

TRANSATLANTIC PACKET MAIL BETWEEN THE USA AND FRANCE: 1840-1875

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TRANSATLANTIC PACKET MAIL BETWEEN THE USA AND FRANCE: 1840-1875

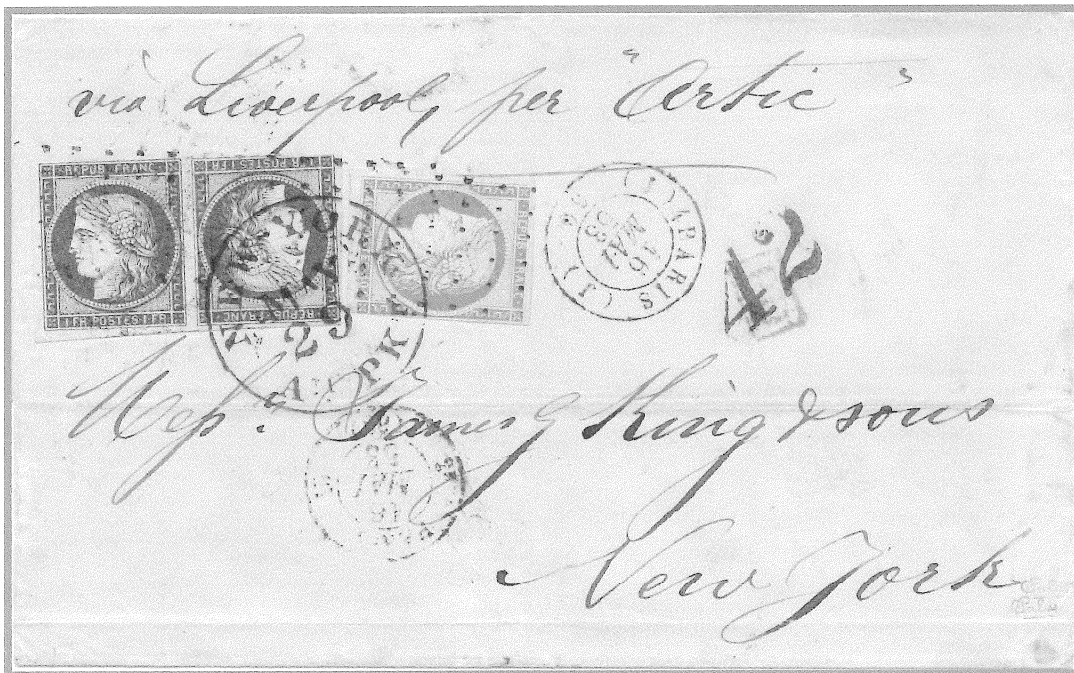
This exhibit is a comprehensive survey of the postal rates, routes and markings on steamship packet mail between the USA and France during the period from July 1840 to December 1875.

Prior to the first France-USA postal treaty in April 1857, packet mail between the two countries was exchanged principally via Great Britain (GB), and was facilitated by the 1836, 1843 and 1856 postal treaties between France and GB. USA-GB treaties and changing inland postages also affected rates. On packet mail carried directly between France and the USA before 1857, each country was required to collect its share of the postage on each letter. However, the 1857 France-USA Treaty governed packet mail on all routes between the two countries. When it expired in 1870, rates were again determined by a series of France-GB and USA-GB postal treaties until the August 1874 France-USA Treaty.

Rare frankings and markings, uncommon routings, and unusual steamship sailings are featured in this exhibit. Notable items are highlighted in bold type. The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Frame 1: Mail exchanged under the 1836 France-GB Treaty (July 1840-May 1843)
- Frames 1 to 3: Mail exchanged under the 1843 France-GB Treaty (June 1843-December 1856)
- Frame 4: Mail exchanged under the 1856 France-GB Treaty (January-March 1857)
- Frame 4: 1847-57 direct packet mail
- Frames 4 to 6: Mail exchanged under the 1857 France-USA Treaty (April 1857-December 1869)
- Frames 7 to 8: 1870-74 interim non-Treaty mail
- Frame 8: Mail exchanged under the 1874 France-USA Treaty (August 1874-December 1875)

The above categories are divided into sub-periods, which are defined by changing rates and/or routes. Each new sub-period is introduced by a text box which explains the rate/route changes. Examples of letters going in both directions are shown in each sub-period, starting with eastbound mail.



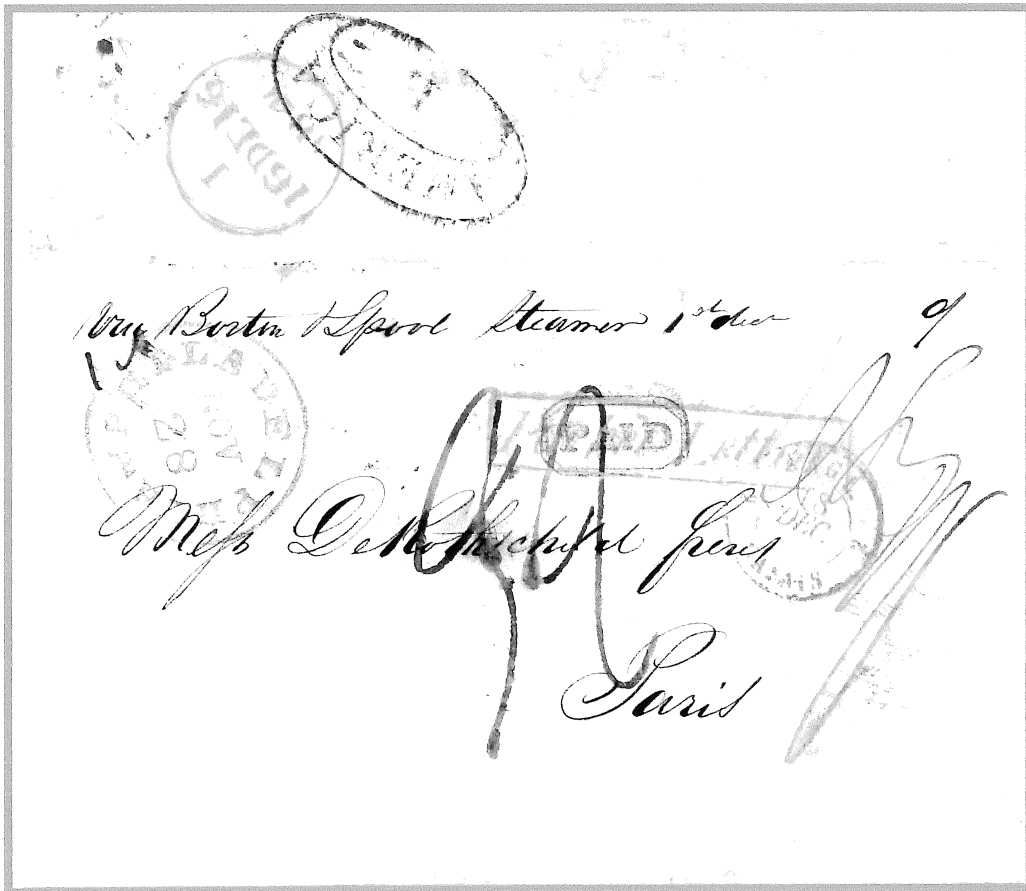
Prepaid triple-weight American packet rate on May 16, 1853 in Paris - Collins Line steamship *Arctic*
2 francs 40 centimes franking features the **1 franc tête-bêche error** from France's 1849 first issue
Double-weight 21¢ due in New York - US ½ oz. weight progression higher than France's 7.5 grams

Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843

First Steamship Packet Mail Service

Per the 1836 France-GB Treaty, GB debited France 12 décimes (1 shilling) for transit & sea postage. France collected this from the recipient, plus inland postage which varied with distance per 7.5 grams. US inland postage varied with distance and number of letter sheets.



Prepaid 18¾¢ U.S. inland postage on November 28, 1840 in Philadelphia for 330 miles to Boston
Cunard steamship *Britannia* from Boston - 6th Cunard sailing to Liverpool - 'AMERICA L' Liverpool mark
GB debited France 12 décimes (1 shilling) per boxed "Packet Letter" marking and "1/-" at right
French entry mark "Angl. Calais" - 32 décimes due (12 décimes for GB plus 20 décimes for Calais to Paris)

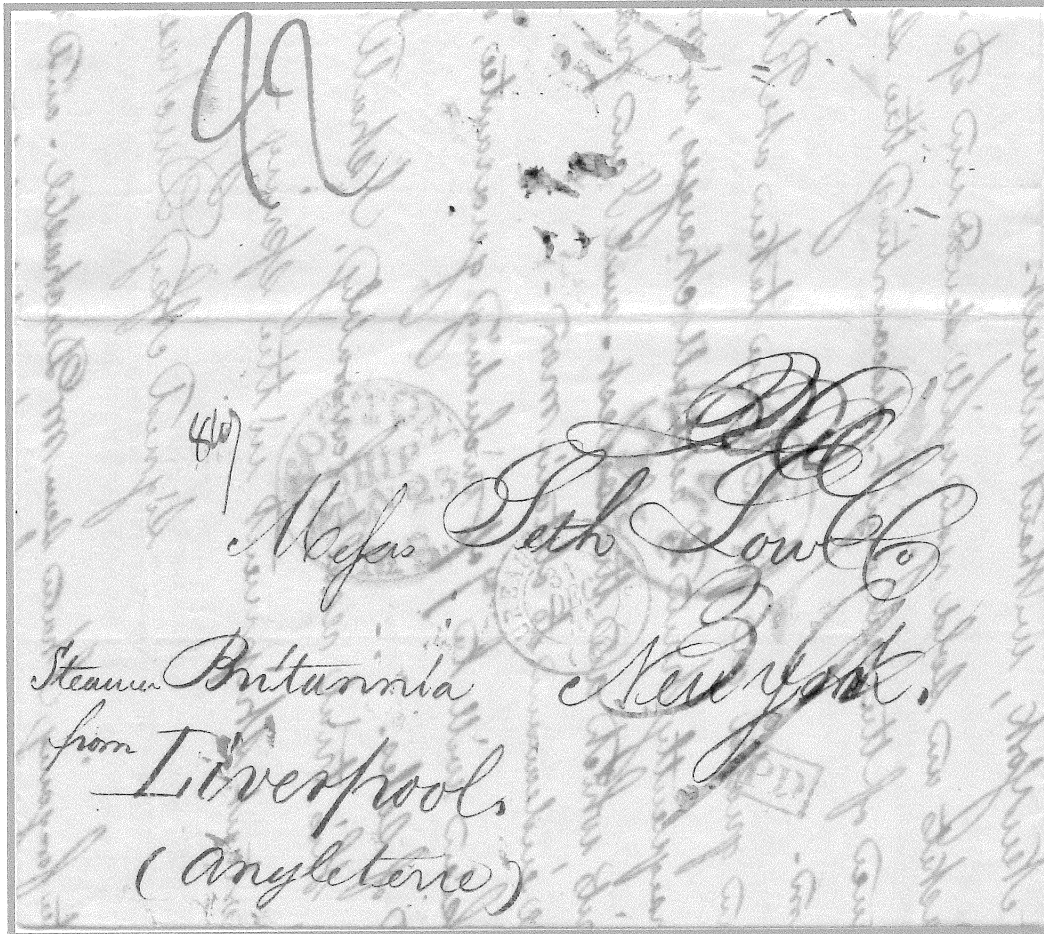
Cunard Line contracted for the first steam transatlantic packet service, effective July 1, 1840

Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843

1836 France-GB Treaty

1836 France-GB Treaty, as amended in 1839, set GB sea & transit postage at 12 décimes (one shilling) per 7.5 grams. On westbound mail, France collected variable inland plus the GB postage, and credited GB one shilling. US collected variable inland plus a 2 cents ship fee.



Posted December 31, 1841 in Paris and endorsed via Liverpool - red 1 shilling credit to GB at upper right

22 décimes prepaid per notation on reverse - 12 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for Paris to GB frontier

Cunard Steamer *Britannia* left Liverpool January 4, 1842 and arrived on January 21 in Boston

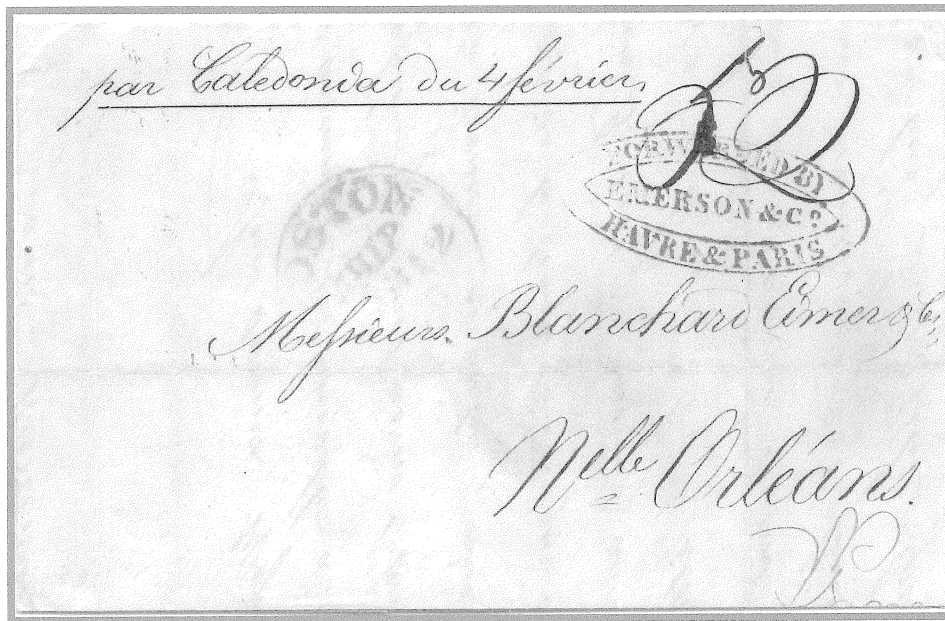
Rated for 2¢ ship fee plus 18.75¢ (200 miles) collection - corrected in NY to 2¢ plus 37.5¢ double-rate collection

US rate progression based on number of letter sheets

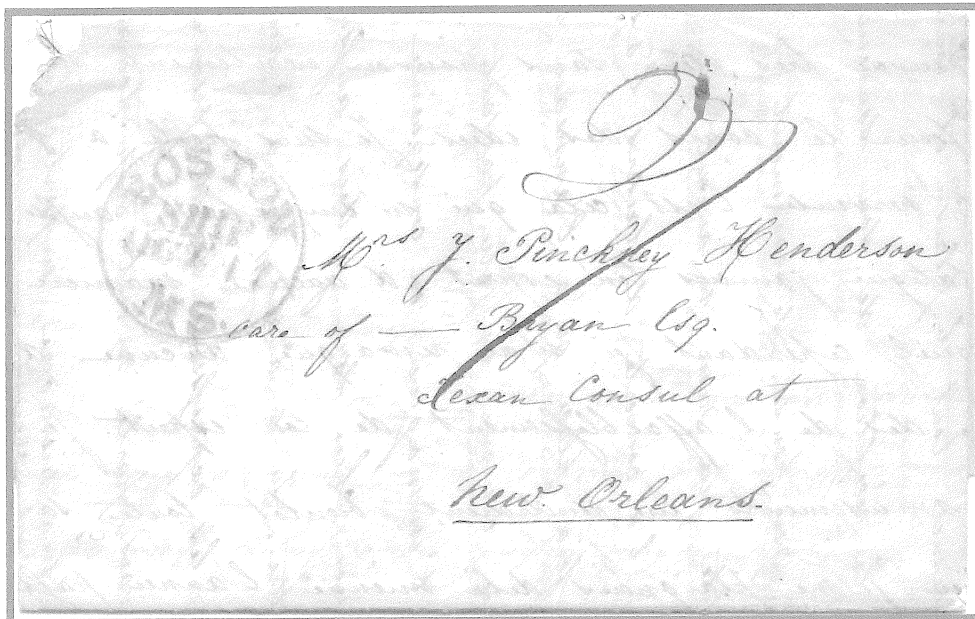
Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843

Avoiding French and GB Postage



Forwarded January 29, 1842 from Avize via Le Havre to *Caledonia* at Liverpool - double-rate 52¢ due
***Caledonia* became disabled - mails carried by *Acadia* to Halifax and then by *Unicorn* to Boston**



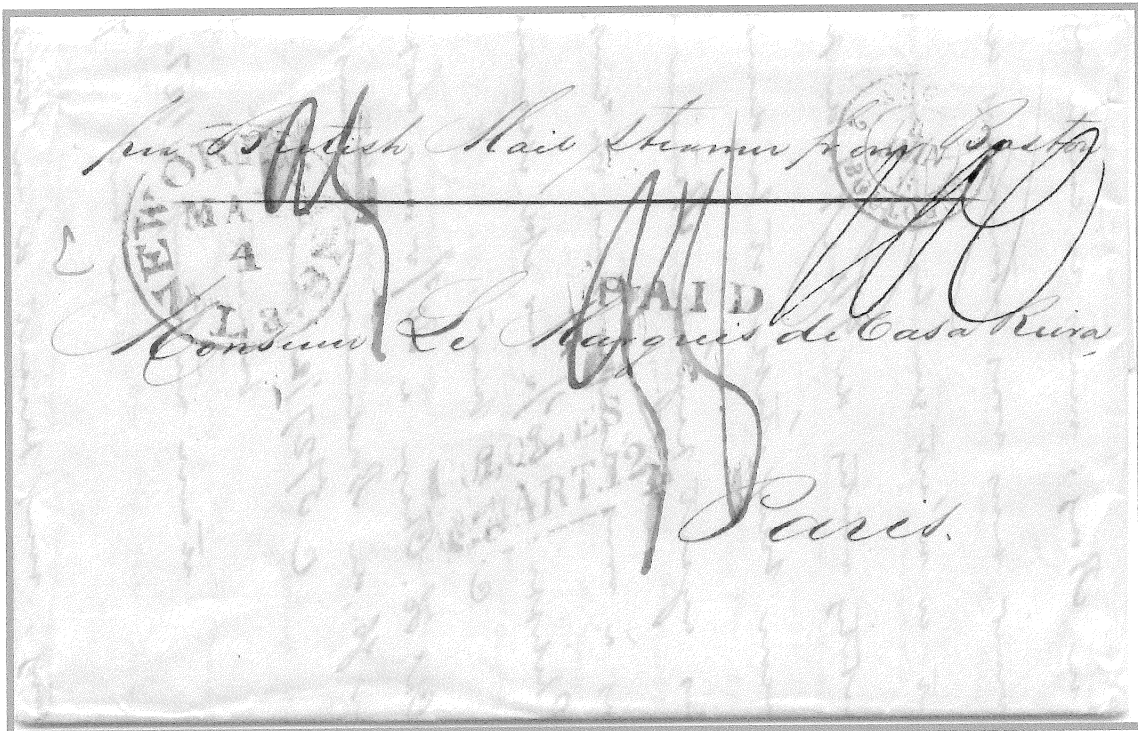
Privately forwarded September 29, 1840 from Paris to letter bag of Cunard steamer *Acadia* at Liverpool
Sent to wife of **Texas Republic ambassador to France**, care of the Texan consul at New Orleans
2¢ ship fee plus 25¢ for over 400 miles from Boston due - then privately forwarded to Galveston, Texas

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

"Colonies &c. Art. 12" Marking

1843 France-GB Treaty established rates from foreign countries such as the USA, effective June 1. GB debited France 3sh. 4d per ounce bulk rate (10 décimes per letter) for transit & sea charges. Article 12 marking was applied in London to indicate the debit for GB postage.



