1859-1860 - SUEY - ADEN - MAURITIUS - KING GEORGE'S SOUND - ADELAIDE - MELBOURNE - SYDNEY. MONTHLY SERVICE

1860-1880 - GALLE - KING GEORGE'S SOUND - MELBOURNE - SYDNEY MONTHLY SERVICE THEN IN 1868 EVERY FOUR WEEKS

THIS ROUTING SHOWS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE P&O SERVICE WHICH COMMENCED UPON RECEIPT OF A NEW CONTRACT DATED 12 MARCH 1859.
PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
MELBOURNE TO U.K. VIA MAURITIUS, SUEZ AND MARSEILLES
S.S. Bombay, Melbourne to Suez
S.S. Vectis, Alexandria to Marseilles

September 17, 1859. The barred oval, No. 1 for Melbourne, cancels the 1 shilling rate, stamp 1/- issue of 1859. The letter is endorsed on the face: p R.M.S. Bombay/Via Marseilles. Backstamp at Melbourne.

P. & O. AUSTRALIAN SERVICE: SECOND PHASE.

Following the failure of the European & Australian Royal Mail Co., the P. & O. were awarded a new contract from March 12, 1859. From April 14, 1859 until May 14, 1860, the new contract called for a route via Mauritius (see below.) Owing to the large amounts of coal burned between Mauritius and King George's Sound and Mauritius and Suez a route via Galle was adopted, ending the Second Phase. (Cf.: Kirk, Vol. 1, Pg. 106-109.)

Route, Second Phase, for the letter above was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Bombay</th>
<th>S.S. Vectis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>17-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Sound</td>
<td>25-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>Oct. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 7. Birmingham arrival backstamp tracks with Nov. 4 arrival at Marseilles.
1860

**PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO**

S.S. Ripon, Southampton to Alexandria
S.S. Bengal, Suez to Galle
S.S. Jeddoo, Galle to Sydney

---

August 20, 1860. A letter paid at the 6d. rate to Australia via Southampton, effective April 1860. Rate via Marseilles was 10d. By using the cheaper rate the sender lost a month, as the Pera sailed from Southampton August 20 before this letter could reach her. The letter was held over for the Sept. 20 sailing of the Ripon for Alexandria. P.& O. steamers carried this letter to Victoria, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Ripon</th>
<th>S.S. Bengal</th>
<th>S.S. Jeddoo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southampton Sept. 20 Suez</td>
<td>Oct. 6 Galle</td>
<td>Oct. 22 Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar 25-26 Aden</td>
<td>12 K.G. Sound Nov. 3-5</td>
<td>9-10 Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta 30 Galle</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria Oct. 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 9. Arrival backstamp at Melbourne agrees with recorded arrival date of S.S. Jeddoo.

November 11. Sandhurst, Victoria arrival backstamp.
March 17, 1860. Letter posted at Geelong, Victoria and paid all the way at the 1 shilling rate, stamp 1/- Issue of 1859, lithographed, perf. 12. Geelong is 40 miles S.W. of Melbourne. The "2" obliterator is the post office number of Geelong.

The large "M" is not listed, but is undoubtedly a sorting aid to indicate a letter "Via Marseilles".

P.& O. steamers carried the mails all the way to Marseilles by the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Northam</th>
<th>S.S.Vectis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>April 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Marseilles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>May 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Sound</td>
<td>April 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aden</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May 5, 1860. Derby arrival backstamp tracks with the arrival of Vectis at Marseilles on May 3.
January 15, 1861. A letter paid at Melbourne, Victoria (backstamp) at the January 1, 1857, rate of 39¢ per ½-oz. Victoria to U.S. by British Mail via Marseilles. Letter is endorsed: Via Marseilles. The payment is by Victoria stamps 1d. (2¢) + 4d. (8¢) + 1sh. (24¢) = 34¢, paying all charges except 5¢ U.S. which was collected on receipt, total 39¢. There is a red mss. 8d. (16¢) debit to Victoria for transatlantic carriage.

The P. & O. Line steamers carried this letter as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Bahar</th>
<th>S.S. Nubia</th>
<th>S.S. Valetta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Galle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>24-24</td>
<td>Aden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Geo. Sound</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Suez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>26 Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar. 4 Marseilles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 16. London transit PAID mark.
R.M.S. Africa, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 17th where this letter went aboard.

1861

Sydney Duplex - in use 1857 - 1894

1861

Arrival stamp

Tramway mark

Carlisle AP 18

Langholm AP 18

Sydney 20 Feb 1861
Melbourne 23/24 Feb
K.G.5 1/2 March
Galle 16 March

Galle 19 March
Aden 28 March
Suez 3 April

Alexandria 5 April
Malta 8 April
Marseilles 11 April

P.O. "SALETTE"
P.O. "COLOMBO"
P.O. "VECTIS"

Postal rate: 6d per ½ oz - in effect 1855 to mid 1870
Franked with S.G. #147

Salsette - built 1858 - 1491 tons - 1550 H.P. iron, screw
Colombo - built 1858 - 2127 tons - 1534 H.P. iron, screw
Vectis - built 1849 - 793 tons - 450 H.P. paddle steamer
May 25, 1861. Letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria for New York "Per 'Benares'(S.S.) via Marseilles". Rate of 1 sh. 4d. (overpayment 1d.) as letter went by French Packet to Marseilles, Australia was only credited with 3/6ths of the rate, thus red mms. "8" is Victoria's share.


July 30. U.S. Exchange Office mark. Letter by Am. Pkt. paid to port only, 5¢ inland postage due from recipient.
AUSTRALIA TO U.S. via Ceylon, Suez, Marseilles and London.
P. & O. LINE. S.S. Benares, Sydney to Galle
P. & O. LINE. S.S. Colombo, Galle to Suez.
HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE. S.S. Borussia, Southampton to New York.


July 7-9. Mail in transit overland across Egypt, Suez to Alexandria.

July 9. P.&O. Line. S.S. Vectis departed Alexandria, arrived Marseilles July 15 (Pera departed from Alexandria the same day, but did not arrived at Southampton until July 21.)


July 17. S.S. Borussia, Hamburg American Line, departed from Southampton.

