

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
Non-Contract Steamship

1849–1867



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Wilmington, Delaware, 15 April 1851

Ship: *City of Glasgow*

Company: Liverpool & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 16 April 1851
Arrive: Philadelphia, 3 May 1851

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
7¢ postage due in Wilmington

Notes: For the first five years of its operations, the Inman Line's western terminus was Philadelphia. No contract mails were carried on any of the line's voyages to Philadelphia, but ship letters were occasionally carried. This consignee letter was carried on the second voyage of the line to Philadelphia. Philadelphia used three different handstamps on this cover, each in blue.

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Folded Letter: Manchester, England to Philadelphia, 7 December 1852

Ship: *City of Manchester*

Company: Liverpool & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 8 December 1852
Arrive: Philadelphia, 27 December 1852

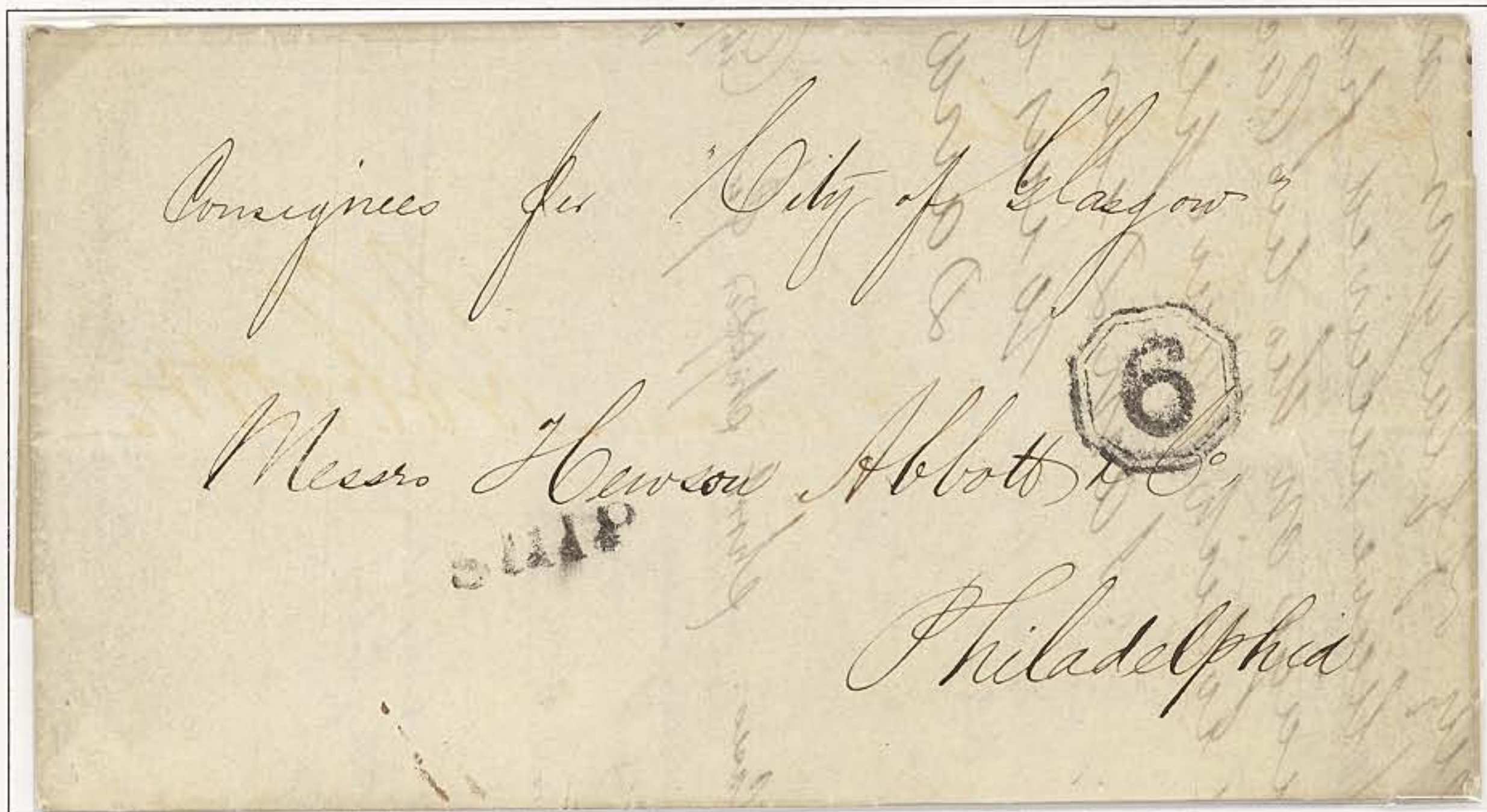
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter sent unpaid as a consignee letter accompanying a shipment of merchandise.
Philadelphia marked 6¢ postage due, the incoming ship letter rate to the port of arrival.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Philadelphia, 3 January 1854

Ship: *City of Glasgow*

Company: Liverpool & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 5 January 1854
Arrive: Philadelphia, 30 January 1854

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6¢ postage due in Philadelphia

