

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Cork, Ireland to New York, 23 January 1841

Ship:	<i>Britannia</i>
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)
Depart:	Liverpool, 4 February 1841
Arrive:	Boston, 22 February 1841
Rate:	1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate 39½¢              postage due (2¢ ship and 37½¢ double inland fees)
Notes:	Letter contained two sheets of paper requiring double U.S. inland rates. Great Britain had shifted to a half ounce weight basis in December 1839.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: London to Richmond, Virginia, 3 March 1841

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 March 1841  
Arrive: Boston, 20 March 1841

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate  
27¢                      postage due (2¢ ship and 25¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter posted at Fenchurch Street receiving house in London where straightline handstamp applied in black.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: St. Andrews, Scotland to Philadelphia, 26 May 1841**

Ship: *Columbia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 June 1841  
Arrive: Boston, 16 June 1841

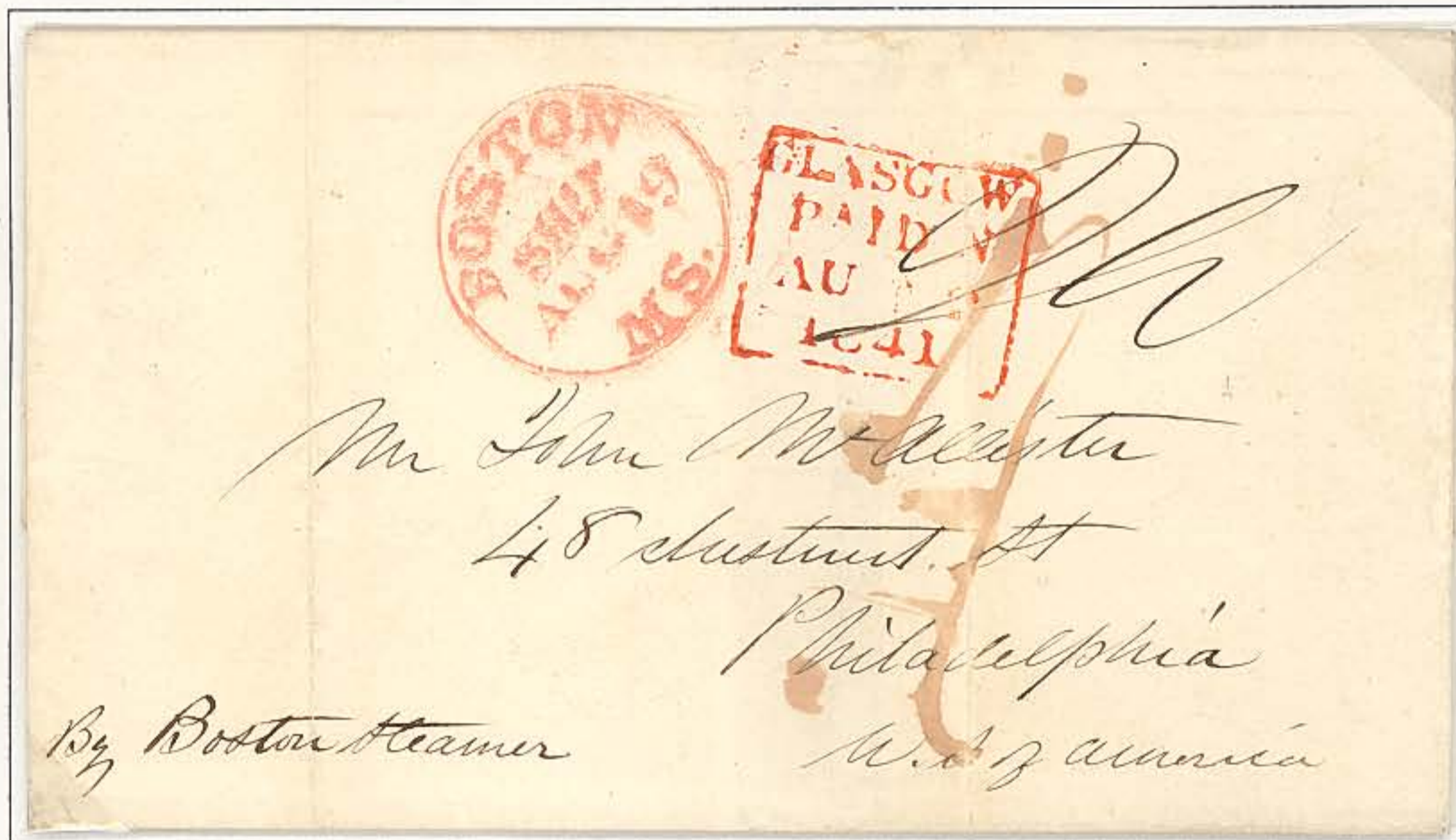
Rate: 1 sh ½ d      prepaid for single packet rate and ½ pence Scottish toll road fee  
20¾¢      postage due (2¢ ship and 18¾¢ inland fees)

Notes: Although ½ pence Scottish toll road fee had been eliminated by this date, it appears that St. Andrews postmaster charged the fee on this letter, marking in red pen at the top "Paid 1 ½."

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: Glasgow, Scotland to Philadelphia, 1 August 1841**

Ship: *Columbia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 August 1841

Arrive: Boston, 19 August 1841

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate  
20 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢      postage due (2¢ ship and 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter carried on 4th of 11 completed round voyages by this least successful of the original four Cunard steamships. On 12th voyage, the steamer grounded severely on Seal Island, Nova Scotia.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: Liverpool to Boston, 18 August 1841**

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1841  
Arrive: Boston, 2 September 1841

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
6¢ postage due (incoming ship letter to the port)

Notes: Although a "fancy" strike, the ribbon SHIP/6 of Boston was in use from 1817–1849, a period of 32 years. It is a common marking despite its appearance.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Manchester, England to Boston, 18 September 1841

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 September 1841  
Arrive: Boston, 5 October 1841

Rate: 4 shilling      prepaid for quadruple packet rate  
6¢                      postage due in Boston

Notes: Letter weighed between 1-2 oz and required four rates in U.K. Although it was a heavy letter, it was charged only 6¢ in Boston, the incoming ship letter rate for a letter to the arrival port. This 6¢ rate was the same no matter what the weight or number of sheets in the letter, whereas letters sent beyond the port were rated on weight or the number of sheets of paper and the distance it was to travel. Nice example of a letter charged four rates in U.K. and one rate in U.S.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

D  
NOV 4  
1841  
(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Turmon (?), Ireland to Boston, 1 November 1841

Ship: unknown sailing vessel

Company: unknown

Depart: Liverpool, ? November 1841  
Arrive: New York, 26 December 1841

Rate: 8 pence      prepaid for single ship letter rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢      postage due in Boston (2¢ ship and 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter posted at Carndonagh receiving house, a sub office of Straid, Ireland. Although endorsed "P Steam Ship" only the outgoing ship letter rate was prepaid so letter sent via Dublin to Liverpool for a regular sailing vessel to New York. Four segment circular transit mark of Liverpool in black, applied on reverse. Only about a half dozen of these markings have been recorded.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Vera Cruz, Mexico to London via New York, 9 December 1841

Ship: *Columbia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 January 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 January 1842

Rate: 56¼¢ prepaid for triple U.S. inland fee from New York to Boston  
2 shilling postage due in London

Notes: Letter carried privately to New York, where it entered the U.S. mails. Dateline shows transit "p Waterwitch via New Orleans;" however, there is no indication how this letter actually got to New York. Apparently it contained two enclosures for it was charged 3x18¾¢ for transit to Boston. London marked 2s postage due for a double incoming packet letter.



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New Haven, Connecticut to Kensington(London), 15 December 1841

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 December 1841  
Arrive: Liverpool, 30 December 1841

Rate: 12½¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1 shilling postage due for single packet rate

Notes: Letter prepayment was for a single letter going a distance of 80–150 miles, the regular U.S. fee to Boston

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

*Handwritten signature: A. B. P. Y.*



Folded Letter: New Orleans to London, 13 January 1842

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 February 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 February 1842

Rate: \$1.75 prepaid for seven times rate to Boston  
4 shilling postage due in London

Notes: Letter marked for 1¾ oz. weight requiring 7x25¢=\$1.75 postage from New Orleans to Boston. London marked 4s postage due for 1-2 oz. letter (4x1s packet rate). High multiple rates are quite difficult to find.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Boston, 19 February 1842

Ship: *Acadia, Unicorn*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 February 1842  
Arrive: Halifax, 7 March 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 10 March 1842

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
6¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: *Acadia* transferred her mail to Cunard auxiliary steamer *Unicorn* at Halifax and returned with *Unicorn's* mail to Liverpool. *Unicorn* carried the mail to Boston. Postage due marked by Boston was 6¢ for the incoming ship letter rate at the arrival port. Liverpool indicated one shilling prepayment with a red handstamp of an unusual style. Just a few examples have been recorded.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON.

