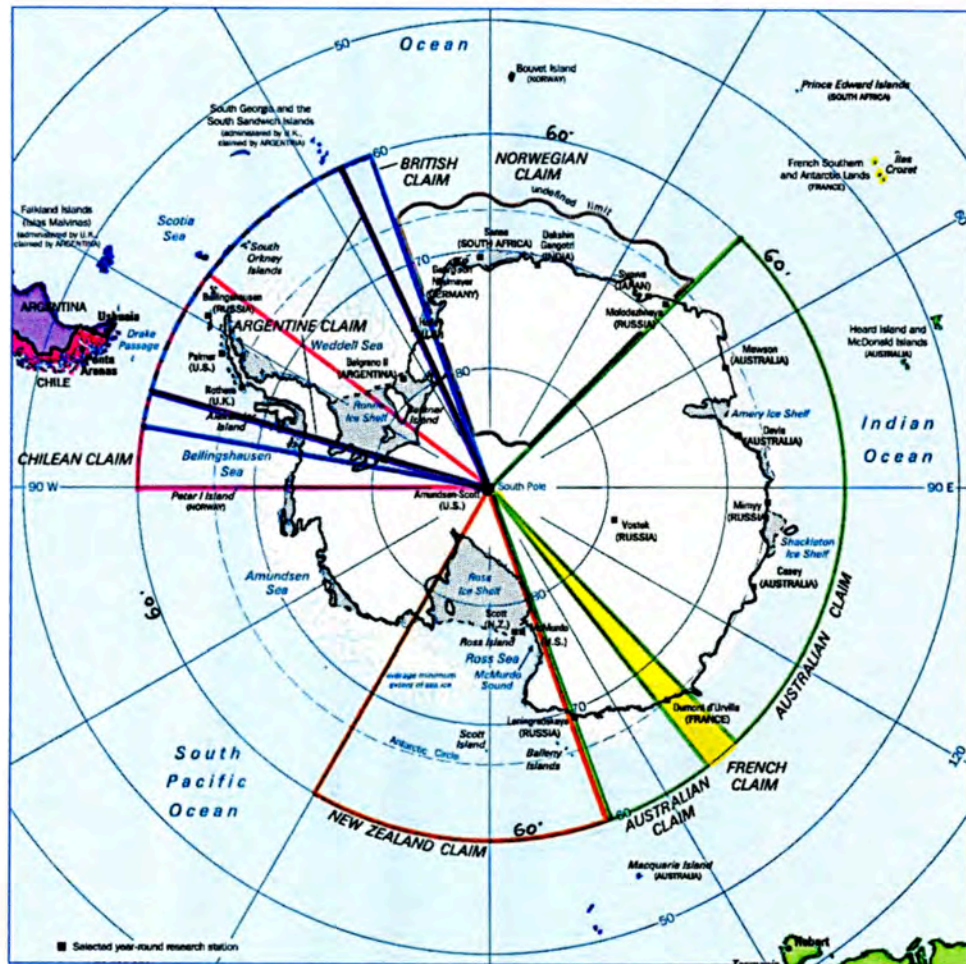


# TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN ANTARCTICA



## RÉSUMÉ

Early explorers and adventurers sailing toward Antarctica were eager to discover new lands and claim them on behalf of their sovereign. Over time and with the acquisition of new prospecting techniques, natural resources were discovered buried beneath the polar ice. The Southern Ocean is also teeming with an abundant and exceptional wildlife.

Seven countries each have claimed a sector of Antarctica; they used historical and geophysical arguments to support their demands. Other countries also showed interest in Antarctica.

Philately is one of the means used by those countries to make these claims known to the world. We will see how each argues its case through the issuance of stamps, postmarks and cachets.

The **Antarctic Treaty**, signed on December 1st 1959, and the conventions that complement it have shelved these claims. Since this date, no other country may claim a sector of this continent.

For the next 30 years, Antarctica is a land of science, friendship and peace.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### PLAN

1. Introduction
2. The reasons for these claims
3. The claims by country
  - 3.1. Chile
  - 3.2. Argentina
  - 3.3. Great Britain
  - 3.4. Australia
  - 3.5. New Zealand
  - 3.6. France
  - 3.7. Norway
4. The Antarctic Treaty System
5. Conclusion

items surrounded by a red frame  
are rare and hard to find

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The first great explorers of Antarctica were adventurers eager to discover new regions and to take possession of them in the name of their sovereign and their country.

To define the contours of the coasts, to explore the straits and the bays, to push back the borders of the unknown, such were the fixed aims.

This period constitutes the « Heroic Age » of Antarctic Exploration.

However, politicians who remained in their countries saw with interest the expansion of their territory. Later, the supposed riches, the geostrategic position of the Antarctic continent led to well-defined territorial claims.

### LET'S REMEMBER ...

- **Captain James Cook** first landed on an isolated island in the South Atlantic in 1775 and named it « South Georgia Island » after King George III.



James Cook  
British explorer  
1 of 15 stamps  
1973



his ship, the *Resolution*  
stamp issued on the occasion of the  
200th anniversary of the discovery of  
the island (1775)  
1 of 4 stamps  
1975



stamp illustrating the journey  
made by the explorer during his  
second voyage (1772-1775)  
1 of 4 stamps  
1979

## 1. INTRODUCTION

• Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen  
de Trémarec planting the  
Royal flag of France, in 1772,  
on the  
island that bears his name  
today but was formerly  
known as *France Australe*.



Note: signature of the  
French engraver, Pierre  
Béquet.

Registered letter from the  
French station *Port-aux-  
Français*, on Kerguelen  
island.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- Jules-Sébastien Dumont d'Urville claiming for France, in January 1840, a portion of the continent that he named *Terre Adélie* after the name of his wife Adèle



Jules-Sébastien  
Dumont d'Urville



Adèle Dumont d'Urville



detail of the stamp issued for the 150th  
anniversary of the discovery of *Terre  
Adélie*



the sailors of the *Astrolabe* hoist the new  
French flag of 1794



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- **Roald Amundsen**, the first man to reach the South Pole and plant the Norwegian flag on December 14, 1911. A tent is erected and named *Poleheim* (Home on the Pole).



- **Robert Falcon Scott**, a British explorer who led two expeditions to Antarctica. A group of five people including Scott trying to reach the South Pole but weakened by the cold and lack of food, the men will die on their way home. Eight months later, a rescue team, including Charles 'Silas' Wright, will find Scott and two of his companions.

When, in 1972, the British Post issued a series of stamps honoring the explorers, Charles S. Wright signed a few covers.

This is an important memento of the history of Antarctica.





## 2. THE REASONS FOR THESE CLAIMS

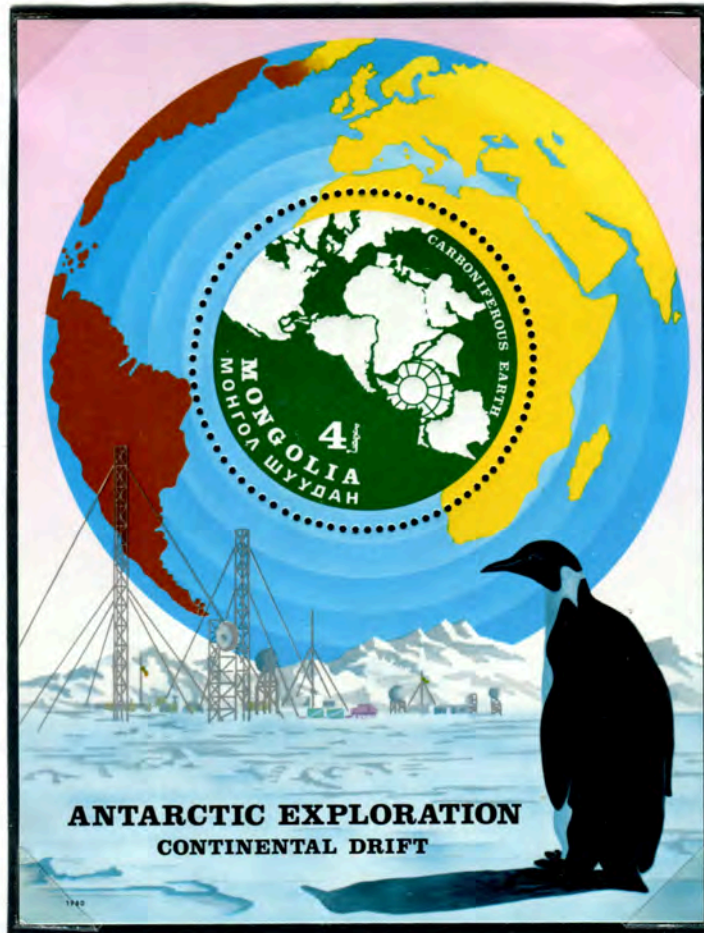
Why these claims? On what grounds are these claims justified?

What role does philately play?

The arguments used are of different natures:

- historical
- geographical
- economic
- strategic

The explorers who went to Antarctica were accompanied by a team of scientists: biologists, cartographers, geologists, physicists ... They made important discoveries : this continent contains minerals that have a great economic value such as copper, iron, coal, manganese etc ...



To understand well, we must refer 200 million years ago when Antarctica was part of a « supercontinent » in the southern hemisphere, the *Gondwana*. Under the effect of intense volcanic activity, it was fragmented and gave several continents and countries that migrate to their current position.

This displacement of land masses is called the "continental drift".

This theory was stated by the German geologist Alfred Wegener in 1915.



Dated postmark of 14.02.1980 for the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Stamp issued for the French, American and British sectors of Berlin.



## 2. THE REASONS FOR THESE CLAIMS

We know that the continents that come from Gondwana contain more than 60% of the world's mineral wealth.

However, based on the collected samples and minerals found on these neighboring continents, one can assume comparable wealth in Antarctica.

- Thus, we note the presence of coal mines, iron and gold in Australia



the coal industry

1947 block of stamps with gutter highlighting  
the importance of the iron industry →



Cover with stamps of the 100th anniversary of the discovery of gold in Australia by Edward Hargraves



## 2. THE REASONS FOR THESE CLAIMS



zinc and uranium mines in Namibia



diamonds from South Africa



gold from South America

- Engineer Julius Popper finds and operates gold mines in Tierra del Fuego. This Romanian tycoon issues his own currency and a stamp used for mail from gold sites to Punta Arenas.



original print of 1891  
irregular perforations



reprint : date unknown  
transparent paper



reprint : date unknown  
perforations : 11½

Semi-official stamp « Oro » of Tierra del Fuego, Argentina (SG)

- On the **Antarctic continental shelf**, it is thought to find oil and natural gas.





## 2. THE REASONS FOR THESE CLAIMS

- **Wealth of the Southern Seas**

Fishing is an important resource for some countries. Unfortunately, overfishing has made some species very rare and Antarctic exploration began in the 19th century with the search for new hunting and fishing grounds. Even today, whales and some species of fish and shellfish are abundantly fished and hunted.



whaling



krill, the new « pink gold »



Cover of 30.05.82 celebrating the 20th anniversary of the factory ship « *Sovietskaya Ukraina* ».

The postmark is that of the port of registry of all the flotilla in Odessa.

The stamp is issued on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty.

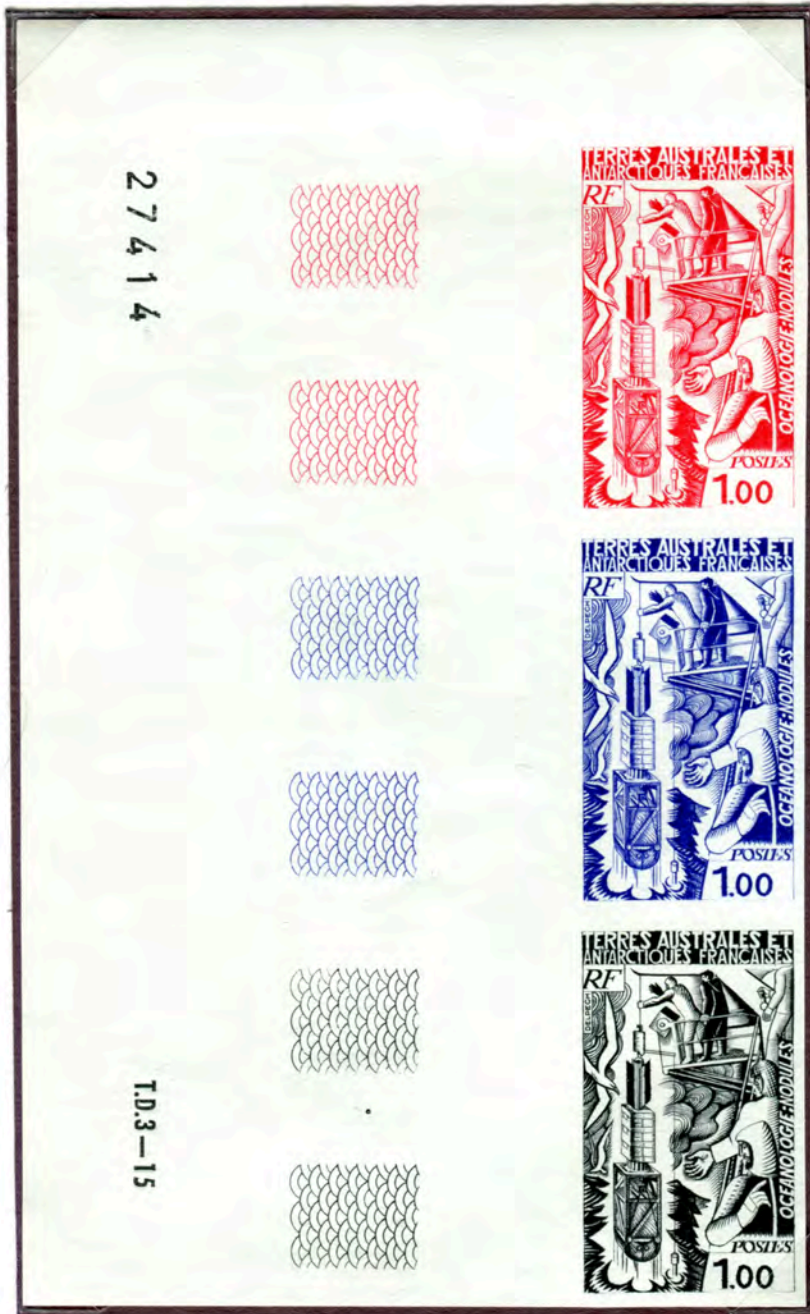


## 2. THE REASONS FOR THESE CLAIMS

- On the ocean floor and particularly in the Southern Sea, there are polymetallic nodules.

These are rounded masses formed of concentric layers of oxides of manganese, copper, nickel, cobalt and iron.

All valuable metals identified as having economic interest.



dredging operation

← color proof with guilloché  
T.D.3-15 / Taille Douce.3 colors  
press #15  
sheet #27414  
French Southern and Antarctic Lands

In 1982, the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)* made polymetallic nodules a « common heritage of humanity » and an *International Seabed Authority (ISA)* has been created in 1994 by the United Nations to arbitrate the distribution of the seabed mining royalty.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY



**Foreword :** Several claims are backed by claims made during the discovery of the Antarctic regions. However, based on a judgment already rendered by the *Permanent Court of International Justice*, in The Hague, THE CLAIM ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH, IT MUST BE SHOWN THAT THERE IS EXERCISE OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE TERRITORY CLAIMED FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME.

#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE

Arguments :

- 3.1.1. Chile has a link with Antarctica dating back to the 16th century. The Chile's claim is based on the Treaty of *Tordesillas* signed on June 7, 1494 by two emerging colonial powers, Spain and Portugal.



map on stamp showing the partition of the New World

- from the text of the Treaty of *Tordesillas*:

« ... meridianus partitionis intercastellanos and portugallenses ... »



stamp of Kyrgyzstan  
Pope Alexander VI

This treaty resolves the conflicts that followed the discovery of South America by Christopher Columbus; it traces the territorial limits of the New World granted to Spain and Portugal by Pope Alexander VI in the bull *Inter caetera*. The claimed territory includes *Terra Australis* which is the southern part of South America and *Terra Australis Ignota*, still unknown and which will become Antarctica.

The stamp *La Araucana* illustrates some stanzas of an epic poem composed in 1569 by Alonso de Ercille y Zúñiga. This set of songs refers to a region in the south as being Chilean territory.

« ... Chile ... en la región antártica famosa ... »



perf. 14



imperf.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE

3.1.2. Chile, like Argentina, refers to the proximity of Antarctica. The Andean Cordillera has been shown to continue along an underwater ridge to the Antarctic Peninsula.

We can easily think that seal hunters and whalers have landed on the continent long before foreign explorers.

3.1.3. Although the Chileans did not send explorers in the early twentieth century, **they were involved in a rescue** that remains one of the **greatest epics in Antarctic history and serves as an additional argument.**

In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton led the **British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition**. Unfortunately, his ship is crushed by ice and sinks into the Weddell Sea. The crew is rescued by the Chilean ship *Yelcho*, commanded by *Captain Luis Pardo*. Several philatelic items recall this rescue.



Map drawn by Mauricio Navarro in 2015 illustrating this proximity



Sir Ernest Shackleton



Triumphal entry of the ship *Yelcho* to Valparaiso  
Cover and stamp of Chile commemorating the 50th anniversary of the rescue  
of Ernest Shackleton's crew by Chilean Captain *Luis Pardo*



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE

On November 6, 1940, President Pedro Aguirre Cerda signed Decree 1747 establishing the *Territorio Chileno Antártico* which includes the Antarctic sector from 53 ° to 90 ° West, from the South Pole to 60 ° South.



1947 issue following Presidential Decree No. 1747 of 6-XI-1940  
showing the claimed area



detail of the stamp of 1947

From 1947, Chile will organize 3 expeditions that will be mandated to build each station in Antarctica. Under the guise of scientific research, these bases will ensure a permanent presence in Antarctica and support the territorial claims of Chile.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE

The Postal Decree # 29 of January 6, 1947 allows the opening of a post office at the Soberania-Arturo Prat station.

The postmark is a unique circle bearing the mention *Territorio Chileno Antártico* and is used at the station until the late 1950s.

date of the opening of the station and of the post office: 24 February 1947

1st known cancellation with the mention  
*Territorio Chileno Antártico*



The 2nd station, named Bernardo O'Higgins, also has a postmark from February 18, 1948, date of the opening of the post office. It's a simple circle with the mention *O'Higgins Antártica Chile*.



Letter dated February 18, 1948, day of the opening of the station *Bernardo O'Higgins*

1st known cancellation with the mention *O'Higgins Antártica Chile*



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE



Some covers of this period bear an additional stamp with the mention: *Base Militar Antartica del General O'Higgins*. At that time, the expeditions were of a political and military nature, clearly displaying the ownership of the territory.

Finally, a third station is founded in 1951; it is named after the President of the Republic, González Videla. Upon opening, it has a post office.



