

COMMERCIAL MAIL ON QANTAS FLIGHTS 1952

A small amount of commercial mail was carried on the first QANTAS return flight but not offloaded at Perth. This cover has the return flight cachet struck on the back. It differs from the that shown on the previous page - the heading is SOUTH AFRICA – AUSTRALIA. Port Louis Mauritius 6 September 1952, GPO Sydney 9 September



Carried on second return flight.
Capetown Kaapstad 9 September 1952

QANTAS CORONATION SOUVENIR COVERS 1953



QANTAS EMPIRE AIRWAYS LTD.
(INCORPORATED IN QUEENSLAND)

SHELL HOUSE, CARRINGTON ST., SYDNEY

BOX 489, G.P.O., SYDNEY
TELEGRAMS: "QANTAS"
TELEPHONE: 80271

PLEASE QUOTE REF.:

20th April, 1953.

C I R C U L A R

CORONATION COVERS & AIRLETTERS

We have pleasure in announcing that arrangements have been made for the carriage of Coronation Souvenir Covers and Airletters at the time of the Coronation in June.

Covers and Airletters will be carried in each direction as stated on the attached application form but no two-way covers will be handled by the Company. The price of covers is also shown whilst the charge for Airletters will be 1/6d. Aust. for any sector. The prices quoted include a moderate service charge for which the Company undertakes to post, collect and return covers to sender after the service.

Within Australia only, covers blank may be purchased from any office of the Company or from some of the leading Departmental Stores and Stationers in each Capital City at a charge of 3d. each.

In the Federated States of Malaya, a 10 cent Coronation stamp is to be issued by each of the 9 States, 2 Settlements and the Colony of Singapore. For a total charge of 4/6d. Aust., we will arrange to affix a complete set of 12 "First Day of Issue" Coronation stamps. Due to the size of these stamps, it will be necessary to place some on the reverse side of the envelope.

COCOS ISLANDS

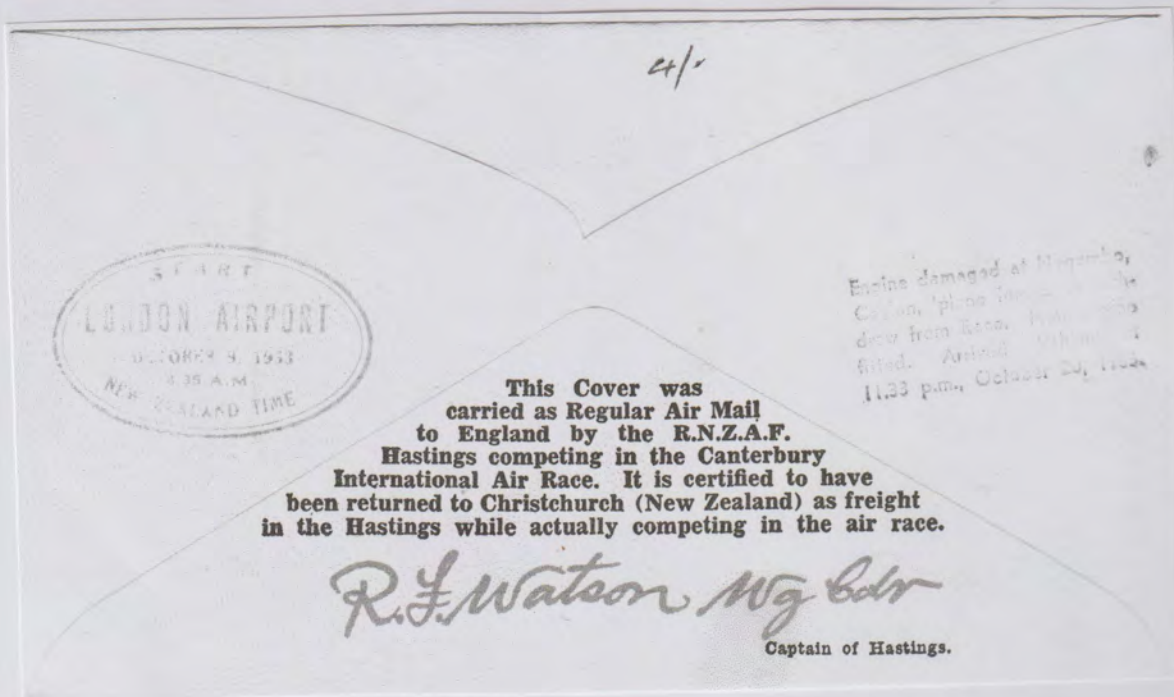
Covers and Airletters posted from Cocos Islands will bear Malayan stamps since the Civil Post Office is administered through Singapore.

