

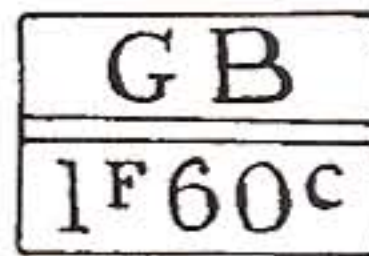
# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Charleston, S.C. to Tourcoing, France, 1 May 1857

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Boston, 6 May 1857  
Arrive: Liverpool, 17 May 1857

Rate: 5¢ paid for British open mail rate by British packet  
16 decimes postage due in Tourcoing

Notes: Pre convention rate of 5¢ for British packet service was paid in Charleston. New York sent the letter in the open mail to save the payment since the paid letter rate under the convention was  $2 \times 15¢ = 30¢$ . London struck the accountancy marking "G.B./1F60c" to show France that this unpaid letter for France was transported to the U.K. at British expense. The open mail rates were still in effect but not encouraged by any postal rate charts. Uncommon use of open mail rate after postal convention with France went into effect



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Furtwanger, Baden to New York, 2 July 1857

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 8 July 1857  
Arrive: New York, 19 July 1857

Rate: 133 kreuzer      paid for single rate  
9¢                      French credit to U.S.

Notes: Payment of 33 kreuzer (kr.) consisted of 3 kr. German transit and 30 kr. French transit fees, marked in magenta ink, lower left. French credited 9¢ to the United States since an American packet was to carry the letter across the Atlantic from England. New York marked 15¢ international rate (between France and United States) was paid, not the actual 21¢ rate from Germany by the French mail. Pencil "167" before street address was an address correction applied by the New York carrier service.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



**Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, France, 25 December 1857**

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: New York, 26 December 1857  
Arrive: Southampton, 9 January 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
9¢ U.S. debit to French for single rate  
8 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: *North Star* put French mails off at Southampton on its way to Bremen. Letter travelled from New York to London, Dover and Calais in a closed mail bag. Postage due of 8 decimes marked on ambulant from Calais to Paris when mails were opened and processed.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Paris to Philadelphia, 29 April 1858

Ship: *Persia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 1 May 1858  
Arrive: New York, 11 May 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ French debit to U.S. for single rate  
15¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: French debit is in manuscript at the left side. Philadelphia introduced the year date in its exchange office markings in 1857. I have recorded only 1857 and 1859 for the six years that the cds was used.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Envelope: Paris to New York, 8 September 1858

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 11 September 1858

Arrive: Boston, 24 September 1858

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
24¢ French debit to U.S.  
30¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Because letter weighed between 7½–15 grams (double rate) French debited U.S. 2x12=24¢. Letter placed in closed mail bag for Boston on the Paris–Calais ambulant and not bagged for New York; therefore, Boston rated letter for 2x15=30¢ postage due. Boston also applied the red "Br.Service" to show letter transported via England at French expense. Each of the exchange office had similar handstamps to show packet service.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870  
1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Envelope: New York to Paris, 30 October 1858

Ship: *Ariel*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: New York, 30 October 1858  
Arrive: Havre, 19 November 1858

Rate: 15¢ prepaid for single rate  
3¢ U.S. credit to French

Notes: *Ariel* was scheduled to sail to Bremen via Southampton on this voyage and was advertised to carry European mails. Enroute, the captain decided to sail directly for Havre and landed all the European mails there. French entry marking in blue showed letter from the United States by American packet service directly to Havre. Prepayment marked in pencil in lower left.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Charleston, S.C. to Paris, 21 January 1859

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 26 January 1859

Arrive: Liverpool, 7 February 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
6¢ U.S. debit to France  
16 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Boston exchange office debit to France was  $2 \times 3\text{¢} = 6\text{¢}$  for double rate letter. Mail bags opened on the ambulant from Calais to Paris and letter marked for  $2 \times 8 = 16$  decimes postage due. Corner card marking in magenta was the letter originator, Green Trapmann & Co. of Charleston.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Paris, 7 February 1859

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: New York, 16 February 1859

Arrive: Liverpool, 27 February 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
5¢ U.S. debit to G.B.  
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York on steamship *Philadelphia* from Havana on 8 February 1859, then placed by New York in error in the British mails as a loose, unpaid letter. Liverpool marked 1 shilling postage due and sent letter to London where the GB/1F60c accountancy marking was struck. Letter sent to France as an unpaid letter brought into G.B. at British expense. Paris marked letter for 8 decimes postage due. Unusual open mail letter when U.S.–French Treaty rates existed.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



**Folded Letter: New Orleans to Chalon-sur-Saone, France, 28 February 1859**

Ship: *City of Baltimore*

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

Depart: New York, 12 March 1859

Arrive: Liverpool, 24 March 1859

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
9¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Chalon-sur-Saone

Notes: New Orleans thought letter was greater than ¼ ounce and marked unpaid letter rate of 30¢ with handstamp. New York considered letter under ¼ oz. and debited France 9¢ for a single rate. French marked 8 decimes postage due for single rate when mails opened on the ambulant from Calais to Paris.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



**Folded Letter: Boston to Paris, 30 December 1859**

Ship: *North American*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Portland, 31 December 1859  
Arrive: Queenstown, 10 January 1860

Rate: 15¢ prepaid for single rate  
6¢ U.S. credit to France

Notes: French entry marking applied on Calais–Paris ambulant and showed American packet service to G.B. (octagonal inner border). From sailing data, only American contract steamship with the dates shown on this cover was the Allan Line *North American*. Most mails at this time were sent to New York and not to Portland for the Allan Line steamers.

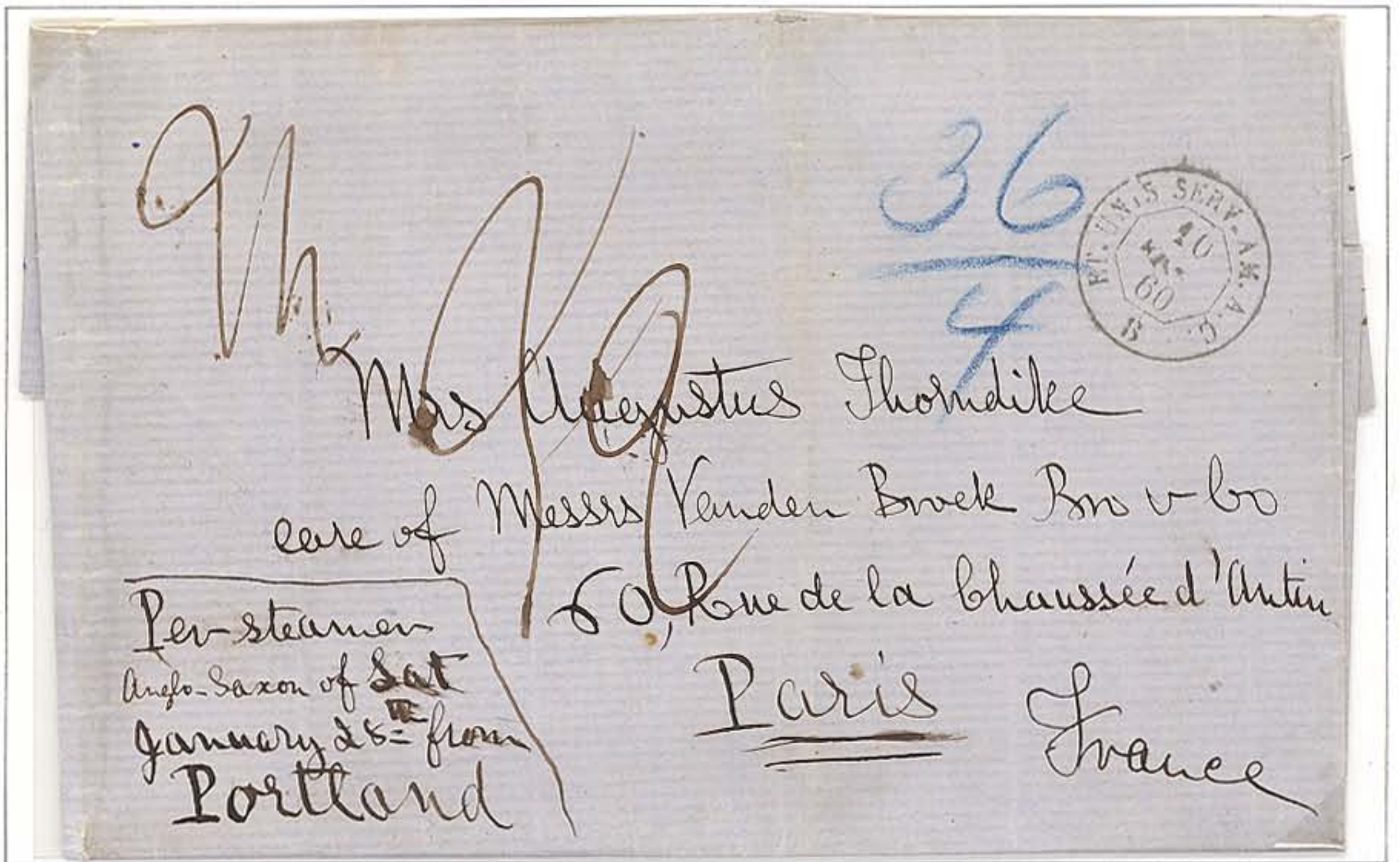


U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 April 1857-31 December 1869

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—  
4



Folded Letter: Boston to Paris, 27 January 1860

Ship: *Anglo-Saxon*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Portland, 28 January 1860  
Arrive: Queenstown, 7 February 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
36¢ U.S. debit to France

Notes: Boston marked letter required 4 rates and debited France 4 x 9¢ = 36¢. French weighed letter at 24 grams and marked 4 x 8 = 32 decimes postage due. Scarce Allan Line cover where letter treated as American packet letter. After 1 April 1861, letters were treated as British packet letters. Very few covers show rating as American packets.



