

1855

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

PERNAMBUCO, Brazil to BOSTON via SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company R.M.S.P. Avon

The Collins Line

U.S. Mail Steamer Atlantic



Oct. 23, 1855.  
Unpaid letter at  
the British Consular  
Post Office  
Pernambuco. It  
was endorsed via  
Southampton by  
the Royal Mail  
Steamer Avon, a  
1350 ton, 213 x  
34 ft. wooden  
paddle steamer  
capable of 8½  
knots. In service  
1843-62.



Nov. 14. Transit  
at London.  
Letter was routed  
to Liverpool  
where it was put  
aboard the U.S. Mail Steamer Atlantic, Capt. Wilson, of the Collins Line.  
She sailed Nov. 17, 1855 for New York.

45 24

Blake 830.

U.S. from Brazil via S'hampton. As letter  
went transatlantic, England-U.S., by a U.S.  
packet (Collins Line), U.S. was to retain  
16¢ sea + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢. Balance  
(45¢ - 21¢ = 24¢) was credited to Britain,  
as shown by mss. "24".

Marked aboard ship  
with the 1854 rate  
of 45¢ collect for  
a ½-oz. letter to



Blake 811.

Dec. 1. Records show  
Atlantic arrived N.Y. Nov.  
30. Mail bulked to Boston  
where this backstamp struck.

1856

BAHIA, BRAZIL TO BALTIMORE VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

R.M.S.P. Tay

Cunard Line

R.M.S. Persia

45¢ Brazil Rate, effective April 1852 - Jan. 1868



June 13, 1856. Letter datelined at Bahia, Brazil and posted unpaid into the British Consular Post Office where it received this backstamp.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Tay departed from Rio de Janeiro on June 14 and picked up this letter at Bahia where she touched on June 17.



45

July 9. Tay arrived at Southampton, same day transit at London, backstamp. The Exchange Office debited United States for the 1 shilling (24¢) packet rate, Bahia to U.K. plus 8d. (16¢) transatlantic by British packet, total 40¢ shown in manuscript.

July 12. R.M.S. Persia departed from Liverpool on her 4th outbound passage, transatlantic.



45

July 23. Persia arrived at New York. The 5¢ U.S. inland postage was added to the 40¢ British debit making 45¢ due.

NEW-YORK/BR. PKT. mark is 27mm. diameter.

1860

U.S. TO RIO DE JANEIRO VIA SOUTHAMPTON

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

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.: R.M.S.P. Tyne. Southampton to Rio



PAID

45

April 23, 1860. A letter paid at Bath, Maine, backstamp, at the 45¢ rate per ½-oz. to Brazil via England, effective April 1853 to January 1868.

40



April 24. Boston Exchange Office transit backstamp. Britain was credited with 16¢ transatlantic postage (British Packet) + 24¢ British Packet rate, England to Brazil (24¢ equivalent to one shilling), total 40¢. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inalnd. Mails bulked to New York by rail.

April 25. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed from New York, arrived at Queenstown May 4.



May 7. London transit postmark. Letter was forwarded to Southampton to meet the May 9 sailing of R.M.S.P. Tyne for the Brazils and the River Plate.

June 2. Tyne arrived at Rio de Janeiro.

This letter directs Capt. Ephraim Delano to take a cargo of coffee to New Orleans.

1860

BUENOS AYRES. ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company R.M.S.P. Tyne

