

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

Le Havre Maritime Bureau



Prepaid 80 centimes on October 10, 1860 at Le Havre maritime bureau - 12¢ credit (Le Havre style)

Vanderbilt Line steamer *Illinois* - fifth of only five sailings by this steamship



Prepaid 80 centimes on December 14, 1858 at Le Havre maritime bureau - 12¢ credit to the US

Blue "Am Service" mark applied in New York - NY & Havre Line steamer *Fulton*

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

NY & Havre Line Revival

Transatlantic service by the NY & Havre Line was interrupted by the Civil War from December 1861 until November 1865. Service resumed briefly until the Line went out of business in November 1867.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on September 26, 1866 in Le Havre - 1862 Issue 40c stamps

Double-weight 24¢ credit (Le Havre style) to the US - NY & Havre Line steamship *Arago*

October 10 "N. York Am. Pkt. Paid" entry marking

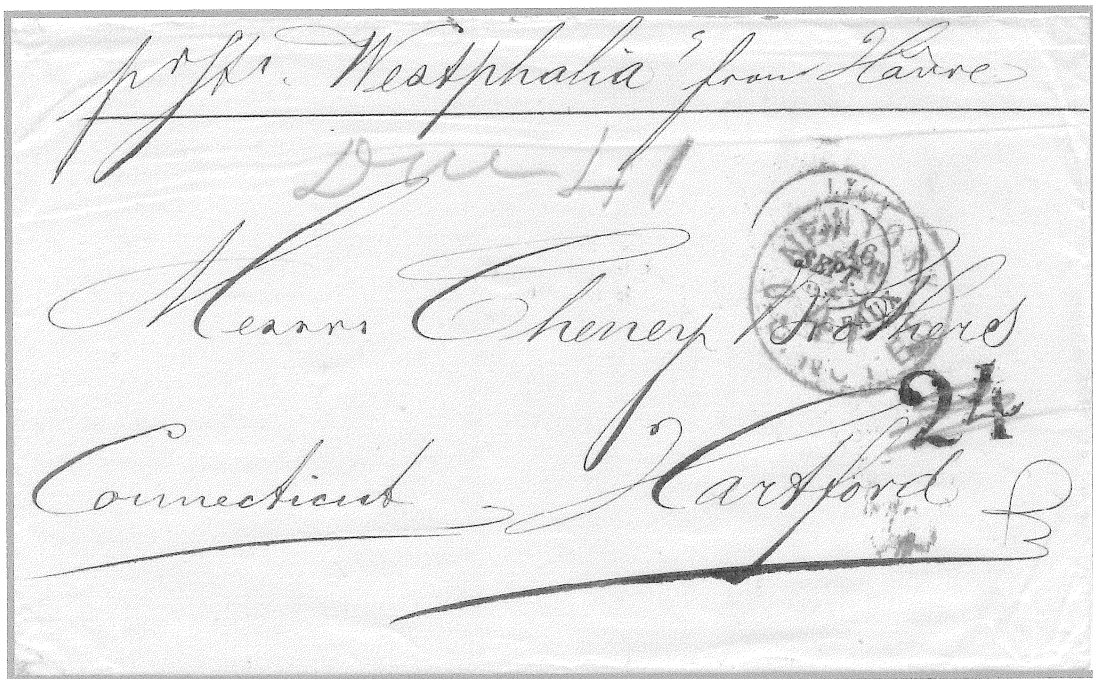
Only 29 NY & Havre Line sailings in the revival period

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

HAPAG Line

The HAPAG Line began a direct packet service under US contract starting January 8, 1869. From November 1867 until January 1869, there had been no American direct packet service.



Posted double-weight unpaid on September 16, 1869 in Lyon - HAPAG steamer *Westphalia*
Incorrect double-weight 24¢ debit (should be 6¢) to the US - mistaken for French direct packet
30¢ in coin or 41¢ in depreciated US notes due in the US

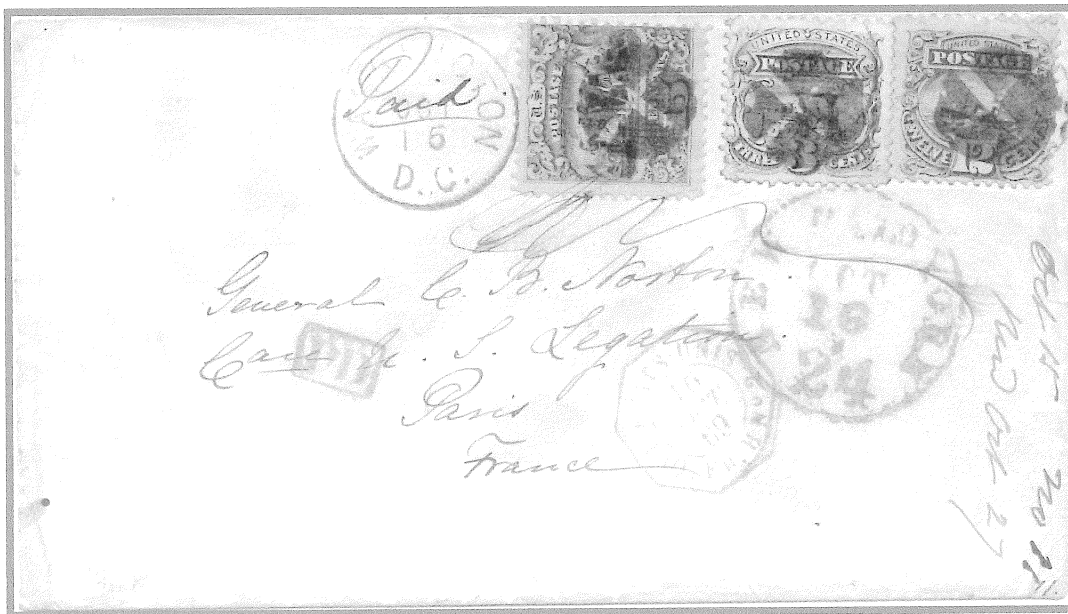
Only 50 HAPAG Line sailings in this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Franking

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, also called Ligne H, began direct packet operations on June 15, 1864. The 15c 1857 Treaty rate applied, and the US credited France 12c per ¼ ounce for packet and inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on October 15, 1869 in Washington, D.C. - Ligne H *Lafayette* from New York

October 16 "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. H No. 2" embarkation postmark applied in New York harbor

Double-weight 24¢ credit from US to France in New York postmark

1869 Issue 3-color franking with 3¢, 12¢, and 15¢ type I stamps

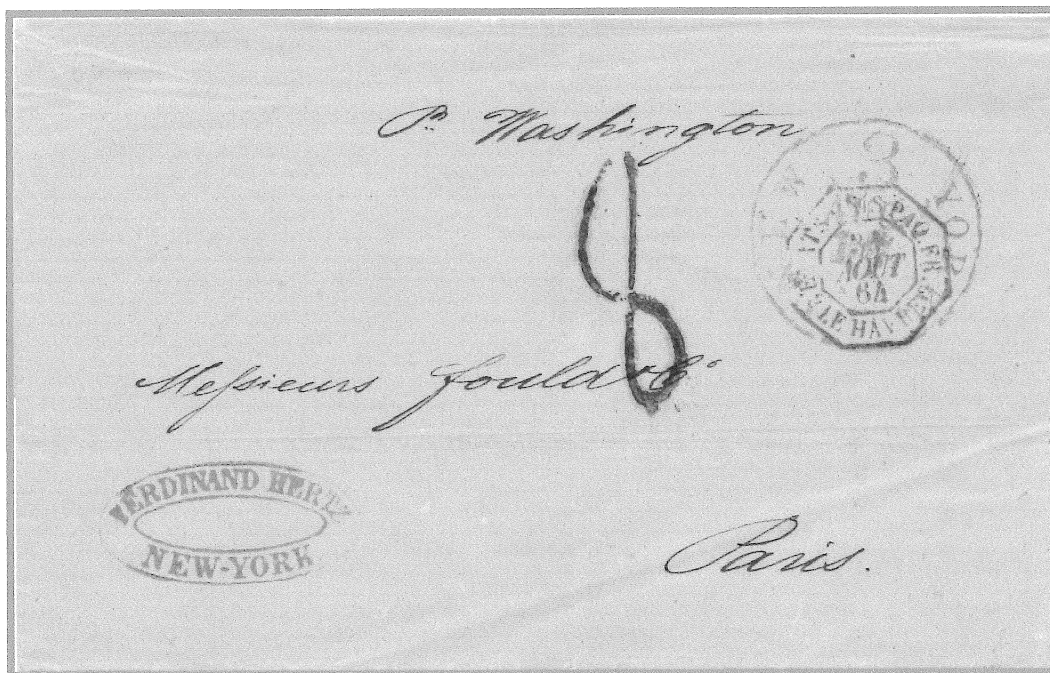
Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

First Sailings of the CGT Line



Sent unpaid on July 5, 1864 from Boston - **first eastbound sailing of the CGT Line by the *Washington***
Triple-weight 9¢ debit to France - July 18 "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Le Havre" mark - triple-weight 24 décimes due

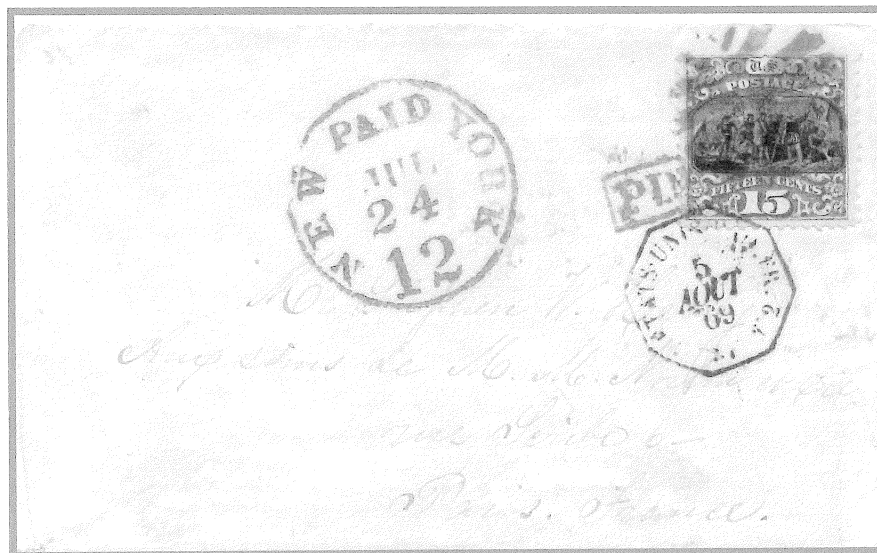


Sent unpaid August 17, 1864 from New York - **second eastbound sailing of the CGT Line by the *Washington***
"Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Le Havre" entry mark used July 1864 to May 1865 - 3¢ debit to France - 8 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

French Entry Markings



Prepaid with 1869 15¢ type II on July 24, 1869 in New York - *St Laurent* arrived in Le Havre on August 5
Obsolete 1866 entry marking "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Brest" applied in Paris only for this voyage

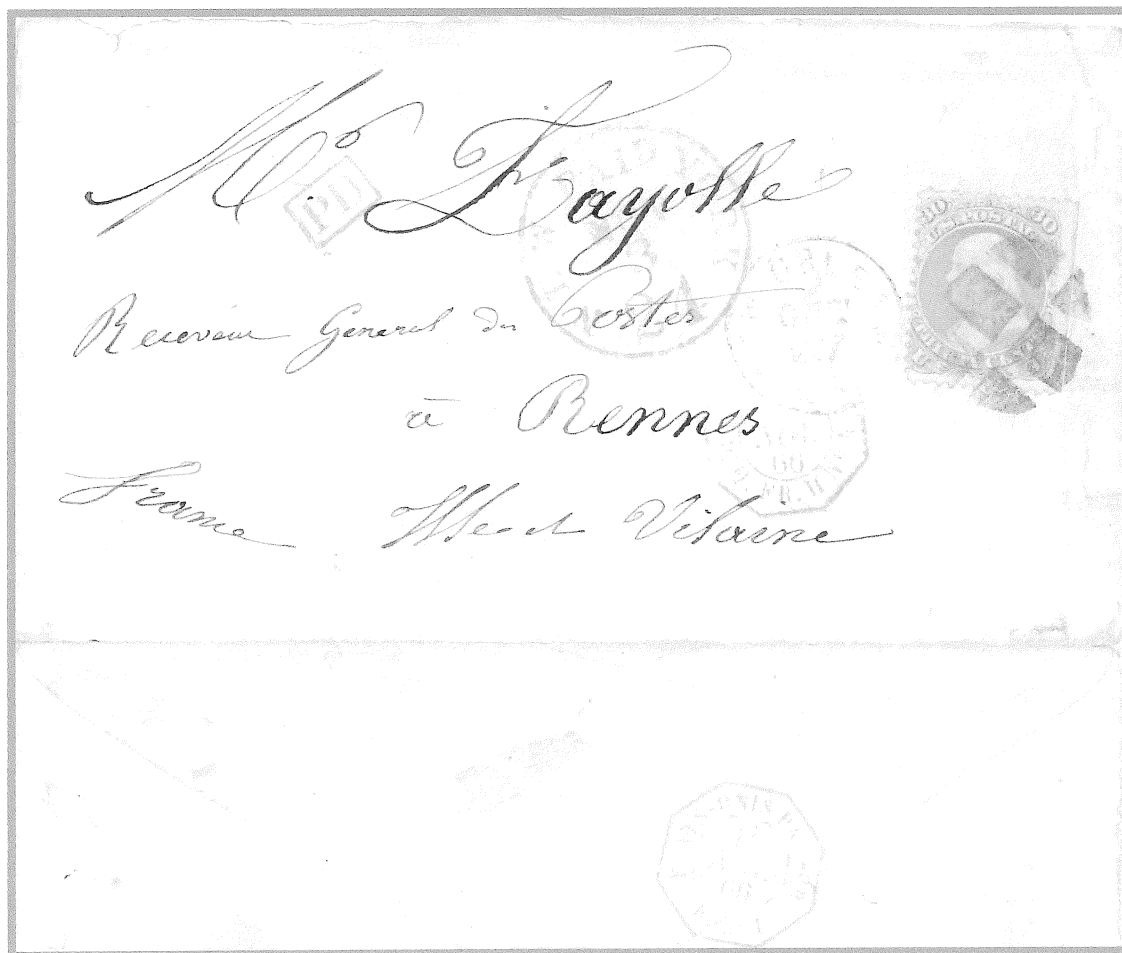


Prepaid 15¢ in 1861 Issue stamps on March 29, 1865 in New York - *Washington* arrived at Le Havre April 10
"Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Le Havre" entry marking only used July 1864 to May 1865 - 12¢ credit to France

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

French Entry Mark



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on October 27, 1866 in New Orleans - maiden voyage of steamer *St Laurent*
24¢ credit to France - November 3 'Ligne H Paq. Fr. H' Embarkation mark applied in New York harbor
'Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Brest' entry mark only seen on mail addressed to region around Brest

Fewer than five examples of this Brest entry marking are known

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Multiple Weight Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ on November 25, 1867 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *St Laurent*
36¢ credit - 1861 Issue franking - **incorrectly dated Ligne H embarkation mark cancelled by “anchor”**



Prepaid sextuple-weight 90¢ on December 22, 1866 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *St Laurent*
Quintuple 60¢ credit to France - **1861 Issue 90¢ stamp is rare on cover**

