



MALDEN
Dec.
22
MASS.

Mrs Mary. A. Fay

Sharon VT

obsolete - New Everett

304 VT

1855

SHIP MAIL
INCOMING CONSIGNEE'S LETTER

Bordeaux to San Francisco around the Horn-190 days
French Ship Auguste & Gustave



441



Feb. 20, 1855. This is a consignee's letter detailing cost, duty, lighterage and other expenses for 500 baskets of Champagne Wine and 100 cases of Absinthe and (as per invoice heading) directed to Capt. Benassit, master of the French ship Auguste & Gustave for the port of San Francisco. It was paid by the 20 and 40 centimes Issue of 1853 (both Die I) to total 60 centimes which was the Aug. 1, 1849 French rate per 7½ grams for letters directed to Foreign countries by ships of commerce leaving ports of France, prepayment was compulsory. Letter was directionally endorsed on the face "Par navaire Auguste & Gustave". Adhesives cancelled by the petit chiffres "441" of Bordeaux.

August 9, 1855. Daily Alta California, San Francisco: Arrived French Ship Auguste & Gustave, Benisse (sic), 190 days from Bordeaux with merchandise to John Saulnier.

Capt. Benassit handed this letter directly to John Saulnier, the consignee, thus no United States ship letter charges are shown.

Aug. 20. Consignee Notice. French Ship Auguste & Gustave, Capt. Benassit from Bordeaux. Consignees are hereby notified that she is discharging at Flint's Wharf and are requested to call on the undersigned, pay freight and receive their orders. All goods as soon as received will be at the risk of owners and if not removed by 5 PM, will be stored at the risk of the owners. JOHN SAULNIER & CO.

179 Sansome St.

Sept. 12. French Ship Auguste & Gustave cleared for Hong Kong.

1861-62

LONDON TO SAN FRANCISCO VIA BOSTON AND CAPE HORN

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Canada

Ship Letter "Around the Horn"

Ship Twilight

INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID

INSUFFICIENTLY
PREPAID

Dec. 28, 1861.
letter paid at
the transatlan-
tic rate of one
shilling by a
copy of the
Issue of 1856
cancelled by
the London East
Central duplex
(Dubus 23b).
However, this
was the East
Coast rate and
forwarding on
to California
required an

additional 2½d. (5¢) making the total U.S. Inland port-
ion at 10¢ (5¢ came from the 1 shilling or 24¢ transat-
lantic rate.) The U.S. Act of Feb. 27, 1861, required
the 10¢ rate of postage to be prepaid on letters conveyed
in the mail from any point in the U.S. east of the Rocky
Mountains to any State or Territory on the Pacific. As this
letter was 5¢ short, the British merely marked it INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID
and sent it onward to the U.S. in the New York bag, leaving the U.S.
Post Office to worry what to do about it.

R.M.S. Canada departed from Liverpool Dec. 28 and arrived at
Boston January 10, 1862.

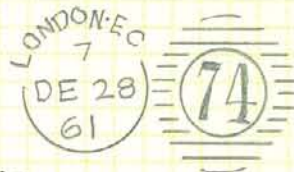
March 29. Because the 10¢ was not prepaid, this letter could
not be forwarded on to California by regular contract steamers via
the Isthmus of Panama. Instead, it was held until a sailing
vessel was bound for San Francisco, and the Ship Twilight, Capt.
Gates, departed thence from New York on March 29.

August 11, 1862. Arrived San Francisco
Aug. 10, Ship Twilight, Gates, 132 days from
New York to DeWitt, Kittle & Co. Act of Feb.
27, 1861, rate applied, viz, Private Ship
Letters to or intra-U.S. 5 cents each if for
delivery at the port of arrival.

"1364" is Mr. Smith's Box number at San
Francisco.



SHIP
5



1865

SHIP LETTERS

Private Ship Letter Rate, effective July 1, 1863



May 23, 1865. Letter datelined at Hong Kong by forwarding agent I. dos Remedios, his stamp here used as a company identification. Backstamp. Letter routed "per Parsee", private ship, trans-Pacific. Otherwise, letter would have gone via Marseilles or Southampton.

