

CAPTAIN COQK

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHRISTCHURCH (NZ) PHILATELIC SOCIETY, INC

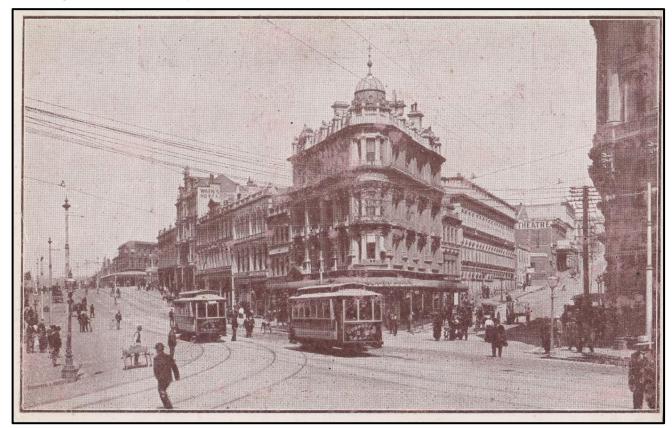
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December, 2021

1907 Railways Christmas Telegraph Postcard

In the first decade of last century, the NZPO Telegraphs department issued a series of postcards that were used to convey Christmas and New Greetings to the recipients. They came in a range of different topical views and are found in two different colours, black and violet.



C. OR T Handed in (Time): J Office of Origin and	N.Z.R. TELEGRAPHS.	OFFICE 1907-8 STAMP. Time finished:
Instructions; Dunedin Railway	Burkes	Operator's initials: Ackgd. by Checked by
Staff of Dunedin Railway Telegraph Office join in wishing you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR. Lindoa		

During the same period, the Railways Telegragh department also produced a similar postcard, presumably intended to send out to their clients.

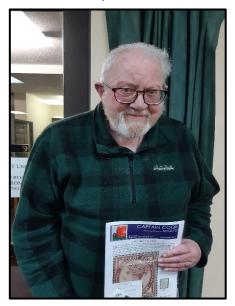
This example was sent Christmas 1907 from Dunedin to Burkes, a settlement about 5 miles out of the city.

The view side is printed in a dull red brown and this is the only example I have seen of this card.

SOCIETY NEWS

November Meeting

The recent meeting was held and attracted more members that the October one... are you feeling like getting out - then come out to the next meeting. The superb philatelic rooms venue allows attendees the luxury of being able to space chairs apart and there is certainly enough room to have space to move around whilst adhering to the 'keeping 'apart' rules!



Rick Oxenham spoke at the November meeting on Hydro Aviation - The Sea Plane. Rick's five-frame exhibit commenced with the Early experimental period in the first section which was accompanied by descriptions on the development and classes of the seaplane/flying boat.

The exhibit takes viewers through a geographical and historical narrative of development of The Sea Plane. Rick used philatelic material, postcards, trade & cigarette cards, cinderellas, playing cards, medallions, and other relevant material to illustrate his exhibit. Members were able to view the seldom seen exhibit previously only viewed overseas. Thanks to Rick for bringing the Sea Plane out for an excursion! A most informative and enjoyable talk and display.

The New Zealand Philatelic Federation Meeting was held on November 20, 2021. Previously planned before lockdown to be at the Philatelic Rooms, Christchurch the meeting was held via Zoom. A report to follow in next month's newsletter.

The program for 2022 is currently being prepared and we welcome feedback, if there is anything you would like included - please email me (sueclaridge@xtra.co.nz or via website) soon to include your ideas for next year, bearing in mind we may not be able to have visitors from out of town, depending on which level we are operating under and what traffic light is in place. Merry Christmas to all members.

On behalf of the executive committee, I would like to take this opportunity to wish members a truly happy Christmas and trust that you will be able to meet with family members despite Covid complications. Take care and see you soon. It has been a tough year and hopefully 2022 will be better and we can all meet in Palmerston North at Royalpex. Happy Holidays! From the Executive Committee.

