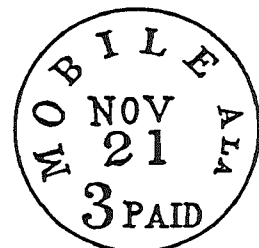
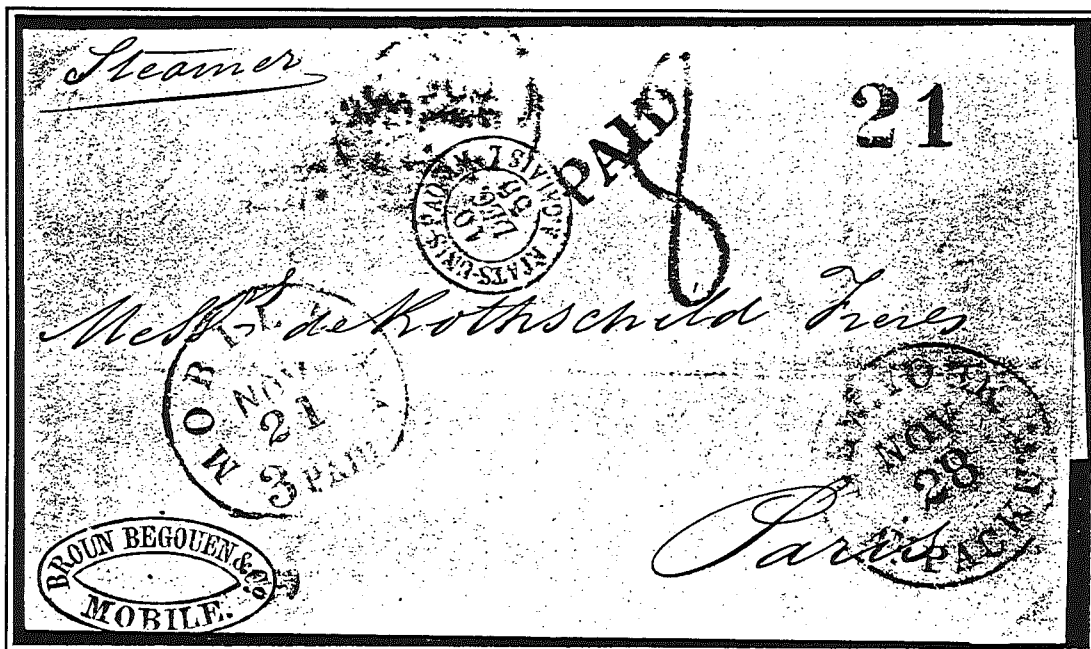


U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

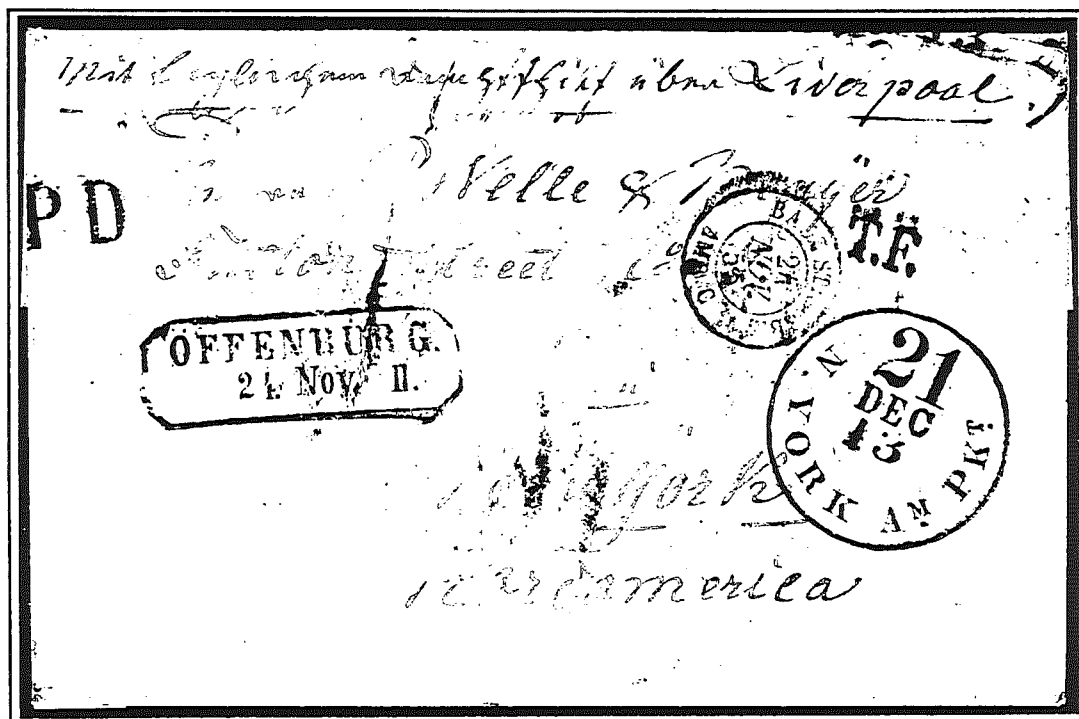
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857
1 Sep 51–1 Jan 57



20 November 1855 Mobile, Alabama to Paris
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Pacific 11 days (East)
Mobile used "3 PAID" datestamp as origin marking
and separate numeral "21" to show prepayment



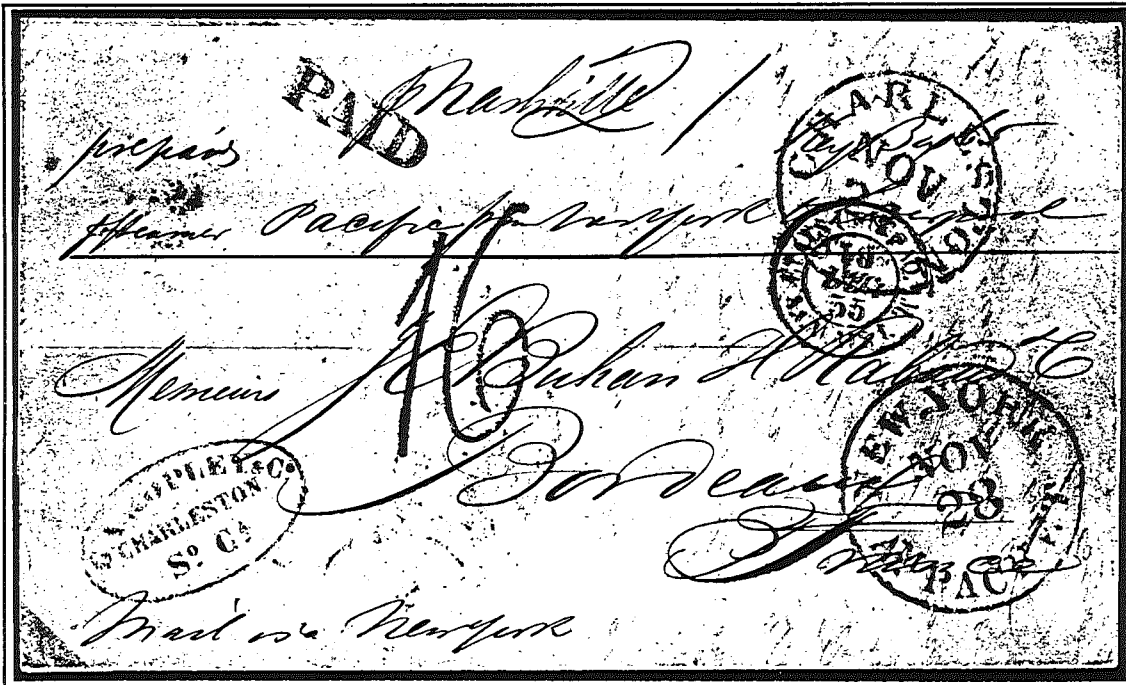
23 November 1855 Haslach, Baden to New York
37 kreuzer prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
21¢ postage due in New York

Baltic 12 days (West)
Letter posted at Offenbach, Baden
Prepayment = 3 kr. Baden transit and 34 kr. to France
"T.F." handstamp indicated "Transit Français"

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

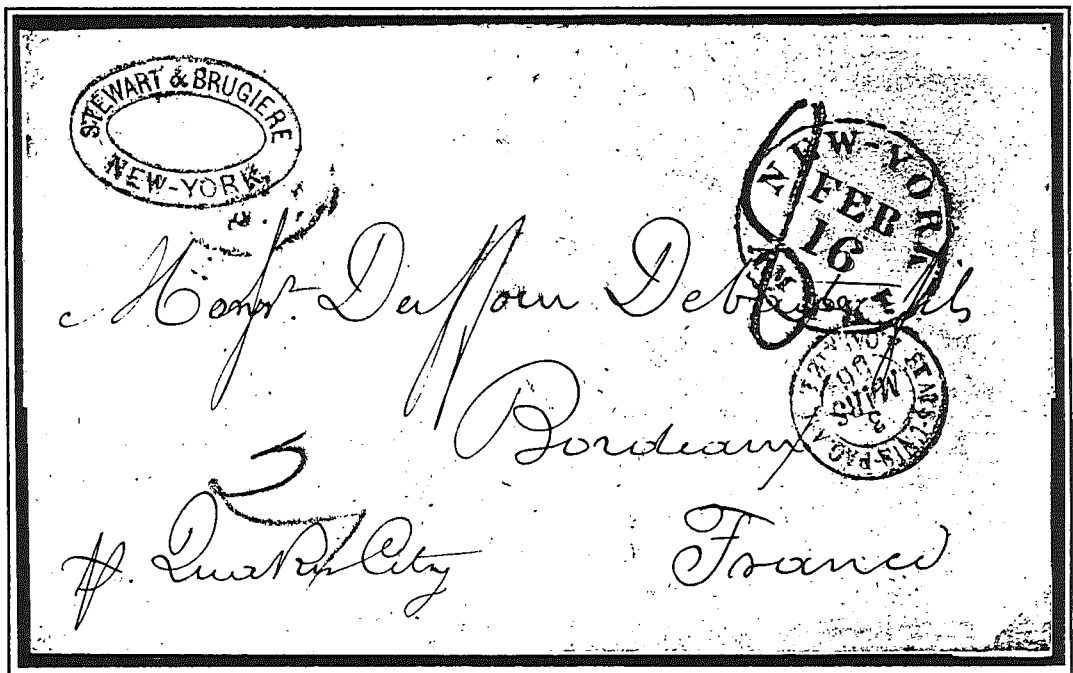
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857
 1 Sep 51–1 Jan 57



23 November 1855 Charleston to Bordeaux
 21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
 16 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Pacific 11 days (East)
 Postage due = 2x8 decimes for 7½–15 gram letter
 G.A.Hopley & Co. charged letter payment to
 "Key Box 65" as endorsed upper right



16 February 1856 New York to Bordeaux
 21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
 8 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

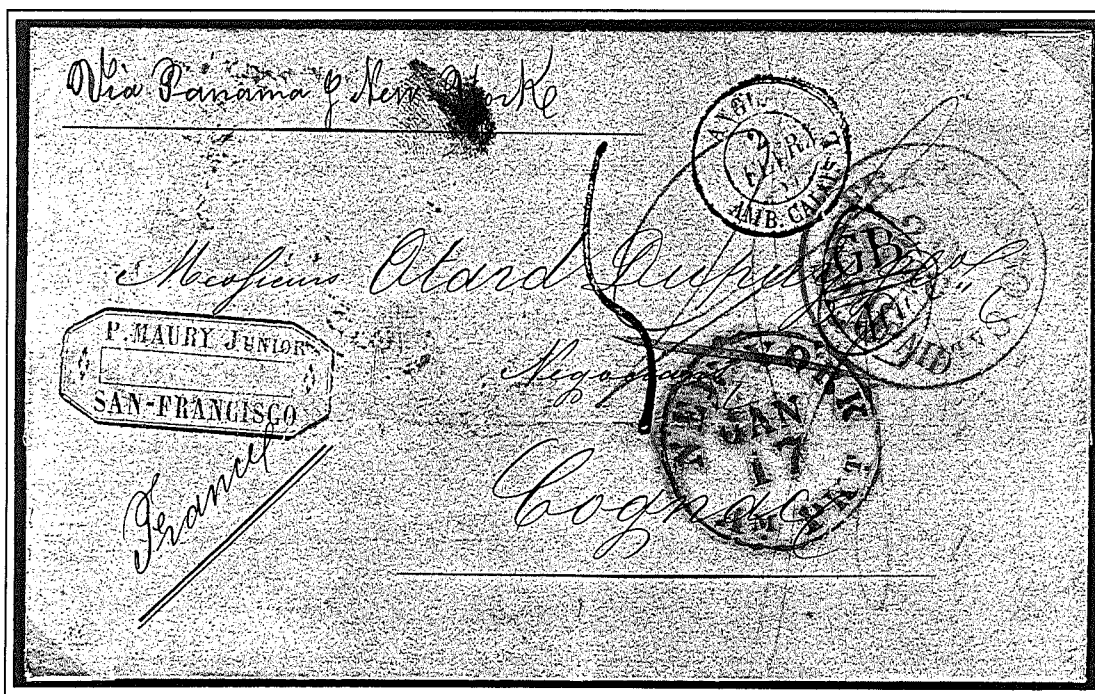
Quaker City 14 days (East)
 Collins Line chartered *Quaker City* for
 one round voyage after loss of *Pacific*

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857
1 Jan 57-1 Apr 57

Effective 1 January 1857, a new postal convention between France and Great Britain lowered the rates collected or prepaid in France on mails with the United States. The 8 decime per 7½ grams rate in France for mails via England by American packet was reduced to 5 decimes per 7½ grams. New accountancy markings on unpaid letters were placed into use. Since the first postal convention between the United States and France went into effect on 1 April 1857, the rates and accountancy markings of the new Anglo-French Convention were used on regular contract mails only in the first three months of 1857.



20 December 1856 San Francisco to Cognac
26¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet (West Coast)
5 decimes postage due in Cognac

Ericsson 15 days (East)
San Francisco introduced "26 PAID"
circular datestamp in early 1855

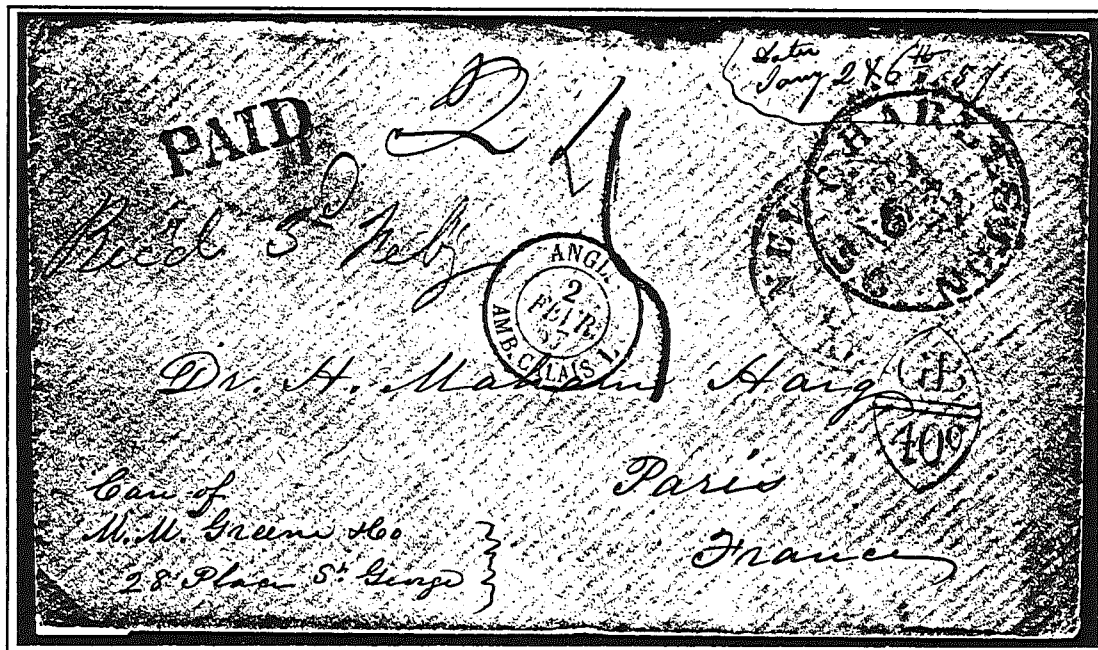


Anglo-French accountancy marking applied at London's on unpaid letter going to France. This marking indicated that Great Britain was to receive from France 40 decimes for each 30 grams of bulk letter weight. American packet letters during the three month period are much less common than their British packet counterparts. A census of three month covers indicates there are about three British packet covers to ever one American packet cover.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

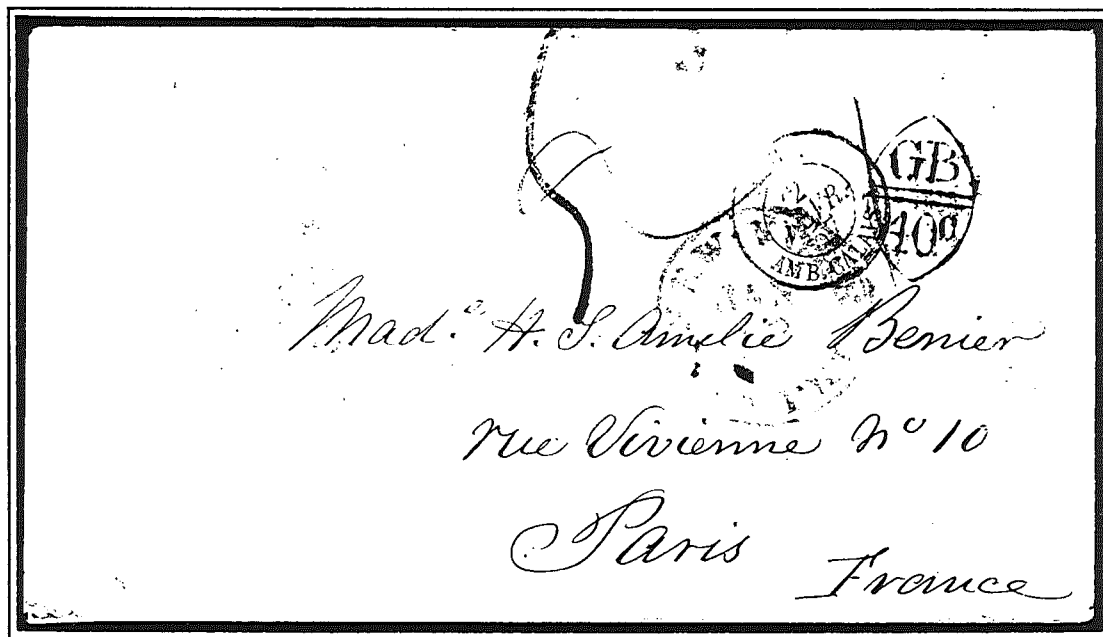
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857
1 Jan 57–1 Apr 57



5 January 1857 Charleston to Paris
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
5 decimes postage due in Paris

Ericsson 15 days (East)
Steamer chartered by Collins Line for
11 round voyages in 1856–57



17 January 1857 New York to Paris
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
5 decimes postage due in Paris

Ericsson 15 days (East)
Letter carried on same voyage as cover above
London arrival 2 Feb 57 (backstamp)

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
French Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1848
22 Jun 47-6 Feb 48

In June 1847, the French government initiated a contract mail service between Cherbourg (later Le Havre) and New York. Officially known as Compagnie Générale des Paquebots Transatlantiques, the steamship line was commonly referred to as the Hérout and de Handel Line after its founders. Because their small steamships proved very unsuitable for the North Atlantic voyages, the line terminated operations after only nine round voyages.



24 July 1847 New York to Francomont, Belgium
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at New York)
17 decimes postage due in Francomont

Union 14 days (East)
Postage due = 10 decimes French steamship
and 7 decimes Belgian and French transit
Boxed SR in blue applied at Brussels for Rural Service



This letter was carried on the maiden return voyage of this French steamship line. Since the French had not yet introduced the special entry markings for this service, covers on the first voyage show the usual Le Havre ship entry marking, OUTRE-MER LE HAVRE, and can be identified by the date, 8 AOUT 47. Letters carried on this line are not common. About three dozen east bound and only a half dozen west bound covers have been recorded.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

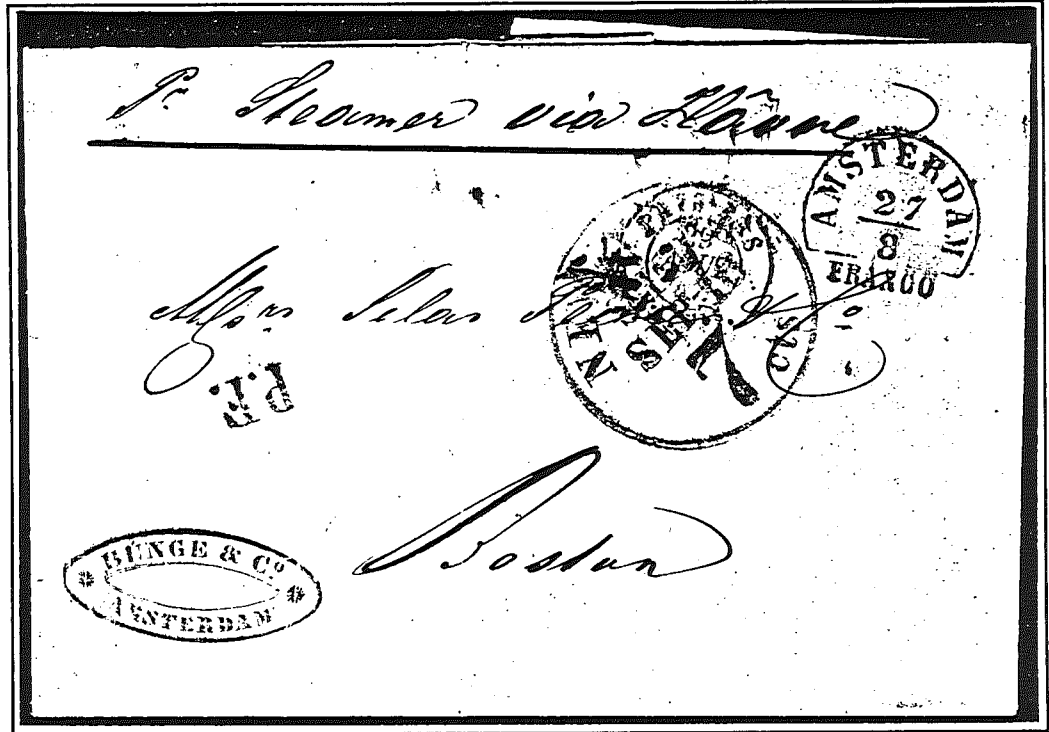
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
 French Contract Steamship Direct

1847–1848
 22 Jun 47–6 Feb 48

10g

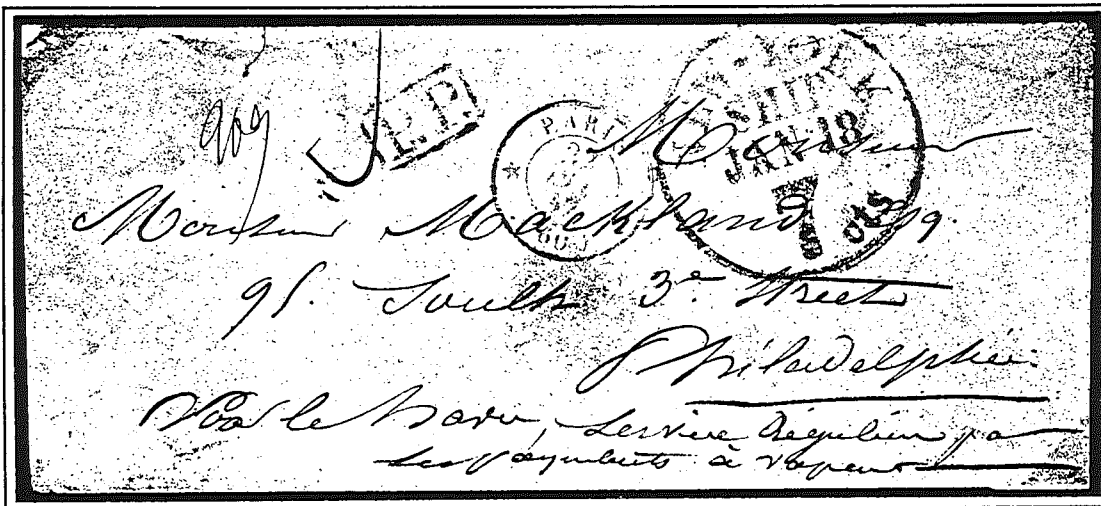
40
 100

(Reverse)



27 August 1847 Amsterdam, Holland to Boston
 170 Dutch cents prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
 7¢ postage due in Boston

Union 16 days (West)
 Prepayment included 2x35 Dutch cents internal
 and 2x50 Dutch cents French packet fees
 Postage due = 2¢ ship and 5¢ U.S. inland fees



9g

(Reverse)

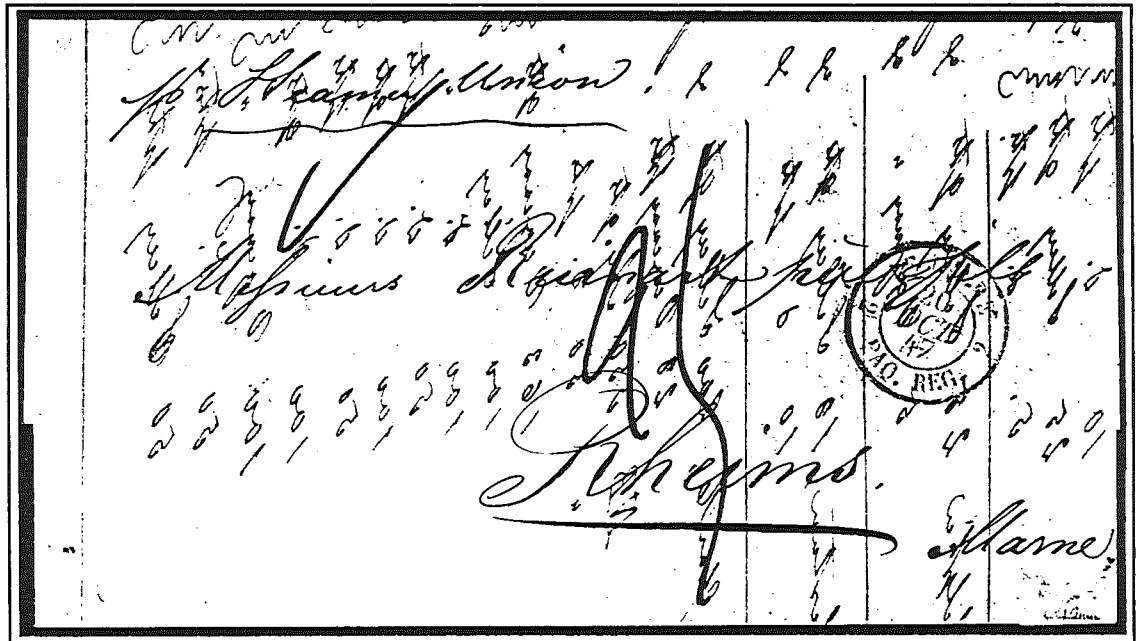
22 December 1847 Paris to Philadelphia
 23 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
 7¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Missouri 26 days (West)
 Prepayment included 15 decimes steamship
 and 8 decimes French inland fees (7½–10 gram letter)
 Missouri put into Halifax for coal on this final voyage for the line

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

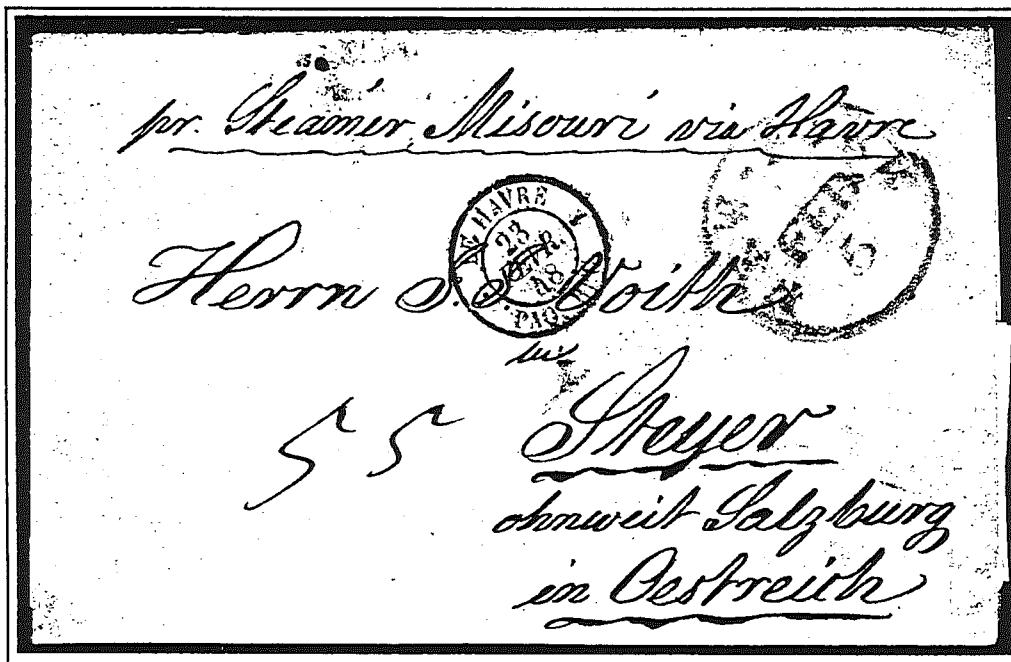
Pre U.S. - French Treaty
 French Contract Steamship Direct

1847-1848
 22 Jun 47-6 Feb 48



29 September 1847 New York to Reims
 Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at port)
 25 decimes postage due in Reims

Union 18 days (East)
 Postage due = 10 dec. internal and 15 dec. packet fee
 French entry mark in red applied at Paris
 two days after steamer arrived at Cherbourg



5 February 1848 New York to Steyer, Austria
 5¢ prepaid (not shown) for U.S. inland fee
 55 Austrian kreuzer due in Steyer

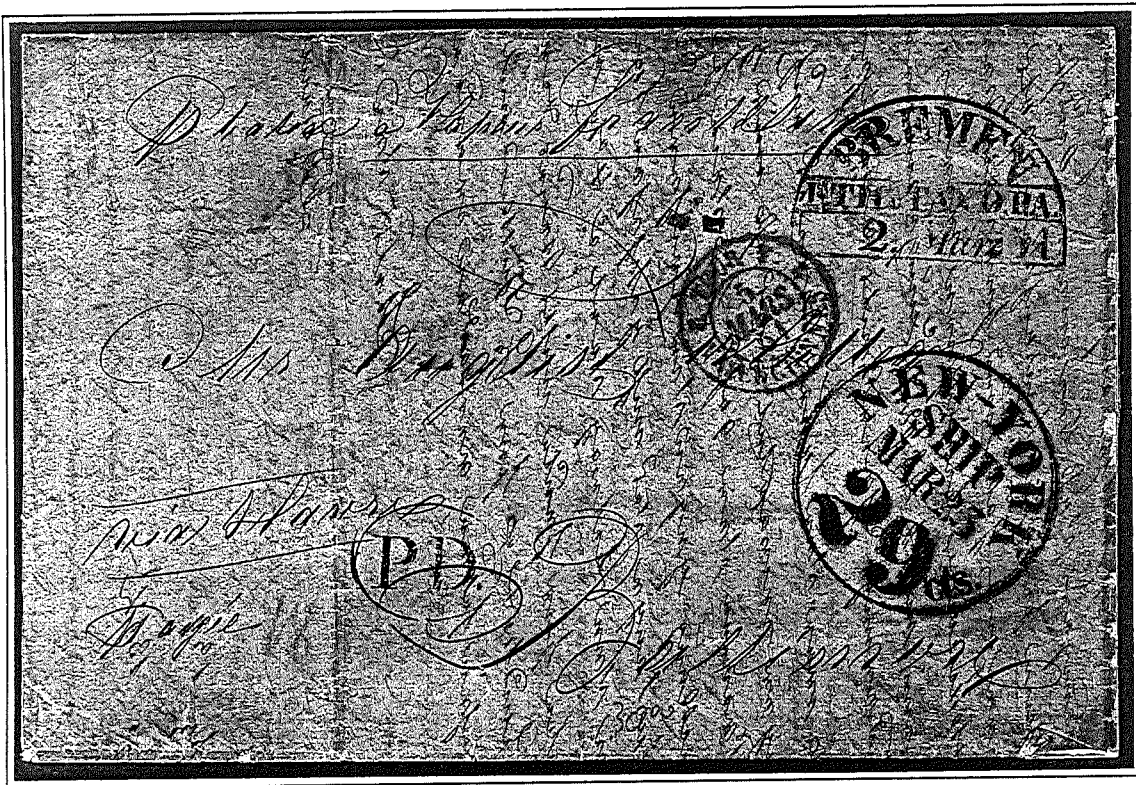
Missouri 17 days (East)
 Letter carried on last voyage of line
 French entry marking in blue applied at Le Havre

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
5 Oct 50-1 Jul 51

The first American contract steamship service directly to France commenced on 5 October 1850 by the New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company. At the time, the American packet rate was 24¢ plus either 5¢ or 10¢ U.S. inland fee depending on the distance to New York being less than or greater than 300 miles. The 24¢, 29¢, and 34¢ rates on this mail was in effect for only nine months before U.S. rates changed. These rates are found on only seven outgoing and five incoming Havre Line voyages.



