

# INTRO PAGE

FIRST POSTAL MARKINGS ON OUTBOUND FOREIGN MAIL ENTERING THE US MAILS IN NEW YORK CITY



**PAID**

Stamp cancelled with arched 'PAID'

**1845 to England carried privately from Havana** via New York Jul 15 then from Boston 16 on Cunard Line's *Acadia* (not *Hibernia* as endorsed) going via Liverpool 29, arriving London 30. This is one of three first day of issue Provisional covers known to England.

THE EARLIEST KNOWN USE OF A PROVISIONAL COVER WITH AN INTEGRAL '5 CTS' RATE CIRCULAR DATESTAMP ON FOREIGN MAIL

Later Exchange Office datestamps were larger and included 'PAID' (see below). The integral '5' denoted 5¢ postage paid for the inland postage New York City to Boston. No first day covers bear control initials, the later, more common cancel.



*M*

One shilling



THE EARLIEST KNOWN USE OF A FOREIGN MAIL DATESTAMP ON STAMPLESS MAIL

**1845 to England carried privately from Havana** arriving New York Jul 31 then from Boston Aug 1 on Cunard Line's *Britannia* going via Liverpool 15, arriving London 16. The manuscript '1/-' (one shilling) shows the British charge for the Cunard Line's transatlantic crossing (being a British ship) and inland postage costs due in England.





**Jul 31, 1845 to France**  
 departing Boston Aug 1 on Cunard Line's *Britannia* going via Liverpool 15, Boulogne and Paris 18, arriving Marseille 21. Postage via GB and inland French transit were paid by the recipient. The handstamp '21' indicates 10 decimes due GB plus 11 decimes due to France.



C

**A FIRST MONTH USE OF A FOREIGN MAIL DATESTAMP ON STAMPED MAIL TO FRANCE**



Boxed 'COLONIES & c. ART(ICLE).12' applied in London, per an 1843 French Treaty of 10 pence per 1/2 ounce showing GB debited France 3/4p per 30 grams in accordance with *Article 12 of the Treaty*.



**Apr 30, 1846 to France** (from Boston) carried May 1 on Cunard Line's *Caledonia* going via Liverpool 14, London 15, Boulogne 17, arriving Marseille 20. Postage via GB and inland French transit were paid by the recipient. The handstamp '21' indicates 10 decimes due GB plus 11 decimes due to France.

C

**THE FIRST KNOWN USE OF A DATESTAMP USED AS A CANCELER ON NEW YORK FOREIGN STAMPED MAIL**



This cover shows a similar boxed 'COLONIES & c. ART(ICLE).13' as on the top cover but this time indicating in accordance with *Article 13 of the Treaty*.

## 19



THE RED '19' ON THIS COVER IS THE FIRST KNOWN 'EXCHANGE OFFICE' POSTAL MARKING ON OUTBOUND FOREIGN STAMPED MAIL FROM NEW YORK

**Jul 25, 1849 to England** (departing Boston), carried on Cunard Line's *Caledonia* going via Liverpool Aug 14, arriving Mansfield 15. The magenta pen stroke cancel was only known used on outbound foreign mail during this period. **Three covers are recorded bearing strips of five 1847 US first Issue 5¢ stamps.**

Postage of 25¢ overpaid the 24¢ British treaty rate.

On Jul 1, 1849, a US/GB Treaty designated the New York City post office as an 'Exchange Office'. It obligated the post office to use markings, such as this '19', indicating a 19¢ credit to GB.



Magenta pen strokes cancel commonly used in New York at this time



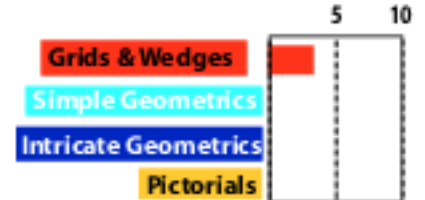
**DATA BLOCK**

**Postal progression**

- ~11 separate ratings/treaties
- ~12 different foreign destinations (at right)
- ~9 different ships from 5 shipping lines
- ~A total of 3,435,000 NYCFM letters in this period

Bohemia	Ireland
Brazil	Italy
China	Jamaica
England	Mauritius
Hungary	Singapore
India	Wales

**Cancel progression**



7 enclosed thick bars  
in red\* or black  
**6/5/1850**  
to  
12/8/1863

\*red was used randomly with no significance until 1853 when it sometimes indicated 'supplementary mail', a process to expedite late mail onto a departing ship.



