

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.-French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1857

' United States '



Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, France, 5 August 1848

Ship: *United States*

Company: Black Ball Line Steamship

Depart: New York, 5 August 1848

Arrive: Havre, 19 August 1848

Voyage: 3rd

Rate: 25¢ freight money fee paid for single rate (not shown)
13 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: Letter taken to Black Ball Line agent and 25¢ freight money fee paid (not shown). Letter did not enter U.S. mail, so no inland fee paid. French clerk at Havre marked letter for 13 decimes postage due, 1 decime du mer plus 12 decimes French inland postage for distance of 430 km from Havre to Cognac and letter weight between 7½–10 grams. Backstamps show letter traveled to Paris by train and supplementary mail carriage to Bordeaux on the line to Châteauroux, an uncommon backstamp. Scarce non-contract steamship letter.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.–French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838–1857



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 2 November 1855

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Havre, 3 November 1855
Arrive: New York, 21 November 1855

Rate: 30 centimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter from the port
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Cornelius Vanderbilt began steamship operations between New York and Havre in April 1855, but without a mail contract. In June 1857, his steamships carried contract mails for the first time. Letter prepaid with an 1853 10 centime and 20 centime adhesive, Scott Nos. 14, 15.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.–French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838–1857

per Barcelonne



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 23 February 1856

Ship: *Barcelone*

Company: Compagnie Franco-Américaine

Depart: Havre, 23 February 1856
Arrive: New York, 14 March 1856

Rate: 30 centimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter from the port
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Compagnie Franco-Américaine made only 11 round voyages between Havre and New York before ceasing operations on this route. This was the inaugural voyage for *Barcelone* and for the Line to New York. Letter prepaid with a 10 centime (1853) and 20 centime (1854) adhesive, Scott Nos. 14, 15a. Covers carried by this French steamship company, which may have had an unofficial relationship with the Government to carry mails, are quite scarce.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.-French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1857

Per Steamer North Star



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 9 June 1856

Ship: *North Star*

Company: Vanderbilt European Line
(Vanderbilt Line)

Depart: Havre, 10 June 1856
Arrive: New York, 24 June 1856

Rate: 30 centimes paid for outgoing ship letter from the port
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter prepaid single rate with an 10 centime bistre on yellowish 1853 and 20 centime blue on bluish 1854 adhesives (Scott Nos. 14, 15). New York marked 6¢ postage due for an incoming ship letter to the port. Letter confirms unrecorded call of the steamer at Havre en route from Bremen to New York.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.-French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1857

of Steamer Etna



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 5 August 1856

Ship: *Etna*

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

Depart: Havre, 5 August 1856
Arrive: New York, 17 August 1856

Rate: 30 centimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter from the port
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Cunard built this iron screw steamship in 1856 to use as auxiliary steamer for merchant cargo rather than contract mail. In 1856, a short-lived service from Havre to New York was inaugurated. *Etna* made only two round voyages on this service before it was terminated in 1857. Letter prepaid with an 1853 10 centimes and 1854 20 centimes adhesive, Scott Nos. 14, 15.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.-French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1857

Je



Envelope: Havre to Philadelphia, 21 July 1856

Ship: *Vigo*

Company: Compagnie Franco-Américaine

Depart: Havre, 22 July 1856
Arrive: New York, 8 August 1856

Rate: 30 centimes prepaid for single outgoing ship letter from the port
7¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Compagnie Franco-Américaine made only 11 round voyages between Havre and New York before ceasing operations on this route. Letter prepaid single rate with 10 centimes (1853) and 20 centimes (1854) adhesives, Scott Nos. 14, 15. New York marked letter for 5¢ postage due, the ship letter rate to Philadelphia. Letter carrier in Philadelphia added 2¢ fee and marked letter for 7¢ postage due in pencil, upper right. Covers carried by this French steamship company, which may have had an unofficial relationship with the Government to carry mails, are quite scarce.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.–French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838–1857



