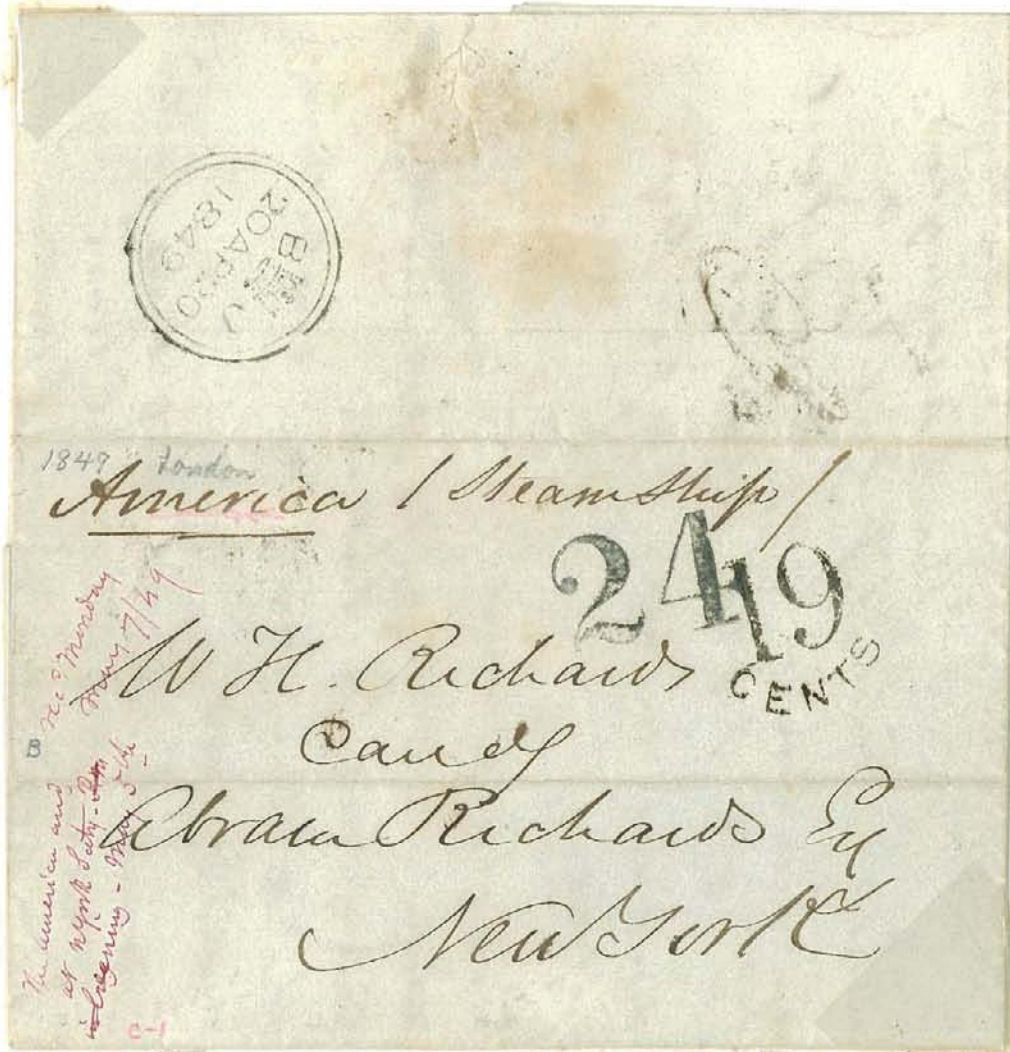


1849

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET-UNPAID LETTER



April 20, 1849.
Letter posted
unpaid, London-
New York.

RMS AMERICA
Left. Liverpool Ap. 21
AGENT MAY 5



19
CENTS

24

April 20, 1849.
London stamp double
rim variety used
on letters requir-
ing special treat-
ment.

British Exchange Office
stamp showing letter went
via British Packet. Regs.
stated, "all unpaid lett-
ers shall be marked in
black ink the amount due
to the country from which
forwarded.

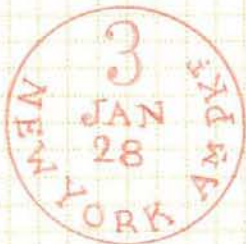
May 7, 1849. U.S.
Exchange Office mark,
as per regulations,
"receiving exchange
off. is to stamp in
black the entire pos-
tage to be collected.

1865

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO ENGLAND

AMERICAN PACKET



Transatlantic postage was:

U.S. Domestic	5¢
Transatlantic	16¢
British Inland	<u>3¢</u>
	24¢

"3" in cds allows Britain her share or 3¢.

Jan. 28, 1865. New York Exchange Office. Letter paid at the 24¢ single (1/2-oz.) packet letter rate to England by two copies of Issue of 1862 (Scott #69).



February 10, 1865. London "PAID" stamp and transit backstamp.

INMAN LINE: Sailed from N.Y. Sat. Jan. 28, 1865, Steamship City of Baltimore, Mirehouse, for Liverpool.

1849

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET, Paid Letter

CUNARD LINE

Liverpool to New York

R.M.S. Canada



MODBURY



Nov. 14, 1849. Letter prepaid 1 shilling, equivalent to 24¢ U.S. at market town of Modbury, Devonshire, England. Transit through post town of Ivy-Bridge.

Nov. 15. Transit backstamps at Liverpool, includes oval stamp of Packet Letter Office. The Cunard Liner R.M.S. Canada sailed Nov. 17 for New York.



Marked aboard ship to allow 5¢ credit to U.S. for U.S. Inland. Britain retained 16¢ sea + 3¢ British Inland.

Dec. 1, 1849. Recorded arrival date of the Canada was Nov. 30 at N.Y. No name of port of entry shown, this nameless N.Y. Exchange Office mark is similar to another in this collection (TAB 028.0), except here day is over month and "24" is smaller and more delicate.



1851

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET, Paid Letter

CUNARD LINE

Liverpool to New York

S.S. Niagara

The Cunarders at first sailed from Liverpool on the 4th and the 19th of each month (the 4th only during the months of November through February inclusive) unless the 4th was a Sunday in which case the sailing was postponed until Monday. Later (1850) sailings were made every Saturday alternately to Boston and New York.

The Niagara, 1824 tons, was built by R. Steele & Co., Greenock (engines Robert Napier, Glasgow). Launched July 28, 1847, maiden voyage May 20, 1848 Liverpool-Halifax-Boston. Sold 1866. June 6, 1875 wrecked near South Stack, Anglesey.

(466)

LIVERPOOL
JU 7
1851
4

L
JU 7
A



June 7, 1851. Stamps cancelled by barred obliterator "466", British Post Office number assigned to Liverpool. 1 shilling (24¢) was transatlantic rate from Britain. Strip of 3 penny reds probably a late fee. June 7 was a Saturday and the listed sailing date of the SS Niagara of the Cunard Line.

5
CENTS

Exchange credit of 5¢ to U.S. for her share of the prepaid postage for U.S. Inland. Struck aboard the steamer.

BRITISH PACKET
JUN 20
PAID
24

June 20. Shipping lists show this arrival date of the Niagara at N.Y. "PAID" stamp doesn't show port of entry. Large "24" shows that 24¢ had been paid.

1851

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET, Paid Letter

CUNARD LINE

Liverpool to Boston via Halifax

R.M.S. America



PAID

Aug. 22, 1851. Single letter (up to 1/2-oz.) originating at L'pool, paid at the U.S.-British Treaty rate of 1848 (effective Feb. 1849) at 1 shilling (24¢), 1/- stamp, Issue

of 1847, Die 1, pays the rate. Die numbers (1 or 2) appear embossed in the base of the bust together with "W.W.", the initials of William Wyon, engraver of the die. The stamp is printed on Dickinson silk thread paper and on this copy the two vertical threads 5 mm. apart may be easily seen.

