

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY
THE BRITISH QUEEN

Complete First Voyage
Westerly Leg
Triple Letter

The *British Queen's* departure from London on June 29, 1839, was delayed until July 11, 1839. She departed with 220 passengers, mail and 600 tons of bunker coal. She stopped at Portsmouth on both outward and inward voyages. This allowed mail too late in London to use the London to Portsmouth Mail Coach to meet the ship at Portsmouth. Inbound mail would reach London by mail coach before the ship reached London.

At 1,839 tons she was the largest steamship afloat and made a total 9 voyages before being considered unprofitable.

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND TO LOWELL, MA
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted in Manchester endorsed to the *Great Western*. London Ship Letter Office dispatched on the *British Queen*. The red circle "Paid/at/Manchester" is Willcocks & Jay type TM 128, in use 1837-1839. United States Post office rated letter first as a double but rerated it as a triple letter

Ship Information

The *British Queen* departed Portsmouth on her first voyage July 12, 1839, arrived New York July 28, 1839. She made nine voyages across the North Atlantic.

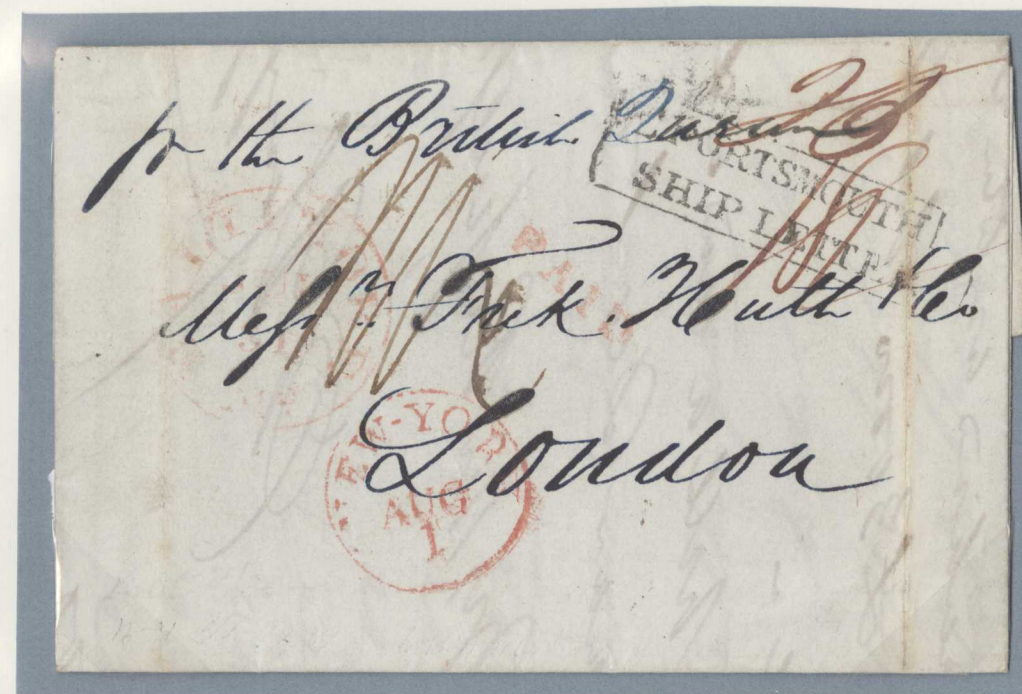
Postal Rates

Great Britain 3/-
(3 X 1/-) = 3/-
1 Vic c 34, August 8, 1837.
United States 58¼¢
(3 X 18¼¢) + 2¢ = 58¼¢
Inland postage plus ship letter fee.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM
NAVIGATION COMPANY
THE BRITISH QUEEN

First Voyage
Freight Money

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

The *British Queen* departed New York on her return leg of first voyage August 1, 1839, arrived Portsmouth August 15, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States 18¾¢
Freight Money 25¢
Great Britain 1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4
Inland plus ship letter fee.

Letter posted and endorsed for steamer *British Queen*. Freight Money collected by Baltimore authorities and noted in the upper right corner. Mail put off at Portsmouth, proceeding to London by mail coach.

Scan of back of cover showing single London receiving mark. This indicates morning processing on August 16, 1838.