Prepaid \$1 quadruple-rate on May 4, 1845 in New Orleans for over 400 miles to Cunard steamer at Boston
Hibernia left Boston May 16, and arrived in Liverpool on May 31 - letter entered France via Boulogne

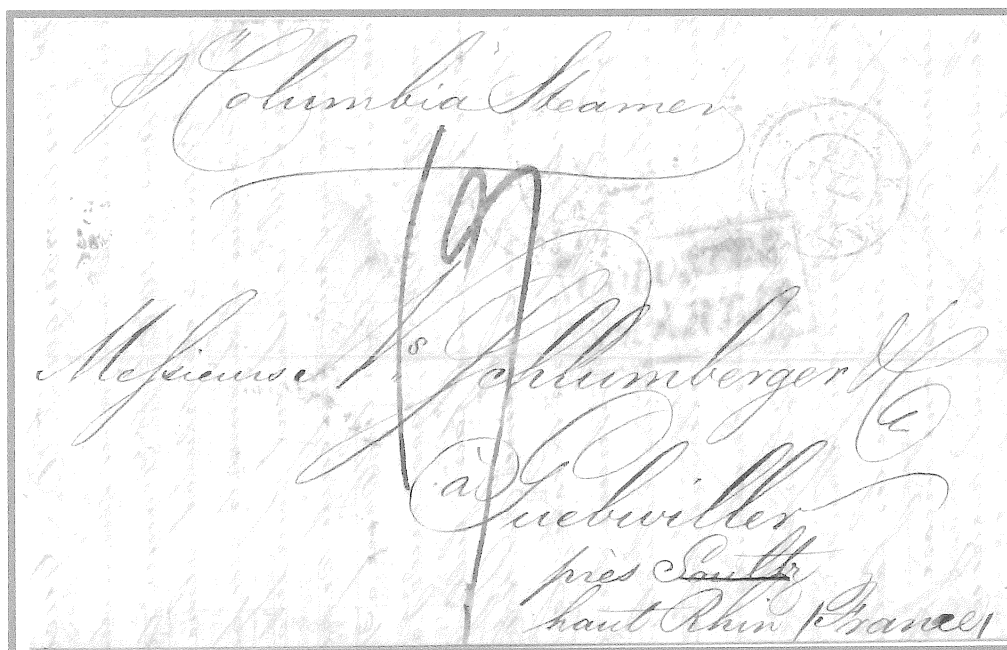
Manuscript "25" at upper left indicated 25 grams weight - used as basis for 38 décimes due
Total due: two times 10 décimes postage for GB, plus 18 décimes for 205 km. from Boulogne to Paris

Multiple-weight franking

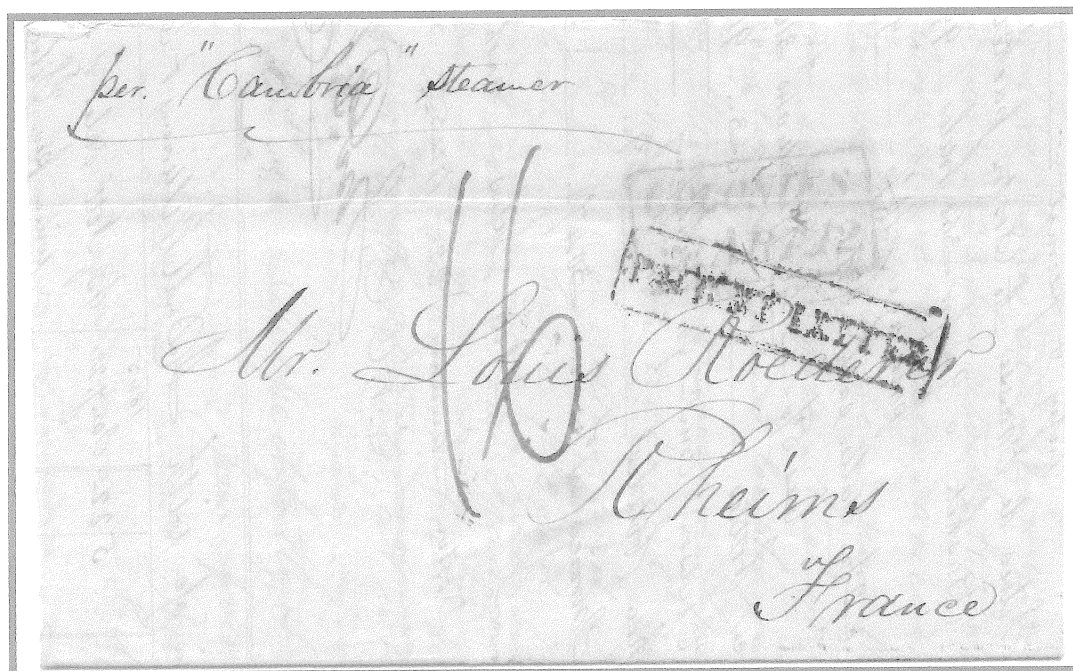
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

Unusual Cunard Line Sailings



Forwarded June 24, 1843 out of the mails from Charleston, SC to *Columbia* at Boston - 19 décimes due
Columbia left July 1, but ran aground off Nova Scotia - mails picked up by *Margaret* on her only mail voyage



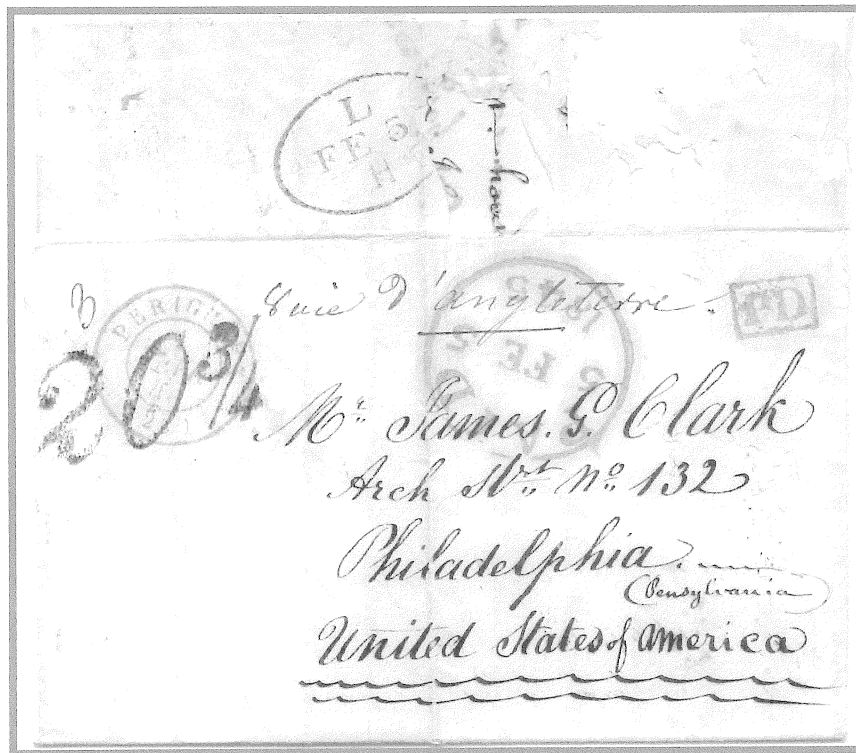
Placed in letter bag of Cunard steamer *Cambria* at Boston January 31, 1845 - **maiden return voyage**
"Packet Letter" and "Art. 12" markings for 10 décimes debit from GB - added to 6 décimes inland (240 km.) due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

US Postage Due

Per the 1843 France-GB Treaty, France credited GB 3sh. 4d per ounce bulk rate (10 décimes per letter) for transit & sea charges on westbound mails. US collected inland (variable with distance) plus 2 cents ship fee on incoming mail.



Prepaid 20 décimes on February 1, 1845 in Périgueux - endorsed via England to Philadelphia
20 décimes prepayment noted on reverse - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 620 km. to Boulogne
Missed February 4 sailing of Cunard Steamer *Hibernia* - left Liverpool March 4 on *Cambria*
Rated for 20.75¢ collection in US - 2¢ ship fee plus 18.75¢ for 330 miles from Boston to Philadelphia
Blue '20 3/4' due marking applied in Philadelphia - this mail not processed until arrival

1843 Treaty rate paid postage to US frontier - 2¢ ship fee plus US inland due from addressee

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

US Rate Reduction

March 3, 1845 US Act lowered inland rates per half ounce to 5c for under 300 miles, and 10c for over 300 miles, effective July 1. GB transit and sea postage were still governed by the 1843 France-GB Treaty. French inland varied with distance.



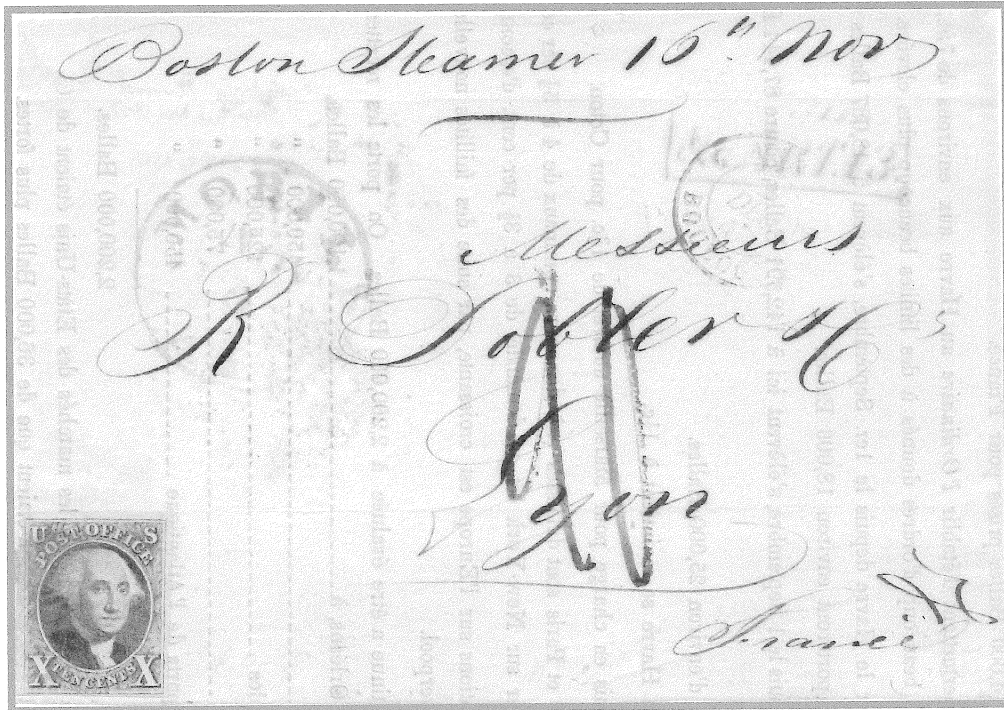
Prepaid 5¢ on August 15, 1845 for 200 miles from New York to Cunard steamer *Cambria* at Boston
New York Postmaster provisional stamp (issued July 15, 1845) used to prepay U.S. inland postage
GB debited France 10 décimes per “Colonies &c. Art. 12” mark, and routed letter via Boulogne
21 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 11 décimes for 875 km. inland postage to Marseille

“Colonies &c. Art. 12” marking used only 6 months in conjunction with 5¢ rate

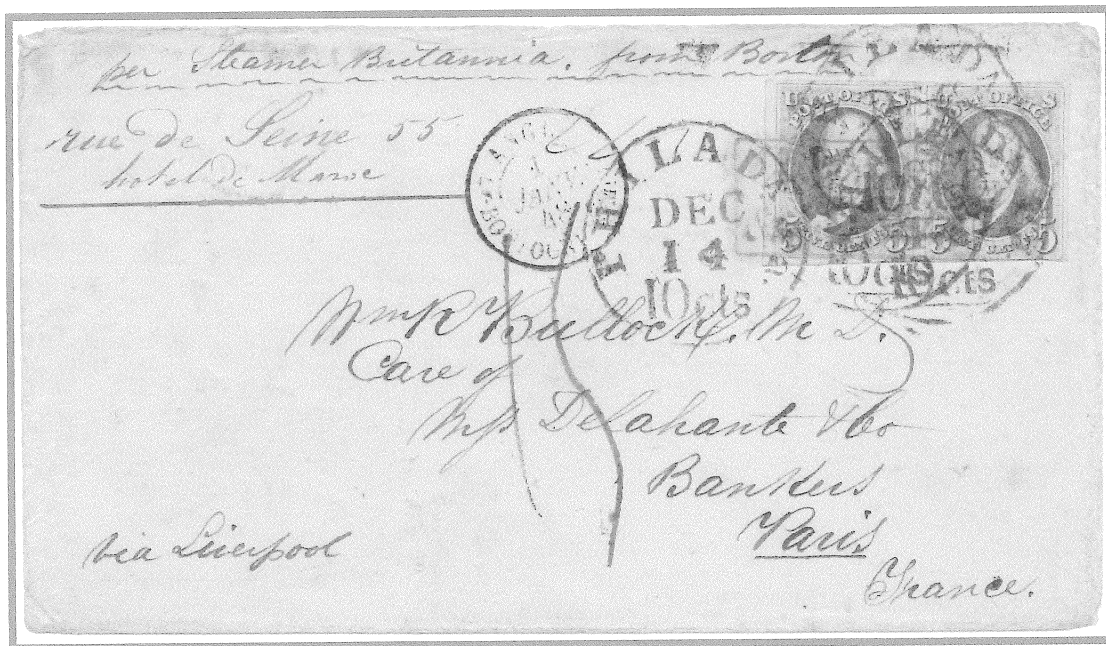
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

10¢ Frankings for Over 300 Miles



Prepaid 10¢ on November 6, 1847 for 1,500 miles from Mobile, AL to Cunarder *Caledonia* at Boston
20 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 600 km. from Boulogne to Lyon

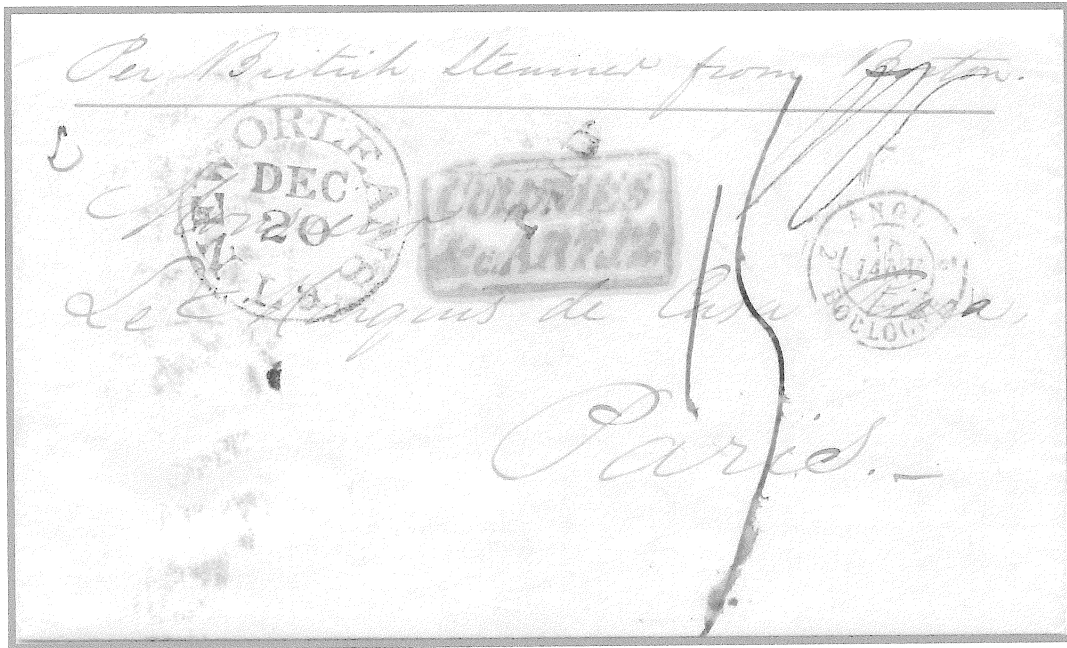


Prepaid 10¢ on December 14, 1847 for 330 miles from Philadelphia to Cunarder *Britannia* at Boston

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

"COLONIES &c ART." Debit Marks



Prepaid 10¢ on December 20, 1845 for over 300 miles from New Orleans to Cunarder *Acadia* at Boston
January 16, 1846 is latest known use of "COLONIES &c Art. 12" marking on USA-French mail



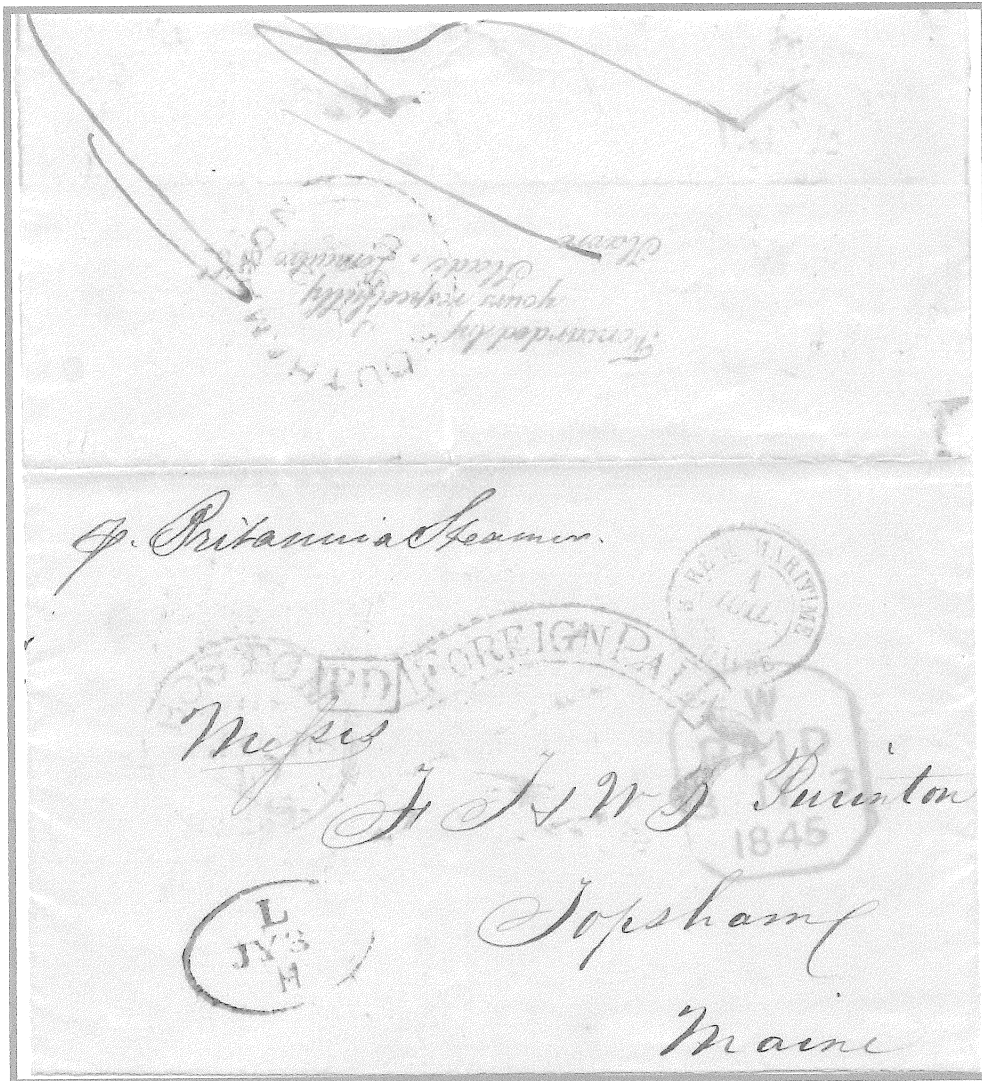
Prepaid double-weight 20¢ on April 27, 1846 for > 300 miles from Baton Rouge to Cunarder *Cambria* at Boston
Marked "COLONIES &c ART. 13" on May 29, 1846 at London G.P.O. - first used in January 1846

Mail Exchanged Per 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

First Day of Rate Period

French prepayments appear on the reverse of westbound letters, and include 10 décimes due to GB per the 1843 France-GB Treaty plus inland. Letters weighing over 7.5 grams were marked with a check for 7.5-10 grams, "10" (or "W") for 10-15 grams, and so on.



