

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty
Sailing Packet from England

prior to 1849



Folded Letter: Glasgow, Scotland to Auburn, New York, 22 May 1838

Ship: Oxford
Company: Black Ball Line
Depart: Liverpool, ~1 June 1838
Arrive: New York, 5 July 1838
Rate: 1s $\frac{1}{2}$ d prepaid for single rate
20 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ postage due at Auburn

Notes: Letter prepaid 1s outgoing ship letter rate from beyond the port plus $\frac{1}{2}$ d Scottish toll road fee. Postage due consisted of 2¢ ship fee plus 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ inland fee from New York to Auburn. Examples of 1s ship rate are uncommon and those showing Scottish toll road fee prepayment scarce.

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LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER

(Reverse)



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Philadelphia to London, 5 September 1838

Ship: *Sheffield*

Company: *Kermite Line*

Depart: *New York, 14 September 1838*

Arrive: *Liverpool, 12 October 1838*

Rate: *25¢ prepaid for double rate*
1s7d postage due at London

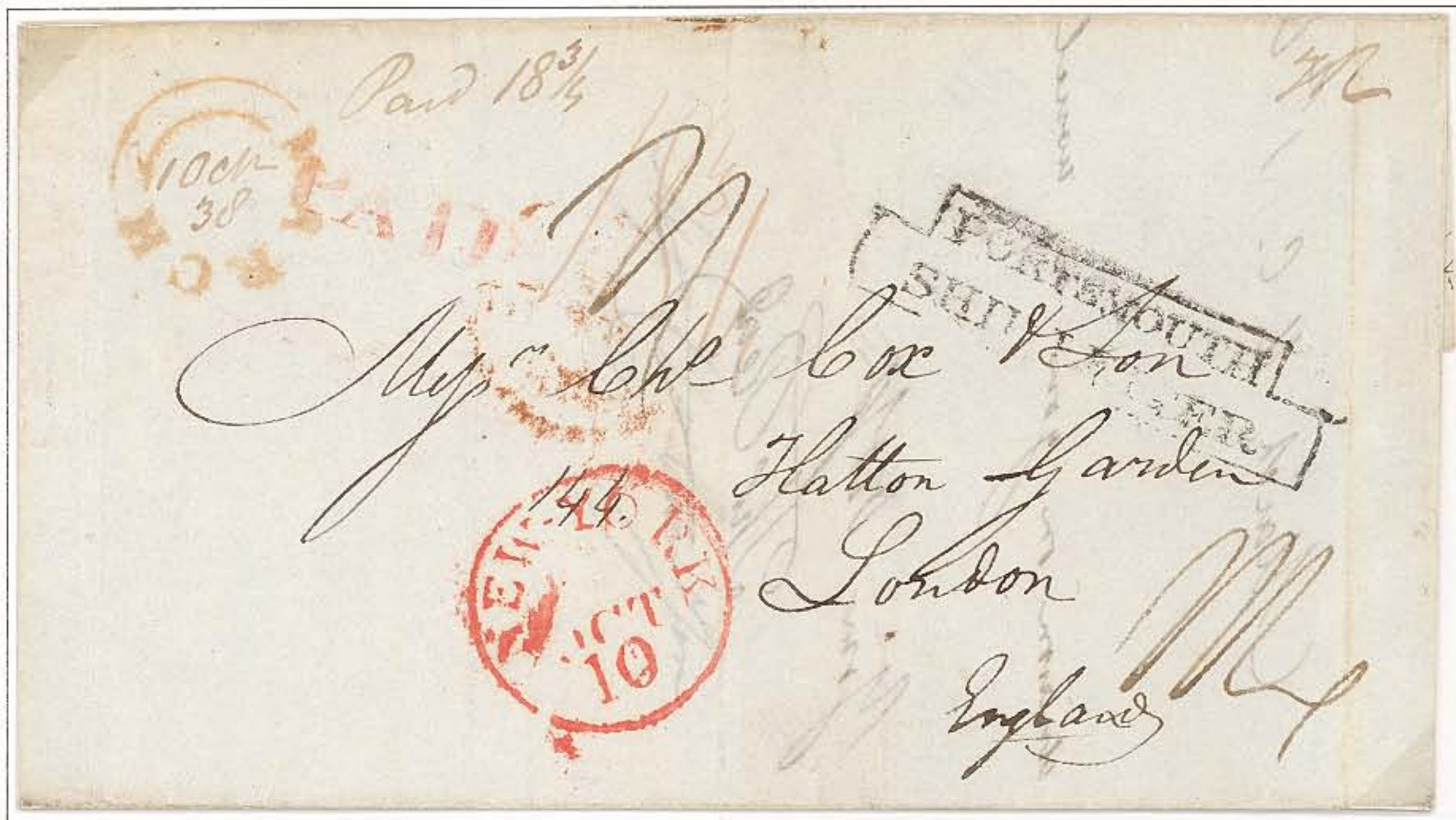
Notes: Letter prepaid $2 \times 12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢} = 25\text{¢}$ for double rate in U. S. (probably contained one enclosure). Postage due consisted of 8d ship fee plus 11d inland fee for 206 miles from Liverpool to London. This is not a freight money cover as sailing ship lines had not started charging the $12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ freight money fee.

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PORTSMOUTH SHIP LETTER



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: March, Upper Canada to London, 1 October 1838

Ship: *Wellington*

Company: Swallowtail Line of London Packets

Depart: New York, 12 October 1838

Arrive: Portsmouth, 29 October 1838

Rate: 7dcy + 18³/₄¢ prepaid for all transit fees to New York
1s4d postage due at London

Notes: Letter prepaid 7dcy Canadian transit to Kingston plus 18³/₄¢ for U.S. transit to New York. Portsmouth struck PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LETTER handstamp to show letter arrived by ship and entered British mail system at Portsmouth. London marked 1s4d postage due, 8d incoming ship fee plus 8d inland fee for 72 miles from Portsmouth to London. Swallowtail packets often called at Portsmouth to land mail and passengers before beating around to London. Pre-freight money fees by just a couple of months.

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Pre 1848 Treaty
Non Contract Ship

1840–1849
27 June 1848–3 January 1849



Envelope: York, Pennsylvania to Liverpool, 17 August 1848

Ship: *Robert C. Winthrop*

Company: Enoch Train's Line of Sailing Ships

Depart: Boston, 20 August 1848

Arrive: Liverpool, 24 September 1848

Rate: 10¢ prepaid for U.S. inland rate to East coast port
8 pence postage due for single ship rate

Notes: Letter intentionally prepaid U.S. inland rate to Boston only knowing the postmaster there would have to put the letter on the first available outgoing sailing ship to England, thereby avoiding the retaliatory fee on packet letters. A number of letters to Ziba Durkee in Liverpool are known from various western Pennsylvania and New York state towns, each taking advantage of this knowledge.