

TRANSATLANTIC STEAM SHIP  
COMPANY - THE *LIVERPOOL*

Second Voyage  
Double Freight Money  
Third Voyage  
Hand Carried by Passenger

MONTREAL, L. C. TO IRVINE SCOTLAND  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

She departed New York  
March 9, 1839, arrived  
March 25, 1839.

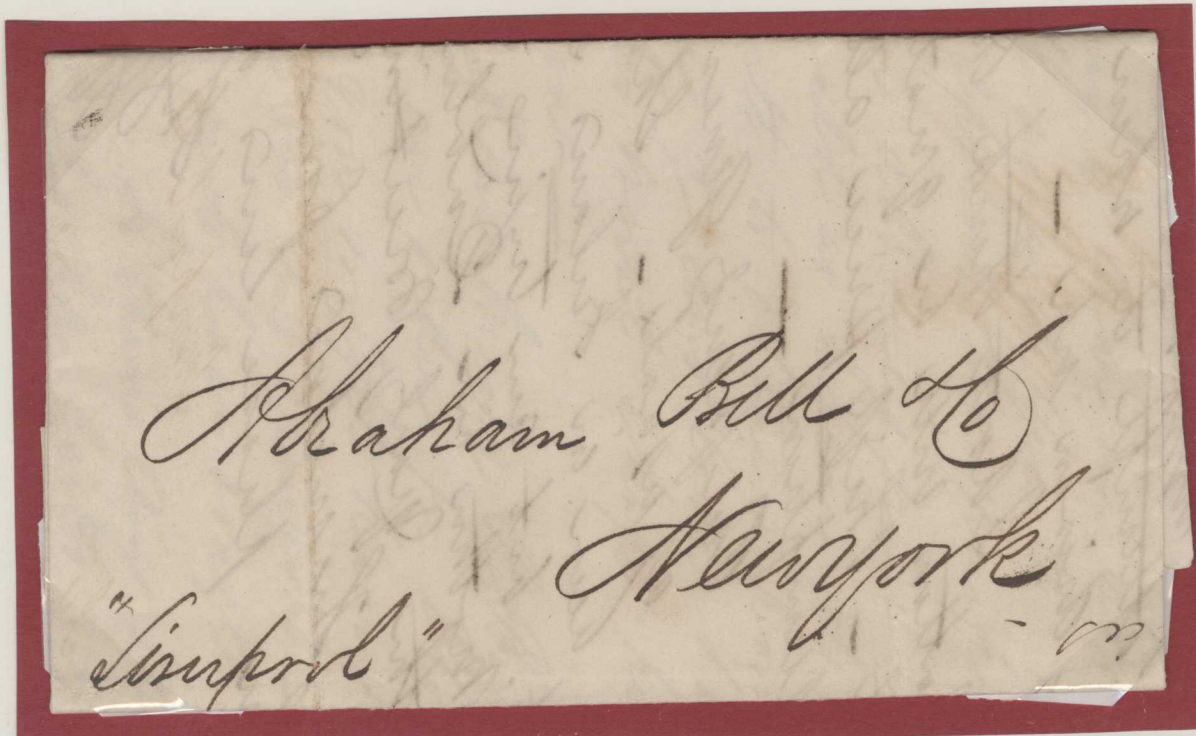
Postal Rates

**Canada** 5/2cy  
Canada inland 9d cy  
U.S. freight money 30d cy  
U. S. inland 23d cy  
**United States** 87½¢  
(2 x 18¾¢) + (2 x 25) = 87½¢  
**Great Britain** 3/4d  
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 12d) = 40d or 3/4



Letter posted to New York, freight money collected. Montreal never noted freight money collected. (Winter)

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



Ship Information

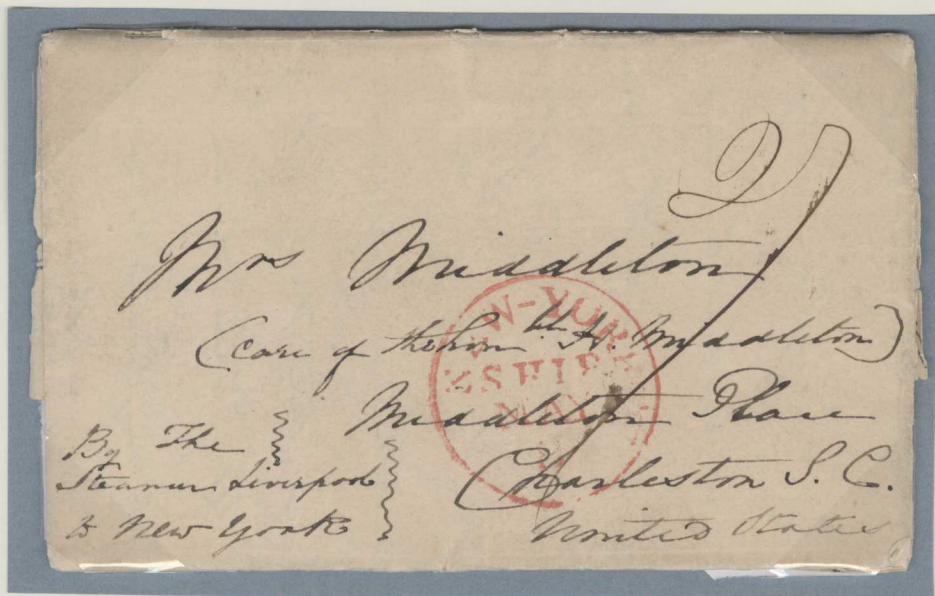
The *Liverpool* departed on the easterly leg of her third voyage on April 20, 1839, arrived New York May 7, 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0  
United States 0

Letter hand carried by passenger to final addressee in New York. Addressee was an uncle of the letter carrier.

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



**Ship Information**  
She departed Liverpool on the westerly leg of her third voyage on April 20, 1839, arrived New York May 7, 1839.

**Postal Rates**

Great Britain	0
United States	27¢
25¢ + 2¢ = 27¢	

Letter hand carried to ship's agent for dispatch as indicated.

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

**Ship Information**  
The Liverpool departed New York on the easterly leg of her third voyage on May 18, 1839, arrived Liverpool June 2, 1839.

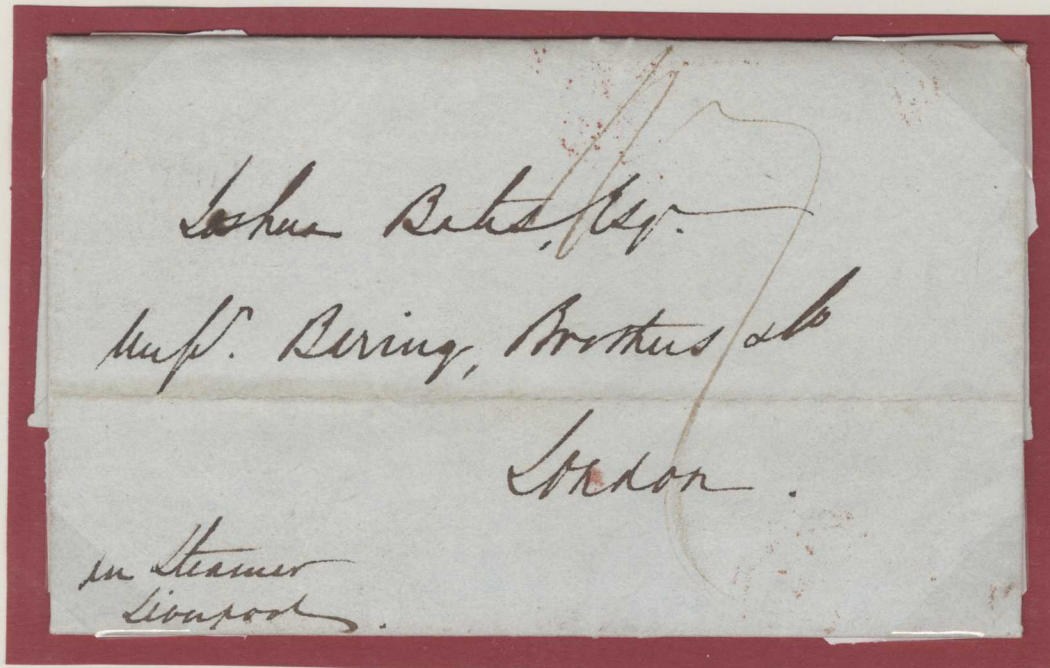
**Postal Rates**

United States	75¢
3 x 25¢ = 75¢	
Great Britain	1/-
1 Victoria c34, August 1, 1837.	



Posted as express mail to forwarding agent Heckschar, Coster & Matfield. Using express mail reduced the delivery time

NEW YORK TO LONDON  
VIA LIVERPOOL



Ship Information

She departed New York on the return leg May 18, 1839, arrived Liverpool on June 2, 1839.

Letter carried to forwarding agent Cary & Company and then to Gilpin's Exchange, Reading Room & Foreign Letter Office in New York. Freight money probably paid but not noted as was customary for New York.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7d	
Ship letter fee plus inland postage.	

Scan of cover back showing forwarding agent stamps and transfer markings. The Cary & Company is an early use of this mark since it was in service 1839 to 1846. The Gilpin's mark is faint but under magnification it lays on top of the Cary marking.



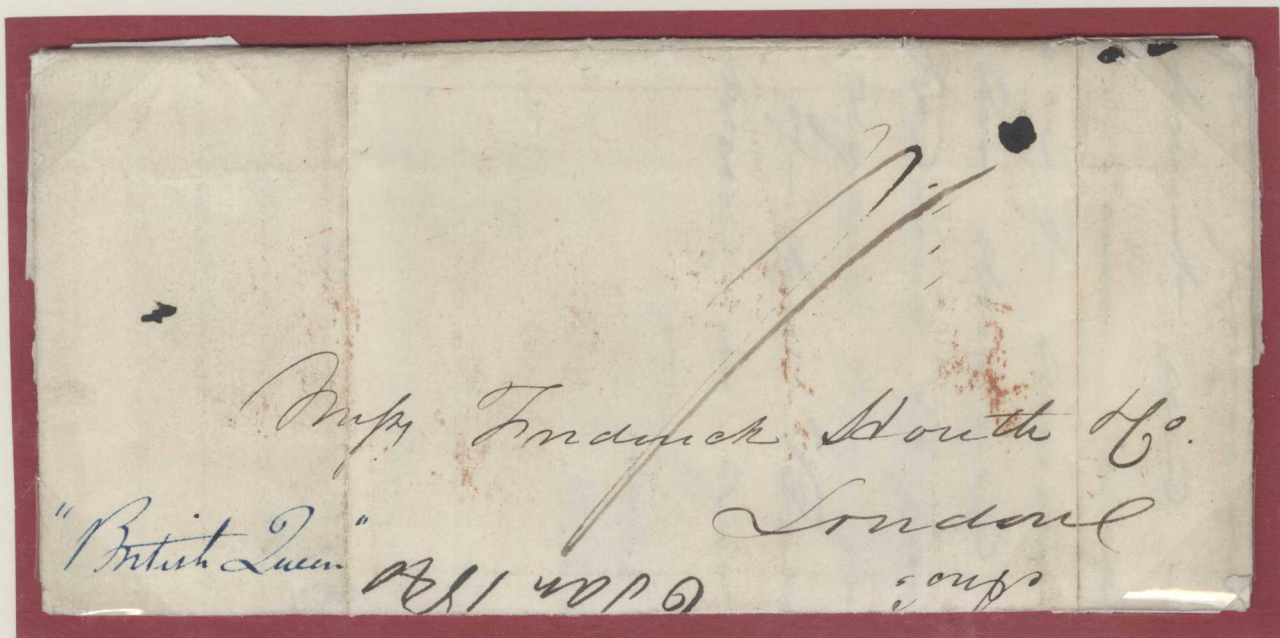
BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Third Voyage  
Postal rate change

Treasury Warrant December 5, 1839, changed two postal rate aspects. First, since 1815, progression based on the number of sheets changed to a progression by weight. Second, inbound ship letter rates were based on 8d plus a uniform 4d for inland postage.

Additional changes occurred January 10, 1840. These changes instituted a uniform rate of 8d for ship letters. The *British Queen* was the only steamship to arrive in England during this short rate period.

LITTLE ROCK, AR TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND GRAVESEND)



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch on *British Queen's* third voyage. Since she was scheduled to spend the winter in London for repairs and maintenance, mail was put off at Gravesend and dispatched to London by mail coach to expedite arrival in London.

**Ship Information**

The *British Queen*  
departed New York  
December 2, 1839,  
arrived in London  
December 25, 1839.

**Postal Rates**

United States	0
Great Britain	1/-
4d + 8d = 12d or 1/-	
Inland plus ship letter fee	

1840 BASHC BRITISH QUEEN  
PHILADELPHIA - LONDON  
DEPART 12/1/40 ARRIVE 12/22/40  
THRU 10 1/5, 2 PM DBL

WINTER

JP (3)

'13

PAID

Mr. J. M. Smith & Co.

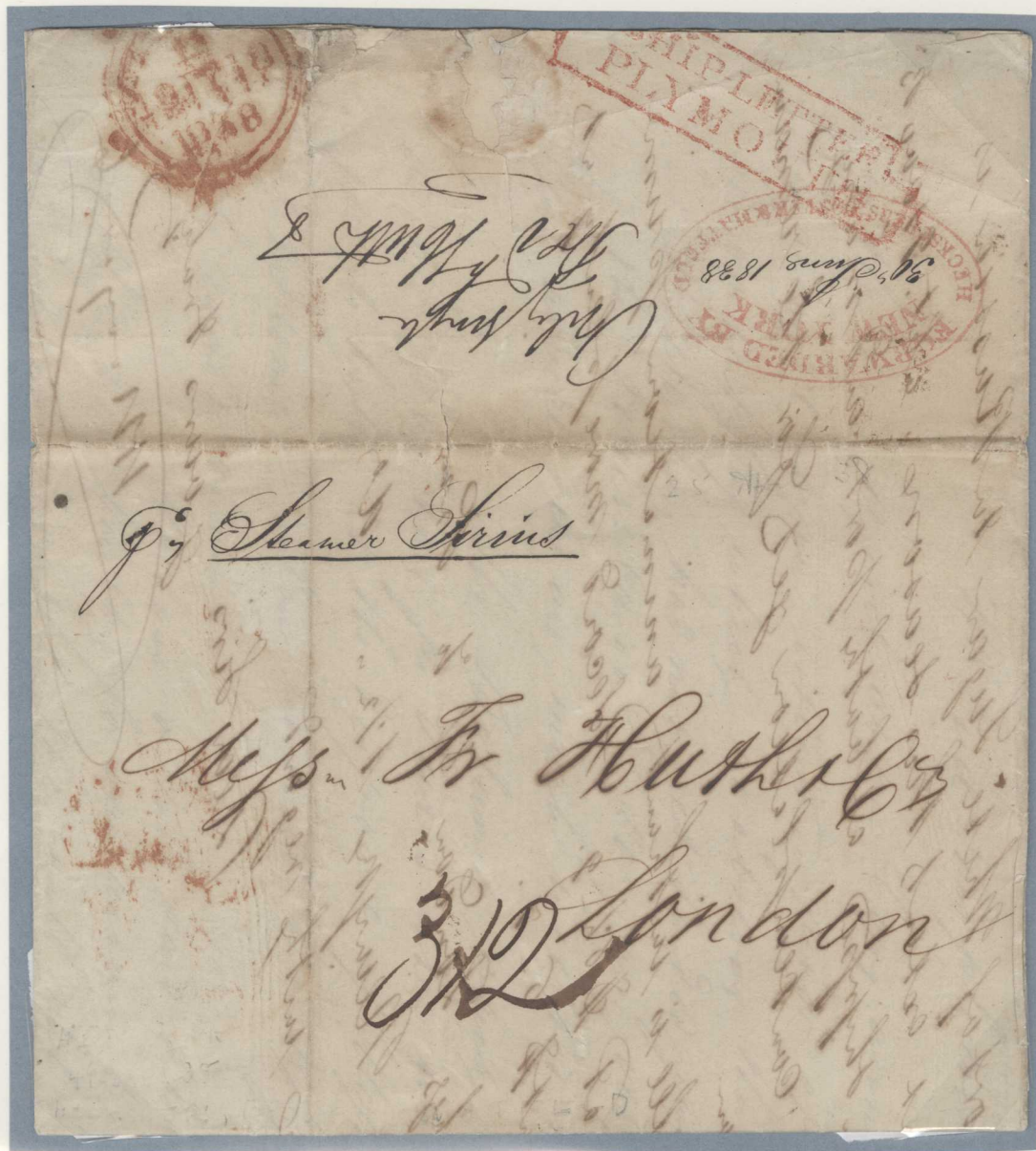
London

British Queen 1<sup>st</sup> class

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY - THE SIRUIS

Last Voyage,  
Double Letter

HAVANA, CUBA TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND PLYMOUTH)



Letter hand carried to forwarding agent Heckscher, Coster & Matfiel in New York. After this voyage, the *Sirius* returned to her route between England and Ireland.

Ship Information

The *Sirius* departed New York  
July 1, 1838, arriving Plymouth  
July 16, 1838.

Postal Rates

Cuba	0
United States	0
Great Britain	3/2

(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 38d  
or 3/2.  
Ship letter fee plus inland  
postage.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

First Voyage

LIVERPOOL TO SOUTH HADLEY CANAL, MA  
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted in Liverpool. Paid and posted to London Ship Letter Office for dispatch on the *British Queen*. Faint "PAID AT/LIVERPOOL" is Willcocks and Jay LL 136. Red rimless oval "PAID SHIP LETTER/8 JY 8/ LONDON" is Robertson type S51, in use 1838-1847.

**Ship Information**

The *British Queen* departed Portsmouth on July 12, 1839, arrived New York July 28, 1839.

