

MISSENT

The first recorded Christmas Island cover was sent in 1904 from Netherlands East Indies to Christmas Island Nova Scotia, then to Christmas Island (Pacific Ocean) before arriving at its intended destination in 1905. To this day, prominent philatelic auction houses misdescribe mail from British forces on Christmas Island (Gilbert and Ellice Islands) for the 1957 atomic tests as being from Christmas Island (Indian Ocean). That misunderstanding led Australian authorities to include 'Australia Indian Ocean' in the 1958 datestamps. Despite all the efforts to identify the intended recipient, this cover was missent. Singapore Airport 10 September 1963, readdressed, Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 24 October



British Phosphate Commission

1963 PICTORIAL STAMPS

The pictorial designs appealed to locals, topical and first day cover collectors. Postal historians have limited interest in Christmas Island because, in part, no-one has collected the contemporary mail of BPC Christmas Island or the island's administration.

WCS produced this design

for the 1963 issue and used it thereafter.

Christmas Island Aust

1 Indian Ocean

28 August 1963



Mr. R. P. Chapman,

38 Glassop Street,

Yagoona.

N.S.W.

TERRITORY OF

Christmas Island

(Indian Ocean)



FIRST DAY COVER
FIRST PICTORIAL ISSUE

28th AUGUST, 1963



Mr. D. Mitchell,
12 Sandra Avenue,
Fawkner North. N.15.
Victoria, Australia.

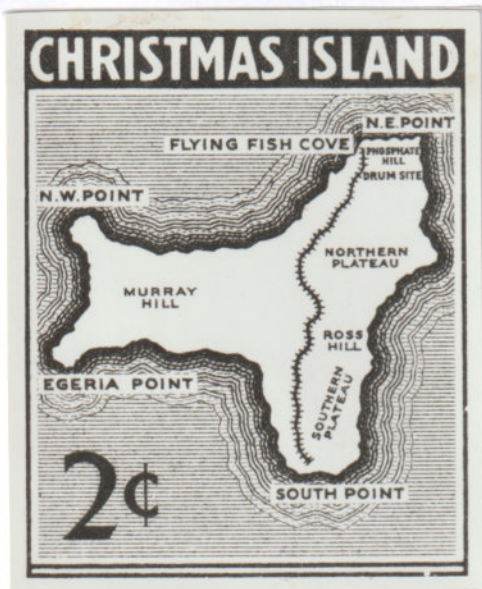
Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 28 August 1963, unknown cover producer.
It is not known whether these covers were postmarked in Melbourne or on the island.

PLATE PROOF
India Paper



PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS

Produced for distribution to the Press and philatelic journals.



