

COMING OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Red Star Line

The *United States* – Double Letter

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



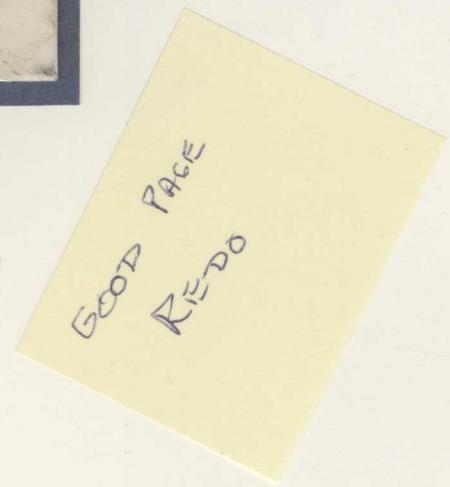
Ship Information

The *United States*
departed New York
October 16, 1839,
arrived Liverpool
November 13, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States	25¢
Great Britain	2/8
2 x 1/4 = 2/8	
Netherlands	99 Stuivers

Letter posted to the packet in New York. Docketing indicates that letter was from Herckenrath & Lowndes in Charleston. When they developed their business as listed in Rowe, they used this oval stamp as the basis for their forwarding agent stamp.



The *United States* and the *England* of the Black Ball Line provided one of the mysteries of the packet era. Both left Liverpool late November 1844 in same week. Neither was heard from again. Only after several packets arrived New York without any information did authorities declare them lost.



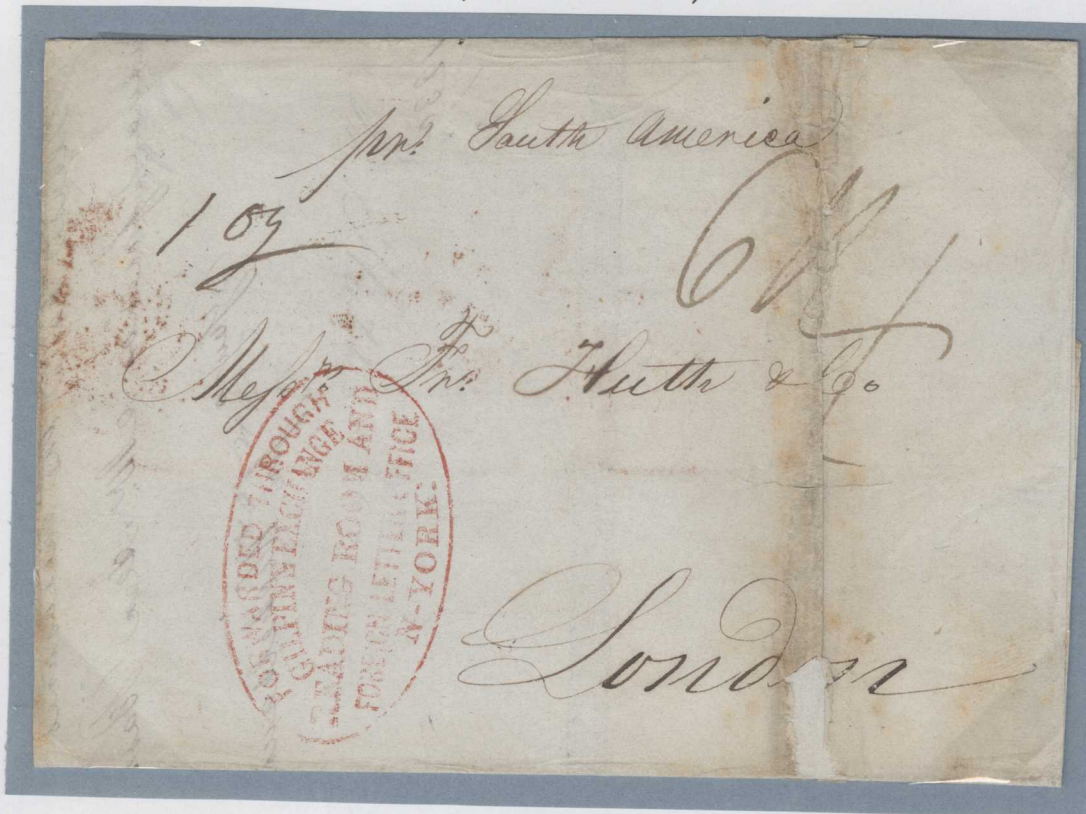
Back showing various transient markings documenting the travels of this cover. The red 'England Over Rotterdam' is Vanderlinden 1025.

**EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
BLACK BALL LINE**

*The South America
Complete Voyage
Quadruple Letter*

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

Letter privately carried to Gilpins Exchange Reading Room in New York. Dispatched as endorsed on Packet South America. Wrapper weighting 1 oz. in England rated as a quadruple letter. On back black straight line Liverpool ship letter mark Robertson type S14 and red London receiving mark.



Ship Information

South America departed New York June 19, 1839, arriving Liverpool July 9, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 6/9d
(4 X 8d) + (4 X 11d) =
76d or 6/9d.

**LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON
(VIA NEW YORK)**

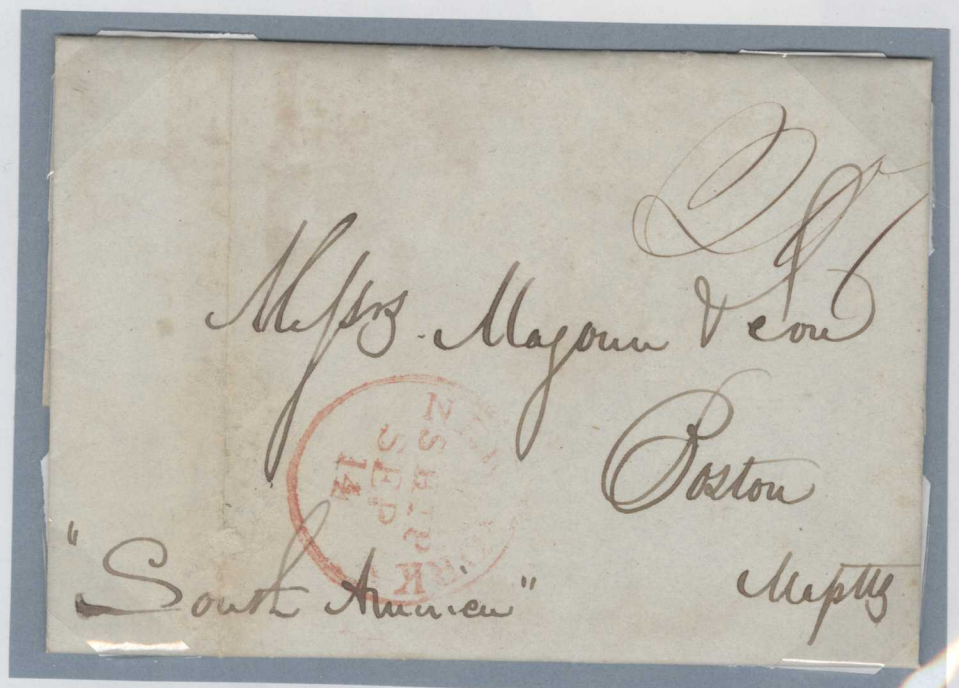
Letter privately carried to Black Ball Line ship's agent in Liverpool. Dispatched as endorsed. New York authorities rated letter and forwarded for delivery in Bodston.

Ship Information

South America departed Liverpool August 9, 1839 arriving New York September 19, 18349.

Postal Rates

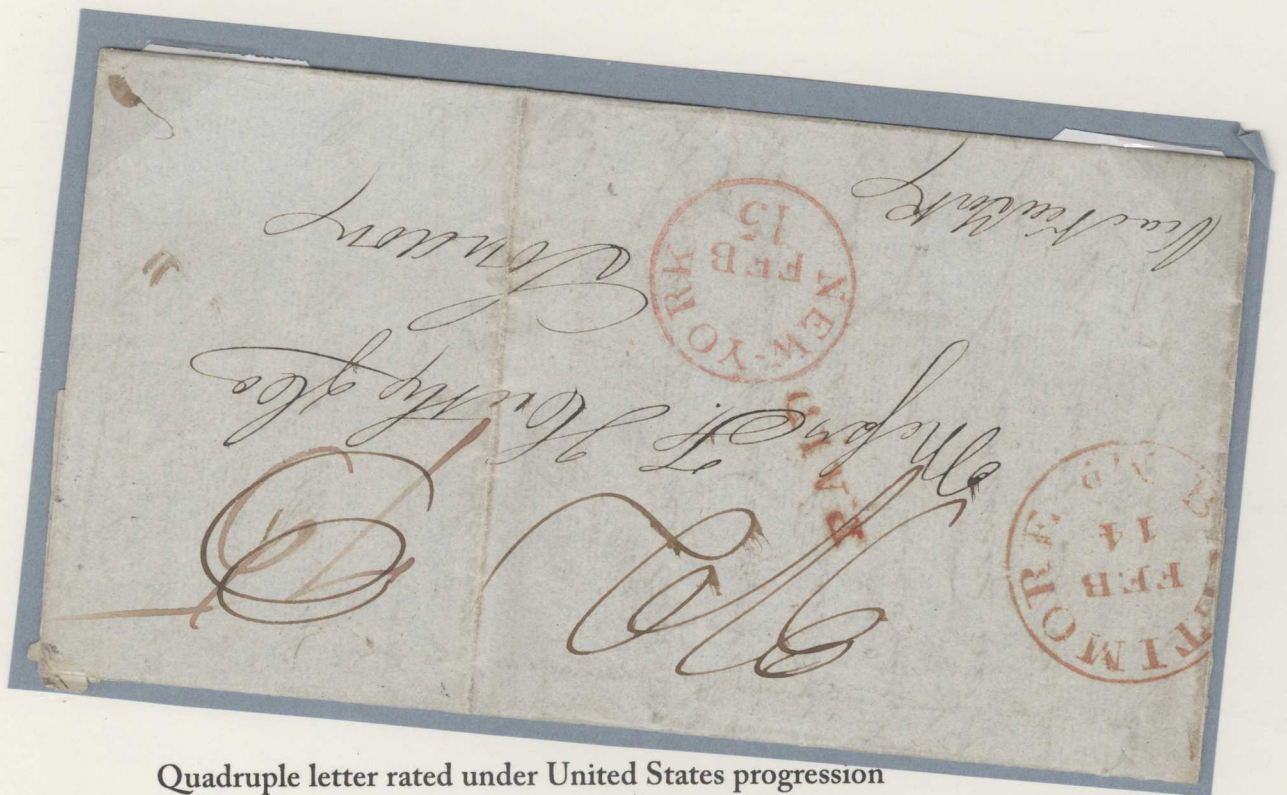
Great Britain 0
United States 20.75



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Red Swallowtail Line

The Wellington - Quadruple Letter

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND DARTMOUTH)



Quadruple letter rated under United States progression number of pages. Under Great Britain progression of ounces, it rated as a double letter.

Ship Information

The *Wellington* departed New York February 20, 1838, arrived Dartmouth March 13, 1838. Mail put ashore, continued to London by mail coach. Ship arrived March 17, 1838.

Postal Rates

United States
4 X 18¾¢ = 75¢
Great Britain
(2 X 8d) + (2 X 3d)
or 3/2

REPO
PAGE W/
3/2
COMPLETE
BACK

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK LIVERPOOL)



Double letter written March 13, 1832 and carried to Black Ball ship's agent in New York. Dispatched on next packet. Black stepped 'LIVERPOOL/SHIP LETTER' stamp is Robertson type S11.

Ship Information

The *New York II* departed New York April 20, 1840 arriving Liverpool May 14, 1840.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 2/8d
(2 x 8) + (2 x 9) = 2/8d
United States 62.5
(2 x 12.5) = (2 x 18.75) = 62.5

COMING OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Black Ball Line

The *Columbus* - Forwarded
The *Europe* - Double Freight Money

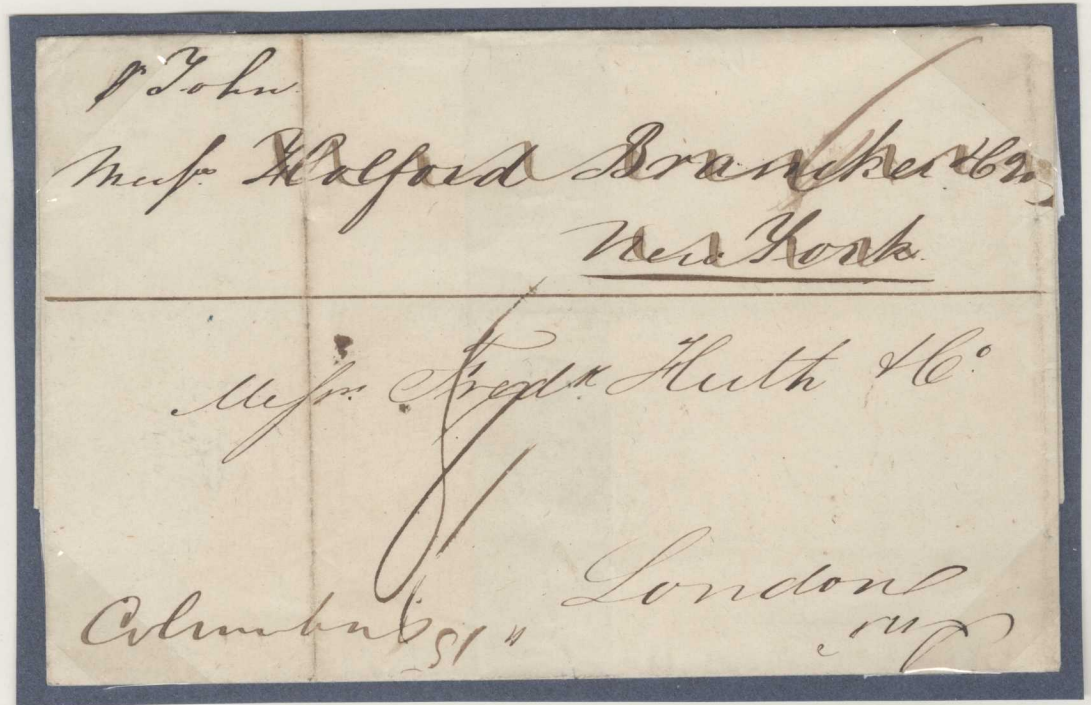
MATANZAS, CUBA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Columbus departed
New York January
20, 1840, arrived
Liverpool February
7, 1840.