July 30. N.Y. Times:
Arrived at N.Y. Tuesday, July 30, 1861, Borussia, Treutman, Hamburg July 15, Southampton 17th at 5 P.M. with merchandise and passengers to Kunhardt & Co. 24th, lat. 46 lon. 39 spoke Br. ship Evening Star, bound E.; 26th, lat 43 38 lon 47 spoke the ship Flying Childers, bound W. Has had strong westerly winds excepting the last few ds., when had light variable winds. The Borussia brings 39 cabin and 311 steerage passengers.
March 16, 1861. Letter posted at Melbourne, backstamp. The British Post Office Guide of April 1860, finally stabilized the 3-oz. rate from all the Australian States to the U.K. via Suez and Southampton at 6d., here paid by the Victoria Issue of 1858. The corresponding rate via Marseilles was 9d. per 1-oz., 1/- per 2-oz.

Endorsed "per first Mail", this letter went by P. & O. steamers, as follows:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeddo</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25/26</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>May 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>K.G.S.</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>May 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The Nemesis arrived from Calcutta on the 18th in time to meet the Singapore which arrived at Galle with the China mails on the 18th.

May 20. British letters had been forwarded inland, here with an arrival backstamp at Birkenhead on the estuary of the Mersey directly opposite Liverpool.
ENGLAND TO VICTORIA
54 DAYS IN TRANSIT

This cover started its journey aboard the steamer S.S. Pera which departed Southampton on 28 August 1862 for Alexandria, Egypt, via Gibraltar 24-25 Aug., Malta 28 Aug. and arrived Alexandria on 2 September 1862. It was transferred to Egyptian rail for the overland trip to Suez. The mail then went aboard the steamer S.S. Simla which departed on 4 September for Galle, Ceylon via Aden on 9 Sept. and arrived Galle on 17 Sept., 1862. At Galle, the mail were transferred to the steamer S.S. Madras which arrived on 18 September for Melbourne, via King Georges Sound on 2-14 October, and arrived Melbourne on 9 October 1862. The letter was delivered the next day.

S.S. Pera - 2014 tons, iron, screw steamer. First departed Southampton on 4 January 1856 for Alexandria, Egypt.

S.S. Simla - 2441 tons, iron screw steamer. First departed Southampton on 6 May 1856 for Alexandria, Egypt.

S.S. Madras - 1185 tons - iron screw steamer. First departed Southampton on 26 December 1853 for Calcutta. Initial mail service was on 23 April 1853 Calcutta to Suez.
1862

MELBOURNE
1 A
SE 26
62

VICTORIA

BIRMINGHAM
C
NO. 14
62

TRANSL BY POSTAL SHIP:

SS NORTHAM
MELBOURNE 26 SEPT. '62
KING GEORGE 20 2-3 OCT.
GALLE 17 OCT.

SS BENGAL
GALLE 18 OCT. '62
ADEN 27-28 OCT.
SUEZ 3 NOV.
ALEXANDRIA 5 NOV. '62
MALTA 10 NOV.
MARSEILLES 12 NOV.

POSTAL RATE: 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE IN EFFECT 1862 TO MID 1870. THUS A DOUGLAS RATE COVER FRANKED WITH 2 R.14/14 (SIG. A/13)
March 19, 1863. Six pence rate to Australia paid by a copy of Great Britain Issue of 1862. It is cancelled by the London Southern District duplex. 6d. was the Guide of April 1850 per ¼-oz. to Australia via Southampton and British packet. The corresponding rate via Marseilles was 9d. per ¼-oz.

Transit to Australia was by P. & O. steamers, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Ellora</th>
<th>S.S. Simla</th>
<th>S.S. Norham</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>March 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Aden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>29-30</td>
<td>Galle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>April 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>King Geo. Sound May 4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Melbourne 10-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May 10. Melbourne arrival backstamp tracks with the recorded arrival date of Norham at that port.
1864

STIRLING, SCOTLAND DUXEL CANCEL
BROWNELL TYPE 202

LONDON TRANSIT BACKSTAMP

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP

VEHICLE RENTAL

Via Southampton

Robert M. Sutherland &
Messrs. M. Sutherland & Co.
Merchants
Melbourne

TRANSIT BY P&O LINE SHIPS:

**SS POONAH**
Southampton 20 June '64
Gibraltar 25 June
Malta 29 June
Alexandria 3 July

**SS RANGOON**
Suez 6 July '64
Aden 12 July
Galle 20 July

**SS NORTHAM**
Galle 21 July '64
Kung George Sound 5-6 Aug.
Melbourne 11 Aug '64

POSTAL RATE: 6d per 1/2 ounce via Southampton, 1865-1891.
**1864**

**Melbourne** 3 July 64
**London** 64 PAID

---

**Transit by P&O Line Ships:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SS BOMBAY</th>
<th>SS RANGOON</th>
<th>SS DELTA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Melbourne 26 July '64</strong></td>
<td><strong>Galle 18 Aug '64</strong></td>
<td><strong>Alexandria 7 Sept '64</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Postal Rate:** 10d per ½ ounce via Marseilles, INEFFIC 1864 to mid 1870
FRANKED WITH: 6d R.L. #114 (SG #113) 4½d R.L. #118 (SG #112)
The "City of Sydney" was built specifically for the Australasian Steam Navigation Company. She had 3 masts, square rigged and a clipper bow. She first arrived in Sydney on 16 April 1854 after a 74 day voyage from Greenock, Scotland.

She was used primarily as a coastal mail and passenger ship but did make one run under charter to the E.R.A. Line, to Suez in Nov. 1857.

S.S. City of Sydney, 739 tons. Built in 1853. Wrecked at Green Cape, N.S.W., 3rd November 1862.
1865

AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

S.S. City of Melbourne

City of Melbourne was built for the A.S.N. Co. by J. & G. Thompson, Glasgow in 1862. She had a handsome yacht-like appearance, and a graceful clipper bow. 250' x 28' x 16' depth, 838 tons, single screw. Her bunker space being very limited, she used her sails to great advantage. She made several successful runs to Honolulu and San Francisco in 1870.

October 26, 1865. Letter paid at Melbourne by 6d. adhesive, Issue of 1863. In 1855 the Inland rate had been reduced to 4d. and the Ship Letter rate to 6d. per ½-oz.

October 30. Backstamp on arrival at Sydney, the letter was identified as a Ship Letter, per 6d. rate.