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

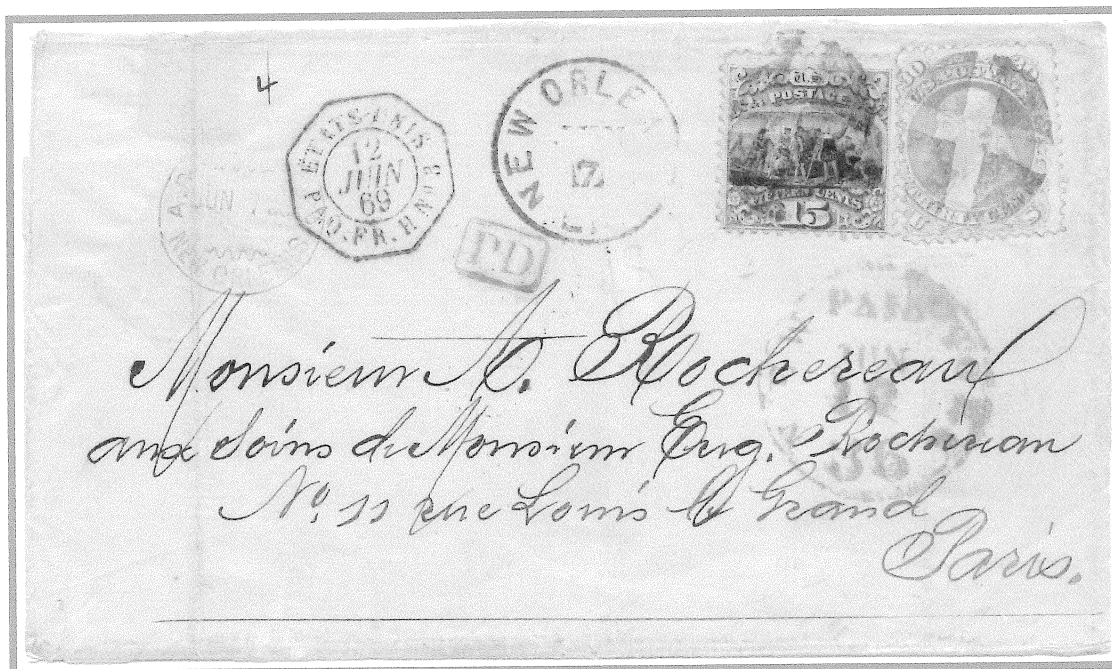
French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid quadruple-rate 60¢ on November 12, 1869 in Providence, RI - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*

Quadruple 48¢ credit to France - largest known multiple of 1869 15¢ type II on cover



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ on June 7, 1869 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris* to Brest
Triple 36¢ credit to France - fewer than five combinations of 1869 15¢ type I and 30¢ 'F' grill known

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Ligne H Embarkation Marks



Prepaid 15¢ on March 4, 1869 in Louisville - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris* - 12¢ credit to France
1868 3¢ “E” grill stamps - Ligne H transit mark used exceptionally as embarkation mark

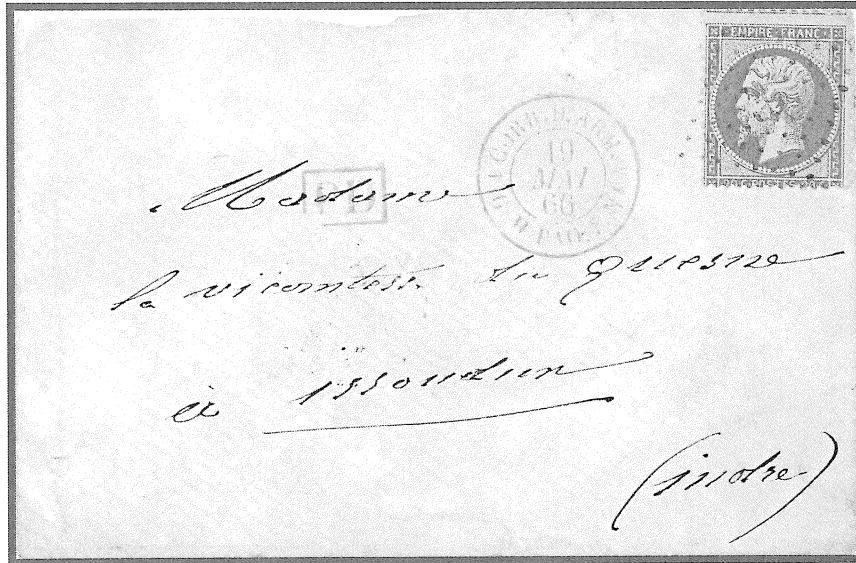


Franked with 1868 15¢ “F” grill stamp on September 14, 1869 in New Haven - French “ancre” cancel
Ligne H steamer *St Laurent* - black Ligne H embarkation mark applied September 18 in New York harbor

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Posted On Board Steamship



Franked 20 centimes naval concession rate by Captain of French cruiser *Laurier* in New York harbor
Transferred May 19, 1866 to nearby Ligne H steamer *Napoleon III* and posted on board
Rare 'Corr. D. Arm. Lig. H Paq. F, No. 4' mark applied to confirm military use - **"ancre" cancel**



Franked with 1866 15¢ on August 24, 1867 - taken directly to Ligne H steamer *Péreire*
Red Ligne H embarkation mark and **French "ancre" cancel** applied in New York harbor

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

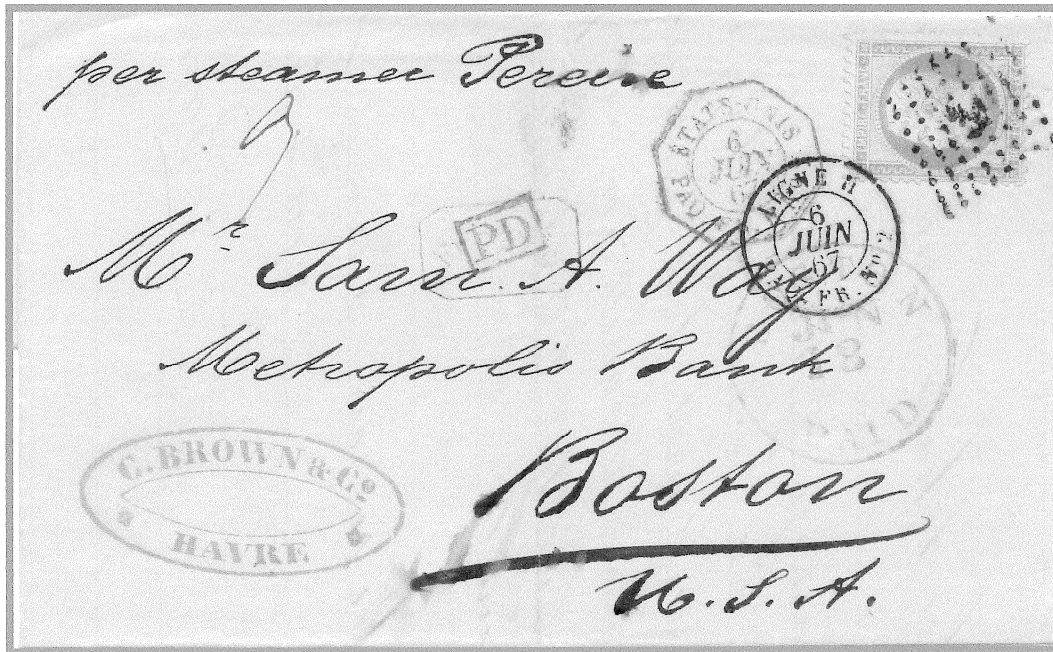
Ship Name Postmarks



Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Processed By Steamship Mail Agent



Prepaid 80 centimes on June 6, 1867 on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Le Havre harbor - 3¢ credit to US
Blue boxed "Fr Service" applied in Boston - octagonal embarkation postmark normally used on eastbound mail

Fewer than 10 covers with maritime postmarks and "anchor" cancels are known from this period



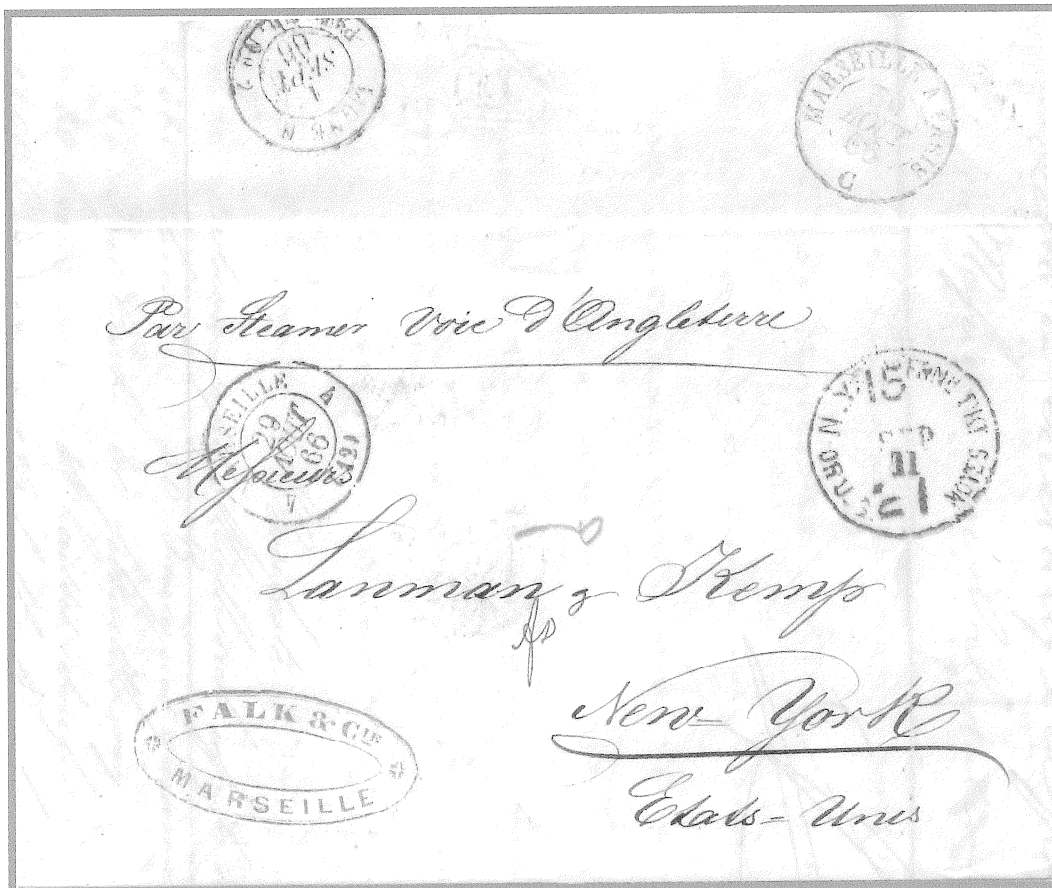
Prepaid 80 centimes on October 10, 1868 on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Brest harbor - 3¢ credit to US
Circular Ligne H postmark shows date of departure from Le Havre - stamps cancelled by "anchor" cancels

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Unpaid Mail

The 1857 Treaty permitted unpaid mail. France debited the US 12c per 7.5 grams for sea & inland postage, and the US collected the 15c per ¼ oz. Treaty rate. Post-Civil War inflation caused higher collections in US notes.



Posted unpaid on August 29, 1866 in Marseille - 12¢ debit to US not indicated

Ligne H steamer *Pereire* from Brest - September 1 Ligne H transit marking

Rare "N.Y. Frnh Pkt" depreciated currency due marking: 15¢ in coin or 21¢ in notes

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

New York French Packet Marks



Prepaid quadruple-weight 32 décimes on February 28, 1867 in Bordeaux- quadruple 12¢ credit to US
March 12 "N. York Fr. Pkt. Paid" entry mark only used February 1867 to June 1868



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on December 14, 1865 in Le Havre - double 6¢ credit to US
"Fr Service" marking normally applied in blue to signify direct service (red intended for via England)

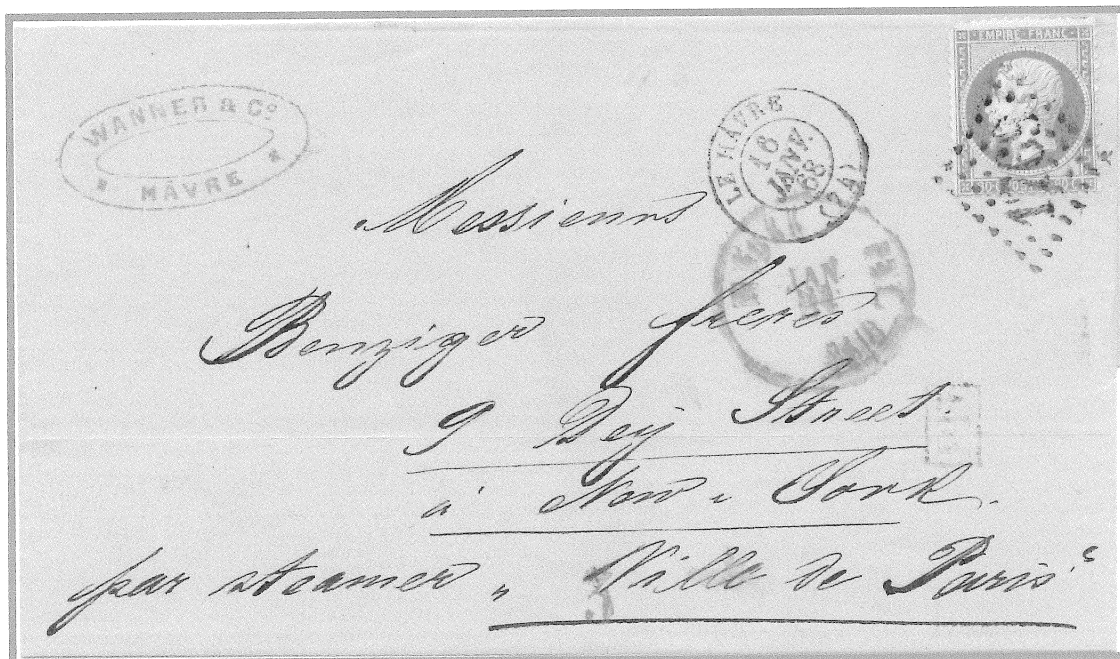
Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

French Packet Postmarks



Prepaid 80 centimes on November 8, 1866 in Paris- 3¢ credit to US not indicated - Ligne H *Ville de Paris*
November 21 "New York Paid Fr. Pkt." entry mark only used April 1865 to July 1867



Prepaid 80 centimes on January 16, 1868 in Le Havre - 3¢ credit to US - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*
January 31 "N. York Pkt. Paid" marking shows elimination of steamship nationalities in January 1868

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Franking

June 1867 US-GB Treaty made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails, and eliminated distinction between American and British packets, effective January 1. Mail from US shows 6c credit to France for transit and inland postage.