*14 March* 1842

**T**HERE is a Letter N<sup>o</sup>. *6902*  
at this Office, directed to you, which cannot be  
forwarded until the Postage of *1/-*



ere you will desire one of  
ats in *London*, to call at  
ffice, *St. Martin's-le-grand*,  
of Ten and Four o'Clock,  
ove Postage, it will be  
according to the address.

f the Postmaster General,  
**W. L. MABERLY,**  
*Secretary.*

Folded Notice: London to Warren, Rhode Island, 14 March 1842

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 5 April 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 20 April 1842

Rate: --- prepaid not required (post office business)  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: General Post Office in London had been using preprinted notices since 1789 to advise recipients that letters were being held in London until sufficient postage was received to forward them to the recipient. This notice requested 1 shilling (the packet rate to the U.S.) to be paid before the letter would be sent from London.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Feckenham, England, 30 March 1842

Ship: *Unicorn, Columbia*

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

Depart: Boston, 2 April 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 20 April 1842

Rate: 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢      prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1 shilling      postage due for single packet rate

Notes: *Columbia* broke a shaft *enroute* to Halifax and never made it to Boston. Cunard sent branch line steamer *Unicorn* from Halifax to pick up Boston outgoing mails. *Unicorn* transferred mails to *Columbia* in Halifax. Unable to repair shaft, *Columbia* returned to Liverpool under sail, arriving 0500 20 April 1842.

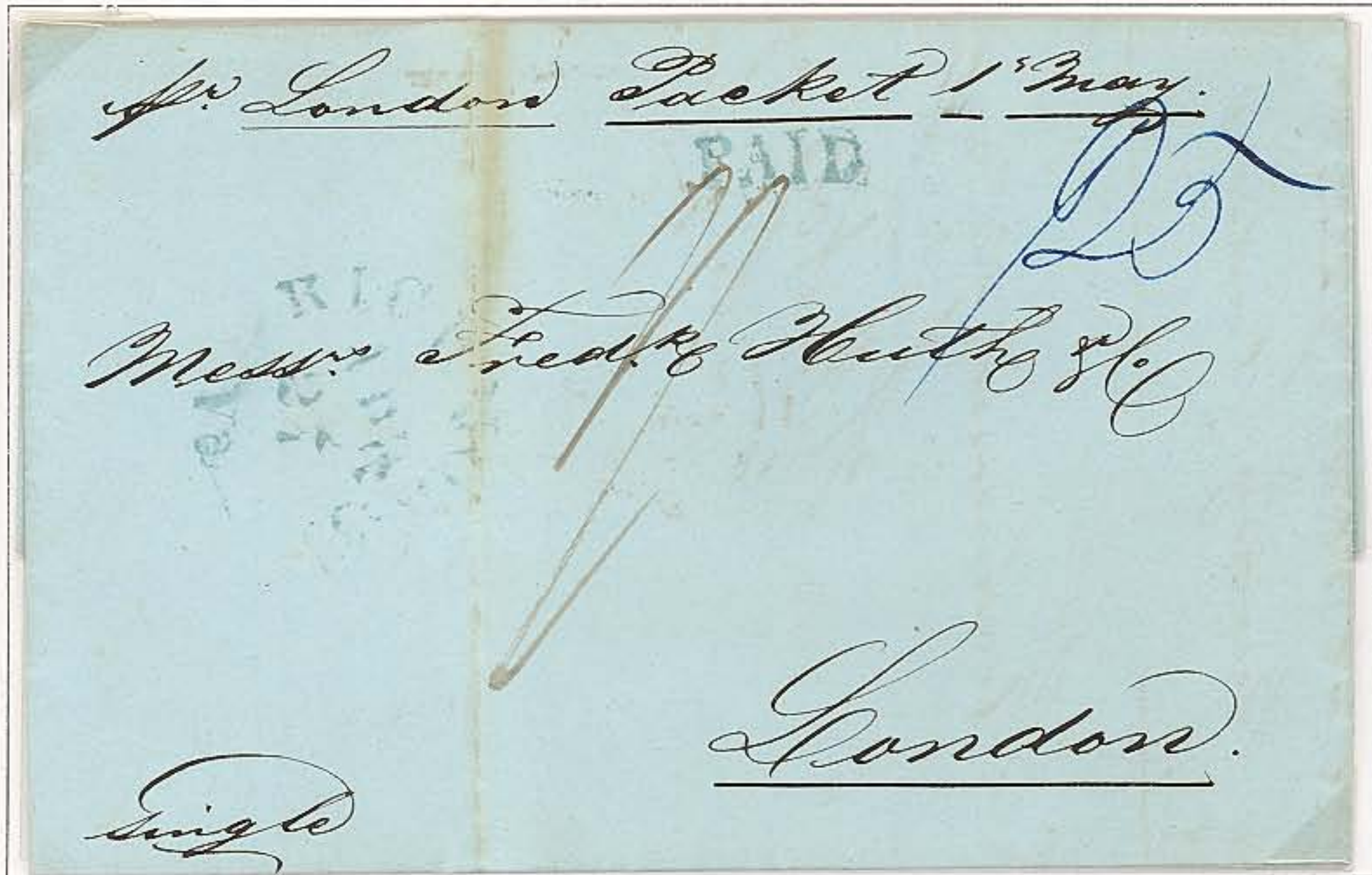
# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

PAID SHIP

(blue, reverse)



Folded Letter: Richmond, Virginia to London, 22 April 1842

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 May 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 May 1842

Rate: 25¢ prepaid for single rate  
1s postage due in London

Notes: Letter endorsed for sailing packet from New York. Richmond postmaster marked reverse with PAID and SHIP handstamps used on a sailing ship freight money letters but did not mark that the 12½¢ freight money fee had been paid. Apparently, sender decided to pay 25¢ rate to Boston for contract steamship service and not the 30¼¢ inland and freight money fees for a sailing packet. Liverpool marked 1s postage due in London for incoming packet letter.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



(Inside)



Folded Letter: Birmingham, England, to Philadelphia, 27 April 1842

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 May 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 21 May 1842

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢                postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter was an invoice for a shipment sent on the Copes Line sailing vessel *Susquehana* to Philadelphia. Inside there is a complete handstamp of the Customs House, Philadelphia certifying clearance of the cargo which arrived on 22 June and was cleared on 25 June 1842.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Envelope:** Plymouth, England to Dedham, Massachusetts, 12 May 1842

**Ship:** *Columbia*

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

**Depart:** Liverpool, 19 May 1842  
**Arrive:** Boston, 2 June 1842

**Rate:** 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
14¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 2x6¢ inland fees)

**Notes:** U.S. inland fee collected reflected one rate for a single sheet letter and another rate for the envelope. Since Great Britain was already on a weight basis rate system, there was not extra charge there for envelope. Scarce use of envelope on transatlantic mails before July 1854



## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Charleston, S.C. to Greenock, Scotland, 10 June 1842

Ship: *Columbia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 June 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 28 June 1842

Rate: 25¢ prepaid for single rate to Boston  
1s postage due in Greenock

Notes: Letter marked "paid 1" in upper right corner. This could mean either a single letter or 1¢ carrier fee paid. Small red crayon "1<sup>d</sup>" marked alongside 25¢ prepayment, the meaning of which is uncertain. Liverpool used one of a number of different handstamps for the 1 shilling postage due.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to London, 30 July 1842

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 August 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 August 1842

Rate: 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢      prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1 shilling      postage due in London

Notes: Although hastily written, the prepayment marked in magenta ink at New York was 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ and not 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢ for the distance to Boston of 217 miles. A red oval business marking of the sending company, Herckenrath & Van Damme, was struck on the reverse.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Edinburgh, Scotland to New York, 15 August 1842

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 2 September 1842

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fees)

Notes: U.S. postal clerks seldom wrote out fractions when writing the postage due, but merely wrote squiggles.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Audenshaw, England to Montreal, 4 September 1842

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 5 September 1842  
Arrive: Halifax, 16 September 1842

Rate: 1 sh 2d      prepaid for single packet rate and colonial fee

Notes: Cunard operated smaller steamships to carry mails in the summer months from Halifax down the St. Lawrence to Montreal. Prepayment included 2 pence colonial inland fee and paid letter to destination.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: London to Boston, 14 September 1842

Ship: *Columbia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 September 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 4 October 1842

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
6¢ postage due (incoming ship letter to the port)

Notes: Unusual octagonal transit marking of Liverpool used for approximately two years.  
Two digit year date version used during last year from May 1842–April 1843.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: London to New York, 21 October 1842

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 November 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 17 November 1842

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢              postage due in New York

Notes: Postage due consisted of 2¢ ship fee plus 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fee from Boston to New York. Unusual octagonal transit marking of Liverpool used for approximately two years. Two digit year date version used during last year from May 1842-April 1843.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: Würzburg, Bavaria to New York, 18 November 1842**

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 December 1842  
Arrive: Boston, 21 December 1842

Rate: 70 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
39½¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 37½¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter carried by sea from Germany to England (probably Hamburg packet from Cuxhaven). G. B. credited with 1s6d under Anglo–Bremen convention of 1841 (1 shilling transatlantic packet fee and 6d British transit fee). Boston marked 39½¢ postage due for double rate.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to London, 30 November 1842

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Boston, 2 December 1842  
Arrive: Liverpool, 16 December 1842

Rate: --- letter placed onboard unpaid  
1 shilling postage due for single packet rate

Notes: Letter sent "out of the mails" to Boston where forwarding agent T.W. Ward placed letter in steamship mail bag.



# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Philadelphia, 2 February 1843

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 5 February 1843

Arrive: Boston, 19 February 1843

Rate: 1 shilling      paid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢              postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Postage due marked by Boston with the handstamp "20<sup>3</sup>" for a single rate, 2¢ ship fee plus 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fee to Philadelphia. Liverpool one shilling handstamp in red is an unusual style. Two other examples has been seen, this being the latest.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 28 July 1843

Ship:	<i>Hibernia</i>	
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)	
Depart:	Liverpool, 4 August 1843	
Arrive:	Boston, 17 August 1843	
Rate:	40 grote 39½¢	prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown) postage due (2¢ ship and 37½¢ inland fees)
Notes:	Letter carried by sea from Bremen (probably Hamburg packet from Cuxhaven). Great Britain entitled to 6 pence under Anglo-Bremen convention of 1841 and 1 shilling packet rate to U.S. Boston marked 20¾¢ postage due, then corrected to 39½¢ for double rate.	

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

20<sup>3</sup>



Folded Letter: Birkenhead, England to New York, 11 August 1843

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1843  
Arrive: Boston, 3 September 1843

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢              postage due (2¢ ship and 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fees)

Notes: Boston rate handstamp in red shows combined ship and inland fees.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>



Folded Letter: London to Philadelphia, 3 July 1844

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 July 1844  
Arrive: Boston, 17 July 1844

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter posted at Battle Bridge receiving house in London (red straightline handstamp on reverse). Letter rated at Philadelphia and not at arrival port of Boston. Very few examples of 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ handstamp of Philadelphia exist in red, recorded in use from July –October 1844 only.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: Philadelphia to London, 30 July 1844**

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 August 1844  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 August 1844

Rate: 56¼¢ prepaid for triple inland rate to Boston  
2 shilling postage due for double packet rate

Notes: Letter contained two other letters for Batavia and Canton, requiring three rates in U.S. In Great Britain, letter was double rate by weight.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: ?, Indiana to Bempflingen, Württemberg, 15 November 1844

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 January 1845  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 January 1845

Rate: 25¢ paid for transit fee to New York  
51 kreuzer postage due at Bempflingen

Notes: Letter originated in unknown location in Indiana and was posted at Goschen on 1 December 1844. New York postmaster sent letter in British mail to England by Cunard steamer. A postal convention between the U.K. and Holland (effective 1 January 1844) allowed letter to be sent to Holland unpaid with British debit of 1s8d (1s transatlantic packet fee plus 8d British share under convention). Dutch added 20 Cents for their portion under convention and debited Prussia 120 Cents. The equivalent marked at Aachen was 20 silbergroschen. For unknown reason at Frankfurt this amount was incorrectly converted to 40 kreuzer (instead of 70 kreuzer) and 9 kreuzer transit fee to Württemberg was added. A 2 kreuzer local fee was added for delivery in the Oberamt of Urach to arrive at 51 kreuzer postage due at destination. Scarce routing of letter via Holland as unpaid letter.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: Baltimore to Schlitz, Hesse, 28 November 1844**

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 December 1844  
Arrive: Liverpool, 16 December 1844

Rate: 37½¢ prepaid for double inland rate to Boston  
1s8d British debit to Holland  
1f40kr postage due in Schlitz

Notes: British debit to Holland included 1 shilling transatlantic packet fee plus 8 pence British transit to Holland. Dutch debited Thurn & Taxis Post 120 Dutch cents or 20 silbergroschen, which equalled 83 kreuzer. Thurn & Taxis transit fee was 16 kreuzer. One kreuzer local fee was added in Hesse making total postage due 100 kreuzer or 1 florin 40 kreuzer. Uncommon transit through Holland.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to Philadelphia, 31 December 1844

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 February 1845  
Arrive: Boston, 19 February 1845

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter posted at Two Penny post, Chancery Lane, London. It arrived at Liverpool on 5 January 1845, just missing the regular Cunard sailing of the previous day. Letter placed in closed mail bag for Philadelphia and not rated at arrival port of Boston.



# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, 30 April 1845

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 May 1845  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 May 1845

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
40½ silbergroschen postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter not posted in New York (probably carried privately to the steamer's letter bag in Boston). British debited Hamburg 2sh 8d for transit fees across the Atlantic and from London to Hamburg under Anglo-Hamburg Convention. This was equivalent to 34½ schillinge to which Hamburg added its fee of 6 schillinge and debited Prussia 41 schillinge. This was equivalent to 30½ silbergroschen. Prussia added 10 silbergroschen transit fee and marked 40½ silbergroschen postage due at Berlin.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

*BT*



Folded Letter: Charleston, South Carolina to London, 10 May 1845

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 May 1845  
Arrive: Liverpool, 31 May 1845

Rate: 50¢ paid for double rate to Boston  
1 shilling postage due in London

Notes: Charleston postmaster marked small red crayon "2<sup>d</sup>" underneath rate marking in red to show that letter required two rates. Since this letter was endorsed for two rates and 2x25¢ inland fee was paid, this confirms the meaning of this unusual marking which is seen on some letter from Charleston in the 1840s.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, 13 June 1845

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 June 1845  
Arrive: Liverpool, 27 June 1845

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
40½ silbergroschen postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter not posted in New York (probably carried privately to the steamer's letter bag in Boston). British debited Hamburg 2sh 8d for transit fees across the Atlantic and from London to Hamburg under Anglo-Hamburg Convention. This was equivalent to 34½ schillinge to which Hamburg added its fee of 6 schillinge and debited Prussia 41 schillinge. This was equivalent to 30½ silbergroschen. Prussia added 10 silbergroschen transit fee and marked 40½ silbergroschen postage due at Berlin.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Hamburg to Boston, 26 June 1845

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 July 1845  
Arrive: Boston, 19 July 1845

Rate: 22 schillings prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
6¢ postage due (incoming ship letter to the port)

Notes: Letter conveyed from Hamburg to Hull by contract mail service under Anglo–Hamburg Convention of 1841. Prepayment included 6 pence transit fee to Great Britain and 1 shilling transatlantic packet rate, both credited to London.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, 15 July 1845

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 July 1845  
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 July 1845

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
40½ silbergroschen postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter paid only to departure port in U.S. British debited Hamburg 2sh 8d for transit fees across the Atlantic and from London to Hamburg under Anglo-Hamburg Convention. This was equivalent to 34½ schillinge to which Hamburg added its fee of 6 schillinge and debited Prussia 41 schillinge. This was equivalent to 30½ silbergroschen. Prussia added 10 silbergroschen transit fee and marked 40½ silbergroschen postage due at Berlin.

*U.S. – British Postal Treaties*

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

12



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Gory, Ireland to New Orleans, 15 July 1845

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 July 1845  
Arrive: Boston, 30 July 1845

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter rated for postage due at New Orleans instead of at arrival port of Boston. Letter believed to have been in closed bag through Boston for New Orleans. See *Chronicle* 161,162 (Feb, May 1994) for an explanation of the handling of covers rated at the destination vice arrival port.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

43  
12



Folded Letter: Vienna, Austria to New Orleans, 22 August 1845

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 September 1845  
Arrive: Boston, 19 September 1845

Rate: 55 krCM prepaid for all transit fees to U.S.  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Prepayment in manuscript on reverse shows 12 Austrian kreuzer internal and 43 Austrian kreuzer foreign transit fees (35 krCM French and United Kingdom transit plus 8 krCM German transit). Letter conveyed through Germany and France to Great Britain under French-Austrian and Anglo-French conventions. Postage due marked at New Orleans and not arrival port of Boston

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Berlin, 15 October 1845

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 October 1845  
Arrive: Liverpool, 27 October 1845

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
79 silbergroschen postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter not posted in New York (probably carried privately to the steamer's letter bag in Boston). British debited Hamburg 5s4d for double transit fees across the Atlantic and London to Hamburg under Anglo-Hamburg Convention. This was equivalent to 71 schillinge (not shown) to which Hamburg added its fee of 3 x 4 schillinge from Cuxhaven to Hamburg and debited Prussia 85 schillinge. This was equivalent to 71 silbergroschen. Prussia added 2 x 4 silbergroschen transit fee to Berlin (34 German miles from Hamburg) and marked 79 silbergroschen postage due at Berlin.