Aug. 23. R.M.S. America departed L'pool for Boston via Halifax. Exchange Office credit to U.S. for 5¢ U.S. Inland, Britain retained 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

Sept. 3. Recorded arrival date of America at Boston, N.Y. mail bulked by rail. Recipient noted on face, "Rec'd 5 Sept. 1851".

5
CENTS

1852-53

DUNDEE, SCOTLAND TO SAN FRANCISCO via Boston

1. Cunard Line, Liverpool to Boston, R.M.S. America

2. N.Y. & San Francisco Steamship Line, N.Y. to Aspinwall

S.S. Uncle Sam

3. N.Y. & San Francisco Steamship Line, Panama to S. Francisco

S.S. Winfield Scott

Dec. 21, 1852. Paid letter posted at Dundee, Scotland at the 1 shilling 2½d. rate, being the transatlantic U.S.-British Treaty rate of 1 sh. (24¢) + 2½d. (5¢), New York to San Francisco, shown as 1/2½ in red crayon. The Dundee paid mark shown an "E" for routing via Edinburgh.

DUNDEE
PAID
DE 21
E 1852



LIVERPOOL
DE 23
1852
A5

L
DE 23
A

Dec. 23. Backstamps at Liverpool include the oval mark of the L'pool Packet Letter Office. R.M.S. America of the Cunard Line departed L'pool on Dec. 25 and arrived at Boston Jan. 10, 1853. The bulked San Francisco mails went on to N.Y. for the steamers to the Isthmus of Panama.

Jan. 20, 1853. S.S. Uncle Sam departed from Pier 3, North River for Aspinwall, time of arrival at the Isthmus about Jan. 28 (Cf.: N.Y. Times advertisement of Jan. 14.) Trans-isthmus transit was 2 days, with arrival at Panama Jan. 30.

Feb. 6. S.S. Winfield Scott, Capt. Dunn, departed from Panama for San Francisco via Acapulco, Mexico.

Feb. 23. Alta California: Arrived S.F. Feb. 23 Steamship Winfield Scott, Dunn, 17 ds. from Panama via Acapulco; W.F. Babcock & Co. (Cf.: N.Y. Times ad. for the return of the Scott to Panama March 1. Feb. 24 docket notes arrival of this letter from the U.S. Consulate at Dundee, corroborating the above routing. Letter is a certified receipt.

1842

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

EDINBURGH TO VIRGINIA VIA HALIFAX AND BOSTON

R. M. S. Caledonia, Liverpool to Sea, returned storm damaged

R. M. S. Acadia, Liverpool to Halifax

R. M. S. Unicorn, Halifax to Boston

PAID at EDINBURGH
JAN 14
1842
M

JAN 17
1842

Per Boston, Halifax & Liverpool Royal
Mail Line
The Rev. John Hunter
Lexington
Virginia.
Recd. 25. March 1842.
PAID at BOSTON
JAN 14
1842
M
paid?
1842

Jan. 14, 1842.
Letter paid at
Edinburgh at the
one shilling (1/-)
packet rate, shown
in the Edinburgh "PAID at" handstamp, also restated in manuscript at
lower left. It was clearly endorsed: Per Boston, Halifax & Liverpool
Royal Mail Line, i.e., the Cunard Line.

Jan. 17. Letter backstamped at L'pool, terminus of Cunard Line.

Feb. 4. R.M.S. Caledonia sailed for Boston via Halifax. She en-
countered violent gales from the 7th to the 11th and sustained
severe damage, necessitating her return to Cork for repairs, then
back to Liverpool where she arrived February 17.

Feb. 19. Caledonia's mails were sent out by the Acadia, which
left L'pool Feb. 19. Because the Caledonia had failed to arrive at
Halifax on schedule, the R.M.S. Unicorn set sail for England from
Halifax with the mails, but she met the Acadia a few hours out and
both returned to Halifax, arriving there on March 7.

Because of the break in the mail schedule due to the Caledonia
incident, Acadia returned directly to England with the mails Unicorn
had brought from Boston as well as the Halifax mails.

March 8. The Acadia's mails (including this letter) had been
transferred to the Unicorn, and she took them to Boston, arriving
there March 11.

March 12. Letter received at Boston as a Ship Letter,
rated Act of 1825 for a single letter inland over 400
miles at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due, shown in
blue manuscript. March 25. Docket notes letter received
at Lexington, Virginia.

BOSTON
SHIP
MAR 12
MS

B293

TAB 6330

1858

INMAN LINE (aKa Dales Line) S.S. City of Baltimore

The end of the subsidized Collins Line. The "Miscellaneous Lines"

In his annual report for 1858, Postmaster General Aaron V. Brown stated that since the expiration of the Bremen and Havre contracts the U.S. mail service had not been established on a permanent basis. The Collins Line contract was with the Navy Department and he, therefore, had no power to enforce fulfillment or to annul the contract. Since the Navy had taken no action and the temporary contracts for service to Southampton, Bremen and Havre had expired on June 1, 1858, it was out of his power to engage other than temporary service by the single trip. This resulted in the "Miscellaneous Lines", sailings in which P.M. Brown utilized ships of the Inman (Dales), Vanderbilt and Glasgow & New York Steam Ship Company. It should be noted the only American line used was Vanderbilt. Others were British.

The Collins Line Baltic made her last inward voyage, arriving at New York February 15, 1858.



21 CENTS

Sep. 27

September 28, 1858. Backstamp. Letter paid at London at the 1/- rate, Issue of 1856. Exchange Office marked it with a credit of 21¢ to the U.S., being 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland.

September 29. S.S. City of Baltimore departed from Liverpool at 11 AM.

October 12. Arrived at New York steamship City of Baltimore (Br. Screw), R. Leitch, Liverpool, to J.G. Dale. Arrived off the Battery at 9:40 P.M.

This was one of P.M.G. Brown's "Miscellaneous Lines" sailings during 1858. Of 22 trips, 16 were by Inman vessels, only 4 were by Vanderbilt, 2 Glasgow & N.Y. SS Co.

N.YORK AM PKT
OCT 12
PAID
24

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Canada

First Cunard Westbound call at Queenstown

Prior to this November 5, 1859, voyage, the Cunard Liners sailed directly from Liverpool to Boston or New York. It was decided to make calls at Queenstown, Ireland to effect faster mails from London, which could be forwarded via Holyhead and Queenstown to meet the Irish mails at Queenstown. The R.M.S. Persia, departing from New York November 9, touched at Queenstown November 18 becoming the first Cunarder to stop at that port Eastbound.



2 M
LONDON
4 - NO
59

TOO LATE
C.P.O.

48

G.S.

BRACKET
21
NOV
BOSTON

B.T.02

November 4, 1859. An unpaid letter from Baring Brothers & Co., London, enclosing a copy of the Charter-party and Bill of Lading of coals p "Sciolo" to Malta, received from Captain J.B. Minotte.

The London General Post Office marked this letter "TOO LATE" to meet the Canada, which it would have been had it been forwarded to Liverpool, the terminus of the Cunard Line. However, the letter went by Irish Mail to Queenstown where it connected with the R.M.S. Canada, which had departed from Liverpool Nov. 5 and touched at Queenstown Nov. 7, where this letter went aboard.

A double letter (many enclosures) at 24¢/½-oz. x 2 = 48¢ due. U.S. debited 16¢ Sea (Brit. Pkt.) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ x 2 (double letter) = 38¢.

November 21. Canada arrived at Boston. George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine, paid the 48¢ double Treaty rate.

1859

THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Europa

2nd Cunard Westbound Call at Queenstown

With the sailing of R.M.S. Canada from Liverpool for Boston on November 5, 1859, we see the first call of the Cunard Line outbound at Queenstown. The alternate sailings to New York sailed thence directly, not calling at Queenstown. This November 9, 1859, sailing of Europa for Boston was the 2nd to call at Queenstown. The alternate outbound sailings, for Boston, continued to call at Queenstown until the March 4, 1860, sailing of R.M.S. Niagara inaugurated all westbound sailings, both to Boston and New York, to call at Queenstown.



LONDON
NO 18
59

19
CENTS

November 18, 1859. An unpaid letter from Baring Bros. & Co., London endorsed: pr. Europa. U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ under the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848.

