

Mail Routes to Kiribati and Other Factoids

Steve Zirinsky reports that current mail routing from the USA to the Central Pacific Christmas Island (Kiritimati) in the Republic of Kiribati goes through Honolulu, but the rest of Kiribati mail goes through Fiji.

The name "Kiritimati" is a rather straightforward respelling of the English word "Christmas" in Gilbertese, in which the combination "ti" is pronounced "r," and the name is thus pronounced [kə'ri:məs].

Christmas Island is in the world's farthest forward time zone, UTC+14, and the island is the first inhabited place on Earth to experience the New Year each year. Despite being 2,460 km (1,530 mi) east of longitude 180°, a 1995 realignment of the International Dateline by the Republic of Kiribati "moved" Christmas Island to west of the dateline (see map on previous page).

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Christchurch Cathedral Addendum

Stamp News Australasia January issue on pp. 56-61 carries an article by Graeme Morriss, "Canterbury Centennial 1950" under his column "Looking at New Zealand." Morriss shows more pictures of the Christchurch Cathedral, including a recent picture of the deconstruction in November 2011 that had to take place before reconstruction could begin.

Also shown are plate proofs, plate number blocks, souvenir covers, and the Centennial Souvenir Folder depicting the stamps of the set, including the 1d Christchurch Cathedral and the 3d statue of John Robert Godley that were shown in Alastair Watson's article on pp. 46-48 of this issue of *The Informer*. Of course, the Morriss story covers the entire set of stamps.

Also included in the Morriss article is an interesting postcard illustration of the cathedral prior to the 1904 completion of the additional wings.

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AUSTRALASIA 2012 AT AUTMUN STAMPEX 26-29 September 2012 Business Design Centre Islington, London N1

Reported by
Patrick Reid

www.australasia2012.org

Australasia 2012 is a series of events jointly organised by the British Society of Australian Philately, the New Zealand Society of Great Britain and the Pacific Islands Study Circle.

The centrepiece of our plans is an Australasian theme for Autumn Stampex 2012, the British National philatelic exhibition, which will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 from Wednesday to Saturday 26-29 September 2012. Exhibits of Australasian material are invited from all FIP-affiliated countries. Competitive exhibits must be entered in the relevant classes; e.g., Traditional, Postal History, etc., because there will not be a separate "Australasia" class. Non-competitive exhibits are also welcome; these may be high-quality colour photocopies or laser copies. We also plan to hold a meeting and a dinner during Stampex, and a book, *Gems of Australasian Philately*, is to be published. A reception and book launch will be held.

All collectors of Australasia, whether or not they are members of the three organising societies, are most wel-

come to take part, and entries for the Stampex competitions will be especially welcome. Information about the 2012 Autumn Stampex arrangements and an entry form can be downloaded from the Association of British Philatelic Societies' website www.abps.org.uk. The deadline for the return of entry forms is 19 August.

The provisional programme for Australasia 2012 is:

- Wednesday 26 September, reception and book launch at 2.00 pm, to be held at Stampex
- Thursday 27 September the meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society London will feature a display of New Zealand "adsons" by Robin Gwynn. Guests are welcome to attend if invited in advance by a member or Fellow of the Royal. The Society's premises are at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1.
- Friday 28 September, afternoon meeting at Stampex, with a talk on Captain Cook, followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

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