

Four Centuries of Cocos (Keeling) Maps



The stamps of Cocos (Keeling) Islands are issued under the auspices of Australia Post. Cocos Islands stamps are also valid in Australia.

The first European sighting of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands is thought to have been in 1609, by Englishman Captain William Keeling of the East India Company. Soon after, the two atolls that comprise the islands (North and South Keeling Islands) started to appear on maps. On June 24 Cocos (Keeling) Islands issued four stamps that show details of Italian, French, Dutch and English maps produced from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Each stamp is composed of various maps from a particular century: 17th,

18th, 19th and 20th.

A number of different maps and navigational charts have been used in the design of the four stamps, including:

- L'Arcano del Mare (Secrets of the Sea) (1646).
- Hémisphère oriental ou Ancien Monde (c. 1783)
- Karte von dem Morgenländischen Ocean oder dem Indischen Meere (1758)

All Australia and Cocos (Keeling) Islands issues and associated products are available at www.auspost.com.au/stamps or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) at 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.