November 19. R.M.S. Europa sailed from Liverpool for Boston. She touched at Queenstown November 20, the 2nd outbound Cunard call at that port.

BOSTON 24 DEC 2 B.P.K.A.

December 1. Europa arrived at Boston, letter processed December 2. Letter rated at the 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland after remitting the 19¢ to Britain.

1864-65

BRITAIN TO CALIFORNIA VIA NEW YORK AND PANAMA

1. Inman Line, Liverpool to N.Y., S.S. City of Cork
2. United States Mail Line, N.Y. to Aspinwall, S.S. Ocean Queen
3. Pacific Mail Steamship Co., Panama to S. Francisco, S.S. Golden City

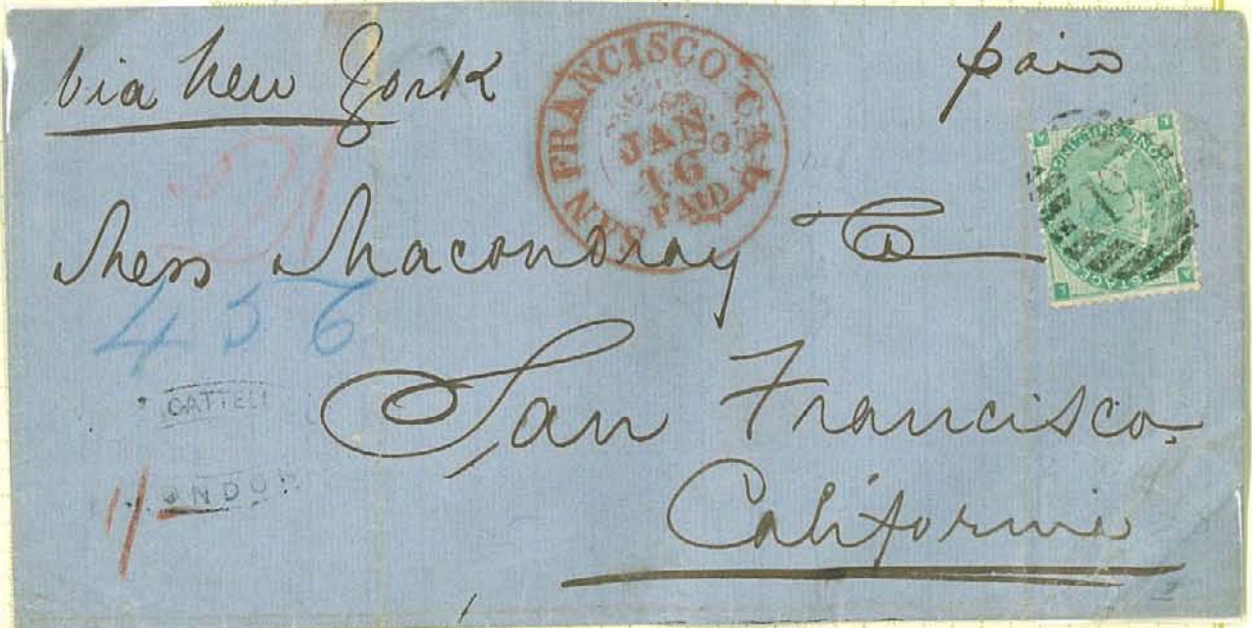
The U.S.-British Treaty rates set the division of the letter mail rate of 24¢/½-oz. at 3¢ British Inland, 16¢ Sea and 5¢ U.S. Inland except the latter did not apply to California and Oregon. As the domestic rate to California was 40¢, this should be substituted for 5¢. Various changes occurred in California bound mail from Britain, as follows:

		Rate in Calif.	Rate in Britain
1848 to 1 July 1851	40¢	59¢	2sh. 5½d.
1 July 1851 to 1 July '63	10¢	29¢	1sh. 2½d.
1 July 1863 to 1 Jan. '68	5¢	24¢	1sh.

This letter was posted after the adoption of the U.S. uniform domestic postage, so the 5¢ credit to U.S. on British mail prevailed regardless of the distance travelled within the U.S.



21



Nov. 30, 1864. Single letter paid at the Lombard St. Foreign Office 1 shilling (24¢) rate, which included delivery to California. Paid by 1/- Issue of 1862, Plate "1" cancelled by the London Inland Branch "19" (Dubus 45.). Left plate number appears flawed to resemble a "2". Nov. 30. S.S. City of Cork departed L'pool and picked up London mails at Queenstown Dec. 1. Exchange Office debited Britain for 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢.

Dec. 18. City of Cork, Tibbetts arrived at New York.

Dec. 23. Ocean Queen, Seabury, departed N.Y. for Panama to connect with Golden City. Arrived Aspinwall Jan. 2, '65.

Jan. 15, 1865. ALTA CALIFORNIA. Arrived Frisco steamship Golden City, Lapidge, 13 days from Panama to O. Eldridge.



1857

SAN FRANCISCO TO PARIS VIA PANAMA AND BOSTON
Pacific Mail Steamship Co.: S.S. Sonora, San Francisco to Panama
U.S. Mail Steamship Co.: S.S. Illinois, Aspinwall to New York
Cunard Line: R.M.S. America, Boston to Liverpool



July 4, 1857. A letter paid at San Francisco at the April 1, 1857, Convention 15¢ rate, U.S. to France. Rate was divided:

U.S. Inland	3¢	
Transatlantic	6)
British Transit	2) = 12¢ Credit to France
French Inland	4)
	15¢.	



15

M.H

Daily Alta California. Pacific Mail Steamship Line's SONORA, R.L. Whiting, Commander, will leave Vallajo st. Wharf with the United States Mail, Passengers and Treasure for PANAMA on SATURDAY...July 4, 1857.

July 17. S.S. Sonora arrived at Panama. Mails and passengers went trans-isthmus to Aspinwall by the Panama Railroad.

July 19. S.S. Illinois of the U.S. Mail SS Co. departed Aspinwall.

N.Y. Times. Arrived Monday July 27. Steamship Illinois, Buggs, Aspinwall July 19 with treasure and passengers to I.W. Raymond... 23d. at 3.30 AM Asa Maddox, aged 29, of Maine, died of consumption, and was buried at 1 PM.

The N.Y. Exchange Office credited France with all but 3¢ U.S. Inland out of the 15¢ rate, or 12¢, shown in the transit stamp. The California mails for Europe went by rail to Boston.

July 29. R.M.S. America of the Cunard Line departed from Boston, she arrived at Liverpool August 10.

August 11. French entry mark, U.S. mail, British Service, Ambulant (RR) at Calais.

August 11. Paris arrival backstamp.



1859

BRITAIN TO VANCOUVER via New York, Panama & San Francisco

1. Vanderbilt European Line, Southampton to New York

U.S. Mail Steamer Ariel

2. United States Mail Steamship Company, N.Y. to Aspinwall

U.S. Mail Steamer Star of the West

3. Pacific Mail Steamship Company, Panama to San Francisco



July 4, 1859.
Posted at Plympton, England for Victoria, Vancouver Island ("Pacific").
Paid 1 shilling (24¢) for transatlantic + 2½ d. (5¢), NY to Vancouver. This is shown as red mss. 1/2½, U.R.

July 5. Transit at London, cds on face.

July 6. The U.S. Mail Steamer Ariel, Vanderbilt European Line, left Havre on July 6 and called at Southampton on same day where she picked up this letter. Ariel, 1736 tons, in service 1855-59.

July 19. N.Y. Shipping List records arrival date of U.S. Mail Steamer Ariel, Capt. Wilson, at N.Y. from Havre and Cowes.

July 20. The U.S. Mail Steamer Star of the West cleared this date for Aspinwall, the route of West coast mail at this time. This 1173 ton wooden paddle steamer (228' x 33'), launched June 17, 1852 by Jeremiah Simonson, N.Y. for Vanderbilt. She began running N.Y.-Aspinwall for the United States Mail Steamship Company June 1857. This is a late voyage, as that company withdrew from that service in Sept. 1859.

