

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - World War II Civilian Mails 1939 to 1945

Britain declared war on Germany 4.9.1939. Non-military mail going into or out from Cocos during World War II is extremely scarce. Colin Riddell's items here are the only examples known to us. Kim Dwyer's collection did not include any such items.

**Lot 2371**

2371 PS A 1939 usage of Straits KGVI 2c Postal Card endorsed "From GA Bayley, Cocos Keeling Island" on the face & with brief telegraph message headed "Cocos 29th Sept 1939", uprated for airmail to England with 2c & 10c pair tied by Singapore cds of 30SE/1939, very fine 'PASSED BY/ 7 /CENSOR' cachet in violet. An important item, being **the earliest WWII Cocos-related cover** & the only one posted in the first month of the war. [David Flaar's similar uprated Postal Card from a month later sold for \$1955]

1,500^T**Lot 2372**

2372 C B - (Oct 5) airmail cover endorsed on flap "From Mrs Clunies-Ross/...Devon" to "JS Clunies-Ross/Keeling Cocos Islands/co Messrs Caldbeck Macgregor & Co/Singapore", boxed 'PASSED BY/ 37 /CENSOR' h/s in violet applied at Singapore.

400^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - World War II Civilian Mails 1939 to 1945 (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



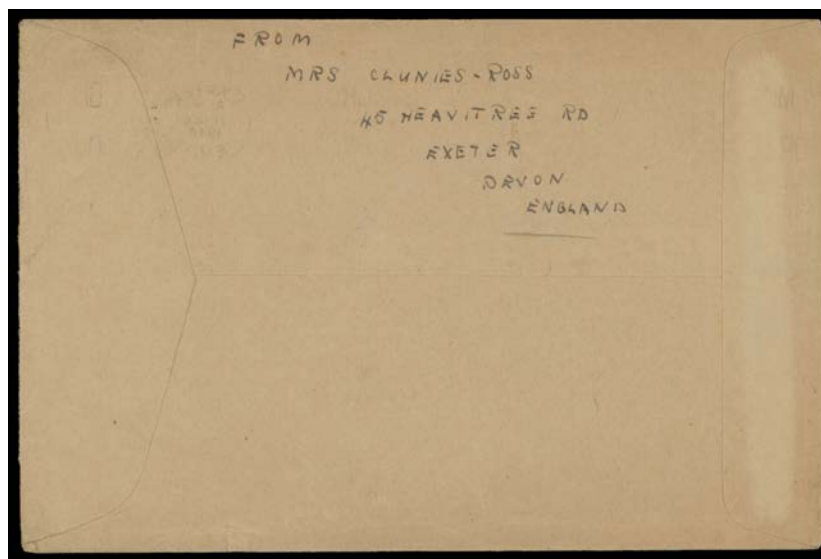
Lot 2373

2373 C A-

1940 cover endorsed "From Sidney W Rayment-Acton/Keeling Cocos Islands" on the reverse, to "Governor JS Clunies Ross/co WT Lee & Co...London", Mauritius KGVI 12c tied by GPO cds of 19SP/40 & superb oval 'PASSED BY CENSOR/MAURITIUS' cachet in violet, on arrival redirected to *WT Lee's* home in Sussex. **An extraordinary cover.** [*Sidney Rayment-Acton* was secretary to *JS Clunies-Ross* on Cocos. He had resigned his position but remained on island until January 1941. At this time *Clunies-Ross* was already en route from London, arriving at Cocos just before his secretary's departure. *WT Lee* was the family's agent in London]

On 10.6.1940, Italy declared war on the Allies. The British telegraphic cable in the north-Mediterranean was cut, making Cocos & the trans-Indian Ocean cable a vital link for Australia, Singapore & the East. In late-1940 the Admiralty established a high-frequency direction-finding facility on Direction Island, Cocos. It is expected that this cover - the only one of its type known to us - was carried to Mauritius by a naval vessel.

