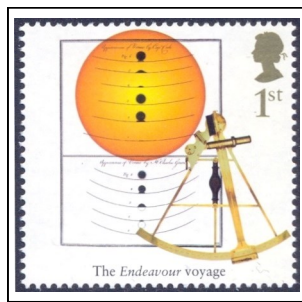


{1} Cook and Charles Green observed the transit using a **reflecting telescope** placed on a barrel.

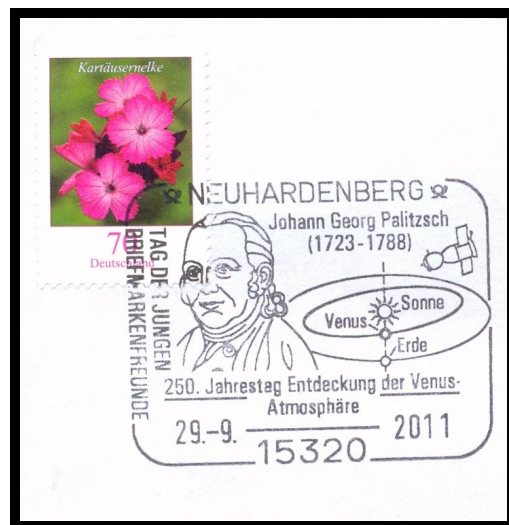


{2} An optical effect made it impossible to time the internal contacts accurately. It was the **"black drop effect"** which appear as if the Venus's disc is connected to the inner limb of the Sun.

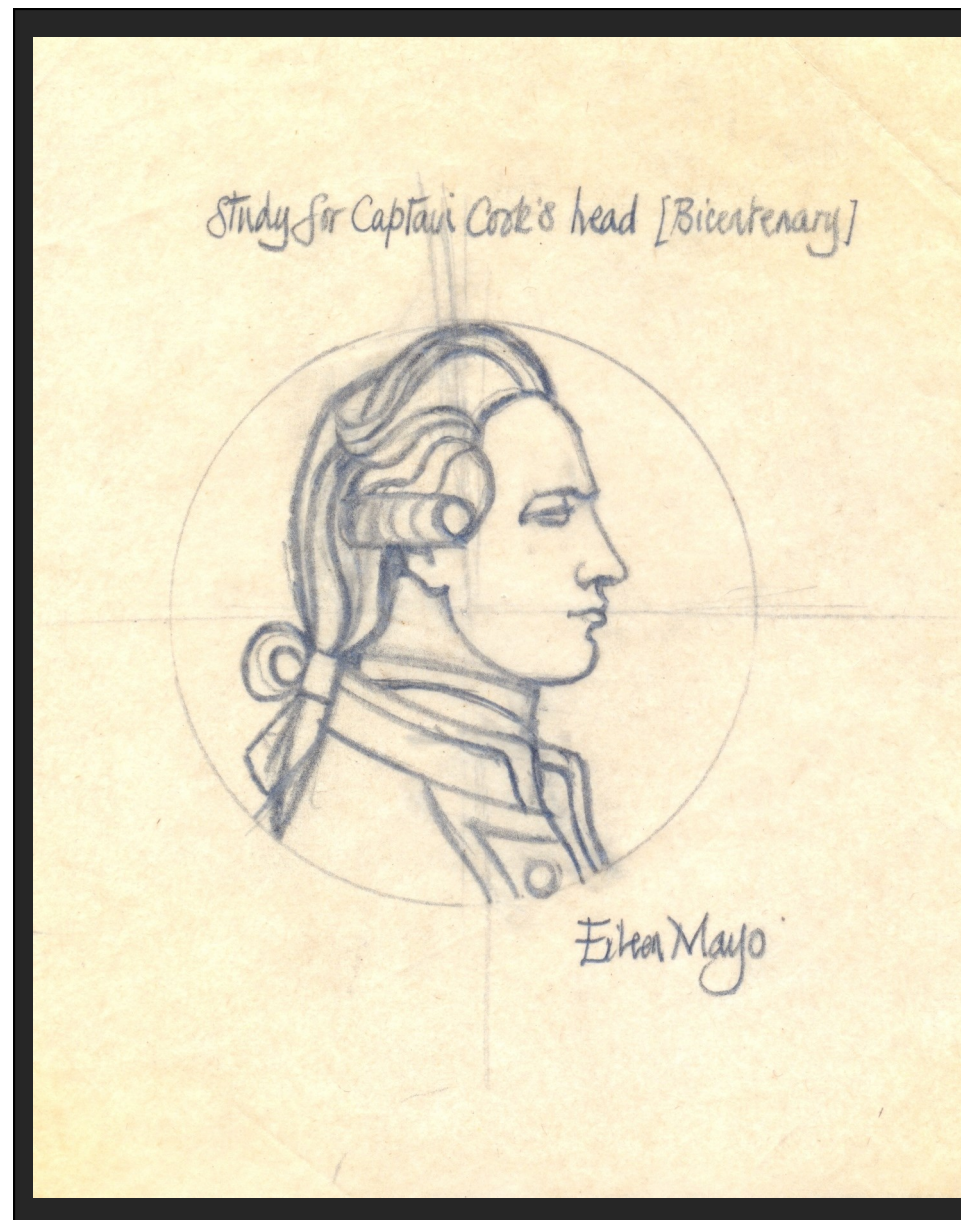


drawing of observations published by Cook

{3} The **athmosphere of Venus**, discovered during the Transit in 1761, was initially thought to be the explanation for the optical effect..



{4} .but **"limb darkening"** may be a more likely factor. It is an optical effect in which the **limb** of the Sun **appear darker** than the central part of the Sun's disc.



Original artwork, in pencil on art paper. Signed by the artist Dame Eileen Mayo (1906-94). Probably unique. "Study for Captain Cook's head" New Zealand bicentenary issue 1969.



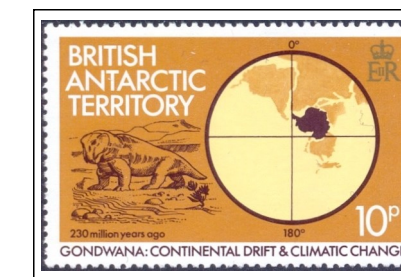
Imperf pair with slight colour-shift. A sheet of 100 is known to exist.



normal stamp for comparison

{5} Cook had now completed the first part of the voyage - observing the **Transit of Venus**..

{6} .and according to his secret orders he was now to sail south to the 40th parallel for the secondary aim - finding and exploring the **Terra Incognita** - was it found to exist.



{1} According to the **Continental Drift theory** by **Wegener** (1880-1930) **Pangaea** (left) was a solitary megacontinent in an ocean covering more than two-thirds of the Earth. Some time around 260 million years ago rifts opened creating Laurasia to the north and the superkontinent **Gondwana**, to the south. Gondwana would **break apart** to become South America, Africa, India, **Antarctica** and Australia.

{2} However the myth of the Great Southern Continent was based on the work of the astronomer and cartographer Claudius Ptolemy (c90-168) working in **Alexandria**, Egypt in the second century AD. His **Mappa Mundi** was based partly on knowledge and partly on conjecture believing that the continents in the Northern Hemisphere had to be balanced by a large land mass in the Southern Hemisphere for Earth not to flip over.

{3} In his mappa mundi Ptolemy showed a huge landbridge connecting Africa with Asia **enclosing the Indian Ocean**. No original maps have passed down, the maps attributed to Ptolemy are reconstructions surfacing in Europe around the Ottoman **Conquest of Constantinople in 1453**.



{4} Ptolomy's mythical continent was gradually eroded and pushed back beginning with the Portuguese voyages (ensuing pages)..



Postal stationery; postal card. World Map c1480 featuring Terra Australis Incognita (based on Ptolemy). 1991

{5} .and in his voyages Cook finally solved the question reducing it to Antarctica.



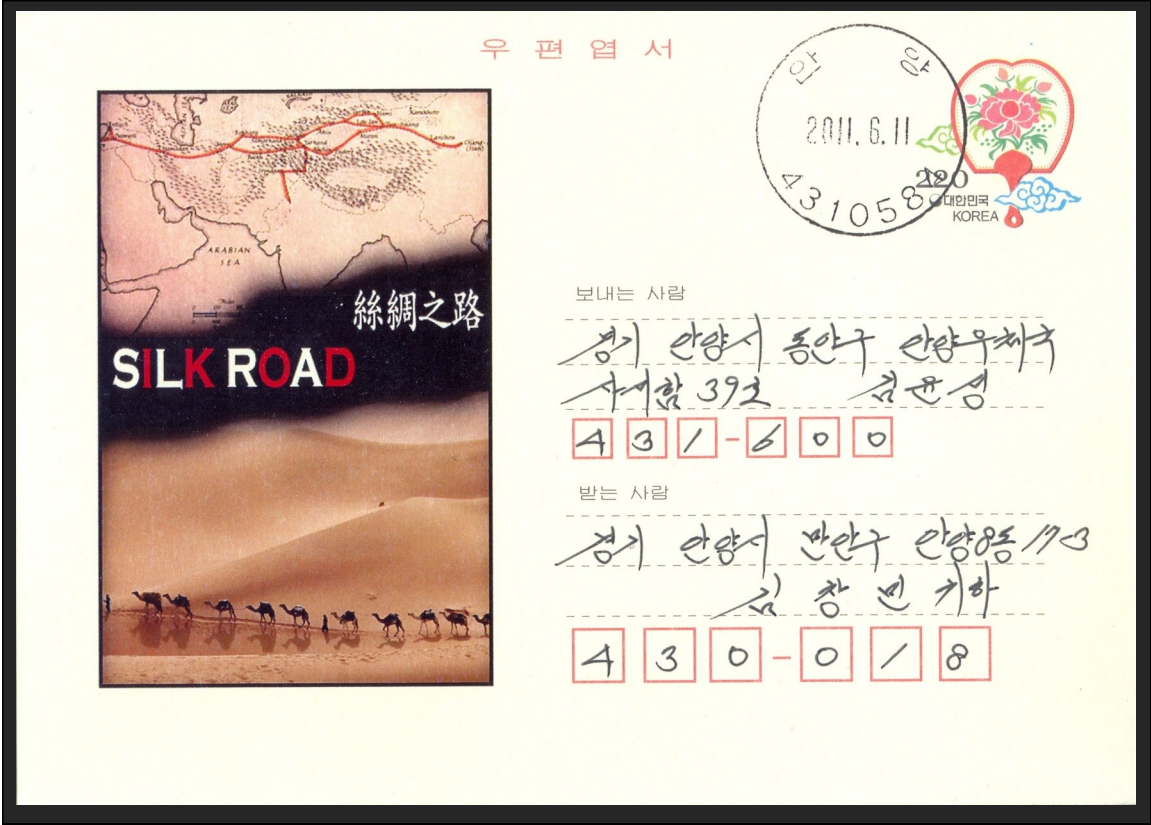
Copy of front (75%)

TIPOGRAFIA POLIGLOTTA VATICANA

Marco Polo and the beginning of the quest for the southern continent



Registered cover to New York. Backstamped transit cds Venezia 8.7.54, Genova 9.7.54 and arrival cds New York July 21 1954.



