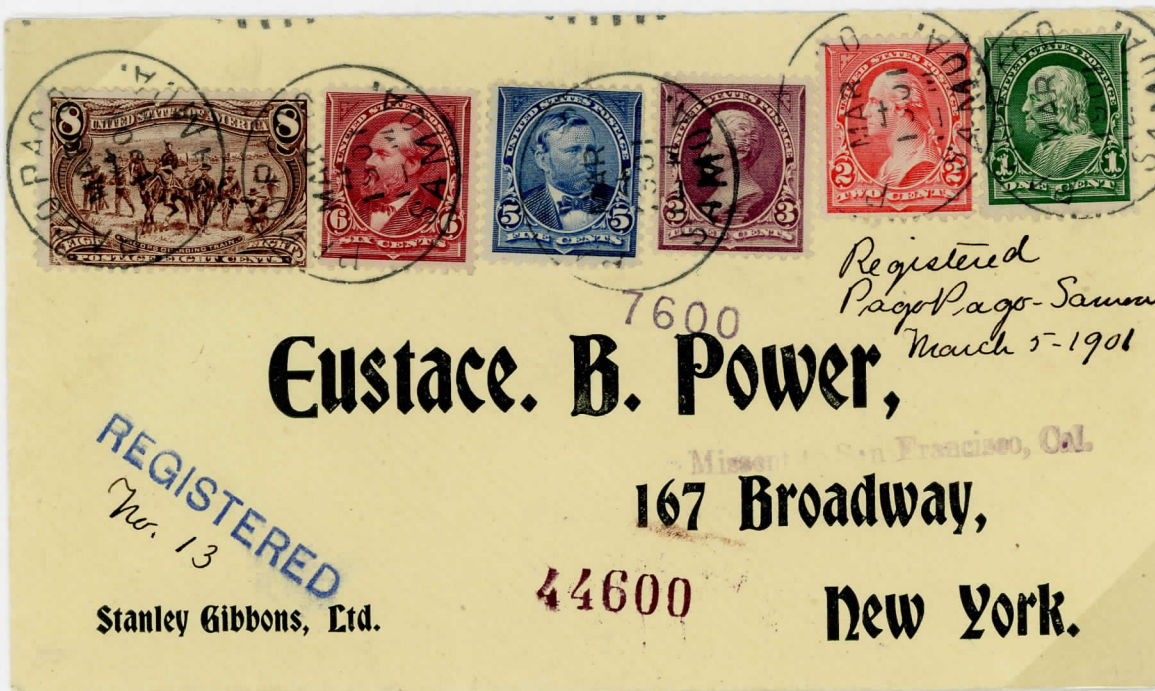
Earliest Recorded Date



The post office in American Samoa only used normal, unoverprinted U. S. stamps. The earliest cancellation was a Pago Pago/Samoa duplex, which is recorded used from 9 December 1900 to 8 September 1927.

SAMOA
Tutuila

Pago Pago
4 March 1901
19 December 1901



Before the introduction of the normal double-circle registration marking in May 1901, a single-line auxiliary "REGISTERED" handstamp was used. The postal card above represents the only use of the 2 cent international card recorded from Samoa.

SAMOA
Tutuila

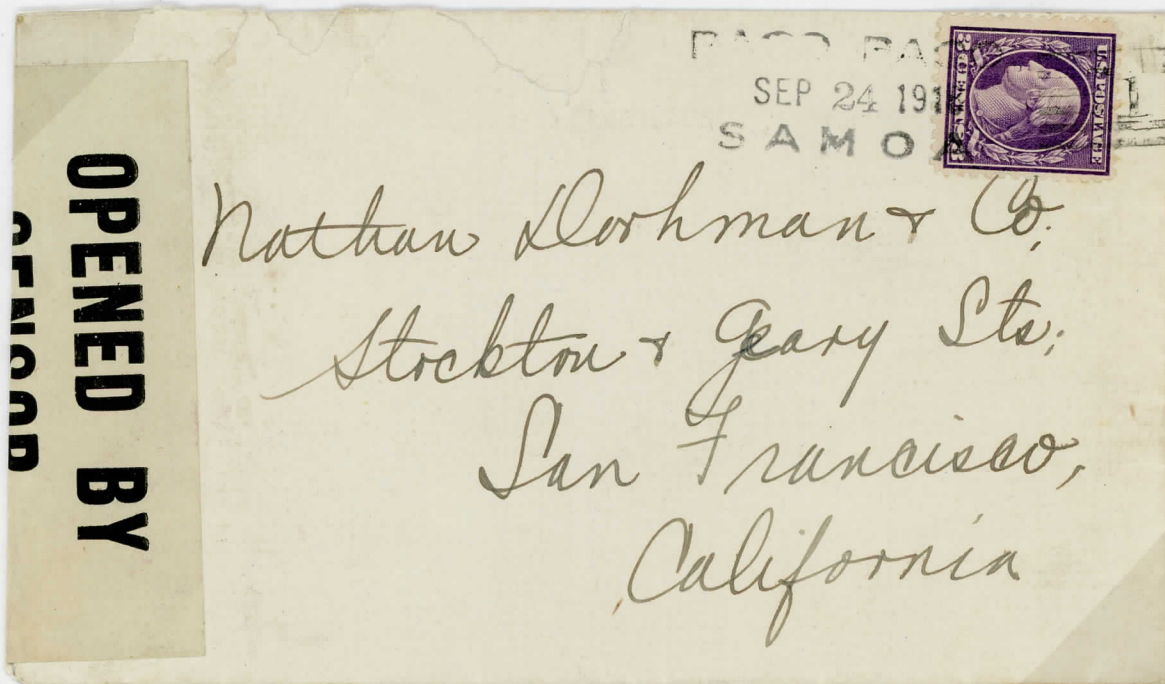
Pago Pago
30 December 1914
27 February 1915



Examples of registered covers showing large double ring registration marking with unhyphenated "Pago Pago."
The lower cover is the latest recorded usage of this postmark.

SAMOA
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Pago Pago
30 April 1918
24 September 1918



A small double ring registration marking was placed into service subsequently; it is recorded as used from 30 April 1918 (above) to 15 May 1922. An unusual type of straight-line cancel with killer bars was introduced during the First World War. The recorded dates of usage are 4 March 1918 through 16 December 1918. The censor label is tied to the back of the envelope by a circular mark #1611 applied in transit at Honolulu.