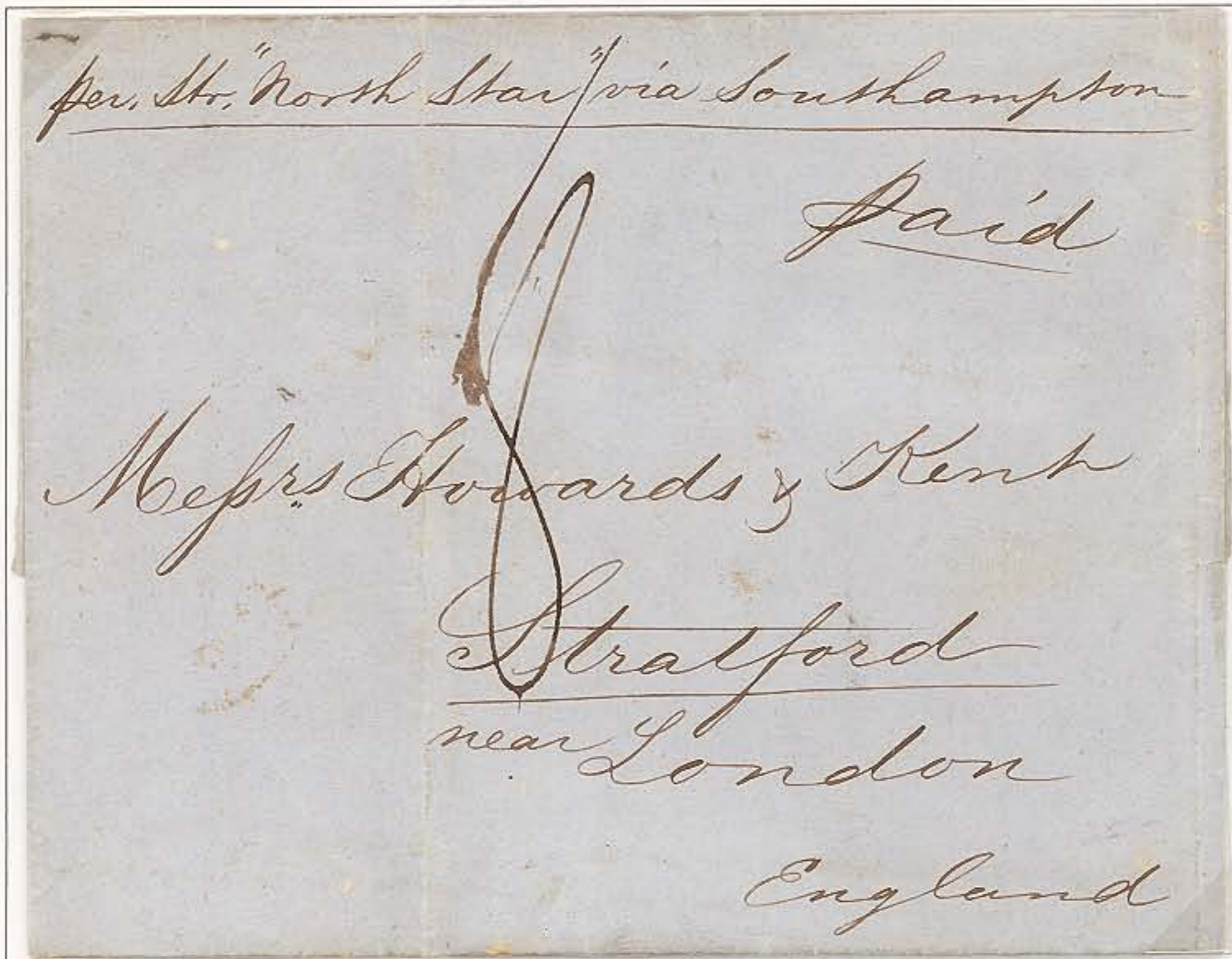
Notes: In January 1854, Philadelphia shifted from blue to black ink for its markings. Both the SHIP and the octagonal boxed "6" were applied in Philadelphia, indicating that the letter arrived at the post office from a ship and the postage due was 6¢.

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SHIP-LETTER (Reverse)



Folded Letter: Philadelphia to Stratford, England, 11 October 1855

Ship: *North Star*
Company: Vanderbilt European Line
(Vanderbilt Line)
Depart: New York, 13 October 1855
Arrive: Southampton, 26 October 1855

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
8 pence postage due in Stratford

Notes: Letter placed in ship letter bag and did not enter U.S. postal system. Upon arrival in London, letter received SHIP-LETTER handstamp of London on the reverse and was marked for 8 pence postage due, the incoming ship letter rate.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Manchester, England to New York, 4 May 1857

Ship: *City of Manchester*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 6 May 1857
Arrive: New York, 20 May 1857

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single rate
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter posted at Upper Mill receiving house (circular datestamp on reverse) of Manchester post office and was overpaid 4 pence for the outgoing ship letter rate with a 1 shilling (12 pence) 1854 adhesive, Scott No. 28. Since the Inman Line was not carrying contract mails at the time, it is not known why the treaty rate was paid for a ship letter. New York marked the "6" handstamp postage due marking.

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Folded Letter: Manchester, England to New York, 13 May 1857

Ship: *City of Washington*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 May 1857