October 31-November 1. Transit backstamp at Orange and arrival at Molong, New South Wales.
AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

S.S. Alexandra

681 tons, built 1863 for Australasian Steam Navigation Co. The Australian Almanac of 1877, noted the Alexandra still among the Company’s fleet. The A.S.N. Co. converted her into a hulk and she was later scuttled near Townsville, Queensland Sept. 1905.

The A.S.N. Co. lasted until 1887, when her fleet of 41 steamers was taken over by the British-India & Queensland Agency, Ltd., and operated as the Australasian United Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

April 12, 1866. A paid letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria and endorsed: per "Alexandra". This small vessel was a coastal trader Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane. Rated 6d. Ship Letter rate. Inland rate was 4d.

April 19. Receipt backstamp as a SHIP LETTER/QUEENSLAND.
September 4, 1866. A letter paid at Lerwick, Scotland at the 6d. rate to New Zealand by the Issue of 1865, plate 5. Cancellation was at Lerwick with the Scottish type (rectangle of bars) British Post Office number "223". 6d. was the rate of January 1866 via Southampton and Suez. The rate via Marseilles was one shilling (12d.)

September 10. Transit backstamp at London. The P.& O. Line steamers carried this letter to Australia, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steamship</th>
<th>Port Departure</th>
<th>Port Arrival</th>
<th>Next Port</th>
<th>Date of Arrival</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golconda</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>11-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

November 21. Arrival backstamp at Lyttelton, New Zealand. Letter was conveyed from Australia to New Zealand by sailing ship. Steamers did not appear on this route until the mid-1870's.
March 8, 1867. A letter paid at the 6d. rate to New Zealand by the 6d. Issue of 1865, plate 5. Cancellation was at Lerwick, Scotland, with the Scottish duplex British Post Office number "223" of Lerwick. 6d. was the rate of January 1866 via Southampton and Suez. The rate via Marseilles and Suez was one shilling (12d.) Interestingly, a rate of September 26, 1866, provided for the same 6d. rate to New Zealand via Panama. Letters by the Panama route had to be so endorsed.

March 20. Transit backstamp at London. The P. & O. Line steamers carried this letter to Australia, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sailing Port</th>
<th>Arrival Port</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td></td>
<td>Apr. 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


May 26. Arrival backstamp at Lyttelton, New Zealand. Letter was trans-shipped from Australia to New Zealand by sailing ship. Steamers did not appear on this route until the middle 1870's.
1867

Melbourne JY 27 67
LONDON SP 17 67

Ulie Ann Lyon.
Furnishing Warehouse.
125 Grays Inn Road.
Opposite Kendall Buildings.
London.

Transit by P&O Line ships:

SS. Avoca
Melbourne 28 July '67
King George Sound 23 Aug
Galle 17 Aug

SS. Nubia
Galle 17 Aug '67
Aden 27 Aug
Suez 2 Sept

SS. Tanjore
Alexandria 4 Sept '67
Malta 7 Sept
Gibraltar 11 Sept
Southampton 17 Sept '67

Postal rate: 6d per 1/2 ounce. In effect 1866 to mid 1870.
Franked with R.1.4.118 (E.G.H 137)
February 4, 1868. A single letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria, the 6d. rate here paid by the Issue of 1867. This was the January 1866 Postal Guide rate per ¼-oz. via Suez and Southampton. The rate via Marseilles was 10d.

Transit by the P. & O. Line steamers was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>S.S. Avoca</th>
<th>S.S. Mongolia</th>
<th>S.S. Pera</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Callo</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Alexandria Mar. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George Sound</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Mar. 5-7 Gibraltar 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callo</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Southampton 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mail out of Southampton was sent via the London & Holyhead Railway Post Office (backstamp) where it arrived at Holyhead March 30, backstamp. This letter was then sent cross country across Scotland to Aberdeen, a port town that serviced the remote Orkney and Shetland Islands (Zetland).

April 5. Letter finally arrived at Lerwick on the Shetland Islands, a port city. The letter was then delivered to the addressee at Voe, nearby to Lerwick, backstamps.
March 27, 1868. A single rated letter posted at Sydney, New South Wales. The 6d. rate, paid here by Issue of 1860, perf. 12, was the January 1866, Postal Guide rate per 2-oz. via Suez and Southampton. The rate via Marseilles and Suez was 10d. One must assume that the directional endorsement "via Marseilles" was ignored and the letter forwarded "via Southampton". Unpaid or underpaid letters were subject to a 6d. fine, here lacking.

A normal succession of F. & O. Line steamers transported the letter to England. Same vessels carried the mail to Suez whether via Southampton or Marseilles. S.S. Delta departed Alexandria May 10, arrived Marseilles May 23.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Geelong</th>
<th>S.S. Simla</th>
<th>S.S. Ceylon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>→ Sydney</td>
<td>→ Galle</td>
<td>→ Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Apr. 23</td>
<td>May 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>→ Aden</td>
<td>May 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>→ Suez</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KGS</td>
<td></td>
<td>May 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 6-7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1868

BRAIDWOOD OBLITERATOR
ORIGINATING P.O.
SYDNEY TRANSIT
BACKSTAMP
ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP

P.O. "AVOCA"
SYDNEY 23 APR. '68
MELBOURNE 25/26 APR.
K.G.S. 2 MAY
GALLE 15 MAY

P.O. "MONGOLIA"
GALLE 19 MAY
ADEN 28 MAY
SUEZ 4 JUNE

P.O. "MAGSILIA"
ALEXANDRIA 6 JUNE
MALTA 9 JUNE
GIBRALTAR 14 JUNE
SOUTHAMPTON 18 JUNE

POSTAL RATE: 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE - IN EFFECT 1856 TO MID 1870

THIS IS A DOUBLE RATE COVER - FRANKED WITH S.B. #166
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<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P. O. SHIPS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D ELONG</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYDNEY 5 Dec. '68</td>
<td>GALLE 30 Dec. '68</td>
<td>ALEXANDRIA 16 Jan. '69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GALLE 27 Dec.</td>
<td></td>
<td>SOUTHWICK 29 Jan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Jan. 22. Transit backstamp at London, where letter was forwarded on to Southampton to meet the sailing of the P. & O. packet for Alexandria with the Australian mails. P. & O. steamer transit was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Delta</th>
<th>S.S. Simla</th>
<th>S.S. Malta</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Calle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>King Geo. Snd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Mar. 12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 19. Arrival backstamp at Melbourne, on route of the S.S. Malta.

