

## British Contract Steamship

**Advent of British Contract Steamship Service**

Cunard was awarded a seven year contract to convey mails by steamship between Liverpool, Halifax and Boston, beginning on 1 July 1840. Twice-monthly sailings were required. This contract drove the Great Western Steamship Company out of business, and ensured British dominance of scheduled transatlantic mail service by steamship for most of the decade.

**British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company-The Cunard Line**

Canton, 17 February 1840

Carried by to London forwarders Russell & Sturgis from China, via Manila

Private ship to London, arrived 17 Sep 1840, where 1/- packet rate prepaid

Steamship *Caledonia* : Liverpool 19 September, Boston 3 October  
Boston rated **20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cents** due: 2¢ ship, 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ inland

Received 5 October 1840      226 days

**The maiden voyage of Cunard's *Caledonia***



Reverse, in red

*When the Cunard Line began steam service to Boston in 1840, delays in Philadelphia's British mails had shrunk dramatically. New York was less than a day away, Boston only two days.*



0.5/3

Waldonia

Miss Es Folliert & Co  
Philadelphia

Dr. Manda

Ogill