

1793-94

SHIP LETTERS

Kingston, Jamaica to Philadelphia via St. Thomas and New York
Brig Industry

November 11, 1793. Letter, datelined at Kingston, concerns the Brig Nancy, owned by Messrs. Watchsmuth & Dutilh, which had been seized by the British and brought into Kingston as having French cargo aboard. Ship and cargo had been condemned in default, no one having entered a claim. Lawyers in Kingston advise they can recover both as evidentially no French cargo was found.

Letter was endorsed: p Brig Industry/ Captain Coppinger, which vessel sailed Kingston-St. Thomas-New York.

N. YORK. Mr. 11 *C. Smith*

Mess^{rs}. Watchsmuth & Dutilh,
Merchants,

Brig Industry
Capt. Coppinger. } *Philadelphia.*

1793
KINGSTON

N. YORK. Mr. 11 *C. Smith*

The Daily Advertiser (N.Y.). Arrived N.Y. March 11, 1794,
Brig Industry, Coningham (sic), St. Thomas.

This letter was rated under the Act of February 20, 1792,
single letter 60 to 100 miles, N. York to Philadelphia, at
10¢ + 4¢ Ship Letter charge = 14¢ due, shown by the Sh(ip)
14 notation in red manuscript.

1797

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK

Snow Dublin-Packet

October 16, 1797. Letter datelined at Liverpool, also inclosed a price current sheet. Letter handed to Captain Greene of the Dublin-Packet, which sailed on October 18.

News of the ship's whereabouts was known in New York per the Commercial Advertiser, N.Y., Friday Nov. 17, 1797. The following vessels were at Liverpool when the Brothers, Capt. Cummings, left there 18th September (1797), and were to sail shortly for the following ports: Snow Dublin-Packet, Greene, for New-York.



N*YORK DEC 17

Commercial Advertiser, Monday evening, Dec. 18, 1797. This morning arrived the brig Dublin Packet, Capt. Greene, 60 days from Liverpool, who brings a London paper of the 14th October - for the loan of which we are indebted to the politeness of a respectable mercantile house.

Letter rated as a triple letter conveyed 250 to 350 miles, Act of 1792, 20¢ x 3 = 60¢ + 4¢ Ship Letter fee = 64¢ due. The original statehood rate of 1792 charged a flat 4¢ per Ship Letter over the regular postage. The Act of 1799 reduced the Ship Letter charge to 2¢ over the regular postage.

1798

SHIP LETTERS

LONDON TO NEW YORK

Ship Adriana, Capt. Lee

February 13, 1798. A heavy wrapper containing other letters and documents. It is endorsed: By the Adriana/ Capt. Lee from/ London to Philadelphia/ February 13th 1798.



2 1/2 oz

May 18. The Adriana arrived at New York, arrival date shown by the New York "clamshell" in red, type I with a dot NEW-YORK.

Letter was rated, Act of February 20, 1792, New York to Philadelphia, zone rate

60 to 100 miles at 10¢ per single sheet. Here letter weighed 2½-oz. as shown in manuscript. Letters weighing over one ounce were rated at 4 times the single rate plus 4 times the single sheet rate per ounce over one ounce. Here at 2½-oz. the single rate was 10¢ x 10 (2½ times the one ounce rate) = \$1.00 plus 4¢ Ship Letter fee = \$1.04 due. High rated covers as this are seldom seen.

May 30. Docket notes receipt at Philadelphia.

2 1/2 oz
Benjⁿ Chew Sen^r & Jun^r Esq.



Philadelphia

*By the Adriana
Capt. Lee from
London to Philadelphia*

Rec^d 30th May 1798

February 13th 1798

1800

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

Hamburg to Philadelphia via London & New York.

Forwarding Agent:
C.T. Cazenove & Butard,
London.



June 13, 1800. Letter docketed as being posted this date at Hamburg. Endorsed on face "voye de Londres". Letter handled privately to London, where it was sent on to New York by a forwarding agent.

forwarded 7 July 1800
by
C.T. Cazenove & Butard



London endorsement on reverse of letter. Early forwarding agent at London.

Sept. 4, 1800. Incoming "clamshell" handstamp at New York. Letter there rated under Act. of Mar. 2, 1799 rates, N.Y. to Philadelphia (100 miles) of zone rate for an inland letter, 90-150 miles, of 12½¢ + 2¢ ship letter charge = 14½¢ due. Clerk noted "Sh 14½" to indicate the extra 2¢ ship letter charge over the inland rate.