Arrive: New York, 2 June 1857

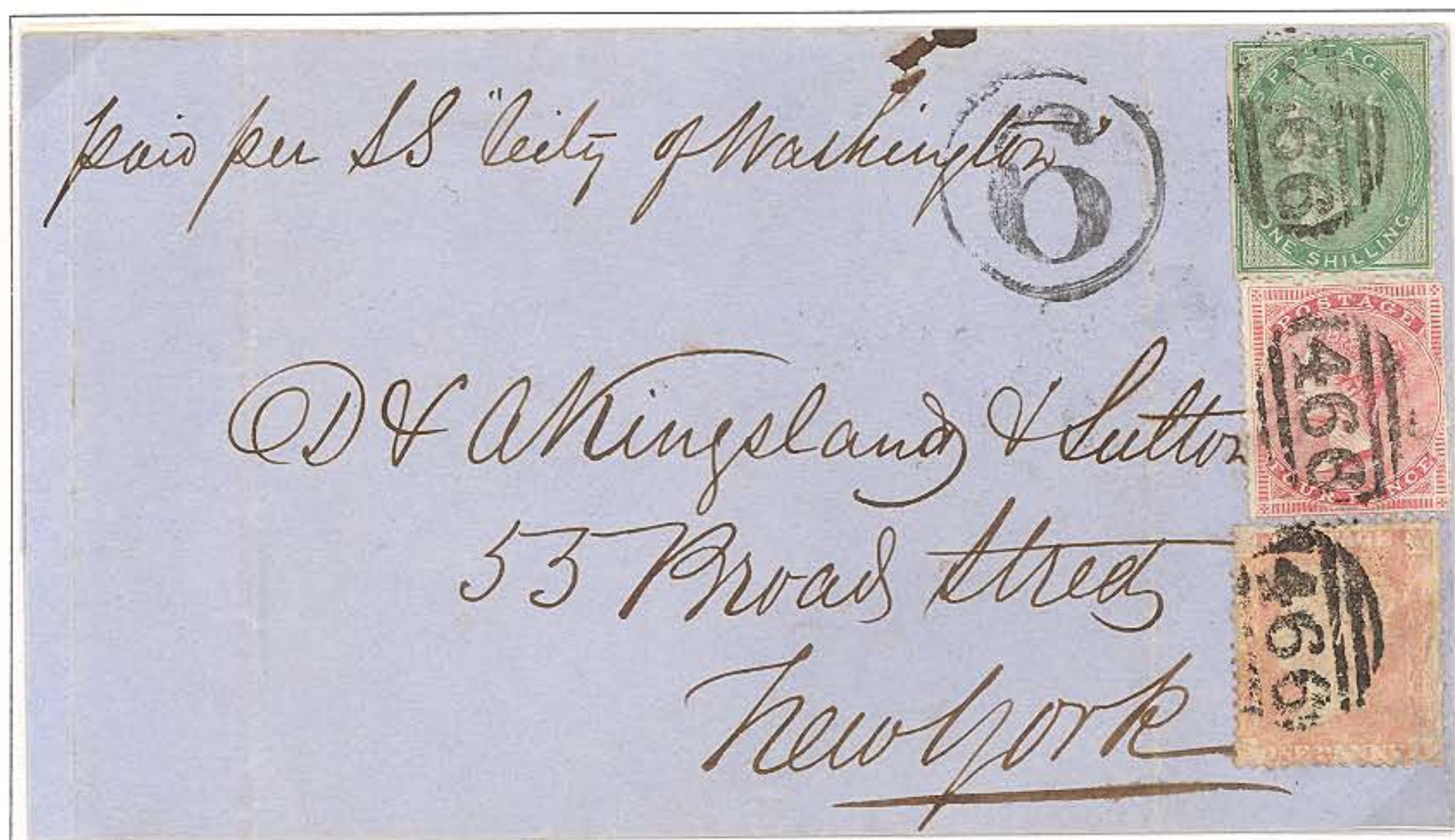
Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single rate
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter posted at Upper Mill receiving house (circular datestamp on reverse) of Manchester post office and was overpaid 4 pence for the outgoing ship letter rate with a 1 shilling (12 pence) 1854 adhesive, Scott No. 28. Since the Inman Line was not carrying contract mails at the time, it is not known why the treaty rate was paid for a ship letter. New York marked the circle "6" handstamp postage due marking.

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Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Liverpool to New York, 19 May 1857

Ship: *City of Washington*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 20 May 1857
Arrive: New York, 2 June 1857

Rate: 1s4d prepaid for double rate
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter prepaid 1s4d for a double rate outgoing ship letter plus 1d late fee (Scott Nos. 20, 25, and 28). New York marked the circle "6" handstamp postage due marking. The incoming ship letter rate in the U.S. was 6¢ if addressed to the arrival port regardless of the weight of the letter.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Philadelphia, 16 June 1857

Ship: *City of Baltimore*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 17 June 1857
Arrive: New York, 28 June 1857

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods and did not enter the British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked with a NEW-YORK/SHIP/5 cts. circular datestamp which showed that the letter was from a ship and the postage due consisted of 2¢ ship and 3¢ U.S. inland fees.

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"City of Baltimore" S. S.



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Liverpool to New York, 29 July 1857

Ship: *City of Baltimore*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 29 July 1857
Arrive: New York, 11 August 1857

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6c postage due in New York

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked with the circle "6" handstamp indicating the ship letter rate to an address in the arrival port.

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Folded Letter: London to New York, 13 August 1858

Ship: *Alps*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 14 August 1858
Arrive: New York, 27 August 1858

