Single rate 10 cents per half oz, ocean steamship mail “blanket rate.” Originated at Havana, Cuba, 9/6/1871 per inner docketing, the letter was carried privately to St Thomas, Danish West Indies, via the Pelayo, where it was turned over to a forwarding agent. The forwarder applied the U.S. 10 cent Jefferson stamp and posted it at the local St Thomas Post Office, which dispatched it aboard the American contract mail carrier, the New York & Brazil Steamship Company steam packet North America, for carriage to Rio de Janeiro. From there it was conveyed by Great Britain’s Pacific Steam Navigation Line Lusitania, arriving Buenos Aires 10/26/1871 per inner docketing. Of 30+ known period covers from Cuba to Argentina, only the earliest three have a U.S. stamp with no British stamp, and thus this is an important rarity.

This is the handstamp of the St Thomas forwarding agent J. Niles & Co, which is applied to both front and reverse. Niles received the letter from Havana and placed it into the mails.

This St Thomas cds of the local Danish Post Office which actually processed the letter for dispatch aboard the monthly Brazil Line steamer calling at St Thomas enroute.
Single rate 13 cents per half oz, British mails via St. Thomas. This whaling ship correspondence was mailed at New Bedford, MA, 4/3/1876 and dispatched from New York 4/15/1876 to Bermuda aboard the New York & Bermuda Steamship Line Canima, arriving on or about 4/18/1876. Here, it was placed aboard the monthly Halifax to St. Thomas British mail packet which called at Bermuda enroute. The British postal representative at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies coordinated its dispatch to Barbados aboard the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company packet Corsica which departed 4/26/1876 per circular datetamp on the reverse. The Corsica arrived at Barbados 4/29/1876 and the Barbados PO sorted the mail 4/30/1876 per backstamp. The letter was held until called for by the addressee, Captain H. A. White, master of the sailing bark Seine, 234 tons, a whaler out of New Bedford. The Seine was on an extended whaling voyage in the south Atlantic Ocean. It had sailed from New Bedford in July 1875 and did not return until October 1876, during which period it took 575 barrels of sperm-oil and 25 barrels of whale-oil.

Applied on date of dispatch by the NYPO Exchange Office, the "8" acknowledged the 8 cents credit to England for the onward movement of the letter from Bermuda to Barbados.

The St Thomas PO applied this circular datetamp on the reverse to denote its enroute handling for the British postal representative at that Danish-owned island.
Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet direct. This letter was mailed at Woodstock, VT, 1/17/1874 and dispatched from New York 1/23/1874 by United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Company steamer *Merrimack*, arriving St Thomas DWI 1/29/1874 per backstamp. The British postal representative at St Thomas sent it in the mails aboard a Royal Mail Steamship Company steamer which arrived Barbados 1/31/1874 per backstamp. Barbados is a scarce destination for covers of this period.

The NY Exchange Office applied the cds at left on the date of dispatch from New York which was several days after the letter’s arrival from Woodstock, VT. Normal U.S. practice was to apply the exchange office cds on the date of dispatch overseas.

This is the cds of the British postal representative at St Thomas and was applied to the reverse to show its enroute handling.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To BERMUDA

Continental with secret mark

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet direct mail. This cover with its letter enclosed was mailed at New York on 7/9/1874 and sent by American steam packet to Bermuda, mistaken believed by the writer to be in the West Indies. Addressed to a gentleman who was secretary to the immigration board, it was received by him 7/13/1874 per inner docketing.

The New York Foreign Mail cancellation of a multiple pointed star type is one of the most common, although in this case used to a most uncommon NYFM destination.

Earliest Use
2/3/1873

Latest Use
5/15/1875
Paid as single rate 17-cents per half oz, American packet via Colon, Panama, then British packet onward to Bolivia. However, the letter should have been rated as 5-cents per half oz UPU, as Bolivia joined the UPU effective 4/1/1886, over nine months before this letter was sent. Mailed 12/27/1886 at Dover, NJ, sent by rail to NY arriving the same day per backstamp, where it was sent by steam packet to Colon. There it crossed the isthmus by the Panama Railroad to Panama City, where the British exchange office sent it on to Bolivia by British packet of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Pre-1890 US covers to Bolivia are quite scarce. In this same correspondence, another mailed 6/30/1887 using the same pre-UPU rate is known.
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To CUBA

Continental with secret mark

Per Steamer

S. Corte-Real.

Box 384.

HAVANA.
CUBA.

Single rate 10 cents per half oz, American packet. Mailed at New York and dispatched on a Southern Mail Steamship Company packet which departed for Cuba on 5/1/1875 and arrived at Havana on 5/12/1875 per backstamp. Note the 21x13mm rectangular "NA 1RL" internal postage due rating handstamp indicating 1 reale (equivalent to 12.5 US cents) to collect from the addressee, as the US franking paid postage only to the Cuban port. In addition, there is a blue double oval 5/13/1875 merchant datetamp on the reverse indicating the date of receipt by the firm of S. Corte-Real. The cover contains a business letter from the National Bank Note Company replying to previous correspondence.