Aug. 14. Arrived at San Francisco via Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer from Panama. 26 days from New York. This checks exactly with normal passage times recorded (Cf: Kemble: The Pacific Route, Pg. 147-8).:

New York to Aspinwall (Colon)	10 days
Trans-ismuth RR (completed 1855-60mi)	1 day
Panama to San Francisco	<u>15 days</u>
Total	26 days.

Aug. 23. Docket notes receipt at Vancouver Island, 9 days additional. Total time from England of 51 days.



1859

CALIFORNIA TO FRANCE VIA PANAMA

Pacific Mail Steamship Co.: S.S. Golden Gate, San Francisco-Panama
United States Mail Steamship Co.: S.S. Moses Taylor, Aspinwall-N.Y.
Vanderbilt European Line: U.S.M.S. Ariel, New York to Havre

July 5, 1859. Letter docketed at San Francisco. It was sent under cover to the New York forwarding agent DeRham & Co.

July 6. S.S. Golden Gate of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. departed from San Francisco for Panama.

July 17. Golden Gate arrived at Panama. Trans-isthmus mails, freight and passengers went by the Panama Railroad to Aspinwall.

July 17. S.S. Moses Taylor departed from Aspinwall for New York.



N.Y. Times, July 27. Steamship Moses Taylor, McGowan, Aspinwall July 19, via Key West with treasure and passengers to M.O. Roberts.

July 30. The forwarder DeRham & Co. marked letter "Per Ariel", struck their identifying backstamp and deposited this letter into the mails to France unpaid.

July 30. U.S.M.S. Ariel of the Vanderbilt European Line departed from N.Y. for Havre via Southampton. France was debited for 12¢ U.S. inland and sea postage (American Packet.)

August 13. Ariel arrived at Havre.

August 14. Paris and Paris to Bordeaux (T.P.O.) transit backstamps. 8 decimes due, equivalent to 15 ¢ U.S.



1861

SAN FRANCISCO TO PARIS VIA PANAMA AND NEW YORK
Pacific Mail Steamship Company: S.S. Sonora, San Francisco to Panama
Vanderbilt Line: S.S. Northern Light, Aspinwall to New York
Conard Line: R.M.S. Persia, New York to Queenstown



15



May 11, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at San Francisco with the U.S.-French Convention rate of April 1, 1856, at 15¢ shown in blue.

Alta California: Pacific Mail S.S. Co.'s STEAMSHIP SONORA will leave Folsom Wharf on SATURDAY MAY 11, 1861 at 9 o'clock precisely FOR PANAMA. Passengers will be conveyed from Panama to Aspinwall by the Panama Railway Company and from Aspinwall to New York by the Atlantic and Pacific Steamship Co.

May 24. Sonora arrived at Panama, mails and passengers went trans-isthmus on the Panama Railroad.

May 25. S.S. Northern Light of Vanderbilt's Atlantic and Pacific Steamship Co. departed from Aspinwall.



N.Y. Times. Arrived Sunday June 2. Steamship Northern Light, Tinklepaugh, Aspinwall May 24, with treasure and passengers to D.B. Allen.

The N.Y. Exchange Office debited France for 3¢ U.S. Inland. France would retain 6¢ transatlantic + 2¢ British Transit + 4¢ French Inland = 12¢.

June 5. R.M.S. Persia departed from New York.

June 15. Persia arrived at Queenstown.

June 18. French entry mark, British Service, Ambulant (RR) Calais to Paris.

June 18. Paris transit and Nantes arrival back-stamps. 8 decimes due, equivalent to 15¢ U.S.



1862

CALIFORNIA TO SWITZERLAND VIA PANAMA AND N.Y.

1. Pacific Mail SS Co., San Francisco to Panama, S.S. Sonora
2. Vanderbilt Line, Aspinwall to N.Y., S.S. Northern Light
3. Inman Line, New York to Queenstown, S.S. Kangaroo



May 5, 1862.
 Letter prepaid
 at Cold Spring,
 California 30¢
 by 3 copies of
 the Issue of
 1861. This paid
 the letter to
 the German-
 Swiss border
 only, actually

overpaid 2¢, as the prepaid rate was only 28¢ in the Prussian Closed Mail. Prepaid rate all the way to Switzerland was 33¢.

Transit to New York was as follows:

May 8, 1862. Sonora, Capt. Hudson, Pacific Mail S.S. Co. sailed for Panama, Forbes & Babcock, Agents.

May 22. S.S. Northern Light, Tinklepaugh, departed Aspinwall with passengers, the California mails and treasure.

May 31. Northern Light arrived at New York to D.B. Allen.



June 4. The New York Exchange Office credited Prussia with 7¢ for her internal transit and forwarded the letter by Inman steamer Kangaroo, McGringan, which sailed June 6, carrying the Prussian Closed Mail.

June 17. The Closed Mail bags arrived at Aachen where bulk was broken. The Aachen office marked it "Paid" and the clarifying handstamp, which translated reads: PAID to Prussia with respect to Union (German-Austrian Postal Union) terminating at the border, i.e., paid only to the German-Swiss border. The Germans marked it with a "6" indicating that 6 kreuzer were due in Switzerland.

June 18-20. Transit Swiss backstamps, Basel (entry point) to Lucarno. The 6 kreuzers (about 4¢ U.S.) was collected in Switzerland at the equivalent of 20 rappen.



1860

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
U.S. TO ENGLAND-OUTWARD PACKET MAIL



19

May 22, 1860. Letter posted at New Haven for London. 24¢ single (½ oz.) packet letter rate prepaid by a pair of 12¢, issue of 1857 (Scott #36).

Transatlantic postage was broken down as follows:

U.S. Domestic	5¢
Transatlantic	16¢
British Inland	3¢
	<u>24¢</u>

The red "19" allows England the 16¢ transatlantic as letter went by British packet, plus 3¢ British Inland for a total of 19¢ out of the prepaid 24¢.

1858

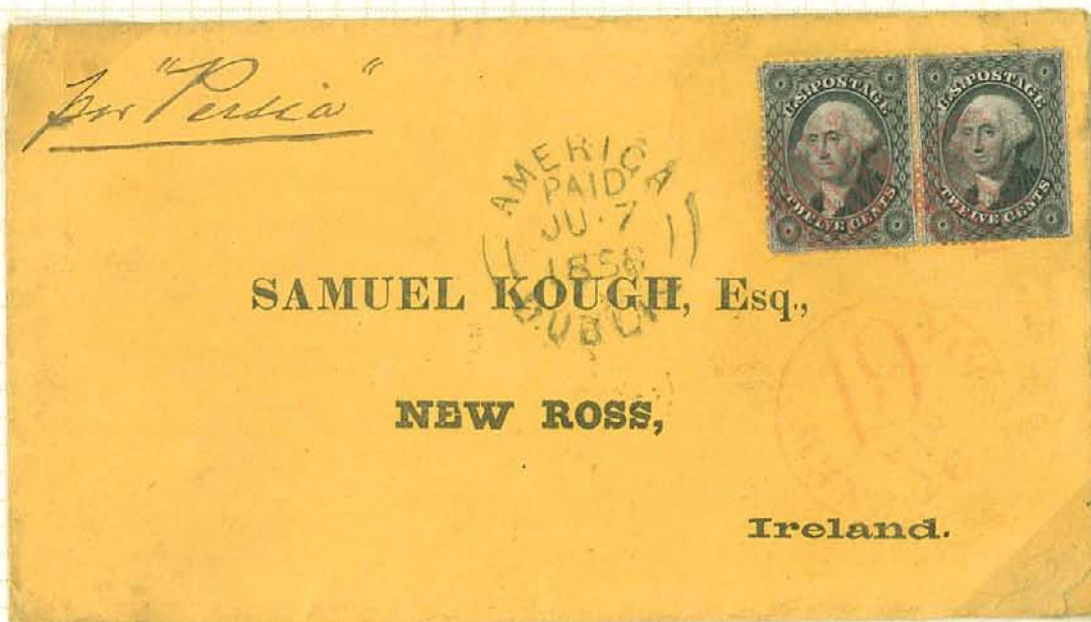
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKETS

R. M. S. Persia

Dublin, Ireland Exchange Office

For a period from early February 1856 the Liverpool Exchange Office arranged for late arriving Irish mail, incoming by Cunard Line, to be bulked to Dublin where bulk was broken and the unique AMERICA/DUBLIN mark applied. This arrangement lasted until Nov. 1859 when the Cunarders started landing their mails at Queens-town, Ireland (Chronicle 101, Pg. 64-66). Very few of these marks have survived.