1,500^T



Lot 2374

2374 C A-

- (Dec 31) cover endorsed on the reverse "Mrs Clunies-Ross/...Devon" by sea to her husband c/- *Caldbeck Macgregor*, triangular 'PASSED FOR - TRANSMISSION/ 37 ' cachet in violet applied at Singapore. [It is believed that this envelope was used to forward the cover from *Rayment-Acton* sent via Mauritius - see previous lot - back to Cocos]

300^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - World War II Civilian Mails 1939 to 1945 (continued)

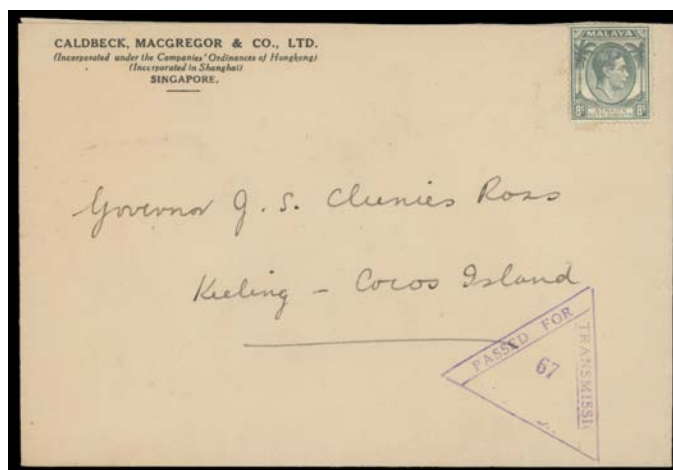
Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



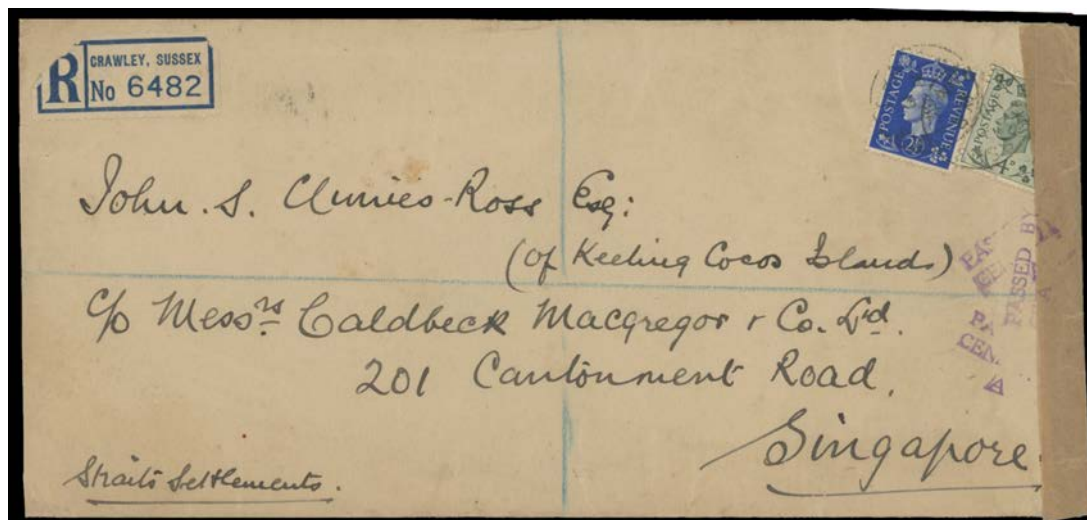
Lot 2375

- 2375** C B 1941 (c.) undated cover with 'CALDBECK MACGREGOR & CO LTD/SINGAPORE' cachet across the flap & uncanceled 8c grey, to "JS Clunies-Ross/Keeling Cocos Is" with triangular 'PASSED FOR - TRANSMISSION/ 74 ' cachet in violet, central fold. [Our assessment is that *Caldbeck MacGregor & Co* handed-in their mail for censoring; because they operated the only mail service to Cocos, the covers were simply handed-back to them for carriage per TSS 'Islander' to Cocos]

300^T

Lot 2376

- 2376** C A - (c.) undated cover with 'CALDBECK MACGREGOR & CO LTD/.../SINGAPORE' imprint at upper-left & uncanceled 8c grey, to "Governor [sic] JS Clunies-Ross/Keeling Cocos Is" with triangular 'PASSED FOR - TRANSMISSION/ 67 ' cachet in violet.

