

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope: Castleblaney, Ireland to Fayston, Vermont, 29 June 1863

Ship: *Edinburgh*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 2 July 1863
Arrive: New York, 15 July 1863

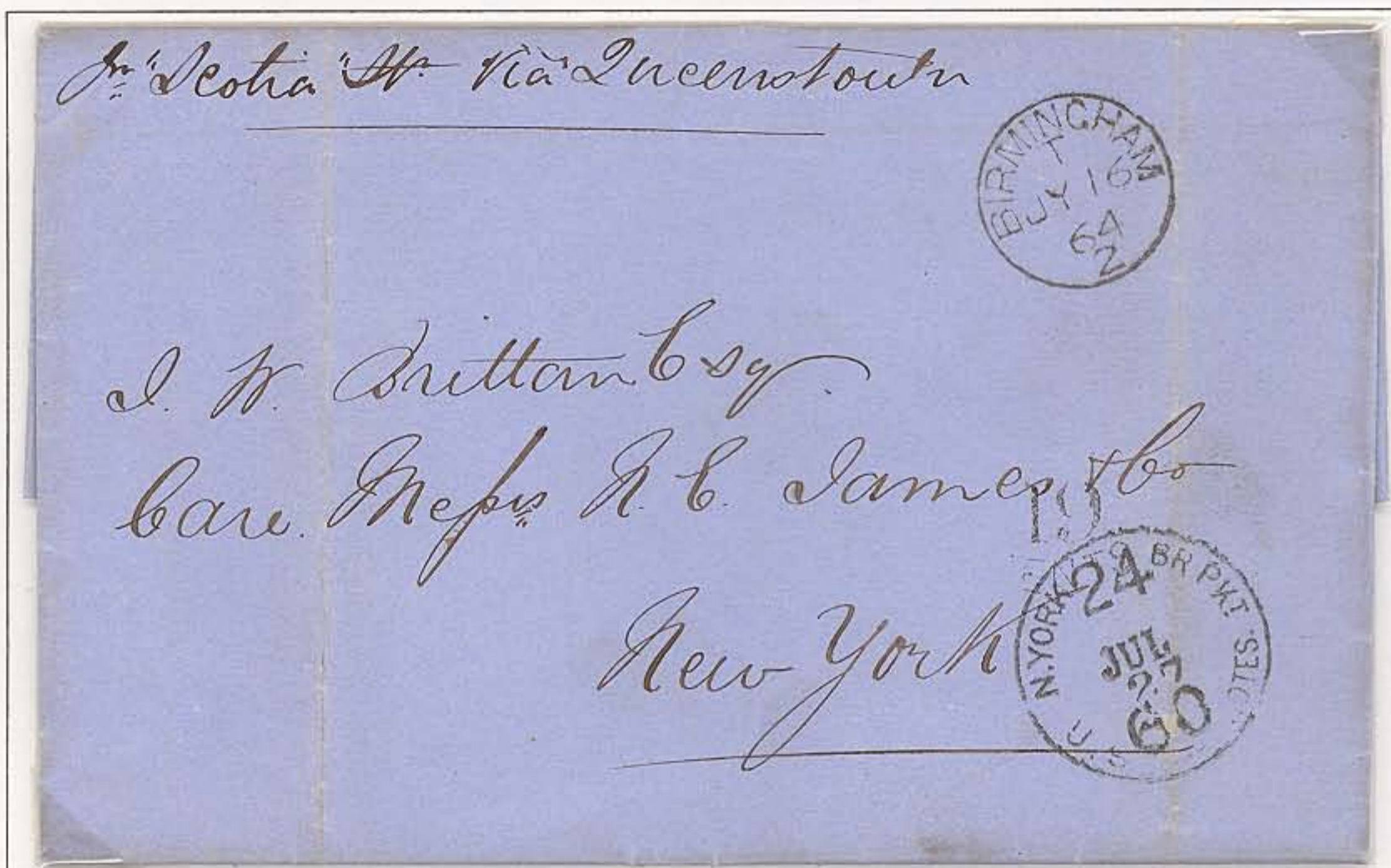
Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
 3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
 24¢ postage due in coin in Fayston
 32¢ postage due in greenback notes in Fayston

Notes: In July 1863, New York introduced a dual rating circular datestamp which showed the postage due in coin at the top and in notes (greenback currency) at the bottom. This example, although not completely struck, was N.Y. 24 AM.PKT. for American packet service. The day of the month was omitted from the datestamp.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867
15 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Birmingham, England to New York, 16 July 1864

Ship: *Scotia*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 17 July 1864
Arrive: New York, 26 July 1864

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
60¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: To date, postal historians have never found the formula used by the exchange offices to determine the depreciated currency rates on a daily basis. It was not based solely on the premium on gold as quoted in the New York newspapers. The highest gold premium occurred on 11 July at 285%. The highest premium seen on depreciated currency covers is 250%, which occurred in July and August 1864.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867
15 February 1849–31 December 1867



