

New Zealand Unpaid and Underpaid Mail



1948 large letter from Wellington to Petone.
Unauthorised Enclosure - 6d Fine To Pay.

Unpaid Mail

1858 Cover from Wellington to Dunedin

Postage rate
2d per ½oz



b/s Wellington
AU 23 1858

No stamp attached - use of postage stamps was not compulsory until 1 April 1862

cover endorsed with fancy handstruck '2', in black, indicates postage to be paid by recipient

Detained for Additional Postage

1877 Cover from Auckland to Ontario, Canada



- Letter posted 15 January at the single letter rate of 8d
- Detained for additional postage - a further 8d
- Further 6d and 2d stamps added to pay the 8d due
- Cancelled 16 JA 77
- Endorsed 'More To Pay' and '5' - a 5c US transit charge for mail destined for Canada.

cover carried on the 'City of Sydney' arriving at San Francisco on 10 February 1877

Postage Due plus Fine

1888 Cover from Masterton to London



- 6d (single rate) paid
- '2' in blue crayon indicates letter is double weight
- Manuscript and Boxed deficiency marks
- 'Deficient Postage 6d, Fine 6d - 1/-
- 1/- mark applied on arrival in the UK
 - F.B. = Foreign Branch.

Postage Due plus Fine

1884 Cover from the UK to Wellington



- 1d embossed stationery envelope
postmarked Gloucester Station JA 24 84
- Boxed mark -
 - Deficient Postage 5d
 - Fine 6d
 - Total 11d

5d deficiency and 11d to pay was an unusual amount to be shown on a rubber stamp

Postage Due plus Fine

1894 Inland letter from the Town Clerk, Picton.



- prepaid 1d
 - postage as a letter should have been 2d
- Probably posted at the "Commercial Papers" rate of 1d
 - postmaster has endorsed the item "Contains Letter"
- 1d Deficient Postage and a single rate levied as a 'Fine'
- 2d Total Due

Redirected Mail

1891 Incoming letter from Colchester England to Dunedin



Redirected to Oamaru (b/s 28 FE 91) - endorsed with fancy handstruck '2'

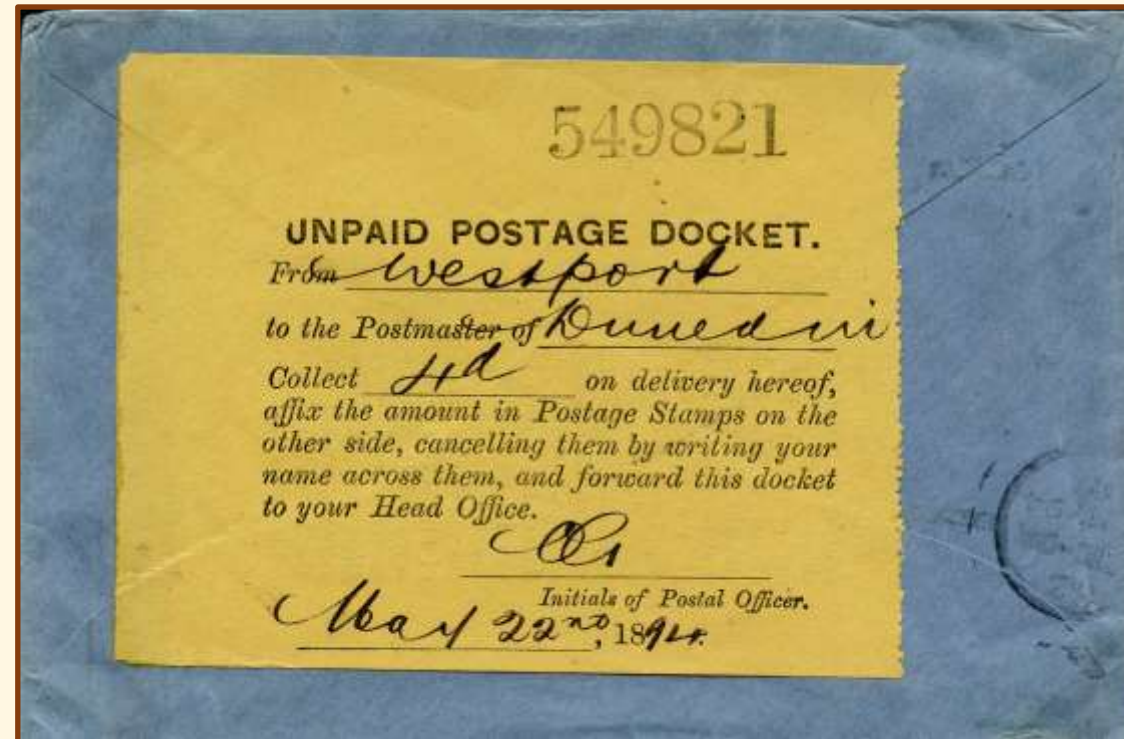
Redirected for a second time to Queenstown - numeral '2' crossed through and a manuscript '4^d' added

Redirection charges were dropped after New Zealand joined the UPU in October of 1891

Evidence of 'Unpaid Postage Docket' on reverse

Unpaid Postage Docket

1894 Cover from Westport to Dunedin

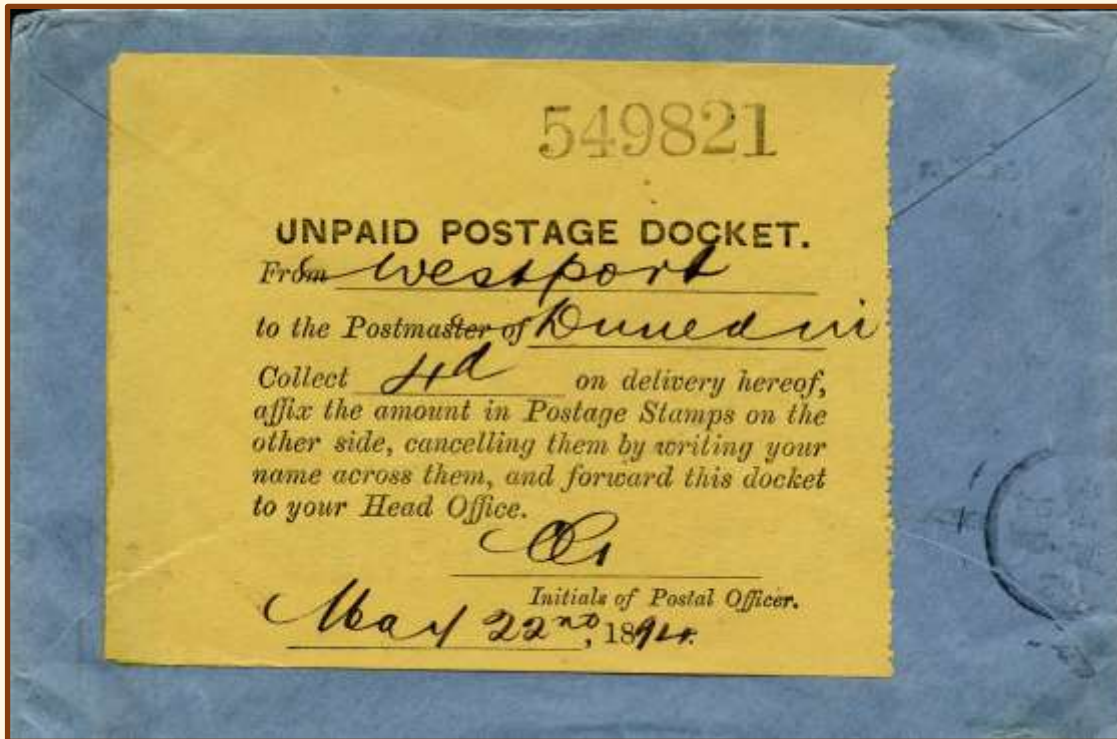


2d Underpaid - 4d To Pay (Double Deficient Postage)

'Unpaid Postage Docket'

Unpaid Postage Docket

1894 Cover from Westport to Dunedin



The 'Unpaid Postage Docket' was introduced on **1 April 1878** to improve the process for collecting unpaid postages and fine where appropriate.

