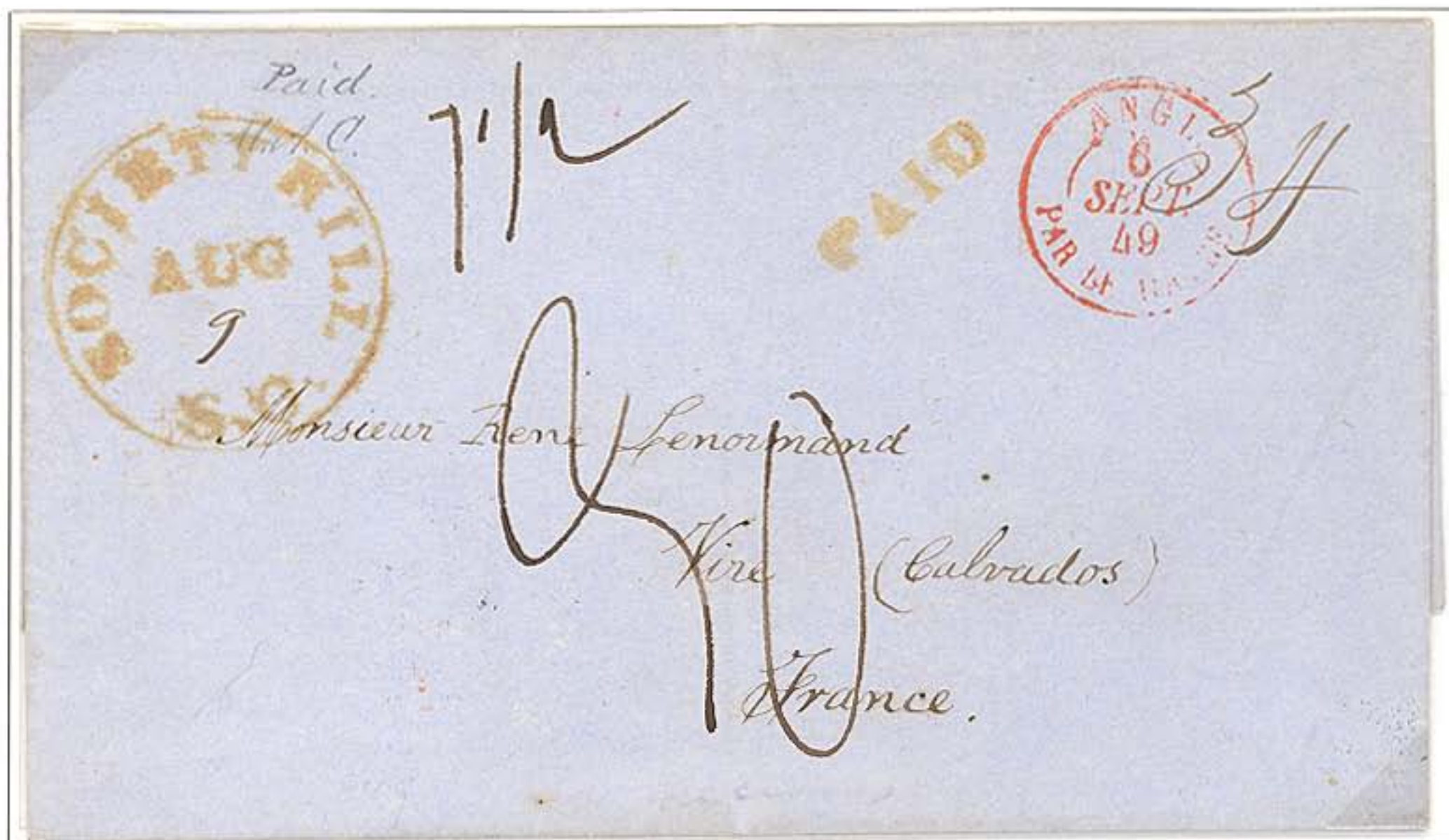


# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857  
1 July 1849-1 September 1851



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Society Hill, South Carolina to Vire, France, 9 August 1849

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 20 August 1849  
Arrive: Southampton, 3 September 1849

Rate: 34¢ paid for American packet rate  
30 decimes postage due in Vire

Notes: Letter paid the old American packet rate, which was reduced to 21¢ British open mail rate by American packet on 1 July 1849. *Hermann* put mail off while stopped in the Solent off the Isle of Wight near Southampton. Letter taken directly to Havre from the steamer, probably by auxiliary steamer. British open mail was exchanged with France under the 1843 convention, Article 13 of the letter bill, which gave U.K. 3s4d per 30 grams or 10d per single rate letter on unpaid letters sent to France. France collected 10 dec. to give back to the U.K. and kept 5 dec. uniform internal rate (effective 1 August 1849). Since letter weighed 7½ grams, it required two rates, or 30 dec. postage due.



