

Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, Inc.

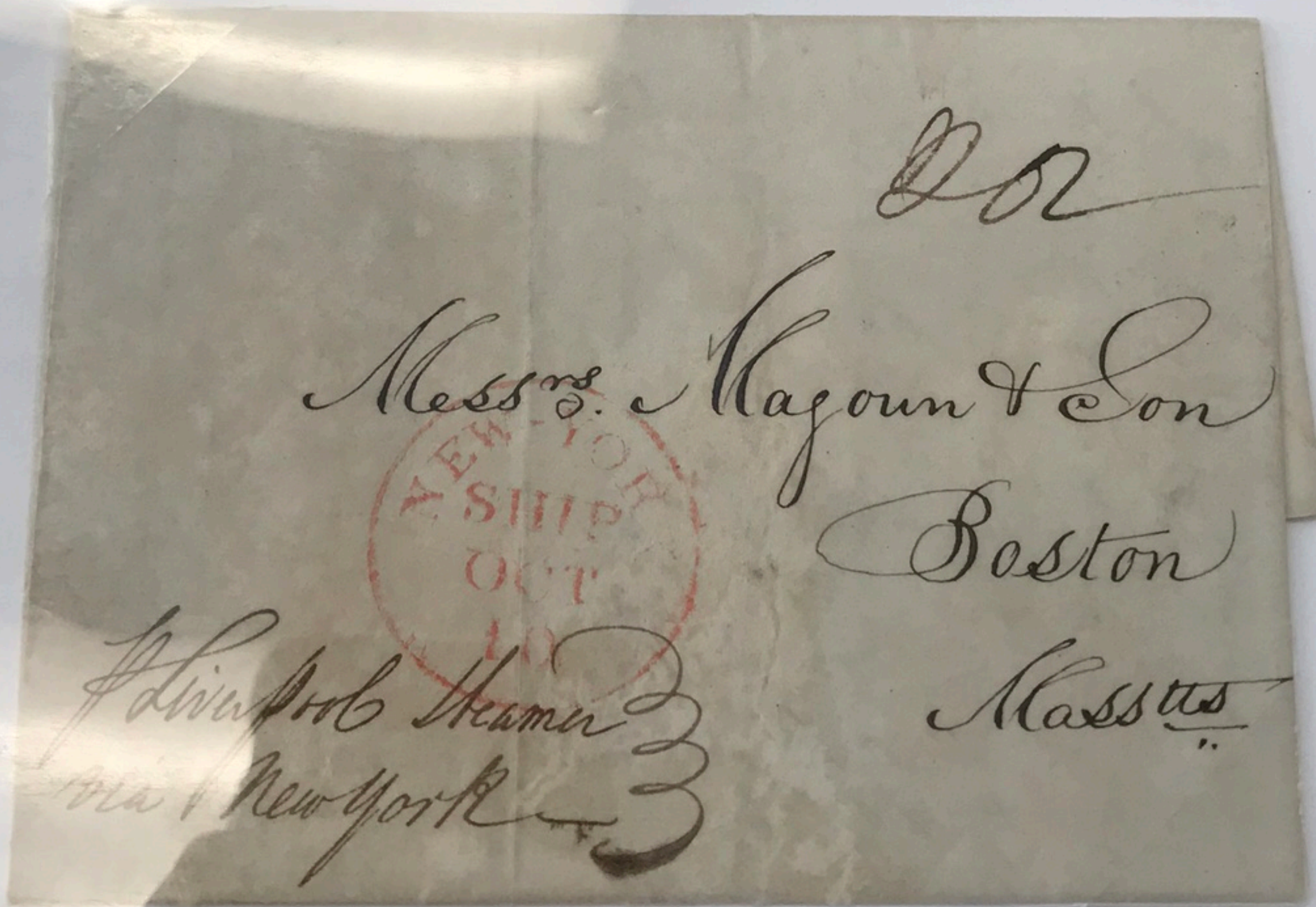
391

1839-1848 Transatlantic Mail - Pre U.S.-G.B. Treat  
Pioneer Steamships

*Sale No. 81. October 12-14, 2018. Item 201875*



Pre U.S. - British Treaty 1838-1845  
Non-Contract Steamship



6 September 1839 Liverpool to Boston

Liverpool

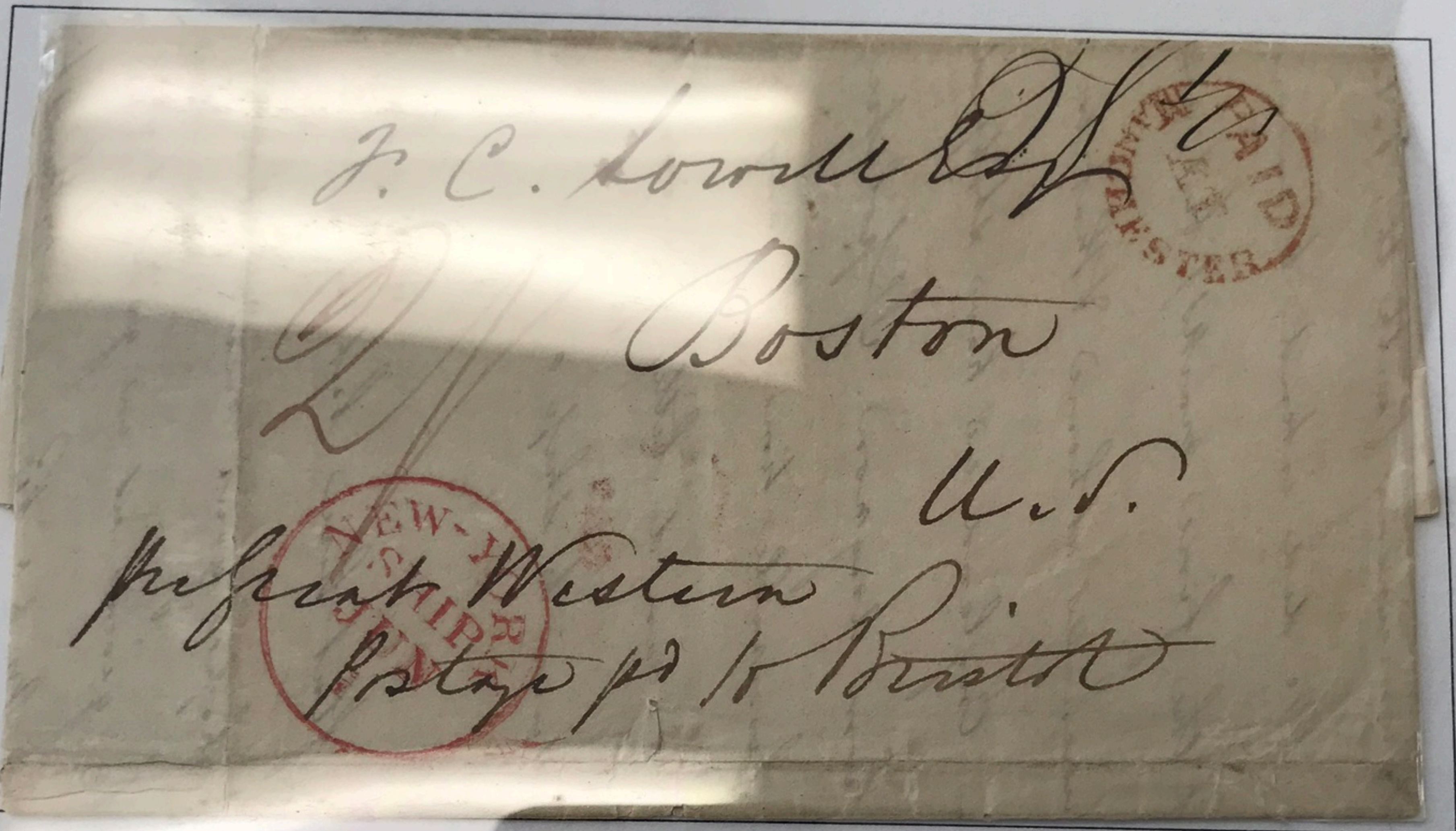
Pioneer Steamship of the Transatlantic Steam Co., d. LP 6 Sept. 1839 on 6<sup>th</sup> of just 7 voyages, a. New York 10 Oct. Red NEW YORK SHIP postmark and rated 20 3/4: 18 3/4 cts. inland + 2 cts. ship fee. Forwarded closed bag to Boston with no further postal markings.



**U.S. – British Postal Treaties**

Pre U.S.–British Treaty  
Non-Contract Steamship

1838–1849



**Folded Letter: Manchester, England to Boston, 16 May 1839**

*Great Western*

Company: **Great Western Steamship Company**

Port: **Bristol, 18 May 1839**  
New York, 31 May 1839

2s                      prepaid for double rate  
58¼¢                    postage due in Boston

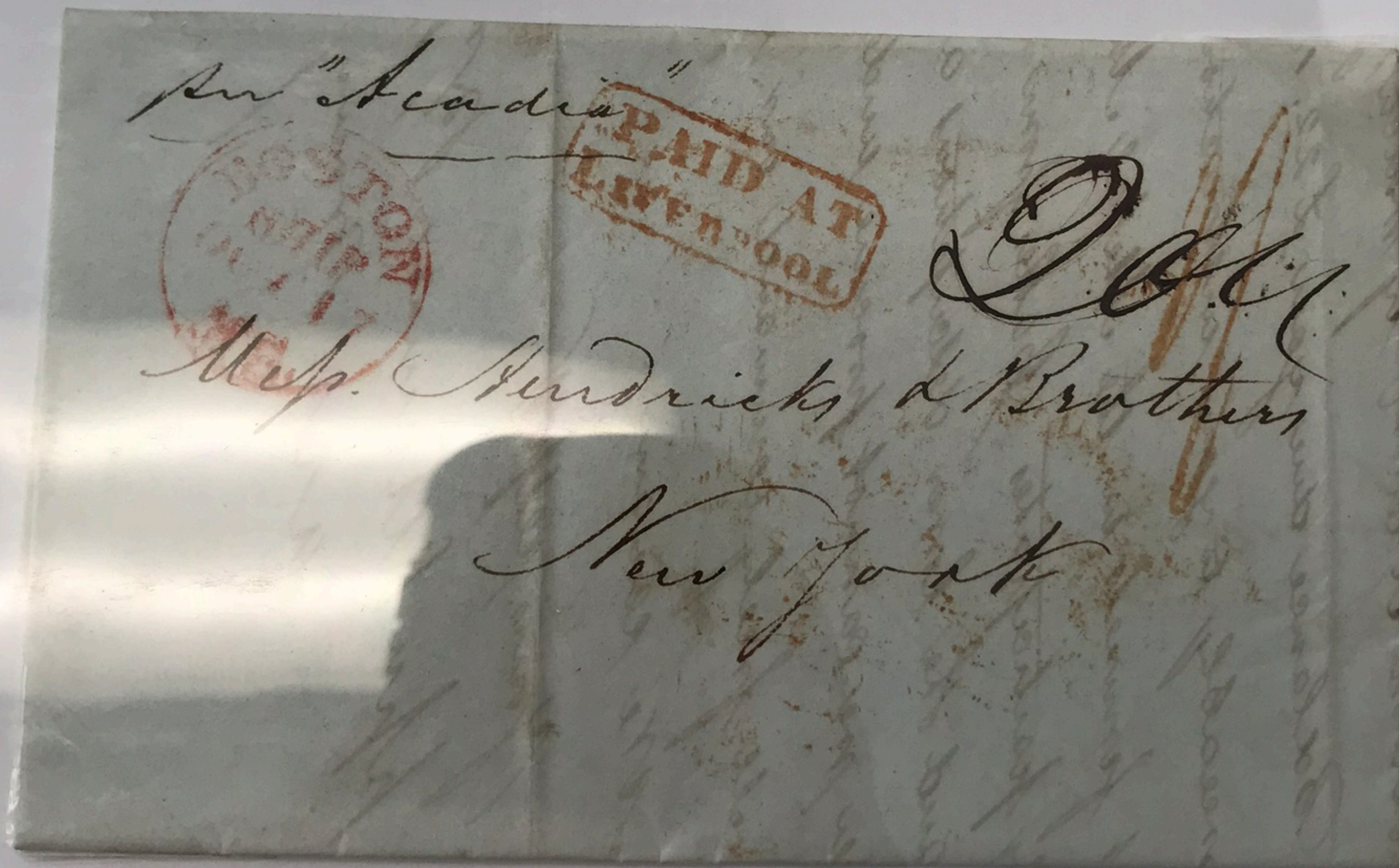
Letter prepaid 2 shilling for double rate outgoing ship letter from the interior. Uncommon PAID AT MANCHESTER circular marking in red with non-serif letters, used 1837–1839. Apparently, New York thought the letter contained two additional sheets as it was rated a triple rate, 3x18¾¢ plus 2¢ ship fee.



1 August 1840 Liverpool to Boston

Acadia

Postmarked LIVERPOOL/AUG 4/1840 with prepayment of the Cunard Packet rate of 1/- in red ink. The letter was carried on the maiden voyage of the *Acadia*, d. LP 4 Aug, a. Bos. 17 Aug.



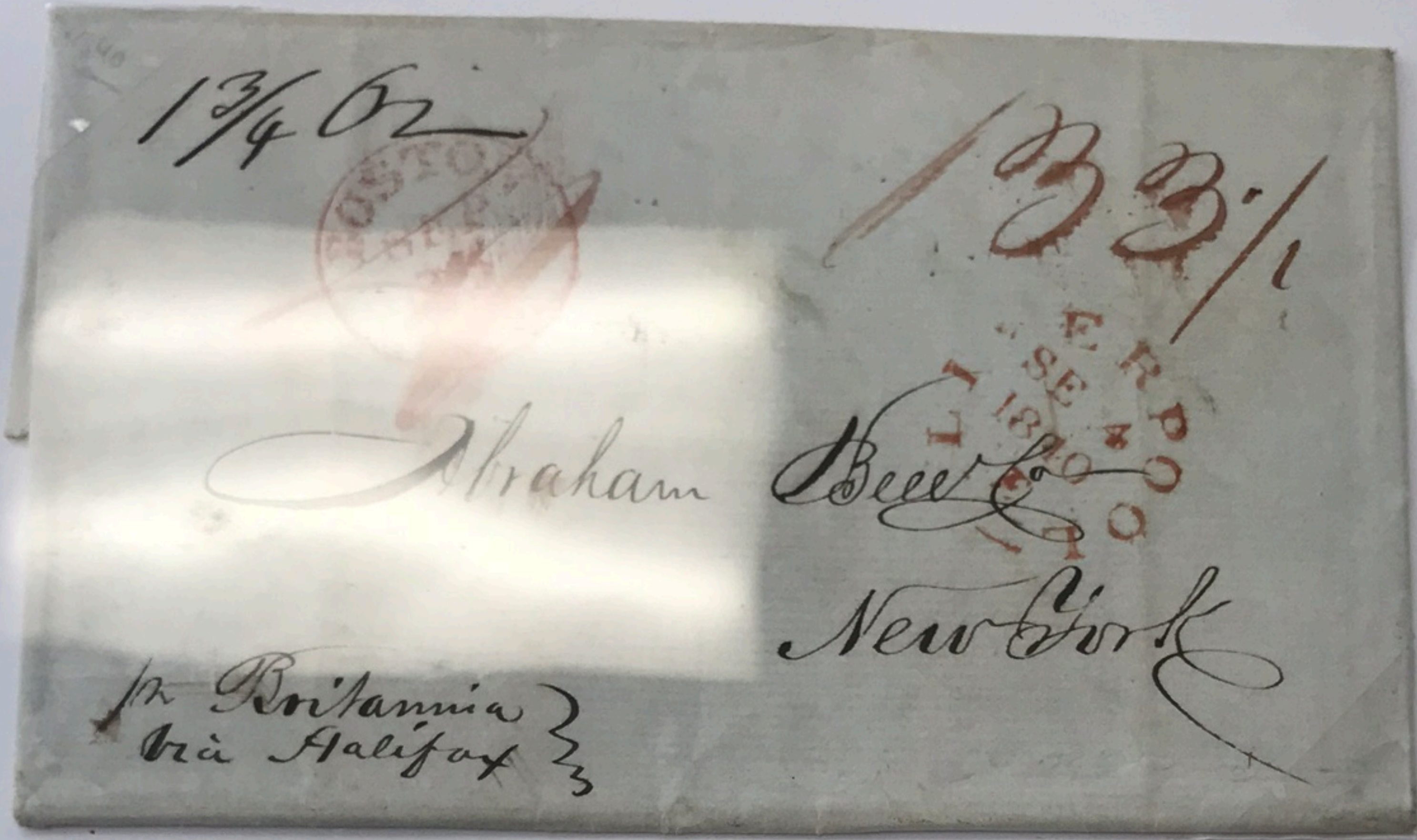
3 October 1840 Liverpool to New York

Acadia

Red rimless orange red LIVERPOOL/OC 3/1840/H (reverse). Boxed red orange PAID AT/LIVERPOOL which is an early use of this marking. Letter rated 1/- . *Acadia* d. LP 4 Oct., a. Bos. 17 Oct. Boston exchange office 20 3/4 cts.: 18 3/4 cts. for 150-400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.



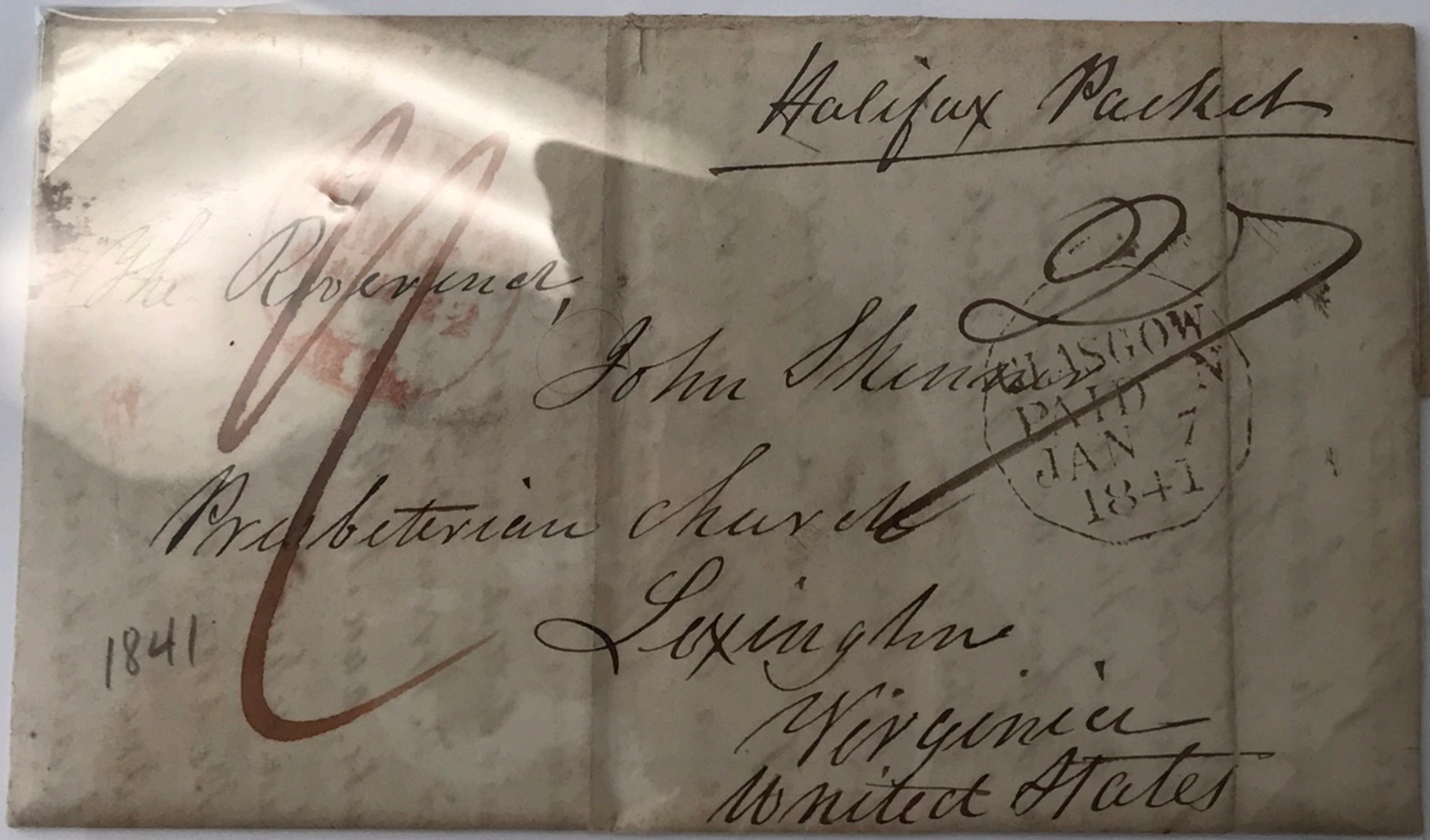
Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
Zone rates + 2 cts. ship fee  
British Contract Steamship



3 September 1840 Liverpool to New York

Britannia

Paid 4/- Packet fee for 1 3/4 oz. Postage due 133 1/4 cts: 7 rates of 18 3/4 cts., inland fee for 150-300 miles + 2 cts. ship fee. Second transatlantic crossing: d. LP 4 Sept., a. Bos. 18 Sept.



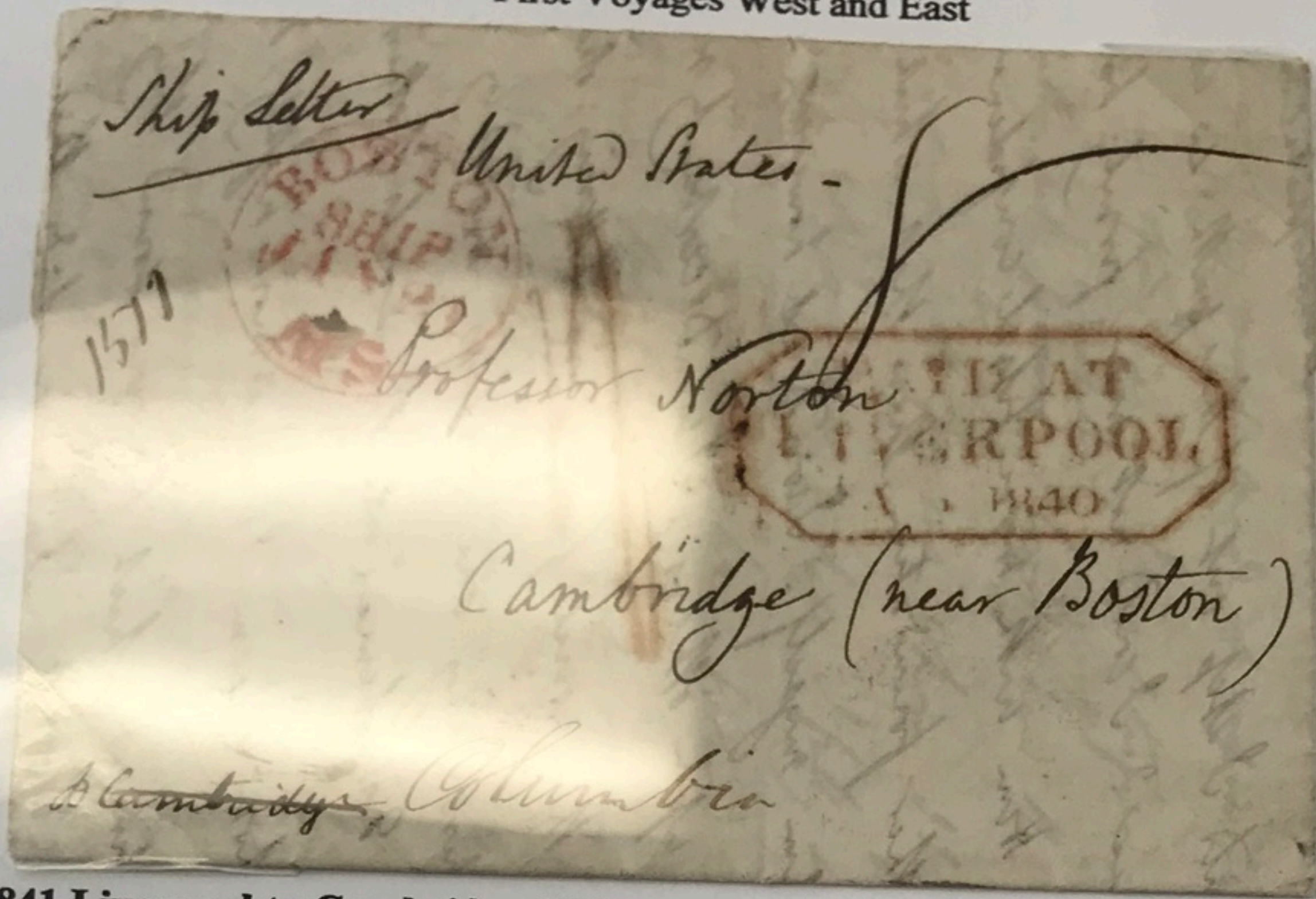
7 Jan 1841 Glasgow, Scotland to Lexington, VA

Britannia

Inscribed *Halifax Packet*. Paid 1/- Packet fee for transatlantic crossing. Boston Exchange Office inscribed postage due of 27 cts. for inland rate of 25 cts. for over 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee. Third transatlantic crossing: d. LP 4 Feb., a. Bos. 22 Feb.



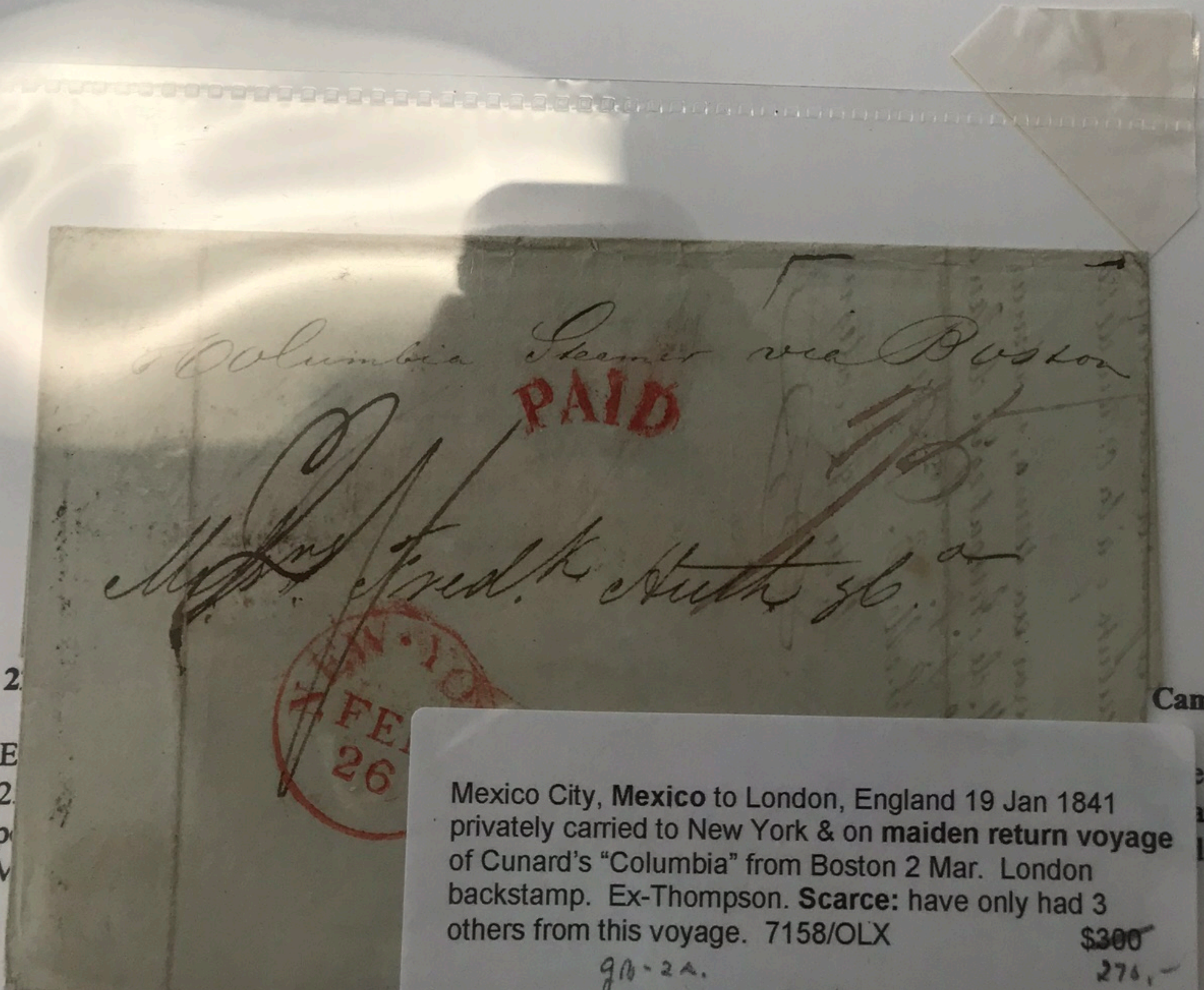
Pre US. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
British Contract Steamship: SS Columbia  
First Voyages West and East



5 January 1841 Liverpool to Cambridge, MA

Columbia

Endorsed to the steamer **Cambridge** of the U.S. Ball Line which dominated Atlantic trade until the Cunard Line received government contract for mail service. **Cambridge** was crossed out and the letter went on the maiden voyage of the Cunard steamship **Columbia**, d. LP 5 Jan. 1841, a. Bos. 21 Jan. Prepaid 1/-. Postage due 8 cts: U.S. inland fee of 6 cts. for under 30 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.