1801

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

London to Providence via New York Double rated letter
NEW-YORK receiving mark, Type I



October 2, 1801. Letter datelined at London. Noted "per the Penman/Via New York". Historical note in letter says, "We have the pleasure to say that the Preliminaries of Peace with this country (Britain) and France were last night signed by Mr. Otto and Lord Hawkesbury, which it is to be hoped will give peace to the World". (The Battle of Waterloo was fought June 18, 1815 !)



December 4, 1801. Letter arrived at New York where this receiving mark of Type I (dot between NEW • YORK) was impressed. Rated, Act of Mar. 2, 1799, 150-300 miles at 17¢ rate x 2 = 34¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 36¢ due. Double rate for inland charges, the ship Letter charge was only made once.

1801

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Providence, R.I. via New York

Ship William & Mary

NEW-YORK receiving mark, Type I



December 4, 1800. Letter dated at Liverpool. It was held for the departure of the ship William & Mary, as endorsed, which sailed from Liverpool on February 5, 1801.



Commercial Advertiser, New York. Arrived Port of N.Y. February 28, 1801, ship William & Mary _____, Liverpool 23 days.

Letter rated Act of March 2, 1799 rates, N.Y. to Providence at the zone rate for an inland letter 150 to 300 miles at 17¢ x 3 (treble letter) = 51¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 53¢ due.

This letter received a dated "clamshell" at New York of Type I with a dot between N·Y, found in use from March 1798 to February 1802.

1802

SHIP LETTERS

Havana to Beverly, Mass. via New York

Brig Washington

NEW-YORK receiving mark, Type I



January 23, 1802. Commercial letter datelined at Havana. It describes poor market conditions at Havana and prejudice against Yankee skippers in favor of Spanish ships.



February 10, 1802. Arrived at New York Brig Washington, Ragorn (?) 15 days from Havana to Wm. & S. Robinson & Co. - molassas, fruit, sugar and segars. When Capt. R. left the Havana, the port was still shut against American vessels (Commercial Advertiser, N.Y., Feb. 10, 1802.)

Letter received a dated "clamshell" of Type I with a dot between W·Y, found in use from March 1798 to Feb. 1802. This is very late usage. Type II (W-Y) first used March 25, 1802.

Letter rated Act of Mar. 2, 1799 rates, N.Y. to Beverly, Mass. (255 miles) at zone rate for an inland letter 150-300 miles at 17¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 19¢, noted in manuscript.

1802

SHIP LETTERS

LONDON TO NEW YORK

Ship Aurora, Capt. Dunn

The American Philosophical Society's reflecting telescope

October 2, 1802. A letter written at London concerns the return of a reflecting telescope to the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia aboard the ship Aurora. It had been repolished and adjusted by a Mr. Jones who was long delayed in completing the work. As there was no ship available for Philadelphia, the London consignor, W. Vaughan, notes he is shipping the telescope per the ship Aurora, Capt. Dunn, home bound for New York. The telescope together with this letter was consigned to Robert Bird, Esq. at New York who would arrange for shipment from New York to Philadelphia.

December 16. Robert Bird notes receipt of the Box from the Aurora and asks for instructions for shipment to Philadelphia.



December 16. This letter arrived to the attention of Robert Bird packed in with the shipping papers for the telescope with Robert Bird as consignee. He added his note to the bottom of the letter and posted it unpaid to Philadelphia. As the letter had not been handed in to the postmaster at New York by Captain Dunn, no Ship Letter charge was assessed. At New York the letter received the "clamshell" fancy cancel, Type II with a hyphen NEW-YORK.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, 90 to 150 miles at 12½¢, shown in red manuscript, due from John Vaughan, Esq. at Philadelphia.

1803

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

Paramaribo to Providence via New York.

NEW-YORK receiving mark, Type II



January 18, 1803. Letter datelined at Paramirabo, Dutch Guiana. Letter refers to leaving next day to sail up the Surinam River. Sender noted "via N. London (Connecticut)", however, letter was put into mails at New York.



February 14, 1803. Incoming "clamshell" handstamp at New York. Type II with hyphen between NEW - YORK. Ship letter rate there assessed, being Act of March 2, 1799 rate of 17¢ for a letter inland 150-300 miles (New York to Providence) + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 19¢ due.

1803

SHIP LETTERS

London to Providence, R.I. via New York
Ship Jupiter

February 25, 1803. A letter written at London and endorsed: Jupiter/
Capt. Lane.



April 6. Arrival postmark at New York, Type II "clam shell" with a hyphen NEW-YORK. This mark found used 1802-04.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, 150 to 300 miles at 17¢ x 2 (double letter) = 34¢ + 3¢ Ship Letter charge = 36¢ due, shown in manuscript.

N.B.: Jupiter, ship, 355 tons, built 1802 at Chatham, Connecticut, registered at the Port of New York March 4, 1802.

