

U.S.-G.B. MAILS BY STEAMSHIP:
1838 TO GENERAL POSTAL UNION

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AS RECEIVED BY
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OF THE
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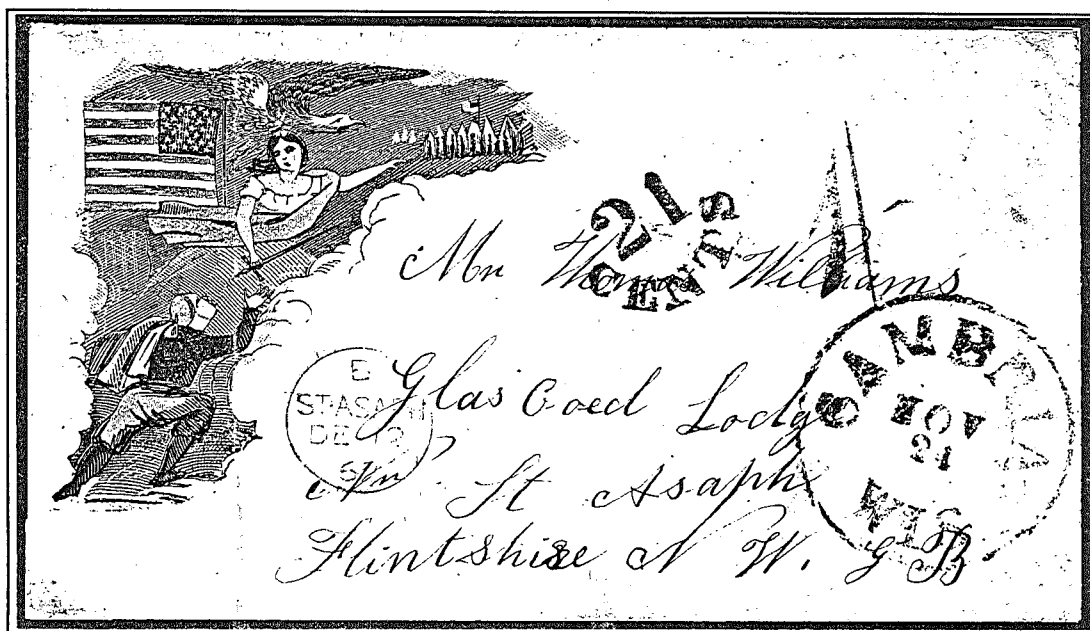
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship: 1838 to General Postal Union

This exhibit displays a wide range of postal rates between the U.S. and G.B., and thru those countries to destinations beyond. As a **postal rate and route study** it can best be illustrated with **stampless covers**. The exhibit is arranged chronologically within each rate study period. Information provided under each cover includes date/place of origin, destination, steamship and transatlantic transit time, rates paid, international accounting, postage due, and additional notes. Important markings are shown.

From 1838, when the first regular non-contract steamship service across the Atlantic began, until the beginning of the General Postal Union in 1875, transatlantic mail was carried by steamships, first on a non-contract basis and later under contract to one or both of the governments. Mail was sent paid, unpaid, or partly paid depending on the existing international agreements. Before the mid-1850s most overseas mail was sent stampless, either paid in cash (as far as it could be paid) or unpaid. While many stampless transatlantic covers are common, some rate combinations and routes are quite scarce. By the late 1860s, stampless overseas mail was seldom seen except for unpaid mail. After 1868, even less mail was sent stampless because postal conventions from 1868 levied penalties for unpaid letters.

Typical cover description:

21
CENTS



24 November 1862 Cambria, Wisconsin to St. Asaph, Wales
Letter sent unpaid
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
1s postage due in St. Asaph

Anglo-Saxon 11 days (East)
Letter carried by Milwaukee & LaCrosse Railroad to Chicago where blue "21/CENTS" debit marking struck, then carried by rail to Quebec for Allan Line steamer

Rate study periods displayed are:

1. Pre U.S.-G.B. Treaty	1838 - 1849
2. U.S.-G.B. Postal Conventions	1849 - 1875
a. 1848 Treaty	1849 - 1868
1) British packet	
2) American packet	
3) California mails	
b. 1867, 1868, 1869 Treaties	1868 - 1875
3. General Postal Union	1875 - 1878

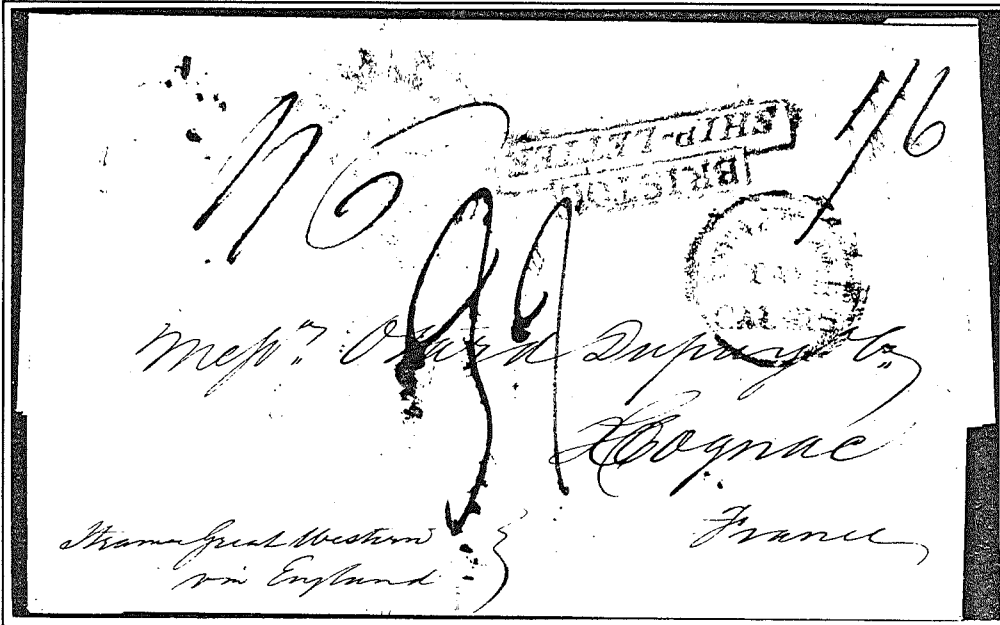
Significant events which affected rates:

U.S. Postal Act of 1845	- effective 1 July 1845
U.S. Act of 1848 (retaliatory order)	- effective 29 June 1848
U.S. Postal Order (rescinded retaliatory order)	- effective 3 January 1849
U.S.-British Postal Convention of 1848	- effective 15 February 1849
U.S. Postal Act of 1851	- effective 1 July 1851
U.S.-British Postal Convention of 1867	- effective 1 January 1868
U.S.-British Postal Convention of 1868	- effective 1 January 1869
U.S.-British Postal Convention of 1869	- effective 1 January 1870
General Postal Union Treaty	- effective 1 July 1875

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

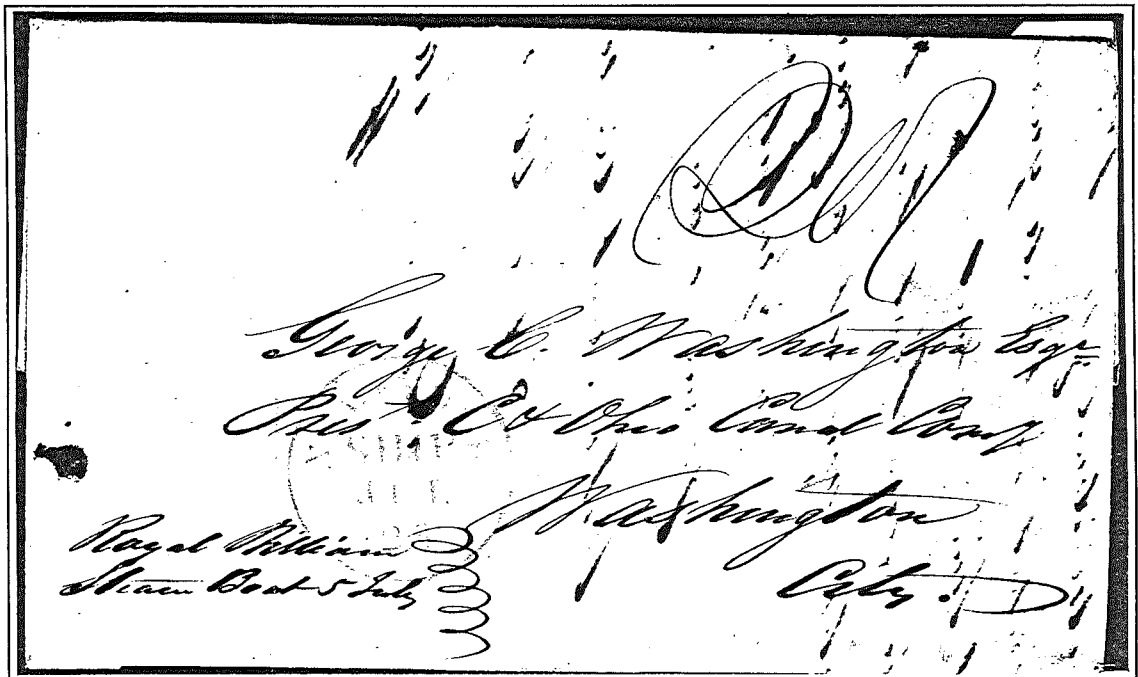
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



7 May 1838 New York to Cognac, France
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at port)
1s6d G.B. debit to France
32 decimes postage due in Cognac

Great Western 15 days (East)
Maiden return voyage
Postage due included 18 dec. to G.B. and 14 dec. Fr. internal
Scarce French entry marking on transatlantic steamship cover



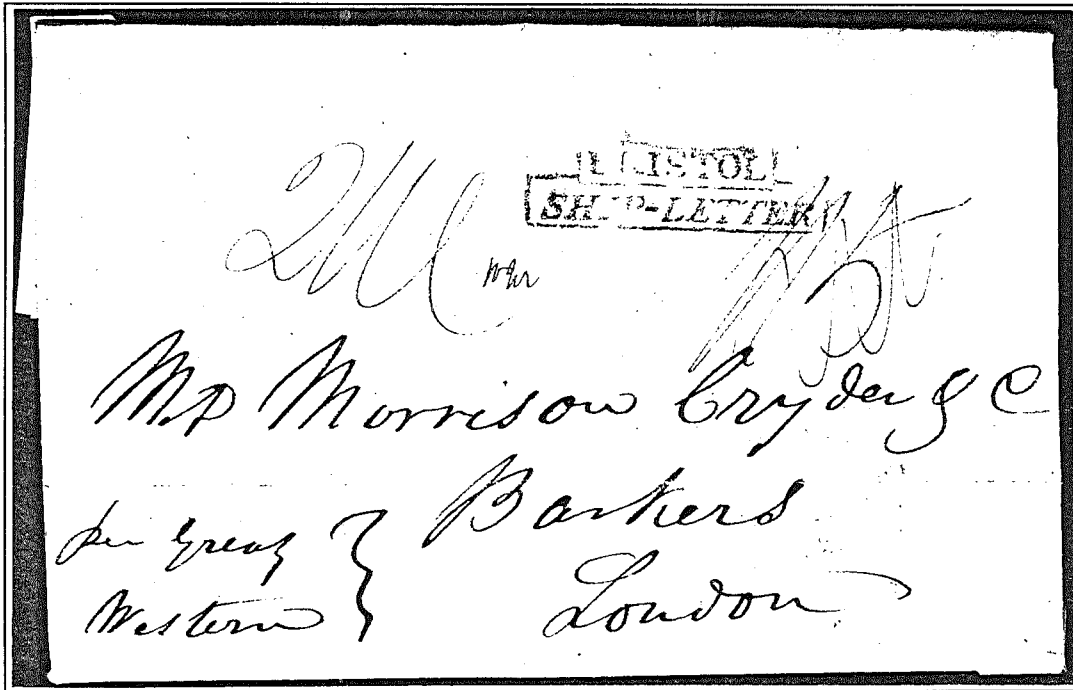
4 July 1838 London to Washington, DC
Letter sent unpaid (placed on steamer at Liverpool by forwarding agent Coates & Co. of London)
20 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ postage due in Washington, DC

Royal William 19 days (West)
Letter carried on maiden voyage of steamer which made only three round voyages for City of Dublin Steam Packet Co.
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ U.S. inland fees

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



22 September 1838 Philadelphia to London
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at New York)
2s10d postage due in London

Great Western 13 days (East)
4th return voyage to Bristol
Postage due = 2 x 1s5d

FORWARDED FROM
HALE'S FOR. LET.^g OFFICE,
Corner of Wall and Water Streets
NEW YORK

25

(Reverse - Red)

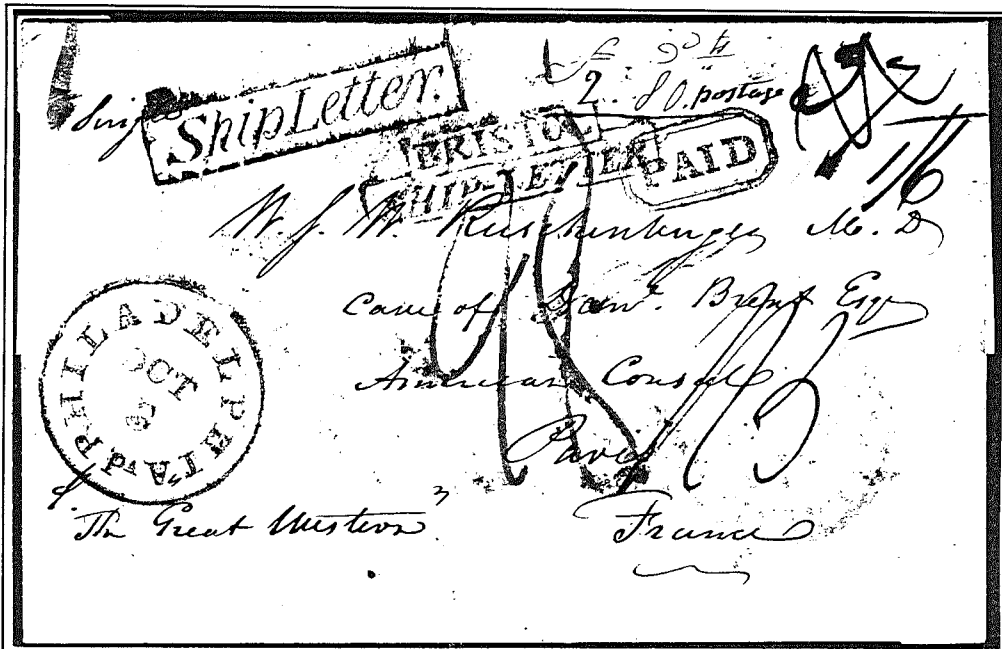
Letter carried privately to New York where it was placed in ship letter bag for *Great Western* at Hale's Foreign Letter Office, Corner of Wall and Water Streets. Forwarding agent paid 25¢ freight money fee, which was marked in pencil on reverse alongside four-line red handstamp of Hale's Foreign Letter Office. Letters showing freight money fee prepayment at New York are quite scarce as the fee was seldom marked.

Postage due in London marked as 1s5d in error (single rate) and changed to 2s10d for double rate. Initials of postal official who authorized rate change marked alongside new rate. Single letter rate consisted of 8d incoming ship fee plus 9d inland fee from Bristol to London.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



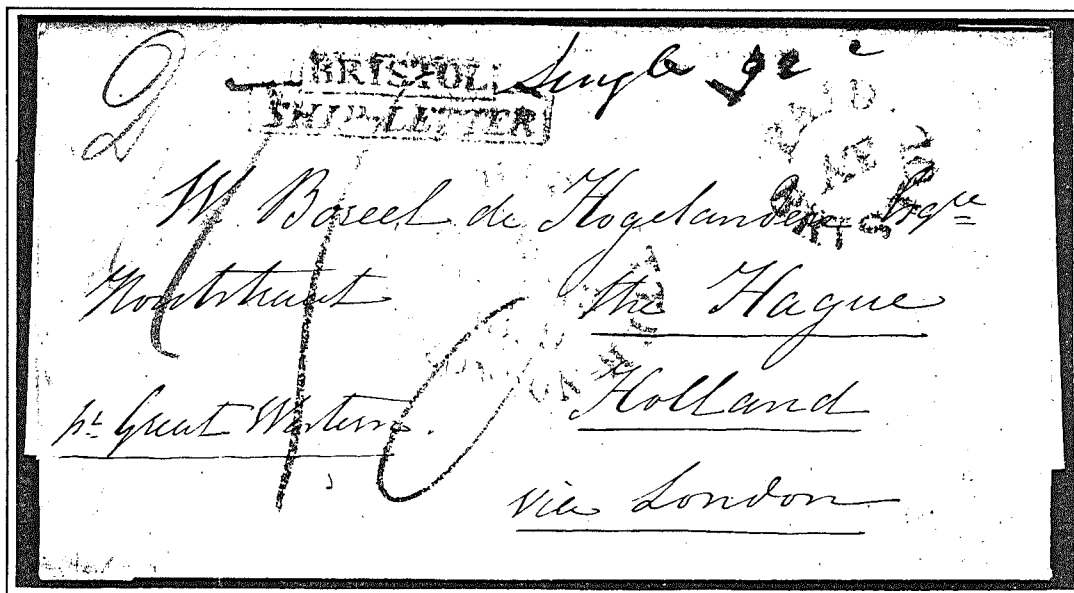
Ship Letter.

3 October 1838 Philadelphia to Paris, France
37½¢ paid (12½¢ inland, 25¢ freight money fees)
1s6d British debit to France
28 decimes postage due in Paris

Great Western 13 days (East)
Bristol marked 1s5d due for ship letter
London struck boxed Ship Letter and corrected
French debit under 1836 Anglo-French Treaty

Single 92 ¢

(Reduced size)



22 February 1839 New York to The Hague, Holland
92¢ paid to unknown New York express company to
post letter in Bristol where 2s7d paid
50 Dutch Cents postage due in The Hague

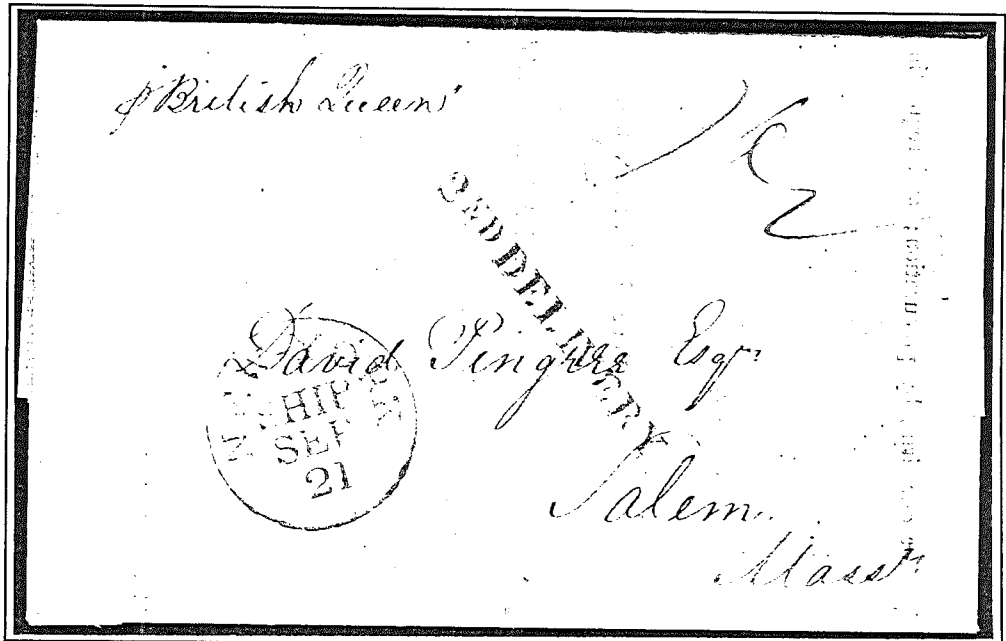
Great Western 15 days (East)
Agent payment in Bristol: 8d incoming ship fee, 9d inland
fee to London abated by 2d, and 1s4d to Holland
Scarce letter showing express company fee in New York

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

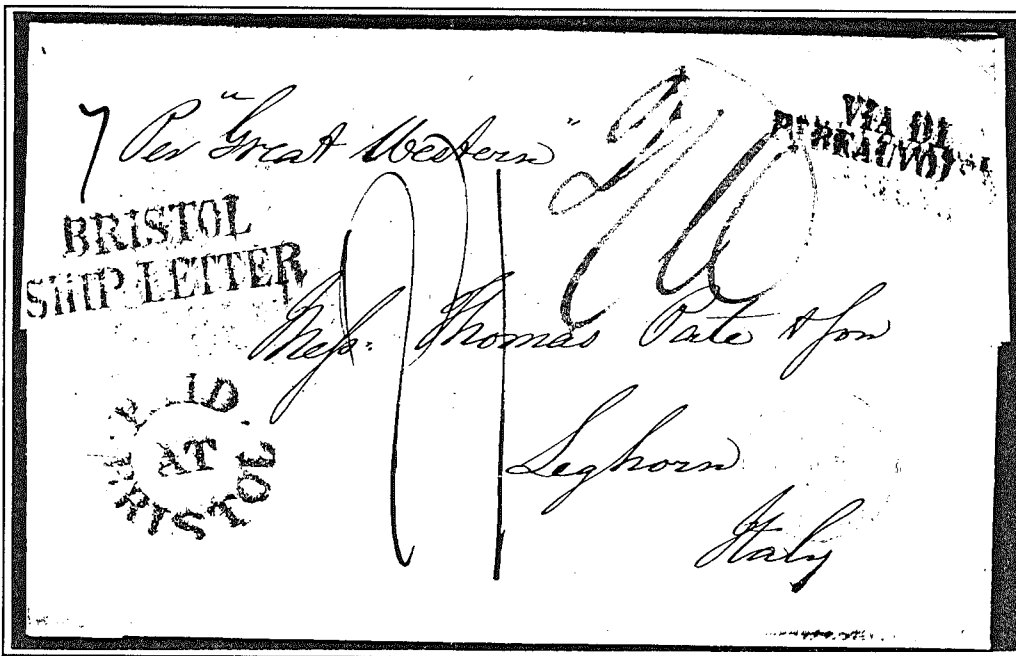
1838-1849

2ND DELIVERY



30 August 1839 Liverpool to Salem, Massachusetts
Letter carried privately to London and placed in ship's letter bag
20³/₄¢ postage due in Salem

British Queen 19 days (West)
2nd voyage to New York
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18³/₄¢ U.S. inland fees;
New York struck "2ND DELIVERY" to justify delay in handling



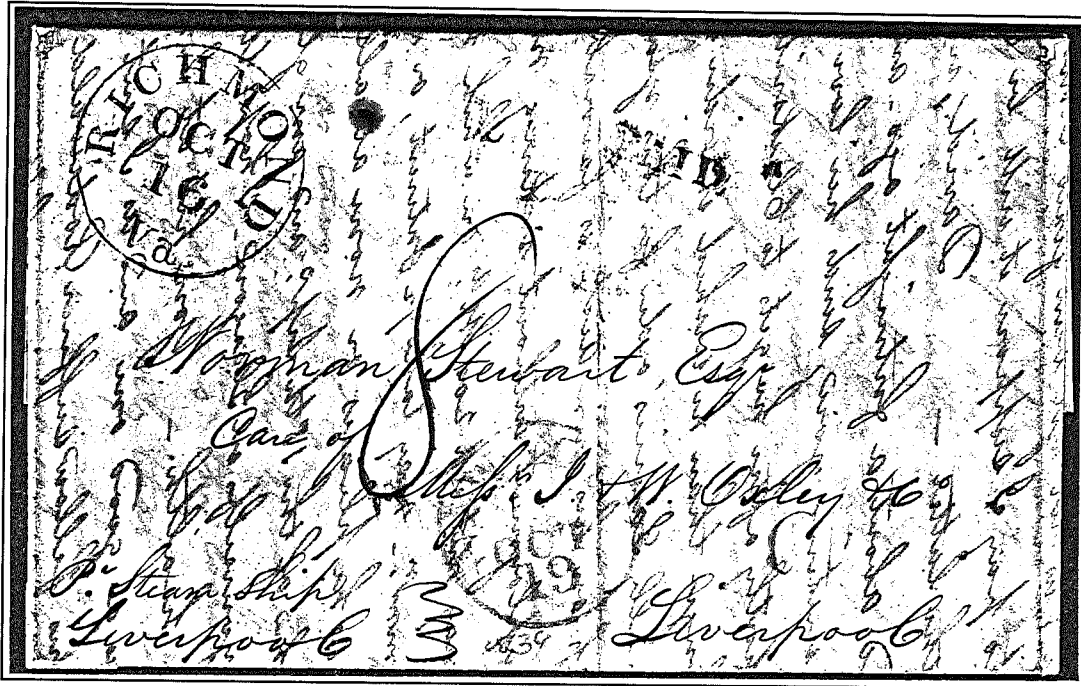
21 September 1839 New York to Leghorn (Livorno), Tuscany
Letter sent to Bristol agent who paid 8d incoming ship fee, 7d transit to London and 1/7d transit thru France to Kingdom of Sardinia
21 crazie postage due in Leghorn

Great Western 13 days (East)
"BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER" marked when letter posted in Bristol; letter exchanged at French-Sardinian border office of Pont-de-Beauvoisin

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



16 October 1839 Richmond, Virginia to Liverpool
43¼¢ paid for U.S. inland and freight money fees
8d postage due in Liverpool

Liverpool 18 days (East)
6th return voyage of Transatlantic Steam Ship Co.
steamer that made only 7 round voyages

STEAM

PAID

25

Letter prepaid 18¾¢ (faint red manuscript upper right) for U.S. inland fee to New York and 25¢ freight money fee shown on reverse as separate brown handstamps STEAM and PAID with red manuscript "25" alongside too right. Richmond used the handstamp SHIP instead of STEAM for freight money letters sent by sailing ship. Freight money covers from Richmond are uncommon.

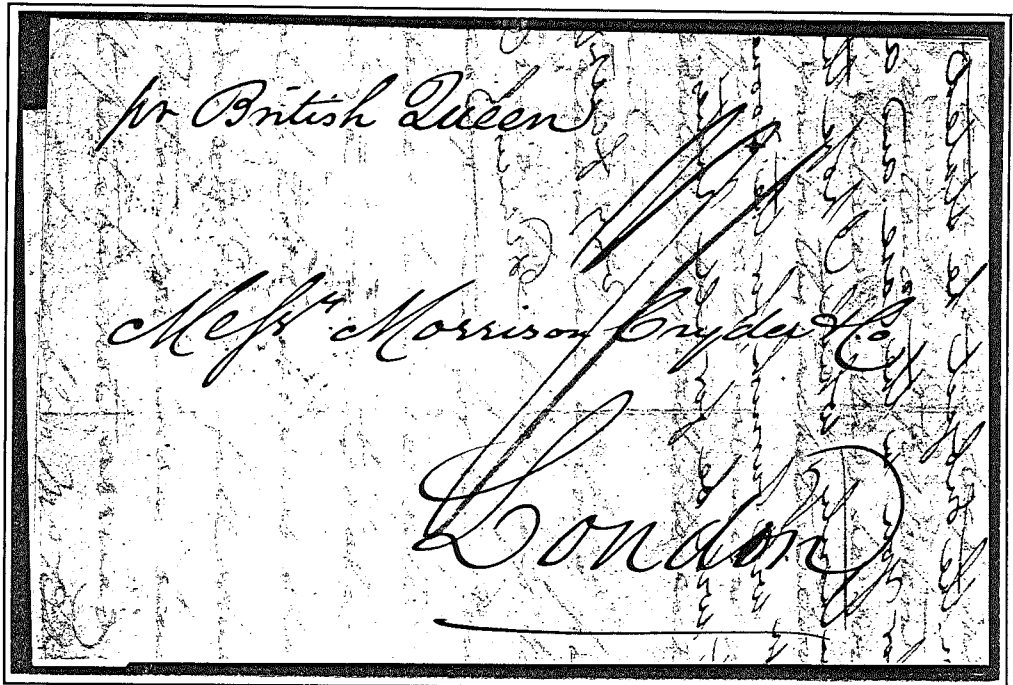
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849

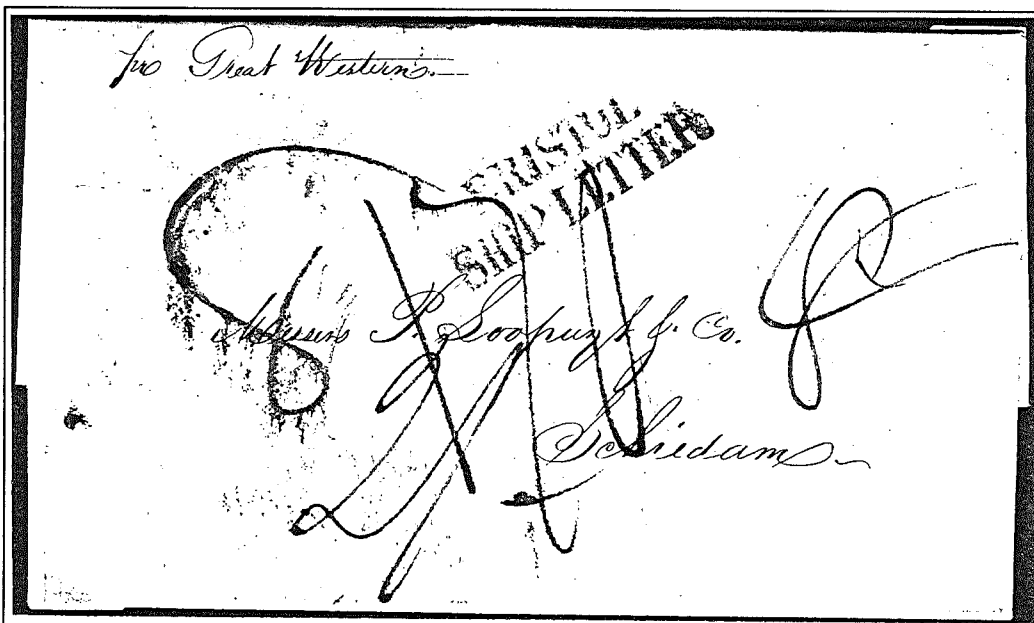
**SHIP LETTER
GRAVESEND**

(Reverse)



30 November 1839 Boston to London
Letter carried privately to New York and placed in ship's letter bag by unknown agent
1s postage due in London (8d ship and 4d uniform inland fee)

British Queen 23 days (East)
3rd return voyage to London
Only transatlantic steamship voyage to take mail to G.B. during 4d uniform inland rate period



*Engeland
over Rotterdam*

(Reverse - Red)

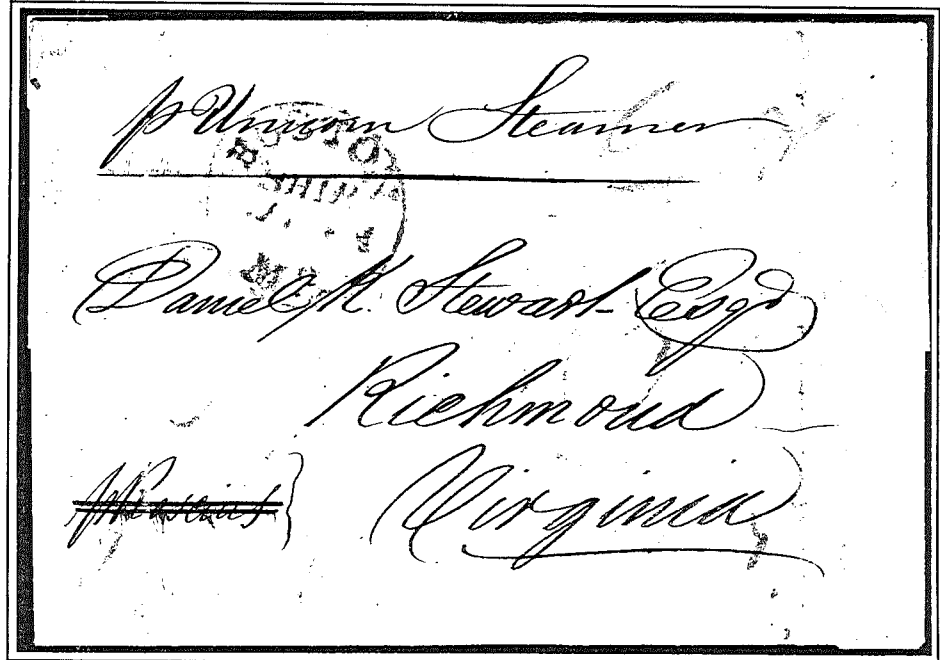
8 May 1840 Philadelphia to Schiedam, Holland
Letter carried privately to New York and placed in ship's letter bag by unknown agent
170 Dutch Cents postage due in Schiedam

