

was the *Orcadas del Sud* postmark on 20th February 1904. On that day the South Orkney station was transferred to the Argentines by the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition. Regular Argentine postage stamps were used on the mail.

The first postage stamp issued expressly for use in the Antarctic was the New Zealand 'King Edward VII Land' overprint. Late in 1907 Ernest Shackleton, as leader of the 2nd British Antarctic Expedition, was sworn in as a postmaster by a New Zealand magistrate and given a stock of the specially prepared stamp. The green overprint was applied to 24 000 copies of the red one-penny stamp.

In addition to the stamps, Shackleton was provided with a canceller inscribed: 'Brit. Antarctic Expd. NZ'. The cancel was first applied in green on January 1, 1908,

on the day of the expedition's departure from Lyttelton. In order to conserve coal the polar ship *Nimrod* was in tow by the steamer *Koonya*. On January 15th pack-ice was encountered and the ships parted company. The *Koonya* sailed north with the expedition's first mail cancelled on 15th. From that date on the cancel appeared in black.

The first Antarctic landfall was at Cape Royds, Ross Island, on February 3rd, and mail was postmarked for the occasion aboard the *Nimrod*. A branch post office was set up on land at the Cape and only the date February 27, 1908, appears on that mail. The final use of the postmark by the second expedition was in the following year on March 4th, 1909, the day that the *Nimrod* sailed for home. Later dates of the same cancel were used by Scott during his ill-fated 1910-13 expedition.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF POLAR PHILATELISTS ANNOUNCES GROUP OF FIRST DAY COVERS FOR ANTARCTIC TREATY STAMP

ASPP, one of the leading organizations for collectors of cold-water philately, announces plans for a series of 'Antarctic Treaty' Stamp First Day Covers. As a leader in its field, ASPP is giving polar collectors the chance to obtain unusual covers when this stamp is issued on June 23. Three different covers will be available. All will be multi-coloured, and printed, and/or engraved on high quality rag envelopes. All will be standard 6½ envelopes.

Cover No. 1 will show an embossed map of the Antarctic Continent surrounded by embossed flags of the twelve original signatory nations: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, The French Republic, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Union of South Africa (now the Republic of South Africa), USSR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Poland and The Netherlands acceded to the Treaty later but are not properly considered signatories. It will be remembered that the Antarctic Treaty, which became effective on June 23, 1961, pledged the South Pole region to peaceful uses and scientific co-operation unknown in other parts of the world.

Cover No. 2 reproduces a photograph of the Chief of the United States delegation signing the Antarctic Treaty on June 23, 1961. Other delegates are shown standing in the background.

Cover No. 3 pictures a portrait of Nathaniel Brown Palmer, the discoverer of the Antarctic Continent 150 years ago. This portrait now hanging in the offices of the American Geographical Society in New York City shows Capt. Palmer as a young man since he was only 21 when he discovered the Antarctic mainland. Captain Palmer was master of the 45-ton sloop, 'Hero'. The Captain and his crew of only five steered his 47-foot ship through perilous seas to the Antarctic Continent, a feat which astonished more mature explorers, many who had

tried for years to achieve this goal. Today, the northern peninsula is designated on many maps as Palmer Land.



These special ASPP First Day covers are available for 35c each, three for one dollar and may be mixed or matched. Address labels will be appreciated. Any orders received after June 17 and orders for unaddressed covers should include a large SASE with 8c postage for each three covers. Overseas orders should include one International Reply Coupon for each three covers. All orders should be sent to: ASPP, P.O. Box 245, Lambertville, Mich. 48144, USA.