March 20. Arrival backstamp at Tarnagulla, Victoria.
P&O SHIPS

"AVOCA"
SYDNEY 19 MAY 1870
MELBOURNE 21/22 MAY
COLOMBO 28/29 MAY
GALLE 11 JUNE

"SIMLA"
GALLE 14 JUNE 1870
ADEN 24/25 JUNE
SUEZ 30 JUNE

"NYANZA"
ALEXANDRA 2 JULY 1870
MALTA 5 JULY
GIBRALTAR 9 JULY
SOUTHAMPTON 14 JULY

"AVOCA" 1480 TONS
IRON, SCREW M.V.
1ST VOYAGE 12 JUNE 1866

"SIMLA" 2441 TONS
IRON, SCREW M.V.
1ST VOYAGE 6 MAY 1854

"NYANZA" 2082 TONS
IRON, PADDLE M.V.
1ST VOYAGE 12 DEC. 1864
QUEENSLAND to ENGLAND

61 DAYS IN TRANSIT

This cover departed Sydney on 31 December 1870 aboard the P&O Line ship S.S. Geelong for Galle, Ceylon. Ports of call were Melbourne 23 Jan 1871, and King George Sound 25 Jan with arrival Galle on 23 January 1871.

At Galle the mails were transferred to the P&O Line ship S.S. Mongolia which cleared for Suez on 26 Jan '71 with a stop at Aden on 4 February and arrived Suez on 10 February '71.

Suez to Alexandria by rail where the mails were put aboard the P&O Line ship S.S. Ceylon which cleared for Southampton on 12 Feb '71. Ports of call were Malta on 16 Feb, Gibraltar 20 Feb, and arrival at Southampton on 25 February 1871.

Postal rate to UK - 6d per ½ ounce - franking is S.G. # 91


PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
Sydney, N.S.W. to London via Southampton
S.S. Rangoon, Sydney to Galle, Ceylon
S.S. Deccan, Galle to Suez
S.S. Nyanza, Alexandria to Southampton

The rates set in January 1866 from Sydney to all places via Suez and Southampton was 6d. per ½-oz., via Suez and Marseilles was 10d. per ½-oz.

January 27, 1871. A letter posted paid at Sydney at the 6d. rate to the U.K. by Packet Steamer via Suez and Southampton. Rate paid by the 6d. violet Issue of 1860, perf. 13.

P. & O. steamships carried this letter:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Rangoon</th>
<th>S.S. Deccan</th>
<th>S.S. Nyanza</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>Feb. 22</td>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-31</td>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Geo.Sd.</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5-6</td>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td></td>
<td>Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 24. London Northern District Office receiving handstamp agrees with the arrival date of the Nyanza at Southampton.
May 22, 1871. Letter posted at Adelaide, South Australia. The September 18, 1869, rates to the United Kingdom via Brindisi were set at 1 shilling 1d. per half ounce. This letter was paid at 18 pence or 1sh. 6d., overpaid 5d., by 3 copies of the 6d. Issue of 1867. This letter went by connecting steamer to King George's Sound to meet the regular sailing port-of-call of the P. & O. steamers. Adelaide to King George's Sound is 998 miles. It was also directionally endorsed "via Brindisi" to indicate the faster Italian routing.

Sailing schedules of the P. & O. steamers were, as follows:

S.S. Avoca departed Sydney, May 18; Melbourne, May 20-21; King George's Sound, May 26-27 (where this letter went aboard); Galle, June 10. Mails were transferred to the Hindostan which left Galle June 14, arrived Suez, July 1. Mails went by rail across Egypt to Alexandria where the Nyanza departed July 2 to arrive at Brindisi July 5.

December 28, 1872. A letter posted at Brisbane, Queensland and paid 6d., the January 1866 rate to or from all Australian States to the U.K. via Suez and Southampton. Rate paid by the Queensland Issue of 1868 (S.G. 91).

The Queensland mails went by rail down to Sydney, New South Wales for forwarding onward by the P. & O. Line packets as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>S.S. Bangalore</th>
<th>S.S. Surat</th>
<th>S.S. Massilia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Dec. 31, '72</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Jan. 2, '73</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Geo. Sound</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle, Ceylon</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Southampton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

February 25. Arrival backstamp at Bury, Lancashire tracks with the arrival of Massilia at Southampton on February 25.
January 30, 1873. Letter paid at the 6 pence packet letter rate at Melbourne by a 6d. adhesive, Issue of 1863-67. The 1874 ton S.S. Baroda of the P.& O's Australian Line left Sydney Jan. 28, 1873 and was at Melbourne Jan. 30, departing Jan. 31 for the long trip to Galle, Ceylon where she arrived Feb. 26. S.S. Golconda, 1909 tons, picked up the Australian mails at Galle and delivered them to Suez on March 10. British mails still crossed the Isthmus of Suez overland by rail due to a British contract with the railway even though the canal was in use. First British through mails by ship did not occur until 1874.

March 12. The P.& O. steamer Mongolia, 2833 tons, left Alexandria, Egypt this date and arrived at Southampton March 27.

March 28. British mails for Ireland went across the Irish Sea by the Holyhead & Kingstown Packet where this letter received the H & K PACT backstamp. Kingstown is the port city of Dublin.
June 16, 1874. A double weight (½-oz. to 1-oz.) letter paid at Melbourne at 11d. x 2 = 1sh.10d. with an attractive combination of Victorian stamps. Mail was carried to Brindisi as endorsed by a series of P.& O. Line ships. Schedules were, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Nubia</th>
<th>S.S. Zambesi</th>
<th>S.S. Simia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>July 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Brindisi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-19</td>
<td>19-20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George 5d.</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

August 2. French entry mark showing arrival of Australian mail via Brindisi, Italy. Ambulant (railway post office) at Modane, France which was reached by the Mont Cenis Tunnel from Bardonecchia, Italy.

August 2. Travelling Post Office backstamp aboard the Paris to Bordeaux night train, 2nd Section. Brigade A handled the sorting.

August 3. Arrival backstamp at Surgeres.
1875

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
U.K. to South Australia via Brindisi
S.S. Sumatra, Brindisi, Italy to Alexandria, Egypt
S.S. Mongolia, Suez to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon
S.S. Nubia, Galle to Melbourne

On December 1, 1873, the P & O. contract with Britain lapsed. Colonial government contracts to all Australian States went into effect. Rates via Southampton and San Francisco, 6d.; via Brindisi, 9d.