Forwarded July 1, 1845 from Slade & Lemaitre at Le Havre - carried by auxiliary steamer to Southampton
13 décimes prepaid per notation on reverse - 10 décimes for GB plus 3 décimes for 7.5-10 grams letter from port

Routed to Liverpool for July 4 sailing of Cunard Steamer *Britannia* - arrived July 19 in Boston

Rated for 7¢ collection in US - 2¢ ship fee plus 5¢ inland for <300 miles from Boston to Topsham, Maine

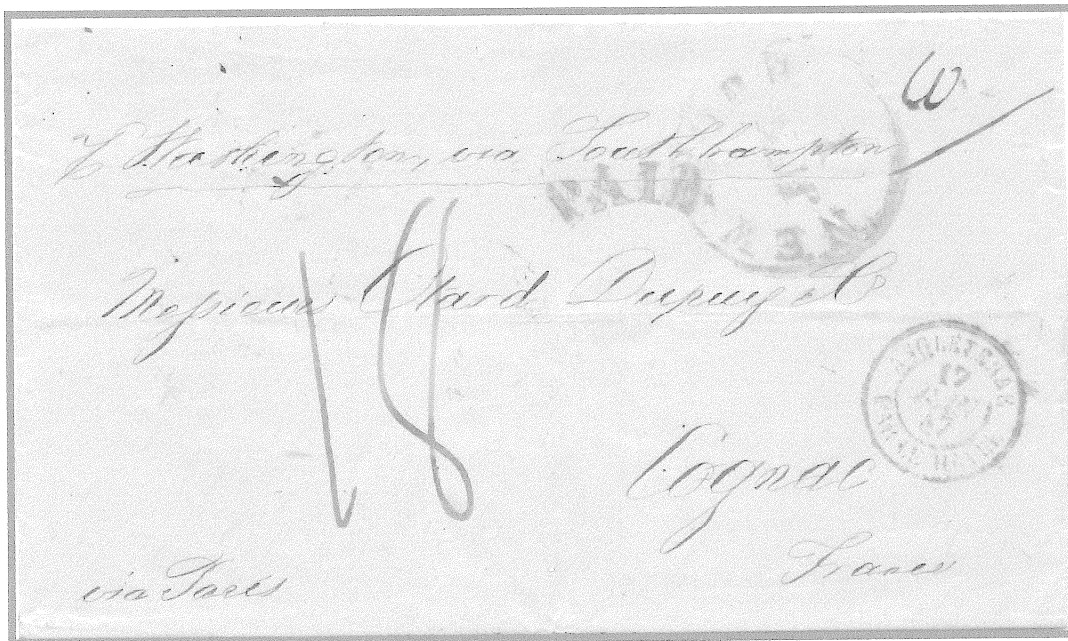
Uncommon "Foreign Paid" marking applied at Southampton

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

First American Steam Packet Service

The Ocean Line began the first American transatlantic steam packet service on June 1, 1847. March 3, 1845 US Act set packet postage at 24c per ½ oz., effective July 1. Per the 1843 France-GB Treaty, France collected 10 décimes discriminatory sea postage (credited to GB) in addition to variable inland.



Prepaid 24¢ packet postage on June 1, 1847 in New York - no inland postage required from departure port
Ocean Line steamer *Washington* left NY June 1 - **only known letter addressed to France from this sailing**

Carried by auxiliary steamer from Southampton to Le Havre - 10 décimes credit to GB in upper right
Only transatlantic sailing known to have received "**Angleterre Par Le Havre**" French entry marking
18 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 8 décimes for 425 km. from Le Havre to Cognac

First sailing of the first American steam packet line

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

'Angl. Boulogne-s-Mer' Entry Mark

GB routed early Ocean Line mail variably. 1st, 11th and 14th-17th sailings were carried direct from Southampton to Le Havre and rated under the 1843 Treaty. 2nd-6th sailings were carried privately to Le Havre, and rated as ship letters. 8th and 13th sailings entered via Boulogne as 1843 Treaty letters.



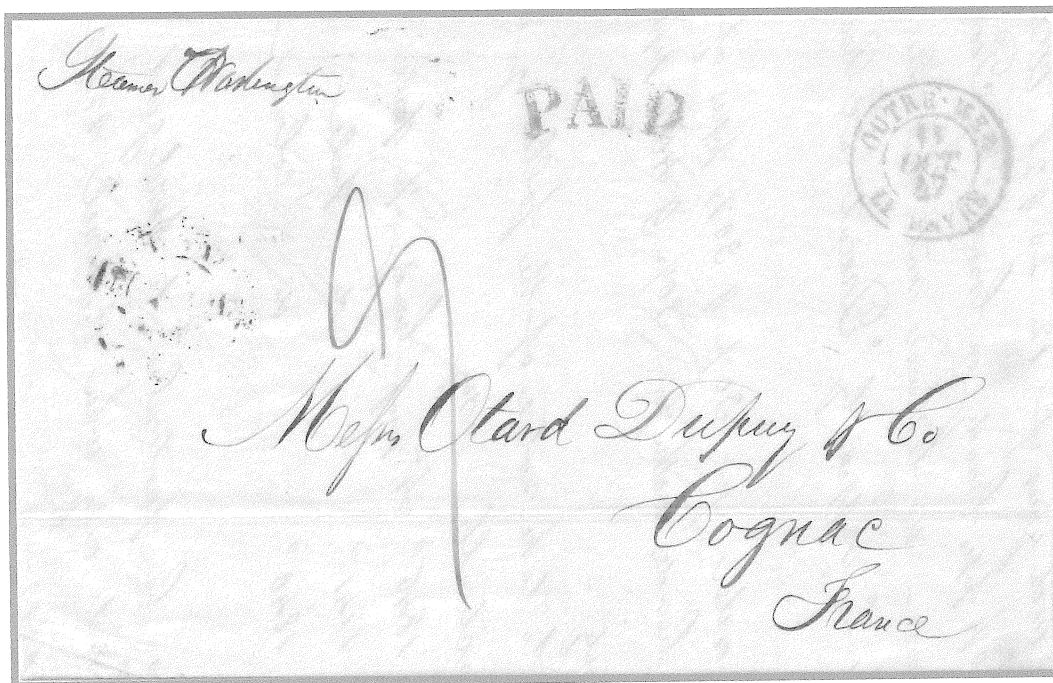
Prepaid 24¢ packet postage on July 20, 1848 in New York - 8th Ocean Line sailing per *Washington*
Absence of London G.P.O. 'Art. 13' debit mark indicates routing direct from Southampton to Boulogne
In accordance with 1843 France-GB Treaty, France assessed discriminatory 10 décimes GB sea postage
19 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 9 décimes for 575 km. from Boulogne to Cognac

Not many Ocean Line letters are known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

Avoiding GB Double Sea Postage



Prepaid 24¢ packet postage on September 23, 1847 in New York - 2nd sailing of Ocean liner *Washington*
Mail from 2nd-6th sailings taken direct from steamship to Havre - 9 décimes due (1 décime ship fee plus inland)

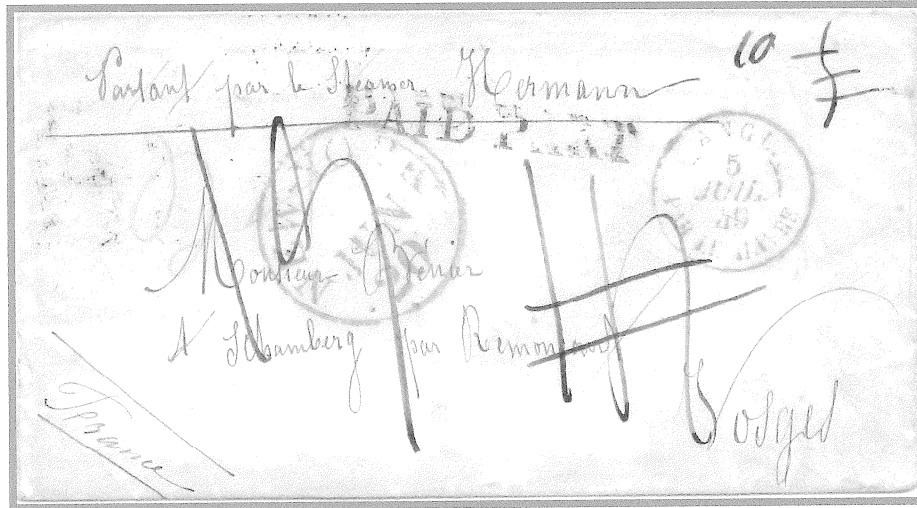


Prepaid 29¢ on April 19, 1848 in Philadelphia for packet postage plus 5¢ inland - 6th Ocean Line sailing
Carried privately from *Washington* and posted as domestic 7.5-10 gram letter in Havre - 12 décimes due

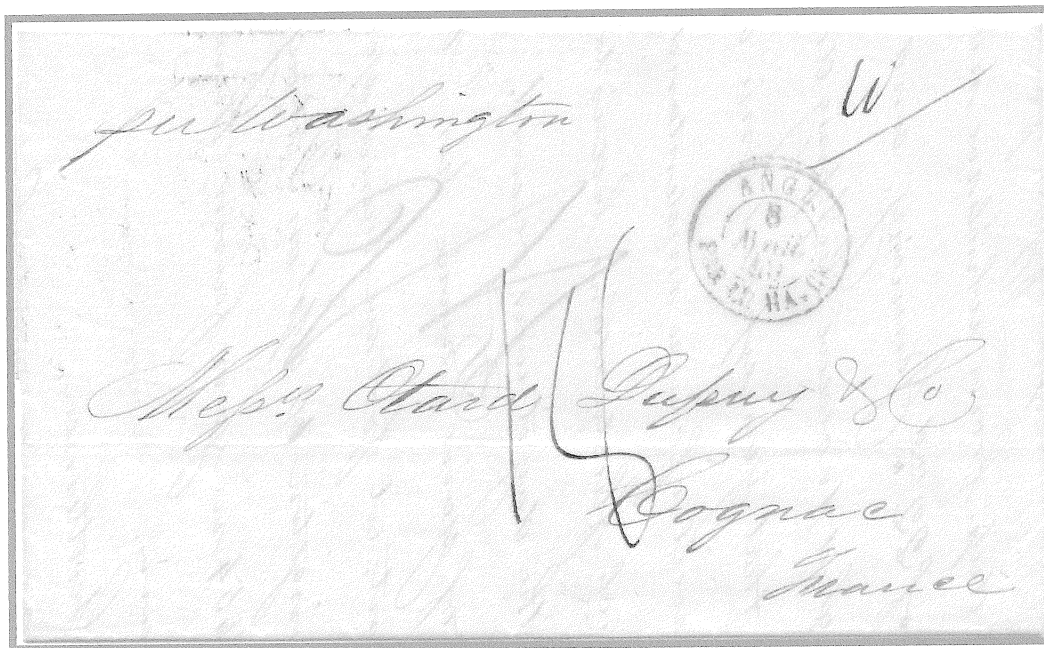
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

'Angl Par Le Havre' Entry Mark



Prepaid 24¢ on June 20, 1849 in New York - marked 'PAID PART' - Ocean liner *Hermann*
10 décimes credit to GB for discriminatory sea postage at upper right - 19 décimes due



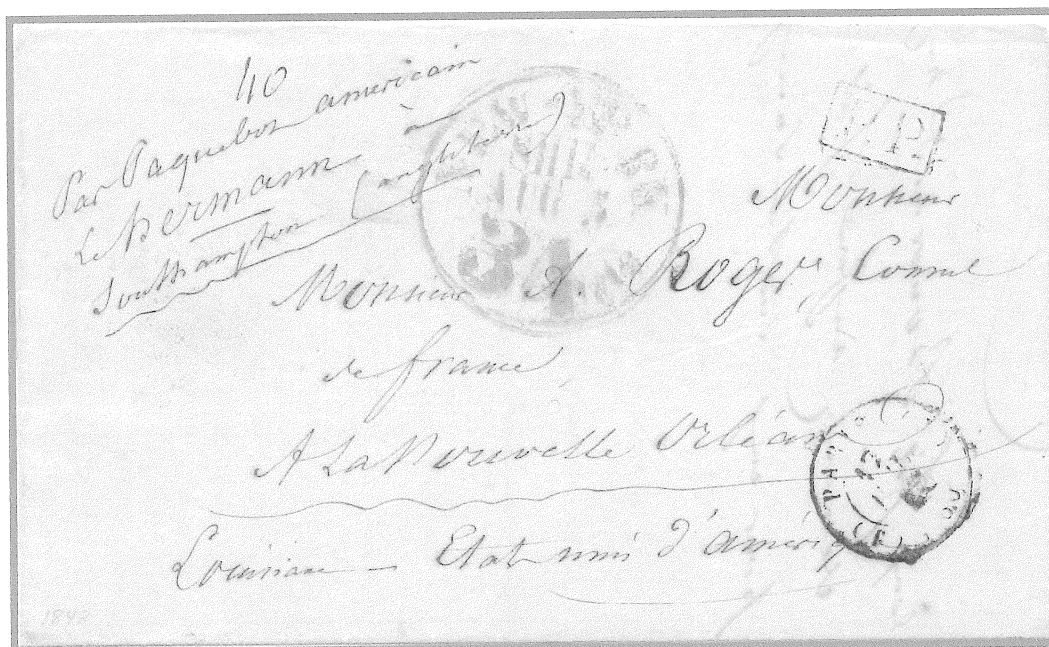
Prepaid 24¢ packet postage on March 20, 1849 in New York - Ocean liner *Washington*
Starting April 1849, this entry mark used on all Ocean Line mail upon arrival from Southampton

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

Mail via Southampton

Only specifically-endorsed mail was carried westbound on this route; all other mail was routed to British packets. Prepayment was variable inland plus a 1 décime ship fee. Carried directly to the steamship, this mail avoided the GB discriminatory sea charge inherent in the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid 5 décimes on July 17, 1848 in Paris for 175 km. to Le Havre - should have added 1 décime ship fee
Sent July 18 from Le Havre Maritime Bureau by auxiliary steamer to Ocean Line steamship at Southampton
Ocean Line steamer *Hermann* left Southampton July 21 - 7th of 16 sailings by the Ocean Line in this period
Rated for 34¢ collection in US - 24¢ packet fee plus 10¢ for over 300 miles from New York to New Orleans

Fewer than five westbound Ocean Line covers are known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

First Retaliatory Period

In response to the 10 décimes British discriminatory packet postage assessed on American packet mail, the US began charging 24c per ½ oz. retaliatory packet postage on British packet mail per a June 27, 1848 US Act. 5c or 10c US inland postage was also charged.



Prepaid 34¢ on July 14, 1848 in Augusta, GA - 24¢ retaliatory packet charge plus 10¢ inland (> 300 miles)

Postage paid with 1847 Issue 10¢ stamp and 24¢ in cash per red '24' - Cunard steamer *Caledonia*

GB 10 décimes debit for transit and sea postage per "Colonies &c. Art. 13" mark - letter routed via Boulogne

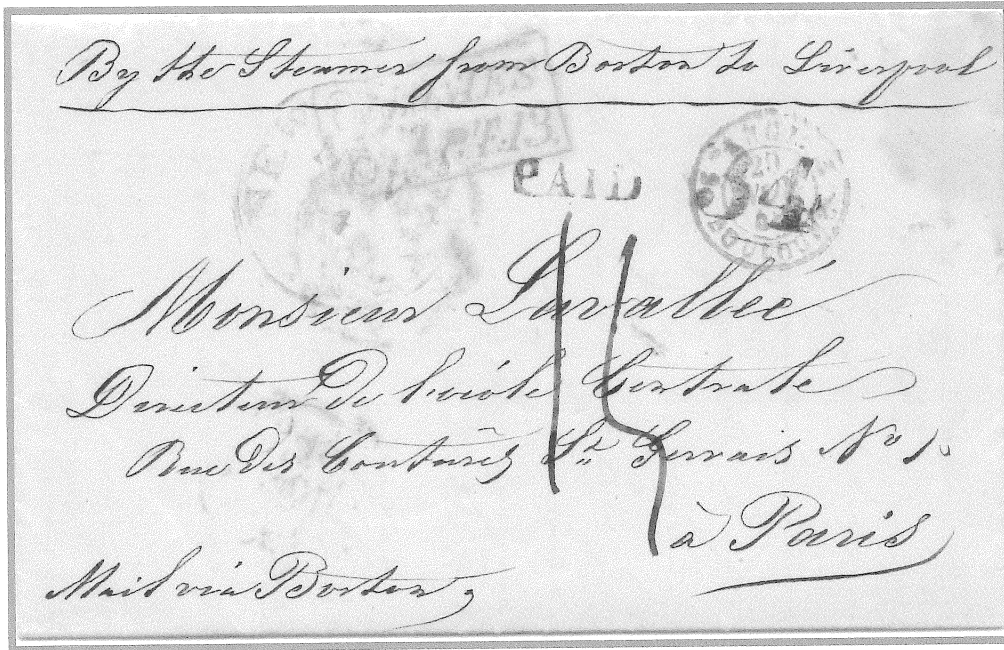
21 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 11 décimes for 850 km. inland postage to Bagnères

Fewer than 10 letters with US #2 are known on mail to France

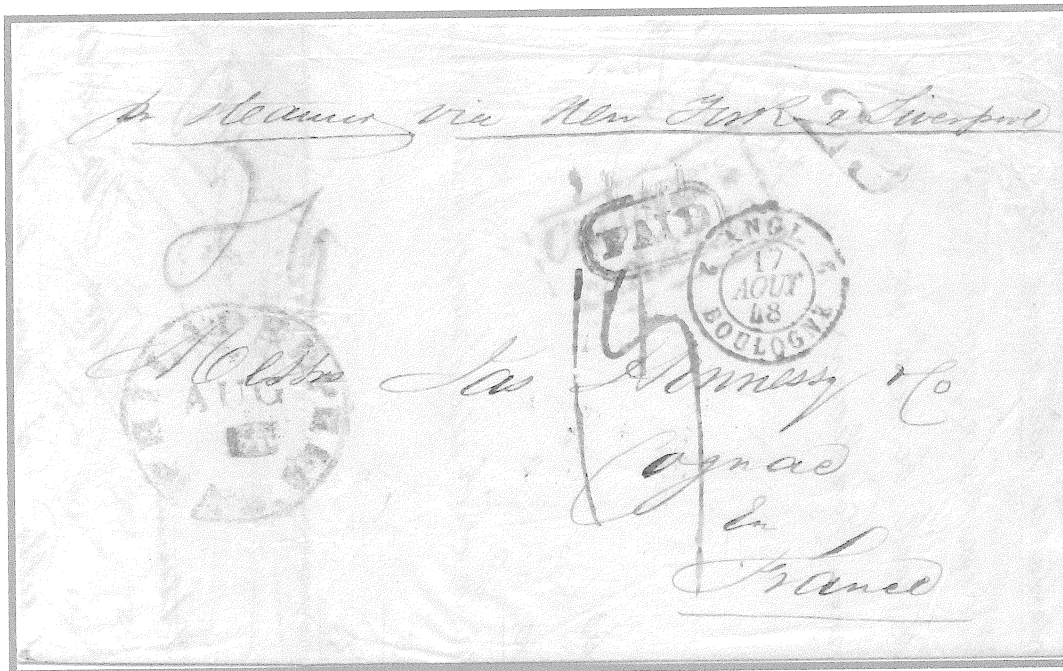
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

US Retaliatory Prepayments



Prepaid 34¢ on November 4, 1848 in New Orleans - 15 décimes due includes 10 décimes GB packet postage
34¢ includes 24¢ US retaliatory packet charge and 10¢ inland for >300 miles to Cunarder *Hibernia* at Boston



Prepaid 29¢ on August 1, 1848 in Philadelphia - 5¢ inland for < 300 miles to Cunarder *Hibernia* at New York
GB 10 décimes debit to France per 'COLONIES &c ART. 13' - 19 décimes due includes 9 décimes inland

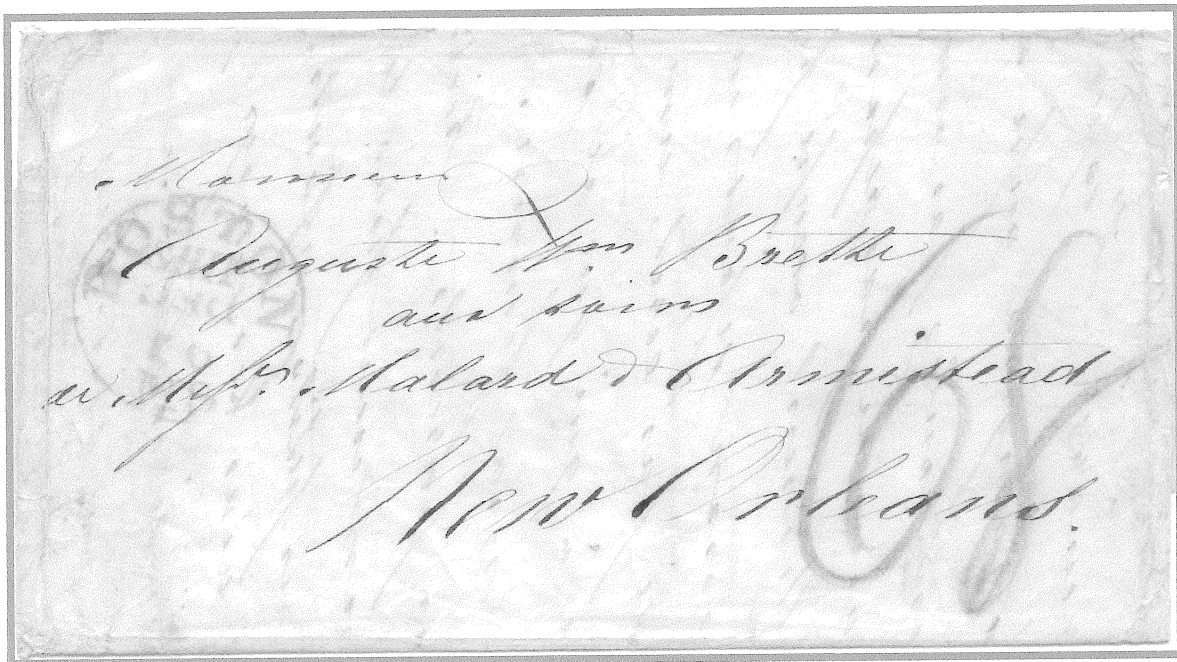
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