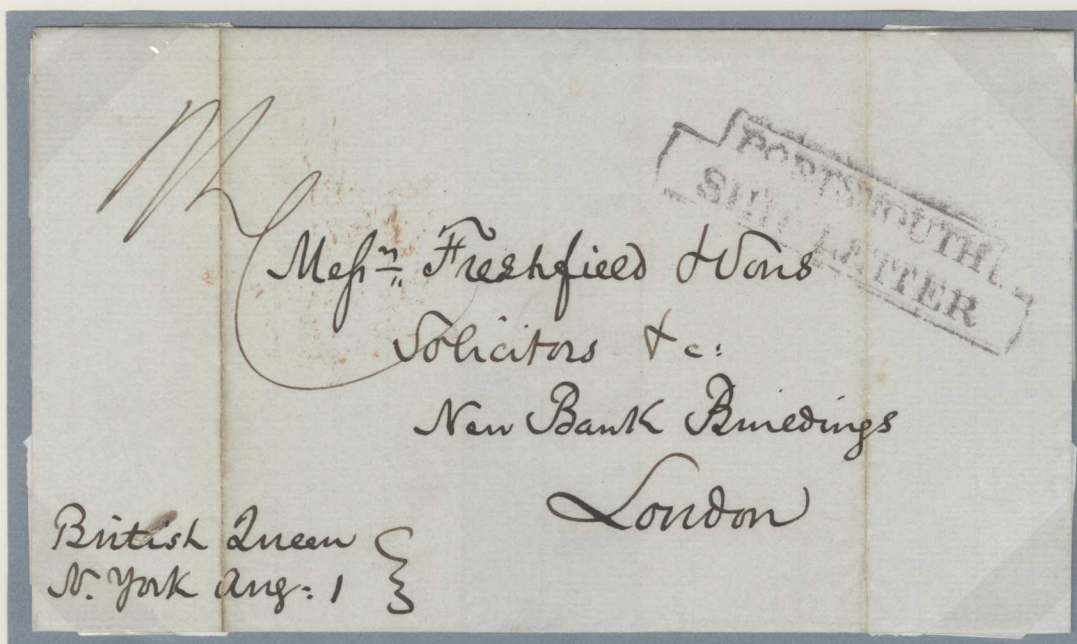
**Postal Rates**

Great Britain	1/-
1 Vic c 34, August 8, 1837.	
United States	20 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ¢
Inland postage plus ship letter fee.	

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

First Voyage, Return Leg

NEW YORK TO LONDON  
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch on the *British Queen's* easterly leg of her first voyage. Mail was dispatched to London by mail coach on her scheduled stop at Portsmouth. The ship proceeded to London.

**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**

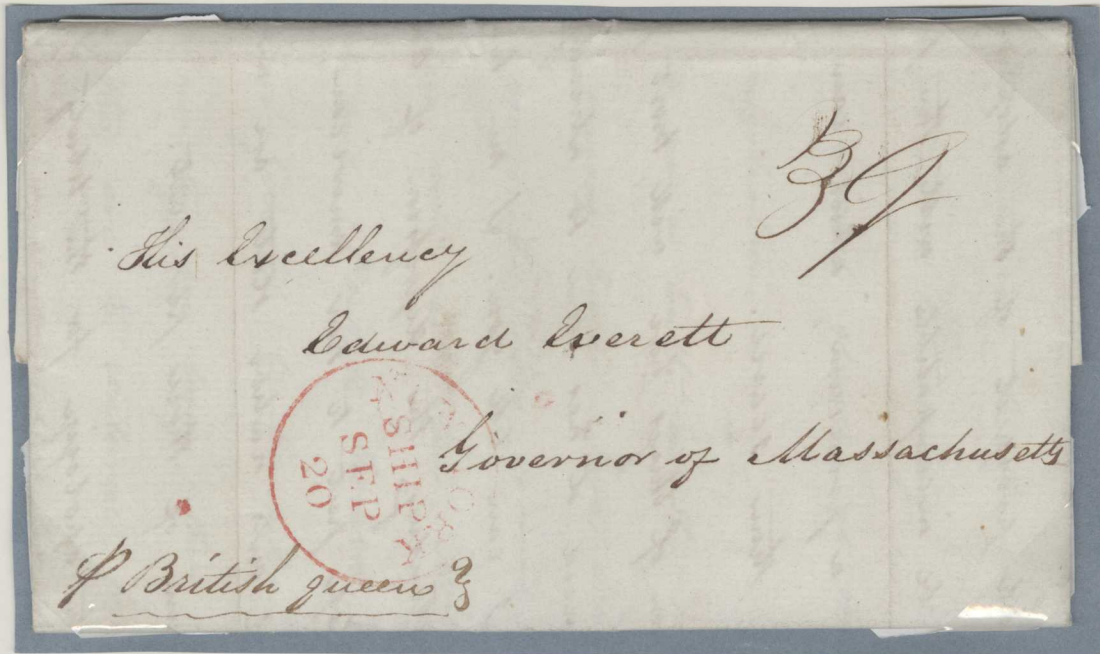
United States	0
Great Britain	1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4	
Inland plus ship letter fee.	



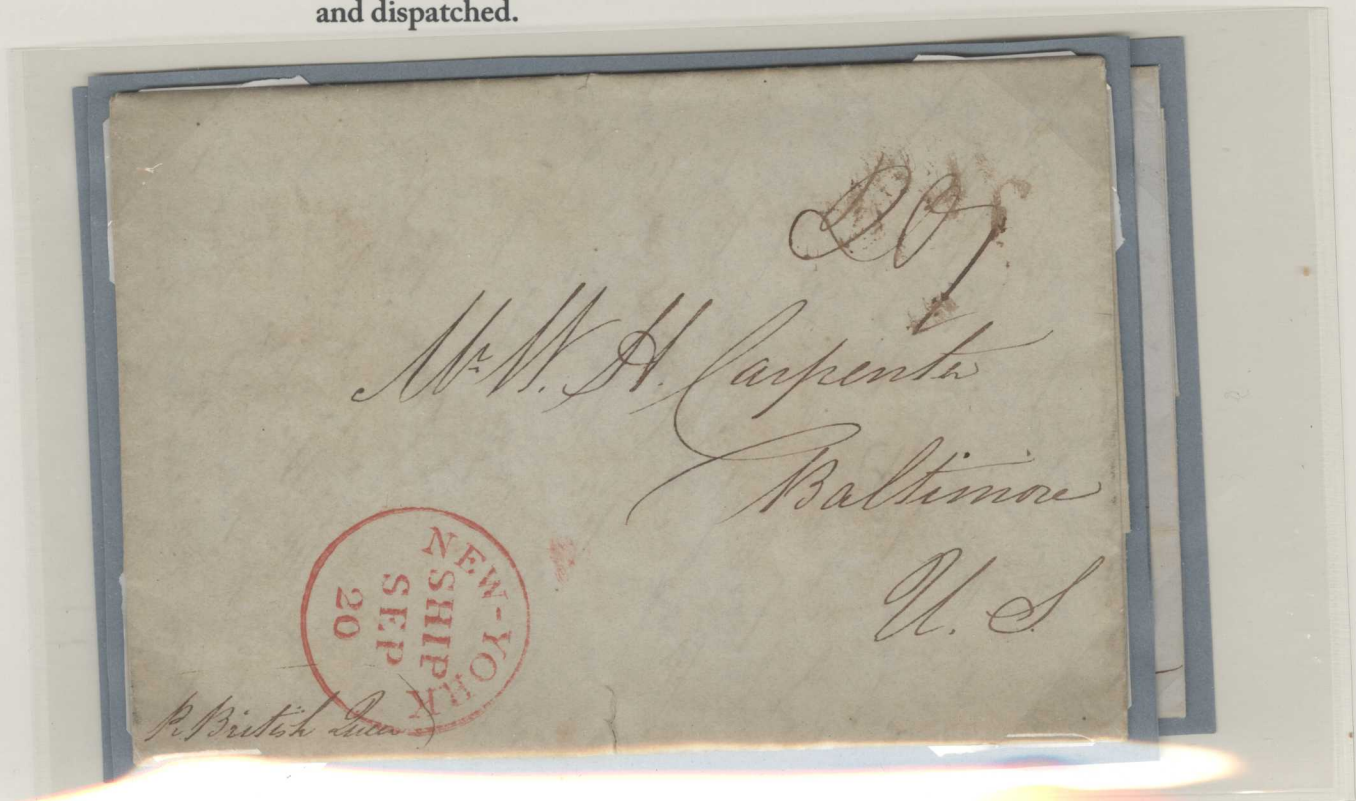
BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Second Voyage  
Westerly Leg  
Diplomatic Pouch

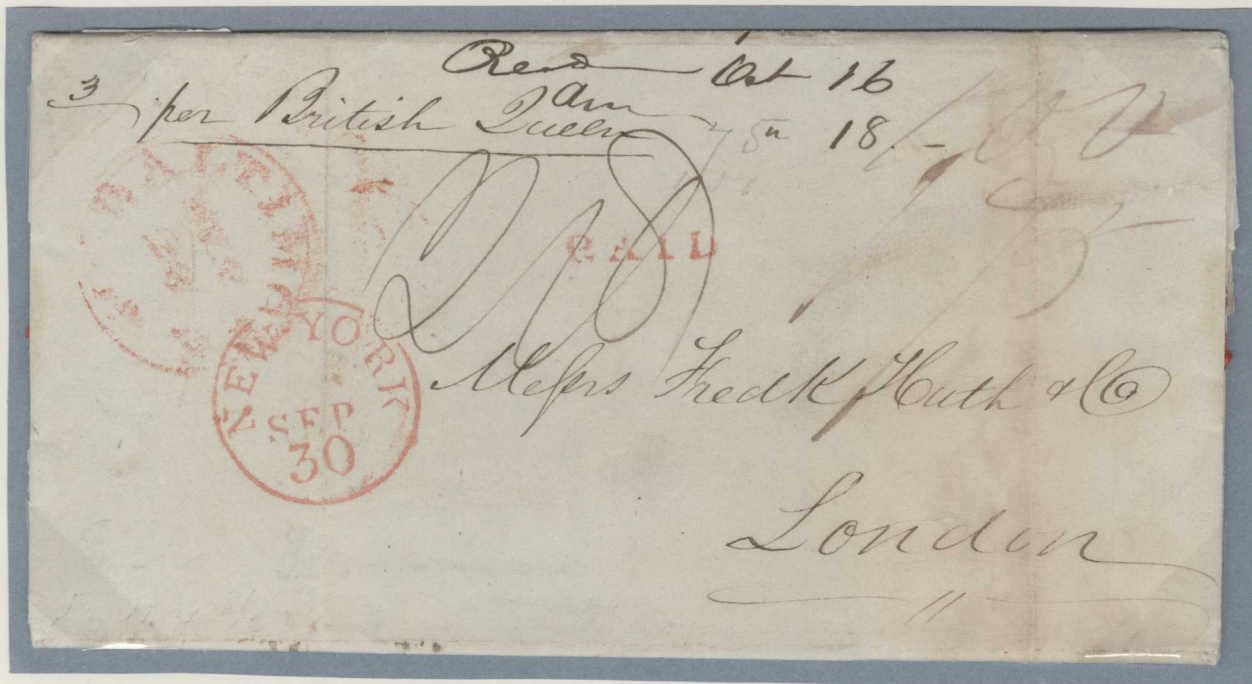
LONDON TO BOSTON, MA  
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Letter addressed to the Governor of Massachusetts from Colonel Aspenwall of the American Embassy. Traveled in diplomatic pouch, opened in New York, processed, rated and dispatched.



BALTIMORE TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Letter posted postage and freight money collected. Fees noted in upper right with freight money first followed by inland postage. This is how Baltimore postal officials noted these fees.

**Ship Information**

The *British Queen* departed  
New York October 1,  
1839, arrived Portsmouth  
October 15, 1839.

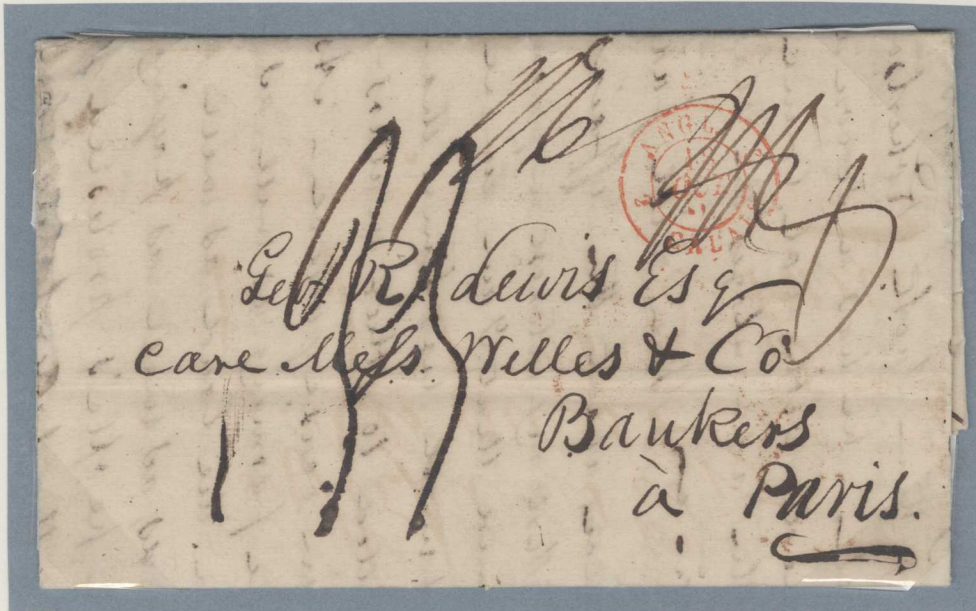
**Postal Rates**

United States \$1.75  
(18¾ x 4) + 2 = 75¢  
(25¢ x 4) = \$1.00  
Great Britain 2/8d  
4 x 8d = 32d or 2/8d



A reduced scan of cover back showing receiving and transfer marks applied in England. The red double circle London receiving stamp indicates PM processing. Red "SHIP LETTER/PORTSMOUTH" Robertson type S15 in use 1804 - 1840.

NEW LONDON, CT TO PARIS  
(VIA NEW YORK, PORTSMOUTH, LONDON AND CALAIS)



Letter Carried to ship's agent in New York, dispatched on *British Queen* in mail bag, passing through Portsmouth to London. Letter proceeded via Dover to Calais ferry and on to Paris.

#### Ship Information

The *British Queen* departed  
New York October 1,  
1839, arrived Portsmouth  
October 15, 1839.

#### Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/4d
Rerated 1/6d, transit fee to France.	
France	33 dec
1/6d to be debited to Great Britain.	

Scan of cover back showing marks applied in Great Britain during the transfer process. The red single circle mark indicates morning processing. The black London ½ double circle is Mackay type 48. The red "SHIP LETTER" is Robertson type S35 in use 1819 - 1839.



**PIONEER STEAMERS  
THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN  
STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY**

*The British Queen*

3 Post #2

The *British Queen* made her first crossing July 1839. Prior to her last departure in 1841 the company was in litigation with the inventor of the feathered paddle wheel design. This forced replacement of the blades on her paddle wheels. During this crossing blades on the right paddle wheel started to fall off requiring hasty repairs and delays that extended her crossing four additional days.

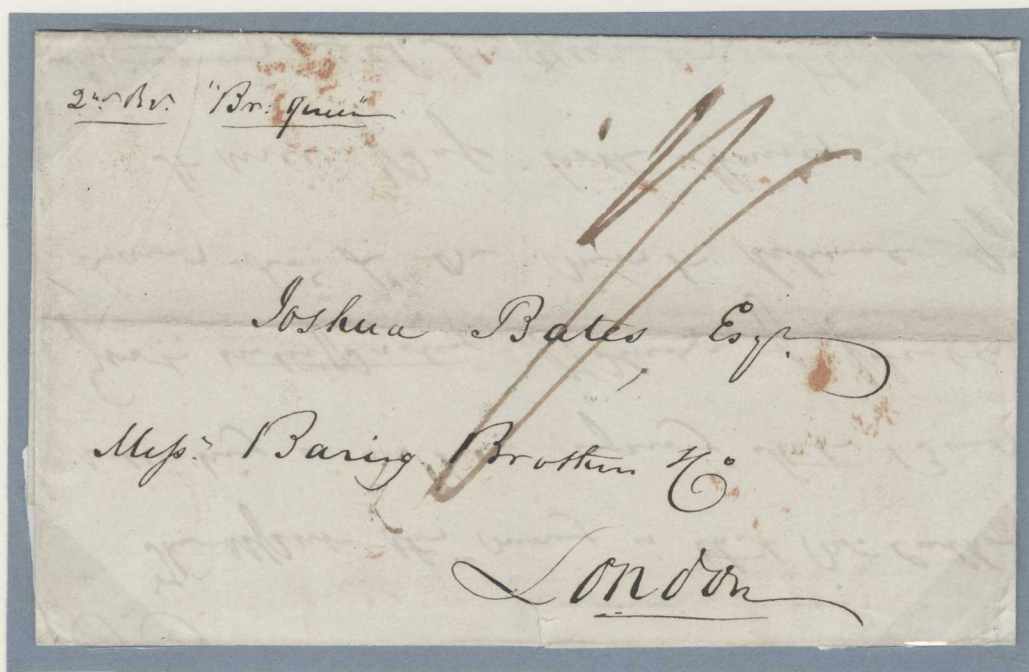
**NEW YORK TO LONDON  
(VIA BRISTOL)**

**Ship Information**

The *British Queen* departed New York December 2, 1839, on the the return leg of her 3rd voyage. She arrived London December 25, 1839.

**Postal Rates**

United States	0
Great Britain	1/-
Ship Letter Fee	8d
Inland fee	4d
Treasury Warrant 5 Dec 1839	



Letter hand carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as indicated on letter. The *British Queen* was the only steamer to arrive in Great Britain during this short rate period (December 5, 1839 - January 10, 1840).



Back of cover showing receiving marks. Red stepped "SHIP LETTER/GRAVESEND" applied when mail entered British postal system. This is Robertson type S6 in use 1836 - 1839, a late use of this marking. The red single circle London receiving mark indicates morning processing

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Third Voyage

NEW YORK TO PARIS  
(VIA GRAVESEND, LONDON AND CALAIS)



Ship Information

The *British Queen*  
departed New York  
December 2, 1839,  
arrived in London  
December 25, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/-
4d + 8d = 12d or 1/-	
Inland plus ship letter fee	
Great Britain	1/6d
Transfer fee collected in France.	
France	28 dec.
1/6d debited to Great Britain.	

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch  
on *British Queen's* third voyage.

Scan of cover back showing the transfer  
marks in Great Britain. The Calais  
transfer mark is on the front in upper  
right. The red stepped "SHIP LETTER  
GRAVESEND" stamp is Robertson  
type S6 in use 1836 to 1839. The black  
London half circle is Mackay type 48.

