

CAPTAIN COOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

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Two Halves Make A Whole Penny

An interesting cover turned up recently and is an example of something I have been looking for, for many years. I recall reading about covers sent with two uncanceled halves of a 1d black placed together on a cover with the hope the post office wouldn't spot the reuse of the stamps. Needless to say, mail fraud examples of this nature are highly sort after and extremely scarce.



This cover has been sent from Blenheim to Timaru and is franked with two halves of a pair of 1d Universals still joined by their perforations. The cover is date stamped October 17, 1907 and the Universals are from the Royle plate that was in service around that time.

The stamp is clearly tied to the cover and there is no evidence there were other stamps that have been removed at any point.

On the reverse there is a Wellington machine cancellation, dated October 18 and a Timaru "A" Class receiving backstamp dated October 19. There are no postage due markings.

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SOCIETY NEWS

On reflection, there were not many people who had their mobile phones on during the August meeting or there would have been a chorus of them going off as the Government's civil emergency system sent a global message putting us into Phase 2 and Auckland Phase 3 while our meeting was underway.



Instead, a large turnout, sat and listened to Don White of Dunedin give a talk on his 50 years in the stamp trade. He covered his start in collecting stamps and how that progressed to a part time business while at university to a full-time business. He talked of other Dunedin dealers, including his grandfather, travelling overseas to various exhibitions, mainly London, Australia, USA, and Asia. Don reflected on the good finds, the strange claims, and displayed the early airmail stamp designs his architect father had entered into the competition run by the Post Office back in the 1930's.

It was one of the best attended nights we have had for some time and an interesting and at times humorous talk from another side of the hobby. Thanks Don!

Items of Interest; Last month's Society Page we commented on delayed damaged mail arriving without any instructional markings or in a plastic bag to state received in damaged condition. This month our president showed an oversize envelope covered in stamps which had been put in a plastic bag and did have an instructional label regarding damage. So still some service from NZ Post!

Paul van Herpt

Cont from front page

All indications are that the cover has gone through the mail without being detected. Ideally, to create an item like this, you will need a strip of four with only two cancellation strikes. These are not as common as you would think and except for one cover, all that I have or could find images for, were cancelled with at least three strikes of the datestamp. I have marked up the below strip to show how a pair like that on the cover could be manufactured.



The question is whether this is an example of the reuse of stamps for mail fraud, or a philatelic endeavour. Given the addresser and addressee will be long dead, we will never know. You could take the position covers that do not meet post office requirements, especially covers as extreme as this, are by default philatelic creations. However, there are some things to consider in its favour. It is not a local delivery as contrived covers often are, it has definitely been through the post as demonstrated by the three datestamps on it, and it has been redirected at Timaru to a post box address, not something that you usually find with philatelic covers. I like it.

Stephen Jones

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 7 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

SEPTEMBER 8 SOCIETY MEETING **Member's Night**
The letters Q, R, S and T

Member's Night

Letters Q, R, S & T

A chance for you to use your imagination come with a good story,
like a fisherman's tale and illustrate it with something philatelic.

SEPTEMBER 15 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

SEPTEMBER 22 POSTCARD GROUP Canterbury photographers &
Postcard producers

OCTOBER 5 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

OCTOBER 13 SOCIETY MEETING **Murray Acker**
NZ Philately and Postcards

OCTOBER 20 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

All meetings are held at the Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville St, Riccarton, and commence at 7.30 pm. (Library night closes at 10 pm)

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The view expressed in this issue of *CAPTAIN COQK* are not necessarily those of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) but are simply those of the respective authors

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Anniversaries



Tunisia 2011 Bouazizi

December 2010, the attempted suicide of Mohamed Bouazizi, a street vendor in Tunisia. When the reason for his attempted suicide became public, it sparked massed demonstrations in Tunisia. Mohamed died on 4 January 2011. On 14 January, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisian president for 23 years, was forced to flee.

The success of the Tunisian revolution triggered the wider Arab Spring. Protests spread to Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria, and Bahrain. Civil war or social violence is still occurring in these nations. 14 other countries had massed protests and social disruption.

11 May 2000, India's population reached 1 billion. India's population is currently 1.378 billion, not far behind China at 1.393 billion peoples. The world's population was estimated at 6.11 billion people in 2000 now its 7.78 billion.



1999 Y2K "the year 2000" bug was the widespread computer programming shortcut that was expected to cause extensive havoc as the year changed from 1999 to 2000. Many computer programs allowed two digits to represent the year (e.g., 99 instead of 1999), thus 2000 could be mistaken for 1900.