Addressing of Covers and Airletters will be carried out by Q.E.A. Ltd., Sydney, after which they will be dispatched to the various originating points together with instructions for the affixing of stamps and handling. If specially requested the Company will address covers to a private address in the country of destination but such covers will not be returned subsequently to the point of origin by the Company.

LONDON CHRISTCHURCH AIR RACE 1953

On 8 October 1953 eight aircraft departed Heathrow Airport in the 'Last Great Air Race'. RNZAF Handley Page Hastings, known as the 'greatest 3 engine plane in the world' due to frequent engine failure, was entered in the Transport section. An engine failed and an emergency landing was made in monsoonal rain at RAF Negombo but the plane ran off the runway. The pilot Sqn Ldr Seigert was awarded the AFC.

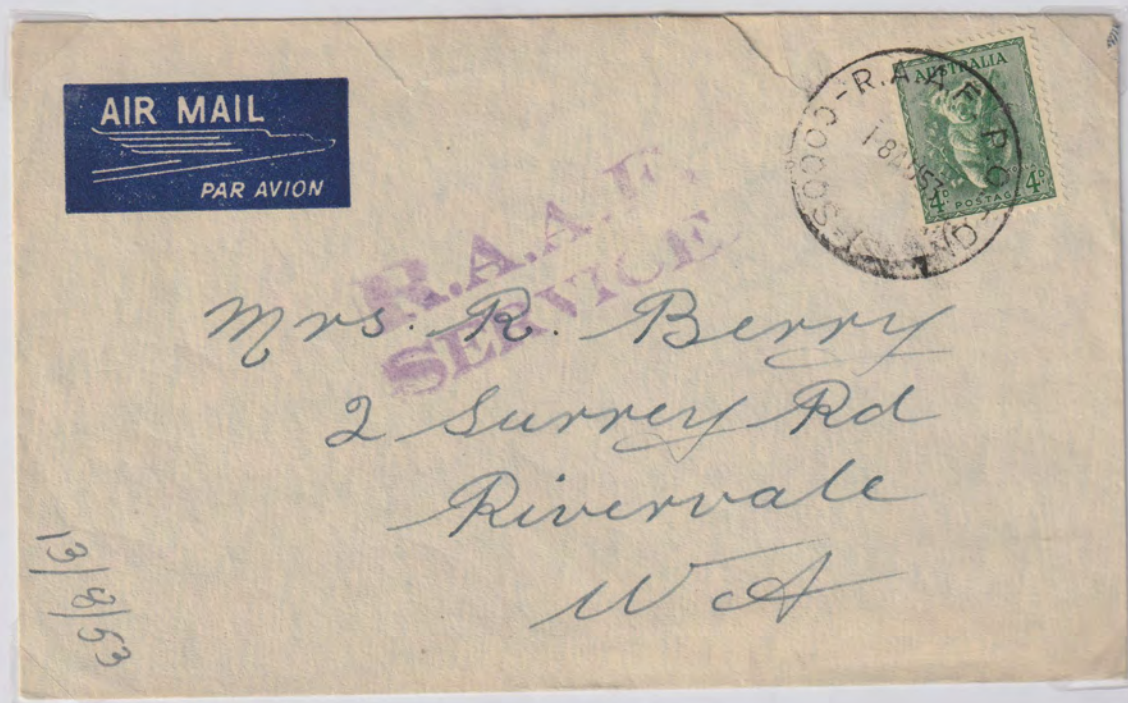
Christchurch 1 September 1953, London Airport 9 October (NZ time), cachet 'Engine damaged at Negombo, Ceylon, 'plane forced to withdraw from Race. New engine fitted. Arrived Whenuapi 11.33pm October 20, 1953



R.A.A.F. PO

The main body of 2 ACS left at the beginning of November 1952. Detachment A worked on Direction Island where there was an Admiralty Listening Post and on airfield maintenance.

RAAF PO 11 May 1953



RAAF PO 18 August 1953

R.A.A.F. P.O.

The RAAF PO handled a considerable amount of registered mail despite servicing only a small number of personnel.

1766 RAAF PO Cocos Island 30 October 1952

R. 24 (ORIGINAL) Postmaster-General's Department

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

TO BE ISSUED:—
 (a) When a registration fee in excess of 3d. is paid on a registered article other than a parcel;
 (b) When a registration fee is paid on an ordinary parcel;
 (c) When a registration fee, in addition to the prescribed commission, is paid on a cash on delivery parcel.

Received from *Mr Rex Allinson*

Address *Letter* Registered Parcels, particulars of which are entered below:— Sch. C.5336—6/1947.

