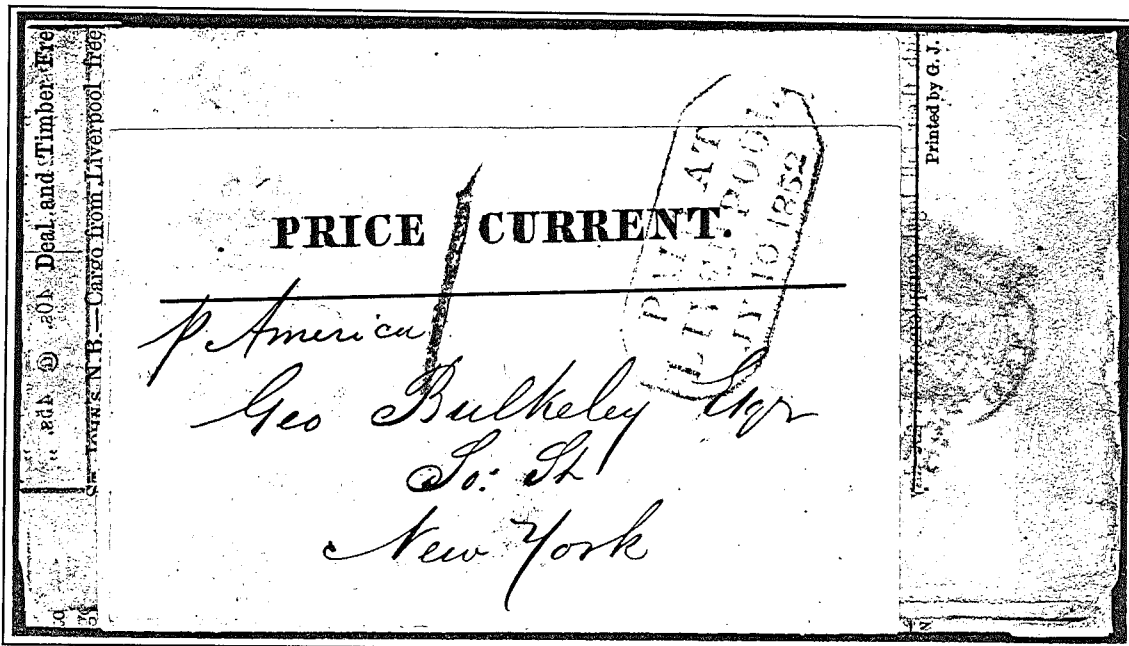


U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



9 July 1852 Liverpool to New York
1d paid for circular rate
2¢ postage due in New York (not shown)

America 12 days (West)
Wrapper printed on reverse of old, unused
circular, then pasted up

Printed "Freight Circular" jointly produced by W.S. Lindsay & Co. of London and Samuel & William Pearce of Liverpool. Forwarding Agent mark of Samuel & William Pearce struck on reverse as originator's mark.

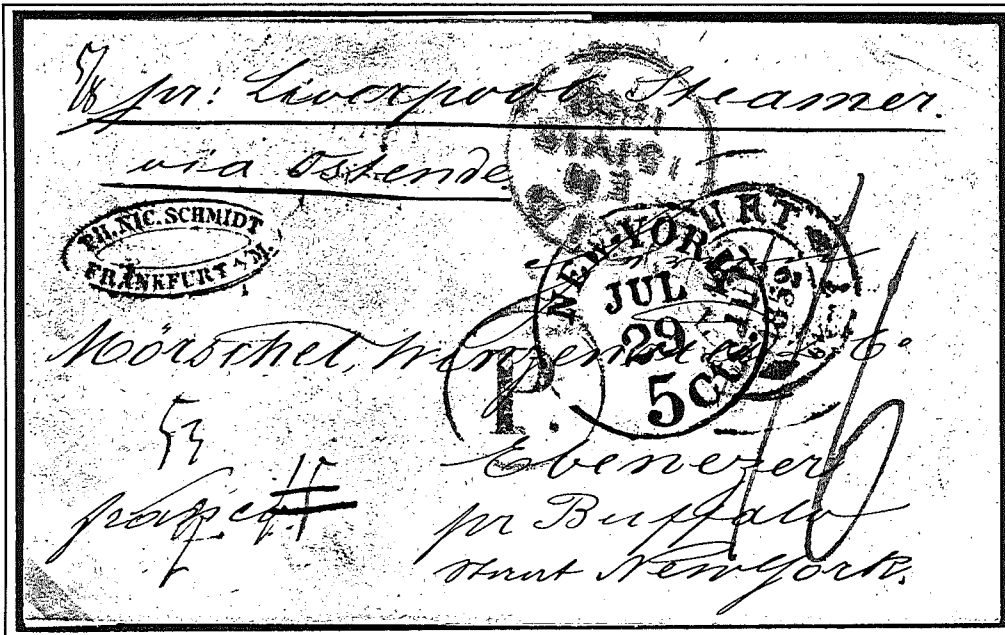
Imprint of red, one penny tax stamp (registered as Freight Circular) stamped on circular to allow free postage within G.B. This did not apply to circulars sent overseas which required the reduced rate of 1 penny. Liverpool struck red "1" handstamp to indicate prepayment. New York seldom marked the postage due on incoming printed matter.

Very few wrappers with their contents have survived intact as they were usually separated from their enclosures and discarded.

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

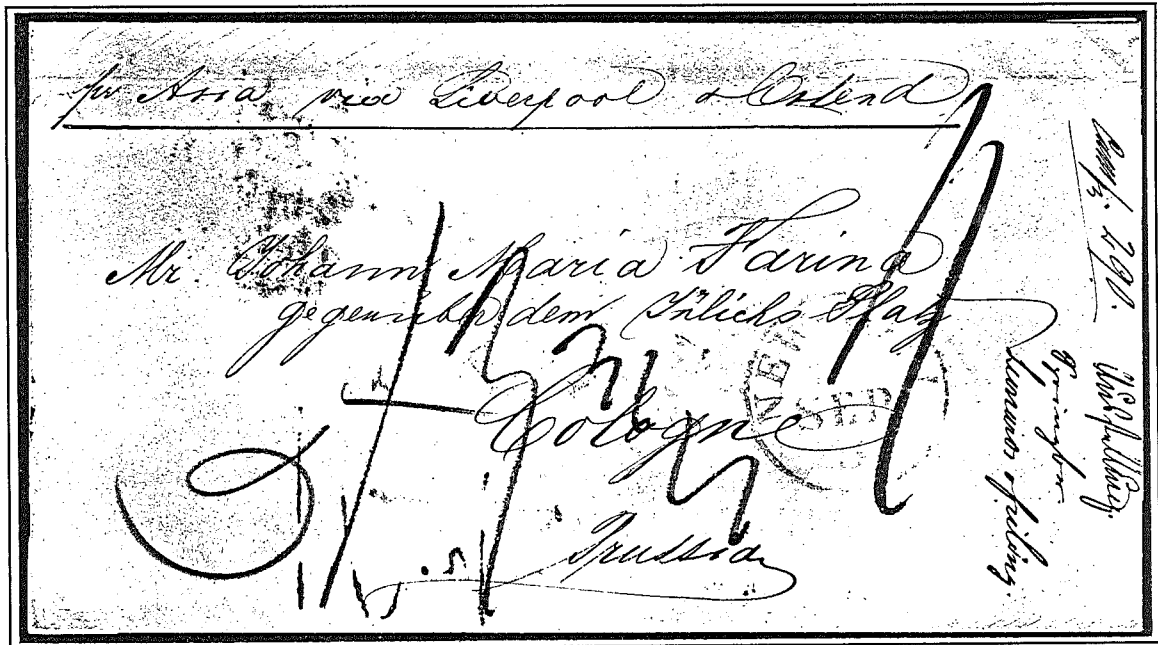
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



12 July 1852 Frankfurt, Germany to Ebenezer, New York
62 kreuzer paid for all transit fees to U.S.
1s6d Prussia credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in Ebenezer

Europa 12 days (West)
Letter sent in open mails (Anglo-Prussian Treaty of 1846);
prepayment included 9 kr. internal and 53 kr. (15 sgr.)
transit fees beyond Prussia for letter weighing 5/8 loth



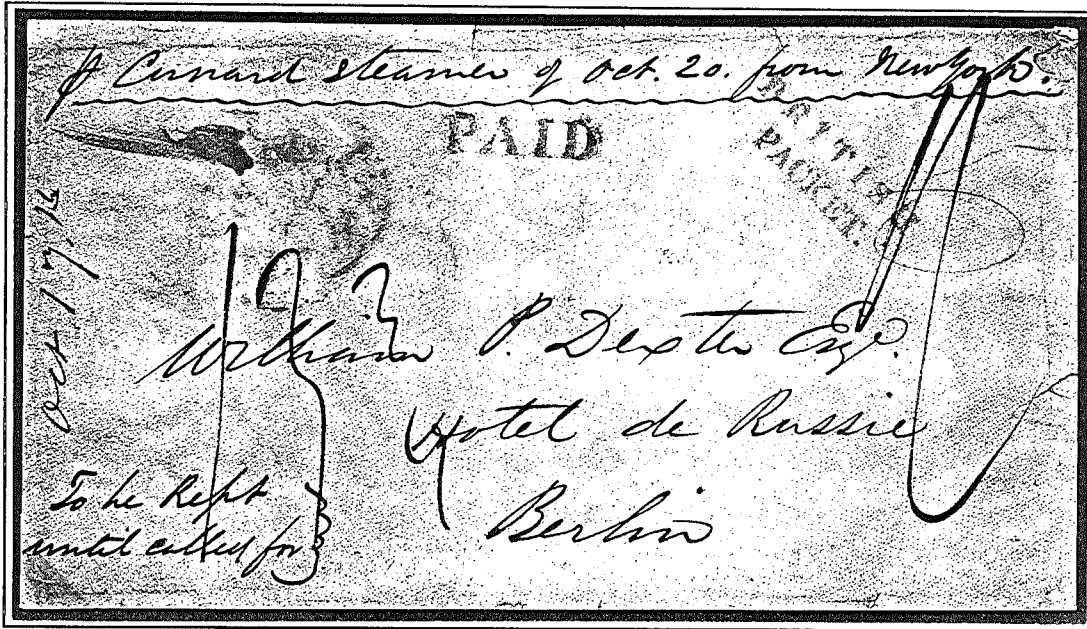
7 September 1852 New York to Cologne, Prussia
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
1s G.B. debit to Prussia
13¼ silbergroschen postage due in Cologne

Asia 12 days (East)
"5" in pencil was New York's statement of prepayment;
Anglo-Prussian Treaty of 1852 allowed G.B. 8d
transatlantic and 4d British transit fees

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

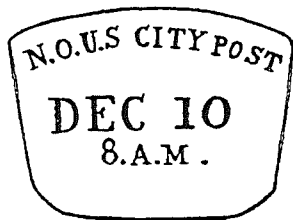
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



**BRITISH
PACKET.**

17 October 1852 Boston to Berlin, Prussia
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
1s G.B. debit to Prussia
13¼ silbergroschen postage due in Berlin

Asia 12 days (East)
New York struck "BRITISH/PACKET" handstamp, an uncommon marking found in both red and black and used only about 8 months to show rate calculated for British service



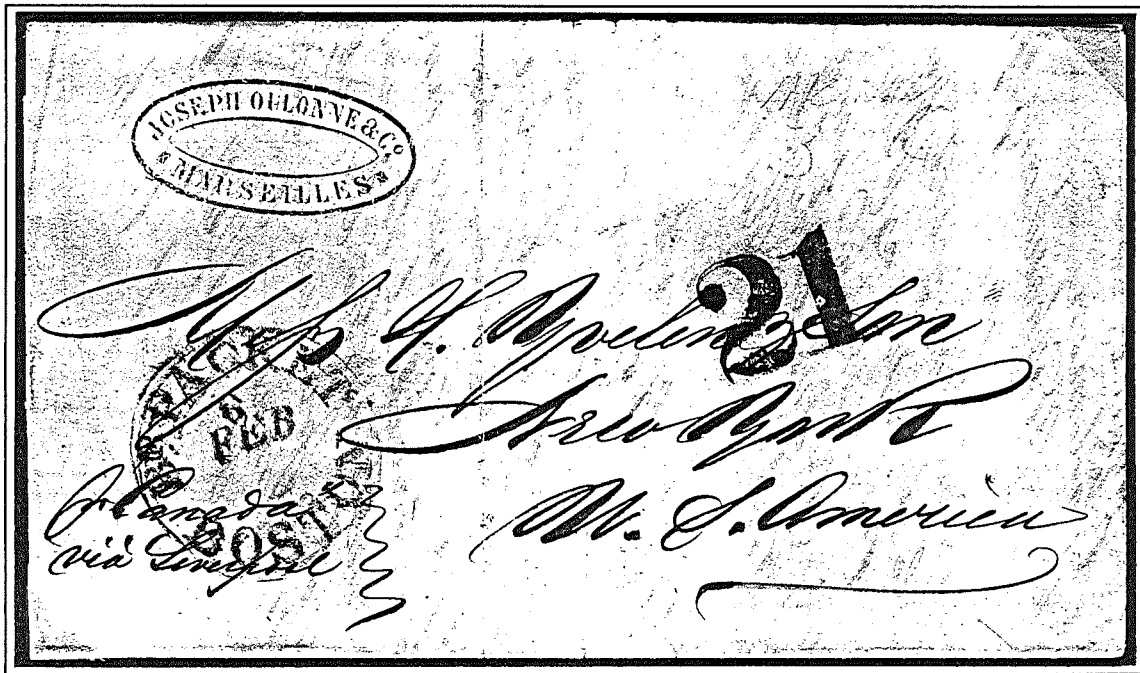
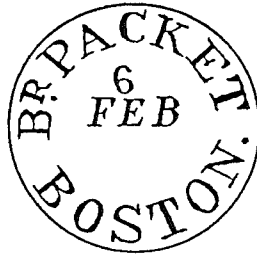
12 November 1852 La Réole, France to New Orleans
26 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
7¢ postage due in New Orleans

Europa 12 days (West)
Prepayment = 2x13 decimes for 8 gram letter
Postage due included 2¢ carrier fee in New Orleans

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



17 January 1853 Marseille, France to New York
13 decimes probably prepaid (no markings shown)
21¢ postage due in New York

Canada 14 days (West)
Reason for absence of French
postal markings is unknown

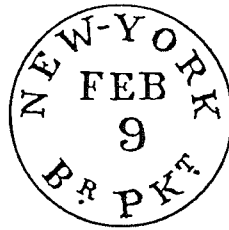
U.S. Postmaster General Hubbard didn't understand that the French and British had agreed in mid-1851 to reduced transit fees through Great Britain for letters carried across the Atlantic by American packets. Thinking that the same transit fees were applied to both British and American packet mails, he considered double sea charges were being imposed on the American packet mails. On 26 January 1853, he ordered that the 21¢ British open mail rate be applied on all mails to or from France through England whether by American or British packet. This increased the British open mail rate by British packet from 5¢ to 21¢. The order was rescinded on 10 February 1853, 16 days later.

Only three eastbound and two westbound Cunard steamship voyages carried mails under this order. The distinctive characteristics of these covers are 21¢ prepayments (or postage due) and indications of carriage on British packets. All covers showing these rates are quite scarce.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



8 February 1853 Philadelphia to Cognac, France
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
13 decimes postage due in Cognac

Africa 14 days (East)
Philadelphia struck red PAID and wrote "21"
alongside in magenta ink for retaliatory fee

To date only 14 covers illustrating 1853 retaliatory rates have been recorded. Of these only five are eastbound covers, including the one above.

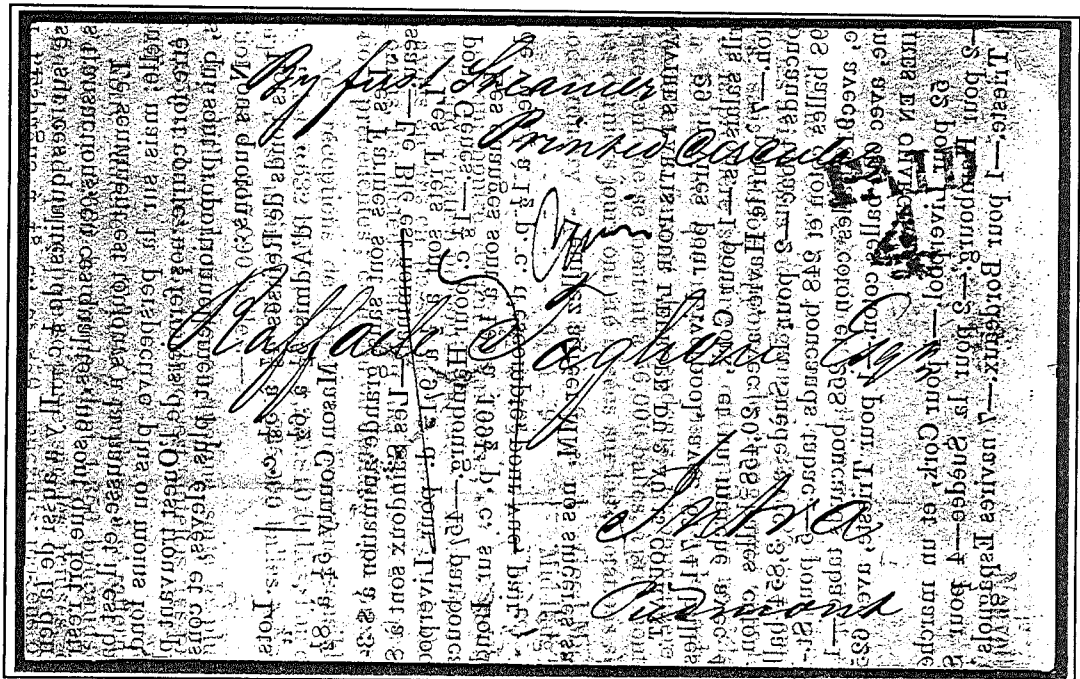
Note the 21¢ prepayment (normally used for American packet service), but endorsement "pr R.M. Steamer 'Africa' from New York Feb 9th." The steamship sailing data, French entry marking, and postage due all support the fact that the cover was carried to G.B. by British steamship.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

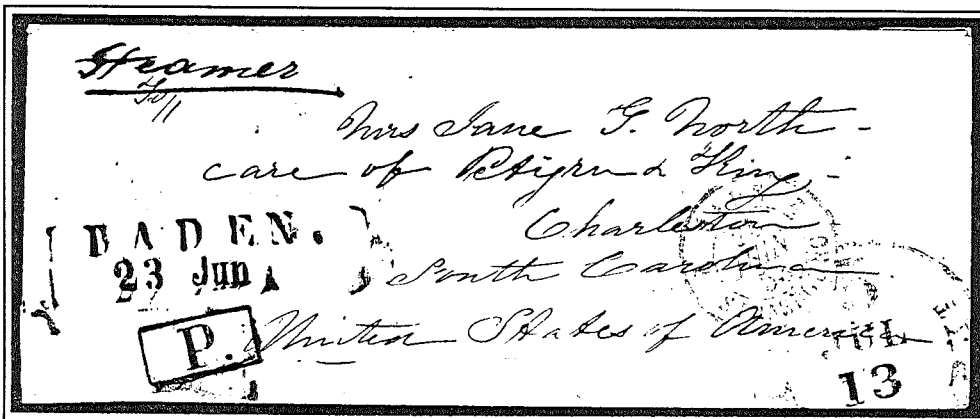
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

PAID
4



16 April 1853 New Orleans to Intra, Kingdom of Sardinia
4¢ paid (newspaper rate, British Open Mail by British packet)
17 centesimi postage due in Intra

America 12 days (East)
Unsealed circulars were treated as newspapers and sent to France via G.B. at 4¢ each; two days after this circular posted, rate reduced to 2¢ vice 4¢



23 June 1853 Baden, Baden to Charleston, South Carolina
37 kreuzer paid for all transit fees to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Charleston

Arabia 11 days (West)
Scarce boxed P. of Kehl exchange office in black; prepayment = 34 kreuzer to France and 3 kreuzer to Baden

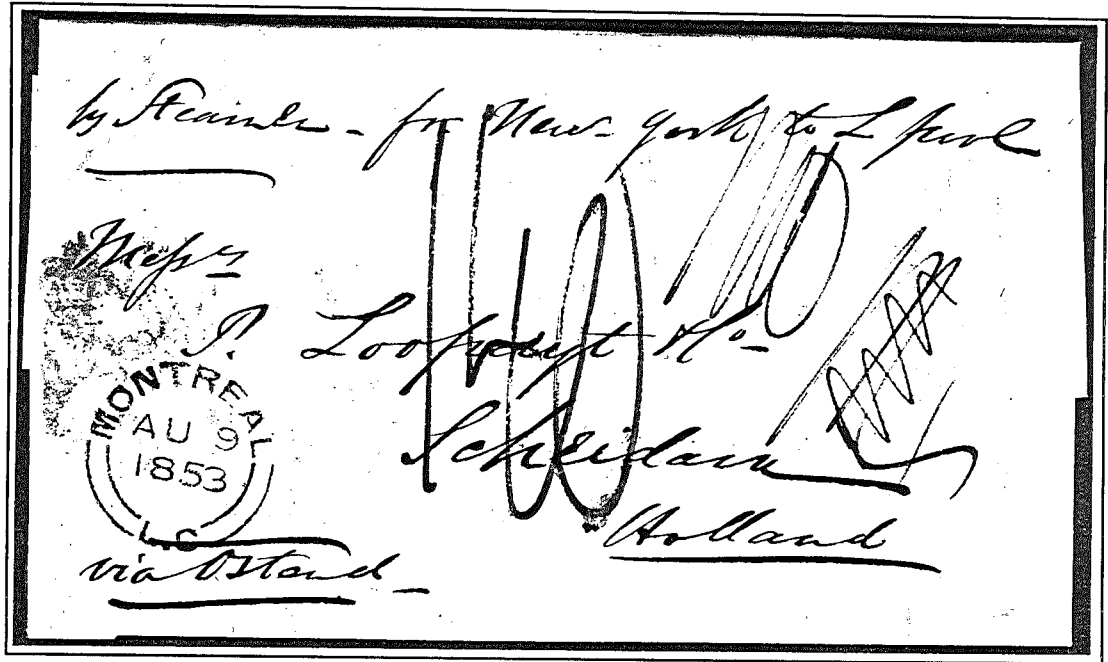
34
37

(Reverse)

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

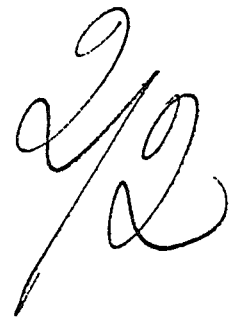
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



8 August 1853 Montreal, Canada to Schiedam, Holland
Letter sent unpaid
1s10d G.B. debit to Holland (corrected from 1s4d)
140 Dutch Cents postage due in Schiedam

Asia 11 days (East)
Letter sent in closed British mails thru New York;
British debit = 2d BNA internal, 2d U.S. transit, 8d
transatlantic and 10d Br. transit fees



(Reverse)

6 September 1853 Vigo, Spain to Kingston, Massachusetts
Letter sent unpaid
68¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
73¢ postage due in Kingston

America 14 days (West)
Letter carried by P&O steamer *Iberia* to Southampton;
postage due = 2s2d (52¢) packet fee to G.B., 8d (16¢)
transatlantic, and 5¢ U.S. fees; only recorded example of
73¢ British mail rate from Spain to U.S.

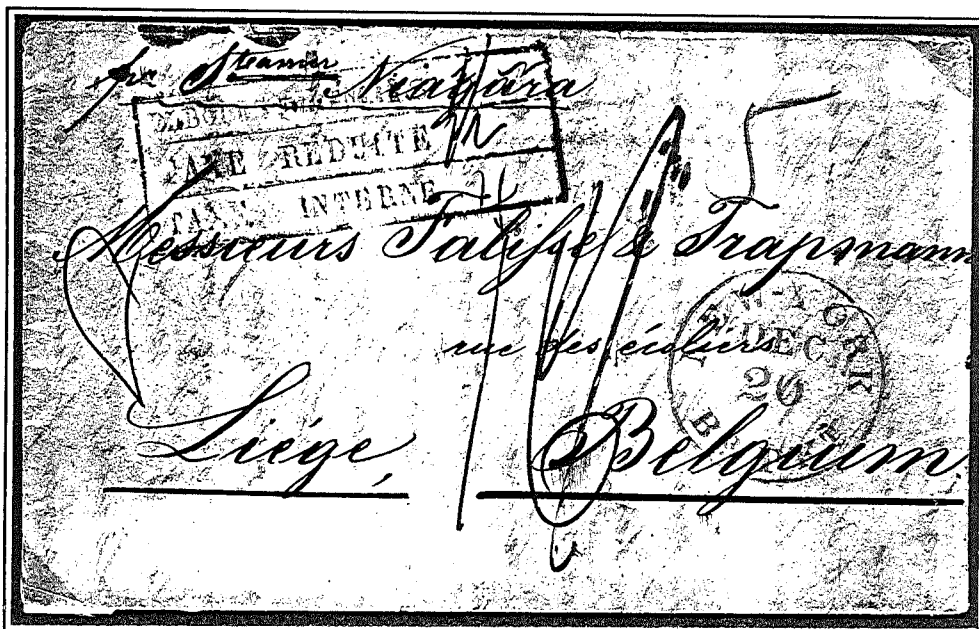
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

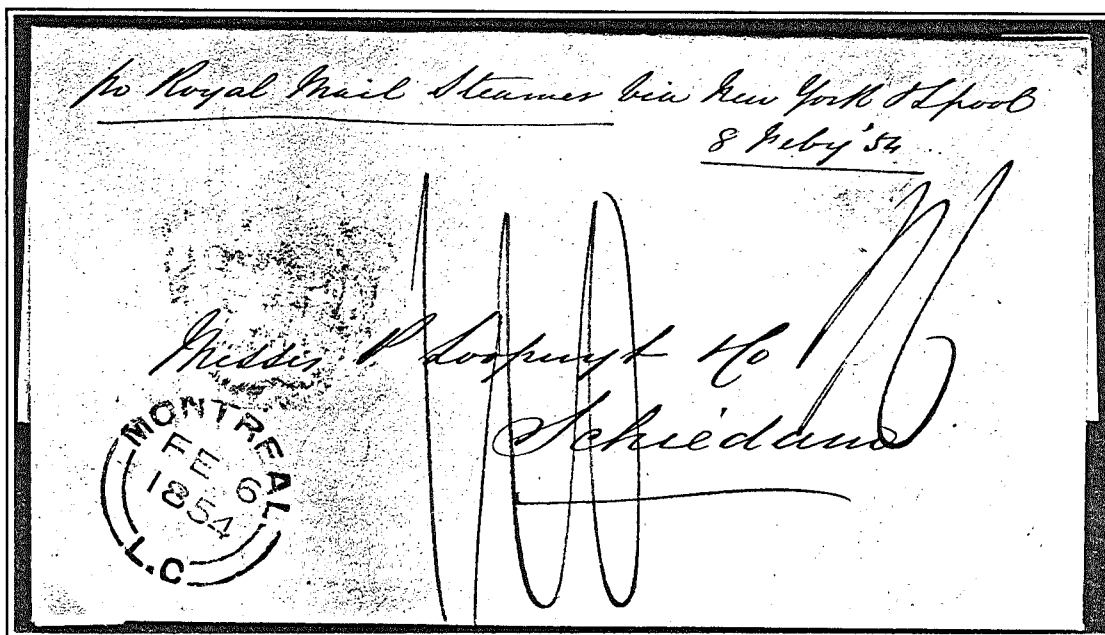
DEBOURS ETRANGERS	2/2
TAXE REDUITE	1/2
TAXE INTERNE	4

(Reduced size)



20 December 1853 New York to Liege, Belgium
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
1s G.B. debit to Belgium
16 decimes postage due in Liege (8 gram weight)

Niagara 13 days (East)
Belgian tax stamp showed 1s foreign fee (1st line), 12 dec. Belgian conversion (2nd line), and 4 decimes internal fees (3rd line) for total of 16 dec. postage due



6 February 1854 Montreal, Canada to Schiedam, Holland
Letter sent unpaid
1s6d G.B. debit to Holland
110 Dutch Cents postage due in Schiedam

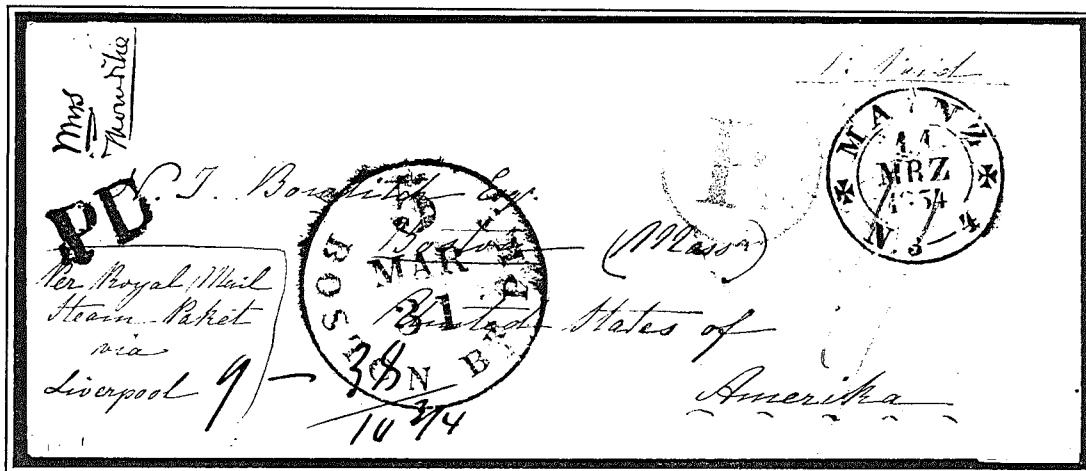
Asia 12 days (East)
New treaty between G.B. and Holland reduced British fees on this letter by 4d; postage due = 90 Cents to G.B. and 20 Cents internal fees



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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

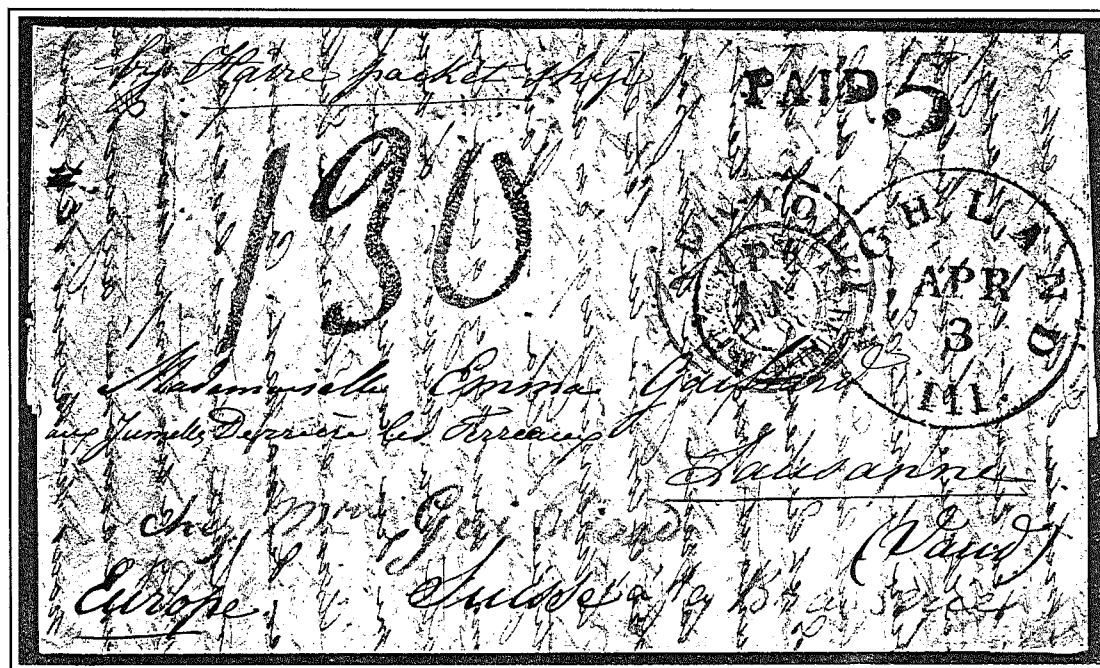
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



11 March 1854 Mainz, Hesse-Darmstadt to Boston
47 kreuzer paid for all transit fees to U.S.
1s Prussian credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in Boston

Canada 13 days (West)
Prepayment = 9 kr. internal and 38 kr. "foreign" fees
(10¼ silbergroschen); British credit included 8d
transatlantic and 4d British internal fees

PAID 5



2 April 1854 Highland, Illinois to Lausanne, Switzerland
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
130 rappen postage due in Lausanne

Canada 12 days (East)
Postage due to 1st Swiss rayon from G.B. via France;
although letter endorsed "by Havre packet ship," it was
sent by British packet because only 5¢ prepaid

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



37
39

27 October 1854 Cardiff, Wales to Castine, Maine
Letter sent unpaid
32¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
37¢ postage due in Castine

Asia 12 days (West)
Letter sent in error to Nantes, France then returned to London
French passed 8 decimes postage due on to G.B. who passed
debit to U.S. (16¢ transatlantic fee and 16¢ to France)



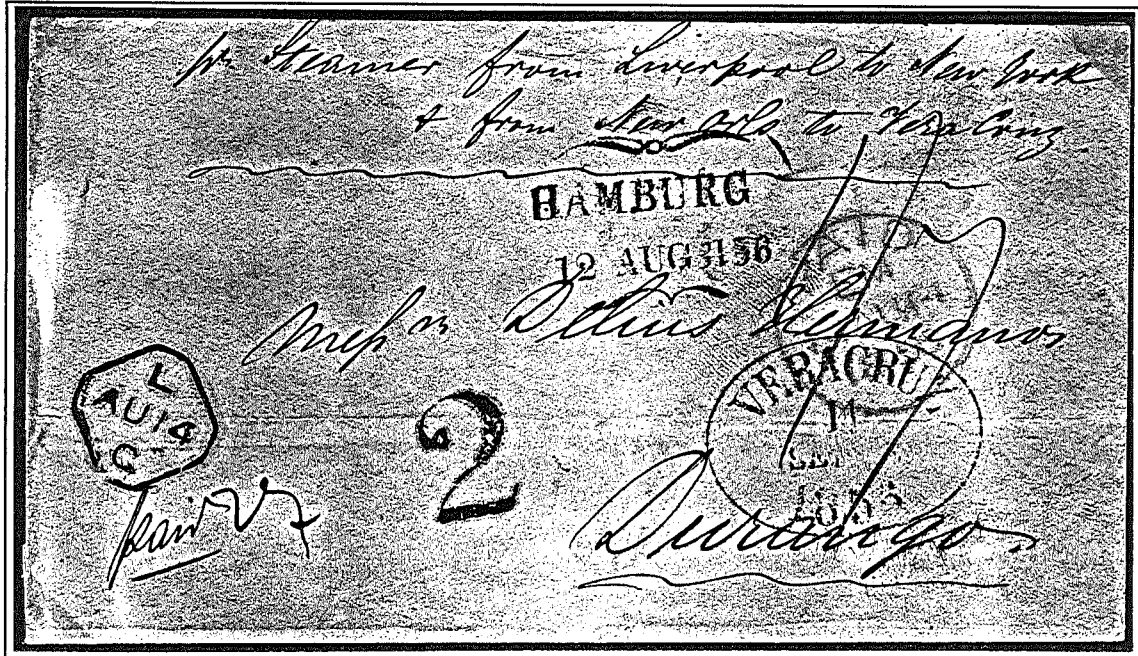
12 June 1855 Bordeaux, France to New Orleans
13 decimes paid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
7¢ postage due in New Orleans

America 12 days (West)
Postage due included 2¢ carrier fee in New Orleans
Oval CAR.2 delivery fee marking not known used
with black circular N.O.U.S.CITY POST

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



12 August 1856 Hamburg to Durango, Mexico
27 schillinge paid for all transit fees
2 reales postage due in Durango

Niagara 11 days (West)
1s7d Hamburg credit to G.B.; Postage due was for ½ oz.
letter going beyond 30 leagues (about 75 miles)

Routing endorsement on this letter, "pr Steamer from Liverpool to New York & from New Orls to Vera Cruz," requested an unusual postal route to Mexico, consisted of Hamburg-G.B. treaty to London, U.S.-G.B. treaty to New York, and U.S. contract steamship mail service from New Orleans to Vera Cruz. The rate for this route in Northern Germany currency was 3 silbergroschen (sgr.) internal and 16¼ sgr. foreign fees or 19¼ sgr. total (equivalent to 27 schillinge Hamburg currency).

