

„Samoa 1904“ English text of the catalogue and the exhibition in Bochum-Germany 2004

1 Robert L. Stevenson's Grave



on Mount Vaea. The author of "The Treasure Island" and "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" spent his last years in Samoa and is buried there. His grave became a pilgrimage shrine, to be reached by a very exhausting hike uphill. Stevenson is highly regarded by the Samoan people. Otto Tetens is sitting in front.

2 The Uninhabited Island Nuutele



The uninhabited island Nuutele in the District Aleipata, Southeast Upolu: a postcard scene, then and now. The beach, the ocean and the palm trees with this background look like paradise.

3 Harbour Entrance Apolima



The difficult entrance into the bay of Apolima, with a fautasi boat, the racing boat of the Samoans. There are only a few families living on Apolima, then and today; visiting there is only rarely possible.

4 The Mulinuu Peninsula



Mulinuu, the peninsula where the observatory is located, seen from the sea (west). In the background, there is Mt. Vaea with the R.L. Stevenson's grave, and the mountain range of Upolu, which rises over 1000 meters above sea level.

5 The Beach at Low Tide



The beach located 8 km west from Apia, at low tide.

6 Surge at Northeast-Savaii



This picture was taken in the beginning of 1904. Six months later, this area was covered with lava from a volcanic eruption. There are repeatedly strong volcanic eruptions. Otto Tetens observed volcanic activity scientifically, and described his findings in his reports.

7 Papaseea Sliding Rock



The rock offers a breathtaking sliding trip over slippery stone, five meters into the deep. Postcard photographers today view this place in exactly the same way – there has been no change in the last hundred years. Only the water flow is not always so strong as in this picture.

8 Road Construction at the North Coast



by Nuie-Islanders. This road is now the main traffic artery between the capital city and the airport. It was systematically built in the German time, as heavy duty road for high use. This was one of the long term infrastructure projects during the German administration in Samoa.

9 Road from Apia to the West



The landscape is slowly changing, through the development and establishment of infrastructure on the island. The idyllic scene at the roadside indicates, that there will soon be more there than mere tranquillity.

10 The Observatory 1904



The fale for work and living, and the foundations for the observation and measuring instruments are fully completed. This photograph documented the condition of the observatory for the Institute in Goettingen, and was printed in the report.

11 At a German Plantation



Most of the plantations in Samoa were big farms, because the German government wanted to prevent that a large number of small settlers came to Samoa. In this way, commercial interests could be better co-ordinated.

12 The Harbour Bay of Apia



The harbour bay of Apia at low tide, an empty, quiet bay – with the wreck of the Adler, 10 years old. Trading ships anchored in this bay, to be unloaded by boats. In the background, the cape of the peninsula Mulinuu can be seen, the location of the Apia Observatory.

13 German Cannon Ship Adler



The ship was destroyed in the cyclone on 15 March 1889 (original photo by AJ Tattersall), it had been deployed for battle with British and American ships. The storm prevented the war, destroyed the fleets and led to the signing of the Treaty of Berlin 1889 in peaceful agreement. A symbol.

14 Seismograph Shed



The shed for the seismograph at the Mulinuu Observatory. This simple technical building was dressed up as Samoan longhouse, to blend into its surroundings.

15 The Construction of the Fale



The living room and office of Otto Tetens, Head of the Observatory, in September 1902. It was unusual that a European used the Samoan building style for his house. He documented in detail the building of his fale – now an important historical documentation of a disappearing craft.

16 The Samoan Governing Council 1904



On the back of the picture, this picture is called "The Samoan District Assembly 1904". In the middle Mataafa Iosefo, in the background Tamasese, at the right Lauaki: the three most important political leaders of Samoa in those days. This Fono (Council House) was located almost exactly at the same place as the modern Parliament Building today.

17 Staff Members and families of the Observatory



- in their Meeting Fale at Mulinuu, next to the Observatory compound, showing the traditional building shape. The roof, made of special sugar cane thatch, protects from the rain and cools the house - an ideal building material for the Samoan climate, which has now been inadequately replaced by modern building material.

18 The State Throne of Mataafa,



his official seat. In the background the certificate from Emperor Wilhelm II, and other objects: a statue of Mary (Mataafa was Catholic) and a picture of Pope Leo XIII, a briefcase behind him, in front of him a looking glass. At the right side the orator Lauaki, with a fly whisk, in the front Mataafa's kava bowl.