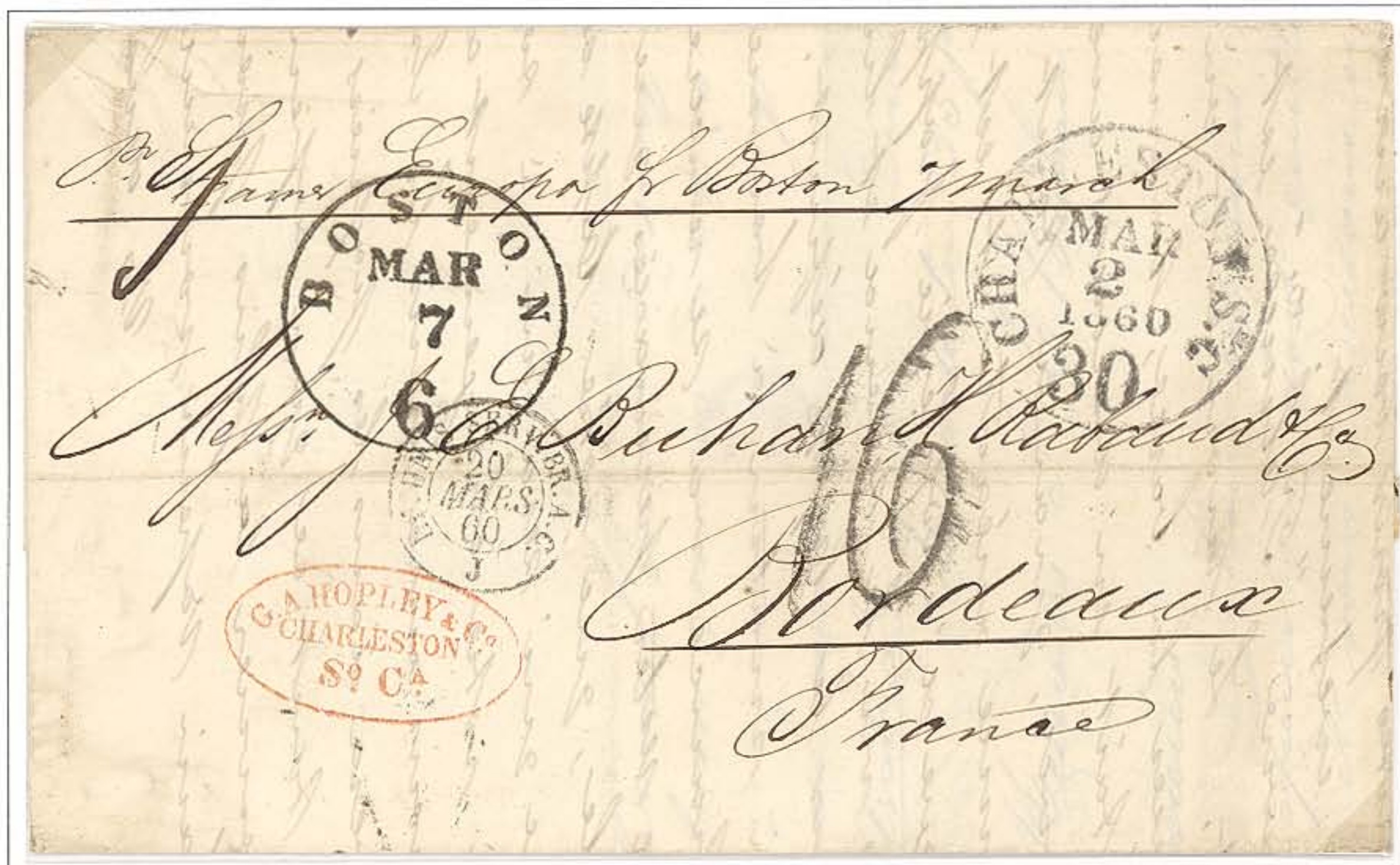
# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Charleston, S.C. to Bordeaux, France, 25 February 1860

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: Boston, 7 March 1860  
Arrive: Queenstown, 18 March 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
6¢ U.S. debit to France  
16 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: Red oval business marking of sender, G.A. Hopley & Co., Charleston, marked in lower left corner. Charleston datestamp showed unpaid letter rate of 30¢. Boston marked 2 x 3¢ = 6¢ debit to France for letter weighing between 7½-15 grams carried on a British packet to England. French marked 2 x 8 decimes = 16 decimes postage due.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Philadelphia to La Rochelle, France, 27 April 1860

Ship: Arago

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

Depart: New York, 28 April 1860

Arrive: Havre, 12 May 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in La Rochelle

Notes: Letter made up in closed mail bag at Philadelphia for next day sailing of Havre Line steamer from New York. French entry marking showed direct service from U.S. to Havre. This marking differed from 1857 version by having eight vice seven sides.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter: New York to Mauze, France, 4 June 1860

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

Depart: New York, 6 June 1860  
Arrive: Queenstown, 15 June 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Mauze

Notes: French entry marking, applied on ambulant from Calais to Paris, showed month of July instead of June, an error in setting up the datestamp. The marking indicated letter from the United States by British packet service to G.B. and was processed on the ambulant from Calais.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter: New York to Mauze, France, 2 July 1860

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: New York, 4 July 1860

Arrive: Queenstown, 14 July 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Mauze

Notes: French entry marking, indicated letter from the United States by British packet service to G.B. and was processed on the ambulant from Calais. New York debited France 3¢ for single rate letter (less than 7½ grams).



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870  
1 April 1857–31 December 1869



**Folded Letter: Carpentras, France to New York, 26 August 1860**

Ship: *Illinois*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line  
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Havre, 29 August 1860  
Arrive: New York, 12 September 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
6¢ French debit to U.S.  
30¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Although marked to go by way of Liverpool, letter bagged and sent in American direct service mails from Havre. Rate markings and arrival date establish that *Illinois* carried the letter. New York marked letter for  $2 \times 15 = 30\text{¢}$  postage for a  $7\frac{1}{2}$ –15 gram letter.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter: New York to Mauze, France, 11 September 1860

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 12 September 1860  
Arrive: Queenstown, 22 September 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Mauze

Notes: French entry marking, indicated letter from the United States by British packet service to G.B. and was processed on the ambulant from Calais. New York debited France 3¢ for single rate letter (less than 7½ grams). Reason for use of domestic New York circular datestamp in addition to the New York exchange office marking is not known.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: New York to L'Isle Rousse, Corsica, 20 June 1861

Ship: *Bavaria*

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

Depart: New York, 29 June 1861  
Arrive: Southampton, 12 July 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
27¢ U.S. debit to France  
16 decimes postage due in L'Isle Rousse

Notes: New York considered letter triple weight (over ½ oz. or 14.18 grams) while French considered letter double weight (7½ -15 grams). New York debited France 3x9¢=27¢ and French marked 2x8=16 decimes postage due.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Envelope: Havana, Cuba (?) to Guérande, France, September 1861

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd  
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: New York, 28 September 1861

Arrive: Southampton, 10 October 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
16¢ U.S. debit to France  
12 decimes postage due in Guérande

Notes: Letter shows no origination location, but most mails showing these rates came from the Caribbean and from Havana, Cuba in particular. U.S. debit to France consisted of 10¢ transit fee from the Caribbean to New York and 6¢ transatlantic sea postage.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



**Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Bordeaux, 12 November 1861**

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: Boston, 13 November 1861

Arrive: Queenstown, 23 November 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
6¢ U.S. debit to France  
16 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: New York debit to France was  $2 \times 3 = 6\text{¢}$  for a double rate letter ( $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. –  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. weight). French entry marking applied at Paris and indicated letter from the U.S. by British packet service to G.B. and entered France at Calais. Two versions of this marking exist, this one showing "ETATS-UNIS" in full vice "ET.UNIS."



