

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849-1867  
20 February 1849-31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Baltimore to London, 14 April 1849

Ship:	<i>Hermann</i>
Company:	Ocean Steam Navigation Company (Ocean Line)
Depart:	New York, 20 April 1849
Arrive:	Southampton, 4 May 1849
Rate:	24¢ prepaid for single treaty rate 3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.
Notes:	Blue business marking of sending company, J. F. Stromm & Co. of Baltimore, struck in upper left corner. Baltimore neglected to mark circular datestamp to show when letter left for New York. <i>Hermann</i> put mail for U.K. off when she stopped in the Solent off Cowes, Isle of Wight. This was the normal procedure for the steamers to Bremerhaven that stopped near Southampton to put off mail. Early convention letter carried on American contract steamship.

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Folded Letter: Calcutta, India to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 29 April 1850

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 19 June 1850  
Arrive: New York, 1 July 1850

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
2s3d paid in Liverpool by forwarding agent  
--- letter reposted unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Portsmouth

Notes: Letter carried by P&O steamers *Hindustan* from Calcutta to Galle and Suez, and *Indus* from Alexandria to Malta, then by another vessel to Marseille. Brown, Shipley & Company paid 2s3d, the ¼-½ oz. rate to G.B. by the Marseille route. New York used SHIP circular datestamp, most unusual for a contract steamship letter.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Boston to Liverpool, 26 July 1850

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 27 July 1850  
Arrive: Liverpool, 7 August 1850

Rate:            ---            letter sent unpaid  
                  21¢            U.S. debit to G.B.  
                  1 shilling        postage due in Liverpool

Notes:            Absence of a PAID marking from Boston indicates letter was sent unpaid. New York struck 21¢ debit marking because Boston did not prepare letter for exchange between the two countries even though Boston was an exchange office.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Boston, 20 August 1850

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 21 August 1850  
Arrive: New York, 1 September 1850

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: Small slanted 3/CENTS debit marking despatched to Liverpool in May 1850 for use on mails sent unpaid by Collins Line steamships. New York arrival markings are not on letter because it was in a closed mail bag exchanged between Liverpool and Boston.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: New York to London, 23 August 1850

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 24 August 1850  
Arrive: Liverpool, 4 September 1850

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in London

Notes: New York exchange office circular datestamp showed 21¢ debit to G.B. U.S. entitled to 5¢ inland and 16¢ transatlantic sea postage under the convention since an American contract packet carried letter.

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**Folded Letter: London to Providence, Rhode Island, 31 December 1850**

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 11 January 1851  
Arrive: New York, 27 January 1851

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Providence

Notes: Letter posted at Lombard Street post office in London where it received the Maltese Cross datestamp. London applied the 3/CENTS debit marking. New York showed the postage due in a new circular datestamp which indicated American packet service.

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Folded Letter: Wiesbaden, Hesse-Nassau to Sandusky, Ohio, 5 January 1851

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 11 January 1851  
Arrive: New York, 27 January 1851

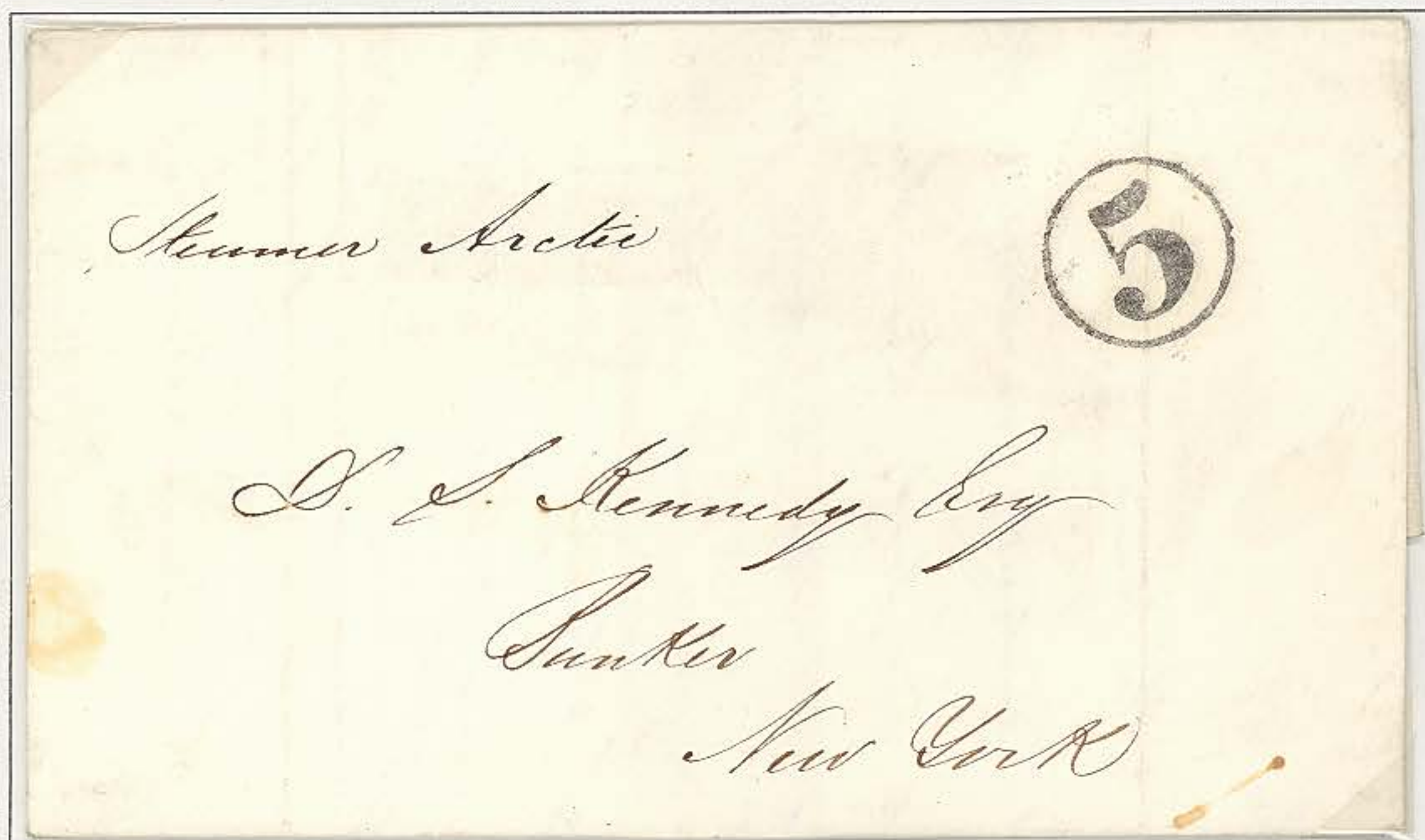
Rate: 64 kreuzer prepaid for single rate  
1s4d Prussia credit to G.B.  
16¢ G.B. credit to U.S.  
5¢ postage due in Sandusky

Notes: Prepayment stated in red crayon as 1 Florin 4 kreuzer (64 kreuzer) with 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  sgr. credited to Prussia. Cologne exchange office marked circle P. to show letter prepaid and credited G.B. 1s4d in magenta ink. London clerks marked 16¢ credit to U.S. since transatlantic transit postage paid and letter to be put on American packet. Very few examples of the large 16/CENTS handstamp have been recorded. New York used domestic unpaid inland rate marking for postage due.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: Halifax, Nova Scotia to New York, 25 January 1851**

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Halifax, 25 January 1851  
Arrive: New York, 27 January 1851

Rate: – – – letter sent unpaid by taking directly to ship  
5¢ postage due in New York

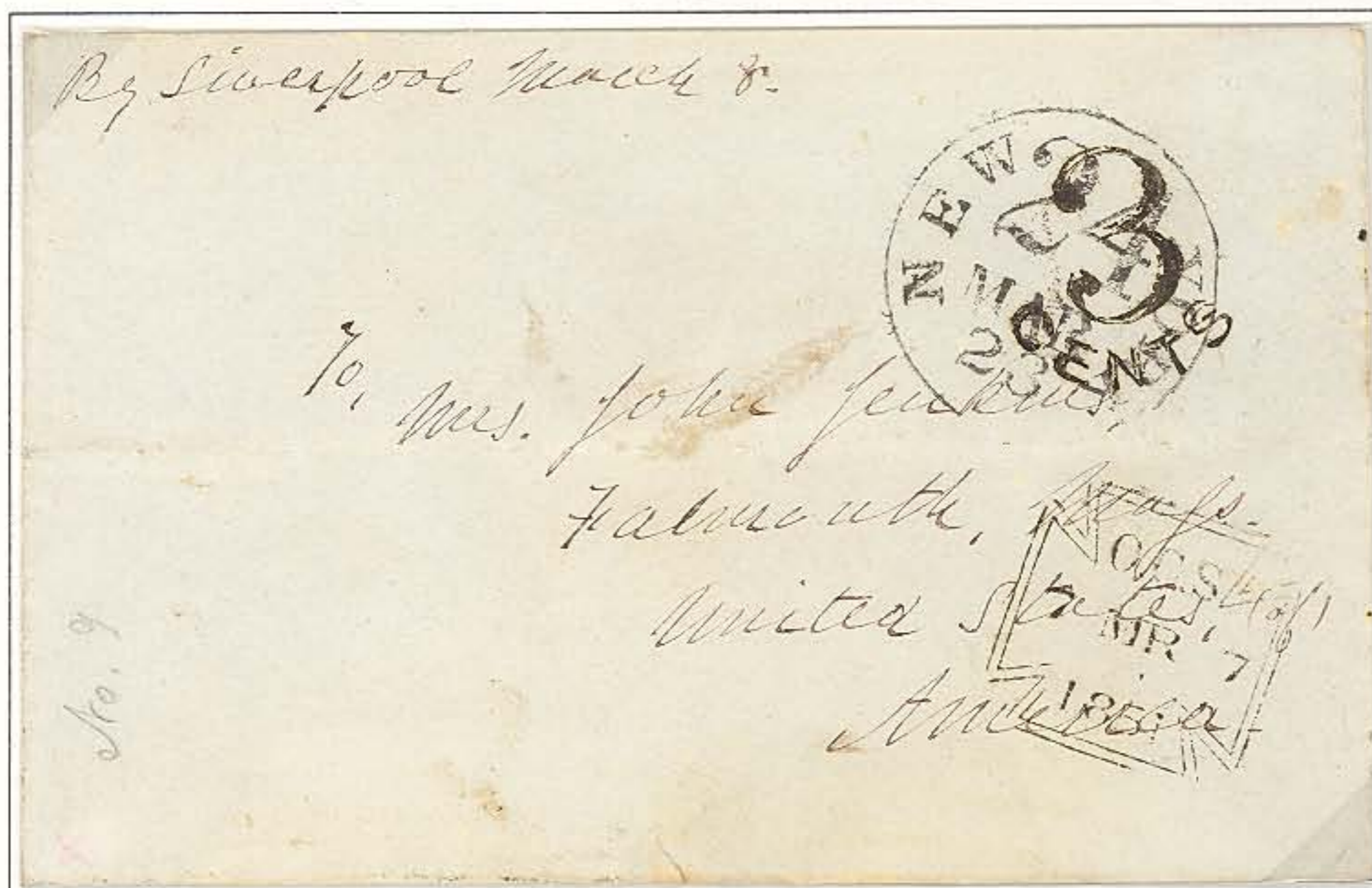
Notes: *Arctic* arrived at Halifax shortly after 11:00 AM on 25 January, short of coal. This was an unscheduled stop as the Collins line steamers never called at Halifax. The letter writer took advantage of this unscheduled stop to despatch a letter to New York. British packet letters from Halifax were charged regular U.S. inland rates upon arrival in the U.S.



