

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
prior to 1 June 1843

Packet Letter.



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New Orleans to Havre, 2 July 1841

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Boston, 17 July 1841
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 July 1841

Rate: 50¢ prepaid for double U.S. inland rate to Boston
1 shilling G.B. debit to France
26 decimes postage due in Havre

Notes: Letter required two rates in the U.S. because it contained one enclosure. New Orleans marked 50¢ in pencil (upper right) when letter taken to post office. Later, New Orleans applied handstamp markings and marked prepayment in blue ink. G.B. debited France one shilling (packet fee from U.S. to G.B.) for a letter up to ½ oz. in weight. Paris marked letter for 26 decimes postage due, 12 decimes payback to G.B. plus 14 decimes French inland for 7½–10 gram letter going 200 km. from Calais to Havre.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
prior to 1 June 1843

20³



Folded Letter: Paris to New York, 30 March 1843

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 April 1843
Arrive: Boston, 19 April 1843

Rate: 22 decimes prepaid for single rate (manuscript on reverse)
1 shilling French credit to U.K.
20³/₄¢ postage due in New York

Notes: French prepayment included 10 decimes inland fee from Paris for a simple letter (U.K.-French convention of 1836) plus 12 decimes (1s) British packet rate for transit across the Atlantic. French credit to U.K. written in red pen in upper right corner. Octagonal transit date stamp of Liverpool struck in black ink in upper right corner. Boston marked 20³/₄¢ due for single letter (2¢ ship fee plus 18³/₄¢ U.S. inland fee from Boston to New York).

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 June 1843–1 July 1845

COLONIES
&c.ART.12.



Folded Letter: New York to Paris, 15 September 1843

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: Boston, 16 September 1843
Arrive: Liverpool, 30 September 1843

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
15 decimes postage due in Paris

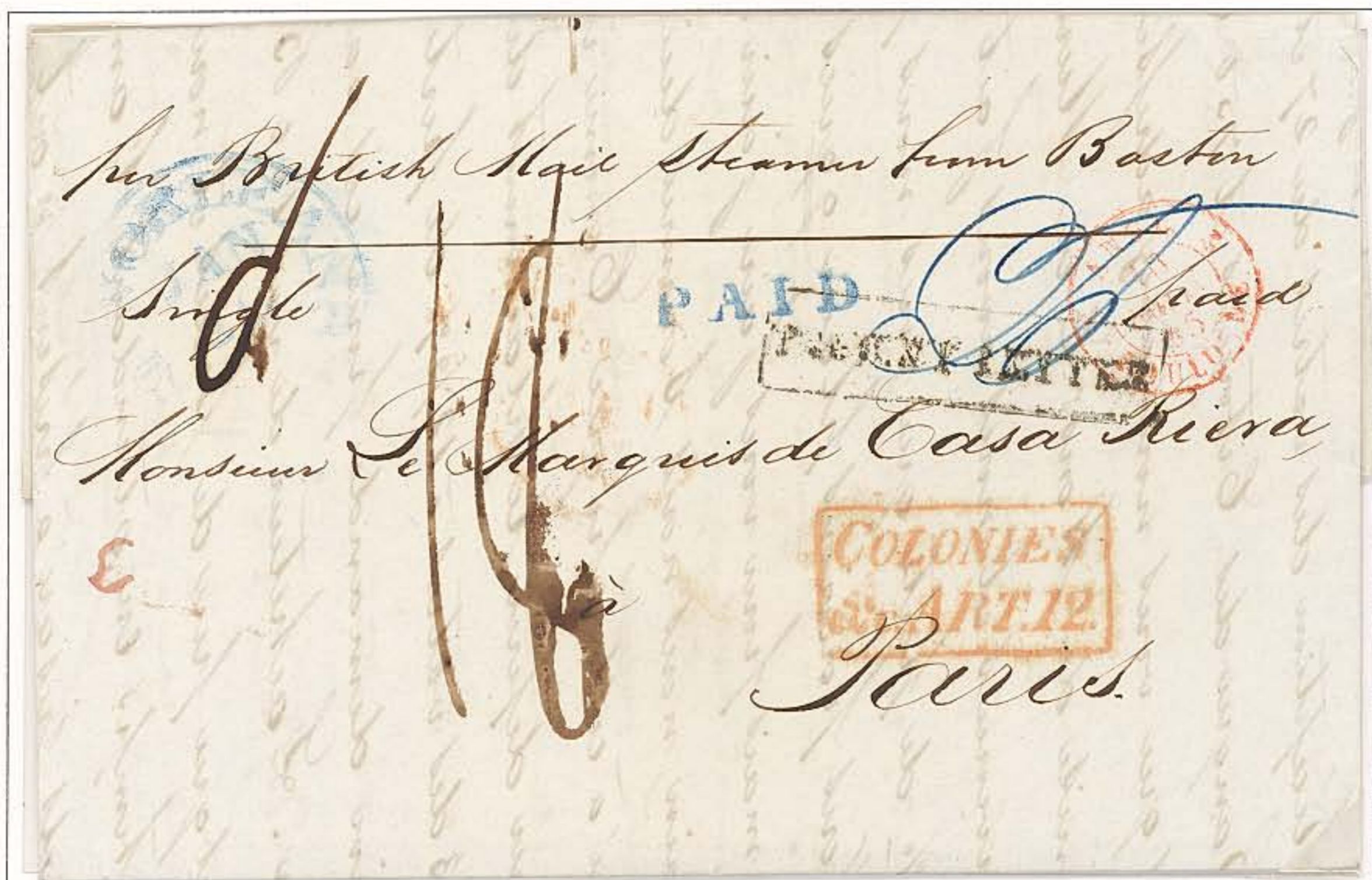
Notes: Letter carried privately to Boston and placed in ship's letter bag. London marked red, boxed COLONIES/&c.ART.12. accountancy marking to show that letter was unpaid and sent to France under letter bill accounting article 12, which required France pay G.B. 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams of bulk letter weight. This marking went into use in June 1843. Paris marked letter for 15 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to G.B. and 5 decimes French internal postage from Boulogne to Paris.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
1 June 1843-1 July 1845

PACKET LETTER



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris via Boston, 16 January 1845

Ship: *Cambria*

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

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

Rate: 25¢ paid for inland fee to Boston
18 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Boxed PACKET LETTER handstamp applied at Foreign Office in London, but served no purpose since under April 1843 Anglo-French Treaty transit letters through U.K. were charged the same for incoming letters by private ship or packet. Marking was no longer needed but used at least up to this voyage. London also marked red, boxed COLONIES/ &cART. 12. accountancy marking to show that letter was unpaid and sent to France under letter bill accounting article 12, which required France pay U.K. 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams of bulk letter weight. Paris marked letter for 18 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to U.K. and 8 decimes French internal postage for 7½-10 gram letter from Boulogne to Paris.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
1 June 1843-1 July 1845



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris via Boston, 12 March 1845