NEWRY, NORTHERN IRELAND TO NEW YORK
(VIA DUBLIN, LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted for dispatch on the *British Queen* as indicated. The Cityville Post Office discontinued operation June 22, 1840. Letter transferred to North Shore, New York Post Office August 11, 1840.

At this point the post office forwarded the letter to St. Catharines, U.C. Queenstown, U.C. was the Exchange Office for this area of Canada..

Ship Information

British Queen departed Portsmouth July 1, 1840, arrived New York July 18, 1840. This was the easterly leg of her sixth voyage.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
TW January 10, 1840.	
United States	33¢
(6¢ + 2¢) + 25¢ = 33¢	
Inland postage port of arrival, plus ship letter fee plus forward to the border.	
Canada	2/0
33¢ U. S. plus Canadian.	

CHARLESTON, SC TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York June 13, 1839 arriving Bristol June 27, 1839. Length of voyage 13 days 6 hours.

Postage in the upper right and freight money in upper left. **This is manner they were noted in Charleston.**

Marks:

Upper Right - Herckenrath & Lowndes hand stamp.
Middle Left - Faint Charleston post stamp.
Center - Red New York transfer stamp.
Upper Center - Black Bristol Ship Letter stamp.
Lower Right - Red London receiving stamp.

Postal Rates

United States	50¢
Freight money plus inland postage.	
Great Britain	2/10
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 9d) = 34d or 2/10d.	

NEW YORK TO MADEIRA, BRAZIL
(VIA BRISTOL, LONDON AND MARSEILLES)

Ship Information

She departed New York
November 23, 1838,
arrived Bristol December
7, 1838. Length of
voyage 13 days 6 hours.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/5d
Ship letter fee plus inland.
2/7d

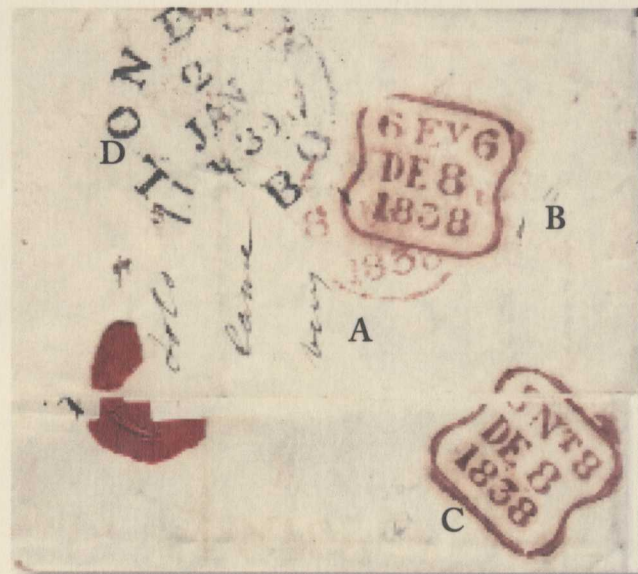
Forward fee via Marseilles.
Notation "160" upper right
is transit fee through France
debited to Great Britain.
Payment of Penny Post fees
not noted.



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for
dispatch. Mr. Sterry forwarded the letter to
Madeira an island in Java. Letter traveled to
destination through Marseilles.

Cover back showing various marks applied by
London processing offices.

- A. Faint red London receiving mark.
 - B. Penny post marks are Willicocks & Jay type
L459. They show that letter entered penny post
at 6 PM.
 - C. After delivery being forwarded about 8 PM
processed to Foreign Office.
 - D. Foreign Office applied Willcocks & Jay
mark type 1021.
- Docketing shows letter received in Madeira
January 24, 1839.



CHARLESTON, SC TO GUERWILLER, FRANCE
(VIA NEW YORK, BRISTOL, LONDON, CALAIS, PARIS)



Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/6d
Transit charge to France.
France 38 dec
18d due England plus 20 dec
inland postage rate 2

Double letter privately carried to
forwarding agent De Rham & Morre
in New York. Letter dispatched as
endorsed

