New Zealand Acceptances for the first 'All-Australian' airmail Australia to England

NZSoGB ZOOM presentation 24th October 2026

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Cover description

Specially Illustrated Air Mail Society of NZ cover with 1/- 5d postage made up of a scarce 1/-3d lemon postal fiscal CP Cat Z30a and a 2d KGV Surface CP Cat K18e/h Perf 14 x14 cancelled with two PALMERSTON NTH C.D.S 11 NO 31 1130AM. The rate was made up of 2d surface, 3d internal air and the 1/- per ½ oz air mail to the UK. Blue air mail etiquette applied with the route in typescript amended in manuscript for Malta.

Cover addressed to Malta with the reverse bearing a receiving VALLETTA MALTA C.D.S 7-AM DE 21 31 together with the first flight cachet in red. The blue air mail etiquette has a single thick red jusqu'a bar cancelling the etiquette which meant that the airmail transit was terminated at that point.



Route taken

Palmerston North to Auckland by Air Travel Ltd and then by sea to Sydney on the SS *Ulimaroa.* It was then flown by the specially prepared Australian National Airways (ANA) *Southern Sun* VH-UNA from Sydney on the 20th November to Alor Star, Malaysia where it crashed on take off. Despite the offer by KLM to fly the mail to Europe it was politely declined much in the same way as Imperial Airways viewpoint as it was all about 'prestige' and being the first airline to fly the route. Kingsford Smith then flew a relief aircraft, the Avro Ten *Southern Star* VH-UMG from Sydney to Alor Star to pick up the mail leaving there on the 5th December and arriving in London on the 16th December.





Unusual Cover Features.

- Unusual destination to Malta. The receiving cancellation of the 21st December would seem to indicate that the air transit ended in London and it was conveyed to Malta by surface. The surface transit to Malta would taken around 4 to 5 days.
- The thick red jusqu'a bar is of a type not seen before by myself. Ian McQueen 1993 study does not record this type but it does have a circular hole at the top which does correspond with an earlier two bar type.
- 1/-3d yellow postal fiscal is a difficult stamp to obtain as it was replaced soon after issue by a new colour.
- The Red and Blue 'First Flight OFFICIAL N.Z. Air Mail Stamp label' - The 'New Zealand Airmail Label & Aviation Cinderella Catalogue 1999 Edition' by James Stapleton states that only one example of this imperforate blue and red label has been sighted. This is shown on Page 45 - Type C8. This cover is addressed to Frank Bray of the Oceania exchange club who was an early member of the newly formed Air Mail Society of New Zealand which may explain the origin of the label.