May 26, 1858. 24¢ Packet rate to Britain paid by a pair of the 12¢ Issue of 1857 (Plate I). The R. M. S. Persia sailed from New York May 27 for Liverpool.

June 7. The Persia had arrived June 6 at Liverpool. Dublin Exchange Office applied their rare AMERICA/DUBLIN mark (see also Robinson Pg. E.72).



June 7. Arrival backstamp at New Ross, County Wexford, Ireland.

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Canada

LONDON
31
JUL
1857
PAID
5
CENTS

July 31, 1857. A letter from Baring Brothers & Co., London advising George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine, that they have debited his account for £254.9.9 for a draft from Capt. R. Turner ship "Roger Stewart" for disbursements at "Sunderland".

Letter is endorsed: pr. "Canada" and was paid in cash at the one shilling (24¢) U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz., amount shown in red manuscript. U.S. was credited with 5¢ U.S. Inland. Britain retained 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

August 1. R.M.S. Canada of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool.



August 13. Canada arrived at Boston. The Boston Exchange Office marked this letter as PAID at 24¢. The U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate included forwarding to Brunswick, Maine.

BOSTON
24
AUG
13
PAID
B. & P. K.

8.768

1861

BRITAIN TO U.S. BY AMERICAN PACKET

INMAN LINE

S.S. Glasgow

BOSTON/A. PKT. mark



3
CENTS

May 28, 1861. An unpaid letter posted at Leamington, England. The town of origin is shown by a partial strike of the duplex Leamington/444. The letter went to Queenstown, Ireland to meet the westbound transatlantic steamers sailing out of Liverpool.

May 29. S.S. Glasgow of the Inman Line departed from Liverpool and picked up the English mails at her port-of-call at Queenstown May 31. U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland.

June 12. Glasgow arrived at New York, Boston mail went in closed bags by rail where they received identity at Boston June 13. 24¢ due from the recipient for the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate.

The Boston Exchange Office receiving mark is recorded by Blake in use from July 1, 1861 to March 12, 1863. This example pushes back the earliest date to June 13, 1861.



6.923

1862

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Australasian



19
CENTS



July 19, 1862. A letter concerning crude petroleum and refined lubricating oil was posted unpaid at London. Letter is endorsed: Australasian @ Queenstown. U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. Red "crosshairs" show this letter received some sort of inspection.

July 19. R.M.S. Australasian of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool July 19, picked up this letter in the London mail bags at her call at Queenstown on the 20th.



8.799

July 30. Australasian arrived at New York this date. The Boston mails were bulked by rail to Boston where bulk was broken and the mail processed on July 31. The U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate of 24¢ per ½-oz. was due. U.S. retained 5¢ after remitting 19¢ to Britain.

This Boston mark is recorded used from Feb. 11, 1862 to May 27, 1863.

1862

BRITAIN TO U.S. BY BRITISH PACKET

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Scotia

BOSTON BR. PKT. mark

5th Outbound Passage



19
CENTS

October 24, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at the London Southwestern District office. This letter was forwarded to Queenstown to meet the westbound transatlantic steamers sailing out from Liverpool.

October 25. The Cunard Line's R.M.S. Scotia on her 5th outbound voyage departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 26th where this letter went aboard.



8.799

U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland + 16¢ Sea (British Packet) = 19¢. U.S. would retain 5¢ U.S. Inland to total 24¢.

November 8. Scotia arrived at New York. Boston mail was bulked to Boston where the Exchange office struck the charge mark showing 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate.

This 26mm. mark is listed by Blake as used Feb. 11, 1862 to May 27, 1863.

1862

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia

BOSTON BR. PKT. mark

LONDON
NO 29
62

19
CENTS



November 29, 1862. An unpaid letter from Baring Brothers & Co. at London to George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine. It concerns receiving monies from Captain I.L. Skolfield of the ship Lydia Skolfield. Letter is endorsed: per "Arabic".

The U.S. was debited 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢, shown by the rocker 19 CENTS.

November 29. R.M.S. Arabia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown November 30, where this letter went aboard.



B.801

December 11. Arabia arrived at Boston. The recipient was charged 24¢, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.

This BOSTON BR. PKT. mark shows the year date.

1863

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. America

Last voyage of the America

LONDON
MAY 1
63

5
CENTS

10

19
CENTS



April 25, 1863. A duplicate letter from Baring Brothers & Co. at London. The original went per the Australasian. It advises a credit to Skolfield's account of £ 1000 from Capt. W.T. Harwood, ship "I.L. Dimmonck." Strangely, Baring Bros. endorsed it to the R.M.S. Canada which did not leave Queenstown until June 14.

The London Exchange Office erroneously debited U.S. for 5¢ (the U.S. Inland postage) and voided this 5 CENTS mark with the London Inland Office mark (Dubus 299h). The correct amount was then debited, viz. 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

May 2. R.M.S. America departed from Liverpool, touched at Queens- town May 3 where this letter went aboard. This was the last outbound voyage of America.

May 16. America arrived at Boston. George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine was charged 24¢, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

This BOSTON BR. PKT. mark shows the year date.

BOSTON BR. PKT.
MAY
16
1863
24

B.802

1862

BRITAIN TO U.S. BY BRITISH PACKET

CUNARD LINE

BOSTON BR. PKT. mark

R.M.S. Persia

47th Outbound Passage



19
CENTS

November 7, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at the London Southwestern District office. It was forwarded to Queens-town, Ireland to meet the westbound transatlantic steamers sailing out from Liverpool.

November 8. The Cunard Line's R.M.S. Persia, on her 47th outbound voyage, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queens-town November 9 where this letter went aboard.



B.799

U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland + 16¢ Sea (British Packet) = 19¢. U.S. would retain 5¢ out of the total 24¢ collect.

November 20. Persia arrived at New York, Boston mail bulked to that city where the Exchange Office processed this letter Nov. 21. The U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate of 24¢ per ½-oz. was due.

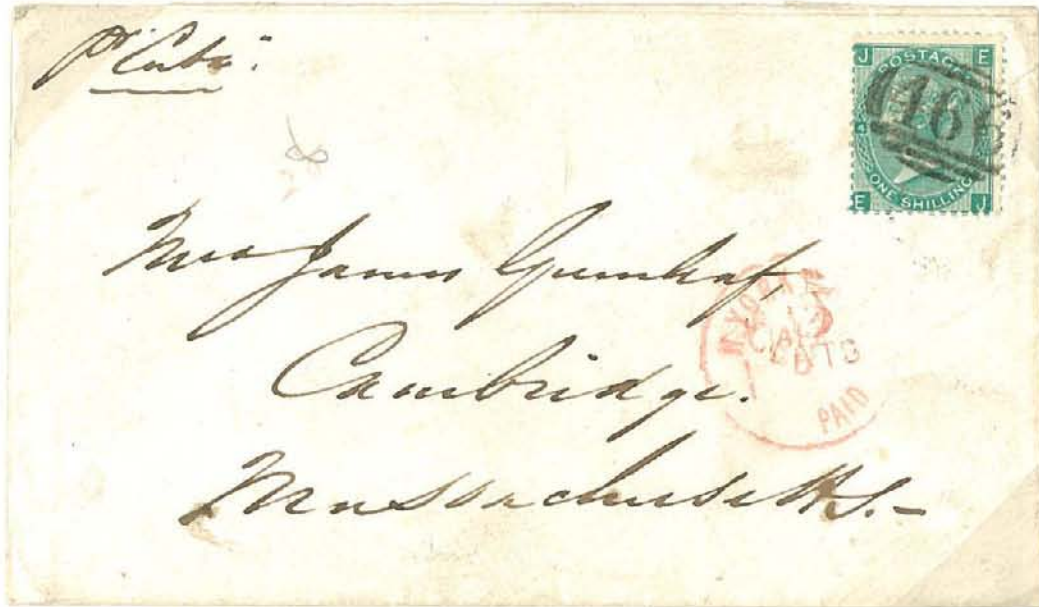
This 26mm. mark is listed by Blake as used from Feb. 11, 1862 to May 27, 1863.

