

1847

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

REPRISAL PERIOD

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Caledonia

On June 15, 1847, the British refused to accept the mails from the Ocean Mail Steamship Company's S.S. Washington as ordinary Ship Letters, instead insisting that because of a British Post Office order of June 9, 1847, all were subject to the usual British Packet postage of one shilling. From that date until the U.S. also began imposing the 24¢ (1 shilling) Packet Letter rate on July 5, 1848, the period was known as the "reprisal" period. During this period the British still collected their one shilling (24¢) Packet rate, with the U.S. treating the letters as Ship Letters. This is illustrated by this cover.



Aug. 18, 1847. Letter paid at the 1 shilling (1/- in red manuscript) Packet Letter rate at the Lombard Street post office, London. Letter had originally been written at Frankfort-am-Main on Aug. 7, hand carried to London.

Aug. 19. Cunard Line R.M.S. Caledonia departed from Liverpool for Boston on her 34th outbound passage.

Sept. 2. Caledonia arrived at Boston where the letter was rated as a Ship Letter. Rate of Act of 1845, not over 300 miles at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due



7

1847

THE CUNARD LINE

REPRISAL PERIOD

R.M.S. Britannia

The period between June 15, 1847 and July 5, 1848 is known as the "Reprisal Period." During this time the British collected a one shilling (24¢) Packet Letter rate for all incoming North American steamer letters, regardless of the registry of the ship, including American steam packets. The U.S. contended that letters from the U.S. to Britain should be treated as "Ship Letters" where the captain was entitled to 2d. per letter as the "Captain's pence." Letters by British Packet incoming to the United States were still treated as Ship Letters until July 5, 1848. when the Retaliatory Rates became effective, with the U.S. charging all letters by British Packet the 24¢ Packet Letter rate plus inland postage.



September 3, 1847. An account current from Baring Bros. & Co. at Liverpool. They paid the one shilling Packet Letter rate, shown by the red handstamp 1/-.

September 4. R.M.S. Britannia, the British Packet, sailed from Liverpool for Boston via Halifax.

September 19. Britannia arrived at Boston. This letter was there rated at the Act of 1845, not over 300 miles at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due. The U.S. post office was still treating incoming British Packet letters as Ship Letters during this "Reprisal" period.

B.194

B.735

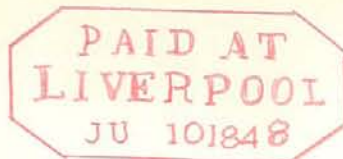
1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Britannia

Last Westbound Voyage of Cunard Line prior to Retaliatory Rates



June 10, 1848. This letter, endorsed "Britannia", was carried on the last pre-retaliatory sailing of the Cunard Line into New York. When the R.M.S. Britannia returned eastbound from New York on July 5 for Liverpool her mail was subject to the retaliatory rates and was also the first eastbound voyage under the rates.

Letter was prepaid one shilling at Liverpool, shown by the red 1/- mark. R.M.S. Britannia departed from Liverpool for New York on this date. The oval backstamp is of the sender, Maclean, Ward & Co., L'pool.

June 26. Britannia arrived at New York. Letter subject to a collect amount of 5¢ U.S. Inland rate of 1845, for a letter conveyed under 300 miles, N.Y. to Boston, plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Caledonia

First Westbound Voyage under the Retaliatory Rates

The United States Congress, in retaliation to the British insistence that mail conveyed by American Packets be subject to the full trans-Atlantic charge when arriving at British ports, authorized by Act of 27 June 1848 that mail carried by foreign (British) packets be subject to collection of the full packet postage of 24¢ plus any inland charge, if the letter went beyond the port of entry.

R.M.S. Caledonia departed from Liverpool on June 24, arrived at New York July 8, 1848, hence carried the first Westbound packet letters subject to the retaliatory rating in the U.S., the law having become effective while she was on the passage, L'pool to NY.



June 22, 1848. Packet postage of 1 shilling paid by a trimmed to shape (according to regulations) copy of the embossed Issue of 1847 cancelled by the British P. O. number "575" of Norwich, also is the Norwich back-stamp.



June 23. Red transit London backstamp and Liverpool Packet Letter Office lozenge on face. R.M.S. Caledonia sailed June 24 for N.Y.



July 8. Arrival date of Caledonia at N.Y. This bold (almost angry) "24" shows the packet rate of 24¢ was due, the rate for a letter addressed to the port of entry. This was in addition to the shilling already paid in England.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Britannia

First Eastbound Voyage under the Retaliatory Rates

Q4

July 5, 1848. Letter datelined at New York. The U.S. Retaliatory Rate Act of 27 June 1848, required that the full 24¢ transatlantic packet postage be paid in the U.S. in response to Britain's charging British Packet Letter charges (one shilling or 24¢) on letters brought into England by American steam packet

On this letter 24¢ was paid in cash, letter endorsed: pr. Steamer Britannia. R.M.S. Britannia sailed from New York on July 5, 1848, carrying the first eastbound mails subject to the Retaliatory Rates.



AH
20JY20
1848

July 19. Britannia arrived at Liverpool.

July 20. London arrival backstamp. Letter subject to the one shilling (1/- in manuscript) Packet Letter charge even though this amount had been paid in New York. Had this letter been treated as a Ship Letter (as the U.S. had previously done for incoming British Packet Letters) the charge would have been 8d. instead of 1/- (12d.)

3

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
RETALIATORY RATES CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Hibernia

3rd Westbound Voyage under Retaliatory Rates

Tooley St



July 7, 1848. A prices current for the "IRISH AND AMERICAN PROVISION MARKET", datelined at London. It was endorsed: Per Hibernia. Letter was posted at the Tooley St. receiving house. This street runs from London Bridge south-east to Horseley Down. The receiving mark in blue is identified as L514/ Tooley 18b (Feldman.)

This letter was paid in London at the one shilling Packet Letter rate, shown by the 1/- in red manuscript.

July 8. R.M.S. Hibernian departed from Liverpool on the 3rd Cunard sailing under the Retaliatory rates.



24

July 21. Hibernia arrived at New York. There this letter was charged at the full 24¢ Packet Letter rate, equivalent to one shilling, for a Retaliatory rated letter addressed to the port of arrival.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

CUNARD LINE

Maiden voyage of the R.M.S. Europa

This cover was carried on the maiden voyage of the Cunarder Europa, which was the 4th westbound retaliatory rate voyage by the Cunard Line.



(498)



29

B.546

B.555



July 14, 1848. This cover was posted at Manchester, England and paid at the shilling (24c) rate, compulsory, by a cut-to-shape copy of the embossed shilling, Issue of 1847, cancelled by the 498 of Manchester. Letter was received at the local post office at Upper Mill.

July 14. Transit backstamp at Liverpool. The R.M.S. Europa departed from Liverpool July 15 on her maiden voyage.