Great Western 14 days (East)
Bristol marked 8d incoming ship letter
London debited Holland 2s (8d ship fee plus 1s4d fee to Holland)
Postage due = 120 Cents to G.B. and 50 Cents inland fee

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



9 May 1840 Leith, Scotland to Richmond, Virginia
Letter carried privately to Liverpool and placed in ship's letter bag
by unknown agent
27¢ postage due in Richmond (2¢ ship and 25¢ U.S. inland fees)

Unicorn 18 days (West)
First transatlantic voyage of Cunard Line to set up
feeder service from Pictou, Nova Scotia to Quebec
Contract mails not carried on this voyage



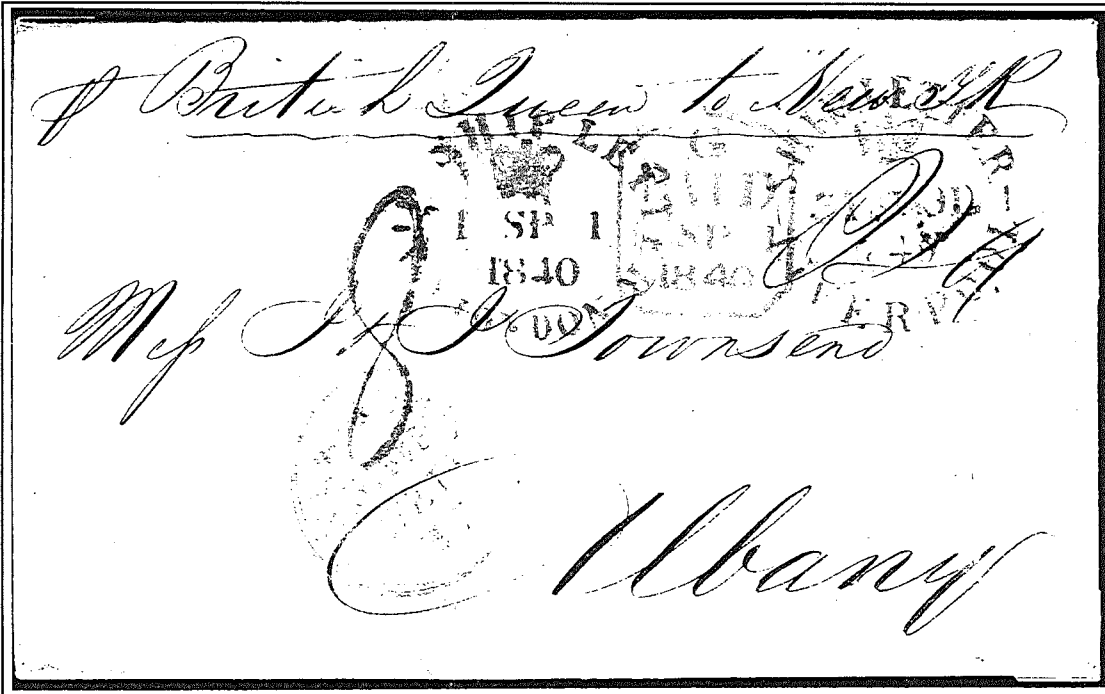
2 June 1840 Liverpool to New York
8d paid for outgoing ship rate
6¢ postage due in New York

Great Western 14 days (West)
14th voyage to New York; postage due was
uniform rate for letters to ship's arrival port

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

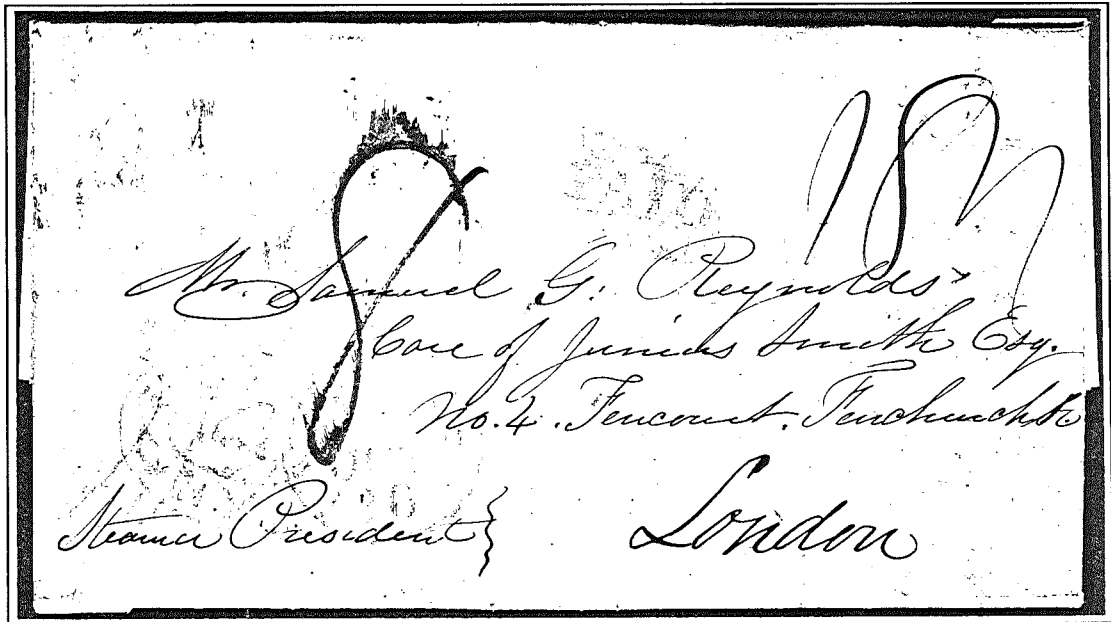
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



29 August 1840 Liverpool to Albany, New York
8d paid for outgoing ship rate
14½¢ postage due in Albany (2¢ ship, 12½¢ U.S. inland fees)

British Queen 15 days (West)
Letter sent to London then Portsmouth to reach ship
Unusual cover with three, red ship letter handstamps



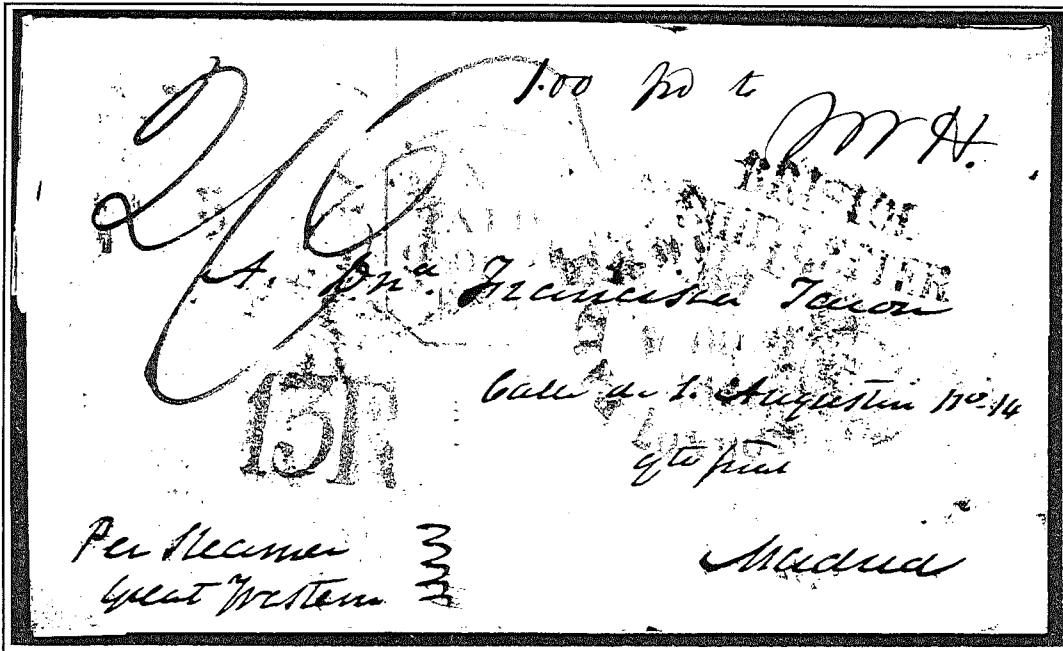
21 October 1840 Auburn, New York to London
18¾¢ paid for U.S. inland fee to New York
8d postage due in London

President 25 days (East)
2nd of two return voyages to Liverpool. Ship went back to New York after 7 days because of severe gales. Voyage resumed two days later which explains very long transit

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

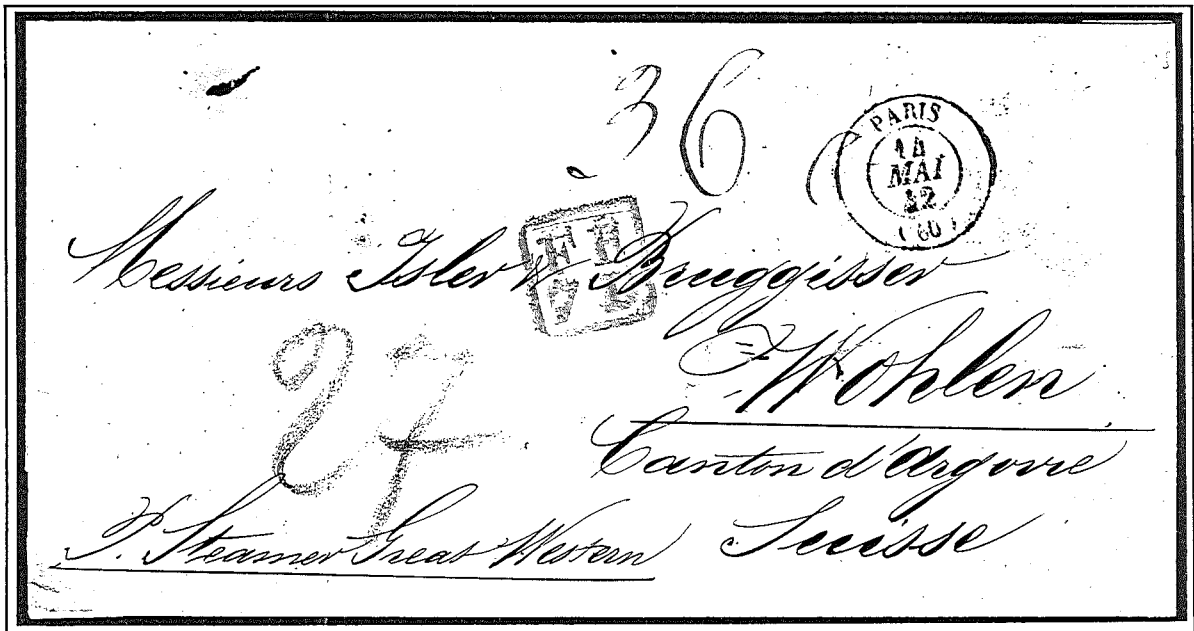
1838-1849



1.00 Paid to
M.H.

25 September 1841 New York to Madrid, Spain
\$1.00 paid for express company fees to Continent
2s6d paid when letter posted in London
13 reales postage due in Madrid

Great Western 13 days (East)
Harnden agent in New York sent letter to company's
London agent who paid all transit fees to Spain via France.
Postage due for letter weight of 5 adarmes (approx. ¼ oz.)



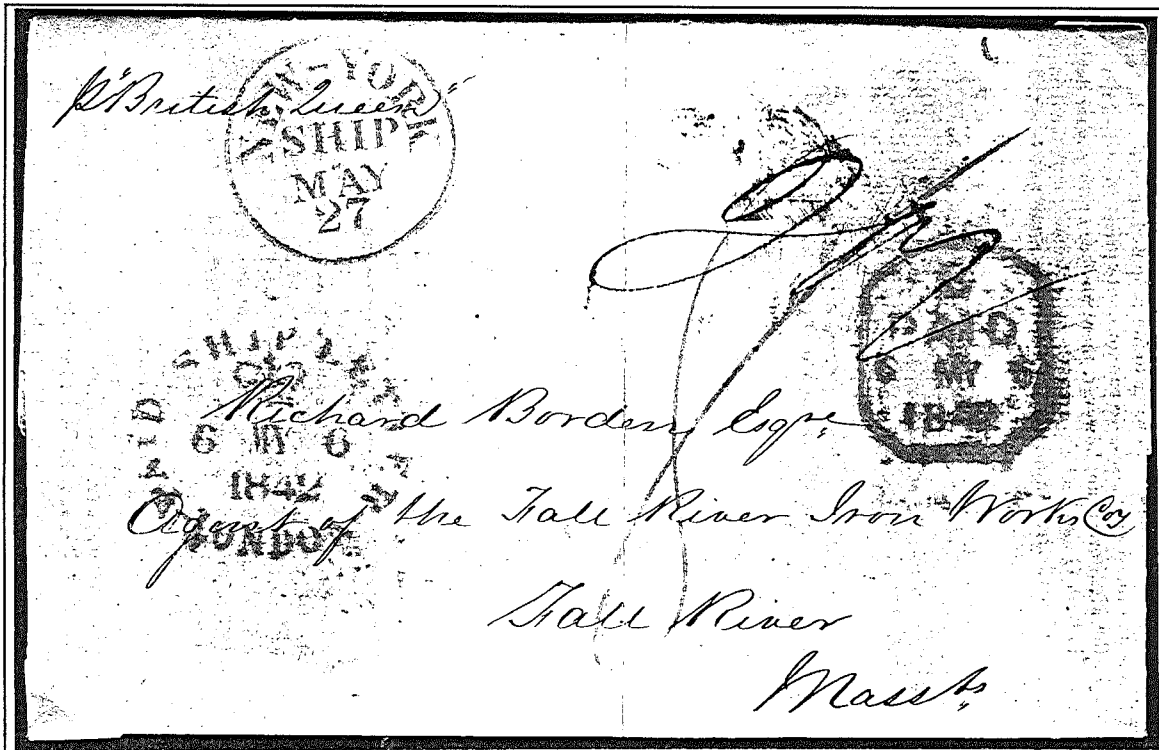
27 April 1842 New York to Wohlen, Switzerland
Letter carried privately to Paris on steamer to G.B.
27 kreuzer Canton Basel debit to Canton Argovie
36 kreuzer postage due in Wohlen

Great Western 13 days (East)
Paris marked boxed FR/7D to show
French debit of 7 decimes or 21 kreuzer.
Basel added 6 kr. and debited Argovie 27 kr.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



6 May 1842 London to Fall River, Massachusetts
8d paid for outgoing ship rate
20¾¢ postage due in Fall River

British Queen 21 days (West)
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18¾¢ U.S. inland fees

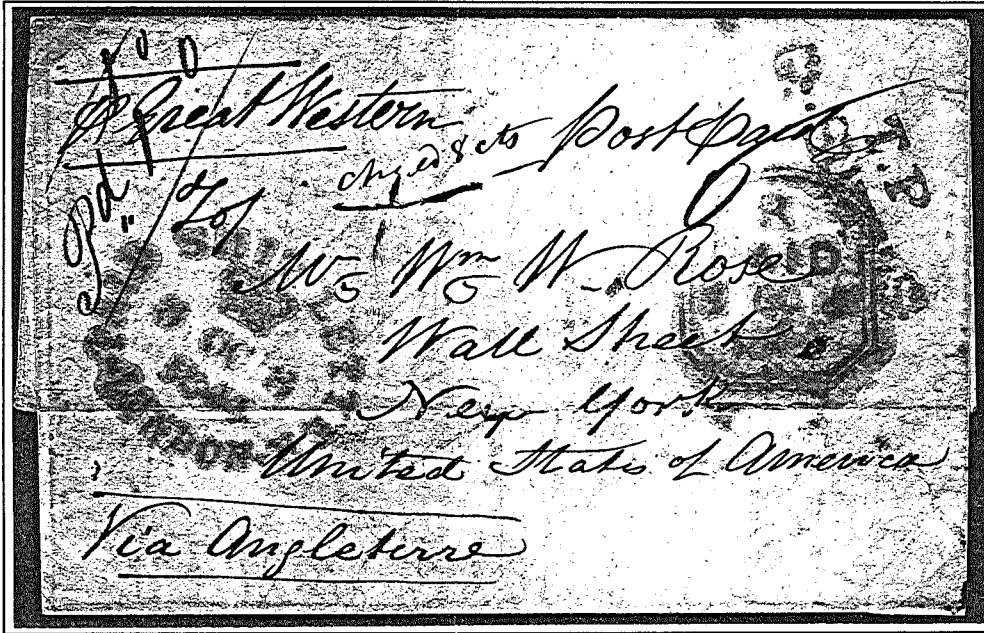
In August 1841, after making nine round voyages to New York for the British & American Steam Navigation Company, *British Queen* was sold to the Belgium Government. She sailing to Antwerp in September 1841 and made three round voyages under Belgium flag in 1842.

This letter was carried on the inaugural voyage made for the Belgium Government between Antwerp and New York with calls at Southampton each way. Letters carried by this steamer under Belgium ownership are quite scarce.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

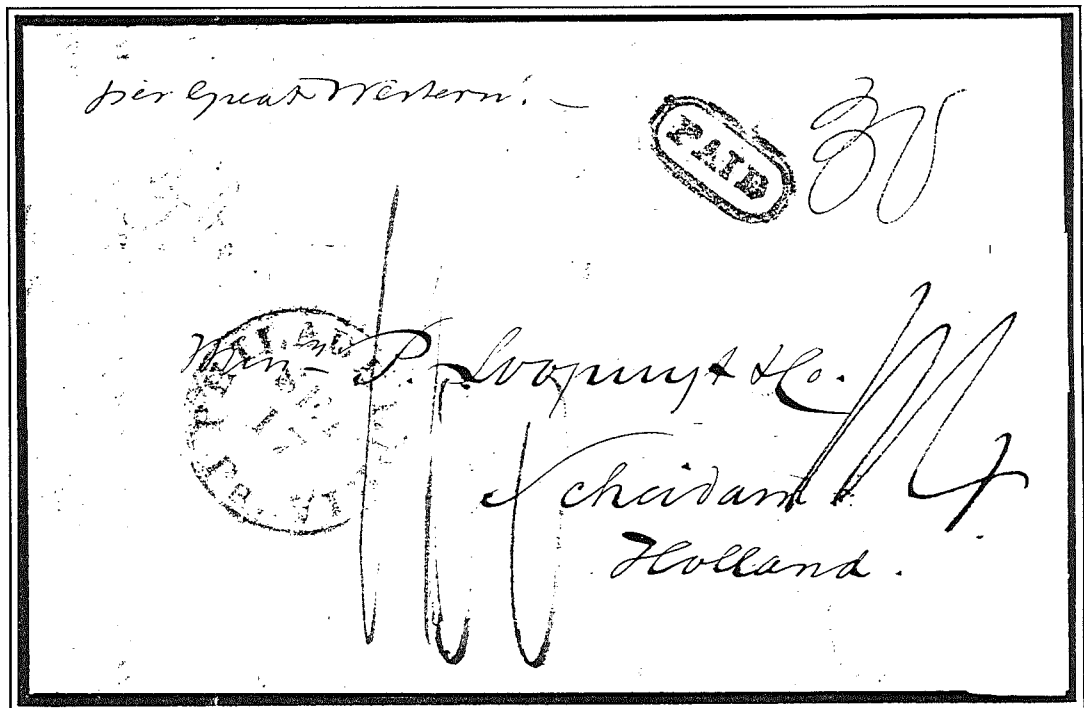
1838-1849



charged 8 cts

1 October 1844 Paris, France to New York
Letter carried privately to London; posted in Gt. Surrey St. Two Penny Post
1 shilling packet rate paid (4d overpayment for ship letter)
6¢ postage due in New York

Great Western 14 days (West)
2¢ postal carrier fee added in
New York for total postage due of 8¢
Carrier notations on letters are uncommon



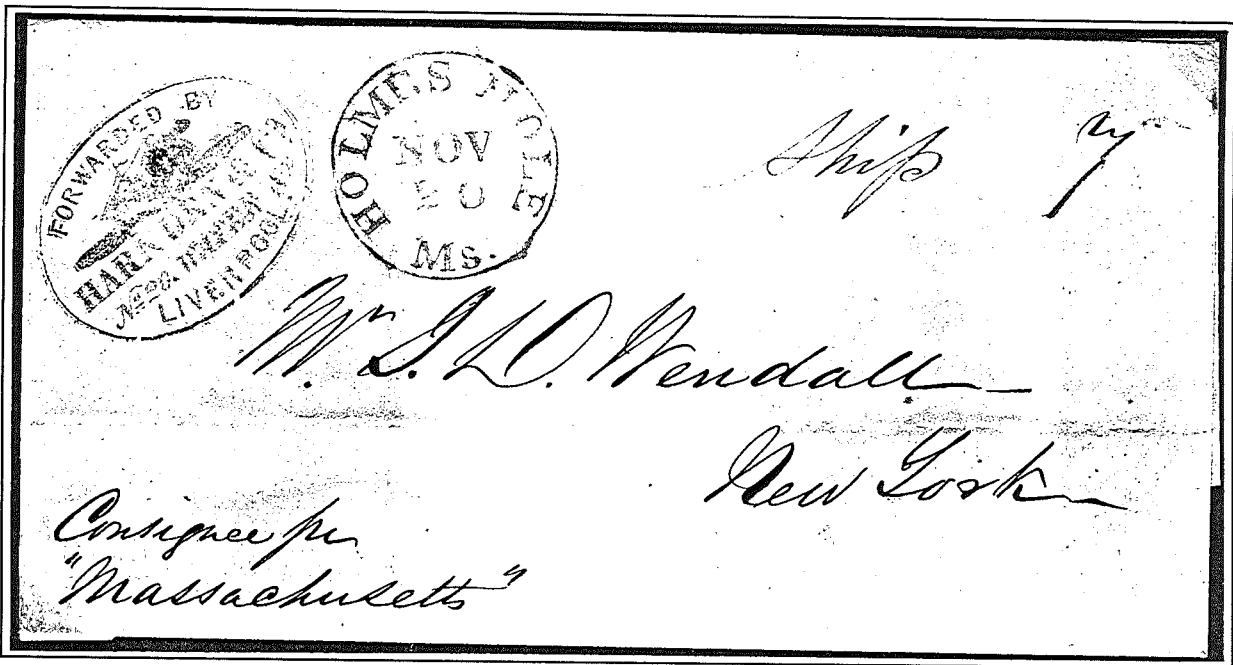
17 September 1845 Philadelphia to Schiedam, Holland
30¢ paid (5¢ U.S. inland and 25¢ freight money fees)
100 Dutch Cents postage due in Schiedam

Great Western 15 days (East)
G.B. debited Holland 1s4d (8d ship fee plus 8d transit
to Holland); Postage due = 80 Cents payback to G.B.
plus 20 Cents internal Dutch fee

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



18 October 1845 Liverpool to New York
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at port)
7¢ postage due in New York

Massachusetts 29 days (West)
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 5¢ U.S. inland fees

Letter originated by forwarding agent Harnden & Co. of Liverpool, who marked it with their handstamp and placed letter directly into ship's letter bag bypassing the post office.

Massachusetts, an auxiliary wooden steamer with Ericsson propeller, was the first American-owned steamship to operate on the North Atlantic route. It made only two round voyages for its Boston owners, R.B. Forbes & Co., before being sold to the U.S. Navy in 1847. This failed attempt at commercial Atlantic operations occurred two years before the first American contract steamship line, the Ocean Line, carried mails to Bremen in 1847.

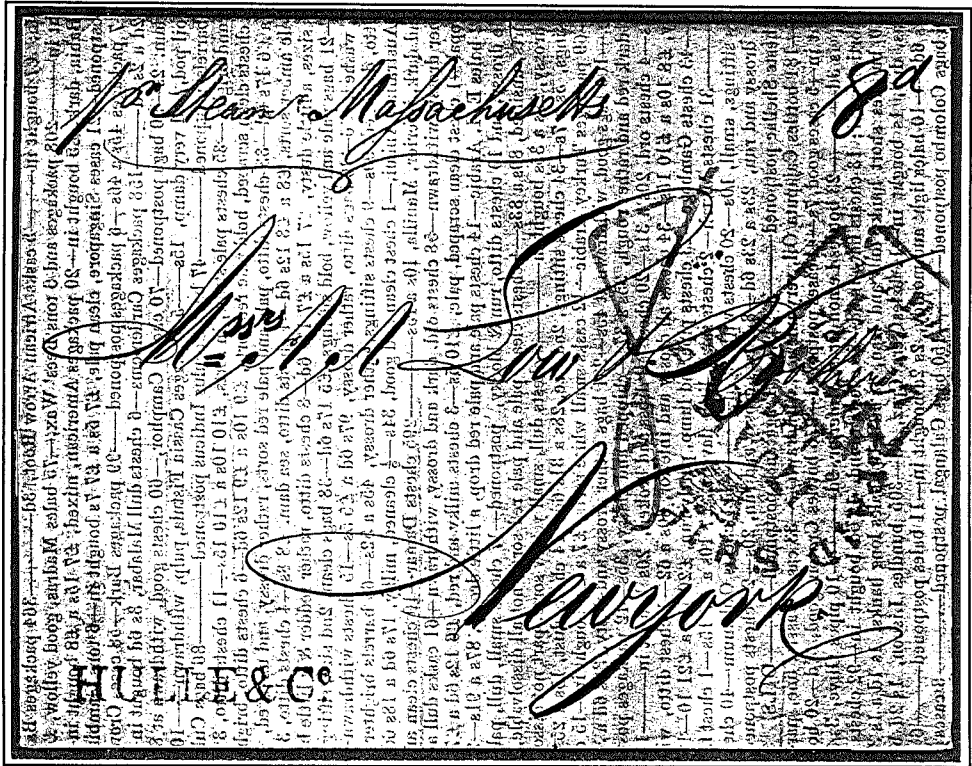
This letter was carried on the maiden return voyage of *Massachusetts*. Because of a rough Atlantic crossing the steamer put into Holmes Hole, Nantucket Island. Only one other cover from this voyage has been recorded.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

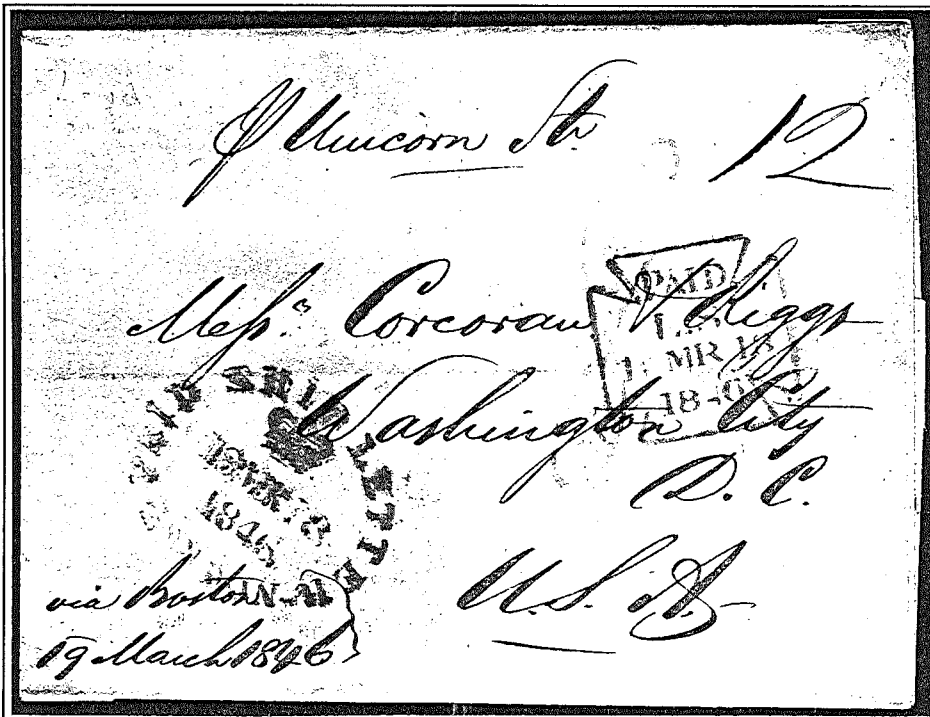
1838-1849

9



16 January 1846 London to New York
8d paid for outgoing ship rate
6¢ postage due in New York

Massachusetts 14 days (West)
2nd and last return voyage
13 of 15 recorded covers from this voyage



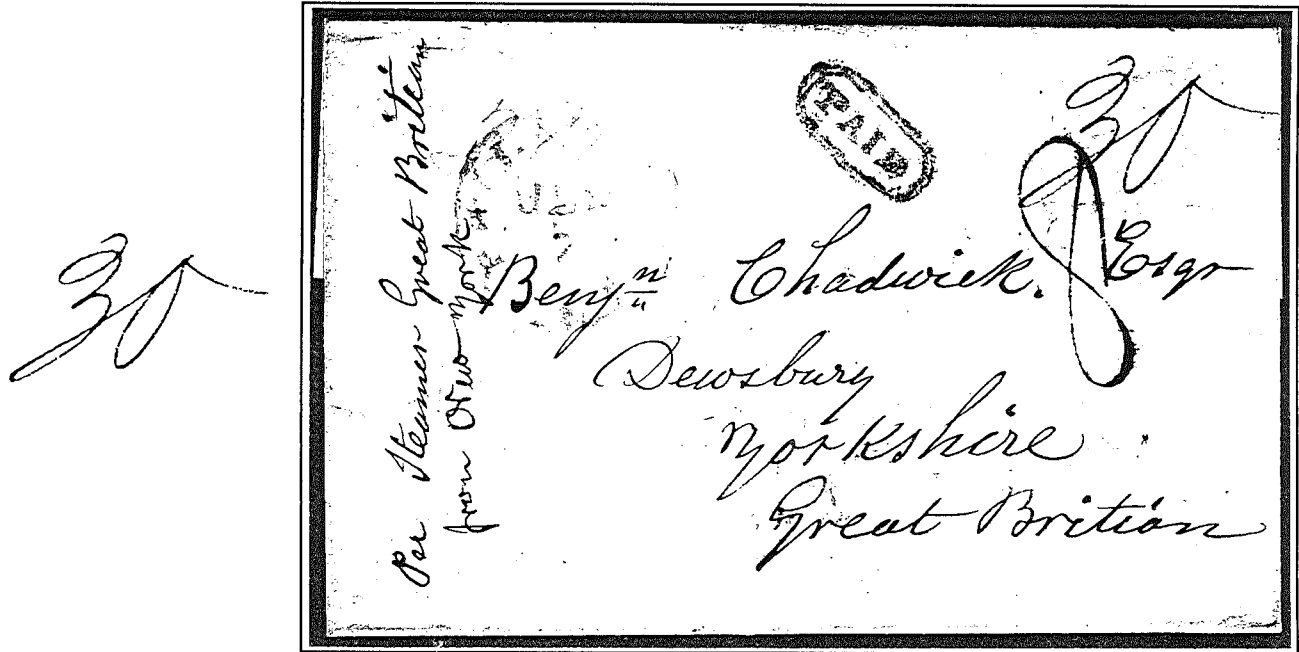
18 March 1846 London to Washington, DC
8d paid for outgoing ship rate
12¢ postage due in Washington, DC