The <u>January 12</u>, <u>2022</u>, meeting will feature <u>'other interests/hobbies or collections'</u>. There will be tables available to put your precious items on and a five-minute talk from you on associated interests will be greatly appreciated by members attending.

Sue Claridge



Royalpex 2021 Stamp Show

February 26 - 28, 2022

SOCIETY PAGE

PROGRAMME

DECEMBER 6 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

DECEMBER 14 SOCIETY MEETING Christmas Meeting

Talks display and quiz

Talk and display by Jeff & Jenny Long on Greeting Cards

The development & progression of greeting cards in NZ & GB through to the Christmas card & then to postcards

Silent Display - Basic display of NZ Christmas Stamps

One Page Christmas Themed competition (prizes for the best pages)

Christmas Quiz (prizes for the winners)

Supper (and cake too, my favourite, yummo)

DECEMBER 21 LIBRARY NIGHT Open for all members

JANUARY 4 POSTAL HISTORY GROUP Open for all members

JANUARY 12 SOCIETY MEETING Member's Night

Other hobbies and interests

JANUARY 19 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)

SOCIETY ADDRESS: PO Box 9246, Tower Junction, Christchurch 8149

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SOCIETY OFFICERS:

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Web Master Murray Taege

Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) Subscription Rates

The annual subscription is \$60.00 which includes a digital copy of Captain Coqk. A \$10 discount may be deducted if paid by 31st March. Where husband and wife are members but require only one CAPTAIN COQK newsletter to be sent a combined subscription of \$90.00 is charged with a \$15.00 discount allowed. From 2021 there is an additional charge (for NZ members) of \$20.00 for receiving printed copies of Captain Coqk or \$30.00 if you want a printed copy with our personalised stamps. For overseas members, the additional charges are Australia \$35.00 and Rest of the World \$40.00 plus another \$10.00 if you want the personalised stamp used for postage.

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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What's In A Name: All Change For The



Russian Empire 1913 post-marked Riga (now Latvia)

Every sovereign (United Nations recognised) nation; associated and special status state; and dependency (excluding claims to Antarctica); that currently exist today has, at least once, had a change of political representation since postage stamps were first used in that area.

Until recently, political authorities saw philately as a valuable propaganda tool. A change in political authority saw the change reflected in philately. Because of this, philately emanates from place and time. Thus, philately is superlative in tracking political change.

For many nations, the first postage stamps used either did not bear their current name or did not specifically relate to them. Not all political change, changes the name of a geo-political area, however, a change in a name of a geo-political area indicates a political change.

A change of name occurs in four ways: the appearance or disappearance of a name; a change in the "common" name; and a change in the adjectives of the official name. Appearance/disappearance relate to political change through events/actions occurring outside the geo-political area. Changes in the "common name" and adjectives relate to political change through events/actions within a geo-political area.



Luxembourg 1941, German occupation, political change, name remains

The name represents a political authority over a defined geographical area, a geo-political entity. The appearance of a name indicates a new geo-political entity or the re-appearance of a previous one. The political authority can be within or outside of the geo-political area.



Ethiopia 1894, Ethiopia existed prior to its first issue in 1894

The disappearance of a name mostly indicates a cessation of a geo-political entity. Appearance/disappearance does not include a change of the "common" name of a country. Appearance doesn't include nations and states that adopted the modern postal system.

Appearance/ disappearance happens with: the formation/breakup of contiguous empires; formation /breakup of sovereign states; occupations, annexations, and liberation from; capitulations; and United Nations/League of Nations involvement.



