

RUSSIAN ANTARCTIC SHIPS

Visits to New Zealand Ports



Mikhail Somov at Wellington February 5-8, 1990

26-30 November 1967. "R/V Pelamida" at Wellington, New Zealand

Antarctic Bulletin Four records: RESEARCH SHIP IN WELLINGTON

A Russian research ship, the "**Pelamida**," arrived in Wellington on **November 26** on its way to the Antarctic. The scientists on board will carry out work in marine biology and oceanography. The scientists say their chief interest in marine-life studies will be in the behaviour patterns of whales and seals. The 600 ton ship, built in England, left on **November 30**. She has 39 men and four women on board. Her ten scientists will carry out oceanographical and marine biological research. The "**Pelamida**" has sensitive sonar tracking equipment which has a range of 50,000 metres and the scientists will use hydraulically-operated lighting gear to study the ocean at great depths. The ship will remain in Antarctic waters until late April and she will then return direct to Vladivostok.

Signed Cover with purple cachet of R/V Pelamida with Christchurch datestamp on reverse 24 JA 68



26-30 November 1967. "R/V Pelamida" at Wellington, New Zealand

R/V PELAMIDA

19/XII-67

Soz Dyzevel

Master

Soz

Rostovtzev



Mr. I. W. Harkess,
12 Cressy Terrace,
Lyttelton.

11th January, 1968

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you very much for your kind letter of 6th January, 1968. Unfortunately I have no Soviet stamps with Antarctic scenery but I am sending to you a photo of my vessel when in Antarctica. I am also sending back to you an envelope applying it a rubber-stamp with name of your ship.

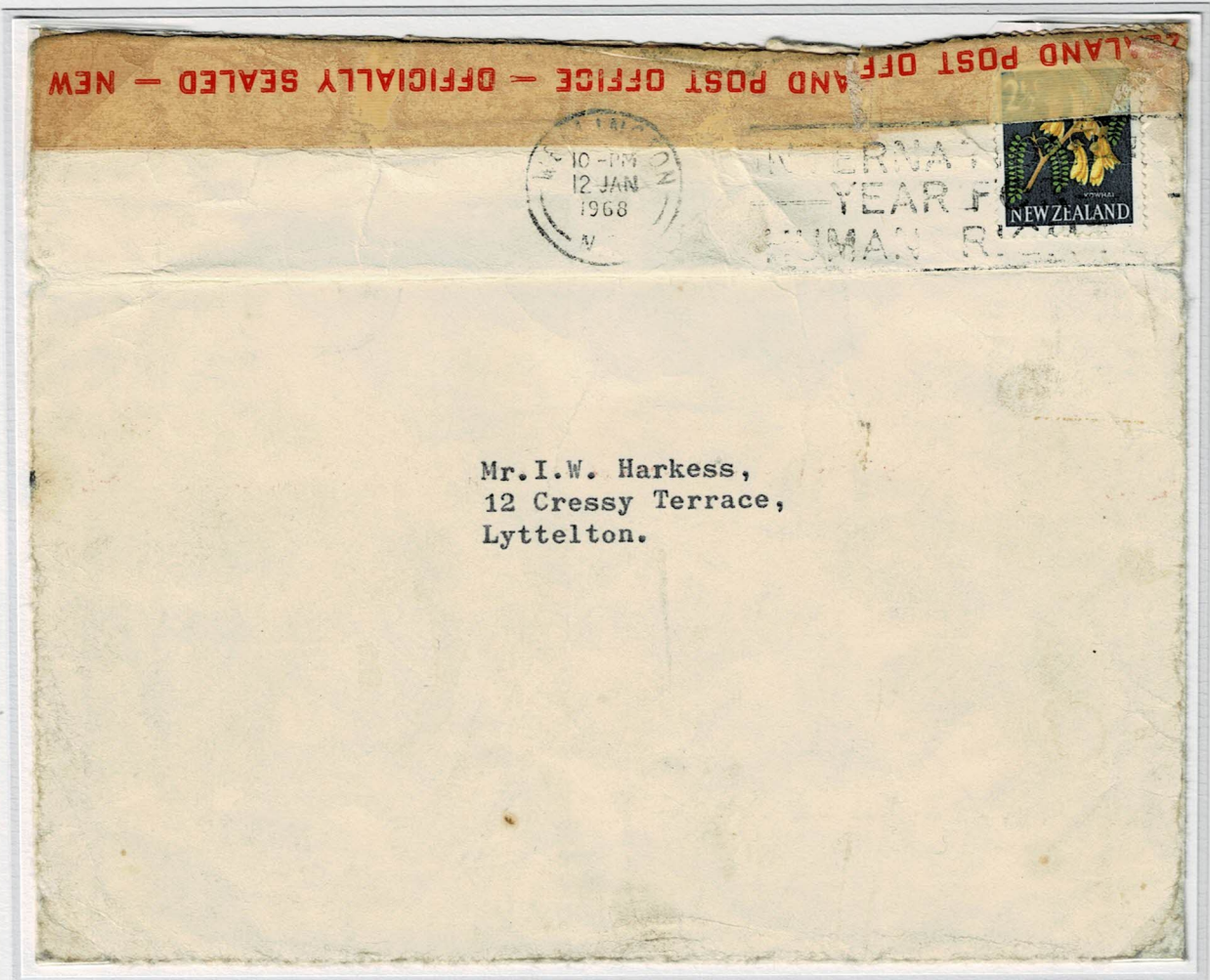
Yours faithfully,

O. Rostovtzev,

Master

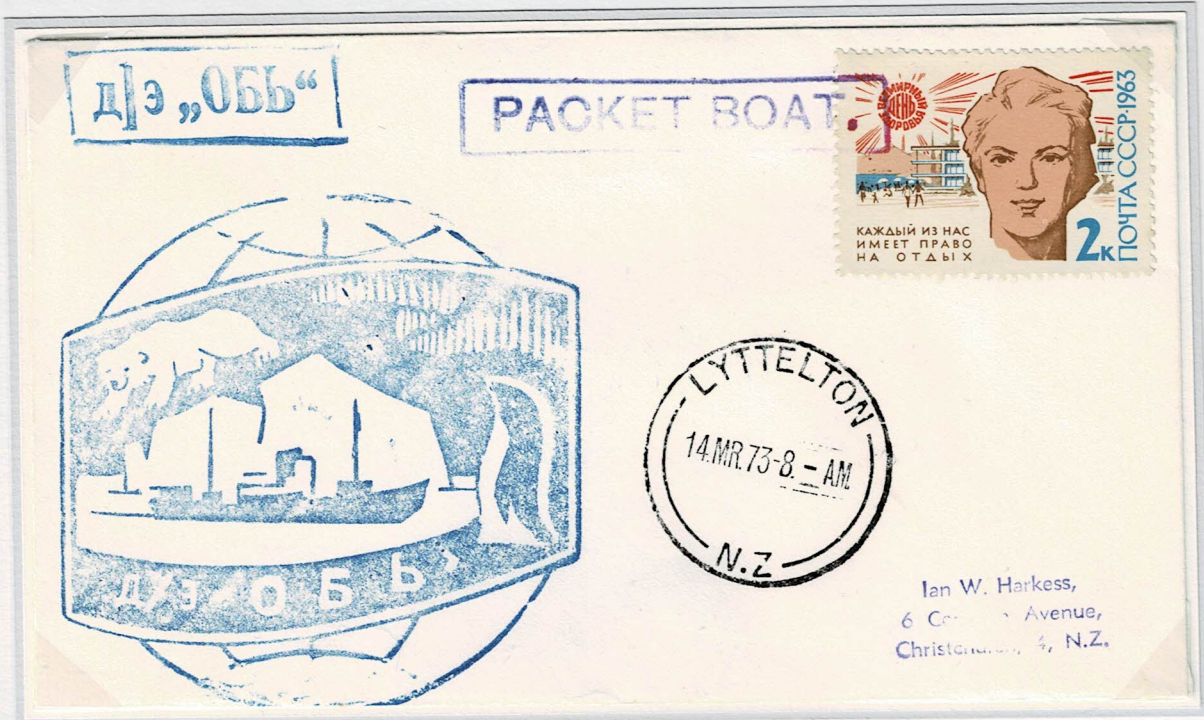
26-30 November 1967. "R/V Pelamida" at Wellington, New Zealand

Mr Harkess was an avid collector of Antarctic postal history. He had written to the Legation of the USSR in Wellington to obtain a souvenir of the visit of the **Pelamida**. The letter he received in return is shown here along with a signed and dated photograph of the **Pelamida** when in Antarctica. The enclosing letter from the Legation was damaged and **Officially Resealed** with Post Office tape. It was posted Wellington 12 JAN 1968.



March 1973. D/E "Ob" at Lyttelton, New Zealand

D/E Ob' at Lyttelton New Zealand 14 March 1973. Packet Boat marking, Ob' cachets and Soviet - French Traverse cachet of 1963-1964 on reverse - indicates that the cachet was on board the Ob'.



