rancisco Californio Via Liverpool

New york.

42

29 December 1859 Geneva, Switzerland to San Francisco Letter sent unpaid (2x21¢ rate) 42¢ postage due in San Francisco

Europa 16 days (West) 2x18¢ = 36¢ French debit to U.S. Boston applied "42" rate handstamp

Pre U.S. – French Treaty American Contract Steamship Direct 1850-1857 1 Jul 51-1 Apr 57

PAID 26



14 January 1854 San Francisco to Bordeaux 26¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet 6 decimes postage due in Bordeaux Franklin 12 days (East)
By Sep 1853, San Francisco used a
straightline PAID26 rate marking

Pre U.S. - French Treaty American Contract Steamship via G.B. 1847-1857 15 Feb 49-1 Jul 51

56



31 May 1851 San Francisco to Paris 56¢ prepaid for West Coast American packet rate 8 decimes postage due in Paris

Hermann 14 days (East)
Prepayment included 40¢ U.S. inland and 16¢ sea postage
French "Audos" refers to revised address on reverse

In mid-1851, Great Britain and France made a provisional agreement for reduced rates on mails transiting England. The agreement, not formally placed in effect until 1 September 1851, reduced the rate on letters conveyed by American packet from 15 to 8 decimes per 7½ grams.

This envelope was carried by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer Tennessee to Panama City and the Empire City Line steamer Empire City to New York, where it was transferred to the Ocean Line steamer Hermann.

It shows the scarce handstamp "56" of San Francisco, introduced in November 1850 and used only until July 1851 when the U.S. rates changed. The envelope also shows the provisional 8 decime postage due rating. One other cover is known from this voyage with the same provisional rating.

1847-1857 1 September 1851-1 January 1857

26



Folded Letter: San Francisco to Bordeaux, France, 30 September 1852

Ship:

Baltic

Company:

New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company

(Collins Line)

Depart: Arrive: New York, 30 October 1852 Liverpool, 10 November 1852

Rate:

26¢

prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet (West Coast)

8 decimes

postage due in Bordeaux

Notes:

Letter carried from San Francisco by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Tennessee* to Panama City and U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Georgia* from Aspinwall to New York. Paris marked the postage due of 8 decimes. Rare blue color used at San Francisco only from 1 October - 16 November 1852. (4 examples recorded as of 06/03)

1847-1857 1 September 1851-1 January 1857



Envelope: San Francisco to Brest, France, 2 March 1852

Ship:

Pacific

Company:

New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company

(Collins Line)

Depart: Arrive:

New York, 3 April 1852 Liverpool, 15 April 1852

Rate:

26¢

prepaid for outgoing American packet rate (West Coast)

8 decimes

postage due in Brest

Notes:

Letter carried from San Francisco by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer Northerner to Panama City and U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer Crescent City from Chagres to

New York. Paris marked the postage due of 8 decimes.

Pre 1857 Treaty American Contract Steamship Direct 1850-1857 1 July 1851-1 April 1857





Folded Letter: San Francisco to Herford, Prussia, 31 May 1852

Ship:

Franklin

Company:

New York & Havre Steam Navigation Company

(Havre Line)

Depart: Arrive: New York, 3 July 1852 Havre, 15 July 1852

Rate:

26¢

prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet

131/2 silbergroschen postage due in Herford

Notes:

Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer *Tennessee* to Panama and United States Mail Steamship Company steamer *Crescent City* from Chagres to New York. Aachen indicated letter entered Prussia from France (Thurn & Taxis Post) and marked 13½ silbergroschen for double rate letter. This is only cover recorded from California to Prussia sent by New York directly to France instead of in the open mails via G.B.

