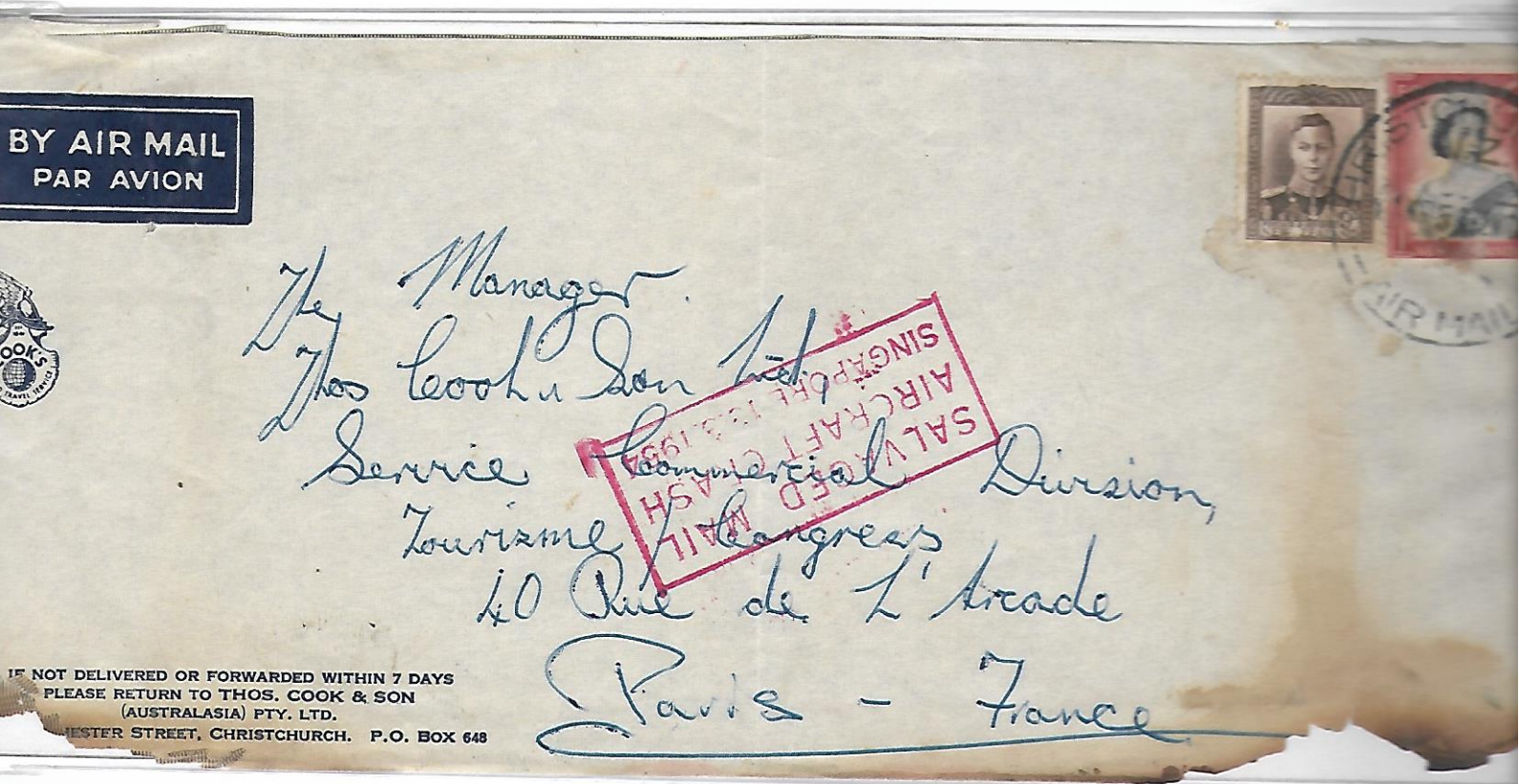


# CRASH MAIL

A CRASH MAIL COVER IS A PHILATELIC TERM FOR A TYPE OF COVER, MEANING AN ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE THAT HAS BEEN RECOVERED FROM A FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT, AIRSHIP OR AEROPLANE CRASH. CRASH COVERS ARE A TYPE OF INTERRUPTED MAIL. CRASHES OF FLIGHTS CARRYING AIRMAIL WERE A REGULAR OCCURRENCE FROM THE EARLIEST DAYS OF MAIL TRANSPORT BY AIR. IN MANY CASES OF AIRCRAFT CRASHES, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO RECOVER SOME OR EVEN ALL OF THE MAIL BEING CARRIED, WITH PERHAPS SOME CHARRING AROUND THE EDGES OF SOME PIECES IF THERE HAD BEEN A FIRE, OR WATER DAMAGE FROM FLYING BOAT CRASHES OR SHIPWRECKS. IN SUCH CASES, THE AUTHORITIES TYPICALLY APPLY A POSTAL MARKING (CACHET), LABEL, OR MIMEOGRAPH THAT GETS AFFIXED TO THE COVER EXPLAINING THE DELAY AND DAMAGE TO THE RECIPIENT, AND POSSIBLY ENCLOSE THE LETTER IN AN "AMBULANCE COVER" OR "BODY BAG" IF IT WAS BADLY DAMAGED AND THEN SEND IT TO ITS INTENDED DESTINATION.



LETTER FLOWN FROM CHRISTCHURCH - NEW ZEALAND (MR 54 - 12 NOON)  
SALVAGED MAIL - AIR CRAFT CRASH, SINGAPORE 13.3.1954