The dispatching postmaster indicated on the docket the amount to be collected on delivery.

The receiving postmaster was supposed to add stamps, to the value of the amount due, on the back of the docket, cancel them by writing his name across them and then send the docket to the Accounts Department at Wellington.

No more than six of these dockets are thought to have survived.

Circular Tax Marks

Domestic Mail



1894 in town letter posted in Napier

Re-direction fee no longer applied

change to address made before posting making it an
out of town letter therefore 1d underpaid
2d To Pay as double deficiency

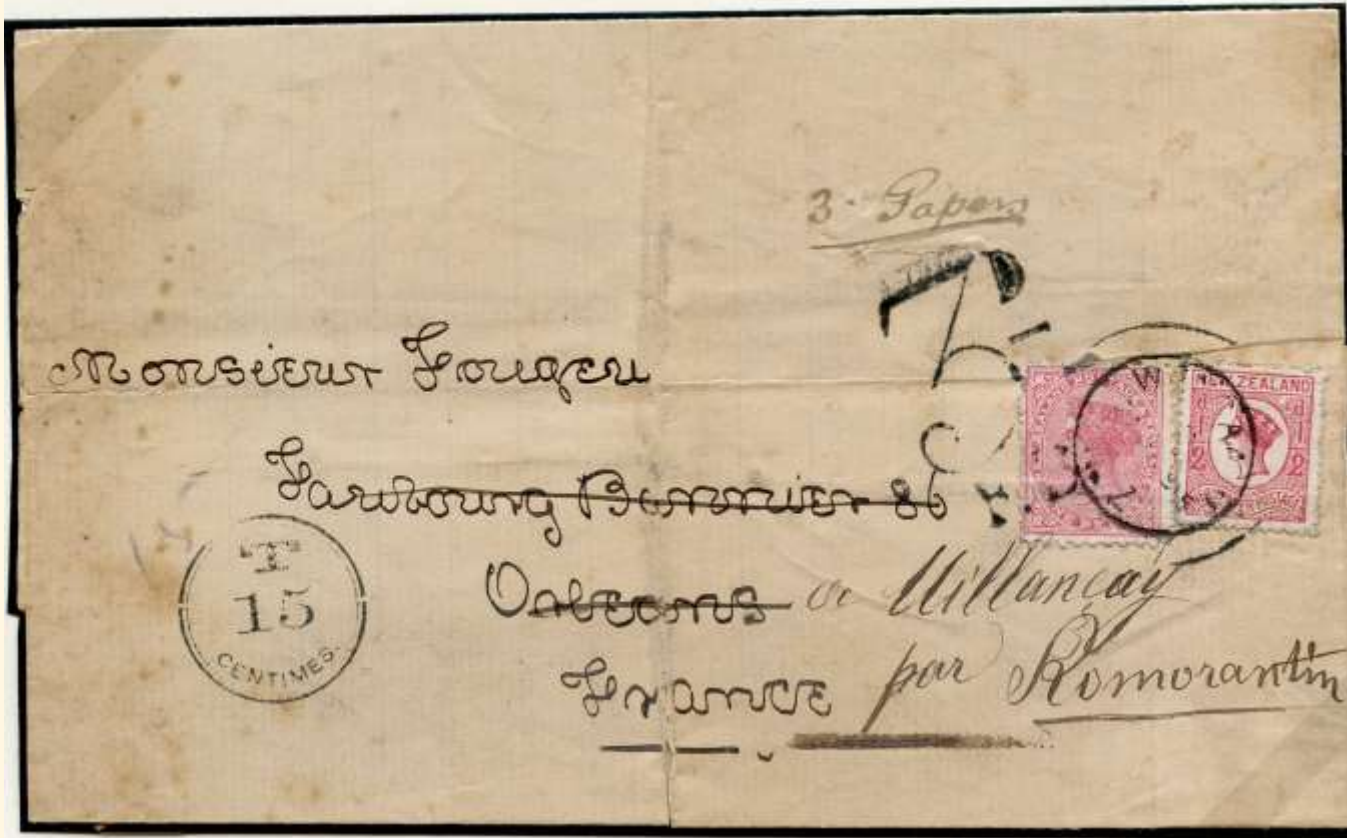


1894 letter overweight and underpaid by 2d

4d To Pay - Double Deficient Postage

Circular Tax Marks

Foreign Mail



Overseas newspaper rate 1d to 4oz
and ½d for each additional 2oz.

Wrapper contained 3 papers
weighing 10 - 12 oz

Payment should have been 3d
1½d paid so 3d to pay (double deficiency)

Converted in New Zealand to 15 centimes

Doubled to 3d on receipt in England

No indication of any amount collected in France

Newspaper wrapper from Wanganui (31 JE 95) to Orleans, France. Re-directed to Romorantin

Octagonal Tax Marks



After 1891 (October) New Zealand was bound by the UPU regulations.

The amount underpaid should have been calculated and marked in New Zealand

Hexagonal marks are not recorded in the 'Handbooks' - could these have been applied in the US?

On arrival in the destination country the total amount due (double the deficiency) is shown in local currency

Octagonal Tax Marks



1895 letter to Scotland
Paid 5d for double rate but underpaid by $2\frac{1}{2}$ d
Marked as 25 centimes underpaid
5d (double deficiency) mark applied in the UK



1895 letter to New York
Paid 3d - $\frac{1}{2}$ d overpaid
but assessed as double rate - so 2d underpaid
- then compulsorily registered - a further 6d charged

8d underpaid, converted to 80 centimes
- no evidence this was doubled or tax was collected

Introduction of Postage Due Stamps

Special stamps to indicate the amount due were introduced on 1 December 1899.



*A 1900 single rate inland letter, probably posted in the guards van of a mail train. This should have attracted an additional '**Loose Letter**' rate of an extra 1d.*

Double deficient postage due = 2d.

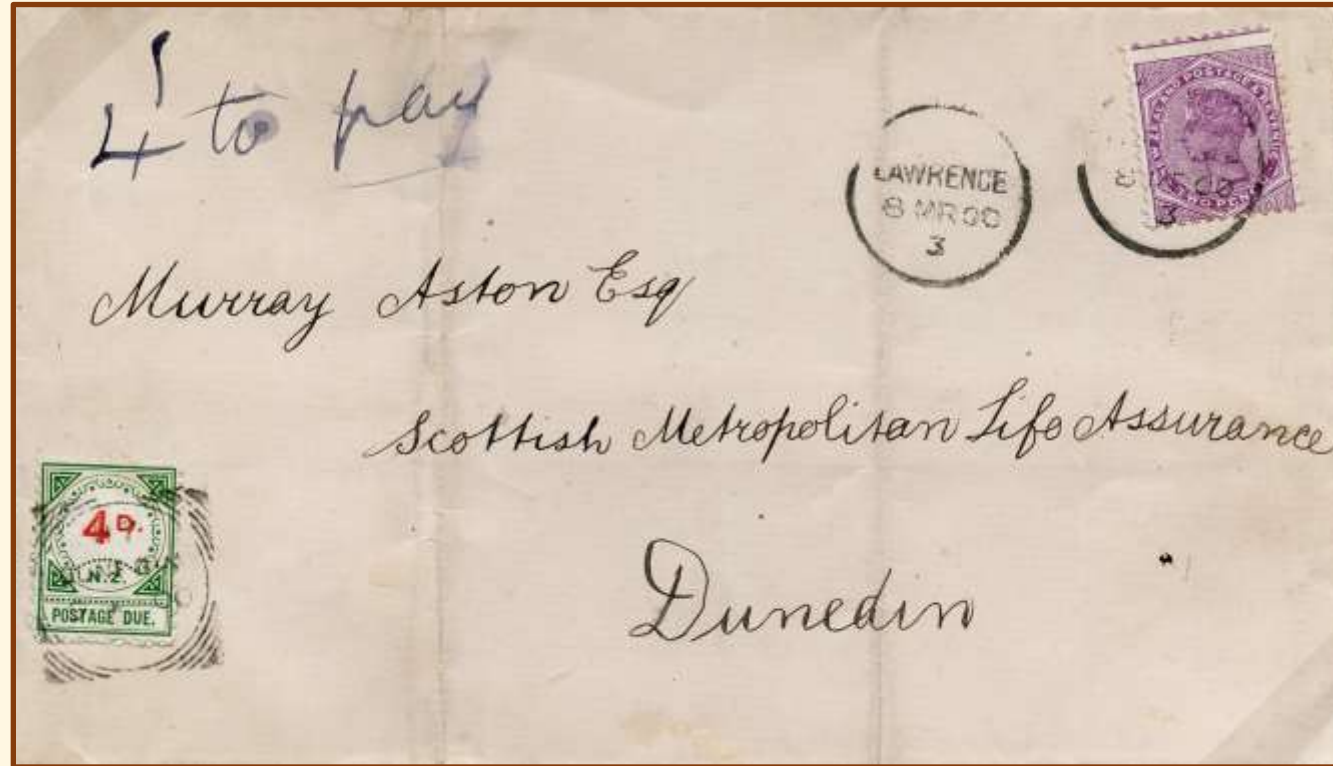
At some point the envelope has been roughly opened and crudely re-sealed.