First Retaliatory Period



Posted June 28, 1848 in Le Havre - 12 décimes prepayment (not indicated) - Cunard steamer *Niagara*
29¢ due in US - 24¢ retaliatory packet charge plus 5¢ for less than 300 miles inland postage to New York



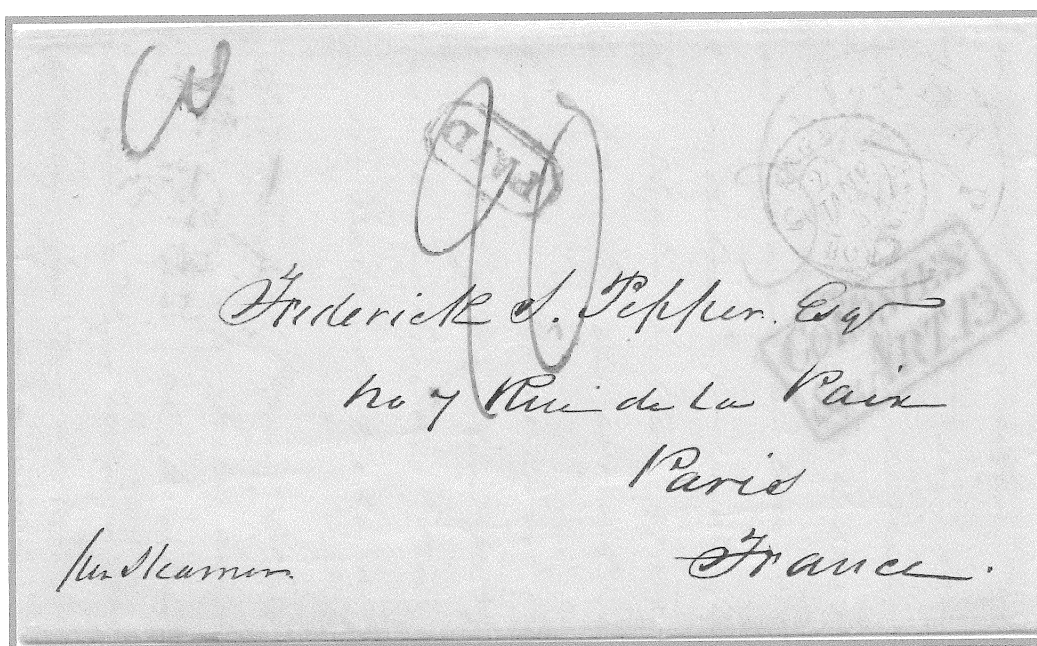
Carried privately from Paris November 30, 1848 to Cunard steamer *Niagara* at Liverpool - no prepayments
Double-weight 68¢ due in US - double retaliatory charge plus double 10¢ inland for > 300 miles to New Orleans

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: January 4, 1849-February 14, 1849

Restored Rate Period

The first US-GB postal treaty was signed on December 14, 1848. In response, the US eliminated retaliatory packet charges starting January 4, 1849. Rates returned to 1845-48 levels until the new treaty became effective on February 15, 1849.



Prepaid 5¢ on January 8, 1849 in Philadelphia - less than 300 miles to Cunard steamer *Europa* at New York
GB 10 décimes debit per "Colonies &c. Art. 13" mark - '10' at upper left indicates 10-15 grams weight class
20 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 220 km. inland postage to Paris

Only 3 eastbound sailings during this six-week period

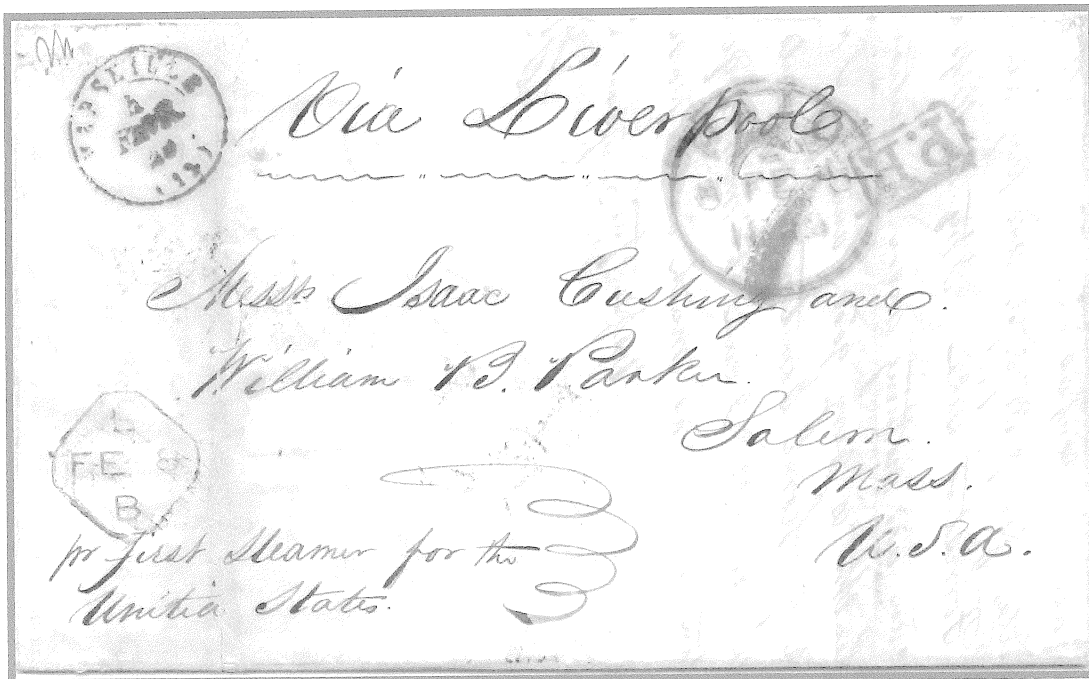
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: January 4, 1849-February 14, 1849

Restored Rate Period



Prepaid 15 décimes on January 14, 1849 in Paris - 5 décimes inland plus 10 décimes to GB
Cunard steamer *Niagara* - 12¢ due includes 10¢ inland for >300 miles to New Orleans plus 2¢ ship fee

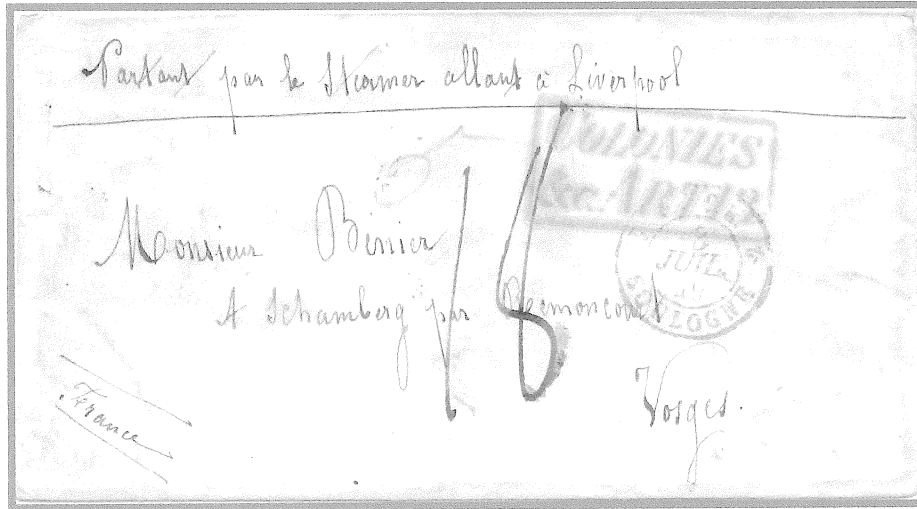


Prepaid 21 décimes on February 4, 1849 in Marseille - 11 décimes inland plus 10 décimes to GB
Cunard steamer *Europa* to New York - 7¢ due includes 5¢ inland for <300 miles to Salem plus 2¢ ship fee

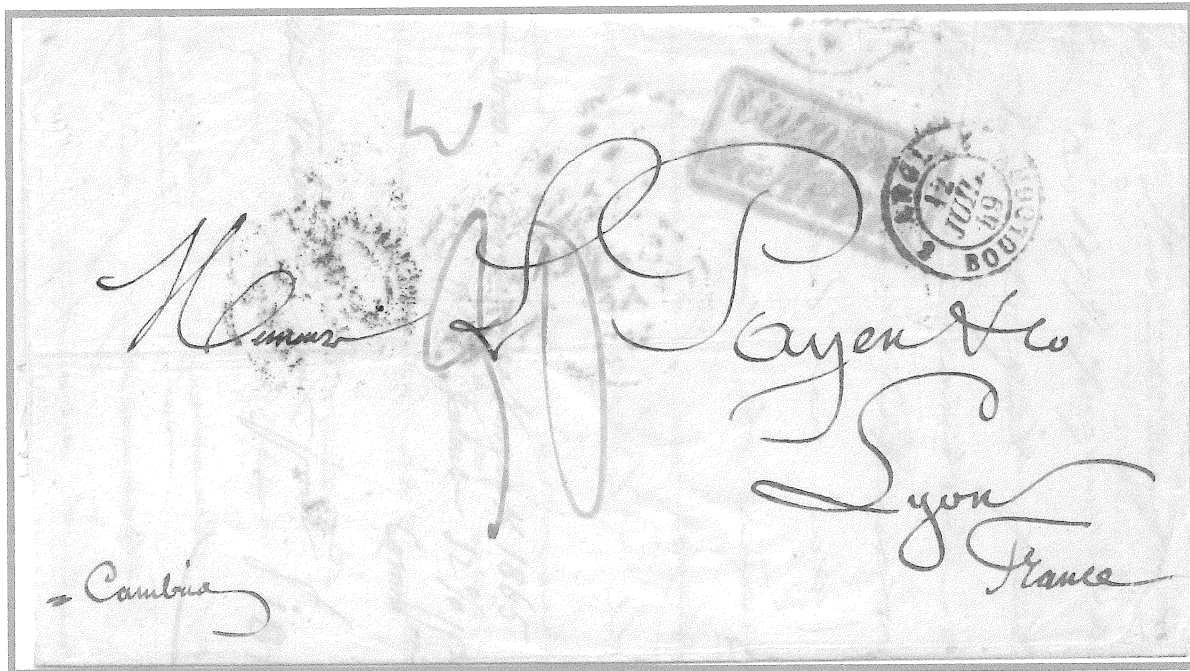
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: February 15, 1849-July 31, 1849

Uniform US Inland



Prepaid 5¢ on June 19, 1849 in New York - uniform US inland rate per 1848 US-GB Treaty
Cunard steamer *Europa* - 18 décimes due - 10 décimes for GB plus 8 décimes for 460 km. to Schamberg

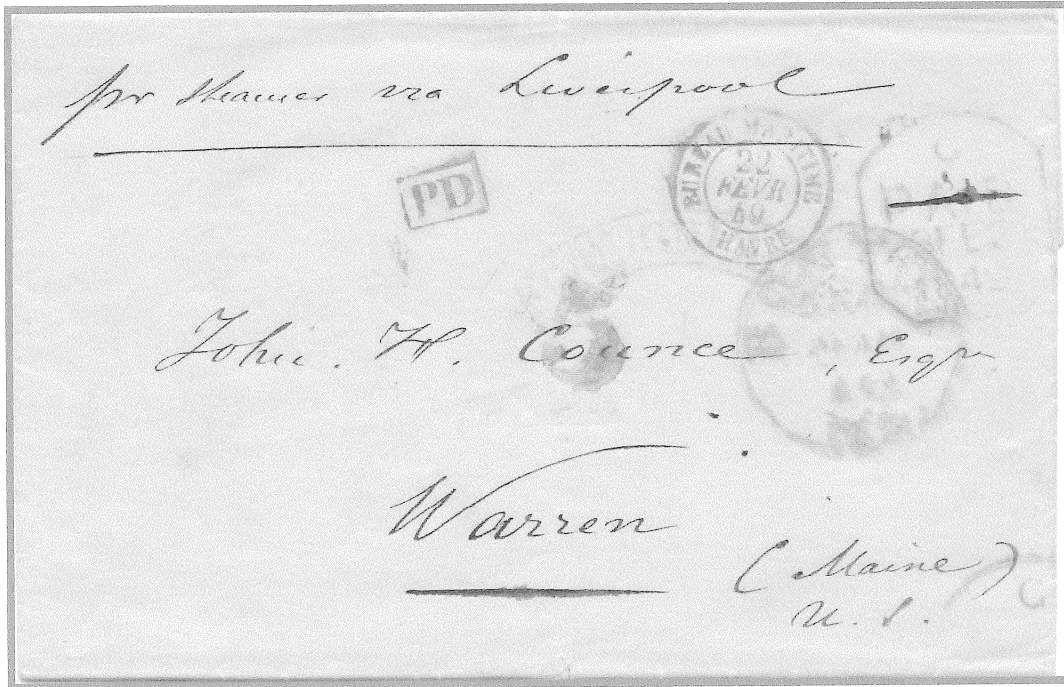


Hand-carried June 27, 1849 to Cunard steamer *Cambria* in New York - no US postage paid
'10' at upper left indicates 10-15 grams weight class - 30 décimes due - 20 décimes inland for 700 km. to Lyon

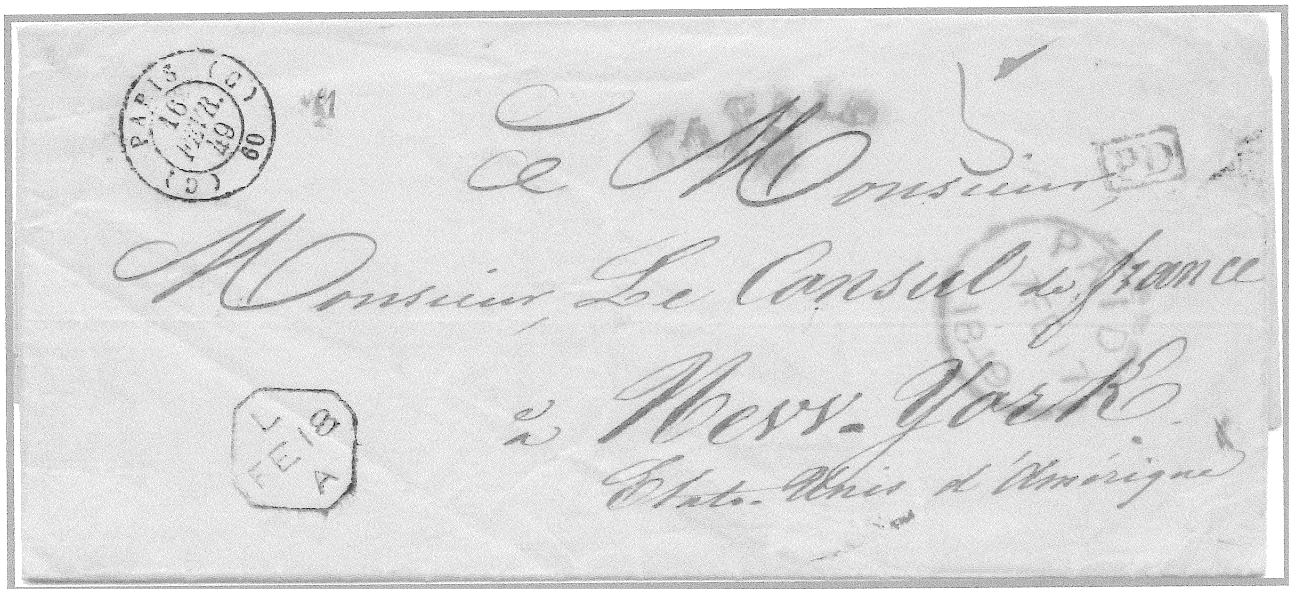
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: February 15, 1849-July 31, 1849

First US-GB Postal Treaty



Posted February 22, 1849 in Le Havre - 12 décimes prepayment (not indicated) - Cunard steamer *America*
First westbound sailing under 1848 US-GB Treaty - uniform US 5¢ inland Treaty rate due in Maine



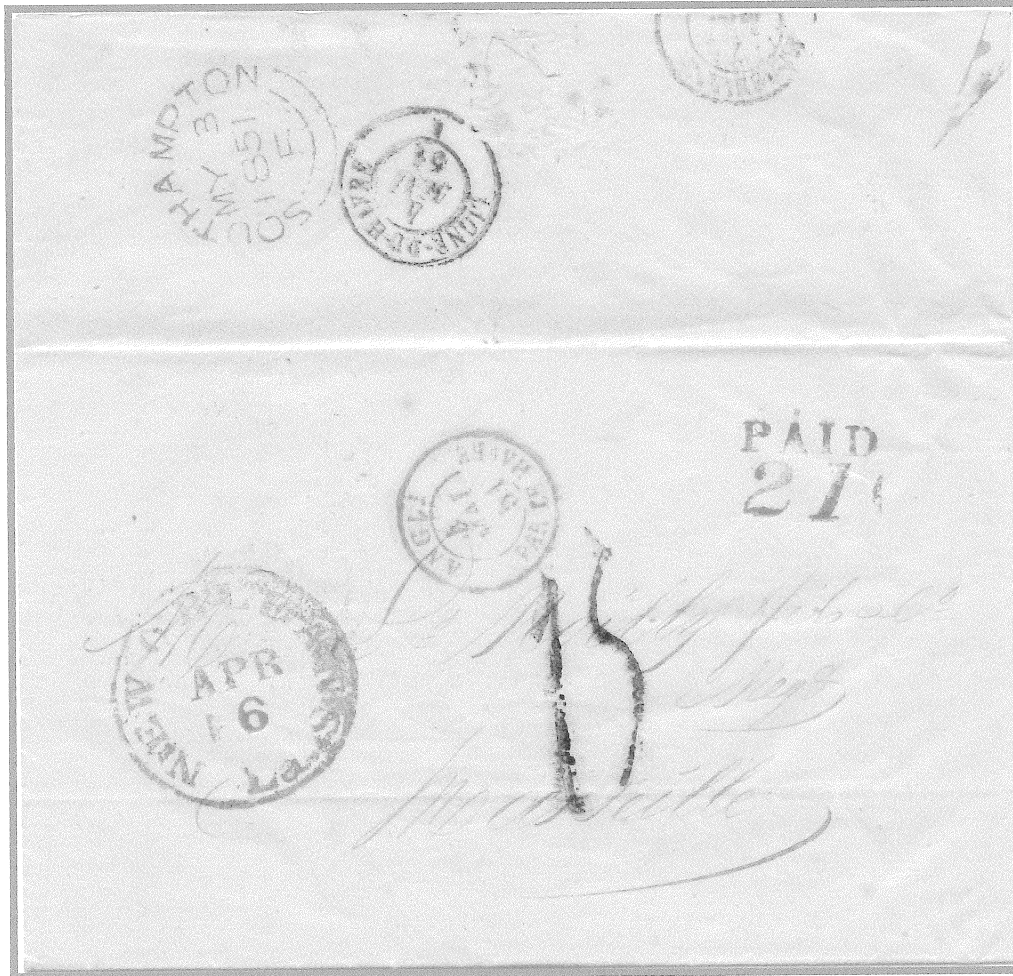
Posted February 16, 1849 in Paris - 15 décimes paid (on reverse) - 10 décimes to GB plus 5 décimes inland
Cunard steamer *America* to Boston - New York erred in rating letter fully paid rather than due 5¢

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

1848 US-GB Postal Treaty

Detailed articles to the 1848 US-GB Treaty set 16¢ per ½ oz. packet rate and a 5c uniform US inland rate, effective July 1, 1849. The 10 décimes GB discriminatory sea charge was still inherent in the 1843 France-GB Treaty, and was collected with uniform 50 centimes French inland (effective August 1, 1849).