April 15, 1875. Letter to South Australia posted at Downton, Wiltshire, England, backstamp, and endorsed: Via Brindisi & Pointe de Galle. The 9d. "Via Brindisi" rate was paid by a strip of three, a pair and a single of the penny red, plate 138, Issue of 1864, and a pair of the 1½d., plate 1, Issue of 1870.

Transit by P. & O. packets was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Sumatra</th>
<th>S.S. Mongolia *</th>
<th>S.S. Nubia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brindisi</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Galle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>Apr. 23</td>
<td>May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexandria</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>King Geo. Sd. 22-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Mongolia had departed Southampton April 9 to Suez via the Suez Canal, picked up Sumatra's mails which went overland, Alexandria to Suez.

May 29. Melbourne arrival backstamp tracks with the recorded date of Nubia’s arrival at that port.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MELBOURNE 27 JAN 1876</th>
<th>ADELAIDE 29 JAN</th>
<th>K.B.S. 2 FEB</th>
<th>GALLE 15 FEB</th>
<th>GALLE 18 FEB</th>
<th>ADEN 26/27 FEB</th>
<th>AT SUEZ 3,4,5 MARCH</th>
<th>MALTA 11 MARCH</th>
<th>GIBRALTAR 15/16 MARCH</th>
<th>SOUTHAMPTON 21 MARCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>S.S. &quot;MONGOLIA&quot;</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S.S. &quot;BOKHARA&quot;</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1876

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
Victoria to Dublin via Suez Canal and Southampton
S.S. Bangalore: Melbourne to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon
S.S. Hindostan: Galle to Southampton

On December 1, 1873, the P. & O. contract with the Home Government lapsed. Colonial Government contracts were made with all Australian States. Rates via Southampton or San Francisco were 6d., via Brindisi were 9d.

A new contract to Australia or New Zealand was signed on September 27, 1875, via San Francisco, but this did not involve the P. & O.

April 24, 1876. A letter posted at Horsham, Victoria to Dublin, paid by a strip of 3 of the 2d. Issue of 1873, to make up the 6d. rate to the U.K. via Southampton.

April 26. This letter arrived too late at Melbourne to make the monthly P. & O. sailing for Southampton of the S.S. China, which had departed from Melbourne on April 19. It was held for the May sailing.

Steamships of the P. & O. Line conveyed this letter as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Bangalore</th>
<th>S.S. Hindostan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>May 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Galle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King George's Sound</td>
<td>23-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Jun. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jul 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

July 12. Backstamp of the Holyhead and Kingstown Packet. Kingstown was the port city of Dublin, the packet line running across the Irish Sea from Holyhead,
PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

Britain to Victoria via Southampton and Ceylon

S.S. Hydaspes, Southampton to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon
S.S. China, Galle to Melbourne

On December 1, 1873, the P. & O. contract with the Home Government lapsed. Colonial Government contracts were made with all Australian States. Rates via Southampton or San Francisco were 6d., via Brindisi 9d.

May 2, 1876. Letter posted at Blackburn, Lancashire and paid at the 6d. Australian rate by the Issue of 1873, plate 14. This letter was sent on to Southampton to meet the sailing of the P. & O. steamer from that port. The steamships now transited the Suez Canal, mails formerly went across Egypt to Suez.

The P. & O. dates were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Hydaspes</th>
<th>S.S. China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>Galle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>King Georges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>Sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Adelaide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Queenscliffe*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galle, Ceylon</td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May 4 9 13 18-19 24 June 3 17-18 22 23 24

*The Geelong mails to and from were handled at Queenscliff on Port Phillip Bay at the mouth of Melbourne Harbor.

June 24. Geelong transit backstamp.
TRANIT BY P.O. LINE SHIPS:

SS SUMATRA  SS KHEDIVE  SS SIAM
BRINDISI 6 AUG '77  SUEZ 10 AUG '77  GALLE 24 AUG '77
ALEXANDRIA 9 AUG  OVERLAND  ADEN 15 AUG  KING GEORGE 10 SEP.
GALLE 23 AUG  ADELAIDE 10 SEP.

POSTAL RATE: 8d PER ½ OUNCE- FIRST WENT INTO EFFECT 1 JULY 1876 FOR
MAIL VIA BRINDISI.
TRANSPORT BY P+O LINE SHIPS:

**SS CHINA**
- Melbourne 7 Aug,'77
- Adelaide 9-10 Aug.
- King George Sound 11-14 Aug.
- Galle 29 Aug.

**SS MIRZAPORE**
- Galle 30 Aug,'77
- Aden 9 Sept.
- Suez 14 Sept.
- Malta 19 Sept.
- Gibraltar 23 Sept.
- Southampton 28 Sept.'77

As of 1877 the P+S Company permitted mail to pass from the Suez Canal via going overland Suez to Alexandria.

POSTAL RATES: IN MID 1870 THE INTERCOLONIAL SHIPMENTS RATE WAS REDUCED FROM 6d TO 2d PER OUNCE, THE ISRAELI SHIPMENTS RATE EXCEPT FOR MAIL TO THE UK WHICH REMAINED AT 6d PER OUNCE.
April 27, 1880. Letter paid at Victoria to Cape Town, South Africa at the 1 shilling rate, issue of 1876, blue on blue. As neither Victoria nor the Cape Colony were U.P.U. members at this time, the transporting U.P.U. country, in this case Great Britain, was entitled to double the U.P.U. rate or 2½d. x 2 = 5d. Victoria was debited for that amount, shown in red manuscript. Transit by P. & O. packet was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Mail Date</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Apr. 23</td>
<td>Poona</td>
<td>Galle to</td>
<td>May 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>25-28</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>Suez</td>
<td>Jun. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KGS</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Galle</td>
<td>Southampton</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

June 11. London transit backstamp. London Times, Mon., June 14. The following mail steamships will leave Southampton during the ensuing week:...the Arab (Union Company), Capt. S.R.P. Caines, on Thurs. with mails for St. Helena, the Cape of Good Hope and Natal.