2 March 1851 Bremen to Baltimore
18 grote prepaid for all transit fees to French port
29¢ postage due in Baltimore

Franklin 14 days (West)
Postage due consisted of 24¢ American packet fee plus
5¢ U.S. inland fee from New York to Baltimore

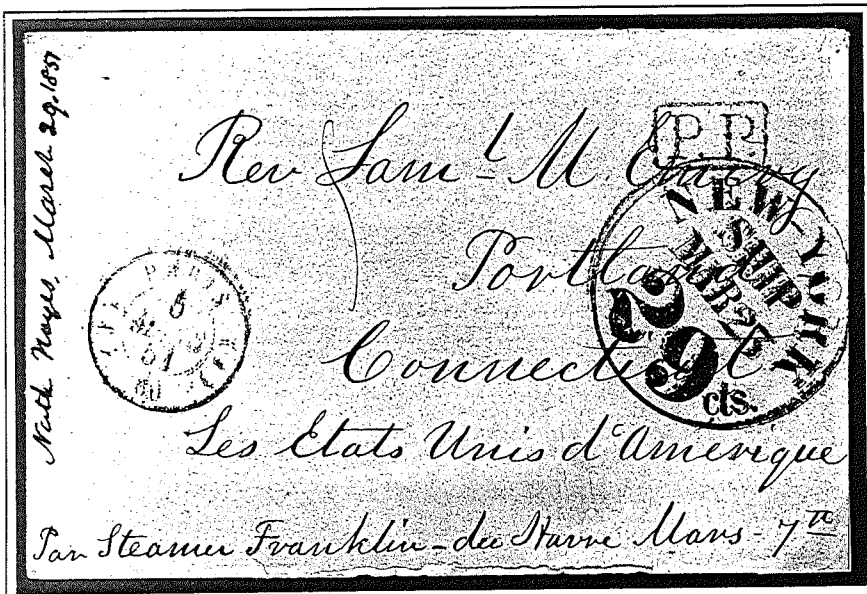


Letter taken to Thurn & Taxis post office in Bremen and paid 18 grote for all transit fees to Le Havre. This was a very scarce route for mail from Bremen and very few examples are known. Letters carried on the direct steamship service to and from France showing the 24¢, 29¢ and 34¢ rates are quite uncommon.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

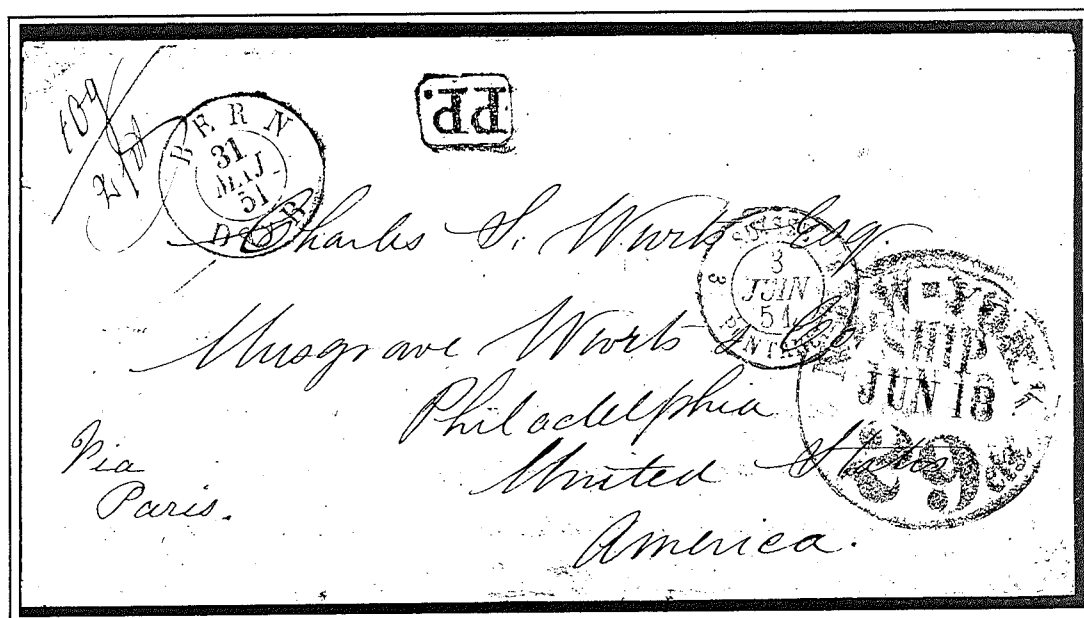
Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
5 Oct 50-1 Jul 51



5 March 1851 Paris to Portland, Connecticut
6 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
29¢ postage due in Portland

Franklin 14 days (West)
Postage due consisted of 24¢ American packet fee
plus 5¢ U.S. inland fee from New York to Portland



30 May 1851 Bern, Switzerland to Philadelphia
36 kreuzer prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
29¢ postage due in Philadelphia

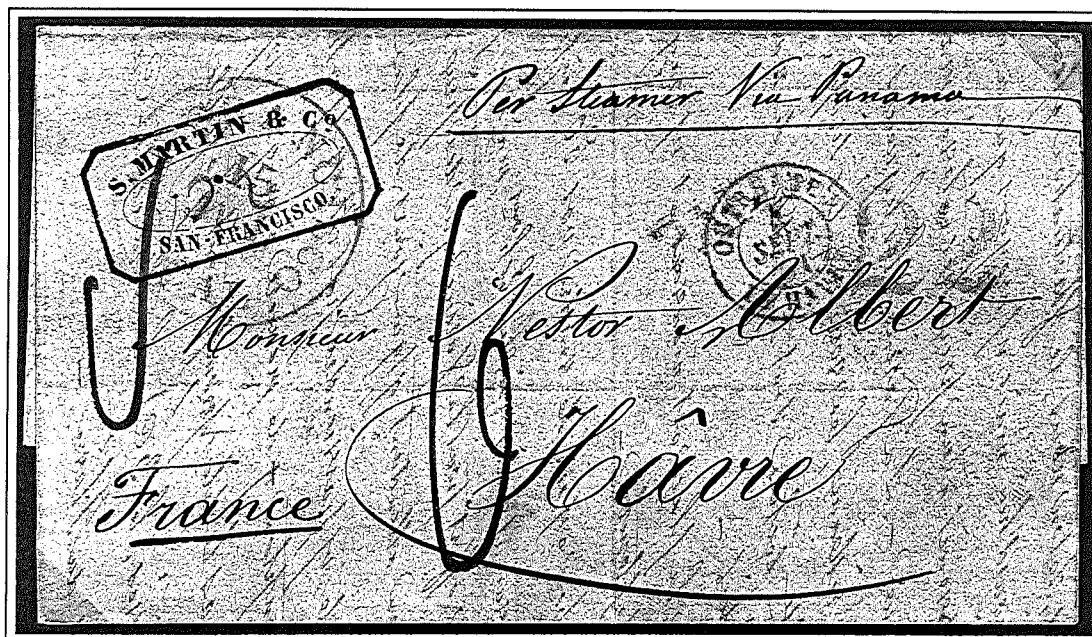
Humboldt 13 days (West)
Prepayment = 2x45 rappen (36 kreuzer) for 10 gram
letter from 2nd rayon to French departure port

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57

On 1 July 1851, new internal postage rates went into effect in the United States. The rate for a ½ oz. letter going any distance up to 3,000 miles was reduced from 5¢ (less than 300 miles)/10¢ (greater than 300 miles) to 3¢ or 5¢ if unpaid. The West Coast rate was reduced from 40¢ to 6¢ paid or 10¢ unpaid. On British open mails, the U.S. inland portion was reduced from 40¢ to 10¢, making the British open mail rate by American packet, 26¢.



14 July 1851 San Francisco to Le Havre
22¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
6 decimes postage due in Le Havre

Humboldt 12 days (East)
Prepayment was local, unapproved rate
Postage due = 2x3 decimes for 7½-15 gram letter

22

The San Francisco postmaster didn't understand the July 1851 rate change. On mail to France he calculated the new British open mail rate by American packet as 22¢ (6¢ U.S. inland paid rate plus 16¢ sea postage). He created a handstamp for this new rate. Additionally, no matter what route across the Atlantic was intended, he always collected the open mail rate by American packet. He used the unauthorized 22¢ rate for two months before shifting to the correct 26¢ rate, probably on instructions from Washington, D.C. Since the foreign mails left San Francisco twice per month on contract steamships to Panama, this meant that letters showing this rate may appear on only four outgoing mails.

This example is one of five recorded examples showing the 22¢ rate.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57



17 October 1851 Philadelphia to Paris
20¢ prepaid for direct American packet rate
6 decimes postage due in Paris

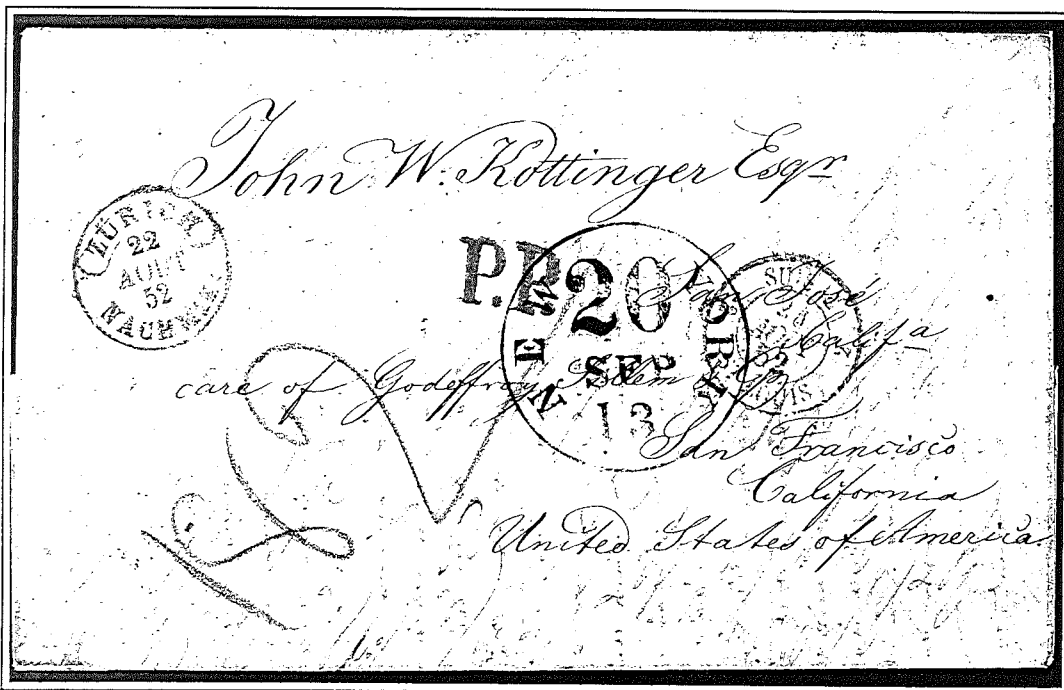
Humboldt 14 days (East)
PHIL^A 5 Cts. PAID marking revalued 20¢ in pen
Postage due for 7½ gram letter going beyond arrival port

When new internal U.S. rates became effective in July 1851, the American packet rate also was reduced from 24¢ to 20¢. No additional internal fees were required from anywhere in the U.S.; thus, the U.S. rate on American packet letters carried directly to and from France was 20¢. The French collected either 3 decimes per 7½ gram letter from or to the French port from which the steamer operated or 6 decimes per 7½ grams if beyond the port. These rates remained in effect until the U.S.-French Treaty went into effect in April 1857.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

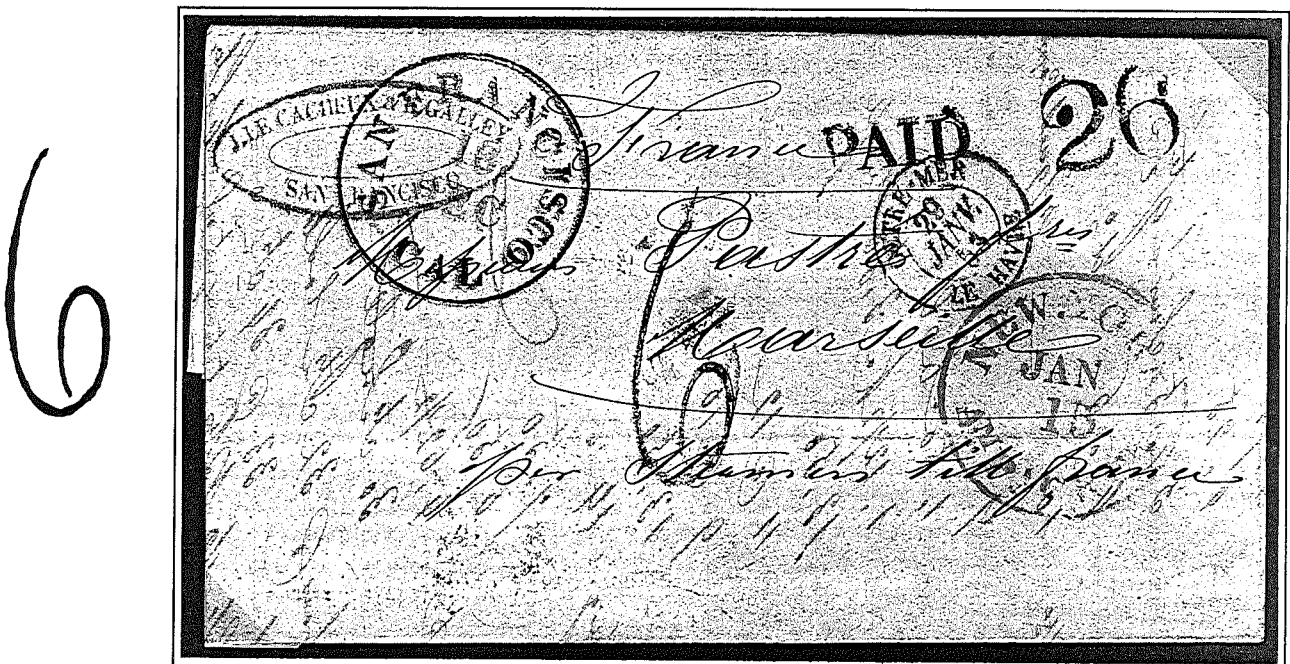
Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57



19 August 1852 Zurich, Switzerland to San Francisco
65 rappen prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
20¢ postage due in San Francisco

Humboldt 12 days (West)
Prepayment was for 2nd Swiss rayon to French port
Red crayon "182" was post office box in San Francisco



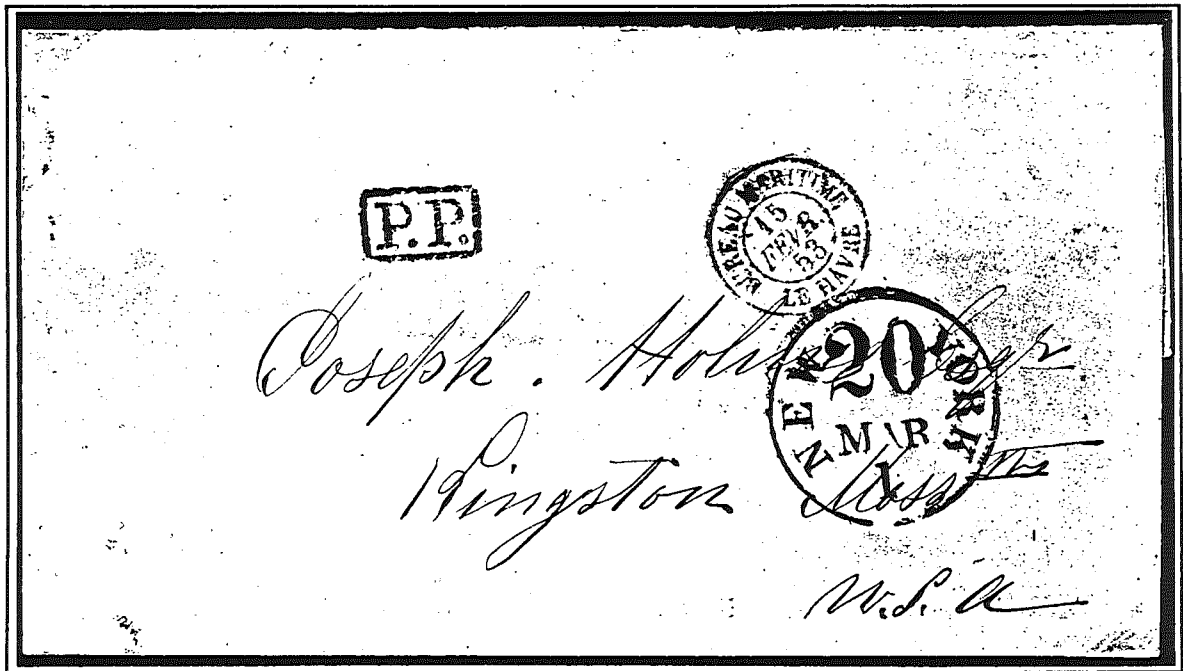
15 December 1852 San Francisco to Marseille
26¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
6 decimes postage due in Marseille

Humboldt 14 days (East)
By mid-Dec 1852, San Francisco shifted to black ink
Letter carried by PMSS Co. steamer *Tennessee* to Panama
and USMSS Co. steamer *Illinois* to New York

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

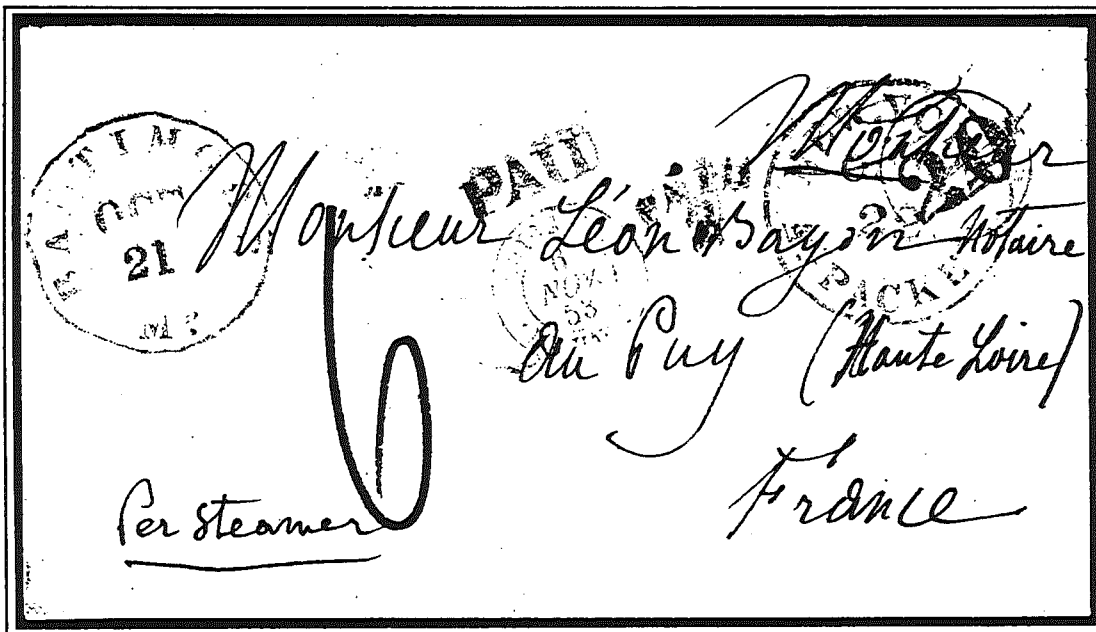
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857
1 Jul 51–1 Apr 57



13 February 1853 Le Havre to Kingston, Massachusetts
3 decimes probably prepaid (not shown)
20¢ postage due in Kingston

Humboldt 11 days (West)
New York used both a 30 and 33 mm cds with
integral "20" rate marking, this the smaller one



21 October 1853 Baltimore to Le Puy-en-Velay
20¢ prepaid for direct American packet rate
6 decimes postage due in Le Puy-en-Velay

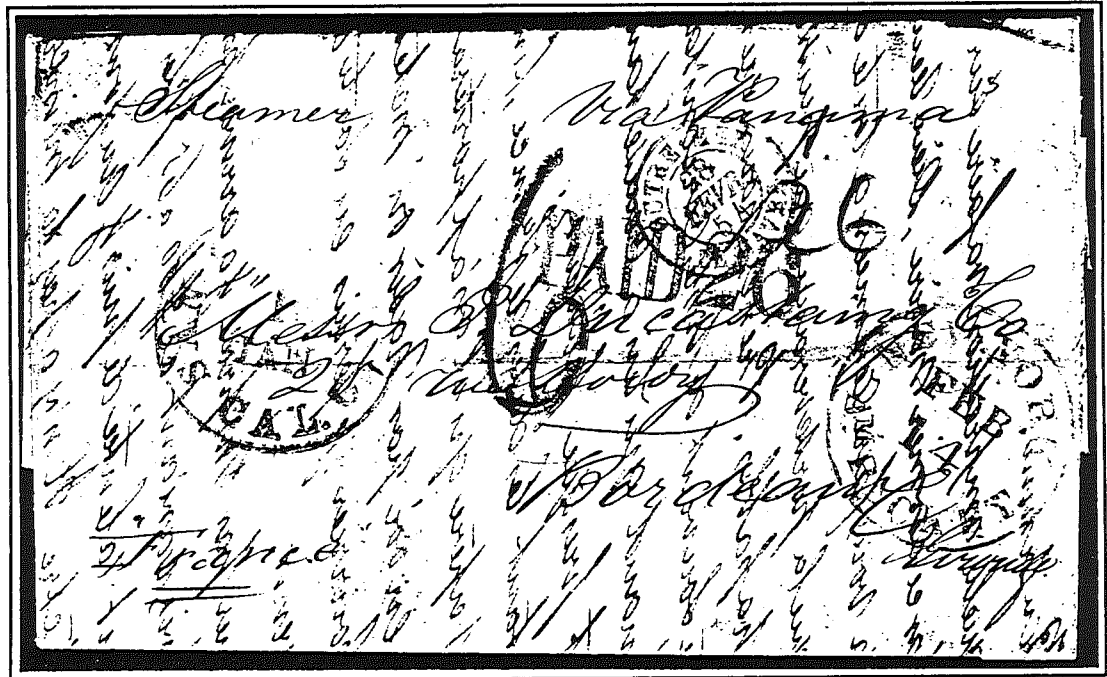
Humboldt 16 days (East)
Blue PAID/3 handstamp applied in error
Prepaid 20¢ letters are uncommon as preference was to
pay 21¢ so letter could go on any American packet

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

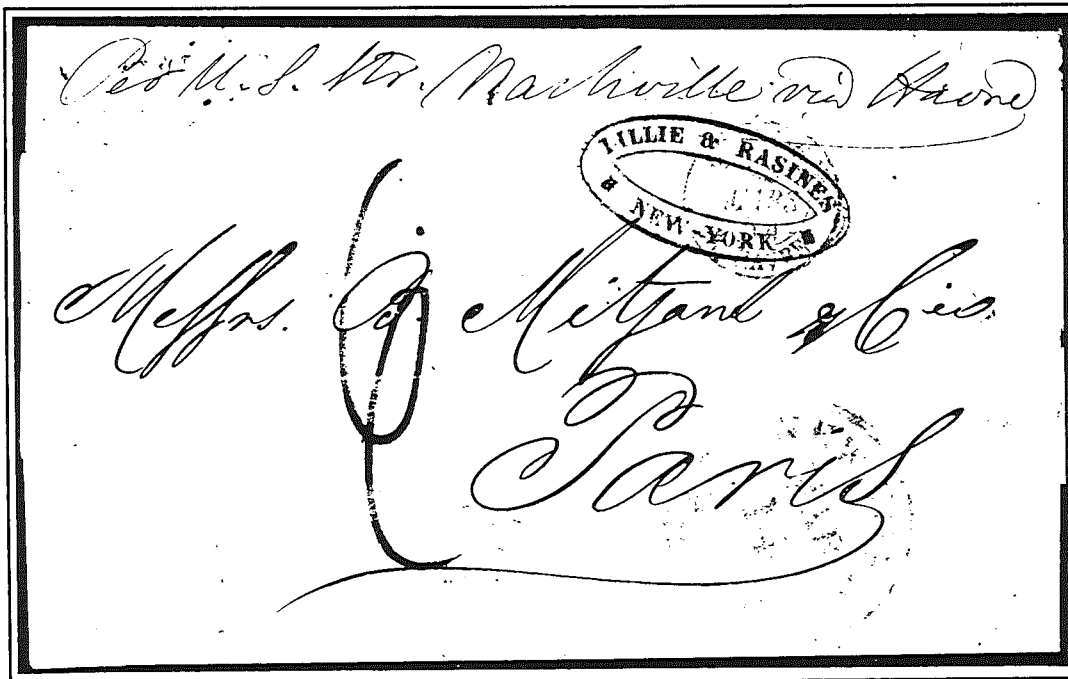
1850-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57

PAID 26



14 January 1854 San Francisco to Bordeaux
26¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet
6 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Franklin 12 days (East)
By Sep 1853, San Francisco used a
straightline PAID26 rate marking



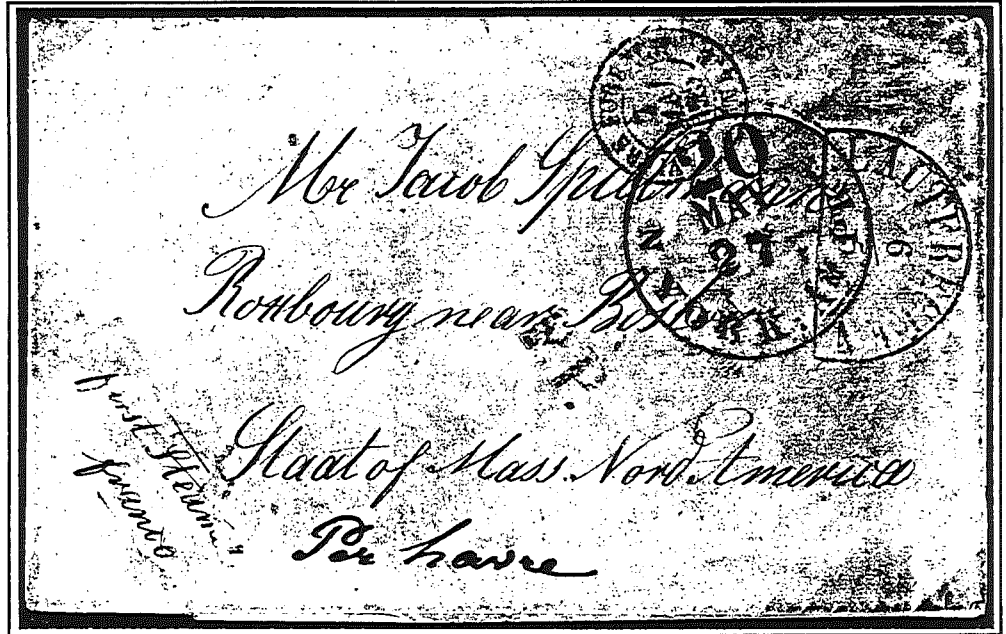
8 March 1854 Havana, Cuba to Paris
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at New York)
6 decimes postage due in Paris

Nashville 14 days (East)
Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York where
agent Lille & Rasines placed in ship letter bag
Nashville chartered for two round voyages only

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

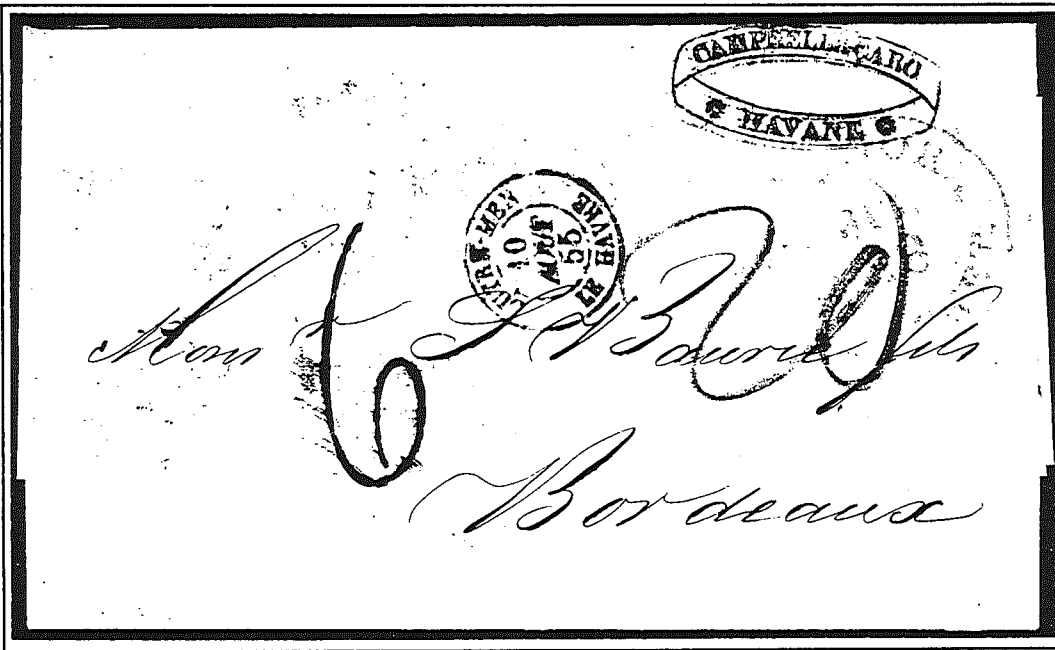
Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57



6 May 1855 Lauterecken, Rhennish Bavaria to Roxbury, Mass.
18 kreuzer prepaid (not shown)
20¢ postage due in Roxbury

Union 17 days (West)
French entry at Forbach from Bavaria and
processed on railroad car to Paris



(Reverse)