1866

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Cuba



(466)

5 CENTS

1 F
LIVERPOOL
24 MAR 66
P.L.O.

March 24, 1866. A letter not over ½-oz. mailed at the Liverpool Packet Letter Office (P.L.O.), backstamp. The one shilling rate (24¢) per the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 is paid by the Issue of 1865, plate 4. U.S. was credited with 5¢ U.S. Inland. Britain retained 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

March 24. R.M.S. Cuba, as endorsed, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 25th.

April 5. R.M.S. Cuba arrived at New York. Letter processed as PAID to Cambridge, Mass.

The New York Exchange Office mark (W.113) is found used from May 9, 1861 to September 25, 1867.



W.113

1866

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET

REGISTERED MAIL

R.M.S. Australasian

LONDON

Lombard St. B.O.

This letter was posted at London, registered, as noted in mms. Clerk noted "2", mms. U.L., and charged the double letter rate of 2 sh. plus the 4d. registry fee.



48

Dec. 15, 1866. Stamps are cancelled by the Lombard Street Registered Mail obliterator issued on 16 June 1865. This office was attached to the E.C. district. Clerk here marked red "14" on his letter-bill.

R.M.S. Australasian:

Liverpool	Dec. 15, 1866
Q'town.	Dec. 16
New York	Dec. 29.

The Exchange Office, after 3 poor strikes, marked this letter in red, as prepaid 48¢, equivalent to 2sh. No credit was allowed on registry fee. 38¢ (mms. at L.L.) was British share of postage for ocean voyage by British Packet and her inland.

1867

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET-PAID

LONDON INLAND BRANCH

R.M.S. Africa

"Late Fee" Handstamp



Dec. 7, 1867. Letter posted at London and backstamped with c.d.s. Standard Packet Rate of 1/- prepaid. As letter was "too late" for the normal mails, the sender paid a 1d. "late fee", and the stamps were canceled by the special London Inland Branch handstamp for late fee letters - a series of 1 to 10 (9 omitted) without date stamp.



Inspector's mark at London. As letter went by British Packet a credit of 5¢ was allowed to U.S. for Domestic postage.

Dec. 20, 1867. Letter cleared Boston and this Exchange Office mark applied which indicates that 24¢ (equivalent to 1/-) had been prepaid.

R.M.S. Africa: departed Liverpool Dec. 7, 1867. arrived Boston Dec. 20.

1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
CUNARD LINE - VIA QUEENSTOWN
6d. Rate of 1 Jan. 1868

As of 1 Jan. 1868 the combined rate of British and United States postage was reduced to 6d. per ½ oz. pre-paid, whether by packet or by private ship.



August 8, 1868. Letter posted at London, Charing Cross, W.C. and prepaid at the 6d. rate. Overpaid by 2d. (possibly a "late fee"). Inspector's cross mark in red. Directed by the sender "via Queenstown", where the Cunard Liners sailed weekly on Sunday at 3:30 p.m. Aug. 8 was a Saturday, thus this letter just made the sailing.



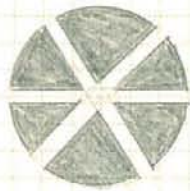
Aug. 18, 1868. Transit at New York, "Paid All".

Arrived at N.Y. R.M.S. China, Hochley, L'pool. Aug. 8 and Q'town. the 9th to E. Cunard.

1867

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
U.S. TO GREAT BRITAIN

Double rated letter - American Packet



INMAN LINE :

SS City of New York
sailed from N.Y. Feb. 2.
1867.

February 2, 1867. "Cork" killer cancels 2-24¢ stamps for a letter weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 oz. at the 24¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ -ounce rate to England, effective February 1848 until January 1868. Double rate (24¢ x 2 = 48¢) prepaid by two 24¢ stamps of the National Bank Note Co.

Transatlantic rate to England was made up of 3¢ British Inland, 5¢ U.S. Domestic and 16¢ to whichever country's ship carried the letter. As U.S. (Am. Pkt. in red c.d.s.) packet carried letter, U.S. got 5¢ Domestic + 16¢ transatlantic = 21¢, leaving 3¢ for British. Double letter or 3¢ x 2 = 6¢, hence "6" in c.d.s. is credit to Britain for her double inland postage.



February 13, 1867.
London PAID arrival
stamp.

1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

12¢ (6d.) Rate of January 1, 1868

Unpaid Letter Fine

North German Lloyd

S.S. New York



12



February 4, 1868. An unpaid letter to Capt. Saml. Goodwin of the ship St. James at Liverpool. On Jan. 1, 1868, the 24¢ Packet Letter rate to England had been reduced to 12¢ with each country retaining its own postage. The correct rate of "12" was noted at the upper right of this letter by the postmaster at Richmond, Maine. However, postage had to be prepaid, or else the letter would be subject to an unpaid letter fine.

February 5. Transit mark at Boston. As the Jan. 1, 1868 rates had eliminated the necessity of keeping debits and credits, it was no longer necessary to indicate whether by "Am." or "Br." packet on letters to or from the United Kingdom.

February 6. S.S. New York of the Norddeutscher Lloyd (NGL) departed from New York for Bremen via Southampton. This was only the 2nd return voyage of NGL under the new rate. This represents a very early transatlantic passage under the new rate.

February 17. New York arrived at Southampton, same day transit backstamp at London.

February 18. Arrival postmark at Liverpool. As this letter was unpaid, it was subject to the January 1, 1868 rate per ½-oz. of 6d. (12¢) plus a 6d. unpaid letter fine, total 12d. or 1/- shown in manuscript. One shilling (1/-) was equivalent to 24¢ U.S.



1868

U.S. TO BRITAIN - RATES OF JANUARY 1, 1868

Inman Line

S. S. City of Baltimore

Unpaid Letter

On January 1, 1868, the 24¢ (1/-) Treaty of 1848 rate between the U.S. and Britain was reduced to 12¢ (6d.) on unpaid letters. To simplify the accounting between the two countries, each country retained all postage paid or collect. Unpaid letters were subject to double postage. To further simplify matters, all eastbound mail was considered as by "American Packet", all westbound mail was by "British Packet" regardless of the registry of the conveying vessel.



W.2



February 19, 1868. An unpaid letter to Liverpool posted at Richmond, Maine (note transposition on numerals in year date).

February 22. Transit mark at the New York Exchange Office. This letter was marked "Am.Pkt", a pro-forma designation as all letters east-bound were considered as if by American Packet, even those carried aboard Royal Mail steamers of the Cunard Line. This is very late usage of this handstamp, also evidenced by the worn appearance of the strike.

February 22. S.S. City of Baltimore, Inman Line, departed from New York for Liverpool.

March 3. City of Baltimore arrived at Liverpool, having touched at Queenstown the 2nd. The Liverpool arrival backstamp notes, "U.S. PACKET." The recipient was charged at double the 6d. rate or one shilling (12d.) shown by the 1/- charge mark.



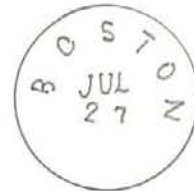
1868

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

12¢ (6d.) Rate of January 1, 1868 Unpaid Letter Fine

HAPAG

S.S. Allemannia



July 25, 1868. An unpaid letter posted to Liverpool, England at Richmond, Maine. On January 1, 1868, the 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate had been reduced to 12¢ (6d.), thus eliminating the cumbersome debits and credits necessary under the 1848 Treaty. Each country now retained all of its own postage, but prepayment was compulsory, or the letter would be fined.