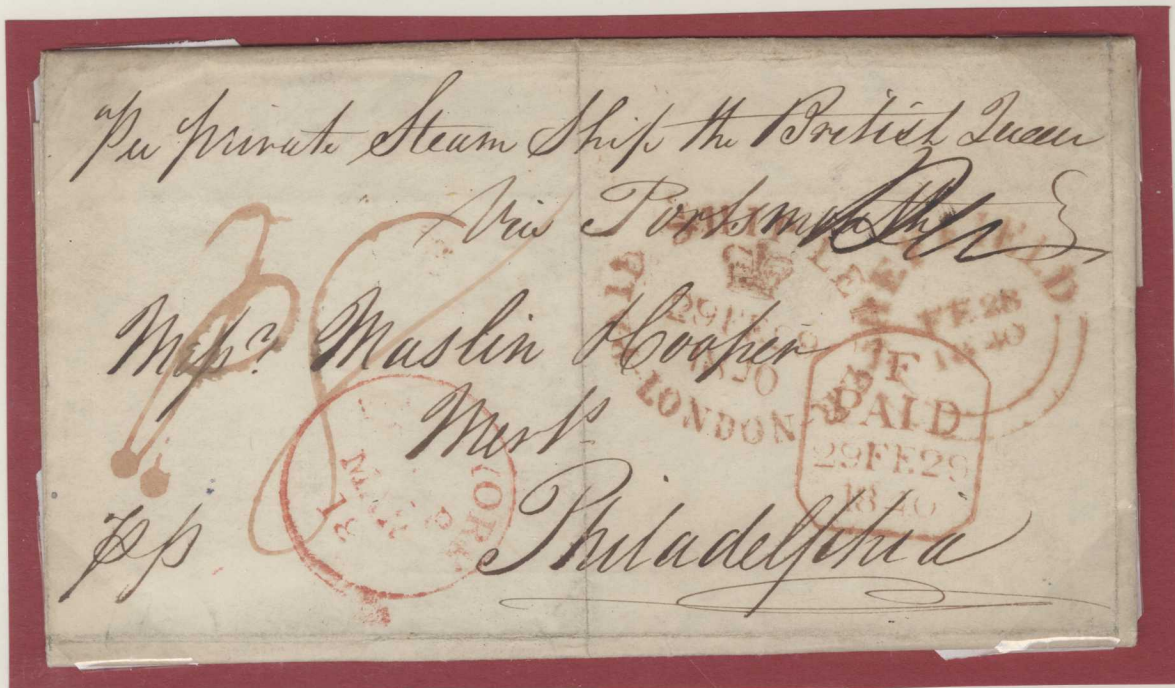
Willcocks & Jay, black single circle stamp  
used on unpaid letters between 1787 and  
1840. This is type L 14f in use 1834 -  
1840.



BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Fourth Voyage  
Westerly Leg  
No Ship Letter Fee

SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA  
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted for the *British Queen* and dispatched on the westerly leg of the fourth voyage. The rimless red "PAID SHIP LETTER/CROWN/29 FE 29 1840/ - LONDON -" is Robertson type S51, in use 1838-1847. Red "SHEFFIELD/FE 28/1840" Willocks and Jay YK 2653. Red Tomb Stone "PAID" Mackay type 2300. Ship letter fee not charged in U.S.

#### Ship Information

The *British Queen* departed Portsmouth March 2, 1840, arrived in New York March 18, 1840.

#### Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d  
Treasury Warrant (TW)  
January 10, 1840  
United States 12½¢  
12½¢ (80 - 150 miles)  
Ship letter fee not charged.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Fourth Voyage  
Easterly Leg  
Triple Freight Money

BALTIMORE TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Posted in Baltimore and rated a triple letter by number of sheets. Inland postage and freight money collected and noted in upper right. Note the pencil notation of "131¼" at top of "8d," this is common with freight money letters from Baltimore.

#### Ship Information

*British* *Queen*  
departed New  
York April 1, 1840,  
arrived Portsmouth  
April 16, 1840.

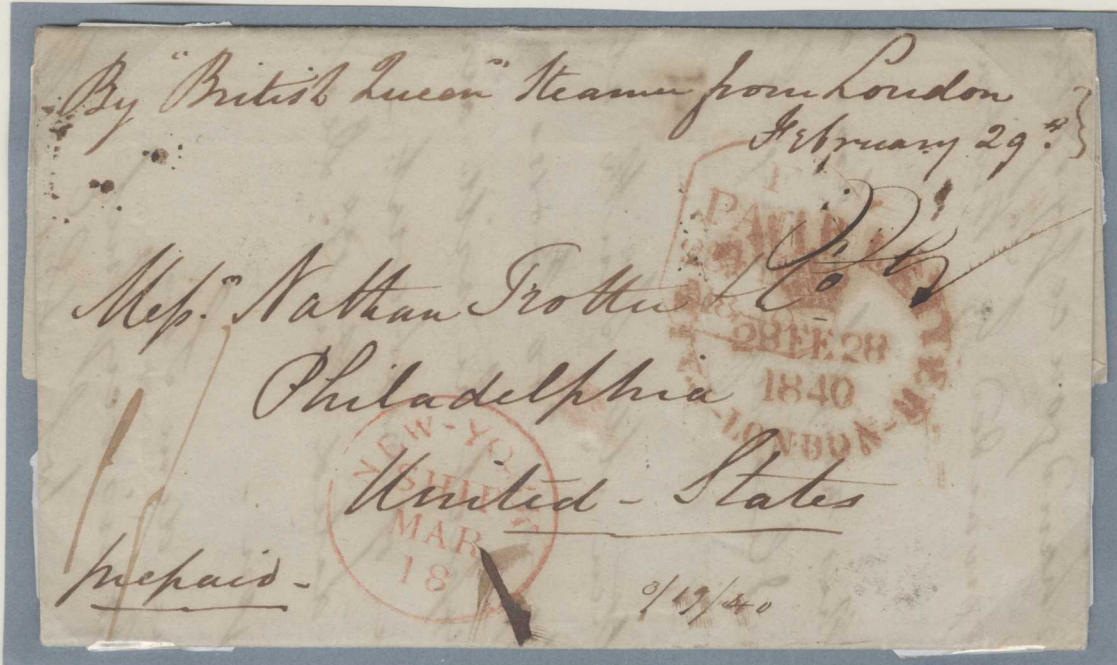
#### Postal Rates

United States 131¼¢  
Freight Money (3 x 25) = 75¢  
Inland postage (3 x 18¾) = 56¼¢  
Great Britain 8d  
Letter under one half ounce.  
Therefore only one rate in Great  
Britain.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Fourth Voyage

GOSPEL OAK WORKS, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA  
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted and processed. Dispatched as endorsed meeting the *British Queen* at Portsmouth.

Ship Information

*British Queen* departed Portsmouth March 2, 1840, arrived New York March 16, 1840.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/-
January 1840, Treasury Warrant dated December 27, 1839.	
United States	14½¢
Inland postage plus ship letter fee.	

BALTIMORE TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND PLYMOUTH)

Letter posted and processed. Dispatched as endorsed. Mail put ashore at Portsmouth.

Ship Information

*British Queen* departed New York April 1, 1840, arrived Portsmouth April 16, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States	37½¢
Double postage.	
Freight Money	50¢
Double freight money.	
Great Britain	8d





BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Fifth Voyage  
Double Letter

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON  
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

*British Queen*  
departed London  
May 1, 1840,  
arrived New York  
May 16, 1840.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d  
TW January 10, 1840,  
posted from port of  
departure.  
United States 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢  
18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ + 2¢ = 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢  
Inland plus ship letter  
fee.

Letter carried by Liverpool Baring Brothers office to London  
office. Posted for dispatch on *British Queen's* fifth voyage.

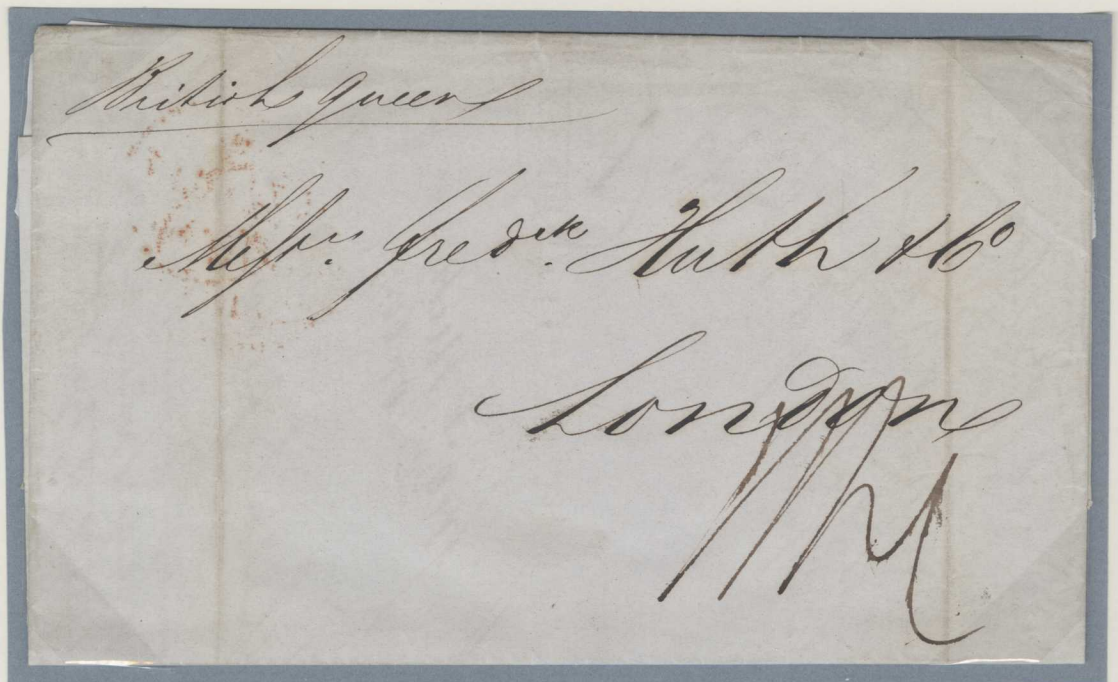
NEW YORK TO LONDON  
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)

Ship Information

*British Queen*  
departed New  
York June 1,  
1840, and arrived  
Portsmouth May  
16, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 0  
Great Britain 1/4  
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4  
Inland plus ship letter  
fee.

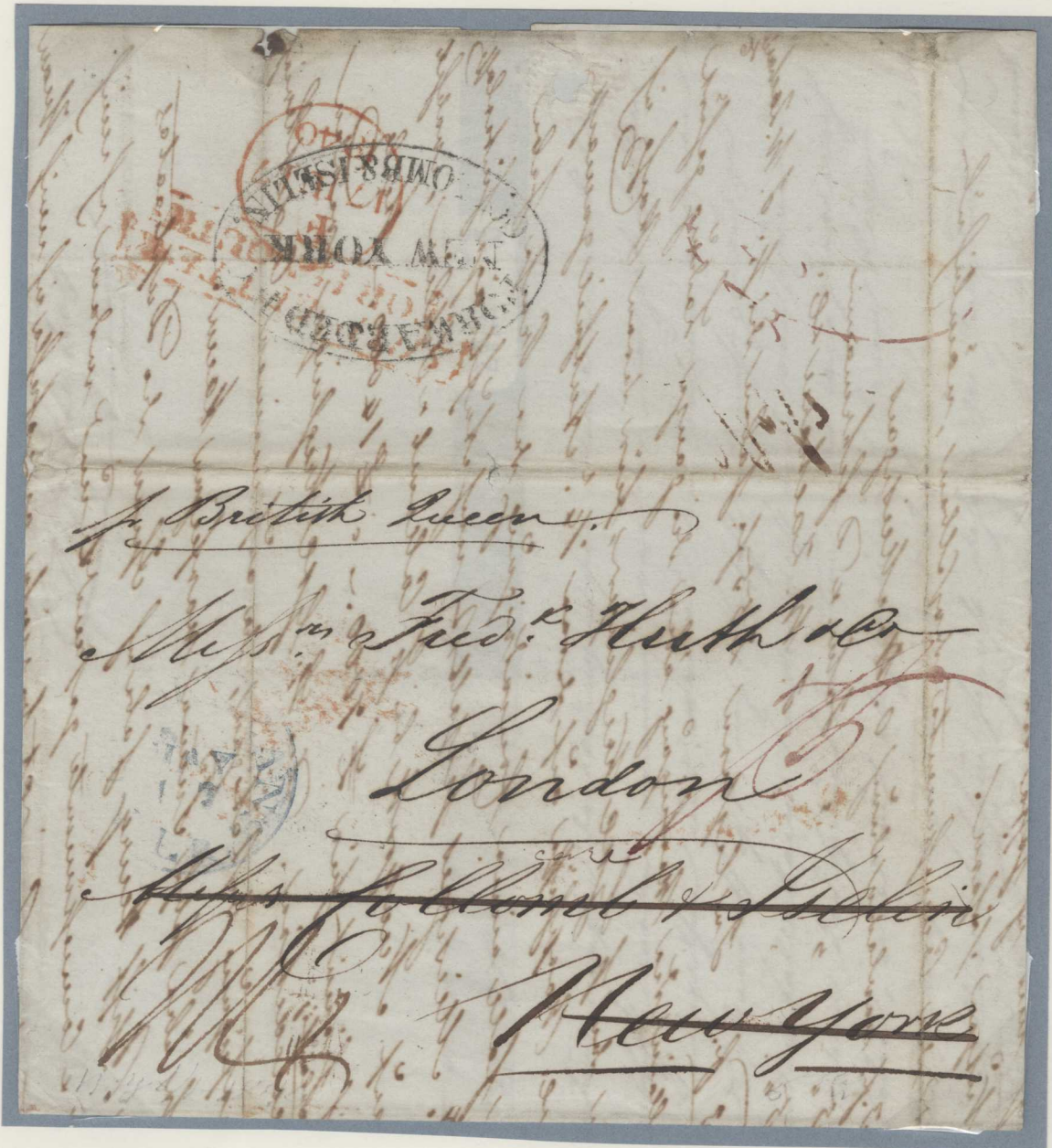


Double letter carried to ship's agent in New York and  
dispatched on *British Queen's* easterly leg of fifth voyage.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Fifth Voyage  
Freight Money, Double Letter  
And Forwarding Agent

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Double letter posted to Collomb & Iselin in New York for dispatch as indicated. Freight Money was collected in New Orleans. Rate is incorrect, should have charged twice for Freight Money.

Ship Information

*British Queen*  
departed New  
York on June 1,  
1840, and arrived  
Portsmouth June  
16, 1840.

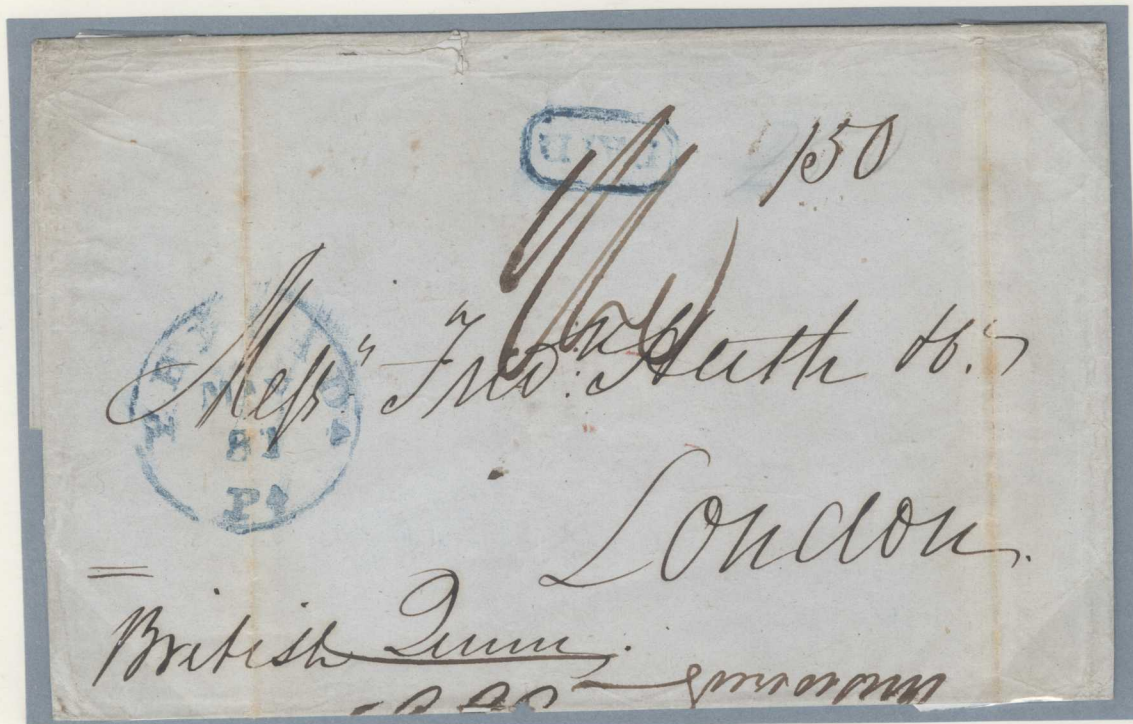
Postal Rates

United States 75¢  
(2 x 25¢) + 25¢ = 75¢  
Double inland plus  
Freight Money.  
Great Britain 1/4  
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Fifth Voyage  
Quadruple Rate Letter  
Double Letter - Great Britain

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Letter posted in Philadelphia, fees collected and noted in upper right. Philadelphia combined the freight money and inland fees first in pencil and then in black ink. In Great Britain letter weighted between one half ounce and an ounce so was rated as a double letter.

#### Ship Information

*British Queen*  
departed New  
York June 1, 1840,  
arrived Portsmouth  
June 16, 1840.

#### Postal Rates

United States \$1.50  
Freight Money (4 x 25) = \$1.00  
Inland postage (4 x 12½) = 50¢  
Great Britain 1/4d  
(2 x 8d) = 16d or 1/4d  
Letter over one half ounce.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Sixth Voyage

GOSPLE OAKS WORK, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA  
(VIA PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)

Letter posted for  
dispatch on *British  
Queen* as indicated.