Times, Sat., June 19. The Union Steamship Company's steamer Arab, Capt. Caines, R.N.R., arrived at Plymouth yesterday from Southampton. 91 bags of mails, 20 passengers and one packet of telegrams were embarked, and at 1:45 p.m. the Arab was dispatched for Madeira, St. Helena, the Cape of Good Hope &c. She takes out in all 116 bags of mails, 173 pass.

London Times, Sat., July 10. TABLE DAY, July 9. The Union Company's steamer Arab from Southampton has arrived here.

July 9. Arrival postmarks at Cape Town and Stellenbosch, Cape Colony.
August 26, 1880. Letter posted at Gore on the South Island of New Zealand. It was directionally endorsed "Via Brindisi" and paid 6d. by a strip of 3 of the 2d. rose Issue of 1874 (watermarked N.Z. and small star). However, rate by British packet via Brindisi, GPO notice of 5 June 1876, was 8d. Letter was marked in red by manuscript at left, "Insufficiently prepaid", i.e. via Brindisi. It was forwarded on via Southampton, the rate by this route being 6d.

Backstamp at the Railway Travelling Post Office. SD/1 cancellation is a railway obliterator, Southern Division.


October 22. Transit backstamps, Glasgow to Edinburgh.
VICTORIA TO GERMANY, BRITISH MAIL VIA BRINDISI
P. & O. Line: S.S. Indus, Melbourne to Colombo, Ceylon
S.S. Terehan, Colombo to Suez
S.S. Malwa, Alexandria to Brindisi

September 25, 1882. A letter to Germany posted paid at Melbourne. The GPO notice of 30 December 1879, noted a February 1 (1880) rate via Brindisi to the U.K. of 7d. per ½-oz., prepaid. This cover at 8½d. would appear to carry a 1½d. charge Brindisi to Germany (Australian States did not enter the U.P.U. until October 1, 1891.) Payment is by 2d. violet Issue of 1873, ha' penny rose Issue of 1878, and 6d. Issue of 1867.

Transit to Europe was by P. & O. Line packets as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.S. Indus</th>
<th>S.S. Terehan</th>
<th>S.S. Malwa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Oct. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>22-26</td>
<td>Alexandria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>24-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Geo. Sound</td>
<td>28-29</td>
<td>Suez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>30-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
<td>Nov. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>London</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


November 10. German arrival backstamp.
AUSG. = AUSSABE, distribution office.
1883

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

(Per Kirk)

S.S. Paramatta  
Sydney Mar. 23, 1883
Melbourne 25-29
Adelaide 31
KGS Apr. 4-5
Colombo 17.

London Times, THURS. April 19
COLOMBO, April 18. The P.& O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind, from Calcutta, left here this afternoon for Suez, Plymouth, and London, with the homeward China and Australian mails ex Paramatta, from Sydney, and Cathay, from Shanghai; also specie for Europe value £ 10,000.

London Times, Thurs., April 26
ADEN, April 25. The P.& O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind, from Calcutta to London has arrived here.

London Times, May 3.
SUEZ, May 2. The P.& O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind, from Calcutta (April 9), arrived at Suez on the 30th of April, and entered the Canal to-day for Plymouth and London.

SUEZ CANAL, May 2. The P.& O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind, from Calcutta, left Port Said at 6:30 a.m. to-day for Plymouth and London.

THE MAILS
BRINDISI, May 5. The P.& O. Royal Mail steamer Tanjore with the India, China and Australian mails, ex Bokara and Kaisar-i-Hind, arrived here to-day, and the mails left for London. Letters in London Monday evening (May 7).

The Inman steamer City of Richmond arrived at Queenstown at 2 10 p.m. yesterday, embarked mails and passengers and proceeded for New York.

N.Y. Times
Arrived N.Y. May 19, 1883: Steam-ship City of Richmond (br.) Land, Liverpool via Queenstown, 11 ds to Inman Steam-ship Co.
March 26, 1883. Letter paid at Deal, Victoria, Australia at 1s8d., equivalent to 40¢ U.S. Nearest interpretation of this rate would be: double letter (at 15¢ U.S. rate x 2 = 30¢) at 1s3d. + U.P.U. rate of 2½d. x 2 = 5d. (10¢) to total 1s8d. U.S. was allowed a credit of 2¢ x 2 = 4¢, shown as red "4".

March 26. Transit backstamps. Brunswick is a borough and north-eastern suburb of Melbourne.

Transit by P. & O. steamers;

S.S. Paramatta: Sydney Mar. 23 Kaiser-i-Hind S.S. Tanjore
Melbourne, 25-29 Colombo Apr. 18 Port Said May 2
Adelaide 31 Aden 25 Brindisi 5
Colombo, Apr. 17 Port Said My. 1

May 7. London arrival backstamp, mail from Brindisi May 5.

May 10. London Times. Inman steamer City of Richmond arrived at Queenstown 2:10 PM yesterday, embarked mail and passengers and proceeded to New York.

SCOTLAND TO MELBOURNE VIA LONDON
P. & O. Line: S.S. Oceana, London to Melbourne

November 11, 1888. Newspaper posted at the ½d. printed matter rate, paid by the one penny newspaper wrapper and the half penny vermilion QUEEN Victoria Jubilee Issue of 1887. Being posted on November 11, this piece of mail missed the sailing of the P. & O. Line's S.S. Massilia which departed from London November 1 and called at Brindisi November 12.

November 11. Newspaper Branch killer obliterates the wrapper and stamp at Edinburgh. This newspaper was forwarded on to London where it went out on the P. & O. Liner S.S. Oceana. Her dates were as follows:

- London: Nov. 16
- Gibraltar: 20
- Malta: 23-24
- Brindisi: 25-26
- Port Said: 28-29
- Aden: Dec. 5-6
- Colombo: 11-12
- King Geo.Sound: 22
- Adelaide: 24-25
- Melbourne: 26-29
- Sydney: 31.
PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO. 1903

VICTORIA TO LONDON VIA BRINDISI

S. S. Australia

Schedule of the Australia
Sydney Sat. July 11, 1903
Melbourne 13-16
Colombo 29
Brindisi Aug. 14
Overland to London 17

R. M. S. "Australia"

J. P. Penry, Esq.
41 Coleman St., E.C.
London, England
October 13, 1891. Letter put into mail at Adelaid, South Australia for Calcutta. South Australia became a member of the U.P.U. in 1891. Directed per the Royal Mail Steamer Carthage, a 5000 ton P&O vessel in service from 1881-1903, when she was scrapped.