300^T

Lot 2377

- 2377** CL B - (Jan 3) registered cover from *WT Lee* to *JS Clunies-Ross* c/- *Caldbeck Macgregor* for forwarding to Cocos, superb Singapore arrival b/s of 8MR/1941 & plain brown tape tied by 'PASSED/CENSOR/ A ' h/s in violet (not recorded by *Morenweiser* for Singapore), minor blemishes. [In late-1940, the intensified bombing of London caued *Lee* to remove his London operations to Sussex]

400^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - World War II Civilian Mails 1939 to 1945 (continued)

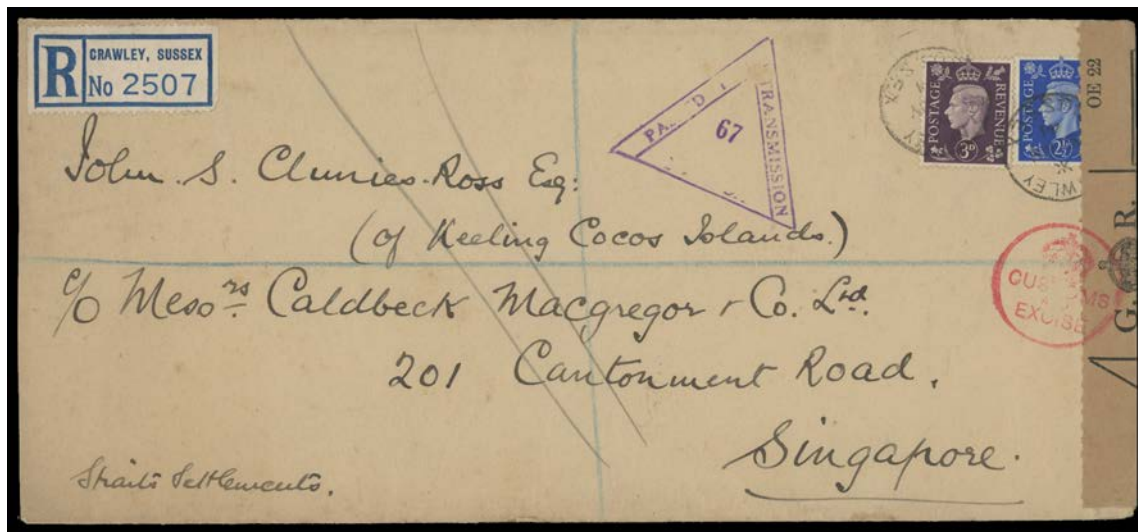
Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2378

- 2378 C A - (Feb 19) cover from USA at 5c rate with Oakland, CA cancels to "Governor [sic] Ross/Cocos Islands/Indian Ocean", triangular 'PASSED FOR - TRANSMISSION/ 6 ' cachet in violet applied at Singapore on face.

250^T

Lot 2379

- 2379 C CL - (May 5) registered surface mail cover from WT Lee in Sussex to JS Clunies-Ross c/- Caldbeck Macgregor for forwarding to Cocos with British '.../Opened for Customs examination and duly closed again at the Post Office' label tied by '[crown]/ CUSTOMS/AND/EXCISE' cachet in rosine, Singapore arrival b/s of late-May 1941 & triangular 'PASSED FOR - TRANSMISSION/ 67 ' cachet in violet.