Ship Information

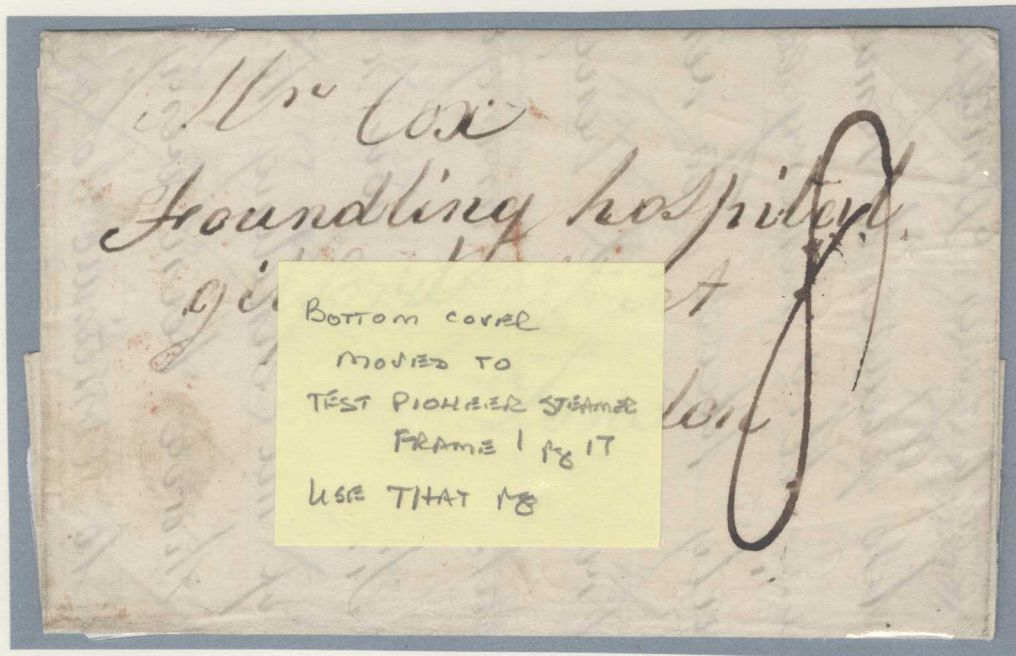
*British Queen* left  
Portsmouth on July 1,  
1840, arrived New York  
July 18, 1840. This was  
the westerly leg of her  
sixth voyage.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/-
United States	14½¢



NEW YORK TO HAVRE, FRANCE  
(VIA SOUTH HAMPTON, LONDON, CALAIS AND PARIS)



Ship Information

*British Queen* left New  
York August 1, 1840,  
arrived in Portsmouth  
August 15, 1840. This  
was the easterly leg of  
her sixth voyage.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/6
Article VI, Anglo-French Convention 30 March 1836, Implemented July 1836.	
France	33 dec
18 dec due Great Britain + French inland postage.	

Letter carried to ship's agent in New  
York for dispatch.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Sixth Voyage

HIGH HOLBORN, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA  
(VIA LONDON, NEW YORK)

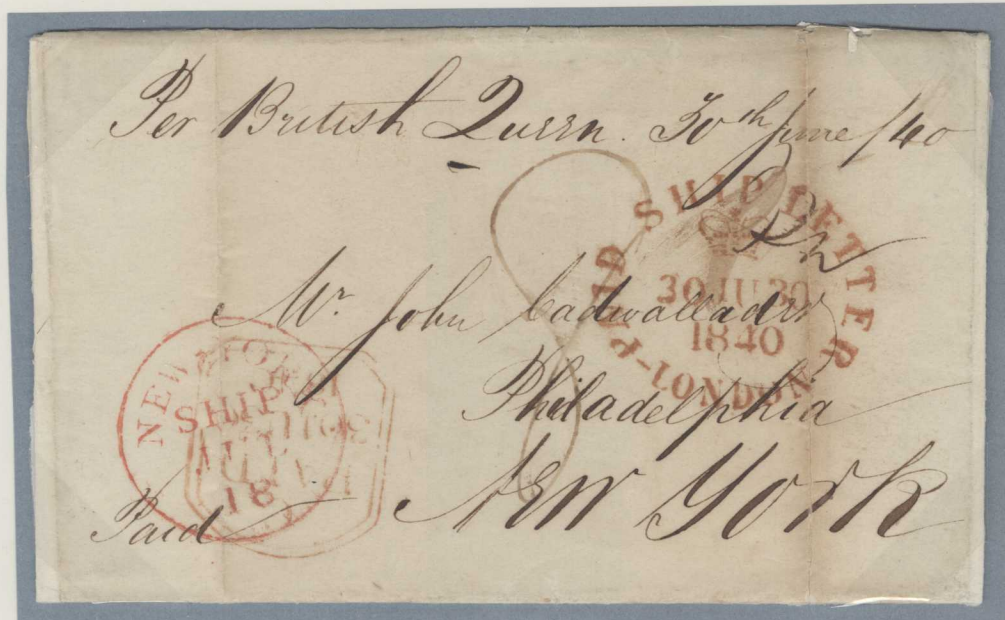
Letter posted in London High Holborn General Post Office for dispatch on the *British Queen*. High Holborn was one of the London receiving houses that collected mail for the London Postal System.

Ship Information

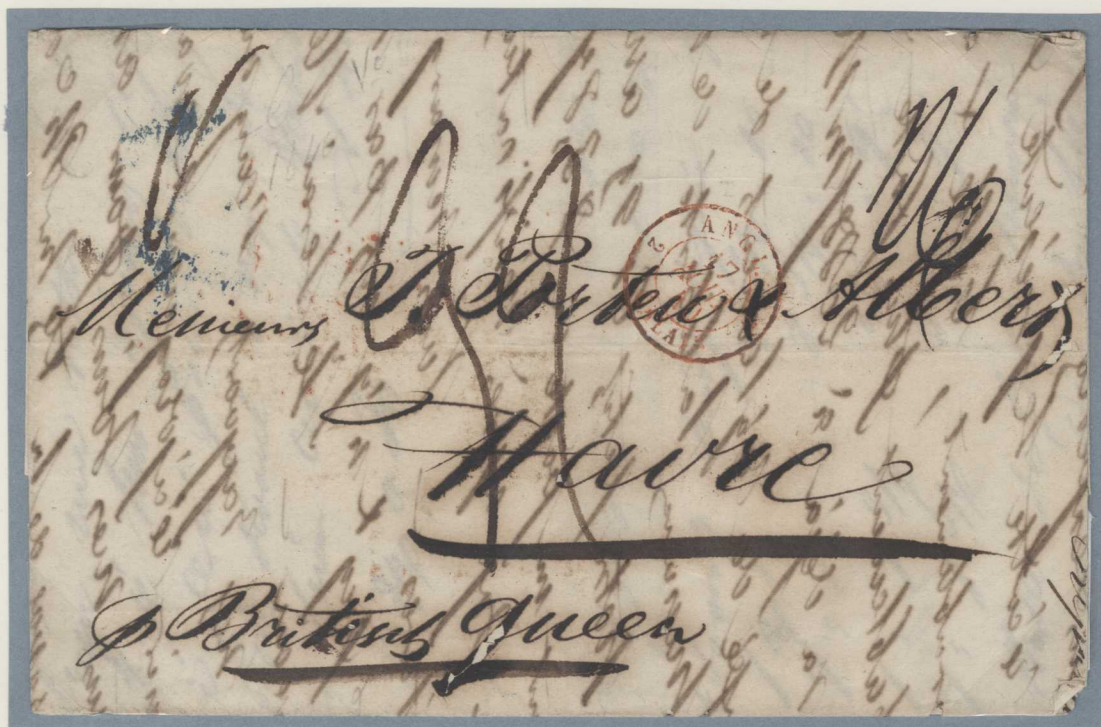
*British Queen* departed Portsmouth on July 1, 1840, and arrived New York July 18, 1840.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	12½¢



NEW YORK TO HAVRE, FRANCE  
(VIA SOUTH HAMPTON, LONDON, CALAIS AND PARIS)



Ship Information

*British Queen* left New York August 1, 1840, arrived in Portsmouth August 15, 1840. This was the easterly leg of her sixth voyage.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/6
Article VI, Anglo-French Convention 30 March 1836, Implemented July 1836.	
France	33 dec
18 dec due Great Britain + French inland postage.	

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Seventh Voyage  
Double Forwarding



PARK NEWTON, SCOTLAND TO NEW YORK  
(VIA LONDON AND PORTSMOUTH)

Ship Information

*British Queen* departed  
Portsmouth September  
1, 1840, arrived New  
York September 17,  
1840. This was the  
easterly leg of her  
seventh voyage.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d  
TW January 10, 1840.  
United States 18½¢  
Fee for delivery to port of  
entry. Forwarding fee to  
Philadelphia 12½¢ paid.



Letter posted for dispatch on the *British Queen* as indicated. New York incoming ship letter fee paid and forwarded to Philadelphia. Again forwarded to Lexington, KY with no additional fee indicated.

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON  
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Both letters carried on the same crossing. The red "Paid at Liverpool" Robertson Type M3a in use 1834-1843.

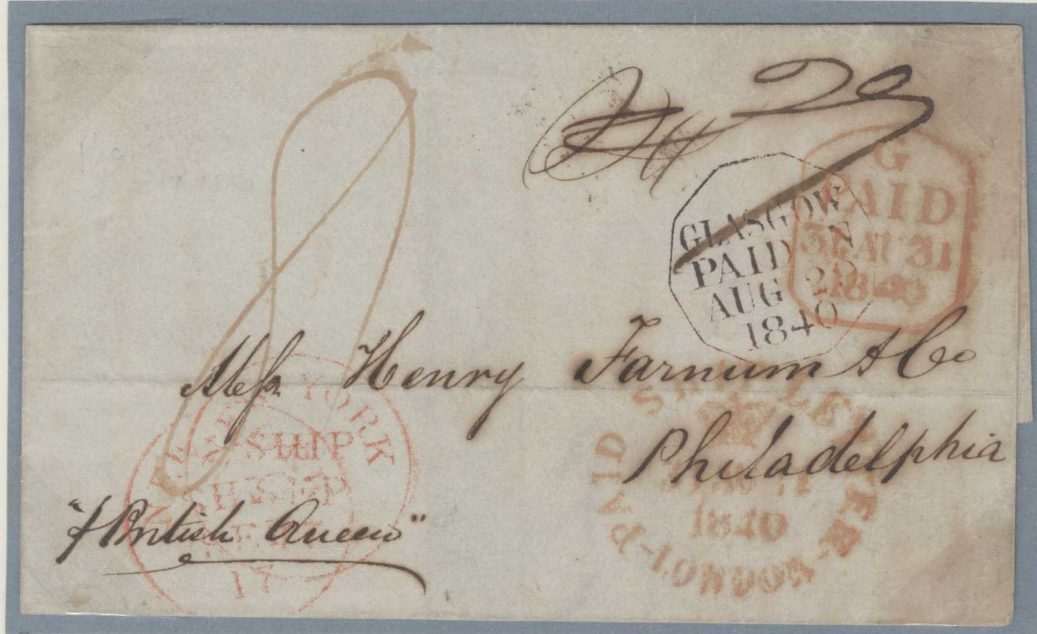
Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d  
TW January 10, 1840.  
United States 20¾¢  
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Seventh Voyage  
Double Letter  
4 x Freight Money

GLASGOW TO PHILADELPHIA  
(VIA LONDON, PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

*British Queen* departed Portsmouth September 1, 1840, arrived New York September 17, 1840. This was the easterly leg of her seventh voyage.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
TW January 10, 1840.	
United States	27¢
(2 x 12½¢) + 2¢ = 27¢	
Inland postage plus ship letter fee.	

Double letter posted for dispatch on the *British Queen* as indicated in Glasgow. The black octagon paid stamp is Mackay type 355, use is earlier than recorded.

Letter posted in bag for London in Philadelphia. London GPO processed and stamps red "SHIP LETTER" Robertson type S36 on back.

PHILADELPHIA TO HALIFAX, ENGLAND  
(VIA NEW YORK, PORTSMOUTH AND LONDON)



Ship Information

*British Queen* departed New York October 1, 1840, arrived New York October 17, 1840. This was the westerly leg of her seventh voyage.

Postal Rates

United States	\$1.50
Inland (4 x 12½¢) = \$.50	
FM (4 x 25¢) = \$1.00	
Great Britain	1/4d
Ship Letter = 8d	
Inland = 8d	

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Complete Eighth Voyage

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK  
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

*British Queen* departed from Portsmouth November 1, 1840, arrived at New York November 21, 1840. This was the westerly leg of her eighth voyage.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
TW January 10, 1840.	
United States	6¢
Fee for delivery at port of entry.	

Letters posted for dispatch on the *British Queen*.

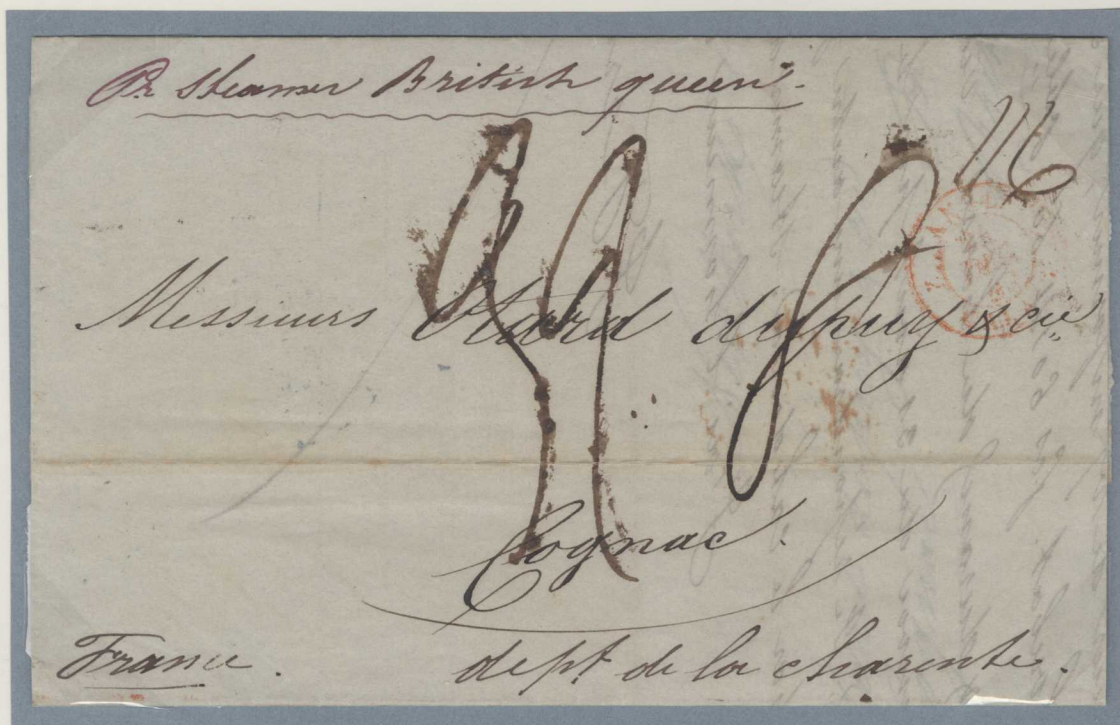
NEW YORK TO COGNAC  
(VIA LONDON, CALAIS AND PARIS)

Ship Information

*British Queen* departed New York December 1, 1840, and arrived Portsmouth December 22, 1840. This was the easterly leg of her eighth voyage.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/6
Fee for transporting letter through to France includes 8d ship letter fee.	
France	32 dec
Includes 1/6d debit to England.	





BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *BRITISH QUEEN*

Last Voyage

Design of the paddles on the *British Queen* caused a major challenge during refit after the 1840 season. The feathering paddles had to be changed to non-feathering to avoid litigation with the patent holder.

During her first voyage in 1841, the port side paddle wheel malfunctioned causing floats to drop into the sea. Temporary repairs by the crew enabled her to make Halifax after 20 days at sea. Upon her return to Liverpool and the additional news of the *President's* disappearance, the company regarded steam power as an unprofitable venture.

NEW YORK TO PARIS  
(VIA LIVERPOOL, LONDON AND CALAIS)



Ship Information

*British Queen* departed New York April 11, 1841, arrived Liverpool April 28, 1841. This was the easterly leg of her ninth voyage.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/6
Fee for transporting letter through to France includes 8d ship letter fee.	
France	38 dec
Includes 1/6d debit to England.	

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch as indicated.

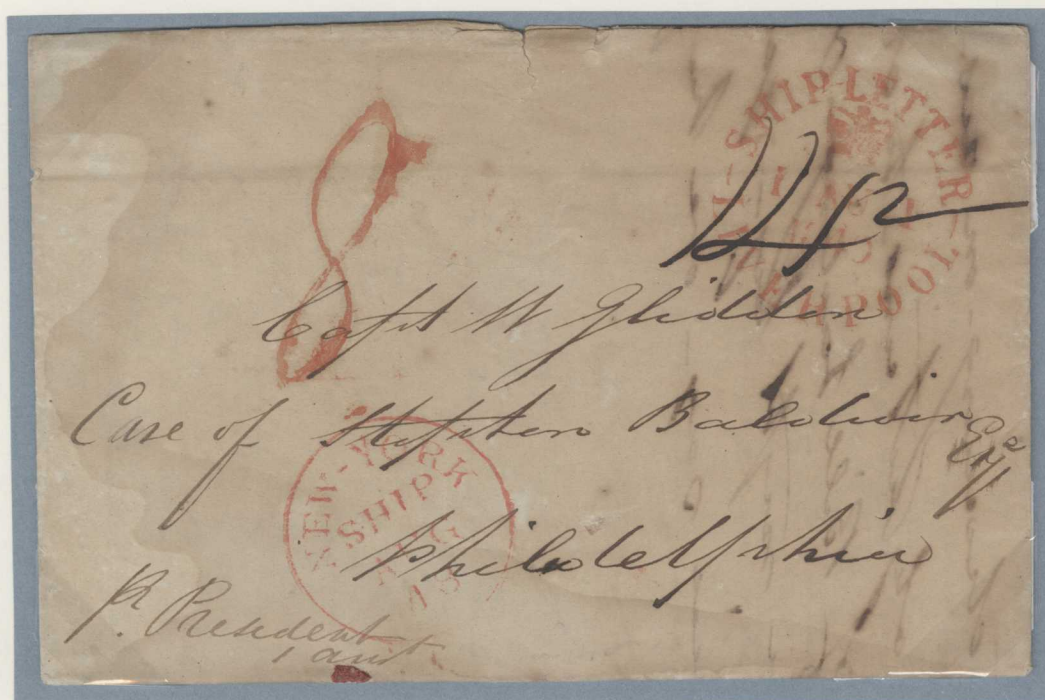
# PIONEER STEAMERS THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM SHIP COMPANY

*The President*  
First Voyage

The British and American Steam Navigation Company planned for two vessels, the *British Queen* and the *President*. With completion of the *President*, she surpassed the *British Queen* as the largest steam vessel on the North Atlantic sea lanes.