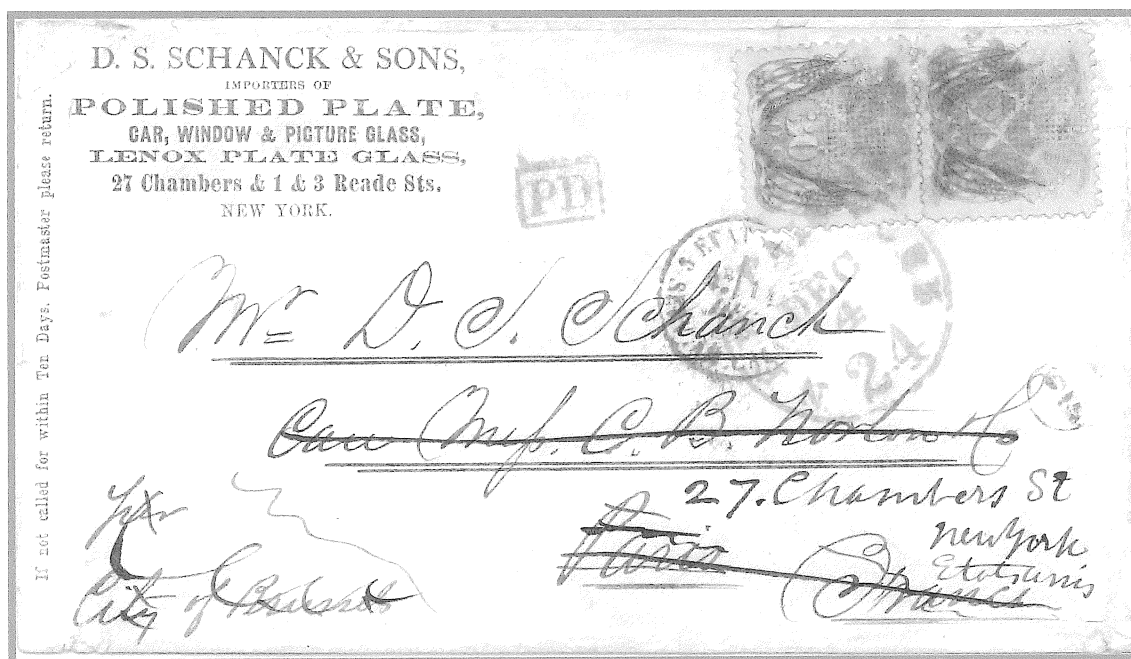
Overpaid 90¢ in June 1869 at US Yokohama post office - 80¢ was 1 oz. trans-Pacific and trans-Atlantic rate
PMSC steamer *Japan* to San Francisco on July 20, and NGL steamer *Rhein* from New York on July 29
“China & Japan Steam Service” marking indicates Japanese origin - triple-weight 18¢ credit to France

Fewer than 10 covers are known franked by 1869 Issue 30¢ pair

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid four times 15¢ rate Dec. 4, 1869 in New York - Inman liner *City of Brussels* - 24¢ credit to France

Forwarded back to New York - fewer than 10 covers are known franked with two 1869 Issue 30¢ stamps

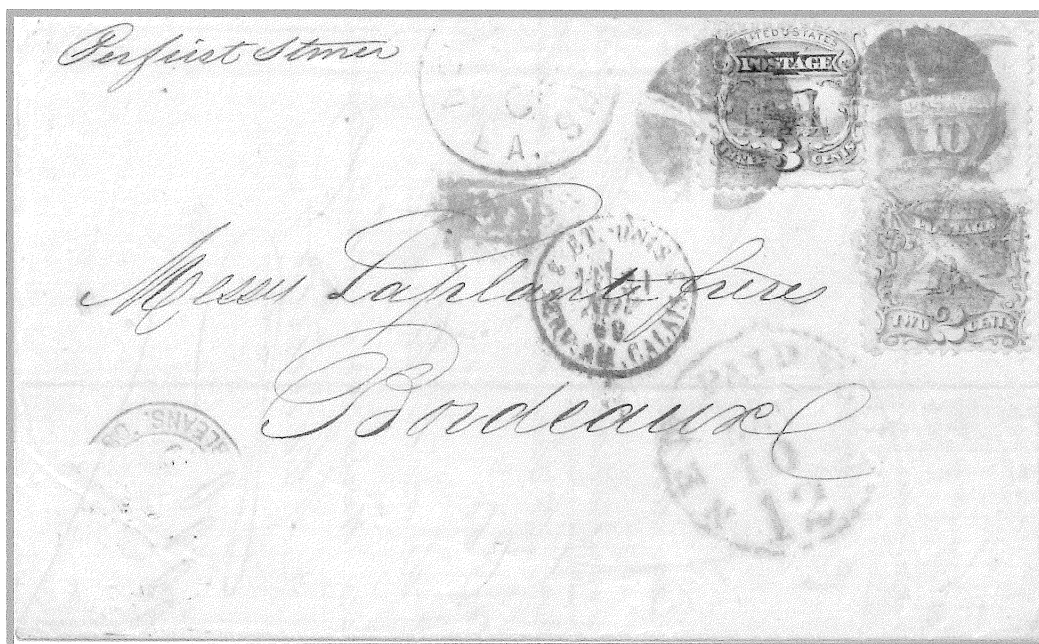


Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ August 23, 1869 in NY - type I 15¢ stamp with 30¢ 'F' grill - incorrect credit marks

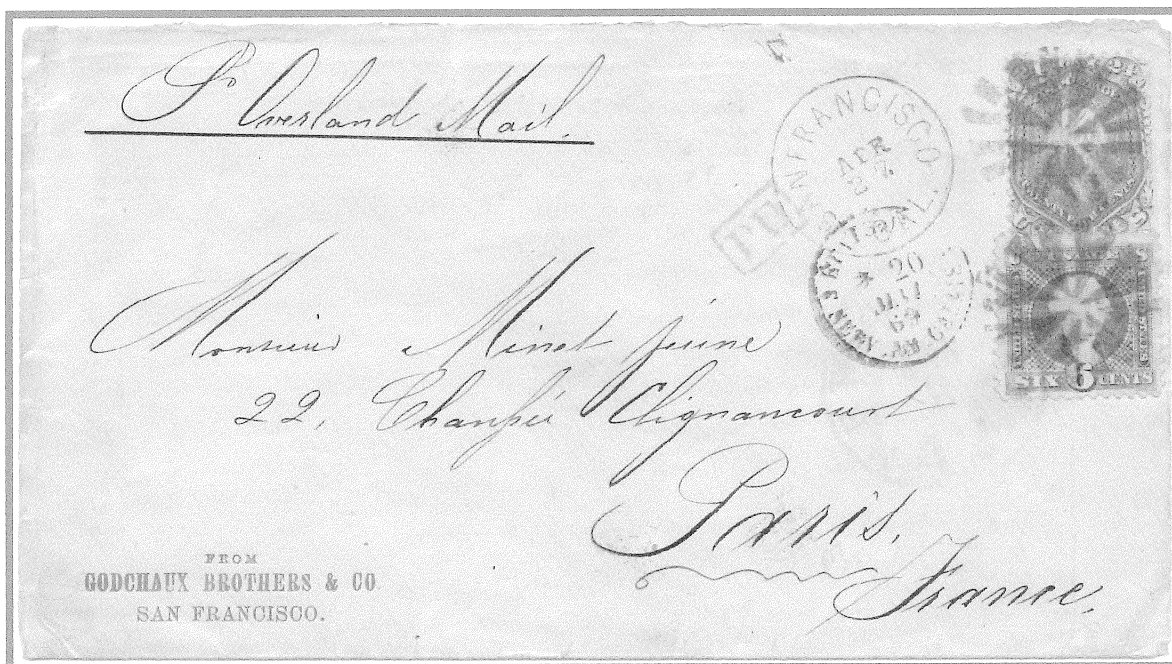
Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 15¢ Treaty rate November 6, 1869 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Cuba* left NY November 10
Incorrect double 6¢ credit to France in New York postmark - **tri-color 1869 Issue franking**

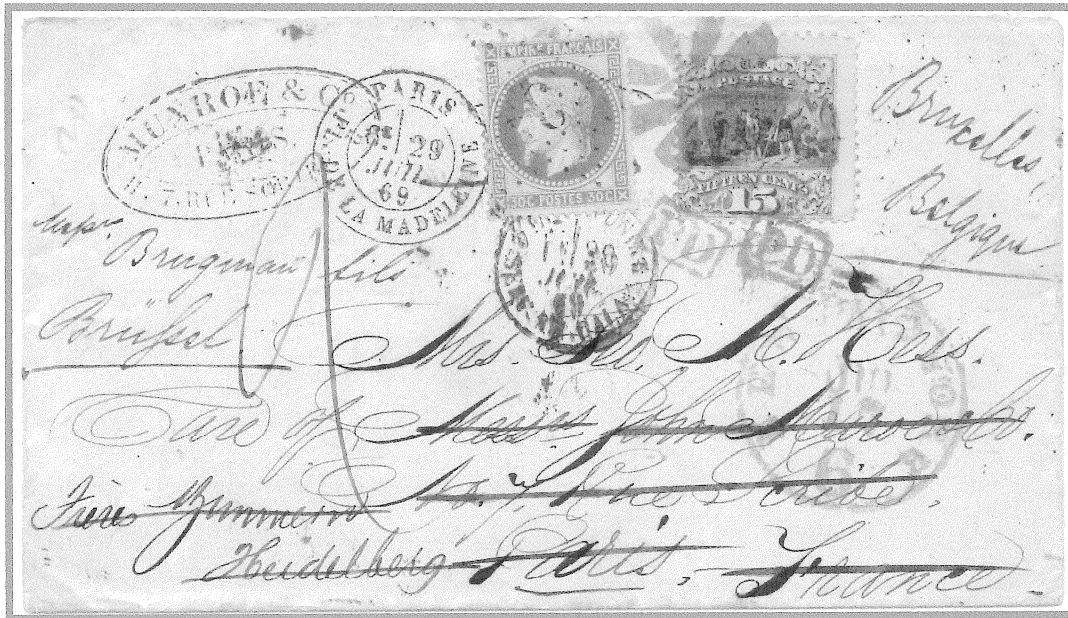


Prepaid two times 15¢ rate on April 27, 1869 in San Francisco - NGL steamer *Bremen* left New York May 8
Double 6¢ credit to France - 6¢ stamp used one day later than earliest known use - 24¢ 'F' grill stamp

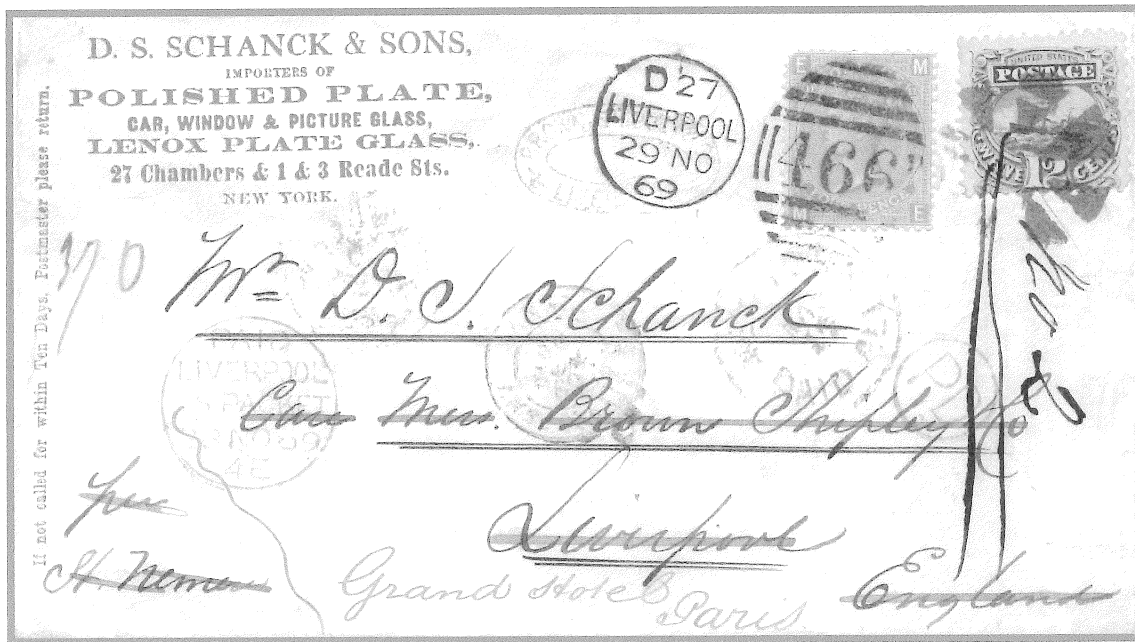
Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Forwarded Mixed Frankings



Prepaid 15¢ with 1869 Issue type I stamp on July 17, 1869 in NY - Inman steamer *City of Boston*
6¢ credit to France - forwarded July 29 from Paris to Heidelberg with French 30 centimes stamp

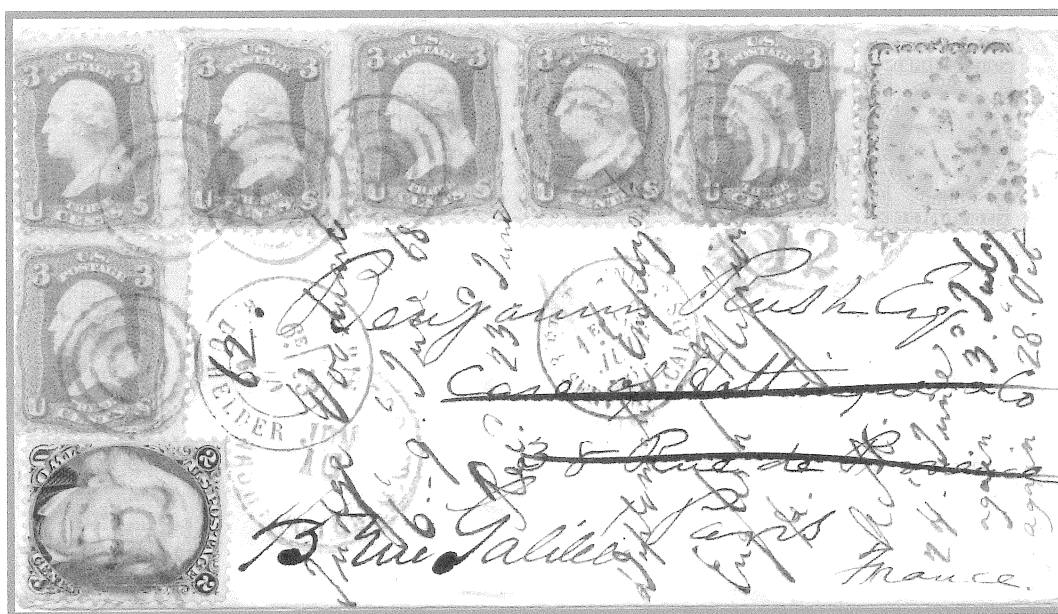


Prepaid 12¢ rate to England on November 17, 1869 in New York - Cunard steamer *Nemesis*
Forwarded November 29 by Brown Shipley & Co. from Liverpool to Paris with British 6d stamp

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Unusual Usages



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ rate on June 10, 1868 at Washington, D.C. Congress office - 1868 “F” grill stamps
NGL steamship *America* - double-weight 12¢ credit to France - forwarded with French 10 centimes stamp



Prepaid **supplementary mail** 30¢ rate on April 7, 1869 in New York - 1868 15¢ “F” grill - Cunard liner *Scotia*
6¢ credit to France - “Et. Unis Serv. Am. A.C.” entry mark used only for supplementary mail in this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1868 US-GB Treaty

January 1, 1868 US-GB Treaty made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails, and eliminated distinction between American and British packets. Per the 1857 Treaty, mail from France shows 3c credit to the USA for inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on February 7, 1868 at Le Havre - 1862 Issue 80 centimes stamps

Cunard steamer *Cuba* to New York February 19 - double 6¢ credit (Le Havre style) to the US

US entry marks without indication of packet nationality

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

British Open Mail

January 1, 1868 US-GB Treaty set 3¢ credit to the US for inland postage on British ships not normally engaged in the transport of French mail. This credit was reduced to 2¢ by the January 1, 1869 US-GB Treaty.



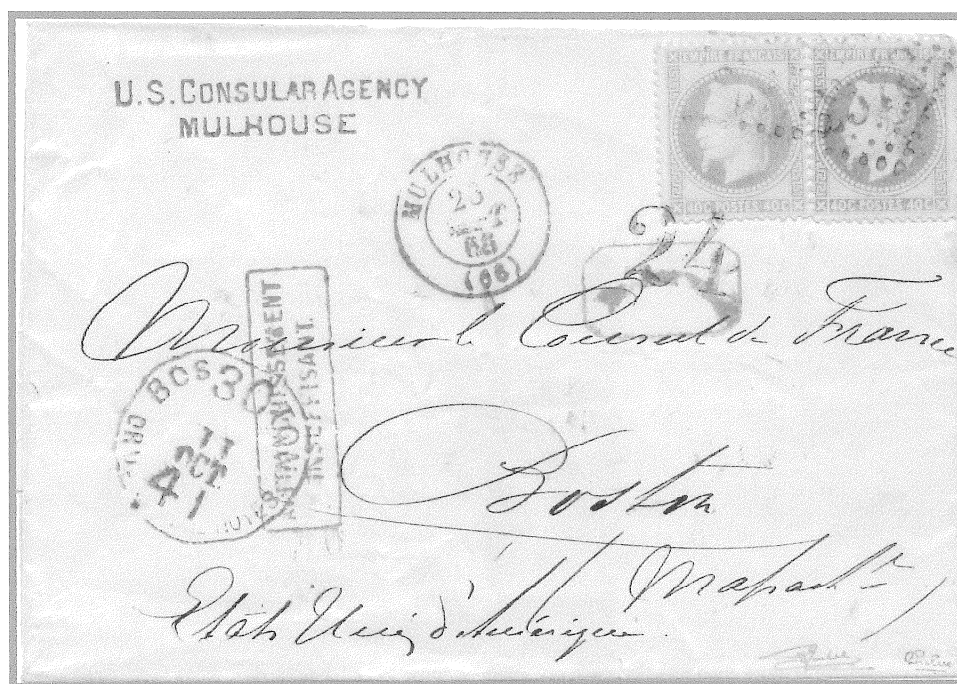
Prepaid 80 centimes on May 27, 1868 at Le Havre - 1863 Issue 80 centimes stamp
Liverpool Southern Steamship Co. steamer *Olinda* direct from Liverpool to New Orleans
80c rate paid the letter only to US frontier, but 1868 US-GB Treaty set 3¢ credit to the USA

“3 Cents” credit markings only seen in 1868

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Unusual Usages



Double-weight letter underpaid 80 centimes on Sept. 26, 1868 in Mulhouse - Inman steamer *City of Washington*
Use of obsolete “Br Service” mark at Boston - double 24¢ debit to US - 30¢ in coin or 41¢ in US notes due



Prepaid 80 centimes on April 17, 1868 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Java* - 3¢ credit to the US
Unclaimed in New York and returned to French “Rebuts & Réclamations” bureau in September

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

4¢ British Open Mail Rate

December 1869 US-GB Treaty set 2c packet and 2c inland per ½ oz. rates to replace the expired 15c 1857 Treaty rate. GB charged France 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter), and France collected 40 centimes inland postage plus 10 centimes for GB.