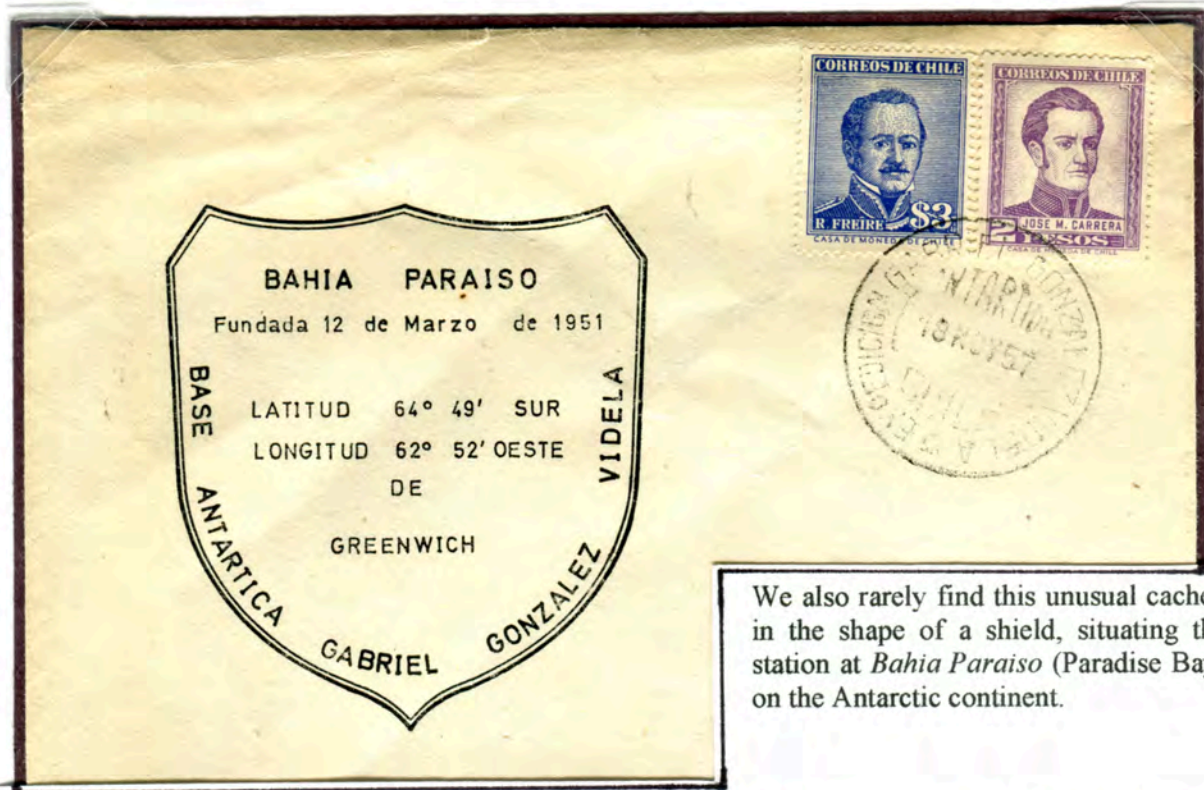
Circular postmark with inscription *Expedición Gabriel Gonzalez Videla* on the perimeter; in the center *Antártida Chile* is written

Rare postmark of this type



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE



We also rarely find this unusual cachet, in the shape of a shield, situating the station at *Bahia Paraiso* (Paradise Bay) on the Antarctic continent.

On August 28, 1958, two stamps were issued on the occasion of the International Geophysical Year (1957-1958); they illustrate a more modern map of Antarctica where the claimed area is prominently displayed.



air mail stamp  
40p  
unwmk. perf.14



regular mail  
30p  
unwmk. perf.14



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

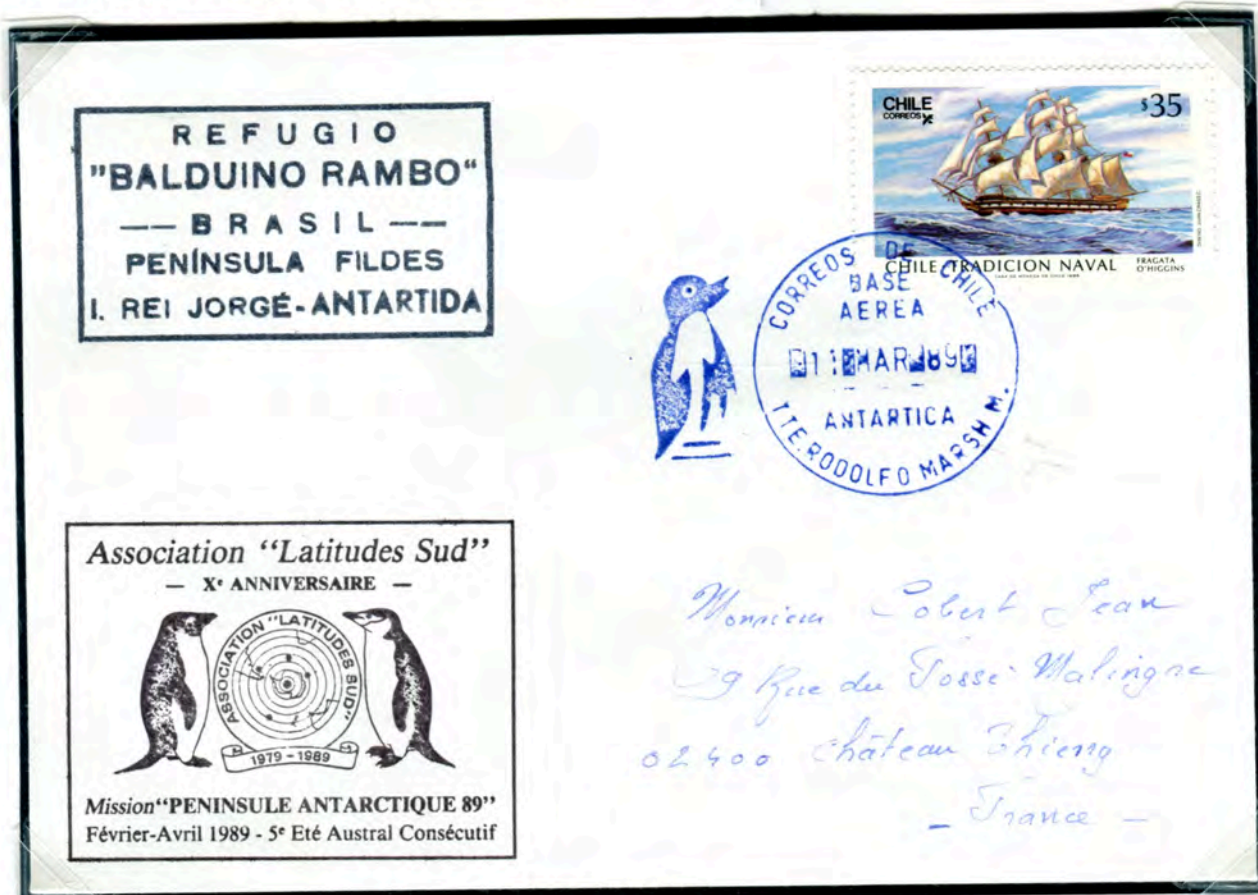
#### 3.1. CLAIM OF CHILE

In 1975, the "Chilean Antarctic Province" was created, whose capital was *Villa Las Estrellas*, a small town near *Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva* station on King George Island in the South Shetland Islands.

Postmarks from *Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva* station on a Chilean stamp and a Russian stamp with a postmark from the *Bellinghausen* station nearby.

Mid-1980 a air-base was built near the station and named *Teniente Rodolfo Marsh*. This aerodrome has its own postmark.

If we add the small « village » of *Villa Las Estrellas* built in 1884, the station *Presidente Eduardo Frei Montalva* is actually the most important base of Chile in Antarctica.



Cover with a postmark from the air-base *Teniente Rodolfo Marsh*.  
The cachet shows that the letter came from scientists working in a refuge named *Balduino Rambo*.  
It was a Brazilian Antarctic summer installation named after the botanist Father *Balduino Rambo*.







### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

Among the countries claiming a portion of Antarctica, Argentina is one of the most determined in its demands. The sector claimed, delimited by the meridians 25° and 74° West and the South Pole at the parallel 60° South, was established, on February 28th, 1957, by the decree no. 2129.



This territory includes, in addition to the sector of the Peninsula, the Shetlands Islands, the Orkney Islands, the South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia Island and the Falkland Islands.



Postmark of May 27, 1964 marking the 60th anniversary of Argentina's sovereignty in Antarctica



wmk. « RA in Sun with Broken Rays

National Territory of *Tierra del Fuego, Antártida and Islas del Atlántico Sur*.  
Following the decree no. 2129, two stamps were issued in 1964.  
These increased tensions in the region.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

The claim is supported by numerous and precise arguments. Here too, philately is used to reflect this demand.

3.2.1. Like Chile, the historical legacy serves as an argument with the *Treaty of Tordesillas* in 1494.

3.2.2. The **geographical situation** with the geological continuity of the Andean Cordillera to the Antarctic Peninsula brings a second argument.

3.2.3. Historical research has identified the **presence of Argentine seal hunters** since the beginning of the 19th century in this region of Antarctica.

3.2.4. The **help given to foreign explorers and the rescue** of certain crews by the Argentinean Armada highlights the presence of this one in the Austral Sea in the 19th century.

• We can mention the help given to the Swedish group of Professor *Otto Nordenskjöld*, who was rescued in 1903 by Commander *Julian Irizar* aboard A.R.A. Uruguay. Their ship, The Antarctic, had been crushed by the ice.



machine cancellation 6.10.1967 recalling this event



souvenir sheet issued in 2003  
for the 100th anniversary of the rescue by the Argentine Commander *Irizar*



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

•• It is the help given to the Scottish explorer William Speirs Bruce, in 1902, which will serve as the main argument in the Argentineans' claim to the South Orkneys.

W. S. Bruce undertakes the *Scottish National Antarctic Expedition*. It is essentially Scottish: the ship named *Scotia* has on board Scottish seasoned navigators. He travels to Laurie Island in the South Orkneys and builds a base at Omond House, where he sets up a weather and magnetic station.



William Speirs Bruce



his ship: the S.Y. Scotia



Omond House  
1st post office in Antarctica

Bruce travels to Buenos Aires and negotiates an agreement with the Argentine government to keep the station open after he leaves. Considering the disinterest of the Foreign Office for the place, the station, renamed *Orcadas* thus becomes a permanent base under Argentine control and is, currently, the **oldest meteorological station still in service in Antarctica**.

In this agreement, three Argentinian scientists join the team. One of these people is named *Hugo A. Acuña*; he carries with him a cancelling machine.



**HUGO A. ACUÑA**  
**FIRST POST MASTER IN ANTARCTIC**



special cancellation of August 16, 1981  
honoring *Hugo A. Acuña* during the Argentine  
Philatelic Congress in Bahia Blanca

Although the weather station remained in operation, it was not until February 2, 1942, for the official opening of the *Islas Orcadas del Sud* post office.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

Subsequently, several postmarks and stamps will celebrate the 10th, 20th ... 100th anniversaries of taking possession of the *Orcadas* station.



postmark of 22 February 2004; cachet of the 100th anniversary of the occupation of the *Observatorio Meteorológico y Magnético de las Islas Orcadas del Sur*

The main argument of this whole claim is this continuous presence for more than 100 years in Antarctic  
« *Iniciación of the continuous presence of Argentina in the Antártida* »: cancel No.7





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA



postmark of the day of the opening of the post office  
of Orcadas station on February 2, 1942; cachet No.1 of the station

cachet of the 50th anniversary of the first mail to Orcadas station in 1952





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

... On March 9 1951, the base *General San Martin* is opened; it follows the decree (1951) creating the *Instituto Antartico Argentino*. Several other stations and refuges will be built later and will welcome many researchers.



postmark dated March 9 1951, date of the opening of the « General San Martin Station »



cover and postmark issued for the opening of the « Base ejercito General Belgrano »  
February 22, 1969



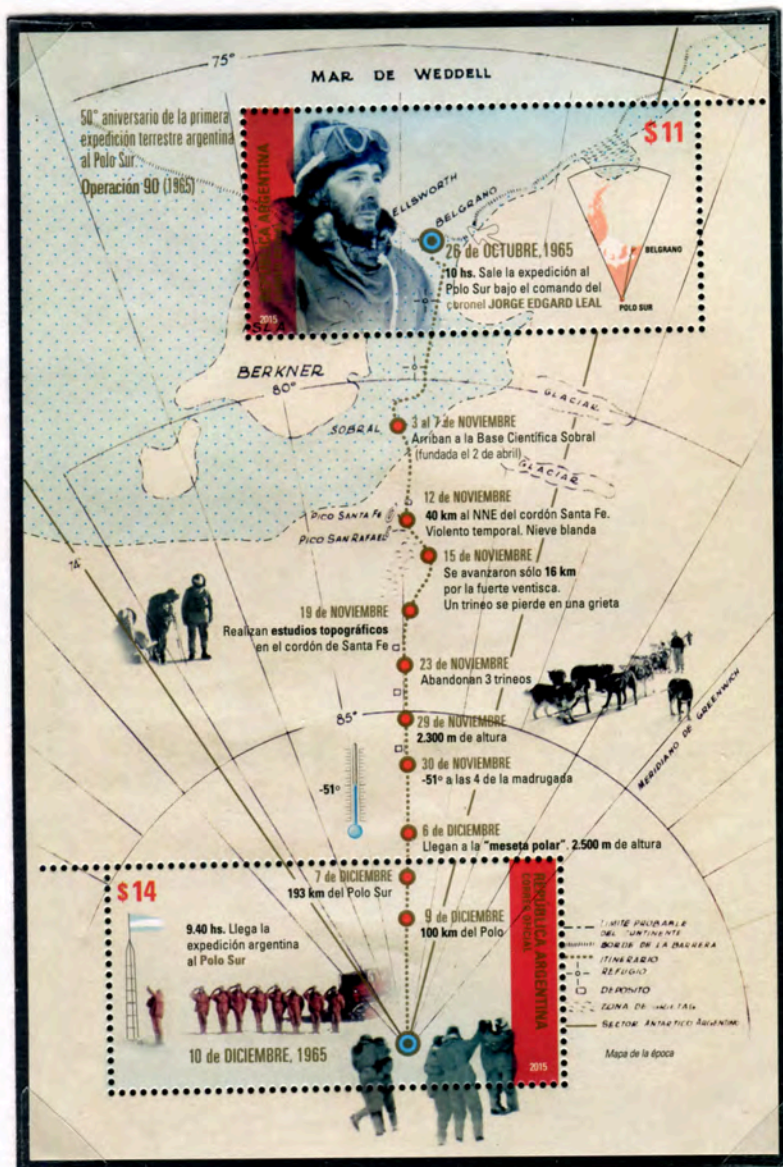
### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

••• In 1965, another intervention made it possible to display this territorial claim: *Operación 90 °*.

The main purpose is to assert the ownership of the Argentine territory to the South Pole, i.e. 90 degrees South. This introduces the notion of sector.

This land expedition to the South Pole is composed of 10 soldiers under the leadership of Colonel *Jorge E. Leal*.



- souvenir-sheet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the expedition to the South Pole



- stamp issued for this occasion



- special cancellation for *Operación 90 °*; the 10th DIC 1965 corresponds to the date when the members of the expedition arrived at the South Pole.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

#### VARIATIONS OF A 1936 STAMP USED FOR THE ANTARCTIC LAND CLAIM « Map of South America »

The design of the stamp « Map of South America » was used from 1936 to 1951 with **many variations** : additions/withdrawals to the design, color, different gums, error : *impression on gum side* used as regular and official stamps, perfins.

First issue in 1936  
map with border lines  
wmk RA in Sun



1937, the map's  
border lines are erased  
wmk RA in Sun



In 1951, Argentina reaffirms its claim and modifies this 1 peso stamp; the map is shrunken and the Antarctic claim is added.



1942  
map without borders  
wmk RA in Sun  
straight rays



1945  
map without borders  
unwmk



1951  
small map with  
Antarctica claim  
wmk RA in Sun



1951  
variety very light blue  
wmk Small Sun



1940  
Official Stamp  
ovpt **SERVICIO OFICIAL**  
wmk RA in Sun



1951  
**impression on gum side**  
wmk RA in Sun  
**VERY RARE**  
1 sheet



Stamp of 1936  
Perfin **NBI**  
*Nuovo Banco Italiano*  
(1920-1967)



Stamp of 1937  
Perfin **FNB**  
*First National Bank*  
*of Boston*  
(1920-1978)



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.2. CLAIM OF ARGENTINA

From 1947 to the present day, Argentina uses every opportunity to issue stamps that emphasize the claim to the national territory of *Tierra del Fuego, Antártida e Islas del Antártico Sur*.



1948



1954



1968



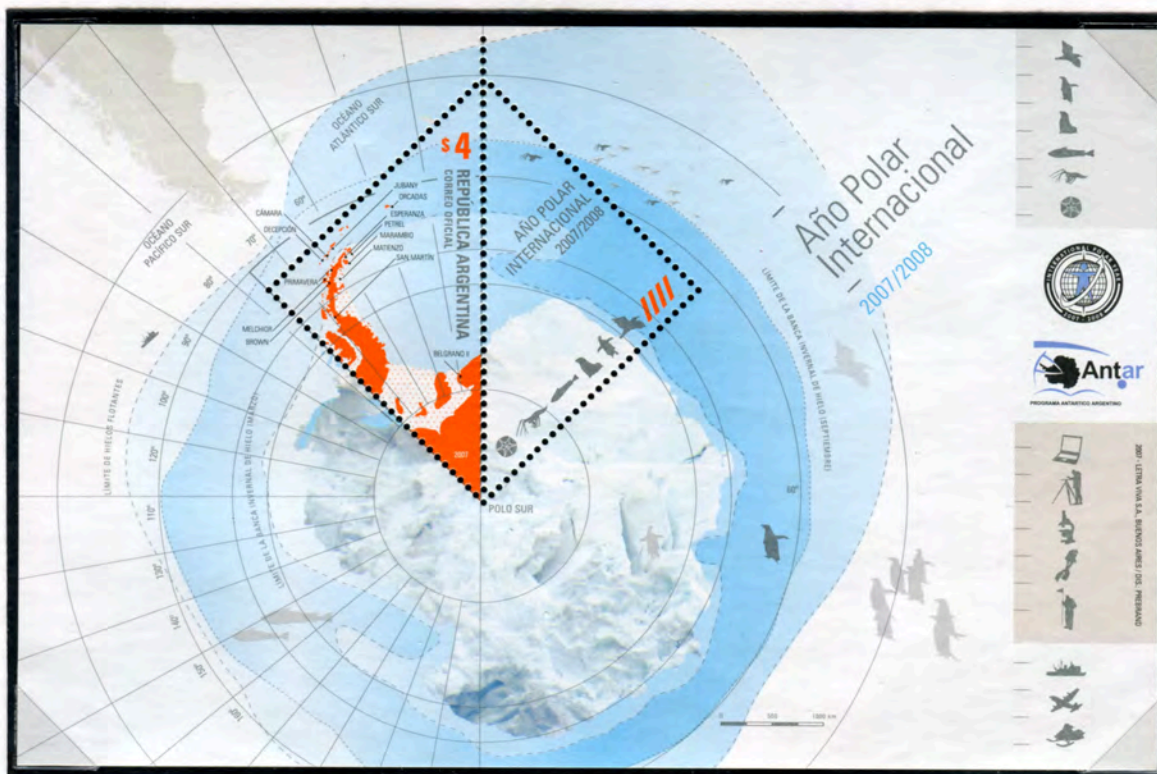
1966



1981



2003



souvenir sheet issued for the International Polar Year 2007-2008



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- Great Britain's presence in the South Seas also goes back a long way. Captain **James Cook** first landed on an isolated island in the South Atlantic in 1775 and named it « South Georgia Island » after King George III.