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Sheffield, England to Philadelphia, 3 December 1845

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 December 1845  
Arrive: Boston, 19 December 1845

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter rated at Philadelphia and not at arrival port of Boston.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to London, 31 January 1846

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 February 1846  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 February 1846

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1 shilling postage due in London

Notes: New York used circular datestamp with "5 PAID" on a slant, a marking thought to be created for foreign mails. This marking is more often seen on transatlantic covers with the New York postmaster provisional stamp of 1845 than on stampless covers. Red oval business marking of sending company, T&J Brockelmann of New York, struck in lower right corner.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 3 February 1846

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 February 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 18 January 1846

Rate: 2 shilling prepaid for double packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 2x5¢ inland fees)

Notes: New York marked the postage due and not the arrival port of Boston. Postal clerk rated letter 7¢ postage due, then corrected to 12¢ when it was realized this was a double rate letter.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Non Contract Ship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Envelope: New York to Hamburg, 28 February 1846

Ship: *Joshua Bates*

Company: Enoch Train's Line of Sailing Ships

Depart: Boston, 5 March 1846  
Arrive: Liverpool, 28 March 1846

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1s2d British debit to Hamburg  
20 schillinge postage due in Hamburg

Notes: Letter endorsed "by Cambria/1st March" and included among the 8000 letters sent to Boston on the coastal steamer *Mohegan* from New York which was delayed in a snow storm and missed the sailing of Cunard steamship *Cambria*, the scheduled contract steamer. Boston's postmaster sent these delayed mails on the next available sailing ship to Liverpool. Backstamp shows Liverpool ship letter datestamp (see previous cover). Letter sent from London to Hamburg by steamship to Cuxhaven.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

Bishopgate<sup>St</sup>Within



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to Philadelphia, 2 March 1846

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 March 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 19 March 1846

Rate: 2 shilling      paid for double packet rate  
12¢                      postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter posted at Bishopgate Within receiving house, London. Another receiving house with a similar name was in existence at the same time, Bishopgate Without. Letter not rated at arrival port of Boston, but at Philadelphia where 12¢ postage due marked (2¢ ship plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee from Boston to Philadelphia).

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

7



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 3 March 1846

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 March 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 19 March 1846

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Although cover looks like a printed matter piece, only half is printed and the other half contains a written letter. The full letter rate was required. Postage due of 7¢ marked at New York and not at arrival port of Boston. Small red 13mm circle "7" handstamp used only at New York and not a very common rate marking.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Dillenburg, Hesse-Nassau to Louisville, Kentucky, 20 March 1846

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 April 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 20 April 1846

Rate: 36 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)  
17¢ postage due at destination

Notes: Letter posted in Mannheim, Baden and directed via Calais, France. Prepayment included 28 kr. to France and 8 kr. to Baden for single rate letter to U.S. under Franco-Baden convention of 1824. Postage due in U.S. consisted of 2¢ ship and 10¢ U.S. inland fee for distance from Boston to Louisville. Small blue double circle "12" rate handstamp applied at Philadelphia where letter arrived in closed mail bag from Liverpool through Boston. Letter not rated at arrival port of Boston. At Louisville, letter forwarded to Providence, Kentucky for an additional 5¢ inland postage.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

# 12



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Baltimore, 4 April 1846

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 April 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 20 April 1846

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Postage due consisted of 2¢ ship and 10¢ U.S. inland fee for distance from Boston to Baltimore. Small red "12" rate handstamp applied at Baltimore where letter arrived in a closed mail bag through Boston. Letter not rated at arrival port of Boston. This is one of two examples of the small Baltimore "12" rate marking applied in red ink on a transatlantic cover.

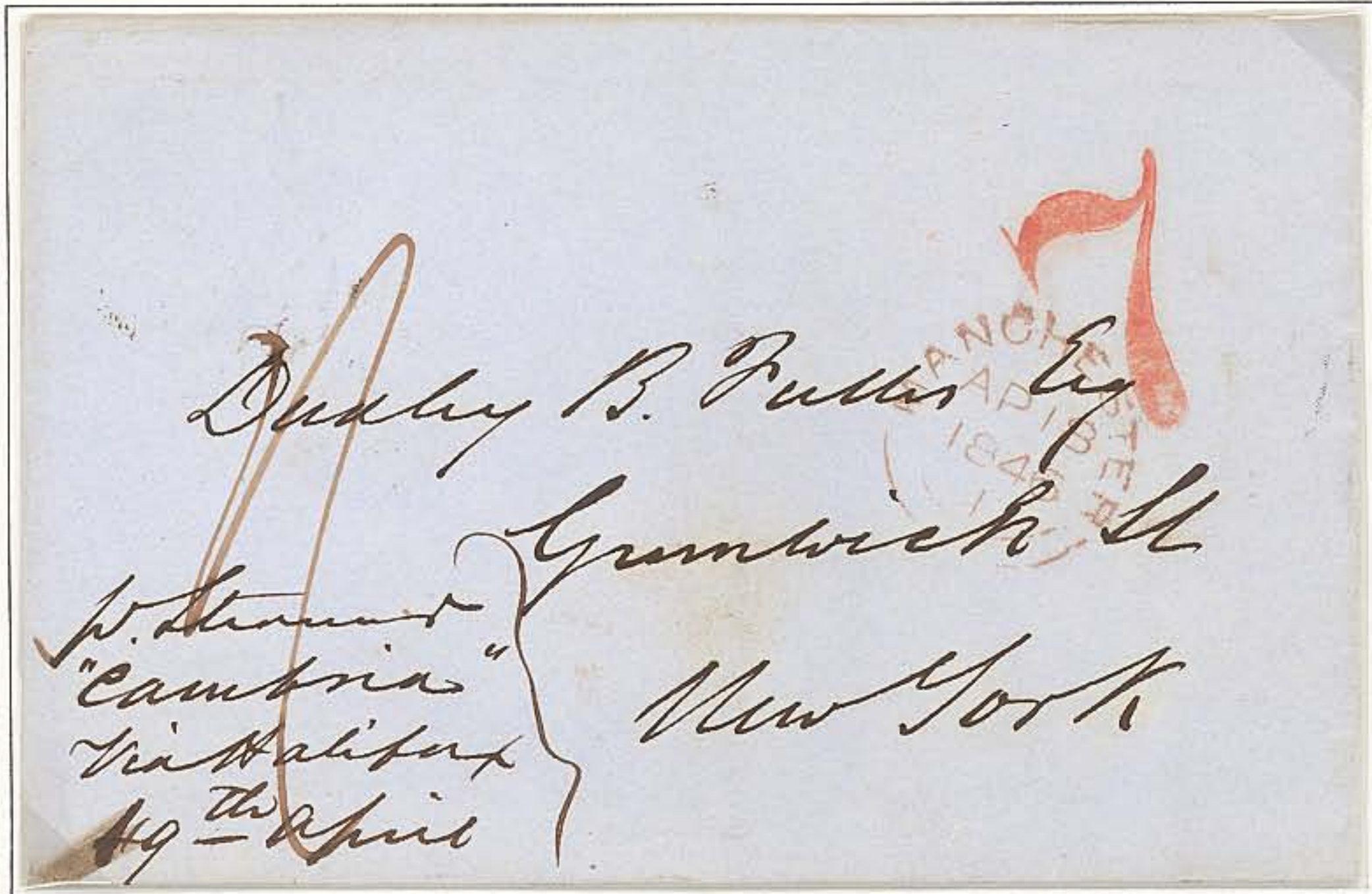


U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

7



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Manchester to New York, 18 April 1846

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 April 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 5 May 1846

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter in closed bag through Boston to New York where large red "7" struck.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to London, 30 April 1846

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 May 1846  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 May 1846

