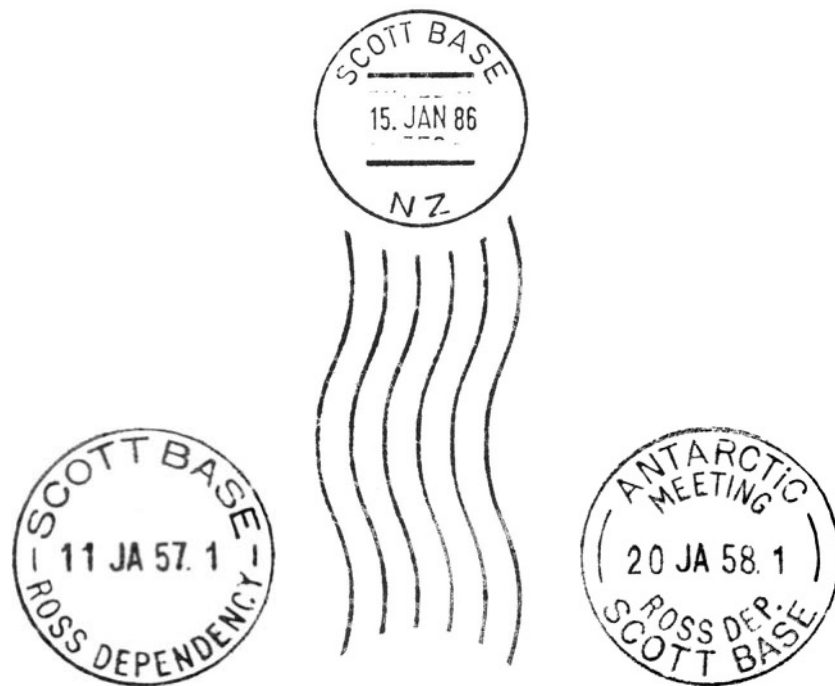


THE POSTMARKS OF ROSS DEPENDENCY

Mark Jurisich FRPSNZ



3RD EDITION UPDATE April 2018

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1 st edition	2012
2 nd edition	2015
3 rd edition	2017

THE POSTMARKS OF ROSS DEPENDENCY

Mark Jurisich FRPSNZ

British Antarctic Expeditions	1907 - 1909 & 1910 - 1913
The Scott Base Post Office period	1957 - 1987
The post Scott Base Post Office period	1987 - 1994
The Ross Dependency Agency period	1994 - 2012

Second Edition:

Further research identifies the datestamp used by Ernest Shackleton during the 1907-1909 British Antarctic Expedition and Robert Falcon Scott during the 1910-1913 British Antarctic Expedition as the 'first postmark' of Ross Dependency since the datestamp was manufactured locally for the New Zealand Post Office and used by both Shackleton and Scott in the territory later known as the Ross Dependency. More information has also come to hand regarding the second and third postmarks of Ross Dependency.

Third Edition:

As the monograph becomes more widely distributed, additional information continues to come to hand and a regular update is now undertaken. Evidence has also come to hand that pmk 01a was damaged during Jan/Feb 1957, rather than during the winter-over period.

Introduction

The Heroic Age saw several Expeditions pass through New Zealand ports on their way to explore Antarctica. Robert Duns' book *New Zealand Antarctic Postal History to 1941* covers the field well and is recommended for those interested in the topic.

In 1907 Shackleton agreed to establish a NZ Post Office in a region later to become known as the Ross Dependency. He carried south NZ penny universal stamps overprinted King Edward VII Land and a locally manufactured datestamp. In 1910 Scott repeated the exercise with VICTORIA LAND overprinted penny dominion stamps and the same datestamp.

The Modern Era of New Zealand's Antarctic postal history began with its participation in the 1955-1958 Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, the object of which was to cross the Antarctic continent overland from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea via the South Pole.

Scott Base was established in 1957 as headquarters for the New Zealand Party, led by Sir Edmund Hillary. Since then Scott Base has been continuously occupied.



Scott Base, with Mount Erebus in the background

The Post Office at Scott Base opened on 11 January 1957 and closed on 30 September 1987. This monograph briefly notes the British Antarctic Expeditions of 1907-09 and 1910-13 that used overprinted NZ stamps and a locally manufactured datestamp, then concentrates on the Scott Base cancellations applied at the base and in NZ, the mail handling system following the closure of Scott Base Post Office, the usage of Ross Dependency and Dependency-related cancellations after 1987 and the only recorded forged cancellation.

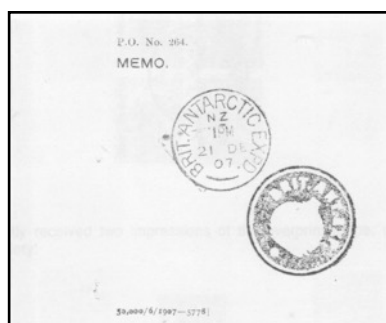
British Antarctic Expeditions	1907 - 1909 & 1910 - 1913
The Scott Base Post Office period	1957 - 1987
The post Scott Base Post Office period	1987 - 1994
The Ross Dependency Agency period	1994 - (still operating)

Note:

Standard covers are scaled to either 7.5cm or 10cm width and large covers to 15cm for presentation purposes. Postmarks are actual size.

SHACKLETON'S BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1907 - 1909

On 18 December 1907, D Robertson, Secretary of the NZ Post Office, suggested that the NZ Government provide the expedition with postage stamps suitably overprinted King Edward VII Land. The following day the Secretary advised Shackleton that there would be a post office established and that stamps would be overprinted. A datestamp and a mailbag seal would be provided. WR Brock was instructed to cut a datestamp (Duns 1997:37).



GPO Archive memo No. 264
(see Jurisich 1995)



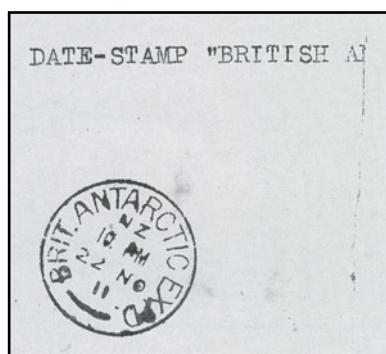
BRIT. ANTARCTIC EXPD. NZ 4 MR 09

The Chief Postmaster Christchurch delivered the datestamp to Shackleton on 24 December 1907. Joseph Kinsey, the Expedition's Agent in Christchurch, made first use it on 1 January 1908. Other dates are 15 January, 3 & 27 February 1908 and 4 March 1909 (Duns 1997).

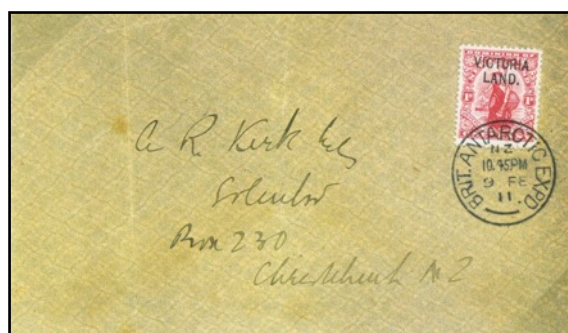
SCOTT'S BRITISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1910 - 1913

Shortly after the *Terra Nova* arrived in Lyttelton on 28 October 1910, Kinsey took opportunity to discuss with Captain Scott the establishment of postal facilities for the Expedition. Following exchanges between Kinsey, the Premier Sir Joseph Ward, the Secretary of the Post Office and the Postmaster General during November 1910, approval was granted to overprint stamps. It was also decided that the former datestamp and seal should be used for the Expedition (Duns 1997).

Recorded dates of usage are 19 & 23 January and 9 February 1911, 31 January and 3 March 1912, 18 January and 4 February 1913.



GPO Impression Book (Duns 1997:61)



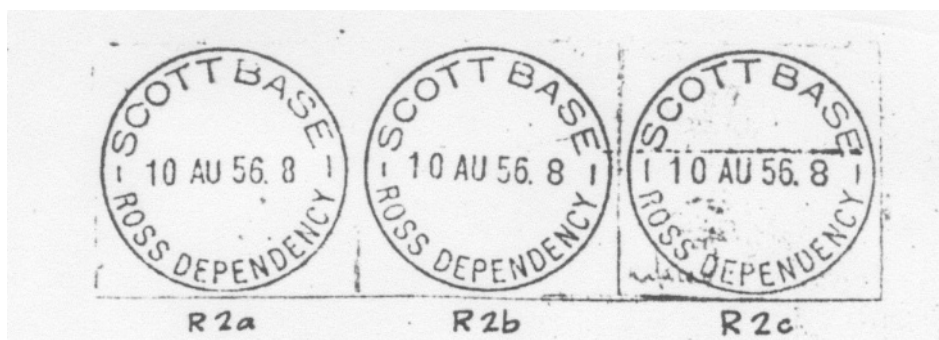
BRIT. ANTARCTIC EXPD. NZ 9 FE 11

This datestamp is R1, the first 'Ross Dependency' datestamp.

THE SCOTT BASE POST OFFICE PERIOD 1957 - 1987

The first Ross Dependency datestamps

The New Zealand Post & Telegraph Department, in August 1956, provided to the Ross Sea Committee of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition three almost identical J-class steel face datestamps for use at Scott Base.



In the New Zealand Post & Telegraph Department's Datestamp Impression book (above), the datestamps are numbered R2a, R2b and R2c (R presumably for Ross), R1 being the BRIT. ANTARCTIC EXPD. New Zealand datestamp used on Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition of 1907-1909 and Scott's National Antarctic Expedition of 1910-1913.

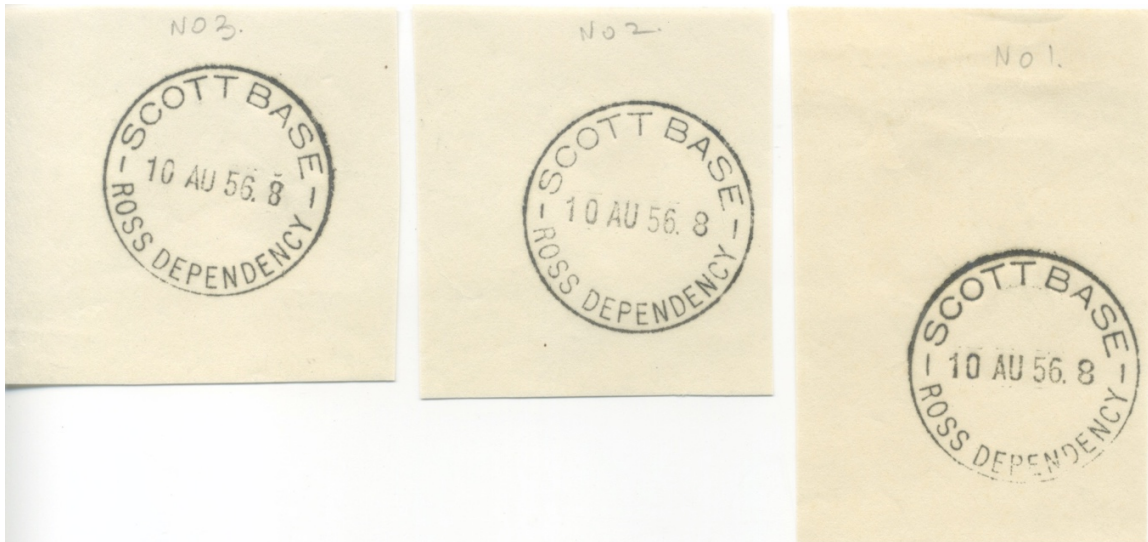
Differences between the three 34mm diameter datestamps are:

- pmk 01a** Dateline of uniform height, left and right arcs at opposite ends of dateline are 3mm in length.
- pmk 01b** Dateline of uniform height, left arc 2mm in length, right arc 3mm in length.
- pmk 01c** Month letters slightly shorter than rest of dateline, left arc 2mm, right arc 2.5mm in length.

Identification is basic...if the left arc is 3mm, then the datestamp is pmk 01a, as the other two datestamps have a much smaller left arc. If the month (e.g. AU, JA, as above) is smaller than the rest of the dateline type, then it must be pmk 01c. Anything else is pmk 01b.



Ross Sea Antarctic Appeal Committee member Eric Gibbs obtained a separate set of the datestamp impressions (above). He numbered them differently in pencil - his No.1 is R2c, No.2 is R2b and No.3 is R2a. His postmark numbering sequence 1a, 1b and 1c has been historically retained (Gibbs 1973:144).

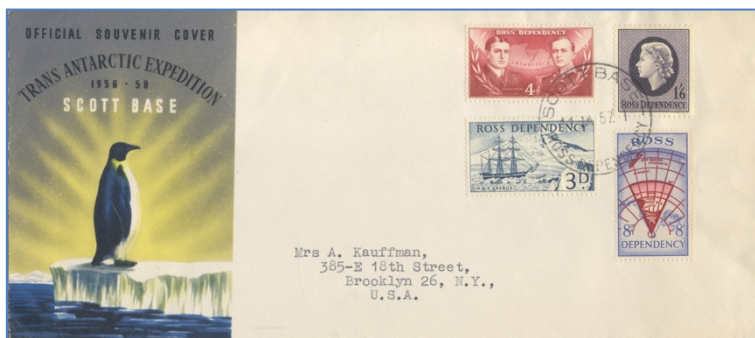


Secretary of the Ross Sea Committee/Scott Base Assistant Postmaster Arthur Helm obtained the second recorded separate set (above). These two sets are most likely unique.

Trans-Antarctic Expedition souvenir envelopes

The reason for not producing a New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department first day cover was that the Ross Sea Committee had earlier produced their own commemorative envelope:

“The Post Office was persuaded, as a special case, to sell these envelopes at all permanent post offices in the Dominion, and to accept addressed envelopes and place the requisite stamps on them. In all, the total printing of 100,000 covers was sold out.” (Helm & Miller; 1964:396)



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1

NEW ZEALAND POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT N^o 694
 STATEMENT OF STAMPS SUPPLIED Stamps 1956/578
 By Stamps Division, General Post Office, Wellington C. I.