1803

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

Amsterdam to Providence via New York

NEW-YORK receiving mark,
Type II

Forwarding Agent:
Rathbone, Hughes & Duncan
Liverpool



November 8, 1802. Letter datelined Amsterdam and directed via Liverpool by private hand.

*Recd & forwarded by
Rathbone Hughes & Duncan*



Forwarding Agent's endorsement on reverse, Rathbone, Hughes & Duncan, early forwarding agent at Liverpool.

Feb. 4, 1803. Incoming "clamshell" handstamp at New York. Type II with hyphen between NEW-YORK. Act of March 2, 1799 rate of 17¢ for a letter inland 150-300 miles (New York to Providence) + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 19¢ due. Docket notes letter received Feb. 9.

1804

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

Liverpool to New York

Ship Argo

NEW-YORK receiving mark, Type II, in red



January 27, 1804. Letter datelined at Liverpool and endorsed "p Argo". The Argo was a 158 ton brig built in 1801 at Pittston, District of Maine.



SHIP

142

March 19, 1804. Letter received at New York as a Ship Letter and received a superb strike of the New York "clamshell" postmark in red, Type II with hyphen between NEW-YORK. These marks in red are decidedly scarcer than the same in black.

Arrival of Argo at New York is verified by the Boston Gazette, which notes:

RUSSELL AND CUTLER'S
BOSTON MARINE LIST

At New-York March 20 - Argo, Capt. Smith, Liverpool.

The notation "Liverpool" indicates the port from which the ship last sailed.

Letter rated Act of March 2, 1799, zone rate for a single letter going 90 to 150 miles, New York to Hartford, at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, as shown in manuscript.

1802

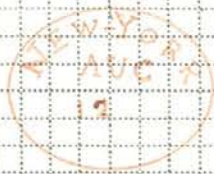
UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER

Amsterdam to Philadelphia via New York

Ship Orlando, Capt. Marschalk



June 4, 1802. Letter docketed at Amsterdam. Endorsed at Amsterdam: p Capt. Marschalk via New York.



NEW-YORK EVENING POST, THURS. AUG. 12, 1802.
EVENING MARINE POST

Arrived at this port: Ship Orlando, Marschalk, Amsterdam, 61 days.

Letter rated under Act of March 2, 1799, 90 to 150 miles at $12\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 for a double letter = 25¢. It was originally rated as an inland letter, then the 2¢ Ship Letter charge was added to total 27¢ due, shown as the red manuscript "Sh 27."

N.B.: Color of the New-York oval, here appearing as terra cotta, is a darkened red.

1804

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

London to Providence via New York.



September 13, 1803. Letter datelined at London, with further notes added November 14, 1803. Letter originally headed "per Commerce/via New York", later notation on face "per Halcyon/via N. York".



February 13, 1804. Letter arrived incoming at New York where this red oval mark was struck (Norona Cat. 21). While not as popular as the "clamshell" marks, these ovals seem much scarcer.

Letter rated at the March 2, 1799 rate of 17¢ x 2 = 34¢ for a double letter going 150-300 miles plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 36¢ due.

1804-05

SHIP LETTERS

GRAVESEND TO NEW YORK IN 70 DAYS

Ship Missouri, Capt. Reed Put back with damaged rudder

Nov. 3, 1804. Duplicate letter datelined at London with the original having been sent via the Falmouth packet Eliza which left Falmouth Nov. 19 with the November mail.

Nov. 10. The ship Missouri had sailed earlier from London, but had to put back to Gravesend owing to some damage to her rudder. Josiah Roberts at London took advantage of her return to forward the duplicate. The Missouri sailed again on Nov. 28 after repairs were completed.



SHIP



February 4, 1805. Ship Missouri, Capt. Reed, arrived at New York 70 days from London. (N.Y. Commercial Advertiser.) She carried dry goods &c. to William & Francis, owners, Philadelphia, as well as saltpetre for Mr. Stephen Dutilh.

The British packet Eliza, Patterson, from Falmouth in 79 days with the November mails also arrived at New York on February 4. Thus, the Missouri proved a better sailer than the packet Eliza, bettering the latter by 9 days.

Letter rated Act of March 2, 1799, single letter conveyed 90 to 150 miles at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter = 14½¢ due.

1801

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER

Rates by Act of March 2, 1799



May 8, 1801. Letter headed at Gloasham, England, and handed directly to ship's captain bound out of England, thus bears no British postmarks or rates.



SHIP

1414

August 8, 1801. Letter put into U.S. Postal System at New York and rated as a SHIP LETTER, chargeable at the Domestic Zone rate plus 2¢ ship letter charge. Zone rate (Act of March 2, 1799) was 12½¢ for a single letter going 90-150 miles inland (N.Y. to Philadelphia, 95 miles) + 2¢ = 14¢ due as shown in manuscript, upper right.