British Phosphate Commission

TEN CENTS RATE

Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 21 April 1965



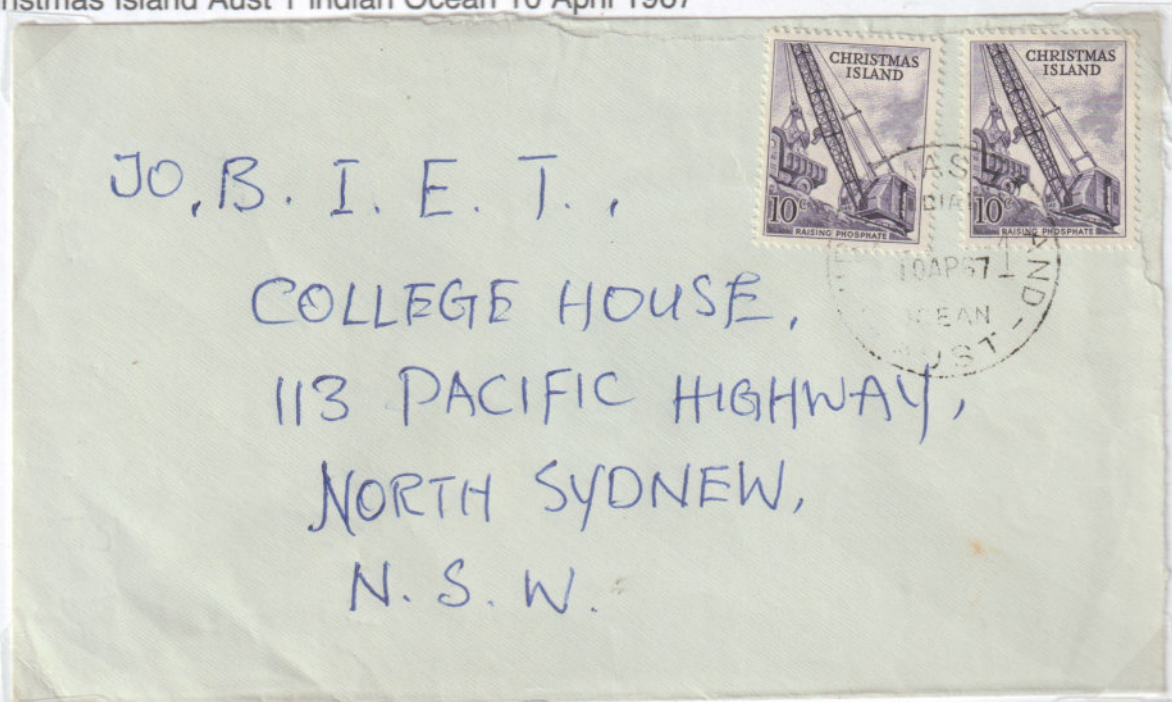
Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 2 December 1967