Postal rates

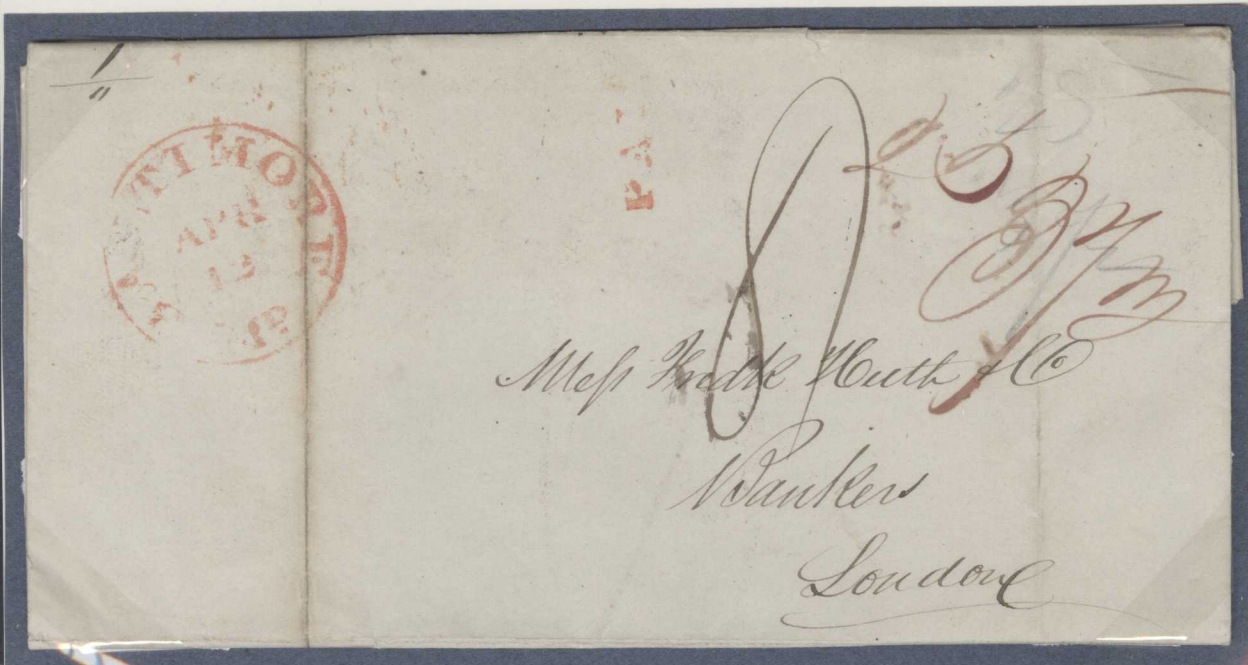
United States 6¢
Delivered at port of entry
Great Britain 8d
Treasury Warrant
January 10, 1840, "all in
one rate".



Letter carried to New York on ship *John*. Forwarded to London addressee.



BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Europe departed
New York April
13, 1840, arrived
Liverpool May
9, 1840. She was
one of the longest
serving packets,
being in the fleet
14 years.

Postal Rates

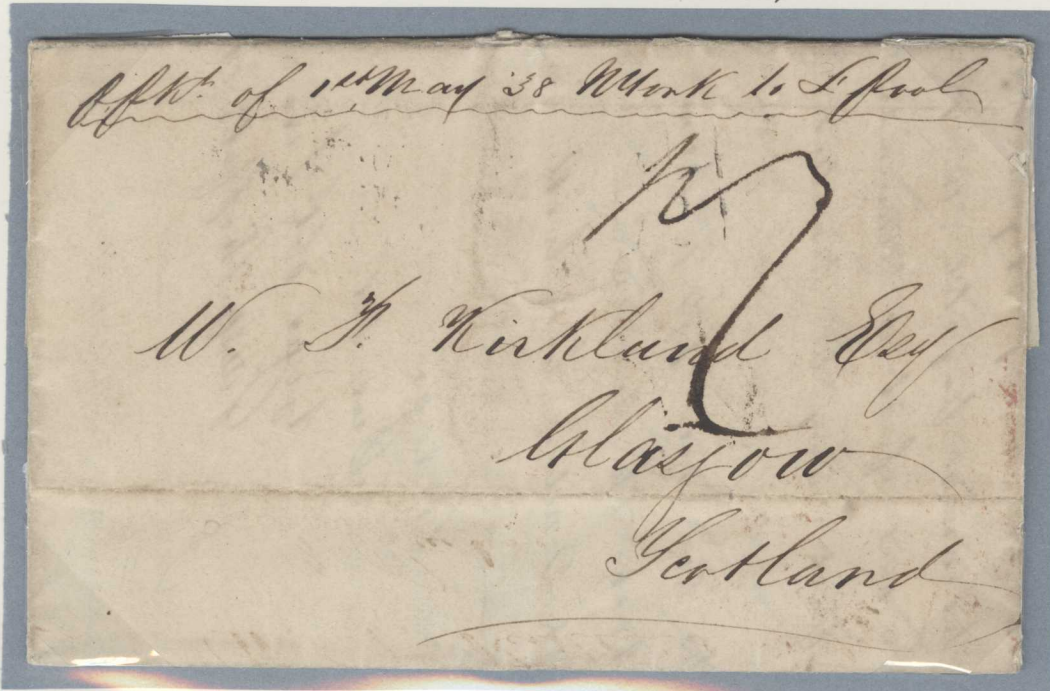
United States 37½¢
2 x 18¾¢ = 37½¢
Freight Money 25¢
2 x 12½¢ = 25¢
Great Britain 8d

Letter posted and United States fees paid in Baltimore.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Black Ball Line

The North America - Forwarding Agent

MONTREAL TO GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *North America* departed New York May 1, 1838, arrived Liverpool May 24, 1838. She was replaced by the *Florida* in 1831.

Postal Rates

Canadian	0
United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

Letter carried to New York forwarding agent Dunscomb Brothers. Dispatched on packet as directed.



Back of letter showing forwarding agent oval stamp. This stamp is used later than shown in Rowe. The black "Glasgow/25 MY 1838" is Mackay type 228.

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO BOSTON
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



TRIPLE LETTER carried outside the mail and traveled to London forwarding agent Baring Brothers. Carried to ship's agent in Liverpool and dispatched on packet.

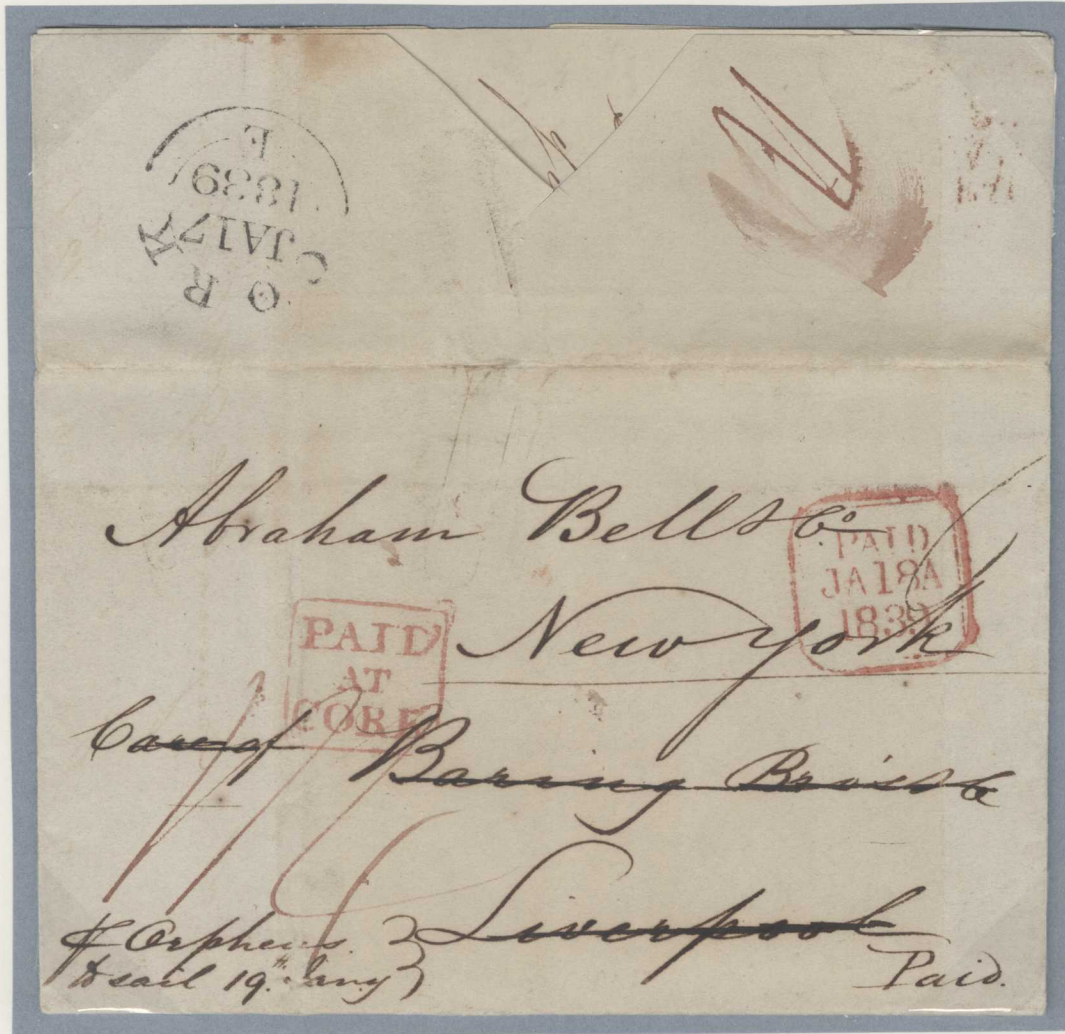
Ship Information

The *Columbus* departed Liverpool March 18, 1838, arrived New York April 17, 1838. She replaced the *Pacific II* in 1834.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	58¼¢
(3 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 58¼¢	

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



Paid letter from Cork to forwarding agent Baring Brothers in London. Letter forwarded to original addressee in New York and United States fees collected on delivery.

Ship Information

During the Liverpool hurricane, the *Orpheus* was in port awaiting her next sailing date. She departed Liverpool January 21, 1839, arrived New York February 20, 1839.

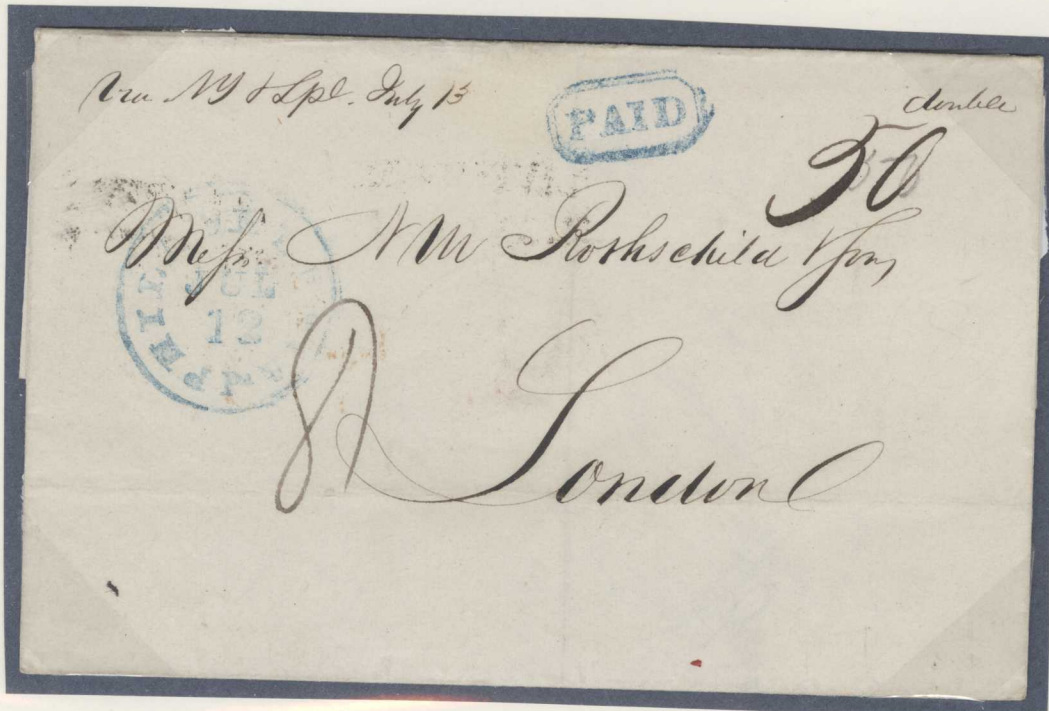
Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4	
United States	6¢
Fee for delivery to port of entry	

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Red Star Line

The *Virginian*
Double Freight Money

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and freight money collected by Post Office in Philadelphia. Post Office employees in Philadelphia combined the fees and posted them in pencil in upper right corner. The final posting was made in ink.

