

Australian Group

AIRMAIL CACHET

Three other examples of this cachet have been recorded. The surcharge rate to Britain, Europe and North America was 2/6d.



No registration facility was officially available on Cocos for first flight covers.
Cocos Island 23 November 1955, London 30 November

PACIFIC ISLANDS, MALAYA, INDONESIA - 1/6d RATE

Cocos Island 23 November 1955

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

FIRST DAY COVER



COCOS ISLANDS

COMMEMORATING THE TAKING
OVER OF ADMINISTRATIVE
RESPONSIBILITY BY THE
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.



Mr. C. A. Leembruggen,
P.O. Box No. 351,
Suva,
FIJI.

Cocos Is. First Day Service



Miss Margaret Adams
C. C. S. R. Co.
LAUTOKA
FIJI.

Cocos Island 23 November 1955

TAXED

It is not known whether the covers were taxed on Cocos but it would be unusual for the Melbourne Philatelic Bureau to use manuscript tax markings. That the Cocos Post Office had the cachet and could process FDC is clear from the official announcement. "In view of the importance of the occasion, the use of the cachet will extend over the first week of the operation of the post office so that philatelic covers which may arrive at Cocos island later than the date of opening of the post office, but within the first week, will similarly be cacheted." ASM 1 April 1955, p. 261
Cocos Island 23 November 1955



Cocos Island 23 November 1955

TAXED

The American philatelic press were unaware of the 6d surcharge.
These covers were taxed at the rate 6 centimes = 1 penny
Cocos Island 23 November 1955



during his years with Western

Australia Plans To Open Post Office Shortly On Cocos (Keeling) Island

Australia's postal service is making plans to provide philatelic service for the expected inauguration of Australian postal service on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, according to Postmaster General H. L. Anthony.

The new service will be instituted as soon as the necessary legislation by which Australia assumes administrative responsibility for Cocos Islands is enacted by the Australian parliament, possibly within the next three months.

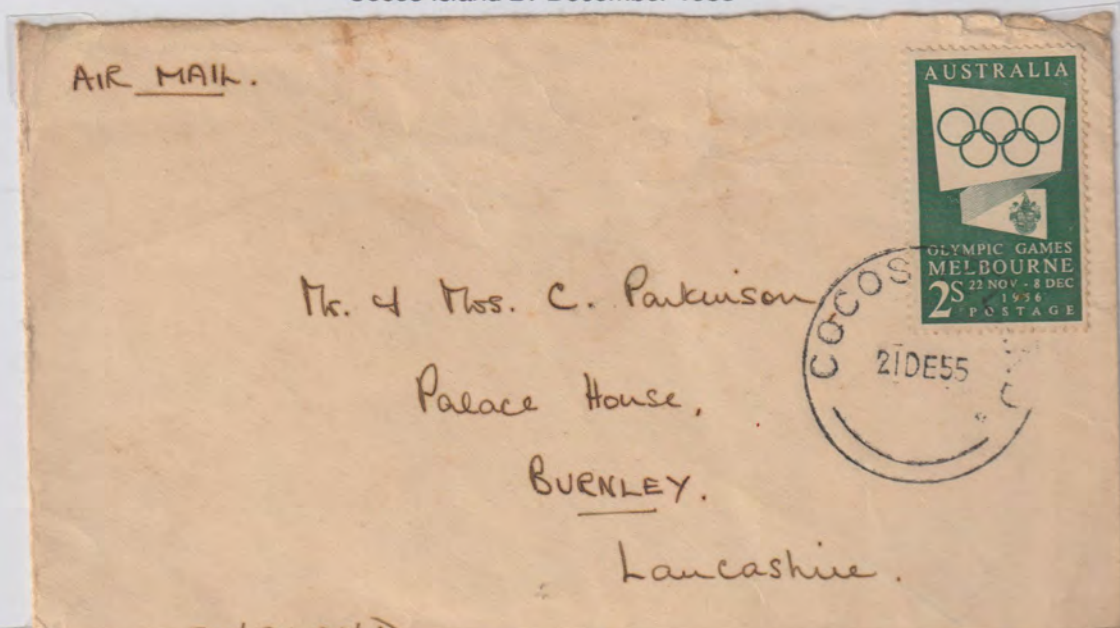
covers sent for service by collectors living in the United States or other countries. Neither is it known whether the Philatelic Bureau will be willing to supply and address envelopes. There may be information on this later.