- The Antarctic Peninsula was discovered by **Edward Bransfield** in 1820 but **John Biscoe** officially took possession of it on behalf of His Majesty William IV in 1832 and named it Graham Land named after the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir James R.G. Graham.

John Biscoe

- Around the middle of the 19th century, there is a decline in activity in Antarctica. We have to wait for the return of the *H.M.S. Challenger* and the end of the International Geophysical Year of 1883 for the interest of learned societies and explorers to resume for Antarctica.

The expedition of *H.M.S. Challenger* (1872-1876), under the tutelage of the *Royal Society of London*, is the starting point for a series of expeditions; this expedition is considered « *the greatest advance in the knowledge of our planet since the famous discoveries of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries* ». (Sir John Murray, an expedition scientist and report writer)



portion of a numbered souvenir sheet dated 23.8.78 - French Southern and Antarctic Lands  
stamps showing *H.M.S. Challenger* T.D.3-9 Taille Douce (recess printing). 3 colors – press #9



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

... From 1902 to 1904, **Robert Falcon Scott** began the *Discovery Expedition* and made numerous explorations in the Ross Shelf area and took possession of the land on the name of **King Edward VII**.



Robert Falcon Scott  
his ship, the Discovery



members of the expedition



Hut Point  
the base camp on Ross Island

In 1910, during his second expedition to the South Pole, R. F. Scott brought with him 100 sheets of 240 stamps from New Zealand with a « **Victoria Land** » overprint.  
Before leaving, Scott had been sworn in as postmaster of Victoria Land.

date of issue: January 14, 1910  
perforation: 14 x 14½  
no watermark



rare variety  
dot [.] is replaced  
by a comma [,]



rare variety – 1 sheet  
badly overprinted



This territory was discovered by Captain James Clark Ross  
in January 1841 and named in honor of **Queen Victoria**.



A team headed by R. F. Scott  
reached the South Pole to realize  
that Roald Amundsen had  
preceded them.



Depressed, hungry, frostbitten, the men will die on their way  
home.

stamps with postmark  
of the expedition  
**BRIT ANTARCTIC EXPD**  
**JA 18**  
**1913**





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

.... During his *British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909*, Ernest Shackleton was sworn in as postmaster and also carried 100 sheets of 240 New Zealand stamps with overprint « *King Edward VII Land* ».



issued : January 15 1908  
perf. 14 no wmk.



← perf. 14½ no wmk.

First printed 4d - Ovpt 5d due to an increase of rate on Oct 1st 1959 - Issued Dec 16 1959

Re-issued July 5 1961 which value it replaced



During this same expedition, E. David, A. Mackay and D. Mawson reached the South Magnetic Pole; they plant the flag of the *Union Jack* and take possession of this territory in the name of the British Empire and salute His Majesty King Edward VII.

← variety « weak entry » (on the left of each stamp)

On July 21, 1908, British Letters Patent consolidate the claims of Great Britain by establishing the *Falkland Islands Dependencies* then including « ... *South Georgia, South Orkneys, South Shetlands and the Sandwich Islands and the land known as Graham's Land...* ». The claimed territory extends from 20° to 80 ° West and south of parallel 50 ° South.

In 1917, the Letters Patent were amended to introduce the notion of « sector » i.e. the British territory then extends to the South Pole.



In 2008, a series of stamps was issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the signing of this document.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- In 1943, in the middle of the Second World War, Britain set up a secret expedition code named **Operation Tabarin**.

The strategic goals are:

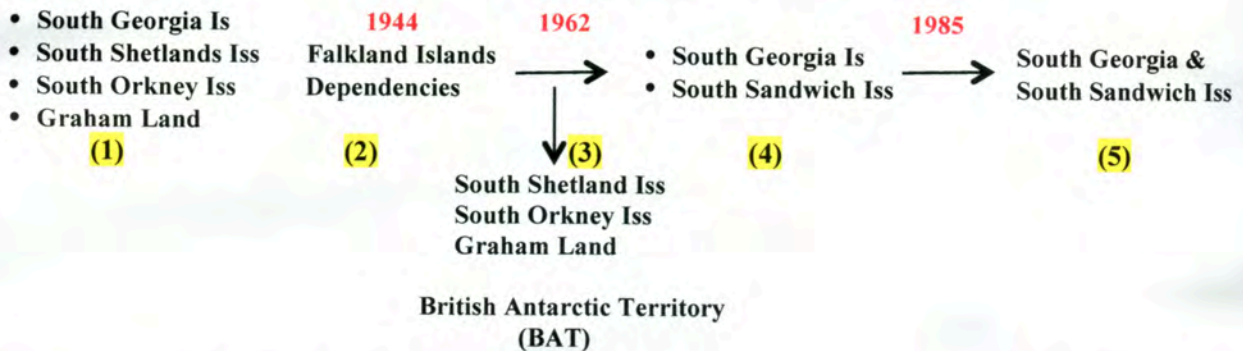
- **assert its territorial claims in Antarctica especially against Argentina and Chile** which deploy a great activity in this region of the globe
- occupy former whaling stations to prevent German vessels and submarines from gaining footholds in Antarctica
- do scientific research



Lieutenant James Marr  
head of the expedition

On this occasion, the British set up three bases from former whaling factories: Port-Lockroy (Station A), Deception (Station B), Hope Bay (Station D).

#### Political and Philatelic Organization of the British Antarctic Islands following the *Antarctic Treaty* in 1961



- (1) Until 1944, the stamps used in all British stations in Antarctica are those of the Falkland Islands. Examples using the letters posted at South Georgia



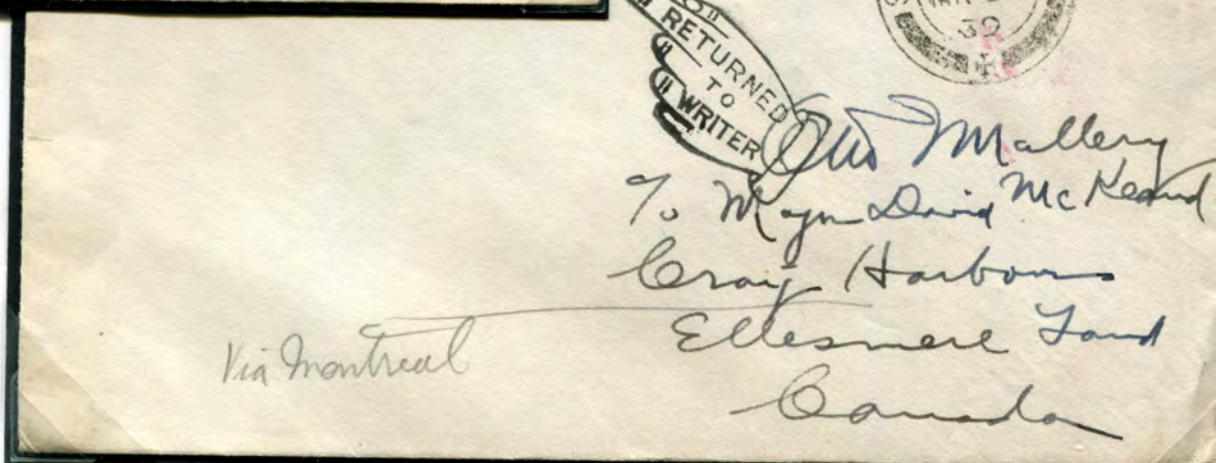
- from South Georgia to GB
- postmark **SG 1a** – 25.5 mm (1910-1938)
- 18 November 1935





- from South Georgia to GB
- postmark **SG 1b** – 25.5 mm (1910-1938)
- 18 November 1937
- ←
- from South Georgia to Ellesmere Land, Canada via Montréal
- postmark **SG 3** – 27.3 mm (1928 -1944)
- bars slightly thicker ↓
- 28 March 39

♦ the classification of the postmarks is that of J.H. Youle in his book: «Postmarks and Cachets of the British Antarctic Bases and South Georgia »



South Georgia to Stanley, Falk. Iss  
mark **SG 2** – 25.9 mm (1914-1979)  
1937 • FDC Coronation

- from South Georgia to GB
- postmark **SG 4** – 26.9 mm (1933-1943)
- time of posting included
- 10 July 1935



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- (2) On February 12, 1944, in order to affirm the British control over the Falkland Islands Dependencies, 8 stamps of the 1938-46 series are issued with a **red overprint** for each of the 4 territories.

The stamps used are : ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 1s.

The 4 series have the same watermark « *Multiple Crown Script* CA », perf. 12.



Graham Land: **GRAHAM LAND DEPENDENCY OF**  
Registered letter sent from *Port Lockroy station* (Station A), Graham Land  
Postmark A1<sup>2</sup> dated December 9, 1944



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

South Shetlands : **SOUTH SHETLANDS DEPENDENCY OF**



Letter sent from the whaling station *Port Foster*, Deception Island.

Postmark type A1 dated December 6, 1944



H.E. Filmer Esq.  
C/o Crown Agents for the  
4 Millbank,  
Westminster

South Orkneys : **SOUTH ORKNEYS DEPENDENCY OF**

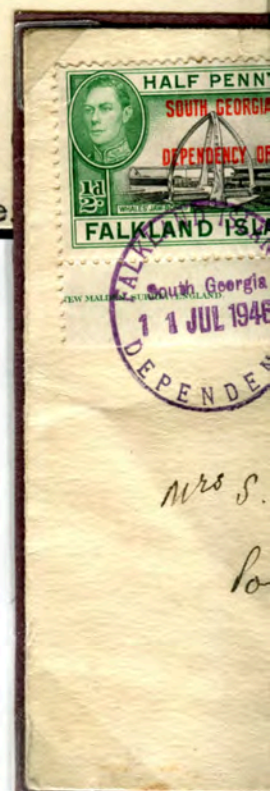


Letter sent from *Laurie Island station* or *S.S. Fitzroy*  
Postmark type A1 dated February 12, 1945

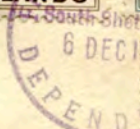
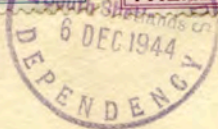
South Georgia : **SOUTH GEORGIA DEPENDENCY OF**



Letter sent from *Grytviken whaling station*  
Postmark type A1 dated July 11, 1946

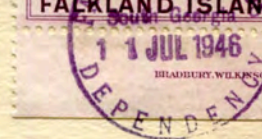
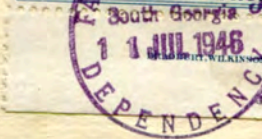
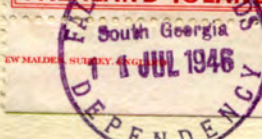
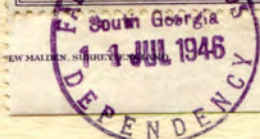
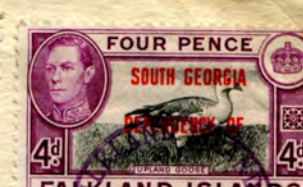
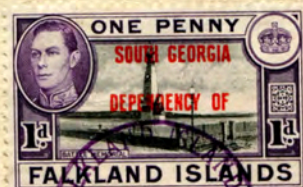




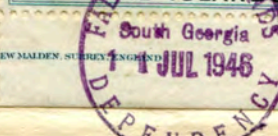


To  
Mr E W Incestron.

Stanley  
Falkland Islands.  
S. A.



Mrs S. Hooley -  
Port Stanley





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- In 1946, the Falkland Islands Dependencies issued their first stamps; it is an important series of 8 stamps representing a geographical map where the **claimed territories are well identified**; for use at the different stations.

The values are : ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 1s.

The paper used is **thin** and the map in the center of the stamp is lithographed; the **meridians have thick features**; watermark « *Multiple Crown Script CA (sideways)* »; perf. 12.

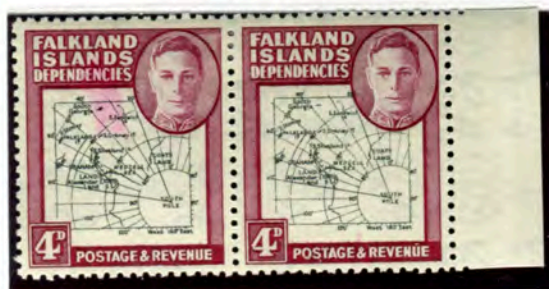


A **constant variety** with a gap in the 80th parallel occurs six times in each sheet; this « *discontinuous or broken arc* » is always at the same position on the stamp sheet for the values of 1d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 9p, 1s.



*broken arc variety*

Occasional varieties ...



*enlarged South Georgia*  
normal variety



*South Pole*  
variety

- In 1948, the series is issued again but this time on **thicker paper**; the meridians have a **finer and sharper layout**. Same watermark and perforation. Fewer varieties.



Constant variety on all values : *dot on T of South*



1949 issue : 2½d - no dot on T



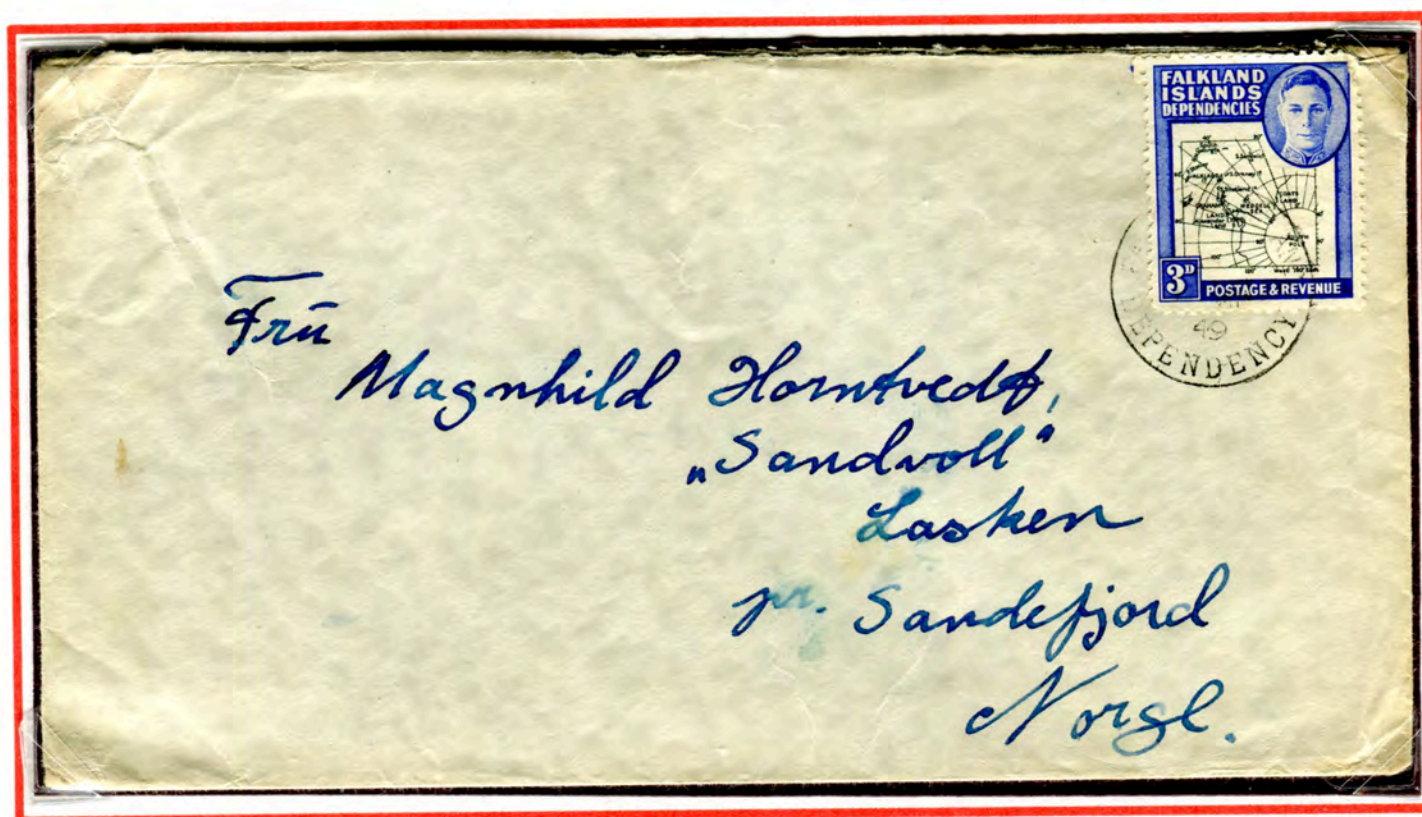
### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

Whaling stations are established by Norwegian whaling companies on South Georgia Island.

**Leith Harbor** is the largest of these and is located at the entrance to Stromness Bay.

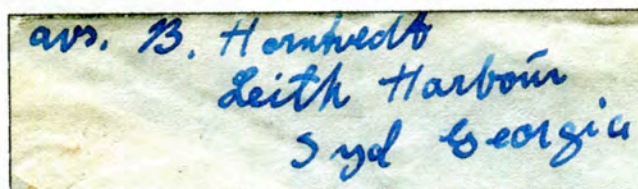
It operated from 1904 to 1965.



A rare cover sent by a whaler working at the Leith Harbor whaling station to his family in Sandefjord, Norway.

Mailed at the *Grytviken* / King Edward Point Post Office (Station M) in 1949.

The stamp and postmark are from the Falkland Islands Dependencies.



back



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

The issuance of these stamps in 1946 increases the tension between Britain, Argentina and Chile.

The following year, in 1947, Argentina and Chile each issued a series of stamps in response to this claim.

#### ARGENTINA

1947



5c – perf. 13 x 13½ - unwmk

1947



20c - perf. 13 x 13½ - unwmk

1947



5c – imperf. - unwmk

1947



20c – perf. 13 x 13½  
wmk : RA in Sun with broken  
lines



1947



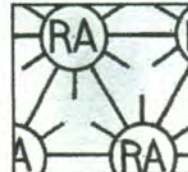
20c – imperf.  
wmk : RA in Sun with broken  
lines



1949



20c – perf. 13 x 13½  
wmk : RA in Sun with straight  
lines





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

##### CHILE



The response to this claim by Chile.