Ship Information

Virginian departed
New York July
14, 1840, arrived
Liverpool August
11, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 50¢
(2 x 12½) + (2 x 12½) = 50
Inland + freight money fee.
Great Britain 8d
Ship Letter fee collected on
delivery.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Red Star Line

The *Stephen Whitney*
Triple Freight Money
First Voyage

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Baltimore, freight money and postage collected and noted separately in upper right corner. Not endorsed for a specific transatlantic route. New York Post Master dispatched to the *Stephen Whitney*.

Ship Information

Stephen Whitney
departed New York
January 14, 1840, and
arrived Liverpool
February 3, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 96¢
(3 x 18¾¢) + (3 x 12½¢)
Great Britain 8d

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Blue Swallowtail Line

The George Washington
Quadruple Freight Money

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and freight money collected by Post Office in Baltimore. Baltimore Post Office recorded fees separately in the upper right corner. As indicated in the upper left corner, this is a wrapper with 4 inclosures.

Ship Information

George Washington
departed from
New York June
8, 1840, arrived
Liverpool July 1,
1840.

Postal Rates

United States \$1.25
(4 x 18¾) + (4 x 12½) = \$1.25
Inland + freight money fee.
Great Britain 8d
Ship Letter fee collected on
delivery.

COMING OF STEAM 1838 - 1840

Blue Swallowtail Line



PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

The *George Washington* - Quadruple
Freight Money Letter
The *Pennsylvania* - Quadruple Letter



Ship Information

George Washington
departed New York
February 7, 1839,
arrived Liverpool
March 4, 1839.

Postal Rates

United states \$1.00

(4 x 12½¢) + (4 x
12½¢) = \$1.00

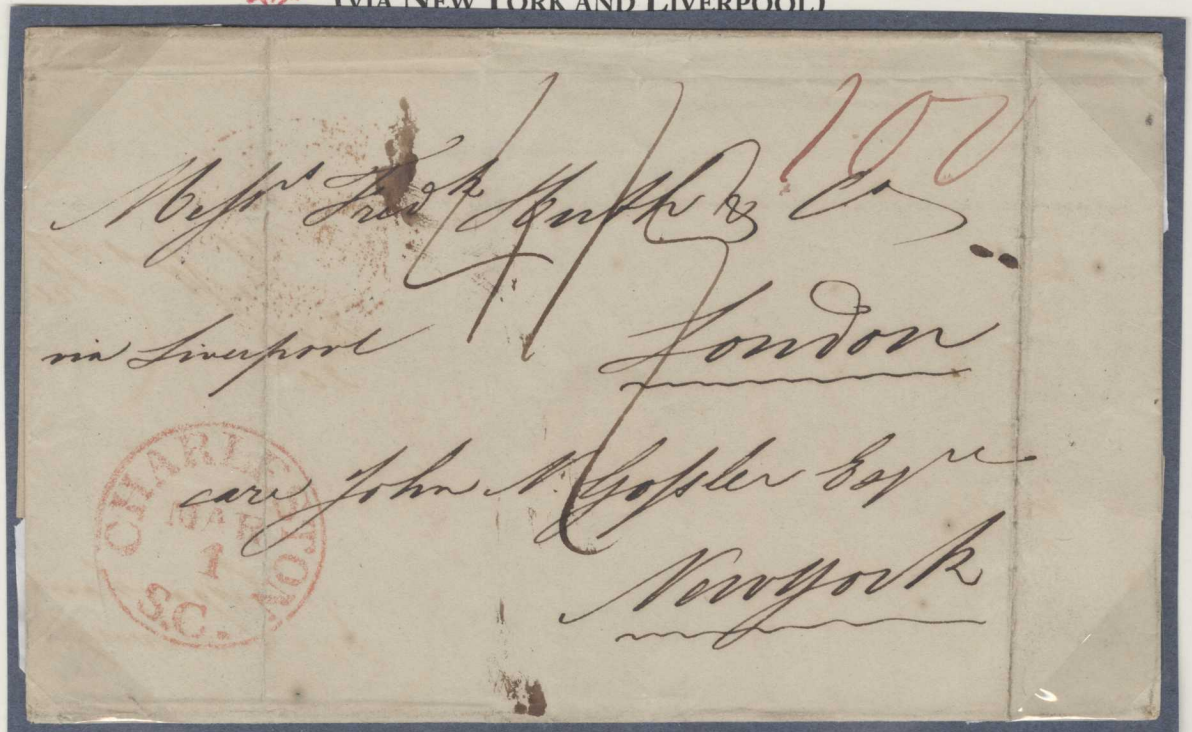
This represents
inland and freight
money.

Great Britain 4/9

(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) =
57d or 4/9

QUADRUPLE FREIGHT MONEY LETTER
posted to meet the packet as indicated.

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



Ship Information

Pennsylvania
departed New York
March 10, 1838,
arrived Liverpool
April 5, 1838.

Postal Rates

United States \$1.00

4 x 25¢ = \$1.00

Great Britain 4/9d

(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) = 4/9

QUADRUPLE LETTER posted to New York.
Forwarded to London as directed.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Blue Swallowtail Line

The Independence - Freight Money
Forwarded

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



Letter posted and indorsed for *Independence*. As was their custom, Philadelphia postal authorities included inland and freight money fees in one amount noted in upper right corner. The first notation is in pencil followed by the final notation in ink.

Ship Information

Independence
departed New
York April 8, 1839,
arrived Liverpool
April 29, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States	25¢
12½ + 12½ = 25	
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7d	
Ship Letter Fee + forwarding inland fee. Collected on final delivery.	

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Dramatic Line

The Siddons
Freight Money

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and freight money collected by Post Office in Philadelphia. Post Office employees in Philadelphia included both fees in one notation in the upper right corner, Note the absence of pencil notation.

Ship Information

Siddons departed
from New York
August 26, 1839,
arrived Liverpool
September 13,
1839.

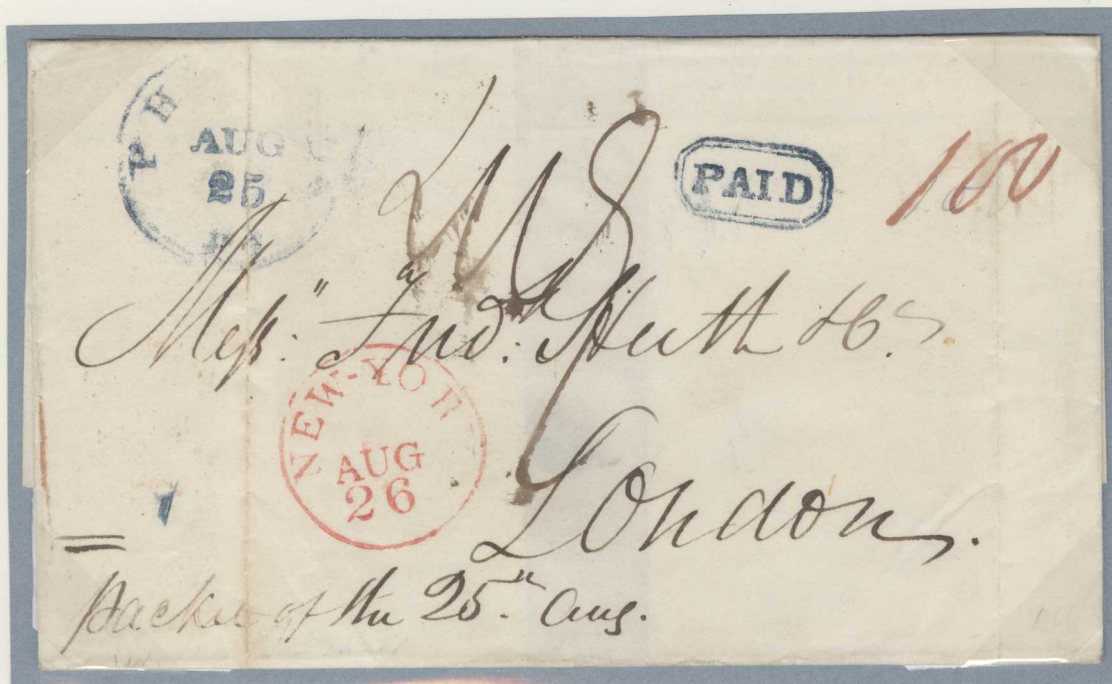
Postal Rates

United States 25¢
12½ + 12½ = 25¢
Inland + freight money fee.
Great Britain 1/7d
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7d
Ship Letter fee and inland
postage collected on delivery.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Dramatic Line

The *Siddons* - Quadruple Rate U. S.
Triple Letter Great Britain

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Siddons departed from New York August 26, 1839, arrived Liverpool on September 13, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States \$1.00
(4 x 12½¢) + (4 x 12½¢)
= \$1.00

Great Britain 4/9
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) =
4/9d

Letter posted and indorsed for "Packet of the 25th Aug." Philadelphia postal authorities included inland and freight money fees in one amount noted in upper right corner.

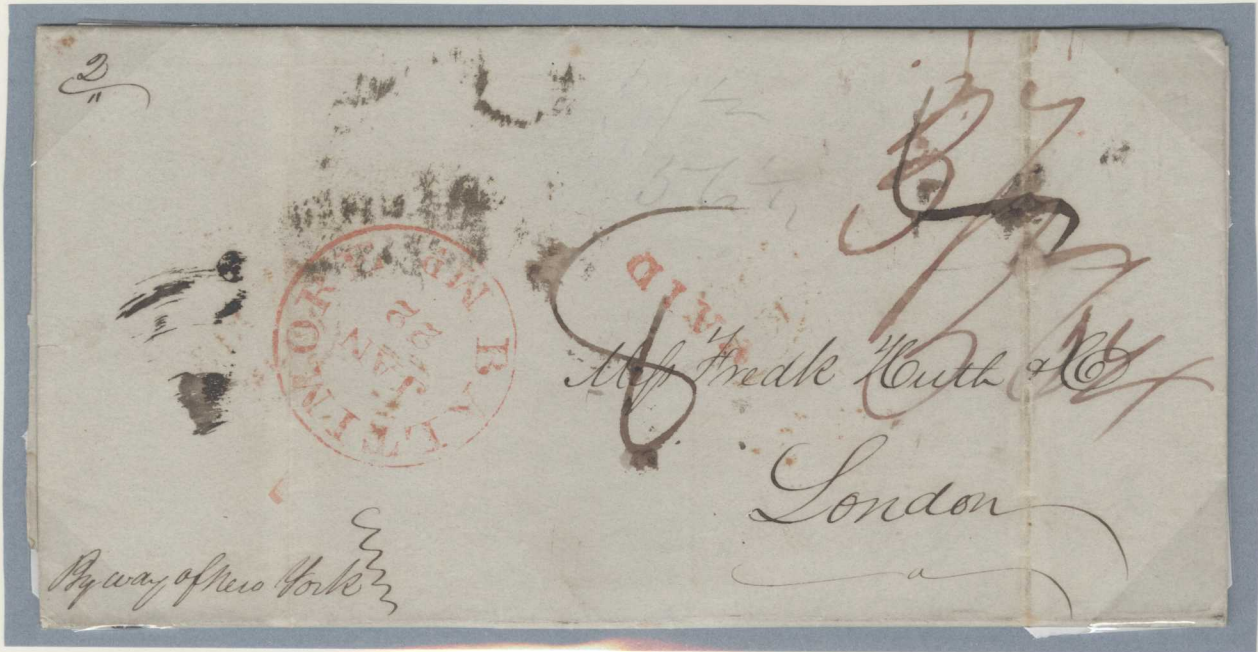
Back of cover showing Liverpool receiving mark, Robertson type S14 and London receiving mark. London mark indicates morning processing day after arrival in Liverpool. The distance to London is 206 miles by mail coach.



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Dramatic Line

The Sheridan
Triple Freight Money

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and freight money collected by Post Office in Baltimore. Both fees are noted in the upper right corner with freight money above inland fee. Note the '2' in the upper left corner indicating two inclosures.

Ship Information

Sheridan departed from New York January 1, 1840, arrived Liverpool February 2, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 93¾¢
(3 x 12½) + (3 x 18¾) = 93¾¢
Inland + freight money fee.
Great Britain 8d
Ship Letter fee and inland postage collected on delivery.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Dramatic Line

The Sheridan
The Garrick – Quadruple Letter

ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND TO NEWBURG, NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
Sheridan departed Liverpool March 16, 1840, arrived New York April 13, 1840. She sailed as a packet until 1854.

Postal Rates
 Great Britain 8d
 Treasury Warrant January 10, 1840.
 United States 12¢
 10¢ + 2¢ = 12¢

Paid letter from Aberdeen back stamped with a boxed town stamp Mackay type 220. Red boxed "PAID AT / ABERDEEN" Mackay type 361. Liverpool Ship Letter stamp Robertson type S15 in use 1838-1841.

BRISTOL, ENGLAND TO MONTREAL, CANADA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information
 The *Garrick* departed Liverpool August 16, 1840, arrived New York September 16, 1840.

Postal Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United states 77¢
 (4 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 77¢
 Canadian 5/5½
 5 shilling + 5½d To be collected on delivery.



Quadruple letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Black X Line

The *Mediator*
Forwarding Agent

PORTSMOUTH

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND WEYMOUTH)



Ship Information

Mediator departed
New York May
27, 1840, arrived
Liverpool June 25,
1840.

The letter posted to
forwarding agent Travers
& Alexander in New York.
Endorsed for steamer but
placed on *Mediator* by the
forwarding agent.