July 27. Europa arrived at Boston. Even though 1/- (24c) had been paid in England, the Retaliatory transatlantic rate of 24c was due in the U.S. plus the U.S. internal rate, Act of March 3, 1845, of 5c for a single letter not over 300 miles, Boston to New York.

Total due 29c, shown by the red handstamp.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Europa

Maiden voyage of Europa

4th Cunard Westbound Retaliatory voyage



July 15, 1848. A letter from Jacob Merryman of the ship Brandywine to George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine showing disbursements of that vessel at New Orleans. He posted this letter at Liverpool after paying the one shilling (1/- in red manuscript) packet letter rate which paid the letter only to the U.S. port of

entry.

July 15. R.M.S. Europa departed from Liverpool on her maiden voyage. This was the 4th westbound sailing of a Cunard steamer under the Retaliatory rates.



B.546

July 27. Europa arrived at Boston on her Maiden Voyage.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, at 5¢ for a single letter under 300 miles plus 24¢ Retaliatory charge = 29¢ due.



B.556

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
RETLIATORY RATES CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. America 5th Westbound Voyage under Retaliatory Rates

PAID
L.S.
21 JY 21
1848

July 21, 1848. Letter datelined at London and paid at the one shilling Packet Letter rate to Kingston, Mass.

July 22. R.M.S. America departed from Liverpool on the 5th westbound passage by a Cunard Line steamer under the Retaliatory rates, This was America's first Retaliatory voyage. In all she made three round voyages under these rates.



NEW-YORK
SHIP
AUG 5
29cts

lw. 356

August 4. America arrived at New York, letter processed August 5. Letter rated, Act of 1845, as a letter not over 300 miles, N.Y. to Kingston, Mass. at 5¢ + 24¢ Retaliatory Packet Letter rate = 29¢ due.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Britannia

Antepenultimate Voyage

This cover was carried on the 8th Westbound retaliatory voyage by Cunard and the 1st by Britannia. Two voyages later, leaving Liverpool November 18, Britannia made her last (and 40th) passage.

PAID
L.S.
11AUG 11
1848



August 11, 1848. Letter paid in London at the old Lombard Street (L.S.) post office at the one shilling (1/- in red) packet letter rate. Under the Retaliatory conditions this rate had to be prepaid and covered transportation only to the U.S. port of entry.

This is a duplicate letter (original per "Cambria") from Baring Brothers & Co. advising George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine, that they have transferred to his credit £ 1200 received at their Liverpool House from Capt. Merryman of the ship "Brandywine."

August 12. R.M.S. Britannia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool on her 3rd. from the last transatlantic voyage for Cunard.

August 26. Britannia arrived at Boston. This letter was rated, Act of 1845, under 300 miles at 5¢ plus the 24¢ Retaliatory rate = 29¢ due, shown by the Boston hand-stamp.

BOSTON
SHIP
AUG 26
MS.

29

B.794

B.555

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Britannia

Double rated letter

This cover was carried on the 8th westbound retaliatory voyage by Cunard and the 1st westbound by Britannia. Two voyages later, leaving Liverpool Nov. 18, Britannia made her last (and 40th) voyage.



PAID
L.S.
11AUG 11
1848

August 11, 1848. Letter paid at the old Lombard Street Post Office, London at the 1/- (24¢) x 2 = 2/- (48¢) retaliatory rate, shown by the red manuscript 2/-. This rate had to be prepaid, and covered transportation only to the U.S. port of entry.

August 12. R.M.S. Britannia departed from Liverpool for Boston.

BOSTON
SHIP
AUG
26
MS.

August 26. Britannia arrived at Boston. Letter was rated as a double packet letter under the retaliatory scheme at 24¢ x 2 = 48¢. To this was added the Act of 1845 rate, under 300 miles of 5¢ x 2 = 10¢ to total 58¢.

Curiously, this is a very uncommon rating and this "58" mark is not recorded in Blake and Davis.

58

THE BOSTON 58 CENT RETALIATORY RATE HANDSTAMP

by

Arthur White

An unusual situation developed in the 1840's in the transmittal of transatlantic mail between the United States and Great Britain, and evolved into an era known as the "Retaliatory Rate" period. The Cunard Line of Royal Mail Steam Packets enjoyed a virtual monopoly for steamship transmittal of transatlantic mail from its inauguration in 1840 until the U.S. owned Ocean Mail Steamship Co. was founded in 1847. Cunard ran his service under contract to the crown, carrying the mails from Liverpool to Boston via Halifax, Nova Scotia, and later alternating Liverpool to New York. A hefty one shilling (24¢) per half-ounce was charged per letter for this service, all of which was retained by Britain which subsidized the Cunard Line, known officially as the British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The U.S. on the other hand accepted the Royal Mail Packet letters as "Ship Letters", charging the applicable inland zone postage to U.S. addressees plus a 2¢ Ship Letter charge.

The circumstances leading to the Retaliatory Rate period began with the maiden voyage of the just established Ocean Mail Steamship Company's S.S. Washington, which arrived at Southampton, England on June 15, 1847. Her mails were not accepted in Britain as ordinary Ship Letters, but fell under a conveniently drafted British Post Office order of June 9, 1847 (Instruction No. 9, 1847),

"All letters and newspapers intended to be forwarded by the Packets between the United States and Bremen, and which will, it is understood, touch at Southampton, must be specially addressed to be sent by the American Contract Packets. (Italics theirs.)

"Letters conveyed by these packets between Great Britain and the United States, will be liable to the usual British Packet Postage of

1s	for a letter not exceeding	$\frac{1}{2}$	an ounce
2s	do	do	1 ounce,

and so on in proportion." (1)

This was a desire on the part of the British to "protect the Cunard Line of steamers, and to derive for the British Treasury a revenue out of the Mail service of our packets as well of his own." (2). Thus the British were getting the packet postage of 1 sh. (24¢) whether the British Packets conveyed the mails transatlantic or not.

This had the effect of discriminating against the American Packets, and there followed a "discriminatory" period wherein American Packet mail was subject to 1 shilling charges in Britain and 24¢ charges in the U.S. This was soon followed by the U.S. Retaliatory Act of June 27, 1848, which imposed the packet letter rate of 24¢ plus U.S. internal postage rates of March 3, 1845 per half-ounce on all incoming and outgoing foreign packet (steamer) letters. The added internal postage was 5¢ for a letter conveyed under 300 miles, 10¢ over 300 miles per $\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce from the point of posting. On eastbound mail these rates had to be prepaid, and on westbound (incoming) mail it had to be collected.