May 23. 8 cents (Hong Kong) rate for single weight outgoing ship letter in use prior to the 8¢ (H.K.) Postal Convention of 1867 rates which rates paid letters all the way, H.K. to U.S.. Rate paid by 2 copies of Issue of 1863 (Sc.10). "B62" is British Post Office number assigned to Hong Kong.



SHIP 4

July 25, 1865. Letter arrived San Francisco. Two months in transit. It was rated as a Ship Letter, at 2 x local (2¢) rate or 4¢ for delivery at port of arrival, rate by Act. of Mar. 3, 1863, effective July 1, 1863. Otherwise rate was double the domestic rate (6¢ per ½ oz.).

1864

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SHIP LETTERS

NEW YORK

London Inland Branch



March 7, 1864. London Inland Branch "4" obliterator with "hollowed square" backstamp. Red mark shows special treatment of this letter. The Nos. 1 to 10 (9 omitted) without date stamp were in service 1864-67 for use on TOO LATE or LATE FEE letters.

This letter was directed "per 'Olympus' via Queenstown". The Olympus was a 1794 ton Cunarder in service 1860-91. Although she made several trips to N.Y. or Boston, it was not as a contract mail packet, thus mail carried aboard her was rated ship letters.

March 24, 1864. Mail raters in London had marked letter "Private Ship". New York accordingly marked it as an incoming Ship Letter and charged 4¢ collect, being the rate effective July 1, 1863 of 2X the local rate for a letter addressed to the Port of Entry, otherwise double the Domestic was charged.



Shipping Lists show Steamship Olympus, British, Capt. McMickan, arrived New York Mar. 23, 1864.

1839

SHIP LETTERS
LE HAVRE, FRANCE TO NEW ORLEANS
Ship Marengo, Capt. Larkin



P.P.

January 10, 1839. A letter endorsed to the ship Marengo was paid in cash at Le Havre, France. It was noted P.P. = Port Payee, i.e., paid only to the port at Havre. The Marengo sailed from that port direct to New Orleans about this date.

SHIP

New Orleans Daily Picayune, March 1, 1839. PORT OF NEW ORLEANS:
ARRIVED: Ship Marengo, Larkin fm. Havre.

Letter rated at 6¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry, rate shown in manuscript.

1840

SHIP LETTERS

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS TO VERMONT VIA GALVESTON & NEW ORLEANS

S.S. NEW-YORK

May 8, 1840. A letter datelined at Austin, Republic of Texas, requesting scales from Fairbanks & Co. at St. Johnsbury, Vermont. The writer notes that the Texas dollar is worth only 20¢ U.S. He notes also that Austin in 1840 had 1200 inhabitants and about 300 houses, but was growing rapidly. He further remarks that vessels from Boston or New York arrive at Galveston regularly.

This letter was privately carried to Galveston where it was handed unpaid to the purser of the S.S. New-York, a 366 ton packet owned by Charles Morgan. This vessel had been transferred to the Gulf in 1839 where she joined the Neptune and Columbia in the trade between New Orleans and Galveston.



Shipping and Commercial List (N.Y.). Arrived at New Orleans May 26: Steamer New-York, WrightGalveston.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter conveyed over 400 miles at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due, shown in manuscript.

N.B.: Texas became a state December 29, 1845.

SHIP

1846

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BATH, MAINE VIA NEW ORLEANS

Brig Hope Howes

February 28, 1846. Letter and prices current addressed at Matanzas, Cuba and headed: Via Havana. It went under cover to Havana where a forwarding agent endorsed it: pr. Hope Howes.



