

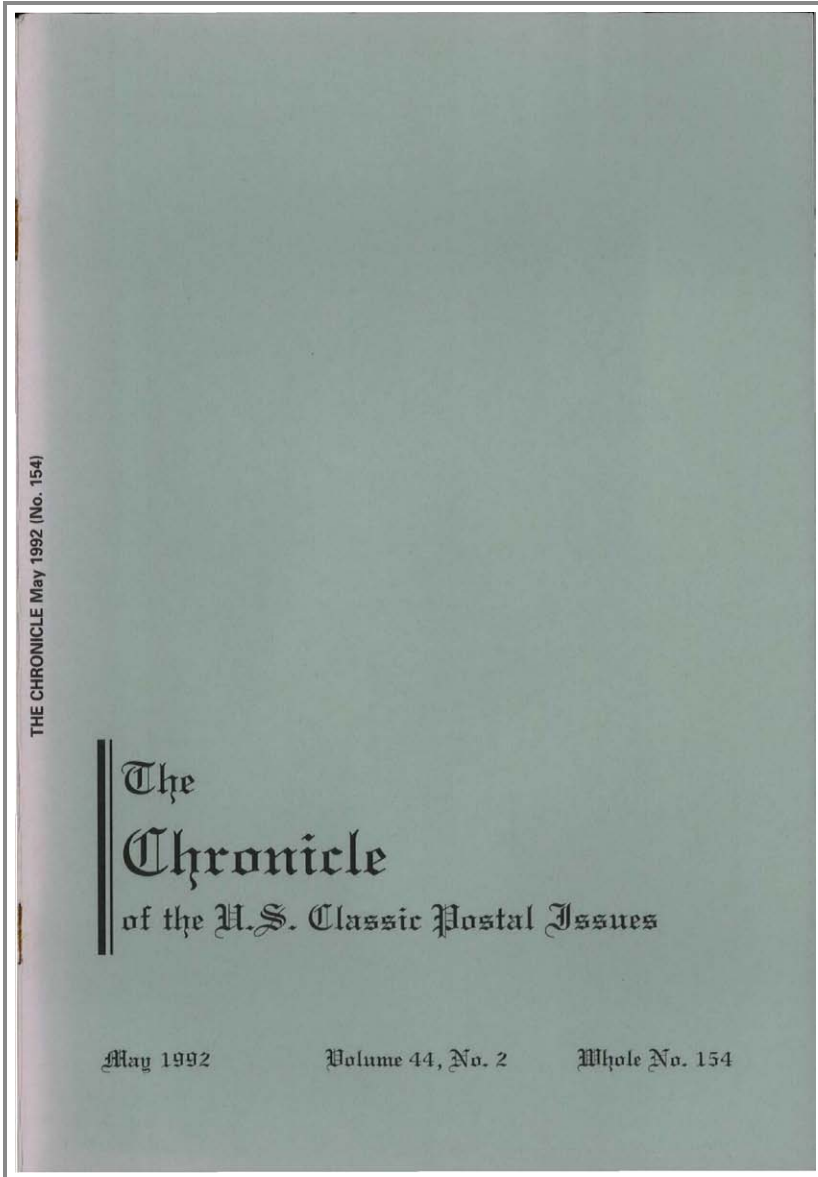


# U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

Volume: 44 Number: 2 Year: 1992 Chronicle: 154

Article: Postal Relations with New Zealand and Australia

Author(s): George B. Arfken



# Table Of Contents

items marked with \* cannot be viewed as an individual PDF document

[Click here to view the entire Volume: 44 No: 2 Chronicle: 154](#)