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Envelope: London to Falmouth, Massachusetts, 7 March 1851

Ship: *Arctic*  
Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 8 March 1851  
Arrive: New York, 23 March 1851

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Falmouth

Notes: Letter posted at Old Cavendish Street branch post office in London (O.C.S. initials in Maltese cross datestamp). Uncommon New York exchange office circular datestamp showing 24¢ postage due.

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**Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Baltimore to Edinburgh, Scotland, 7 April 1851**

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 16 April 1851  
Arrive: Liverpool, 28 April 1851

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in Edinburgh

Notes: Baltimore marked red "24" to show through rate even though letter unpaid. As Baltimore was not an exchange office under the treaty, no rate markings were required. New York was an exchange office and marked the 21¢ debit to G.B.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1849–1867  
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Folded Letter: Charleston to Liverpool, 3 August 1851

Ship: *Washington*  
Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 12 August 1851  
Arrive: Southampton, 25 August 1851

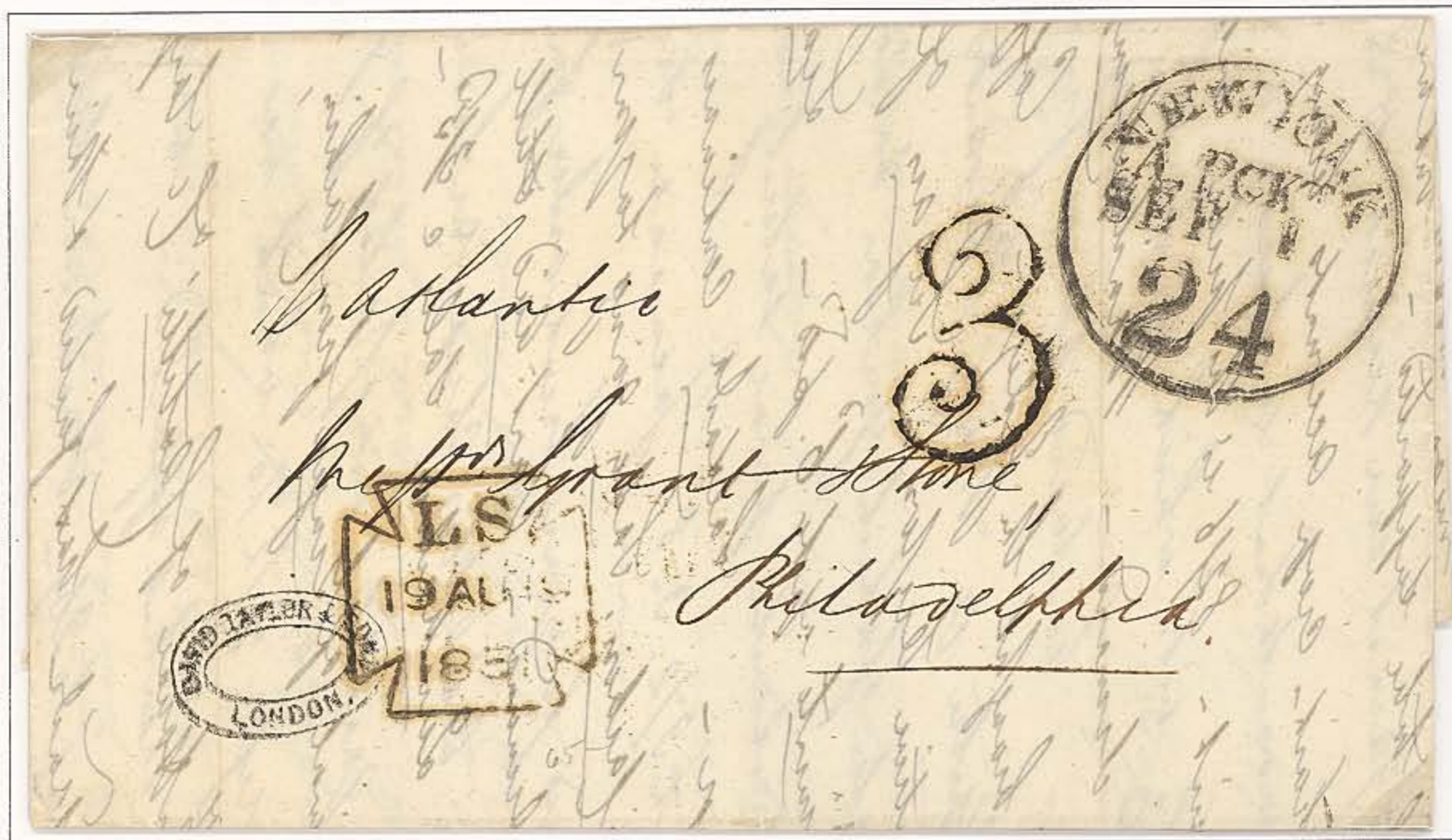
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in Liverpool

Notes: Latest recorded example of large red 35 mm. CHARLESTON 24 circular datestamp, used only about a year. In September 1851 this marking appears in blue ink as Charleston shifted marking ink color from red to blue. Less than a dozen examples of this marking are recorded. Red color does not indicate prepayment.

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Folded Letter: London to Philadelphia, 19 August 1851

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 20 August 1851  
Arrive: New York, 1 September 1851

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: London marked 3¢ debit to U.S. using 3d handstamp instead of the 3/CENTS handstamp normally used. Less than one half dozen examples of this marking have been recorded on transatlantic mails.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: London to New York, 19 August 1851

Ship: *Franklin*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 28 August 1851  
Arrive: New York, 8 September 1851

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Endorsements on covers can sometimes be misleading to collectors. The instructions "per Mississippi" on this cover do not refer to the desired vessel to carry the letter, but to the name of the sailing vessel on which merchandise was sent. A bill of lading for the merchandise was included in this letter. Sailing ship *Mississippi*, Capt. Bryant, arrived in New York on 3 October 1851.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Baltimore, 29 June 1852

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 30 June 1852  
Arrive: New York, 11 July 1852

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢ G.B. credit to U.S.  
3¢ prepaid when letter forwarded

Notes: Letter apparently not marked in New York upon initial arrival there from Liverpool, but sent directly to Baltimore where it was marked PAID and "24." Reason for this unusual handling no known. In Baltimore letter was readdressed to New York and prepaid the 3¢ postage to that destination.

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Envelope w/ Letter: Dresden, Saxony to New Rochelle, New York, 5 July 1852

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 14 July 1852  
Arrive: New York, 25 July 1852

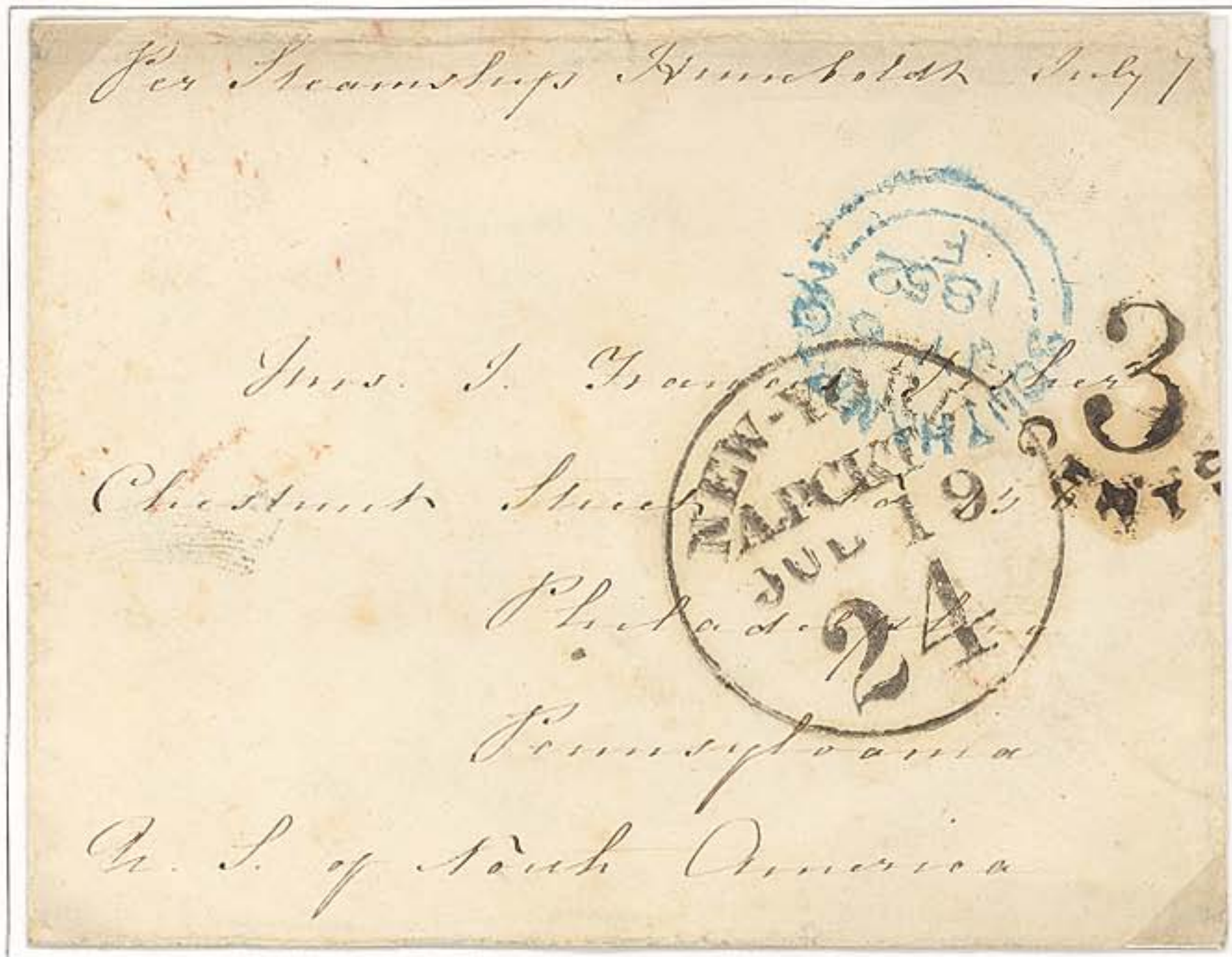
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New Haven  
3¢ prepaid when reposted to New Rochelle

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" from Dresden to London and posted for New Haven. After arrival and payment for transatlantic fees at New Haven, it was reposted paid to New Rochelle.

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Envelope: Southampton, England to Philadelphia, 6 July 1852

Ship: *Humboldt*  
Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 7 July 1852  
Arrive: New York, 19 July 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.K. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: *Humboldt* made sixteen round voyages between New York and Havre, stopping in the Solent off Cowes, Isle of Wight (off Southampton) on each trip. Mails to and from the United Kingdom were put off or taken on board there.



