

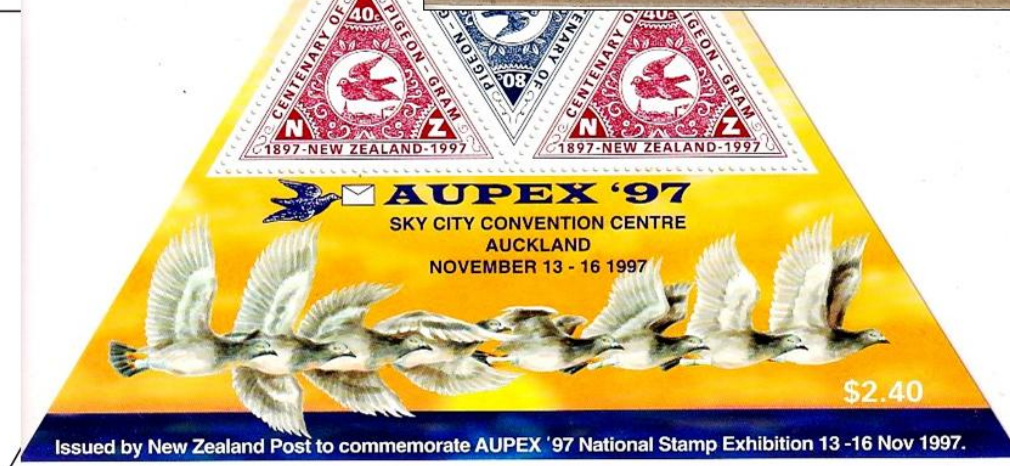
5. PIGEON POST

It is a term coined where homing pigeons are used as effective as messengers (attributable to their natural homing abilities) to communicate the messages & mails from one place to another. Pigeons, transported to a destination in cages or lofts, attached with missives secured to their feet would be released, who would fly back. The missives will carry messages to destined place and would return to the owner with a reply in same fashion.



PROMOTIONAL STAMP PACK GIFTED BY AIR-INDIA CONTAINING INDIAN POSTAGE STAMPS FOR

The first organized pigeon airmail service was started in 1896 between New Zealand and the Great Barrier Island. The sinking of the SS Wairarapa off the Great Barrier Island, with the loss of 134 lives, was a catalyst for the service. News of the disaster did not reach New Zealand for 3-days and as a direct result a pigeon-gram service was set up between the two islands. The first message was carried in January 1896 and took less than 1.75 hours to reach Auckland. Up to 5 messages were carried by each pigeon with the record time for the journey being held by a pigeon called 'Velocity' taking only 50 minutes and averaging 125 kmph (only 40% slower than a modern aircraft!).



Odd shaped MS with odd shaped set of 4 stamps was issued during AUPEX '97 @\$2.40, MS carried image of original stamp of 1894 and a Tete-beche pair in Blue

aircraft!).

This first flight airmail cover commemorates the golden jubilee of the world's first distinctive airmail stamp, which was flown by pigeon from Okupu, Great Barrier Island, on 19.11.1898.

Through the courtesy of the Auckland Racing Pigeon Federation, the Jubilee Etiquette, a replica of the original stamp, was actually flown by pigeon from Okupu to Auckland on 19.11.1948, and was affixed to the cover on its return from the post.

The etiquette is tied to the cover by an impression from one of the actual obliterators used in the service.