Unicorn 29 days (West)
Purchased from Cunard Line for Halifax to Newfoundland service,
steamer made one last transatlantic voyage in 1846 (9 covers recorded)

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

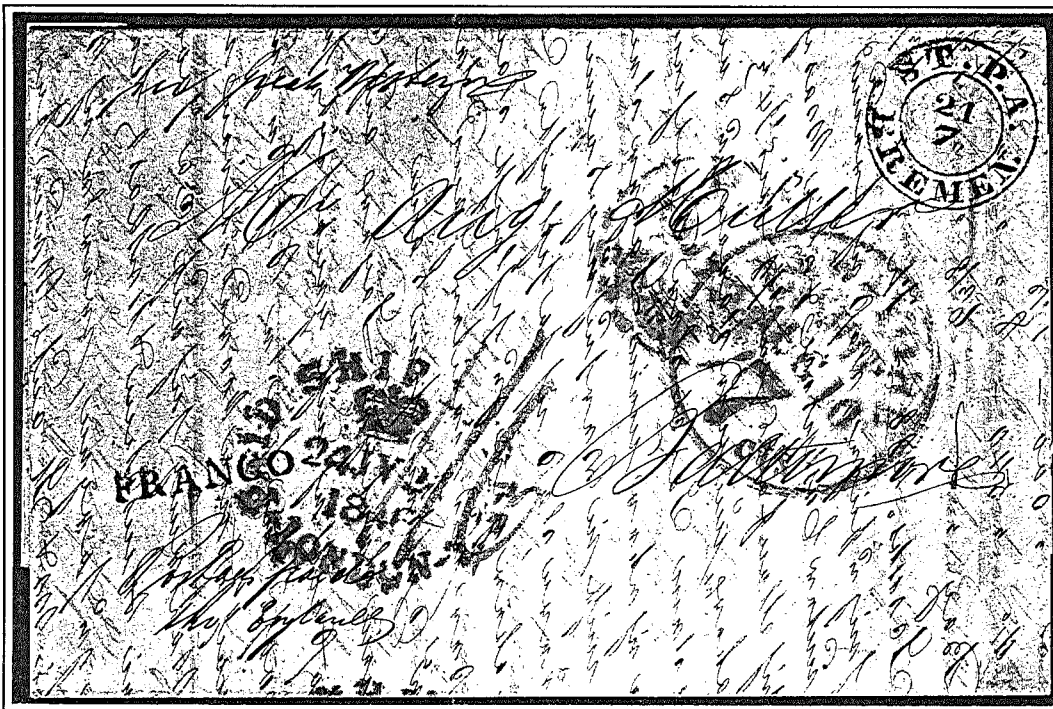
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1849



7 June 1846 Philadelphia to Dewsbury, England
30¢ paid (5¢ inland, 25¢ freight money fees)
8d postage due in Dewsbury

Great Britain 14 days (East)
2nd of 4 return voyages before running aground
Philadelphia combined inland & freight money fees into one figure



21 July 1846 Bremen to Baltimore
40 grote paid (not shown)
1s6d Bremen credit to G.B.
7¢ postage due in Baltimore

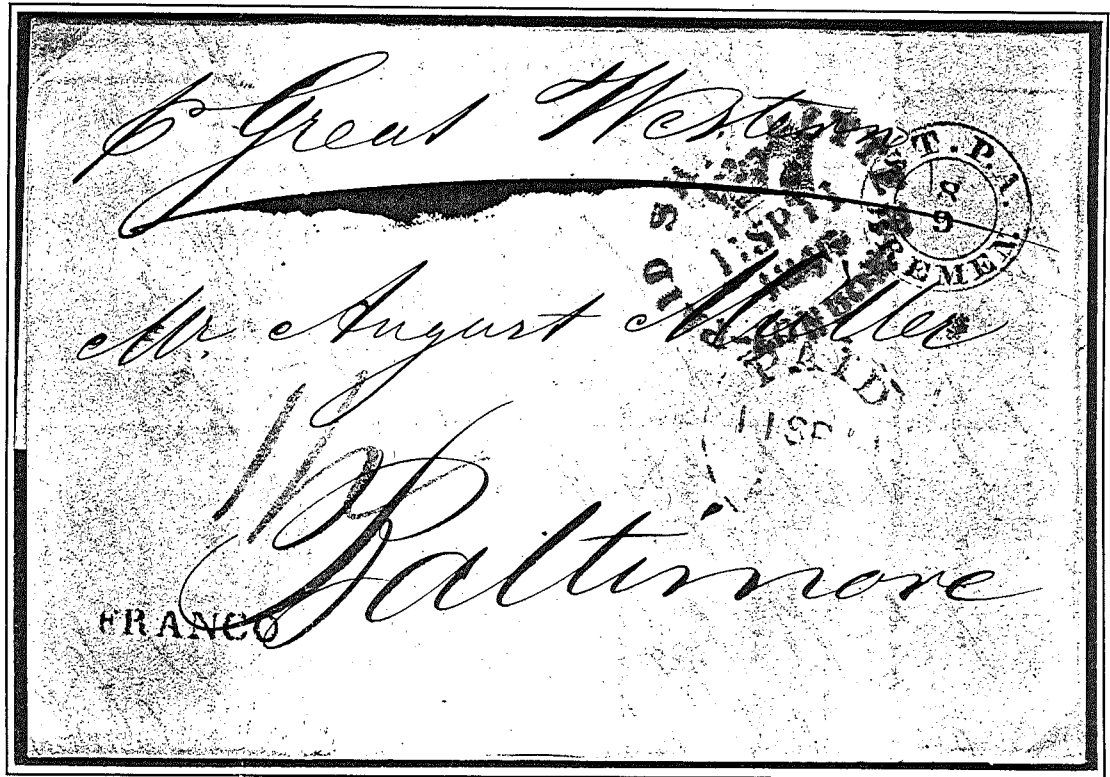
Great Western 16 days (West)
G.B. retained extra 4d (paid for contract transatlantic service) when letter put on non-contract steamship;
Scarce non-contract steamship letter from Germany

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

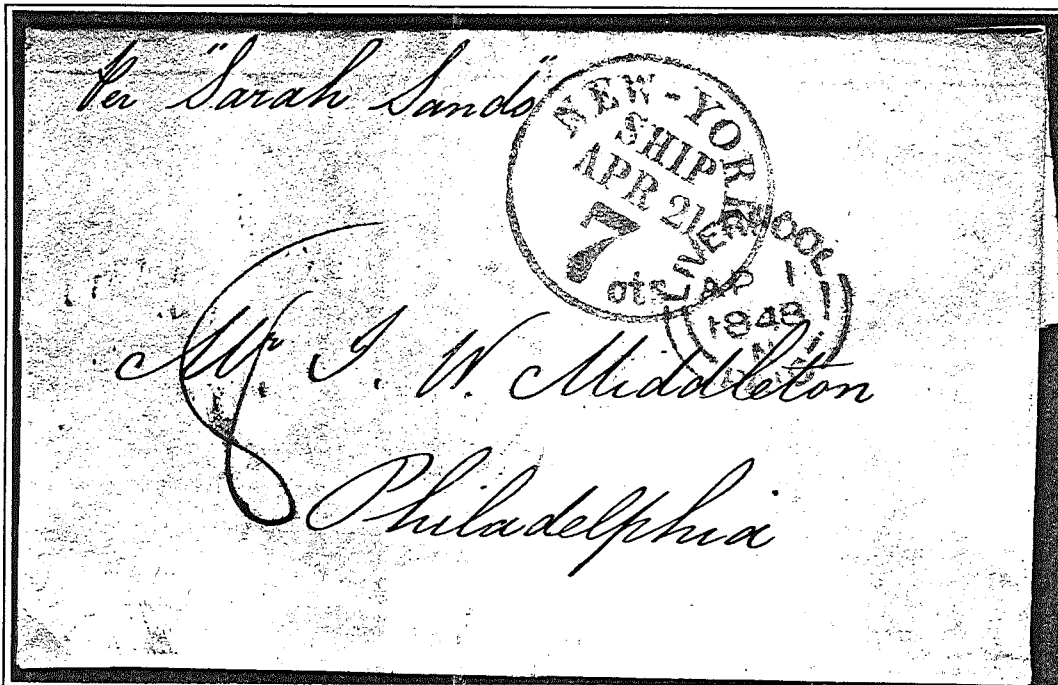
1838-1849

7



8 September 1846 Bremen to Baltimore
32 grote paid (not shown)
7¢ postage due in Baltimore

Great Western 18 days (West)
1s2d Bremen credit to G.B. (correct amount for non-
contract transatlantic service); postage due marked at
Baltimore vice New York where ship arrived



1 April 1848 Liverpool to Philadelphia
8d paid for outgoing ship rate
7¢ postage due in Philadelphia

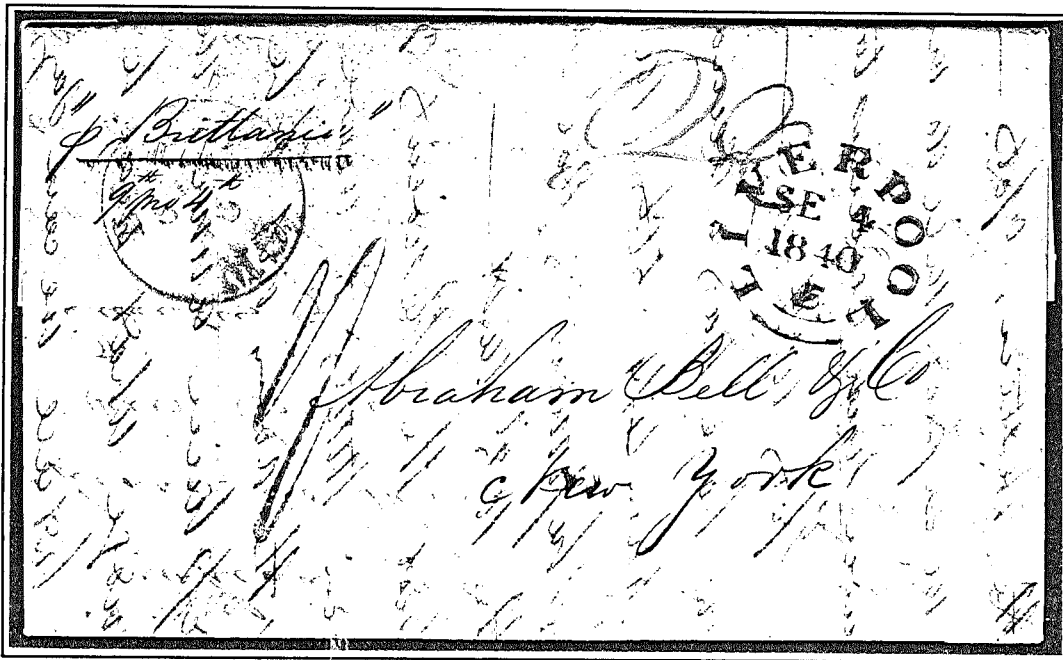
Sarah Sands 18 days (West)
6th of 15 round voyages for St. George Line steamer; last two
numerals in year of SHIP-LETTER/LIVERPOOL cds reversed

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845

On 4 July 1840, British contract mail service from Liverpool to Boston was inaugurated by the British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The line was better known as the Cunard Line after its founder Samuel Cunard. Letters sent on these steamers from Great Britain had to be prepaid the "packet" letter rate of one shilling per half ounce. Since there was no treaty with the United States at the time, postage was always due at destination based on incoming ship letter rates.



3 September 1840 Liverpool to New York
1s paid for packet rate
20³/₄¢ postage due in New York

Britannia 14 days (West)
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18³/₄¢ U.S. inland fees

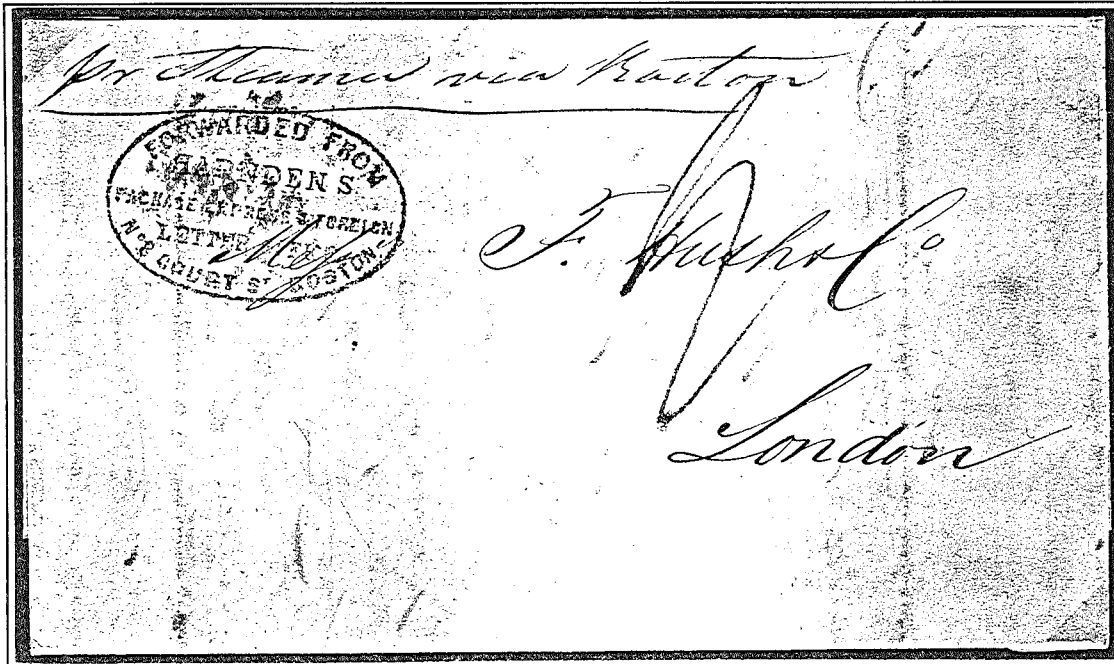
This letter was carried on the second voyage of the steamship *Britannia*, the third mail voyage for the line. Endorsement of the steamer's scheduled sailing date written in the upper left corner in the Quaker style, "9 Mo 4" indicating 9th month, 4th day or 4 September.

"Britannia"
9 Mo 4th

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

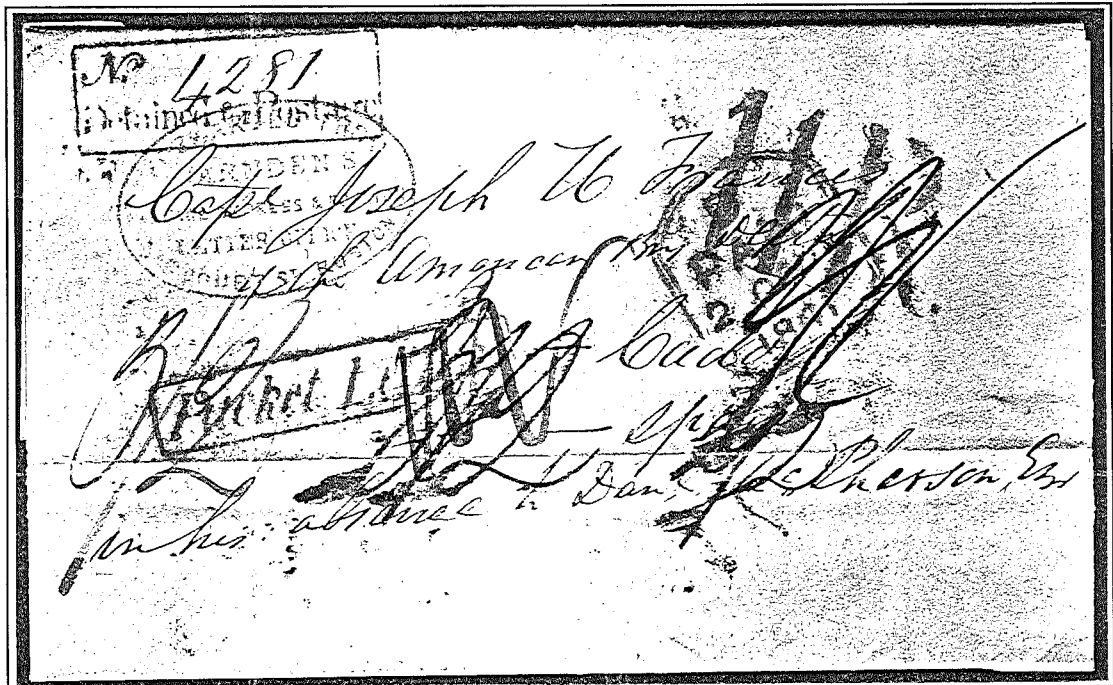
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845



30 October 1840 New Orleans/New York to London
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at port)
1s postage due at London

Acadia 14 days (East)
Letter started in New Orleans and finished in New York;
Harnden & Co. privately carried letter to Boston;
blue Harnden's handstamp used in 1840 only and scarce



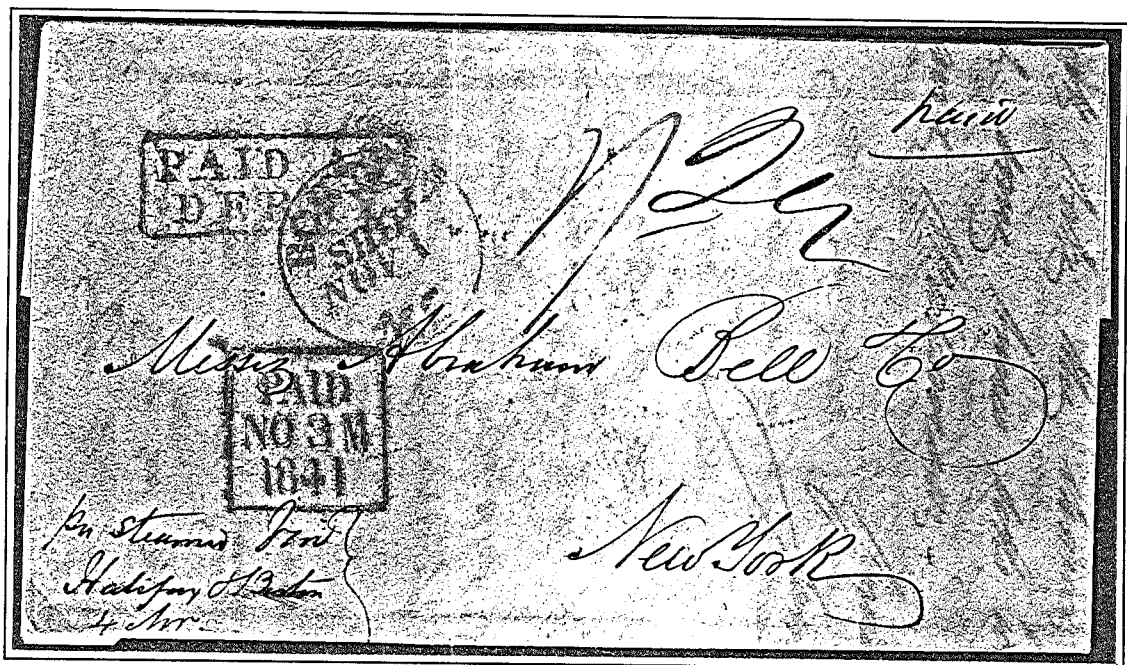
14 August 1841 New York to Cadiz, Spain
Letter placed on steamer at Boston by forwarding agent
Letter held in London for 3s2s payment
11 reales postage due in Cadiz

Acadia 12 days (East)
Harnden agent in London paid 1s transatlantic
packet fee and 2s2d Falmouth packet fee to Spain;
scarce routing to Spain

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

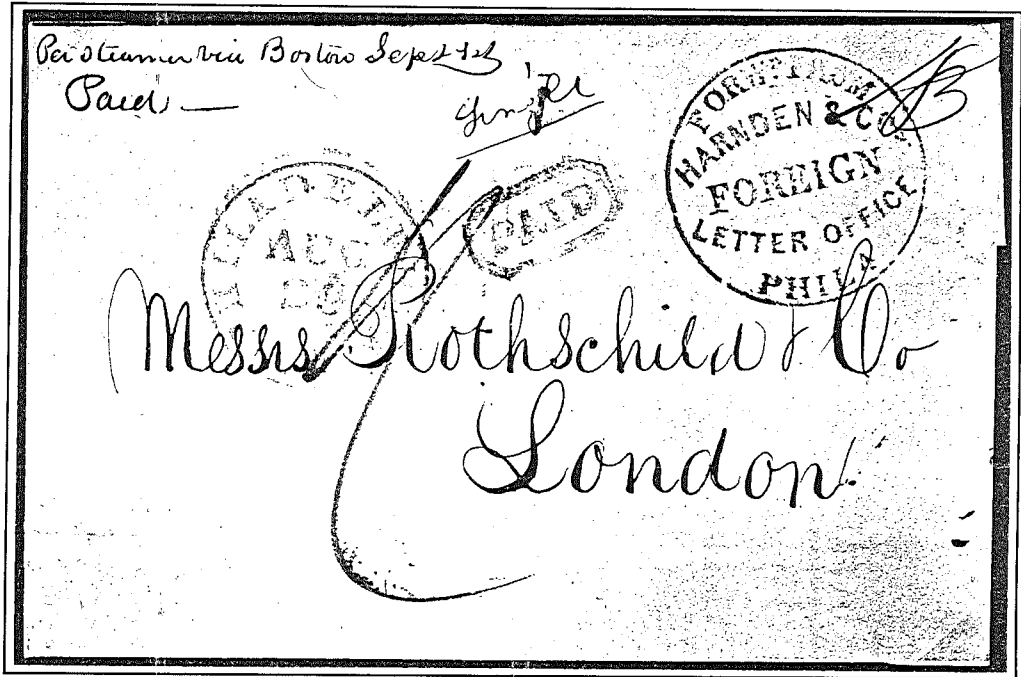
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845



2 November 1841 Londonderry, Ireland to New York
1s packet rate paid
20¼¢ postage due at New York

Caledonia · 14 days (West)
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18¼¢ U.S. inland fees;
Liverpool four segment circular transit datestamp on reverse



29 August 1842 Philadelphia to London
18¼¢ paid for inland fee to Boston
1s postage due in London

Britannia 13 days (East)
Harnden & Co. in Philadelphia received letter and forwarded it to Boston in U.S. postal system

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,

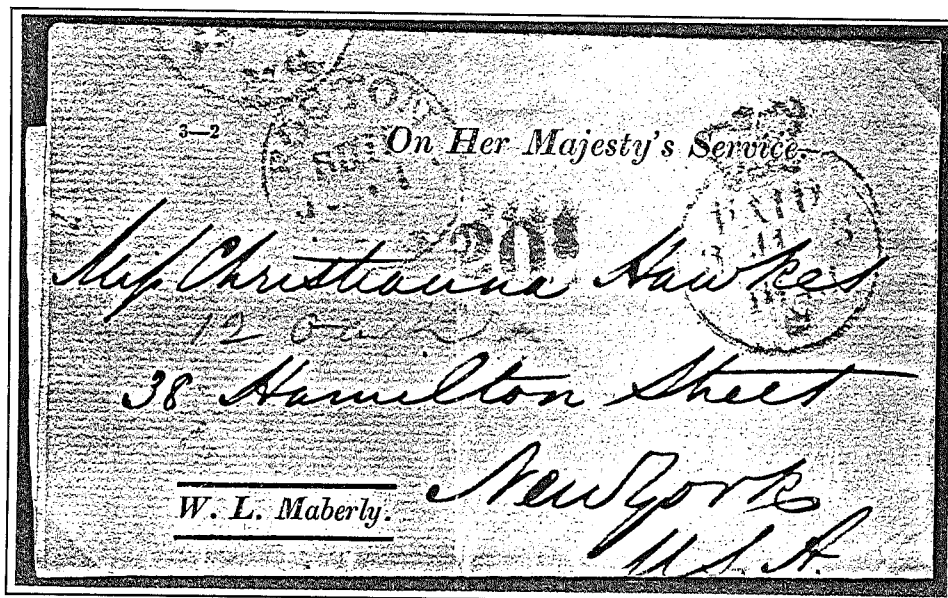
3 June 1843

THERE is a *Ship* Letter N^o. 19358

at this Office, directed to you, which cannot be forwarded until the Postage of $\frac{3}{4}$ is paid; if therefore you will desire one of

in London, to call at
St. Martin's-le-grand,
Ten and Four o'Clock,
Postage, it will be
according to the address.

Postmaster General,
W. L. MABERLY,
Secretary.



3 June 1843 London to New York
Letter sent free (post office business)
20³/₄¢ postage due at New York

Columbia 14 days (West)
Boston struck 20³ rate handstamp
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18³/₄¢ U.S. inland fees

The General Post Office in London would not forward incoming ship letters whose fees had not been paid. These letters were marked with a boxed handstamp "Detained for Postage" and numbered. A printed notice like the one shown here was sent to the letter's addressee advising the letter would not be forwarded until a specific fee was paid. In this case 3s4d had to be paid before the letter was sent to the United States.

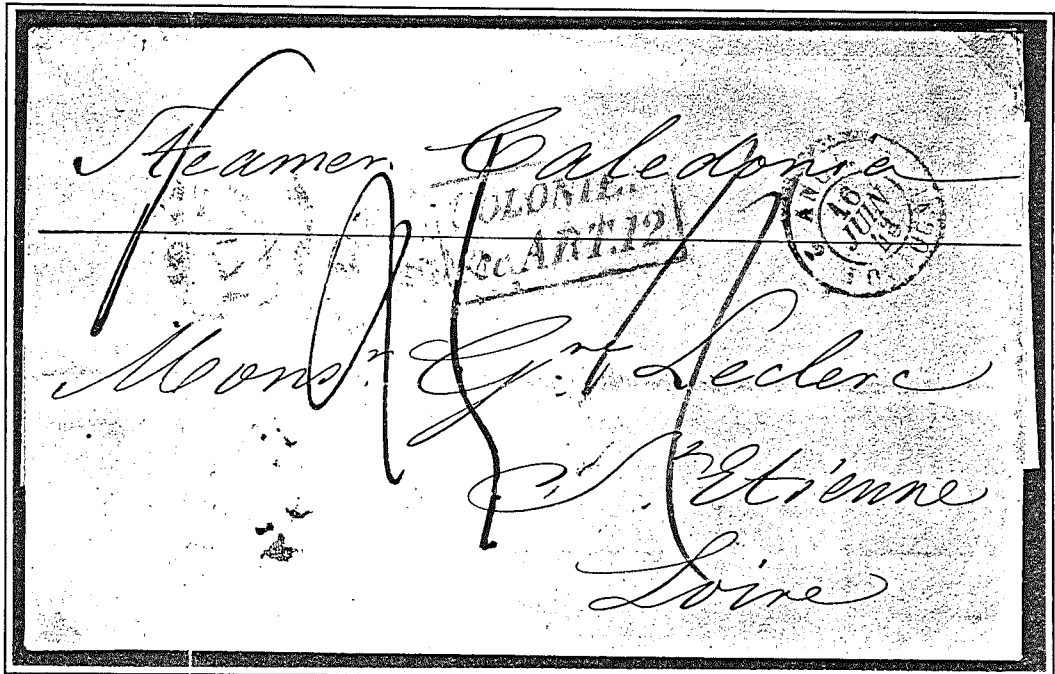
Although the notice was sent free of British charges postage was due in New York for an incoming ship letter to the United States. This letter was marked in pencil "12 Oak" by the letter carrier in New York to indicate the new address of the recipient, a music teacher who formerly lived at 38 Hamilton Street but moved to 12 Oak Street.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

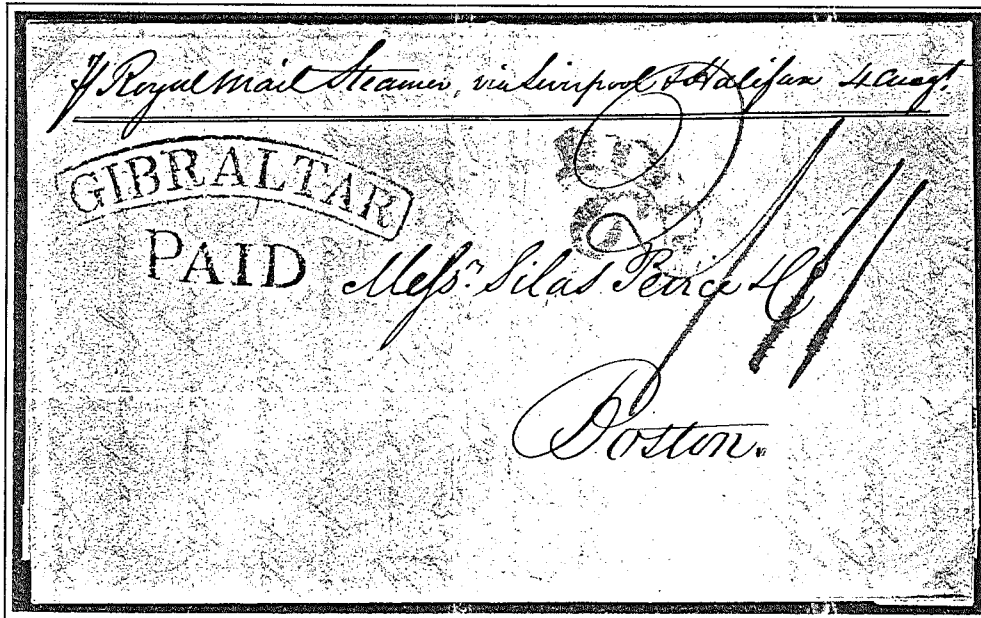
1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845

COLONIES
&c. ART. 12.