Cambria

Mexico City, Mexico to London, England 19 Jan 1841  
privately carried to New York & on maiden return voyage  
of Cunard's "Columbia" from Boston 2 Mar. London  
backstamp. Ex-Thompson. **Scarce**: have only had 3  
others from this voyage. 7158/OLX

\$300

270

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stamp 17

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

1840 -1849

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

4 July 1840 - July 1845



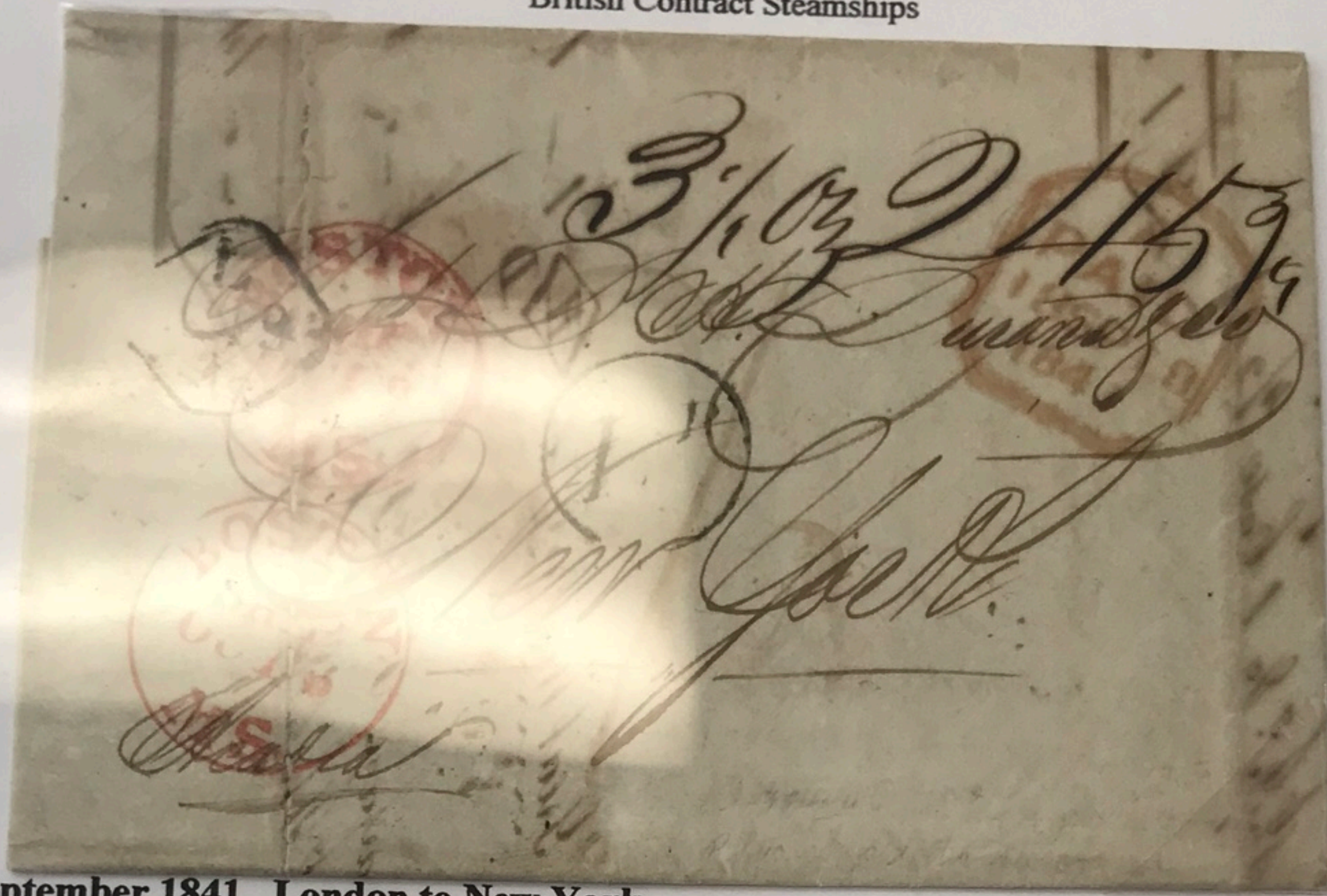
4 February 1841 Liverpool to Boston

Britannia

Endorsed *p. Britannia Str.*, the letter was postmarked PAID AT/LIVERPOOL/FE 4 1841 and struck with the red one shilling rate mark, which is known from October 1840. The Cunard Liner **Britannia** departed Liverpool on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February, stopped at Halifax and arrived in Boston on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Boston exchange office treated it as a ship letter and thus struck it with the red SHIP/6 (BPM 274), the rate for a single ship letter addressed to the port of arrival.



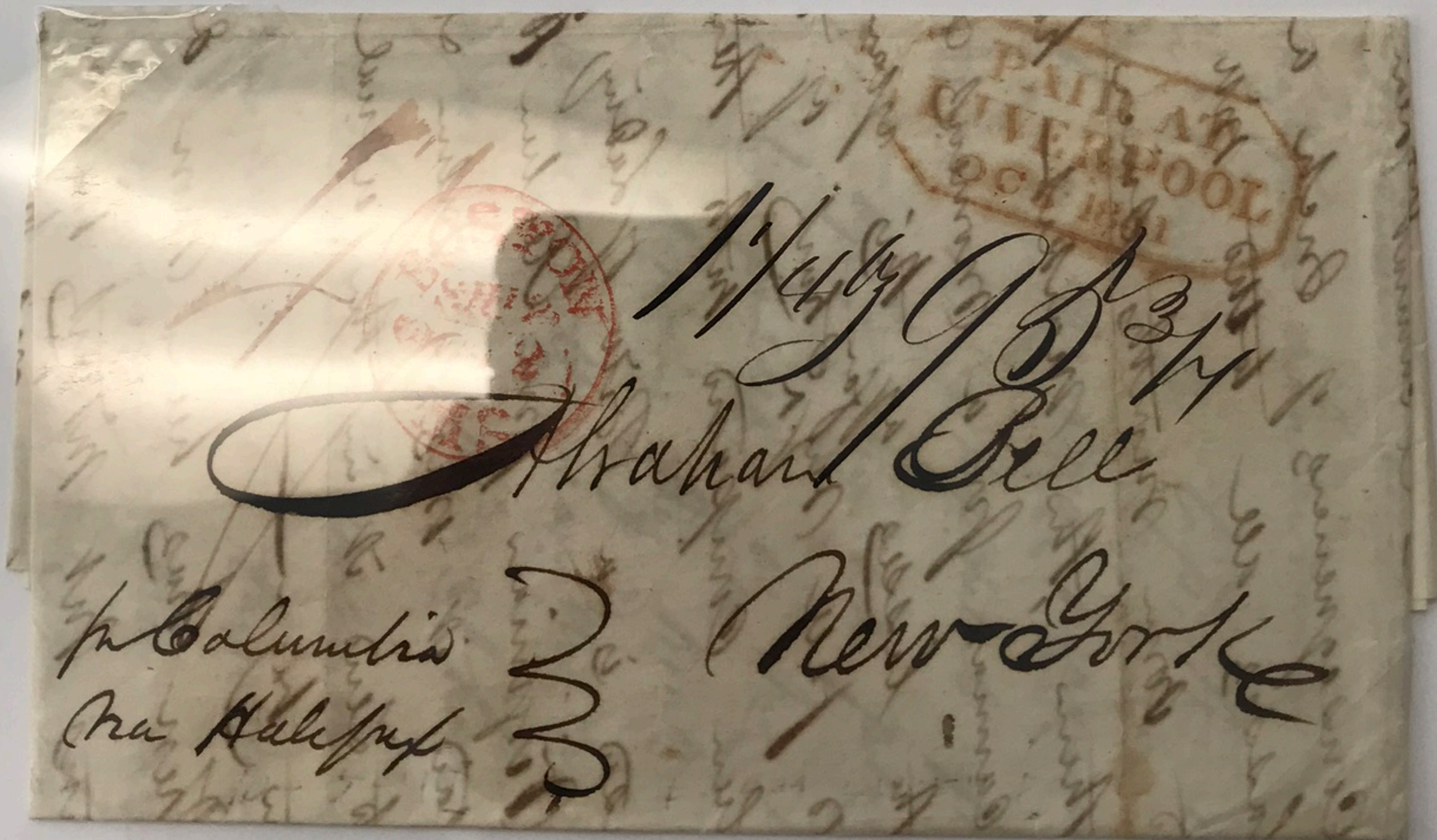
Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
Zone Rates with additional postage for weight  
British Contract Steamships



14 September 1841 London to New York

Acadia

Red orange London tombstone A/PAID/18SP 18/1841. Letter rated 4/6 with additional 1p in black circle for a total of one shilling, seven pence for a 3 ½ oz. weight. Acadia d. LP 19 Sept, a. Bos. 5 Oct. Boston rated the letter postage due \$2.45 (13 x 18 ¾ cts. for 100 to 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee).



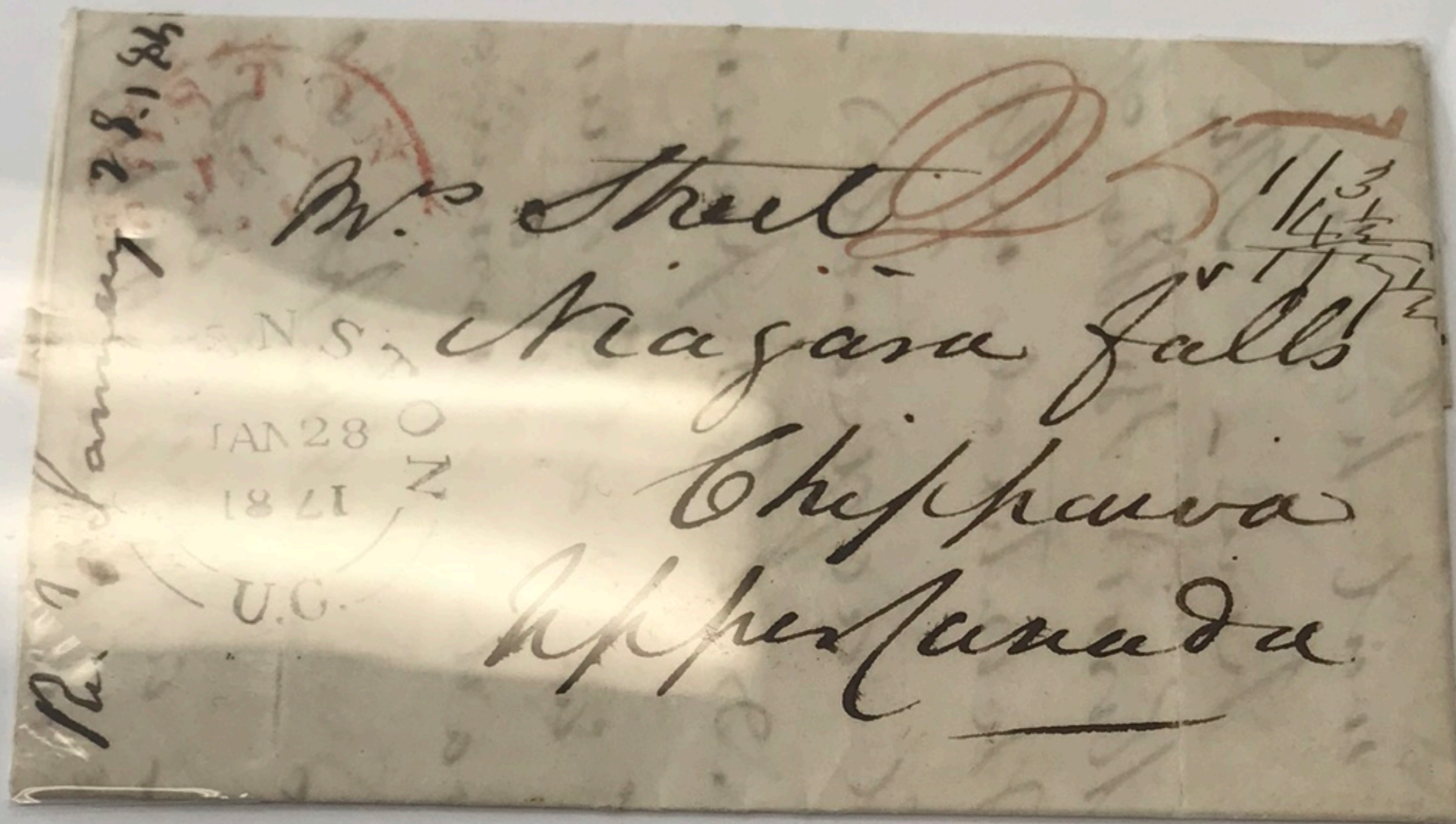
4 October 1841 Liverpool to New York

Columbia

Postmarked PAID AT/LIVERPOOL/0C 1841 and rated 1/-. Endorsed *pr Columbia/Via Halifax*. Columbia d. LP 5 Oct., a. Bos. 21 Oct. Boston rated the letter 95 ¾ cts. for 1 ¼ oz. According to the British postal system, one rate per ½ oz. equaled an additional full rate or two shillings. There was no triple rate. The U.S. rate was one oz. equaled four rates plus one rate for the ¼ oz. or five rates. Hence, the rate of 95 ¾ cts. (5 x 18 ¾ + 2 cts. ship fee).



Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
Maiden Voyage of SS Columbia  
British Contract Steamship



20 January 1841 Off Boston to Chippawa, Upper Canada

Columbia

A letter written during the voyage of the *Columbia* on her maiden Atlantic voyage, d. LP 5 Jan., a. Bos. 21 Jan., posted on arrival at Boston. Rated 25 cts. in red ink by Boston exchange office for the distance to the Canadian border and then in black ink  $1/3 + 4 \frac{1}{2} = 17 \frac{1}{2}$  currency, the Canadian inland rate to Chippawa, Upper Canada via Halifax and Toronto. The letter arrived on the 28<sup>th</sup>, taking eight days due to the poor condition of the roads and ice at river crossings.

Steamer Columbia, Jany 20<sup>th</sup> 1841, 7 o'clock p.m.

My 'Dear Mother,

We are now within sixty miles of Boston - sea is calm as in Summer - and running at the rate of 12 miles per hour. We left Liverpool on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> and shall have made this passage in a little over fifteen days - it is the first time any steamer has crossed the Atlantic during Winter - and the extraordinary quick voyage of fifteen days at this season, a good part of the time against head winds and heavy seas, and altogether very bad weather, has put our Captain and indeed all the passengers in great spirits. We reached Halifax in 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  days - stopped there five hours, had time to see the town, and shall be in Boston before daylight tomorrow. I shall proceed by railway as far as I can towards home - I write this to appraise you of my arrival and shall despatch it as soon as I reach Boston....

Thomas Street



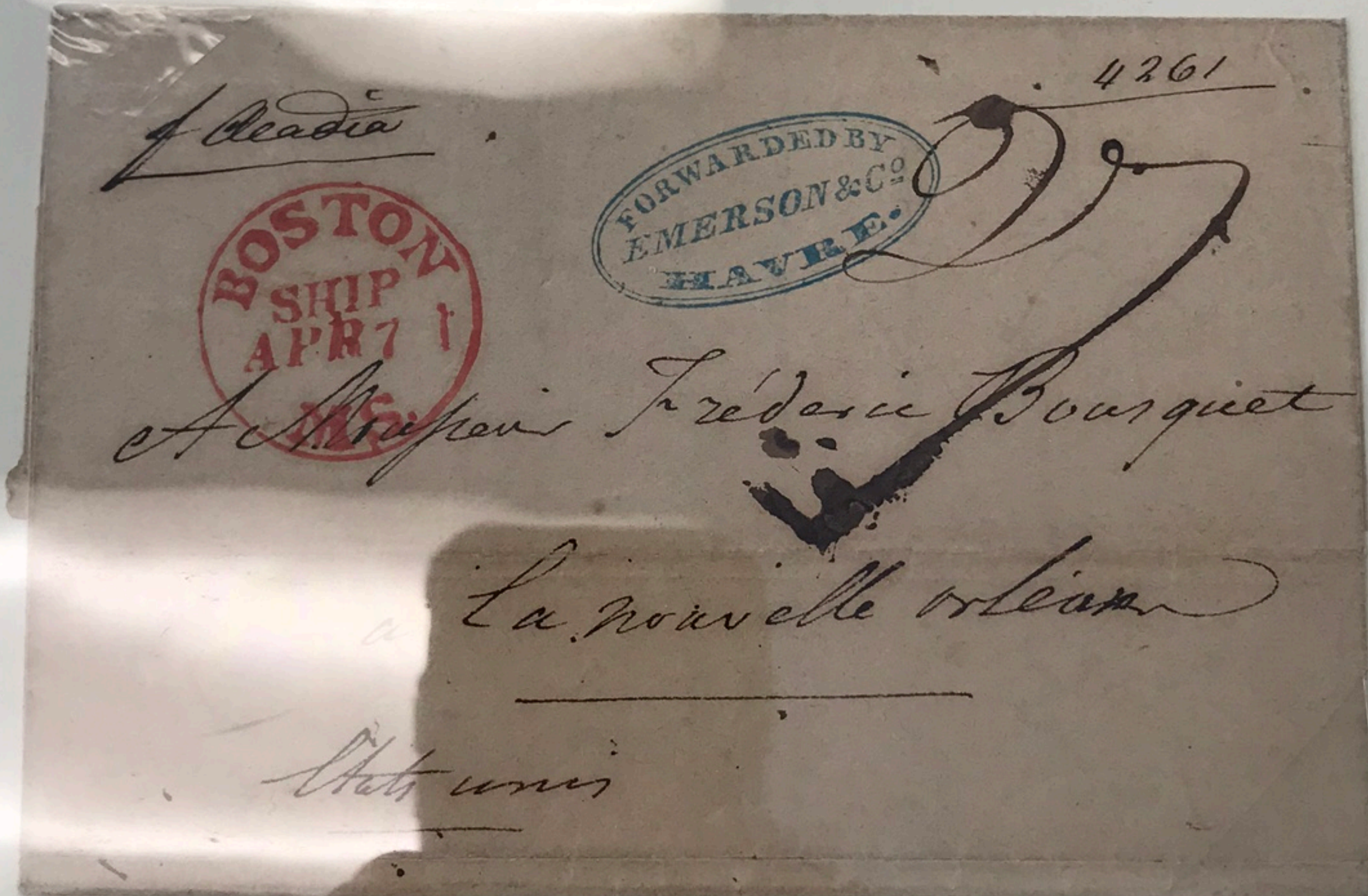
U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1840 - 1849

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

4 July 1840-1 July 1845

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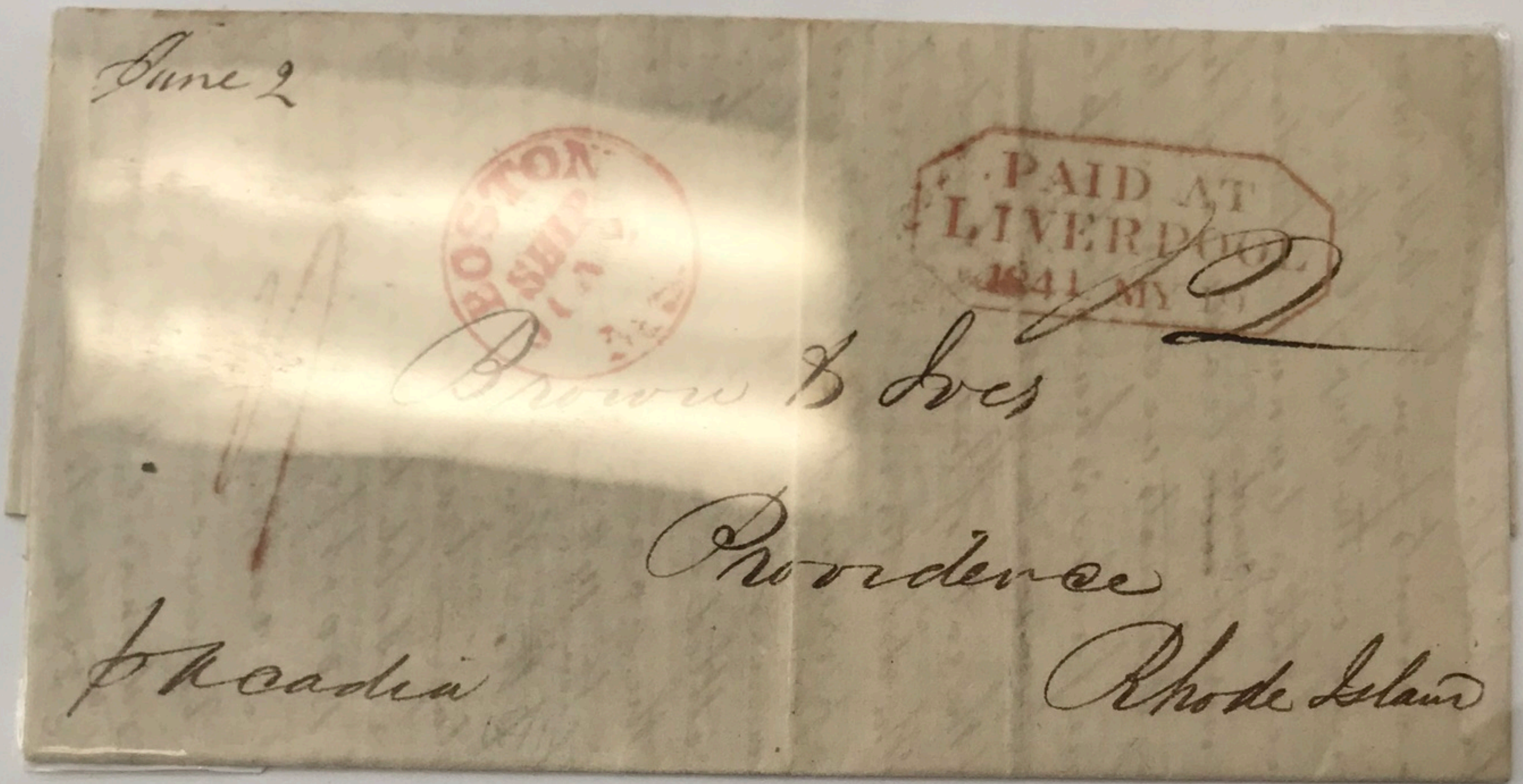
12 April 1841 Paris to New Orleans

Acadia

FORWARDED BY/EMERSON & Co./HAVRE and numbered 4261, the letter was conveyed by a messenger of the forwarding agency to the purser on the Cunard Packet **Acadia** who later placed it in the mails in Boston. The **Acadia** departed Liverpool on 19 March, arriving Boston 7 April. The letter was postmarked (BPM 293) and rated 27 cts. (25 cts. for over 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee) as postage due.



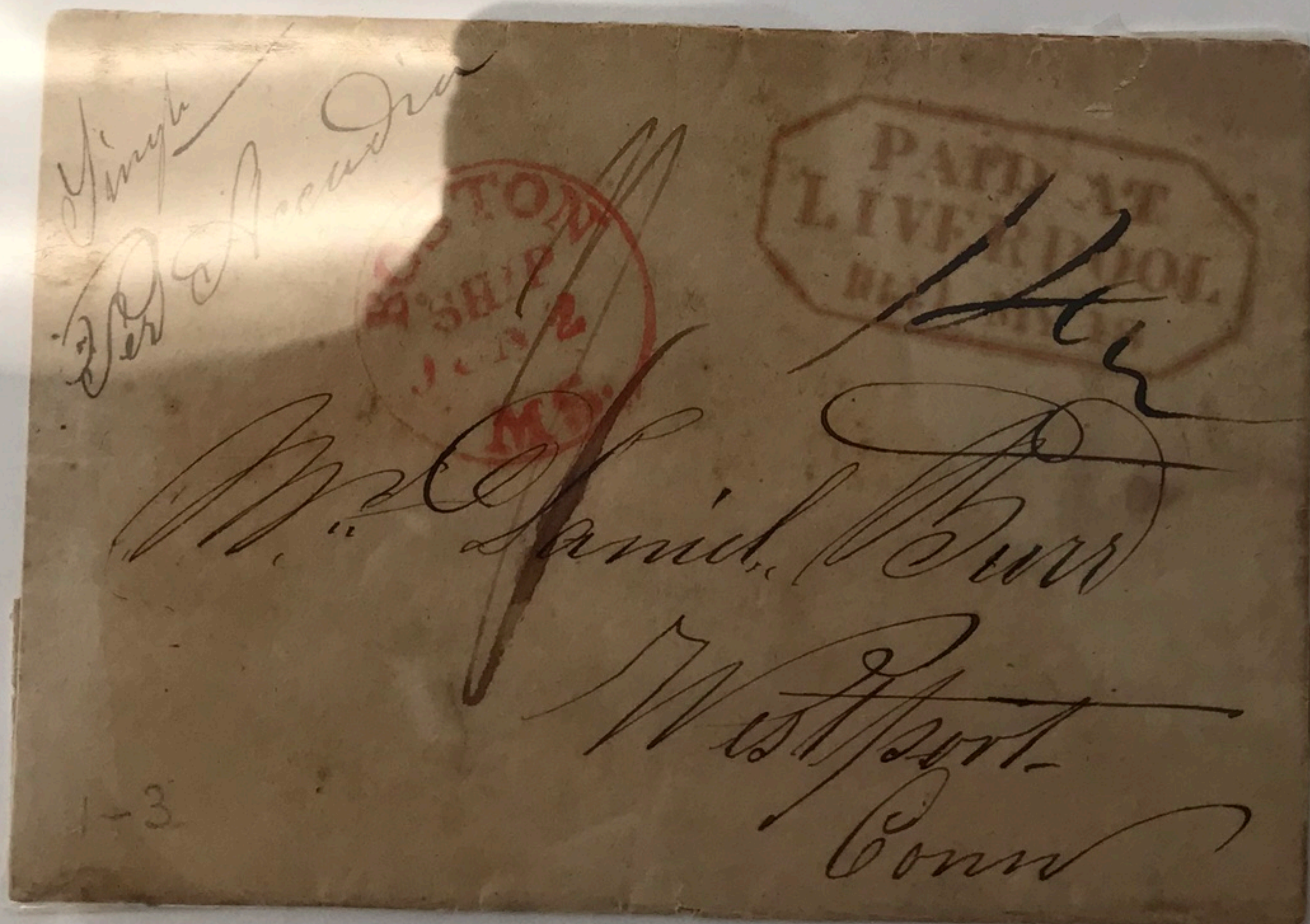
U.S. Inland Rates: 3 Mar. 1825 to 30 June 1845  
Zone rates + 2 cts. ship fee  
British Contract Steamship



19 May 1841 Liverpool to Providence, RI

Acadia

10 cts. for 30 - 80 inland miles + 2 cts. ship fee



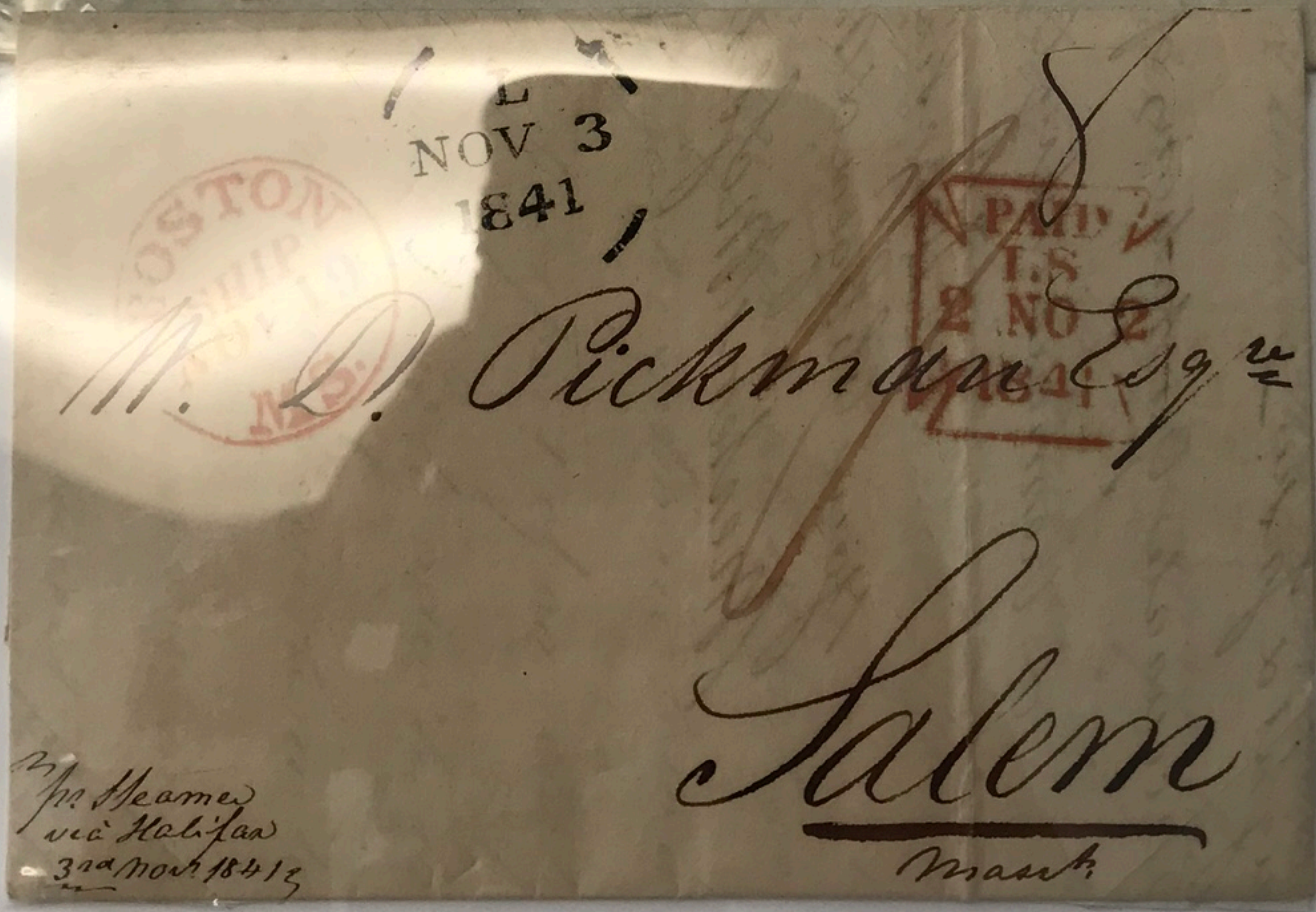
19 May 1841 Liverpool to Westport, CT

Acadia

12 ½ cts. for 80 - 150 inland miles + 2 cts. ship fee



Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
Liverpool Transit Markings  
British Contract Steamship



4 October 1841 Huddersfield to Philadelphia  
3 November 1841 London to Salem

Columbia  
Caledonia

Liverpool black transit markings in the dotted or four-arc circle are found only on outgoing packet letters carried by Cunard Line steamships. Both letters were prepaid 1 s. Rate markings of 20 ¾ and 8 cts. are for 150-400 miles (18 ¾ cts.) and under 80 miles (6 cts.) + 2 cts. ship fee.

