

GLOSSARY OF SĀMOAN WORDS

'a'ava – heat of the sun

afio'aga / nu'u – village

āfioga – address given to a high chief

aga – act

aganu'u / aga'ifanua – cultural and social practices

aganu'u Sāmoa – Sāmoan cultural practices

aiā tatau – human right

'āiga – family, clan

'āiga maopo'opo – family members bind together and cooperate in family affairs

'āiga potopoto / 'au'āiga – extended family

'aitu fafine – female ghost

'aitu tagata – human ghost

'aiū – greedy; mean

ālāfua – pathway; direction; measure

ali'i – a high ranking chief

alofa – selfless love

'alu'alu – seafood

amoamosā – part of the *sua* comprising of a cooked chicken wrapped in banana leaves and a cooked bundle of taro wrapped in breadfruit leaves

aofa'i – amount

'ā'oga 'āmata – Sāmoan preschool

ao o fa'alupega – salutation for pastor

'Apia lua – second Apia (town)

'atule – tuna fish

auāluma – collective term for unmarried village women or village women who are married to untitled men

'auāla gālue – inroads to plantations, plantation access roads

'aulalovaoa – collective term for children

'aulotu – church members

'aumaga – collective term for untitled men

'aumātutua – older/elderly family members

'aute – hibiscus

'ava / kava – narcotic drink used in ceremonies

'ava fa'atupu – royal 'ava ceremony

ava fatafata – respect for one another

'ekālēsia – a religious congregation

ēlegi – tinned fish

Ekalesia Fa'apopotoga Kerisiano Sāmoa (EFKS) – Congregational Christian Church

fa'aaloalo – respect

fa'aipoipoga – wedding

fa'alavelave – family obligations

fa'aleleiga – peace offerings, reconciliation

fa'alupega – collective genealogy, history and traditions or honorific address

fa'amamalu – venerated

fa'amatai – chiefly practices, Sāmoa's governing system

fa'amati – occasion, usually in the month of March every year, where church members contribute things for the upkeep of their pastor

fa'aola – saviour

fa'apogai / pule – authority or power to bestow a title

fa'apōuliuli – a defacto couple

fa'asafua – splitting titles, title no longer held by one person

fa'asāmoa – Sāmoan way of life

fa'asinomaga – one's rightful place in the family

fa'atamāli'i – part of a *sua* comprising of a coconut (*vailolo/sū'iga*) and is presented by a lady with a long cloth tied to her waist

fa'atānoa – reservoir

fa'atau – deliberation during meetings to decide who to speak on behalf of the group, debate

fa'aulufalega – a church dedication

fa'avae – foundation, core values

fāgono – fable

faiā – connection

faiāvā – males who married into a family

faife'au – church minister or pastor

faigā lotu – prayer service

faigā nu'u – village affairs, village administration

failāuga – orator

faipule – member of parliament

faiteu – ceremonial presentation of flowers, money and lace material usually presented by women at a funeral

fale – Sāmoan house

fale'umi – long house because of its oblong shape

falefitu – orator group of Fasito'otai

faleo'o – small house

faletua – wife of a high chief or pastor

fale'upolu – collective term for orators

fata – wooden platform

feagaiga – agreement

fono – council or meeting

fono a matai – council of chiefs

fono ma aitu – literally, meeting with the spirits, which in Sala'ilua village is the term given to the meeting of the two chiefs Tuātō and Tuitolova'a who were referred to as the *aitu tagata* (human devils) in olden times, alluding to their particular powerful natures. Discussions in this meeting occur in whispers

fono tauati – the meeting of the whole village of Sala'ilua at which the decision of the *fono ma aitu* is presented

fono tele – general annual conference of the Congregational Christian Church of Sāmoa

fuaifale – branches of a family or title

fue – fly whisk

gagana Sāmoa – Sāmoan language

gau – seafood

ifoga – traditional apology

igāve'a – a tagging game

ilāmutu – the elder sisters who in ancient Sāmoa, exercised a spiritual power superior even to that of their brothers.

isa'ako – a palm like plant

- itūmālō* – district or county
- itūmālō māvae* – traditionally established district
- itūpā mālosi* – stronger side, males, *taulele'a*, untitled men
- lafo* – a *matai*'s reward for duties carried out either in monetary form or fine mat
- lālaga* – smaller version of fine mats
- lānisi* – a large open wooden vessel
- laoa* – an orator's residence
- lape* – a kind of Sāmoan baseball but in which instead of a bat hands only were used
- lata* – close
- lāuga* – oratory
- limu* – seaweed
- lo'u afafine* – my daughter
- logomua* – to be informed first
- lomilomi* – massage
- mafutaga* – community or group
- ma'ilo* – serving plate made of coconut leaves
- maiō lololo* – portion of a pig
- malae* – village green
- malelega* – high chief's word or orders
- māliega* – agreement
- maliu* – death or funeral
- mālō* – government
- mālosi'aga* – strength
- mālō toga* – *matai* distributing fine mats in cultural functions
- mamalu* – dignified; venerated; status
- manu* – a call to inform
- maopo'opo* – bind together
- maota* – a high chief's residence
- maota o ali'i* – house where high ranking chiefs are gathered
- matāfale* – family branch, contributing family (to church activities, for example)
- matai* – chief, head of the Sāmoan family
- matai fa'avae* – original established title