Foldeed Letter: London to New York, 25 February 1865

Ship: *Cuba*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 26 February 1865
Arrive: New York, 8 March 1865

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
47¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Postage due, calculated upon the arrival of the steamer, was 47¢ in depreciated greenback currency notes, or just under 200% inflation over the amount due in coin.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: London to New York, 15 August 1865

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 16 August 1865
Arrive: New York, 28 August 1865

Rate: -- -- letter sent unpaid
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
34¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Letter endorsed for the steamer *America* (North German Lloyd Line) from Southampton, but the next North German Lloyd Line steamer was *Hansa*. The TOO-LATE G.P.O. marking was struck at the General Post Office to show the letter was posted after the regular mails had closed for the day. Nevertheless, the letter was carried by the desired steamship service to New York. The purpose of the small red "D" is not known.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867
15 February 1849–31 December 1867

Blendon Hall, (Back flap)



Envelope: London to New York, 27 January 1866

Ship: *Australasian*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 28 January 1866
Arrive: New York, 9 February 1866

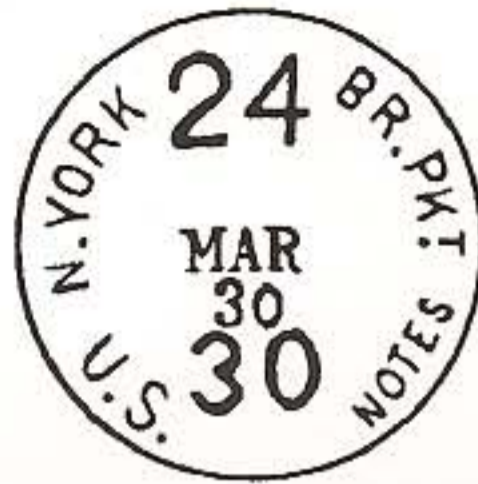
Rate: -- -- letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
33¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Mourning envelope from Blendon Hall in London. Postage due was calculated each day upon arrival of the steamer, in this case 33¢ in depreciated greenback currency notes, or approximately 140% inflation rate.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867
15 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope: London to New York, 17 March 1866

Ship: *China*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 18 March 1866
Arrive: Boston, 29 March 1866

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
30¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Mourning envelope from Blendon Hall in London. New York exchange office used a new 29 mm. dual rate circular datestamp, introduced at the end of March 1866, to mark the postage due. This larger version is much less common than the smaller 25 mm. one used earlier. Thin 19/CENTS handstamp believed to have been used by on board sorting postal agent. This also is an uncommon marking.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Abingdon, Virginia, 29 March 1866

Ship: *Belgian*

Company: Montreal Ocean Steamship Company
(Allan Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 29 March 1866
Arrive: Portland, 10 April 1866

Rate: — — — letter sent unpaid
 3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
 24¢ postage due in coin in Abingdon
 30¢ postage due in notes in Abingdon

Notes: Portland exchange office also used dual rate handstamps for depreciated currency markings. Although not completely struck, this circular datestamp was inscribed PORTLAND AM PKT/OR U.S., NOTES. Portland's depreciated currency markings are uncommon.