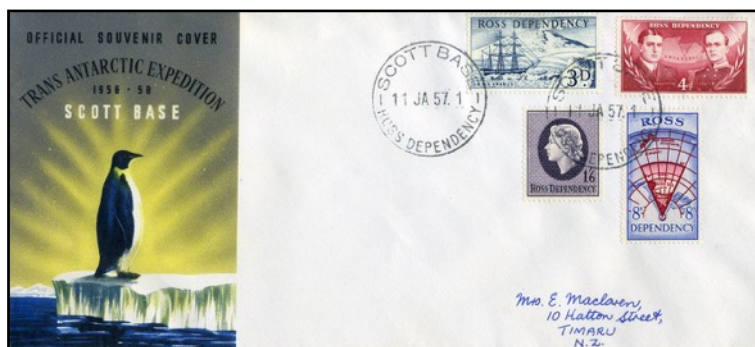
NAME AND ADDRESS	DENOMINATION	No.	AMOUNT		
			£	s.	d.
Mrs A. Kauffman 385 E. 18th St. Brooklyn 26 N.Y. U. S. A.	Ross Dep				
	2 sets on cover only	2			5 6
	2 official covers only	2			1 0
Schedule No. 1095/7	Surcharging				6
Supplied by					
Checked by	Postage and Registration				
Packed by					
		TOTAL	£		7 0

H.O.—159. 100 bks./3/56—63537 P Credit Balance:

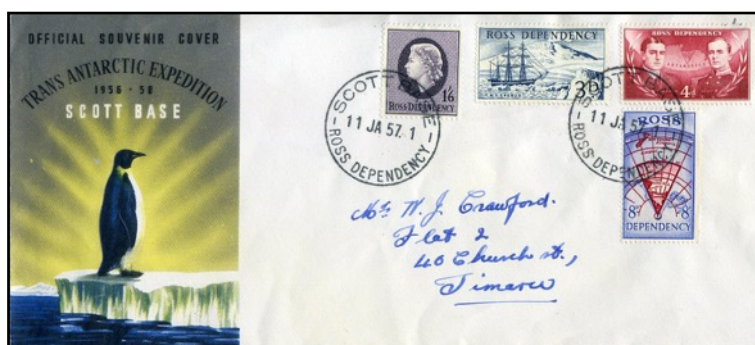
enclosed NZ Post & Telegraph receipt for purchase of stamps on covers

The stamped covers were then packed and sent south on HMNZS *Endeavour* where they were datestamped at Scott Base when the post office opened on 11 January 1957.

Several writers have recorded that each of the three datestamps appear to occur on official Trans-Antarctic Expedition 1956-58 Scott Base souvenir covers, all cancelled 11 JA 57.1.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01a)



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01b)



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01c)

“Initially two of these date-stamps were used at Scott Base, the third being held as a spare at the G.P.O., Wellington. Later, one of the two former was returned to Wellington, and on June 1, 1959, two were defaced.” (Collins et al. 1967:744-777).

Arthur Helm, Scott Base Assistant Postmaster 1956-57, was the co-author of this chapter in Collins et al., so it is clear only two datestamps went south.

Later, Eric Gibbs wrote “...but all three are known on first day covers” and elsewhere: “(a) dateline of uniform height, left and right arcs 3mm in length. This datestamp was retained for permanent use at Scott Base” (Gibbs 1973:144). For him, pmk 01a went south and stayed there.

Vogel said that Helm told him he had taken only two datestamps south (Vogel 1981:275). Vogel shows images of pmk 01b & pmk 01c (his fig. 1a & fig. 2a). For him, pmk 01a did not go south. Vogel responded to Gibbs’s claim regarding the appearance of the three datestamps on first day covers saying that it was more credible for those with a datestamp that looked like pmk 01a to have been caused by variation in inking of pmk 01b, with the left arc being over-inked, increasing its length from 2mm to 3mm, than that three datestamps went south.

HMNZS *Endeavour* sailed for Antarctica on 14 December 1956. If the New Zealand Post & Telegraph Department had received mail that missed going south with the *Endeavour*, it may have later cancelled these covers 11 JA 57 using the third datestamp in Wellington. That would have been most irregular, but it could have occurred. To be definitive therefore, we must eliminate general souvenir covers from an analysis of which two datestamps went south.

Of the three datestamps, only one has a 'major' difference; pmk 01c has month (JA) letters smaller than the other two datestamps. The below cover to Jim Brodie, Head of the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute was cacheted aboard HMNZS *Endeavour*'s escort ship HMNZS *Pukaki*. So, datestamp pmk 01c went south.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01c)

The below cover with signatures of 17 members of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition could only have been cancelled at Scott Base (Registration cancel no. R1); it is cancelled with pmk 01a:



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01a)

Also, therefore pmk 01a went south. This accords with Gibbs' assessment.

This leaves pmk 01b as the likely candidate for the datestamp that the G.P.O. held as a spare in Wellington. Both pmk 01a and pmk 01b have the same 3mm length of the right arc. Helm and Bucknell were both right handed; they would have favored impressing the datestamp from right to left across the covers, in turn favoring a deeper impression (or more ink) for the right arc than the left arc. So, they would have impressed to a lesser degree the left arc...and this is the difference between the seen impressions of pmk 01a (3mm) and pmk 01b (2 mm).

Vogel's argument that the 3mm left arc/3mm right arc on pmk 01a date-stamped on souvenir covers are a result of the left arc being lengthened by inking, is unlikely. Rather, the greater likelihood is that the right arc length of pmk 01a was slightly damaged, to become pmk 01d during the cancellation of the 100,000 covers (see later in this monograph).

It must have been a massive task for Helm to personally cancel all the souvenir covers plus others as well as handle the high sales demand from the Americans at McMurdo Station.

However, “the wearisome task of cancelling by date-stamping all the huge number of covers sent down to the base was undertaken the first year by Helm” (Helm & Miller 1964:397).

Helm could not have datestamped the covers all in one day; he must have kept working on them for several days, keeping the dateline on 11 JA 57. Coincidentally, there is a period of more than two weeks after 11 January before other covers were cancelled with a later date. Scarce cancellation dates 31 January, then 15, 18, 21, 23 & 24 February and 11 & 16 March 1957 have been recorded (personal communication Vogel 2003; others sighted by the author).

During cancellation of the 100,000 covers, pmk 01a was slightly damaged - the right arc was chipped to reduce its length from 3mm to 2.5-2.6mm:

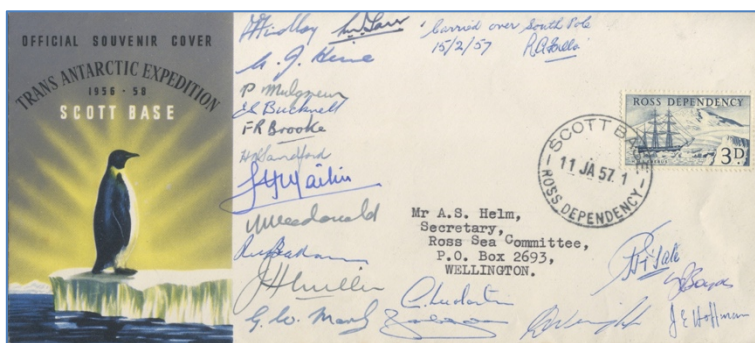


pmk 01d

pmk 01d Dateline of uniform height, left arc 3mm in length, right arc 2.5-2.6mm in length.

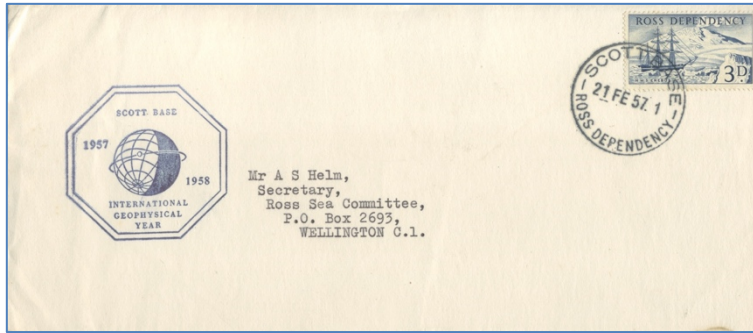


SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01d)



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 JA 57.1 (pmk 01d)

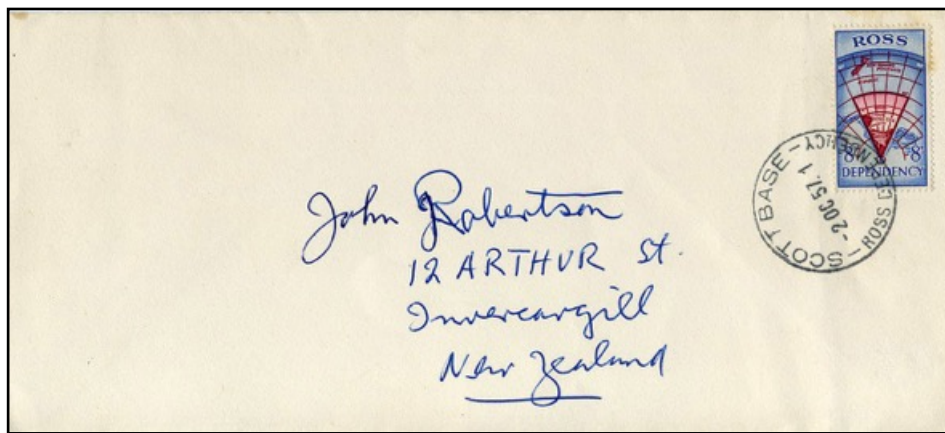
This is most likely to have occurred during the nearly three weeks it took Helm to cancel all the souvenir covers. Definitely, all covers after the “11 JA 57” cancellation date are cancelled with pmk 01d.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 21 FE 57.1 (pmk 01d)

HMNZS *Endeavour* departed McMurdo for Dunedin on 24 February 1957, with Arthur Helm aboard. E S Bucknell, the wintering-over cook, took over his function as assistant postmaster.

The 1957-58 Summer Party members flew into Williams Field, McMurdo on 1 October 1957.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY -2 OC 57.1 (pmk 01d)

The datestamp for pmk 01d remained in use until the post office closed 30 September 1987. It must have been occasionally repaired, even replaced, but there is no clear evidence yet.

Datestamp error

Mail was wrongly cancelled 31 JA 57 for dispatch by air on 1 February 1958, so on arrival in Christchurch some letters were amended to read '58' instead of '57'. Covers dispatched by sea are also known dated 31 JA 57 instead of 58 (Collins et al: 1967:774). The cover below clearly confirms this error:



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 31 JA 57.1 (pmk 01d); in manuscript "16th January, 58"



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 24 FE 57.1 (pmk 01a)

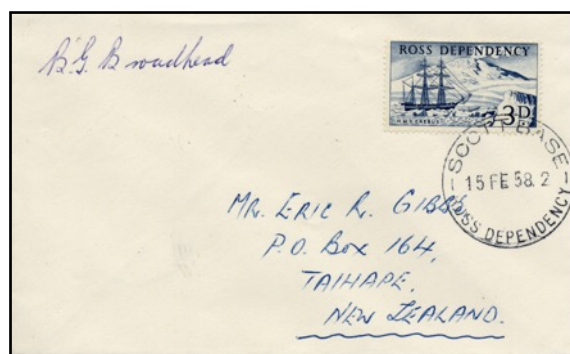
The 'second dispatch' postal markings

The number shown after the year on postmarks indicates the serial number of the mail being dispatched that day. At Scott Base, as with most small New Zealand post offices, the number was left at 1. However, rare postmarks with the number 2 are known.

Two journalists, Noel Barber and Anthony Brown from the British Daily Mail, covering the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, arrived at Scott Base on 27 January 1958 and during their stay they cashed some travelers' cheques which were cancelled 15 FE 58.2 with pmk 01d. These items are now held in the Archives of Thos. Cook London.



In November 2003, a cover with this 'second dispatch' postmark was discovered:



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 15 FE 58.2 (pmk 01d)

B.G. Broadhead from the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation was accompanying the two Daily Mail journalists; he was also covering the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Broadhead must have been with the journalists when they cashed their travelers' cheques. Another 15 FEB 58.2 cover addressed to Otahuhu turned up early in 2009. The cover at right evidences a 'first dispatch' period earlier that day.

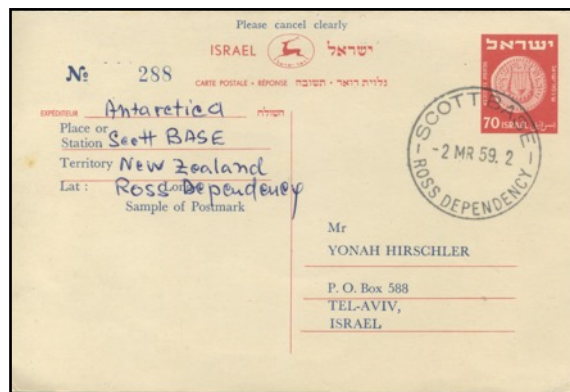


SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 15 FE 58.2



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 15 FE 58.1

A third item, an Israeli reply paid card cancelled -2 MR 59.2, was discovered in 2012. E.S. Bucknell, who was acting postmaster, may not have been aware that issues from other countries were invalid for postage in New Zealand. This datestamp is clearly pmk 01c.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY -2 MR 59.2 (pmk 01c)

It confirms that pmk 01c must have been held at Scott Base after Helm departed in February 1957 and finally returned to Wellington where it plus pmk 01b were defaced on 1 June 1959 (Collins et al. 1967:744-777). This left at Scott Base pmk 01a, damaged at some stage during January/February 1957 or perhaps during the wintering-over period, resulting in the appearance on mail from 2 October 1957 of pmk 01d (so described to separate it from its original version pmk 01a).