Postal stationery; postal card. South Korea 2011



{1} **Marco Polo** (1254-1324) was a Venetian merchant, explorer and writer believed to have travelled overland to Cathay (China) on what was known as the Silk Road.

{2} In 1271 he **left Venice** with his father and uncle for a journey that lasted 24 years.

Left illustration from c1400 showing the embarkation from Venice. (Bodleian Library, Oxford)



{3} Marco Polo's journal with reports on the riches and splendor of the East was by most European scholars misread as confirmation that he had visited the Southern Land, and moreover, that it was rich in gold and **spices**.

"View of an ancient city in Cathay"



Postal stationery; registered envelope. Registration fee 6c + 15c covering the rate to London



{4} Spices like **nutmeg** and **vanilla** were coveted.

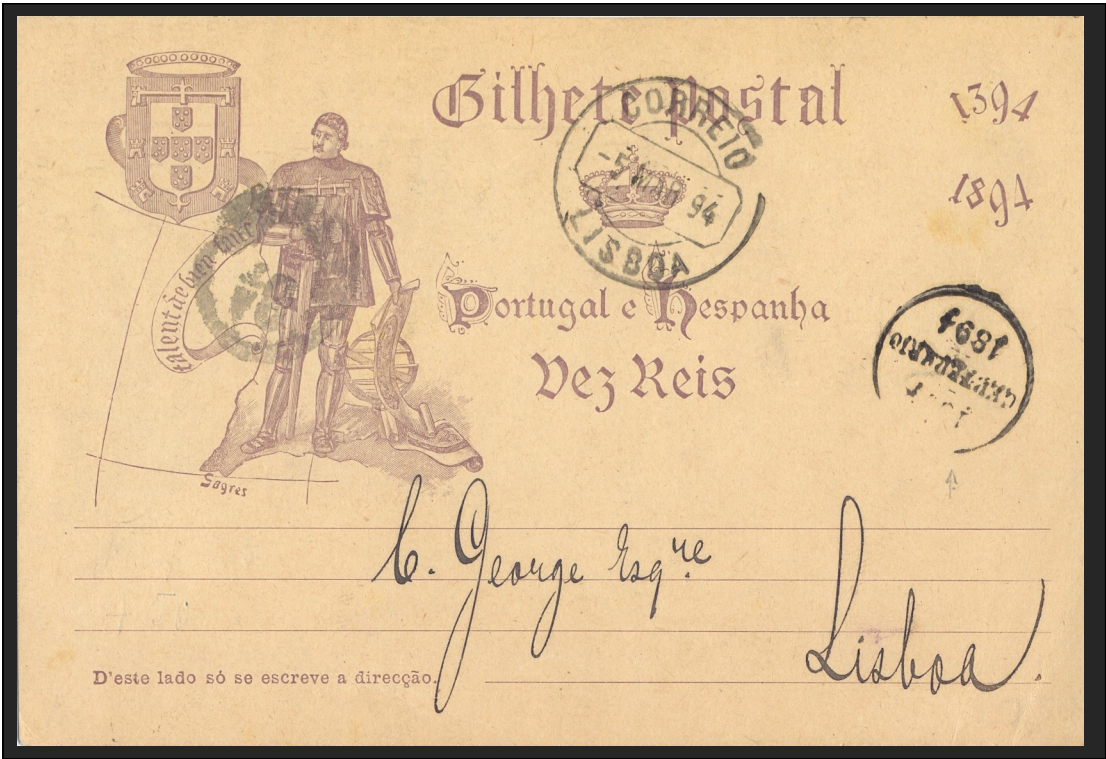
{5} Marco Polo's travel may ultimately have influenced European cartography leading to the voyages of exploration a century or two later.



In search of the unknown Great Southern Continent that receded as discoveries were being made

Henry the Navigator and his mariners proved that Africa was not joined to a Southern Continent

Postal stationery: postal card. Portugal 1894

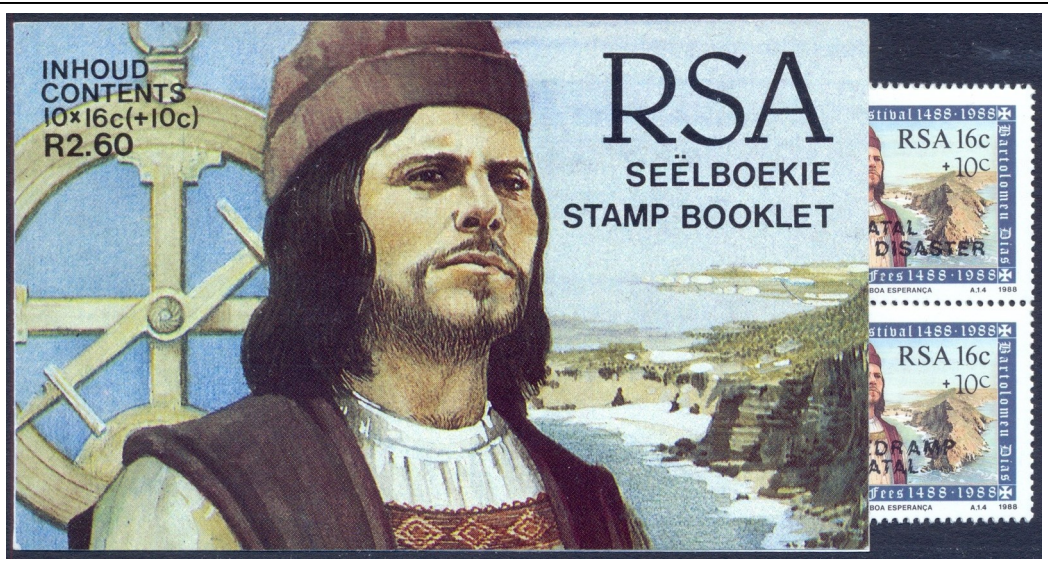


{1} **Henry the Navigator** (1394 -1460), Prince of Portugal, was an important figure in the early days of European maritime exploration.

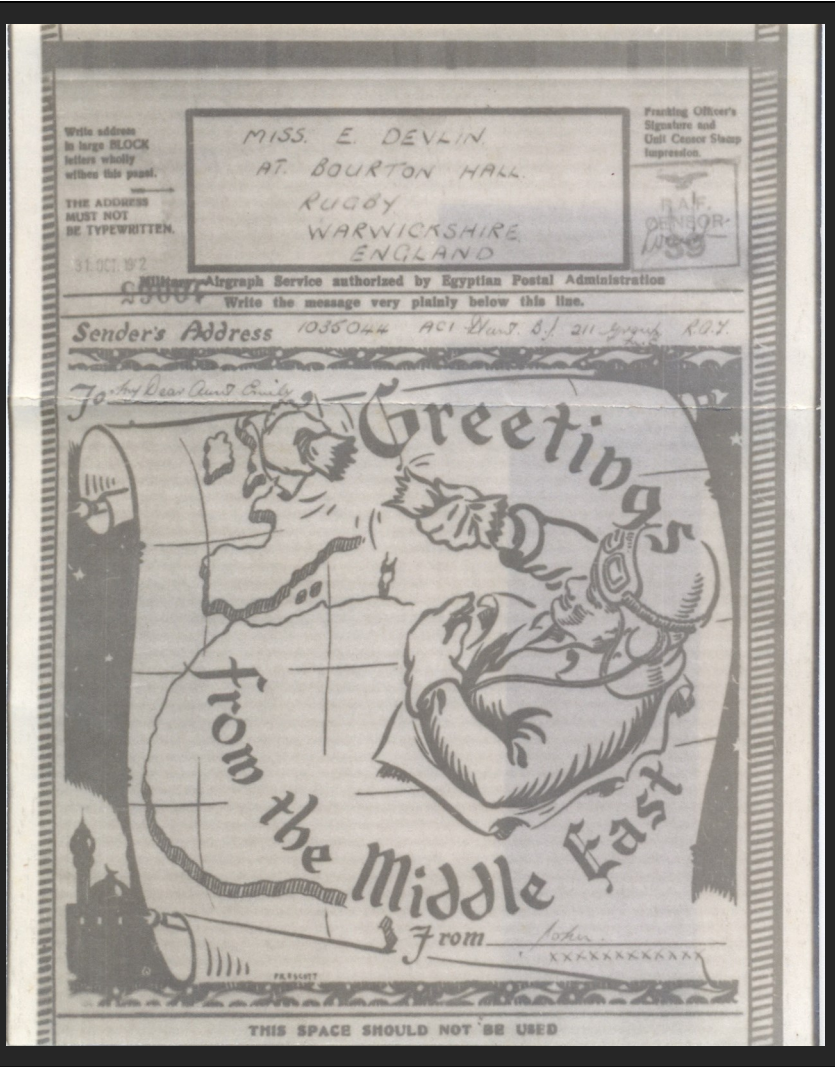


{2} in **Sagres** in the south-western corner of Portugal he established a **School of Navigation**.

{5} **Diogo Cão** (1450-86) reached the **Namibian coast** in 1485 and a **stone pillar** marks the southernmost point of his voyage.



Postage stamp booklet with contents. 1988



Airgraph 1942. WW2 Illustrated Xmas Greetings. From British Forces in the Middle East to England.

{3} Prince Henry was not a sailor or explorer himself but started sending expeditions south along the **west coast of Africa**.



{6} **Bartolomeu Dias** (1450-1500) was the first European to round the southern tip of Africa in 1488.

{4} **Cape Bojador** on the west coast was in the early days a psychological barrier but in 1434 **Gil Eanes** (1395-14??) was the first to **sail beyond the cape** and return alive.



Postal stationery: postal card. 1957



{7} The cape was named **Cabo das Tormentas** (Cape of Storms) but later changed to **Cabo de Boa Esperança** (Cape of Good Hope).

{8} Africa was shown not to be joined to a Southern Continent.



1508 Map of Africa by Francanzano de Montalboddo in which Africa is surrounded by an ocean.

The caravels and a sea route to India

{1} Developed from the barques (**barca**) used on rivers and in coastal waters a **caravel** was a ship with three masts bearing **lateen rig (triangular sail)**, highly maneuverable and not wholly at the mercy of the winds.



Imperf plate proof on yellow thin paper



Postal stationery; postal card. 1957

{7} The new technology meant heavier and more rigid hulls, and so bigger ships could be built. Bigger and more maneuverable ships made long ocean voyages possible.