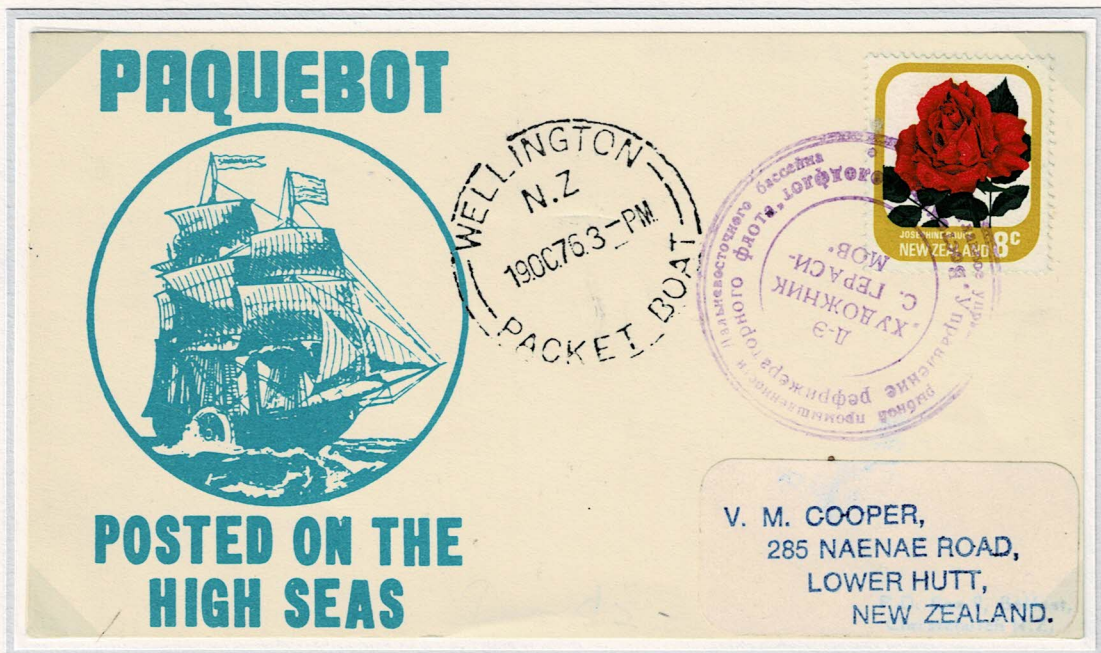
Dr P. Senko, leader of the Soviet expedition, was on board when the Ob called at Lyttelton. Arrangements for the Ob to take on fuel and supplies at Lyttelton for her return to the Antarctic were handled by the shipping agents, Kinsey and Company Ltd. The firm has had a closer association with ships operating in Antarctic waters than any other in New Zealand. The founder, Sir Joseph Kinsey, is part of the history of exploration in the south.

19 October 1976. "D/E Artist S Gerasimov" at Wellington, New Zealand

This **Paquebot** postcard has the NZ stamp cancelled with purple circular cachet of the Artist S Gerasimov with Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat cancel dated 19 OC 76.

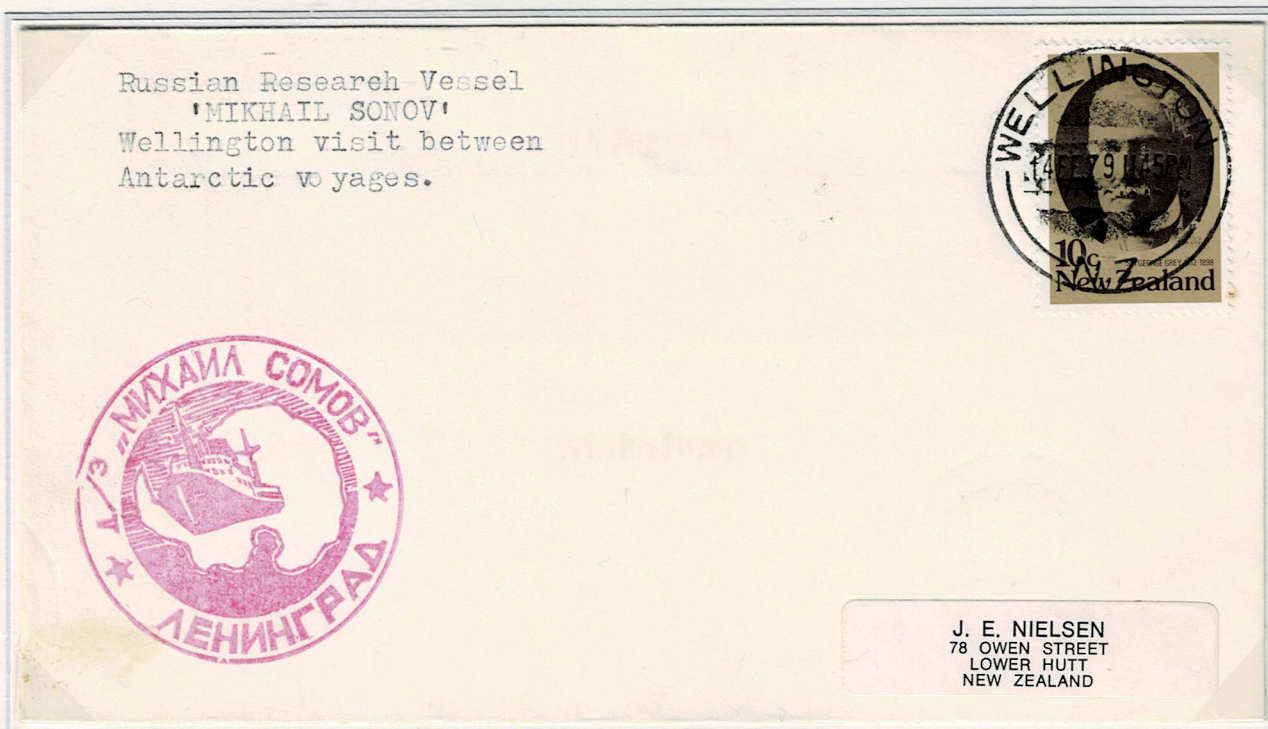
The cachet translates:

"Headquarters of the Fish Industry of the Far East Basin Administration of
the Refrigerating Fleet 'EASTFREEZEFISHFLEET'
D/E Artist S Gerasimov"



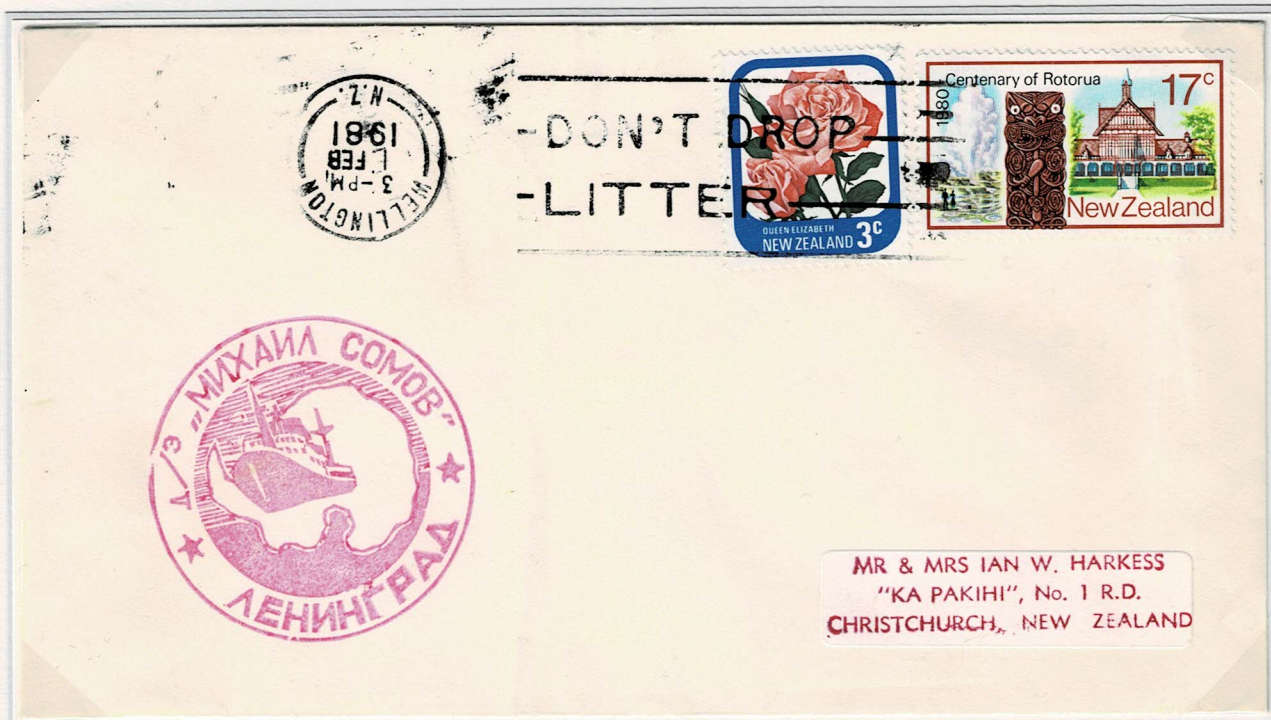
14 February 1979. "Mikhail Somov" at Wellington, New Zealand

*"Russian Research Vessel 'MIKHAIL SONOV' Wellington visit between Antarctic voyages."
Wellington Packet Boat 14 FE 79. Mikhail Somov cachet.*



1 February 1981. "Mikhail Somov" at Wellington New Zealand

Mikhail Somov cachet with inverted Wellington datehead 1 FEB 1981.