Prepaid 4¢ British open mail rate on January 4, 1870 in Boston - Guion steamship *Manhattan*
GB charged France 40 centimes bulk rate per “GB 40c” marking - set by 1856 France-GB Treaty
Double-weight 10 décimes due - 20 centimes to GB plus 80 centimes inland postage

New rate structure due to expiration of 1857 France-USA Treaty

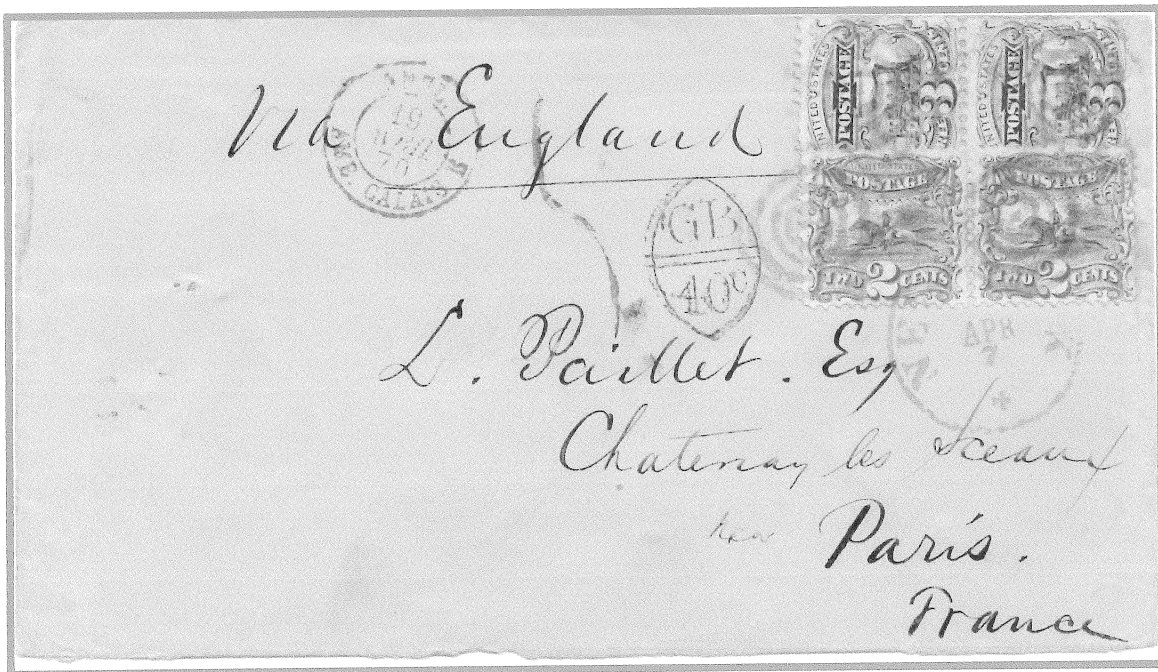
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Overpaid 10¢ Direct Rate



Overpaid 10¢ direct rate January 12, 1870 in New Orleans - Guion steamer *Minnesota* via England
 Rated "PAID-ONLY TO ENGLAND" in Great Britain - double-weight 10 décimes due



Overpaid 10¢ direct rate April 7, 1870 in NY - sent in British open mail per NGL steamer *Hansa*
 French entry mark "Angl. Amb. Calais" - 5 décimes due for letter weighing less than 7.5 grams

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Unpaid/Underpaid Mail



Posted unpaid February 19, 1870 in New York - NGL steamship *Donau* to Southampton - 4¢ US debit to GB "G.B. Art.38" debit mark (used Jan.-Mar. 1870) mis-interpreted by France - double-weight 10 décimes due



Underpaid double-weight letter posted April 13, 1870 in NY - 4¢ postage ignored and letter rated as unpaid Blue double-weight 8¢ US debit to GB - Guion steamship *Idaho* - correct double-weight 16 décimes due 2 francs per 30 grams GB unpaid mail debit to France (1 Fr 20c transit & sea per 1856 Treaty plus 80c to US)

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1870

12¢ "Phantom" Rate

1868 US-GB Treaty set fully-paid 12¢ rate per ½ ounce, effective January 1, 1870. The US credited GB 8¢ per 7.5 grams for GB-to-France postage. This rate was not announced by U.S.P.O. and is only seen rarely on eastbound mail via New York.



Overpaid 15¢ expired 1857 Treaty rate on April 23, 1870 in New York - 1869 Issue franking on 1864 3¢ entire

North German Lloyd steamship *Union* from New York - postmarked "New York Paid All Br. Transit"

US credited GB 8¢ - 30 centimes French inland (6¢) plus 2¢ GB transit

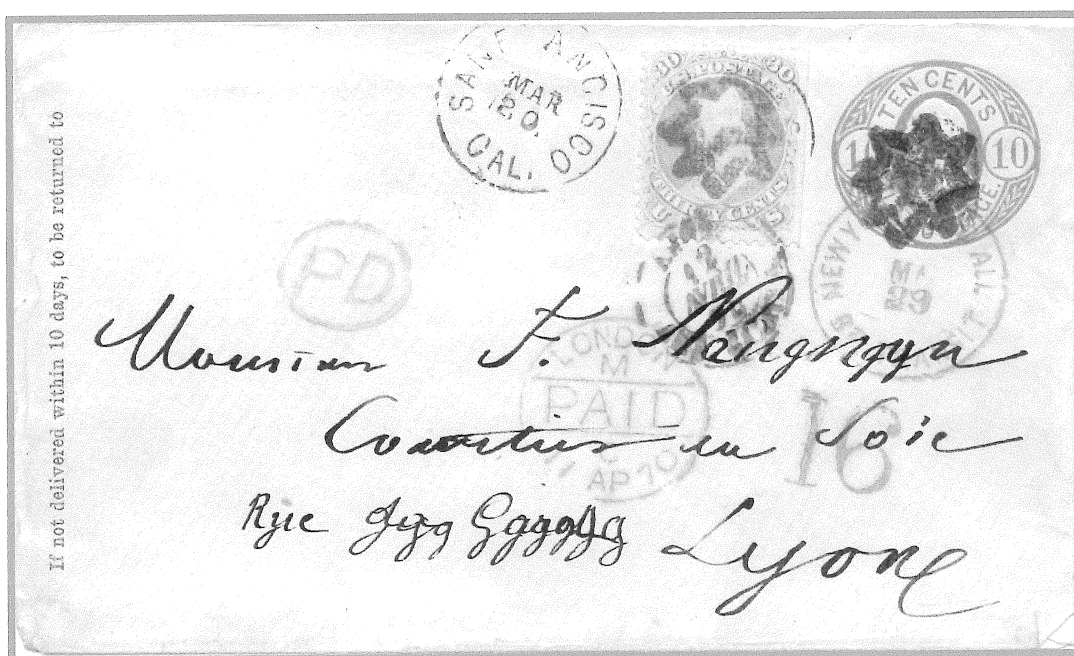
Unannounced fully-paid eastbound rate

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1870

Multiple-Weight Franking

The unannounced fully-paid 12¢ “Phantom” rate consisted of 4¢ per 15 grams retained by the US, and 8¢ per 7.5 grams for the GB-to-France postage. Different weight progressions complicate the analysis of markings on multiple-weight covers.



Overpaid 40¢ (should be 20¢) on March 20, 1870 in San Francisco - 1868 30¢ “F” grill on 1861 10¢ entire

Guion steamship *Manhattan* from New York May 29 - postmarked “New York Paid All Br. Transit”

20¢ rate consisted of single-weight 4¢ for the US, plus credit for double-weight 16¢ to GB

Rate was in effect for only six months

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Forwarded Mixed Franking

January 1, 1870 Imperial Decree set fully-paid 70 centimes per 10 grams rate via British open mail. France paid GB 40 centimes per 30 grams for transit and sea postage, and GB credited the US 2¢ for inland postage.



Prepaid 70 centimes on March 13, 1871 at Menton - 1870 Bordeaux Issue 30c and 40c stamps

Cunard steamer *Java* - 2¢ GB credit to the US - forwarded with US 1870 Issue 3¢ stamp

Fully-paid 70 centimes rate replaced 80 centimes 1857 Treaty rate

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

70 Centimes Frankings



Prepaid 70 centimes by **Bowles Bros. forwarder** on February 28, 1870 in Paris - 1863 Issue 30c & 40c stamps
Inman steamer *City of Washington* from Liverpool to New York on March 14 - 2¢ GB credit to the US

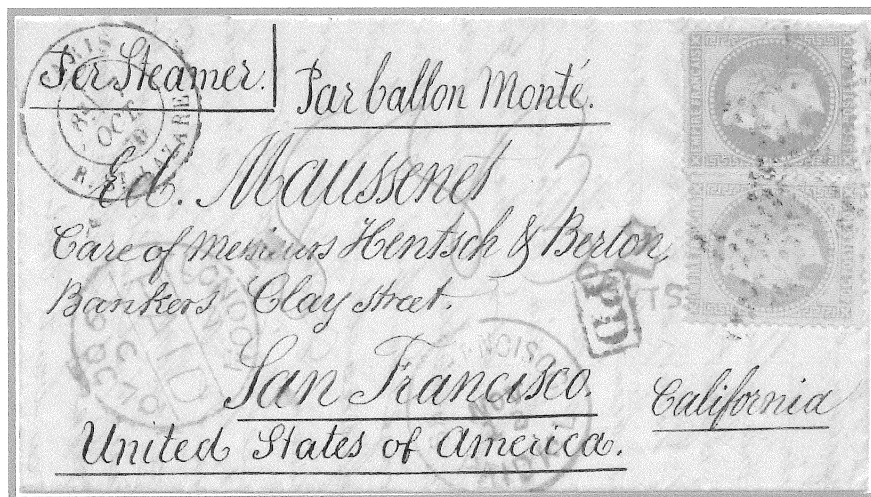


Prepaid 70 centimes on May 17, 1871 in Bordeaux - 1870 Bordeaux Issue 10c "citron" and 20c type III
Cunard steamer *Scotia* from Liverpool to New York on May 30 - 2¢ GB credit to the US

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

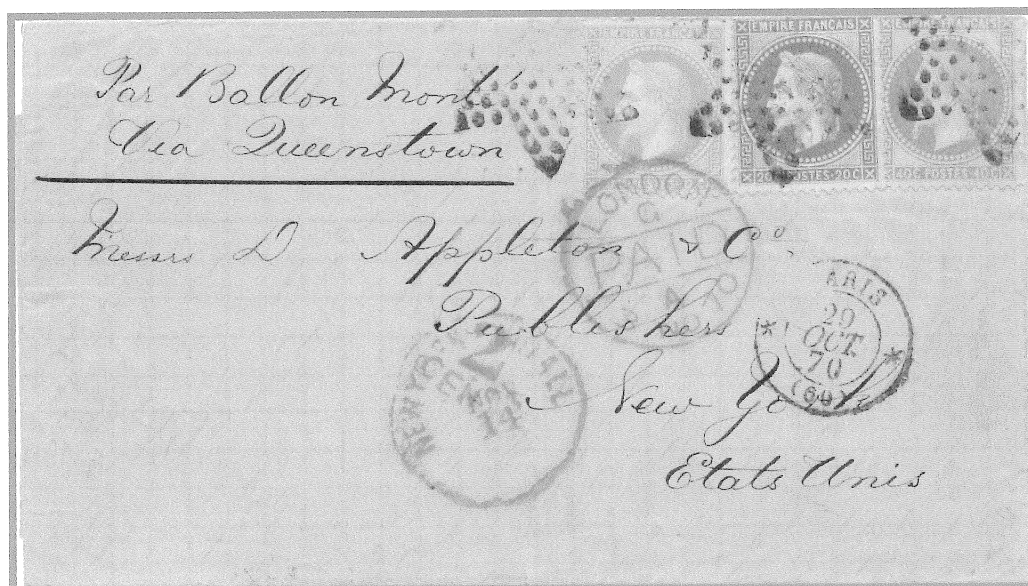
Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Siege of Paris Balloon Mail



Prepaid 70 centimes on October 7, 1870 - flown out of besieged Paris by balloon "Jean Bart #1"

Allan liner *Scandinavian* to Quebec - closed mails to San Francisco - 2¢ GB credit to the US



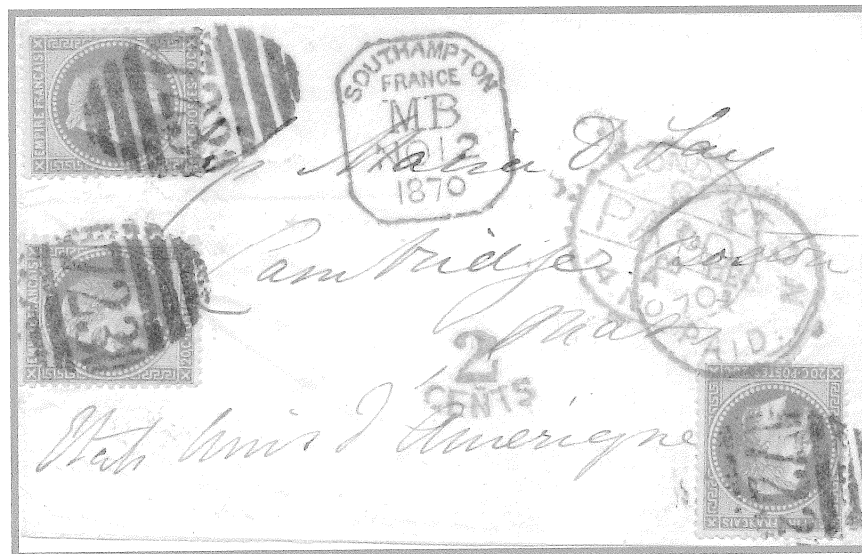
Prepaid 70 centimes on October 29, 1870 - flown out of besieged Paris by balloon "Colonel Charras"

Inman steamer *City of Washington* to New York - 2¢ GB credit to the US - rare "*Paris*" postmark

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Southampton Mobile Box



Underpaid 60 centimes on November 12, 1870 in Le Havre - **posted on Havre-Southampton steamer**
Cunard steamer *Siberia* to Boston - accepted as fully-paid in GB - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Underpaid 40 centimes on July 5, 1870 in Le Havre - **rated "PAID-ONLY TO ENGLAND"**
Posted on Havre-Southampton steamer - NGL steamer *Weser II* to New York on July 16
2¢ GB debit for sea postage to the US - 5¢ due in US (2¢ to GB plus 3¢ inland)

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

April-May 1871 Paris Commune



Prepaid 70 centimes on May 18, 1871 in Paris during Commune - hand-carried out of besieged Paris
Posted May 19 in nearby Maisons-Alfort - Cunard steamer *Algeria* - 2¢ credit to the US - franking repaired