{8} **Vasco da Gama** (1460-1524) left Lisbon in 1497 with a fleet of **four ships** hoping to find a **sea route** to the Far East.

{4} Towards the end of the 15th century the larger vessels had a **sterncastle**..



{9} In 1498 he **reached Calicut** in India.

{5} .and a **square-rigged foremast**.



{6} The rear masts still bearing **triangular sails**.



Entire to Genova endorsed "Via di Mare". Tied by Livorno cds 28 Jun 1863, backstamped Genova arrival cds 29 Jun 1863.



{3} .and was **carvel-built**, meaning that the planks were placed edge to edge. The carvel construction meant a heavier and more rigid hull.



Postal stationery; postal card. Inverted value imprint. Caravel design. Denmark 1934. Scarce, only a few known examples

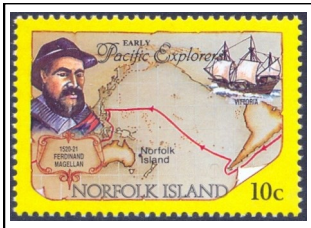
Magellan and the Straits



{1} **Ferdinand Magellan** (1480-1521) commanded a fleet of 5 ships in search of a western sea route to the Spice Islands.



{2} He captained **VICTORIA** and in late 1520 he found a narrow strait (**Straits of Magellan**)..



{6} .he sailed to the north-west into a vast ocean..

{7} .first seen by a European when **Vasco Nunez de Balboa** (1475-1519) in 1513 waded into the ocean..

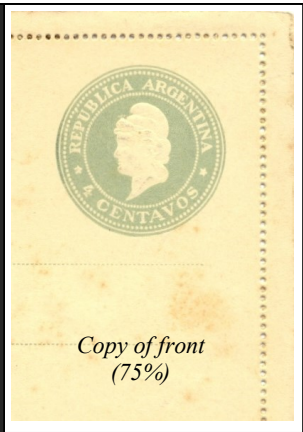
{8} .after having crossed the isthmus of **Panama**.



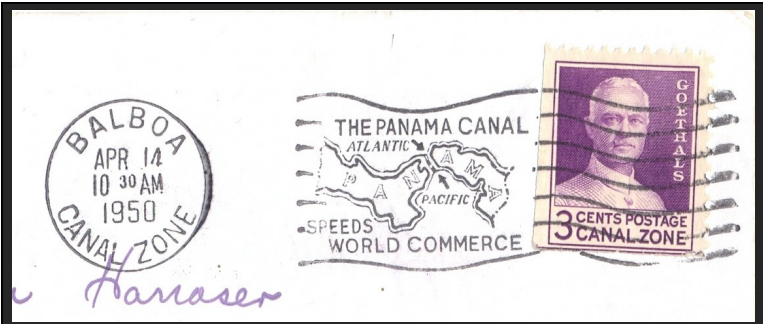
Imperf plate proof



Postal stationery; letter card. Argentina 1897



{3} .separating the tip of South America from a land mass to the south which Magellan was convinced was the Southern Continent (**Terra Australis**).



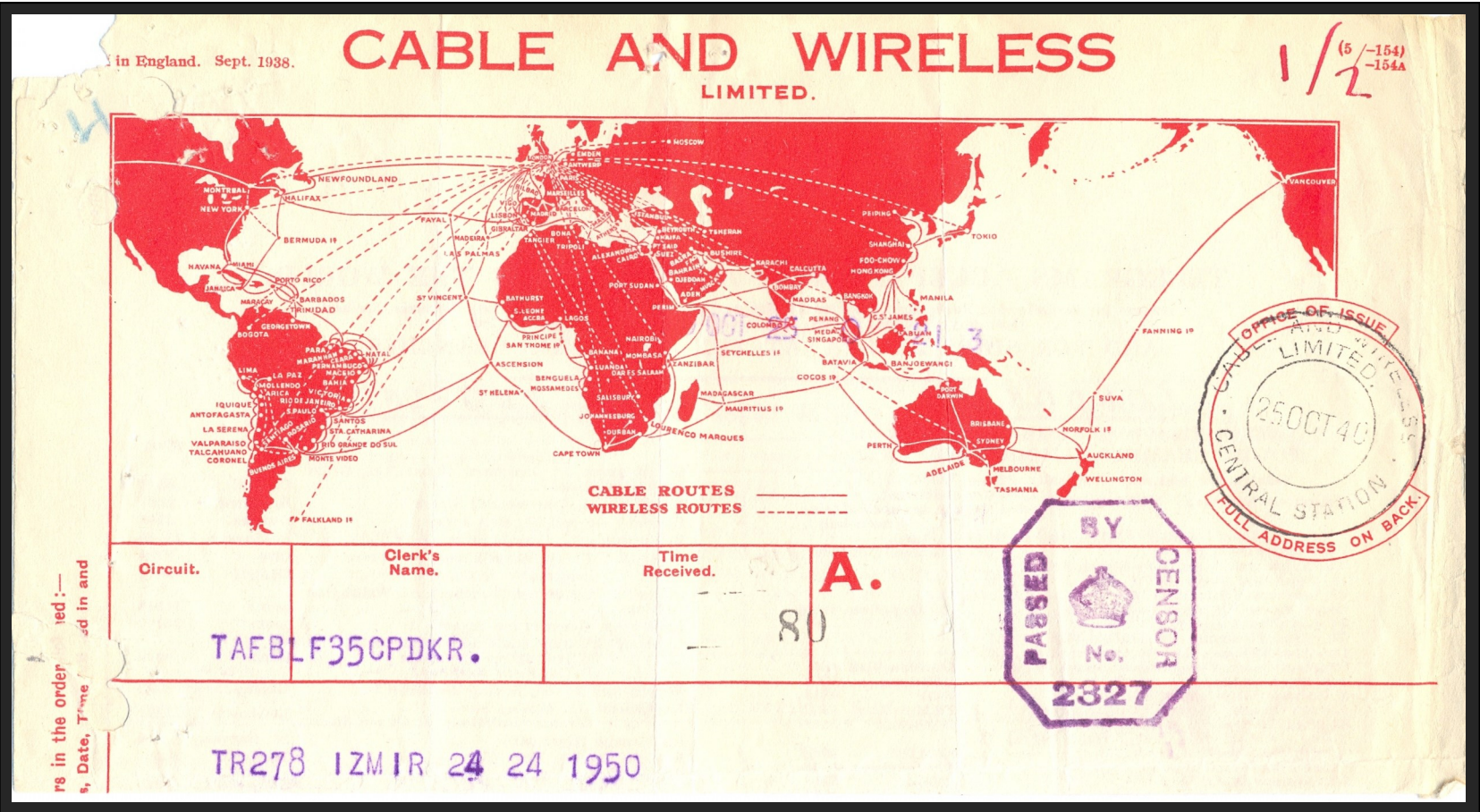
{8} The ocean is vast and Magellan named it **El Mar Pacifico** (Pacific Ocean).



Cover to Sweden endorsed "**Via Magellan**", tied by Valparaiso cds 22 Nov 1881 and Bordeaux transit cds.

{4} The land mass was named **Tierra del Fuego** but Magellan did not explore it any further.

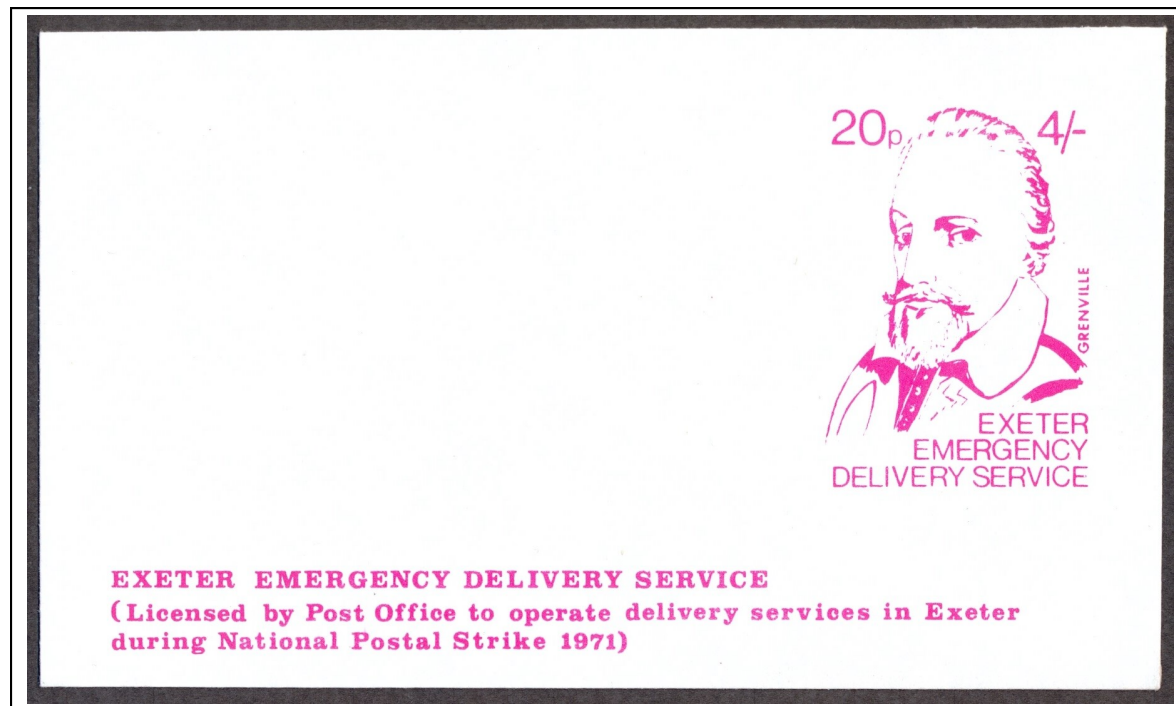
{5} **Via the Strait..**



Cablegram from Izmir, Turkey to London 24 Oct 1940. Passed by British censor 2327

Francis Drake found no continent to the south of Magellan Straits

{1} **Sir Richard Grenville** (1542-91), an English sea captain and explorer, submitted in 1574 a proposal to **Queen Elizabeth I** (1533-1603, r1558-1603) to take ships to plunder Spanish treasure ships in South America and from there to sail across the Pacific Ocean hoping to find Terra Australis Incognita.



Postal stationery; prestamped envelope. Issued by Exeter Emergency Delivery Service in 1971. The British national postal strike from 20th January to 7th March 1971 created a situation where private postal services were allowed to operate under license. EEDS was licensed to provide a local service in Exeter as well as within the U.K. During the strike the decimal currency was introduced on 15th February 1971: 1 Shilling = 5p (4/- = 20p).