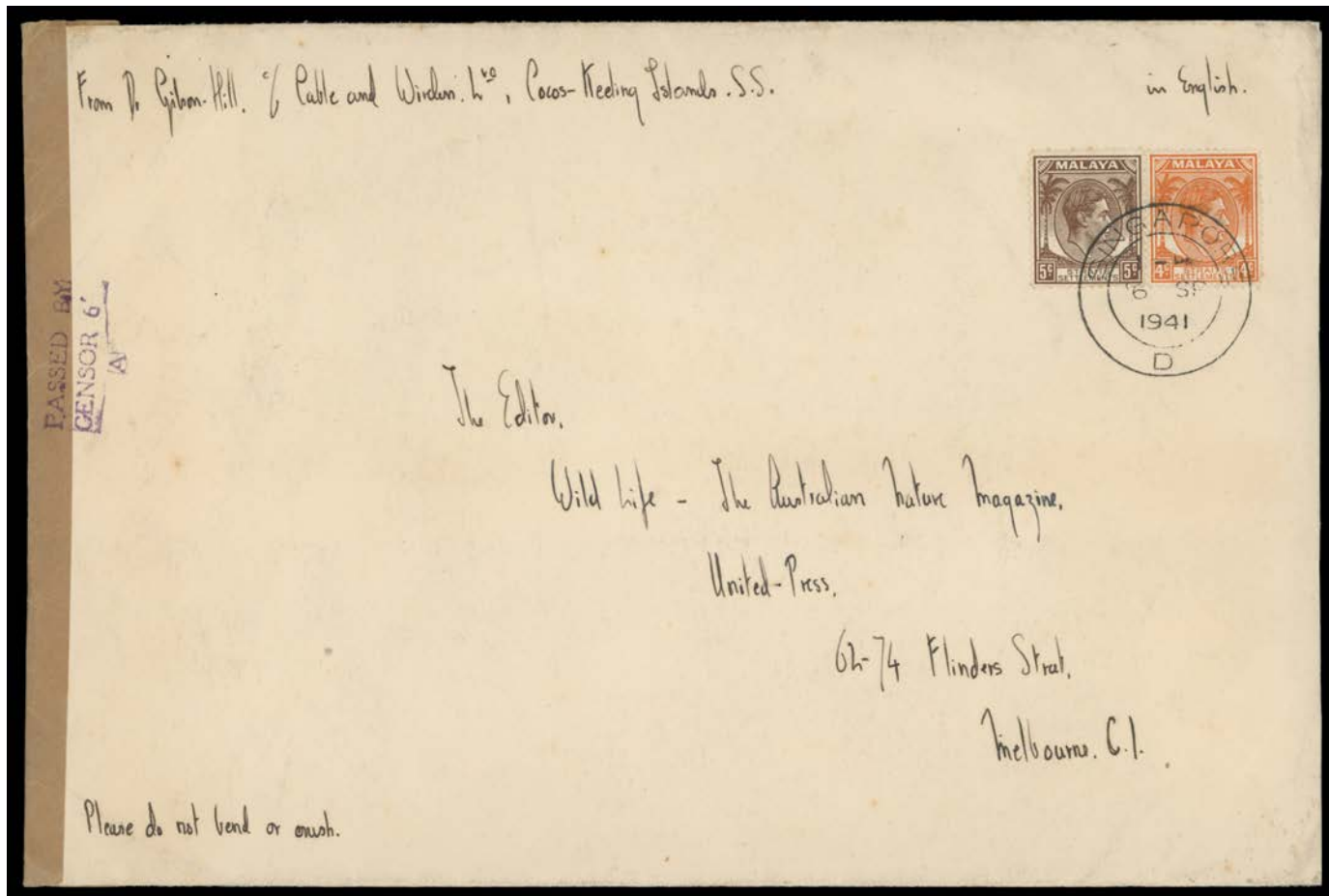
500^T

- 2380 C A- - (June 16) airmail cover from Rose Clunies-Ross to her husband on Cocos via their Singapore agents with unusual make-up of GB KGVI 7d & 8d for the 1/3d rate, triangular 'PASSED FOR - TRANSMISSION/ 67 ' cachet in violet applied at Singapore, minor blemishes.