Very few covers posted during 1899/1900, bearing postage due stamps, are known.

Only 3 or 4 covers are known with Second Sideface stamps.

Introduction of Postage Due Stamps

Special stamps to indicate the amount due were introduced on 1 December 1899.



A March 1900 letter from Lawrence to Dunedin.

Pre-paid 2d but presumably overweight and double deficiency, 4d, charged.

Cover endorsed '4d to pay' and a 4d postage due stamp added at Dunedin (9 MR 00)

Halfpenny Postage Due

If underpaid mail is charged at double the deficiency why was a ½d postage due stamp ever needed?



Halfpenny Postage Due

If underpaid mail is charged at double the deficiency why was a ½d postage due stamp needed?

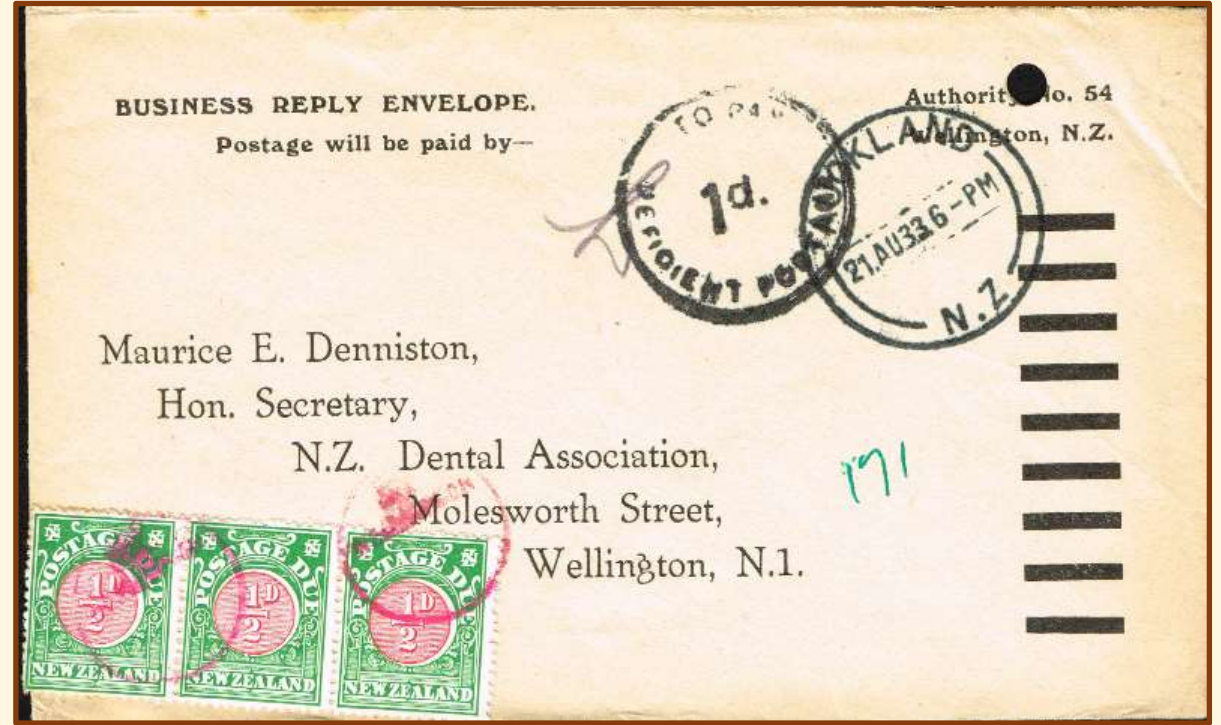
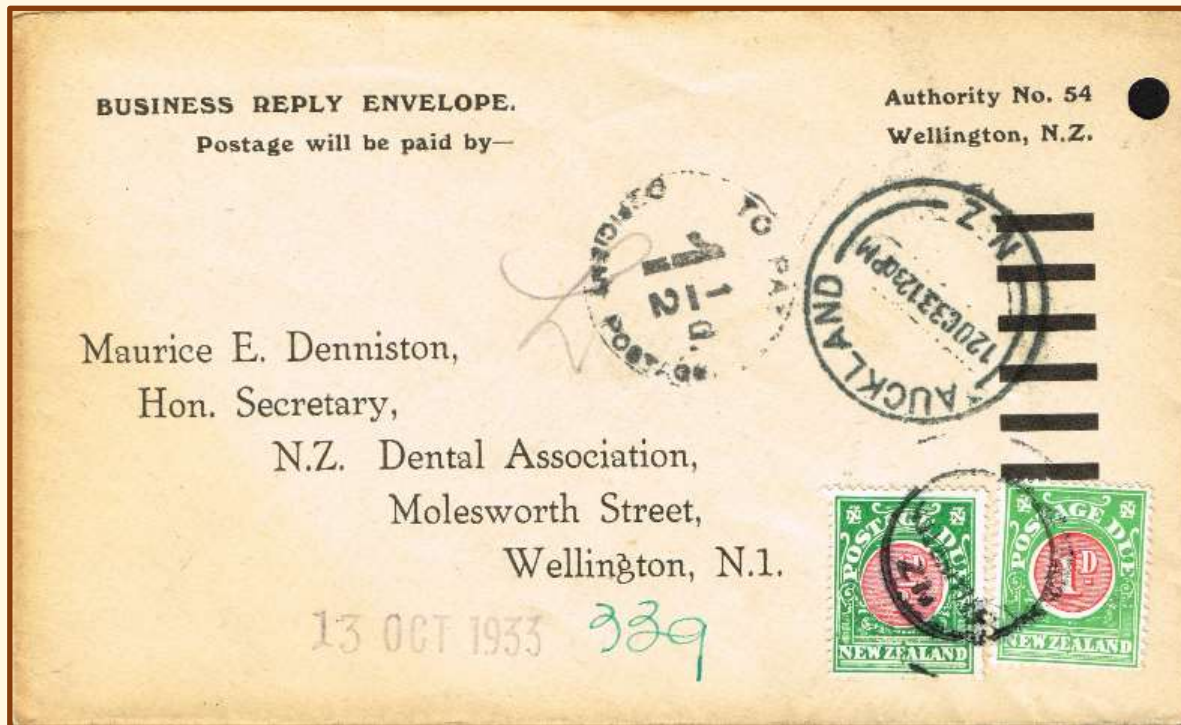
The answer is deficient postage did not always mean double deficiency was charged

Robert Samuel identified at least five circumstances where a halfpenny could have been charged.

- 1. On short paid correspondence to government departments only the deficiency was charged*
- 2. On letters where no stamps were available only the deficiency was charged*
- 3. The Business Reply Card system involved payment of the deficient postage plus a ½d service fee*
- 4. At the beginning of the Boer War unstamped mail was charged 2½d payable by the recipient*
- 5. The 1920 UPU Congress agreed a minimum postage due charge of 1½d*

Halfpenny Postage Due

If Postage Due is “Double Deficient” why is there a ½d Postage Due stamp?



Two Business Reply Cards used in 1933. Both have 1½d in postage due stamps added

One card (left) is marked with 1½d to pay and the other (right) 1d to pay.