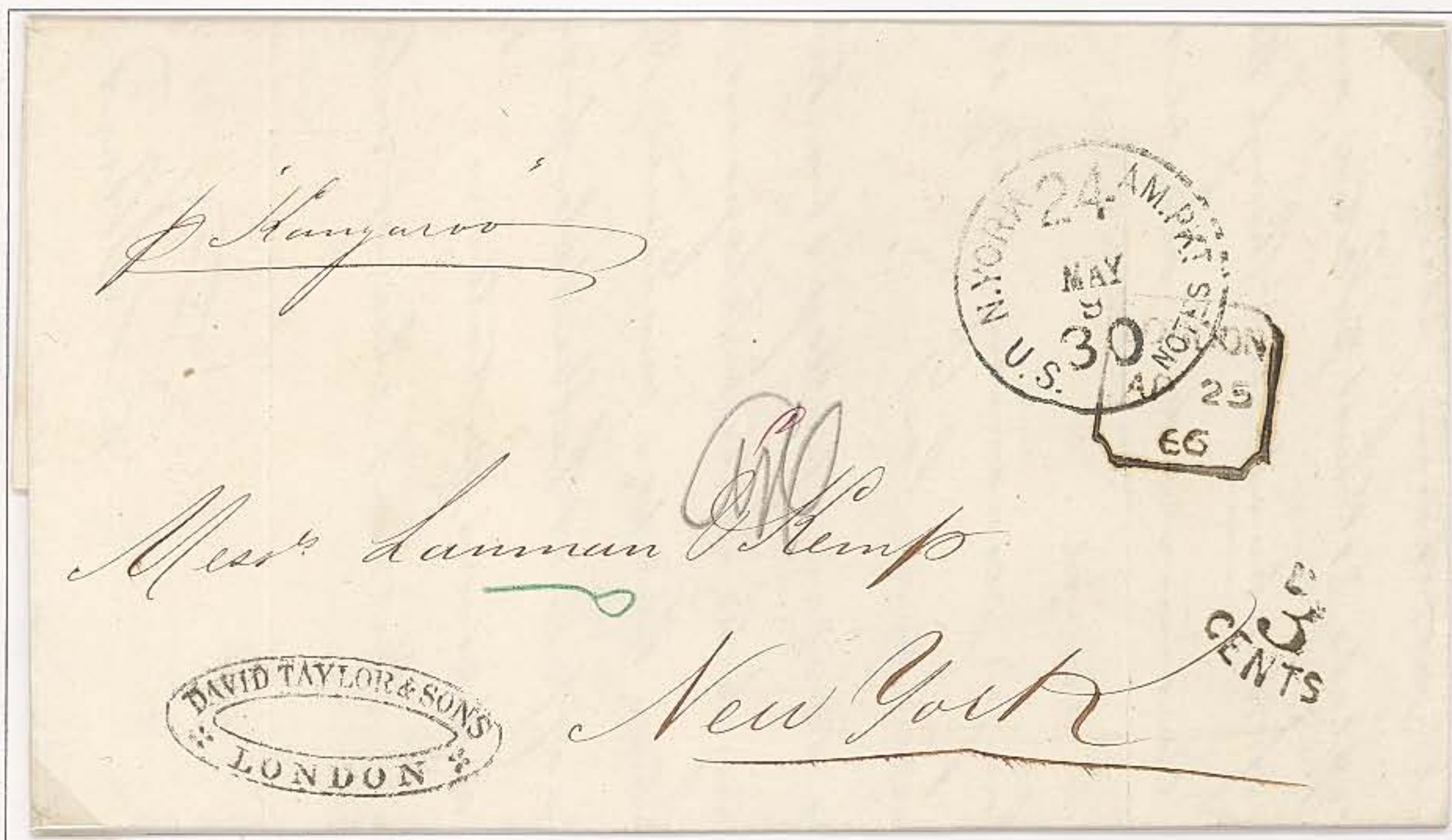
U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

American Contract Steamship

1849-1867

20 February 1849-31 December 1867



Folded Letter: London to New York, 25 April 1866

Ship: *Kangaroo*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 26 April 1866
Arrive: New York, 8 May 1866

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
30¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: New York used a large (29mm) version of the dual rate handstamp, much scarcer than the more common 25mm rate marking. This marking was used only during 1866-67.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

American Contract Steamship

1849–1867

20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Liverpool to Abingdon, Virginia, 3 December 1866

Ship: *City of New York II*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 5 December 1866

