

1852-53

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

P. & O. Line: S. S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon
S. S. Precursor, Galle to Suez
S. S. Ripon, Alexandria to Southampton
Collins Line: S. S. Atlantic, Liverpool to New York

HONG-KONG
27 NOV
1852

M

Nov. 27, 1852. Unpaid at Hong Kong, rated in sterling at 3sh.4d., double the 45¢ U.S. letter rate per ½-oz., of July 1849, British Packet from China via Southampton, less the 5¢ x 2 U.S. Inland. Hence, 3sh. (72¢) + 4d. (8¢) = 80¢ U.S.

P. & O. Line packets handled the letter:

<u>S.S. Singapore</u>		<u>S.S. Precursor</u>		<u>S.S. Ripon</u>	
Hong Kong	Nov. 29	Galle	Dec. 17	Alexandria	Jan. 7, 1853
Singapore	Dec. 5	Aden	26-28	Malta	11
Galle	13	Suez	Jan. 4	Southampton	21.

DP
22 JAN 22
1853

LH

NEW-YORK
FEB
7

ED 5
95
Mr. Nathan W. ...
Theological Seminary
Bangor
W. S. ...
Via ...

BRUNSWICK Me.
FEB
9

Jan. 22, 1853. Backstamp, London. British debit U.S. double British handling 24¢ (1sh.) x 2 = 48¢. Collins Line S.S. Atlantic, depart L'pool Jan. 26, arrived N.Y. Feb. 9. Letter went to Brunswick, Me. where British transit 48¢ + double transatlantic American packet of 16¢ x 2 = 32¢ + double U.S. Inland of 5¢ x 2 = 10¢; total 90¢ was due.

Letter was forwarded from Brunswick to Bangor, 5¢ forwarding charge, total due 95¢.

FORWARDED

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1849

SHANGHAI TO BOSTON VIA HONG KONG & SOUTHAMPTON

P.&O. LINE: S.S. Malta, Hong Kong to GalleS.S. Bentinck, Galle to SuezS.S. Hindostan, Alexandria to SouthamptonCUNARD LINE: R.M.S. America, Liverpool to New York

June 14, 1849. Letter datelined at Shanghai and carried out of the mails to Hong Kong, probably via one of the trading vessels of Messrs. Wolcott, Bates & Co., with whom the writer, D.O. Clark, had a position.



Aug. 29, 1849. Hong Kong back-stamp, faint strike of the crowned PAID AT HONG KONG on the face. Letter had been originally endorsed "Per Overland Mail via Marseilles", but the Marseilles was deleted as the S.S. Malta departed Hong Kong on the 31st

for connections via Southampton. She arrived at Galle, Ceylon Sept. 23. Letter was rated two shillings at 1/- per ½-oz. to the U.K.

Sept. 23. S.S. Bentinck departed Galle, arrived at Suez Oct. 13. The mail then went overland across Egypt, a 40 hour trip, Suez to Alexandria, arriving Oct. 15. Oct. 16, S.S. Hindostan departed Alexandria, arrived Southampton Oct. 30, letter then on by rail to London where it was received as a paid letter.

Nov. 2. Baring Bros., forwarding agents, deleted their name and posted the letter unpaid at the Lombard Street (L.S.) post office, London. Nov. 3. R.M.S. America departed L'pool, arrived N.Y. Nov. 17. Exchange Office marked letter 24¢ collect being U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate. Britain credited with



1841

SHIP LETTERS

Boston to Canton, China

Ship Mary Ellen - Maiden Voyage

May 18, 1841. A letter headed at Roxbury, Mass. to Captain P. Townsend of the ship Lintin at Canton. It was sent ex-post office, hand-carried by Master Wm. Leland, a young seaman aboard the ship Mary Ellen. The term "master" refers to a young man under legal age. The writer, Mr. H. M. Wirthington, asks Capt. Townsend to offer advice and assistance, "...knowing that the same will be what is good for a young seaman in a foreign country..."



N.Y. Shipping List & Price Current, May 22, 1841. Cleared from Boston May 18 - Ship Mary Ellen, (new,) Heard.....Canton.

The letter content also mentions, "Wm. Lealand, the bearer of this goes in ship Mary Ellen, a first trip...", indicating a first voyage for this vessel.

1849

SHANGHAI TO BOSTON VIA HONG KONG & SOUTHAMPTON

P.&O. LINE: S.S. Malta, Hong Kong to Galle

S.S. Bentinck, Galle to Suez

S.S. Hindostan, Alexandria to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. America, Liverpool to New York

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Nov. 2. Baring Bros., forwarding agents, deleted their name and posted the letter unpaid at the Lombard Street (L.S.) post office, London. Nov. 3. R.M.S. America departed L'pool, arrived N.Y. Nov. 17. Exchange Office marked letter 24¢ collect being U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate. Britain credited with 16¢ sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.



1850

MANILA TO U.S. VIA HONG KONG AND MARSEILLES

P.&O. Line: S.S. Braganza, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon
S.S. Hindostan, Galle to Suez

Ligne d'Egypte: S.S. Louqsor, Alexandria to Marseilles

Collins Line: U.S.M.S. Atlantic, Liverpool to New York

July 5, 1850. Letter datelined at Manila informs owners at Salem, Mass. of the safe arrival of the ship Australia, Capt. Cheever from Sydney. He is to secure a cargo of sugar and hemp. This letter is endorsed: Via Marseilles, and was sent in a packet to a forwarding agent in London. It went by local steamer to Hong Kong.



July 24. Letter went out of Hong Kong by P. & O. Line packets to Suez, then by the French Ligne d'Egypte to Marseilles. Dates were as follows:

<u>S.S. Braganza</u>		<u>S.S. Hindostan</u>		<u>Paquebot Louqsor</u>	
Hong Kong	July 24	Galle	Aug. 18	Alexandria	Sept. 9
Singapore	Aug. 3-4	Aden	30-31	Marseilles	17.
Penang	6	Suez	Sep. 6		
Galle	14				

September 24. Arrival at London. The forwarder deleted "Via Marseilles" and put the letter into the mail unpaid at the old Lombard Street (L.S.) post office, London. U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland out of the 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

September 25. U.S.M.S. Atlantic of the Collins Line departed from Liverpool.

October 9. The Atlantic, Capt. West, left Liverpool on Wednesday noon, the 25th ult. and was telegraphed off Halifax at 10 o'clock Monday morning by our news agent. She arrived at her wharf at 10 o'clock (A.M.)

1850

HONG KONG TO U.S. via Southampton
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
British Packet Transatlantic.

The "China" rates, via Southampton by British Mail from July 1, 1849 to 1855, were made up as follows:

Not over 1/2 ounce.

U.S. Inland	5¢
Transatlantic	16¢
British	<u>24¢</u>
	45¢



Aug. 10, 1850. Prices current datelined at Shanghai. Back-stamped dated c.d.s. 12 August 1850 at Hong Kong.

Type C "PAID AT HONG KONG" hand stamp struck. Sender paid 1 shilling 8d., the transatlantic and British portions at 1/ = 24¢ + (8d.=16¢) = 40¢, equivalent to 1/8 shown in red mms. British allowed 2d. to Hong Kong, resulting in net to Britain of 1/6, also shown.



Oct. 26, 1850. Letter transit at London where this "tombstone" mark was applied.

October 27. Transit lozenge of the Liverpool Packet Office.



November 13, 1850. Receipt at New York. 5¢, U.S. portion of "China" rate, now due from recipient.

P&O Line S-S Pekin

Aug 24, 1850 Depart Hong Kong
Sept 13 Arrive Valle

S-S Oriental

Sept 14 Depart Valle
Oct 6 Arrive Suva

S-S London

Oct 9 Dep. Alexandria
Oct 26 Arrive Southampton

Oct. 27. Transit at Liverpool. This fell by one day
missed going on the wooden voyage of the R.M.S. Africa
which had sailed Oct. 26.

Nov. 2. R.M.S. Cambria departed Liverpool,
arrived at Boston Nov. 16

1850-51

SHIP LETTERS

CANTON, CHINA TO MARYLAND VIA NEW YORK

Ship Samuel Russell, Capt. Low

October 22, 1850. A partial letter from Whampoa, China refers to the superiority of American shipping over the English, whereby English consignors consign tea to Britain aboard the fast American clippers at £6 per ton, refusing English vessels willing to ship at £3 per ton. Letter is endorsed: Per "Saml. Russell".



New-York Daily Tribune, MARINE JOURNAL.
Jan. 27, 1851. Arrived Ship Samuel Russell,
Low, Canton 88 ds., teas and silks to A.A.
Low & Brothers. Jan. 19, lat 33 18 N. lon
62 54 passed bark Fairmount, standing SE;
showed a blue signal with the letter R in
the center. The SR made her run from the
line to Sandy Hook in 17 days.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, as a letter not over 300 miles, New
York to Hagerstown, Md., at 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1851-52

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

P. & O. Line: S.S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Hindostan, Galle to Suez

S.S. Bentinck, Alexandria to Southampton

Conard Line: R.M.S. Africa. Liverpool to New York



Oct. 29, 1851. Unpaid letter at Hong Kong, backstamp. Rated in sterling at the 45¢ U.S. letter rate per ½-oz., British Packet via Southampton, of July 1849, less the 5¢ U.S. inland charge. 1sh.8d. was equivalent to 1sh.(24¢) + 8d.(16¢) = 40¢.

Transit to Britain was by P. & O. Line packets:

<u>S.S. Singapore</u>		<u>S.S. Hindostan</u>		<u>S.S. Bentinck</u>	
Hong Kong	Oct. 30	Galle	Nov. 17	Alex'ria	Dec. 7
Singapore	Nov. 4-6	Aden	26-27	Gibal'ar	15
Galle	13	Suez	Dec. 3	So'ton	20



Handwritten initials 'NY' in red ink.



Dec. 20. London backstamp. Britain debited U.S. for 24¢ British handling to England. An error was made, as debit should have included 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) to total 40¢. R.M.S. Africa departed this date from L'pool.