A fourth cover was cancelled on 2 December 1972. The cover has signatures of Vanda Station and Scott Base scientists. Manuscript details of the helicopter flight bringing the men from Vanda to McMurdo the day prior to cancellation confirms its validity as separate domestic incoming mail.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 2 DE 72.2

A fifth cover was personally delivered by USA McMurdo Station member Brian Smith by truck to Scott Base and cancelled on 19 December. The "Local Post Antarctica" cachet appears on a

range of souvenir covers from McMurdo. A sixth cover was flown from Vostok Station to Scott Base, also cancelled on 19 December.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 19 DE 73.2



ANTARCTICA VOSTOK 13 12 73
SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 19 DE 73.2

Regarding the above cover at right:

The Deep Freeze 74 season's first flight to the Soviet Union's Vostok Station occurred on December 14. Those on board included Mr. Robb Flint, NOAA, who will spend the winter at the station as the U.S. exchange scientist. Returning on the flight were four Soviets who toured U.S. stations until the season's second flight to Vostok on January 2. On December 17, the season's final U.S. Air Force C-141 Starlifter turnaround flight landed on the ice runway to ferry passengers and cargo to Christchurch, and back to the United States."

Antarctic Journal of the United States, Vol.9, No.2, p.58

A seventh cover was cancelled on 20 December 1973. The cover, autographed by Japanese members of the International Dry Valley Drilling Project, would likely have been delivered by helicopter from Vanda Station to Scott Base and cancelled late that day. An eighth cover cancelled 21 December 1973 is on a US Deep Freeze cover from McMurdo Station, which may possibly account for a separate later cancellation time.

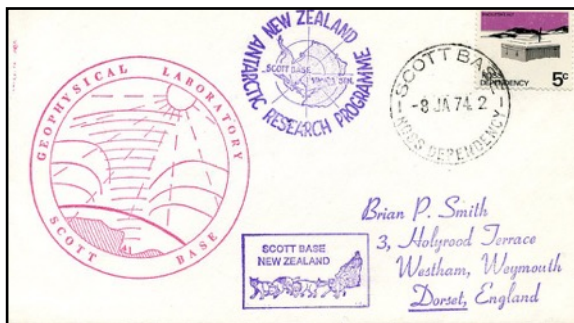


SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 20 DE 73.2



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 21 DE 73.2

Two ninth covers (stamps positioned slightly differently), addressed to Brian Smith, were cancelled on 8 January 1974.



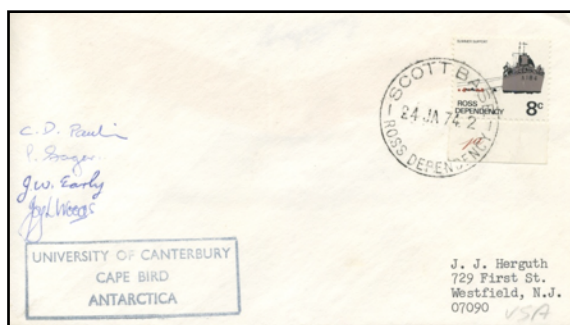
SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY –8 JA 74.2



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY –8 JA 74.1

MS Lindblad Explorer was at McMurdo that day and there would have been a large quantity of souvenir mail for cancellation from tourists aboard the ship, necessitating a seconding opening of the post office. Either that or Brian Smith arranged for the two covers to be cancelled “per favour”.

A tenth cover was cancelled on 24 January 1974. The Canterbury University team were in the field until 2 February 1974; mail may have come into Scott Base by helicopter and cancelled at an irregular hour.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 24 JA 74.2

The ‘third dispatch’ postal marking

Brian P. Smith worked for the University of Texas at Austin, USA. He was a scientist who spent several winters at McMurdo Station, working on a Polar Aurora Radar project for Stanford Research Institute, as well as for the University of Texas Geodetic Satellite Tracking Observatory, at least between DF 72-DF 74 at both McMurdo and Byrd Stations.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY –8 JA 74.3
signed by LP Slattery (postmaster)

The above cover, whilst philatelically contrived (it was cancelled at the same time as the pmk 01 “2” cover above), is, so far, unique...unless he arranged for several covers to be cancelled!

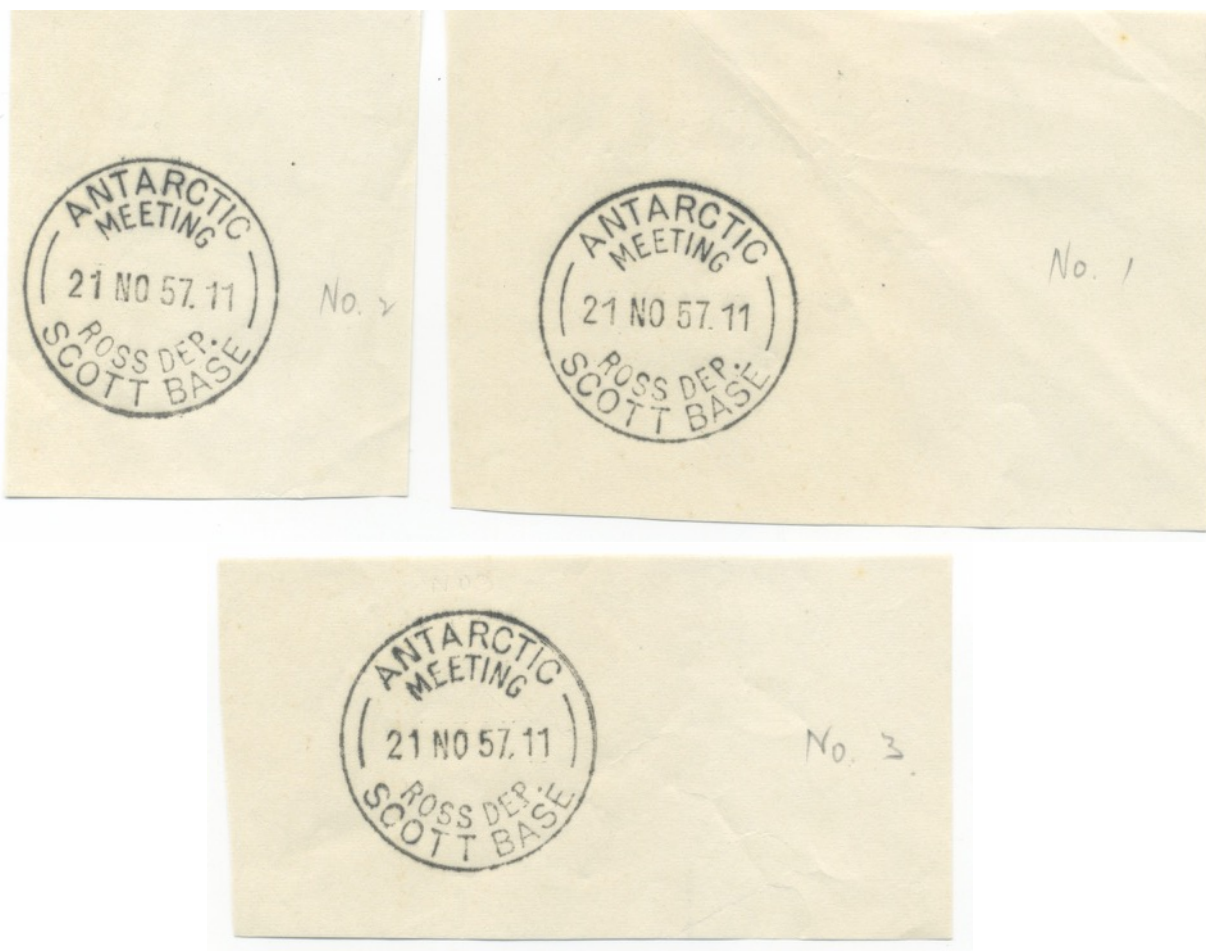
Scott Base Datestamp No. 2

To commemorate the first overland crossing of Antarctica in 1958, the Ross Sea Committee prepared special souvenir covers. The NZ Post Office once again provided three datestamps to be used for souvenir cover cancellations.



GPO Datestamp Impressions

Eric Gibbs again obtained a personal set of these Datestamp Impressions from the G.P.O.:



Gibbs also again numbered them differently (in pencil); his No.1 is R2c, No.2 is R2b and No.3 is R2a. It was his numbering sequence that became the recognized standard, later modified to pmk 02a, pmk 02b and pmk 02c.

Arthur Helm, Secretary of the Ross Sea Committee, also obtained a set of these impressions.



pmk 02a



pmk 02b



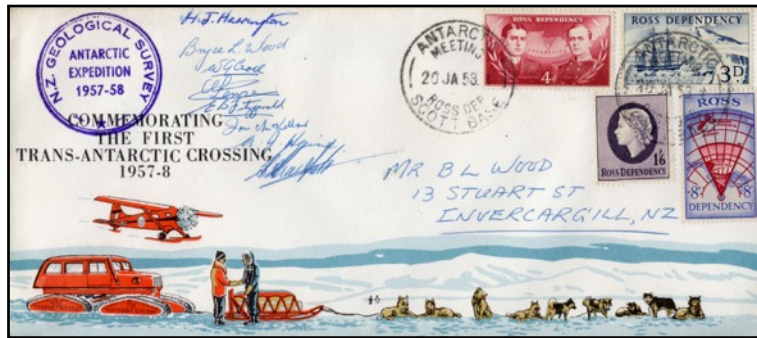
pmk 02c

Postmarks can be distinguished by the position of R of ROSS over C of SCOTT, the shape of JA of the date and the space between the right-hand arc and the circular rim on the postmarks.

Differences between the three 34mm diameter datestamps are:

- pmk 02a R above C; the space between the right arc and the circular rim is 2.5mm.
- pmk 02b R to the left above C; the space between the right arc and the circular rim is 2.5mm.
- pmk 02c R above C; the space between the right arc and the circular rim is 2.2mm on the left and 3.0mm on the right.

There was only one date used for the datestamp, 20 January 1958, the day Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole. It seems clear from the wide range of signatures on souvenir covers that the Scott Base datestamp No.2 was probably used for cancellations over a period.



ANTARCTIC MEETING SCOTT BASE ROSS DEP. 20 JA 58.1 (pmk 02a)



ANTARCTIC MEETING SCOTT BASE ROSS DEP. 20 JA 58.1 (pmk 02b)

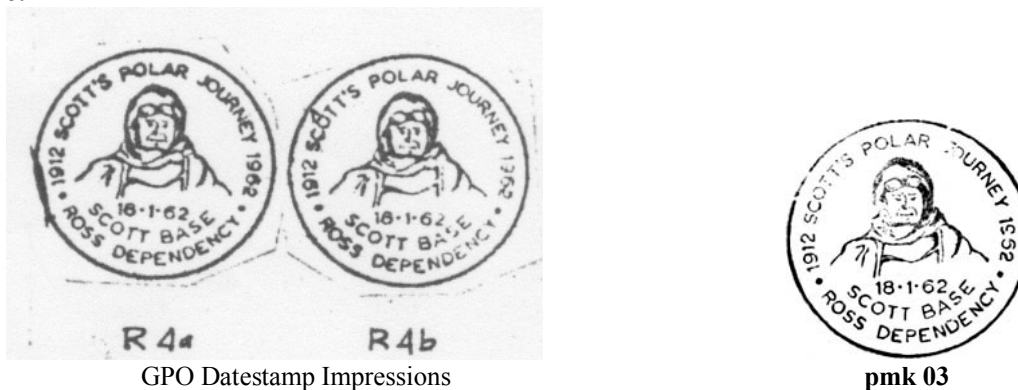


ANTARCTIC MEETING SCOTT BASE ROSS DEP. 20 JA 58.1 (pmk 02c)

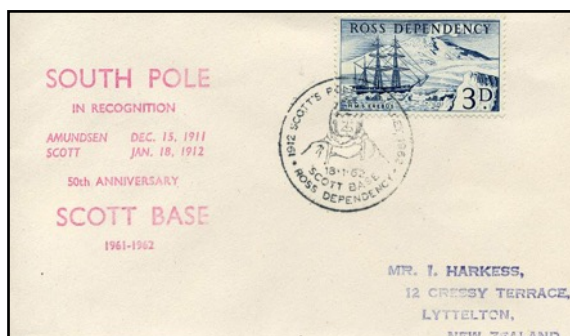
Note on the cover above the Post Office practice of using the regular datestamp for cancelling registered mail labels. All three datestamps were returned to the G.P.O. Wellington at the end of the 1958 summer season and defaced on 1 June 1959.

Scott Base Datestamp No. 3

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Captain R.F. Scott's attainment of the South Pole, souvenir mail was cancelled at Scott Base on 18 January 1962; the anniversary of the date Scott reached the Pole.



Two datestamps were prepared, from brass or a similar alloy. They were made from the same mould and cannot be identified separately. Little advance publicity was given for the proposed use of this datestamp so covers with this postmark are scarcer than for the other commemorative Scott Base postmarks.



1912 SCOTT'S POLAR JOURNEY 1962 18.1.62 SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY

Scott Base Datestamp No. 4

During the 1963 winter the NZ Post Office was asked to make a second datestamp for Scott Base. The radio-telephone office was being relocated to a hut separate from the main building, which continued to contain the post office, and both offices needed a datestamp. A 28mm diameter J-class datestamp was sent south at the opening of the next summer season.



Earliest sighted cancellation date is 24 October 1963; the datestamp probably arrived at Scott Base in the first or second week of October on one of the early incoming flights. The latest cancellation date seen for pmk 04 is 21 June 1983; it may have been used a little after that.

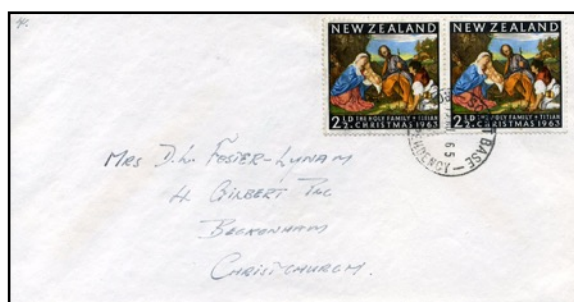


SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 24 OC 63 1



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 21 JE 83 1

A dateline variety occurred on 10 August 1965, the summer party incoming postmaster I. Smith accidentally setting the numeral rollers at 10 AU. 6 5 instead of 10 AU 65 1.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 10 AU. 6 5



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY -6 NO. 6 5
signed by postmaster I.L. Smith

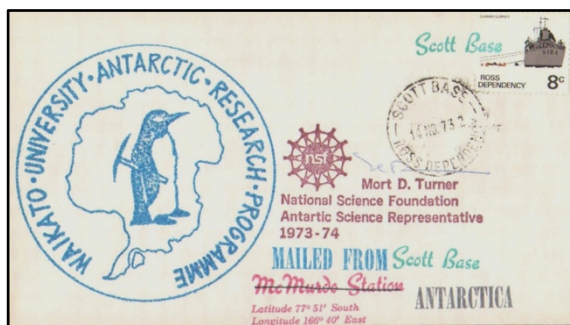
Postmarks have been sighted for 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29 October and 1, 2, 5, 6 November 1965; there may be other dates. It was returned to the regular format on 7 November 1965.