## Starting Page

<a href="#">Front Cover</a> (1 page)	Front Cover
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Jack E. Molesworth, Inc.	Inside Front Cover
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Richard C. Frajola Inc.	73
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: William A. Fox Auctions, Inc.	74
<a href="#">Masthead</a> (1 page)	75
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Victor B. Krievins	76
<a href="#">Table of Contents</a> (1 page)	77
In Memoriam	
<a href="#">Susan M McDonald</a> (2 pages)	78
<i>Scott Gallagher</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: U.S.P.C.S.	79
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Edward Hines	80
Prestamp and Stampless Period	
<a href="#">The "Unofficial" Registry System</a> (2 pages)	81
<i>Frank Mandel</i>	
<a href="#">The Stampless Revival of 1861</a> (2 pages)	82
<i>Frank Mandel</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Richard B. Graham	83
U.S. Carriers	
<a href="#">The One Cent Postage Stamps of the 1851-1857 Series Used for Carrier Fee Prepayment</a> (7 pages)	84
<i>Robert B. Meyersburg</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Christie's Robson Lowe, New York	91
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Ivy, Shreve & Mader Philatelic Auctions, Inc.	92
1851-61 Period	
<a href="#">The Triple Transfers of Scott No. 26a - a Discussion and Some Long Overdue Plating Diagrams</a> (11 pages)	93
<i>Jerome S. Wagshal</i>	
<a href="#">Earliest Date of Norton New York "Lazy Date" Marking</a> (1 page)	103
<i>Richard B. Graham</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Andrew Levitt	104
1851-61 Period	
<a href="#">County and Postmaster Named Postal Devices 1792-1869</a> (9 pages)	105
<i>James W. Milgram M.D.</i>	
1861-1869 Period	
<a href="#">The Soldier's Letter Marking with a Demonetized Stamp</a> (4 pages)	114
<i>Michael C. McClung</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Nancy Poli	117
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Taylor Made Company	117
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: International Stamp Auctions	117
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Robert G. Kaufmann	118
Bank Note Period	
<a href="#">Postal Relations with New Zealand and Australia</a> (4 pages)	119
<i>George B. Arfken</i>	
<a href="#">From the Editor</a> (1 page)	123
<i>Richard M. Searing</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: James E. Lee	123
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Cherrystone Stamp Center Inc.	124
Officials	
<a href="#">Fiscal History in the Classic Period</a> (8 pages)	125
<i>Mike Milam</i>	
Foreign Mails	
<a href="#">The Start of the U.S.- British Postal Convention</a> (12 pages)	133
<i>Richard F. Winter</i>	
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: U.S.P.C.S.	143

The Cover Corner

<a href="#">Additional Answers to Problem Cover in Issue 152</a> (1 page) <i>Scott Gallagher</i>	145
<a href="#">Answers to Problem Covers in Issue 153</a> (2 pages) <i>Scott Gallagher</i>	146
<a href="#">Problem Cover for This Issue</a> (1 page) <i>Scott Gallagher</i>	148
<a href="#">Answers to Puerto Rican Puzzlers in Issue 153</a> (3 pages) <i>Scott Gallagher</i>	149
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Leonard H. Hartmann	152
<a href="#">Classified Advertisement</a> (1 page)	152
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Earl P. L. Apfelbaum Inc	Inside Back Cover
<a href="#">Display Advertisement</a> (1 page) Advertiser: Raymond H. Weill Co	Back Cover

**POSTAL RELATIONS WITH NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA**  
GEORGE B. ARFKEN

This note discusses pre-UPU transpacific letter mail exchange between the United States and New Zealand and the Australian colonies. The postal relations are illustrated by an unpaid cover from New South Wales charged in accordance with an 1874 postal convention, two pre-postal convention covers from South Australia and a cover from South Australia that followed the alternate route. All four covers bear U.S. Bank Note postage dues.

**Postal Conventions with New Zealand and some Australian Colonies**

Establishing postal relations with New Zealand and the various Australian colonies for prepaid mail and prepayment to destination was a gradual affair. New Zealand, the colony nearest to the U.S. and the farthest from the United Kingdom, was the most interested. A postal convention between the U.S. and New Zealand became effective December 1, 1870. Table 1 lists this postal convention and the next four postal conventions with the Australian colonies.