Ship Information

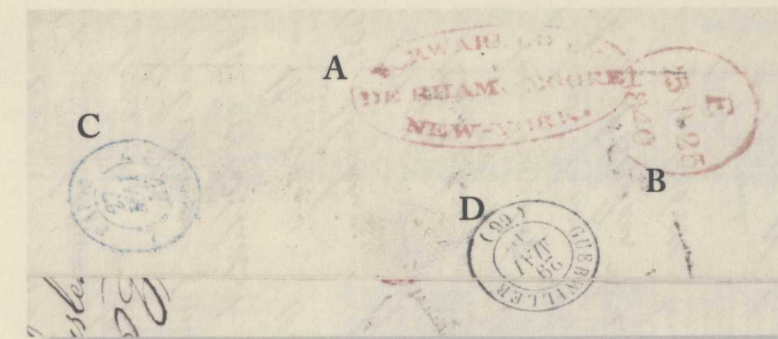
The *Great Western*
departed New York May
9, 1840 arriving Bristol
May 23, 1840. Length of
voyage 14 days 2 hours.

Marks Front:

Red Double Circle - Calais transfer stamp.
Red Straight Line - Bristol Ship Letter stamp.

Marks Back:

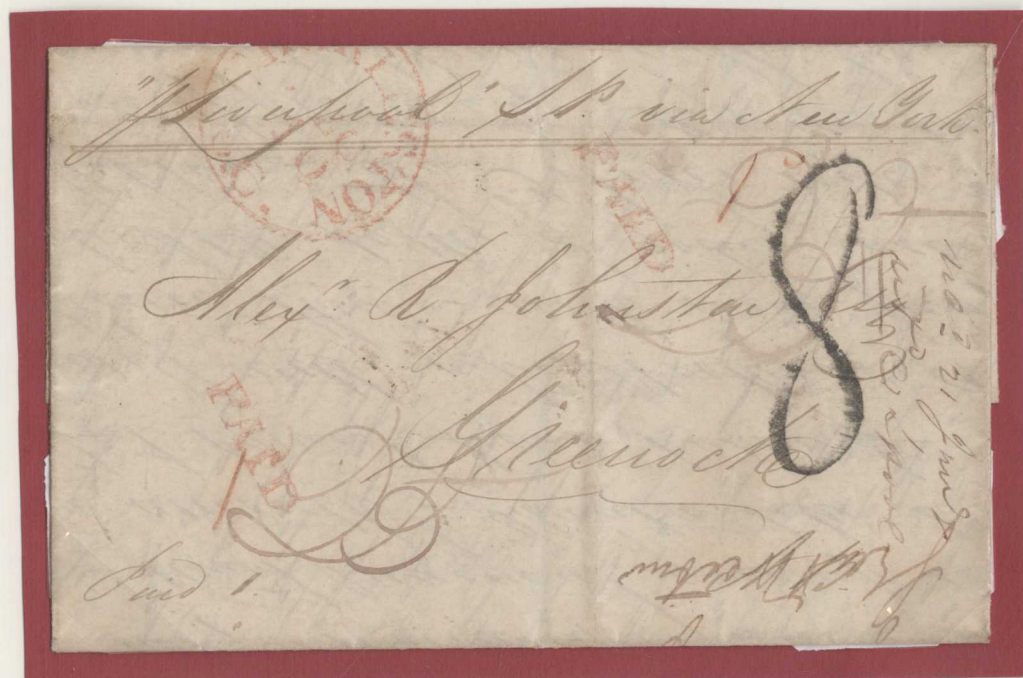
A Forwarding agent stamp
B Red single circle London Foreign Office
stamp.
C Blue double circle Paris transfer stamp.
D Black double circle Guebwiller receipt
stamp.



TRANSATLANTIC STEAM SHIP
COMPANY - THE LIVERPOOL

Last Voyage Easterly Leg
Freight Money
Early Uniform Rate

CHARLESTON, SC TO GREENOCK, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
The *Liverpool* departed New York December 15, 1839, arriving Liverpool January 11, 1840

Freight money letter from Charleston to Greenock, Scotland, carried on the *Liverpool*. United States fees paid and noted with postage in the upper right and the freight money in the lower left. A red "1" written by receiving authorities alongside each indicating rates not understood. (Winter)

Postal Rates

United States	50 ¢
Inland	25¢
Freight Money	25¢
Great Britain	8d
10 Jan 1840 Treasury Warrant	

For the past two decades of this study, efforts by Roland Hill and others in Great Britain advocated reduction of postage rates based on distance and weight. Treasury Warrant 1839, 5 December established a uniform inland rate of 4d, making inbound ship letter rate 8d + 4d or 1/-.