1 July 1999, the Scottish Parliament was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II. The powers of the Scottish Office, which was entrusted with responsibility for the governance of Scotland, were mostly transferred to the new Scottish Executive in Edinburgh.

The Scottish parliament was dissolved by Queen Anne in the Act of Union, 22 July 1706. For England, it meant a united protestant throne. For Scotland's nobles, free access to English markets and trade.



11-22 July 1995, more than 8,000 Bosniak (Moslem Bosnians) men and boys were murdered at Srebrenica, Republika Srpska (Serbian Bosnia), by units of the Bosnian Serb army under the command of General Ratko Mladić.

The UN Dutch peacekeepers did nothing to stop the killings. Most of the 25,600 civilian Bosniaks killed (70% of all civilian deaths during the Bosnian war) were from Bosnian Serb areas. On 14 December, the Dayton Agreement was signed, officially ending the Bosnian War (1992-1995).

29 April 1970, US forces enter Cambodia. Prince Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, had tolerated Vietcong bases in Cambodia. On 12 March 1970, Prime Minister Lon Nol gave the Vietcong 72 hours to leave. 29 March, the Vietcong launched an attack into Cambodia. On 17 April, Nol asked for international support. By 22 July, US forces are withdrawn.

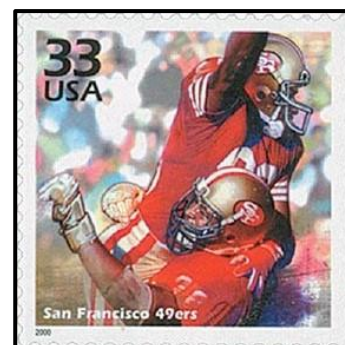


October 24, 1945, the UN officially came into existence. The Charter of the UN is the foundational treaty of the UN. The Charter was debated during the San Francisco Conference, 25 April 1945 and was signed by 50 of the 51 original member states (including NZ) on 26 June 1945.

Upon ratification of the Charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council and by a majority of the other 46 signatories, the UN officially began.

23 December 1920, the Government of Ireland Act was passed by the British Parliament. It split Ireland into Northern and Southern Ireland, with separate parliaments and granted a measure of home rule.

It was intended to be only temporary, but the Irish war of independence and the 1922 Irish Free State made the split permanent (so far).

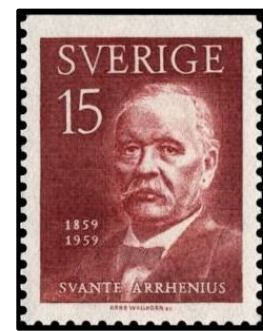


February 9, 1895, Mintonette, later known as volleyball, was created by William G Morgan at Holyoke, Massachusetts. On 29 August, the Northern Rugby Football Union, the modern-day Rugby League, is formed at a meeting of 21 rugby clubs at the George Hotel, Huddersfield. On 3 September, the first professional American football game is played. On 7 September, the first game of rugby league is played.



September 24 to October 3, 1895, the Automobile Club de France sponsors the longest car race to date, 1,710 km from Bordeaux to Agen and back.

Because it is held in ten stages, it is considered to be the first car rally.



8 November 1895, Wilhelm Röntgen discovers X-rays. On 27 November, at the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, Alfred Nobel signed his last will and testament. He set aside his estate to establish the Nobel Prize after his death. On 11 December, Svante Arrhenius becomes the first scientist to deliver quantified data about the sensitivity of global climate to atmospheric carbon dioxide (the "Greenhouse effect").



January 24, 1895 Alexander von Tunzelmann, a New Zealand crew member of the Norwegian whaling ship "Antarctic", was part of the first group known with certainty to have set foot on the mainland of Antarctica, at Cape Adare.

3 February 1870, the 15th Amendment to the US constitution was passed. It prohibited the denying a citizen the right to vote based on "race, colour, or previous condition of servitude". In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was elected president. He refused to enforce federal civil rights protections.

This allowed ex-Confederate states to begin to implement racially discriminatory "Jim Crow" laws. In 1945 Afro-Americans were no better off than they were in 1865. The 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act gave full force to the 15th Amendment.



In March 1870, the Mitsubishi Company is established in Japan as a shipping firm, by Iwasaki Yatarō. The Meiji government adopted "fukoku kyōhei" (rich country, strong military) to encourage economic modernisation. It enabled the establishment of zaibatsu (massive Japanese companies). Mitsubishi was one of the 4 largest zaibatsu



11 March 1845, the New Zealand Wars opened with the Flagstaff War: Chiefs Kawiti and Hone Heke led 700 Māori and burnt the British colonial settlement of Kororāreka (Russell).