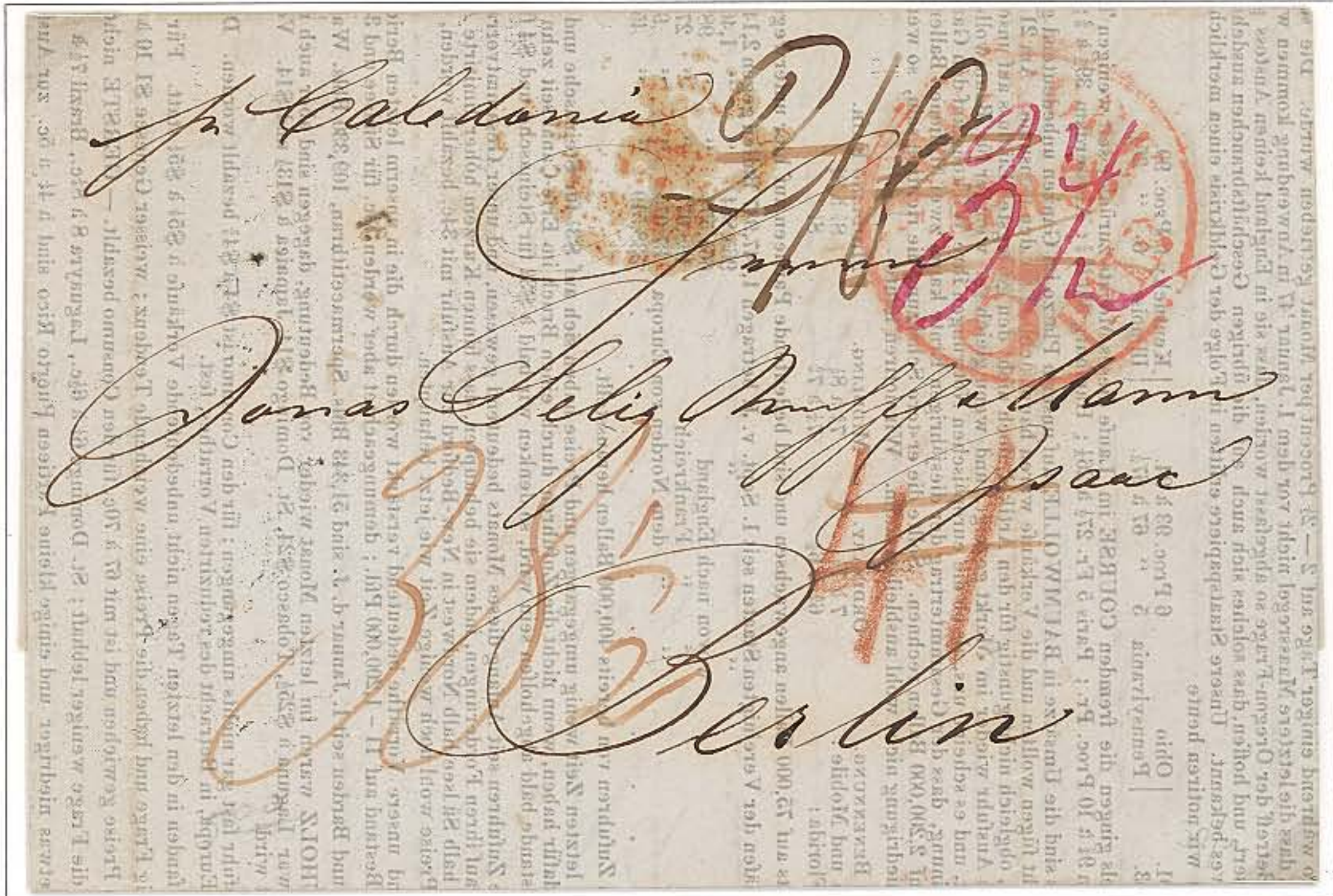
Rate: 5¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
2 shilling postage due for double packet rate

Notes: New York used circular datestamp with "5 PAID" on a slant, a marking thought to be created for foreign mails. This marking is more often seen on transatlantic covers with the New York postmaster provisional stamp of 1845 than on stampless covers. London started to rate letter as a single (1/- postage due), then corrected to a double rate.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 30 April 1846

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 May 1846  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 May 1846

Rate: 5¢ Paid for U.S. inland fee  
2s8d British debit to Hamburg  
38½ sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: U.S. inland fee to Boston of 5¢ paid in cash. London debited Hamburg 2s8d (1s packet fee plus 1s8d British transit fee to Hamburg for letter going beyond in Germany). Hamburg marked 41 schillinge debit to Prussia (2s8d = 35 schillinge plus 6 schillinge transit from Cuxhaven to Hamburg, equivalent to 30½ sgr.). Prussia added 4 sgr. transit and Berlin added another 4 sgr. fee for 38½ sgr. postage due.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

7



**Folded Letter: London to New York, 3 May 1846**

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 5 May 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 21 May 1846

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter in closed bag through Boston to New York where large red "7" struck.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Envelope: New York to London, 31 July 1846

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 August 1846  
Arrive: Liverpool, 12 August 1846

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1 shilling postage due for incoming packet letter

Notes: Prepayment written in pencil in upper left corner. New York applied circular datestamp generally used for domestic letters. This marking is seldom seen on transatlantic covers. Found only in red ink and 30mm wide, the marking was followed in the early 1850s by a similar version, but in black ink and 32mm wide.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

# 12



Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 14 August 1846

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 3 September 1846

Rate: 40 grote prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
1s6d Bremen credit to G.B. (marked at London)  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter travelled from Bremen via Cuxhaven by sea to England vice overland through Belgium. G.B. entitled to 6d transit fee under Anglo-Bremen Convention of 1841 and 1s packet rate to U.S. Small blue "12" rate handstamp struck at Baltimore where letter arrived in a closed bag through Boston.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 12 September 1846

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 September 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 3 October 1846

Rate: 52 grote prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
120 Dutch cents credit to Netherlands (manuscript on reverse)  
1s8d credit to G.B. (probably marked at London)  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter travelled from Bremen via Netherlands and private ship across English Channel to London. G.B. entitled to 8d transit fee under Anglo-Dutch Convention of 1843 and 1s packet rate to U.S. Small blue "12"-rate handstamp struck at Baltimore where letter arrived in a closed bag through Boston. This and preceding two covers show three different routings of the same correspondence from Bremen to Baltimore.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Liverpool, England to New York, 19 October 1846

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 October 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 7 November 1846

Rate: 2 shilling      prepaid for double packet rate  
12¢                      postage due in New York

Notes: Letter not rated in arriving port of Boston but in New York where large red handstamp "7" was first marked, then crossed through in blue pen and 12¢ postage due marked for double rate (2¢ ship fee plus 2x5¢ inland fee to New York).



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

---

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: London to Black Rock, New York, 1 November 1846

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 November 1846  
Arrive: Boston, 17 November 1846

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter in closed bag through Boston to New York where large red "7" struck. Letter re-rated for 12¢ postage due when it was realized that Black Rock in Erie County was more than 300 miles from New York.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 31 December 1846

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 January 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 January 1847

Rate: 5¢ Paid for U.S. inland fee  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20¼ sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: U.S. inland fee to Boston of 5¢ paid in cash. Effective 1 January 1847, a new postal convention between the U.K. and Prussia went into effect. Under the convention the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20¼ sgr. postage due. Early Anglo-Prussian convention mail.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

# 12



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New Orleans, 4 January 1847

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 5 January 1847  
Arrive: Boston, 25 January 1847

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter in closed bag through Boston to New Orleans. Distinctive large "12" handstamp in black struck at New Orleans where closed mail bag opened.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Baltimore to London, 28 April 1847

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 May 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 May 1847

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston  
1 shilling postage due for single packet rate

Notes: Letter received no Liverpool arrival or postage due handstamp indicating it was probably separately bagged for London. Presumably this was done at New York. Letters to other locations in Great Britain and Ireland usually show Liverpool markings.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 29 April 1847

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 May 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 May 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20¼ sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20¼ sgr. postage due. FRANCO marked in error and crossed through in red ink.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New Orleans, 3 May 1847

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 May 1847  
Arrive: Boston, 17 May 1847

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter in closed bag through Boston to New Orleans. Distinctive large "12" handstamp in blue struck at New Orleans where closed mail bag opened. Letter actually a printed information sheet in handwriting style.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



**Folded Letter: New York to London, 14 May 1847**

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 May 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 May 1847

Rate:        - - -       letter sent unpaid  
              1 shilling     postage due for single packet rate

Notes:       Letter sent privately to Boston where forwarding agent T.W. Ward placed letter in  
              steamship's letter bag avoiding U.S. postage.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 15 May 1847

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 May 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 May 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20¼ sgr. postage due in Berlin