The 'second dispatch' postal markings

Covers have been sighted with pmk 04 showing the second dispatch cancel on 14 December 1964; 14, 20 and 28 October 1966, 8, 10, 22, 26 November and 1 December 1966; 8, 10, 11 and 27 January 1967; 14 November 1973; there may be others.



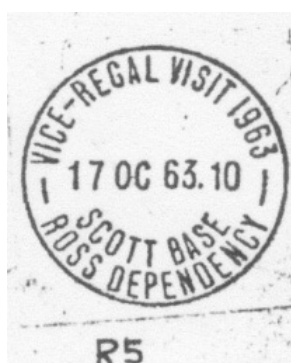
SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 14 DE.64 2



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 14 NO.73 2

Scott Base Datestamp No. 5

Governor General Sir Bernard Fergusson visited Ross Dependency 6-14 November 1963. To mark the first visit of a New Zealand Head of State, a 34mm diameter J-class datestamp was produced; it accompanied the party on their flight south.



GPO Datestamp Impression



pmk 05



VICE-REGAL VISIT 1963
SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY -6 NO 63.1



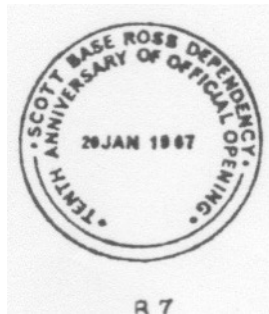
VICE-REGAL VISIT 1963
SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 11 NO 63.1

The datestamp was used every day Sir Bernard was in the Ross Dependency, except for the morning of 14 November, the day he left. The 6 November cancel date is rare. The datestamp was used on about 8,000 articles of mail.

Scott Base Datestamp No. 6

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the official opening of Scott Base Post Office, two identical 32mm diameter rubber die datestamps were sent to Scott Base, together with souvenir first day of issue covers.

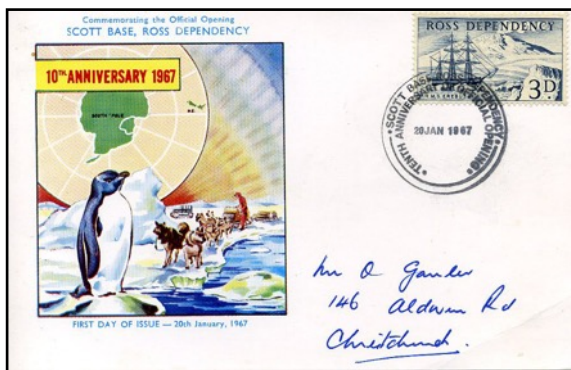
The datestamps were used on souvenir covers as well as on regular mail. 12,150 articles were cancelled 20 JAN 1967 at Scott Base.



R 7
GPO Datestamp Impression



pmk 06



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY
TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF OFFICIAL OPENING 20 JAN 1967

Scott Base Datestamp No. 7

NZ introduced decimal currency on 10 July 1967. The new decimal currency stamps, a special rubber datestamp and souvenir first day covers were flown to Scott Base on the 18 June 1967 midwinter flight.

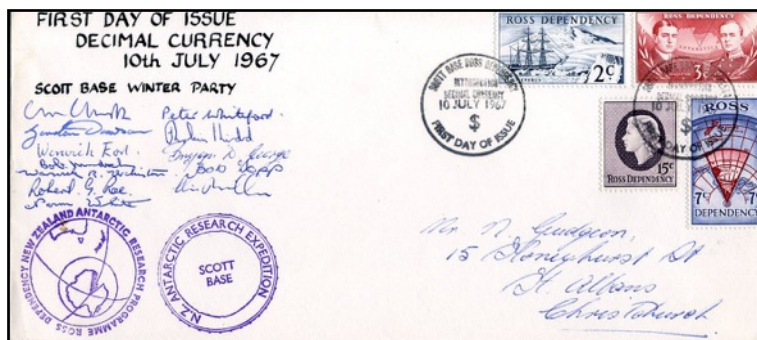


pmk 07



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
INTRODUCTION DECIMAL CURRENCY 10 JULY 1967

Covers were returned to NZ on the second WINFLY (pre-season opening flight) that departed Williams Field on 3 September 1967, and distributed via Christchurch C.P.O.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
INTRODUCTION DECIMAL CURRENCY 10 JULY 1967

There was a letter enclosed in the above cover:

I do not know if you knew that we had a special commemorative Decimal Currency franking of stamps on D.C. Day.... We only received 2,500 philatelic envelopes from the Bureau in Wellington so there were not that many aware of the situation, compared with our anniversary when we had something like 10,000 envelopes.

(Bryan George, Scott Base 16 July 1967)



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
INTRODUCTION DECIMAL CURRENCY 10 JULY 1967

The above souvenir cover is proof that the NZ Post Office had supplied all values of the NZ Decimal series to the Scott Base postmaster before the end of the 1966-67 season. Scott Base Post Office often required higher values than that provided by the Ross Dependency set of only four values for use on parcels etc. and occasionally on ordinary mail.

Scott Base Datestamp No. 8

To celebrate the 60th anniversary of Captain R.F. Scott's party reaching the South Pole, a new issue of Ross Dependency stamps was produced.

Souvenir first day covers, with stamps already affixed by the NZ Philatelic Bureau in Wellington, were flown to Scott Base and placed on sale on 18 January 1972. Three first day of issue rubber datestamps, of the NZ First Day of Issue standard pattern, were also provided.



pmk 08

The three rubber datestamps were of identical design and were probably made from the same mould. Between 42-45,000 souvenir first day covers were cancelled at Scott Base.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 18 JAN 1972

Nuphil Associates Inc. produced a souvenir medallion to celebrate the occasion, showing Scott on one side and Amundsen on the other.



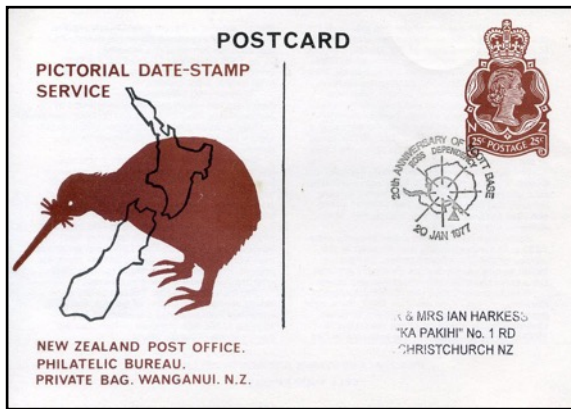
SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 18 JAN 1972

Scott Base Datestamp No. 9

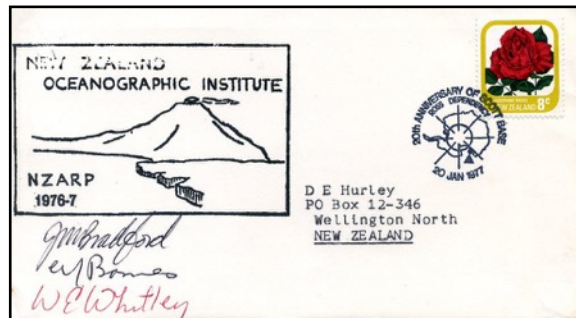
To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the opening of Scott Base on 20 January 1957, a special 27mm diameter pictorial datestamp was prepared and sent to Scott Base for cancellation of mail on 20 January 1977. Some 6,800 items of mail were reported to have been cancelled.



pmk 09



20th ANNIVERSARY OF SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 20 JAN 1977
(Wanganui postmark)



(Scott Base postmark)

It is possible the datestamp came south on the final Ice Cube 12 flight from Christchurch to McMurdo on 6 December 1976 – the cover below shows the 20 January 1977 cancellation on a signed inbound cover:



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY -6 DE 76.1
Ice Cube 12 final inbound flight

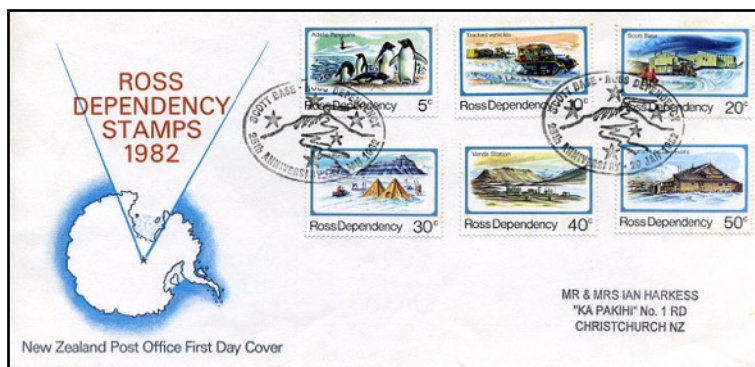
Scott Base Datestamp No. 10

On 20 January 1982, New Zealand Post celebrated the 25th anniversary of the opening of Scott Base with a new cancellation and a special limited edition of 2,500 souvenir covers.

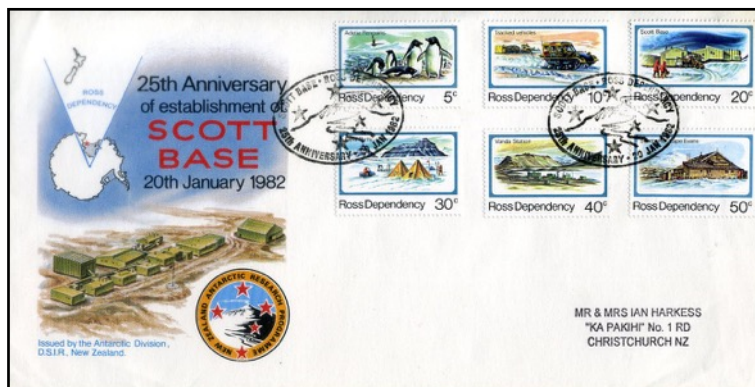
Two datestamps were used, one at Scott Base and the other at the New Zealand Philatelic Bureau in Wanganui. The datestamp at Scott Base was also used to cancel regular mail.



pmk 10 (Scott Base & Wanganui)



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 25TH ANNIVERSARY 20 JAN 1982



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 25TH ANNIVERSARY 20 JAN 1982

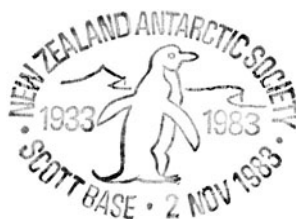
In addition to the new definitive issues, 10¢, 20¢ and 25¢ values from an automatic stamping machine also appeared that day, both impressed directly on cover and on label on cover.



They have a similar format structure to the automatic stamping machine with franked values later introduced at Scott Base on 30 September 1987 (see later). About 30 of these covers are recorded. Research continues into the history of these most unusual items.

Scott Base Datestamp No. 11

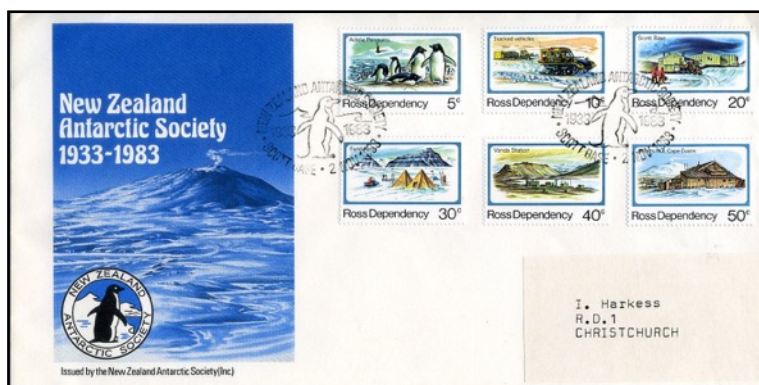
On 2 November 1983, a special self-inking datestamp was used at Scott Base to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the New Zealand Antarctic Society. There were two datestamps produced.



pmk 11 (Scott Base & Wanganui)

The New Zealand Antarctic Society covers, with others as well, appear to have been cancelled

in Wanganui with one datestamp and the Scott Base covers cancelled with another. 12,000 covers were cancelled, including 3,000 official New Zealand Antarctic Society covers (Vogel 1985).



NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY SCOTT BASE 2 NOV 1983
(Wanganui postmark)

From a study of several covers available, the depth of the lettering of the Scott Base postmarks appears to be about 2.5mm, whilst the depth of the lettering of the Wanganui postmarks appears to be about 3mm. Vogel agrees (personal communication, 2003).



NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC SOCIETY SCOTT BASE 2 NOV 1983
(Scott Base postmark)

Scott Base Datestamp No. 12

A set of four NZ postage stamps and a minisheet commemorating New Zealand's Involvement in the Antarctic was placed on sale in NZ and at Scott Base on 1 February 1984. Both Wanganui and Scott Base were supplied with datestamps. The First Day of Issue datestamp was used on souvenir and regular mail at Scott Base.



pmk 12 (Scott Base & Wanganui)
SCOTT BASE INVOLVEMENT IN ANTARCTICA
ROSS DEPENDENCY FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 1 FEB 1984



(Wanganui postmark)

This is the first instance of a special Ross Dependency cancellation for the first day of issue of a New Zealand stamp (Harkess 1984).