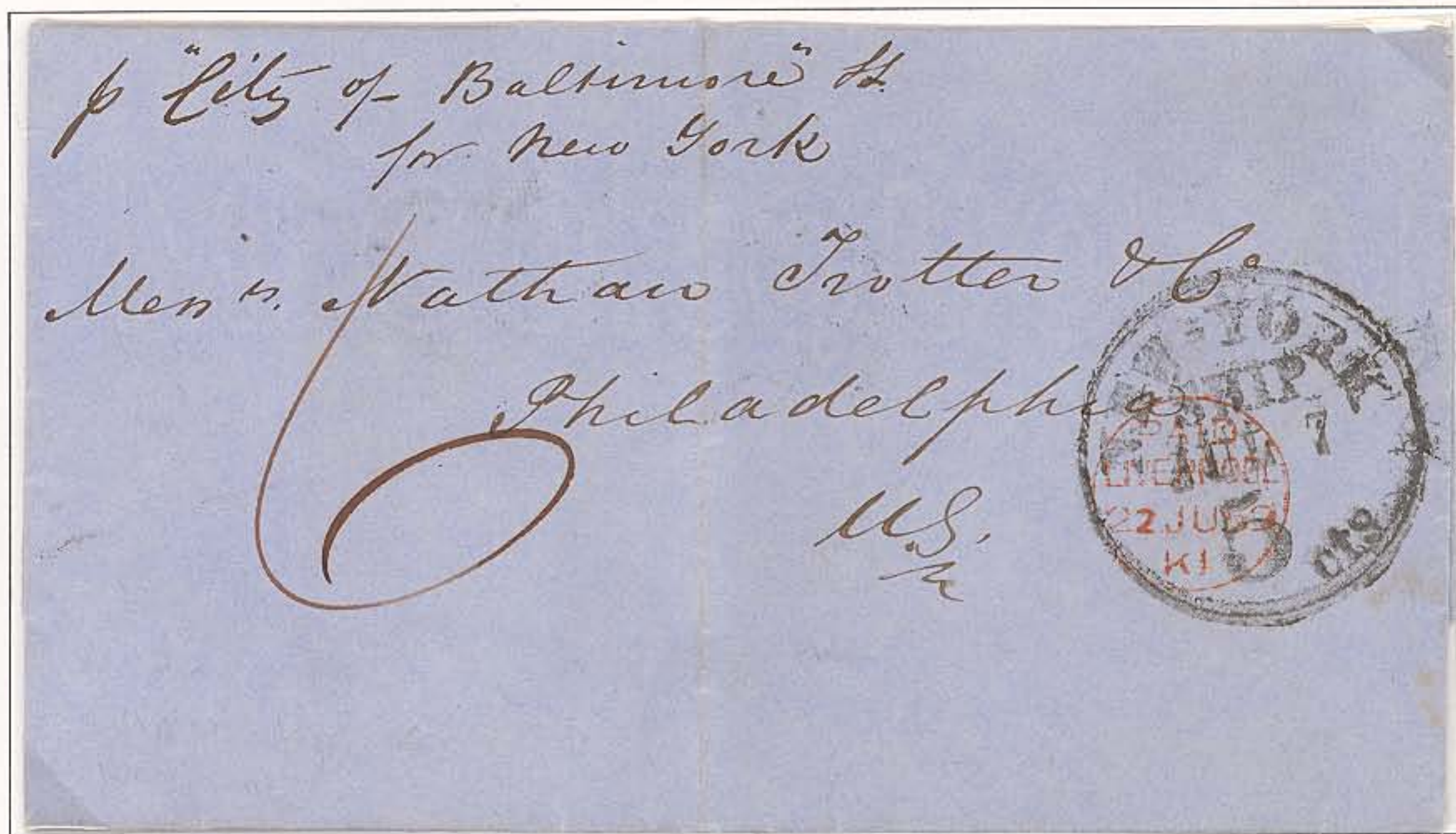
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: *Alps* was an auxiliary steamship used as a merchant and not a contract mail steamship. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked with the circle "6" handstamp indicating the ship letter rate to an address in the arrival port.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool, England to Philadelphia, 22 June 1859

Ship: *Vigo*

Company: Liverpool & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 25 June 1859
Arrive: New York, 6 July 1859

Rate: 6 pence prepaid for single ship letter rate
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

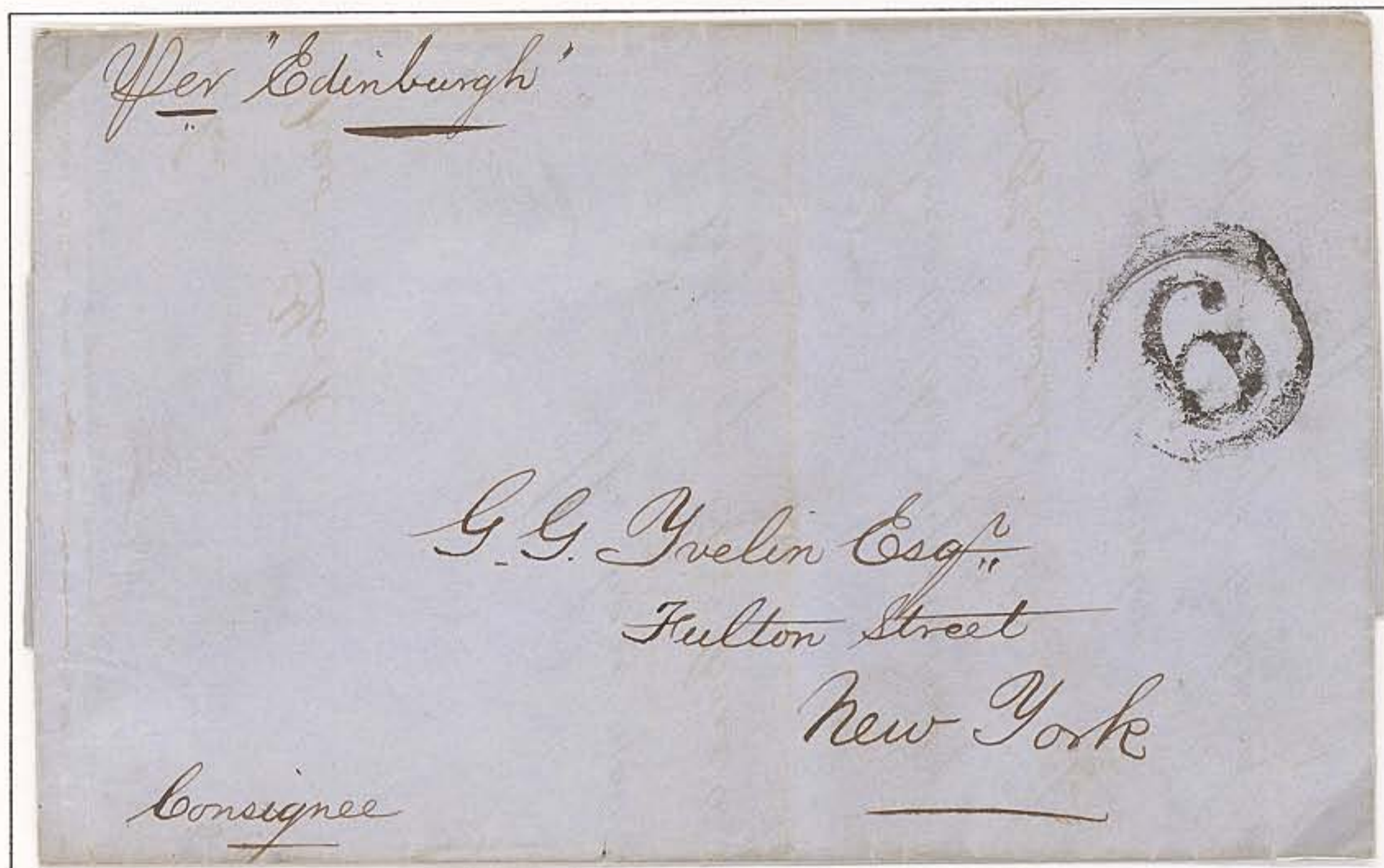
Notes: Letter not held for Inman *City of Baltimore*, but sent on earlier *Vigo* on non-contract voyage. Liverpool internal PAID datestamp used on transatlantic letter, seen on only three covers (as of March 2003). New York marked 5¢ postage due, 2¢ ship fee plus 3¢ inland fee to Philadelphia.

