

## The 1956 & 1960 CAUTION Labels

by Stephen F Prest

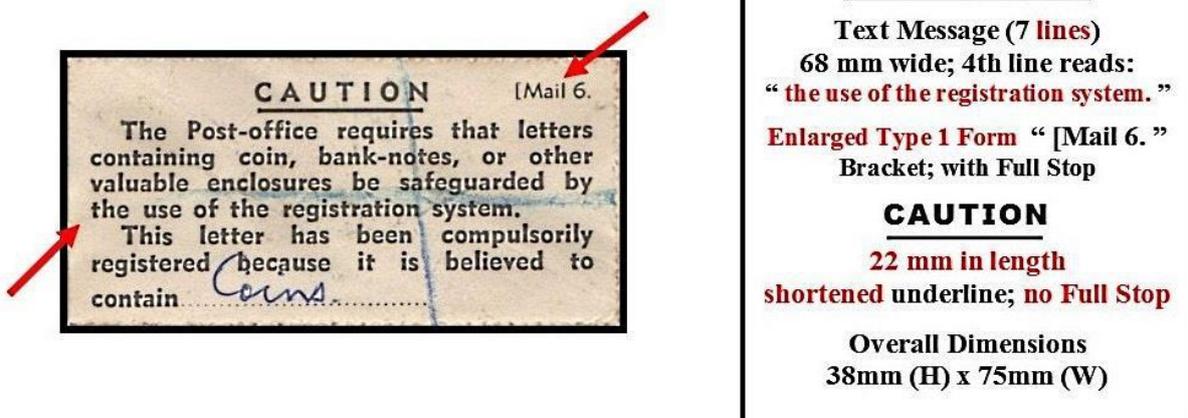
### Introduction

Previous articles in this series have described six variations of CAUTION Labels used by the New Zealand post offices during the King George VI (1-4) and early QE II (6) periods.

This article describes the 1956 and 1960 CAUTION Labels which, on information presently to hand, seems to have first appeared in the early Queen Elizabeth II period. The Earliest Known Usage dates of the 1956 and 1960 CAUTION Labels are 24 November 1956 and 25 January 1960 respectively.

### The 1956 CAUTION Label

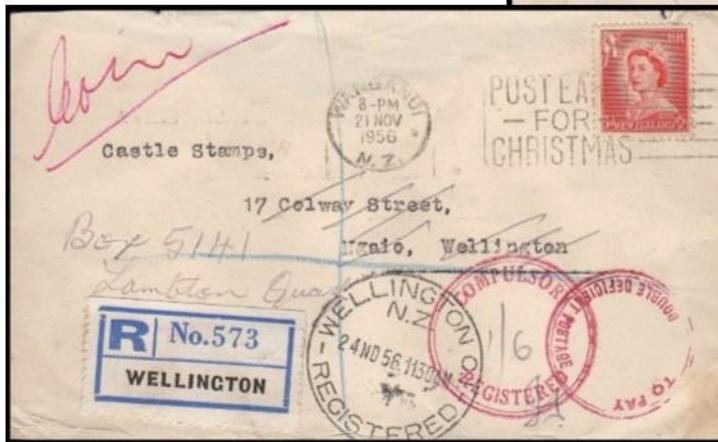
The 1956 CAUTION Labels exhibit two distinguishing features compared to the 1955 label. The first is an enlarged Form designator “ [Mail 6. ” in the upper right hand corner. The second relates to the text of the of the 1956 CAUTION Label, while also printed over seven lines as was the case of the 1955 labels, which exhibits one important difference, i.e. the fourth line of the 1956 label text reads “... the use of the registration system. ”. By comparison, the shorter 1955 text contained just three words “... the registration system. ”. Important dimensional characteristics of the 1956 Label are shown below.



The 1956 Caution Label, illustrated overleaf, shows the Earliest Known Usage of these labels, having been compulsorily registered and cancelled 24 NO 56 in Wellington, three days after it had been posted in Wanganui. The fee for registration had been increased to 9d. on 1 November 1956, hence the double deficiency charge of 1s. 6d.

| <u>Earliest Known Use of the 1956 CAUTION “ [Mail 6. ” (Type 1 Enlarged) Labels</u> |              |                        |
|---|--------------|------------------------|
|   | Postmark     | Route                  |
| Type 1 (Bracket & Full Stop)  | 24 Nov 1956  | Wanganui to Wellington |
| Latest Known Date   | 6 March 1967 | Pongaroa to Wellington |