1805

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Philadelphia via New York
Ship Chatham, Capt. Wasson

July 1805. Letter datelined at Birmingham, England concerns insurances for various cargoes for Messrs. Harvey & Worth, New York.

November 3, 1805. The Ship Chatham, as endorsed, departed from Liverpool.



New-York Commercial Advertiser,
Saturday December 14, 1805. ARRIVED
THIS DAY. Ship Chatham, from Liver-
pool with coals, salt and dry goods
to Thos. Buckley, and Hicks, Jenkins
& Co., owners.

MARINE LIST. Arrived ship Chatham,
Wasson, Liverpool, 42 days.

This letter received the unusual New York date stamp with ornaments above and below the date, found used 1804 to 1815.

Letter rated Act of 1799, for a letter 90 to 150 miles inland
at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢, shown in manuscript.

1806

SHIP LETTERS
AMSTERDAM TO PHILADELPHIA VIA NEW YORK
Ship Melpomene, Capt. D'Aubeny

August 4, 1806. A letter in French dated at Rotterdam. It is endorsed: pr. Cap'n D'Aubeny, via Newyork. D'Aubeny was captain of the ship Melpomene, a 226 ton ship built in 1802 at Hudson, N.Y.

September 11. The Melpomene departed from Amsterdam for New York.



SHIP

Ming's New-York Price Current, November 8, 1806. PORT OF NEW-YORK.
Arrived November 1, Melpomene, Daubney (sic), 51 days from Amsterdam.

November 1. Letter was struck with the New York handstamp with ornaments above and below the date. Letter was rated, Act of 1799, zone 80 to 150 miles at $12\frac{1}{2}\phi$ plus 2ϕ Ship Letter charge = $14\frac{1}{2}\phi$ due, shown in red manuscript.

1818

SHIP LETTERS

BALIZE, MOUTH OF THE MISSISSIPPI, TO MAINE VIA N.Y.

Brig Sailor Boy

January 17, 1818. Letter datelined at Balize (Mouth of Mississippi). Balize was one of the pilot towns near the mouth of the Mississippi in Plaquemines parish, Louisiana. It was a small village whose houses stood on piles.

January brig Sailor Boy departed from the Balize for New York.



SHIP FREE

New York Daily Advertiser, Feb. 18, 1818. Arrived N.Y., Brig Sailor Boy, S. Rodman, from N. Orleans, and 19 days from the Balize, with sugar and cotton to Mr. Pratt, of Phila. owner and F. Deparr, of New-York... a schr. belonging to and 35 days from Bath, had just arrived at the Balize, bound up... Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. 20 miles south of Chincoteague, saw a black brig with a copper bottom ashore, her sails unbent, the people had made a tent ashore, she appeared to be high and dry.

Letter was addressed to Ellis B. Isher, Postmaster at Hollis, District of Maine. Post Office at N.Y. noted letter to a postmaster, so marked it FREE. This type of handling is seldom seen.

1818

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER RATE

London to New York

Ship Criterion

September 29, 1818. Letter datelined at Brighton, England where it was directionally endorsed: Criterion/via New York. It was docketed on the reverse: London 30th Sept. Criterion was a 462 ton ship built 1811 at Portland, District of Maine. She was registered at New York June 13, 1812 (Holdcamper List.) She ran regularly between New York and London.

Note that the letter was addressed to "Hallowell, Maine, Massachusetts." At that time Maine was a District of Massachusetts. Maine became a separate state in 1820.



SHIP

December 1, 1818. WOOD'S NEW-YORK Sale Report and Price Current, Dec. 12, 1818: Arrived Dec. 2, Ship Criterion, Avery, London.

Letter was rated, Act of April 9, 1816 (effective May 1, 1816) for a single letter going 150-400 miles, N.Y. to Hallowell, of 18½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20½¢ due.

Further notes on Criterion's movements appear in WOOD'S Sale Report Jan. 2, 1819: Vessels advertized for foreign ports: SHIP CRITERION bound for London to sail the 5th inst., apply to E. Moorwood.

She was finally cleared for London January 13, 1819.

1820

SHIP LETTERS

BALTIMORE TO LIVERPOOL VIA NEW YORK

Ship Atlantic, Capt. Matlock



Ms. P. 11. 19

PAID
M.D.R.H. 248

May 10, 1820. A letter posted at Baltimore, Md. and paid to New York at the zone rate, Act of 1816, 150 to 400 miles at 18½¢, shown in red manuscript at right.

Wood's New-York Sale Report and Price Current, Sat. May 27: Vessels advertized for Foreign Ports, Ship Atlantic, Matlock, 31st. inst., Apply to Hicks, Lawrence & Co.