Formosa (Taiwan) China 1888



Republic of Formosa 1895



Japan 1937 stamp postmarked Taihoku (Japanese for Taipei)



Japan overprinted in 1945 "for use in Taiwan Republic of China"



Republic of China 1950



Taiwan (Republic of China) 2008



Taiwan (Republic of China) 2020

A province of the Qing (Chinese) Empire, Formosa was ceded by Qing to Japan after the 1st Sino-Japanese War 1895. The Republic of Formosa was established in 1895 to fight Japan. Japan annexed Formosa in 1895. Japan surrendered on 15 August 1945. Taiwan returned to China. The Nationalists were defeated in 1949 and retreated to Taiwan to carry on the Republic of China. In 2008 a new government in Taiwan established rare cordial relations with PR China. As part of this it added "Taiwan" as an adjective to its name



Montenegro 1874



SP du M Bordeaux (Montenegro postal service-Bordeaux) for Montenegro's government in exile



Kingdom of the Serbs Croats & Slovenes 1923 (note no Montenegro)



Kingdom of Yugoslavia 1931

An independent kingdom in the Balkans, it was overrun by Austria-Hungary in 1915. The government fled to Bordeaux, France. In 1918 it was forced into the south Slav federation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. In 1929 King Alexander suspended parliament and changed the name to Yugoslavia. In 1941 Germany invaded Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia was dismembered. Italy set up a puppet regime in Montenegro. In 1943 Italy surrendered and Montenegro became a German puppet state. In 1945 Montenegro was liberated and incorporated in the Federal Democratic Republic of Yugoslavia. In 1992 Yugoslavia disintegrated. In 2003, the "Bulldozer" revolution renamed Yugoslavia, Serbia, and Montenegro. In 2006, Montenegro resumed full independence.



Montenegro 1941 Italian occupation



Montenegro 1943 German occupation



Federal Democratic Republic of Yugoslavia 1945



Serbia & Montenegro 2003



Montenegro 2006



Este 1852



Prov of Modena 1859

The House of Este had ruled Modena since 1452. During the

Risorgimento, in 1859 the Kingdom of Sardinia annexed Modena,

which became part of Italy in 1861



Italy 1862 postmarked Modena 1866



French Colonies General 1877 postmarked Dakar (Senegal) 1887, Senegal 1892. Senegal had been a French colony since 1659



In the overseas colonial sphere, appearance excludes those colonies which existed prior to the introduction of the modern postal system in the colonial power's country. Appearance and reappearance occur when: a colonial power claims a territory; changes the way it administers its colonial possessions; seeks to remain a dependent territory; and occupies, mandates, or administers another colonial power's colonies. Similarly, disappearance is occasioned when a colonial power changes the way it administers its colonial possessions, or a colony becomes





Upper Senegal & Niger postmarked Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) 1910



Upper Volta 1920



French Soudan postmarked Ouahigouya (Burkina Faso) 1938

In 1896 France claimed the territory that would become Burkina Faso and administered it as part of French Soudan. This became part of Senegambia & Niger in 1902, then Upper Senegal & Niger in 1904. In 1920 Upper Senegal & Niger was split up and Upper Volta was created. In 1932 Upper Volta was abolished and merged with other colonies e.g., French Soudan. French Soudan was merged into French West Africa in 1944. In 1958 French West Africa ceased and Upper Volta was re-established. It gained independence in 1960. In 1984 a military coup ousted the government. It was renamed Burkina Faso.



French West Africa post -marked Ouagadougou 1955



Republic of Upper Volta 1960



Burkina Faso 1984

Changes in the common name mostly are a complete change. Most of the complete changes of the common name occur when ex-colonies change their name to disassociate themselves from their colonial past. In a similar vein, other complete changes are to rid a "western" name for a more "ethnic" name. There are changes in the common name which are subtle.