1857 Treaty French Contract Steamship Direct 1857-1870 15 June 1864-31 December 1869

45



Folded Letter: San Francisco to Cognac, France, 12 November 1864

Ship:

Washington

Company:

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique

(French Line H)

Depart: Arrive: New York, 7 December 1864

Havre, 20 December 1864

Rate:

– letter sent unpaid

6¢ U.S. debit to France

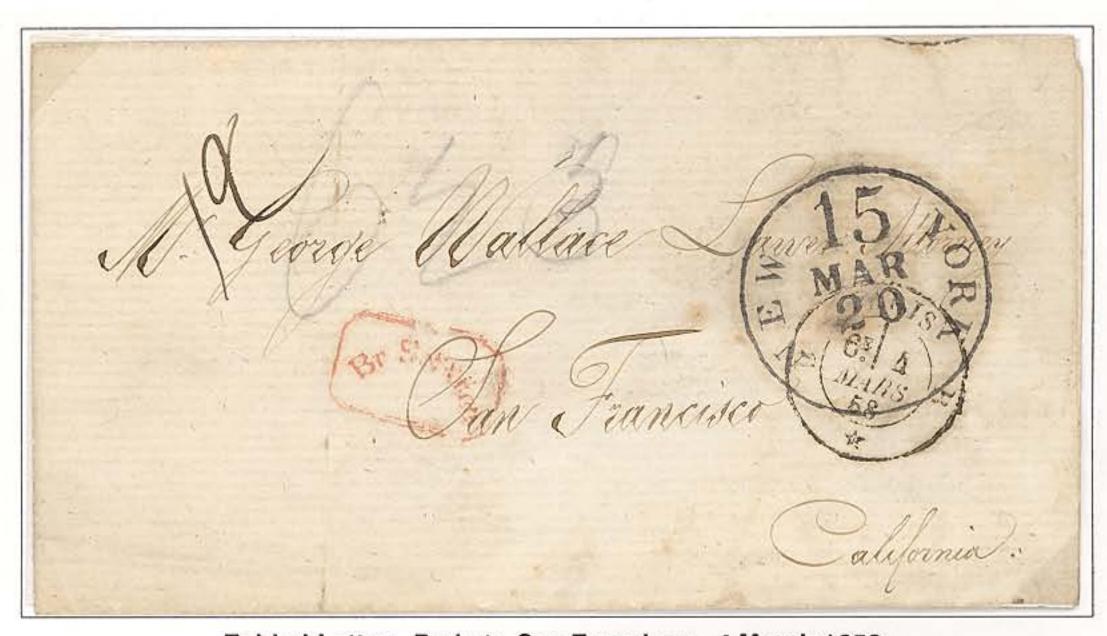
16 decimes postage due in Salins

Notes:

San Francisco marked unpaid letter rate as 45¢, a triple rate for 15–22½ grams by weight. Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Golden Age* to Panama and U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Costa Rica* from Aspinwall to New York. Paris considered letter weight under 15 grams and marked letter for 2x8=16 decimes

postage due.

1857 Treaty British Contract Steamship via G.B. 1857-1870 1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: Paris to San Francisco, 4 March 1858

Ship:

Arabia

Company:

British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

(Cunard Line)

Depart:

Arrive:

Liverpool, 6 March 1858 New York, 20 March 1858

Rate:

– – letter sent unpaid

12¢ French debit to U.S. for single rate

15¢ postage due in San Francisco

Notes:

Although San Francisco was named an exchange office in the original postal convention with France, it apparently was never an exchange office for outgoing mails under this convention and was an exchange office for incoming French mails only for a few months until late in 1857. Very few cover examples exist that show San Francisco as an exchange office. Markings on this cover illustrate that New York

exchanged mails for San Francisco in March 1858.

1857 Treaty British Contract Steamship via G.B. 1857-1870 1 April 1857-31 December 1869



Folded Letter: San Francisco to Chilleurs-aux-Bois, France, 20 January 1860

Ship:

Asia

Company:

British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

(Cunard Line)

Depart:

New York, 15 February 1860

Arrive: Liverpool, 27 February 1860

Rate:

30¢

paid for double rate letter

24¢

U.S. credit to France

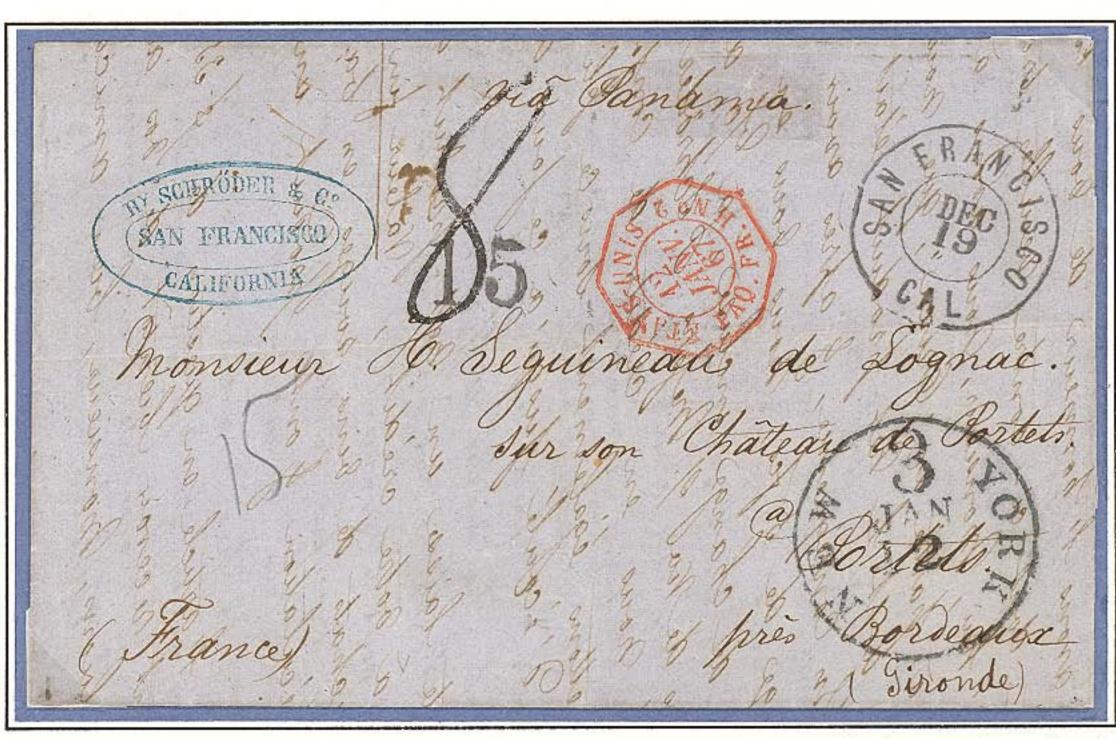
Notes:

San Francisco marked prepayment in red crayon first and later with circular datestamp. New York credited France 2x12¢=24¢, retaining only 2x3¢=6¢ since British contract

steamship carried letter to U.K.

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857 French Contract Steamship Direct 1864-1870 15 Jun 64-1 Jan 70





18 December 1866 San Francisco to Chateau de Portets Letter sent unpaid 8 decimes postage due at destination Péreire 12 days (East)
3¢ U.S. debit to France
French mail agent on steamer struck red octagonal
datestamp upon departure from New York

U.S. – French Treaty of 1857 British Contract Steamship via G.B. 1857-1870 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70



30 October 1866 San Francisco to Bordeaux Letter sent unpaid (double rate) 16 decimes postage due in Bordeaux Java 9 days (East)

2x3¢ = 6¢ U.S. debit to France

San Francisco marked through rate of

2x15¢ with circle "30" handstamp

1847–1857 1 September 1851–1 January 1857



Folded Letter: San Francisco to Cognac, France, 30 July 1853

1847-1857 1 September 1851-1 January 1857



Envelope: San Francisco to Sermaises-du-Loiret, France, 20 June 1856

Ship:

Baltic

Company:

New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company

(Collins Line)

Depart: Arrive:

New York, 19 July 1856 Liverpool, 30 July 1856

Rate:

26¢

paid for British open mail rate by American packet (West Coast)

8 decimes

postage due in Sermaises-du-Loiret

Notes:

Letter paid 26¢, marked first in pencil then by circular datestamp. It was carried to Panama City by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer Sonora and from Aspinwall to New York by United States Steamship Co. steamer George Law. San Francisco combined

rate with circular datestamp starting in the spring of 1855.