9 September 1845, potato blight reached Ireland, beginning the Great Famine (1845-1850). Anglo-Irish policies and Celtic tradition of subdividing land forced most Irish tenant farmers to rely on the potato for food and income. An estimated 1 million died of starvation and disease and over 1 million emigrated (all up ~25% of Ireland's population).



12 May 1820, the birth of Florence Nightingale. On 9 July 1860, Nightingale laid the foundation of professional nursing with the establishment of her nursing school at St Thomas' Hospital in London. She was an ardent advocate of social reform in many areas of health.

7 April 1795, the metric system is adopted in France. 5 October 1795, the 13 Vendémiaire: Royalist riots in Paris are crushed by troops under Paul Barras, and newly reinstalled artillery General Napoléon Bonaparte.

Bonaparte became a hero and it launched his rise to become leader of France. He was one of the greatest military tacticians.



17 December 1770, German composer Ludwig van Beethoven was born. His music is amongst the most performed of the classical repertoire, and he is one of the most admired composers of Western classical music. The 9th Symphony was composed 1822- 1824. It was first performed in Vienna on 7 May 1824. It is regarded as Beethoven's greatest work.



February 1745, Pierre Bouguer appeared before the French Academy of Sciences to deliver his report on the 1736 French Geodesic Mission. It included the first precise measurement of the earth's circumference. His determination of the circumference eventually led to the calculation of the metre and the metric system.



September 480BC, the Greek city states led by Athens won a major naval victory over the Persian fleet of Xerxes. After the defeats at Artemisium and Thermopylae, Themistocles persuaded the Greek states to try again. It was the turning point of the Greek-Persian wars.

Murray Taege

New Zealand's Involvement In Nuclear Testing In The Pacific

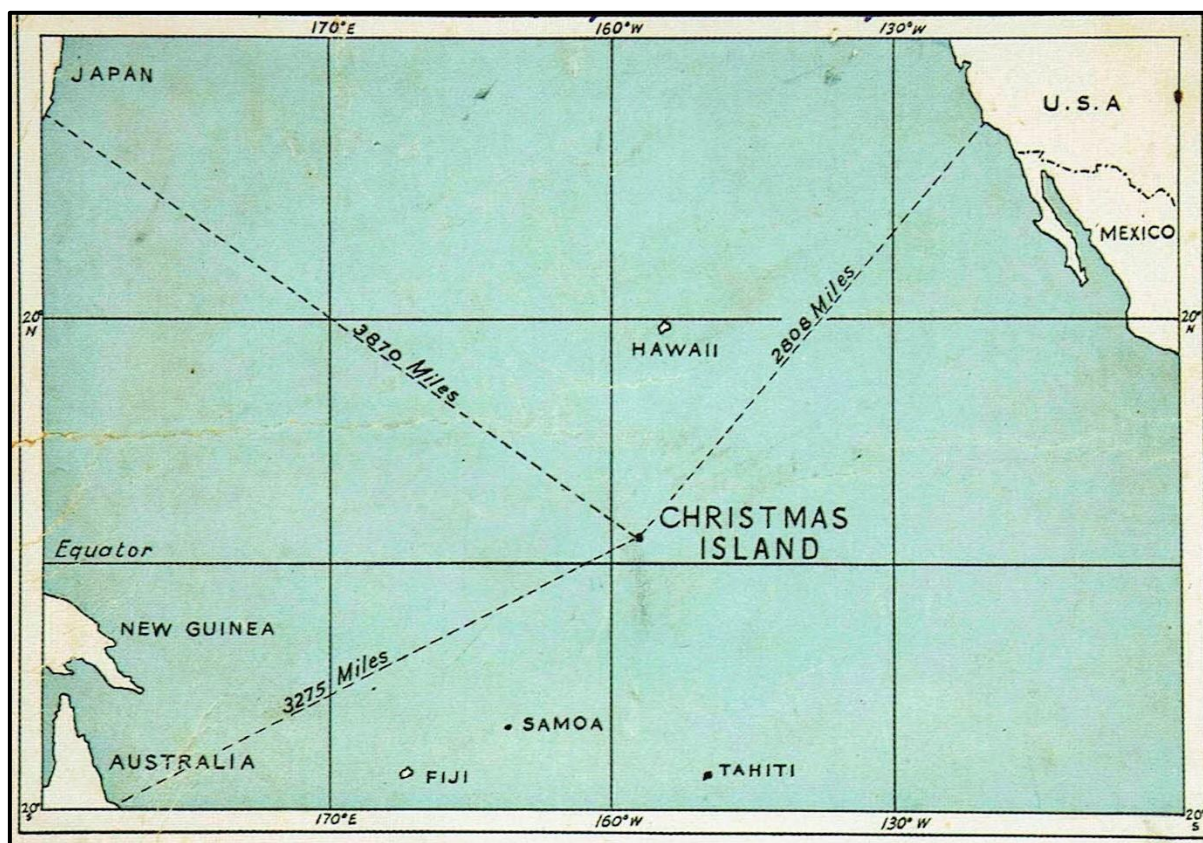
Stephen Jones wrote of the testing by the United States Navy at Bikini Atoll in 1946, (Captain Coqk #795 May 2018), but since then there has been further testing in the Pacific, with involvement of the Royal New Zealand Navy.