The Liverpool transit lozenge substantiated routing to U.S. since normal mails by West Indies packet were despatched from London to St. Thomas and did not show a Liverpool marking.

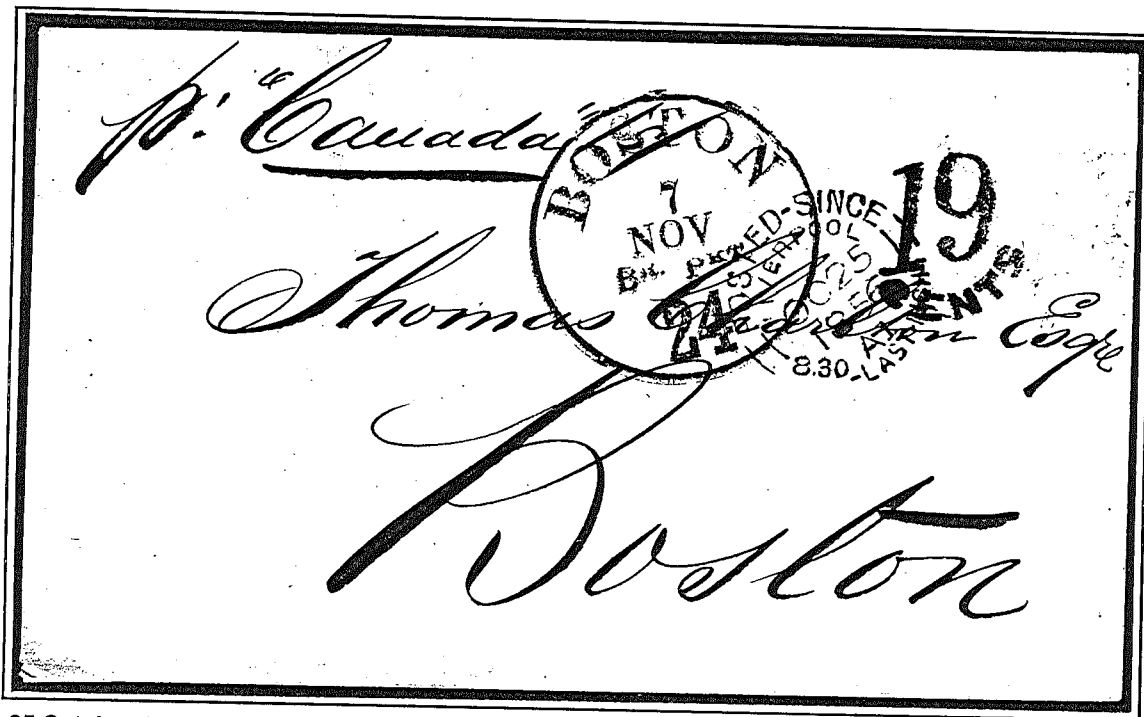
From Aug-Oct 1856 the New Orleans-Vera Cruz steamship operations were interrupted. This letter was probably sent from New York to Havana and then by British mail steamer to Vera Cruz.

This is the only recorded example of a cover from Germany to Mexico sent by this route.

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

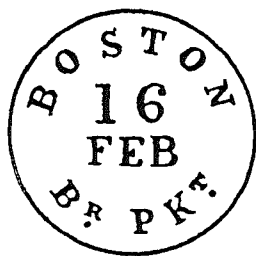
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

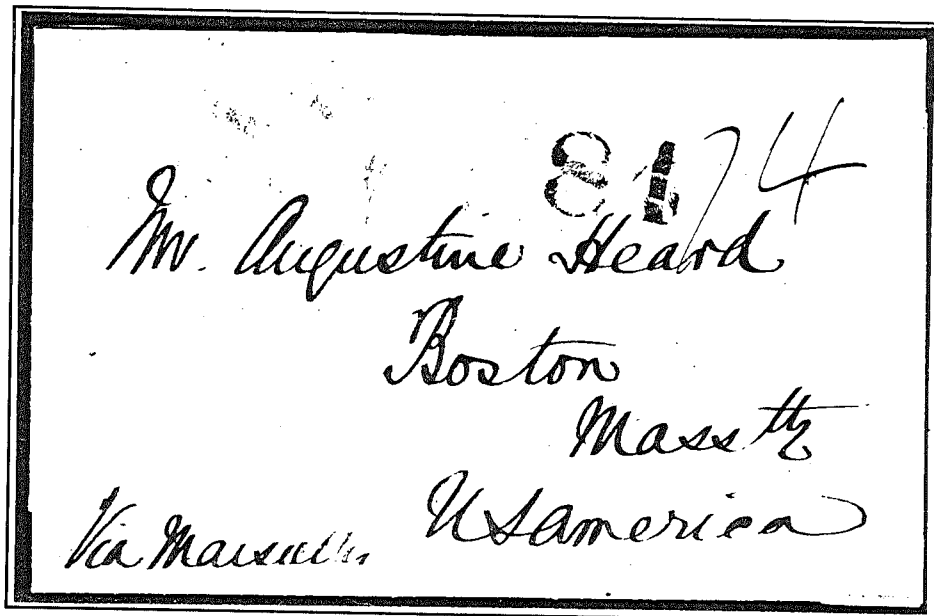


25 October 1856 Liverpool to Boston
Letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in Boston

Canada 13 days (West)
Letter posted after regular mails closed ; Liverpool
had special datestamp "POSTED-SINCE 8.30-
LAST-NIGHT" to account for late handling



(Reverse)



12 December 1856 Hong Kong, China to Boston
Letter sent unpaid
74¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
84¢ postage due in Boston

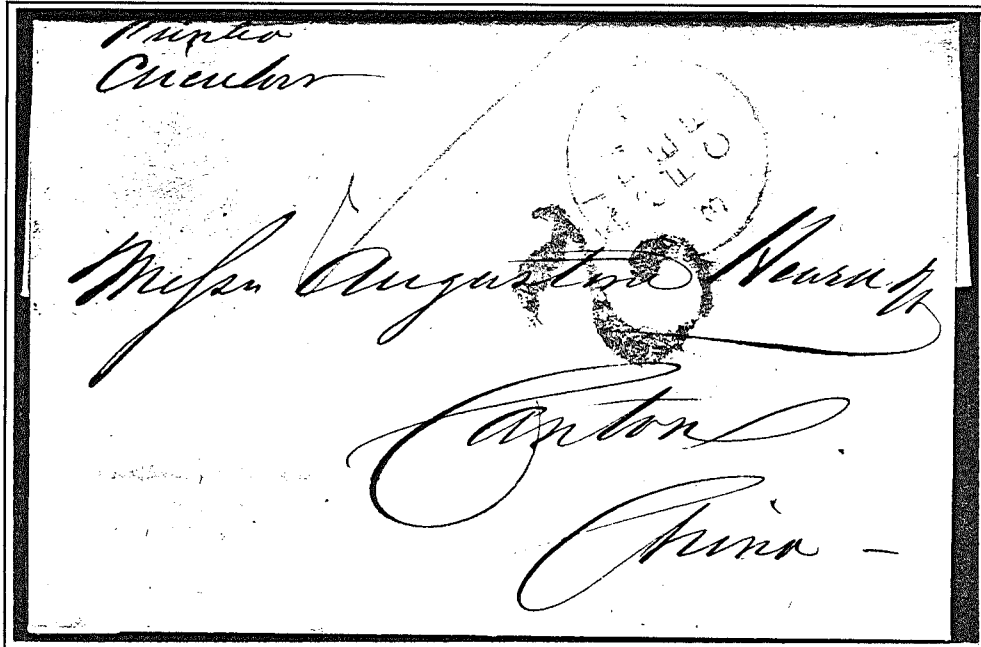
Europa 15 days (West)
Letter carried from Hong Kong to Marseille by P&O steamers
Norma to Galle, Alma to Suez and Valetta to Marseille
Postage due based on weight of 1/2-3/4 oz.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

2



1 January 1857 New York to Hong Kong, China
4¢ paid for newspaper rate to China
2¢ U.S. credit to G.B.
1d postage due in Hong Kong

Asia 12 days (East)
P&O steamers carried circular from Southampton to
Alexandria and from Suez to Hong Kong

Unsealed printed circular announcing dissolution of Haggerty, Jones & Co. of New York and formation of new company, Haggerty & Company. To qualify as a circular there was no hand writing except the address.

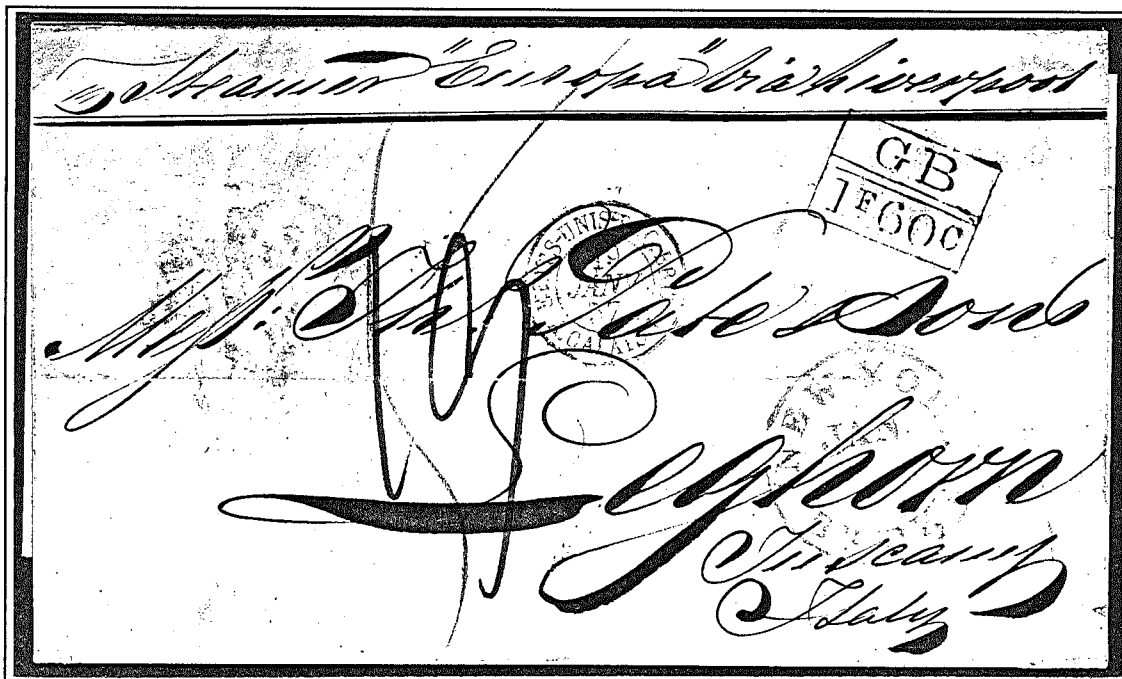
Printed circulars were sent under newspaper rates in 1857. The newspaper rate to China by British Mails via the Southampton route was 4¢ of which New York credited 2¢ to G.B. The pencil marking is believed to be 1 penny postage due in Hong Kong.

Printed circulars to Hong Kong are uncommon and those paid in cash, scarce.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



6 January 1857 New York to Leghorn (Livorno), Tuscany
5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
19 crazie postage due in Leghorn

Europa 11 days (East)
Letter in closed mail bag from Paris to Leghorn,
probably going by the overland route

Effective 1 January 1857, a new postal convention between France and Great Britain lowered the rates between those two countries. This directly affected rates on mails transiting France from the United States. The 13 decime per 7½ grams rate from the United States to France via England by British packet was reduced to 8 decimes per 7½ grams. New accountancy markings on unpaid letters were placed into use. The marking shown above, which was struck at London, indicated that Great Britain was to receive 1 Franc 60 centimes from France for each 30 grams bulk letter weight.

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 during the first three months of 1857. After this, and until the French Treaty ceased at the end of 1869, new markings associated with the United States-France Convention were used.

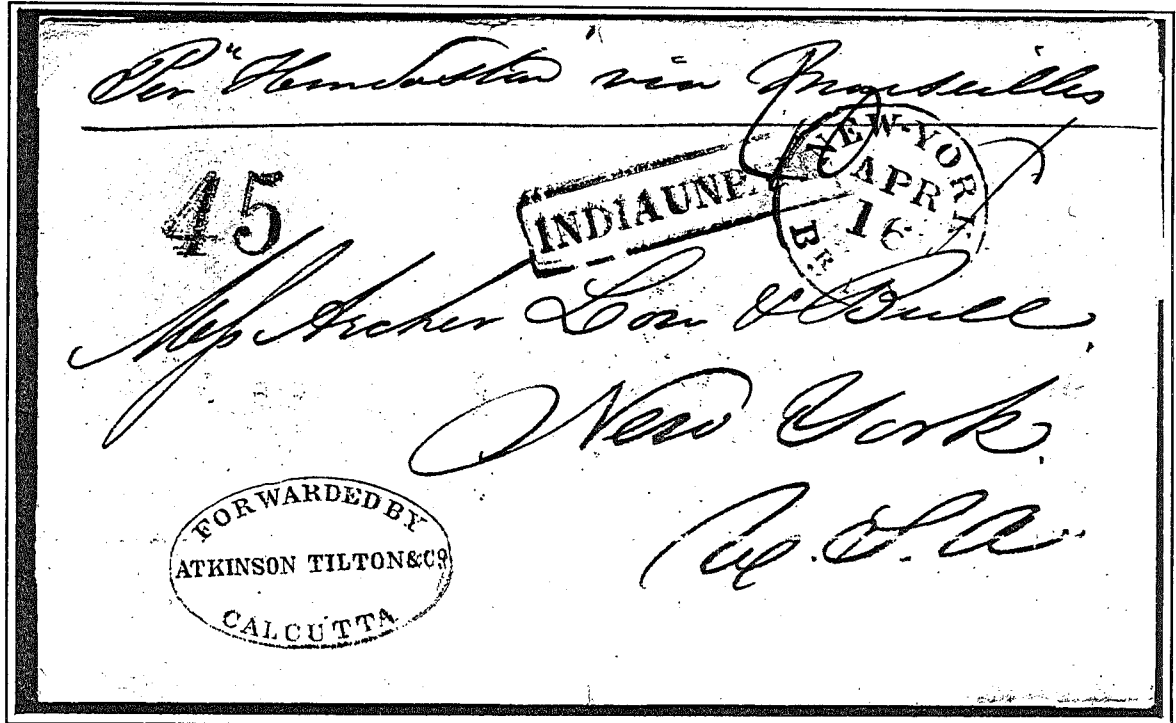
Covers going beyond France during this three month period are quite uncommon.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

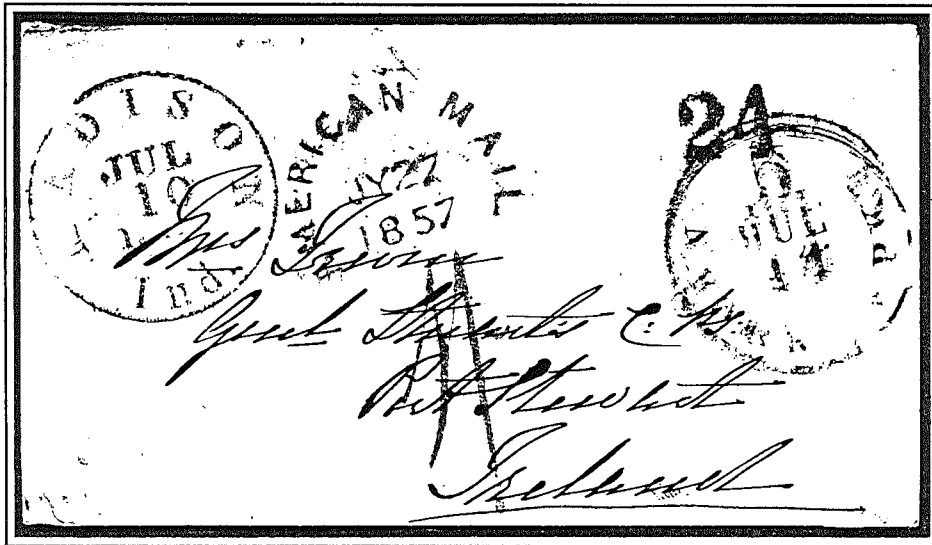
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

40



19 February 1857 Calcutta, India to New York
Letter sent unpaid
40¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
45¢ postage due in New York

Arabia 12 days (West)
Calcutta marked boxed "INDIA UNPAID"; ¼-½ oz. letter
carried by P&O steamers to Marseille and overland to London
Forwarder's mark was originator's corner marking



10 July 1857 Madison, Indiana to Port Stewart, Ireland
Letter sent unpaid
5¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
1s postage due in Port Stewart

Niagara 11 days (East)
In Jan 1856 London authorized Dublin to rate Irish mails when
there was insufficient time to do so in Liverpool; Uncommon
Dublin "AMERICAN MAIL" marking with attached rate

AMERICAN MAIL
JY27
1857

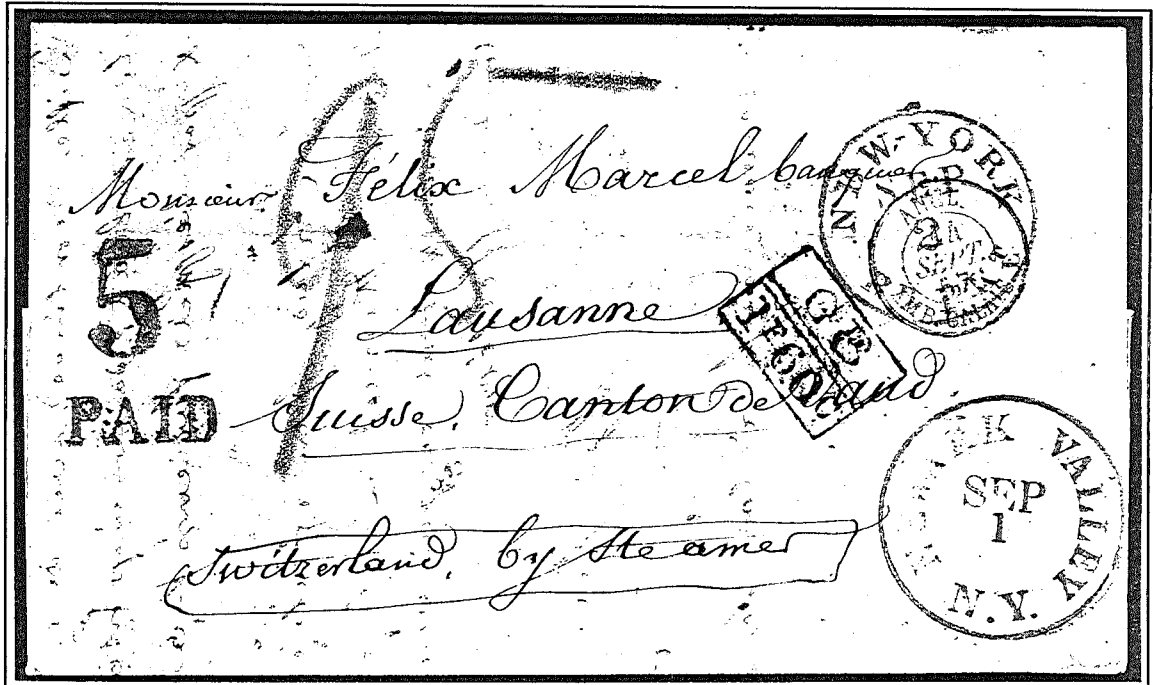
M

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

GB
1F60c



1 September 1857 Newark Valley, N.Y. to Lausanne, Switzerland
5¢ paid 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 were still in effect after start of U.S.-French Treaty, but Post Office did not encourage their use; examples are uncommon



22 December 1857 Boston to Jerez de la Frontera, Spain
37¢ paid for British mail rate via France
32¢ U.S. credit to G.B.
4 reales postage due in Jerez de la Frontera

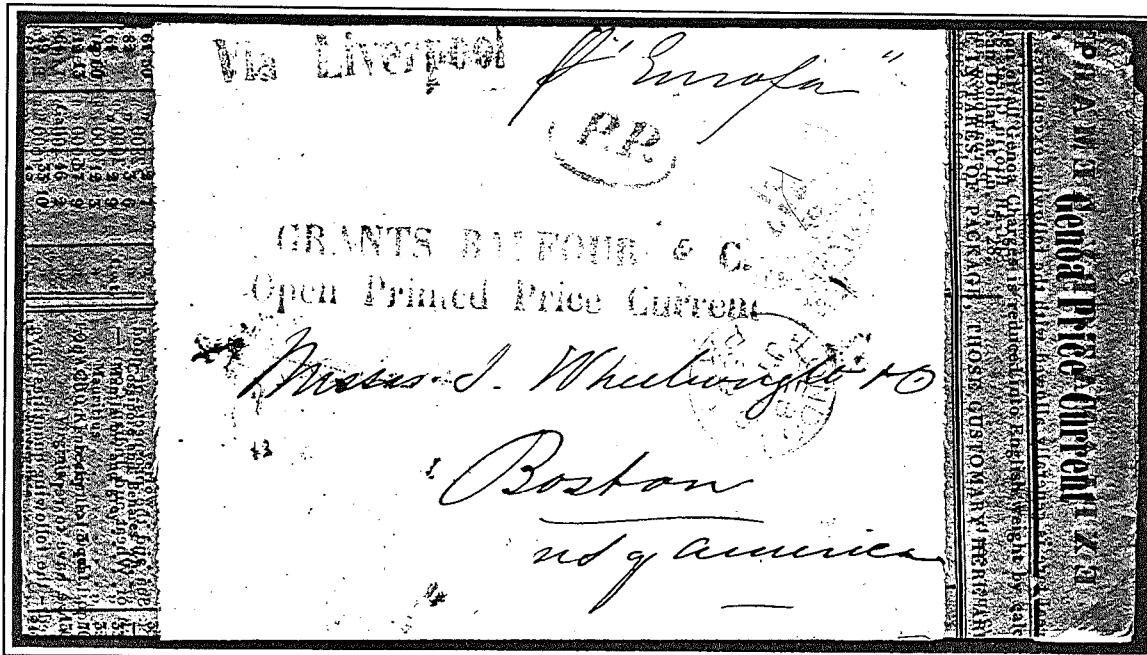
Europa 12 days (East)
London applied red circular "PP" (1856 Anglo-French convention); 37¢ rate paid to Spanish border only; covers are quite scarce (effective Jan 57-Oct 58)



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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

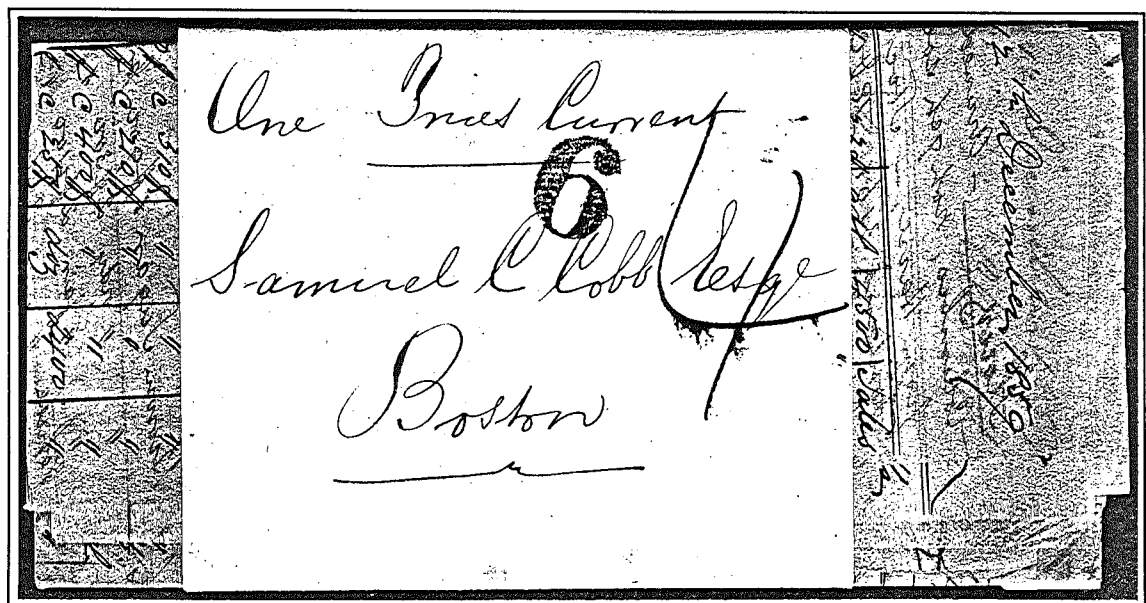
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



9 July 1859 Genoa, Kingdom of Sardinia to Boston
17 centesimi paid for circular rate (not shown)
2¢ postage due in Boston (also not shown)

Europa 12 days (West)
Printed circular with wrapper sent under Anglo-Sardinian Treaty of 1857 and U.S.-G.B. Treaty of 1848; Turin marked oval "P.P."

6



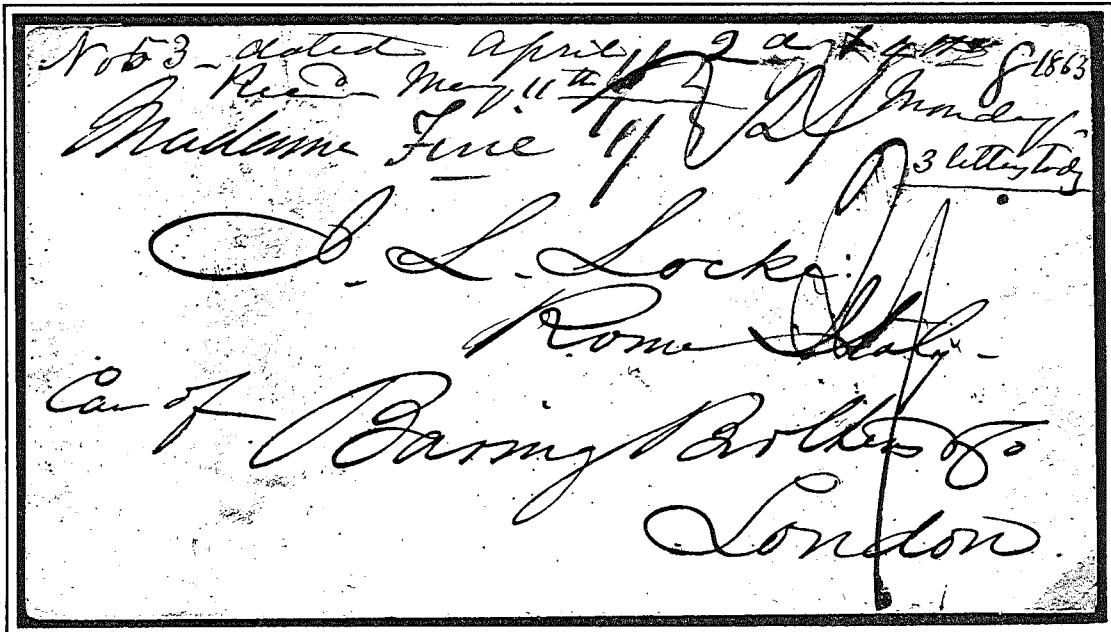
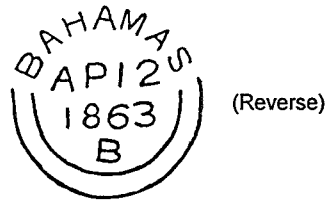
12 December 1859 Bahia, Brazil to Boston
Circular sent unpaid
4¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
6¢ postage due in Boston

Africa 16 days (West)
Circular carried by RMSP Co. steamer *Tyne* to Southampton;
Boston marked 6¢ postage due by adding 2¢ to British debit;
Scarce circular in wrapper from Brazil via G.B. to U.S.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



2,4 April 1863 Savannah, Georgia to London and Rome
letter sent unpaid
2s postage due in London

Africa 11 days (East)
London agent, Baring Brothers & Co.,
forwarded letter privately to Rome

Letter carried privately to Charleston, South Carolina, where it was placed on board the blockade running steamship, *Margaret and Jessie*, departing on 8 April and arriving at Nassau, Bahamas on 10 April 1863. Letter entered British mail system at Nassau and was despatched to New York on Cunard branch steamer *British Queen*, which called at Nassau on 13 April from Havana and arrived at New York on April 17. The British mail bags were transferred to the Cunard steamer *Africa*, which departed New York on 22 April and arrived at Queenstown on 3 May 1863.