FIFTY CENTS RATE

British Phosphate Commission

TWENTY CENTS RATE

Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 10 April 1967



Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 5 March 1966

FIFTY FOUR CENTS: NOT A RATE

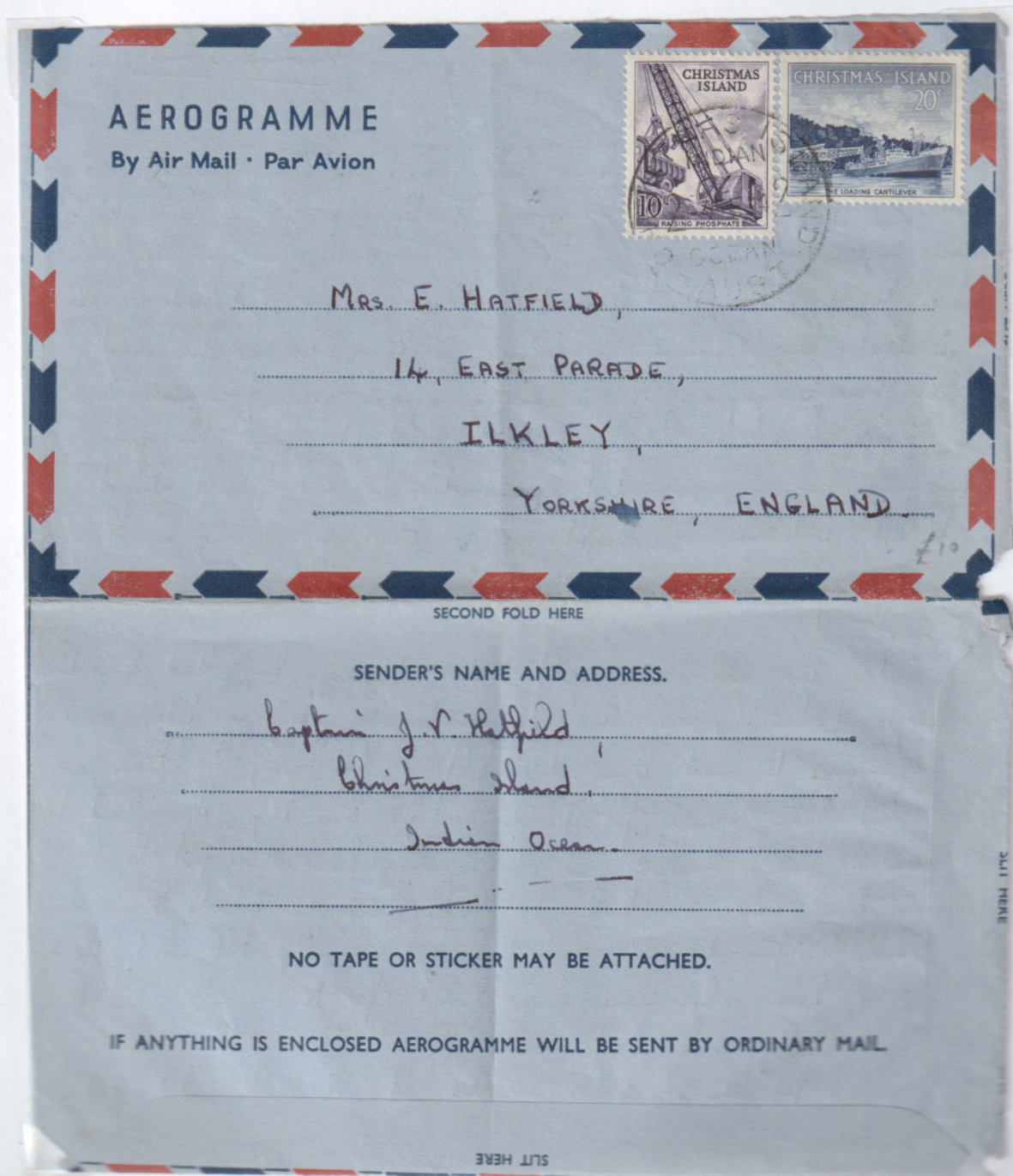
M.V. CHARON 1964

Mail Problems

M.V. Charon conducted a scheduled passenger service between Fremantle and Singapore but Christmas Island was not a port of call. The December voyage was for children going home to Singapore and the February voyage was for children returning to boarding school from Singapore.

"Mail is a bit mixed up just now as the regular ship to Singapore has gone off the run for a while, so I guess my letters will be a bit slower reaching you as they have to go via Australia. Actually we are fortunate in the fact that the 'Charon' is calling in here tomorrow to land mails from Singapore. She is on a regular run from Australia to Singapore and on her way north had to land two girls here, one was suspected appendicitis.... They are leaving on the 'Charon', so she had to call and pick the girls up, we will get some mail."

Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 4 February 1964



1965 ANZAC

Again the FDC cover producers were out in force for this issue that featured the same design as the territories of Cocos Island, PNG, and Norfolk Island. This first commemorative issue for Christmas Island failed to attract the interest of locals or collectors. Top cover is from the Australian Government Official Representative to an ex-Premier of Western Australia – posted in Melbourne? Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 14 April 1965

Christmas Island

MEMORATING THE LANDING OF THE
AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS
ON GALLIPOLI

A.N.Z.A.C.
FIRST DAY COVER ISSUED 14 APRIL.



Mr. F. J. S. Wise,
1 Rosser St.,
Cottesloe.
W.A.