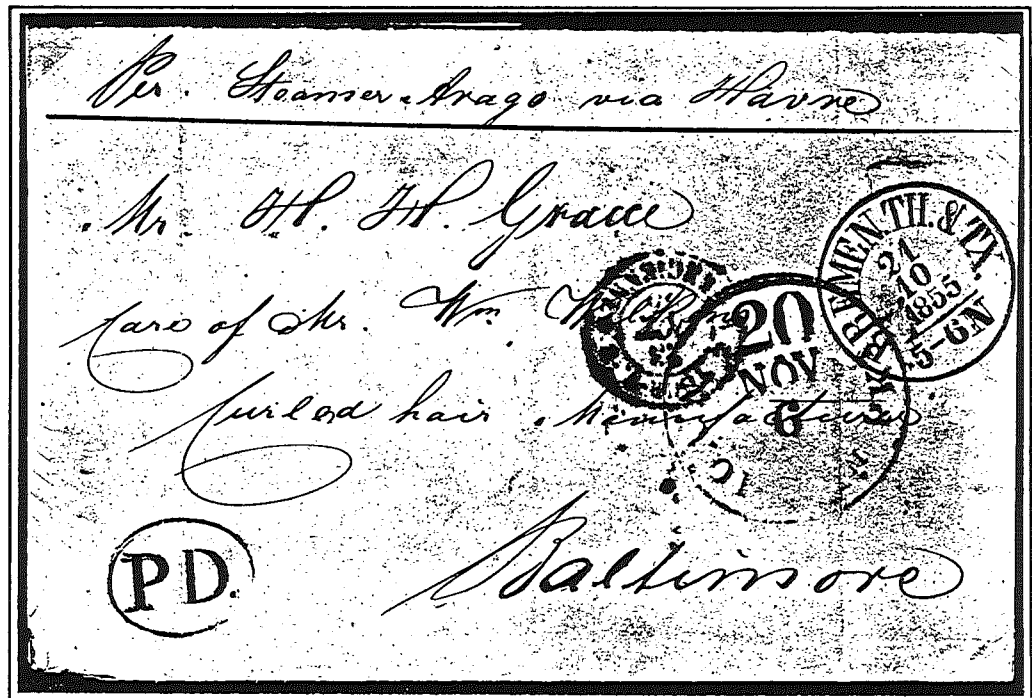
18 July 1855 Havana, Cuba to Bordeaux
20¢ prepaid in New York for American packet rate
6 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Arago 13 days (East)
Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York where
forwarding agent Fort & Lindam posted it

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

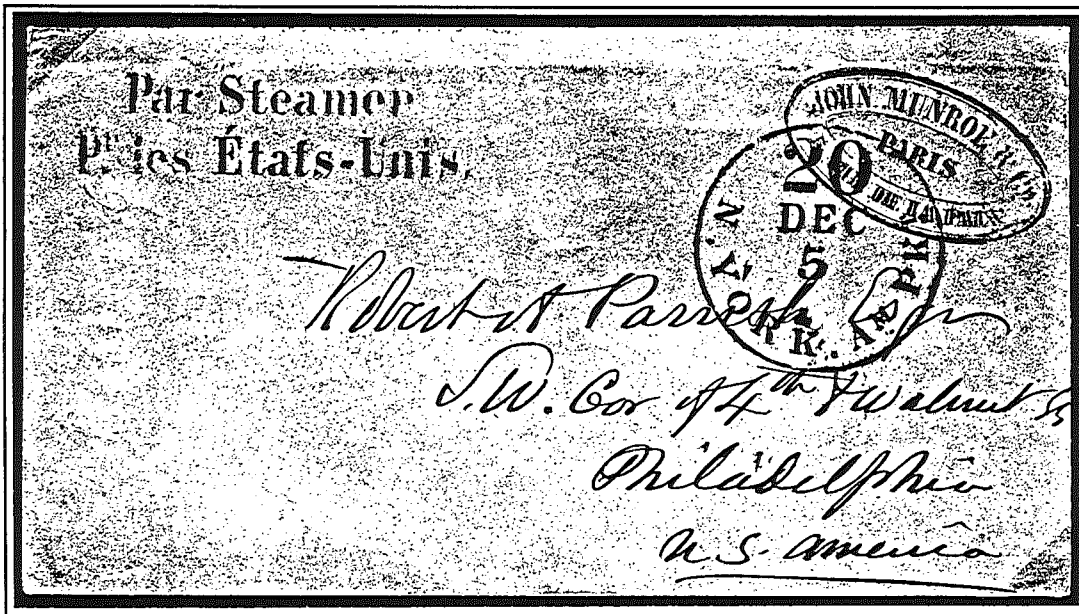
Pre U.S. - French Treaty
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57



21 October 1855 Bremen to Baltimore
43 kreuzer prepaid (not shown)
20¢ postage due in Baltimore

Arago 13 days (West)
Prepayment included 28 kr. to France and 4 kr. to Belgium
Routing through France to Le Havre was quite uncommon



18 November 1856 Paris to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at Le Havre)
20¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Arago 16 days (West)
Letter carried "out of the mails" to Le Havre where
forwarding agent Draper & Hagenow posted it
Blue "Par Steamer/P' les États-Unis" private marking of
John Monroe & Co. of Paris

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

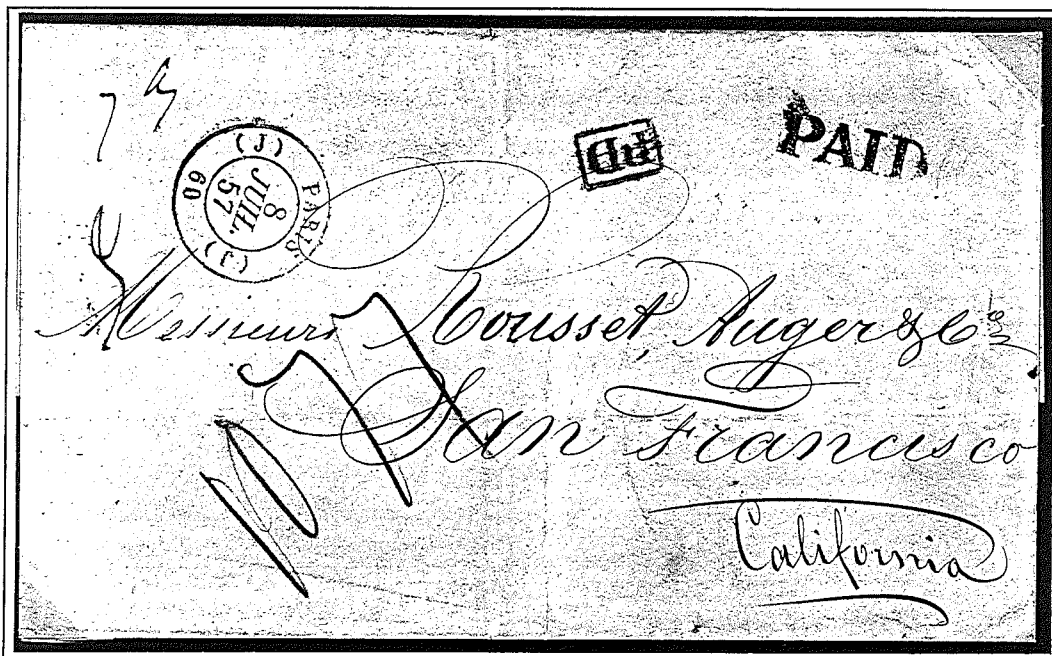
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

On 1 April 1857, the first postal convention between the United States and France went into effect. It was now possible to send mail fully paid to destination or to the limits of either country's mail system. The rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by British packet service via Great Britain was:

U.S. inland	3¢
Sea	6¢
Br. transit	2¢
Fr. transit	4¢
	15¢ or 8 decimes

Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 3¢
 Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 12¢
 Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 12¢;
 Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 3¢



7 July 1857 Paris to San Francisco
 8 decimes prepaid for single rate
 3¢ French credit to U.S.

Asia 13 days (West)
 7 gram weight marked upper left
 San Francisco marked black PAID

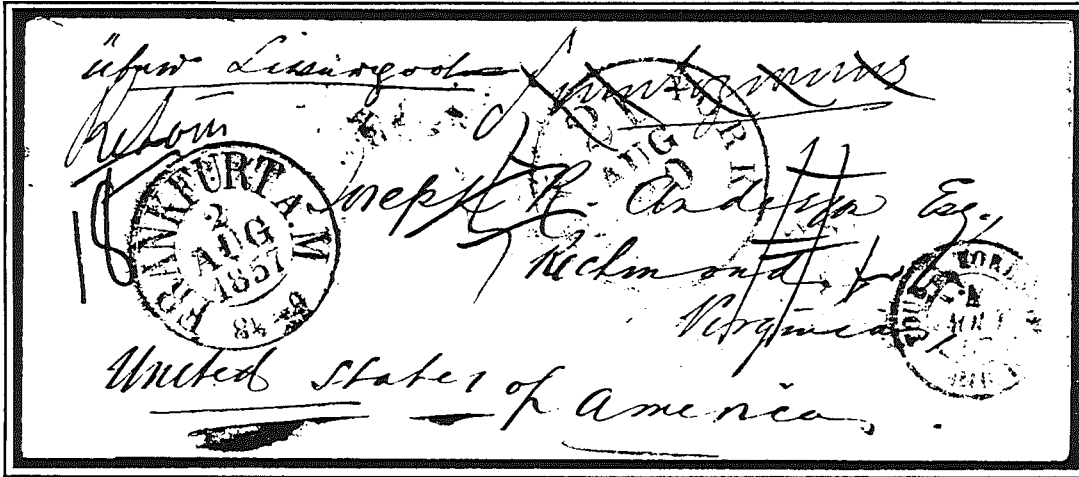
4 (Reverse)

This letter was placed in a closed mail bag at Paris and not opened until San Francisco. It was carried from New York to Aspinwall by the U.S. Mail Steamship Company steamer *Illinois* and from Panama City to San Francisco by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer *John L. Stephens*. "1077" in pencil was box number of San Francisco recipient. French credit to U.S. of 3¢ written in pen below letter weight in upper left.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

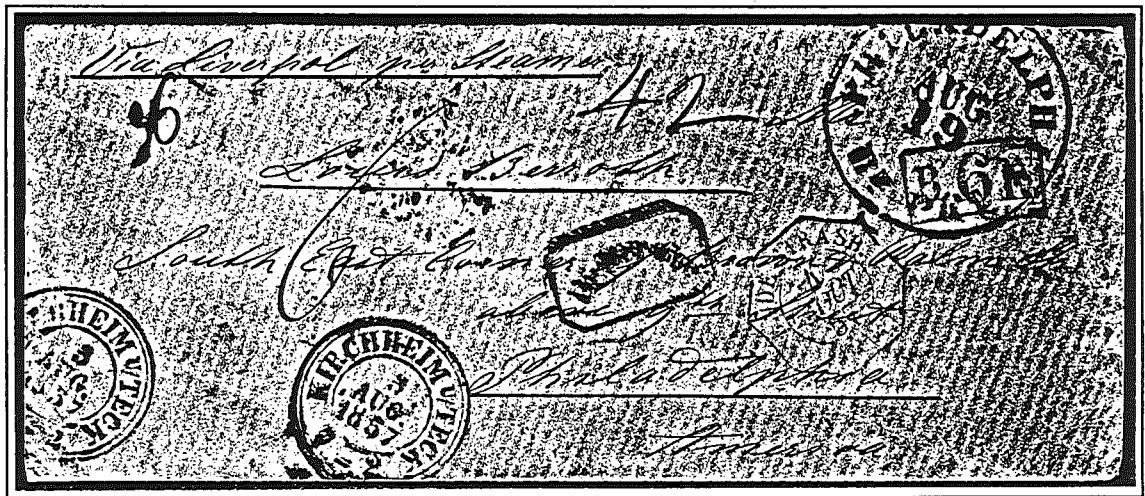
1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



1 August 1857 Frankfurt am Main, Germany to Richmond, Va.
 Letter sent unpaid (21¢ rate)
 21¢ postage due in Richmond

Arabia 11 days (West)
 18¢ French debit to U.S. included 6¢ foreign transit
 Letter mistakenly sent to Sarreguimines, France,
 returned to Frankfurt, and resent to U.S.

B.6K



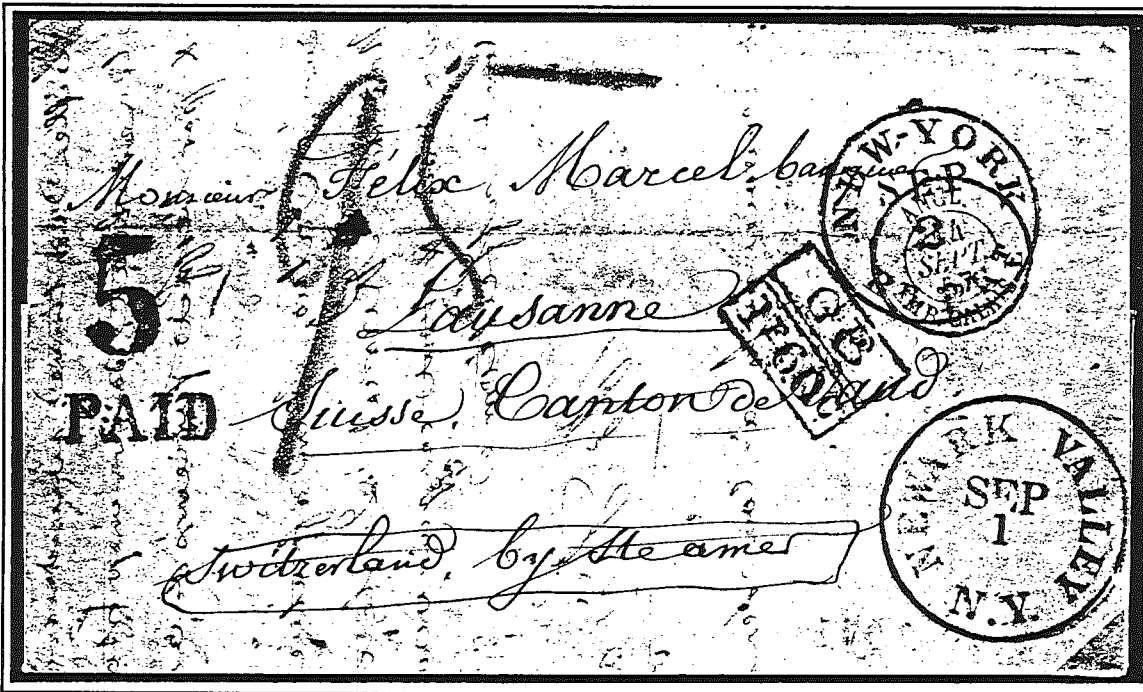
3 August 1857 Kircheim u/Treck, Württemberg to Philadelphia
 Letter sent unpaid (2x21¢ rate)
 42¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Arabia 11 days (West)
 2x18¢ French debit to U.S. (manuscript upper left)
 Under French–Baden Treaty of 1856, Baden entitled
 to 2x3 kr., shown in blue pen and special handstamp

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

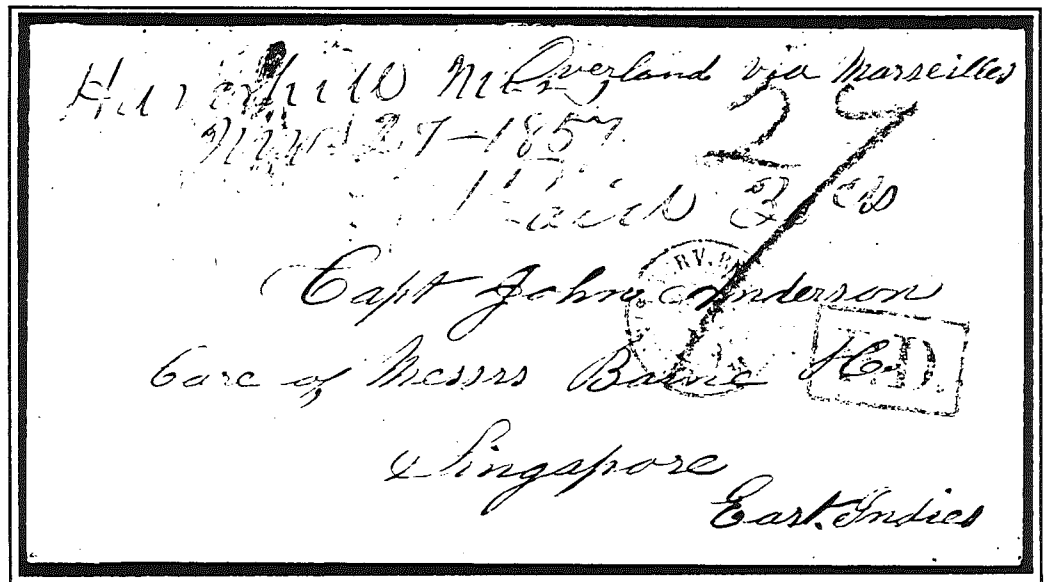
1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



1 September 1857 Newark Valley, N.Y. to Lausanne, Switzerland
 5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
 95 rappen postage due in Lausanne

Arabia 11 days (East)
 5¢ and 21¢ British open mail rates still in effect,
 but not encouraged; Uncommon example of
 British open mail rate use after French Treaty

Paid 30¢



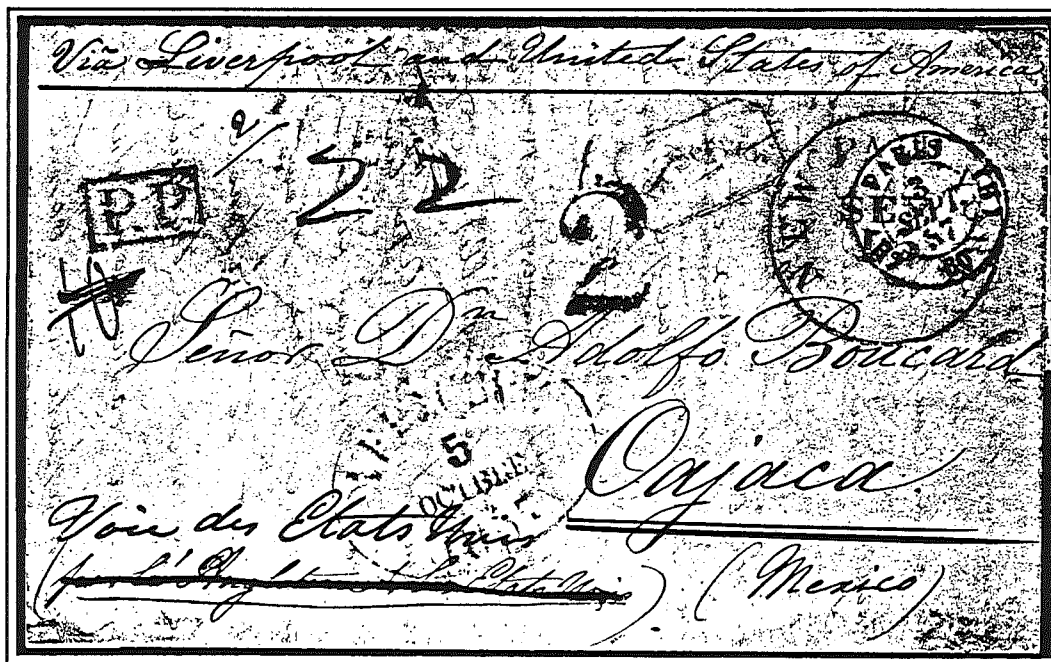
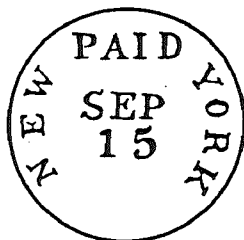
17 November 1857 Haverhill, Massachusetts to Singapore
 30¢ prepaid for single rate
 27¢ U.S. credit to France

Canada 11 days (East)
 Letter carried in closed mail bag from Marseille to
 destination on P&O steamships to Alexandria, and
 from Suez via Aden, Ceylon and Penang

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



3 September 1857 Paris to Oajaca, Mexico
12 decimes prepaid for single rate
10¢ French credit to U.S.

Persia 10 days (West)
New York showed 22¢ equivalent rate prepaid
Vera Cruz marked 2 reales postage due

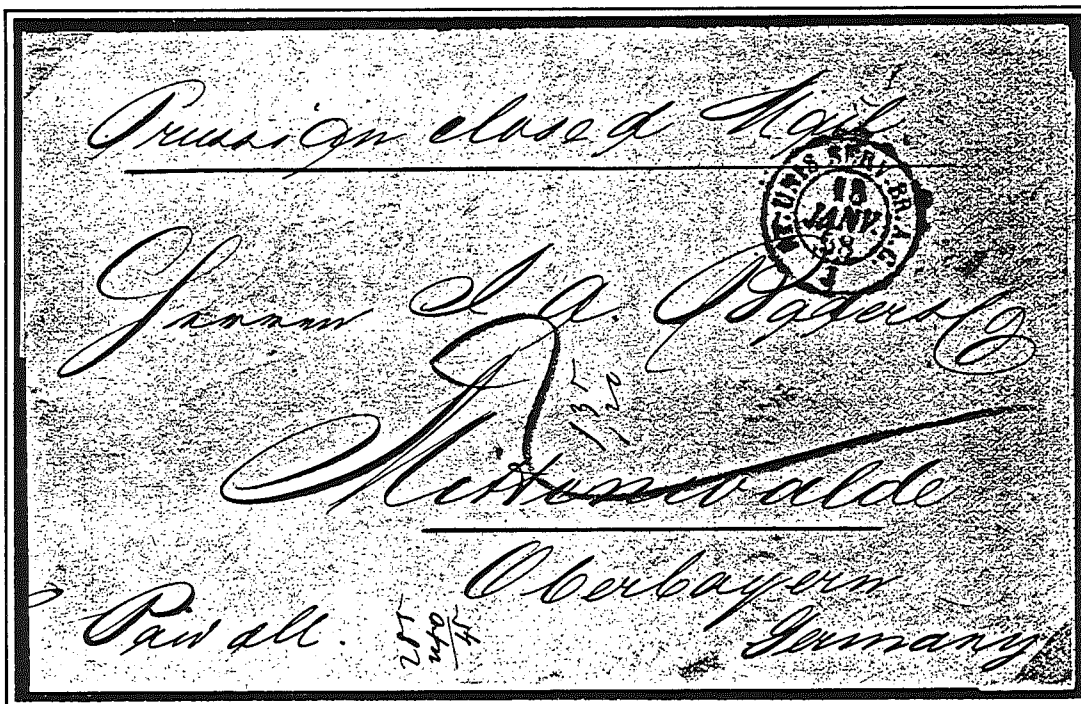
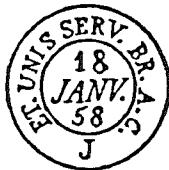
U.S. – French Treaty had provisions for sending fully paid letters from France through the United States to countries beyond, such as Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America, etc. The fully paid rate to Mexico via the U.S. was 12 decimes or 22¢, marked in manuscript on reverse. This paid the letter as far as the U.S. mails could take it, in this case, the port of Vera Cruz.

Mails from France to Mexico via the United States are quite scarce.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



1 January 1858 New York to Mittenwalde, Bavaria
2¢ prepaid for circular rate
5 kreuzer postage due in Mittenwalde (not shown)

Persia 10 days (East)
Printed matter could not be paid to destination under new convention, so each country fixed its own rates

Printed circular endorsed for Prussian Closed Mail. Since Prussian Treaty had no provisions for printed matter except newspapers, this circular was sent in the French mails. French entry marking showed circular from the United States by British packet service to England and was processed by mail Brigade J on the railway train from Calais to Paris.

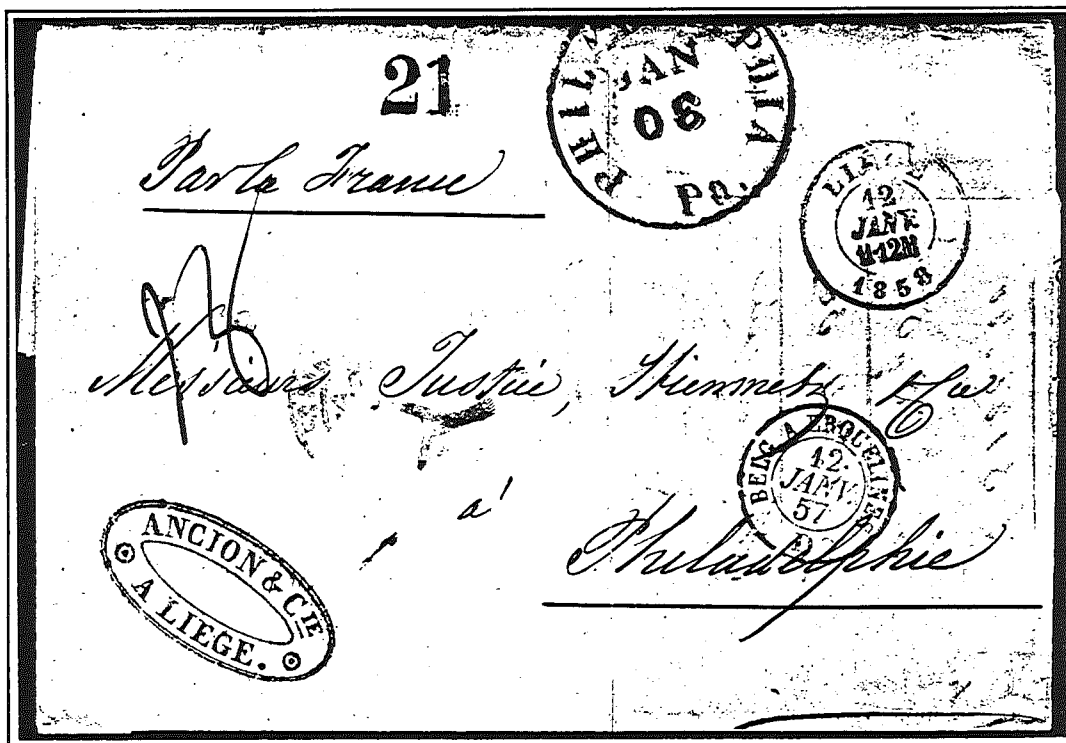
Circulars sent overseas are not common and those paid in cash, without adhesives, quite uncommon.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

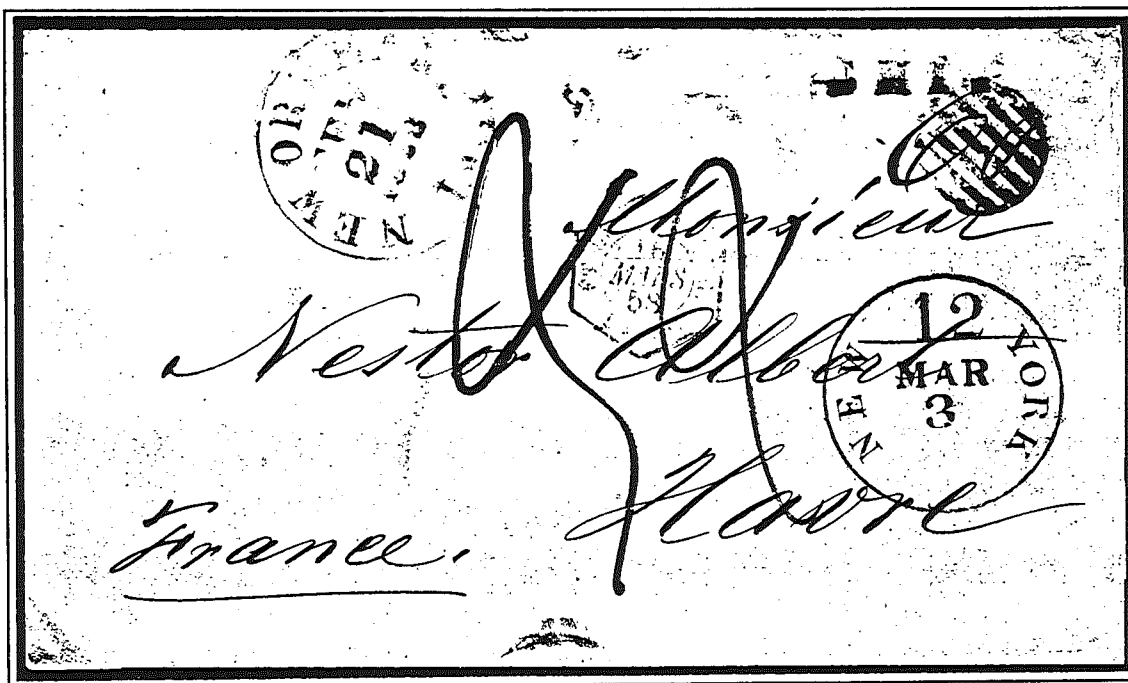
1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70

926



11 January 1858 Liege, Belgium to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid
21¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Canada 13 days (West)
18¢ French debit to U.S.
French entry at Erquelines on railway to Paris



SHIP

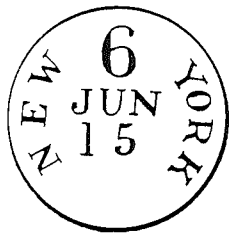
8 February 1858 Laguna de Terminos, Mexico to Le Havre
Letter sent unpaid (quadruple rate)
32 decimes postage due in Le Havre

Africa 11 days (East)
4x3¢ = 12¢ U.S. debit to France
Letter carried by private ship to New Orleans

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

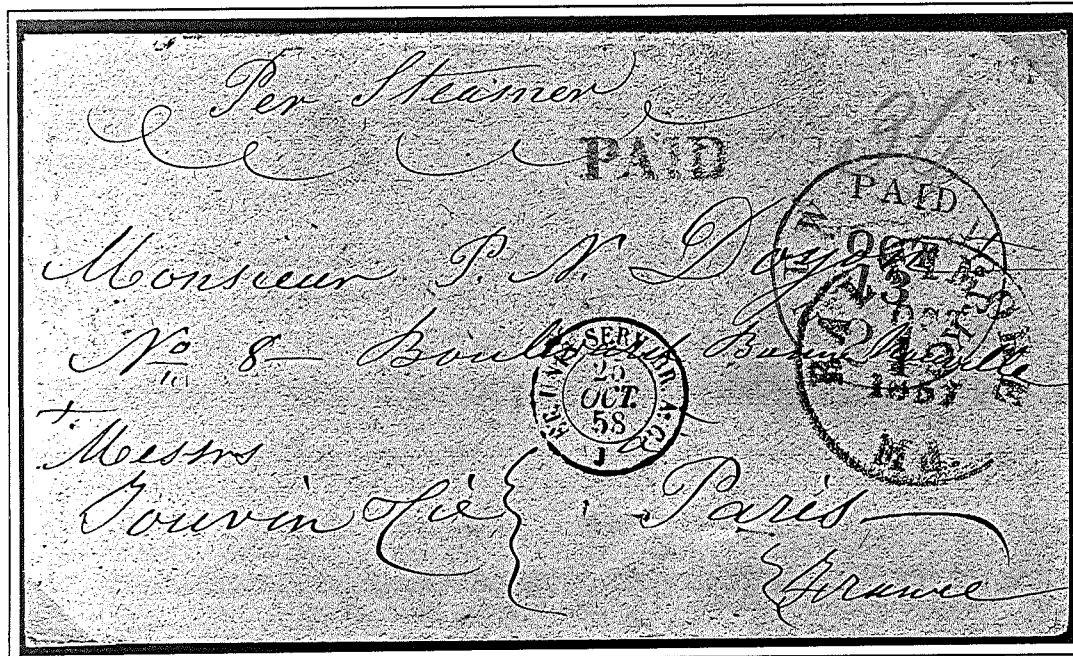
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



9 June 1858 St. Louis, Missouri to Couvet, Switzerland
 Letter sent unpaid
 115 rappen postage due in Couvet

America 11 days (East)
 U.S. marked 2x3¢ debit to France for letter over ¼ oz. (7.09 gm.)
 Swiss marked 115 rappen due for letter under 7½ gm.