SHIP

New Orleans Daily Picayune, Tuesday, March 15. The brig Hope Howes, Capt. Shaw arrived yesterday from Havana, having sailed thence on the 6th inst.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, over 300 miles at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1850

SHIP LETTERS

New York to New Orleans

Ship Hudson



August 19, 1850. A bill of lading for merchandise (one pkge axes, one doz. spades, half shovels, etc.) shipped to A. Barrington, Canton, Mississippi aboard the ship Hudson, Captain White, by Wolff & Bishop, New York. They were consigned to Buchanan & Carroll & Co. at New Orleans. This bill of lading went aboard the same vessel as the merchandise.

August 27. N.Y. Shipping List. Cleared Aug. 27, Ship Hudson, White, for New Orleans.



September 27. New Orleans Daily Picayune: Arrived New Orleans; Ship Hudson, White, 30 days from New York, to J.W. Stanton & Co.

New Orleans post office struck the letter with this fine SHIP 6 CENTS, rate for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival of the conveying ship. Only a hint of the circular rim about the rate.

1850

SHIP LETTERS

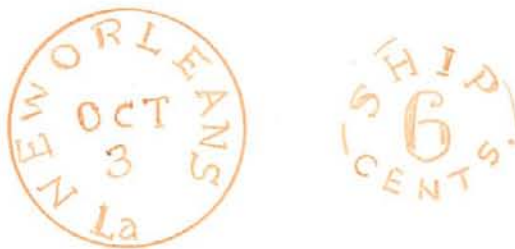
New York to New Orleans

Ship Memphis



August 29, 1850. A consignee's Bill of Lading for one case of merchandise shipped from New York by Rankin, Duryee & Co. aboard the ship Memphis, Captain Coffin. Consignment was to Buchanan Carroll & Co., New Orleans for forwarding to W.A. Drake at Minden, La.

September 7. Ship Memphis sailed from New York.



New Orleans Picayune, October 4, 1850. Arrived New Orleans, Ship Memphis, Coffin, 26 days fm. New York to A. Cohen.

Letter rated at 6¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival. The New Orleans SHIP/6/CENTS shows the usual fragments of the handstamp's rim.

1851

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to New Orleans

SHIP 6 CENTS

January 4, 1851. "Letter" is a charge to Mr. Armand Soubie, Gun Maker, at New Orleans for 5 shillings 10 pence for cargo aboard the Geo. W. Bourne, Williams, Master. Letter was carried aboard the ship with the cargo. Joshua Scholefield & Sons, Liverpool, were the commission merchants.



March 21, 1851. The New York Shipping and Commercial List confirms the above and notes in the April 2 issue: arrived at New Orleans, March 20, Ship George W. Bourne, Williams, from Liverpool.

The New Orleans post office struck it with the fine red encircled SHIP 6 CENTS, i.e. charging 6¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival of the conveying ship.

1851

SHIP LETTERS

VERA CRUZ TO NEW YORK VIA NEW ORLEANS

Schooner Robert Spedden



October 23, 1851. Letter backstamped at Vera Cruz, Mexico. It was handed to the commander of the schooner Robert Spedden at that port. This schooner was bound for New Orleans.



SHIP

SHIP
7

The Daily Picayune, New Orleans, Monday, Nov. 3. ARRIVED ON SUNDAY. Schr. Robt. Spedden, Whitney, fm. Vera Cruz 23d. ult. to W.S. Brown.

Letter struck with two SHIP marks: 16 x 4 mm. SHIP and 18.5 x 13 mm. SHIP/7. The former is listed by ASCC in use 1840-48. Here extended to 1851.

Rated, Act of 1851, letter not over ½-oz., not over 3000 miles and not prepaid at 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter = 7¢.

1853

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to New Orleans

Ship Martha J. Ward



June 16, 1853. Letter datelined at Liverpool. It concerns shipment of one case cutlery and incloses a Bill of Lading marked AS/8. Letter is headed and cover endorsed: pr. "Martha J. Ward."

June 25. Ship Martha J. Ward sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans.



SHIP
6

New Orleans Picayune, August 16. Arrived Ship Martha J. Ward, Storer, fm. Liverpool 24th June to J.P. Whithen & Co. - Point.

