

AUBURN, NY TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Letter posted and fees collected. These are noted in pencil in lower left corner with freight money noted in blue in upper right corner. In London initial addressee paid ship letter fee and forwarded to Cecil Street address. This required an additional 1d indicated by the large '1' hand stamp. **Freight money covers from Auburn, NY are quite scarce. (Winter)**

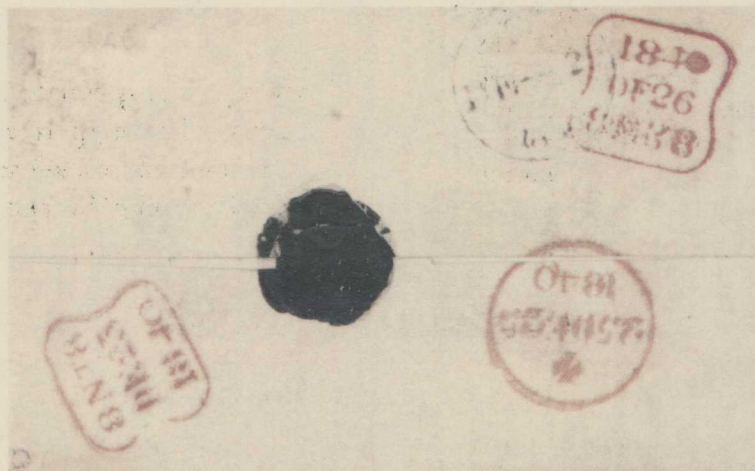
Ship Information

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

Postal Information

United States 43¾¢
25¢ + 18¾¢ = 43¾¢
Freight Money plus inland postage.
Great Britain 9d
8d. + 1d = 9d
Ship letter fee plus forwarding fee. Two penny post fees collected on delivery.

London two penny post handled the forwarding. Note the two different types of indented Two Penny Post stamps. Upper right date is on top and lower left, date is on the bottom. Red single circle stamp is the London receiving stamp indicating AM processing.



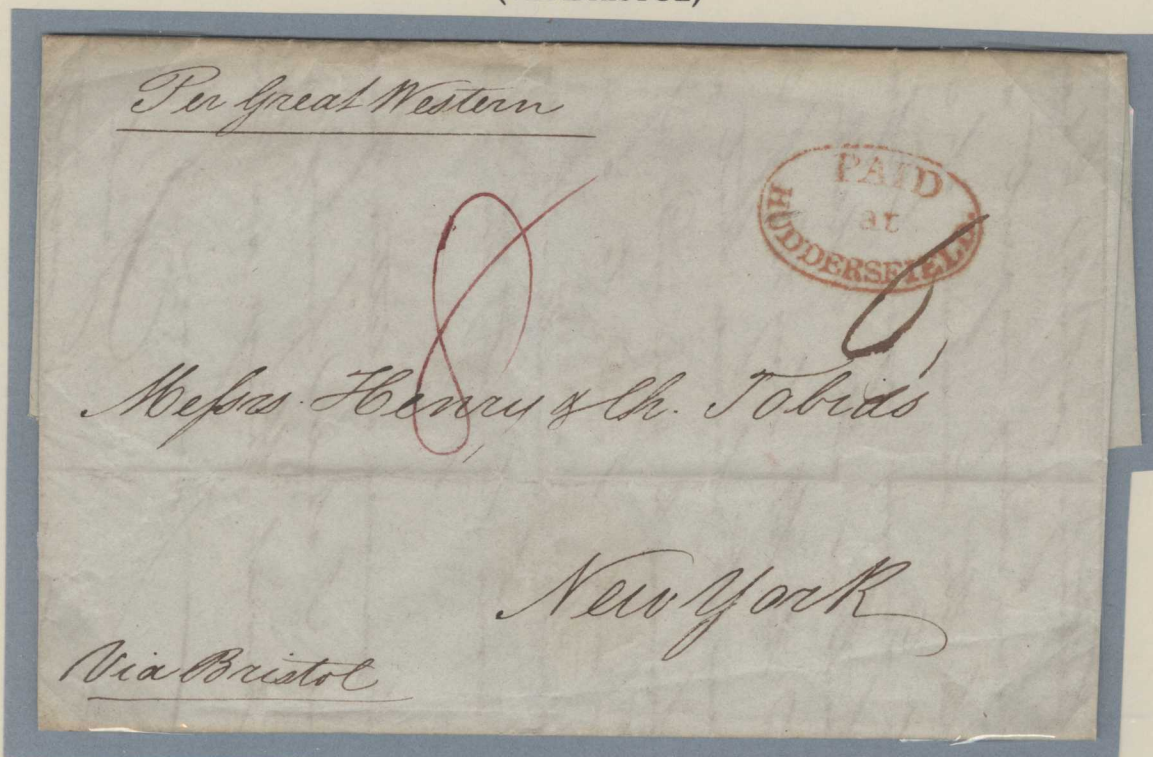
HUDDESFIELD, ENGLAND TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)

Letter posted at
Huddesfield and
dispatched as directed.
The red oval "PAID/at/
HUDDESFIELD," is
Mackay type 2349.

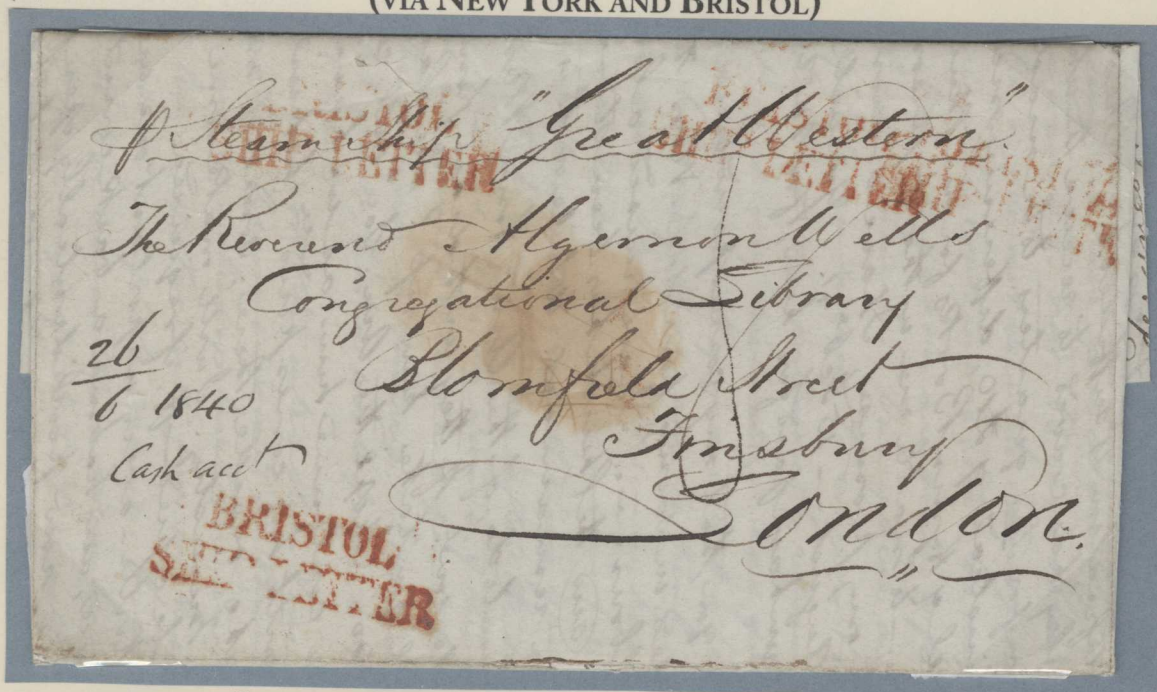
Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol June
4, 1840 arriving New
York June 18, 1840.
Length of voyage 14
days 18 hours.

Postal Rates	
Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢



MONTREAL, L. C. TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Ship Information

Great Western
departed New
York July 1, 1840
arriving Bristol
July 15, 1840.
Length of voyage
13 days 12 hours.

Postal Rates	
Canada	0
United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Letter privately carried to Ship's agent in New York.
Freight money probably paid but not noted as
discussed in Winter and Arnell.

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

Charleston noted freight money in lower right and postage in upper left corners as usual. Senders used their forwarding agent stamp as return address. London addressee reposted letter to Holland

Ship Information

The Great Western departed New York November 23, 1841 arriving Bristol December 6, 1841. Length of voyage 13 days 5 hours.

Postal Rates

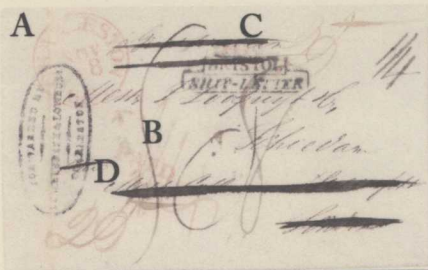
United States	50¢
Freight Money plus postage.	
Great Britain	8d
Incoming ship letter	
Great Britain	1/4d
Transit fee to Holland	
Holland	50 sty
Debit 16 sty to England, inland postage.	

Marks Front:

- A Red single circle Charleston post stamp.
- B Red 'PAID' Charleston paid stamp.
- C Bristol ship letter stamp Robertson type S 7 in use 1806 - 1842.
- D Senders forwarding stamp used as return address.

Marks Back:

- E Red single circle London receiving stamp.
- F Black stamp London foreign office transit stamp.
- G Red foreign transit stamp.



NEW ORLEANS TO BORDEAUX, FRANCE
(VIA NEW YORK, BRISTOL, LONDON, CALAIS AND PARIS)



Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York August 1, 1839 arriving Bristol August 13, 1839. Length of voyage 12 days 10¼ hours.

Postal Rates

United States 50¢

Inland postage 25¢

Freight money 25¢

Great Britain 1/5d

Rerated to transfer fee to France 1/6d.

France 33 dec

1/8d debited to Great Britain. Inland post 15 dec. for weight 7.75 grams and distance 440 miles.

Letter posted New Orleans **with postage and freight money fees noted in usual manner.** Postage in upper right and freight money in upper left. Proceeded through normal channels to final destination in Bordeaux, France.



Marks Front:

A Blue New Orleans single circle post stamp and paid stamp.

B Red New York transfer stamp.

C Black Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 8 in use 1833 - 1844.

F Red double circle Calais transfer stamp.



Marks Back:

D Red double circle London PM processing stamp.

E Black London Foreign Letter Office stamp Mackay type 48.

G Blue double circle Paris transfer stamp.

H Black double circle Bordeaux receiving stamp.

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)

Postal Rates

United States 37½¢

25¢ + 12½¢ = 37½¢

Inland postage plus
freight money.

Great Britain 1/5d

8d + 9d = 17d or 1/5d

Two Penny Post fee
collected on delivery.

Letter posted in Philadelphia for
dispatch on *Great Western*. Final
delivery in London through Two
Penny Post.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
April 22, 1839,
arrived at Bristol
May 7, 1839.
Length of voyage 15
days 0 hours.

Marks Front:

A Blue Philadelphia post and
paid.

B Red New York transfer stamp.

C Black Bristol Ship Letter
stamp Robertson type S8 in use 1833
- 1844.

Marks Back:

D Red single circle London
receiving stamp.E Red Two Penny stamp Mackay
type 165.

SAINT LOUIS, MO TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Voyage Thirty Two
Double Forwarding Agent
Express Letter



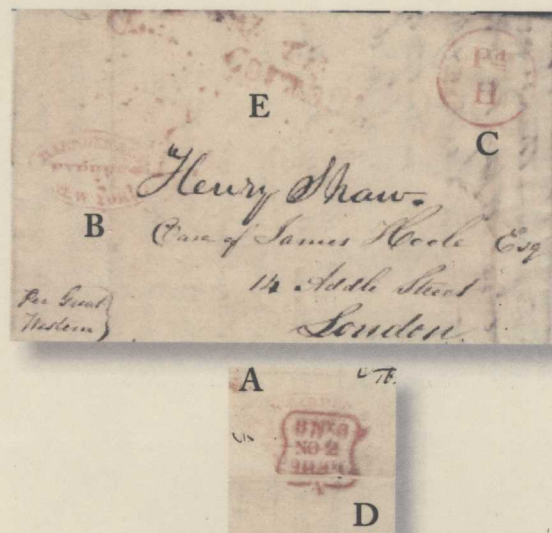
Letter privately carried to forwarding agent in New York. Passed to Harden & Co. Express where letter bagged for London. Bag opened in London and letter placed in London Two Penny Post for delivery.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York October 19, 1843 arriving Liverpool November 1, 1843. Length of voyage 12 days and 17 hours.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Harden Co. applied a PAID stamp but no amount noted.
Great Britain 0
No evidence of payment when letter removed from bag. Two Penny fee collected on delivery.



Marks:

- A Forwarding agent Goodhue, New York stamp.
- B Harden Express stamp
- C Red circle Pd/H stamp applied by

1843 sailing season was cut short by the sailing to New York via Madeira (voyage 28). Therefor only four voyages were in this year. The level of passenger activity remained nearly the same with westerly voyage averaging 97 and the easterly 100 passengers. Profits for 1843 were almost double the previous year with 9,351 pounds 11 shillings 1 pence.

LEITH, SCOTLAND TO RICHMOND, VA
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)

Cover posted in Leith to meet the steamer at Bristol.
The faint Leith "PAID" marking is Mackay type 55B,
and the double circle "PAID" is Mackay type 34B.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol June 2,
1838, arrived New York
June 17, 1838. Length
of voyage 12 days 14
hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/-
5/6 William IV c 25,
8/21/1825.

United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Marks:

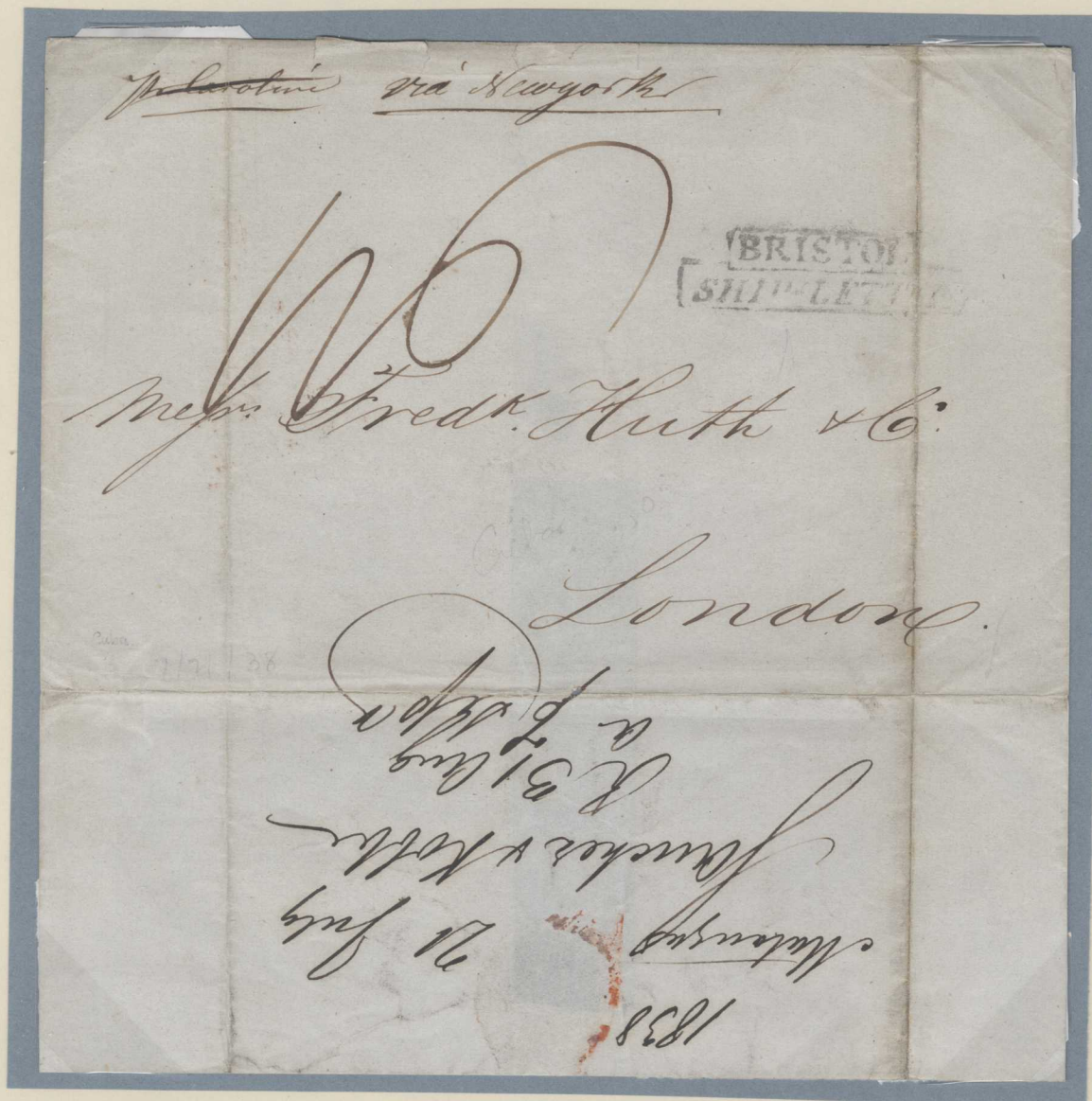
A - Faint Leith "PAID"

B - Double circle "PAID"

C - New York receiving stamp



MATANZAS, CUBA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Wrapper carried to ship's agent in New York.
Mail entered Great Britain's postal service in
Bristol. Proceeded to London by mail coach.

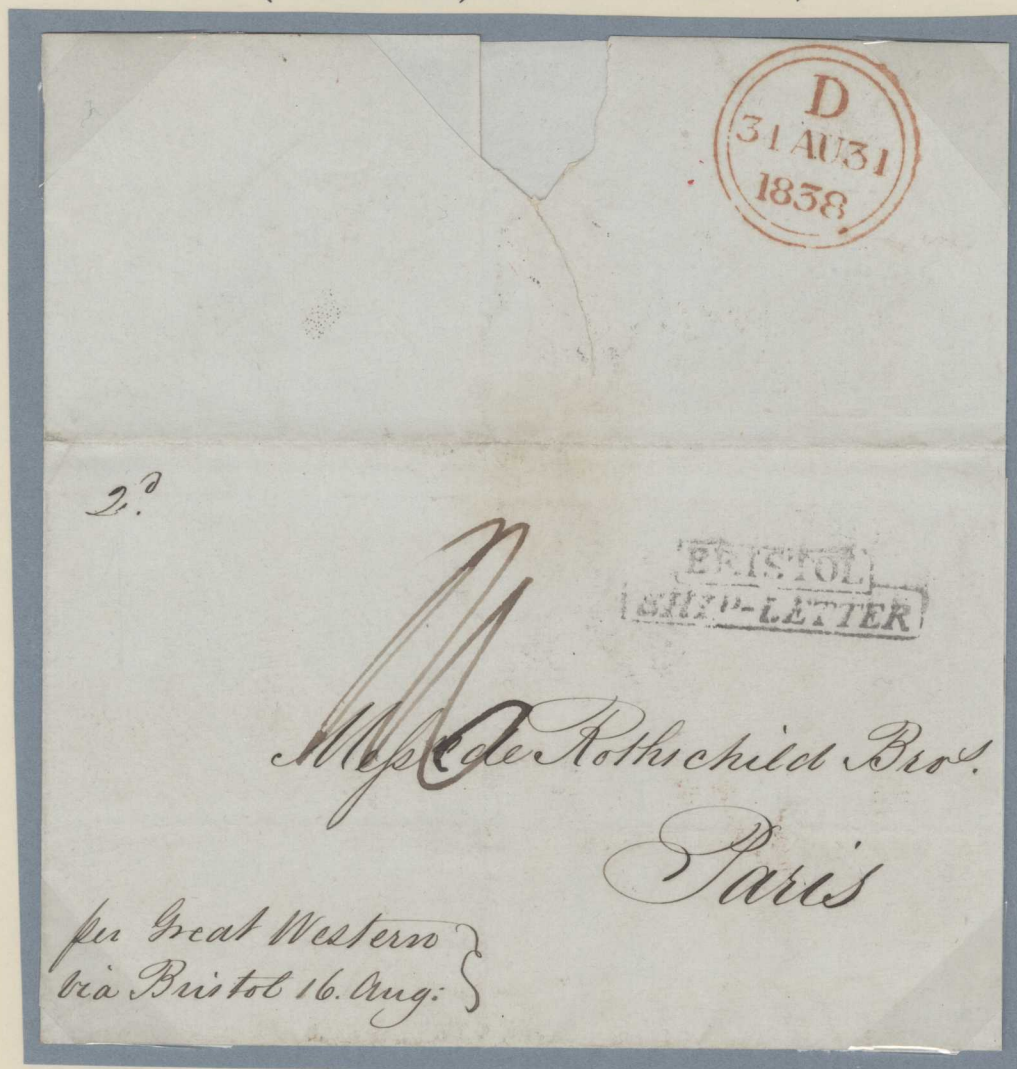
Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
August 16, 1838,
arrived Bristol August
30, 1838. Length of
voyage 13 days 2 hours.

Postal Rates

Cuba	0
United States	0
Great Britain	1/6
8d + 10d = 18d or 1/6	
Ship letter fee + inland postage.	

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



Wrapper carried to ship's agent in New York. Mail entered Great Britain's postal service in Bristol. Proceeded to London by mail coach. Delivered to Rothschild in London, hand carried to addressee in Paris

Black stepped Bristol Ship Letter stamp is Robertson type S7 in use 1806 - 1842. Red double circle, upper right, is London transfer stamp.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
August 16, 1838,
arrived Bristol August
30, 1838. Length of
voyage 13 days 2 hours

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/6
8d + 10d = 18d or 1/6	
Ship letter fee + inland postage.	
France	0

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA BRISTOL)

Ship Information

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

Postage and freight money fees noted in usual manner, upper right corner. On arrival Bristol, mail forwarded to London by mail coach. Two Penny Post delivery indicated by red stamp, Willcocks & Jay type L459.

Postal Rates

United States	37½¢
Inland plus freight money.	
Great Britain	1/5d
Ship letter fee plus inland.	

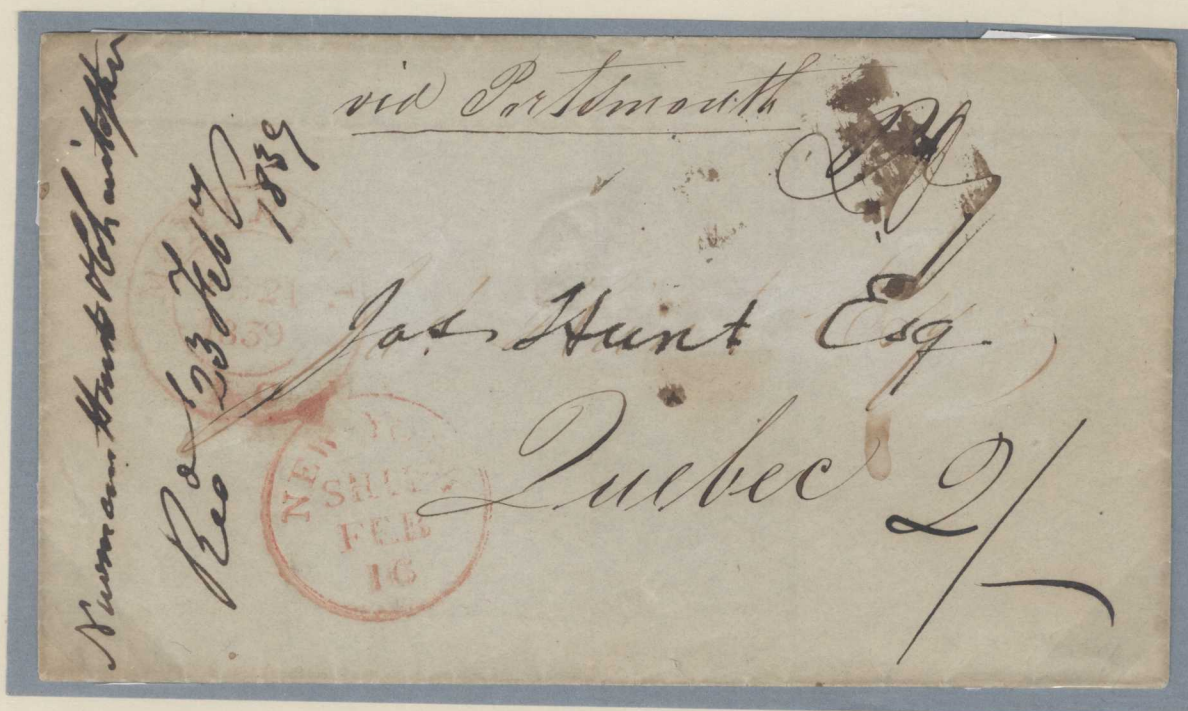
Voyage 5 marked the end of first year of operation on the North Atlantic. The *Great Western* had made five round trip voyages carrying an average of 87 passengers on the westerly trips and 90+ on the easterly trips. At this time she went into dry dock at Milhaven for equipment check and overhaul. Financially her owners received a profit of £7,679 11 shillings, and 3 pence.

GREAT WESTERN - 1839

Complete Voyage Six
Westerly Leg

Voyage six started second year operating on the North Atlantic. Great Western departed Bristol January 28, 1839 and arrived New York February 2, 1839. Her passenger load on this voyage was much better than the first voyage of 1838, than only 7 passengers made the trip to New York. On this voyage, 104 passengers enjoyed the trip.

LONDON TO QUEBEC
(VIA BRISTOL, NEW YORK AND MONTREAL, U.C.)



Carried to ship's agent in Bristol. Dispatched as indicated.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
January 28, 1839,
arrived New York
February 16, 1839.
Length of voyage 18
days 20 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20 ³ / ₄ ¢
To be collected in Canada.	
Canada	2/-
1/1 cy + 11cy = 2/-	
U. S. to be collected plus Montreal to Quebec.	

NEW YORK TO LYON, FRANCE
(VIA BRISTOL, LONDON AND CALAIS)

Postal Rates

United States 0

Great Britain 1/6

Rated 1/6 for mail going
through Great Britain
to France per Article
VI, 6. Anglo-French
Convention implemented
July 1836.

France 32 dec

18 dec due England

14 dec inland fee

Letter privately carried to ship's
agent in New York. Dispatched on
the most convenient steamer.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
February 25, 1839,
arrived at Bristol
March 12, 1839.
Length of voyage 14
days 12 hours



Marks Front:

A Bristol Ship Letter Robertson type S7 in use
1806 - 1842.

B Ship Letter applied by London Foreign
Letter Office.

C Calais transfer stamp..



Marks Back:

D London receiving, AM Processing.

E London Foreign Letter Office stamp.

F Lyon receiving stamp.

LONDON TO ST. LOUIS, MO
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



Unusual destination for Pioneer Steamers. Red
"PAID SHIP LETTER/CROWN/22 MR 22/1839 -
LONDON-" Robertson type S51, in use 1838 to 1847.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
March 23, 1839,
arrived New York
April 14, 1839.
Length of voyage 22
days 6 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/-
GPO Notice January 12,
1838.
United States 27¢
25¢ + 2¢ = 27¢
Inland postage plus ship
letter fee.

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Postal Rates

United States 75¢

(2 X 12½¢) + (2 X 25¢) = 75¢

Inland postage plus freight money.

Great Britain 2/10

(2 X 8d) + (2 X 9d) = 34d or 2/10

Two Penny Post fee collected on delivery.

Note rating confusion in Great Britain, Liverpool rated letter as a triple, London office rated it as a double letter. Letter posted to merchant Morrison & Cryder in London. They forwarded an inclosed letter to St. Petersburg.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York April 22, 1839, arrived at Bristol May 7, 1839. Length of voyage 15 days 0 hours.