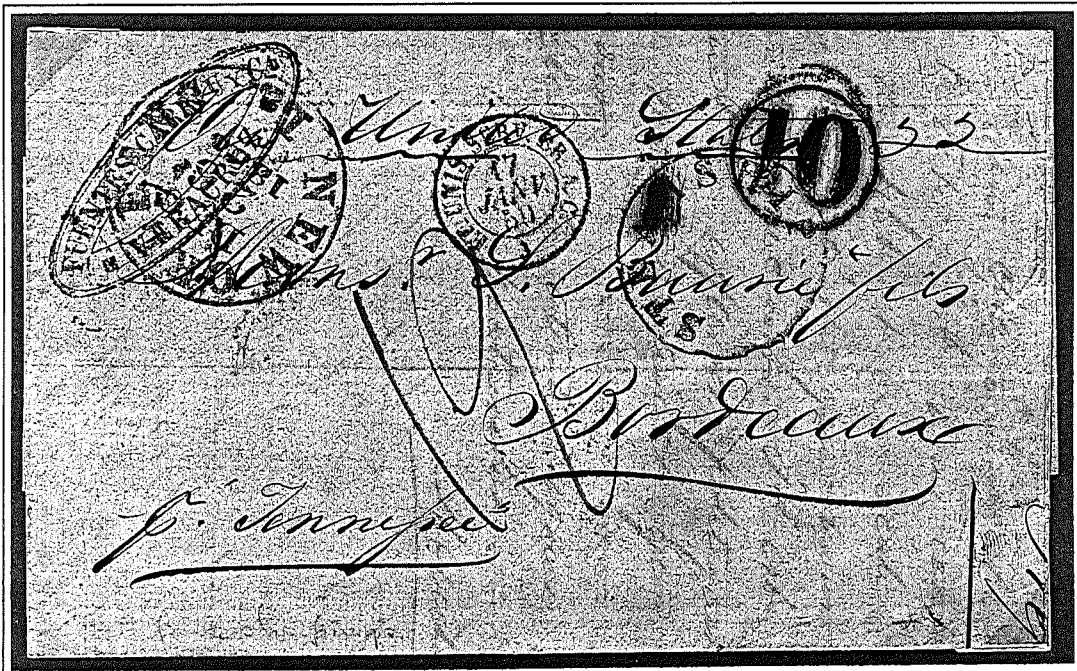
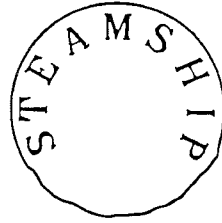
12 October 1858 Baltimore to Paris
 2x15¢ = 30¢ prepaid for double rate
 2x12¢ = 24¢ U.S. credit to France

Arabia 12 days (East)
 Baltimore's postal clerks made three separate markings on this letter (blue cds, red PAID, and red crayon "30" rate marking)

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



21 December 1858 Veracruz, Mexico to Bordeaux
Letter sent unpaid (22¢ rate)
12 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Asia 11 days (East)
New York debited France 10¢
Veracruz backstamp showed entry into Mexican post

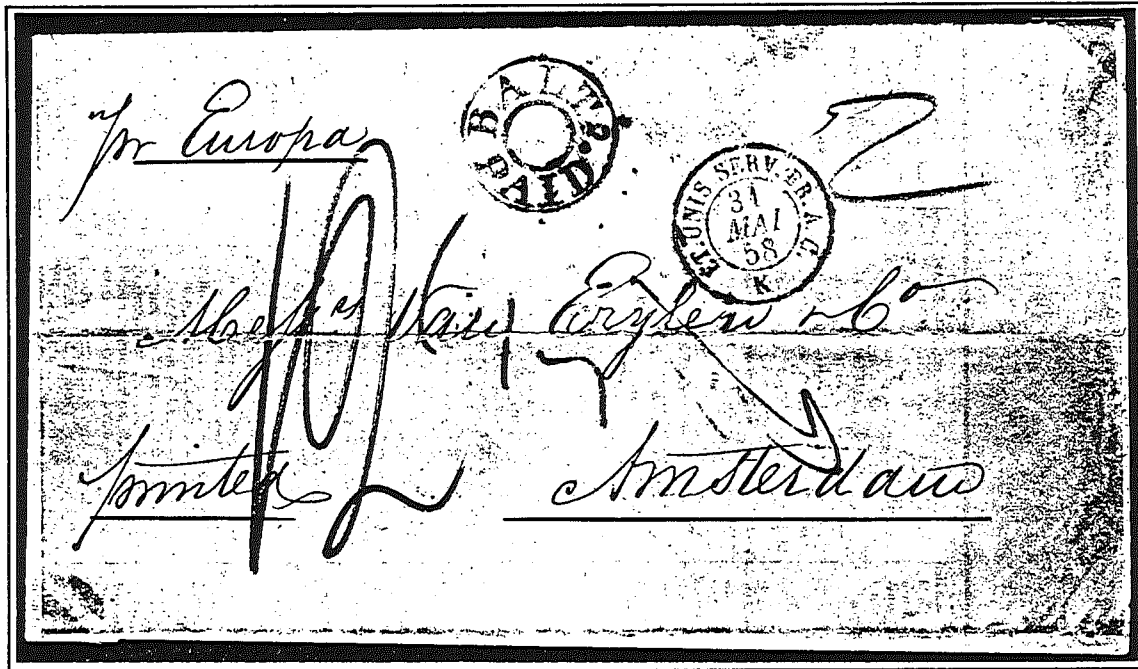
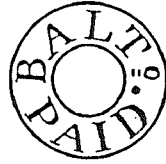
Letter carried from Veracruz to New Orleans by mail steamship *Tennessee*, a temporary mail steamer owned by Charles Morgan. New Orleans marked circular STEAMSHIP marking (distinctive handstamp with damaged lower rim) to show letter entered U.S. mails from an incoming steamship. Letter sent to New York where 10¢ debit to France marked for transit from Mexico to New Orleans. In France, letter marked for 12 decimes postage due on ambulant from Calais to Paris.

French Treaty mails from Mexico via the U.S. is very uncommon.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



15 May 1858 Baltimore to Amsterdam, Holland
2¢ prepaid for circular rate
12½ Dutch cents postage due in Amsterdam

Europa 11 days (East)
Printed matter could not be paid fully to
destination, each country fixing its own rates



Unsealed circular containing Baltimore Price-Current from the Merchant's Exchange of Baltimore. Double circle BALTO PAID marking used primarily on printed matter. Triangular handstamp 1½C. AMSTERDAM was a fiscal marking on printed matter coming from foreign countries. It has been applied in blue ink on the inner sheet.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



23 October 1858 Charleston to Nantes
Letter sent unpaid
8 decimes postage due in Nantes

Africa 11 days (East)
3¢ U.S. debit to France
Charleston cds with 15¢ through rate

42



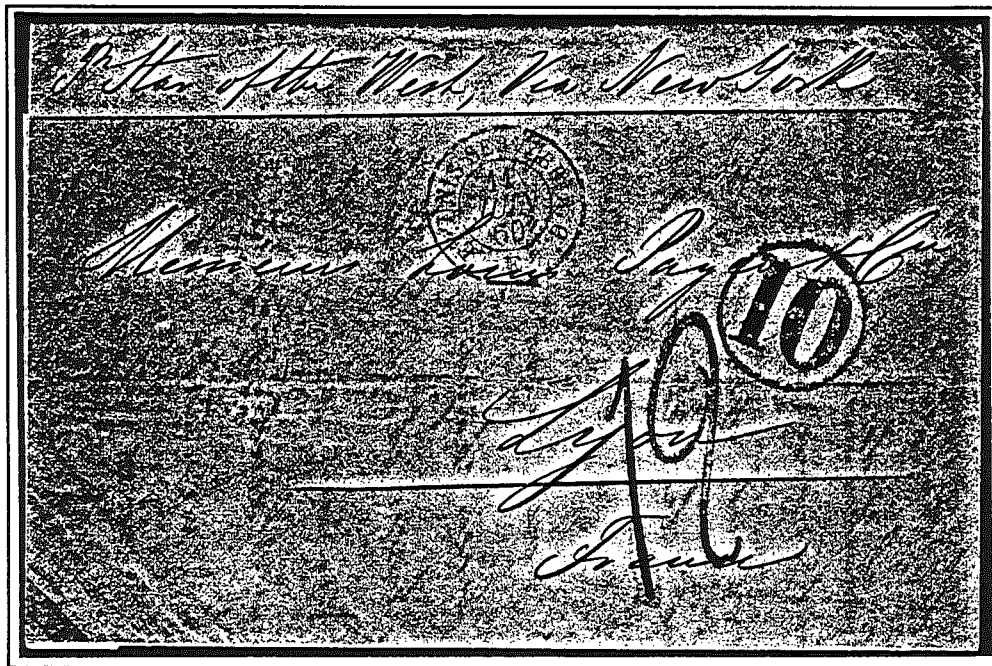
29 December 1859 Geneva, Switzerland to San Francisco
Letter sent unpaid (2x21¢ rate)
42¢ postage due in San Francisco

Europa 16 days (West)
2x18¢ = 36¢ French debit to U.S.
Boston applied "42" rate handstamp

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

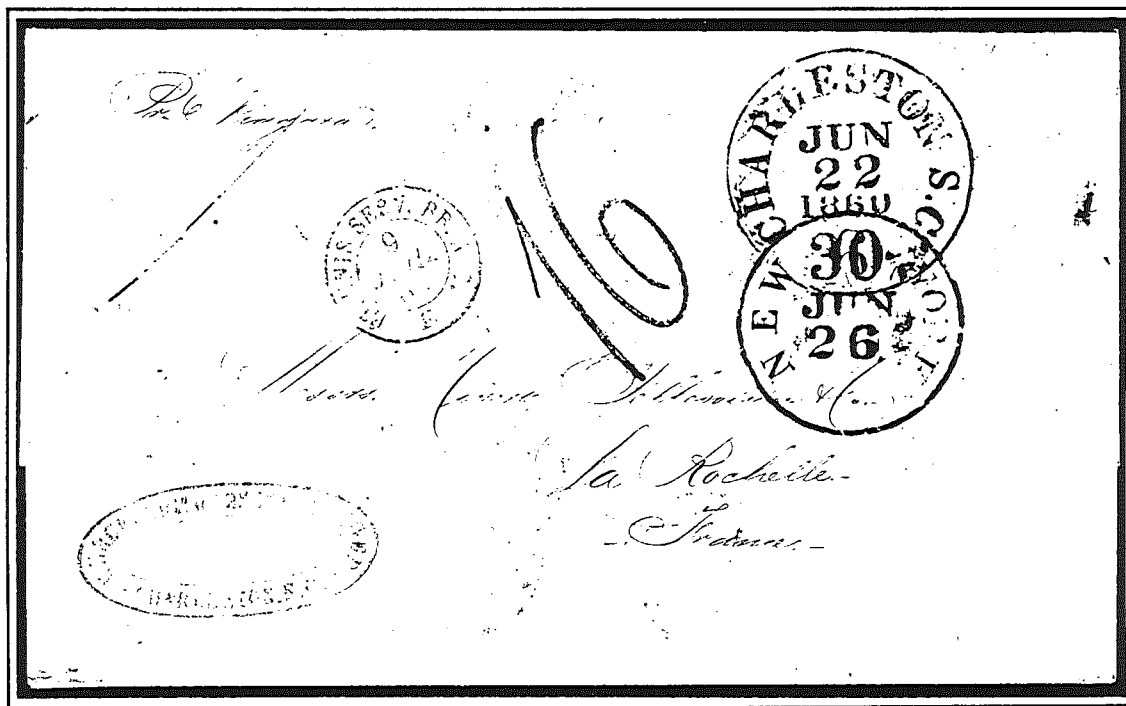
1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



10

23 May 1860 Havana, Cuba to Lyon
Letter sent unpaid (22¢ rate)
12 decimes postage due in Lyon

Europa 10 days (East)
10¢ U.S. debit to France
Letter carried to New York by U.S. mail steamer
Star of the West owned by M.O. Roberts



CHARLESTON S.C.
JUN 22 1860
30

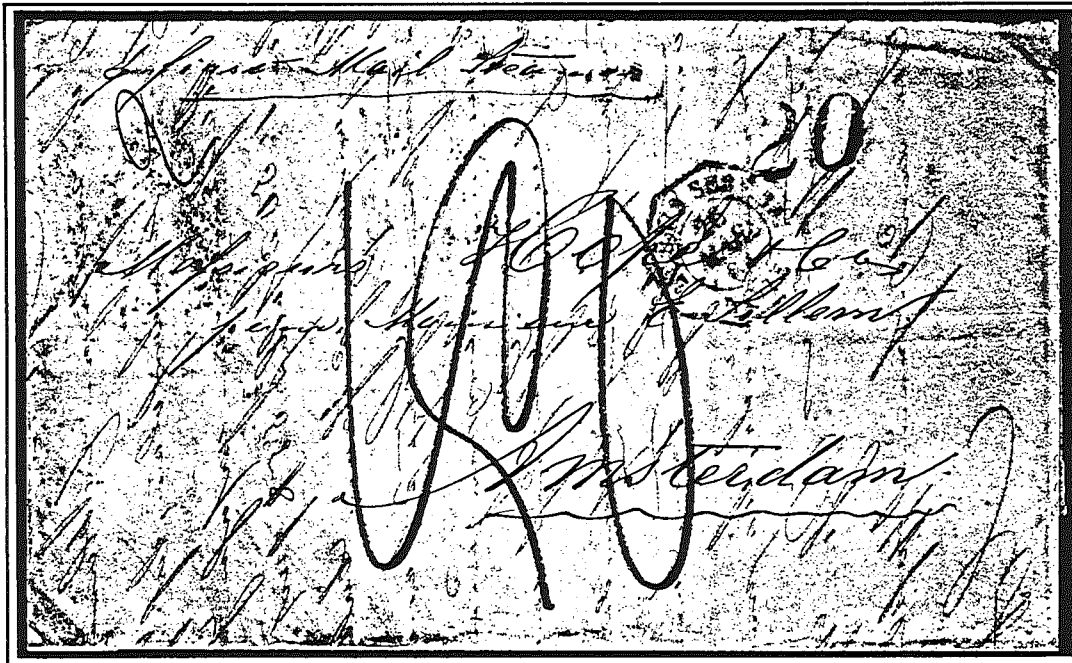
15 June 1860 Charleston to La Rochelle
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
16 decimes postage due in La Rochelle

Niagara 10 days (East)
2x3¢ = 6¢ U.S. debit to France
Charleston cds with 30¢ through rate

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



5 March 1861 Havana, Cuba to Amsterdam, Holland
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
150 Dutch cents postage due in Amsterdam

Adriatic 11 days (East)
20¢ U.S. debit to France
NEW-YORK BR.PKT. cds on reverse

U.S. Mail steamer *Quaker City* carried letter from Havana to New York. Newly purchased for the Atlantic Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company (Galway Line), steamship *Adriatic* was chartered by the Cunard Line to carry mails to England when the steamer proceeded to England to join her new company. Letter entered France at Le Havre.

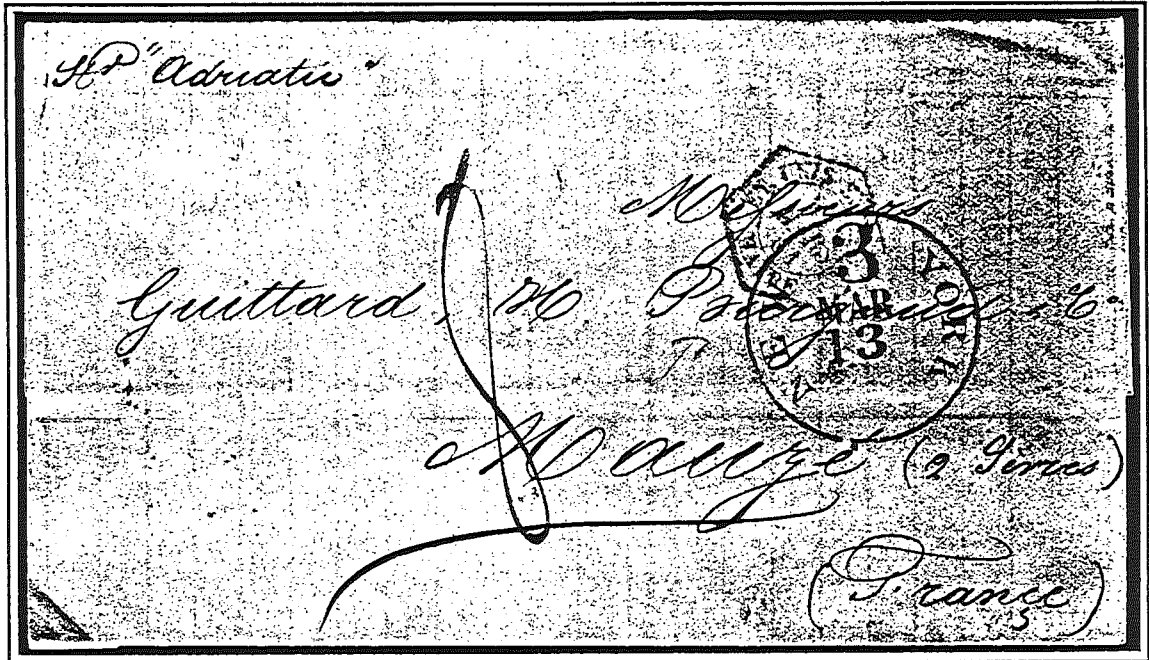
Postage due included 2x10¢ U.S. debit to France (struck at New York), 2x12¢ sea and British transit, and 2x6¢ French transit to Holland.

Uncommon French Treaty cover from beyond the U.S. (Cuba) via the U.S. to beyond France (Holland).

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

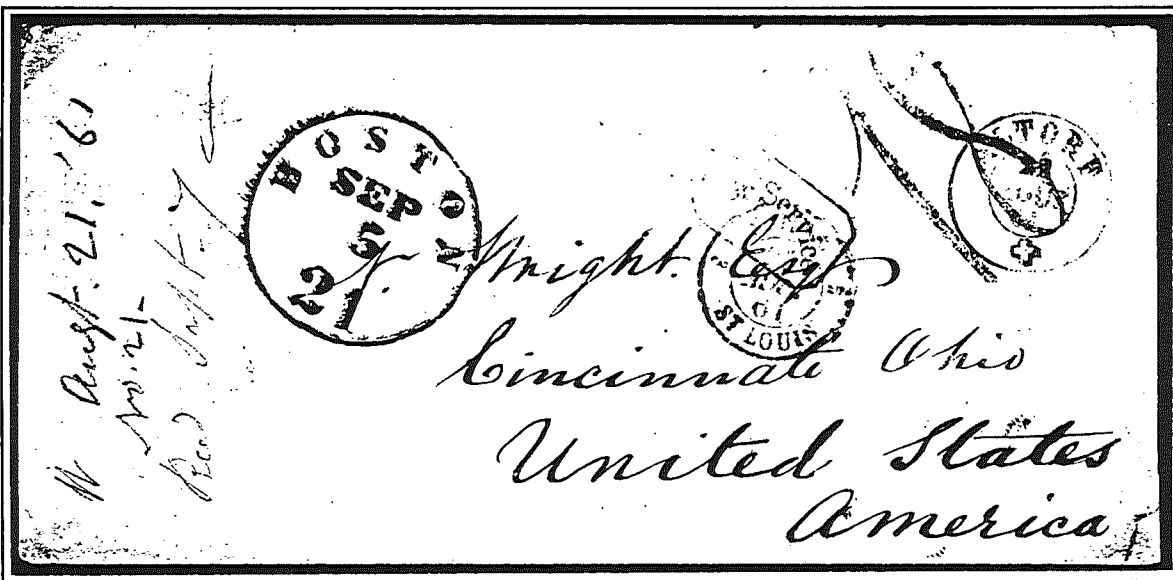
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



12 March 1861 New York to Mauze
 Letter sent unpaid
 8 decimes postage due in Mauze

Adriatic 11 days (East)
 3¢ U.S. debit to France
 Second type of French entry marking used
 on mails of this voyage (see previous page)



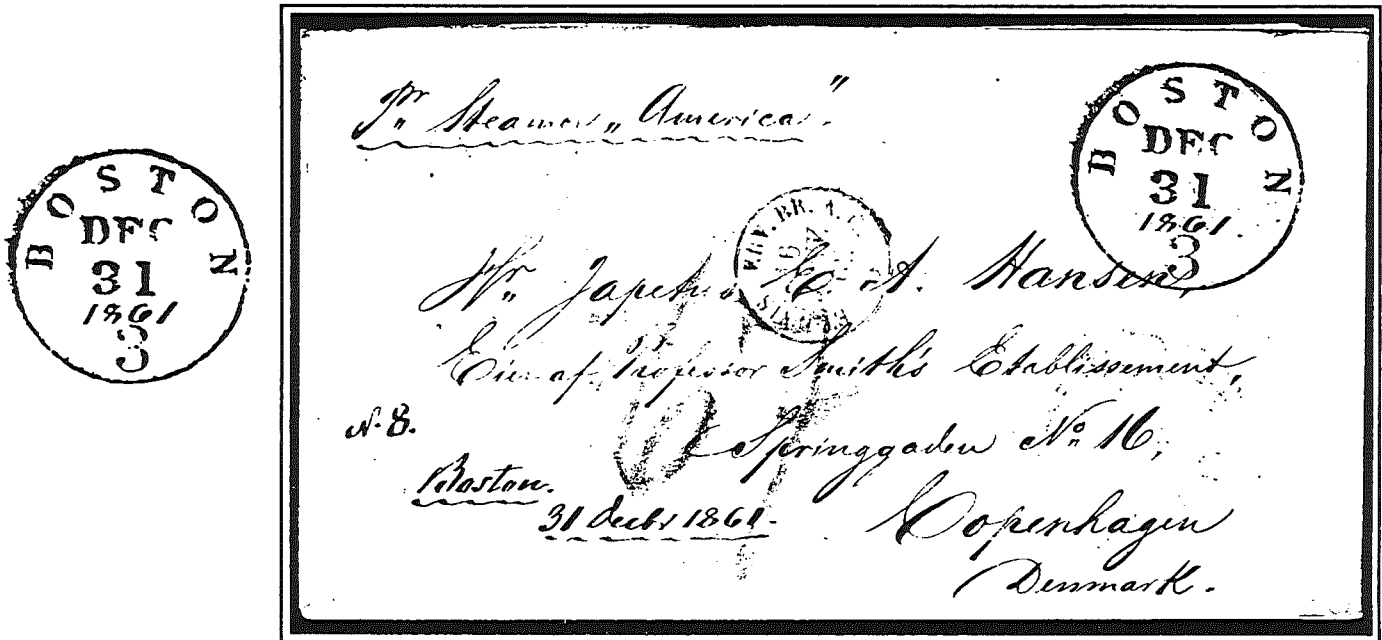
21 August 1861 Altorf, Switzerland to Cincinnati
 Letter sent unpaid
 21¢ postage due in Cincinnati

Arabia 11 days (West)
 18¢ French debit to U.S.
 French entry at St. Louis across border from Basel
 Paris applied unusual "18" debit marking

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

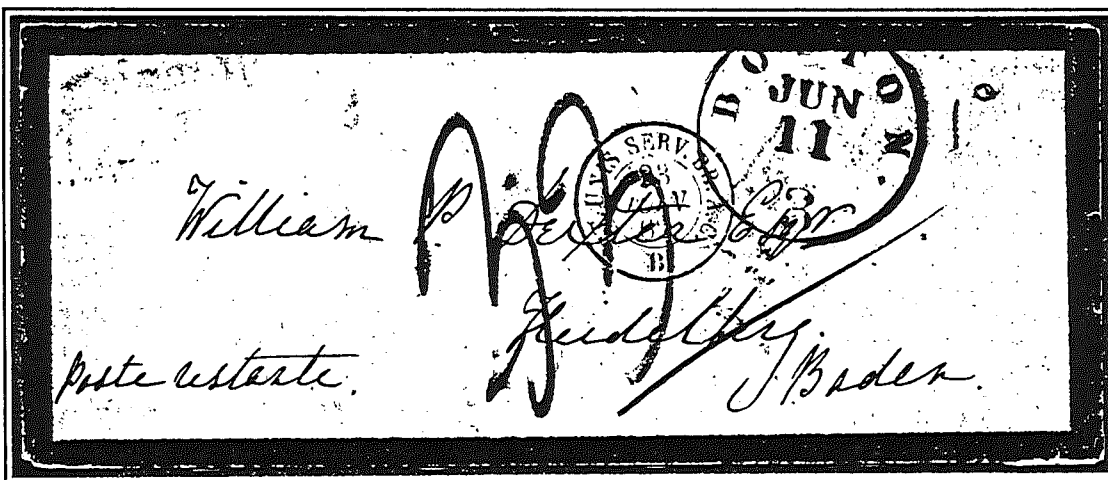
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



31 December 1861 Boston to Copenhagen, Denmark
Letter sent unpaid (27¢ rate)
67 skilling postage due in Copenhagen

America 13 days (East)
3¢ U.S. debit to France
Hamburg debited Denmark 13½ sgr. (red crayon on reverse)
Boston postal clerk marked year date in pen in cds



11 June 1862 Boston to Heidelberg, Baden
Letter sent unpaid (21¢ rate)
33 kreuzer postage due in Heidelberg

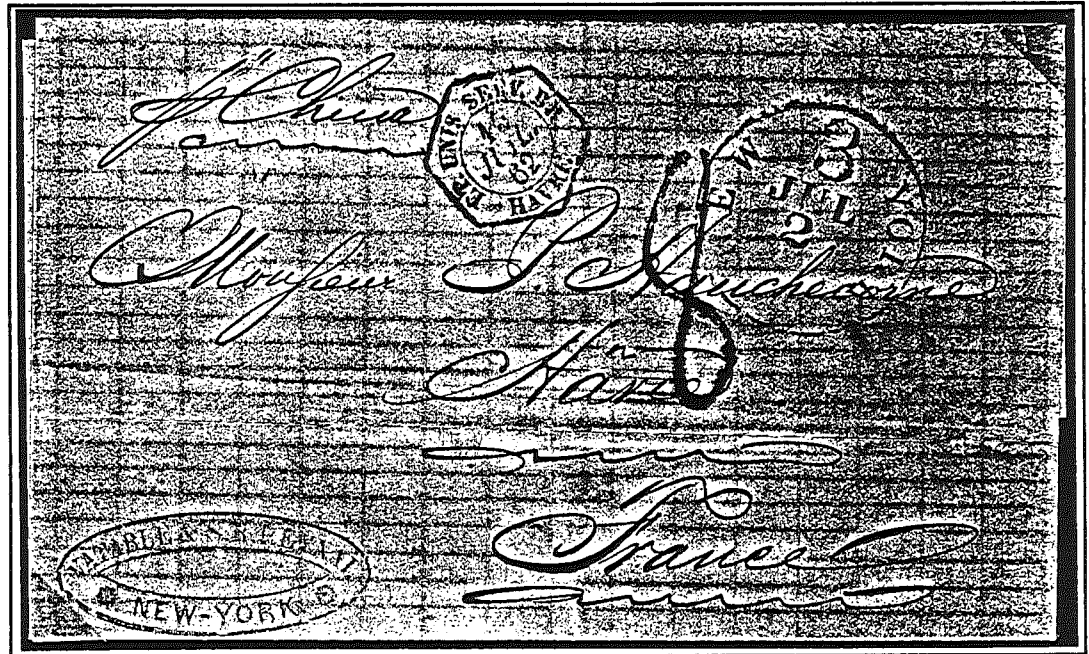
Europa 10 days (East)
3¢ U.S. debit to France
Letter travelled from Paris to Strasbourg by rail,
then to Kehl, Baden where oval entry mark struck



U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

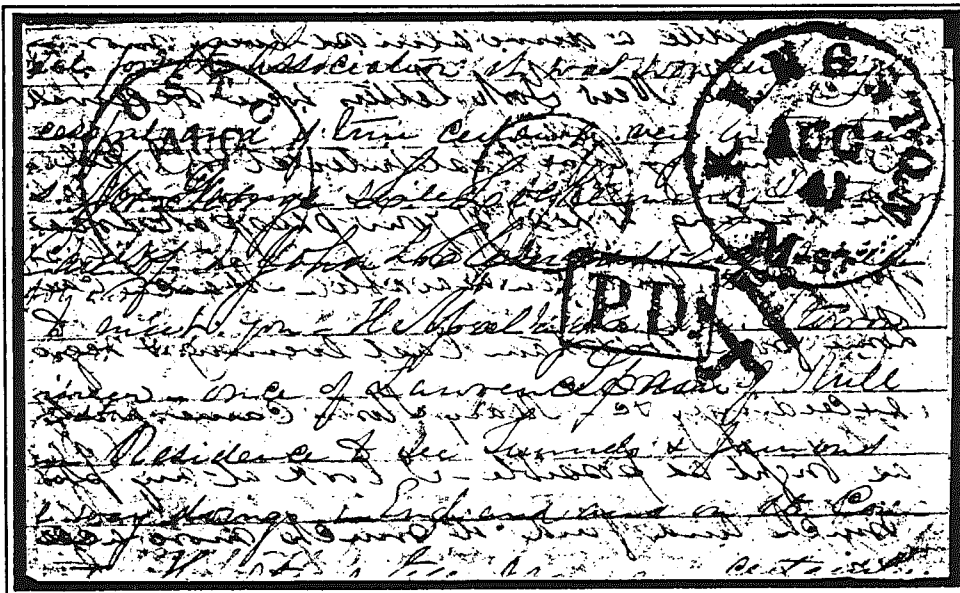
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



1 July 1862 New York to Le Havre
 Letter sent unpaid
 8 decimes postage due in Le Havre

China 11 days (East)
 3¢ U.S. debit to France
 French entry marking showed letter from U.S. by
 British packet service and entered France at Le Havre



3 August 1862 Kingston, Mass. to Malaga, Spain
 21¢ prepaid for single rate
 4 reales postage due in Malaga

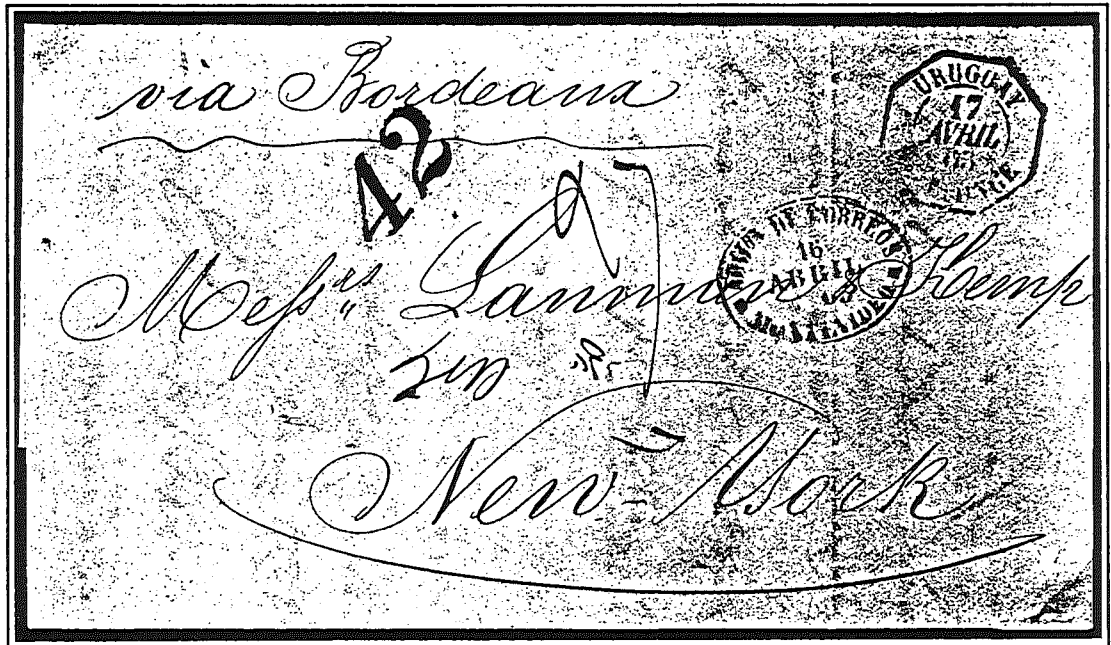
Asia 10 days (East)
 18¢ U.S. credit to France
 French Treaty mail to Spain was paid to
 French–Spain border only

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70

27



14 April 1863 Montevideo, Uruguay to New York via Bordeaux
 Letter sent unpaid (30¢ rate)
 42¢ postage due in greenback notes
 30¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

Persia 11 days (West)
 27¢ French debit to U.S.
 French steamers *Saintonge* carried letter to
 Rio de Janeiro and *Estramadure* to Bordeaux