The two stamps show the sector that they consider to belong to them.

The dated postmark on this registered letter shows clearly :

**TERRITORIO  
ANTARCTICO  
CHILENO**

The same cancellation will be used for the opening of the first station called Soberania which means « Sovereignty » on February 6 1948.

The station will be renamed later *Arturo Prat*.





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

During the 1944 to 1962 period, the postmarks will be those of the Falkland Islands Dependencies with the name of the territory and the date in the center of a circle.



Port Lockroy's postmark (Station A). **Graham Land**. April 6 1947



postmark « Falkland Islands Dependency **South Georgia** ». December 2 1954



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

(3). The **Antarctic Treaty** was opened for signature on December 1, 1959, and officially entered into force on June 23, 1961 (cf. **Chapter 4**)

- The **Antarctic Treaty** and related agreements, collectively known as the **Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)**, regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica
- For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude

Following the Antarctic Treaty, the British Parliament issued an Order in Council in 1962, causing several geopolitical changes.

Britain will continue to claim territories north of 60° South, while all territories south of 60° South, the Shetlands and South Orkneys Islands and Graham Land will unite to form the **British Antarctic Territory (BAT)** while the territory north of 60 ° South, namely the South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, will constitute the Falkland Islands Dependencies.

Philately will follow these territorial modifications.

The cancellations will be those of the stations located on the *territory claimed under the name of British Antarctic Territory*.

In the South Shetlands Islands, it will be the postmark of *Deception Island Station*.  
February 10 1967





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

In the South Orkneys Islands, it will be the postmark of *Signy Island Station* (Station H).  
February 1st 1971.



- postmark of the last day of the Faraday station (Galindez Island, Graham Land) of the British Antarctic Territory when the base was transferred to Ukraine on 31 January 1996.
- postmark of the first day of the new Akademik Vernadsky station on the occasion of the first Ukrainian expedition.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- (3).** The first stamps of the **British Antarctic Territory** (BAT) [South Shetlands, South Orkney Islands and Graham's Land] are issued on **February 1, 1963.**

15 values :  $\frac{1}{2}d$ ,  $1\frac{1}{2}d$ ,  $2d$ ,  $2\frac{1}{2}d$ ,  $3d$ ,  $4d$ ,  $6d$ ,  $9d$ ,  $1s$ ,  $2s$ ,  $2s6d$ ,  $5s$ ,  $10s$ ,  $\pounds 1$ .

- Cover from Halley Bay, Coats Land (Base Z) to GB
- January 30 1964



Multiple St. Edward's  
Crown Block CA



Halley Bay  
75° 31'S 26° 36'W  
30 JAN 1964

H.B. Rogers  
97, Portland Road,  
Bromley,  
Kent.



(4). The territory north of 60° South, namely the South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands, will constitute the *Falkland Islands Dependencies*.

- South Georgia Islands will issue its first stamps *South Georgia* in 1963. A superb series of 16 stamps.

First stamps of 1963\* – wmk upright – perforation 15 – ordinary paper

½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5½d, 6d, 9d, 1s, 2s, 2s6d, 5s, 10s, 1£

Variations **only** on ½d in 1967 and 1970.



\*series of 1963  
wmk upright  
perf. 15



issue of 1967  
wmk upright  
perf. 14 x 15



issue of 1970  
wmk sideways  
glazed paper

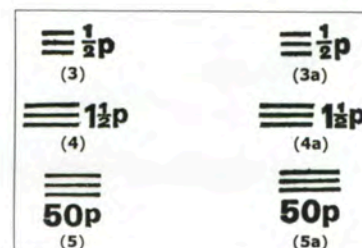


\* series of 1963  
wmk upright  
ordinary paper



new issue of 1969  
wmk upright  
glazed paper

- Due to the change to the *decimal* currency, these stamps will be issued again **with an overprint** from 1971 to 1977.
- **Many variations**: type of paper and overprint, watermark upright / sideways





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- stamps of 1971 to 1976 with surcharge types as 3/4 – wmk upright – perf. 15 -  
ordinary paper on 2p, 2½p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7½p, 10p, 15p, 25p : same as the stamps issued in 1963
- ½p, 1p, 1½p, , 50p : variations as showned



1971 ½p on ½d  
ovpt type 3 - *thick line*  
wmk upright



1972 ½p on ½d  
ovpt type 3a – *thin line*  
wmk upright



1973 ½p on ½d  
ovpt type 3a – *thin line*  
wmk sideways



1971 1p on 1d  
ovpt type 3 - *thick line*  
wmk upright  
ordinary paper



1972 1p on 1d  
ovpt type 3 - *thick line*  
wmk upright  
glazed paper



1976 1p on 1d  
ovpt type 3 - *thick line*  
wmk sideways  
ordinary paper



1971 1½p on 5½d  
ovpt type 4 – *thin line*  
wmk upright  
ordinary paper



1973 1½p on 5½d  
ovpt type 4a – *thick line*  
wmk upright  
glazed paper



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN



1971 50p on 10s  
ovpt type 5 – thin line  
wmk upright  
ordinary paper  
magenta



1972 50p on 10s  
ovpt type 5a – thick line  
wmk upright  
glazed paper  
pale magenta



1976 50p on 10s  
ovpt type 5a – thick line  
wmk sideways  
glazed paper  
magenta

- stamps of 1977-1978 with surcharge types as 3/4 – perf. 15  
glazed paper
- ½p, 1p, 1½p, 2½p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 7½p, 10p, 15p, 25p, 50p
- many variations



Multiple Crown  
CA Diagonal



REGULAR TYPE  
1977 ½p p on ½d  
wmk sideways  
ovpt 3a



1977 1p p on 1d  
wmk inverted  
ovpt 3a



1977 1p p on 1d  
wmk upright  
ovpt 3a



1977 1½p p on 5½d  
wmk sideways  
ovpt 5



1977 5p on 6d  
wmk inverted  
ovpt 5



1977 10p on 2s  
wmk sideways  
ovpt 3a



1978 10p on 2s  
wmk inverted  
ovpt 3a



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN



1977 15p on 2s6d  
wmk sideways



1978 15p on 2s6d  
wmk inverted



1977 25p on 5s  
wmk sideways



1978 25p on 5s  
wmk inverted



1978 50p on 10s  
wmk upright  
pale magenta  
ovpt 5a



1978 50p on 10s  
wmk upright  
magenta  
ovpt 5a



1979 50p on 10s  
wmk upright  
lilac rose  
ovpt 5a

- From 5 May 1980 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands used stamps inscribed *Falkland Islands Dependencies*
  - o The first series of 15 stamps was issued May 5 1980. wmk 14
  - o This series includes : 1p, 2p, 3p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 7p, 8p, 9p, 10p, 20p, 25p, 50p, £1, £3.
- On 3 May 1984, 13 stamps of the first series will be printed with an imprint date « 1984 » at foot. wmk 14
- On 18 November 1985, 5 stamps will be re-printed with an imprint date « 1985 » at foot. wmk 16



1980  
wmk 14 sideways  
without imprint date



1984  
wmk 14 sideways  
with imprint date



1985  
wmk 16 sideways  
with imprint date



Multiple  
Crown CA  
Diagonal  
14



Multiple  
Crown  
Script CA  
Diagonal  
16



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

Although South Georgia issued its first stamps in 1963, the postmark is a simple circle that bears the name of the Falkland Islands Dependency on the perimeter with South Georgia and the date inscribed in the center.

From 1963 to 1985, we will have this type of cancellation with some variations according to the canceller used.

- from South Georgia to Paris, France
- 18 December 1975
- stamp of 1971 with ovpt 5p on 6d, decimal currency, on ordinary paper
- postmark SG-8  
- 54 reported between 1948 and 1976
- from South Georgia to Leopoldsburg, Belgium
- 28 January 1980
- stamp of 1971 with ovpt 6p on 9d, decimal currency, on ordinary paper
- postmark SG-17 with cachet SG-CH6  
- 48 reported between 1979 and 1982



Almost all cancellers and cachets on South Georgia Island on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1982 were disposed of in the sea prior to the *Argentinean invasion*. They have never been recovered.

**Canceller SG-17** was not on the island when the invasion occurred but had been returned to Stanley, Falkland Islands.



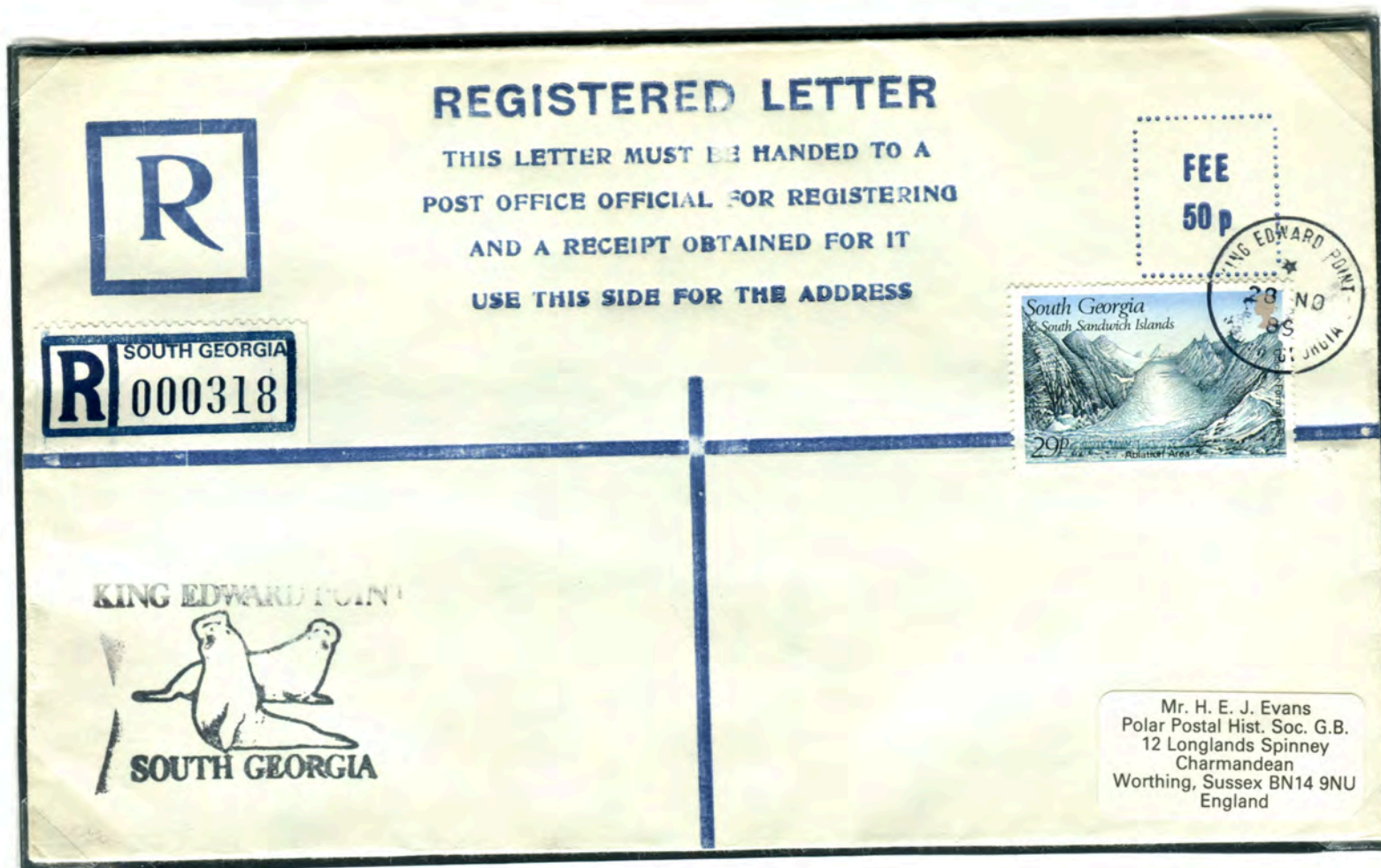
### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

- On October 3, 1985, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands became independent colonies under the name *British Overseas Territory of South Georgia and South Sandwich* (5).
- The first stamps were issued on April 21, 1986 on the occasion of the 60th birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- It is a set of 5 stamps : 10p, 24p, 29p, 45p, 58p.
- The postmark used from this date is a simple circle marked South Georgia with the name of the station.



- Official registered 50p envelope with 29p affixed to cover air mail rate to UK, cancelled by *King Edward Point South Georgia 28 NO 88* postmark.
- In addition there is a standard blue registration label and a black « *King Edward Point* » cachet SG-CH8A
- 2862 of these registered envelopes were produced by the Government Printing Office, Port Stanley





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

##### 2012 : A NEW CLAIM FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM, *QUEEN ELIZABETH LAND*

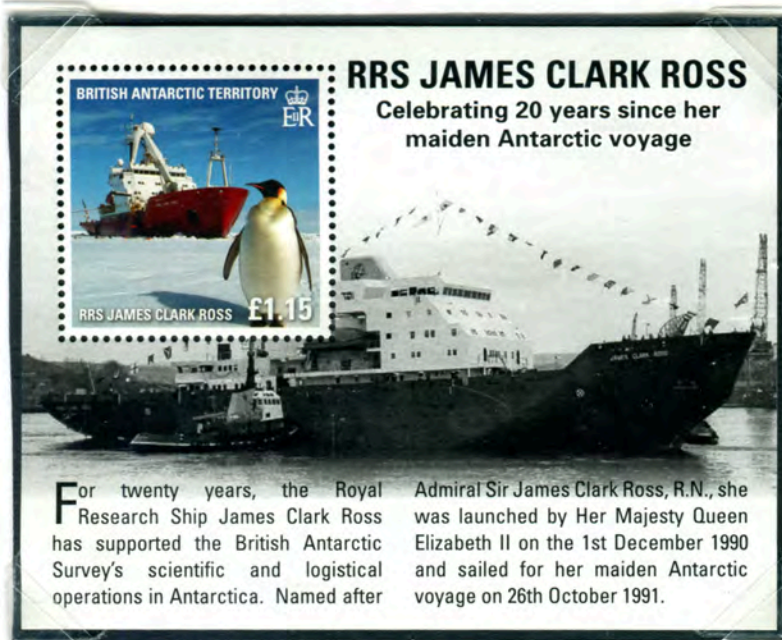
On the occasion of a visit by Queen Elizabeth II to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on 18 December 2012, it was announced there that an area of the British Antarctic Territory had been named **Queen Elizabeth Land** after the Queen.



Queen Elizabeth Land is nearly twice the size of the United Kingdom and is essentially a triangular segment of Antarctica, with one vertex at the South Pole.

Argentina, whose Argentine Antarctica claim overlaps with the British Antarctic Territory, criticised the naming calling it a « *systematic attack* » and described it as « *provocation* ».

- RSS James Clark Ross
- oceanographic research ship



- postmark of the Halley Bay, *actual* permanent station (base Z)
- located on the ice shelf Brunt in Weddell Sea





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.3. CLAIM OF GREAT BRITAIN

##### *South Orkney Islands or Orcadas del Sur ?*

In 1823 James Weddell visited these islands and named them South Orkney Islands.

In 1903, William Speirs Bruce sold the station *Omond House* on Laurie Island to Argentina. However, in 1808 Royal Letters Patent established the *Falkland Islands Dependencies* including the South Orkney Islands.



Today, both nations claim sovereignty over these islands. The British own the *Signy* \* station while the Argentineans own *Orcadas* \* on Laurie Island.





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.4. CLAIM OF AUSTRALIA



Australia's involvement in Antarctica starts very early.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, the region was patrolled by British explorers such as Cook, Dampier, Tasman, Flinders, Bass. These explore the Pacific, Indian and Southern Oceans. They discover Australia, New Zealand and some peri-Antarctic islands.

Australia depends on the sea to trade with European countries. It is therefore inevitable that mariners explore the maritime territory to the south; moreover, fishermen, whalers and sealers report to the country the result of their catch; this naturally excites lust. The overexploitation of animals forced these sailors to go further south.

Scientific exploration began around the middle of the 19th century.

Some great British explorers who patrolled the South Seas

1963 Series



Abel Tasman (1603-1659)



William Dampier (1652-1715)



James Cook (1728-1779)



Matthew Flinders (1774-1814)



George Bass (1771-1803)

The discovery of **Enderby Land** on the Antarctic continent, February 28, 1831, by the **British John Biscoe** is the starting point of a series of explorations of the continent. (*see Introduction*).

The territory's history dates to a **claim on Enderby Land made by the United Kingdom in 1841**.

In 1933, a British imperial order transferred most of the territory south of 60° S and between meridians 160° E and 45° E to Australia.

**It was named Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT).**

*It is the largest territory of Antarctica claimed by any nation by area.*



### 3.4. CLAIM OF AUSTRALIA

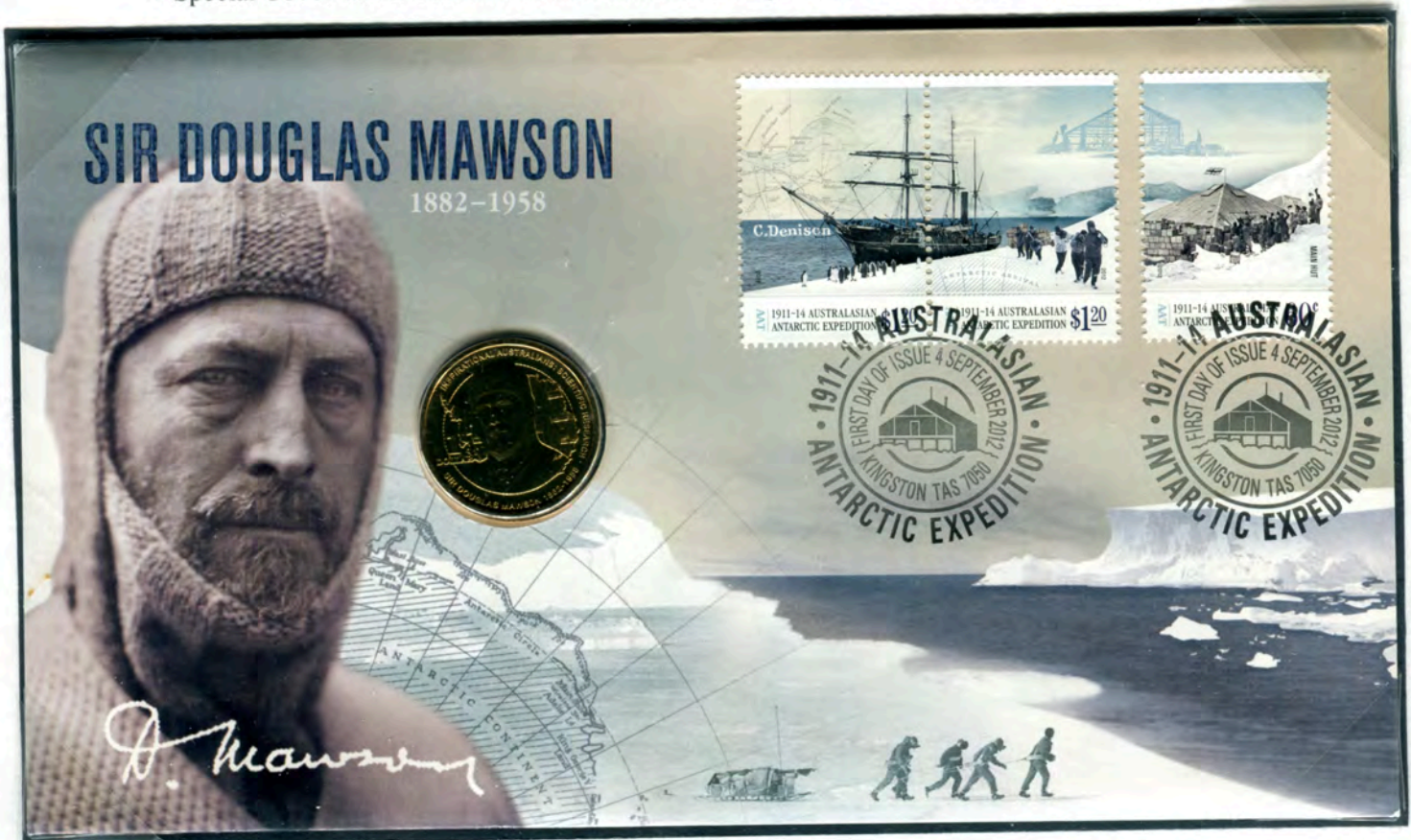
**1831 - 2006**



It was during this trip that he officially took possession of Graham's Land in the name of King William IV.