{3} .and after having passed the Straits of Magellan in 1578 he was forced **well to the south** in a storm. From the huge swells he deduced that no large land mass could exist in these waters.



{4} The passage between Tierra del Fuego and Antarctica is named Drake Passage (**Mar de Drake**).



{6} The final proof that Tierra del Fuego was not part of any continent came in 1616 when **Willem Schouten** (c1567-1616) rounded the Land of Fire in **EENDRACHT**. The continent, if it existed, was shown not to be connected to South America.



Queen Elizabeth I

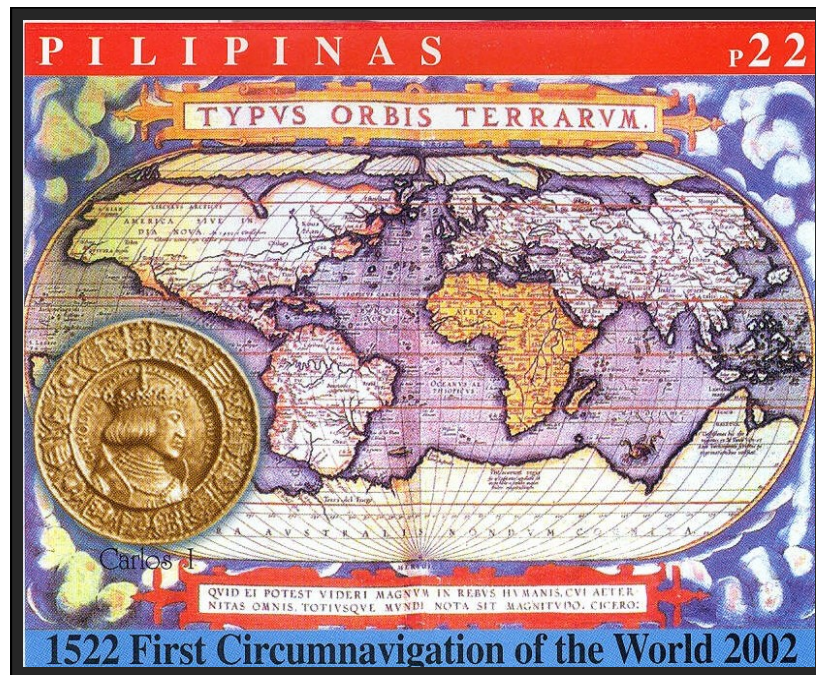
{2} **Francis Drake** (c1540-96) made use of Grenville's plan..

GB booklet proof. Not-issued booklet 1972. Drake and **GOLDEN HIND**

{5} **GOLDEN HIND** was a **galleon** which was a large, multi-decked, square-rigged vessel with lateen-rig on the rear mast.

Busta Lettera Postale advertising lettercard with a 40c stamp attached overprinted B.L.P. Italy 1921-23. Sold below face value, the revenue for the aid to wounded ex-servicemen from WWI came from the advertisers. Depicts a **galleon**

New Holland (Australia) discovered but the eastern seaboard remained unknown



Map by Abraham Ortelius (1527-98),
Antwerp 1581.

{1} In the late 16th century mapmakers still depicted the **Southern Continent** as a huge landmass extending north towards New Guinea.

{2} The Dutch mariner Willem Janszoon (c1570-c1630) made the first known European visit to this body of land in 1606 in **DUYFKEN** ("Little Dove").



{3} and ten years later Dirk Hartog (1580-1621) visited the western coast of this huge landmass. His ship was the **EENDRACHT**.



Loose (ship) letter to Chicago, USA. Posted at sea between Macassar (Indonesia) and Sydney Feb 12 1930, tied by (faint) **SS Nieuw Holland** mark and Brisbane cds Feb 20 1930.

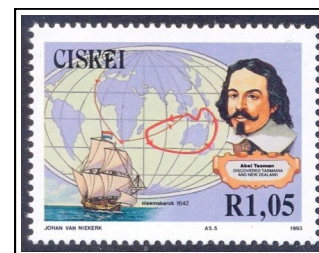
Postage 10ct = the UPU card rate from 1 Jan 1929 to 31 Oct 1937. Postage is correct.

"SS Nieuw Holland" was a KPM (Koninklijke Paketvaart Mij) freight- and passenger ship operating a regular service between Malaya and Australia from 1928 until the outbreak of WW2.

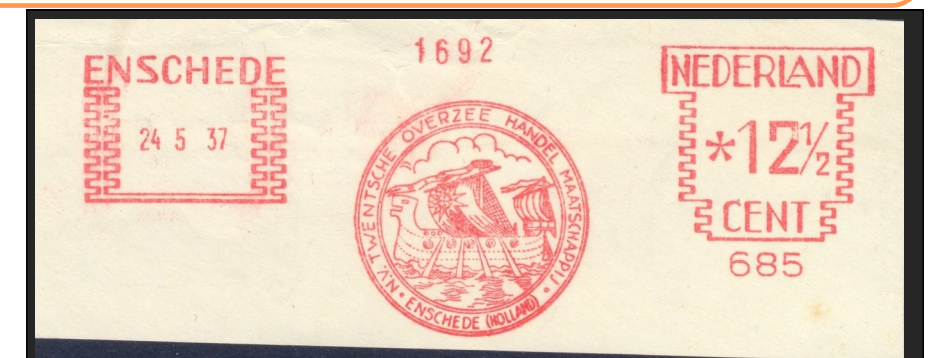
{4} Later the western coast was visited by others, some less fortunate.

Abrolhos was a word used by Portuguese sailors to refer to dangerous offshore reefs.

{5} **Niuew Holland** (New Holland) was the European name applied to this part of the Southern Continent (now mainland Australia) by **Abel Tasman** (1603-59), a Dutch explorer. In 1642 he sailed along the **southern coast** and made a short landing. He showed that New Holland was an island, albeit huge, and not part of a Pole-encircling **Terra Australis Nondum Cognita** (Land Southern not yet known). The eastern seaboard was still unknown.



Experimental separations perf 12,
by Walch & Sons. Ex "Besancon" (II).



{6} Tasman named his landing site **Van Diemen's Land** after his sponsor Anthony van Diemen, Governor of the Dutch East Indies.

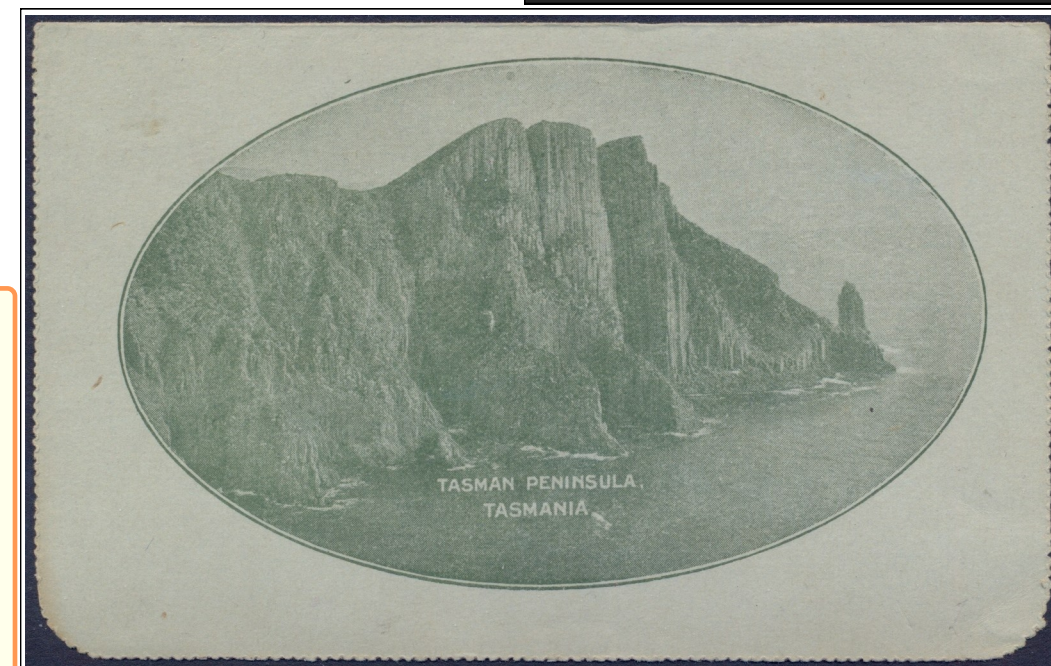
Tasman did not explore it any further, perhaps because **overseas trade** was more important to the Dutch than exploration?



DR. K. P. RIEDEL
5308 RHEINBAKH
LORTZINGSTR. 1a
WEST GERMANY.

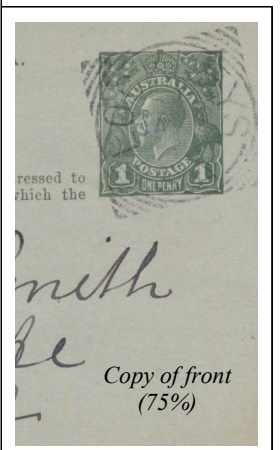
Postal stationery; prestamped envelope.

Postal stationery; letter card. 1918.



{7} Tasman never realised he had discovered an island and not a continent.

{8} The island was later renamed **Tasmania**.



Copy of front
(75%)

New Zealand before Cook's arrival

- {1} Tasman continued to the north-east and discovered a large land mass. He was convinced it was part of the Southern Continent.



- {2} He attempted landing on the western side but due to **hostile Maori** he left without further exploration. He had discovered New Zealand (red arrow below).



