

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
15 February 1849–31 December 1867

717 Sanson  
26



Envelope: London to Philadelphia, 18 October 1862

Ship:	Arabia
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)
Depart:	Queenstown, 19 October 1862
Arrive:	Boston, 2 November 1862
Rate:	--- letter sent unpaid 19¢ G.B. debit to U.S. 26¢ postage due in Rockford
Notes:	Letter addressed to "1618 Chestnut Street." Pencil notations on the cover by the letters carriers indicate "House close/To be Sent to 717 Sanson St" (signed) on the front and "717 Sanson/26" on the reverse. The pencil "26" is the postage due, 2¢ having been added to the transatlantic postage for the carrier service. Covers with carrier notations are quite uncommon.



## U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 July 1851–1 April 1857

7c



Folded Letter: Freiburg, Baden to New York, 15 August 1854

Ship: *Europa*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1854  
Arrive: Boston, 1 September 1854

Rate: 37 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)  
7c postage due in New York

Notes: Prepayment included 34 kreuzer to France and 3 kreuzer Baden internal fee, the rate breakdown shown on reverse in manuscript. Boxed P. no longer in use by the Kehl exchange office. Letter in closed mail bag from Paris–Calais train to Boston, where 5c postage due marked. Manuscript "7" in upper left marked by carrier who delivered letter in New York for 2c additional postage (5c plus 2c carrier fee).



## U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. – French Treaty  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857  
10 Feb 53–1 Jan 57

*Tes*



15 April 1856 Saintes to Philadelphia  
13 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)  
7¢ postage due in Philadelphia

**Persia** 10 days (West)  
Saintes marked letter PF (payé frontière)  
then corrected to P.P. (port payé)

Philadelphia letter carrier marked letter in pencil for 7¢ postage due, adding a 2¢ carrier fee. Unless instructions were left at the post office not to delivery letters, all mails were delivered in the city. Although a street address is not on the letter, the addressee must have been known to the carrier.

Letter carrier notations are seldom seen on transatlantic mails.



# U.S. - Hamburg Postal Treaties

U.S.-Hamburg Treaty  
Hamburg Contract Steamship

1857-1868  
1 Jul 57-17 Oct 63

16¢



Folded Letter: Münster, Prussia to New York, 3 February 1863

Ship: *Borussia*

Company: Hamburg-Amerikanische Packetfahrt Aktien Gesellschaft (HAPAG)  
(Hamburg American Line)

Depart: Hamburg, 8 February 1863  
Arrive: New York, 25 February 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
15¢ postage due at New York

Notes: Prussia marked 2 silbergroschen debit to Hamburg for internal fees owed to Prussia. Hamburg marked 5/10 handstamp to show breakdown of unpaid letter fees, 5¢ internal and 10¢ international fees. New York marked 15¢ postage due. New York post office carrier service added 1¢ delivery fee and marked letter in pencil for 16¢ postage due. Notations showing the carrier fee are seldom seen on transatlantic covers.



## U.S. - Prussia Postal Treaties

U.S.-Prussia Treaty of 1852  
British Contract Steamship

1852-1868  
16 October 1852-31 December 1867

42ct 11 Gold



Folded Letter: Münster, Prussia, to New York, 9 June 1863

Ship: Canada

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Queenstown, 14 June 1863  
Arrive: Boston, 26 June 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
5¢ Prussia debit to U.S.  
30¢ postage due at New York in coin  
41¢ postage due at New York in depreciated greenback currency

Notes: Letter posted at Aachen railway station. Aachen exchange office clerk marked 5¢ debit to U.S. and New York exchange office clerk marked 30¢ postage due in coin or 41¢ in depreciated greenback notes. New York carrier marked street address in pencil, "11 Gold" and "42ct" postage due adding 1¢ carrier fee. 1¢ carrier fee also marked in pencil, upper right. Uncommon transatlantic cover showing carrier fee.