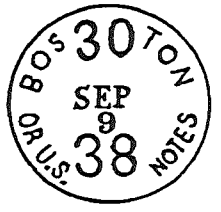
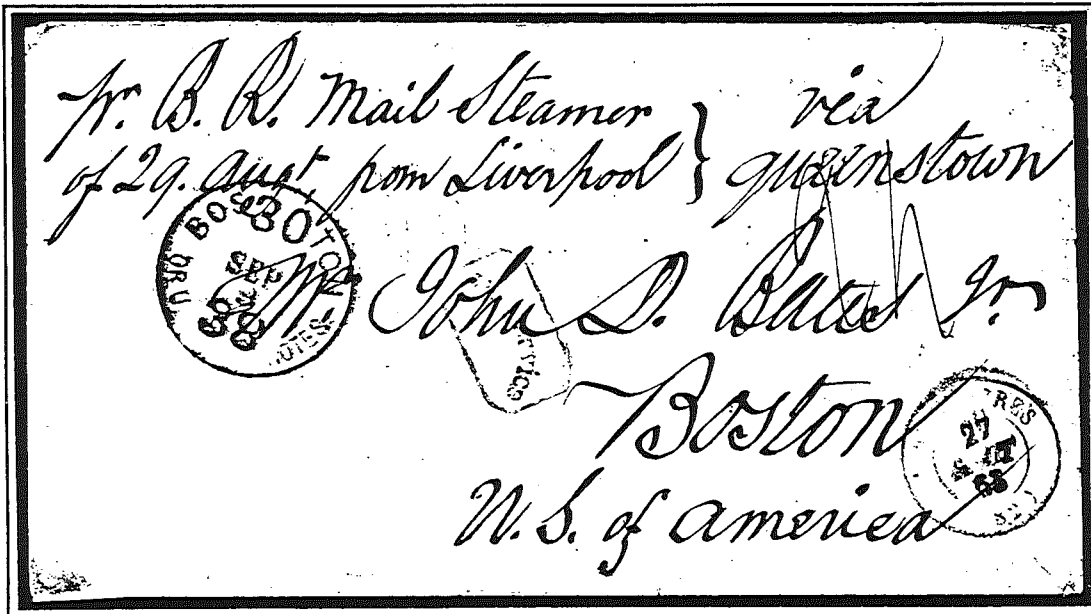
15 May 1863 Paris to New York
 Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
 40¢ postage due in greenback notes
 30¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

Asia 10 days (West)
 2x12¢ = 24¢ French debit to U.S.
 During May 1863, New York introduced depreciated
 currency rates but had not started using a dual rate cds

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

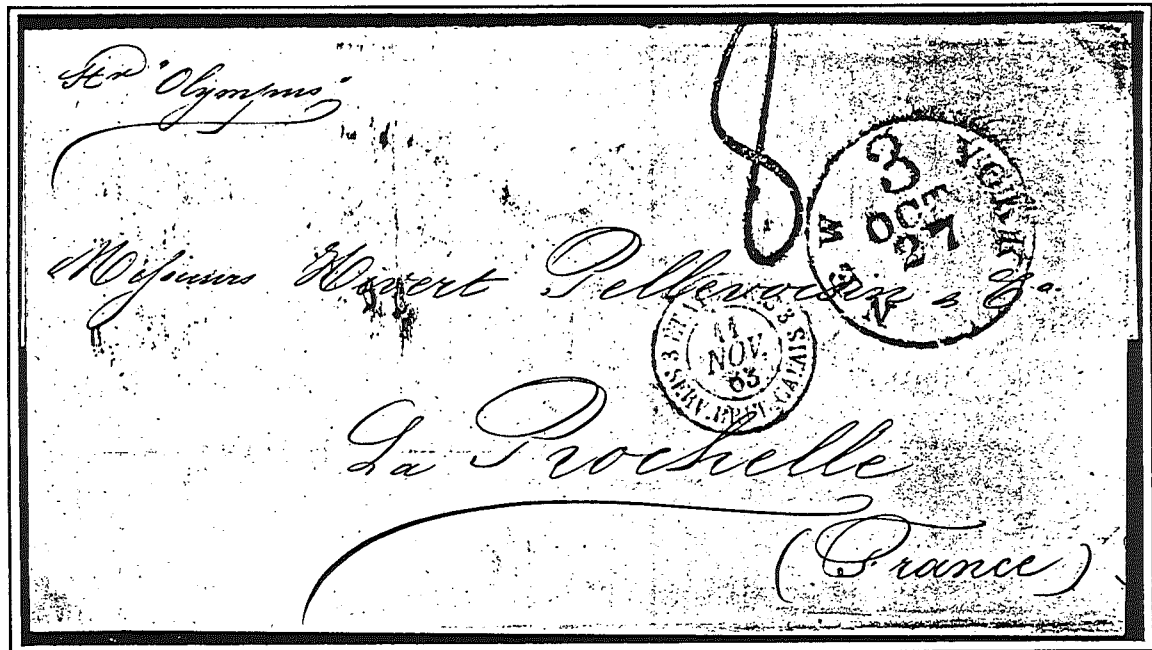
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



27 August 1863 Plombieres to Boston
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
38¢ postage due in greenback notes
30¢ postage due in coin

Scotia 9 days (West)
2x12¢ = 24¢ French debit to U.S.
Boston's dual rating cds showed postage due
in coin (top) or greenback notes (bottom)



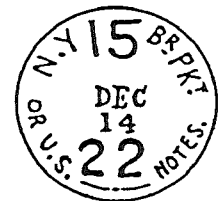
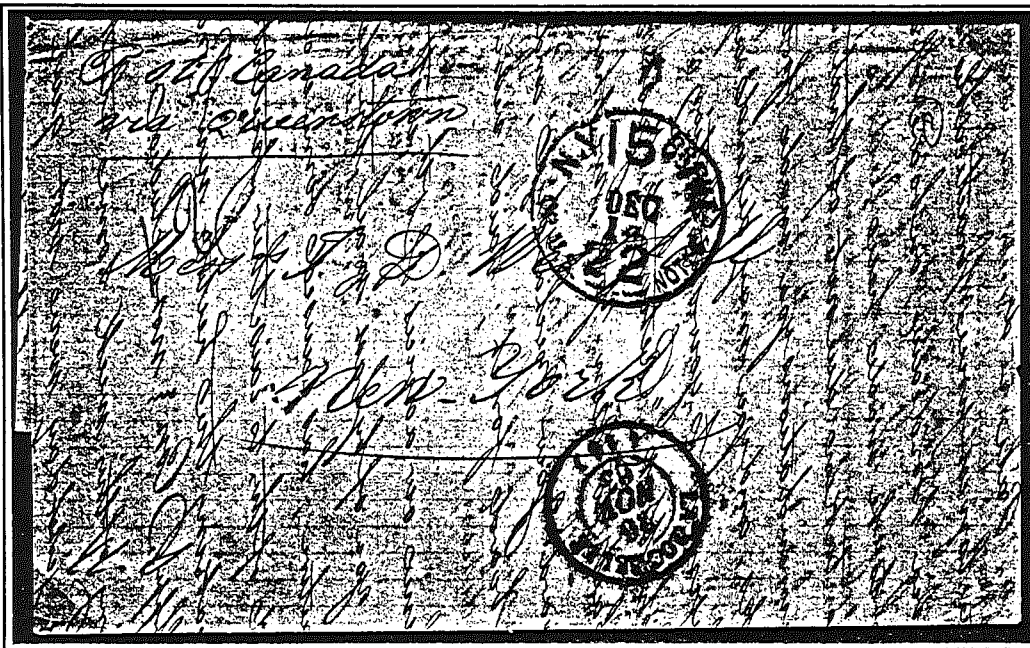
27 October 1863 New York to La Rochelle
Letter sent unpaid
8 decimes postage due in La Rochelle

Olympus 12 days (East)
3¢ U.S. debit to France
Cunard merchant steamer *Olympus* carried
contract mails on only one voyage

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

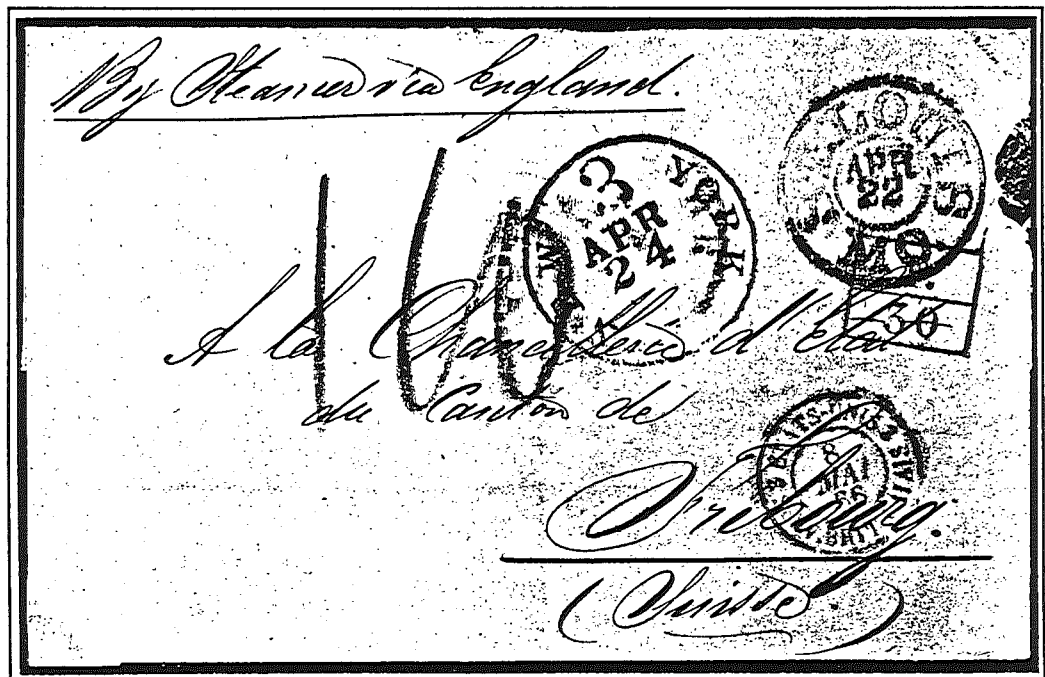
1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



26 November 1863 La Rochelle to New York
Letter sent unpaid
22¢ postage due in greenback notes
15¢ postage due in coin

Canada 15 days (West)
12¢ French debit to U.S.
New York's dual rating cds showed postage due in coin (top) or greenback notes (bottom)

F.
30



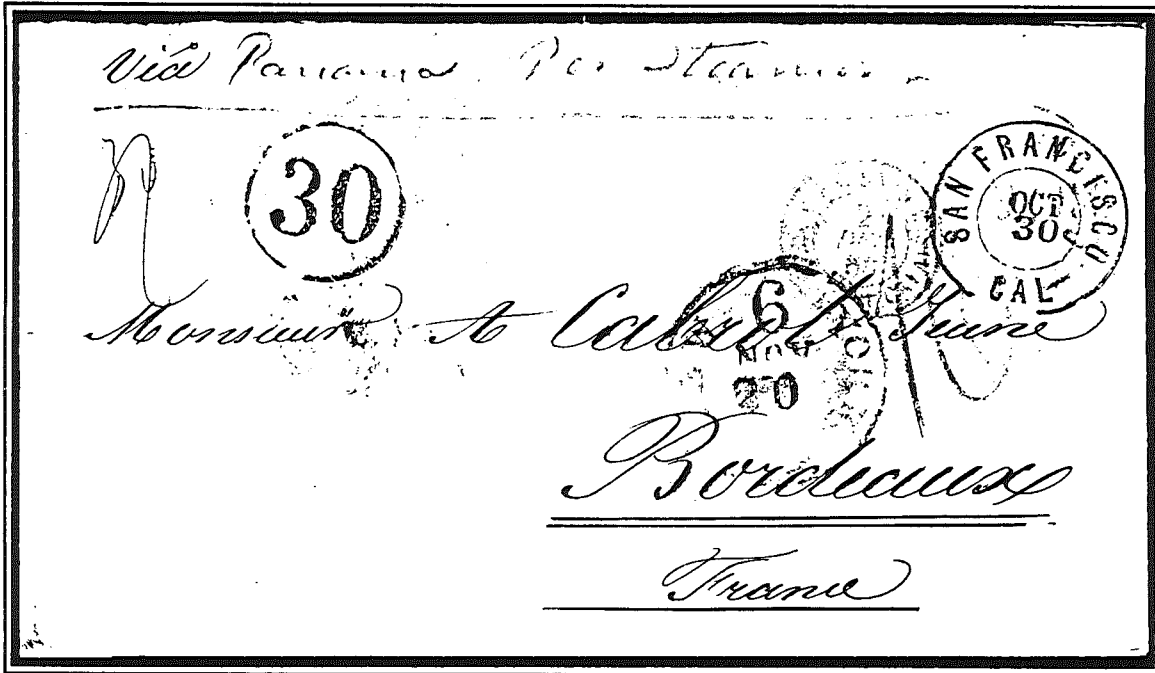
21 April 1866 St. Louis, Missouri to Fribourg, Switzerland
Letter sent unpaid (21¢ rate)
110 rappen postage due in Fribourg

Asia 11 days (East)
3¢ U.S. debit to France
Paris marked boxed F.30 to show accounting article under Franco–Swiss Treaty of 1865 for this unpaid letter

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

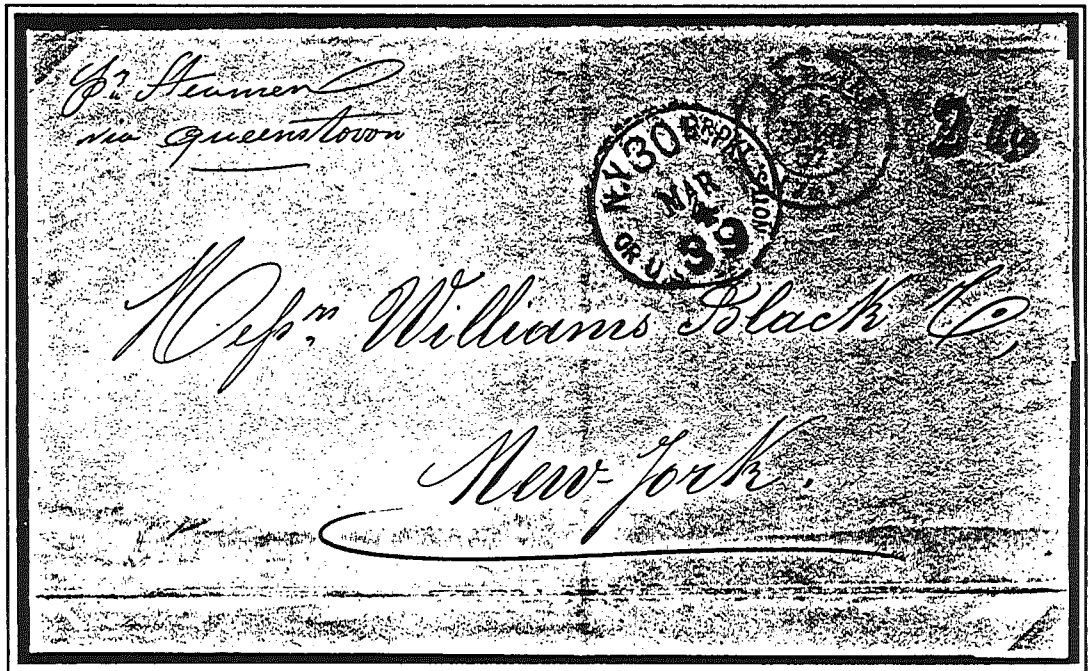
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



30 October 1866 San Francisco to Bordeaux
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
16 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Java 9 days (East)
2x3¢ = 6¢ U.S. debit to France
San Francisco marked through rate of
2x15¢ with circle "30" handstamp



15 February 1867 Le Havre to New York
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
39¢ postage due in greenback notes
30¢ postage due in coin

Asia 14 days (West)
2x12¢ = 24¢ French debit to U.S.
Le Havre used distinctive small numeral
rate marks for indicating debits and credits

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

Under the 1 April 1857 postal convention with France, the rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by American packet service via Great Britain was:

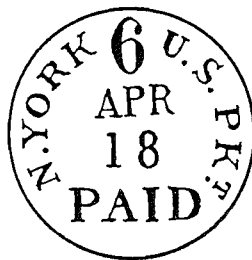
U.S. inland	3¢
Sea	6¢
Br. transit	2¢
Fr. transit	4¢
	15¢ or 8 decimes

Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 9¢
 Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 6¢
 Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 6¢
 Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 9¢



17 April 1857 New York to Paris
 15¢ prepaid for 7½ gram letter
 6¢ U.S. credit to France

Washington 15 days (East)
 3¢ credit struck in New York in error, then
 marked out with 8-bar grid obliterator

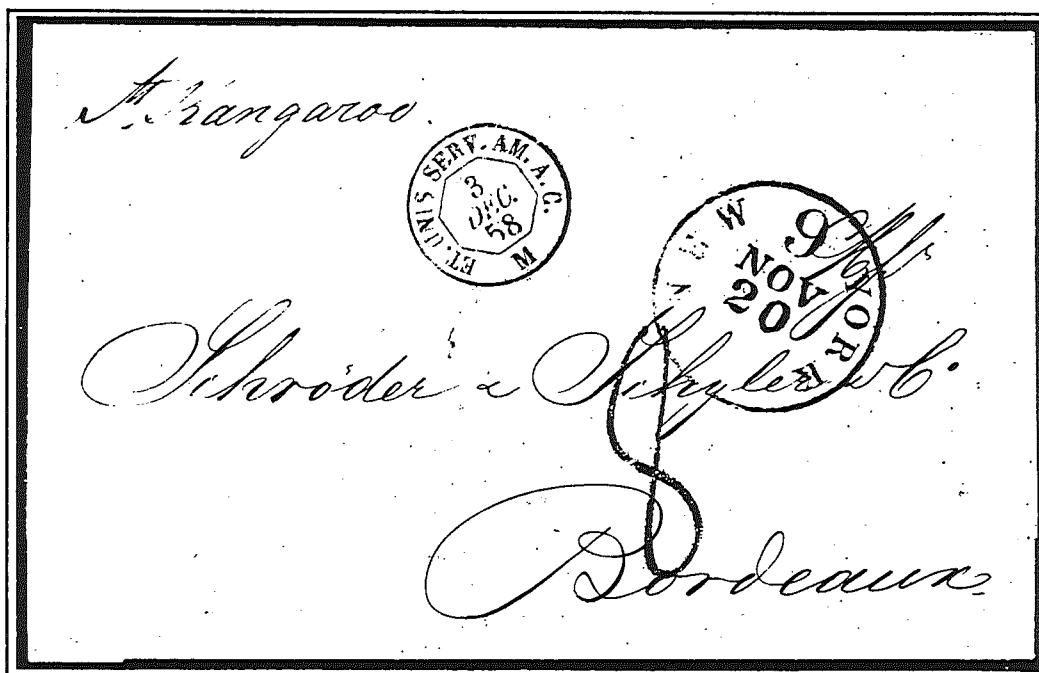


This letter was struck with the N.YORK U.S.PKT circular datestamp, usually seen on Bremen Treaty mails and quite uncommon on a French Treaty cover.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



3 November 1858 Vera Cruz, Mexico to Bordeaux
 Letter sent unpaid
 8 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Kangaroo 13 days (East)
 9¢ U.S. debit to France
 Letter sent "out of the mails" to New York and placed on
 British-owned Inman Line steamer under U.S. mail contract



20 April 1859 Philadelphia to Livorno, Tuscany
 27¢ prepaid for single rate
 18¢ U.S. credit to France (not shown)

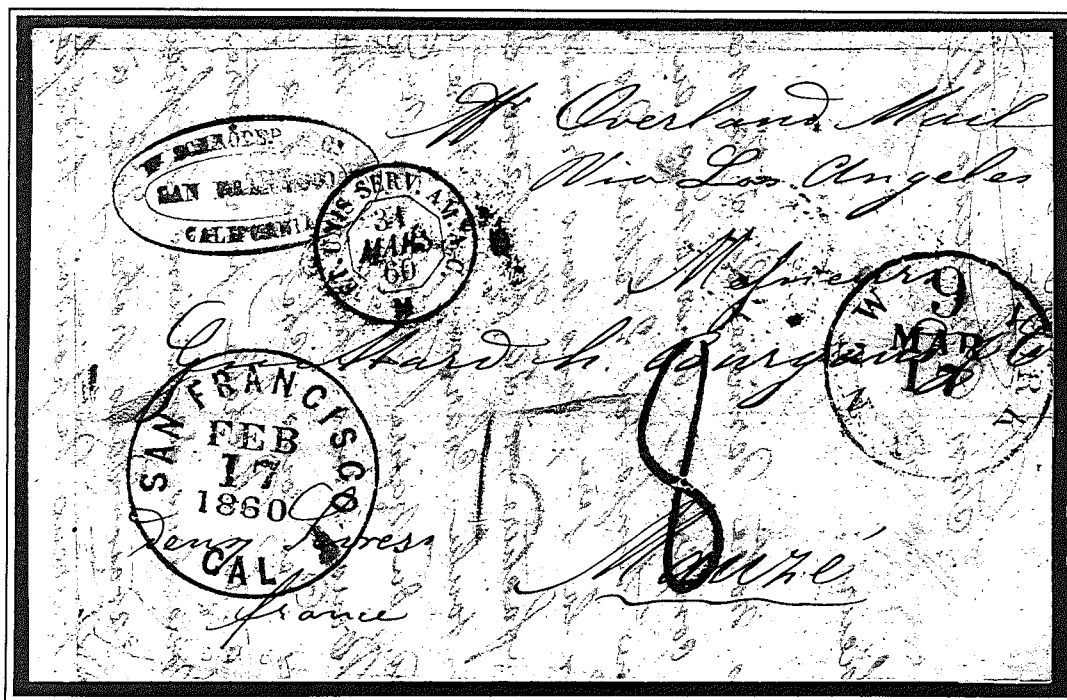
Vanderbilt 11 days (East)
 French entry markings on both covers showed letters
 entered at Calais and were processed on
 the ambulant to Paris

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

*Off. Overland Mail
Via Los Angeles*



17 February 1860 San Francisco to Mauze, France
Letter sent unpaid
9¢ U.S. debit to France

New York 13 days (East)
8 decimes postage due marked on
ambulant from Calais to Paris

Letter traveled overland across the U.S. on the Butterfield stage, departing San Francisco on 17 February and arriving at St. Louis about 12 March 1860, then by train to New York.

Letters that can be confirmed by the overland route are very scarce since most of the mail still went from coast to coast by steamship via Panama.

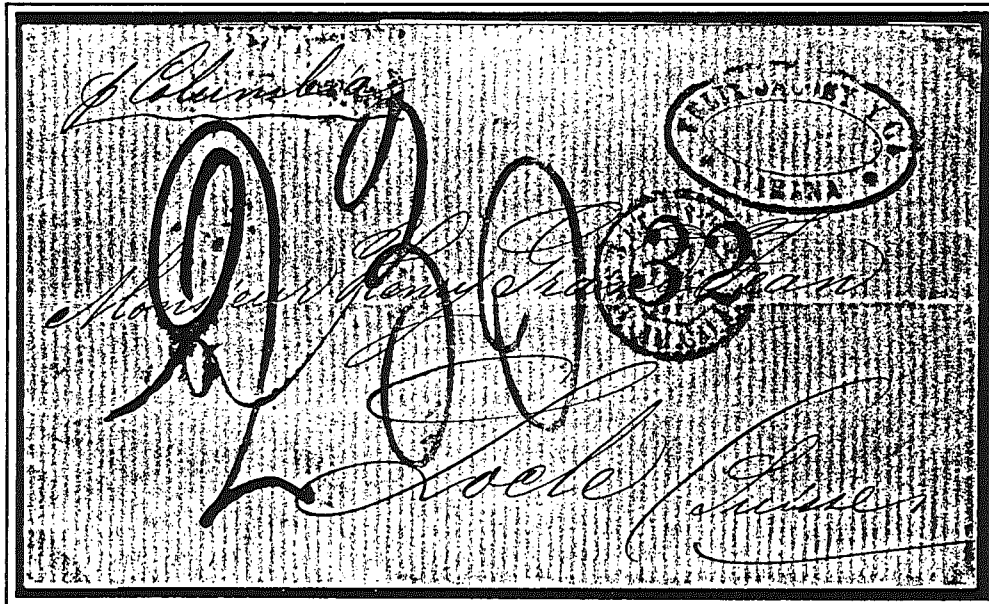
U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



(Reverse)



5 December 1861 Havana, Cuba to Locle, Switzerland
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
230 rappen postage due in Locle

Bavaria 15 days (East)
2x16¢ = 32¢ U.S. debit to France
French marked "2" in black pen for two rates

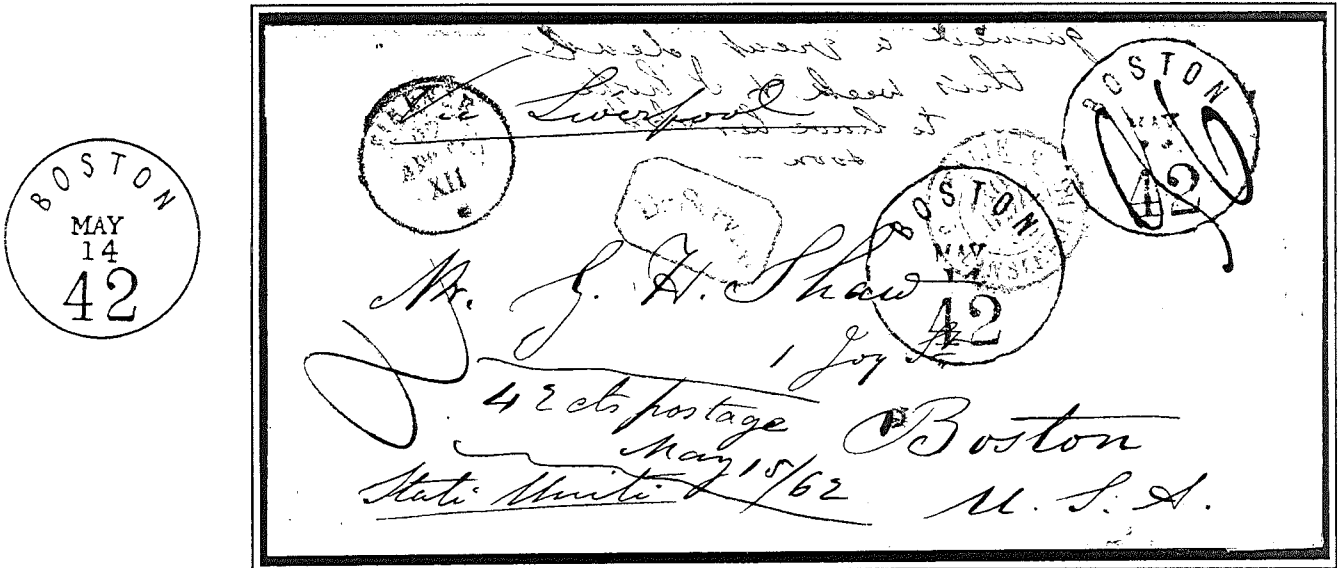
U.S. mail steamer *Columbia* of the Spofford & Tileston Line carried letter from Havana to New York. German steamer *Bavaria* of the Hamburg American Line (under contract to the U.S. Government) carried letter to Southampton.

French Treaty covers from beyond the U.S. (Cuba) via the U.S. to beyond France (Switzerland) are quite uncommon.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

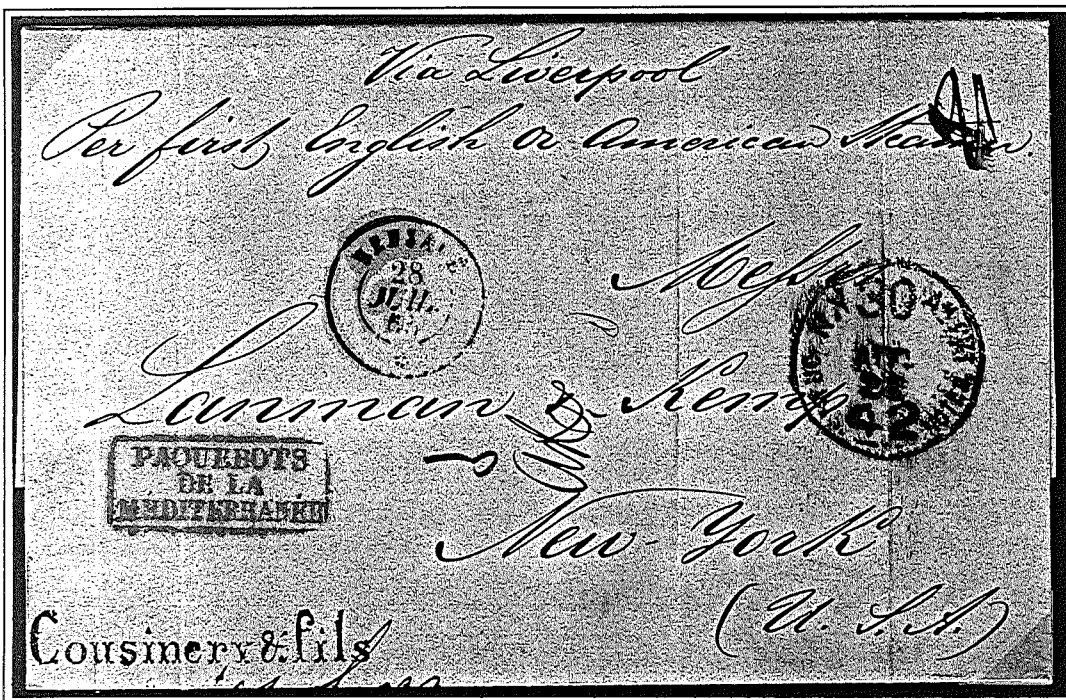
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



27 April 1862 Florence, Italy to Boston
Letter sent unpaid (2x21¢ rate)
42¢ postage due in Boston

Jura 11 days (West)
2x18¢ = 36¢ French debit to U.S.
Additional Articles to U.S.-French Treaty in 1861 treated
Canadian Allan Line steamers as British packets



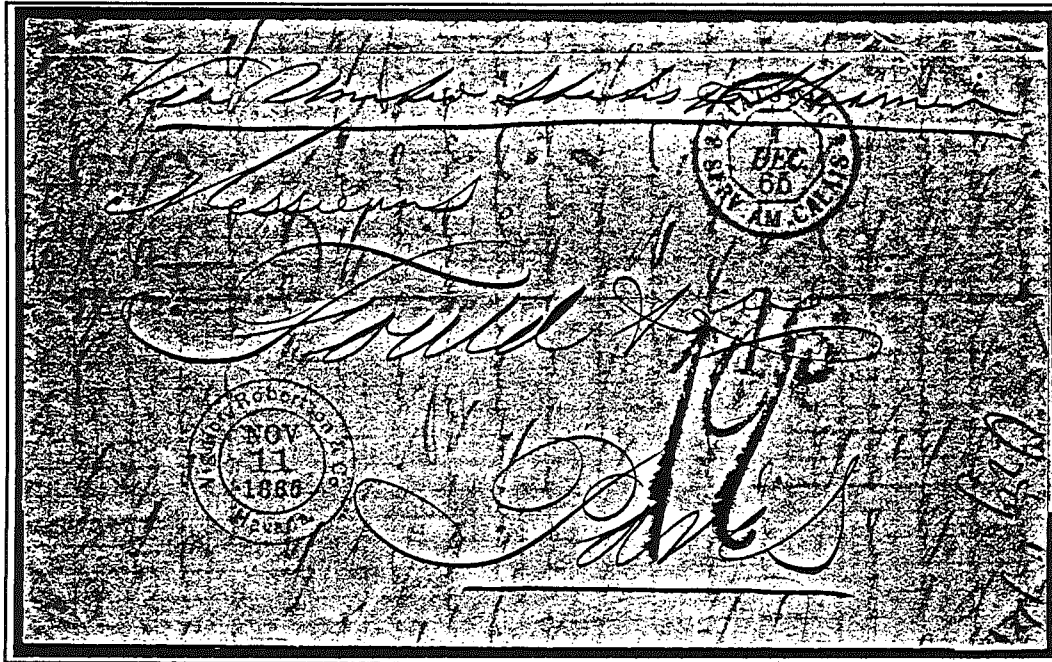
28 July 1865 Smyrna, Turkey to New York
Letter sent unpaid (30¢ rate)
42¢ postage due in greenback notes
30¢ postage due in coin