The appropriate incoming Retaliatory Rate charges were shown at Boston or New York by red handstamps indicating amounts due. As the U.S. and Britain had no treaty at this point, these charges could not be prepaid in England. A total of 12 incoming Cunard Line packets to Boston arrived between July 12, 1848, and December 16, 1848, and fell under the Retaliatory period. The most usual charge marks were for "29", representing the 24¢ packet charge + 5¢ inland under 300 miles; and "34" being 24¢ packet + 10¢ over 300 miles.

Because of the extreme expense of postage, multiple rate letters are seldom seen during this period. In spite of this, with business concerns being what they are, one would expect to find at least double weight ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1-oz.) covers bearing Retaliatory Rates more common than they are. Even Blake and Davis (3) in their monumental work on Boston postal markings show only the single rate marks for "29" and "34".

The existence of double rated Retaliatory covers with a Boston "58" has been documented in Hargest (4), and a recent acquisition by the author bearing a Boston "58" is shown as Figure 1. All the postal markings on this letter are in red.

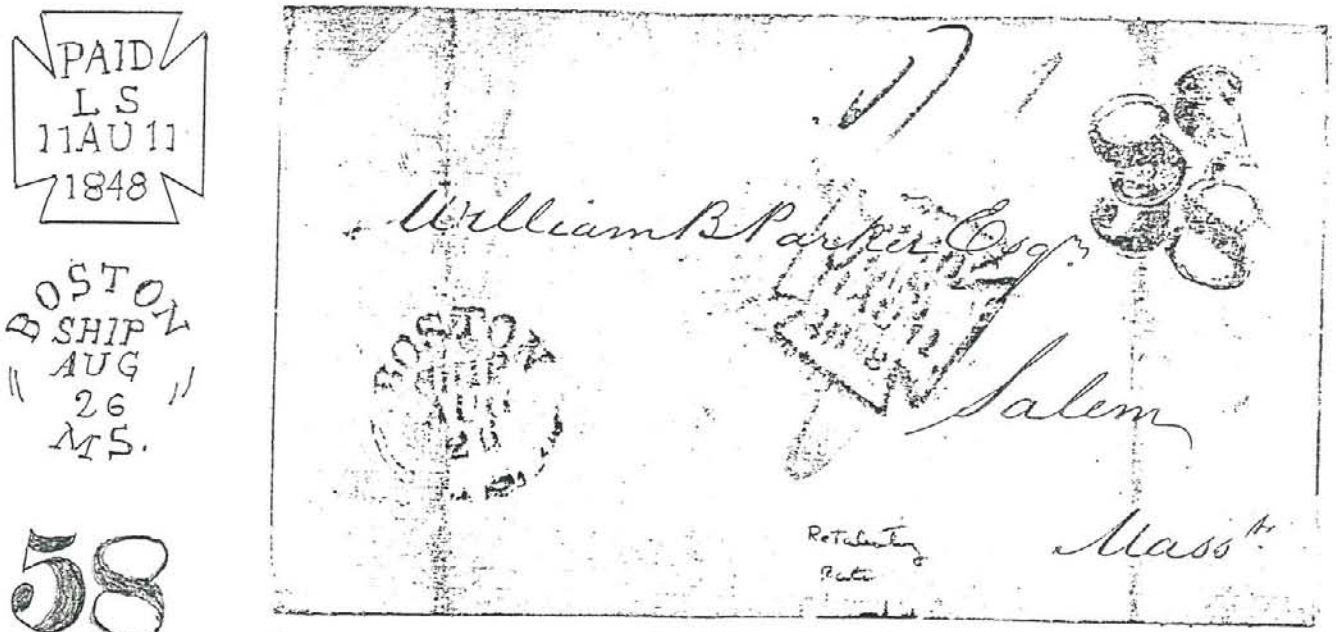


Figure 1

The Figure 1 letter was posted in London at the old Lombard St. post office (LS in the Maltese cross) on August 11, 1848, and paid at the double packet rate of 2 shillings for a letter weighing over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., not over 1 oz. This was in time to catch the August 12 sailing of the Royal Mail Steamship Britannia for Boston via Liverpool. Interestingly, Britannia was the first regular steamship to inaugurate the Cunard Line to the U.S. in 1840, and this 1848 passage was her 38th and 3rd from the last voyage of her career. This was also Britannia's first Retaliatory voyage.

Britannia arrived at Boston on August 26, where the red Boston SHIP mark (Blake 546) was struck. The letter was rated as a double

packet letter under the Retaliatory scheme at $24¢ \times 2 = 48¢$. To this was added the Act of 1845 rate under 300 miles, Boston to Salem, of $5¢ \times 2 = 10¢$ to total $58¢$, shown by the "58" charge mark, here struck twice.

Two other covers incoming to Boston bearing the "58" mark are known to the author, both being in the collection of Mr. John T. Nugent. One of these, Figure 2, is particularly interesting as it involves a letter from Belgium via England. From October 19, 1844, until the U.S.-British Treaty became effective on February 15, 1849 (thus eliminating the Retaliatory Rate situation), Belgian

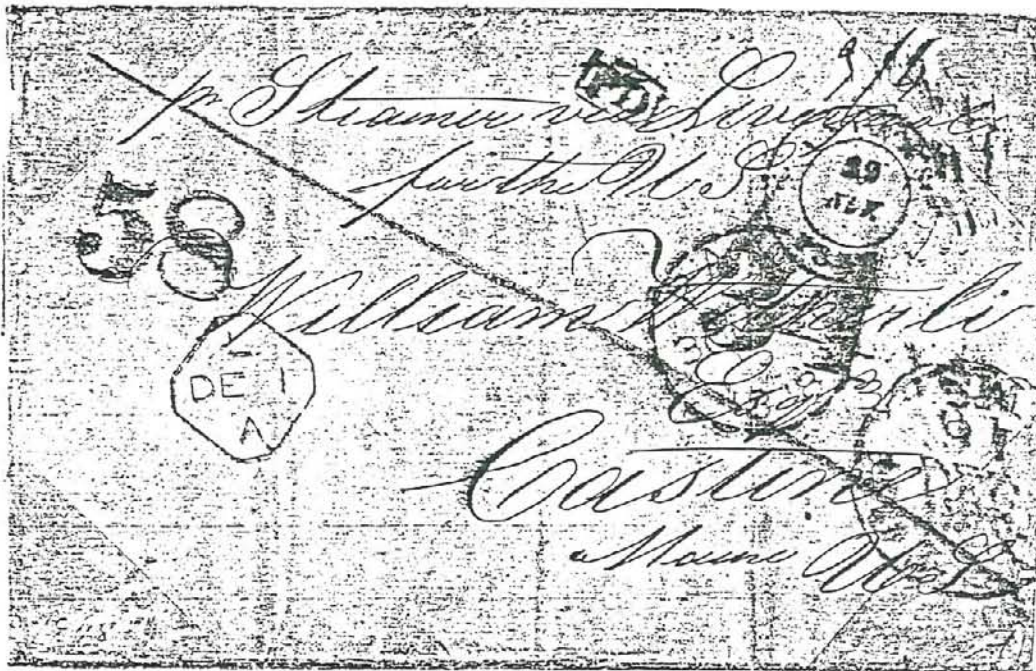


Figure 2.

mail was handled through Britain to the U.S. entry port. The British performed this service at a rate of 1 shilling 8 pence (1/8d.) with the British progression at:

Not exceeding half-ounce	1 rate
half-ounce to one ounce	2 rates
one ounce to two ounces	4 rates, etc.