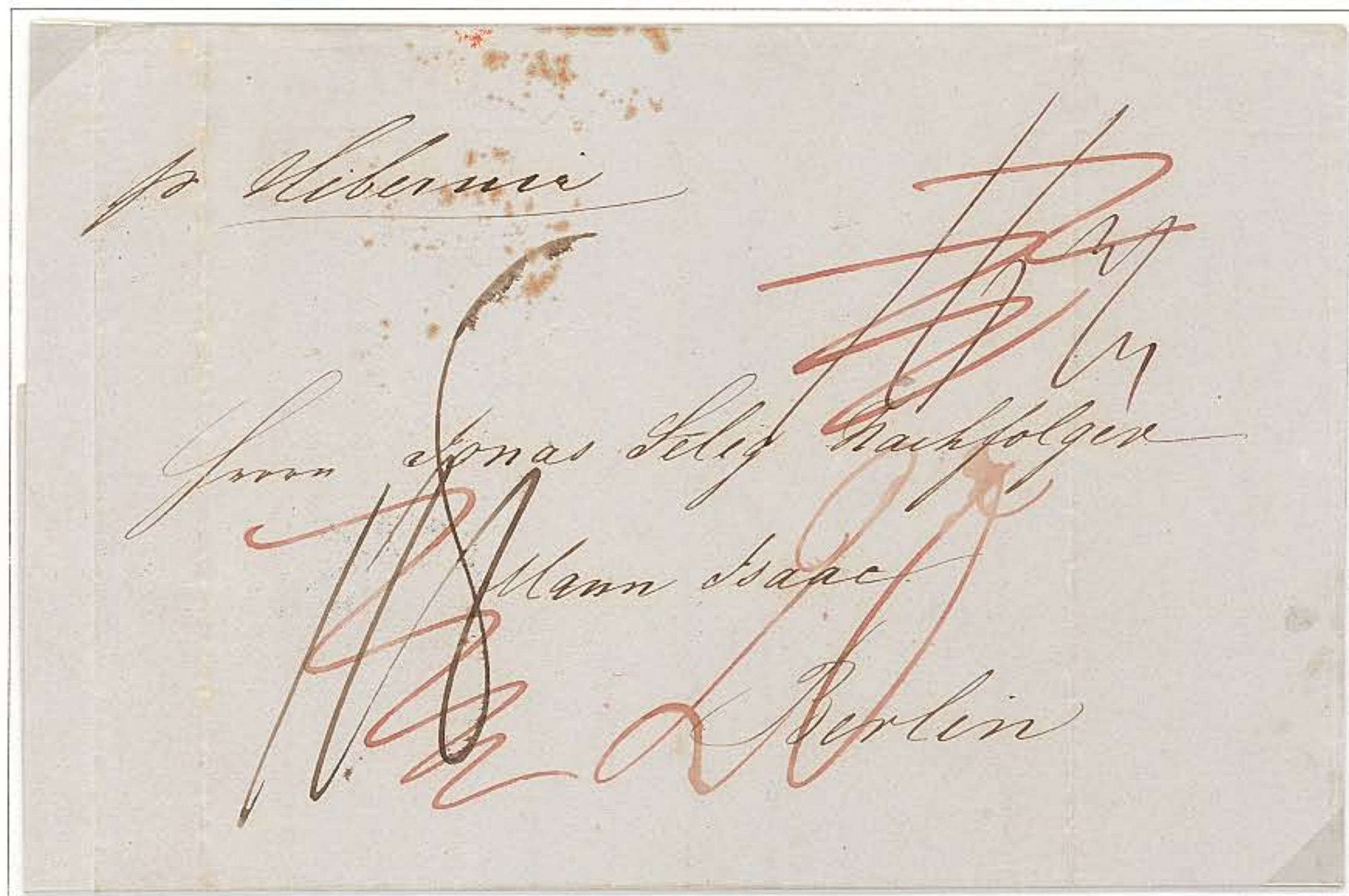
Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20¼ sgr. postage due.



# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 15 June 1847

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 June 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 28 June 1847

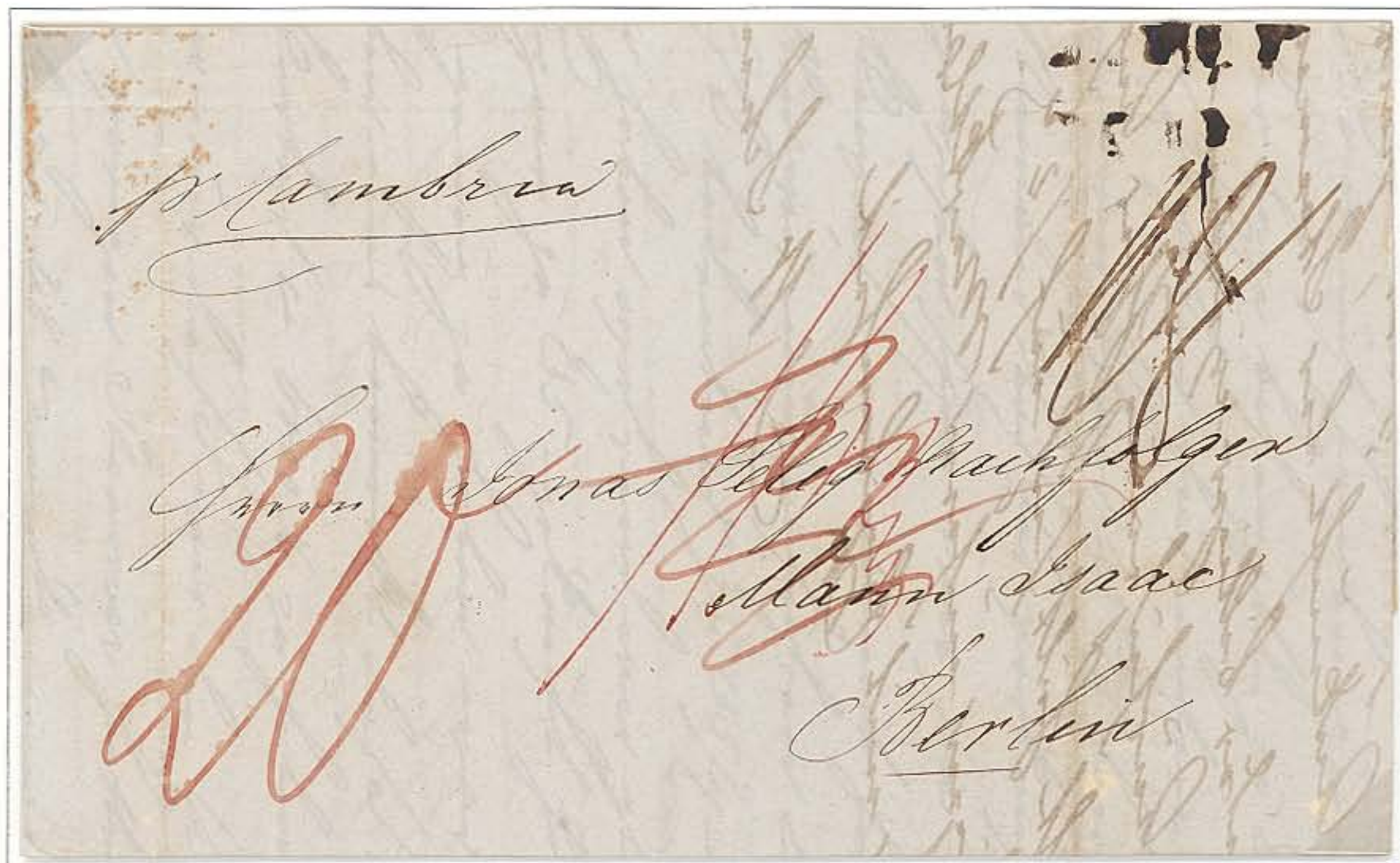
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20 sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20 sgr. postage due. This was a slight reduction of the fees seen a month earlier

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 30 June 1847

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 July 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 July 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20 sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20 sgr. postage due. This was a slight reduction of the fees seen earlier

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

7



Folded Letter: Limerick, Ireland to New York, 2 July 1847

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 July 1847  
Arrive: Boston, 17 July 1847

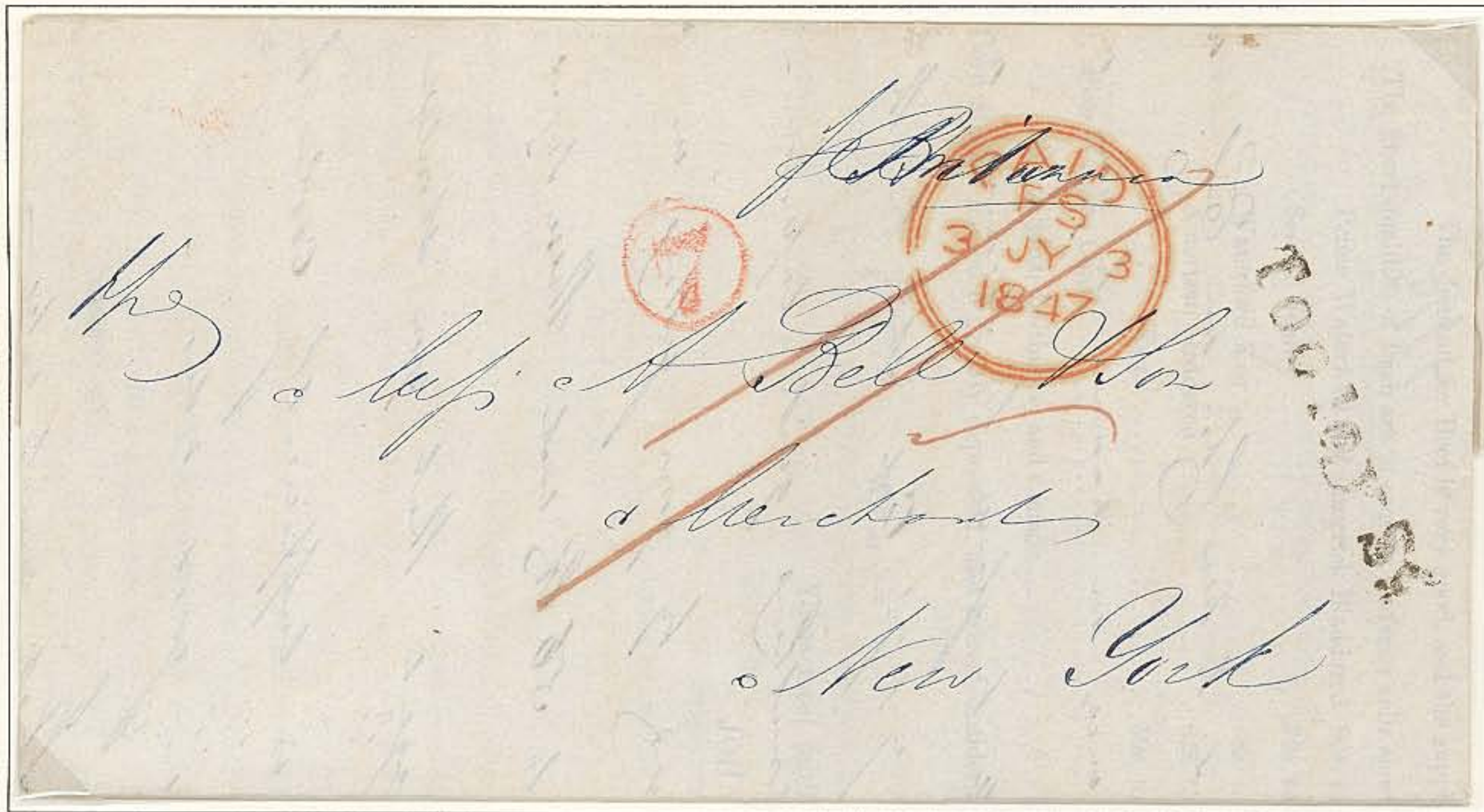
Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢                      postage due (2¢ ship and 5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Both the 26mm red handstamp "7" and small red 13mm circle "7" handstamp were used in New York when closed mail bags containing this letter were opened (see previous example). Letter not marked for postage due at arrival port of Boston.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded Letter: London to New York, 3 July 1847