*The Business Reply Card System allowed for the postage to be paid by the business **with a further ½d service fee.***

Halfpenny Postage Due

A 1900 letter posted without stamps, cancelled on receipt at Wellington, 24 JL 00



*Cover endorsed **To Pay / ½d / Deficient Postage***

a figure '2' has been inserted by hand

2d and a ½d postage due stamps have been added on receipt at Auckland.

The rate of postage for serving soldiers was reduced from the standard rate of 2½d to 1d on 1 April 1900 but required the letter to be endorsed by a commanding officer. With no counter signature on this letter it is possible that the receiving post office refused to allow the reduced rate whilst recognising it was mail from a soldier serving in the Boer War and did not apply the double deficiency.

1½d To Pay

If Postage Due is “Double Deficient” how can there be 1½d to pay?



“Correspondence of every kind not prepaid or insufficiently prepaid is liable to a charge equal to double the amount of the deficiency to be paid by the addressees; but **this charge may not be less than 30 centimes**”

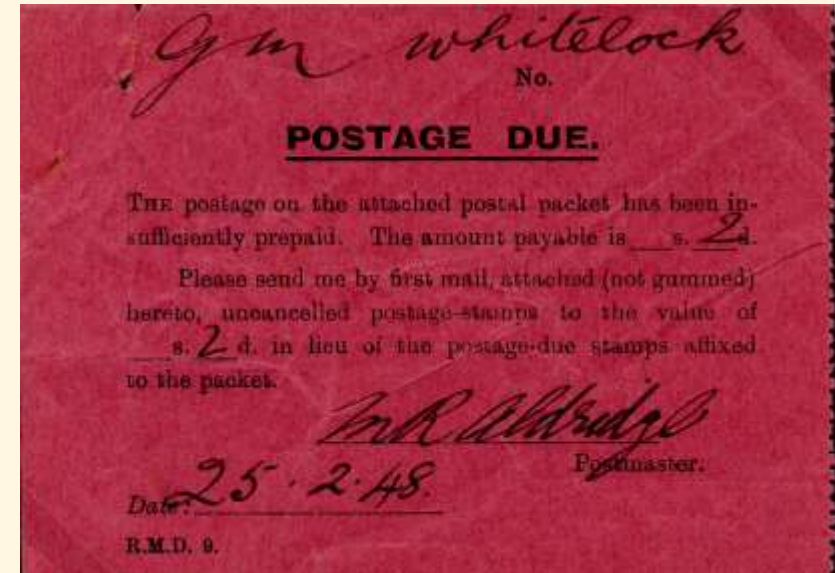
[UPU Convention of Madrid, 30 November 1920]

“..... **but that charge shall not be lower than 10 centimes**”

[UPU Convention of Stockholm, 28 August 1924]

Circular Tax Mark and Postage Due Docket

1948 unpaid cover with Postage Due Docket



Docket originally pinned to the cover

*This later docket would suggest that the system relied on trust.
The addressee is asked to send uncanceled stamps, to the value of 2d,
“in lieu of the postage-due stamps affixed to the packet”*

Circular Tax Marks

Foreign Mail - *tax conversion rate is 10 centimes to 1d*



1943 surface mail to the Us

postage rate = 3d - 1d underpaid

20 centimes double deficiency



194? letter to the UK

Postage rate = 2d per ½ oz and 1d each additional ½oz

1d underpaid - 20c Tax To Pay, marked 2d in the UK

Circular Tax Marks

Foreign Mail - *tax conversion rate is 4 centimes to 1d*



1952 Air Letter to the US

1960s surface letter to the US

1965 surface letter to Holland



Deficient Postage - 'T' Marks

The 'T' or 'Keyhole' mark was introduced in 1961



A 1962 unpaid letter

First class internal, surface rate was 3d

Double deficient charge = 6d

Paid with postage stamps



A 1968 underpaid letter to the UK

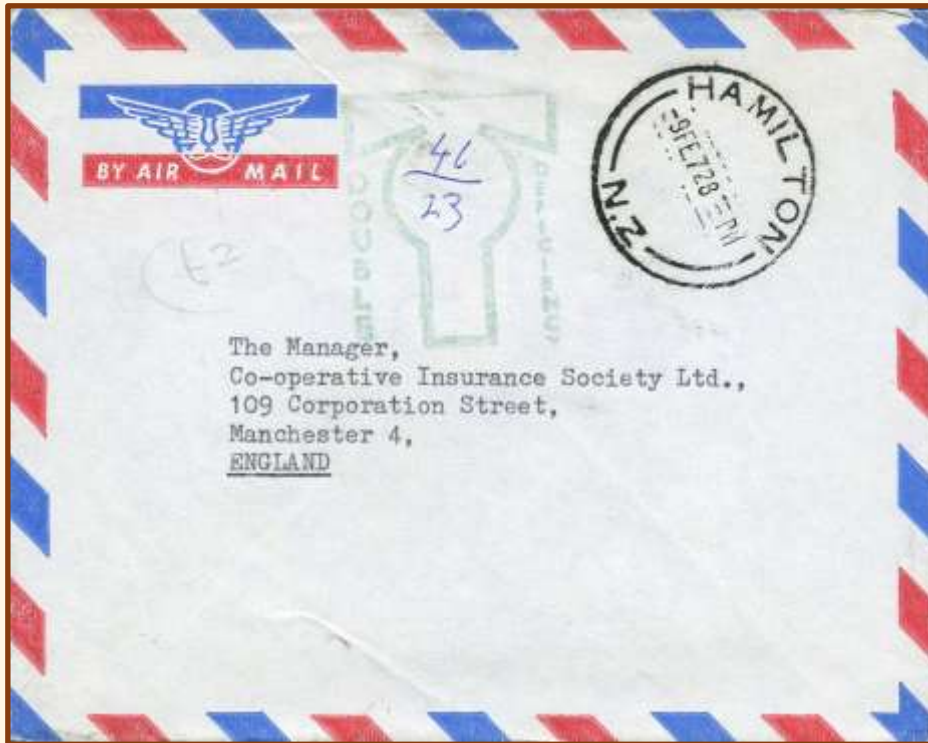
Airmail rate rose to 28c from 1 January 1968

8c underpaid - double deficiency shown as 16c

Converted to 1s 8d on arrival in the UK

Deficient Postage - 'T' Marks

'T' marks with fraction showing deficiency and double deficiency within the 'Keyhole'



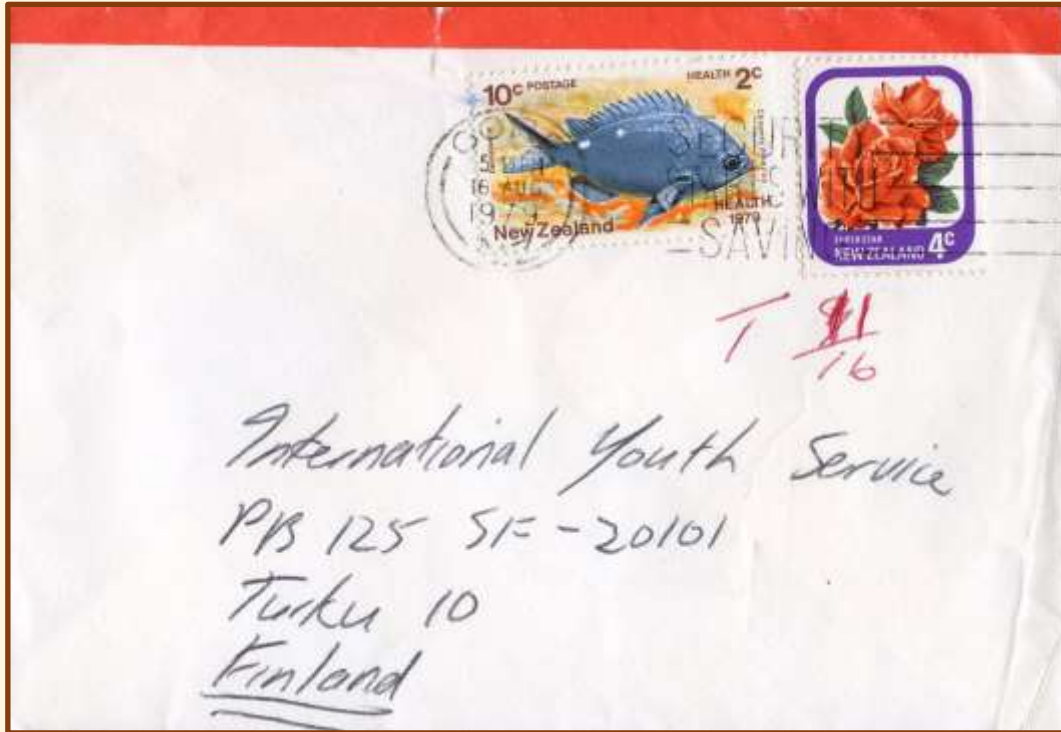
*1972 unpaid letter to the UK
23c underpaid and 46c double deficiency shown*



