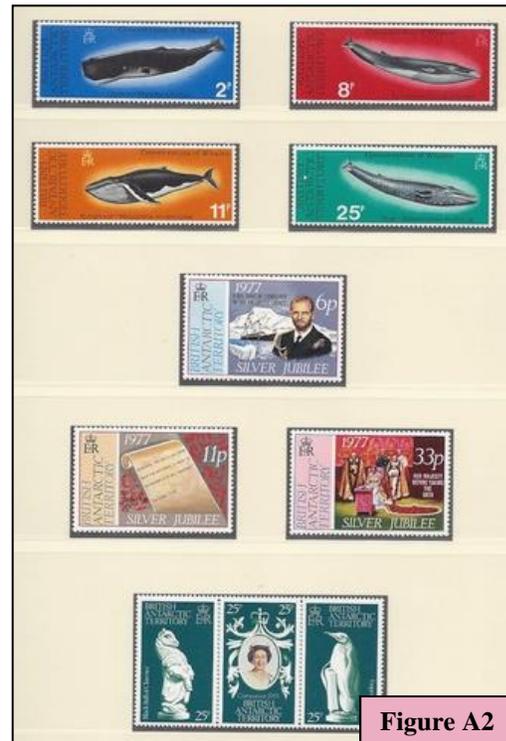
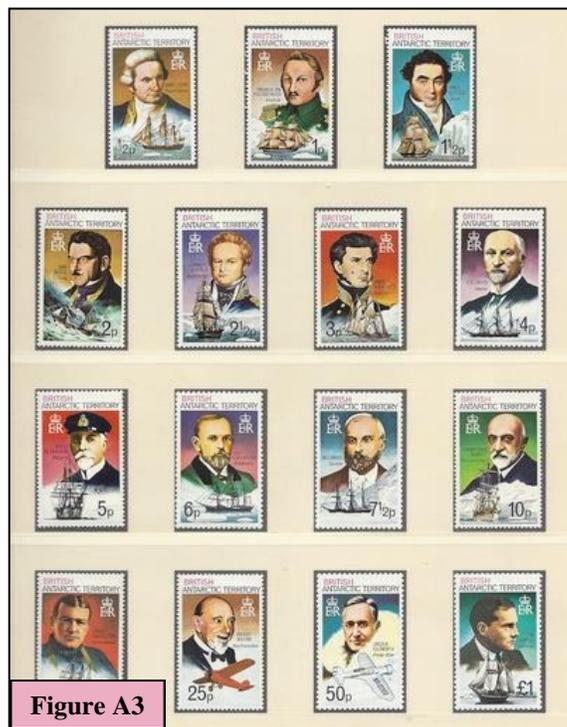


# The Cover Story

## You never know what you will find!

by Rick Cohen

Since my father's passing in mid-October last year, I've spent my time helping Mom with a variety of tasks, one of which is addressing the vast accumulation of Dad's STUFF! Closets have been emptied and contents donated to charity. Many large trash bags full of unnecessary articles have made their way to the curb. And then there's his enormous stamp accumulation. Yes, saying collection is not accurate in this case. As I have begun to examine each item, be it a bag, box, cookie tin -- you get the point, I am challenged to predict the time (in years) this task will take. But alas, some silver lining to the



enormity.... a large blue padded binder with no markings to indicate its contents. As I gently opened the cover, my eyes surveyed a beautiful array of stamps, formally displayed on a hingeless album page. Page after page, I viewed magnificent stamps that I had never seen. Grabbing my Scott's Catalog to learn more, what I had discovered was a "collection" of mint, never hinged single British Antarctic Territory (Numbers 1-171). The priciest one is Scott's #24 which is a £1 stamp priced at \$200 [Figure A4]. This has led me to research more concerning where, who, and what of this place!

Seven sovereign nations have eight territorial claims to Antarctica. These nations are, Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway and United Kingdom. British Antarctic Territory (BAT) is the sector forming a wedge of land extending from the South Pole to south of 60 degrees S latitude and between longitudes 20 degrees W and 80 degrees W. BAT was formed on March 3, 1962 although the United Kingdom's claim dates back to the Letter of Patent of 1908 and 1917. It is one of 14 overseas territories of the United Kingdom.

Postage stamps were first issued in 1963, making a complete collection achievable given the lapse of time to present day. All issues have been released under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. While some stamps are actually used by visiting tourists and resident scientists for their mailings back home, the majority

of BAT stamps are sold to collectors overseas. Since 1963, there have been approximately 500 definitives and commemoratives, one set of four Semi-Postals and even a few Air Post sheetlets!