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 July 1847  
Arrive: Boston, 17 July 1847

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter posted in Tooley Street receiving house, London and carried on 7th Anniversary of *Britannia's* first voyage, which inaugurated the Cunard service to North America in 1840. Letter marked for postage due in New York and not arrival port of Boston.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 31 July 1847

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 August 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 August 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20¼ sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20¼ sgr. postage due. The postage due varied between 20 and 20¼ sgr. on letters from this archive.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 31 August 1847

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Boston, 2 September 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 September 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20 sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20 sgr. postage due. This was a slight reduction of the fees seen earlier.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 14 September 1847

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 September 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 September 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20 sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20 sgr. postage due. This was a slight reduction of the fees seen earlier.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded letter: Liverpool to Augusta, Georgia, 18 September 1847

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 September 1847  
Arrive: Boston, 3 October 1847

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter not rated at arrival port of Boston but at Philadelphia where distinctive double circle blue "12" handstamp struck. Letter mistakenly packaged with other Philadelphia letters. Unusual rating at Philadelphia.



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

# 12



**Folded letter: Hamburg to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 30 September 1847**

Ship:	<i>Cambria</i>	
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)	
Depart:	Liverpool, 5 October 1847	
Arrive:	Boston, 19 October 1847	
Rate:	17 silbergroschen 6d 12¢	prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. border Hamburg credit to G.B. (marked at London) postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)
Notes:	Letter posted by forwarding agent A.D.Pehmoller of Hamburg (blue oval marking on reverse) and sent to G.B. under Anglo-Prussian Convention of 1846. Postage due marked at New York with 26mm red handstamp "12" instead of at Boston, the arrival port. Unusual red "3" and "2" handstamps in upper right not understood.	

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

7



Folded Letter: Halifax, Nova Scotia to New York, 13 November 1847

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Halifax, 18 November 1847  
Arrive: Boston, 20 November 1847

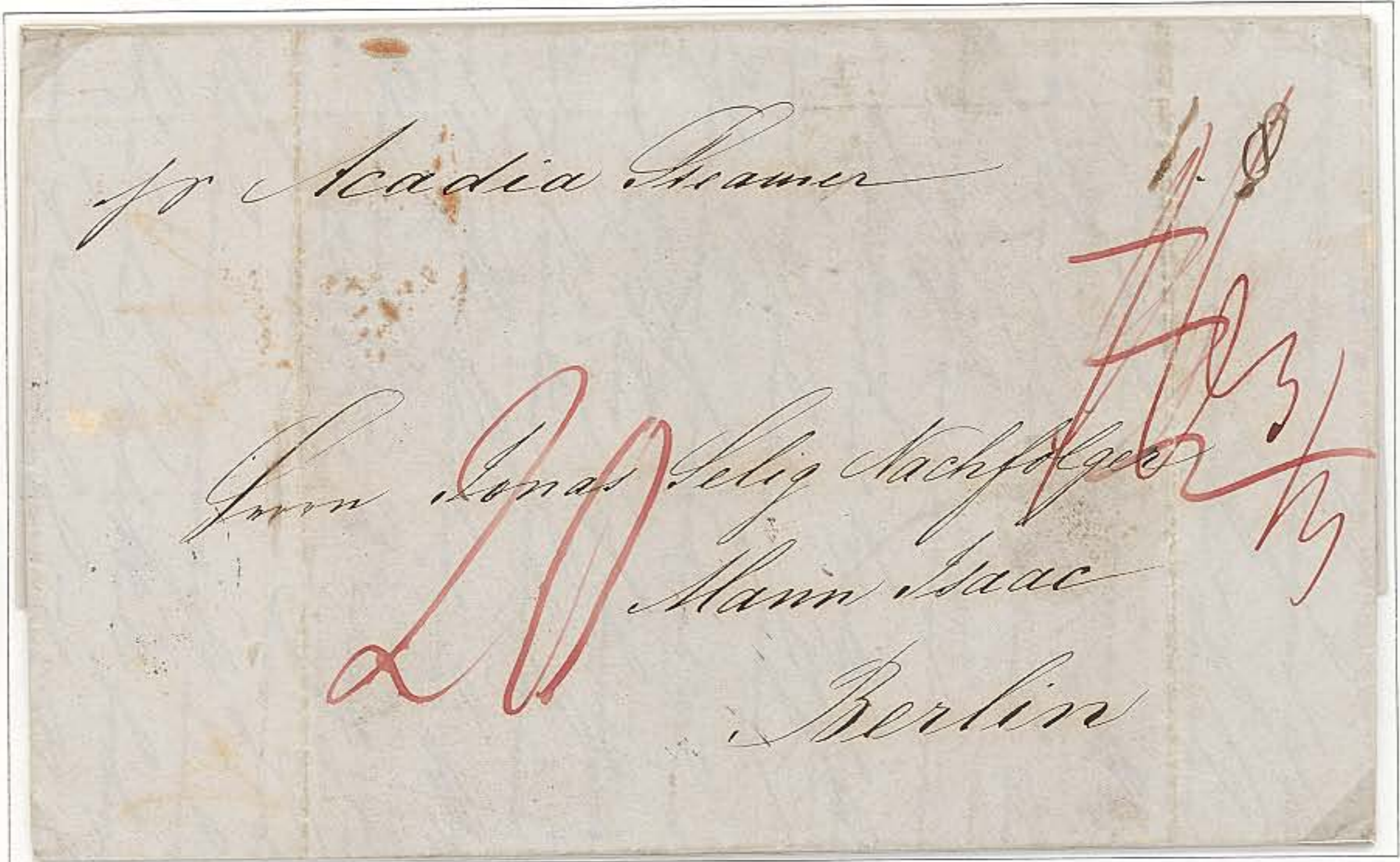
Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter carried by Cunard steamship which called at Halifax en route to Boston. Prepaid postage from Halifax to U.S. was one shilling packet rate, the same as was required for a letter from England to the U.S. Small red 13mm circle "7" handstamp struck in New York where closed mail bag opened, an uncommon marking. Letter not marked for postage due at arrival port of Boston.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Berlin, Prussia, 29 November 1847

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 December 1847  
Arrive: Liverpool, 16 December 1847

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s8d British debit to Prussia  
20 sgr. postage due in Berlin

Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston avoiding U.S. inland fee. Under the U.K.-Prussia postal convention of 1846, the U.K. was entitled to 1s packet fee across the Atlantic, 6d British transit fee, and 2d Belgium transit fee; therefore, London debited Prussia 1s8d. This was equivalent to 16¾ sgr. in Prussian currency. Prussia marked 20 sgr. postage due. This was a slight reduction of the fees seen earlier.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

6



Folded letter: Liverpool to New York, 28 January 1848

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 30 January 1848  
Arrive: New York, 16 February 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
6¢ postage due (incoming ship letter to the port)

Notes: Letter carried on second of only nine voyages by Cunard steamers to New York before retaliatory rate period. New York ship markings appear on Cunard covers for only six months in 1848 and six weeks in early 1849 before treaty rates became effective.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Envelope: Halifax, Nova Scotia to Boston, 26 February 1848

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Halifax, 2 March 1848  
Arrive: Boston, 4 March 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
6¢ postage due (port of arrival ship rate)

Notes: Letter carried by Cunard steamship which called at Halifax en route to Boston. Prepaid postage from Halifax to U.S. was one shilling packet rate, the same as was required for a letter from England to the U.S. This very high rate was reduced to 4d sterling effective from 20 September 1849. Boston applied "SHIP" in scroll with 6¢ postage due, a ship letter rate marking that had been in use since 1817.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Bremen to Petersburg, Virginia, 25 April 1848