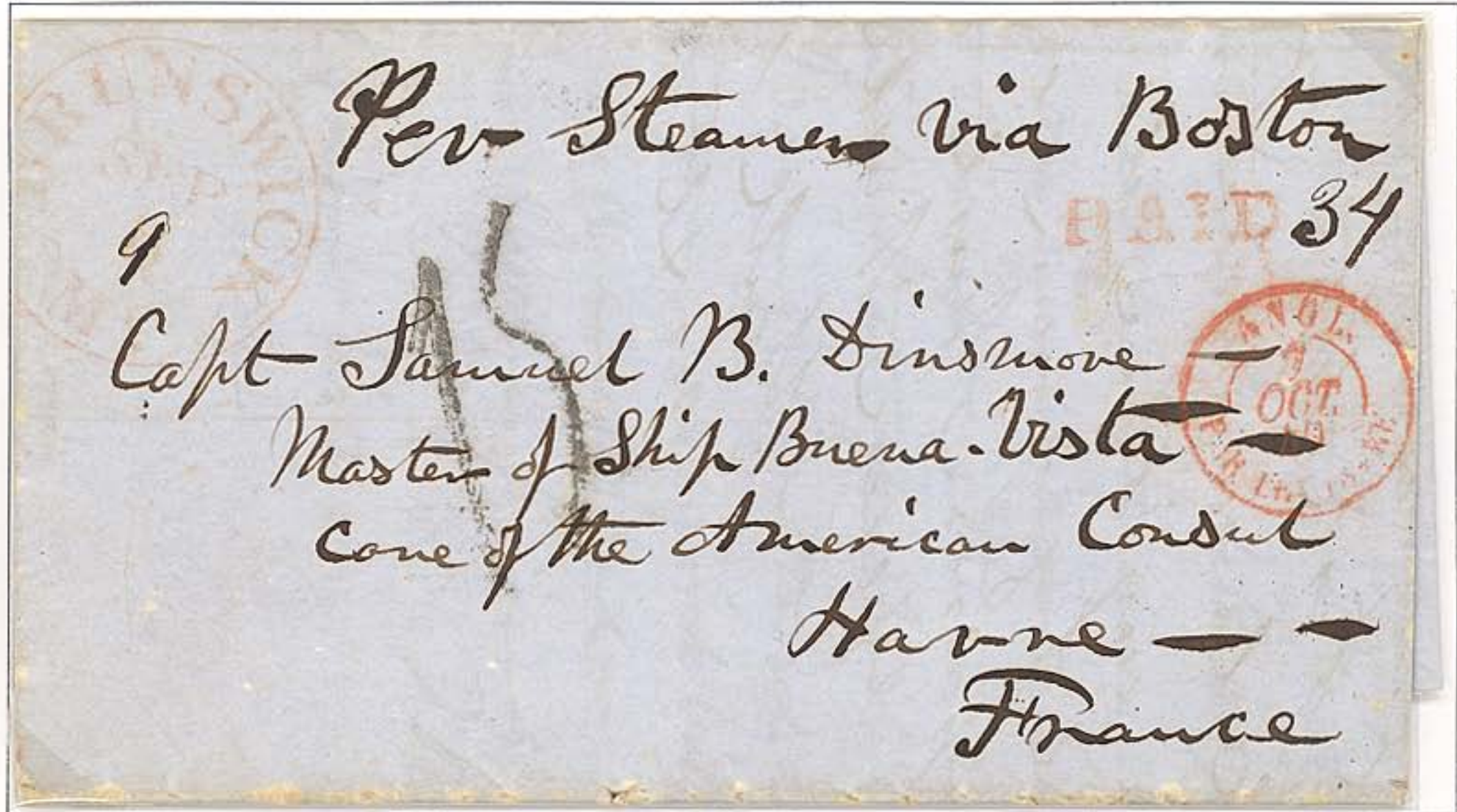
# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857  
15 February 1849-1 September 1851



(Reverse - blue)



Folded Letter: Richmond, Maine to Havre, France, 8 September 1849

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 20 September 1849  
Arrive: Southampton, 6 October 1849

Rate: 34¢ prepaid (old retaliatory rate by British packet)  
15 decimes postage due in Havre

Notes: Letter paid old retaliatory rate, which ended at the beginning of 1849. Letter sent to New York to await American packet sailing (21¢ British open mail rate by American packet) rather than Boston as endorsed (5¢ British open mail rate by British packet). Letter overpaid 13¢ for American packet service. *Washington* put mail off while stopped in the Solent off the Isle of Wight near Southampton. Letter taken to Southampton post office, then sent by auxiliary steamer to Havre.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
15 February 1849–1 September 1851



Envelope: Paris (?) to Roxbury, Massachusetts, 15 October 1850

Ship: *Pacific*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 16 October 1850  
Arrive: New York, 27 October 1850

Rate: 15 decimes prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)  
21¢ postage due in Roxbury

Notes: Letter origin not shown, but estimated to be Paris based on other letters from same correspondence. Also, prepayment not shown, but this was not unusual for Paris. Postage due was British Open Mail rate by American packet. Unusual cover.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857  
5 October 1850–1 July 1851



Envelope: Paris to Georgetown, D.C., 30 December 1850

Ship: *Franklin*

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

Depart: Havre, 1 January 1851  
Arrive: New York, 17 January 1851

Rate: 6 decimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter (manuscript on reverse)  
29¢ postage due in Georgetown, D.C.