C

**THE EARLIEST GRID CANCEL PREDICATED FOR USE AS A NEW YORK CITY FOREIGN MAIL CANCELER**

**Jun 5, 1850 to Prague, Bohemia**, carried on Cunard Line's *Europa* going via Liverpool 16, London 17, Hamburg 21, arriving Prague 24.

**The sole known cover to Prague bearing an 1847 US issue 5¢ stamp.**

Prague was the capital city of Bohemia, a Kingdom in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (today Bohemia is a part of the Czech Republic).

The 5¢ postage paid only the domestic rate which was sufficient to have the letter placed on board a British steamer for onward transmission via the open mail rate via Hamburg.





The red '19' is now internal in the Exchange Office datestamp (unlike the '19' on the cover at 1-4).

**Apr 6, 1853 to Wales** on Cunard Line's *Asia* going via Liverpool 17, Conway 18, enroute to Bron-y-Wendon. **A rare NYCFM destination**, with just one other cover to Wales recorded. Postage paid the 24¢ British treaty rate.

**Jul 23, 1853 to Italy** carried on Collin's Line *Pacific* going via Liverpool Aug 3, London 4, Paris 5, then Torino, arriving Genoa 7. The cover shows the 1¢, 3¢ and 12¢ values, the complete US Issue of Jul, 1851 (the 10¢ value was not issued until 1855, and the 5¢ until 1856). Postage paid the 21¢ British open mail rate by American packet.



**Aug 19, 1862 Civil War anti-slavery patriotic cover to England** carried on Cunard Line's *Arabia* departing Boston Aug 20, going via Queenstown 29, arriving Plymouth the same day. The penant proclaims 'Slaves Contraband of War' from a Wendell speech with a depiction of a Zouave soldier protecting a slave under flag.



Postage paid the 24¢ British treaty rate with a 19¢ credit to GB made up of 3¢ inland postage plus 16¢ transatlantic packet fee.





6/16/1858 to 8/21/1862  
8 unenclosed thick or thin bars in red or black

**Feb 16, 1859 Wells Fargo 10¢ entire to Hungary.** Carried by Wells Fargo\* from the west coast, this letter left San Francisco on Pacific Mail Steamship Company's *Sonora* Jan 20, 1859, going via Panama to New York City where it received the red grid foreign mail cancels. It departed New York Feb 16 on Cunard's *Asia* going via Liverpool 27, Aachen Mar 1, arriving Pesth 3. **This is one of three NYCFM known to Hungary** and the only known franking including two blocks of 8 of US Scott #24, 1¢ blue. 32¢ postage paid overpaid the 30¢ Prussian closed mail rate (effective Oct, 1852 to Aug 30, 1861).

**\*Wells, Fargo & Company,** established in 1852 by Henry Wells and William Fargo, claimed delivery, 'by the fastest means possible be it by stagecoach, steamship, railroad, pony rider or telegraph.'



**Jul 10, 1860 four colour franking to Ireland** carried on Cunard's *Europa* going via Queenstown 21, arriving Dublin the same day. Postage of 48¢ paid the double 24¢ treaty rate to GB.







C ONE OF TWO KNOWN US 1857-61 ISSUE 90¢ STAMPS ON COVER ORIGINATING IN NEW YORK CITY TO INDIA AND ONE OF FIVE USED ABROAD

Jan 26, 1861 cover to India carried on Inman's Line *Edinburgh* from New York going via Queenstown Feb 6, London 8, then to Marseilles where it departed 13 on Peninsular and Oriental (P & O) *Vectus* to Alexandria, arriving 19, then overland to Suez departing 21 via Galle (Ceylon), arriving Calcutta Mar 16.



Postage of \$1.32 correctly paid the four times 33¢ British Mail rate to India via **Southampton**. However, the sender endorsed the letter 'via Marseilles' requiring \$1.62. The subsequent underpayment meant all but the transatlantic element was ignored, and it was treated as paid only to England.

For the leg from England, now treated as unpaid, the British open mail postage due by American packet to India was 3 shillings and 8 pence, or 72 US cents. The British post office debited 36 pence less the single rate of one pence British Colonial credit ie 36 pence minus 1 pence equals 35 pence equals two shillings and eleven pence (note the manuscript '2/11').