Ship: Cambria

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

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

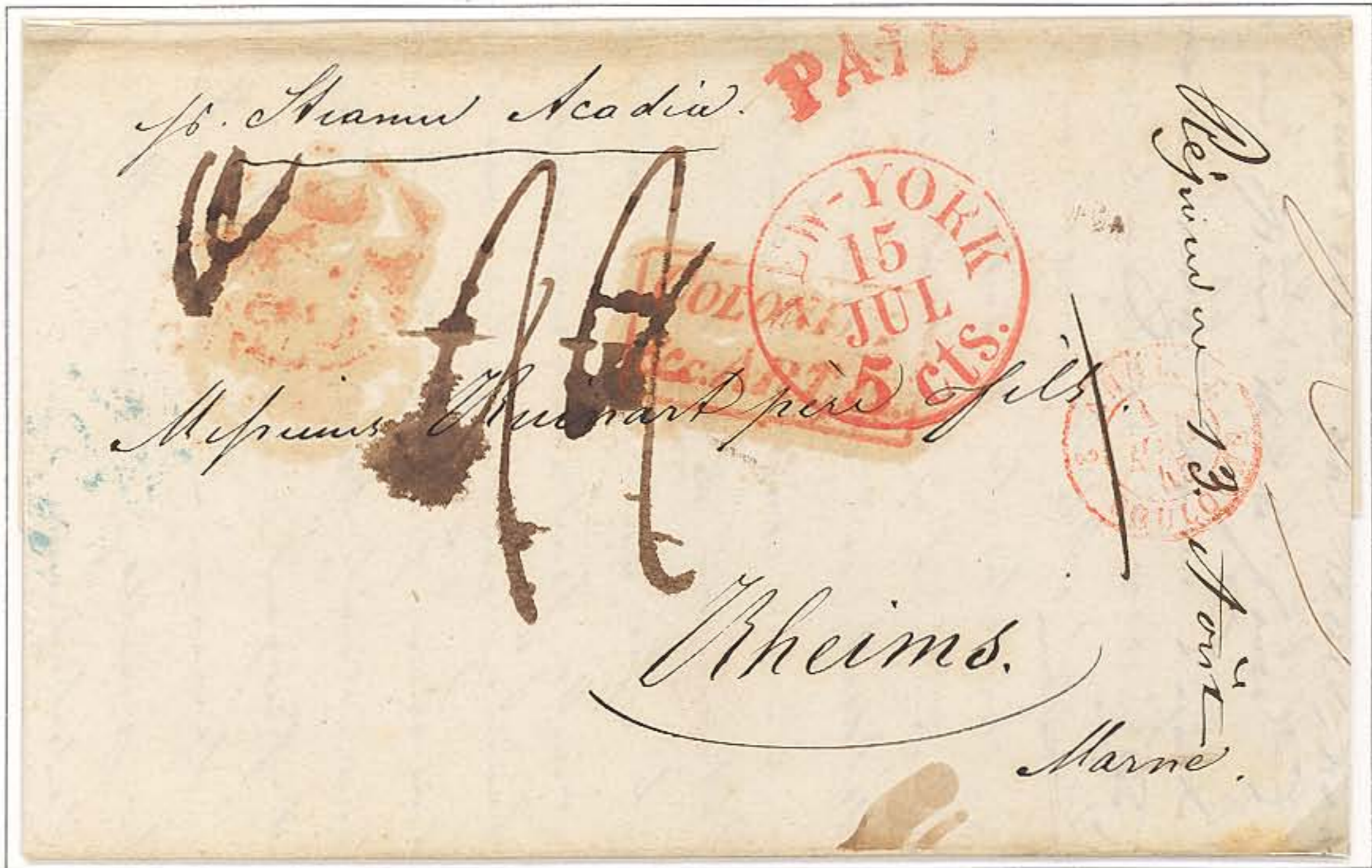
Rate: 25¢ paid for inland fee to Boston
18 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: London marked red, boxed COLONIES/&cART.12. accountancy marking to show that letter was unpaid and sent to France under letter bill accounting article 12, which required France pay U.K. 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams of bulk letter weight. Paris marked letter for 18 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to U.K. and 8 decimes French internal postage for 7½-10 gram letter going 215 km from Boulogne to Paris.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
1 June 1843-1 July 1845



Folded Letter: New York to Reims, France, 15 July 1845

Ship: *Acadia*

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

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

Rate: 5¢ paid for inland rate to Boston
22 decimes postage due in Reims

Notes: Domestic New York 29mm red cds seen on transatlantic covers from 15 July 1845-3 August 1847 only (5 examples). London marked red, boxed COLONIES/&cART.12. accountancy marking to show that letter was unpaid and sent to France under letter bill accounting article 12, which required France pay U.K. 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams of bulk letter weight. Paris marked letter for 22 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to U.K. and 12 decimes French internal postage for 10 gram letter going 230 km from Boulogne to Reims.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848

COLONIES
&c ART.13.



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Bordeaux, 18 January 1846

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

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

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for transit fees to Boston
20 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: London marked COLONIES/&c.ART.13 to indicate U.K. debiting France 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams bulk letter weight under letter bill article 13. Paris marked 20 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to U.K. plus 10 decimes French internal fee for letter under 7½ grams going 675 km. from Boulogne to Bordeaux.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848

7



Folded Letter: Paris to New York, 16 September 1846

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 September 1846

Arrive: Boston, 3 October 1846

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
7¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter placed in mail bagged for New York at Liverpool under special arrangement of U.S. with Liverpool postmaster to bag mail separately for major cities beyond Boston. Since mail not opened until New York letter was not marked for postage due at the arrival port of Boston but at New York where large red "7" was applied.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Marseille, 20 October 1846

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 1 November 1846
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 November 1846

Rate: 5¢ paid when letter posted in New York
21 decimes postage due in Marseille

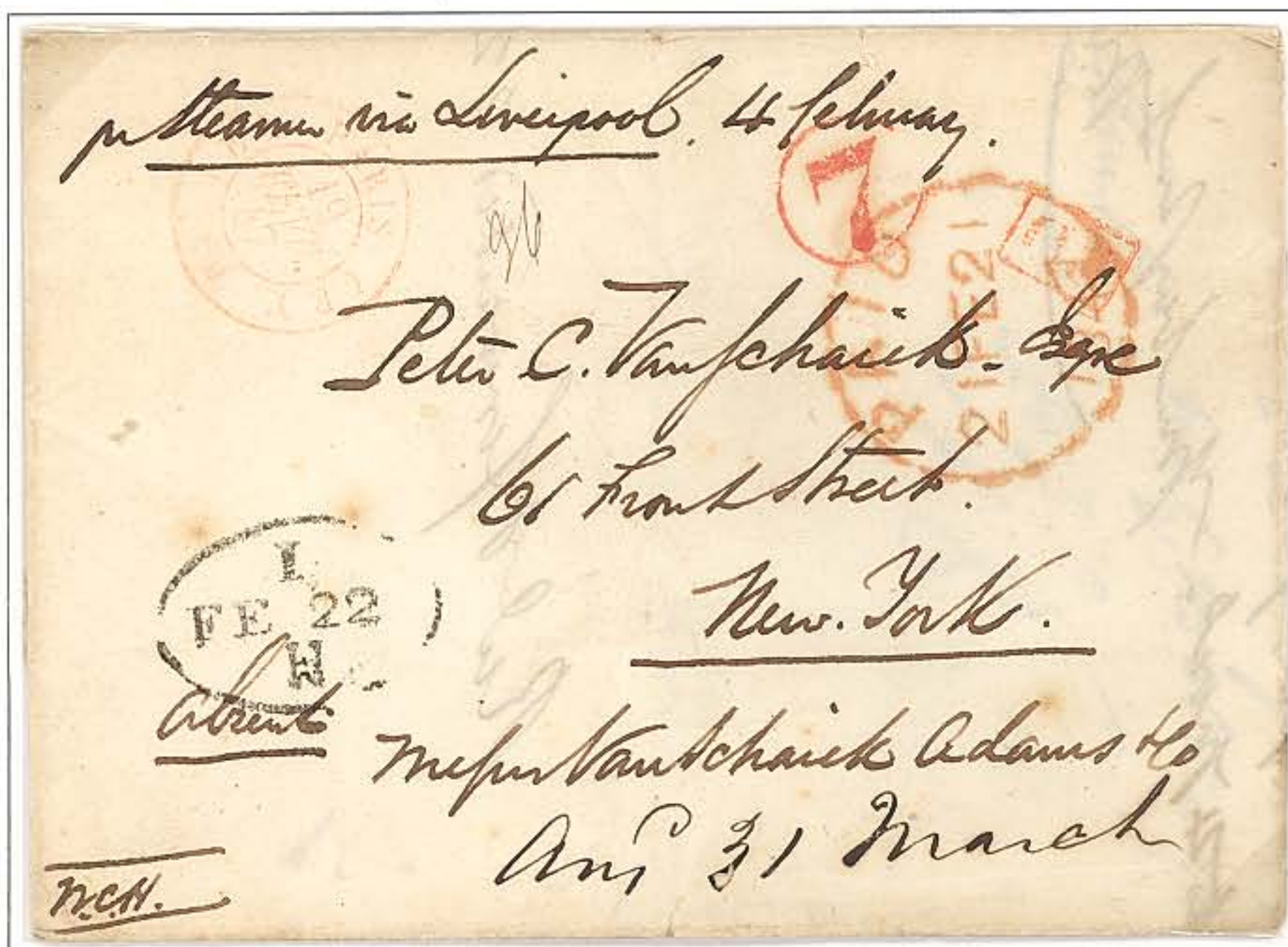
Notes: Letter sent privately "out of mails" by forwarding agent Prince (?) Ward & King from New Orleans to New York, where a New York agent posted it. London sent letter to France as unpaid and marked COLONIES/&c.ART.13 to indicate U.K. debiting France 3 shilling 4 pence per ounce bulk letter weight under letter bill article 13. Paris marked 21 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to U.K. plus 11 decimes French internal fee for letter under 7½ grams going 880 km. from Boulogne to Marseille.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848