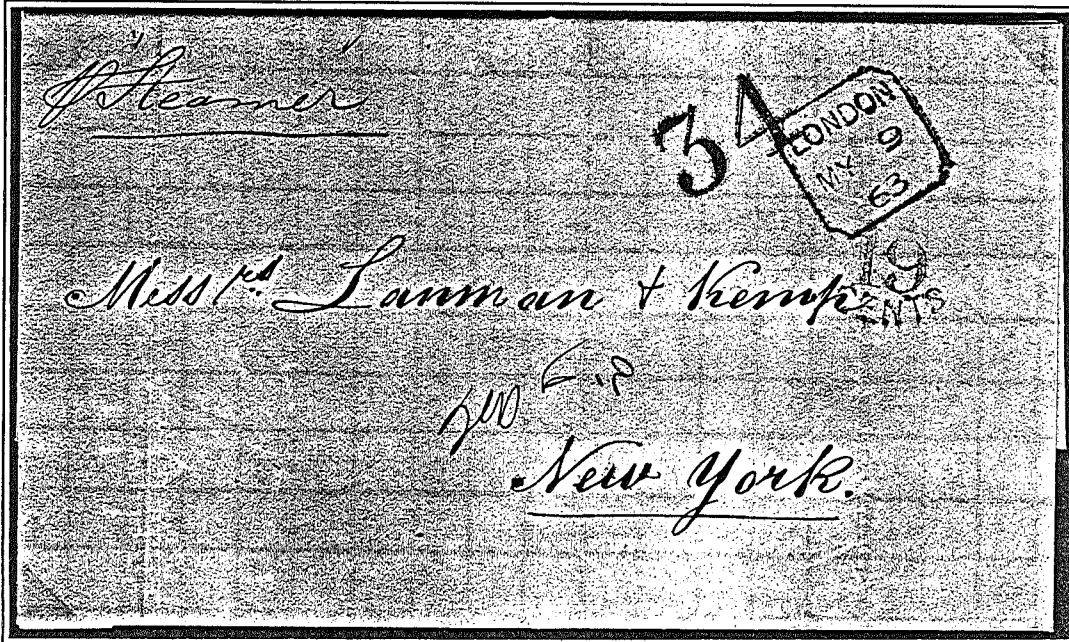
London marked letter for 1s postage due, the British West Indies rate, plus 1s unpaid letter fine. Both the rate and the fine became effective 1 April 1863.

Docketing on letter shows arrival in Rome on Monday, 11 May 1863, with two other letters, seven weeks after leaving Savannah and traveling through the blockade from the Confederate South to Europe during the American Civil War.

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

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

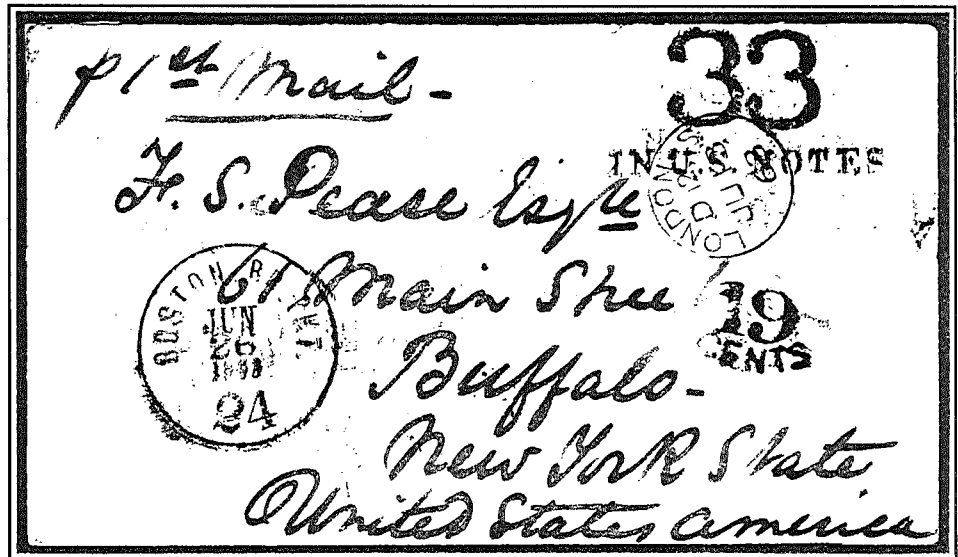
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



4 May 1863 Messina, Italy to New York
Carried privately to London where forwarder posted it unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York

China 12 days (West)
34¢ postage due in greenback currency; Depreciated
currency ratings began 1 May 63; New York introduced
special dual rating datestamps one month later

33
IN U.S. NOTES



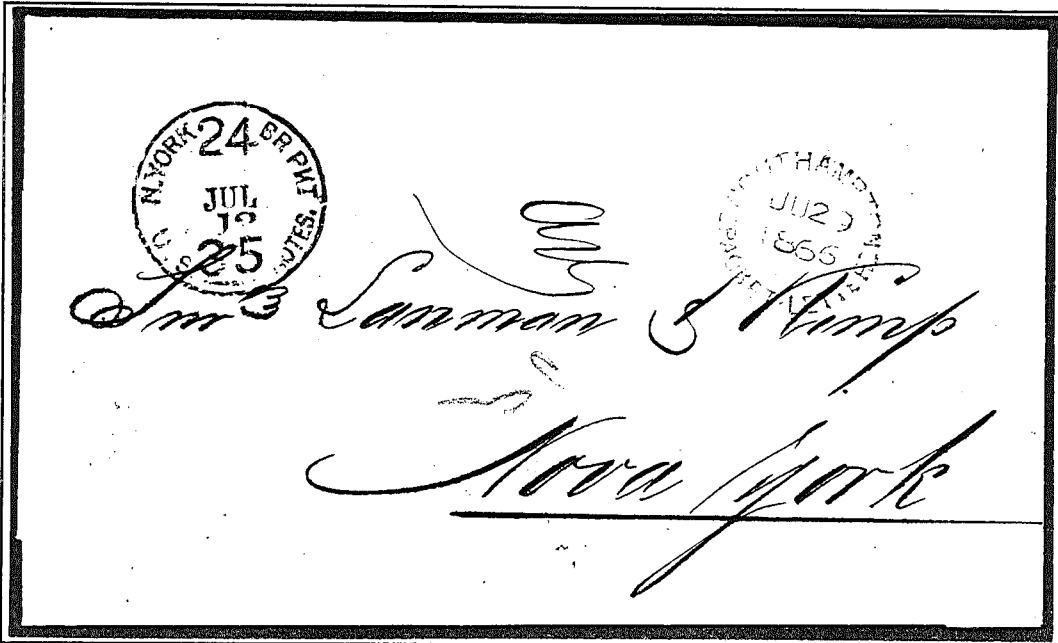
13 June 1863 London to Buffalo, New York
Letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in Buffalo

Canada 12 days (West)
33¢ postage due in greenback currency; Boston
started using depreciated currency rates in Jun 63; "IN
U.S. NOTES" rate calculated with arrival of each mail

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

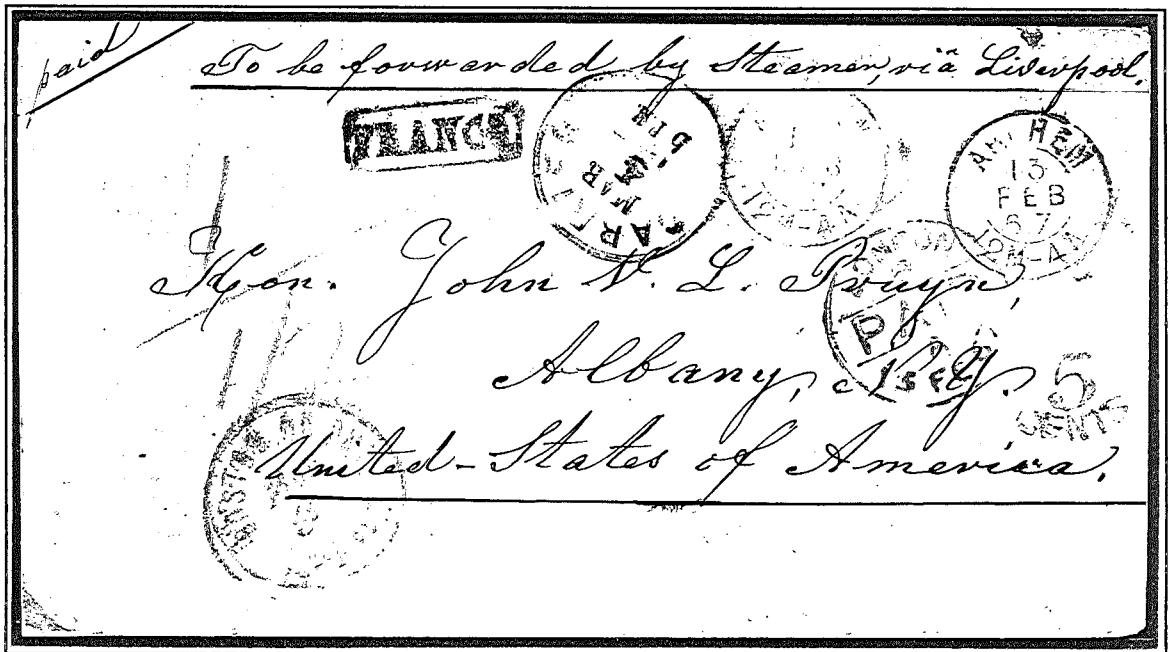
1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



9 June 1866 Pernambuco, Brazil to New York
Letter sent unpaid as loose letter on mail steamer from Brazil
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York

Persia 11 days (West)
Postage due in greenback currency was 35¢; New York
marked 24¢ postage from G.B. in absence of British debit;
uncommon SOUTHAMPTON PACKET-LETTER datestamp



13 February 1867 Arnhem, Holland to Albany, New York
70 Dutch Cents paid to destination (manuscript on reverse)
1s½d Holland credit to G.B.
5¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

Asia 14 days (West)
From 1 Jul 66, fully paid letters could be sent in British Open
Mails even though there was no treaty between Holland
and U.S.; Carrier cds showed local delivery in Albany

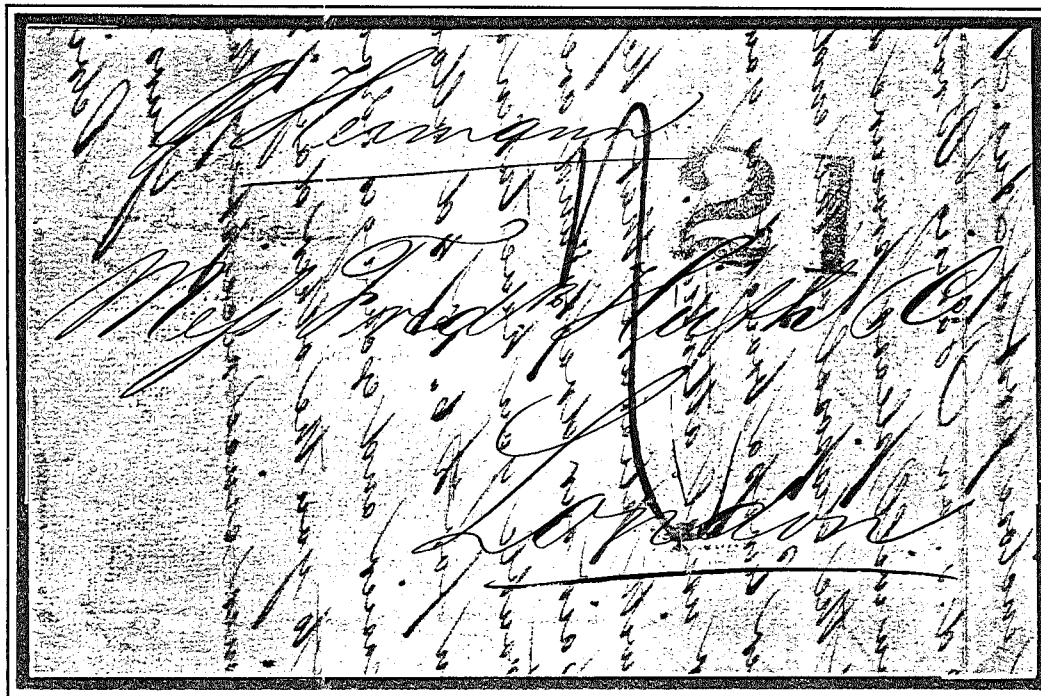
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 68

The first mails to leave the United States on an American steamer, after the 1848 Postal Convention with Great Britain went into effect on 15 February 1849, departed New York on 20 February 1849 (Ocean Line steamer). Letters could be sent either fully paid or unpaid. Partial payment was not allowed. On unpaid letters, the United States debited Great Britain 21¢ (5¢ U.S. inland portion and 16¢ transatlantic sea postage). This 21¢ was called the British Open Mail rate by American packet.

"American packet" referred to a steamship under contract to the United States to carry mails. Before the Civil War, only steamships of American companies had these contracts. Afterwards, contracts to carry American mails were awarded to foreign steamship lines including Great Britain, Canada, and Germany.



20 April 1849 New York to London
Letter sent unpaid
1s postage due in London

Hermann 14 days (East)
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.

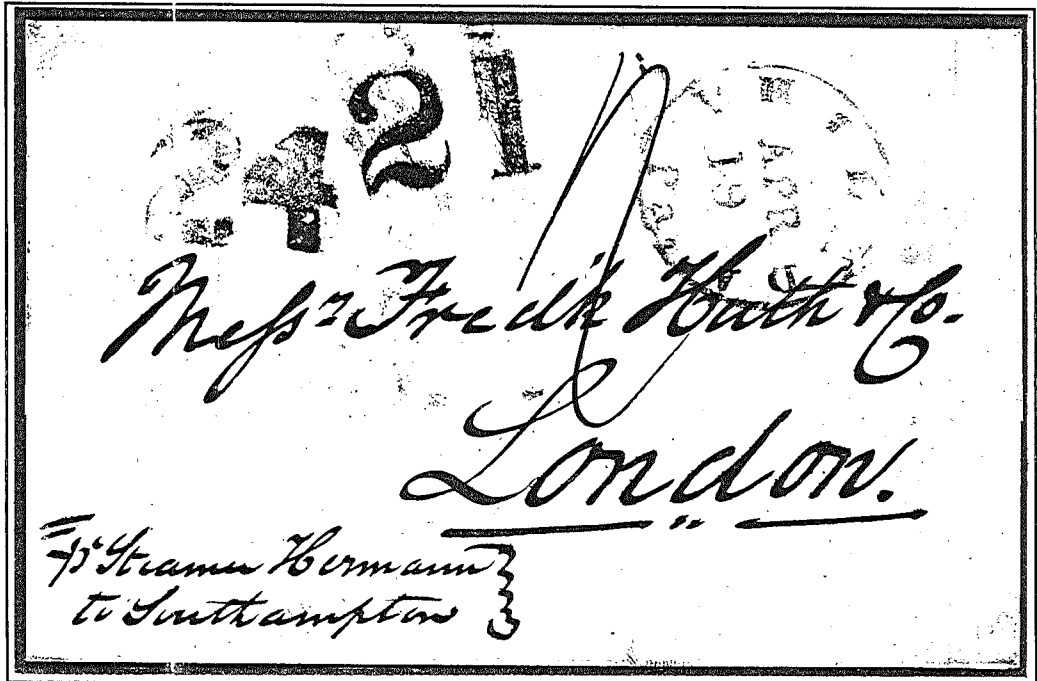
This cover shows the rating marks of an unpaid letter carried by American steamer. The New York exchange office struck the black "21" debit marking (5¢ U.S. internal and 16¢ sea postage). This large "21" handstamp was used in New York for only about a year, an uncommon marking.

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

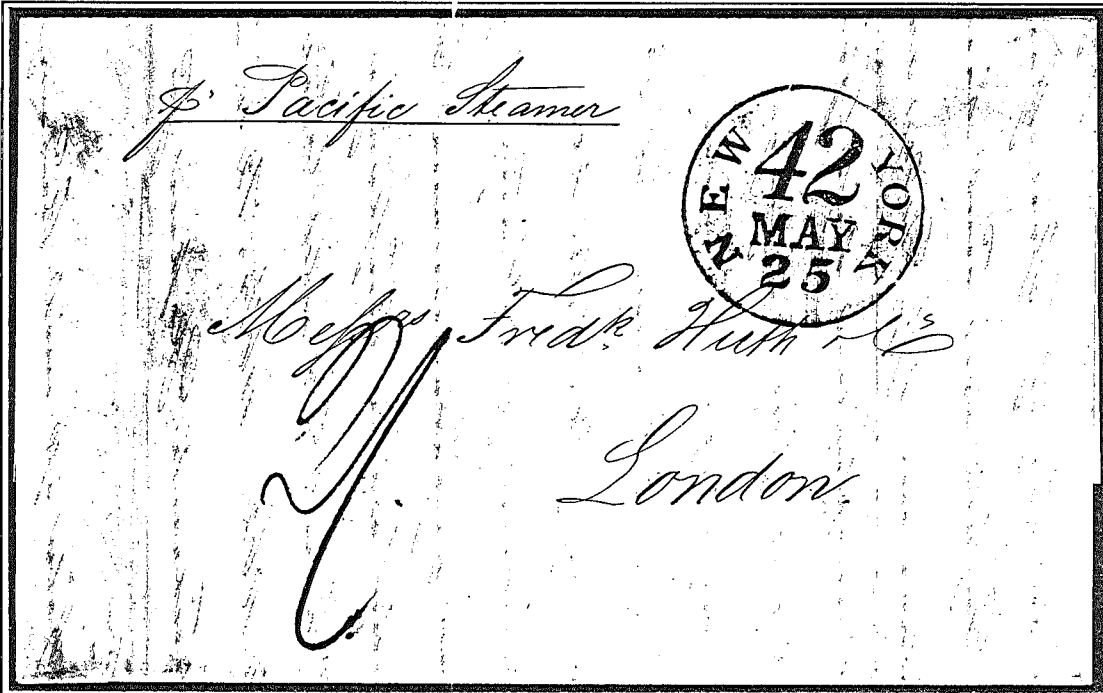
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

21



19 April 1850 Philadelphia to London
Letter sent unpaid
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
1s postage due in London

Hermann 17 days (East)
Philadelphia struck crude blue "24" to indicate unpaid rate; New York marked 21¢ debit (less than half dozen examples recorded)



25 May 1850 New York to London
Letter sent unpaid
42¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
2s postage due in London

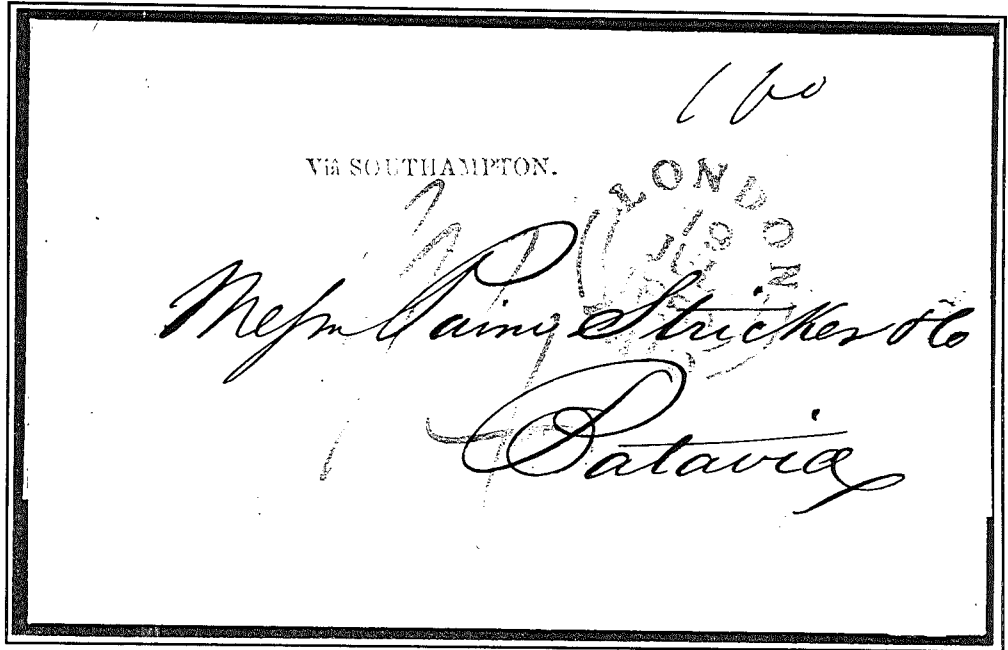
Pacific 13 days (East)
Letter carried on maiden voyage of *Pacific* and second voyage of Collins Line; U.S. debit to G.B. was 2x21¢ = 42¢ for ½-1 oz letter

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

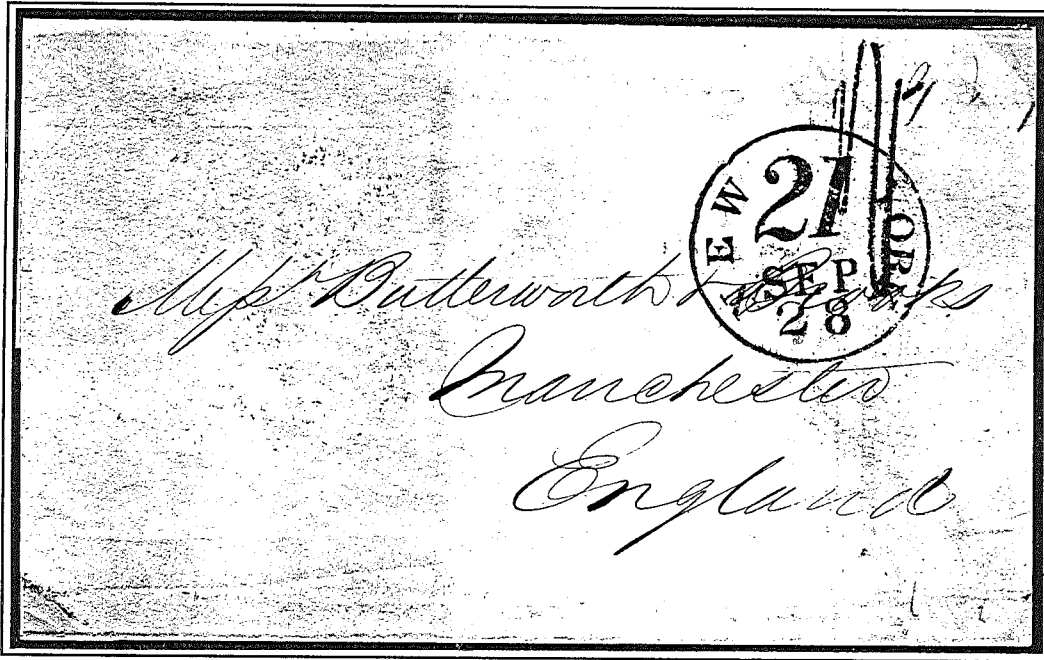
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

VIA SOUTHAMPTON.



6 July 1850 New York to Batavia, Dutch East Indies
Letter carried privately to London and posted
1s4d paid for all transit fees to Singapore
160 Dutch doits postage due in Batavia

Pacific 11 days (East)
Letter carried "out of the mails" to London forwarder who
applied "Via SOUTHAMPTON" route marking; postage
due = 100 doits to Singapore and 60 doits transit to Java



27 September 1850 New York to Manchester, England
Letter sent unpaid
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
1s postage due in Manchester

Pacific 11 days (East)
New York cds showed date steamer scheduled to depart;
actual departure one day later due to accident at pier

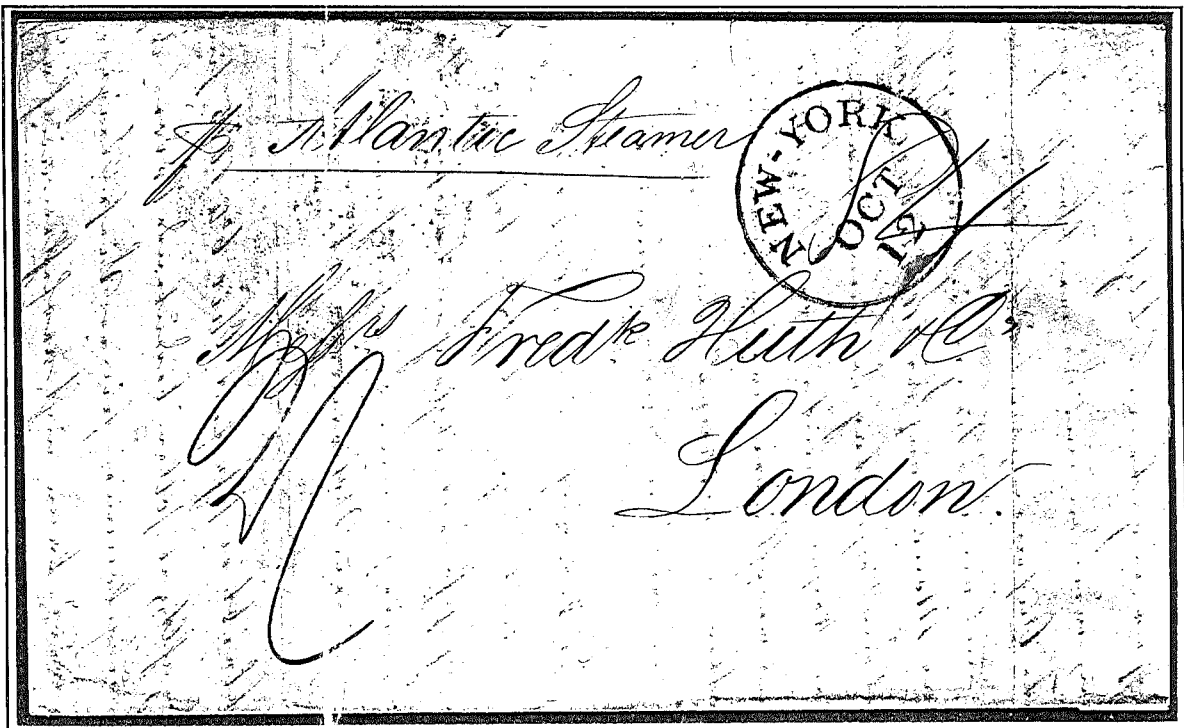
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

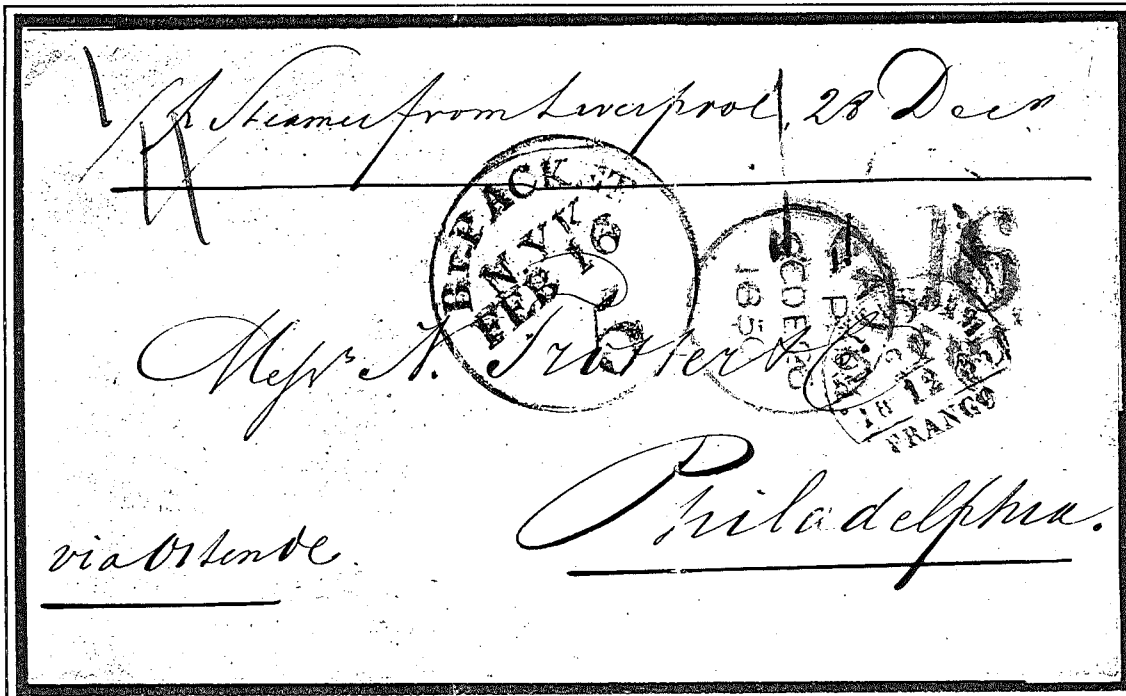


(Reduced size)



11 October 1850 New York to London
Letter sent unpaid
84¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
4s postage due in London

Atlantic 12 days (East)
New York cds (first ocean mail type) infrequently
useu on transatlantic mails; U.S. debit 4x21¢ = 84¢
for 1-2 oz letter (quadruple rate)



16 CENTS

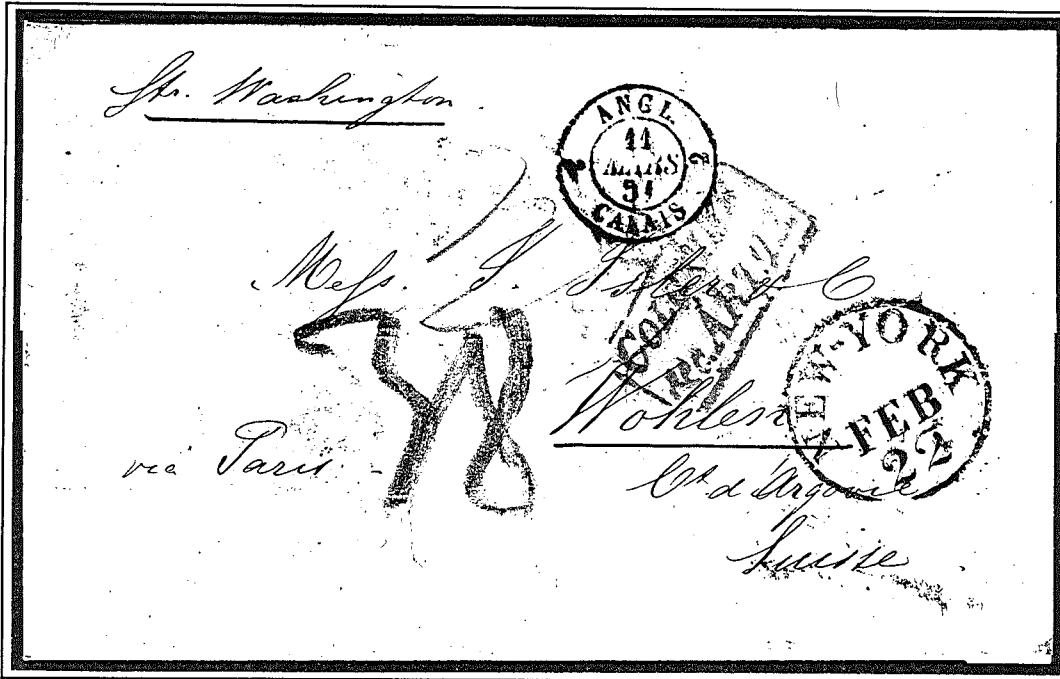
24 December 1850 Rotterdam, Holland to Philadelphia
110 Dutch Cents paid for all transit fees to U.S. (reverse)
1s4d Dutch credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Atlantic, Africa 49 days (West)
Atlantic returned under sail to Liverpool after 25 days with
broken shaft; her mails were transferred to British packet *Africa*,
but the 16¢ credit was allowed; uncommon 16/CENTS marking

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

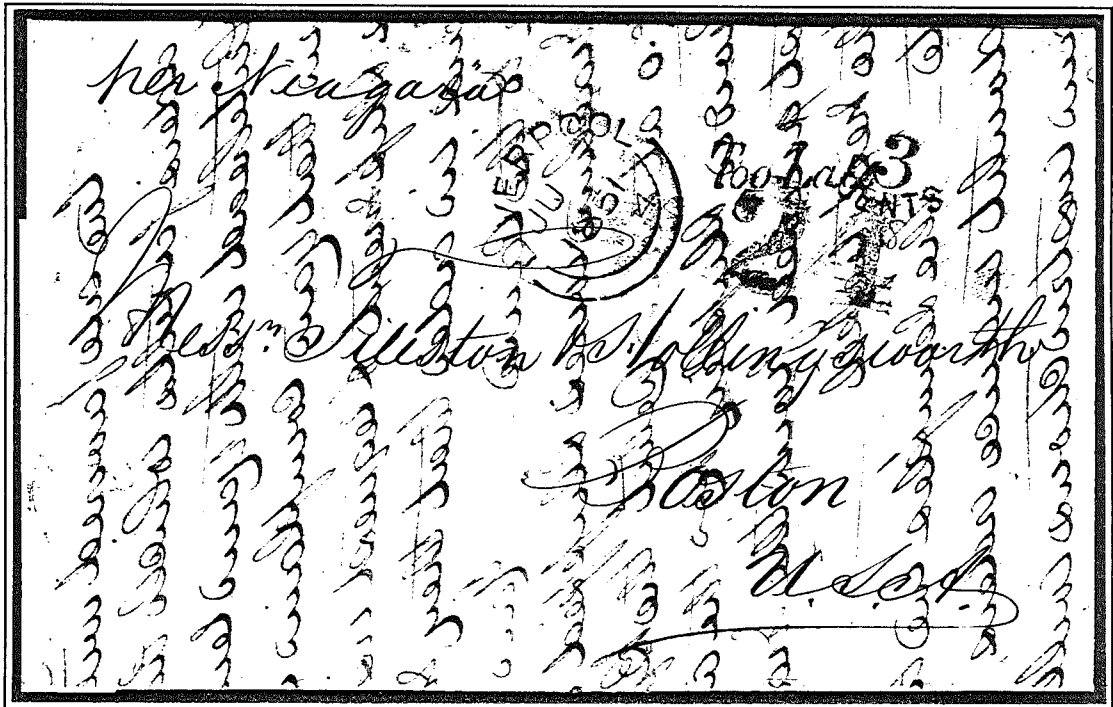
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



COLONIES
&c ART. 13.