Treasury Warrant 10 January 1840 established an all-in-rate for inbound ship letters of 8d. This Treasury Warrant was confirmed September 1, 1840 by act 3/4 Victoria c 96

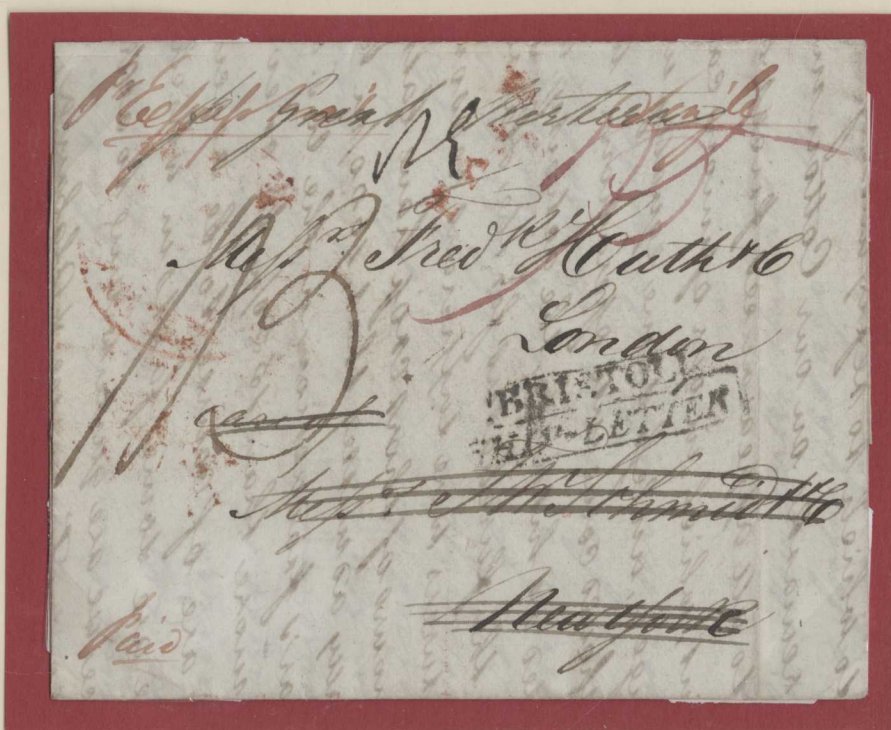
In the United States, the act of March 3, 1845, effective July 1, 1845, reduced the distance categories for postage rates from five to two, 5 cents for not over 300 miles and 10 cents for over 300 miles.

GREAT WESTERN - 1838

Voyage Five
Express Letter

Express mail started on the Great Mail route between New Orleans and New York November 24, 1836. This provided a service at about twice the speed of regular service. Express riders rode 24 hours a day at twice the speed of regular mail completing the journey in 5 days. Regular mail took 12 days New Orleans to New York. This proved very timely during the Cotton Crisis of 1837 - 38.

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Ship Information
The *Great Western* departed New York November 23, 1838, arrived Bristol December 7, 1838. Length of voyage 13 days 6 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	75¢
3 X 25¢	= 75¢ the express rate.
Freight Money	0
No indication of payment, not an uncommon situation according to Arnell.	
Great Britain	1/6
8d + 10d = 18d or 1/6	
Ship letter fee + inland postage.	

Express letter sent to J. W. Schmidt & Co. forwarding agent in New York. This cover shows an earlier use than listed in Rowe. J. W. Schmidt & Co. forwarded letter to London in manuscript.

Back of cover showing receiving marks. Red single circle is Ship Letter Office mark indicating morning processing. Red "6 Fw 6/DE 8/1838" is mark of the Chief Office of the London Two Penny Post. This is Willcocks & Jay type 459d, in use 1838-1843.



per Steamer
Great Britain
from Liverpool

Mr. Alexander Stephens
H. Clay Factory - near
Wilmington
Delaware
U.S.

PAID 24 JULY 1849
NEW YORK
SHIP
LUGG

LONDON
NOV 7
PAID

THOMAS JONES MILNE Esq
Fisher Street
Carlisle

per Europa England

PARIS
JULY 23
1849
LIVERPOOL