7



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Paris to New York, 19 February 1847

Ship: *Hibernia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 March 1847

Arrive: Boston, 20 March 1847

Rate: 20 decimes prepaid for transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
7¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Prepayment was for a 10 gram letter, the weight marked in manuscript on reverse also. Letter placed in mail bagged for New York at Liverpool under special arrangement of U.S. with Liverpool postmaster to prepare mail separately for major cities beyond Boston. Since mail not opened until New York, letter was not marked for postage due at the arrival port of Boston but at New York where small red "7" in circle applied.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
20 January 1846–3 July 1848



(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Paris to Philadelphia, 6 March 1848

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 12 March 1848

Arrive: Boston, 27 March 1848

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for transit fees to U.S.
12¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Prepayment included 5 decimes French internal fee plus 10 decimes to G.B. Uncommon railroad circular datestamp on reverse, LIGNE-DE-BOULOGNE 2, used February 1848–September 1849. Letter in closed mail bag through Boston to Philadelphia, where 12¢ postage due marked.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848

12



Folded Letter: Paris to Philadelphia, 6 March 1848

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 12 March 1848
Arrive: Boston, 27 March 1848

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
12¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: New Orleans marked postage due of 12¢, 2¢ ship fee plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee from Boston to Philadelphia. Letter erroneously placed in mail bagged for New Orleans at Liverpool under special arrangement of U.S. with Liverpool postmaster to bag mail separately for major cities beyond Boston. Since mail not opened until New Orleans letter had to be rated there and then sent back to Philadelphia. Lozenge transit datestamp of Liverpool with serif letters is uncommon.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848



Folded Letter: New York to Bordeaux, France, 4 April 1848

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 5 April 1848
Arrive: Liverpool, 18 April 1848

Rate: 15¢ prepaid for transit fees to Boston
25 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: Letter paid 5¢ in cash and marked in pencil. London marked COLONIES/&c.ART.13 to indicate G.B. was debiting France 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams bulk letter weight under letter bill article 13. Paris marked 25 decimes postage due, 10 decimes payback to G.B. plus 15 decimes French internal fee for a 7½-10 gram letter going 675 km. from Boulogne to Bordeaux.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848



Folded Letter: Havre, France to Strong, Maine, 1 May 1848

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 May 1848 (maiden voyage)
Arrive: Boston, 2 June 1848

Rate: 12 decimes prepaid for transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
7¢ postage due in Strong

Notes: Prepayment included 2 decimes French internal fee plus 10 decimes to G.B. Letter endorsed for private steamship *United States*, but arrived at Liverpool one day after steamer had departed; therefore, letter placed in packet mails carried by Cunard steamer. Boston marked 7¢ postage due (2¢ ship fee plus 5¢ U.S. internal fee), which was restated in manuscript at Strong..

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
20 January 1846-3 July 1848



Folded Letter: Paris to Philadelphia, 3 May 1848

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 6 May 1848
Arrive: Boston, 21 May 1848

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
12¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Boston marked postage due of 12¢, 2¢ ship fee plus 10¢ U.S. inland fee from Boston to Philadelphia. Apparently, the special arrangement with the Liverpool postmaster to bag mail separately for major cities beyond Boston ended in the spring of 1848 before this letter was sent. Lozenge transit datestamp of Liverpool with serif letters is uncommon.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
15 February 1849–1 August 1849



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Paris, 22 February 1849

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: New York, 7 March 1849
Arrive: Liverpool, 20 March 1849

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York where forwarding agent, C.H. Schneider, posted it and paid 5¢ open mail rate (manuscript endorsement on reverse). Pencil notation "5" was only marking placed on the letter by the New York post office. Letter carried on 2nd Cunard sailing under the new U.S.–G.B. postal convention. Paris marked the letter for 15 decimes postage due.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
15 February 1849-1 August 1849



Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, 4 April 1849

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: New York, 4 April 1849
Arrive: Liverpool, 19 April 1849

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
28 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: New York marked prepayment with hastily drawn pencil marking, upper left, the only New York marking on this letter. Paris marked the letter weight of 10 grams in the upper left and rated the letter for 28 decimes postage due (10 decimes payback to G.B. and 18 decimes French internal fee for 10 gram letter going 585 km from Boulogne to Cognac). British mails entered France at Boulogne from January 1848-February 1849 only, when they returned to Calais. This entry marking was used at Paris.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

3 January 1849-15 February 1849

Charleston 11 April 1849 Recd. forwarded
by F.C. Black

(reverse)



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Paris, 7 April 1849

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 24 January 1849

Arrive: Liverpool, 4 February 1849

Rate: 48¢ prepaid for double rate
33 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to Charleston on the steamship *Isabel* from Havana. Forwarding agent F.C. Black in Charleston paid $2 \times 24¢ = 48¢$ for a double rate letter to England, which was an overpayment of the $2 \times 21¢ = 42¢$ open mail rate to France. Red crayon "2^d" marked by Charleston postmaster to show two rates. Letter missed the Ocean Line steamer and was sent by British packet from Boston (greatly overpaid the $2 \times 5¢ = 10¢$ rate by this steamer). Postage due for this 15 gram letter included 20 decimes to G.B. and 13 decimes French internal fee for a 15 gram letter going 215 km. from Boulogne to Paris.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 August 1849–1 July 1851

5



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Viella, France, 26 August 1849

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 12 September 1849
Arrive: Liverpool, 25 September 1849

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Viella

Notes: New Orleans used a very distinctive, but crude style handstamp "5" to show pre-payment. Examples may be found in black and red ink, the former being the less common on overseas mail. Although blue ink was also used in 1845–1847, it will not be found on covers going overseas. Commencing in August 1849, France changed to a uniform internal rate of 5 decimes per 7½ grams.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 August 1849–1 July 1851



(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Marseille to Boston, 1 September 1849

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 8 September 1849
Arrive: New York, 22 September 1849

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for all transit fees to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: Prepayment included 10 decimes to G.B. and 5 decimes uniform French internal rate. London placed letter in closed mail bag for Boston, where the 5¢ postage due was marked, the British Open Mail rate by British packet. Railway marking on reverse used on next to last day of service for this line from Paris to Boulogne.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

1 August 1849-1 July 1851



Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, 22 October 1849

Ship: *Caledonia*

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

Depart: Boston, 24 October 1849
Arrive: Liverpool, 5 November 1849

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
30 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: New York marked prepayment of 2x5¢ with hastily drawn pencil marking, upper center, the only New York marking on this letter. Paris marked the letter required two rates with the manuscript symbol which looks like a "d" in the upper left. Letter rated for 2x15 = 30 decimes postage due, which included a 2x10 decimes payback to G.B. A uniform French internal fee of 5 decimes per single rate was now in effect in France. Letter weighed just over ½ ounce in New York (14.175 grams) but not over 15 grams which would have required three rates in France.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 August 1849–1 July 1851

FOREIGN PAID



Folded Letter: Havre to New Orleans, 9 January 1850

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 12 January 1850
Arrive: Boston, 25 January 1850

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
5¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: FOREIGN PAID marking in arced red box applied at Southampton on letters brought directly from Havre to show that postage was paid beyond England. This is an uncommon marking on transatlantic mails. Southampton was an exchange office under the U.S.–G.B. postal convention and made up closed mails for Boston, in this case, sent via Liverpool.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 August 1849–1 July 1851



(Reverse)



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Havre to Philadelphia, 3 April 1850

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 6 April 1850
Arrive: Boston, 20 April 1850

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for all transit fees to U.S.
5¢ postage due in Boston

Notes: French railroad circular datestamp of the Havre–Paris Line, postal brigade No. 1, marked on reverse. Letter sent to Paris then to London instead of going from Havre across the Channel to Southampton.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 August 1849–1 July 1851

P.