1915
APRIL 25th
1965

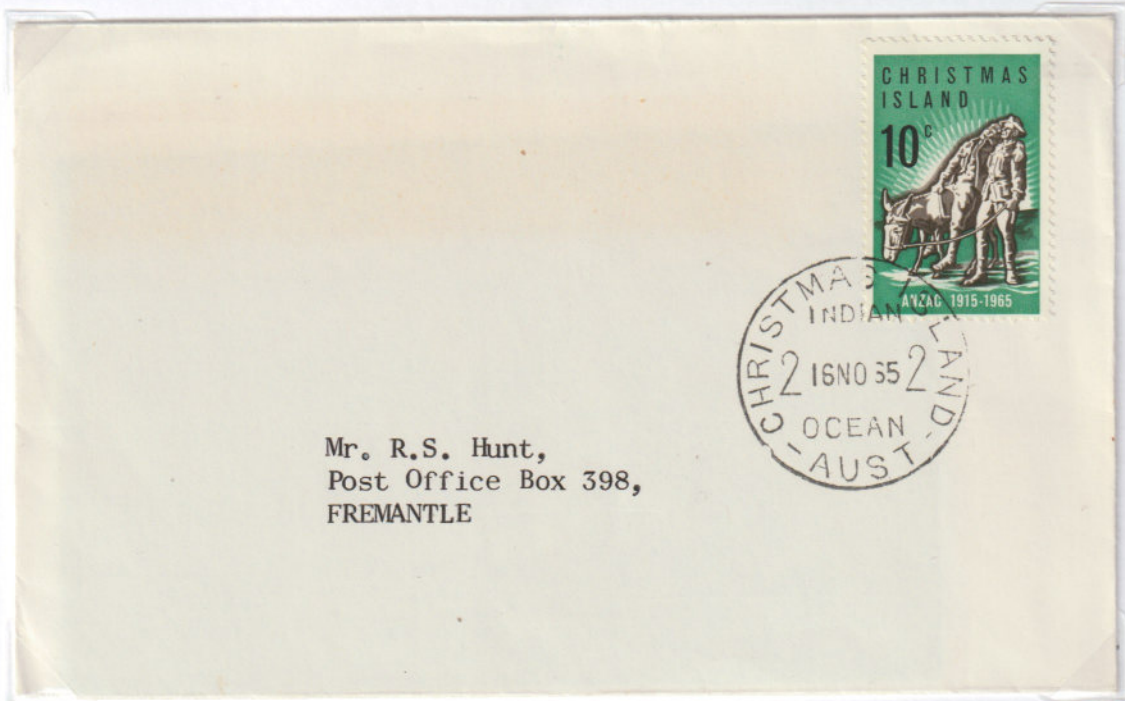


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



1965 ANZAC: NOT FDC

It has taken 40 years to find these philatelic covers not posted on the first day of issue. Commercial use of this stamp on cover is yet to be found. The use of datestamp 2 indicates these covers were postmarked on Christmas Island. Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 17 May 1965



Perhaps intended for 11 November remembrance Day
Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 16 November 1965

RATE CHANGE

Australia converted to decimal currency on 14 December 1966 but Christmas Island remained on Singapore currency. Some postage rates changed as shown by these covers to England: Surface 20 cents, airmail 75 cents.

Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 23 August 1967



Christmas island Administration

AUSTRALIAN STAMPS NOT AVAILABLE

Australian currency was introduced on Christmas Island in March 1968 but Australian fish stamps were not available until 6 May. Pictorial stamps continued in use in this period although this aerogramme is franked at the 22 cents rate whereas the 1964 aerogramme was 30 cents. The Pictorial stamps remained on sale for philatelists until 30 April 1969. Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 24 April 1968



SECTION D: 1968 - 1993

Christmas Island Administration

CURRENCY CHANGE

On 6 May 1968 Australian currency became the sole legal tender on Christmas Island and Post and Telegraph Ordinance came into effect by which Australian postal law and rates were imposed. For administrative and postal rates purposes, Christmas Island was included in Western Australia. To mark the change, a new definitive set of stamps was issued in Australian currency. The Christmas Island Post Office was transferred to the Island Administration and moved to new premises. It celebrated the new issue with the first of its elaborate First Day cancels.