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



**Folded Letter: La Rochelle, France to New York, 4 December 1861**

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 8 December 1861  
Arrive: New York, 24 December 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ French debit to U.S.  
15¢ postage due for single treaty rate

Notes: Letter endorsed for the Cunard steamship *Australasian* but actually travelled on *America*. Pencil address of "194 South" written by New York letter carried to show street address.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Paris to New York, 10 September 1862

Ship: *Nova Scotian*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company  
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 12 September 1862  
Arrive: Quebec, 25 September 1862

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ French debit to U.S.  
15¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Under the U.S.-French postal convention, mail carried on Allan Line steamers (American contract mail) were accounted for as mails carried on British steamers. Letter in closed mail bag put off at Riviere du Loup on the St. Lawrence River and taken by train to Boston and New York. Poor inking of the rim of the Paris circular datestamp produced unusual looking marking.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Havre, 2 December 1862

Ship: *City of Washington*

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

Depart: New York, 6 December 1862  
Arrive: Queenstown, 15 December 1862

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
9¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Havre

Notes: French entry marking in red shows letter originated in U.S. and was carried to England on an American packet with French entry at Havre. An auxiliary steamer carried letter from Southampton to Havre. Docketing shows letter reached destination on 17 December, which means Havre had wrong date in entry marking.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869

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Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Paris, 20 June 1863

Ship: *City of New York*

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

Depart: New York, 27 June 1863  
Arrive: Queenstown, 7 July 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
32¢ U.S. debit to France for double rate  
24 decimes postage due in Paris

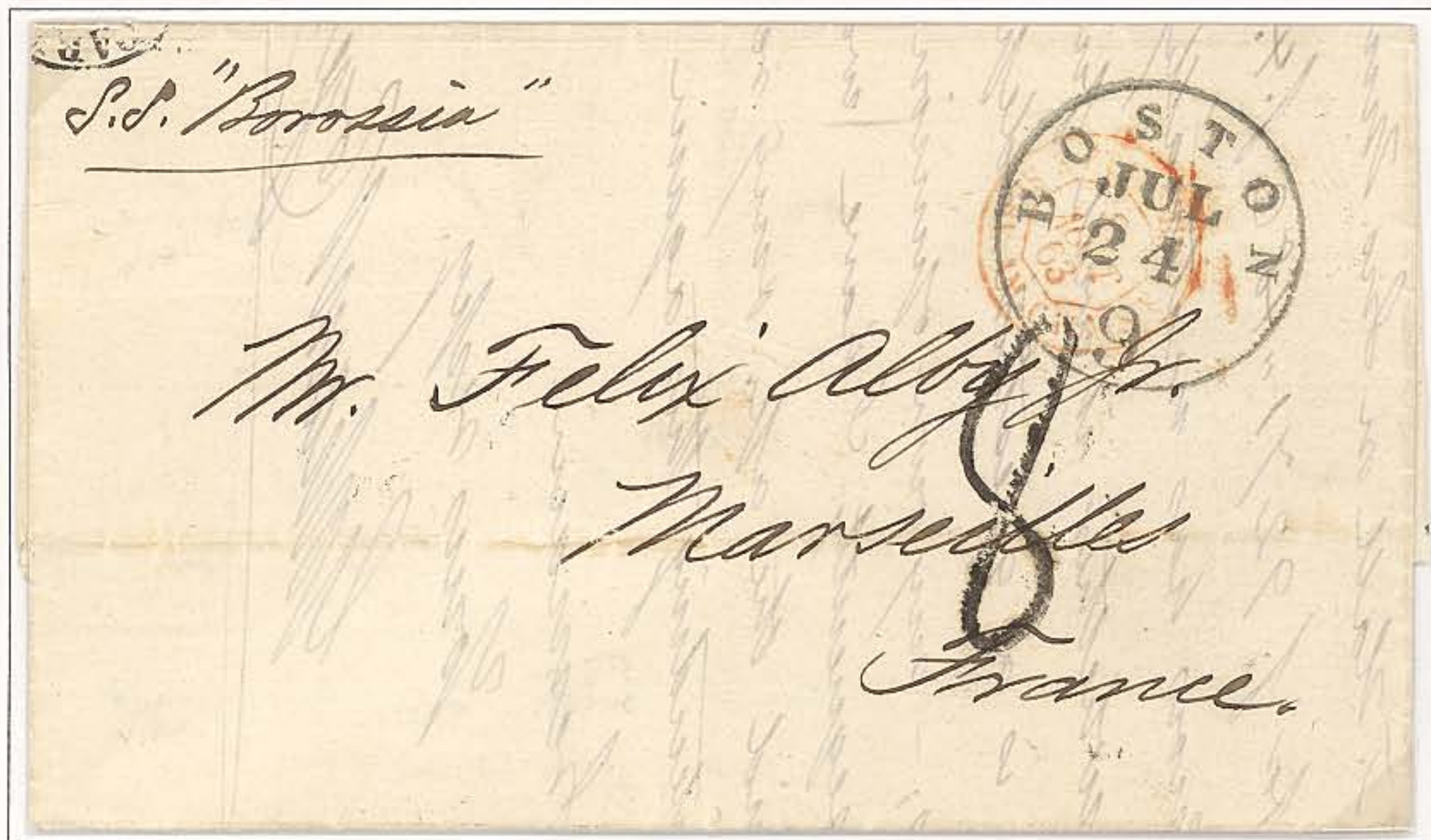
Notes: Letter carried from Havana to New York by U.S. mail steamer *Eagle* (Spofford & Tileston), arriving in four days. U.S. debit to France was for transit fee from Cuba to the U.S., 2x10¢, plus 2x6¢ for transatlantic service. Paris marked two rate in pencil (7½-15 grams) and 2 Franc 40 centimes (24 decimes) due.



## U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Boston to Marseille, 24 July 1863

Ship: *Borussia*

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

Depart: New York, 25 July 1863  
Arrive: Southampton, 6 August 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
9¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Marseille

Notes: Boston exchange office made up mails for France on day before the Saturday sailing from New York of this American contract steamship (actually German–owned). Red French entry marking struck in Paris indicated letter from the U.S. by American service to G.B. and entered France at Calais.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869

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Folded Letter: Chartres, France to Philadelphia, 18 February 1864

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 21 February 1864

Arrive: Boston, 7 March 1864

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
12¢ French debit to U.S.  
15¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter processed in postal car on the day train from Rennes–Paris. Unpaid domestic rate of 30 centimes marked as postage due in error, then cancelled with railroad adhesive obliterator (lozenge of dots with PR<sup>s</sup> in center). Paris marked 12¢ debit to U.S. with 12 decime postage due marking. Unusual markings for unpaid treaty letter.



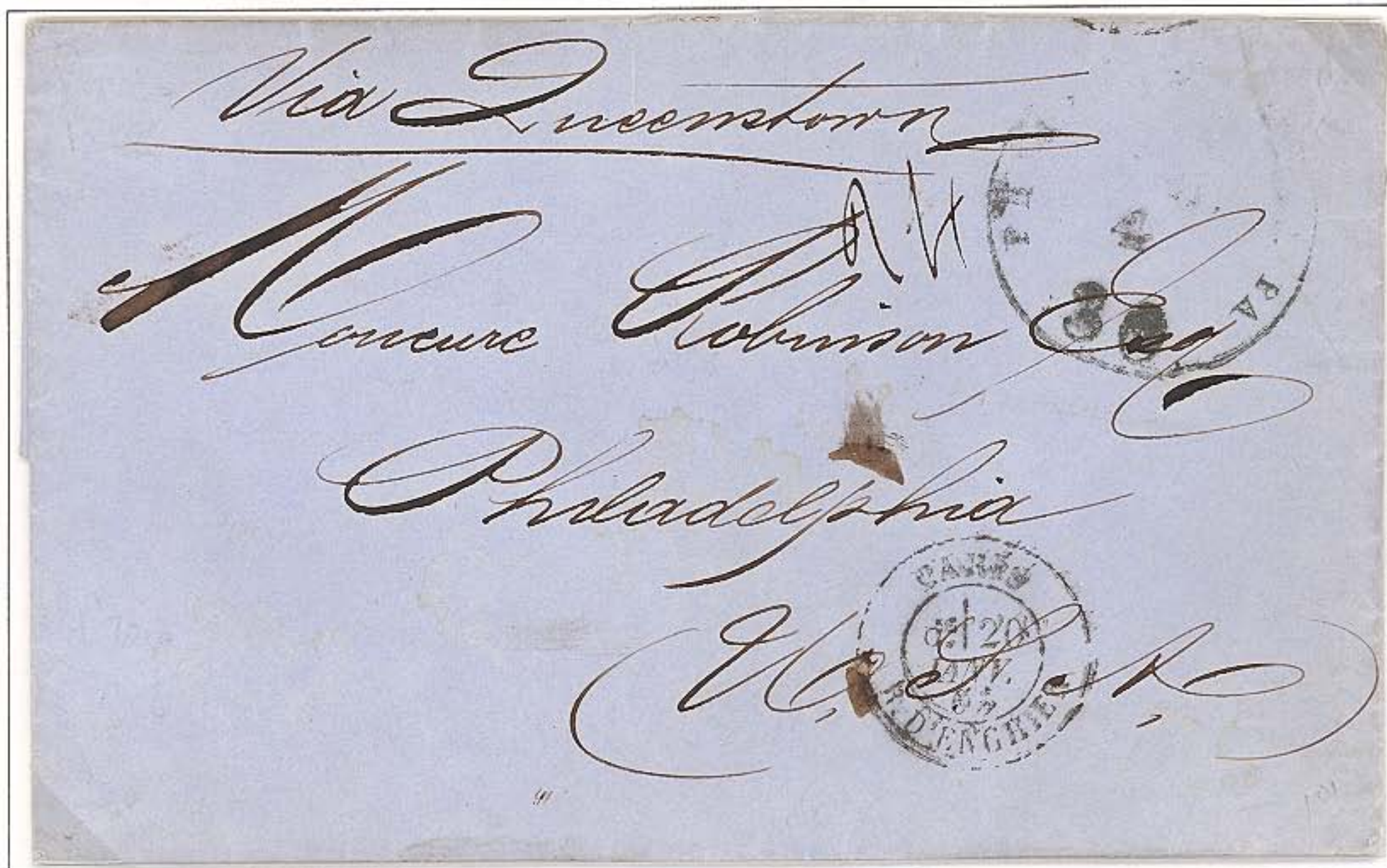
# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Paris to Philadelphia, 20 January 1865

