

## The 1946 and 1948 CAUTION Labels

by Stephen F Prest

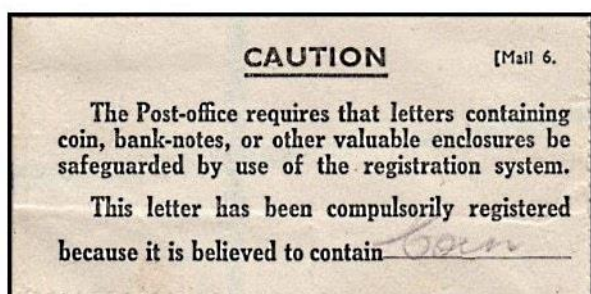
### Introduction

The Post Office affixed so-called “CAUTION Labels” to letters that were compulsorily registered if they were thought to contain items of value or were otherwise irregularly posted. Previous articles in this series have described three CAUTION Labels featuring different messages and whose Earliest Known Usage (or EKU) dates occurred in 1932, 1938 and 1940 (1, 2 & 3). This article describes salient features of the 1946 and 1948 CAUTION Labels which, as of this writing, have EKU dates of 17 June 1946 and 23 April 1948 respectively.

### The 1946 CAUTION Label

The 1946 CAUTION Labels continued to feature the Post Office Form designator “ [Mail 6. ” in the upper right hand corner of these labels. Of the four possible Form designator identified in earlier articles, the five 1946 CAUTION Labels examined to date have only been found with the Type 1 Form designator, that is, with the Bracket and the Full Stop.

The 1946 CAUTION Label is characterized by two single sentence paragraphs printed over five lines in total. The message itself is the same as that found on the 1940 Label with the exception the word Post-office is now hyphenated and a smaller font is used which allowed the message to be compressed into five lines versus eight with the 1940 Label. With the condensed font, the overall size of the 1946 and later Labels were reduced to about half of those of earlier years. Important dimensional characteristics of the 1946 Label are shown below.



The 1946 CAUTION Label illustrated overleaf shows the currently Earliest Known Use of these labels, being postmarked 17 JE 46 and compulsorily registered within Auckland.

<u>Earliest Known Use of the 1946 CAUTION “ Mail 6 ” Labels</u>		
	Postmark	Route
Type 1 (Bracket & Full Stop)	17 June 1946	Within Auckland
Latest Known Date	14 Nov 1962	Plimmerton to Christchurch

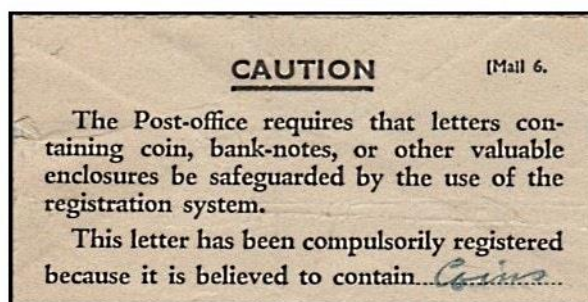
The 1946 CAUTION Label on the reverse of the letter below has the word “coin” written in manuscript on it. As such, the letter was subject to compulsory registration as per post office regulations. This resulted the recipient having to pay 8d., that is, double the ruling 4d. registration fee at the time.



***Earliest Known Use of the 1946 CAUTION Label (Type 1 – Bracket and Full Stop)***  
*affixed to a letter containing a coin - Postmarked 17 JE 46 within Auckland*

### **The 1948 CAUTION Label**

The 1948 CAUTION Label characteristics are the same in all respects as the 1946 Labels with the sole exception the Government Printer used an expanded font for the message text which resulted in the message being printed over six lines for the 1948 Label as opposed to five in the case of the 1946 Label. Nine examples of the 1948 have been examined to date and all feature the Type 1 “ [Mail 6. ” Form designator in the upper right hand corner.



**1948 CAUTION Label**  
**Text Message (6 lines)**  
**67 mm wide beginning**  
**“ The Post-office requires ... ”**  
**Type 1 Form “ [Mail 6. ”**  
**Bracket; with Full Stop**  
**CAUTION**  
**18 mm in length**  
**underlined; no Full Stop**  
**Overall Dimensions**  
**38mm (H) x 76mm (W)**

The 1948 CAUTION Label illustrated below shows the currently Earliest Known Use of these labels, being postmarked 23 AP 46 in Invercargill but compulsorily registered in Christchurch during transit.

<b><u>Earliest Known Use of the 1946 CAUTION “ Mail 6 ” Labels</u></b>		
	Postmark	Route
Type 1 (Bracket & Full Stop)	23 April 1948	Invercargill to Christchurch
Latest Known Date	13 June 1969	Hornby to Christchurch

*The 1948 CAUTION Label  
Courtesy of the  
Jeff Long Collection*



***Earliest Known Use of the 1948 CAUTION Label (Type 1 – Bracket and Full Stop)  
affixed to a letter containing a coin - Postmarked 23 AP 48 in Invercargill***

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#### References:

- (1) S. Prest “The 1932 CAUTION Labels, CAPTAIN COOK, Newsletter of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society, Whole Number 776, Vol 44, No 7 (2016) pp 96-98
- (2) S. Prest, “The 1938 CAUTION Labels”, *ibid*, Whole Number 777, Vol 44, No 8 (2016) pp 109-110
- (3) S. Prest, “The 1940 CAUTION Labels” *ibid*, Whole Number 780, Vol 44 No 10 (2016) pp 148-49