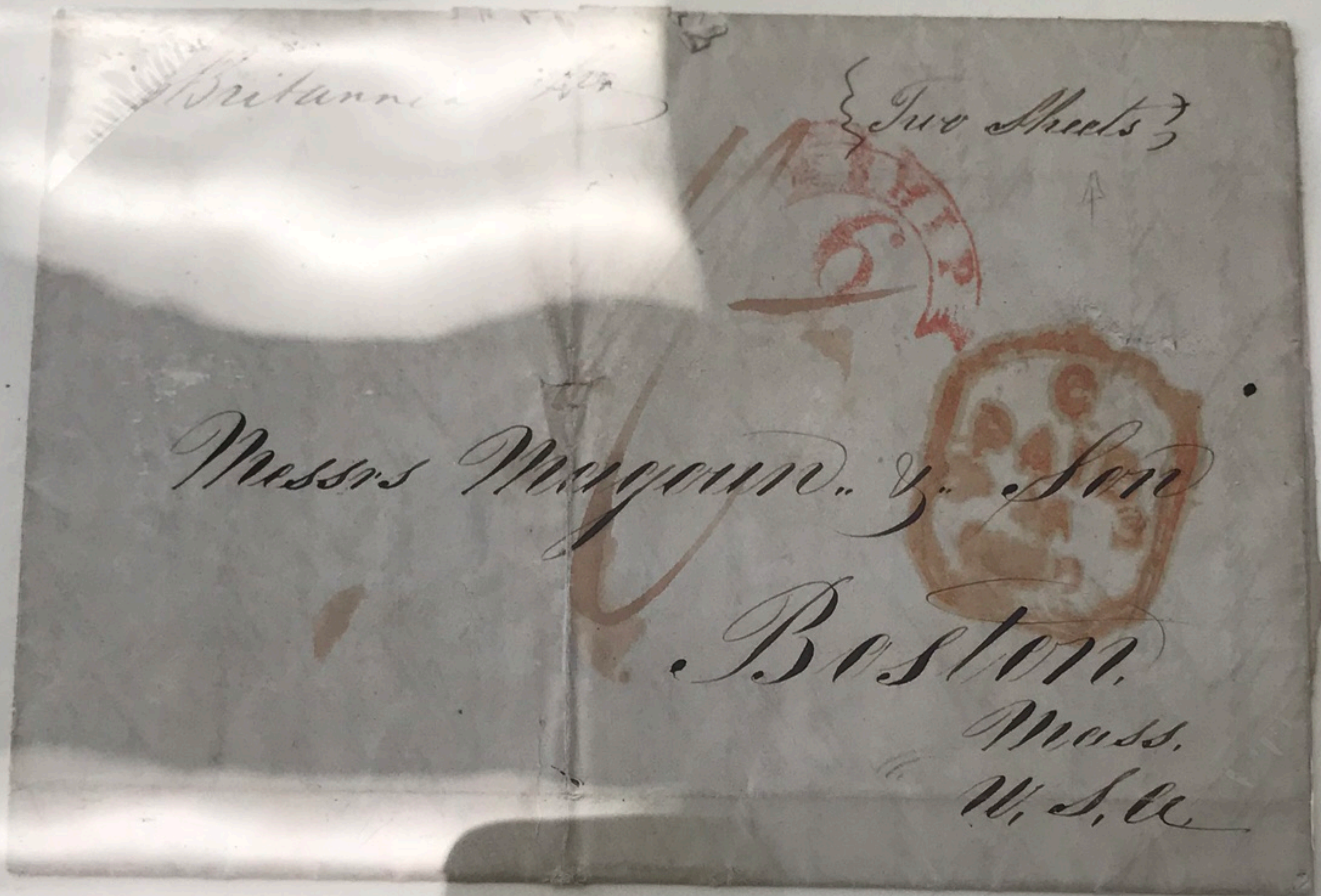


U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1840 - 1849

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

4 Jul 1840 - 1 Jul 1845



5 December 1841 Copenhagen to Boston

Britannia

This letter was hand carried from Copenhagen, Denmark to London where it was postmarked by the orange-red London tombstone postmark C/PAID/3 JA 3/1842 and inscribed "1/-" in red ink indicating prepayment of packet rate. Endorsed "p Britannia Str," it departed Liverpool 5 January, arriving Boston 21 January where it was rated SHIP/6 as a ship letter at port of entry.

*1/- italics*

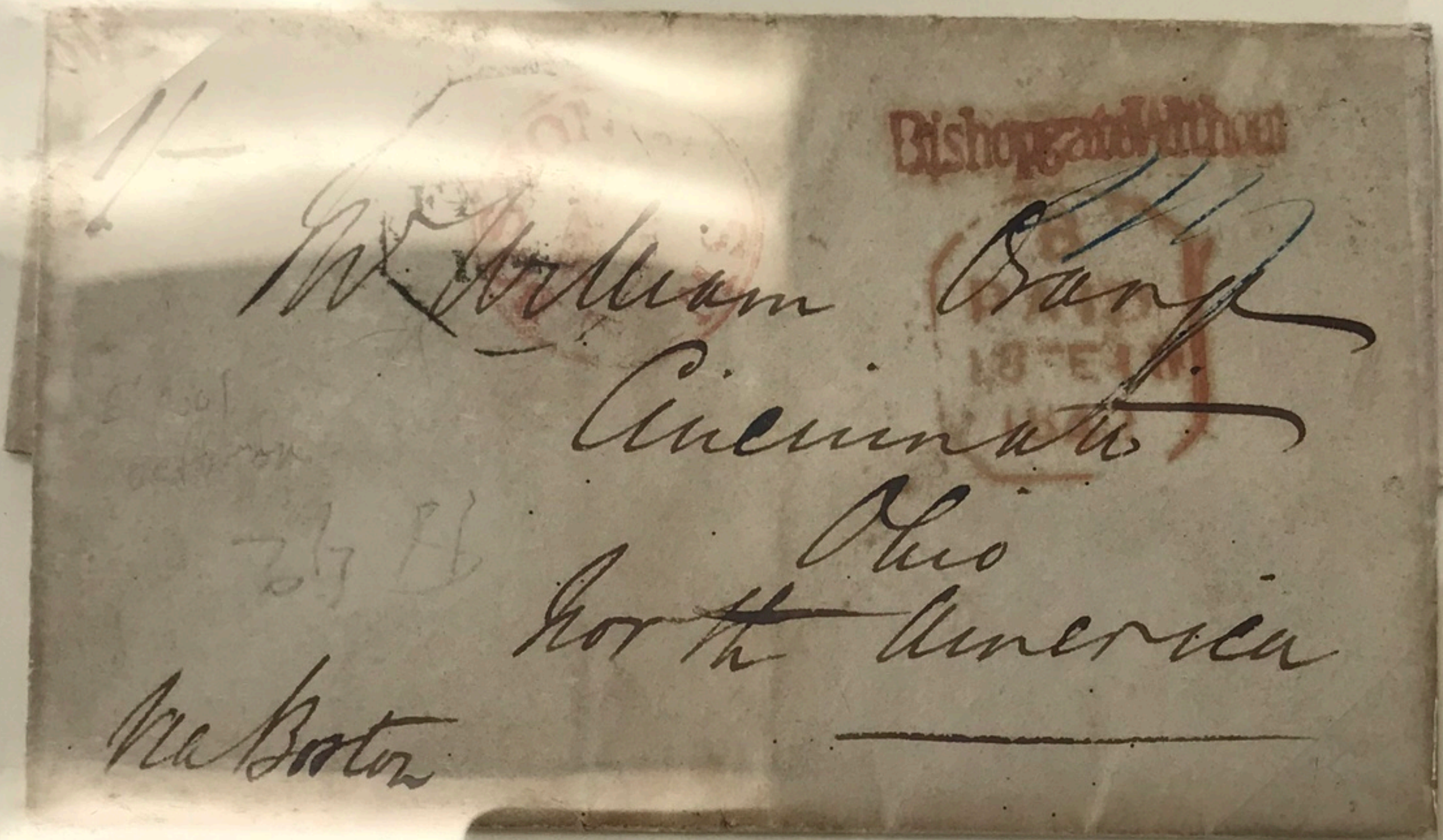


**U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship**

**1840 - 1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**4 July 1840 - 1 July 1845**



**16 February 1842** London to Cincinnati

**Acadia and Unicorn**

This letter was posted at Bishopgate Without, which was a small substation of the large Bishop(s) Gate post office in the City of London. Someone at Royal Mail had a sense of humor as there was another small station called Bishopgate Within. Both were probably in a store or shop. The packet rate of 1/- (1s) was paid and the orange-red London tombstone postmark is dated 18 February 1842. It was endorsed *via Boston* and sailed on the Cunard Packet **Acadia** on 19 February with the **Caledonia's** mails, as well as her own, since the **Caledonia** had returned to port due to damage resulting from violent storms at sea. By chance, the **Acadia** fell in with the steamer **Unicorn** which, in consequence of the non-arrival of the **Caledonia**, had been dispatched to Halifax on March 7. On 8 March the **Unicorn** sailed to Boston with **Acadia's** mails and **Acadia** sailed from Halifax for Liverpool on 12 March with **Unicorn's** mails. In Boston the letter was postmarked (BPM 293) and rated 20 3/4 cts. (18 3/4 cts. for 150 to 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee).



Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
British Contract Steamship



17 March 1842 Portsmouth to Raleigh

Britannia

Written on board ship *Off: Portsmouth England*, the letter was posted at Portsmouth March 18 and struck with the large black 2 pence rate mark. It was re-rated in black mss. *1s/2p* collect to Boston. Since packet postage had to be prepaid, the letter was forwarded to London and backstamped with a red encircled Returned for Postage and on its face a red boxed Returned for Postage with mss. *1s*, as well as a red boxed Detained for Postage with No. 6949 inscribed. The London post office applied the red mss. *1/-* rate and the red tombstone postmark *E/PAID1 JU 1/1842*. The black Liverpool transit marking is dated *JUN 2/42*. The **Britannia** d. LP 4 June, a. Bos. 18 June where it was lightly struck with the SHIP postmark and forwarded collect with 27 cts. postage due (25 cts inland rate + 2 cts. ship fee).



U.S. Inland Rates: 3 March 1825 to 30 June 1845

Zone rates + 2 cts. Ship fee

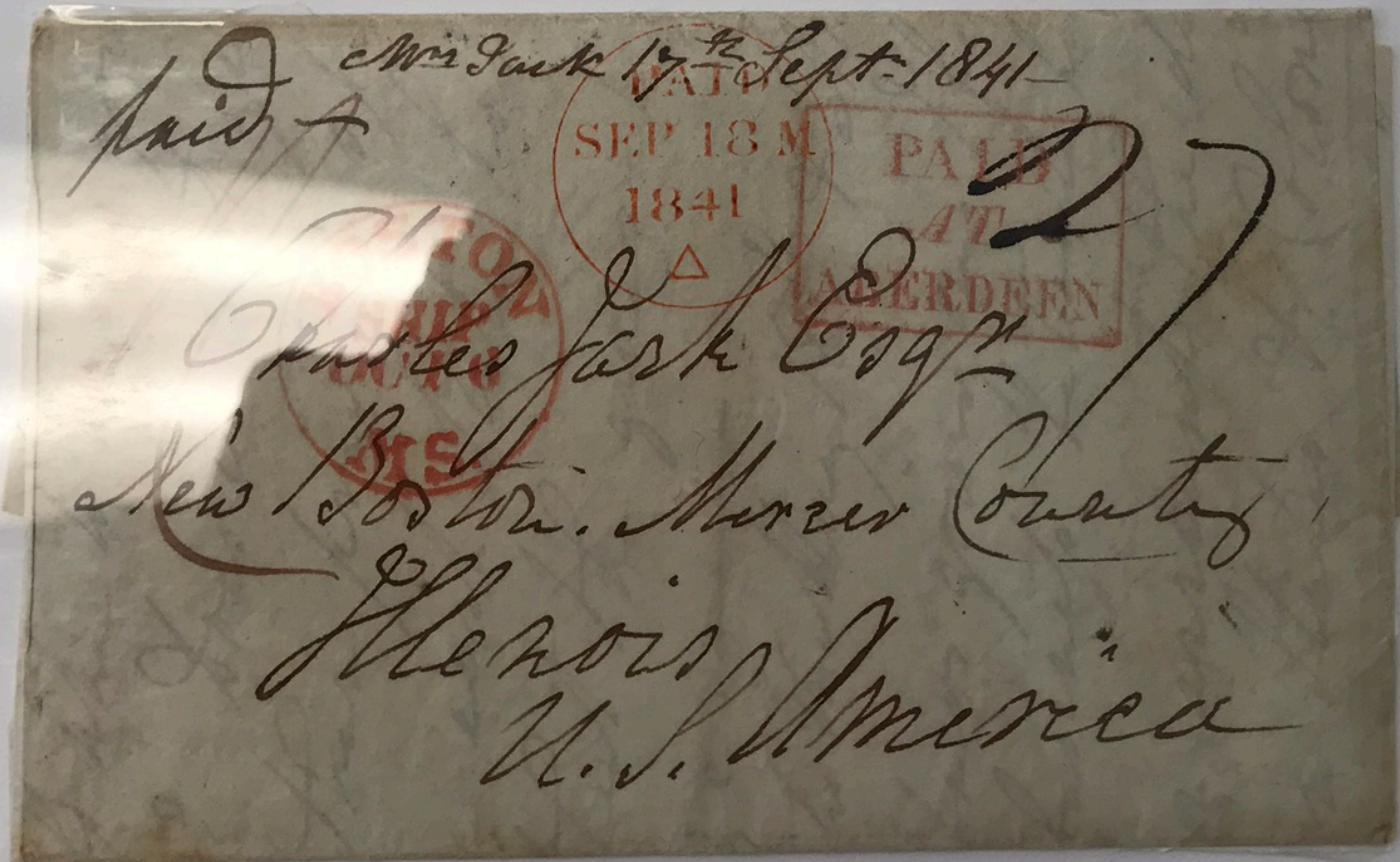
British Contract Steamship



14 April 1842 Rome, IT to New York via Boston

Acadia

18 3/4 cts. for 150 - 400 inland miles + 2 cts. ship fee



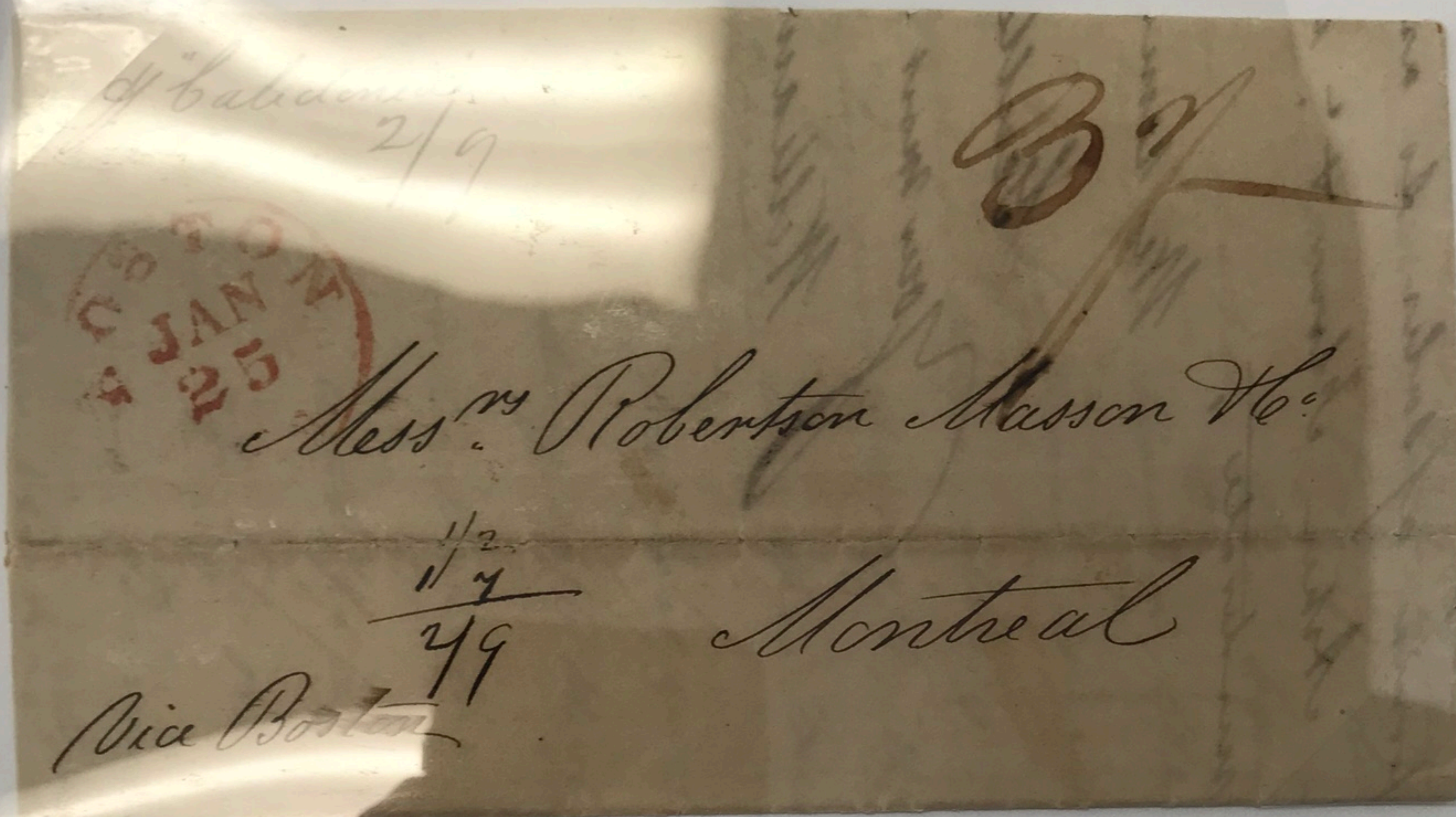
17 September 1841 Aberdeen, Scotland to New Boston, Ill

Acadia

25 cts. for over 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee



Pre U. S. – British Treaty: 4 July to 1840 to 1 July 1845  
Bootlegged on a British Contract Steamship



3 January 1843 Liverpool to Montreal, Canada

Caledonia

In order to avoid the one shilling packet rate, this letter was carried privately on the **Caledonia** and entered the mails in Boston. It received a regular Boston postmark, not that of the Exchange office with SHIP, and was rated  $37 \frac{1}{2}$  cts. (2 X  $18 \frac{3}{4}$ ) to the Canadian border. The Montreal postoffice converted the rate to  $2/9$ d cy. The letter was docketed *Rec. 30* (1843).



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

**1840 -1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**4 July 1840 - 1 July 1849**



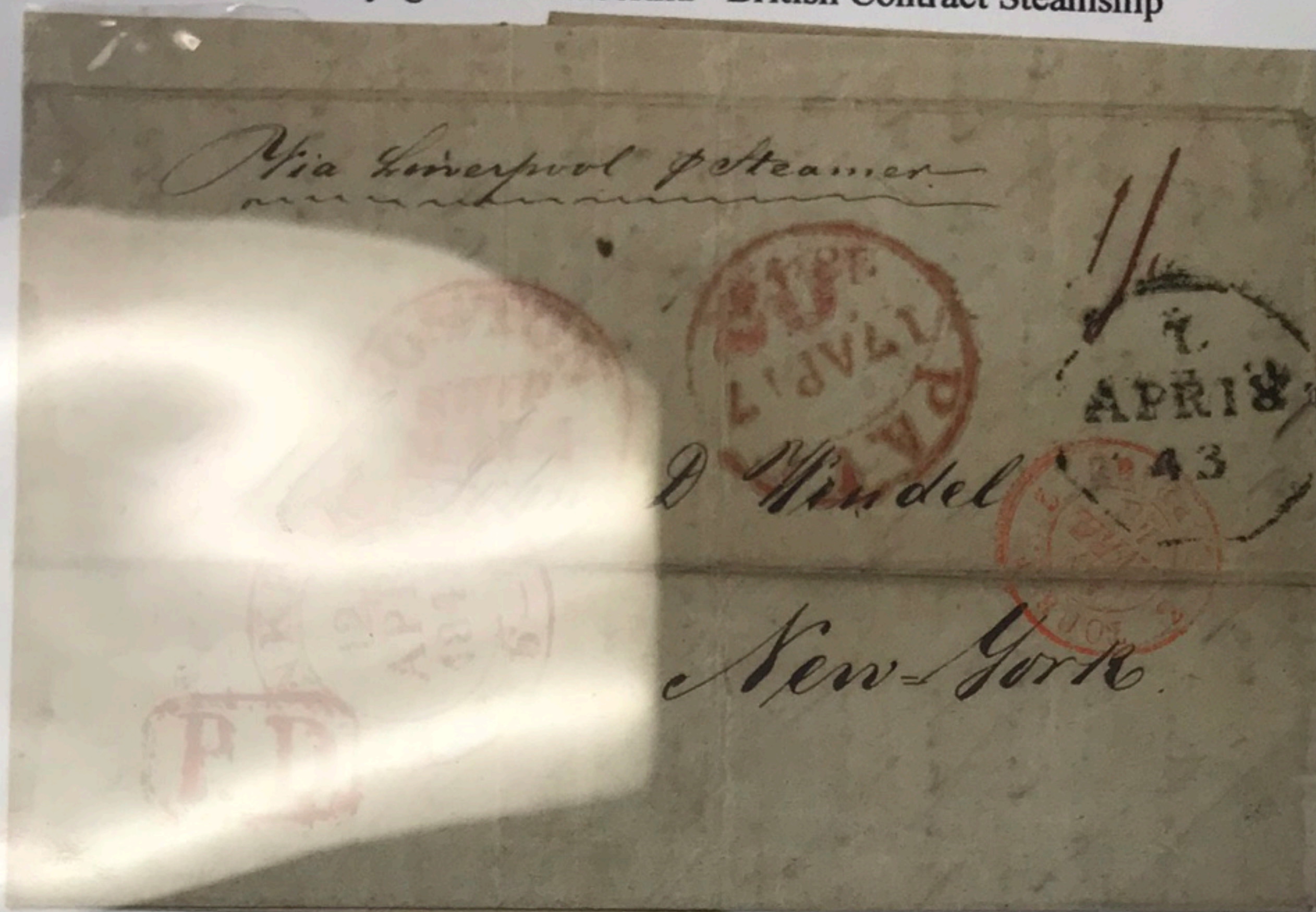
**18 April 1843 London to Philadelphia**

**Caledonia**

Posted in London on 3 May, prepaid 2 shillings for a double weight letter, and endorsed *Pr Caledonia via Lpool & Boston*, the letter was carried on the Cunard Packet **Caledonia**, departing Liverpool 4 May, arriving Boston 19 May. It received the Boston postmark (BPM 293) and the 39 ½ rate mark (unlisted) for a double weight-letter traveling 150 to 400 miles (2 x 18 ¾ cts. + 2 cts. ship fee).



Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
First Voyage of SS Hibernia - British Contract Steamship



12 April 1843 Frankfurt to New York

Hibernia

Posted in Frankfurt 12 April (red dbl. circle) and marked 12/6 in red crayon on reverse, the Anglo-Bremen pre-convention transit rate (effective 1 Dec. 1844) of 1s/8d to London. Endorsed *Via Liverpool p. Steamer*. The letter was sent to Aachen to go into the mail bags for the United Kingdom and struck with a large red boxed P.D. Red London PAID transit and red 1/- packet rate. Black LP transit APR 18/43. **Hibernia** d. LP 19 Apr. on maiden voyage, a. Bos. 4 May.



19 August 1843 Bremen to Reading, PA

Caledonia

Bremen black dc postmark: Stadt Post Abteilung ("State Post Department")/22 August. London orange-red PAID/25AU25/1843 and black mss. 1/6 indicating the British share of the postage: 1/- Packet rate + 6d Bremen-British transit. **Caledonia** d. LP 5 Sept., a. Boston 30 Sept. U.S. rate of 39 ¾ cts: 2 cts. ship fee + 18 ¾ cts. inland fee for 150-400 mile.

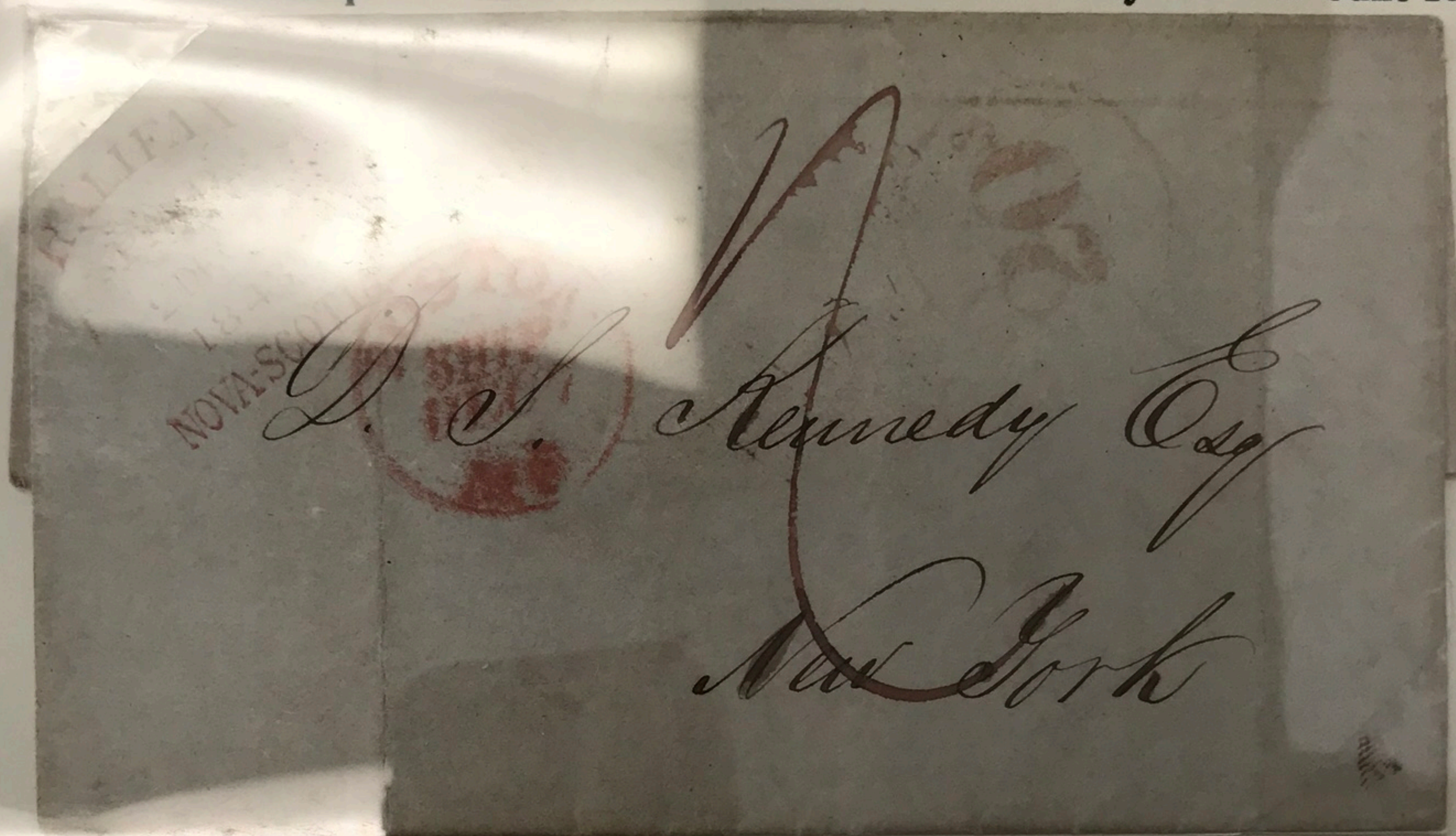


**U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship**

**1840 - 1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**1 July 1845 - 29 June 1848**



**2 December 1843 Halifax to New York**

Prepaid 1/-

d. LP 19 Nov., d. NS 2 Dec., a. Bos. 6 Dec.