Folded Letter: Freiburg, Baden to New York, 8 June 1850

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 15 June 1850
Arrive: Boston, 26 June 1850

Rate: 40 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Prepayment included 34 kreuzer to France and 6 kreuzer Baden internal fee, the rate breakdown shown on reverse in manuscript. Red boxed "P" handstamp struck at the Kehl exchange office in accordance with the 1846 Franco–Baden postal convention to show payment through France. This marking is uncommon. Letter in closed mail bag from London to New York, where 5¢ postage due marked.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
1 August 1849-1 July 1851

BRITISH 1.
FOREIGN 2.6.



Folded Letter: Boston to Paris, redirected to Manchester, England, 10 July 1850

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 10 July 1850
Arrive: Liverpool, 20 July 1850

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
30 decimes postage due in Paris
2s11d postage due in Manchester

Notes: Letter taken directly to steamship letter bag and not Boston post office saving 5¢. London marked boxed COLONIES/&c. ART. 13 handstamp to show letter sent to France unpaid at bulk rate of 3s4d per 30 grams (owed to U.K.). French marked 30 decimes postage due, later redirecting letter back to England, where letter marked 2s6d (30 decimes) owed France and 5d British fee for unpaid letter from France, or total of 2s11d postage due.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 August 1849–1 July 1851

20

Envelope: Philadelphia to Minzaln, Württemberg, 29 July 1850

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: New York, 31 July 1850
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 August 1850

Rate: 20¢ prepaid for quadruple rate
3f30kr postage due at Minzaln

Notes: Script style rate handstamp of Philadelphia in blue quite uncommon. Württemberg marked letter in magenta ink, 3 florin 10 kreuzer to France and 20 kreuzer to Württemberg for a total of 3f30kr postage due.



U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 August 1849–1 July 1851

P.



Folded Letter: Freiburg, Baden to New York, 21 October 1850

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 26 October 1850
Arrive: New York, 8 November 1850

Rate: 40 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Prepayment included 34 kreuzer to France and 6 kreuzer Baden internal fee, the rate breakdown shown on reverse in manuscript. Red boxed "P" handstamp struck at the Kehl exchange office in accordance with the 1846 Franco–Baden postal convention to show payment through France. This marking is uncommon. Letter in closed mail bag from London to New York, where 5¢ postage due marked.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
1 August 1849-1 July 1851

16



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris, 11 January 1851

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: New York, 29 January 1851
Arrive: Liverpool, 9 February 1851

Rate: 21¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet
15 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter prepaid 21¢ for American packet service, but apparently arrived in New York after Collins Line steamer *Pacific* departed. New York elected to send letter on next available steamer, which was a British contract steamer. New York crossed through the red "PAID/21" handstamp of New Orleans and credited 16¢ to New Orleans in magenta ink for overpayment of 5¢ rate by a British steamer. Only example seen of crediting sending office because of steamship change.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 August 1849–1 July 1851



Envelope: Paris to Lowell, Massachusetts, 9 April 1851

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 12 April 1851
Arrive: New York, 23 April 1851

Rate: 15 decimes probably prepaid but not shown
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Envelope contains a letter started in London and completed in Paris. It was placed in the mails by forwarding agent Livingston Wells & Co. of Paris, whose blue oval handstamp was struck on the reverse. This unusual 35 mm. New York circular datestamp has been recorded used during the period February 1850–July 1851 only.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 August 1849–1 July 1851

34/40

(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Freiburg, Baden to New York, 21 April 1851

Ship:	<i>Europa</i>
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)
Depart:	Liverpool, 26 April 1851
Arrive:	New York, 8 May 1851
Rate:	40 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse) 5¢ postage due in New York
Notes:	Prepayment included 34 kreuzer to France and 6 kreuzer Baden internal fee, the rate breakdown shown on reverse in manuscript. Red boxed "P" handstamp struck at the Kehl exchange office in accordance with the 1846 Franco–Baden postal convention to show payment through France. This marking is uncommon. Letter in closed mail bag from London to New York, where 5¢ postage due marked.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

1 August 1849-1 July 1851

COLONIES
&c ART. 13.



Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, France, 18 June 1851

Ship: Asia

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

Depart: New York, 18 June 1851

Arrive: Liverpool, 28 June 1851

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for double British Open Mail rate by British packet
45 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: Letter prepaid 2x5¢ = 10¢ for double rate letter, marked in pencil lower left corner. Paris marked letter weight of 16 grams (upper left corner) and 3x15 = 45 decimes postage due at Cognac.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

1 July 1851 - 1 December 1851

90



Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, France, 29 July 1851

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: New York, 30 July 1851
Arrive: Liverpool, 10 August 1851

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for double British Open Mail rate by British packet
30 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: Letter prepaid 2x5¢ = 10¢ for double rate letter (over 14.1 grams or ½ oz), marked in pencil in lower left corner. Paris marked 2x15 decimes = 30 decimes postage due at Cognac (under 15 grams) with black handstamp. New French entry markings introduced in August 1851. Combination of French 15 decimes rate and new entry markings existed for only three months (end of July 1851 to end of October 1851).

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

1 December 1851-26 January 1853



Folded Letter: New York to Mittenwald, Bavaria, 3 December 1851

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 3 December 1851
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 December 1851

Rate: 5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet (pencil notation)
45 kreuzer postage due in Mittenwald

Notes: French entry marking in black shows the letter was from the U.S. by British packet to England and the entry marking was made on the Calais-Paris ambulant. Partial strike of Würzburg Auslage handstamp with manuscript "45" written in blank center to show postage due of 45 kreuzer. Of this amount, 36 kreuzer given to France and 9 kreuzer retained by Bavaria.

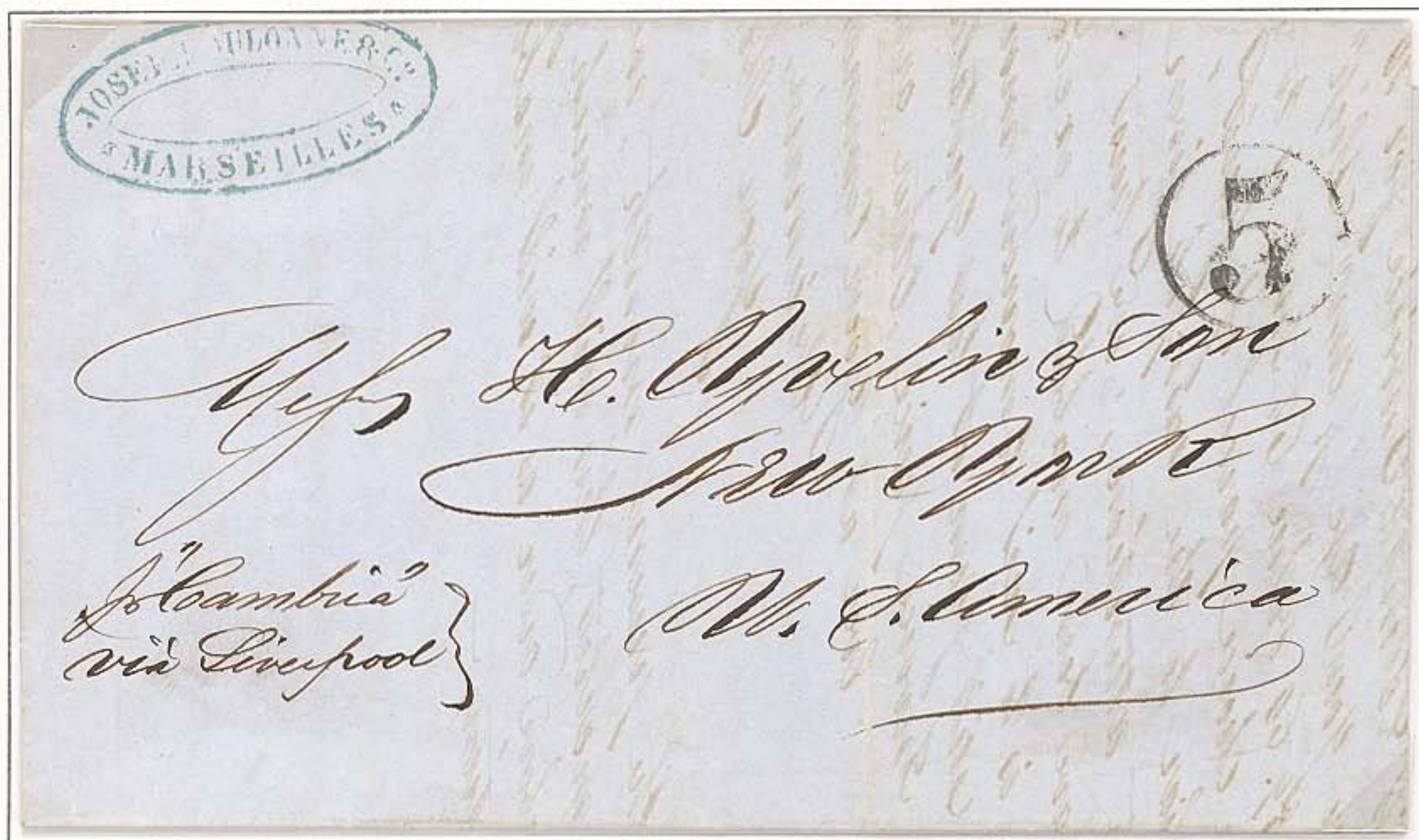
U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 December 1851–26 January 1853