Prepaid 21¢ US packet and inland postage on April 6, 1851 in New Orleans, Louisiana
Ocean Line steamer *Washington* - mail processed through Southampton in this period
Carried by auxiliary steamer to Le Havre - 'Angl. Par Le Havre' French entry marking
15 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 5 décimes uniform French inland

Southampton transit marks applied to Ocean mail in this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

First Sailings of Collins Line



Prepaid 21¢ on April 26, 1850 in New York - **first sailing of Collins Line by steamship *Atlantic***
‘U.S. Pkt.’ mark applied in London instead of ‘Art. 13’ marking - not rated per 1843 France-GB Treaty
Check mark at upper left indicates 7.5-10 grams weight class - double unpaid UK-France rate collected



Prepaid 21¢ on June 15, 1850 in New York - **second sailing of Collins Line by steamship *Atlantic***
GB 10 décimes debit per ‘Art. 13’ marking for discriminatory packet postage - double-weight 30 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

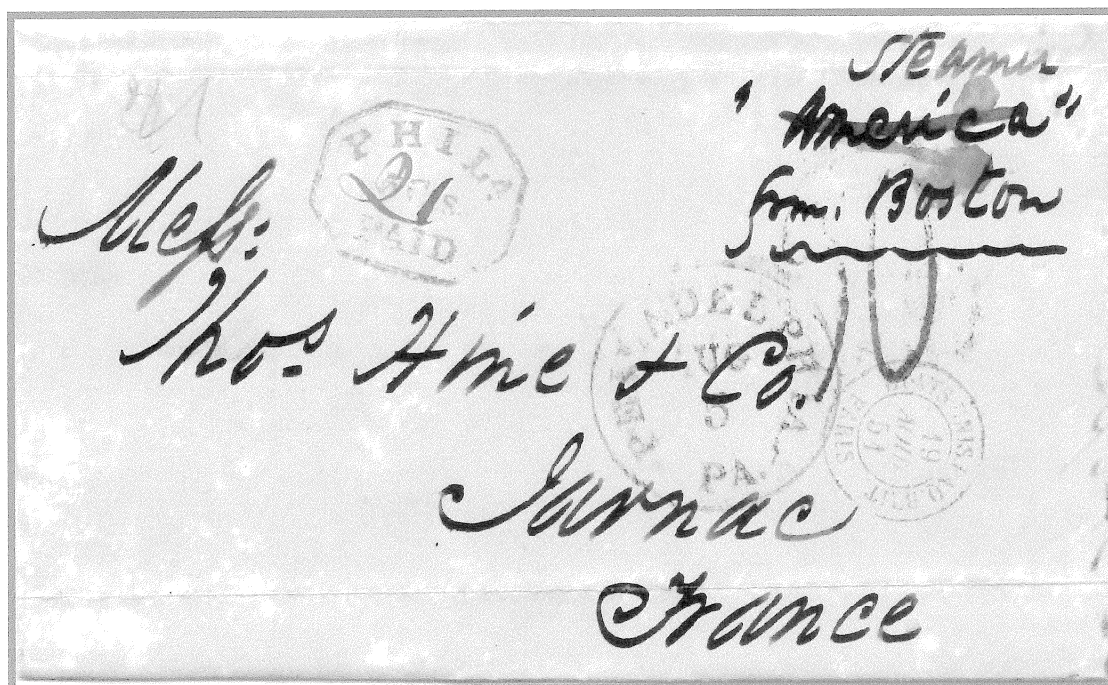
American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

21¢ US Frankings



Prepaid 21¢ on February 3, 1851 in Boston - 1847 Issue 5¢ stamp plus 16¢ cash - 15 décimes due
Collins Line steamer *Arctic* - GB still assessed 10 décimes sea and transit charges per 'Art. 13' marking

Only known use of US #1 on American packet mail to France



Prepaid 21¢ on August 5, 1851 in Philadelphia - re-rated 'Phila 5cts Paid' mark - Collins liner *Atlantic*
'Etats-Unis' entry marks introduced August 1851- incorrect 'Paq. Brit.' Mark - double-weight 30 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

56¢ Rate From California



Prepaid 56¢ on April 15, 1851 in San Francisco - 16¢ packet plus 40¢ transcontinental inland postage
Collins Line steamer *Arctic* - 10 décimes GB sea and transit charges per 'Art. 13' marking - 15 décimes due

Rare 56¢ rate handstamp only used from November 1850 until June 1851



Prepaid 56¢ on June 1, 1851 in San Francisco - Ocean liner *Hermann* - July 26 Southampton transit mark
'Angl. Par Le Havre' entry mark - provisional 8 décimes due - elimination of discriminatory sea charge

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

15 Décimes Prepayment

Effective July 1, 1849, American packet postage was set at 21¢ per ½ ounce. Starting August 1, 1849, French prepayments were a uniform 50 centimes inland rate plus the 10 décimes GB transit & discriminatory sea postage per the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid 15 décimes in postage stamps of France's first issue on December 30, 1850 in Ferte-Jouarre
Second sailing of Havre Line steamer *Franklin* - left Southampton January 1 and arrived January 16
21¢ due in the US for 16¢ packet fee plus 5¢ inland - **double packet postage still assessed**

Very little mail carried on this more expensive route

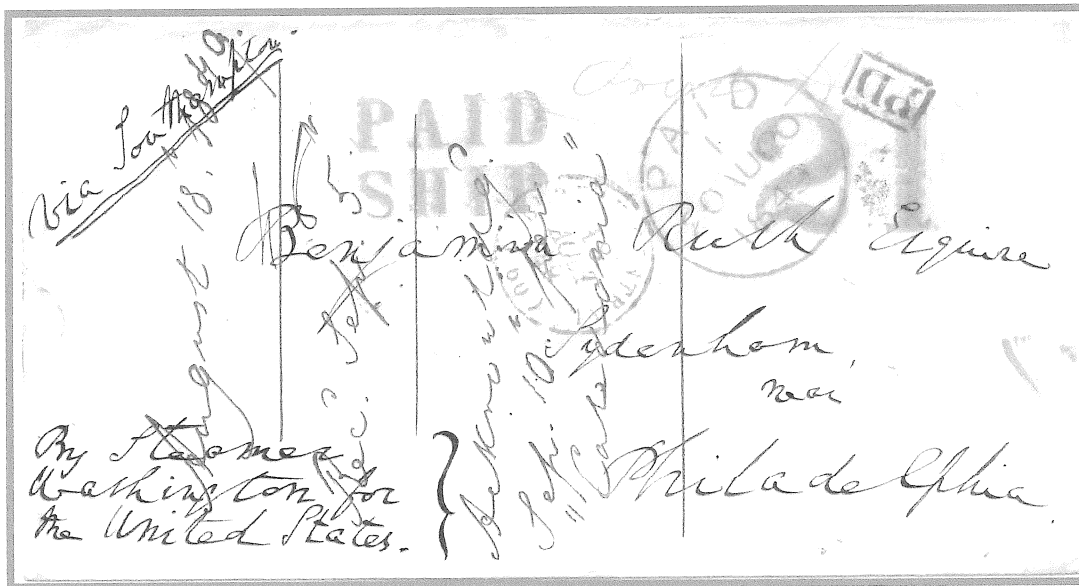
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

Ocean Line



Prepaid 15 décimes on December 18, 1850 in Tours - Ocean Line steamer *Washington*
Routed via Southampton even though not specifically endorsed to the Ocean Line - 21¢ due



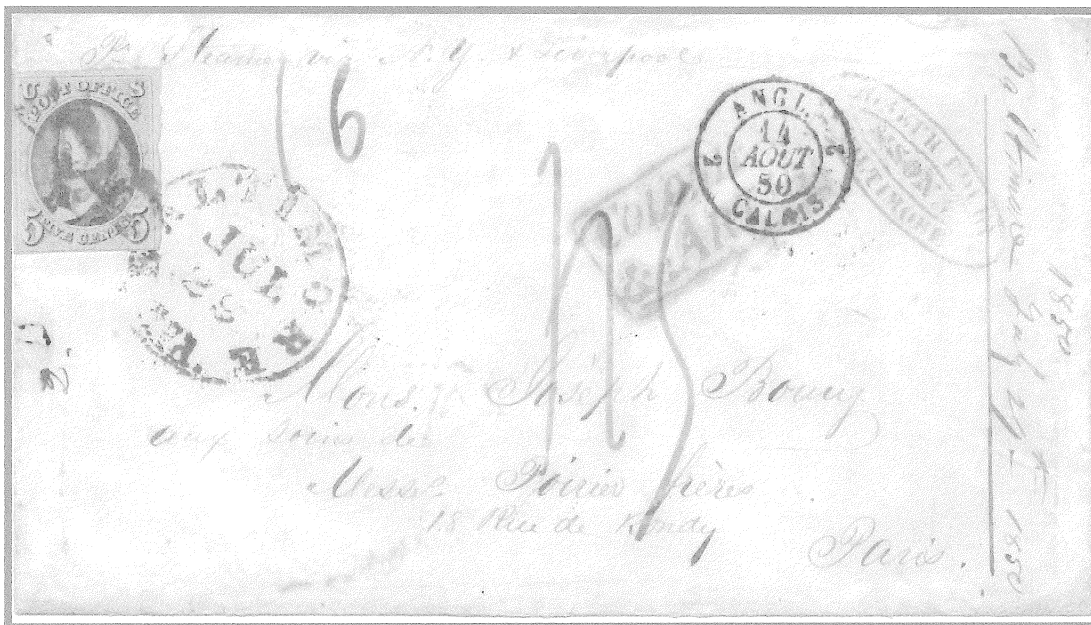
Prepaid 15 décimes (indicated on reverse) on August 18, 1849 in Paris - Ocean Line steamer *Washington*
First sailing under uniform French inland rates - 'PAID SHIP' and '21' of Philadelphia

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Uniform French Inland Rate

July 1849 French Circular set 50 centimes per 7.5 grams uniform French inland rate, effective August 1, for total collections of 15 décimes. US inland was a uniform 5c (or 40c from the West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 5¢ on July 29, 1850 in Baltimore - postage paid with **1847 Issue 5¢ stamp**

Cunard steamer *America* left New York July 31 and arrived in Liverpool on August 13

GB debit for transit and sea postage per “Art. 13” mark - ‘16’ at upper left indicates triple-weight 16 grams

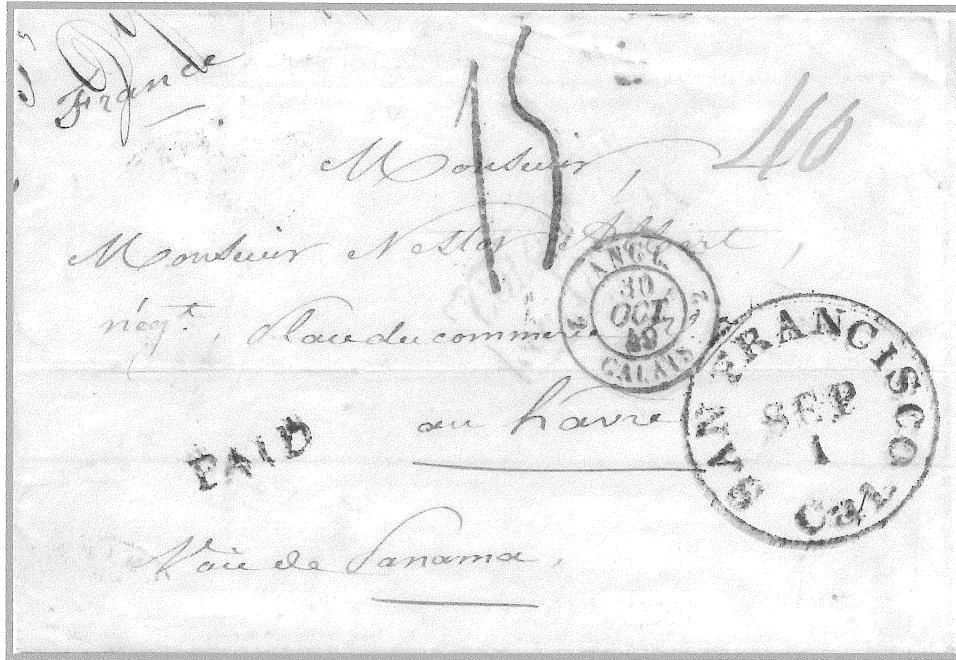
45 décimes due in France - 30 décimes to GB plus triple uniform 50 centimes French inland

US #1 paid domestic postage to the steamship at New York

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

40¢ Transcontinental Rate



Prepaid 40¢ on September 1, 1849 in San Francisco - 40¢ per ½ oz. inland rate to Cunarder *Canada* at NY
Earliest known letter from San Francisco to France - 15 décimes due includes 10 décimes GB packet postage

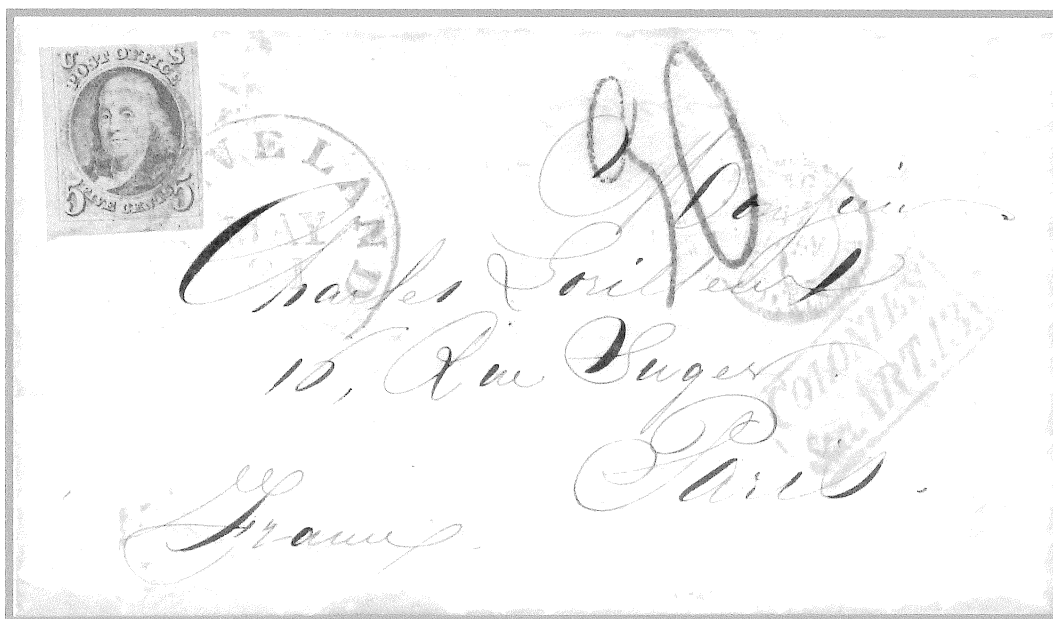


Prepaid 40¢ on January 1, 1850 in San Francisco - Cunard steamer *Europa* from New York
San Francisco boxed '40' rate stamp only used October 1849 to February 1850

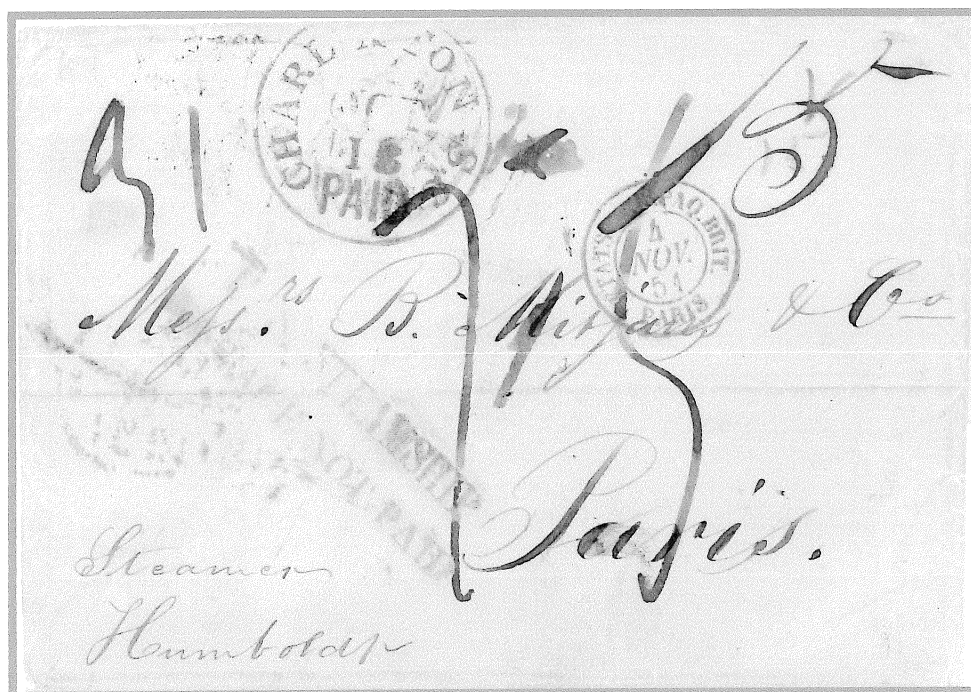
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Unusual Usages



Prepaid 5¢ on May 31, 1851 in Cleveland - US #1 used one month prior to de-monetization
Cunard steamer *Africa* - June 17 'Angl. Calais' entry mark - double-weight 30 décimes due



Prepaid triple-weight 15¢ on October 18, 1851 in Charleston - endorsed to American packet *Humboldt*
Marked 'U.S. STEAMSHIP POSTAGE NOT PAID' and routed to Cunard steamer *Asia* from N.Y.