22 February 1851 New York to Wohlen, Switzerland
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
38 kreuzer (95 rappen) postage due in Wohlen

Washington 14 days (East)
London marked COLONIES/&c ART.13 accountancy mark;
Postage due (marked at Basel) was rate to 2nd Swiss rayon



Too-Late

7 June 1851 Liverpool to Boston
Letter sent unpaid
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in Boston

Arctic 11 days (West)
Letter missed 7 June sailing of *Niagara* and was sent on next
steamer; Liverpool marked "Too-Late" to account for delay

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

ABOVE $\frac{1}{2}$ Oz.



12 December 1851 Augusta, Georgia to Belfast, Ireland
24¢ paid for single treaty rate
3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Arctic 12 days (East)
Liverpool marked 1s postage due

From February 1849 until December 1852, an informal agreement existed between the Liverpool and New York post offices regarding insufficiently prepaid mail. This agreement was not sanctioned by either government.

Contrary to the wording of the postal convention which prohibited partial prepayment, these two exchange offices allowed letters prepaid at least one full rate to receive credit for the prepayment and be forwarded to the other office. Here they were marked for the unpaid additional postage. This resulted in some examples of both credit and debit markings on the same letter, and in a collection of less than the full amount.

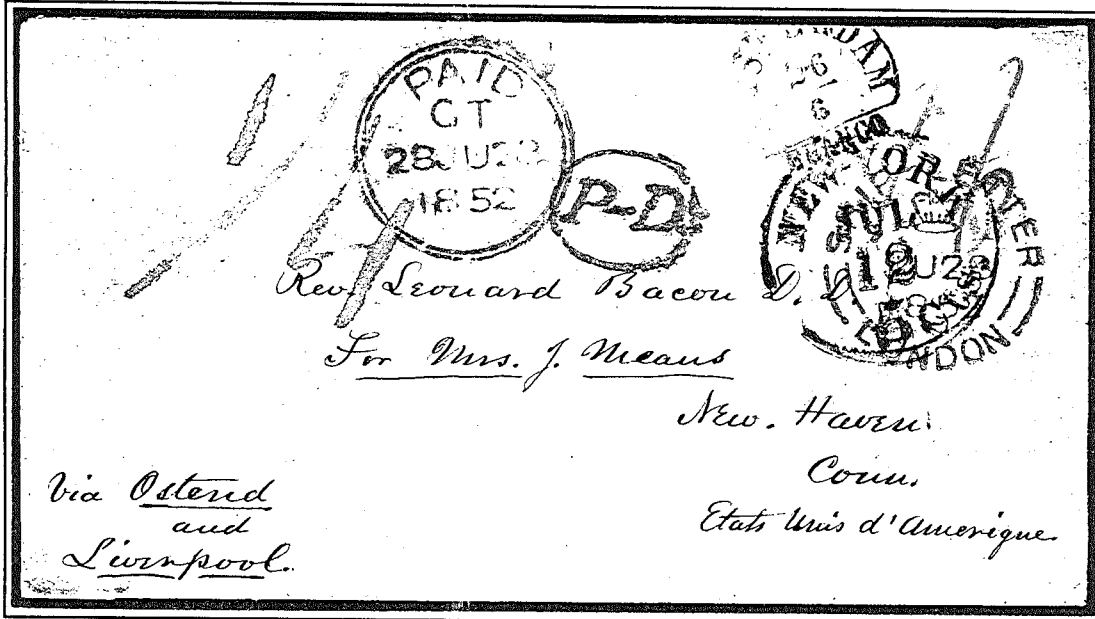
When the two governments discovered this private arrangement, they tried unsuccessfully to agree to a modification to the convention to legally permit this practice. By the end of 1852, each ordered its exchange office to cease the practice.

This cover is one of four recorded examples showing this part-paid treatment. New York considered the letter required only one rate and sent it to Liverpool with a 3¢ credit for the single rate prepaid. Liverpool marked the letter "ABOVE $\frac{1}{2}$ (ms) Oz." and allowed the single prepaid rate. One shilling for the second rate was the only postage due.

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

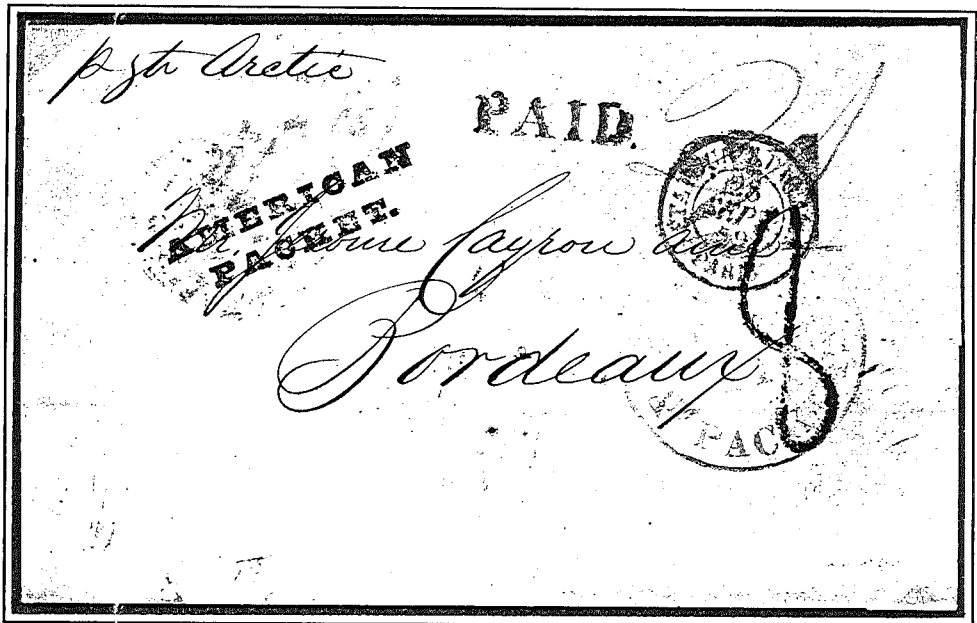
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



24 June 1852 Rotterdam, Holland to New Haven, Connecticut
100 Dutch Cents paid for all transit fees to U.S.
1s4d Dutch credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in New Haven

Arctic 11 days (West)
Dutch prepayment manuscript on reverse; letter carried
by non-contract ship to London; G.B. credited 16¢ to
U.S. (upper right) for transatlantic service by Am. packet

AMERICAN
PACKET.



10 September 1852 Boston to Bordeaux, France
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
8 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

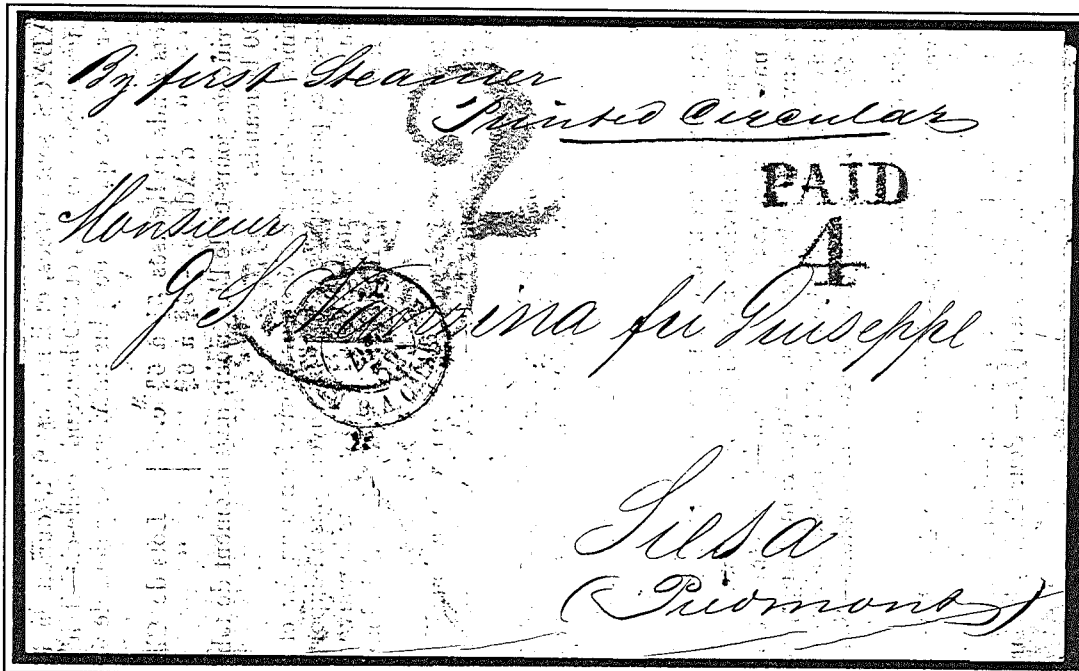
Washington 14 days (East)
Unusual "AMERICAN PACKET." may be private marking (only
example recorded); letter sent from Southampton to London and
Calais, not the usual route for Ocean Line mails to France

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

PAID
4



27 November 1852 New Orleans to Lesa, Kingdom of Sardinia
4¢ paid for newspaper rate
17 centesimi postage due in Lesa (not shown)

Hermann 15 days (East)
2¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

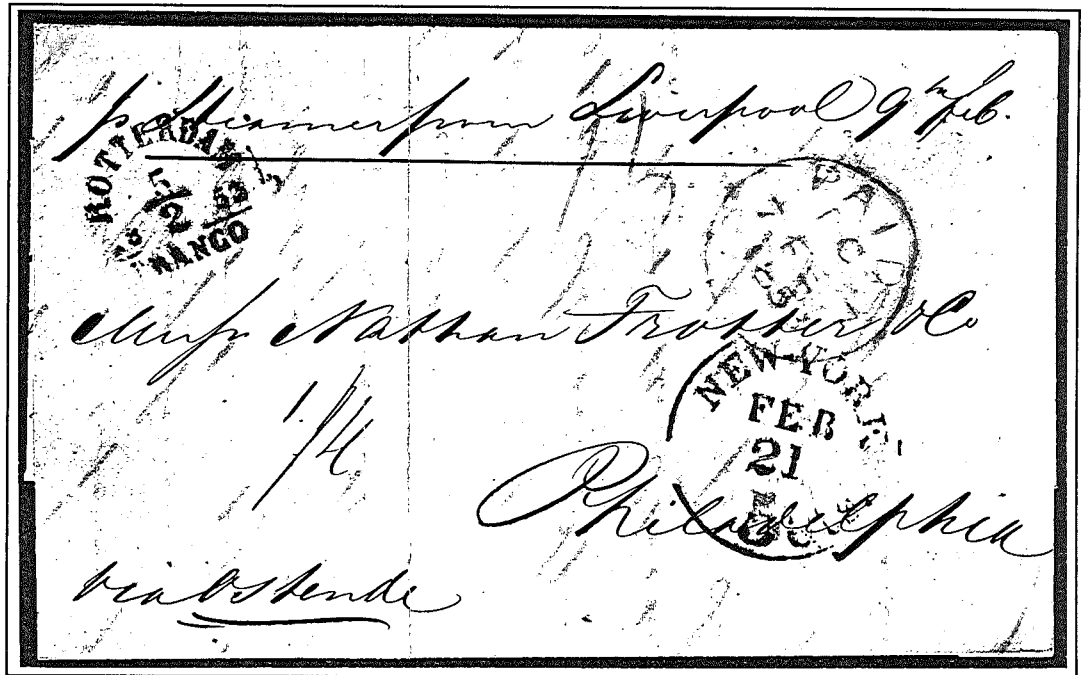
Printed market report of A. & M. Heine of New Orleans. Under 1848 Treaty newspapers could be sent to the Continent via England at 4¢ each. Unsealed circulars were treated under the newspaper rate. In April 1853 the 4¢ circular rate was reduced to 2¢. New York marked 2¢ credit to G.B.

Examples of the 4¢ circular rate are seldom seen. Scarce example to Kingdom of Sardinia carried by American packet.

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

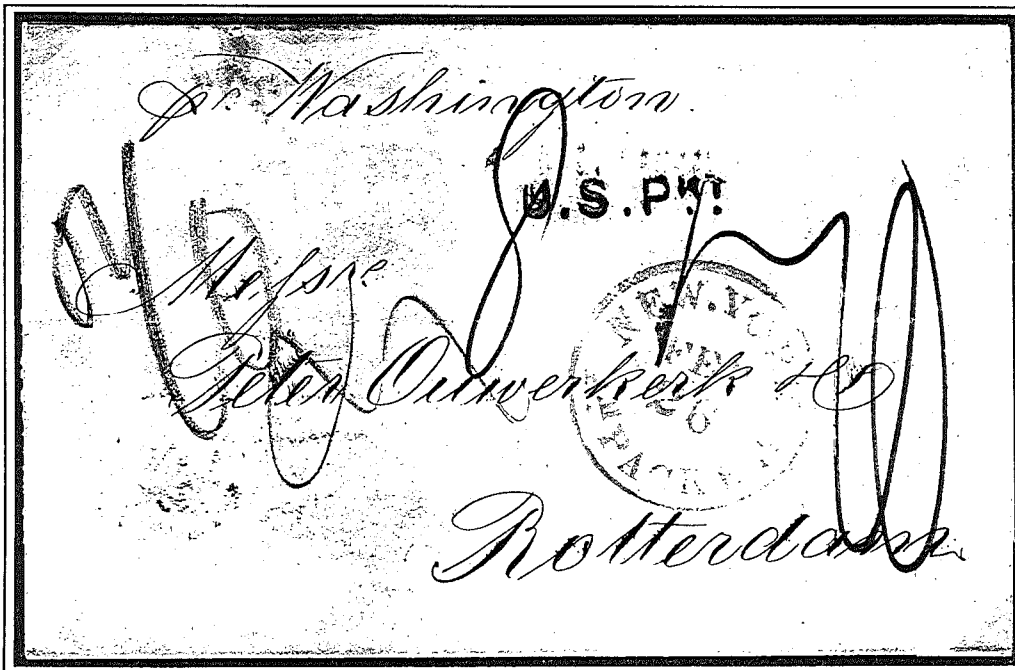
1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



5 February 1853 Rotterdam, Holland to Philadelphia
110 Dutch Cents paid (manuscript on reverse)
1s4d Dutch credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Pacific 12 days (West)
Prepayment reflected extra 10 Cents transit "Via Ostende"; London credited 16¢ (manuscript alongside PAID cds) to U.S. since American packet carried letter



(Reverse - Red)

26 February 1853 New York to Rotterdam, Holland
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
8d G.B. debit to Holland
70 Dutch Cents postage due in Rotterdam

Washington 15 days (East)
London struck "U.S.P^{K.T.}" to indicate letter brought by Am. packet; Postage due reflected extra 10 Cents for routing via Belgium (Dutch transit mark on reverse)

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

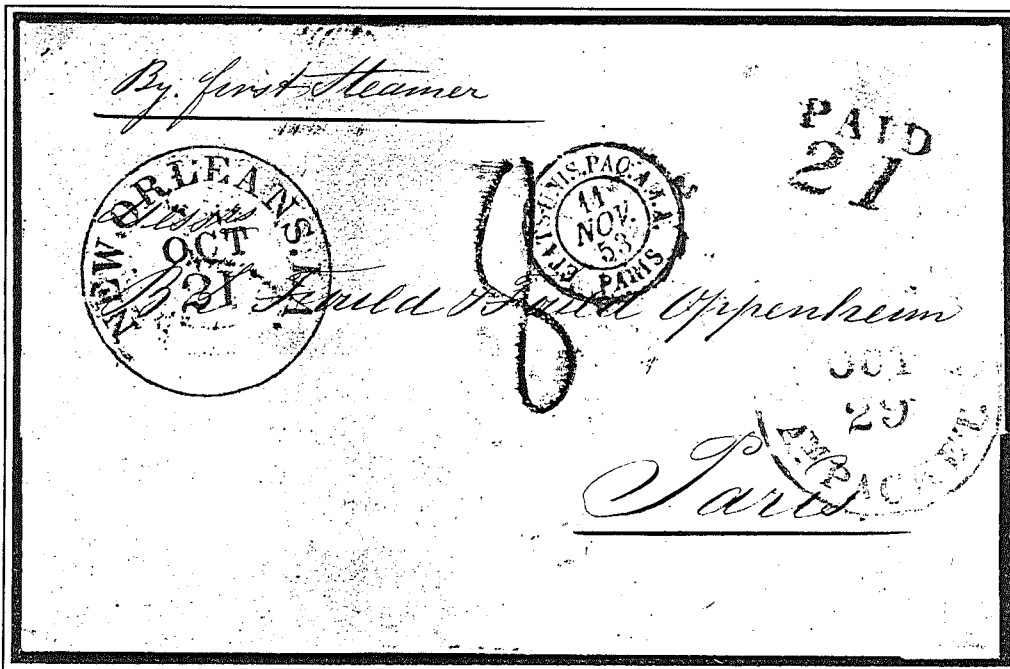
1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



9 September 1853 New York to Wohlen, Switzerland
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
130 rappen postage due in Wohlen

Hermann 13 days (East)
Postage due to 1st Swiss rayon in error since Wohlen in 2nd rayon; Havre French entry marking used only on mails by Ocean Line steamers put off in Solent near Southampton



21 October 1853 New Orleans to Paris, France
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Atlantic 11 days (East)
French entry mark indicated letter from U.S. by American packet to G.B. and processed at Paris

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



26 January 1854 Melbourne, Victoria to Boston
4d paid for two circulars (not shown)
16¢ postage due in Boston

Hermann 16 days (West)
12¢ G.B. debit to U.S.

Three page circular of Newell, Hooper & Stevens of Melbourne, Victoria printed for the 30 January 1854 sailing of P&O steamer *Madras* from Melbourne to Galle, Ceylon. P&O steamers *Bengal* then carried circular to Suez and *Ripon* from Alexandria to Southampton. This was 6th contract mail voyage north from Australia for the P&O Line, an early contract mail voyage.

Circular prepayment in Melbourne was the local charge of 2d per circular. Since the British had to pay for transport to England, the U.S. was debited 2x3d=6d or 12¢ for the two circulars. The U.S. added 2x2¢=4¢ to bring the postage due to 16¢.

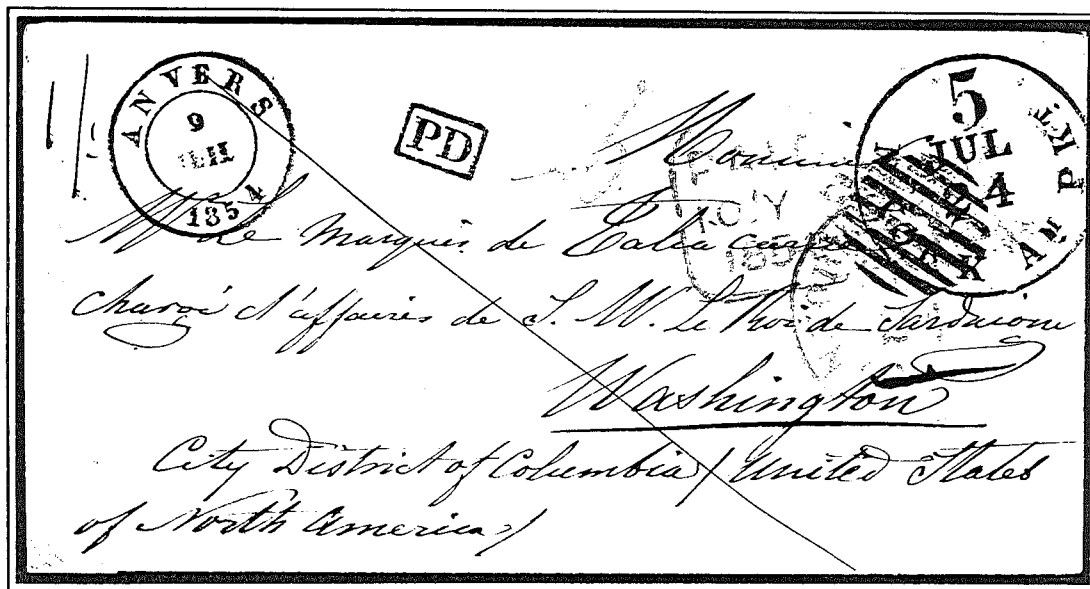
Scarce circular rate from Australia to the United States (British contract mails to England and American contract mails to the United States).

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

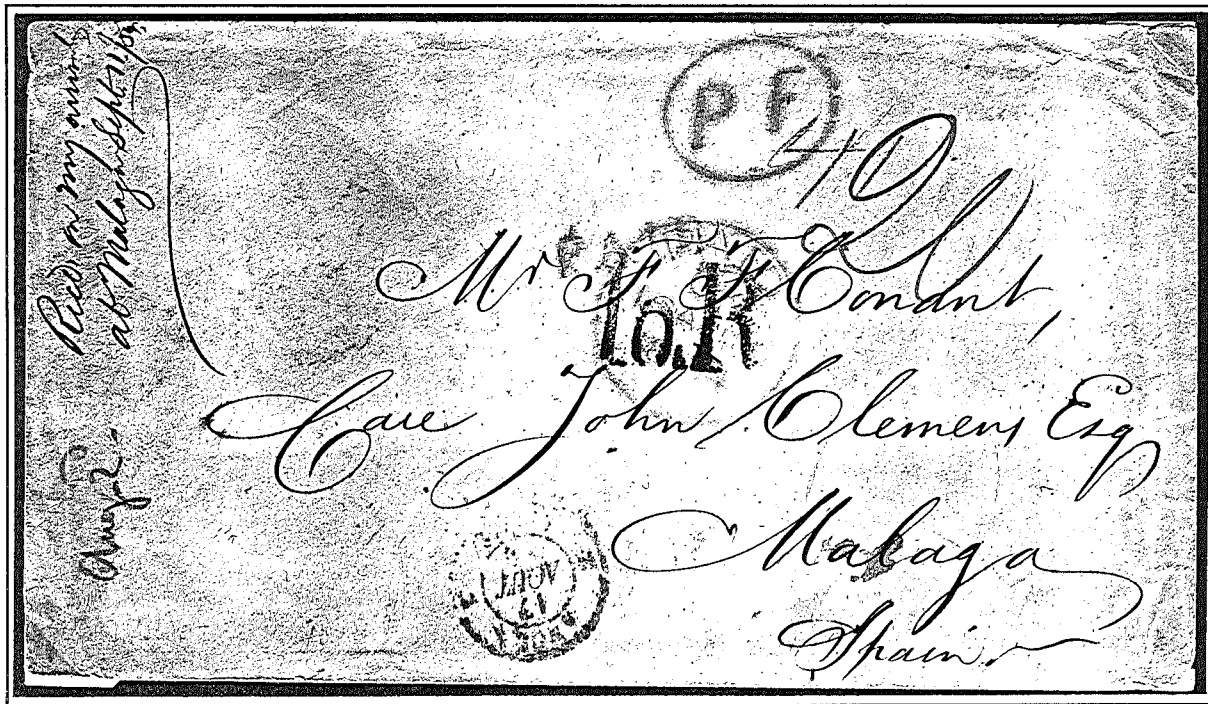
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

2
1
2
(Reverse)



9 July 1854 Antwerp, Belgium to Washington, DC
14 decimes paid for all transit fees (manuscript on reverse)
16¢ G.B. credit to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Washington, DC

Pacific 12 days (West)
Prepayment included 2 dec. Belgian internal, 4 dec. British and 8 dec. transatlantic fees (12 dec. credited to G.B.); 16¢ credit to U.S. because American packet carried letter



4 August 1854 Boston to Malaga, Spain
41¢ paid for all transit fees to French-Spanish border
20¢ U.S. credit to G.B.
10 reales postage due in Malaga

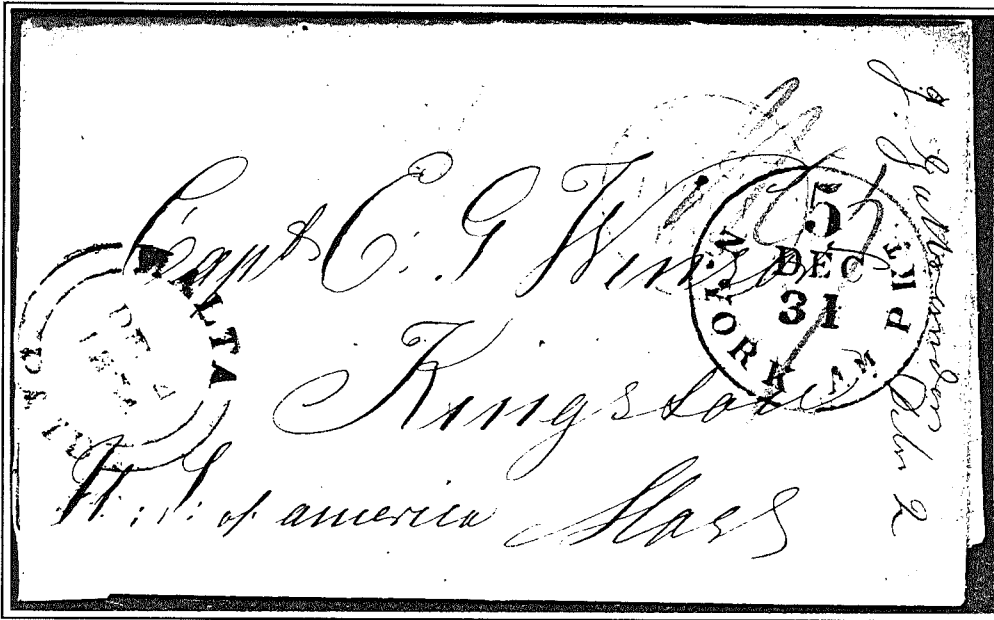
Pacific 10 days (East)
London marked red, oval "P F" to show letter paid to French-Spanish border; 10 reales de vellon postage due in Spain for letter weighing 4 ardamas (¼ oz.)

10.R

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

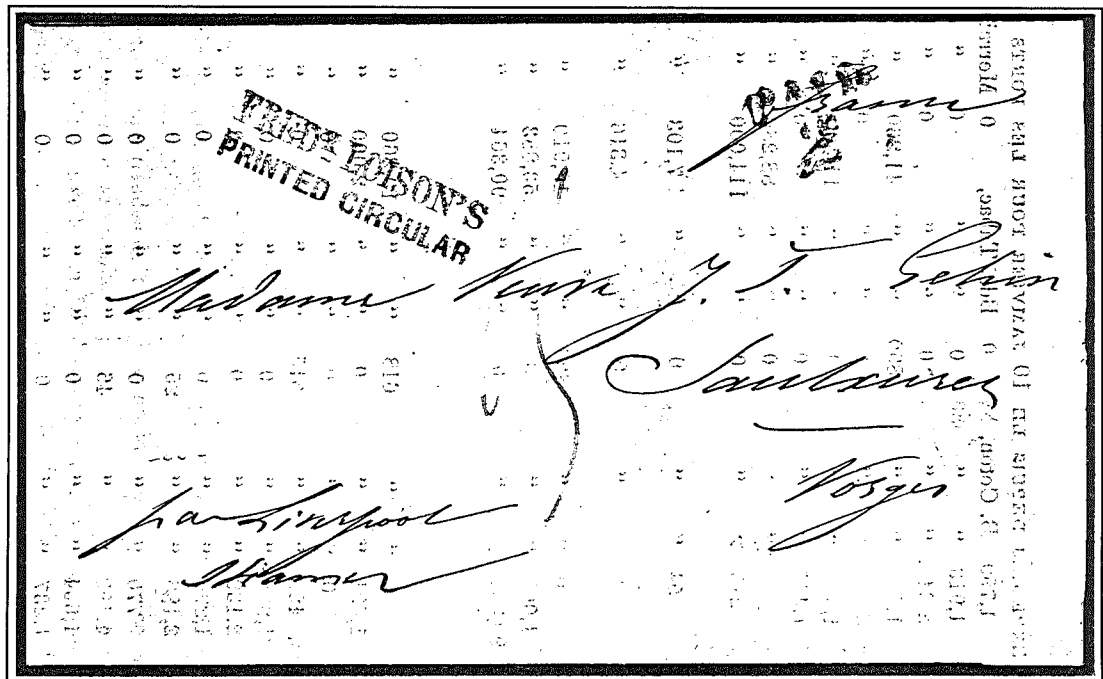
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



2 December 1854 Malta to Kingston, Massachusetts
1s9d paid for all transit fees to U.S.
16¢ G.B. credit to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Kingston

Atlantic 13 days (West)
Letter sent in closed mail bag on French steamer *Caire* to
Marseille, then thru France to London; 16¢ credit to U.S.
because American packet carried letter across Atlantic

PAID
2



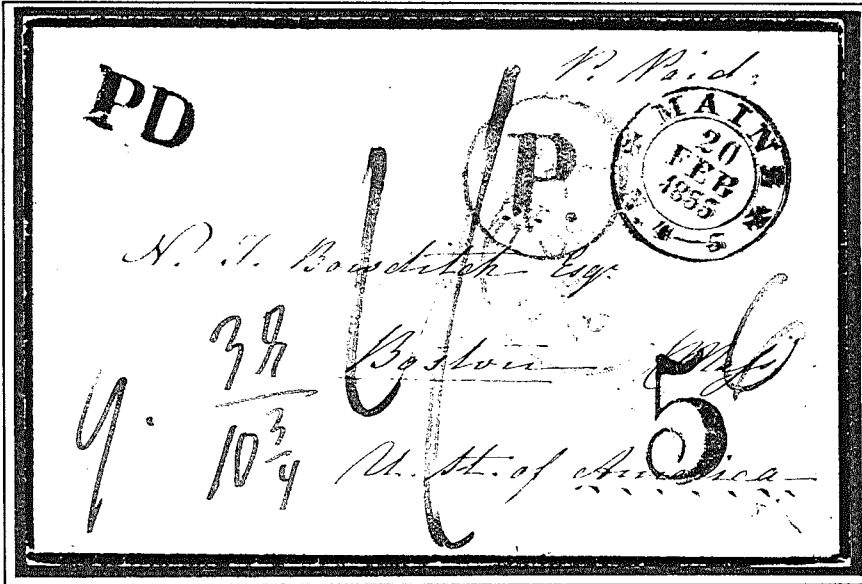
7 February 1855 New Orleans to Saulxures, France
2¢ paid for circular rate by British open mail
15 centimes postage due in Saulxures

Atlantic 11 days (East)
Unsealed circular sent under newspaper
rate of 2¢; additional postage collected in France

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

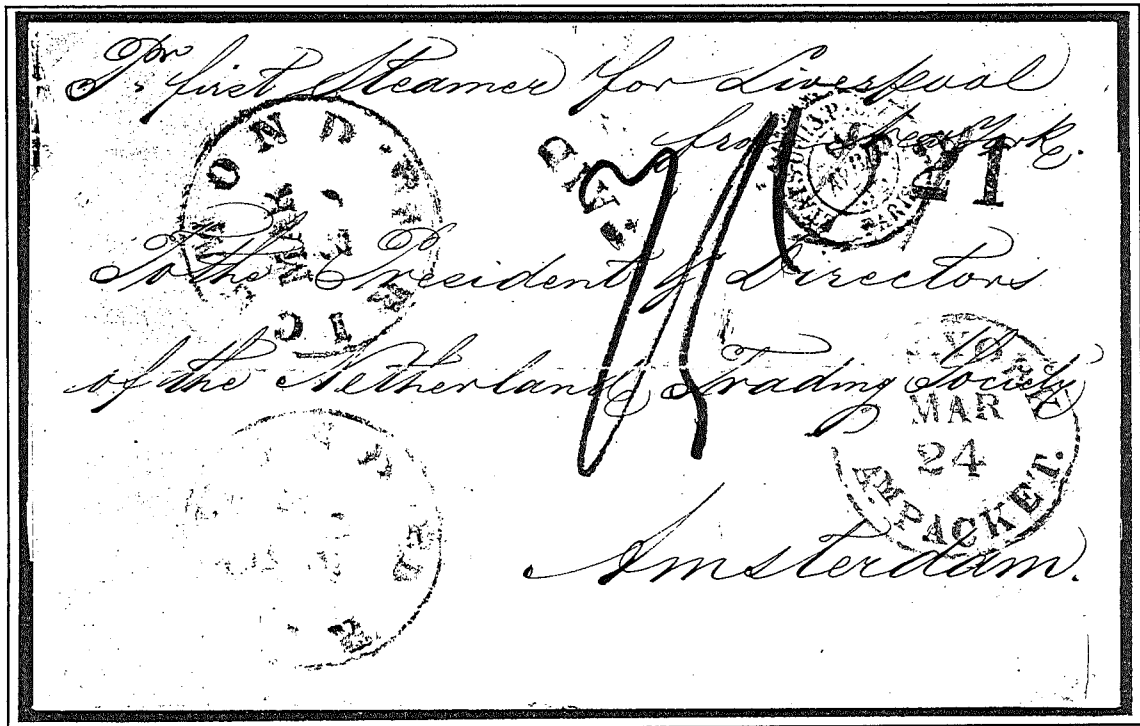
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



20 February 1855 Mainz, Hesse-Darmstadt to Boston
47 kreuzer paid for all transit fees to U.S.
1s Prussian credit to G.B.
5¢ postage due in Boston

Pacific 15 days (West)
Prepayment = 9 kr. internal and 38 kr. "foreign" fees
(10¼ silbergroschen); British credit included 8d
transatlantic and 4d British internal fees

21



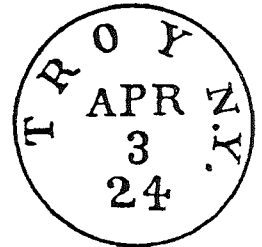
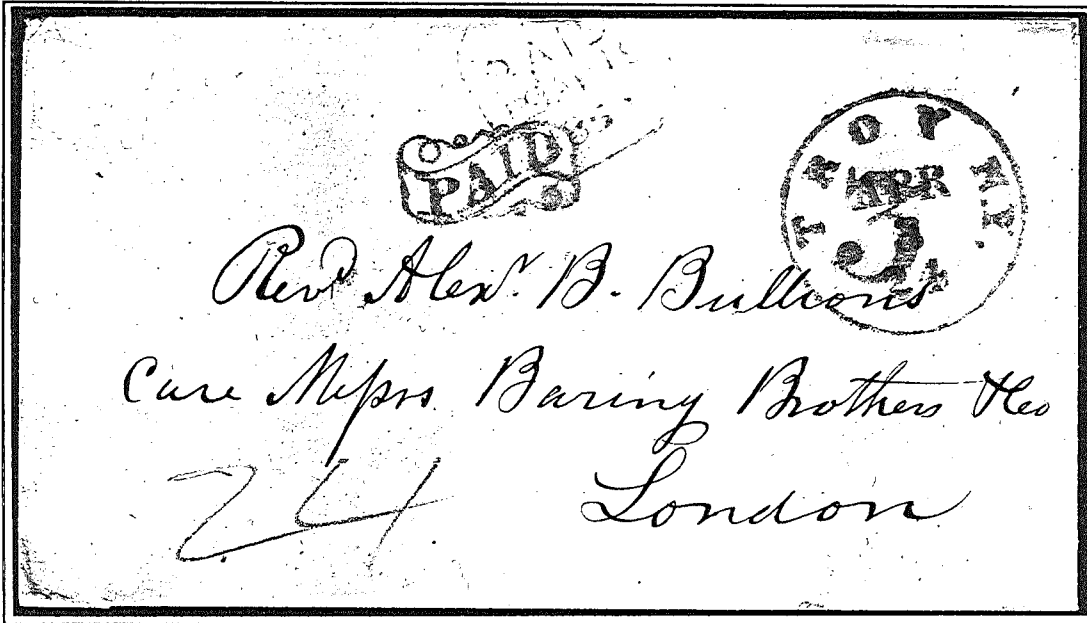
20 March 1855 Richmond, Virginia to Amsterdam, Holland
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
75 Dutch Cents postage due in Amsterdam

Hermann 14 days (East)
New York erroneously placed letter in French mail
bag; postage due in Holland included 65 Cents (13
dec. for France) and 10 Cents Dutch internal fees.