**TABLE 1**  
**Postal Conventions with New Zealand and some Australian Colonies**

Colony	Effective Date
New Zealand	December 1, 1870 <sup>1</sup>
New South Wales	February 1, 1874 <sup>2</sup>
Queensland	January 1, 1876 <sup>3</sup>
Victoria	July 1, 1878 <sup>4</sup>
Tasmania	July 1, 1885 <sup>5</sup>

The Postal Convention with New Zealand established a rate of 12¢ per ½ oz. or fraction thereof on letters from the U.S. and 6 pence per ½ oz. or fraction thereof for letters from New Zealand. These rates were maintained for the various Australian colonies. A significant provision of the Convention was:

Letters fully prepaid, received in either country from the other, shall be delivered free of all charge whatsoever.

Full prepayment to destination was an important point in U.S. Postmaster General Blair's letter of 1862<sup>6</sup>. Blair's letter was a step towards the Universal Postal Union and this point of payment to destination was adopted as part of the UPU regulations. Of course, there would be some letters not fully prepaid. The Convention covered this contingency with:

Letters unpaid or prepaid less than one full rate of postage shall not be forwarded, but insufficiently paid letters on which a single rate or more has been prepaid shall be forwarded, charged with the deficient postage, to be collected and retained by the Post Office of the country of destination.

This "collected and retained by the Post Office of the country of destination" procedure greatly simplified bookkeeping. It was later adopted by the UPU. Note that the amount

1. *1870 Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 137-139. This Convention was amended, effective December 1, 1877, to eliminate a charge on delivery of newspapers, etc.

2. *1874 Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 217-219. This Convention was amended, effective July 1, 1875, to eliminate a charge on delivery of newspapers, etc.

3. *1876 Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 172-174.

4. *1878 Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 375-377.

5. *1886 Report of the Postmaster General*, pp. 838-840.

6. Norton D. York, "Postmaster General Blair's 1862 Letter, The Incentive for a Universal Postal Union," *The Congress Book 1965*, Thirty-First American Philatelic Congress, pp. 79-90.

to be collected was the amount deficient. The UPU would double the deficiency to discourage a lack of full prepayment.

An example of an unpaid letter from New South Wales is shown in Figure 1. This cover was mailed at Tewksbury, England, August 8, 1881, to Sydney (New South Wales), Australia. Postage was paid with a gray 6 pence, Scott 86. At Sydney, the cover was readdressed in magenta, marked with a 6 for 6 pence due and was forwarded *as an unpaid letter* to San Francisco. There, it was rated DUE 12. Two U.S. postage dues were affixed, a 10¢ Scott J5 and a 2¢ Scott J2. The charge was the rate from N.S.W. to the U.S., 12¢ simple deficiency. This was not UPU mail and the UPU doubling penalty was not invoked. There is a Sydney backstamp with a SP 22 1881 date. From this and the San Francisco NOV 2 date, the transit time from Sydney to San Francisco was 41 days.



**Figure 1. Paid from England to Sydney, N.S.W. Forwarded to San Francisco as an unpaid letter. Charged simple deficiency: DUE 12. This was non-UPU mail and was rated in accordance with the U.S.-N.S.W. postal convention of 1874.**

All of these postal conventions were quite comprehensive, covering points such as registration and transit rights. During this period almost all mail from New Zealand and the eastern Australian colonies to Canada and Latin America went via the U.S. Also, for New Zealand at least, most of the mail exchanged with the United Kingdom went across the U.S. transcontinental railroad. Transit rights were important.

#### **No “Paid to Destination” Conventions with South Australia and Western Australia**

South Australia and Western Australia were closer to the U.K. and farther from the U.S. than New Zealand and the eastern Australian colonies. They were less interested in the terms just described in the postal conventions of Table 1. Yet mail did pass between the U.S. and these colonies. The arrangement was that mail from the U.S. would be prepaid 5¢ per 1/2 oz. South Australia and Western Australia would charge an additional amount upon delivery. This additional amount was probably 6 pence.<sup>7</sup> Figures 2 and 3 show that letters from South Australia were prepaid 6 pence and that the U.S. charged 5¢ upon delivery. This was an example of “paid to the port of debarkation.” The U.S. 5¢ charge was the general charge the U.S. levied on mail from places (a) not in the UPU and (b) not covered by specific postal treaties or conventions such as the conventions listed in Table 1. This was the practice for handling unpaid mail from many Caribbean area countries before they joined the UPU.<sup>8</sup>

7. Two examples are known of transpacific Canadian covers in the late 1860s, prepaid to destination in Victoria, being rated MORE-TO-PAY 6d. Apparently these Canadian covers were confused with U.S. covers.