Letter Bags: UP AT THE TONTINE COFFEE-HOUSE: SHIP ATLANTIC-LIVERPOOL.



LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER



June 4. Ship Atlantic, Matlock, finally sailed from New York for Liverpool. The N.Y. post office had delivered the letter to the Atlantic's Letter Bag at the Tontine Coffee-House. Seldom seen ship's cachet struck aboard the Atlantic shows her sailing date.

June 27. Atlantic arrived at Liverpool, London receiving backstamp June 29.

Letter rated Act of 1812 (53 Geo. III, Cap. 88), single letter 170 to 230 miles (Liverpool to London = 206 miles) at 11d. + 8d. Ship Letter charge = 19d. = 1sh.7d. shown in manuscript.

N.B.: No doubt this vessel is the Ship Atlantic, 323 tons, built 1817 at Newbury, Mass., registered Nov. 28, 1817 at Port of New York. (Holdcamper List.)

1826

SHIP LETTERS

CARTHAGENA, COLUMBIA TO PENNSYLVANIA VIA NEW YORK

Brig Spartan, Capt. Chapman

March 17, 1826. A letter to a clergyman at Bethlehem, Penn. from a business man, G.M. MacPherson, at Carthagena thanking him for his kindness in advancing sums to his sister and acknowledging his obligation to repay these sums within six months. Other moneys were advanced by a Mr. Rice, an apothecary, a doctor and a shoemaker, all of whom he also promises to pay.

His sister's straits occurred because Mr. MacPherson was detained in Europe.

This letter was handed to the captain of the brig Spartan. This 128 ton vessel was built in 1824 at Kensington, Penn.



Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at New York April 12: Brig Spartan, Chapman...Carthagena.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter conveyed 80 to 150 miles at 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in red manuscript.



SHIP

1827

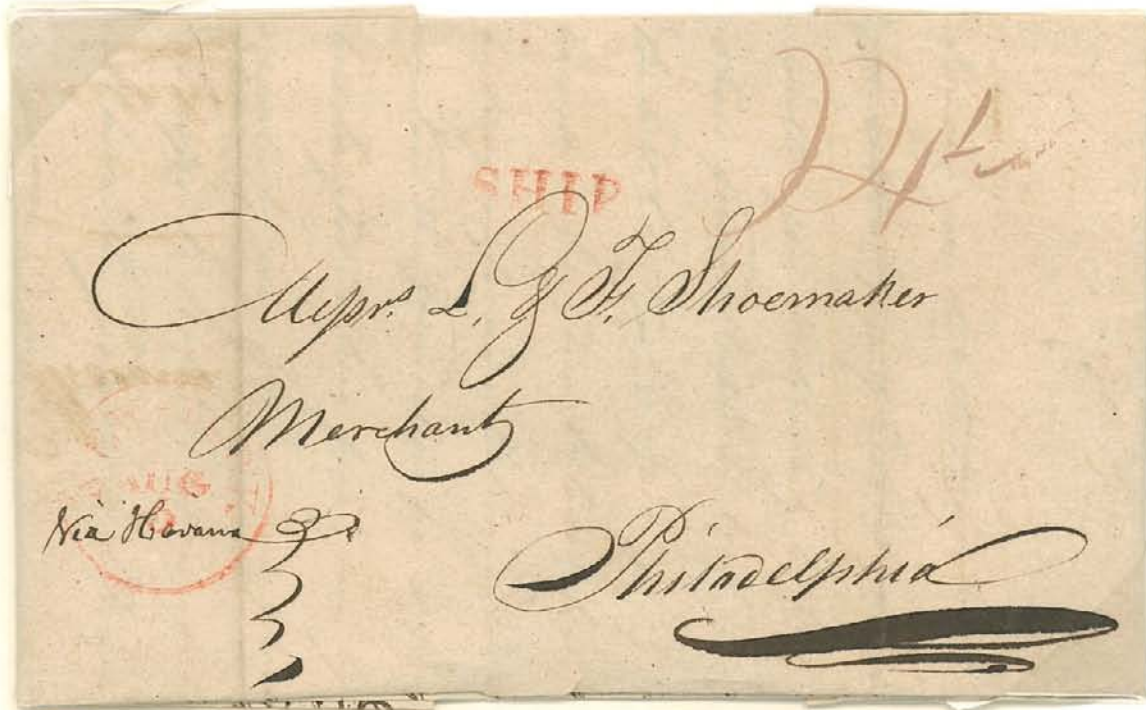
SHIP LETTERS

FERNANDIA DE JAGUA, CUBA TO N.Y. VIA HAVANA

Schooner Bolivar, Capt. Turner

July 1, 1827. A letter headed at Fernandia de Jagua, Cuba and endorsed: Via Havana. This is a small town located on Jagua Bay or Bahia de Jagua, a fine bay on the S. coast of Cuba, 45 miles N.W. of Trinidad (de Cuba), and defended by a strong castle on Cape de los Angeles. Upon it is the town on Cienfuegos (Lippencott's Gazetteer)