North Atlantic Steamship Company S.S. Atlantic

33¢ Argentina rate, effective April 1859 - Jan. 1. 1861

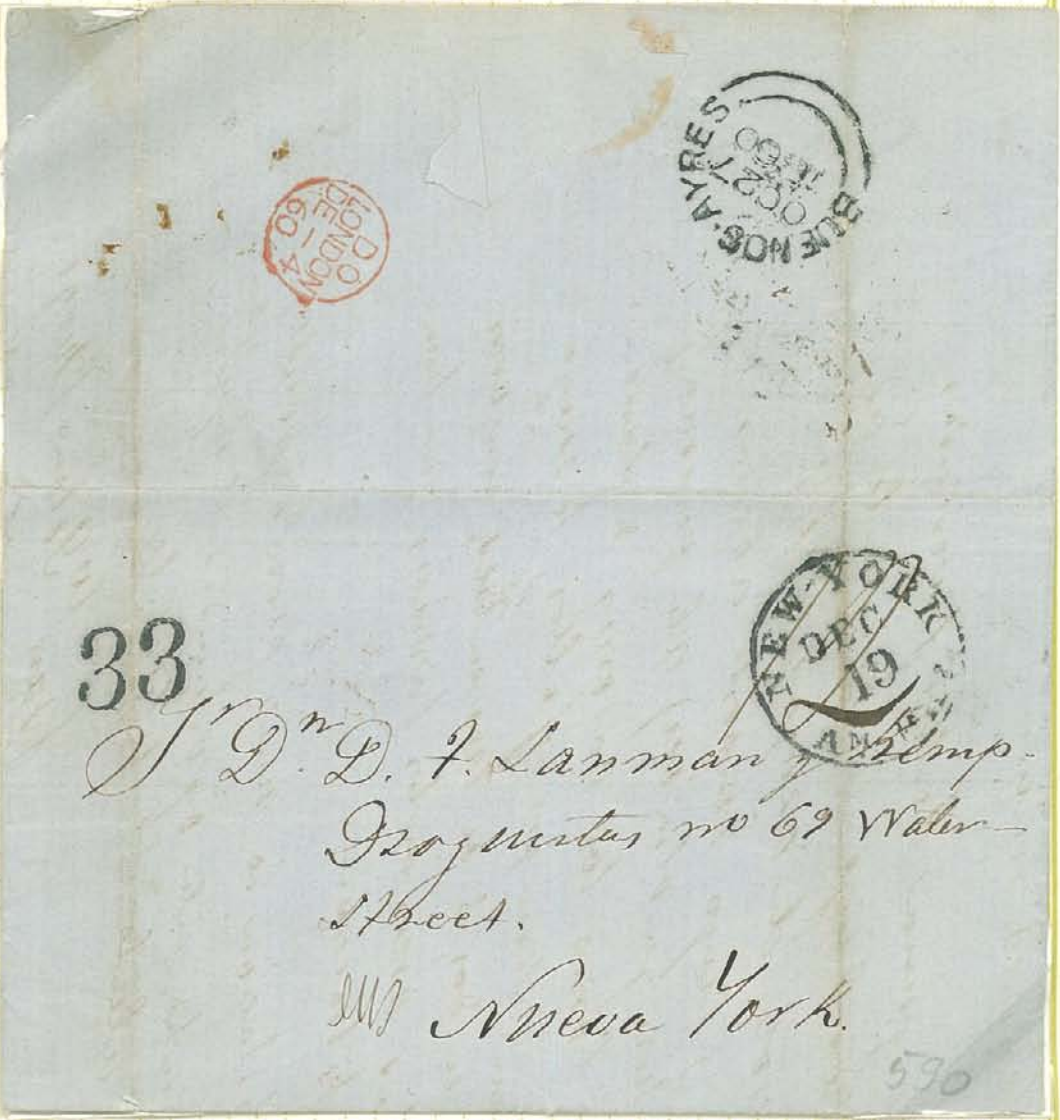
In 1859 the North Atlantic Steamship Company bought the ex-Collins liners Atlantic, Baltic and Adriatic for the New York-Aspinwall service, but they could not compete. They, therefore, attempted to establish a run New York-Southampton-Havre. Altogether, the line made six transatlantic round voyages. This cover was carried on the last return voyage of the line.



Oct. 27, 1860.  
British Consular  
backstamp. The  
Royal Mail Steam  
Packet Co. R.M.  
S.P. Tyne dep-  
arted Buenos  
Ayres Oct. 30,  
departed Rio de  
Janeiro Nov. 8,  
arrived South-  
ampton Dec. 3.



Dec. 4. Transit  
backstamp at Lon-  
don. The U.S.  
mails were routed  
to Cowes where  
they were picked  
up by the Atlantic  
on the evening of  
the 5th.



33

Dec. 19. Arrived N.Y. Atlantic, Gray, Havre and Cowes on the evening of Dec. 5, 53 pass. and \$850,000 in specie to North Atlantic Steamship Company.... Rated 33¢ due. British handling was 12¢ (6d.), shown as 12¢ credit to England by manuscript "12". Balance (33¢ - 12¢ = 21¢) was 16¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland, retained from the 33¢ collected from Lanman & Kemp.

1861

BUENOS AYRES. ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company R.M.S.P. Oneida

Inman Line

S.S. City of Washington

45¢ Argentina rate, effective Jan. '61 - Jan. 1, 1868

Rate broken down:	U.S. Inland	5¢	
	Transatlantic	16¢	
	British Transit	24¢	(1 shilling)
		<u>45¢.</u>	

BUENOS AYRES  
 MAY 28  
 1861

May 28, 1861.  
 British Consular Office backstamp. R.M.S.P. Oneida departed from Buenos Ayres May 29, departed Rio de Janeiro June 8, arrived Southampton July 3.