Nicholas Sanson World map 1678

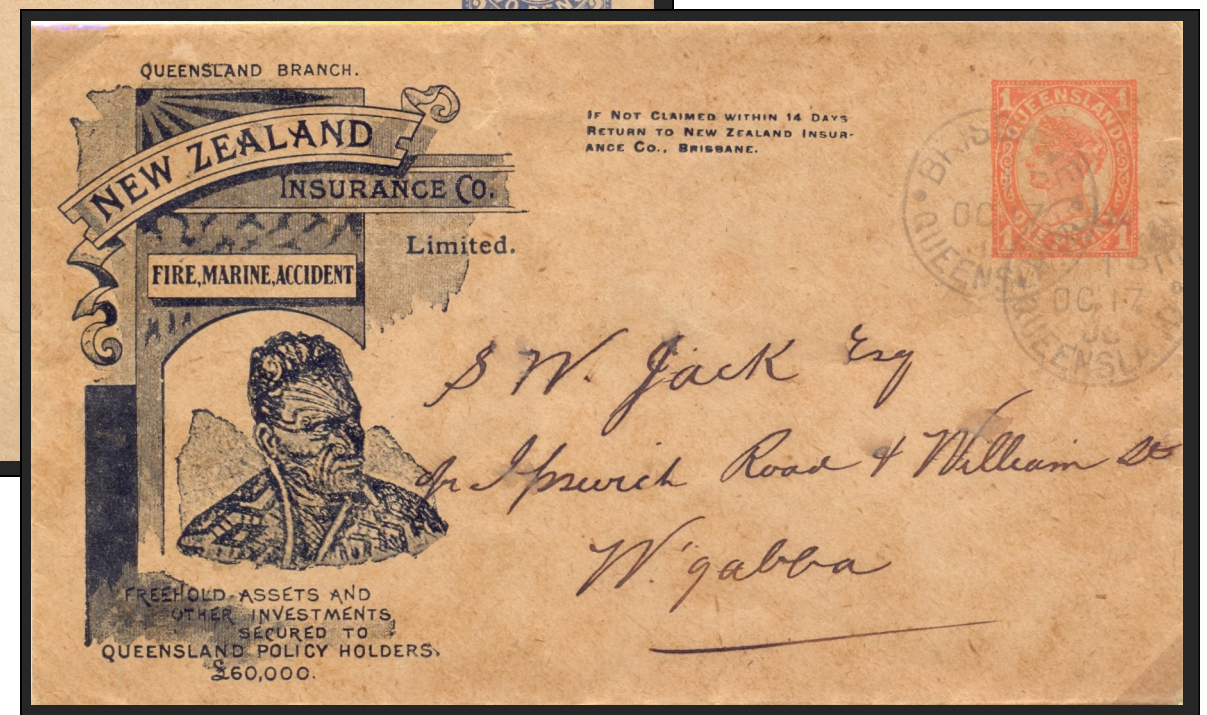
- {3} According to Maori tradition the legendary figure **Kupe** discovered New Zealand over 1000 years ago but returned to his homeland. Around 1350AD a fleet of large, **ocean-going canoes** returned and settlement began.



Plate proof with approval signature and date, 1940

Postal stationery; letter card. 1d claret, King Edward VII (1905). 1d domestic letter rate (in force 1 Jan 1901 to 22 Sep 1915). Front featuring a **Māori Village** and canoes.

- {4} The Maori settled primarily along the coast and some **settlements** were fortified (known as **pa**).

"An arched rock, Mercury Bay with a **Pa** on top" after painting by ParkinsonPostal stationery; envelope printed to private order by the Queensland branch of New Zealand Insurance Co, 1902. The logo depicts **King Te Wherowhero** and "Fire & Marine".Postal stationery; envelope printed to private order by the Queensland branch of New Zealand Insurance Co. Used to Woolloongabba, tied by Brisbane cds 17 Oct 1906. The logo depicts **King Te Wherowhero** and "Fire, Marine, Accident" reflects the amalgamation of the New Zealand Insurance Co and New Zealand Accident Insurance Co in 1905. Very scarce

- {5} The art of tattooing was highly developed in New Zealand. Traditionally Maori tattoos are most often done on the head and **facial tattooing** was reserved for those with a **high social ranking**.

Cook was the first European to set foot on New Zealand soil in 1769

{1} Cook heads south and soon **rediscovers** the land that no Europeans had visited for the past 127 years. Actually he was the first European to set foot on New Zealand soil.



Essay in brick-red with the design in reverse.

{2} Cook landed in 1769 and the 3d stamp from the 1906 Christchurch Exhibition issue purports to depict "Landing of Cook" but the reception was rather violent with several Maori killed. So this must show a different landing at a later stage (probably at Tolaga Bay, p.23). Also it is rather unlikely that the Maori chief would have shaken hands - not a Maori custom!



Plate proof in mono-colour brown. Slightly smaller than suggested issue (below).



.as issued

{3} Cook was to conduct a thorough survey in the ensuing months, and he discovered that it was not the Southern Continent but **two large islands** separated by a strait.



Unadopted essay in black ink on thin card by L.C. Mitchell for the 2½d stamp from the New Zealand 1940 Centennial issue. Shows ENDEAVOUR, Cook's map of New Zealand on a globe and James Cook. Nineteen artists were invited to enter the competition for this issue; the accepted essay and issued stamp with 1d face value are displayed on p.56.

A thorough survey conducted



(Progressive?) die proof in issued colour showing impression of the steel die. Flaws in rigging (perhaps not as prominent as in the one displayed right?).



Finished design die proof on wove paper. Flaws in rigging, retouched out in the plates. Stamp from plate 1 is shown right

{1} Cook landed at a bay which he named **Poverty Bay**

"because it afforded us no one thing we wanted".

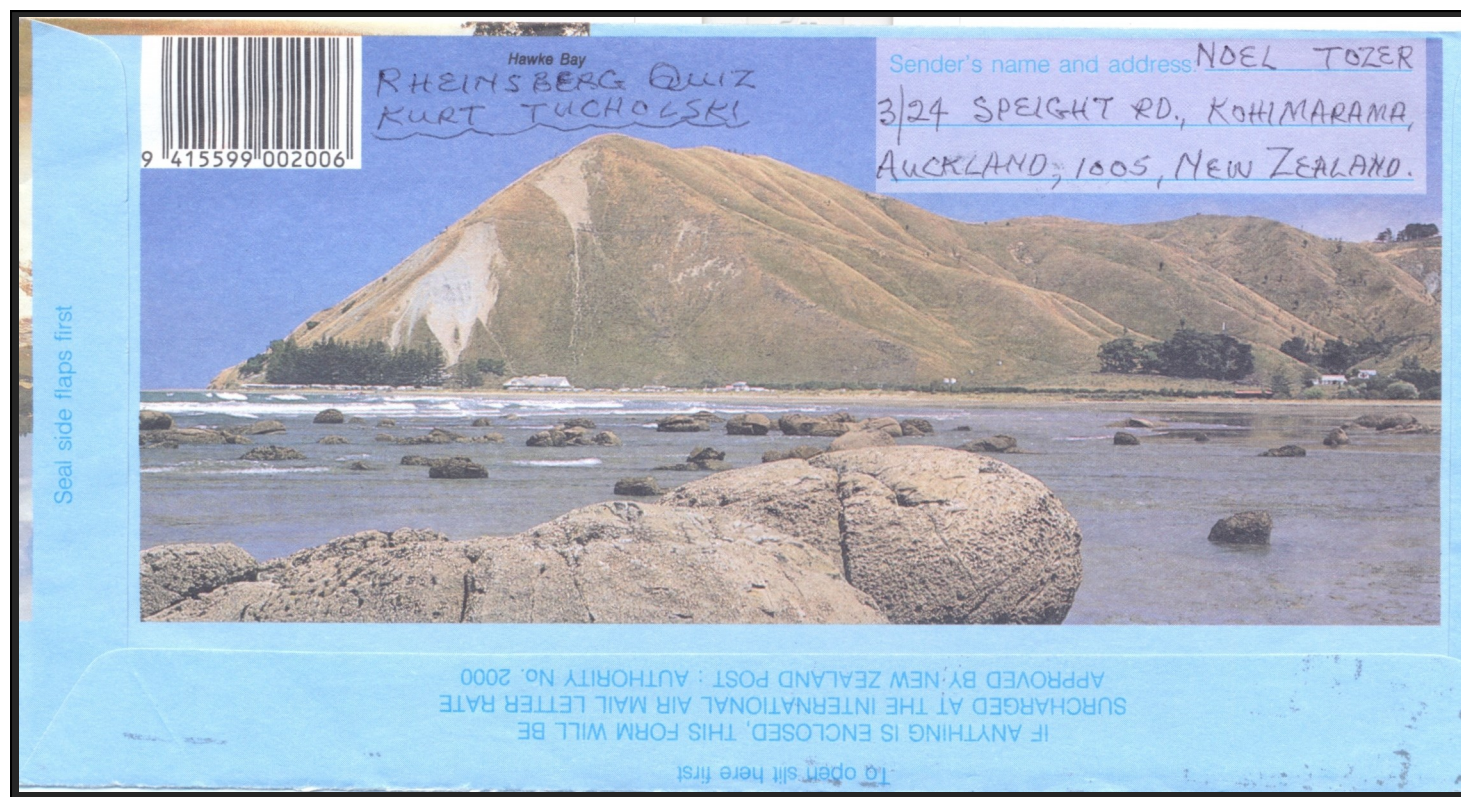


{5} Cook sailed across a wide bay without landing but observed that the land looked fertile and was well populated. He called it **Bay of Plenty**. (red arrow on minisheet below)

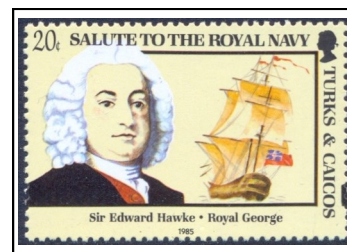
{6} .and a dormant volcano on the mainland got the name **Mount Edgecumbe**.



Postage Due cover to Edgecumbe, tied by Whakatane cds 27 June 1932. Postage 1/2d (letter rate was 1d from 1 June 1932 to 30 Sept 1939). 1d (double deficient postage) To Pay cachet. 1d stamp affixed and endorsed PD as postage due stamp not available; tied by **Edgecumbe** cds 28 June 1932.



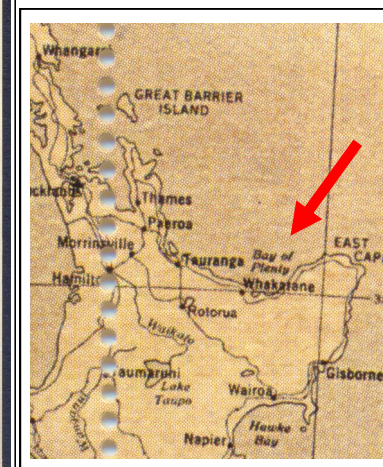
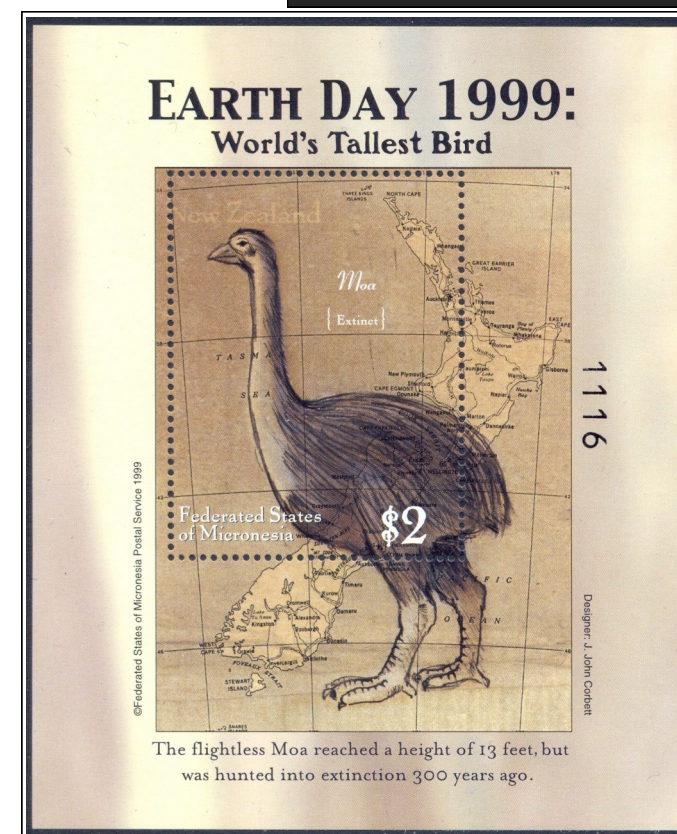
{3} To the south of Poverty Bay a large bay was named **Hawke Bay** after **Sir Edward Hawke** (1705-81), First Lord of the Admiralty (1766-71)..