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

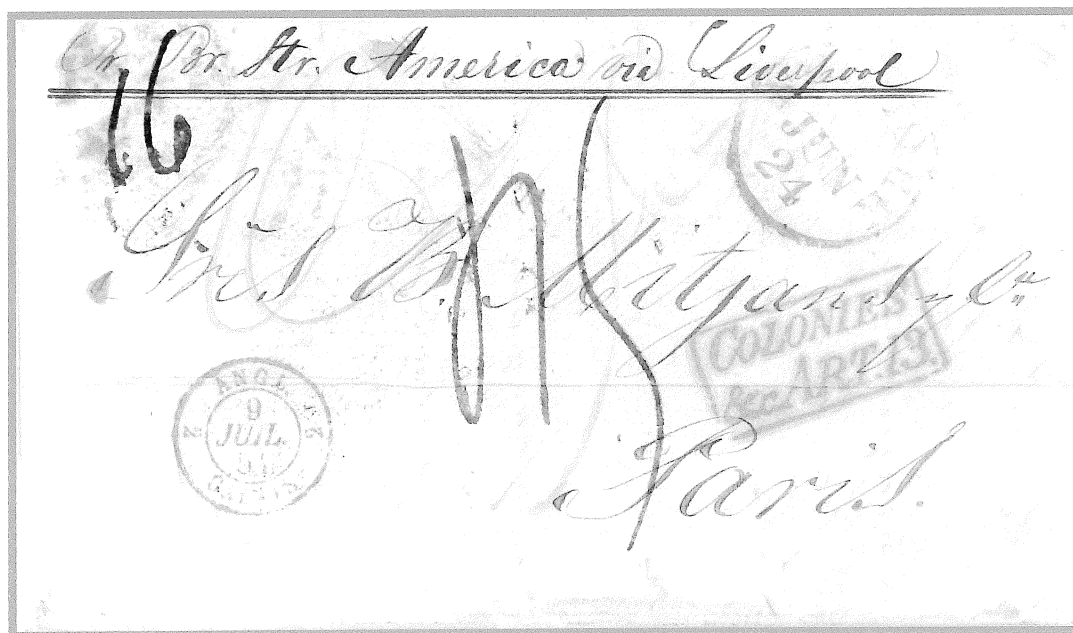
British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

New French Entry Mark



Prepaid 5¢ on July 11, 1851 in St. Louis - Cunard steamer *Africa* - double-weight 30 décimes due

Use of new 'Etats Unis Paq. Brit.' entry mark on British packet mail began with this sailing



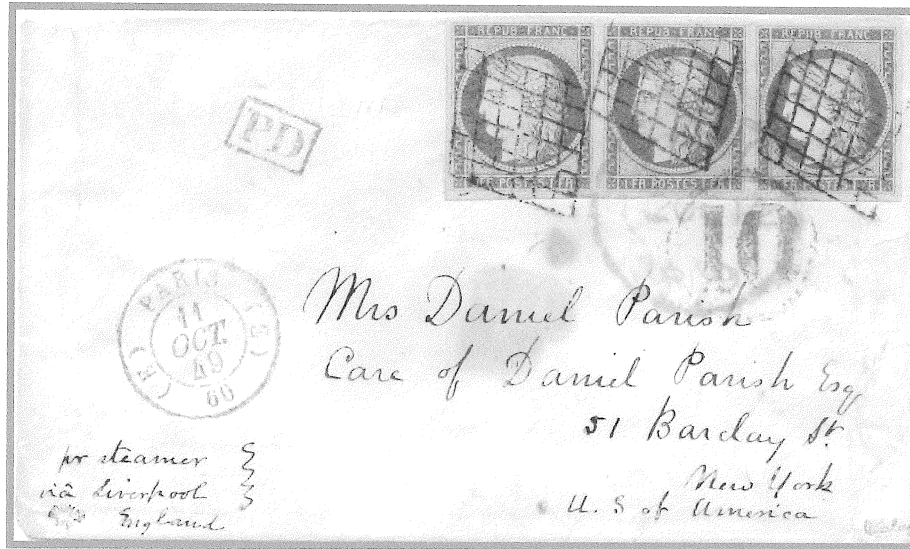
Prepaid double-weight 10¢ on June 24, 1851 in New York - Cunard steamer *America* from New York

'Colonies &c. Art. 13' mark used until the end of July 1851 - triple-weight 45 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

1849 Issue Frankings



Prepaid double-weight 3 francs on October 11, 1849 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* to Boston

Prepayment of letters to the US by postage stamps not permitted in France until August 1, 1849



Prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes on July 19, 1850 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Cambria* - 5¢ inland due in US

July 1849 French Circular set 50 centimes per 7.5 grams uniform inland rate plus 1 franc GB transit and sea

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Unusual Frankings



Sent underpaid 60 centimes on October 14, 1849 from Paris - Cunard steamer *Hibernia*
Rated 'PAID' in UK and 5¢ due in US - rare use of 1849 20 centimes stamps on transatlantic mail



Prepaid six-times 9 francs rate on August 8, 1849 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* - 20¢ inland due in US
Prepayment by postage stamps only 1 week after French P.O. allowed such frankings

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid double-weight 3 francs on May 14, 1851 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* - 5¢ due in US

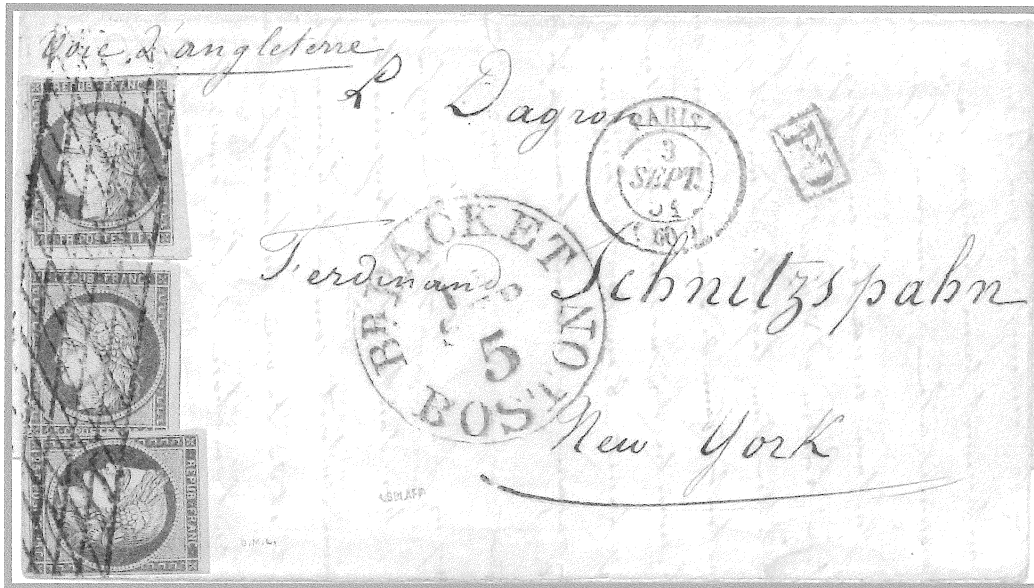


Prepaid quadruple 6 francs rate on June 26, 1851 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* - double-weight 10¢ due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

French National Assembly



Prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes on September 3, 1851 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* to Boston - 5¢ due in US



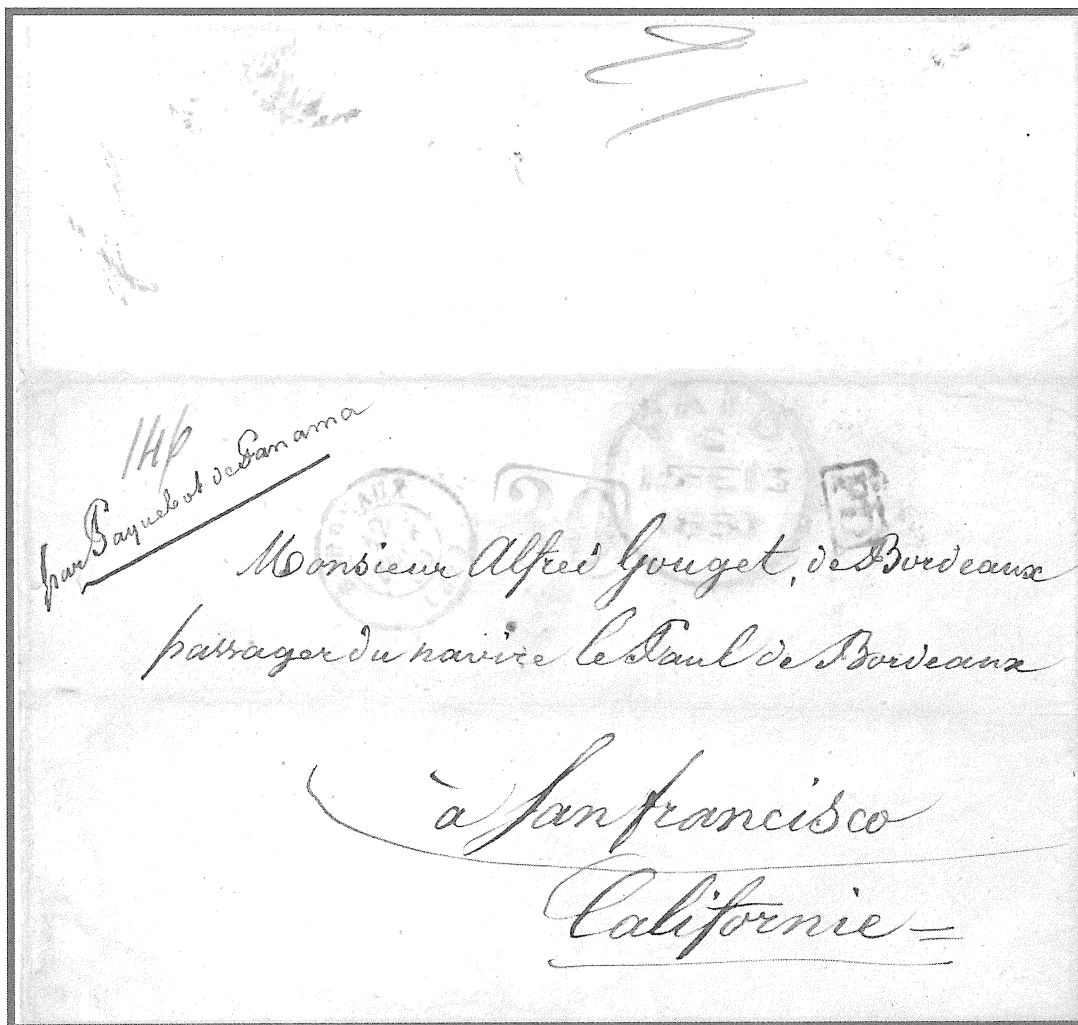
Prepaid 1 fr. 50 centimes on August 21, 1851 in Paris Assemblée Nationale bureau- Cunard steamer *America*

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: August 1, 1849-December 31, 1850

Mail via Jamaica

French Circular #27 set 21 décimes per 7.5 grams rate to Chagres by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton and Jamaica, effective September 15, 1848. August 14, 1848 US Act set Chagres-San Francisco rate at 30¢ per ½



Prepaid 21 décimes on February 12, 1850 in Bordeaux per ms. '21' on reverse
RMSP steamer *Great Western* to Jamaica and RMSP steamer *Tay* to Chagres
PMSC steamer *Panama* from Panama to San Francisco - 30¢ due in San Francisco

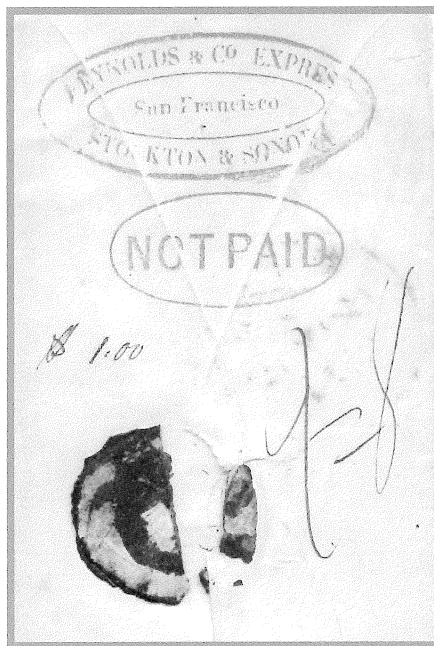
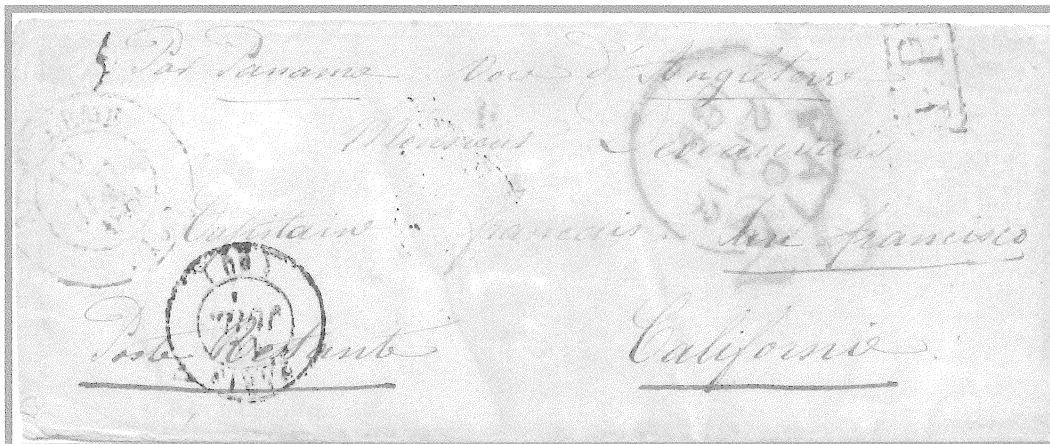
Fewer than five RMSP letters known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1851-August 31, 1851

Mail via St Thomas

French Circular #51 set 28 décimes per 7.5 grams fully-paid rate to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Chagres, effective January 1, 1851. US erroneously collected 20¢ due on most letters.



(photocopy of reverse at 100%)

Prepaid 28 décimes on July 10, 1851 in Angoulême - RMSP steamer *Avon* to St Thomas

23 décimes credited to GB per January 1, 1851 Additional Articles to 1843 France-GB Treaty - 20¢ due in US

Delivered to gold mines by Reynolds & Co. private California express company - \$1.00 collected

Less than five RMSP letters known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1851-August 31, 1851

Panama Forwarder

The US Post Office required that all eastbound mail from California be carried by US packets via Panama and New York. Only letters forwarded out of the US mails could reach RMSF steamers at Chagres.



Forwarded privately July 14, 1851 from San Francisco to JBF Arrivet at Panama - no US postage paid
Posted at GB Panama post office September 22 - RMSF *Thames* from Chagres to Southampton via St Thomas
GB 10 décimes debit per 'Art. 13' marking - 15 décimes due, including 50 centimes uniform inland

Very little eastbound mail from the US carried on this route

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Mail via St Thomas

French Circular #67 set 25 décimes per 7.5 grams fully-paid rate to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Chagres, effective September 1, 1851. US erroneously collected 20c due on most letters.



Prepaid 25 décimes on May 15, 1852 in Paris - 1849 Issue 1 franc and 25 centimes stamps
RMSP steamer *Magdalena* to St Thomas - PMSC steamer *Tennessee* from Panama to San Francisco
20 décimes credited to GB per 1843 France-GB Treaty - GB credited US 50¢ per oz. bulk rate
Even though GB had credited US its postage, 20¢ was erroneously collected in San Francisco

All French mail to California routed via St Thomas until 1854

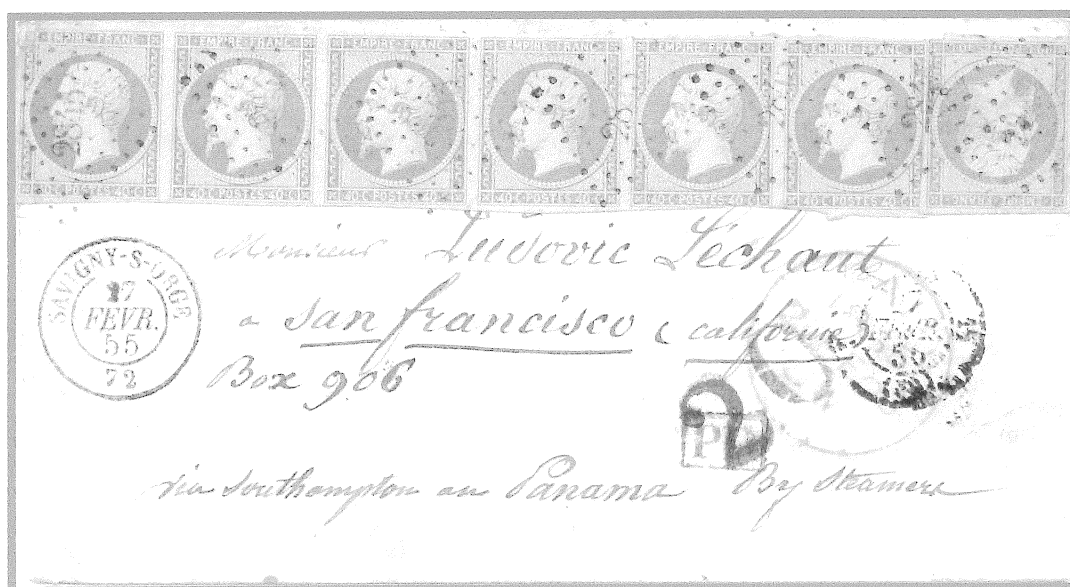
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Mail to California



Prepaid 25 décimes on October 31, 1853 in Paris - RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas
PMSC steamer *J.L. Stephens* from Panama to San Francisco - erroneous 20¢ due assessed



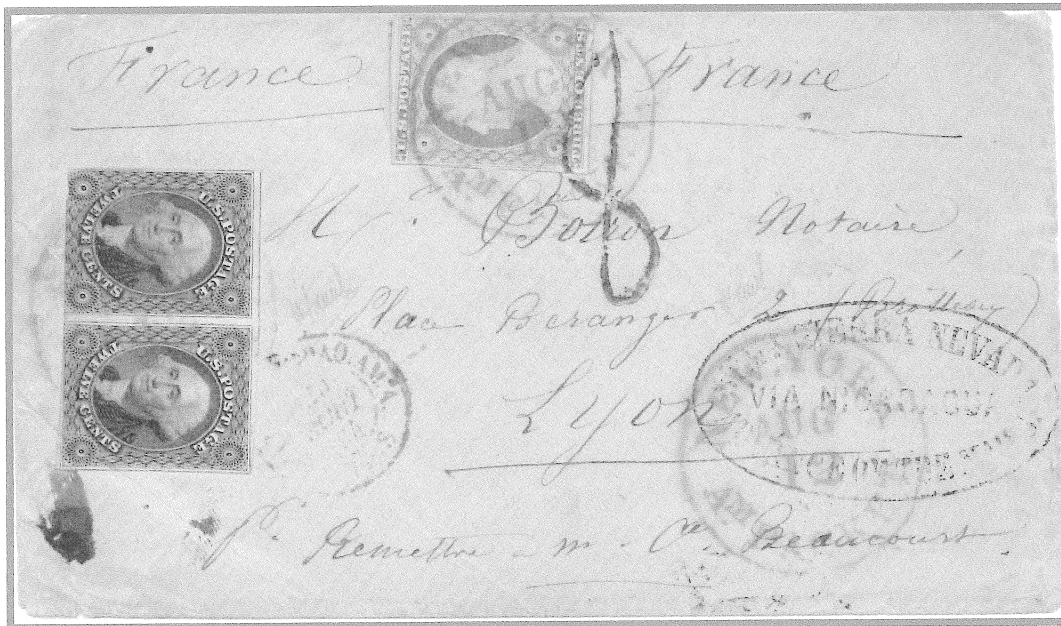
Prepaid 25 décimes on February 27, 1855 in Savigny - RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas
PMSC steamer *Golden Gate* from Panama to San Francisco - 20¢ due - late usage by this route

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Reduced French Postage

French Circular #67 eliminated discriminatory GB packet postage and reduced French collections to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective September 1, 1851. US postage remained at 16¢ packet and 5¢ inland per ½ ounce, per 1848 US-GB Treaty. West Coast mail was subject to a 5¢ inland postage surcharge.