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
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Folded Letter: New York to London, 25 September 1852

Ship: *Humboldt*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 25 September 1852  
Arrive: Southampton, 7 October 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in London

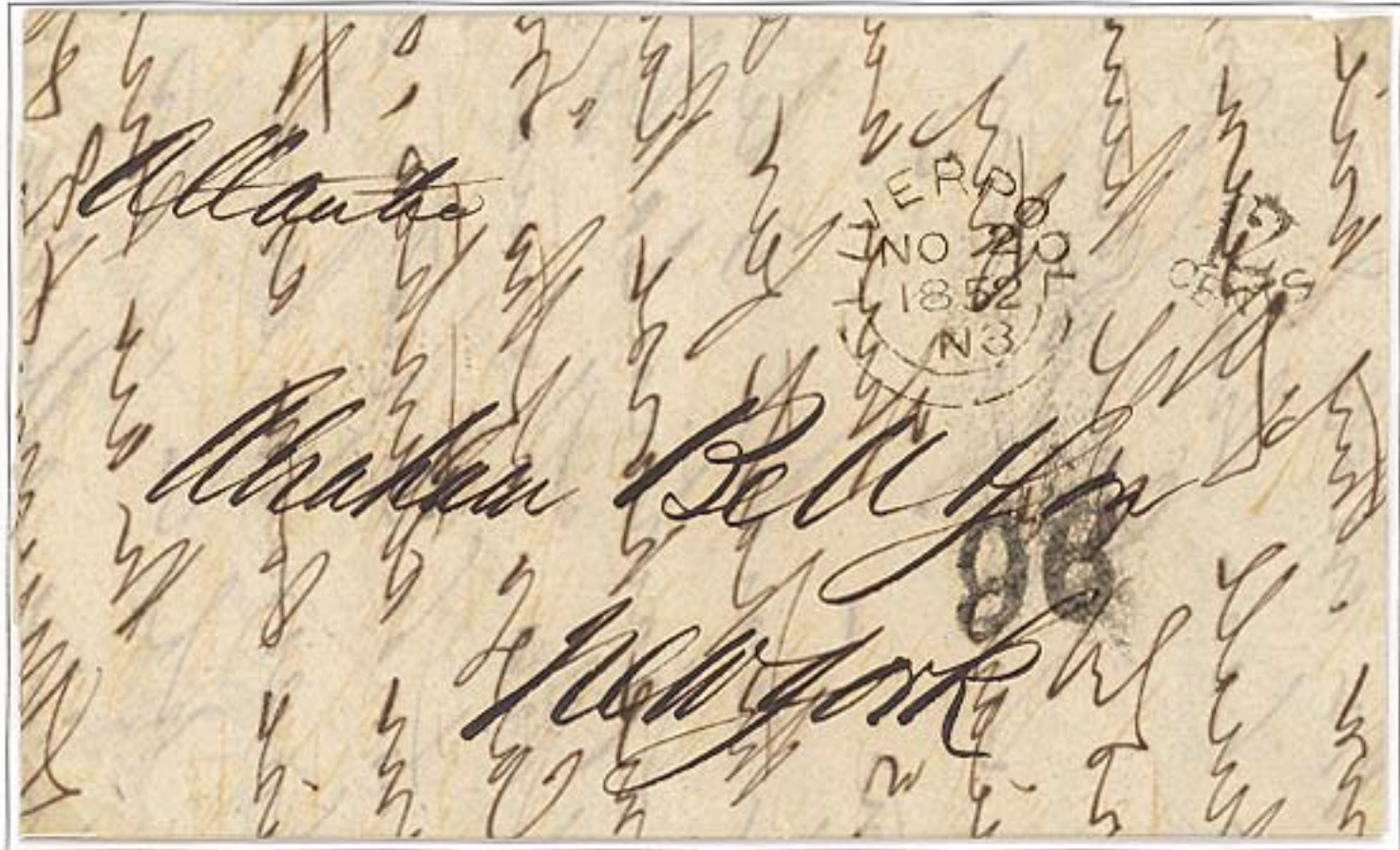
Notes: *Humboldt* made sixteen round voyages between New York and Havre, stopping in the Solent off Cowes, Isle of Wight (off Southampton) on each trip. Mails for Great Britain and the Continent (less French mails) were put off there.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 2 November 1852

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 3 November 1852  
Arrive: New York, 15 November 1852

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
96¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter weighed between 1-2 oz. and required four rates. Liverpool struck 12/CENTS handstamp (seldom seen) to debit U.S. 4x3¢, the British share of the postage. New York marked 4x24¢=96¢ postage due.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Philadelphia, 11 January 1853

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 12 January 1853  
Arrive: New York, 26 January 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: New York exchange office failed to mark letter for 24¢ postage due for unknown reason. It may have been that Liverpool made up a separate mail bag for Philadelphia, even though Philadelphia was not yet an exchange office. Blue handstamp "24" is a distinctive style marking used in Philadelphia.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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(Reverse)



Envelope: Trichinopoly, India to Boston, 19 January 1853

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 9 March 1853  
Arrive: New York, 22 March 1853

Rate: 12 annas prepaid for single rate to London via Southampton  
1 shilling prepaid by agent in London when reposted  
21¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: India prepayment consisted of 4 annas internal and 8 annas transit fee via Southampton to England. Letter carried by P&O steamers *Pottinger* from Galle, Ceylon to Suez and *Ripon* from Alexandria to Southampton. Small red "PAID" handstamp struck at Boston. Boston circular datestamp on reverse had no date and indicated British vice American packet service.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1849–1867  
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Envelope: Manchester, England to Philadelphia, 22 February 1853

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 23 February 1853  
Arrive: New York, 6 March 1853

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid by for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: New York exchange office circular datestamp in red showed restatement of total prepayment plus American packet service.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Envelope: New York to Canterbury, England, 12 March 1853**

Ship: *Humboldt*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 13 March 1853  
Arrive: Southampton, 25 March 1853

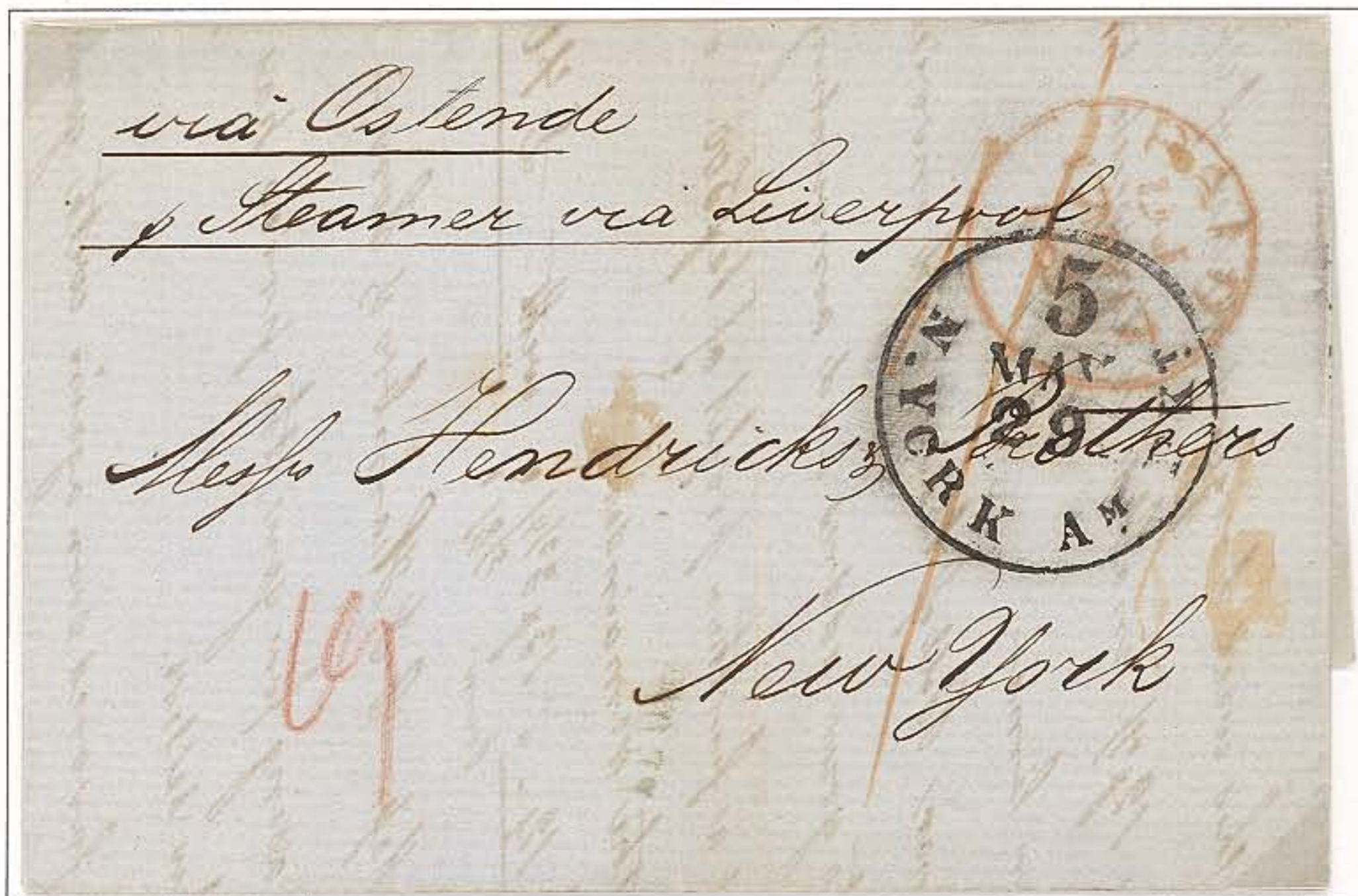
Rate: 24¢ prepaid for single treaty rate  
3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Notes: Postal clerk at New York marked the prepaid rate in pencil, probably when letter brought to the window. Later the red credit handstamp was applied in a separate operation. *Humboldt* sailed one day late due to violent weather in New York harbor.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: Hamburg to New York, 13 May 1853

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 18 May 1853  
Arrive: New York, 29 May 1853

Rate: 19 schilling prepaid for all transit fees to U.S.  
1 shilling Prussian credit to U.K.  
16¢ U.K. credit to U.S.  
5¢ postage due at New York

Notes: Letter sent in closed mail to U.K. under Anglo-Prussian convention of 1852. Prussia credited 4d U.K. transit plus 8d transatlantic sea postage to U.K. Since letter carried by American packet across Atlantic, U.K. credited 16¢ to U.S. New York marked 5¢ postage due, remaining U.S. postage for inland fee.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1849–1867  
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**Folded Letter: Duntocher, Scotland to New London, New York, 1 August 1853**

Ship: *Humboldt*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 3 August 1853  
Arrive: New York, 25 March 1853

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Scottish mails were usually sent to Liverpool to catch the steamships. In this case, Liverpool sent the letter to Southampton to go out to the Havre Line steamer stopping in the Solent off Cowes for British mails. New York exchange office circular datestamp showed 24¢ prepaid and American packet service.