Postal Rates

United States	25¢
No indication of freight money collected.	
Great Britain	8d

Scan of cover back
showing the manuscript
mark of forwarding
agent. This agent,
according to Rowe
operated only during
1840.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Red Swallowtail Line

The Quebec
The Samson

FRANKFORT, KY TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Letter posted to New York. Dispatched on next packet to London

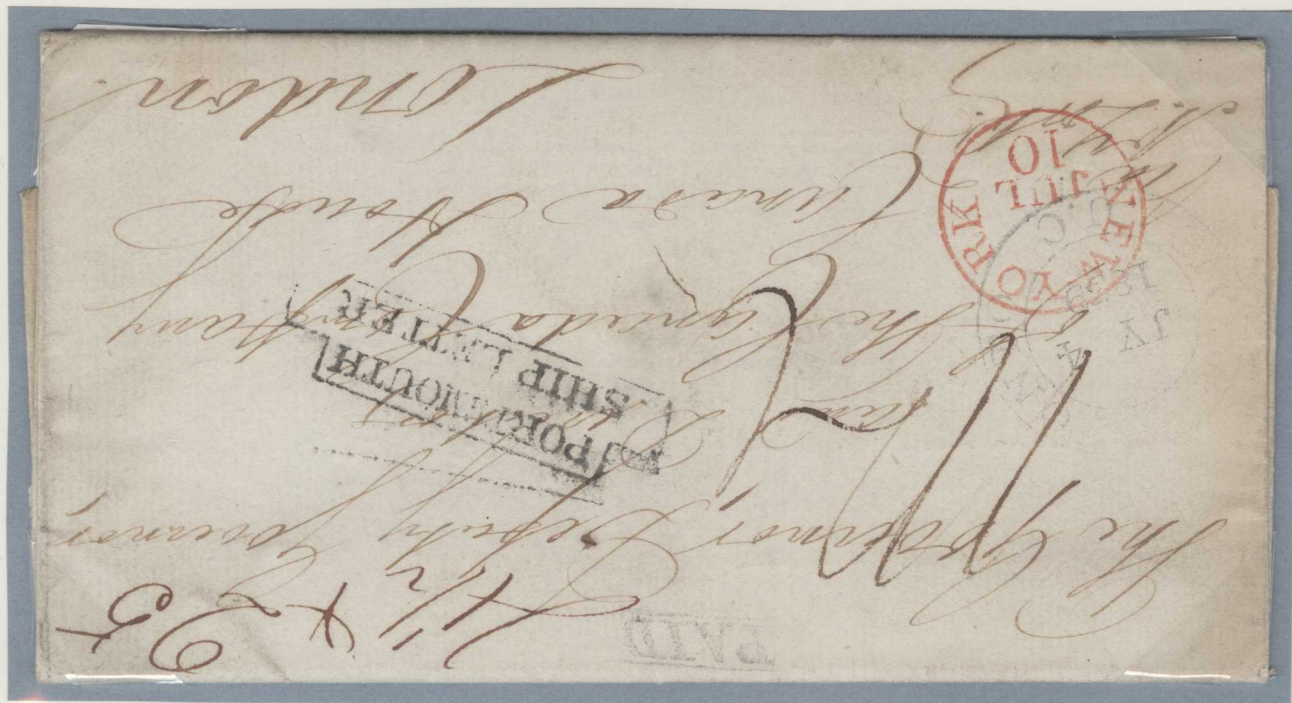
Ship Information

The *Quebec* departed New York October 10, 1838, arrived in London November 11, 1838. Mail put off at Portsmouth November 8, 1838.

Postal Rates

United States	25¢
Great Britain	1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4	

TORONTO, UC TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Letter posted to New York. U.S. postage collected in Canada. Dispatched on next packet to London

Ship Information

The *Samson* departed New York July 10, 1839, arrived London July 30, 1839. Mail put ashore July 28, 1839.

Postal Rates

Canada	4½ cry
United States	25¢*
Great Britain	1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4	

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840

Red Swallowtail Line

The *Gladiator*

NEW YORK TO LONDON (VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

Gladiator departed New York January 21, 1839, arrived Portsmouth February 14, 1839. Mail put ashore and ship arrived London February 17, 1839.

Postal Rates

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

Letter carried to forwarding agent Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room and Foreign Letter Office, New York. Dispatched on packet as noted. Mail put ashore and proceeded to London by mail coach, arrived for night processing February 14, 1839.

Back of cover showing marks relating to the processing of mail. Red double circle London Ship Letter Office receiving mark indicates night processing.



SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837

The *North America*

Black Ball Line

RESPACE

BOSTON TO SHEFFIELD, ENG.
(VIA NEW YORK LIVERPOOL)

Double letter written March 13, 1832 and carried to Black Ball ship's agent in New York. Dispatched on next packet. Black stepped 'LIVERPOOL/SHIP LETTER' stamp Robertson type S11.



Ship Information

The *North America* departed New York March 16, 1832 arriving Liverpool April 5, 1832.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 2/8d
(2x8) + (2x9) = 2/8d
United States 0

II POSTAL MARKS

1832 BB NORTH AMERICA
BOSTON - SHEFFIELD, ENG.
DPHY 3/16/1832
AERLP 4/5/1832
17/1/50

LIVERPOOL / SHIP LETTER ROBERTSON

U.S. 0
G.B. 2/8 (2x8) + (2x9) =
55 GEO III C153 (7/11/1815)

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Red Swallowtail Line

The *Saint James*

MONTREAL TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK & PORTSMOUTH)

Letter posted to New York for packet first to London or Liverpool. Fees for postage to U.S. border and than to New York were paid in Canada and noted. Mail was put off in Portsmouth February 1, 1838. Straight line 'PAID' (26 x 6mm) show the seperation of the fees paid The stepped 'PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LETTER' is Robertson type S14.

Ship Information

The *Saint James* departed New York January 1, 1838, arriving London February 6, 1839.

Postal Rates

Canada

4 1/2 cy

Also collected to be paid to U.S. 18 3/4 cents fee to New York.

Great Britian

1/4d

8 + 8 = 16d or 1/4d



1838 RED SWALLOWTAIL - St. JAMES
DPT NY JAN 4, 1838
MAIL PORTSMOUTH (JAN 31, 1838)
ARR LON FEB 6, 1838

CANADA - LONDON

ROBERTSON 177 S14

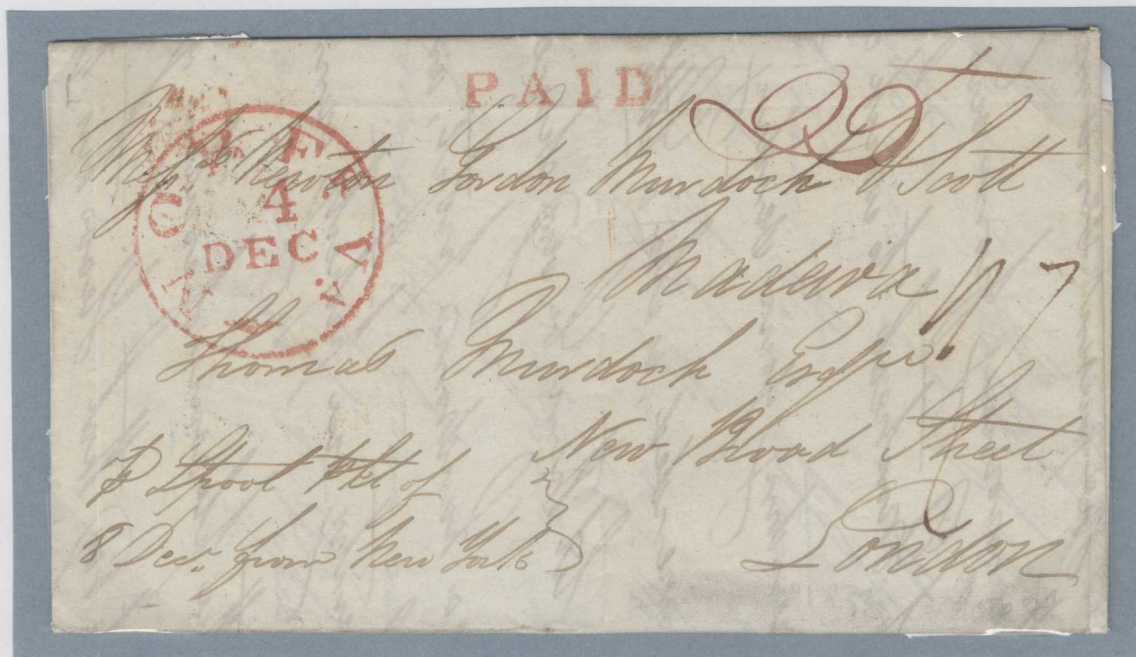
4. LONDON: RED CDS "C/1 FEB 1/1838"

III POSTAL RATES

1. CANADA 4 1/2 CRY } PAID IN
U.S. 18 3/4 d } CANADA

G.B. 1/4 (8+8) = 16 or 1/4

NORFOLK, VA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *Silas Richards* departed New York December 9, 1831, arrived Liverpool December 27, 1831.

Letter posted Norfolk endorsed for December 8 Liverpool Packet. The *Silas Richards* departed on schedule and completed the crossing in 18 days. Reviewing the exhibitors data base indicates this to be a shorter crossing than usual.

Postal Rates

United States 25¢
Great Britain 1/7d
Inland plus ship letter fee.

Back of cover showing the Liverpool stepped Ship Letter stamp, Robertson type S10 in use 1824 to 1838. The red double circle London receiving mark indicates evening processing.



SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

The Pennsylvania
First Voyage, Forwarded

GREEN HILL FARM, PA TO LONDON
(VIA PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *Pennsylvania*
departed New York
July 8, 1836, arriving
Liverpool July 29,
1836

Letter privately carried to Philadelphia, posted to New York for packet. Addressee forwarded to Dr. Morris in London. Forwarding postage in England not noted. Philadelphia postage and paid marks faintly applied as is the Liverpool red circular mark. The black boxed 'Liverpool/Ship Letter' is Robertson type S13 in use 1834-1838.

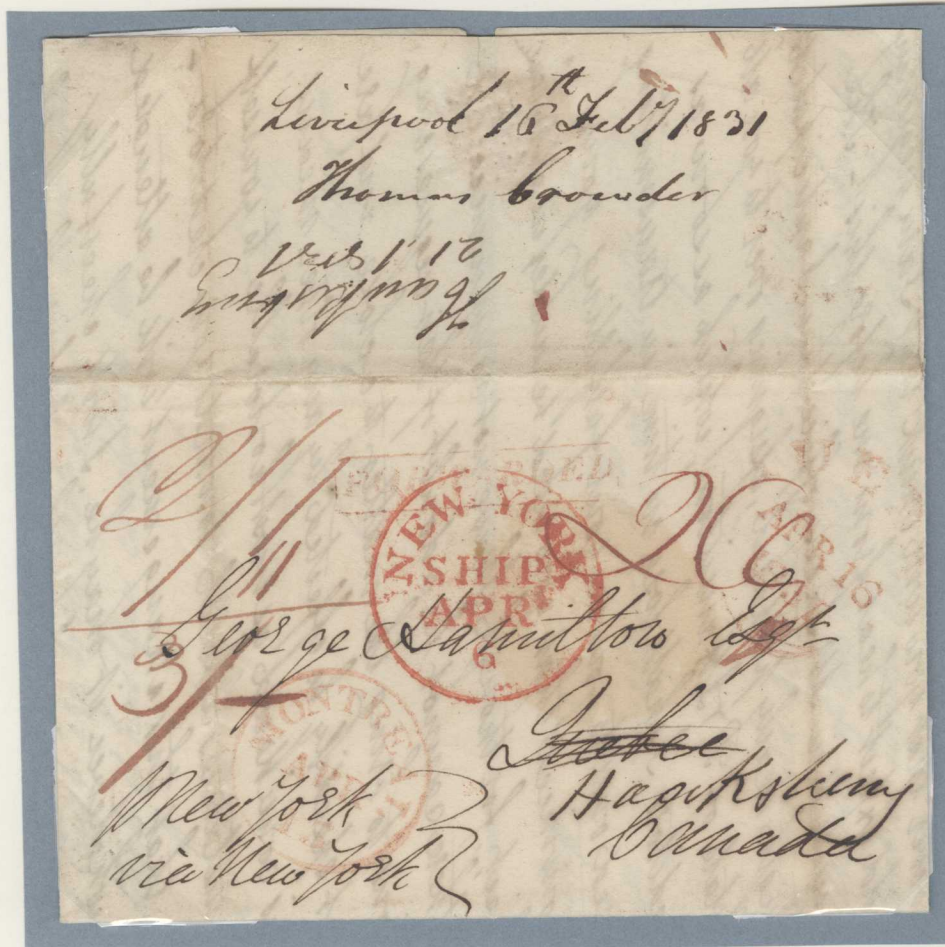
Postal Rates

United States 12½¢
Postage to port plus
Capt. fee.
Great Britain 8d
Fee for letter delivered at
port.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black Ball Line

The New York
Forwarded

LIVERPOOL TO QUEBEC
(VIA NEW YORK AND MONTREAL)



Ship Information

The *New York* departed Liverpool February 20, 1831 arriving New York April 7, 1831.

Letter privately carried to Black Ball ship's agent in Liverpool. Dispatched as endorsed. Letter forwarded to Hacksberry, Canada by addressee. Faint Quebec and Montreal receiving marks are visible. Hacksberry receipt is manuscript on back of cover.