This letter, Figure 2, was paid in Antwerp, 29 Nov., and the mails exchanged with the British office at London where the letter received the London PAID mark dated 30 NOV, 1848. The British rated this as a double letter, i.e., over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., but not over one oz., and debited Belgium at the rate of $1\text{sh.}8\text{d.} \times 2 = 2\text{sh.}16\text{d.} = 3\text{sh.}4\text{d.}$, as shown by the $\frac{3}{4}$ in the upper right corner. This debit constituted all the prepayment needed in Britain, so the letter was sent on to Liverpool to make the Dec. 2, 1848, sailing of the Cunard Line's R.M.S. Niagara, which arrived at Boston December 16. This was the last westbound voyage to Boston on which Retaliatory Rates were charged. When one realizes that $3\text{sh.}4.$ was equivalent to $80¢$ U.S., Britain certainly made out well on this transaction.

Boston duly marked the arrival with the circular date stamp (Blake 294) with the DEC inverted. Originally the Boston Exchange Office rated the letter as a single Retaliatory letter at 24¢ + 10¢ over 300 miles = 34¢ (Blake 560). This was corrected to a double Retaliatory Rate of 24¢ x 2 = 48¢ plus double inland letter under 300 miles of 5¢ x 2 = 10¢ to total 58¢. Had the Retaliatory situation not existed, the rate would have been 10¢ for a double letter under 300 miles + 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 12¢. This serves to illustrate the seriousness and burdensome expenses of the Retaliatory Rate charges. This soon led to the adoption of the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848, effective February 15, 1849, which restored the rating methods in effect prior to the Washington's arrival at Southampton in 1847.

For the record, listed below are the Boston arrivals of the Cunard packets during the Retaliatory Rate period together with the known usages of the "58" handstamp at Boston.

<u>Royal Mail Steamer</u>	<u>Depart Liverpool</u>	<u>Arrive Boston</u>	
Niagara	July 1, 1848	July 12	
Europa (Maiden Voyage)	July 15	July 27	
Acadia	July 29	Aug. 13	Nugent collection Illust. in Hargest
Britannia	Aug. 12	Aug. 26	White collection
Hibernia	Aug. 26	Sep. 8	
Acadia	Sep. 9	Sep. 24	
Cambria	Sep. 23	Oct. 6	
Niagara	Oct. 7	Oct. 19	
Hibernia	Oct. 21	Nov. 3	
Acadia	Nov. 4	Nov. 19	
Britannia (Last Voy.)	Nov. 18	Dec. 6	
Niagara	Dec. 2	Dec. 16	Nugent collection.

The author would appreciate photocopies of any other covers bearing the Boston "58" to aid in expanding this list. With a "spread" of a least 10 Cunard arrivals, there no doubt exist examples from the 7 voyages Sept. 8 to Dec. 6, and a possibility of covers from the two earlier arrivals also having been struck with the "58" or at least bearing a manuscript "58".

- (1). Raguin, M.M. British Post Office Notices, Vol. 4, 1840-49.
- (2). Hargest, G.F., History of Letter Post Communication, Pg. 23
- (3). Blake, M.C. and Davis, W.W., Postal Markings of Boston to 1890, Plate 31, Pg. 125
- (4). Ibid, Pg. 34, cover illustrated.

MAIL WAR!

RETALIATORY RATE PERIOD

LAST DAY OF RATE
LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON



Origin: Antwerp, Belgium
Destination: Castine, Maine
Via: London, Liverpool and Boston
Ship: Niagara (Cunard)
Depart: Liverpool, December 2, 1848
Arrive: Boston, December 16, 1848
Postage: U.S. 58c (double rate, under 300 mi.)
G.B. 1/- (prepaid packet postage)
Remarks: The U.S. Retaliatory rates brought about serious Treaty negotiations with the British. The Treaty, signed by British and American negotiators on December 15, 1848, provided that both Discriminatory and Retaliatory rates would end on January 1, 1849. This letter arrived on the last westbound Cunard voyage to Boston on which Retaliatory Rates were charged. Originally marked as a single over 300 mi., it was rerated as a double under 300 mi.

MAIL WAR!

RETALIATORY RATE PERIOD

58c RATE
LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON



Origin: London, England
Destination: New York, New York
Via: Liverpool and Boston
Ship: Acadia (Cunard)
Depart: Liverpool, July 28, 1848
Arrive: Boston, August 13, 1848
Postage: U.S. 58c (Act of 1847, under 300 mi.)
G.B. 2/- (double rate packet postage)
Remarks: Multiple weight letters were quite uncommon in transatlantic correspondence because of the postage expense, even moreso during the Retaliatory period. What is more uncommon is to find a multiple rate handstamp available for such letters. This cover is rated as a double-weight letter to a destination under 300 miles from port of entry. The "58" handstamp, applied in Boston, is not often seen.



RETRIATORV RATE

R.M.S. NIAGARA

L'POOL DEC. 2, 1848
BOSTON 16

JOHN PEMBERTON COLLECTION
(EX-CHARLES SAWYER)

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Hibernia

This cover was carried on the 10th westbound passage of a Cunard Line steamer under the Retaliatory Rates. It was the 2nd of the Hibernia's three Retaliatory voyages.



August 25, 1848. Letter paid at the London Lombard Street (L.S. in the date stamp) office at 1 shilling (24¢), the packet letter rate. It is endorsed: p. Hibernia.

August 26. R.M.S. Hibernia departed from Liverpool.

September 8. Boston transit mark agrees with recorded arrival date of Hibernia at Boston.



29

Letter rated 24¢ Retaliatory Packet Letter rate + 5¢ Act of March 3, 1845 rate for a letter transported not over 300 miles, total 29¢ due.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Europa

Second Outbound Voyage of the Europa, 2 Sept. 1848

This cover was carried on the 2nd voyage (maiden voyage was 15 July 1848) of the Europa, which was coincidentally also her 2nd voyage under the Retaliatory Rates. The first voyage went into Boston, this one into New York.



29

Sept. 1, 1848. Letter posted paid 1 shilling (1/- in red mss.) retaliatory rate which paid it only to port of U.S. entry. The R.M.S. Europa (Cunard) sailed Sept. 2. Letter received at the Old Lombard Street (L.S.) post office, London.