Folded Letter: Marseille to New York, 15 December 1851

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 December 1851

Arrive: New York, 2 January 1852

Rate: 13 decimes prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter endorsed for Cunard steamer *Cambria* but actually carried by *Africa*. Reason for absence of origin post office markings (datestamp and prepayment) not known, but occurs on a number of letters from Marseille in the 1850s. Letter in closed mail bag through G.B.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

1 December 1851-26 January 1853



Folded Letter: New York to Mittenwald, Bavaria, 13 April 1852

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Boston, 14 April 1852
Arrive: Liverpool, 27 April 1852

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet (not shown)
45 kreuzer postage due in Mittenwald

Notes: Letter prepayment not shown, either erased or never written on the letter at New York. French entry marking in red shows the letter was from the U.S. by British packet to England and the entry marking was made at the Paris office.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 December 1851–26 January 1853



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Paris to Richmond, Virginia, 17 August 1852

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 21 August 1852

Arrive: Boston, 2 September 1852

Rate: 13 decimes prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
5¢ postage due in Richmond

Notes: Letter showed no origin marking or prepayment. Reason for absence of these markings is not known, but occurs on a number of letters from Marseille and a few from Paris in the 1850s. Letter in closed mail bag through G.B. Boston exchange office marking does not show the month, only the day and the postage due amount.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 December 1851–26 January 1853

BRITISH PACKET.



Folded Letter: Boston to Rheims, France, 7 September 1852

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: New York, 8 September 1852
Arrive: Liverpool, 20 September 1852

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for double British Open Mail rate by British packet
26 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: BRITISH/ PACKET. marking, believed to have been struck at New York during August 1852–April 1853, known in red and black ink. To date (March 1997), 17 examples have been recorded, mostly in black ink. Paris marked 2x13=26 decimes postage due.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 December 1851–26 January 1853



Folded Letter: New York to Lyon, France, 6 December 1852

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Boston, 8 December 1852
Arrive: Liverpool, 20 December 1852

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
26 decimes postage due in Lyon

Notes: New York collected a single rate under U.S.–G.B. Convention since letter under ½ ounce. Paris marked 2x13=26 decimes postage due since letter weighed more than 7½ grams (approx. ¼ oz.). New York circular datestamp showed date mails closed in New York, 7 December 1852, for next day sailing from Boston.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857

24 January 1853-10 February 1853



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Nantes, France, 30 January 1853

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 9 February 1853
Arrive: Liverpool, 23 February 1853

Rate: 5¢ paid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
13 decimes postage due in Nantes

Notes: Although the Postmaster General had issued on 24 January 1853 a retaliatory rate order that 21¢ be paid on British packet mail to France, the southern states apparently did not receive this order before it was suspended 17 days later or they ignored it. The New York exchange office allowed this letter to go though at the pre-retaliatory rate of 5¢. A few other covers from New Orleans, Mobile, and St. Louis have been recorded showing this same underpayment.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

10 February 1853–1 January 1857



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Buffalo, New York to Paris, 21 March 1853

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 23 March 1853

Arrive: Liverpool, 3 April 1853

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
13 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Buffalo used an existing circular datestamp, one used for unpaid mail where 5¢ was due, to show prepayment of British Open Mail rate. A separate handstamp "PAID" was also added. This is unusual on a transatlantic cover.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
10 February 1853-1 January 1857



Folded Letter: Marseilles to New York, 18 April 1853

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 23 April 1853
Arrive: New York, 5 May 1853

Rate: 26 decimes probably prepaid but not shown
10¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid 1at least 2 x 13 decimes = 26 decimes for the double rate by British packet from England, but neither this nor the origin post office datestamp was shown. Letter placed in closed mail bag through England and has no London markings. A number of other letters from France about the same time do not show the origin postmarks or the prepayment, the reason for which is unknown.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 July 1851–1 April 1857

34) 37
33

(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Freiburg, Baden to New York, 10 June 1853

- Ship: *Africa*
- Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)
- Depart: Liverpool, 18 June 1853
Arrive: New York, 30 June 1853
- Rate: 37 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (manuscript on reverse)
5¢ postage due in New York
- Notes: Prepayment included 34 kreuzer to France and 3 kreuzer Baden internal fee, the rate breakdown shown on reverse in manuscript. Boxed P. no longer in use by the Kehl exchange office. Letter in closed mail bag from Paris to New York, where 5¢ postage due marked. Pencil "7" in lower right may have been carrier marking in New York for 7¢ postage due (5¢ plus 2¢ carrier fee).

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

10 February 1853–1 January 1857



(Reverse)



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris, 6 August 1853

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Boston, 17 August 1853

Arrive: Liverpool, 28 August 1853

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for double British Open Mail rate by British packet
26 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: U.S. weighed letter at $> \frac{1}{2}$ ounce and charged two rates. French weighed letter at 8 grams (manuscript upper left) and charged two rates. Since U.S. was on $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate increments and France on $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. increments, someone erred.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

10 February 1853–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: Marseilles to New York, 30 August 1853

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 3 September 1853

Arrive: Boston, 15 September 1853

Rate: 13 decimes probably prepaid but not shown
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid 13 decimes for the rate by British packet from England, but neither this nor the origin post office datestamp was shown. Letter placed in closed mail bag through England and has no London markings. Reason for absence of French postal markings unknown. Letter carried by Cunard steamer *Niagara* instead of *Canada* as endorsed.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
10 February 1853–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: Paris to Richmond, Virginia, 16 December 1853

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 24 December 1853
Arrive: Boston, 6 January 1854

Rate: 13 decimes probably prepaid but not shown
5¢ postage due in Richmond

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid 13 decimes for the rate by British packet from England, but neither this nor the origin post office datestamp was shown. Letter placed in closed mail bag through England and has no London markings. Reason for absence of French postal markings unknown.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857
10 February 1853-1 January 1857



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris, 9 January 1854

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: New York, 25 January 1854
Arrive: Liverpool, 6 February 1854

Rate: 30¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
13 Francs postage due in Paris

Notes: U.S. weighed letter at 2½ - 3 ounces and charged six rate or 6 x 5¢ = 30¢. This was marked in New Orleans with two separate handstamps, a "PAID" and a "30" handstamp. French weighed letter at 68 grams (manuscript upper left) and charged ten rates or 10 x 13 decimes = 13 Francs. Very uncommon heavy weight letter.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
10 February 1853–1 January 1857

24



Folded Letter: Paris to New York, 27 June 1854

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

Depart: Liverpool, 1 July 1854
Arrive: New York, 12 July 1854

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter carried privately to Liverpool where agent posted it unpaid in the British mail system. Liverpool marked 19¢ debit to U.S. under U.S.–G.B. Convention of 1848. New York marked 24¢ postage due.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857
1 July 1851–1 April 1857

