

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849
27 June 1848–3 January 1849

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Folded Letter: St. Andrews, Scotland to Philadelphia, 27 July 1848

Ship: *Acadia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 29 July 1848
Arrive: Boston, 13 August 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate
34¢ postage due (10¢ inland and 24¢ retaliatory fees)

Notes: Letter carried on sixth Cunard mail voyage to the U.S. under the retaliatory order. Faint orange circular PAID datestamp at top struck at Edinburgh, from which letter sent directly to Liverpool.

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Folded Letter: London to Newark, New Jersey, 4 August 1848

Ship:	<i>Cambria</i>	
Company:	British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (Cunard Line)	
Depart:	Liverpool, 5 August 1848	
Arrive:	New York, 19 August 1848	
Rate:	1 shilling 29¢	prepaid for single packet rate postage due (5¢ inland and 24¢ retaliatory fees)
Notes:	Letter posted in Lombard Street post office, London, and carried on seventh Cunard mail voyage to the U.S. under the retaliatory order.	

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Folded Letter: Glasgow, Scotland to New York, 17 August 1848

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1848
Arrive: New York, 31 August 1848

Rate: 2 shilling prepaid for double packet rate
48¢ postage due for double retaliatory fee

Notes: Letter carried on ninth Cunard mail voyage to the U.S. under the retaliatory order. New York marked letter for single rate (24¢ retaliatory fee), then corrected to a double rate letter by crossing thru in blue pen and re-rating letter.

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Folded Letter: London to Petersburg, Virginia, 18 August 1848

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 19 August 1848
Arrive: New York, 31 August 1848

Rate: 2 shilling prepaid for double packet rate
78¢ postage due for double retaliatory fee

Notes: Letter posted at Fenchurch Street receiving house and carried on ninth of 25 Cunard mail voyages to the U.S. under the retaliatory order. New York marked letter in blue ink erroneously for 78¢ postage due instead of the double rate of 68¢ (2x24¢ retaliatory fee plus 2x10¢ inland fee).

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Folded Letter: Liverpool to Boston, 1 September 1848

Ship: *Europa*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 2 September 1848
Arrive: New York, 14 September 1848

Rate: 2 shillings paid for double packet rate
58¢ postage due in Boston (10¢ inland and 24¢ retaliatory fees)

Notes: Letter carried on the 11th of 25 of Cunard mail voyages to the U.S. during the retaliatory rate period. New York marked the letter in blue ink for double the retaliatory rate, 2 x 24¢ = 48¢ plus 2 x 5¢ = 10¢ U.S. inland fee to Boston, totaling 58¢.

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Folded Letter: Bremen to Petersburg, Virginia, 12 September 1848

Ship: *America*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 16 September 1848
Arrive: New York, 29 September 1848

Rate: 40 grote prepaid for all transit fees to U.S. (not shown)
1s6d Bremen credit to G.B. (marked at London)
34¢ postage due in Petersburg

Notes: Letter posted at stadtpost, Bremen and travelled from Bremen via Cuxhaven by sea to England vice overland through Belgium. U.K. entitled to 6d transit fee under Anglo-Bremen Convention of 1841 and 1s packet rate to U.S. Letter carried across the Atlantic on 13th of 25 Cunard mail voyages to the U.S. under the retaliatory order. New York marked 34¢ postage due, 24¢ retaliatory fee plus 10¢ inland fee. Scarce retaliatory rate cover from Germany.

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SHIP



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Petersburg, Virginia, 23 September 1848

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 23 September 1848
Arrive: Boston, 6 October 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate
34¢ postage due at Petersburg

Notes: Letter carried on 14th of 25 Cunard mail voyage to the U.S. under the retaliatory order. Color of Boston "34" postage due marking had no significance. It was the color of ink in use at the time. Postage due consisted of 24¢ retaliatory fee plus 10¢ inland fee. Letters arriving at Boston usually received a circular datestamp that contained the word "SHIP." This is the only example recorded (as of 06/03) that had a regular internal Boston postmark and a separate handstamp "SHIP."

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Folded Letter: London to New York, 6 October 1848

Ship: *Niagara*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 7 October 1848
Arrive: Boston, 19 October 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate
29¢ postage due (5¢ inland and 24¢ retaliatory fees)

Notes: Letter carried on 16th Cunard mail voyage to the U.S. under the retaliatory order and consisted of printed prices current and manuscript letter from Baring Brothers of London.

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AMERICA per ENGLAND



Folded Letter: Boston to Leipzig, Saxony, 23 October 1848

Ship: *Britannia*

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

Depart: New York, 25 October 1848
Arrive: Liverpool, 11 November 1848

Rate: 29¢ prepaid for single retaliatory rate
3s6d U.K. debit to Prussia (½ - ¾ oz.)
482 neupfennige postage due in Leipzig

Notes: Letter carried on 17th eastbound Cunard mail voyage under the retaliatory order. London debit to Prussia consisted of 2x1/- transatlantic transit fee, 2x6d British transit fee, and 3x2d Belgian transit fee. Aachen marked boxed AMERICA per ENGLAND handstamp and letter weight of 1¼ loth. Aachen converted 3s6d to 35 sgr. and added 6½ sgr. Prussian transit fee for total of 41½ sgr. or 417 npf. Saxony added 65 npf. for total of 482 npf. postage due. Scarce retaliatory rate cover to Germany.

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Tooley St.



Folded Letter: London to New York, 10 November 1848

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 11 November 1848
Arrive: New York, 25 November 1848

Rate: 3 shilling prepaid for triple packet rate
72¢ postage due for triple retaliatory rate

Notes: Letter posted at the Tooley Street receiving house in London and paid 3 shillings, presumably for a triple rate although there was no triple rate in England at the time. The main London office allowed the payment, perhaps weighing the letter at just under 1 oz. Letter carried on the 21st of 25 Cunard mail voyages to the U.S. during the retaliatory rate period. New York marked the letter for triple the retaliatory rate, 3 x 24¢ = 72¢ since it was addressed to the arrival port. One other letter from the same correspondence and mailed at the Tooley Street receiving house is known with a 3 shillings payment.