Registered or Parcel No.	Surname of Addressee	Office of Destination	Registration Fee Paid		Maximum Compensation
			s.	d.	
1766	REX ALLINSON 16 LAVERTON ST WILLIAMSTOWN VIC	WILLIAMSTOWN VICTORIA		9	

Accepted subject to the provisions of the Postal Regulations relating to the payment of compensation for loss of or damage to registered articles whilst in transmission through the post.

[Signature]
Signature of Receiving Officer.

Date Stamp: RAAF P.O. COCOS ISLAND 30 OCT 52

2315 RAAF PO Cocos-Island 13 January 1953



KANGAROO PAW *Anigozanthos Manglesii*
 The flowers bear a fancied resemblance to the foot of a Kangaroo. Derives its botanical name from the two Greek words, Anizos—unequal, Anthos—flower, and after the name of Captain J. Mangles.

Mr. C. G. Thorn,
 19 Armadale Road,
RIVERVALE.
 West Australia.

3650 registered items were handled by RAAF PO Cocos Island by 21 January 1954.
 #2910 RAAF PO Cocos-Island 3 October 1953, Registration Perth 4 October, Rivervale 5 October

SINGAPORE POSTAL AGENCY 1952

Singapore opened a postal agency on 2 September 1952 to coincide with the opening of the QANTAS air service. Thereafter, all civilian mail was handled by this post office. Most mail in this period is overtly philatelic, with commercial mail being very scarce. Prestige Philately, (24 June 2006). Auction No. 122 p.67

Cocos Island 14 October 1952

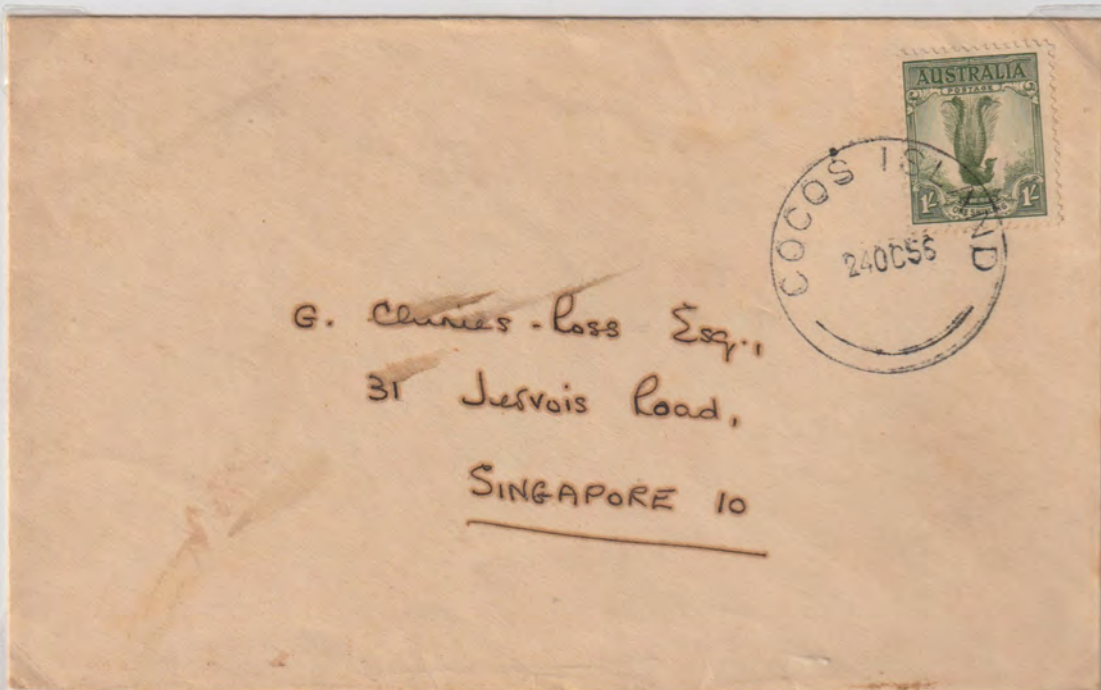
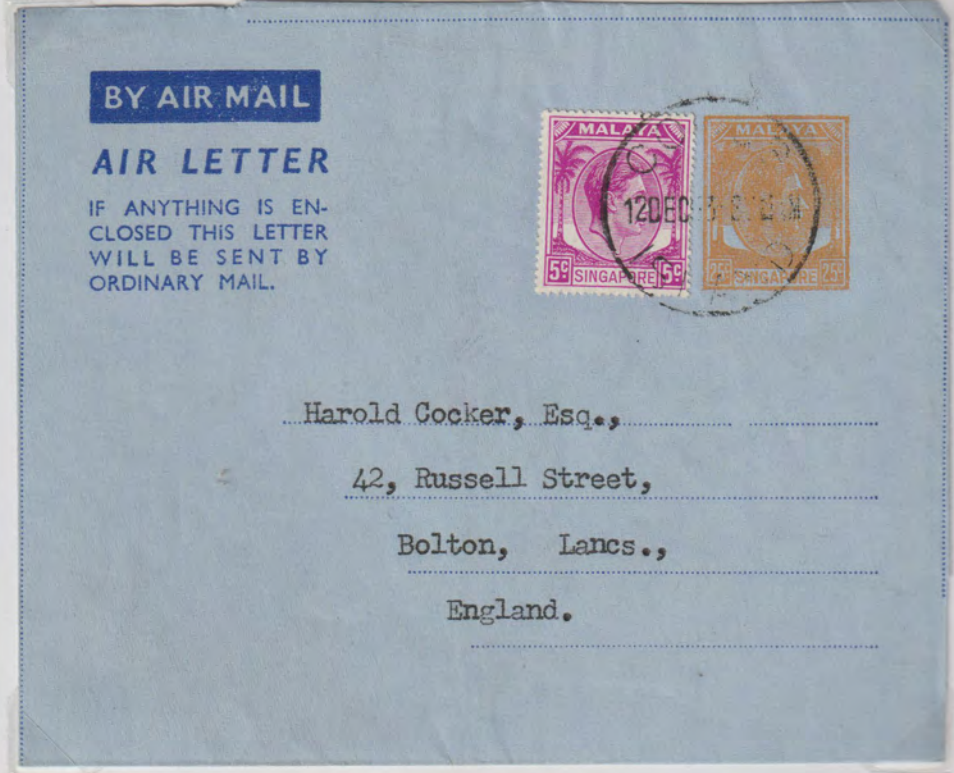