**Acadia**

Postage due 20 3/4 cts.: 18 3/4 cts. U.S.  
inland + 2 cts. ship fee; BPM 293

**30 April 1846 Halifax to New York**

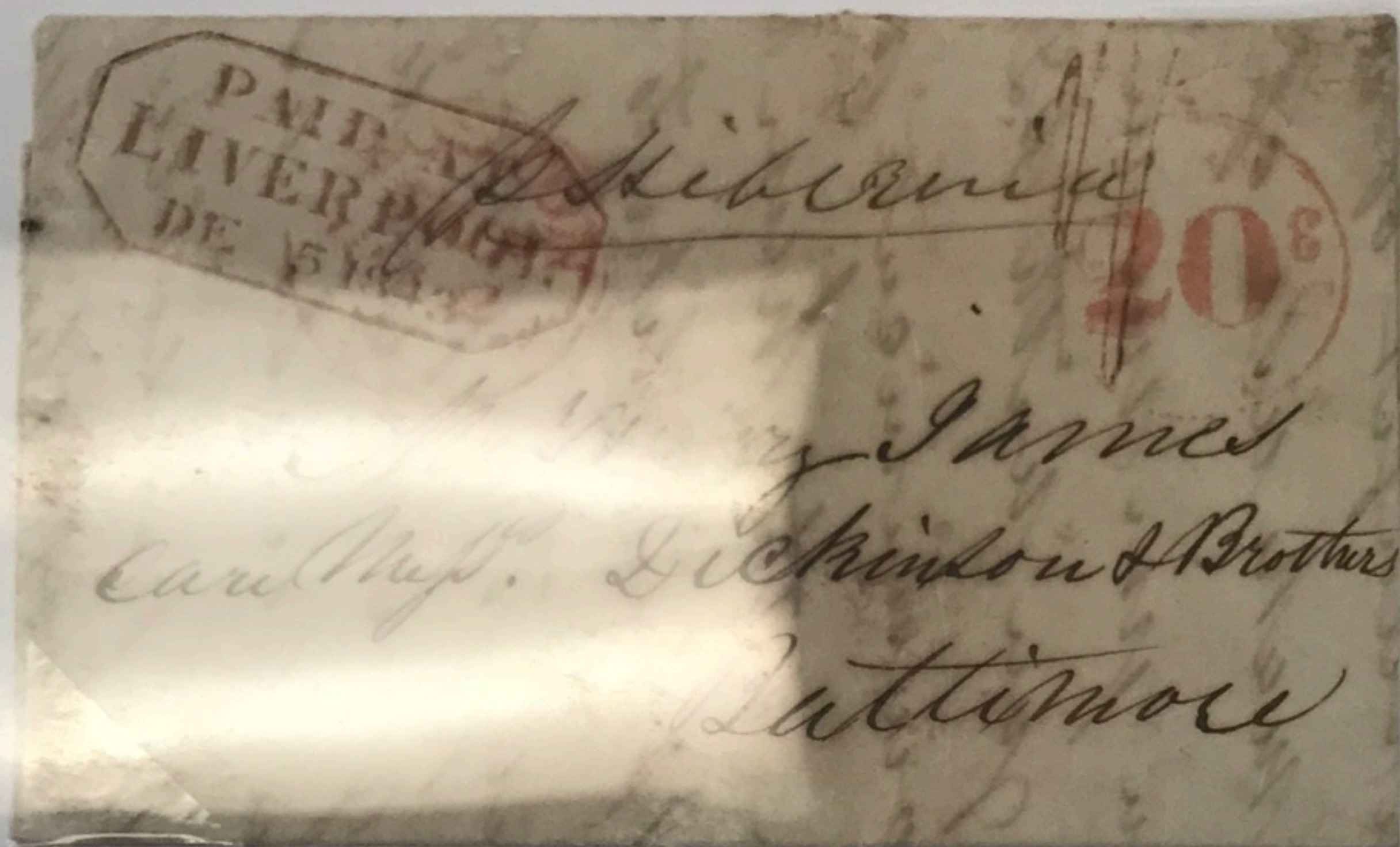
Prepaid 1/-

**Cambria**

Postage due 7 cts.: 5 cts. U.S. inland as of



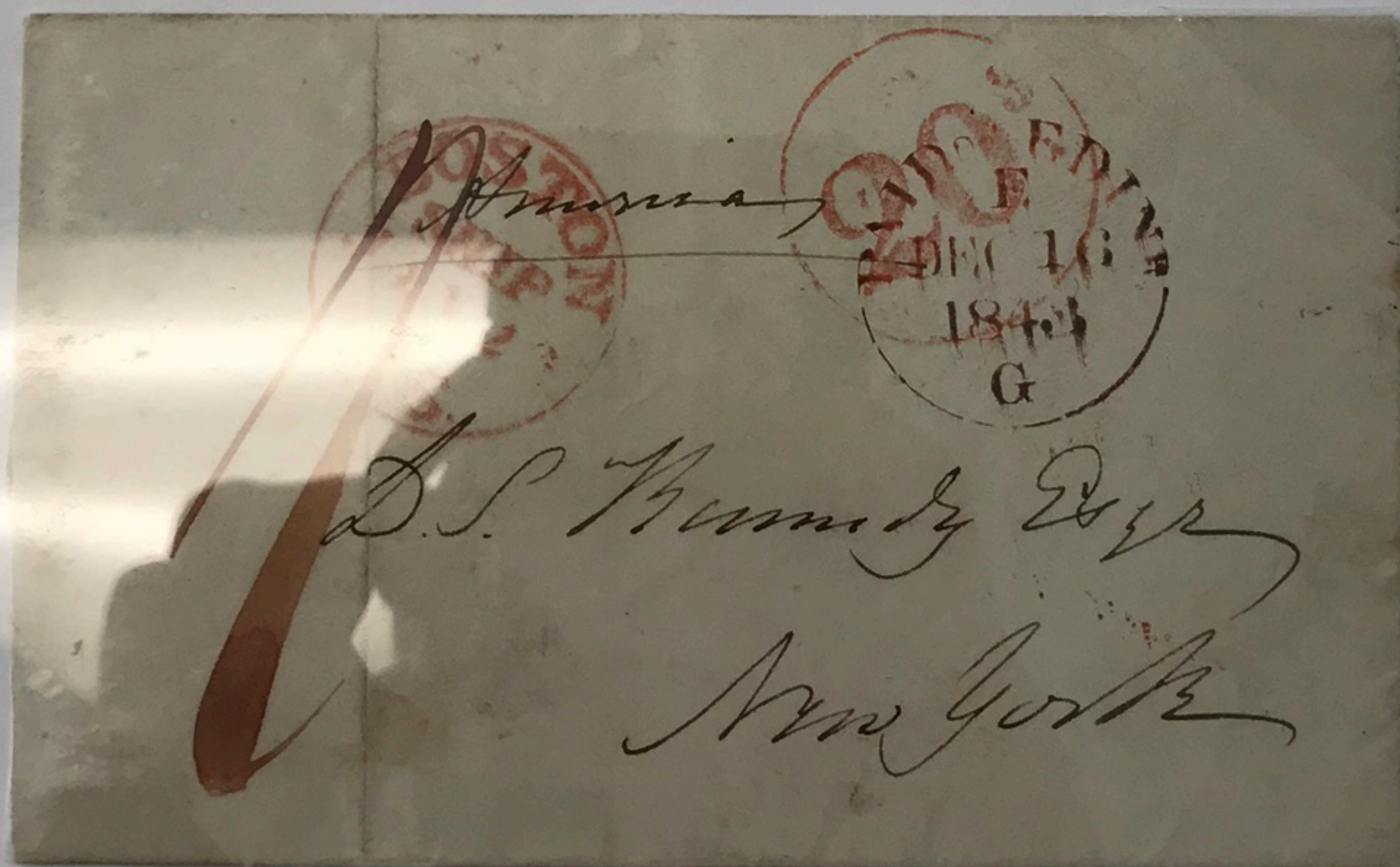
Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
British Contract Steamships - Hand Stamped Rate Markings



4 December 1843 Liverpool to Baltimore

Hibernia

1/- Packet rate. **Hibernia** d. LP 5 Dec., a. Bos. 20 Dec. Postage due 20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cts. (note inverted 3) for inland rate of 18 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cts. for 150 to 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.



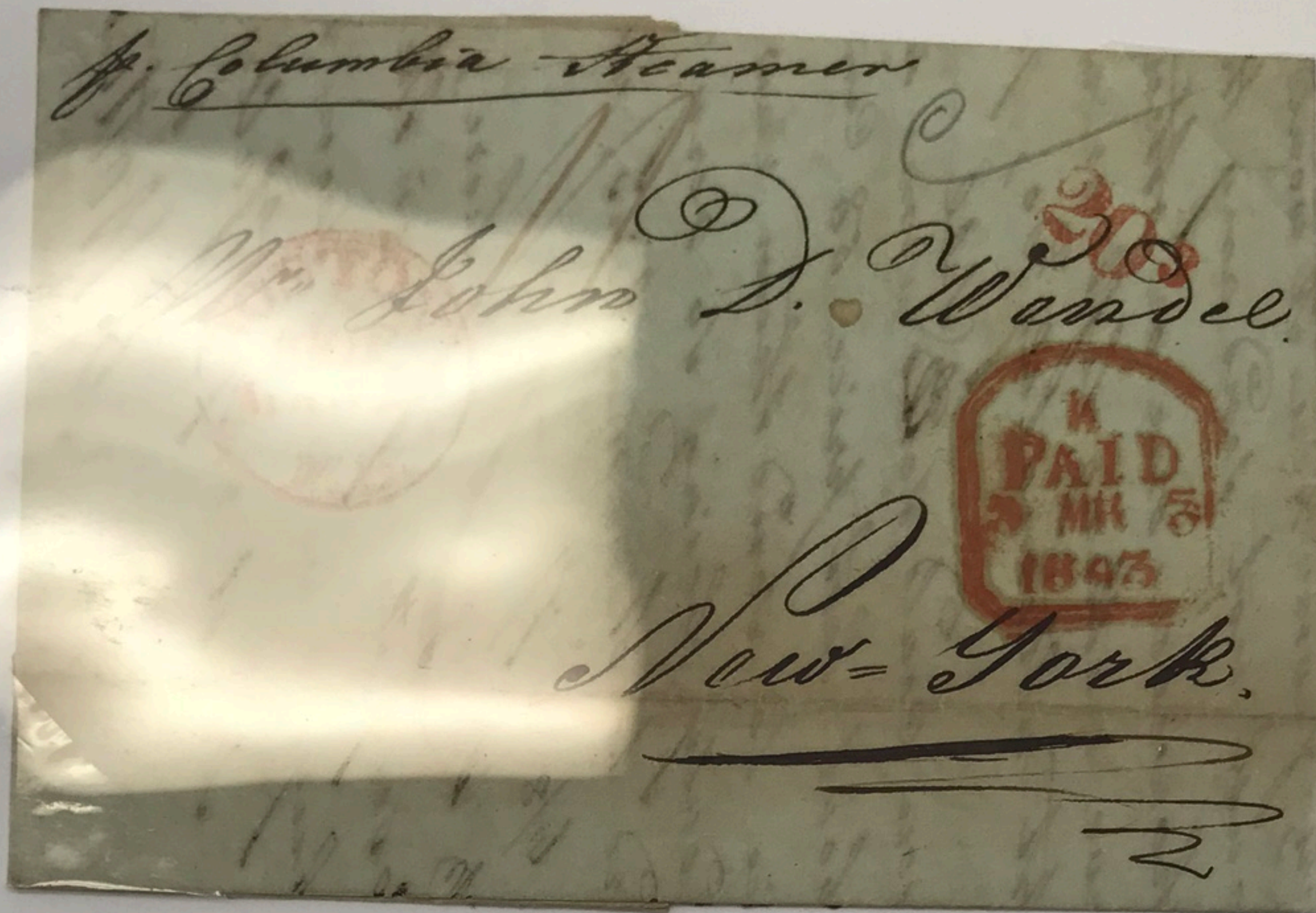
15 December 1843 London to New York

Britannia

Posted and pre-paid at the Edinburgh, Scotland post office on Dec. 16. Pd: 1/- packet rate. Black LP transit L/17DE43/A (reverse). **Britannia** d. LP 4 Jan., 1844, a. Bos. 21 Jan. Postage due 20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cts. for inland rate of 18 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cts. for 150 to 400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee. Docketed on reverse "r 23 Jany 1844." Reference to *America* on front refers to the United States as destination, not to the Cunard ship which was not commissioned until 1848.



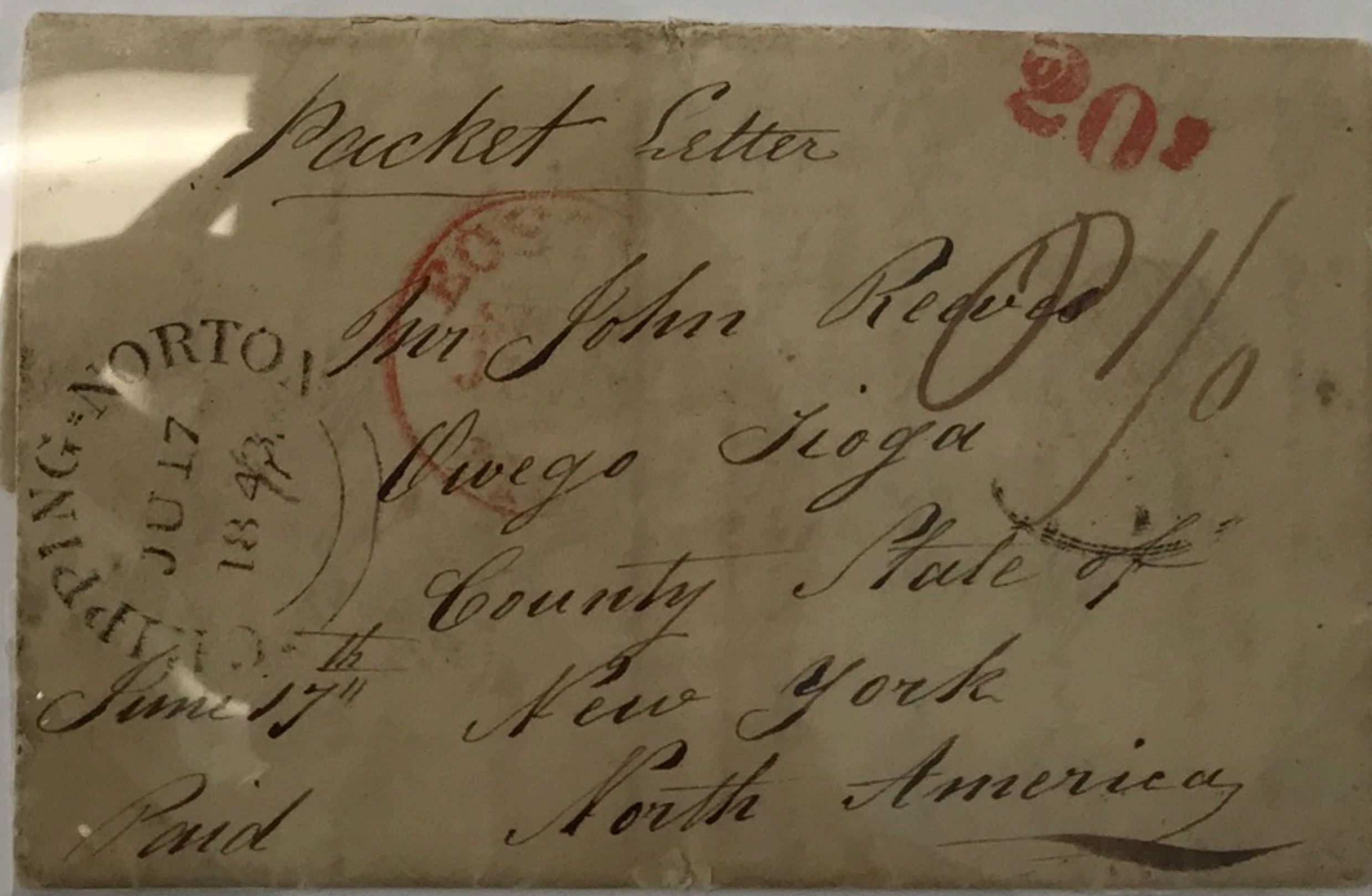
Pre U. S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
 British Contract Steamships  
 Handstamp Rate Marking of 20 3/4



March 1843 London to New York

Columbia

Paid 1/- Packet rate. London red tombstone PAID/3MR3/1843. Columbia d. LP 4 Mar., a. Bos 20 Mar. Red BOSTON/SHIP and postage rate handstamp 20 3/4 (early use): 18 3/4 cts. inland rate for 150-400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.

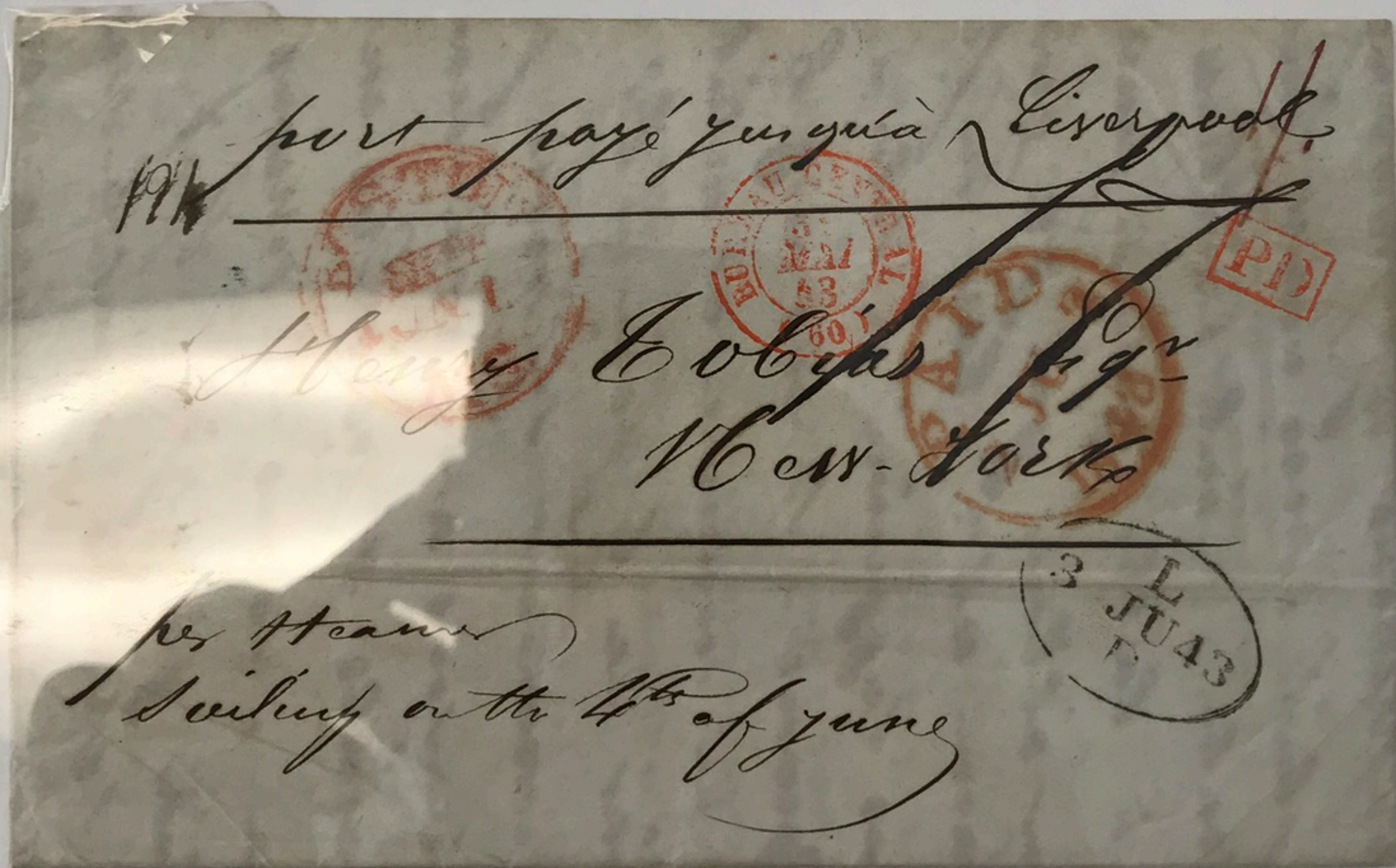


16 July 1843 Chipping-Norton to Oswego, NY

Hibernia

Endorsed Packet Letter with red ms. P 1/0 Packet rate Paid. Black oval LP transit 19 July (reverse). Hibernia d. LP 20 June, a. Bos. 3 July. Partial red Boston postmark and red postage due 20 3/4: 18 3/4 + 2 cts. ship fee.

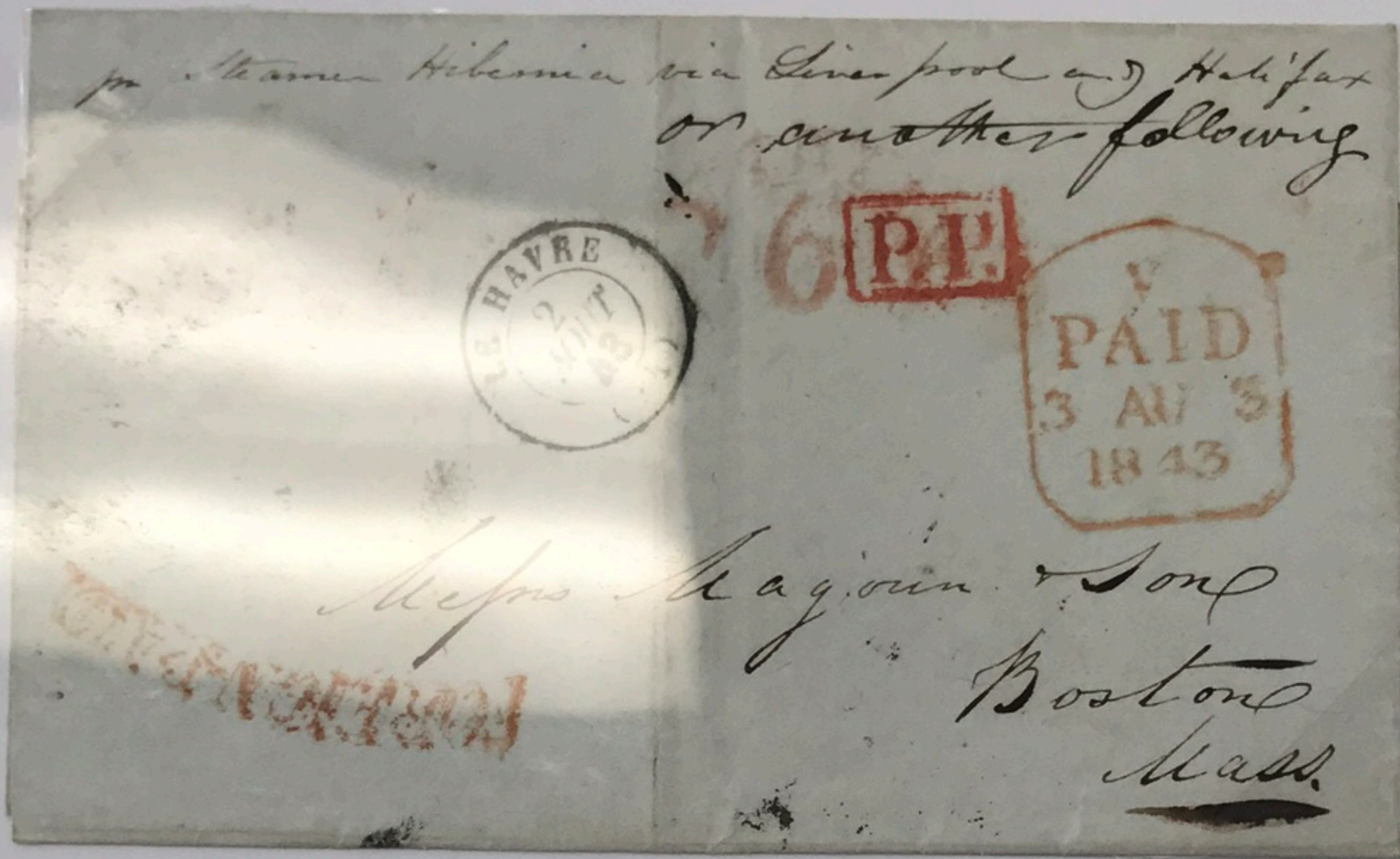




Both letters were posted to New York in Paris at the BUREAU CENTRAL and struck with a red boxed PD (paid to destination, i.e. U.S. frontier). The letter of 14 May 1843 was sent under the articles of the Anglo-French Convention of 1836. It stipulated a British packet fee of 12 decimes and a French internal rate of 15 decimes for a letter weighing 17 grams, totaling 27 decimes (reverse). Carried on the *Acadia*, d. LP 19 May, a. Bos. 1 June, it was postmarked and rated 39 ½ cts. postage due (2 x 18 ¾ cts. for 150-400 miles + 2 cts. ship fee). The letter of 31 May 1843 was sent under the articles of the Anglo-French Convention of 1843 requiring a rate of 32 decimes (reverse) for 19 grams weight. Carried on the *Columbia*, d. LP 4 June, a. Bos. 18 June, where it was rated 77 cts. postage due (4 x 18 ¾ cts. + 2 cts. ship fee). Both letters received the London red 1/- rate and PAID circular postmark. Each was struck with the black oval LP transit handstamp. The marking was proofed on 13 May 1843 and has hitherto only been seen from July to December of 1843.