But it is clear that covers received with Australian postage stamps on them will be serviced by the Philatelic Bureau in Melbourne. Collectors having mint Australian stamps can prepare covers easily. But they should remember that air mail postage to the U. S. is 2 shillings per

3/15/55

3/20

2/- RATE TO BRITAIN
Cocos Island 21 December 1955



Cocos Island 23 November 1955

The only recorded cover to Mexico at North America rate 2/6d airmail, 9d registration.
No South America cover recorded.

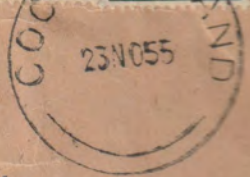
2/6d RATE TO MEXICO

TWO DATESTAMPS

This is the only recorded commercial first day cover and has strikes of both datestamps.
Cocos Island 23 November 1955

**BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION**

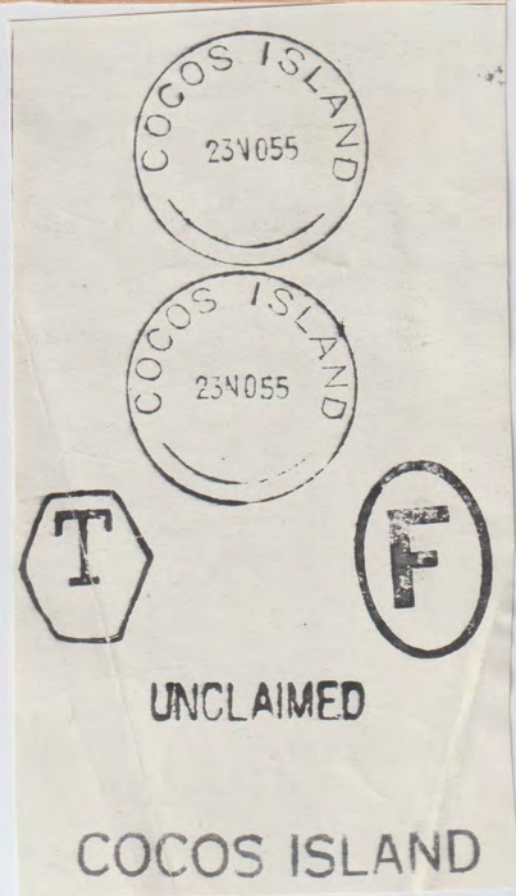
The *Perth*



Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia



*Forest Place
Perth
West Australia*



The shape of S is different and the C is below the level of the date on the lower strike.

POSTAGE INCREASE

On 1 October 1956 the domestic letter rate went up to 4d while airmail remained at 3d.
Cocos Island 5 December 1956, received 8 December



8d surface rate to USA
Cocos Island 24 October 1956

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS 1957

The Cocos Island postmarker and registration label were withdrawn on 18 February 1957 and were replaced by the new official title Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Cocos Island 1 February 1956, Sydney 2 February, Melbourne 3 February



Cocos Island 29 January 1957, Sydney 4 February, Melbourne 4 February, Glen Iris 5 February
The reasons given to the Australian Parliament for the name of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955 were to distinguish these islands from others named Cocos and to honour the discoverer of the islands, Captain Keeling.

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

The reasons given to the Australian Parliament for the name of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955 was to distinguish these islands from others in the Pacific Ocean named Cocos and to honour the discoverer of the islands, Captain Keeling.
San Jose 28 January 1936



Mr J. Deane Stevenson,
3833 Jurupa Avenue,
Riverside,
California.
U.S.A.

THIS COVER COMMEMORATES THE FIRST ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS DEDICATED TO COCOS ISLAND, COSTA RICA'S ISOLATED COLONIAL POSSESSION IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, ON WHICH PIRATE TREASURE VALUED AT \$ 100,000,000 IS SUPPOSED TO BE BURIED.



NORMAN K. MARY
305 WALTER STREET
PITTSBURGH, (10) PA.

USS Moffett Cocos Island Pacific Ocean 29 October 1936

NEW DATESTAMPS

Datestamps with index numbers 1 and 2 were issued on 18 February 1957.
A new datestamp did not guarantee a clear readable strike.
Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1 21 March 1957



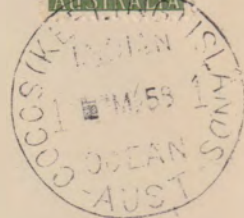
Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2 31 May 1961

On 1 October 1958 the non-official post office was handed over by the Department of Civil Aviation to be staffed by the Department of Territories.