Siam 1899

Thailand 1941

Siam 1947

Thailand 1950

Mali 1959 French Soudan was renamed Mali after the Mali Empire 1235-1670

In 1939 General Phibunsongkhram became military dictator of Siam. He renamed Siam, Thailand. In 1944 he was ousted by a civilian coup. They changed the name back to Siam in 1945. In 1947 Phibunsongkhram led a successful military coup and changed the name back

The most common change of name is a change in the adjectival form of the common name, a.k.a. its official name. As stated in the previous article, political authorities add adjectives to their common name to describe what type of political entity they represent. Thus, a change in adjective indicates a change in the political authority and the type of political entity. The number of political changes a geo-political entity goes through is dependent on its political stability at a point in time. The disappearance of an adjective in the title of a stamp does not necessarily mean that its official name has changed. Often only the common name will be inscribed due to design considerations.



The Prespa agreement signed 17 June 2018, between Greece and Macedonia, enabled FYRO Macedonia to be renamed the Republic of North Macedonia

There are very rear occasions when an adjectival change doesn't indicate an internal political change, but it does indicate an external political change



Hungary Kingdom 1916



Hungary Republic 1919



Hungary Soviet Republic 1919



Hungary National Government 1919



Hungary Regency 1923

With the Austro-Hungarian collapse in November 1918 at the end of WW1, Count Károlyi proclaimed a Republic on 18 November 1918. His government acquiesced to the loss of 75% of Hungary. This prompted a Soviet coup on 21

March 1919. It started a war with Slovakia and Romania. Romania invaded and protected an anti-Soviet Hungarian national government at Szeged, Hungary. Romania ended the Soviet on 1 August. With the Soviet defeat, Hungary became a republic until the Kingdom under a Regency was established on 28 February 1920.



Note the hyphen in the name indicating the breakup of Czechoslovakia







1954, 1956, 1965 "Romîna" is the Russified version of Romania "subtle" name changes

Gheorghiu-Dej dominated politics and enforced Stalinism. Romania was forcibly Slavicized. After Stalin's death he became anti-Khrushchev and in 1964 began an anti-russification programme.

According to Linn's Stamp News, a dead country is "a former stamp-issuing entity that has ceased issuing its own stamps. Also, the old name of an active stamp-issuing entity that has changed its name, so that the old name will no longer be used on stamps". Linn doesn't define a "stamp issuing entity" directly but via a list limited to: "those authorities exercising de facto political control of an area or territory, which have issued stamps for other than strictly local use". If the list was to be limited to "Those authorities exercising de facto political control of



Democratic Rep. of Congo 1966



Rep of Zaire 1975



Democratic Rep. of Congo 2000

an area or territory, then occupations, foreign post offices (capitulations), plebiscites, and colonies would not be listed. In these cases, the political authority lies outside of the geopolitical (stamp issuing) area.

Also, according to the definition, each one of the above Hungarian entities would be considered a dead country as for each one "those authorities" were terminated and ceased issuing stamps. Yet only "common" names are listed, not their varying adjectival forms. Some of the names on the list "those authorities" didn't have the authority e.g., Luga, Japanese Occupation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There are many other inconsistencies.



According to the definition, "Trebizond" shouldn't be on the list as the "de facto political control" was the Russian Empire not "Trebizond" (even though it was part of the Ottoman Empire, which itself is not on the list)



It is doubted that these stamps were authorised by the appropriate Japanese authorities

The problem with the foregoing, is that Linn's tries, but fails, to fit a political framework around a typical typographical view of philately. Philately was and is currently viewed as a branch of typography. It centres on the 5 Ps: printing; paper; perforation; picture; and post (route and rates). But political authorities saw philately as a useful propaganda tool, the name became important. It conveyed or imposed authority, legitimacy, and competency. Philately is based in politics, which changes, thus does the name.

Because a name is no longer printed doesn't make it "dead". As one commentator put it: "stamps have had more resurrections than the Bible". Whilst it is difficult to see a new Yugoslavia, or Ghana renaming itself Gold Coast, the old adage is: never say never. The real question is whether philately will still be around if it happens.

Murray Taege

Wet Mail, A Continuing Problem

Since the event of a virus called Covid resulting in a very disrupted supply chain around the globe, which in turn has impacted on the ability of postal authorities to get mail safely to its destination. In 2020 after the first lockdown period, mail from Europe was being delivered in poor condition, where it had obviously got wet at some part of its journey and dried before getting to New Zealand.