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Per 'Edinburgh'



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 3 January 1860

Ship: *Edinburgh*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 4 January 1860
Arrive: New York, 22 January 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6¢ postage due in New York

Notes: *Edinburgh* joined the Inman fleet in November 1859 after being purchased from the Glasgow & New York Steam Ship Company. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked with the circle "6" handstamp indicating the ship letter rate to an address in the arrival port.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Philadelphia, 26 June 1860

Ship: *Glasgow*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 27 June 1860
Arrive: New York, 11 July 1860

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
5¢ postage due in Philadelphia

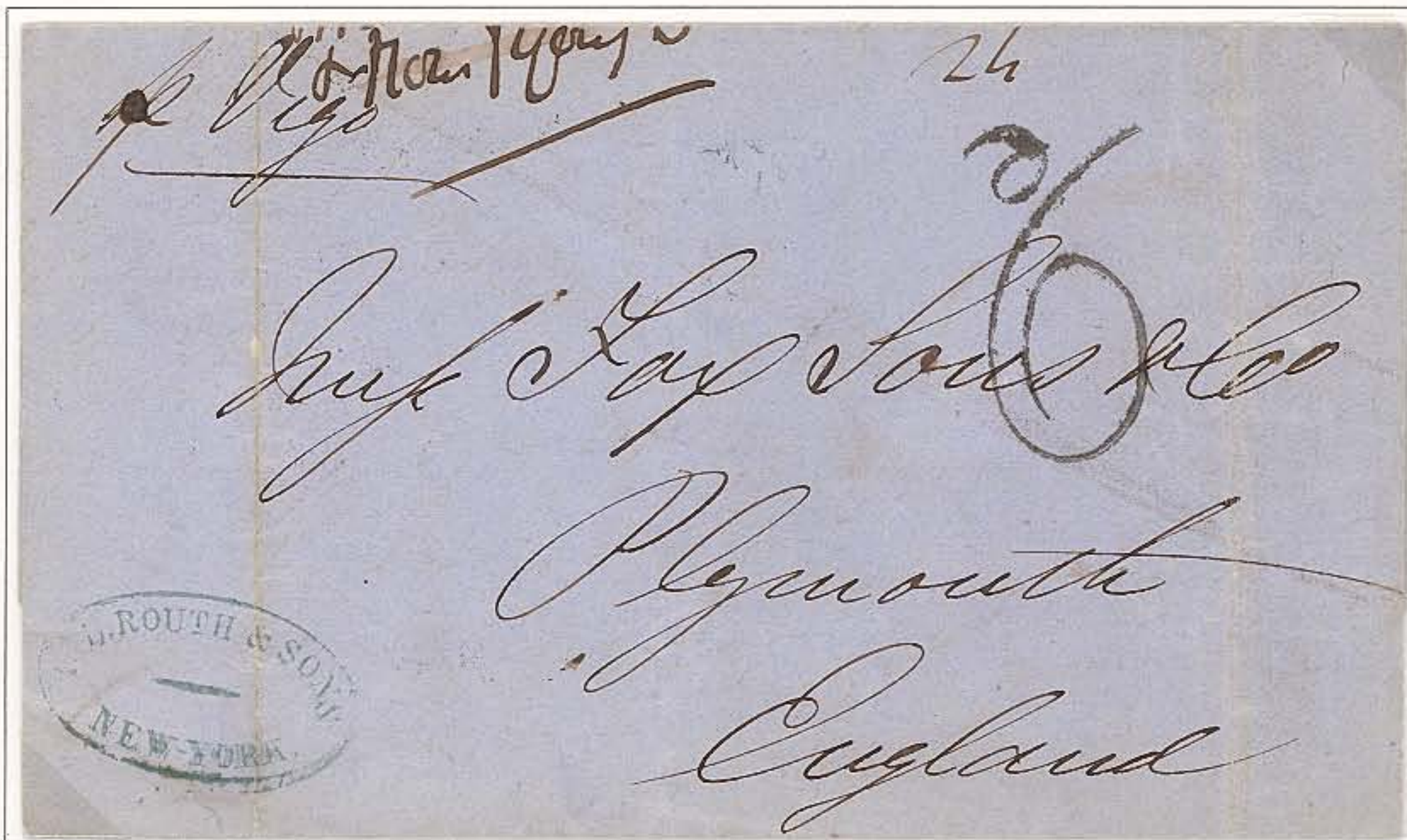
Notes: *Glasgow* also joined the Inman fleet in November 1859, at the same time as *Edinburgh*, after being purchased from the Glasgow & New York Steam Ship Company. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked with a new circular datestamp, introduced in July 1860, which showed the 5¢ ship letter rate of 2¢ ship fee plus 3¢ U.S. inland fee to Philadelphia.