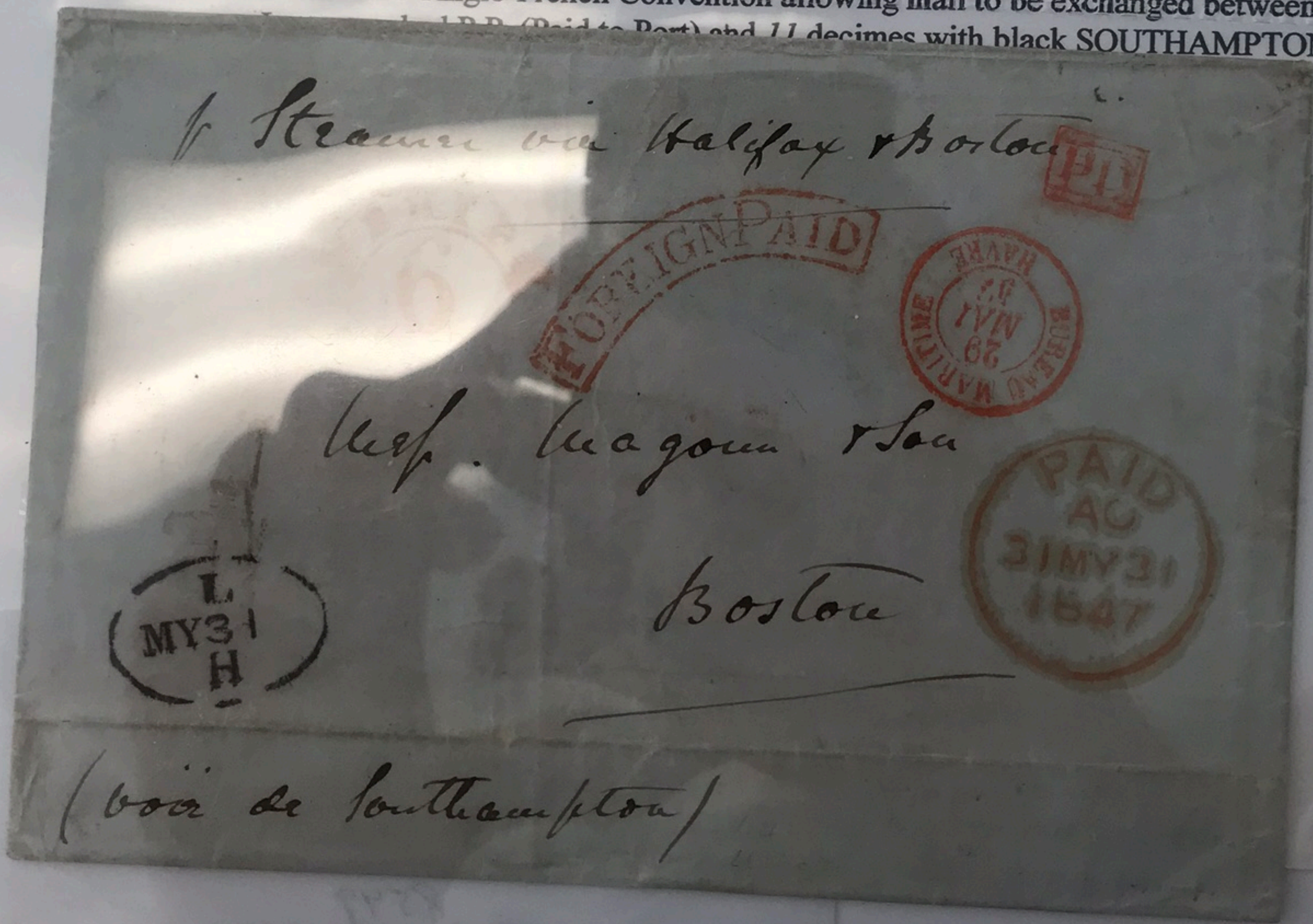
Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
 Southampton FOREIGN PAID handstamp markings



2 August 1843 Le Havre to Boston

Hibernia

Unframed **FOREIGN-PAID** issued to Southampton exchange office on 29 July 1843 as a result of the 1843 Anglo-French Convention allowing mail to be exchanged between the two ports.



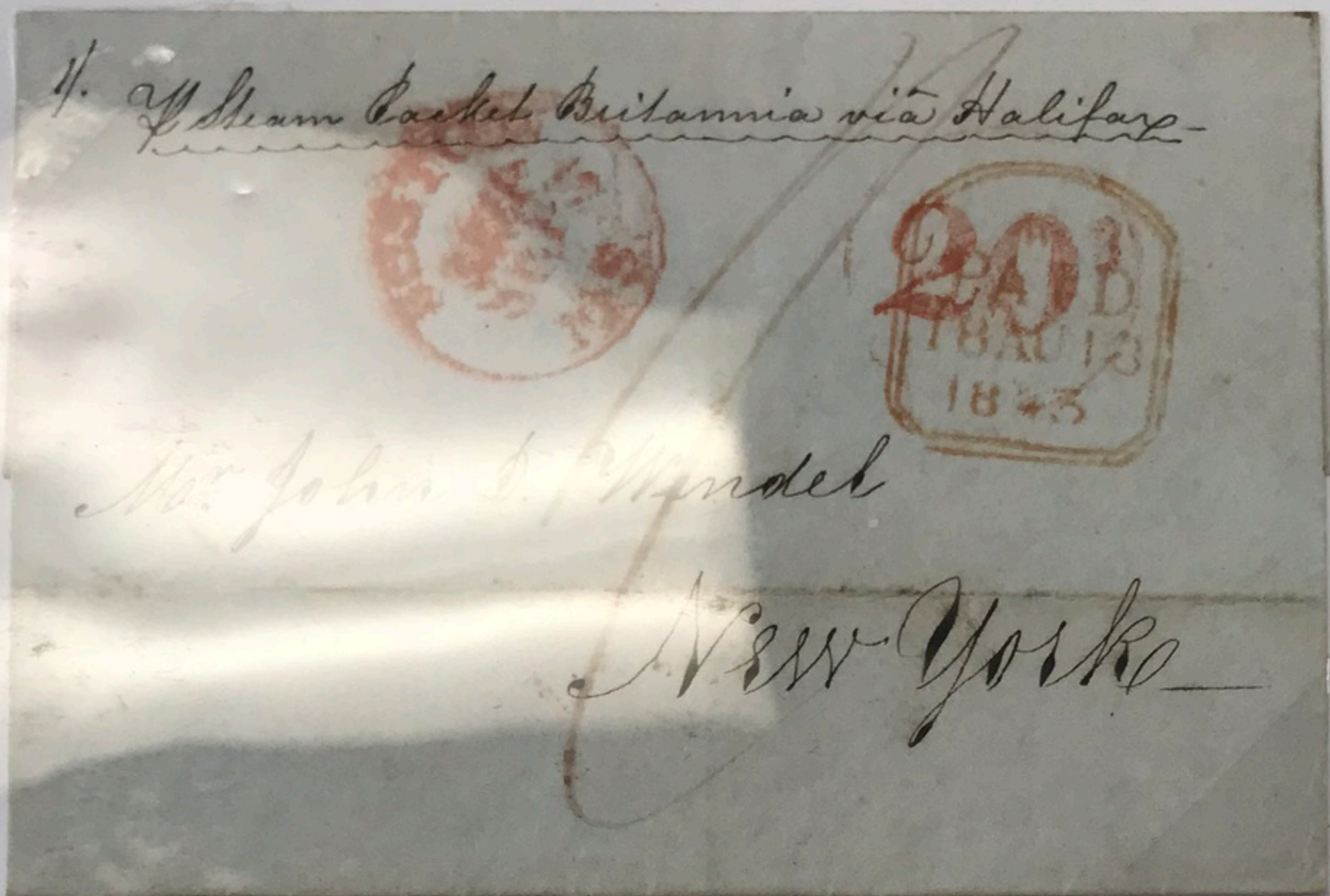
Bos. 17 Aug.

Britannia

Red boxed **FOREIGN PAID**. Postage prepaid 7 cts.: 2 cts ship fee + 5 cts. inland (Act of 1 July 1845). **Britannia** d. LP 19 June, a. Bos. 4 July.



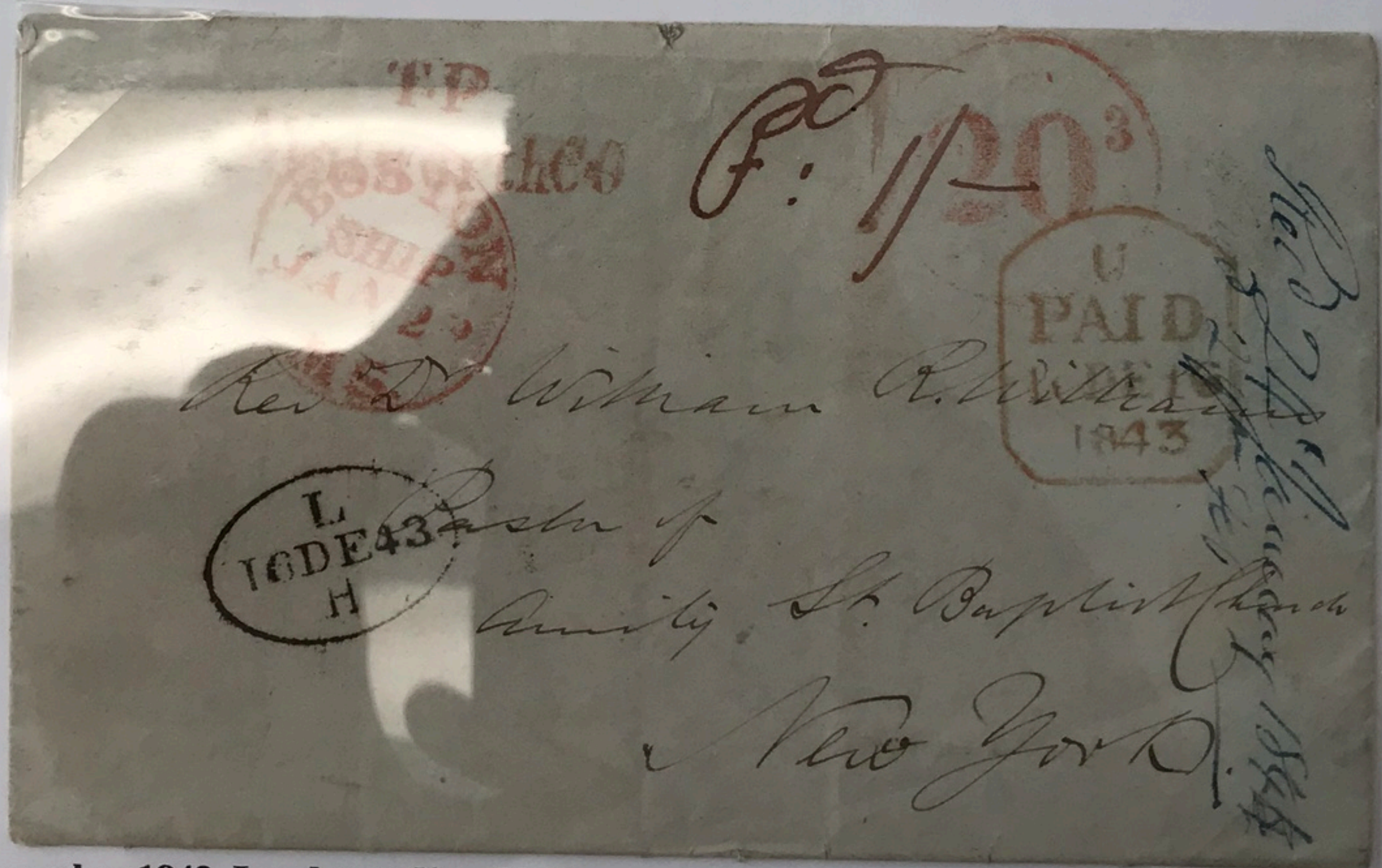
Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
 British Contract Steamship - Hand stamped Rate Markings



18 August 1843 London to New York

Britannia

Posted in London on August 18. The packet rate of 1 shilling was paid and the letter was *endorsed Pr. Steamer Packet Britannia via Halifax* and forwarded to Liverpool. The **Britannia** d. LP 19 Aug., was delayed by fog at Halifax for 36 hours and a. Bos. 3 Sept. Red BOSTON SHIP exchange office postmark applied and the 20 3/4 cts. rate mark for a distance of 150 to 300 miles inland rate + 2 cts. sea passage.



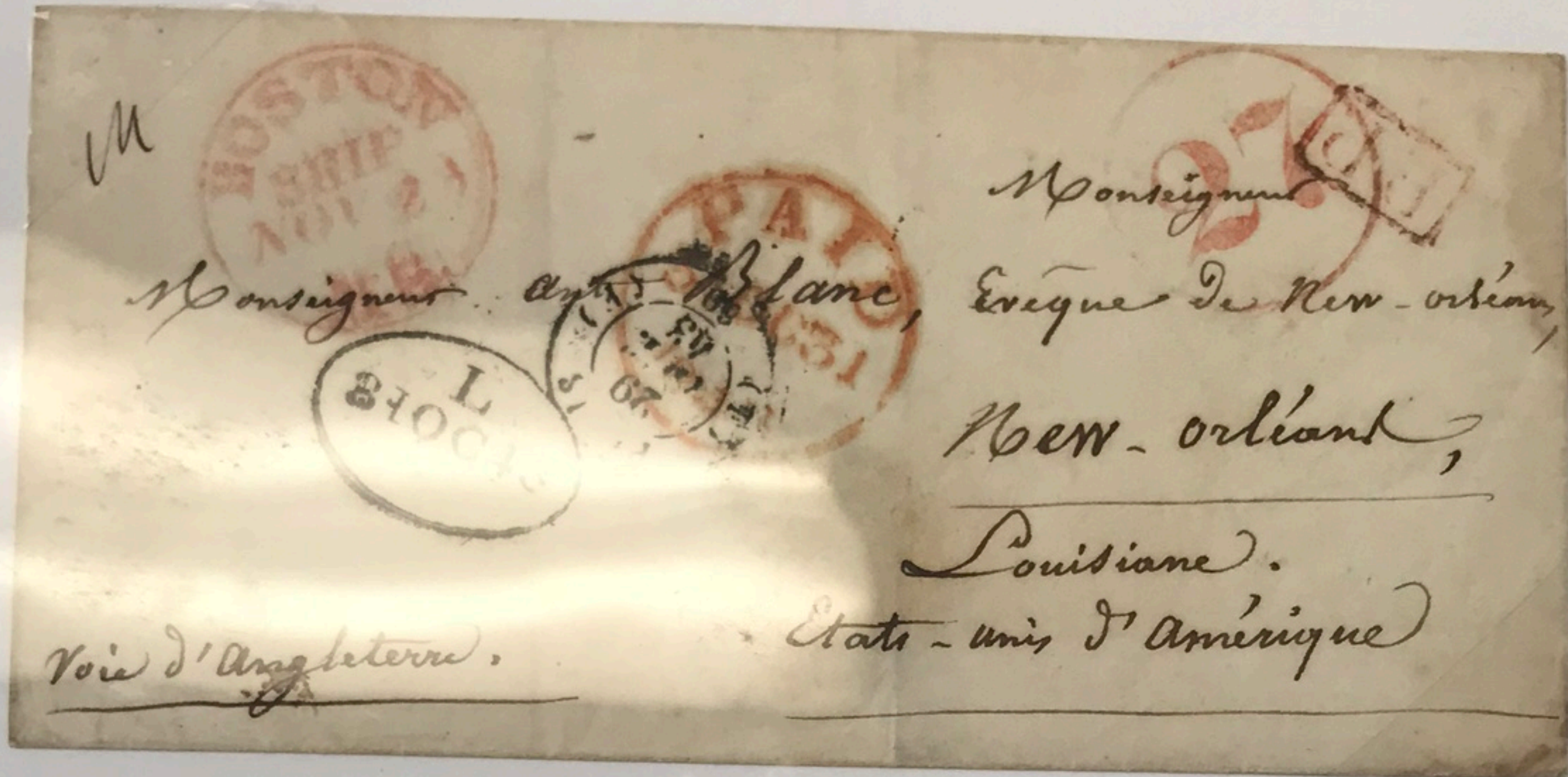
15 December 1843 London to New York

Britannia?

The letter was posted in a suburban post office in the London area where the clerk wrote *pd. 1/-* and then forwarded it to London for the orange red London PAID post mark and sent it to Liverpool where a black Liverpool lozenge transit mark dated 16DE43 was applied. According to Colin Tabcart this mark "has only been seen from July to December of that year" (1843). R.F. Winter does not list any Cunard voyages from Boston after 5 Dec. 1843 until Jan. 4, 1844. The letter is docketed as received 24 January 1844 and the red BOSTON SHIP post mark appears to have a date of Jan 22 or 23. Hence the letter may have been held for the sailing of the **Britannia** on 4 Jan. 1844, a. Bos. 21st.



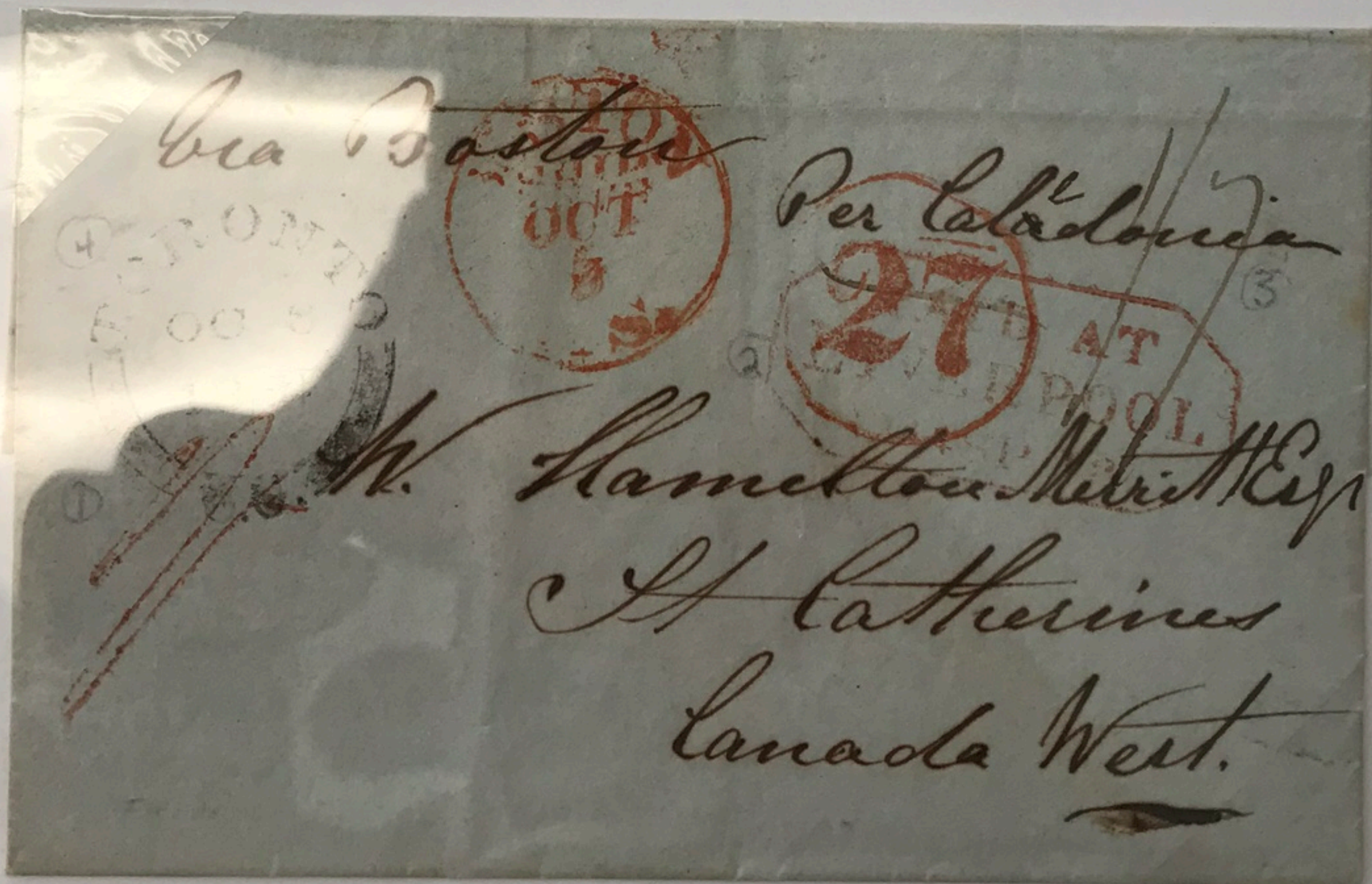
Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845  
British Contract Steamship  
Inland Rate of 27 Cents



29 October 1843 Paris to New Orleans

Caledonia

Posted in Paris and endorsed *Via l'Angleterre*, letter rated 15 decimes (reverse): 10 decimes sea and 5 decimes French for 7 ½ grams wt. (Anglo-French convention June 1.) Red PP for paid to destination. Orange red London and black Liverpool transit marks Carried on **Caledonia**, d. LP 4 Nov., a. Bos. 21 Nov. Rated 27 cts.: 25 cts. inland rate for over 25 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.



14 September 1844 Liverpool to St. Catherines, Canada West

Caledonia

Paid 1s. Packet Rate. **Caledonia** d. LP 19 Sept., a. Bos. 3 Oct. Boston Exchange Office applied SHIP postmark and 27 cts. rate for postage due to Canadian border: 25 cts. to Canadian border + 2 cts. ship fee. In Canada postage due 1/7 Cy. Arrived in Toronto 8 Oct. 1844.



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

**1840 - 1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**4 July 1840 - 1 July 1845**



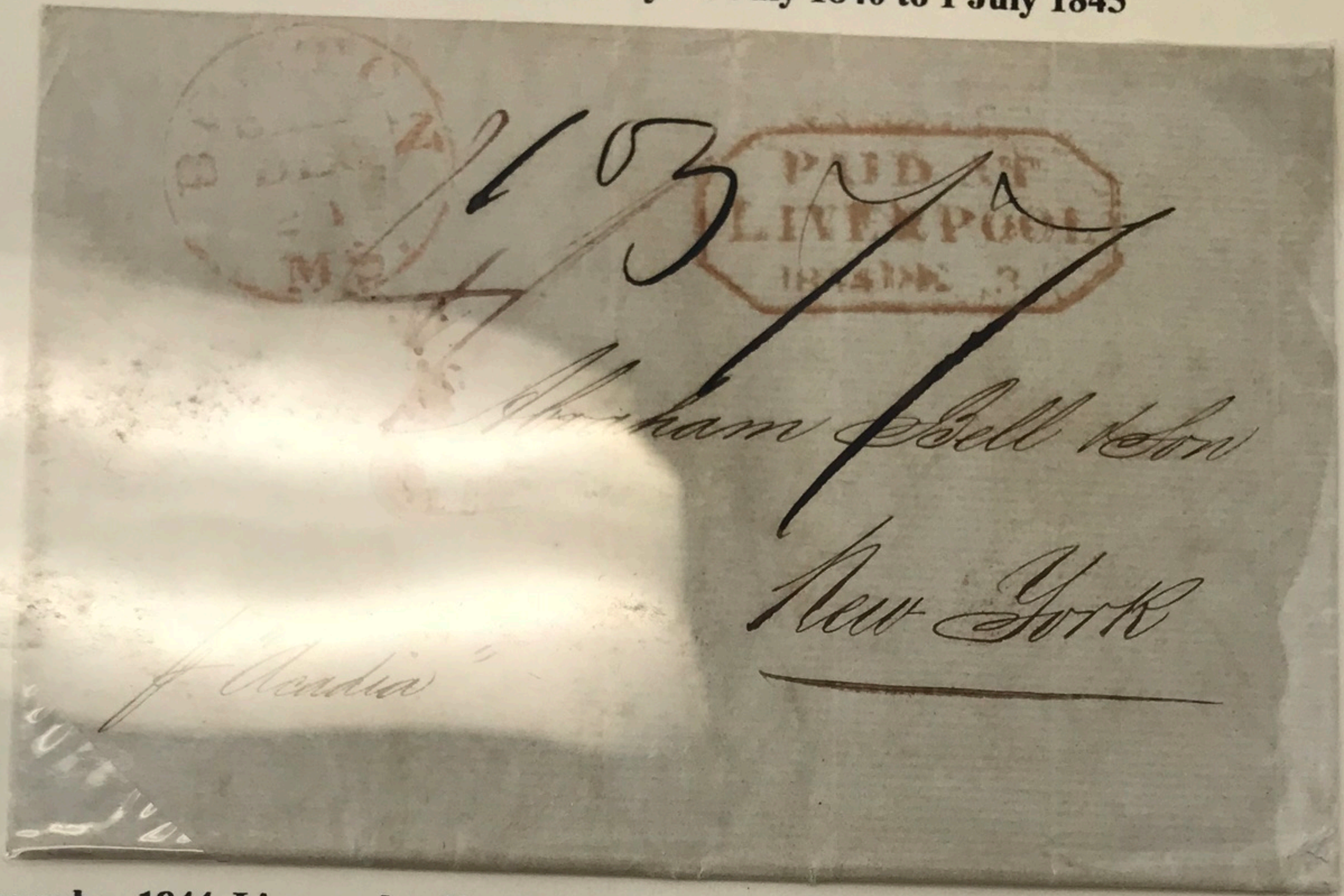
**13 August 1844** Marseille to Boston

**Britannia**

Posted Marseilles/28/AUOT/44 with mss. notations on reverse side 7 1/2 (grams weight) and 17 + 10/27 decimes on reverse side (17 decimes for French internal rate + 10 decimes, the rate for passage from Calais to Great Britain and by British packet to the United States, according to the Anglo-French Treaty of 3 April 1843). The letter arrived in Paris on 1 September and was struck with the red boxed P.P. (partial payment) and then struck twice with P.D. (paid to destination [frontier]). The letter, endorsed *p. Steamer of 4<sup>th</sup> September - via Liverpool*, was carried on the Packet **Britannia**, departing Liverpool 4 September, arriving in Boston 17 September where it was stamped SHIP/6, fee for delivery at port of entry.



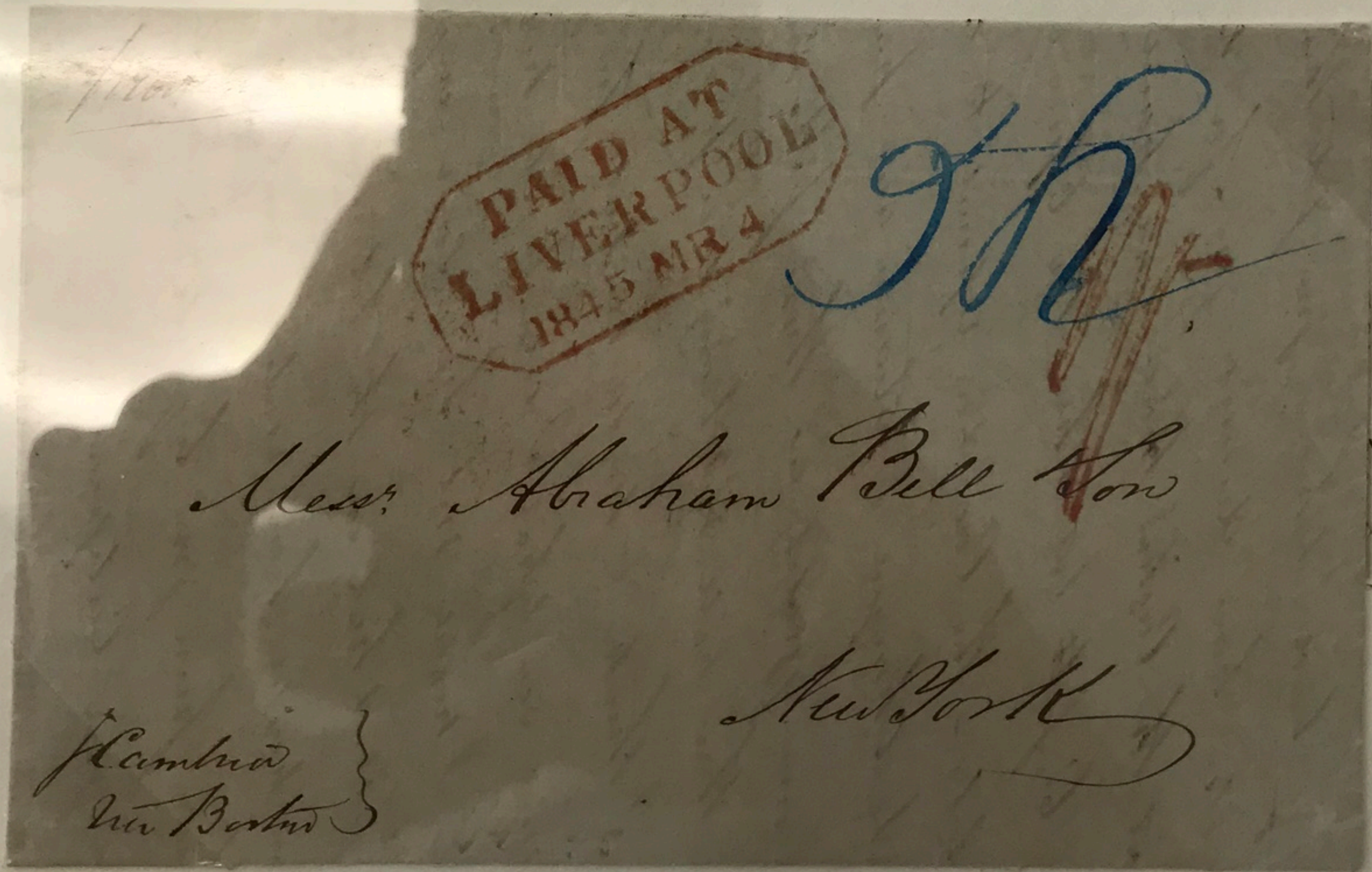
Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845



4 December 1844 Liverpool to New York

Acadia

4/- quadruple Packet rate PAID AT LIVERPOOL. Acadia d. LP 4 Dec., a . Bos. 21 Dec. Forwarded closed mail bag to NY. Postage due 77 cts. for quadruple rate of 1 oz. (4 x 18 3/4cts. + 2 cts. ship fee)



4 March 1845 Liverpool to New York

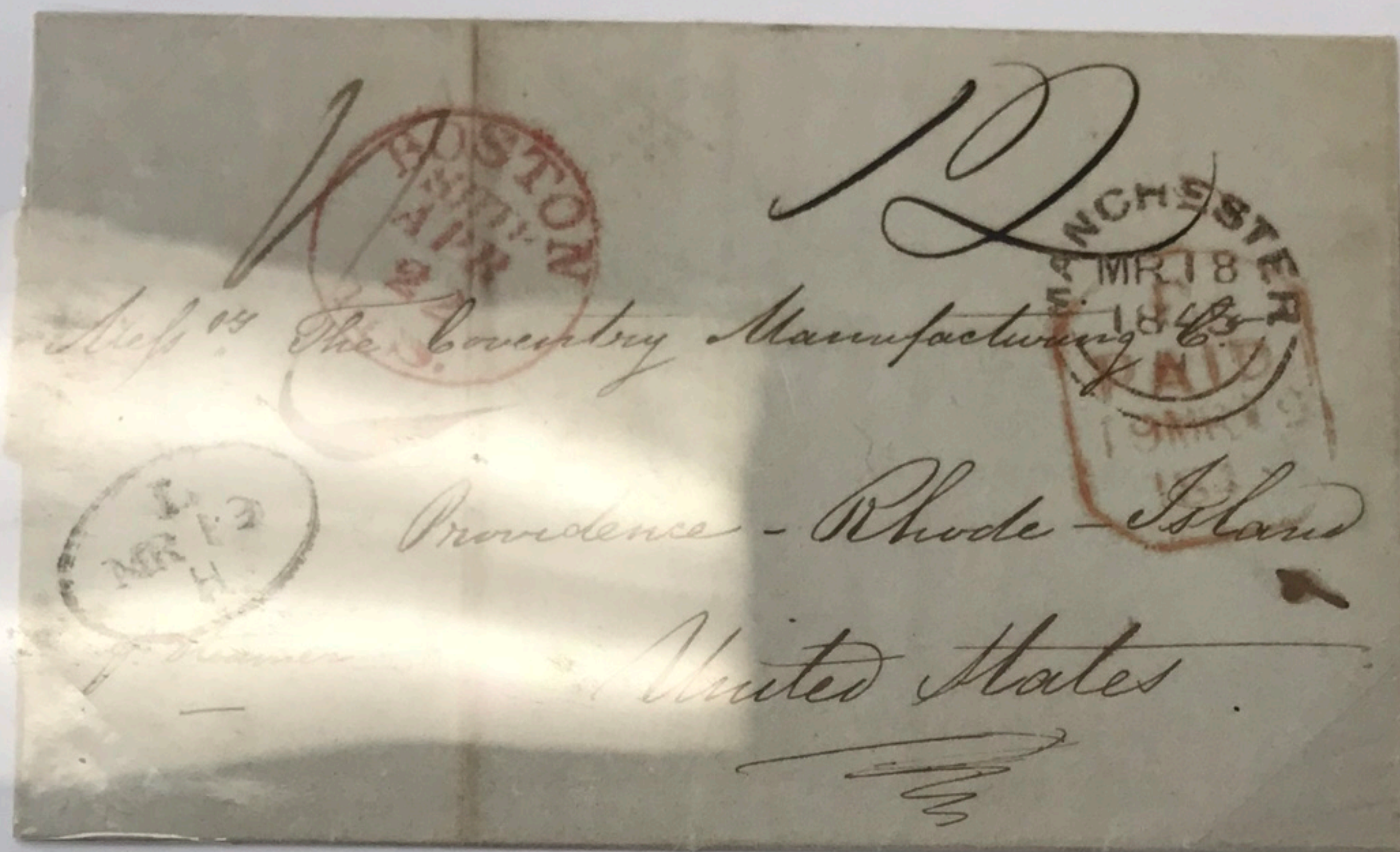
Cambria

1s. Packet rate PAID AT LIVERPOOL. Cambria d. LP 4 Mar., a. Bos. 18 Mar. Forwarded closed mail bag to NY. Postage due 58 1/2 cts for triple rate letter (3 x 18 3/4 cts. + 2 cts. ship fee).



Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 4 July 1840 to 1 July 1845

British Contract Steamship



18 March 1845 Manchester, GB to Providence, RI

Caledonia

Posted as prepaid 1/- on March 18 and forwarded to London and Liverpool on March 19, the letter was finally conveyed on the **Caledonia**, d. LP 5 Apr., a. Bos. 21 Apr. where it was rated 12 cts.: 10 cts. inland + 2 cts. ship fee.



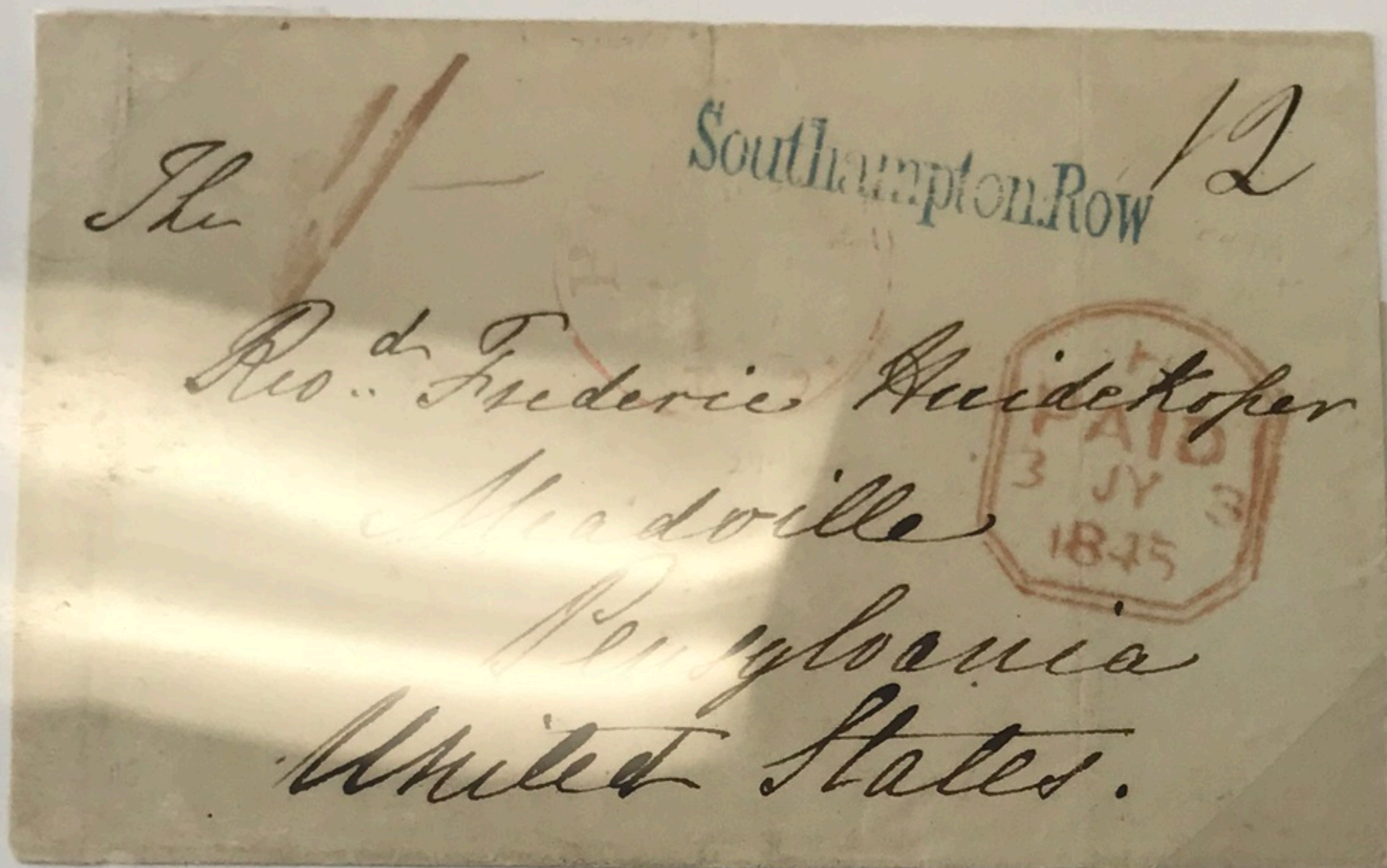
19 May 1845 London to Salem, MA

Cambria

Inscribed *per Cambria Steamer* and prepaid 1/- packet rate in London on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The folded letter was struck with the “hot-crossed bun” accountancy handstamp with matching orange-red London tombstone postmark. Black Liverpool oval transit dated MY 20 and placed on the **Cambria**, d. LP 20 May, a. Bos. 1 June. Postmarked in red with red BOSTON/SHIP and rated postage due 14 cts.: 12 cts. inland + 2 cts. ship fee.



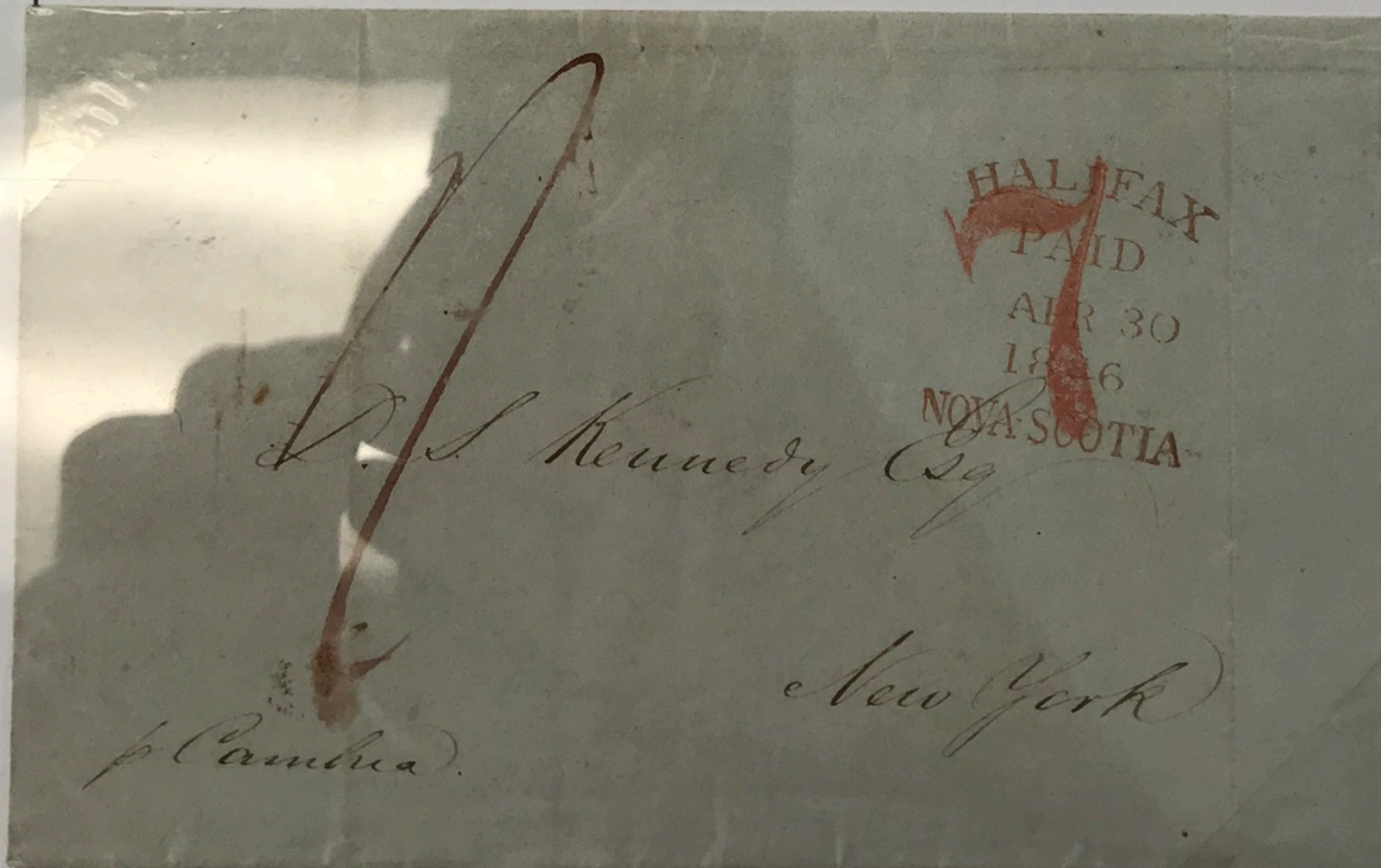
Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 1 July 1845 to 1 July 1848  
British Contract Steamships  
New U.S. inland rates: effective 1 July 1845



3 July 1845 London to Meadville, Pa

Britannia

1/- Packet rate. Carried by the **Britannia**, d. LP 4 July, a. Bos. 19 July. This was the second arrival of a Cunard liner since inception of new inland postage fee effective 1 July 1845: 5 cts. to 100 mi., 10 cts. over 300 mi. prepaid or unpaid. Postage due 12 cts.: 10 cts. + 2 cts. ship fee.



30 April 1846 Halifax to New York

Cambria

1/- Packet rate. **Cambria** d. LP 19 Apr., due in Bos. 5 May. Ship went ashore at Truro on Cape Cod 2 May. Mails were landed and taken by ox teams to Plymouth and thence to Boston by railroad. Postage due 7 cts.: 5 cts. U.S. inland + 2 cts. ship fee. The ship got off without damage and arrived in Boston on 5 May. Closed bag to New York where the large 7 was applied.



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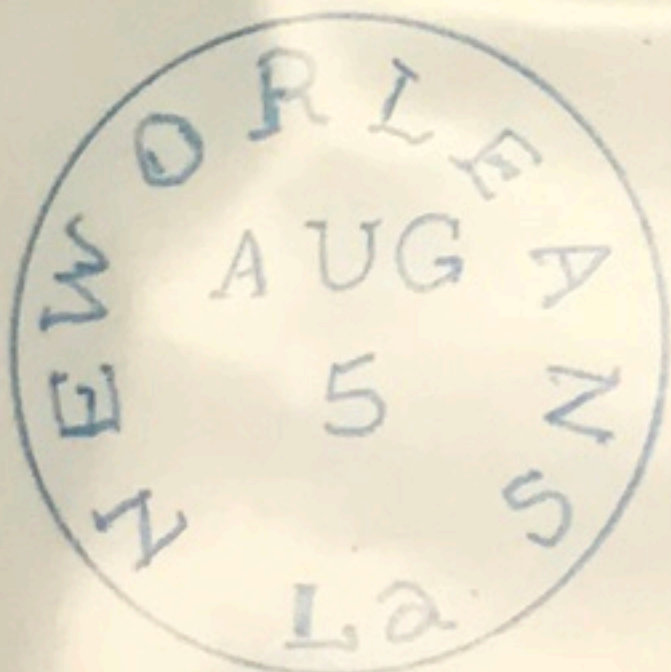
Trans Atlantic-by Destination  to France, NEW ORLEANS, La.

AUG/5 1845 Blue pmk on FL, Blue h/s "10" & "PAID" rate marking on FL, ms "per British Mail Steamer from Boston" at top, Red London transit strike & Red boxed "COLONIES/ &c. ART.12." h/s, Boulogne transit strike at UR, addr Paris France, VF, ex Arthur White (PH)...\$250

NEW ORLEANS TO FRA

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Cambria

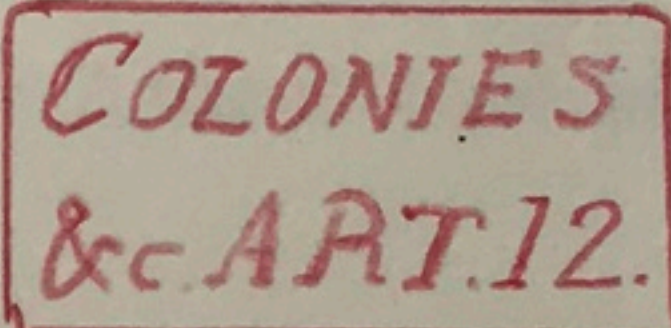
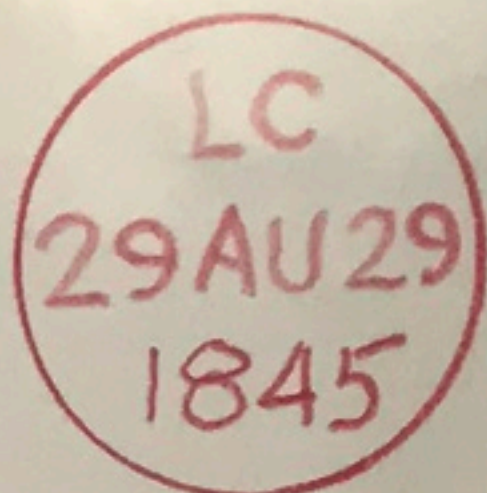


PAID

10

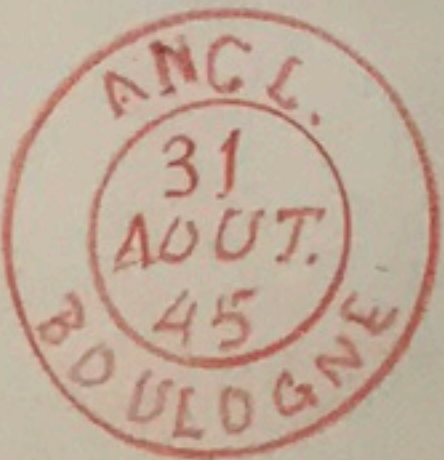
August 5, 1845. A letter to Paris posted at New Orleans and paid at the U.S. Domestic rate of 10¢, Rate of 1845, over 300 miles, New Orleans to Boston. This paid the letter only to the port of embarkation, Boston.

August 16. R.M.S. Cambria of the Cunard Line departed from Boston.



August 28. Cambria arrived at Liverpool, London transit backstamp August 29. The London "tray" mark charged France at the bulk rate of 3sh.4d. per ounce of Franch mail handled by Britain. The British Transit was 16 centimes + British Packet 84 cent. = 100 centimes per 1/4-oz.

The 100 cent. x 4 = 400 centimes per ounce or the equivalent of 40 decimes (also equivalent to 3sh.4d.)



August 31. French entry at Boulogne. France rated the letter at 1 franc plus the inland postage. Boulogne to Paris is about 200 kilometers; rate per 7.5 grams was 50 centimes, 10 grams was 80c. and 15 grams 100 cent (1 franc). Here rated as 15 grams at 100 centimes + 100 cent. Treaty = 200 centimes = 20 decimes, that amount shown as "20" in manuscript.

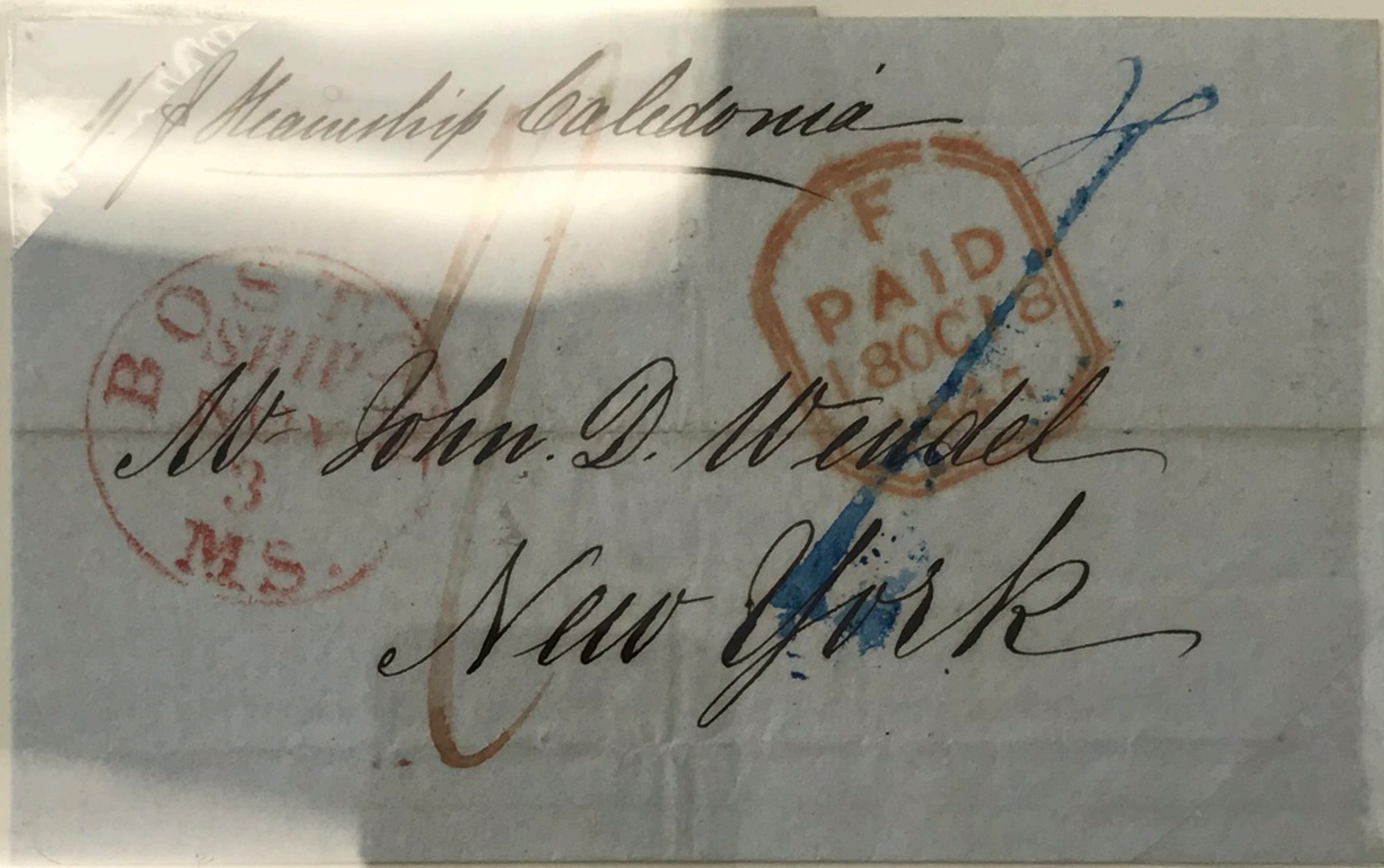


**U.S. - G. B. Mails by Steamship**

**1840 - 1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**1 July 1845 - 29 June 1846**



**18 September 1845** Poland to New York

**Caledonia**

Hand carried to Great Britain, the letter was mailed in London, receiving the red postmark F/PAID/18OC18/1845 and the red mss. 1/- indicating prepayment of the packet sea passage. The Packet **Caledonia** departed Liverpool on 19 October, arriving in Boston on 3 November where it was postmarked in red (BPM 293). New United States inland postal rates were in effect as of July 1, 1845 with distances under 300 miles charged 5 cents and over 300 miles 10 cents. The letter was sent to New York by closed bag, and the New York post office applied the blue manuscript 7, the amount due from the addressee (5 cts. inland rate + 2 cts. ship fee).

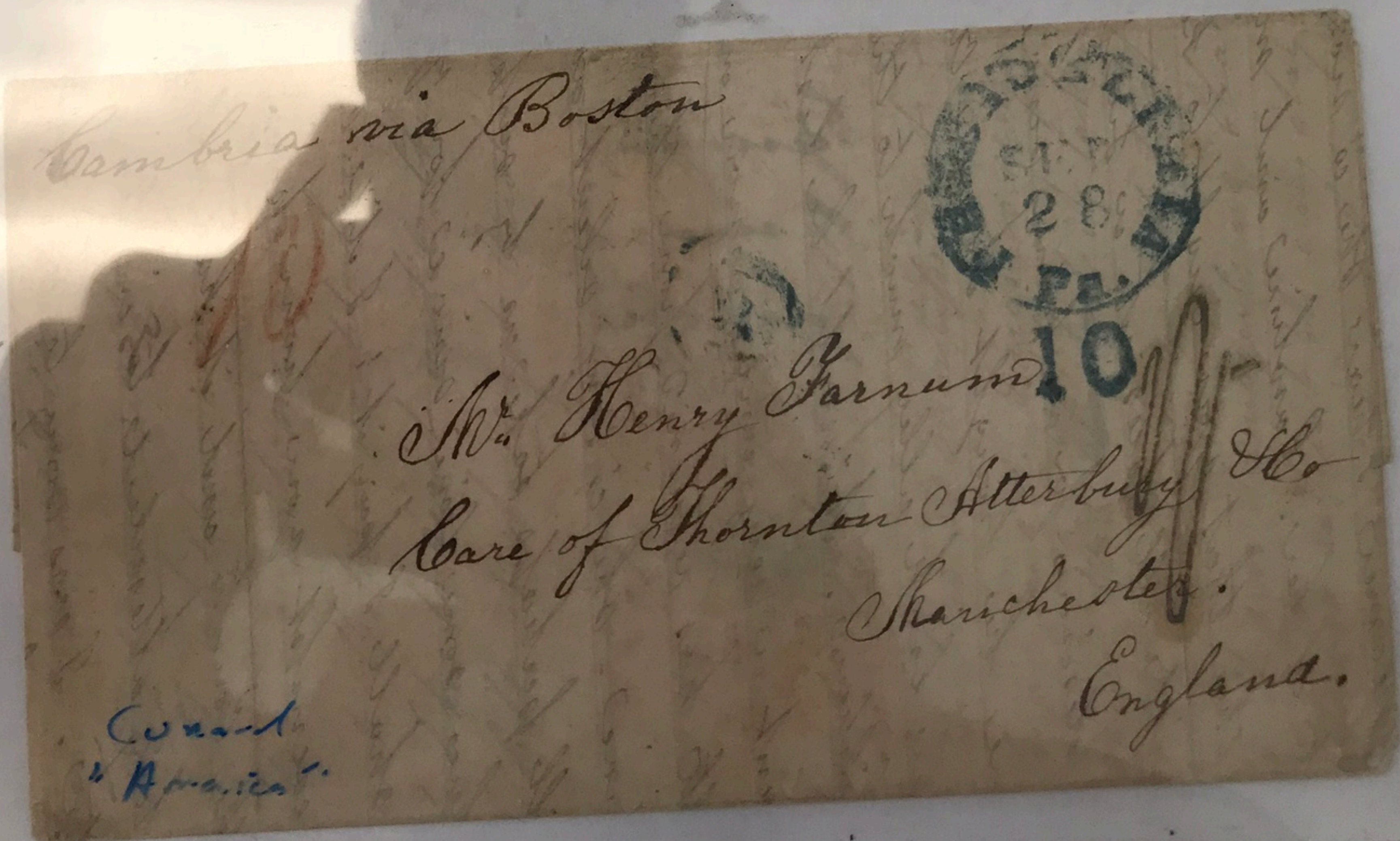


1845

28 September Philadelphia to Manchester

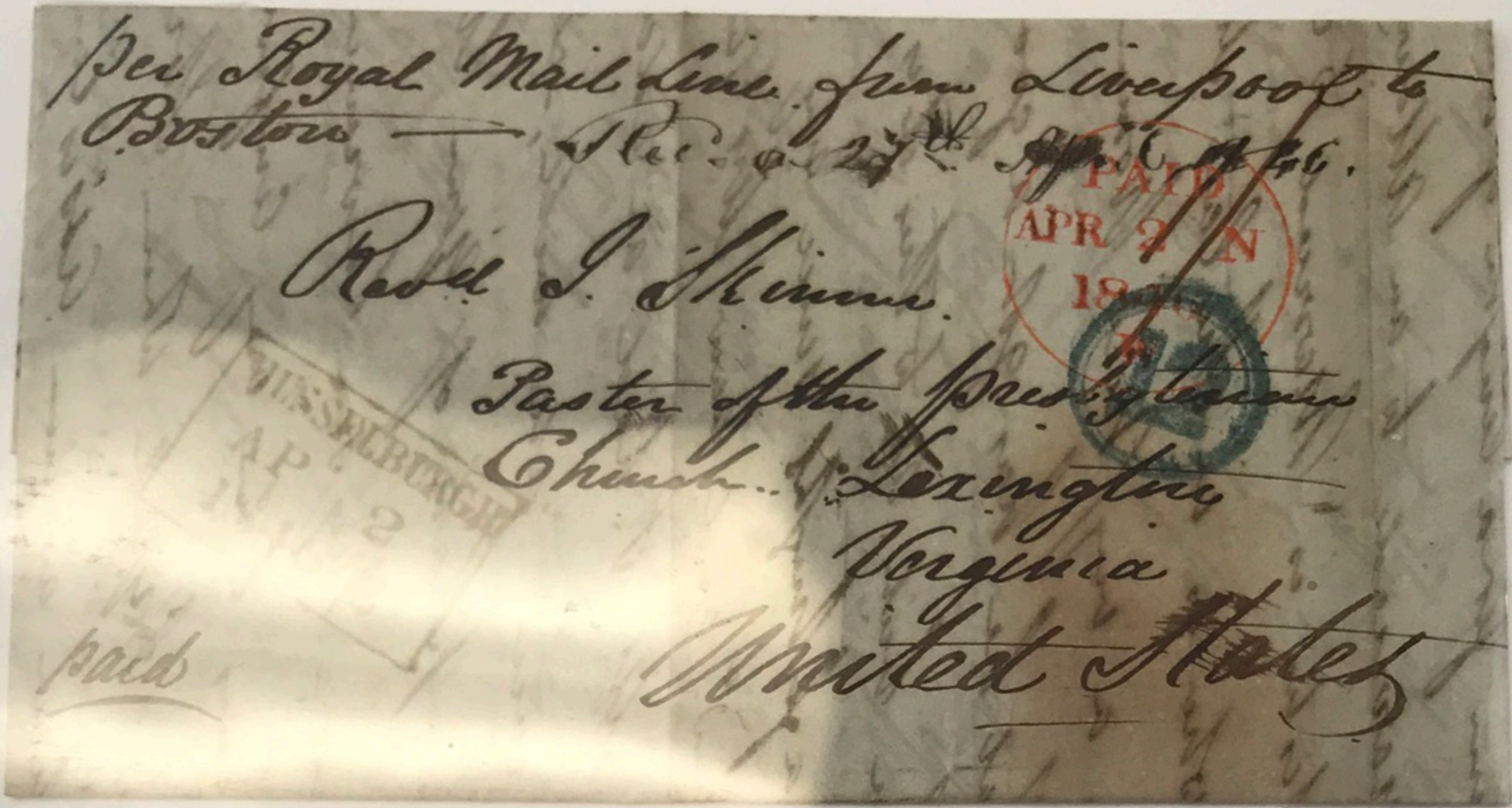
Cambria

This letter was posted in Philadelphia with an attached rate of 10 cts. As postage due, presumanbly to cover the internal cost of a registered letter to England ®. The cambria departed Boston 1 October, a LP 14 Oct. (Black transit with AMERICA (Tabcart P5 on reverse) and black one shilling postage due stamped on face of letter. **Notation** by recipient confirms that the letter was sent on board the Cambria and that it was received on Sept. 28. British transit post marks appear to be in error. *Late Fee, Due 24, Lovely* *300*