The letter concerns various shipments to the account of L. & F. Shoemaker, Philadelphia. It also mentions the proper way of getting mail to Fernandia de Jagua, "...if you should write by way of Trinidad please put your letter under Cover addressed to Robert R. Stewart Esqr., Trinidad, and request him to have the goodness to forward it by the first opportunity." Thus, they are advocating the use of a forwarding agent at Trinidad, a more likely port for an "opportunity" from the U.S. than that of Fernandia de Jagua. R.R. Stewart could direct letter forward to Jagua by local coastal vessels.



Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at New York Aug. 4, 5, 1827. Schr. Bolivar, Turner...Havana.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter 80 to 150 miles, N.Y. to Philadelphia, at 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in red manuscript.



SHIP

1831

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER

Aux Cayes, Haiti to Boston via New York.
Rates by Act of March 3, 1825



February 26, 1831. Merchants letter headed at Aux Cayes. Writer is concerned about Eldridge & Parker's overdue Brig Rover, due at Aux Cayes, but is also expecting the Aurora from Boston with pine lumber boards and scantlings (small timber). He reports sale of last cargo of Mess Pork, No.3 Mackerel, Soap 15 bars and Candles 10 to the pound.

Letter endorsed "per Susan & Thebe". Aux Cayes is a scarce port from which to find correspondence.



March 16, 1831. Letter landed at New York. Single rate 150-400 miles, New York to Boston was 18-3/4¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge making 20-3/4¢ due as shown in the manuscript notation.

SHIP

Shipping and Commercial List:
March 16, 1831. Schooner Susan & Phebe, Capt. Myrick, arrived at N.Y. from Aux Cayes.

1832

SHIP LETTERS

French brig Les Trois Angeliques Bordeaux to New York

May 30, 1832. Letter headed at Bordeaux to Seth Low, New York, "By order for your account & risk of Daniel Low Esqr. in Paris, I have shipt to your Care, on board the french Ship le trois Angeli-ques Capt. Henry, bound for your port, one hogshead of Claret marked DE No. 1 as per Bill of Lading enclosed." Thus, this is a consignee's letter.

The cover is endorsed: pr les trois angeliques/ Captn henry/with Bill of Lading.



August 23. Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y., Arrived: French brig Three Serpents, Henry.....Bordeaux.

The reporter on the S. & C. L. must have been either a misogynist or a poor translator to turn "The Three Angels" into "Three Serpents"! However, the next issue of the S. & C. L. got it right: IMPORTATIONS at New York: Bordeaux - Fr. brig Trois Angeliques. Wine 8 hhd, P.C. Blancan - mdse. 1 case, G. Rozat - brandy 60 casks, wine 100 hhd, aniseed 140 bskts, J. Mel & Co. - wine 1 hhd, S. Low - etc.

The cargo list shows that Seth Low got his hogshead of wine.

Letter rated, single, for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry at 6¢. Charge mark 14 mm. encircled "6".

1832

SHIP LETTERS

Ship Mersey

Le Havre to New York



July 25, 1832. A letter datelined at Le Havre and endorsed: p. Mersey. This 372 ton ship was a private trader, not a regular packet ship.



N.Y. Shipping List & Price Current. Arrived at New York September 5, ship Mersey, Capt. Reeves, from Havre.

Letter rated, manuscript upper right, Act of 1825 as a single letter conveyed 80-150 miles at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due.

1832

SHIP LETTERS

Ship Mersey

Le Havre to New York



July 24, 1832. Letter datelined at Le Havre and endorsed: p. Mersey. The ship Mersey was a private trader of 372 tons, built in 1829 at Durham, N.H. She was registered at the Port of New York on November 20, 1830.



N.Y. Shipping List & Price Current. Arrived at New York September 5, ship Mersey, Capt. Reeves, from Havre.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, for a single letter 80-150 miles at $12\frac{1}{2}\phi$ plus 2ϕ Ship Letter charge = $14\frac{1}{2}\phi$ due, shown in red manuscript.

1832

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

SHIP LETTER

Ship Huntsville

Huntsville, ship rigged, 572 tons, 130'-8" x 29'-8" beam, built by S.&F. Fickett, New York. She was in the packet service from 1831-44, principally with the New Orleans Louisiana & N.Y. Line. She held the speed record for many years with that line. She became a whaling ship out of Cold Spring, N.Y. from 1844-58.



