

Samoa Focuses on Native Species

A recent visit to the South Pacific by way of the Philatelic Collector Inc. (PCI) “boutique philatelic agency” produced some interesting results. PCI represents the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and related island groups such as Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Penrhyn and Niufo’ou.

As might be expected one of the popular themes in this area is marine and animal life. Earlier this year, in March, Samoa completed its Threatened Species series with this set of three high value stamps, designed by Mariya Karchevskaya.



This part incorporates commonly used parcel rates in a unique fashion that allows each value to be used separately or in various combinations to make a package rate value. The tabs under the triptych are color coded to denote those various possible rates and weights combinations.

The high values are \$12.50 (Samoan Tala, or dollar) featuring the

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); \$45.00 featuring the Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*); and \$6.25 featuring the Brown-marbled Grouper (*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*).

Earlier this year Samoa issued a World Wildlife Fund block of four and souvenir sheet (photo, front cover) featuring the Pacific Tree Boa, a non-venimous snake that is native to the region. The stamps were issued as four singles, a souvenir sheet with one of each design (shown), and four mini-sheets, each containing a block of four of one of the designs within a pictorial margin.



To catch up with the conservative philatelic programs of Samoa and the other South Pacific islands represented by Philatelic Collector Inc., please go to <https://pcistamps.com/>, or our Stamp News Now website:

<http://www.stampnewsnow.com/SouthPacificIssues.html>