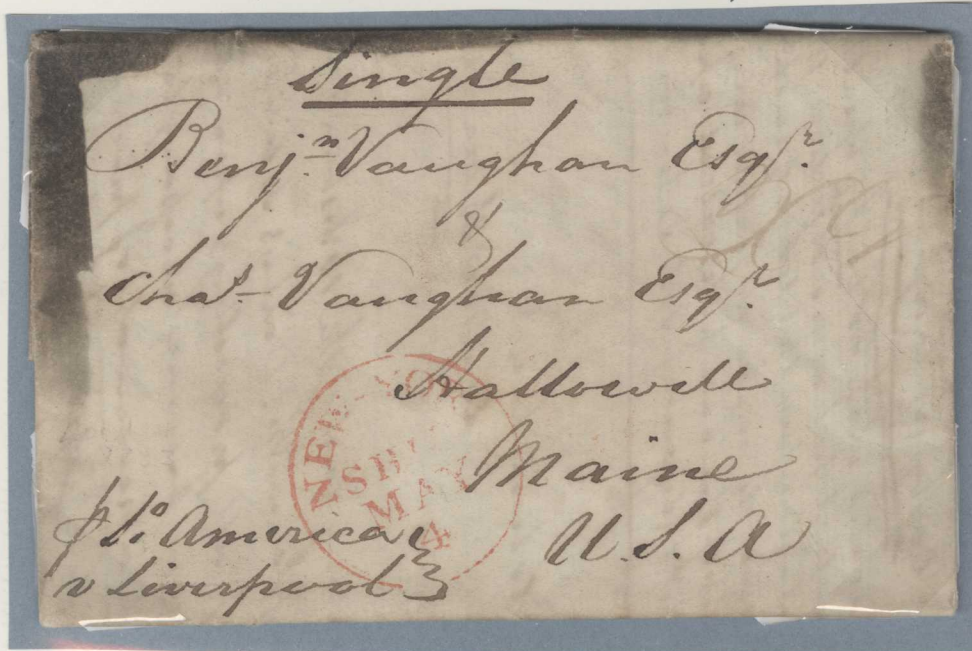
Postal Rates

United States 20.75¢
Postage to border plus
Capt. fee.
Canadian 3/- cry
Inland postage plus
forwarding fee., 2/1 cry +
11 cry = 3/-.

SUPERIORITY: 1830 – 1837
Black Ball Line

The South America - Double Letter
The New York - Last Voyage

LONDON TO HALLOWELL, ME
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *South America* departed Liverpool April 2, 1833, arriving New York May 4, 1833. Replaced by the *Manchester* in 1840, she served as a whaler until sunk with the "stone fleet" in 1861.

Postal Rates

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

Duplicates of business letters sent as duplicate to ensure delivery.

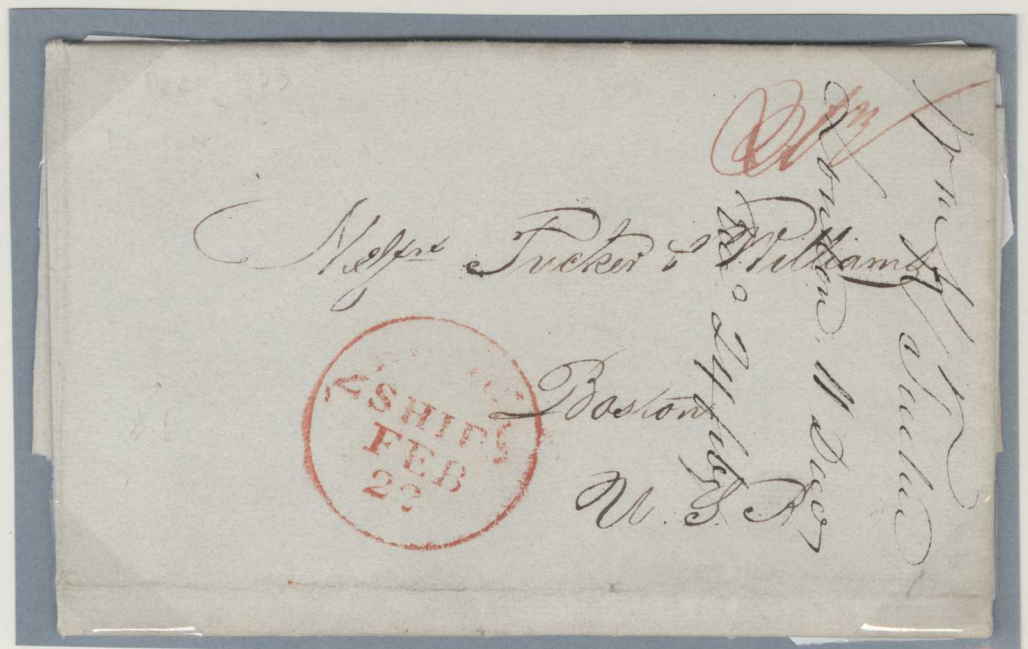
LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *New York* departed Liverpool on her final voyage January 8, 1834, arrived New York February 24, 1834. She was replaced by the *Orpheus*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	



Letter carried outside mail to Liverpool ship's agent and dispatched on the *New York*. Letter taken to New York City on mail boat.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Black Ball Line

The Caledonia – Quadruple Letter
The Britannia – Last Voyage

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

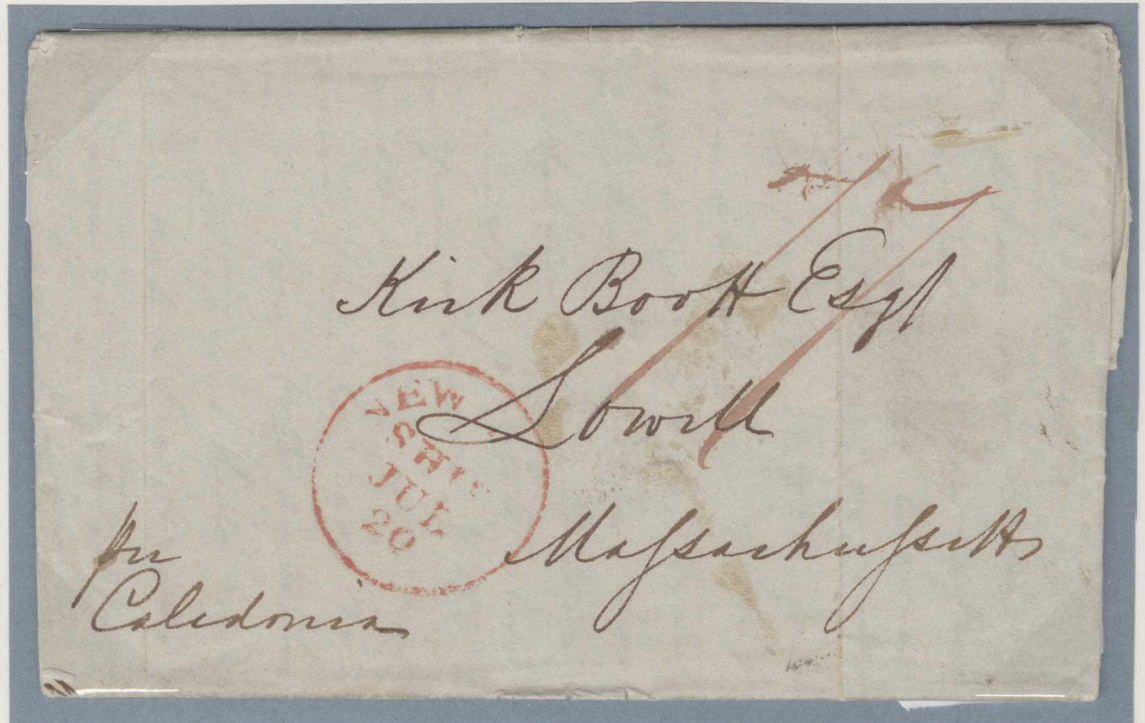
Letter carried outside mail to ship's agent in Liverpool.

Ship Information

The *Caledonia* departed Liverpool June 6, 1835, arrived New York July 22, 1835.

Postal Rates

England 0
United States 77¢
(4 X 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 77¢



NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *Britannia* left New York on her last voyage July 16, 1835, arrived Liverpool August 16, 1835. She was replaced by the *England*.

Postal Rates

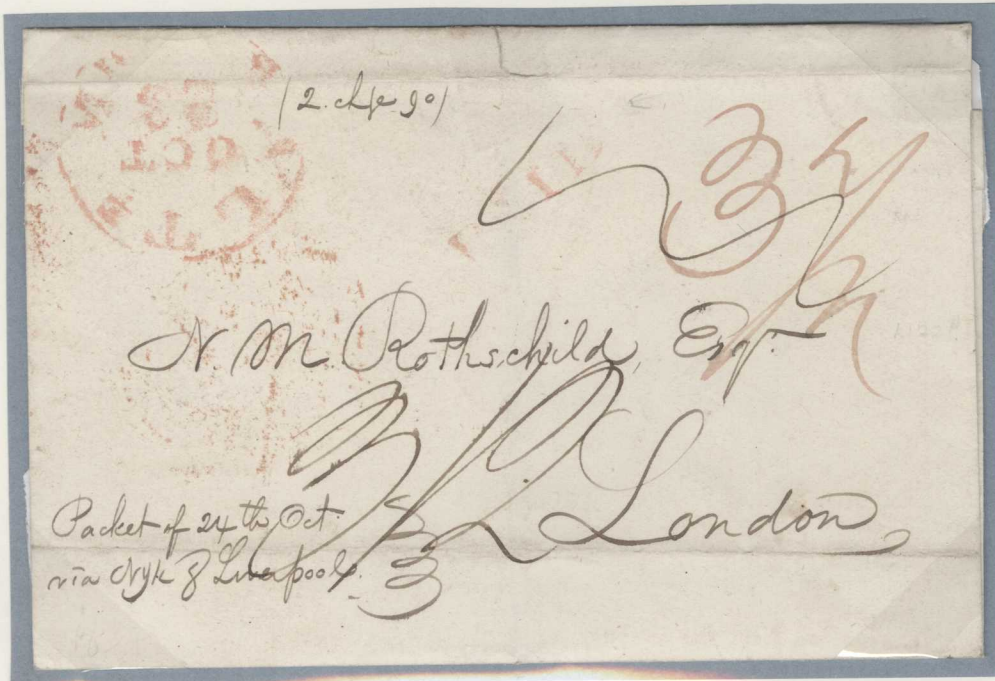
United States 0
Great Britain 3/2
(2 X 8d) = (2 X 11d) = 38d or 3/2

Double letter carried outside mail to ship's agent in New York.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Red Star Line

The United States
Double Letter

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

United States departed New York October 24, 1834, arrived Liverpool November 16, 1834. She served for 11 years until she went missing on Liverpool to New York crossing December 1844.

Postage Rates

United States	37½
2 x 18¾ = 37½¢	
Great Britain	3/2
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 3/2d	

Letter posted in Baltimore, indorsed for "Packet of 24th Oct." Postal authorities dispatched as directed.

Back of cover showing red Liverpool receiving mark, Robertson type S12. This color in use 1834-1840. Also shown is the double circle London receiving mark indicating evening processing.



MONTREAL, LOWER CANADA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Triple letter post paid from Montreal to New York. Not rated as multiple letter in Great Britain. Return voyage cover on next page.

Ship Information

The *Sheffield* departed New York May 27, 1837, arrived Liverpool June 15, 1837. The *Sheffield* replaced the *William Byrnes* in 1831.

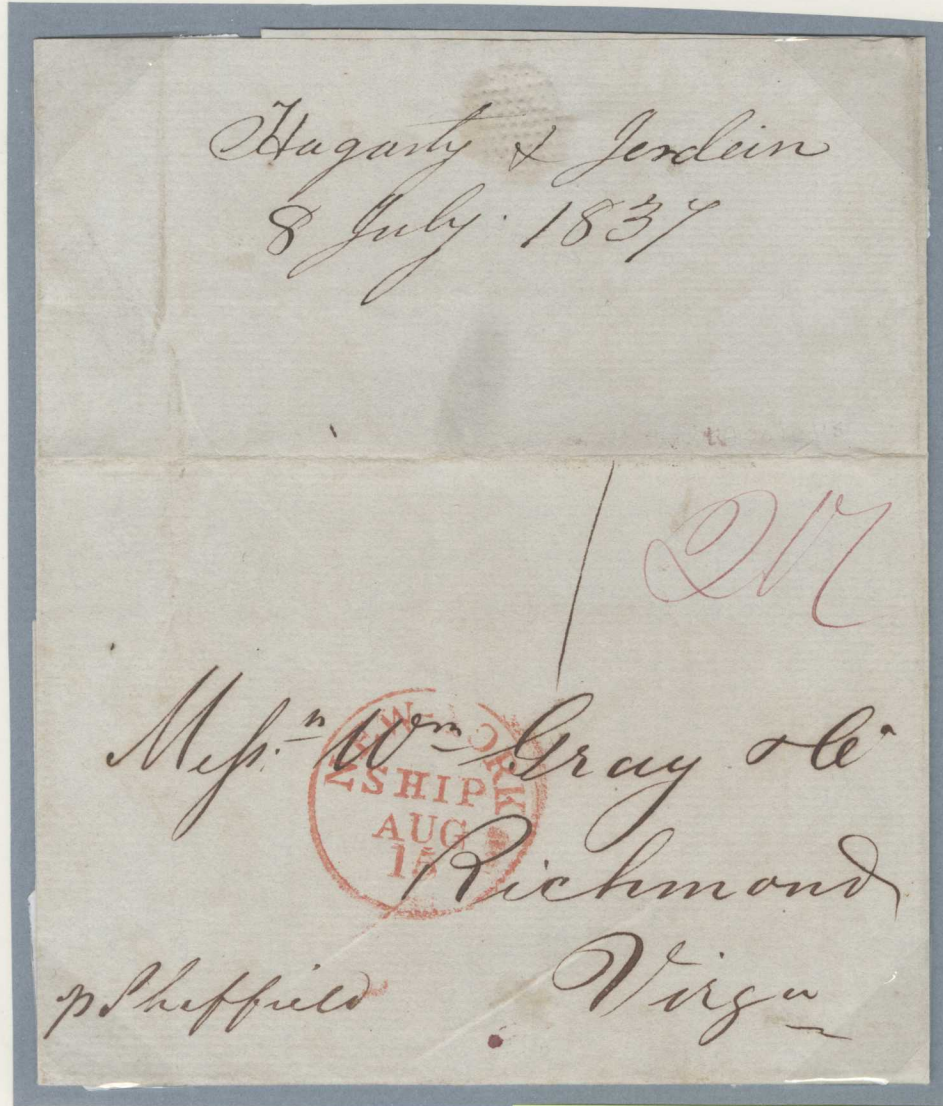
Postal Rates

Canadian 1/1½ cy
1/1½ postage paid through to New York.
United States 56¼¢
3 X 18¼¢ = 56¼¢ amount paid to New York.
Great Britain 1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Red Star Line

The *Sheffield* - Complete Voyage
Westerly Leg.