Sept. 14. Europa with this letter arrived at New York. New York Exchange Office rated this letter at 24¢ packet, retaliatory rate, plus U.S. Act of 1845, 5¢ Inland, not over 300 miles, N.Y. to Boston, total due 29¢.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Europa

Second Voyage of the Europa, 2 Sept. 1848

This cover was carried on the 2nd voyage (Maiden Voyage 15 July 1848) of the Europa, which was coincidentally also her 2nd voyage under the Retaliatory Rates. The first voyage went into Boston, this one into New York.



24

Sept. 1, 1848. Letter posted paid 1 shilling (1/- in red mss.) at the retaliatory rate. Records show the R.M.S. Europa (Cunard) sailed from L'pool Sept. 2. Letter received at the Lombard Street, London, office.

Sept. 15. Letter arrived at New York according to sailing records. 24¢ due for delivery at port of entry. Total rate of 48¢ paid on this letter under the retaliatory scheme.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATE

R.M.S. Britannia

Penultimate Voyage of Britannia to Boston

247

Sept. 5, 1848. Letter datelined at New York and endorsed: Steamer Britannia/Sept. 6th. The writer paid 29¢ in cash (pencil notation on face) being the 24¢ Retaliatory Rate to Britain, equivalent to 1 shilling, plus the U.S. Inland rate under 300 miles to Boston of 5¢ to total 29¢.

Sept. 6. Britannia departed from Boston for L'pool. on her next-to-last voyage from Boston. She made a voyage to New York from Liverpool Sept. 30, returning from N.Y. Oct. 25, and a final round voyage to Boston, returning to L'pool. from Boston Dec.13.

Sept. 19, 1848. Britannia arrived at Liverpool and letter transit at London Sept. 20. The forwarding agents Baring Brothers & Co. paid the 1 shilling transatlantic rate (1/- in manuscript) which was Retaliatory as 1sh. (24¢) had already been paid at New York.

01
20SP20
1848

Sept. 19. Britannia arrived at Liverpool and transit at London Sept. 20. The forwarding agents Baring Bros. & Co. paid the 1 shilling transatlantic rate which was retaliatory as 1sh. (24¢) had already been paid at New York.

61

8 NT B
SP20
1848
B

Sept. 20, 8 P.M. (8 NT). Baring Bros. forwarded the letter to 8 Norfolk Street, Strand at the penny inland rate. No. 61 (no "19" exists) of the penny red obliterator is the stamp of the London District Post, the result of the absorption of the "Two Penny Post" by the Gen.Post.



1848.

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Acadia

This cover was carried on the 2nd voyage of the Acadia under the Retaliatory Rates, the first being July 29 to Boston. In all, Acadia made three round trips carrying mail under these Retaliatory Rates.



M



29

Sept. 8, 1848. Letter paid at the one shilling (24¢) retaliatory rate as shown by red 1/- mss. at left. The R.M.S. Acadia sailed from Liverpool to Boston Sept. 9, also shown by L'pool Packet oval backstamp.

Sept. 25. Boston arrival "SHIP" mark coincides with the recorded arrival date of the Acadia at Boston. Retaliatory rate of 24¢ due + 5¢, Act of Mar. 3, 184 for a letter not over 300 miles (Boston to New York) = 29¢ total due. Grand total on this letter of 24¢ + 29¢ = 53¢ total paid !!

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Acadia

This letter was carried on the 2nd voyage of the Acadia under the Retaliatory Rates, the first being July 29, 1848, to Boston. In all, Acadia made three round voyages carrying mail under the Retaliatory Rates.



September 8, 1848. A letter dated at Edinburgh. It was paid at the one shilling (24¢) retaliatory rate as shown by the red manuscript 1/-. It was backstamped in transit at Liverpool on September 9.

September 9. R.M.S. Acadia departed from Liverpool for Boston.

September 24. Acadia arrived at Boston, letter processed September 25. Retaliatory Rate due, being Act of 1845 rate, not over 300 miles at 5¢ + 24¢ Retaliatory Rate = 29¢ total due.



29

B.294

B.557

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

R.M.S. Cambria

Cover carried on the 3rd voyage of the Cunarder Cambria under the Retaliatory Rates. Her 1st voyage when she returned from Boston on July 12, 1848 carried the first mails of the Cambria subject to retaliation. Only the Cunarder R.M.S. Britannia on her voyage of July 5 from New York proceeded her on a retaliatory trip.



J.



34

Sept. 23, 1848. Cover paid at Liverpool at the 1 shilling rate as shown by the red handstamp, this only paid the British end. Records show the Cunarder Cambria sailed from L'pool Sept. 23.

Oct. 6, 1848. Boston arrival "SHIP" mark coincides with the recorded arrival date of the Cambria at Boston. Retaliatory rated at 24¢ transatlantic due + 10¢ Act of March 3, 1845 for a letter over 300 miles (Boston to Richmond) = 34¢ total due.

1848

FORWARDED BY
* SCHWARTZ & CO. *
NEW ORLEANS

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

FORWARDING AGENT

SCHWARTZ & CO.

NEW ORLEANS



FRANQUEADO
Sept
25
VERA-CRUZ

Sept. 25.
Letter posted
at Vera-Cruz to
London. Forward-
ed "per Boston
Steamer" by New
Orleans Agent.

NEW ORLEANS
OCT
21
La.

34 PAID

Oct. 21, 1848.
Letter prepaid
34¢, being 1¢
to Boston (letter
rate to inland
point over 300
mi.) plus 24¢
Transatlantic
Packet Rate.

ND
14NO 14
1848

Nov. 14, 1848.
As letter went
during retaliat-
ory Rate period,
1/- (24¢) was
due from recip-
ient. R.M.S. Niagara
arr. L'pool 11/13

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Niagara 16th Cunard Westbound Voyage under Retaliatory



Daw 7



October 5, 1848. Letter posted at Lurgan, County Armagh, Ireland. It was paid at the one shilling Packet Letter rate to North America.

October 6. Transit mark at Dublin.

October 7. Liverpool transit lozenge backstamp.

R.M.S. Niagara sailed from Liverpool this date for Boston on the 16th Cunard Line voyage under the retaliatory rates.