July 27. Transit stamp at Boston. Letter went by rail to New York to meet the July 28 sailing of the Hamburg-American Line's (HAPAG) S.S. Allemannia for Hamburg via Southampton.

August 9. Allemannia arrived at Southampton, same day transit backstamp at London.

August 10. Arrival mark at Liverpool. This letter was subject to the 6d. rate of Jan. 1868 + a 6d. unpaid letter fine = 12d. or 1/- due. The total was equivalent to 24¢ U.S.



1868

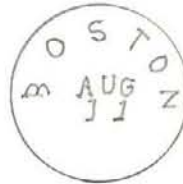
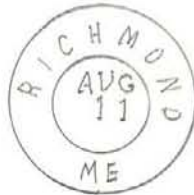
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

12¢ (6d.) Rate of January 1, 1868

Unpaid Letter Fine

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Scotia



August 11, 1868. An unpaid letter to Captain Samuel A. Goodwin of the ship St. Lawrence at Liverpool. On January 1, 1868, the 24¢ Packet Letter rate to England had been reduced to 12¢ with each country retaining its own postage, thus eliminating the cumbersome system of debits and credits that had existed since the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848. The new rates required prepayment or the letter would be subject to a fine.

August 11. Same day transit at Boston.

August 12. R.M.S. Scotia of the Cunard Line departed from New York for Liverpool via Queenstown.

August 21. Scotia arrived at Queenstown, same day arrival mark at Liverpool.

As this letter was unpaid, it was subject to the Jan. 1868, rate per ½-oz. of 6d. plus a 6d. unpaid letter fine, total 12d. or 1/-, shown in manuscript. 1/- was equivalent to 24¢ U.S.



1868

U.S. TO BRITAIN - RATES OF JANUARY 1, 1868

Cunard Line

R.M.S. China

Unpaid Letter

On January 1, 1868, the 24¢ (1/-) Treaty of 1848 rate between the U.S. and Britain was reduced to 12¢ (6d.) on prepaid letters. To simplify the accounting between the two countries, each country retained all postage paid or collected. Unpaid letters were subject to double postage. To further simplify matters, all eastbound mail was considered as by "American Packet", westbound mail was by "British Packet" regardless of the registry of the conveying vessel.



August 25, 1868. An unpaid letter posted at Richmond, Maine to a ship captain at Liverpool.

August 26. Transit mark at the New York Exchange Office. Even though this letter was to go to England on the R.M.S. China, the letter was properly marked under the new treaty as "Am.Pkt." This is the latest recorded impression of this N.Y. handstamp.

August 25. R.M.S. China sailed from New York for Liverpool.

September 5. China arrived at Liverpool having touched at Queenstown the 4th. The recipient was charged double the 6d. rate, or one shilling, shown as 1/- in manuscript.



1868

BRITAIN TO U.S.

Unpaid Letter Fine

12¢ Rate, effective January 1, 1868

INMAN LINE

S.S. City of Antwerp



November 25, 1868. An unpaid letter posted at London and endorsed: pr. City of Antwerp. It bears the company backstamp of J.S. Morgan & Co., London.

November 25. S.S. City of Antwerp, Inman Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown, Ireland on the 26th where this letter went on board with the London supplementary mails.

December 6. City of Antwerp arrived at New York. The bulked Boston mails went by rail to that city to be processed on December 7.



The Convention of 1868, allowed for an unpaid letter fine. Here the 12¢ rate, due in hard currency, was converted to depreciated paper currency by applying the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.33 x 12¢ = 16¢ due in U.S. NOTES. To this was added the 5¢ unpaid letter fine in U.S. NOTES, total due 21¢ in U.S. NOTES.

1872

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO ENGLAND-Treaty of Jan. 1870.
Effective Jan. 1870-July 1875

6¢ per 1/2 oz.



Guion Line.
S.S. Wyoming
Dep. N.Y. Feb. 7, 1872
Arr. Q'town Feb. 18
(0300)

12¢ (Double) per ounce.



Guion Line
S.S. Idaho
Dep. N.Y. April 3,
1872.
Arr. Q'town Apr.
14 (2045).

1874

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
NEW YORK FOREIGN MAIL CANCELLATIONS
U.S. TO ENGLAND - Treaty of 1 Jan. 1870 Rates.
Effective 1 Jan. 1870 - 1 July 1875



A20



July 13, 1874.
Letter prepaid at
6¢ rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Stamp canceled by
New York Foreign
Mail cancellation
Type A20.

July 13, 1874.
New York Foreign
Department transit
date stamp.

July 25, 1874.
Tunbridge-Wells
receipt backstamp.

Guion Line: Cleared N.Y. July 14, 1874, S.S. Idaho, Forsyth,
Williams & Guion.

By Cable from Queenstown, July 25. The National Line (sic) steam-
ship Idaho, Capt. Forsyth, from N.Y. July 14, for
Liverpool, touched at this port to-day and proceeded
to Liverpool.

1876-77

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
U.P.U. PERIOD

BRITAIN TO U.S.

The establishment of U.P.U. rates fixed the outgoing mail at 2½ d. per ½ oz. from 1st July 1875 to 30th September 1908.

½ oz. Letter



Feb. 26, 1876.
London, Lombard St.
P.O. receipt mark.
London District,
Second Series cancel
on S.G. # 139,
Plate 1.

Backstamp:



1½ oz. Letter



Jan. 13, 1877.
L'pool cancel on
strip of 3, S.G.
141, Plate 6.

Backstamp:
As above, Jan. 27.

1875

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL



THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Marathon

G.P.U. Mail, Liverpool to Boston

1783 tons, 276' x 36', clipper bow, iron screw steamer. Launched 1860 by Robert Napier & Sons, Glasgow for Cunard Mediterranean service. Jan. 8, 1861, first voyage, Liverpool-N.Y. October 1865, first voyage, Liverpool-Boston-N.Y. Sept. 4, 1873, first voyage direct Liverpool-Boston. She ran thus until August 6, 1884, last voyage except Sept. 8, 1892, one voyage Liverpool-Boston. 1898 scrapped at Genoa.



November 7-8, 1875. Letter posted in Belgium and paid at the 25 centimes General Postal Union rate (renamed U.P.U. in 1879). It was processed via Ostende in Belgium for closed mail through England. Dated mark in French ETATS UNIS PAR OSTENDE.

November 9. R.M.S. Marathon sailed from Liverpool and picked up the U.S. bound mails at Queenstown on the 10th.



November 22. Boston arrival mark agrees with the recorded arrival of R.M.S. Marathon at that port.

1878

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GLASGOW TO BOSTON

U. P. U. RATE

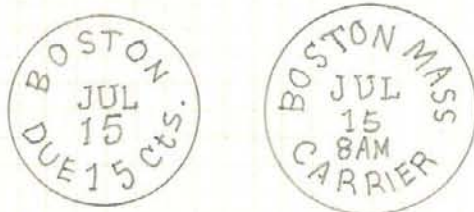
Insufficiently Prepaid



July 3, 1878. Letter posted at Glasgow at the U.P.U. rate of 2½d. (5¢) per ½ oz. Clerk noted in blue "2" (mms. U.L.) indicating letter should take 2 rates.



International regulations dictated mail should be marked with a "T" (Taxe) and noted in French centimes the equivalent amount due, or 25 centimes (5¢).



Blake 950
July 15, 1878. 15¢ due from recipient, being 10¢ for a double letter plus 5¢ unpaid letter fine. 8 a.m. Boston Carrier backstamp.

White Star Line, S.S. Germanic. Arrived N.Y. July 13, 1878, Steamship Germanic, Kennedy, Liverpool July 4 via Queenstown 5th to R.J. Cortis.

1878

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.K. TO U.S.A.