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 22 January 1865

Arrive: Boston, 3 February 1865

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
24¢ French debit to U.S.  
30¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Paris marked 2x12=24¢ debit to U.S. in manuscript for double rate letter (7½–15 grams). Letter placed in a closed mail bag for Philadelphia where it was opened the day after the steamer arrived in Boston. Philadelphia did not mark depreciated currency rate, which would have been about 65¢, for reasons unknown.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Paris, 28 June 1865

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: Boston, 5 July 1865  
Arrive: Queenstown, 15 July 1865

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ U.S. debit to France  
12 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter carried from Havana to New York by U.S. mail steamer *Liberty*, arriving in five days. U.S. debit to France was for transit fee from Cuba to the U.S., 10¢. Blue hand-stamp of Edmondo Meert & Co. in upper left was a corner marking of the originator of the letter.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870

1 April 1857–31 December 1869



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Saumur, France, 18 January 1867

Ship: *Saxonia*

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

Depart: New York, 19 January 1867

Arrive: Southampton, 31 January 1867

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
18¢ U.S. debit to France  
16 decimes postage due in Saumur

Notes: New York debited France 2x9¢=18¢ for double rate (1/4–1/2 ounce) letter. Paris marked 2x8=16 decimes postage due. French entry marking, struck at Paris, recorded by Salles as used in 1866 only.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: New York to Paris, 12 October 1867

Ship: *Scotia*

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

Depart: New York, 16 October 1867  
Arrive: Queenstown, 25 October 1867

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Blue entry marking "3 ETATS-UNIS 3 SERV.BRIT.CALAIS" applied in Paris and showed letter was from the United States by British packet service across the Atlantic, entering France at Calais.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: New York to Paris, 8 September 1868

Ship: *Java*

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

Depart: New York, 9 September 1868  
Arrive: Queenstown, 18 September 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
18¢ U.S. debit to France for double rate  
16 decimes postage due

Notes: Starting in January 1868, the new U.S.-G.B. Treaty required each country to pay for transit fees to the other country. Nationality of the steamship carrying the mails was no longer a factor. New York debited France 2x9¢=18¢, the American packet share even though a British contract packet actually carried the letter. The French entry marking also indicated American service. Paris marked 2x8=16 decimes postage due.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty

French Contract Steamship Direct

1857-1870

15 June 1864-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: San Francisco to Jarnac, France, 22 October 1868

Ship: *St. Laurent*

Company: Compagnie Générale Transatlantique  
(French Line H)

Depart: New York, 14 November 1868  
Arrive: Havre, 25 November 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Jarnac

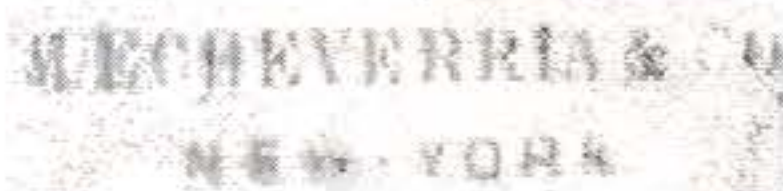
Notes: Red octagonal French entry marking applied by French postal agent on board the steamship when it departed New York, 14 November 1868. This was the arrival date of the letter into the French mail system. San Francisco sent letter via Panama as endorsed. Seven months later mail from San Francisco would go by rail to New York in less than half the time taken by this letter by steamship via Panama.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
French Contract Steamship Direct

1857-1870  
15 June 1864-31 December 1869



(Blue) (Reverse)



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Mexico City, Mexico to Havre, 23 July 1869

Ship: *Ville de Paris*  
Company: Compagnie Générale Transatlantique  
(French Line H)

Depart: New York, 7 August 1869  
Arrive: Havre, 18 August 1869

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Havre

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York. Two weeks later forwarding agent M. Echeverria & Co. of New York posted letter unpaid to France and struck blue, two-line handstamp on reverse. French mail agent on board Line H steamer marked red octagonal datestamp to show when letter entered the French mail system (on steamer in New York).



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
French Contract Steamship Direct

1857-1870  
15 June 1864-31 December 1869

10



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Paris, 15 August 1869

Ship: *Lafayette*

Company: Compagnie Générale Transatlantique  
(French Line H)

Depart: New York, 21 August 1869  
Arrive: Brest, 2 September 1869

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
10¢ U.S. debit to France  
12 decimes postage due at Paris

Notes: Letter carried by steamship *Mariposa* from Havana to New York. U.S. entitled to 10¢ transit fee from Cuba to New York, marked by circle 10 handstamp as debit to France.



U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

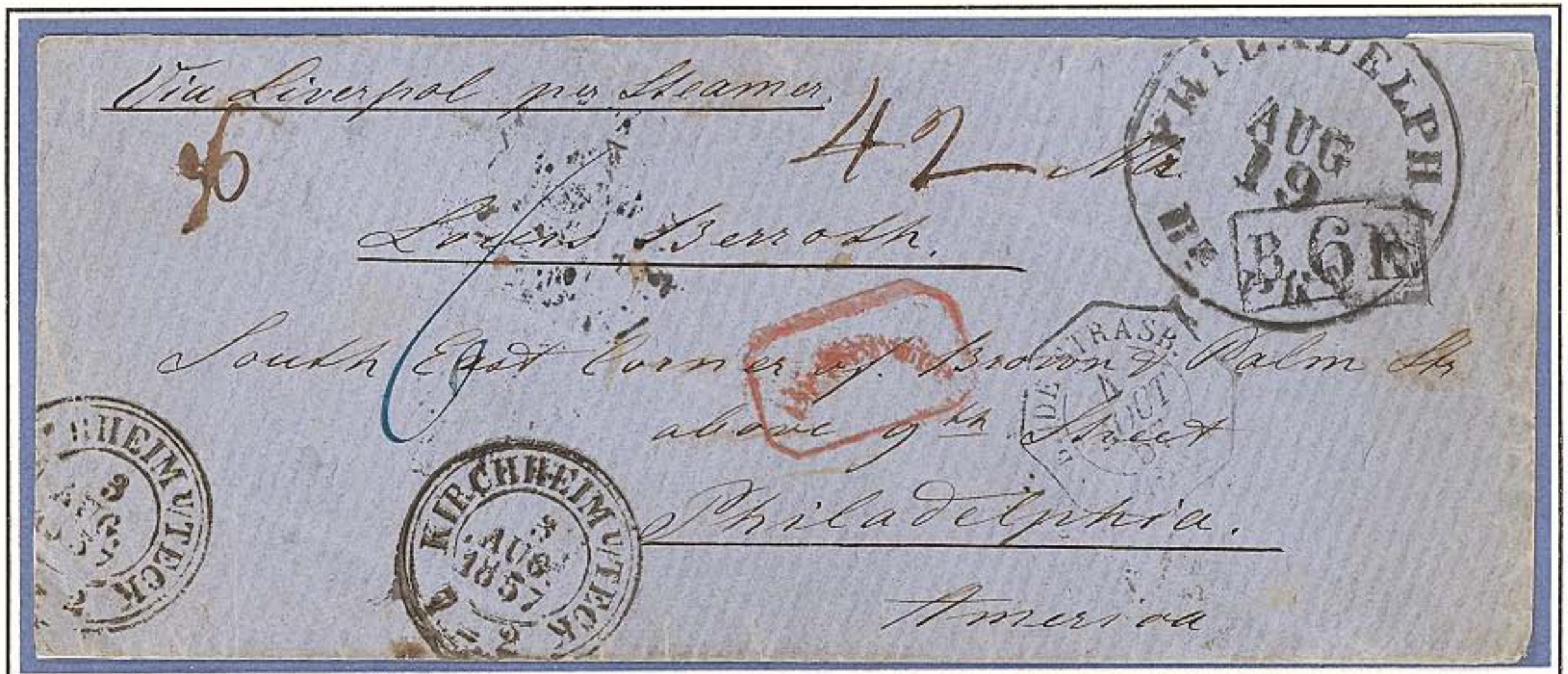
1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



1 August 1857 Frankfurt am Main, Germany to Richmond, Va.  
Letter sent unpaid (21¢ rate)  
21¢ postage due in Richmond

**Arabia** 11 days (West)  
18¢ French debit to U.S. included 6¢ foreign transit  
Letter mistakenly sent to Sarreguimines, France,  
returned to Frankfort, and resent to U.S.