29

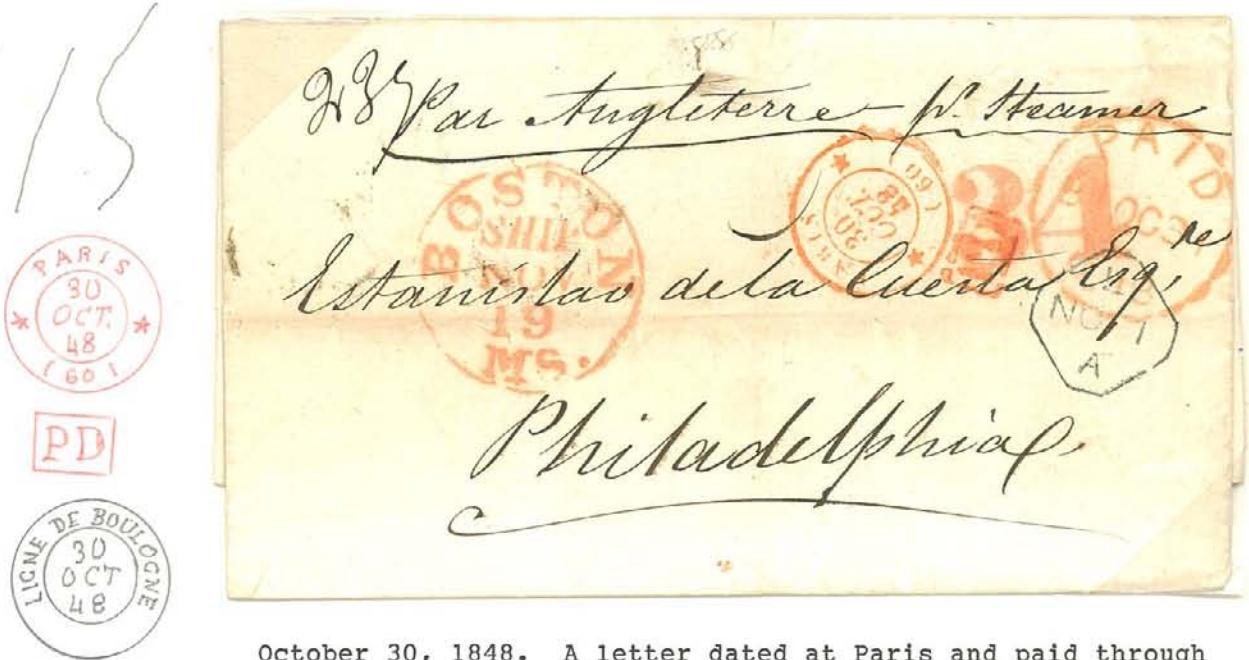
October 19. Niagara arrived at Boston where the retaliatory charge of 24¢ made plus the Act of 1845 rate for an inland letter conveyed not over 300 miles of 5¢, total due 29¢.

0.194

B.552

1848

FRANCE TO U.S. VIA BRITAIN RETALIATORY RATE PERIOD
CUNARD LINE, R.M.S. Acadia Last Out Voyage of Acadia



October 30, 1848. A letter dated at Paris and paid through to the port in America via Britain. This was figured at 1 franc British transit and sea postage plus 50 centimes per 7½ grams French Inland for conveyance 151 to 220 kilometers (Paris to Boulogne is about 200 km.) Total French postage was 1fr.50 cent. or 150 centimes or 15 decimes, the latter amount shown as "15" in manuscript on the reverse. Red Paris receiving mark on the face and the Paris to Boulogne railway backstamp (Ligne de Boulogne), same day.

October 31. Letter transit at London as fully paid for British transit.

November 1. Liverpool transit Packet Letter office lozenge. The R.M.S. Acadia departed from Liverpool November 4 on her last round voyage for Cunard. This was her 3rd voyage under the Retaliatory Rates.

November 19. Acadia arrived at Boston. Letter was there subject to the Retaliatory Rate of 24¢ (1/-) packet letter + U.S. Inland rate of 1845, 10¢ over 300 miles, Boston to Philadelphia, total due 34¢.



1848

GIBRALTAR TO U.S. VIA LIVERPOOL

P. & O. LINE: S.S. Jupiter, Gibraltar to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Canada (Maiden Voyage), Liverpool to New York

RETALIATORY RATES 23RD Cunard Voyage under Retaliatory Rates



November 8, 1848. A letter datelined at Gibraltar. It was sent under cover to a forwarding agent in London. It went thence by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. S.S. Juniper. Her dates were:

Gibraltar	Nov. 7-8, 1848	Vigo	Nov. 13-14
Cadiz	9	Southampton	18.
Lisbon	11-12		

November 23. The forwarder at London paid the one shilling Packet Letter rate to the U.S., shown by the red manuscript 1/- . Letter went by rail to Liverpool.

November 25. R.M.S. Canada departed from Liverpool for New York on the 23rd Cunard westbound voyage under the retaliatory rates. This was Canada's maiden voyage.

December 14. Canada arrived at New York. Letter rated at the retaliatory Packet Letter charge of 24¢ + Act of 1845 rate for a letter conveyed not over 300 miles, New York to Boston, of 5¢, total due 29¢.



W. 356

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

Cunard Liner: S.S. Cambria



November 10, 1848. Letter prepaid in London at the trans-Atlantic rate of one shilling (24¢), shown in red mms. Noted per Halifax/steamer/11 Nov^r. Records show the Cunarder Cambria sailed that date from L'pool to New York, recorded arrival date was Nov. 25.



November 25, 1848. Letter arrived at New York as a "SHIP" letter, thus was subject to the retaliatory rate of 24¢ transatlantic plus domestic charge of 10¢ for a letter going over 300 miles (NY - Charleston, S.C.) = 34¢ due.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
RETALIATORY RATES

When the American Packet Washington arrived at Southampton on June 15, 1847, the British refused to recognize the American steamer as a packet boat. They charged an additional shilling to her letters, even though prepaid in the U.S. This was the charge she made on her own Cunard packet steamers whether prepaid in the U.S. or not.

The U.S. promptly passed the Retaliatory Act of June 27, 1848, to charge full postage on letters brought into U.S. ports by the British Cunard packet steamers. In addition, full U.S. sea postage was charged upon outgoing letters to England by Cunard steamers, all effective June 27, 1848. Public agitation resulted in a full-fledged U.S.-British Postal Treaty on Dec. 25, 1848.



24

Nov. 17, 1848. Pre-paid letter 1 shilling (red nms) equivalent to 24¢ U.S. Backstamped at Receiving Office, "Leadenhall St."

As letter went by Cunard Liner, it was subject to the Retaliatory Rate of 24¢ due from recipient, unpaid letter rate for letter addressed to Port of Entry.

Boston mark (Blake Fig. 559)

Note: Letter carried on the last voyage of the R.M.S. Britannia, which sailed from L'pool Nov. 18, arrived Boston Dec. 7, 1848.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Britannia

Last voyage of Britannia

22nd Cunard Westbound Retaliatory voyage



November 17, 1848. Baring Brothers & Co. at London inform George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine that their Liverpool House has credited his account with £ 40 received from Capt. Skolfield of the ship "Dublin". Baring Brothers paid the packet rate of one shilling (1/- in red manuscript). Under the retaliatory rates this paid the letter only to the port of entry.