Fifty cents air mail rate to Australia.

SINGAPORE POSTAL AGENCY

Given that no direct air service linked Cocos and Singapore, the Singapore Post Office complained that the cost of transporting airmail via Perth was uneconomic at the local rates charged on Cocos.

Cocos Island 12 December 1953



The official date for handover from Singapore Post Office to the Australian PMG was 1 October 1955 but the Australians were inundated with philatelic mail and not ready to assume responsibility until November. This cover proves that Singapore operated the office but used Australian datestamp and stamps at the airmail rate to Singapore.

Cocos Island 24 October 1955

SINGAPORE POSTAL AGENCY - 30 CENTS AIRMAIL RATE

Cocos Island 9 December 1952



70 CENTS AIRMAIL RATE

Cocos Island 2 June 1953

1954 ROYAL VISIT

The PMG's Department announced their would be no philatelic facilities for the Royal Visit available at the Singapore Agency post office on Cocos but that did not deter collectors and locals reported the office was very busy that day.

Cocos Island 5 April 1954, Four Arrows cover



Unknown commemorative cover

AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY 23 NOVEMBER 1955

QANTAS produced souvenir flight covers to mark the transfer of Cocos Islands from Singapore to Australian control.

Trans-Australia Airlines
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AIRLINES COMMISSION

PH NO 41047

ES



44 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH.
Postal Address: Box No. P 1154, G.P.O., Perth.

Date 22/4 1955

RECEIVED from MR A.R. McLENNAN

the sum of TWO Pounds
SIX Shillings 0 Pence

TWO QEA
F/F COVERS

By { Cash £ 2.6
Cheque

TRANS-AUSTRALIA AIRLINES

E. Wager

YOUR CASH RECEIPT
stamp not required.

CASHIER

FORM F45 12/53

ORIGINAL

TELEPHONE: BA 9861
P.O. BOX P1154
PERTH

27th April 1955.

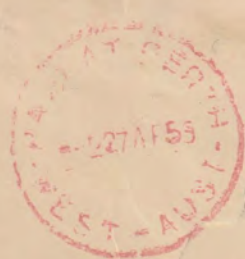
We thank you for your letter of the 21st instant, forwarding remittance of 2/6d. covering two Qantas First Flight Covers from Cocos Island.

An Application Form has been completed and forwarded to Qantas, Sydney, and we attach here to our receipt No. 41047 covering the cost. Covers will be posted direct to address indicated.

For your information we would inform you that the closing date has been extended to 15th May 1955.

Yours faithfully,
for TRANS-AUSTRALIA AIRLINES.

Trans-Australia Airlines
ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE,
PERTH.