U.P.U. Rate - 2½d. per half ounce



T

July 6, 1878. Type B4 cancellation of Hillhead, Lanark, a suburb of Glasgow. Sender had paid double rate of 5d. for a 1 oz. letter. As letter was over this, clerk marked a "3" in upper left to indicate letter should take 3 rates. Letter transit marked with a backstamp at Glasgow.

British postal clerk also marked letter with a "T" for "Taxe" or postage due.



20 Cents

July 16, 1876. Backstamp. New York Foreign Department handled this letter. Underpaid letter went as though unpaid, thus recipient had to pay the triple letter rate of 5¢ x 3 = 15¢ + 5¢ unpaid letter fine = 20¢ due. 5¢ U.S. was equivalent to 2½d. sterling.

Letter was forwarded, Cambridge to Boxford, Mass. at no extra charge.

1893

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

DOUBLE (1/2-1oz) U.P.U. RATE - Underpaid.



Dec. 5, 1893. U.P.U. rate of 5¢ per 1/2 oz. Double rated letter (10¢) underpaid by 5¢ Columbian Issue. Clerk noted blue "2" at upper left to indicate that this was a double weight letter.

New York marked letter as "Taxe" or due by 25 centimes, the international system used by U.P.U. countries. 5 centimes was equivalent to 1¢, hence 25 centimes = 5¢ U.S. underpaid.



Dec. 13, 1893. Liverpool receipt backstamp, indicates transatlantic trip was by U.S. Packet.

Dec. 14, 1893. Bradford, Yorkshire receipt mark. As letter was underpaid, twice the underpayment or 5 pence (equivalent to 10¢ U.S.) was due from the recipient.

1891

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CANADA - IRELAND
U.P.U. RATE

On 1st July, 1878 the Universal Postal Union rate of 5¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce came into effect for Canada.



March 2, 1891. Norman receipt stamp.



March 23. Winnipeg transit.



April 2, 1891 (note inverted "2"0. Letter received in Ireland. Londonderry "Colonial Packet" stamp associated with the Allan line.

1864

U. S. TO SIERRA LEONE, WEST AFRICA VIA ENGLAND

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

African Steamship Co., S.S. Macgregor Laird, L'pool to S. Leone



April 1, 1864. Letter paid at Westford, Connecticut at the 33¢ rate to the West Coast of Africa via England, effective July 1857 to Jan. 1868. Rate made up by 3 copies of the 10¢ yellow green and a 3¢ rose, Issue of 1861. Letter is addressed to the Good Hope Station, French Mission, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa. Writer correctly endorsed it: Via England.

April 6. Transit at New York where the Exchange Office credited England with 28¢ being all the postage except for 5¢ retained for U.S. Inland postage. R.M.S. China sailed this date for Liverpool via Queenstown.

April 17. China arrived at Queenstown where the mails went ashore, thence on to London where this transit mark was struck on April 18. Sorting and routing of mail was handled at London who forwarded this letter on to Liverpool for the West African steamers.

April 24. Scheduled sailing date of the African Steamship Company's steamer Macgregor Laird from Liverpool for the West Coast of Africa via Maderia and Teneriffe.

May 11. Arrival backstamp at Sierra Leone. Britain had credited the Colony with 1d. (2¢) for her handling, shown by the red manuscript "1".



Advertisement

London Times April 20, 1864.

WEST COAST of AFRICA, Maderia and Teneriffe.

The AFRICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S VESSELS carrying Her Majesty's Mails leave Liverpool monthly with goods and passengers proceeding direct to Maderia, Teneriffe, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Lagos, Benin, Nun Brass, Bonny, Fernando Po, Cameroons and Old Calabar.

Note:- Goods for Fernando Po and the Rivers are transshipped at Bonny, and forwarded by branch steamer at shipper's risk.

The new and powerful steamship MACGREGOR LAIRD, R.F. Lowry, Commander, will leave Liverpool on Sunday the 24th inst. at 11 a.m. Passengers embark by steam tender, leaving the north landing stage at 10 a.m. punctually. Goods and heavy luggage must be alongside the ship Huckman (?) Dock by noon on the 22nd. No goods or parcels can be forwarded without pre-payment of freight. For further information apply in Liverpool to Fletcher and Parr, agents, and in London at the Company's offices 14 Leadenhall Street.

1876.

GOLD COAST, WEST AFRICA TO U.S. VIA ENGLAND

African Steamship Co., R.M.S. Elmina, Cape Coast Castle to L'pool

North German Lloyd, S.S. Main, Southampton to New York



Feb. 26, 1876. Letter paid at the 8d. (15¢) rate of July 1875, at Dixcove on the Gold Coast. Rate was made up by a fine combination of 2 singles and a pair of the 1 penny blue and a single copy of the 4d. red violet, all perf. 12½, Issue of 1875, all are scarce stamps. Dixcove-receiving cds.

March 2. Transit at Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast, port of call of the African Steamship Co. London Times notes dates of the R.M.S. Elmina to "March 1". Adhesives further cancelled by the "556", British Post Office number assigned to Cape Coast Castle.



April 2, 1876. Arrival mark at Liverpool. London Times: Liverpool March 30. The African Royal Mail steamer Elmina, Capt. D.A. Crook, arrived in the Mersey with mails, passengers, 702 ounces of gold dust and £4,266 in specie from the West Coast of Africa. She brings no news. Her dates from Cape Coast Castle are to the 1st inst.



April 3. Transit at London where the letter was routed to Southampton. North German Lloyd steamer Main, Capt. Reichmann had left Bremen April 1 and picked up the U.S. mails at Southampton April 4.

The red manuscript is a 6½¢ credit to U.S. for mail from a non-U.P.U. country which was charged at triple the rate (5¢ x 3). U.S. was entitled to 1/3 of the rate (5¢) plus 1½¢ for transatlantic (NGL was considered Am.Pkt.)



April 15. Main arrived at New York to Oelrichs & Co. Mail was bulked to Boston where it received identity on April 16.

1881

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CANARY ISLANDS — U. S. VIA LIVERPOOL



Per "Volta"(s)

Dec. 22, 1881. Santa Cruz, Tenerife (Canary Islands off N.W. coast of Africa) cancellation on 25 centimos Spanish stamp, UPU period rate.

Impression of handstamp by sender indicating ship by which letter was to be carried.



Dec. 30, 1881. Liverpool Packet Letter Office "paid" transit mark. Letter is backstamped received at New York Jan. 16.

1859

ST. PETERSBURG. RUSSIA TO U.S. VIA BRITAIN
BRITISH PACKET, Transatlantic R.M.S. Canada

Brown, Shipley & Co., L'pool Forwarding Agent:



1859

ST. PETERSBURG. RUSSIA TO U.S. VIA BRITAIN
BRITISH PACKET, Transatlantic R.M.S. Canada

Forwarding Agent:
Brown, Shipley & Co., Liverpool



fco.



Sept. 22, 1859 (Julian or "old" calendar, equivalent to Sept. 11 in Gregorian or "new" calendar). Letter posted at St. Petersburg, Russia to forwarding agent Messrs. Brown, Shipley & Co., Liverpool. Noted "via Ostende", indicating it was to go across Germany to Belgian port on the Ostende to Dover ferry, thence across England to Liverpool via London.

Marking indicating Paid to Britain. Also reiterated by mss. "fco" (franco = Paid), deleted by forwarding agent. This mark struck aboard the Coeln (Cologne) to Verviers, Belgium T.P.O. on paid mail destined for Britain.



Sept. 21 (Gregorian). London paid transit mark.



Sept. 21. Letter arrived at L'pool at office of Brown, Shipley & Co. Back-stamp.

Sept. 24. Brown, Shipley & Co. deleted their address and forwarded letter unpaid to Philadelphia, also striking their forwarding agent's cachet on the reverse (RF 3). Cunard Liner R.M.S. Canada sailed from L'pool Sept. 24.

19
CENTS



Struck aboard ship, this mark debits U.S. for 16¢ sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

Oct. 9. The Canada arrived at Boston Oct. 8. Philadelphia mail bulked to there where this mark was struck showing 24¢ due, British-U.S. transatlantic treaty rate.