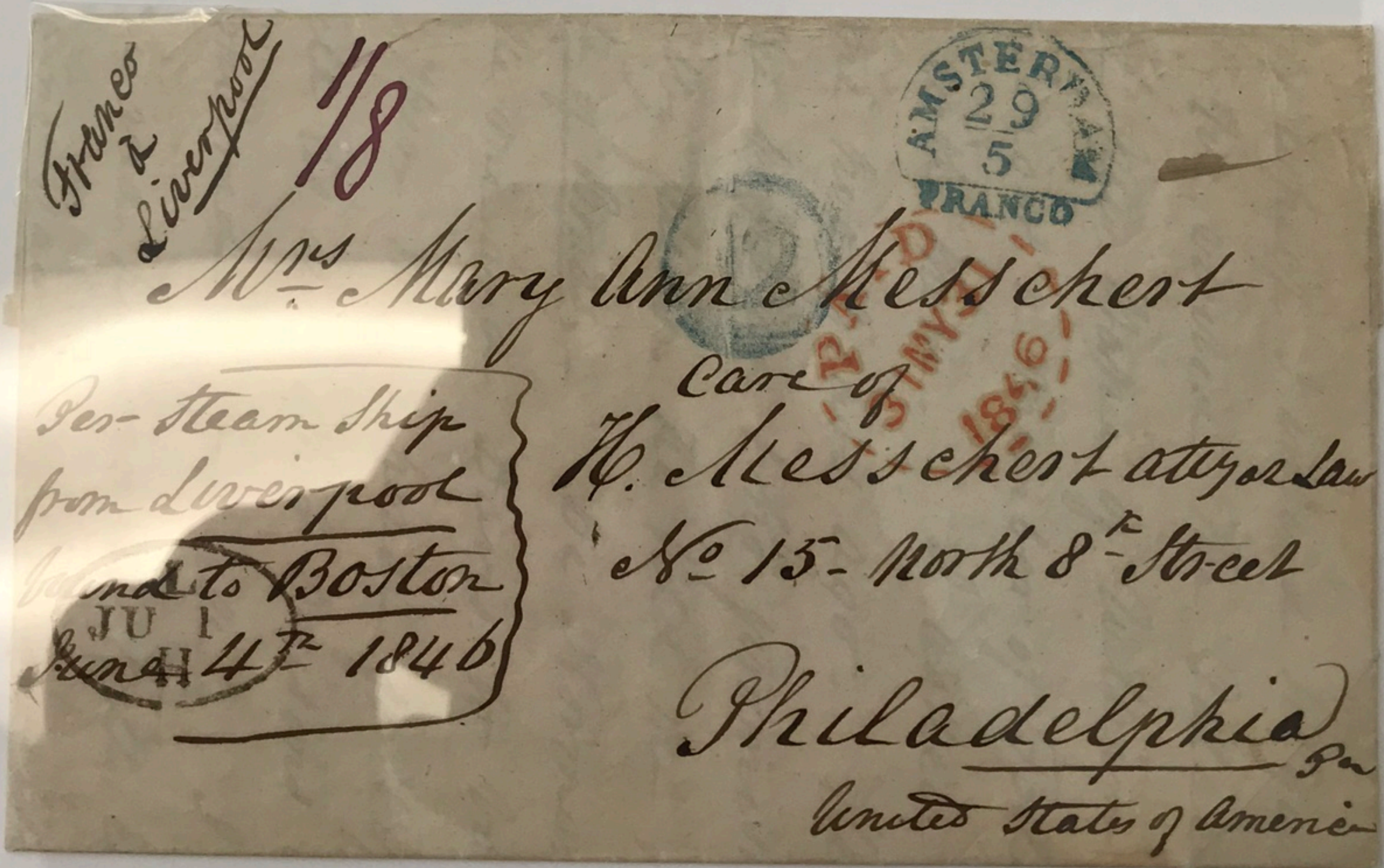




Pre U.S. - British Treaty: 1 July 1845 to 1 July 1848  
British Contract Steamship



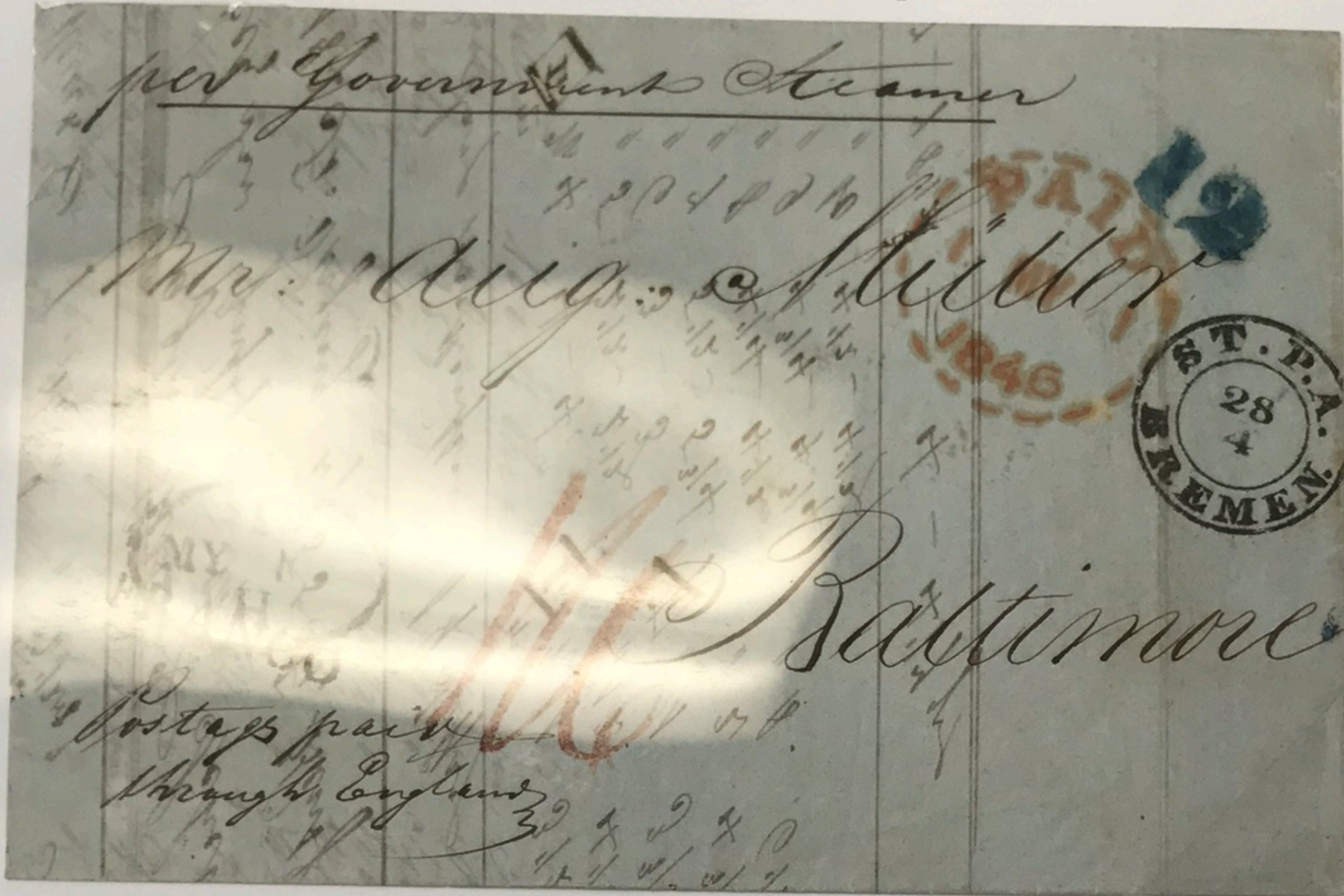
**2 April 1846 Musselburgh, Scotland to Lexington, VA** **Caledonia**  
Endorsed *Per Royal Mail Line from Liverpool to Boston*, 1/- Packet rate PAID in London.  
**Caledonia** d. LP 4 Apr., a. Bos. 20 Apr. Sent closed bag to Phil. Blue 12 in circle postage due: 10 cts. inland for over 300 mi. + 2 cts. ship fee. Forwarded to Lexington, arr. 27 Apr.



**20 May 1846 Amsterdam to Philadelphia** **Caledonia**  
Amsterdam FRANCO (Paid) with notation *France & Liverpool*. Prepaid rate 120 pfennigs (reverse) or 1/8 (1s., 8d): 1s. transatlantic Packet Direct Rate + 8d Belgium transit = Belgium transit Closed-mail rate. LP transit mark JUN 1. **Caledonia** d. LP 4 June, a. Bos. 18 June. Sent closed bag to Philadelphia. 12 cts. postage due: 10 cts. inland rate over 300 mi. + 2 cts. ship fee.



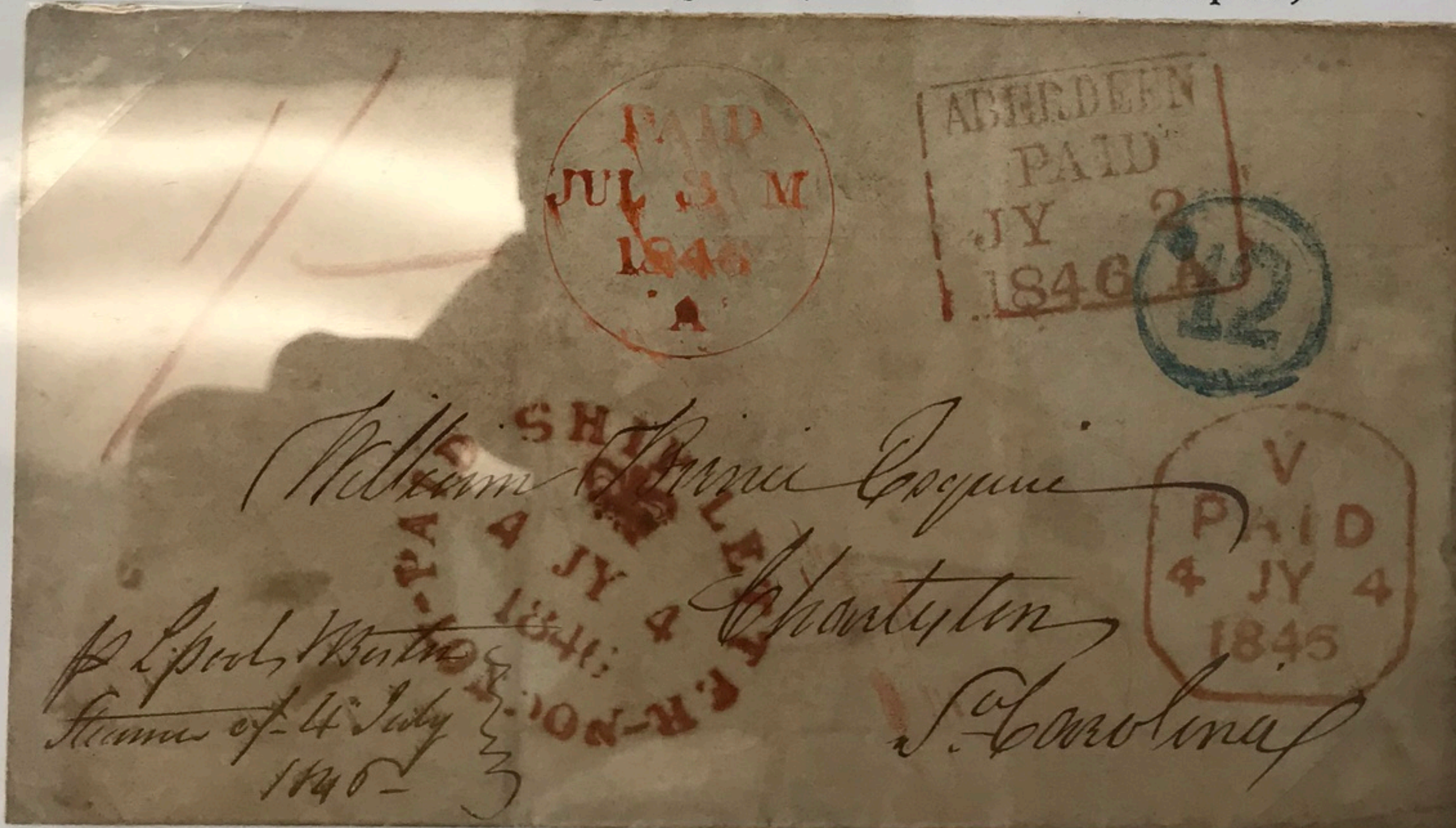
Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 1 July 1845 to 1 July 1848  
British Contract Steamships



26 April 1846 Bremen to Baltimore

Britannia

Letter forwarded to England under provisions of the Anglo-Bremen Convention of 1841. Marked FRANCO (paid) by the Stadt Post Abteilung, indicating prepayment to the U.S. frontier (40 Bremen Grote not shown on cover). London exchange office applied PAID and red ink 1/6, indicating British share of postage. LP transit mark. Britannia d. 5 May, a. Bos. 21 May. Sent closed bag to Baltimore, rated 12 cts. postage due (10 cts. inland + 2 cts. ship fee).



2 July 1846 Aberdeen, Scotland to Charleston, SC

Cambria

1s. paid Packet rate at ABERDEEN. London oval PAID SHIP LETTER. Endorsed *pr lpool V Boston/ Steamer of 4 July/1846*. Cambria d. LP 4 July, a. Bos. 17 July. Closed bag mail to Philadelphia. Marked 12 cts. postage due in blue circle and forwarded to Charleston, SC.

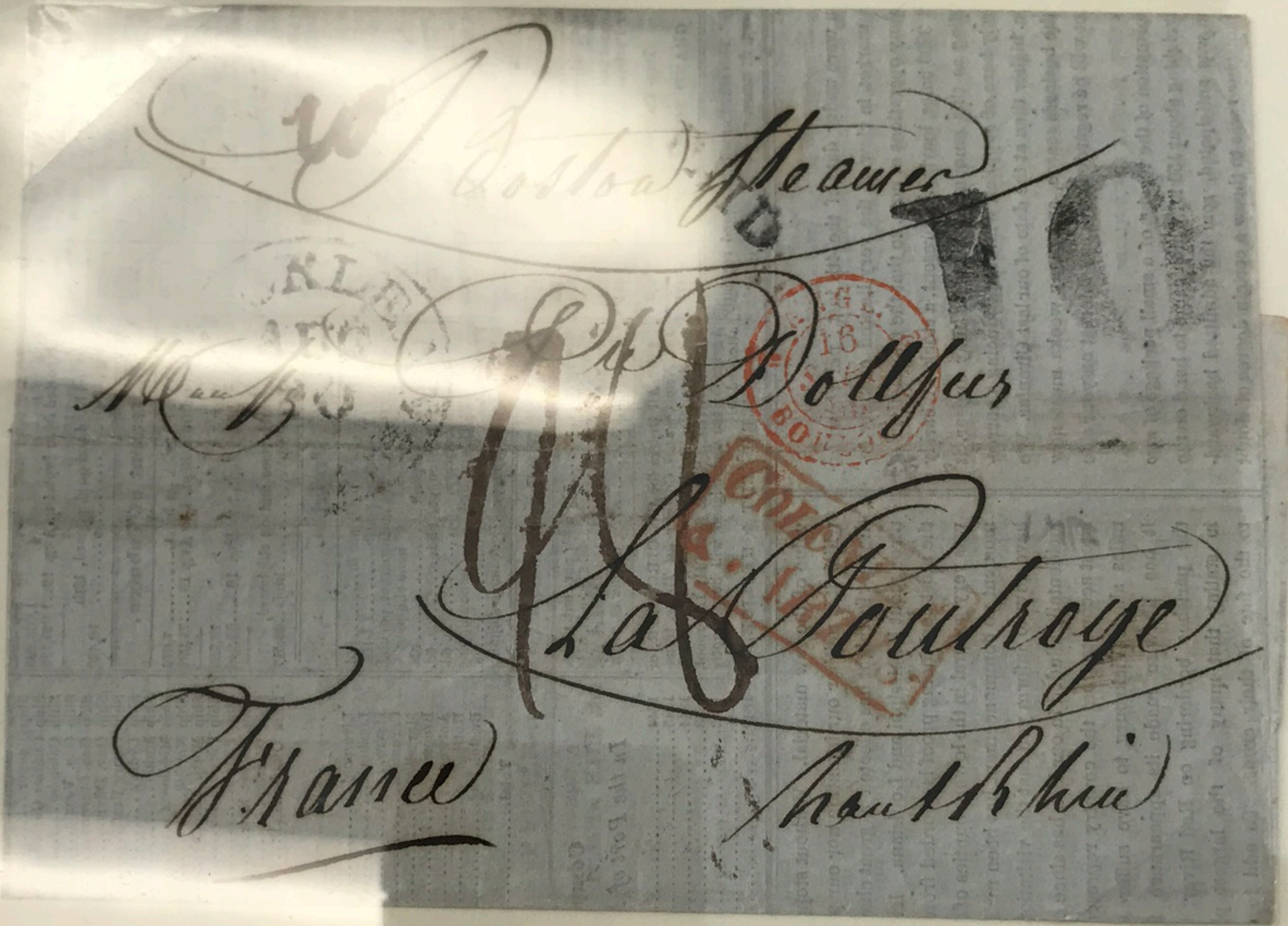


**U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship**

**1840 - 1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**4 July 1840 - 29 June 1848**



**18 August 1846** New Orleans, LA to La Poutroye, FR

**Britannia**

Endorsed *Boston Steamer*. Posted in New Orleans where the sender PAID 10 cents for the U.S. inland rate for over 300 miles, the letter was carried on the Packet **Britannia**, departing Boston 19 August, arriving Liverpool 3 September. The London Exchange Office orange-red transit mark is dated BA/14SEP14/1846 (reverse). It also applied the red boxed COLONIES/&c ART.13. Under the new convention effective 1 June 1843, France paid Britain 40d per 30 grams for sea and British transit. The new COLONIES/&c ART. 12 marking of 1843 referred in the accountancy ledger (not in the convention) for sea and British transit to or from "colonies and countries beyond the sea, wherever the same may be situated." On 1 January 1846 the article for accountancy between France and Britain changed from Art. 12 to Art. 13. The French postage due of 28 decimes is based on 10 decimes sea passage due Britain (or 10d sterling) + 18 decimes French inland for a letter weighing 15 grams and traveling a distance between 501-600 km. from Calais to La Poutroye. The letter arrived in La Poutroye 18/Sept./46 (reverse).

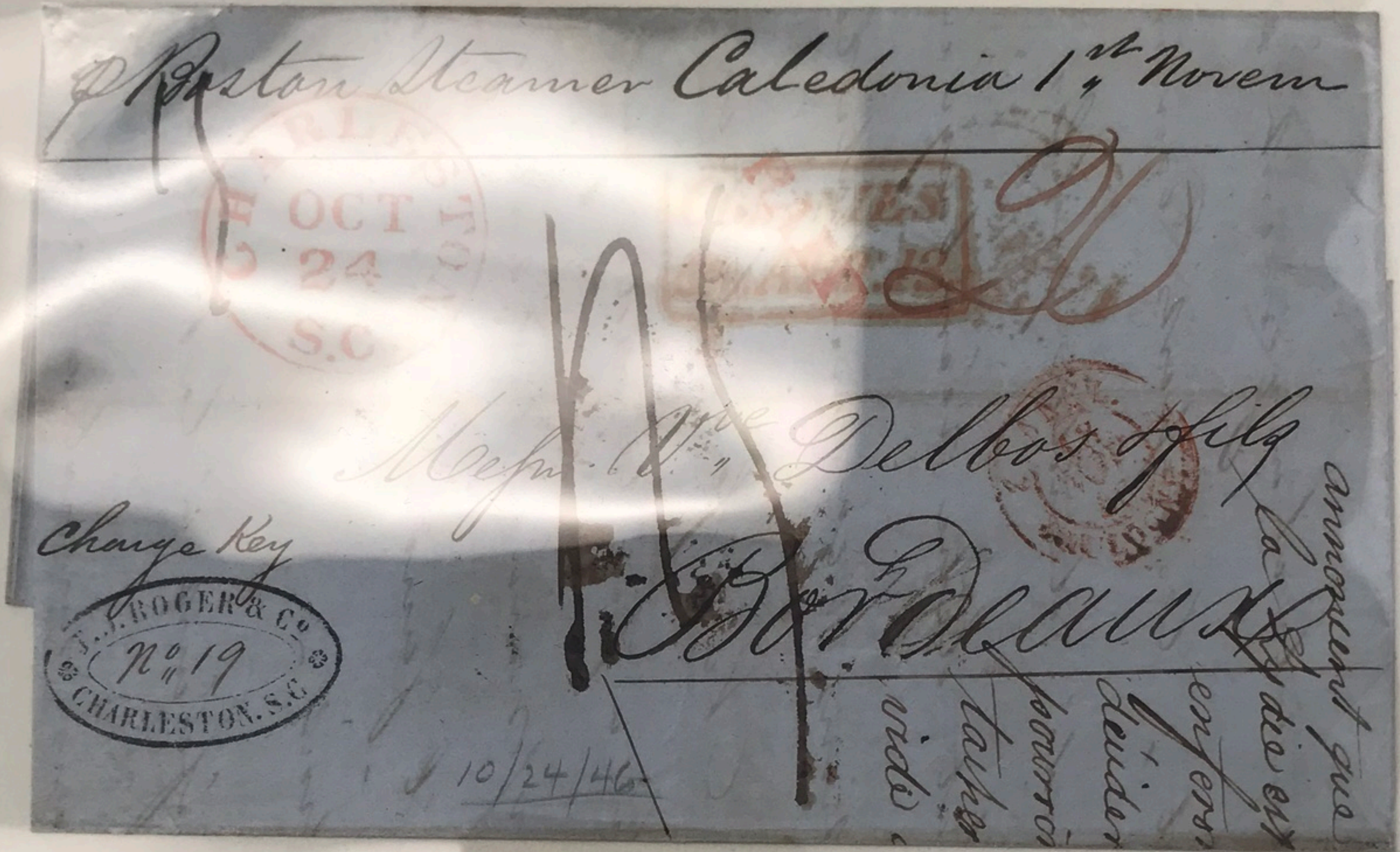


U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1840 - 1849

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

4 July 1840 - 29 June 1848



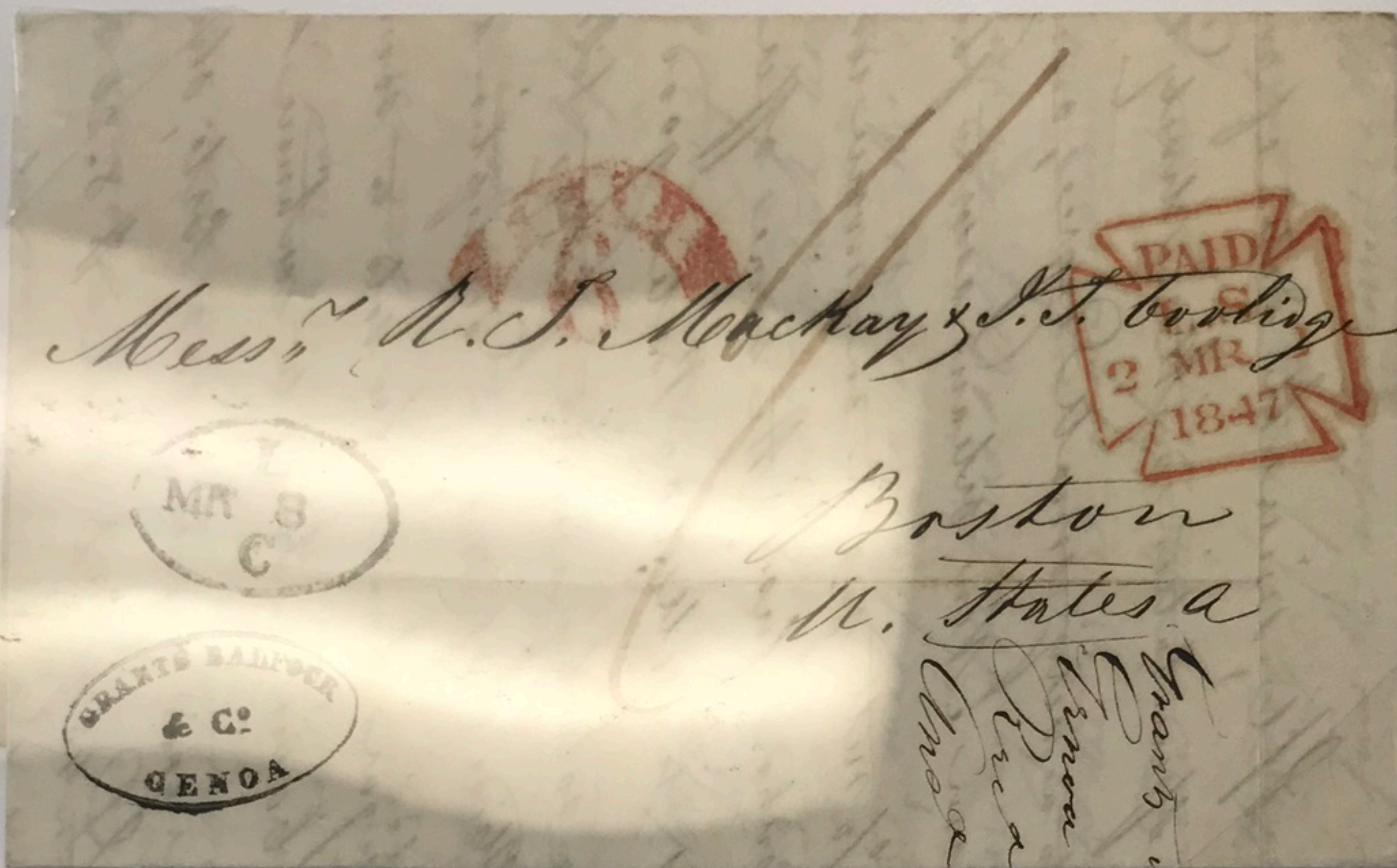
24 October 1846 Charleston, S.C. to Bordeaux

Caledonia

Endorsed *p Boston Steamer Caledonia 1<sup>st</sup> November*, the letter was posted on 24 October and marked in red PAID and 20 cents for a double weight letter for over 300 miles. Carried on the Packet *Caledonia*, which sailed from Boston on 1 November, arriving Liverpool 15 November, it received the orange-red London circular transit handstamp HC/16NO16/1846 (reverse) and the red boxed COLONIES/&c ART. 13. The Calais Exchange Office noted the weight in the upper left corner as 15 grams. Hence, the postage due in Bordeaux was 45 decimes: 20 decimes due Britain for sea passage and transit + 25 decimes for French inland for a double weight letter from Calais to Bordeaux, a distance between 601-750 km. The black Bordeaux cds backstamp is dated 20/NOV/46.



