

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867
15 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope: Leamington, England to Honeoye, New York, 23 October 1857

Ship: *Canada*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 24 October 1857
Arrive: Boston, 5 November 1857

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single treaty rate
5¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Leamington spoon duplex cancel obliterates a pair of 6 pence surface printed adhesives, trimmed. Letter in closed mail bag for New York.

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1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1867
15 February 1849-31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Gloucester, England to Boston, 6 June 1860

Ship: Asia

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

Depart: Liverpool, 9 June 1860
Arrive: New York, 21 June 1860

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single treaty rate
5¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Gloucester circular datestamp at the time used old spelling "Gloster." Letter prepaid with one shilling 1856 green adhesive (Scott #28). London credited U.S. with 5¢. (ex-Bedell)

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1849–1867
15 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Liverpool to New York, 23 August 1861

Ship: *Arabia*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 24 August 1861
Arrive: Boston, 5 September 1861

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
38¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
48¢ postage due in New York for double rate

Notes: Letter prepaid 2 pence, probably for late fees, since it was, otherwise, sent unpaid. Liverpool debited U.S. 2x19¢ = 38¢ for a double rate letter. Although 38/CENT handstamps were despatched to Liverpool, most letters from this period show manuscript debit markings.

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1869 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Folded Letter: London to Montreal, Canada, 23 February 1871

Ship: *Scandinavian*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 24 February 1871
Arrive: Portland, 7 March 1871

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single rate

Notes: Allan Line steamers called at Moville, the port city for Londonderry, Ireland, on the day following departure from Liverpool, for the London mails. This letter was in a closed mail bag from London to Montreal.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
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1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Folded Letter: London to New York, 20 July 1871

- Ship: *City of Paris*
- Company: Liverpool, New York & Philadelphia Steam Ship Company
(Inman Line)
- Depart: Queenstown, 21 July 1871
Arrive: New York, 30 July 1871
- Rate: 6 pence prepaid for double treaty rate
- Notes: Large boxed L1 was struck at London to show a late fee was required as the letter was posted after the regular mails had closed. L1 may mean a late fee of one penny. L2 and L3 markings are known. The one penny late fee, as well as the double rate, was paid with a three pence and four pence adhesive, an unusual prepayment as the late fee was usually paid with a one penny or two pence adhesive.

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1869 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875

L2



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to New York, 11 March 1872

Ship: *Rhein*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 12 March 1872
Arrive: New York, 25 March 1872

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Large boxed L2 was struck at London to show a late fee was required as the letter was posted after the regular mails had closed. L2 may mean a late fee of two pence. Late fee was paid in cash.

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1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to New York, 31 March 1873

Ship: *Main*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 1 April 1873
Arrive: New York, 11 April 1873

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Large boxed L1 was struck at London to show a late fee was required (letter posted after the regular mails had closed). The late fee was paid in cash.

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1869 Treaty
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1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to New York, 21 April 1873

Ship: *Rhein*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 22 April 1873
Arrive: New York, 2 May 1873

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Large boxed L2 was struck at London to show a late fee was required as the letter was posted after the regular mails had closed. New York circular datestamp, introduced in May 1872, indicated that all postage was paid.

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1869 Treaty
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1870-1875
1 January 1870-30 June 1875



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to New York, 25 April 1873

Ship: *Algeria*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 27 April 1873
Arrive: New York, 8 May 1873

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Letter prepaid with 3 pence adhesive, plate no. 10 (Scott No. 49).

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1869 Treaty
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1870-1875
1 January 1870-30 June 1875



(Reverse)



Envelope: At sea on steamer headed for Liverpool to Philadelphia, 29 May 1873

Ship: *Algeria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 31 May 1873
Arrive: New York, 10 June 1873

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single treaty rate

Notes: Letter written on board Cunard steamship *Russia* en route from New York to Liverpool, two days before the ship arrived at Liverpool. Upon arrival the ship's purser delivered a letter bag to the Liverpool post office containing this letter to be postmarked and sent on its way. It was prepaid with one 3 pence adhesive, plate no. 10 (Scott No. 49). The Liverpool clerk marked the boxed Ship Letter handstamp on the reverse and then the Paid Ship Letter handstamp on the front. Since the rate was the same on either a non-contract or a contract vessel, the letter was placed on the next vessel to leave, which was a contract steamer departing later that day. The absence of a ship letter marking at New York and postage due indicates letter was sent in the contract mail and not on a non-contract ship. Unusual ship letter markings on a contract mail letter.