That this process happened offshore was evident in the fact the NZ bar code label REG008 had been applied over the spotty black mould that was developing on the paper. At the time NZ Post's Customer Services didn't want to know.

It is now 2021 and the problem is obviously now recognised because NZ Post have made a specific instructional marking for which is being used at the International Mail Centre in Auckland. It's a four line handstamp with text "MAIL RECEIVED IN WET CONDITION. International Mail Service Centre, Auckland". It measures 53mm wide x 18mm high.





My example is from a letter posted from France 24 June 2021.



A second example had me looking twice as some of the stamps were in a plastic coin bag taped to the front of the envelop. They were all older pre Euro stamps from Belgium apart from in the top left corner was an un-denominated bird stamp named "RECOMMANDE - AANGETEKEND", French Flemish for registered. The coin bag was for a \$ currency and has a code number at the bottom NZBZ 10 so unlikely to have been put on in Belgium with their francs and now euros as currency.

This envelope did obviously not look wet enough so got through the international Mail Centre without getting the new instructional marking added.

But it had got wet enough for the stamps to start to come off. The staff at the City East Box Lobby saw that and put the stamps carefully in the money bag. The envelope was then put in a plastic bag and shut with a standard NZ Post label and date stamped.



It is interesting to see the City East box lobby is still using a datestamp from the old pre-quake Armagh lobby. City East is the result of relocating Victoria and Armagh lobbies over a decade ago and merging them with Eastgate.

While NZ Post may not be too interested in finding out and working with their international colleagues to sort the issue, we can speculate.

A theory is that the airline containers that they load into the aircraft hold are not weathertight. Containers with mailbags get offloaded or are in transit and get left sitting outside while waiting for the next available flight. While outside, it rains and then they sit there still in the container in mailbags and dry out. Not being ventilated in the mailbag, the black mould spots start to emerge. Eventually they continue their journey with no one thinking about what is going on inside those containers. We're the ones who find out when our mail gets here.

In the two examples used for this article, there was no damage to the contents as they were all well wrapped in plastic pockets which is something we need to encourage the sellers to do when buying from overseas websites or auction houses.

Paul van Herpt

1964 Unrecorded Road Safety Cinderella



Unrecorded cinderella for the National Accident Free in 1964, used on a plain FDC for the Road Safety stamp issued on the same day the campaign was held.

Stephen Jones

Flag Stations On The South Island West Coast Route

Flag stations can be defined as railway stations which usually were not manned, and where, once gazetted, a train could be "flagged" down, perhaps to board as a passenger, but more commonly to meet with the train's guard to receive goods or post a letter.

As flag stations were not manned, they were very small locations, and the facilities provided were very basic, often just a small shed, maybe on a siding, and sometimes a small platform.

The status of flag stations could be upgraded or downgraded depending on demand for service. Flag stations were well established in NZ by the 1870s, but as branch lines closed in the 1940s they sharply reduced in number. Even to find flag station mail in the era of King George VI stamps is not at all easy.

The line from Christchurch to the West Coast through Otira was not completed until the Otira tunnel opened in 1923, but nevertheless there were flag stations along the route as it was gradually extended to the west, and from the West Coast toward Otira.