Jan. 2, 1852. Africa arrived N.Y., letter to Andover, Mass. total rate of 45¢ due. Letter forwarded to Brunswick, Me., no forwarding charge made.

1852-53

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

P. & O. Line: S. S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon
S. S. Precursor, Galle to Suez
S. S. Ripon, Alexandria to Southampton
Collins Line: S. S. Atlantic, Liverpool to New York



M

Nov. 27, 1852. Unpaid at Hong Kong, rated in sterling at 3sh.4d., double the 45¢ U.S. letter rate per ½-oz., of July 1849, British Packet from China via Southampton, less the 5¢ x 2 U.S. Inland. Hence, 3sh. (72¢) + 4d. (8¢) = 80¢ U.S.

P. & O. Line packets handled the letter:

<u>S.S. Singapore</u>		<u>S.S. Precursor</u>		<u>S.S. Ripon</u>	
Hong Kong	Nov. 29	Galle	Dec. 17	Alexandria	Jan. 7, 1853
Singapore	Dec. 5	Aden	26-28	Malta	11
Galle	13	Suez	Jan. 4	Southampton	21.



LS



Jan. 22, 1853. Backstamp, London. British debit U.S. double British handling 24¢ (1sh.) x 2 = 48¢. Collins Line S.S. Atlantic, depart L'pool Jan. 26, arrived N.Y. Feb. 9. Letter went to Brunswick, Me. where British transit 48¢ + double transatlantic American packet of 16¢ x 2 = 32¢ + double U.S. Inland of 5¢ x 2 = 10¢; total 90¢ was due.

Letter was forwarded from Brunswick to Bangor, 5¢ forwarding charge, total due 95¢.

FORWARDED

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1851

U.S. TO HONG KONG VIA SOUTHAMPTON

COLLINS LINE: S.S. Atlantic, New York to Liverpool

P. & O. LINE: S.S. Pottinger, Southampton to Alexandria

S.S. Hindostan, Suez to Galle

S.S. Singapore, Galle to Hong Kong



Aug. 6, 1851.
A. Heard & Co,
correspondence
letter posted
unpaid at N.Y.
to Canton via
the forwarding
agent Baring
Bros. & Co.,
London. The
first leg of
the voyage,
N.Y. to London,
was handled as
a transatlantic
rate of 24¢ (1



shilling) per the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848. The New York Exchange Office debited Britain for 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢.

Letter endorsed: p. Atlantic. This steamship of the Collins Line departed New York Aug. 6 for Liverpool.

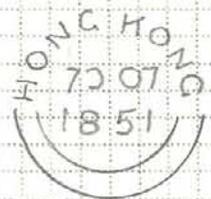
Aug. 17. Atlantic arrived L'pool, London transit backstamp.

Aug. 19. Baring Bros. stamped red VIA SOUTHAMPTON, forwarding the letter to Canton. They paid the 1 shilling (1/-) transatlantic rate plus the 1 sh. British P.O. Notice of June 1851, rate, U.K. to Hong Kong to total 2/-, noted in red manuscript.

Transit by P. & O. packets was as follows:

<u>Pottinger</u>		<u>Hindostan</u>	<u>Singapore</u>
S'hampton	Aug. 20	Suez	Sept. 7
Gibraltar	25	Aden	13
Malta	29-31	Galle	22
Alexandria	Sept. 4		
		Galle	Sept. 23
		Penang	27-28
		Singapore	30- 1
		Hong Kong	Oct. 7

October 7. Hong Kong receiving backstamp agrees with the P. & O. schedule. Letter sent up-river by local steamer.



1852

U.S. TO CANTON VIA SOUTHAMPTON AND SUEZ

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Asia, New York to Liverpool

P. & O. LINE: S.S. Bentinck, Southampton to Alexandria

S.S. Pottinger, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Malta, Galle to Hong Kong

S.S. Canton, Hong Kong to Canton

June 23, 1852. A long letter from Augustine Heard, Jr. to his mother at Ipswich, Mass. It is headed "On board Steamer 'Malta' / June 23, 1852. He gives her some interesting points, inter alia, "It is a beautiful day, and we are heaving in the long swells of the Indian ocean. The sun is shining brightly and the sky of that most delicate light, vapor charged blue of the tropics have with its floating web-like clouds. I had been reading an essay on cloud painting & was stretched under the heavy awning, drowsily watching the changing forms and admiring the contrast between the deep-blue of the sea, here and there streaked with a fleece of foam, and the delicate tint of the sky, when imperceptively and by degrees a spirit of devotion crept upon me, and I found myself actually looking 'through nature of to nature's God.' " He goes on to explain his philosophy on religion and reminiscing about home.

It is evident that Mr. Heard was a man of means as he was going out to China by the "overland mail", i.e. by steamers and across Egypt, rather than booking a much cheaper passage as a passenger on a sailing vessel. The overland route took him about 93 days, New York to Hong Kong. A sailing vessel, going around the Cape of Good Hope, could take up to 180 days.

The S.S. Malta of the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. had departed from Pointe de Galle, Ceylon on June 22, 1852. Heard's letter was penned only one day out of Galle. The Malta arrived at Hong Kong on August 5, 1852. Based on the Malta's dates, we can project Mr. Heard's passage from the United States as follows:

<u>R.M.S. Asia</u>		<u>S.S. Bentinck</u>		<u>S.S. Pottinger</u>		<u>S.S. Malta</u>	
New York	May 5	Southampton	May 20	Suez	June 5	Galle	Jun 22
Liverpool	15	Gibraltar	25	Aden	11	Penang	27
		Malta	29	Galle	20	Singapore	29-30
		Alexandria	Jun 2			Hong Kong	Aug 5

The S.S. Canton of the P. & O. Line ran a regular river service working between Hong Kong, Macao, Cumsingmoon and Canton on the Canton River. Among other things, she collected and delivered mail to and from the main line packets at Hong Kong. Arrival of this letter at Canton would have been about August 8.

As noted above, while Augustine Heard penned his letter on the passage out, it did not get mailed to his mother until the clipper ship Atalanta left Canton for New York on December 26, 1852 (which see.)

1852

U. S. TO CANTON VIA SOUTHAMPTON AND SUEZ

Augustine Heard, Jr. Correspondence

Aboard Steamer "Malta"
June, 23 1852

My dear mother

It is a beautiful day, and we are leaning on the long swells of the Indian ocean. The sun is shining brightly, and the sky is of that most delicate light, vapor-charged blue, the tropics hang with its floating neb-like clouds. I had been reading an essay on cloud painting & was stretched under the heavy awning, drowsily watching their changing forms, and admiring the contrast between the deep-blue of the sea, here & there streaked with a fleecy foam, and the delicate tint of the sky. Then imperceptibly and by degrees a spirit of devotion crept upon me, and I found myself actually looking "through a scene of to nature's God." After indulging this feeling indolently for some time, thinking meanwhile of my "manifest sins & wickednesses," I betwixt me of the little testament that father put into my trunk the day when I was going to New York, & which I have since always carried with me. I took it from my cabin, returned my seat on deck & began at the beginning. But every word came with a double force changing however almost entirely the current of my thoughts. In every verse I heard your voice, & felt the

1852-53

SHIP LETTERS

Clipper Ship Atalanta Record Passage of 84 Days

Atalanta ashore on Romer Shoal, New York Harbor

CANTON TO NEW YORK

A letter was inclosed in this cover that had been penned by Augustine Heard, Jr. to his mother at Ipswich, Mass. while he was outbound east by the Overland Mail (across Egypt) in May-August 1852. He did not mail his mother's letter until a favorable "opportunity" arose for a fast passage by a clipper ship.

December 16, 1852. The 1288 ton clipper ship Atalanta, built in 1851 at Baltimore, departed from Canton with a cargo of tea and spices, and with Augustine Heard's letter to his mother aboard. His letter to her, addressed c/o George W. Heard, Ipswich, Mass. was endorsed: p "Atalanta."



Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at New-York March 11, Ship Atalanta, Wallace (ashore on Romer Shoal.)

N.Y. Times, March 12. Disasters. The clipper ship Atalanta (of Baltimore,) Wallace, 80 days [sic] from Canton with a cargo of teas and silks, went ashore on the Romer Shoals, 10th inst., at 11 P.M.. The steam tugs Jacob Bell and others went down to her assistance.

1852-53

CANTON TO NEW YORK
Clipper Ship Atalanta

Augustine Heard Correspondence
Record Passage of 84 Days

N.Y. Times, March 14, 1853. Shortest India Passage. In noticing the stranding of the clipper-ship Atalanta, 84 days from Canton, outside the Bay, the morning papers of Saturday notice the trip as the shortest ever made from that port to New-York. This is a mistake. We know that it is not the first within 84 days, by at least eight days, and we are not sure that is the second best run.

Some years ago, the ship Natchez, Capt. Waterman, and old New-Orleans and New-York packet with no pretensions to clipper-built, was put into the Canton trade, and made the voyage home in 76 days...

In spite of the Time's remarks about the old Natchez, no corroboration of her trip from Canton to New York in 76 days could be found. The final word would seem to be from Cutler, Carl, C. "Greyhounds of the Sea", Pg. 236: Of all the tea ships the Atalanta, under command of Captain Wallace, made the fastest passage from Southern China. She left Canton on the 16th of December, '52, and arrived off New York the 11th of March following. Unfortunately she went on the Roamer [sic] Shoals in thick weather, getting off after some delay without damage, but her time of 84 days was unsurpassed by any of the clippers this year.

March 11, 1853. Letter rated at New York, Act of 1851, letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., not exceeding 3000 miles, unpaid at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due. Had this letter been sent by steamer on the overland mail route (across Egypt) via Marseilles, the rate would have been 65¢ if under $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz., or 75¢ if over $\frac{1}{4}$, but under $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.

A note on the reverse of this letter says, "From my beloved son A. Heard, Jr."