Marks Front:

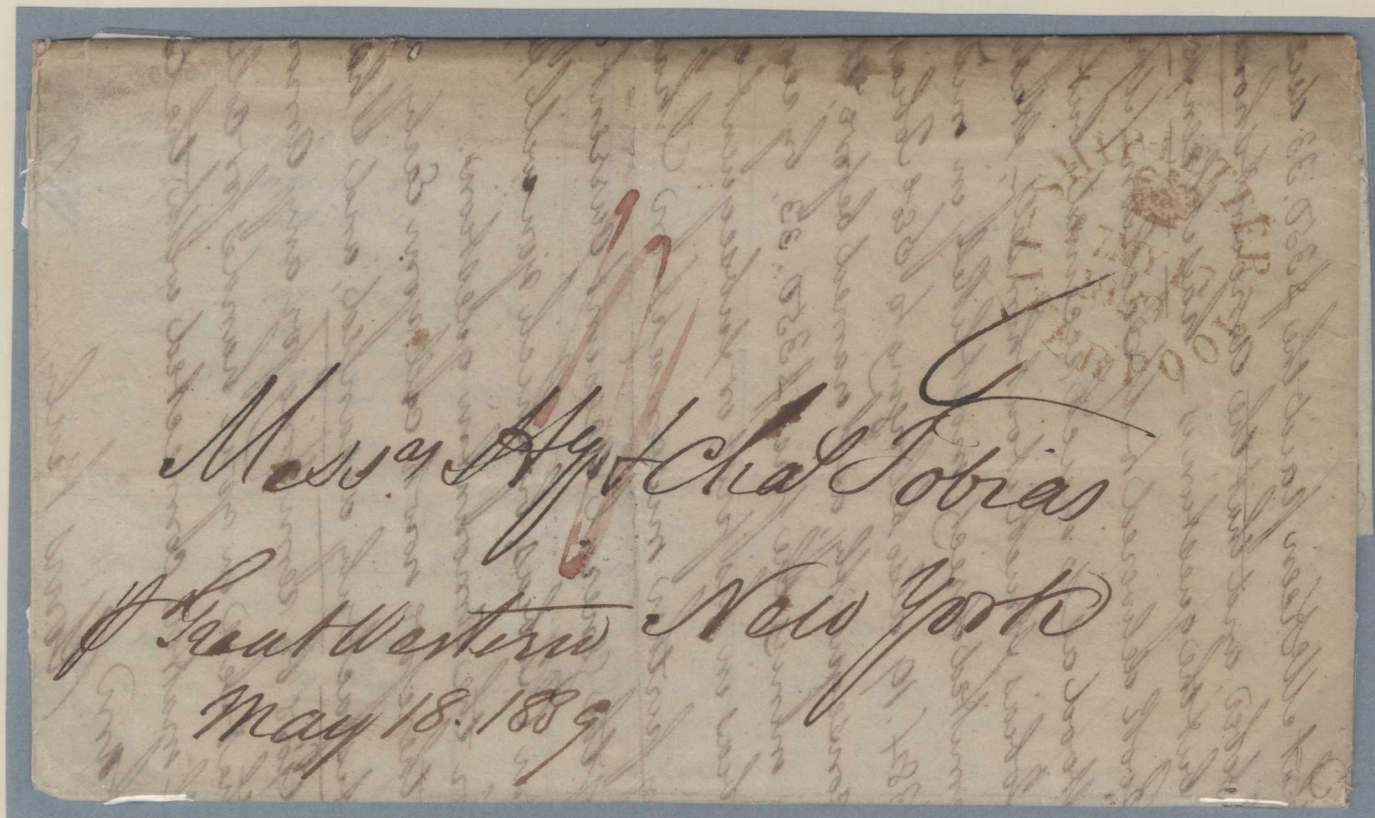
- A Blue Philadelphia post and paid stamps.
- B Red New York transit mark.
- C Black Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S8 in use 1833 - 1844.

Marks Back:

- D Red single circle London receiving stamp.
- E Red Two Penny Post stamp Willicocks & Jay type L459 in use 1836 - 1843.



LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



Postal Rates	
Great Britain	1/-
Out bound ship letter rate from interior location	
United States	6¢

Letter carried to ship's agent in
Liverpool. Dispatched as endorsed

Red rimless circle Liverpool Ship
Letter with crown, Robertson type S
15 1838 - 1841.

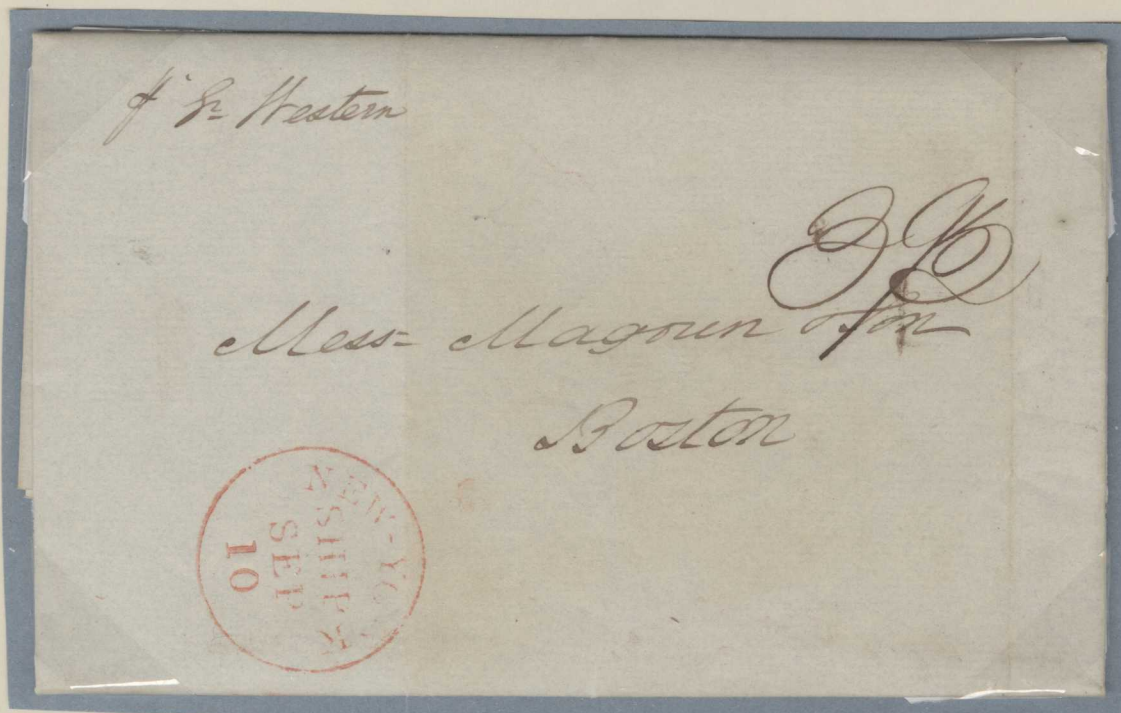
Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol May 18,
1839 arriving New York
May 31, 1839. Length of
voyage 13 days 12 hours.

GREAT WESTERN - 1839

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)

Voyage Ten
Double Letter
Consignee Letter



Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
August 24, 1839
arriving New York
September 10, 1839.
Length of voyage 16
days 20 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 39½¢
(2 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 39½¢

Duplicate double letter carried to ship's agent in Bristol
for dispatch. Original copy posted on Dramatic Line
packet *Garrick*.

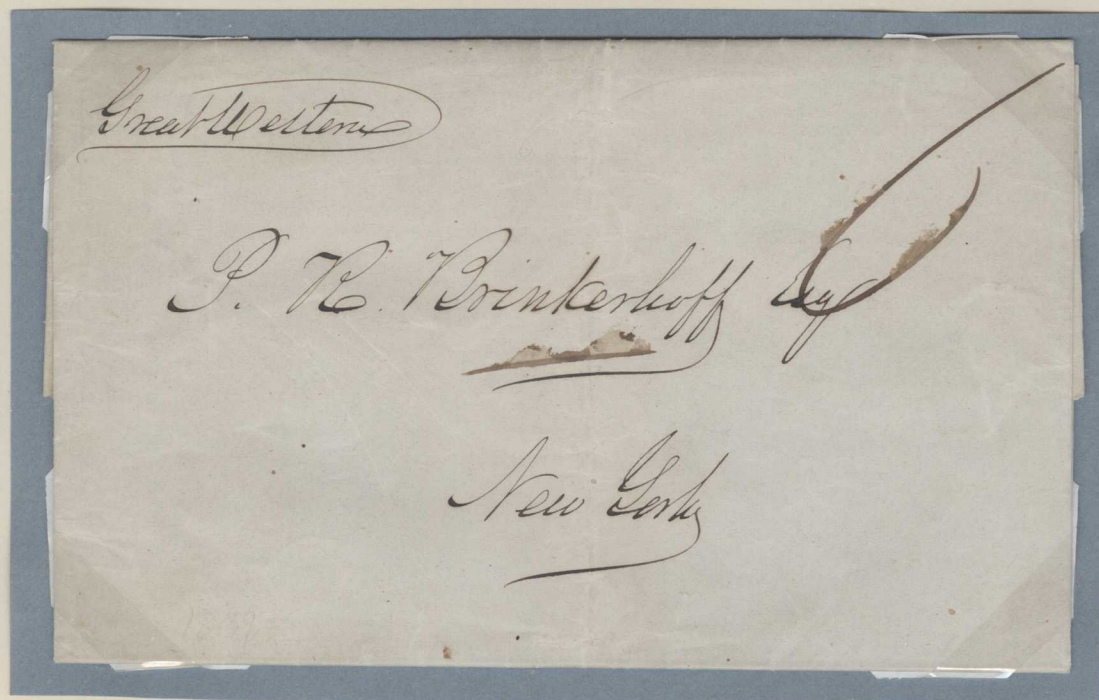
PARIS TO NEW YORK

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
August 24, 1839
arriving New York
September 10, 1839.
Length of voyage 16
days 20 hours.

Postal Rates

France 0
Great Britain 0
United States 6¢



Letter accompanied described merchandise carried on
this voyage. **Therefor no land or ship fees were due
until delivery in New York.**

LIVERPOOL TO RICHMOND, VA
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted in London for dispatch as indicated. Red rimless "Ship Letter stamp with crown is Robertson type S 15 in use 1838 - 1863. In lower left, red single circle stamp is New York receiving stamp.

Ship Information

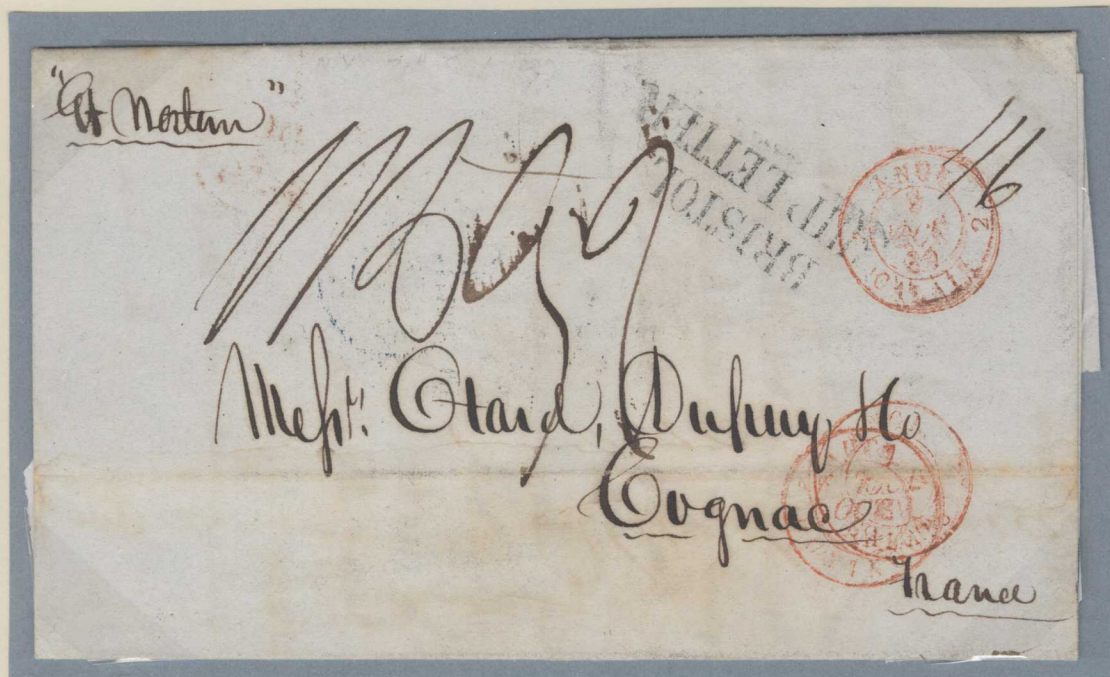
The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
August 24, 1839
arriving New York
September 10, 1839.
Length of voyage 16
days 20 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/-
1 Victoria c34, August
1, 1837.
United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

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

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



Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
September 21, 1839
arriving Bristol
October 4, 1839.
Length of voyage 13
days 0 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/6d
Transfer rate through Great Britain shown in upper right corner.	
France	32dec
18dec debit to Great Britain, 14dec French inland postage.	

Marks Front:

Upper Right - Black straight line Bristol Ship Letter
stamp Robertson type S 8.

Left - Red double circle Calais transfer stamp.

Marks Back:

- A Red single circle London
receiving stamp.
- B Black London Foreign Letter
Office stamp.
- C Blue double circle Paris
transfer stamp.
- D Black doubled circle Cognac
receiving stamp.



GREAT WESTERN - 1839

Voyage Ten
Double Freight Money

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
September 21, 1839
arriving Bristol
October 4, 1849.
Length of voyage 13
days 0 hours.

Letter posted in **Baltimore**,
postage and freight money
fees collected noted in upper
right corner

Postal Rates

United States 87½¢
Postage 37½¢
Freight money 50¢
Great Britain 2/10d
2(8d + 9d) = 34d or
2/10d
Inland postage plus ship
letter fee.

Marks:

Left Edge - Faint red Baltimore post stamp.

Bottom - Red single circle New York transfer stamp.

Center - Black straight line Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson
type S 8 in use 1833 - 1844.

Top - Red single circle London receiving stamp, AM processing.

Voyage 11 completed the 1839 sailing season. She went into dry dock at Bristol for repairs and refit. Due to size of Great Western, moving her into Bristol port required removal of a portion of her paddle wheels. This and need to bring passengers and cargo by lighter to her anchorage proved to be a significant task.

In 1842 she sailed a triangular pattern Bristol - New York - Liverpool as a trail before adopting Liverpool as her eastern terminus in 1843.

BOSTON TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch as indicated. **Letter has no London receiving marks.**

Black straight line Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 8 is only postal mark on cover.

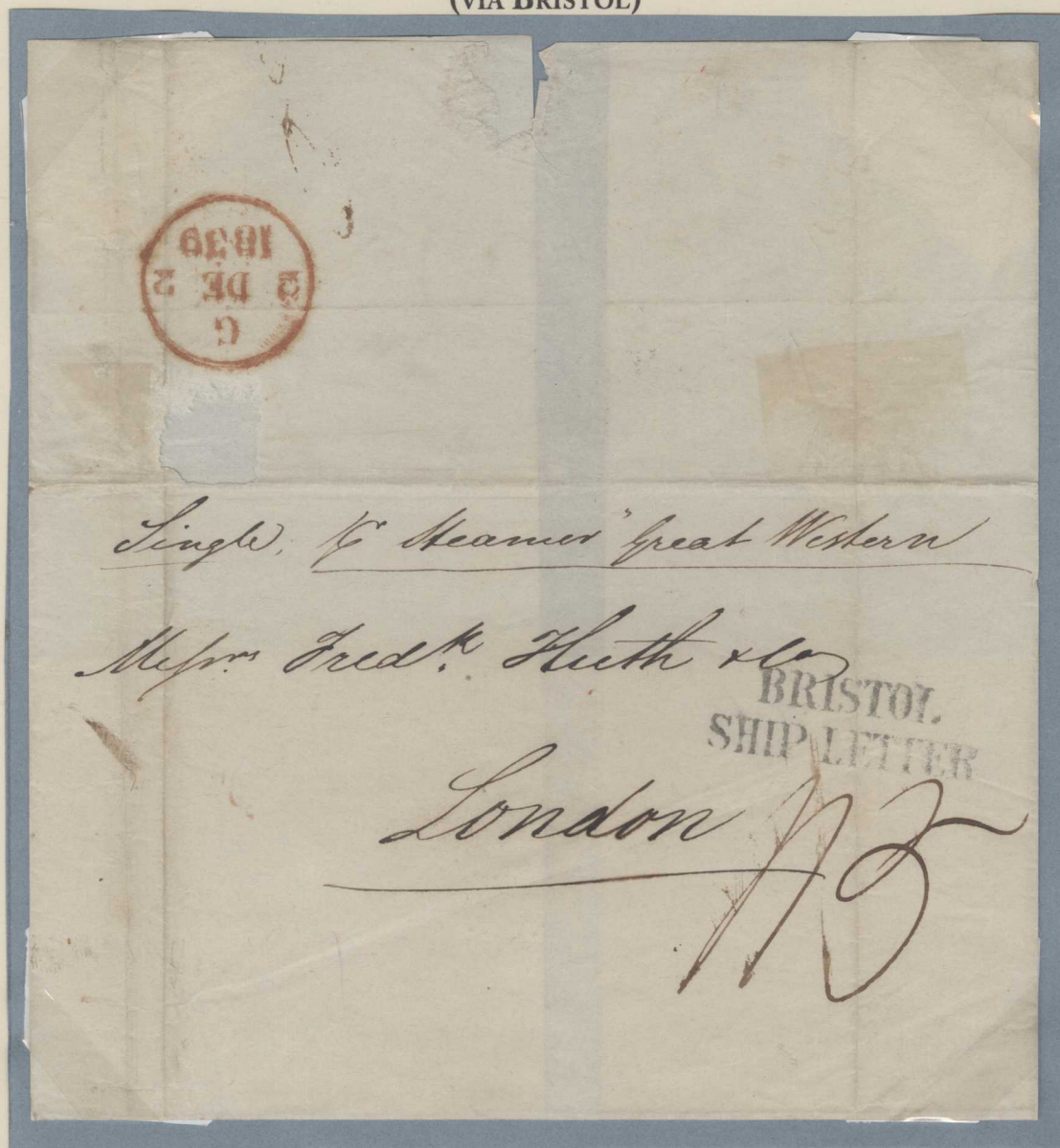
Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/5d
8d + 9d = 17d or 1/5d	

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
November 16, 1839
arriving Bristol
November 30, 1839.
Length of voyage 13
days 10 hours.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA BRISTOL)



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

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
November 16, 1839
arriving Bristol November
30, 1839 Length of voyage
13 days 10 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/5d
8d + 9d = 17d or 1/5d.	

GREAT WESTERN - 1840

Complete Voyage Twelve
Westerly Leg

In 1840 Great Western looked forward to six voyages with increased passengers and a record number in July when 152 passengers traveled from New York to Bristol.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



Postal Rates	
Great Britain	0
United States	6¢

Letter carried to ship's agent
in Bristol for dispatch as
endorsed.

Ship Information	
The <i>Great Western</i>	
departed	Bristol
February 20,	1840
arriving	New York
March 7,	1840.
Length of voyage	25
days	7 hours

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Postal Rates

United States 75¢
Double freight money
and postage.
Great Britain 1/4d
Double inbound ship
letter rate - TW Jan 10,
1840

Letter posted in Philadelphia, postage and
freight money fees noted in usual manner in
upper right corner. Dispatched as endorsed.

In this exhibit, this is the first example of the
uniform postal rate for inbound ship letters.
This rate was established by Treasury Warrant
January 10, 1840.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
March 19, 1840
arriving Bristol April
3, 1840. Length of
voyage 14 days 4

Marks Front:

Blue - Single circle Philadelphia post
and double octagonal PAID.

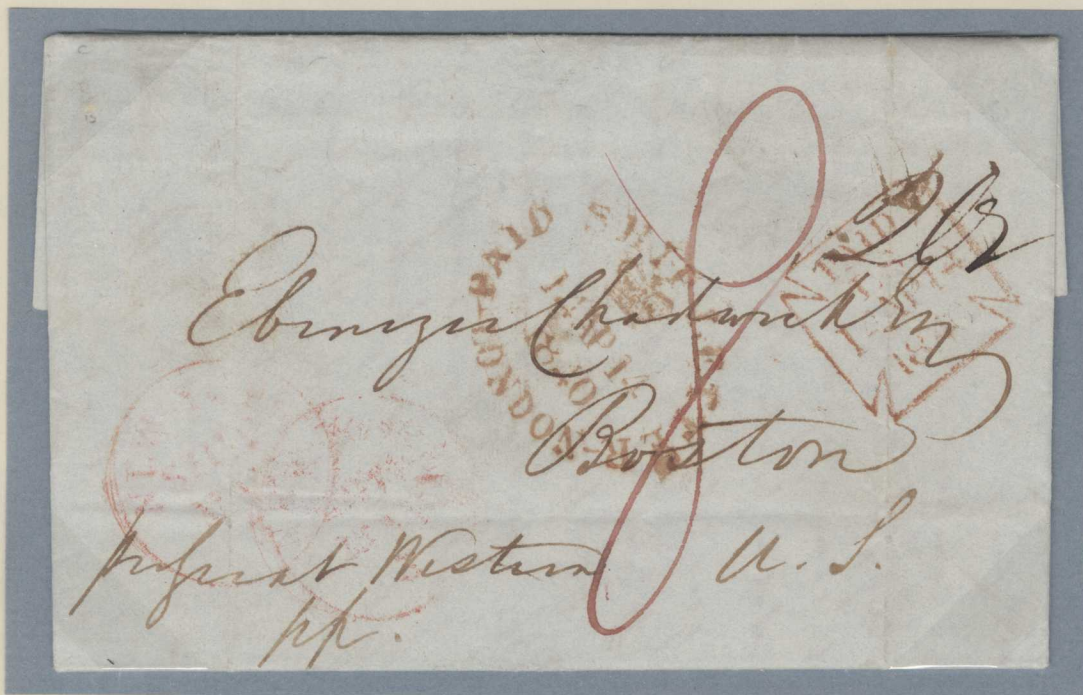
Black - Straight line Bristol Ship
Letter stamp Robertson type S 8.



Mark Back:

London single circle receiving stamp.

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted at London Lombard Street Station.
Dispatched to steamer as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol April
15, 1840 arriving New
York May 3, 1840.
Length of voyage 17
days 20 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d
United States 20¾¢
 $18\frac{3}{4}\text{¢} + 2\text{¢} = 20\frac{3}{4}\text{¢}$

Marks:

Right Side - Red Maltese cross post stamp.

Middle - Red rimless oval Paid Ship Letter stamp with crown
Robertson type S 51.

Lower Left - Faint New York single circle transfer stamp.

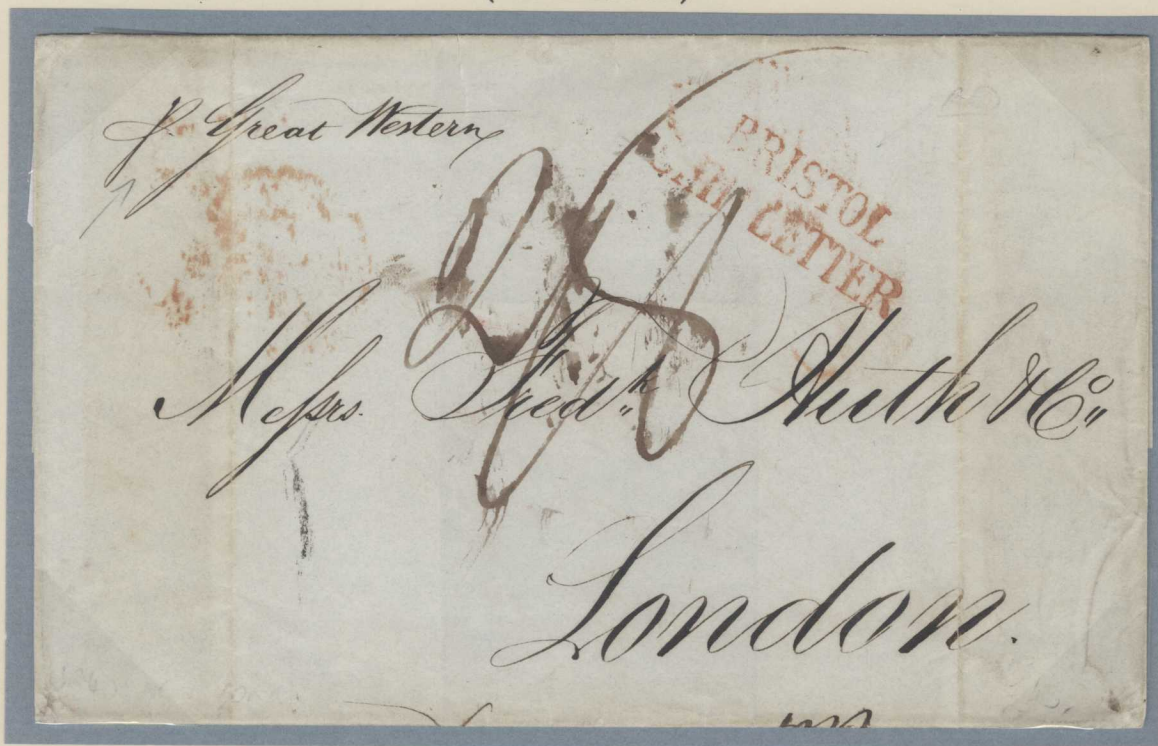
Outport Ship Letter Handstamps:

London Ship Letter office used ship letter handstamps from Bristol, Deal, Dover, Portsmouth, Southampton and Weymouth for any of the following reasons.

1. To correct a letter incorrectly or not rated at port of landing
2. To mark and assess for postage any letters missed at port of entry
3. To mark and assess postage any letters pre-bagged for London at point of origin.

Letters so marked will show the ship letter mark in red and not have a mark from the outport. **This shows an example of this marking. (Tabcart)**

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA BRISTOL)



Quadruple letter carried to ship's agent in New York and dispatched as directed. Red Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 8 in upper right. Red single circle London receiving stamp is on back.

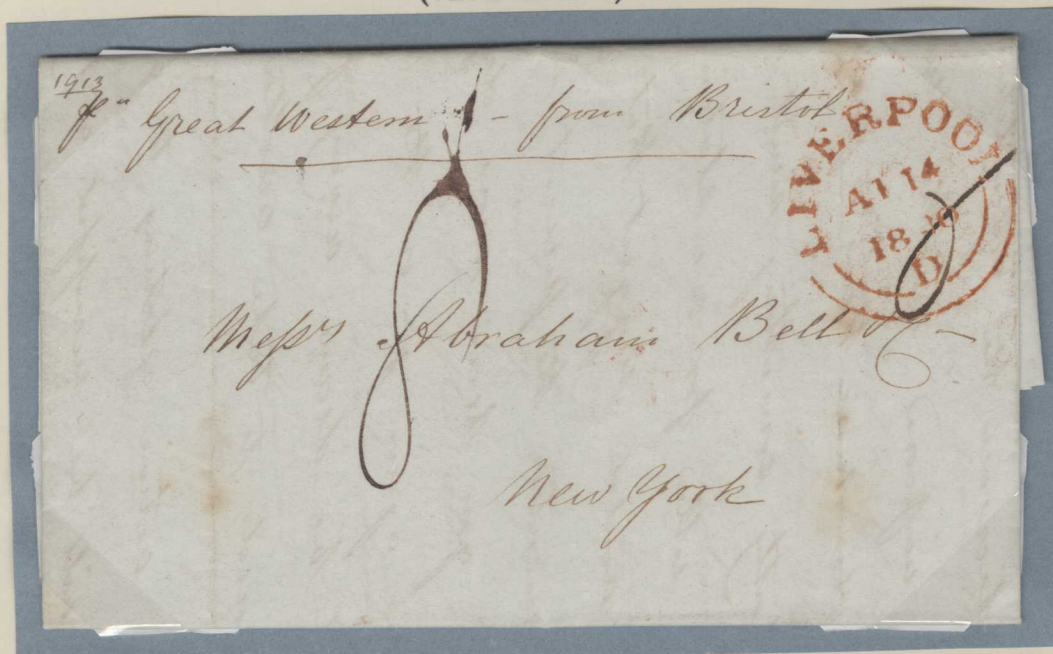
Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	2/8d
(4 x 8) = 32d or 2/8d	

Ship Information

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

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



Postal Rates

Great Britain
United States

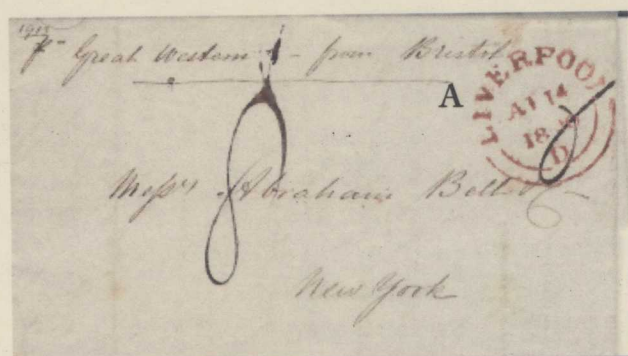
8d
6¢

Letter posted in Liverpool and dispatched as directed.
Letter is written on letter head of Transatlantic Steam Ship Company.

This was one of three companies competing for the business on the North Atlantic. Mr. Cunard secured a contract with the British government to carry mail starting July 1, 1840.

Ship Information

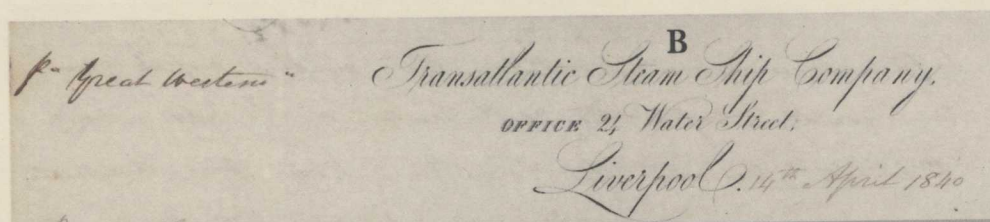
The Great Western departed Bristol April 15, 1841 arriving New York May 3, 1840. Length of voyage 17 days 20 hours.