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Folded Letter: Sheffield, England to Baltimore, 9 December 1853

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 14 December 1853  
Arrive: New York, 26 December 1853

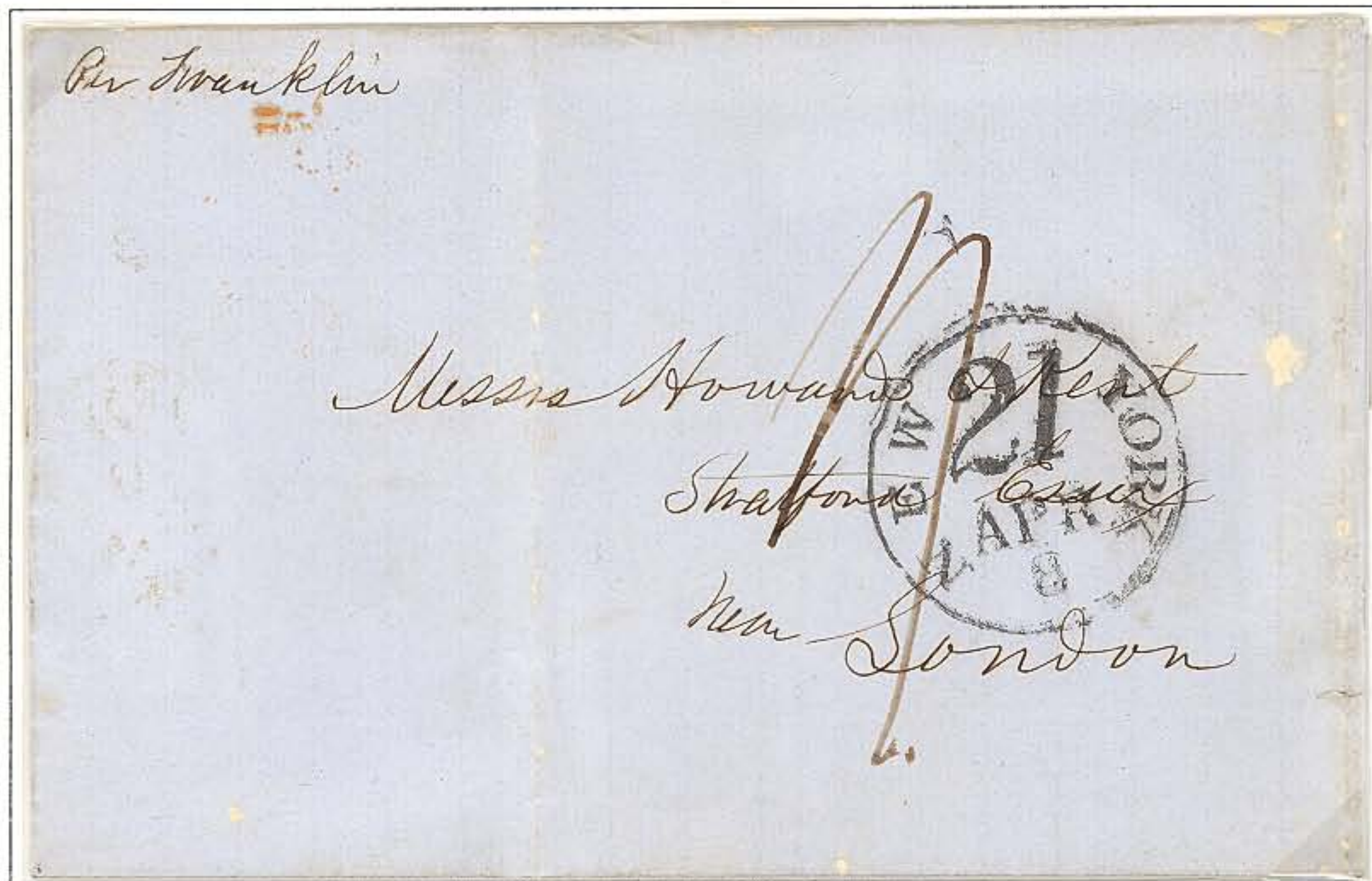
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S. (under New York cds)  
24¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Letter endorsed to be carried by steamer *Baltic*, but was actually carried by *Pacific*. The effect was the same for it indicated a desire to use American packet service to New York.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: New York to Stratford, England, 7 April 1854

Ship: *Franklin*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 8 April 1854  
Arrive: Southampton, 20 April 1854

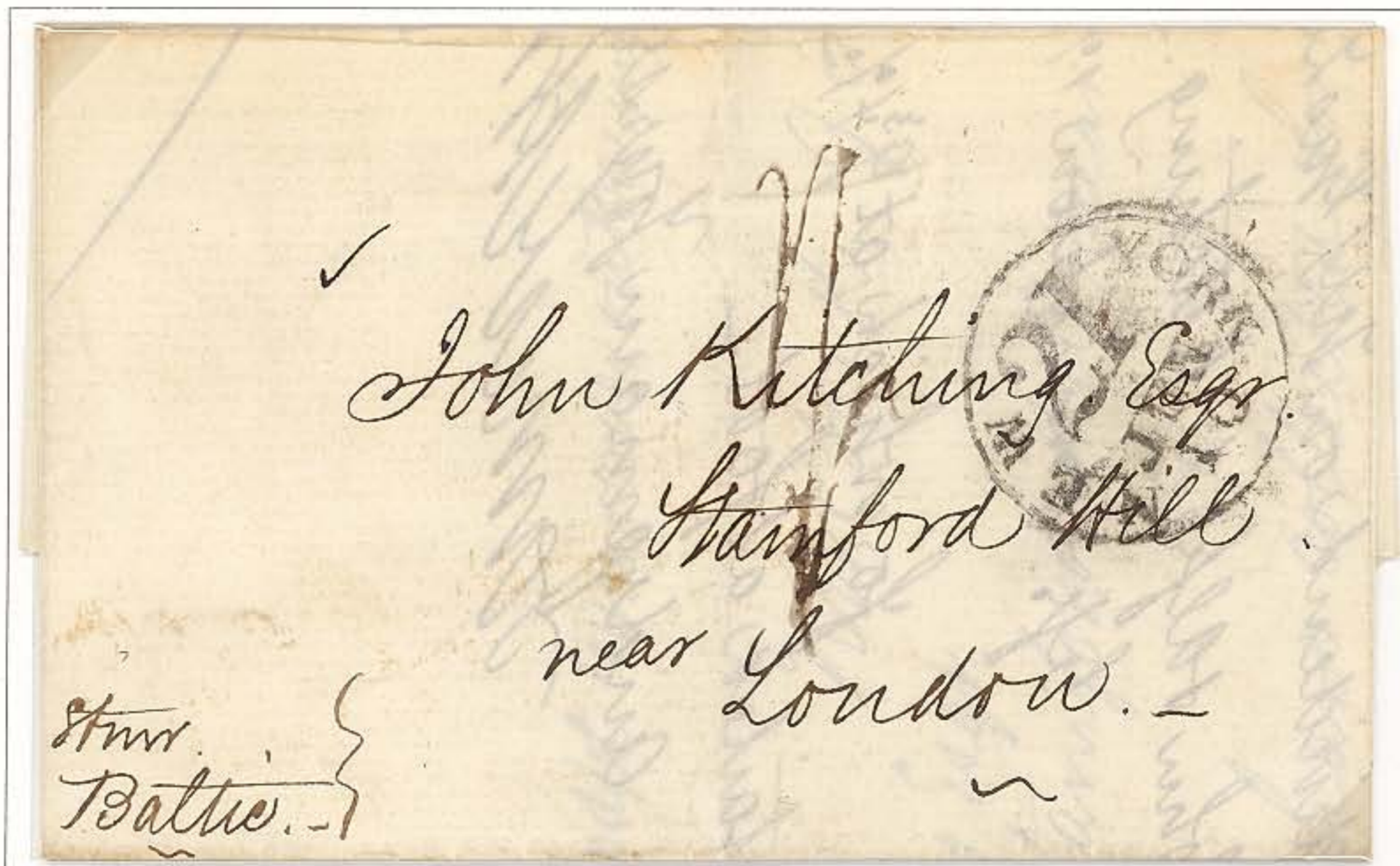
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in Stratford

Notes: *Franklin* made twenty two round voyage between New York and Havre, stopping in the Solent off Cowes, Isle of Wight (off Southampton) on each trip. Mails for Great Britain and the Continent (less French mails) were put off there.

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Folded Letter: New York to Stamford Hill near London, 9 June 1854

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 10 June 1854  
Arrive: Liverpool, 21 June 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to U.K.

Notes: Black one shilling handstamp applied at London to show postage due. Slightly different handstamp than that shown on 19 July 1859 cover from Boston to London, a similar marking also used at London, the principal difference being the length of the left-most leg and "hook" on right-most leg. Surprising few examples of this marking have been seen, London often using a manuscript rate mark.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Glasgow, Scotland to Boston, 12 June 1854

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 14 June 1854  
Arrive: New York, 25 June 1854

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: Boston post office showed postage due on front and processing date in Boston on reverse with separate handstamps. Letter in closed bag to Boston through New York as Boston was an exchange office for British treaty mails.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

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*Bahia Jun 21<sup>th</sup> June 1854.*



Folded Letter: Bahia, Brazil to Baltimore, 21 June 1854

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Southampton, 16 August 1854  
Arrive: New York, 31 August 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
48¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
90¢ postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Letter carried from Bahia to Southampton by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamer *Thames*. British debit to U.S. was 2x24¢ for double rate letter. New York marked 2x45¢ = 90¢ postage due for the British mail rate from Brazil.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: New York to Blairgowrie, Scotland, 4 August 1854**

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 5 August 1854  
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 August 1854

Rate: 24¢ prepaid for single treaty rate  
3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Notes: This is the most elusive of the early New York exchange office handstamps used to show credits and debits to G.B. More often than not, a simple numerical "3" handstamp was used to show the credit on prepaid letters by American packet.

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**Folded Letter: London to Boston, 22 August 1854**