A passenger on board MS *Lindblad Explorer* at USA McMurdo Station reported:

...I walked the mile to Scott Station, made some purchases in their store, and mailed cards, letters, and covers from their post office. I purchased FDC of the four New Zealand Antarctic stamps and the souvenir sheet. They were cancelled February 1, 1984 at Scott and New Zealand. The postal clerk told me that only 300 of the stamp set and 200 of the souvenir sheet received FDC at both places. If this is true, I have some valuable covers. (W. Klemme 1984)



(Scott Base postmark)

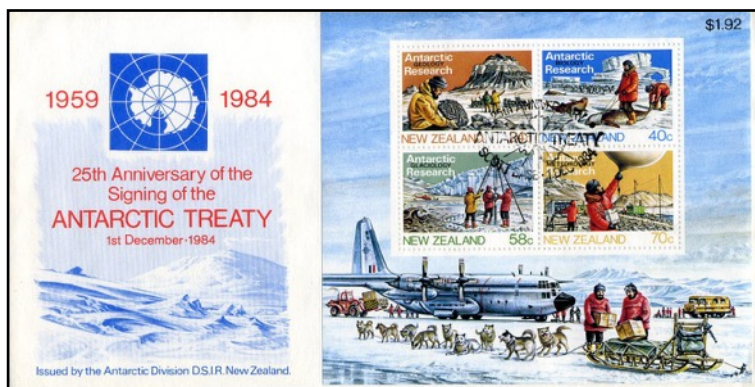
Scott Base Datestamp No. 13

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty, a special self-inking one-day pictorial datestamp was used on mail cancelled 1 DEC 1984. There were two datestamps produced, one for Scott Base and the other for Wanganui. Depth of the lettering is 3mm for the Scott Base datestamp, 2.5-2.6mm for the Wanganui datestamp.



pmk 13 (Scott Base & Wanganui)

25th ANNIVERSARY ANTARCTIC TREATY SCOTT BASE 1 DEC 1984

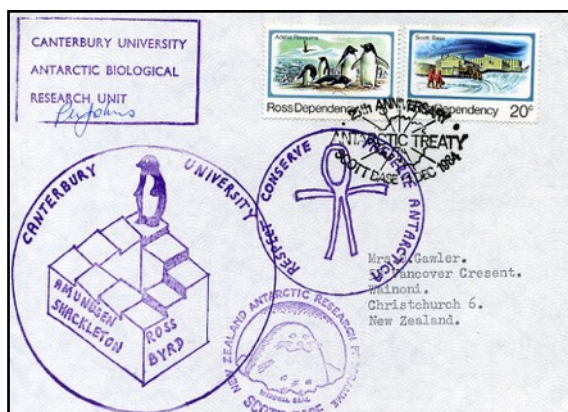


25th ANNIVERSARY ANTARCTIC TREATY SCOTT BASE 1 DEC 1984

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Antarctic Division, Christchurch, (D.S.I.R.) produced 2,500 special first day souvenir covers for the event (Cameron, 1984); these were all sold prior to the cancellation date 1 December 1984. Keith Clegg, D.S.I.R., wrote to the Editor of The Ross Review about the authenticity of the covers:

"I would like to assure you that all of our covers printed were sent to Scott Base and I can personally vouch for the fact that the Postmaster and his staff at Scott Base cancelled all the covers on December 1st. I even did a few myself.

Frankly we were a little disappointed that the P.O. cancellation did not come out very clearly. Part of the reason for this seems to be in the stamps themselves. Certainly, when the stamp is applied to a plain white surface it is clear enough, but over the stamps it seems to lose its clarity. Many covers from the December 1st celebrations were dispatched on the flight which departed McMurdo on Monday December 3rd, and these would have been processed immediately by the N.Z. Post Office." (Clegg 1985)



(Scott Base postmark)

Scott Base Datestamp No. 14

A parcel roller datestamp of the "Reiner" E3 type (named after the West German manufacturers) was introduced at Scott Base on 5 October 1985 (Hegarty 1986). It was in use for one season only.

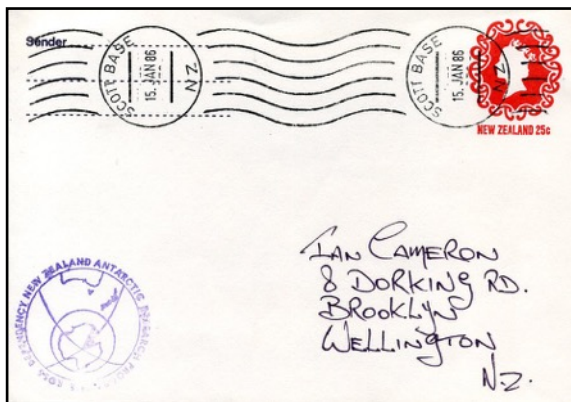


pmk 14

NZ Post was soon enlightened that Scott Base was in the Ross Dependency, not New Zealand, so a replacement roller datestamp was produced for the following season.



SCOTT BASE NZ 23. NOV 85



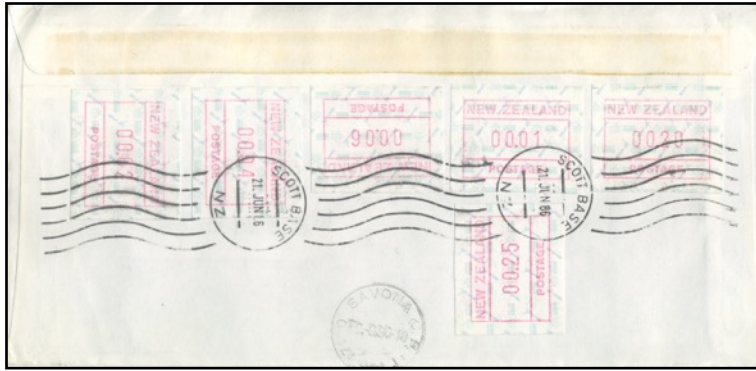
SCOTT BASE NZ 15. JAN 86



SCOTT BASE NZ 3. FEB 86

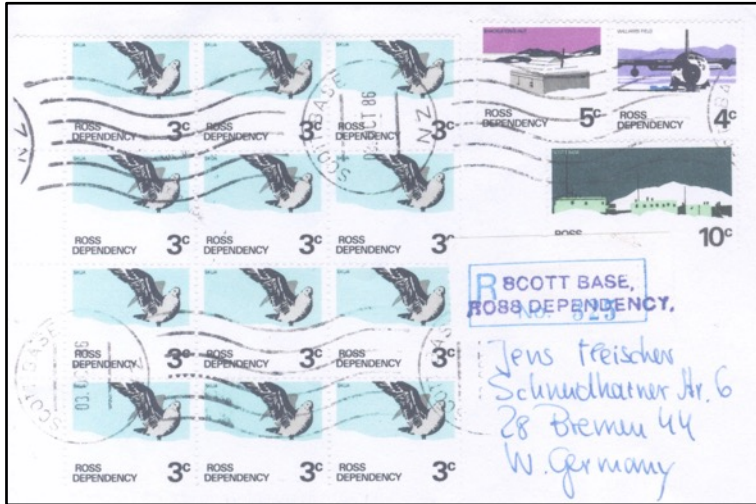


SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 21 JE 86.1 (pmk 01d)



reverse SCOTT BASE NZ 21.JUN.86

Postmarks from this datestamp are very rare. Latest sighted cancellation date is 3 October 1986:



SCOTT BASE NZ 03.OCT.86

Scott Base Datestamp No. 15

A corrected version of the Reiner type roller canceller reading "Scott Base Ross Dependency" was in use at Scott Base by 14 November 1986.



pmk 15



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 14.NOV 86

As pmk 15 had a date-head produced in NZ at the Post Office workshops rather than in Germany, as was pmk 14, it is possible that the original datestamp may have also been altered in NZ. The wavy lines run the opposite way in pmk 15, but this could still be the original version with the date-head inverted (Captain Coqk 1987).



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 30.SEP 87

The last recorded use of pmk 15 is 30 September 1987, the day Scott Base Post Office closed. Postmarks from this parcel roller datestamp are very scarce.

Scott Base Post Office Closure

On 1 April 87 the NZ Post Office was separated into three state owned corporations, New Zealand Post, Postbank and Telecom. Shortly after, following a review of corporate profitability, NZ Post determined to close Scott Base Post Office.

The Christchurch Press newspaper reported on 26 September 1987 a statement by the Associate Minister of State-Owned Enterprises, Mr. Neilson, that Scott Base Post Office was costing \$100,000 a year to run and that the DSIR was unwilling to keep meeting its \$42,500 share. As well,

About \$5,000 worth of sales for a post office that costs \$100,000 to run is probably not the best use of commercial enterprise. (Neilson 1987)

NZ Postmaster General R.W. Prebble later wrote an explanation to the Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc.

23 October 1987

Dear Dr. Tennant

I am writing in reply to your recent letter about the closing of the Scott Base Post Office. Like other offices throughout New Zealand the one at Scott Base was just not paying its way. I know that this particular office held considerable philatelic interest and to many people its retention on these grounds alone was seen as fully justified. Such was not the case however as even taking into account the revenue accruing on philatelic activities was not sufficient to put the office on a profitable base.

There has been a suggestion that a more frequent issue of Ross Dependency stamps would help with the profitability of the Scott Base Post Office. This would certainly be true but just as surely through other eyes such a strategy would be seen as an exploitation of the philatelic market – a situation to which New Zealand Post would not wish to contribute. In any case, like some other countries with interest in the Antarctic but which do not have post offices there, New Zealand Post plans to continue a stamp series with an Antarctic flavour.

Placing the philatelic issue aside however, I must make what I see as an important point in the argument about the retention of the office. This is that New Zealand Post can make alternative arrangements which operationally are just as efficient as maintaining a post office at the Base. Accordingly, I believe that the decision to close the office was the only logical one in the circumstances.

*Yours sincerely,
Hon R W Prebble
Postmaster General*



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 30 SP 87.1

Last Scott Base Post Office mail was cancelled 30 September 1987, with pmk 01d or pmk 15.

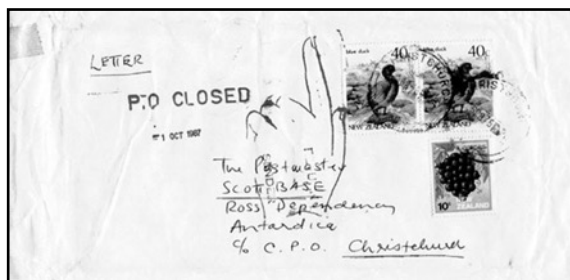
THE POST SCOTT BASE POST OFFICE PERIOD 1987-1994

From 1 October 1987, mail was treated with a SCOTT BASE POST OFFICE boxed cachet, together with a special cachet with Maori inscription, in black or mauve ink.



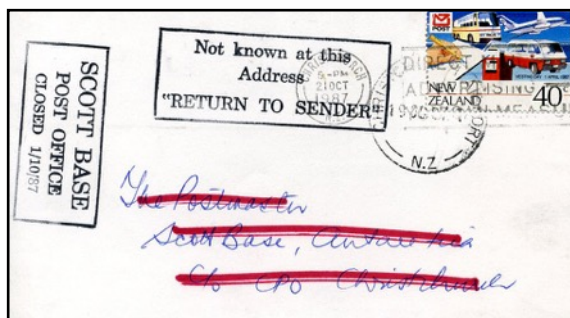
Scott Base 1 October 1987

Red 'P.O. Closed' & '1 OCT 1987' cachets were also applied to some return mail.



CHRISTCHURCH 25 SP 87; backstamped CHRISTCHURCH 20 OCT 1987

There was also a boxed rectangular cachet 'SCOTT BASE POST OFFICE CLOSED 1/10/87' applied to some covers, in black ink.



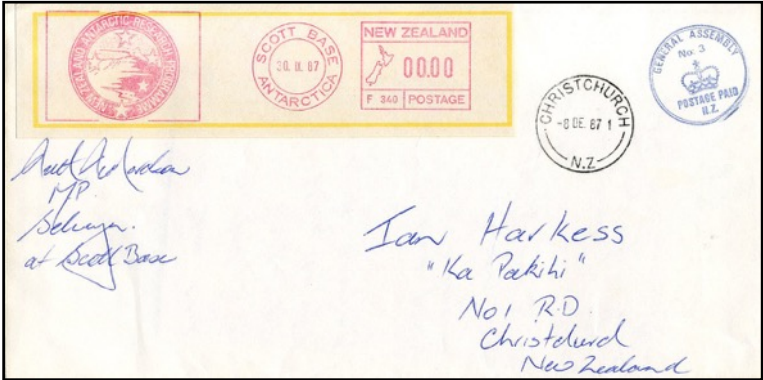
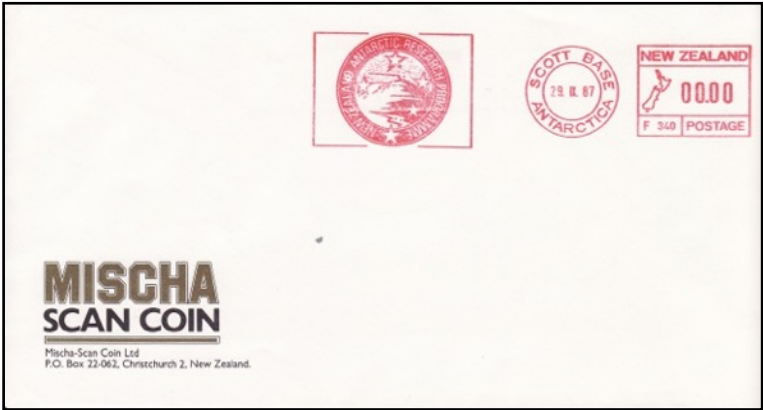
CHRISTCHURCH AIRPORT 19 OC 87, CHRISTCHURCH 21 OCT 1987

DSIR Antarctic Division commissioned this cachet, not New Zealand Post. It was used only on mail from Scott Base immediately after closure of the Post Office and was later destroyed. The cachet often occurred with a boxed RETURN TO SENDER cachet.

Since the closure of the post office, mail from Scott Base has been classed as Urgent Freight and the base summer and wintering over leaders became responsible for mail handling. DSIR Antarctic Division, Christchurch was treated as a private mailbag holder for Scott Base. Southbound mail was, as before, routed to Christchurch where it was sorted and bagged for Scott Base but the bags were now handed over to DSIR Antarctic Division who shipped the mail to Scott Base as cargo.