Operation Grapple - Christmas Island - 1956 - 1958

During the period 1956 - 1958 the British Government conducted nuclear weapon atmospheric tests at Malden and Christmas Islands, both part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in the Pacific Ocean. By the end of 1956, there were 4000 British troops stationed on Christmas Island, and this included "504 Postal; Unit RE, British Forces Post Office 170, Christmas Island, Pacific". Set up in June & July 1956, it was the first BFPO to openly disclose its geographical location within its' date stamp. The post office provided postal services to British Army, Navy, Airforce and Commonwealth Navy staff, scientists, and civilian meteorologists.

New Zealand's involvement was an initial survey by HMNZS *Lachlan*, and observation and recording by HMNZS *Pukaki* and HMNZS *Rotoiti*. HMNZS *Pukaki* and HMNZS *Rotoiti*, sailed from Devonport Naval Base on 14 March 1957 and returned on 16 July 1957.

On 24 April HMNZS *Pukaki* arrived in Area Alpha, whilst HMNZS *Rotoiti* went to Penrhyn Island and then to Area Alpha to relieve *Pukaki*. On 15 May the first bomb test took place at Malden Island at 7500 ft and was 300 kilotons (=300,000 tons of TNT) - the bomb dropped at Hiroshima was 15 kilotons.



From the interior of a Christmas card from HMNZS ROTOITI 1957.



The following cover is from B.F.P.O. Christmas Island, 24 AP 57 to Gisborne NZ, backstamped FIELD POST OFFICE 701.

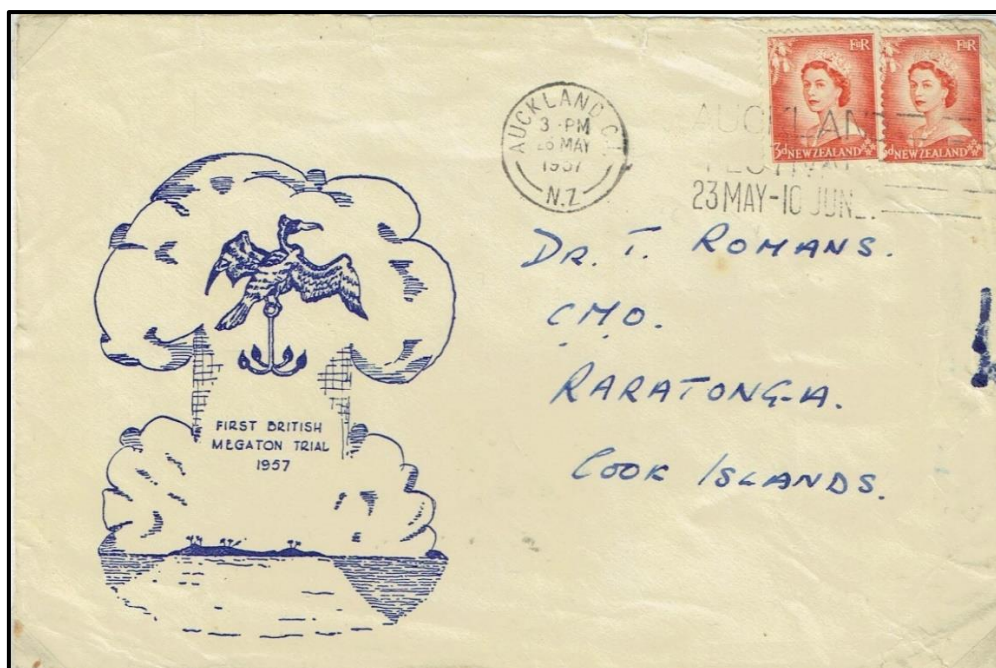
(BFPO 1, Whitfield Barracks, Hong Kong from May 11, 1955 - February 5, 1959)



This would appear to be a mis-sorted item , as the mail from Christmas Island was carried on the air service to Honolulu, that operated almost daily from March 1957 - May 1957. It was possibly carried on a flight that took British Servicemen returning to the UK via Hong Kong and transited there.