On this expedition radio contact was made with the outside world for the first time.

◆ Special Cover on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition ◆





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.4. CLAIM OF AUSTRALIA



In 1926, takes place in London, the Imperial Conference. On this occasion, we talk about the importance of continuing exploration in order to consolidate territorial rights on 1/3 of the continent - from Enderby's Land (45 ° E) to King George V's Land (160 ° E).

Following this meeting, Sir Douglas Mawson is mandated to direct the B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. expedition. It is mainly a geopolitical initiative of the British Commonwealth.

On board the ship *R.R.S. Discovery* and using a plane, the team maps the entire coast and discovers the Land of MacRobertson and Princess Elizabeth. Later, these two territories will be added to the Australian Antarctic Territory.

At each of the five stops, Mawson proclaims the sovereignty of the British Empire, implying that the territory will be returned to Australia later.

The B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. expedition serves as the basis for the land claim of almost 42% of Antarctica.





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.4. CLAIM OF AUSTRALIA

In 1947, creation of an organization, A.N.A.R.E. (Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition), which aims to develop the new territory and build stations.

A stamp illustrating the symbol of A.N.A.R.E. is issued and, as of the first year, 2 stations are built, Heard and Macquarie.



issue of the stamp of the A.N.A.R.E. at Heard Island Station on January 23, 1955



opening of the station at Macquarie Island March 7, 1957

the cover bears one of the rare marks of the *Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition 1947*



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.4. CLAIM OF AUSTRALIA

##### FIRST STAMPS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

- all issues first intended primarily for use in the Territory, were released first, for three weeks, in Australia to generate interest.
- Australian postage stamps are equally valid for postage in the Antarctic Territory



First stamp of the AAT issued on 27th March 1957 in Australia  
2sh - no wkm - perf 14½ - Australian flag with explorers

- on 16th December 1959, 4 other stamps are issued to complete the series.
- the 5d and 8d, values were prepared as 4d and 7d, but owing to an increase in postal rates on October 1st 1959 were overprinted before issue.

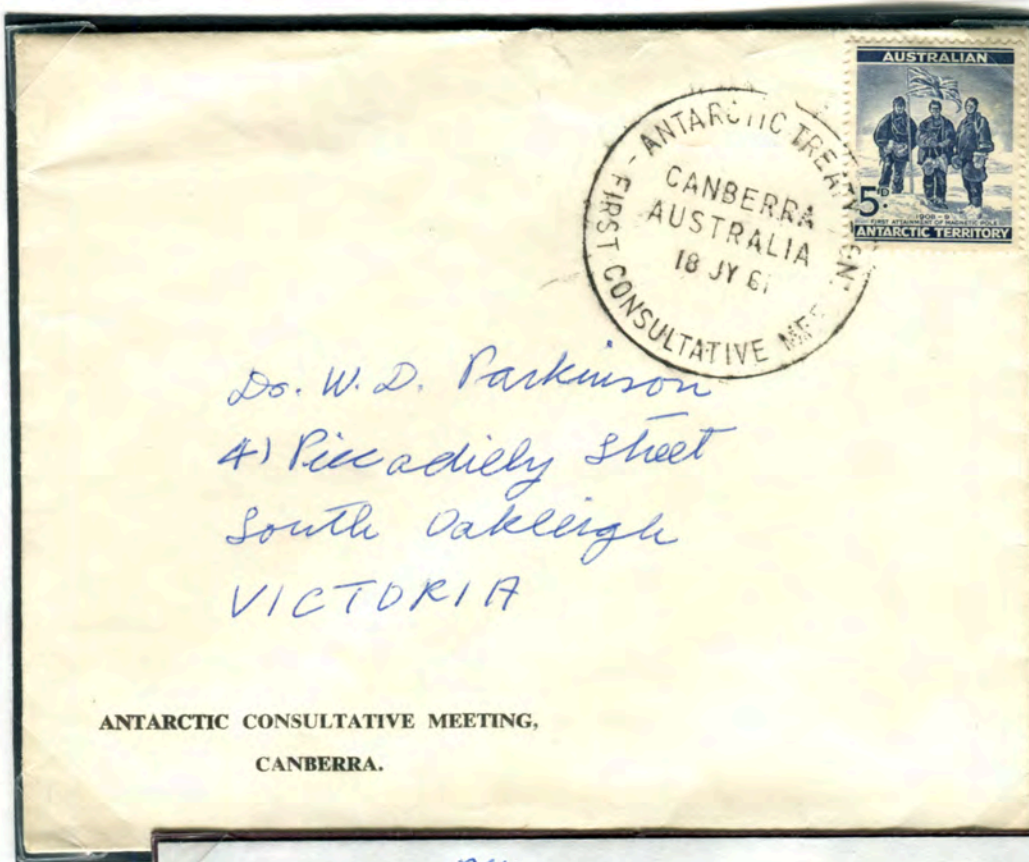
The cover is a FDC when these stamps were issued at the new Davis station (AAT) on January 30, 1960





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.4. CLAIM OF AUSTRALIA



On July 18, 1961 Australia will attend the *First Consultative Meeting* in Canberra.

As Australia is one of the 7 countries claiming an area of the Antarctic Territory, the country was one of the first signatories of the Antarctic Treaty.

The country is one of the decision-making participants of the *Consultative Party*.

Letter mailed at the time of this first meeting of the *Advisory Committee* in Canberra



While the work of Sir Douglas Mawson helped establish the Australian Antarctic Territory, Dr. Phillip Law (1912-2010), a physicist, has consolidated Australia's scientific reputation in Antarctica.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.5. CLAIM OF NEW ZEALAND



New Zealand claims an Antarctic territory named **Ross Dependency**. It is the smallest area claimed; it extends from 160 ° E to 150 ° O. It includes the Ross Sea, Ross Ice Shelf, Transantarctic Mountains and Ross, Scott, Balleny and Roosevelt Islands.

This region was first observed by James Cook in 1773. Following his discovery of **Victoria Land** in 1841, James Clark Ross took possession of this territory, along with the surrounding sea, on behalf of **Britain**.

On 30 July 1923, the **United Kingdom** government passed an **Order in Council** under the British Settlements Act 1887, which defined the current borders of the Ross Dependency.



*It has been said that the Order in Council contained no suggestion of a transfer to New Zealand of the United Kingdom's claim, but the fact remains that the territory is administered by the Government of New Zealand*



James Clark Ross



his ships : the *HMS Erebus* and the *HMS Terror*



Other English explorers come later to this region: Robert Falcon Scott, Ernest Shackleton and Douglas Mawson.



However, we must not forget the seal and whale hunters who also patrolled these waters; **thus several islands would have been discovered by these New Zealanders** but kept secret so as not to reveal their hunting territories.



Stamp issued in 1940 to celebrate the centenary of the Proclamation of British Sovereignty in New Zealand (1840-1940).



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.5. CLAIM OF NEW-ZEALAND

This claim is based on:

- The discoveries of James Clark Ross in 1841
- The explorations of Sir Robert Falcon Scott in 1902-1903 and 1911-1912
- The explorations of Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1908-1909
- the International Geophysical Year in 1957-58 will allow the opening of the **first permanent base** on Ross Island.
- the Scott station opened in 1957 and the director was Sir Edmund Hillary, the hero of the Everest.
- the Scott station will support the *Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition*.



Opening Ceremony of Scott Station in 1957

- on the same day, January 11, 1957, the post office took office and the first stamps inscribed *Ross Dependency* were issued.
- the initial set of stamps consisted of four stamps, in the denominations 3d, 4d, 8d, and 1s 6d.
- the Scott station will support the *Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition*.
- before the expedition left New Zealand, on 23 November 1956, Hillary had been appointed postmaster

The purpose is naturally to ensure a New Zealand presence in the claimed territory



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.5. CLAIM OF NEW-ZEALAND

- the New Zealand Post Office in August 1956 provided three almost identical datestamps to the Ross Sea Committee of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition, for use at Scott Base
- two hammers are used for the official mail of the expedition (datestamps types 01b and 01c) while the type 01a is retained in Wellington, New Zealand.



↑ first stamps of the Ross Dependency; postmark type 01b<sup>2</sup>

↓ postmark type 01d



This postmark is probably that of the hammer left in Wellington in 1957 (datestamp type 01a) and used in the sixties to replace the original hammers of 1957 (datestamp types 01b and 01c)

2. Jurisich, M. 2003. 3rd Ed. The Postmarks of Ross Dependency (NZ Antarctic).



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.5. CLAIM OF NEW-ZEALAND

##### THE COMMONWEALTH TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

The 1955–58 **Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition (CTAE)** was a Commonwealth-sponsored expedition that successfully completed the first overland crossing of Antarctica, via the South Pole.

- it was supported by the government under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth II.
- it was headed by **British explorer Sir Vivian Fuchs**, with **New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary** leading the New Zealand Ross Sea Support team.
- the New Zealand party included scientists participating in International Geophysical Year (IGY) research

Fuchs finally set out from Shackleton Base (*Falkland Islands Dependencies*) on the transcontinental journey in November 1957.

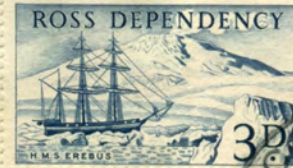
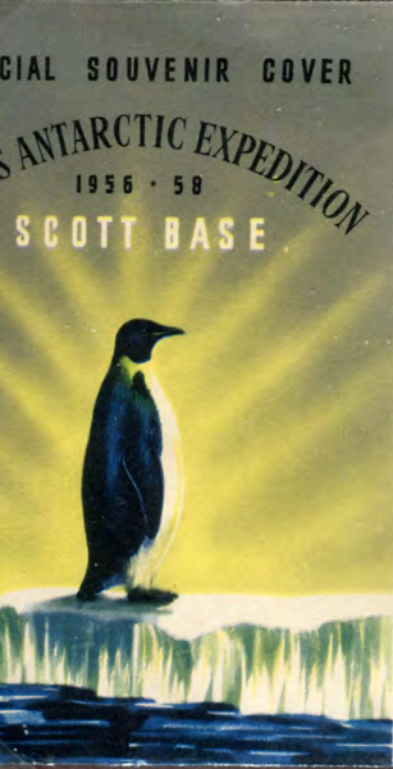
In parallel Hillary's team had set up Scott Base (*Ross Dependency*) on the opposite side of the continent at McMurdo Sound on the Ross Sea.



The cachet of this 'Official Souvenir Cover' illustrates the journey traveled by both teams. The postmark from the **Shackleton Base** explains the use of the **Falkland Islands Dependencies**. It is dated the day of the arrival of **Sir Vivian Fuchs** for the final preparations.



- Official envelope of the expedition.
- type 01c postmark from hammers brought from NZ for the opening of Scott Station and its post office on January 11, 1957

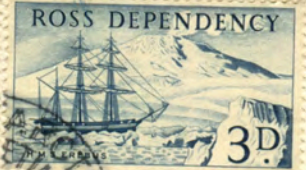


MISS V.J. MAX  
20 CLINTON STREET  
NEW PLYMOUTH  
TARANAKI.



↑ postmark 01c

postmark 02b ↓





# TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION



ING  
CROSSING

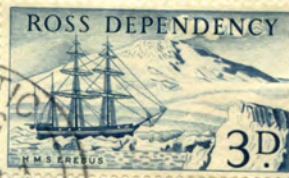


Mr. D. J. Hanna,

3 Tainui Street,

Christchurch, S.W.1.

NEW ZEALAND.



↑ postmark 02c

- postmarks to commemorate the meeting of Sir Vivian Fuchs and Sir Edmund Hillary at the South Pole
- three datestamps are again provided to be used for souvenir cover cancellations
- there was only **one date** used for the cancellation, **20 January 1958**, the day Sir Vivian Fuchs reached the South Pole.

postmark 02a ↓



TING  
ST  
CROSSING



Markenhaus Schild,  
Post Office Box 1071,  
Bremerhaven,  
Germany.

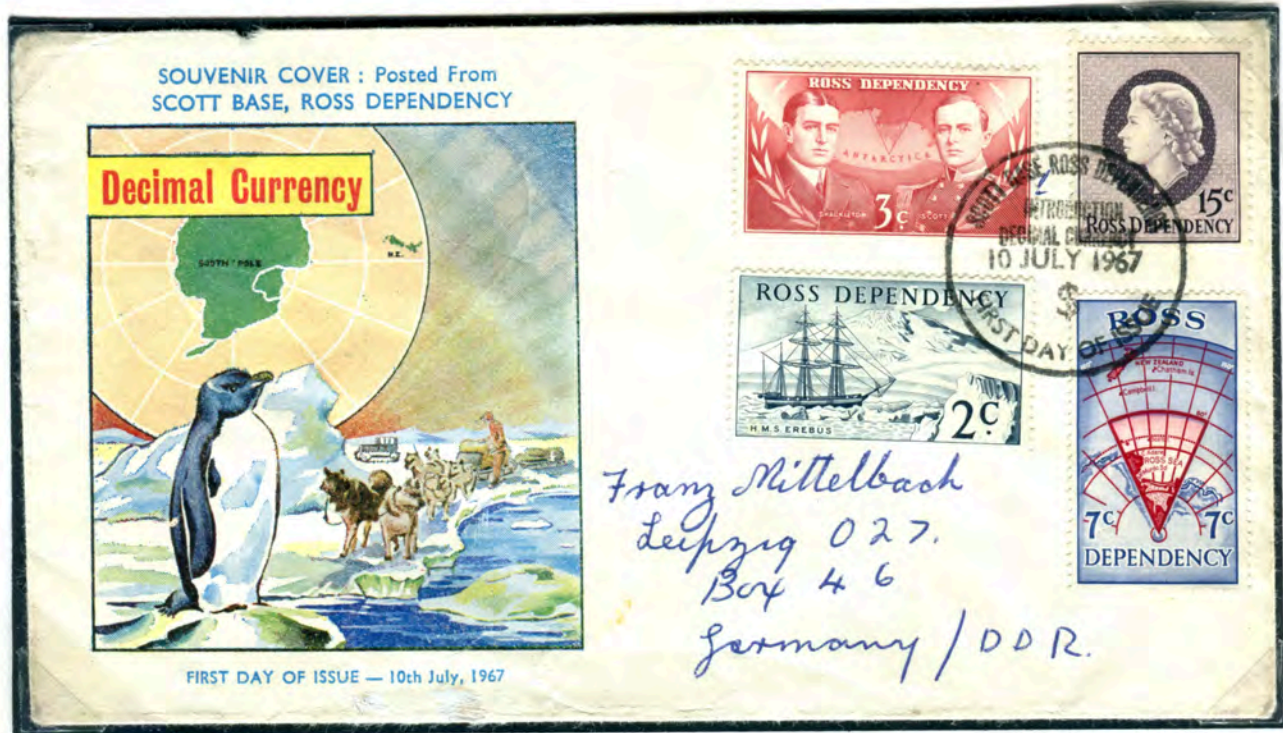




### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.5. CLAIM OF NEW-ZEALAND

- New Zealand introduced decimal currency on 10 July 1967.
- the new decimal currency stamps, a special rubber datestamp and a souvenir FDC were flown to Scott Base
- only 2,500 philatelic envelopes exist.



Scott Base Ross Dependency introduction decimal currency  
10 July 1967 First day of issue

- Scott Base is actually the only permanent research facility in NZ's Ross Dependency territorial claim
- the post office at Scott Base was closed in 1987
- New Zealand Post resume the issue of stamps inscribed « Ross Dependency » in 1994
- however, the stamps are not generally valid on New Zealand mail

In 2007, 5 stamps were issued to commemorate the *Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition*





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

##### ❖ TERRE ADÉLIE

On January 20, 1840, during an expedition to the south, the French explorer Jules Sebastian César Dumont d'Urville discovers a huge strip of land covered with ice. He orders two canoes to be put to sea and sailors will plant the French flag.

**Dumont d'Urville took possession of this new territory on behalf of the French government and named it after his wife Adèle.**



issue for the 125th anniversary of the discovery of Terre Adélie by Dumont d'Urville



his 2nd ship, the corvette *La Zélée*



Jules Sebastian César Dumont d'Urville  
his ship *L'Astrolabe*



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

After taking possession of the territory by Dumont d'Urville in 1840, France seems no longer to care about Terre Adélie.