Outward mail from Scott Base was posted through the shop in the Scott Base canteen where it was franked by an Automatic Stamping Machine, with Frama serial number F.340 and fitted with a special Scott Base logo. The Ross Review shows a copy of the terms and conditions of use of automatic stamping machines (Fitzhardinge 1987).

The automatic stamping machine was owned by the Armed Forces Canteen Council and operated under license from NZ Post, for staff and visitors to the base to use to pay for postage. The machine was initially returned to NZ at the end of each season, for annual meter reading by NZ Post, for payment of postage. First usage appears on 29 September 1987:



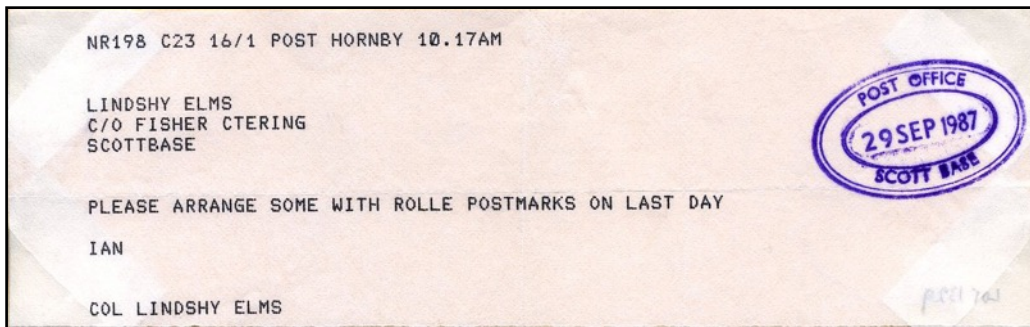
SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA 30.IX.87, CHRISTCHURCH 8 DEC 1987

Direct franking impressions on cover and franking impressions on label on cover are recorded.

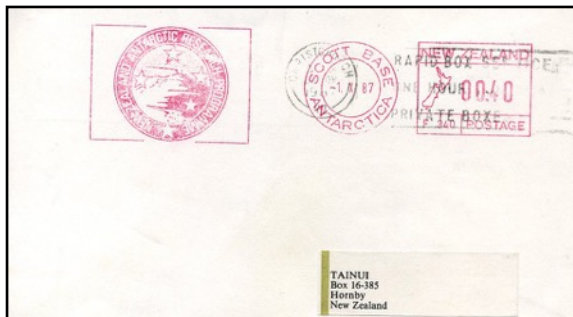


SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA -1. X.87, CHRISTCHURCH O.M.B. 24 NOV 1987

Fisher Catering Ltd., contract operators of the Scott Base Canteen, may have been involved in some of the mail handling. There are several covers with a signature of one of the operators, Lindsay Elms, on reverse that tends to indicate he may have helped at the canteen shop.



Mail was then bagged and forwarded to Christchurch, by air or ship, where it was cancelled on arrival and put into the distribution system.

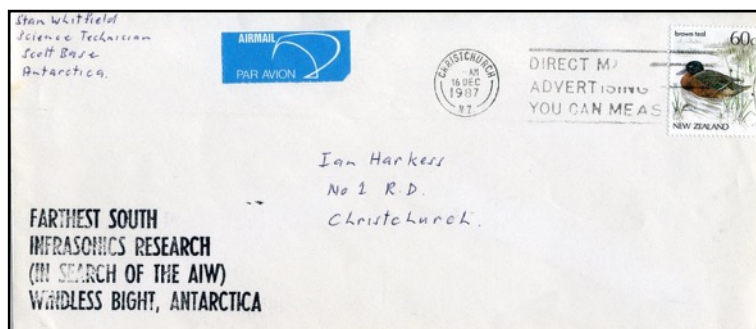


CHRISTCHURCH 23 NOV 1987



CHRISTCHURCH 24 NOV 1987 6 PM O.M.B.

Mail with NZ postage stamps was also accepted. This mail was flown back to NZ in sealed mail bags and treated at Christchurch as stamped mail arriving like any other private mail bag for releasing into the mail distribution system.



CHRISTCHURCH 16 DEC 1987



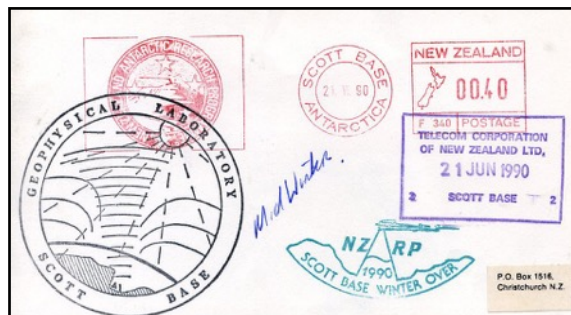
CHRISTCHURCH REGISTERED 18 DEC 87.8-AM

Registered mail from Scott Base was only registered on arrival in NZ!

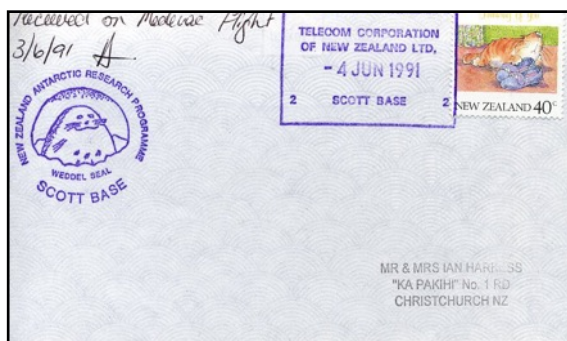
Telecom Corporation of New Zealand Ltd may also have been involved in the physical handling of mail at Scott Base - from 12 January 1988 until November 1992, two Telecom dated cachets (numbered 1 and 2 along the bottom line) appear frequently on covers. Initially the cachet appeared just as a dated cachet...then it began to be used as a datestamp:



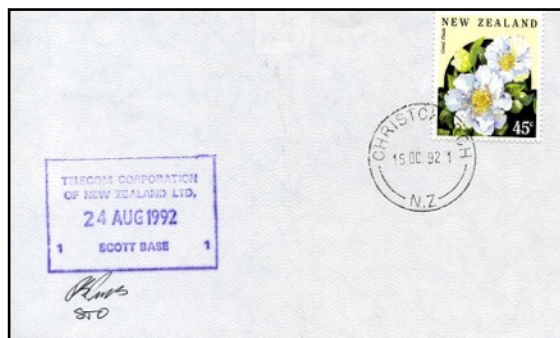
SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA 14.1.88
CHRISTCHURCH 29 JAN 1988



SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA 21.VI.90



TELECOM NZ dated cachet 4 JUN 1991



TELECOM NZ dated cachet 24 AUG 1992



TELECOM NZ dated cachet 9 NOV 1992

CHRISTCHURCH NZ 15 OC. 92 1 US NAVY FPO AP 96599 MCM ANTARCTICA 10 NOV 1992

After the closure of the post office, the automatic stamping machine gradually took on an extended role, not only as a stamp value producer, but also as a dated location cachet.

When one of the new 'New Zealand Ross Dependency' issues appeared on 2 November 1988, the first day of issue, someone at Scott Base used the automatic stamping machine to produce a zero-value stamped date impression that same day:



SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA -2.11.88,
CHRISTCHURCH NZ FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER 1988

Several months later, the automatic stamping machine was used once again to produce a zero-value impression, possibly to indicate from where the cover had been mailed:



ARMAGH 5-PM 15 FEB 1989, SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA 11.II.89

Scott Base Local Mail stamps

In July 1991, the Armed Forces Canteen Council introduced a special New Zealand Antarctic Research Programme Ross Dependency dated cachet. It is not a datestamp.



Armed Forces Canteen Council dated cachet

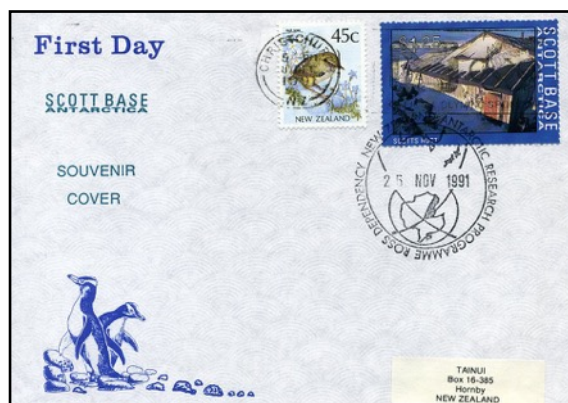


CHRISTCHURCH 6-PM 12 JUL 1991; NZARP ROSS DEPENDENCY 12 JUL 1991

The Council also produced a set of eight Local Mail stamps, on one cinderella minisheet. These were used on souvenir mail between (officially 30th) August 1991 and November 1994.



NZARP ROSS DEPENDENCY 30 AUG 1991
CHRISTCHURCH N.Z 25 OCT 91



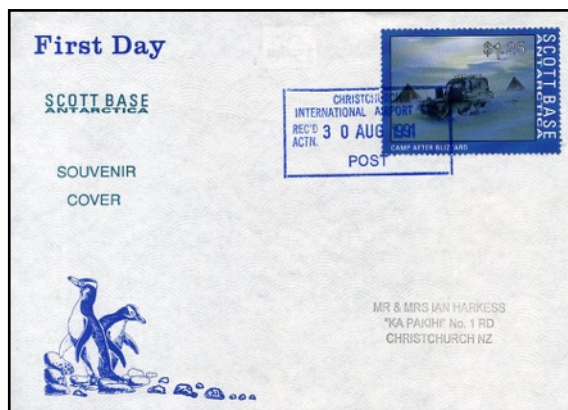
NZARP ROSS DEPENDENCY 25 NOV 1991
CHRISTCHURCH 5-PM 8 DEC 1991

Cinderellas were not valid for postage but some covers using a cinderella as 'postage' were cancelled in Christchurch and passed through the postal system.

Although the official 'first day of issue' for the cinderellas was 30 August 1991, at least one cover sneaked through the system the week before – not only, but it was also zero-value impressed by the automatic stamping machine! Some covers with these cinderellas, although not valid for postage, were cancelled on arrival in Christchurch and passed through the regular mail system:



SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA 22 VIII.91



CHRISTCHURCH INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT POST 30 AUG 1991

Also, at Christchurch CPO, covers with cinderellas were arrival cancelled, both with and without postal value from the Scott Base automatic cancelling machine:



CHRISTCHURCH NZ FAST POST 5-PM 30 AUG 1991



CHRISTCHURCH NZ FAST POST 5-PM 30 AUG 1991; SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA (illegible)

It appears the Armed Forces Canteen Council stopped using the automatic stamping machine and returned the meter die to NZ Post sometime in August/September 1992. This decision was due to a change in NZ Post regulations that required the meter to be returned to NZ for official readings every month rather than once a year. In a short note enclosed in a cover, Telecom Senior Technical Officer at Scott Base wrote:

28/9/92

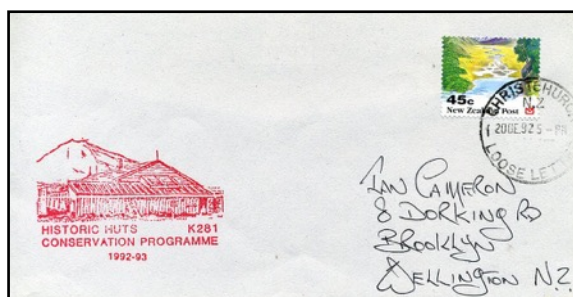
My regrets, but the franking machine is no longer at Scott Base. It was returned to N.Z. at WINFLY, so I was unable to frank any envelopes. N.Z. postage stamps are sold here now. Paul Purves STO Telecom Scott Base

Flying the machine to Christchurch each month was not considered an economic prospect. NZ stamps were used at Scott Base thereafter. Just before it was returned however, the automatic stamping machine appears to have got a new lease of life, or at least new inking!



CHRISTCHURCH 5-PM 22 NOV 1991, SCOTT BASE ANTARCTICA 11.XI.91
TELECOM NZ dated cachet -6 NOV 1991

Mail from Scott Base after September 1992, with only New Zealand stamps and a Christchurch arrival cancel, may be difficult to identify without local cachets. Fortunately, usually cachets abound...



CHRISTCHURCH LOOSE LETTER 20 DE.92 5-PM

The administration of Government funded research organizations in New Zealand was restructured from 1 July 1992. The DSIR Antarctic Division was made a Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and renamed the New Zealand Antarctic Programme.

A Bulletin from the New Zealand Antarctic Programme, Christchurch, November 1992 advised the nature of the mail service to and from Scott Base at that time.

The closure of the post office at Scott Base on 1 October 1987, made it necessary for DSIR Antarctic to institute a form of mail service for individual members of the New Zealand Antarctic Research Programme.

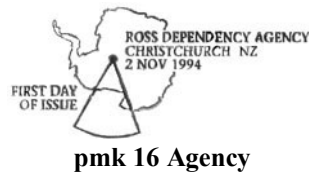
The service provided by DSIR since the closure has been heavy on resources in that we have had to increase our Scott Base summer support staff, purchase equipment and devote resources in Christchurch to handle mail.

The service is now totally provided by the New Zealand Antarctic Programme with no contribution by New Zealand Post. Essentially the 'mail' ends/begins when either delivered to us in Christchurch or posted by us and carried as cargo to/from Antarctica. The movement of mail to and from Antarctica is by NZAP freight on an 'all care no responsibility' basis. Only mail addressed to a specific person who is stationed at Scott Base will be forwarded.

(Polar Post Vol.25, No.3, page 72, 1993)

THE ROSS DEPENDENCY AGENCY PERIOD 1994-

On 2 November 1994, New Zealand Post opened a Postal Agency of the Ross Dependency, the 'Ross Dependency Agency', at Christchurch Post Office. A set of ten Ross Dependency postage stamps and a pictorial first day of issue datestamp were also released.