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



Carried to forward
Jerdein, Liverpool.
indicate forwarding

Ship Information

The *Sheffield* departed
Liverpool on return
leg July 18, 1837,
arrived New York
August 15, 1837.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Red Star Line

The Sheffield - Double Letter
 The *United States* - Express Letter

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND TO MONTREAL
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Sheffield* departed Liverpool March 9, 1836, arrived New York April 21, 1836. She wrecked on New York bar, November 14, 1843.

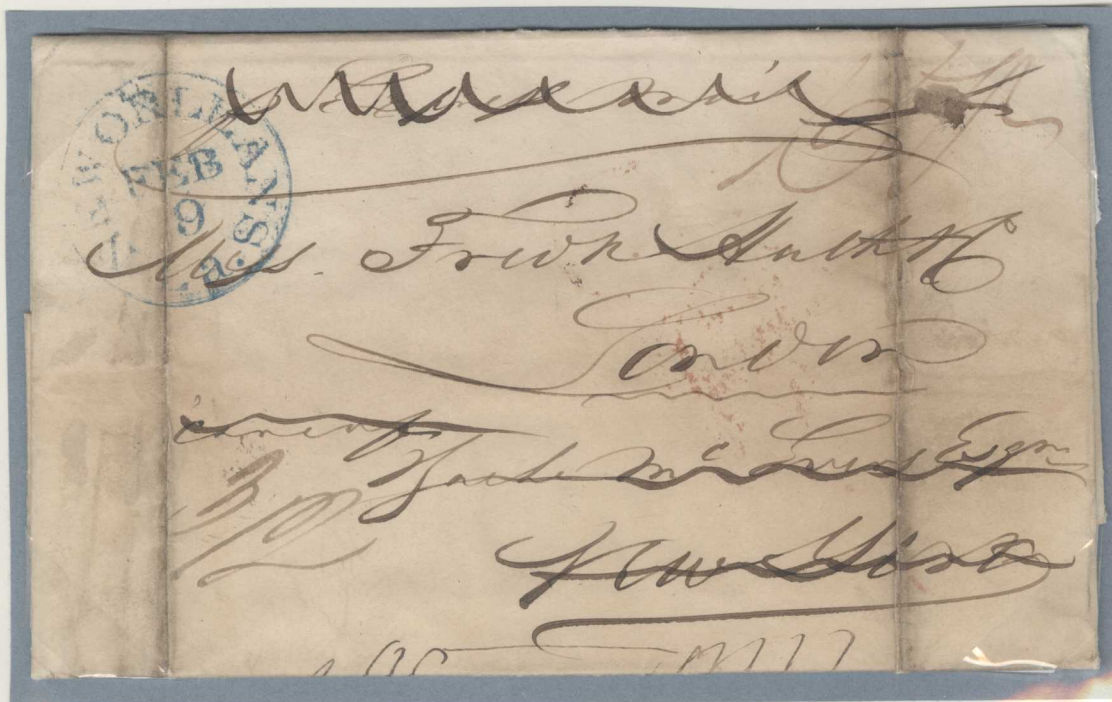
Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 39½¢
 (2 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 39½¢
 To be collected in Canada.
 Canada 3/-
 Includes U.S. and Canadian.



Carried to ship's agent for Red Star Line in Liverpool.

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *United States* departed New York February 24, 1837, arrived Liverpool March 24, 1837. She was replaced by the *Birmingham* in 1833.

Postal Rates

United States \$1.50
 3 X 50¢ = \$1.50
 Express rate 3 times the regular rate.
 Great Britain 3/2
 (2 X 8d) + (2 X 11d) = 38d or 3/2

Double express letter to forwarding agent Jack Mc Grus in New York, not listed in Rowe.

SUPERIORITY 1830-1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

The *George Washington* - Forwarded
 Quadruple Letter

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

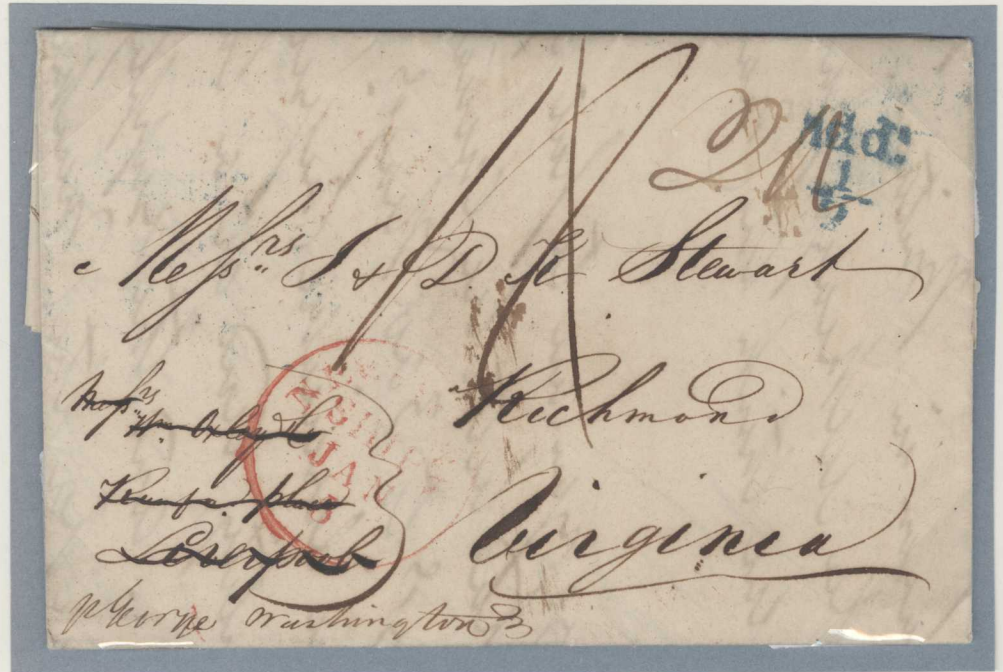
Both letters carried on same voyage showing different postal usages.

Ship Information

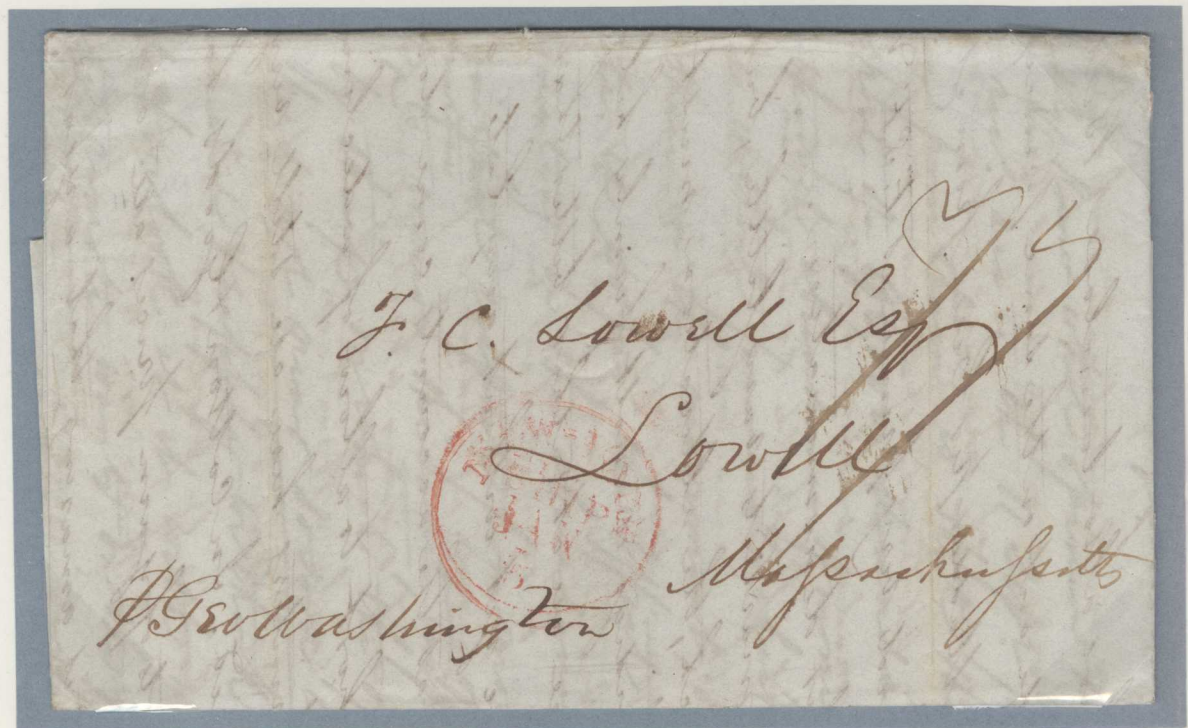
The *George Washington* departed Liverpool November 23, 1838, arrived New York January 5, 1838.

Postal Rates

United States 20¾¢
 (2¢ + 18¾¢) = 20¾¢
 Great Britain 1½d
 (5/6 William IVc, 25)
 Outward ship letter 1/-, 7
 crossed out. Scottish Wheel
 tax, ½d..



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



Quadruple letter dispatched to
 Richmond, VA.

Postal Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United States 77¢
 (4 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 77¢

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

The *George Washington* - Forwarding Agent
 The *Independence*

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

Ship Information

George Washington
 departed New York
 October 7, 1836,
 arrived Liverpool
 November 2, 1836.

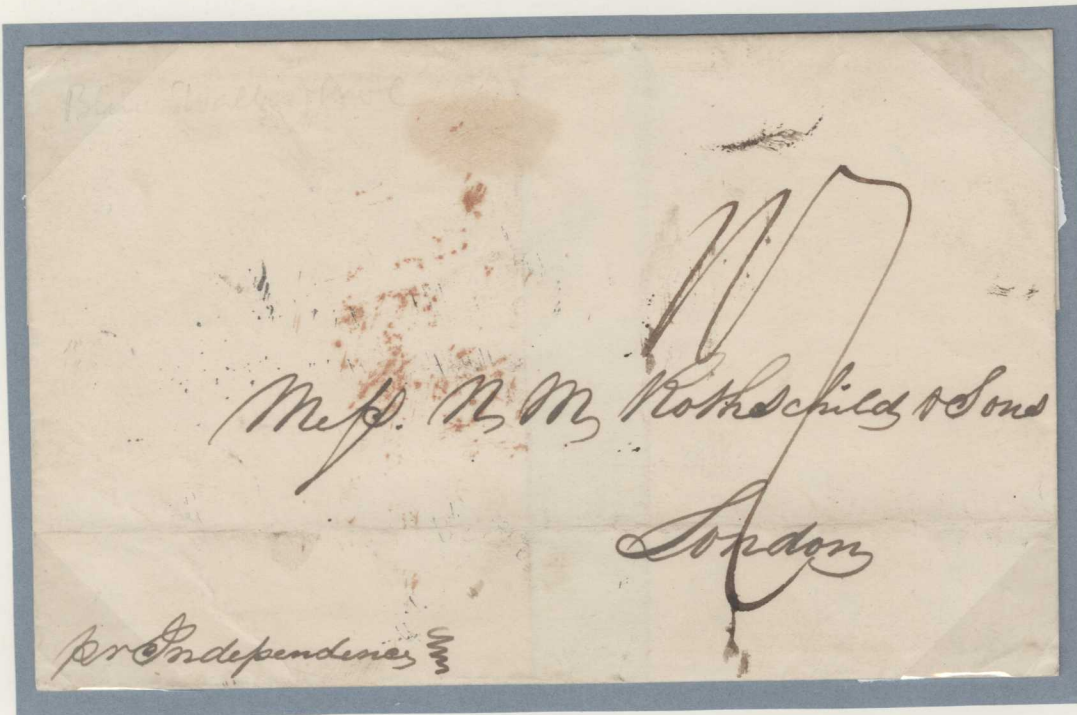
SECRET
 PAGE?
 SCAMS

2 x 10d = 20d
 French 40 cent.
 Due on delivery.