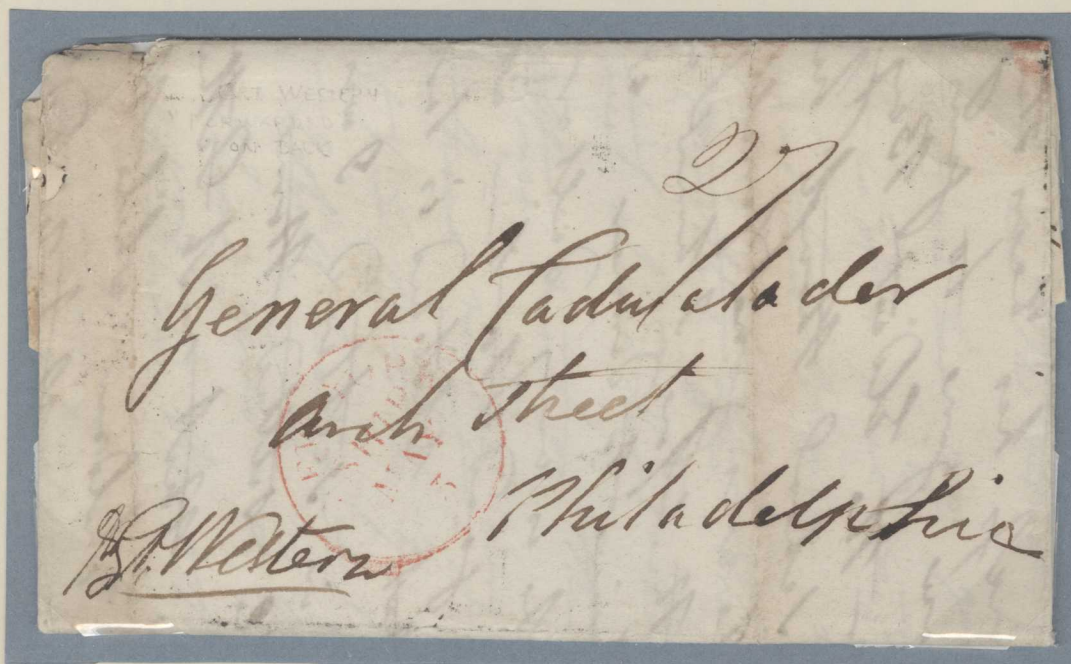
Marks:

A Red ½ double arc Liverpool stamp Willcocks & Jay type 114.

B The Letter head from Transatlantic Steam Ship Company.



BRISTOL TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Double letter privately carried to forwarding agent
Gibbs Bright & Co. in Bristol for dispatch as indicated.

Postal Rates

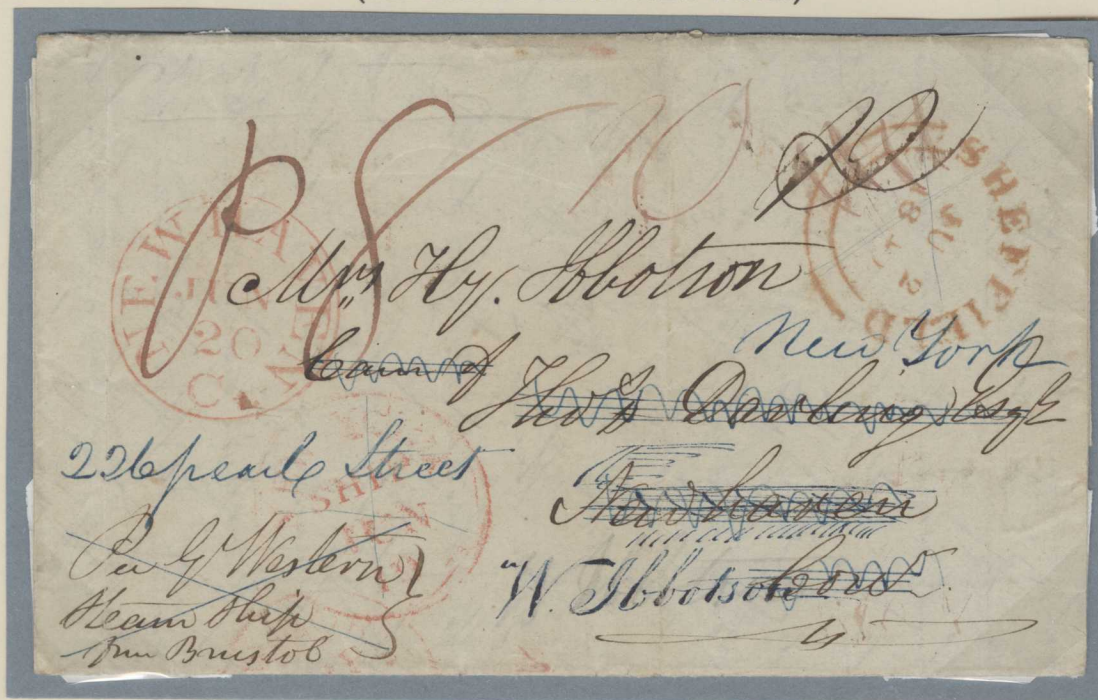
Great Britain	0
United States	27¢
(2 X 12¢) + 2¢ = 27¢	

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol April 15,
1840 arriving New York
May 3, 1840.

Scan of forwarding agent stamp on
cover back. Rowe lists a rarity number
of 5 for this stamp.



SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)

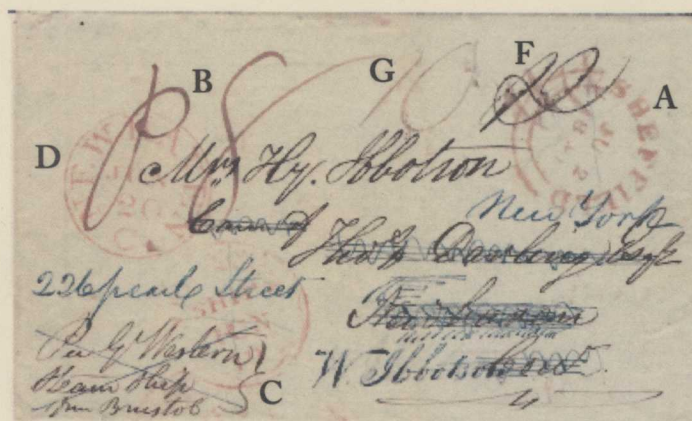
Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	22¢
Inbound fee 10¢ + 2¢ = 12¢.	
Forwarding fee = 10¢.	

Letter posted in Sheffield, dispatched to steamer as endorsed. Fees paid and noted with manuscript "P". Review of Mackay and Willicocks and Jay was unable to identify the manuscript notation of fees paid. Addressee forwarded letter back to New York.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Bristol June 4, 1840 arriving New York June 18, 1840. Length of voyage 14 days 18 hours.



Received and forwarded New York
20, June 1840. - All well. E
T. L.

Marks:

- A Sheffield double ½ circle post stamp Mackay type 247e.
- B Red Manuscript P and 8 indicate paid postage and fee.
- C Red single circle 30mm New York SHIP transfer stamp.
- D Red single circle 30mm New Haven receiving stamp.
- E Forwarding endorsement.
- F Black manuscript 12 indicating U.S. inbound ship fee.
- G Red manuscript 10 indicating forwarding fee.

LIVERPOOL TO MONTREAL
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



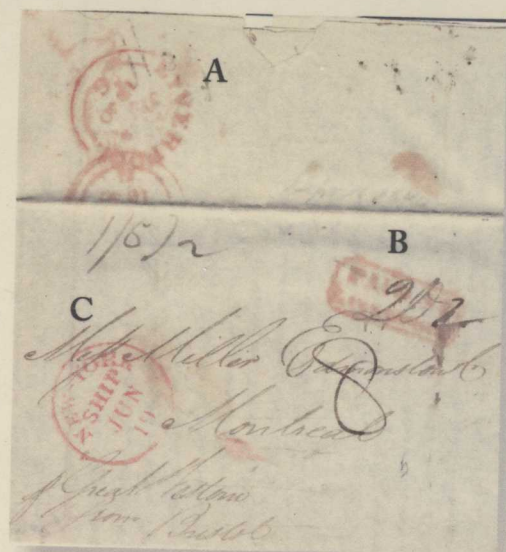
Letter posted to Bristol and dispatched as endorsed. In New York fees to the border and to Montreal to be collected in Canada noted.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Bristol June 4, 1840 arriving New York June 18, 1840. Length of voyage 14 days 18 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢
To be collected in Canada,	
Canada	1/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cy
1/1d cy + 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ cy = 1/5 $\frac{1}{2}$ cy	
Debit to U. S. plus Inland Postage.	



Marks:

A Red double half circle is Liverpool post stamp Willcocks & Jay type 114 in use 1837 - 40.

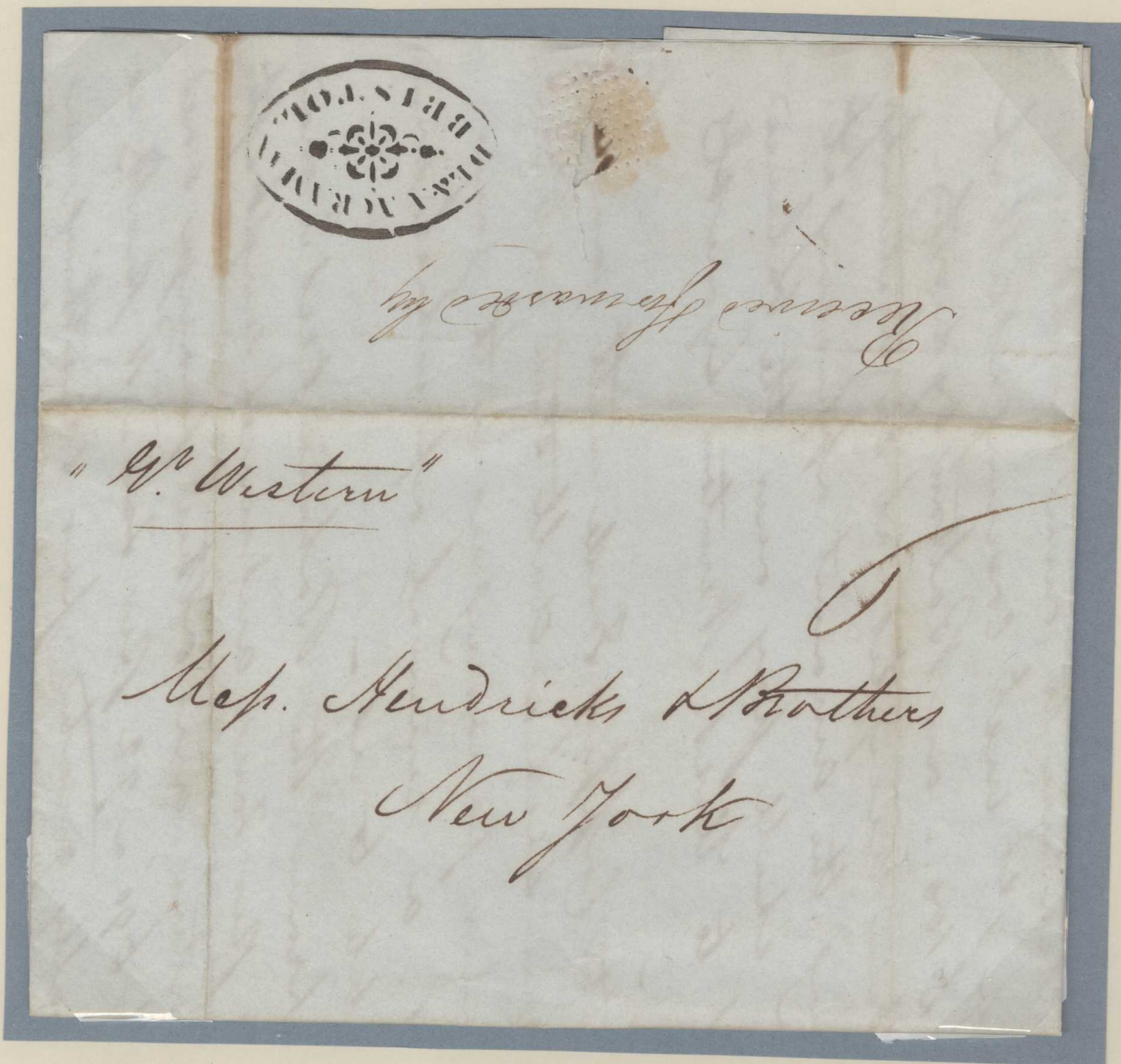
B Red octagonal PAID is Makcay type 2353.

C Red single circle is New York Ship receiving stamp.

GREAT WESTERN - 1840

Complete Voyage Fifteen
Westerly Leg
Forwarding Agent - Stencil

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



Postal Rates	
Great Britain	0
United States	6¢

Letter privately carried to forwarding agent D. E. & A. Acraman in Bristol. **Use of this stencil mark is later than listed in Rowe.**

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Bristol July 25, 1840 arriving New York August 9, 1840. Voyage length 14 days 23 hours.

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(Via New York and Bristol)

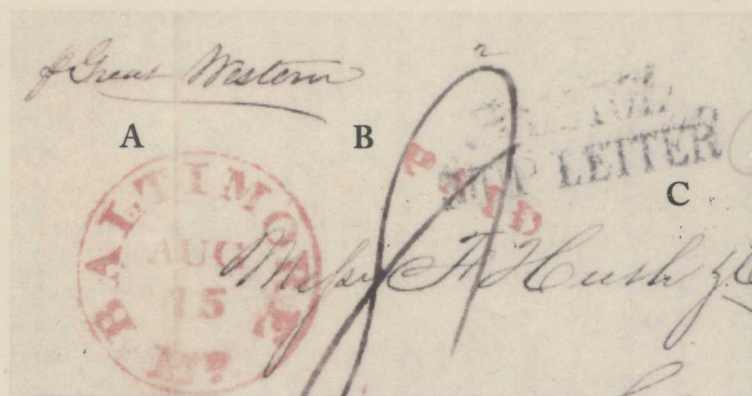


Postal Rates
United States 87½¢
(2 x 18¾¢) + (2 x 25¢)
Inland postage plus freight
money.
Great Britain 8d

Letter posted in Baltimore and fees paid. Dispatched
as directed. Note black Ship Letter stamp indicating
letter rated at port of entry.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
August 18, 1840
arriving Bristol
September 1, 1840.
Voyage length 13 days
1 hour.

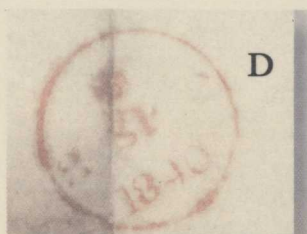


Marks front:

- A Red single circle Baltimore post mark.
- B Red straight line "PAID" Baltimore paid stamp.
- C Black Bristol Ship Letter stamp.

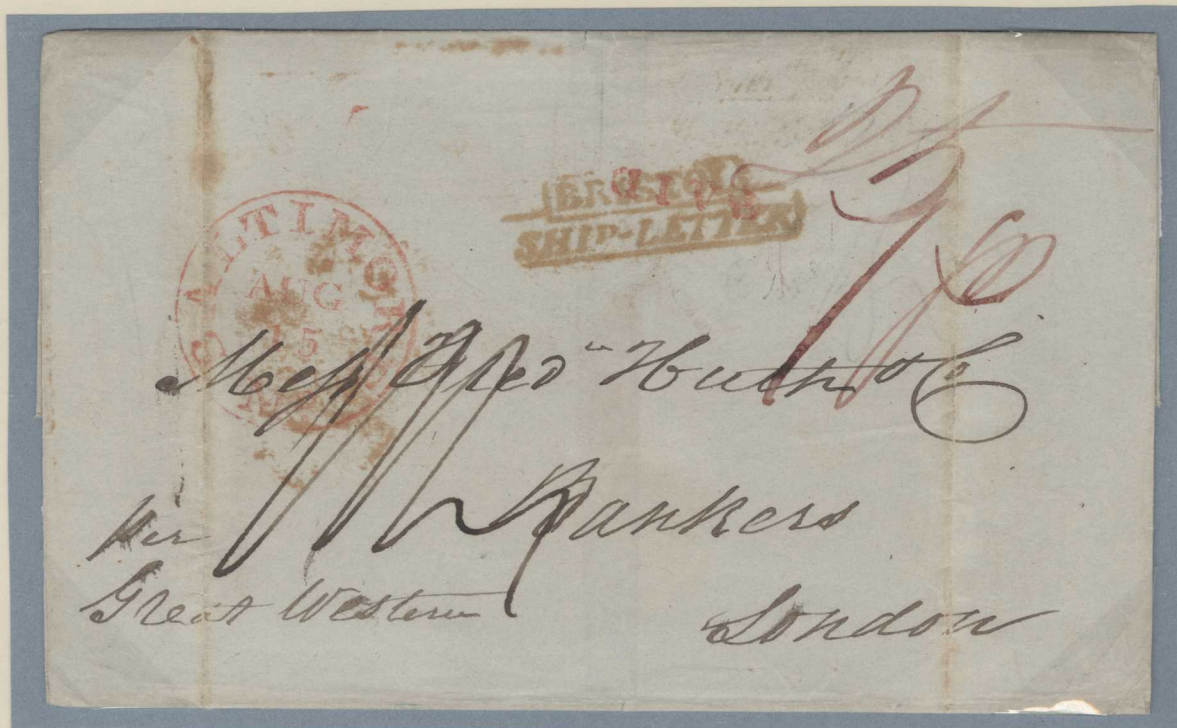
Marks back:

- D Red single circle London receiving stamp.



Letter posted in Baltimore, fees paid and noted in usual manner. Red boxed/stepped Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 7 in use 1811 - 1821, a late use.

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Ship Information

Great Western departed New York August 18, 1840 arriving Bristol September 1, 1840. Length of voyage 13 days 1 hour,

Postal Rates

United States 43¾¢
18¾¢ + 25¢ = 43¾¢
Inland plus freight money.
Great Britain 1/4d
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d.

PHILADELPHIA TO HEATH, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Letter posted in Philadelphia, fees paid and noted in usual manner. Red straight line ship letter stamp applied in London

Ship Information

Great Western departed New York August 18, 1840 arriving Bristol September 1, 1840. Length of voyage 13 days 1 hour.

Postage Rates

United States 75¢
(2 x 12½¢) + (2 x 25¢)
Great Britain 8d

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



Postage Rates
Great Britain 8d
United States 20³/₄¢
(18³/₄¢ + 2¢) = 20³/₄¢. Inland
postage plus Captain's fee.

Letter posted September 11,
1840, for dispatch as indicated.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
September 12, 1840
arriving New York
September 27, 1840.
Length of voyage 15
days 7 hours.



Marks:

- A Red double tomb stone paid is Willcocks & Jay type L105c in use 1810 - 1841.
- B Red rimless oval 'PAID SHIP LETTER with Crown' is Willcocks & Jay type L1254 in use 1838 - 1847.
- C Red single circle New York 'SHIP' indicating receipt and also how the letter should be rated.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA BRISTOL)

Letter privately carried to *Great Western's* ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as indicated. Note the black Bristol 'Ship Letter' stamp applied in Bristol to indicate how letter should be rated.

Ship Information

Great Western departed
New York October 10,
1840 arriving Bristol
October 23, 1840.
Length of voyage 13 days
1 hour.

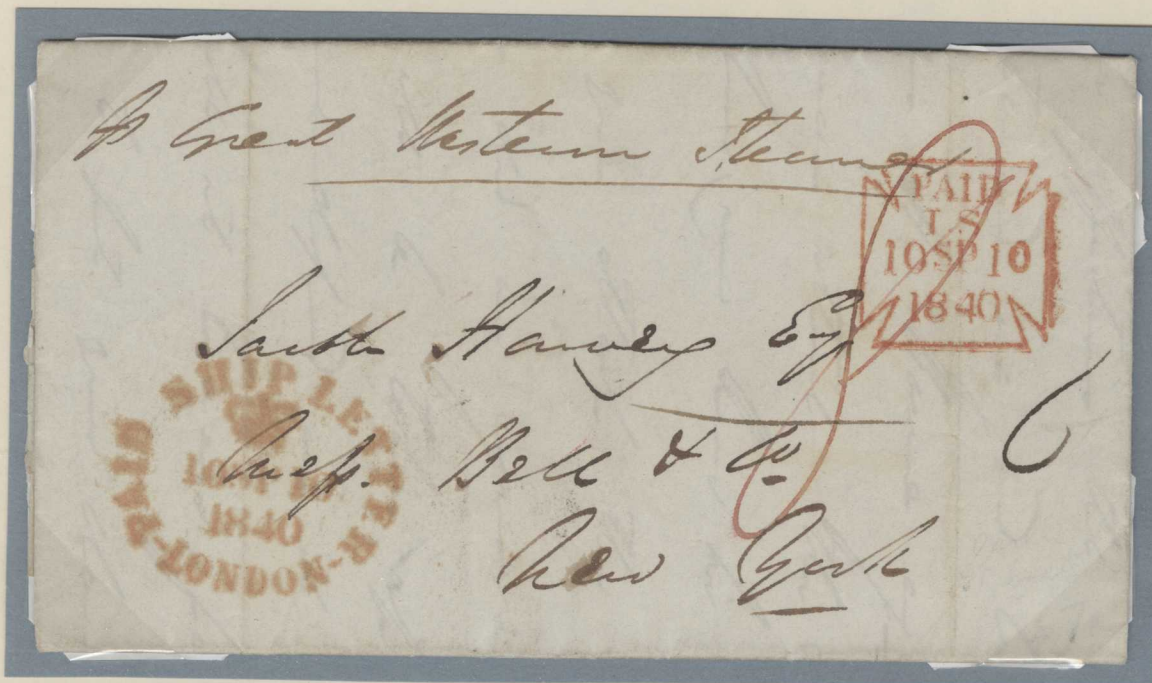
Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Scan showing red single circle London
receiving mark



LONDON TO NEWYORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



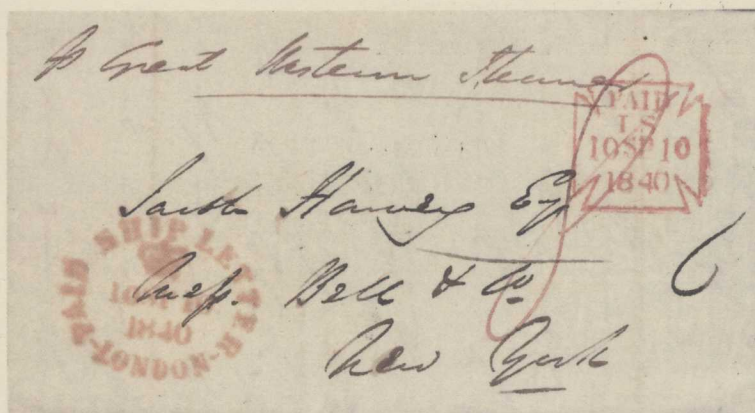
Letter posted at Lombard Street Station. Fees collected and noted. Dipatched as endorsed.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢

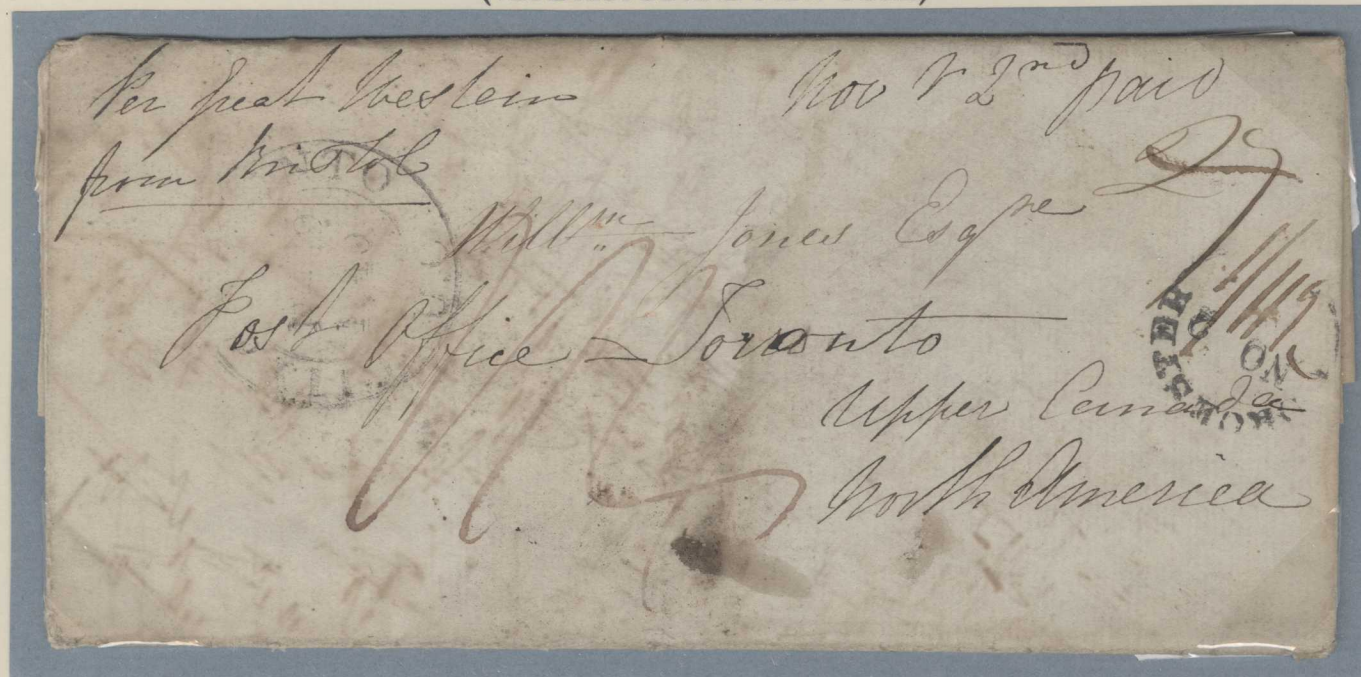
Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Bristol September 12, 1840 arriving New York September 27, 1840. Length of voyage 15 days 7 hours.



Marks:

- A Red maltese cross post stamp, upper right, applied at Lombard Street Station.
- B Red rimless oval stamp with crown, lower left, is Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.

DORCHESTER, ENGLAND TO TORONTO, U.C.
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)

Double letter posted to Bristol for dispatch as indicated.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/4d
(2 x 8d) = 16d or 1/4d	
United States	27¢
25¢ + 2¢ = 27¢ to be collected in Canada.	
Canada	1/11½ cy
7½ cy + 16 cy = 23½ cy or 1/11½ cy.	
Inland Canada + U.S. to Canadian border, Lewiston exchange office.	

Ship Information

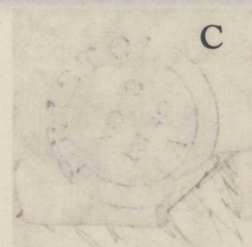
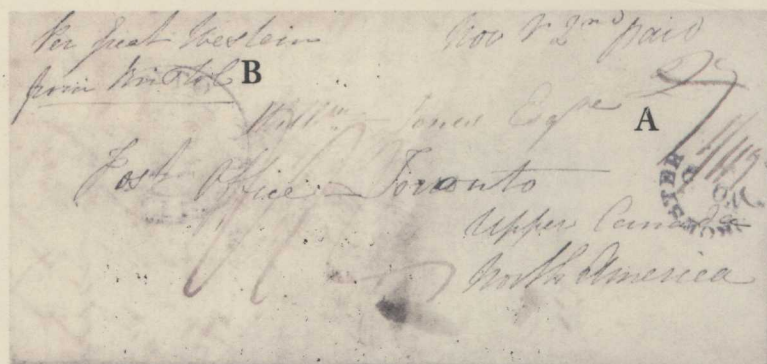
The *Great Western* departed Bristol November 7, 1840 arriving New York November 24, 1840. Length of voyage 16 days 12 hours.

Marks Front and Back:

A Black rimless 'Dorchester' post stamp.

B Black double circle 'Tronto' post mark.

C Black half double circle 'Bristol' receiving mark.



PHILADELPHIA TO HEATH, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Letter posted in Philadelphia, fees paid and noted in usual manner. **Note the pencil note of the fees under the ink noting the combined fees.** Cover was bagged in New York and passed through to London. Thus the red Bristol Ship Letter stamp applied in London.

Postal Rates

United States	\$1.50
(4 x 25¢) + (4 x 12½¢) = \$1.50	
Freight money plus inland postage.	
Great Britain	2/8d
(4 x 8d) = 32d or 2/8d.	

Ship Information

Great Western departed New York December 9, 1840 arriving Bristol December 23, 1840. Length of voyage 14 days 9 hours.



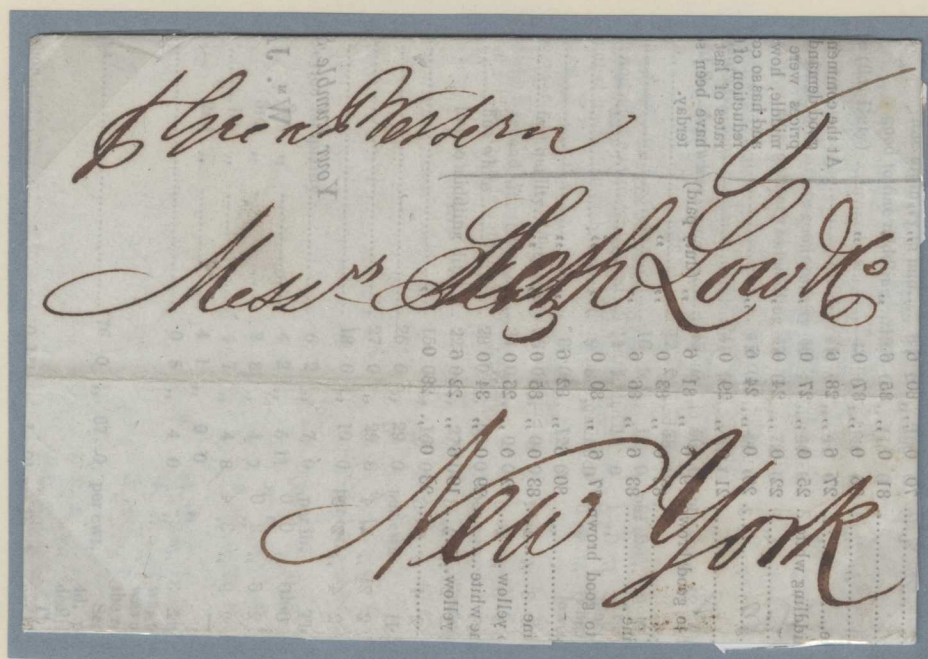
Marks:

Blue single circle and double octagonal PAID are Philadelphia stamps applied when fees were paid.