E. Wager

Mr. A.R. McLennan,
37 Redfern Street,
NORTH PERTH. W.A.

AUSTRALIAN ADMINISTRATION 1955

The *Australian Stamp Monthly* advised philatelists on 1 April 1955 that administrative responsibility for Cocos would transfer from Singapore to Australia "within the next few months, but is dependent upon the passage of the necessary legislation.... Orders for the attention of the Philatelic Bureau should be received no later than April 2." This absurd announcement marked the beginning of a confused process lasting 6 months. One result was that the cachet prepared (probably in April) showed Perth as the terminus of the flight but the QANTAS insert into their covers showed Darwin and, in the meantime, QANTAS had changed its route to connect with the service through Darwin to Japan.



Cocos Island 23 November 1955

AEROGRAMMES

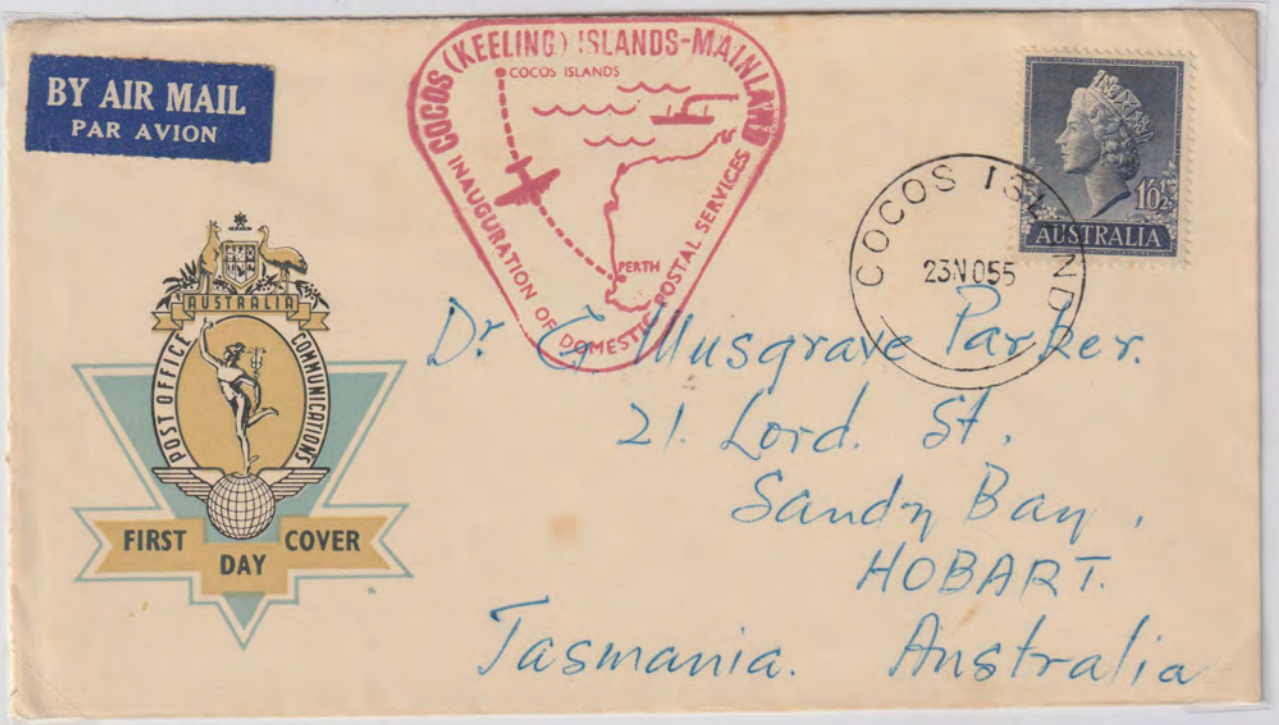
The worldwide 10d rate for aerogrammes also attracted the 6d surcharge.
Cocos Island 23 November 1955



Cocos Island 23 November 1955

CACHET COLOUR -RED

It is a challenge to explain non-standard colours used to strike the cachet, particularly if all these covers were prepared in Melbourne. Philatelists could lodge covers at the Philatelic Bureaus in the various State capitals and some could have been processed there. Initial suggestions re the red cachet is that it was Tasmanian but this seems no so. Another speculation is that these were early covers before the purple cachet became standard. Cocos Island 23 November 1955



Cocos Island 23 November 1955

GUTHRIE FDC

These Western Australian produced FDC also have the mauve cachet.
Cocos Island 23 November 1955



Bergen enhanced Guthrie FDC
Cocos Island 23 November 1955