Borussia 14 days (West)
21¢ French debit to U.S.
French steamer *Menzaleh* carried letter to Marseille
Error cachet, *Mensale*, used on six voyages of the steamer

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

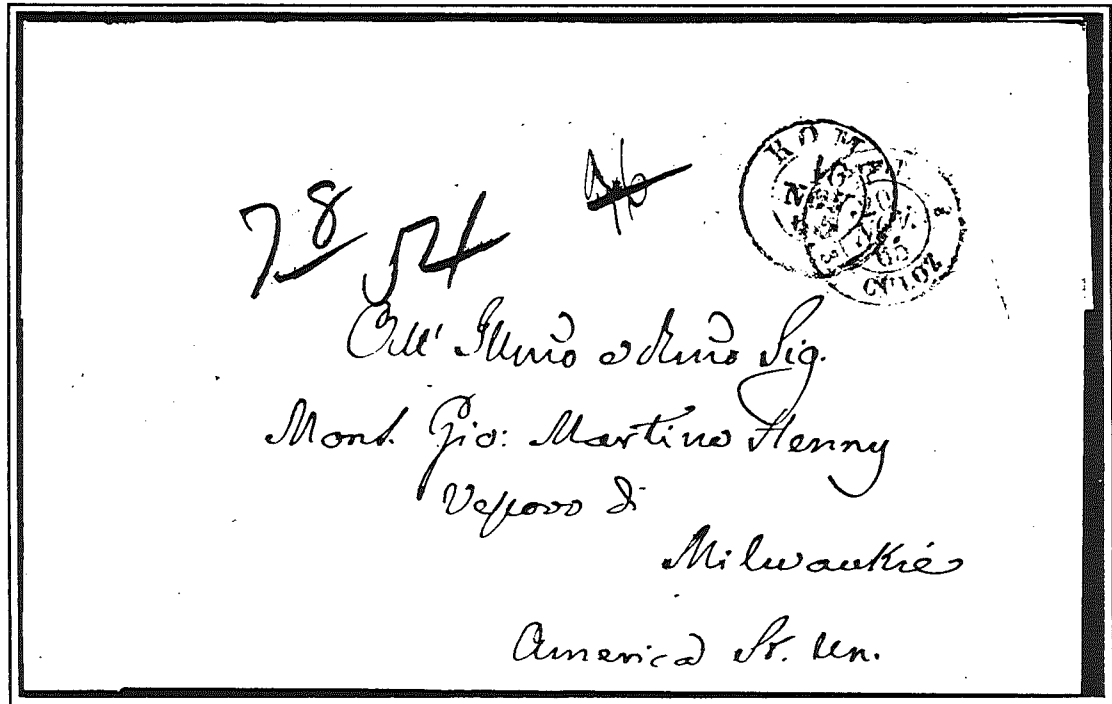
1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



9 November 1865 Havana, Cuba to Paris
 Letter sent unpaid (22¢ rate)
 12 decimes postage due in Paris

America 12 days (East)
 16¢ U.S. debit to France
 Letter carried to New York by American & Mexican Mail Line steamer
Manhattan and North German Lloyd steamer to Southampton

78 54



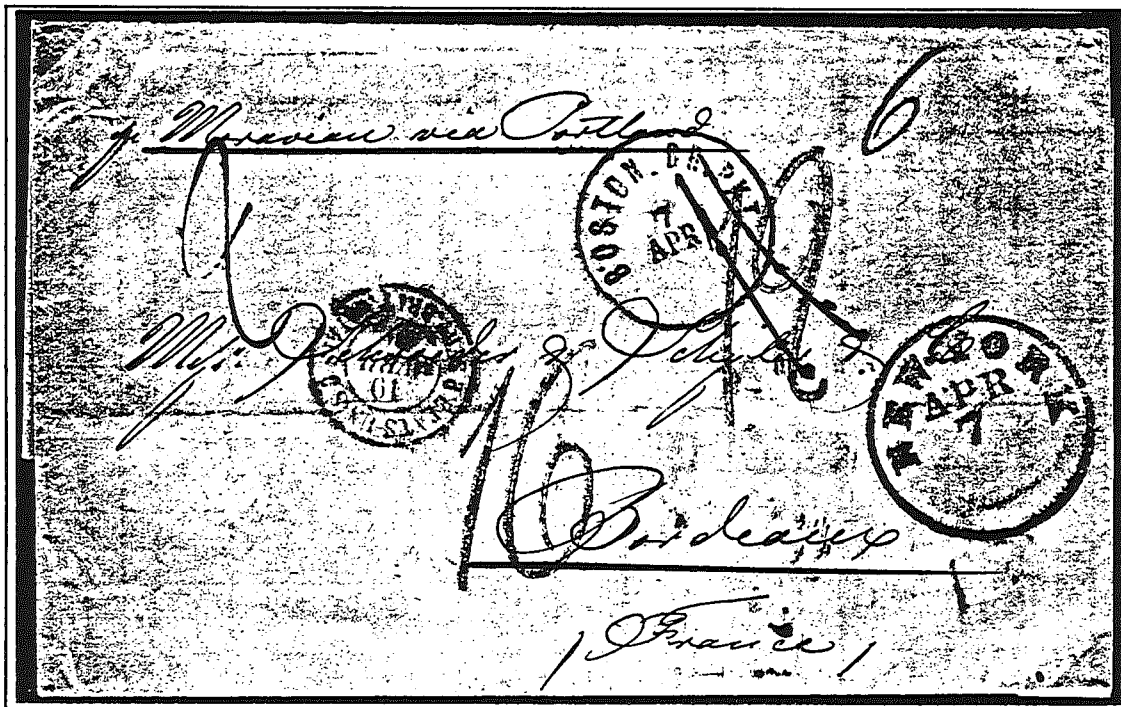
16 November 1865 Rome, Papal States to Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Letter sent unpaid (2x27¢ rate)
 78¢ postage due in greenback notes
 54¢ postage due in coin

Bremen 13 days (West)
 2x18¢ = 36¢ French debit to U.S.
 Since New York had no dual rating cds for
 double 27¢, rates were written by hand

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

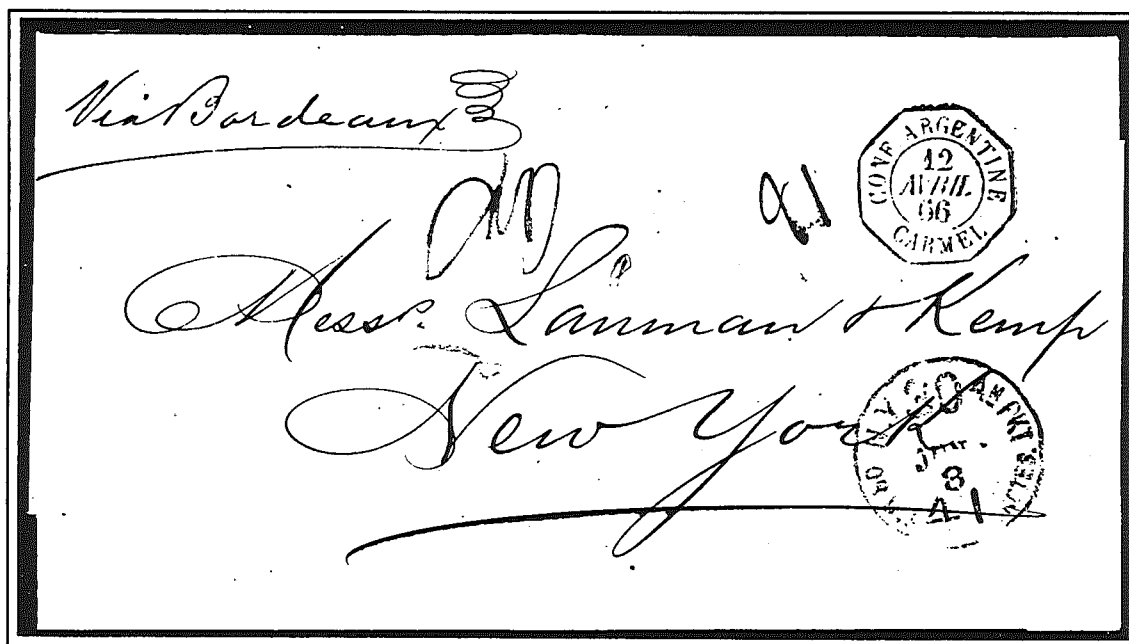
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



6 April 1866 New York to Bordeaux
 Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
 16 decimes postage due (12 decimes marked in error)

Moravian 11 days (East)
 2x3¢ = 6¢ U.S. debit to France
 French mails by Allan Line steamers treated as carried by
 British packet even though actually American contract packets



11 April 1866 Buenos Ayres, Argentina to New York via Bordeaux
 Letter sent unpaid (30¢ rate)
 41¢ postage due in greenback notes
 30¢ postage due in coin

Hermann 11 days (West)
 21¢ French debit to U.S.
 French steamer *Carmel* carried letter to
 Rio de Janeiro and *Navarre* to Bordeaux

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

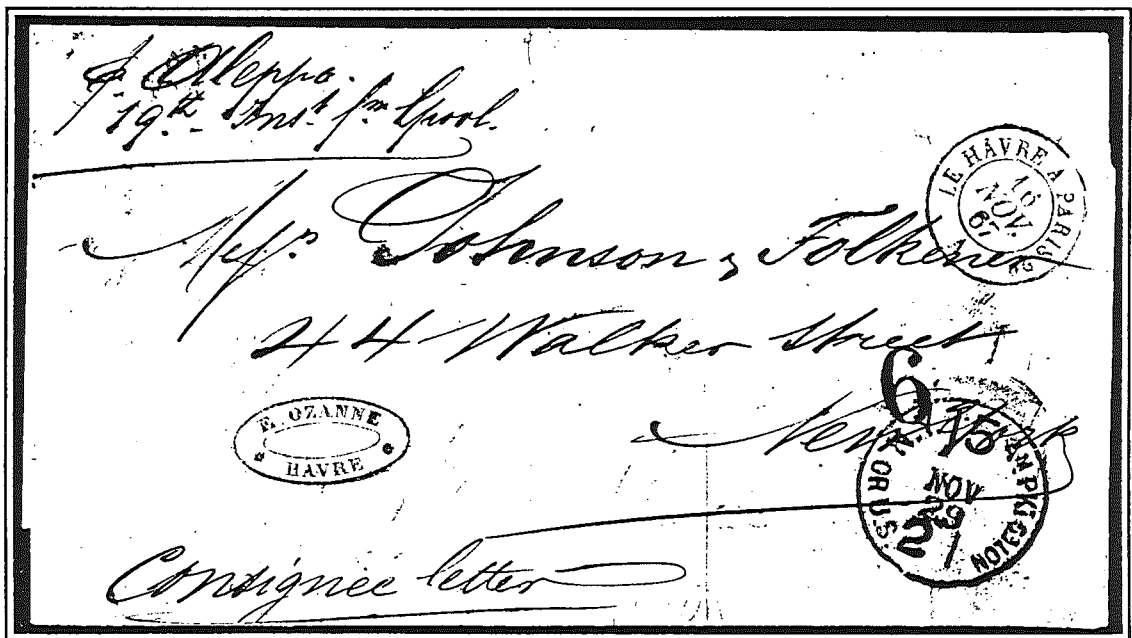
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



14 December 1866 Buenos Ayres, Argentina to New York via Bordeaux
 Letter sent unpaid (30¢ rate)
 39¢ postage due in greenback notes
 30¢ postage due in coin

City of Paris 12 days (West)
 21¢ French debit to U.S.
 Letter placed in supplementary mail by
 consular agent at Buenos Ayres



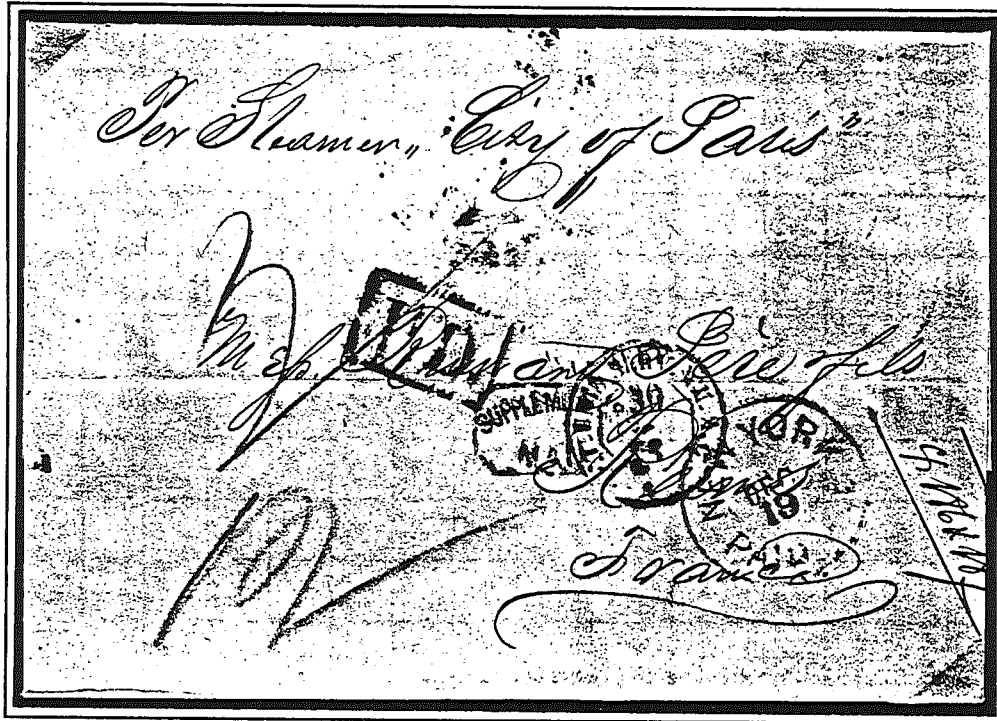
16 November 1867 Le Havre to New York
 Letter sent unpaid
 21¢ postage due in greenback notes
 15¢ postage due in coin

Weser II 10 days (West)
 6¢ French debit to U.S.
 Letter endorsed for Cunard non-contract steamer
Aleppo, but sent on North German Lloyd *Weser II*

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



19 December 1868 New York to Reims
30¢ prepaid for double rate (not shown)

City of Paris 9 days (East)
2x6¢ = 12¢ U.S. credit to France
French marked "2" for two rates

Letter taken to steamship pier in New York after mails closed at the regular post office. By paying an extra complete rate (in this case, two rates), the letter was included in the supplementary mails which accompanied the regular mails.

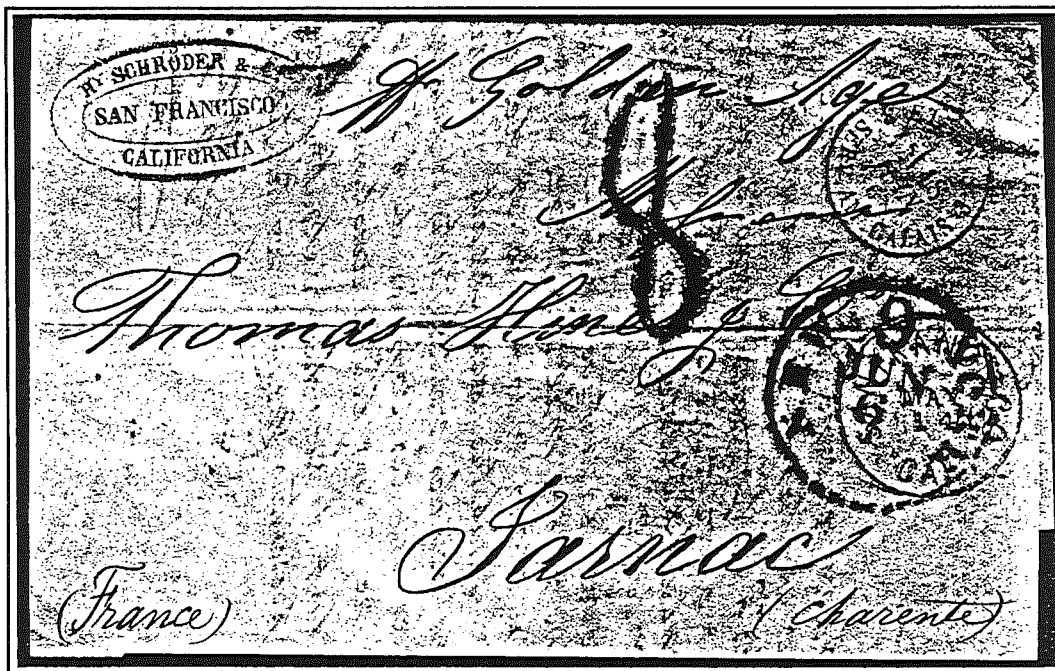
French entry marking ET.UNIS SERV.AM.A.C., removed from service in 1861, was placed in use again in 1868-69, probably only on supplementary mails.

Stampless supplementary mail covers to France are quite uncommon.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

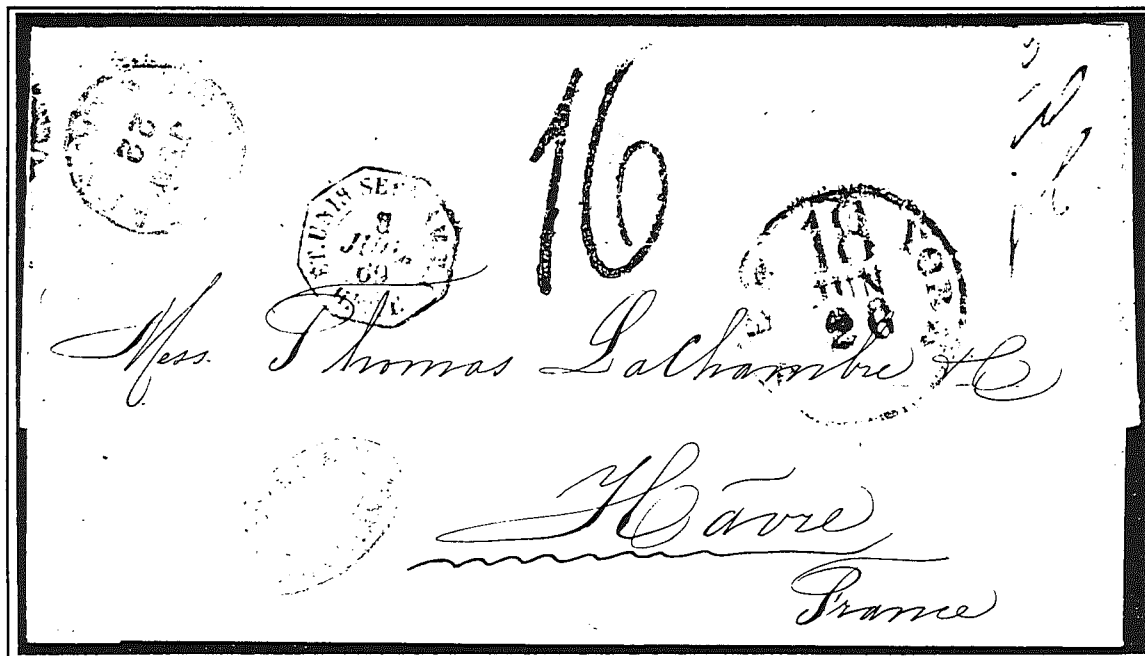
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



14 May 1868 San Francisco to Jarnac
 Letter sent unpaid
 8 decimes postage due in Jarnac

City of Baltimore 10 days (East)
 9¢ U.S. debit to France
 Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Golden Age*
 carried letter to Panama en route to New York



21 June 1869 New Orleans to Le Havre
 Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
 16 decimes postage due in Le Havre

City of Brooklyn 10 days (East)
 2x9¢ = 18¢ U.S. debit to France
 French entry at Le Havre by auxiliary
 steamer from Southampton

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

5 October 1869 Paris to New York
 12 centimes prepaid (not shown)



City of Antwerp 11 days (West)
 4¢ postage due for pamphlet to 4 oz.

Examples of pamphlets in original wrappers
 (in this case made from a printed page of text)
 are quite uncommon

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

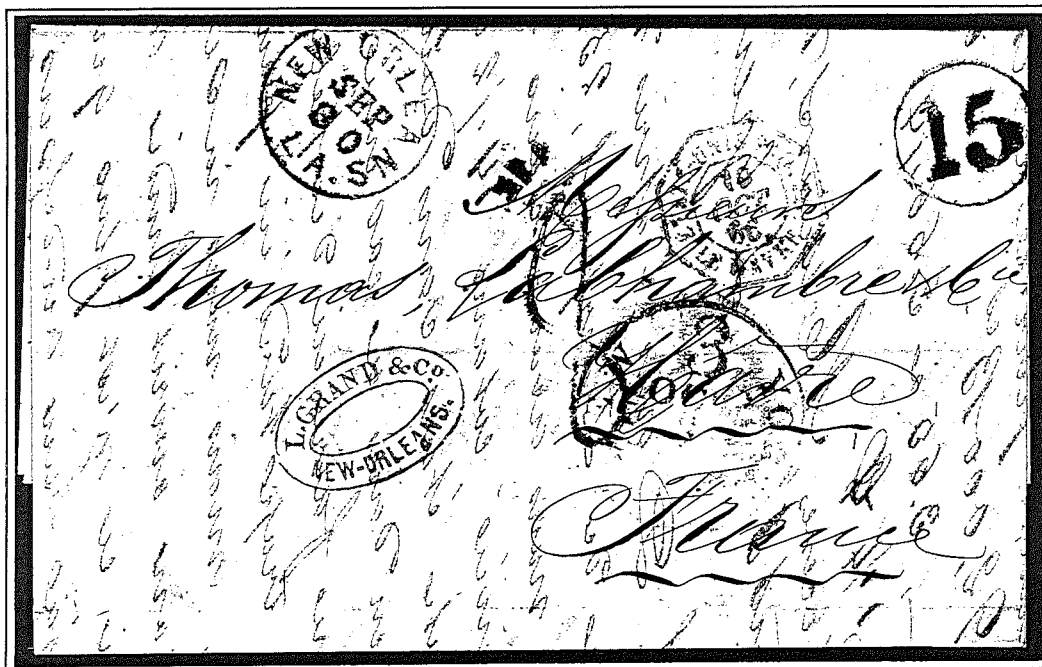
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
French Contract Steamship Direct

1864-1870
15 Jun 64-1 Jan 70

Under the 1 April 1857 postal convention with France, the rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by French packet service sent by direct mail was:

U.S. inland	3¢
Sea	6¢
Br. transit	2¢
Fr. transit	4¢
	15¢ or 8 decimes

Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 3¢
Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 12¢
Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 12¢
Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 3¢



29 September 1866 New Orleans to Le Havre
Letter sent unpaid
3¢ U.S. debit to France
8 decimes postage due in Le Havre

Ville de Paris 13 days (East)
French steamship Compagnie Générale
Transatlantique commenced direct service between
Le Havre and New York in June 1864



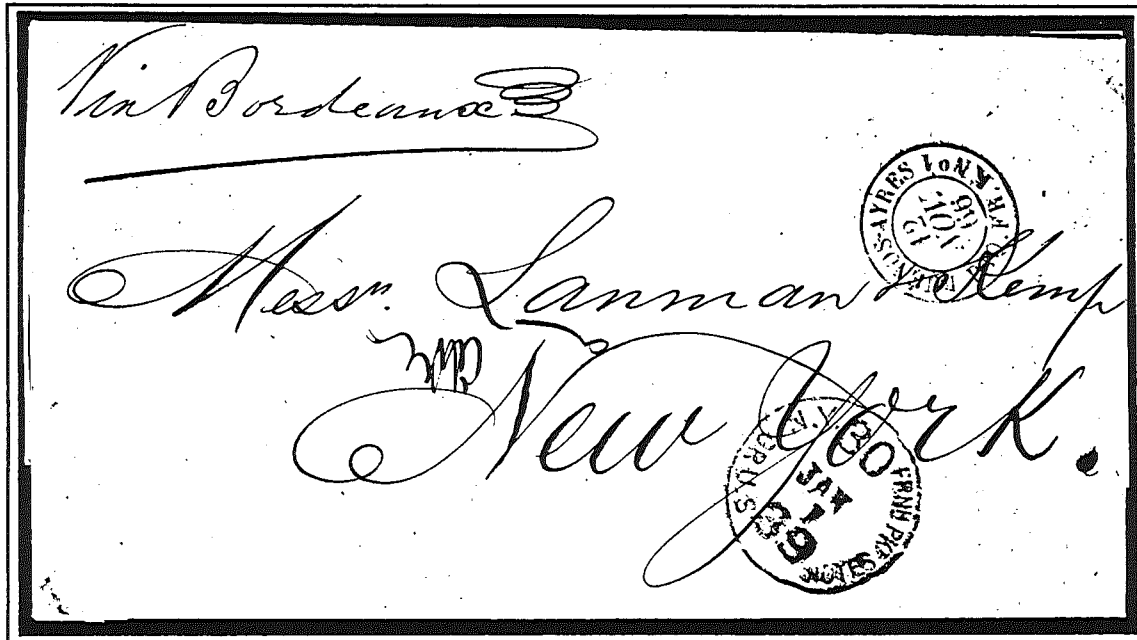
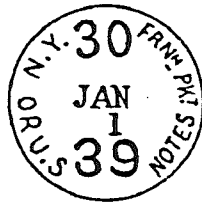
New Orleans applied the circle "15" in black to show letter was sent unpaid at the 15¢ French mail rate. This marking was not required by postal regulations and, later, postmasters were reprimanded for using similar markings.

Uncommon French entry marking used at Le Havre to show French service from the United States.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
French Contract Steamship Direct

1864-1870
15 Jun 64-1 Jan 70



11 November 1866 Buenos Ayres, Argentina to New York via Bordeaux
Letter sent unpaid (30¢ rate)
39¢ postage due in greenback notes
30¢ postage due in coin

Pérelre 12 days (West)
27¢ French debit to U.S. (not shown)
French Line K operated branch service from
Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Ayres

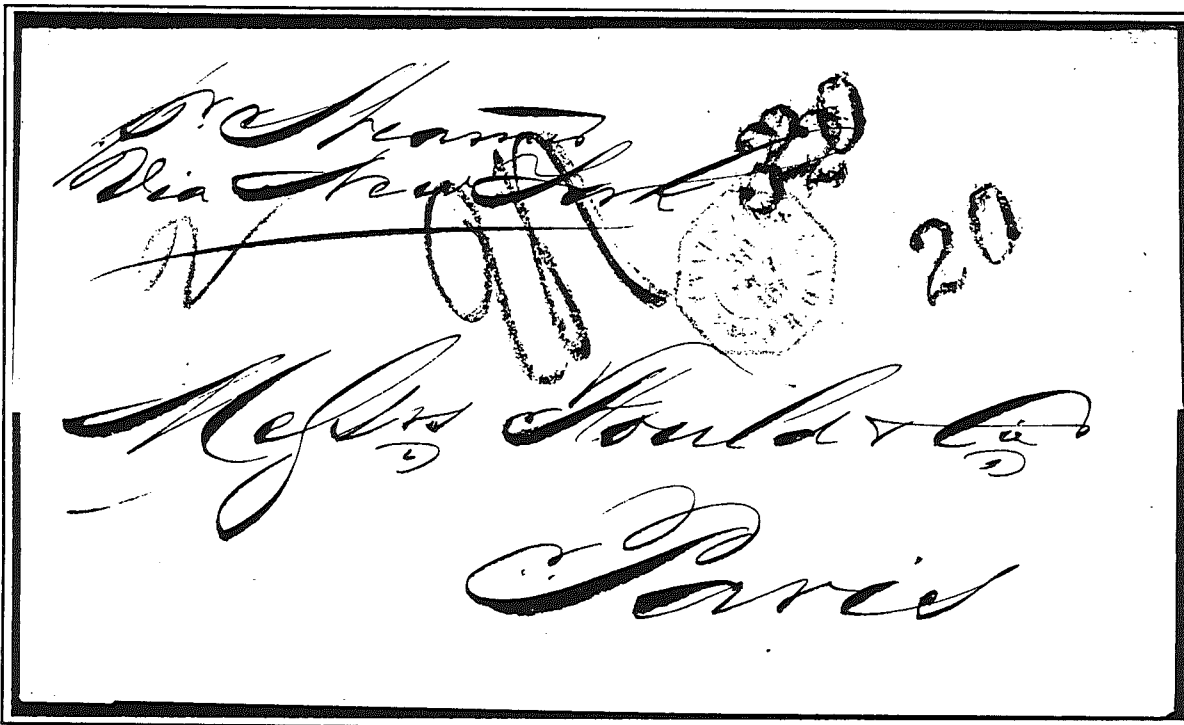
Letter carried by French mail steamer *Carmel* from Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro and by French mail steamer *Guienne* from Rio to Bordeaux. Transit time to New York by this routing was 51 days.