Arrive: New York, 21 December 1866

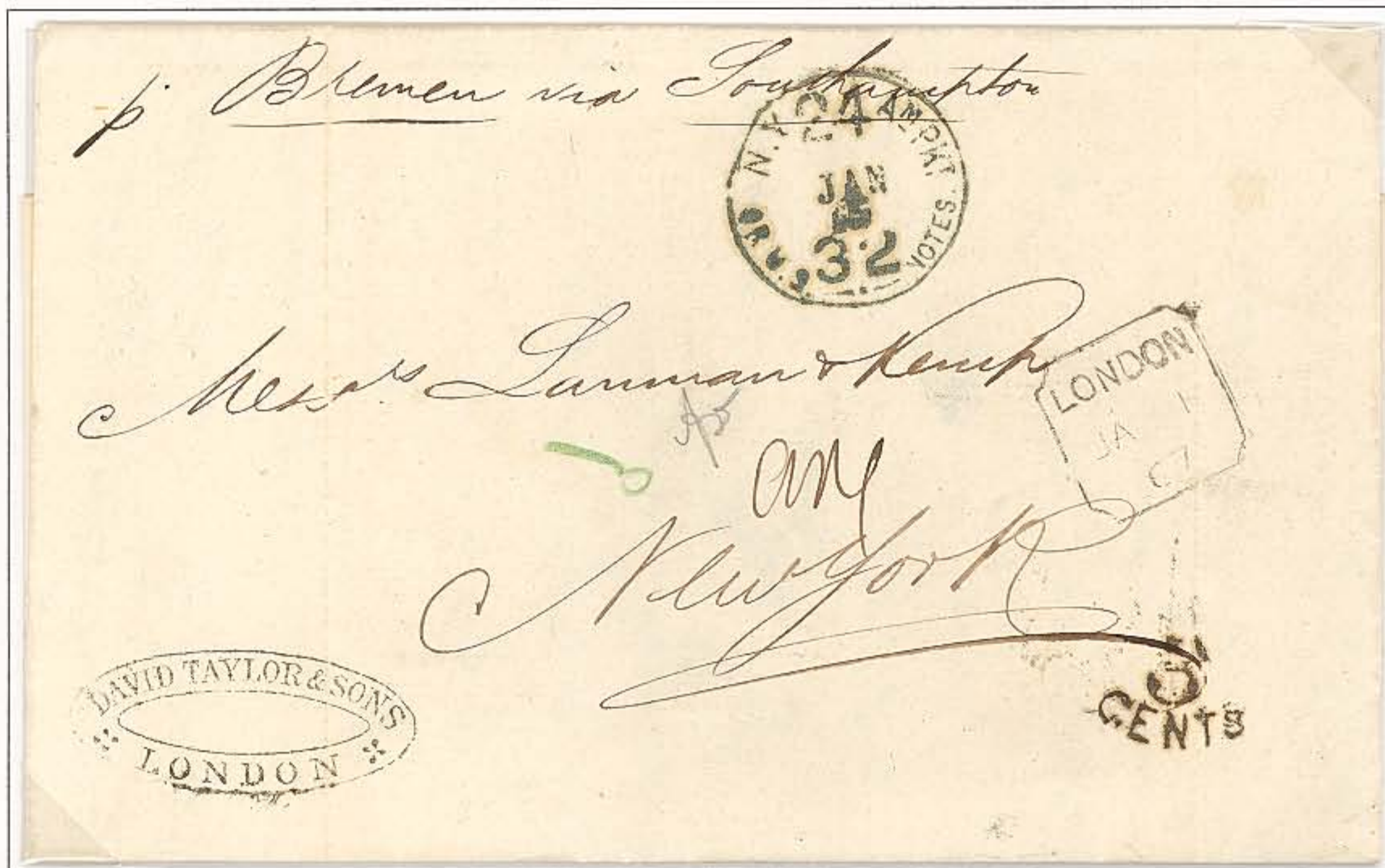
Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York
32¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Letter contained a press copy "duplicate" of a letter sent two weeks earlier. The time-saving technique of making press copies (reimpressions of letters made by pressure transfer of indelible ink to tissue-thin paper) replaced the old method of transcribing a complete new copy on the letter sheet.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: London to New York, 1 January 1867

Ship: *Bremen*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 3 January 1867
Arrive: New York, 15 January 1867

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
 3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
 24¢ postage due in coin in New York
 32¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: The dual rate circular datestamp of New York existed in two different versions, one having a "mustache" under the lower number, as shown in this example, and the other, with no "mustache."

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Folded Letter: Buenos Ayres, Argentina to New York, 26 January 1867

Ship: *Union*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 6 March 1867
Arrive: New York, 15 March 1867