Sept. 7, 1832. Letter datelined at Liverpool. It was put directly aboard the Huntsville, then acting on the transatlantic run as a private trader.



SHIP

Oct. 9, 1832. Contemporary newspapers note the arrival this date of the Ship Huntsville, Capt. Stoddard, from Liverpool. Charles Stoddard from Fairhaven, Mass., commanded the Huntsville 1831-33.

"Double-rimmed" effect of the New York handstamp is due to underinking.

Letter rated, Act of March 3, 1825, letter 80 to 150 miles, New York to Philadelphia, 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due.

1835

SHIP LETTERS

NEW YORK TO AMSTERDAM VIA DEN HELDER

Brig Oceanus, Capt. Torry

February 7, 1835. A letter datelined at New York to Schiedam, Netherlands concerns the sale of Holland gin. The letter is endorsed: p Brig Oceanus.

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List, February 7. Cleared: Brig Oceanus, Torry.....Amsterdam.



March 8. The Oceanus arrived at the Netherlands at the fortified town of Den Helder where the mail went ashore. At Den Helder this letter was rated as a Ship Letter (ZEE-BRIEF = Sea Letter) at 60 cents Dutch (about 25¢ U.S.)

March 10. Arrival backstamp at Schiedam.

Den Helder: A fortified maritime town of the Netherlands, province of North Holland, capital of canton, at the N. extremity of that province, 41 miles N.W. of Amsterdam. It has some trade with Amsterdam, with which it communicates by the Helder Canal, 50 miles long, 125 ft. broad and 21 feet deep, enabling ships of large burden to avoid the navigation of the Zuyder Zee.

Schiedam: A town and river-port of the Netherlands. province of East Holland, 4 miles W. of Rotterdam, Famous for gin, there are 170 distilleries.

1835

SHIP LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC-POSTED AT U.S. PORT OF ENTRY

Dec. 15, 1835. Letter handed to master of "South America"
as a Ship Letter at Manchester, England to Lowell, Mass.



Jan. 15, 1836. Ship Letter Stamp,
letter received unpaid at New York.

Letter rated (Act of Mar. 3, 1825), 150 - 400 miles, as a
quadruple letter, 18-3/4¢ x 4 equals 75¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter
charge totals 77¢ shown in red mms. due from recipient.

1837

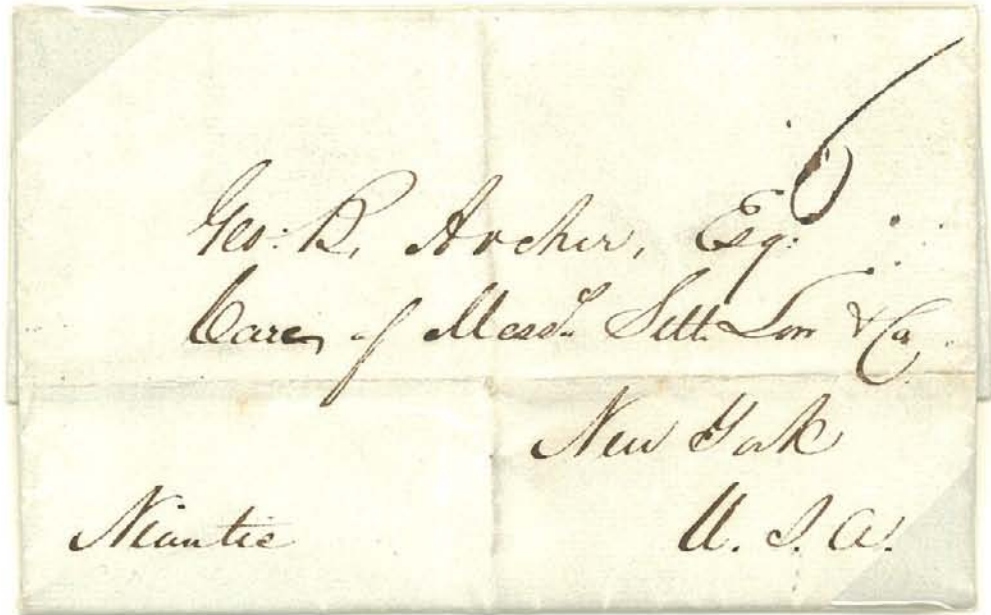
SHIP LETTERS

CANTON, CHINA TO NEW YORK

Ship Niantic, Capt. Doty

May 12, 1837. Letter headed at Canton, and says, inter alia, "I have given in charge to Captain Doty of the Niantic a box & parcel containing a crepe shawl and Ivory handled parasol: both are addressed to you and I will thank you to present the first to Mary Ann with my best compliments, and the latter to Ellen, who will, doubtless, make her best crying upon receiving it.