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

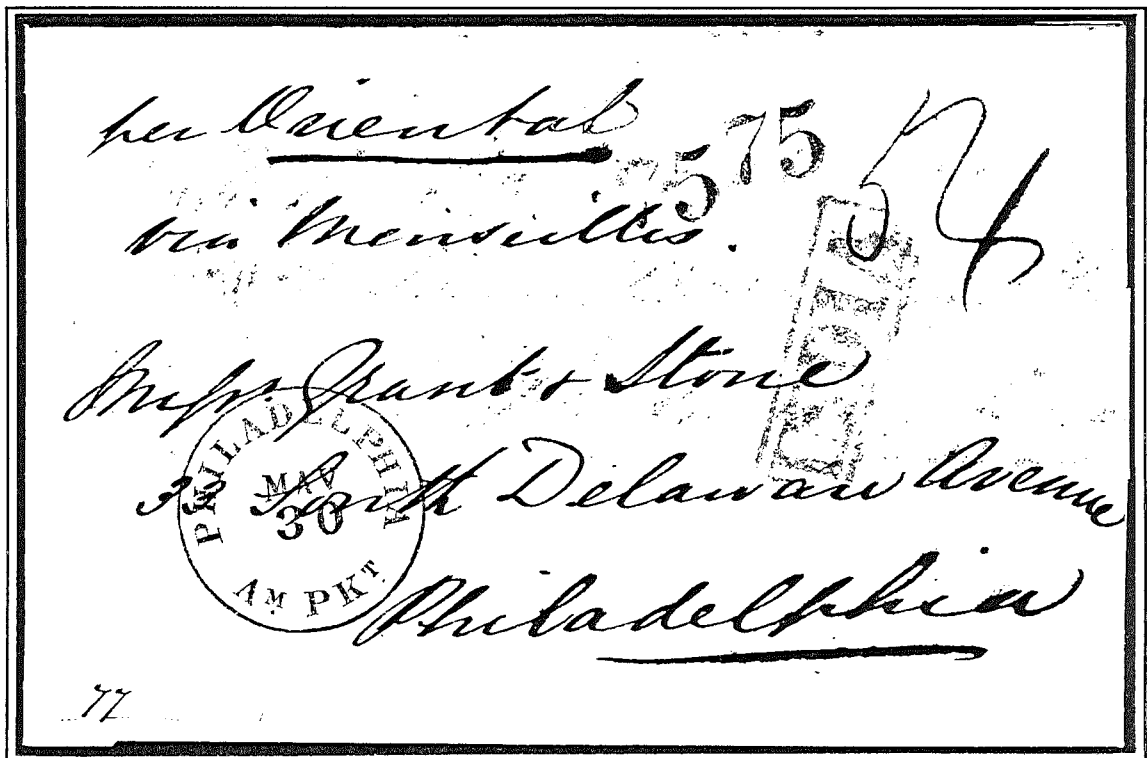
1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



3 April 1855 Troy, New York to London
24¢ paid for single treaty rate
3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Atlantic 14 days (East)
Troy was one of a few U.S. cities that created special circular datestamps to show full prepayment of British Treaty mails



7 April 1855 Calcutta, India to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid
54¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
77¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Pacific 11 days (West)
G.B. debit to U.S. = 34¢ British and 20¢ French transit fees;
"77" in lower left represented 75¢ postage due plus 2¢ carrier fee in Philadelphia for local delivery (uncommon on transatlantic covers)

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



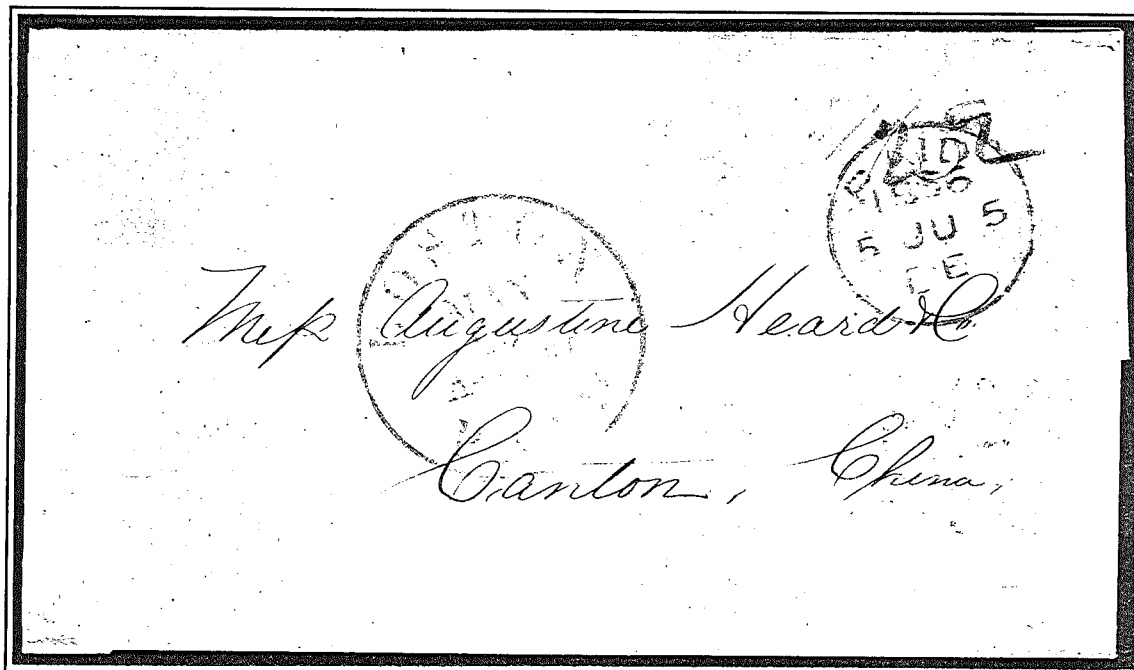
By U.S. Mail

3 1/2
Sgr.

22 August 1855 Bremen to Baltimore
7 silbergroschen paid for single rate to G.B.
3 1/2 silbergroschen Bremen credit to G.B.
42¢ postage due in Baltimore (double rate)

Letter sent by 1852 Anglo-Bremen Treaty to London and British Open Mail to U.S.; Bremen struck scarce "By U.S. Mail" to indicate routing and red "3 1/2 Sgr." credit marking; less than 5 examples of either marking recorded

Atlantic 12 days (West)



23 May 1856 Boston to Canton, China
43¢ paid for treaty rate via Marseille
22¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

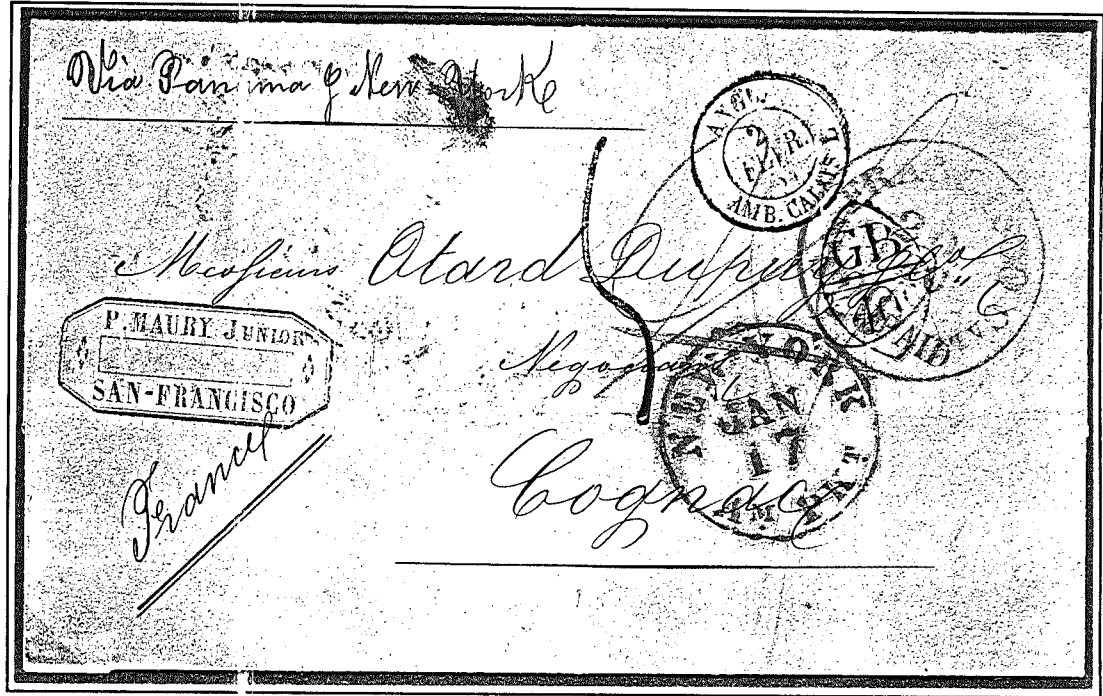
Prepayment written in pencil under red crayon credit marking; letter carried by P&O steamers to Hong Kong from Marseille

Atlantic 11 days (East)

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

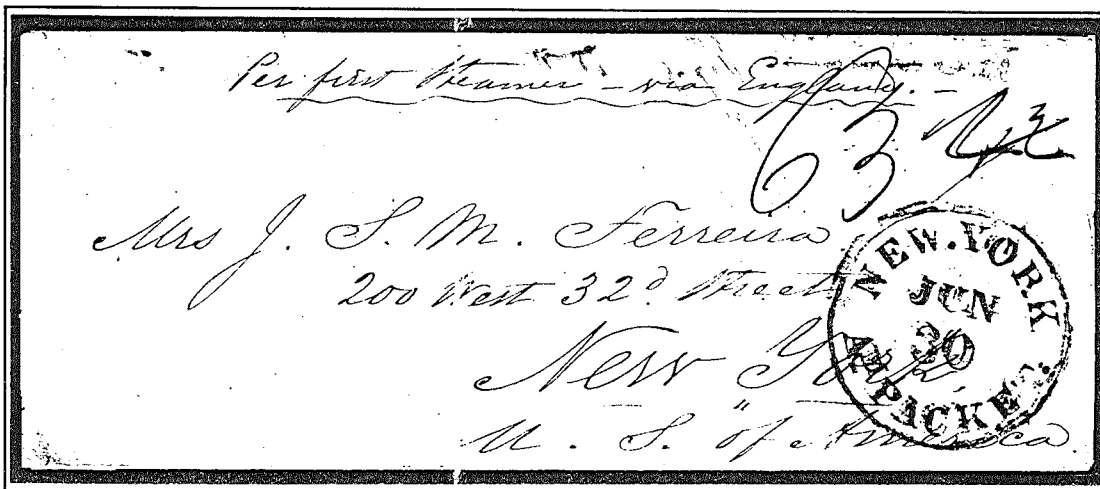
1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



20 December 1856 San Francisco to Cognac, France
26¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet (West Coast)
5 decimes postage due in Cognac

Ericsson 15 days (East)
GB//40° accountancy marking (effective 1 Jan 1857) struck at London to debit France 40 centimes/30 grams bulk letter weight as letter paid only to G.B.; Uncommon American packet cover during three month period from West Coast



LISBON

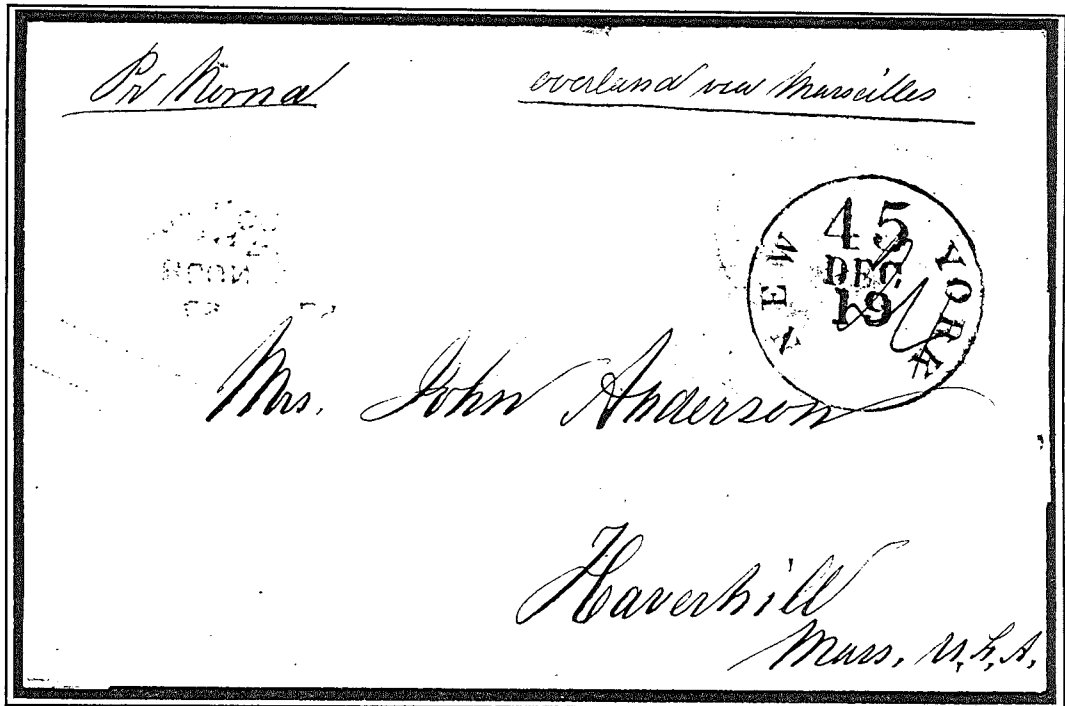
8 June 1857 Lisbon, Portugal to New York
Letter sent unpaid
42¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
63¢ postage due in New York

Hermann 13 days (West)
Letter carried by P&O steamer *Tagus* to Southampton
G.B. debit was Falmouth packet rate from Portugal, 1s9d or 42¢; this rate, 26¢ higher than British mail rate via France, is quite scarce

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

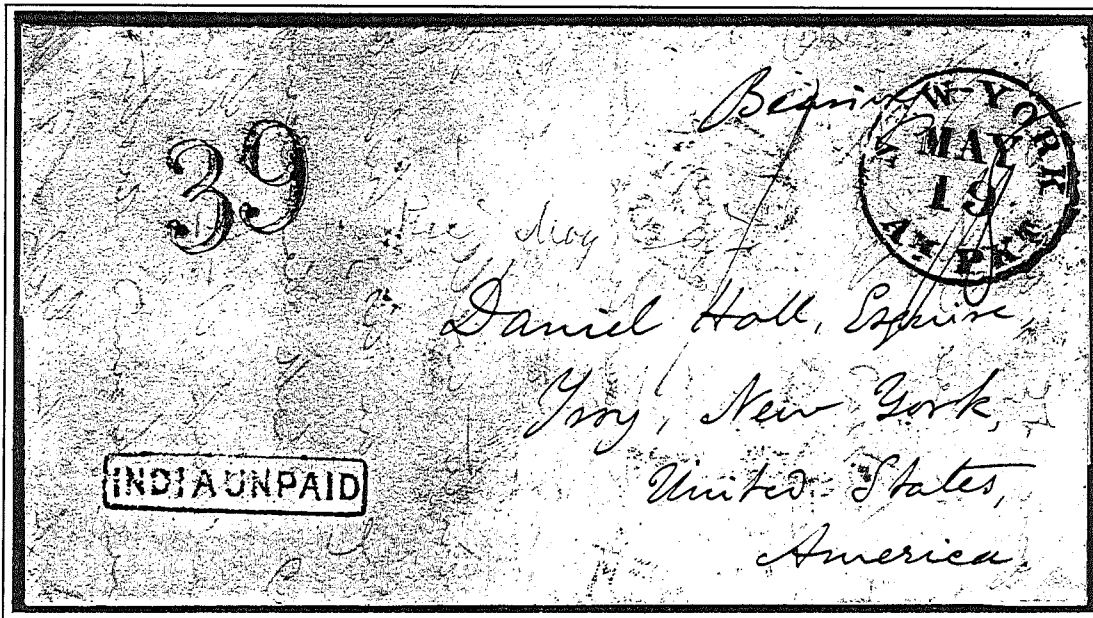
1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



4 October 1857 Hong Kong, China to Haverhill, Massachusetts
Letter sent unpaid
24¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
45¢ postage due in Haverhill

North Star 17 days (West)
Letter carried from Hong Kong to Suez by P&O steamer
Noma with an unscheduled mail; from Alexandria it was
carried by French steamer *Jourdain* to Marseille



30 March 1858 Saugor, India to Troy, New York
Letter sent unpaid
18¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
39¢ postage due in Troy

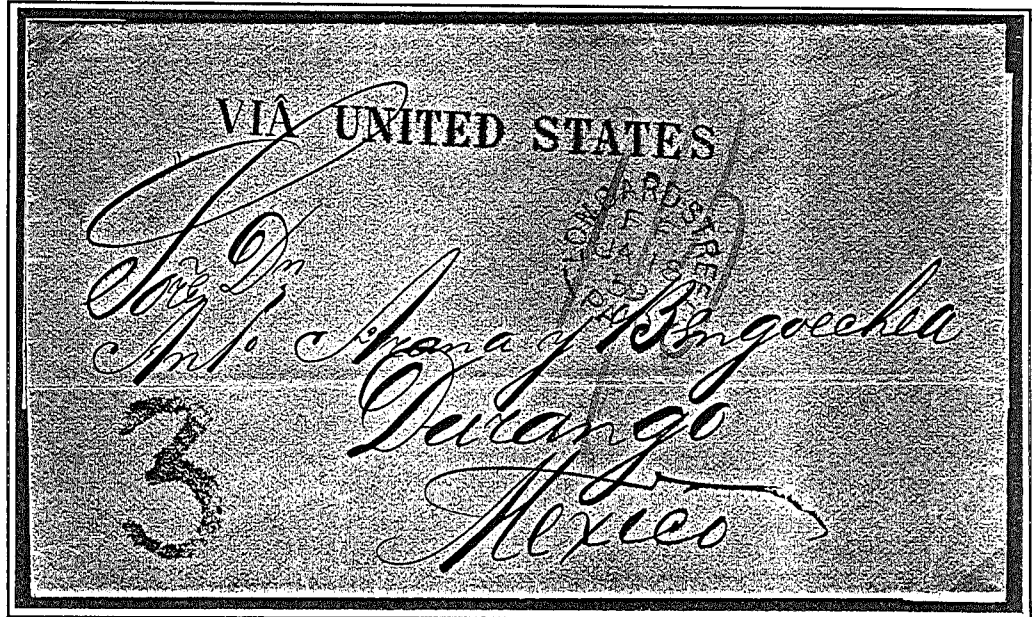
Fulton 14 days (West)
Letter sent "Bearing" (manuscript upper right) or
unpaid; Bombay struck boxed "INDIA UNPAID" and
debited G.B. 1d colonial fee, sending letter via Marseille

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

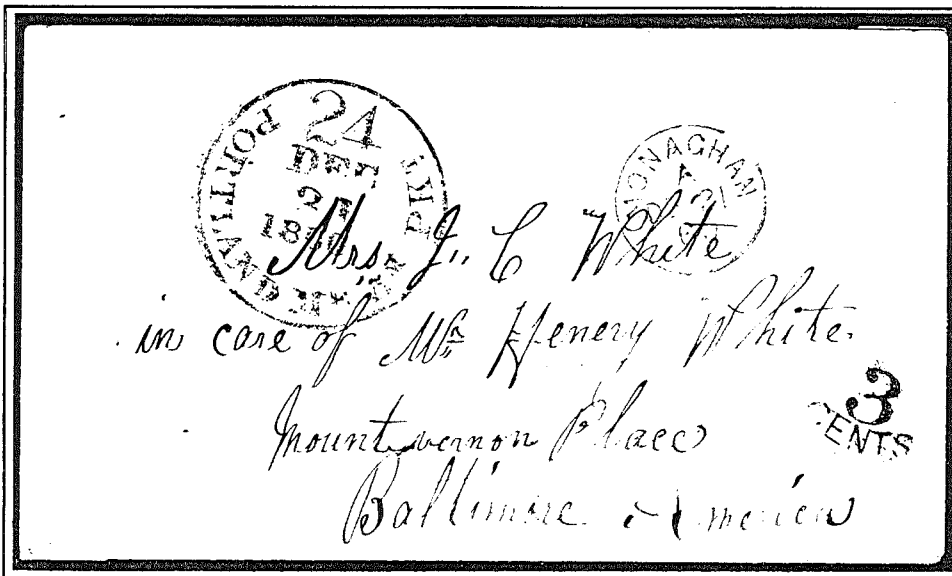
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

115



18 January 1859 London to Durango, Mexico
1s5d paid for all transit fees via U.S.
3 reales postage due in Durango

Kangaroo 19 days (West)
In Aug 1854, G.B. announced a new mail route to Mexico via U.S. at 1s5d per ½ oz.; letters had to be marked "Via the United States"; covers showing this rate are quite scarce



21 December 1860 Monaghan, Ireland to Baltimore
Letter sent unpaid
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in Baltimore

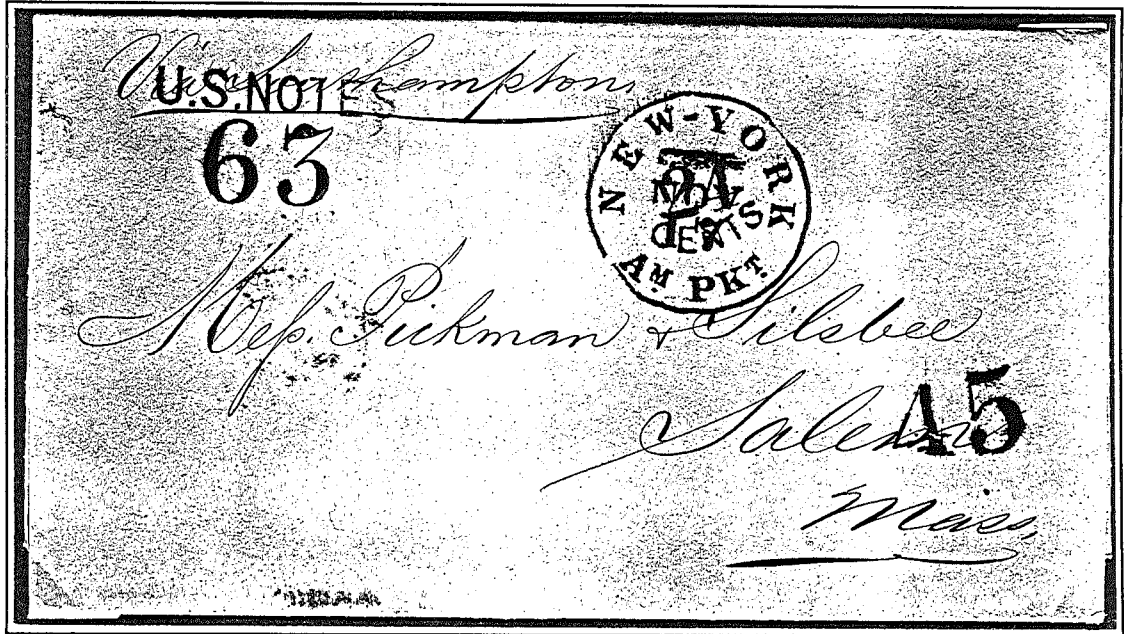
North American 10 days (West)
In Nov. 1859 Canadian Allan Line started to carry U.S. mails; from May 1860 calls were made at Merville (Londonderry's port city); Portland, Me. was western terminus during winter months

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

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

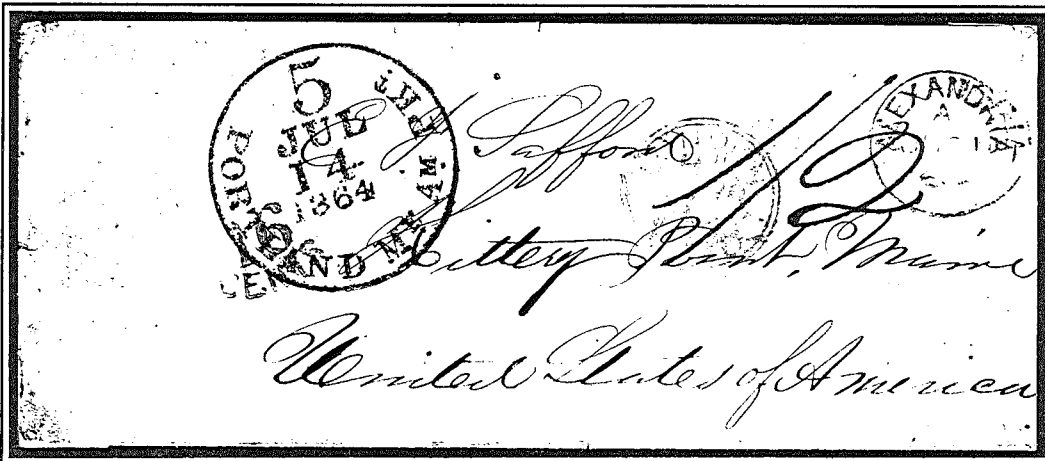
1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868

U.S. NOTES
63



26 September 1863 Buenos Ayres, Argentina to Salem, Mass.
Letter sent unpaid
24¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
45¢ postage due in Salem

City of London 12 days (West)
Letter carried from Buenos Ayres to Southampton by
RMSP Co. steamer *Magdalena* ; postage due in
depreciated greenback currency was 63¢



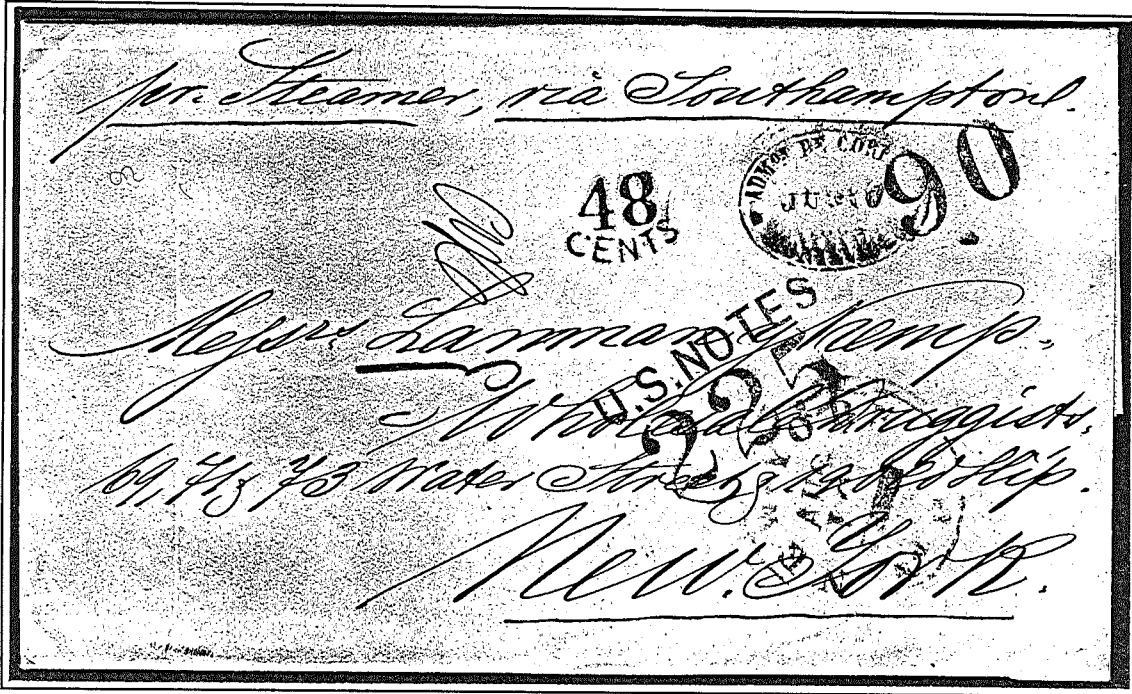
21 June 1864 Alexandria, Egypt to Kittery Point, Maine
1s2d paid for all transit fees to U.S.
16¢ G.B. credit to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Kittery Point

Peruvian 10 days (West)
Letter carried by P&O steamer *Delta* to Marseille;
Peruvian put Portland mails off at Rivière du Loup on
St. Lawrence River to go by rail to Portland

