

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

**COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1949-53 Tin Can Mail**

While not as well-known as the more popular Tongan service, the Cocos Tin Can Mail is an important part of Cocos' postal and social history. Originated in 1909 by Captain Brown of the P&O's SS "Morea", no distinctive markings were employed until 1949. Most surviving covers from this later period are to or from ER Leigh-Parkin who was responsible for the various cachets of the period. Though he was a keen philatelist, many of the surviving Tin Can Mail covers are undoubtedly from personal, social or commercial correspondence.



Lot 2438

- 2438** C A- 1949 Leigh-Parkin airmail cover to GB with superb 'Cocos-Keeling' ("2 12 49")/Is' cachet in violet at upper-left & Australian 1/6d Hermes tied by Perth Christmas slogan of 6DEC/1949. Per the RMS 'Orion'. [This was Leigh-Parkin's first experience of the tin can service, prior to the creation of his distinctive cachets]

500<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2439

- 2439** C A- - airmail cover from Cape Verde via Lisbon (b/s) to "ER Leigh-Parkin/PO Box 146/Singapore" with very fine 3-line John Bull 'Mail From the/STRATHAIRD/Barrel - Cocos' handstamp & superb 'C&W LTD/28JAN50/COCOS' arrival b/s. An amazing origin-destination cover.

1,000<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2440

- 2440** C A- - underpaid airmail cover from England with 'T' ("84c") h/s, to "ER Leigh-Parkin/PO Box 146/Singapore" with superb 'MALAYA/048/POSTAGE DUE' meter b/s of 27X1149 in green, 3-line 'Mail From the/STRATHAIRD/Barrel - Cocos' handstamp & very fine 'C&W LTD/28JAN50/COCOS' arrival b/s. [Absent from Kim Dwyer's collection. David Flaar's cover - not taxed - sold for \$1035]

850<sup>T</sup>

## COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1949-53 Tin Can Mail (continued)

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2441

- 2441** C A- 1950 Leigh-Parkin airmail cover to GB with very fine 'Cocos-Keeling/("13 1 50")/Is' cachet in black at lower-left & Australian 1/6d Hermes tied by Perth Australia Day slogan of 18JAN/1950. Per the RMS 'Strathaird'. [On 13.1.1950, two Cocos boats went to meet the liner but were wrecked in heavy seas. The mail & the crews - including *John Clunies-Ross* - were rescued by the 'Strathaird', which continued on to Perth. The crews arrived back on Cocos per the 'Wave Monarch' on 31.1.1950: see Lot 2431]

600<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2442

- 2442** C A- - Leigh-Parkin double-rate airmail cover to GB endorsed "Per RMS Orion" & with very fine boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS KEELING IS' cachet in violet, Australian 1/- Lyrebird & 2/- Aboriginal Art tied by Perth *United Nations Day* slogan cancel of 5OCT/1950. [This was the first mail for which the boxed cachet was used]

600<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2443

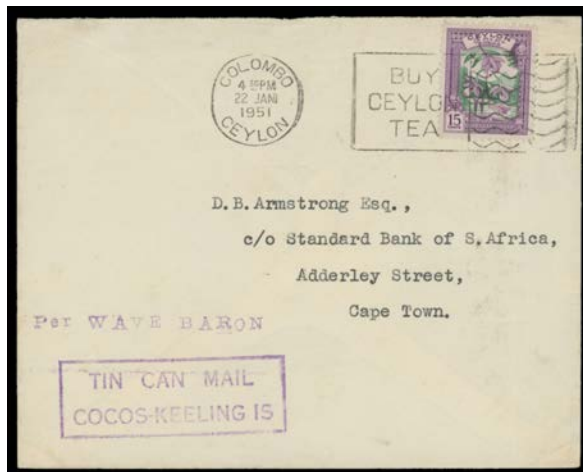
- 2443** C A+ 1951 airmail cover from GB with KGVI 4d x3, to "ER Leigh-Parkin/Cocos Islands/PO Box 146/Singapore", superb 'ORION/Barrel' & boxed 'COCOS' cachets in violet, the latter with '5JAN51' h/s added. Superb: one of the finest items from the *Leigh-Parkin Correspondence*. [These are probably the two rarest markings of Cocos. Absent from *Kim Dwyer's* collection, & *David Flaatt's* cover was unattractive]

1,000<sup>T</sup>

**COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1949-53 Tin Can Mail (continued)**

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2444

- 2444** C A - Leigh-Parkin surface cover to South Africa with very fine 'Per WAVE BARON' h/s & boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS KEELING IS' cachet both in violet, Ceylon 15c Orchid tied by Colombo 'BUY/CEYLON/TEA' slogan of 22JAN/1951. This was the only Tin Can mail per the Fleet Oiler RFA 'Wave Baron'. Kim Dwyer's and David Flaar's similar airmail covers to GB sold for \$2185 & \$1150 respectively]

750<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2445

- 2445** C B - Leigh-Parkin airmail cover to GB with very fine 'Per RMS ORION/("12 8 51")' circular cachet & superb boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS-KEELING IS' cachet both in violet, Australian 1/6d Federation tied by Perth slogan cancel, very minor water stains. [The barrel was a flour tin with the lid soldered-on. On this occasion, the soldering was sub-standard & some water entered the barrel]

400<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2446

- 2446** C B - Leigh-Parkin double-rate surface cover to Sydney with Orient Line cachet at upper-left plus superb 'Per RMS ORION/("12 8 51")' circular cachet & boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS-KEELING IS' cachet both in violet, Australian KGV1 3d blue pair unusually cancelled at Adelaide, minor water-staining mostly on the reverse.

