

MISSIONARY LETTER

The earliest correspondents from Samoa were missionaries from England. John Williams who had set up a mission in Rarotonga, sailed to Samoa in 1830 in a 60ft ship he had built by hand himself in the islands. The first permanent establishments from the 1830s were from **The London Missionary Society**, a nonconformist Congregational church. **The Rev. Alexander MacDonal** and his wife Selina arrived in Samoa in April 1837 and settled at **Safune** on the north coast of Savai'i in August 1837.

Alexander Macdonald, letter from Savaii

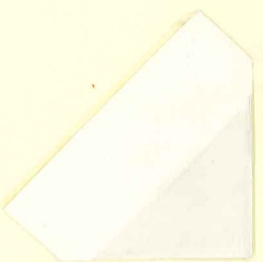
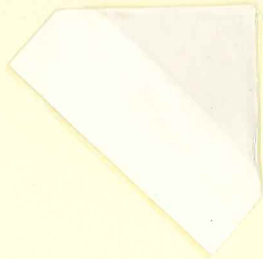
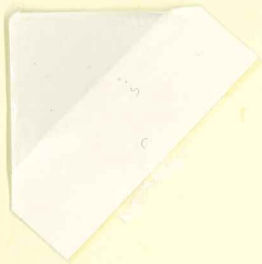
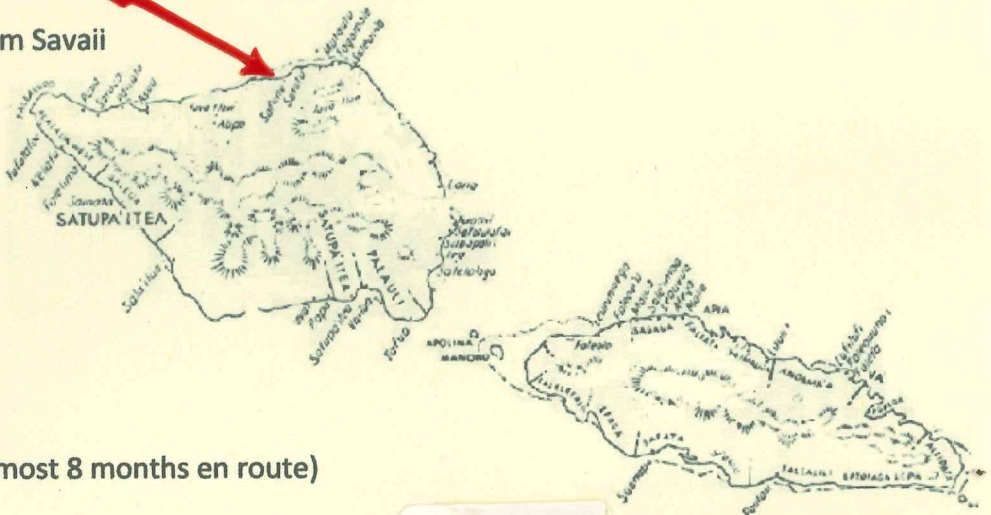
m/s "20 May 1842"

Dispatched via **Ship Letter Sydney**, to England

13 Aug 1842

London "Red Jan'y 7 1843

(almost 8 months en route)



Notice of drawing £40 bank bill for salary

Savaii 20th May 1842

Dear Sir

I beg hereby to advise you that I have this day drawn a bill upon you on account of salary for the sum of Forty pounds Sterling at twenty one days sight in favor of Messrs. Fletcher, Bursd & Woods of Manchester.

Requesting that you will be pleased to

MISSIONARY LETTER

1845 incoming to Upolu, Revd. Henry Nisbet of the London Missionary Society.

By mail ship London to Sydney, C/o Australian addressee, thence by favour of a private trader on to Samoa.