19 . Kava Ceremony



Kava is poured with the strainer into the cup. The brew made from the roots of this plant with the scientific name Piper methysticum Forst, is a still widely used, mildly tranquillising beverage.

20 Young Samoan women



Traditional cloths and weapons shown

21 Women in "Modern" Clothes



At the right, the wife of the orator chief Lauati, who was later deported by the Germans and never saw his home again – he died 1915 on his return journey. There is no other known picture of Lauaki's wife. The clothes reflect the ideals of the missionaries of the way to "civilisation".

22 Souvenirs



Folcloristic and at those times popular souvenirs for Europeans shown.

23 Formal Head Dress



The formal head dress for the kava-ceremony requires much preparation.

24 A Fine Mat is Made



In many months of work, one of the most important cultural objects of Samoa is created, the fine mat. Fine mats are passed on as family heirloom over generations, and are a gift of prestige for weddings, birth celebrations or funerals. Often, fine mats have their own history and a name

25 Fibre Objects



A Samoan woman weaving plant fibre objects. These items were partly made for own use, but especially as souvenirs for the Europeans: Already around 1900, this provided a flourishing business for the Samoan people.

26 Mataafa Iosefo in his Official Fale in Mulinuu.



A very personal photograph of the man who was the highest representative of his people at the beginning of the 20th century, and who was very skilful in establishing good relationships with the Germans. His opponent, Governor Solf, fell in with many of his suggestions.

27 An Orator Chief with "Fue"



The orator chief has the responsibility to give important speeches. In the hierarchical ranking, he stands below the High Chief. One of his emblems is the "fue", laying over his shoulder, a whisk made of horse hairs or coconut fibre strings.

28 Chief's Son in Dancing Costume



On his head, he is wearing the typical ornament for festive occasions, such as a ceremonial kava-ceremony

29 Chief from Savaii



In traditional clothes and posture, in front of the Village Meeting Fale. The traditional decorative necklace he is wearing is still a favourite with the Samoan people. The siapo cloth, beaten from plant bark, is draped artistically around the body.

30 A District Representative



"The representative of a Samoan district in his official attire" – this is the note on the back of the photograph.

31 Young Samoan Woman



- holding an old war weapon. This type of picture must have been a photography "fashion" in the colonial times. Here, Tetens is imitating his professional colleagues

33 Ship models



from many regions of Oceania were part of the repertoire

35 Samoan District Representative



- with his much younger wife and family. The picture looks posed, but still gives a lively impression because of the direct eye contact with the viewer.

37 Melanesian Workers



A typical picture for ethnological studies in those days. Germans had brought these labourers to Samoa, for work on the plantations. The people on the picture were positioned in different poses to reveal their physical build.

40 The Planter's Family and their Visitors



The title picture of the Samoa 1904 Exhibition shows the European way of life in Samoa. It was characterised by good income, pleasant climate, social activities and special lifestyle.

32 Model ships



built for collecting Europeans

34 Samoan Boxing



Samoa boxing – posed by two young sons of chiefs.

36 Indentured Labourers of the DHPG



At the beginning of their journey back home to the Bismarck Archipelago, on the ship in Apia Harbour. (DHPG stands for "Deutsche Handels- und Plantagensgesellschaft – German Trade and Plantation Company"). The portraits of these striking faces in the harsh light of noon show people marked by their work, not the merry inhabitants of Samoa from other pictures.

39 The Supreme Court in Apia



The building still exists today; until 1993, it was the seat of the Government of Samoa, and still houses the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice. It is one of the last original wooden buildings from the German time. Urgent action would be necessary, in order to preserve this building. But up to now, nobody has agreed to pay the costs.

41 Farewell to the Visitors



The Sunday visitors on the plantation, a follow up to the picture above. This photograph shows the details of the lifestyle of the European inhabitants of Samoa, at least of the wealthier class depicted here, the plantation owners.

42 At the Vailele Plantation



"A party of white people, half casts and full-blooded Samoans" is written on the back of the picture. In the background right, the photographer Otto Tetens himself.