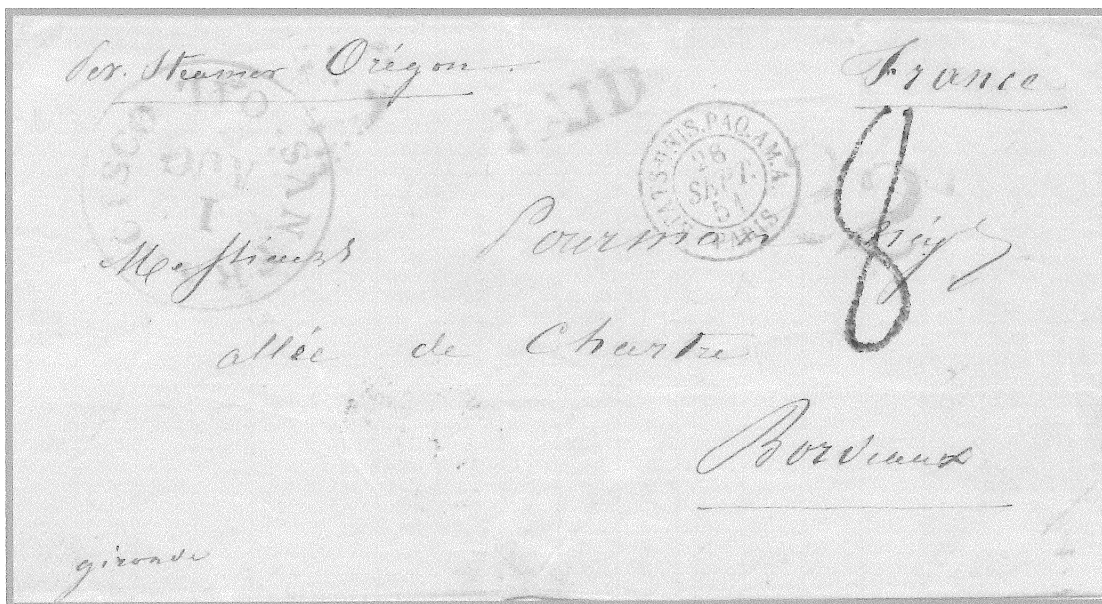


1¢ overpay of 26¢ transcontinental rate from San Francisco on July 15, 1854 - 1851 Issue 3¢ and 12¢ stamps
Routed to non-contract Vanderbilt steamer *Sierra Nevada* - marked "Via Nicaragua Advance of Mails"
Ocean Line steamship *Hermann* from New York August 12 - "Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A Paris" entry mark
8 décimes due in France - 3 décimes GB transit postage plus 5 décimes uniform French inland

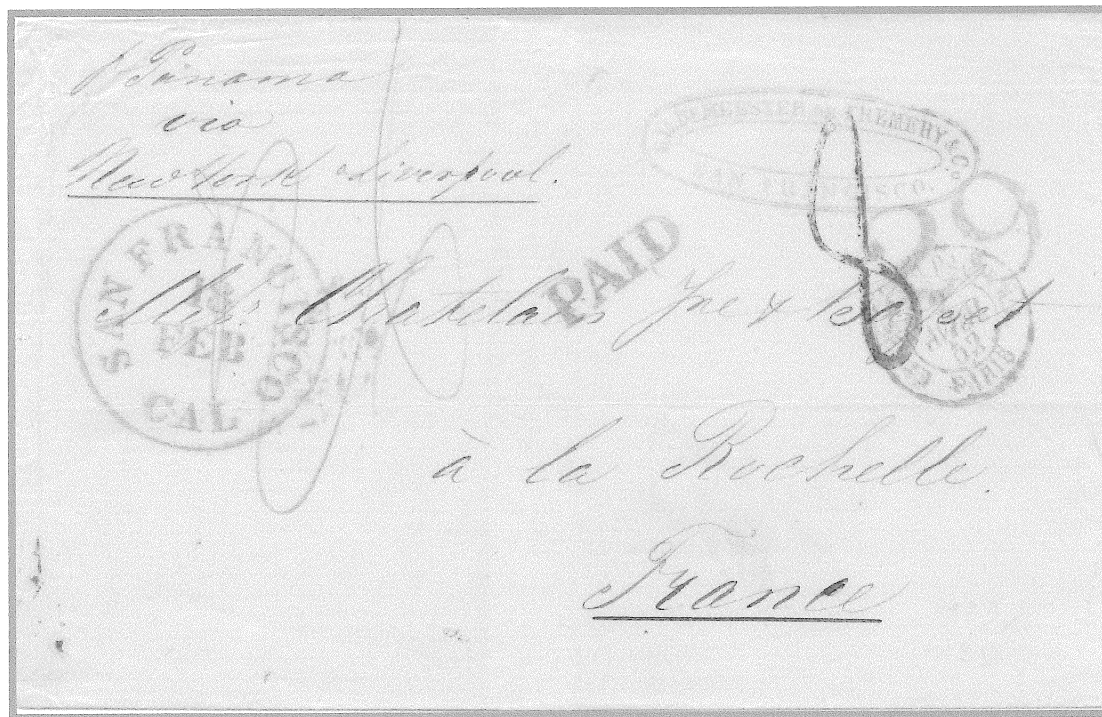
Only known letter to France via Nicaragua route

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856 West Coast 22¢ Error Rate



Prepaid 22¢ on August 1, 1851 in San Francisco - Collins Liner *Atlantic* from New York on September 13
US transcontinental rates dropped to 6¢ on July 1, 1851 - SF applied error rate of 22¢ (6¢ plus 16¢ US sea)
22¢ error rate used for two months - correct 26¢ rate used starting September 1, reflecting 5¢ surcharge



Prepaid 26¢ on February 18, 1852 in San Francisco - Collins Liner *Arctic* from New York on March 20
29¢ British mail rate stamp applied in error - 8 décimes due (3 déc. GB transit plus 5 déc. French inland)

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Prepaid 20¢ Direct Rate



Prepaid 20¢ for direct route on February 19, 1856 in Dorset, Vermont - 1851 10¢ type I pair
Ocean liner *Washington* - underpaid 1¢ but accepted as fully-paid via England - 8 décimes due



Prepaid 20¢ (1855 10¢ type II pair) on Jan. 12, 1856 in New Orleans - 'TOO LATE' for Havre liner *Arago*
Accepted as fully-paid for Collins liner *Atlantic* from New York to Liverpool on January 19 - 8 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

1851 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 21¢ on May 27, 1853 in Philadelphia - 1851 12¢ and 3¢ orange-brown strip of three
Collins liner *Baltic* - “Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A. Paris” entry mark - double-weight 16 décimes due

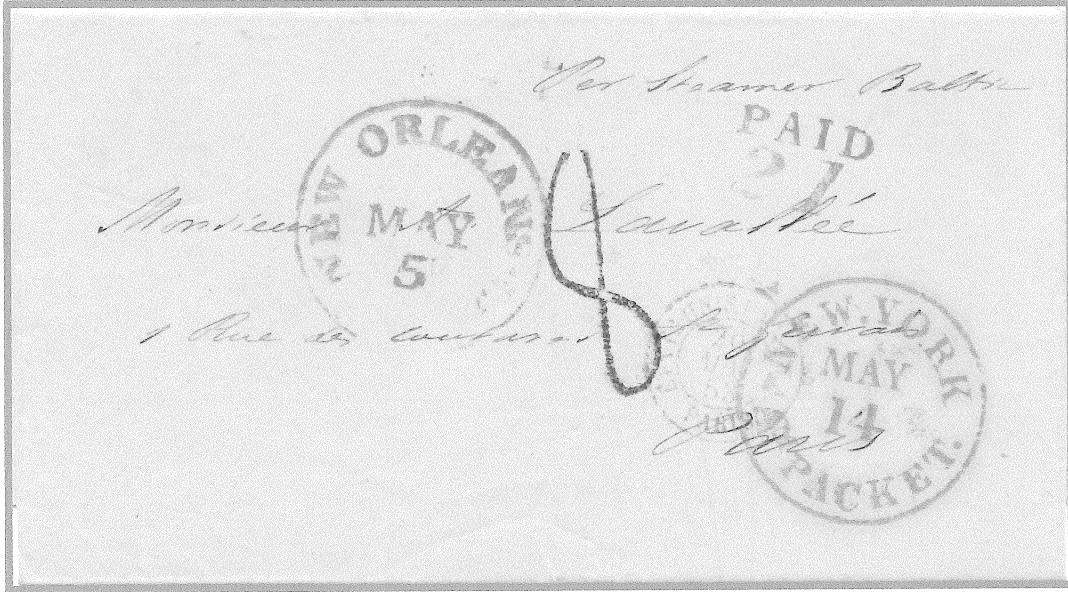


Prepaid 26¢ on April 7, 1856 in Assumption, LA - 1853 3¢ dull red stamps on 1851 #U10 3¢ entire
Ocean liner *Washington* - “Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A. Calais” entry mark - double-weight 16 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

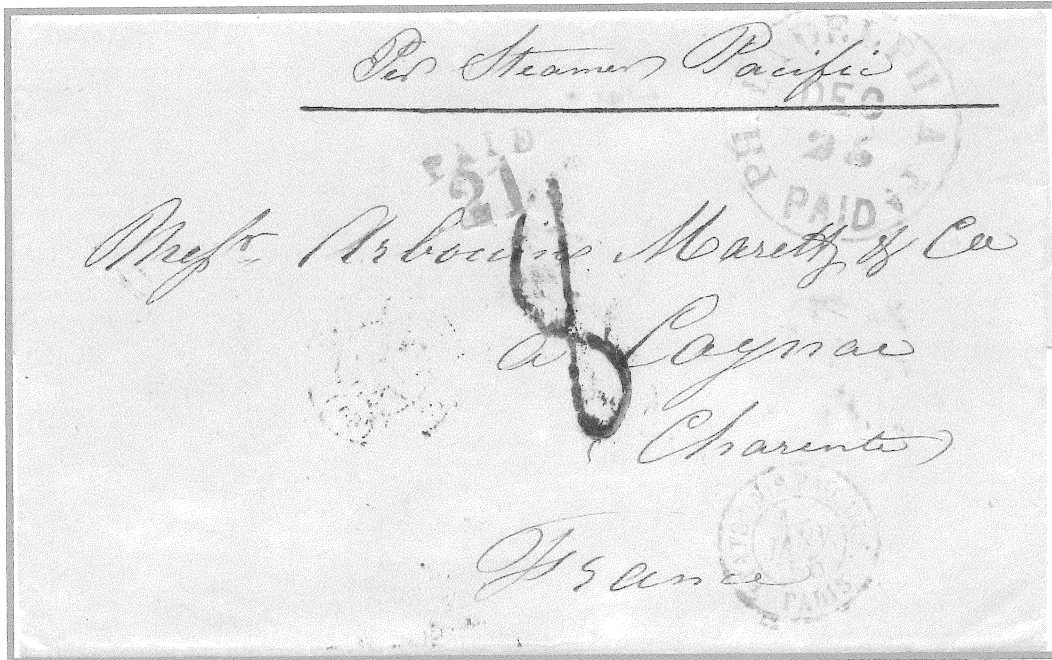
American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

"PAID 21" Markings



Prepaid 21¢ in cash on May 5, 1853 in New Orleans - Collins liner *Pacific* from New York May 14

May 26 "Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A. Paris" entry mark - 8 décimes due



Prepaid 21¢ in cash on December 26, 1854 in Philadelphia - Collins liner *Pacific* to Liverpool

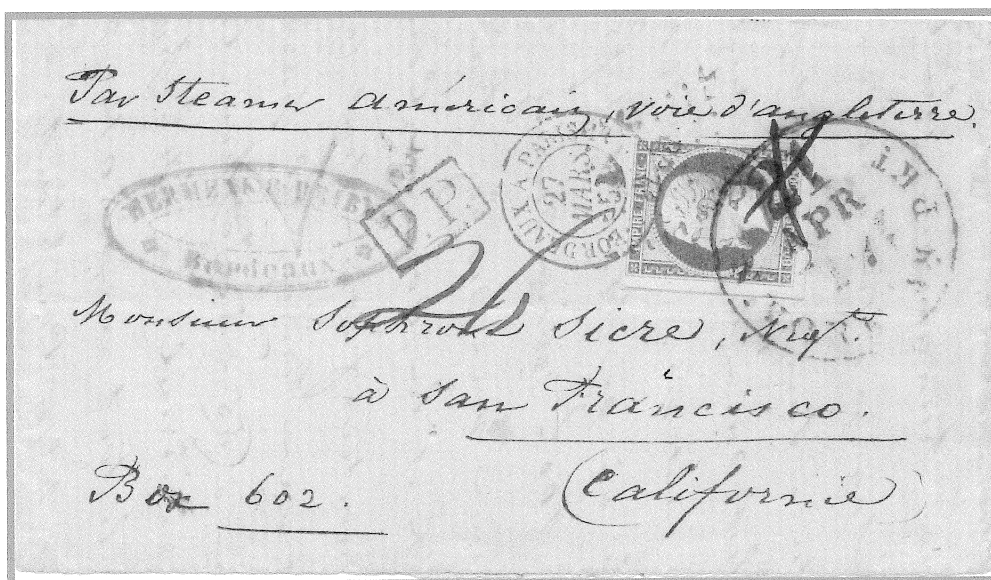
January 12 "Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A. Paris" entry mark - 8 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

80 Centimes Prepayments

Effective September 1, 1851, the French Circular #67 reduced French prepayments to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams. GB received 30 centimes transit postage, but no sea postage. US postage remained at 16¢ packet postage plus 5¢ or 10¢ inland per ½ ounce.



Franked 1853 Issue 80 centimes on March 27, 1856 in Bordeaux - Collins Line steamship *Baltic* to New York
21¢ due re-valued to 26¢ to reflect West Coast inland 5¢ surcharge, per July 1, 1851 US inland rate change
Carried by USMSC steamer *George Law* to Aspinwall and PMSC steamer *Sonora* to San Francisco

5¢ transcontinental inland surcharge in effect July 1851 to March 1857

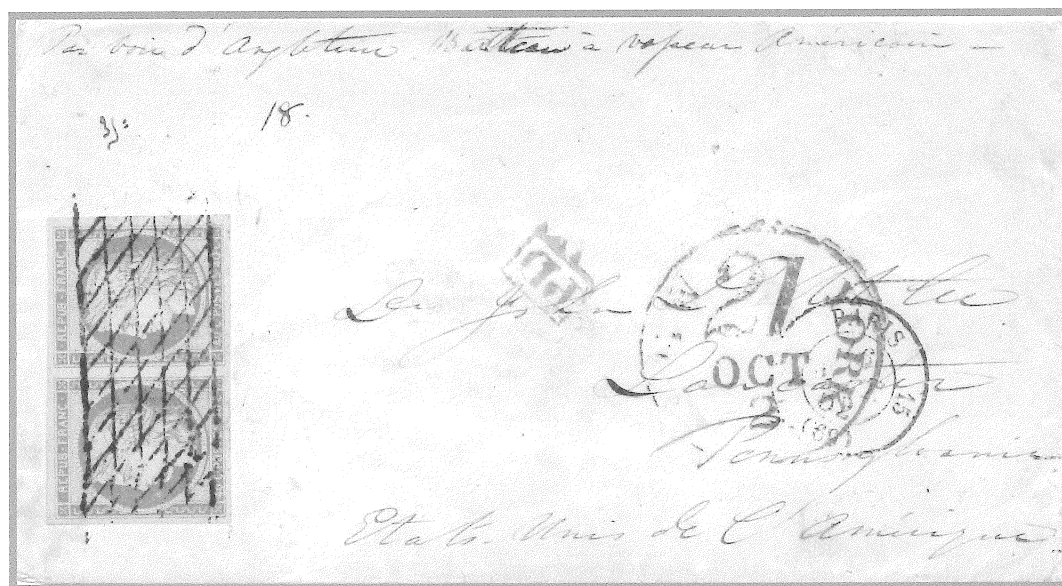
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

1849 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 80 centimes by **two 1849 15c stamps** and an 1852 25c pair on May 14, 1853 in Paris
Collins Line steamer *Arctic* left Liverpool May 18 - 21¢ due in US - 16¢ sea plus 5¢ inland



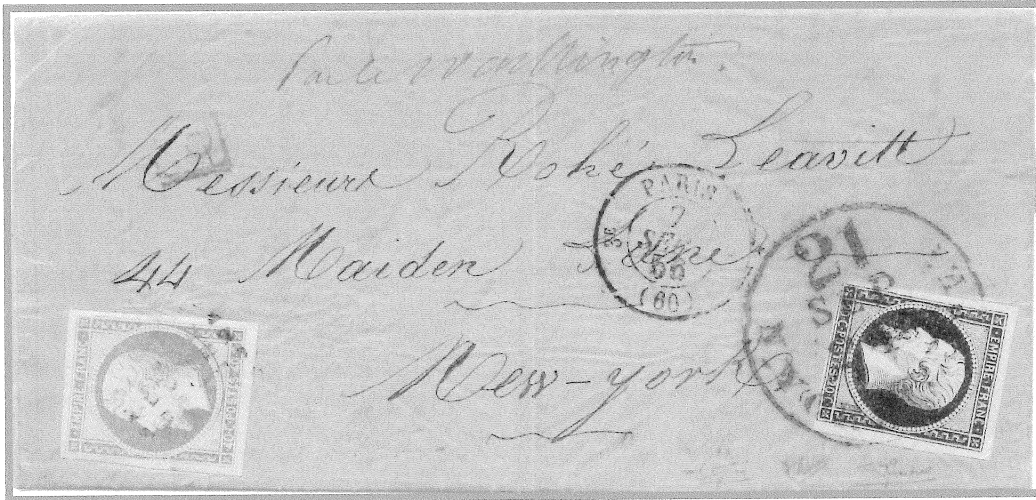
Prepaid 80 centimes by **1849 Issue 40c pair** on September 16, 1852 in Paris - 21¢ due in US
Collins Line steamer *Atlantic* left Liverpool September 22 and arrived in NY on October 2

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

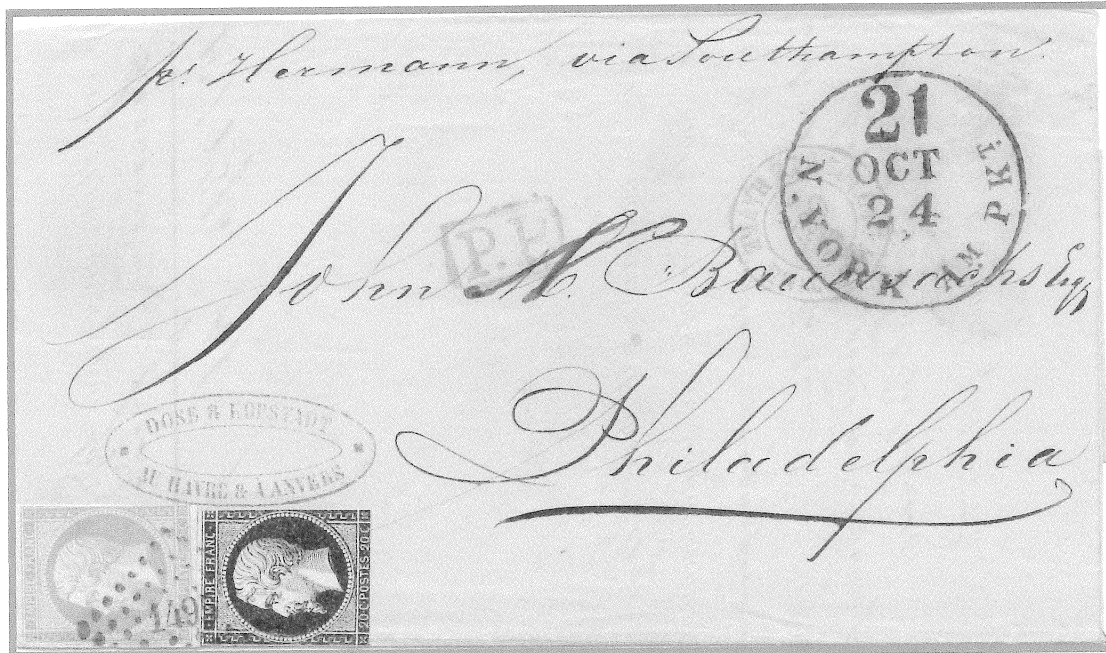
American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Special Ocean Line Rates

October 2, 1851 French Circular #69 set special Ocean Line prepayments of 30 centimes from Le Havre and 60 centimes from elsewhere in France. Mail was taken directly to the steamship at Southampton, avoiding GB double sea postage.



Prepaid 60 centimes in 1853 Issue stamps on September 7, 1856 in Paris - routed via Le Havre Ocean Line steamer *Washington* from Southampton - 21¢ American packet rate via England due in US

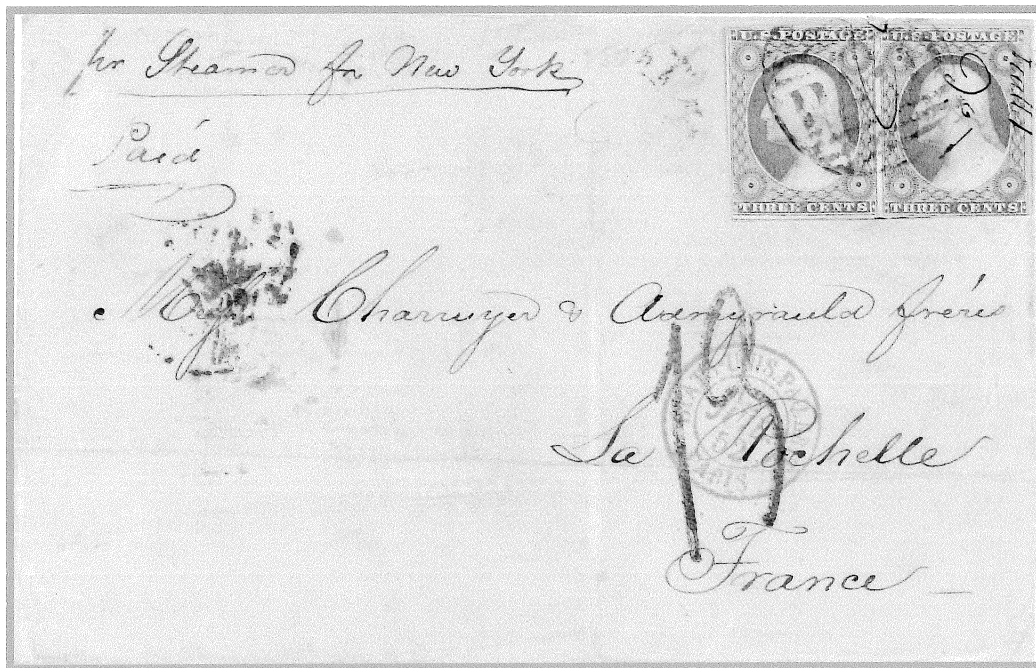


Prepaid 30 centimes in 1853 Issue stamps on October 6, 1856 at the Le Havre Maritime Bureau Ocean Line steamer *Hermann* - very few letters showing special Ocean Line rates are known

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853 Reduced Transit & Sea Postage

French Circular #72 reduced GB transit and sea postage to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective December 1. French inland remained at 50 centimes, for total French collections of 13 décimes. US inland was 5¢ per ½ ounce, except from California.