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Folded Letter: New Yor to Liverpool, 3 August 1860

Ship: *Vigo*

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

Depart: New York, 4 August 1860
Arrive: Liverpool, 18 August 1860

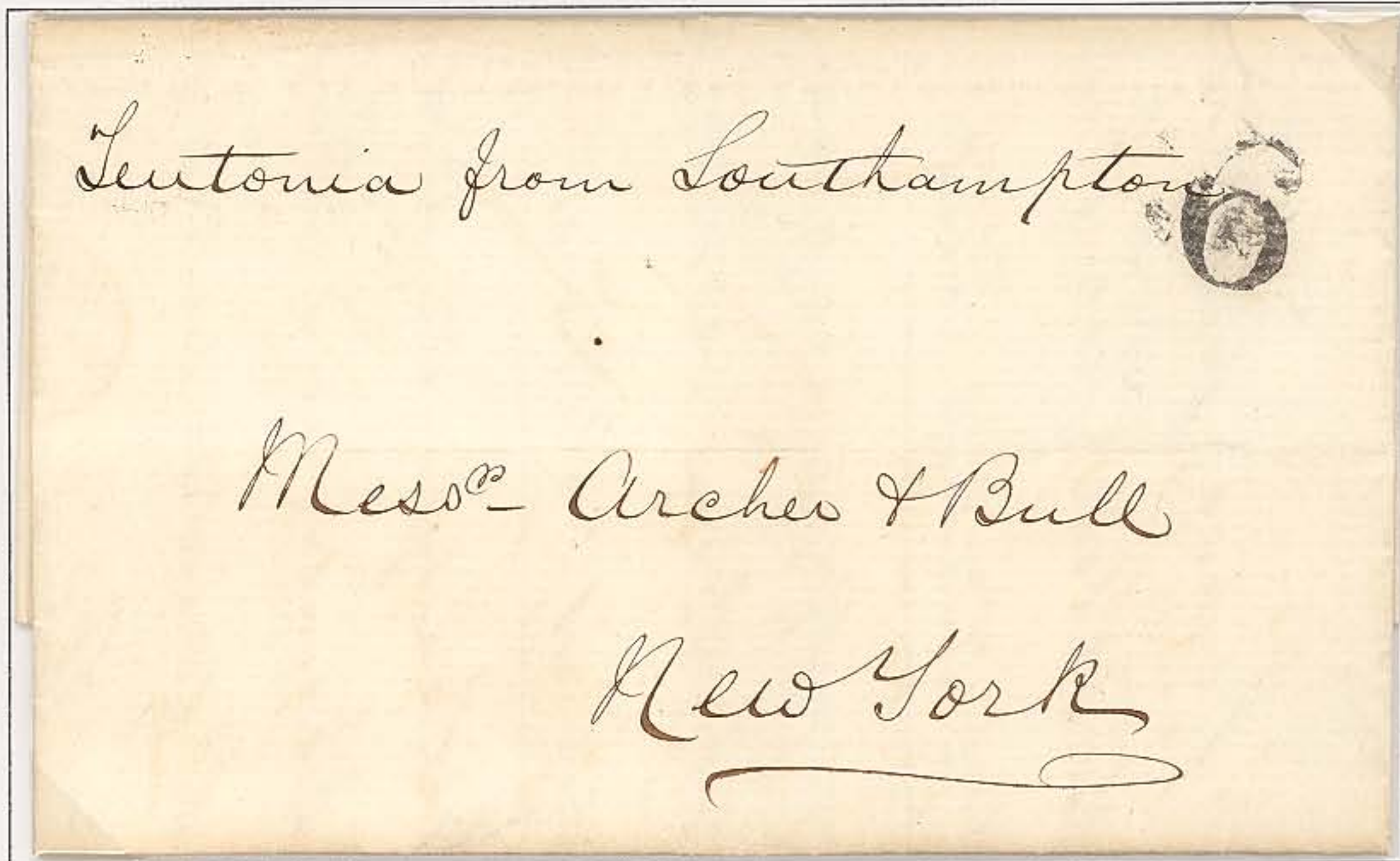
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6 pence postage due in Plymouth

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter on board the *Vigo*. This was a duplicate letter, the original sent on the mail steamship *Bremen* of the North German Lloyd Line which departed New York the same day. Liverpool marked 6 pence postage due with a handstamp, the incoming ship letter rate.

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Folded Letter: London to New York, 2 November 1860