On arrival, the Calcutta post office added a further two pence Colonial credit making a total due of 35 plus 2 equals 37 pence or 74 US cents payable.

The Indian post office subsequently collected the equivalent of 1 rupee, 8 annas and 9 pies from the recipient shown on the backstamp as '1/8/9' (at right).



On the rear





**Dec 10, 1861 to Singapore** (from Boston 11) carried on Cunard Line's *Canada* going via Queenstown 21, London, Marseilles, Alexandria Jan 3, 1862, Suez, Aden, to Galle Jan 24, then via Penang, arriving Singapore Feb 2.

**This is the sole known NYCFM use to Singapore.** Postage paid the 51¢ British treaty rate. The red '1' shows a 1p (pence) Colonial credit to GB.



On the reverse

C

**Feb 8, 1862 to Mauritius** carried on Inman Line's *City of Washington* going via Queenstown 20, London 21, Marseilles, arriving Mauritius Apr 24.

**This is the sole known NYCFM use to Mauritius.** Postage paid the 39¢ British treaty rate via Marseilles (4 1/2 pence British Colonial credit handstamp). The magenta '12' indicates a 12¢ credit.



On the reverse



**Aug 21, 1862 to Jamaica** carried from New York on Liverpool and Jamaica Line's *'Plantagenet'*, arriving Kingston Sep 22.

**This is the sole known NYCFM cover to Jamaica and the latest known use of this cancel.**

Postage of 11¢ overpaid the 10¢ American packet rate (it rated '4' pence due on arrival).





7/17/1858  
to  
12/3/1873

7 enclosed thin bars in red or black

**Sep 30, 1862 Wells Fargo Envelope to England** from Victoria, Vancouver Island via San Francisco to NY where it received the grid cancels and the red Exchange Office datestamp and departed on Cunard Line's *Arabia* Oct 1, going via Queenstown 11, arriving London 13. The 10¢ Envelope plus the two US 10¢ stamps overpaid the 29¢ treaty rate to GB for mails via California.

ORIGINATING OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY YET ATTRACTING A NYCFM CANCEL

C

**Nov 11, 1862 to China** carried on Cunard Line's *Arabia* (from Boston 12), going via Queenstown 22, London 23, via Calais to Marseilles 28, Alexandria Dec 5, Suez 6, Galle, Ceylon 21, then Penang via Singapore to Hong Kong arriving Jan 7, 1863. Postage of 114¢ prepaid the double weight 57¢ British mail rate via Marseilles.



**Mar 3, 1863 to Brazil** carried on Cunard Line's *Canada* going via Queenstown 15, London 16, Southampton Apr 9, arriving Rio de Janeiro May 3.

Postage paid the 45¢ treaty rate via British mail (manuscript '40' (¢) shows a credit to GB).





**DATA BLOCK**

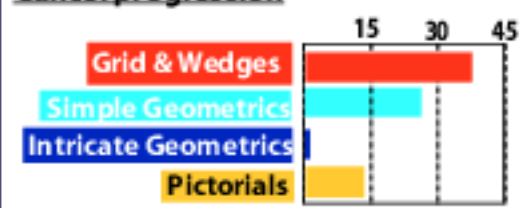
**Postal progression**

- ~30 separate ratings/treaties
- ~31 different foreign destinations (at right)
- ~53 different ships from 12 shipping lines
- ~total of 4,024,000 NYCFM letters in this period

Aden	Ecuador	Malta
Algeria	Denmark	Mexico
Australia	England	Panama
Austria	Finland	Russia
Bohemia	France	Sicily
British Guiana	Germany	Spain
Chile	Holland	Sweden
China	Ireland	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Italy	Trinidad
Cuba	Japan	Turkey
DW		