1853

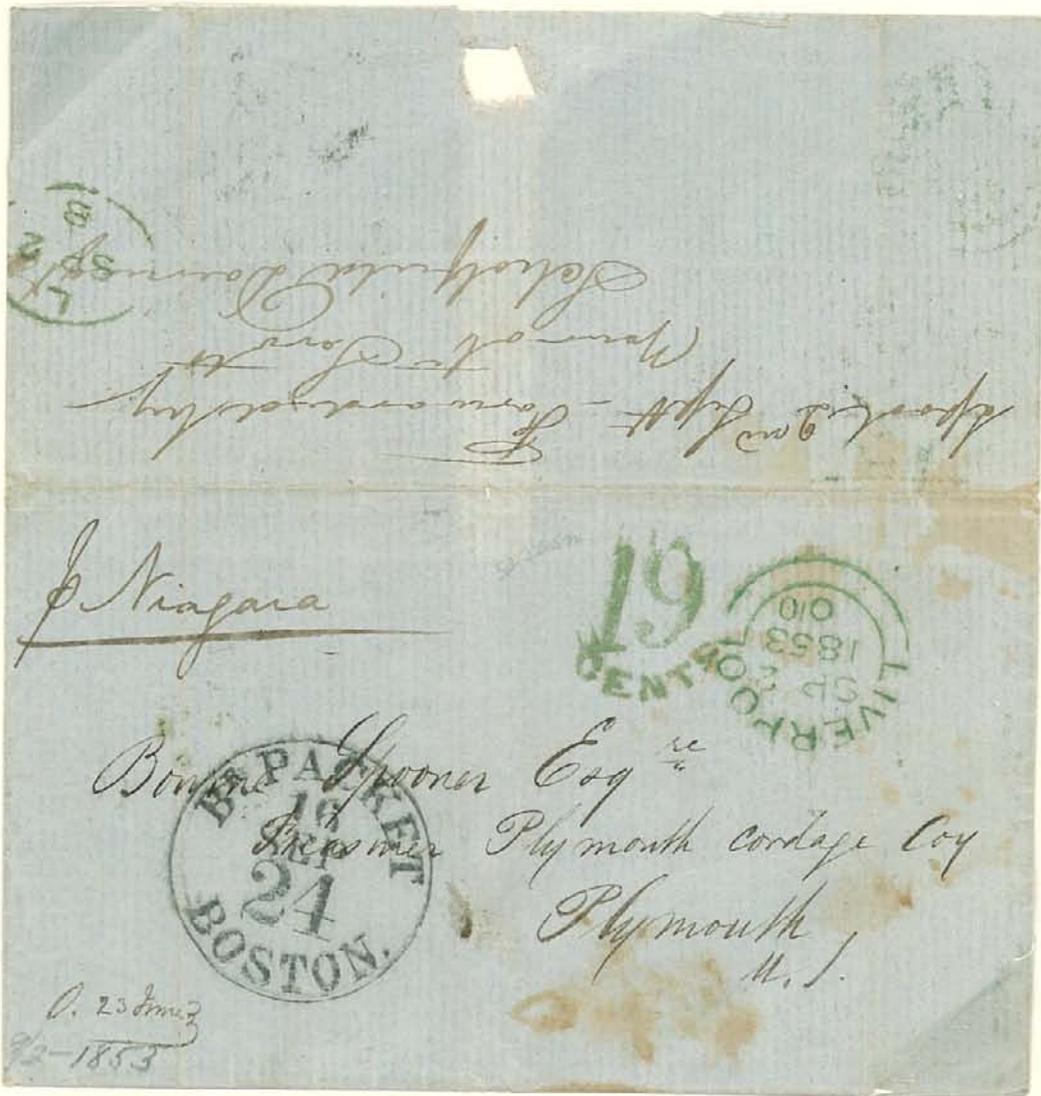
MANILA TO PLYMOUTH.MASS.VIA SOUTHAMPTON & L'POOL

P.&O. Line: S.S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Bentinck, Galle to Suez

S.S. Ripon, Alexandria to Southampton

Cunard Line: R.M.S. Niagara, Liverpool to Boston



1853

MANILA TO PLYMOUTH, MASS. VIA SOUTHAMPTON & L'POOL

P.&O. Line: S.S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Bentinck, Galle to Suez

S.S. Ripon, Alexandria to Southampton

Cunard Line: R.M.S. Niagara, Liverpool to Boston

June 23, 1853. A cover docketed at Manila from Ker & Co. It was put under separate cover with a packet of other letters addressed to the forwarding agents Scholfield Davis & co. at Liverpool. The packet went by local steamer to Hong Kong. From Hong Kong it went on to England by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. aboard the following steamships:

<u>S.S. Singapore</u>		<u>S.S. Bentinck</u>		<u>S.S. Ripon</u>	
Hong Kong	July 7	Galle	July 26	Alexandria	Aug. 19
Singapore	15-16	Aden	Aug. 6-7	Malta	22-23
Penang	18	Suez	14	Gibraltar	27-28
Galle	25			Southampton	Sep. 2

September 2. The forwarding agents endorsed the letter on the reverse with their notation:

Lpool 2nd Sept.- Forwarded by

Your obt. Servts.

Scholfield Davis & Co.

They also marked the letter: P. Niagara, and posted it unpaid.



September 2. The letter was processed by the Liverpool post office with postmarks in the seldom seen green. U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. The R.M.S. Niagara departed from Liverpool on September 3.



September 15. Niagara arrived at Boston, letter processed on September 16. The 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. was due as shown in the Boston Exchange Office handstamp. After remitting the 19¢ to Britain, the U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.

1853

MANILA TO U.S. VIA HONG KONG, SUEZ & SOUTHAMPTON

P. & O. Line: S.S. Malta, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Madras, Galle to Suez

S.S. Euxine, Alexandria to Southampton

Conard Line: R.M.S. Arabia, Liverpool to New York

July 22, 1853, postscript July 28. A letter written at Manila describing life, amusements and conditions at Manila where the writer is a clerk for the House of Peele Hubell & Co. He indicated that the letter is to be sent "fav. of Wm. Macdonald & Co., Singapore." However, letter went by private conveyance to Hong Kong, from which port it did not leave until September 5, 1853! Letter is endorsed: via Southampton.



HONG-KONG
5 SE 5 C
1853

September 5, 1853. Letter cleared Hong Kong, backstamp. This unpaid letter was charged at 1/8d. or 1sh. (24¢) + 8d. (16¢) = 40¢ U.S. This was the Notice of January 1853 rate per ½-oz. to Britain via Southampton plus the 8d. transatlantic rate. Conveyance dates by P. & O. Line packets were:

S.S. Malta Hong Kong Sep. 9 S.S. Madras: Galle Sep. 28 S.S. Euxine:
Galle 26 Suez Oct. 18 Alexandria Oct. 20
Southampton Nov. 3.

November 3. London transit back-stamp. U.S. was debited 40¢ for all British charges, including transatlantic.

Nov. 5. R.M.S. Arabia departed L'pool.

Nov. 17. Arabia arrived at N.Y. where 5¢ U.S. Inland was added to the 40¢ British debit to total the 45¢ rate from China by British Packet via Southampton.

November 18. Letter was forwarded from Northampton, Mass. to New Haven. 5¢ U.S. Inland added to the 45¢ China rate, 50¢ now due

CZ
3 NO 3
1853

NEW-YORK
NOV
17
BR PHT

45

NORTHAMPTON
NOV
18
MS.

1854

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

P.&O. Line: S. S. Pottinger, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Bombay, Galle to Suez

S. S. Indus, Alexandria to Southampton

Collins Line: S. S. Pacific, Liverpool to New York



314

Jan. 10, 1854. Unpaid letter at Hong Kong by forwarding agent A.H. Fryer. This is a previously unlisted handstamp. Rated in sterling at 3sh.4d., equivalent in U.S. to (3sh. x

24¢) 72¢ + (4d. x 2¢) 8¢ = 80¢, or double the July 1849 rate, 45¢ x 2, for a ½-oz. to 1oz. letter to or from China, British packet via Southampton, less the U.S. charge of 5¢ x 2 = 10¢.

P. & O. steamers handled the letter:

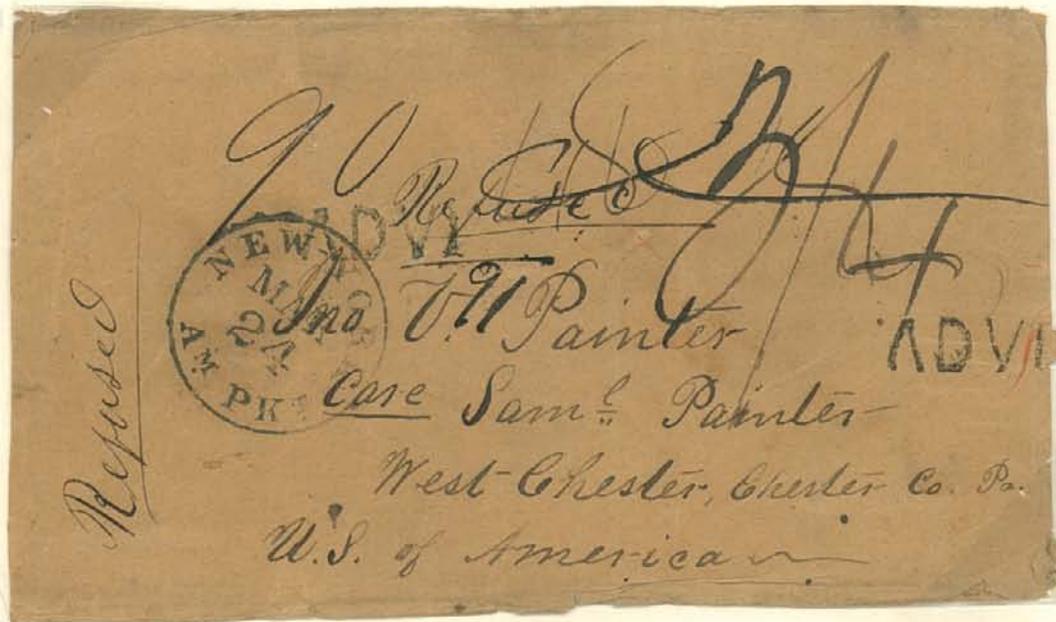
<u>S.S. Pottinger</u>	<u>S.S. Bombay</u>	<u>S.S. Indus</u>
Hong Kong Jan. 11	Galle Jan. 28	Alexandria Feb. 19
Galle	26 Suez	Feb. 12 Southampton
		Mar. 5.