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 19 October 1856

Ship: *Vigo*

Company: Compagnie Franco-Américaine

Depart: Havre, 19 October 1856

Arrive: New York, 3 November 1856

Rate: 60 centimes prepaid for double outgoing ship letter from the port
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Compagnie Franco-Américaine made only 11 round voyages between Havre and New York before ceasing operations on this route. Letter prepaid double rate with a 20 centime (1854) and 40 centime (1853) adhesive, Scott Nos. 15, 18. Covers carried by this French steamship company, which may have had an unofficial relationship with the Government to carry mails, are quite scarce.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.–French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838–1857



(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Paris to New Orleans, 8 December 1856

- Ship: *Vigo*,
Niagara
- Company: Compagnie Franco-Américaine,
British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)
- Depart: Havre, 10 December 1856
Depart: Liverpool, 20 December 1856
Arrive: Boston, 2 January 1857
- Rate: 60 centimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter from beyond the port
5¢ postage due in New Orleans
- Notes: Paris sent letter to the Bureau Maritime in Havre where it was put on board *Vigo* as endorsed. *Vigo* put into Milford Haven, England with serious storm damage on 15 December. Her mails were put ashore and later carried on the next Cunard mail steamer as ship letters. The letter was in a closed mail bag which was not opened until arrival at New York, a day after the steamer arrived at Boston. Letter prepaid with a 20 centime (1854) and 40 centime (1853) adhesive, Scott Nos. 15, 18.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.-French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1838-1857

Par Steamer Emeu



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 20 February 1857

Ship: *Emeu*

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

Depart: Havre, 22 February 1857
Arrive: New York, 10 March 1857

Rate: 30 centimes prepaid for single outgoing ship letter from the port
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: The iron screw steamship *Emeu* had been launched in 1856 for the Australian Pacific Mail Steam Packet Company. Cunard brought the vessel to use as an auxiliary merchant cargo carrier. In 1856, a short-lived service from Havre to New York was inaugurated. *Emeu* made four round voyages on this service before it was terminated in 1857. Letter prepaid single rate with an 1853 10 centime and 1854 20 centime adhesive, Scott Nos. 14, 15.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1857-1869

P.P., New York



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 18 August 1863

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 19 August 1863
Arrive: New York, 1 September 1863

Rate: 80 centimes prepaid for ship letter rate via G.B.
4¢ postage due in New York