B.6K



3 August 1857 Kirchheim u/Treck, Württemberg to Philadelphia  
Letter sent unpaid (2x21¢ rate)  
42¢ postage due in Philadelphia

**Arabia** 11 days (West)  
2x18¢ French debit to U.S. (manuscript upper left)  
Under French–Baden Treaty of 1856, Baden entitled  
to 2x3 kr., shown in blue pen and special handstamp



U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

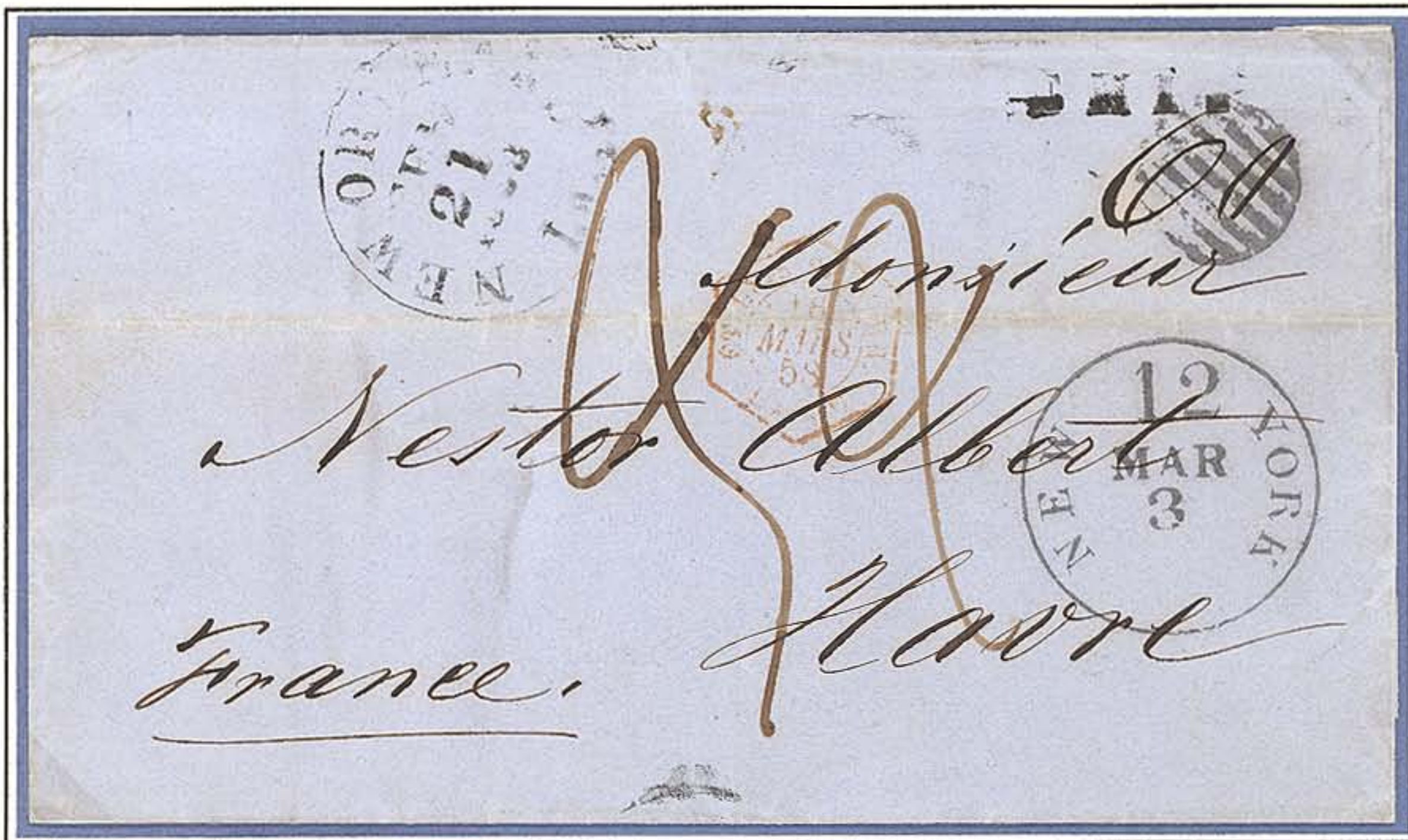
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



11 January 1858 Liege, Belgium to Philadelphia  
Letter sent unpaid  
21¢ postage due in Philadelphia

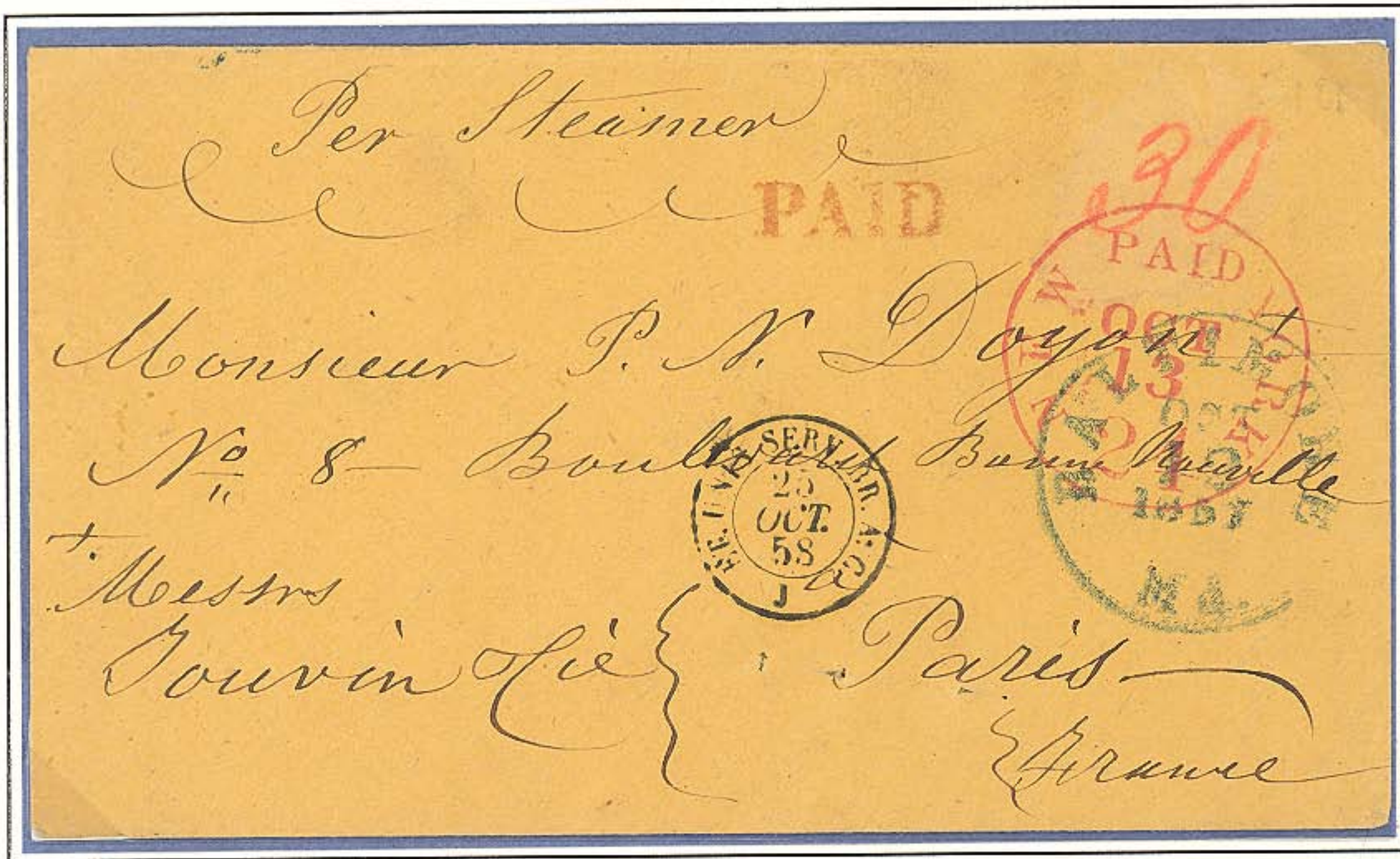
Canada 13 days (West)  
18¢ French debit to U.S.  
French entry at Erquelines on railway to Paris