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1869 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



Envelope: Innellan, Scotland to Montreal, Canada, 30 July 1874

Ship: *Prussian*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company
(Allan Line)

Depart: Londonderry, 31 July 1874
Arrive: Quebec, 10 August 1874

Rate: 3 pence prepaid for single rate

Notes: Mourning envelope sent directly from Grennock, Scotland to Derry (Londonderry), Ireland instead of Liverpool to catch the Allan Line steamer which called at Merville, the port city for Londonderry, Ireland, after departing Liverpool. Col(onial) Packet in the circular datestamp refers to the Canadian Allan steamship line.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
British Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 July 1875–1 April 1879



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to New York, 4 October 1875

Ship: *Main*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 5 October 1875
Arrive: New York, 17 October 1875

Rate: 2½ pence prepaid for Union rate

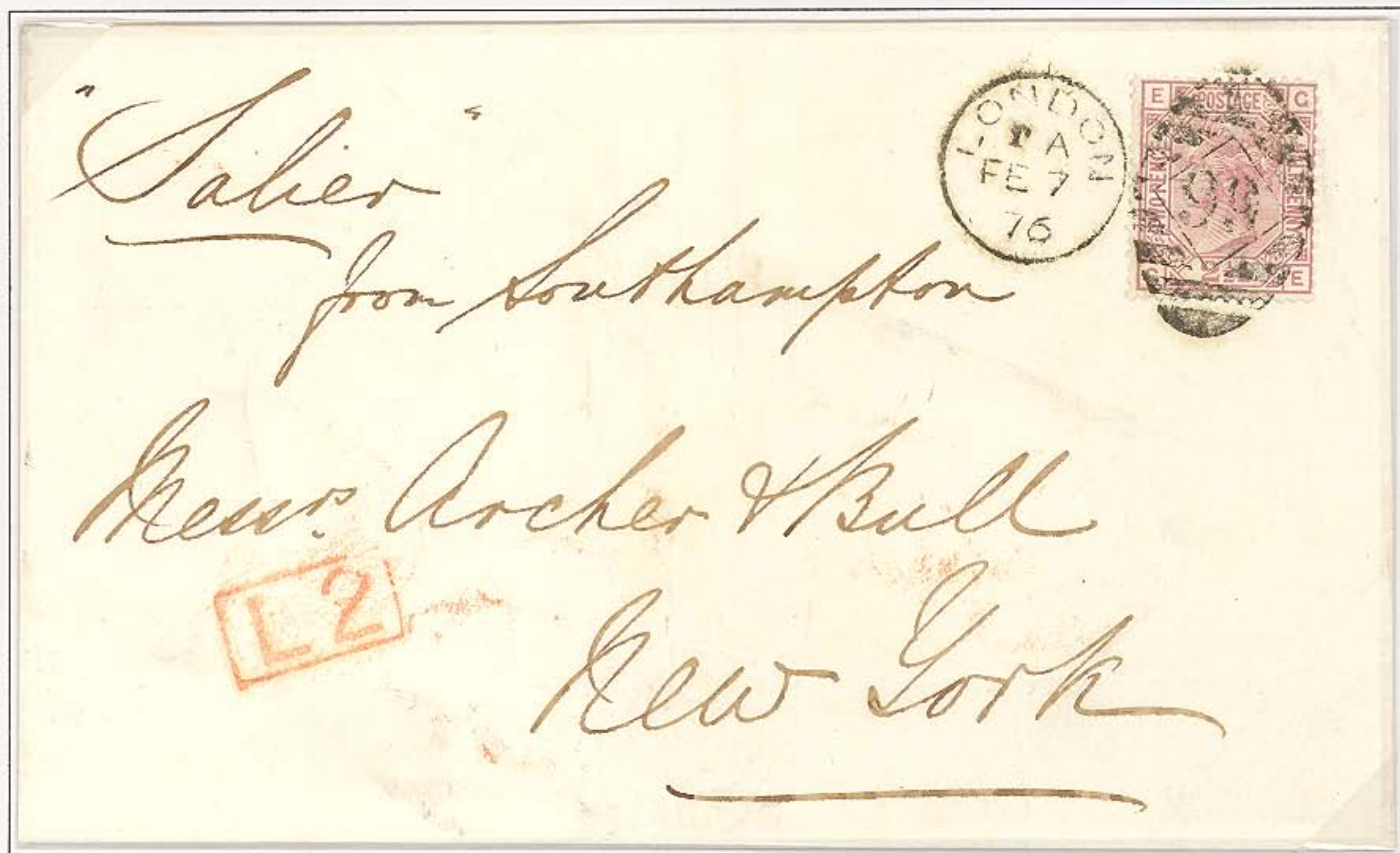
Notes: Single Union rate prepaid with 2½ pence adhesive (Scott No. 66 plate 1) and late fee paid in cash. NEW YORK *PAID ALL* circular datestamp on reverse.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

General Postal Union
British Contract Steamship

1875–1879
1 July 1875–1 April 1879

L2



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: London to New York, 7 February 1876

Ship: *Salier*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 8 February 1876
Arrive: New York, 20 February 1876

Rate: 2½ pence prepaid for Union rate

Notes: Single Union rate prepaid with 2½ pence adhesive (Scott No. 66 plate 3) and late fee paid in cash. New, smaller version of the L2 late fee handstamp.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Universal Postal Union
British Contract Steamship

1879–
1 April 1879–



Envelope w/enclosed letter: London to Toledo, Ohio, 11 December 1879

Ship: *Germanic*

Company: Oceanic Steam Navigation Company Limited
(White Star Line)

Depart: Queenstown, 14 December 1879
Arrive: New York, 24 December 1879

Rate: 2½ pence prepaid for single Union rate

Notes: Letter posted after the regular mails had closed in London. Pearson Hill canceling machine duplex killer (No. 75) and datestamp showed letter required one penny late fee (L1 in octagonal datestamp) which was paid with a one penny adhesive.