matai pālota – matai title conferred primarily in order to vote in parliamentary elections

matai tulāfale – orator

māva'ega – death wish

momoli – presentation of goods to the council of chiefs

monotaga – traditional contributions to the village or participation in family social obligations

mulivai – end of a stream

nu'u – village

nu'u fou – newly established village

nu'u o ali'i – council of high chiefs

nu'u o le Atua – village of God

nu'u māvae – village with land and *fa'alupega*

osi 'āiga – reciprocity amongst families

paelo – keg of salted beef

pa'ia – sacred

pālagi / papālagi – caucasian or 'white man'

paolo – visiting party comprising relatives of an in-marrying spouse

pipi'emale'ele'ele – attached to the land

pitonu'u – subvillage

matai pitovao – a title of lower rank

pōula / po siva – dances

pualele – name of a tree

pule – authority

pule fa'amau – authority over bestowed title

pūlega fa'amatai – chiefly ruling system

pulenu'u – village mayor

pusa 'apa – carton of herring

sa / vavao – curfew

sa'o – the highest rank title in the family

sa'oao – village maidens

saofa'i / nofo – title bestowal

saofa'iga – seated gathering

saofaga / sāoga – contribution

Sāvali – government newspaper

sea – sea cucumber

si'i – ceremonial presentation of gifts such as fine mats and food for important ceremonial events such as weddings, funerals and title bestowals

si'osi'omaga – social environment

sopo – travel on foot

su'emālō – heroic ventures of families to raise status

sua – ceremonial reciprocation of gifts in the form of food and fine mats; cooked food given to the *matai* by family members especially on Sundays.

suafa – title

suipi – a game of cards

suli – heir

suli tamafai – adopted heirs

suli tamafafine – female heirs

suli tu polata – blood heirs

suli tuipea – man or woman married into the family

susuga – formal address for a pastor

ta'amū – root crop

ta'ita'i fono – chairperson

tafa'ifā – title given to Salamāsina the holder of four paramount titles of Sāmoa

tagata lotu – church member

tāgāti'a – Sāmoan game

talatalaga / talanoaga – discussion; meeting

talitoga – presentation of fine mats at a title investiture

talitonuga – belief

tama-a-āiga – paramount chief

tama fai – adopted member

tamāli'i – high chief

tamanu – name of a tree

tama tane – descendants of males

tane – male

tapa – cloth made from the mulberry bark

tapua'iga – religion or well wishers

taufaleaga – smearings

taufusi – swamp

taui – reward or reciprocation of gift presentations

taule'ale'a – untitled man

taulele'a – untitled men

taupou – unmarried woman usually a daughter of a high chief

tausi – wife of an orator

tautua – service rendered to a chief

tiākono – deacon

tigi – a central spot in a tagging game

tino – family members

toea'ina – old man

tofi – position

to'ona'i – Sunday lunch

to'oto'o – 'talking stick' or staff held by an orator while speaking; orator

tōfā – fine mats of fine quality given to a high chief or a formal address given to an orator

toloa – wild duck

tu'itu'i – pummel

tu'ua – senior high ranking orator

tulāfale – orator

tulāfale ali'i – a high chief who is also an orator

tulou – excuse me

tupulaga – young people

usita'i – obedience

ūsoga – brother relationship

vā tapuia, vā feāloa'i, vā feāloa'i fa'atamāli'i, vā feavata'i, vā nonofo, ava fatafata
– reciprocal relationship of obligations or responsibility between a chief and a chief,
between a chief and his/her family and between a chief and his/her peers

va'aalo – long canoe

vavao – prohibition of use as a conservation measure

ve'a – rail

PHRASES AND SAYINGS

aga a le nu'u – ways or behaviour or culture of the village

'ai tupe ma fai nu'u leaga – thieves and corrupt rulings

Aso Gafua a matai – day of the week the village council has its regular meetings

'ele'ele ma fanua e pūlea e le igoa matai e suli i ai – family lands under the authority of the family titleholder where one belongs to

e fa'alogo muamai iā mulimai – the latter should listen to the former

e fesuia'i faiga ae tūmau fa'avae – the practice may change but the essentials remain

e lei se falea'oga o le aganu'u ma le fa'asāmoa – there is no classroom for the culture and traditions of Sāmoa

e iloa le tagata i lona 'āiga ma lona nu'u / o le tagata ma lona fa'asinomaga – a Sāmoan is known and identified by his family or descent group