Letter rated at 6¢ due for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival. The black 17 x 13mm. SHIP/6 is listed by ASCC as used from 1853-65.

1800

SHIP LETTERS

Hamburg to Portsmouth, N.H. via Philadelphia

Ship Farmer, Capt. Gibson

July 15, 1800. Letter datelined at Hamburg. The writer, George Greenough, did not find an opportunity to send his letter to the United States until the sailing of the ship Farmer on August 7 from Hamburg.



SHIP

22

Gazette of the United States and Daily Advertiser, Philadelphia, October 3, 1800. Arrived Oct. 2, Ship-Farmer, Gibson, 57 days from Hamburg.

Letter struck with the 24mm. circular date stamp at Philadelphia and the small 15 x 3mm. SHIP.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, single 300 to 500 miles at 20¢ + 2¢. Ship Letter charge = 22¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1828

SHIP LETTERS

BRISTOL, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA

British brig Experiment, Capt. John Chapman

February 20, 1828. Letter dated at Leamington, Hants., England by Mrs. Charlotte Taylor inquiring after the deed or title for 1200 acres of land in the county of Sussex, being part of a tract entitled "Lebanon near Indian River." Letter was handed directly aboard the ship as endorsed: pr. Experiment/Capn. John Chapman.



fore Dr
 (6)
 18 1/2



Shipping & Commercial
 List, N.Y., May 17, 1828.
 Arrived Philadelphia May
 14, Br. brig Experiment,
 Chapman...Bristol, England.

Letter was received by
 the post office at Phila-
 delphia and rated at the
 6¢ Ship Letter rate for a
 letter addressed to the

port of entry, shown by the encircled "6".

May 18. This letter was forwarded to Washington City where the Act of 1825 rate for a letter conveyed 80 to 150 miles of 12 1/2¢ was added, total now due was 18 1/2¢, shown by the manuscript addition to the "6".

May 18. The Philadelphia circular date stamp shows receipt back into the postal system.

1838

SHIP LETTERS

CALCUTTA TO BOSTON VIA PHILADELPHIA

Brig George Gardner, Capt. Taylor

April 28, 1838. A letter to T. Bernard Mackay at Boston headed at Calcutta from his brother G.H. Mackay. He describes a "short passage" of 118 days aboard the Eugene, Capt. Glass, U.S.A. to Calcutta. He is settled into a comfortable house "in the City of Palaces & Pagodas, also the City of Dust, Heat, dirty Bengallis & thunder..." On the voyage out the cook and steward were frightened by ghosts aboard the ship, visible only to them!

Letter is endorsed: pr. Geo. Gardner.



SHIP

Shipping and Commercial List (N.Y.)
Arrived Philadelphia September 11:
Brig George Gardner.....Calcutta.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter, 150 to 400 miles, Philadelphia to Boston, at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due, shown in red manuscript.

30mm. date stamp with "A" in PA high, shows the letters of the month arranged in an arc.

1836

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA

Ship United States

February 15, 1836. An invoice from Jevons Sons & Co., Liverpool for various iron and tin-plate items such as tin plates, hoop iron and "best Jevons".



Shipping and Commercial List and New-York Price Current. Arrived Philadelphia, May 13, 1836. Ship United States, Turner.....Liverpool.

Letter rated 6¢ as a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry. This mark also appears in black and, more scarcely, in blue.

CUSTOM-HOUSE PHILADA
I CERTIFY
THAT THIS INVOICE WAS
PRESENTED TO ME ON ENTRY

May 16. Custom House certification at Philadelphia, handstamp inside on face of the document.

1845

SHIP LETTERS

BAHIA, BRAZIL TO NEW YORK VIA PHILADELPHIA

Schooner Almira Fanell



March 6, 1845. Letter datelined at Bahia, Brazil.
It is endorsed: via Philadelphia.



Shipping and Commercial List, New York. Arrived at
Philadelphia, April 4, 1844, schooner Almira Fanell...
...Bahia.