Notes: Prepayment was outgoing ship letter fee for a letter originating beyond the departure port weighing less than 7½ grams. Only 5 voyages from Havre to New York occurred before the U.S. inland rates changed in July 1851. Covers showing the American packet rates carried by Havre Line steamers are quite uncommon.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857  
15 February 1849-1 September 1851



Folded Letter: New York to Marseille, 22 January 1851

Ship: *Pacific*

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

Depart: New York, 22 January 1851  
Arrive: Liverpool, 3 February 1851

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid from Liverpool to France  
8 decimes postage due in Marseille

Notes: Letter sent "out of the mails" to a Liverpool agent, probably in another letter or package. Agent posted letter at Liverpool unpaid to Marseille. Paris marked 8 decimes postage due, the rate for a letter originating in the U.K. Had letter come from the U.S. in the mails, it would not have had a Liverpool datestamp and would have been charged 15 decimes in France. Unusual transatlantic letter to France.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
15 February 1849–1 September 1851

PAID  
21



**Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris, 22 February 1851**

Ship: *Baltic*

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

Depart: New York, 5 March 1851  
Arrive: Liverpool, 17 March 1851

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

Notes: Postage due was  $2 \times 15 = 30$  decimes for a double rate (7½–15 gram letter). Check mark in upper left corner made by Paris to indicate two rates. Postage due in France was same regardless of whether carried by British or American packet. Essentially, the British were compensated for sea expenses even though an American packet carried letter and the British incurred no expenses.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857

15 February 1849-1 September 1851

COLONIES  
&c ART.13.



Folded Letter: New York to Cognac, France, 9 May 1851

Ship: *Pacific*

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

Depart: New York, 10 May 1851

Arrive: Liverpool, 20 May 1851

Rate: 42¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet  
45 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: Letter prepaid 2x21¢ = 42¢ for double British open mail rate by American packet (pencil upper left corner). London marked COLONIES/&c.ART.13 to show France was debited under letter bill accounting article 13 for this unpaid letter from the U.K. to France. Paris marked 16 grams letter weight (upper left corner) and 3x15 = 45 decimes postage due for triple rate in France.



## U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
15 February 1849–1 September 1851



Envelope: Monticello, Georgia to Paris, 5 June 1851

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 14 June 1851

Arrive: Southampton, 27 June 1851

Rate: 24¢ prepaid for outgoing American packet rate  
30 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Letter prepaid 24¢, the rate by American packet directly to France. Since the letter arrived in New York after the Havre Line steamer left, New York placed it on the next American packet steamer to G.B. rather than wait a few weeks for next Havre steamer. Thus, letter overpaid 3¢ for the route chosen. Letter struck on reverse with circular datestamp of Southampton in blue and sent across the Channel directly to Havre. French marked letter for 2x15–30 decimes postage due. Scarce routing to France.