*1973 underpaid letter to the UK
13c underpaid and 26c double deficiency shown*

The 'Tax Fraction' System

Introduced following changes at the 1964 UPU Convention in Vienna



A 1979 underpaid letter to Finland

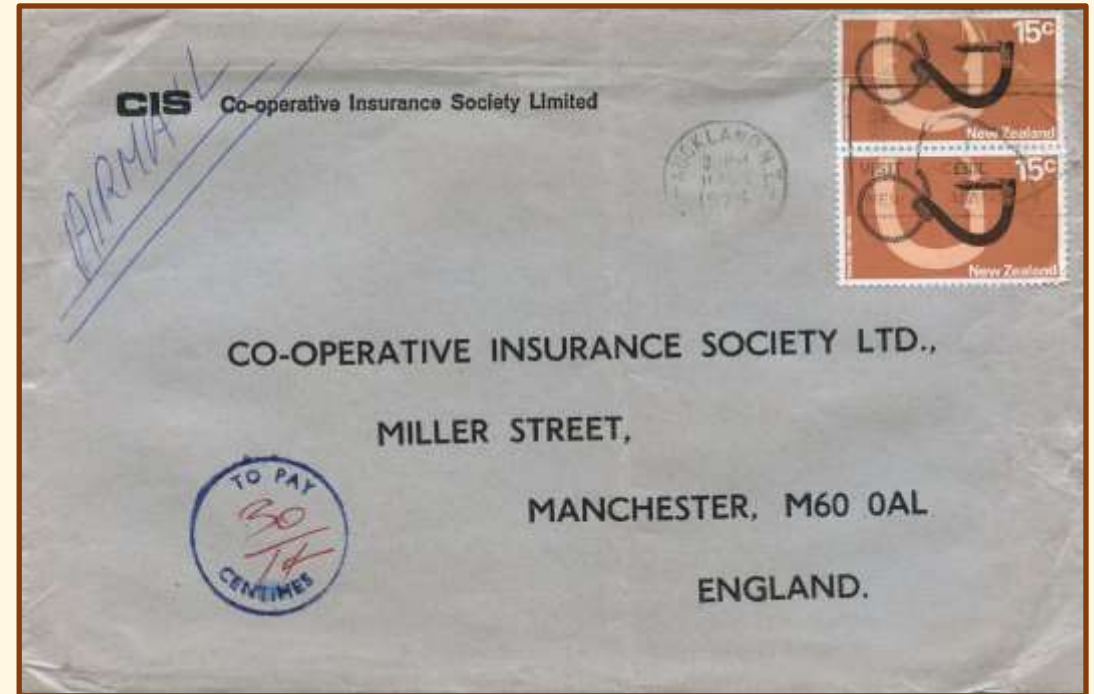
- Items on which a charge is to be collected after posting, either from the addressee or, in the case of undeliverable items, from the sender, **are marked with a 'T' stamp (postage due) in the middle of the upper part of the front.**
- Beside the impression of this stamp the **Administration of origin** enters very legibly in the currency of its Country the **double or single amount, as the case may be, of the underpayment**, and under the fraction line, that of its **charge valid for the first weight step letters**"
- The **delivering Administration** marks the item with the charge to be collected. It determines this charge by **multiplying the fraction resulting from the data mentioned by the amount, in its national currency, of the charge in the international service to the first weight step for letters.**

The 'Tax Fraction' System

Introduced following changes at the 1964 UPU Convention in Vienna



A 1975 underpaid letter to the UK



A 1976 (double rate?) underpaid letter to the UK

The numerator (above the line) shows the amount underpaid - and doubled

The denominator (below the line) should be the New Zealand international letter rate in centimes

The absence of any UK marks suggests this was bulk commercial mail

The 'Tax Fraction' System

A 1975 underpaid airmail letter to England



According to the "Universal Postal Convention" of both the Vienna Congress of 1964 and the Tokyo Congress of 1969

- Article 59 1. ...underpaid surcharged air-mail shall be treated as follows: ... (b) in the event of underpayment, surcharged air-mail correspondence shall be forwarded by air if the charges paid represent at least the amount of the air surcharge; nevertheless, the administration of origin shall be permitted to send these items by air *when the charges paid represent at least 75% of the surcharge....*



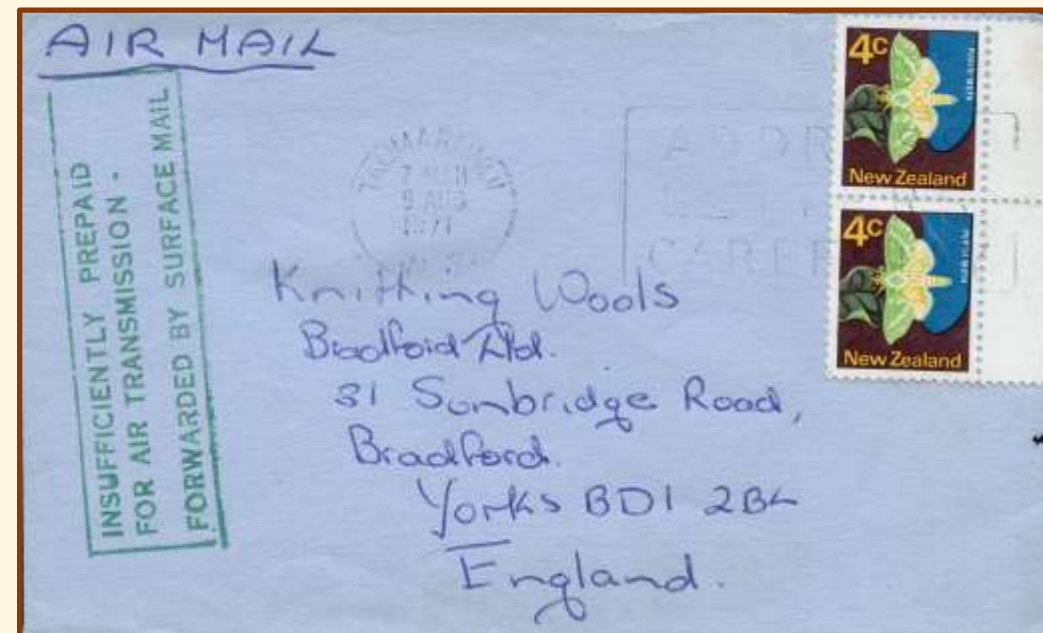
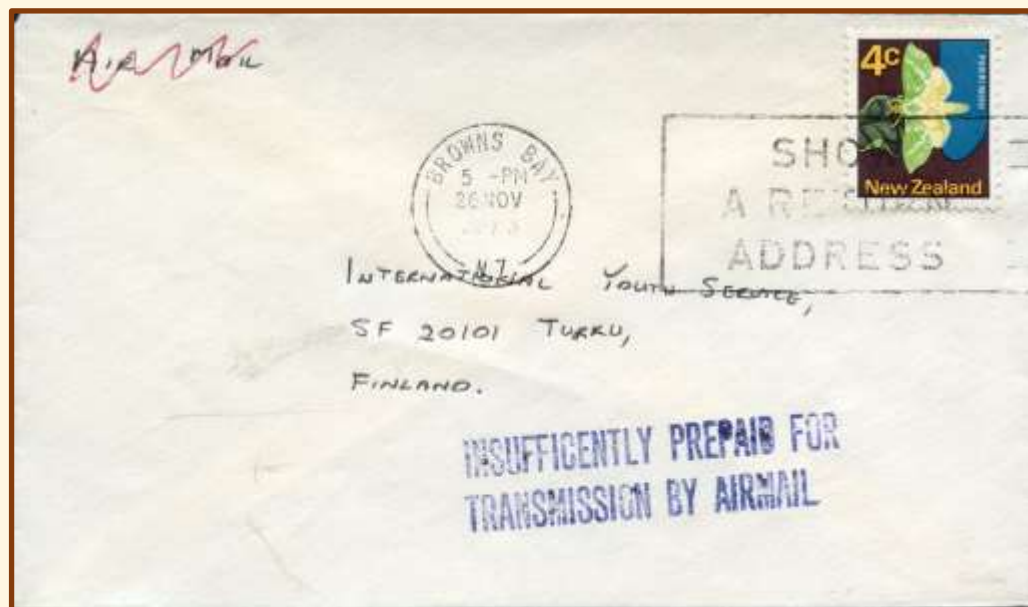
$$26c = 2 \times \text{deficiency (Airmail to UK = 23c)}$$