Letter received as a Ship Letter at Philadelphia. The
blue 22 x 3.5 mm. SHIP mark indicates rating status.
Rated, Act of 1825, at the zone rate of 12½¢ for a letter
conveyed 80 to 150 miles, Philadelphia to New York plus
a 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in manuscript.

N.B.: The March 3, 1845, rates had been passed, but
did not take effect until July 1. Ship letter rate
would then have been 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter = 7¢.

1848

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO VERMONT VIA PHILADELPHIA

Barque Lyra

May 20, 1848. Letter dated at Havana concerns farm equipment sent to Havana by the vessel Louisa Fredericka. The addressees Fairbanks were also a factor in the scales manufacturing trade.



SHIP



Shipping and Commercial List (N.Y.): Arrived at Philadelphia May 29, 1848: Barque Lyra, Remington.....Havana.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, single letter conveyed inland over 300 miles, Philadelphia to St. Johnsbury, Vermont, at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 12¢ due, shown by the Philadelphia encircled "12".

1862

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. - SHIP

June 26, 1862. Letter datelined Liverpool concerning consignment of 200 boxes Best Charcoal Tin Plates, shipped p "Adelaide Bell". The Adelaide Bell was a 1091 ton ship rigged vessel, built 1853 at Portsmouth, N.H. It was first registered at the New York Customs May 4, 1863.



SHIP

5

August 25, 1862. Letter marked incoming at Philadelphia with the 32 mm diameter PHILADELPHIA Pa with year date. Letter rated at Act of March 3, 1855 rates, 3¢ not over 3000 miles + 2¢ Ship Letter charge or 5¢ due.

Aug. 24. 1862. Boston Shipping List records arrival of Adelaide Bell, Capt. Robertson, at Philadelphia from Liverpool.

1883

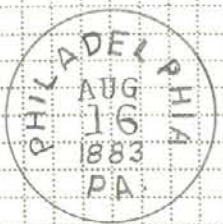
SHIP LETTERS

DEMERARA TO BALTIMORE VIA PHILADELPHIA

Brig Lillian, Capt. Shieve



This letter was handed to Captain Shieve of the Brig Lillian at Demerara, British Guiana, and endorsed: pr Lillian (sic.)



August 16, 1883. Letter received at Philadelphia as a Ship Letter. Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Friday, Aug. 17, 1883: PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, arrived yesterday, Brig Lillian (Br.,) Shieve from Demerara.

Letter was rated, Act of 1863, as a private ship letter at double the domestic letter rate, 3c x 2 = 6c.

August 16, 4 P.M. Letter arrived at Baltimore. It was charged at 6c due, and receipt of the 6c was shown by a pair of the brown 3c postage due stamps, Issue of 1879. Tops of the precancelled stamps are folded over onto the back of the envelope.



1794

SHIP LETTERS

PORTSMOUTH, N.H.

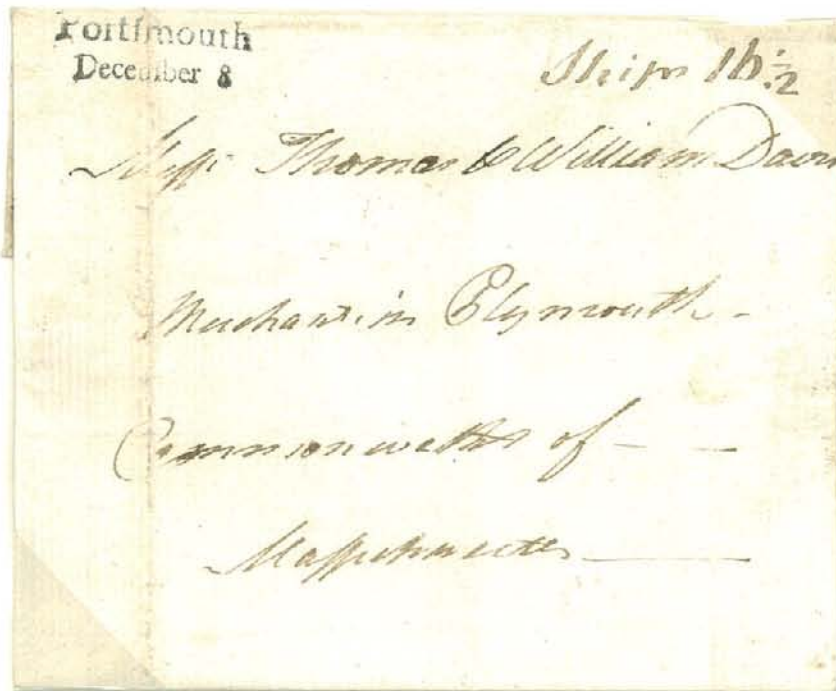
A letter bearing the docket: Capt. Gideon Holbrook letter, October 28 794.