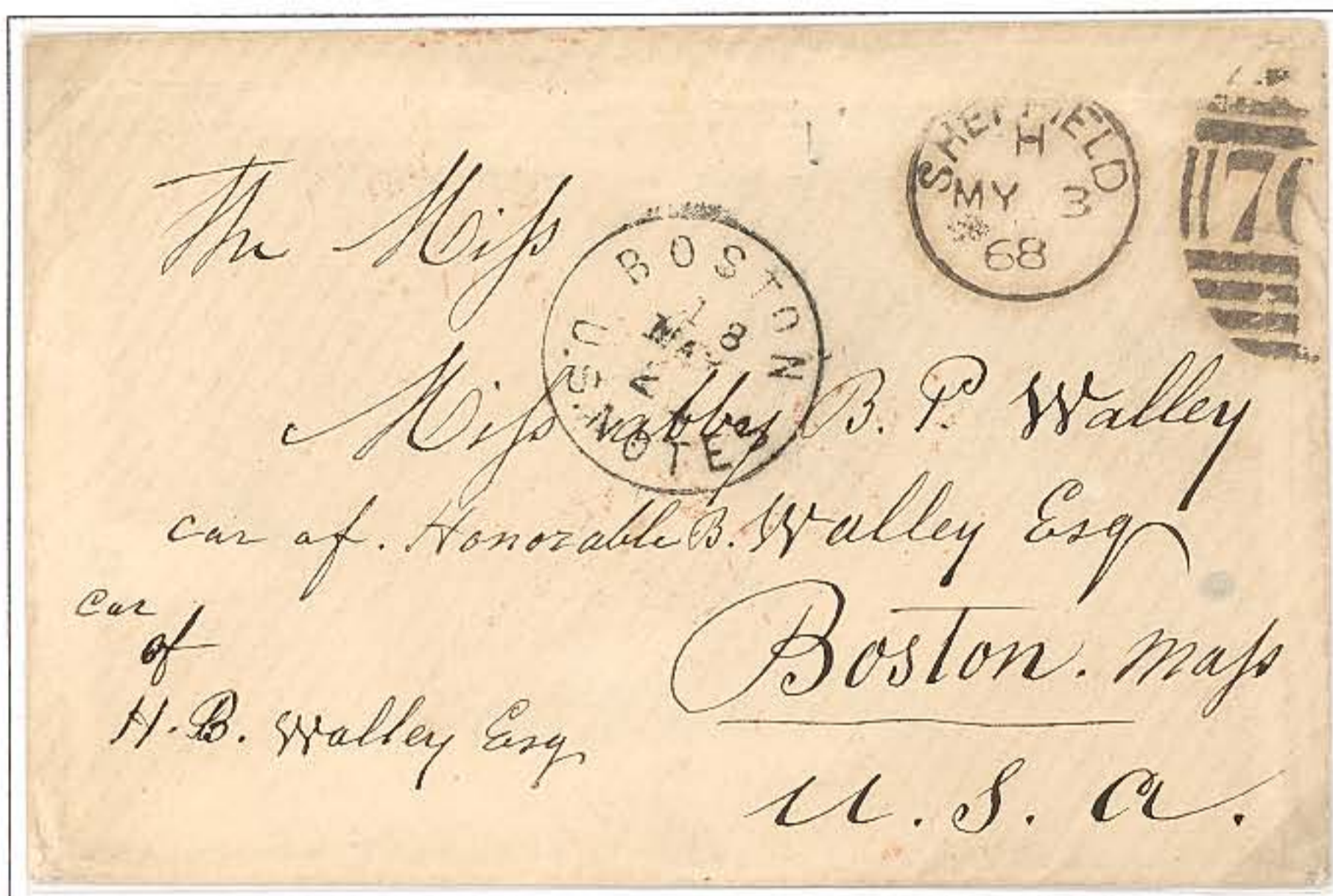
Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
24¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
45¢ postage due in coin in New York
59¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Letter carried from Buenos Ayres to Southampton by Royal Mail Steamship Co. steamer *Rhone*. Although the HAPAG steamer *Hammonia II* called at Southampton and arrived at New York the same days as *Union*, it is believed that the latter carried the mails from Southampton.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1867 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1868
1 January 1868–31 December 1868



Envelope: Sheffield, England to Boston, 3 May 1868

Ship: *Hansa*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 5 May 1868
Arrive: New York, 18 May 1868

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
17¢ postage due in coin in Boston (not shown)
21¢ postage due in notes in Boston

Notes: Letter in closed mail bag from London to Boston. 24 mm. circular datestamp of Boston showed only the depreciated greenback currency (notes) rate. Under the treaty, the unpaid letter fine in the U.S. was 5¢.

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1868 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1869
1 January 1869-31 December 1869



Envelope: Lisbon, Portugal, to Burlington, Vermont, 13 September 1869

Ship: *Cuba*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 19 September 1869
Arrive: New York, 29 September 1869

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
26¢ postage due in coin (not shown)
36¢ postage due in notes.

Notes: Letter marked in upper right corner for 340 reis, the unpaid letter rate to the United States via France and England for a letter weighing between $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. The United Kingdom debit consisted of 12¢ transit fees from Portugal, 8¢ transatlantic postage and 4¢ unpaid British letter fine. To this New York added 5¢ unpaid letter fine, 2¢ U.S. portion under the treaty with the United Kingdom, and 5¢ premium for depreciated currency. Scarce rate from Portugal.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1870–1875
1 January 1870–30 June 1875



(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Buenos Ayres, Argentina to New York, 13 April 1870

Ship: *Union*

Company: Norddeutscher Lloyd
(North German Lloyd Line)

Depart: Southampton, 17 May 1870
Arrive: New York, 28 May 1870

Rate: - - - letter sent unpaid
26¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
28¢ postage due in coin in New York (not shown))
31¢ postage due in notes in New York

Notes: Letter posted in British post office where circular datestamp shown above applied. It was carried from Buenos Ayres to Southampton by Royal Mail Steamship Co. steamer *La Plata*. British debit to U.S. included 12 pence (24¢) British transit fees from Argentina plus 2¢ sea postage to New York. New York circular datestamp showed the postage due in depreciated greenback notes only.