The Ross Dependency stamps were available for purchase mint from philatelic sales centers throughout New Zealand and at the Armed Forces Canteen at Scott Base, but mail franked with these stamps could only be processed through the Ross Dependency Agency in Christchurch, as according to New Zealand Post regulations, philatelic servicing of mail was not accepted at Scott Base (as there was no post office there), nor could Ross Dependency issues on mail be accepted anywhere else in New Zealand (as they were not valid for use in New Zealand).

This situation generated the famous, albeit technically incorrect, quotation:

We now have a set of stamps valid only in a territory which has no post office or cancellation facilities but which can be cancelled in a country where they have no postal validity!

(Editor, *Polar Post*, Vol.27, No.2, page 76, 1995)

692 first day of issue covers were sold at the Ross Dependency Agency in Christchurch, 100 were sold at Scott Base and 16,580 were sold through the New Zealand Post Philatelic Bureau, Wanganui.

Mail franked with the Ross Dependency stamps at Scott Base was bagged and forwarded to Christchurch Post Office where it was postmarked before being put into the postal system for distribution. The Ross Dependency Agency also processed mail from ships from Antarctica arriving at Lyttelton, Bluff or Dunedin. It did not operate an 'over the counter' postmarking service for members of the local public; however, mail sent in from philatelists around the world was processed and returned.

In November 1994, the person in charge of mail handling at Scott Base was worried that he wouldn't be able to sell all the Ross Dependency stamps that had been allocated, so he arranged

for a Christchurch dealer to order 50 covers; these covers were postmarked, albeit unauthorized, at Scott Base with a regular datestamp and are now quite scarce (McLachlan, personal communication 2003).

When the Ross Dependency Agency opened on 2 November 1994, it also used a rubber-faced datestamp to cancel day-to-day mail received from the Ross Dependency.



pmk 17 Agency

This datestamp was used for a couple of months only, until 22 December 1994.

It was replaced on 22 December 1994 by two steel-faced datestamps, one with CHRISTCHURCH around the foot for day to day cancellation of mail received from Scott Base primarily by air; the other with PAQUEBOT to cancel postage on mail received from Scott Base via ship delivered to Lyttelton, Dunedin or Bluff ports.



pmk 18 Agency



ROSS DEPENDENCY AGENCY CHRISTCHURCH 23 DE 941



pmk 19 Agency

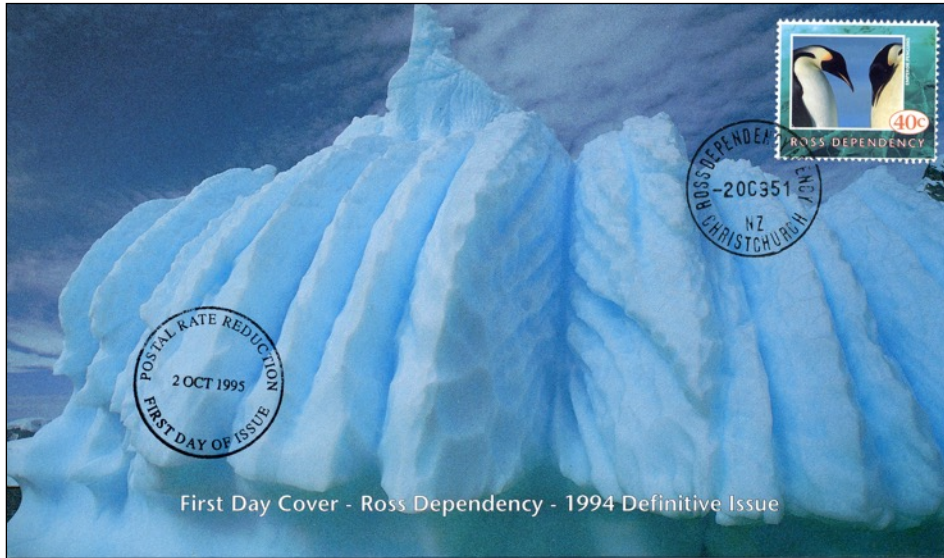


ROSS DEPENDENCY AGENCY PAQUEBOT -5 JA 991

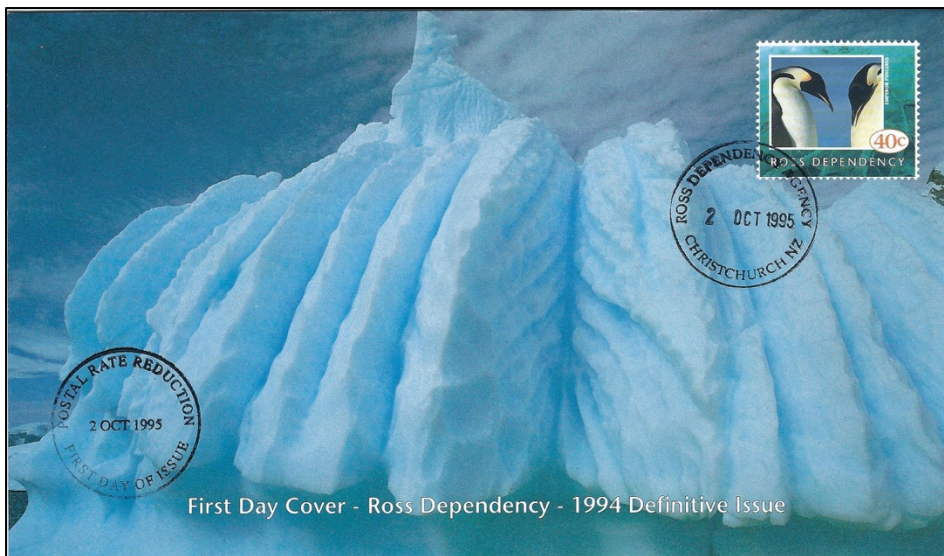
When New Zealand Post introduced a reduction in the domestic postage rate from 45¢ to 40¢ on 2 October 1995, a special New Zealand Postdated cachet was also used that day.



NZ Postdated cachet

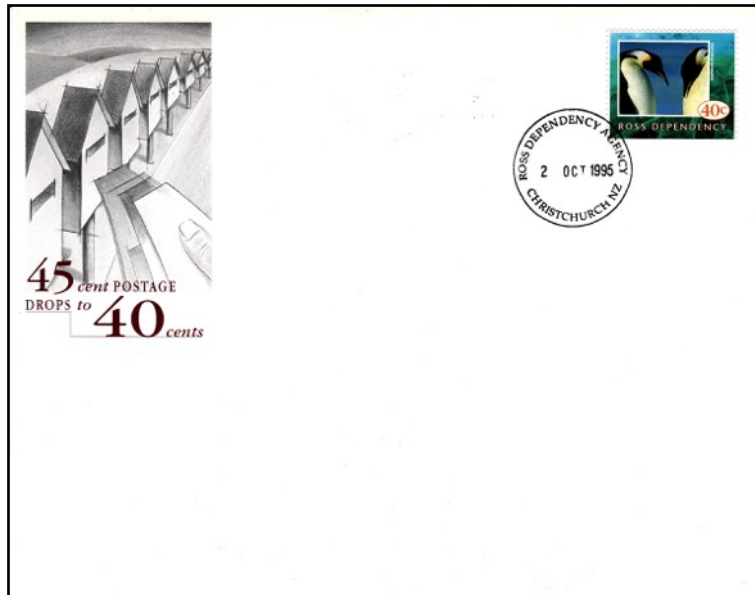


NZ Postdated cachet with pmk 18



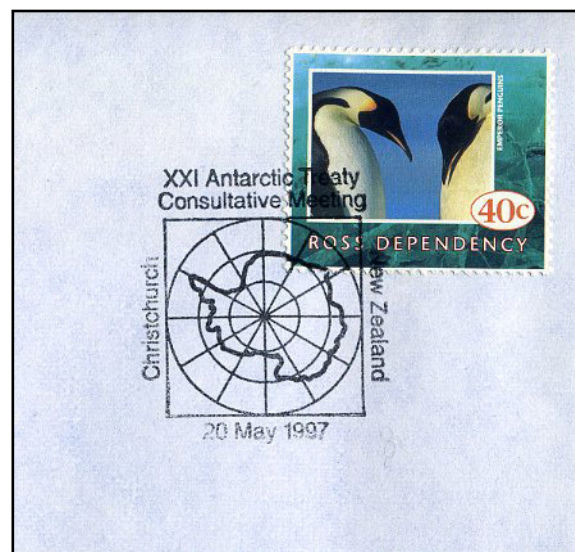
NZ Postdated cachet with pmk 17

Normally first day covers were postmarked with pmk 18 and the dated cachet was impressed at the lower left corner of the covers, but some had the dated cachet used as the datestamp and pmk 18 used as the dated cachet, so scarce covers do exist with the placement of cancels reversed. Pmk 17 was also reactivated for use on the first day of issue on souvenir covers.



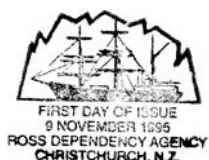
Last day of usage of pmk 18 was 20 March 2007. Both datestamps for pmk 18 and pmk 19 were destroyed in the February 2011 Christchurch earthquake.

Ross Dependency stamps were first approved for use in New Zealand for the XXI Antarctic Treaty Meeting held in Christchurch on 20 May 1997.



First Day Covers

Further annual issues of Ross Dependency stamps generally in November of each year, except for the 2003 issue released on 1 October, continue the use of special pictorial first day of issue datestamps.



pmk 20 Agency
9 November 1995

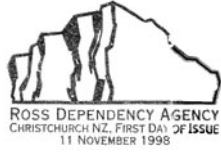


pmk 21 Agency
13 November 1996



pmk 22 Agency
12 November 1997

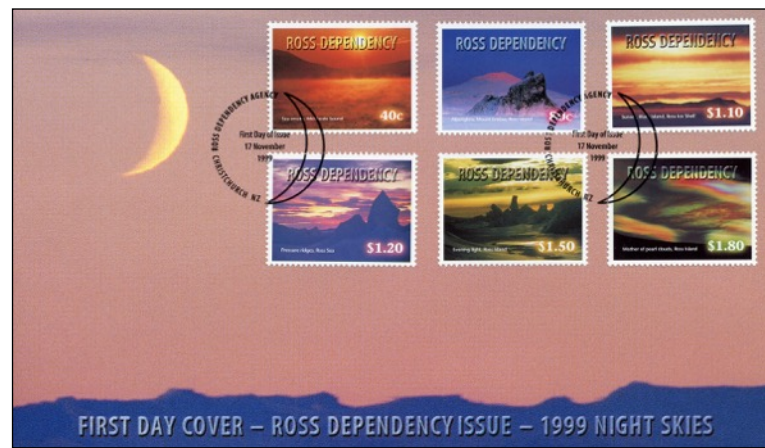




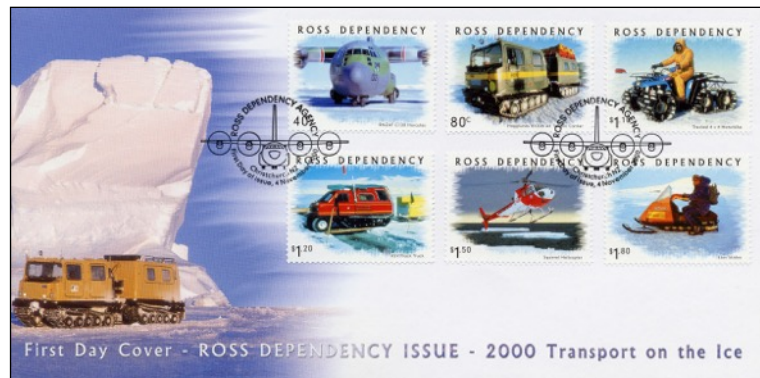
pmk 23 Agency
11 November 1998



pmk 24 Agency
17 November 1999



pmk 25 Agency
4 November 2000





pmk 26 Agency
7 November 2001



pmk 27 Agency
6 November 2002



pmk 28 Agency
1 October 2003



Ross Dependency Agency Datestamp No.29

A 32mm diameter hand canceller was sent to the Ross Dependency Agency in Christchurch for introduction on 1 October 2003 but it did not arrive until 3 October, two days after the first day of issue. It was put into use on the day of arrival ('backdated' to 1 October) and continues to appear occasionally on mail. This datestamp is uncommon.