Airmail postage Christmas island to New Zealand - 9d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. (ref :British Forces Postal Services Counter Compendium—Christmas island—Honolulu edition p25)

The Royal New Zealand Navy established out-stations to report weather, fallout, pollution and seismic readings at Penrhyn Island, Aitutaki Island, Suva, Fanning Island, and Faleola (Samoa)



On 16 May 1957, there was a mail transfer from HMNZS Pukaki to HMNZS Rotoiti, to be landed at Penrhyn Island, and onwards despatch to New Zealand on the next routine RAF flight to New Zealand about a week later, then posted in Auckland to Rarotonga. This mail contained the first visual reports of the nuclear weapon test posted in specially prepared commemorative covers. The design on the covers was a result of a tri-service competition conducted by the daily forces newspaper at Christmas island - "The Pacific Times". It depicts a cormorant with a grapple hook against the background of an island and the mushroom-cloud of the bomb.

26 May 1957, AUCKLAND, NZ - From Surgeon Lieutenant Jamie FREW, HMNZS Rotoiti, to Dr T Romans, Chief Medical Officer, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Postage at Forces Rate.

The second British Nuclear Weapon test took place on 31 May 1957, in the morning and at sunset HMNZS *Rotoiti* departed from the observation area and sailed for Christmas Island and the anchorage at London Roads arriving on Monday 3 June. On 4 June 'Pukaki' sailed to Tahiti for four days and 'Rotoiti' followed the next day.



During stopovers at Christmas island, crew members went ashore and sometimes went to the village where they posted mail home using the local Gilbert & Ellice Islands stamps.

The Forces Post Office postmen made daily visits to the local village Post Office as they were officially providing inward and outward transport for local mail. Prior to Operation Grapple, inwards and outwards mail was usually once or twice a year, when the copra was collected.

The mail was processed through the village Post Office and then taken to BFPO170, for transmission to BFPO 171 at Hickam Airforce base in Hawaii, and then onto destinations by the civilian postal service.

From Lieut Doug Domett, Navigation Officer, HMNZS *Rotoiti*. 2/8d postage to New Zealand or is that the postage that fills the envelope with stamps?

The final test 'Purple Granite, took place on 19 June 1957 off Malden Island, at 7000 ft and was 200 kilotons.



17 JU 57 B.F.P.O. CHRISTMAS ISLAND to RNZAF Station, Lauthala Bay, Fiji. 6d surface mail postage paid—although it **may** have been carried on the bi weekly air service that operated between Christmas Island and Honolulu from June - August 1957, but as there is no transit back-stamp that often is used it may have been carried to Fiji on one of the Sunderland flying boats that flew to Christmas Island from Fiji, with items for the two Royal NZ ships.

French Nuclear Testing - Mururoa Atoll - 1973

The Royal NZ navy played a significant role by sending a frigate to protest against the French nuclear testing in the Pacific in 1973.

HMNZS Otago departed from Auckland on 28 June, with Cabinet Minister Fraser Coleman on board and made rendezvous with HMAS Supply on 29 June. As the date of the tests neared, ships from all of the major nuclear powers had observers. But New Zealand provided the only 'protest' vessel.

HMNZS Canterbury left Auckland on 14 July and rendezvoused with 'Otago' on 22 July and Fraser Coleman was transferred to 'Canterbury'. The final test was detonated on 28 July and then the 'Canterbury' returned to Auckland arriving on 13 August 1973.



A 'stamp' was made by Leading Seaman Garthwaite from a pencil rubber and an altered ship's stamp with the design approved by Captain Derek Chenery. I recall another reference stating that it was made from a potato! The use of the 'stamp' seems to have been used philatelically on items posted before it was created, and even a year later, but not on an item posted one month after the return of the ship to Auckland. The Royal NZ Navy Museum illustrated an impression on an unused envelope in the Museum Journal winter 2008.