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1870-1875
1 January 1870-30 June 1875



Folded Letter: Glasgow, Scotland, to New York, 24 November 1870

Ship: *City of Washington*

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

Depart: Queenstown, 25 November 1870
Arrive: New York, 6 December 1870

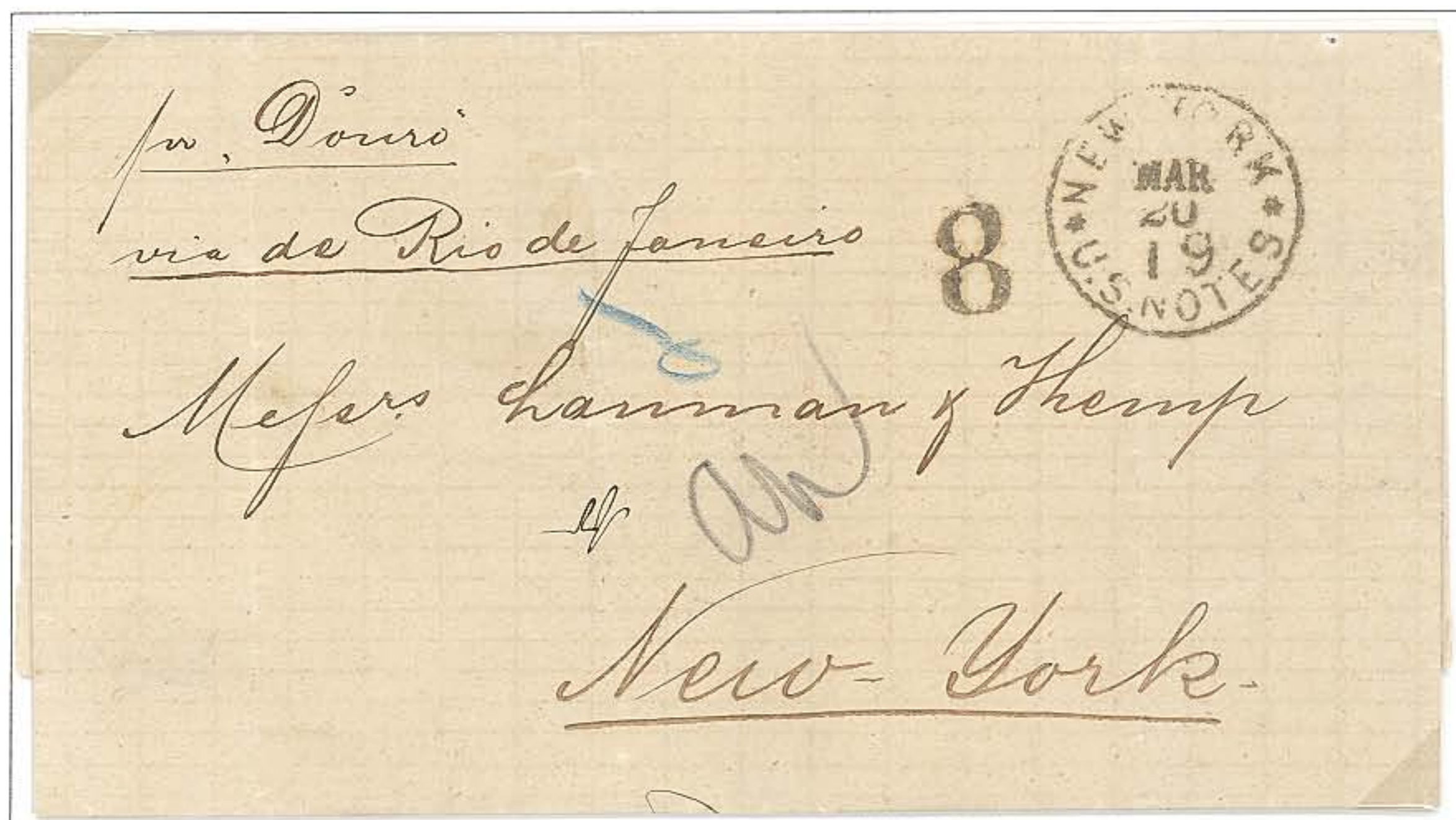
Rate: 1 penny prepaid for internal rate
11¢ postage due in depreciated greenback notes

Notes: It is possible sender intended letter be sent unpaid and paid 1 penny late fee with the adhesive; however, London treated letter as insufficiently paid letter and marked "2" in pencil, lower left to show British debit to U.S., 2 pence (4¢). New York marked letter INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID and 11¢ postage due, 4¢ owed to United Kingdom plus 6¢ unpaid letter fine plus 1¢ premium for depreciated currency on day of arrival.

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1869 Treaty
British & American Contract Steamship

1870-1875
1 January 1870-30 June 1875



Folded Letter: Buenos Ayres, Argentina to New York, 14 February 1873

Ship: Douro
Merrimack

Company: Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
United States & Brazil Mail Line

Depart: Buenos Ayres, 14 February 1873
Arrive: Rio de Janeiro, 23 February 1873
Depart: Rio de Janeiro, 24 February 1873
Arrive: New York, 20 March 1873

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
8¢ U.K. debit to U.S.
18¢ postage due in coin in New York (not shown)
19¢ postage due in depreciated notes in New York

Notes: Letter posted in British post office in Argentina and carried from Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by Royal Mail Steamship Co. steamer and then passed to United States & Brazil Mail Line steamer. British debited U.S. 8 pence (16¢) for British transit from Argentina to Brazil. New York added 10¢ for the incoming steamship fee from Rio de Janeiro. New York circular datestamp showed the postage due in depreciated greenback notes only. Uncommon routing.