31 May 1843 New York to St. Etienne, France
Letter carried privately to Boston and placed in ship's letter bag
25 decimes postage due in St. Etienne

Caledonia 12 days (East)
London marked 1 shilling debit to France out of
habit and in error; COLONIES &c. ART. 12 indicated
G.B. owed France 10d per 7½ gram letter



17 July 1843 Malaga, Spain to Boston
2s11d paid for all transit fees to U.S.
6¢ postage due in Boston



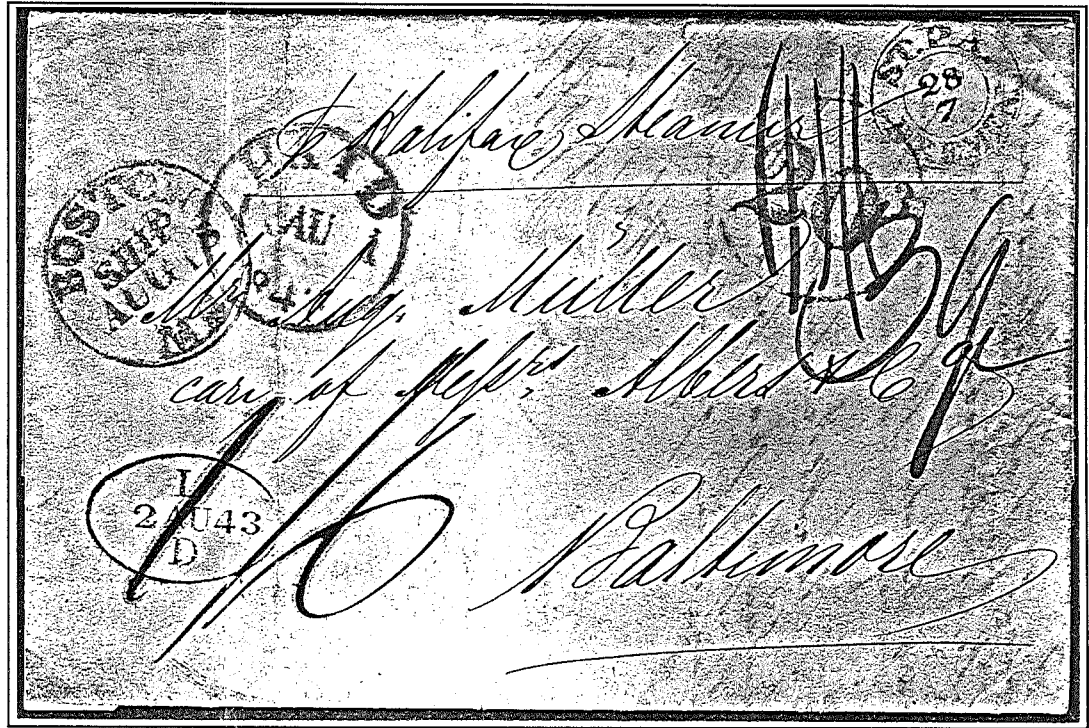
(Reverse)

Hibernia 13 days (West)
Letter sent privately to Gibraltar where it was posted showing
special rate for letters to U.S. from Gibraltar not going thru London
Uncommon Liverpool transit marking seen only in last half of 1843

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

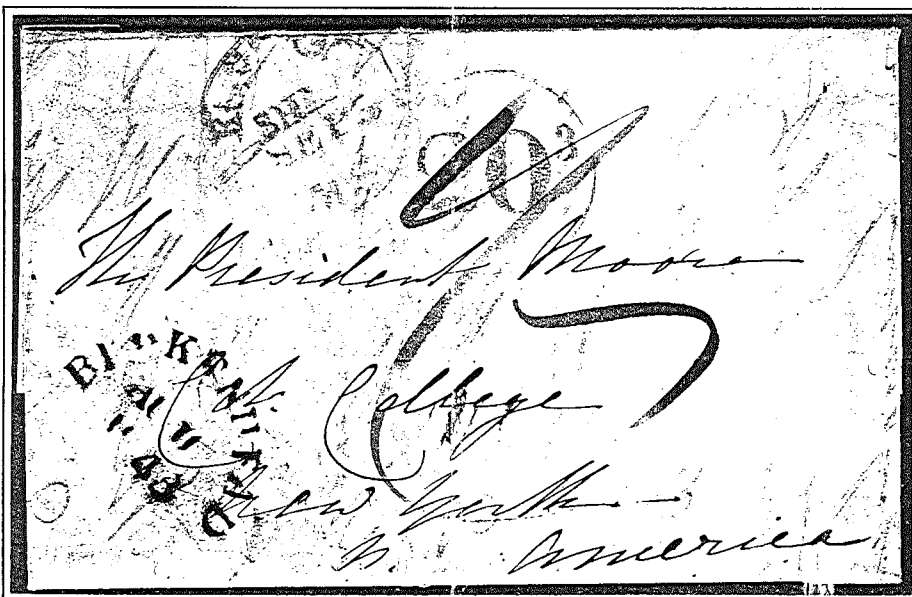
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845



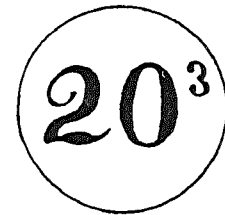
28 July 1843 Bremen to Baltimore
40 grote paid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
39½¢ postage due in Baltimore

Hibernia 13 days (West)
1s6d Bremen credit to G.B. (6d transit to G.B., 1s transatlantic fee); Boston marked 20¾¢ postage due in error and changed to double rate (2¢ ship plus 2x18¾¢ for 2 sheets)



11 August 1843 Birkenhead, England to New York
1s packet rate paid
20¾¢ postage due in New York

Britannia 15 days (West)
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18¾¢ U.S. inland fees;
incoming ship letters received SHIP markings even though carried on steamships not sailing ships

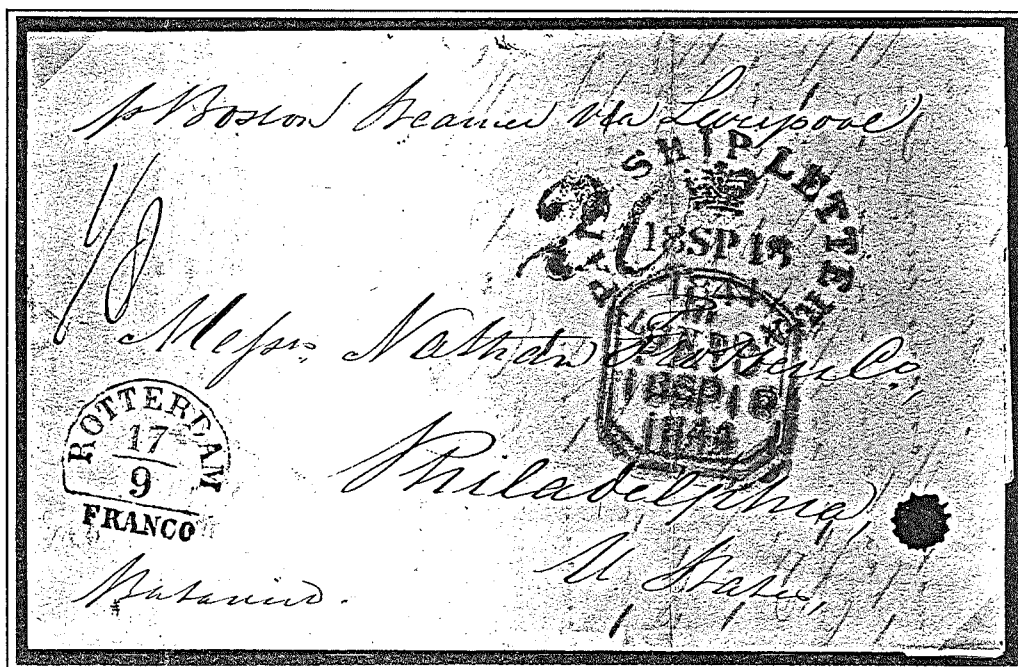


U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

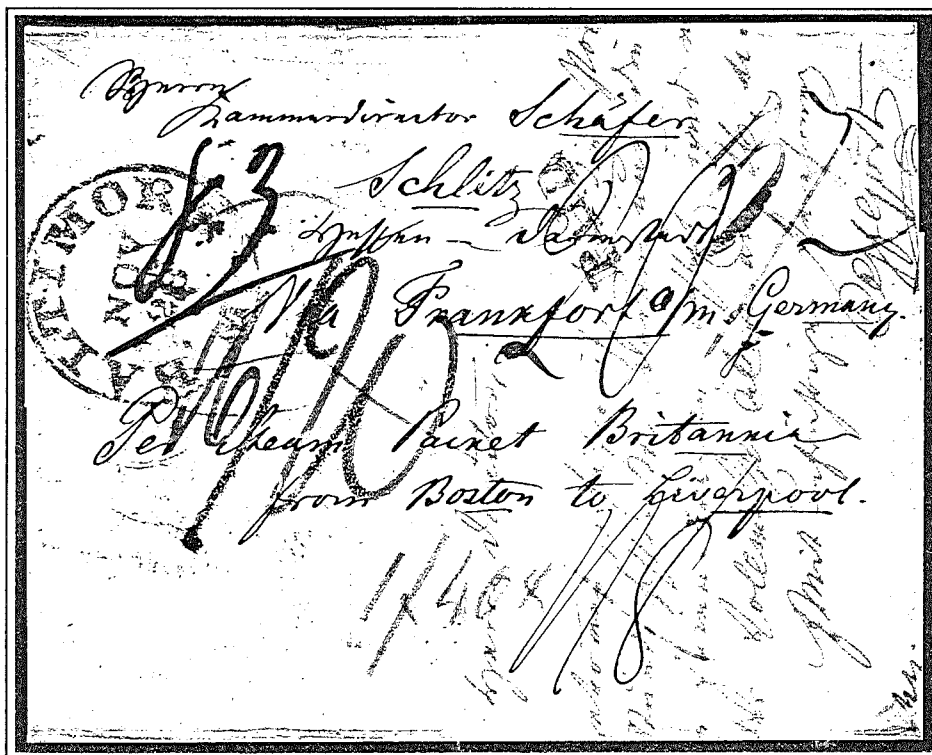
1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845

20³/₄



16 September 1844 Rotterdam, Holland to Philadelphia
120 Dutch Cents paid for all transit fees to U.S. (reverse)
20³/₄¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Caledonia 14 days (West)
1s8d Dutch credit to G.B. (8d transit to G.B., 1s transatlantic fee); Philadelphia marked 20³/₄¢ postage due (scarce in red)



28 November 1844 Baltimore to Schlitz, Hesse
37¹/₂¢ paid for double U.S. inland rate to Boston
1gulden 40 kreuzer postage due in Schlitz

Britannia 15 days (East)
1s8d British debit to Holland; 120 Dutch Cents debit to Thurn & Taxis Post or 20 silbergroschen (equal to 83 kreuzer)
Scarce routing to Germany for transatlantic letter

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845

Jm



3 December 1844 Newcastle-on-Tyne, England to
Experiment Mills, Pennsylvania
1s paid for packet rate

Acadia 17 days (West)
No postage due in Experiment Mills

WESTGATES^tR.H

Letter posted in Westgate Street receiving house, Newcastle-on-Tyne, where one shilling transatlantic packet rate prepaid. Letter not rated at arrival port of Boston but sent to Philadelphia where it was marked for a postage due of 20¼¢ (2¢ ship and 18¼¢ U.S. inland fees).

When it was noticed that the letter was addressed to the Postmaster of Experiment Mills, who was entitled to free franking, the postage due was crossed through and the letter marked in manuscript "free" in the upper right.

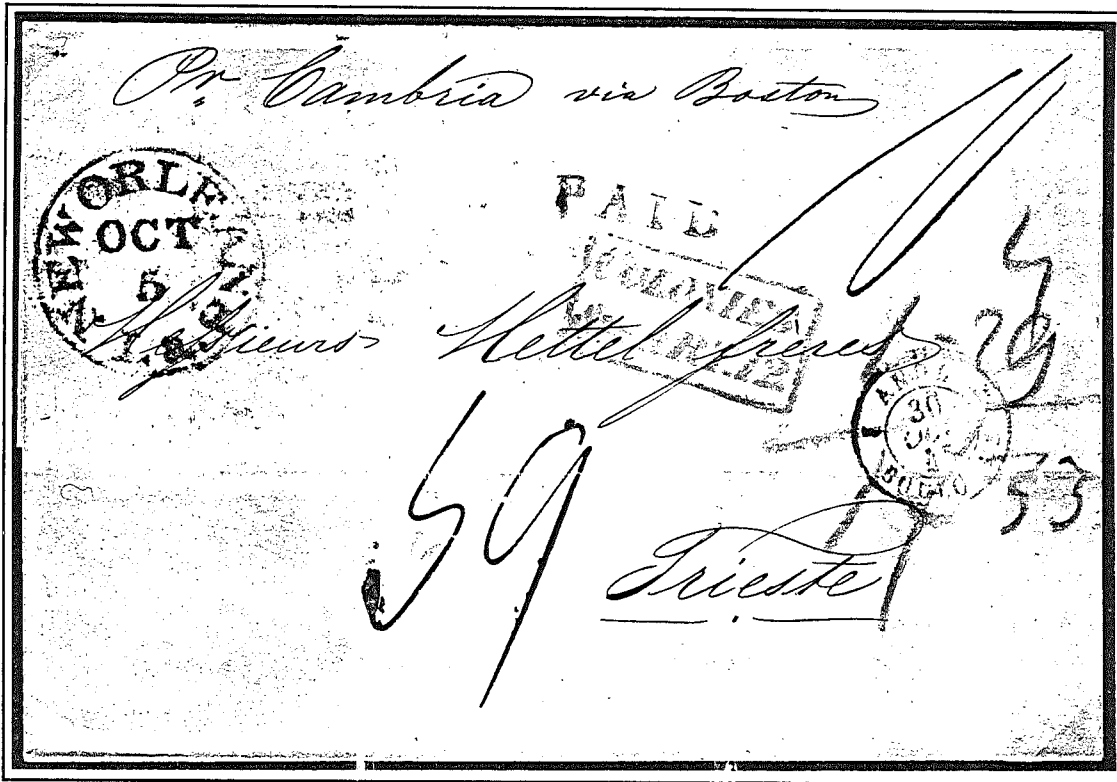
Free franking on transatlantic covers is quite scarce.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848

On 1 July 1845, United States internal postal rates changed to 5¢ for distances less than 300 miles or 10¢ for greater distances. Also, single letter rates applied to letters up to ½ ounce instead of basing the rate on the number of sheets of paper in the letter. France was still on variable internal rates based on weight and distance. Accounting between Great Britain and France under the Anglo-French Treaty of 1843 was under Letter Bill Article 12 which entitled Great Britain to receive 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams bulk letter weight for unpaid letters "From other Colonies and Countries beyond the sea."



5 October 1845 New Orleans to Trieste, Austria
10¢ paid for U.S. inland rate to Boston
59 Austrian kreuzer postage due in Trieste

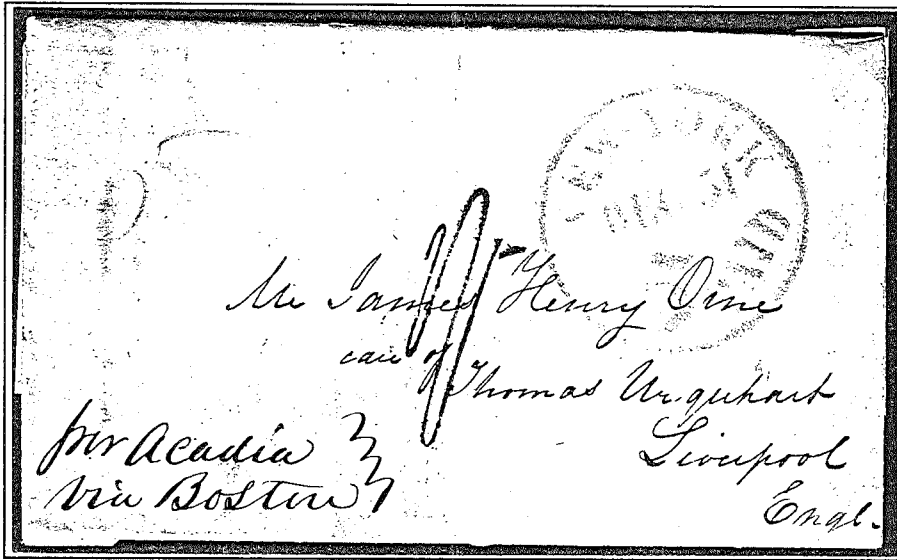
Cambria 11 days (East)
Red crayon accounting on right side showed postage due (1 florin 33 kreuzer) for a number of different letters

The combination of the new United States 5¢ and 10¢ internal rates and the COLONIES/&c ART.12 marking was possible during a period of only about six and one half months. Examples are uncommon.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

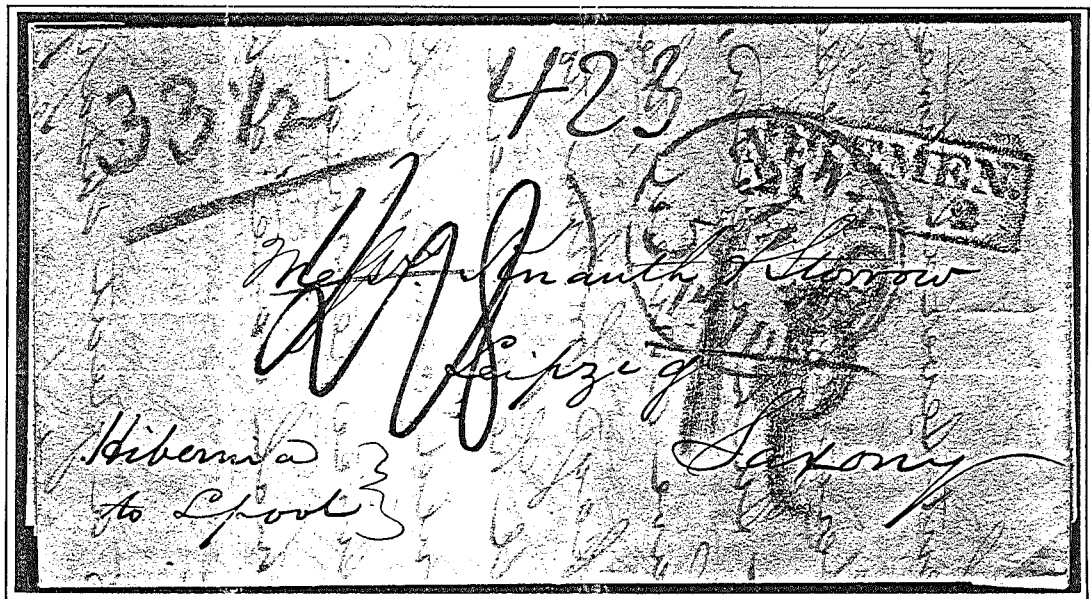
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848



31 December 1845 New York to Liverpool
5¢ paid for single U.S. inland rate
1s postage due in Liverpool

Acadia 14 days (East)
New York made up mails day before steamer's Boston departure;
distinctive New York cds usually seen on transatlantic mails with
NY Postmaster Provisional stamp of 1845



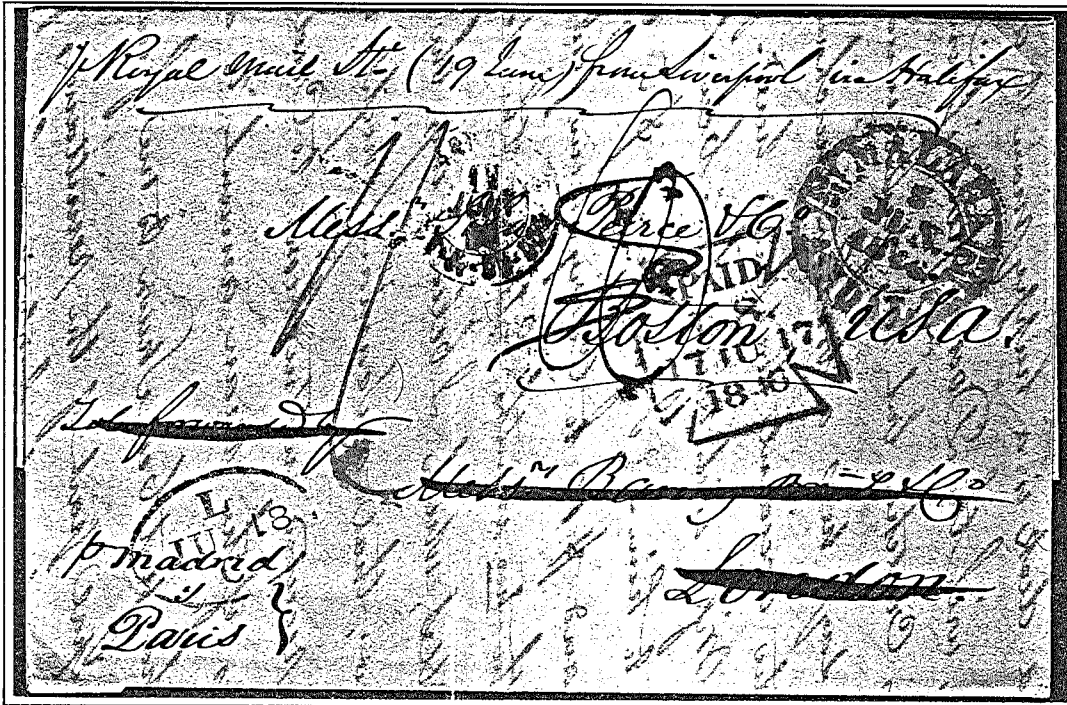
31 January 1846 New York to Leipzig, Saxony
5¢ paid for single U.S. inland rate
423 pfennige postage due in Leipzig

Hibernia 13 days (East)
2s8d British debit to Bremen; 1 thaler Bremen debit to Hannover;
33½ gutegroschen Hannover debit to Saxony; various German
currencies used as letter transited borders of different States

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

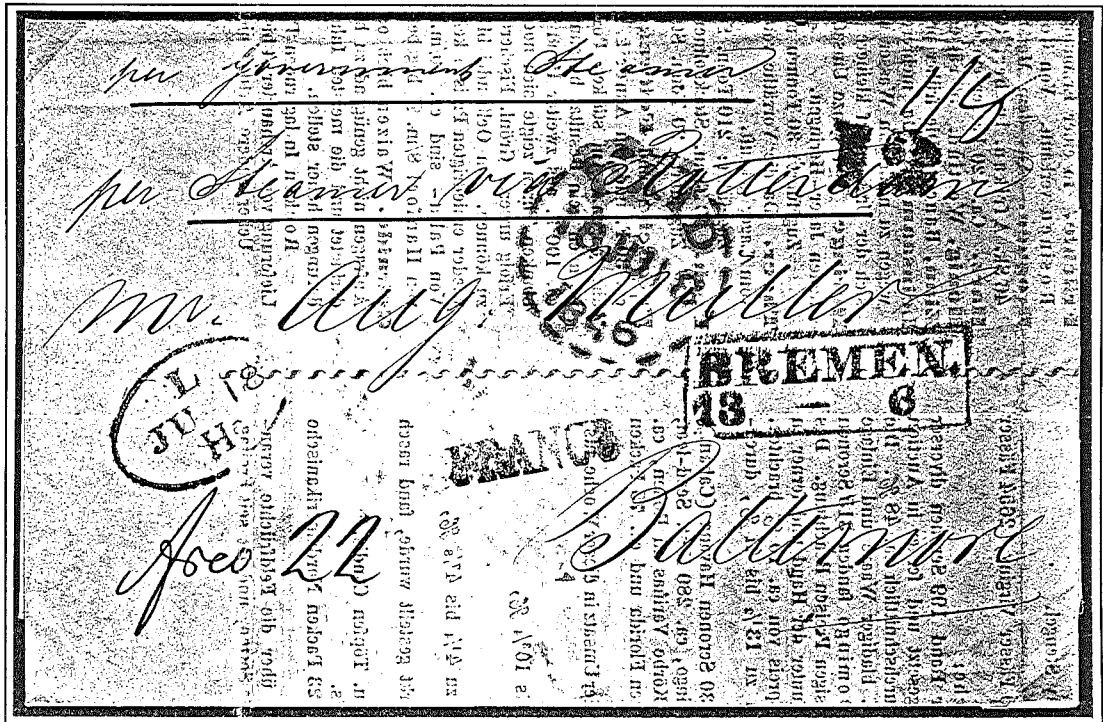
1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848



5 June 1846 Malaga, Spain to Boston
Letter sent unpaid to forwarding agent, Baring Bros. of London
10d postage due in London; 1s paid to forward letter to U.S.

Britannia 15 days (West)
Letter sent overland via Madrid and Paris to London
6¢ postage due in Boston (not shown)

12



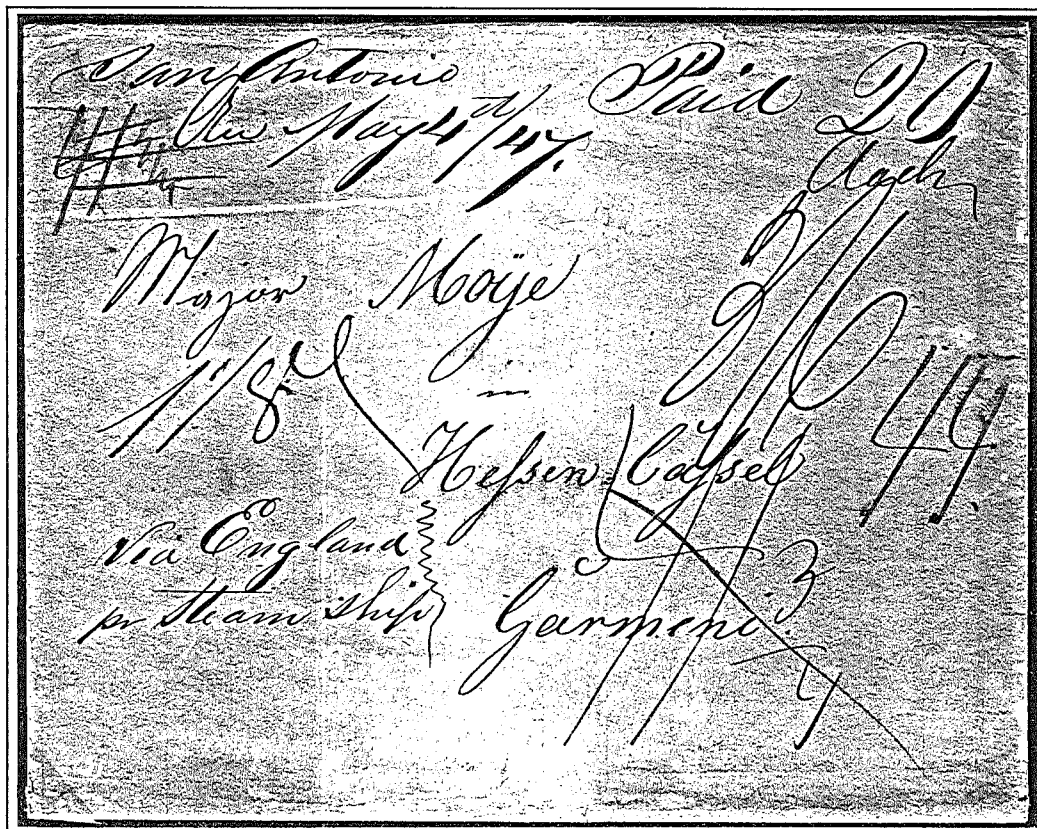
13 June 1846 Bremen to Baltimore
22 silbergroschen paid for all transit fees to U.S.
12¢ postage due in Baltimore

Britannia 15 days (West)
1s8d Bremen credit to G.B.; although endorsed via Holland, letter sent
via Herve, Belgium (backstamp); postage due marked at Baltimore

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848



4 May 1847 San Antonio, Texas to Cassel, Hesse
20¢ paid for double U.S. inland rate to Boston
44 silbergroschen postage due in Cassel

Britannia 12 days (East)
Manuscript postal markings (upper left)
were used in San Antonio until 1848

Letter weighed 1 1/8 loth in Aachen (manuscript center left) confirming British debit of 3s6d (two British transatlantic and transit rates to Prussia, three Belgian transit rates). Aachen used manuscript entry marking (red pen upper right) which preceded use of entry handstamps (early 1848) on transatlantic letters. Aachen also marked letter for 41 3/4 silbergroschen due for accumulated transit fees to Aachen and for double Prussian postage. Cassel added additional transit fee and marked 44 silbergroschen postage due. The accumulated fees on this letter were approximately \$1.06, a very expensive letter.

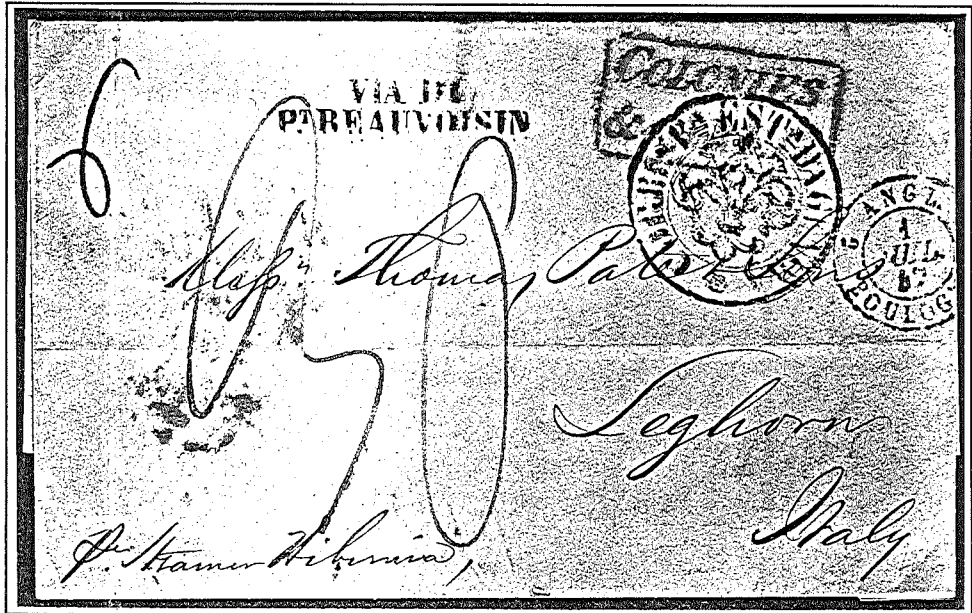
Scarce early transatlantic cover from Texas to German States through Aachen.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

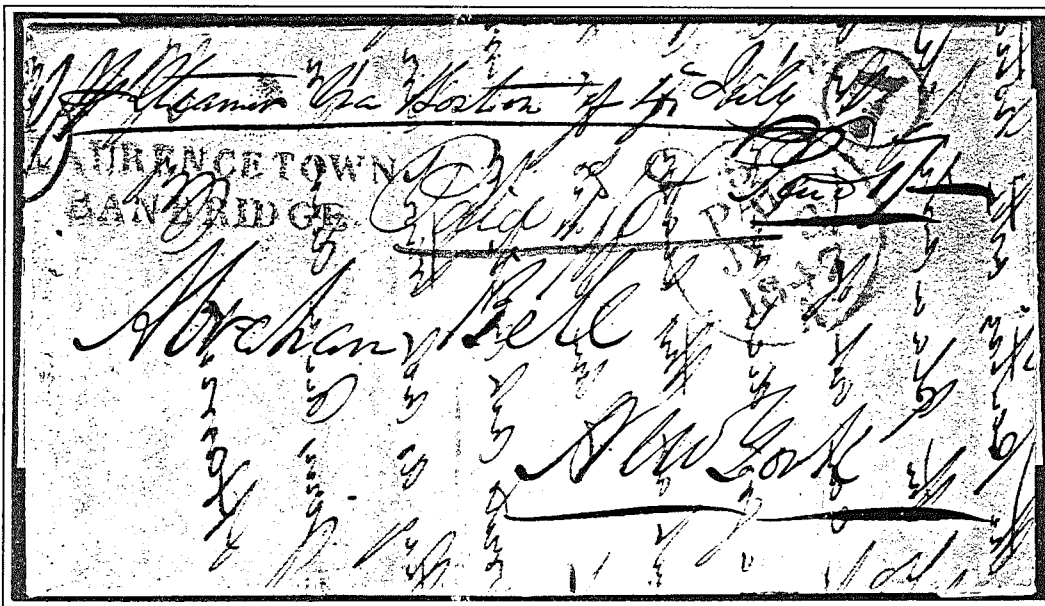
1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848

COLONIES
&c ART. 13.