Postal stationery; aerogramme (reverse). **Hawke Bay**

{2} Cook bestowed many names during the survey:

{4} .and an island with a hole got the name **Piercy Island** after rear admiral **Piercy Brett** (1709-81).



enlarged part of stamp design



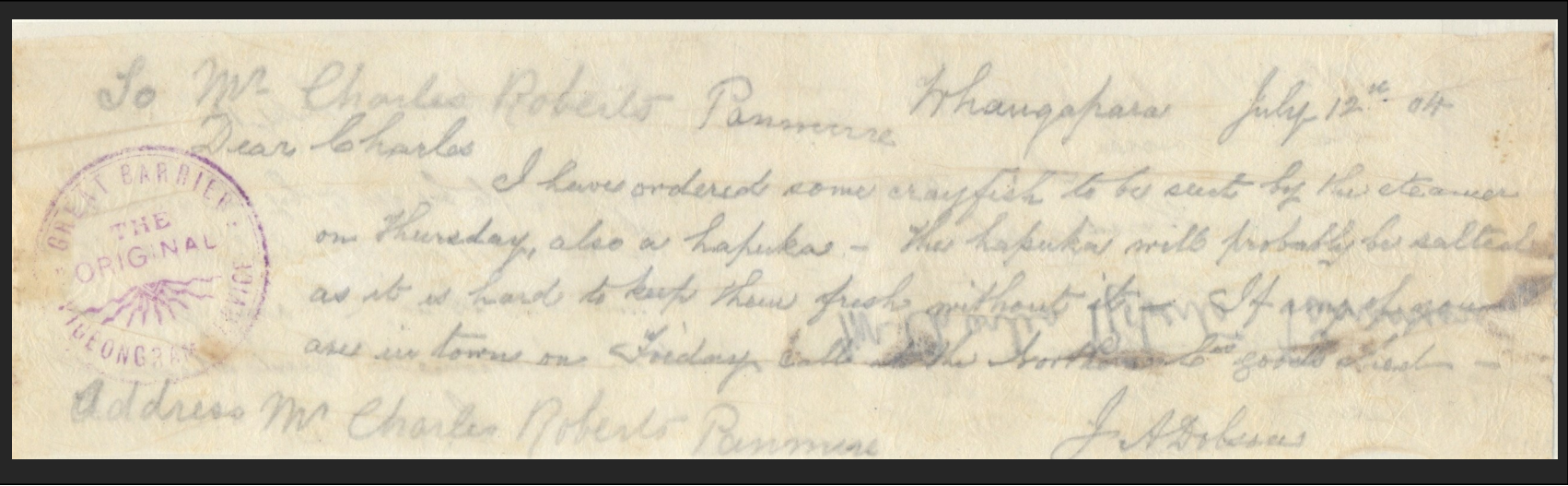
{7} An island 30 miles off the coast was named **White Island** because of dense clouds of white steam from a volcano.

{8} A sulphur mine on **White Island** was in operation on and off from the mid-1880s to the 1930s, operations interrupted by frequent eruptions.

{9} In November 1769 Cook sailed into a bay to observe a transit of Mercury, hence named **Mercury Bay**. A small seaside town in Mercury Bay is named **Cooks Beach**.



White Island cds. Post office in use Aug 1 1927 to Dec 22 1930.



Pigeongram, the **Great Barrier** Pigeongram Service 1904. Message sent from Wangapara to Panmure in Auckland (North Island); a distance of about 65 miles. In 1908 telegraphic communications were installed and so the pigeongram service was discontinued.

{1} **Great Barrier Island** was named by Cook.



Perforation error, left stamp imperf at selvage.

{2} The **cabbage tree** (*Cordyline australis*) was endemic to New Zealand. It was collected by Banks and Solander.



Personalised stamp. Pete's Post started in June 1998 for delivery of mail between New Plymouth and Bell Block. Depicts politician Len Jury and his wife, and in the background **Sugar Loafs** (named by Cook 13th January 1770) off New Plymouth.

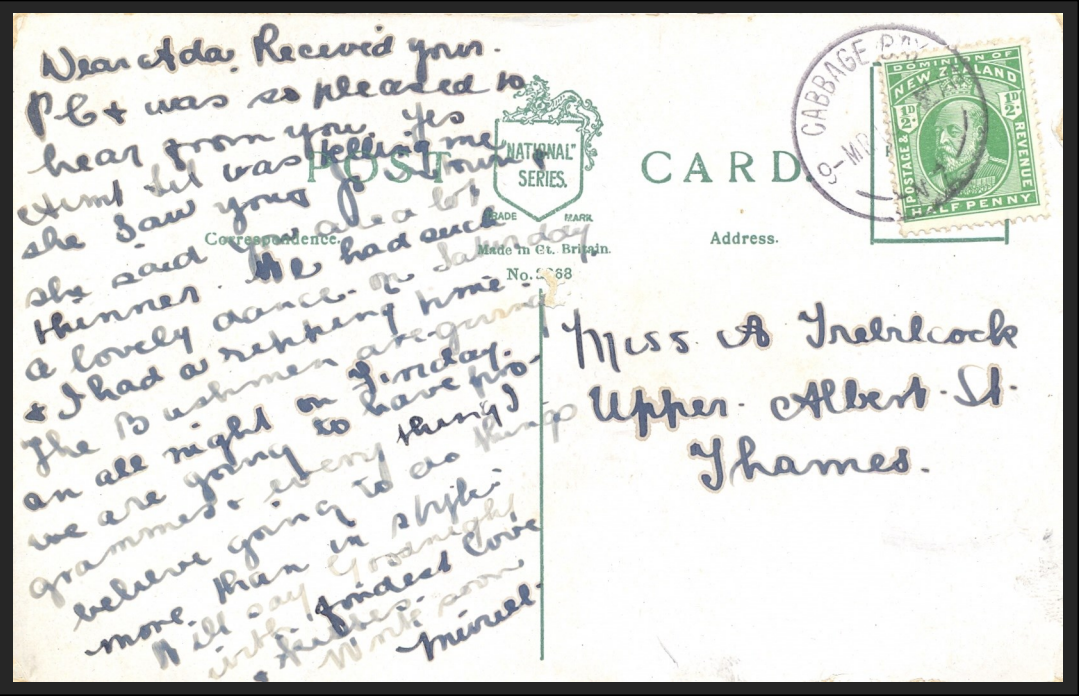
Tui was a railway construction camp for the Nelson railway line between Nelson and Glenhope. The railway was in operation between 1876 and 1955. A post office opened Jan 19 1909 and closed Sept 30 1947.



{4} A peaked mountain got the name **Mount Egmont** in honour of John Perceval (1711-70), 2nd Earl of Egmont.



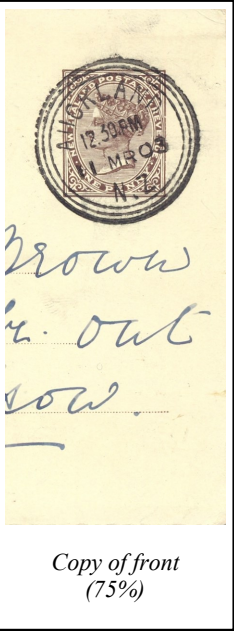
{5} **Aoraki/Mount Cook**. In 1851 the English name was given in honour of James Cook. Cook did not sight Mount Cook.



Cabbage Bay is a small town named in reference to the cabbage trees in the bay. In 1922 Cabbage Bay was changed to Colville named after Cape Colville (named by Cook on Nov 18th 1769). The post office in Cabbage Bay was in use from 1.1.1883 to 1.3.1922.



Postal stationery; postal card. Used to Nelson 1903. Issued 1897 for domestic use and for the Australian colonies. **Mt Egmont** and **Mt Cook** (upper left)



Copy of front (75%)



Unadopted essay by Archer. **Mount Cook**



as issued

A thorough survey completed and sovereignty proclaimed

{1} On Feb 11th 1770 Cook noted in his journal:
"..a remarkable hillock which stands close to the Sea". It was named **Castle Point**.



{2} Cook bestowed many names:
Cape Runaway was named after a Maori incident..



{3} ..and **Cape Palliser** named in honour of Sir Hugh Palliser (1722-96).



{4} **Hicks Bay** got the name after 2nd lieutenant Zachary Hicks (1739-71).

{5} Cook produced a very accurate **map of New Zealand**. A mistake however was Banks Island (named after Banks) which is not an island but a peninsula (red arrow on map left).



Plate proof with approval signature and date



Essay, preliminary pencil drawing on tracing paper by James Berry. Shows ENDEAVOUR, **Cook's chart of New Zealand** and Captain Cook (Admiralty Arch statue, London). The design is essentially the same as Berry's accepted design shown below. 1940 Centennial issue. Unadopted essay by Mitchell for the same issue displayed on pp.49-50.

{6} Cook did complete the survey in just under 6 months and disproved the existence of the fabled continent in these waters. The found land consisted of two islands..

{7} ..and Cook **hoisted the flag** proclaiming British sovereignty of the islands. It took place on a small island in Queen Charlotte Sound (the scene is depicted on the unadopted essay by James Berry for the 1969-issue, p.19).