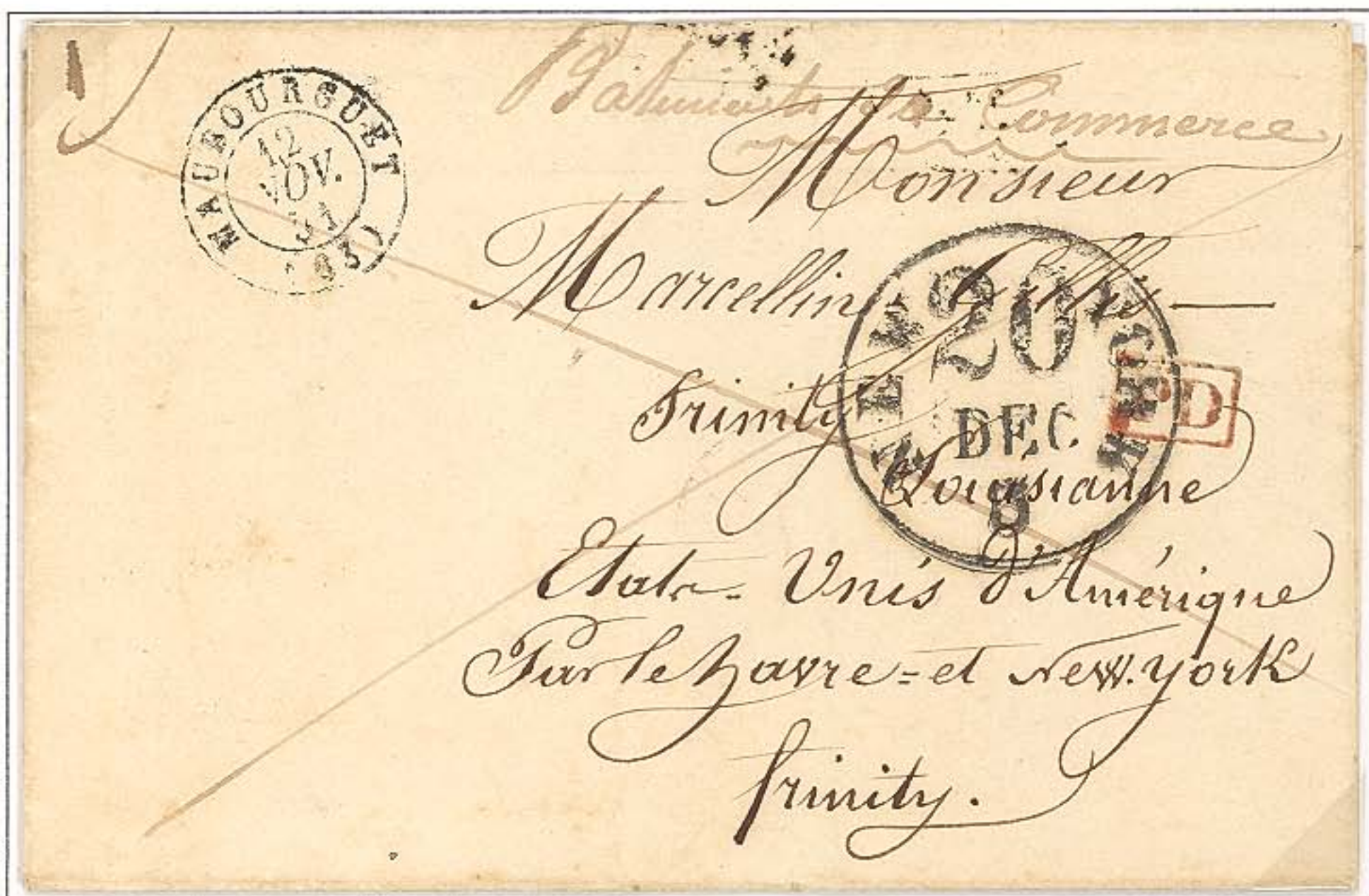


# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857  
1 July 1851–1 April 1857

*Patrimoine du Commerce*



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Maubourguet, France to Trinity, Louisiana, 12 November 1851

Ship: *Humboldt*

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

Depart: Havre, 20 November 1851  
Arrive: New York, 5 December 1851

Rate: 6 decimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter (manuscript on reverse)  
20¢ postage due in Trinity

Notes: Endorsement at top of letter indicated letter writer wanted it to go by commercial vessel, which meant a mail ship from Havre rather than the regular mails sent via G.B. Prepayment was outgoing ship letter fee for a letter originating beyond the departure port weighing less than 7½ grams. From 1 July 1851, the American packet rate on mails directly to or from France was 20¢ regardless of distance from the steamship port.



U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 July 1851-1 April 1857



Folded Letter: Bremen to Baltimore, 18 December 1851

Ship: *Franklin*

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

Depart: Havre, 21 December 1851  
Arrive: New York, 3 January 1852

Rate: 18 grote      prepaid for single rate  
20¢                  postage due in Baltimore

Notes: Letter posted in Thurn & Taxis Post Office in Bremen. Prepayment in faint red crayon (partially erased) to left of oval P.D. marking. This paid all transit fees by Thurn & Taxis Post to Havre. Bremen sent very little mail by this route to Havre and covers showing its use are quite uncommon.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 July 1851-1 April 1857



Folded Letter: Havre to Warren, Maine, 17 February 1852

Ship: *Franklin*

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

Depart: Havre, 18 February 1852  
Arrive: New York, 2 March 1852

Rate: 6 decimes prepaid for outgoing ship letter  
20¢ postage due in Warren

Notes: Letter prepaid 60 centimes (6 decimes) marked in pencil on reverse, the outgoing ship letter rate for a 7½-15 gram letter from the departure port. New York marked 20¢ postage due and used a local circular datestamp.



## U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857



**Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Bordeaux, 28 August 1852**

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: New York, 4 September 1852  
Arrive: Liverpool, 14 September 1852

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

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York, where unknown forwarding agent posted it, paying the 21¢ rate. It was carried from Havana on the U.S. Mail Steamship Company steamer *Empire City*, which arrived in New York on 3 September 1852. French entry marking showed letter from the U.S. by American packet and was processed on the ambulant from Calais to Paris.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 July 1851-1 April 1857



Folded Letter: New York to Bordeaux, France, 24 September 1852

Ship: *Humboldt*

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

Depart: New York, 25 September 1852

Arrive: Havre, 8 October 1852

Rate: 40¢ prepaid for double rate  
18 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Notes: Letter prepaid double American packet rate of 2x20¢=40¢, written in pencil on left side. Havre marked triple rate ship letter going beyond the port (3x6 decimes= 18 decimes), the postage due for a 15-22½ gram letter. Letter sender, John Durand & Co., used red oval forwarder's marking on reverse as calling card.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Paris, 23 April 1853

Ship: *Washington*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 23 April 1853  
Arrive: Southampton, 7 May 1853

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

Notes: Ocean Line steamers stopped in the Solent between Southampton and Cowes, Isle of Wight, *enroute* to and from Bremerhaven, to put off mails for G.B. and France. The French mails were then sent directly across the Channel to Havre by auxiliary steamer or to London for the route by Dover and Calais. This letter was sent via London.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857  
1 July 1851–1 April 1857



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Paris to Richmond, Virginia, 8 May 1853

Ship: *Franklin*

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

Depart: Havre, 11 May 1853  
Arrive: New York, 24 May 1853

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
20¢ postage due in Richmond

Notes: Letter carried privately to Havre by B.G. Wainwright & Co. acting as a forwarding agent and placed in ship letter bag without going into French mail system. New York marked letter for 20¢ postage due, the direct rate by American packet from France.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 July 1851-1 April 1857