Underpaid 14 décimes on April 27, 1871 in Nice - sea detour via St Nazaire April 30 around Paris Commune
NGL steamer *Weser II* - triple-weight 38¢ GB debit to US - 47¢ in depreciated notes or 42¢ in coin due

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Franco-Prussian War Sea Detours



Overpaid 80 centimes on November 7, 1870 in Bordeaux - sea detour via St Nazaire around besieged Paris
Allan Line steamer *Austrian* to Portland - 2¢ credit to the US - closed mail to San Francisco on November 29

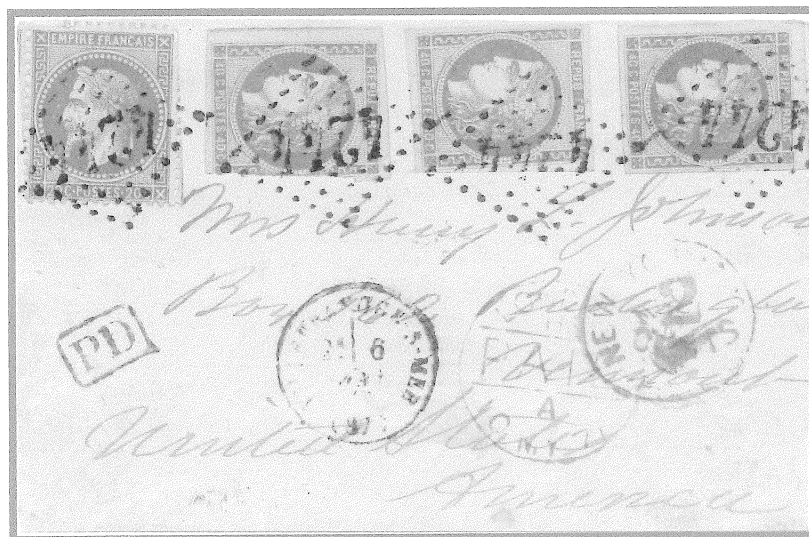


Prepaid 70c on Dec. 14, 1870 in Le Havre - direct steamer to GB since Le Havre was cut off by Germans
Allan Line steamer *Moravian* to Portland- December 31 Chicago transit postmark - 2¢ GB credit to US

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

1870 Bordeaux Issue Frankings



Prepaid double-weight 14 décimes on May 6, 1871 in Villefranche - 40c "rouge-sang" stamps

Inman steamer *City of Brussels* to New York on May 21 - 2¢ GB credit to the US



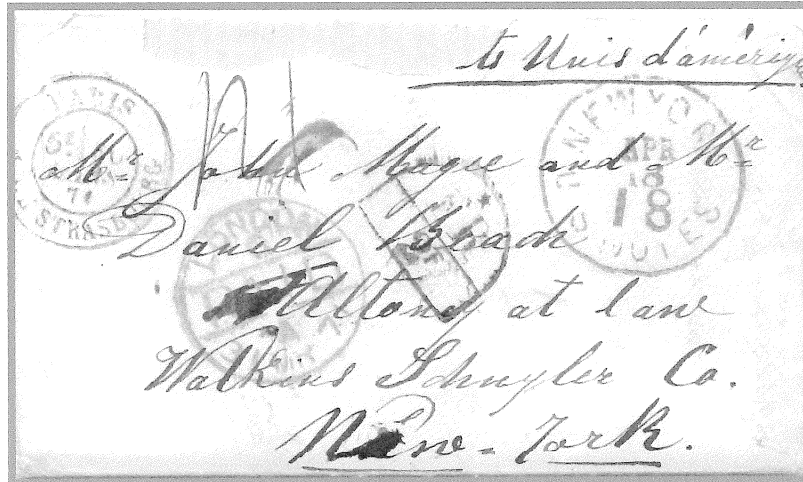
Prepaid 70c on April 5, 1871 in Montpellier - 3-color franking: 10c, 20c type III & 40c orange

Cunard steamer *Batavia* to New York on April 23 - 2¢ GB credit to US

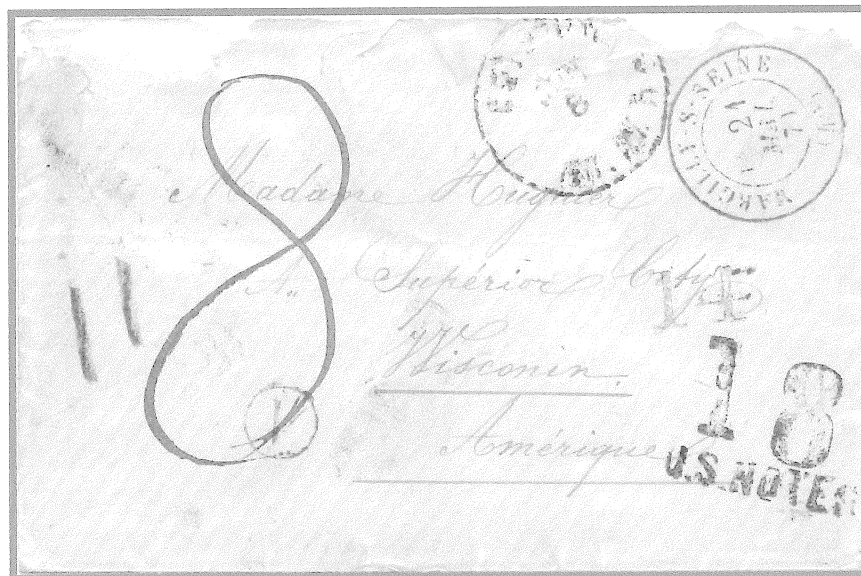
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Unpaid Mail



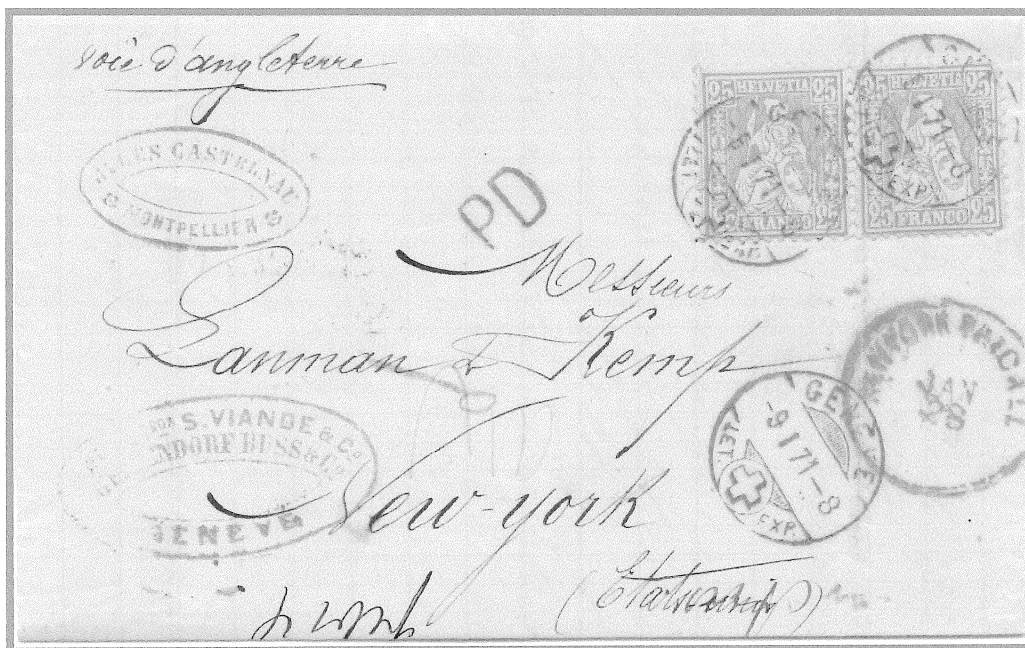
Posted unpaid on March 30, 1871 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Cuba* to New York
2 francs per 30 grams French debit to GB per “*FR 2F” mark (50 centimes per 7.5 gram letter)
14¢ GB debit to US (10¢ to France plus 4¢ transit & sea postage) - 16¢ or 18¢ in US notes due



Posted unpaid on May 21, 1871 in Marcilly - Allan liner *Peruvian* to Quebec
14¢ GB debit to US - “18 U.S. NOTES” Chicago depreciated currency due marking

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871 Unusual Franco-Prussian War Usages



Forwarded privately on January 7, 1871 from Montpellier via **Switzerland** to avoid German occupation area
Inman steamer *City of London* - 50 centimes rate from Switzerland via GB set by May 1870 Swiss-US Treaty



Prepaid 60 centimes on December 10, 1870 in **German-occupied Reims** - Feld-Post Relais Bureau #25
Alsace-Lorraine occupation stamps - Inman liner *City of Brooklyn* - 60c rate from occupation area via GB

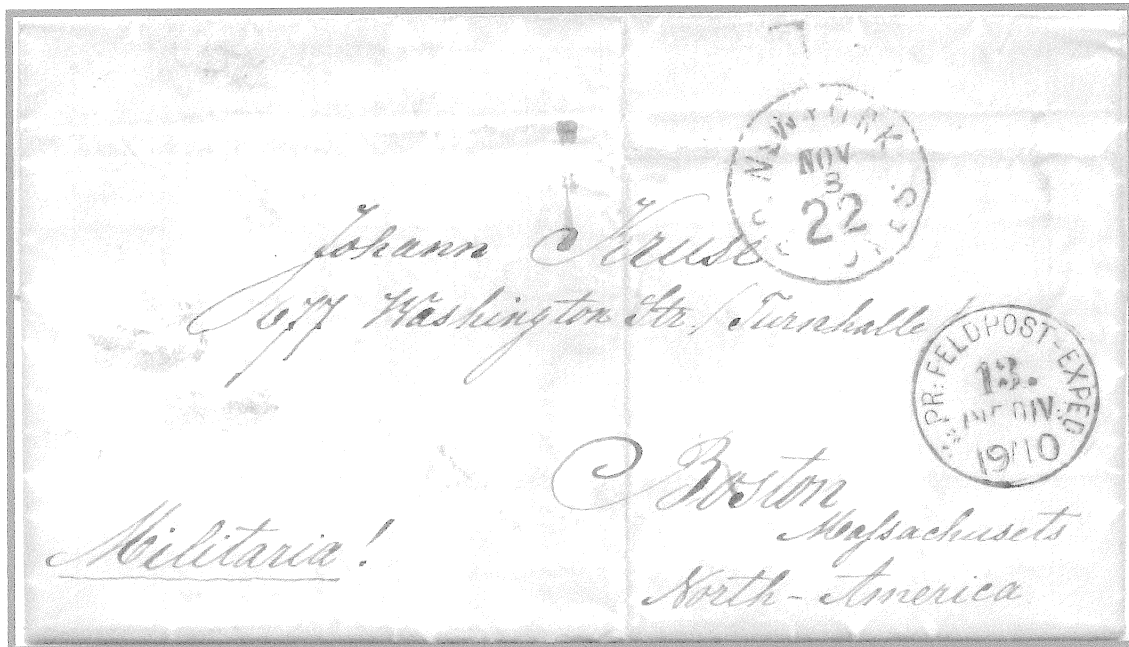
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Franco-Prussian War Occupation



Prepaid 50 centimes on December 21, 1870 in **German-annexed Ober-Sulz** - Cunard steamer *Siberia*
Alsace-Lorraine Issue "burelage renversé" stamps - 50c rate from annexed Alsace-Lorraine via GB



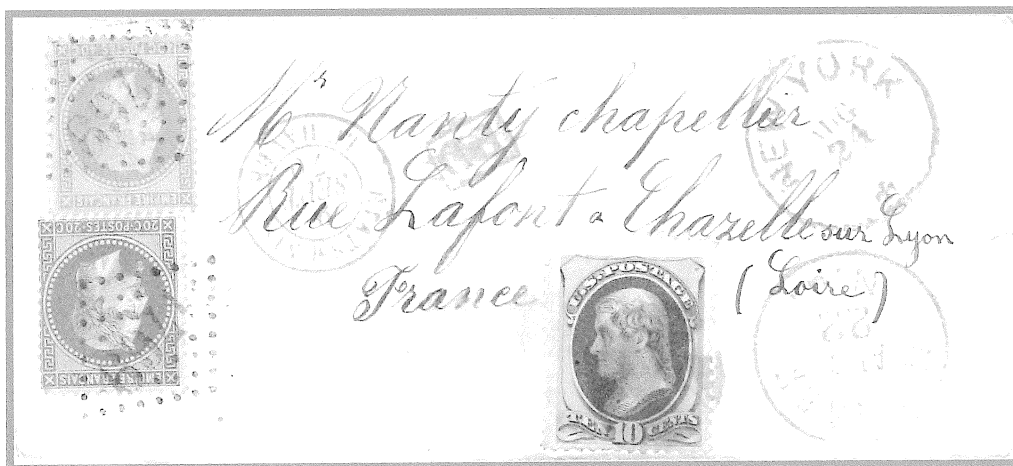
Posted with military free frank on October 19, 1870 from **German 13th Division besieging Metz**
Cunard steamer *Batavia* - double-weight 20¢ GB transit rate due in coin or 22¢ in US notes

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

French Postage Prepaid

US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ oz. rate. December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set collections at 80 centimes per 10 grams (rate was 60 centimes if prepaid), effective January 1, 1870.



Franked 10¢ plus 60 centimes on August 22, 1870 in Newark, NJ - fully prepaid to destination

Guiding Star of North American Steamship Co. to Le Havre - one of only two contract sailings by the line

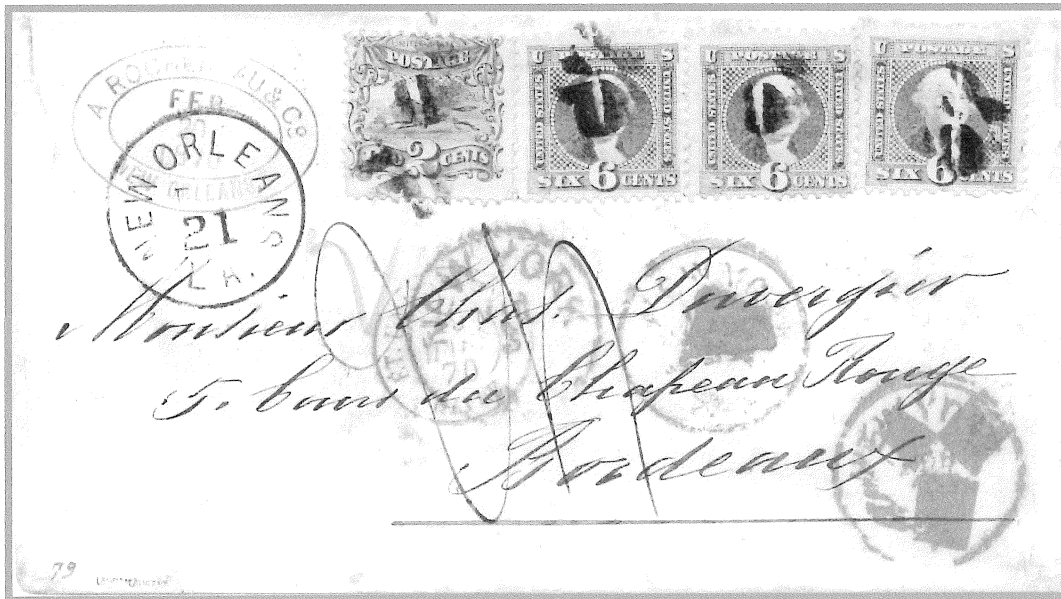
Rare September 9 French entry mark "Etats-Unis Le Havre"

Only known American Packet mixed franking in this period

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

Ruger's American Line



Prepaid double-weight 20¢ rate on February 21, 1870 in New Orleans - 1869 Issue stamps
Ocean Queen of Ruger's Line to Le Havre - first of only three contract sailings by the line
Rare March 19 French entry mark "Et. Unis Serv. Fr. Havre" - triple-weight 24 décimes due