Although directed "R.M.S. Carthage", this circular rate letter was sent on ahead of her. Carthage departed Sydney Oct. 29, arrived Colombo Nov. 23.

R.M.S. Massilia departed Sydney Oct. 3 and Melbourne Oct. 13, then to Adelaide where this letter went aboard. Massilia arrived at Colombo Oct. 26 where letter went ashore for forwarding to Bombay, a November 2 arrival per backstamp.
1894

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

The P.& O. s. AUSTRALIA from Sydney for London, left Albany on Saturday morning (Aug. 18.)

WED., Aug. 29. The AUSTRALIA, from Sydney for London, arrived at Colombo yesterday morning with the Australian mails.

THURS., Aug. 30. The AUSTRALIA leaves Colombo at 4p.m. to-day with the China and Australian mails and £105,000 in specie.

FRI., Sept. 7. The AUSTRALIA arrived at Aden yesterday morning.

TUES., Sept. 11. The AUSTRALIA from Sydney for Brindisi, Plymouth and London, left Port Said yesterday evening with the India, China and Australian mails.

FRI., Sept. 14. From Lloyd's, &c.

THE MAILS

The AUSTRALIA, from Sydney for London, arrived at Brindisi at 7a.m. yesterday (Sept. 13), the mail train left at 9 a.m. and letters are due in London on Saturday afternoon.
November 5, 1894. A letter to London posted at Melbourne at double the U.P.U. rate of 2½d. per ½-oz. Payment is by the Victoria Issue of 1890. Victoria had entered the U.P.U. on October 1, 1891. Letter is endorsed: Per RMS Rome/via Adelaide.

The homeward voyage of the S.S. Rome under the 1888 contract was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>Nov. 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Port Said (via Suez)</td>
<td>4 Dec. *</td>
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<tr>
<td>King George Sound</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Brindisi</td>
<td>7</td>
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*Rome transited the Suez Canal.

1909

ORIGINATING P.O.
APL 09

TRANSIT
BACKSTAMP

ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP

P&O LINE SHIP
“Mongolia”
SYDNEY 7 APRIL 1909
COLOMBO 28 APRIL
BRINDISI 12 MAY

H. Longbottom, Esq.
Queen’s Park
Haslemere
Chester
England
January 24, 1862. Letter posted at Melbourne and endorsed: pr. City of Sydney. It is paid at double the Ship Letter rate of 6d. x 2 = 1/- by the Issue of 1859, perf. 12.

January 27. Backstamped as a Ship Letter on arrival at Sydney.

This was the last year of the City of Sydney, originally built in 1853. On November 5, 1863, when on a voyage from Melbourne to Sydney, she struck the rocks 3 miles from Green Cape, N.S.W. Though there was no loss of life, the vessel was a total loss.
1898

AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

S.S. Birksgate

In the early 1880's the Birksgate and Tenterden were purchased from the Black Diamond Company. In December 1886, the Queensland Shipping Company took over the fleet and goodwill of the A.S.N.Co. In 1898 S.S. Birksgate was still running to the islands and still designated as the Australasian Steam Navigation Company.

Per A.U.S.N.Co's S.S. "Birksgate."

Mr. T. Manning,

Noumea,

New Caledia.

April 27, 1898. Letter to New Caledonia franked with the 2½d. New South Wales Issue of 1897, paying the U.P.U. rate.
May 27, 1884. A letter to England posted at the 6d. rate, paid by the New South Wales Issue of 1862. Letter is endorsed: Overland to Melbourne and: Per "Iberia". S.S. Iberia of the Orient Line was scheduled to leave Sydney on May 29, so this writer directed his letter by rail to catch her port-of-call at Melbourne. There is a travelling Post Office, Train No.3 backstamp.

May 28. Transit backstamp at Albury, N.S.W.

May 30. Iberia touched at Melbourne where this letter went on board. She called at Adelaide June 2.

July 6. Iberia arrived at Naples after transiting the Suez Canal.


November 11. S.S. Garonne of the Orient Line departed from Sydney on her northbound passage (N 189). Her dates were:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brindisi</td>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
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</table>

December 20. Stoke-on-Trent transit and Uttuxeter arrival backstamps.
April 1, 1887. A letter to London posted at Sydney, New South Wales, and paid at the March 2, 1880, rate which had reduced the 7d. rate via Brindisi (rate of Feb. 1, 1880) to 6d. Paid by the Issue of 1882. Letter endorsed: per "Ormuz".

April 1. S.S. Ormuz of the Orient Line departed from Sydney this date, touched at Melbourne April 2 and Adelaide the 4th.

May 1. Ormuz arrived at Brindisi, Italy. Mail went by rail across Europe to London.

May 2. London arrival backstamp.
Letter was forwarded from St. Catherine Road to Clapham Park, London, S.W.
Same day transit back into the mails.
1891

ORIENT LINE SHIP VOYAGE N 307
"ORIENT"
SYDNEY 23 MAR. '91
MELBOURNE 24 MAR.
ADELAIDE 25 MAR.
ALBANY 26 MAR.
COLOMBO 8 APR.
NAPLES 21 APR.
PLYMOUTH 1 MAY

THE NEW YORK TIMES OF 11 MAY 1891 REPORTED:
MARINE INTELLIGENCE
NEW YORK—SUNDAY, MAY 10
ARRIVED
"SS ETRURIA (Br) HAINE, LIVERPOOL
AND QUEENSTOWN B O S. WITH MISC
AND PASSENGERS TO VERNON H.
BROWN & CO. ARRIVED AT THE BAR
AT 2 A.M."

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.
S.S. Orient, Sydney to Plymouth

CUNARD LINE
R.M.S. Etruria, Queenstown to New York
ORIENT LINE SHIP
"SS Oroya"
SYDNEY 28 NOV '92
MELBOURNE 29 NOV.
ADELAIDE 30 NOV.
ALBANY 3 DEC.
COLombo 23 DEC.
NAPLES 28 DEC.

THE NEW YORK TIMES OF 10 JAN. 1893 REPORTED:
MARINE INTELLIGENCE
NEW-YORK . . . . . . MONDAY, JAN. 9
ARRIVED
"SS Servia, (By) Dulton, Liverpool
8 ds., with mail &c. and Passengers
To Vernon H. Brown & Co. Arrived
At the Bar at 10 35 A.M."