Folded Letter: Havana, Cuba to Bordeaux via New York, 24 May 1853

Ship: *Franklin*

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

Depart: New York, 4 June 1853  
Arrive: Havre, 16 June 1853

Rate: 20¢ prepaid for single, direct rate  
6 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

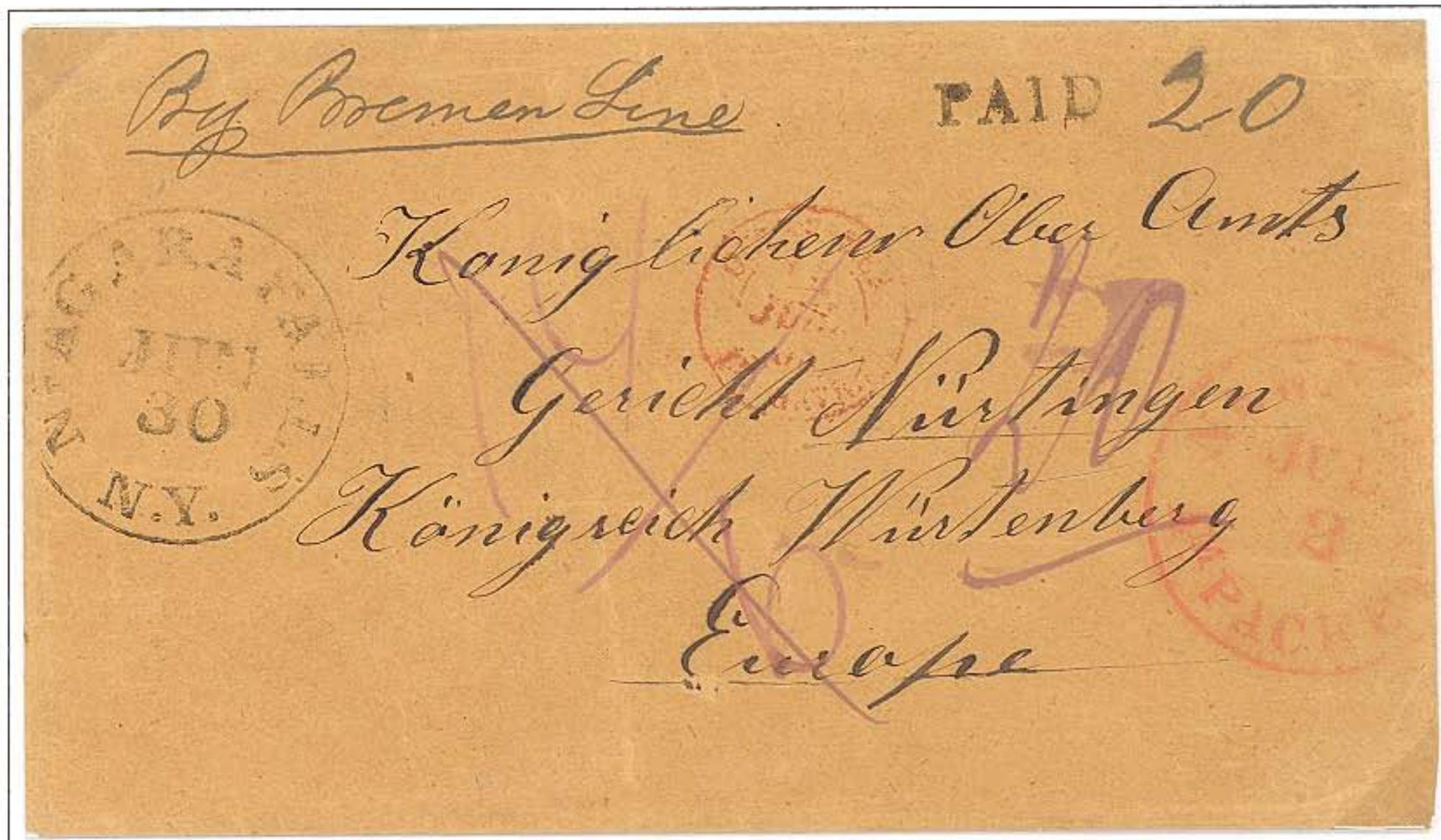
Notes: Printed circular carried "out of the mails" from Havana on the U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Empire City*, departing Havana on 29 May and arriving at New York on 3 June 1853. Since circular had writing on it it had to be considered a letter and was prepaid 20¢, written hastily in pencil. Havre marked 6 decimes postage due for a simple ship letter going beyond the port.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857  
1 July 1851–1 April 1857



Envelope: Niagara Falls, New York to Nürtingen, Württemberg, 30 June 1853

Ship: *Humboldt*

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

Depart: New York, 2 July 1853

Arrive: Havre, 14 July 1853

Rate: 20¢ prepaid for single, direct rate  
20 kreuzer postage due in Nürtingen

Notes: Although endorsed "By Bremen Line" letter insufficiently paid for Bremen Line (22¢ rate to Württemberg). New York sent letter on the Havre Line directly to France at 20¢ rate. Württemberg marked letter for 20 kreuzer postage due, showing break down of postage, 14 kreuzer to France and 6 kreuzer to Württemberg.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857