#### JEAN-BAPTISTE CHARCOT (1867 – 1936)

- in 1903, French explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot will lead two expeditions to Antarctica.
- **realizing that France must ensure a presence in Antarctic**, he will map 2,000 km of coastline and at the same time make scientific observations; the results are considerable.
- returning from a mission to Greenland, Commander Charcot dies at sea during a violent storm
- Charcot is considered to be one of the greatest French explorers of Antarctica



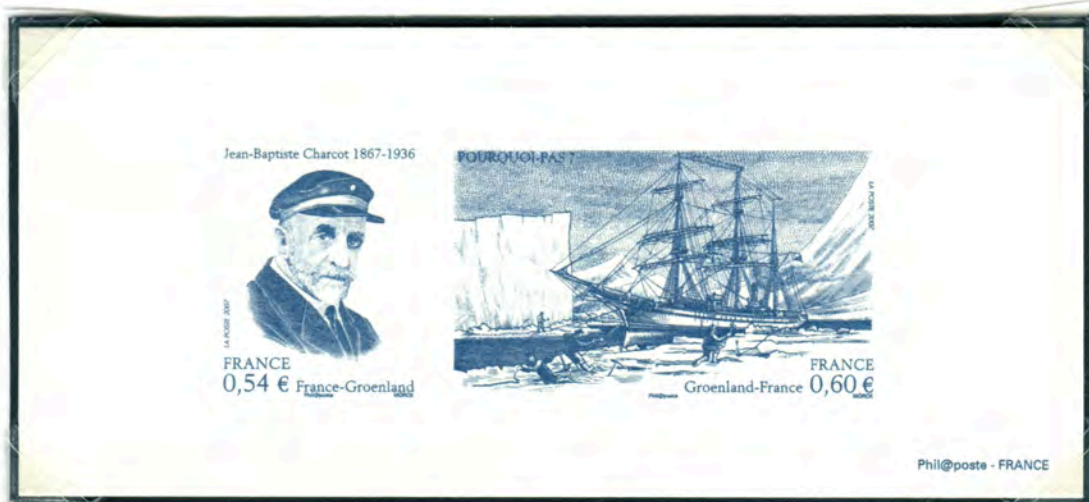
picture postage *MonTimbreàMoi*  
Charcot on his last expedition



Variety : dark blue missing without perforation **Certif.**  
Charcot and his ship *Pourquoi-Pas? IV*



France 2007. correct color - joint issue France - Greenland



France 2007. Luxury Proof



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

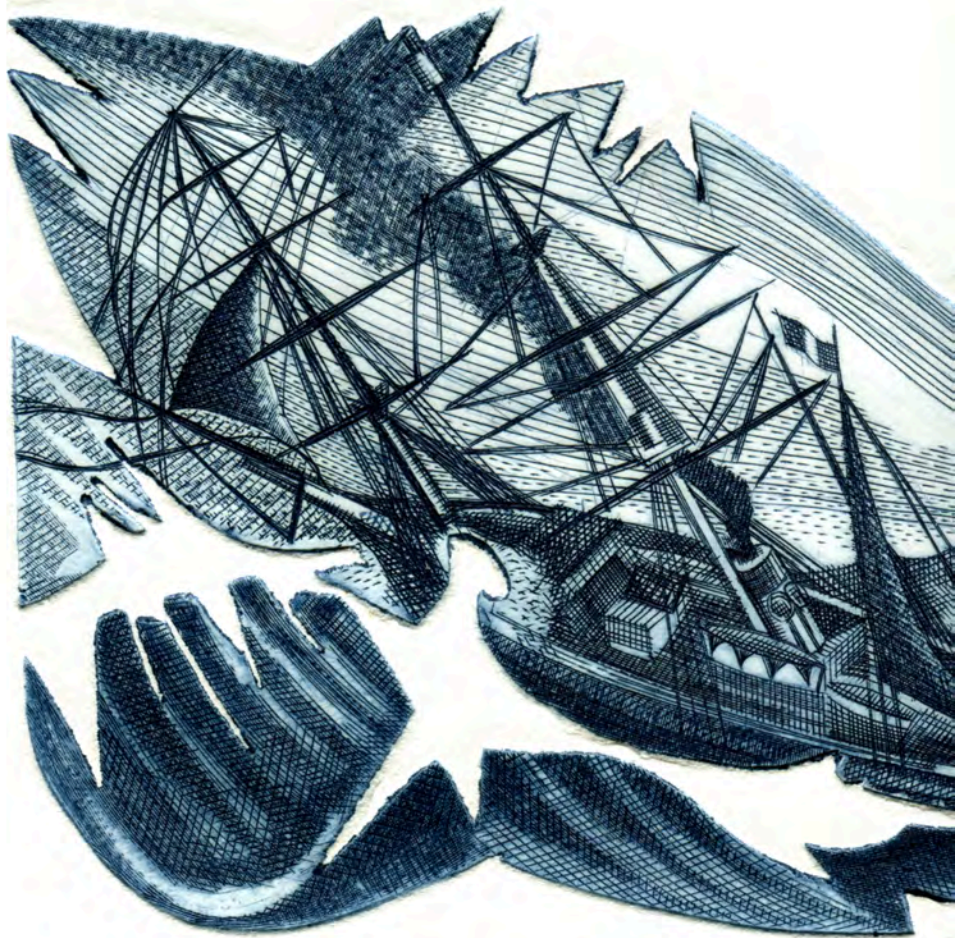
France does not forget to regularly remind its presence in Antarctica and to honor its explorers.

**JEAN-BAPTISTE CHARCOT (1867 – 1936)**



1. Aix-les-Bains. postmark of 1996 for the « Journées J.-B. Charcot » on *Marianne de Briat*
2. Paris. postmark of 2004 for the Centenary of the 1st French wintering in Antarctic on *Marianne de Luquet*
3. Malakoff. philatelic mark of 1986 for the Fiftieth anniversary of his disappearance at sea on *Marianne de Gandon*





EA XIII / C





*Pierre Bigot*



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE



Greenland 2007 S/S. joint issue France – Greenland  
Two French Antarctic Explorers : J.-B. Charcot & P.-É. Victor

STATE PROOF EA XIII / C Engraver's signature : *Pierre Béquet*

EA : *épreuve d'état* XIII : 13th of 3 recorded proofs

In printmaking, a **state** is a different form of a print...Artists often take prints from a plate (or block, etc.) and then do further work on the plate before printing more impressions (copies).

**States are usually numbered in Roman numerals:** I, II, III ..., and often as e.g.: "I/III", to indicate the first of three recorded states. Some recent scholars refine the work without wishing to create a confusing new numbering, by identifying states such as "IIa", "IVb" and so forth. (Wiki)



French Southern & Antarctic Territory : air post stamps - pair with label



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

- the discovery of *Terre Adélie* does not seem to have interested the central government.
- when some nations annexed unilaterally areas of the Antarctic continent, France started to show some interest.
  - on **March 27, 1924**, a **decree** related *Terre Adélie* to its other southern possessions: Saint-Paul, Amsterdam, Kerguelen and Crozet.
  - on **November 21, 1924**, a **decree** places these territories under the responsibility of the General Government of Madagascar.
  - on April 1, 1938, a decree fixes the limits of *Terre Adélie*: « *The islands and territories located south of the 60th parallel of South latitude and between the 136th and the 142nd meridian of longitude East are under the French sovereignty* ».



- In 1946, three young men decide to reclaim for France, *Terre Adélie*.



Robert Pommier



J.A. Martin



Yves Vallette

- they meet Paul-Émile Victor, a French ethnologist and explorer who is seduced by the idea; he collects the money needed to set up an expedition.
- in 1947, he creates the *Expéditions polaires françaises*.





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

Paul-Émile Victor wants a stamp to be issued to **underline this reappropriation of Terre Adélie by France**; « The government agrees because **the establishment of a postal service is one of the means to assert its sovereignty.** » <sup>3</sup>



- the decree of 21 November 1924 places *Terre Adélie* and the other southern possessions under the responsibility of the Government of Madagascar, a stamp of this colony must be used.
  - Madagascar was part of the French Colonial Empire until 1960
- the stamp of 100 F « *Zephyr* » is chosen with the overprint **TERRE ADÉLIE - DUMONT D'URVILLE - 1840.**
- 200,000 stamps are thus overprinted

➤ the **1st expedition** leaves Brest on November 26, 1948, two months late due to a machine failure.



André-Franck Liotard  
leader of the expedition  
and postmaster



their ship named  
*Commandant Charcot*



Admiral Max Douguet  
captain  
postal stationary

- as the explorers plan to reach *Terre Adélie* on February 15, 1949, **they begin to cancel the letters with the stamp dated 15 – 2 1949.**
- because of the thickness of the ice, the landing can not be done and the ship must return to France.
- **the canceled mail will remain under seal until the next expedition.**

➤ the departure of the **2nd expedition** takes place on September 20th, 1949. They reached the land without problem.

- they build a small station that they name *Port-Martin* in honor of J.-A. Martin deceased during the voyage
- without delay, A.-F. Liotard begins to process the mail: **the letters of the previous year that had received the stamp of 15 – 2 1949 also receive that of 20 - 1 1950.** This date coincides with the 110th anniversary of the arrival of Dumont d 'Urville in *Terre Adélie*.



## 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

Registered cover of the 1948-49 expedition with postmark dated 15 - 2 1949 as well as the postmark

- Stamp « Zephyr » with overprint **TERRE ADELIE - DUMONT D'URVILLE - 1840**
- \* Administrative cachet with four lines - type C  
**EXPÉDITION  
ANTARCTIQUE  
FRANÇAISE  
1948 - 1950**
- \* Double circle cachet for the opening of the postal service with the image of Dumont d'Urville  
- signed : A. Liotard      - signed : Paul E. Victor



### AUTHENTIC COVER



authentic

EXPÉDITION  
ANTARCTIQUE  
FRANÇAISE  
1948-1950



back



1949 as well as the postmark of 20 -1 1950 of the expedition of the repossession of Terre Adélie.

### **RARE COVER**

NO MORE THAN 2000 COVERS EXIST

Because of scarcity, forgeries exist.

#### Here are the distinctive features

- dated postmark : aspect of the 'A' of ADÉLIE
  - authentic : 'A' pointed
  - fake : 'A' more open
- administrative cachet :
  - authentic : accent on E of EXPÉDITION
  - fake : no accent on E of EXPEDITION
- back
  - authentic : - if the cover is registered, it should have a transit postmark of the General Post Office of Sydney
    - if the cover is not registered, it didn't transit by the GPO of Sydney
  - fake : presence of a transit postmark

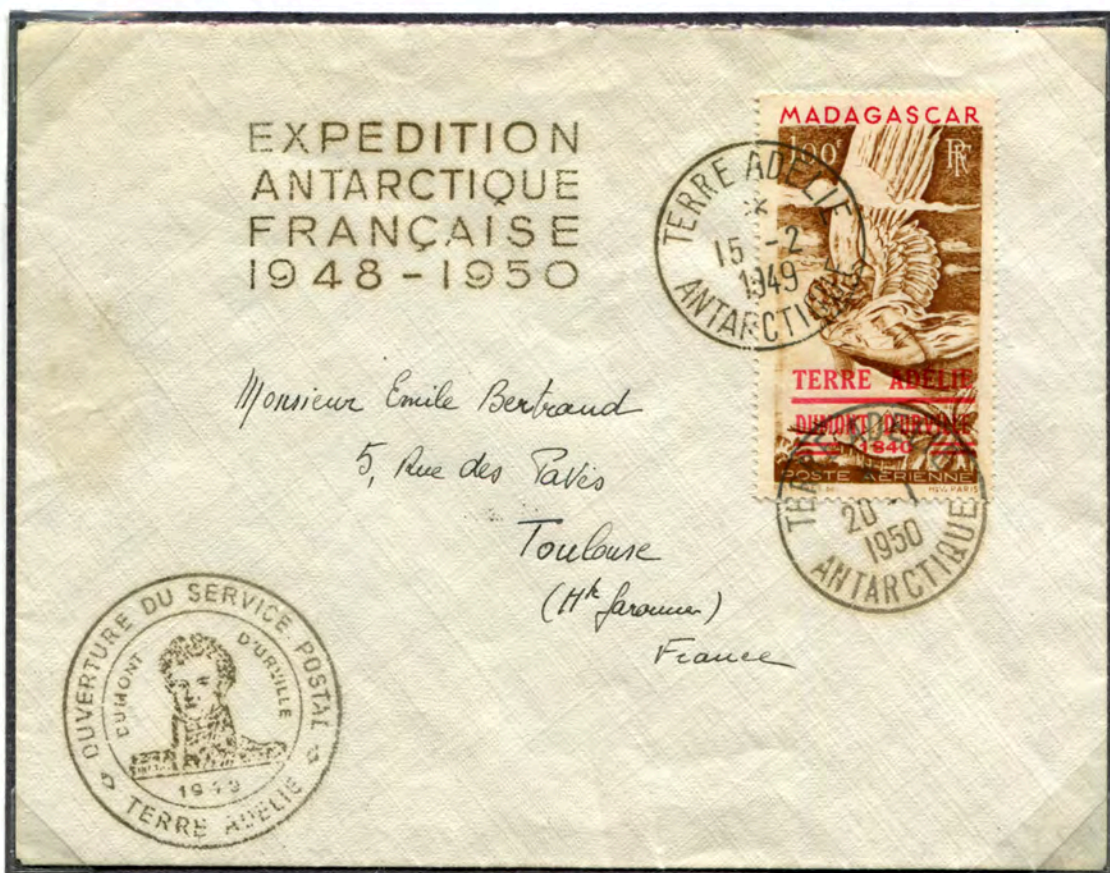


fake

EXPEDITION  
ANTARCTIQUE  
FRANÇAISE  
1948-1950

fake

### FAKE COVER





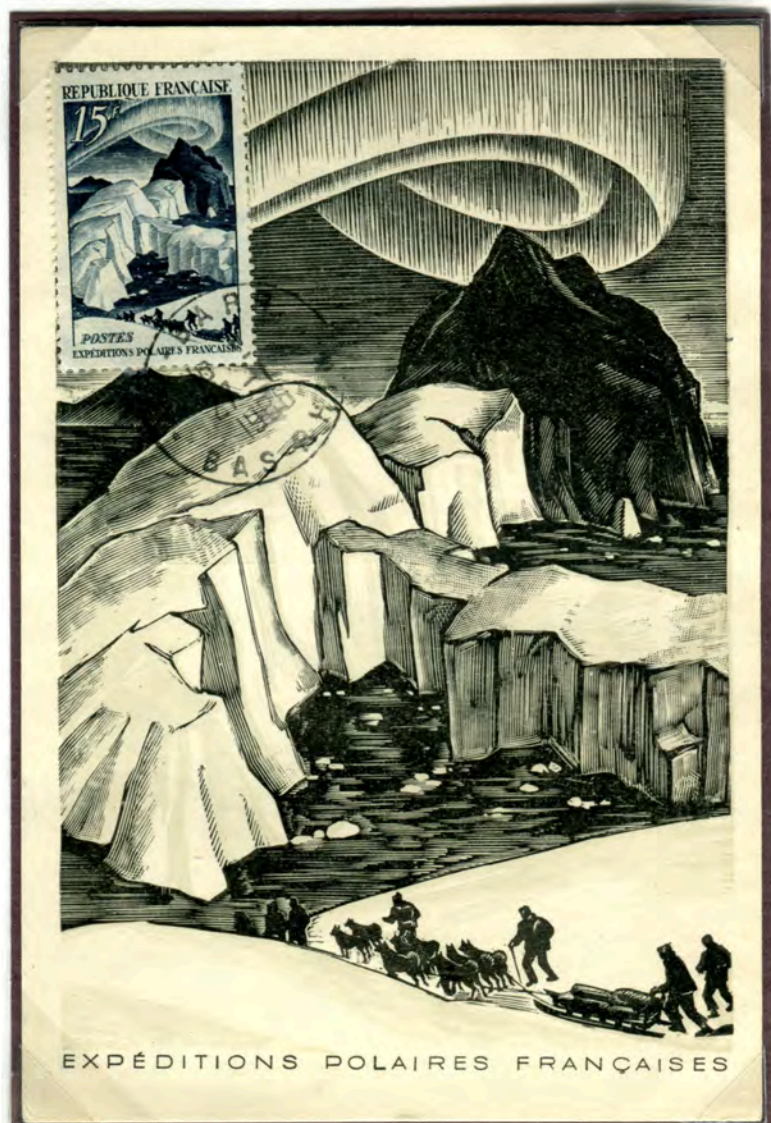
### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE



France issued in 1949, a stamp to highlight the creation of the *Expéditions polaires françaises* (E.P.F.)

Postcards are also made to finance the expeditions by the E.P.F. - *Mission Paul-Émile Victor*.





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

- in 1952, the **Marret base** is erected on the archipelago of *Pointe-Géologie* near *Terre Adélie*.
- in 1957, this base will develop and become the **permanent base Dumont d'Urville** during the Antarctic International Geophysical Year 1957-58.



perforation 13



without perforation

base Marret

Registered letter from *Terre Adélie*  
the archipelago of *Pointe-Géologie* is part of *Terre Adélie*  
base Marret was built on Île des Pétrels  
the new main base, Dumont d'Urville Station, was built on the same island in 1957





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

- the **1924 decree** gathered Terre Adélie to its other southern possessions: Saint-Paul, Amsterdam, Kerguelen and Crozet.

- on **1924**, another **decree** places these territories under the responsibility of the General Government of Madagascar.

Cover dated December 31, 1953 with mention:  
ST-PAUL ET  
AMSTERDAM.  
MADAGASCAR.  
DEPEND. AUSTRAL

Note: the stamps are those of Madagascar.

These territories will remain under the administration of Madagascar until 1955.



- on **August 6, 1955**, Law No. 55-1052 created the **Terres australes et antarctiques françaises (TAAF)**.



- « Art.1. Saint Paul Island, Amsterdam Island, Crozet Archipelago, Kerguelen Archipelago and Adélie Land form an overseas territory with administrative and financial autonomy. »
- the new territory also acquires its postal autonomy. The first stamp will be issued on October 17, 1955. The Madagascar 15 F, the bird *Urastelornis*, was chosen with red overprint **TERRES AUSTRALES ET ANTARCTIQUES FRANÇAISES**.
- The name of Madagascar is crossed out.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

- on April 25, 1956, the first stamps bearing the mention TERRES AUSTRALES ET ANTARCTIQUES FRANCAISES are issued in Terre Adélie but also in the other two French southern bases of Kerguelen and Amsterdam.
- 5 stamps : 50c, 1fr, 5fr, 8fr, 10fr, 15fr.
- 2 air post stamps : 50fr, 100fr.



perforation 13 unwmk



color proof



air post stamp

- on October 11, 1957, a series of 3 stamps and a special cachet inaugurate the International Geophysical Year (1957-1958).



color proofs - imperforate

Cover of the first expedition to *Terre Adélie* in 1957-58 as part of the International Geophysical Year (AGI / IGY).