The *President*, like the *British Queen*, had blades on her paddle wheels that, due to litigation, required modification. The company completed these changes before her third voyage, and she arrived in New York as scheduled. She departed New York on her return leg as scheduled. However she went missing with all souls during the same storm that delayed the *British Queen* as she struggled with paddle wheel problems.

## LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA (VIA NEW YORK)



### Ship Information

The *President* departed Liverpool on August 1, 1840, on her first voyage. She arrived New York August 17, 1840.

### Postal Rates

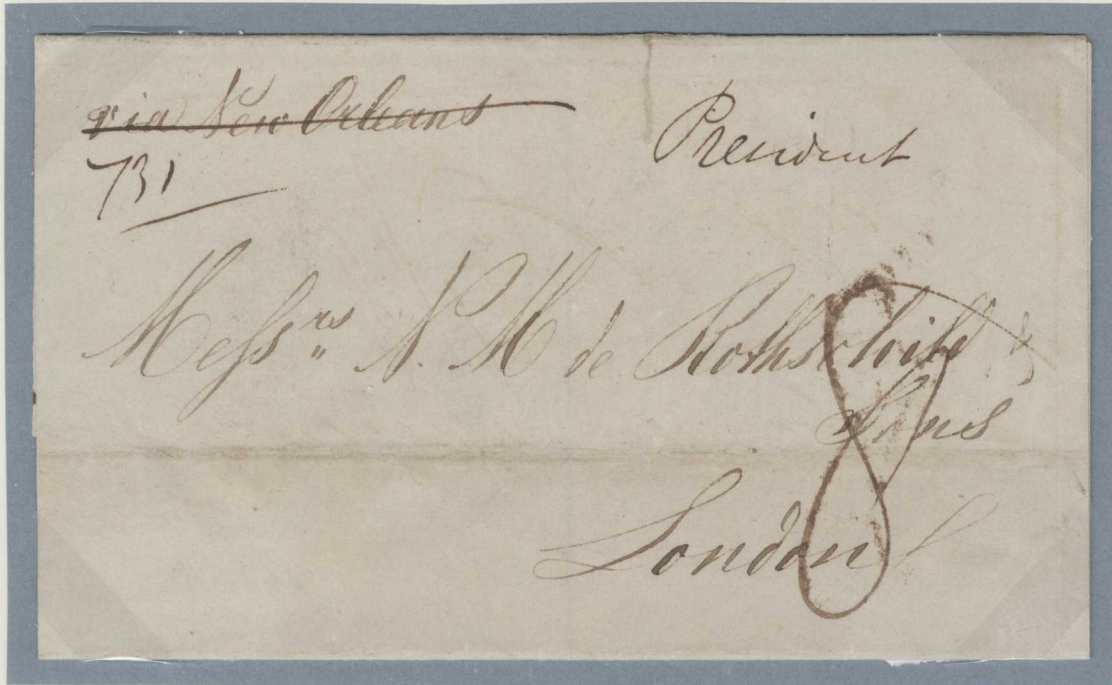
Great Britain	8d
Uniform fee per Treasury Warrant 10 Jan 1840	
United States	14½¢
Inland fee	12½¢
Captain's fee	2¢

Letter posted, fee collected in Liverpool. Rimless circular "SHIP LETTER - LIVERPOOL/Crown/1 AU 1/ 1840" is Robertson type S15 in use 1838 - 41. The red 24mm CDS "NEW - YORK/SHIP/AUG/18" indicates letter is a ship letter and must be rated as such.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *PRESIDENT*

Complete First Voyage  
Easterly Leg  
Second Voyage Easterly Leg

TAMPICO, MEXICO TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Wrapper carried outside mail, through New Orleans to forwarding agent Oelrichs & Kriger in New York.

Ship Information

The *President* departed New York on return leg September 1, 1840, arrived at Liverpool September 17, 1840. She made only two complete voyages as she disappeared with all souls on the easterly leg of her third voyage.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

NEW YORK TO LONDON  
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

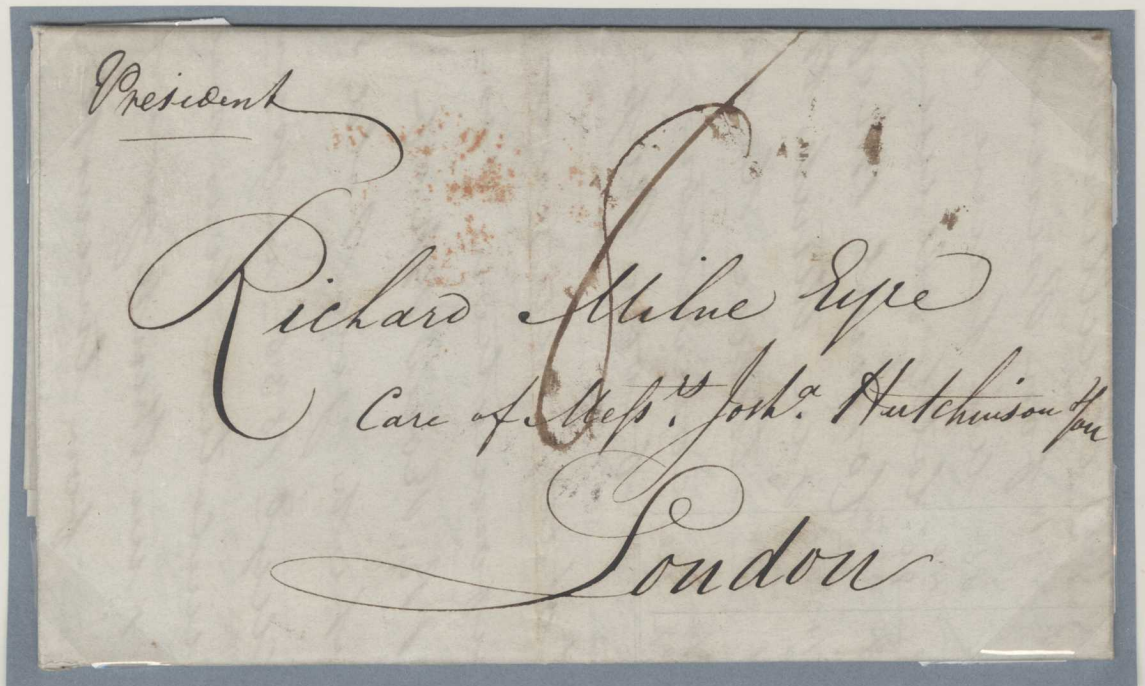
Ship Information

The *President* departed New York on return leg of second voyage November 1, 1840. Foul weather forced her return to New York. She sailed again on November 11, 1840, arriving at Liverpool November 27, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

TW January 10, 1840.

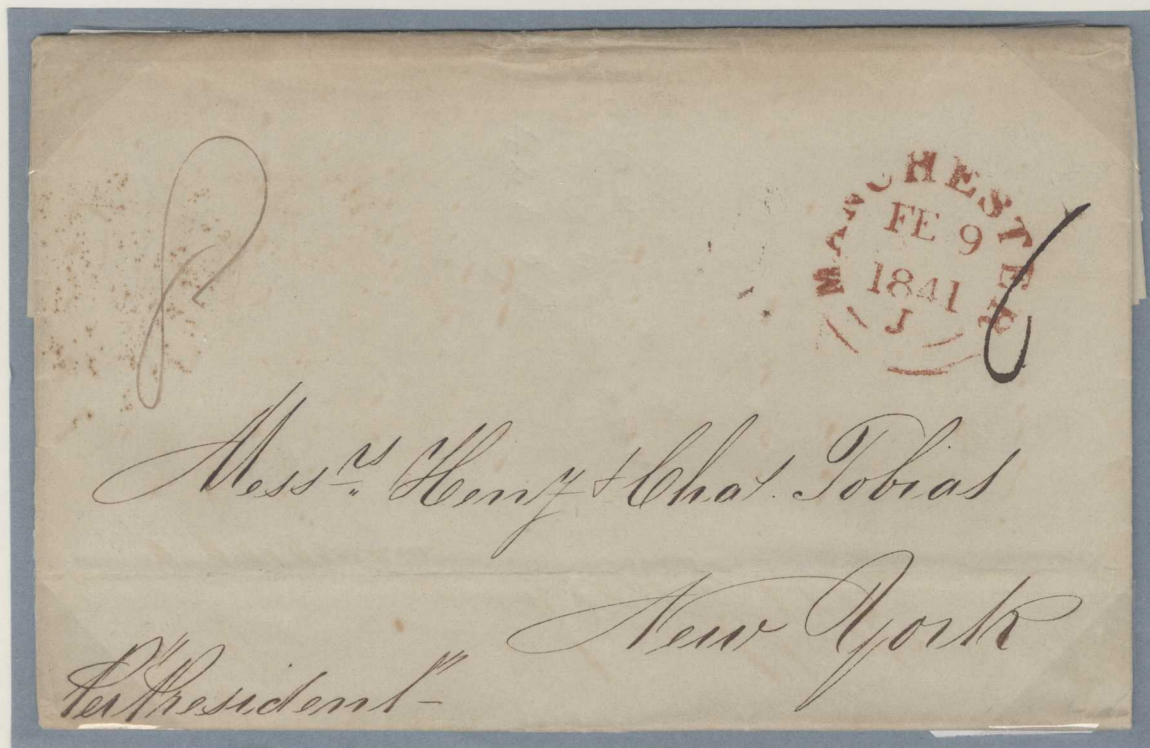


Letter carried to ship's agent and dispatched as indicated.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN STEAM  
NAVIGATION COMPANY  
THE *PRESIDENT*

Westerly Leg - Last Voyage

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND TO NEW YORK  
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



**Ship Information**

The *President* departed Liverpool February 10, 1841, arrived New York March 3, 1841.

Letter posted to the *President* as directed. This proved to be the last voyage of the *President* since she left New York on March 11, 1841 and disappeared without a trace in a storm.

**Postal Rates**

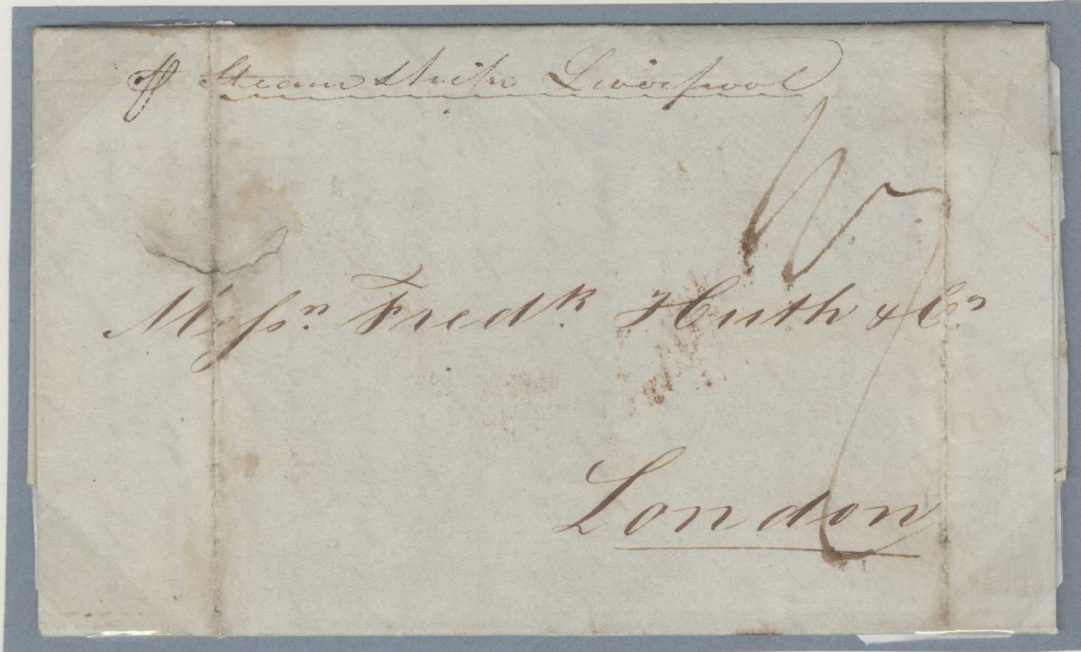
Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢

Both the *British Queen* and *President* were required to modify their paddle wheels prior to this series of voyages. This action resulted from a challenge by the inventor of that style of paddle wheel.

The storm experienced by both ships caused the *British Queen* to experience failures in the right paddle wheel. The paddles began to fall off during the storm and emergency repairs were required lengthening the *British Queen's* voyage to twenty days.

The question might be asked, was not the *President* experiencing the same problem with her paddles wheels? This could be the reason for her disappearance on the easterly leg of her third voyage.

HAVANA, CUBA TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

She departed New York on the return leg of her first voyage December 6, 1838, arrived Liverpool on December 21, 1838.

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York as directed. Freight money probably paid but not noted as was the norm for New York.

Postal Rates

Cuba	0
United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7d	
Ship letter fee plus inland postage.	

Scan of cover back showing forwarding agent stamp and the transfer markings. The red "Liverpool/Ship Letter" is Robertson type S14 in use 1838-41, common in black, scarcer in red, and very rare in green.



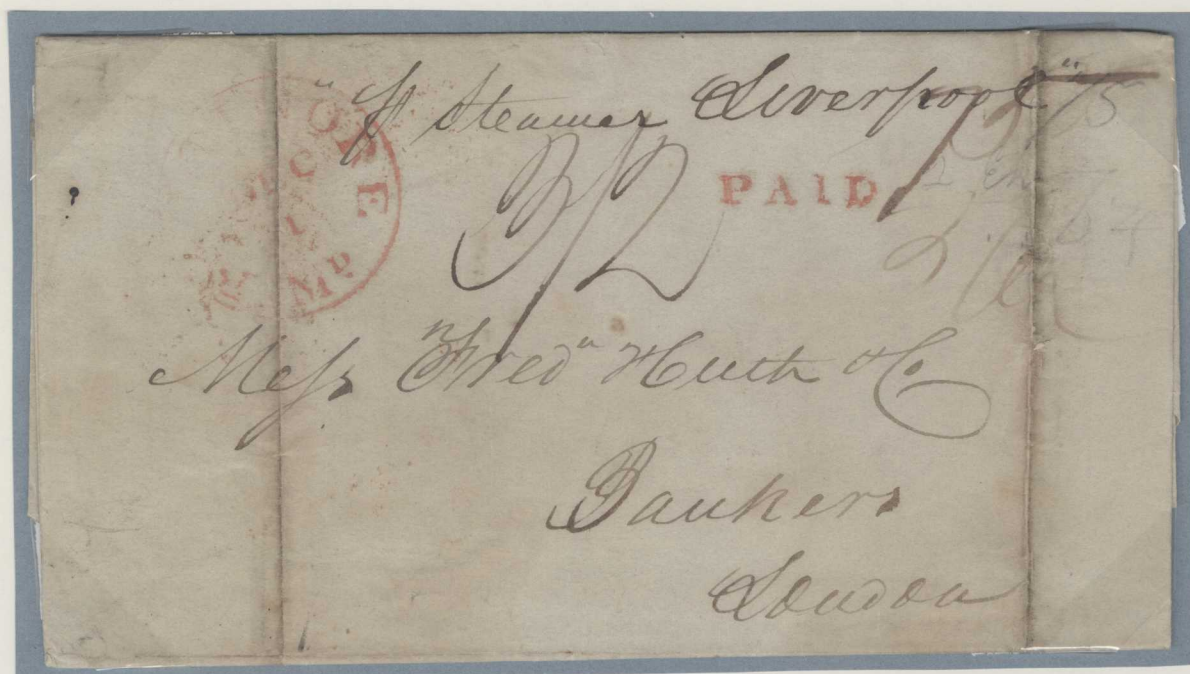
**TRANSATLANTIC STEAM SHIP  
COMPANY - THE *LIVERPOOL***

**First Voyage  
Triple Freight Money**

The Transatlantic Steam Ship Company operated as a subsidiary of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company. The prospectus for the Transatlantic Steam Ship Company appeared after the completion of the first round trip of the *Royal William*. It announced the purchase of the 1,150 ton wooden paddle steamer *Liverpool*. They also announced that two other steamers were under construction.

Two funnels identified the *Liverpool*. She provided another unique feature at that time, warm and cold baths. Although the service proved unprofitable, she made seven crossings. In early 1840 the company withdrew its transatlantic service. The company disbanded and sold both the *Liverpool* and the unfinished *United States* to the Peninsula and Oriental line.

**BALTIMORE TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)**



**Ship Information**  
She departed New York on the return leg of her first voyage December 6, 1838, arrived Liverpool on December 21, 1838.

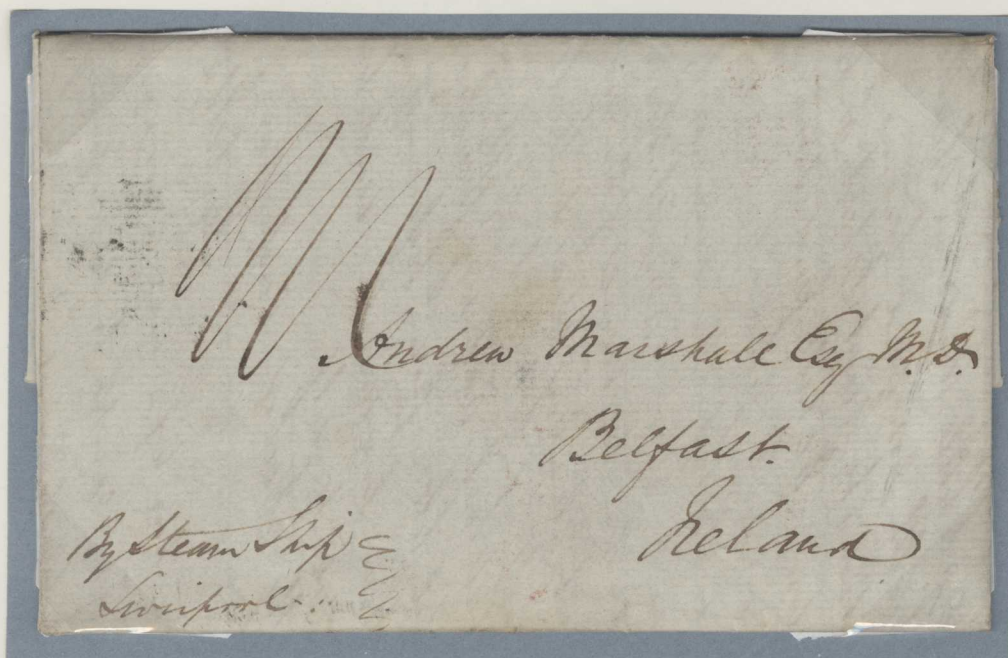
Triple letter posted in Baltimore. Freight money collected and noted in usual manner.