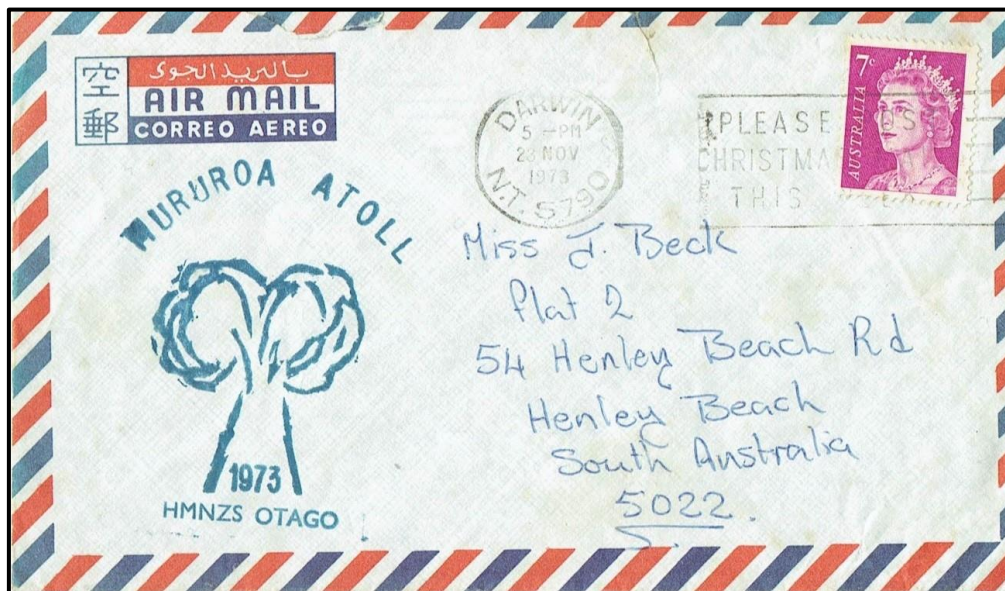
The above cover with cachet was posted Auckland Naval base 5 May 1973, the ship did not leave Auckland until 14 July.



Do any members have examples of this cachet?

After HMNZS OTAGO returned from Mururoa, she took part in the annual submarine and weaponry training exercise AUCKEX 73 in September along with HMNZS Canterbury and HMNZS Inverell, together with Royal Australian Navy ships. Late in September/early October they both took part in the joint marine exercise LONGEX 73, and by the end of March 1974 was stationed in Singapore as part of the New Zealand Force there.

The cover below is posted from Darwin on 23 November 1973, on the way to Singapore. There are no details as to the sender, but the envelope has a printed crest of 'Otago' on the flap, and a '5' in the handwriting of the sender. The rubber stamp for HMNZS Otago, was obviously still on board and was used on mail after the Mururoa testing exercise, but this is the first example that I have seen.



Robert Duns

1937 Polio Epidemic

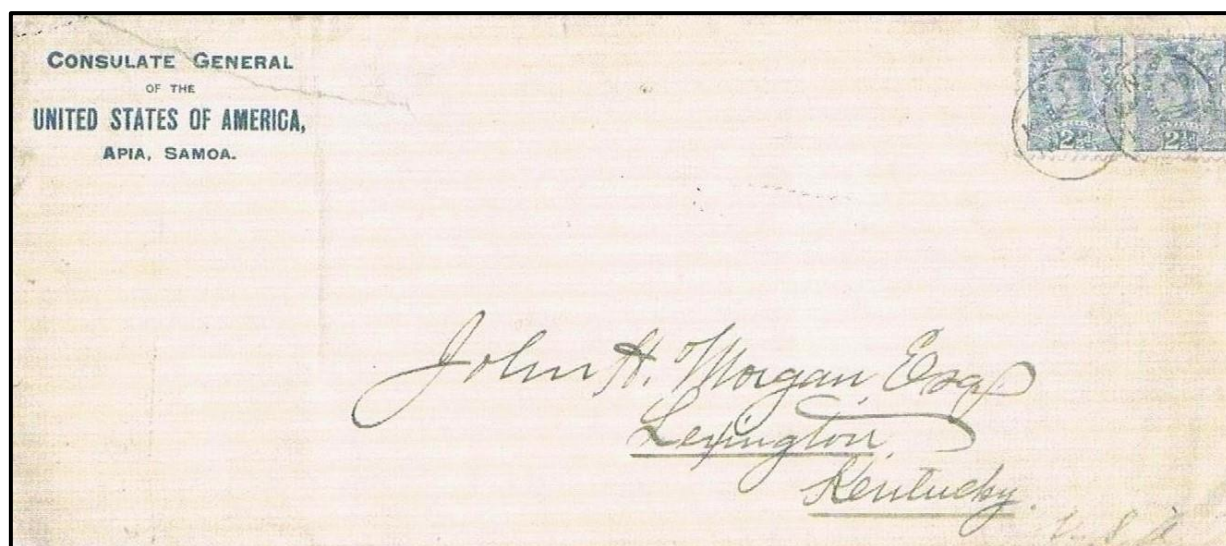
As a follow up of my article on the 1948 Polio epidemic in the May Captain Coqk, CPS member Robin Gwynn has sent through a scan of a cover sent during an early epidemic in 1937. To minimise the risk of virus transfer, schools were closed then too, and children could send their lessons through the post for free.