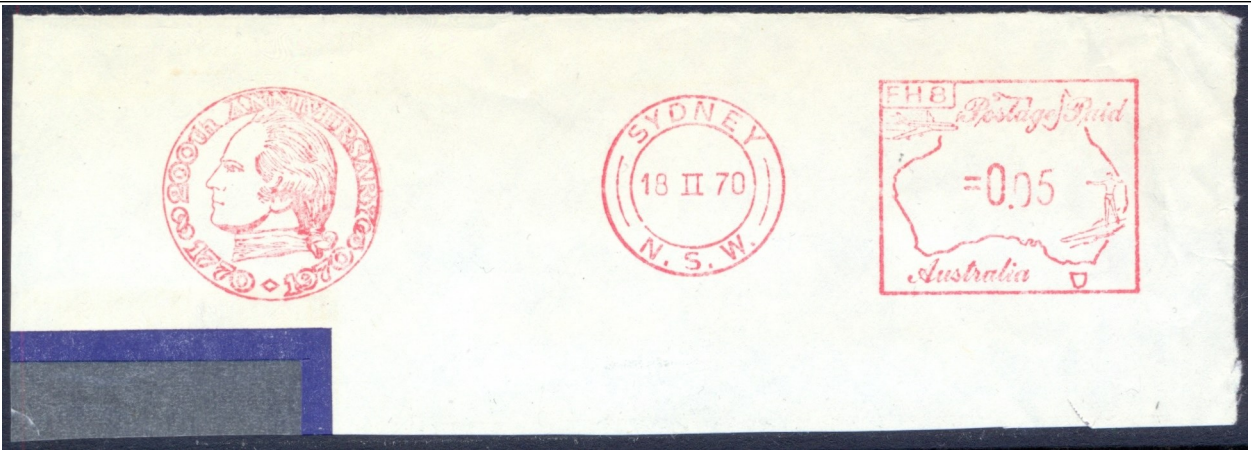


Composite die proof in near issue colours. Endorsed "proof direct from dies" and "Wm. Bock, Engraver". Ex Robyn Gwynn-collection



Landing at Botany Bay

{1} After having completed the circumnavigation of New Zealand
Cook headed west and fell in with the **east coast of Australia** in April 1770.



Meter stamp, Sydney 1970. Type D1 Pitney Bowes-GB "Automax" (MV)



{2} The headland first sighted was named **Point Hicks** after Zachary Hicks (1739-71), 2nd lieutenant on the voyage.



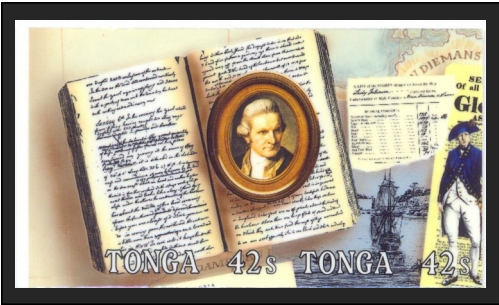
"The landing of Captain Cook at Botany Bay" by E. Philips Fox, 1902

{3} **Cook landed** at the entrance of a large bay which got the name **Botany Bay** because of "The great quantity of New Plants Mr Banks and Dr Solander collected here occasioned my giving it the name of **Botany Bay**" (Cook)

{4} The landing site is near today's **Kurnell** at the entrance of the bay.



Cook's map of Botany Bay



Chromalin proof in full colour on thick card by Walsall Security Printers. Two stamps of the 1988 Australia Bicentenary sheet. Only 4 or 5 printed



Depicts Cook and log naming Botany Bay on May 6th 1770

as issued but SPECIMEN opt

{5} **Botany** is a suburb in south-eastern **Sydney**. Botany sits on the northern shore of Botany Bay.



Postal stationery; Postage Paid envelope. Botany Municipality



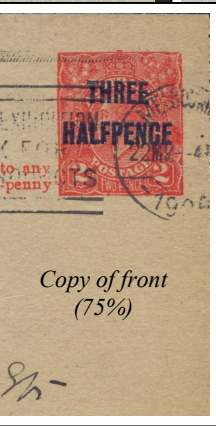
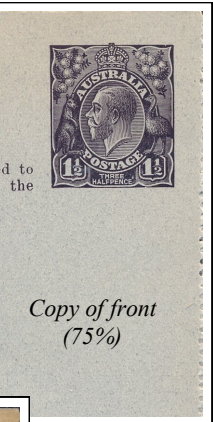
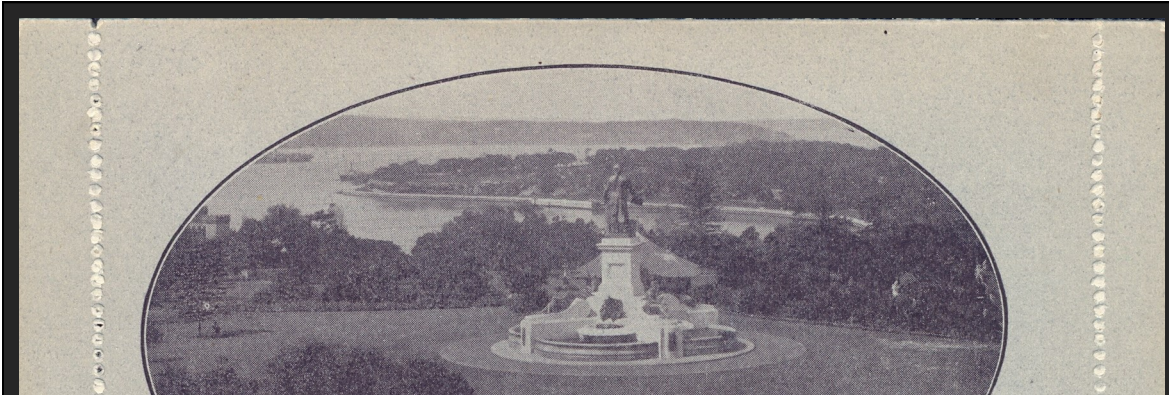
Banksia serrata

{6} Among the many plants collected were Banksia serrata and Correa reflexa.

Stamp design based on sketches by Parkinson

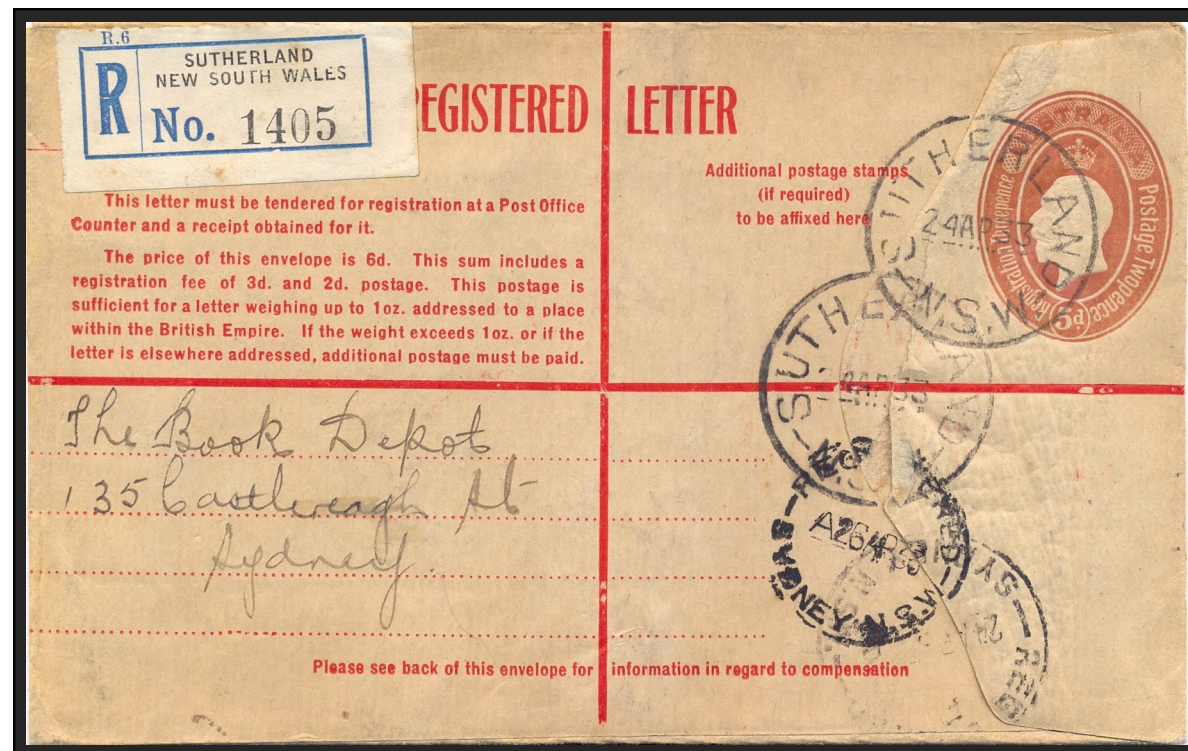


Correa reflexa



Postal stationery; letter cards. View of **Sydney** Harbour with Captain Cook statue. 1½d KGV black (mint) and 2d revalued KGV, used 1924. Domestic letter card rate was 1½d from 1.10.1923 to 3.8.1930.

North along the coast



Postal stationery; registration envelope. Used to Sydney, tied by **Sutherland** cds 24 AP 33. Postage 5d = letter rate of 2d per 1oz (in force 1 Oct.1930 - 9 Dec.1941) + 3d registration fee.

{1} **Sutherland** is a suburb in southern Sydney and it is suggested that its name was taken from able seaman Forby **Sutherland** (1736(?)–70) who died during the visit to Botany Bay and was buried ashore.

{2} In **ENDEAVOUR** Cook sailed north along the coast.

{3} Cook noted three hills "which very much resembles **glass houses** which occasioned my giving them that name" **Glass House Mountains**.

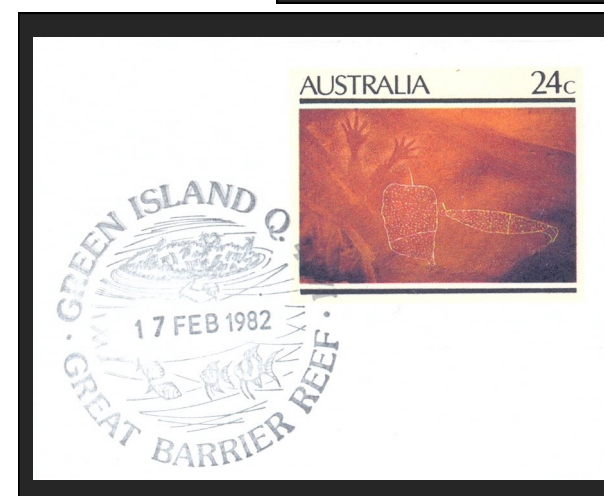
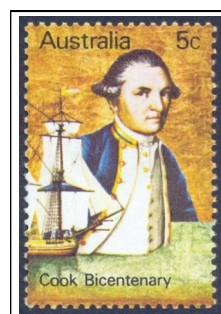
{5} .and Cape Byron sheltering a bay later named **Byron Bay**.