PAID
5



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Bordeaux, 7 October 1854

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: New York, 18 October 1854
Arrive: Liverpool, 31 October 1854

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
13 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: Letter entered France and was processed on the ambulant from Calais to Paris. East bound mails during this period were open through England and show London circular datestamps.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

10 February 1853–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: Marseilles to New York, 13 May 1856

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 17 May 1856

Arrive: New York, 28 May 1856

Rate: 13 decimes probably prepaid but not shown
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid 13 decimes for the rate by British packet from England, but neither this nor the origin post office datestamp was shown. Letter placed in closed mail bag through England and has no London markings. Reason for absence of French postal markings unknown.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

10 February 1853–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: New York to Lyon, 10 June 1856

Ship: *Africa*

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

Depart: New York, 11 June 1856

Arrive: Liverpool, 23 June 1856

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for double British Open Mail rate by British packet
39 decimes postage due in Lyon

Notes: Letter weighed over ½ ounce and charged 2x5¢=10¢ in New York for the British Open Mail rate. A. Iselin & Co. of New York originated letter; therefore, marking in lower left is a corner marking, not a forwarding agent marking. French marked letter for three rates, 3x13=39 decimes, postage due, a letter between 15–22½ grams by weight.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840–1857

1 January 1857–1 April 1857



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Bordeaux, 4 March 1857

Ship: *Asia*

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

Depart: New York, 4 March 1857
Arrive: Liverpool, 16 March 1857

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet
8 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

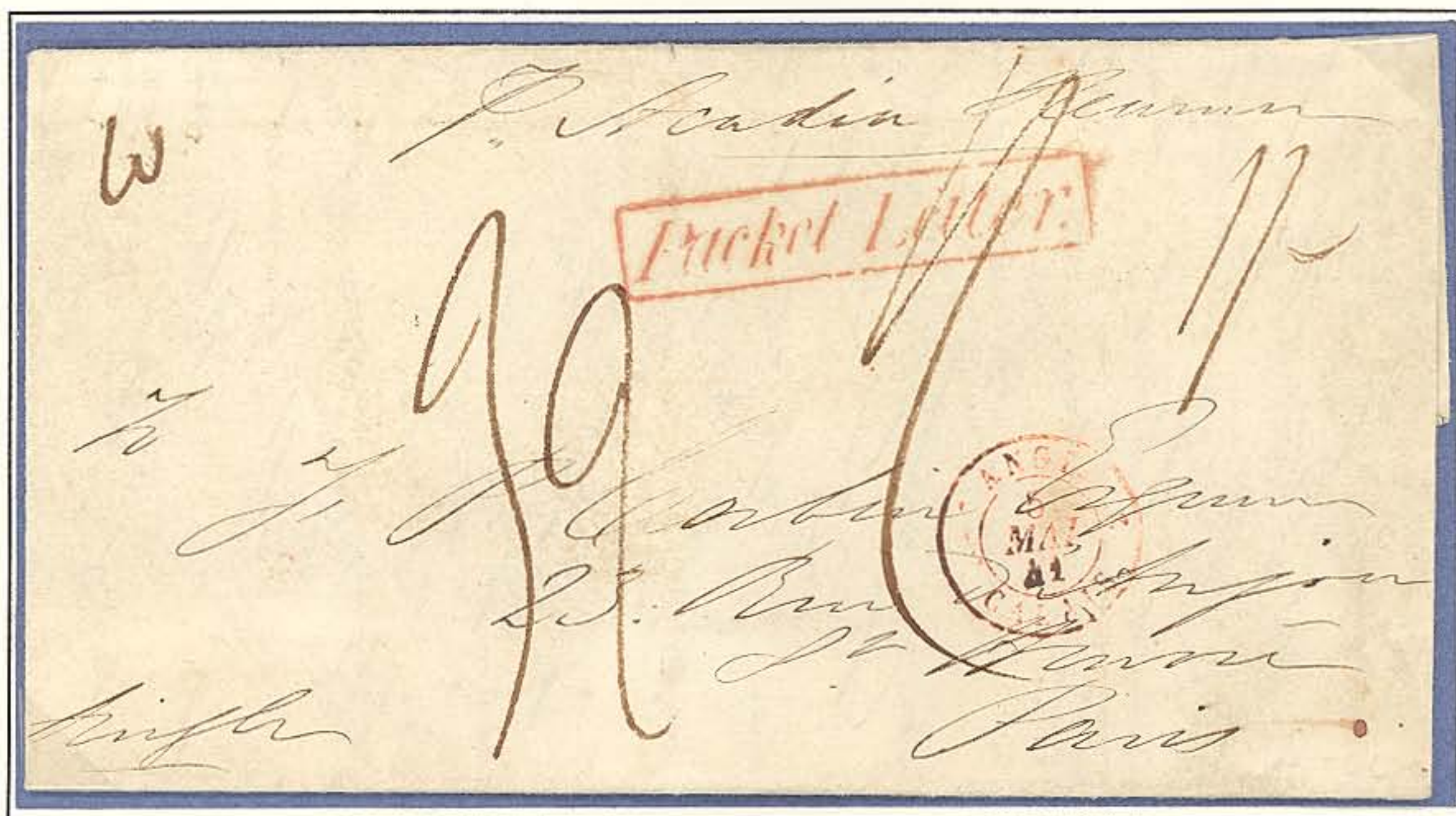
Notes: Letter carried on 9th of 12 Cunard voyages from the U.S. to G.B. during the three-month period before the U.S.–French Convention became effective. London struck the new accountancy marking "G.B./1F60c" (introduced on 1 January 1857) on this unpaid letter for France transported to G.B. at British expense. G.B. debit to France was 1 Franc 60 centimes per 30 grams of bulk letter weight.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1840-1857
prior to 1 Jun 43

Prior to 1 June 1843, mail to France from Great Britain was governed by the Anglo-French Convention of 1836. On mail carried to England by British contract packet from the Caribbean, the United States and British North America, France owed Great Britain 2 shilling 3 pence for a single rate letter. On letters carried by non-contract vessels, Great Britain was entitled to 1 shilling 6 pence per single rate. In March 1839, when the British packet rate to the United States was reduced to 1 shilling, this debit was passed directly on to France instead of the 2 shilling 3 pence fee under the original 1836 Convention.



15 April 1841 Boston to Paris
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag in Boston)
1 shilling British debit to France

Acadia 12 days (East)
10 gram letter (manuscript upper left)
Boxed *Packet Letter* applied at London

Packet Letter.

The boxed *Packet Letter* handstamp was used at the Foreign Office section of the General Post Office in London to specify the basis for the debit to France (written in the upper right corner). The postage due in Paris was 32 decimes (12 decimes to G.B. and 2x10 decimes French internal fee for a 10 grams letter to Paris from Calais)



25 October 1842 Natchez, Mississippi to Lyon
25¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston
1 shilling British debit to France

Caledonia 13 days (East)
26 decimes postage due = 12 dec. to G.B. and 14 dec. French
internal for single letter going 610 km. from Calais to Lyon

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1840-1857
prior to 1 Jun 43



30 November 1842 Le Havre to New Orleans
15 decimes prepaid for single rate (manuscript on reverse)
27¢ postage due in New Orleans

Britannia 17 days (West)
Prepayment included 3 decimes cross-Channel fee and 12 decimes to G.B.