Conveyance by French steamships on all three legs of the transit makes this cover unusual.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

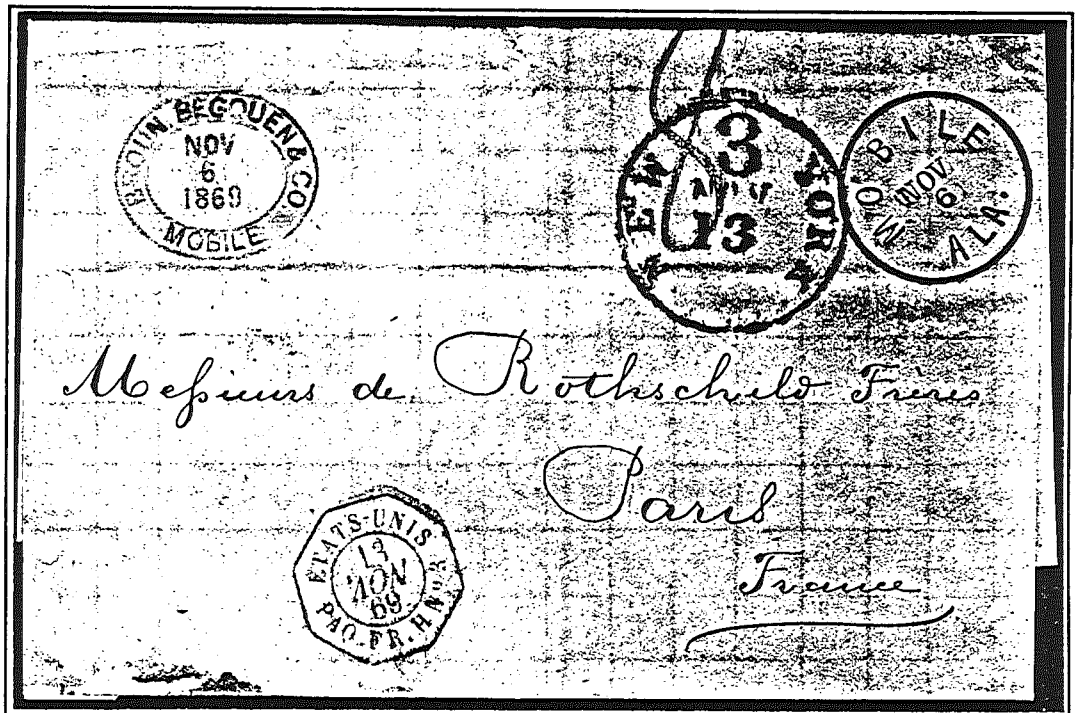
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 French Contract Steamship Direct

1864–1870
 15 Jun 64–1 Jan 70



23 October 1869 Havana, Cuba to Paris via New York
 Letter sent unpaid (2x22¢ rate)
 24 decimes postage due in Paris

Pérelre 9 days (East)
 2x10¢ = 20¢ U.S. debit to France
 New York originally debited France 2x16¢ = 32¢ for
 U.S. packet to G.B., but changed for French steamer



6 November 1869 Mobile, Alabama to Paris
 Letter sent unpaid
 8 decimes postage due in Paris

Ville de Paris 11 days (East)
 3¢ U.S. debit to France
 Month inverted in French agent cds

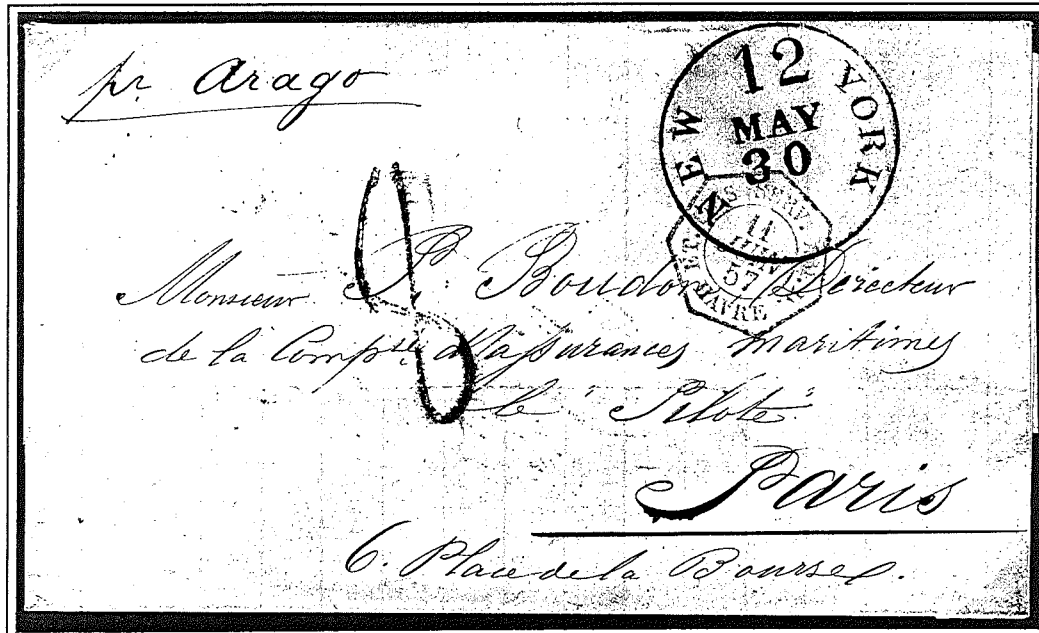
U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship Direct

1857-1870
 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

Under the 1 April 1857 postal convention with France, the rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by American packet service sent by direct mail was:

U.S. inland	3¢
Sea	6¢
Br. transit	2¢
Fr. transit	4¢
	15¢ or 8 decimes
Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 12¢	
Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 3¢	
Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 3¢	
Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 12¢	



4 March 1857 San Francisco to Paris
 Letter sent unpaid
 8 decimes postage due in Paris

Arago 12 days (East)
 12¢ U.S. debit to France
 New York & Havre Steam Navigation Co. had only two steamers on monthly service to France when treaty began

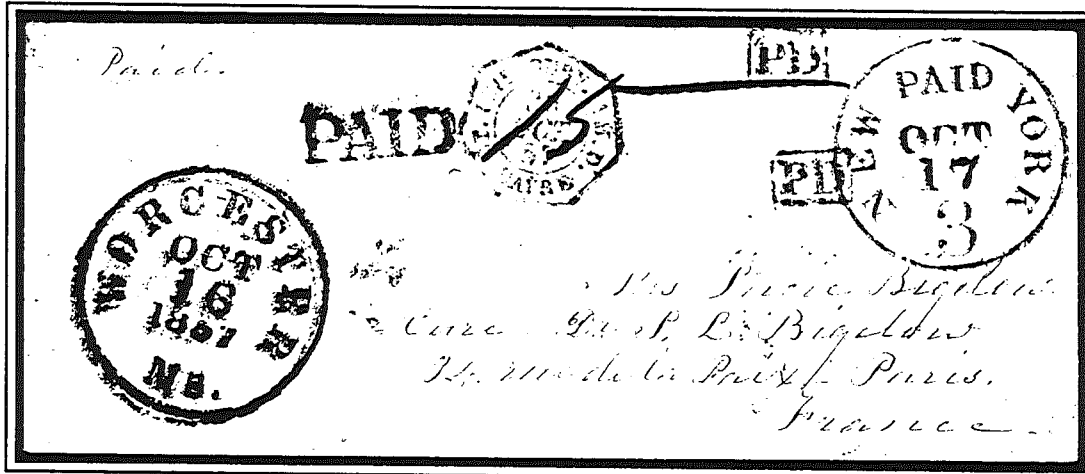
Arago

Letter written in San Francisco before U.S.-French Treaty went into effect, but was carried privately to New York, where it was posted after the treaty started. Had the letter been posted in San Francisco, 26¢ would have been required for the West Coast British open mail rate by American packet. Blue French entry marking indicated letter was from the U.S. by American steamship directly to Le Havre.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

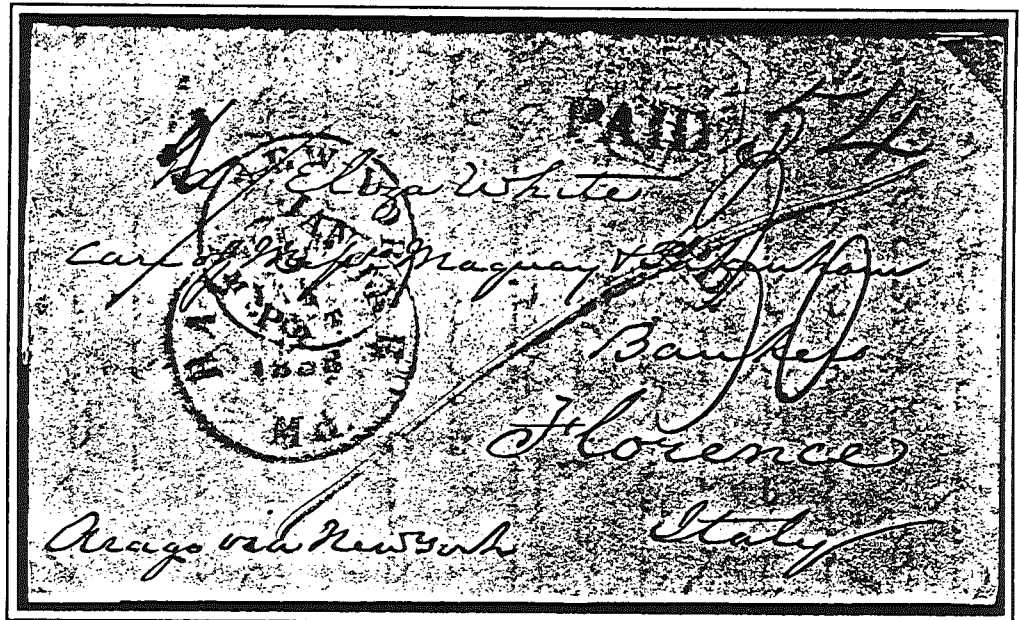
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
 American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



16 October 1857 Worcester, Massachusetts to Paris
 15¢ prepaid for single rate

Fulton 13 days (East)
 3¢ U.S. credit to France



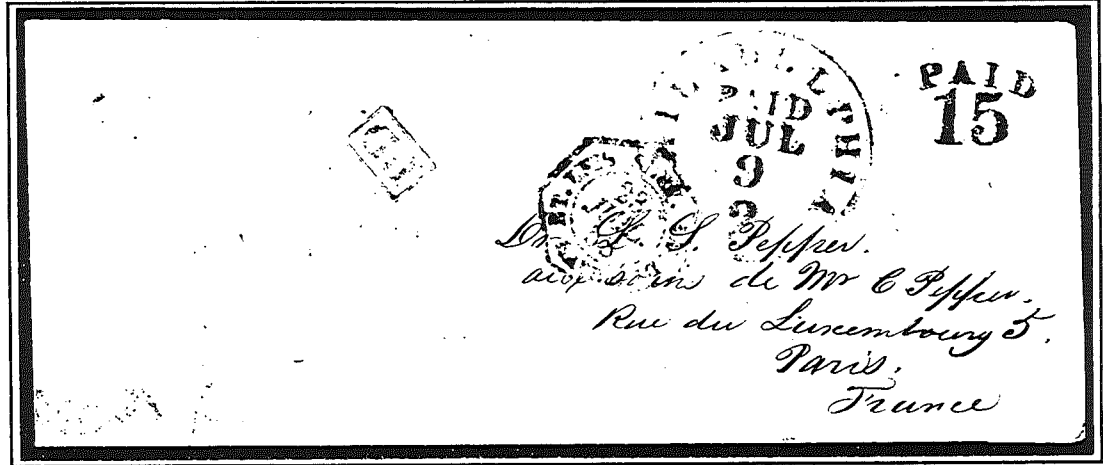
7 January 1858 Baltimore to Florence, Tuscany
 54¢ prepaid for 2x27¢ rate
 2x15¢ = 30¢ U.S. credit to France

Arago 13 days (East)
 French entry marking in blue showed
 American packet service direct to Le Havre

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

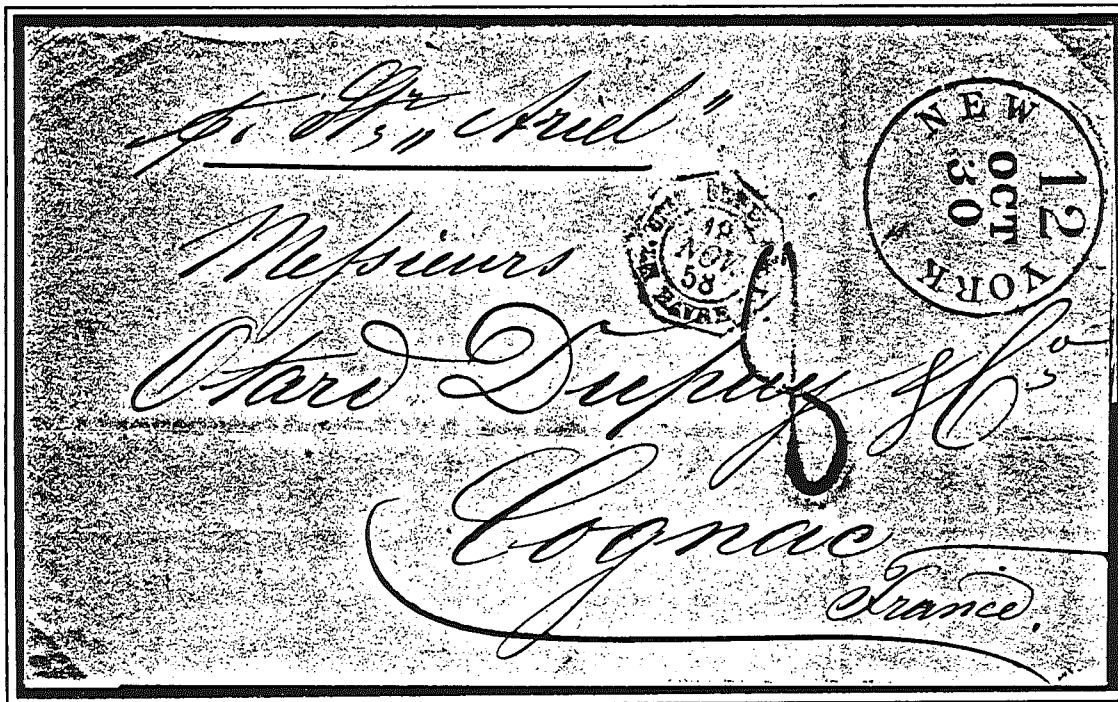
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



9 July 1858 Philadelphia to Paris
15¢ prepaid for single rate
3¢ U.S. credit to France

Ariel 13 days (East)
Vanderbilt European Line operated *Ariel*
Although different color red inks, Philadelphia struck both the cds and the PAID/15 handstamp



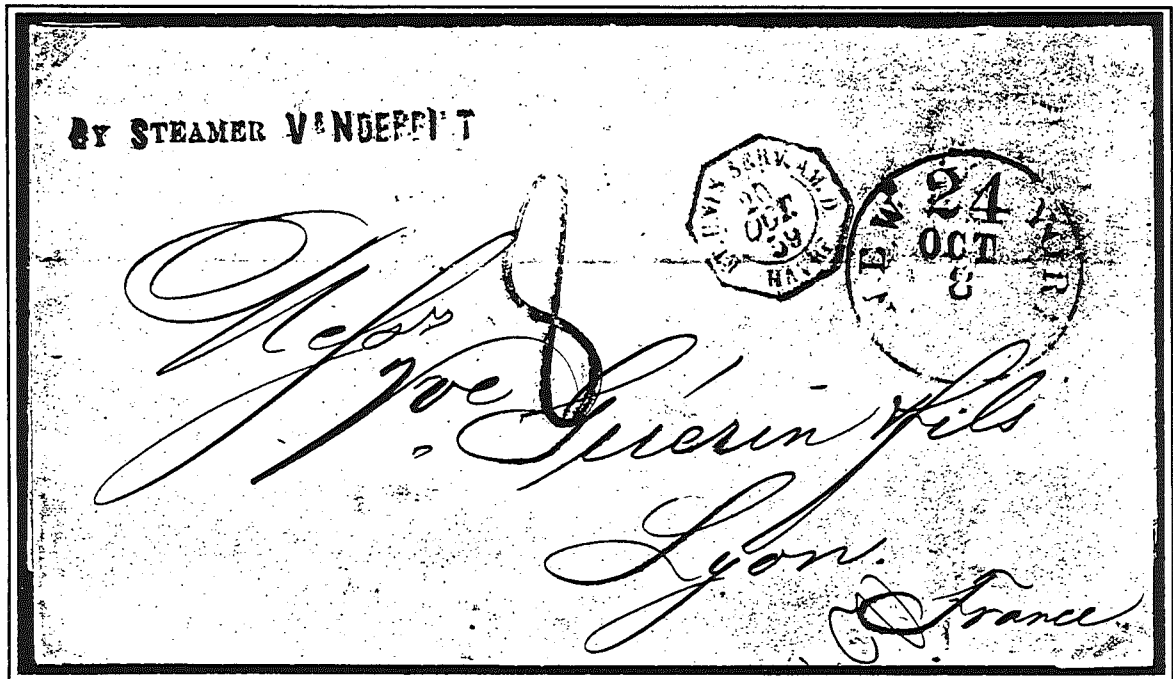
29 October 1858 New York to Cognac
Letter sent unpaid
8 decimes postage due in Cognac

Ariel 20 days (East)
12¢ U.S. debit to France
Ship's captain killed during one of the storms on this very long east bound transit

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

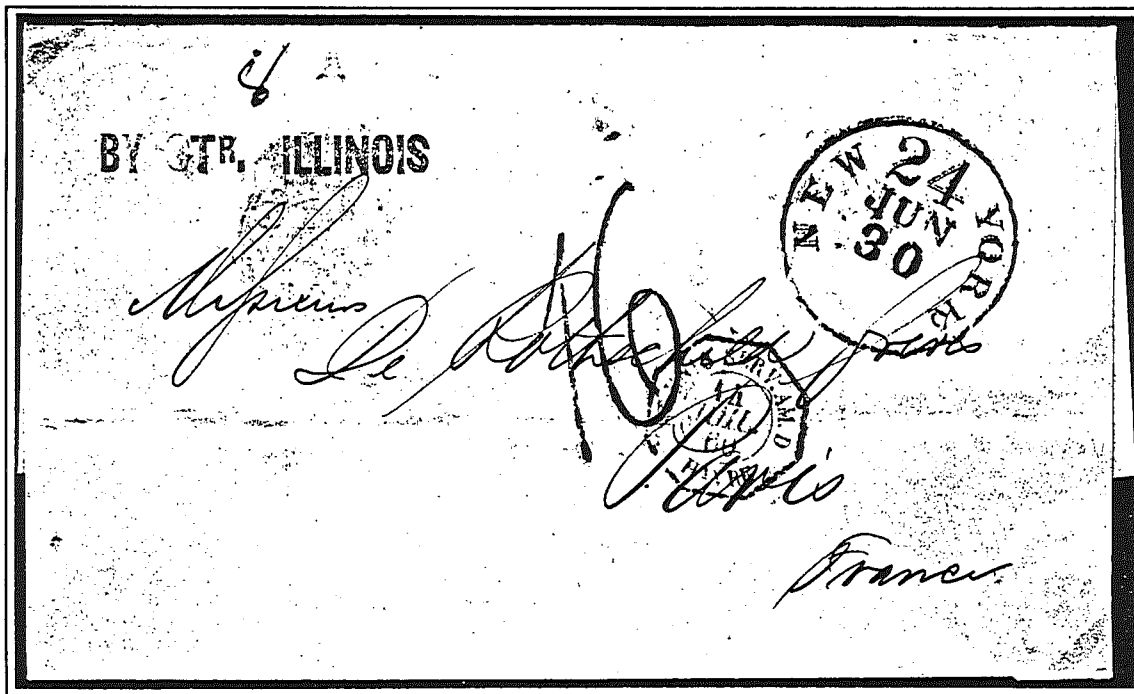
U.S. – French Treaty of 1857
American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



8 October 1859 New York to Lyon
Letter sent unpaid
8 decimes postage due in Lyon

Vanderbilt 12 days (East)
2x12¢ U.S. debit to France (N.Y. considered letter > ¼ oz.)
Private marking of W. Shall & Co. of New York in upper left



29 June 1860 New York to Paris
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
16 decimes postage due in Paris for 8 gram letter

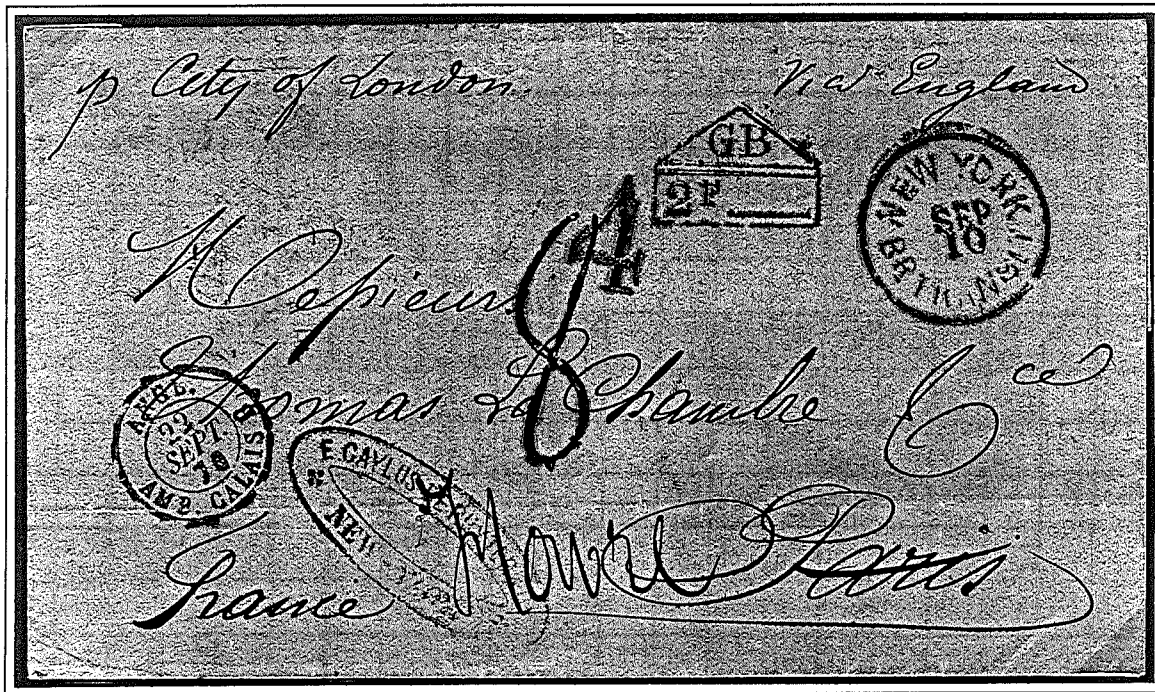
Illinois 15 days (East)
2x12¢ = 24¢ U.S. debit to France
Another private marking of W. Shall & Co. of New York, this time in blue

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty
British & American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870-1874
1 Jan 70-1 Aug 74

At the end of 1869, the U.S.-French Treaty was allowed to expire. U.S. mails no longer went to France in closed mail bags via England. G.B.-French accountancy markings, not seen on closed mail letters, again came into use on the open mail sent either unpaid or paid only to England. Prepaid letters from the United States via England required 4¢ (2¢ U.S. internal and 2¢ sea postage), while the U.S. debited that amount to G.B. on unpaid letters. Unpaid letters arriving in G.B. were forwarded to France at the 2 Franc per 30 gram bulk rate and those prepaid to G.B. were forwarded at the 40 centimes per 30 gram bulk rate. In France, 5 decimes per 7½ grams was collected on letters paid to G.B. and 8 decimes on unpaid letters (until July 1871, when raised to 12 decimes per 10 grams).



9 September 1870 New York to Paris, diverted to Le Havre
Letter sent unpaid
8 decimes postage due in Le Havre

City of London 10 days (East)
4¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
New York applied cds which showed transit via G.B.

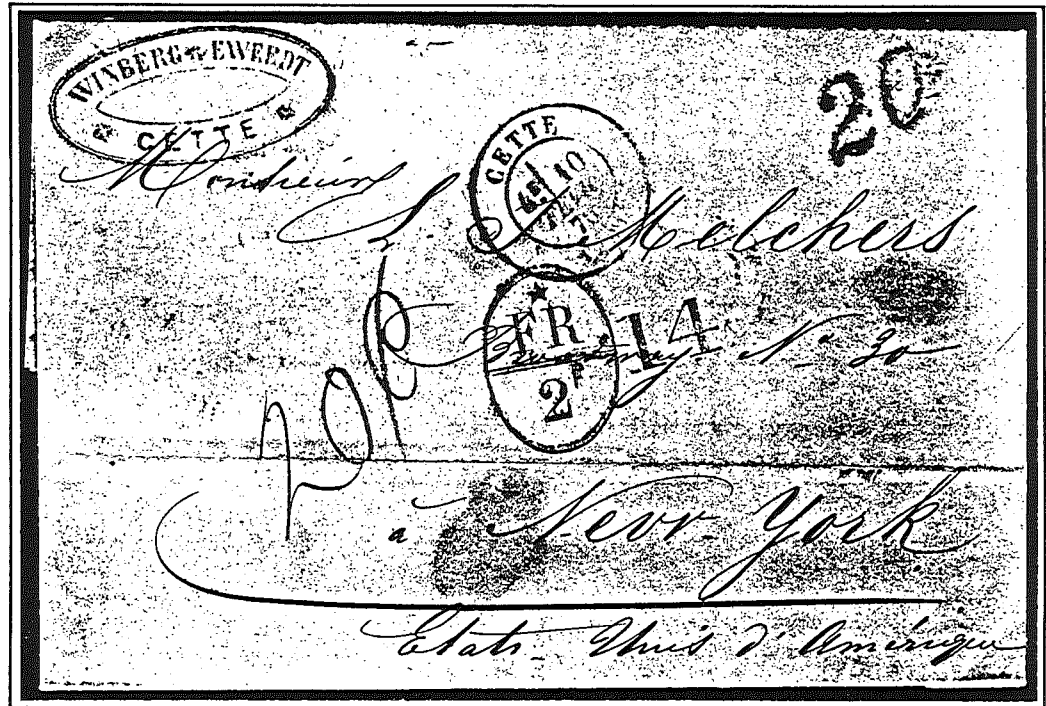
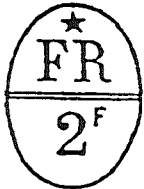


This letter arrived in France three days after the Germans cut the rail lines to Paris and started a grueling siege of that city during the Franco-Prussian war. The letter was diverted to Le Havre and received there on 22 September 1870.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

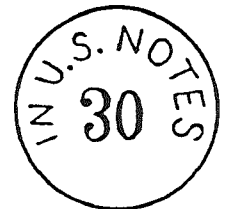
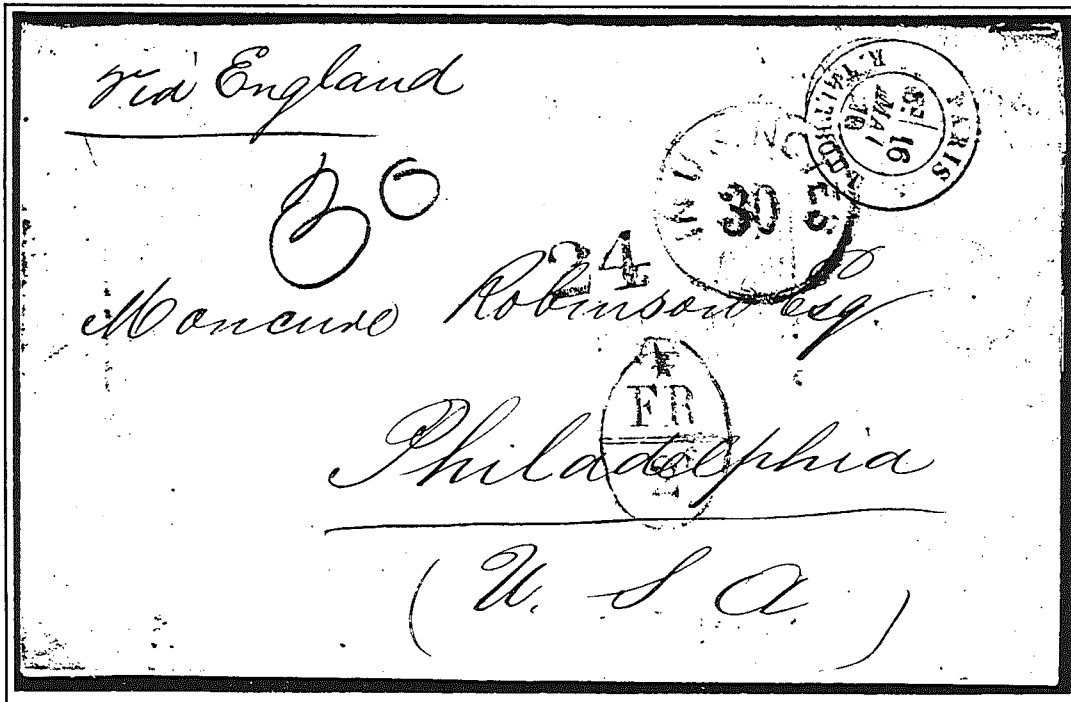
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
British & American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870–1874
1 Jan 70–1 Aug 74



10 February 1870 Cette to New York
Letter sent unpaid
20¢ postage due in greenback notes
16¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

Calabria 10 days (West)
14¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
British debit included 10¢ payback to
France, 2¢ British transit, and 2¢ sea postage



16 May 1870 Paris to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
30¢ postage due in greenback notes
26¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

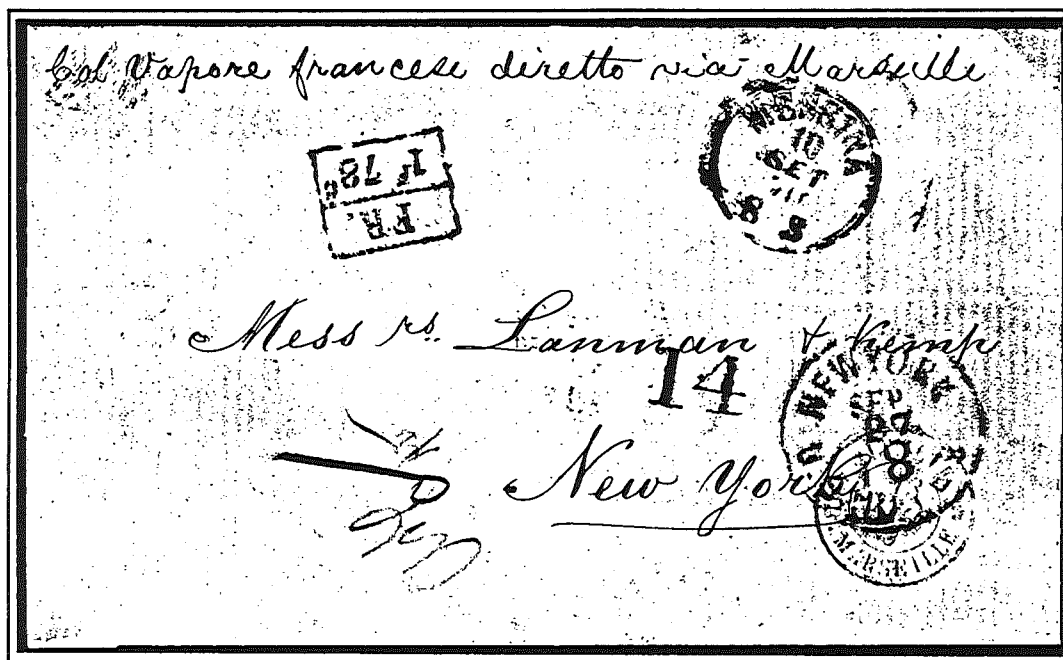
Nemesis 8 days (West)
24¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
British debit included 2x10¢ payback to
France, 2¢ British transit, and 2¢ sea postage

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. – French Treaty
British & American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870–1874
1 Jan 70–1 Aug 74

FR
1 ^F 78 ^c



10 September 1870 Messina, Sicily to New York
Letter sent unpaid
18¢ postage due in greenback notes
16¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

Scotia 9 days (West)
14¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
British debit included 10¢ payback to
France, 2¢ British transit, and 2¢ sea postage

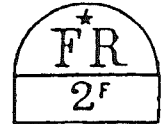
France debited Great Britain 1 Franc 78 centimes per ounce of bulk letter weight for transit services on unpaid letters from the Sardinian States (which included unified Italy by 1870).