Stephen Jones

NZ Marine Post Office Cancellation On An 1895 Cover From Samoa

New Zealand Marine Post Office markings are known on both Palm Tree stamps and Palm Tree covers, and I have an example from *s.s. Zealandia* dated as early as December 1888 on a single 1d perf 12½. What is more unusual is the appearance of such markings on mail from Samoa bearing the stamps of New Zealand. A friend recently alerted me to this cover that had appeared on Ebay.



The late Ken McNaught had contributed the Chapter IV - "New Zealand Marine Post Offices and Samoa" for *A Postal History of the Samoan Islands - Part II* - and illustrated this cover on page 194. While the cancellation is unclear on the above illustration, McNaught's text noted that the Marine Post Office postmark, on the pair of New Zealand 1882 "Second Sideface" 2½d stamps, was dated 13 July 1895. That date had been set and unchanged since the *s.s. Mariposa* had left Auckland. The vessels arrival and departure from Apia was on 17 July when this double-rate cover must then have been taken directly aboard, rather than being posted with the John Davis post office.

Letters from the American Consulate at Apia are known having been posted at the John Davis post office and examples, illustrated for the 2011 auction of the Jack Hughes collection, are all addressed to W.A. Cooper, the U.S. Despatch Agent at San Francisco, and date from the late 1880s and again in 1893.

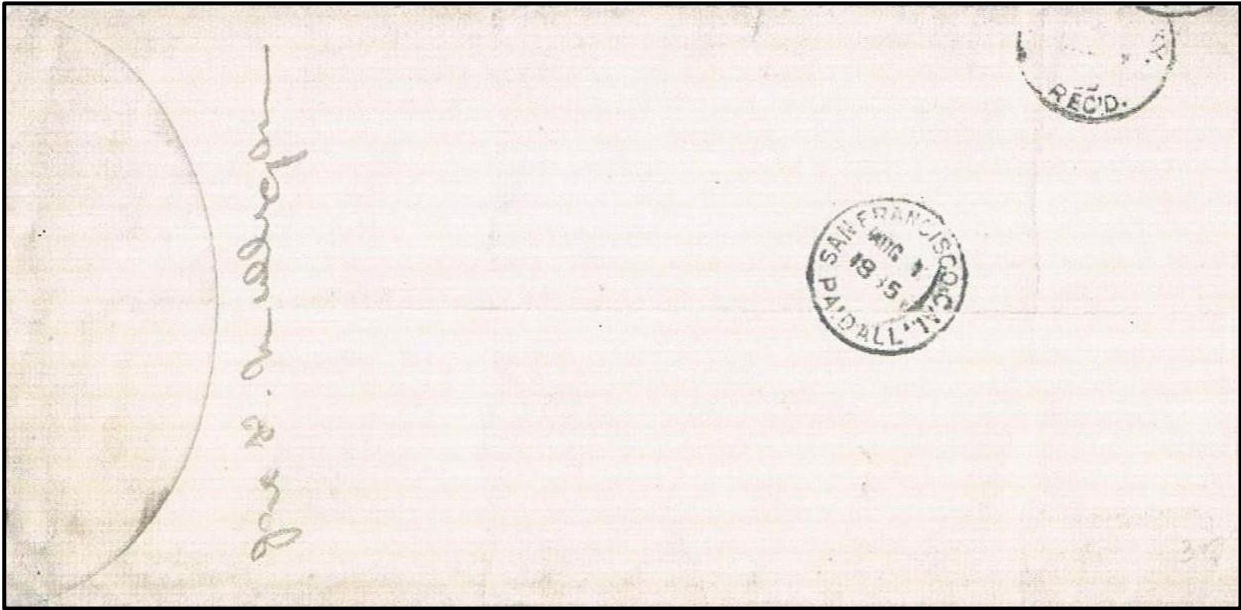
This 1895 cover was sent by the United States Consul-General James H. Mulligan and, from reports in the Samoa newspapers of that era, it would appear that Lexington, Kentucky was Mulligan's own hometown. Mulligan had become the Consul in 1894, following the departure of Harold Sewall, and he arrived at Apia on 9 August 1894 in company with his son, the son to act as Consulate Secretary.

The "Odenweller" list of Palm Tree covers from March 1895 is dominated by philatelic mailings, firstly of the "FIVE PENCE" & "5d" surcharges and then by the bisect covers that abounded after the April 1st fire of that year. The bisect craze seems to have ended with the June 1895 sailings and the Odenweller list includes only 3 covers to Europe by the 17 July sailing of *s.s. Mariposa*.

The cover's reverse shows an August 1895 San Francisco transit and part of what will be a Lexington, Kentucky arrival marking. Also, it bears the signature of Consul-General Mulligan.