Red straight line 'BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER' stamp was applied in London when the bag of mail was processed.

The end of voyage seventeen marked a turning point in maritime history on the North Atlantic. The British Government awarded a contract to Samuel Cunard to provide regular mail steamers between Great Britain and North America. Only the Great Western Steam Ship Company continued service on this route. They did not have a contract but did continue to honor mail brought to their agents. The *Great Western* continued to sail between Great Britain and New York for a number of years providing a profitable return.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



List of current price of teas in London carried to ship's agent. There are no postal marks on this cover. Dispatched as directed.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	6¢
Fee for letter delivered at port of entry.	

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
November 7, 1840
arriving New York
November 24, 1840.
Length of voyage 16
days 12 hours.

GREAT WESTERN - 1841

Complete Voyage Eighteen
Westerly Leg

The fourth year of sailing on the North Atlantic the Great Western included five voyages starting April 8, 1841. The success of seventeen crossings and competing with the Cunard line strengthened the resolve of the Great Western Steam Ship Line.

LONDON TO PROVIDENCE, RI
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)

Letter posted at Lombard Street Post Office. Dispatched to Bristol to meet the Great Western.

Ship Information

The Great Western departed Bristol April 8, 1841 arriving New York April 32, 1841. Length of voyage 15 days 12 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d

United States 20¾¢

18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Inland postage plus
Captain's fee.

Marks:

A Red Maltese PAID Willcocks & Jay type L133 in use 1834 - 1849.

B Red oval rimless 'PAID' stamp with Crown Willcocks & Jay type L1254 in use 1833 - 1847.

C Red single circle New York SHIP receiving stamp.



PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



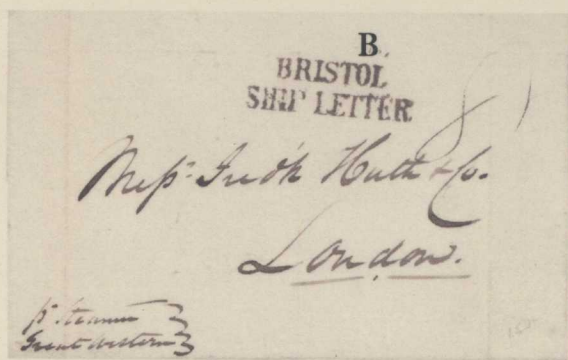
Letter carried to New York forwarding agent W. De Forest & Co. Oval FA stamp measures 47mm x 30mm. **This use is two years earlier than that listed in Rowe.**

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York May 1, 1841 arriving Bristol May 14, 1841. Length of voyage 13 days 1 hour.

Postal Rates

United States	o
Great Britain	8d



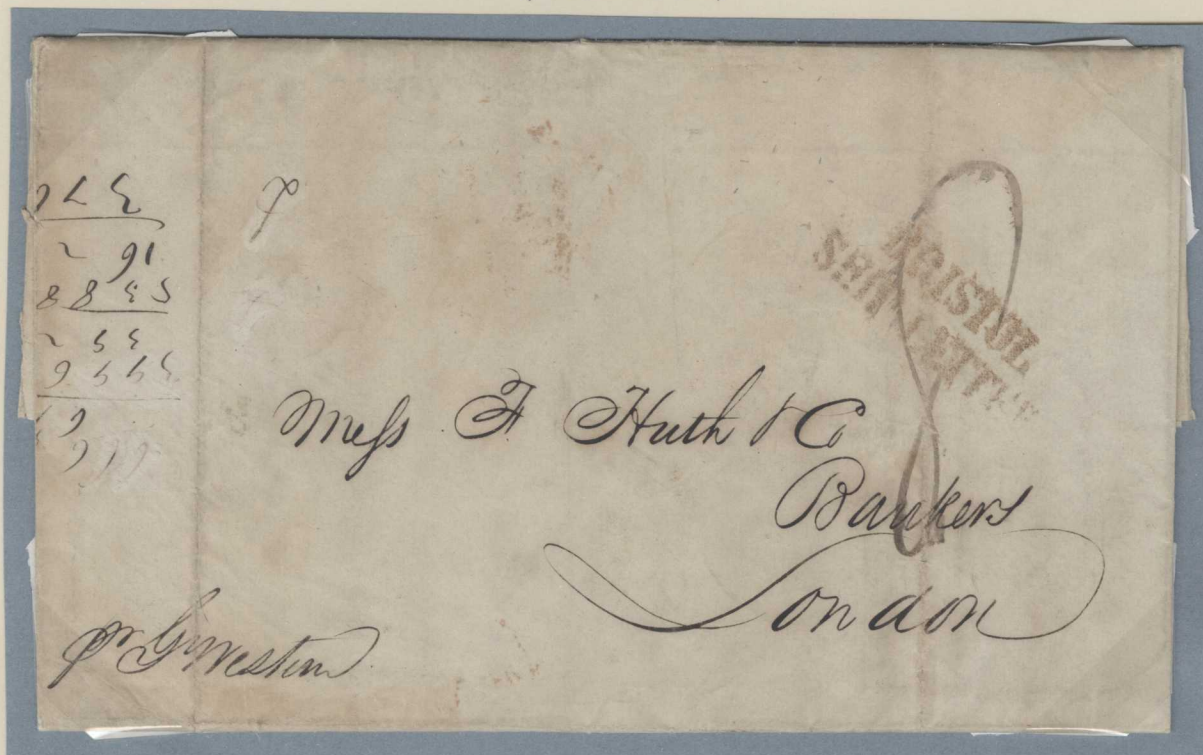
Marks:

A Black oval Agent stamp for W. De Forest & Co. New York.

B Black Straight line 'BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER' applied at Bristol.

C Red single circle London receiving stamp.



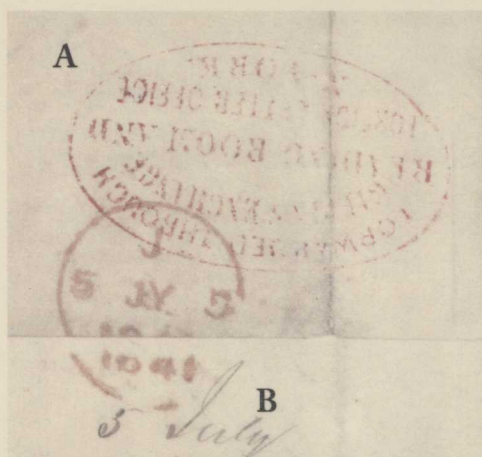
NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA BRISTOL)

Postal Rate
United States 0
Great Britain 8d

Letter carried to Gilpin's
Exchange Reading
Room and Foreign
Letter Exchange.
Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
June 19, 1841, arriving
Bristol July 3, 1841.
Length of voyage 14
days 2 hours.



Marks:

A Red oval stamp of Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room.

Faded red straight line 'BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER' on cover was applied in London. This is Robertson type S 8 in use 1840 - 1841.

B Red single circle London receiving stamp. indicates AM processing.

NEW YORK TO PLYMOUTH, ENGLAND
(VIA BRISTOL)



Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Letter posted in New York
and dispatched as directed.
United States postage not
indicated.

Marks:

Red single circle New York in lower left the posting
but no indication of U.S. fees noted.

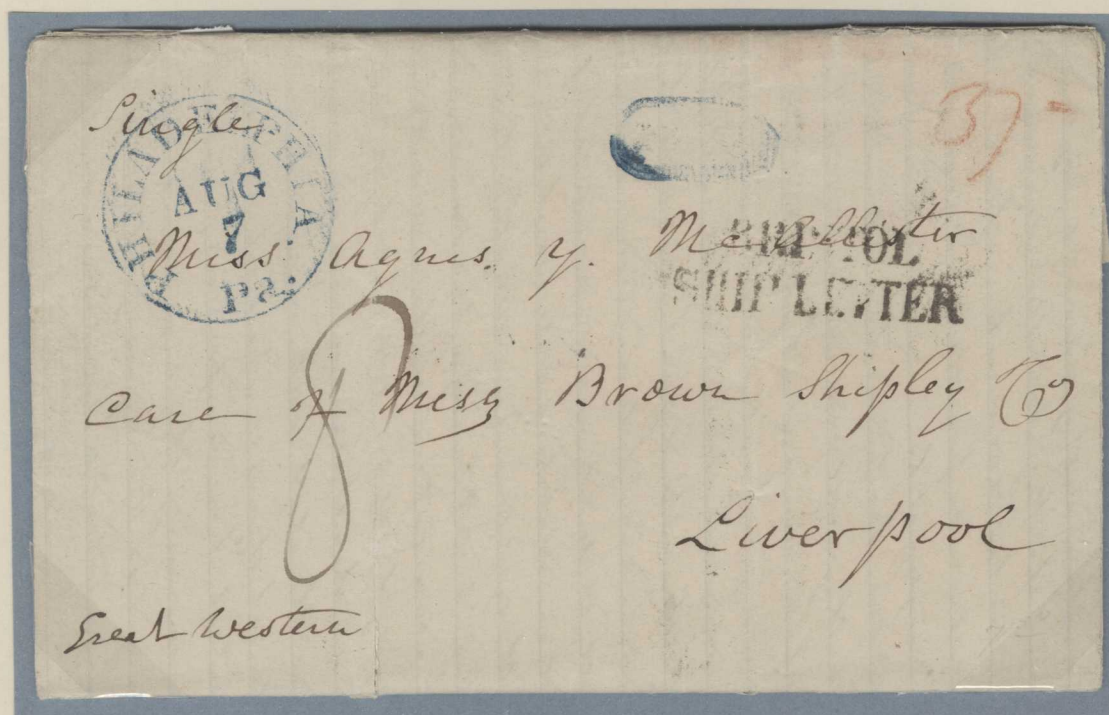
Faint straight line 'BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER'
applied at Bristol indicating letter was not bagged
in New York.

Top, black double ½ circle Plymouth receiving
stamp is Willcocks & Jay type DN1110b.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
August 7, 1841
arriving Bristol
August 20, 1841.
Length of voyage 12
days 10 hours.

PHILADELPHIA TO LIVERPOOL (VIA NEW YORK AND BRISTOL)



Postal Rates

United States 37½¢

$$12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢} + 25\text{¢} = 37\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$$

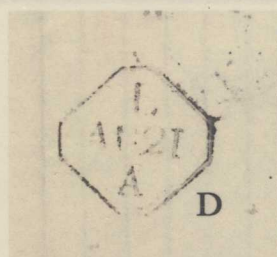
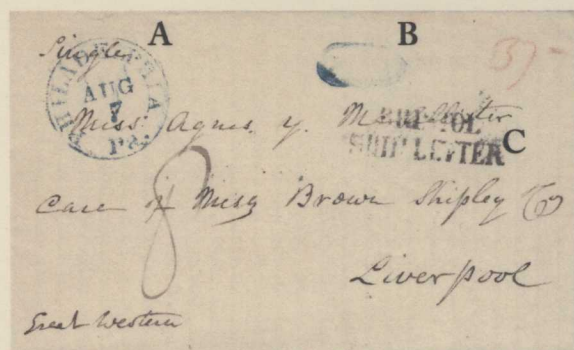
Great Britain 8d

Letter posted paid and
freight money collected.

Amount noted in upper right
in red.

Ship information

The Great Western
departed New York
August 7, 1841
arriving Bristol
August 20 1841.
Length of voyage
12 days 10 hours,



Marks:

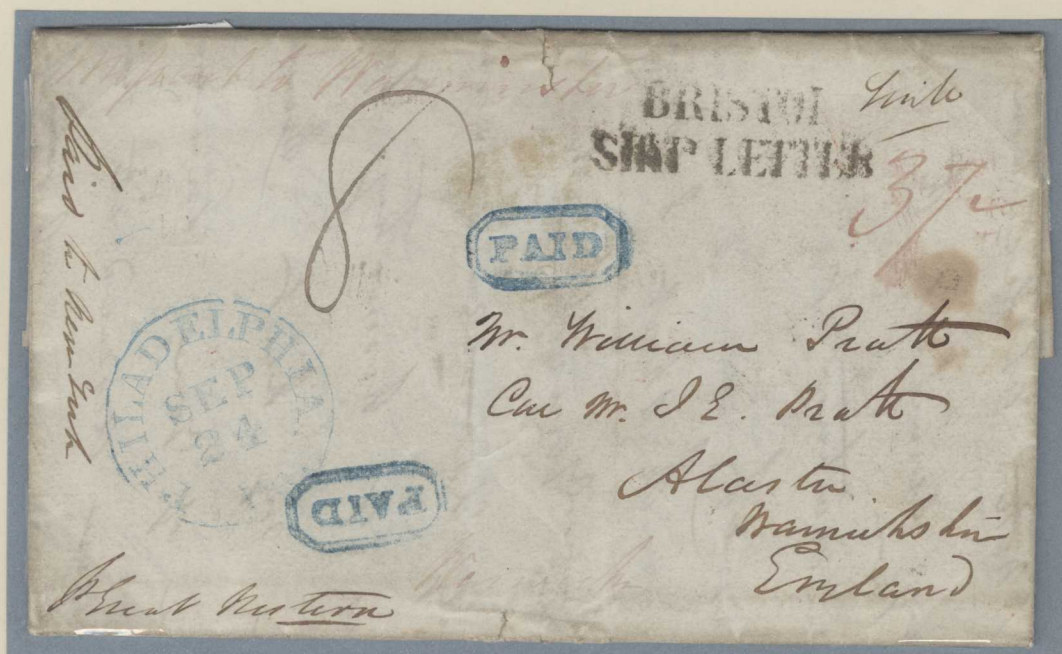
A Blue single circle 30mm
Philadelphia post.

B Blue double octagonal 'PAID' used in Philadelphia.

C Black straight line 'BRISTOL/
SHIP LETTER' stamp Robertson type S
8 in use 1833 - 1844.

D Liverpool lozenge stamp
Robertson type M21 in use 1840 - 1848.

PHILADELPHIA TO ALCESTER, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK, BRISTOL, WARMINSTER, BROOMSGROVE)



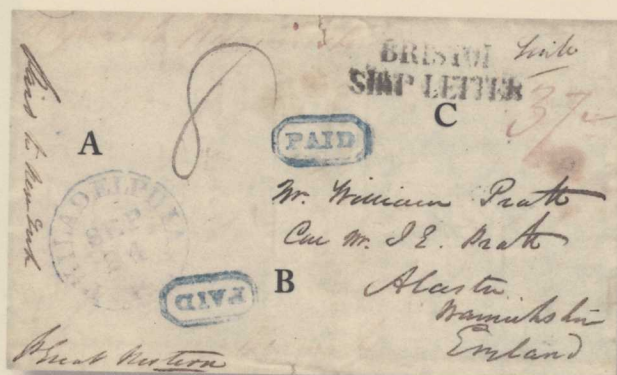
Postal Rates

United States	37½¢
25¢ + 12½¢ = 37½¢	
Freight money plus inland postage.	
Great Britain	8d

Letter posted in Philadelphia with freight money and postage collected and noted in upper right Bristol rated as a ship letter and dispatched to London. In Warmininter error was noted and letter directed to Broomsgrove, faint red note in upper left.

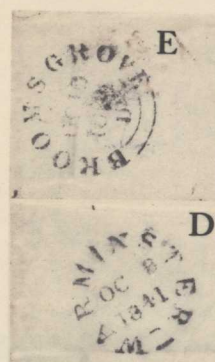
Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York September 25, 1841 arriving Bristol October 8, 1841. Length of voyage 12 days 13 hours.



Marks Front:

- A Blue single circle post mark from Philadelphia.
- B Blue double octagonal 'PAID' show payment in Philadelphia.
- C Black straight line 'BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER' stamp applied in Bristol.



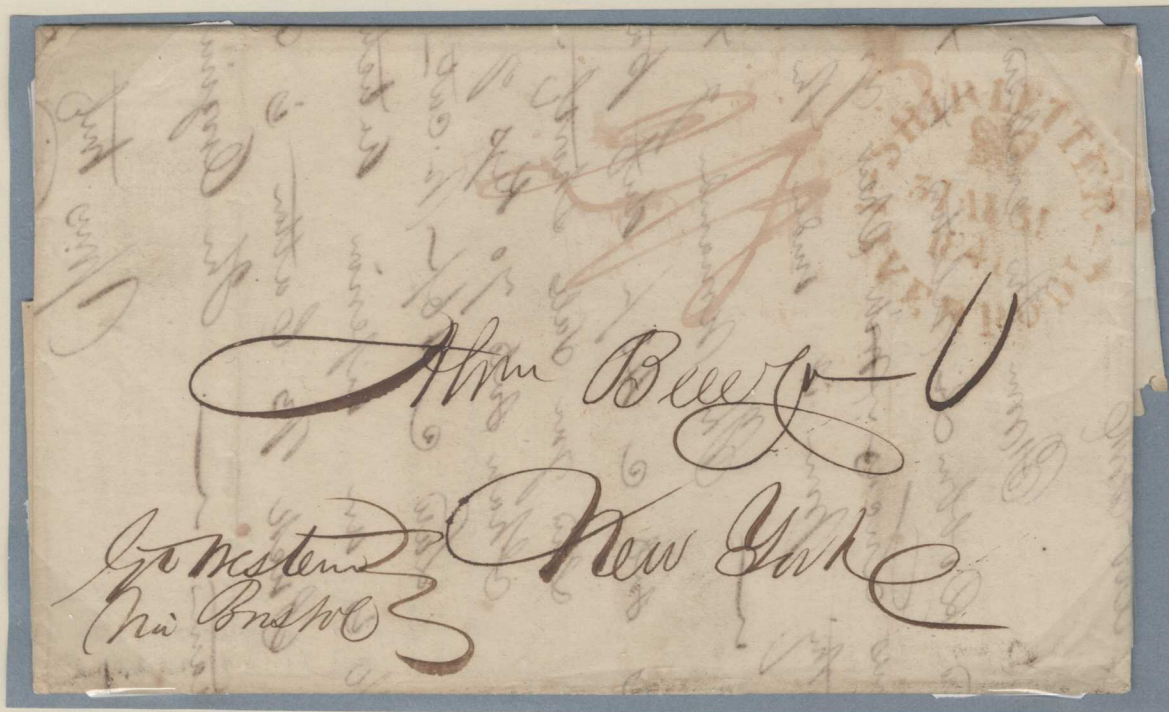
Marks Back:

- D Warminster transfer stamp.
- E Broomsgrove transfer stamp.

GREAT WESTERN - 1841

Complete Voyage Twenty One
Quadruple Letter

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
September 1, 1841
arriving New York
September 16, 1841.
Length of Voyage
15 days 10 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 2/8d
(4 x 8d) = 32d or 2/8d
United States 6¢
Delivery at port of entry.

Quadruple letter posted in Liverpool and
dispatched on the *Great Western* as directed.

Letter privately carried
to ship's agent in New
York and dispatched as
directed.

NEW YORK TO LYON, FRANCE
(VIA BRISTOL, LONDON, CALAIS AND PARIS)



Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
September 25, 1841
arriving Bristol
October 8, 1841.
Length of Voyage 12
days 13 hours.

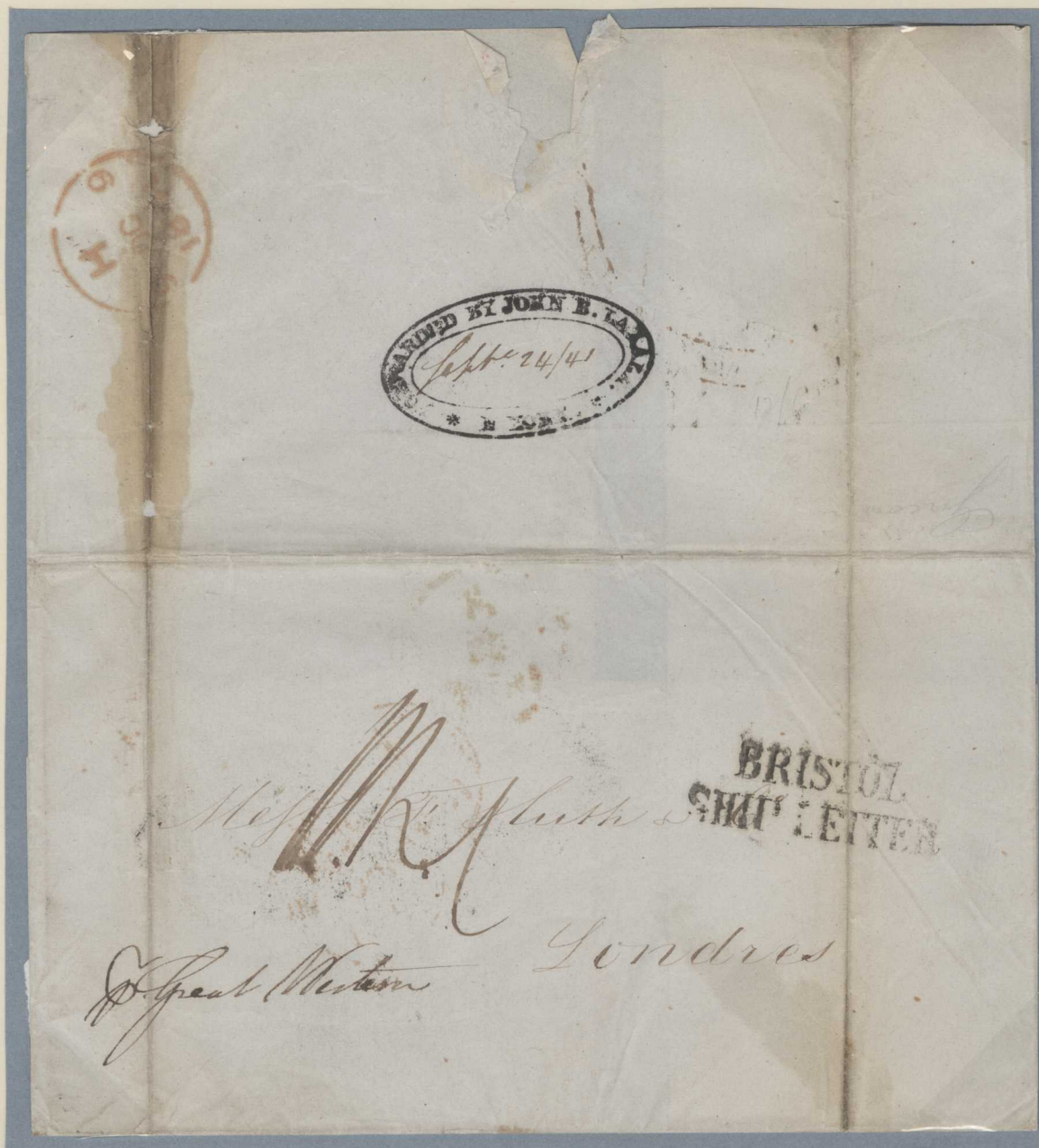
Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/6d
To be collected in France.
France 32 dec
18 dec debited to Great
Britain 14 dec inland fee.

GREAT WESTERN -1841

Voyage Twenty One
Double Letter
Forwarding Agent

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



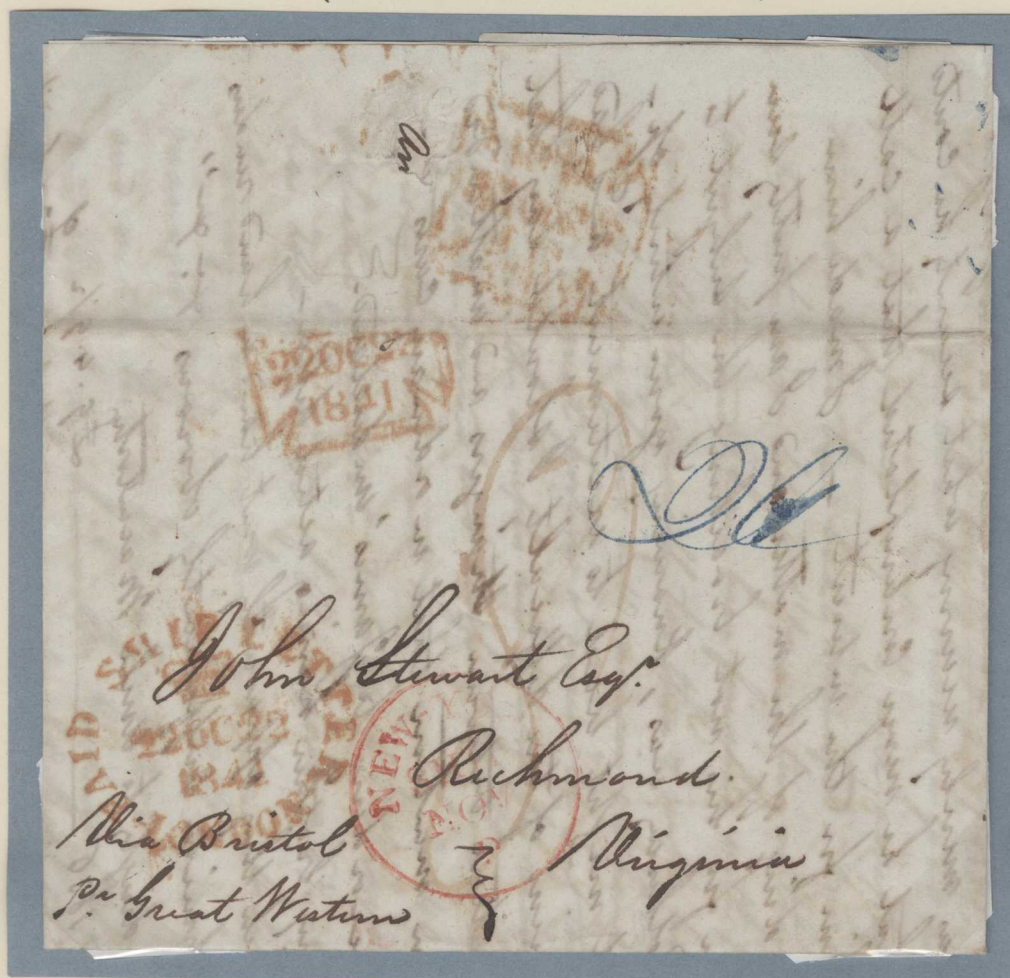
Postal Rates
United States 0
Great Britain 1/4d
(2 x 8d) = 16d or 1/4d

Double letter privately carried
to New York forwarding agent
John B. Lasala. Forwarding
agent oval stamp in use 1838
to 1841

Ship Information
The *Great Western*
departed New York
September 25, 1841
arriving Bristol
October 8, 1841.
Length of voyage 12
days 13 hours.

Voyage 22 completes sailing schedule for 1841. On five voyages she carried an average of 84 passengers easterly and 63 westerly. These efforts brought the company 5,607 pounds 10 shillings and 8 pence profit. At this time she returned to Bristol for dry dock and her annual check up.

LONDON TO RICHMOND
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted in London
as outgoing ship letter.
Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
October 32, 1841
arriving New York
November 9, 1841.
Length of voyage 16
days 12 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	20 ³ / ₄ ¢



Marks:

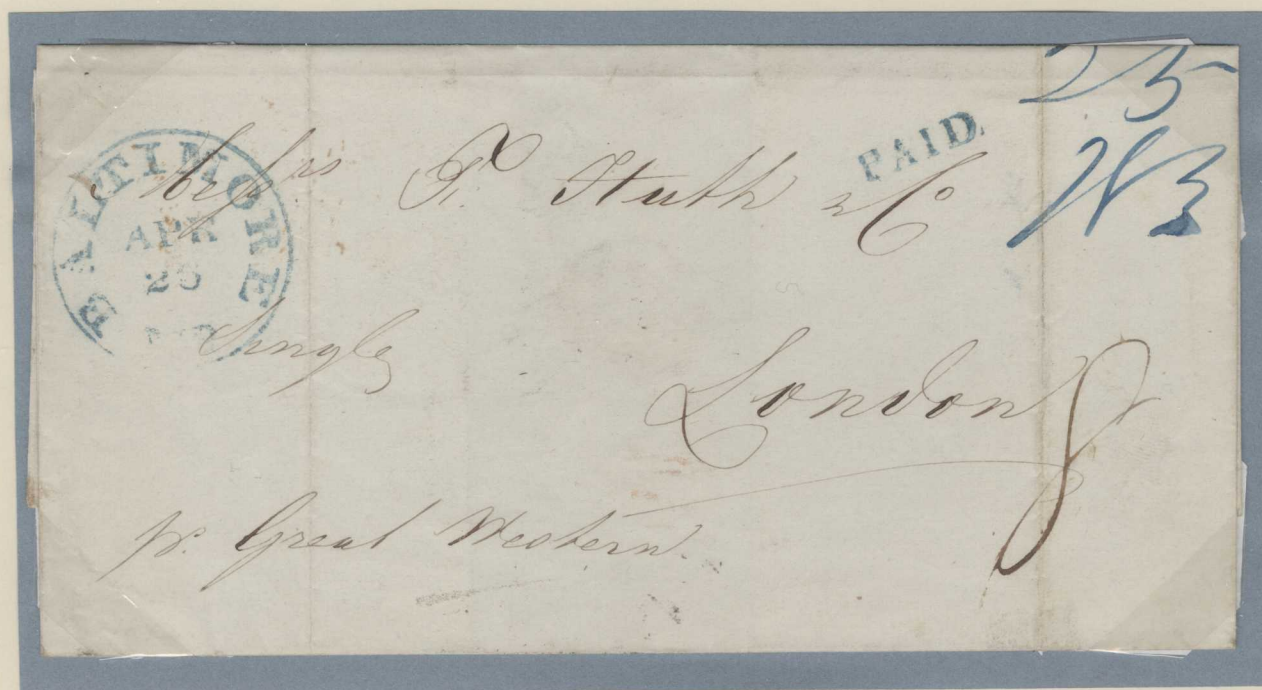
A Red Maltese cross PAID stamp.