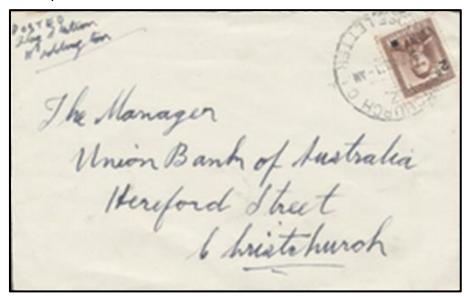
The rate for posting mail at a flag station was the regular postal rate applying at the time, but only if the letter was endorsed by the sender "posted at (name of station.") Otherwise, a late fee was also payable. The late fee was usually one penny, although it did vary a little over time. Obviously, flag stations had no facilities for cancelling mail, so a letter was really a "loose letter" item and would normally be cancelled at the first station where mail could be off-loaded for processing. For flag station mail originating on the West Coast route, if travelling east this was usually Christchurch, and a Christchurch Loose Letter cancel was normally applied. However, at various times, although much less commonly, mail could also be processed at Otira, Arthur's Pass, Springfield or Cass. For this article I have used distances from Rolleston station, the rail junction near Christchurch where the west and south rail lines diverge



RCH, Race Course Hill Flag Station

One of the first flag stations heading west from Christchurch was Race Course Hill, 32km from Rolleston, and originally a very large pastoral station and well known for horse racing and hunts. The example shown has abbreviated the name to R.C.H. Three other examples are currently recorded, so this was obviously not a major flag station stop.

Next along the line was Waddington, 37km from Rolleston. A Post Office was open here from 1.9.1875 to 31.12.1924 when the station was downgraded to a flag station. Three examples are recorded. Mine was posted in 1942 and cancelled with a Christchurch Loose Letter cancel.



Waddington Flag Station

There was also a flag station at Annat, 42km from Rolleston. A Post Office was open here between 21.9.1891 and 29.5.1959. Only one flag station mail item has been recorded, but there are questions about whether it is actually from Annat, and the item has not been sighted for over 50 years.

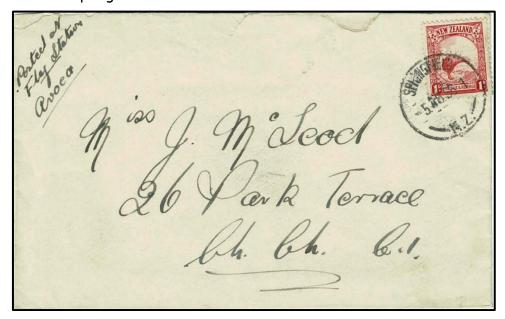


Geographically, the next flag station was Staircase, 63km from Rolleston. This was a Midland Railway construction camp. Only two examples are currently recorded, both shown here. Although both are addressed to Miss McLeod in the same hand, one has the Christchurch C class Loose Letter cancel, and one has the regular Christchurch C class cancel but with the Loose Letter cachet added.



Staircase Flag Station

Further up the line was the Avoca flag station, a sheep framing area 73km west of Rolleston, but also a coal mining location between 1918 and 1927. This example shown is also addressed to Miss McLeod and is one of only two recorded. It is dated 5 Au 1936, by which time mail was being off-loaded at Springfield.

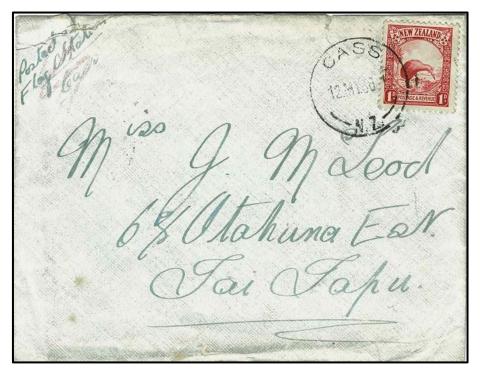


Avoca Flag Station



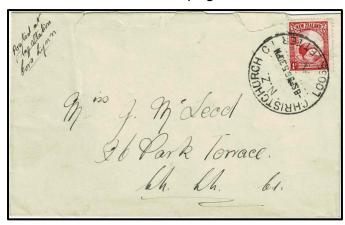
Craigieburn flag station was similar. 81km from Rolleston, it had a post office between 29.1.1905 and 26.10 1910. Only one item of flag station mail has been recorded; it is dated 8 Fe 1933 and was cancelled at Christchurch.