21



Envelope: Vire, France to Society Hill, South Carolina, 22 July 1853

Ship: *Baltic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 27 July 1853  
Arrive: New York, 7 August 1853

Rate: 16 decimes prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet  
21¢ postage due in Society Hill

Notes: Letter prepaid 2x8=16 decimes for double rate by British Open Mail and American packet (manuscript on reverse). Letter in a closed mail bag through G.B. and shows no London datestamp. New York marked postage due of 21¢.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857

1 September 1851–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: Havre to Kingston, Massachusetts, 5 February 1854

Ship: *Baltic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 8 February 1854

Arrive: New York, 20 February 1854

Rate: 8 decimes      prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet  
21¢                      postage due in Kingston

Notes: Letter from ship captain who arrived in the port with cargo. V. Marziou & Co. of Havre, acting as forwarding agents, placed his letter in the Bureau Maritime in Havre and marked steamer endorsement on the top of the cover.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857

PAID  
21



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New Orleans to Cornimont, France, 19 April 1854

Ship: *Arctic*

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

Depart: New York, 29 April 1854  
Arrive: Liverpool, 10 May 1854

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

Notes: By paying 21¢ the letter writer could accommodate the British Open Mail rate of the "first steamer via Liverpool" whether it was a British packet (5¢ required) or an American packet (21¢ required).



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857



**Folded Letter: Paris to New York, 12 June 1854**

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 14 June 1854  
Arrive: New York, 25 June 1854

Rate: 8 decimes      probably prepaid but not shown  
21¢                    postage due in New York

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid 8 decimes for the open mail rate by American packet from England, but neither this amount nor the post office datestamp of origin are 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  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857  
1 September 1851-1 January 1857

# 42



**Folded Letter: Marseilles to New York, 12 December 1854**

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

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

Rate: 16 decimes probably prepaid but not shown  
42¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid  $2 \times 8 = 16$  decimes for double open mail rate by American packet from England, but neither this amount nor the post office datestamp of origin are shown. Reason for absence of French postal markings unknown. *Atlantic* departed Liverpool on 16 December 1854, returned to port with a broken rudder, and sailed again on 18 December.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 July 1851-1 April 1857



Envelope: Saalfeld in Thüringen, Saxe-Meininge to New York, 9 January 1855

Ship: *Union*

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

Depart: Havre, 17 January 1855  
Arrive: New York, 3 February 1855

Rate: 43 kreuzer prepaid for all transit fees to Havre  
20¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter prepaid 9 kr. internal GAPU transit and 34 kr. foreign transit and taken by the Thurn & Taxis Post to Havre, a scarce route for letters to the U.S. The Thurn & Taxis Post marked the breakdown of the transit fees lower left. New York marked letter for 20¢, the incoming American packet rate by direct steamer from Havre.



# U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty

American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857

1 September 1851–1 January 1857



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: Havre to Kennebunkport, Maine, 9 March 1855

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 10 March 1855

Arrive: New York, 27 March 1855

Rate: 8 decimes      probably prepaid but not shown  
21¢                      postage due in New York

Notes: Letter must have been prepaid 8 decimes for the open mail rate by American packet from England, but neither this amount nor the post office datestamp of origin are 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  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857



**Folded Letter: New York to Paris, 4 September 1855**

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: New York, 5 September 1855  
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 September 1855

Rate: 42¢ prepaid for double British Open Mail rate by American packet  
24 decimes postage due in Paris

Notes: Paris marked three rates in upper left corner and 3x8 = 24 decimes postage due for this 15–22½ gram letter. Weight of 18 grams written in lower left corner. French entry marking, struck on ambulant from Calais to Paris, indicated letter from the United States by American packet to G.B.



## U.S. – French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847–1857  
1 September 1851–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: New York to Paris, 30 October 1855

Ship: *Hermann*

Company: Ocean Steam Navigation Company  
(Ocean Line)

Depart: New York, 3 November 1855  
Arrive: Southampton, 19 November 1855

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

Notes: *Hermann* carried French mails on this voyage to Bremerhaven, stopping at Southampton to put off the non-German mails. Letter routed via London and Calais. Paris marked two rates required (manuscript mark upper left) and  $2 \times 8 = 16$  decimes postage due.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 July 1851-1 April 1857

PAID  
20



Folded Letter: Philadelphia to Cognac, France, 16 November 1855

Ship: Arago

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

Depart: New York, 17 November 1855

Arrive: Havre, 30 November 1855

Rate: 20¢ prepaid for all transit fees to Havre  
6 decimes postage due in Cognac

Notes: Letter prepaid 20¢ for the American packet rate by direct steamer to Havre. Discovery copy of the Philadelphia marking showing 20¢ prepayment. Postage due was incoming ship letter fee for a 7½ gram letter to a destination beyond the arrival port.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857  
1 September 1851-1 January 1857



Folded Letter: New Orleans to Paris, 21 February 1856

Ship: *Atlantic*

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

Depart: New York, 1 March 1856  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 March 1856

Rate: \$1.20      paid American packet directly to France  
13 Francs      postage due in Paris

Notes: Heavy letter paid 6 x 20¢ = \$1.20 for 2-3 ounce rate by American packet directly to France. New York elected to send letter by American packet to England (6 x 21¢ = \$1.26 rate) even though underpaid by 6¢. French marked letter weighed 70 grams, which required 10 rates, then marked letter for 10 x 13 decimes = 130 decimes or 13 Francs, the rate by British packet via England. Heavy letters such as this are uncommon.



# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
American Contract Steamship via G.B.

1847-1857  
1 September 1851-1 January 1857



Envelope: Charleston, South Carolina to Paris, 21 April 1856

Ship: *Baltic*

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

Depart: New York, 26 April 1856  
Arrive: Liverpool, 7 May 1856

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

Notes: French entry marking, struck on ambulant from Calais to Paris, indicated letter from the United States by American packet to G.B. Red crayon "21" above Charleston circular datestamp was marked when letter taken to the post office and paid. In the upper left corner was marked a red crayon "1" for a single rate. Later the Charleston postmaster wrote the rate in black ink next to the PAID handstamp.





24 January 1851 New Orleans to Paris  
42¢ prepaid for double British open mail rate by American packet  
45 decimes postage due in Paris

**Arctic** 11 days (East)  
Postage due = 3x15 decimes for 15-22½ grams,  
same postage due whether carried by British or  
American packet



Via U.S.

per Ste<sup>r</sup> Washington

Messrs B. L. Foulds, Fould & Oesper  
Paris.



Paris.



27 September 1855 Havana, Cuba to Paris  
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet  
8 decimes postage due in Paris

Washington 15 days (East)  
Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York where  
forwarding agent Daniel Curtis & Co. posted letter



U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1847–1857  
1 Sep 51–1 Jan 57



20 November 1855 Mobile, Alabama to Paris  
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet  
8 decimes postage due in Paris

*Pacific* 11 days (East)  
Mobile used "3 PAID" datestamp as origin marking  
and separate numeral "21" to show prepayment



23 November 1855 Haslach, Baden to New York  
37 kreuzer prepaid (manuscript on reverse)  
21¢ postage due in New York

*Baltic* 12 days (West)  
Letter posted at Offenbach, Baden  
Prepayment = 3 kr. Baden transit and 34 kr. to France  
"T.F." handstamp indicated "Transit Français"



# U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

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

1847–1857  
1 Sep 51–1 Jan 57



Key Box 65

23 November 1855 Charleston to Bordeaux  
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet  
16 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

**Pacific** 11 days (East)  
Postage due = 2x8 decimes for 7½–15 gram letter  
G.A.Hopley & Co. charged letter payment to  
"Key Box 65" as endorsed upper right



**U.S. – France Mails by Steamship**

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

1847–1857  
1 Jan 57–1 Apr 57



**5 January 1857** Charleston to Paris  
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet  
5 decimes postage due in Paris

**Ericsson** 15 days (East)  
Steamer chartered by Collins Line for  
11 round voyages in 1856–57



**17 January 1857** New York to Paris  
21¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet  
5 decimes postage due in Paris

**Ericsson** 15 days (East)  
Letter carried on same voyage as cover above  
London arrival 2 Feb 57 (backstamp)



# U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
5 Oct 50-1 Jul 51

The first American contract steamship service directly to France commenced on 5 October 1850 by the New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company. At the time, the American packet rate was 24¢ plus either 5¢ or 10¢ U.S. inland fee depending on the distance to New York being less than or greater than 300 miles. The 24¢, 29¢, and 34¢ rates on this mail was in effect for only nine months before U.S. rates changed. These rates are found on only seven outgoing and five incoming Havre Line voyages.



2 March 1851 Bremen to Baltimore  
18 grote prepaid for all transit fees to French port  
29¢ postage due in Baltimore

Franklin 14 days (West)  
Postage due consisted of 24¢ American packet fee plus  
5¢ U.S. inland fee from New York to Baltimore



Letter taken to Thurn & Taxis post office in Bremen and paid 18 grote for all transit fees to Le Havre. This was a very scarce route for mail from Bremen and very few examples are known. Letters carried on the direct steamship service to and from France showing the 24¢, 29¢ and 34¢ rates are quite uncommon.



# U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
5 Oct 50-1 Jul 51



5 March 1851 Paris to Portland, Connecticut  
6 decimes prepaid (manuscript on reverse)  
29¢ postage due in Portland

*Franklin* 14 days (West)  
Postage due consisted of 24¢ American packet fee  
plus 5¢ U.S. inland fee from New York to Portland



U.S. – France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. – French Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857  
1 Jul 51–1 Apr 57



13 February 1853 Le Havre to Kingston, Massachusetts  
3 decimes probably prepaid (not shown)  
20¢ postage due in Kingston

**Humboldt** 11 days (West)  
New York used both a 30 and 33 mm cds with  
integral "20" rate marking, this the smaller one



20

21 October 1853 Baltimore to Le Puy-en-Velay  
20¢ prepaid for direct American packet rate  
6 decimes postage due in Le Puy-en-Velay

**Humboldt** 16 days (East)  
Blue PAID/3 handstamp applied in error  
Prepaid 20¢ letters are uncommon as preference was to  
pay 21¢ so letter could go on any American packet



U.S. - France Mails by Steamship

Pre U.S. - French Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850-1857  
1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57