14 June 1847 New York to Leghorn (Livorno), Tuscany
Letter carried privately to ship letter bag in Boston
30 crazie postage due in Leghorn (10 dec. to G.B. and 11 dec.
French/Sardinian transit or 30 crazie Tuscan currency)

Hibernia 12 days (East)
Letter exchanged between G.B. and France under
letter bill accounting Article 13 (changed from
Article 12 in early 1846)



2 July 1847 Gilford, Ireland to New York
1s paid for packet rate
7¢ postage due in New York

Britannia 13 days (West)
Letter posted in Laurencetown receiving house,
Bainbridge, Ireland; small red 13mm circle "7" struck at
New York where closed mail bag via Boston opened

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

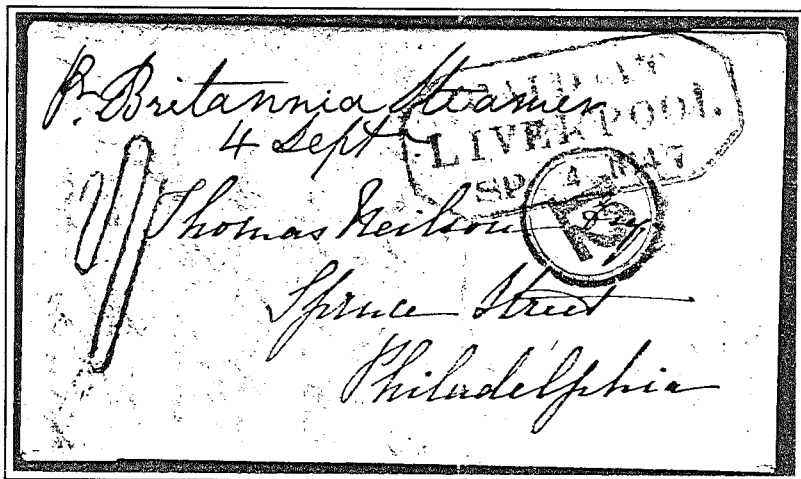
1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848

N^o 7084
Detained for Postage



26 August 1847 New Orleans to Turin, Kingdom of Sardinia
10¢ paid for U.S. inland fee to Boston
2s1d paid in London for all transit fees to destination (1s transatlantic, 5d British, 8d French/Sardinian transit fees)

Caledonia 13 days (East)
Letter held in London until postage to Italy paid probably by Sardinian consul in London since it was paid three days after arrival in London



4 September 1847 Birkenhead, England to Philadelphia
1s paid for packet rate
12¢ postage due in Philadelphia

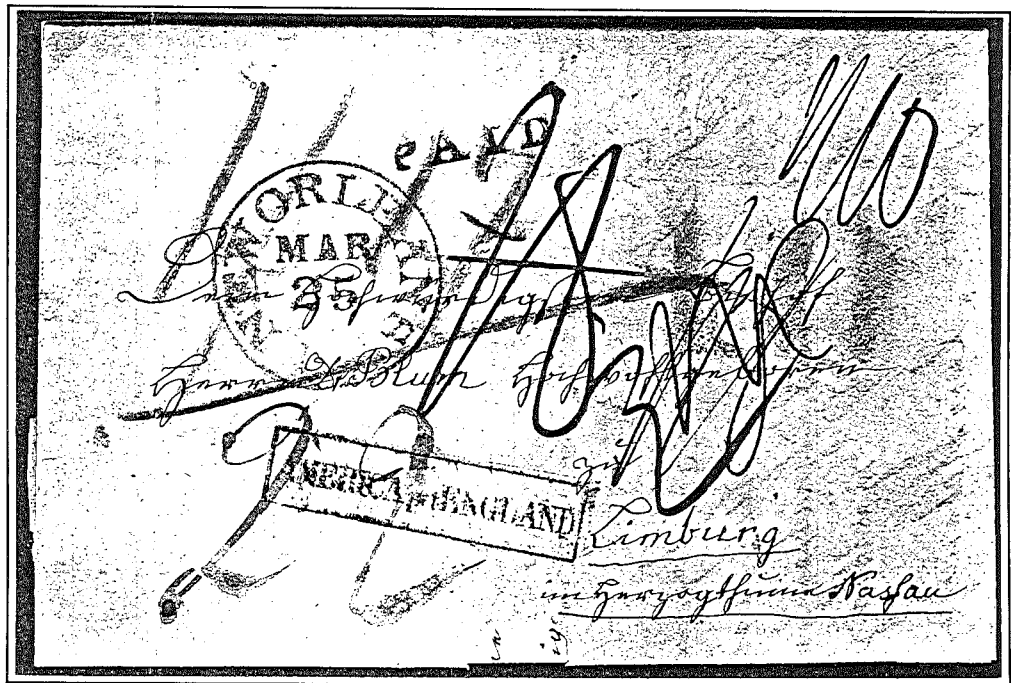
Britannia 15 days (West)
Small lady's envelope and letter marked for postage due at Philadelphia instead of arrival port of Boston

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848

AMERICA per ENGLAND



20 February 1848 New Braunfels, Texas to Limburg, Nassau
10¢ paid for U.S. inland fee to Boston
1s10d G.B. debit to Prussia
1f17kr postage due in Limburg

Caledonia 13 days (East)
London marked 1s8d debit then corrected to
1s10d; boxed AMERICA per ENGLAND
struck at Aachen (early use)



TOO LATE

7 March 1848 Meiningen, Saxe-Meiningen to New York
Letter sent unpaid to Liverpool forwarding agent
1s paid for packet rate
6¢ postage due in New York

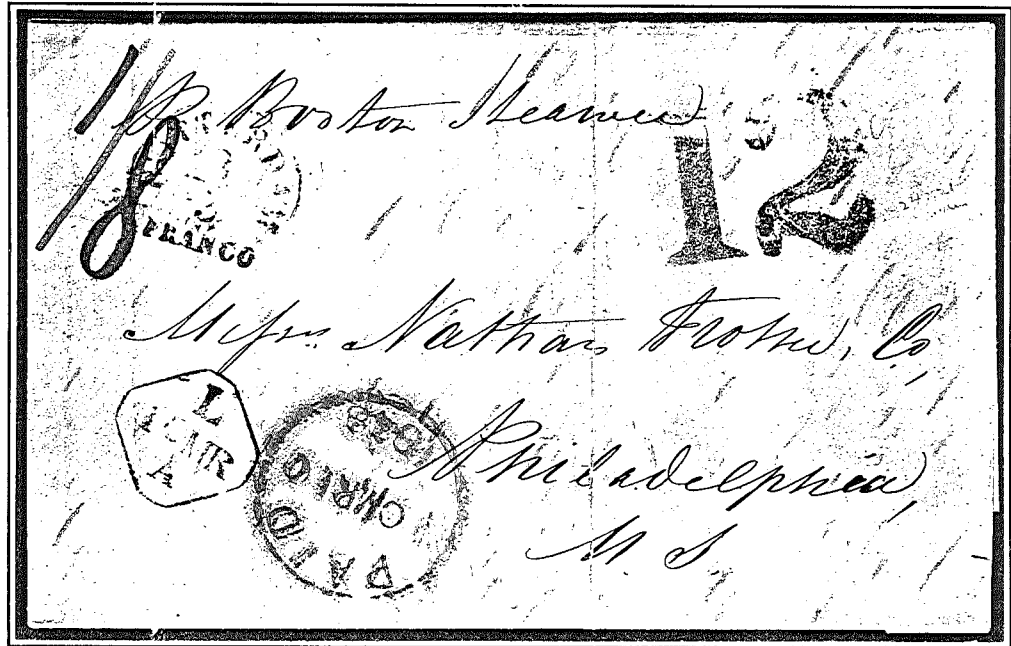
Hibernia 14 days (West)
Prussia debited G.B. 4¼ silbergroschen
Liverpool sent letter to Southampton but was too late for the
Washington and was returned for the Liverpool Cunard steamer

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

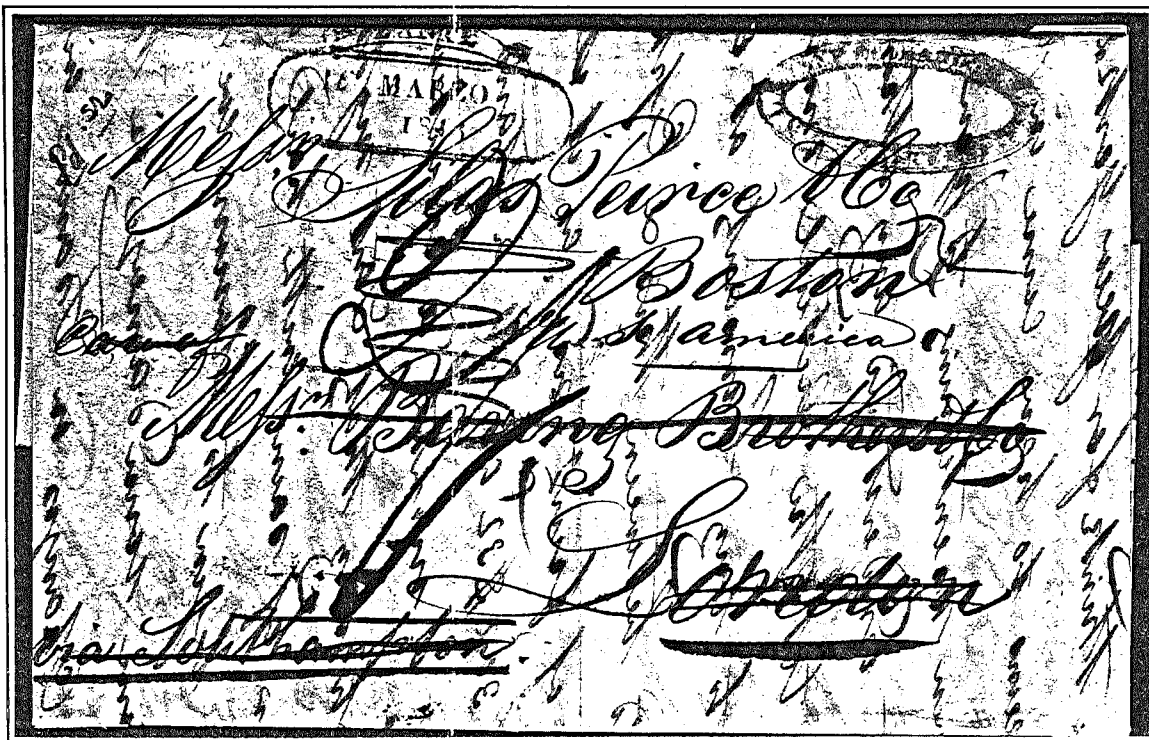
1838-1849
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848

12



8 March 1848 Rotterdam, Holland to Philadelphia
120 Dutch Cents paid for transit fees to U.S. (reverse)
12¢ postage due marked in New Orleans!

Caledonia 15 days (West)
1s8d Dutch credit to G.B. (8d transit to G.B., 1s transatlantic fee); letter in closed bag sent by Boston in error to New Orleans



(Reduced size)

16 March 1848 Zante, Ionian Islands to Boston
6d paid for double Ionian Island local fee to Corfu
2s postage due in London
Letter sent "out of the mails" from London to Boston

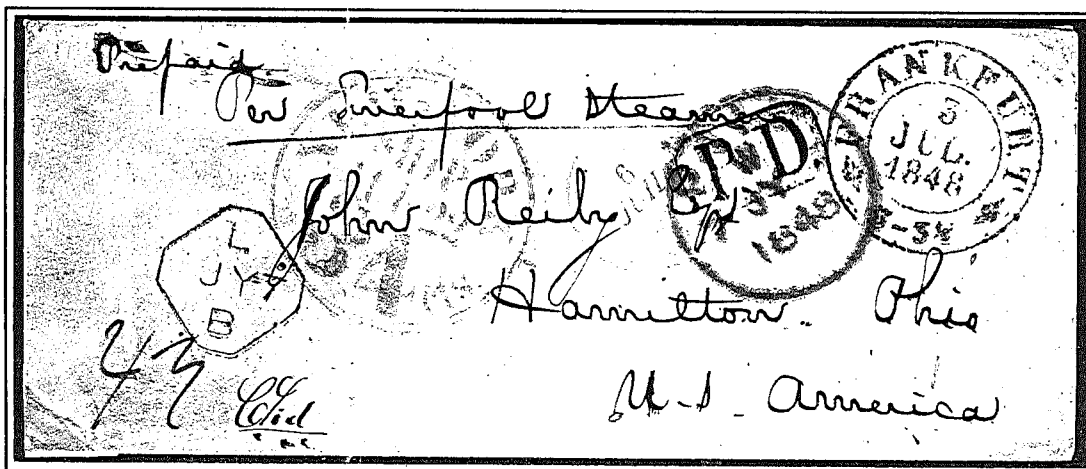
Acadia 15 days (West)
Letter probably carried to Malta by Royal Navy vessel
and to Southampton by P&O steamer *Rippon*; postage
due in London 2x1s, paid by Baring Brothers & Co.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849

In retaliation for a British discriminatory practice of charging the full British packet postage on letters carried to Great Britain by American contract steamships, Congress passed an act on 27 June 1848 to charge the same fee on all letters to or from the United States by foreign steamships as was charged on U.S. mails. This went into effect on 29 June 1848. For a six month period, before the orders in both countries were rescinded, double sea postage was charged on all letters carried on British and American contract steamships. This period is called the retaliatory rate period.



3 July 1848 Frankfurt, Germany to Hamilton, Ohio
43 kreuzer paid for all transit fees to New York
34¢ postage due in Hamilton

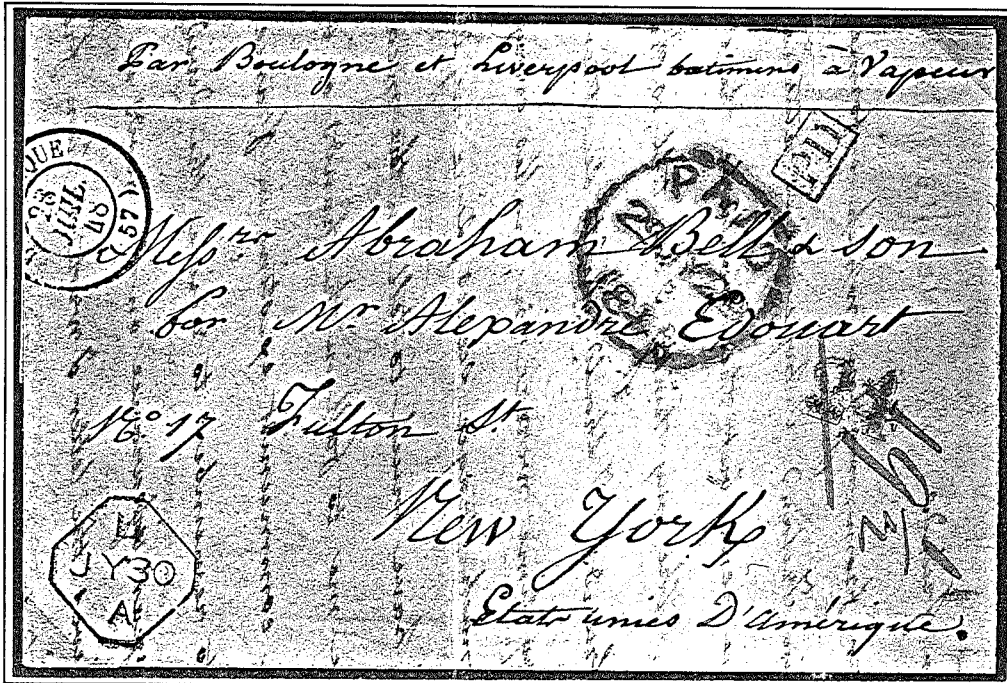
Hibernia 13 days (West)
Postage due = 24¢ retaliatory and
10¢ U.S. inland fees

The cover above was carried on the 3rd of 25 Cunard west bound voyages during the retaliatory rate period. Prepayment in Germany covered all transit fees through French and British mail systems to U.S. port. Retaliatory rate covers from the Continent are uncommon.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

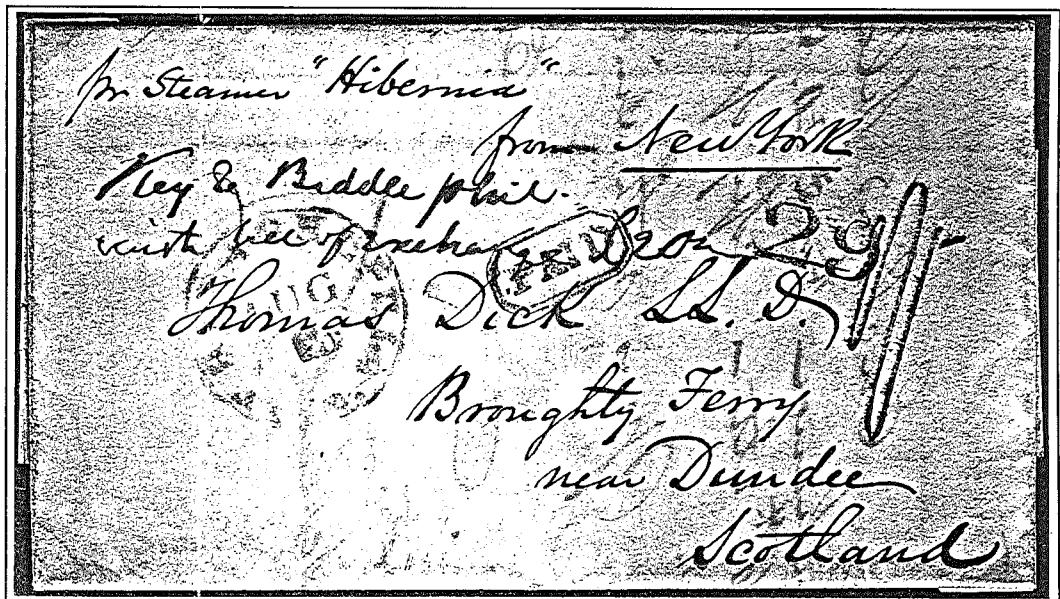
1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849



24

28 July 1848 Dunkerque, France to New York
12 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
24¢ postage due in New York

Cambria 14 days (West)
7th of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
Postage due was 24¢ retaliatory fee to the arrival port
Uncommon small 7.5 mm high rate handstamp of New York



29

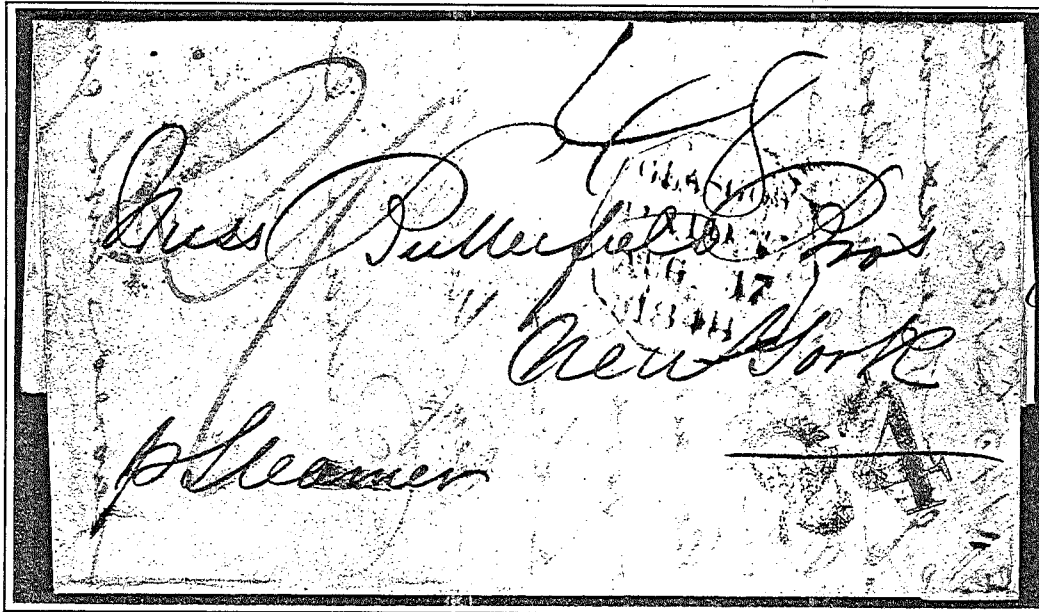
1 August 1848 Philadelphia to Broughty Ferry, Scotland
29¢ paid for single retaliatory rate from New York
1 shilling postage due in Broughty Ferry

Hibernia 13 days (East)
5th of 26 Cunard eastbound voyages
small blue rate handstamp of Philadelphia

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849

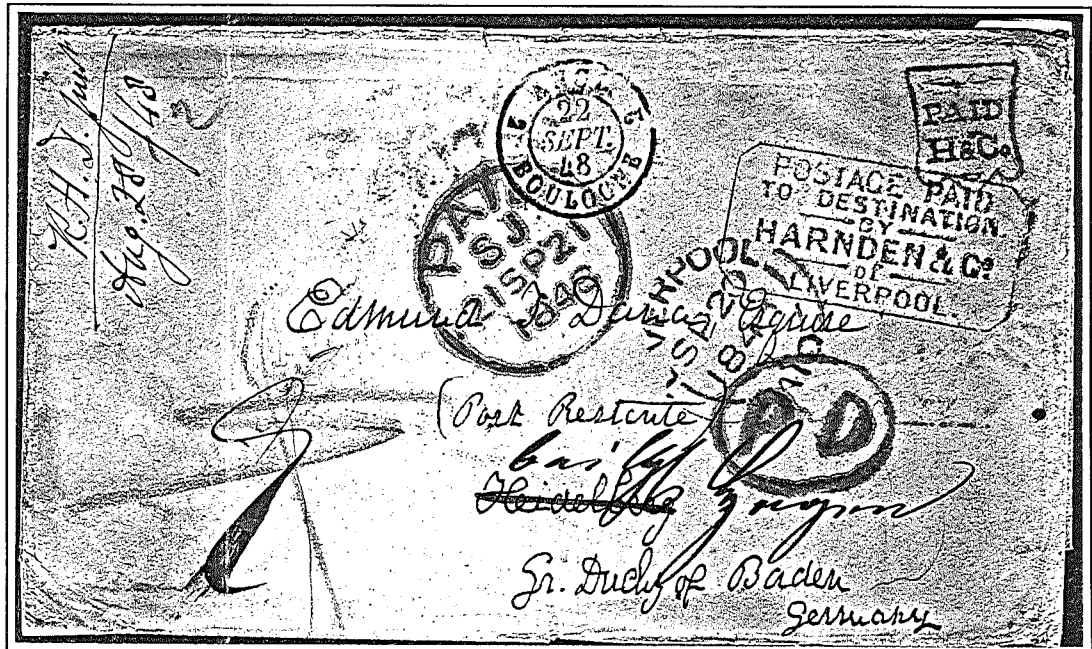


17 August 1848 Glasgow, Scotland to New York
2 shilling double packet rate paid
48¢ postage due in New York

Niagara 12 days (West)
9th of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
New York marked for single rate then corrected
for double rate in blue pen



(Reverse - Red)



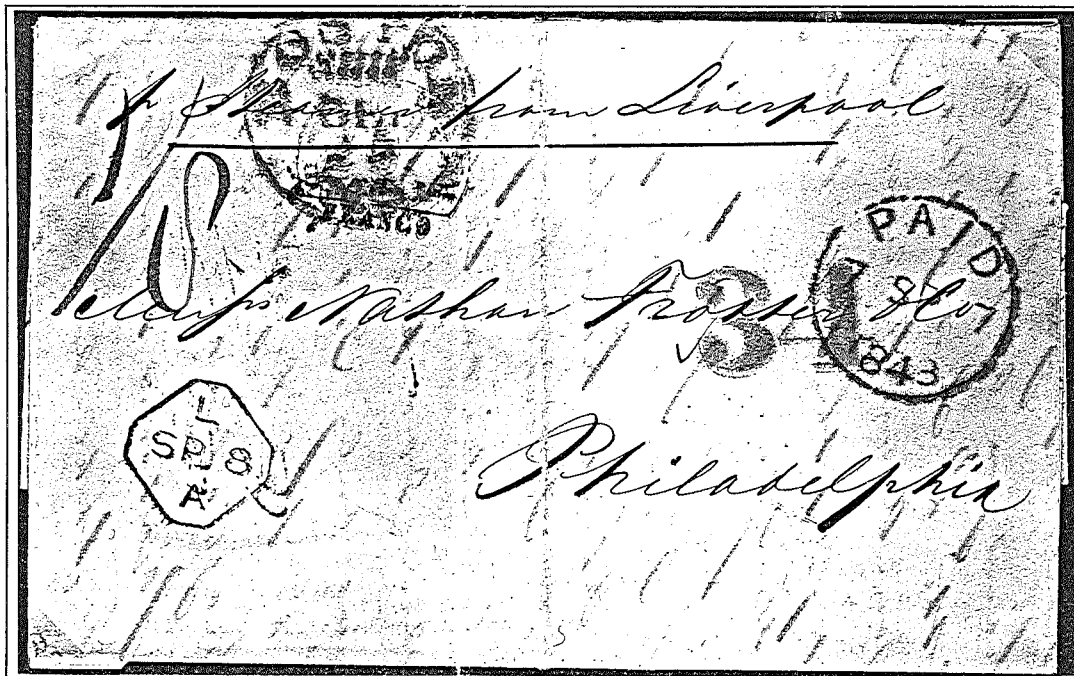
28 August 1848 Boston to Heidelberg, Baden
\$1.12 paid for Harnden's & Co. service (pencil upper left)
9d paid by Liverpool Harnden agent for all transit fees to
Baden via France

Britannia 14 days (East)
10th of 26 Cunard eastbound voyages
Letter carried "out of the mails" in freight package
on steamer and posted in Liverpool by agent

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849

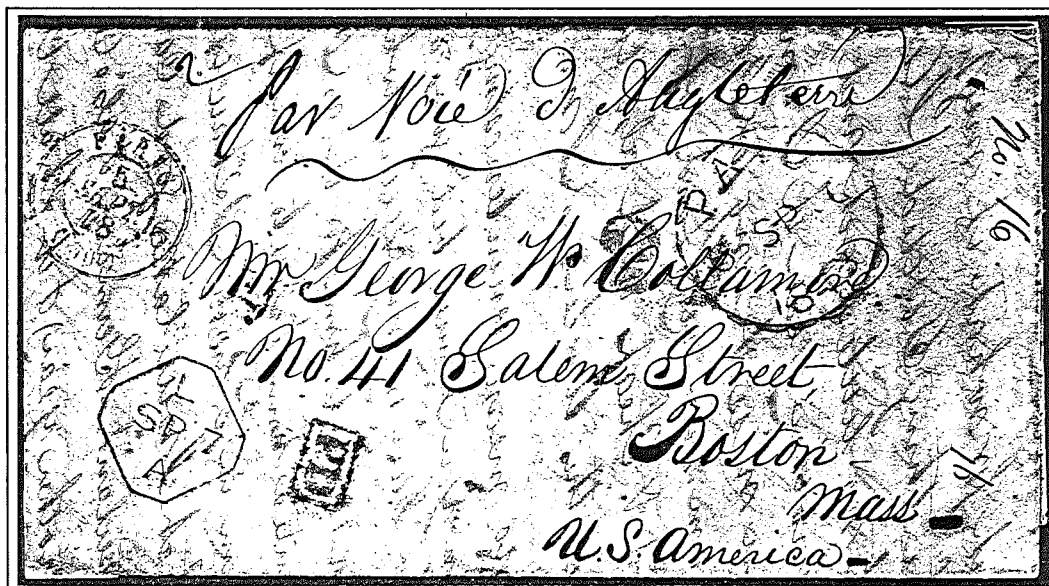


34

5 September 1848 Rotterdam, Holland to Philadelphia
120 Dutch Cents paid for single rate (manuscript on reverse)
1s8d Dutch credit to G.B.
34¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Acadia 15 days (West)
12th of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
Boston marked postage due (24¢ retaliatory
and 10¢ U.S. inland fees to Philadelphia)

24



5 September 1848 Paris, France to Boston
15 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
24¢ postage due in Boston

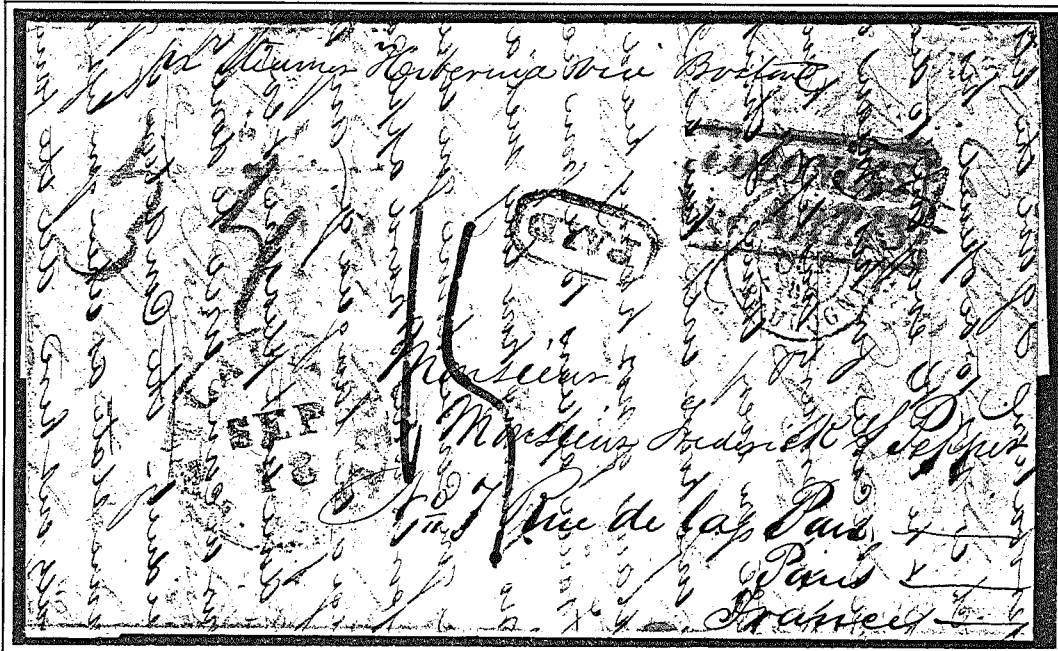
Acadia 15 days (West)
12th of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
Postage due = 24¢ retaliatory fee to arrival port

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849

34



18 September 1848 Philadelphia to Paris, France
34¢ paid for 10¢ U.S. inland and 24¢ retaliatory fees
15 decimes postage due in Paris

Hibernia 12 days (East)
12th of 26 Cunard eastbound voyages
Postage due = 10 dec. to G.B. and 5 dec. French internal

Letter marked "34" in red crayon (required prepayment of Philadelphia outgoing letter departing from Boston) when taken to post office window in Philadelphia. Later, in a separate operation, letter marked with three different blue handstamps showing date letter left Philadelphia, that letter was paid, and the prepaid amount. Blue "34" rate marking of Philadelphia was overstruck by red COLONIES/&c ART.13 handstamp of London in upper right. Had letter gone by steamer from New York only 29¢ would have been required.

Philadelphia blue "34" is quite scarce with less than five examples recorded.