400^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - World War II Civilian Mails 1939 to 1945 (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description Est \$A



Lot 2381

2381 CO A - cover (227x153mm) endorsed at upper-left "From Dr Gibson-Hill c/- Cable and Wireless Ltd Cocos-Keeling Islands" to Melbourne with Straits 4c & 5c tied by Singapore cds of 6SP/1941, resealed at left with plain brown tape tied by 'PASSED/CENSOR 6/ A ' h/s in violet (not recorded by *Morenweiser* for Singapore). Acquired at the *Prestige* auction of 29.3.2008 for \$4370. [*Carl Alexander Gibson-Hill* was resident medical officer on Cocos from late-1940. He left for Singapore in early-1942, arriving four days before its Surrender to Japan & spent the next 3½ years as a POW. In 1956, he was appointed Director of the *Raffles Museum*. A keen ornithologist, he wrote articles & a book about the Cocos Birdlife. This cover almost certainly contained bird photographs]

3,000^T



Lot 2382

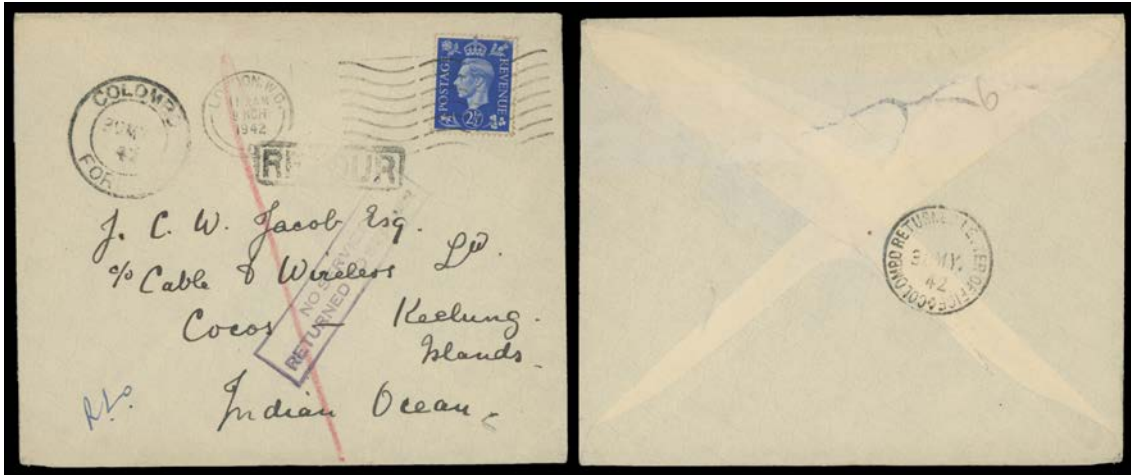
2382 C A- **1942** cover endorsed on the flap "JW Jacob/co Cable & Wireless Ltd/Cocos Keeling" to London with Ceylon 15c tied by Colombo machine cancel of 25MAR42. **A rare routing** at this time. [Almost certainly carried per SS *Kelantan* which arrived at Colombo in late-March 1942 after having taken a relief garrison to Cocos & surviving a torpedo attack on the return trip]

1,000^T

COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - World War II Civilian Mails 1939 to 1945 (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

**Lot 2383**

- 2383** C A- - (Mar 9) surface mail cover from GB to "JCW Jacob/co Cable & Wireless Ltd/Cocos-Keeling Islands", 'COLOMBO/30MY/42/FOREIGN' cds on the face with boxed 'NO SERVICE/RETURNED TO SENDER' & 'RETOUR' h/s of Colombo RTO (b/s). [Singapore fell to the Japanese on 15.2.1942 & mail connections with Cocos were severed. After the Japanese shelled the cable station on Cocos & attacked SS *Kelantan* on its return voyage in March, civilian mail services to Cocos from Ceylon were suspended]

750^T**Lot 2384**

- 2384** C A- **1943** (Aug 23) cover from *Rose Clunies-Ross* in Devon to "JS Clunies-Ross/co Cable & Wireless Coy/Colombo/Ceylon", no instructional markings so presumably delivered by naval vessel (?). The **latest recorded correspondence between Rose & John-Sidney**, who died on Cocos on 14.8.1944. [The family had moved from London to Devon for safety reasons. Ironically, their home in Exeter was destroyed in a German air raid but the London home survived unscathed]

500^T