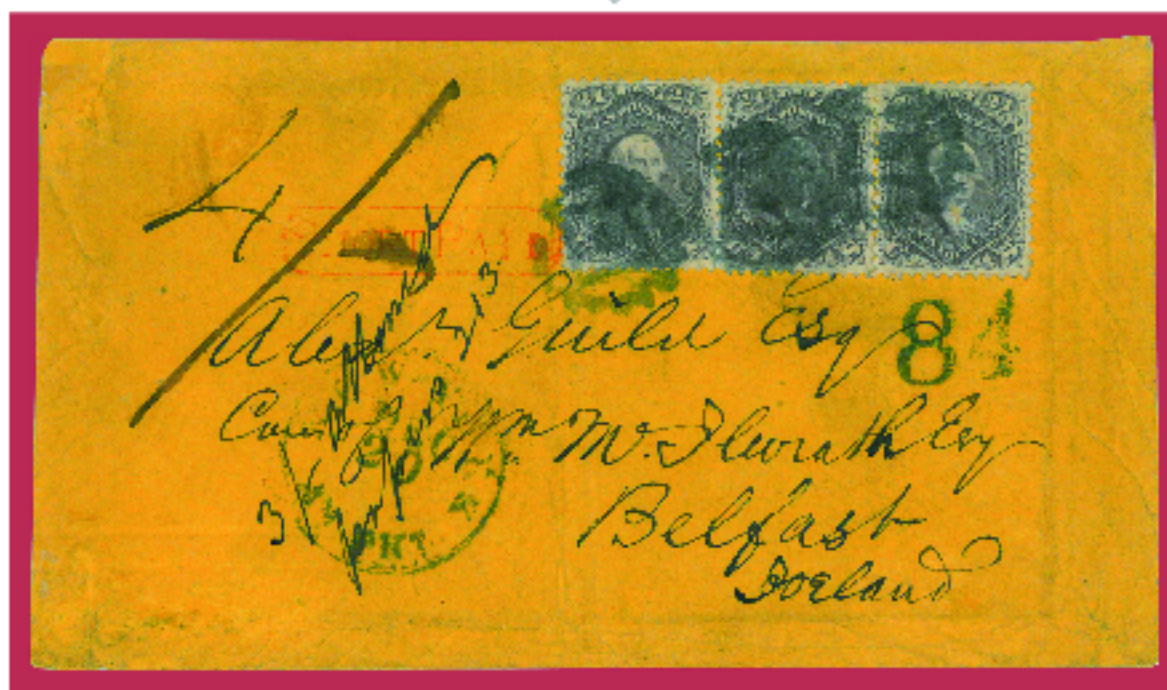
*(Aden, Algeria and Sicily under foreign rule)*

**Cancel progression**



4 pointed star in a serrated outer circle

12/20/1862



**THE FIRST KNOWN NYCFM 'SIMPLE GEOMETRIC' CANCEL**

**Dec 20, 1862 to Belfast, Ireland** carried on Inman Line's *Kangaroo* going via Queenstown Jan 1, arriving Belfast 2, 1863. The cancelling device, which migrated from domestic use, was probably made of softer cork rather than hardwood, and so was prone to breakage.

Although postage paid three times the 24¢ British treaty rate (72¢) for under 1 1/2 oz, it was deemed overweight, hence the 'SHORT PAID' handstamp, and *totally* underpaid with an 84¢ debit rating (four times the 21¢ rate), a G.B. equivalent of 4 times the 1/- transatlantic packet rate.



Exchange Office datestamp in black because postage deemed unpaid



'Negative heart' cancel.  
 12/13/1862  
 to  
 4/8/1863

#### THE FIRST KNOWN NYCFM PICTORIAL OR REPRESENTATIVE CANCEL

**Dec 13, 1862 to France** carried on Hapag Line's *Saxonia* going via Southampton 25, Havre and Calais 26, arriving Podensac the same day. **This is the earlier of two known use of this 'heart' design on cover** (the other in red shown below). This crude cancel was probably carved into soft cork which produced poor quality strikes from the outset. Postage paid the 15¢ French treaty rate.



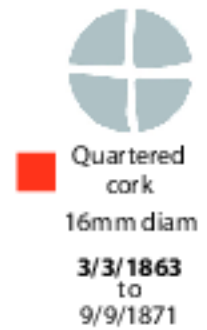
'Supplementary mail' was a convenience service whereby for a fee equivalent to the regular postage, late mail was expedited onto a departing ship. Cancels were invariably red. Earlier covers also showed a red lozenge (as in this case) with later covers containing the abbreviation 'SUP' or 'SUPPLEMENTARY' in the Exchange Office datestamp.