B Red rimless oval PAID SHIP LETTER with CROWN London stamp Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.

C Red single circle New York SHIP receiving stamp.

During 1842 sailing season, company developed a triangular pattern, Bristol - New York - Liverpool. At start of 1843 season Bristol was abandoned as home port. Thereafter, company used Liverpool exclusively. This allowed direct and more timely cargo loading and transfer of passengers at Liverpool docks. Also provided more direct access to England's industrial heart land.

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Postal Rates	
United States	43¾¢
18¾¢ + 25¢ = 43¾¢	
Great Britain	8d

Letter posted and dispatched as directed. Note the Baltimore Post Office posting of freight money and postage in upper right corner in usual manner.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York April 28, 1842 arriving Liverpool May 11, 1842. Length of voyage 12 days 7½ hours.



Marks Back:

A Black rimless oval SHIP LETTER CROWN is Liverpool stamp Robertson type S15 in use 1838 - 1863.

B Red single circle stamp is London receiving stamp indicating AM processing.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)

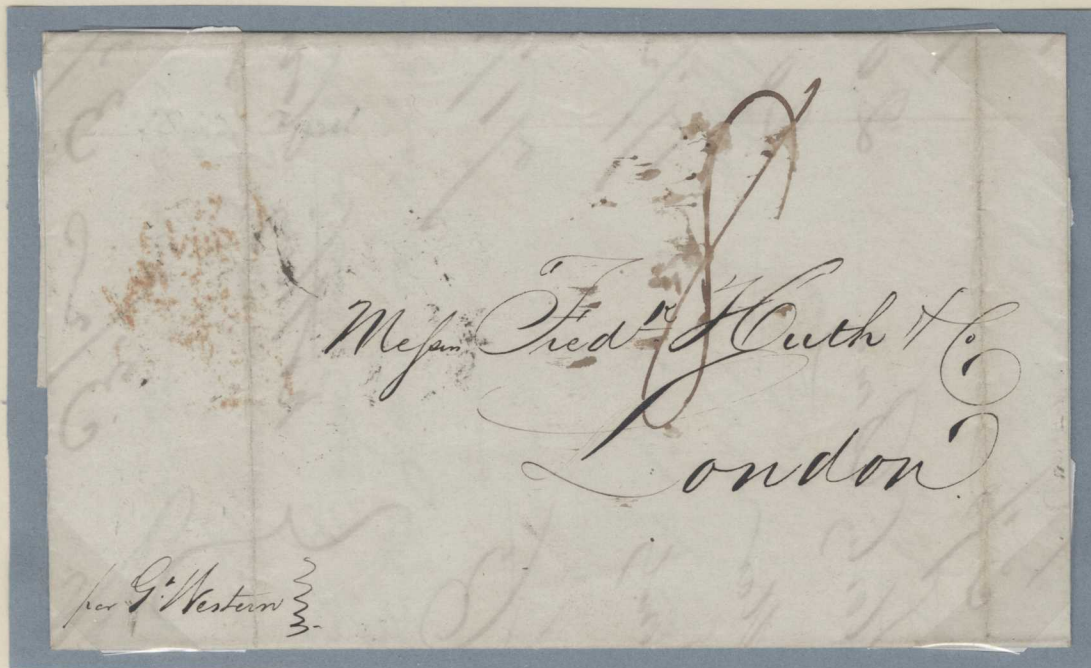
Letter was posted
Lombard Street
Office, dispatched
as directed

Ship
Information

Great Western
departed
Bristol April 2,
arriving New
York April 17,
1842. Length of
voyage 15 days 4
hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d
United States 6¢

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Great Western
departed New York
April 28, 1842
arriving Liverpool
May 11, 1842.
Length of voyage
12 days 7½ hours.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 8d

Letter privately carried to ship's agent.
Dispatched as directed.

NEW YORK TO ST. ETIENNE, FRANCE
(VIA BRISTOL, LONDON, CALAIS AND PARIS)



Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York June 16, 1842 arriving Bristol June 29, 1842. Length of voyage 12 days 12 hours.

Letter privately carried to ship's agent in New York and dispatched as directed.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
Rerated at Foreign Office. Rated 1/6d fee transfer to France.	
France	32 dec
18 dec debited to Great Britain. 14 dec inland postage.	



Marks:

Front:

A Black Bristol Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 8 in use 1833 - 1844.

B Red double circle Calais transfer stamp.

Back:

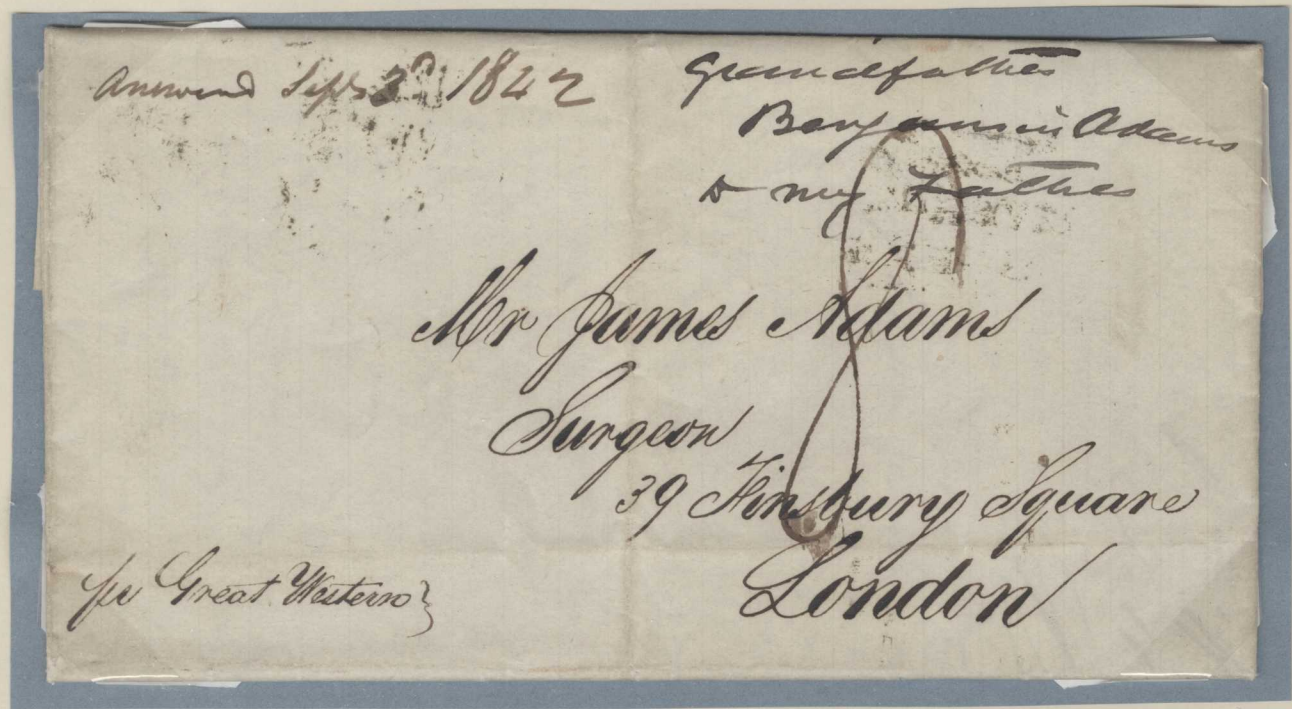
C Red single circle London receiving stamp.

D Blue double circle Paris transfer stamp.

E Black double circle St. Etienne receiving stamp.



NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

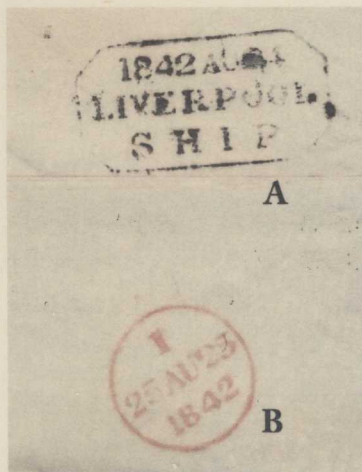


Postal Rates
United States 0
Great Britain 8d

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The Great Western
departed New York
August 11, 1842
arriving Liverpool
August 24, 1842.
Length of voyage 12
days 19 hours.

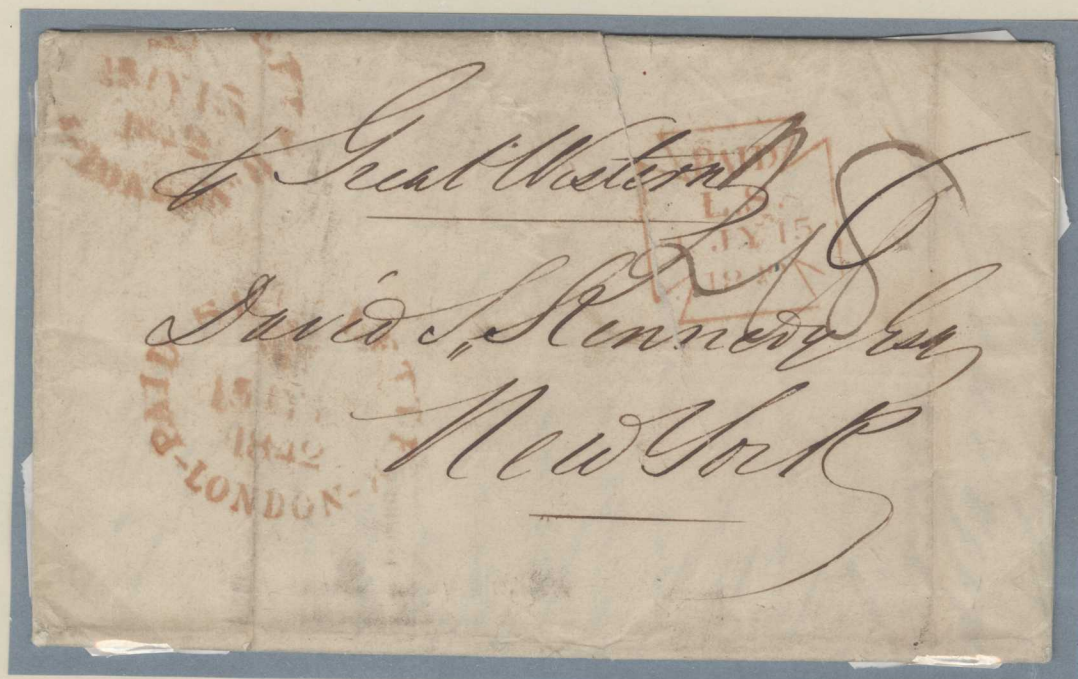


Marks:

A Black octagonal Liverpool Ship stamp Robertson type S 16 in use 1841-1855.

B Red single circle London receiving stamp indicating AM processing.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)



Quadruple letter posted
at Lombard Street
Office and dispatched as

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Bristol July
16, 1842 arriving New
York July 30, 1842.
Length of voyage 14
days 1½ hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 2/8d
4 x 8d = 32d or 2/3d
Treasury Warrant January
10, 1840.
United States 6¢

NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL

Letter privately carried to
ship's agent in New York.
Freight money probably
paid but not noted
(Winter)

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
August 11, 1842
arriving Liverpool
August 24, 1842.
Length of voyage 12
days 19 hours.

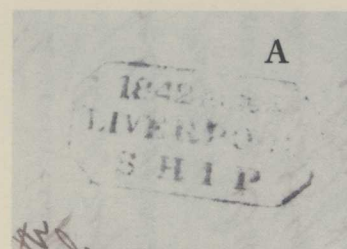
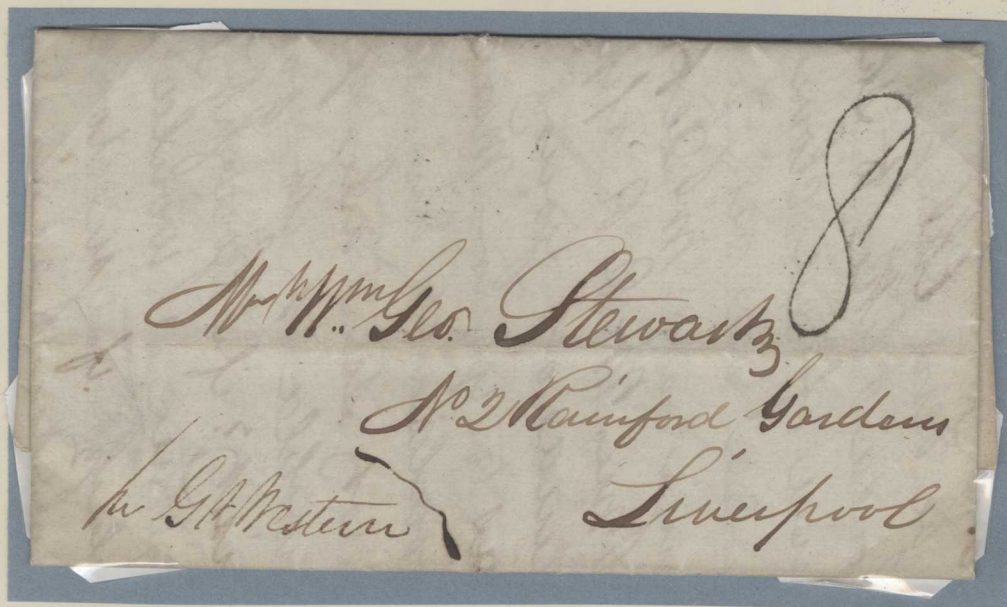
Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 8d

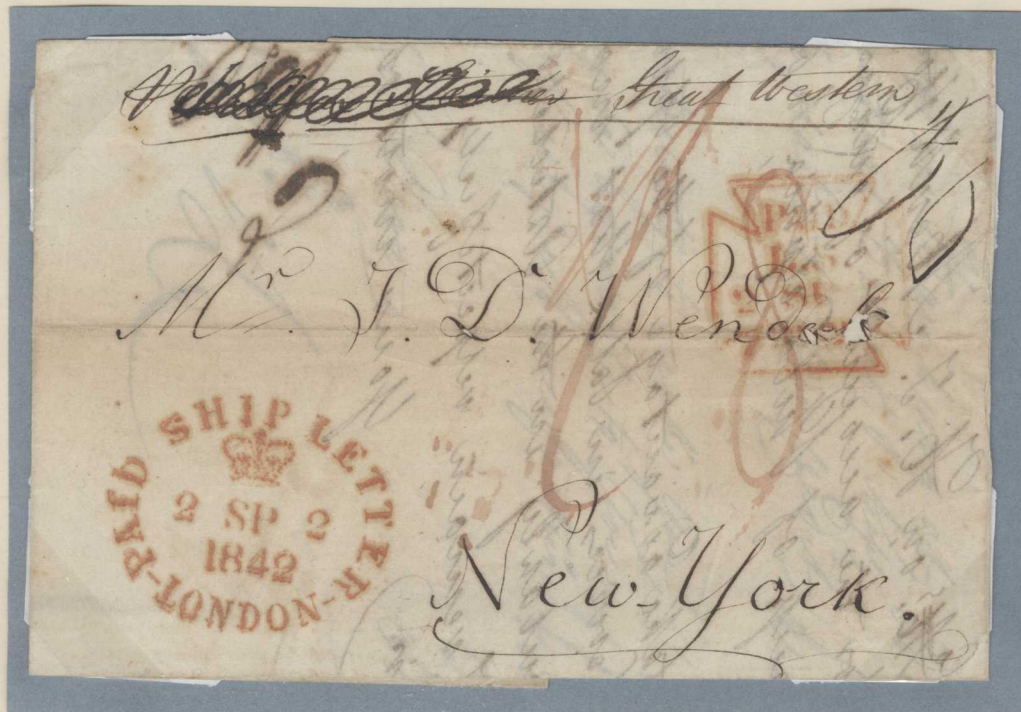
Marks :

Top Cover: Red oval rimless PAID with Crown
is Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.

A Liverpool black 8 sided receiver Robertson
type S 16 in use 1841 - 1855.



VENICE, ITALY TO NEW YORK
(VIA LONDON AND LIVERPOOL)



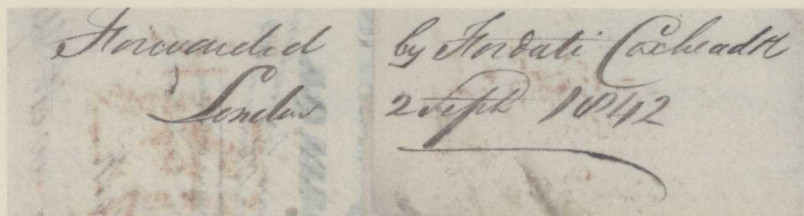
Ship Information

Great Western departed
Liverpool September 3,
1842 arriving New York
September 17, 1842.
Length of voyage 14 days
10 hours.

Postal Rates

Italy	0
Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢
Delivery at port of entry.	

Letter privately carried to forwarding agent Fordati &
Coxhead & Co. in London. Dispatched as directed.

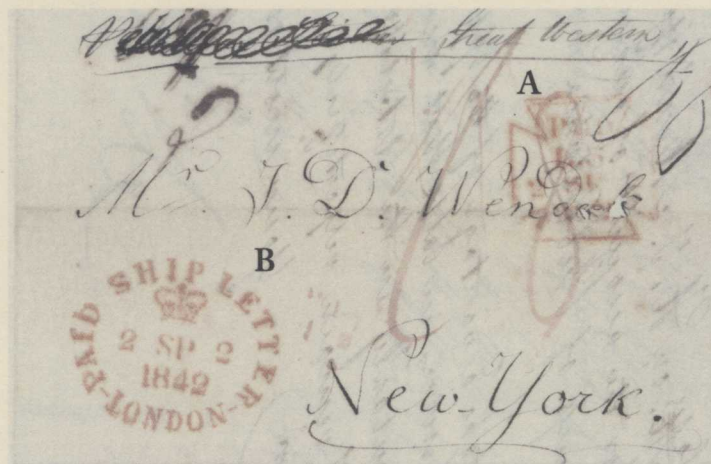


Scan of back showing the manuscript
forwarding agent's mark Rowe shows two
oval stamps for this company. According to
Rowe, they starting using this mark in 1847.
**This makes this use five years earlier than
listed.**

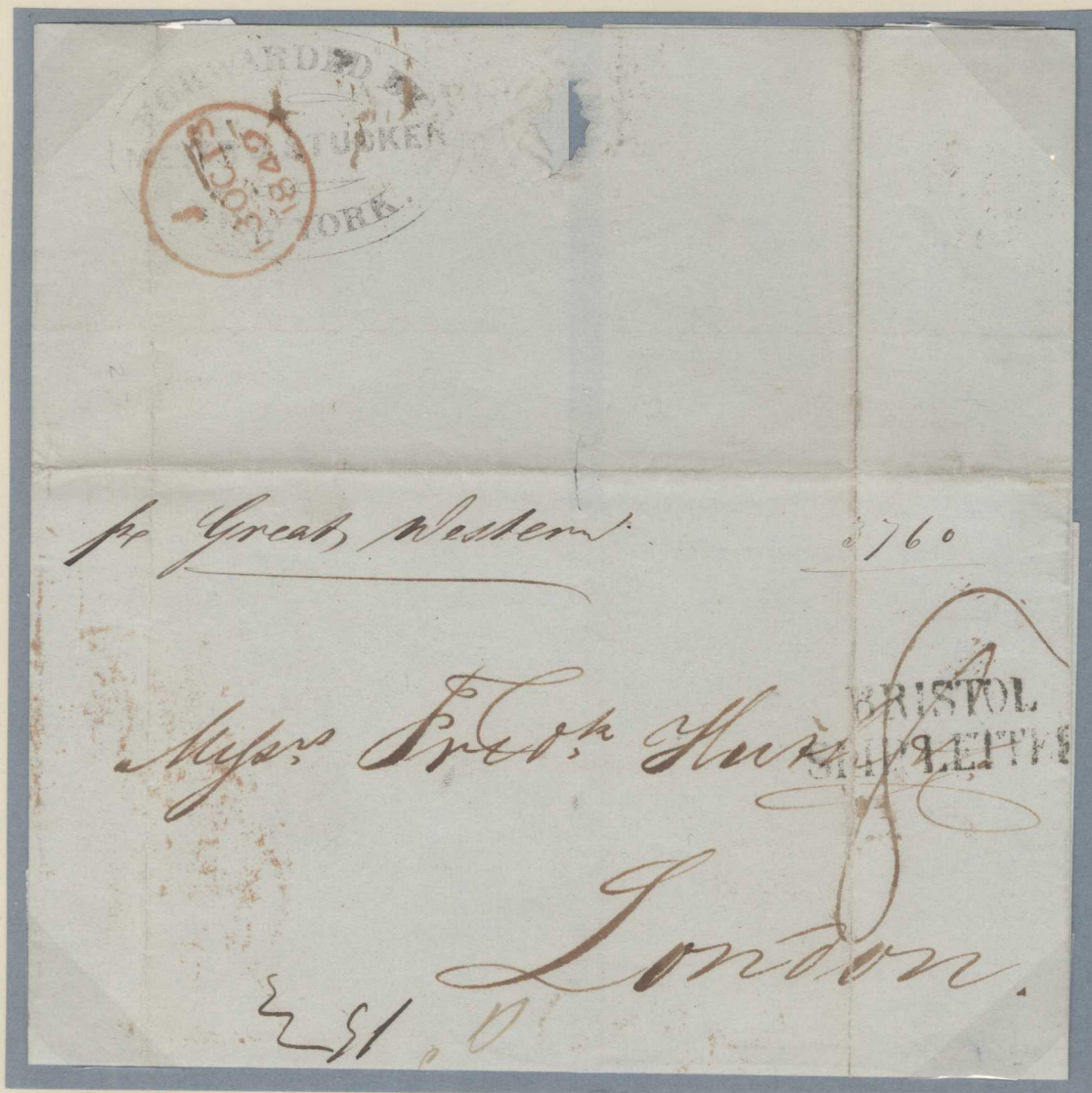
Marks Front:

A Red Maltese cross PAID
stamp used at the Lombard Street
station.

B Red rimless oval stamp with
crown applied at London is Robertson
type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.



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



Letter privately carried to forwarding agent Meyer & Stucken in New York. Placed in ship letter bag fees paid. No indication of freight money noted.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
September 29, 1842
arriving Bristol
October 12, 1842.
Length of voyage 13
days 4 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Marks:

Front: Black Bristol ship letter stamp on right edge near bottom, Robertson type S 8 in use 1838 - 1844.

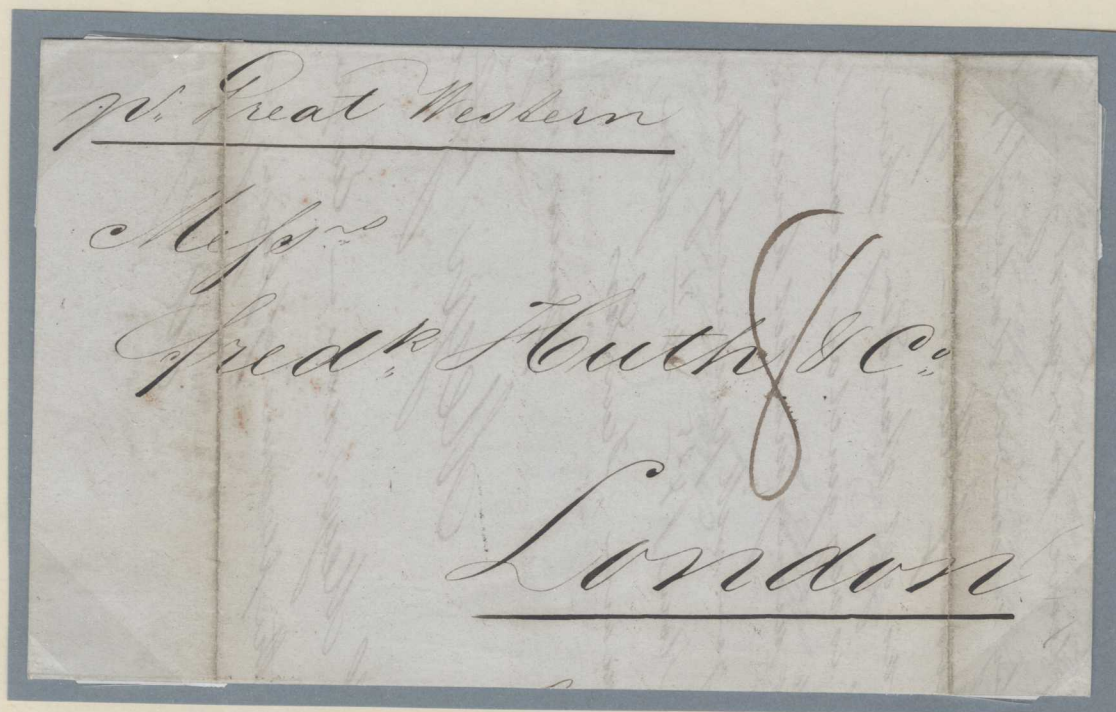
Back:

A Black oval forwarding mark for Meyer & Stuckey New York forwarding agent.

B Red single circle London
receiving mark indicating AM
processing.



NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



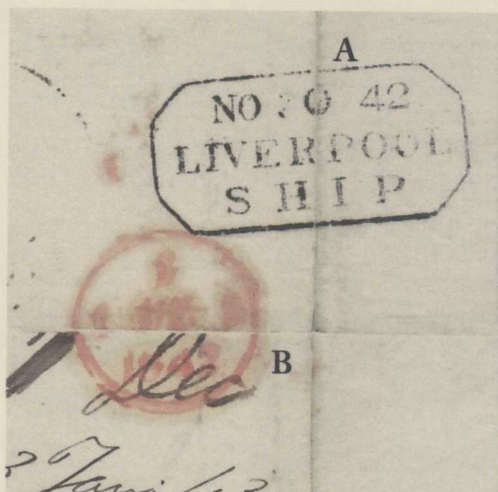
Postal Rates
United States
Great Britain

0
8d

Letter carried privately to ship's
agent in New York. Dispatched
as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
November 17, 1842
arriving Liverpool
November 30, 1842.
Length of voyage 12
days 15 hours.



Marks:

A Black octagonal Liverpool
Ship stamp Robertson type S 16.

B Red single circle stamp
London receiving stamp indicating
AM processing.

Voyage 28, the first voyage of the session was some what out of normal pattern. Research can not support why this voyage was scheduled but after departing, eight days out Madeira, Java was reached. During a 30 hour stay 70 tons of coal were taken on board. She passed Sandy Hook USA, on March 12, a run of 20 days from Funchal, java. As expected the wheather this time of year was not easy but she had steamed 4,700 miles from Bristol consuming 660 tons of coal, some seven miles per ton.

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND TO BOSTON
(VIA BRISTOL AND NEW YORK)



Postal Rates
Great Britain
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d
United States
18¾ + 2 = 20¾¢

Double letter posted in
Manchester, Dispatched as
directed in Bristol.

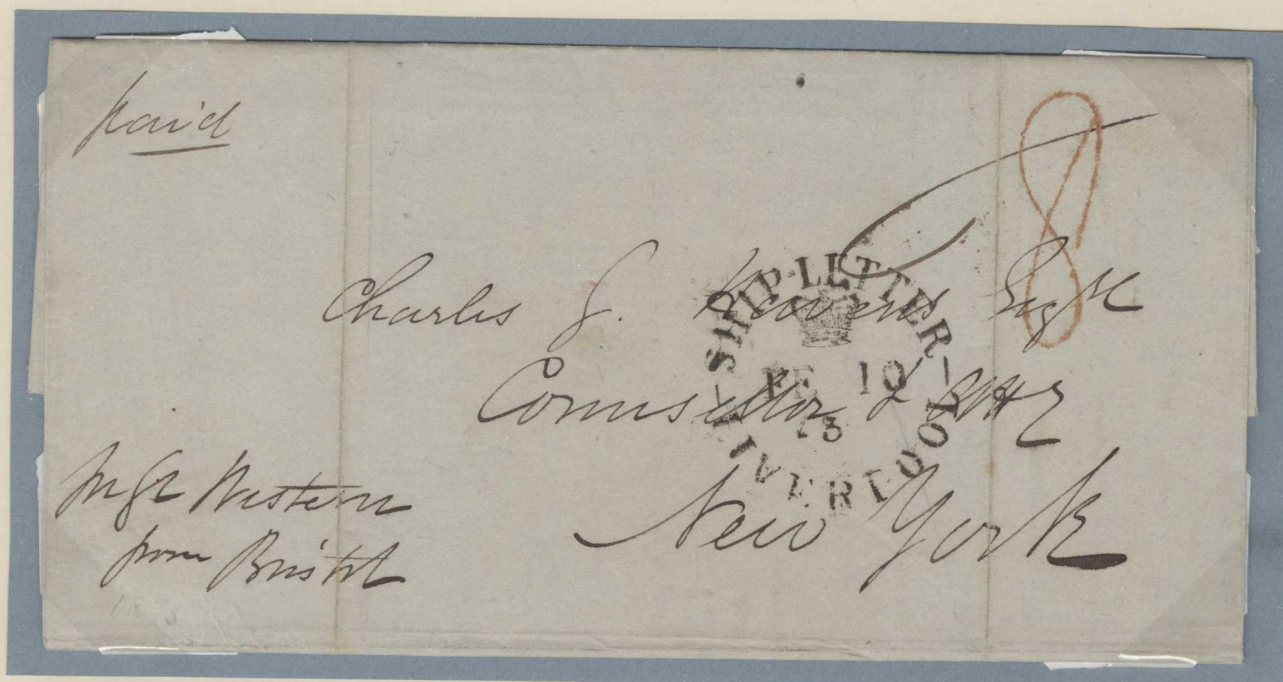
1/4d
20¾

Ship Information

The Great Western
departed Bristol
February 11, 1843
arriving New York
March 12, 1843.
Length of voyage 29
days 1 hour.