LONDON  
 JY - 3  
 61

July 3. London transit backstamp. City of Washington departed L'pool July 3, picked up this letter July 4 at Q'tn.

NEW YORK, AM. PKT.  
 JUL 16

90

via Southampton }  
 PRM to from }  
 Buenos May 28/61 }

90

Messrs Larman & Kemp

69, 71 & 73 Water St

New York

230

July 16. City of Washington, Brooks, arrived in the PM at N.Y. to John G. Dale. "For the past 6 days has had continual fog. 4th inst. off Salters passed S.S. Glasgow bound up."

Double rated letter of 45¢ x 2 = 90¢ shown by handstamp, due. Debit to U.S. of 24¢ x 2 = 48¢ (mms. notation) for British handling, Buenos Ayres to Southampton. Transatlantic by American Packet so U.S. retained 16¢ Sea + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ x 2 (double) = 42¢.

1862

BUENOS AYRES, ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

R.M.S.P. Magdalena, Buenos Ayres to Southampton  
Inman Line

S.S. Glasgow, Queenstown to New York.

45¢ Argentine rate, effective Jan. 1861 to Jan. 1, 1868.



48 CENTS

90



June 26, 1862. Letter datelined Buenos Ayres and posted unpaid at the British Consular Office, backstamp.

June 28. R.M.S.P. Magdalena of the Royal Mail Line departed from Buenos Ayres. Her dates were: Montevedio, June 30; Rio de Janeiro, July 11; Southampton, August 6.

August 6. London transit backstamp. Britain debited U.S. at British charges 24¢ (1 shilling) per ½-oz. x 2 = 48¢. S.S. Glasgow of the Inman Line departed from Liverpool this date, picked up the westbound mails at Queenstown on August 7.

August 20. Glasgow arrived at New York. U.S. charges were 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ per ½-oz. x 2 = 42¢ for a double letter. Added to the 48¢ British charges, total of 90¢ due for a double 45¢ rate letter.

1862-63

BUENOS AYRES. ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company R.M.S.P. Tyne

Cunard Line

R.M.S. China

45¢ Argentina rate, effective Jan. '61 - Jan. 1, 1868

Rate broken down:	U.S. Inland	5¢	
	Transatlantic	16¢	)
	British Transit	24¢	) = 40¢
		45¢.	



Nov. 27, 1862.  
 Consular Office  
 backstamp.  
 Letter unpaid  
 at Buenos Ayres  
 from which port  
R.M.S.P. Tyne  
 departed Nov.  
 29, departed  
 Rio de Janiero  
 Dec, 9, arrived  
 Southampton Jan.  
 2, 1863.



Jan. 2, 1863.  
 Transit back-  
 stamp at London.  
R.M.S. China  
 left L'pool Jan.  
 3 on her 4th  
 outbound voyage,  
 picked up this  
 letter at Q'town  
 on Jan. 4th.



January 14, 1863. The China arrived at New York  
 this date where the Exchange Office marked it for 45¢  
 collect. As all handling was by Britain, U.S. retained  
 only 5¢ for U.S. Inland (see above), and credited  
 Britain for the remaining 40 CENTS. This "rocker"  
 accountancy mark is scarce.

40 CENTS 45

1865

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Parana, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia, Queenstown to New York  
French Rate via Calais

In October 1860, France concluded a postal convention with Brazil whereby French Convention mail could be sent by either French or British Packets. Mail sent under the French Convention were routed via Calais, France whether by French or British Packet, the latter passing through British ports. The French rate to the U.S. was at 30¢ per ½-oz. and letters so handled bear Calais transit handstamps. At the same time, the British Packet rate was 45¢ per ½-oz., thus it was cheaper to send letters weighing not over ½-oz. at the 30¢ French Convention rate. A letter over ½-oz., but not over 1-oz. would cost 60¢ under the French rate, but still only 45¢ at the British rate.

INSUFFICIENTE

CORRIEIRO GERAL DA CORTE  
8  
18 65  
2  
BRAZIL



January 28, 1865. Letter datelined at Porto Alegre, Brazil. Postage, Porto Alegre to Rio de Janeiro had been paid by a Brazilian stamp across the reverse join, removed on opening the letter. The backstamp INSUFFICIENTE showed that this was not sufficient postage to get the letter beyond Rio de Janeiro.

February 8. Transit backstamp at Rio. This letter just missed the sailing of R.M.S.P. Oneida on Feb. 8, and had to await the sailing of R.M.S.P. Parana, which departed Rio on March 11, arrived at Southampton on April 5.