#### SUPPLEMENTARY MAIL

**Apr 8, 1863 to China** carried on Cunard Line's *Asia* going via Queenstown 18, London 20, to Southampton, then by P & O steamers via Gibraltar to Alexandria and overland to Suez. Then by P & O steamers via Galle to Hong Kong arriving Jun 9. **This cover shows the latest known use of this cancel.** Postage paid the 45¢ rate via Southampton. The supplementary mail fee of 45¢ was paid at the NYC dockside.





**ORIGINATING OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY BUT STILL RECEIVING A NYCFM CANCEL**

**Feb 24, 1863 to Malta** (from Cuba) entering the mails in New York City Mar 3 departing from Boston 4 on Cunard Line's *Canada* going via Queenstown 15, London 16, Marseilles, arriving Malta 23.

**This is a new discovery of this small size quartered cork cancel.**

The sender paid the 30¢ French open mail rate but the cover was overweight so went at the 5¢ British open mail rate. It was treated as unpaid by GB and debited 1 shilling 8 pence for the 8 pence transatlantic postage, 6 pence from GB to Malta, and a 6 pence fine for the unpaid letter on the rear manuscript 1/8 (one shilling and eight pence) due marking, receiving datestamp and forwarder's handstamp.



4/12/1863  
to  
7/21/1863  
6 sided  
geometric

**May 16, 1863 to France** carried on Inman Line's *City of Washington* going via Queenstown 29, Calais 31, arriving Paris the same day. **There are 4 covers known with this cancel.** Postage paid the 15¢ French treaty rate.







Outer segments  
around circle  
**5/6/1863**  
to  
5/16/1863

**May 6, 1863 to Austria** carried on Cunard Line's *Persia* from New York going via Queenstown 16, train via Aachen 19, arriving Ybbs 22. **This is the earliest of 4 covers known with this cancel.** Postage paid 28¢ German rate.



Quartered cork  
**7/11/1863**  
to  
7/5/1873

**Dec 12, 1866 Wells Fargo 3¢ Stamped Envelope to France** carried on Cunard Line's *Scotia* going via Queenstown 21, arriving Paris 23.

The handstamp 'PAID THROUGH' indicates all postage to destination was paid at the Wells Fargo office in San Francisco who carried it to NYC.

Postage of 45¢ paid the triple 15¢ rate to France.



**Apr 26, 1870 to Mexico** carried on Alexandre and Sons *Winchester* going via Havana and Vera Cruz.

This cover shows a **duplexed** device (datestamp linked with cancel at right) together with an **unduplexed** device at left.

**This is the sole known NYCFM usage to Mexico with three 1869 Issue US 10¢ values.** Postage of 30¢ paid the triple 10¢ US packet mail rate (8 reales was due from the addressee).





Indentations in top and bottom segments

7/21/1863  
to  
12/4/1875



C

**Mar 15, 1872 to Valparaiso, one of eight NYCFM covers known to Chile.** The cover was received at New York City on Mar 14 as shown by the black duplex datestamp. The red Exchange Office datestamp was struck the following day upon departure on Pacific Mail Steamship Company's *Henry Chauncey* to Aspinwall, thence by British mail packet.

The duplex cancel indicates the 10¢ American 'block' packet rate to Panama, and the Exchange Office datestamp a 12¢ credit due to GB for the British packet Panama to Chile, giving a total postage due of 22¢.



Duplexed

**THE SOLE KNOWN NYCFM COVER TO COSTA RICA**

**Aug 20, 1873 to Costa Rica** by US steamer *Ocean Queen* to Aspinwall, then across the isthmus to Panama, then Panama Railroad Company to Puntarenas overland to Cartago.

Postage paid the 10¢ packet rate.







5 bars 20mm diameter  
7/25/1863 to 7/20/1872

Weiterfr. 1 1/2 Sgr

'Weiterfr. 1 1/2 Sgr' denotes prepaid for transit fees beyond the North German Union (NGU).

Jul 20, 1872 to Turkey carried on NGL Line's Bremen going via Bremen Aug 2, rail to Trieste 3, then by ship, or ship and rail to Dardanelles.

This is the latest known use of this cancel.

Postage paid the 11¢ per 1/2 ounce NGU direct mail rate.



Straight 'arms'  
9/12/1863 to 12/23/1871



Dec 16, 1863 four denomination franking to Zurich (Switzerland) carried on Cunard Line's Scotia going via Queenstown 24 and Calais 25.

Postage of 63¢ paid the triple 21¢ French mail rate to Switzerland.