29 January 1981. "Professor Vize" at Lyttelton, New Zealand

Antarctic Bulletin Nine March 1981 records: "Between late November [1980] and early March [1981] the *Professor Vize*, commanded by Captain J. Kovalov, made several trips out of New Zealand ports to enable her 53 scientists to study ocean currents, temperatures, sea water chemistry, and atmospheric conditions. She called at **Wellington** early in December, at **Lyttelton** on January 27, and at **Dunedin** on March 6. From Dunedin she sailed south to land and pick up staff at Soviet stations.

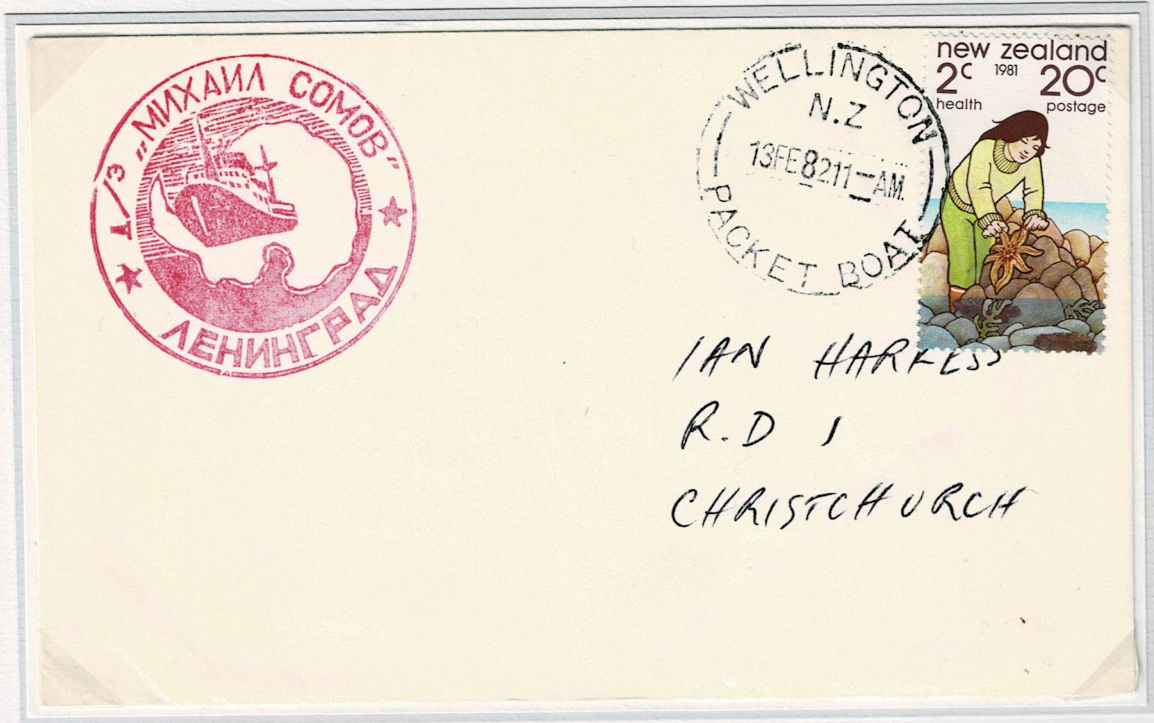


Professor Vize cachet with Lyttelton New Zealand 29 January 1981

Professor Vize took part in 16 Soviet Expeditions from SAE-13. It was featured as part of the 1976 Polar Postcard Series. An Official Stationery Cover was issued for the 10th Anniversary of Professor Vize. The 1981 Commemorative 4kop postcard showed Professor Vize as part of the indicum.

13 February 1982. Mikhail Somov SAE 26 at Wellington, New Zealand

Mikhail Somov with Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat 13 FE 1982



SAE-26 Stationery envelope with stamp cancelled Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat 13 FE 1982



21 February 1982. M/V "Professor Popov" at Wellington, New Zealand

The M/V Professor Popov was probably one of the large number of Fishery Research vessels operated by the Soviet Union in Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic waters.

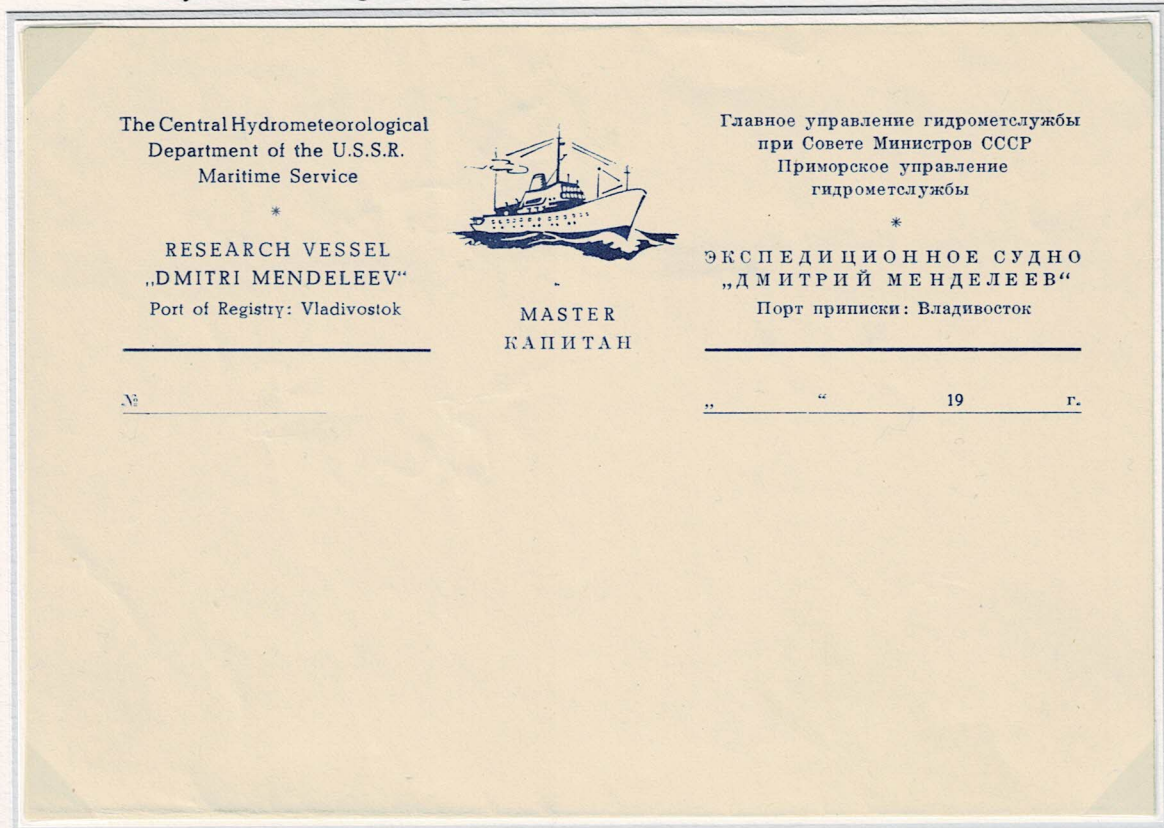
MV / Professor Popov boxed cachet with Wellington 21 February 1981