BRESIL  
7  
AVAIL  
65  
CALAIS  
27

April 7. The bagged French Convention mails were received at Calais and so identified by the French Brazil mark. The U.S. was debited for 21¢ French Mail, Brazil to Calais and British handling + 6¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 27¢.

April 8. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 9th where this letter went aboard. She arrived at N.Y. April 19. The U.S. added 3¢ U.S. Inland to the 27¢ debit, total 30¢. Payment in optional depreciated paper currency was shown at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.43 x 30¢ = 43¢ due in U.S. NOTES.





Letter dated Jan. 28, 1865 at Porto Alegre. Brazil stamp missing on cover join, recto, to pay local postage, Porto Alegre to Rio de Janeiro. (Smudged mark on face probably Porto Alegre.) "INSUFFICIENTE" in red oval backstamp to indicate Brazilian stamp insufficient beyond Rio.

Missed sailing by RMSP Oneida which departed on Feb. 8, letter had to wait sailing of RMSP Parana, Rio March 11, Southampton April 5. BRESIL/CALAIS in red (Salles 1184) 7 AVRIL.

Debit to U.S. of 21¢ for French and British transit + 6¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 27¢. U.S. added 3¢ for U.S. Inland to total 30¢, the French Mail rate from the Brazils.

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I have 3 covers (copies enclosed including above) that are strange. All 3 went by British Packet, Brazils to England, thence to U.S. Yet all show the BRESIL/CALAIS entry marks. I have covers from So. America to France by Royal Mail with these or similar marks, which make sense. Salles notes that these CALAIS marks are found on mail to France from "the Brazils" by British Packet.

The only thing I can figure on these is that they were mis-sorted and ended up in the bags to France, the error discovered at Calais and the letters sent back to England in closed bags as though by French Mail. The reason I assume that is that all bear the 21¢ French and British transit debit to U.S., and 2 have added 6¢ transatlantic as they were to go by British Packet transatlantic.

Lanman & Kemp got a bargain here at the 30¢ French rate. Had the letters been properly handled through London, then U.S. would have been debited 24¢ (1/-) as a British Packet letter, Brazil to England + 16¢ Sea + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 45¢ rate by British Packet via Southampton or Falmouth. It looks as if the French grabbed some exchange money they weren't entitled to.

Does my thought that these are mis-sorted letters make sense?

1865-66

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Douro, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD: S.S. Hansa, Southampton to New York

French Convention Rate via Calais

The Brazil-French Convention rate of October 1860 to the U.S. was 30¢ per ¼-oz. Mail could be forwarded from Brazil by British or French Packets as French Mail at this time. Mails, even though on the same British Packet but as British mails were rated at 45¢ per ½-oz. Thus, it was cheaper to send mail under ½-oz. as French Convention mail. Under the French Mail, letters of ¼-½-oz. would be rated at 60¢.



December 8, 1865. An unpaid letter posted at Rio de Janeiro. It mentions several enclosures. Letter is endorsed: pr. Str. Douro Via Southampton.

December 9. R.M.S.P. Douro departed from Rio for Southampton via Brazilian ports. She arrived at Southampton on December 31.

Jan. 2, 1866. "French Mail" handled through Calais. As this letter weighed over ¾-oz., but not over 1 oz., the U.S. was debited for a treble letter at 21¢ x 3 = 63¢ shown in manuscript. Mails were forwarded back through England.

Dec. 31. S.S. Hansa, NGL, departed Bremen, picked up this letter at Southampton January 4, 1866.

Jan. 21. Hansa arrived N.Y.. U.S. added 6¢ transatlantic (Am. Pkt.) + 3¢ U.S. Inland = 9¢ x 3 = 27¢ to the 63¢ French debit, total 90¢, the triple French Mail rate. This could be paid in depreciated paper currency so the 90¢ due in gold was also shown at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.34 x 90¢ = 121¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



Handwritten notes in blue ink, including a large '3' and a calculation: 121 / 90.



Letter dated Dec. 7, 1865 at Rio de Janeiro. BRAZIL cds: 8 DEC 1865.

R.M.S.P. Douro (as endorsed) Rio 9 Dec. 1865  
 So'ton 31 "

BRESIL/CALAIS in red 2 JAN, 1866.

NGL Hansa, Bremen 31 Dec. '65; So'ton 4 Jan. '66; N.Y. 20 Jan.

Debit to U.S. triple letter @ 21¢ x 3 = 63 (¢) in blue crayon. U.S. added  
 6¢ transatlantic (Am. Pkt.) + 3¢ U.S. Inland = 9¢ x 3 = 27¢ + 63¢ = 90¢.