During 1842 the sailing pattern Liverpool - New York - Bristol proved more efficient. Number of passengers per voyage remained the same with 81 passengers average on westerly legs and 62 on the easterly voyages. Profits for the year were somewhat lower at 4,210 pounds 1 shilling 1 pence.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK
(VIA BRISTOL)

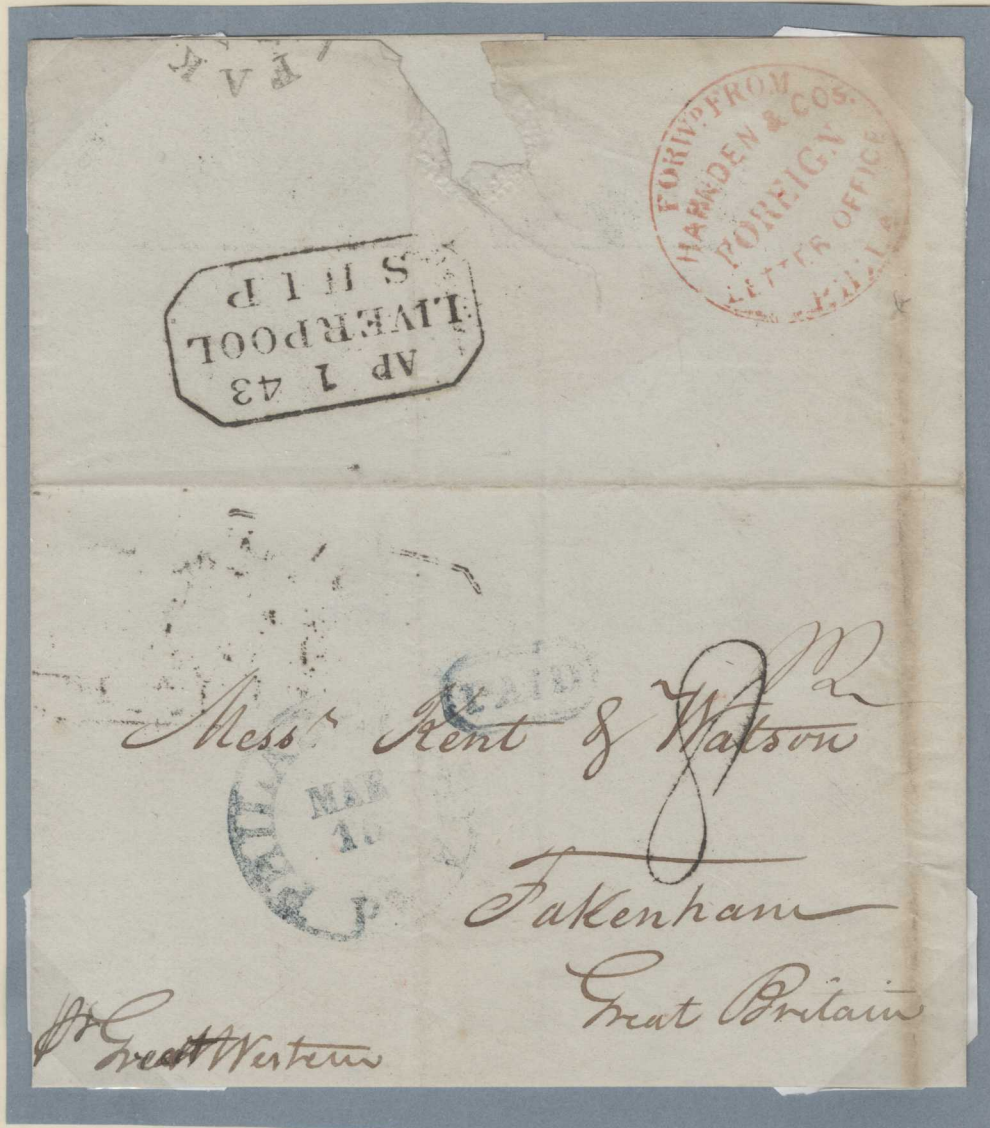


Postal Rates
Great Britain 8d
United States 6¢
Delivery at port of arrival.

Letter posted in Liverpool.
Dispatched as directed
in Bristol. Black rimless
Liverpool Ship stamp is
Robertson type S 15 in use
1838 - 1863.

Ship Information
The *Great Western*
departed Bristol
February 11, 1843
arriving New York
March 12, 1843.
Length of voyage 29
days 1 hour.

PHILADELPHIA TO FAKENHAM, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Philadelphia, bagged and turned over to Harnden Express Company for delivery to New York. This contract ran from February 22, 1842 to January 31, 1844.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York March 16, 1843 arriving Liverpool April 1, 1843. Length of voyage 15 days 1 hour.

Postal Rates

United States	12½¢
Great Britain	8d

Marks:

1. Blue Philadelphia post and PAID marks lower left.
2. Harnden Express Co. red stamp upper right corner.
3. Black octagonal Liverpool receiving stamp Robertson type S 15 in use 1838 - 1863.

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

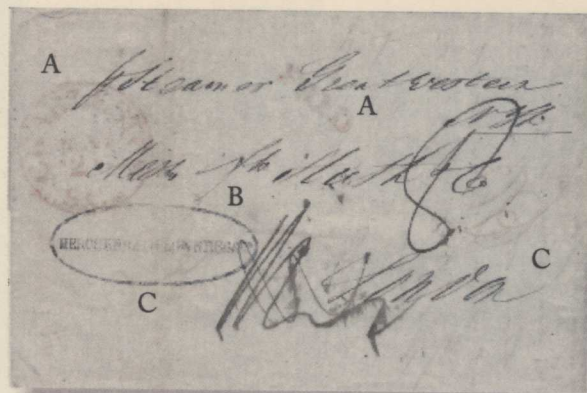
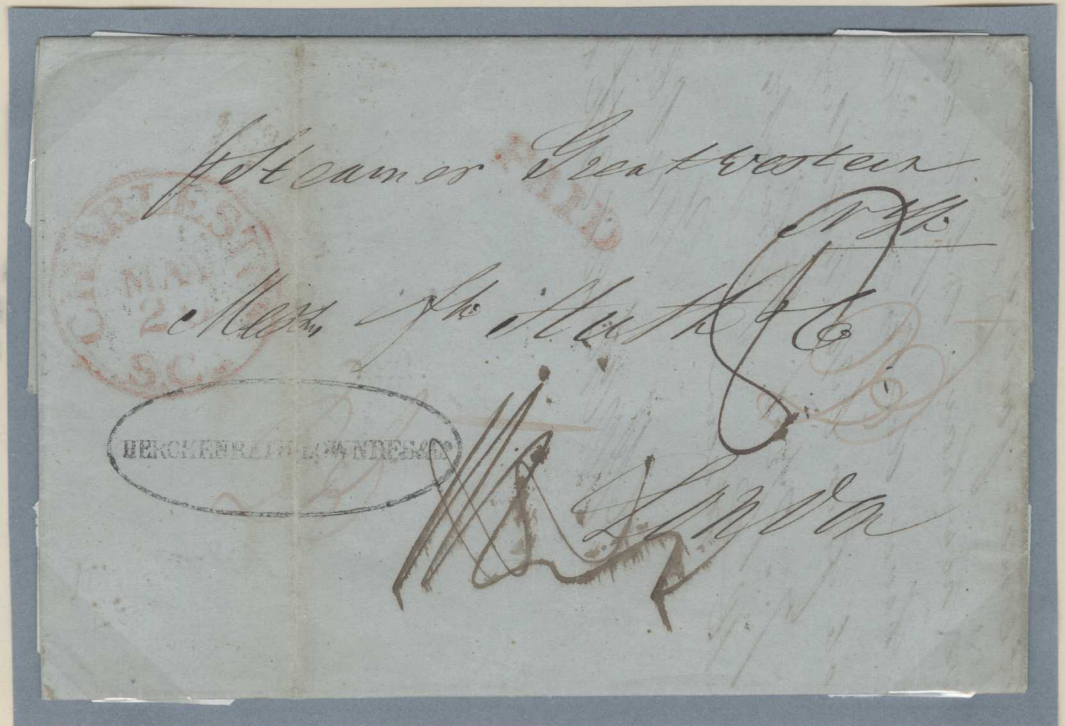
Letter posted in Charleston SC. postage noted in upper right and freight money noted in lower left. **This is normal for this city.**

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York May 25, 1843 arriving Liverpool June 8, 1843. Length of voyage 13 days 8 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	50¢
25¢ + 25¢ = 50¢	
Great Britain	8d



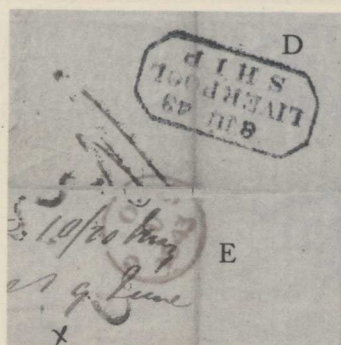
Marks:

Front:

- A Red single circle 30 mm Charleston post stamp and red PAID 4 x 20 mm.
- B Black oval 47 mm writer's stamp.
- C Red manuscript postage and freight money.

Back:

- D Black octagonal Liverpool Ship stamp Robertson type S 16 in use 1841 - 1855.
- E Red single circle London receiving stamp.



NEW YORK TO CAMBERWELL, ENGLAND
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

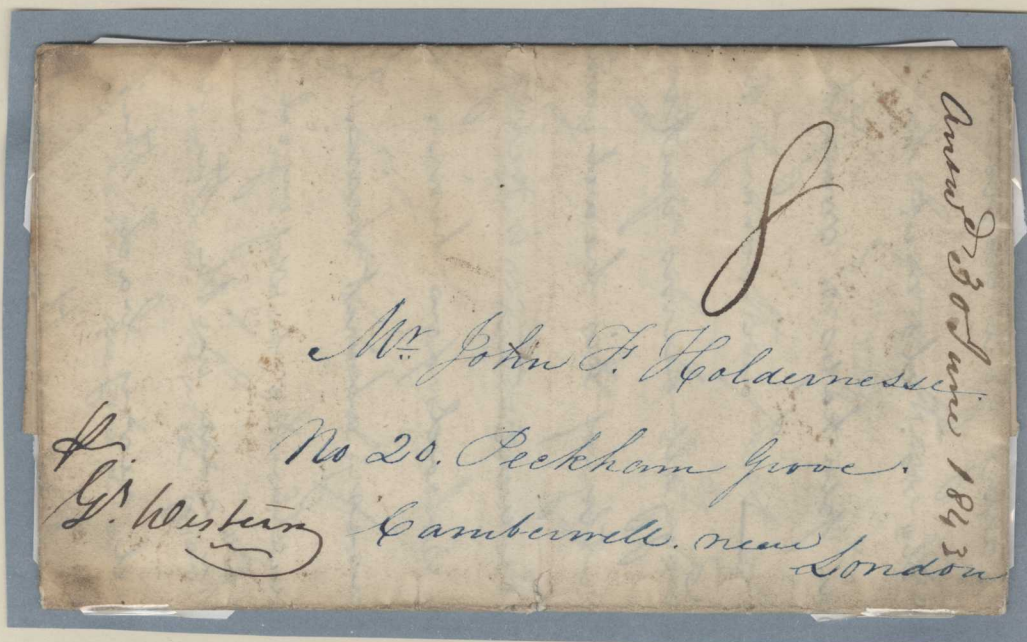
Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
May 25, 1843 arriving
Liverpool June 8, 1843.
Length of voyage 13 days
8 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Two Penny Post collected at
delivery.



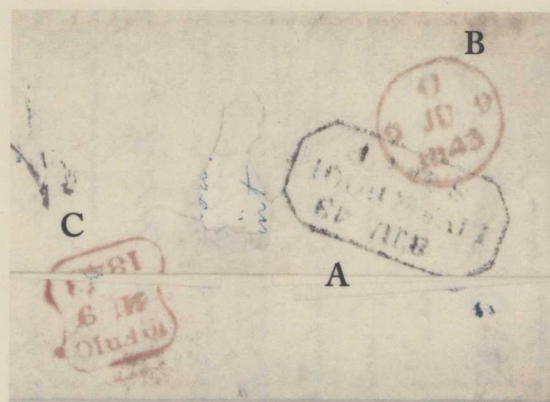
Letter privately carried to ship's agent in New York.
Dispatched as directed.

Marks Back:

A Black octagonal Liverpool ship letter
stamp Robertson type S16 in use 1841 -
1855.

B Red single circle London receiving
stamp.

C Red stamp Two Penny Post
processing stamp Willicocks & Jay type
459d in use 1838 - 1843 (Late use).



LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



Letter posted in Liverpool. Black rimless circle Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 15, letters 4mm, in use 1838 - 1863. Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Liverpool June 17, 1843 arriving New York June 1, 1843. Length of voyage 13 days 16 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6c

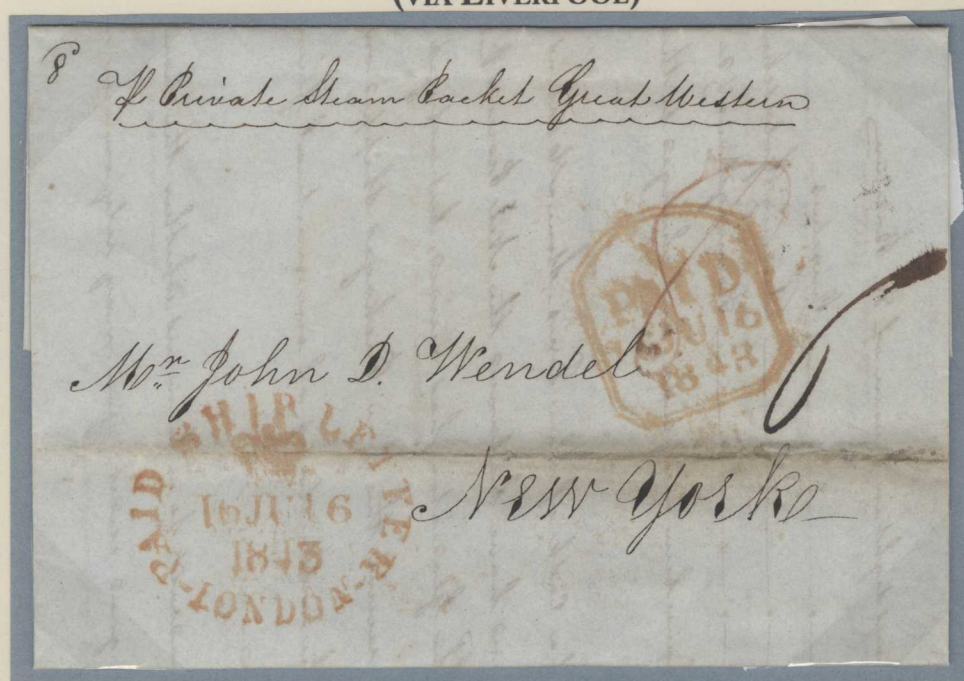
LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Liverpool June 17, 1843 arriving New York June 1, 1843. Length of voyage 13 days 16 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6c



Letter posted in London. Dispatched as directed. Red rimless oval with crown Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847 and red double tomb stone PAID were applied when posted.

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



Postal Rates

United States 0

Great Britain 0

No notation of ship letter or transfer fee noted.

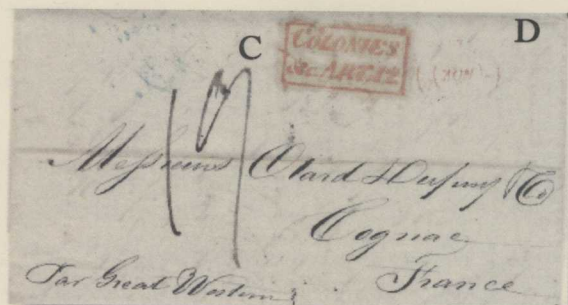
France 19 dec

Inland to Cognac. No debit to England noted.

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

<i>Great</i>	<i>Western</i>
departed	New York
October 19,	1843
arriving	Liverpool
November 1,	1843.
Length of voyage 12 days 17 hours.	



Marks:

A Black octagonal Liverpool Ship stamp Robertson type S 16 in use 1841 - 1855.

B Red (faint) single circle receiving stamp.

C Red rectangle 'Colonies / & Art 12' stamp indicating how the letter will be rated in France.

D Red double circle Calais transfer stamp.

E Blue double circle Paris transfer stamp.

F Black double circle Cognac receiving stamp.

This year's schedule is off to a late start and will only have three voyages. The cause, winter over haul and an unsuccessful attempt to sell the *Great Western* to the P & O Line.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Postal Rates
Great Britain 8d
T W January 10, 1840
United States 6¢

Letter posted and fees paid at the Lombard Street Office. Letter processed at London General Office and dispatched as directed

Ship Information

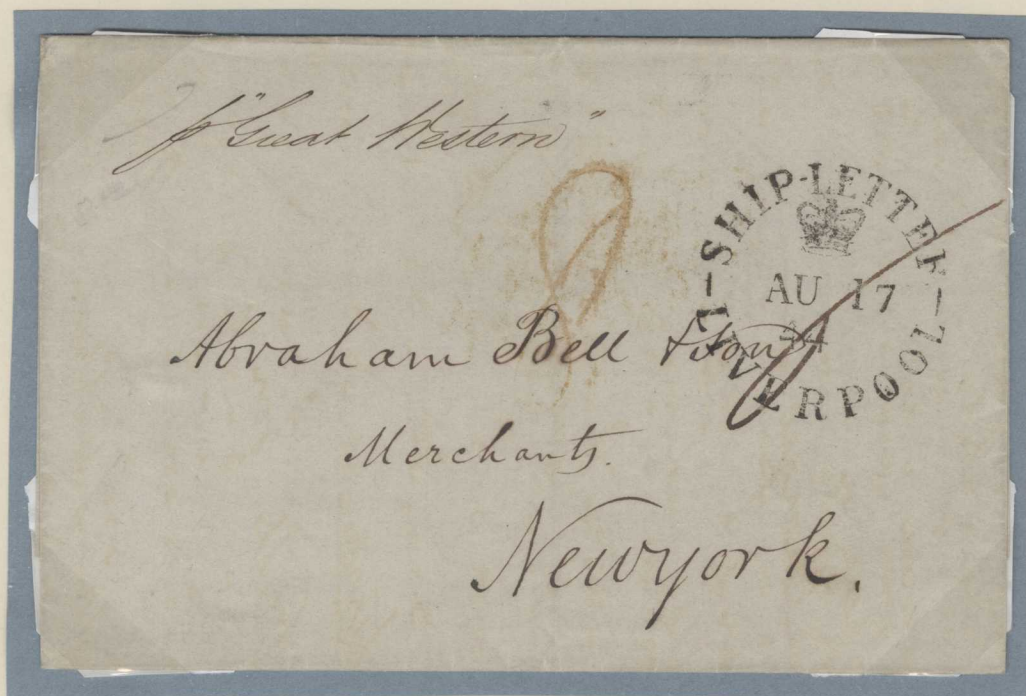
The *Great Western* departed Liverpool June 22, 1844 arriving New York July 7, 1844. Length of voyage 14 days 20 hours.



Marks:

A Fed maltese cross stamp applied by Lombard Street Station.
B Red rimless oval London Ship Letter with Crown Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



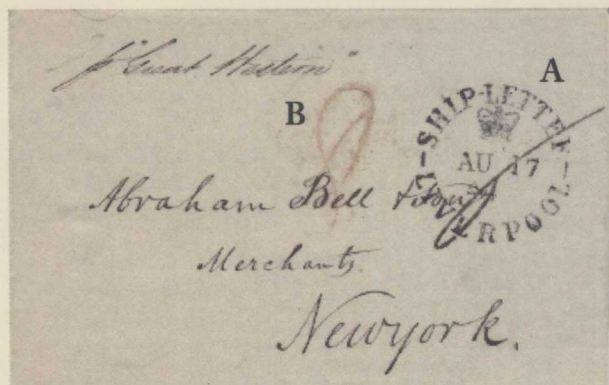
Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d
United States 6¢

Letter posted and dispatched
as directed. Black rimless
circle 'Liverpool Ship-Letter'
stamp is Robertson type S 15.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
August 17, 1844
arriving New York
August 31, 1844.
Length of voyage 14
days 5 hours.



Marks:

A Black rimless circle Liverpool ship
Letter with Crown Robertson type S 15.

B Red '8' hand stamp Robertson type M
65 applied with processed at Liverpool.

CINCINNATI, OH TO YORK, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York September 14, 1844 arriving Liverpool September 29, 1844. Length of voyage 15 days 8 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as directed.



Marks:

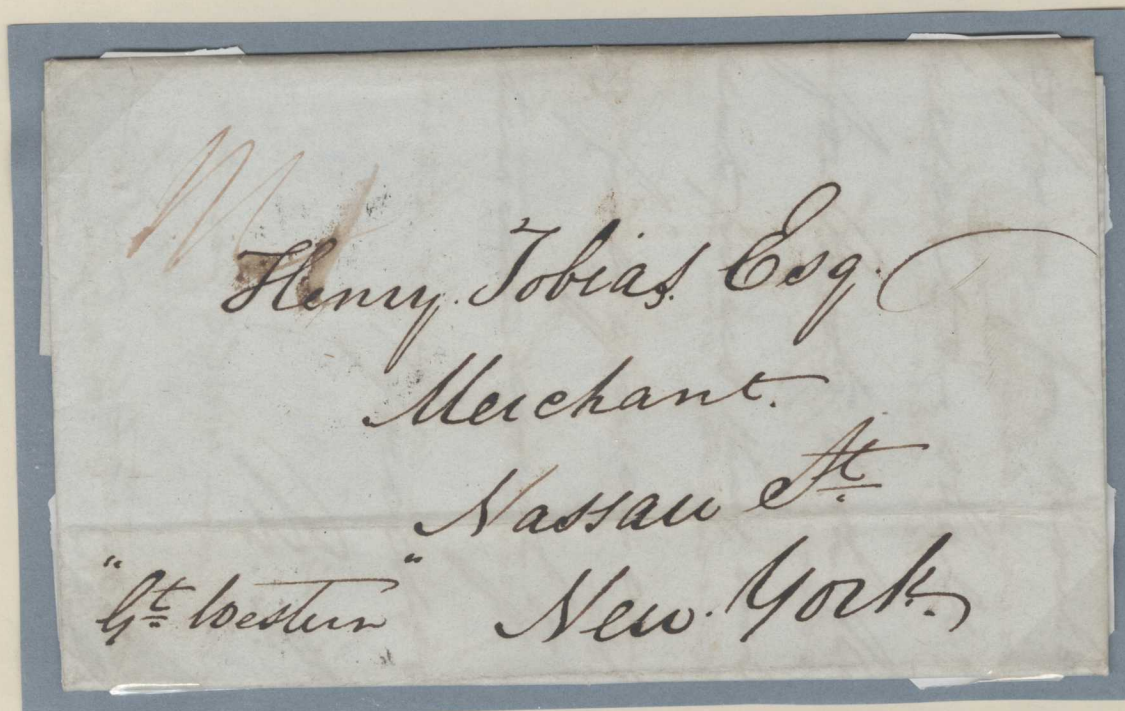
A Black octagonal 'Liverpool Ship' stamp Robertson type S16 in use 1841 - 1855.

B Blue half circle is York receiving stamp.

Performance in 1844 was due to attempted sale and late sailing start. Only three voyages were made but passenger loads were close to previous years with 102 passengers on westerly voyages and 92 passengers on easterly voyages. Profits of 5,824 pounds 0 shillings 10 pence were realized.

1845 would be an active year with 5 voyages scheduled.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/4d

2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d

United States 6¢

Delivery at port of arrival.

Double letter posted paid in
Liverpool. Dispatched as
directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
March 29, 1845
arriving New York
April 16, 1845.
Length of voyage 17
days 18 hours.



Mark on back, black rimless circle
Ship Letter with crown Robertson
type S 15 in use 1838 - 1863.

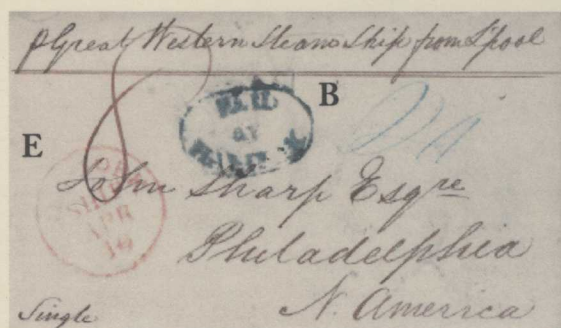
HALIFAX, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Postal Rates		Letter posted in Halifax.	
Great Britain	8d	Liverpool	dispatched as
United States	20¾¢	directed.	
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢			
Inland postage plus			
Captain's fee.			

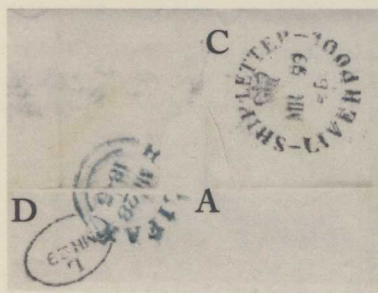
Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
March 29, 1845
arriving New York
April 16, 1845.
Length of voyage 17
days 18 hours.



Marks:

- A Blue double ½ circle 30 mm Halifax post stamp.
- B Blue oval 'PAID' applied at Halifax Willicocks & Jay type 1200 in use 1835-1844. (Late use)
- C Black rimless circle Liverpool Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 15.
- D Black oval (25 x 11.5 mm) Liverpool lozenge, without code letter.
- E Red single circle New York SHIP receiving stamp.



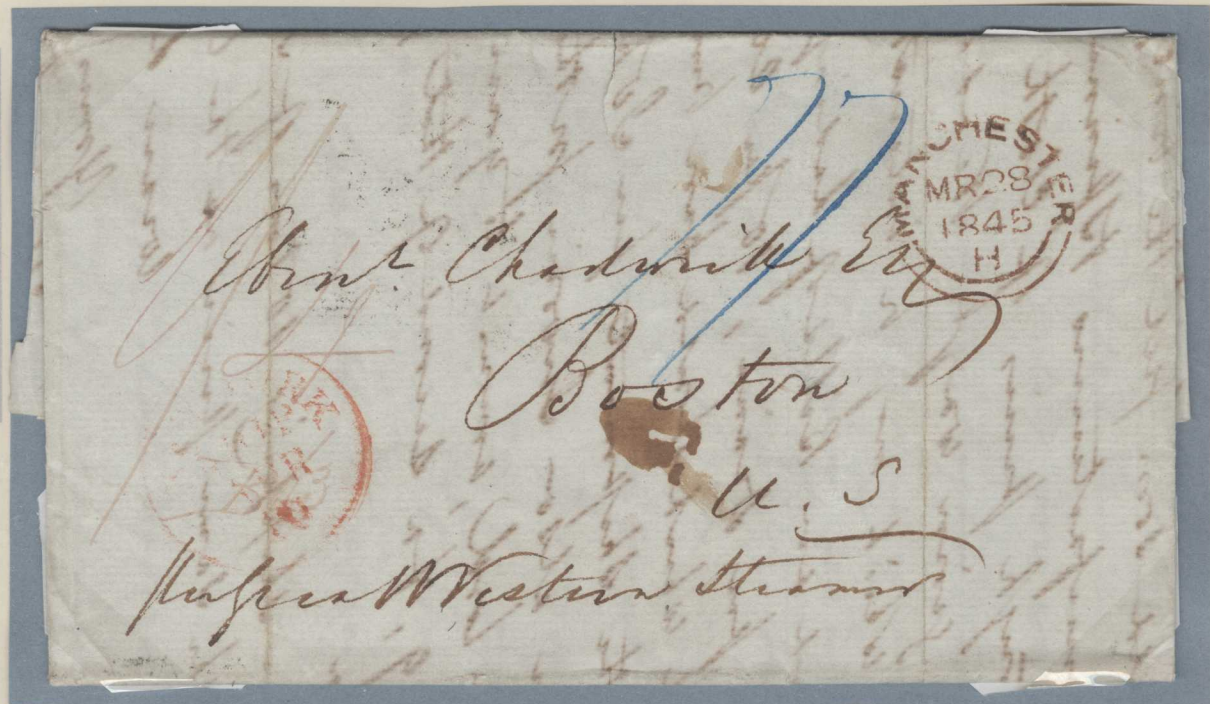
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND TO BOSTON
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
March 29, 1845
arriving New York
April 16, 1845.
Length of voyage 17
days 18 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/4d
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d
United States 77¢
(4 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 77¢



Letter rated as a double letter in England. When
arrived in United States rated as a quadruple letter.