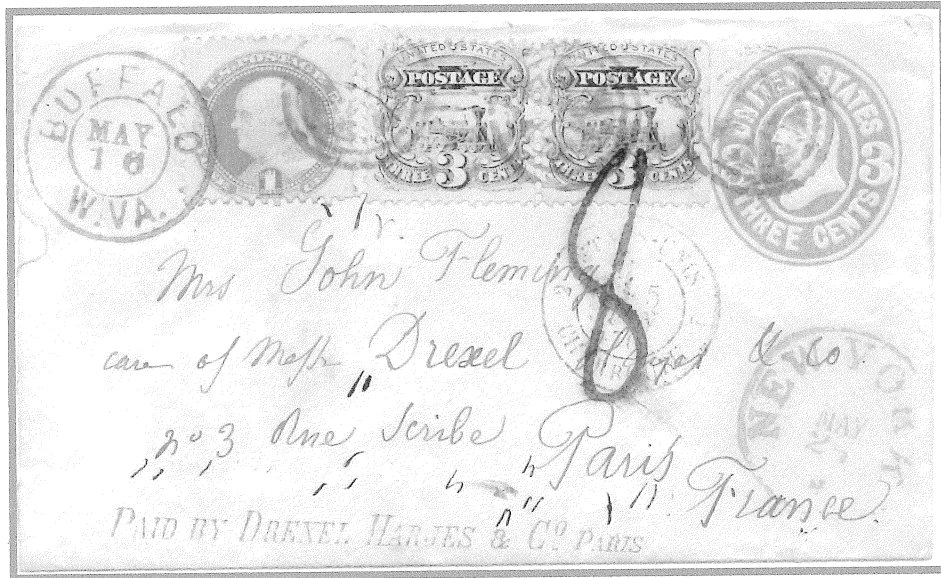


Overpaid expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate on March 15, 1870 in San Francisco - 8 décimes due
Rising Star of Ruger's Line to Le Havre - second of only three contract sailings by the line
Rare April 9 French entry mark "Et. Unis Serv. Am. V.A. Havre" - re-use of obsolete 1863 marking

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

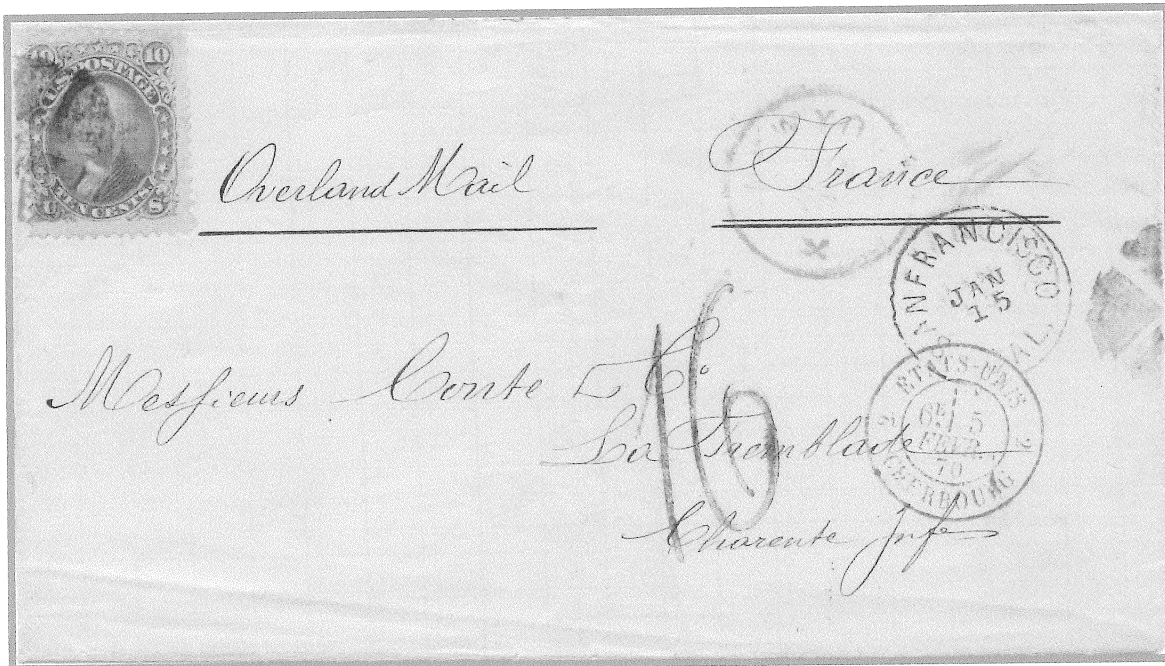
American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

10¢ Direct Route Rate



Prepaid 10¢ direct route rate on May 18, 1870 in Buffalo, WVA - HAPAG steamer *Allemania*

June 5 “Etats-Unis Cherbourg” entry mark - 8 décimes direct route postage due in France



Prepaid 10¢ with 1867 10¢ “F” grill stamp on January 15, 1870 in San Francisco

HAPAG steamer *Holsatia* from New York January 25 - double-weight 16 décimes due

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

Ten Month Period

December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set prepayments at 60 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870. US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10c per ½ ounce collections.



Prepaid 60 centimes on May 7, 1870 in Le Havre - 1863 "Laureated" Issue 20c and 40c stamps
HAPAG steamer *Allemania* from Le Havre - 10¢ due per May 20 "N.Y. Steamship 10" postmark

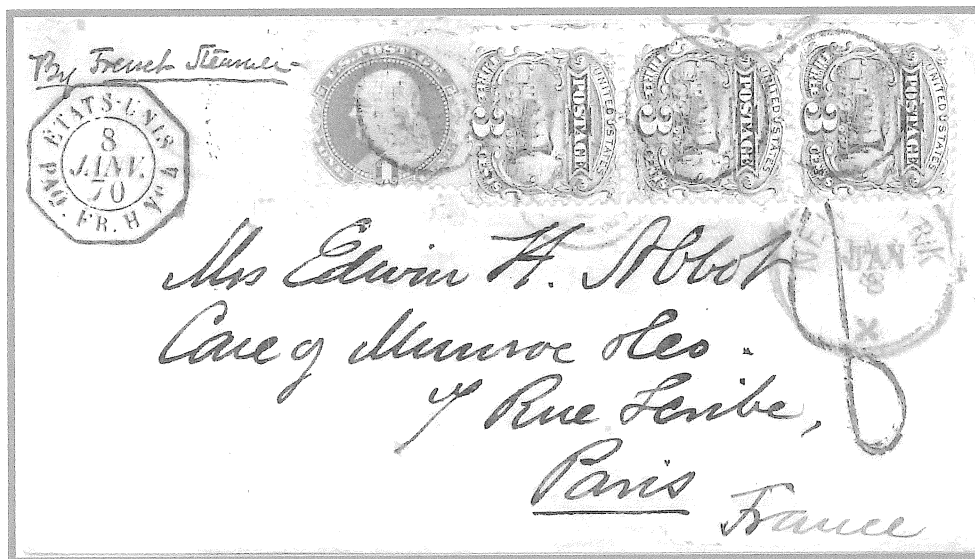
Only 27 westbound HAPAG sailings in this period

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

1869 Issue Franking

US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ oz. rate to replace the expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate. December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set collections at 80 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870.



Prepaid 10¢ direct route rate on January 8, 1870 in New York - 8 décimes due

Ligne H steamship *St Laurent* of Ligne H - first sailing after expiration of 1857 France-USA Treaty

January 8 "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. No. 4" embarkation postmark - normally applied in red ink

Embarkation postmark applied on board steamer in New York harbor

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

French Postage Prepaid



Franked 10¢ plus 60 centimes on August 5, 1870 in Jersey City, NJ - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*
Mixed franking fully prepaid letter to destination - "ancre" cancels applied by mail agent on steamship



Franked 10¢ "F grill stamp plus 60 centimes on April 30, 1870 in New York - Ligne H steamer *St. Laurent*
Insufficient French postage for double-weight letter - 10 décimes due (16 décimes rate less 6 décimes paid)

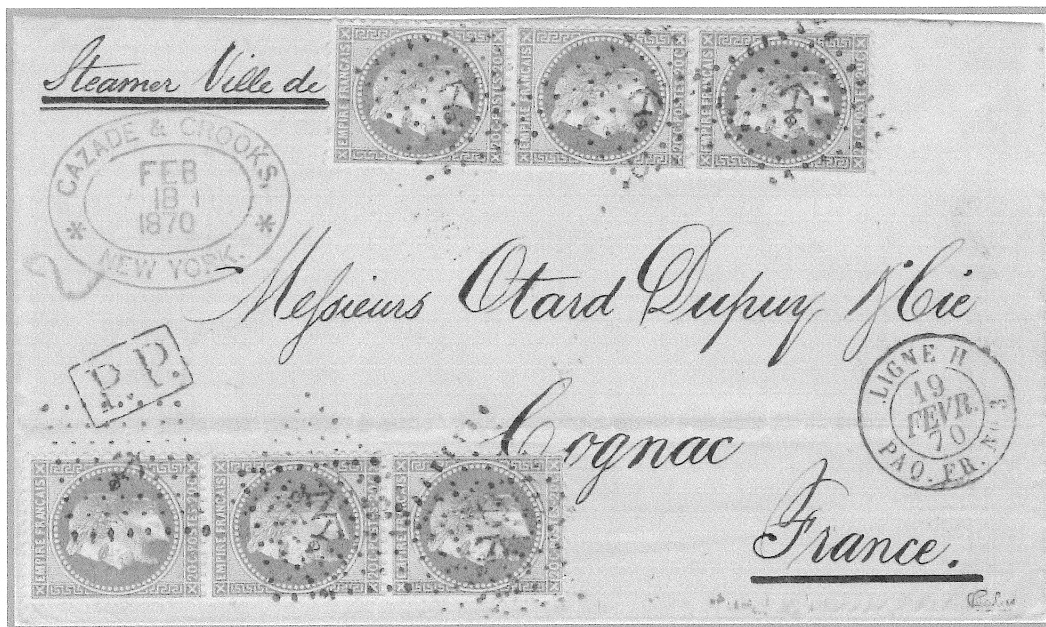
Fewer than ten eastbound letters are known with French postage prepaid

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Posted On Board Steamship

The Ligne H steamships carried a postal agent on board to handle and sort the mail. On rare occasions, letters could be brought to the ship and handed directly to the postal agent. Such letters avoided US postal charges.



Posted on board the Ligne H steamship *Ville de Paris* in New York harbor on February 19, 1870
Six French 1863 Issue 20 centimes stamps prepaid double-weight rate in France - no postage due
Agent applied maritime “anchor” cancels and “Ligne H” datestamp - normally used on westbound mail

Only known example of an eastbound letter posted on board a steamship

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Posted On Board Steamer

The December 1869 French Imperial Decree set prepayments at 60 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870. US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10c per ½ ounce collections.



Prepaid 60 centimes on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Le Havre harbor on June 17, 1870
Steamship mail agent applied “Ligne H” datestamp and cancelled stamps with maritime “ancre”
10¢ due upon June 27 New York arrival per “N.Y. Steamship 10” postmark

Fewer than 5 letters posted on board Ligne H steamships are known from this period

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1870-July 31, 1874

10¢ Fully-Paid Rate

Lower GB-to-France postage per September 1869 France-GB Treaty reduced the fully-paid rate to 10c per ½ oz., effective July 1, 1870. US credit to GB was 6c per 10 grams. This rate was finally published by the USPO on October 28, 1871.



Prepaid 10¢ on June 20, 1873 in Exeter, NH - franking from 1870 ungrilled Banknote Issue

June 20 Boston transit postmark - Cunard steamship *Batavia* from New York June 21

US credited GB 6¢ for 20 centimes French inland plus 2¢ GB transit

Announcement of 10¢ fully-paid rate obsoleted 4¢ British open mail rate

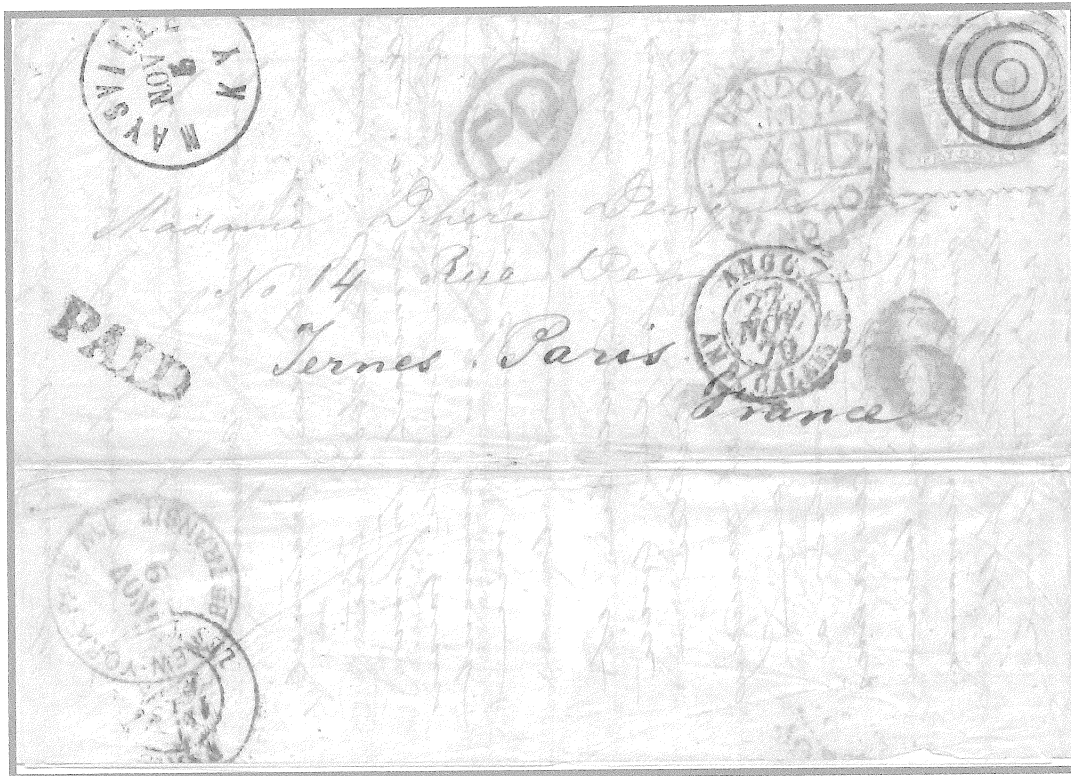
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1870-July 31, 1874

10¢ "Phantom" Rate



Prepaid 10¢ June 29, 1870 in San Francisco - Cunard steamer *Aleppo* - US 6¢ credit to GB



Prepaid 10¢ November 5, 1870 in Maysville, KY - Inman steamer *City of Paris* - addressed to besieged Paris

USPO finally published 10¢ Phantom rate on October 28, 1871, after 14 months of sporadic use

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1870-July 31, 1874

Double-Weight Frankings



Prepaid double-weight 16¢ on July 21, 1874 in New York - franking from 1870 ungrilled Banknote Issue
Cunard steamer *Cuba* to Queenstown - US double-weight 12¢ credit to GB



Prepaid double-weight 16¢ on July 1, 1873 in Philadelphia - Guion steamer *Wyoming*

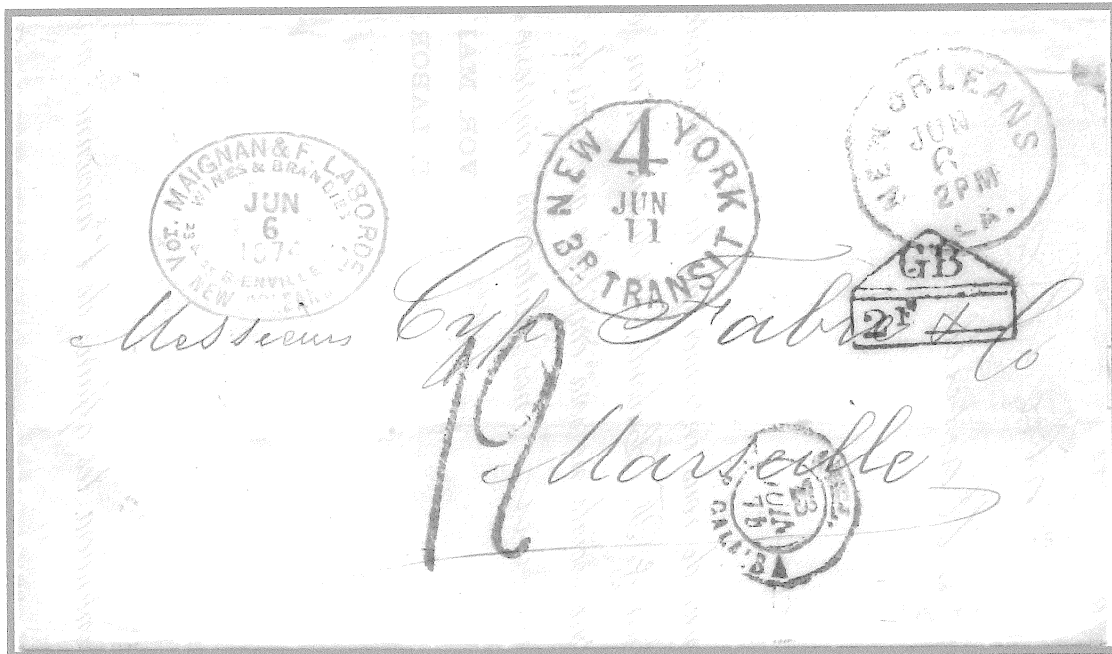
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

4¢ British Open Mail Rate



Prepaid 4¢ on August 26, 1871 in New York - Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn* to Queenstown
GB 40 centimes per 30 grams debit to France - 50 centimes due (10c for GB plus 40c inland)



Posted unpaid on June 6, 1874 in New Orleans - HAPAG steamer *Frisia* to Plymouth
US 4¢ debit to GB - GB 2 francs per 30 grams debit to France - 12 décimes due

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Mixed Franking

April 21, 1871 French Law increased French prepayments to 12 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. All of this increase was retained by France, and was designed to make French direct packet mail service more competitive.