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

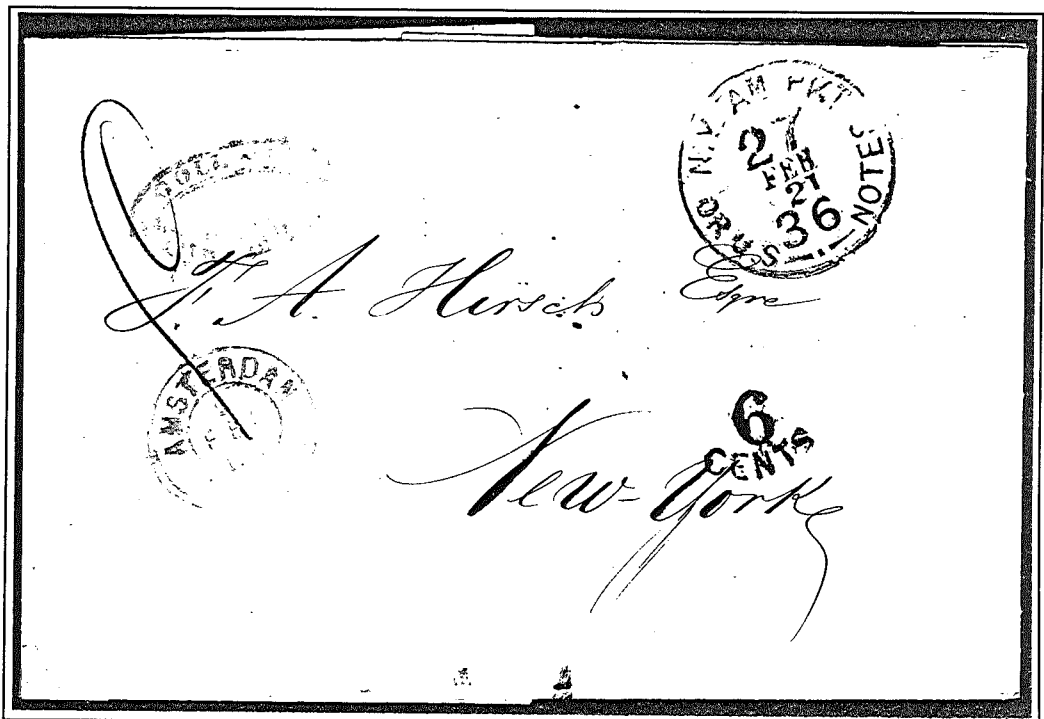
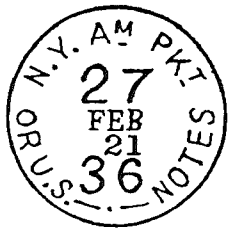
1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



28 June 1864 Montevideo, Uruguay to New York
Letter sent unpaid
48¢ G.B. debit to U.S. (double rate)
90¢ postage due in New York

City of Baltimore 12 days (West)
Letter carried from Montevideo by RMSP Co. steamers *Mersey* and *Magdalena*; New York depreciated currency marking shows highest premium recorded, 250%, which occurred in July, August 1864



2 February 1867 Amsterdam, Holland to New York
Letter sent unpaid
6¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
27¢ postage due in New York

Allemania 15 days (West)
Letter sent in British Open Mails by special fully paid (prepayment optional) rate available only 18 months before U.S.-Dutch Treaty;
36¢ postage due in depreciated greenback notes

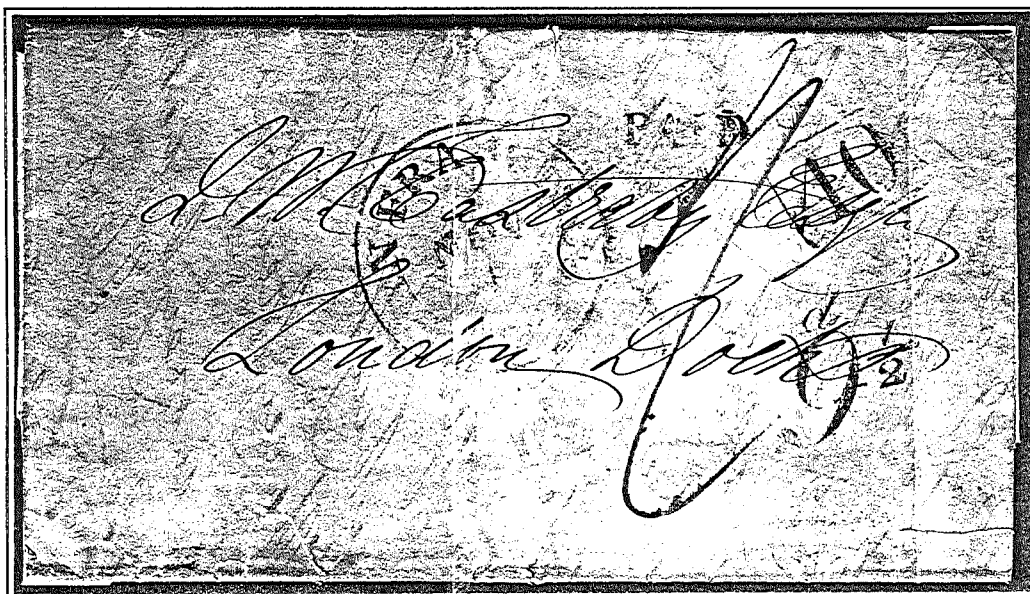
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
Prior to 9 Sep 1850

Under the U.S.- British Postal Convention of 1848, mails to California and Oregon were treated differently than the rest of the U.S. The U.S. inland portion of the convention rate was the cross-country rate, instead of 5¢, until July 1863. When the convention went into effect the rate to England was 59¢, consisting of 40¢ to New York and 19¢ to England. Letters sent in the British Open mail to the Continent also required higher rates because of the higher U.S. transit fees. The open mail rates were 40¢ by British packet or 56¢ by American packet.

California mails traveled two distinct routes to England. The first and most common route was via Panama and New York to England.



9^d_{1/2}

30 October 1849 San Francisco to London
40¢ paid for single rate to East Coast
9^d/₂ postage due in London

Canada 12 days (East)
San Francisco marked cds, "PAID" and boxed "40"
handstamps in black to indicate letter paid to New York

California was not a state when the postal convention with Great Britain went into effect. There was no provision for mails to California until it became a part of the U.S. Detailed Regulations to the convention (effective 1 July 1849) contained letters bills which provided for letters from "foreign countries" in transit through the United States. California mails were put in this category. Letters were sent either unpaid or paid only to New York at a 40¢ rate.

This cover was carried from San Francisco to Panama by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *California* and from Chagres to New York by the Empire City Line steamer *Empire City*.

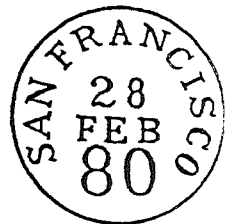
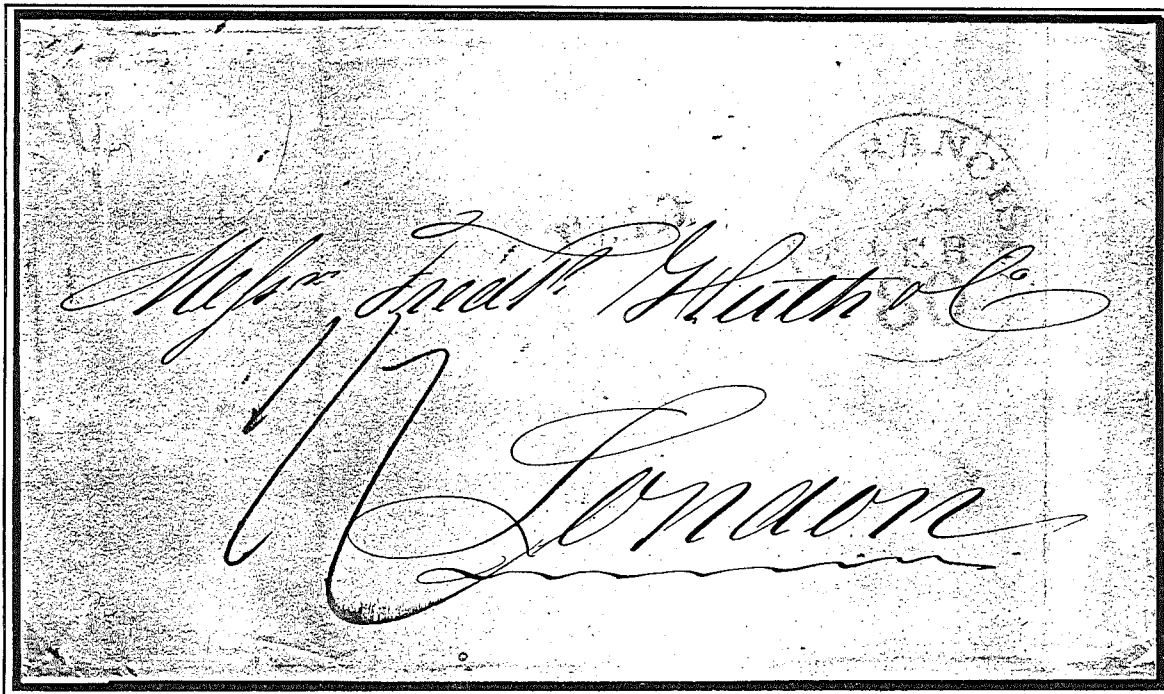
Liverpool struck the "9^d/₂" handstamp to indicate the 16¢ transatlantic and 3¢ British fees were still due (equivalent to 9^d/₂ pence). London marked 1 shilling postage due in error as Liverpool had correctly marked the letter for postage due.

Less than six covers from California with the Liverpool "9^d/₂" marking have been recorded.

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

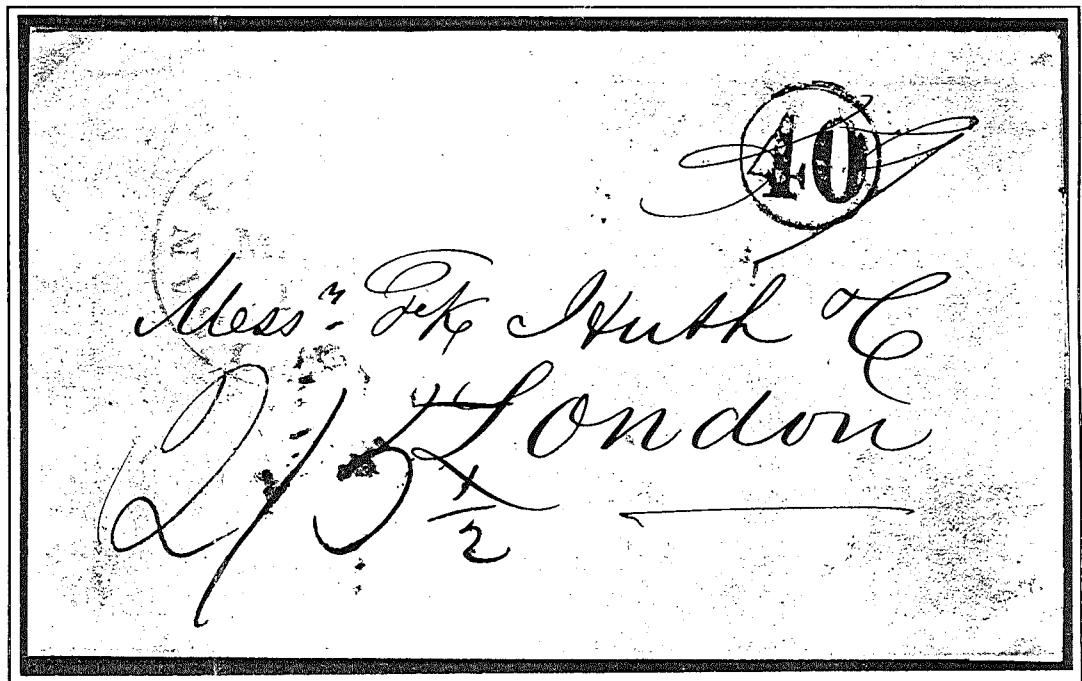
1849-1863
Prior to 9 Sep 1850



(Reduced size)

28 February 1850 San Francisco to London
80¢ paid for double rate to East Coast
1s7d postage due in London (2x9½d)

Europa. 12 days (East)
Letter carried from San Francisco to Panama by Pacific Mail
Steamship Co. steamer *Oregon* and from Chagres to New York
by Howland & Aspinwall Atlantic Line steamer *Cherokee*.



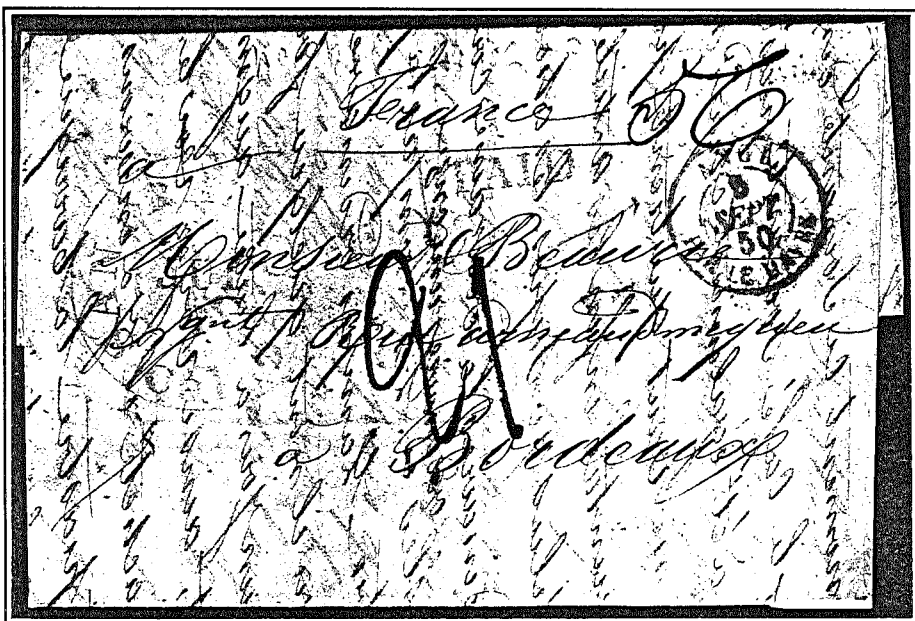
30 April 1850 San Francisco to London
Letter sent unpaid
40¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
2s5½d postage due in London (59¢ rate)

Asia 10 days (East)
Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Panama* to Panama
and U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Georgia* from Chagres to New York;
absence of "Paid" marking at San Francisco showed letter unpaid

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

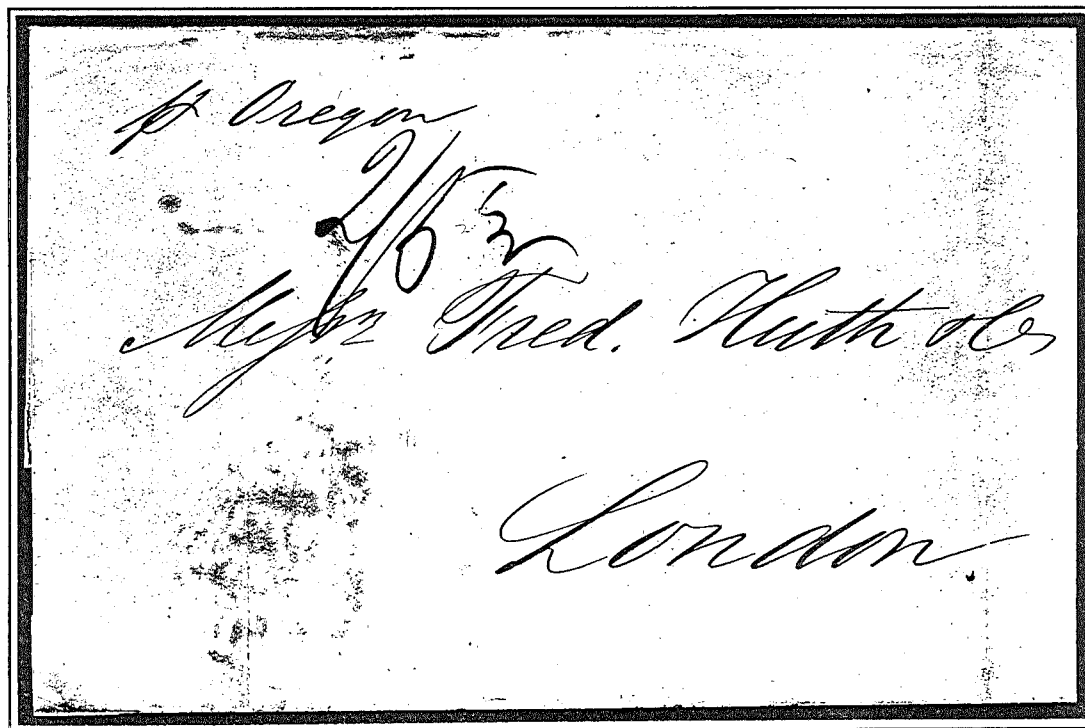
1849-1863
Prior to 9 Sep 1850



30 June 1850 San Francisco to Bordeaux, France *Hermann* 14 days (East)
56¢ paid (British Open Mail rate by Am. packet - West Coast) Prepayment included 40¢ U.S. inland and 16¢ transatlantic
21 decimes postage due in Bordeaux fees; postage due of 21 decimes marked at Havre in error
(rate for West Coast of South America via Panama)



(Reverse)



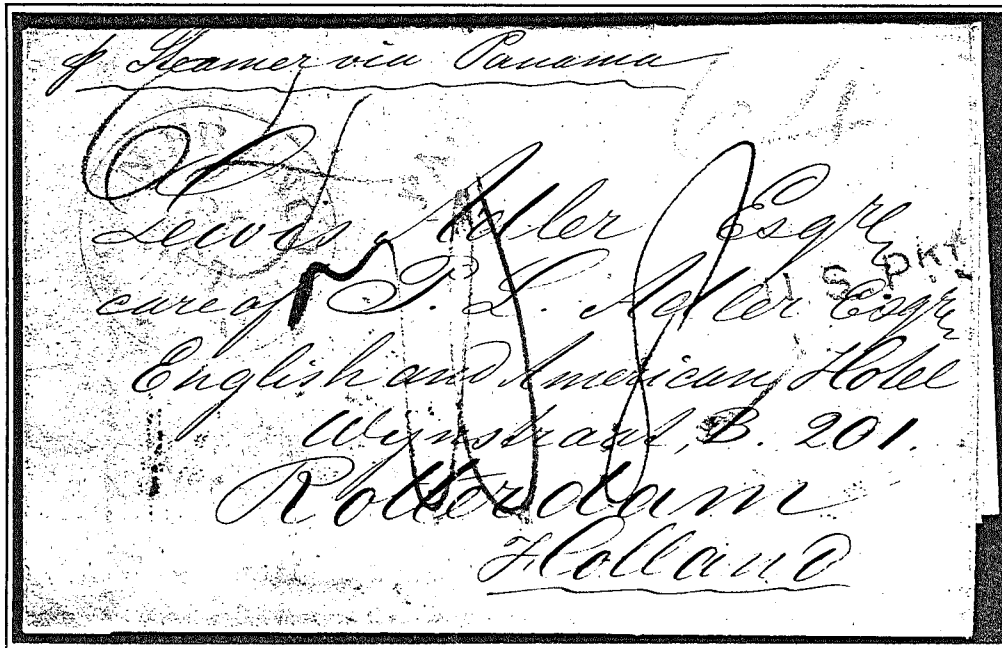
30 August 1850 San Francisco to London *Niagara* 11 days (East)
Letter sent unpaid Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Oregon* to Panama
40¢ U.S. debit to G.B. (not shown) and U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Georgia* from Chagres to New
2s½d postage due in London (59¢ rate) York; Scarce boxed "D" applied at Liverpool (may be inspector's mark)

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
9 Sep 1850-1 Jul 1851

Once California became a state on 9 September 1850, mails were no longer treated as originating in a foreign country and transiting through the U.S. The 40¢ cross-country rate still applied for the U.S. internal fee on British Treaty mail. Prepaid letters to England now required 59¢ instead of the 40¢ payment to New York. Also they could be sent unpaid as before. The British Open Mail rate was 40¢ by British packet and 56¢ by American packet.



U.S. PKT

29 October 1850 San Francisco to Rotterdam, Holland
64¢ paid for Bremen Mail rate from West Coast
70 Dutch Cents postage due in Rotterdam

Arctic 11 days (East)
New York sent letter in the British Open
Mails; London debited Holland 8d

This letter was carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Panama* to Panama and United States Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Georgia* from Chagres to New York. It was paid 64¢, Bremen mail from the West Coast (40¢ + 24¢), an unusual routing for mail to Holland. At this time, San Francisco used an orange color for all its markings. Since no steamship service to Bremen was available during the 1850-1851 winter, New York sent letter to Great Britain in the open mails since at least 56¢ had been paid. London struck the "U.S.P^KT." marking in red (scarce color used 1850-51 only) to show letter arrived by American packet with no sea postage due.

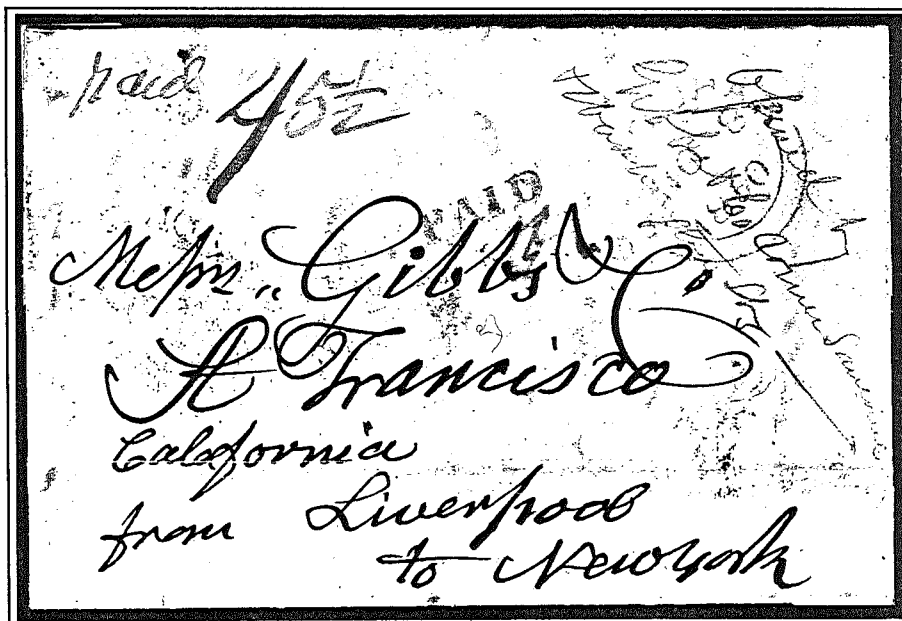
Dutch postage due included 40 Dutch Cents to Great Britain, 10 Cents for transit through Belgium and 20 Cents internal postage. Very early California letter to Holland.

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

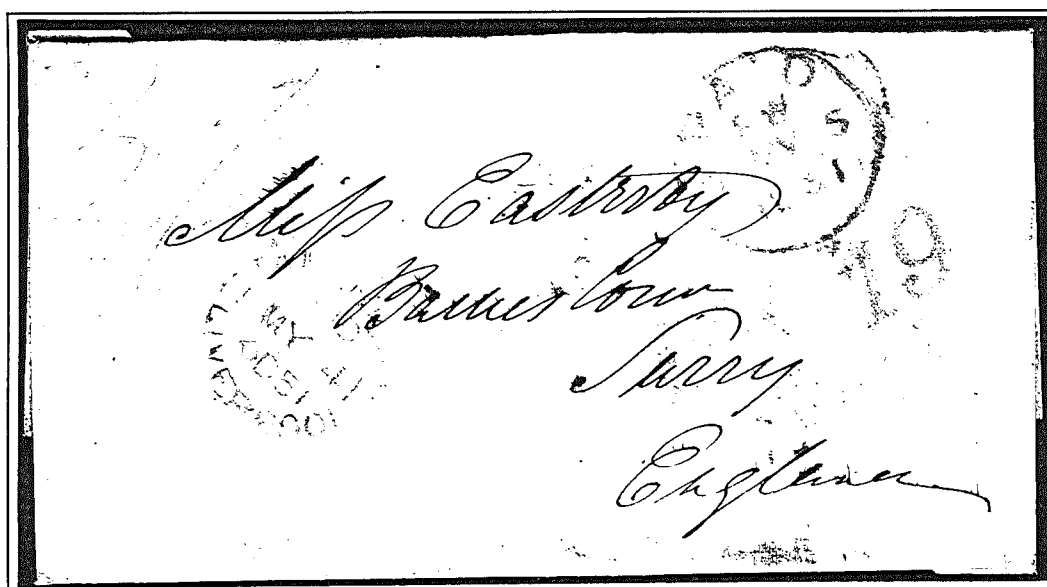
1849-1863
9 Sep 1850-1 Jul 1851

PAID



7 November 1850 Sanquhar, Scotland to San Francisco
2s5½d paid for all transit fees to destination (59¢ rate)
San Francisco struck "PAID" handstamp

Niagara 13 days (West)
Letter in closed mail bag from Liverpool to San Francisco; full
prepayment in G.B. required; for unknown reason G.B. did
not mark credit to U.S. (40¢) on any California mails



59

15 March 1851 San Francisco to Barnes Common, England
59¢ paid for single treaty rate; handstamp introduced in Aug 50
(less than 12 examples recorded)
19¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

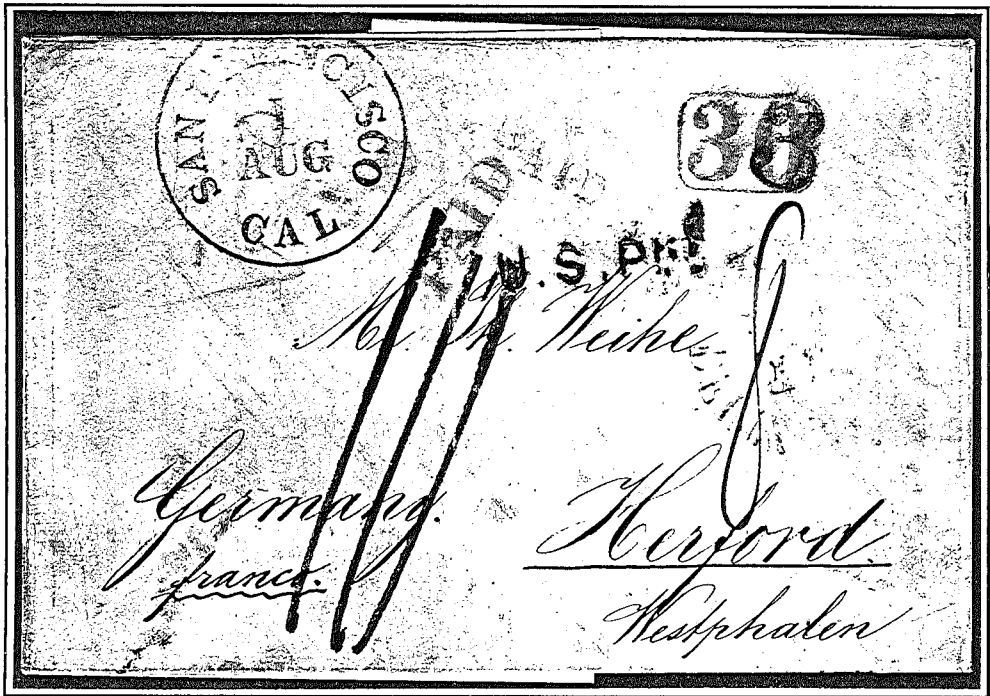
Africa 11 days (East)
Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer
Northerner to Panama and U.S. Mail Steamship Co.
steamer Cherokee from Chagres to New York

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863

On 1 July 1851, new U.S. internal rates became effective changing overseas rates. The cross-country rate was reduced from 40¢ to 6¢ (paid) or 10¢ (unpaid). At the same time the California rate to England was reduced from 59¢ to 29¢. British Open Mail rates were also reduced to 10¢ by British packet and 26¢ by American packet. Higher California rates would remain in effect until July 1863, when all British mail rates throughout the U.S. became the same.



30

23 July 1851 San Francisco to Herford, Prussia
30¢ paid for Bremen Mail rate from West Coast
10 Silbergroschen postage due in Herford

Atlantic 11 days (East)
New York sent letter in the British Open
Mails; London debited Prussia 8d

The San Francisco postmaster didn't understand how to implement the new rate changes and apparently didn't receive instructions. As a result he introduced a number of different rates in error. In the case of this letter, 3¢ was paid for internal fees and then corrected to 30¢, which the postmaster thought was the rate by Bremen mail, not aware that the Bremen treaty rates were also reduced on 1 July 1851. His error rate was 24¢ Bremen treaty plus 6¢ paid U.S. internal fees. No such rate existed. Since at least 26¢ was paid, New York sent the letter in the British Open Mail with all transit fees paid to London. Here the letter was marked "U.S.P^{K.T.}," Prussia was debited 8d, and the letter sent to Aachen via Belgium.

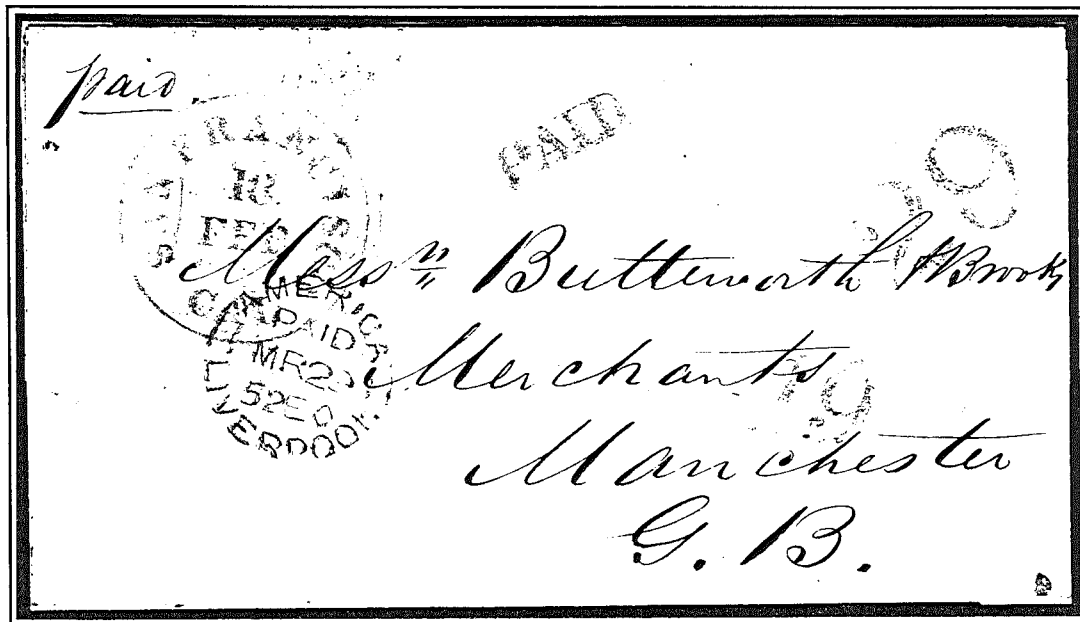
This is the only recorded example of a 30¢ error rate from California.