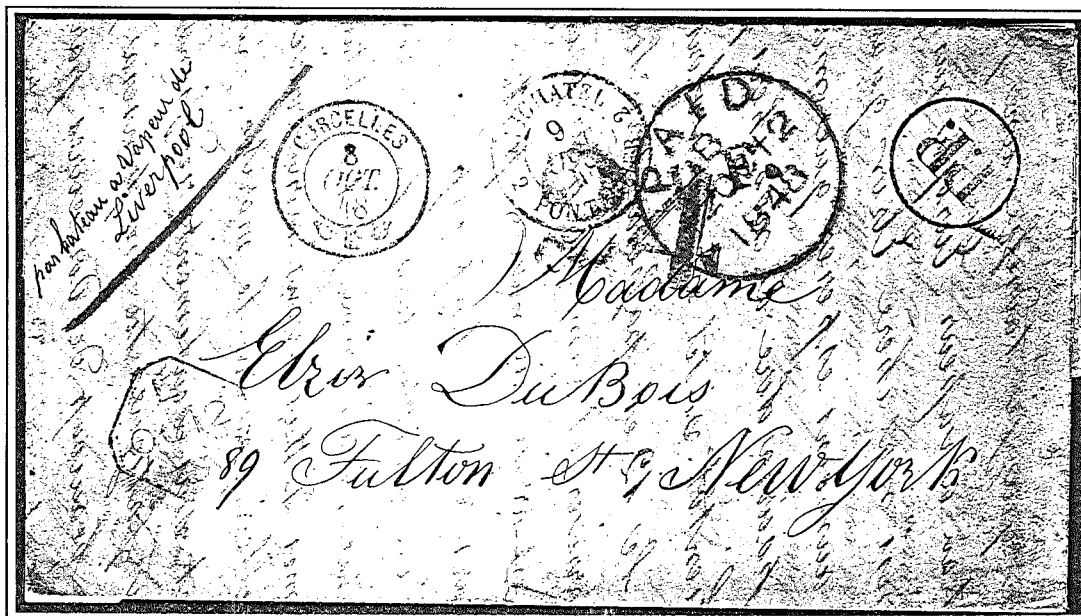
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849

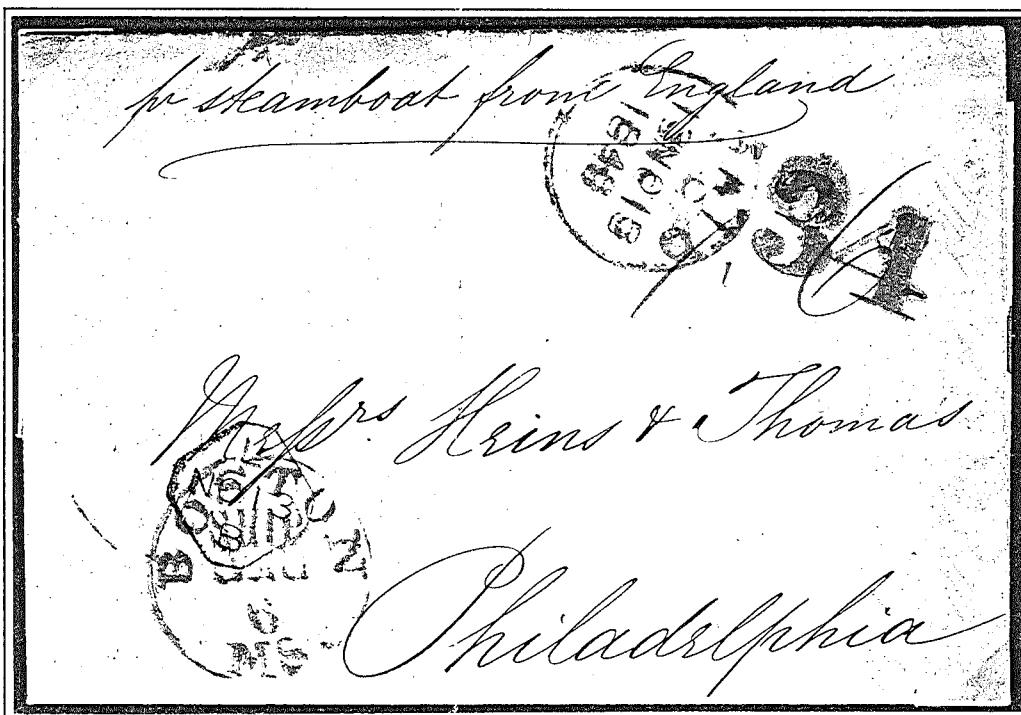


(Reverse - Red)



7 October 1848 Corcelles, Switzerland to New York
20 kreuzer paid for all transit fees by British mails
24¢ postage due in New York

Europa 11 days (West)
17th of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
"P.P." marked at Corcelles; "P.F." at French office (Pontarlier)



34

10 November 1848 Hamburg to Philadelphia
22 schillinge paid for all transit fees to U.S.
34¢ postage due in Philadelphia

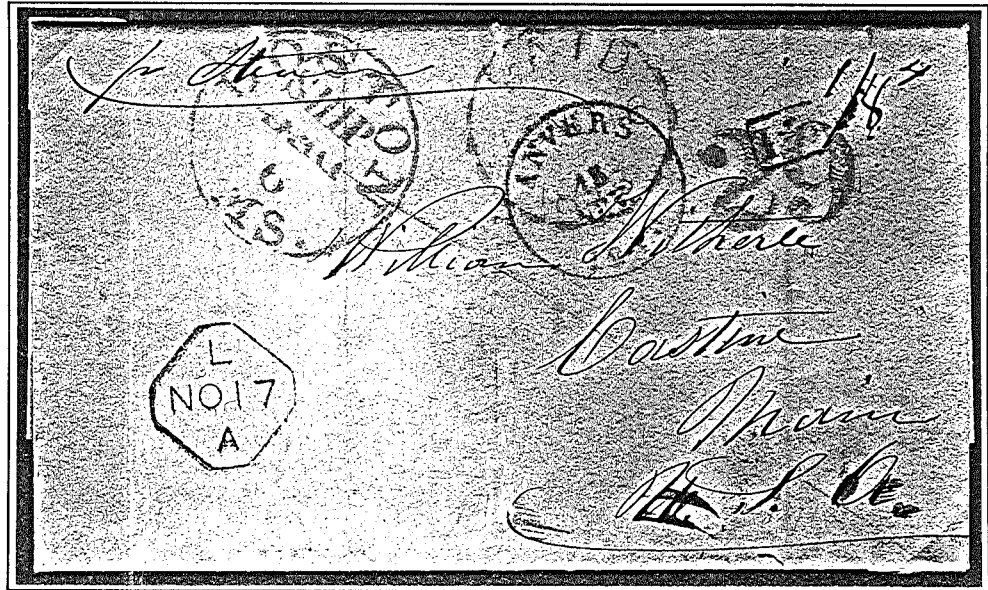
Britannia 18 days (West)
22nd of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
1s6d Hamburg credit to G.B. (upper right)

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

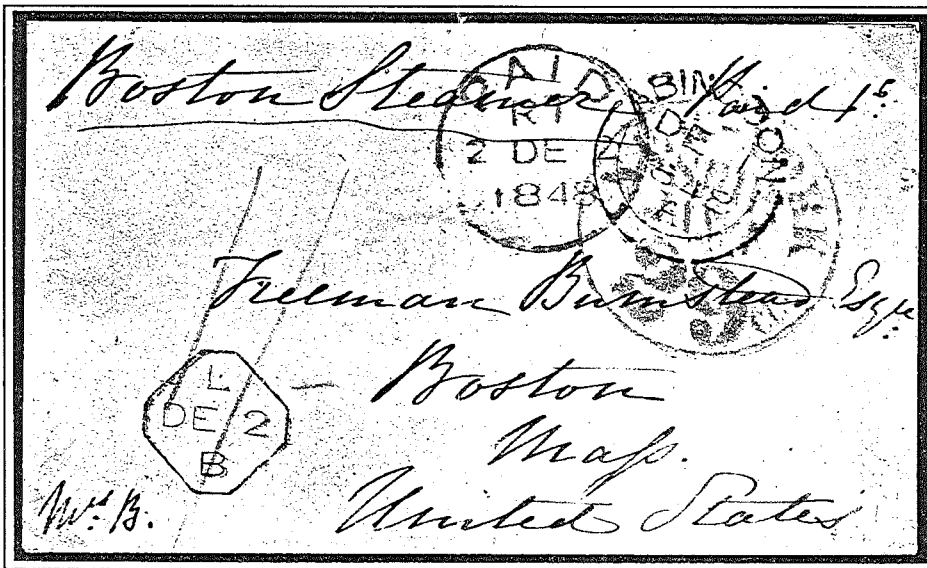
1838-1849
29 Jun 1848-3 Jan 1849

29

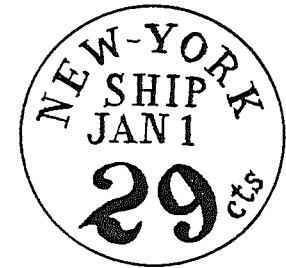


14 November 1848 Antwerp, Belgium to Castine, Maine
24 decimes paid for all transit fees (manuscript on reverse)
1s8d Belgian credit to G.B.
29¢ postage due in Castine

Britannia 18 days (West)
22nd of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
Prepayment = 4 dec. Belgium, 8 dec. G.B. and 12 dec.
transatlantic fees; "29" handstamp of Boston



1 December 1848 Abingdon, England to Boston
1 shilling packet rate paid
29¢ postage due in Boston



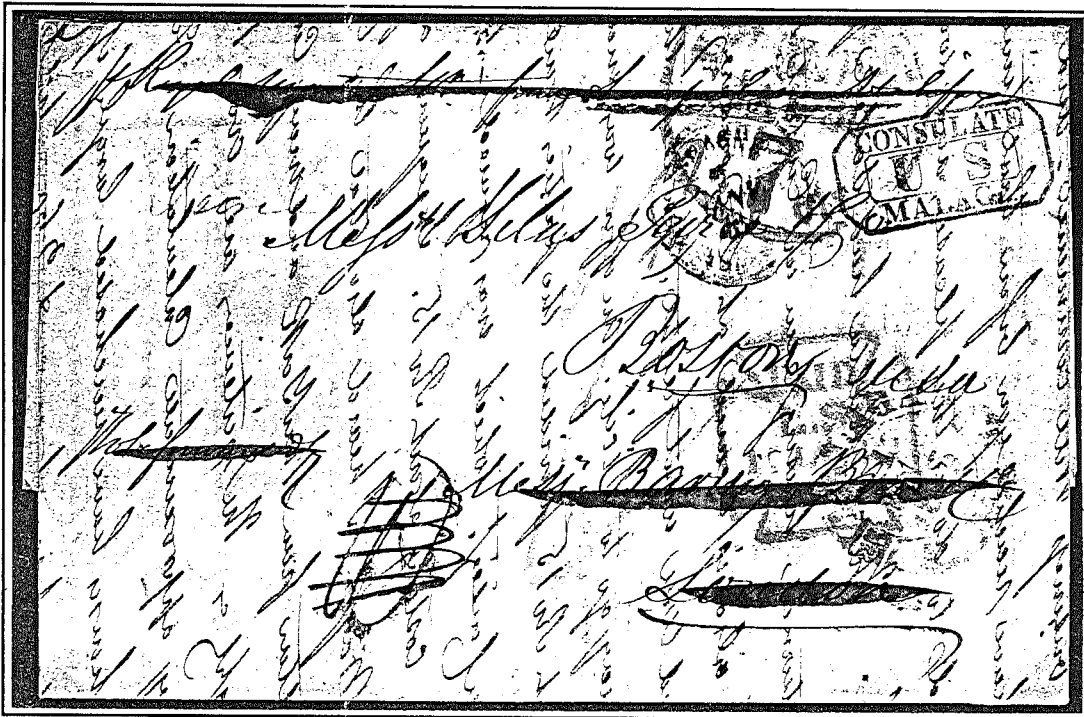
Europa 15 days (West)
Last of 25 Cunard westbound voyages
Letter just arrived after *Niagara* departed and
waited two weeks for next steamer

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
3 Jan 1849-15 Feb 1849

On 3 January 1849, the U.S. Post Office rescinded the retaliatory rates because a new postal convention between the United States and Great Britain had been signed in London on 15 December 1848. For a six week period, before the new convention rates went into effect, the U.S. rates for incoming ship letters, existing before the retaliatory order, were restored. Only three eastbound and four westbound Cunard voyages occurred during this period making covers difficult to find. This period is called the restored rate period.



31 December 1848 Malaga, Spain to Boston
Letter sent unpaid to London where 10d postage due paid
1 shilling packet rate paid when reposted

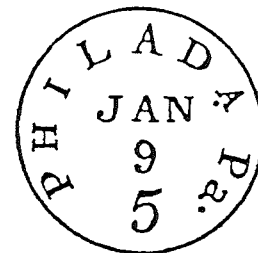
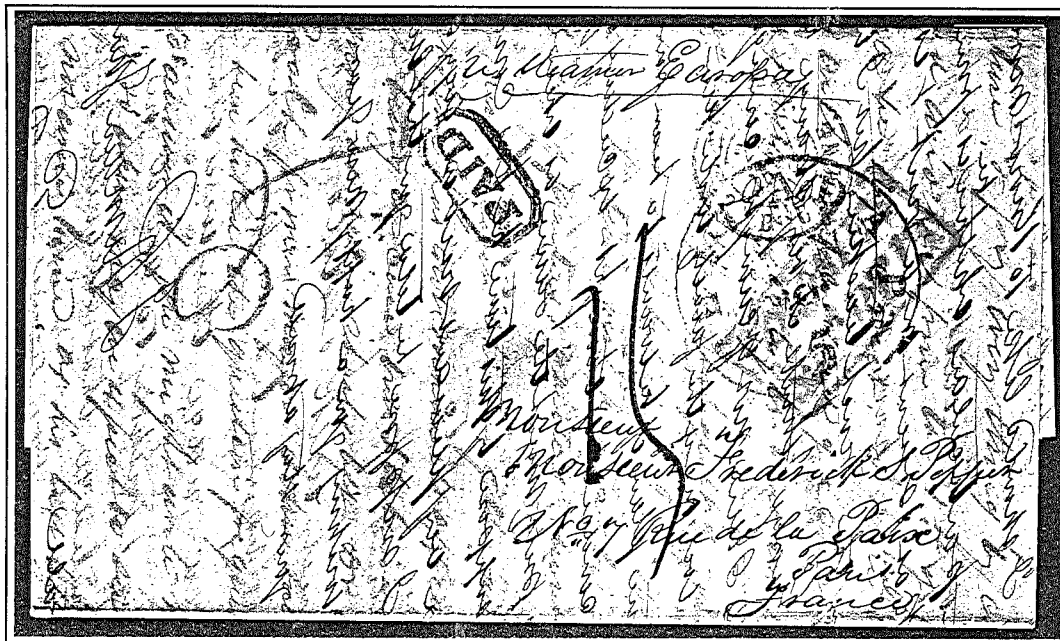
Canada 16 days (West)
2nd of 4 Cunard westbound voyages
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 5¢ U.S. inland fees

Both address of London forwarder and recipient in Boston written on letter face. U.S. Consul in Malaga acted as forwarding agent and sent letter overland via Madrid and Paris to London. Here forwarding agent Baring Brothers & Co. paid postage due, crossed thru London address and reposted letter paying the outgoing packet fee to the U.S.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

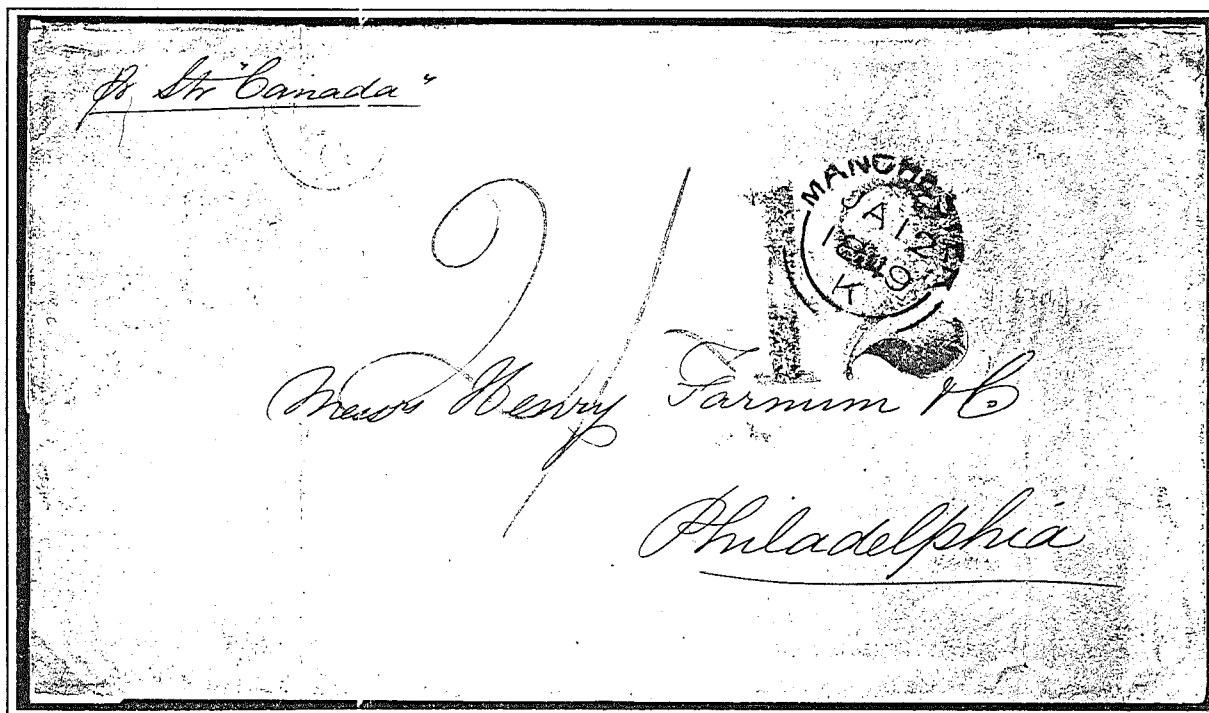
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
3 Jan 1849-15 Feb 1849



8 January 1849 Philadelphia to Paris, France
5¢ paid for U.S. inland rate to New York
15 decimes postage due in Paris

Europa 12 days (East)
1st of 3 Cunard eastbound voyages
Postage due = 10 dec. to G.B. and 5 dec. French internal



12 January 1849 Manchester, England to Philadelphia
2 shilling double packet rate paid
12¢ postage due in Philadelphia

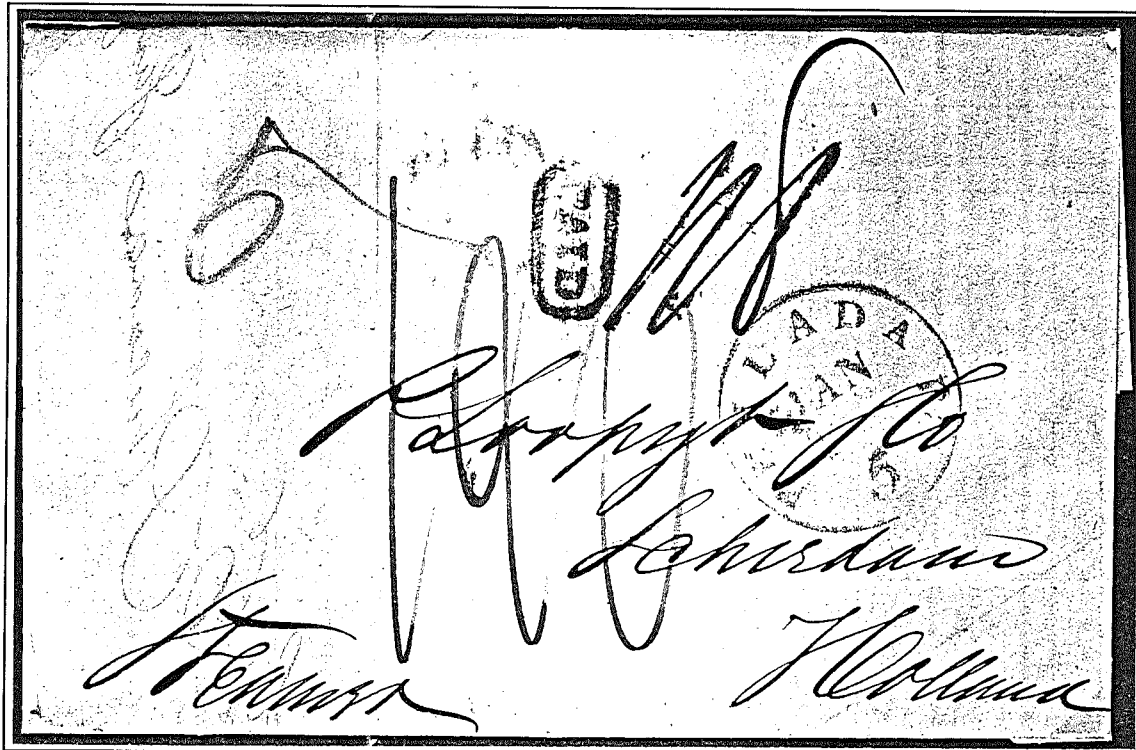
Canada 16 days (West)
2nd of 4 Cunard westbound voyages
Large red "12" handstamp of New York

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
3 Jan 1849-15 Feb 1849

*Engeland
over Rotterdam* (Reverse - Red)



22 January 1849 Philadelphia to Schiedam, Holland
5¢ paid for U.S. inland rate
1s8d G.B. debit to Holland
120 Dutch Cents postage due in Schiedam

America 11 days (East)
2nd of 3 Cunard eastbound voyages
Dutch entry from England at Rotterdam

Philadelphia erred in collecting only 5¢ as distance to Boston for this Cunard sailing was over 300 miles and required a 10¢ prepayment. Postal clerk may have been thinking of new British Open Mail rate of 5¢, which had been announced but was not yet effective.

British debit to Holland included 1 shilling transatlantic packet fee (60 Dutch Cents) and 8 pence British transit to Holland (40 Cents). Dutch added 20 Cents internal fee for a total postage due of 120 Cents.

Restored rate covers are uncommon and ones to the Continent, scarce.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

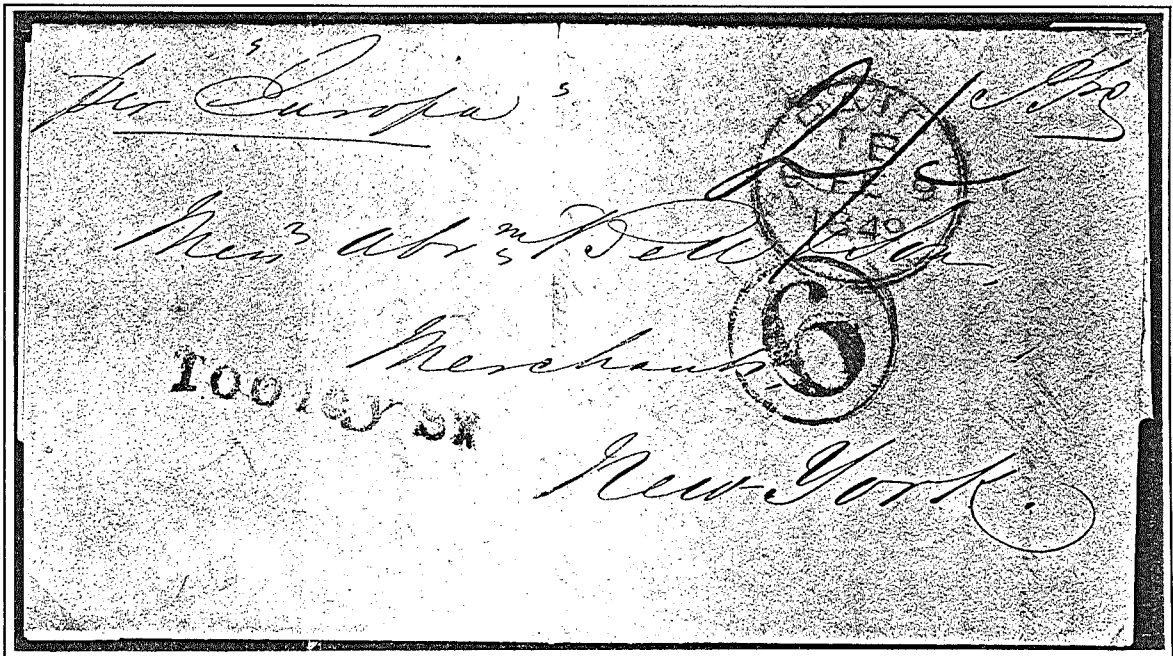
Pre U.S. - British Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849
3 Jan 1849-15 Feb 1849



30 January 1849 Utica, New York to Württemberg
5¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to New York
44 kreuzer postage due in Württemberg

Canada 12 days (East)
Last of 3 Cunard eastbound voyages
Postage due = 38 kr. to France, 4 kr. to
Württemberg and 2 kr. local fee



9 February 1849 London to New York
2 shilling double packet rate paid
6¢ postage due in New York

Europa 14 days (West)
Last of 4 Cunard westbound voyages
Regardless of letter weight, only 6¢ incoming ship fee
required for letters addressed to arrival port

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1847-1849
1 Jun 1847-15 Feb 1849

The first American contract mails were carried to Great Britain in June 1847 on the Ocean Line steamer *Washington*. Upon arrival in England, letters were generally subjected to the incoming British packet fee of one shilling despite the fact that no British vessel was involved in their transport. In effect double sea postage was charged since the Americans had already collected sea postage. The British packet fee on these letters (called a discriminatory charge) was soon to lead to retaliation by the Americans and subsequently (February 1849) to a postal convention between the two countries.



22 May 1847 Washington, D.C. to Mezingen, Württemberg
29¢ paid for transit fees to G.B.
43 kreuzer postage due in Mezingen

Washington 14 days (East)
Prepayment = 5¢ U.S. inland and 24¢ Am. packet fees
Postage due = 38 kr. to France, 5 kr. to Württemberg

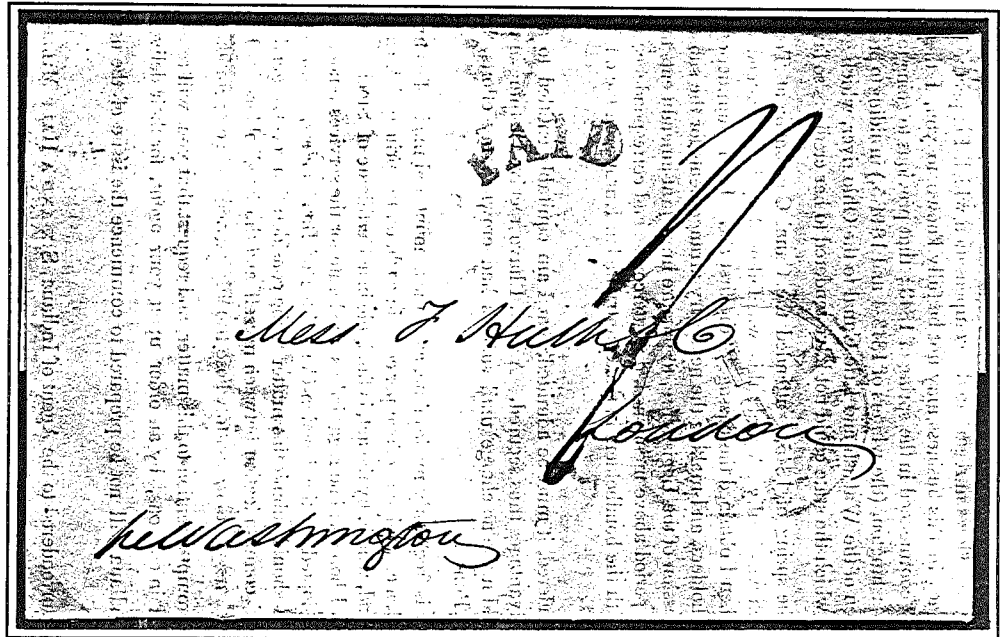
This cover was carried on the inaugural voyage of *Washington* from New York on 1 June 1847. Mails were unloaded in the Solent off the Isle of Wight. Letter crossed the Channel from Southampton to Havre by auxiliary steamer, showing French entry from England at Havre. Only example of this French entry marking on a transatlantic steamship cover and not recorded by Salles. Although discriminatory charges were intended to apply to mails for France, this letter did not go to London and, therefore, received no extra British charges.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
American Contract Steamship

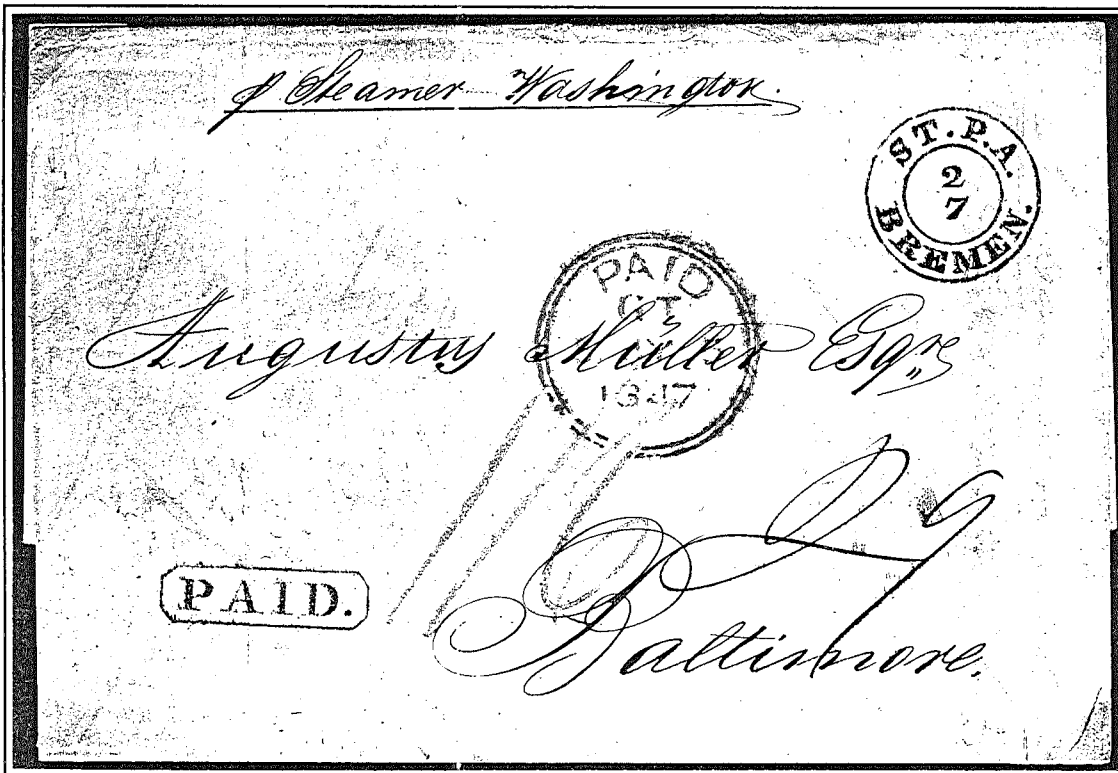
1847-1849
1 Jun 1847-15 Feb 1849

PAID



1 June 1847 New York to London
24¢ paid for Am. packet rate to G.B. (not shown)
1 shilling postage due in Liverpool

Washington 14 days (East)
Maiden voyage of Ocean Line
Red, curved PAID handsamp of New York



2 July 1847 Bremen to Baltimore
40 grote paid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
1s6d Bremen credit to G.B.
29¢ postage due in Baltimore

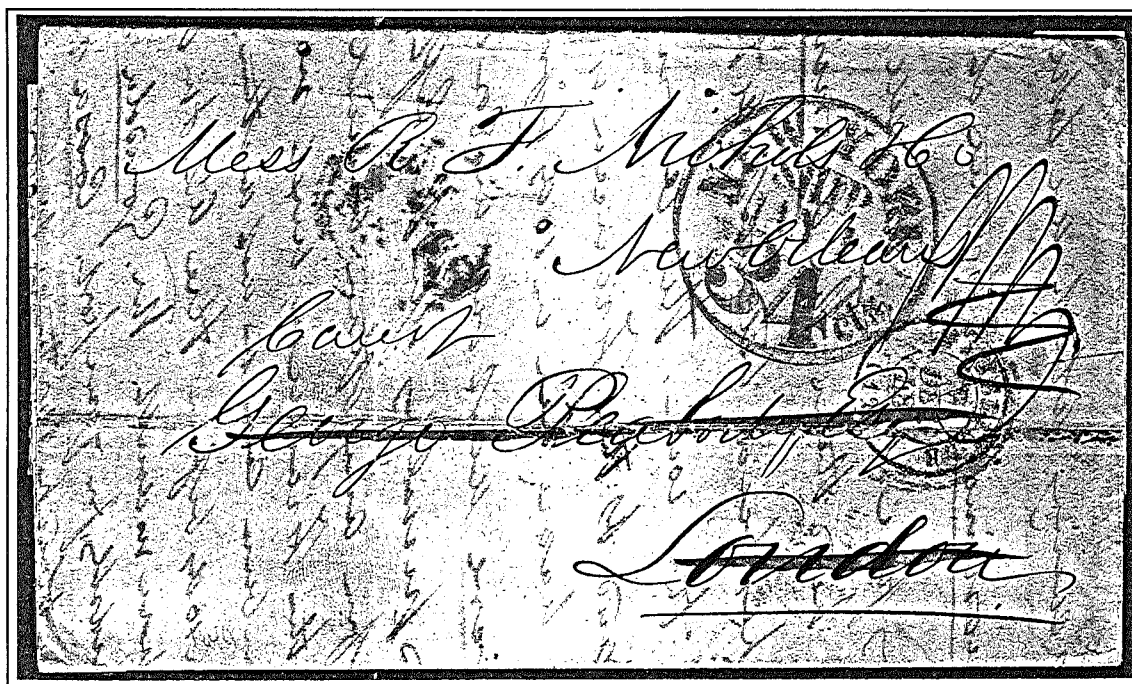
Washington 15 days (West)
Letter sent to G.B. for Washington, delayed 2½ days there
on maiden return voyage for repairs; postage due = 24¢
Am. packet fee and 5¢ U.S. inland fee from New York

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1847-1849
1 Jun 1847-15 Feb 1849

M



4 December 1848 Palermo, Sicily to New Orleans
Letter sent unpaid to London
1s3d paid by London agent

Hermann 14 days (West)
34¢ postage due in New Orleans (24¢ Am. packet
rate and 10¢ U.S. inland fee to New Orleans)

Letter carried from Trapani, Sicily to Marseille on French steamship *Tancrede* of the Malta-Constantinople service. Normally, mails would have been picked up at Messina by French Italian coastal steamer but the call was stopped for two months because of an epidemic on Sicily. Forwarding agent George Peabody of London paid postage due in London of 1s3d (single rate from Sicily) and placed letter in *Hermann's* letter bag for New York avoiding British mail system and discriminatory fee.

