

Antarctica has no naturally occurring flowering plants however philatelically Orchids manage to appear on mail from expeditions, exhibitions and bases. The countries in the inserted 'Antarctic Treaty' diagram could all potentially have postal services that originate in the region. These six examples are from the inner circle of signatory countries.

Castilleja radiata Syn. *Habenaria radiata* is an Orchid of temperate regions in Japan, China, Korea and Russia. The envelope has an arrival cancel for 1994 Tokyo. The orchid stamp is a Tokyo prefecture local issue of 1991.



Postmark for Argentina's Antarctic base 'Jubany' from 1987. The temperate climate orchid illustrated is *Oncidium bifolium* a re-issue due to currency changes in 1985.



Illustrated Orchids are *Thalassia venosa* and *Earina autumnalis*.

The Dog Orchid, *Codonorchis lessonae* is the only orchid illustrated from a subpolar region however the Falkland climate is ameliorated by its oceanic position. The second flower illustrated has an Orchid name 'Vanilla' but is a daisy. The tourist expedition on the Lars-Eric Lindblad operated Lindblad Explorer was in the 3rd season of Antarctic luxury cruising.



CDS for Scott Base (NZ) in the Ross Dependency Territorial claim dated 23 November 1981.



Cypripedium calceolus an orchid of temperate Europe. Here a West Germany stamp was used on a Belgian/Dutch expedition reply card posted in the summer of 1964.

Airmail sheet used on the South African Antarctic Expedition 1960. The inside plate has a single *Disa uniflora* an Orchid of the veldt of Southern Africa. The sterling stamp imprint indicates this as the 1958 version.



22