Double letter post paid to New York for packet as indicated. Forwarded by Baring Brothers to new addressee in Paris.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



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

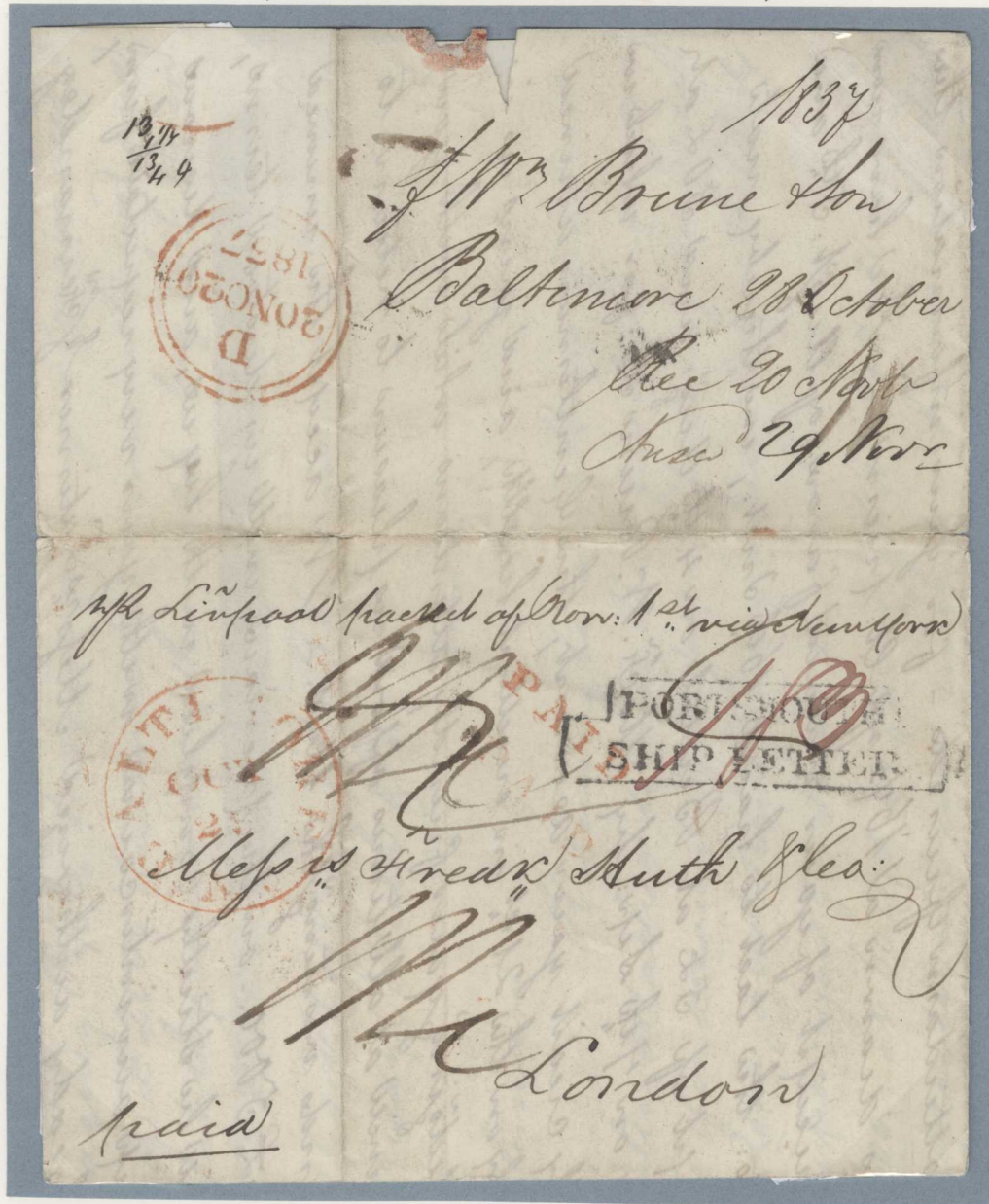
Ship Information

The *Independence* departed New York August 8, 1837, arrived Liverpool September 5, 1837. She replaced the *Silas Richard* in 1834.

Postal Rates

United States 0
 Great Britain 1/7
 8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Baltimore Post Office sent letter to New York for dispatch on packet. Mail landed at Portsmouth and proceeded to London by mail coach. Mail reached London Ship Letter Office on evening of October 20, 1837, indicated by the red double circle receiving mark.

Ship Information

The *Philadelphia* departed New York November 2, 1837, arrived London November 24, 1837. She replaced the *Hudson* in 1833.

Postal Rates

United States 18¾¢
Great Britain 1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4

**SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
BLACK X LINE**

The President – Double Letter

**NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK & PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND)**



Ship Information

President departed New York May 16, 1834, arrived Portsmouth, June 11, 1834. She replaced the *Cambria* in 1831.

Postal Rates

United States 50¢
2 X 25¢ = 50¢
Great Britain 2/8
(2 X 8d) + (2 X 8d) =
32d or 2/8

DOUBLE LETTER mailed to forwarding agent G. W. Schmidt in New York.

Back of above cover showing the G. W. Schmidt handstamp. Also the double circle receiving stamp of the London Ship Letter Office indicating night processing.



SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black X Line

The *Montreal*
 The *Philadelphia* - Double Letter

LONDON TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA NEW YORK)

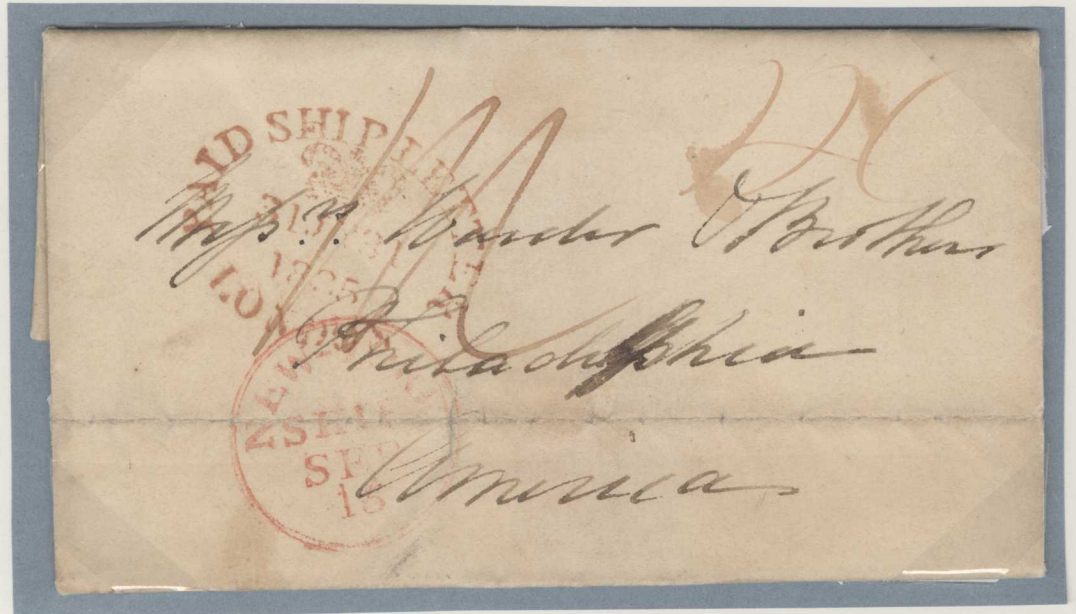
Letter posted July 31, 1835. Red rimless oval marking is Robertson type S49, in use 1832 to 1837.

Ship Information

The *Montreal* departed London August 7, 1835, arrived New York September 18, 1835.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/4d
 8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4d
 United States 14½¢
 12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢



NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA DEAL)



Back is used to show letter carried to forwarding agent Hudson's News Room, New York. Dispatched on packet.

Ship Information

Philadelphia departed New York March 11, 1836, arrived Deal March 29, 1836.

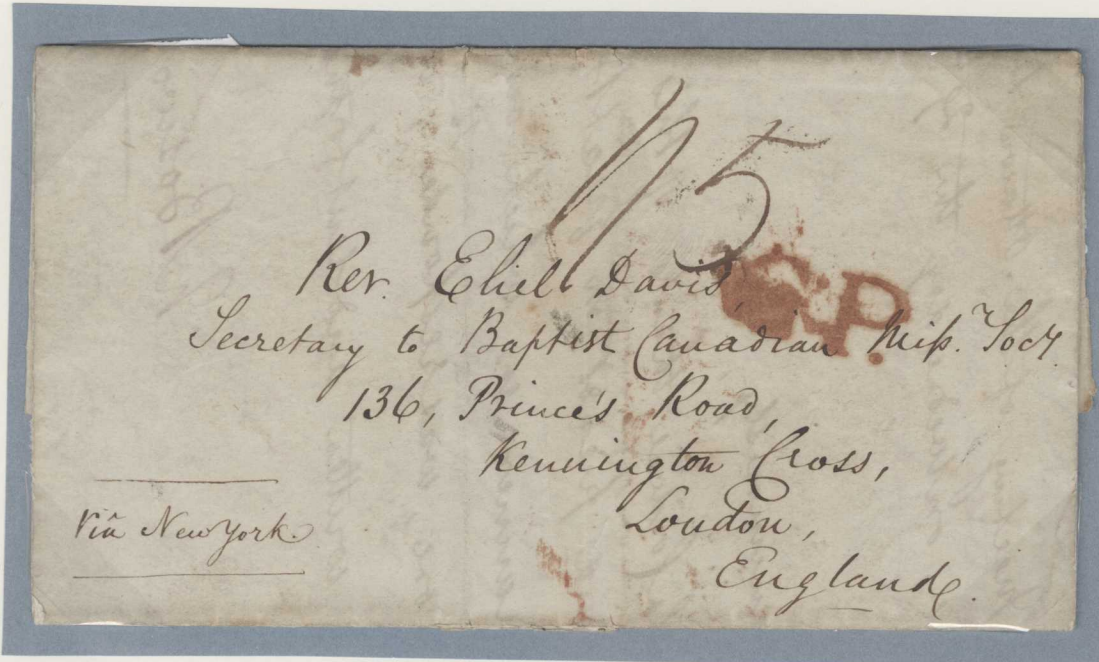
Postal Rates

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

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Red Swallowtail Line

The *Saint James* - London Two Penny Post
 The *Gladiator* - Double Letter

MONTREAL, LOWER CANADA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND SOUTHAMPTON)



Ship Information
Saint James departed New York May 2, 1837, put mail ashore Southampton May 24, 1837. She proceeded to London arriving May 25, 1837.

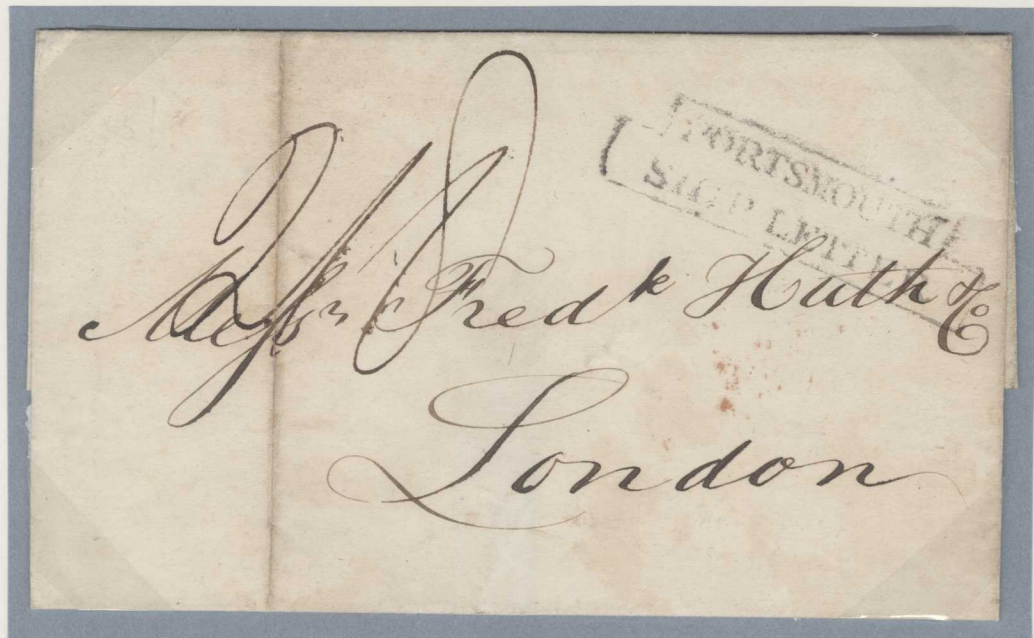
Postal Rates
 United States 0
 Great Britain 1/5
 8d + 9d = 17d or 1/5

Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Processed through London Ship Letter Office to General Post Office for delivery. To indicate London Two Penny Post fee had not been paid, the red "G.P." was applied.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)

Ship Information
Gladiator departed New York September 21, 1837, put mail ashore October 13, 1837. She proceeded to London, arrived October 14, 1837.

Postal Rates
 United States 0
 Great Britain 2/8
 (2 x 8d) + (2 x 8d) = 32d or 2/8d



Double letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch on packet.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Red Swallowtail Line

The *Samson* – Double Letter

MONTREAL, LOWER CANADA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND HASTINGS)



Ship Information

The *Samson* departed New York July 20, 1836, put mail ashore at Hastings. The *Samson* proceeded to London arrived August 18, 1836. She replaced the *Corinthian* in 1831.