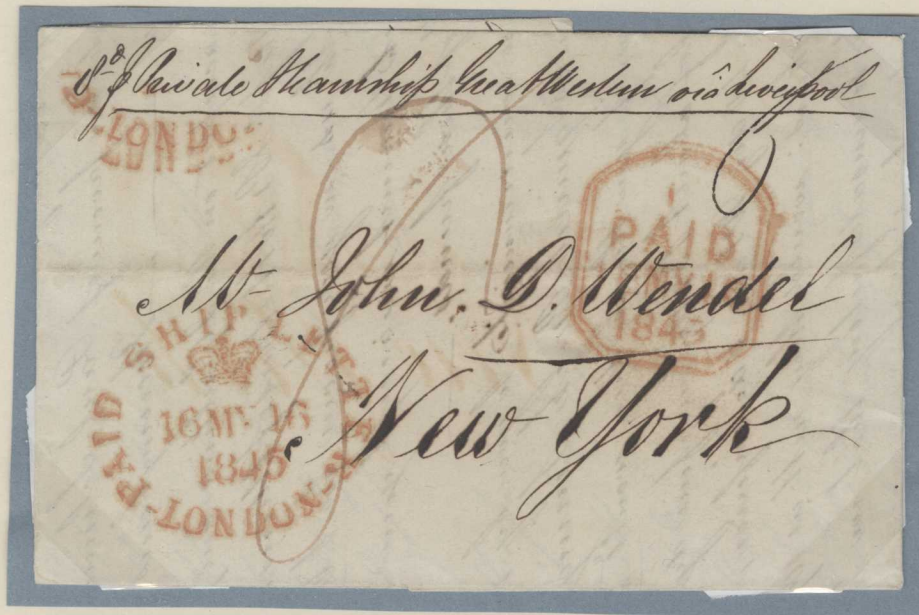
Marks:

- A Red half double circle stamp Manchester post stamp.
- B Black rimless circle Ship Letter stamp is Liverpool Robertson type S15.
- C Black oval Liverpool Lozenge is Robertson type M26 in use 1844 - 1848.
- D Red single circle stamp is New York receiving stamp.

Note: **Item C in this mark has a code letter (faint).**
In the previous page the same mark did not have a code letter. Poor inking or wear? Or was multiple stamps in use and one operator forgot to put the code letter in?



LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



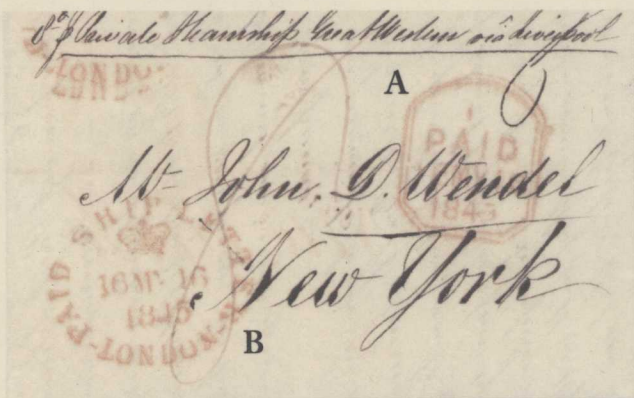
Postal Rates
Great Britain
United States

8d
6¢

Letter posted to Liverpool to
be dispatched as endorsed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed
Liverpool May 17, 1845
arriving New York June 1,
1845. Length of voyage 14
days 18 hours.



Marks:

A Red double tombstone PAID
applied at London.

B Red rimless oval London Paid
Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S
51 in use 1838 - 1844.

NEW YORK TO RUE ST ANNE, FRANCE
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York June 12, 1845 arriving Liverpool June 27, 1845. Length of voyage 14 days 22 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	10d
France	18 dec

10 dec debited to Great Britain, 8 dec inland postage.



Marks:

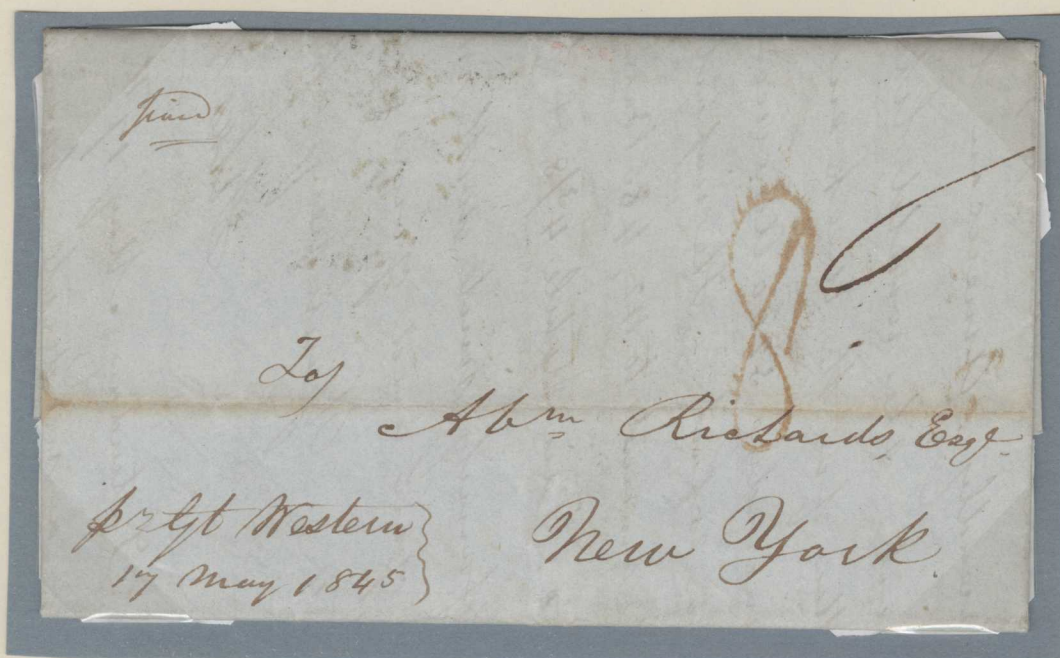
A Octagonal black Liverpool Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S16 in use 1841 - 1855.

B Red single circle London transfer stamp.

C Red box "Colonies &c ART.12" applied in London to indicate how letter will be rated.

D Red double circle Rue St. Anne receiving stamp.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



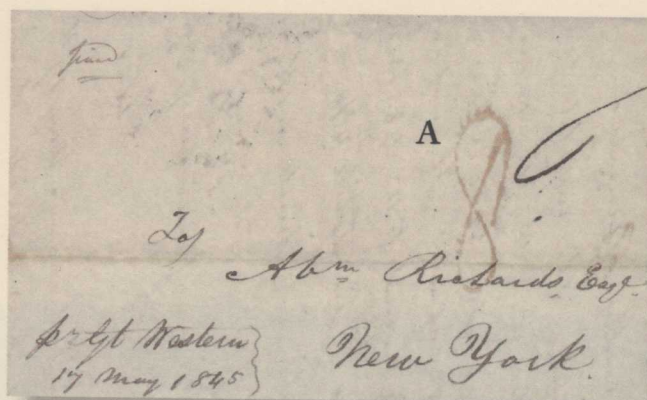
Letter posted in Liverpool to steamer *Great Western* as directed.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Liverpool May 17, 1845 arriving New York June 1, 1845. Length of voyage 14 days 18 hours.

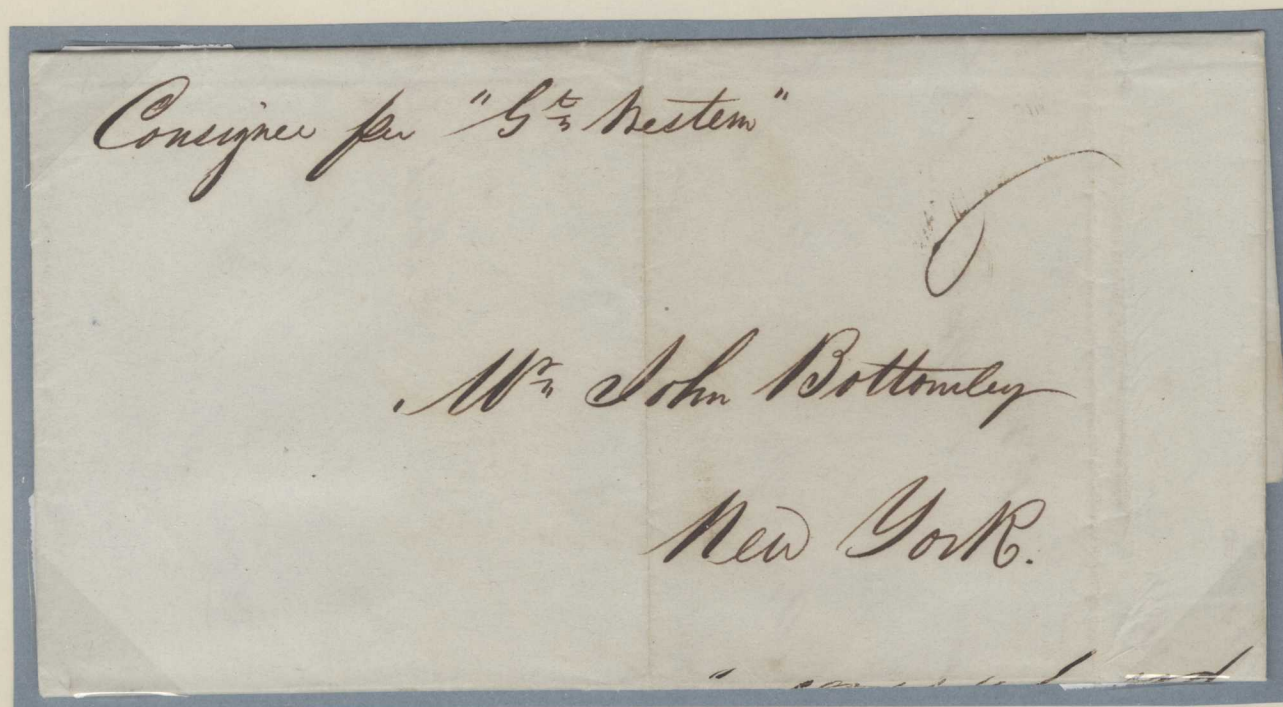


Marks:

A Red '8' stamp applied at Liverpool Robertson type M65, characterized by the red line down the right side.

B Black rimless circle Ship Letter stamp with crown Robertson typs S 15.

LIVERPOOOL TO NEW YORK



Consignee Letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool
This letter must be validated and accompany the listed
cargo. Postage is required at destination. The cargo
consigned consisted of ten cases of merchandise.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	6¢

Ship Information

The Great Western
departed Liverpool
August 23, 1845
arriving New York
September 9, 1845.
Length of voyage 17
days 5 hours.

HAVRE, FRANCE TO NEW YORK
(VIA SOUTHAMPTON, LONDON AND LIVERPOOL)

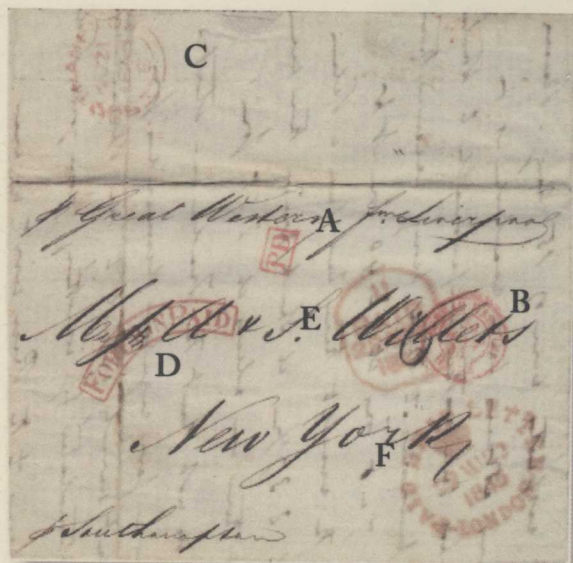
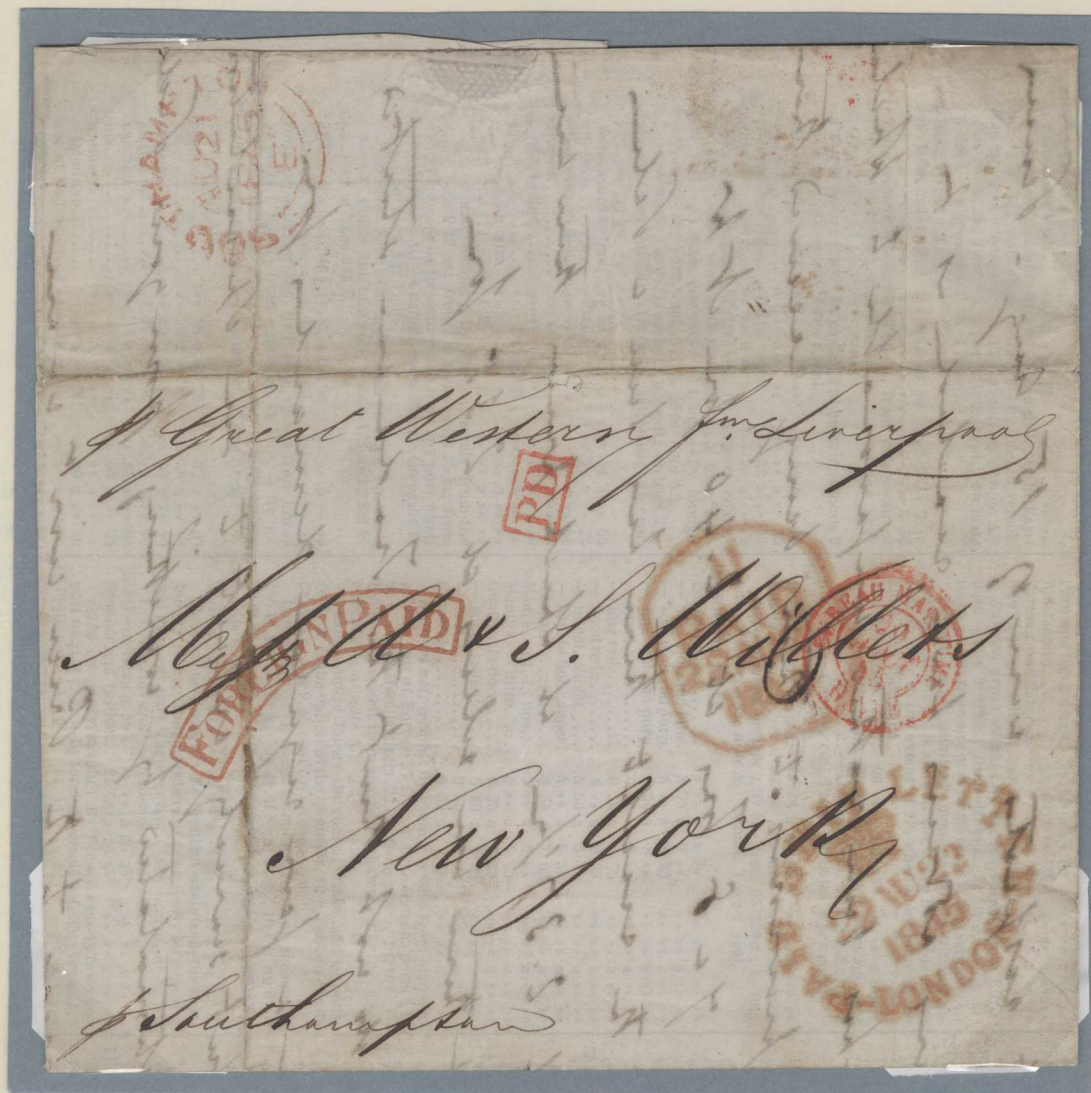
Letter posted paid in Havre. Crossed channel on Havre to Southampton ferry, proceeded to London. Dispatched as directed

Ship Information

The Great Western departed Liverpool August 23, 1845 arriving New York September 9, 1845. Length of voyage 17 days 5 hours.

Postal Rates

France	12 dec
Debit 5 dec to Great Britain, 7 dec postage and ferry fee.	
Great Britain	5d
Transfer fee.	
United States	6¢



Marks:

- A Red box "PD" applied at Havre indicating paid to destination.
- B Red double circle Havre transfer stamp.
- C Red half circle Southampton transfer stamp.
- D Red arch "FOREIGN PAID" applied at Southampton indicating letter paid.
- E Red tombstone "PAID" applied in London.
- F Red rimless oval Ship Letter stamp is Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 -- 1847.

Messieurs Meunier & fils

Rheims.

Marne.

950

COLONIES
RE-ARTIS

BOUL

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

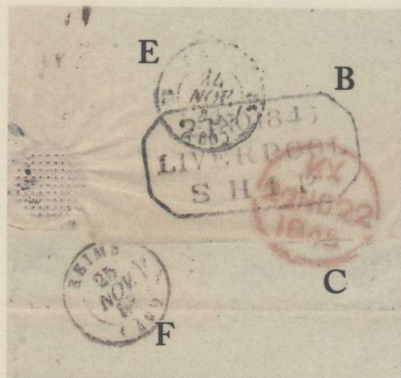
The *Great Western* departed New York November 6, 1845 and arrived Liverpool 21, 1845. Length of voyage 14 days 1 hour.

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
To be collected in France.	
France	16 dec
8 dec debited to Great Britain, 8dec inland postage.	



A Red boxed Colonies stamp applied in London indicating how letter would be rated in France.

D Black double circle Calais transfer stamp.



B Black octagonal Liverpool Ship
Robertson type S 16 in use 1841 - 1855.

C Red single circle London receiving stamp indicating AM processing.

E Black double circle Paris transfer stamp.

F Black doubled circle Rheims receiving stamp.

GREAT WESTERN - 1846

Voyage Forty One
Double Letter

Voyages of 1845 saw an increase in passengers westerly to an average of 112, and a decrease in average number of passengers on easterly voyages to 81. Profits for the year of 12,431 pounds 19 shillings 9 pence were the best of five years of service on the North Atlantic.

1846 scheduled five voyages which would prove to be equal to those of 1845.

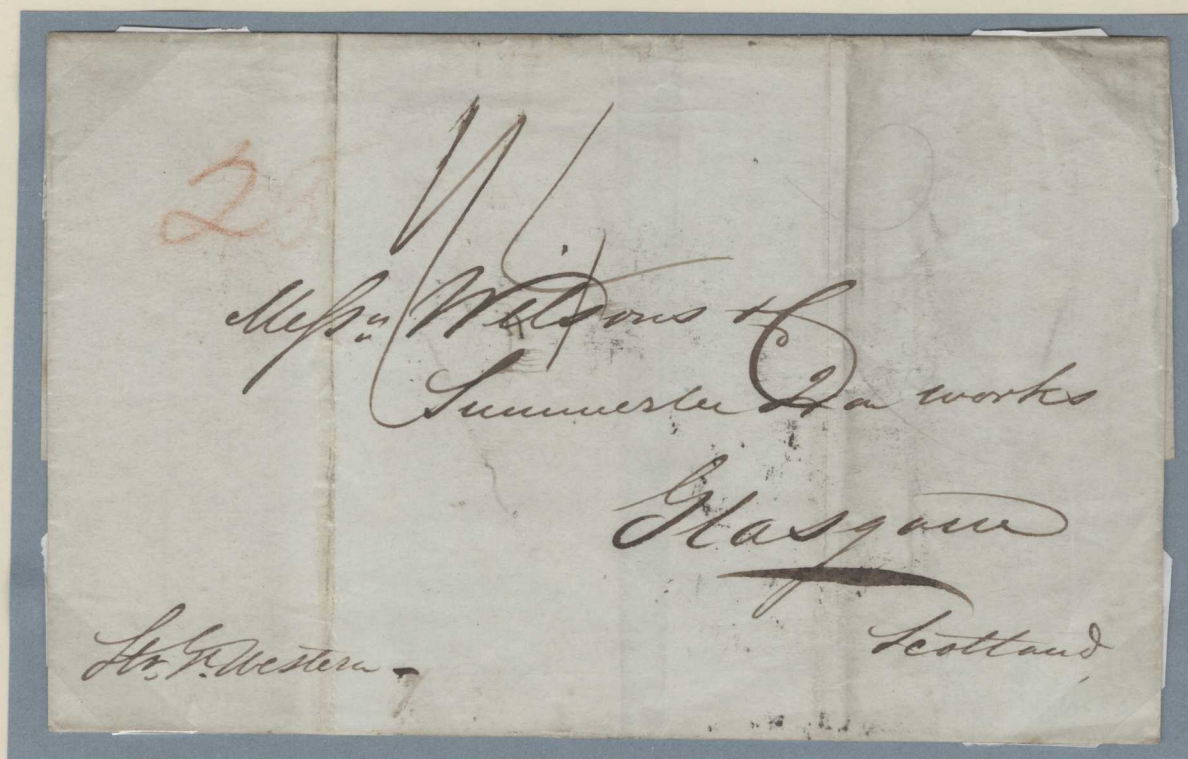
NEW YORK TO GLASGOW, SCOTLAND (VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

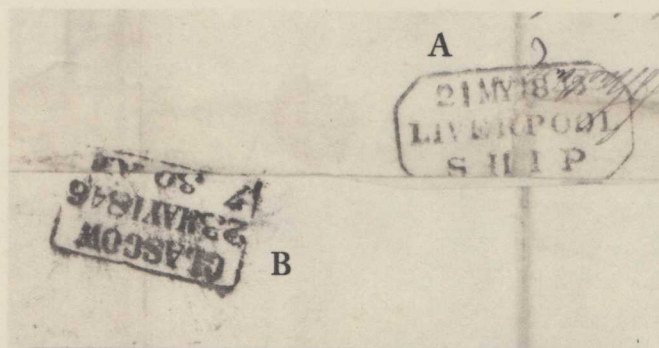
Great Western
departed New
York May 7, 1846
arriving Liverpool
May 21, 1846.
Length of voyage
13 days 18 hours.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/4d
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as endorsed.



Marks:

A Black octagonal Liverpool Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 16 in use 1841 - 1855.

B Black rectangle Glasgow date stamp Mackay type 225B.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW ORLEANS
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Liverpool May 30, 1846 arriving New York June 15, 1846. Length of voyage 16 days 0 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	2/8d
4 x 8d = 32d or 2/8d	
United States	32¢
(3 x 10¢) + 2¢ = 32¢	
Inland postage plus Captain's fee.	

Letter posted in Liverpool. It weighted between 1 and 1.5 oz, therefor quadruple letter in Great Britain and three sheets in U. S.

Marks:

Black rimless circle in upper left, Liverpool ship letter stamp Robertson type S 15 in use 1838 - 1863.

Red single circle in lower right, New York City receiving stamp 30 mm.

Red straight line "SHIP" stamp in middle, applied in New York to indicate the ship letter rate applied.

GUERNSEY, CHANNEL IS. TO NEW YORK
(VIA LONDON AND LIVERPOOL)

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d

United States 11¢

6¢ + 5¢ = 11¢

Post of entry plus
forwarding.

Letter posted for *Great western* via
Liverpool. Dispatched as directed.
Delivered in New York and then forwarded
to Esopus, N.Y.

Ship Information

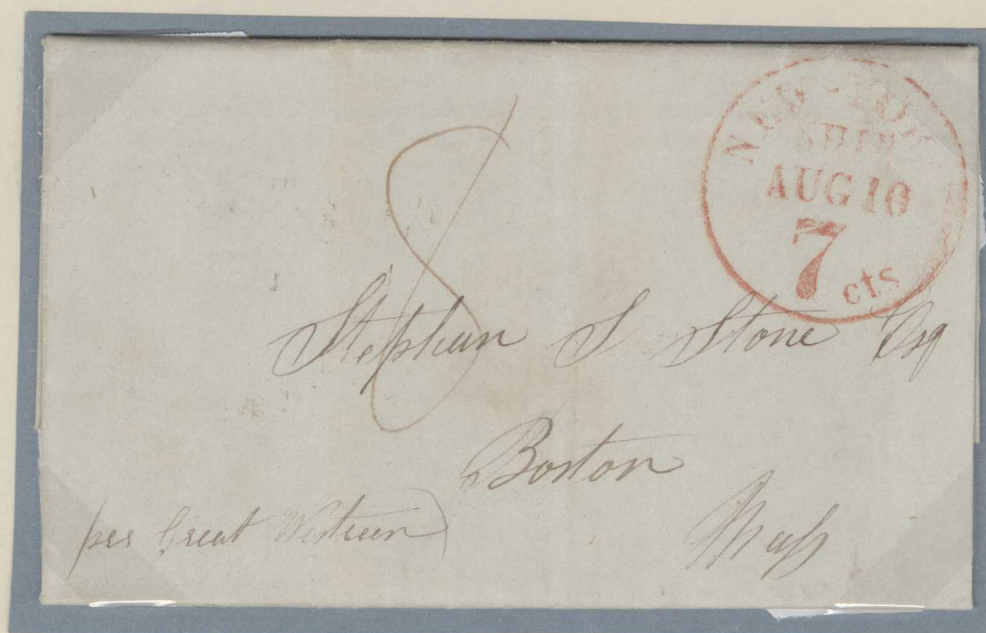
The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
May 30, 1846 arriving
New York June 15,
1846. Length of
voyage 16 days 0
hours.



Marks:

- A Black 'Guernsey' post stamp.
- B Red rimless London Paid Ship Letter with Crown Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.
- C Red single circle Paid stamp applied in Liverpool.
- D Red single circle New York receiving stamp.
- E Straight line 'FORWARDED' applies when letter forwarded in New York.

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON
(VIA NEW YORK)



Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	7¢

Per Act of March 3, 1845,
effective July 1, 1845.

Letter posted in Liverpool for
dispatch as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
July 25, 1846 arriving
New York August
10, 1846. Length of
voyage 15 days 12
hours.



Marks

Front - Red 35 mm single circle 'New York
Ship 7 cents' receiving stamp.

Back - Black rimless circle 'Ship Letter
with Crown' stamp robertson type S 15 in
use 1838 - 1863.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



Postal Rates
Great Britain 8d
United States 6¢

Letter posted in Liverpool.
Dispatched as endorsed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
September 12, 1846
arriving New York
September 30, 1846.
16 days 12 hours.

Marks:

1. Upper left, black rimless circle Liverpool Ship Letter stamp is Robertson type S15 in use 1838 - 1863.

2. Mid right, red '8' marking known from 1840 as Robertson type M65 (Tabcart). No impression books have been found with this mark, nevertheless Tabcart considers it a mark used only at Liverpool.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d
United States 6¢

Delivered at port of arrival.

Letter posted paid at Glasgow.
Liverpool dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
September 12, 1846
arriving New York
September 30, 1846.
Length of voyage 18
days 0 hours.

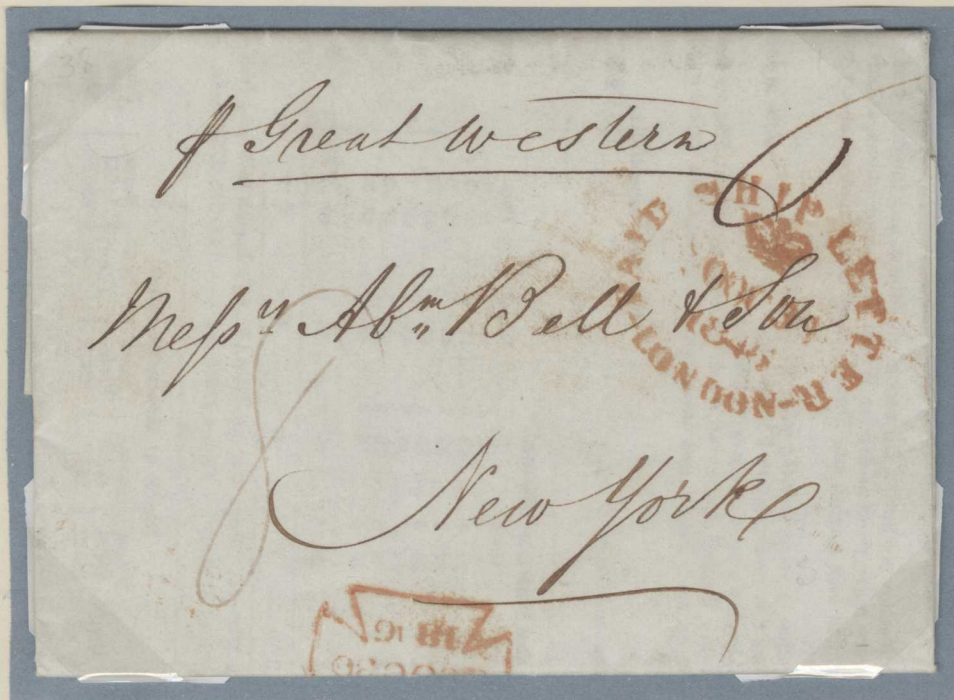
Marks:

Red rimless half circle, right edge, Glasgow
post stamp Mackay type 356B.

Black rimless circle, upper left, Liverpool
Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S 15 in
use 1838 - 1863.

Red '8' stamp Robertson type M65 used at
Liverpool.

LONDON TO NEW YORK



Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool
October 31, 1846
arriving New York
November 16, 1846.
Length of voyage 16
days 12 hours.

Postal; Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢

Letter posted in London and dispatched as directed.



Marks:

The red rimless 'London Paid Ship Letter' stamp Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.

The partial Maltese cross on the bottom can not be identified with a specific London post office.

There are no other marks on this letter.

GREAT WESTERN - CONCLUSION

Complete Voyage Forty Five
Easterly Leg

NEW YORK TO COGNAC, FRANCE
(VIA LIVERPOOL, LONDON, BOULOGNE AND PARIS)

Letter carried to ship's
agent in New York.
Dispatched as endorsed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
November 26, 1846
arriving Liverpool
December 12, 1846.
Length of voyage 16
days 0 hours.