8 February 1858 Laguna de Terminos, Mexico to Le Havre  
Letter sent unpaid (quadruple rate)  
32 decimes postage due in Le Havre

Africa 11 days (East)  
4x3¢ = 12¢ U.S. debit to France  
Letter carried by private ship to New Orleans





12 October 1858 Baltimore to Paris  
2x15¢ = 30¢ prepaid for double rate  
2x12¢ = 24¢ U.S. credit to France

**Arabia** 12 days (East)  
Baltimore's postal clerks made three separate markings on this letter (blue cds, red PAID, and red crayon "30" rate marking)



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



23 October 1858 Charleston to Nantes  
Letter sent unpaid  
8 decimes postage due in Nantes

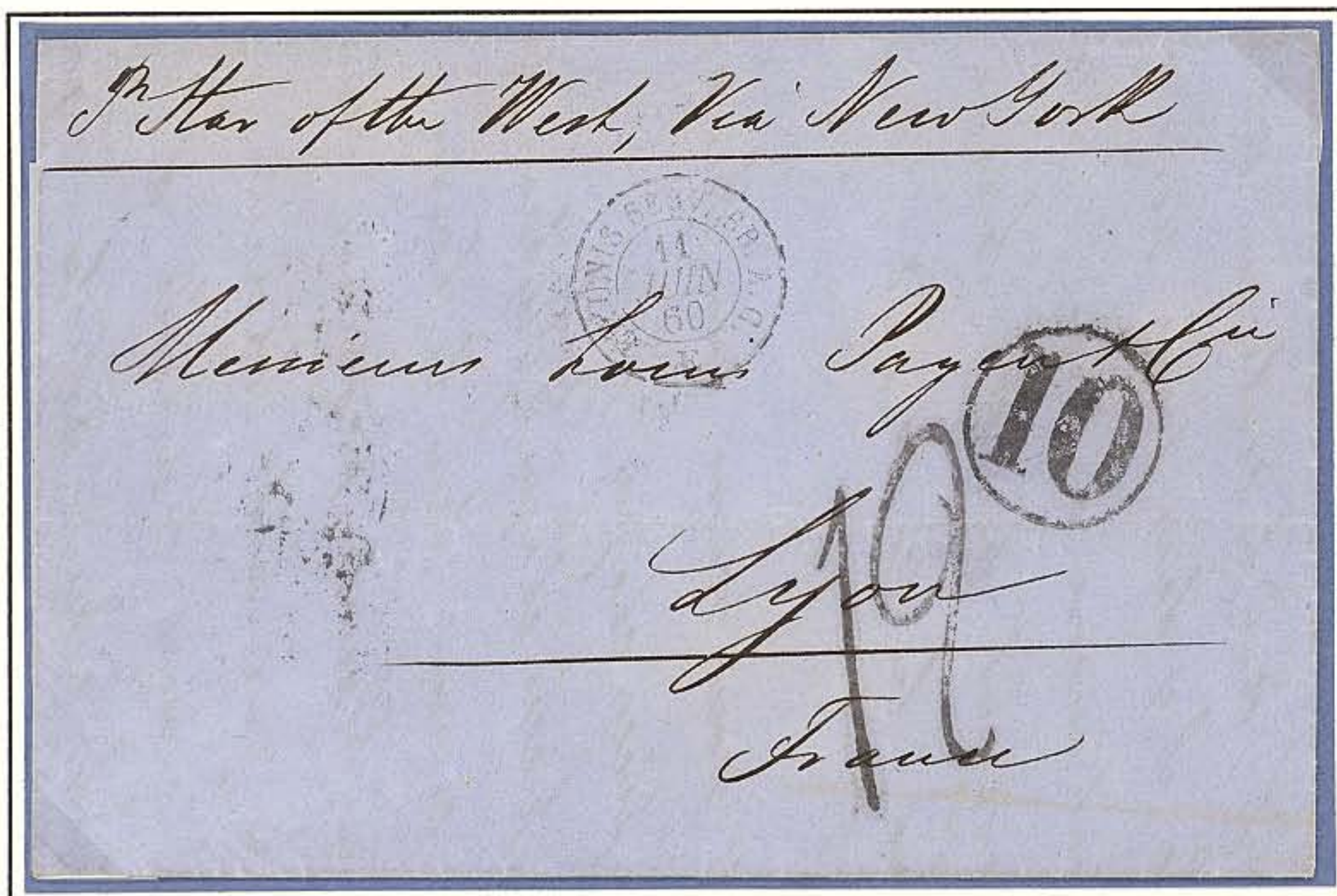
*Africa* 11 days (East)  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
Charleston cds with 15¢ through rate



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



10

23 May 1860 Havana, Cuba to Lyon  
Letter sent unpaid (22¢ rate)  
12 decimes postage due in Lyon

**Europa** 10 days (East)  
10¢ U.S. debit to France  
Letter carried to New York by U.S. mail steamer  
*Star of the West* owned by M.O. Roberts

CHARLESTON S.C.  
JUN 22 1860  
30



15 June 1860 Charleston to La Rochelle  
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)  
16 decimes postage due in La Rochelle

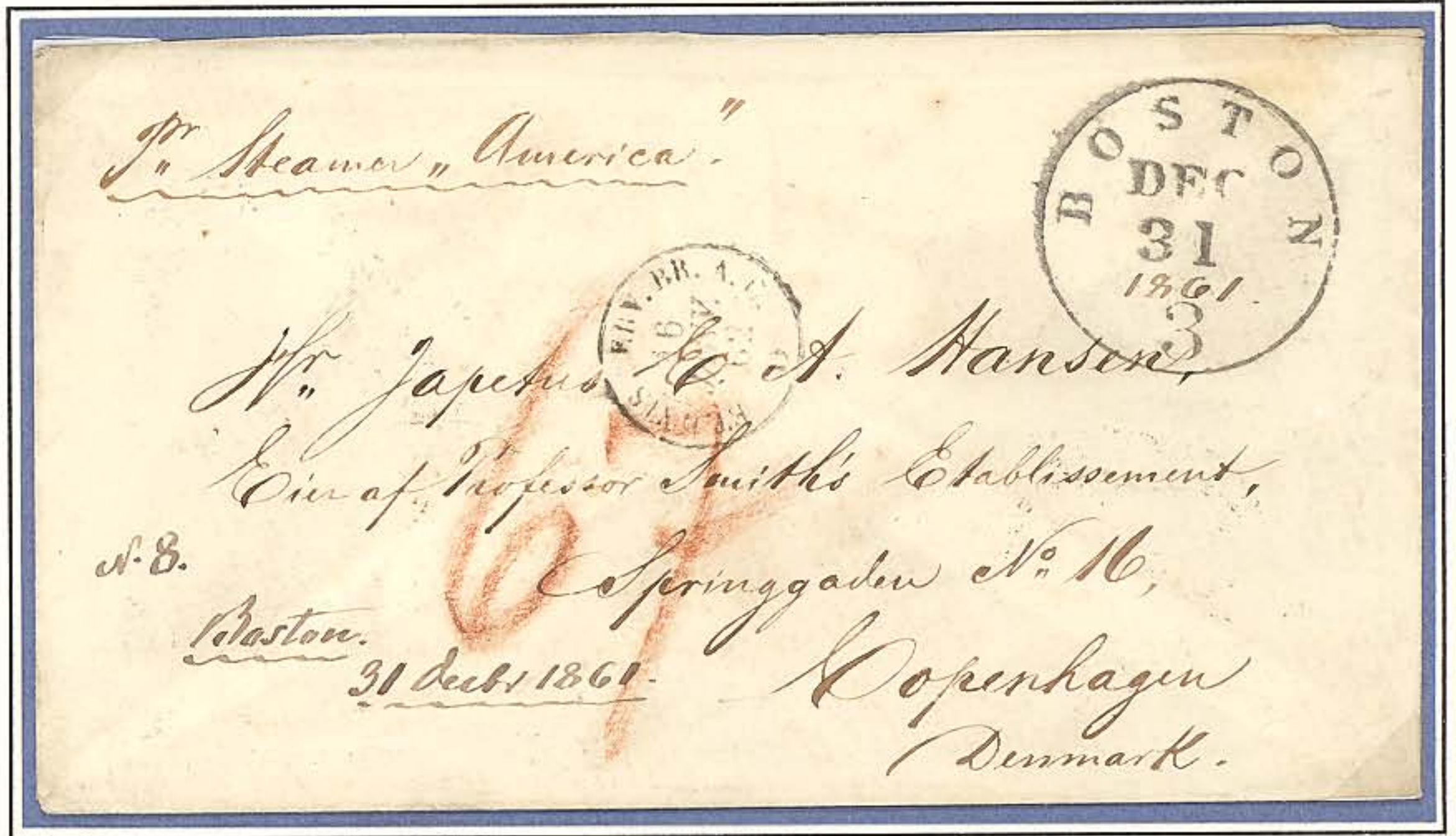
**Niagara** 10 days (East)  
2x3¢ = 6¢ U.S. debit to France  
Charleston cds with 30¢ through rate