48



ADVI



Mar. 6. Transit bkstp. London. British debit U.S. Brit. handling, 24¢ x 2 = 48¢. ¶ Collins Line S.S. Pacific depart L'pool, arrived N.Y. Mar. 23. ¶ U.S. got transatlantic postage (Am. Pkt.) 16¢ x 2 = 32¢ plus double domestic 5¢ x 2 = 10¢, total 42¢. With the British charge of 48¢, this totalled 90¢ due.

Letter was advertised for a fee of 1¢ shown by the handstamp ADVI, making total of 91¢ due. It was refused by the addressee.

1855

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CHINA TO U.S. VIA ENGLAND
American Packet Transatlantic

FORWARDING AGENTS
Olyphant & Co.
Gordon & Talbot

Dec. 1, 1854. Letter, headed Shanghai, was handled, unpaid, through the Hong Kong Post Office. Rated at the "China" rates effective 7/1/49-2/21/55*, treble (3/4 oz.), British Mail via Marseilles, as follows:



	7/1/49-2/21/55	2/21/55*-9/1/57
U.S. Inland	10¢	10¢
Transatlantic	32¢	32¢
British	68¢	24¢
French transit	30¢	30¢
	1.40	96¢

Marked 1.30 (mms. U.R.) showing total less 10¢ U.S. Inland, rates of 7/1/49. However, before the letter arrived rates changed, and letter rerated at 86¢ or total 2/21/55 rate less 10¢ U.S. Letter finally rated at 96¢ due under new rates.

*2/21/55 - Earliest recorded cover by Hargest of this date. This cover shows rate in use earlier on 2/16/55.

Jan. 27, 1855.
London transit
backstamp.



Feb. 15, 1855.
N.Y. transit.
US packet got 32¢.



Fwdg. Agent,
Olyphant Sons
forwarded letter
on to 2nd agent.



Gordon & Talbot
forwarded letter
again (possibly
Poste Restante).

1855

U. S. TO CANTON, CHINA VIA SOUTHAMPTON AND HONG KONG

Collins Line: S. S. Nashville (on Charter,) N.Y. to Liverpool

P. & O. Line: S. S. Tagus, Southampton to Alexandria

S. S. Bengal, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Cadiz, Galle to Hong Kong

S. S. Canton, Hong Kong to Canton



33

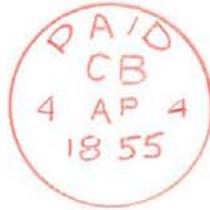
12

March 21, 1855. A letter at New York paid in cash at the 33¢ per ½-oz. rate to China via Southampton per British Mail, effective October 1854 to September 1, 1861. The letter is marked at New York as by "American Packet" (transatlantic.) The rate was divided: U.S. Inland 5¢, Transatlantic 16¢, British Transit 12¢. As transatlantic was by American Packet U.S. credited Britain only with 12¢ British Transit, U.S. retained U.S. Inland and Sea postage. or 21¢.

March 21. S. S. Nashville departed New York for Liverpool on charter to the Collins Line. She was the only round voyage she made for Collins, occasioned by the Pacific being unable to make the voyage.

1855

U.S. TO CANTON, CHINA VIA SOUTHAMPTON AND HONG KONG



April 3. Nashville arrived at Liverpool, mail transit at London
April 4. The China mails were forwarded to Southampton to meet the sailing of the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer.

This letter was forwarded to China by P. & O. steamers as follows:

<u>S.S. Tagus</u>		<u>S.S. Bengal</u>		<u>S.S. Cadiz</u>	
Southampton	Apr. 4	Suez	Apr. 23	Galle	May 10
Gibraltar	10	Aden	29-30	Penang	15
Malta	15	Galle	May 10	Singapore	17-18
Alexandria	19			Hong Kong	24.



May 24, 1855. Hong Kong arrival backstamp tracks with the arrival of S.S. Cadiz at that port.

May 25. Docket notes receipt of this letter at the Canton Factory of Augustine Heard & Co.

From 1849 to 1859 the P. & O. had small paddle steamers working between Hong Kong, Macao, Cumsingmoon and Canton. Among other things, they collected and delivered mail to and from the main line packets at Hong Kong. The S.S. Canton is noted on this station from August 31, 1854 to August 7, 1857.
(Kirk, Vol. 2, Pg. 171).

1856

U.S. TO CANTON, CHINA VIA MARSEILLES AND HONG KONG

Cunard Line: R.M.S. Cambria, Boston to Liverpool (Last Voyage)

P. & O. Line: S.S. Valetta, Marseilles to Alexandria

S.S. Hindostan, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Malta, Galle to Hong Kong

S.S. Canton, Hong Kong to Canton



April 23, 1856. A letter paid by charge account per the note at upper left: Chge Box/ 1824/ Paid through. It is also endorsed: pr. "Cambria"/Via Marseilles.

This letter was underpaid for the rate via Marseilles, as that rate was 43¢ per ¼-oz., 53¢ per ½-oz. The rate by British Mail via Southampton was 33¢ per ½-oz., as paid here. The rate was divided: 5¢ U.S. Inland, 16¢ Transatlantic and 12¢ British Transit. Here the British were credited with 16¢ Sea (British Packet transatlantic) + 12¢ British Transit beyond Britain = 28¢, shown in red manuscript.

April 23. R.M.S. Cambria of the Cunard Line left Boston on the last leg of her transatlantic service for Cunard. She ran Marseilles to Malta later in 1856 under charter to European & Australian Line.

1856

U.S. TO CANTON, CHINA VIA MARSEILLES AND HONG KONG



May 7. Cambria arrived at Liverpool. This letter was processed the same day at London, transit marks (Crown mark on reverse.)

This letter missed the May 4 sailing of the P. & O. steamer Ava from Southampton with the China mails. Rather than hold up the mails for a whole month (the P. & O. steamer Indus was not due to leave Southampton until June 4), the Cambria's China mails were sent on to Marseilles at no extra charge over the "via Southampton" rates.

Transit by P. & O. steamers was:

<u>S.S. Valetta</u>		<u>S.S. Hindostan</u>		<u>S.S. Malta</u>	
Marseilles	May 12	Suez	May 22	Galle	June 9
Malta	15	Aden	28	Penang	15
Alexandria	19	Galle	Jun. 7	Singapore	17-18
				Hong Kong	25.



June 25. Hong Kong transit backstamp tracks with the arrival date of the S.S. Malta at that port.

June 26. Docket notes receipt at the Canton Factory of Augustine Heard & Co.

From 1849 to 1859, the P. & O. had small paddle steamers working between Hong Kong, Macao, Cumsingmoon and Canton. Among other things, they collected and delivered mail to or from the main line packets at Hong Kong. The S.S. Canton is noted used on this circuit from August 31, 1854 to August 7, 1857.

(Kirk, Vol. 2, Pg. 171).

1856

BOSTON TO CANTON, CHINA VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Conard Line: R.M.S. Africa, New York to Liverpool

P. & O. Line: S.S. Pera, Southampton to Alexandria

S.S. Bombay, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Norna, Galle to Hong Kong



5



Mar. 18, 1856.
Unpaid letter,
Boston to Can-
ton, China care
of forwarding
agent Baring
Bros. & Co.
at London.

Endorsed: p Af-
rica. The Bos-
ton Exchange Office marked it with a 5¢ debit to Britain for US
inland. R.M.S. Africa sailed from N.Y. Mar. 19 for Liverpool.

Mar. 31. Africa arrived L'pool, letter sent to London where it
arrived on April 1, backstamp. Letter there rated 1/- (24¢), the
U.S.-British Treaty rate of 1848.

Baring Brothers struck their forwarder's oval and redirected
the letter: Viâ Southampton and sent it on by courier. P&O
steamers and their dates were: Pera, So'ton Apr. 4, Alexandria
18th; Bombay, Suez Apr. 22, Galle May 8; Norna Galle, 9th. H.K. 23rd.
May 24. Docket notes receipt at Canton.

1856

SHANGHAI TO U. S. VIA HONG KONG AND MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S. S. Erin, Shanghai to Hong Kong
S. S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon
S. S. Nubia, Galle to Suez
S. S. Indus, Alexandria to Malta
S. S. Valetta, Malta to Marseilles

Havre Line: U. S. M. S. Fulton, Southampton to New York



1856

SHANGHAI TO U.S. VIA HONG KONG AND MARSEILLES

This letter fell under the rates via Marseilles effective Feb. 21, 1855 to Jan. 1, 1857. As it contained several enclosures from Augustine Heard & Co. relative to the silk trade, it took a quadruple rate. As the U.S. and British charges progressed at 1/2-oz. increments and the French at 1/4-oz., this makes for a seldom seen rating. Rates were as follows.

	1/4-oz.	1/2-oz.	3/4-oz.	1-oz.	
U.S. Inland	5¢	5¢	10¢	10¢	
Transatlantic	16	16	32	32	
British Transit	12	12	24	24)
French Transit	10	20	30	40) = 64¢ debit to U.S.
	43¢	53¢	96¢	106¢	

April 30, 1856. Letter dated at Shanghai from Augustine Heard & Co. concerns the availability of quality silks at Shanghai where they are either scarce or undesirable. They expect a new crop down soon. They also promise to comply with Archer & Bull's requirements regarding the folding of the Nanking pongees.