Hermann anchored in Nantasket Roads (at entrance to Boston) on 3 January 1849, having run short of coal and proceeded to the Cunard pier in Boston to recoil the next day. Mails were put off at Boston and reached New York the evening of 4 January 1849, four days before the steamer arrived there.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

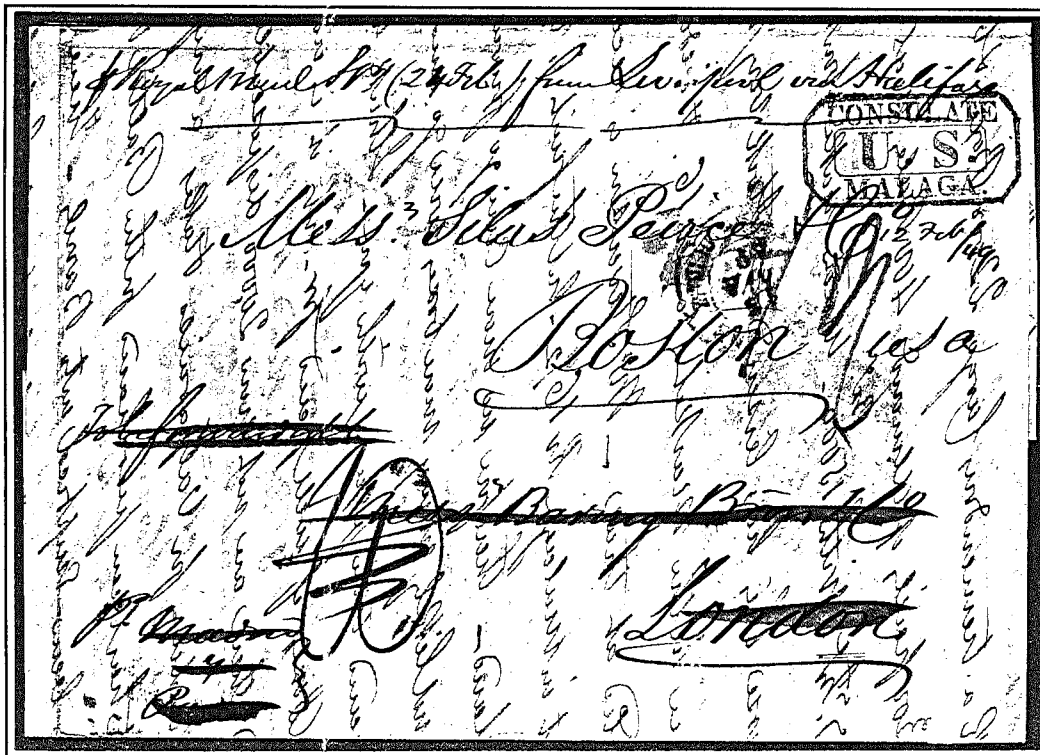
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

On 15 February 1849 President James K. Polk proclaimed the first postal convention with Great Britain. Mails could now be sent fully paid to destination or to the limits of the other country's mail system. The rate breakdown for mails between the United States and Great Britain was:

U.S. inland	5¢
Sea	16¢
Br. inland	<u>3¢</u>
	24¢

The sea postage went to the country whose contract mail steamship carried the letter.



12 February 1849 Malaga, Spain to Boston
Letter sent unpaid to London where 10d postage due paid
Letter reposted to U.S unpaid; 19¢ London debit to U.S.

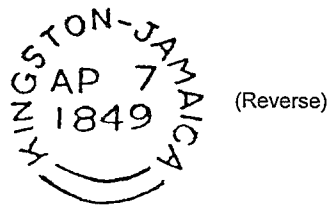
America 13 days (West)
Dual address used to show forwarding agent in
London and final addressee in Boston

U.S. Consulate in Malaga, acting as forwarding agent, sent letter to London via Paris. London forwarder paid fees from Spain and sent letter unpaid to U.S. on first British steamship to carry contract mails to U.S. under new convention. Boston marked 24¢ postage due with small red handstamp, the normal color in use there. Instructions that red ink was to be used to mark credits had not yet been issued.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



15 February 1849 Genoa, Kingdom of Sardinia to New York
32 soldi paid for transit fees to G.B.
12¢ postage due in New York

Teviot 30 days (West)
DOPO LA/PARTENZA marked at Genoa to
indicate letter posted after mails departed

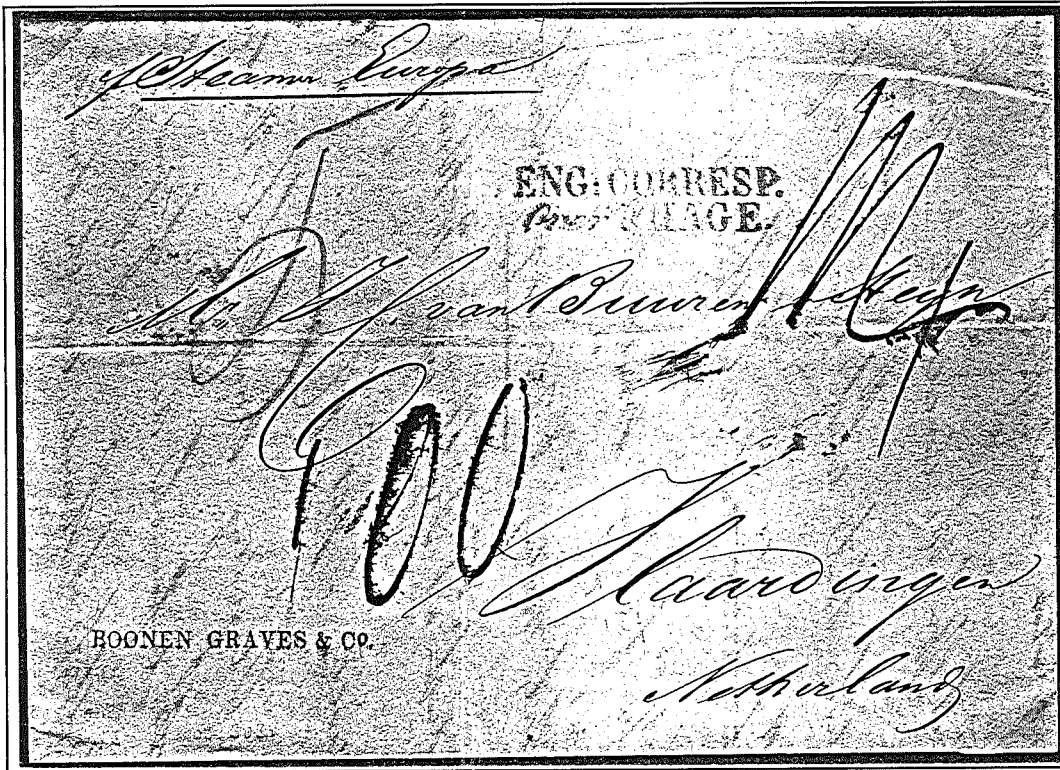
Paris sent letter to Havre for transit to London (non-contract vessel from Havre to London resulting in the ship letter marking of London). Instead of placing letter in treaty mails to New York, London sent it by Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. steamer *Teviot* from Southampton to Bermuda and Havana. Reason for this routing unknown. Additionally, letter erroneously placed in Jamaica mails and stayed on *Teviot* until arrival at Jamaica instead of being put off with other American mails at Havana. RMSP branch steamer *Tay* took letter back to Havana and branch steamer *Severn* carried it into Mobile *en route* to Vera Cruz. Mobile struck separate circular datestamp, SHIP and 12 rate handstamps in red.

Mails to the U.S. carried by Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. steamers (usually from Mexico, Cuba, or the West Coast of South America) are uncommon. Transatlantic covers by the same steamers are quite scarce. This is the only recorded cover from the European Continent to the U.S. sent by this route, a much longer and slower route than the normal transatlantic mails to New York and Boston.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



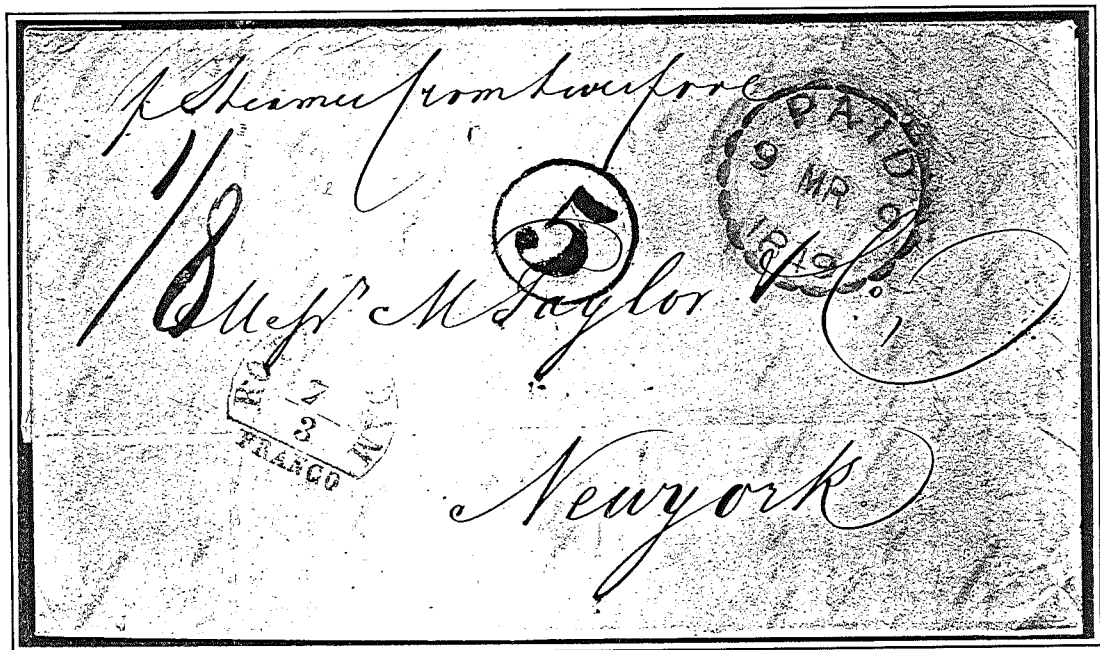
ENG: CORRESP.
Over 's HAGE.

5 March 1849 New York to Vlaardingen, Holland
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
1s4d G.B. debit to Holland
100 Dutch Cents postage due at Vlaardingen

Europa 13 days (East)
British debit = 8d sea postage and 8d Br. transit to Holland
Dutch entry mark showed letter from England via The Hague
First day of use of new Dutch rates under Anglo-Dutch treaty

190

(Reverse)



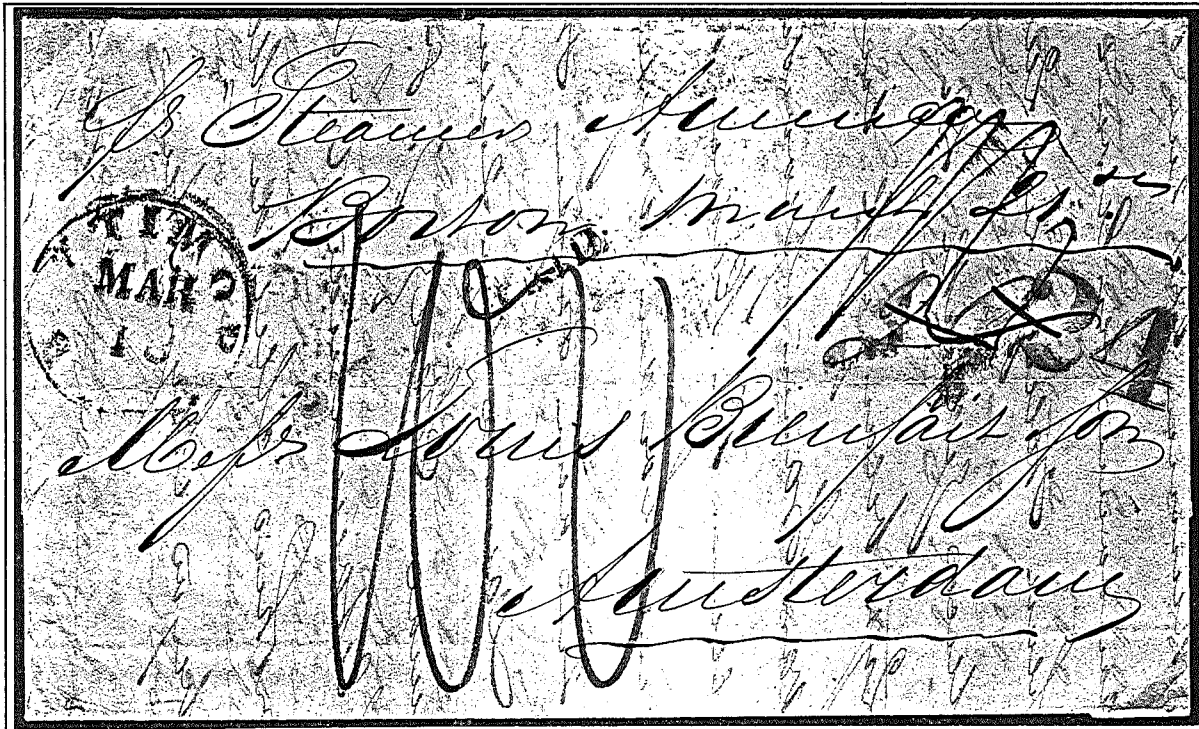
6 March 1849 Rotterdam, Holland to New York
120 Dutch Cents paid for all transit fees to U.S.
1s8d Dutch credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in New York

Canada 15 days (West)
Reduced transatlantic sea postage not reflected in
Dutch rates until 21 Mar 49; 5¢ due for B.O.M. rate by
British packet; scarce rate combination

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

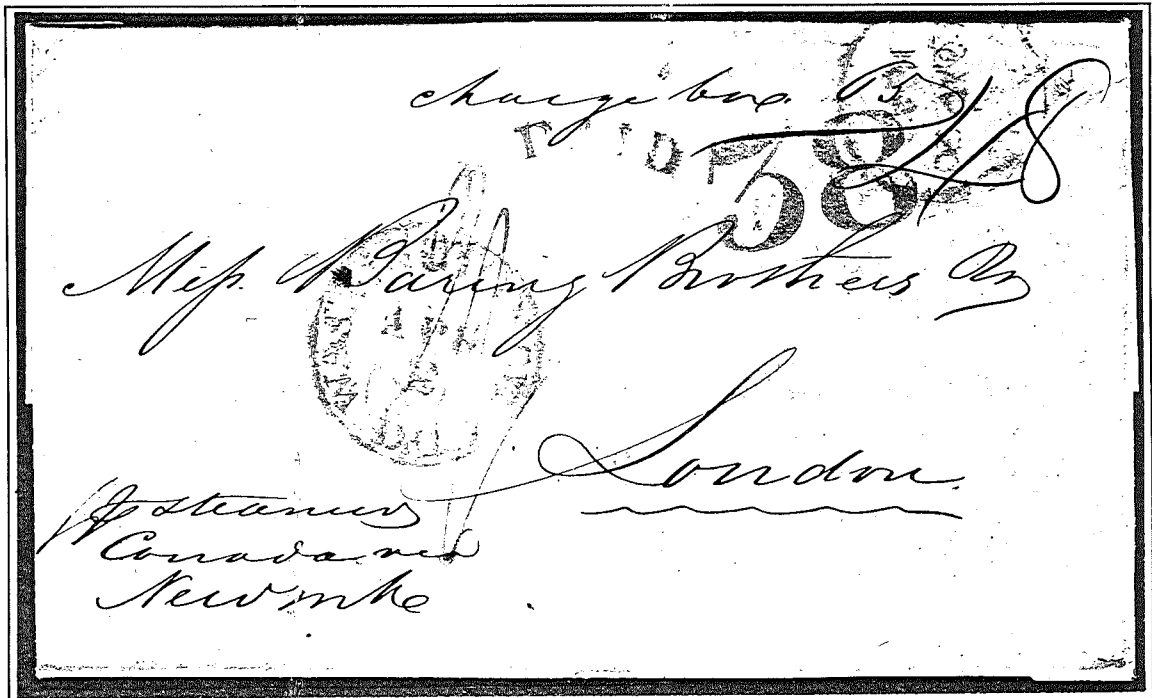
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



17 March 1849 Baltimore to Amsterdam, Holland
29¢ paid (old retaliatory rate; 24¢ overpayment)
1s4d G.B. debit to Holland
100 Dutch Cents postage due at Amsterdam

America 11 days (East)
Boston didn't know how to treat open mail letters (instructions not yet published) and marked 24¢ credit to G.B.

38



2 April 1849 Washington, DC to London
48¢ paid for double treaty rate
38¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Canada 14 days (East)
Curved red PAID struck at Washington, DC; large red credit marking of New York used only about one year

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

^d9½



8 May 1849 Boston to Warrington, England
Letter sent unpaid by taking directly to steamer

Cambria 11 days (East)
Warrington, 20 miles east of Liverpool, received
mails processed by Liverpool vice London

Special ^d9½ rate handstamp despatched to Liverpool from London on 19 March 1849 to be used on mail paid to New York from California (not yet a state) and unpaid from New York. Remaining postage due was 8d transatlantic postage plus 1½d British postage under new treaty.

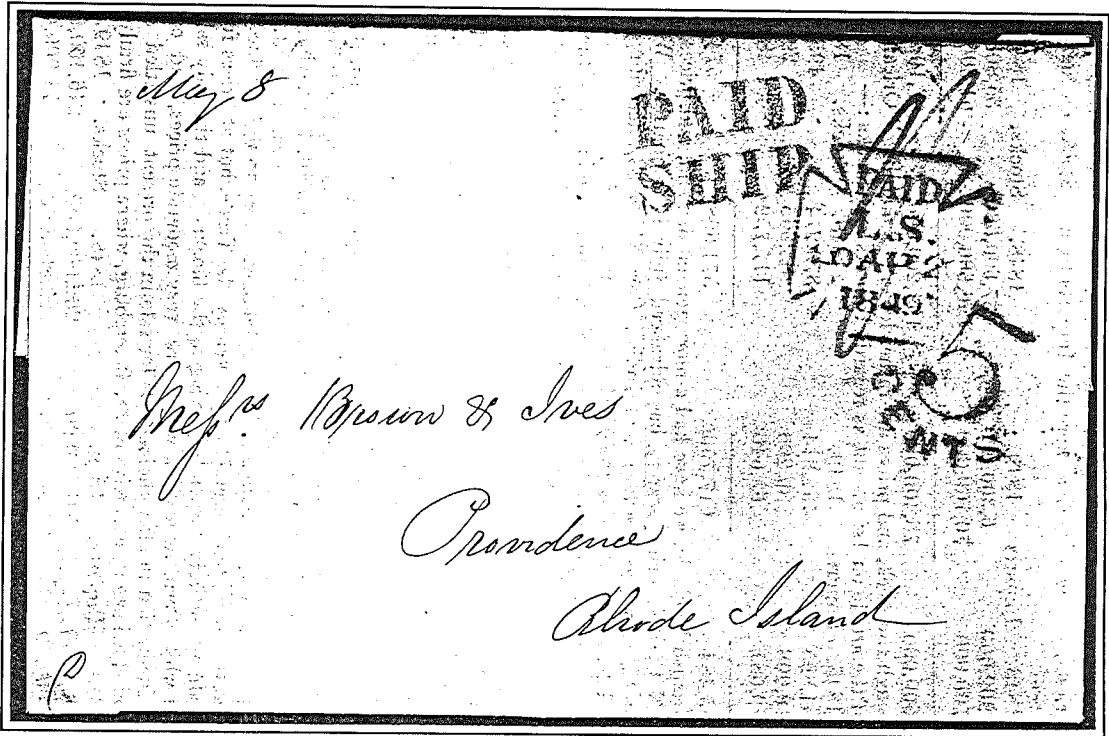
One of two recorded examples where handstamp was used on loose letter placed on board British steamer in U.S. port without entering American postal system. The treaty had no provision for such a use.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

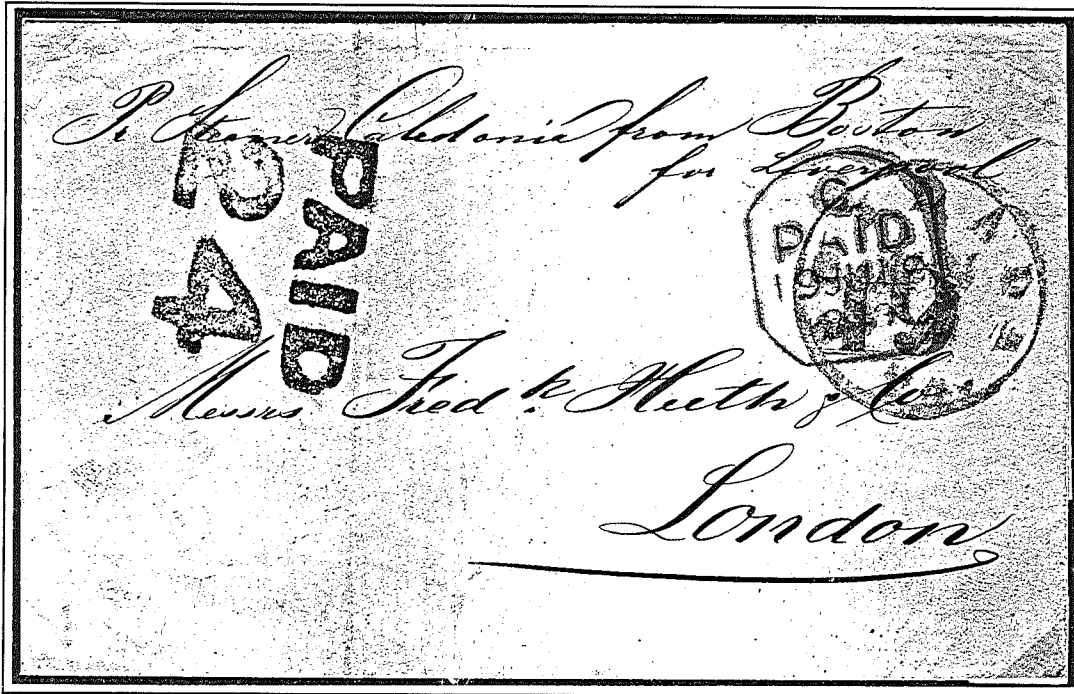
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

**PAID
SHIP**



20 April 1849 London to Providence, Rhode Island
1s paid for single treaty rate
5¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

America 14 days (West)
New York marked red PAID/SHIP (used infrequently until early 1859), purpose of which is unknown



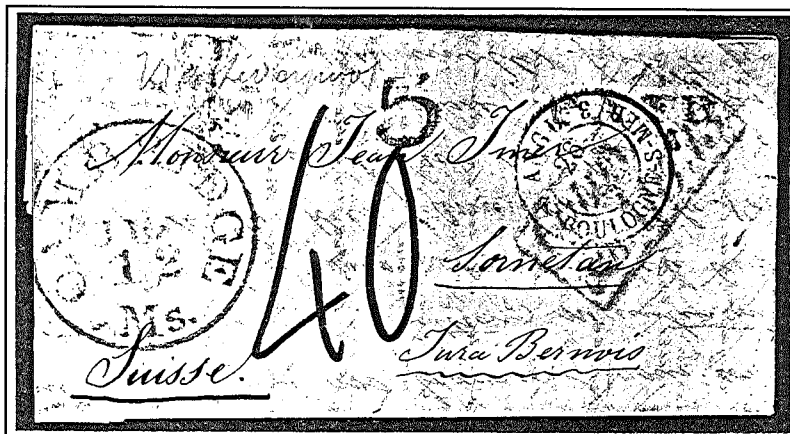
4 June 1849 Philadelphia to London
24¢ paid for single treaty rate
19¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Caledonia 12 days (East)
From Apr-Jun 49 Philadelphia used large block-style, blue rate marking (only 5 examples recorded)

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

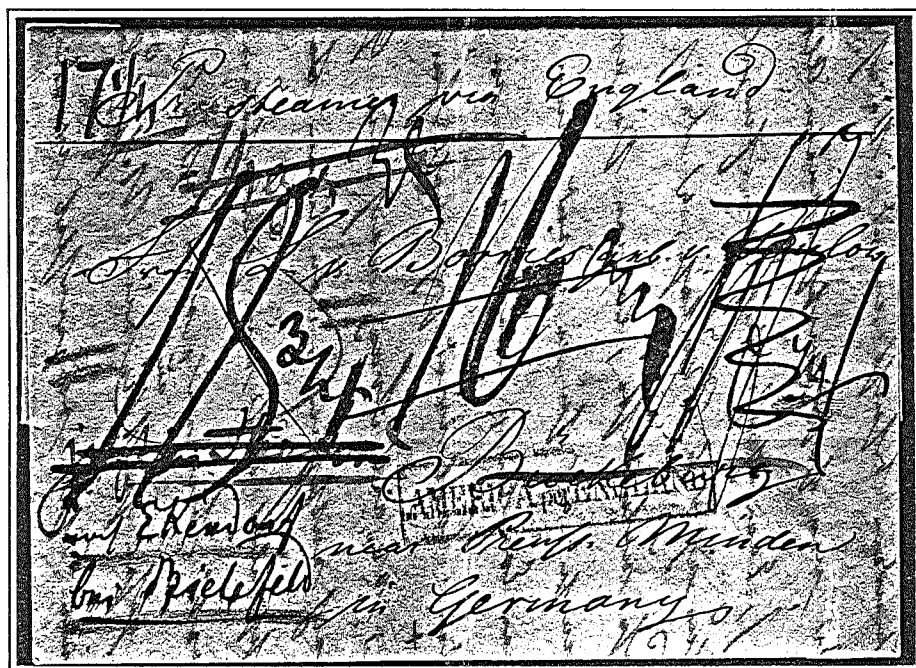
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



12 June 1849 Cambridge, Massachusetts to Sornetau, Switzerland
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
40 kreuzer postage due in Sornetau

Niagara 12 days (East)
French entry marking struck at Paris, showing
substitution of Boulogne for Calais when
new railroad completed



AMERICA per ENGLAND

12 June 1849 Brooklyn, New York to Bücheburg, Württemberg
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
1s4d G.B. debit to Prussia
18¼ silbergroschen postage due at Bücheburg

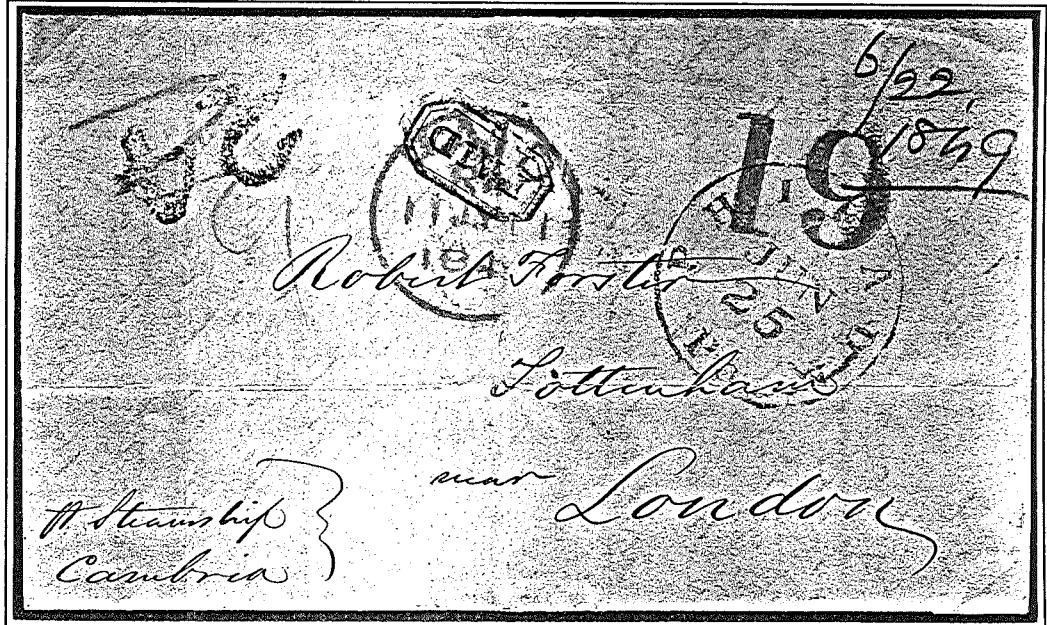
Niagara 12 days (East)
Boxed AMERICA per ENGLAND applied at Aachen
Letter forwarded to Ekendorf, Prussia where
postage due actually less, 17¼ silbergroschen

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

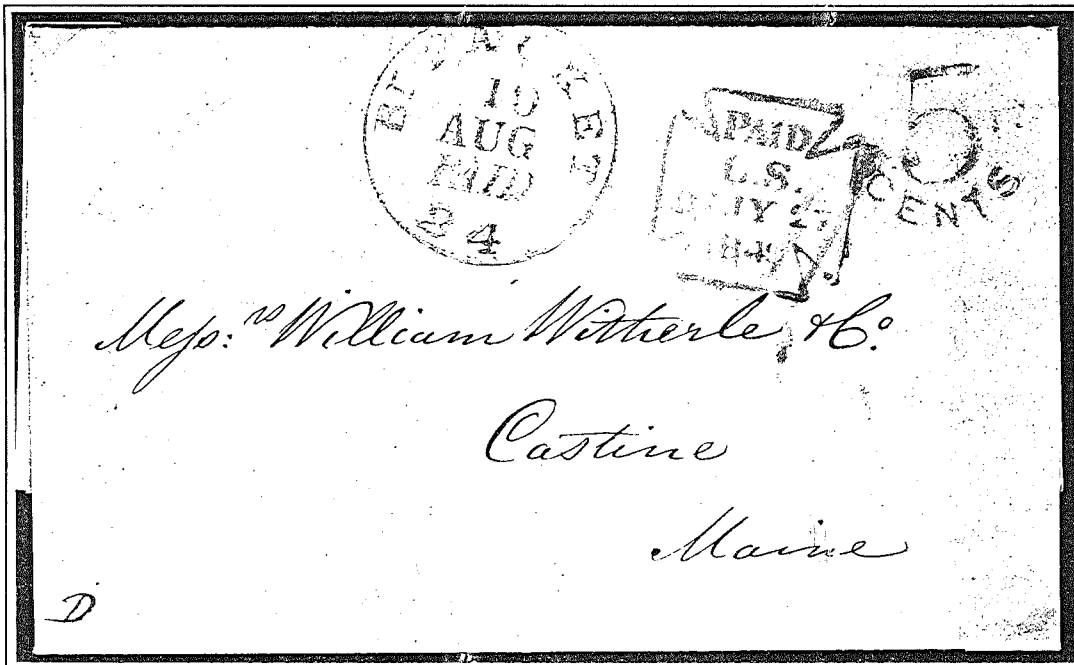
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

24



22 June 1849 Philadelphia to London
24¢ paid for single treaty rate
19¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Cambria 13 days (East)
Another uncommon Philadelphia blue rate marking used between Jun-Oct 49 (3 examples recorded); large New York red "19" credit handstamp used only from Apr 49-Feb 50



27 July 1849 London to Castine, Maine
1s paid for single treaty rate
5¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

America 12 days (West)
Letter posted at Lombard Street post office; earliest New York cds showing British service (recorded Aug-Dec 1849 only)

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



26 November 1849 New York to Carduff Kelly, Ireland
Letter sent unpaid
1s postage due in Ireland

America 14 days (East)
Red oval forwarder marking used by letter
originator, Abraham Bell & Co. as corner card

Addressee in Ireland never found, probably because there was no Carduff Kelly in County Monaghan. Postmaster of Monaghan marked "Not Known" in red ink and returned letter to London Dead Letter Office. Later, letter sent to Dead Letter Office in Washington, DC. where it was recorded on 17 May 1851! Letter probably returned to Washington, DC in early 1850, but was not processed at the Dead Letter Office for more than a year. A very large backlog of letters at the Dead Letter Office was reported by the Postmaster General.