Prepaid 50 centimes direct route rate plus 10¢ US postage on February 2, 1872 in Paris
Attempted full prepayment of French direct packet route - accepted and routed via GB
Cunard steamer *Russia* - 2¢ GB credit to the US - 20¢ paid was 4¢ less than 12 décimes rate

Fewer than five accepted mixed prepayments known

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Rare Frankings



Prepaid 12 décimes on April 6, 1874 in Biarrits - **40c pair with both retouched 4's error**

Inman steamer *City of Richmond* to New York on April 19 - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Prepaid 12 décimes on October 5, 1871 in Cognac - **Bordeaux Issue 80c "88" variety and 40c**

Inman steamer *City of Brussels* to New York on October 15 - 2¢ GB credit to the US

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Underpaid Mail



Underpaid 40 centimes (should be 12 décimes) on June 3, 1872 in Vezelay - Cunard steamer *Parthia*
10¢ French debit to GB ("FR 2F") - 14¢ GB debit to US - **San Francisco 17¢ depreciated currency due**



Underpaid 10 décimes on August 28, 1871 in Bordeaux - 80c Bordeaux Issue and 20c Siege of Paris Issue
Inman steamer *City of Baltimore* - 14¢ GB debit to US - 16¢ in coin or 18¢ in depreciated notes due

Postage on underpaid letters was ignored - such letters were rated as wholly unpaid

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

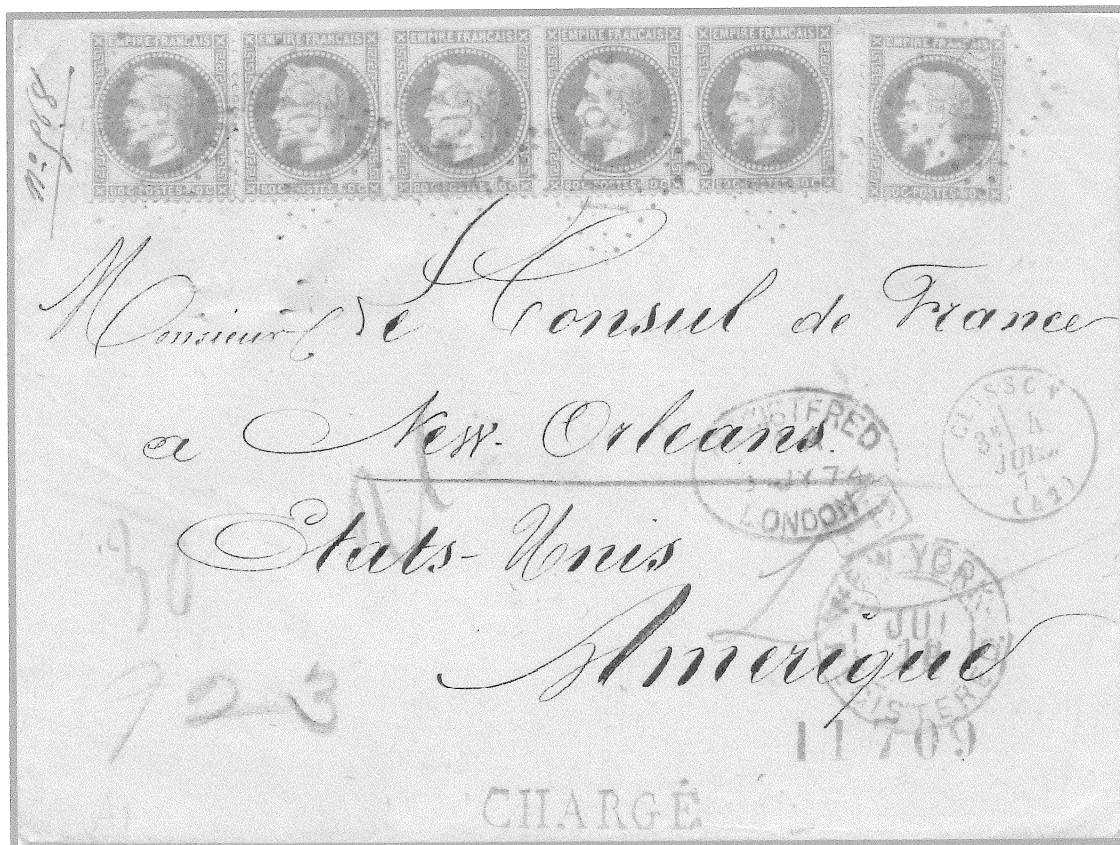
Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Registered Mail



Prepaid 72 décimes (triple-weight 36 décimes postage plus 36 décimes registration) on July 20, 1874 in Paris

1863 Issue 5 franc stamp - Cunard steamer *Java* - no credit accounting from GB to the USA



Prepaid double-weight 48 décimes on July 4, 1874 in Clisson - NGL steamer *Oder*

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Bordeaux Issue Frankings



Prepaid 12 décimes on October 9, 1872 in Bellegarde - 1870 Bordeaux Issue 30c stamps
Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn* to New York on October 21 - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Prepaid 12 décimes on August 28, 1871 in Tours - 1870 Bordeaux Issue 40c strip of three
Inman steamer *City of Brussels* to New York on September 10 - 2¢ GB credit to the US

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

10¢ Direct Route Rate

April 21, 1871 French Law reduced postage on direct routes to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. This was an effort to increase the competitiveness of the French Line. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act.



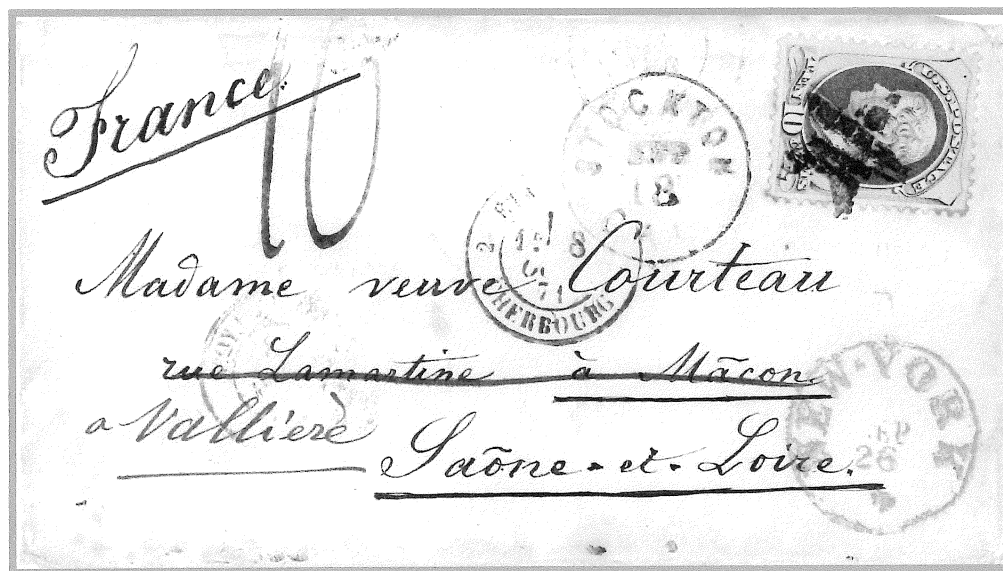
Prepaid 10¢ July 20, 1871 in Eureka, CA - HAPAG steamer *Westphalia* left NY August 1
August 13 "Etats-Unis Cherbourg" entry marking - 6 décimes due instead of proper 5 décimes
From July to mid-August 1871, Cherbourg erroneously rated mail for 6 décimes due

By 1871, only the German-owned HAPAG Line was providing direct American packet service

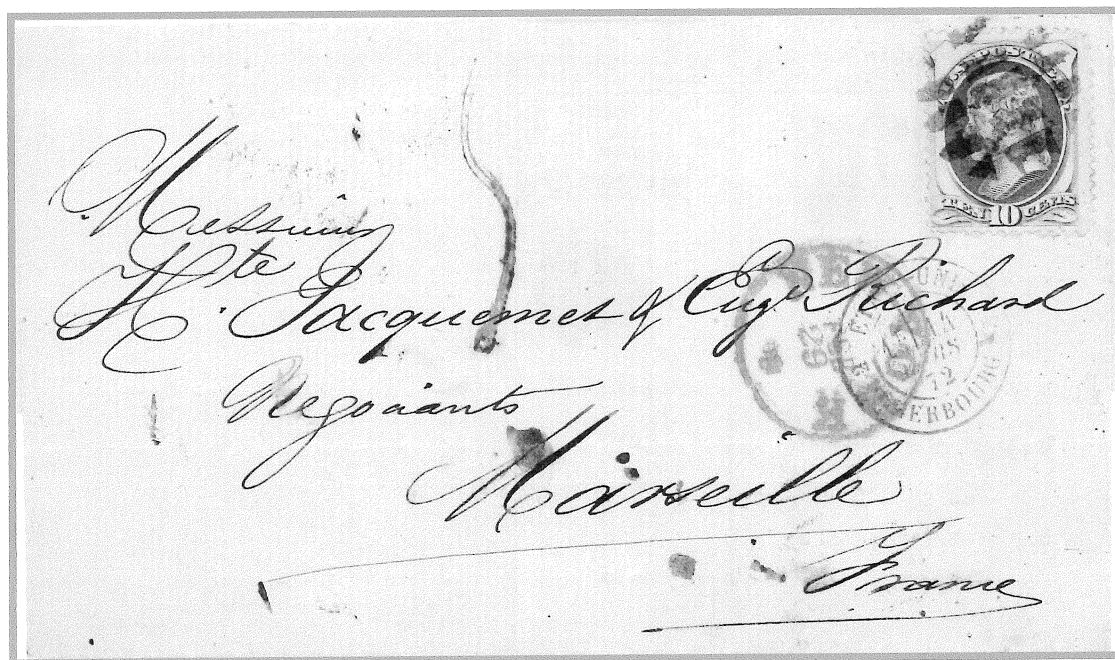
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Due Markings



Prepaid 10¢ on September 18, 1871 in Stockton, California - 1870 Banknote Issue franking
HAPAG steamer *Thuringia* - double-weight 10 décimes due in France



Prepaid 10¢ on February 29, 1872 in New York - HAPAG steamer *Allemania* to Plymouth
5 décimes due after stop at Cherbourg on March 14

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Reduced French Prepayments

France reduced the postage on direct routes from 6 décimes to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. This made French Line rates 20 centimes cheaper than mail via GB. US postage remained at 10c per the July 1864 US Act.



Prepaid double-weight 1 franc on November 11, 1871 in Cette - Bordeaux Issue 30c and 40c stamps
HAPAG steamer *Westphalia* to NY November 29 - 10¢ due per "N.Y. Steamship 10" postmark
New Orleans repeated the 10¢ due with its rarely-seen "STEAMSHIP 10" marking

German-owned HAPAG Line provided the only direct American packet service

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Unusual Usages



Prepaid 40 centimes on September 3, 1871 in German-occupied Mulhouse - 1870 Alsace-Lorraine Issue stamps
HAPAG steamer *Thuringia* - fully-paid direct route rate from Alsace-Lorraine per 7/70 US-German Treaty



Prepaid 50 centimes on August 16, 1873 in Bordeaux - State Line steamer *Minnesota* left August 19
Rarely-seen State Line ran direct from Bordeaux to New Orleans - 10¢ due on September 12 arrival

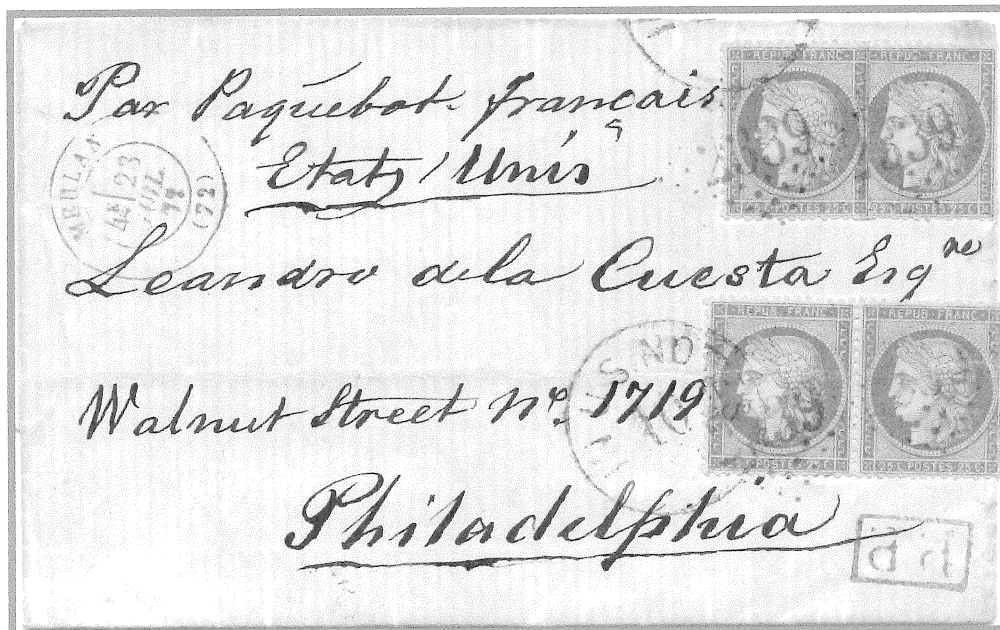
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Depreciated Currency Due Marks



Overpaid 60 centimes (should be 50c) on April 1, 1873 in Paris - 1872 Issue 30c stamps
HAPAG steamer *Frisia* - Philadelphia 10¢ due marking "IN U.S. NOTES 10"



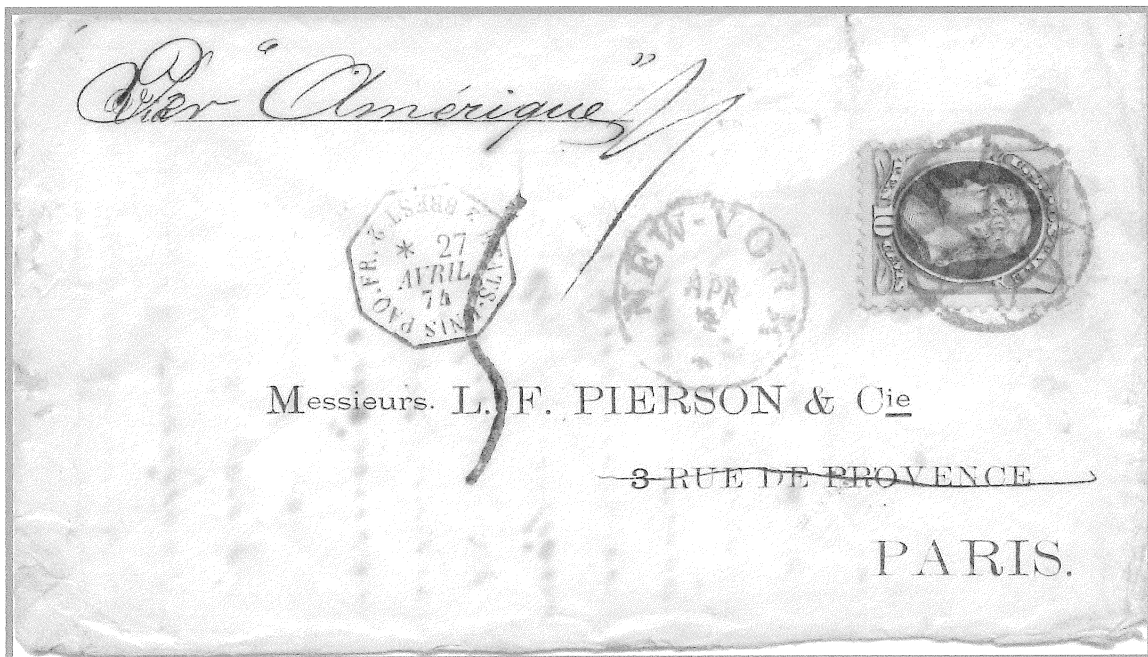
Prepaid double-weight 1 franc on July 23, 1872 in Meulan - HAPAG steamer *Hammonia II*
10¢ due per blue Philadelphia "IN U.S. NOTES 10" marking

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Recovered From Shipwreck

April 21, 1871 French Law reduced postage for French-owned packets to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act. As a result, this route was less expensive than via GB.



