

Mail Associated with the ill-fated 1935 Trans-Tasman Jubilee Flight, by Neil Donen

Neil Donen has undertaken considerable research into what happened to the mail saved from Kingsford Smith's ill-fated flight as well as creating a collection of saved covers that won Large Gold awards at SAVPEX (South Africa) and CANPEX (Canada) in 2021. This book shows the covers from these exhibits as well as much supplementary research details.

On 15th May 1935, Charles Kingsford Smith's took off for New Zealand from Sydney on the tri-motor *Southern Cross* with 28,279 mail items to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King Georg V. Over the Tasman Sea, the starboard propeller was damaged and they had to turn back. The mail was jettisoned to reduce weight and Patrick Gordon Taylor climbed out on to the wing to transfer oil from the dead starboard engine to the port engine. He did this six times, and the plane managed to return to Sydney.

On return, it was found that seven small mailbags with 1277 items were still on board. These items were sent to New Zealand by sea.

Neil gives details of the number of covers lost and saved from each Australian state. Of particular interest is Melbourne where the number of saved covers was unknown for 85 years until Neil tracked the number down in 2021. There were two saved mailbags from Melbourne; one to Christchurch and one to Dunedin. The book is fully illustrated and shows example saved covers from each state with full details of their journey.

This is the definitive work on the saved mail from this classic flight and answers all the outstanding questions.

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