



## JARE 17 and 22 cancellation service - Update

by Hal Vogel

### Q73/102 Update:

In relation to the Q and A item that appeared at JP 73/102, I'm afraid we unfortunately must disagree with the cited source. Both JARE 17 and JARE 22 had operating station/base (Shōwa) and ship (Fuji) post offices. Examples of Shōwa base cancels and Fuji cancels for JARE 17 are respectively shown on page 149 in **Figure 1** and **Figure 2**, while **Figure 3** shows both the JARE 22 Fuji cancels (top) and the Shōwa base scenic datestamp (bottom).

Although aware of this from having been active then with the collecting of this category of mail, I nonetheless also consulted several leading polar philatelic sources on this subject, who concur with this finding (i.e., that the post offices were active during these JAREs).

It had been known that some governmental authorities (postal and polar) were dismayed with the amount of mail requests received and wished them to be discouraged. Perhaps this erroneous label on the returned mail to East Germany was an attempt to support this anti-servicing attitude (at least in this case).

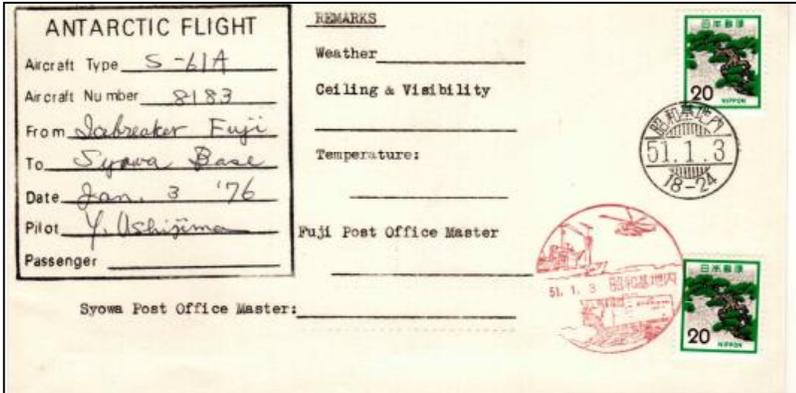
It is not that mail was sparse from these two JAREs. I have many examples to show that mail was actively serviced either with the station or ship's pictorial and/or regular cancellers. At one time (as I recall) it became difficult to have one's mail request serviced through the Tōkyō Central PO, so we routed our mail request through an en route port-of-call. One attached example shows that philatelic mail requests were not limited (at least for JARE 22) to local (i.e., Japanese) addresses. I seem to recall that sometimes a request sent to the Tōkyō Central PO at this time was returned with a label or stamped notation saying something to the effect that mail was not being accepted for [philatelic] servicing. I do not recall that they ever said that the post office was not handling mail - period!

I have a complete collection of JARE cancellations and cachets on mail from all JAREs up to 2003 (except for several very early years when there was a brief gap in Japanese Antarctic Research Expeditions). Not pursuing them after that year, I cannot say for certain whether the information that this may have ceased for international addresses began around 2006 (as mentioned in the article). However, I do recall seeing a few years ago a JARE cover returned to a collector in the USA, so perhaps this also can be disputed.

Hope this has helped.

### *[Editor's Note:*

*Hal, this certainly has helped, in fact it has helped a lot. People say "a picture's worth a thousand words", and your illustrated examples clearly show that JARE 17 and JARE 22 had operating Shōwa base and ship post offices. It does though make one question under whose authority the decision was made at the Tōkyō Central PO to reject the request discussed at JP 73/102 and add an attached label stating that the cancellation service was not provided for JARE 22. It would be interesting also to determine how much mail was rejected. ISJP member Neil Duguid provided another example of a rejected cover with the same label attached, although this appears to have originated from the same East German sender. R.C.]*



← Figure 1



↑ Figure 2



← Figure 3