Dated October 20, 1869 at Rio Grande. Brazilian stamp missing at cover join  
 recto for conveyance Rio Grande to Rio de Janeiro. Rio de J. transit Nov. 25, 1869.

London, Belgian, Brazil and River Plate Royal Mail Steamship Co.

S.S. City of Rio de Janeiro. Rio Nov. 29, 1869  
 St. Vincent Dec. 11  
 Falmouth 20

Cunard Line: R.M.S. Java: QT Dec. 26: N.Y. Jan. 6, 1870

U.S. debited for 21¢ French and British handling + 6¢ transatlantic (Br. Pkt.) =  
 27¢. U.S. added 3¢ U.S. Inland, total 30¢ rate.

1866

BRAZIL TO U.S. PER FRENCH PACKET VIA BORDEAUX  
Ligne du Bresil: Paquebot Navarre, Pernambuco to Bordeaux  
HAPAG: S.S. Borussia, Southampton to New York



21

January 30, 1866. An unpaid letter dated and posted at Pernambuco, Brazil. The French paquebot Navarre had departed from Rio de Janeiro on January 24 and touched at Bahia the 28th. She arrived at Pernambuco the 30th where this letter went on board.

February 17. Navarre arrived at Bordeaux, letter processed on the 18th, transit mark at Bordeaux. The U.S. was debited for 21¢ French Packet and British transit. The French office knew that routing was to be by American Packet, so no transatlantic charges were made.

February 17. S.S. Borussia of the Hamburg-American Line departed from Hamburg and touched at Spathampton the 21st for the U.S. Mails.



March 8. Borussia arrived at New York where the Exchange Office added 6¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + 3¢ U.S. inland to the 21¢ debit, total 30¢ due in gold. This was converted to the optional payment in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.30 x 30¢ = 39¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Rhone, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

HAPAG: S.S. Germania, Southampton to New York



January 26, 1866. Company handstamp at Buenos Ayres. Letter was posted unpaid at the British Consular post office at Buenos Ayres, backstamp. The Royal Mail branch packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres on January 27 for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo.

February 8. The main line packet R.M.S.P. Rhone sailed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via the Brazilian ports and Lisbon. She arrived at Southampton on March 4.

March 5. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for 24¢ (equivalent to one shilling) the British Packet Letter rate from Argentina to England.

March 4. S.S. Germania, Hamburg-American Line, departed from Hamburg, called at Southampton March 7 where this letter went aboard.

March 18. Germania arrived at New York, letter processed on the 19th. The U.S. added to the 24¢ British debit 16¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland to total 45¢, the letter rate from Argentina to the U.S. via England. This was due in gold, so it was converted to depreciated paper money at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.27 x 45¢ = 57¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



24 CENTS



1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Rhone, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

INMAN LINE: S.S. City of Washington, Queenstown to New York



January 26, 1866. An unpaid letter put into the mails at the British Consular post office at Buenos Ayres, backstamp.

January 27. The branch packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, Uruguay. She touched at the latter port January 29.

February 8. The main line packet R.M.S. Rhone, with the Buenos Ayres and Brazil mails aboard, departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports and Lisbon. She arrived at Southampton on March 4.



24 CENTS

March 5. London transit backstamp. Here the U.S. was debited for the one shilling (24¢) Royal Mail packet letter rate, Argentina to Britain.

March 7. S.S. City of Washington, Inman Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter at Queenstown at her call there on the 9th.



March 19. City of Washington arrived at New York where the Exchange Office added 16¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ to the 24¢ British debit = 45¢, the Argentina rate via Southampton. This was due in gold, so the Exchange Office showed the optional payment in depreciated currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.27 x 45¢ = 57¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