U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1868
15 Feb 1849-1 Jan 1868



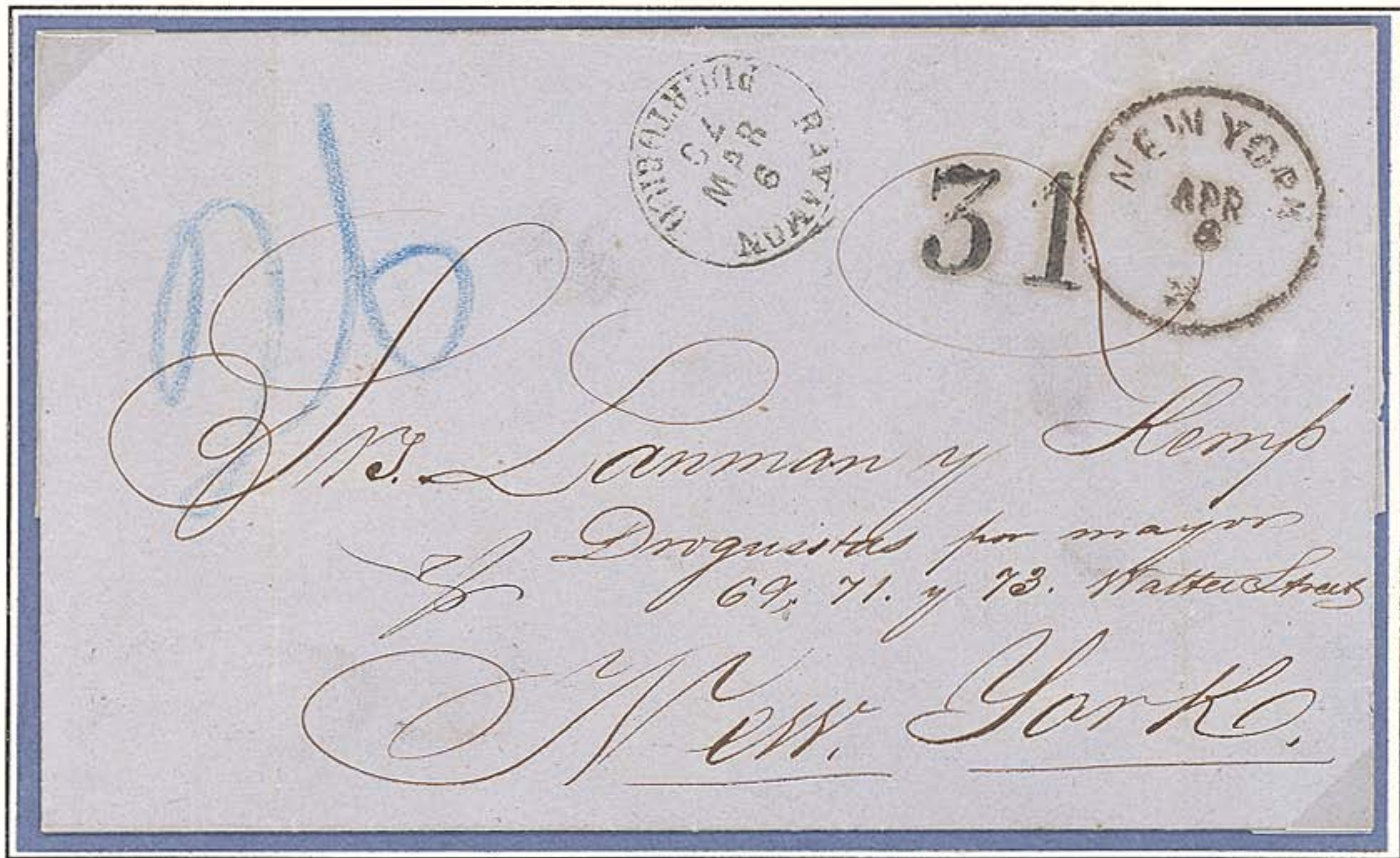
9 June 1866 Pernambuco, Brazil to New York
Letter sent unpaid as loose letter on mail steamer from Brazil
19¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
24¢ postage due in coin in New York

Persia 11 days (West)
Postage due in greenback currency was 35¢; New York marked 24¢ postage from G.B. in absence of British debit; uncommon SOUTHAMPTON PACKET-LETTER datestamp



13 February 1867 Arnhem, Holland to Albany, New York
70 Dutch Cents paid to destination (manuscript on reverse)
1s½d Holland credit to G.B.
5¢ G.B. credit to U.S.