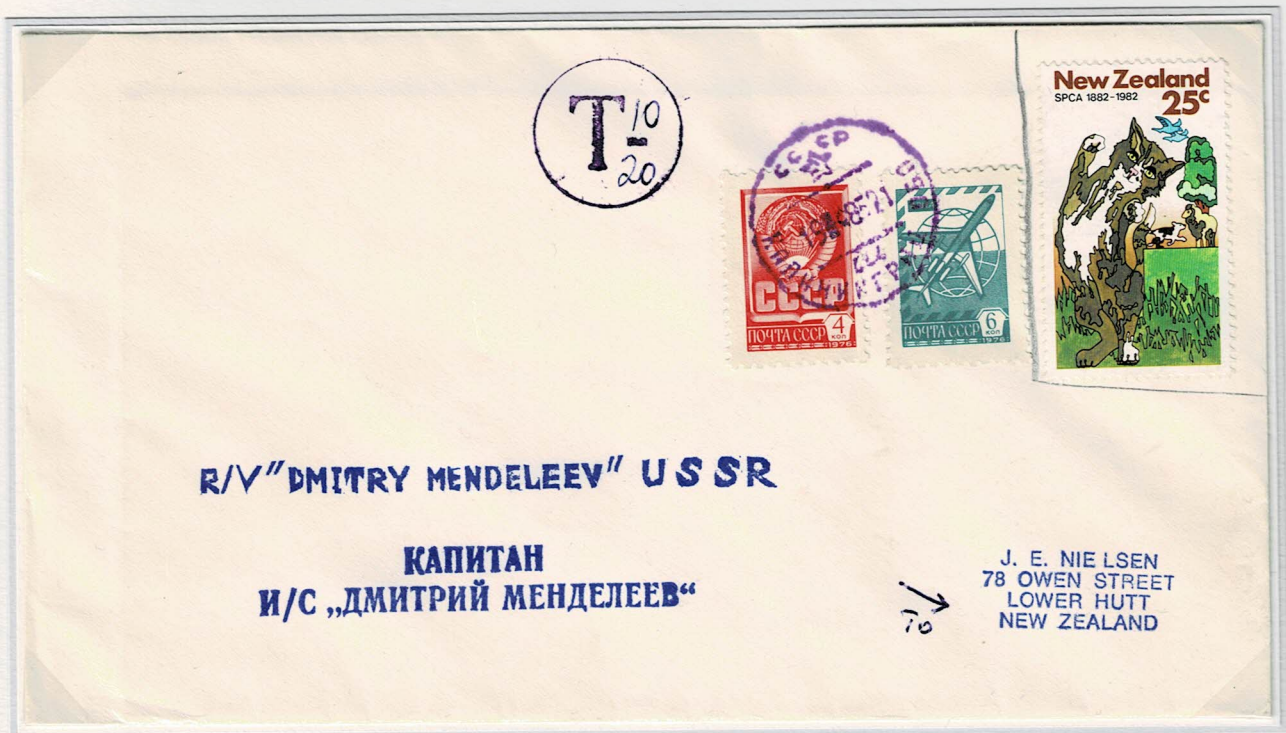
February 1983 "Dmitri Mendeleev" at Wellington, New Zealand

The Dmitriy Mendeleev visited Wellington New Zealand on the 1982-83 Soviet Union oceanographic voyage with the "Yunony." Antarctic Bulletin she also called at the New Zealand port of Dunedin early in February.

Letterhead of the Research Vessel "**Dmitri Mendeleev**" - Port of Registry: Vladivostok. Vessel of the Central Hydrometeorological Department of the USSR Maritime Service.



1983 cover to Lower Hutt, New Zealand with NZ stamp issue negated and Soviet stamps cancelled Kaliningrad 19.4.83 and Taxed. Cachet of the R/V "Dmitri Mendeleev" USSR.



12 July 1983. "Akademik Korolev" at Wellington, New Zealand

The Research Vessel "Akademik Korolev" from Vladivostok, visited Wellington New Zealand 12 July 1983.

Ship cachet "Vladivostok Akademik Korolev" with Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat 12 JL 83



February - March 1983.

"Faddey Bellingshausen" & "Admiral Vladimirskiy" at Wellington New Zealand

During SAE-28, the vessels Faddey Bellingshausen (Captain - Nikolay Ivanovich Elin) and Admiral Vladimirskiy (Captain - Roman Panteleionovich Panchenko) circumnavigated Antarctica, conducting hydrographic surveys and retraced the route of the Russian naval expedition (Thaddeus Thaddevich Bellingshausen), 1819-20.

A special cachet was used on these vessels. A commemorative medal was also struck for the event.

On the visit to Wellington a souvenir booklet from the **Faddey Bellingshausen** was cancelled with the cachet and a Wellington datestamp **22 February 1983**.



В память о посещении экспедиционного океанографического судна

"ФАДДЕЙ БЕЛЛИНГГАУЗЕН"

In memory of a visit to the expeditionary oceanographic ship

"FADDEY BELLINGGAUZEN"

Технические данные судна

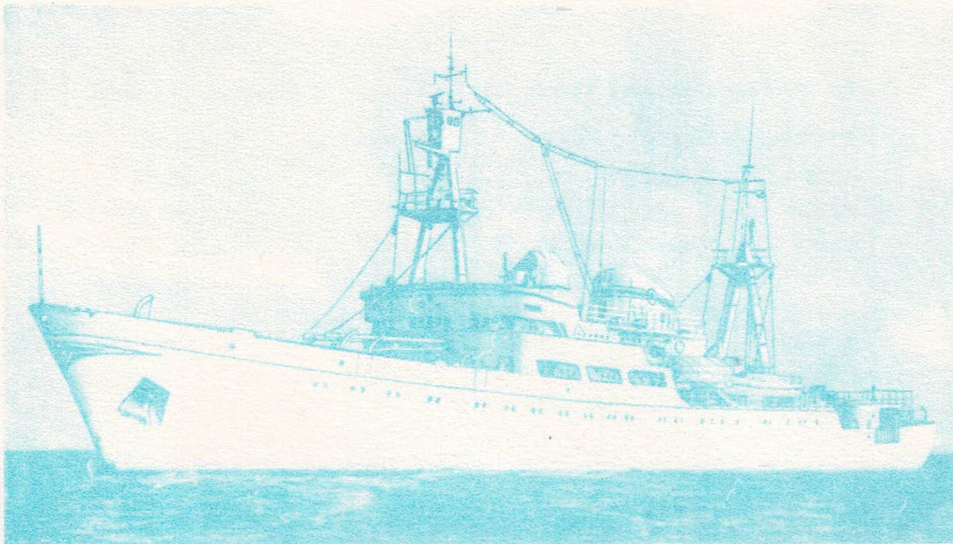
Водоизмещение . . . 3 000 т
Длина 90 м
Ширина 13 м
Осадка 4,7 м
Скорость хода . . . 14 уз
Экипаж и научный состав 104 чел.
Автономность плавания 40 суток

Technical Data of the Ship

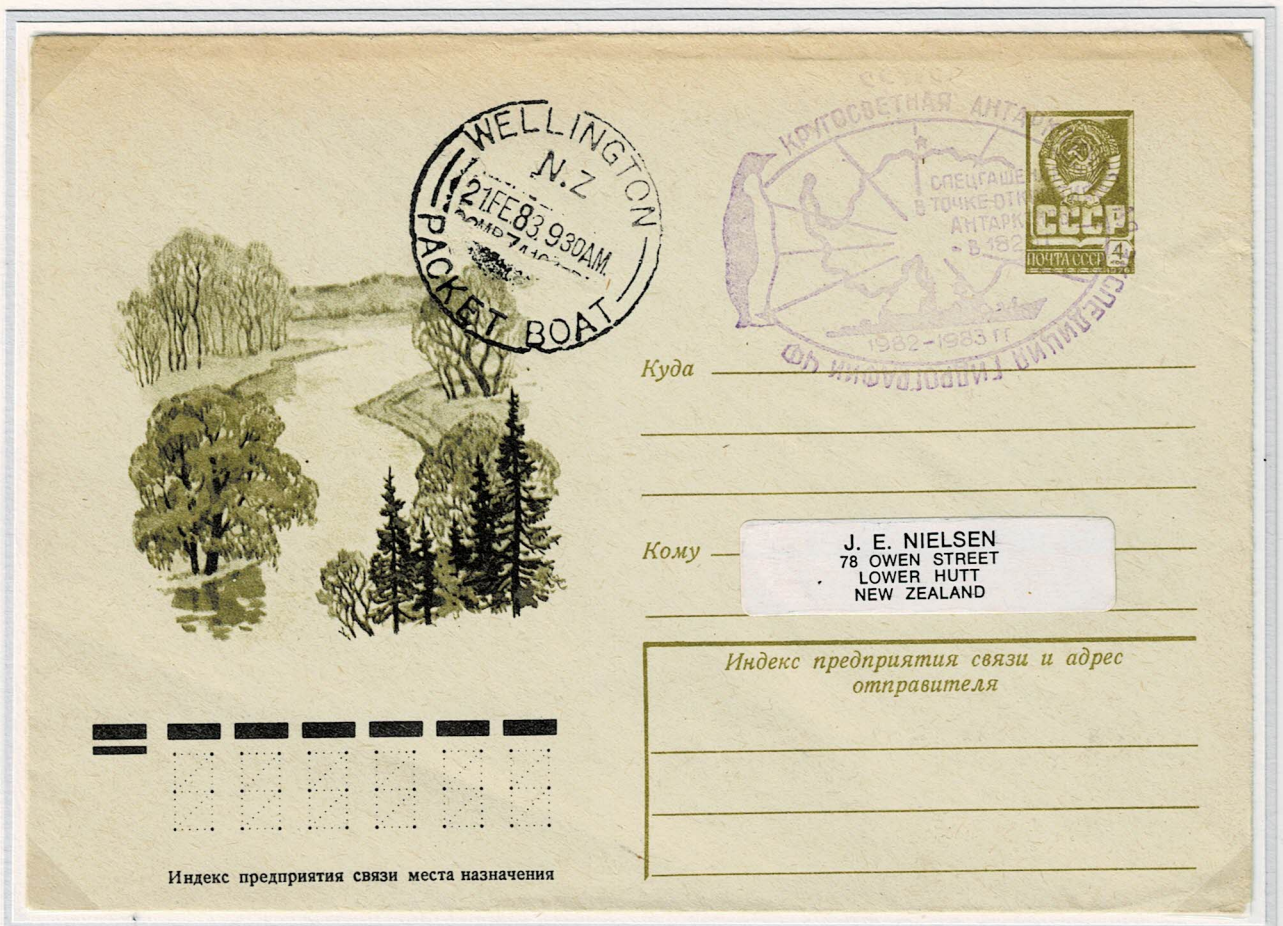
Displacement . . . 3 000 t
Length 90 m
Beam 13 m
Draught 4,7 m
Speed 14 knots
Crew and scientific staff 104
Autonomy of navigation 40 days