<b>Postal Rates</b>	
United States	56¼¢
(3 x 18¾¢) = 56¼¢	
Freight Money	75¢
(3 x 25¢) = 75¢	
Great Britain	3/2
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 38d or 3/2	

TRANSATLANTIC STEAM SHIP  
COMPANY - THE LIVERPOOL

Second Voyage  
Forwarding Agent

BALTIMORE TO BELFAST, IRELAND  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

She departed New York on March 9, 1838, arrived Liverpool on March 23, 1838.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/11

8d + 11d + 3d + 1d = 23d  
Ship letter fee plus inland postage plus Holyhead - Dublin packet plus Chester - Conway route.

Letter carried to forwarding agent in New York. Dispatched as directed. This cover followed the Holyhead to Dublin route crossing the Irish Sea.

Scan of cover back showing various receiving and transfer markings. Large red oval stamp Gilpin's Exchange, Reading Room & Foreign Letter Office is forwarding agent. The red diamond date stamp is Mackay type 134 used by the Dublin Office. The black Belfast receiving stamp is Mackay type 139.



BALTIMORE TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Double letter posted with Freight Money collected at Baltimore.

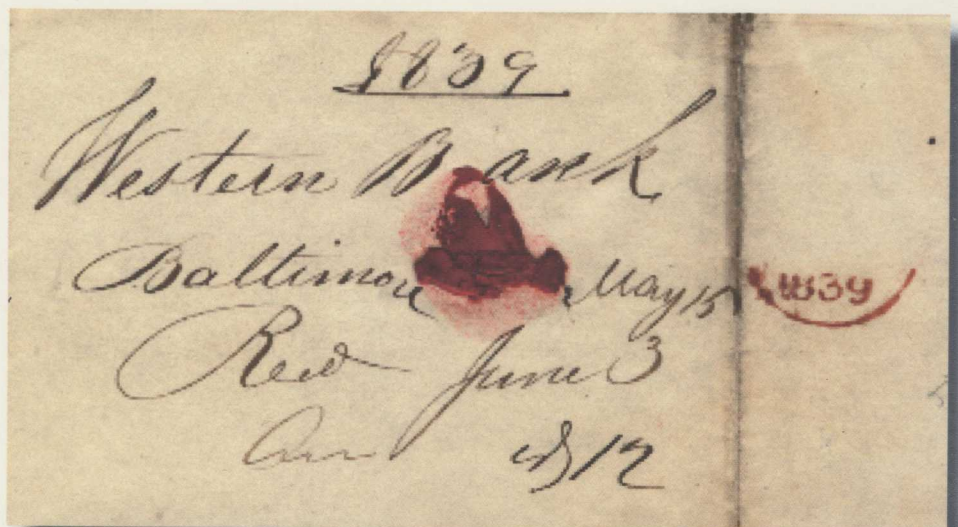
**Ship Information**

She departed New York on her third voyage on May 18, 1839, arrived Liverpool June 2, 1839.

**Postal Rates**

United States	18¾¢
Freight Money	25¢
Great Britain	3/2
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 38d or 3/2	
Ship letter fee plus inland postage.	

Back of cover showing additional docketing information. In some cases this information is crucial in positively identifying ship that carried the cover.





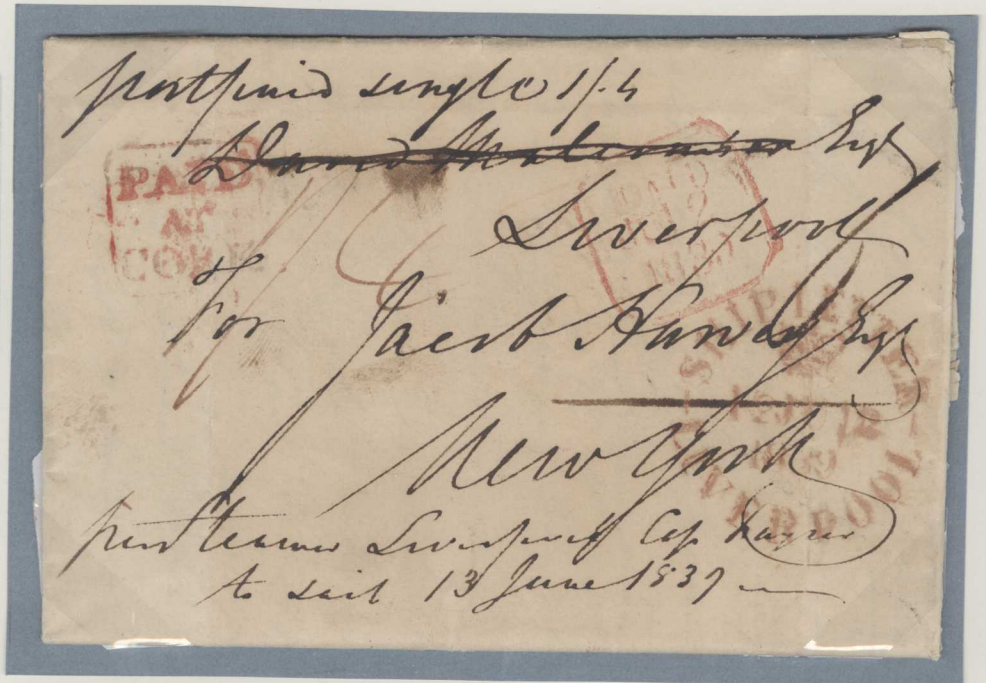
CORK, IRELAND TO NEW YORK  
(VIA DUBLIN AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

She departed Liverpool on the westerly leg of her fourth voyage on June 13, 1839, arrived New York June 30, 1839.

Postal Rates

<b>Great Britain</b>	1/11
8d + 11d + 3d + 1d = 23d	
Ship Letter fee plus inland postage plus Holyhead - Dublin packet plus Chester - Conway route.	
<b>United States</b>	6¢
Delivery at port of entry.	



Posted to addressee in Liverpool with instructions to forward. Red square 'PAID/AT/CORK' Mackay type 21, Red double square 'PAID/JU 2/1839' Mackay type 910 used at Dublin.

NEW YORK TO LONDON  
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Triple letter carried to ship's agent for dispatch as indicated.



Ship Information

She departed New York on the easterly leg of her fourth voyage on July 6, 1839, arrived Liverpool July 20, 1839.

Postal Rates

<b>United States</b>	0
<b>Great Britain</b>	4/9
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) = 57d or 4/9	

TRANSATLANTIC STEAM SHIP  
COMPANY - THE LIVERPOOL

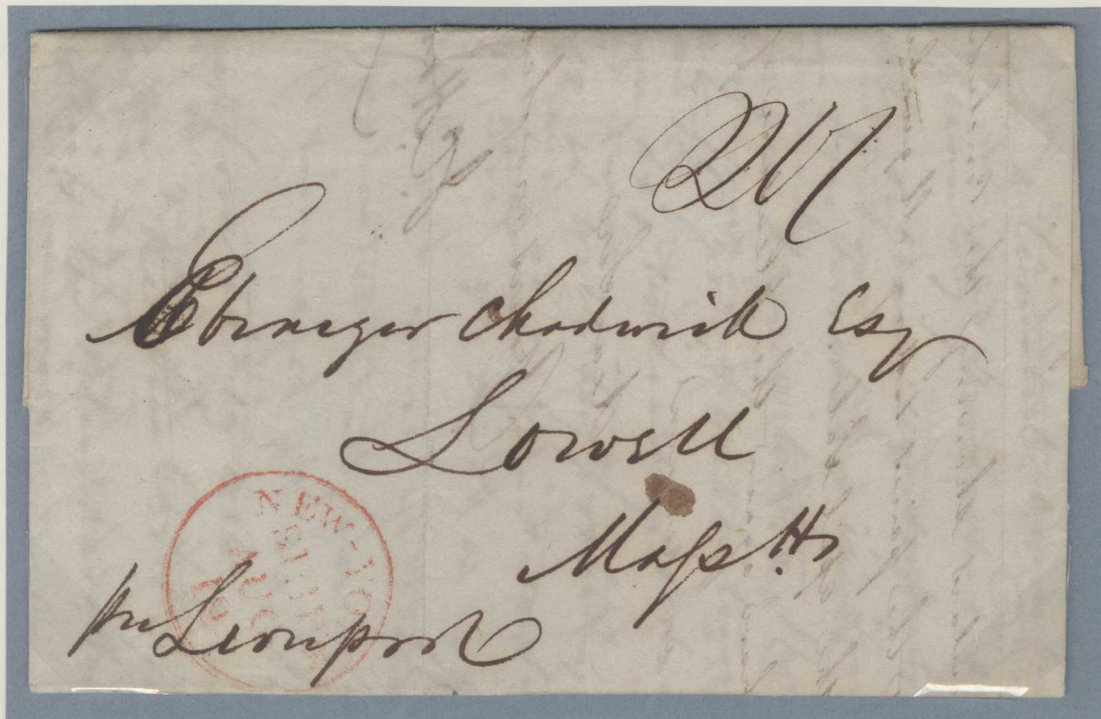
Complete Fifth Voyage  
Forwarded, Triple Letter

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

Letter carried to ship's  
agent for dispatch as  
indicated.

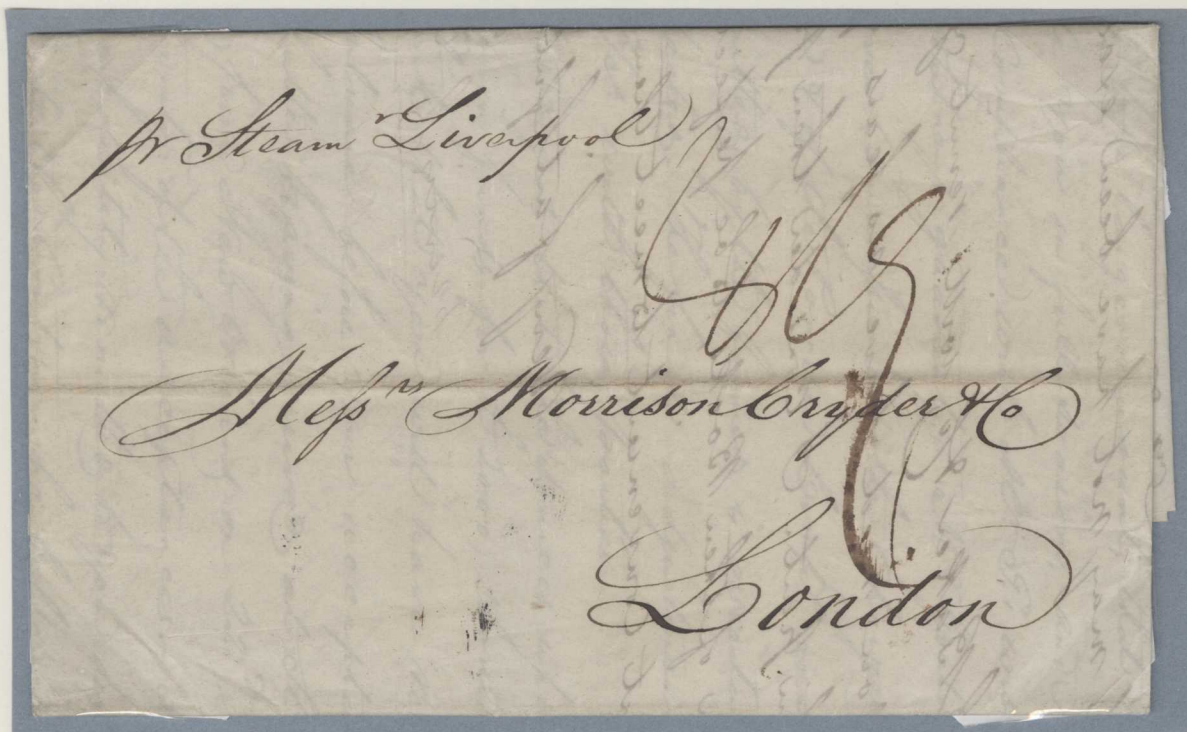
Ship Information

She departed from  
Liverpool on the  
westerly leg of her  
fifth voyage on  
August 1, 1839,  
arrived New York  
August 18, 1839.



Postal Rates  
Great Britain 0  
United States 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢  
18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ + 2¢ = 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢

BOSTON TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

She departed New  
York on the easterly  
leg of her fifth voyage  
on August 24, 1839,  
arrived in Liverpool  
September 8, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States 0  
Great Britain 4/9  
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) = 57d  
or 4/9

Triple letter carried to forwarding agent in New York  
for dispatch as indicated.

TRANSATLANTIC STEAM SHIP  
COMPANY - THE LIVERPOOL

Complete Sixth Voyage  
Triple Letter

LIVERPOOL TO QUEBEC  
(VIA NEW YORK AND MONTREAL)

Letter carried to ship's  
agent for dispatch as  
indicated.



Ship Information

She departed from  
Liverpool on the  
westerly leg of her  
sixth voyage on  
August 21, 1839,  
arrived New York  
October 10, 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	18 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> ¢
Collected in Canada.	
Canada	1/10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> cy
Debit to U.S. 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> cy.	
Border - Montreal 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> cy.	
Montreal - Quebec 7cy	

NEW YORK TO LONDON  
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

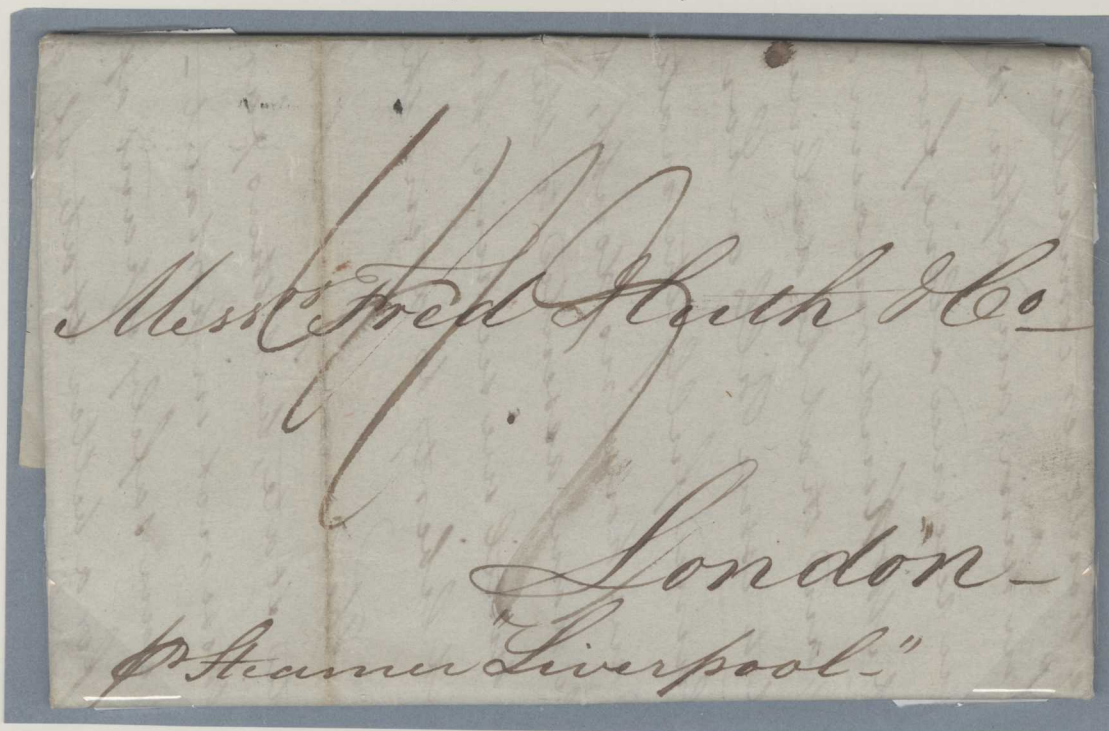
Triple letter carried  
to ship's agent for  
dispatch as indicated.

Ship Information

She departed from  
New York on the  
easterly leg of her  
sixth voyage on  
October 19, 1839,  
arrived Liverpool  
November 6, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	4/9
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) =	
57d or 4/9	



PARIS TO PHILADELPHIA  
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Double letter carried to forwarding agent Welles & Co. in Paris. Dispatched to London for passage on the *Liverpool* as indicated.

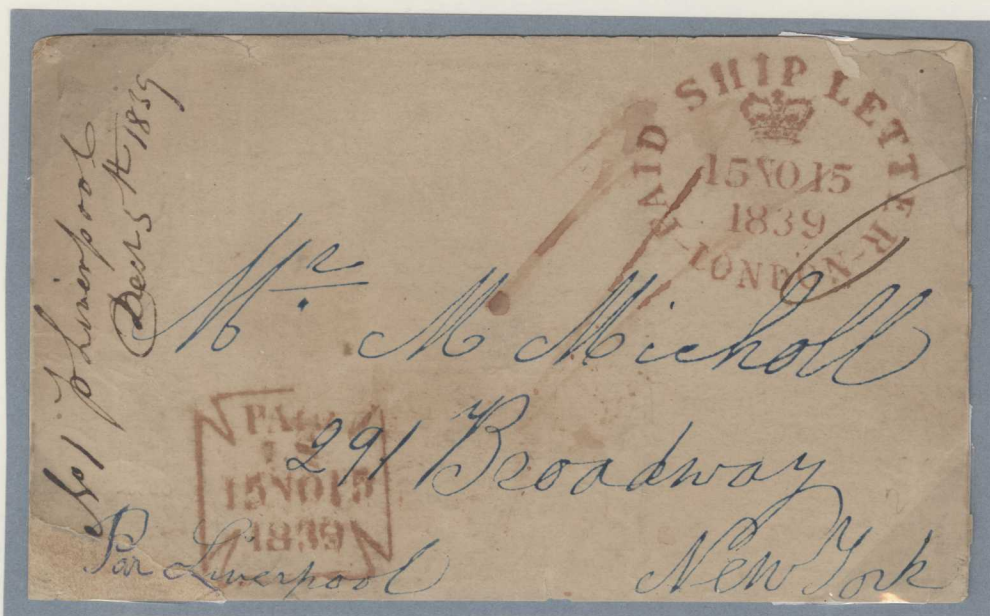
Ship Information

She departed from Liverpool on the westerly leg of her seventh voyage on November 16, 1839, arrived New York December 7, 1839.