1847-1857 1 September 1851-1 January 1857





Folded Letter: San Francisco to Cognac, France, 15 July 1853

Ship:

Washington

Company:

Ocean Steam Navigation Company

(Ocean Line)

Depart: Arrive: New York, 13 August 1853

Southampton, 26 August 1853

Rate:

52¢

prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet (West Coast)

24 decimes postage

postage due in Cognac

Notes:

Letter prepaid 2x26¢=52¢ for double rate. It was carried to Panama City by the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer John L. Stephens and from Aspinwall to New York by the U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer Illinois. Mail put off by the Ocean Line steamers at Southampton and sent directly across the Channel to Havre by auxiliary steamer received this particular French entry marking. It has been seen only on Ocean Line covers. Postage due in France was 3x8=24 decimes.

1848 Treaty California Mail via West Indies 1849-1863 1 Jul 1851-1 Jul 1863

20



16 March 1852 Lausanne, Switzerland to San Francisco Letter carried privately to Havre; posted by forwarding agent 50 decimes paid for transit fees to Panama (manuscript on reverse) 20¢ postage due in San Francisco

Great Western 21 days (West)
Payment = 2x25 decimes (reflecting reduced British fees for this route from Jul 51); postage due for distance > 2,500 miles from Panama to S.F.



6 March 1859 Antwerp, Belgium, to San Francisco 31 decimes paid for all transit fees by West Indies route San Francisco marked PAID and "783" for recipient's box number

(Pencil reverse)

Thames/Medway 28 days (West)
Prepayment consisted of 2 dec. Belgian and 29 dec. British
fees (marked on reverse); RMSP Co. steamers carried
letter from Southampton to St. Thomas and Colon

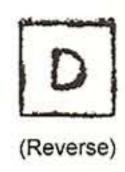
1848 Treaty California Mail via U.S. East Coast 1849-1863 Prior to 9 Sep 1850