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.
S.S. Oroya, Sydney to Naples

CUNARD LINE
R.M.S. Servia, Liverpool to New York
ORIENT LINESHIP
"SS OROYA"
SYDNEY 28 NOV. '92
MELBOURNE 29 NOV.
ADELAIDE 30 NOV.
ALBANY 3 DEC.
COLOMBO 23 DEC.
NAPLES 28 DEC.

THE NEW YORK TIMES OF 10 JAN. 1892 REPORTED:
MARINE INTELLIGENCE
NEW YORK ...... MONDAY, JAN. 9
ARRIVED
"SS SERVIA, (B/?) DULTON, LIVERPOOL
8 ds., with m/s.e. and passengers
TO VERNON H. BROWN & CO. ARRIVED
AT THE BAR AT 10:35 A.M."
June 22, 1893. A registered letter to Chile posted at Hochkirch, Victoria, stamps cancelled by the barred "161" of that town. Double the 2½d. U.P.U. rate paid by the 2d. stamped envelope, a one penny Issue of 1890 and four copies of the ½d. rose, Issue of 1886. A 2d. registry fee stamp has fallen off.

June 22-23. Transit backstamps at Hamilton and Melbourne. S.S. Cuzco of the Orient Line carried this letter. Her dates were:

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>July 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>June 27</td>
<td>Colombo</td>
<td>July 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>Naples</td>
<td>July 30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

July 31. Letter in transit at London. It was forwarded on to Liverpool. Backstamps.

London Times, August 3. The Pacific Company's S. Iberia left the Mersey yesterday afternoon (Aug. 2) for Chile.

September 9. Arrival backstamp at Santiago. The letter was forwarded to Conception.

September 12. Conception receiving backstamp.

S.S. Orizaba of the Orient Line sailed from Sydney Jan. 4, her dates were:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Jan. 4, 1897</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombo, Ceylon</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples</td>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
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THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD

S.S. Ormuz

The Orient Line began regular steamship service from England to Australia in 1877. In the early days a close association with the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. existed. The London Times of Monday Aug. 27, 1900 gives the note: The Orient Line's Oruba leaves London for Australia, calling at Plymouth, Gibraltar, Marseilles, Naples, Port Said, Suez, Colombo, Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney on Friday.

Ormuz, 6031 tons, was built in 1886 by Fairfield Shipbuilding, Glasgow, 465' x 52', single screw, 17 knots. She was sold French 1912, renamed Divona.

August 6, 1900.
Letter endorsed: RMS Ormuz, was posted at Launceston, Tasmania and paid at the 22d. U.E.U. rate by a copy of the adhesive, Issue of 1892.

Various issues of the London Times trace the voyage of the Ormuz by the MAIL & SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE columns (From LLOYD'S &c.)

Aug. 10. The Orient Line's ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Adelaide at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Sept. 12. The ORMUZ arrived at Marseilles yesterday.

Sept. 15, Sat., ORMUZ left Gibraltar at 11 p.m. on Thursday (13th) and is due at Plymouth at 8 a.m. on Monday.

Sept. 18, Tues. s. ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Plymouth at 9:30 a.m. yesterday, and is due at Tilbury at 7 a.m. today.

Sept. 19, ORMUZ arrived at Gravesend 1:45 p.m. yesterday.

Sept. 12. Arrival backstamp at London. Ormuz's mail went ashore at Marseilles Sept. 11 and her mails overland reached London 7 days before the Ormuz did.
London Times, August 10, 1900.

MAIL & SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE
(FROM LLOYD'S, &c.)

THE MAILS

The Orient Line s. AUSTRAL, from Sydney for London, arrived at Colombo at 1 p.m. yesterday. The ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Adelaide at 2 p.m. yesterday (Aug. 9.)

Ibid. Sept. 12

The Orient Line s. ORTONA, from Sydney for London, left Freemantle at Midnight on Monday, and the ORMUZ arrived at Marseilles at 7 a.m. yesterday.

Ibid. Sept. 15 (SAT.)

The Orient Line s. ORMUZ left Gibraltar at 11 p.m. on Thursday (Sept. 13); and is due at Plymouth at 8 a.m. on Monday.

The ORMUZ passed Sagres on Friday.

Ibid. Sept. 18 (TUES.)

The Orient Line s. ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Plymouth at 9:30 a.m. yesterday, and is due at Tilbury at 7 a.m. to-day.

Ibid. Sept. 19 (WED.)

The s. ORMUZ arrived at Gravesend at 1:45 p.m. yesterday.

The Orient Line route is shown by a notice appearing in the Times, Aug. 27, 1900, MONDAY.

The Orient Line s. ORUABA leaves London for Australia, calling at Plymouth, Gibraltar, Marseilles, Naples, Port Said, Suez, Colombo, Freemantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, on Friday.
March 1, 1904. A registered letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria paid by the 3d. brown orange and 5d. chocolate, Issue of June, 1901. Rate double U.P.U. at 2½d. x 2 = 5d. plus 3d. registration.


Oroya's dates were: Adelaide Mar. 3 Suez Mar. 27 Freemantle 7 Port Said 28 Colombo 16-17 Naples Apr. 1

Times, Monday, April 4. Orient-Pacific s. OROYA, arrived Naples 6 a.m. Friday (April 1) with the Australian mails, which left by 9 a.m. train and were due in London yesterday, and left at 5 p.m. for London.
THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

R.M.S. Orontes

9028 tons, 513' x 58' twin screw, 18 knots. Built 1902 by Fairfield Shipbuilding Co., Glasgow. The first Orient Line ship to be fitted with quadruple expansion engines, 2 double ended and four single ended boilers. 10,000 I.H.P., steam pressure 215 psi. Was in service England-Australia via Suez Canal (except for troop ship duty in 1916.) Scrapped in 1926.

May 25, 1907. Postcard from a passenger on board the Orontes notes he is in mid-Mediterranean and will be in Naples at 8 A.M. on May 26, and leaves for Port Said at midnight.

May 26. Card posted at Naples, Italy for London. It is franked by a one penny stamp of South Australia, permitted under the U.P.U. regulations for "Paquebot" letters which may bear stamps of the country of registration of the conveying ship.