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

##### COAT OF ARMS and FLAG

- the **Terres australes et antarctiques françaises** (TAAF) (*French Southern and Antarctic Territories*) (FSAT) are created on August 6, 1955.
- **in order to affirm the possession of the territory**, a coat of arms of the TAAF is adopted on September 4 1958
- the next year, on **September 14 1958**, a **20fr stamp** is issued illustrating the coat of arms; the districts are represented :

- o Terre Adélie : iceberg
- o Kerguelen : cabbage of Kerguelen
- o Saint-Paul-et-Amsterdam : crayfish
- o Crozet : King penguin



- on **February 23 2007**, a **flag**, officially called 'emblem', passed by decree which coincides with the addition of a 5th district : Îles Éparses (*Scattered Islands*) → the flag of France + TAAF with 5 stars
- a series of 5 stamps is issued on **January 1st 2008** : 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c.
- although the date on the stamp is 2008, there were 3 printings showed on the bottom of the panes



1st printing : 27 September 2007 - shiny gum - 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c



2<sup>nd</sup> printing : 1st December 2008 - shiny gum - 1c



3rd printing : 11 May 2009 - matte gum - 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

Since the opening of *Dumont d'Urville* station in 1957, it has grown considerably

It was decided to change  
the postmark from  
**January 1st 1974**



**31-12 1973**  
**last day of**  
**TERRE ADELIE**  
**postmark**



**1-1 1974**  
**first day of**  
**DUMONT D'URVILLE**  
**- T.ADELIE postmark**



Raymond POULAIN  
192, rue de Ribray  
78000 NOGENT



XXIV<sup>e</sup> EXPÉDITION ANTARCTIQUE  
FRANÇAISE EN TERRE ADÉLIE  
1973 - 1975



**R** 0483  
DUM. DURVILLE

F. R. Brisse,  
5051 Fraser Street,  
Pierrefonds, 920, P.Q.,  
Canada



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.6. CLAIM OF FRANCE

Territory on the Antarctic continent, *Terre Adélie* is subject to the Antarctic Treaty Agreement :

« Art. 4. The treaty does not recognize, dispute, nor establish territorial sovereignty claims...while the treaty is in force ». Moreover, France is a signatory of the Treaty.

It has a permanent station, *Dumont d'Urville*, and another station jointly with Italy at Dome C, called *Concordia*.





### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

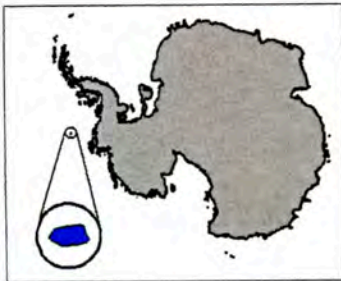
#### 3.7. CLAIM OF NORWAY

The territory claimed by Norway includes **Queen Maud Land** or *Drønning Maud Land*, area from 20 ° W to 44 ° E of the Antarctic continent in addition to **Bouvet\*** and **Pierre I Islands**. Until 2015, Norway has never defined the northern and southern limits of its sector which explains the wavy contours that can be seen on the geopolitical maps of this continent. In 2015, Norway formally laid claim to the area between its Queen Maud Land and the South Pole.



#### ❖ Peter I Island (*Peter I Øy*)

\* Bouvet Island is located in the South Atlantic Ocean at 54°25'S 3°22'E thus putting it north of and outside the Antarctic Treaty System.



Peter I Island

is a small volcanic island located in the Bellingshausen Sea, near the Antarctic Peninsula.

It was discovered by the Russian Fabian Gottlieb von Bellingshausen on January 21, 1821.

Norwegian explorer Ola Olstad is the first to set foot on the island; he claims this small territory for Norway on February 2, 1929.

**On May 1, 1931, a Royal Proclamation officially claims for Norway, the Peter I Island. It is also the only claim which is not a sector**



The **Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI)** was founded in 1948 and is responsible for administering this sector as well as the islands of Peter I and Bouvet.

The NPI is responsible for all cartography and research carried out in this Norwegian territory.

- Letter from an expedition at Peter I Island in 1986-87 mailed in Oslo.
- Cachets from the expedition and the research ship, the M/S Aurora

There is an automatic weather station on the island but no post office.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.7. CLAIM OF NORWAY

##### ❖ Queen Maud Land

The Norwegian **Roald Amundsen** reached the **South Pole** on **December 14, 1911**. During this expedition, he took possession of this region on behalf of Norway.

He named the plateau near the South Pole by the name of King Haakon VII while the entire coast between 37 ° E and 50 ° E bears the name of Queen Maud.



Roald Amundsen  
stamp from a miniature S/S of Bulgaria. 2005.



King Haakon VII



Queen Maud

On January 14, 1939, a Royal Proclamation officially annexed the **Drønning Maud Land** as Norwegian territory.

The **Norwegian-Swedish Maudheim Expedition (1949-52)** is an important event that will mark the beginning of the development of geological research that will lead to the International Geophysical Year (IGY / AGI).

During this expedition, only one official envelope is used

- Official cover of the 1949-52 expedition
- postmark **10-2-51 DRÖNNING MAUD**



Pris, inkl. porto, kr. 2.—



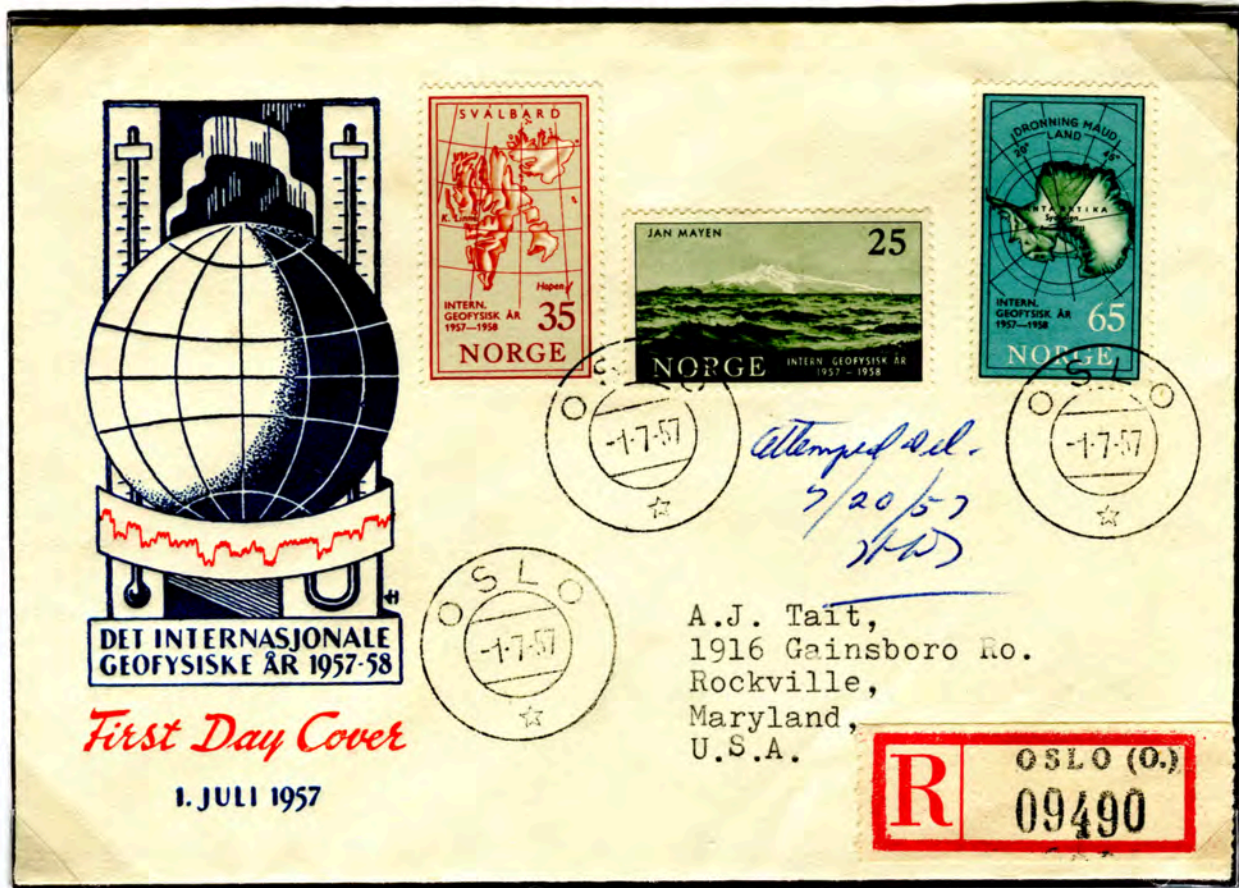
### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.7. CLAIM OF NORWAY

- In 1957, Drønning Maud Land acquired his sovereignty and became a "Dependency" of Norway.
- The same year, on the occasion of the International Geophysical Year, a series of three stamps is issued.

Each stamp depicts a claimed territory:

- 25 ore: *Jan Mayen Island*, located at the boundary between the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean;
- 35 ore: *Svalbard* also located at the boundary between the Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic Ocean;
- 65 ore: *Drønning Maud Land*



the Norwegian territories on stamps on the occasion of the International Geophysical Year

From 1960 until the 1980s, research in Antarctica is limited. However, it is realized that this state of affairs could weaken Norway's claim to this territory and could prevent the country from being an advisory party in the Antarctic Treaty System where sovereign rights could be renegotiated in 1989 (when the renewal of the treaty).

The presence of a station then becomes necessary to support the claim.



### 3. THE CLAIMS BY COUNTRY

#### 3.7. CLAIM OF NORWAY

A seasonal station called *Troll* was built during the Summers of 1989 and 1990. It became permanent in 2005 and has an aerodrome. Actually, there are 12 active research stations, six are occupied year-round.



letter mailed in 1999 from the Russian station *Novolazarevskaya* with the cachets of the stations *Wasa* (Sweden), *Aboa* (Finland), *Troll* (Norway) - all located in territory claimed by Norway; in the center, the cachet of the research ship *Akademik Fedorov* who transported the mail during this 45th Russian expedition

In 1985, Norway issues two stamps with the words: FRA DRÖNNING MAUD LAND - ANTARKTIS





#### 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM



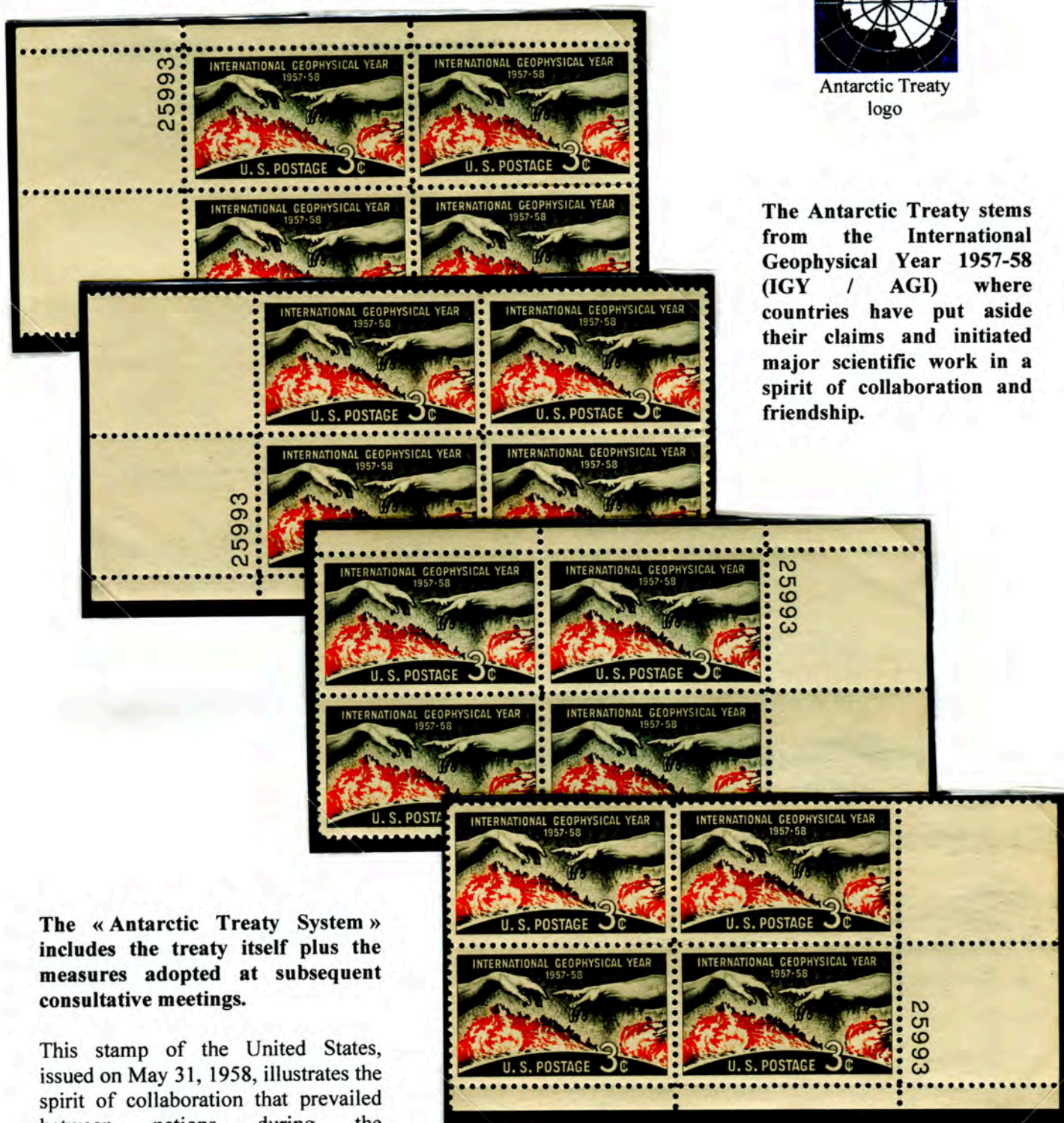
Antarctic Treaty  
logo

The Antarctic Treaty stems from the International Geophysical Year 1957-58 (IGY / AGI) where countries have put aside their claims and initiated major scientific work in a spirit of collaboration and friendship.

The « Antarctic Treaty System » includes the treaty itself plus the measures adopted at subsequent consultative meetings.

This stamp of the United States, issued on May 31, 1958, illustrates the spirit of collaboration that prevailed between nations during the International Geophysical Year.

Four corner blocks of a sheet  
numbered 25993





#### 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

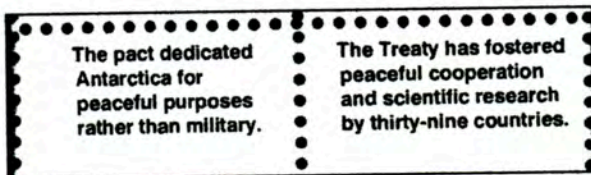
The seven claimant countries have put their claims on the back burner and respect the treaty of which they are the first signatories. Forty-one other nations have also ratified this agreement, including Canada in 1988.

Let us quickly examine the rules that the 48 signatories of the Antarctic Treaty and the conventions adopted during the 33 subsequent consultative meetings have made.

The Antarctic Treaty states that Antarctica is a territory where only peaceful activities are permitted. Art.1. « *The freedom of scientific research in Antarctica and the cooperation to this end are continuing ...* ». Art. 4.2. « *... no activity ... shall be a basis for asserting, supporting or challenging a claim to territorial sovereignty ...* ». Further on, we read « *... no new claim ... shall be presented during the term of this Treaty* ».

This treaty was signed in Washington, United States, on December 1, 1959 and came into force on June 23, 1961. It was renewed on October 4, 1991 for 50 years.

Block of 4 stamps of the United States on the occasion of the renewal of the treaty in 1991.



Postmark on a Soviet cover on the occasion of the signing of the treaty  
ANTARCTICA - LAND OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. MOSCOW 26/I/1961



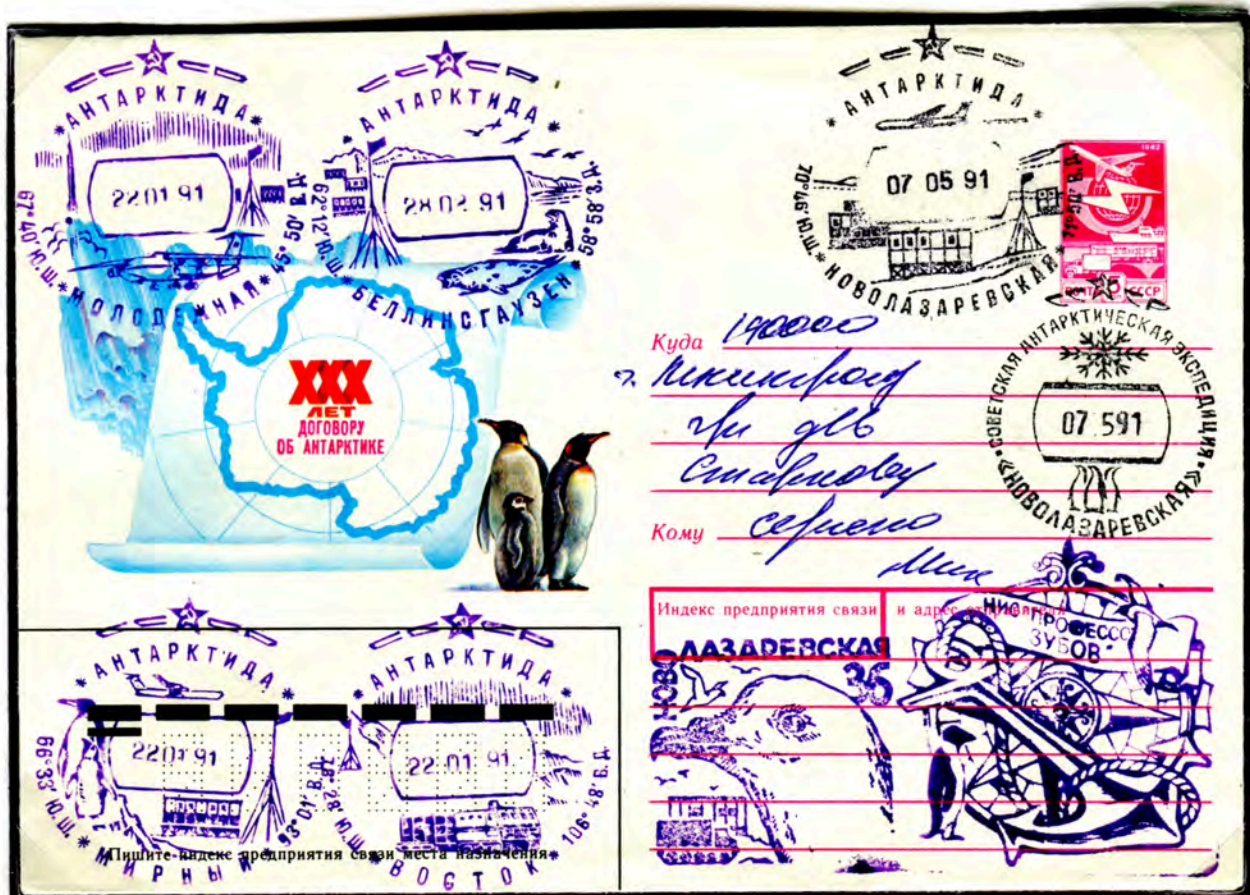


#### 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

Subsequently, many signatory countries will issue stamps every ten years to celebrate the signing of the treaty.



- official cover of the Russian Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute (AARI) for the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Antarctic Treaty.
- postmark dated 07 05 91 of Russian stations *Novolazarevskaya*, *Molodesnaya*, *Bellingshausen*, *Mirny* and *Vostok*.
- bottom right, cachet of the Russian research vessel *Professor Zubov* during the 36th Antarctic Expedition.





## 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

Conventions have been added to the Antarctic Treaty by the countries forming the « advisory part ».

