

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
ZOOM MEETING : SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2023

Robert Clark
An Antarctic Cover

Byrd First Expedition 1928 – 1930

Richard Byrd was in charge of many American Antarctic expeditions. The first expedition was October 1928 – February 1930.

They built a base named *Little America* on the Ross Ice Shelf. From there they made various flights over Antarctica to map the area. They also did the first flight over the South Pole on 29 November 1929. Such covers have the inscription *South Pole Air Mail* added to a cachet. Other flown covers have the inscription *Little America – Antarctica*.

Mail was carried on the various flights, but as there was no post office in *Little America*, they were not postmarked until 19 February 1930 on the S.S. *City of New York*.

The *City of New York* sailed from Antarctica to Dunedin on 19 February – 10 March 1930 with Admiral Byrd who arrived back in New York on 19 June.

The two support ships *City of New York* and *Eleanor Bolling* both arrived with much fanfare in Dunedin on 10 March 1930. This was the end of the first Byrd expedition

Dunedin was the supply base from which the two support ships had carried supplies during the expedition

Antarctic Air Mail to New Zealand

Cover carried on one of the Antarctic flights from *Little America*, the base of Richard Byrd's First Antarctic Expedition. Addressed to Dunedin.

No Post Office in Little America at that time which is why covers were not postmarked until 19th February on S.S. *City of New York* which carried members of the Expedition to Dunedin (arriving 10th March) when the expedition ended.

Logo on back with inscription *Little America – Antarctica* which was applied to flown covers.