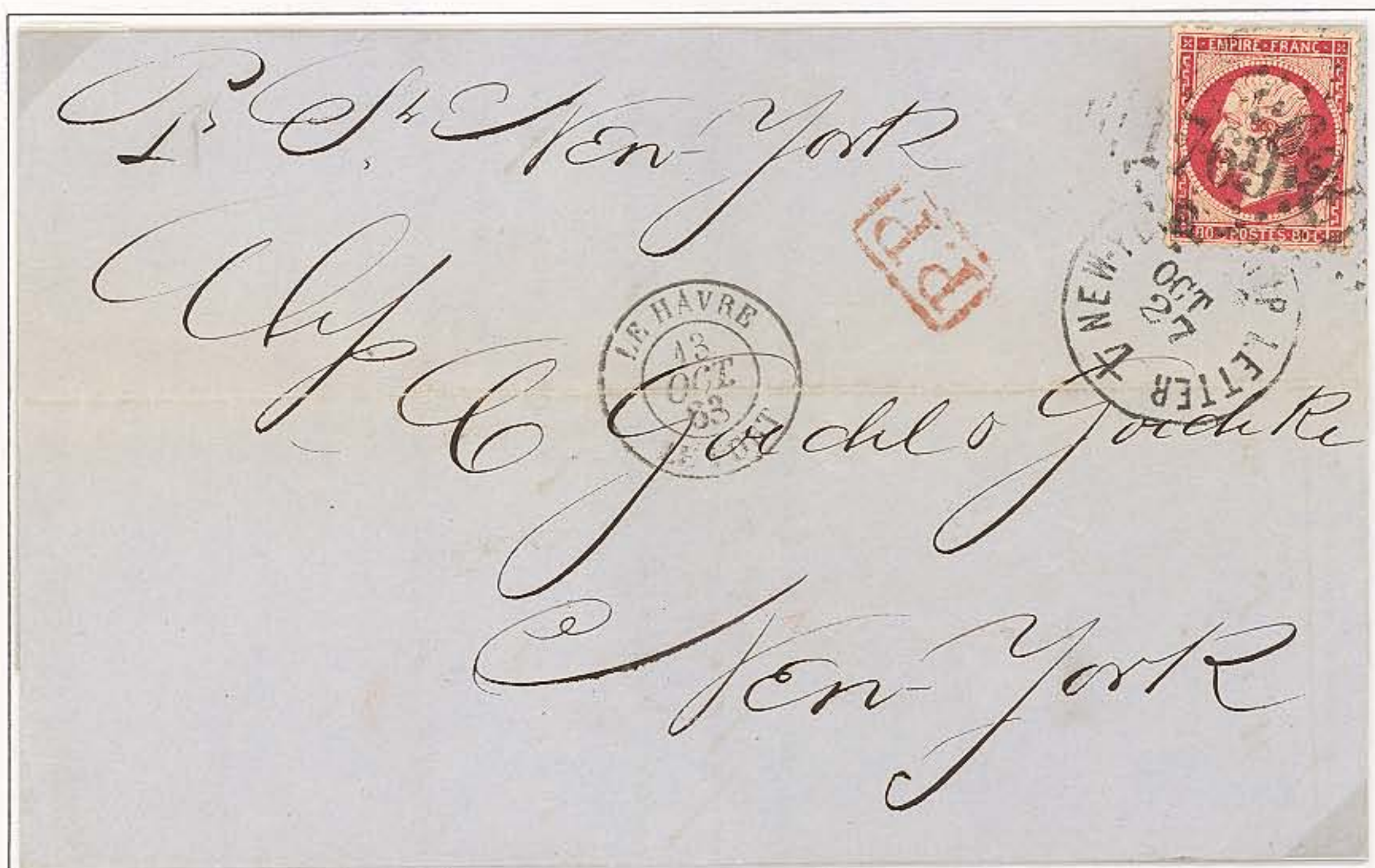
Notes: Letter prepaid with 1862, 80 centimes rose on pinkish adhesive (Scott No. 28) for ship or treaty rate to U.S. via G.B. Letter placed on board *New York* as loose ship letter and not in the contract mails. New York marked letter for 4¢ postage due, the incoming ship letter rate to the port. Scarce color of BUREAU MARITIME HAVRE datestamp, used in black only from January-October 1863.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1857–1869

N^o 10 New-York



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 13 October 1863

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 15 October 1863
Arrive: New York, 27 October 1863

Rate: 80 centimes prepaid for ship letter rate via G.B.
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter prepaid with 1862, 80 centimes rose on pinkish adhesive (Scott No. 28) for ship or treaty rate to U.S. via G.B. Because *New York* did not carry contract mails on this voyage New York marked letter for 4¢ postage due, the incoming ship letter rate to the port.

U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1857-1869



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 29 June 1867

Ship: *Hecla*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 2 July 1867
Arrive: New York, 16 July 1867

Rate: 80 centimes prepaid for ship letter rate via G.B.
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Because letter was endorsed for a non-contract steamship, the Cunard merchant steamship *Hecla* from Liverpool, it was not bagged in France for regular contract French mails, but sent to London in the open mails. New York marked letter for 4¢ postage due, the incoming ship letter rate to the port. Had letter not been endorsed for a non-contract steamship, the prepayment (80 centime 1862 adhesive, Scott No. 28) would have been sufficient to destination with no postage due.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1857–1869



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 20 November 1867

Ship: *Hecla*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 23 November 1867