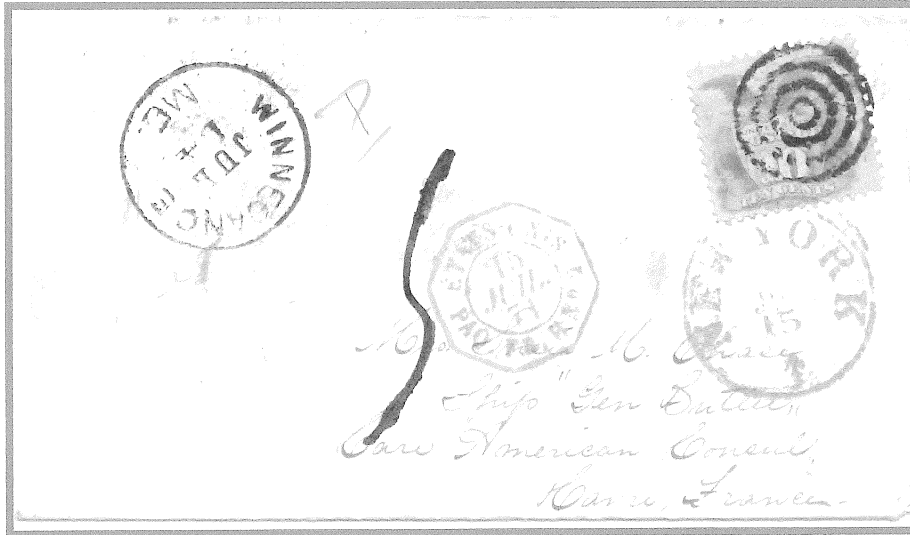
Prepaid 10¢ on April 4, 1874 in New York - Ligne H steamer *Amerique* from New York
Amerique was found derelict and foundering on April 15 - letter was water damaged
April 27 "Etats-Unis Paq.Fr. 2 Brest 2" entry marking applied in Paris - 5 décimes due

Total postage on direct route was 4¢ less than on route via England

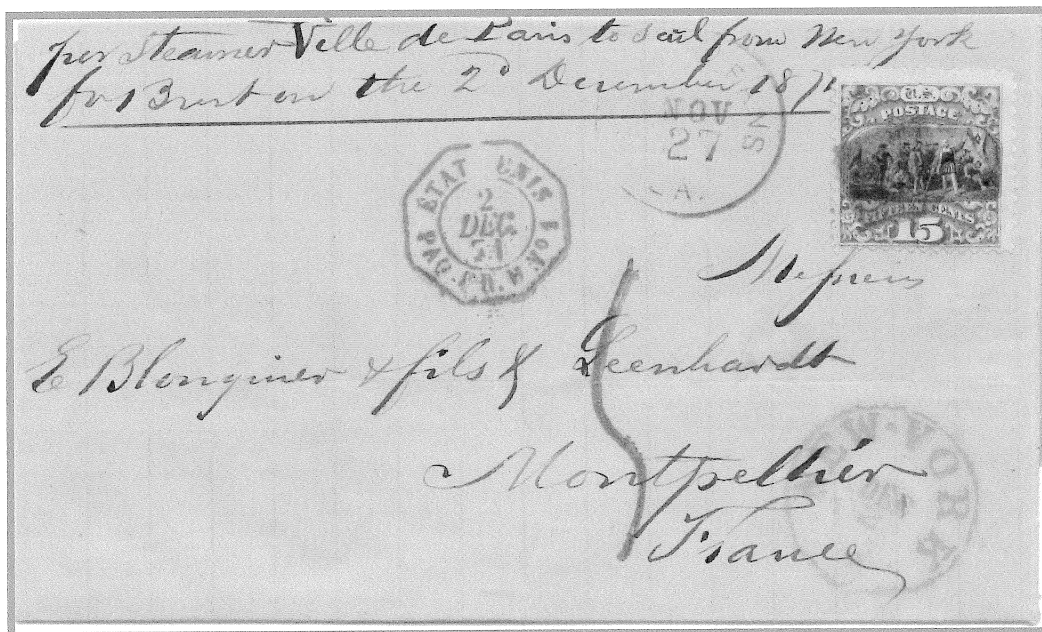
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

1869 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 10¢ on July 14, 1871 in Winnegance, ME - July 15 Ligne H embarkation postmark
Ligne H steamer *Lafayette* from New York to Brest on July 26 - 5 décimes due



Overpaid expired 1857 Treaty 15¢ rate on November 27, 1871 in New Orleans - 5 décimes due
Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris* left New York on December 2 per Ligne H embarkation postmark

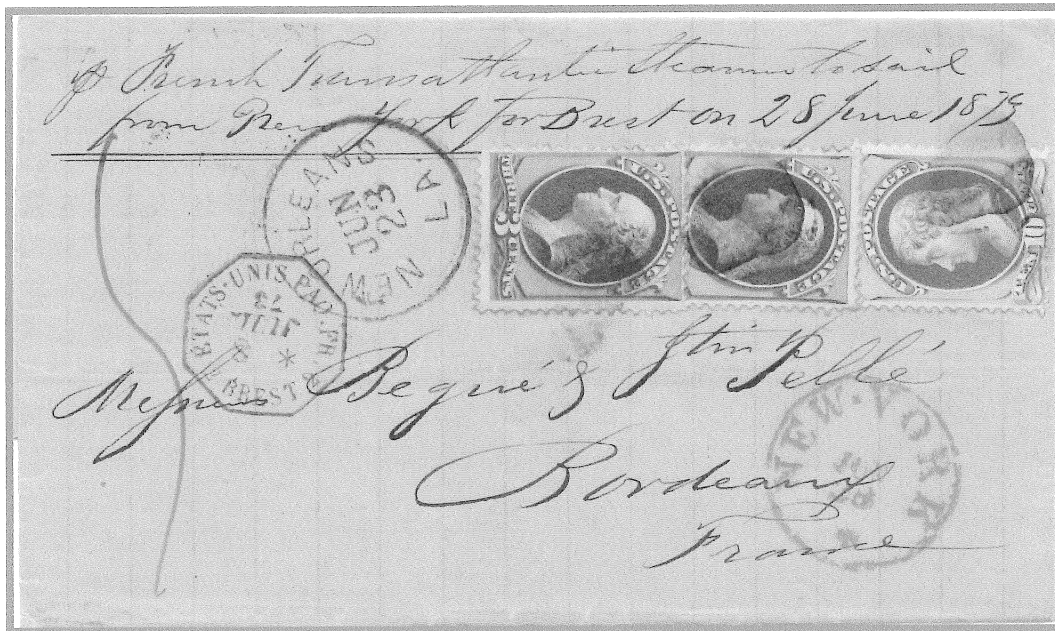
1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

1870 Banknote Issue Frankings



Prepaid 10¢ on April 6, 1872 in New York - April 6 Ligne H embarkation postmark
Ligne H steamer *Péreire* to Brest on April 15 - 5 décimes due



Overpaid 16¢ (should be 10¢) on June 23, 1873 in New Orleans - 5 décimes due
Ligne H steamer *Péreire* - July 8 "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. 2 Brest 2" entry postmark

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Mixed Franking Not Accepted

Prepayments for French-owned packets were set at 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act. Full prepayment was not possible unless both French and US postage was paid.



Prepaid 50 centimes and 10¢ on December 14, 1871 in Paris - paid to destination

Ligne H steamer *Washington* from Le Havre to New York on January 8

US charged 10¢ postage due, since 10¢ stamp had been cancelled by Paris star cancel

Fewer than five mixed frankings from this period are known

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

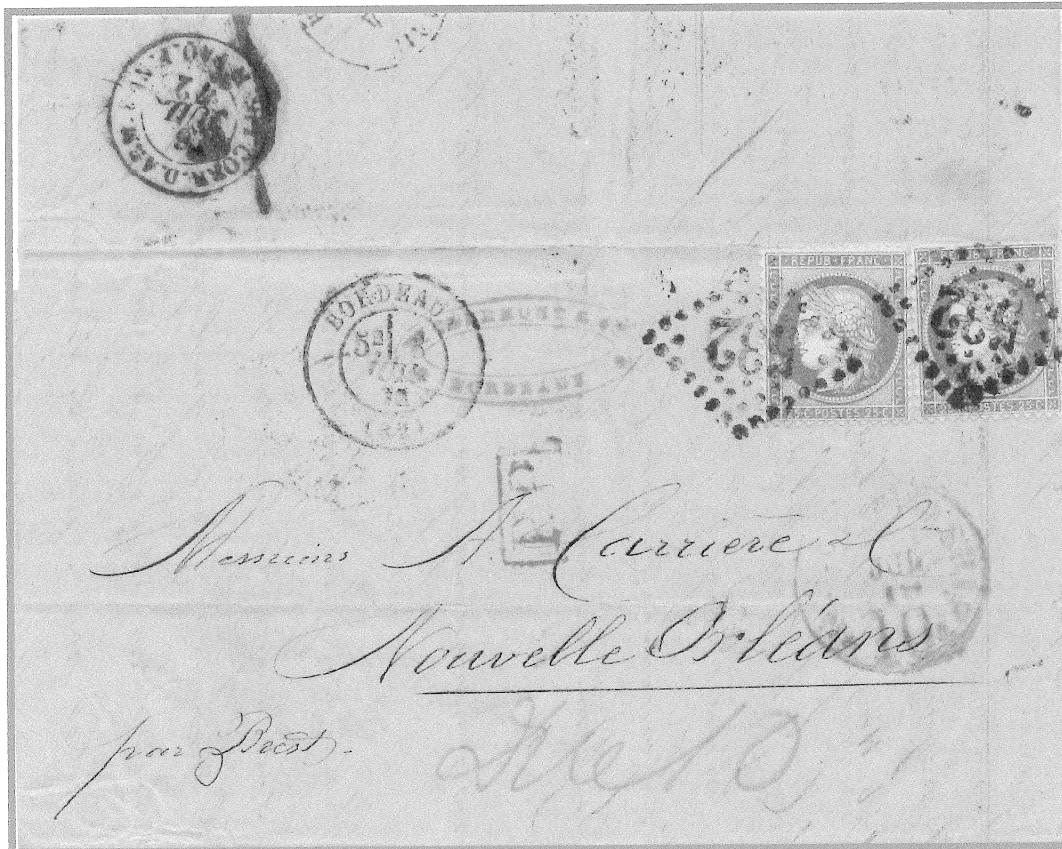
French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Rare Ligne H Postmarks



Prepaid double-weight 1 franc on board the *St Laurent* in Le Havre harbor on July 4, 1872

Ligne H postmark and "ancre" cancels applied during July 6 stop at Brest - 10¢ due



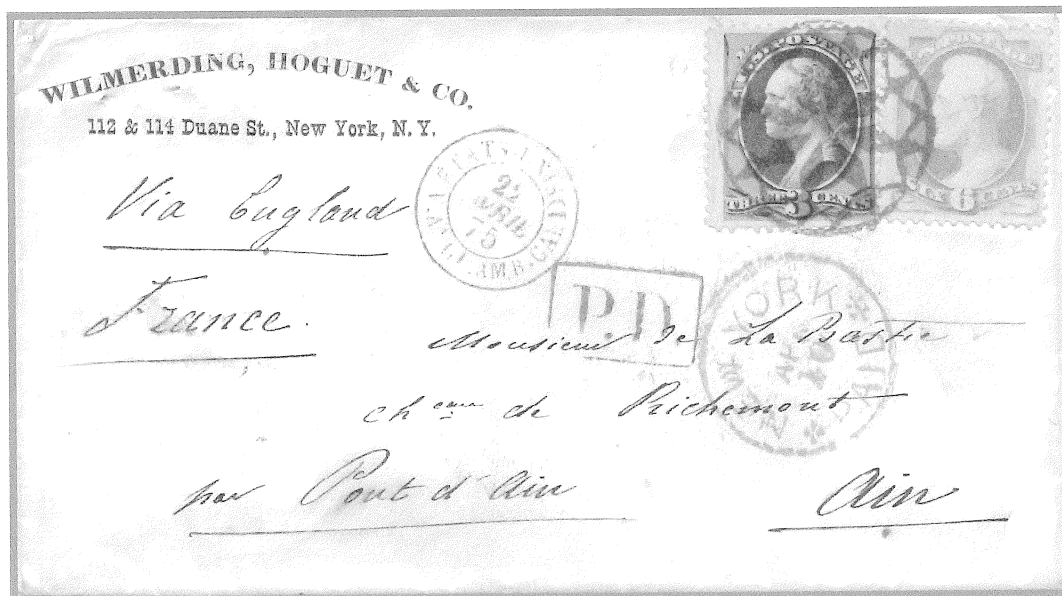
Prepaid 50c on July 3, 1872 in Bordeaux - only known "Corr.d.Arm Lig. H Paq. F." postmark

Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

9¢ Fully-Prepaid Rate

April 28, 1874 France-US Treaty set 9¢ per 15 grams fully-prepaid rate, effective August 1. This was a “reciprocal” treaty, so no accounting of postage from either country to the other was necessary.



Prepaid 9¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on April 10, 1875 in New York
North German Lloyd steamer *Neckar* from New York to Southampton
“Etats-Unis V. Angl. Amb. Cal” entry mark for British mail via Calais

Treaty in effect for only 17 months

Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

Direct Packet Lines



Prepaid 9¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on June 7, 1875 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *Pereire* from NY
"Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Brest" entry marking indicates French direct packet route



Posted unpaid August 2, 1874 in San Francisco - Eagle Line steamship *Lessing* to Cherbourg
"Etats-Unis Cherbourg" entry mark - 75 centimes due (50c rate plus 50% unpaid letter penalty)

Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

50 Centimes Fully-Prepaid Rate

April 28, 1874 France-US Treaty set 50 centimes per 15 grams fully-prepaid rate, effective August 1. This rate applied to all routes between France and the USA.



Forwarded by Drexel Harjes & Co. on December 30, 1874 in Paris

Prepaid 50 centimes in 1871 25 centimes type III stamps

Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn* from Liverpool to New York