November 18. R.M.S. Britannia departed from Liverpool on her last transatlantic passage. This was also the 22nd. westbound Retaliatory voyage by a Cunard Line steamship.

December 6. Britannia arrived at Boston, arrival handstamp at the Boston Exchange Office (inverted month slug.) Letter rated, Act of 1845, at 5¢ for a single letter not over 300 miles plus 24¢ Retaliatory rate = 29¢ due.



29

B.294

B.257

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETAIATORY RATE PERIOD

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Britannia

Last Westbound Voyage of Britannia

November 17, 1848. Letter dated and headed at Liverpool. It is endorsed: p. Britannia. It concerns tobacco prices and qualities.

During this Retaliatory Rate period, postage had to be paid in Britain as a Packet Letter at one shilling (24¢) to get a letter aboard one of the Cunard (British) packets. Upon arrival in the U.S. under the Retaliatory Rate Act a further 24¢ would be due plus the U.S. Internal postage. This letter was no doubt enclosed within another to avoid these exorbitant costs.

November 18. R.M.S. Britannia sailed from Liverpool for Boston via Halifax on her last westbound voyage. She sailed homeward, leaving Boston November 29, arrived at Liverpool December 12. On March 12, 1849, she sailed from Liverpool to Bremen to become the German Federation Navy's Barbarossa.



December 6, Britannia arrived at Boston. This letter, enclosed within another, went to Richmond, Virginia. Had it been a separate letter, rate would have been 24¢ Retaliatory Rate + the U.S. rate of 1845, over 300 miles, total cost 34¢.

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO ITALY VIA ENGLAND
RETALIATORY RATE

Cunard Packet from Boston
R.M.S. Acadia
Forwarding Agent
Walters & deVoe, London



1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO ITALY VIA ENGLAND
RETALIATORY RATE

Cunard Packet from Boston
R.M.S. Acadia

Forwarding Agent
Walthers & deVoe, London

This cover bears a wealth of postal history and includes some unusual routings.

Nov. 28, 1848. Letter datelined at New York. It was endorsed across the top "Per Steamer Acadia" and addressed to the forwarding agents Messrs. Walthers & deVoe, London.

It was posted during the Retaliatory Rate period when the transatlantic postage had to be paid both in the U.S. and in England as well as the internal postage in the U.S. As it bears no U.S. markings, it no doubt went to Boston care of a forwarding agent who deposited it directly into the mail bag of the Acadia, thus saving the 24¢ Packet rate by Cunard plus 5¢ Domestic N. York to Boston. The R.M.S. Acadia sailed from Boston Nov. 29 with this letter.



Dec. 12 (13), 1848. Incoming at L'pool this mark struck, used only on Cunard mail. Recorded arrival Acadia was Dec. 13.



Dec. 13. Arrival backstamp at London where Walthers & deVoe paid the 1 shilling transatlantic rate shown in manuscript (reduced illustration).

*forwarded by your obedient
Walthers & deVoe
London 13 Dec 1848*



Dec. 13. Forwarding agents forwarded letter same day, endorsed it across back and paid the 1 sh. 3 pence in stamps which took the letter to the Sardinian frontier. Letter now into British Postal system and backstamped at the old Lombard Street station. Stamps cancelled by the London District, First Series obliterator, Dubus 55.



Dec. 14. French entry mark at the port of Boulogne-Sur-Mer after channel crossing (Noel 375). 3's show mark struck at Paris. Marked PF = Payee au Frontier, or to Sardinian border.

VIA DI
P^{te} BEAUVOISIN

Sardinian mark applied at entry town of Pont Di Beauvoisin. Marked with large black "30" on face, shows 30 decimes due for Sardinian-Tuscan postal handling. Mss. "10" U.R. debits Sardinia for Tuscany portion.



Transit Genoa, sea to Leghorn.
Dec. 21, arrival backstamp at Livorno (Leghorn).

1848

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RETALIATORY RATES

LAST DAY OF RATE
Forwarded Letter.



Dec. 7, 1848. Letter posted unpaid at Trieste to forwarding agent - Baring Bros. & Co., London.

Dec. 14, 1848. London receipt backstamp. Baring Bros. paid the 1/8 rate, deleted their address and forwarded letter to Boston.



Dec. 15, 1848. Lombard St., London receipt, paid mark. Letter was paid at the 1/- rate (blurred red mms. at right). This was the last effective date of the Retaliatory Rate. Carried aboard the Cunarder "Europa" which sailed Dec. 16.

Jan. 1, 1849. Although letter arrived after the "restored rate" treaty date of Dec. 15, 1848, it was still subject to the Retaliatory Rate, being 24¢ Transatlantic plus 5¢ NY to Boston = 29¢. Eff. date of restored rate was 3 Jan. 49.

1848-49

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RESTORED RATES

R.M.S. America

This cover was carried by the Cunarder America on the first westbound voyage under the Restored Rates, whereby the transatlantic rate of 24¢ (1 shilling) carried the letters across the sea and only Domestic or Inland postage was collected, plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge. This was the situation as it existed from 1840 until the Retaliatory Rate period from June 27, 1848. There were four westbound voyages under the Restored Rates, 3 eastbound. The first voyage under the Treaty Rates was a sailing of the R.M.S. Niagara from Boston on Feb. 21, 1849 to Liverpool.



PAID AT
LIVERPOOL
DE 30 1848

Handwritten flourish

7

December 30, 1848. Letter paid at Liverpool. The "Restored Rate" had been negotiated effective Dec. 25, 1848. The R.M.S. America sailed on Dec. 30 from Liverpool.

Jan. 12, 1849. Recorded arrival date of the America at Boston. Letter rated collect at the Act of Mar. 3, 1845 rates, under 300 miles single 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1848-49

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

RESTORED RATES

R.M.S. America

December 28, 1848. A letter dated at Liverpool from a ship's captain to his owner at Boston informing him that freights are scarce and that he is taking a cargo of salt, "I am most ready for Sea shall leave on the 30 if the weather permits bound for New Orleans. I have engaged about 30 tons of Salt at 6/6 per ton. Freight is very dull here to all parts of the States..."



December 30, 1848. This letter was posted at Liverpool and paid at the one shilling (24¢) British Packet Letter rate, this amount shown by the 1/- in red manuscript. R.M.S. America of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for Boston this same date.