Ship: *Teutonia*

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

Depart: Southampton, 4 November 1860
Arrive: New York, 16 November 1860

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
6¢ postage due in New York

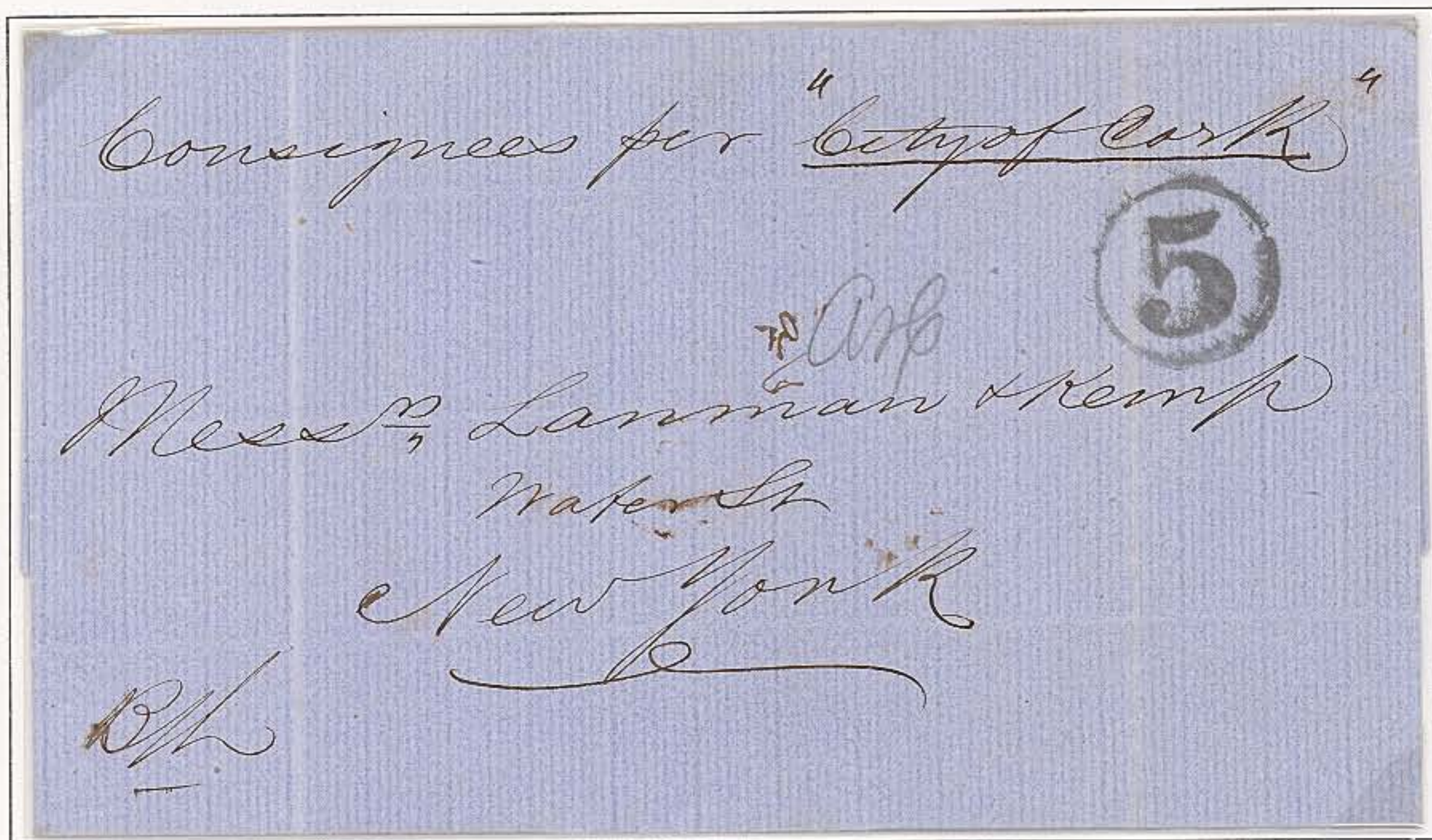
Notes: While carrying mails to and from Hamburg since 1856, the steamers of this line did not have a contract regularly to carry U.S. mails between G.B. and the U.S. until May 1861. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked with a black numeral "6" to show the postage due, the ship letter rate to the port of arrival.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 21 March 1863

Ship: *City of Cork*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 21 March 1863
Arrive: New York, 6 April 1863

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
5¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter on the maiden voyage of the Inman merchant steamer *City of Cork* and did not enter the British postal system. Upon arrival in New York the letter was marked for a postage due of 5¢. Since July 1851, a ship letter addressed to the arrival port required 6¢ postage due. From April 1855, ship letter going up to 3000 miles beyond the port were charged only 5¢ while the port fee remained 6¢. This inequity was not changed until February 1861 when the postage to the port was reduced to 5¢.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 21 September 1863

Ship: *Sidon*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 22 September 1863
Arrive: New York, 5 October 1863

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

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter on the Cunard merchant steamer *Sidon* and did not enter the British postal system. Effective 1 July 1863, ship rates were again changed to double the rate at the post office of delivery. For ship letters going inland, this was 2x3¢=6¢. For ship letter addressed to the port, the postage was 2x2¢ (drop letter fee) or 4¢. New York created four different SHIP LETTER 4 circular datestamps, this one used until September 1865.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 28 September 1863