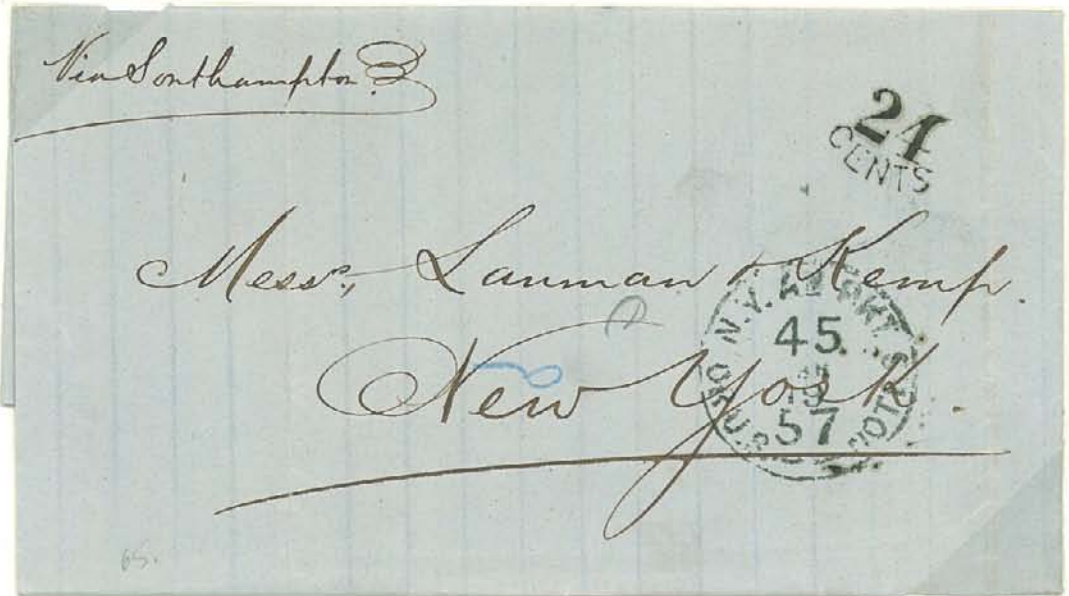
1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Rhone, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

HAPAG: S.S. Germania, Southampton to New York



24  
CENTS

January 27, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at Buenos Ayres, Argentina and endorsed: Via Southampton. Backstamped at the British Consular office. The Royal Mail branch line packet Arno departed from Buenos Ayres this date for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, January 29.

February 2. R.M.S.P. Rhone of the main line departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports.

March 4. Rhone arrived at Southampton. U.S. was debited for the one shilling (24¢) rate from the River Plate to England by British Packet.

March 4. S.S. Germania of the Hamburg-American Line departed from Hamburg, touched at Southampton March 7 where this letter went aboard.



March 18. Germania arrived at New York, letter processed March 19. The U.S. added 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. INland = 21¢ to the 24¢ British debit, total 45¢, the single rate to the U.S. from Argentina by British packet via Southampton, due in gold. This was converted to depreciated paper currency at the day's ratio of 1.67 x 45¢ = 57¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno. Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Douro. Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

INMAN LINE: S.S. City of New York, Queenstown to New York



February 26, 1866. An unpaid letter "Via Southampton" posted at the British Consular office at Buenos Ayres, backstamp. Letter also bears the dated company stamp of Mantels & Pfeiffer. They request Florida Water. Lanman & Kemp had not sent a previous order, so missed large sales at Carnival Time.

February 28. The branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, Uruguay. She touched at the latter port on March 1.

March 11. The Royal Mail main line packet R.M.S.P. Douro departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports.

April 4. Douro arrived at Southampton, same day transit backstamp at London. U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢), the British Packet Letter rate, Argentina to England.

April 4. S.S. City of New York, Inman Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown April 15 where this letter went aboard.

April 16. City of New York arrived at New York. U.S. added 16¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + %6 U.S. Inland to the 24¢ debit, total 45¢, the rate Argentina to U.S. via Southampton, due in gold. The optional payment in depreciated paper money was converted at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.22 x 45¢ = 55¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



24 CENTS





1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Line Packet Arno, Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Rhone, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Scotia, Queenstown to New York



April 28, 1866. An unpaid letter dated at Montevideo and endorsed: p Steamer, via Southampton. It was received into the Uruguayan post on April 29.

April 26. The branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro, touched at Montevideo April 29 where this letter went aboard.

May 9. The Royal Mail main line packet R.M.S.P. Rhone departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports and Lisbon. She arrived at Southampton on May 30.



May 31. London transit backstamp. This letter was at first struck erroneously with a debit to the U.S. of "21 CENTS", an impossible amount to debit by this route. The error was obliterated with a pen stroke and the U.S. was then debited with one shilling (24¢) for the Uruguay to England

Royal Mail Packet Letter rate plus 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet), total 40¢.

June 2. R.M.S. Scotia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 3rd where this letter went aboard.

June 12. Scotia arrived at N.Y. The U.S. added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit to total the 45¢ rate from Uruguay via Southampton. 45¢, due in gold, was converted to depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.35x 45¢ = 61¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Douro, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia, Queenstown to New York



May 28, 1866. An unpaid letter endorsed "Via Southampton" posted at Montevideo, Uruguay. The branch line Royal Mail Steamer Arno had departed from Buenos Ayres this date, touched at Montevideo May 30, where this letter went aboard, en route to Rio de Janeiro.