6 May 1855 Lauterecken, Rhennish Bavaria to Roxbury, Mass.  
18 kreuzer prepaid (not shown)  
20¢ postage due in Roxbury

*Union* 17 days (West)  
French entry at Forbach from Bavaria and  
processed on railroad car to Paris



(Reverse)

18 July 1855 Havana, Cuba to Bordeaux  
20¢ prepaid in New York for American packet rate  
6 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

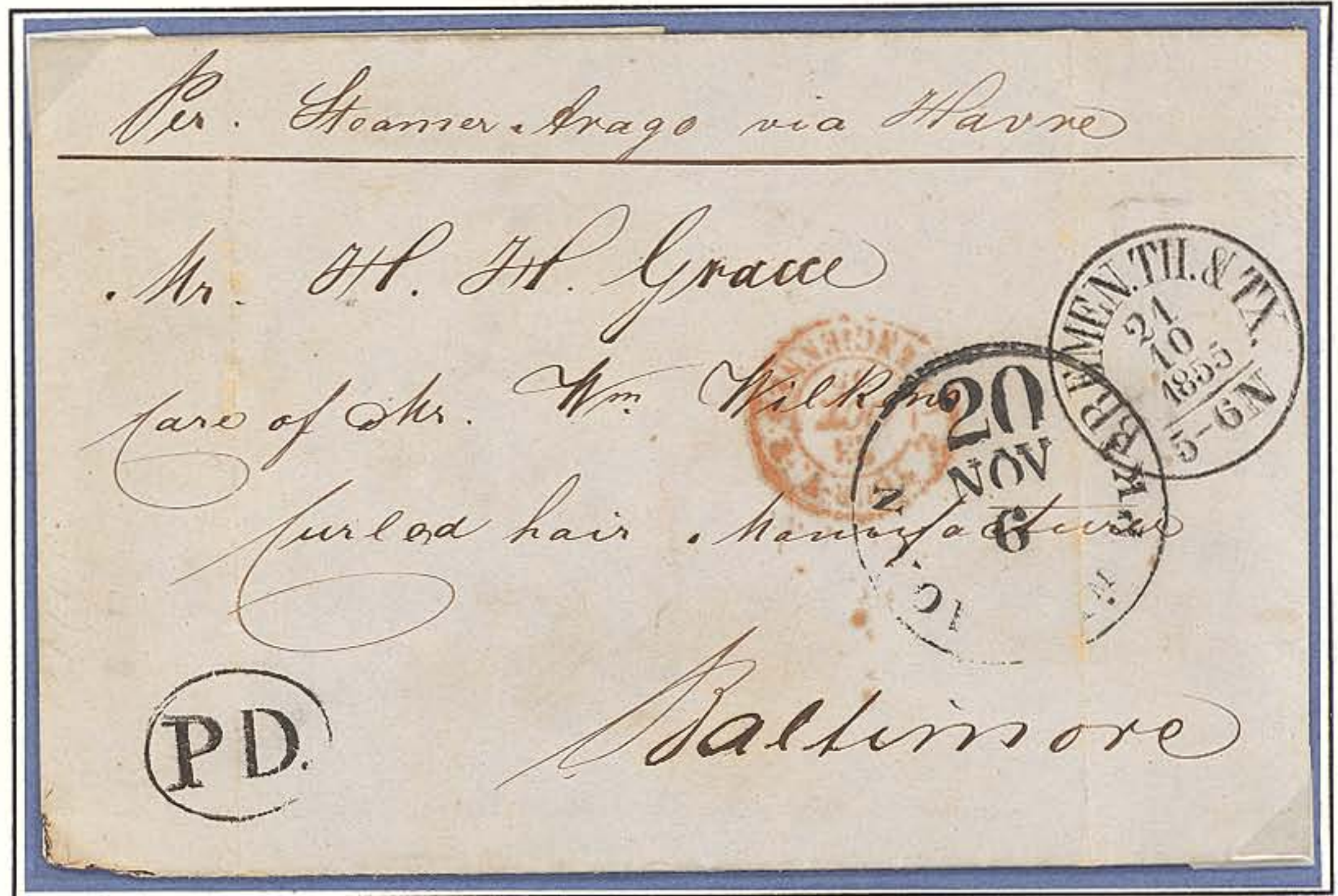
*Arago* 13 days (East)  
Letter carried "out of the mails" to New York where  
forwarding agent Fort & Lindam posted it



**U.S. – France Mails by Steamship**

Pre U.S. – French Treaty  
American Contract Steamship Direct

1850–1857  
1 Jul 51–1 Apr 57



**21 October 1855** Bremen to Baltimore  
43 kreuzer prepaid (not shown)  
20¢ postage due in Baltimore

**Arago** 13 days (West)  
Prepayment included 28 kr. to France and 4 kr. to Belgium  
Routing through France to Le Havre was quite uncommon



**DRAPER & HAGENOW**  
**HAVRE.**  
(Reverse)

**18 November 1856** Paris to Philadelphia  
Letter sent unpaid (placed in ship letter bag at Le Havre)  
20¢ postage due in Philadelphia

**Arago** 16 days (West)  
Letter carried "out of the mails" to Le Havre where  
forwarding agent Draper & Hagenow posted it  
Blue "Par Steamer/P" les États-Unis" private marking of  
John Monroe & Co. of Paris