{6} Another bay got the name **Hervey's Bay** after Augustus John Hervey (1724–79), a naval officer who became Lord of the Admiralty.

{4} He also named **Broken Bay**..



{7} **Green Island** was named after Charles Green, the astronomer on **ENDEAVOUR**.



{8} Cook proceeded north and sailed inside the **Great Barrier Reef** and named **Cape Tribulation**.

"because here begun all our troubles" (Cook)



Variety "**black omitted**" on cover to Enoggera. Tied by Brisbane machine datestamp 8 May 1970. Domestic letter rate 5c (in force 1.10.1967 to 30.9.1970). Stamp issued Apr 20th 1970, shown right. Certificate 2001. Rare, one of only two recorded examples used on cover. At time of certification this was the only known example but a similar cover was sold at auction in autumn 2019. One block of 30 (2 strips of 5 in each row) is reported showing the upper row with black at base omitted, the middle row with black completely omitted and the bottom row with black at top omitted. Based on the numbers known at least one (or perhaps 2?) more block exist but the total number is uncertain.



Air mail cover to United Kingdom tied by **Glass House Mts** cds 18 June 1935. Postage 1/6d: the air mail rate to the UK was 1/6d per 1/2 oz from Dec 1934 to Aug 1938.

{1} Suddenly ENDEAVOUR struck a reef but could be **laid on shore** for repair.

"A view of the *Endeavour River*, where the ship was **laid on shore**, in order to repair the damage which she received on the rock"
based on a drawing by Parkinson



{2} A settlement began in 1873 near the Endeavour River. The town was named Cooks-town but later changed to **Cooktown**.

{8} To mark the centennial of the first settlement a stamp was issued in 1888 depicting the portrait of Cook adapted from a painting by Nathaniel Dance-Holland. The stamp was designed by Henry Barraclough and engraved by William Bell.



Air-mail cover to Cairns, QLD tied by **Cooktown** cds 28 Oct 1935. Postage 5d. Domestic air-mail rate was 5d per ½ oz from 4.8.1930 to 9.12.1941.



{3} Cook had surveyed the **eastern coast** of New Holland..

{4} .and he took possession..



Colour trial plate proof, black



Die proof in deep red brown on wove paper. Rectangular printer's guide at left. Ex "Carrington" (Mark Dankin)



Colour trial plate proof, green



Colour trial plate proof, red



Colour trial plate proof, red-orange



Colour trial plate proof, red-brown. Ex Jim Johnstone



Die proof, unissued value in brown. Only recorded example in private hands. Issued in green with a face value of 75c (right). Australia 1966

{5} .naming it New South Wales.



{6} Cook produced a chart of the east coast of Australia. In the portrait by Dance-Holland (pp.123-126) Cook is seen holding the chart in his right hand **pointing at New South Wales**.



{7} New South Wales is since 1901 a state in south eastern Australia.



Imperf, red-brown 1899. Rare

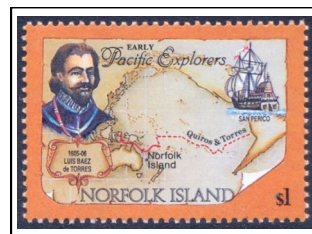


Colour trial plate proof



Registered cover from Sydney to USA. Tied by Registered Sydney cds 8 Dec 1906 and large R in vertical oval mark. Postage 5½d = foreign letter rate 2½d per 1 oz (in force 1 Mar 1901 - 28 Oct 1918) + 3d registration fee.

Cook traversed Torres Strait on the way home



{1} In 1606 **Luis de Torres** (c1565-1607) captained the **SAN PEDRO** on an expedition to find the Southern Continent..

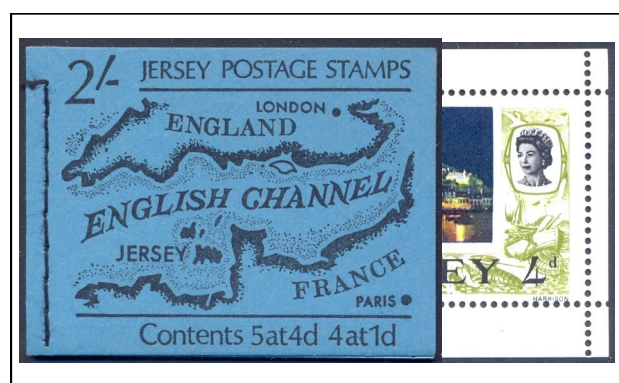
{2} ..and he sailed along the southern coast of **New Guinea** showing it to be an **island** and not part of a continent.



{4} After having traversed the Torres Strait Cook touched at **Batavia** in Indonesia..



{6} Cook entered the **English Channel**..



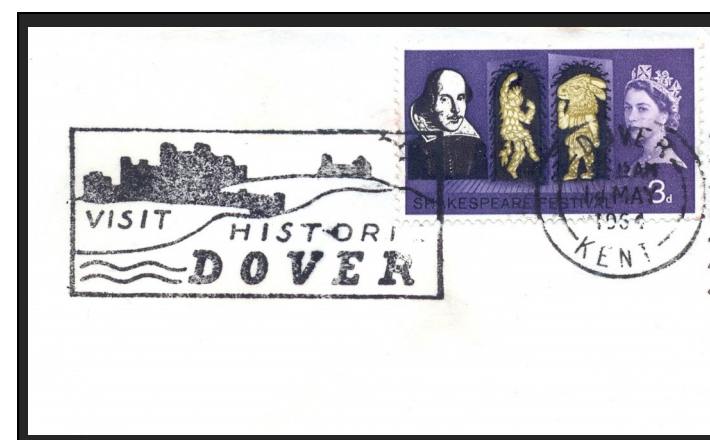
Postage stamp booklet with copy of contents. 1969



{5} ..and on the last leg of the voyage he anchored off **St. Helena** and later passed **Ascension Island**.



{7} ..and soon after the familiar sight of **Dover** was a welcomingsign that the voyage was coming to an end.

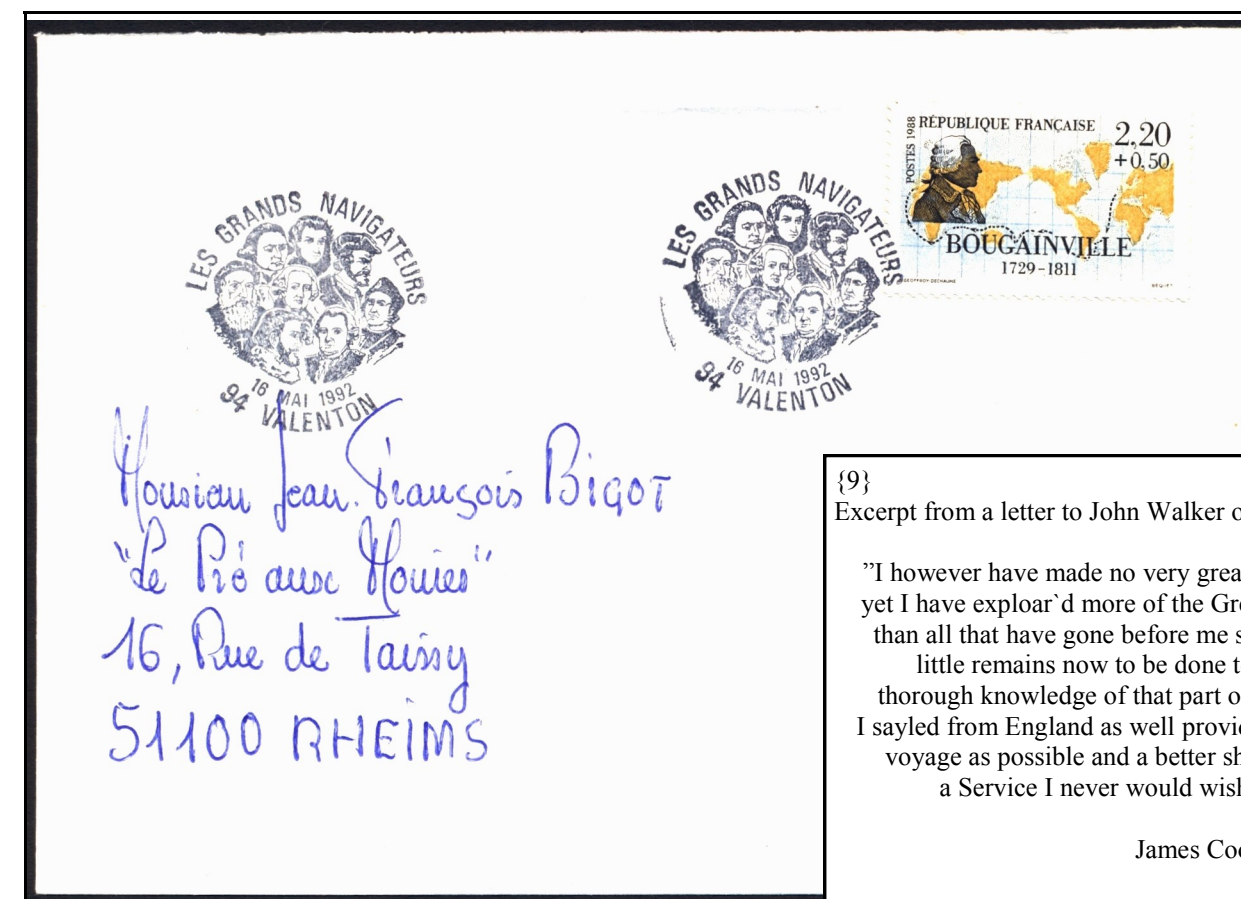


{8} All things considered, the voyage was a great success although, in his own words to his former employer (right), no major discoveries had been made. Cook had successfully observed the Venus Transit, put New Zealand on the map and charted the eastern seaboard of Australia. Cook had proved himself one of **The Great Navigators** of all time.

{3} The documents from the voyage lay hidden in Spanish archives for many years. The existence of a strait between New Guinea and New Holland (Australia) was still debated in the 18th century, and Cook decided to verify it on the way home by rounding the **northern tip of Australia** thereby proving the existence of the **Torres Strait**.



Cover to London endorsed "via **Torres Straits & Brindisi**". Tied by Brisbane cds 9 Sep 1876 and a Q.L.-in-Rays cancel. Arrival cancel London Nov 6 1876. Postage 9d which was the single letter rate, in force 27 Dec 1870 to early 1881. Ex Beston



{9} Excerpt from a letter to John Walker of Whitby:

"I however have made no very great Discoveries yet I have exploar'd more of the Great South Sea than all that have gone before me so much that little remains now to be done to have a thorough knowledge of that part of the Globe. I sayled from England as well provided for such a voyage as possible and a better ship for such a Service I never would wish for".

James Cook, 17th Aug^t 71