Ship: *Virginia*

Company: Guion & Company Line of the Fernie Brothers

Depart: Liverpool, 29 September 1863

Arrive: New York, 14 October 1863

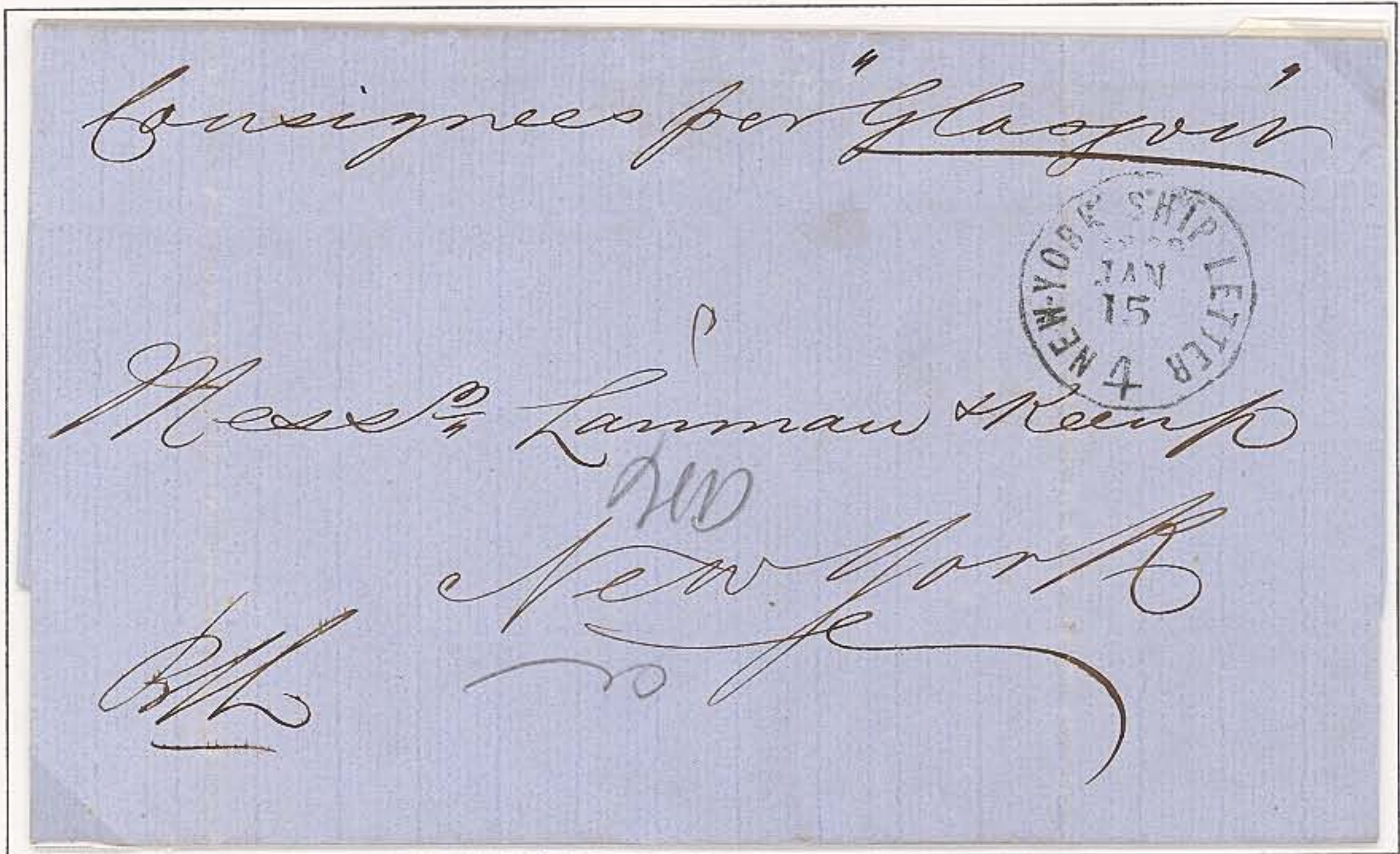
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Three merchant steamships carried cargo for this Line, making only 8½ round voyages before the company ceased operations and the steamships were taken up into the new National Steam Navigation Company. There was no connection between this Line and the Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company founded in 1866, which was also called the Guion Line. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 24 December 1863

Ship: *Glasgow*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 26 December 1863
Arrive: New York, 15 January 1864

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

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Traces of the year date "1863" appear above the date in the circular datestamp. Most covers to the Lanman & Kemp firm of New York show three sets of manuscript initials in the center of the cover around the address. These are believed to be initials of employees of the firm making records of and answering the letters.

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"Bavaria" from Southampton



Folded Letter: London to New York, 23 February 1864

Ship: *Bavaria*

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

Depart: Southampton, 24 February 1864
Arrive: New York, 9 March 1864

Rate: 6 pence prepaid for outgoing ship letter
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Although a regular contract mail steamer for the HAPAG Line, *Bavaria* did not carry mails on this voyage from Southampton to New York. Some ship letters, however, were carried. Letter prepaid with 6 pence 1862 adhesive, Scott No. 39.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 26 April 1864

Ship: *Louisiana*

Company: National Steamship Company Limited
(National Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 27 April 1864
Arrive: New York, 13 May 1864

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

Notes: In February 1864, the National Line started operations as a merchant line with no mail contract between Liverpool and New York. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Traces of the year date "1863" appear above the date in the circular datestamp.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 7 June 1864

Ship: *Pennsylvania*

Company: National Steamship Company Limited
(National Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 7 June 1864
Arrive: New York, 23 June 1864

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

Notes: In February 1864, the National Line started operations as a merchant line with no mail contract between Liverpool and New York. Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Traces of the year date "1863" appear above the date in the circular datestamp.

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Providence, Rhode Island, 9 July 1864

Ship: *Kangaroo*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 9 July 1864
Arrive: New York, 23 July 1864

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
12¢ postage due in Providence

Notes: Letter accompanied a shipment of goods as a consignee letter and did not enter the British postal system. Traces of the year date "1863" appear above the date in the circular datestamp. New York marked letter for 6¢ postage due at Providence (twice inland rate from arrival port), then reevaluated letter as over ½ ounce requiring double rate. A handstamp numeral "12" was struck over the "6" in the circular datestamp.

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Folded Letter: London to New York, 13 March 1865

Ship: *Virginia*

Company: National Steamship Company Limited
(National Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 14 March 1865
Arrive: New York, 28 March 1865

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

Notes: Letter sent to forwarding agent Thomas Irving & Co. of Liverpool (agent's double oval marking struck in blue on the reverse), who took letter directly to ship letter bag avoiding the ship letter fee in G.B. New York treated letter as incoming ship letter. Traces of the year date "1863" appear above the date in the circular datestamp.

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"New York" from Southampton



Folded Letter: London to New York, 12 September 1865

Ship: *New York*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 13 September 1865
Arrive: New York, 26 September 1865

Rate: 6 pence prepaid for outgoing ship letter
4¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter posted in London, paying 6 pence ship rate. Letter endorsement indicated sender's desire that it be sent on *New York* even though steamer was carrying contract mails on this voyage. New York treated letter as incoming ship letter still using the circular date stamp with traces of the year date "1863" appear above the date. Ship letters on contract mail voyages are not common.