Faint **SHIP LETTER**
JY * 5 1845
SYDNEY



My dear Brother

I should have

*but you must excuse me
to do better for the time to come, I received your very kind
letter datted 14th Aug^r but it came to the wrong house this
time so you will have had long before this reaches you,
but Father with his usual kindness was not long of bringing
it to me, he came in with it just as I was finishing a whitt*

*“ Revd. Henry Nisbet
Upolu Samoa
care of
Revd Dr Ross
Sydney NSW ”*

GLASGOW
PAID
FE 26 N
1845

Y LONDON
PAID
28FE28
1845

From his sister Janet in Glasgow, informing him of her marriage and family news of brothers in America

Transcript overleaf

MISSIONARY LETTER

1850 "16 April Saluafata"

Revd. George Drummond to Sir Culling Eardly Eardly, Bart. Treasurer of the London Missionary Society.

(Letter requests he will honor (sic) a bill, on account of salary, of £13:0:0)



By local ship to Sydney.....

..... Thence "per John Bright" for England



SHIP LETTER

JU * 11

1850
SYDNEY



UK arrival on reverse



+ M/s "Rc'd 4 November"

Clipper ship 1847-1890s Named for Liberal Quaker MP
Anti-Slavery, anti-Corn Laws reformer & Rochdale mill owner

Total transit time 6 ½ months!



"8"

Denotes the Ship Letter fee due from Australia. The "13" is believed to be the fee paid, Samoa to Sydney.

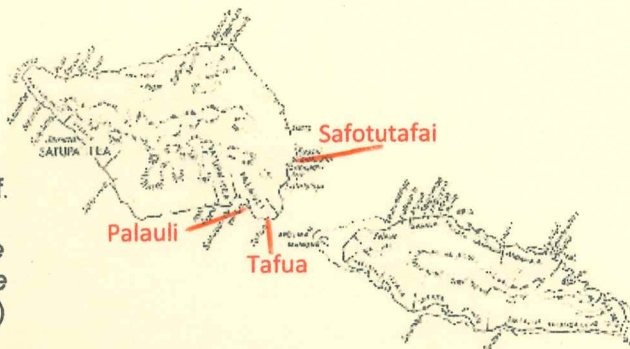
John Bright MP
A great Reformer



MISSIONARY LETTER

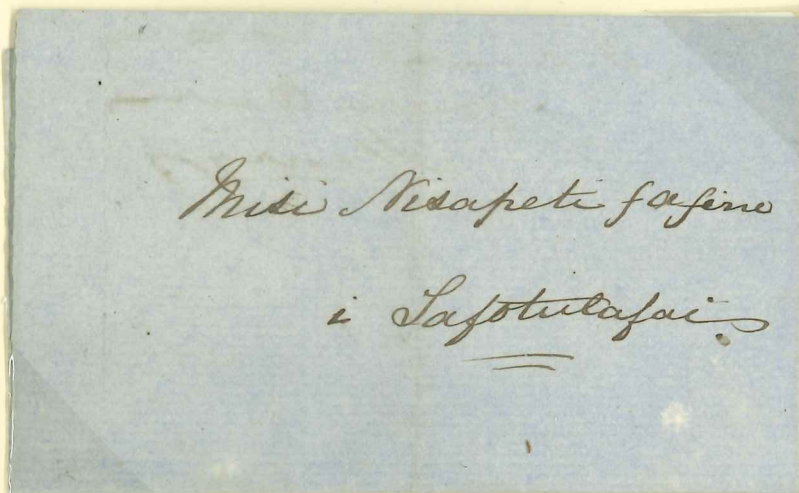
1858 Internal Samoan Mail bears no postal markings. Much of the mail was carried by favour or local canoe. There are fierce currents between Savaii and Upolu, deep ocean and no reef.

"We got very nicely to Tafua - very calm but there are two or three points wh, seem always to be in jabble After leaving Tafua it came down such rain and kept at it till we had nearly reached Pal -(auli)



Letter from Henry Nisbet to his wife, written at Palauli district to his mission at Safotutafai.

Misi Nisapeti fafine ("Mr Nisbet's Wife")
i Safotutafai



1857 From his son Tom at school in Newtown NSW Australia, and covering note from his guardian. Carried by favour on a trading ship

*Mr Gordon or Mr Bart will oblige
Mr Hogg by taking this letter
God Speed*