**U.S. – France Mails by Steamship**

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



**31 December 1861** Boston to Copenhagen, Denmark  
Letter sent unpaid (27¢ rate)  
67 skilling postage due in Copenhagen

**America** 13 days (East)  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
Hamburg debited Denmark 13½ sgr. (red crayon on reverse)  
Boston postal clerk marked year date in pen in cds



(Reverse)

**11 June 1862** Boston to Heidelberg, Baden  
Letter sent unpaid (21¢ rate)  
33 kreuzer postage due in Heidelberg

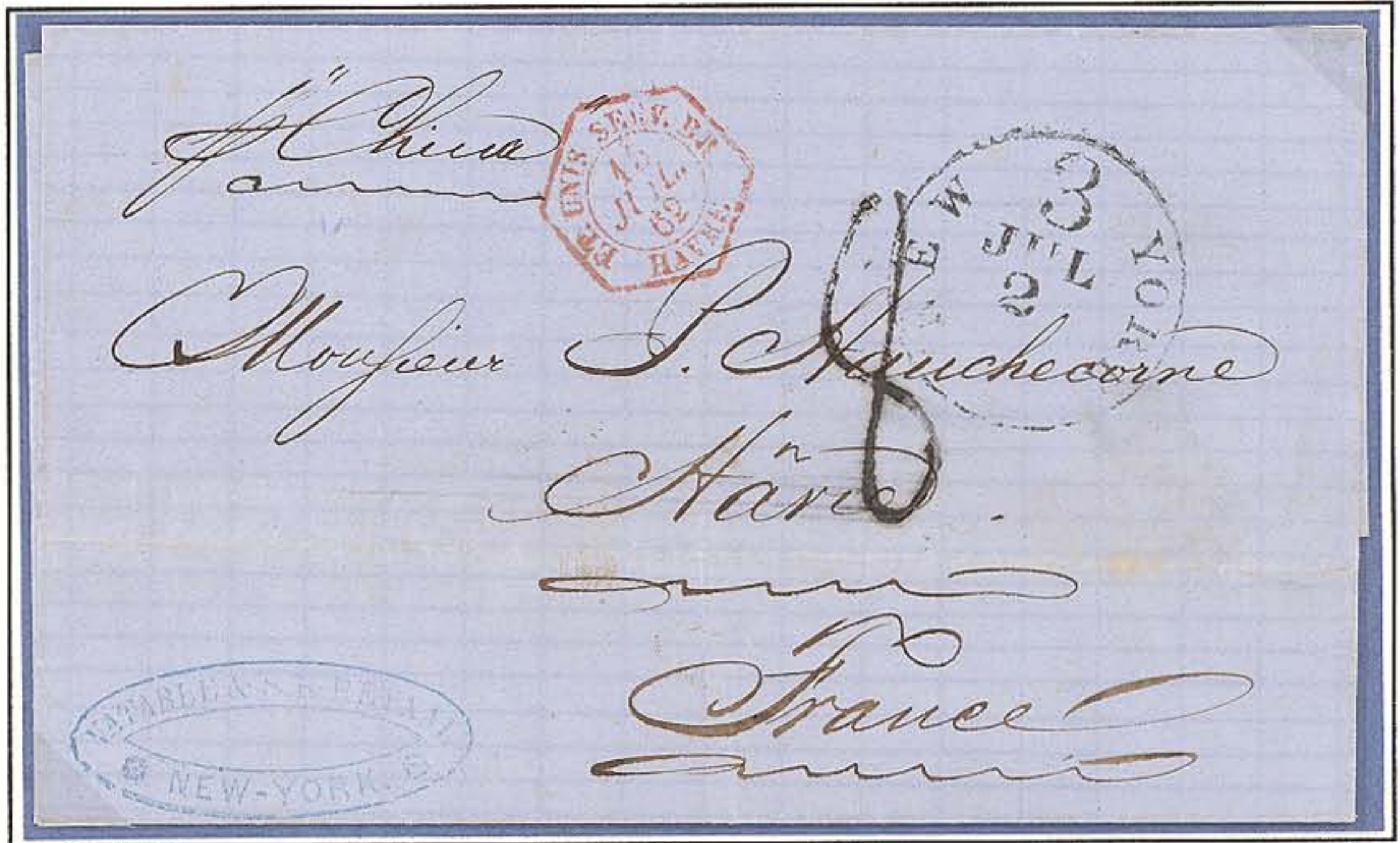
**Europa** 10 days (East)  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
Letter travelled from Paris to Strasbourg by rail,  
then to Kehl, Baden where oval entry mark struck



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
 British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
 1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



1 July 1862 New York to Le Havre  
 Letter sent unpaid  
 8 decimes postage due in Le Havre

*China* 11 days (East)  
 3¢ U.S. debit to France  
 French entry marking showed letter from U.S. by  
 British packet service and entered France at Le Havre



3 August 1862 Kingston, Mass. to Malaga, Spain  
 21¢ prepaid for single rate  
 4 reales postage due in Malaga

*Asia* 10 days (East)  
 18¢ U.S. credit to France  
 French Treaty mail to Spain was paid to  
 French-Spain border only





*St. "Olympus"*

*Messieurs Messert Pelleron & Co.*

*La Rochelle*

*(France)*



27 October 1863 New York to La Rochelle  
Letter sent unpaid  
8 decimes postage due in La Rochelle

*Olympus* 12 days (East)  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
Cunard merchant steamer *Olympus* carried  
contract mails on only one voyage



# U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

Under the 1 April 1857 postal convention with France, the rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by American packet service via Great Britain was:

U.S. inland	3¢
Sea	6¢
Br. transit	2¢
Fr. transit	4¢
	15¢ or 8 decimes

Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 9¢  
Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 6¢  
Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 6¢  
Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 9¢



17 April 1857 New York to Paris  
15¢ prepaid for 7½ gram letter  
6¢ U.S. credit to France

Washington 15 days (East)  
3¢ credit struck in New York in error, then  
marked out with 8-bar grid obliterator



This letter was struck with the N.YORK U.S.PKT circular datestamp, usually seen on Bremen Treaty mails and quite uncommon on a French Treaty cover.



U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



3 November 1858 Vera Cruz, Mexico to Bordeaux  
Letter sent unpaid  
8 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

**Kangaroo** 13 days (East)  
9¢ U.S. debit to France  
Letter sent "out of the mails" to New York and placed on  
British-owned Inman Line steamer under U.S. mail contract



20 April 1859 Philadelphia to Livorno, Tuscany  
27¢ prepaid for single rate  
18¢ U.S. credit to France (not shown)

**Vanderbilt** 11 days (East)  
French entry markings on both covers showed letters  
entered at Calais and were processed on  
the ambulant to Paris



# U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870

1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



27 April 1862 Florence, Italy to Boston

Letter sent unpaid (2x21¢ rate)

42¢ postage due in Boston

*Jura* 11 days (West)

2x18¢ = 36¢ French debit to U.S.

Additional Articles to U.S.-French Treaty in 1861 treated

Canadian Allan Line steamers as British packets



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



**9 November 1865** Havana, Cuba to Paris  
Letter sent unpaid (22¢ rate)  
12 decimes postage due in Paris

**America** 12 days (East)  
16¢ U.S. debit to France

Letter carried to New York by American & Mexican Mail Line steamer  
*Manhattan* and North German Lloyd steamer to Southampton



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



6 April 1866 New York to Bordeaux  
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)  
16 decimes postage due (12 decimes marked in error)

**Moravian** 11 days (East)  
2x3¢ = 6¢ U.S. debit to France  
French mails by Allan Line steamers treated as carried by  
British packet even though actually American contract packets



U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



14 May 1868 San Francisco to Jarnac  
Letter sent unpaid  
8 decimes postage due in Jarnac

City of Baltimore 10 days (East)  
9¢ U.S. debit to France  
Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Golden Age*  
carried letter to Panama en route to New York



21 June 1869 New Orleans to Le Havre  
Letter sent unpaid (double rate)  
16 decimes postage due in Le Havre

City of Brooklyn 10 days (East)  
2x9¢ = 18¢ U.S. debit to France  
French entry at Le Havre by auxiliary  
steamer from Southampton