Postal Rates

France	0
Great Britain	0
United States	27¢
(12½¢ x 2) + 2¢ = 27¢	

LONDON TO NEW YORK  
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

She departed from Liverpool on the westerly leg of her seventh voyage on November 16, 1839, arrived New York December 7, 1839.

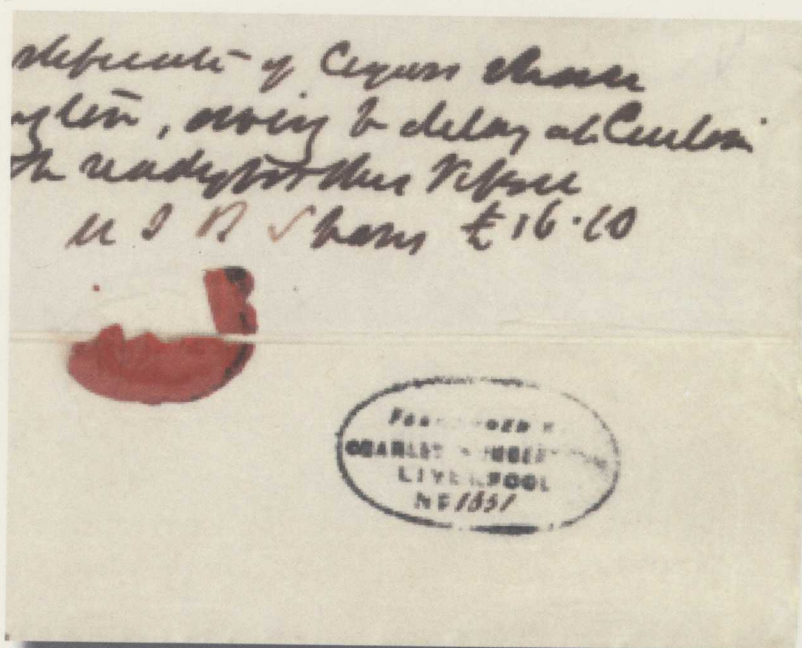
Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/-
North America GPO	
Notice January 12, 1838.	
United States	6¢

An envelope front posted and processed at the London General Post Office. The red rimless "PAID SHIP LETTER / CROWN / 15 NO 15 / 1839 / LONDON" is Robertson type S51 in use 1838-1847.

LONDON TO NEW YORK  
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

The back of a letter handled by the Liverpool forwarding agent Charles Humberston. Dispatched on the seventh westerly voyage. This marking in use 1840-1852, is an earlier listing than Rowe.

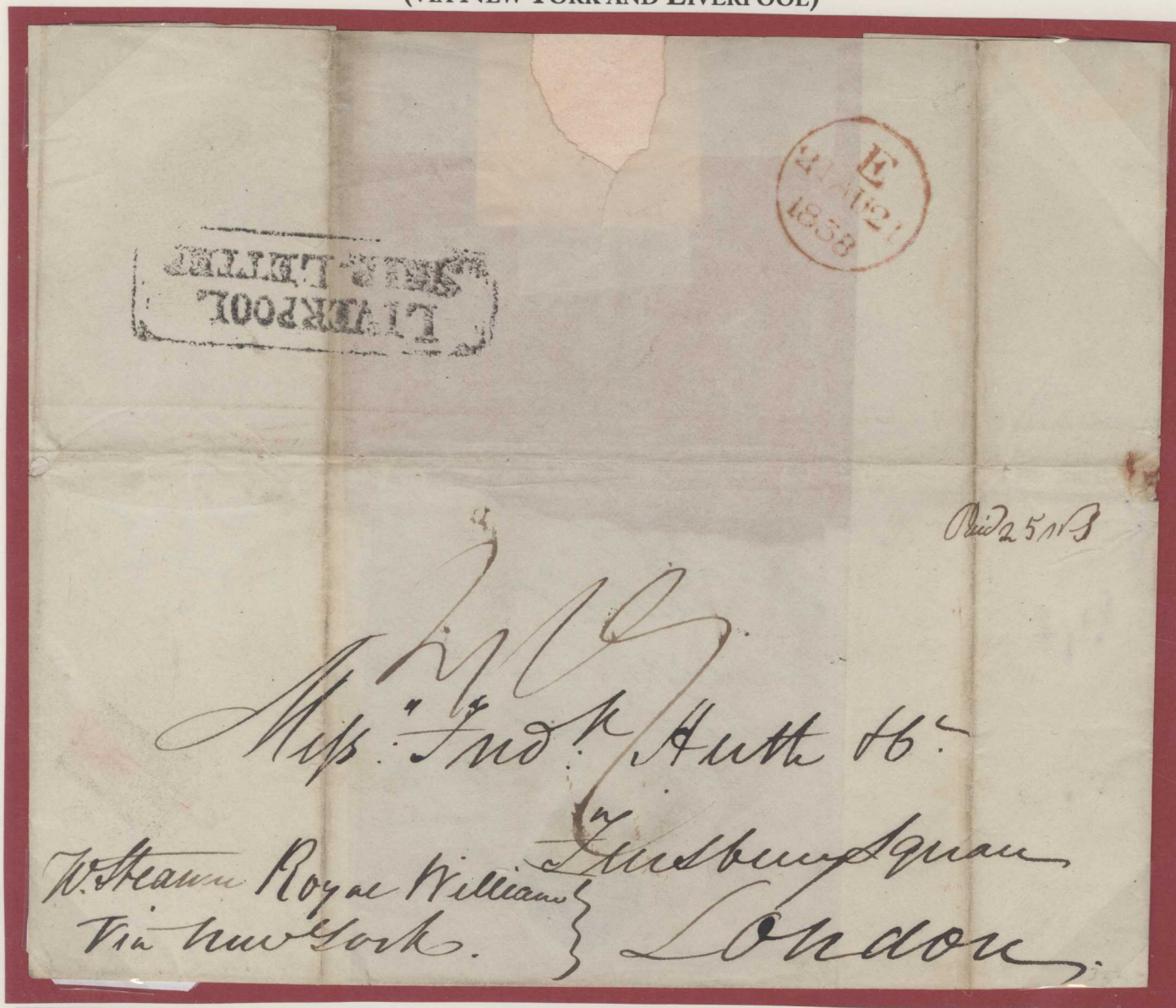


**CITY OF DUBLIN STEAM  
PACKET COMPANY  
THE ROYAL WILLIAM**

First Voyage, Triple Letter  
New York Freight Money Cover

The *Royal William*, a 617 ton wooden paddle steamer, made three crossings from Liverpool to New York between 1838-1839. In this capacity she became the first steamship to undertake a westbound North Atlantic crossing from Liverpool to New York. She was the first steamer constructed with watertight bulkheads.

**PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON  
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)**



**Ship Information**

She departed New York on the easterly leg of her maiden voyage on August 4, 1838, arrived at Liverpool on August 19, 1838.

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch and payment of Freight Money. Rated as a triple letter in Great Britain.

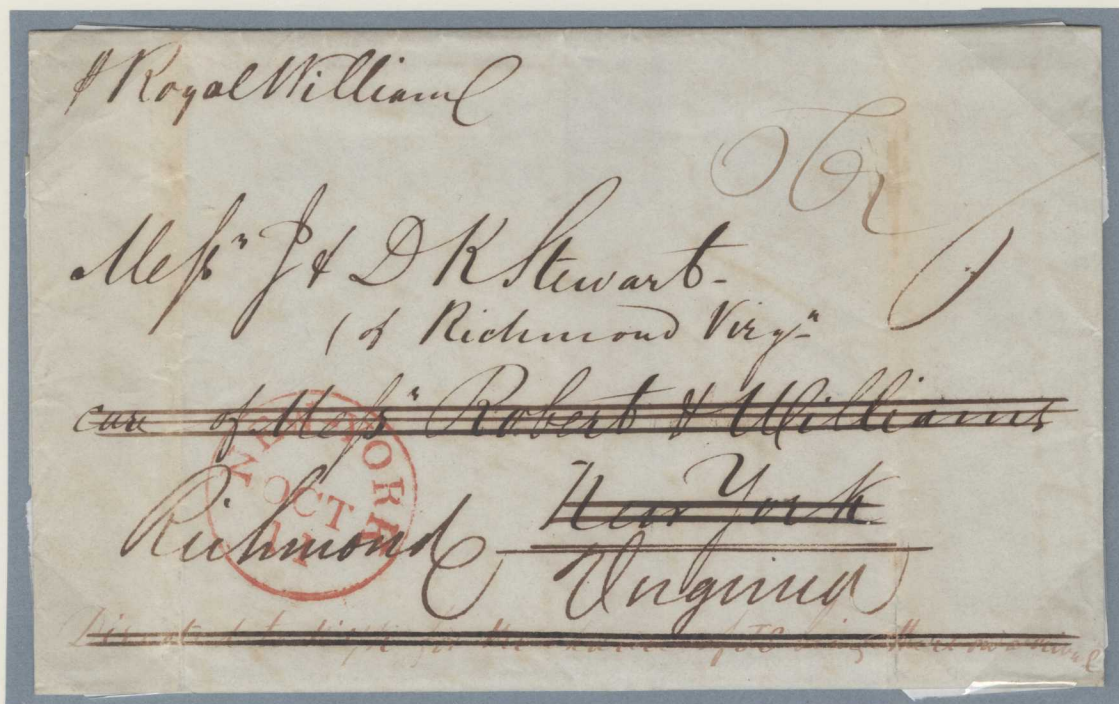
**Postal Rates**

United States	0
Freight Money	25¢
Paid to the shipping companies.	
Great Britain	4/9
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) = 57d or 4/9	

CITY OF DUBLIN STEAM  
PACKET COMPANY.  
THE ROYAL WILLIAM

Complete Second Voyage  
Westerly Leg  
Triple Letter - Forwarded

LIVERPOOL TO RICHMOND, VA  
(VIA NEW YORK)



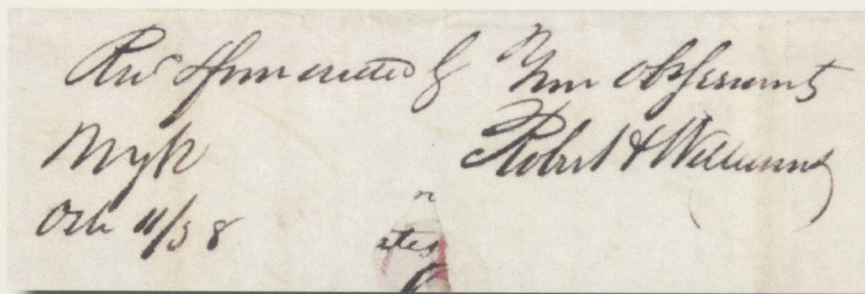
#### Ship Information

She departed Liverpool on her second voyage on September 20, 1838, arrived at New York on October 10, 1838.

Triple letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool for dispatch. Forwarded after receipt in New York.

#### Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	6¢
Delivery to port of entry.	
Forwarding	56¼¢
Forwarding fee to Richmond. (3 x 18¾¢) = 56¼¢	



Scan of cover back showing manuscript forwarding agent indorsement. This endorsement is nine years earlier than that listed in Rowe.

CITY OF DUBLIN STEAM  
 PACKET COMPANY  
 THE ROYAL WILLIAM

Complete Second Voyage  
 Easterly Leg  
 Double Letter

NEW YORK TO DUNDEE, SCOTLAND  
 (VIA LIVERPOOL AND EDINBURGH)



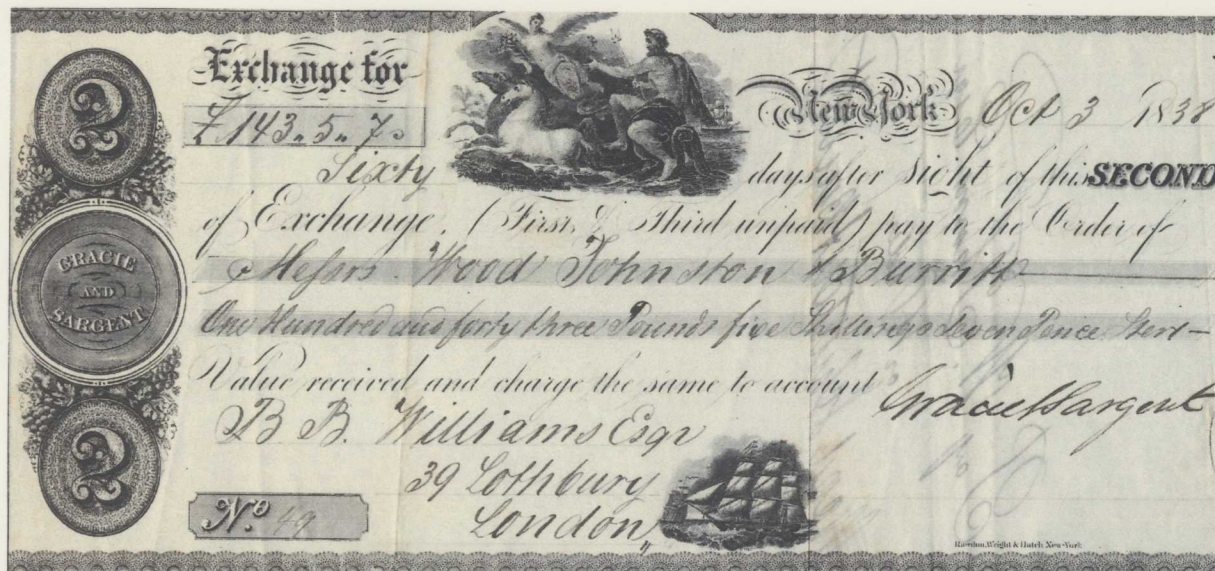
Ship Information

The *Royal William* departed New York October 20, 1838 on return leg of second voyage, arrived Liverpool November 5, 1838.

Triple letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched on steamer as indicated.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	3/4½
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 13d) + ½d = 42½d or 3/4½d.	
Ship letter fee + inland + wheel tax.	



Reduced scan of inclosure showing a method of payment used during this period.



Liverpool, England to New York, NY 20 Sept 1839  
carried on pioneer steamship "Liverpool" of  
Transatlantic Steam Co final westbound voyage just  
7 voyages. Privately carried. Ex-Preece LAX \$150

Mr Joseph Rhodes  
Care Mr Joshua Howson  
Hatter  
Denton  
New Manchester  
to Liverpool  
Dec 17th

Robt A Fitzgerald  
New York  
In Liverpool

II Postage  
HOK

Liverpool, England to New York, NY 20 Sept 1839  
carried on pioneer steamship "Liverpool" of  
Transatlantic Steam Co on 6<sup>th</sup> of just  
7 voyages. Privately carried. Ex-Preece YA \$100

PAID  
Mr. William Blip  
Chipping Norton  
Oxfordshire  
P. Steamship } England  
Liverpool }  
to and New York }

Robt A Fitzgerald  
New York  
In Liverpool

1840 BASHO - British Queen  
PAID  
PHILADELPHIA - 11/14

PHILADELPHIA/DEC/5/PA"

Joseph Ripley  
Brown & Co  
Liverpool  
Steamer  
Liverpool

1835 PHILADELPHIA - CARRIED TO  
PARIS, FORWARDED TO LONDON.  
LV - LIVERPOOL  
COMP. \$75.00

Mr. Seth Low  
New York  
Liverpool  
18th Nov 1839

New York, NY to London, England 20 Oct 1838  
 Carried on pioneer steamship "Royal William" (City of  
 Dublin Steam Packet Co) on its 2cd of just 3 voyages  
 "Liverpool Ship Letter" transit. London backstamp.  
**Scarce voyage** - have only had 5 others  
 Ex-Roberts KAA \$250

877

Royal William

Mr. W. R. ...  
 London

arrived - 10

General Rawlings care of  
 J. Siddall Esq. Cash.  
 Shawneetown Illinois  
 Liverpool Steamship

NEW-YORK  
 OCT 21 11

1839 TSST LIVERPOOL  
 LIVERPOOL - CASTINE, ME  
 (VIA N.Y.) 4th Voy

1839 TSST LIVERPOOL  
 JERSEY CITY, N.J. - ANNAN, SCOTLAND  
 (VIA N.Y. & L.P.) 6a

D. Wells Esq.  
 Merchant  
 Annan  
 Scotland  
 Per Liverpool  
 Steam Ship

Sup. ... & Jarvis  
 Castine  
 Me

NEW-YORK  
 JUN 30

II POSTAL MARKS: \* RED ST LINE 'STEAM' (33x5mm) + ST LINE 'PAID' (20x5mm)  
 1839 RICHMOND TO TONNERRIE, FR  
 STEAMER LIVERPOOL (VOY 4)  
 DPT NY 7/6/39 ARR LP 7/20/39  
 FM \$500<sup>00</sup>/16

7. TONNERRIE  
 POSTAL RATES  
 U.S. 183/4  
 25¢  
 G.B. 1/72  
 1/6  
 FR ? 39?

Liverpool  
 PAID 183/4  
 Tonnerrie  
 France

DPT NY 12/1/40 PER PORTS 12/20 8/9  
 New York, NY to Annan, Scotland 28 Nov 1840  
 carried on 8th of just 9 voyages of BASN's pioneer  
 steamer "British Queen" to Portsmouth. "SHIP LETTER"  
 straightline, rated 8d due, Edinburgh transit.  
 Ex-Bolton ELX \$125

POSTAL MARKS  
 NEW YORK: NONE

D. Wells Esq.  
 Merchant  
 Annan  
 Scotland  
 Per Steam Ship  
 British Queen

1840

MARKS  
 RED 1/2 DBL CIR "SHEFFIELD 1/13/1840"