This unpaid letter went by steamer to Hong Kong where it received the transit backstamp on May 6. The sailings of the P. & O. Line steamships to Marseilles were as follows:

<u>S.S. Erin</u>		<u>S.S. Singapore</u>		<u>S.S. Nubia</u>		<u>S.S. Indus</u>		<u>S.S. Valetta</u>	
Shanghai	May 2	Hong Kong	May 10	Galle	May 28	Alexandria	Jun 21	Malta	Jun 25
Hong Kong	5	Penang	20	Aden	June 9-11	Malta	25	Marseilles	27
		Galle	26	Suez	17				



64

June 30. Letter in transit at London, backstamp. This arrival date tracks with the June 27 arrival of Valetta at Marseilles. The U.S. was debited for 64¢, the British and French portion of the quadruple rate. This was later deleted at New York to avoid confusion with the final rate.

July 2. U.S.M.S. Fulton of the Havre line departed from Havre, picked up this letter when she touched at Southampton on July 3.



106

July 17. Fulton arrived at New York where the New York Exchange Office added the 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ x 2 (double weight U.S.) = 42¢ to the 64¢ debit from Britain, total \$1.06, shown as 106¢ in manuscript.

1857

BOSTON TO SHANGHAI VIA MARSEILLES

Conard Line: R.M.S. Asia, New York to Liverpool

P. & O. Line: S.S. Valetta, Marseilles to Alexandria

S.S. Ava, Suez to Galle

S.S. Madras, Galle to Hong Kong

S.S. Formosa, Hong Kong to Shanghai



B.707. (var. D/M)

January 19, 1857. A letter to Albert F. Heard from his mother. It was prepaid in Boston at the Jan. 1, 1857 China rate by British Mail via Marseilles, which was 39¢/½-oz., or 45¢/½-oz. At the ½-oz. rate, this letter was overpaid 4¢, as the manuscript notes "49" (¢) had been paid. Apportionment was (½-oz.):

U.S. Inland	5¢	
Transatlantic	16)	
British transit	12) = 40¢ Credit to Britain	
French transit	12)	
	45¢	

The Boston Exchange Office credited Britain for all but the U.S. 5¢, or 44¢ in red.



January 21. Letter was forwarded to N.Y. where the R.M.S. Asia departed from that port, arrived Liverpool Feb. 2. The letter was held for the make-up of the China mails via Marseilles and dispatched from London Feb. 10, per the red transit stamp.

P. & O. steamers carried the letter to Shanghai as follows:

<u>S.S. Valetta</u>		<u>S.S. Ava</u>		<u>S.S. Madras</u>		<u>S.S. Formosa</u>	
Marseilles	Feb. 12	Suez	Feb. 24	Galle	Mar. 12	Hong Kong	Apr. 2
Malta	15-16	Aden	Mar. 2-3	Penang	18	Shanghai	9
Alexandria	24	Galle	12	Singapore	20-21		
				Hong Kong	28		

March 28. Hong Kong transit backstamp. Letter was forwarded on to Shanghai per S.S. Formosa.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
ORIENT-U.S.VIA SOUTHAMPTON
BRITISH PACKET TO ENGLAND AM. PACKET TRANSATLANTIC

The 1 January 1857, British mail rates for "Colonial" mail were, via Southampton, 33¢ per ½ oz.; via Marseilles, 39¢ per ½ oz. and 45¢ per ½ oz. These rates remained in effect until 1 January 1868.



Nov. 13, 1858.
Letter posted Hong Kong to New York via Southampton (mins. U.L.).



Jan. 3, 1859.
London transit.



Jan. 19, 1859.
Unpaid transit, N.Y. Exchange Office.

33

124 debit in
ms. (below N.Y.
mark)

British Exchange Office
rate mark (see above).

1859

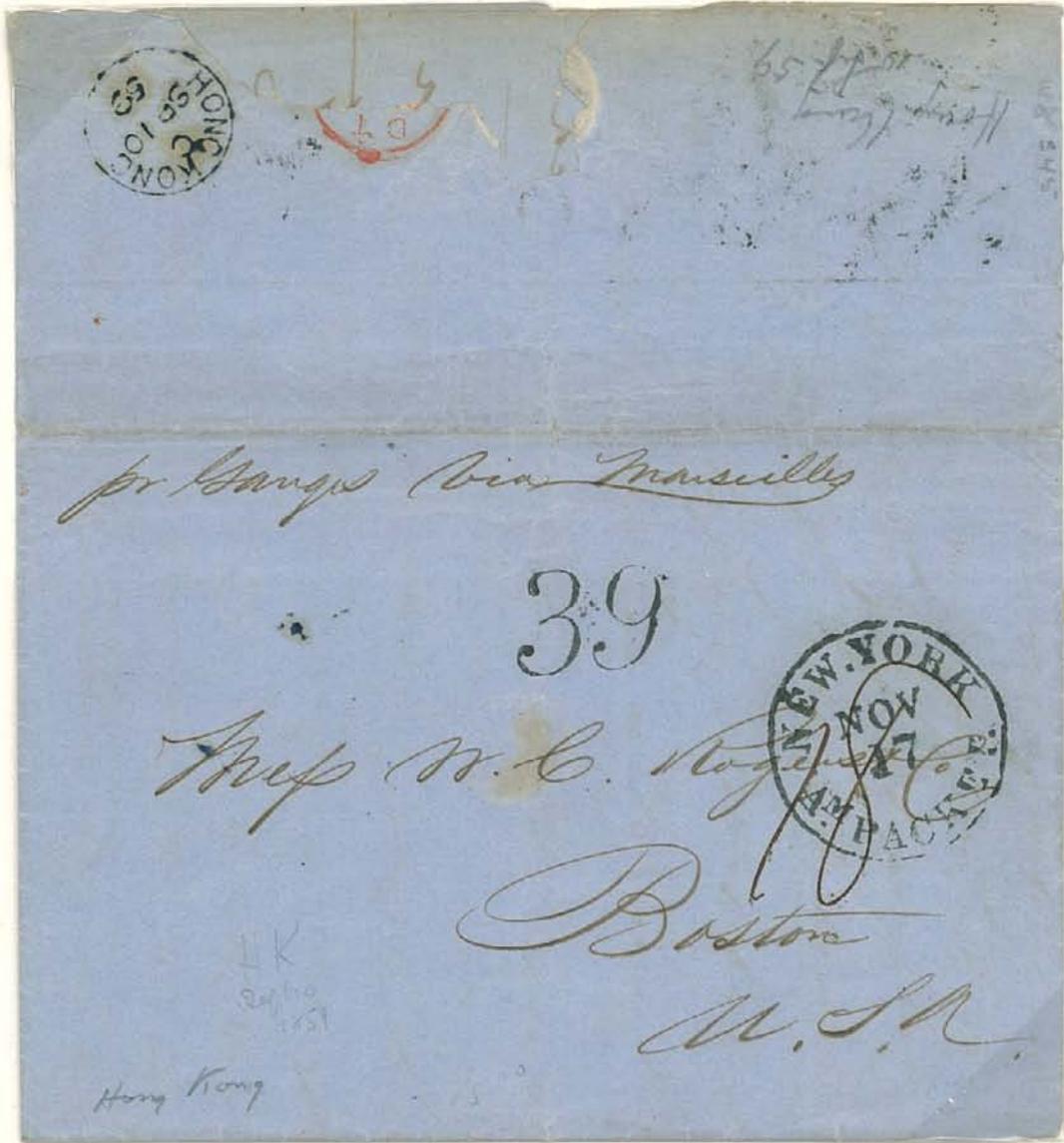
HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Ganges, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Bengal, Galle to Suez

S.S. Panther, Alexandria to Marseilles

Norddeutscher Lloyd: S.S. New-York, Southampton to N.Y.



1859

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Ganges, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Bengal, Galle to Suez

S.S. Panther, Alexandria to Marseilles

Norddeutscher Lloyd: S.S. New-York, Southampton to N.Y.

From Jan. 1, 1857 to Sept. 1, 1861, the "China" rates via Marseilles by British Mail for letters not exceeding 1/4-oz. were:

British	12¢)	
French Transit	6¢)	= 18¢
Transatlantic	16¢)	
U.S. Inland	5¢)	= 21¢
	<u>39¢</u>		



Sept. 10, 1859. Letter (see contents over) datelined at Hong Kong and posted unpaid the same day. It was directionally endorsed: pr Ganges via Marseilles. It was therefore subject to the 39¢ rate as noted above. This letter was now handled by various Penninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company steamers through to Marseilles, as follows:

Sept. 12, 1859. S.S. Ganges departed from Hong Kong. In accordance with the directional instructions the letter was aboard her. She arrived at Galle, Ceylon Oct. 5.

Oct. 5. The same day S.S. Bengal sailed from Galle and arrived at Suez Oct. 21. Mail then went by rail overland to Alexandria, a trip of about 36 hours.

Oct. 22. S.S. Panther departed from Alexandria, arriving at Marseilles Oct. 28. Mail then went overland through France thence across the channel to London.



Oct. 31, 1859 (reconstructed backstamp). The China mails were processed at London and dispersed for forwarding to the U.S., here by way of Southampton.

Nov. 2. Norddeutscher Lloyd S.S. New-York departed from Southampton for New York, after being delayed at Southampton for 24 hours by a heavy gale.



Nov. 17. Exchange Office arrival mark at New York indicating American Packet and 39¢ due for the rate via Marseilles. As the transatlantic portion was by an American Packet, the U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland + 16¢ sea postage = 21¢. The Exchange Office debited U.S. in manuscript for the British handling 12¢ + French transit 6¢ = 18¢.

39

N.Y. TIMES, Nov. 17, 1859. Arrived New York Nov. 16 Steamship New-York (Brem., screw) Van Santen, Bremen Oct. 29 and Southampton Nov. 2 with mdse and 304 passengers to Gelpecke, Keutgen and Reichert; has experienced heavy westerly gales the entire passage, was detained at Southampton 24 hours by a heavy westerly gale.