# U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

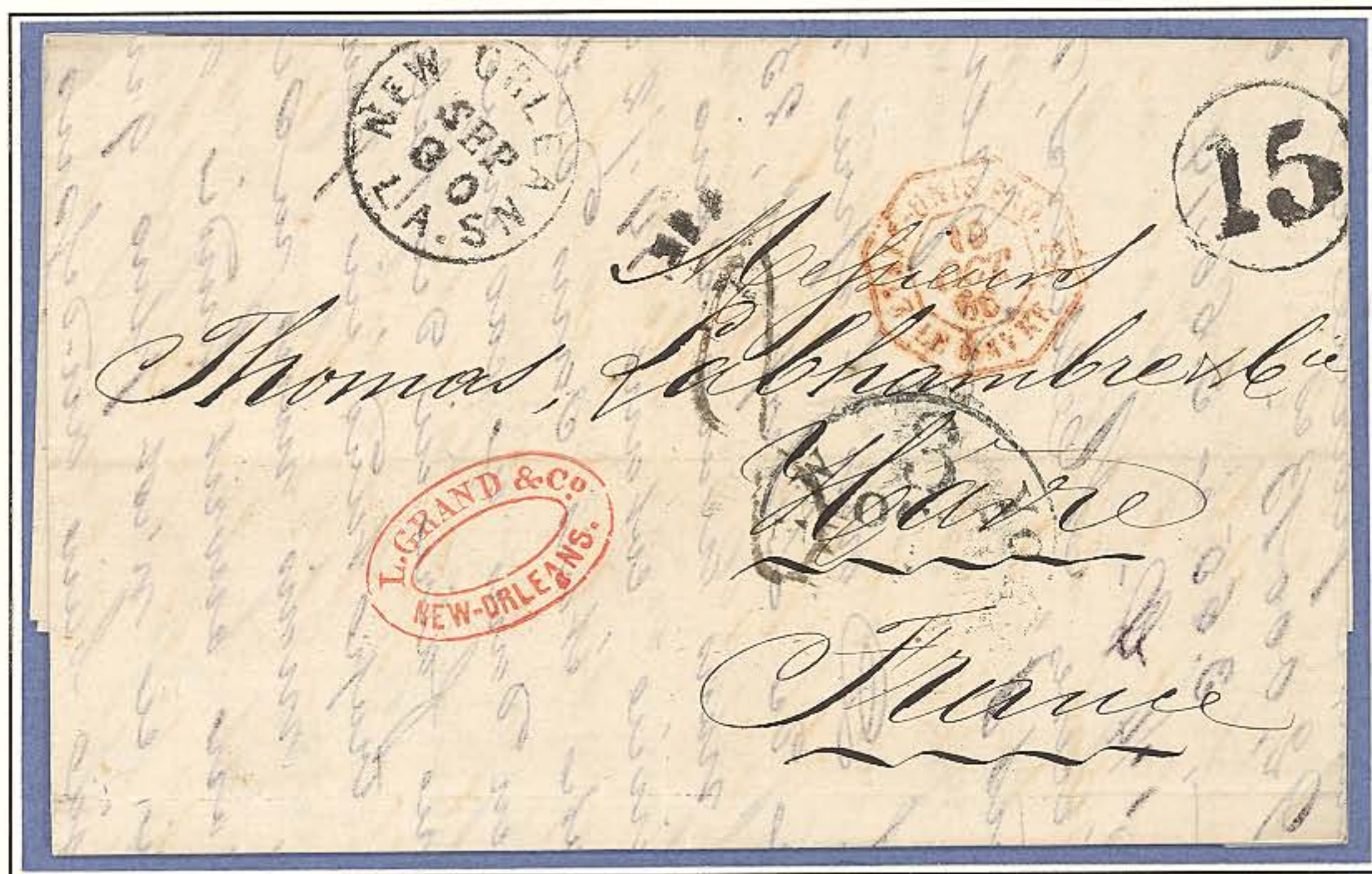
U.S. - French Treaty of 1857  
French Contract Steamship Direct

1864-1870  
15 Jun 64-1 Jan 70

Under the 1 April 1857 postal convention with France, the rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by French packet service sent by direct mail was:

U.S. inland	3¢
Sea	6¢
Br. transit	2¢
Fr. transit	4¢
	15¢ or 8 decimes

Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 3¢  
Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 12¢  
Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 12¢  
Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 3¢



29 September 1866 New Orleans to Le Havre  
Letter sent unpaid  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
8 decimes postage due in Le Havre

Ville de Paris 13 days (East)  
French steamship Compagnie Générale  
Transatlantique commenced direct service between  
Le Havre and New York in June 1864



New Orleans applied the circle "15" in black to show letter was sent unpaid at the 15¢ French mail rate. This marking was not required by postal regulations and, later, postmasters were reprimanded for using similar markings.

Uncommon French entry marking used at Le Havre to show French service from the United States.



U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857  
French Contract Steamship Direct

1864-1870  
15 Jun 64-1 Jan 70



23 October 1869 Havana, Cuba to Paris via New York  
Letter sent unpaid (2x22¢ rate)  
24 decimes postage due in Paris

*Pereire* 9 days (East)  
2x10¢ = 20¢ U.S. debit to France  
New York originally debited France 2x16¢ = 32¢ for  
U.S. packet to G.B., but changed for French steamer



6 November 1869 Mobile, Alabama to Paris  
Letter sent unpaid  
8 decimes postage due in Paris

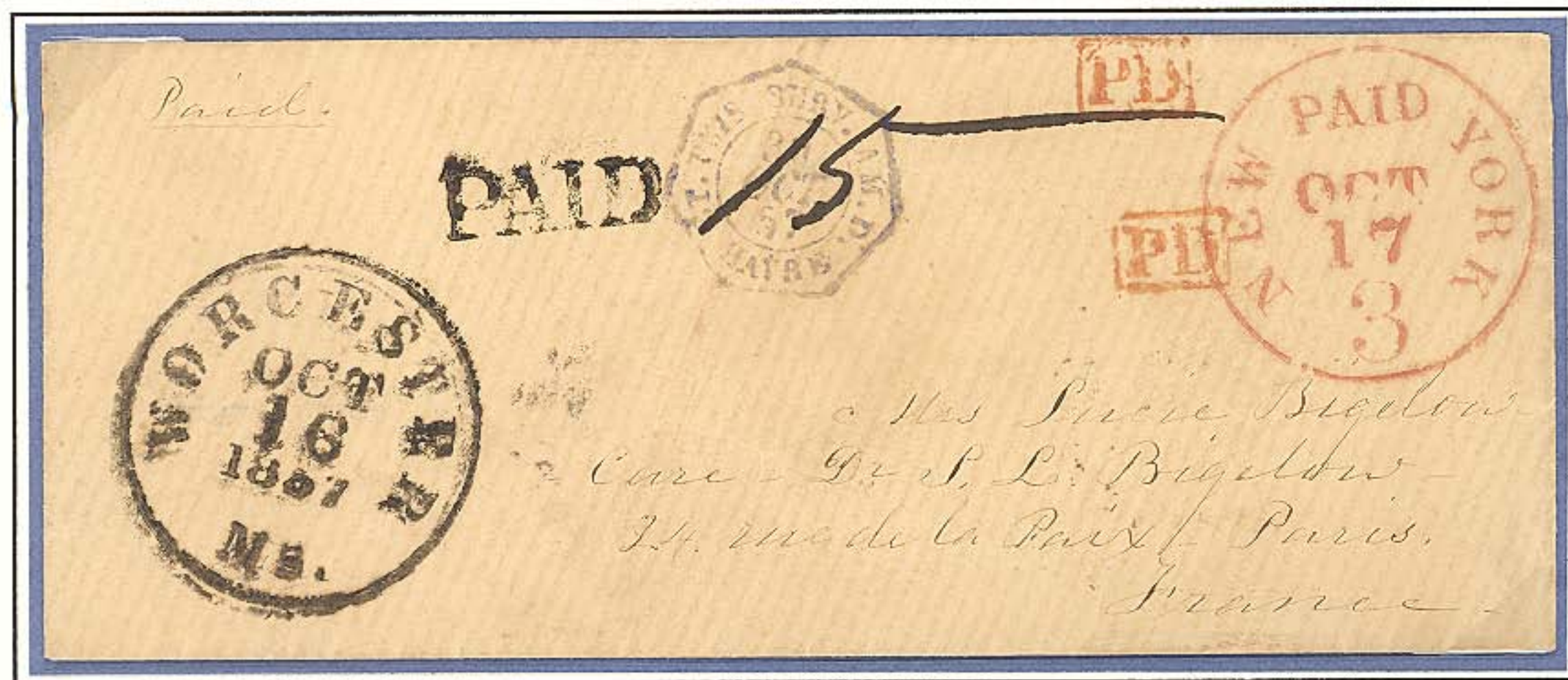
*Ville de Paris* 11 days (East)  
3¢ U.S. debit to France  
Month inverted in French agent cds



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



16 October 1857 Worcester, Massachusetts to Paris  
15¢ prepaid for single rate

**Fulton** 13 days (East)  
3¢ U.S. credit to France



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1857–1870  
1 Apr 57–1 Jan 70



9 July 1858 Philadelphia to Paris  
15¢ prepaid for single rate  
3¢ U.S. credit to France

*Ariel* 13 days (East)  
Vanderbilt European Line operated *Ariel*  
Although different color red inks, Philadelphia struck both the cds and the PAID/15 handstamp



29 October 1858 New York to Cognac  
Letter sent unpaid  
8 decimes postage due in Cognac

*Ariel* 20 days (East)  
12¢ U.S. debit to France  
Ship's captain killed during one of the storms on this very long east bound transit