

The 1955 CAUTION Labels

by Stephen F Prest

Introduction

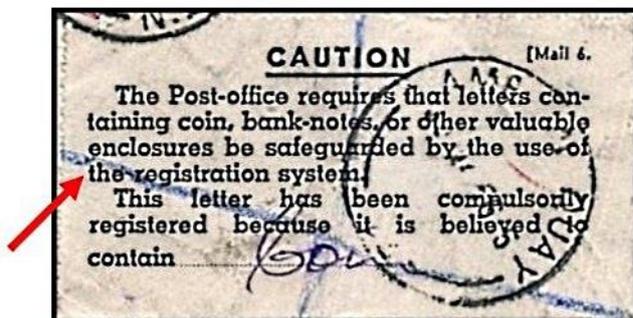
Previous articles in this series have described five variations of CAUTION Labels used by the New Zealand post offices during the King George VI period ⁽¹⁻⁴⁾.

This article describes the 1955 CAUTION Label which, on information presently to hand, seems to have first appeared in the early Queen Elizabeth II period. The Earliest Known Usage date of the 1955 CAUTION Label of three examples examined to date is 13 June 1955.

The 1955 CAUTION Label

The 1955 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 designators identified in earlier articles, the 1955 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 1955 CAUTION Label is characterized by two single sentence paragraphs printed over seven lines in total vs. six in the case of the 1948 Labels. The message itself is the same as that found on the 1948 Label but with expanded spacing between the words in the second paragraph now printed in three lines (vs. two). The overall dimensions of the 1955 Label are approximately the same as those of the 1948 Labels. Important dimensional characteristics of the 1955 Label are shown below.



<p><u>1955 CAUTION Label</u></p> <p>Text Message (7 lines) 67 mm wide; 4th line reads: “ the registration system. ”</p> <p>Type 1 Form “ [Mail 6. ” Bracket; with Full Stop</p> <p><u>CAUTION</u></p> <p>19 mm in length underlined; no Full Stop</p> <p>Overall Dimensions 41mm (H) x 78mm (W)</p>
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The 1955 CAUTION Label illustrated overleaf shows the currently Earliest Known Use of these labels, being postmarked 10 JE 55 in Dipton, Southland and compulsorily registered upon receipt in Christchurch 13 JE 55. The word “Coin” was written in manuscript on the label on the reverse of the letter. As the letter was subject to compulsory registration, the recipient was required to pay 1s., that is, double the ruling 6d. registration fee at the time.

The 1955 CAUTION Label
 Courtesy of the
 Jeff Long Collection



Earliest Known Use of the 1955 CAUTION Label (Type 1 – Bracket and Full Stop) affixed to a letter containing a coin - Postmarked 13 JE 55 within Christchurch

Earliest Known Use of the 1955 CAUTION “ [Mail 6. ” (Type 1) Labels

	Postmark	Route
Type 1 (Bracket & Full Stop)	13 June 1955	Registered in Christchurch (ex. Dipton)
Latest Known Date	22 Oct 1959	Lyttleton to Christchurch

.../ to be continued

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References:

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- (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 11 (2016) pp 148-49
- (4) S. Prest, “The 1946 & 1948 CAUTION Labels” *ibid*, Whole Number 781, Vol 45 No 1 (2017) pp 11-14
- (5) A. Jackson, “1932 CAUTION Labels – Earlier Use Discovered”, *ibid*, Whole No 782, Vol 45 No 2 (2017) p 31