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 23 August 1854

Arrive: New York, 3 September 1854

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

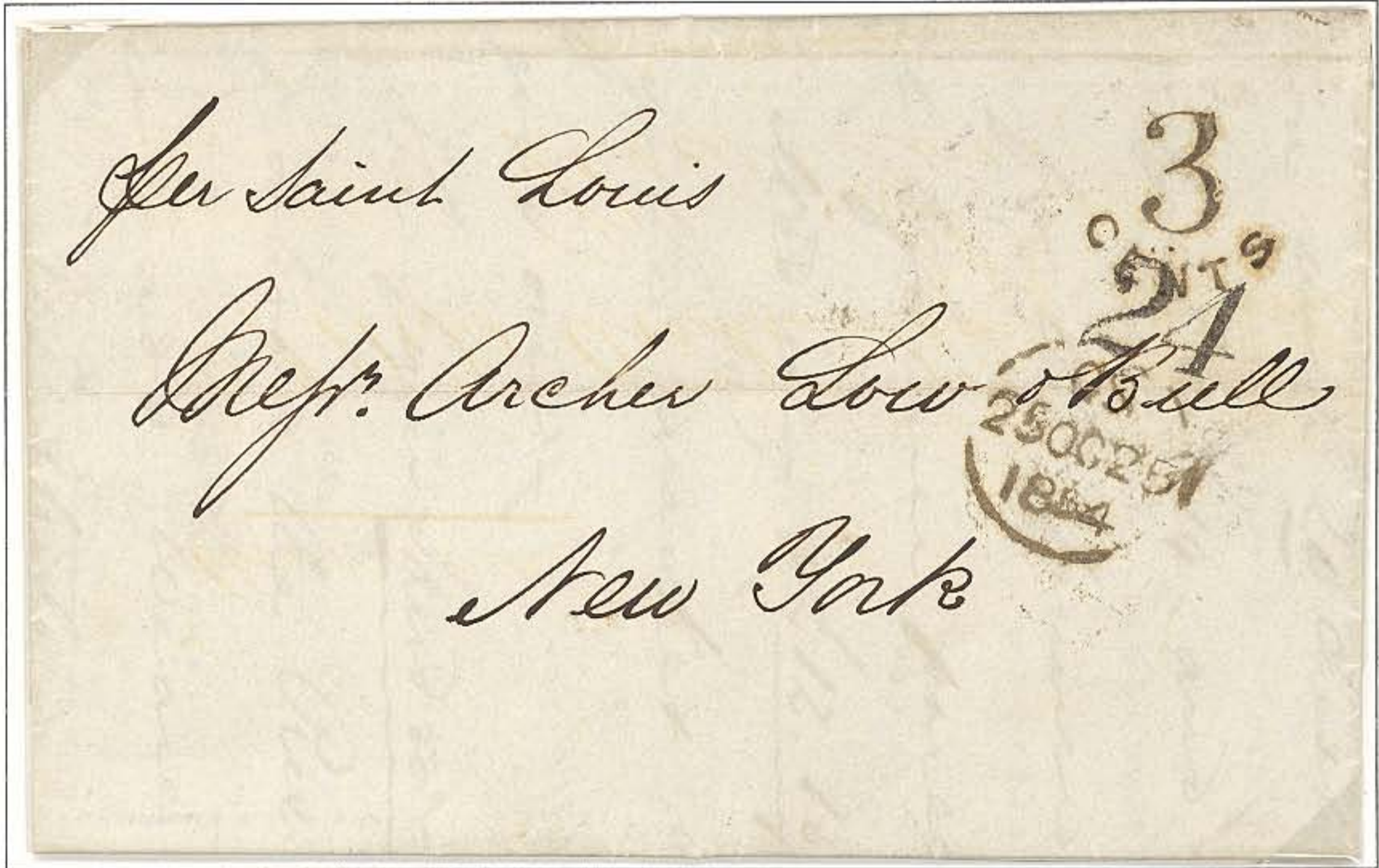
Notes: 21¢ credit to U.S. consisted of 16¢ sea postage (letter carried by American contract packet) and 5¢ U.S. inland fee. Examples of the large red 21/CENT handstamp of London are not common, probably because much of the British mails was sent by British contract steamers during the period of its use (1850s).

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1848 Treaty  
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**Folded Letter: London to New York, 24 October 1854**

Ship: *St. Louis*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 26 October 1854  
Arrive: New York, 11 November 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: *St. Louis* made only six round voyages for the Havre Line. British mails were picked up and discharged off Cowes, Isle of Wight, in the Solent near Southampton.



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**Folded Letter: London to New York, 7 November 1854**

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Southampton, 8 November 1854  
Arrive: New York, 24 November 1854

Rate:     -- --   letter sent unpaid  
          3¢     G.B. debit to U.S.  
          24¢    postage due in New York

Notes:       Frequently, the New York exchange office used only a numeral handstamp for the postage due and did not show a circular datestamp giving the date the letter was processed.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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(Reverse)



**Folded Letter: Boston to Nottingham, England, 20 February 1855**

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 21 February 1855  
Arrive: Liverpool, 4 March 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in Kingston

Notes: Mails made up in Boston the day before the planned sailing of the Collins Line steamer from New York. Boston exchange office marked 21¢ debit.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Montreal, Canada, 20 April 1855

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 23 April 1855  
Arrive: New York, 4 May 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
2s8d cy postage due in Montreal

Notes: Letter in closed mail bag from Liverpool to Montreal, sent via New York. Postage due was  $2 \times 1/4d = 2/8d$  currency for double rate. This was the  $2 \times 1/2d = 2/4d$  sterling British rate to Canada by American packet via the U.S.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to Montreal, Canada, 29 June 1855**

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 30 June 1855

Arrive: New York, 11 July 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1 shilling G.B. debit to Canada  
1s4d cy postage due in Montreal

Notes: Letter posted at Lombard Street post office in London and sent in regular inland mail to Liverpool by error. Inspectors cross circle in red may be related to this error. Liverpool marked one shilling debit to Canada of the 1 shilling 2 pence sterling equivalent collected in Montreal. Montreal used special handstamp to show 1 shilling 4 pence currency was due.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Montreal, Canada, 13 July 1855

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 14 July 1855  
Arrive: New York, 25 July 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
2s8d cy postage due in Montreal

Notes: Letter in closed mail bag from Liverpool to Montreal, sent via New York. Postage due was  $2 \times 1/4d = 2/8d$  currency for double rate. This was the  $2 \times 1/2d = 2/4d$  sterling British rate to Canada by American packet via the U.S. Letter from Allan & Gillespie, agents in Liverpool for the addressee, Edmonstone Allan & Co., an early name for the Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company or Allan Line.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: Trieste, Austria to Philadelphia, 4 August 1855**

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 11 August 1855  
Arrive: New York, 22 August 1855

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                    G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to London where it was posted, prepaid. London credited 21¢ to U.S. since the letter was endorsed for an American packet, and placed it in a closed mail bag for Philadelphia, where the exchange office there marked that 24¢ had been paid.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Charleston, South Carolina to Liverpool, 18 August 1855

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 22 August 1855  
Arrive: Liverpool, 2 September 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in Liverpool

Notes: Charleston was not an exchange office. Their circular datestamp in blue showed the full rate to England, even if unpaid, but served no purpose in the treaty accounting. New York marked the 21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Envelope: Troy, New York to London, 28 August 1855**

Ship: *Pacific*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 5 September 1855  
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 September 1855

Rate: 24¢ prepaid for single treaty rate  
3¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

Notes: Troy, New York was one of the few U.S. cities that used a special circular datestamp to show the full prepayment for British treaty mails. The "24" in pencil undoubtedly was placed on the envelope when the letter was taken to the Troy post office and prepaid. Later, the Troy circular datestamp was applied in a separate operation. The Boston exchange office marked the 3¢ credit to G.B.



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 6 September 1855**

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: Southampton, 12 September 1855

Arrive: New York, 27 September 1855

Rate: 14 silbergroschen      prepaid for single rate to G.B. (not shown)  
7 silbergroschen      German credit to G.B.  
42¢      postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Letter prepaid for transit fees only to G.B. under Anglo-Prussian Convention of 1852. Bremen marked  $2 \times 3\frac{1}{2} = 7$  silbergroschen in magenta ink as the credit to G.B. for a double rate letter. For some unknown reason, this letter does not have the scarce marking "By U.St. Mail" to explain desired routing from England. G.B. sent letter to U.S. in British open mails. New York marked  $2 \times 21\text{¢} = 42\text{¢}$  postage due, the double British Open Mail rate by American packet.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 16 November 1855

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 17 November 1855  
Arrive: New York, 30 November 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
96¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter weighed between 1–2 ounces and Liverpool considered it a quadruple rate letter as there was no triple rate. Liverpool marked letter for  $4 \times 3\text{¢} = 12\text{¢}$  debit to U.S. New York marked letter for a postage due of  $4 \times 24\text{¢} = 96\text{¢}$ .

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Montreal, Canada, 16 November 1855

Ship:	<i>Atlantic</i>
Company:	New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company (Collins Line)
Depart:	Liverpool, 17 November 1855
Arrive:	New York, 30 November 1855
Rate:	--- letter sent unpaid 2s8d cy postage due in Montreal
Notes:	Letter in closed mail bag from Liverpool to Montreal, sent via New York. Postage due was $2 \times 1/4d = 2/8d$ currency for double rate. This was the $2 \times 1/2d = 2/4d$ sterling British rate to Canada by American packet via the U.S. Letter from Allan & Gillespie, agents in Liverpool for the addressee, Edmonstone Allan & Co., an early name for the Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Company or Allan Line.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867

franco  $\frac{9}{38}$



**Envelope: Darmstadt, Hesse-Darmstadt to New York, 22 December 1855**

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 29 December 1855

Arrive: New York, 13 January 1856

Rate:	47 kreuzer	prepaid for all transit fees to U.S.
	1 shilling	Prussian credit to G.B.
	16¢	G.B. credit to U.S.
	5¢	postage due in Boston

Notes: Prepayment shown lower left in magenta ink, 9 kreuzer internal and 38 kreuzer (or 10¾ silbergroschen) for transit fees beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union under Anglo-Prussian Convention of 1852. British credit included 8d transatlantic and 4d British internal fees. Since American packet carried letter across Atlantic, G.B. credited 16¢ to U.S.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Envelope: Belfast, Ireland to New York, 26 December 1855

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 29 December 1855  
Arrive: New York, 13 January 1856

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

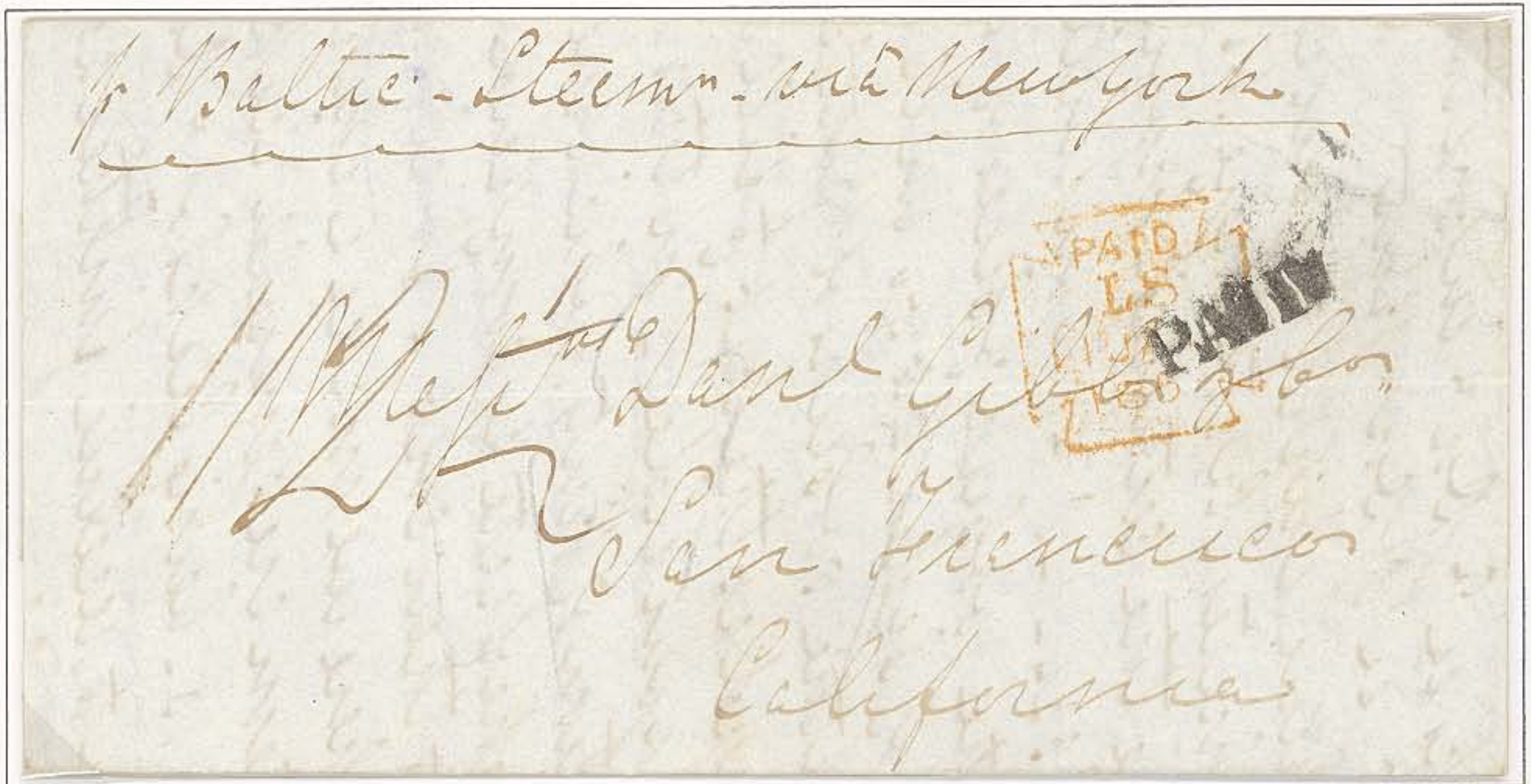
Notes: Dublin marked the one shilling prepayment in red pen, upper left. The 24 mm. PAID circular datestamp was struck at Dublin, through which the letter passed on its way to Liverpool. New York exchange office showed 24¢ prepaid.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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Folded Letter: London to San Francisco, 11 January 1856