ROYAL VISIT 7 MARCH 1958



COMMEMORATING THE
VISIT OF
HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH
THE QUEEN MOTHER
TO
COCOS ISLANDS



Mr. A.H. Bergen,
12 Lynton Avenue,
BRIGHTON.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



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Mr. A.H. Bergen,
12 Lynton Avenue,
BRIGHTON.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

COMMERCIAL PTPO STATIONERY

Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2 19 May 1960



COMMERCIAL LETTER

From N. Long Hon. Secretary Cocos Island
Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2 31 May 1961

O.H.M.S.
Official Representative, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2 Indian Ocean 24 July 1961

On Her Majesty's Service.

JAMES PATTERSON ESQ,
9 SMITHSTON COTTAGES,
GLREENOCK,
RENFREWSHIRE,
SCOTLAND.



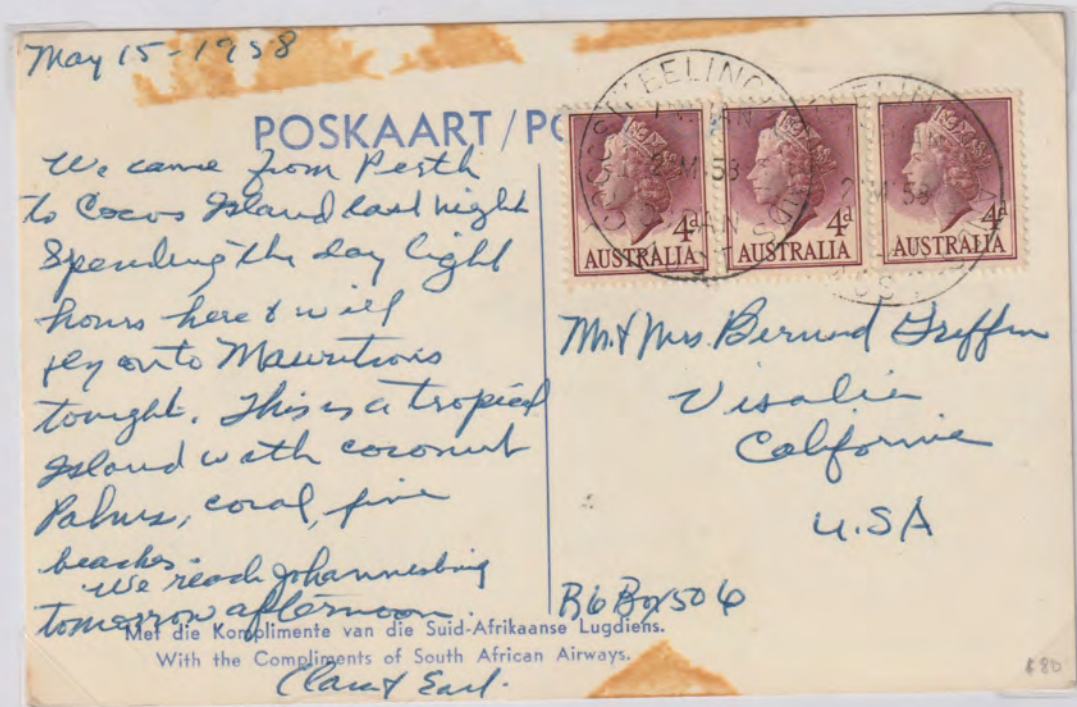
O. H. M. S.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands 3 Indian Ocean
18 October 1963

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

On 27 November 1957 South African Airways departed Perth via Cocos and Mauritius to Johannesburg with flights on alternate weeks to QEA.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2 21 May 1958



REGISTRATION

Collas and Hill (p.34) record that 10,000 registration labels "the major inscriptions on which were to accord with those on the new datestamps" were introduced on 18 February 1957. They record the inscription Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Aust. Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1 Indian Ocean 10 April 1957



Collas and Hill do not record a label inscribed Western Australia. Cocos (Keeling) Islands 2 Indian Ocean 18 June 1962, GPO Sydney 29 June, Registered Brisbane 30 June, Ipswich 30 June