

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA - Postal History****Lot 434**

**434** C A- **1838** cross-written entire headed "Adelaide SA/October 31 1838" and signed "Robt Leake" to his brother in Van Diemens Land with a largely very fine strike of the undated double-circle 'POST OFFICE/[lion & crown]/ADELAIDE' h/s, very fine boxed 'SHIPLETTER/3DE3/1838' d/s of Hobart where rated "11" (4d inwards shipleter + 7d for delivery between 75 & 90 miles), light vertical fold. *Ex Michael Blake*: sold at the *Prestige* auction of 23.9.2011 for \$4370. A very fine and very early postmarked letter from the Colony, which was founded only two years earlier. [Postal operations began on 10/4/1837. Very few pre-1840 letters survive in private hands. The sole postage rate was 1d regardless of destination or distance carried & this was paid to the ship's captain]

*Robert Rowland Leake* was one of two sons of *John Leake* who settled in South Australia. Robert writes to his brother Edward - transcript included - "I have moved my flock to Coromandle village it is eight miles from Holdfast...you will want a weeks provisions...on first landing...walloughby (= wallaby) rugs...are excellent things in leaky huts...we have 22,000 sheep 2000 head of cattle and 200 horses in the Colony..."

3,000