Christmas Island Fish Series First Day of Issue 6th May 1968



PUBLICITY PHOTOGRAPHS

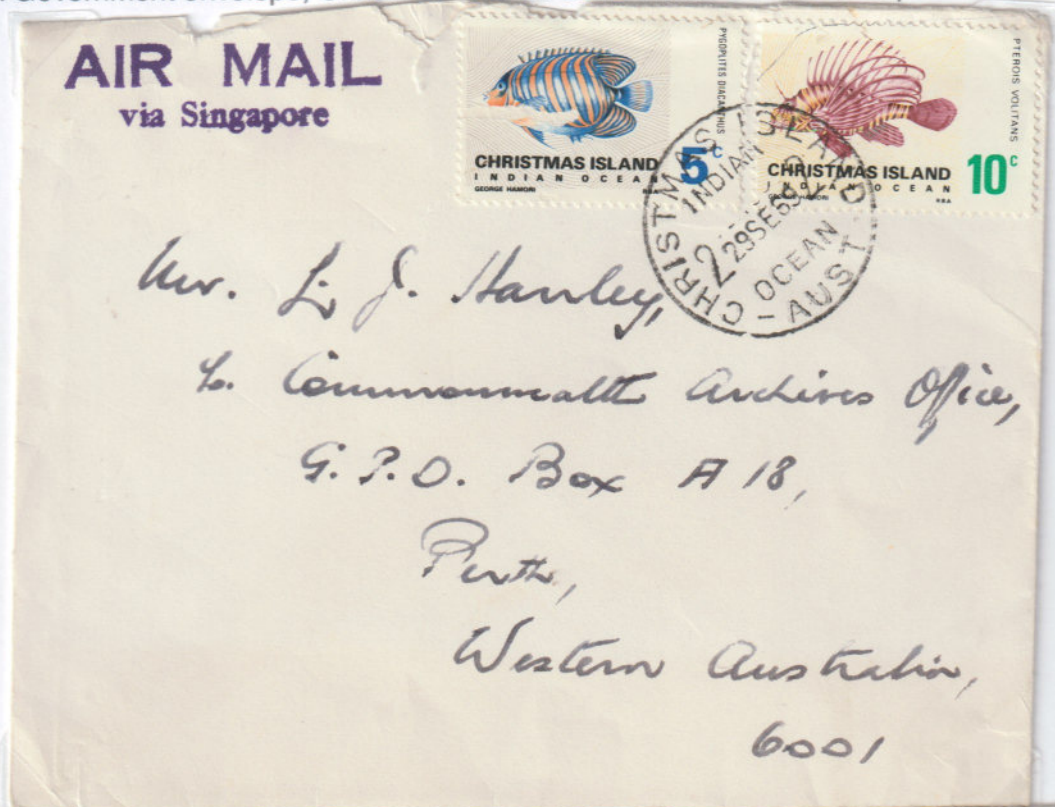
Produced for distribution to the Press and philatelic journals



DATESTAMPS

The new post office continued use of the existing datestamps # 1 and # 2.

Official Government envelope, Christmas Island Aust 2 Indian Ocean 29 September 1968



At some time between 1964 and 1968 a new registration label was introduced without 'Aust'.

Christmas Island Aust 1 Indian Ocean 22 May 1968, Singapore 28 May, Singapore 29 May, Tacoma Terminal 30 May, Tacoma Sixth Avenue 31 May

REGISTRATION LABEL

COMMERCIAL PICTORIAL ENVELOPES

Christmas Island 5 Indian Ocean 14 August 1985



Christmas Island Administration

FIRST CHRISTMAS STAMP 1969

As part of it's new approach to philatelic marketing, the Christmas Island Philatelic Bureau produced it's first Christmas stamp.

Christmas Island 3 Indian Ocean 10 November 1969, indistinct NSW 11 June 1971 (sic)

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

MR M PRATT
PO BOX 27
KILLARA NSW 2371



PHILATELIC BUREAU
CHRISTMAS ISLAND
INDIAN OCEAN

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE.

28/2/70

South Sea Island
P.O. Box 183,
Manly 2095

ADDRESS MAIL
PRIVATE BOX
IT EXPEDITES
DELIVERY



Lismore 27 February 1970

Unlike Cocos, whose stamps were produced by the PMG, Christmas Island stamps produced by the Christmas island philatelic Bureau were not valid for postage in Australia.

INVALID