February - March 1983.

"Faddey Bellingshausen" & "Admiral Vladimirskiy" at Wellington New Zealand



Soviet envelope with Commemorative Cachet and Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat 21 FE 1983





February - March 1983.

"Faddey Bellingshausen" & "Admiral Vladimirskiy" at Wellington New Zealand

Soviet 3k PPC Commemorative Cachet and Wellington NZ 22 February 1983

Фото В. Гужикова



Куда MR IAN CAMERON
8 DORLING RD
BROOKLYN
WELLINGTON

Кому NEW ZEALAND


Индекс предприятия связи отправителя

Индекс предприятия связи места назначения

© Министерство связи СССР, 1981 • 26.12.80. МПФ Гознака. З. 81176. Ц. 4 к.

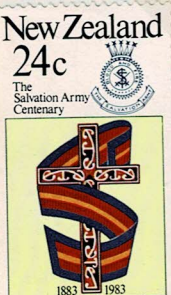

Индекс предприятия связи отправителя

22 FEB 83 1



N.Z.

Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat 11 March 1983 with cachet in black.



WELLINGTON
N.Z.
11 MAR 83 3 PM
PACKET BOAT

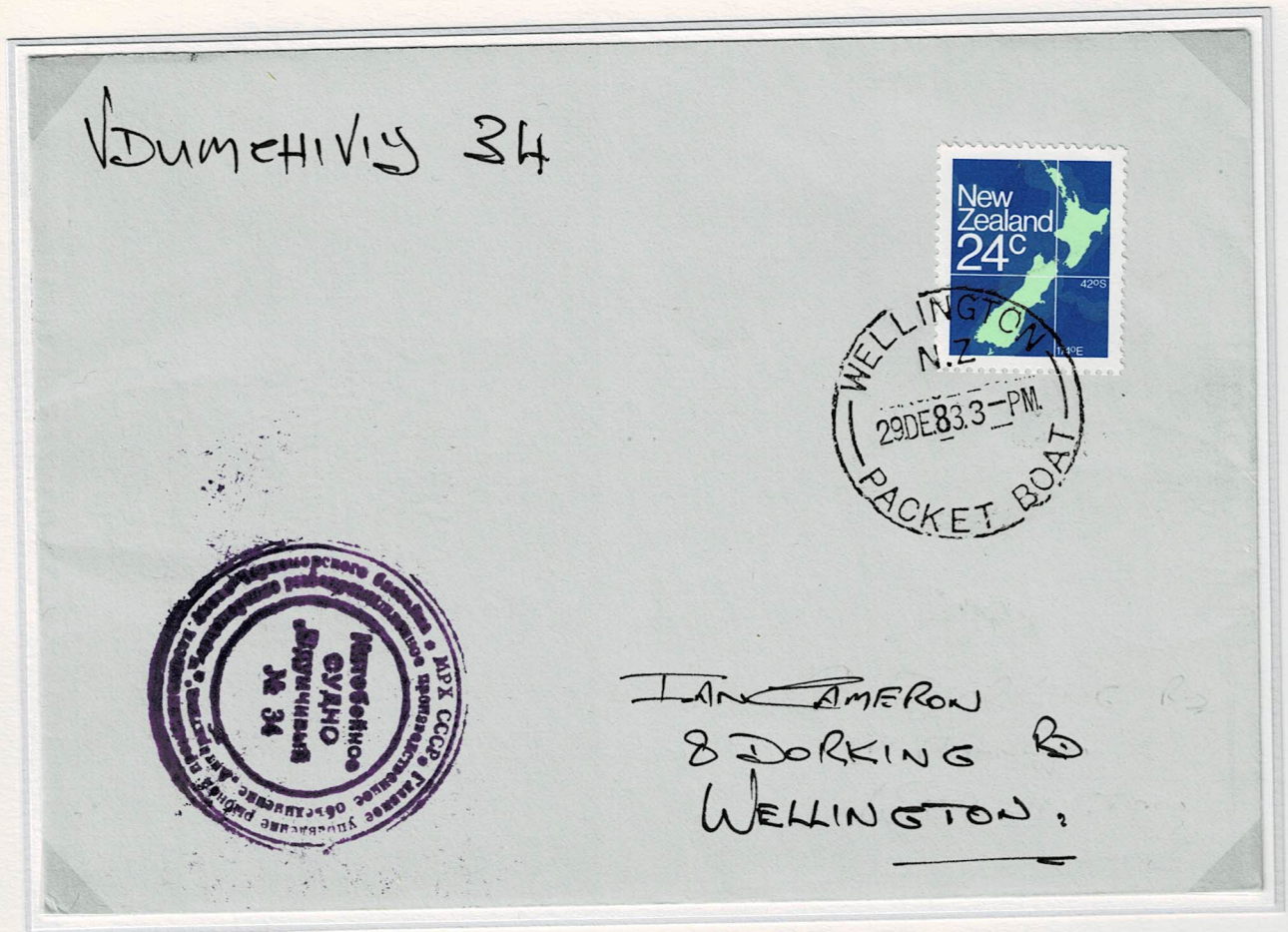
RAY BRADY
6 Coniston Avenue
Christchurch 4
New Zealand

29 December 1983. "Vdumchivvy 34" at Wellington, New Zealand

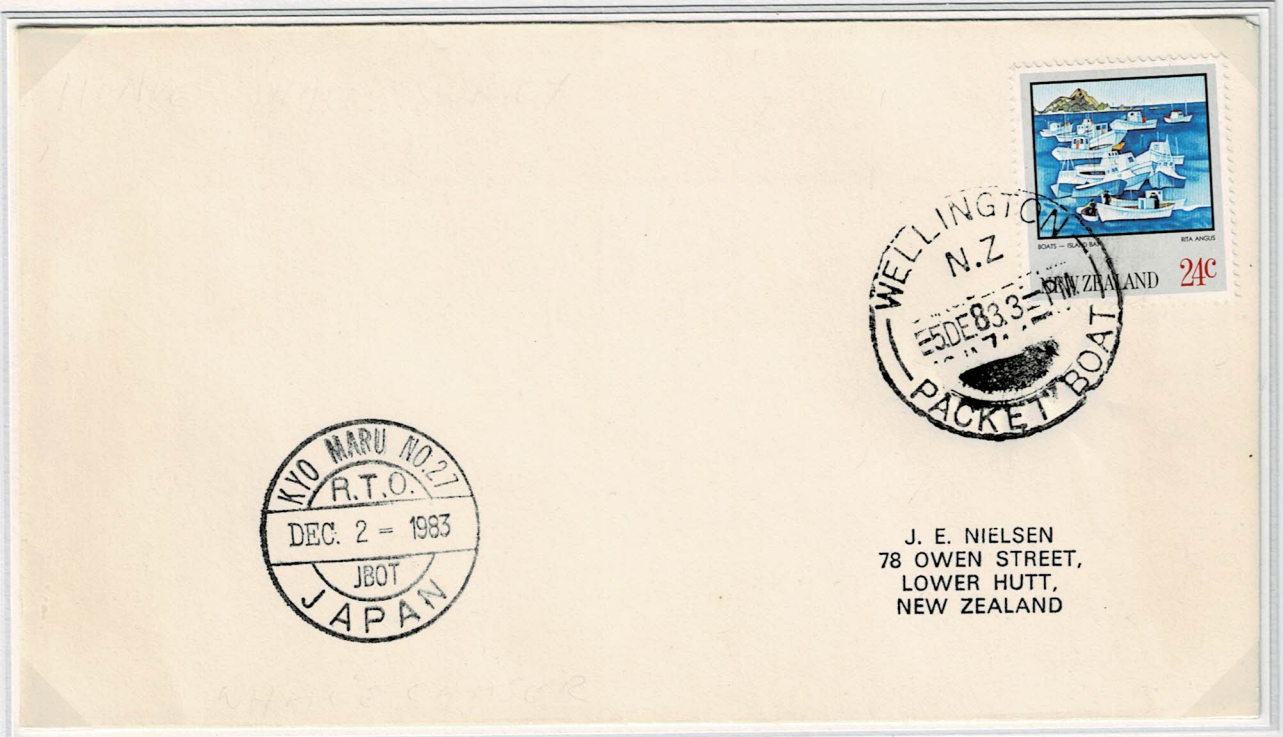
International Whaling Commission Minke Whale Assessment Cruises 1983-84. Four whale scouting vessels including the Soviet Union's **Vdumchivvy 34** and Japan's **Kyo Maru No.27** continued the annual investigation and marking of Minke Whales, operated in Area VI (120"W to 170"W); this completed the circumpolar survey of Antarctic Minke Whale stocks. These vessels called at Wellington in December 1983.