**The Antarctic Treaty + Conventions = the Antarctic Treaty System.**

Let's see these conventions:

- The **Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals**, CCAS, signed in London, G-B, on 1 June 1972.



- **Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources** (CCAMLR), signed in Canberra, Australia, on 20 May 1980.



These two conventions reinforce the already existing **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling** (CBI / IWC) signed in Washington, D.C. in 1946.





#### 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY

- The *Madrid Protocol* also known as *Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty*.

It provides for comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment and dependent and associated ecosystems.

It was concluded in Madrid and opened for signature on October 4, 1991 and entered into force on January 14, 1998. The treaty will be open for review in 2048.



20<sup>ÈME</sup> ANNIVERSAIRE DE L'ENTRÉE EN VIGUEUR  
DU PROTOCOLE DE MADRID  
— 14 JANVIER 2018 —

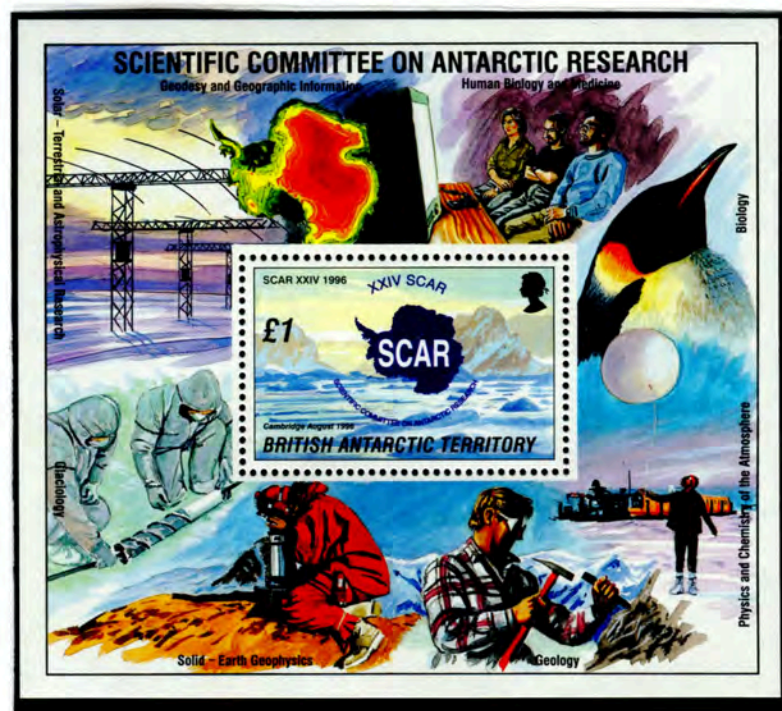


\* In June 2011, at the 34th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, Russia declared plans for « complex investigations into Antarctic mineral resources, hydrocarbons and other natural resources » and that it would be necessary to prepare to abandon the Madrid Protocol for this.



## 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

- ❖ Two international organizations manage all activities in Antarctica:
  - **SCAR** (*Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*). This committee ensures the coordination of research at the different stations.
  - **COMNAP** (*Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs*). This council deals with the logistics aspect related to the activities





#### 4. THE ANTARCTIC TREATY SYSTEM

##### ❖ Compliance by CCAMLR with the Treaty and Conventions: the inspections

Any « Contracting Party » of CCAMLR may designate agents authorized to control catches and activities related to research and fishing.

Stamps, cancellations and cachets are evidence of these inspections.



Bottom of a pane dated 21.10.97 and numbered 9116505

T.D.6 - 2 : Taille Douce. 6 colors, press #2

- CCAMLR officers can board and inspect catch records -



Surveillance vessels of French Southern and Antarctic Territories: *Albatros* and *Austral*

Cachet of the vessel *Albatros* with the mention « *Police des pêches* »



## 5. CONCLUSION

### Scientific research, a recognized value of Antarctica.

- Since its discovery, Antarctica has remained an inexhaustible reservoir of scientific discoveries, a place that concentrates all the issues of current societal interest: climate change, ozone depletion, biodiversity erosion, etc.
- A number of governments have set up permanent research stations in Antarctica and these bases are widely distributed.
- 45 stations are staffed around the year. A total of 42 countries, all signatories to the Antarctic Treaty, operate seasonal (summer) and year-round research stations on the continent.
- In the absence of international recognition, **the claims are of limited relevance, not to mention that the continent has been dedicated to scientific research and that any mission can settle in any place**, but they are nevertheless reported as part of their territory by the countries concerned.
- **Thus, scientific bases have been installed in the sectors claimed by other countries**, such as China, South Africa, Japan, the United States (at the South Pole), or by countries returning from other sectors. (like the French-Italian Concordia base, in the Australian sector).

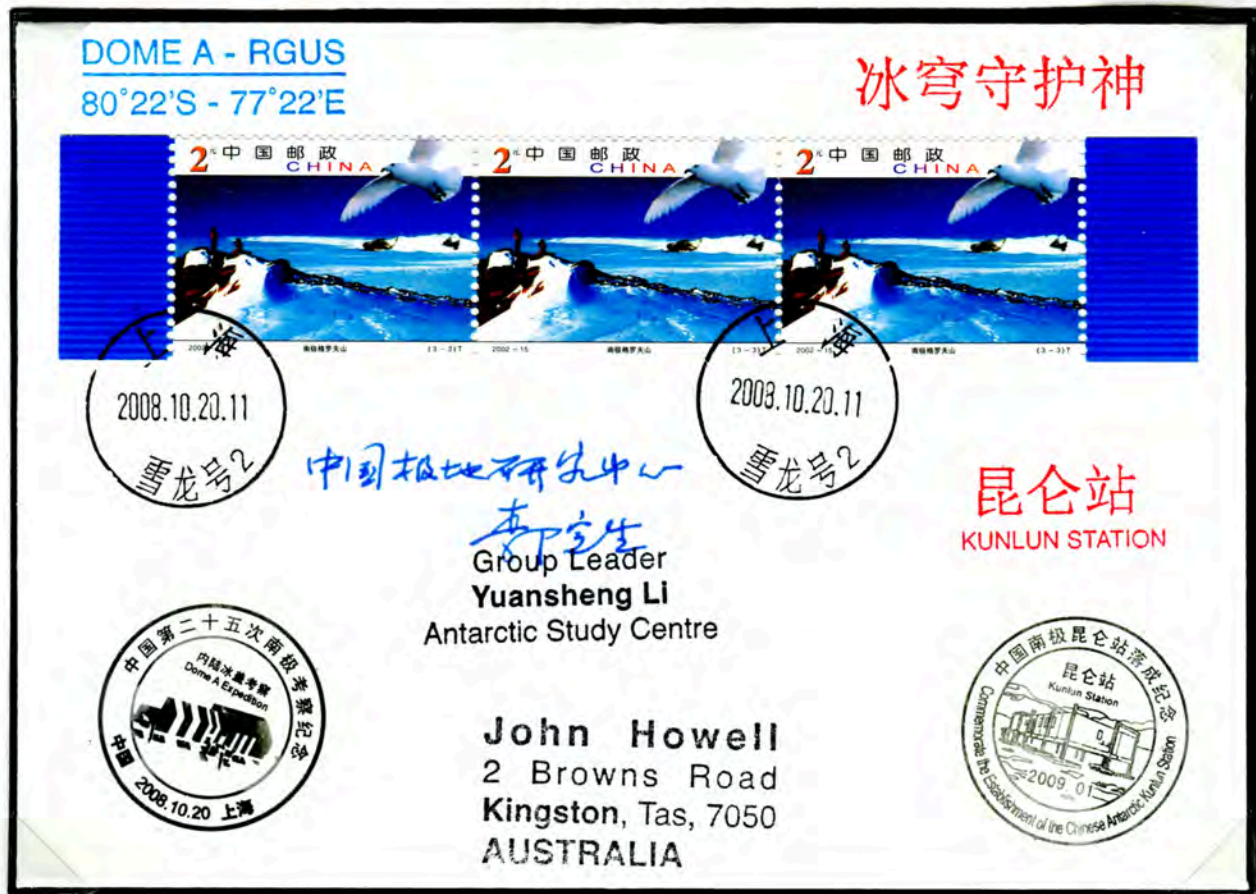
> CHINA → established on Australian Claim

The **Kunlun Station**, China's third station in Antarctica, was set up at Dome A (Argus) on October 20, 2008. It is thought to be the coldest naturally occurring place on Earth.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences established a wireless network technology based observation system called DomeA-WSN.

An automatic weather station (AWS) was deployed at Dome A and operated as part of an ongoing collaboration between China and Australia.

Cover commemorating the opening of the *Kunlun Station*  
dated 2008.10.20



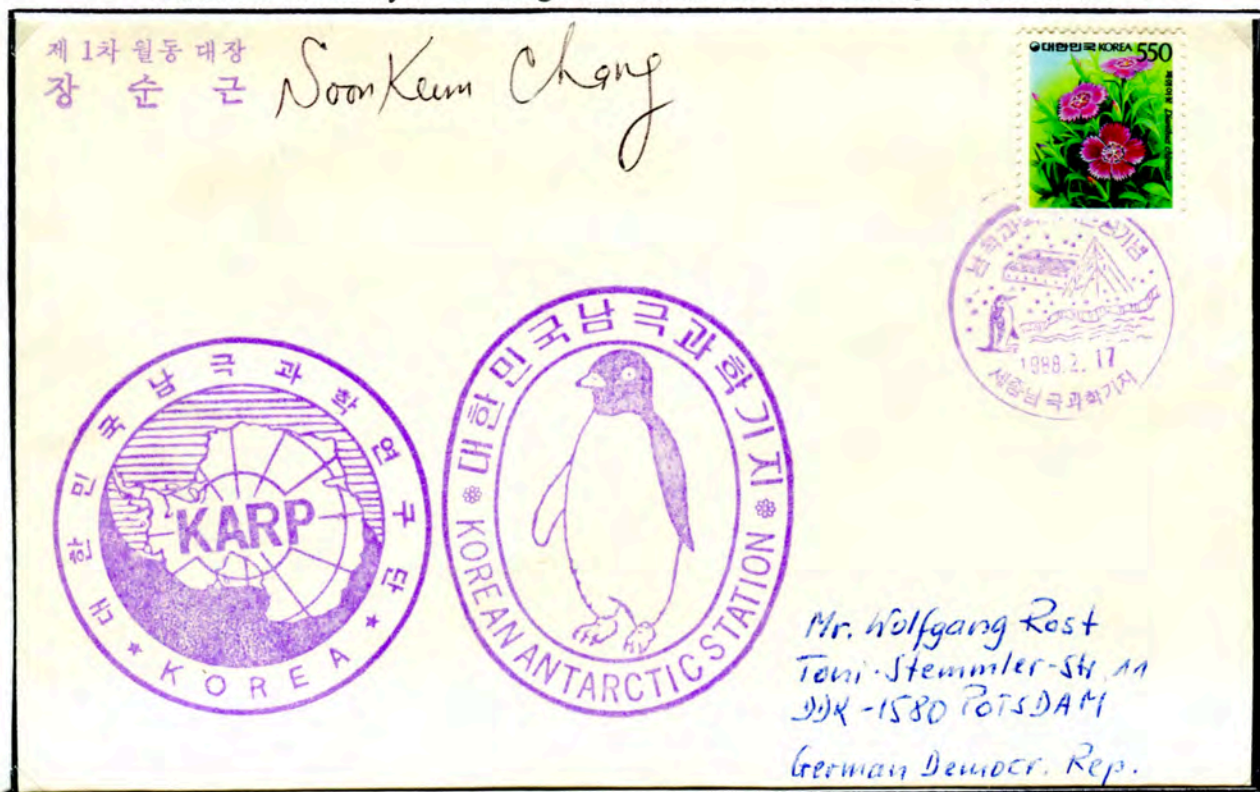


## 5. CONCLUSION

### > SOUTH KOREA → established on British Claim

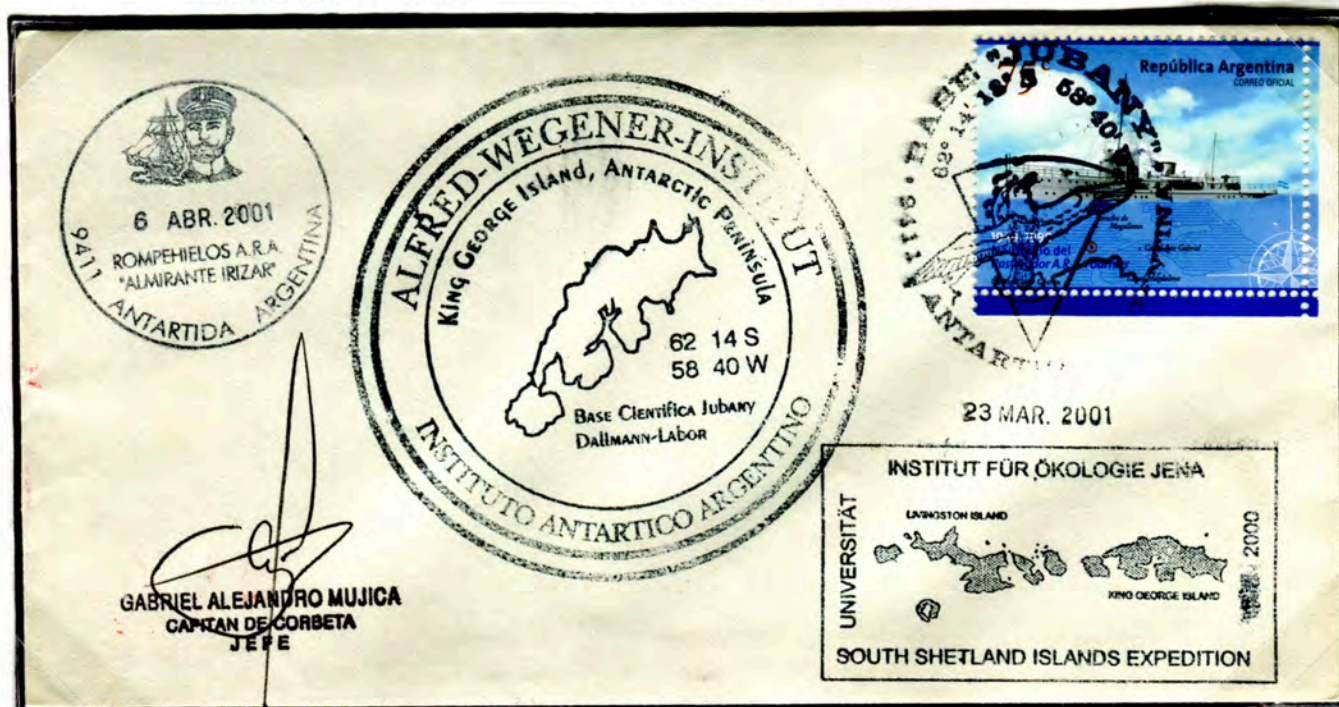
The **King Sejong** station (세종과학기지) was established on King George Island, South Shetland Islands, on February 17 1988. Scientists collect data (meteorological records, oceanographical parameters, etc.), but their main focus is on tracking the general change of the natural environment. Researchers from Korea continually collaborate with various other institutes in Antarctica and the rest of the world.

- Cancelled on the day of the inauguration of the station and the opening of the post office



### > COLLABORATION BETWEEN GERMANY – ARGENTINA – NETHERLANDS → on British Claim

- Cachets of the *Alfred-Wegener Institute* which jointly runs the Dallmann Laboratory with Argentina and the Netherlands at the **Jubany station (Argentina)** on King George Island, South Shetland Islands
- Stamp and postmark of Argentina





## 5. CONCLUSION

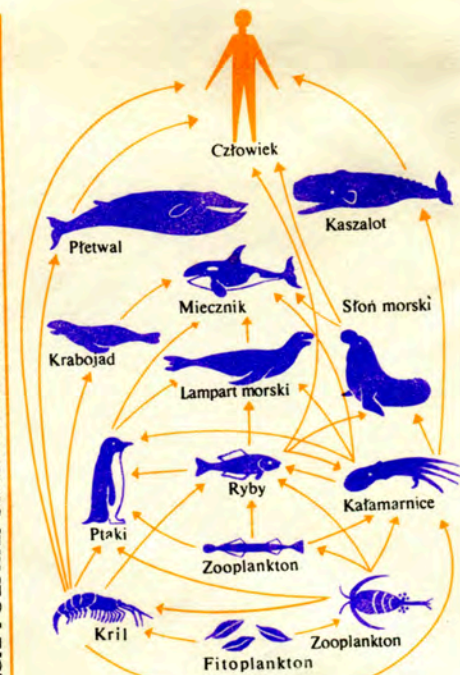
➤ **SOUTH AFRICA** → established on Norwegian Claim

The *Sanae station I* of 1960 was built on a moving ice shelf; the station inevitably got buried, and eventually broke off as part of icebergs drifting away. Successive stations were built, Sanae II, III. Sanae IV is the actual station of South Africa. The research programme at the SANAE IV base is carried out under the auspices of the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP).

Cover of the **first** South African Expedition in 1959. Postmark SANAE dated 11.I.60



X-LECIE POLSKIEJ STACJI ANTARKTYCZNEJ IM. H. ARCTOWSKIEGO



PIERWSZY DZIEŃ OBIEGU FDC — MIN. ŁĄCZNOŚCI



J.Z. PIEKUT  
SKR.POCZT. 693  
PL.00.950 Warszawa 1

◀ **POLAND**

→ established on  
British Claim

The *Arctowski station* is  
built on King George  
Island (South Shetl. Is)

Its main research areas  
include : marine biology,  
oceanography, geology,  
geomorphology,  
glaciology, meteorology,  
climatology, seismology  
magnetism and ecology.

Postmark from the  
station dated 87.02.13



## 5. CONCLUSION

### A single governance, but will it stand the test of time?

The Antarctic Treaty has worked rather well, demonstrating that it is possible for States to agree on such noble objectives as scientific research or environmental protection.

The rise of certain nations that have hitherto been quite discreet in Antarctica may also in the future disturb somewhat the well-established game of this atypical governance. The future will tell whether the tools of the Antarctic Treaty System and its current mode of operation are robust enough to respond to these new pressures.

The **United States** do not recognize the claims of other governments and reserve the right to assert claims. **Russia** takes a similar position.

### What about the case of Brazil ?

In 1986, politicians identified an « *area of interest* » that covered some of the areas claimed by Argentina, Chile and Great Britain. *Antártida Brasileira* runs from 28 ° W to 53 ° W, south of 60 ° S.

This definition is based on the concept of geostrategist *Therezinha de Castro*, which defines a distribution of Antarctica by dividing the territory into sectors corresponding to the facades of countries on the same meridian.

In the two subsequent years, in 1986 and 1987, Brazil issued two stamps with a patriotic tendency.



Brazilian station *Comandante Ferraz*  
on King George Islands, South Shetland Islands → established on British Claim

Will it stand the test of time?... ☒