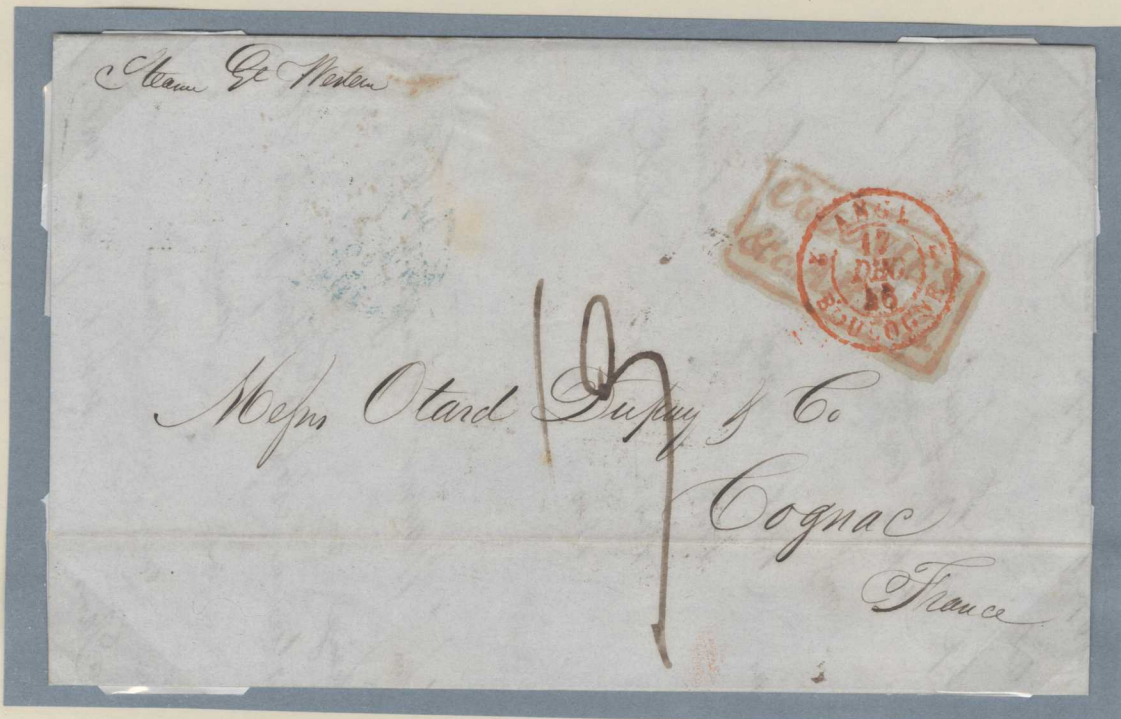
Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 8d

To be collected in France.

France 19 dec

8 dec to be debited to
Great Britain, 11 dec inland
postage.

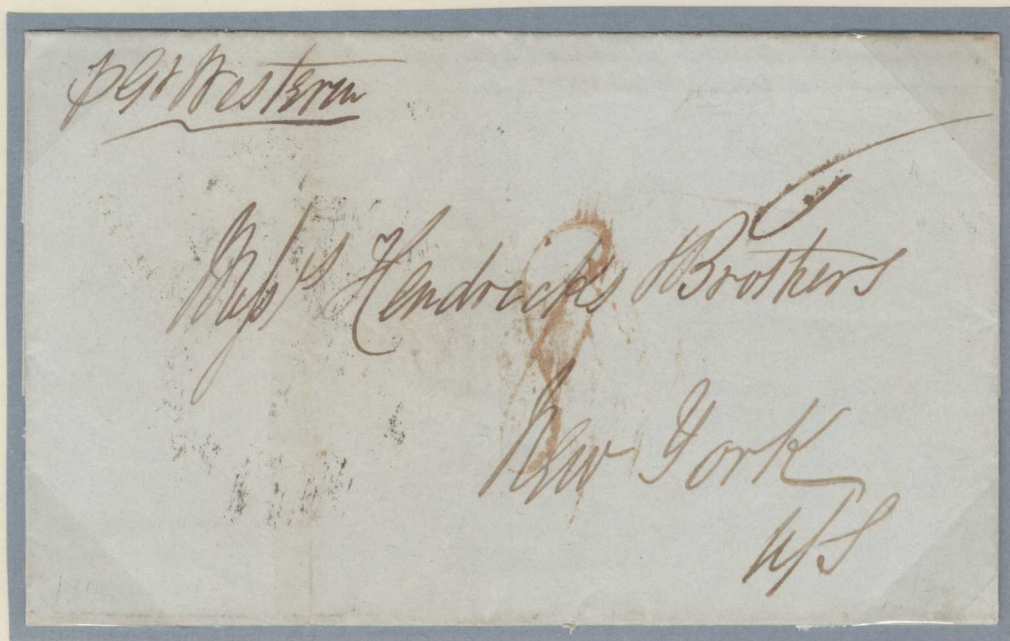


With completion of the 45th voyage on the North Atlantic The *Great Western* sailed one last time to Bristol where she was laid up waiting the decision about her fate. Numerous Steam Ship Companies were now plying the North Atlantic presenting a competition she could not meet.

During her years of service she had carried 4,318 passengers westward and about 3,357 on return voyages. She had provided the company profits in each of the eight years of her operation and definitely proved the superiority of steam power over wind.

While in Bristol it was announced on April 24, 1846 that she had been sold the West India Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for £24,750. She would provide ten years of good service here. Then in 1855 she would provide trooping services during the Crimean War. In October 1856 she along with the *Seven* were sold to ship breakers for £11,500.

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK



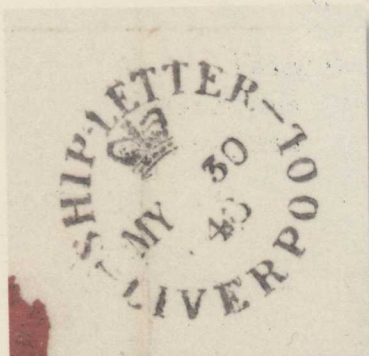
Letter posted as outbound ship letter and
dispatched as endorsed.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool May
30, 1846 arriving New
York June 15, 1846.
Length of voyage 16 days
0 hours.



Liverpool Ship Letter stamp with
crown is Robertson type S 15 in use
1838 - 1863.

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Postal Rates

United States \$1.12½¢
(3 x 25¢) + (3 x 12½¢)

Great Britain 1/4d
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d
1840 10 January TW

Letter posted paid with two inclosures. Addressee requested to forward both to China, one via Bombay and the other via Calcutta.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
August 11, 1842
arriving Liverpool
August 24, 1842.
Length of voyage 12
days 19 hours.



Marks:

A Philadelphia blue post stamp and PAID stamp.

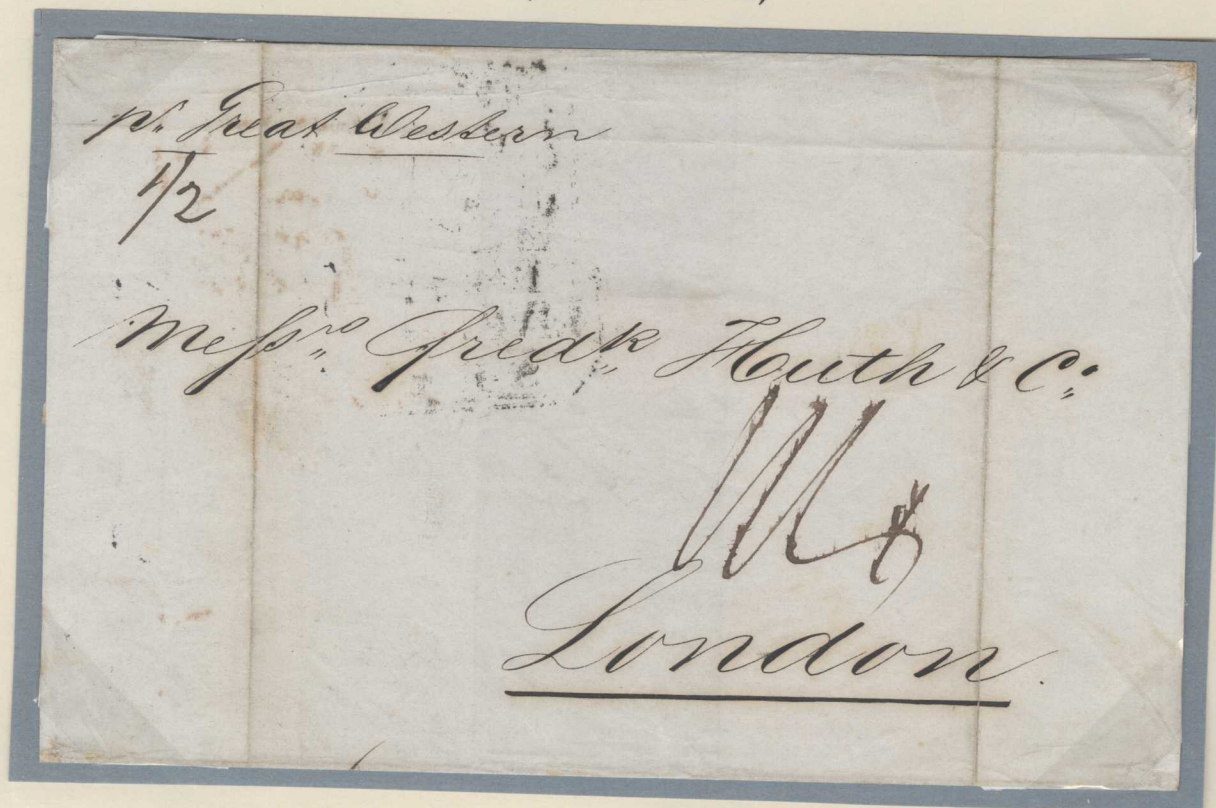
B Black octagonal Liverpool Ship Letter Robertsson type S 16 in use 1841 - 1855.

C Red single circle London receiving stamp.

GREAT WESTERN - 1842

Voyage Twenty Three
Double Letter

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



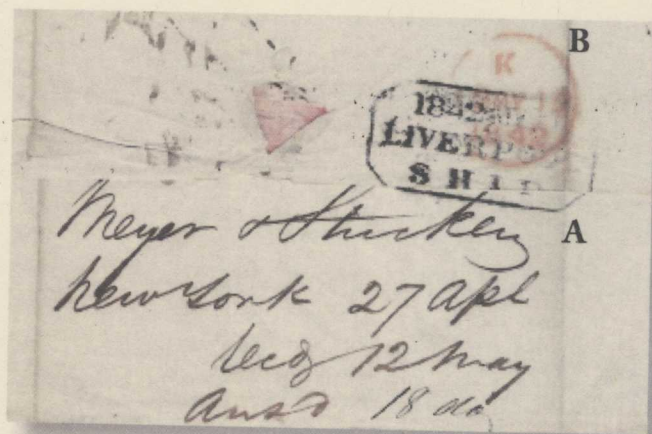
Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/4d
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4d

Letter privately carried to ship's agent in New York.
Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
April 28, 1842 arriving
Liverpool May 11,
1842. Length of
voyage 12 days 7½
hours.



Marks:

A Black octagonal Liverpool Ship
stamp Robertson type S 16 in use 1841-
1855.

B Red single circle London receiving
stamp indicating AM processing.

UPPERWILL, ENGLAND TO NEW YORK
(VIA MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted paid at a country post office in the Manchester postal system. Dispatched as endorsed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed Liverpool March 29, 1845 arriving New York April 4, 1845. Length of voyage 17 days 18 hours.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	8d
United States	6¢



Marks:

A Red Upperwill post mark
Willcocks & Jay type 15 30 mm.

B Red double half circle
Manchester transfer mark.

C Black rimless circle ship
Letter with crown Robertson type S
15 in use 1838 - 1863.

D Liverpool lozenge is not listed
as a type in Tabaert without a code
letter.

LONDON TO NEW
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

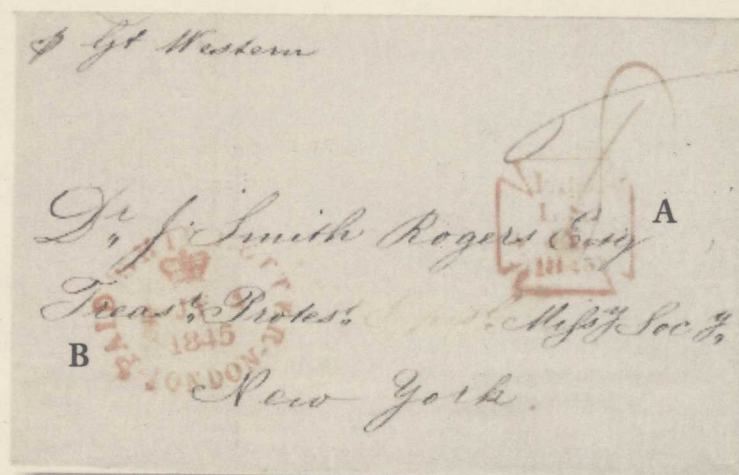


Postal Rates
Great Britain 8d
United States 6¢

Letter posted at Lombard
Street station. London
dispatched as endorsed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool July 5,
1845 arriving New York
July 21, 1845. Length of
voyage 14 days 18 hours.

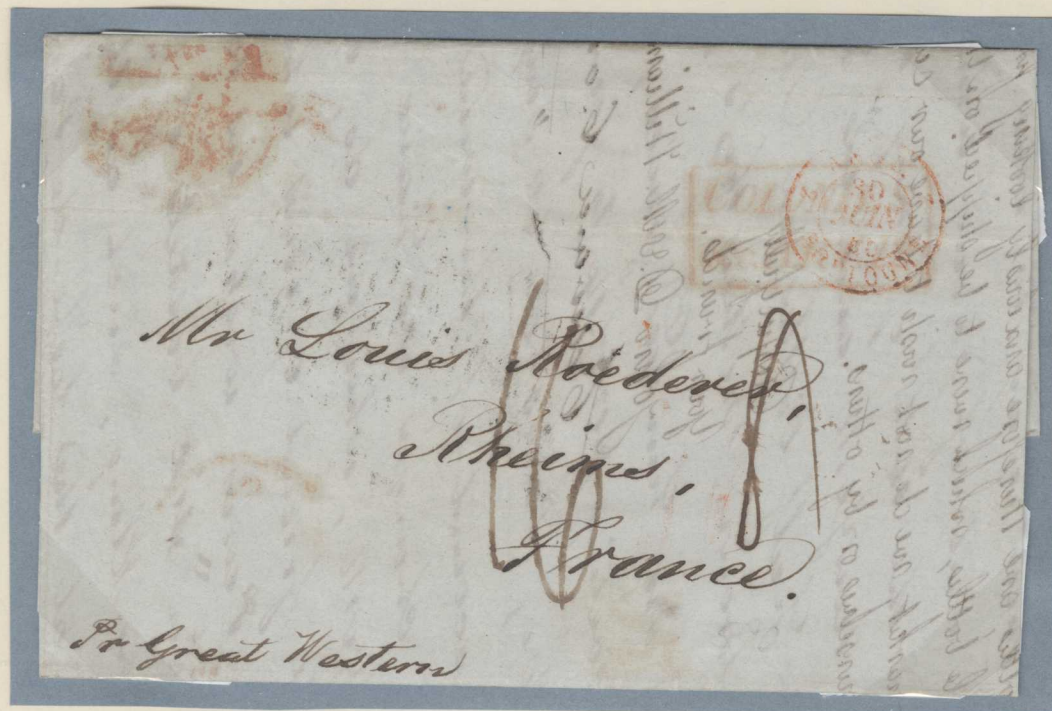


Marks:

A Red Maltese cross 'PAID' Mackay type
2329.

B Red rimless oval Paid Ship Letter with
Crown stamp Robertson type S 51 in use 1838
-1844.

BOSTON TO RHIEMS, FRANCE
(VIA NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL, LONDON, BOULOGHE AND PARIS)



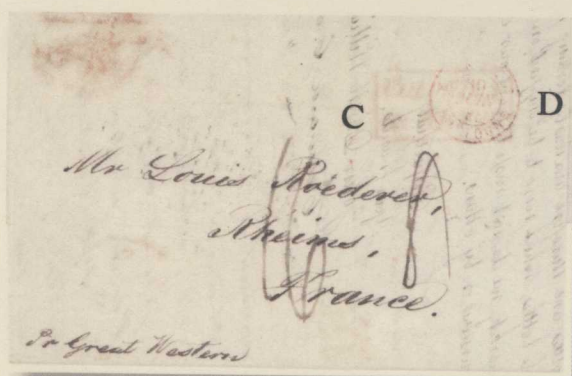
Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch as endorsed.

Ship Information

The *Great Western* departed New York June 12, 1845 arriving Liverpool June 27, 1845. Length of voyage 14 days 22 hours.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
To be collected in France.	
France	16 dec
8 dec debited to Great Britain 8 dec inland postage.	



Marks:

A Black octagonal Liverpool Ship stamp Robertson type S 16 in 1841 - 1855.

B Red Single circle London receiving stamp.

C Red (faint) box, accountancy mark indicating article relating to postal rating.

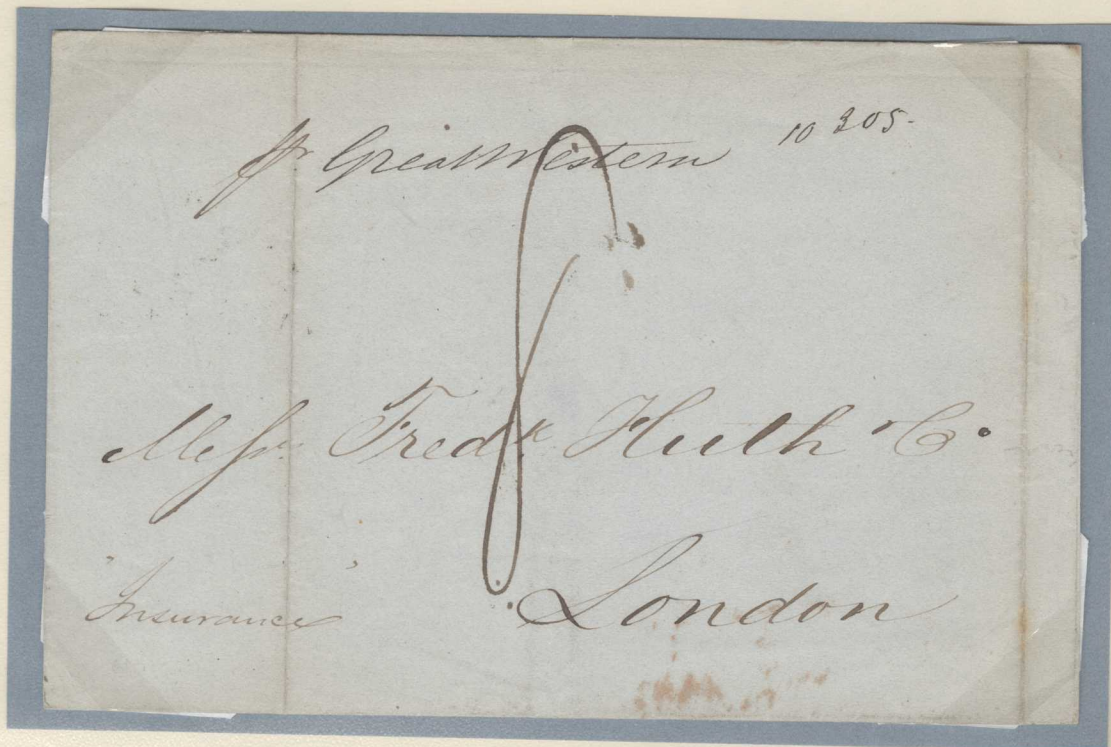
D Red double circle transfer stamp applied at Bouloghe.

E Green double circle transfer stamp applied at Paris.

F Black single circle stamp receiving stamp applied at Rheims,



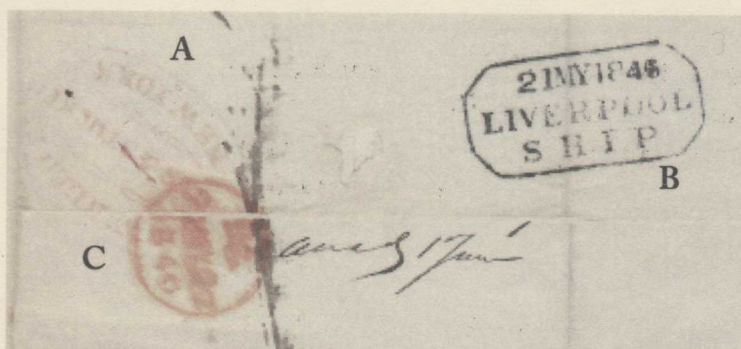
**MATANZAS, CUBA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)**



Postal Rates		Letter carried to New York forwarding agent Meyers & Stucken. Dispatched as endorsed
Cuba	0	
United States	0	
Great Britain	8d	

Ship Information

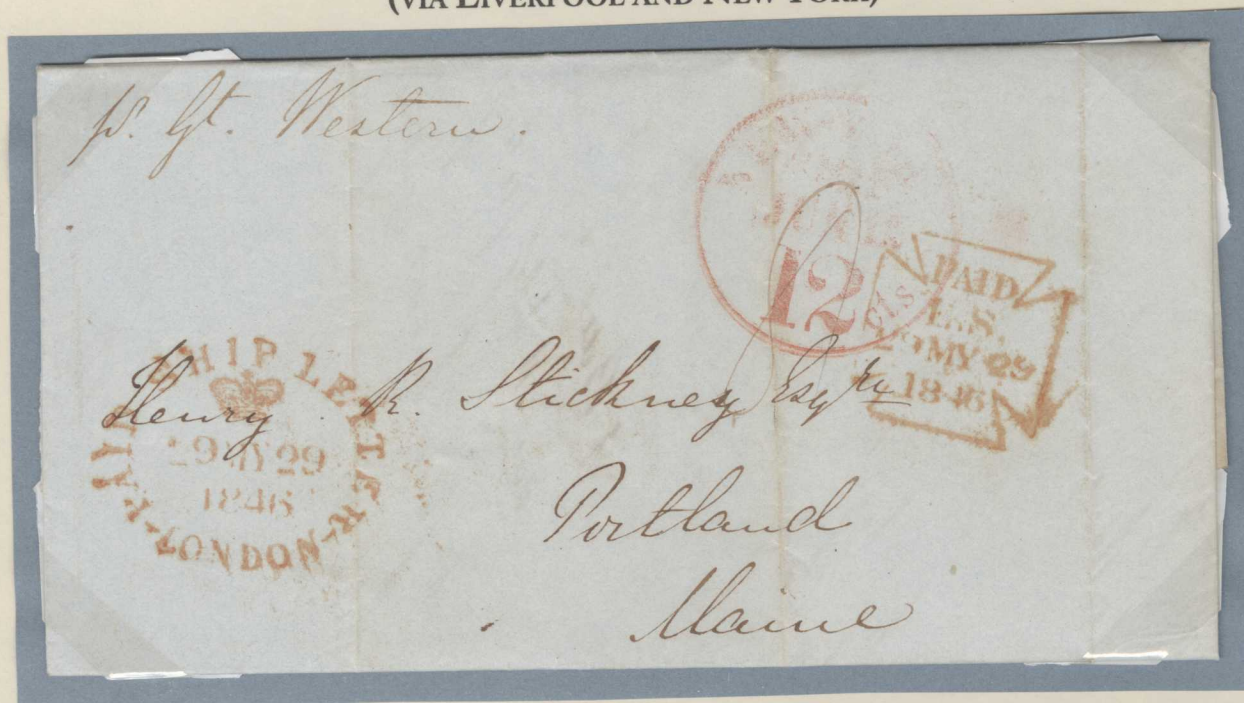
The *Great Western* departed New York May 7, 1846 arriving Liverpool May 21, 1846. Length of voyage 13 days 18 hours.



Marks:

- A Red oval Forwarding stamp Mewyer & Stucken.
- B Black octagonal Liverpool Ship stamp Robertson type S 16.
- C Red single circle London receiving stamp.

LONDON TO PORTLAND, MA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Postal Rates
Great Britain 8d
United States 12¢
(2 x 5¢) + 2¢ = 12¢
Per act of March 3, 1845,
effective July 1, 1845.

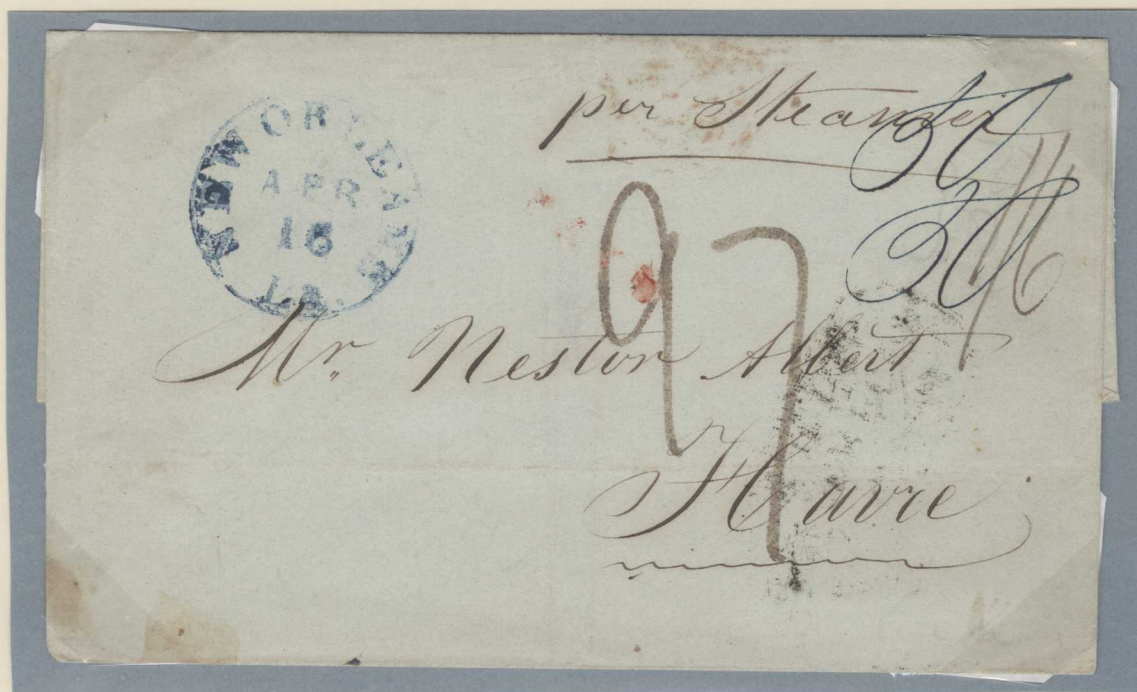
Letter posted and dispatched
as directed.

Ship Information
The *Great Western*
departed Liverpool May
30, 1846 arriving New
York June 15, 1846.
Length of voyage 16 days
0 hours.



Marks:

- A Red Maltese cross 'PAID' applied when posted.
- B Red oval rimless 'Paid Ship Letter' stamp Robertson type S 51 in use 1838 - 1847.
- C Red 34 mm 'New York Ship' 12 cent receiving stamp.

NEW ORLEANS TO HAVRE, FRANCE
(VIA NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL, LONDON AND CALAIS)

Postal Rates

United States \$1.00
(2 x 25¢) + (2 x 25¢)

Great Britain 1/6d
Transfer rate to France.

France 27 dec
16 dec debit to England,
11 dec inland postage to
Havre.

Inland postage and Freight Money paid
in New Orleans and noted in the usual
manner. New York dispatched as directed.
Letter proceeded through England to France
via the Dover ferry to Calais. Final delivery
is made via Havre.

Ship Information

The *Great Western*
departed New York
April 28, 1842 arriving
Liverpool May 11,
1842. Length of
voyage 12 days 7½
hours.



Marks:

Front - Blue 30mm New Orleans post stamp.

Back:

A Black octagonal Liverpool Ship
stamp Robertson type S 16 in use 18412 -
1855.

B Red single circle London receiving
stamp.

C Black double circle Havre receiving
stamp.

on the Steamer Great Western via Bristol

Amble
Messrs Henry & Cha^s Tobias
Merchants
158 Pearl Street
New York

GW RET LEC

LOT 11

NY-LON

BRISTOL
SHIP LETTER

Messrs Fred^k Luth & Co

London
Great Western

New York, NY to London, England 30 May 1840
Carried on GWSS's "Great Western" final voyage
before Cunard contract Ship Letter/Portsmouth &
London backstamp

EAX \$150

BRITISH GREEN

DPNY 1 JUN 1840

PER 16 JUN

2nd 40-1

Sub done

Messrs. L. Luth & Co

London
J. B. Luth & Co

1838

SFL BIRMINGHAM - NEW YORK (VIA BRISTOL)

262nd/14

Messrs. J. B. Luth & Co
158 Pearl Street
New York

Mr. Clarkson Coln
Messrs. Jones Miller & Co
Merchants &
New York

I POSTAL MARKS

1. NEW ORLEANS: BLUE 30mm POST STAMP

2.
3.
4.
*

4.
I F
U.6
G8

Great Western
Messrs. L. Luth & Co
London
J. B. Luth & Co

II POSTAL MARKS

SHIP LETTER
220C22
F 41
BRISTOL
Messrs. L. Luth & Co
New York
J. B. Luth & Co

10 m 65
BRISTOL