The most logical conveyance for this letter found to date would be: NEW HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE, Tuesday, December 16, 1794.

PORTLAND, Dec. 8. WEST INDIES NEWS
-IMPORTANT-

Capt. Perkins who arrived at Peppereilborough from Martinico on Friday last, informs - That a French naval force of several ships of the line and frigates had arrived in the West Indies, and captured the windward islands, and were about proceeding to leeward..

Peppereilborough, just over the line from Portsmouth in the District of Maine, did not have a post office until 1802 (and even then it was not official), so the logical place for the captain to deposit his mail would have been at Portsmouth.



Portsmouth
December 8

Ship 16 1/2

December 8, 1794. Letter processed at Portsmouth where it received the "long S" straight line handstamp, 26 x 3.5 mm. used 1792-97.

Letter rated, Act of February 20, 1792, as a single letter conveyed 100 to 150 miles, Portsmouth to Plymouth, Mass. at 12½¢ zone rate plus 4¢ Ship Letter charge = 16½¢ due.

PORTSMOUTH
NEW HAMPSHIRE

1804

RATES BY ACT OF MARCH 2, 1799
SHIP LETTER

October 20, 1804. Letter datelined at Leghorn (Livorno), Italy includes a duplicate letter of October 2. It was handed to a ship captain bound for a United States port.



PORTSMOUTH N.H.
JAN 18

51x 4.5 mm straight line, serif letters, PORTSMOUTH in italics. Used 1797-1812

January 18, 1805. Ship arrived at Portsmouth where the letter was handed into the post office. The March 2, 1799 rate applied, zone not over 40 miles, of 8¢, Portsmouth to Newburyport plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 10¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1852

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO NEW YORK VIA WILMINGTON, N.C.

Barque Saranac, Capt. Bigley

October 15, 1852. Docketing notes a letter from J.C. Burnham & Co. at Havannah (sic.) Directionally endorsed: Saranac.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived at Wilmington, N.C. October 31, Barque Saranac, Bigley, Cabanos. Cabanos (Cabanas) is a small port near Havana.

Letter bears the 20.5 x 3.5 mm. straight line SHIP mark of Wilmington seen 1837-1850's, also found in red.

Rated Act of 1851, unpaid letter not exceeding 3,000 miles, 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1859

Bridgetown, Barbadoes to Wilmington, N.C. via St. Thomas
SHIP LETTER

Schooner New Globe
FORWARDING AGENT
H. Chadbourn & Co., Wilmington, N.C.

January ,28, 1859. Letter datelined at Bridgetown, Barbadoes.
David Sawyer writes to his wife in Millbridge, Maine about the brig
Cuba leaving soon for Cienfuegos.



N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived Feb. 20 at Wilmington,
N.C. Schr. New Globe, Tubbets,.....St. Thomas.

This letter was handled by the Forwarding Agent. H. Chadbourn & Co.
at Wilmington who applied their unusual embossed mark which made 8
impressions on this letter. They were no doubt agents for the schooner
New Globe. The letter was put into the mails as an unpaid Ship Letter.

February 22. Wilmington, N.C. date stamp. The letter was rated,
Act of 1855, not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., conveyed not over 3000 miles at 3¢ +
2¢ Ship Letter charge = 5¢ due.