$$8c = \text{NZ international surface letter rate}$$



$$26 \div 8 \times \text{UK International surface letter rate} \\ = \text{Amount to be charged in the UK}$$

Insufficiently Prepaid for Airmail Service



*Two letters from the 1970s, insufficiently prepaid for Air Mail.
Both presumably forwarded by Surface Mail*

Deficient Postage Plus Surcharge Rubber Stamps



Underpaid inland letter from June 1977
4c Deficient Postage, 5c Surcharge = 9c Total

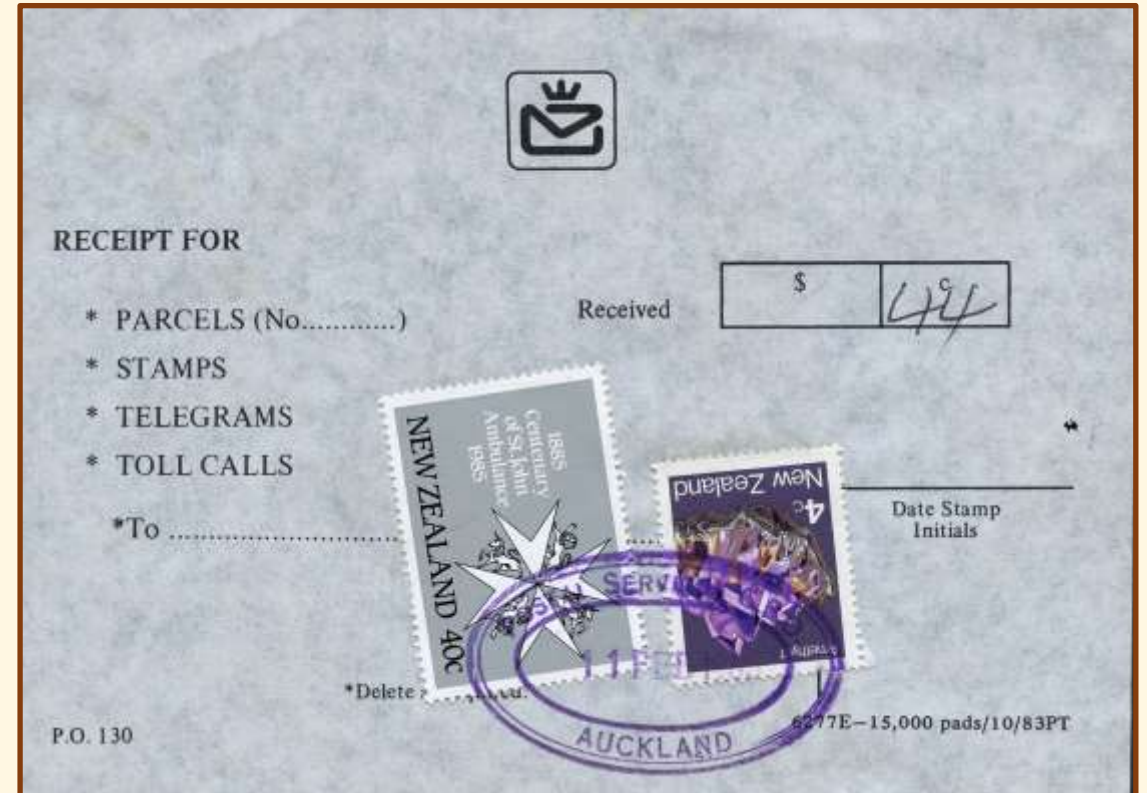
Rubber stamps with the fee pre-printed issued to over 500 offices

*From 2 February, 1976 the method of denoting deficient or shortpaid postage changed from the 'Keyhole' Double Deficient mark to a **Deficiency** plus **Surcharge** - fee initially 5c.*

*[Ref: THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND
Volume VIII (pub. 1998), p630]*

2 February 1976	fee	5c
1 August 1979	fee	15c
1 October 1980	fee	20c
1 April 1982	fee	24c
1 July 1985	fee	28c
1 February 1987	fee	40c
1 July 1991	fee	45c
1 October 1995	fee	40c

Deficient Postage Plus Surcharge Rubber Stamps



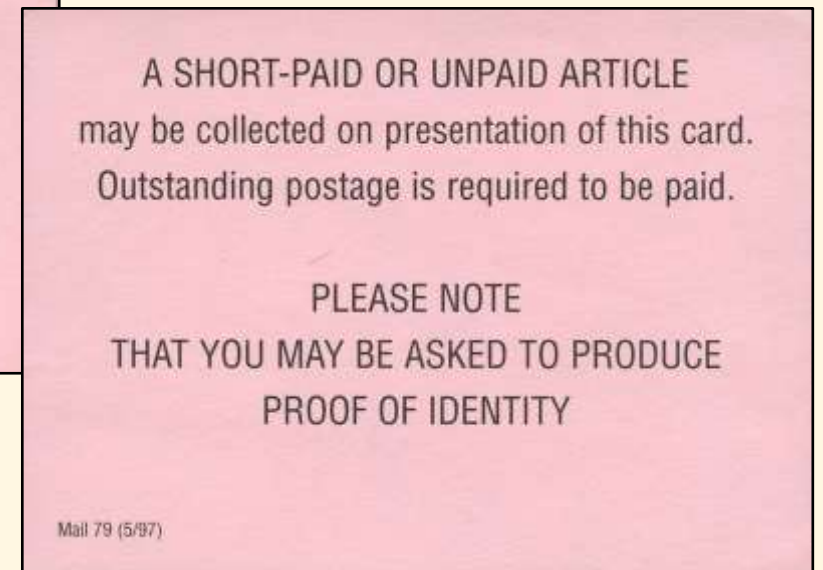
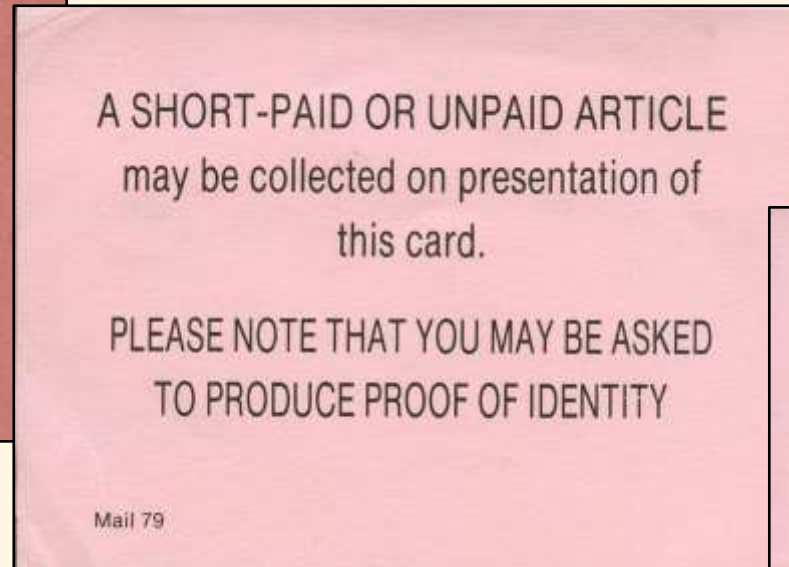
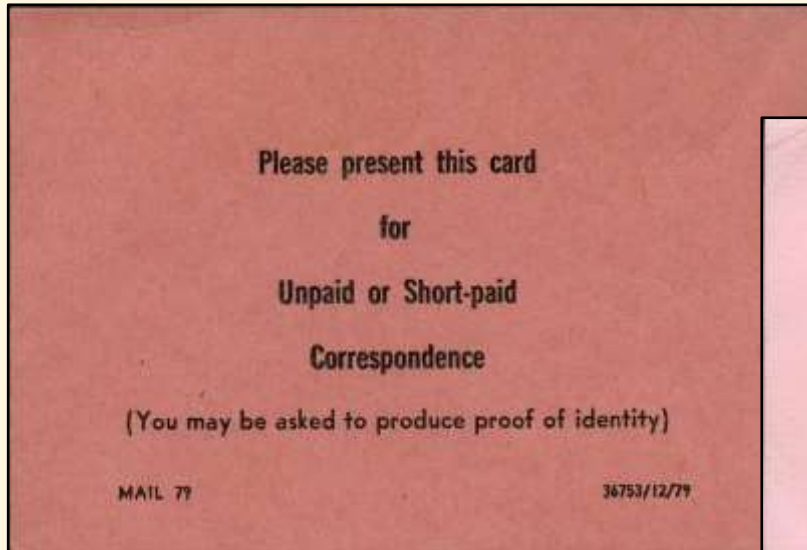
Letter posted (February 1985) with a Cinderella stamp and no postage stamp