June 6. R.M.S.P. Douro of the Royal Mail main line sailed from Rio de Janeiro, arrived at Southampton June 29.



40 CENTS

June 30. London transit backstamp. The U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢), the British Packet rate from Uruguay to England plus 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 40¢.



June 30. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown July 1, where this letter went aboard.

July 12. Persia arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the British 40¢ debit to total 45¢, the rate from Uruguay by British Packet via Southampton. As this was due in gold, the 45¢ was converted at the day's ratio of gold to depreciated paper currency at 1.47x 45¢ = 66¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

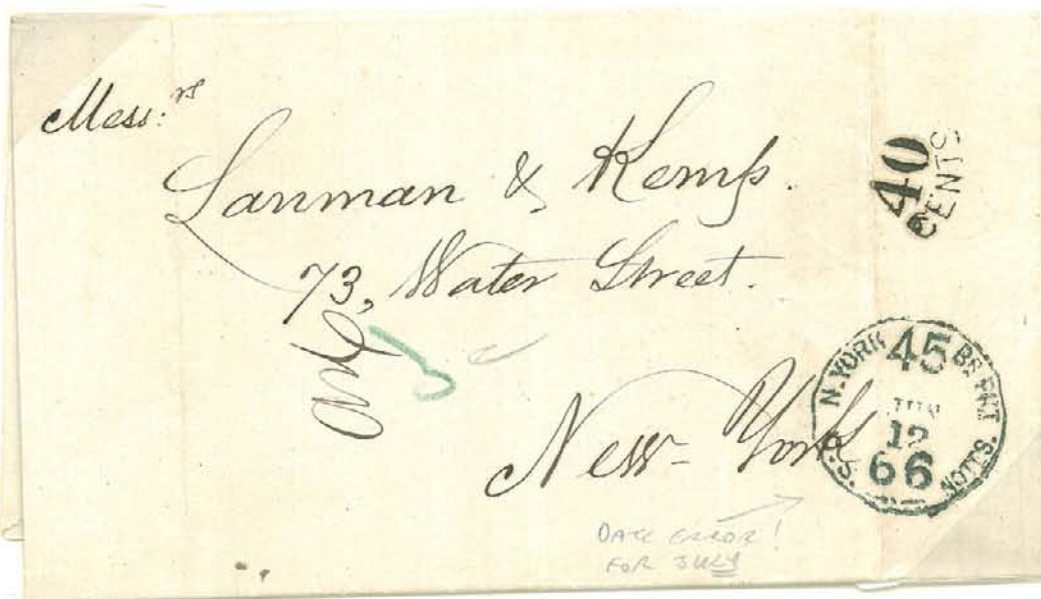
1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Douro, Bahia, Brazil to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia, Queenstown to New York

The Royal Mail Line of steam packets operated from the River Plate in two stages from 1851-1869. Branch steamers took the mails from Buenos Ayres, Argentine to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil via Montevideo, Uruguay. The main line steamships then sailed from Rio to Southampton as follows: Rio, Bahia, Pernambuco, St. Vincent (Cape Verdes), Teneriffe, Madeira, Lisbon, Southampton. [In 1858 Teneriffe and Madeira were omitted.]



June 7, 1866. Letter datelined at Bahia and headed Vapor North America, intending that it should go directly to New York via St. Thomas by the U.S.M.S. North America of the United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co. However, no directional endorsement was placed on the face of the cover, and this would have been of no consequence anyway, as North America had sailed from Rio de Janeiro May 25 and was at St. Thomas on June 13.

June 8. R.M.S.P. Douro had sailed from Rio and called at Bahia about June 11 where she picked up the mails for Southampton, arriving there June 29.

June 30. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢) British Packet postage, Bahia to England + 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 40¢.

June 30. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed L'pool, touched at Queenstown July 1 where the U.S. mail went aboard.

July 12. Persia arrived at N.Y.. There is an error in the N.Y. date stamp, it reads "JUN", should be "JUL". U.S. added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit, total 45¢, the ½-oz. rate from Brazil via Southampton. This was converted to its value in depreciated currency at the day's ratio of 1.47 x 45¢ = 66¢ due.



40 CENTS



1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Oneida, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

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



June 26, 1866. An unpaid letter bearing the company stamp of Mantels & Pfeiffer, Buenos Ayres. It was backstamped on even date at the Buenos Ayres British Consular post office.

June 28. The branch packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo.

July 10. R.M.S.P. Oneida of the main line departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton where she arrived on August 2.