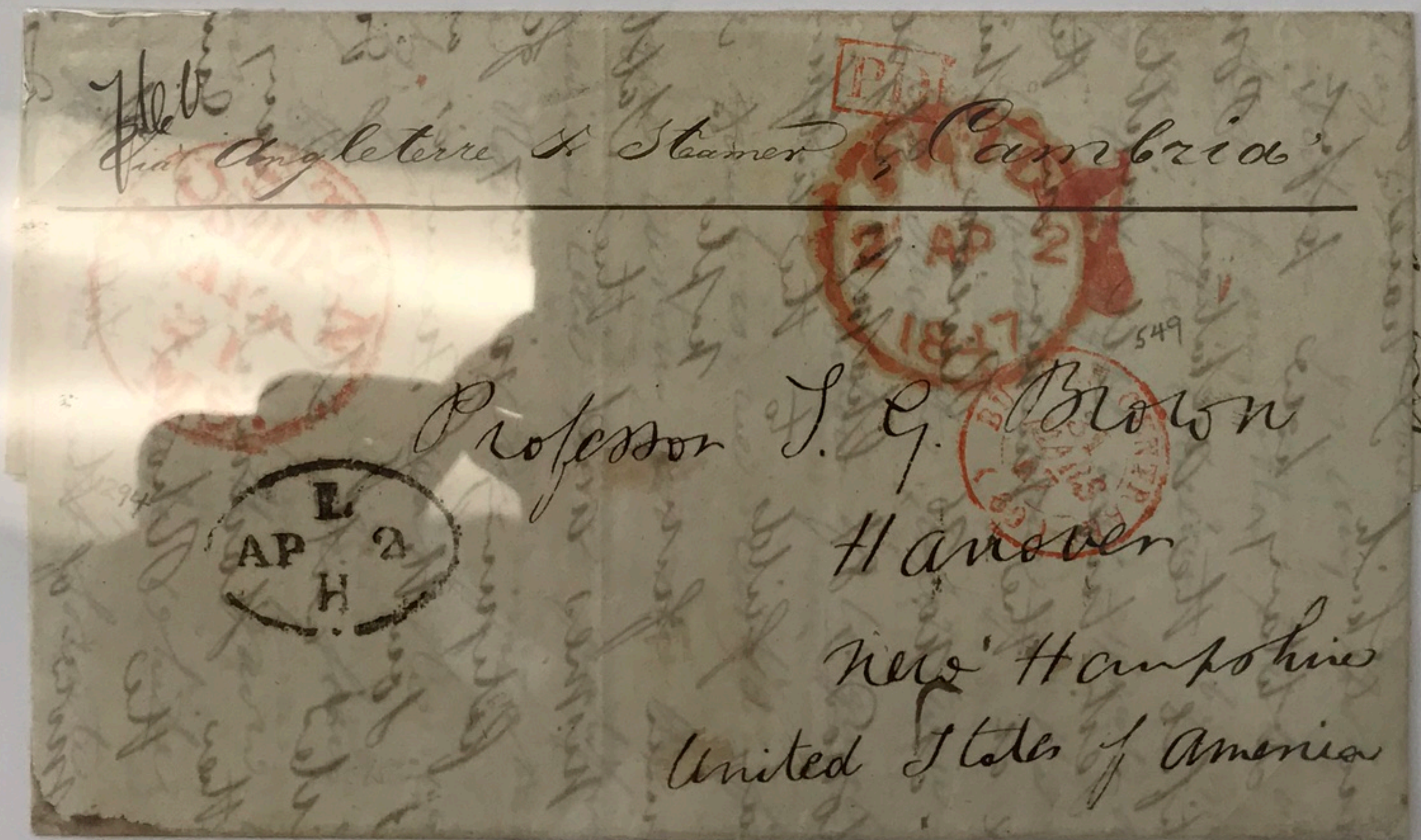
Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 1 July 1845 to 1 July 1848  
British Contract Steamships



25 February 1847 Genoa to Boston

Hibernia

Noted in the opening sentence that this is a *duplicate* letter, a frequent business practice, the letter was posted at the Lombard Street post office in London on 2 March. The sender paid the packet rate of one shilling and the letter was sent to Liverpool where it received the black transit handstamp L/MR/C, The Hibernia d. LP on 4 Mar, a. LP 20 Mar. It was received in Boston as a ship letter and struck with the SHIP/6 rate stamp for a letter addressed to the port of entry.



31 March 1847 Paris to Hanover, NH

Cambria

Having paid the 15 decimes, the postage rate from France to the United States and struck with a red PP, the letter was forwarded to London. It received the orange red London datestamp on 2 April and the black Liverpool transit handstamp on the same date. As requested by the sender the letter was placed aboard the *steamer Cambria*, departing 4 April, arriving in Boston on the 20<sup>th</sup> and receiving the BOSTON SHIP postmark on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

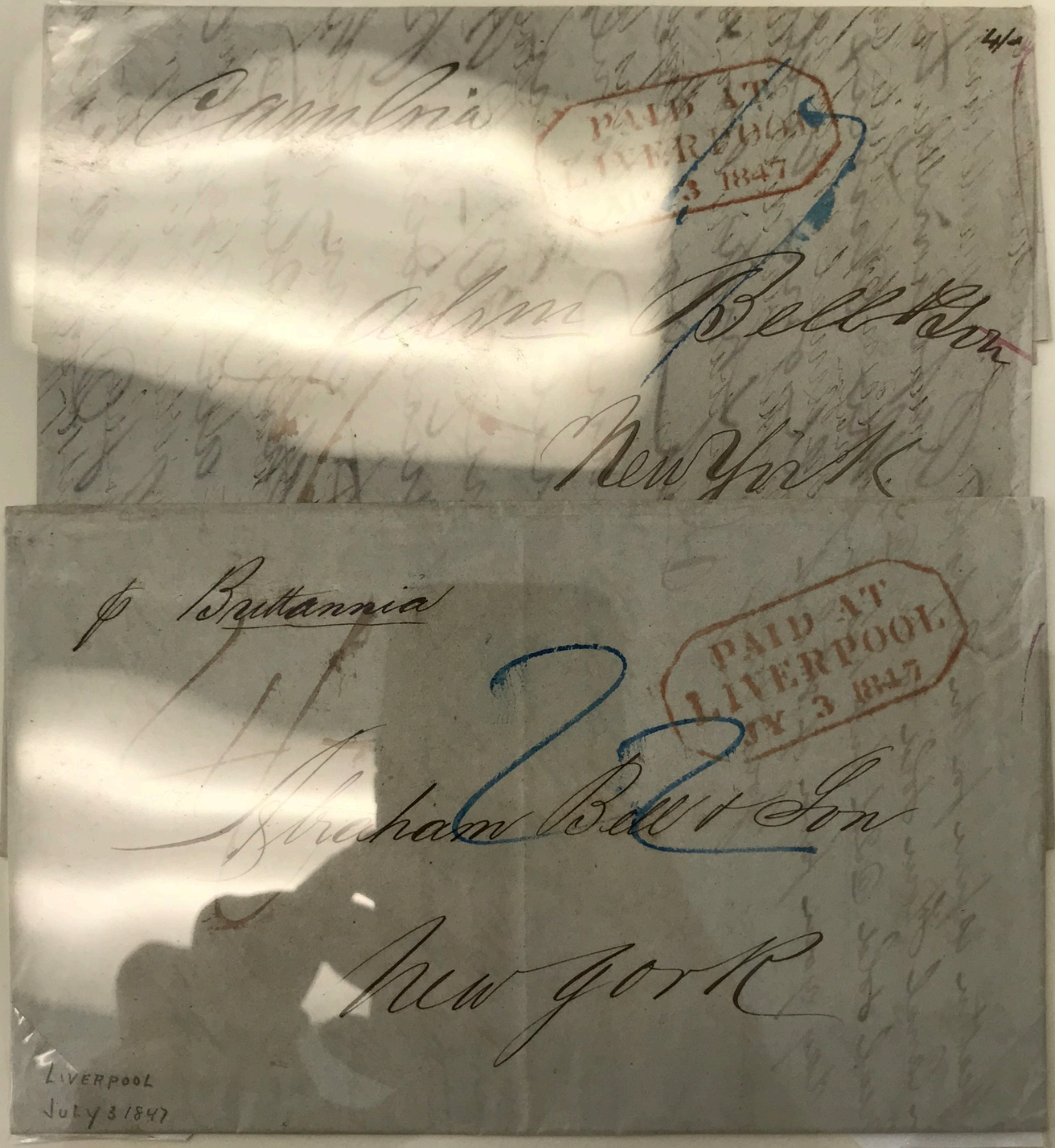


U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship

1840 -1849

Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1 July 1845 - 29 June 1848



3 April 1847 Liverpool to New York via Boston  
6 June 1847 Liverpool to New York via Boston

Cambria  
Britannia

Both letters arrived in Boston and were sent closed-bag mail to New York. Each was prepaid 4/- in Liverpool, quadruple packet rate, although one letter was rated 17 cts. (3 x 5cts. U.S. inland rate for under 300 miles + 2 cts. ship fee) and the other 22 cts. (4 x 5 cts. U.S. inland rate + 2 cts. ship fee). Great Britain did not have a triple rate; hence, while rated 4 s. , the April letter was triple rated by the New York post office.

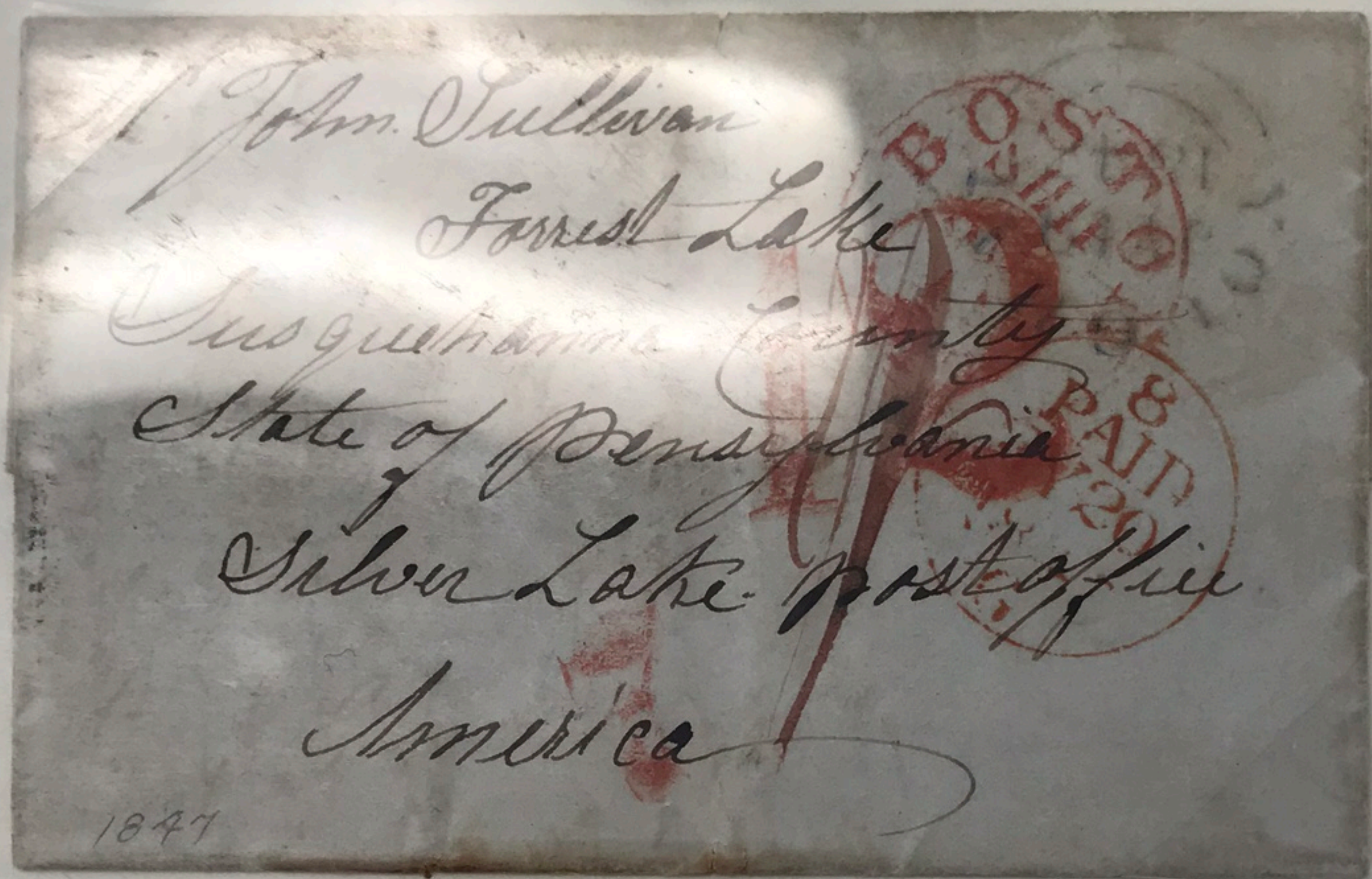


**U.S. - G.B. Mails by Steamship**

**1840 - 1849**

**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**1 July 1845 - 29 June 1848**



**18 July 1847** Newtown, GB to Forest Lake, NY via Boston  
 1s packet rate paid  
 12 cts. due at Forest Lake

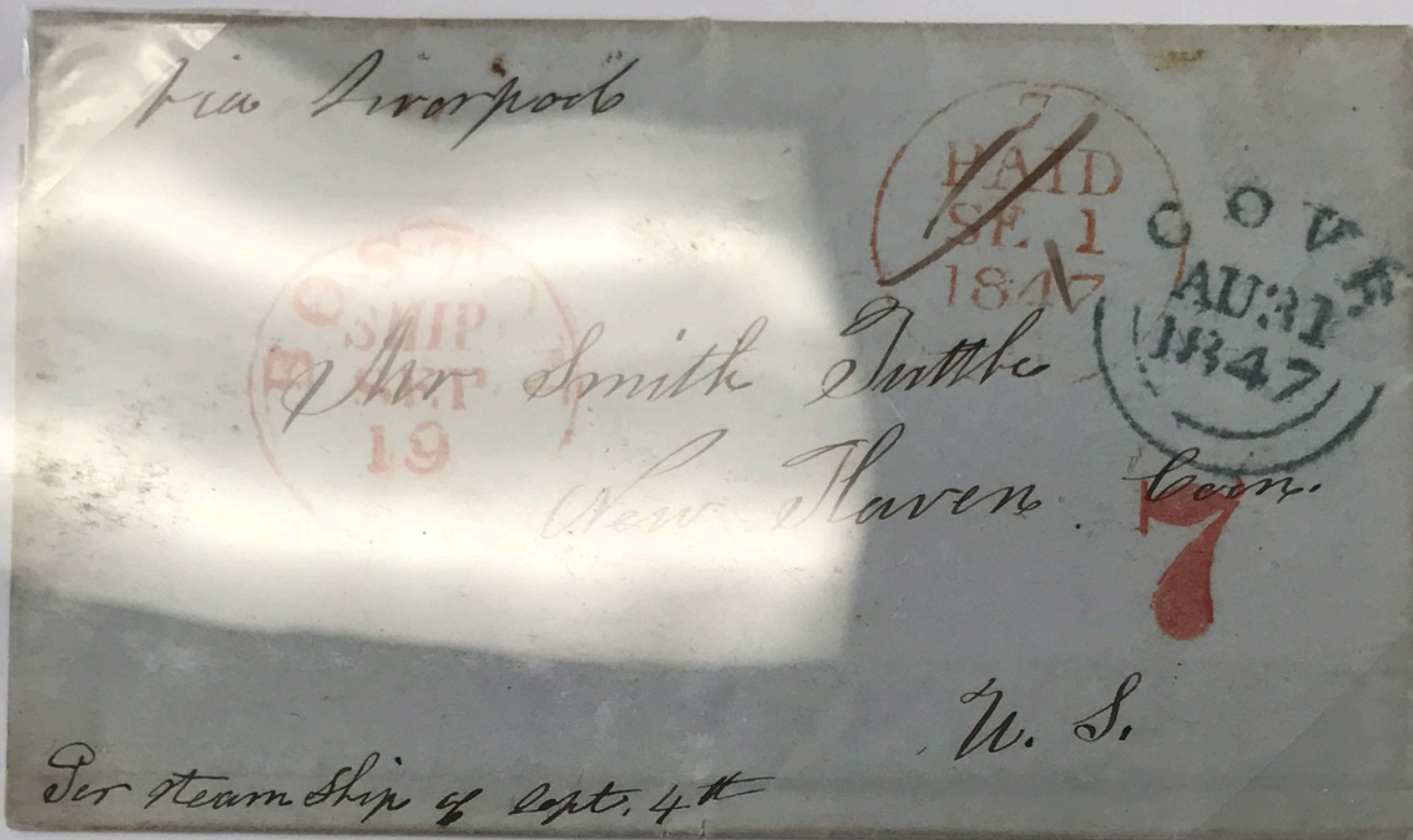
**Cambria**  
 Postage due 2cts. ship fee + 10 cts. inland fee. Sent  
 closed bag to NY where 12 cts. rate mark struck.

**15 April 1848** Glasgow, Scotland to Lexington, VA via Boston

**Britannia**



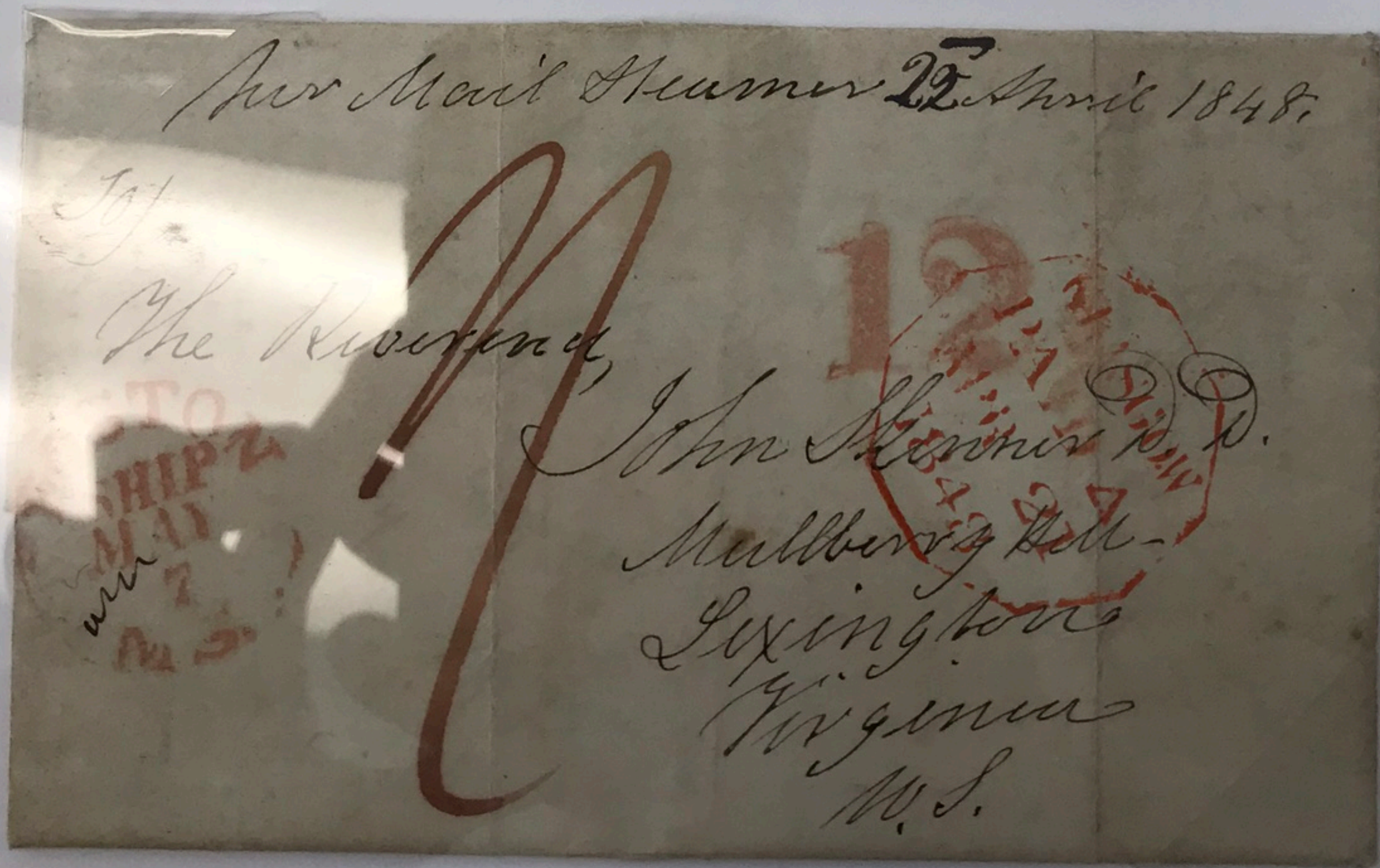
Pre U.S. – British Treaty: 1 July 1845 to 27 June 1848  
British Contract Steamship



29 August 1847 Cove at Cork, IR to New Haven, CT

Britannia

1/-. Packet rate paid. Postage due in New Haven 7 cts.: 5 cts. inland fee for a distance under 300 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.



15 April 1848 Glasgow, Scotland to Lexington, VA via Boston

Britannia

1/-. Packet rate paid. Postage due 12 cts.: 10 cts. inland fee for distance over 300 miles + 2 cts. ship fee.



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

**1840 - 1849**

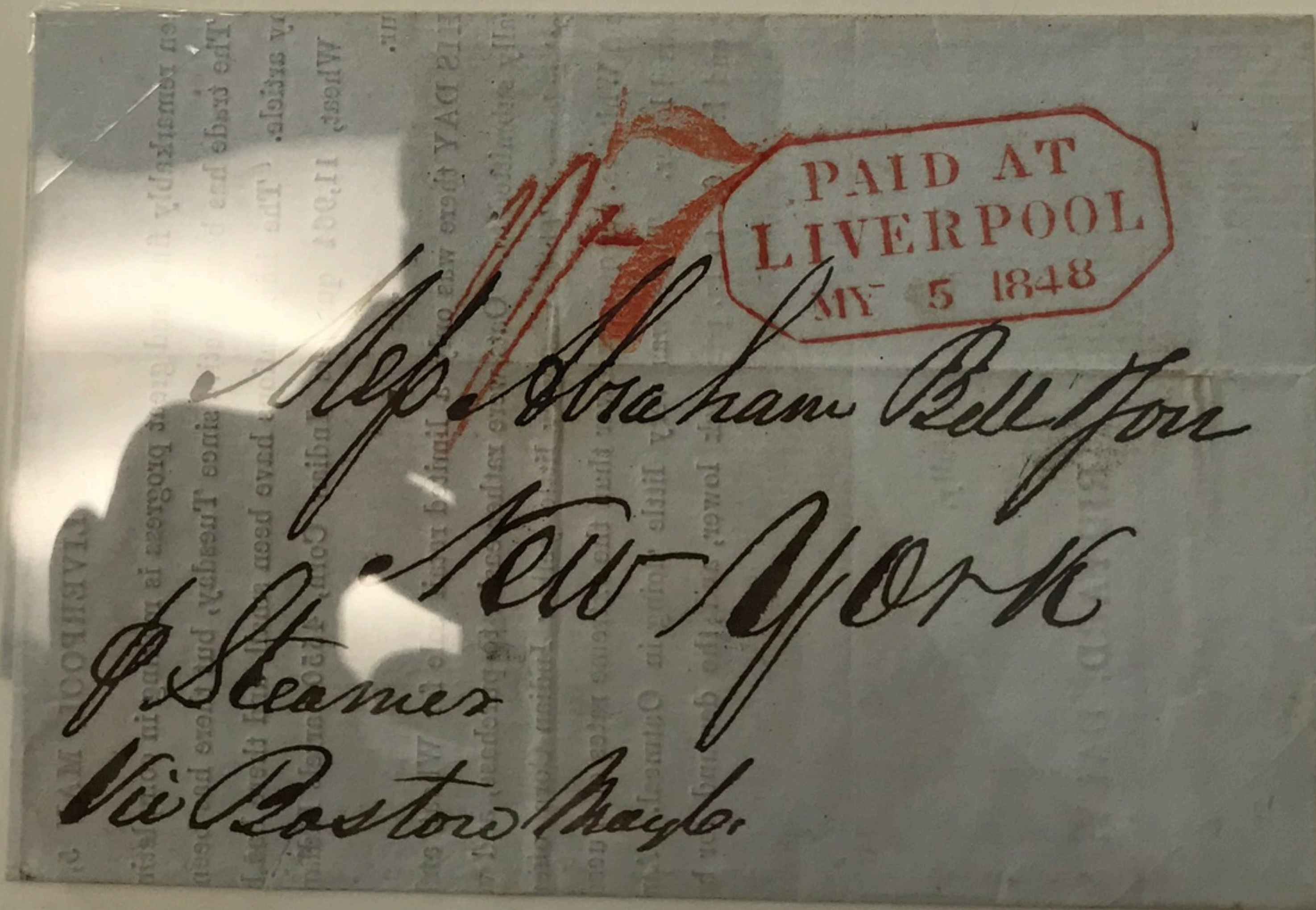
**Pre U.S. - British Treaty  
British Contract Steamship**

**1 July 1845 - 29 June 1848**

**29 August 1847** Cove at Cork, IR to New Haven, CT  
1s packet rate paid  
7 cts. due at New Haven, CT

**Britannia**

Postage due 2 cts. ship fee + 5 cts. inland fee for a distance under 300 miles; (BPM 294)



**5 May 1848** Liverpool to New York  
1s packet rate  
7 cts. due in New York

**Caledonia**

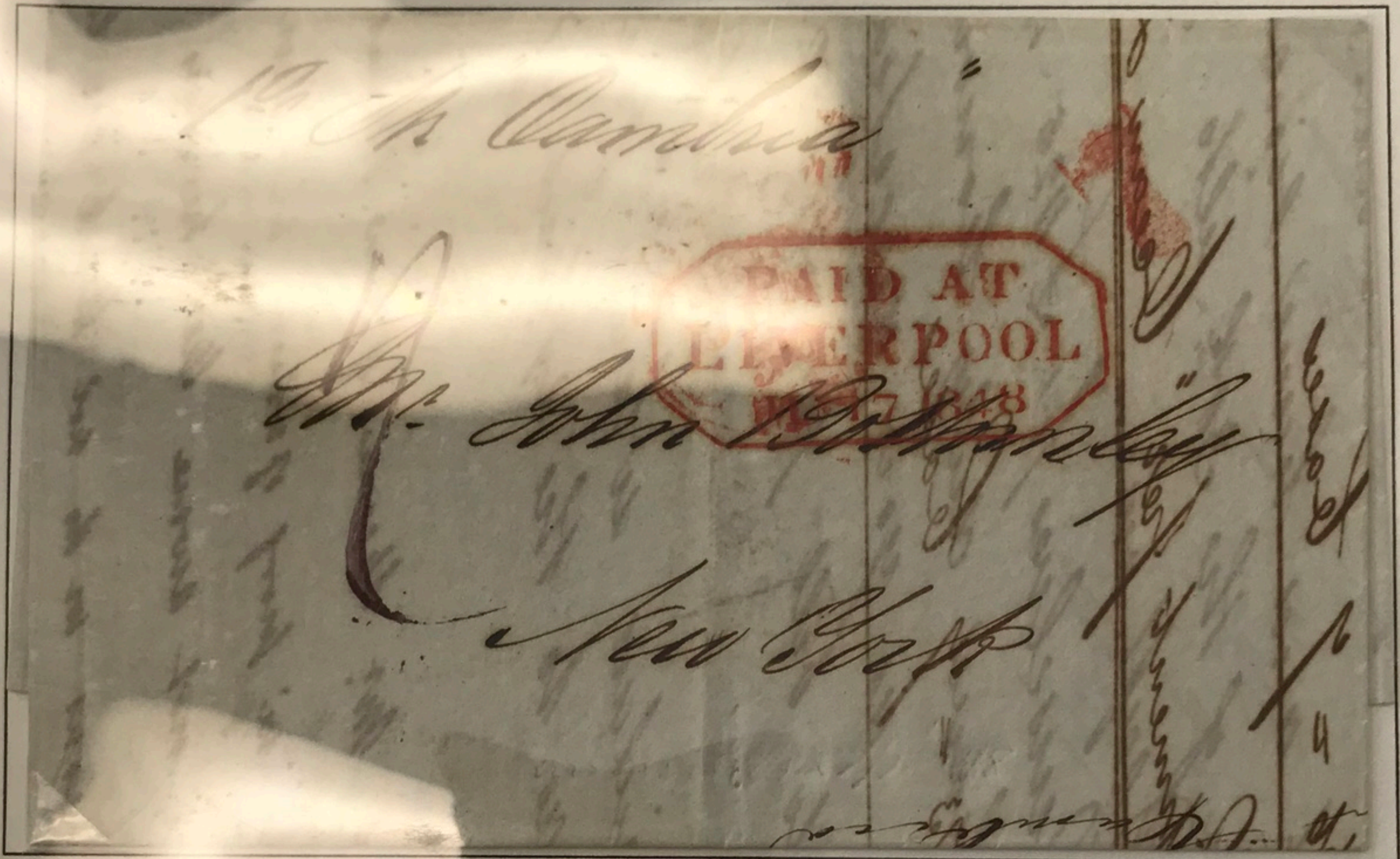
Postage due 2 cts. ship fee + 5 cts. inland fee for a distance under 300 miles; sent closed-bag mail; NY rate mark



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1840–1849  
4 July 1840–27 June 1848



Folded letter: Liverpool to New York, 16 June 1848

Ship: *Cambria*

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

Depart: Liverpool, 17 June 1848

Arrive: Boston, 30 June 1848

Rate: 1 shilling prepaid for single packet rate  
7¢ postage due (2¢ ship and 5¢ inland fees)

Notes: Letter carried on last Cunard mail voyage to the U.S. before retaliatory rate period. For the next six months all packet letters between the U.S. and G.B. required double sea postage as the U.S. retaliated against the British practice of charging a full packet rate even though their steamers provided no service.