Mr. Waddington  
 Liverpool  
 Mr. J. ...  
 Presoy  
 New York  
 President

SHEFFIELD  
 1/13/1840

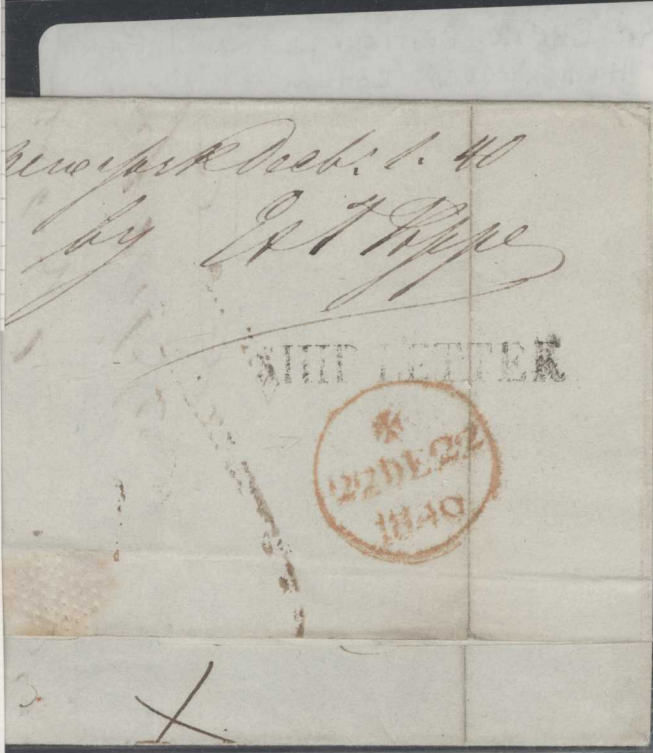
Ship: British Queen

Company: British & American Steam Navigation Company

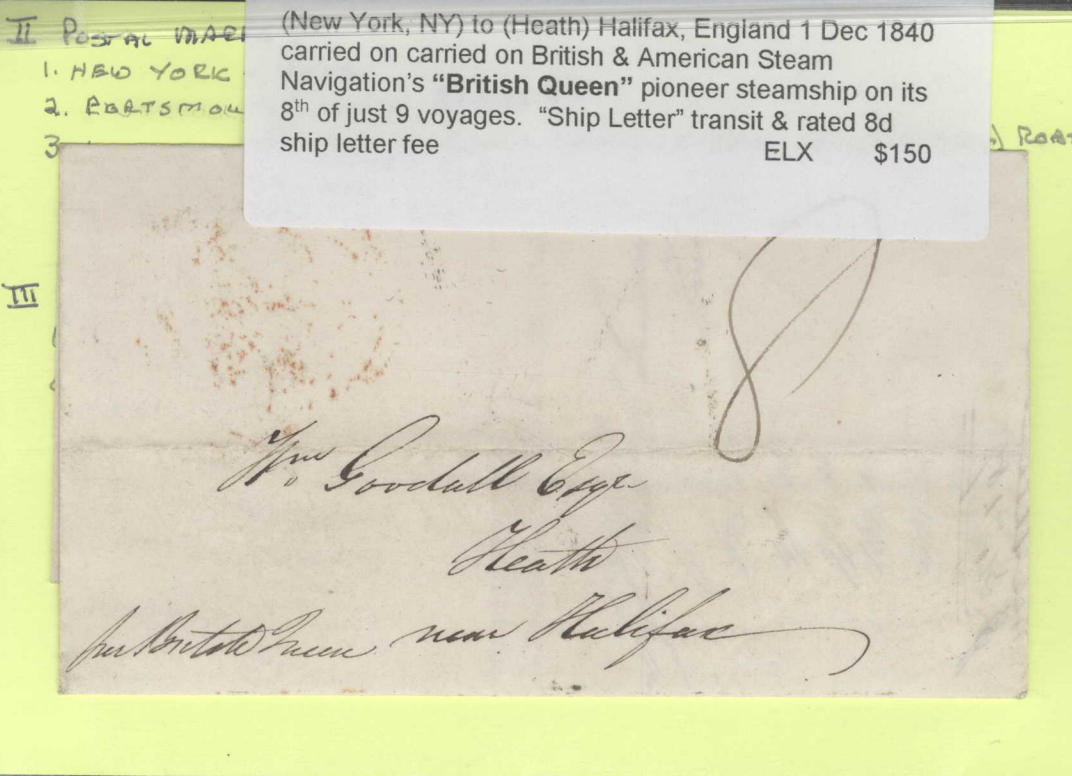
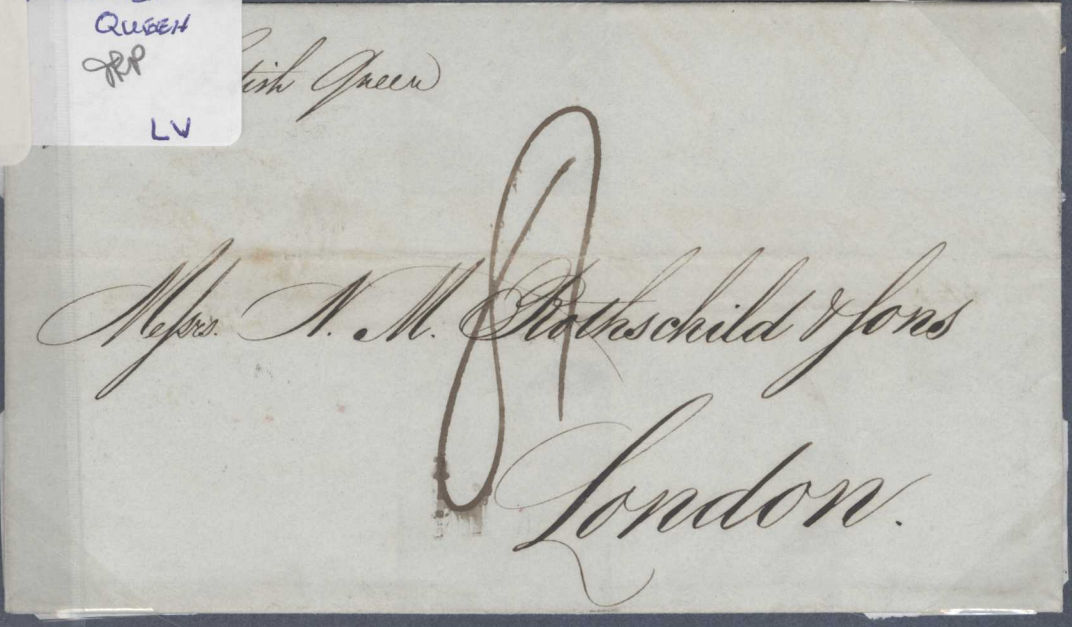
Depart: New York, 1 December 1840  
Arrive: Portsmouth, 22 December 1840  
Voyage: 8th Return

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
8d postage due in London

Notes: Letter sent "out of the mails" to New York where to freight money fee when letter taken to ship's letter Portsmouth were taken directly to London where reverse and letter marked for 8d postage due.

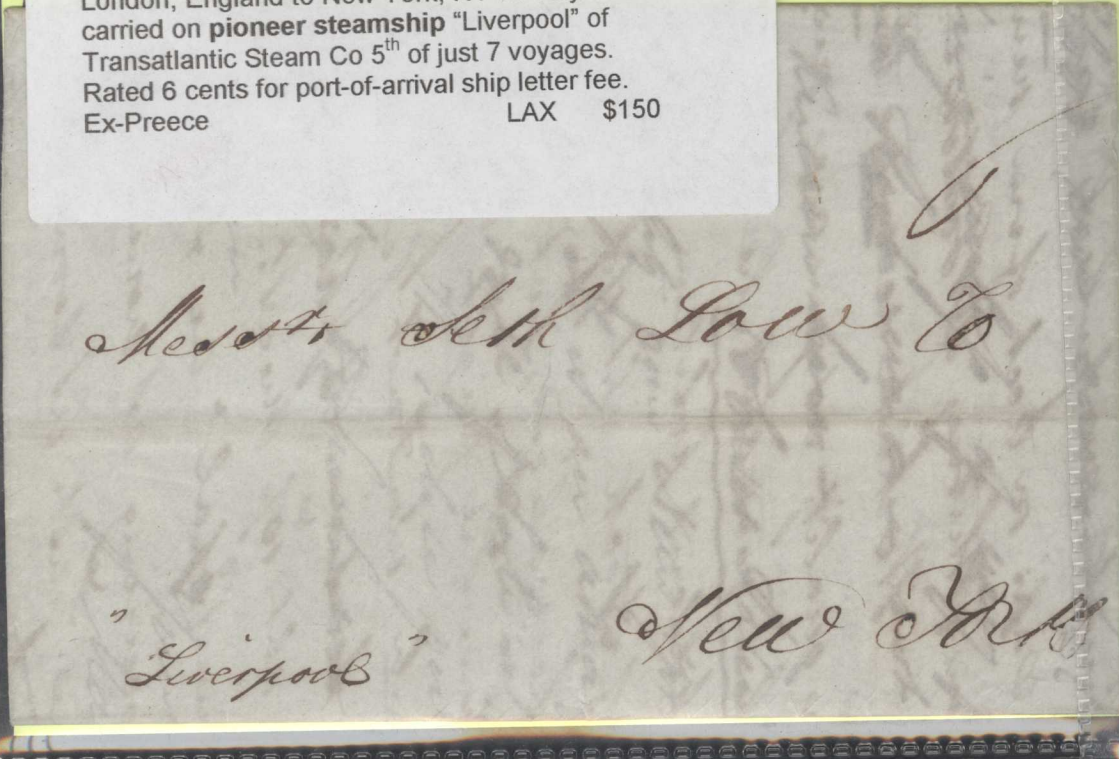


BRITISH QUEEN  
JP  
LV

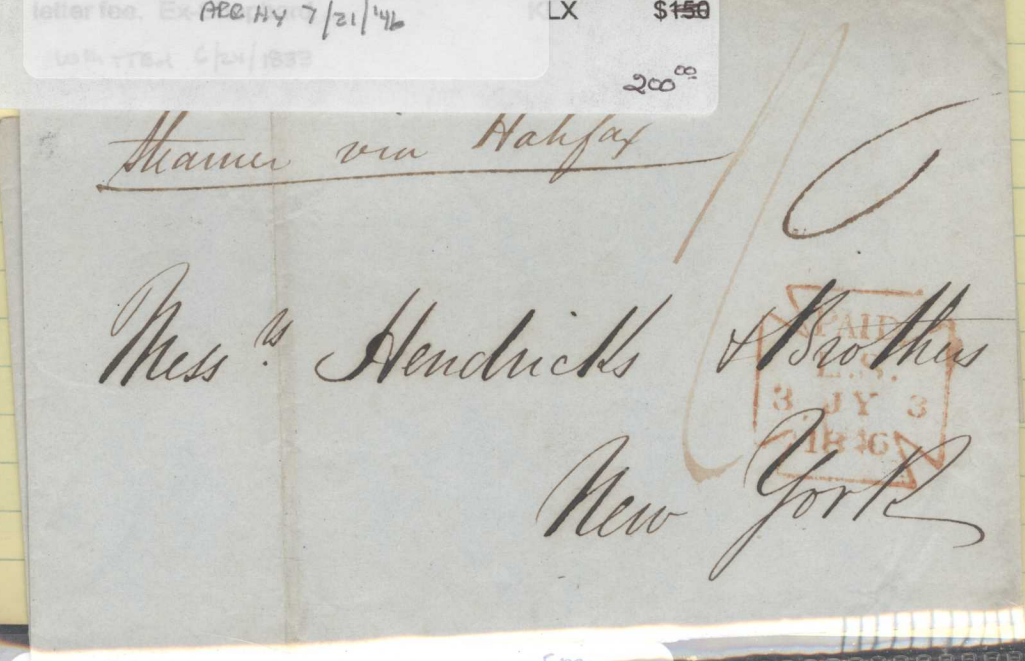


24/12/11  
24/11/11  
LAX \$150

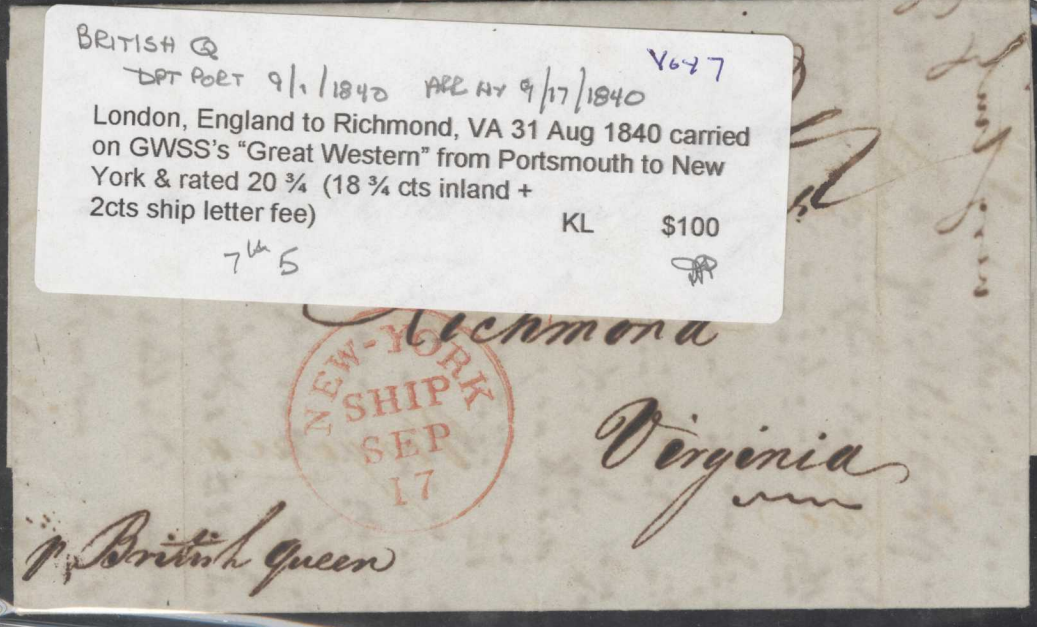
1  
London, England to New York, NY 31 July 1839 carried on pioneer steamship "Liverpool" of Transatlantic Steam Co 5th of just 7 voyages. Rated 6 cents for port-of-arrival ship letter fee. Ex-Preece LAX \$150



1846 GWSS - GREAT BRITAIN LONDON - NEW YORK  
MISSISS CUNARD SS - SEAT  
GWSS DPTLP 7/7/46  
Line's "M..." return voyage of  
Line's "M..." arrival ship  
letter fee. Ex ARR NY 7/21/46 LAX \$150



BRITISH Q  
DPT PORT 9/1/1840 ARR NY 9/17/1840  
London, England to Richmond, VA 31 Aug 1840 carried on GWSS's "Great Western" from Portsmouth to New York & rated 20 3/4 (18 3/4 cts inland + 2cts ship letter fee) KL \$100  
7th 5



1846 BASAC  
PHILADELPHIA - LONDON (VIA N.Y. & PORTSMOUTH)  
FM  
\$300/13



II POSTAL MARKS

- 1. BOSTON - H
- 2. NEW YORK
- 3. LIVERPOOL:
- 4. LONDON: T

1072  
 Boston, MA to France 26 Oct 1845 privately carried to New York & GWSS's pioneer steamer "Great Britain" on its 2cd voyage. "Liverpool Ship Letter", London & Calais transit. Ex-Wood YAX \$150



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FR

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II POSTAL MARKS

- 1. LONDON: ① RED MALTE

col 16

per Great Britain

1072  
 London, England to Providence, RI 26 Sept 1845 paid 8d ship letter fee. "Paid Ship Letter London" & carried on GWSS's pioneer steamer "Great Britain" on its 2cd of just 6 voyages before running aground. "New York Ship 7 cts" transit for 5 cents inland + 2 cents ship letter fee  
 KLX \$150

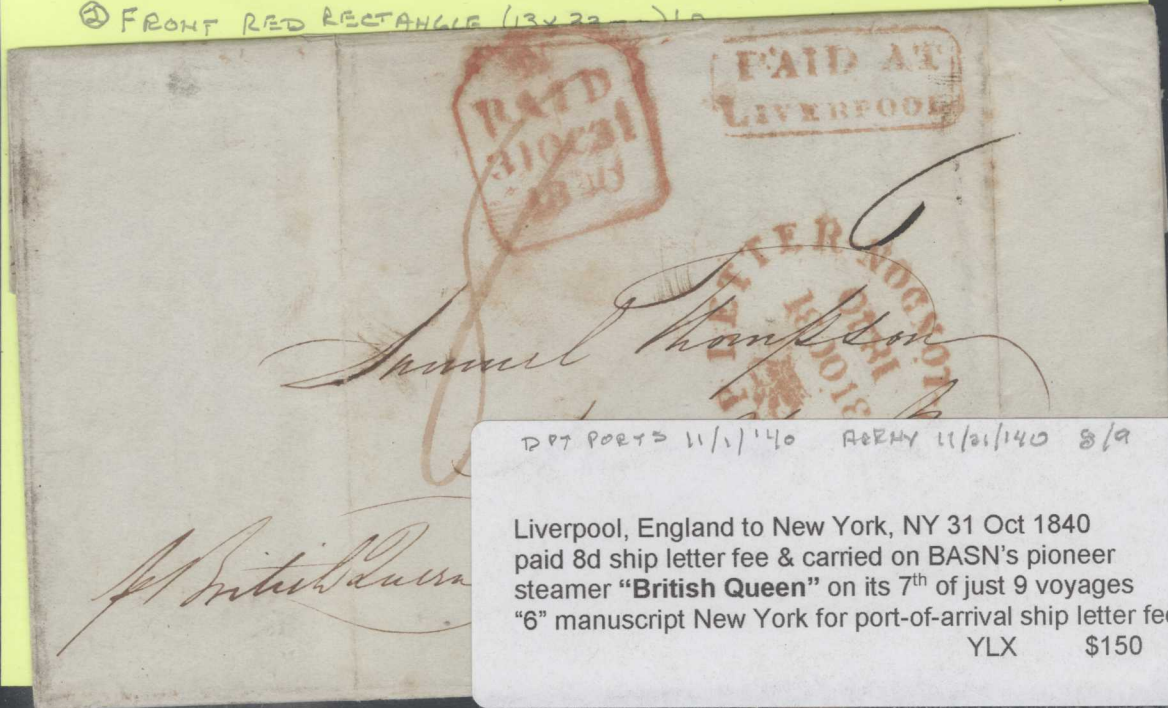


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II POSTAL MARKINGS

- LIVERPOOL: ① BACK UPPER RIGHT DBL 1/2 CIR RECEIVER 10/31/1848
- ② FRONT RED RECTANGLE (13x22) 1/10



DOT PORTS 11/1/40 A&RH 11/21/40 8/9  
 Liverpool, England to New York, NY 31 Oct 1840 paid 8d ship letter fee & carried on BASN's pioneer steamer "British Queen" on its 7th of just 9 voyages "6" manuscript New York for port-of-arrival ship letter fee  
 YLX \$150