Vdumchivvy 34 purple seal translates as:

"Membership of the Whaling factory Ship Vdumchivvy
in International Commission for Whaling.
Business Enterprise of This Ship. Head Office of Fish Industry
Azov - Black Sea Basin - Ministry of Fish Industry (MPX)"



29 December 1983. "Vdumchivyy 34" at Wellington, New Zealand



26 February 1985. "Mikhail Somov" at Christchurch, New Zealand

Cachets from the Mikhail Somov with boxed 'Packet Boat' marking and Christchurch N Z 26 FE 1985.



Mikhail Somov (Amguema class) polar logistics ship, a standard commercial icebreaking passenger/cargo ship formerly used by the Arctic and Antarctic Institute as a resupply ship; now assigned to the Hydrometeorological Service. Displacement: 11,290 tons full load; Cargo: approx. 6,500 tons; Propulsion: Diesel-electric, 2 diesels, 2 shafts, 7,150 shp, 15 knots; Crew: 54; Builders: Kherson SY, Ukraine. Entered service 1975.

Mikhail Somov has participated in each Expedition from SAE-21

March 1985. "Kapitan Bondarenko" at Wellington, New Zealand

The Kapitan Bondarenko broke her rudder in heavy ice on 1 March 1985 140 km from Russkaya Station. A team of 3 divers and the ship's engineers worked three shifts 24 hours a day for six days to make temporary repairs, enabling the ship to proceed to Wellington. She arrived in Wellington on 20 March where repairs were to be made in the dry dock and she finally entered the dock on 1 June. With repairs complete she departed from Wellington on 29 June 1985.

Kapitan Bondarenko SAE-31 cachet with Wellington Packet Boat 21 MR 85 and Wellington 27 MAR 1985



2 July 1985. "Vladivostok" at Wellington, New Zealand. Mikhail Somov Rescue

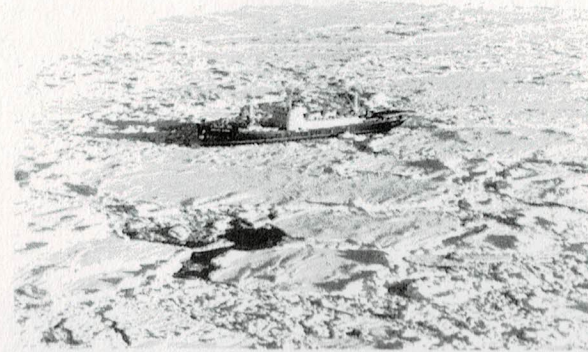
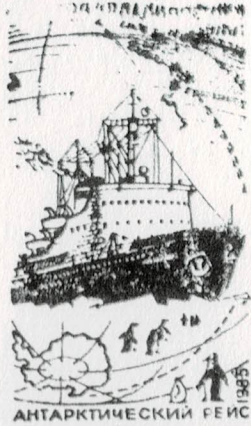
- **March 18, 1985.** Mikhail Somov in difficulties 20 miles from the Soviet station, Russkaya.
- **June 10, 1985.** The 13,290-tonne icebreaker Vladivostok sailed from her home port, Vladivostok.
- **July 2, 1985.** Vladivostok calls at Wellington enroute to Antarctica for the rescue attempt.
- **July 27, 1985.** The Vladivostok finally came alongside the Mikhail Somov.
- **August 6, 1985.** Both ships reached the edge of the pack ice
- **August 19, 1985.** Six weeks after leaving Wellington the Vladivostok returned with the Mikhail Somov, her mission accomplished.



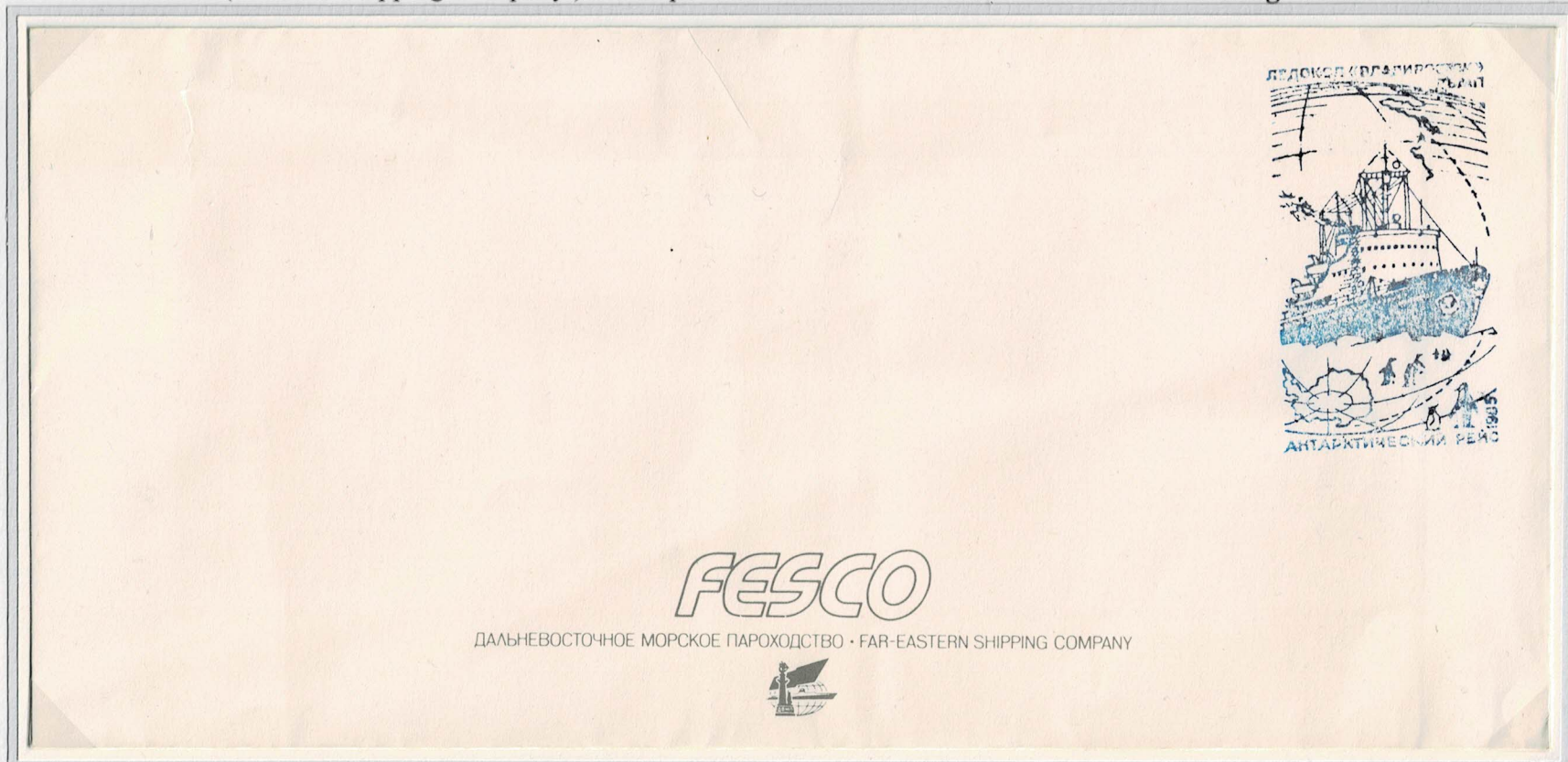
Wellington NZ Packet Boat 2 JL 85 12 PM. Posted from the Icebreaker "Vladivostok" which arrived in Wellington July 2nd. **Rescue Cachets** carried on board and applied to the cover.