January 12, 1849. America arrived at Boston. The letter was subject to the 6¢ rate for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

This was the first westbound voyage under the Restored Rates, where the U.S. domestic rates plus a 2¢ Ship Letter charge applied, the same as prior to the Retaliatory Rate period where the rate was 24¢ plus the inland rate. There were only 4 westbound voyages under the Restored Rates until the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rates became effective February 21, 1849.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SHIP LETTER

EDINBURGH TO NEW YORK VIA LIVERPOOL & BOSTON

INDIA
STREET



Jan. 26, 1849.
Letter posted paid
1 shilling trans-
atlantic postage by
embossed issue of
1847 at India Str-
eet post office in
Edinburgh. Endors-
ed "per Steam Pack-
et" and sent on to
Liverpool. Stamp
cancelled by Type
A-1 "131" obliter-
ator of Edinburgh.



January 27. Transit
backstamp at Liverpool.

Restored Rate: RMS Niagara
sailed L'pool Jan. 27, 1849,
arrived Boston Feb. 11, her
only voyage under the re-
stored rates. On her return Feb. 21, she was
the first eastbound Cunarder under the Treaty.

February 12, 1849. Letter arrived at
Boston as a Ship Letter (Blake 546) and
rated Boston to New York at the 5¢ rate
(Act of 3 March 1845) for letters not
over 1/2-oz. and under 300 miles, plus the
2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH-U.S. TREATY RATES

R.M.S. Niagara

First Voyage from Boston under the Treaty Rates

On Feb. 10, 1849, R.M.S. Europa departed from Liverpool with the last of the British-U.S. mails rated under the "Restored Rate" period, arriving at New York Feb. 24. These letters were treated at N.Y. as ordinary incoming Ship Letters.

The first eastbound voyages under the all inclusive U.S. - British Treaty rate of 24¢ per ½-oz. were those of the Cunarder R.M.S. Niagara Feb. 21, 1849 from Boston and Ocean Line's S.S. Hermann from N.Y. Feb. 20.

Paid 24

PAID

B.527

24

B.562



Feb. 10, 1849.
Letter datelined at Boston. It was held for the next

packet sailing as a paid letter, the next sailing happening to be that of R.M.S. Niagara which departed Boston Feb. 21 for Liverpool and the first under the new Treaty. Letter was marked both in manuscript and with the Boston Exchange Office PAID and "24".

8

PAID
7 MR 7
1849

March 6. Niagara arrived at Liverpool, and in the confusion over the new Treaty rates a clerk at L'pool erroneously marked the letter with a red 1/- (24¢), normally a collect mark. On arrival at London Mar. 7 this mistake was corrected by marking the letter with the red London tombstone as PAID. Procedures had not yet

been established this early and the letter was marked in manuscript with a debit to the U.S. of 8d. (16¢) Sea Postage (British Packet). Later established markings would show a red "19" debiting U.S. for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. These early covers many times exhibit strange markings due to the unfamiliarity of the clerks with the new system.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH-U.S. TREATY of 1848

R.M.S. America

First Westbound Voyage under the Treaty Rates

Leigh St



5



February 19, 1849. A letter posted at the Leigh Street receiving office in London, backstamp. It was paid one shilling (24¢) shown by the 1/- mark in dark red. The U.S. was credited with 5¢ for U.S. Inland postage under the Treaty. Britain retained 3¢ British Inland + 16¢ Sea (British Packet) = 19¢.

February 20. Liverpool lozenge transit mark. R.M.S. America departed from Liverpool for Boston on February 24 on the first westbound passage under the U.S.-British Treaty of December 1848.



PAID

24

March 9. America arrived at Boston. U.S. noted a letter paid at the 24¢ Treaty rate. Early handling before "British Packet" handstamps had been made, Boston used the Ship Letter mark. As the new Treaty rate included inland postage to Pontiac, Michigan the Boston "Ship Letter" merely served to identify the port of entry.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

TREATY RATES

R. M. S. Caledonia

The first Westbound Cunard voyage under the newly established all inclusive rate of one shilling (24¢) per ½-oz. letter, effective Feb. 15, 1849, was that of the R.M.S. America which left Liverpool Feb. 24, 1849. Rates shown on these early Treaty voyages did not many times show the usual debits and credits encountered on the later covers, but simply a PAID designation and an incoming "SHIP" letter mark.

R.M.S. Caledonia, 1138 tons, 207 x 34 ft., wooden paddle steamer, launched 1840 at R. Wood, Port Glasgow (engines Robert Napier, Glasgow). Maiden voyage Sept. 19, 1840 Liverpool-Halifax-Boston. Last voyage ditto Nov. 10, 1849. This letter was carried on the first Westbound voyage of the Caledonia under the Treaty.

5
CENTS

PAID

May 11, 1849. Posted at Lombard Street office, London, paid 1/- (red mss.). Caledonia sailed from L'pool May 12. 5¢ credit to U.S. for Inland postage. 16¢ sea + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ retained by Britain.

May 26. Recorded arrival date of the Caledonia at Boston. Boston Exchange Office marked as a PAID "SHIP LETTER"

Letter within is a duplicate from Baring Bros. & Co., London stating original "p Canada". The R.M.S. Canada had sailed May 5 for N.Y. It concerns accounts from Capt. Osgoret of the Barque "Mary & Rundle", actually the 286 ton Bark Mary T. Rundets built 1845 at Alna, Maine.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH- U. S. TREATY RATES

R. M. S. Hibernia

Thayer-St

00
27AP27
1849

April 27, 1849. Letter posted unpaid at the Thayer Street Receiving Office, London. It concerns the death of an American soldier in the Mexican War "of five days illness with black vomit" and is addressed to the United States Secretary of War at Washington City.

The first sailing of a Cunarder Westbound under the U.S. - British Treaty effective Feb. 15, 1849 was that of R.M.S. America which left Liverpool Feb. 24. This letter was carried on the 4th Westbound voyage under the new rate, which was the 1st voyage of the Hibernia under the rate, leaving Liverpool April 28.



BOSTON
SHIP
MAY 12
MS

24

19
CENTS

B. 294

May 12, 1849. Arrival date of the Hibernia at Boston. These early Treaty covers still showed the "SHIP" designation, although the mail was subject to the 24¢ (1 shilling) Treaty charge per ½-oz., either prepaid or collect. Here unpaid, 24¢ collect with 16¢ sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ credit due to England.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH-U.S. TREATY RATES

R.M.S. Europa



5

August 6, 1849. Letter, datelined at Boston, was directionally endorsed: per "Europa", British Packet scheduled to sail August 8 from New York on her 8th return voyage to Liverpool. Letter received no postal identification at Boston, but was bulked to New York where the Exchange Office there struck it with the encircled "5", a debit to Britain for 5¢ U.S. Inland.

Balance of one shilling (24¢) would be retained from the collect postage at London as 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. This letter illustrates how early on in the Treaty period the New York post office streamlined the operation by putting the minimum markings on letters.

Europa sailed as scheduled on August 8.

FJ
21 AUG 21
1849

August 20. Europa arrived at Liverpool. Arrival backstamp at London August 21. One shilling (24¢) due for the British-U.S. Treaty rate.