Asia 14 days (West)
From 1 Jul 66, fully paid letters could be sent in British Open Mails even though there was no treaty between Holland and U.S.; Carrier cds showed local delivery in Albany



8 March 1870 Bayamon, Puerto Rico to New York
Letter sent unpaid via G.B.
26¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
31¢ postage due in greenback notes in New York

Main 10 days (West)
letter carried by RMSP steamer *Nile* from St. Thomas to Plymouth;
British debit included 24¢ packet fee from Caribbean and 2¢ sea
postage to U.S.; postage due in coin was 28¢ (not shown)

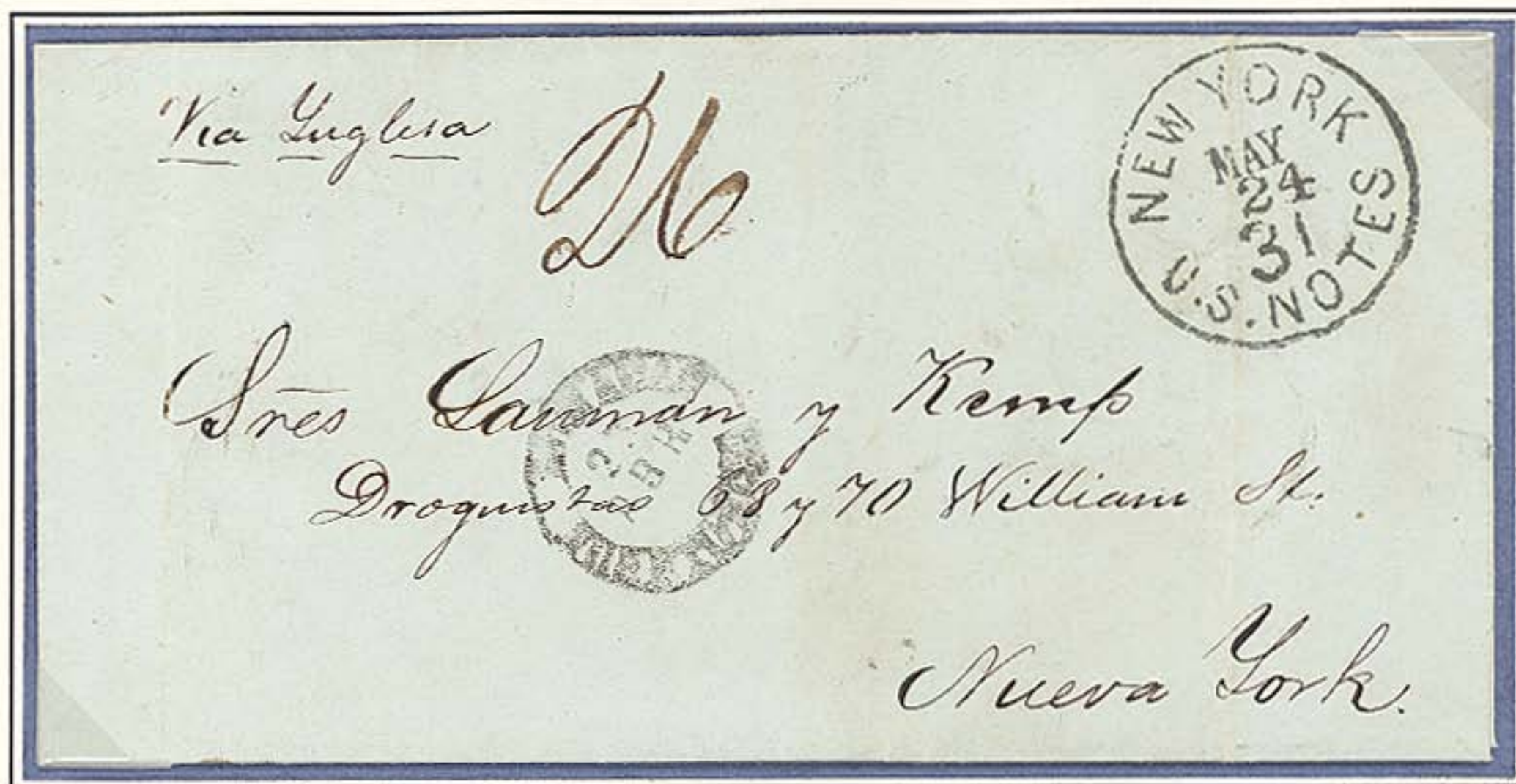
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1869 Treaty

British & American Contract Steamships

1870-1875

1 Jan 1870-1 Jul 1875



23 April 1872 Humacao, Puerto Rico to New York via G.B.

Letter sent unpaid

26¢ G.B. debit to U.S.

31¢ postage due in greenback notes

Abyssinia 9 days (West)

Letter carried by RMSP Co. auxiliary steamer to St. Thomas and RMSP Co. steamer *Moselle* to Plymouth; G.B. debit included 12d (24¢) transit to G.B. and 2¢ sea postage to N.Y.