Underpaid 24c and Surcharge 20c = Total 44c

Receipt shows 44c was paid with a 40c and a 4c postage stamp

The Surcharge should have been 24c at this date and the total 48c

Cards to Collect Short-paid Articles



MAIL 79 (1979-1997)

Cards to Collect Short-paid Articles



MAIL 48 (1993)

Delivery Delayed/Short Paid



Underpaid inland letter from 2001

- 40c Deficient Postage
- 40c Additional Charge
- 80c Total Due

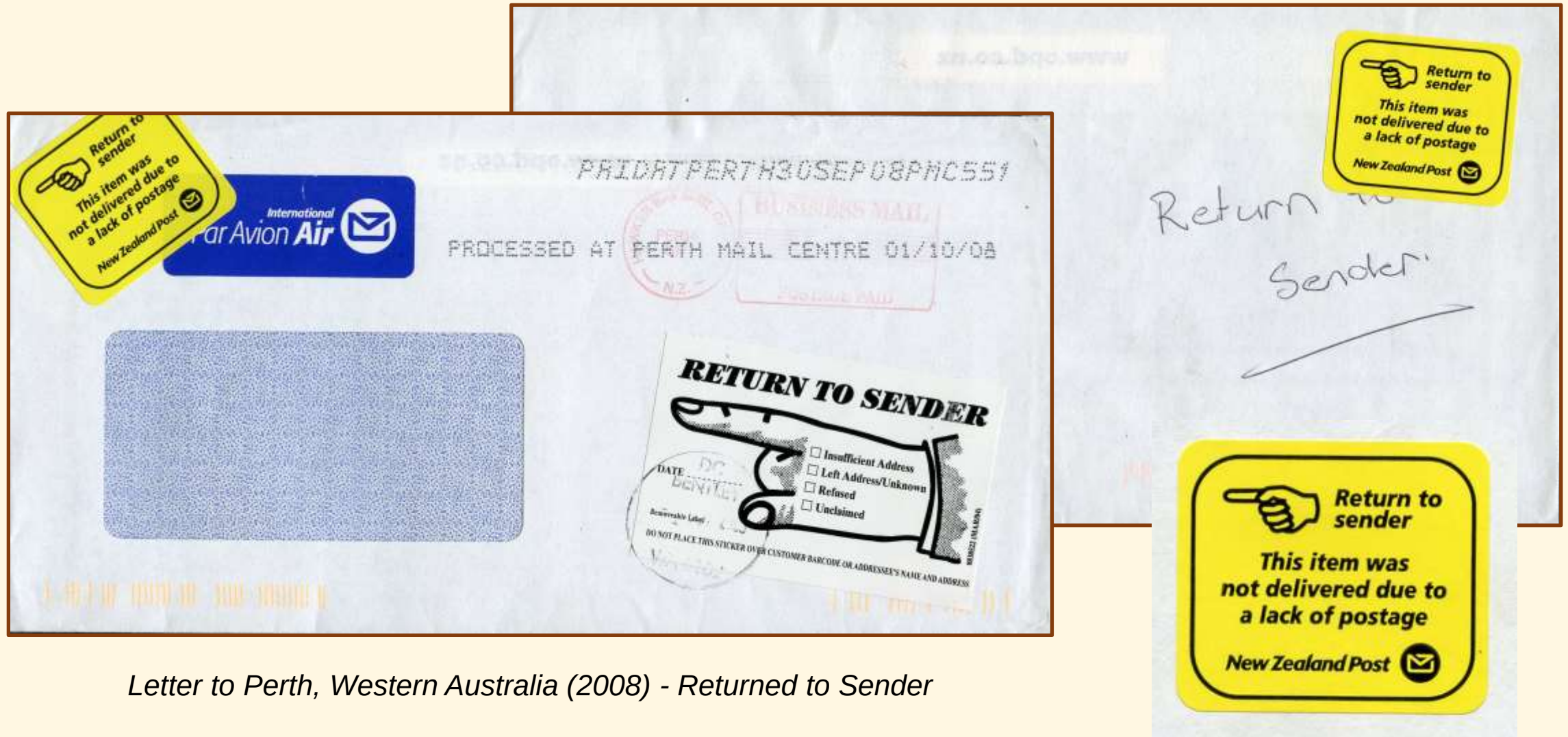
Deficient Postage Labels

Two underpaid items from 2003

The item below shows the added 50c stamp attached as a receipt after paying the amount due.



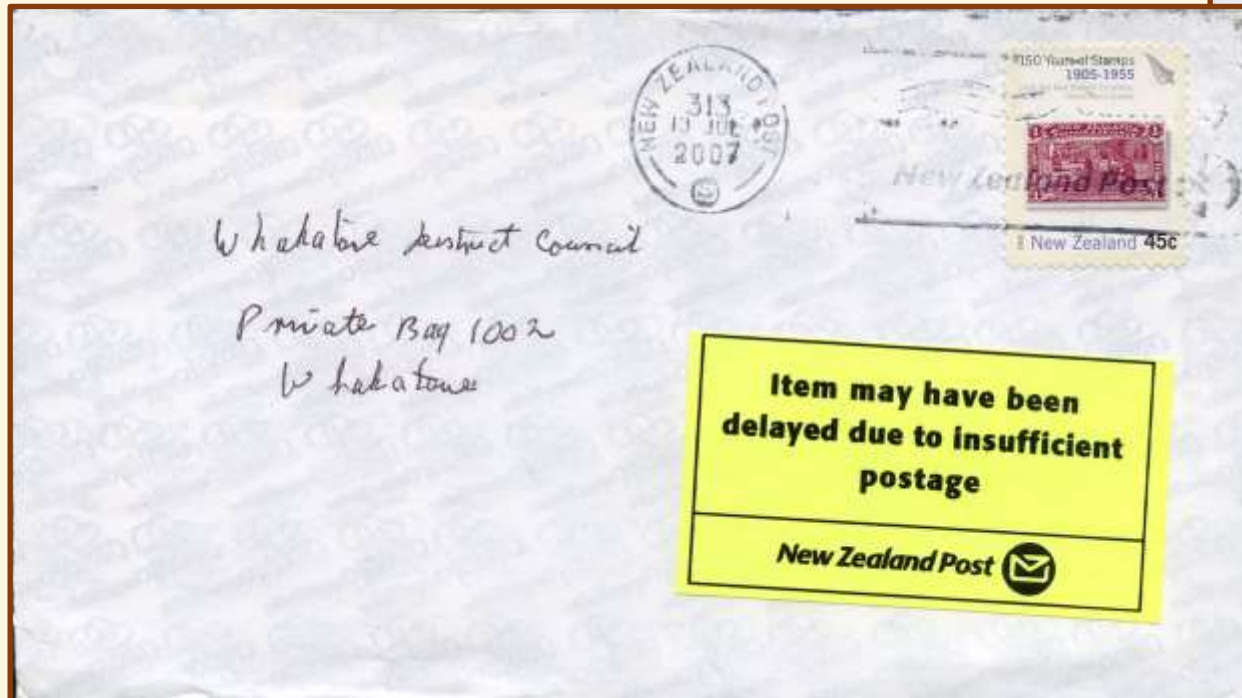
Not Delivered - Lack of Postage



Letter to Perth, Western Australia (2008) - Returned to Sender

Delivery Delayed/Short Paid

- Two inland underpaid letters from 2007
- Presumably delivered using a slower service