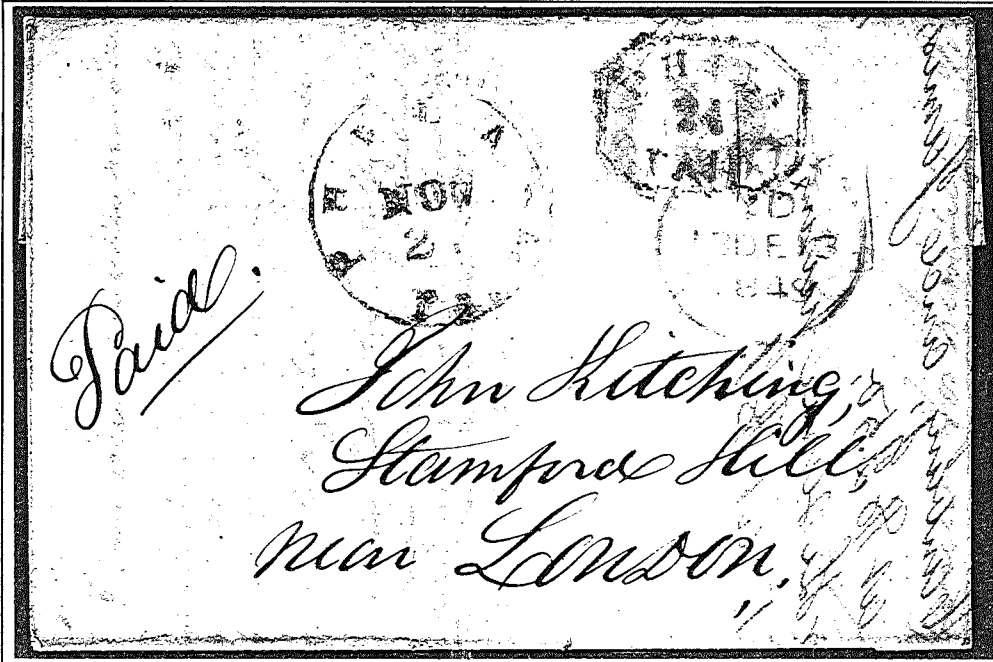
Since letter contained a "valuable," a printed check of Abraham Bell & Co. for £7, the originator was contacted by the Dead Letter Office for return payment. Letter received back in New York on 30 May 1851 (docketing inside the letter), where it had originated 17 months earlier.

Transatlantic letters returned to the Dead Letter Office are uncommon.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

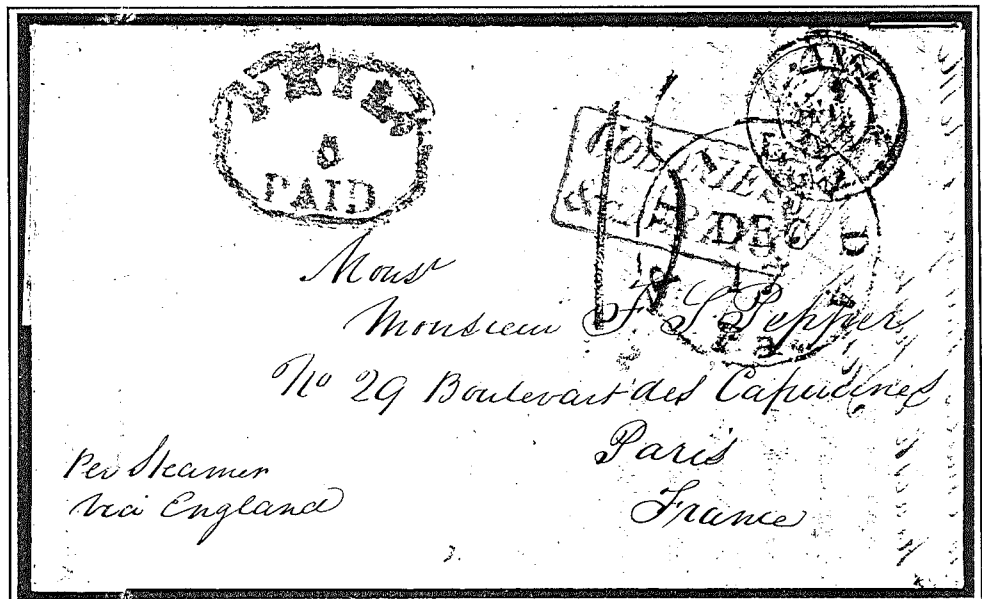
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



27 November 1849 Philadelphia to Stamford Hill, England
24¢ paid for single treaty rate
19¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

America 14 days (East)
Provisional rate marking used in Philadelphia
for about 6 weeks; only 2 examples recorded



17 December 1849 Philadelphia to Paris, France
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Paris

Europa 11 days (East)
Companion provisional marking to one shown
above used Dec 49-Jan 50; 6 examples recorded

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

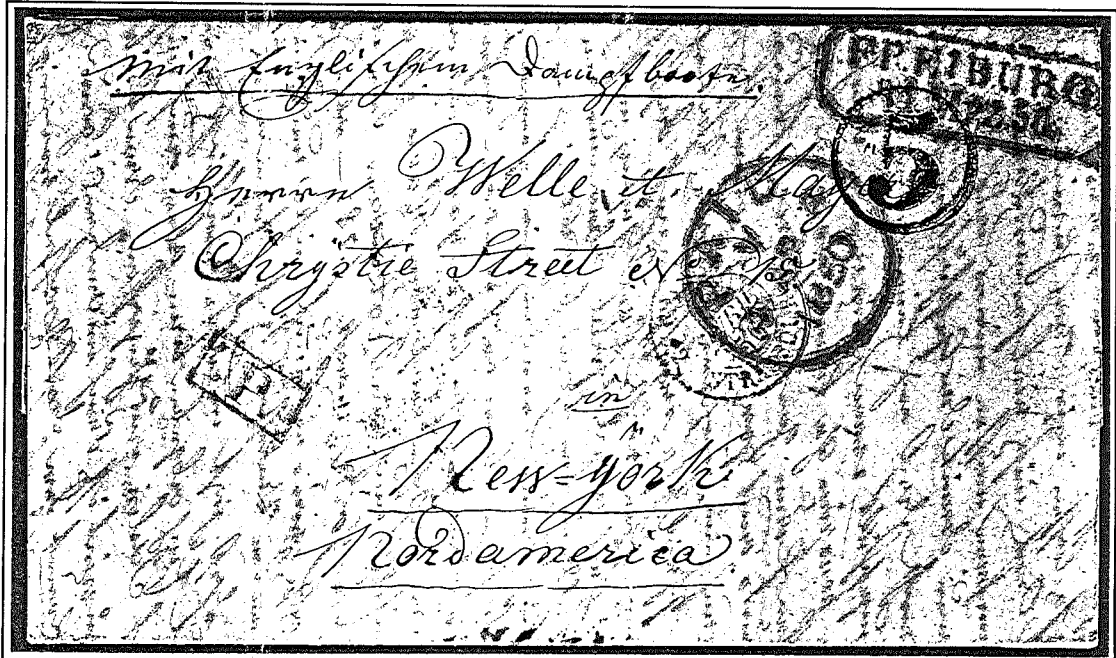


24

22 March 1850 Huddersfield, England to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.

Europa 14 days (West)
Since New York failed to mark postage due (reasons unknown)
Philadelphia struck 24¢ postage due (crude, blue handstamp)

P.



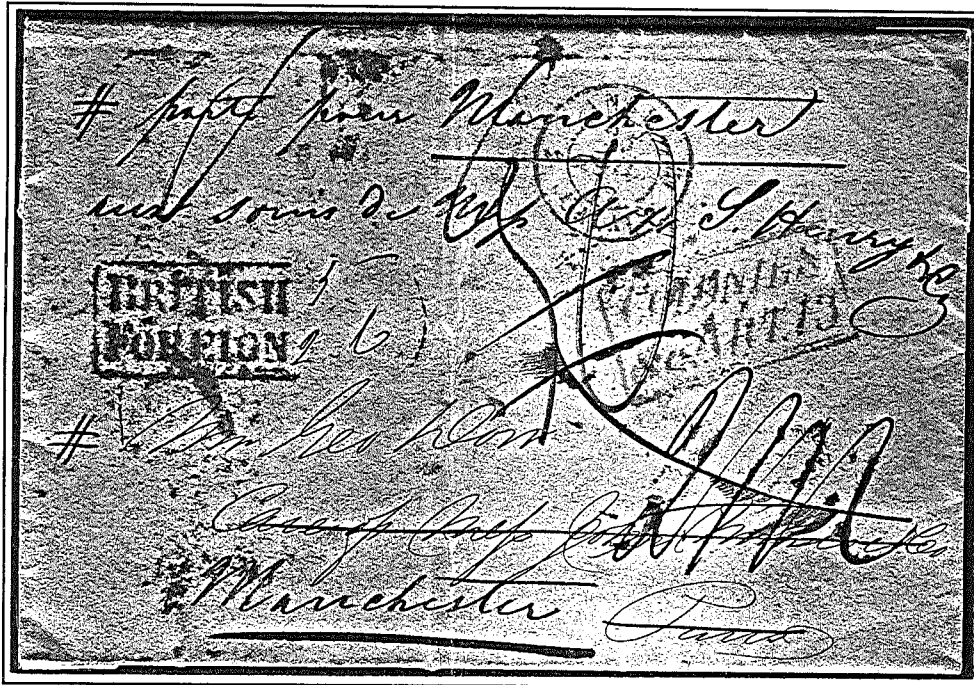
29 March 1850 Freiburg, Baden to New York
40 kreuzer prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
5¢ postage due in New York

America 14 days (West)
Boxed P. marking applied at Kehl, Baden exchange office
Prepayment included 34 kr. to France and 6 kr. to Baden

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



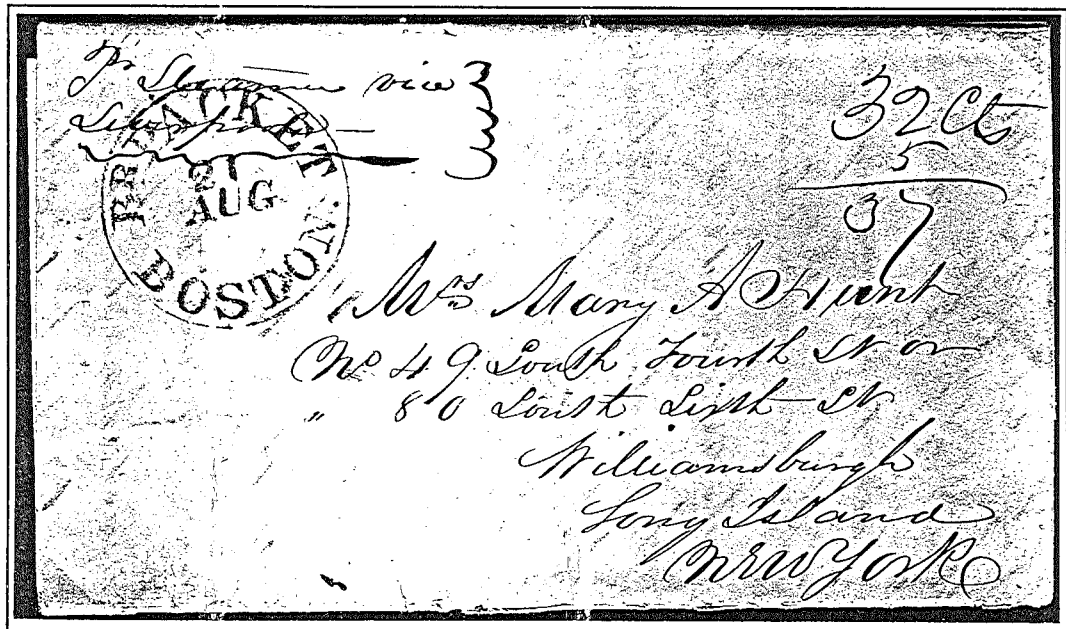
BRITISH 1.
FOREIGN 2.6.

10 July 1850 Boston to Paris, readdressed to Manchester
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship's letter bag)
30 decimes postage due in Paris

Niagara 10 days (East)
Postage due in France = 20 dec. to G.B. and 10 dec. internal (double rate); postage due in G.B. = 2 shilling 11 pence or 2/6d to France (30 dec.) and 5d British transit

8 AU 1850
LIVERPOOL
SHIP

(Reverse)



17 July 1850 Palermo, Sicily to Williamsburgh, New York
Letter sent unpaid (sailing ship from Palermo to Liverpool)
32¢ G.B. debit to U.S. (8d ship to G.B. + 8d transatlantic fee)
37¢ postage due in Williamsburgh

Europa 11 days (West)
Postage due = 32¢ to G.B. and 5¢ B.O.M. rate by Br. packet; 37¢ combined ship/contract mail rate was allowed by treaty but examples are seldom seen

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

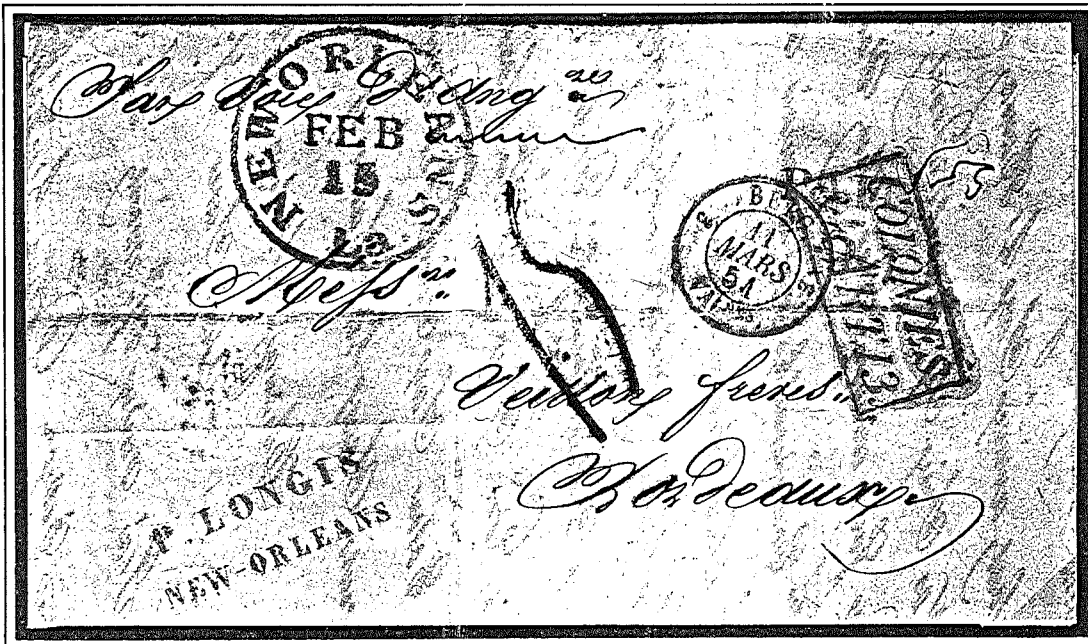
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



7 February 1851 Charleston, South Carolina to Greenock, Scotland
Letter sent unpaid
5¢ U.S. debit to G.B. (Boston marking)
1s postage due in Greenock

Canada 11 days (East)
Charleston cds showed unpaid rate counter to existing postal instructions; red ink used had no significance as debit or credit color



10 February 1851 New Orleans to Bordeaux, France
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

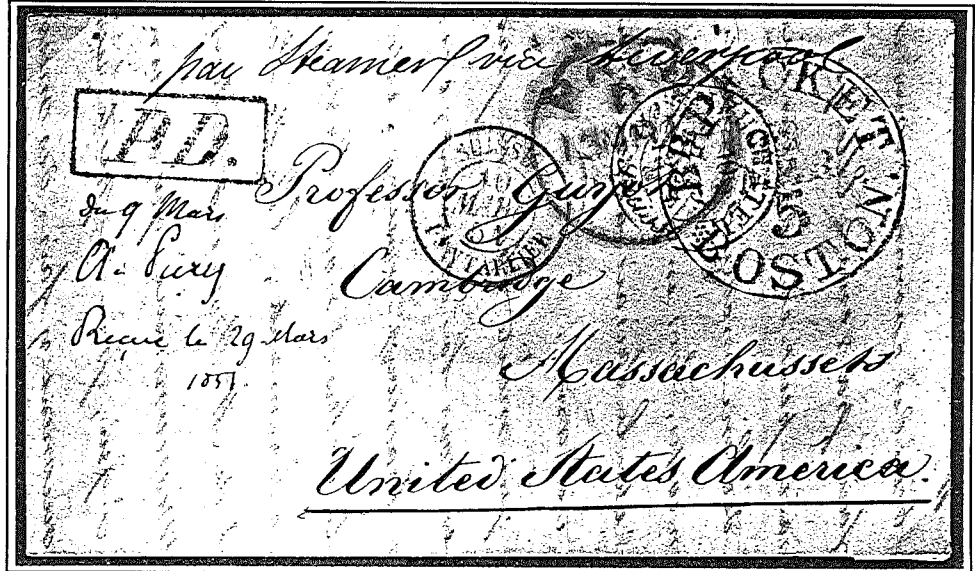
Africa 11 days (East)
French entry marking (mail from Belgium) struck at Paris in error; one other example known from same voyage

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

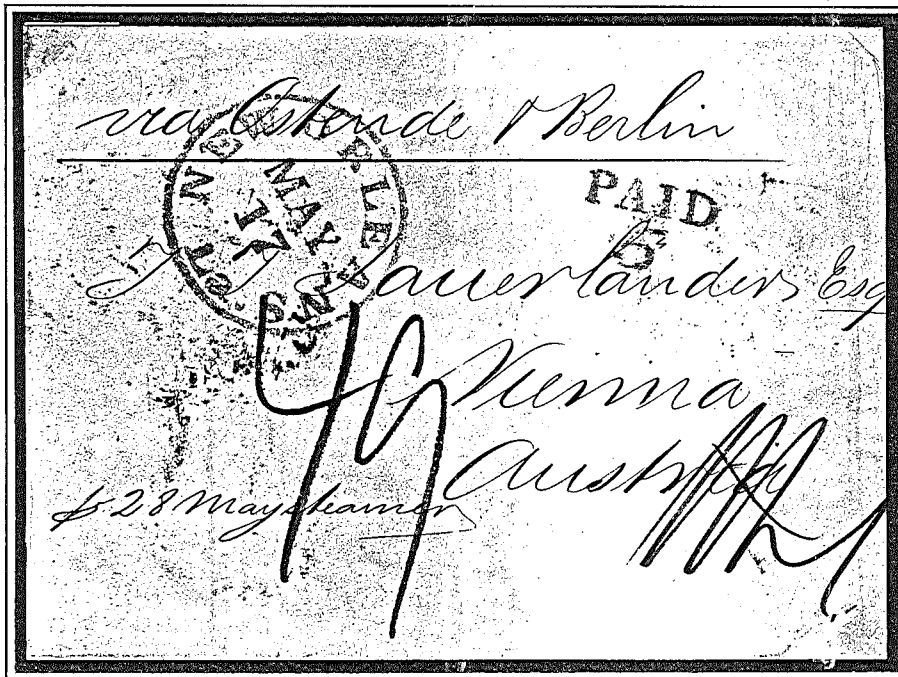
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

36
(Reverse)



9 March 1851 Neuchâtel, Switzerland to Cambridge, Massachusetts
36 kreuzer paid for all transit fees to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Cambridge

Canada 13 days (West)
36 kreuzer (equivalent to 90 rappen) single
letter rate from first Swiss rayon, via G.B. to U.S.



17 May 1851 New Orleans to Vienna, Austria
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
1s4d G.B. debit to Prussia
49 Austrian kreuzer postage due in Vienna



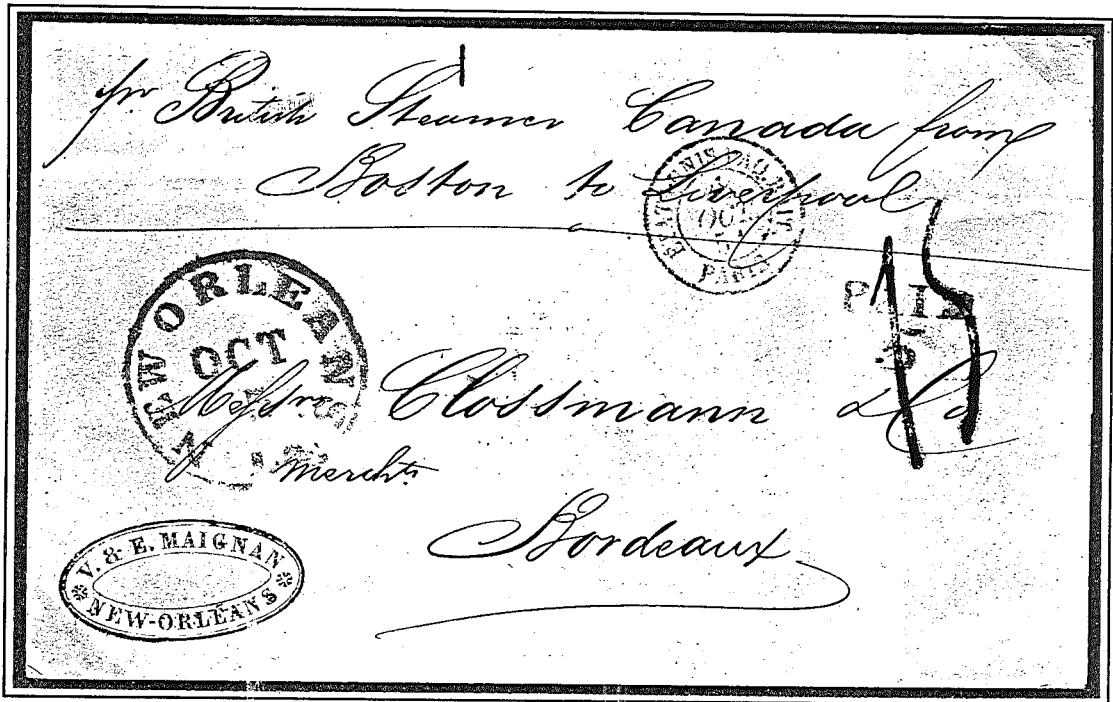
(Reverse - Red)

Cambria 11 days (East)
Aachen struck SEEBRIEF PER ENGLAND UND
AACHEN; postage due = 40 kr. for British debit and 9
kreuzer transit within German-Austrian Postal Union

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

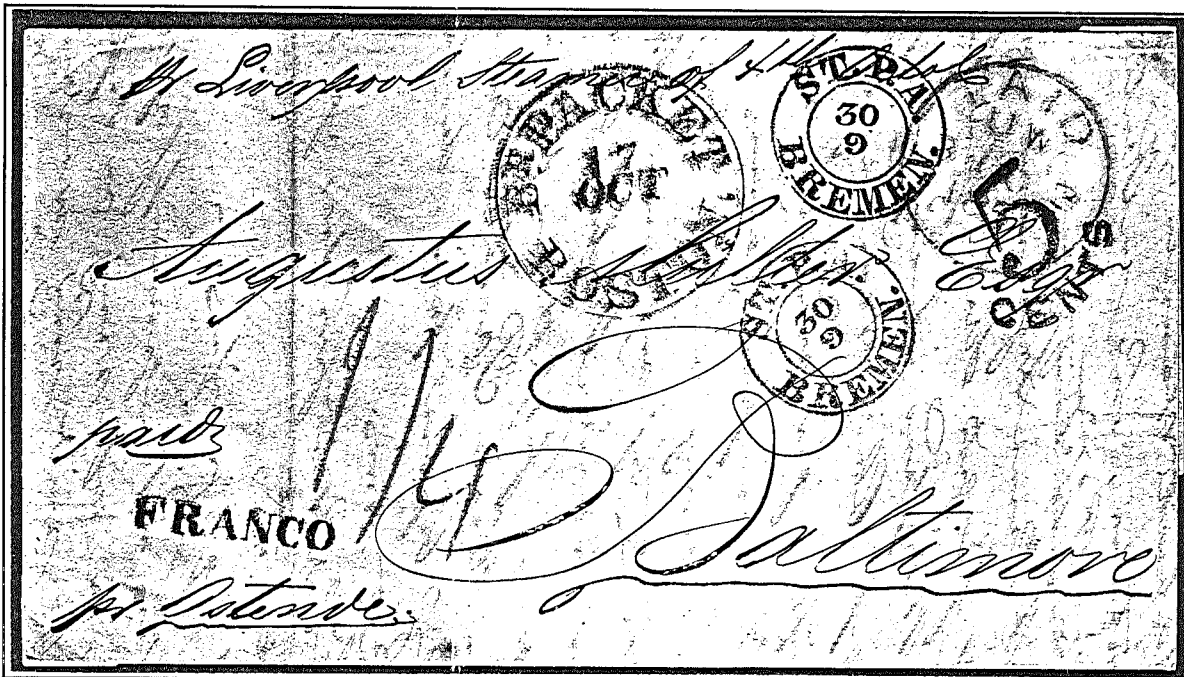
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



3 October 1851 New Orleans to Bordeaux, France
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Canada, 11 days (East)
Combination of new French entry markings (Aug 1851)
and 15 decime rate existed only 3½ months



5
CENTS

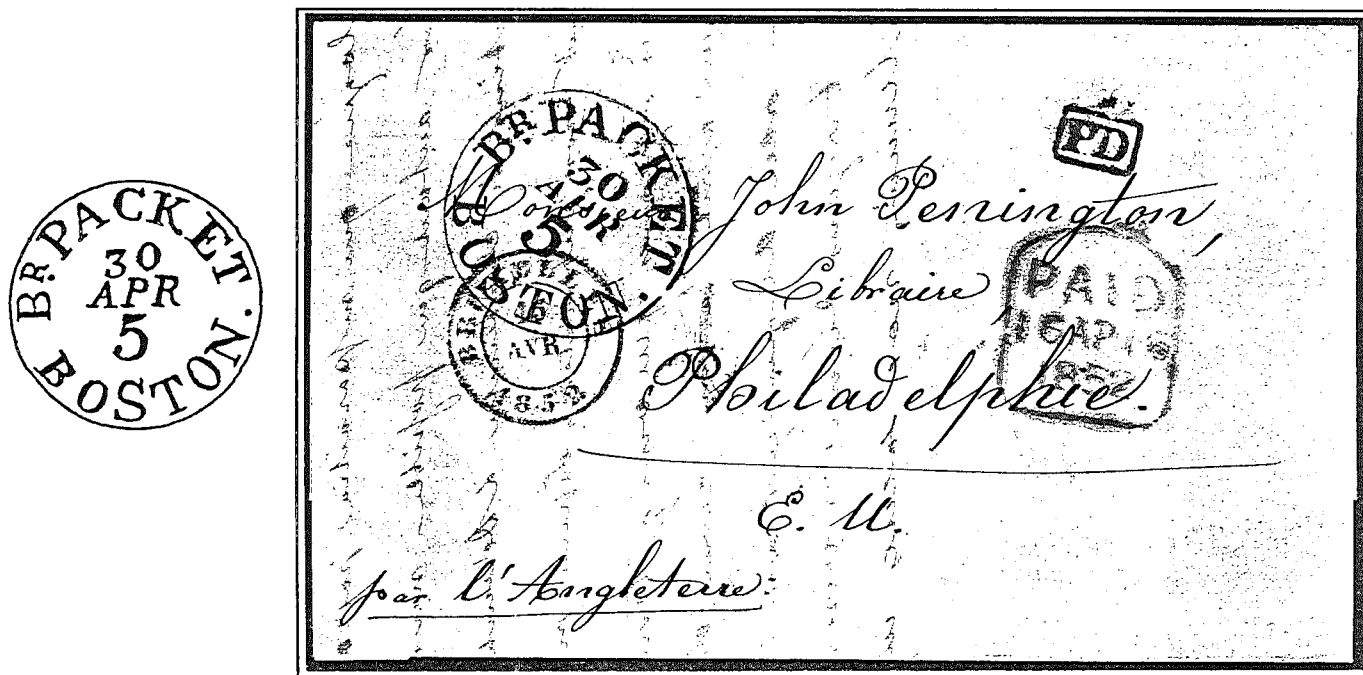
30 September 1851 Bremen to Baltimore:
40 grothe paid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
1s4d Prussia credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in Baltimore

America 13 days (West)
Letter in closed mail bag thru Ostend to London under Anglo-Prussian Treaty, then British Open Mail to U.S.; Liverpool marked 5¢ debit for unknown reason, which Boston used as postage due

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

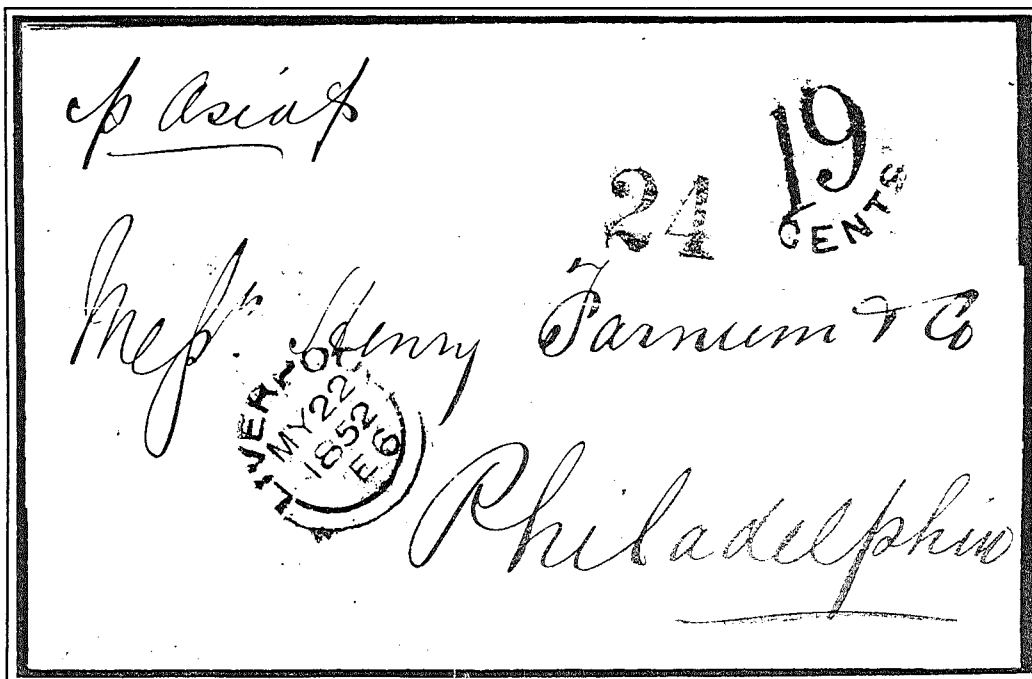
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



15 April 1852 Brussels, Belgium to Philadelphia
14 decimes paid for all transit fees to U.S. (reverse)
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Niagara 12 days (West)
Prepayment included 2 dec. Belgian internal, 4 dec. G.B. transit
and 8 dec. transatlantic fees; Boston cds included postage due



21 May 1852 Liverpool to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Asia 11 days (West)
New York failed to mark postage due (reason
unknown); blue "24" handstamp struck at Philadelphia

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