N.B.: P&O sailing dates from Kirk, R., "British Maritime Postal History".

1861

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Madras, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Nemesis, Galle to Suez

S.S. Massilia, Alexandria to Marseilles

N.Y. & Havre Steam Navigation Co., Cowes to New York

U.S. Mail Steamship Fulton



"Via Marseilles"

39

1

James W. Beal Esq
Care of J. Beal & Co
Keene
N.Y.
U.S.A.



July 23, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at Hong Kong. A credit of 1d. (2¢) was allowed Hong Kong as shown by the "1" at upper right. Letter was directed "Via Marseilles" and went, as follows:

SHIP	HONG KONG	GALLE	SUEZ	ALEXANDRIA	MARS.	COWES	N.Y.
Madras	July 29, '61	Aug. 19					
Nemesis		Aug. 20	Sep. 5				
Massilia				Sept. 6	Sept. 13		
Fulton							Sep. 16 Oct. 3

39

18 CENTS



October 3. The American Packet Fulton of the New York & Havre Steam Navigation Co., Capt. Wotton, departed Havre Sept. 18, 9 AM and Cowes Sept. 18, 7 PM where this letter went aboard. Letter rated at the "China" rates effective Jan. 1, 1857 to Sept. 1, 1861, at 39¢ via Marseilles. This letter was one of the last under this rate, having arrived after the expiration date of the rate. U.S. retained 16¢ Sea (Am. Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢. Britain debited U.S. for 12¢ British Transit + 6¢ French Transit = 18¢. The 18 CENTS "rocker" is seldom seen, most debits of 18¢ are shown in manuscript.

1861

HONG KONG TO U. S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

P. & O. Line: S. S. Columbian, Hong Kong to Galle

S. S. Nemesis, Galle to Suez

S. S. Indus, Alexandria to Southampton

Hamburg-American Line: S. S. Teutonic, Southampton to N.Y.

Forwarding Agent:

Thos Hunt & Co, Hong Kong



1861

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

P. & O. Line: S.S. Columbian, Hong Kong to Galle

S.S. Nemesis, Galle to Suez

S.S. Indus, Alexandria to Southampton

Hamburg-American Line: S.S. Teutonic, Alexandria to New York.

Forwarding Agent:

Thos. Hunt & Co., Hong Kong



4/8 1/2

October 14, 1861. The rate from Sept. 1, 1861 to April 1, 1866, Hong Kong to U.S. via Southampton, was 45¢ per ½-oz., divided: 5¢ U.S. Domestic, 24¢ British handling, 16¢ transatlantic postage. On this letter all but the U.S. 5¢ portion was paid in cash at Hong Kong at one shilling (24¢) + 8d. (16¢) = 40¢, shown as the red 1/8 equivalent in sterling. The British debited Hong Kong 1/7d. (red manuscript U.R.), leaving her 1d. (2¢) for internal handling. Postage and handling paid by the forwarding agent Thos. Hunt & Co., Hong Kong, who applied their red oval, 45 x 21 mm. backstamp. (R.F. 4).

P. & O. steamships handled this letter, as follows:

<u>Columbian</u> :	Hong Kong	Oct. 15.	<u>Nemesis</u> :	Galle	Nov. 1.	<u>Indus</u>	
	Singapore	21-22		Aden	10	Alex'dria	Nov. 19
	Penang	24		Suez	16	Malta	23
	Galle	Nov. 1				Gibraltar	28
						Southampton	Dec. 3



16 CENTS

December 3. Transit mark at London. U.S. mails sent back to Southampton to meet the sailing of the HAPAG S.S. Teutonic from Hamburg December, Southampton December 4. She arrived at New York December 23. As this was an American Packet, the 16¢ transatlantic portion of the postage paid at Hong Kong was credited to the United States.



December 23. Exchange Office arrival mark at New York charges to recipient 5¢ to complete the 45¢ rate, letter forwarded to Danvers Port, Mass.

1867

U. S. TO AMOY. CHINA VIA MARSEILLES. SUEZ & GALLE

53¢ Rate via Marseilles, American Packet Transatlantic
Allan Line: S.S. Moravian, Quebec to Londonderry, Ireland
P. & O. Line: S.S. Columbian, Marseilles to Alexandria
S. S. Golconda, Suez to Galle, Ceylon
S. S. Emeu, Galle to Hong Kong

Rate per ½-oz., effective July 1, 1867 to Dec. 31, 1867 was apportioned:

U.S. Inland 5¢)
Transatlantic 16¢) = 21¢ Retained by U.S.
British 24¢)
French Trans. 8¢) = 32¢ Credit to Britain.
Total Rate 53¢.



June 17, 1867. Prepaid at Holland, Mich., overpaid 1¢. Letter went through Detroit Exchange Office Jun. 20, there designated routing by American Packet, mail forwarded to Quebec to meet the June 22 sailing of Moravian.

July 3. Moravian arrived Londonderry, British mails sent on to London, arrived July 4. London forwarded China mails to Marseilles. Routing by Peninsular & Oriental steamers was as follows:

<u>S.S. Columbian</u>		<u>S.S. Golconda</u>		<u>S.S. Emeu</u>	
Marseilles	July 12	Suez	July 19	Galle	Aug. 4
Malta	14	Aden	24-25	Singapore	11-12
Alexandria	18	Galle	Aug. 2	Hong Kong	18

Aug. 18. Hong Kong arrival backstamp. China was credited 1d. (2¢) for inland postage. Local steamer carried the letter to Amoy.



1869

U.S. TO HONG KONG VIA MARSEILLES AND CEYLON

Inman Line: S.S. City of Antwerp, New York to Liverpool

P.&O. Line: S.S. Pera, Marseilles to Alexandria

S.S. China, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Emeu, Galle to Hong Kong

China rates via Marseilles by British Mail, effective Jan. 1, 1868 to Dec. 31, 1869, per 1/2-oz., 42¢ divided, as follows:

U.S. Inland	10¢		
British Transit	24¢)	
French Transit	8¢)	= 32¢ Credit to Britain.



32

May 27, 1869. Letter paid at New Haven, Ct. at the 42¢ Hong Kong rate via Marseilles by three 10¢ stamps, Issue of 1861, grilled 10¢ Issue of 1867 and 2¢ of 1869.

May 29. Transit backstamp at New York. The S.S. City of Antwerp, Inman Line, departed N.Y. this date, arrived at Queenstown June 8.

June 9. London transit. U.S. debited for 32¢ British and French transit. Letter sent overland to Marseilles.

P. & O. Liners (British packets) transported letter:

<u>S.S. Pera</u>		<u>S.S. China</u>		<u>S.S. Emeu</u>	
Marseilles	June 20	Suez	June 27	Galle	July 14
Alexandria	25	Aden	July 3	Penang	19
		Galle	11	Singapore	21-22
				Hong Kong	27



July 22. Letter marked with the elusive Singapore to Hong Kong Marine Sorter backstamp aboard the S.S. Emeu.

HKP 1175

1866

HONG KONG TO U. S. VIA MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Ottawa, Hong Kong to Galle

S.S. Bengal, Galle to Suez

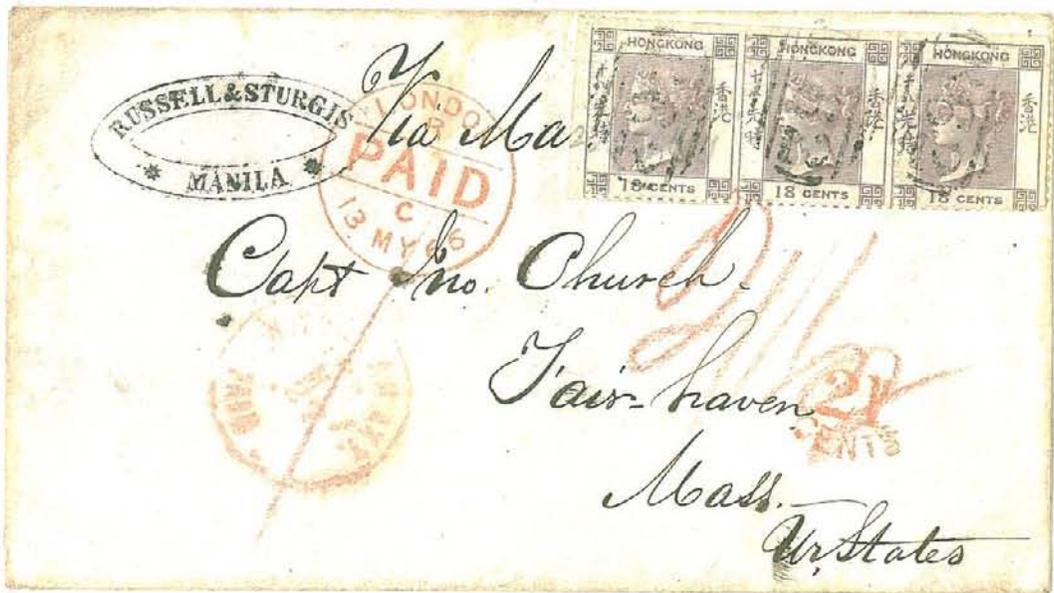
S.S. Poonah, Alexandria to Marseilles

Hamburg - American Line: S.S. Saxonia, Southampton to N.Y.

China rates, per 1/2-oz., from 7/1/63-4/1/66, British Mail via Marseilles was apportioned:

U.S. Inland	5¢)	
Transatlantic	16)	= 21¢ Credit to U.S.
British Transit	24	
French Transit	8	
	<u>53¢.</u>	

(B62)



March 29, 1866. Forwarding agent Russell & Sturgis at Manila attached a strip of three 18¢ stamps, Issue of 1862, and sent letter by local steamer to Hong Kong where the adhesives were cancelled by the British P.O. number B62 of Hong Kong and backstamped. As no combination of Hong Kong stamps totaled 53¢, this letter was overpaid 1¢.