20³

9 February 1843 Marseille to New York
27 decimes prepaid for single rate (manuscript on reverse)
1 shilling credit to G.B.
20 3/4¢ postage due in New York

Columbia 16 days (West)
Prepayment included 15 decimes French internal fee and 12 decimes to G.B.
Postage due = 2¢ ship and 18 3/4¢ U.S. inland fees

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1840-1857
prior to 1 Jun 43

PACKET LETTER



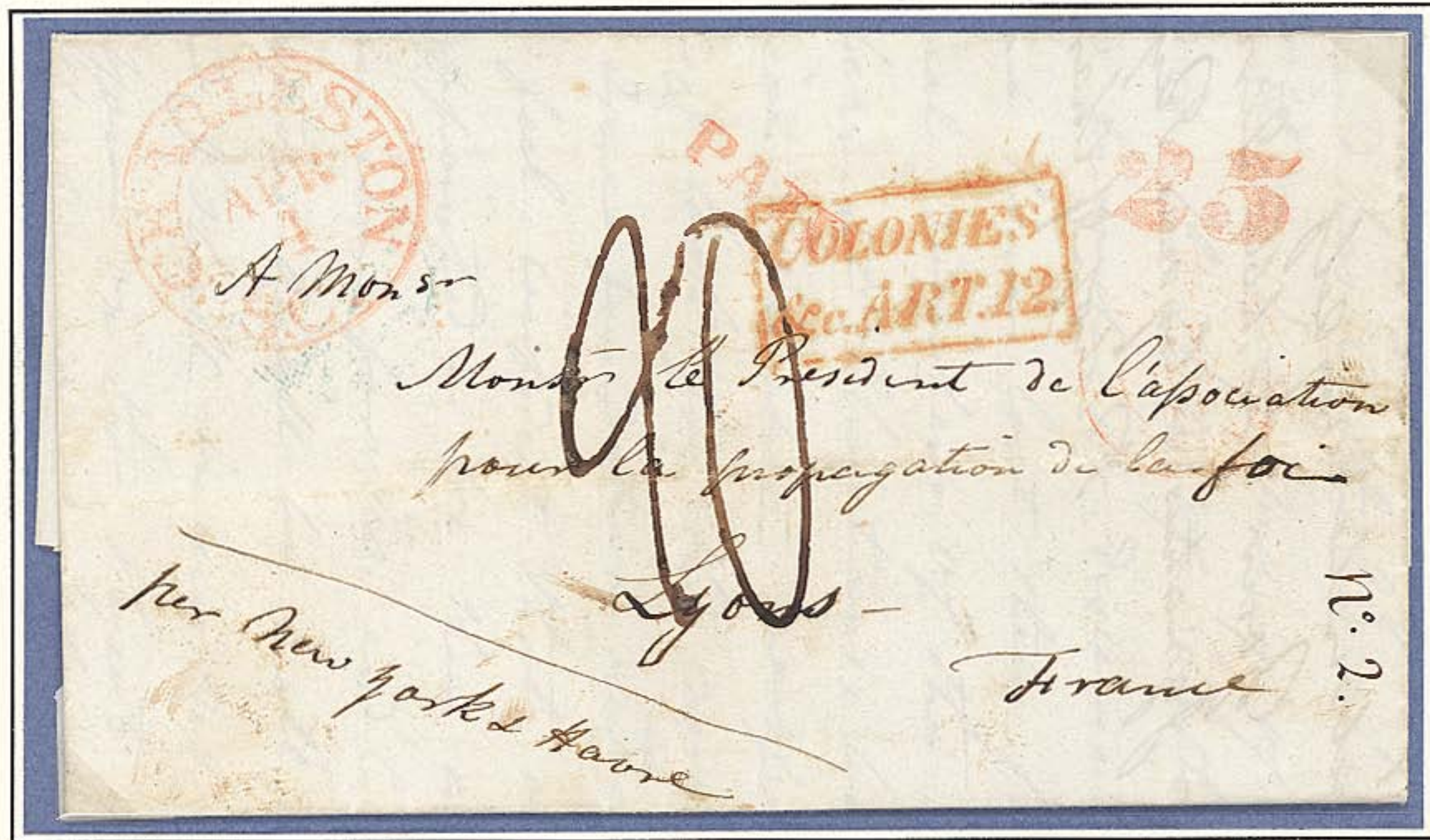
4 April 1843 New Orleans to Angers
25¢ prepaid for U.S. inland fee to Boston
24 decimes postage due in Angers

Britannia 13 days (East)
1 shilling British debit to France
Boxed PACKET LETTER struck in London

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
1 Jun 43–1 Jul 45



3 April 1844 Charleston to Lyon
25¢ prepaid for U.S. inland rate to Boston
20 decimes postage due in Lyon

Acadia 14 days (East)
Charleston struck separate PAID and "25" handstamps
Postage due = 10 dec. to G.B. and 10 dec. French internal

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1840-1857
20 Jan 46-3 Jul 48



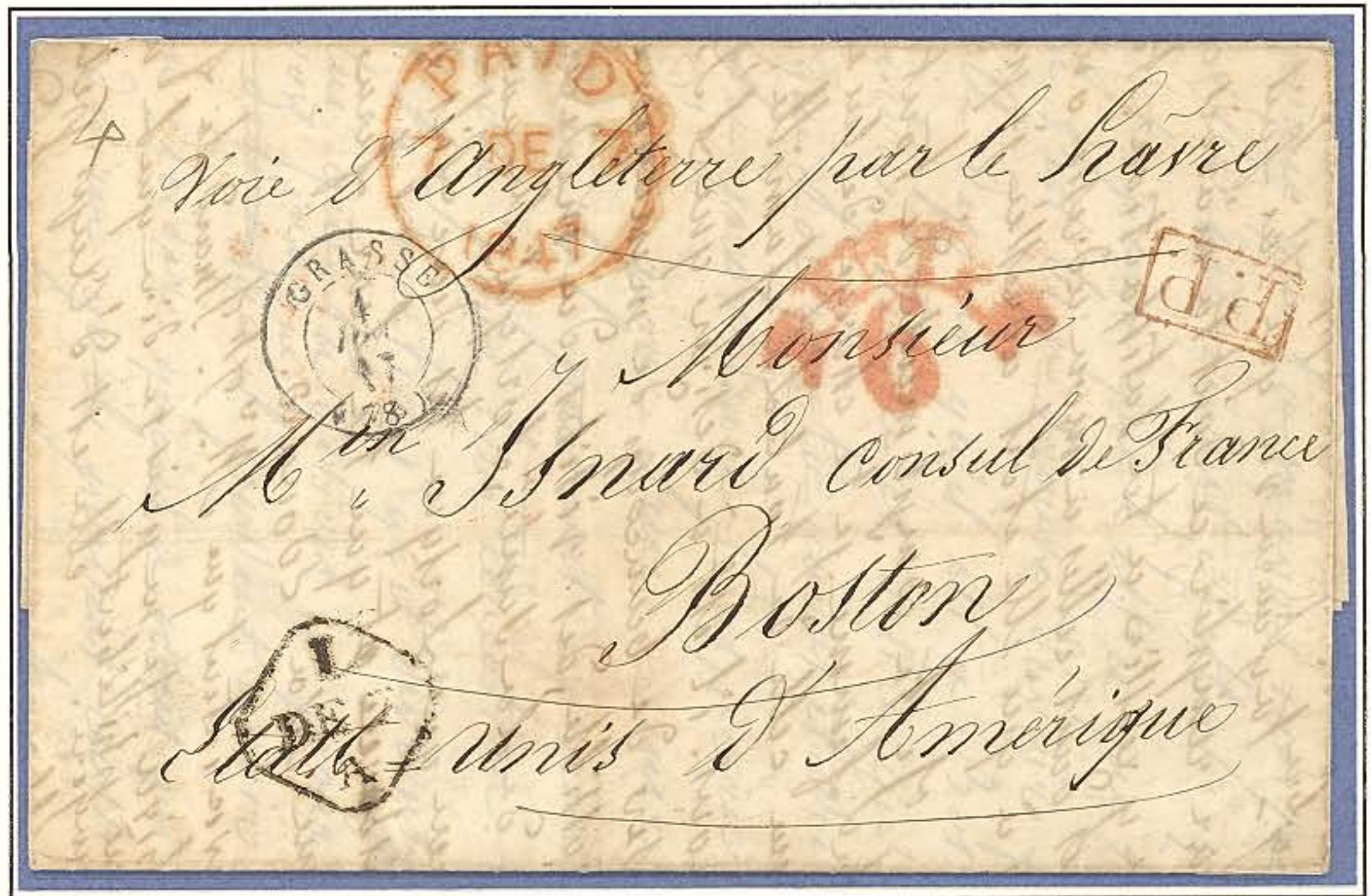
12

14 June 1847 Bordeaux to Charleston, South Carolina
30 decimes prepaid for 10 gram letter (manuscript on reverse)
12¢ postage due marked in Charleston (2¢ ship and 10¢ U.S. inland fees)