44 The American Consul



The American Consul in Samoa, George Heimrod. He came to office after the Berlin Treaty of 1899. West Samoa became a German colony. Heimrod, who was of German descent, had good relationships with the Germans.

46 Government Officer



The government officer Haidlen with two sons on the Veranda of his house. Otto Tetens met him already on the first day of his arrival (see entry in his diary 1902) Being the best expert on the local landscape, Haidlen gave him the advice to establish the Observatory at Mulinuu.

48 Living Room of a Planter Family



This picture shows the lifestyle of the Germans in the tropics. The clothes were according to the dress code from home. The furniture reflects the longing for German middle class way of life.

50 Jubilee Hall in Malua



An magnificent church of the LMS (London Missionary Society) in Malua, 15 km west of Apia, still very impressive and almost not changed.

52 Hospital for Chinese Workers



Hospital ward for Chinese labourers on Samoa. The DHPG (German Trade and Plantation Company) brought especially Chinese people for the work on the plantations to Samoa. Therefore, it also was necessary to offer them medical services, and own hospitals were created.

43 Planter and his Family, Upolu



Photographs on the Veranda were a popular way of showing the atmosphere in the tropics. The composition of this picture calls to mind the scenarios by the photo studios in Apia.

45 The Consul and his Daughter



The American Consul with his daughter Dorothea in his Office, richly decorated with collections from whole Oceania. Next to him his daughter, who accompanied him to Samoa; she later became the wife of Otto Tetens.

47 Franz Linke, the Successor



In 1905, Franz Linke became the successor of Otto Tetens at the Observatory. He was a totally different type of scientist, an efficient meteorologist, orientated towards high quality results, but he immediately had the Samoan houses replaced for "more solid and suitable" German wooden buildings.

49 Picnic Carnivores –Vegetarians



"Competition of the Carnivores against the Vegetarians" (note on the back of the picture). Otto Tetens, in the front left, was a firm vegetarian. The clothes of the group were also provoking for that era.

51 School in Magiagi Vaisigano



The introduction of an education system was part of the activities of the German Governor, who developed far-sighted programmes in Samoa. He established a legal system and administration structures which are still founding elements in Samoa today.

53 The Building of the "OutHouse"



For the observatory in Mulinuu, the little special comfort for the European member. Especially beautiful on this photograph, in the soft light of the misty sky, are the two playing children at the edge of the pathway – the folds of the robe of the boy left is pittoresc draped.

54 The Chief Observer Otto Tetens



In Mulinuu, comparing watches. The hut had been brought along for the astronomic observations and measuring from Germany. This picture was taken at the beginning of Otto Teten's work in December 1902, when the Observatory had just been built and work was started.

55 Partial Eclipse of the Sun 1904



The scientists of the Obsevatory observe an eclipse of the sun, which can be seen as shade on the paper. In the background, the working and living house of the meteorologist Otto Tetens, a fale adjusted to the Samoan style. From the time of the day, and the direction can be concluded: This was the eclipse of the sun on 9 September 1904.

56 Mataafa Iosefo and Otto Tetens



This photograph was taken in the official fale of Mataafa, the head of the Samoans. Tetens was in close contact with him, because they lived next to each other for years – the photograph shows their close relationship: None of them poses higher standing or devout, but there is respectful side by side.

57 Matofai, Chief of Aopo,



together with Otto Tetens. Matofai and Tetens lead an expedition in November 1902 to the volcano in Savaii which had just erupted, an important action to reassure the inhabitants. They were the first visitors at the crater.

58 Mata'afa Iosefo with his family



in their private home: in the front again the kava bowl of the family as optical centre of the picture. Mataafa lived in a European house, while his official residence was set up as Fale in the traditional Samoan style. His clothes here are also adjusted to the Europeans.

59 Wesleyan Preacher



The family of a native Wesleyan preacher. The Fishing spears were used as decoration for this picture. The different Christian sects and churches were then as today a very important part of Samoan society.

60 Registration and Shipping of Collection Items to



Many longstanding scientists and inhabitants of Samoa took a extensive collection with them to Europe. This was important as memorabilia, but also of interest for scientific institutes and museums.

61 European settler



with his samona family

62 Wife of a Halfcast Samoan



With her children (writing on the back of the original print)

63 Generations



of a familiy in their fale