



Antarctica: Meters on the ICE

At least 25 countries have maintained research bases on the Antarctic continent and post offices at these bases. Many countries have also produced postage stamps that could be considered postage for those "territories". However, only three bases have been known to have postage meters installed at the station postal offices.

New Zealand Scott Base



Scott Base is a New Zealand Antarctic research facility located at Pram Point on Ross Island near Mount Erebus in New Zealand's Ross Dependency territorial claim. The research facility was named in honour of Captain Robert Falcon Scott, RN, leader

of two British expeditions to the Ross Sea area of Antarctica. New Zealand Post Office maintained an office at Scott Base until 1987. Here is a cover with meter postage.

More recently, however, the US established the **Antarctic "Gateway" at Christchurch, NZ**

It is used by the US Air Force Antarctic supply flights.



US Antarctic Bases use military postal codes (APO/FPO).

US McMurdo Base (APO 96548)

The first known McMurdo meter impressions are dated

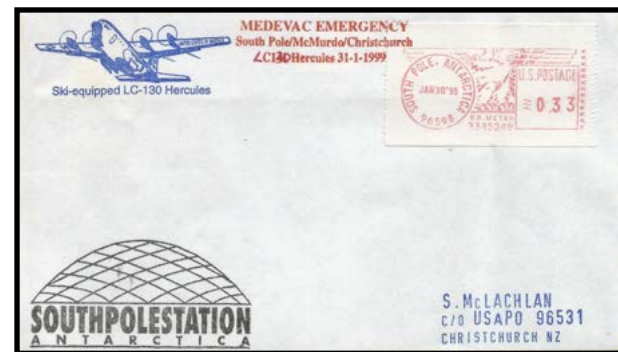


1995. Later on, in 2000, a Post Office PVI was installed. Shown here is a McMurdo cover with 2000 Meter postage.



US South Pole Station (APO 96598)

It was built to be covered with snow on 9300 feet of ice in 1975. Now it is a small city. Shown here is a cover from Medevac Emergency South Pole to Christchurch NZ. ©



LI RIVER, near Yangshuo, China

When I turned on the computer at home every day a difference photo appears on the screen. This photo caught my attention.



The Li River flows through the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in southern China, winding past rural villages and spiky, soaring karst mountains. These tall limestone peaks rise in especially dramatic fashion between the towns of Guilin and Yangshuo. The landscape of the Li River gorge is just as impressive below as it is above: Hundreds of caves honeycomb the area, with dozens stretching more than half a mile. Also nearby is Reed Flute Cave, with its 180 million-year-old rock formations illuminated by multicolored lights.



The Li River or Li Jiang, which belongs to the Xijiang River system in the Pearl River

Basin, is a generic term for the tributary of the upper reaches of the Guijiang River and is located in the northeastern part of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. It flows 215 kilometers (134 mi) from Xing'an County to Pingle County, where the karst mountains and river sights highlight the famous Li River cruise.

China issued a 4 stamp set about the Li River.



Rongsanx

www.delcampe.net

There are several other photos that I would like to share here.



The Li River originates in the Mao'er Mountains in Xing'an County and flows in the general southern direction through Guilin, Yangshuo and Pingle. In Pingle the Li River merges with the Lipu River and the Gongcheng River and continues south as the Gui



River, which falls into the Xi Jiang, the western tributary of the Pearl River, in Wuzhou. The upper course of the River Li is connected by the ancient Lingqu Canal with the Xiang River, which flows north into the Yangtze River, the longest in Asia. ©

Great Britain: stamps that would never be.

VR Official Stamp.

The letters "VR" in the upper corners distinguish this stamp from an ordinary Penny Black. The stamps were intended for government mail, but the government never issued them. Officials destroyed 94 percent of the copies printed. Most of the surviving unused copies had been distributed earlier.



After 3,323 good sheets had been delivered, the idea of special stamps for government offices was abandoned and 3,302 sheets were destroyed on 25 January 1843.

Of the surviving 21 sheets, 13 were used for distribution with the Postmaster's Notice. A few specimens passed

through the post by oversight.

Roland Hill used examples from a sheet sent to him in April 1840 for experiments with trial obliterations including the Maltese Cross ("MC") and concentric circles cancellations, using various black inks, after which attempts were made to remove the cancellations by means of chemical agents.

S-G catalog list it MNH £32000 and used £35000. Other varieties are also listed: with trial MC cancel, pair, block of 4, used on cover, re-entry SH, Impri-matur, and double letters.