Caledonia 15 days (West)
Letter in closed mail bag thru Boston to Charleston
Only two examples have been recorded showing postage due marked at Charleston

14

(Reverse)



1 December 1847 Grasse, France to Boston
21 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
6¢ postage due in Boston

Caledonia 17 days (West)
Prepayment included 11 dec. French internal fee
(corrected from 10 dec.) plus 10 dec. to G.B.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
15 Feb 49–1 Aug 49



V
A

(Reverse)

3 June 1849 Naples, Italy to Philadelphia
27 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Niagara 14 days (West)
Letter carried privately to Marseille
Prepayment included 10 dec. to G.B. and 17 dec. French
internal for 7½–10 gram letter (check mark above rate)

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
15 Feb 49–1 Aug 49



26 June 1849 New York to Bordeaux
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
25 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Cambria 13 days (East)
Postage due = 10 dec. to G.B. and 15 dec. French
internal for 10 gram letter going 670 km
from Boulogne to Bordeaux



✓
a)

(Reverse)

30 June 1849 Marseille to Boston
27 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)
5¢ postage due in Boston

Caledonia 14 days (West)
Prepayment included 10 dec. to G.B. and 17 dec. French
internal for 7½–10 gram letter (check mark above rate)

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1840-1857
1 Aug 49-1 Jul 51

Commencing 1 August 1849, the French went to a uniform internal rate of 5 decimes per 7½ gram letter on incoming foreign mails. Internal rates were no longer determined by the straight line distance from the French entry port to destination. Since Great Britain was still entitled to 3 shilling 4 pence per 30 grams of bulk letter weight under Letter Bill Article 13 (10 decimes per 7½ gram letter), the French postage due on a simple unpaid letter from the United States via Great Britain was 15 decimes. U.S. prepayment by British open mail on British packets was 5¢.



31 July 1849 New York to Cognac
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Cognac

Caledonia 13 days (East)
Postage due consisted of 10 dec. to G.B. and
5 dec. uniform French internal postage



This cover shows an unusual use of the domestic "NEW-YORK 5cts." marking on a transatlantic letter. New York also struck the red curved "PAID" in red. The "5" in pencil in the lower left was probably written when the letter was taken to the post office window and paid. Later, the circular datestamp and paid markings were applied in a separate operation based on the pencil notation.

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
1 Aug 49–1 Jul 51



28 July 1849 New Orleans to Bordeaux
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Europa 12 days (East)
Unusual crude numeral "5" rate marking
of New Orleans known in black and red ink



10 February 1851 New Orleans to Bordeaux
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
15 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Africa 11 days (East)
French entry marking for mail from Belgium struck at
in Paris in error; one other example known from same voyage

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
1 Aug 49–1 Jul 51



20 May 1851 New York to Paris
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
30 decimes postage due in Paris

Europa 11 days (East)
Paris used 2x15 = 30 decime rate handstamp
to mark postage due on this 7½–15 gram letter

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1840-1857
1 Jul 51-1 Dec 51



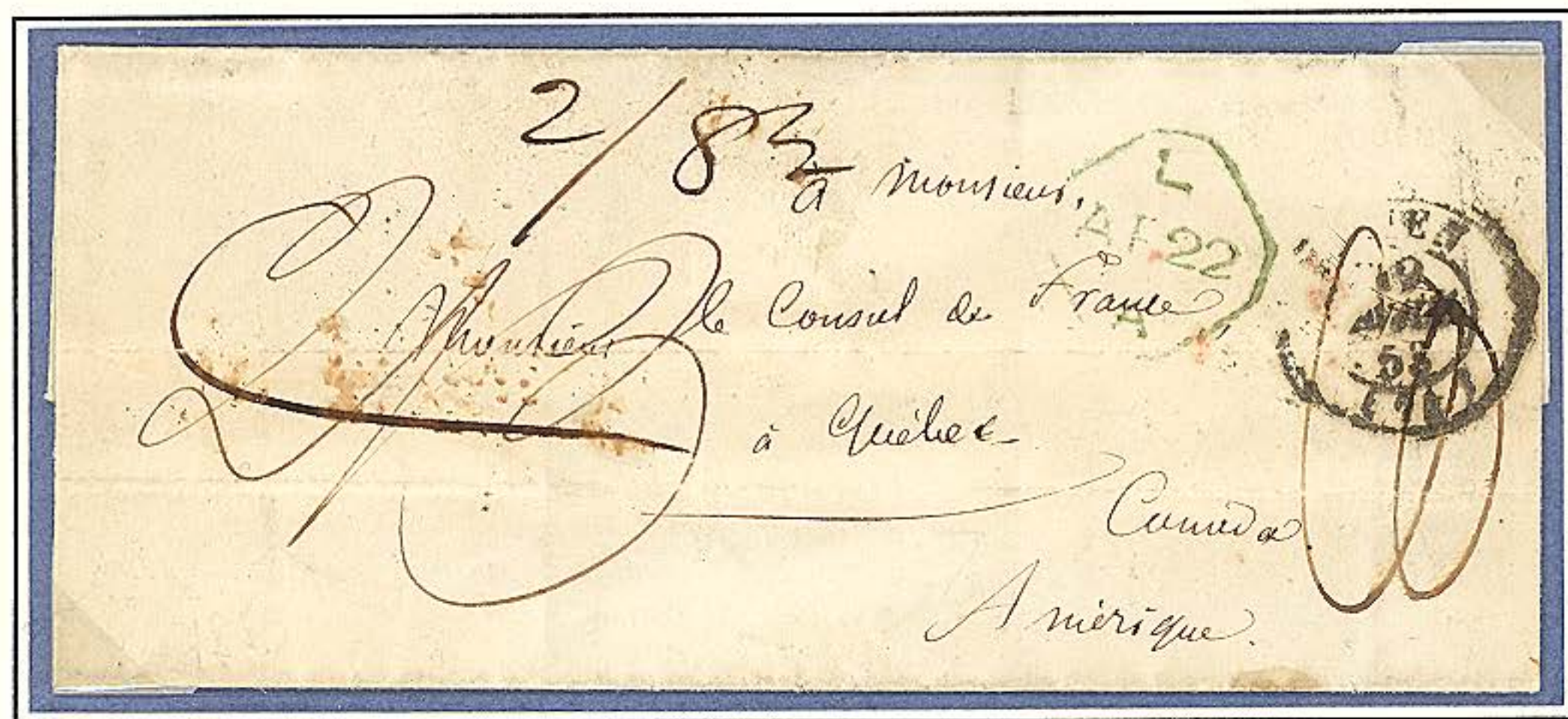
30 August 1851 New York to Bordeaux
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
30 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Canada 11 days (East)
COLONIES &c ART13. no longer used on contract mail
Postage due = 2x15 dec. for 7½-15 gram letter

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
10 Feb 53–1 Jan 57



2/83

19 April 1853 Rouen to Quebec, Canada
Letter sent unpaid
2s8½d currency postage due in Quebec

Asia 12 days (West)
10d French debit to G.B. for 7½–15 gram letter
Postage due = 2d U.S. transit and 2s3d British debit to Canada

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
10 Feb 53–1 Jan 57



(Reverse)



22 August 1854 Marseille to Boston
Letter carried privately to London and posted unpaid by agent
24¢ postage due in Boston

Africa 12 days (West)
London debited U.S. 19¢
London forwarding agent dated their marking
on reverse when letter posted



14 November 1854 Mobile to Paris
5¢ prepaid British open mail rate by British packet
13 decimes postage due in Paris

America 12 days (East)
Letter in open mails through England
receiving a London backstamp on 4 Dec 54

U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1840–1857
1 Jan 57–1 Apr 57



10 February 1857 New York to Reims
5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet
8 decimes postage due in Reims

Arabia 10 days (East)
New York cds showed date mails were sent to
Boston for next day sailing of Cunard steamer



4 March 1857 New York to Reims
10¢ prepaid double British open mail rate by British packet
24 decimes postage due in Reims

Asia 12 days (East)
New York showed prepayment in pencil (upper left)
Paris rated letter for 16 decimes due, then corrected to
24 decimes (letter weight 15–22½ grams)