Just why the Consul forwarded his letter directly to the Marine Post Office will remain a puzzle. The envelope probably contained personal correspondence, rather than Consular matters, and that may have influenced Mulligan to despatch it in that way. The Marine Post Office would have stocked New Zealand stamps. On 1 January 1896, Mulligan returned to San

Francisco and was destined to take up a similar position in Vienna. William Blacklock took over as Vice Consul.

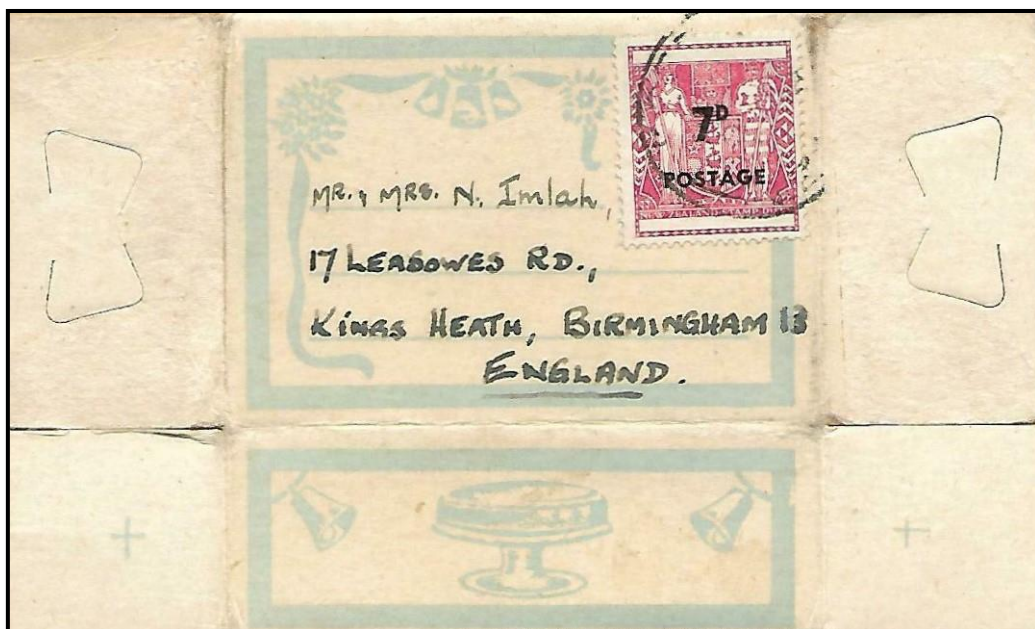


My friend was disappointed not to win the cover on Ebay and he understands it sold for about £230.

Don Mee

Cake Tin Mail

An unusual item from the 1960's seen recently. The cancellation is unclear but as it is franked with the 7d Provisional Arms type stamp, it probably dates from sometime in 1965. CPS members born after 1900 will remember the custom of sending a slice of cake to people who were not able to attend an important family celebration, typically a wedding.



Purpose made metal tins, and in this instance a fancy wrapper, were available to do this. The 7d postage indicates that the package weighed under (if sent before January 1, 1966) 8ozs and the tins would have been designed to ensure the package didn't exceed 8ozs

From what I recall, the top tier of the wedding cake was often saved and cut at the first wedding anniversary. Given they were usually made from fruit cakes and loaded with alcohol, a piece in a tin sent to an overseas destination would still be very palatable on arrival.

Stephen Jones

CPS Society Club Competition

It was a pleasure to be able to view and judge the entries in the 2020 annual CPS competition. Worried that through lockdown many of you had put together new exhibits, and we might have been inundated with large numbers, the committee decided to judge these during the week that followed the meeting night.

It definitely was a wise one mainly because the quality of exhibits was very high and gave the judges more time to evaluate. It also helped that the entrants spoke for a few minutes about each of their exhibits, giving more insight for the judges when evaluation time came!



Michael Smith



John Kersel



Robert Duns



Lindsay Carswell



Blenheim member, Ron Hebbard



Murray Taege

The variety of material entered was diverse with most classes represented. Sadly, no postcards this year! Most topics were limited in some degree by choosing a single value or one limited issue period or date. Both the marcophily issues were limited by time periods, although they had potential to develop into multi-frame if the exhibitors chose to do so at a later date.

Good research skill was shown throughout the ten exhibits and presentation in most instances was particularly good, with the judges not scoring below a 4 for any of the judged frames.

Congratulations all entrants and well done on presenting some interesting topics and challenges for the judges to view and mark.

Sue Claridge and Karen Jeffrey

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