The cover above was carried from Messina to Marseille by French contract steamship, then to Paris and the open mails to England. "FR 1F78c" accountancy marking covers, such as this one, are known on only a small number of Italian covers in early 1870, after abrogation of the U.S.–French Treaty.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

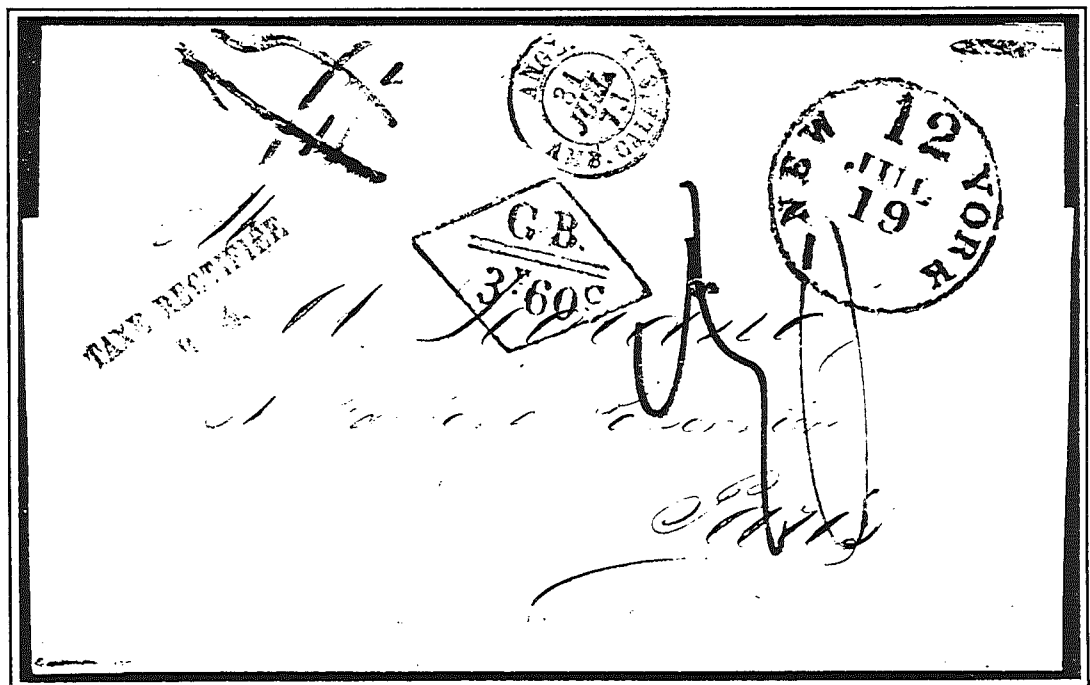
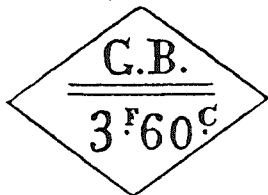
Pre U.S. – French Treaty
British & American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870–1874
1 Jan 70–1 Aug 74



9 December 1872 Le Havre to New York
Letter sent unpaid
18¢ postage due in greenback notes
16¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

Siberia 20 days (West)
14¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
Paris exchanged letter with G.B. at 2
Franc per ounce bulk letter rate



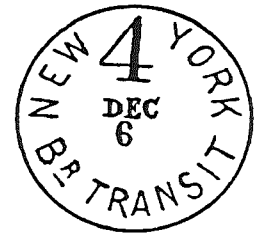
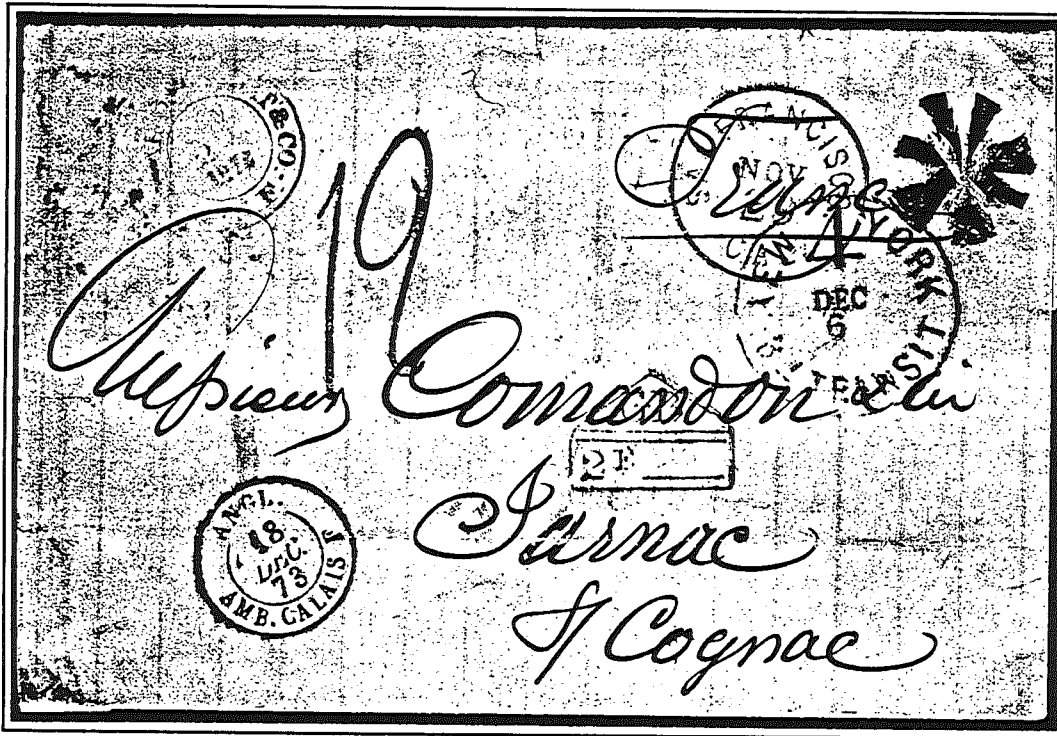
July 1873 Havana, Cuba to Paris
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
30 decimes postage due in Paris

Oceanic 10 days (East)
12¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
London accounted for letter under 3 Franc 60 centime bulk rate
Paris rated letter single, then reweighed and charged double

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

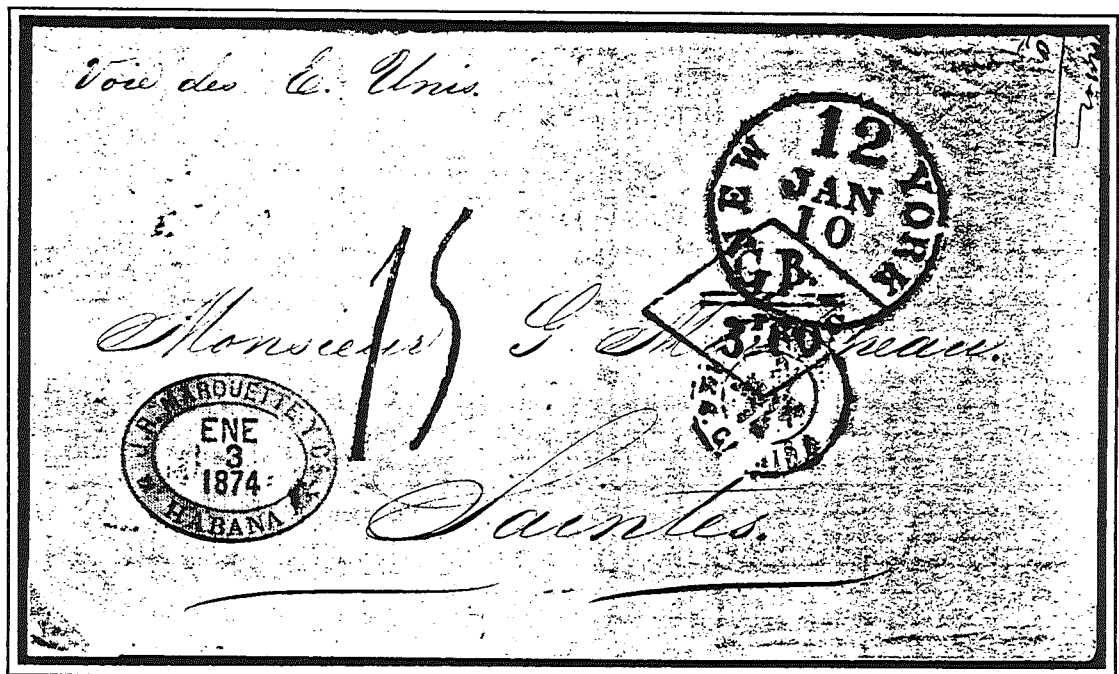
Pre U.S. - French Treaty
British & American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1870-1874
1 Jan 70-1 Aug 74



28 November 1873 San Francisco to Jarnac
Letter sent unpaid
12 decimes postage due in Jarnac

Deutschland 11 days (East)
4¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
7 day transit from San Francisco possible only
after trans-continental railroad completed



3 January 1874 Havana, Cuba to Saintes
Letter sent unpaid
15 decimes postage due in Saintes

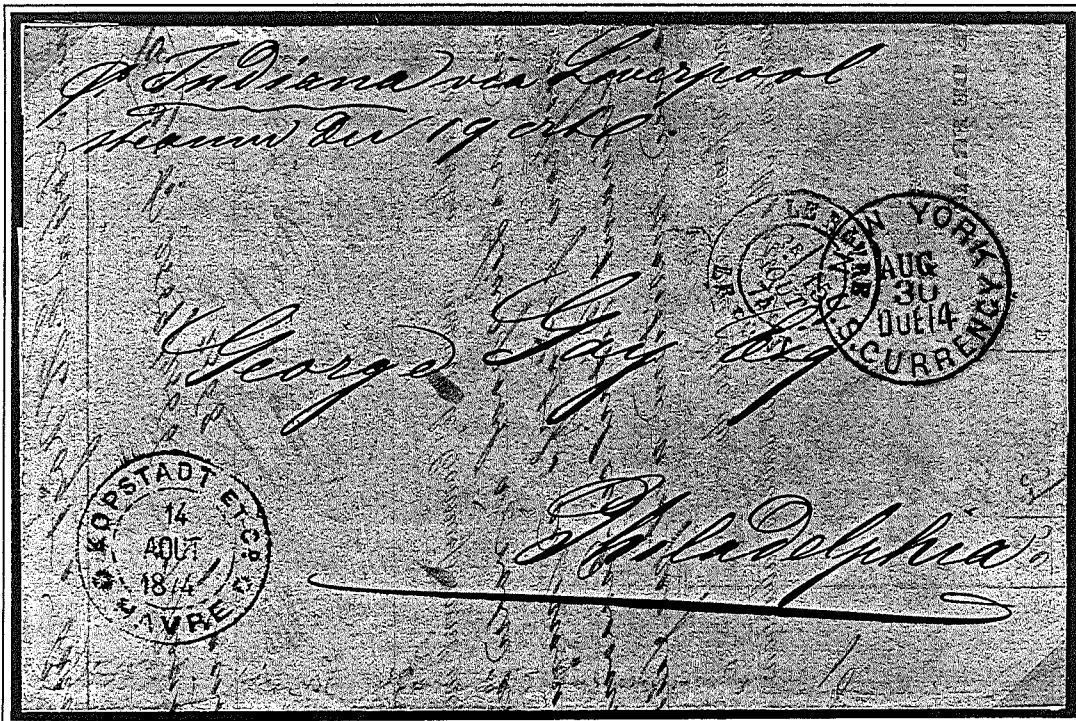
Weser II 10 days (East)
12¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
Letter carried from Havana to New York on
N.Y. & Mexican Steamship Co. steamer *City of Merida*

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1874
Contract Steamship via G.B. and Direct

1874-1876
1 Aug 74-1 Jan 76

On 1 August 1874, the second postal convention between the United States and France went into effect. Mails could again be sent fully paid between the two countries. The single letter rate was 9¢ in the U.S. or 5 decimes (50 centimes) in France per 10 grams. Each country kept the amount collected, either prepaid or postage due. Debit or credit accounting was not required on the letters. Unpaid letters were fined 5¢ in the U.S. and 25 centimes in France.



14 August 1874 Le Havre to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid
14¢ postage due in New York

China 10 days (West)
Cunard steamer carried letter
from Queenstown to New York

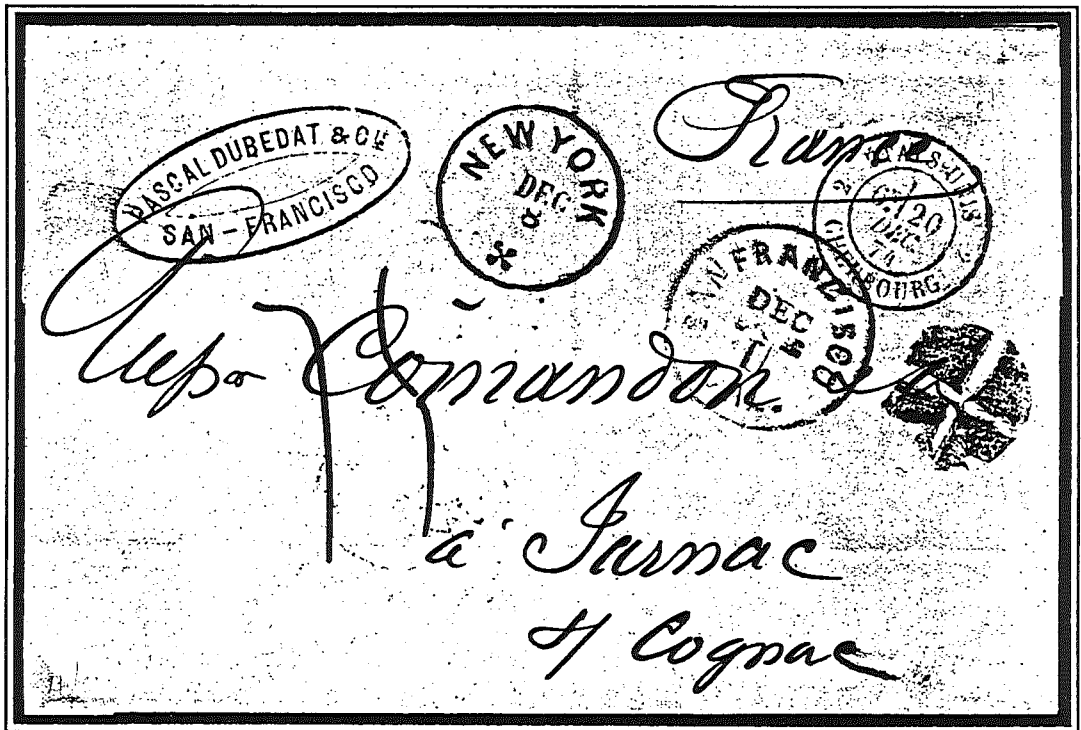


This letter was endorsed for the steamship *Indiana* of the American Line, scheduled to depart Liverpool on 19 August 1874 for Philadelphia. Paris placed the letter in a closed mail bag, which London routed to the steamer *China*. Since the letter was sent unpaid, it was subject to a 5¢ unpaid letter fine by New York. Postage due was collected in greenback currency only.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

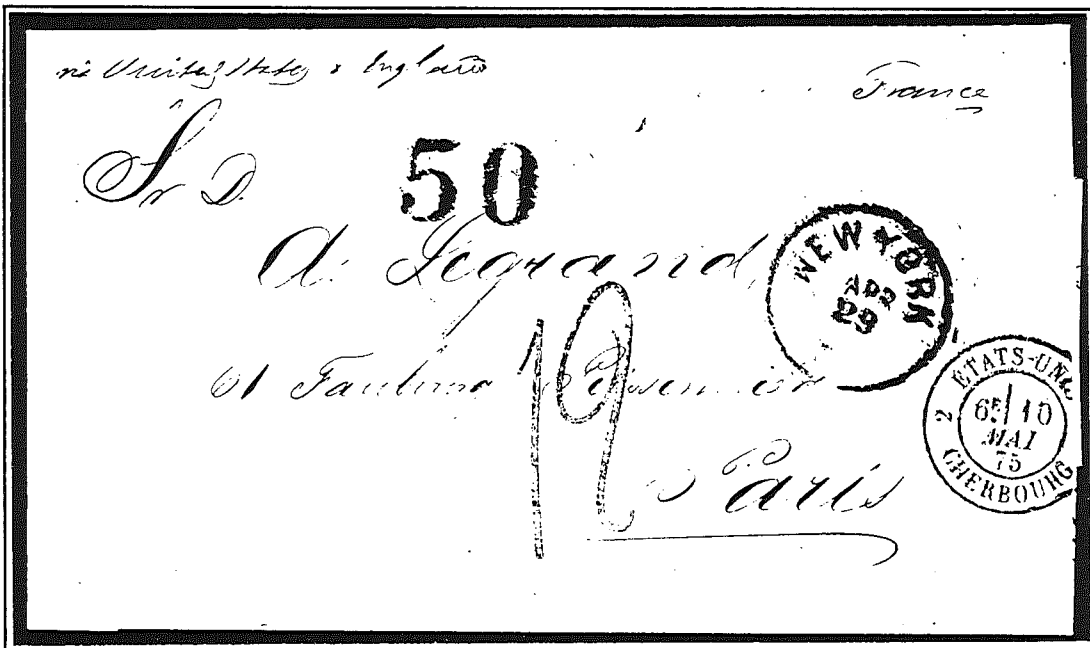
U.S. – French Treaty of 1874
 Contract Steamship via G.B. and Direct

1874–1876
 1 Aug 74–1 Jan 76



30 November 1874 San Francisco to Jarnac
 Letter sent unpaid
 75 centimes postage due in Jarnac

Holsatia 12 days (East)
 Postage due included 25 centimes unpaid letter fine
 HAPAG steamer carried letter to Cherbourg



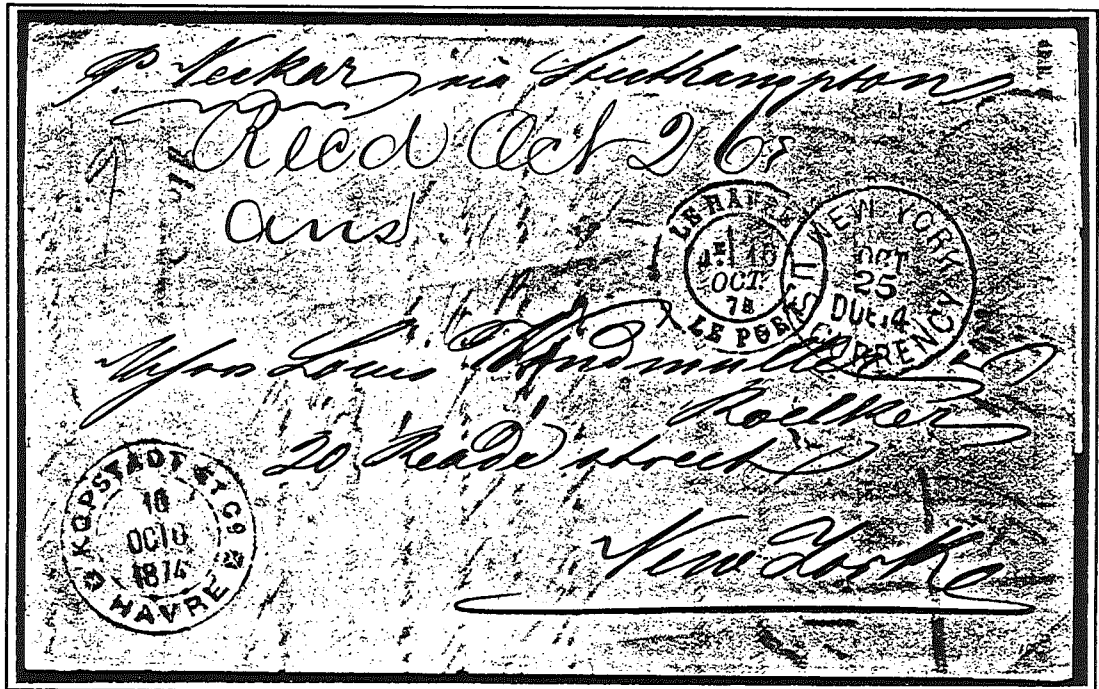
24 April 1875 Havana, Cuba to Paris via New York
 Letter sent unpaid
 12 decimes postage due in Paris

Pommerania 11 days (East)
 50 centimes U.S. debit to France
 Letter carried to New York by N.Y., Havana & Mexican Mail Line steamer *Crescent City*

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

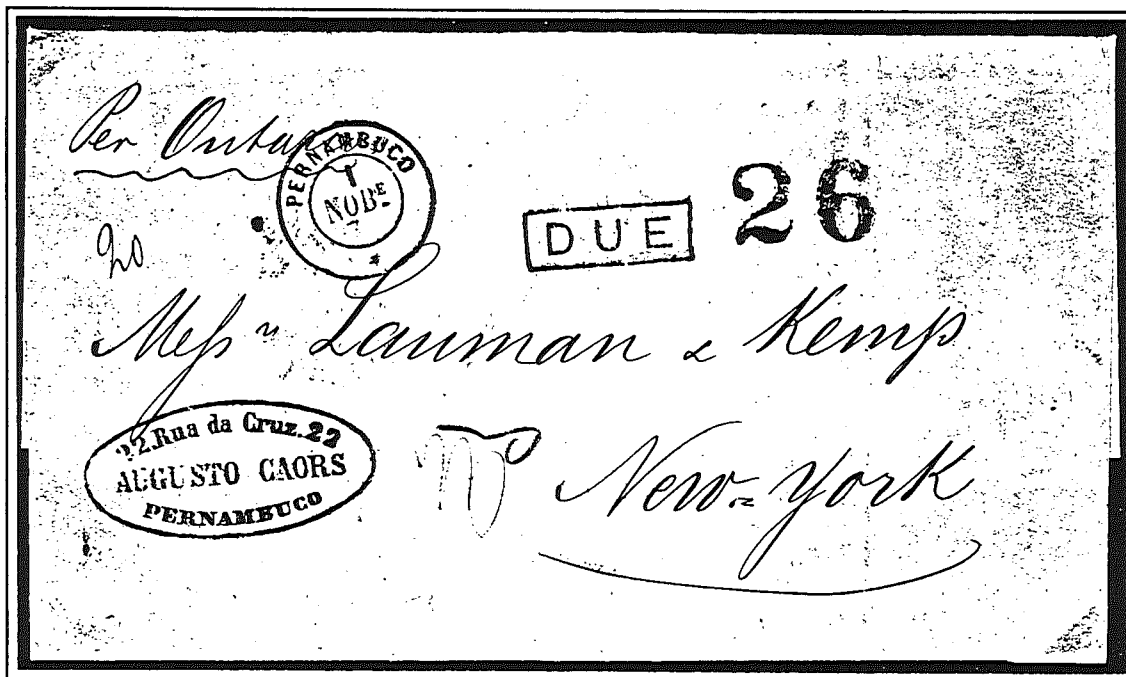
U.S. – French Treaty of 1874
 Contract Steamship via G.B. and Direct

1874–1876
 1 Aug 74–1 Jan 76



10 October 1874 Le Havre to New York
 Letter sent unpaid
 14¢ postage due in New York

Neckar 11 days (West)
 Postage due = 9¢ Treaty rate plus 5¢ unpaid
 letter fine, collected in greenback currency only



(Reverse)

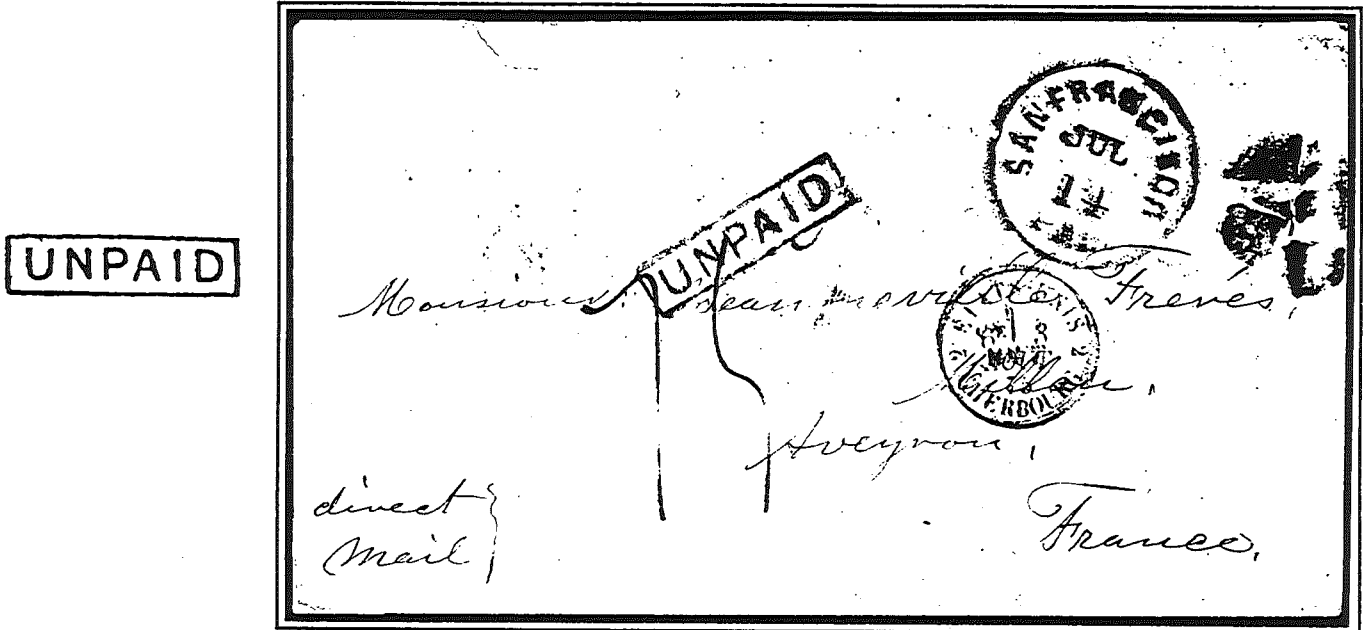
31 October 1874 Pernambuco, Brazil to New York via France
 Letter sent unpaid
 26¢ postage due in New York

Abysinnia 10 days (West)
 20¢ French debit to U.S.
 Postage due included 5¢ unpaid letter fine
 Letter by French Line J steamer *Gironde* to Bordeaux

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

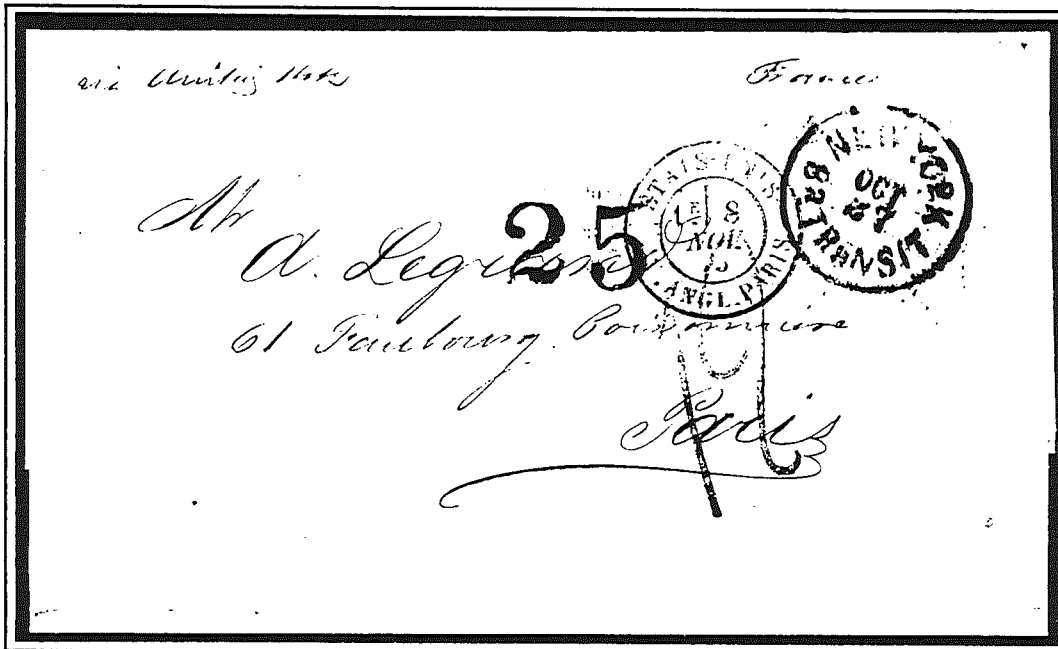
U.S. – French Treaty of 1874
 Contract Steamship via G.B. and Direct

1874–1876
 1 Aug 74–1 Jan 76



14 July 1875 San Francisco to Millau
 Letter sent unpaid
 75 centimes postage due in Millau

Frisia 12 days (East)
 Postage due included 25 centimes unpaid letter fine
 HAPAG steamer carried letter to Cherbourg
 New York applied boxed UNPAID marking



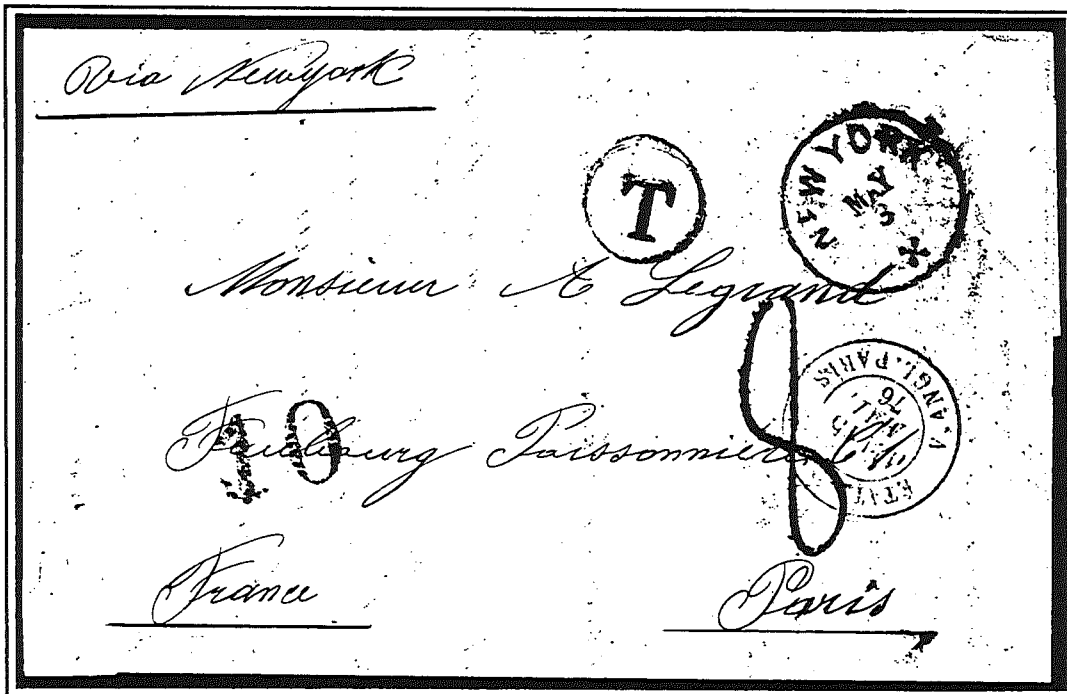
21 October 1875 Havana, Cuba to Paris via New York
 Letter sent unpaid
 12 decimes postage due in Paris

Abysinnia 10 days (East)
 25 centimes U.S. debit to France
 In July 1875, U.S. transit fee to Cuba was reduced
 to 5¢, therefore debit to France was cut in half

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

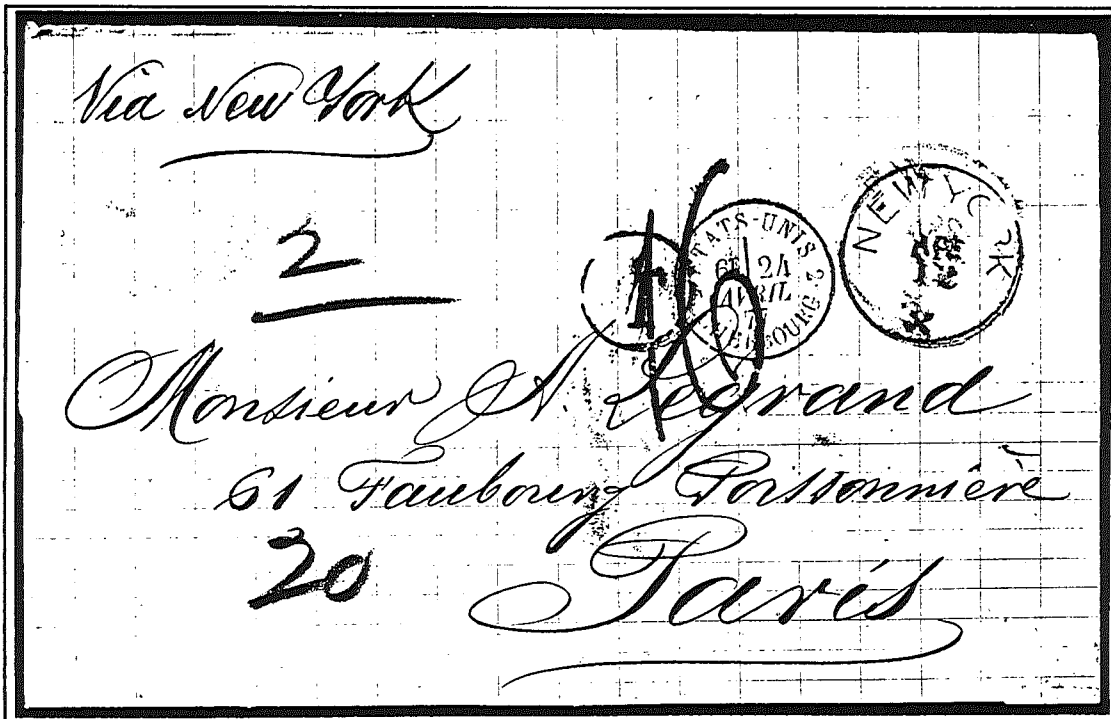
General Postal Union
Contract Steamship via G.B. and Direct

1876-1878
1 Jan 76-1 May 78



29 April 1876 Havana, Cuba to Paris via New York
Letter sent unpaid
10 centimes U.S. debit to France
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Russia 10 days (East)
Circle "T" struck at New York to show postage due
Letter carried to New York by N.Y., Havana &
Mexican Mail Line steamer *Crescent City*



6 April 1877 Havana, Cuba to Paris via New York
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
16 decimes postage due in Paris

Gellert 12 days (East)
2x10 = 20 centimes U.S. debit to France
HAPAG steamer carried letter to Cherbourg