E le i manino se manatu e tu'u mai le ta'ita'iga o le fono i matai – there was no clear mandate given to matai to lead the fono

e lē o ni suli moni – not true heirs

e lē tusilima le faifeau i mea na, e 'ave lava mea a Kaisara iā Kaisara – give unto Caesar what is Caesar's

e liu efuefu ai lava lātou ma o lātou matai i fafo – an expression implying that matai living overseas will not return to Sāmoa to live

e mamea le tava'e i ona fulu, e manumanu le Sāmoa i lana aganu'u – Sāmoans value their culture

e maota tau'ave Sāmoa – Sāmoans leave home and take their culture and dignity with them

e ola lava le Sāmoa e iloa 'ona ava i ona ta'ita'i – a Sāmoan grows up to respect his/her leaders

e pule le tagata i le tūlāfono ae le pule se tūlāfono i le tagata – man rules over the law not the other way round

e sa'ili se isi e lima mālosi e mafai 'ona tausi le 'āiga ma fa'aeaea i le 'āiga aemaise i le vā nonofo ai ma le nu'u – the family needs a robust provider who can look after the family and raise its status especially within the village

e siva i le mafaufau – freedom to decide on whatever contribution one is comfortable to make

e sui faiga ae tūmau fa'avae / e tūmau fa'avae ae suisui faiga – ways change but foundations remain

e talo ai se fono a Sāmoa – to call a meeting of Sāmoans

e tamāli'i lava le poto – knowledge and education rendered one chiefly

e tumua'i tutusa – all have equal status

fa'asalafa le suafa i itū paepae uma o le 'āiga – splitting of title to various branches of the family

fale o Eveni – Carruther's store

fale o Nelesoni – Nelson's store

fale o Olo'ava – Olderhaver's store

fanau o lalovaoa – young people

Fono a Sāmoa i Sisifo – Council of Western Sāmoa

Fono Fauautua a Sāmoa – Sāmoa Advisory Council

gagau le 'aupolapola – custom of formal entrance by an individual chief from another family and village into the cultural affairs of the family whose land he/she lives on

ia manuia galuega o le aso – have a good day

'ie o le feagaiga – a very fine fine mat used as a binding symbol of new relationship between the church community and the pastor

igoa matai e tau pe sulī i ai – family title one belongs to

le ala fa'alava – the road lying across

le ala o le mativa – (literally, the road of the poor), because of the lack of water or any other means of refreshment as well as the absence of shade along the wayside

logo i tua – being informed by outsiders

lo'u afafine – my daughter

mafutaga a nu'u – village organizations

mafutaga a tama tuai / teine tuai – old pupils' organizations

maliu mai lau tōfā – greeting an orator

matai o e o lo'o tausia le 'āiga – chiefs whose responsibility is to look after the family affairs

Mau a Pule – peaceful resistance movement of the *matai* of Savai'i island against the German colonial administration in 1907–8

measina a 'āiga – family treasures such as land, genealogy and titles

o e olo'o paū tonu iai le fa'alavelave – those directly responsible for the occasion

o e olo'o tausia le 'āiga – *matai* who are charged with looking after internal and external family affairs

o fale nei – 'this is home'; things said should be kept confidential

o le a mu le foaga – a cry often heard when village councils consider eviction of errant individuals or families from the villages

o le ala i le pule o le tautua – the way to authority is through service

o le la ua fotua'i mai le toea'ina – the old man is approaching

o lo o manino lava i le fa'avae le tutusa o aiā a tagata uma, pe matai pe leai o outou o tama fai – you are adopted members

o Sāmoa o le atunu'u tofi – Sāmoa is a structured society where everyone has their place and role to play

o se matai lelei, o ia na te fa'atuua saogāmea o se fa'alavelave – a good *matai* is one who wields the authority, leading by example

o tagata 'ese e leai ni pi'itaga – descendants of strangers with no blood connection

pūlega fa'asāmoa – governance in the Sāmoan way

pūlega lelei ma le manino, pūlega amiotonu, sa'o ma le alofa – practices of control, authority and leadership and usually implies the practice of good governance

pūlega mamalu a matai – venerated authority of the chiefs

Sāmoa mo Sāmoa – Sāmoa for Sāmoa

soālaupule le tōfā – the principle of seeking consensus

suli tama fafine – female heirs

susu mai lau susuga – welcome a pastor

talanoaga a le 'āiga – family discussions and deliberations

talofa e i 'āiga ua 'ai e lago le tōfā – literally, the supposed wisdom of chiefs has been consumed by flies; a reference to the blatant lack of wise council among the chiefs

tausi ole vā feāloa'i – taking care or looking after relationships

tu ma aga fa'aaloalo – customs and ways to mark respect

ua ola le 'āiga – the family has grown in numbers

vā feāloa'i fa'atamāli'i – polite relationship between *matai*