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

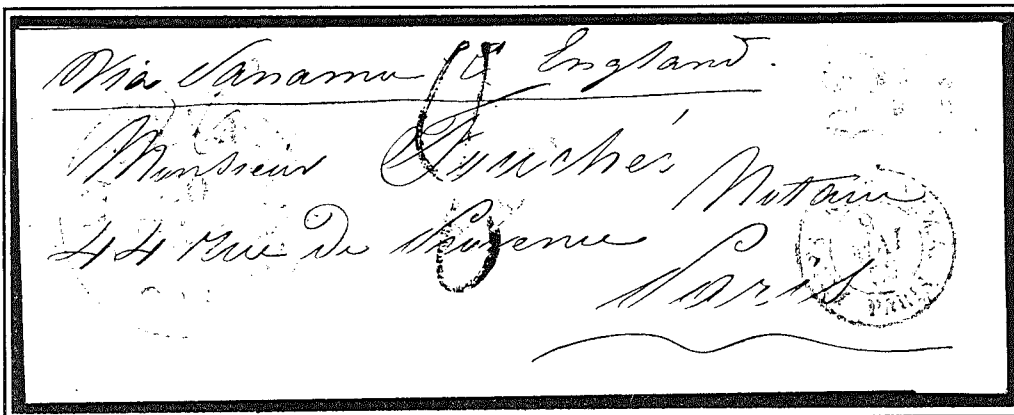
1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863

29



18 February 1852 San Francisco to Manchester, England
29¢ paid for single treaty rate (West Coast)
19¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

America 12 days (East)
Letter carried from San Francisco to Panama by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Panama* and from Chagres to New York by U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *El Dorado*



26

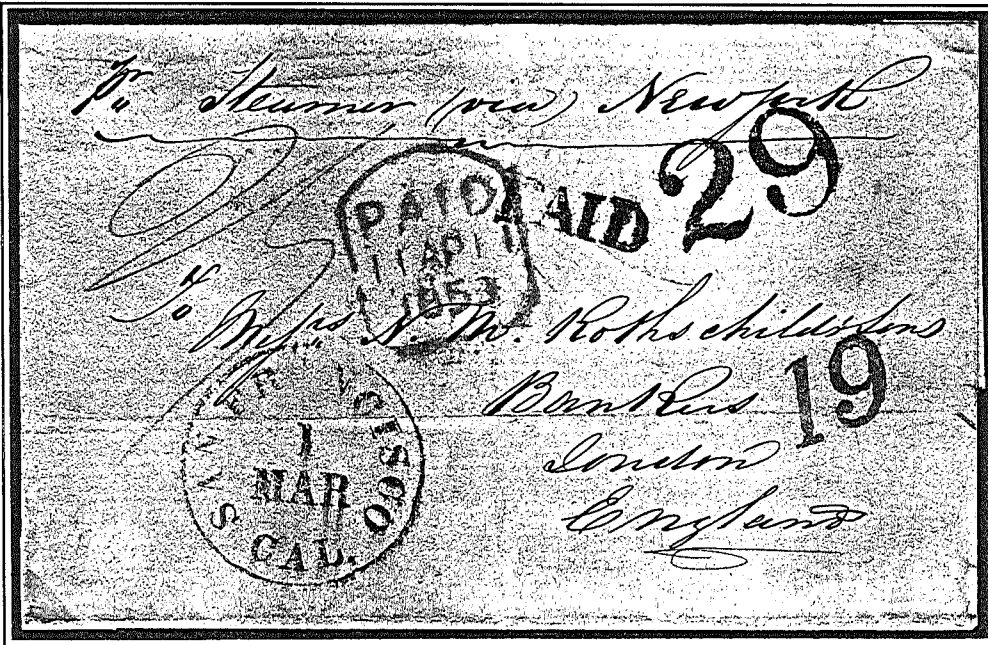
20 March 1852 San Francisco to Paris, France
26¢ paid (British Open Mail rate by American packet - West Coast)
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Hermann 13 days (East)
San Francisco introduced "26" handstamp in Sep 51, two months after U.S. inland rate change

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863

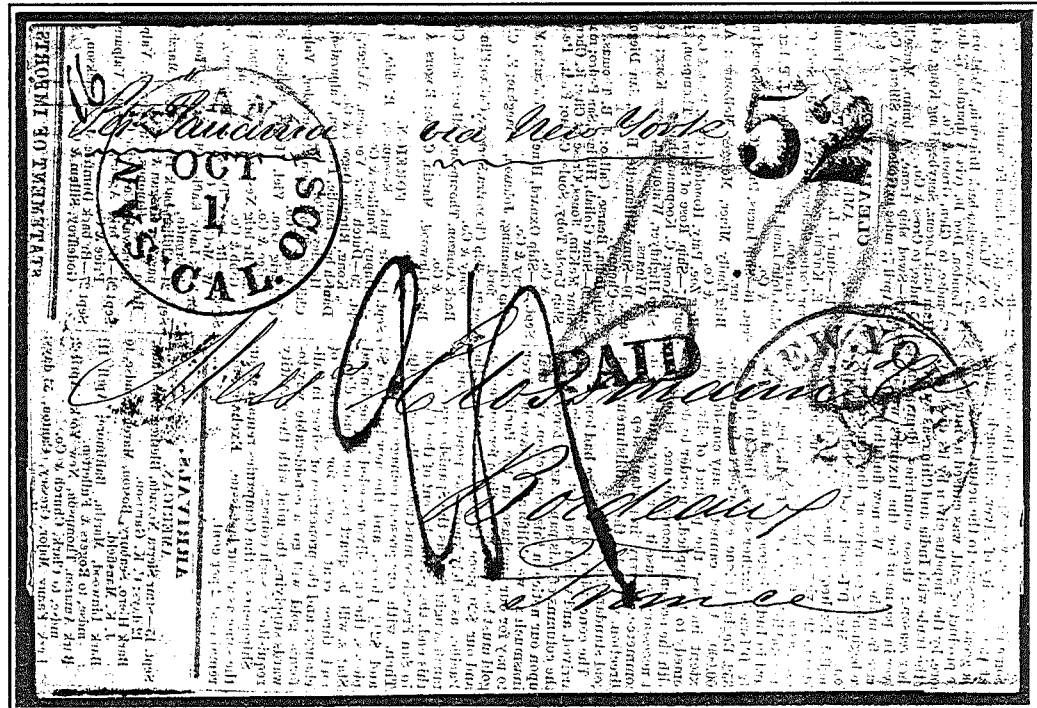


29

26 February 1853 San Francisco to London
29¢ paid for single treaty rate (West Coast)
19¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Canada 11 days (East)
Letter carried by steamer *Oregon* to Panama and steamer *Georgia* from
Aspinwall to New York; San Francisco used black ink in late 1852; only
black "29" recorded (marking device changed summer 1853)

52



30 September 1853 San Francisco to Bordeaux, France
52¢ paid (double British Open Mail rate by American packet-
West Coast)
24 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

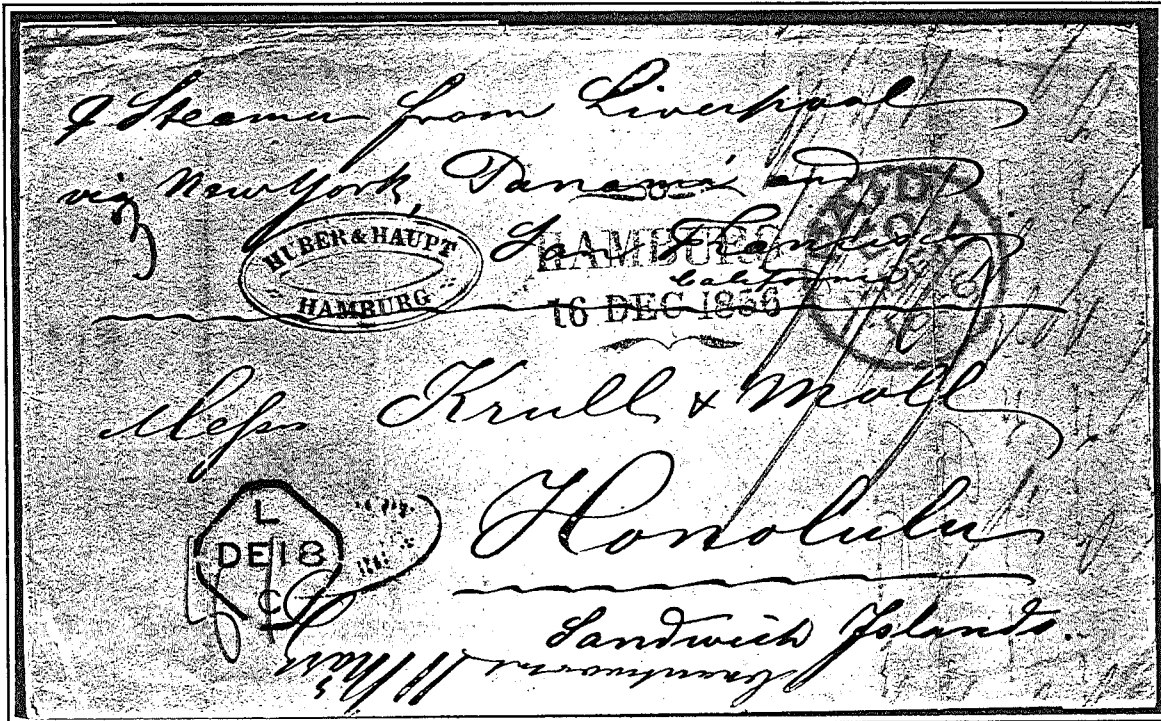
Atlantic 11 days (East)
Scarce San Francisco "52" rate marking (2 recorded);
Letter carried by steamer *Panama* to Panama and
steamer *Ohio* from Aspinwall to New York

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863

HAMBURG
16 DEC 1856



10 December 1856 Hamburg to Honolulu, Sandwich Islands
81 Schillinge paid for all transit fees to San Francisco

Niagara 13 days (West)
Letter sent privately to Honolulu by California forwarder

Triple rate letter sent in open mails of Hamburg-G.B. Treaty and U.S.-G.B. Treaty at 3x27=81 schillinge rate. Hamburg credited 3x1s7d=4s9d to G.B.

British mail to the Sandwich Islands via the United States was sent in closed bags to San Francisco, the limit of its payment. These closed mails had to be prepaid and never showed credit accounting to U.S. by London.

Letter carried across Atlantic by Cunard steamer *Niagara* from Liverpool to Boston. U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamship *Illinois* carried it from New York to Aspinwall, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamship *Sonora* carried it from Panama to San Francisco. Eight days after arrival in San Francisco, letter sent privately by San Francisco agent to Honolulu on sailing vessel *Yankee*, which arrived in Honolulu 23 February 1857, 75 days after letter posted in Hamburg.

European mail to the Sandwich Islands via the United States is quite scarce.

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863



23 June 1857 London to Honolulu, Sandwich Islands
1s2½d paid for all transit fees to San Francisco

Arago 12 days (West)
Letter sent privately to Honolulu by California forwarder

Letter carried across Atlantic by N.Y. & Havre Line steamer *Arago* from Southampton to New York. U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamship *Central America* carried it from New York to Aspinwall, and Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamship *Sonora* carried it from Panama to San Francisco.

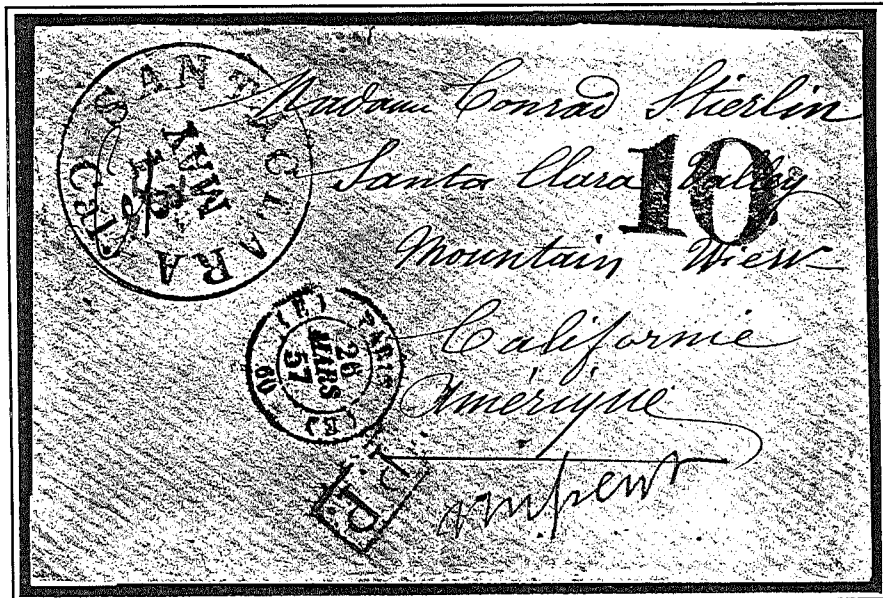
Eight days after arrival in San Francisco, letter sent privately by San Francisco agent to Honolulu on the sailing vessel *John Land*, which arrived in Honolulu 4 September 1857, 66 days after letter posted in London.

Again, letter paid only to San Francisco in the British mails and shows no British accounting to the U.S.

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via U.S. East Coast

1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863



(Reverse)

26 March 1857 Paris, France to Mountain View, California
8 decimes paid (manuscript on reverse)
10¢ postage due in Mountain View

Niagara 14 days (West)
Boston marked 10¢ postage due, British Open Mail rate by
British packet; Letter missent to Santa Clara ; scarce
westbound three-month cover by British packet

105

(Reverse)



15 July 1861 Rotterdam, Holland to Sonoma, California
105 Dutch Cents paid for all transit fees (reverse)
1s5d Dutch credit to G.B.
No postage due marked at San Francisco

Africa 11 days (West)
Without a treaty between U.S. and Holland letters could not
be paid to destination, however this one apparently was;
scarce paid letter from Holland to California

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

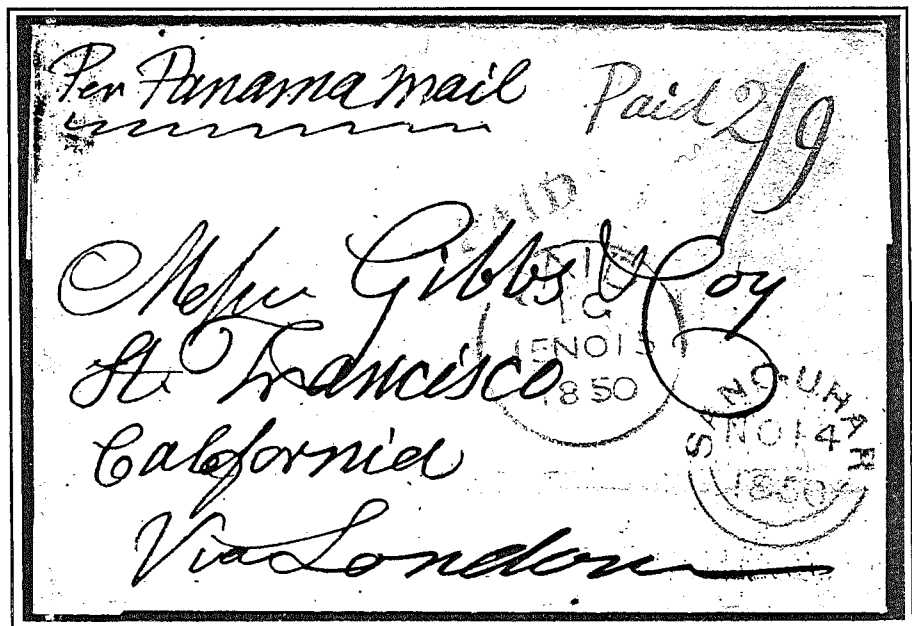
1848 Treaty
California Mail via West Indies

1849-1863
Oct 1850-1 Jul 1851

The second and much less common route for California mails was via Panama and the West Indies directly to England. In October 1850, London announced mail could be sent by West India packet to Chagres and American packet to San Francisco at 2s9d single letter rate. Nine months later in July 1851, the rate was reduced to 2s4d. By February 1856, London acknowledged the faster route to California was via New York.

Very little mail has been recorded sent over the West India route. At first the rate by this route was only 4¢ greater than the New York route; however, by July 1851 the rate was 27¢ higher, almost twice as much.