"The Osage, Niantic & Albion all get away next week about the same time...You had better call or send Captain Doty for the above (gifts) on his arrival immediately, or he will be off to Connecticut...
Yours, A.A. Low."



N.Y. Shipping List and Price current. Arrived New York October 14, 15, 1837. Ship Niantic, Doty....Canton. Cargo of young hyson tea, gunpowder, powchang, twankay, mulberry seed, Manilla coffee, bamboo furniture, lacquer ware, &c.

Letter rated for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry, shown by the manuscript "6" applied by the N.Y. post office.

Niantic, 451 ton ship, built 1835 at Stonington, Conn.

1837-38

SHIP LETTERS

MATANZAS. CUBA TO NEWARK. N.J. VIA NEW YORK

Brig Helen Maria, Capt. Pratt



Dec. 23, 1837. Letter datelined at Matanzas. It is from a businessman recently arrived in Cuba with his family. He remarks on the difficulty in selling bills on N.Y. or other U.S. banks because of lack of confidence due to the Panic of 1837. Business must be conducted in specie. He hopes to sell his interest in a Steam Boat.



SHIP

January 7, 1838. Shipping & Commercial List (N.Y.).
Arrived N.Y. Jan. 6,7, 1838, Brig Helen Maria, Pratt, Matanzas.

Letter rated Act of 1825, not over 30 miles at 6¢ + 2¢ Ship
Letter charge = 8¢ due.

1836

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK

Ship Cincinnati

C. & J. Barstow & Co.

February 10, 1836. Letter datelined at Liverpool. It is endorsed: pr Cincinnati, a 457 ton ship, length 121'-6", beam 28'-10", hold 14'-5". She was built in 1831 by Smith & Dimon, New York, and served as a New Orleans Old Line packet from '31 to '34 when she became a regular trader until she became a whaler from 1845-60.

Captain on this voyage was apparently Benjamin N.O. Barstow who had commanded Cincinnati from 1831 to '34 in the New Orleans Line.

This is a duplicate letter, the original went per ship Virginian of the Red Star Line.



March 29, 1836. Shipping & Commercial List: Arrived New York Ship Cincinnati, Barstow, Liverpool. Letter rated at 6¢ due, the Ship Letter charge for a letter addressed to the port of arrival.

N.B.: Cincinnati had left in June 1835 on her outbound voyage:

VESSELS UP FOR FOREIGN PORTS

Liverpool - Ship Cincinnati, Barstow, 27 E.R., C. & J. Barstow & Co. Cleared June 13, 1835.

(Shipping & Commercial List, June 13, 1835.)

1836-37

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA Via New York

Ship Carroll of Carrollton

Nov. 19, 1836. Letter datelined Liverpool. Endorsed "Carroll of CN", referring to the Ship Carroll of Carrollton, named after Charles Carroll, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Carroll of Carrollton was shipped rigged, 695 tons, built in 1830 in Baltimore, Md. She was registered at the Port of New York Nov. 2, 1831.



SHIP

Handwritten signature or initials in red ink.

Jan. 15, 1837. Letter received at New York as a Ship Letter. However, it was rated at the Act of March 3, 1825 rate, 80 to 150 miles of $12\frac{1}{2}$, New York to Philadelphia, only as is shown by the manuscript " $12\frac{1}{2}$ ". The clerk forgot to add the 2¢ Ship Letter charge, which would have made the correct rate of $14\frac{1}{2}$ due.

Jan. 15, 1837, arrived at New York from Liverpool Ship Carroll of Carrollton, Capt. Bird. Private trader.

1840

SHIP LETTERS

MALAGA, SPAIN TO BOSTON VIA NEW YORK

Brig Linden, Capt. Hubbard

October 8, 1840. Letter from the U.S. Consul, George Read at Malaga noting the shipment of bunch muscatel raisins by the Barque Bevis: Messrs Silas Pierce & Co., Boston
Gentlmm

Annexed is Copy of an Invoice of fruit (Bunch Raisins) Shipped by me pr. Barque Bevis & for my acct. to your consignment. The quality of the fruit is better than what is commonly shipped, but not of the best. If you receive this ten days before the arrival of the Bevis please insure \$400 on the Invoice - the Linden is a very fine vessel & will go quickly - by her I send this & acct.

Your ob. Serv. George Read.



N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List: Arrived Nov. 5, 1840, Brig Linden, Hubbard, Malaga.

Letter rated Act of 1825, 150 to 400 miles, at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.

Actually, the Bevis proved to be a fast sailer also: Arrived Boston, November 8, Barque Bevis, Briggs, Malaga.