The 1956 CAUTION Label  
Courtesy of the  
Jeff Long Collection

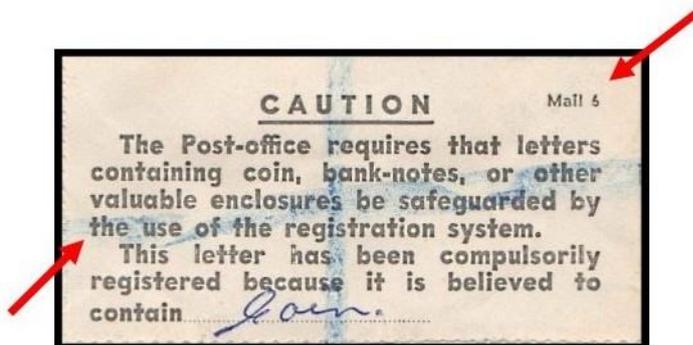


**Earliest Known Use of the 1956 CAUTION Label (Type 1 variety – Enlarged, Bracket & Full Stop) affixed to a letter containing a coin – Registered 24 NO 56 in Wellington**

### The 1960 CAUTION Label

The format of the 1960 CAUTION Labels is similar to the 1956 Label with the exception that the Post Office Form designator “**Mail 6**” is in size comparable to the 1955 and labels issued from 1946 onwards. The Form designation of the four 1960 Labels examined to date are printed without the leading Bracket and trailing Full Stop. These are referred to as Type 1c as per the classifications described in the first article in this series <sup>(1)</sup>.

The fourth line of the first paragraph of the 1960 CAUTION Label reads “... the use of the registration system.” which distinguishes it from the 1955 Label <sup>(6)</sup>. The important dimensional characteristics of the 1960 Label are shown below.



#### 1960 CAUTION Label

Text Message (7 lines)

67 mm wide; 4th line reads:

“**the use of the registration system.**”

**Type 1c Form “Mail 6”**

**no Bracket; no Full Stop**

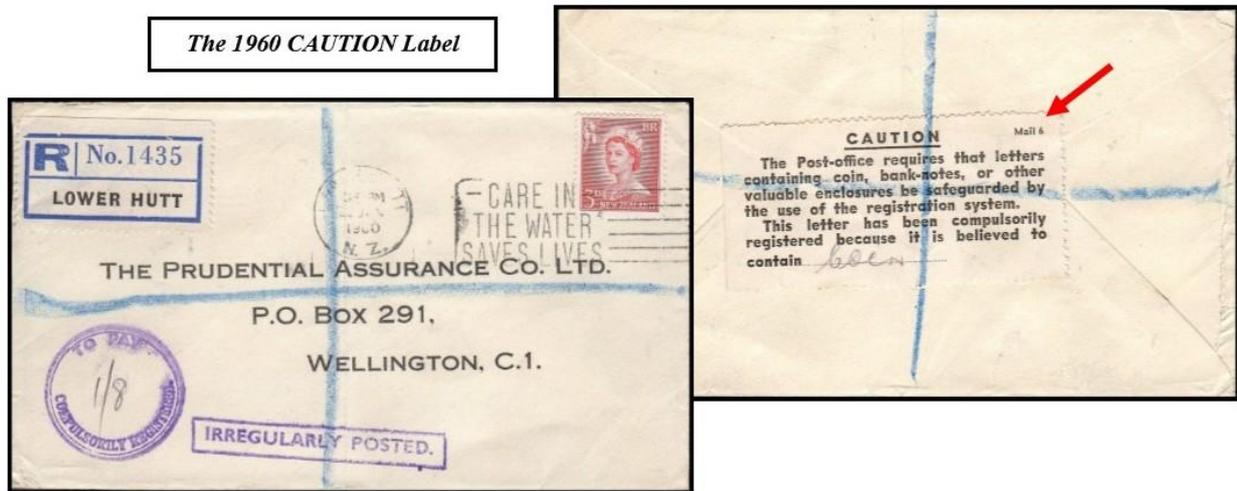
**CAUTION**

**23 mm in length**  
**underlined; no Full Stop**

**Overall Dimensions**

**38mm (H) x 75mm (W)**

The 1960 Caution Label illustrated below shows the Earliest Known Usage of these labels, having been irregularly posted, compulsorily registered and machine cancelled 25 JAN 1960 in Lower Hutt. The letter appears to have been overweight as the double deficiency charge of 1s. 8d. covered double the registration fee of 9d. plus the second weight fee of 1d. for an Inland letter weighing between 1 and 2 ounces.



***Earliest Known Use of the 1960 CAUTION Label (Type 1c – No Bracket and no Full Stop) affixed to a letter containing coin - Postmarked 25 JAN 60 in Lower Hutt***

**Earliest Known Use of the 1960 CAUTION “ Mail 6 ” (Type 1c) Labels**

|                               | Postmark    | Route                            |
|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Type 1c (Bracket & Full Stop) | 25 Jan 1960 | Lower Hutt to Wellington         |
| Latest Known Date             | 10 Oct 1966 | Christchurch to Palmerston North |

.../ 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
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- (5) A. Jackson, “1932 CAUTION Labels - Earlier Use Discovered”, *ibid*, Whole Number 782, Vol 45, No. 2, 2016 pp 31
- (6) S. Prest, “The 1955 CAUTION Labels”, *ibid*, Whole Number 783, Vol 45, No. 3, 2017, pp 44-45