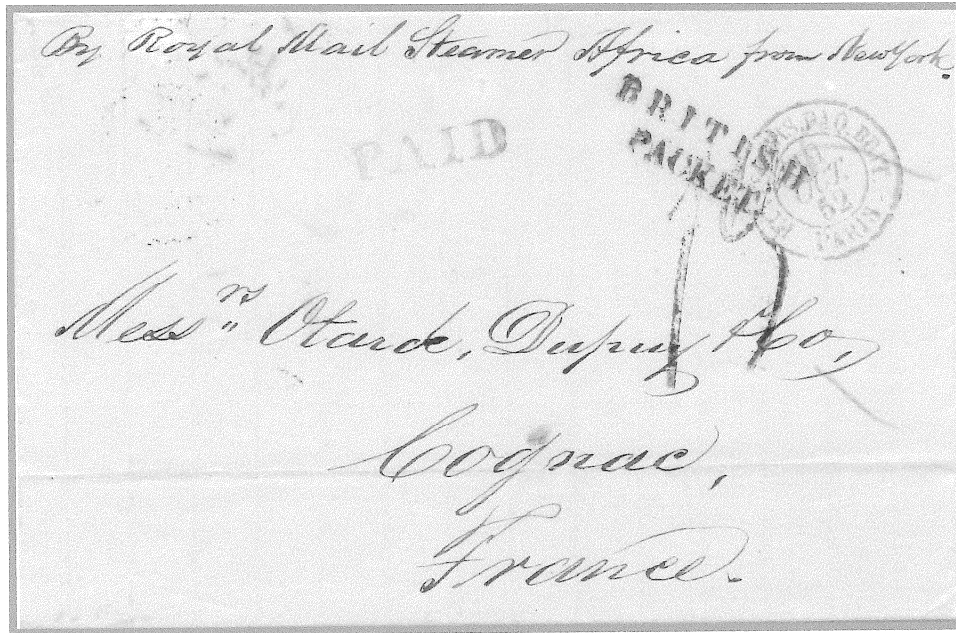
1¢ overpayment of 5¢ rate on June 29, 1852 in Boston - 1851 Issue 3¢ orange-brown pair
Cunard steamer *Europa* from New York - July 13 "Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. Paris" entry marking
13 décimes due - **franked mail in this period is unusual**; most prepaid mail is stampless

France credited transit & sea postage to GB per 1843 France-GB Treaty

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

"BRITISH PACKET" Marking



Prepaid 5¢ on October 5, 1852 in Boston - Cunard steamer *Africa* from New York to Liverpool

October 19 "Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. Paris" entry mark - 13 décimes due



Prepaid 5¢ on August 22, 1852 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Canada* from Boston to Liverpool

Rare US "BRITISH PACKET" mark used August 1852 to April 1853 - fewer than 20 examples known

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

1849 Issue Franking

French prepayments were reduced to 1 franc 30 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective December 1, 1851. 80 centimes transit & sea postage was credited to GB per the 1843 France-GB Treaty. US collections remained 5c (10c to California) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid double rate 26 décimes on January 30, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to NY

Franking made up by 1849 Issue 15 centimes and 1 franc carmine stamps

Single-weight 5¢ due in US

15 centimes stamps only in use from July 1850 to June 1853

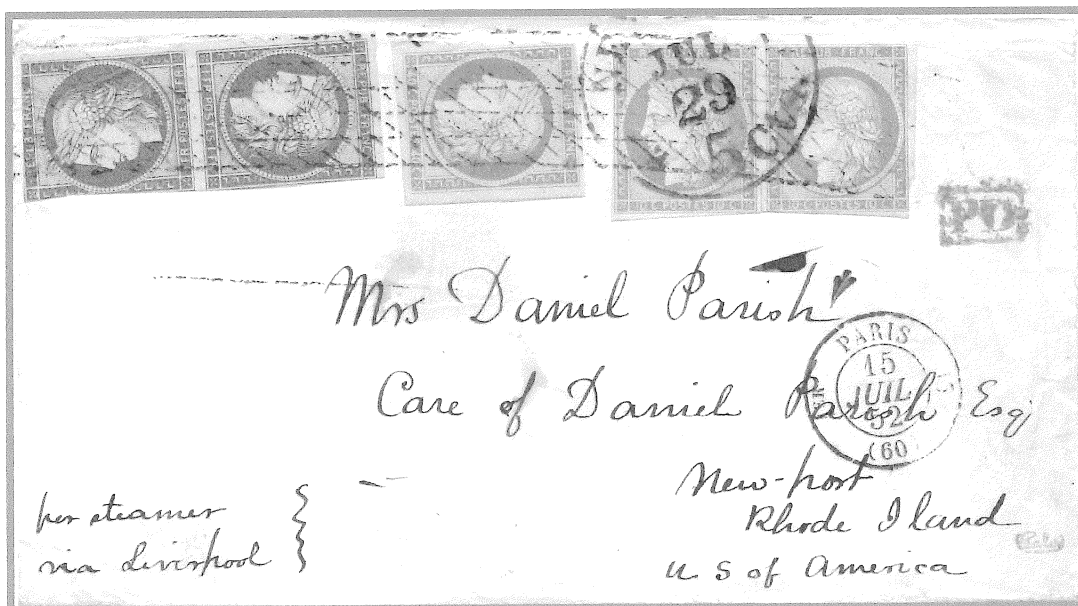
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

1849 Issue Frankings



Overpaid obsolete 1849-51 15 décimes rate on October 6, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* - 5¢ due
1849 Issue 10c, 40c and 1 franc stamps erroneously cancelled by boxed "Affranchissement Insuffisant"

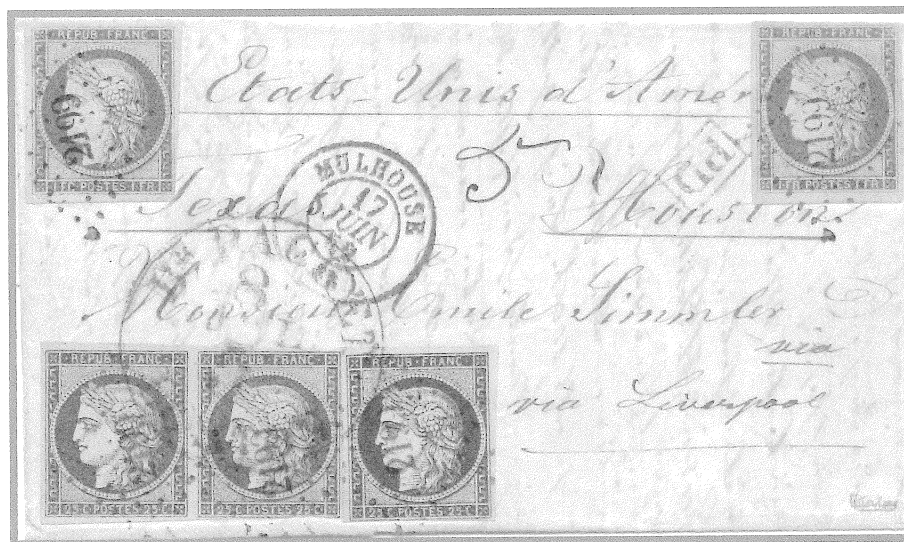


Prepaid double-weight 26 décimes on July 15, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* to New York - 5¢ due
Franking includes 1849 1 franc carmine tête-bêche pair - one of 3 known on mail to the USA

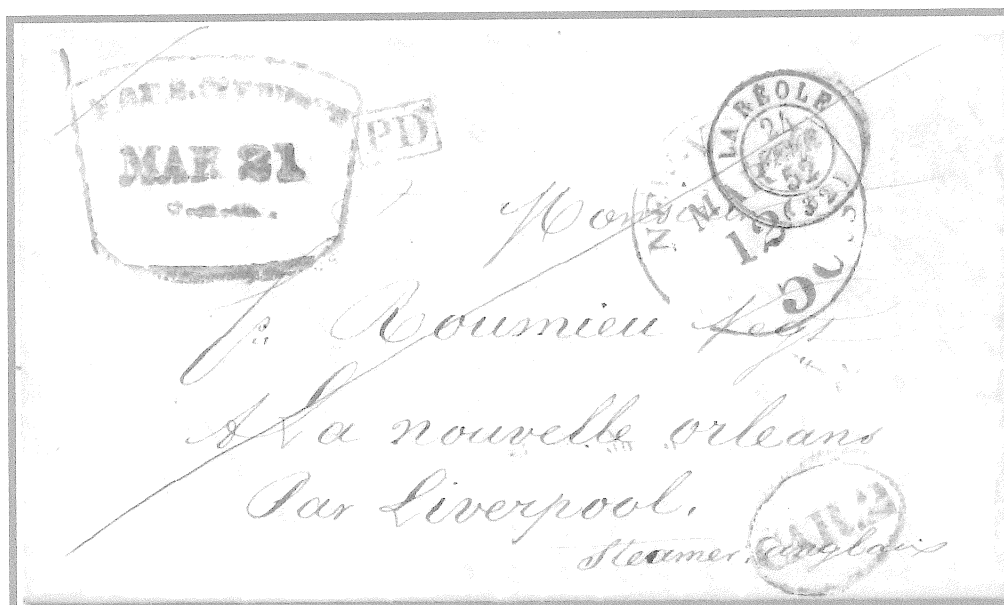
Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

Unusual Usages



Overpaid double-weight 26 décimes rate on June 17, 1852 in Mulhouse - Cunard steamer *Canada*
Franking overpays rate by 15 centimes - mail to **Texas** in this period is rare- 5¢ due



Prepaid 13 décimes on February 24, 1852 in La Reole - Cunard steamer *Asia* - 5¢ due assessed in New York
Delivered March 21 by N.O.U.S. City Post government carrier service in New Orleans - 2¢ carrier fee

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

Tentuple-Weight Franking



Prepaid 13 francs on November 24, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Niagara* - 40¢ due (8 times 5¢)

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853

Second Retaliatory Period

Unaware that the double sea charge on US packets had been eliminated in September 1851, the US Post Office began charging 16c retaliatory packet postage on British packets. US inland remained at 5c, and French postage due at 13 décimes.



Prepaid 21¢ retaliatory rate on February 1, 1853 in New York - Cunard steamer *Europa*
"Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. B.A. Calais" entry marking - 'bureau ambulante' from Calais to Paris
13 décimes due - includes 8 décimes for GB transit and sea postage

Only three eastbound sailings during this 17-day period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853

21¢ Prepayments



Prepaid 21¢ on February 9, 1853 in New York - Cunard steamer *Africa* - 3rd of 3 sailings in period
February 24 "Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. B.A. Calais" entry mark - double-weight 26 décimes due



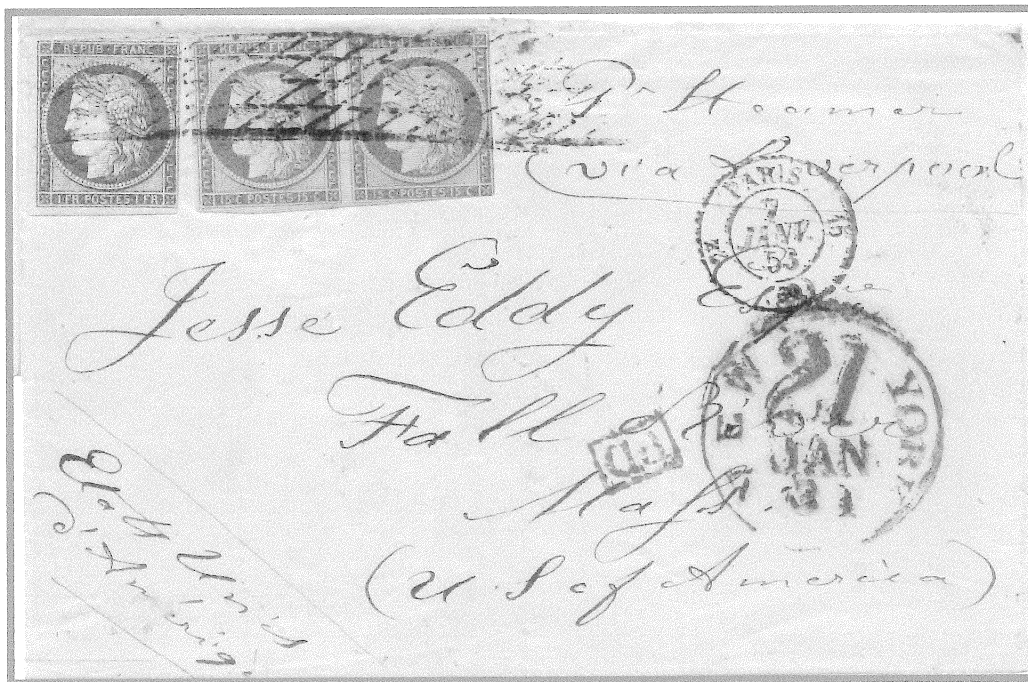
Prepaid 21¢ on February 2, 1853 in Boston - Cunard steamer *Europa* - 2nd of 3 sailings in period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853

Second Retaliatory Period

French prepayments remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams, which included 8 décimes to GB for transit and sea postage. Per the January 24, 1853 US P.O. Order, US began collecting 16¢ per ½ ounce retaliatory packet postage plus 5¢ inland.



Prepaid 13 décimes on January 7, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Africa* to New York
Franked by stamps of the 1849 Issue - 21¢ due (5¢ inland plus 16¢ retaliatory packet postage)

Only two westbound sailings during this 17-day period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853

US Retaliatory Collections



Prepaid quadruple rate 52 décimes on January 6, 1853 in Bordeaux - Cunard steamer *Africa*
Prepayment in cash noted on reverse - **quadruple 84¢ retaliatory postage due**



Prepaid 13 décimes (on reverse) on January 10, 1853 in Marseille - Cunard steamer *Africa*
US 1851 Issue 3¢ stamp served no purpose - **21¢ retaliatory postage due**

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

Restored Rate Period

February 10, 1853 US Post Office Notice eliminated the retaliatory sea charge, and restored US 5c (10c from the West Coast) per ½ ounce prepayments. French postage due remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams.



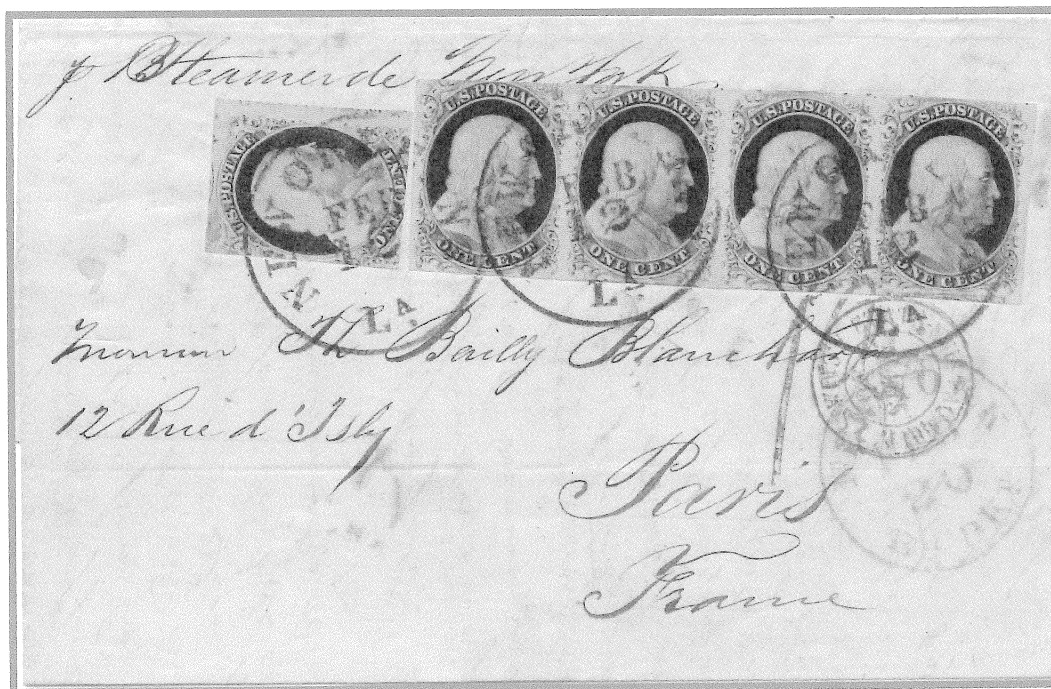
Prepaid obsolete 21¢ retaliatory rate on February 14, 1853 in Philadelphia - 5¢ was correct rate
US 1851 Issue 3¢ orange brown and 12¢ franking - rare US **"BRITISH PACKET"** marking
Cunard steamer *Europa* from Boston - first sailing after end of Second Retaliatory period
Double-weight 26 décimes due - includes 16 décimes for GB transit and sea postage

Fewer than 5 letters known with 21¢ retaliatory rate paid by postage stamps

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

5¢ Frankings



Prepaid 5¢ on February 12, 1856 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Persia* - maiden voyage

Franked by 1851 Issue 1¢ type II strip of 4 and 1¢ type IV - 13 décimes due



Prepaid 5¢ on November 17, 1856 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Europa* from New York

Franked by 1856 5¢ stamp - 13 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

French Entry Marks



Prepaid 5¢ on October 18, 1854 in New York - Cunard steamer *Canada* from New York

Only known 'ETATS-UNIS PAQ. BRIT. CALAIS' entry mark - 13 décimes due



Prepaid 5¢ on August 22, 1853 in Philadelphia - Cunard steamer *Africa* from New York

Franked by 1851 Issue 1¢ types II and IV and 3¢ dull red - double-weight 26 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

1849 Issue Franking

French prepayments remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams in this restored rate period. US collections returned to 1851-53 levels of 5c (10c to the West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid quintuple rate 65 décimes on August 23, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Asia* to New York
Franked by **largest known multiple of rare 1 franc cerise** and pair of 1852 Issue 25 centimes stamps

September 9 "New-York Br. Pkt." entry mark - quadruple-weight 20¢ due

1849 Issue 1 franc cerise only known used in Paris during late 1853

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

13 Décimes Frankings



Prepaid 13 décimes on May 19, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Arabia* to New York
Franked by 1849 Issue 15c pair and 1 franc carmine - 5¢ due per "N. York Br. Pkt." mark



Prepaid 13 décimes on August 23, 1853 in Guebwiller - Cunard steamer *Asia* to New York
Franked by 1849 Issue 40 centimes and 1852 Issue 10 centimes stamps - 5¢ due

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

US Due Marks



Prepaid 13 décimes on August 12, 1856 in Levier - Cunard steamer *Niagara* to Boston
10¢ due includes 5¢ transcontinental inland postage surcharge



Prepaid 13 décimes on June 8, 1854 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to Boston
Franked by 1853 Issue 1 franc and 10 centimes stamps - 5¢ due per "Boston Br. Pkt" mark

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Per the 1856 France-GB Treaty, France credited 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter) to GB and charged 40c per 7.5 grams inland, for total prepayments of 50c. The US collected 5¢ inland plus 16¢ packet postage



Prepaid 50 centimes on February 16, 1857 in Paris - 1853 Issue 10 and 40 centimes stamps
Collins Line steamer *Atlantic* from Liverpool to New York on March 6 - 21¢ due in the US
Very little westbound mail was sent by this route due to higher cost and fewer sailings

Only 7 westbound sailings during this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 39 décimes on September 18, 1856 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Africa* to New York

Franked by 1853 Issue 80 centimes carmine tête-bêche strip (repaired) - double-weight 10¢ due



Prepaid quintuple-weight 65 décimes on December 22, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to Boston

Franked by 1853 Issue 1 franc strip of six (repaired) – quadruple-weight 20¢ due

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Per the 1856 France-GB Treaty, GB debited France 16 décimes per 30 grams (40 centimes per letter) for transit & sea postage. French inland was 40c per 7.5 grams, so total due was 8 décimes. US inland was 5c (10c from West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 5¢ on March 16, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1856 5¢ stamp
Cunard steamer *America* from Boston - March 25 "Boston Br. Pkt." transit mark
"GB 1F 60c" bulk debit from GB to France - double-weight 16 décimes due

Only 12 eastbound sailings during this period