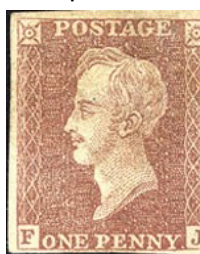
The Prince Consort Es-

says. The Prince Consort Essay was a surface printed printer's sample stamp created in 1851 as an example of the surface printed stamps that Henry Arch-



er proposed to print and perforate under contract with the British government at a lower price than the current printing firm of Perkins Bacon. The Prince Consort stamps were provided by the artist Robert Edward Branston, from an engraving executed by Samuel William Reynolds.

Although commonly known as an essay, the stamp was not really an essay as it was never intended that a postage stamp be produced based on the design, nor was it an un-adopted design. It is more accurately described as a printer's sample stamp, or dummy stamp. The blue IMPERF lists at £35,000 the other



three colors IMPERF list at £3500 to £4500.

Essay of the Head of the Prince Consort, by Henry Archer. Surface printed in sheets of 36 (3 horizontal of 12), in sheets of 240 and 252 (21 panes of 12). The sheets were gummed before being print-

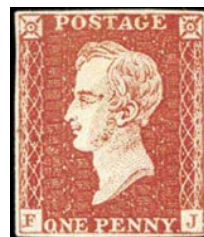
ed, The plate of 12 are palatable. There are these stamps printed in blue, black, brown and red-brown.

Imperforate used copies are available to collectors, typically for around several hundred pounds. There are approximately 36 perforated examples recorded and these



sell for much higher prices. Of the 36 examples, 3 are in brown, 3 are in blue (the latest realized £23,000 - £38,080 at auction) and the remainder are in black.

Newfoundland stamp -



Prince (Consort) Albert. One of the stamps in the 1866 set. I think Gene Wilder adopted a similar look for his role in The Young Frankenstein. AM . Actually, this stamp was issued as part of the 1865 Set.

It is listed in the S-G catalog at £350 MNH, & £110 used.

The Scott catalog lists the V R stamp, black, as Q1 with watermark 18 (small crown) under Official Stamps. Here there is a note that reads: Postage stamps stamps perforated with a crown and the initials HMOW, OW, BT (Board of Trade), or SO, or with only the initials HMSO or DSIR.



REPLICA

There is a V R ***REPLICA*** of 1840 Great Britain 1p black V.R. Official SG V1, Scott: O1 on DelCampe that sells for €2.50 (US \$2.80). The British Consort stamp is not listed nor noted.

During the reign of KE VII the 1911 2 d.

tyrium plum

was not issued but is listed in

the Stanley Gibbons catalog.

However the Newfoundland is listed as No. 27 and is valued at \$375 mint, \$60, used and \$1000 MNH. I found a copy of this stamp used in DelCampe with a price of €25 (US \$28). ©

More information on the V R stamp can be found here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penny_Black_VR_official

And on the Consort stamp:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_Consort_Essay



Battle of the River Plate

The Battle of the River Plate was the first naval battle in the Second World



Cruiser Admiral Graf Spee

War and the first one of the Battle of the Atlantic in South American waters. The German heavy cruiser Admiral Graf Spee had sailed into the South Atlantic two weeks before the war began, and had been commerce raiding after receiv-



ing appropriate authorization on 26 September 1939. One of the hunting groups sent by the British Admiralty to search for Admiral Graf Spee, comprising three Royal Navy cruisers, HMS Exeter, Ajax and Achilles (the last from the New Zealand Division), found and engaged their quarry off the estuary of the River Plate close to the coast of Uruguay and Argentina in South

America.

In the ensuing battle, Exeter was severely damaged and forced to retire; Ajax and Achilles suffered moderate damage. The damage to Admiral Graf Spee, although not extensive, was critical; her fuel system was crippled. Ajax and Achilles shadowed the



German ship until she entered the port of Montevideo, the capital city of neutral Uruguay, to effect urgent repairs. After Admiral Graf Spee's captain Hans Langsdorff was told that his stay could not be extended beyond 72 hours, he scuttled his damaged ship and committed suicide rather than face the overwhelmingly superior force that the British had led

him to believe was awaiting his departure.

Admiral Graf Spee's scuttling however was a severe embarrassment and difficult to explain on the basis of publicly available facts. The battle was a major victory for the British, as the damage



to Ajax and Achilles was not sufficient to reduce their fighting efficiency, while Exeter, as badly damaged as she was, was able to reach the Falkland Islands for emergency repairs, before returning to Devonport for a 13-month refit, thus enhancing the reputation of First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. For more information: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_River_Plate#Battle