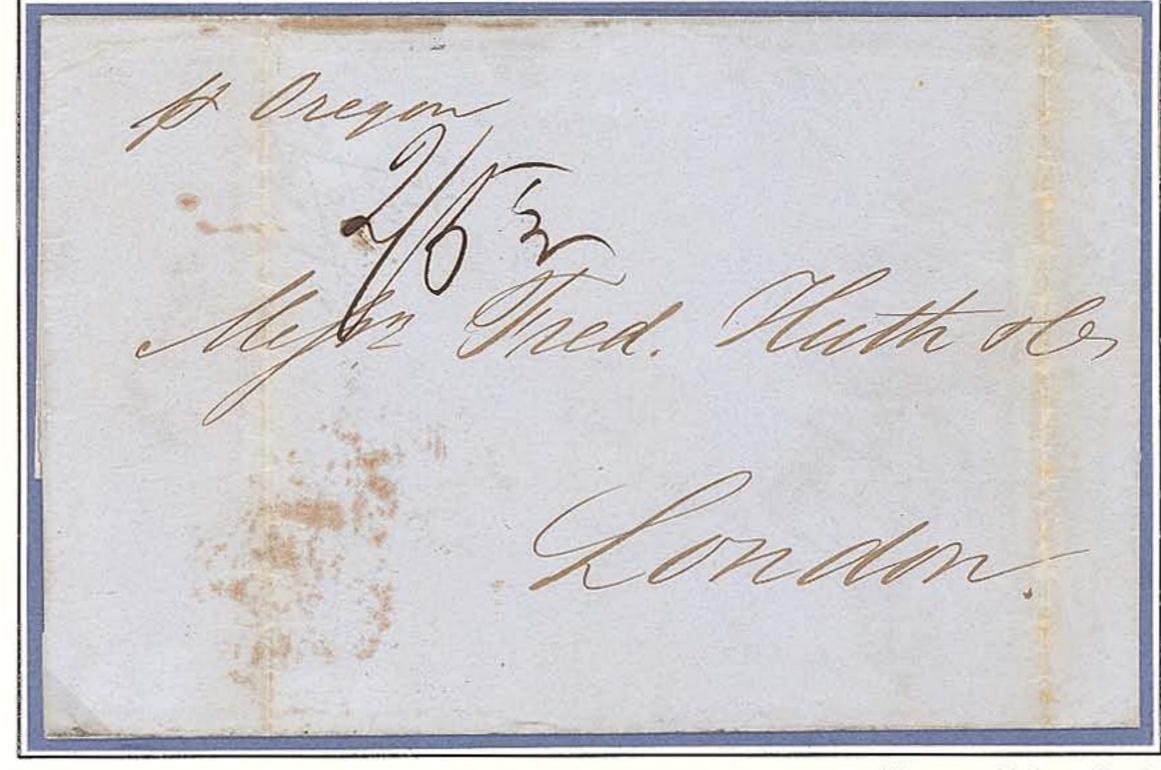




30 June 1850 San Francisco to Bordeaux, France 56¢ paid (British Open Mail rate by Am. packet - West Coast) 21 decimes postage due in Bordeaux

Hermann 14 days (East)
Prepayment included 40¢ U.S. inland and 16¢ transatlantic fees; postage due of 21 decimes marked at Havre in error (rate for West Coast of South America via Panama)





30 August 1850 San Francisco to London Letter sent unpaid 40¢ U.S. debit to G.B. (not shown) 2s5½d postage due in London (59¢ rate)

Niagara 11 days (East)
Letter carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer Oregon to Panama
and U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer Georgia from Chagres to New
York; Scarce boxed "D" applied at Liverpool (may be inspector's mark)

U.S. - French Treaty of 1857
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870 1 Apr 57-1 Jan 70

On 1 April 1857, the first postal convention between the United States and France went into effect. It was now possible to send mail fully paid to destination or to the limits of either country's mail system. The rate breakdown for a ¼ oz. (7½ gm.) letter by British packet service via Great Britain was:

U.S. inland 3¢
Sea 6¢
Br. transit 2¢
Fr. transit 4¢

15¢ or 8 decimes

Paid letter posted in France - U.S. credited 3¢ Paid letter posted in U.S. - France credited 12¢ Unpaid letter posted in France - U.S. debited 12¢; Unpaid letter posted in U.S. - France debited 3¢



7 July 1857 Paris to San Francisco 8 decimes prepaid for single rate 3¢ French credit to U.S. Asia 13 days (West) 7 gram weight marked upper left San Francisco marked black PAID

(Reverse)

This letter was placed in a closed mail bag at Paris and not opened until San Francisco. It was carried from New York to Aspinwall by the U.S. Mail Steamship Company steamer *Illinois* and from Panama City to San Francisco by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer *John L. Stephens*. "1077" in pencil was box number of San Francisco recipient. French credit to U.S. of 3¢ written in pen below letter weight in upper left.

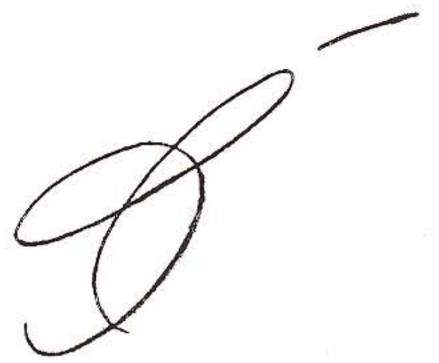


15 December 1852 San Francisco to Marseille 26¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by American packet 6 decimes postage due in Marseille

Humboldt 14 days (East)
By mid-Dec 1852, San Francisco shifted to black ink
Letter carried by PMSS Co. steamer Tennessee to Panama
and USMSS Co. steamer Illinois to New York

Pre 1857 Treaty British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1840-1857 1 August 1849-1 July 1851





Folded Letter: San Francisco to Paris, 16 June 1850

Ship:

Cambria

Company:

British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

(Cunard Line)

Depart:

Boston, 21 August 1850

Arrive:

Liverpool, 2 September 1850

Rate:

5¢

prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet

15 decimes

postage due in Paris

Notes:

Letter carried "out of the mails" from San Francisco to New York (probably in package with other letters to avoid very high west coast rate) by mail steamers California to Panama, Georgia to Havana, and Ohio to New Orleans (by accident). Hargous Brothers

of New York posted letter and paid 5¢ rate marked in pencil at New York.