British restated postage in sterling, red 2/1 1/2d., at 2sh. (24¢ x 2) = 48¢ + 1 1/2d. (3¢) = 51¢ = 1d. (2¢) credit to Hong Kong for internal postage = 53¢.

P. & O. Line packets handled this letter:

<u>S.S. Ottawa</u>		<u>S.S. Bengal</u>		<u>S.S. Poonah</u>	
Hong Kong	April 1	Galle	April 18	Alexandria	May 5
Galle, Ceylon	16	Suez	May 3	Marseilles	11.

May 13. Transit at London. HAPAG Saxonia depart Hamburg May 13, Southampton 15th, arrived N.Y. 26th.

Credit to U.S. of 16¢ Sea (Am. Pkt.) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢

LONDON R PAID 13 C 13 MY 66

21 CENTS

NY YORK & AMEN 27

1864-65

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SUEZ AND SOUTHAMPTON

P.&O. Line: S.S. Salsette, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Mooltan, Galle to Suez

S.S. Nyanza, Alexandria to Southampton

Allan Line: S.S. North American, Liverpool to Portland



December 14, 1864. A double rated letter, China rate by British Mail via Southampton, effective Sept. 1, 1861 to April 1, 1866 at 45¢ not over ½-oz., 90¢ not over 1 oz. Here letter paid by Hong Kong stamps cancelled by "B62" of Hong Kong and backstamped. Letter was marked with the red "2" (pence) equivalent to 4¢ credit to Hong Kong. Also marked with a red 3/7, or 3/- x 24¢ = 72¢ plus 7d. x 2 = 14¢ or a total of 86¢ representing balance left over for U.S. and Britain.

P. & O. Line steamships carried this letter as follows:

<u>S.S. Salsette</u>		<u>S.S. Mooltan</u>		<u>S.S. Nyanza</u>	
Hong Kong	Dec. 15, '64	Galle	Dec. 31	Alexandria	Jan. 19
Singapore	20-22	Aden	Jan. 7-8, '65	Malta	22-23
Penang	24	Suez	14	Gibraltar	27
Galle	28			Southampton	Feb. 1

February 2. London transit stamp. The U.S. was credited with 16¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ x 2 (double letter) = 42¢, shown in red manuscript.

February 3. S.S. North American of the Allan Line sailed from Liverpool on her winter schedule.

February 15. North American arrived at Portland. The prepayment carried the letter to Milo, Maine.



42

1862

U.S. TO SHANGHAI, CHINA VIA MARSEILLES



May 28, 1862. This letter was written at Boston and endorsed: p Str. "Niagara" via Marseilles. The writer feared that it would not make connection in time at Marseilles, as he says, inter alia, "This steamer has been detained for the despatches of Lord Lyons, which were not received at the usual time in consequence of the flow of troops from the North into Washington, and we fear our letters by this mail may not reach London in time for the Marseilles Mail of the 10 June (sic)."

1862

U.S. TO SHANGHAI, CHINA VIA MARSEILLES

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Niagara, Boston to Queenstown (Last Voyage)

P. & O. LINE: S.S. Vectis, Marseilles to Alexandria

S.S. Colombo, Suez to Galle

S.S. China, Galle to Hong Kong

S.S. Cadiz, Hong Kong to Shanghai



36

The letter was prepaid 57¢ in U.S. stamps for the Dec. 1, 1861 to July 1, 1863 rate per ½-oz. to China via Marseilles. This rate was divided:

U.S. Inland	5¢	
Sea	16	
British	24) = 36¢ credit to Britain
French transit	12)
	57¢.	

Knowing of the possible delay of Niagara from Boston, the Boston Exchange Office made this letter up in the transatlantic mails to be forwarded to New York for the May 31 sailing of the Hamburg-American Line's Borussia for Southampton. (N.B.: The Borussia did not reach Southampton until June 12.) Accordingly, the Boston Exchange Office marked the letter with the PAID/BOSTON AM. PKT. backstamp and credited Britain only for the British and French transit charges, shown as "36" in red manuscript. However, the R.M.S. Niagara did sail in time from Boston on May 28, with this letter aboard, albeit rated with the wrong credits.

Niagara arrived at Queenstown June 8, and letter stamped in transit at London June 9 with no adjustment of rate credits (Britain should have gotten 52¢ as sea transit was by British Packet).

Mail was forwarded overland to Marseilles to meet the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co.'s vessels to the Orient, as follows:

<u>S.S. Vectis</u>	<u>S.S. Colombo</u>	<u>S.S. China</u>	<u>S.S. Cadiz</u>
Marseilles June 12	Suez June 20	Galle July 5	Hong Kong Jul. 23
Malta 15	Aden 27	Penang 11	Shanghai 28
Alexandria 19	Galle July 5	Hong Kong 21	



July 21. Hong Kong transit backstamp. Letter went by P. & O. coastal steamer S.S. Cadiz for arrival at Shanghai July 28.

Red manuscript "1" credits Hong Kong for one penny (2¢) for local handling.

1862

U.S. TO JAPAN VIA SOUTHAMPTON AND HONG KONG

Cunard Line: R.M.S. China, New York to Queenstown

P. & O. Line: S.S. Ripon, Southampton to Alexandria

S.S. Bengal, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Behar, Galle to Hong Kong



July 1, 1862. Letter paid at Hartford, Conn. at the September 1, 1861 to April 1, 1866 rate of 45¢ per ½-oz. to China by British Mail via Southampton. Adhesives are the 5¢ red brown Issue of 1862, 10¢ yellow green and 30¢ orange, Issues of 1861. U.S. credited Britain with 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 24¢ British handling beyond Southampton, total 40¢, shown by the manuscript 40. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. inland postage.

July 2. R.M.S. China of the Cunard Line departed from New York for Queenstown. She arrived at the latter port July 13.

July 14. London transit mark. Letter forwarded to Southampton for transmission to China by P. & O. Line packets. Transit dates were:

<u>S.S. Ripon</u>		<u>S.S. Bengal</u>		<u>S.S. Behar</u>	
Southampton	Jul. 20	Suez	Aug. 4	Galle	Aug. 19
Gibraltar	25	Aden	9	Penang	24-25
Malta	29	Galle	17	Singapore	27-28
Alexandria	Aug. 2			Hong Kong	Sep. 3

September 3. Hong Kong receiving backstamp. Red manuscript "1" gives 1d. credit to Hong Kong for internal handling. Oliphant & Co. forwarded letter on to Kanagawa, Japan ex-post office.

Most likely transport to Japan would have been the British schooner Wild Dayrell out of Shanghai. North China Herald, Shanghai, Shipping at Woosang, arrived Sept. 6. Wild Dayrell, B. Sch. 158T, Gardner, Dow & Co., Kanagawa, departure immediately.



1862

HONG KONG TO U.S. via Southampton

P. & O. LINE: S.S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

: S.S. Nubia, Galle to Suez

: S.S. Pera, Alexandria to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Europa, Liverpool to Boston



Sept. 9, 1862. The rate from Sept. 1, 1861 to April 1, 1866, Hong Kong to U.S. via Southampton, was 45¢ per 1/2-oz., divided: 5¢ U.S. Domestic, 24¢ British handling and 16¢ transatlantic. On this letter all but the U.S. portion was paid in cash at one shilling (24¢) 8 pence (16¢), shown as the red 1/8, equivalent in sterling.

Peninsular & Oriental Line sailings were as follows:

S.S. Singapore departed Hong Kong Sept. 11, arrived Galle, Ceylon Sep. 29.

S.S. Nubia departed Galle Oct. 2, arrived at Suez Oct. 17.

Mail in transit across Egypt, Suez to Alexandria Oct. 17-18.

S.S. Pera departed Alexandria Oct. 19, arrived Southampton Nov. 1.

Nov. 1. Letter transit at London where it went into the mail makeup for Queenstown. R.M.S. Europa of the Cunard Line left Liverpool Nov. 1 and called at Q'town the 2nd for the Southern England and European mails.

Nov. 15. Europa arrived at Boston and letter marked on the 16th with the Exchange Office handstamp showing that the U.S. portion or 5¢ was due from the recipient, restated in manuscript as "Due 5".

The Boston mark is a variation on Blake 806, here with "1862" between the month and day dates. Blake records it with the "1862" beneath the day date.



1863

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Ottawa, Hong Kong to Galle

S.S. Candia, Galle to Suez

S.S. Euxine, Alexandria to Marseilles

Allan Line: Damascus, Londonderry to Quebec

China rates via Marseilles by British Packet, eff. Dec. 1, 1861 to July 1, 1863, were apportioned, as follows:

	<u>¼-OZ.</u>	<u>½-OZ.</u>
U.S. Inland	5¢	5¢
Transatlantic	16	16
British	24	24
French	<u>6 = 51¢</u>	<u>12 = 57¢.</u>



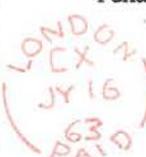
May 24, 1863. A paid letter posted at Hong Kong, "PAID" mark on face, transit backstamp. The total Dec. 1, 1861, rate to the U.S. less the 5¢ U.S. portion was paid in sterling, cash at 2sh./2d. (in red) or 2sh. (48¢) + 2d. (4¢) = 52¢. Hong Kong was debited for 2sh.1d. allowing her 1d. (2¢) for internal postage. Letter, endorsed "via Marseilles" went by P. & O. Line steamers as follows:

<u>S.S. Ottawa</u>		<u>S.S. Candia</u>		<u>S.S. Euxine</u>	
Hong Kong	May 30	Galle	June 18	Alexandria	July 8
Singapore	June 6-7	Aden	30	Malta	11 -12
Penang	9	Suez	July 7	Marseilles	14.

July 16. Letter in transit at London. It was sent to Londonderry to meet the sailing of S.S. Damascus of the Allan Line, she had departed from Liverpool on the 16th, touched at Londonderry the 17th. U.S. was credited with 16¢ Sea (American Pkt.)

