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Country *Oceania*  
 Locality *Samoa Islands*  
 People *Samoans* *Polynesian* Stock  
 Name *Fine Mat - made of the leaves of the Pandanus*

*cut in strips and braided by hand they take*  
 years to make. Among the natives, they constitute the basis of wealth, or standard of value, and are medium of exchange among themselves. They take value also from associations, and previous possession. They have been the occasion of bitter, long continued, and repeated wars. Every mat receives a name among the natives. The treaty  
 Collection *Gustavus Howard*  
 between Samoa and the United States was wrapped in one of these mats. It was the ransom of Mauga, the Chief of Pago-Pago, who has just been subdued in a rebellion at the time of the ratification of the treaty in 1898. The treaty and mat, now deposited in the State Dept. at Washington,

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was brought to this country by Mr. Goward, the Commissioner. The "fine mat" presented to President Cleveland in 1892 (?) by the King of Samoa, now deposited in the National Museum, is similar to this and not superior to the larger one. "The Pride of Aana."

The history of a mat adds greatly to its value. One mat in Samoa is 400 years old, black and full of holes, but money cannot purchase it.

Fine mats are also worn as dress garments on great occasions, encircling the thighs like a skirt.