This New York Foreign Mail cancel of an elaborate positive geometric type was applied by the Foreign Division of the NYPO.
National Bank Note Company,
New York, 30th April 1876

S. Cortes Real
Havana, Cuba

Dear Sir,

Your valued favor of 24th inst. is received. It is impossible to make an exact estimate of the cost of the labels referred to without knowing how much reading matter there will be in the autographic notice, and how many labels would be required by your first order. We shall therefore feel obliged if you will be so good as to send us the wording arranged as you wish it to appear on the labels and, if possible, a sample of the quality of paper required, advising us at the same time what number of labels you will order at first and the approximate quantity that you would require for months or years thereafter.
From DOMINICAN REPUBLIC to CANADA via NEW YORK

10 cents per half oz, ship letter carried on a non-contract steamship to New York. Posted at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 12/14/1889, per postmark, postal authorities apparently dispatched it as a ship letter aboard the steamship Carib. The New York PO sent it onward to Canada as fully prepaid mail (2 cents to the captain of the Carib, with the US retaining the remaining 8 cents). This method of mail movement was unusual but sometimes used in the West Indies when a sender did not wish to await the departure of the next contract steamer, even though the letter would have been rated lower at the Dominican Republic currency equivalent of the 5 cent universal UPU rate. The Dominican Republic joined the UPU in 1880. PF Certificates 170559 & 521330

This “opera glass” transit datestamp was applied to the back of the letter by the Foreign Division of the New York PO upon receipt, and also denotes the date forwarded onward by rail to the Canadian border exchange point.
Double rate 18 cents per half oz, British mails via St Thomas. Mailed 6/3/1871 at Philadelphia, PA, per backstamp and sent by rail to New York, the terminal of the West Indies mail packets. The red-orange manuscript “16” denoting the 16 cents credit to Great Britain and New York circular datestamp were applied by the NYPO Foreign Division. That office dispatched it 6/8/1871 by West Indies packet to St Thomas, Danish West Indies. Its estimated arrival at St Thomas is about 6/19/1871. Since the Royal Mail Steamship Company packet departed just prior, the letter was held at St Thomas for the next packet, Elbe, which sailed on 7/2/1871 and arrived Jacmel, Haiti, 7/3/1871. Dominican Republic mails were off-loaded and sent on by local ship to Santo Domingo, arriving 7/6/1871 per faint blue circular datestamp on the front. The letter was held there by the U.S. Consul until called for by its addressee, a U.S. Navy assistant surgeon. This is a very scarce double rate usage to a very scarce destination. Ex Arthur White
Ten Cent Jefferson - Foreign Mail Usages

To NICARAGUA

Single rate 13 cents per half oz, American packet to Colon, then British packet to destination. Mailed at Philadelphia, PA, 1/29/1878 and forwarded by rail to New York where it was dispatched by American steam packet on 1/31/1878 to Colon, Panama (Columbia). Upon arrival at Colon, it was turned over to the British postal agent, who placed it aboard the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamship *Para*, 3805 tons, which departed Colon 2/9/1878, arriving Greytown, Nicaragua, 2/11/1878.

This marking of the New York Post Office Foreign Division indicates an 8 cents credit to Great Britain for the onward carriage of the letter from Colon to Nicaragua.
Double rate 13 cents per half oz, American packet to Colon, then British packet to destination. Mailed at Phoenixville, PA, 3/25/1878 and forwarded by rail to New York where per red circular datestamp it was dispatched by American steam packet on 3/30/1878 to Colon, Panama (Colombia), arriving 4/8/1878. There, it was turned over to the British postal agent, who placed it aboard the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamship Moselle, 3298 tons, which departed Colon 4/10/1878, arriving Greytown, Nicaragua, 4/12/1878. Note the red pencil marking 16/2 in the lower left. This was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division indicating a 16 cents credit to Great Britain and the double rate weight of the letter. Note also in the lower right the black straight line handstamp TRANSIT as well as the Colon circular datestamp applied by the British at Colon.
Incoming mail, fully prepaid, double 10 cents per half oz, inbound steamship letter rate. Per large blue circular handstamp of a Callao, Peru, bookseller on reverse, this letter originated there and was probably carried privately, or possibly by favor of diplomatic pouch, to New York. It was routed through the New York P.O. Foreign Division, where it received a New York Foreign Mail cancel on 4/13/1875 and sent on through domestic mails. The stamps were likely affixed by the Callao bookseller, as he was known to have often done so with his letters to the USA. This is a very rare usage of a New York Foreign Mail cancel.

This New York Foreign Mail cancellation of an elaborate positive geometric type has six positive diamonds in the center and six positive wedges on the outer circle.

Earliest Use
2/26/1875

Latest Use
4/23/1875
To PORTO RICO

Continental with secret mark

Single rate 13 cents per half oz, British mail via Havana or St. Thomas. Mailed 3/22/1876-7 at Haverhill, MA, and forwarded by rail to New York. Although an actual year date is not present on any marking on this cover, the scarce rate under which it was carried was only in effect between July 1875 and May 1877. Thus, the year date can be deduced as either 1876 or 1877. It was dispatched to San Juan, Porto Rico, from New York 4/1/1876-7 by steam packet, and possibly via Havana rather than St. Thomas, due to a lack of any St. Thomas markings normally applied when transiting that intermediate stop. An indistinct Puerto Rico circular datestamp is present on the reverse.

This marking was applied by the NYPO Foreign Division and denotes an 8 cents credit to Great Britain for onward movement.

This 9mm “2” denotes the 2 reales (equal to about 25 cents) internal postage due for carriage within Puerto Rico.