Arrive: New York, 8 December 1867

Rate: 80 centimes prepaid for ship letter rate via G.B.
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Because letter was endorsed for a non-contract steamship, the Cunard merchant steamship *Hecla* from Liverpool, it was not bagged in France for regular contract French mails, but sent to London in the open mails. New York marked letter for 4¢ postage due, the incoming ship letter rate to the port. Had letter not been endorsed for a non-contract steamship, the prepayment (80 centime 1862 adhesive, Scott No. 28) would have been sufficient to destination with no postage due.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1857–1869

3
CENTS



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 25 September 1868

- Ship: *Samaria*
- Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)
- Depart: Liverpool, 29 September 1868
Arrive: Boston, 10 October 1868
- Rate: 80 centimes prepaid for ship letter rate via G.B.
- Notes: Because letter was endorsed for a non-contract steamship, the Cunard merchant steamship *Samaria's* maiden voyage, the letter was not bagged in France for contract French mails, but sent to London in the open mails. London marked the scarce 3¢ credit to the U.S., which only appeared in 1868 due to an idiosyncrasy in the U.S.–G.B. Treaty of 1867 which required G.B. to credit the U.S. 3¢ on transit letters in the open mails including partial paid or unpaid letters. Since letter was fully paid from France and since G.B. had credited U.S. with 3¢, Boston did not mark letter for ship letter postage due.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1857–1869

2
CENTS



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 13 March 1869

Ship: *Nevada*

Company: Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited
(Guion Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 16 March 1869
Arrive: New York, 29 March 1869

Rate: 80 centimes prepaid for ship letter rate via G.B.

Notes: Letter endorsed for a non-contract steamship, the Guion Line steamship *Nevada*, and not bagged in France with the regular contract French mails, but sent to London in the open mails. London marked a 2¢ credit to the U.S., which was a correction made under the U.S.–G.B. Treaty of 1868 to the required credit the U.S. on transit letters in the open mails. This handstamp appears to have been a previously used one, altered by removing the second numeral, perhaps an old 21/CENTS marking. New York marked letter PAID ALL, instead of marking for a ship letter postage due, probably because of the British credit.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre U.S.–French Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1870–1874



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 15 February 1873

Ship: *Denmark*

Company: National Steamship Company Limited
(National Line)

Depart: Havre, 16 February 1873

Arrive: New York, 2 March 1873

Rate: 50 centimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter direct to U.S.
10¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter prepaid with pair of 25 centime (1870) adhesives, Scott No. 57 to prepay the rate by steamer directly to U.S. Since the U.S. did not have a postal convention with France at this time, New York treated it as an incoming steamship letter, requiring 10¢ postage due, a rate reserved for mail steamers from countries with which there was no mail contract. This is believed to have been marked in error as the National Line was not a contract mail line. An incoming ship letter rate was the correct rate.

U.S. – French Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
Non-Contract Steamship

1876–1879



Folded Letter: Havre to New York, 10 January 1876

Ship: *Republic*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company Limited
(White Star Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 13 January 1876
Arrive: New York, 24 January 1876

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter placed on board *Republic* as consignee letter when merchandise shipment was taken to the steamer in Liverpool and did not enter French or British mail systems. New York marked 4¢ postage due, the ship letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of arrival.

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1838-

LIVERPOOL
SHIP LETTER

(Reverse)



19 October 1839 New York to Bordeaux
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at port)
1s6d British debit to France
32 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Liverpool 18 days (East)
Liverpool post office marked 1s7d due for 8d ship
and 10d British inland fees; London corrected in debit to France
Postage due = 18 dec. to G.B. and 14 dec. French internal

U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

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

1838-



(Reverse)

5 March 1863 Havana, Cuba to Paris
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag in New York)
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Kedar 13 days (East)
Letter carried privately to New York where forwarding agent placed on Cunard merchant steamer London marked GB/1F60c accountancy marking for unpaid non-convention mail to France in British open mails



16 July 1866 Le Havre to New York
Letter sent unpaid (carried to ship in Southampton)
4¢ postage due in New York

Borussia 12 days (West)
Consignee letter accompanying merchandise; Incoming ship rate at U.S. arrival port was double drop letter rate (2x2¢) after 1 July 1863