Craigieburn Railway Station



Cass Flag Station

Cass was an interesting flag station. It was a major base for building the railway line on the section to Arthur's Pass and the Post Office enjoyed being staffed between 01.12.1910 and 30.06.1914 but was then downgraded to a flag station. The 1936 example shown is the only recorded example to date. Although the Post Office at Cass had been reopened by this time, the mail must have been very light and therefore the train only stopped if flagged

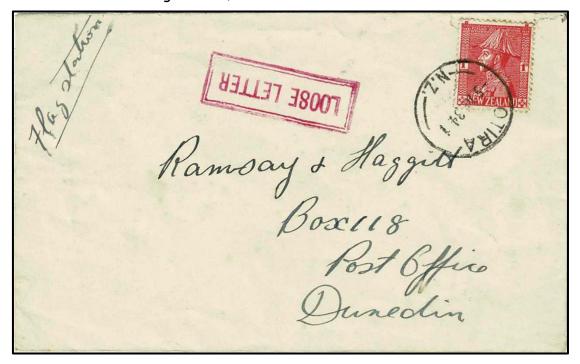




Coro Lynn Flag Station

Next was Cora Lynn flag station, 102km from Rolleston. Again addressed to Miss McLeod, my two examples are dated March and September 1936. One other example is recorded. Interestingly, even the though the destination was Christchurch, one was cancelled with the C class Christchurch Loose Letter cancel, but the earlier example was cancelled at Arthur's Pass, so must have been picked up heading west, although the destination was east.

Occasionally flag mail can be found cancelled at Otira. The two examples shown are dated 1934 and 1938. Both have been cancelled with a J class Otira, and also have a Loose Letter cachet applied. Both are marked Flag Station, but with no location noted.



Received as a Loose Letter at Otira with unnamed Flag Station superscription

Looking at the Greymouth-Otira railway timetable for 1952, possibilities for the origin of these items include the 758 mixed train service departing from Greymouth at 07.49am each day which would stop if required between Rotomanu and Poerua to pick up milk and/or set down passengers. A similar mixed train 780 departing Greymouth daily at 04.30pm would also stop on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday for passengers. Perhaps these services would also handle

mail? The same 780 service would stop on Wednesday and Friday at three different locations en route to Otira for passengers and parcels.



Received as a Loose Letter at Otira with unnamed Flag Station superscription

Although most of these covers came from different sources at different times, it will be noticed that a number of them are addressed to Miss J McLeod.

I thought this may a relation of Mr David McLeod, who was the owner of the large Grasmere and Cora Lynn sheep stations in the upper Waimakariri basin between 1930 and 1970

He married Mary in October 1935, so any children were probably too young to be the recipient of letters between 1936 and 1938. I have read three of David McLeod's books about life in the high country but mentions of family are few and far between. He doesn't even name his children, just that there were three of them.

Whoever Miss McLeod was, her sometime address at Otahuna might suggest she was sending letters from various flag stations for Sir Heaton Rhodes, but this seems unlikely too, as surely the honourable stamp collector would have made sure the envelopes were opened more carefully?

So, a few minor mysteries yet to sort out, but at least we are fortunate that Miss McLeod kept the envelopes her letters came in.

Jeff Long

And finally, the important dates for your shopping pleasure in 2022

2022 Christchurch Stamp & Postcard Fairs Held at Philatelic Centre, 67 Mandeville St, Riccarton On The Following Saturdays 9am - 12 noon. For Further Details Contact Gary Tavendale Phone 027 635 4957 April June May February March January 4th & 18th 7th & 21st 5th & 19th 2nd & 16th 5th & 19th 8th & 22nd December November September October July August 3rd & 17th 6th & 20th 3rd & 17th 1st & 15th 5th & 19th 2nd & 16th

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AUCTION 84: Closes December 7, 2021.

The following KGV and 1935 plate blocks in the auction:

NOTE: there will be NO 'Buyers Commission' in this auction