Your Postal Article was Observed to be Shortpaid

 030243

9 March 1979

Mr U. Pies-Lintz
PO Box 46058
Park Avenue
Lower Hutt

L
Dear Sir/Madam,

A postal article addressed to Mrs M. Klein
Les Vergers, Rue 5, Villa 18, Algeria

on which your name and address appear as the sender, was observed to be short-paid. Rather than cause you any embarrassment by having the addressee pay double the deficiency, the Post Office has made up the deficit and sent on your letter stamped with the correct postage.

I should be grateful if you would now reimburse the Post Office by affixing 25c in postage stamps in the space below, and posting this form back to me. An envelope for the purpose is enclosed.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]

Transit: surface/air (Delete as necessary)	
Category:	
Weight:	20 grams
Postage rate:	60c
Amount affixed:	35c
Deficiency:	25c

Mail 49

A postal article addressed to On which your name and address appears as the sender was observed to be shortpaid.

Rather than cause you any embarrassment by having the addressee pay double the deficiency, the Post Office has made up the deficiency and sent on your letter stamped with the correct postage.

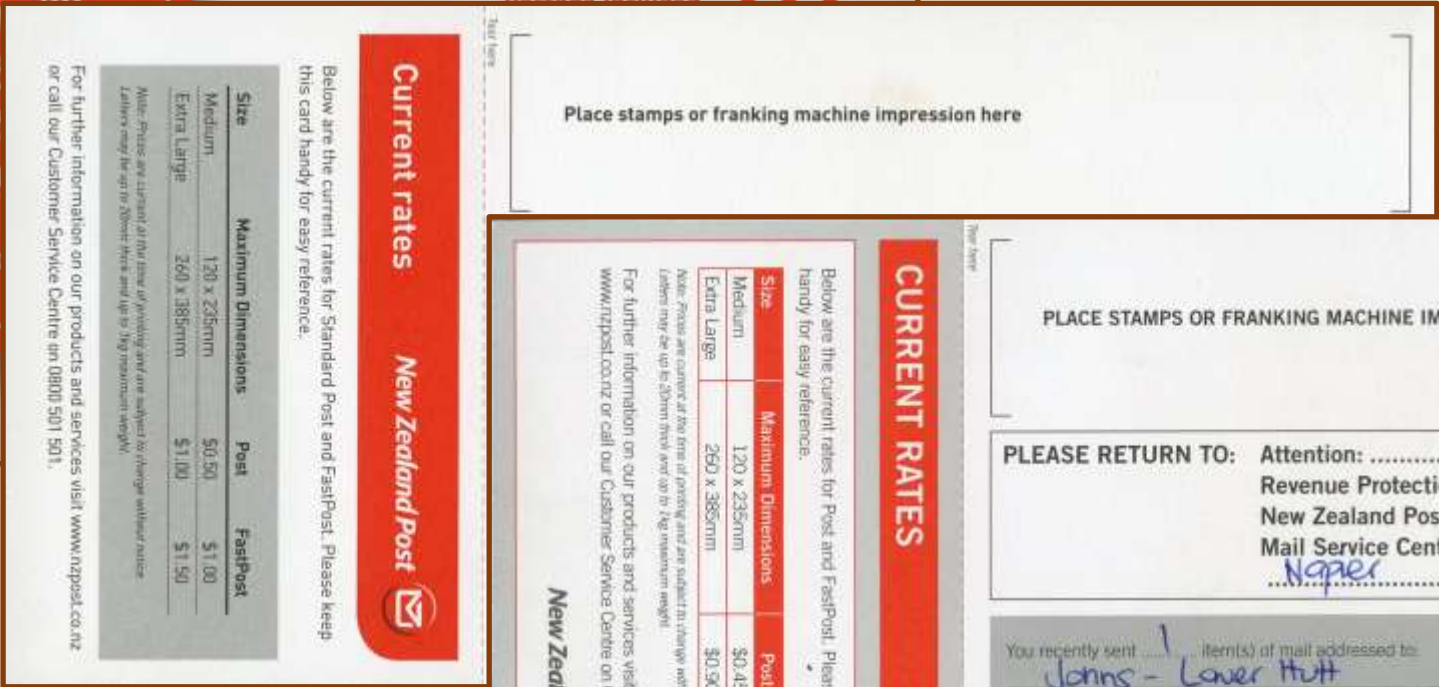
I should be grateful if you would now reimburse the Post Office

MAIL 49 (1979)

Cards to Collect Short-paid Articles



SHP01 (03/04)



SHP01 (06/07)



Return to Sender/Lack of Postage



“Permit Mail for posting within NZ ONLY”

Return to Sender/Lack of Postage

2007

Freepost

- Not permitted

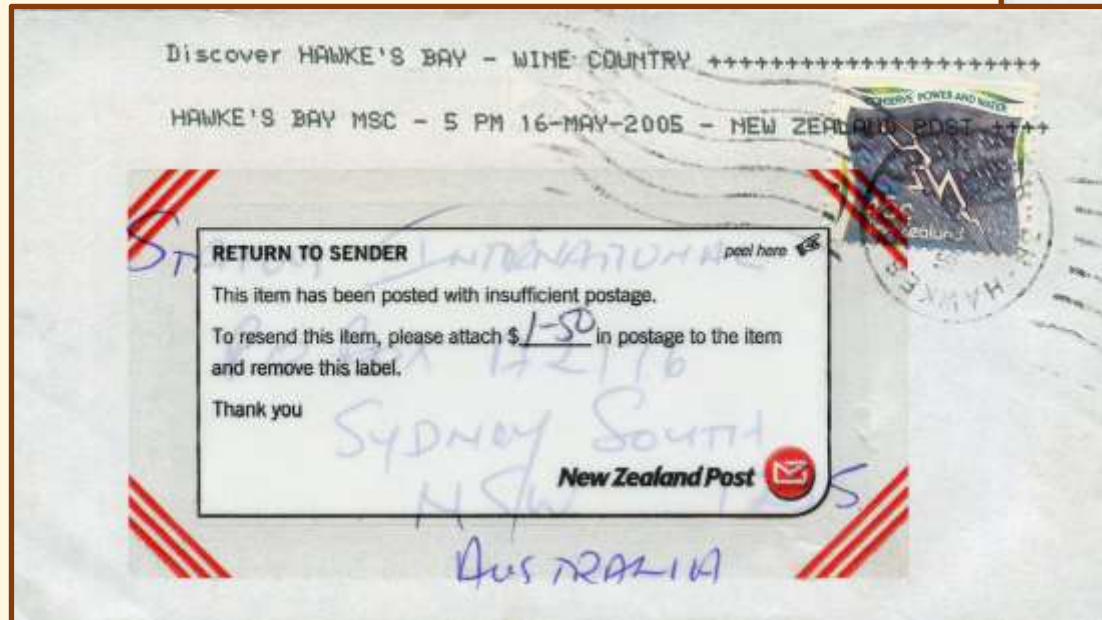


2002

Economy International

- underpaid

Return to Sender/Insufficient Postage



Two underpaid letters from 2005

Insufficiently Prepaid for Airmail Service