What I find most interesting about these stamps are the colorful subjects. The first set of 15 issued in 1963 portrays a variety of methods to travel and explore across



and through the ice cap, such as dog sled team, ice breaker and small engine aircraft [Figure A1 on front cover]. The denominations are in pound sterling. In 1971, the original 14 stamps of the 1963 series were re-issued with overprints to revalue them following decimalization.

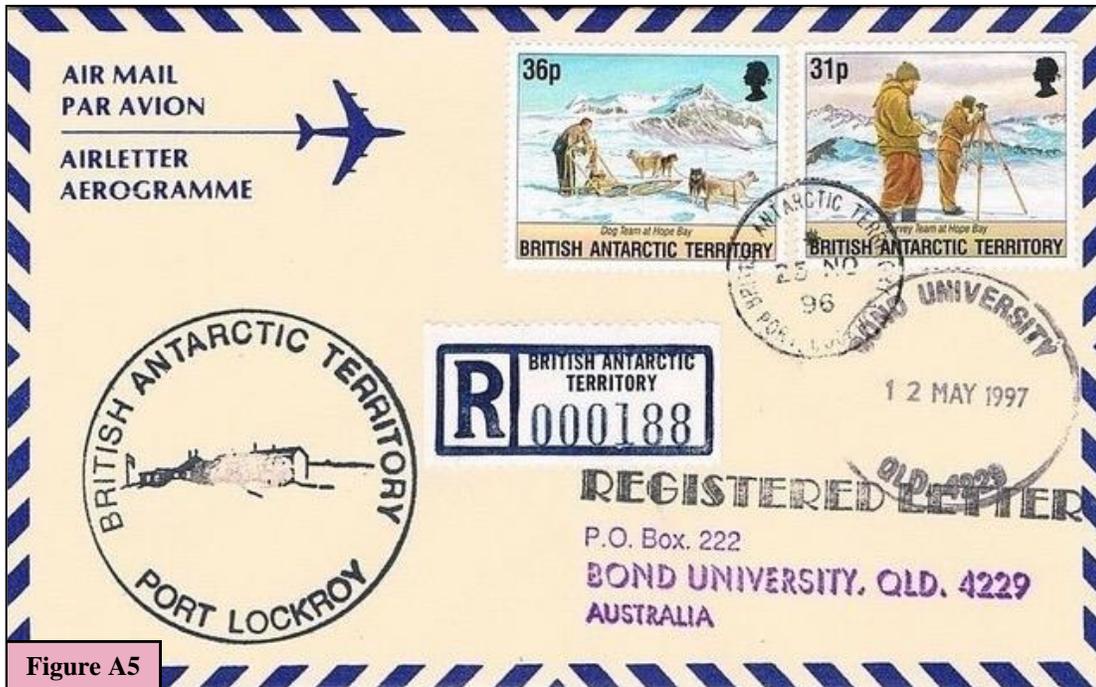


Figure A5

Port Lockroy is the southernmost PO on the planet! Employs four people to process 75,000 pieces of mail from visiting cruise ship tourists per year.

seals, fossils, research ships, marine life, maps, and even climate change [Figure A2]! In 2007, a large circular issue was released to commemorate the International Polar Year.

In all, British Antarctic Territory offers collectors a wide variety of subjects in colorful and interesting detail. **Figure A5** shows an eye-catching registered letter from Port Lockroy. Perhaps, this article will spark the interest to add BAT to your overall collection.



## Closed Album: Kenneth Connors



It is with deep sorrow, that I make the membership aware of the passing of Ken Connors on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>. He passed peacefully in his sleep at the age of 93, just as the day's first rays were dawning. His burial at the military cemetery in Bushnell was on April 20<sup>th</sup> – with the current restrictions on social gatherings there is no planned celebration of life. Ken was born in Newport, KY. He entered the Navy immediately after graduation from high school and served in the capacity of a Naval Intelligence Officer during WWII and Korea. He retired with 22 years of service as a LTJG. After which, he attended FSU, where he graduated with an MBA; later he became a CPA. His career including being recognized as the authority in the State of Florida as a Health Care Specialist. Ken was a resident of Central Florida since 1979; he joined the CFSC in December of 2011 and was always an active and aggressive bidder in silent/called auctions. Rest in peace kind sir. May you have fair winds and following seas.

There are the usual common design commonwealth issues such as the Silver Wedding Issue of 1972 and Princess Anne's Wedding Issue of 1973, but the majority of the stamps are bright, colorful and informative specifically to BAT. Perhaps this helps explain my favorite set, Scott Numbers 45-59, Polar Explorers and their Crafts [Figure A3]. This set displays portraits of 15 men along with their ship or plane used to "visit" the land without indigenous people! There are sets of whales, penguins,