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 29 April 1848  
Arrive: New York, 14 May 1848

Rate: 40 grote prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
1s6d Bremen credit to G.B. (marked at London)  
12¢ postage due in Petersburg

Notes: Letter travelled from Bremen via Cuxhaven by sea to England vice overland through Belgium. U.K. entitled to 6d transit fee under Anglo-Bremen Convention of 1841 and 1s packet rate to U.S. Large red "12" struck at New York to indicate postage due, 2¢ ship fee plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded letter: Birmingham, England to New York, 27 April 1848

Ship:	<i>Cambria</i>
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)
Depart:	Liverpool, 29 April 1848
Arrive:	New York, 14 May 1848
Rate:	1 shilling      prepaid for single packet rate 6¢                      postage due (incoming ship letter to the port)
Notes:	Letter carried on sixth of only nine voyages by Cunard steamers to New York before retaliatory rate period. New York ship markings appear on Cunard covers for only six months in 1848 and six weeks in early 1849 before treaty rates became effective.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848

Return'd  
for Postage

(Red – reverse)



Folded letter: Bristol, England to New York, 6 May 1848

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 13 May 1848  
Arrive: New York, 27 May 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter posted unpaid in Bristol Penny Post (datestamp on reverse) and sent to London, where it was marked "Return'd for Postage," and sent back to Bristol. One shilling packet fee paid when letter reposted in Bristol. Letter carried on seventh of only nine voyages by Cunard steamers to New York before retaliatory rate period. New York ship markings appear on Cunard covers for only six months in 1848 and six weeks in early 1849 before treaty rates became effective. Unusual use of the "Return'd for Postage" marking on transatlantic cover.



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded letter: Liverpool to Wiscasset, Maine, 13 May 1848

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 13 May 1848  
Arrive: New York, 27 May 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 10¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter carried on seventh of only nine voyages by Cunard steamers to New York before retaliatory rate period. New York ship markings appear on Cunard covers for only six months in 1848 and six weeks in early 1849 before treaty rates became effective.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848

AMERICA per ENGLAND



Folded Letter: New Riede, Texas to free city of Frankfurt am Main, 14 May 1848

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: New York, 7 June 1848  
Arrive: Liverpool, 21 June 1848

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fees to New York  
1s10d G.B. debit to Prussia  
76 kreuzer postage due in Frankfurt

Notes: Letter written at a farm and posted in La Grange, Texas, the next day. London marked 1s10d debit to Prussia as letter required two Belgium rates. Aachen exchange office clerk marked boxed AMERICA per ENGLAND handstamp and converted 1s10d to 18½ silbergroschen (sgr.). Clerk added 3½ sgr. German transit fee and marked 21½ in red ink postage due. At Frankfurt this was converted to 76 kr. with no local fee, "76/0."

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded letter: London to Philadelphia, 25 May 1848

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 27 May 1848  
Arrive: New York, 10 June 1848

Rate: 2 shilling prepaid for double packet rate  
12¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 2x5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Liverpool transit lozenge with serif letters is far more scarce than sans serif version used later. Although known in use since 1840, very few examples have been recorded to the U.S. and those occur mostly in early 1848. Letter carried on eighth of only nine voyages by Cunard steamers to New York before retaliatory rate period. New York ship markings appear on Cunard covers for just six months in 1848 and six weeks in early 1849 before treaty rates became effective.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter: Bremen to Petersburg, Virginia, 6 June 1848

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 17 June 1848

Arrive: Boston, 30 June 1848

Rate: 44 grote prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
1s8d Bremen credit to G.B. (marked at London)  
12¢ postage due in Petersburg

Notes: Letter posted in Prussian office in Bremen and travelled via Belgium to England. Credit to U.K. consisted of 2d Belgian transit, 6d British transit, and 1s packet fee across the Atlantic to the U.S. under Anglo-Prussian Convention of 1846. Boston marked 12¢ postage due, 2¢ ship fee plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee. Uncommon letter posted at Prussian office in Bremen. Most mail to the U.S. was posted in the Bremen stadtpost.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
1 June 1847-15 February 1849



Folded Letter: Paterson, New Jersey to Burton-in-Kendal, England, 18 September 1848

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 20 September 1848  
Arrive: Southampton, 5 October 1848

Rate: 29¢ prepaid for single rate  
1 shilling postage due in Burton-in-Kendal

Notes: Letter prepaid 29¢ (24¢ American packet rate plus 5¢ inland fee) for an American contract mail steamship. British charged 1 shilling incoming packet fee even though letter not carried to England on a British packet. Americans called this a discriminatory charge since the sea postage had already been paid. Eventually, continued use of this discriminatory rate on American packet letters caused the Americans to retaliate with a double sea postage on letters carried by British contract vessels. Letter sent to Kendal in error and marked "Missdirected to Kendal" on the right side. This is not a retaliatory rate cover.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849  
27 June 1848-3 January 1849

74  
23



Folded Letter: New York to Copenhagen, Denmark, 24 October 1848

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: New York, 25 October 1848  
Arrive: Liverpool, 11 November 1848

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1s6d U.K. debit to Denmark  
103 rigsbank skilling postage due in Copenhagen

Notes: Retaliatory fee avoided by taking letter directly to steamship's letter bag in New York. London debit to Denmark included 1s transatlantic packet fee plus 6d British share under 1846 Anglo-Danish convention. British mail under this convention was off loaded at Altona. The Schleswig-Holstein rebellion in March 1848 resulted in the Altona and Danish post office in Hamburg being taken over by Schleswig-Holstein. The 1s6d debit was converted to 21 schillinge at Altona to which 2 schillinge was added for transit from Altona to Hamburg. Letter conveyed by Danish wagon from Hamburg to Lauenburg and Lubeck, then by ship to Copenhagen. The equivalent of 23 schillinge was 74 rbs marked on the reverse in manuscript, to which was added 29 rbs for transit by Danish post from Hamburg to Copenhagen.

## U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849  
4 Jul 1840-1 Jul 1845

On 4 July 1840, British contract mail service from Liverpool to Boston was inaugurated by the British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The line was better known as the Cunard Line after its founder Samuel Cunard. Letters sent on these steamers from Great Britain had to be prepaid the "packet" letter rate of one shilling per half ounce. Since there was no treaty with the United States at the time, postage was always due at destination based on incoming ship letter rates.



3 September 1840 Liverpool to New York  
1s paid for packet rate  
20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ postage due in New York

*Britannia* 14 days (West)  
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ U.S. inland fees

This letter was carried on the second voyage of the steamship *Britannia*, the third mail voyage for the line. Endorsement of the steamer's scheduled sailing date written in the upper left corner in the Quaker style, "9 Mo 4" indicating 9th month, 4th day or 4 September.

*p. Britannia*  
9 Mo 4

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849  
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848



31 December 1845 New York to Liverpool  
5¢ paid for single U.S. inland rate  
1s postage due in Liverpool

**Acadia** 14 days (East)  
New York made up mails day before steamer's Boston departure;  
distinctive New York cds usually seen on transatlantic mails with  
NY Postmaster Provisional stamp of 1845



31 January 1846 New York to Leipzig, Saxony  
5¢ paid for single U.S. inland rate  
423 pfennige postage due in Leipzig

**Hibernia** 13 days (East)  
2s8d British debit to Bremen; 1 thaler Bremen debit to Prussia; 33½  
silbergroschen Prussian debit to Saxony; various German currencies  
used as letter transited borders of different States



U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1838-1849  
1 Jul 1845-29 Jun 1848



5 June 1846 Malaga, Spain to Boston  
Letter sent unpaid to forwarding agent, Baring Bros. of London  
10d postage due in London; 1s paid to forward letter to U.S.

*Britannia* 15 days (West)  
Letter sent overland via Madrid and Paris to London  
6¢ postage due in Boston (not shown)

12



13 June 1846 Bremen to Baltimore  
22 silbergroschen paid for all transit fees to U.S.  
12¢ postage due in Baltimore

*Britannia* 15 days (West)  
1s8d Bremen credit to G.B.; although endorsed via Holland, letter sent  
via Herve, Belgium (backstamp); postage due marked at Baltimore



7

2 July 1847 Gilford, Ireland to New York  
1s paid for packet rate  
7¢ postage due in New York

*Britannia* 13 days (West)  
Letter posted in Laurencetown receiving house,  
Bainbridge, Ireland; small red 13mm circle "7" struck at  
New York where closed mail bag via Boston opened



**TOO LATE**

7 March 1848 Meiningen, Saxe-Meiningen to New York  
Letter sent unpaid to Liverpool forwarding agent  
1s paid for packet rate  
6¢ postage due in New York

*Hibernia* 14 days (West)  
Prussia debited G.B. 4¼ silbergroschen  
Liverpool sent letter to Southampton but was too late for the  
*Washington* and was returned for the Liverpool Cunard steamer