August 3. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢) for the Royal Mail Packet Letter rate, Argentina to England plus 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet), total 40¢.

August 4. R.M.S. Cuba, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 5th where she picked up the mails for America.

August 16. Cuba arrived at Boston. The New York mails were forwarded promptly by rail. The N.Y. Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit to total the 45¢ rate from Buenos Ayres via England.

The rate was due in gold, so was converted to its value in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.5 x 45¢ = 66¢ die in U.S. NOTES.

1866

BRAZIL TO U.S. PER FRENCH PACKET VIA BORDEAUX

Ligne J: Paquebot Estramadure, Pernambuco to Bordeaux

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

In 1866 the Ligne du Bresil was designated Ligne J. These French steamers sailed from Bordeaux for Rio de Janeiro via Dakar, Pernambuco, and Bahia. This service was inaugurated by the sailing of Navarre from Bordeaux on March 23, 1866. The cover below was carried on the third return voyage of the line.



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June 28, 1866. An unpaid letter dated at Pernambuco, Brazil. It bears an indistinct circular date stamp of that city of even date.

June 24. Paquebot Estramadure of Ligne J departed from Rio de Janeiro on the 3rd return voyage of the line. She touched at Pernambuco June 28 where this letter went aboard. She arrived at Bordeaux on July 17.

July 18. Transit handstamp at Bordeaux. The French office debited the U.S. for 21¢ French Packet and British handling + 6¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 27¢. Mails from the Brazils via French Packet were made up and rated in France as none show London or British transit marks. They were forwarded closed through England.

July 21. R.M.S. China, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, called at Queenstown the 22nd. where this letter went aboard.

July 31. China arrived at Boston, mails bulked to N.Y. U.S. added 3¢ U.S. Inland to the 27¢ debit, total 30¢ due in gold. This was also shown in depreciated currency at the day's 43¢.

1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro  
R.M.S.P. Rhone, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. China, Queenstown to Boston



July 26, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at the British Consular office at Buenos Ayres, backstamp. The branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres this date for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo at which port she called on July 28.

August 8. The mails to and through Europe were transferred to R.M.S.P. Rhone at Rio de Janeiro, where this main line packet departed for Southampton. She arrived there August 30.



40 CENTS

August 31. London transit backstamp. The U.S. was debited for 24¢ (the one shilling Packet Letter rate, Argentina to England) + 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 40¢.

September 1. R.M.S. China, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 2nd where this letter went aboard.



September 11. China arrived at Boston. The bagged New York mails went there by rail. The N.Y. Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit to total 45¢ rate Argentina to U.S. via Southampton. This was due in gold. As hard currency was not available, this was converted to the equivalent in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold to paper ratio of 1.40 x 45¢ = 63¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno. Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Douro. Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD: S.S. America. Southampton to New York



August 25, 1866. Company handstamp at Buenos Ayres. Letter was posted unpaid at the British Consular post office August 26, backstamp. The Royal Mail branch packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres on August 26 for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, Uruguay.

September 8. The mail line packet R.M.S.P. Douro sailed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports. She arrived at Southampton on September 30.

October 1. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for 24¢ (equivalent to one shilling,) the British Packet Letter rate from Argentina to England.

September 30. S.S. America, North German Lloyd, departed from Bremen, picked up this letter at Southampton on October 3.

October 14. America arrived at New York. The U.S. Exchange Office added 16¢ transatlantic (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ to the 24¢ British debit to total 45¢, the single rate from Argentina via Southampton, due in gold. This was also shown in the optional payment in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.47 x 45¢ = 66¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



24 CENTS



1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Oneida, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD: S.S. Bremen, Southampton to New York



September 29, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at Montevideo, Uruguay to New York. It was routed aboard the branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno. Her route was Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo

Arno departed from Buenos Ayres September 26, picked up the British mails at Montevideo September 29, en route to Rio.

October 10. R.M.S.P. Oneida of the main line sailed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports of Bahia and Pernambuco, touching at St. Vincent, Cape Verde and Lisbon en route.

November 3. Oneida arrived at Southampton. London transit backstamp November 5.

U.S. was debited with the one shilling Packet Letter rate, Uruguay to England, equivalent to 24¢, shown in manuscript.

November 4. S.S. Bremen of Norddeutscher Lloyd departed from Bremen, touched at Southampton November 7, where this letter went aboard.

November 19. Bremen arrived at N.Y. where the Exchange Office added 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢ to total 45¢, the 1/61 rate via England. This was adjusted to depreciated currency at 1.35 x 45¢ = 61¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



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