Ship: *Baltic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 12 January 1856  
Arrive: New York, 24 January 1856

Rate: 1s2½d prepaid for single rate to West Coast  
10¢ G.B. credit to U.S. (not shown)

Notes: Letter carried by U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Illinois* from New York to Aspinwall, and Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Golden Age* from Panama City to San Francisco. Letter in closed mail bag from London to San Francisco where black "PAID" struck.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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Envelope: Rome, Italy to New York, March 1856

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 19 March 1856  
Arrive: New York, 2 April 1856

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter carried privately from Rome to Liverpool. Without the enclosed letter sheet, the date of origin can not be determined. Agent in Liverpool posted letter after regular mails had closed for the day. The Liverpool office used a special datestamp "POSTED-SINCE 8.30-LAST-NIGHT" to account for late handling.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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CENTS



**Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 19 August 1856**

Ship: *Ericsson*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 20 August 1856  
Arrive: New York, 4 September 1856

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: *Ericsson* was chartered by the Collins Line to help maintain the contracted bi-weekly mail schedule and made eleven round voyages for the line. This was her fourth return voyage. On 7 September 1855, this unusual 3/CENTS handstamp was despatched to the Liverpool office. It is distinctive in appearance because the top half looks as if a numeral "2" was started and then finished off as a numeral "3".



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Folded Letter: Darmstadt, Hesse to Philadelphia, 25 September 1856

Ship: *Ericsson*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 1 October 1856  
Arrive: New York, 16 October 1856

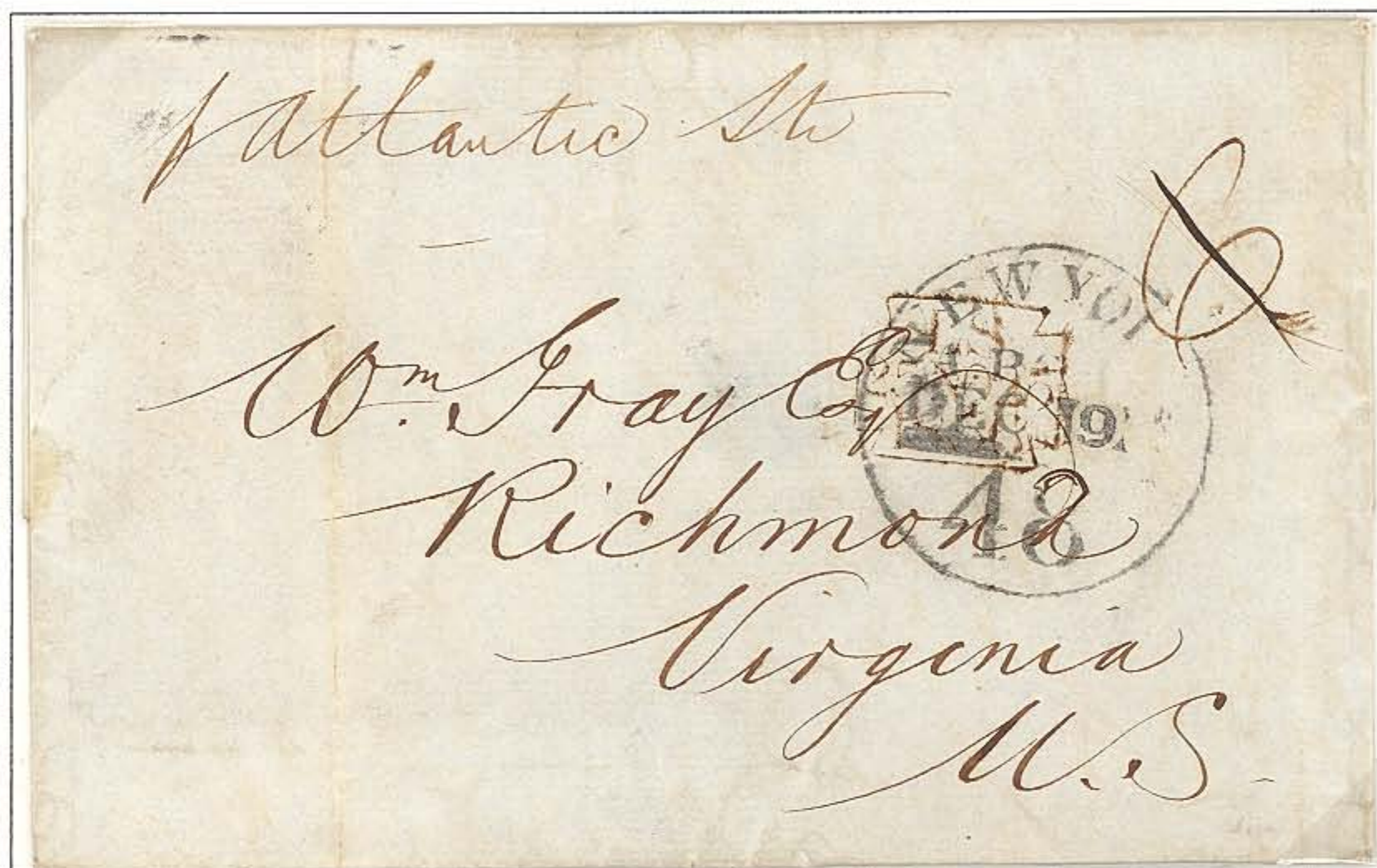
Rate:	47 kreuzer	prepaid for all transit fees to U.S.
	1 shilling	Prussian credit to G.B.
	16¢	G.B. credit to U.S.
	5¢	postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Prepayment shown lower left in magenta ink, 9 kreuzer internal and 38 kreuzer (or 10¾ silbergroschen) for transit fees beyond the German–Austrian Postal Union under Anglo–Prussian Convention of 1852. British credit included 8d transatlantic and 4d British internal fees. Since American packet carried letter across Atlantic, G.B. credited 16¢ to U.S.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to Richmond, Virginia, 25 November 1856**

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 26 November 1856  
Arrive: New York, 9 December 1856

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
6¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
48¢ postage due in Richmond

Notes: New York exchange office crossed through the manuscript 6¢ debit marking and marked letter for 2x24¢ = 48¢ postage due for a double rate letter. This may have been done to prevent confusion as 6¢ was the incoming ship letter rate.

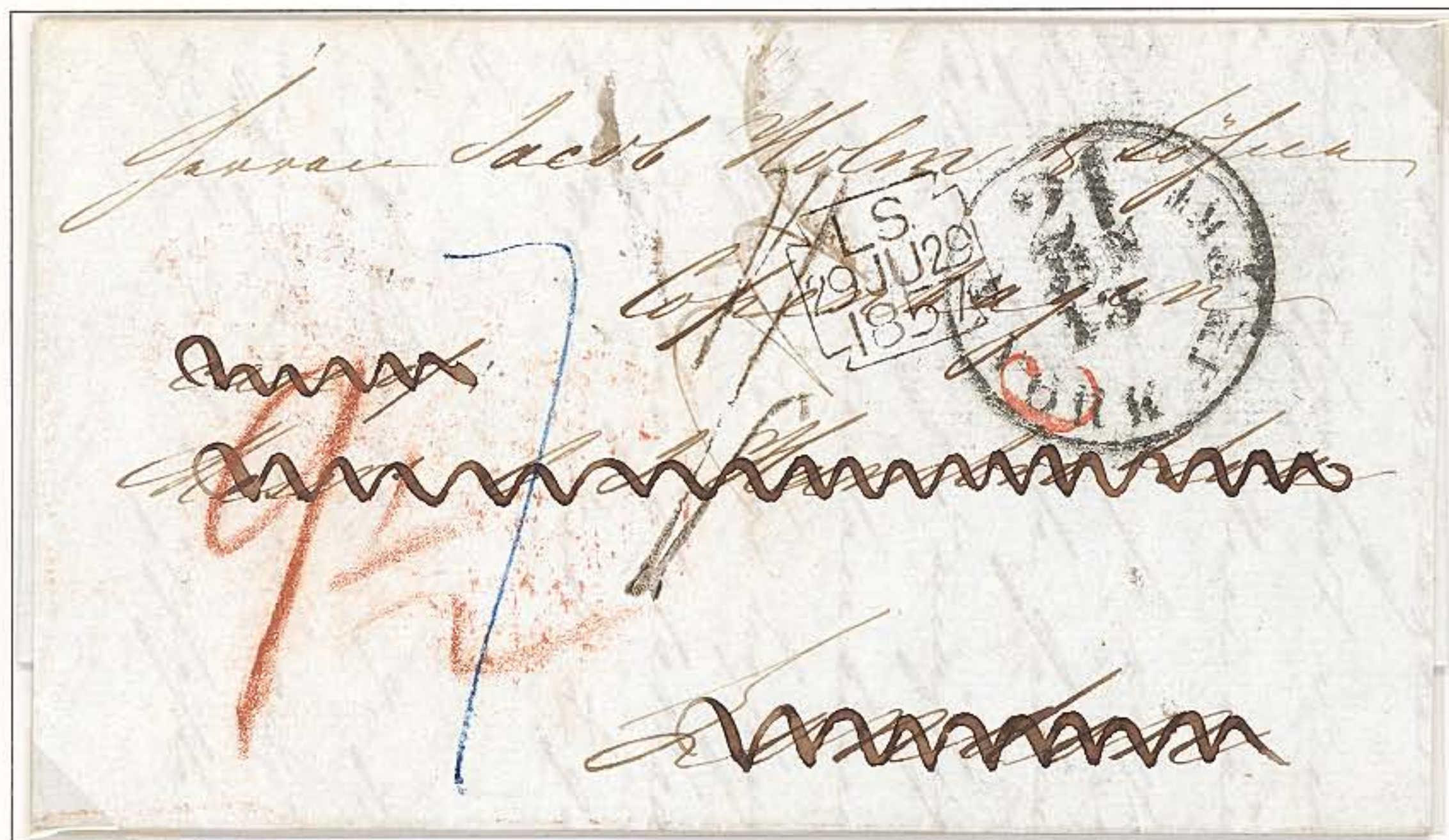
# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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(Reverse)



**Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Copenhagen, Denmark, 7 June 1857**

Ship: *Ariel*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: New York, 13 June 1857  
Arrive: Southampton, 26 June 1857

Rate:            - - -            letter sent unpaid  
                  21¢            U.S. debit to G.B.  
                  1 shilling       postage due in London  
                  - - -            letter reposted unpaid  
                  40 skilling       postage due in Copenhagen

Notes: Letter carried privately to New York where forwarding agent Goodhue & Co. posted letter unpaid to London. In London, second forwarding agent C.J. Hambro & Son paid for letter and reposted it unpaid to Copenhagen under Anglo-Prussian convention. Prussia debited Hamburg 7 silbergroschen. Hamburg restated debit to Royal Danish post office in Hamburg as 9½ schillinge. Letter marked on reverse in manuscript for 40 skilling postage due, 31 skilling to Hamburg and 9 skilling for Danish internal postage. Red handstamp "6" not understood.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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**Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Copenhagen, Denmark, 13 June 1857**

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 20 June 1857

Arrive: Liverpool, 1 July 1857

Rate:	---	letter sent unpaid
	21¢	U.S. debit to G.B.
	1 shilling	postage due in London
	---	letter reposted unpaid
	40 skilling	postage due in Copenhagen

Notes: Letter carried privately to New York where forwarding agent Goodhue & Co. posted letter unpaid to London. In London, second forwarding agent C.J. Hambro & Son paid for letter and reposted it unpaid to Copenhagen under Anglo-Prussian convention. Prussia debited Hamburg 7 silbergroschen. Hamburg restated debit to Royal Danish post office in Hamburg as 9½ schillinge. Letter marked on reverse in manuscript for 40 skilling postage due, 31 skilling to Hamburg and 9 skilling for Danish internal postage.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Envelope: Boston to Hong Kong, 17 July 1857

Ship: *Columbia*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 18 July 1857  
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 July 1857

Rate: 38¢ prepaid for single rate by Prussian Closed Mail  
12¢ U.S. credit to G.B.

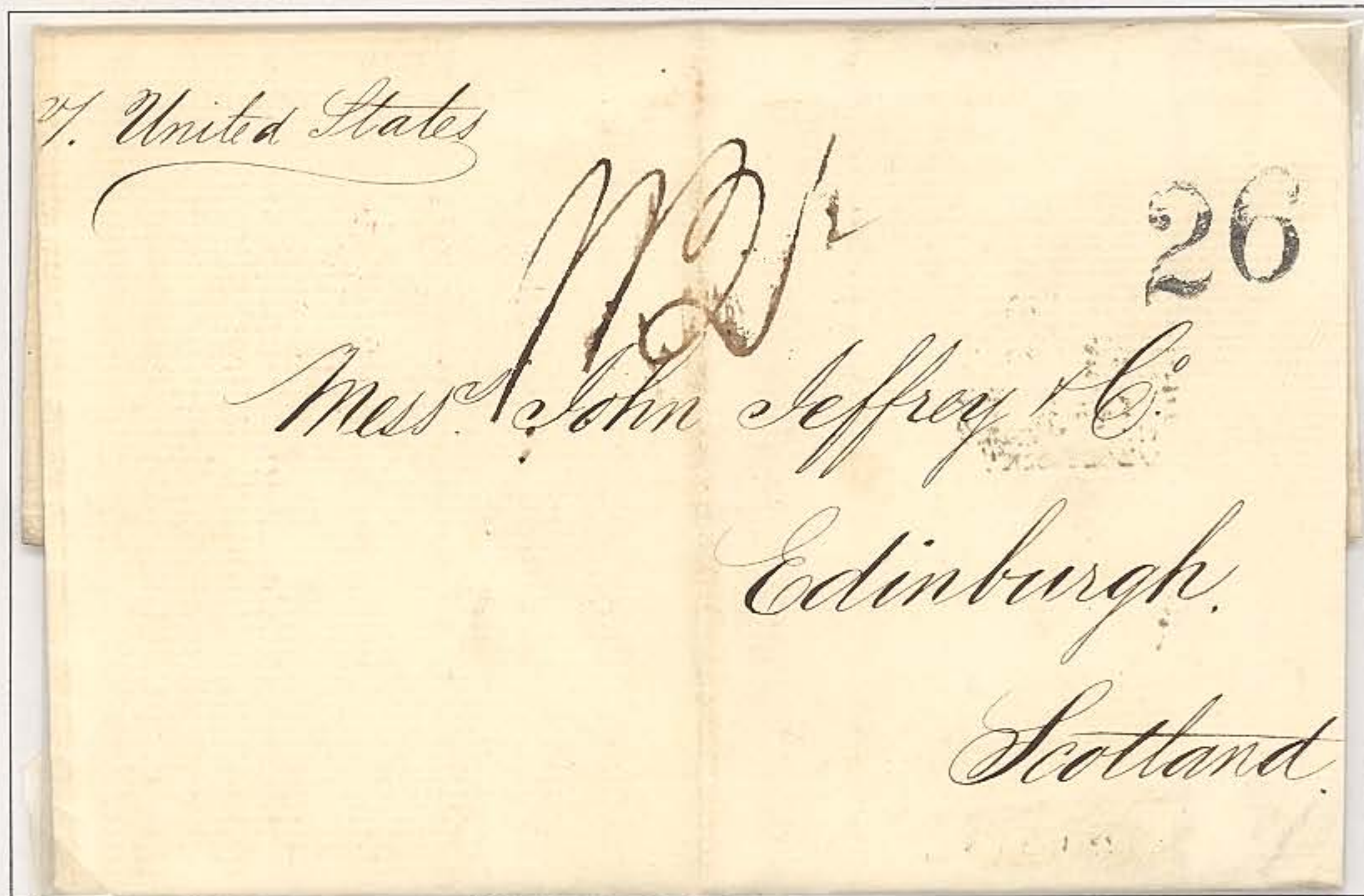
Notes: Although letter prepaid for the Prussian Closed Mail route, no routing instructions were on the envelope. New York placed the letter in the British mails (33¢ rate by the Southampton route) and credited G.B. with 12¢. Letter carried across the Atlantic by the Collins Line charter steamer *Columbia*, which made two round voyages for the line. P&O steamer *Ripon* carried letter from Southampton to Alexandria. P&O steamers *Nubia* and *Aden* carried letter from Suez to Galle, Ceylon and from Galle to Hong Kong.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Edinburgh, Scotland, 23 October 1857**

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: New York, 31 October 1857  
Arrive: Southampton, 13 November 1857

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
26¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1s2½d postage due at Haverhill

Notes: The U.S.–G.B. Treaty provided for mails sent through the U.S. from the Caribbean. The total rate was 29¢ (1s2½d) made up of 10¢ U.S. transit fee from Caribbean, 16¢ transatlantic fee, and 3¢ G.B. internal fee. Since an American contract packet carried this letter to England, the U.S. was entitled to 10¢ + 16¢ = 26¢.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope: London to Boston, 14 November 1857

Ship: *Fulton*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: New York, 31 October 1857  
Arrive: Southampton, 13 November 1857

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: Letter arrived at London post office after mails closed for the 14 November sailing of Cunard steamer *Africa* from Liverpool so letter was sent by the American contract steamer calling off Southampton on the 18th.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

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## LISBON



Envelope: Lisbon, Portugal to Seal Cove, Maine, 19 January 1858

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Southampton, 27 January 1858  
Arrive: New York, 13 February 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
84¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
\$1.26 postage due in Seal Cove

Notes: Letter posted in British packet office at Lisbon and received black straight-line handstamp. P&O contract mail steamer *Tagus* carried letter to Southampton from Lisbon. London debited U.S. 2x1s9d = 3s6d (84¢) for this double rate letter. New York added 2x21¢ = 42¢ for the British Open Mail rate by American packet. Total postage due was \$1.26. Rates from the Iberian peninsula by British mail packet were very high and seldom used as the overland route through France was cheaper. Very scarce rate.



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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TOO-LATE  
G.P.O.



Folded Letter: London to New York, 5 October 1858

Ship: *Ariel*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Southampton, 6 October 1858  
Arrive: New York, 21 October 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: London used the 25mm TOO-LATE handstamp to show letter posted after mails were closed. Letter actually made the next day pickup of mails by the steamship *Ariel* enroute from Bremen to New York, stopping off Southampton for mails.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Liverpool to Philadelphia, 1 February 1859**

Ship: *City of Manchester*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company  
(Inman Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 2 February 1859  
Arrive: New York, 24 February 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Liverpool placed letter in a closed mail bag for Philadelphia, where letter was marked for 24¢ postage due. Although British-owned, the Inman Line started carrying American mails on infrequent contract voyages in March 1858 after the Collins Line ceased operations.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1849–1867  
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Folded Letter: London to New York, 21 June 1859

Ship: *Vanderbilt*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Southampton, 22 June 1859  
Arrive: New York, 3 July 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: London used the 18mm TOO-LATE G.P.O. handstamp to show letter posted after mails were closed. Letter actually made the next day pickup of mails by the steamship *Vanderbilt* enroute from Bremen to New York, stopping off Southampton for mails.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 14 February 1860

Ship: *Edinburgh*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company  
(Inman Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 15 February 1860  
Arrive: New York, 1 March 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: *Edinburgh* was purchased by the Inman Line from the Glasgow & New York Steam Ship Company in late 1859. Although British-owned, the Inman Line carried American mails on infrequent contract voyages. This cover was posted at the Liverpool Packet Letter Office (circular datestamp on reverse).

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
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1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: London to New York, 11 September 1860

Ship: *Adriatic*

Company: North Atlantic Steamship Company

Depart: Southampton, 12 September 1860  
Arrive: New York, 24 September 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: *Adriatic* made only six round voyages between New York and Havre, with calls off Southampton, before the company ceased operations. All voyages were under contract to carry U.S. mails. Previously, *Adriatic* had carried mails on one voyage for the Collins Line, who built the ship, before the Line ceased operations.

## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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Envelope w/enclosed letter: Forfar, Scotland to Louisville, Kentucky, 4 May 1861

Ship: *Bohemian*  
Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 20 September 1861  
Arrive: Quebec, 2 October 1861

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Louisville

Notes: Although datelined 4 May, the letter was not posted in Forfar until 19 September 1861 for reasons unknown. Approaching Quebec, the mails for the U.S. were put off in closed bags at Riviere du Loup on the St. Lawrence, where rail was available to transport the mails to Portland. Typically, the letters show dates at Portland two days after the steamer arrived at Quebec. Addressed only to "Union Star, Breckinridge & Co." the letter found its way to Louisville.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Envelope: London to Dorchester, Massachusetts, 27 May 1861**

Ship: *Fulton*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 29 May 1861  
Arrive: New York, 10 June 1861

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Dorchester

Notes: This unusual New York exchange office circular datestamp has been recorded during a five month period only from January to June 1861. Examples are not common.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: London to Richmond, Maine, 23 July 1861**

Ship: *Fulton*

Company: New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company  
(Havre Line)

Depart: Southampton, 24 July 1861  
Arrive: New York, 5 August 1861

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Letter posted at Lombard Street post office in London. The New York exchange office circular datestamp is the PAID version of the type shown on the previous page. Again, this is an uncommon marking, although examples have been recorded for the period April 1859–August 1861.