8. George B. Arfken, “The Lanman - Kemp Correspondence,” *Chronicle* 152:264-269 (Vol. 43, November 1991).



Figure 2. From South Australia, June 9, 1881. The 6d paid to the port of debarkation, San Francisco. The U.S. charge on this nontreaty mail was 5¢. Received with a 5¢ Scott J4.



Figure 3. SHIP MAIL ROOM, AU 8 87, S.A. The 6d prepayment paid to the port of debarkation. For delivery in the U.S., the U.S. charged 5¢. Two 2¢ Scott J16 and one 1¢ Scott J15 applied.

A statement of this policy of 5¢ charge on both outgoing and incoming letters appears in the January 1886 *Official Postal Guide*, p. 768:

The rates given for correspondence for New Zealand and the Australian Colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria, via San Francisco, are fixed by Postal Conventions in force between the United States and those Colonies; and prepayment in full of those rates secures the delivery of articles so prepaid, without further charge for postage.

The United States has no Postal Conventions with the other Australian Colonies. Consequently the *United States postage only* is levied on matter addressed for delivery in those Colonies (*the Australian postage* thereon being collectible of the addressees on delivery), and the same rates are required to be collected on matter received from those Colonies.

Figure 2 shows a cover posted in Adelaide, South Australia, June 9, 1881, prepaid 6 pence with three orange 2 pence, Scott 65. Arriving in San Francisco, the cover was rated due 5 CENTS. A light brown 5¢ Scott J4 was affixed at the Connecticut destination. A second cover from South Australia, August 8, 1887, appears in Figure 3. The postal arrangement was the same as for the cover in Figure 2. A blue 6 pence, Scott 80, paid to the port of debarkation. There is no San Francisco stamp but there is a CHICAGO UNPAID backstamp. The due 5 CENTS was probably applied in Chicago.

### An Alternate Route

The Australian colonies were served by mail ships from England. As the 1891 cover in Figure 4 demonstrates, via England provided an alternate route from South Australia to the U.S. This cover, a mourning cover, was clearly endorsed "Via Frisco." However, the cover was franked only with a light green 2½d, Scott 94, proper for a single rate cover to England but unacceptable for payment to the U.S. For the U.S. a minimum of 6d was required - prepaid. The cover was sent to England where it received a red LONDON MR 23 91 backstamp. The cover was stamped with British T in a hexagon for underpaid and T 50 was written in blue (partly hidden by the U.S. dues). The cover was then forwarded to the U.S. as unpaid UPU mail. The New York Foreign Exchange Office charged the cover as a double weight cover, doubled to due 20¢ by the mandatory UPU doubling penalty. Here is the UPU penalty that was not applied to the cover in Figure 1.

The transit time from South Australia to England was 37 days, to New York an additional 10 days and probably 7 days more to California. This was the alternate route. It was a reasonable alternative for South Australia to England. For South Australia to California, it was really the long way around.



**Figure 4. A mourning cover from South Australia to California. Franked with only 2½ d. Sent to England. Forwarded to the U.S. as unpaid UPU mail. Charged as a double weight letter, doubled again by UPU penalty: COLLECT POSTAGE 20 CENTS: two 10¢ Scott J19s.**

### New Zealand and the Australian Colonies Join the UPU

By 1891 almost all of the countries and colonies having organized postal systems had joined the Universal Postal Union. New Zealand and the Australian colonies were major exceptions. Admission to the UPU had been delayed for about eight years by concerns about voting rights in the UPU and about transit fees. Finally the problems were overcome. The Australian colonies collectively were granted one vote. The UPU 5¢ rate became acceptable. On October 1, 1891, New Zealand and the Australian colonies joined the UPU. Postal rates for letters to and from New Zealand and the Australian colonies dropped from 12¢ to 5¢ per ½ oz. Prepayment was optional. If the letter were fully prepaid, it was paid to destination without any further charge on delivery.