2 July 1985. "Vladivostok" at Wellington, New Zealand. Mikhail Somov Rescue

There were **two cachets** carried on the Icebreaker Vladivostok. One is a 1985 ship cachet while the other is descriptive of the Vladivostok towing the Mikhail Somov. It has SAE-30 and 1985. The photograph is *Mikhail Somov* trapped in ice off Russkaya



FESCO (Far East Shipping Company) envelope with **Vladivostok Cachet** on front and **"Towing Cachet"** on reverse



20 August 1985. "Vladivostok" and "Mikhail Somov" at Wellington, New Zealand.

August 19, 1985. Six weeks after leaving Wellington the Vladivostok returned with the Mikhail Somov, her mission accomplished. The Mikhail Somov had been trapped 133 days. Postage stamps, stamped envelopes and a commemorative medal commemorated the Rescue.



Wellington NZ Packet Boat 20 AU 85 10AM.

Vladivostok Ship cachet; 'Towing Cachet' from **Vladivostok**
D/E **Mikhail Somov** Leningrad cachet; Soviet Antarctic Expedition **Mikhail Somov** 1975-1985

20 August 1985. "Vladivostok" and "Mikhail Somov" at Wellington, New Zealand.

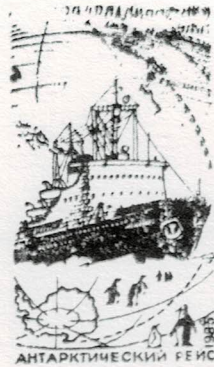
August 19, 1985. Six weeks after leaving Wellington the Vladivostok returned with the Mikhail Somov, her mission accomplished. The Mikhail Somov had been trapped 133 days. Postage stamps, stamped envelopes and a commemorative medal commemorated the Rescue.

Mirnyy 25th Anniversary stamped postcard used as Souvenir at Wellington with **Vladivostok** Ship cachet; 'Towing Cachet' from **Vladivostok** and D/E **Mikhail Somov** Leningrad cachet; Soviet Antarctic Expedition **Mikhail Somov 1975-1985**



21 August 1985. "Vladivostok" at Wellington, New Zealand. Mikhail Somov Rescue

The Vladivostok called at Wellington on July 2, 1985 on its way to rescue the Mikhail Somov, which was trapped in ice off Russkaya. It reached the Somov on July 27th and both ships returned to Wellington on August 19, 1985, six weeks after the Vladivostok left Wellington.



Wellington Packet Boat 21 AU 85. Vladivostok cachet and 'Towing cachet' with ship SAE cachet

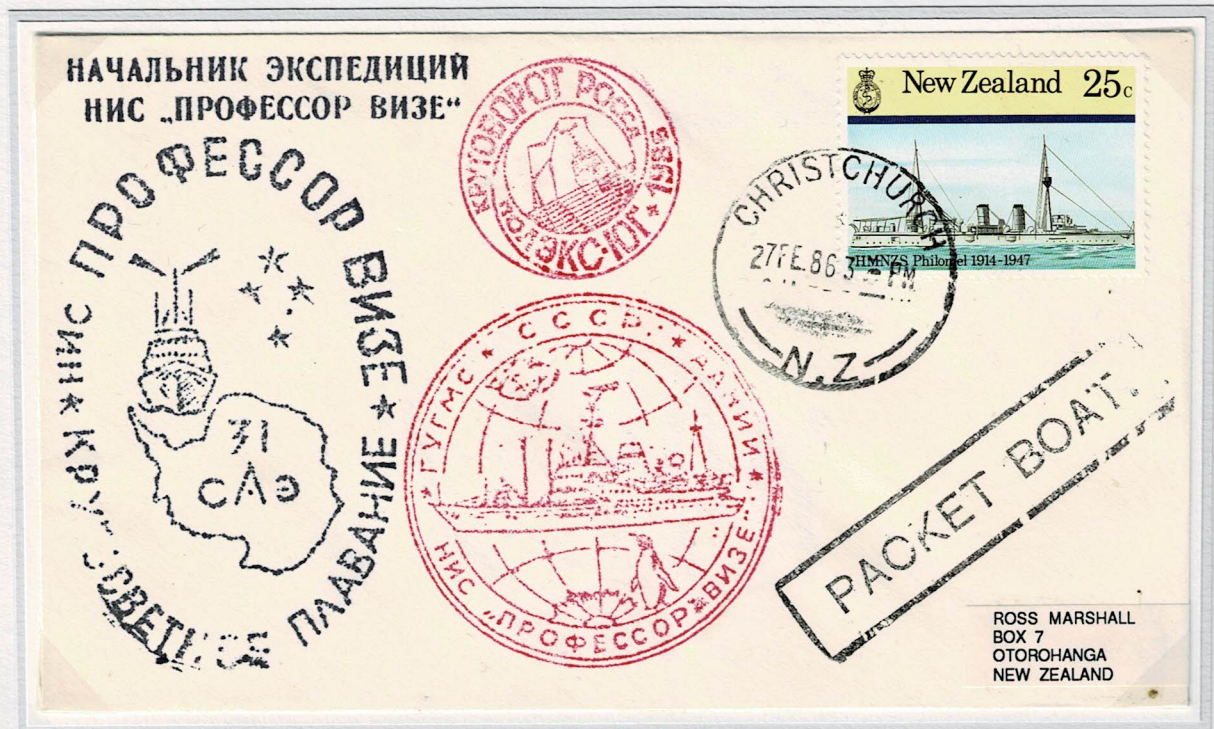
21 August 1985. "Vladivostok" and "Mikhail Somov" at Wellington, New Zealand.

Wellington NZ Packet Boat 21 AU 85 with Vladivostok Ship cachet on front. Reverse has illustration of the Mikhail Somov, the 10th Anniversary Somov cachet and ship cachet.



27 February 1986. "Professor Vise" at Christchurch, New Zealand

Professor Vise cachets (3) as well as a cachet of **POLEX 1986** with boxed 'Packet Boat' marking and Christchurch 27 February 1986. The reverse has a cachet of the 31st SAE of the vessel and a large cachet of the **AANII** - the Arctic and Antarctic Institute.



НАЧАЛЬНИК
МОРСКОЙ ЭКСПЕДИЦИИ 31 САЗ



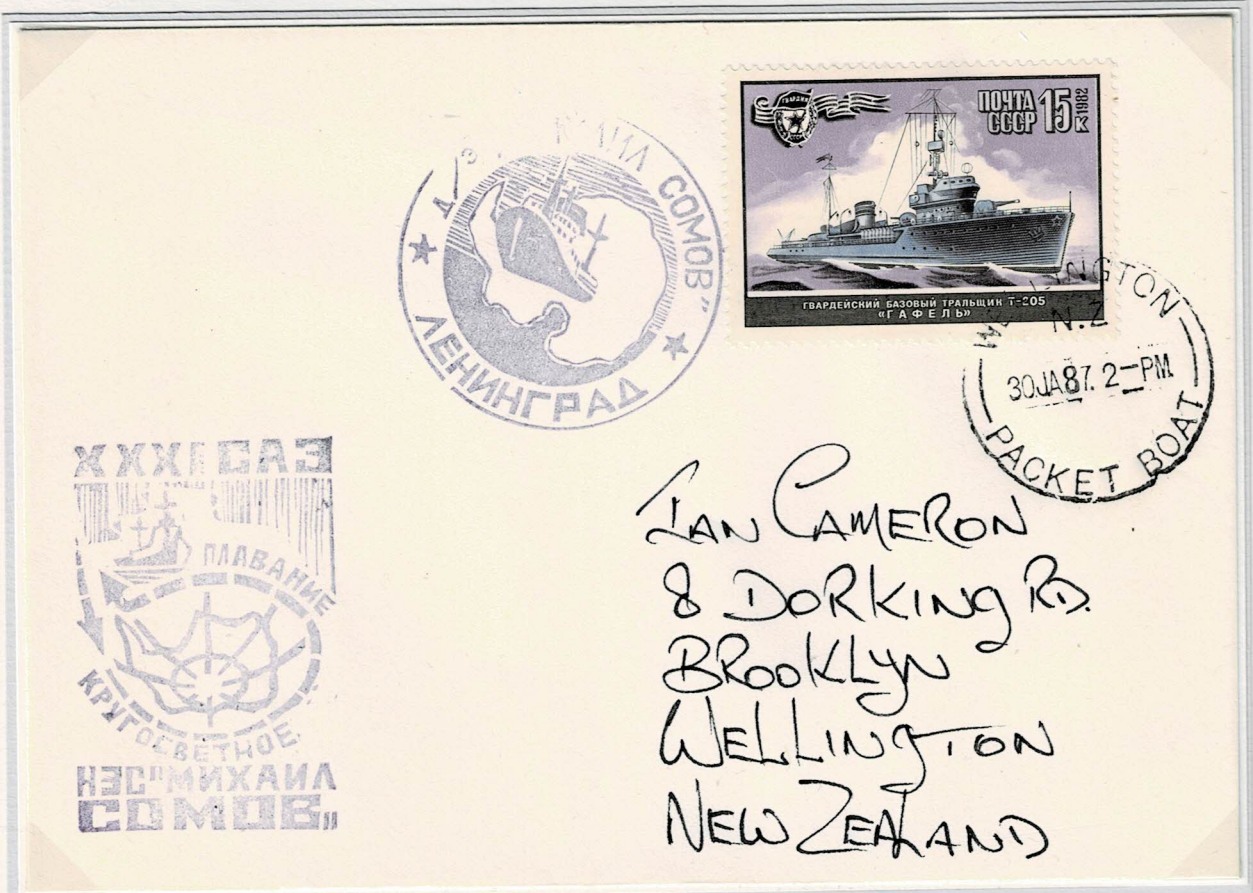
27 February 1987. "Professor Vise" at Christchurch, New Zealand

Cover with Christchurch New Zealand Loose Letter **27 February 1987**, boxed 'Packet Boat' and cachets of the **Professor Vise** including the 20th Anniversary of the ship. The reverse has the ship cachet for SAE-31.