## U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

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1849–1867

20 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Folded Letter: Leeds, England to Philadelphia, 20 November 1861**

Ship: *Bavaria*

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

Depart: Southampton, 20 November 1861

Arrive: New York, 6 December 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter written in Leeds (dated one day late by error) and carried privately to London where it was posted. In May 1861, the Hamburg–American Line was contracted by the U.S. Postmaster General to carry American mails every two weeks since the American steamships were taken up in the Civil War blockade effort. Calls were made off Cowes, Isle of Wight (opposite Southampton) on each voyage to and from Hamburg for British mails.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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**Folded Letter: London to Boston, 5 February 1862**

Ship: *Kangaroo*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company  
(Inman Line)

Depart: Queenstown, 6 February 1862  
Arrive: New York, 19 February 1862

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: By the start of 1862, the British Inman Line was under contract to make weekly sailings from New York carrying U.S. mails. This letter was in a closed mail bag from London to Boston, where the steamship service and postage due was marked in the circular datestamp.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

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American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: London to New York, 20 May 1862

Ship: *Saxonia*

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

Depart: Southampton, 21 May 1862  
Arrive: New York, 5 June 1862

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: German owned Hamburg–American Line steamers carried mails under contract to the U.S. Postmaster General. These steamship were considered American packets for U.S.–G.B. Treaty accounting.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



(Reverse)



**Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Edinburgh, Scotland, 13 June 1862**

Ship: *City of Washington*

Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company  
(Inman Line)

Depart: New York, 21 June 1862  
Arrive: Liverpool, 3 July 1862

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
52¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
2s5d postage due in Edinburgh for double rate

Notes: Letter sent to New York in U.S. mail steamer *Columbia* with mails for G.B. via the U.S. New York debited G.B. 2x26¢=52¢ for transit fees from Cuba and transatlantic sea postage due the U.S. Postage due was 2x29¢=58¢ or 2 shilling 5 pence.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Liverpool to Boston, 12 March 1863

Ship: *Bohemian*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 13 March 1863  
Arrive: Portland, 27 March 1863

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: The Canadian Allan Line steamers used Portland, Maine as the western terminus of their transatlantic voyages in the winter months when the St. Lawrence River was frozen, denying access to Quebec. Letter posted at the Liverpool Packet Letter Office (circular datestamp on reverse). Since this letter was in a closed mail bag from Liverpool to Boston, it does not show a Portland marking.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope: London to Lawrence, Massachusetts, 12 May 1863

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 13 May 1863  
Arrive: New York, 25 May 1863

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Lawrence

Notes: Although letter arrived in New York almost four weeks after the order was issued to collect depreciated currency rates on unpaid letters, this cover shows New York marked it for the coin rate of 24¢ only. This is the only example seen where the depreciated currency rate order was ignored.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Folded Letter: London to New York, 8 February 1866**

Ship: *Moravian*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 9 February 1866  
Arrive: Portland, 19 February 1866

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: In addition to the normal 1 shilling (12 pence) treaty rate, this letter was paid 2 pence more for a late fee since it was posted after the regular mails had closed for the day. Letter placed in a closed mail bag for New York and shows no Portland exchange office markings.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849-1867  
20 February 1849-31 December 1867



Envelope: New York to London, 7 April 1866

Ship: *Bremen*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 7 April 1866  
Arrive: Southampton, 17 April 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
63¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
2 shilling postage due in London

Notes: New York considered letter triple rate (1-1½ oz) and debited U.K. 3x21¢=63¢ in blue crayon. London considered letter only double rate and marked 2s postage due. Triple rate went into effect for first time on 1 April 1866.



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope w/enclosed letter: New York to London, 21 April 1866

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 21 April 1866  
Arrive: Southampton, 3 May 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in London

Notes: Outgoing letters from the U.S. did not receive depreciated currency markings. British collection was in a stable currency, shilling and pence sterling.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
20 February 1849–31 December 1867

1/-



Envelope w/enclosed letter: Boston to London, 11 July 1866

Ship: *Damascus*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Quebec, 14 July 1866  
Arrive: Londonderry, 24 July 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1 shilling postage due in London

Notes: Mails from Boston for the Allan Line steamers went by rail to Rivière du Loup on the St. Lawrence river, 120 miles below Quebec, where the steamer stopped for U.S. mails. Letter rated by Canadian mail clerk on board the steamer east bound. This unusual and uncommon style 1 shilling postage due marking was characteristic of Canadian clerk on board rating.

## U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty

American Contract Steamship

1868

1 January 1868-31 December 1868



Folded Letter: Santiago de Cuba to London, 8 April 1868

Ship: *Weser II*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 23 April 1868  
Arrive: Southampton, 4 May 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1 shilling postage due in London

Notes: Letter carried privately from Cuba to New York, where forwarding agent, J.M. & L de Escoriza posted letter, unpaid, to London. Postage due included 6 pence international rate plus 6 pence unpaid letter fine. Before year's end, this very high unpaid letter fine was reduced to 2 pence. Examples of letters showing the 6 pence fine are quite scarce.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1868  
1 January 1868-31 December 1868



Envelope: Richmond, Maine, to Liverpool, 25 July 1868

Ship: *Germania*

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

Depart: New York, 28 July 1868  
Arrive: Southampton, 8 August 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
1 shilling postage due in Liverpool

Notes: Letter bagged at the Boston post office, which made up a closed mail bag for London. Postage due included 6 pence international rate plus 6 pence unpaid letter fine. Letters showing the 6 pence unpaid letter fine are uncommon because most mail was prepaid and by 1869 this fine would be reduced to 2 pence.

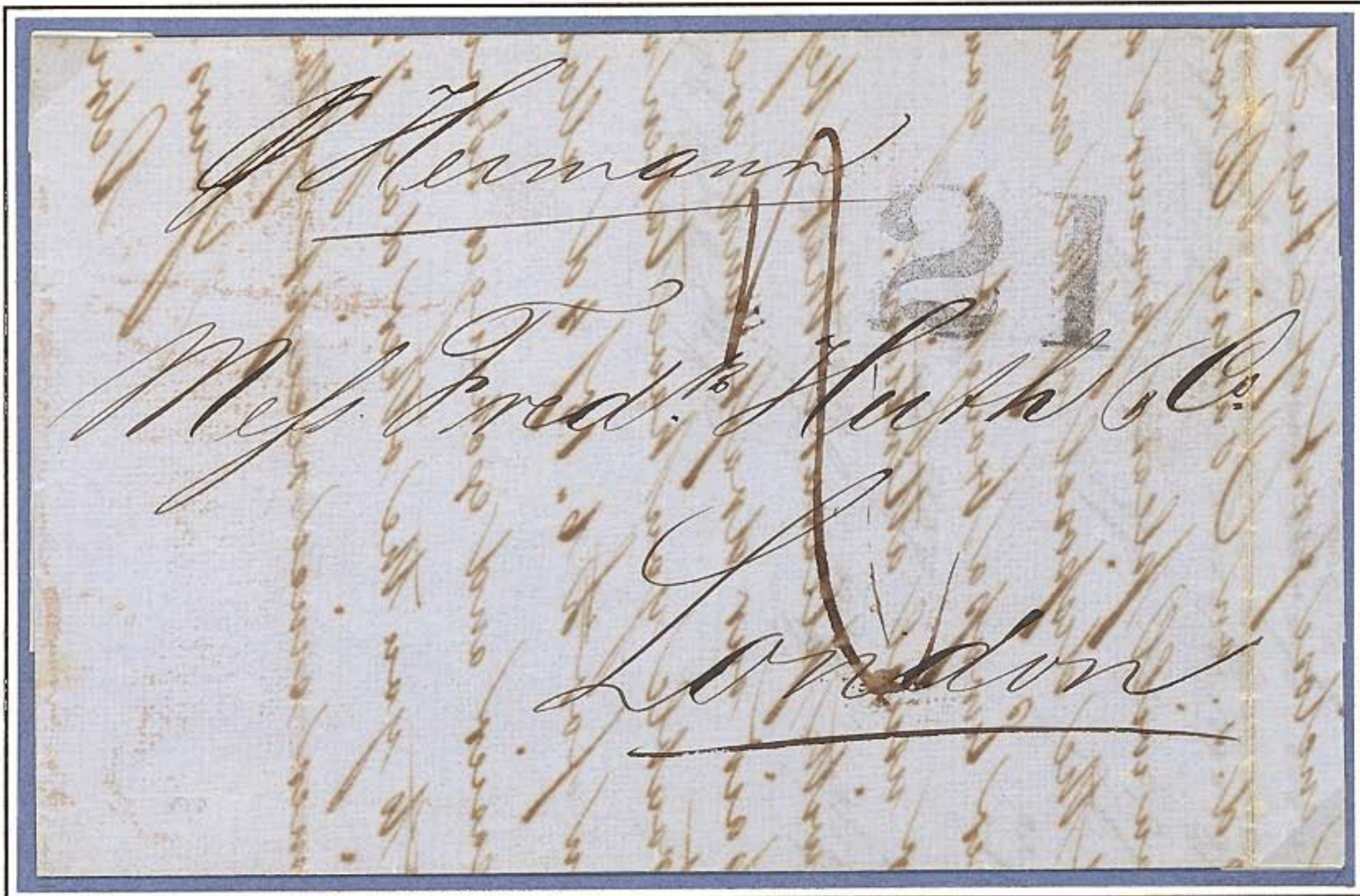
# U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship

1849-1868  
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 68

The first mails to leave the United States on an American steamer, after the 1848 Postal Convention with Great Britain went into effect on 15 February 1849, departed New York on 20 February 1849 (Ocean Line steamer). Letters could be sent either fully paid or unpaid. Partial payment was not allowed. On unpaid letters, the United States debited Great Britain 21¢ (5¢ U.S. inland portion and 16¢ transatlantic sea postage). This 21¢ was called the British Open Mail rate by American packet.

"American packet" referred to a steamship under contract to the United States to carry mails. Before the Civil War, only steamships of American companies had these contracts. Afterwards, contracts to carry American mails were awarded to foreign steamship lines including Great Britain, Canada, and Germany.



20 April 1849 New York to London  
Letter sent unpaid  
1s postage due in London

**Hermann** 14 days (East)  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.

This cover shows the rating marks of an unpaid letter carried by American steamer. The New York exchange office struck the black "21" debit marking (5¢ U.S. internal and 16¢ sea postage). This large "21" handstamp was used in New York for only about a year, an uncommon marking.



27 September 1850 New York to Manchester, England  
Letter sent unpaid  
21¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
1s postage due in Manchester

*Pacific* 11 days (East)  
New York cds showed date steamer scheduled to depart;  
actual departure one day later due to accident at pier

*Too-Late*



7 June 1851 Liverpool to Boston  
Letter sent unpaid  
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.  
24¢ postage due in Boston

**Arctic** 11 days (West)  
Letter missed 7 June sailing of *Niagara* and was sent on next steamer; Liverpool marked "Too-Late" to account for delay



21 October 1853 New Orleans to Paris, France  
21¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by American packet  
8 decimes postage due in Paris

*Atlantic* 11 days (East)  
French entry mark indicated letter from U.S. by  
American packet to G.B. and processed at Paris