July 29. Damascus arrived at Quebec. U.S. mails went by rail to Portland then to Boston.

July 30. Boston arrival mark. 5¢ U.S. portion of the rate due.



16 CENTS

1863

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Singapore, Hong Kong to Galle
S.S. Mooltan, Galle to Suez
S.S. Vectis, Alexandria to Marseilles

Inman Line: S.S. Edinburgh, Queenstown to New York

China rates, per 1/2-oz., from 7/1/63 to 4/1/66, British Mail via Marseilles was apportioned:

U.S. Inland	5¢) Collect in U.S.
Transatlantic	16¢) 16¢ Credit to U.S. if American Packet
British Transit	24¢ = 1/- sterling) = 1/4 sterling
French Transit	8¢ = 4d. ")
	<u>53¢.</u>



1/4



Sept, 10, 1863. Hong Kong receiving handstamps (blue on reverse). Letter partially paid in cash at Hong Kong at 2 shilling sterling, 2/- in red manuscript, or 48¢ U.S. This was the 53¢ rate less the 5¢ U.S. portion. 1sh.4d. (1/4 in red) was retained by Britain for 24¢ British + 8¢ French transits. P. & O. steamers handled the letter:

<u>S.S. Singapore</u>		<u>S.S. Mooltan</u>		<u>S.S. Vectis</u>	
Hong Kong	Sept. 11	Galle	Oct. 2	Alexandria	Oct. 21
Singapore	18-19	Aden	12	Malta	24
Penang	21	Suez	18	Marseilles	27
Galle	28				



16 CENTS



October 28. London paid transit. S.S. Edinburgh of the Inman Line departed L'pool Oct. 28 via Queenstown Oct. 29 where this letter went aboard.

Nov. 15. Edinburgh arrived at N.Y. U.S. was credited with 16¢ Sea (American Packet.) 5¢

U.S. portion of postage due.

1864

U. S. TO HONG KONG VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Transatlantic by American Packet S.S. City of London

The single letter (not over 1/2-oz.) rate via Southampton, effective Sept. 1, 1861 to April 1, 1866, was:

U.S. Inland	5c
Transatlantic	16
British	<u>24</u>
	45c.

The same 45c rate prevailed for a single letter until Dec. 31, 1867, progression was at a normal rate per 1/2-oz., previously normal to 1/2-oz. then double for letters up to 2 oz.



March 5, 1864. Backstamp at New York Foreign Department. 45c prepaid by Scott #68, 71 and 76. The Inman Liner (American Packet) S.S. City of London, Capt. Petrie, sailed from New York this date for Liverpool. U.S. retained the 5c U.S. Inland plus 16c transatlantic or 21c. The large red manuscript "24" is the accountancy mark debiting U.S. for the British portion, Southampton to Hong Kong.



March 18, 1864. Transit at London, letter en route to the packet station at Southampton.



May 6. Hong Kong arrival backstamp in blue. Red mark debits Britain for one penny (2c Hong Kong) for local handling.

1864

SHANGHAI TO U.S. VIA HONG KONG AND MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Ganges, Shanghai to Hong Kong

S.S. Carnatic, Hong Kong to Galle

S.S. Rangoon, Galle to Suez

S.S. Delta, Alexandria to Marseilles

Inman Line: S.S. City of Baltimore, Queenstown to New York.

China rates, per ½-oz., from 7/1/63 - 4/1/66, British Mail via Marseilles was apportioned:

U.S. Inland	5¢) = 21¢ credit to
Transatlantic	16¢) U.S. if by
British Transit	24¢	American Packet.
French Transit	8¢	
	<u>53¢.</u>	



PAID



July 21, 1864. Letter paid in cash all the way at Shanghai. British rated in sterling at 2/2½d. = 2 shilling (48¢) + 2½d. (5¢) = 53¢. They debited Hong Kong for all but 1d. (2¢) at 2sh. (48¢) + 1½d. (3¢) = 51¢, shown in red mss. at upper right.

P. & O. packets handled this letter:

<u>S.S. Ganges</u>	<u>S.S. Carnatic</u>	<u>S.S. Rangoon</u>	<u>S.S. Delta</u>
Shanghai Jul. 22	Hong Kong Jul. 29	Galle Aug. 18	Alexan'ra Sep. 7
Hong Kong 25	Singapore Aug. 5-6	Aden 29	Malta 10
	Penang 8	Suez Sep. 6	Marseilles 13
	Galle 15		



21 CENTS

Sept. 15. Transit at London. Credit to U.S. for 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢.

Sept. 14. S.S. City of Baltimore, Inman Line, departed Liverpool, picked up London mails at Q'town Sept. 15. She arrived at New York on Sept. 27.

1865

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
HONG KONG TO BOSTON via Marseilles

American Packet Transatlantic.

Allan Line

The "China" rates per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce from 7/1/63 - 4/1/66, British Mail via Marseilles, was broken down as follows:

U.S. inland	5¢
Transatlantic	16¢
British	24¢
French Transit	8¢
	<u>53¢</u>

(B62)

HONG KONG
AU26
65



August 19, 1865. Letter docketed from Manila where British firms kept a supply of Hong Kong stamps. Any available vessel carried mail from Manila to Hong Kong.

August 26, 1865. Letter cleared Hong Kong and date back-stamped. While rates from U.S. to Hong Kong were officially 45 and 53¢ whether by Southampton or Marseilles, no H.K. 1¢ stamps were available to make up these rates, thus the rates were pegged at 46¢ and 54¢ (Hong Kong) respectively.

Rate is restated in sterling, 2/1½d., figured at 2/- x 24¢ = 48¢ + 1½d. x 2¢ = 3¢ + 1d. or 2¢ kept by Hong Kong (all in red). Totals: 48¢ + 3¢ + 2¢ = 53¢ U.S.

LONDON
B
PAID
A
10 OC 65

21
CENTS

BOSTON AM. PKT.
NOV
2
PAID

Oct. 16, 1865.
London transit.

As letter went on Transatlantic trip by American Packet, U.S. was credited with 16¢ Transatlantic + 5¢ Domestic rates = 21¢.

Nov. 2, 1865.
Received paid at
Boston (Blake 836).

1865

HONG KONG TO BOSTON VIA MARSEILLES

American Packet Transatlantic

Allan Line

Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co.

<u>S.S. Behar</u>	Hong Kong	Aug. 28,	1865
	Singapore	Sep. 5-7	
	Penang	9-10	
	Galle	17	
<u>S.S. Mooltan</u>	Galle	19	
	Aden	29-30	
	Suez	Oct. 6	
<u>S.S. Mongolia</u>	Alexandria	8	
	Malta	11	
	Marseilles	14.	

October 16. Transit at London.

Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company (Allan Line)

<u>S.S. Damascus</u>	Liverpool	Oct. 13
	Quebec	Nov. 1

1865-66

U.S. TO MACAO BY BRITISH MAIL VIA MARSEILLES
Transatlantic by British Packet R. M. S. Persia

Effective July 1, 1863 to Dec. 31, 1867, the China rates by British Mail via Marseilles, per 1/2-oz., was divided:

U.S. Inland	5c		
Transatlantic	16c)	
British	24c)	= 48c
French transit	8c)	
	<u>53c.</u>		



Nov. 27, 1865. Letter paid at the 53c rate to Macao, Portuguese colony near Hong Kong by stamps, Issue of 1861-62.

Nov. 28. Transit at N.Y. Cunard Line's Royal Mail Steamer Persia departed from New York Nov. 29 for Liverpool. Cunard Liners were British Packets.

48



Dec. 11. Transit at London. Persia arrived Queenstown Dec. 10, landing the London and European mails. She arrived at L'pool the 11th. Debit to U.S. of 48c in red, being all but the 5c U.S. Inland, 48c divided as shown above.

Letter was endorsed "Via Marseilles", thus went across the English Channel and France to Marseilles where the French paquebot Said departed Dec. 19, arriving Alexandria Dec. 25, British mails then went overland across the Isthmus of Suez to Suez for forwarding by packet to China.



Jan. 26, 1866. Arrival backstamp at Hong Kong. 53c rate included transmission from Hong Kong over to Macao. The manuscript crayon "1" credited Hong Kong with 1d. (2c) for local handling.

1871-72

HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA SUEZ AND BRINDISI

P. & O. LINE: S.S. Ellora, Hong Kong to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Sumatra, Galle to Suez

S.S. Malta, Alexandria to Brindisi

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Samaria, Queenstown to Boston.



December 23, 1871. Letter posted at Amoy where the 34¢ via Brindisi rate of Jan. 1, 1870, was paid by the 4¢ Issue of 1863 and 30¢ Issue of 1871. Backstamped at Amoy, the letter went by local steamer to Hong Kong where it received the Christmas Day transit backstamp and the stamps were cancelled by the "B62" of Hong Kong. British allowed Hong Kong 1d. (2¢) for internal handling and debited her for 1/4 as shown in red, being 1sh. (24¢) + 4d. (8¢) = 32¢. Various steamers handling this letter, Hong Kong to Boston and their dates:

	Shanghai	H.K.	Galle	Suez	Alex.	Brind	Q'tn	Bos.
SS <u>Ottawa</u>	Dec. 22, '71	Dec. 25						
SS <u>Ellora</u>		Dec. 28	Jan. 11, '72					
SS <u>Sumatra</u>			Jan. 12	Jan. 27				
SS <u>Malta</u>					Jan. 29	Feb. 1		
RMS <u>Samaria</u>							Feb. 7	Feb. 19.

Feb. 5, 1872. Transit at London where letter was made up in the U.S. mails and sent on to Queenstown. The Cunarder Samaria, which left Liverpool Feb. 6, picked up the mails Feb. 7 at Q'town. Under terms of Article XV of the Convention of 7-24 Nov. 1868, Britain credited U.S. with 2¢ for every single paid letter in transit through the U.K.

Feb. 19. Arrival of Samaria at Boston.