ROSS DEPENDENCY CHRISTCHURCH N.Z. 1 OCT 2003



pmk 29 Agency
1 October 2003



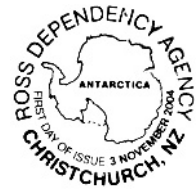
5 December 2005



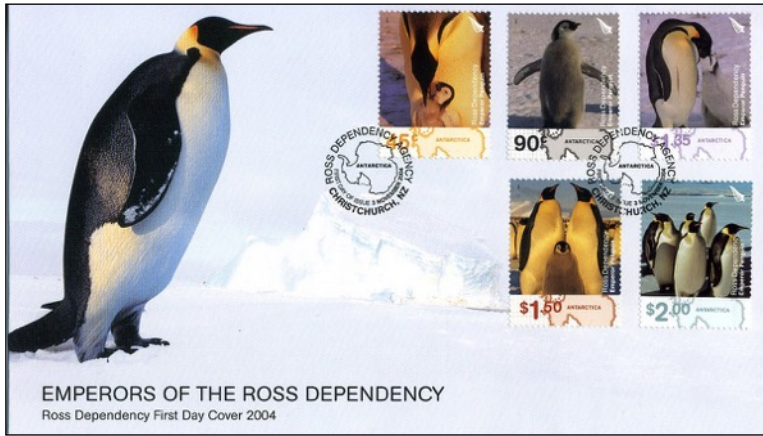
1 November 2006

There appears to have been two hand cancellers; the 2005 cancel above shows a different dateline and a slightly finer type font from the 2003 and 2006 cancels. The datestamps were withdrawn in 2007...then the minisheet below was cancelled on 20 September 2017!!





pmk 30 Agency
3 November 2004



pmk 31a Agency
2 November 2005



pmk 31b Agency
2 November 2005





pmk 32 Agency
1 November 2006



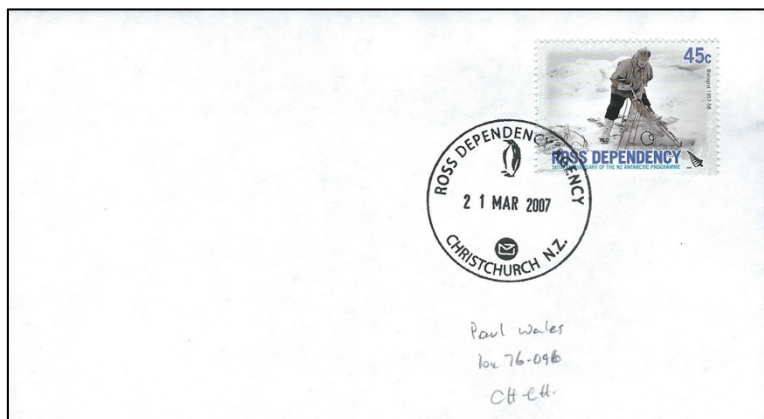
SCOTT BASE 1957-2007 FIRST DAY OF ISSUE 20 JANUARY 2007

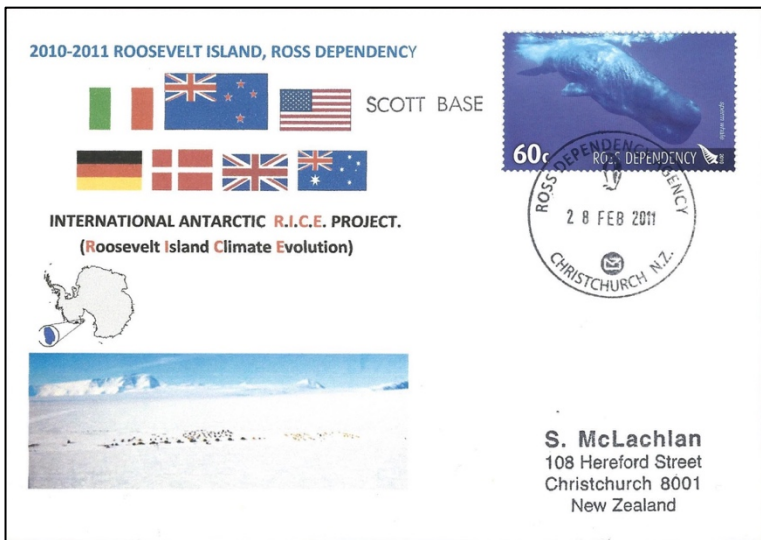
To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Scott Base on 20 January 1957, New Zealand Post produced 100 special first day covers specifically for Sir Edmund Hillary to sign and then be carried south to be posted from Scott Base, as part of the anniversary celebrations.

A new 36mm diameter canceller for regular usage, with NZ POST logo, was introduced on 21 March 2007. It was reputedly destroyed in the 22 February 2011 Christchurch earthquake however a recent cover shows its use a few days after the earthquake.



pmk 33 Agency
21 March 2007





pmk 34 Agency
7 November 2007



pmk 35 Agency
5 November 2008





pmk 36 Agency
25 November 2009



pmk 37 Agency
17 November 2010

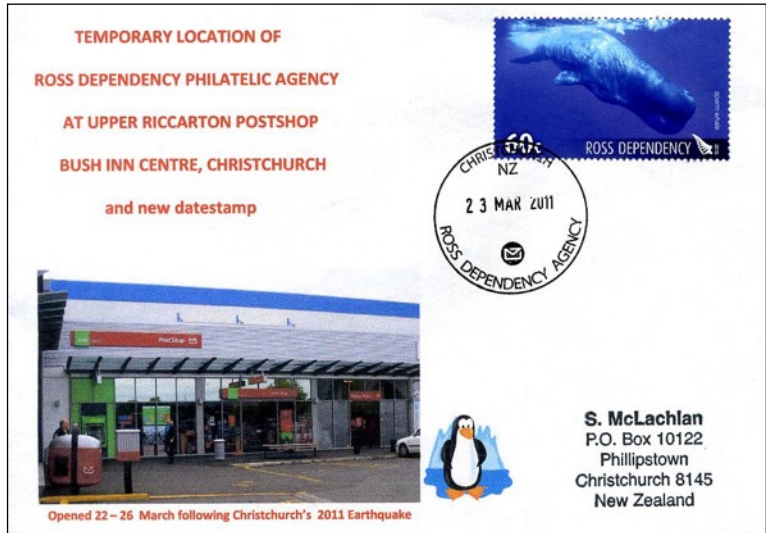


2011 Temporary ROSS DEPENDENCY AGENCY

After the New Zealand Post philatelic sales outlet in the centre of Christchurch in the *Real Aotearoa* shop was closed from 22 February 2011 as a result of the earthquake, a temporary philatelic centre was opened at the Bush Inn Mall Post Shop in Upper Riccarton, Christchurch. A Ross Dependency Agency was also opened there and a single 32mm diameter datestamp was introduced on 23 March 2011.



pmk 38 Agency
23-26 March 2011



The Agency closed only 4 days later, once the latest Ross Dependency issues had been cancelled on cover for collectors. The datestamp has been used only very occasionally thereafter and was still in use in October 2012.



pmk 39 Agency
19 October 2011



A single 28mm diameter metal datestamp, manufactured in Germany in August 2011, was first used at the Bush Inn Mall Post Shop late August 2011. It was still in use in December 2014.



pmk 40 Agency
2 November 2011



pmk 41 Agency
21 November 2012

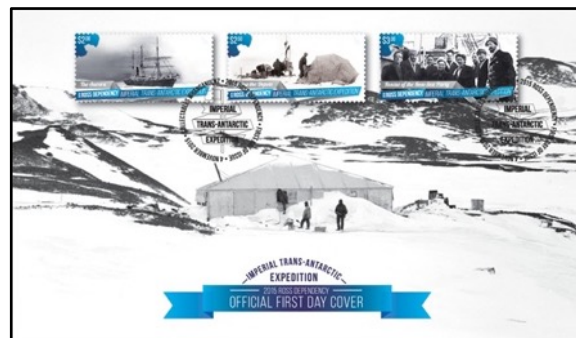


pmk 42 Agency
20 November 2013

pmk 43 Agency
19 November 2014



pmk 44 Agency
21 September 2015



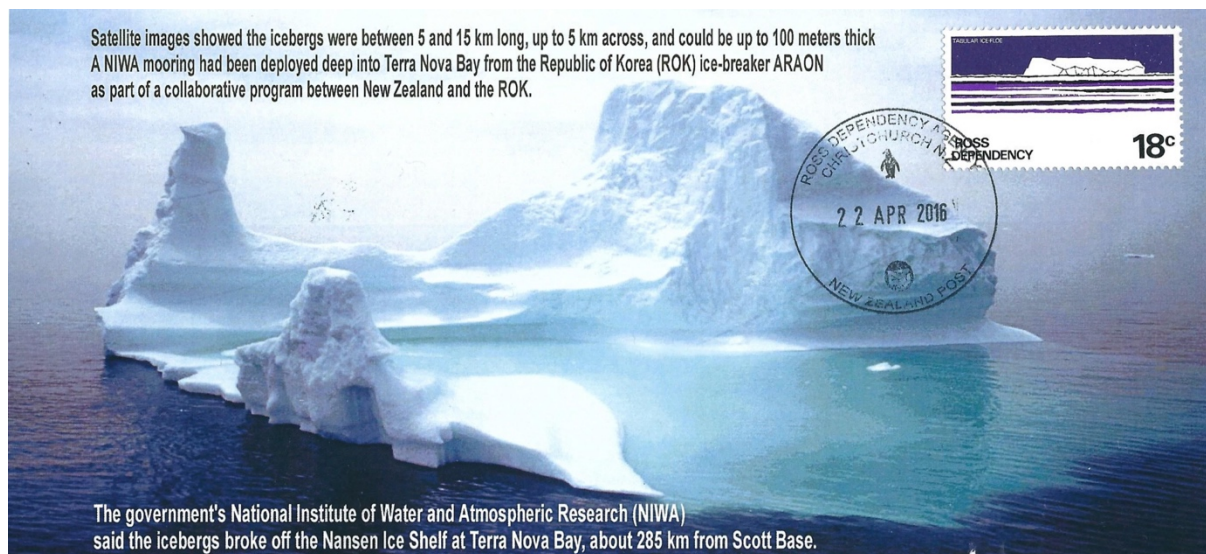
pmk 45 Agency 4 November 2015

In January 2016 Steven McLachlan of Christchurch expressed concern to the New Zealand Post Philatelic Dept about the absence of a location name on the datestamp.

“It not a requirement to include the town name on such date stamps, with mail cleared to centralised processing locations throughout the country most postmarking messages now read *'Carried by New Zealand Post'*. The few hand-held date stamps still in use with a town name are now very much the exception. Hence the Ross Dependency Agency date stamps reading: *'Ross Dependency Agency - New Zealand Post.'*”

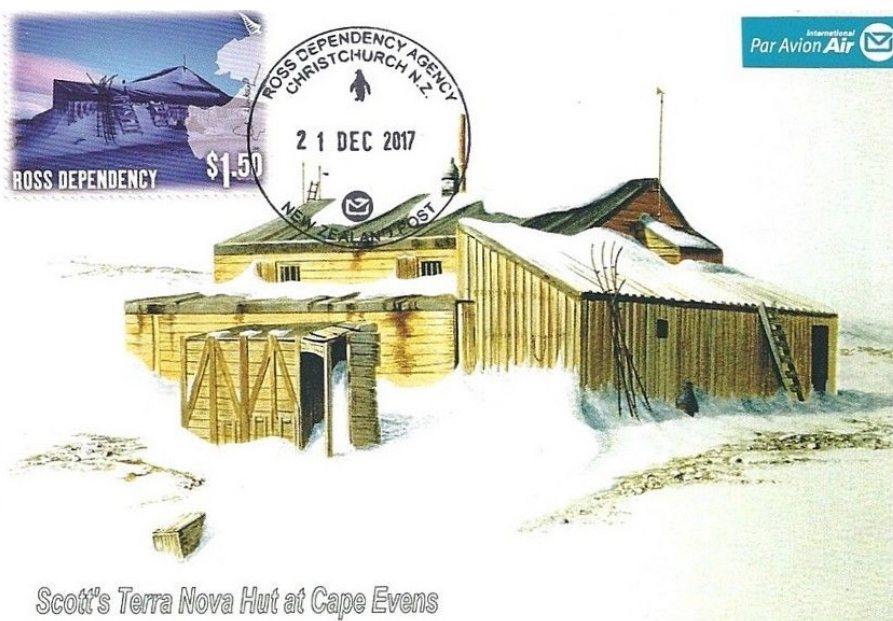
Under the Postal Services Act, postal operators are required by law to identify mail they carry. Any additional information - such as place or time - is provided at the carrier's discretion. The place of cancellation is now no longer provided in most instances to avoid confusion - as the place of posting is more often quite different. NZ Post does continue to include the date mail is cancelled to demonstrate its commitment to meeting service standards." (corres. Alan Hollows NZ Post to Steve McLachlan 29 Jan 2016).

"While there is no requirement for NZ Post to have the location of where mail is cancelled I'm happy to add Christchurch to the Ross datestamp if that is in the best interest of collectors (our customers). So, we'll update the cancel and replace the Ross ones currently in use. We are a bit snowed under at the moment but you can be assured we will have an updated cancel before the next Ross issue." (corres. Simon Allison NZ Post to Steve McLachlan 2 Feb 2016).



pmk 46 Agency

ROSS DEPENDENCY AGENCY CHRISTCHURCH 22 APR 2016 NEW ZEALAND POST



Scott's Terra Nova Hut at Cape Evens

pmk 46 Agency

ROSS DEPENDENCY AGENCY CHRISTCHURCH 21 DEC 2017 NEW ZEALAND POST

OTHER RELATED 'CACHET DATESTAMPS'

Scott Base – Greenpeace

Greenpeace sent a small expedition to Antarctica in January 1987 to establish a camp at Cape Evans on Ross Island near Scott Base, which they maintained for two years. For the first season, mail was affixed with a Greenpeace cachet; some mail was also cancelled at Scott Base on 27 January 1987. For the second season a special cachet datestamp was produced.



SCOTT BASE GREENPEACE 5 FEB 1988

The cachet datestamp appears on mail associated with the voyage of *MV Greenpeace*; only one date has been sighted. The following season the *MV Gondwana* cachet datestamp was used, together with the Greenpeace cachet datestamp.



PORIRUA 15 FEB 1989
SCOTT BASE GREENPEACE 12 FEB 1989
MV GONDWANA ANTARCTICA 1988/89 22 DEC 1988

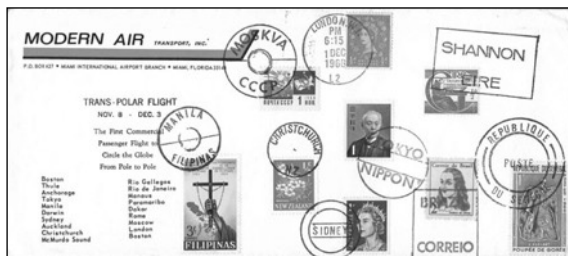
Scott Base Postmark Forgery

The first commercial Trans-Polar passenger flight took place between 8 November and 3 December 1968. The flight, under Commander F.G. Dustin, went from Boston to Boston via the North (November 9) and South (November 22) Poles, with numerous landing places, including Christchurch and McMurdo. Very scarce in-flight passenger mail is known cancelled at Scott Base on 26 and 27 November 1968.



SCOTT BASE ROSS DEPENDENCY 27 NO 68 1

Subscription covers were cancelled on departure at Boston, but were not cancelled en-route. Anticipating philatelist displeasure, a flight certification cachet was applied and a flight certificate inserted in each envelope, with facsimile autographs of Commander Dustin and Rear Admiral J.L. Abbott, head of Operation Deep Freeze.



front



reverse



forgery

Modern Air Transport official covers were used to produce the post-flight souvenirs, signed by the entire flight crew and bearing stamps from the countries visited during the flight. All stamps used underpaid airmail postal rates and all cancels on the covers are forgeries. The very crude Scott Base forgery is shown above.

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