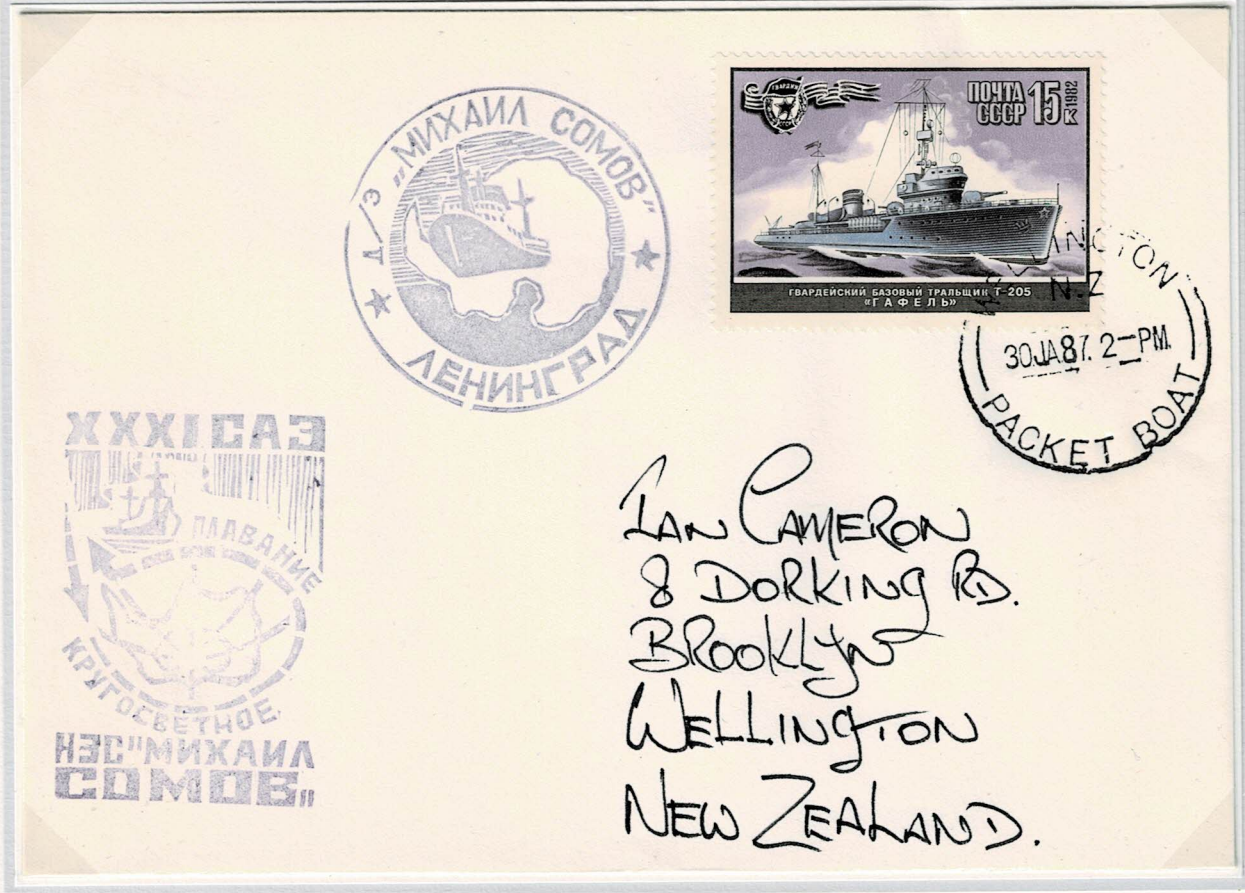


30 January 1987. "Mikhail Somov" at Wellington New Zealand

Mikhail Somov cachets with Wellington New Zealand Packet Boat 30 JA 1987



IAN CAMERON
8 DORKING RD.
BROOKLYN
WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND



IAN CAMERON
8 DORKING RD.
BROOKLYN
WELLINGTON
NEW ZEALAND.

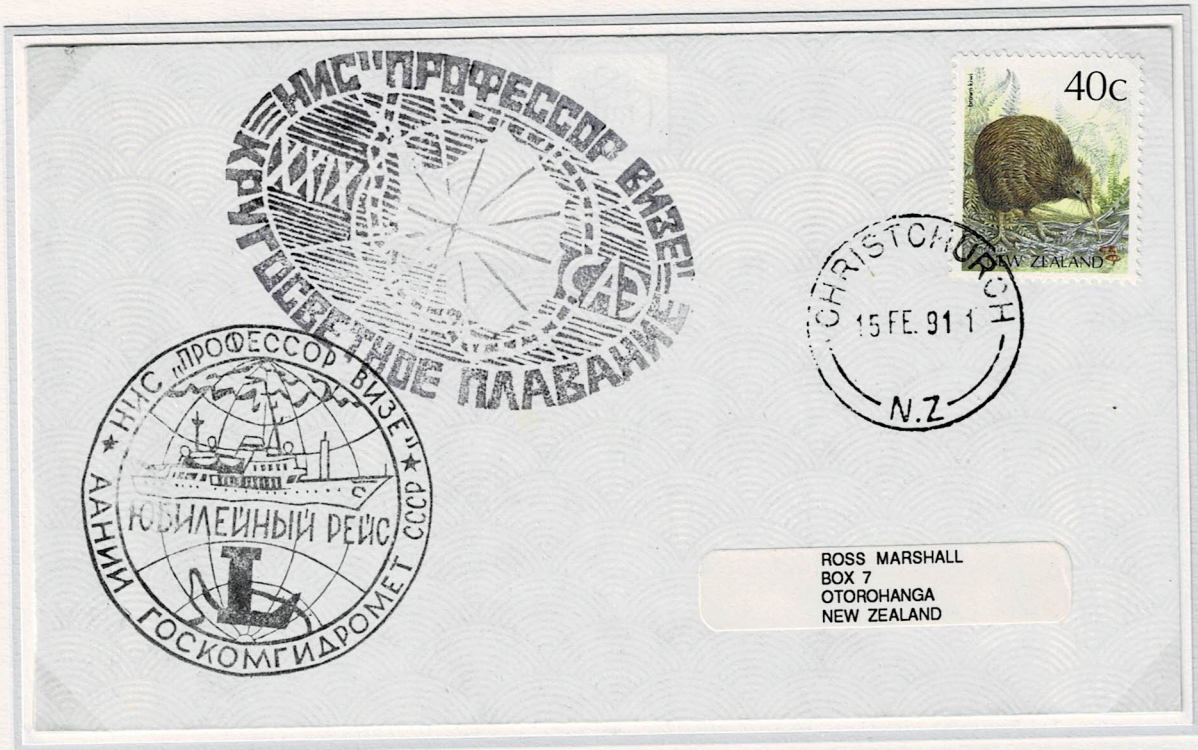
31 March 1989. "Akademik Fedorov" at Lyttelton, New Zealand

The covers illustrated both have Lyttelton New Zealand **31 March 1989**, boxed 'Packet Boat' and a number of cachets associated with the **Akademik Fedorov** including SAE-34 markings and POLEX 1988-89 cachet - this was a second Krill Expedition. Further cancellation at Christchurch 2 APR 1989.



15 February 1991. "Professor Vise" at Christchurch, New Zealand

Both covers illustrated have Christchurch New Zealand 15 February 1991. Both the covers have the circular cachet of the **Professor Vise**, one has a large oval cachet for SAE-29, the other has a circular marking "Neptune" - this may be a marking from another ship.



12 April 1991. "Mikhail Somov" at Lyttelton, New Zealand

The Mikhail Somov was at the Port of Lyttelton New Zealand 12 April 1991. The cover shown has two of the cachets from the ship. Ian Harkess took the photographs. They show the vessel tied up at the wharf, a view of the mid-section and a view showing 2 helicopters on deck.



12 April 1991. "Mikhail Somov" at Lyttelton, New Zealand

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