400<sup>T</sup>

## COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1949-53 Tin Can Mail (continued)

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Lot 2447

- 2447 C A - airmail cover endorsed on the flap "R MacLean/The Cocos-Keeling Islands/Colony of Singapore", to North Borneo with *Orient Line* cachet for SS 'Orontes' plus very fine boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS-KEELING IS' cachet in violet, Australian 3d Parkes & 6d Kookaburra tied by Perth slogan of 28SEP/1951. **An extraordinary non Leigh-Parkin origin-destination cover.** [R MacLean was the Island administrator. The airmail rate to British Borneo was 9d per ½oz]

After World War II, overpopulation on the islands became a serious issue. More than 1600 Cocos Malays were re-settled, many of them in North Borneo.

750<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2448

- 2448 C B - airmail cover endorsed on the flap "WH Jowett/DCA/Cocos Island" to Tasmania with undated 'Per RMS ORION' cachet & fine boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS-KEELING IS' cachet both in violet, Australian 1d Princess & 5½d Emu tied by Perth Federation slogan of 23NOV/1951 paying 3½d domestic letter rate plus 3d per ½oz airmail, 'HOBART' arrival cds, minor blemishes. *Ex Kim Dwyer*: acquired for \$368. **[From the last regular Tin Can Mail from Cocos]**

400<sup>T</sup>

Lot 2449

- 2449 C B 1953 non Leigh-Parkin airmail cover to Norfolk, GB with boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS-KEELING' cachet unusually in black front & back, Ceylon 75c tied by Colombo cds of 7JA53. An enigma: the vessel is unidentified. *Orient Line* steamers *en route* to Ceylon passed Cocos at night & no other recorded shipping movements fit this date.

300<sup>T</sup>

## COCOS ISLANDS POSTAL HISTORY - 1949-53 Tin Can Mail (continued)

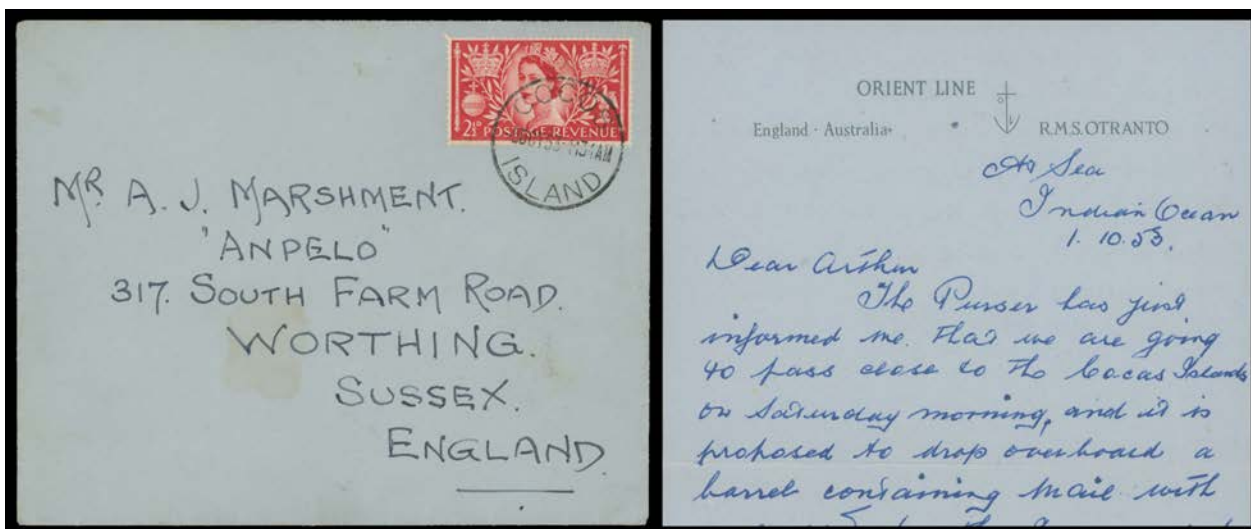
Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A



Lot 2450

2450 C A - non Leigh-Parkin airmail cover to Norfolk, GB with boxed 'TIN CAN MAIL/COCOS-KEELING' cachet in violet on face & reverse, Australian 2/- Aboriginal Art tied by Perth slogan cancel of 8MAY/1953.

400<sup>T</sup>

Ex Lot 2451

2451 C/L B/A - Orient Line cover to Sussex with GB Coronation 2½d tied by very fine strike of the Malay 'COCOS/5OCT53/ISLAND' cds, minor blemishes. At the request of Cable & Wireless to P&O, this was the last barrel mail. [The letter on RMS 'Otranto' stationery from the addressee's wife is headed "At Sea/Indian Ocean/1.10.53" & states "...we are going to pass close to the Cocos Islands...& it is proposed to drop overboard a barrel containing mail...this will be the last occasion...the Tin Can Mail will be performed..."] (2 items)

400<sup>T</sup>