Per Panama mail
~~~~~



13 November 1850 Sanquhar, Scotland to San Francisco
2s9d paid for all transit fees by West Indies route

Trent ~30 days (West)
Letter in closed mail bag from London to San Francisco

Steamships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. departed Southampton each month for the West Indies. California mails remained on board until arrival at Chagres, were transported overland to Panama, then were sent north to San Francisco on steamers of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. Steamship *Oregon* carried this letter to San Francisco. Because the letters were in closed mail bags they received no markings between London and San Francisco, where the red "PAID" was applied. Again, no credits to the U.S. were shown on the California mails.

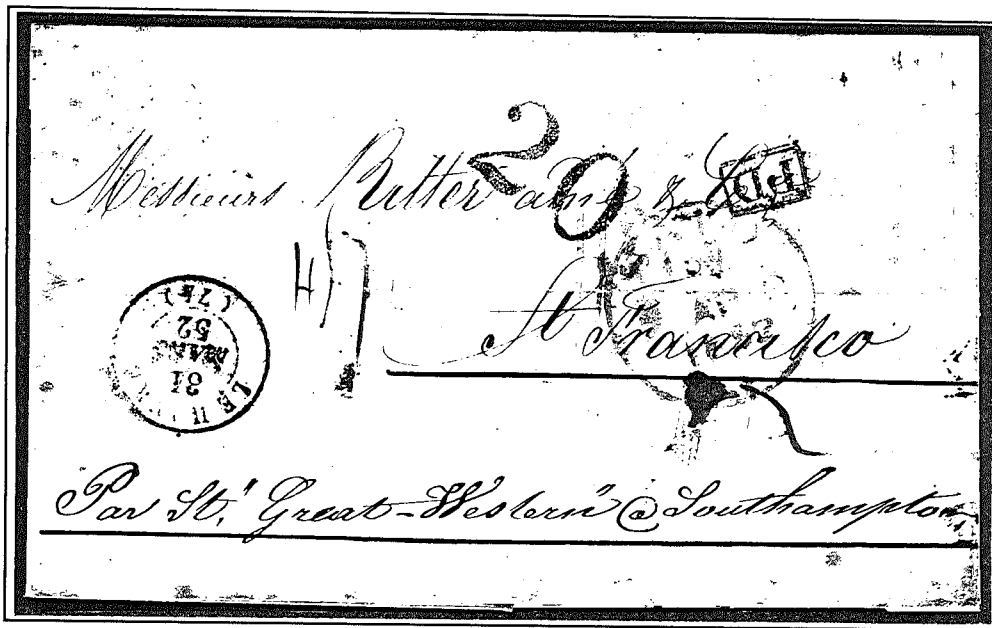
This is one of five recorded covers at the 2s9d rate.

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

1848 Treaty
California Mail via West Indies

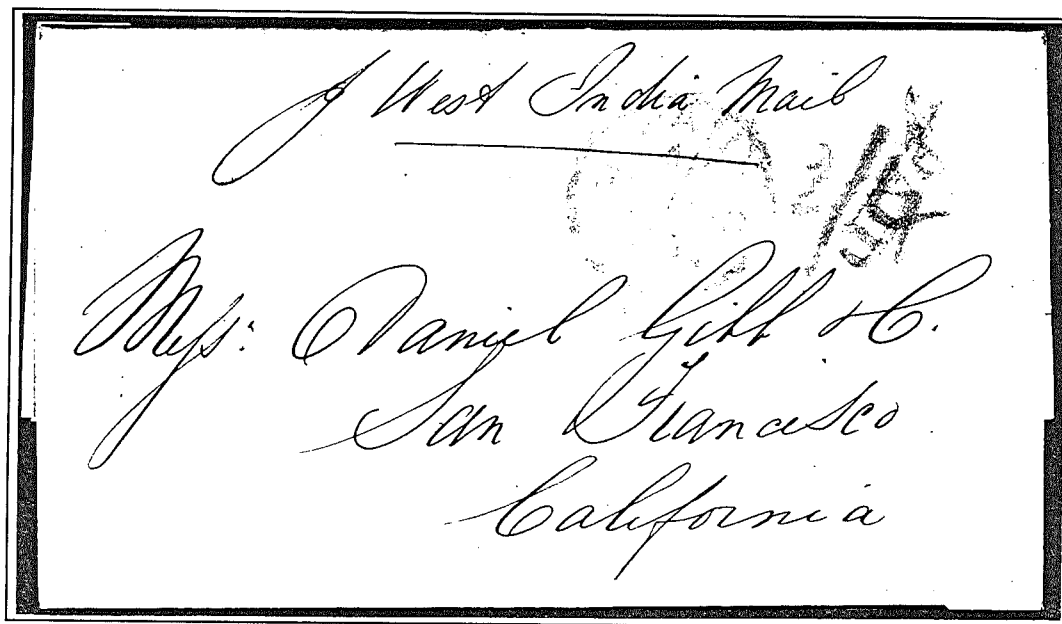
1849-1863
1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863

20



16 March 1852 Lausanne, Switzerland to San Francisco
Letter carried privately to Havre; posted by forwarding agent
50 decimes paid for transit fees to Panama (manuscript on reverse)
20¢ postage due in San Francisco

Great Western 21 days (West)
Payment = 2x25 decimes (reflecting reduced British
fees for this route from Jul 51); postage due for
distance > 2,500 miles from Panama to S.F.



30 September 1854 London to San Francisco
2s4d paid for all transit fees by West Indies route (rate
reduced on 1 July 1851 from 2s9d to 2s4d)

Tamar ~24 days (West)
Letter carried from Panama by Pacific Mail Steamship Co.
steamer *Golden Gate*; payment included 12d packet rate to
St. Thomas, 6d transit to Panama and 10d transit to S.F.

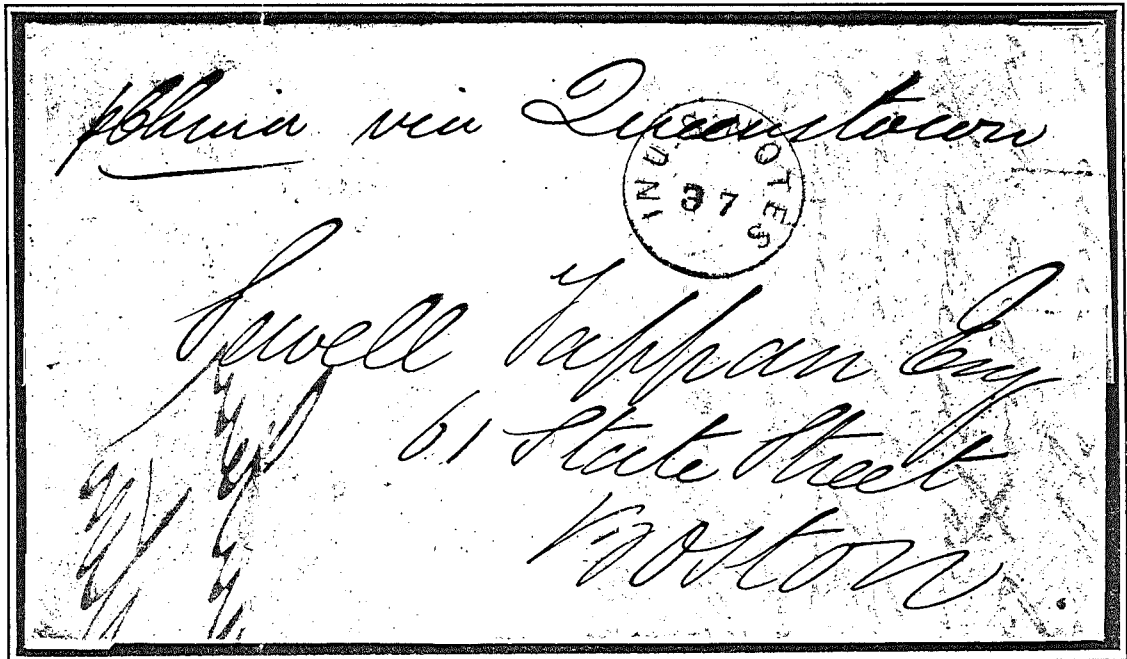
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1867, 1868 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1868-1870
1 Jan 1868-1 Jan 1870

On 1 January 1868, a new postal convention between the U.S. and G.B. went into effect which significantly lowered the rates between the two countries. The old 24¢ international rate was reduced to 12¢. The breakdown of the new rate was 2¢ U.S. internal, 8¢ transatlantic sea, and 2¢ British inland postage. Since each country was responsible for the cost of sending mails to the other country, the sea postage always went to the sending country. The requirement to account separately for British and American packet service ceased as did individual letter credit and debit accounting. Letters could be sent either paid or unpaid, however there were now fines imposed on partially paid or unpaid letters. Since most letters were prepaid in adhesives, avoiding unpaid letter fines, examples without adhesives are uncommon.

In 1869, additional changes went into effect, but the 6d or 12¢ international rate remained the same.



14 March 1868 Liverpool to Boston
Letter sent unpaid
29¢ postage due in Boston

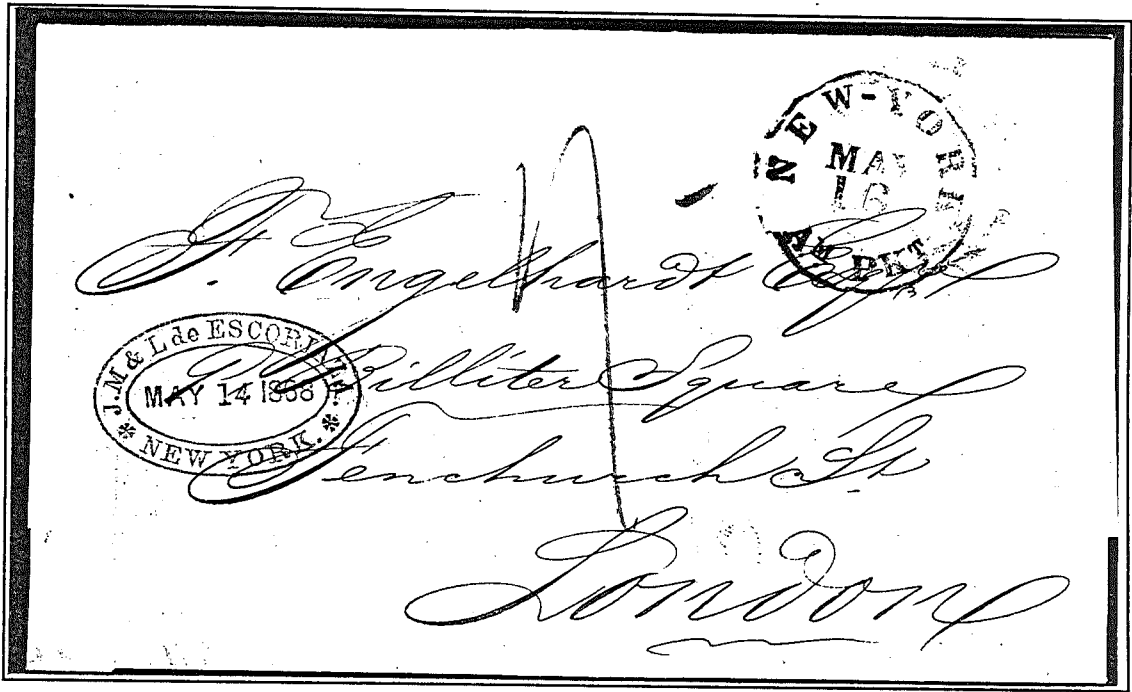
China 12 days (West)
Letter posted in Liverpool Packet Letter Office
(circular datestamp on reverse)

Double rate letter requiring $2 \times 12¢ = 24¢$ postage. 5¢ unpaid letter fine was imposed in the U.S. making total postage due in Boston 29¢ if paid in coin or 37¢ if paid in depreciated greenback currency. Boston showed the postage due in greenback notes with 24 mm. circular "IN U.S. NOTES" marking.

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

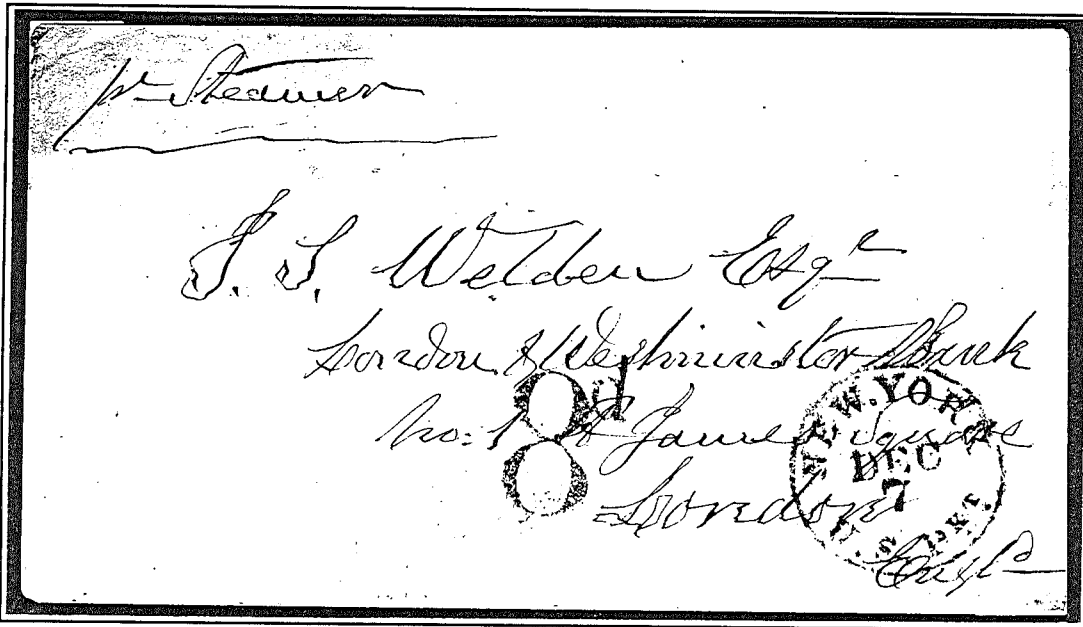
1867, 1868 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1868-1870
1 Jan 1868-1 Jan 1870



28 April 1868 Santiago, Cuba to London
Letter carried privately to New York and posted unpaid by forwarding agent, J.M. & L de Escoriaza
1s postage due in London

City of Antwerp 9 days (East)
Postage due included 6d international rate plus 6d unpaid letter fine (reduced in Jan 1869 to 2d); covers showing 6d letter fine are uncommon



7 December 1869 New York to London
Letter sent unpaid
8d postage due in London

Holsatia 9 days (East)
Postage due included 6d international rate plus 2d unpaid letter fine (1869 only); "8^d" struck at London; unpaid letters from this period are quite uncommon

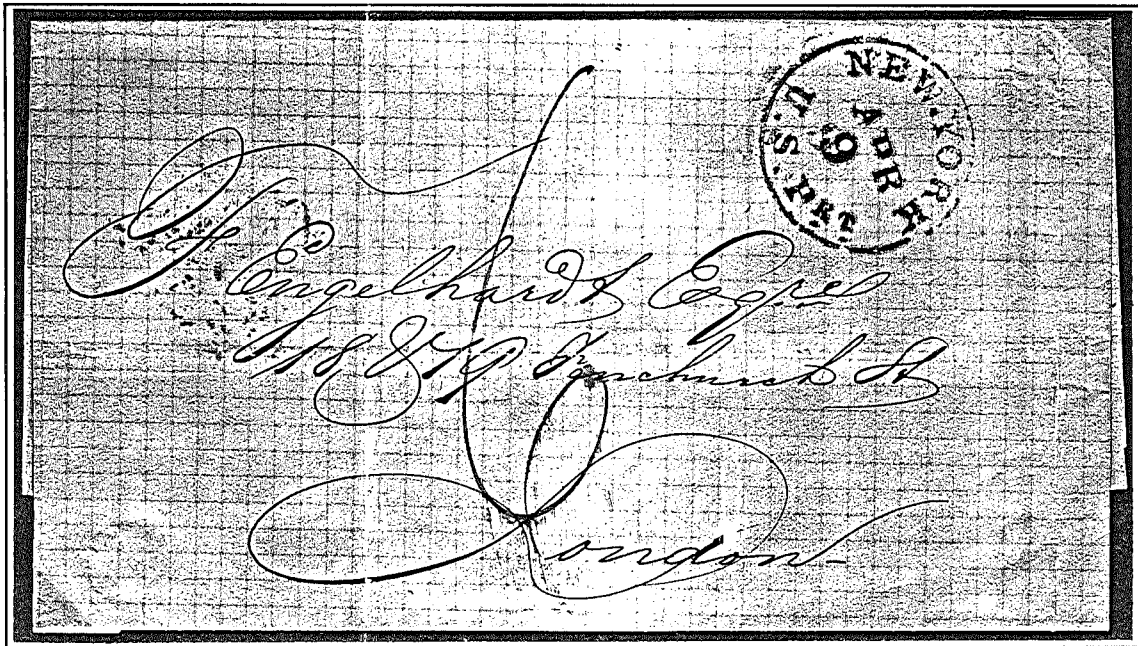
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875
1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875

Further reductions to the international rates between the U.S. and G.B. went into effect on 1 January 1870. The 12¢ international rate of 1868 and 1869 was reduced to 6¢. The breakdown of the new rate was 2¢ U.S. internal, 2¢ transatlantic sea, and 2¢ British inland postage. Again, each country was responsible for the cost of sending mails to the other country. Letters could be sent either paid or unpaid, however the fine now imposed on partially paid or unpaid letters was 5¢ in the U.S. and 3d in G.B.

As before, most letters were prepaid with adhesives, avoiding unpaid letter fines. Examples without adhesives are uncommon.



24 March 1870 Santiago, Cuba to London
Letter carried privately to New York
6d postage due in London

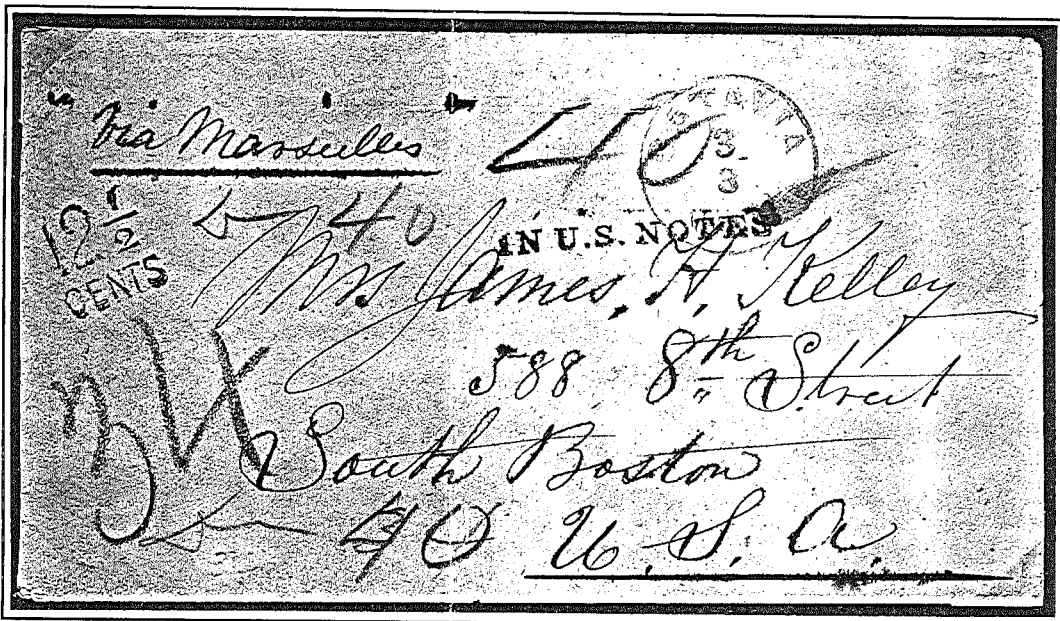
Donau 10 days (East)
Forwarding agent in New York did not put an
identifying agent mark on this letter

New York circular datestamp showed service by "U.S. PKT." even though letter actually carried by German steamship because U.S. paid for sea postage to G.B. Postage due in London was deficient postage of 3d plus 3d unpaid letter fine.

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

1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875
1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875



3 March 1870 Batavia, Dutch East Indies to S. Boston
Letter sent unpaid
12½ Cents (2½d) Dutch debit to G.B.
40¢ postage due in greenback currency in S. Boston

China 10 days (West)
Boston marked 34¢ due in coin in error (rate for Southampton route, but letter sent by Marseille route); 1866 agreement between G.B. and Holland made Dutch share of transit fees
12½ Dutch Cents on mail to East and West Indies



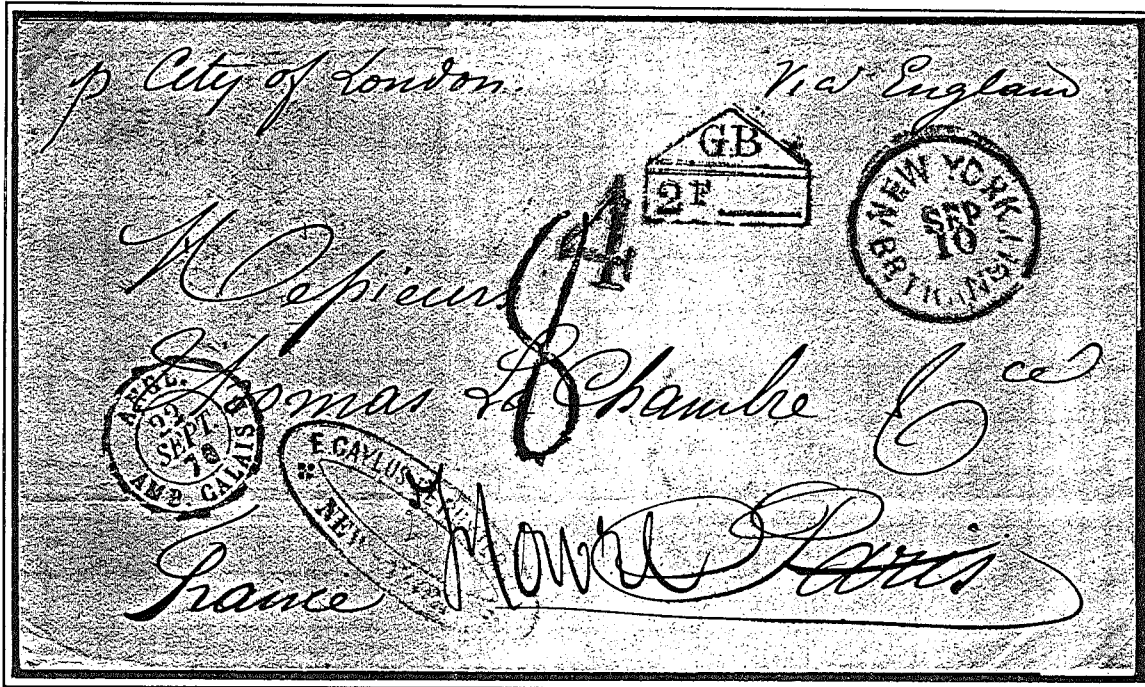
8 March 1870 Bayamon, Puerto Rico to New York
Letter sent unpaid via G.B.
26¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
31¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Main 10 days (West)
letter carried by RMSP steamer *Nile* from St. Thomas to Plymouth;
British debit included 24¢ packet fee from Caribbean and 2¢ sea postage to U.S.; postage due in coin was 28¢ (not shown)

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

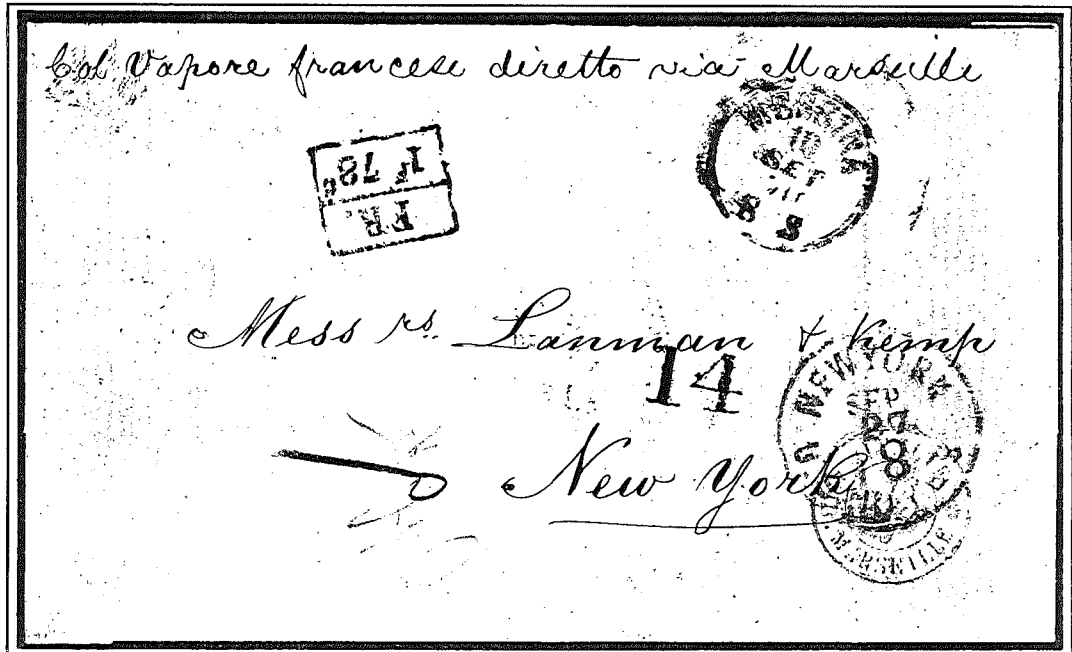
1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875
1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875



9 September 1870 New York to Paris, diverted to Havre, France
Letter sent unpaid
4¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
8 decimes postage due in Havre

City of London 10 days (East)
Letter sent in open mails to G.B.; U.S. debit included
2¢ internal and 2¢ sea postage; British accountancy
mark indicated G.B. entitled to 2 Francs/30 grams



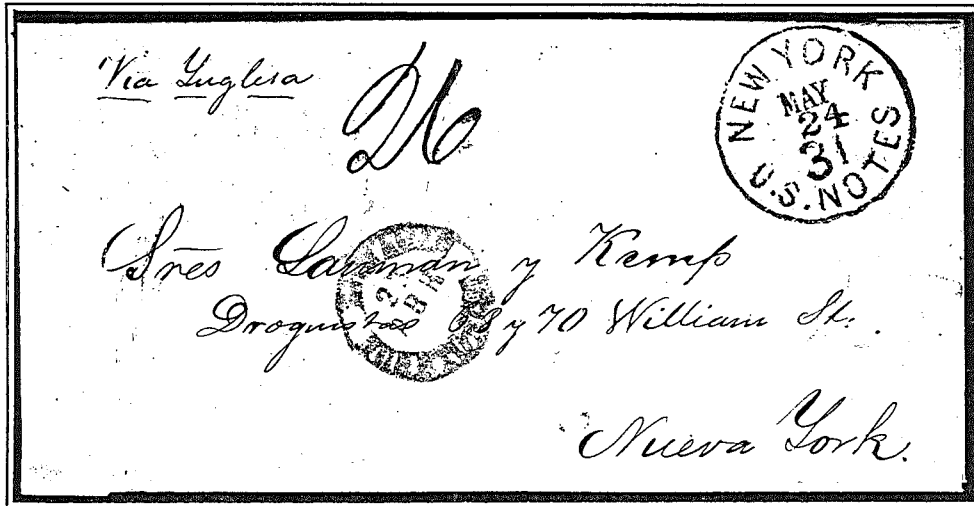
10 September 1870 Messina, Sicily to New York
Letter sent unpaid
18¢ postage due in greenback notes
16¢ postage due in coin (not shown)

Scotia 9 days (West)
14¢ G.B. debit to U.S. (10¢ payback to France, 2¢ British
transit, and 2¢ sea postage); France debited G.B. 1 Franc 78
centimes/30 grams for transit on unpaid letter from Italy

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

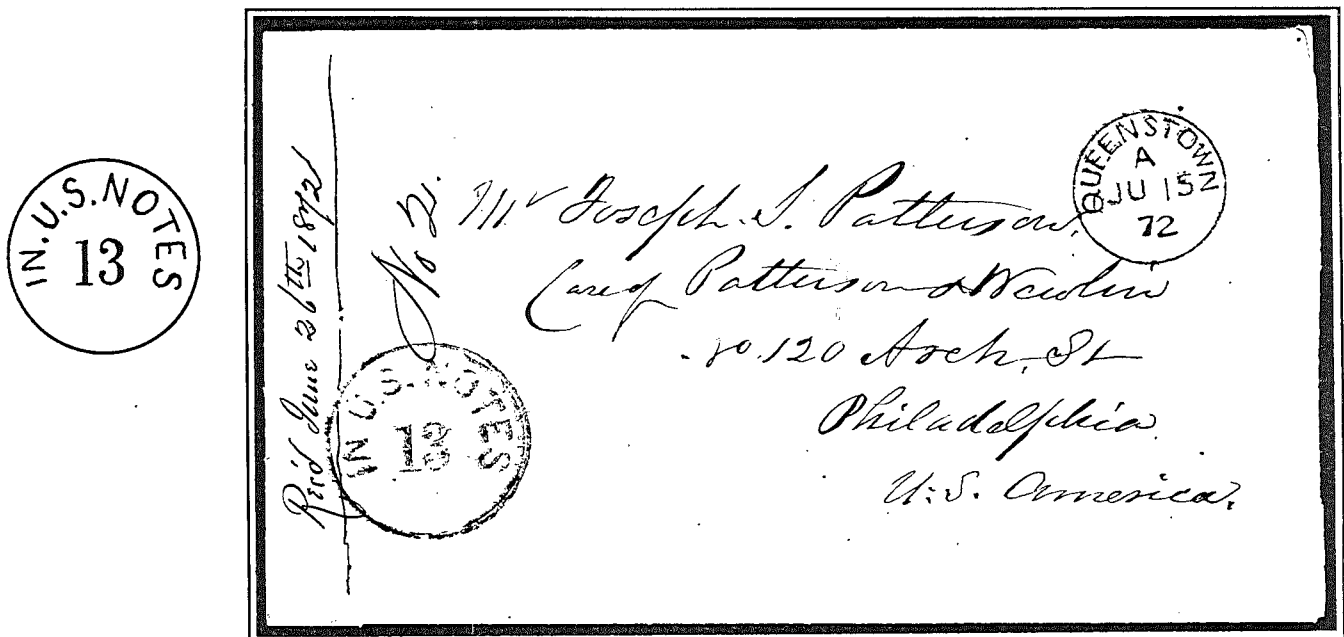
1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875
1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875



23 April 1872 Humacao, Puerto Rico to New York via G.B.
Letter sent unpaid
26¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
31¢ postage due in greenback notes

Abyssinia 9 days (West)
Letter carried by RMSP Co. auxiliary steamer to St. Thomas
and RMSP Co. steamer *Moselle* to Plymouth; G.B. debit
included 12d (24¢) transit to G.B. and 2¢ sea postage to N.Y.



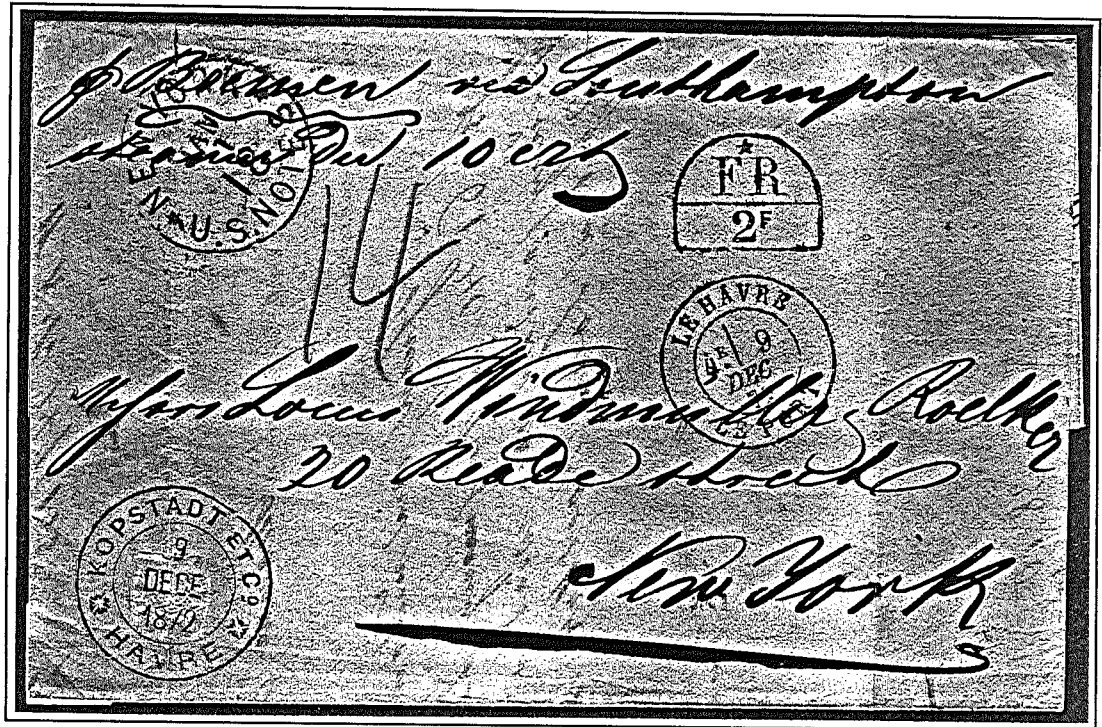
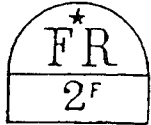
15 June 1872 Queenstown, Ireland to Philadelphia
Letter sent unpaid
12¢ postage due in coin (not shown)
13¢ postage due in greenback notes

Russia 9 days (West)
Postage due included 6¢ international rate, 6¢ unpaid
letter fine, and 1¢ premium for depreciated currency;
Philadelphia marked IN U.S.NOTES/13 in blue

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

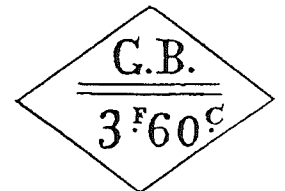
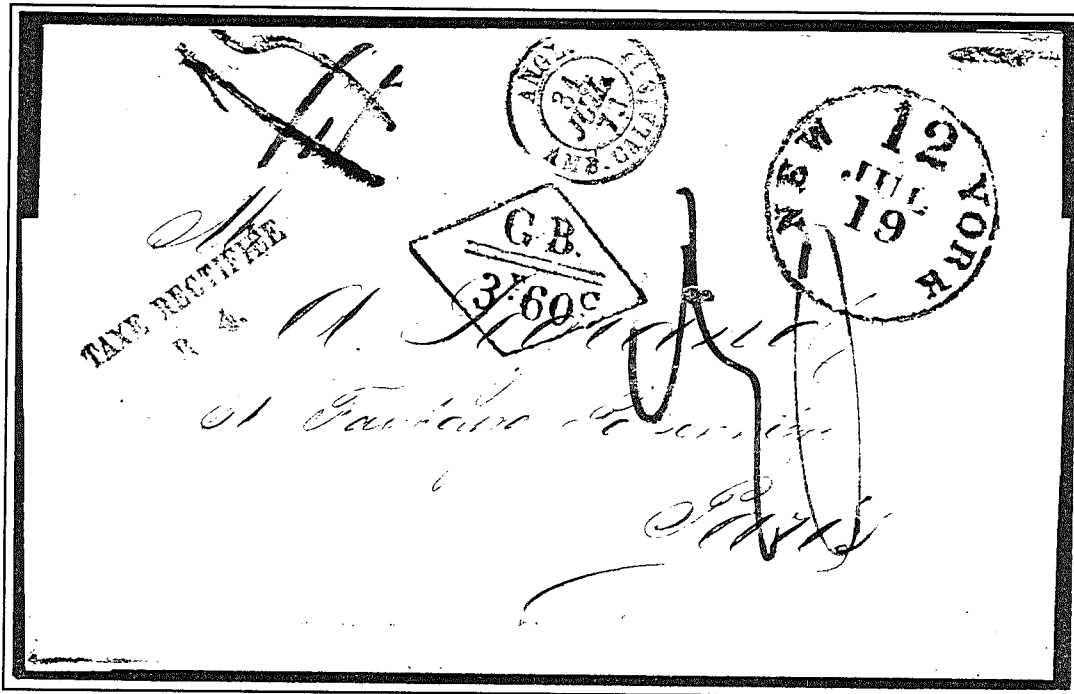
1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875
1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875



9 December 1872 Havre, France 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/ounce bulk letter rate



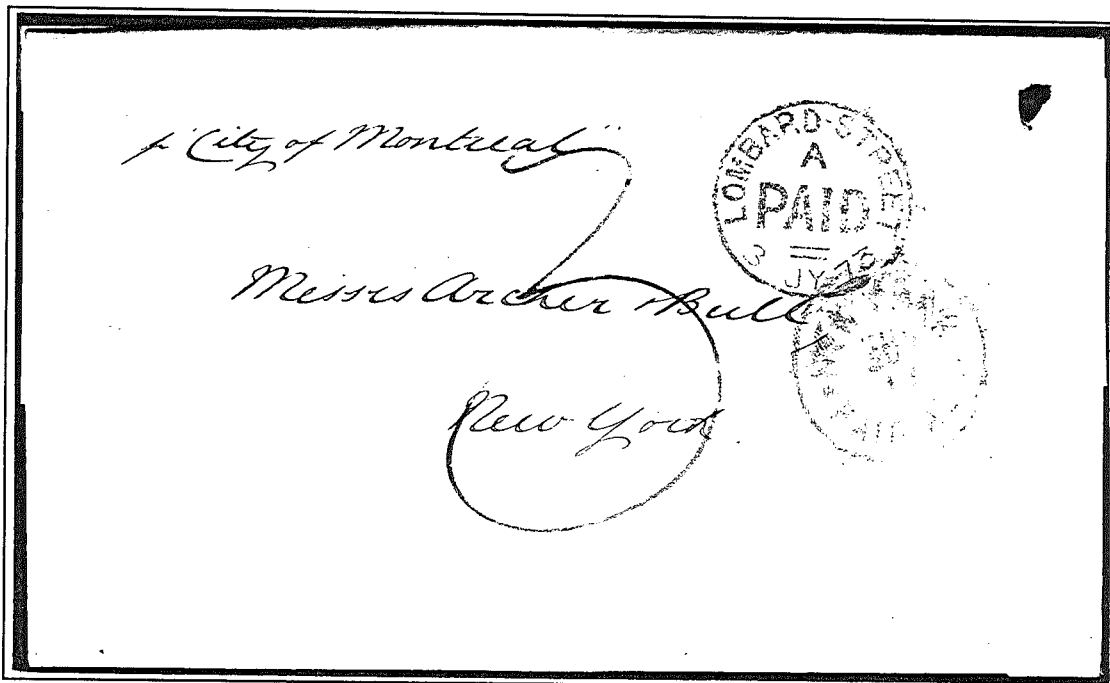
July 1873 Havana, Cuba to Paris, France via New York
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)
12¢ U.S. debit to G.B.
30 decimes postage due in Paris

Oceanic 10 days (East)
London accounted for letter under 3 Franc 60 centimes/
30 grams bulk rate; Paris marked postage due for single
rate, then reweighed and corrected to double rate

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

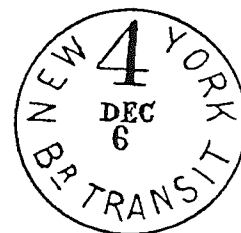
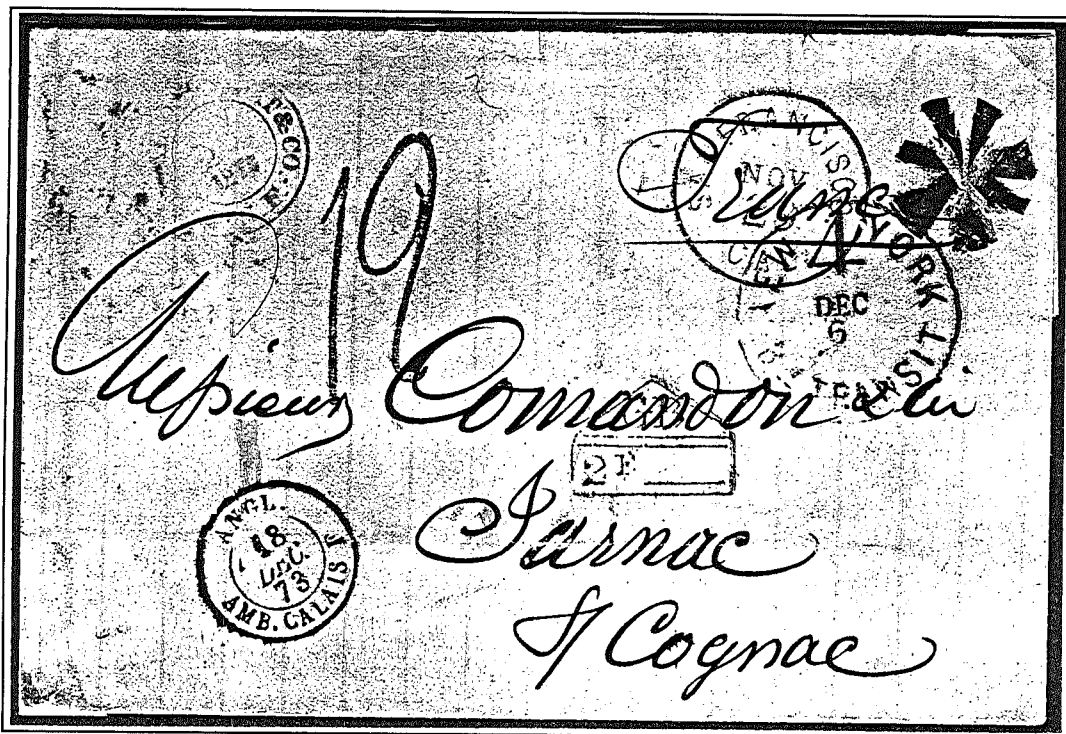
1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875
1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875



3 July 1873 London to New York
3d paid for single treaty rate

City of Montreal 12 days (West)
Compulsory prepayment with adhesives in
G.B. not required until later in the 1870s



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

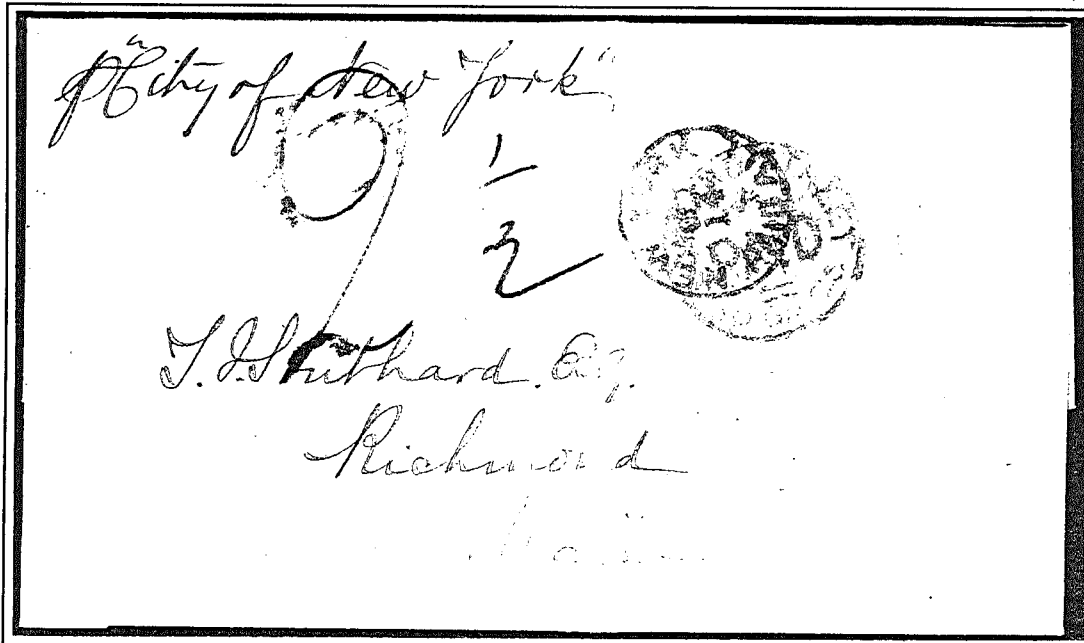
Deutschland 11 days (East)
4¢ U.S. debit to G.B.; 7 day transit from San Francisco to
N.Y. possible only after trans-continental railroad completed

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

General Postal Union
British & American Contract Steamships

1875-1878
1 Jul 1875-1 May 1878

Uniform rates under the General Postal Union, established by the Berne Treaty of 1874, went into effect among the the 21 signatory countries on 1 July 1875. France was an exception and was allowed until 1 January 1876 to implement the treaty. A uniform rate of postage within the Union was fixed at 25 centimes for letters up to 15 grams. In the United States this was equivalent to 5¢ and in Great Britain, 2½ pence.



30 September 1875 London to Richmond, Maine
2½d paid for single Union rate

City of New York II 13 days (West)
New York continued to used circular datestamp
that showed letter fully paid; i.e. "PAID ALL"

The treaty required prepayment by postage stamps or stamped envelopes valid in the country of origin. Stampless prepaid covers would not be expected except in case where the new rules were slow in implementation.

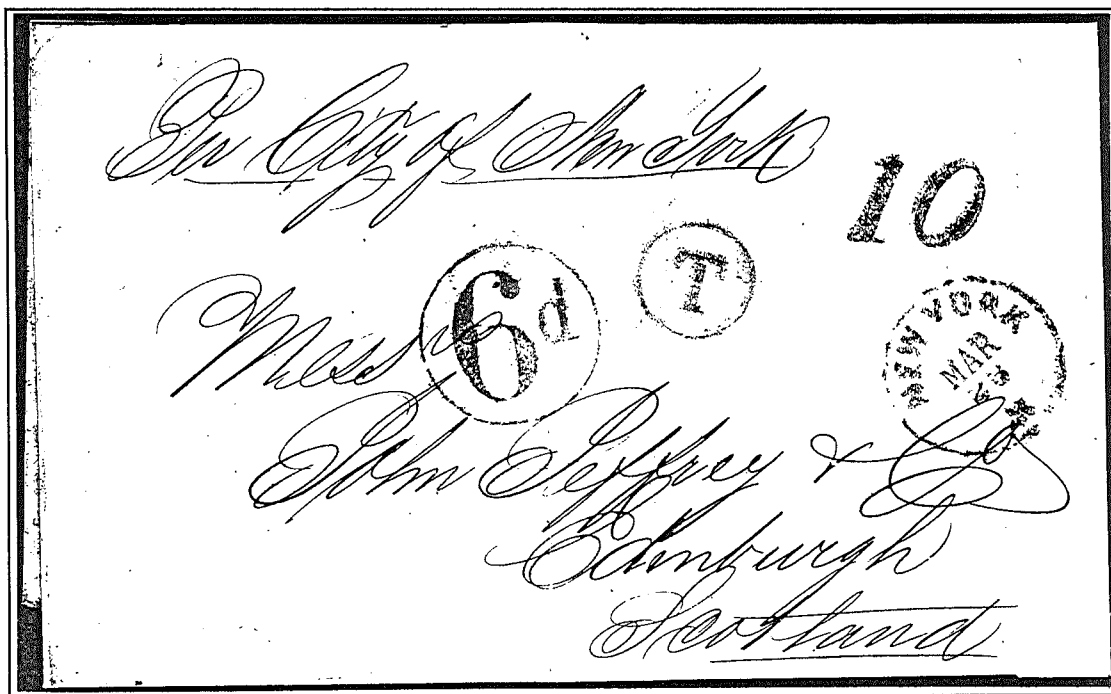
This cover from England, three months after the General Postal Union rules went into effect, shows prepayment is cash instead of the required adhesives. Such covers are quite uncommon.

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

General Postal Union
British & American Contract Steamships

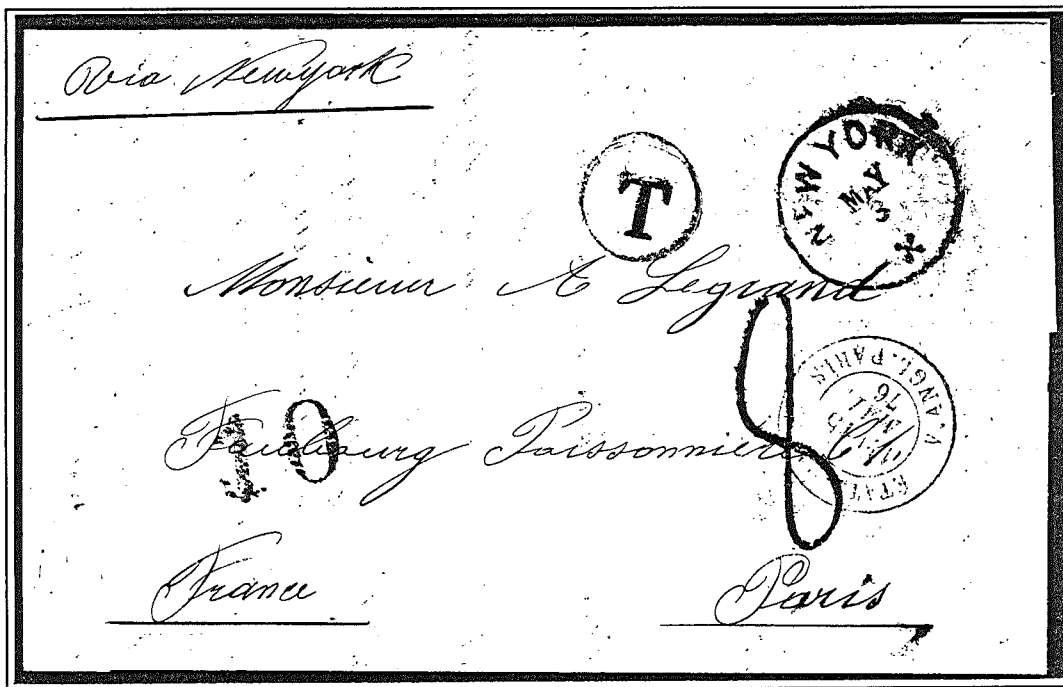
1875-1878
1 Jul 1875-1 May 1878

6d



18 March 1876 Havana, Cuba to Edinburgh, Scotland
Letter sent unpaid
10 centimes U.S. debit to G.B.
6d postage due in Edinburgh

Adriatic 10 days (East)
Letter carried to New York by N.Y., Havana & Mexican Mail
Line steamer *City of New York*; postage due included 1d to
U.S. and 5d unpaid Union rate (twice paid rate)



T

29 April 1876 Havana, Cuba to Paris, France 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*