Postal Rates

Canadian	1/cy
Canadian inland to border	
United States	37½¢
U.S. to New York paid in Canada	2 x 18¾¢ = 37½¢
Great Britain	2/8
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 8d) = 32d or	2/8

Double letter paid to New York for dispatch on packet. The red "Ship Letter/Hasting" is Robertson S4, in use 1837 to 1840. This is an early use of this handstamp.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Black X Line

The *Toronto* - Forward Agent
 The *Mediator* - Express Letter

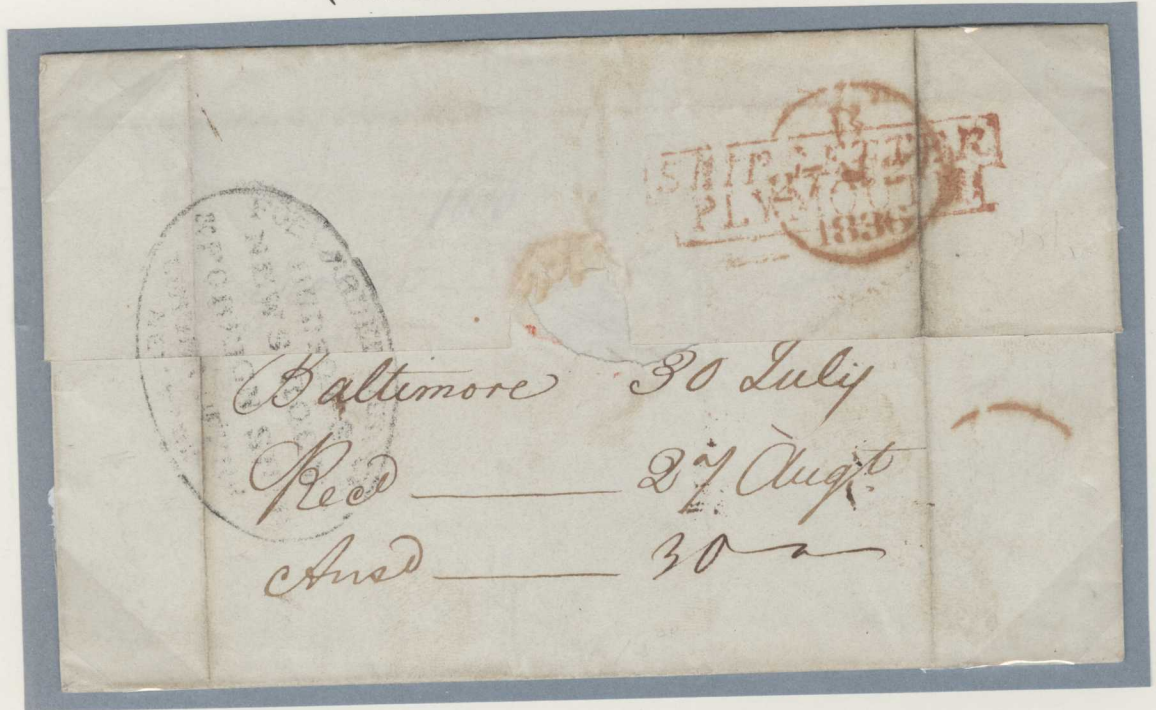
BALTIMORE TO LONDON
 (VIA NEW YORK AND PLYMOUTH)

Ship Information

Toronto departed
 New York August
 1, 1836, arrived
 Plymouth August
 27, 1836. After
 packet service she
 joined the New
 Orleans Line.

Postal Rates

United States 0
 Great Britain 1/7
 8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7



Letter carried outside mail to forwarding agent Hudson's
 News Room, New York. Dispatched on packet.

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON
 (VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)

Ship Information

Mediator departed
 New York June
 1, 1837, arrived
 Portsmouth June
 20, 1837. Letter
 dispatched to
 London by mail
 coach.

Postal Rates

United States 75¢
 Express rate 3 x 25¢ =
 75¢
 Great Britain 1/4
 8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4



Express letter charged to account 392 dispatched by New York Post
 Office.

PACKETS FROM 9A 18 10

PRE-PACKET
Black Ball Line

The Pacific
FORWARDED

LONDON TO GENEVA, NY
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Postal Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United States 20 1/2 cents
 18 1/2 + 2 = 20 1/2. Inland
 postage plus Capain's fee.

The Pacific was
 of the four
 of the Ball Lin
 regular service
 York and Liver
 1818. This let
 26, 1817 and p
 to the A. Meer C
 for forwarding.

PACKET FORWARDED
 LONDON (26 JULY 1817)
 TO NEW YORK (10 SEP. 1817)
 Per Packet "Pacific"
 (MS Forwarding Agent
 on Reverse) 125.
 2. HAND CARRIED TO FA "A MELL & Co.", LP, N.Y. (NOT LISTED) 30 JULY (TRAFFIC)
 3. BLACK BALL & PACIFIC (SHIP AGENT !!)
 DPTLP
 ARCNV "SEP 10, 1817"
 4. N.Y. PO PROCESSED
 5. DISPATCHED TO ADDRESSEE

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830

Blue Swallowtail Line

The Leeds - Packet Rate

Before American packet service, people in England could send letters by the Falmouth packets or by regular ships. The packet rate is illustrated below. A letter sent from London to New York by American packet would have cost 11d for postage to Liverpool. The savings to the sender would be 1/3d.

LONDON TO NEW YORK (VIA LIVERPOOL)



Post paid letter indicated by the red double oval hand stamp with a crown (Robertson type S46) in use 1823-1825. Letter was rated as a packet letter, not a ship letter, and charged the Falmouth packet fee. It followed routing instructions in the lower left corner as a ship letter.

Ship Information

The *Leeds* departed Liverpool August 24, 1825, arrived New York City September 29, 1825. She served until 1827 when replaced by the *George Canning* and transferred to the Red Swallowtail Line.

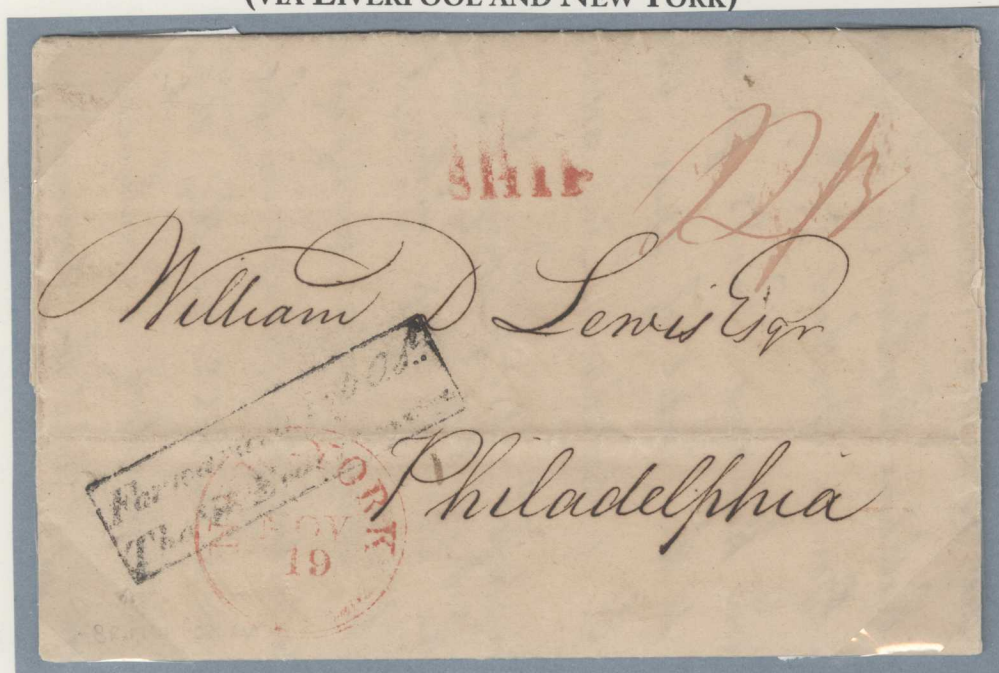
Postal Rates

Great Britain 2/2
 Packet rate to BNA 1/3d
 + 1/ - 1d = 26d or 2/2
 (GPO Notice Jan, 1817).
 United States 6¢
 Delivered at port of entry.

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Black Ball Line

The *New York* - Forwarding Agent
 The *Manchester* - Double Letter

LONDON TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *New York* departed Liverpool October 19, 1828, arrived New York November 19, 1828. The *New York* was in service 1822 to 1834.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	14½¢
12½¢ inland rate for 81 - 150 miles + 2¢ ship letter fee.	

Carried to forwarding agent Thomas W. Evans Liverpool.
 Letter dispatched on next Black Ball packet for New York.

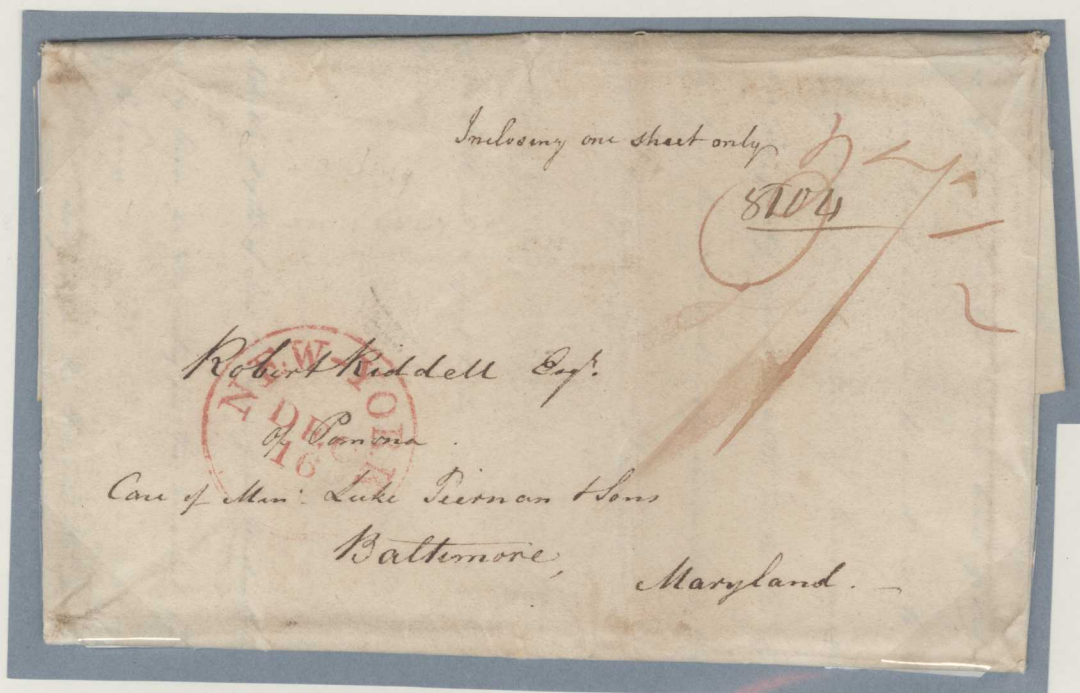
CATHKIN, ENGLAND TO BALTIMORE
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

Manchester departed Liverpool November 3, 1828, arrived New York December 16, 1828. The *Manchester* served from 1825 to 1832.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	37½¢
2 X 18¾¢ = 37½¢. The fee to be collected should have included a 2¢ ship letter fee. This makes the correct fee 39½¢.	



Double letter carried to forwarding agent Boorman & Johnston in Liverpool. Incorrectly rated in United States.

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Black Ball Line

The Columbia
The Nestor

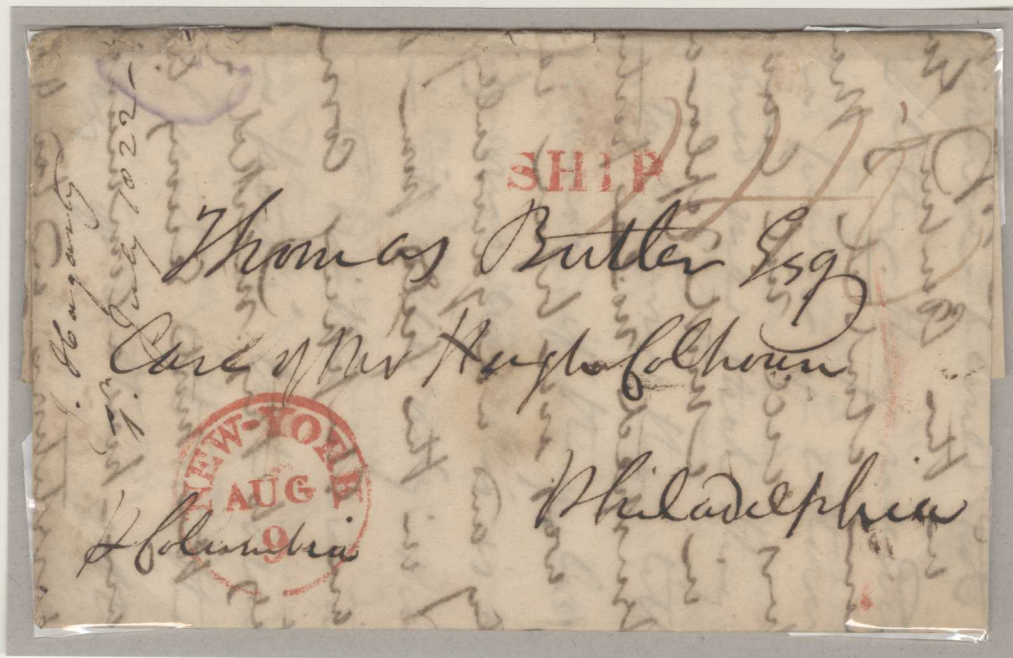
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA NEW YORK)

Ship Information

Columbia departed Liverpool on the westerly leg of her second voyage July 2, 1822. She arrived New York August 6, 1822.

Postal rates

British 0
United States 14½¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢ Inland
fee + Ship Letter fee



PUNGOTEAGUE, VA TO LIVERPOOL

Letter delivered to ship's agent in

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830

Black Ball Line

The James Cropper
The New York

LONDON TO NEW YORK (VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
The James Cropper departed
Liverpool October 17,
1827, arrived New York
November 20, 1827.

Postal Rates
Great Britain 1/1
55 Geo c 153: Outward ship
letter one-half packet rate
prepaid. 2/2 x 1/2 = 1/1
United States 6¢
Mail addressed to port of entry.

Paid ship letter with a rimless oval red “Post Paid Ship Letter/London” stamp Robertson type S47 (in use 1826 -1829).

ROCKVILLE, MD TO DUNSE, SCOTLAND (VIA GEORGETOWN, NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

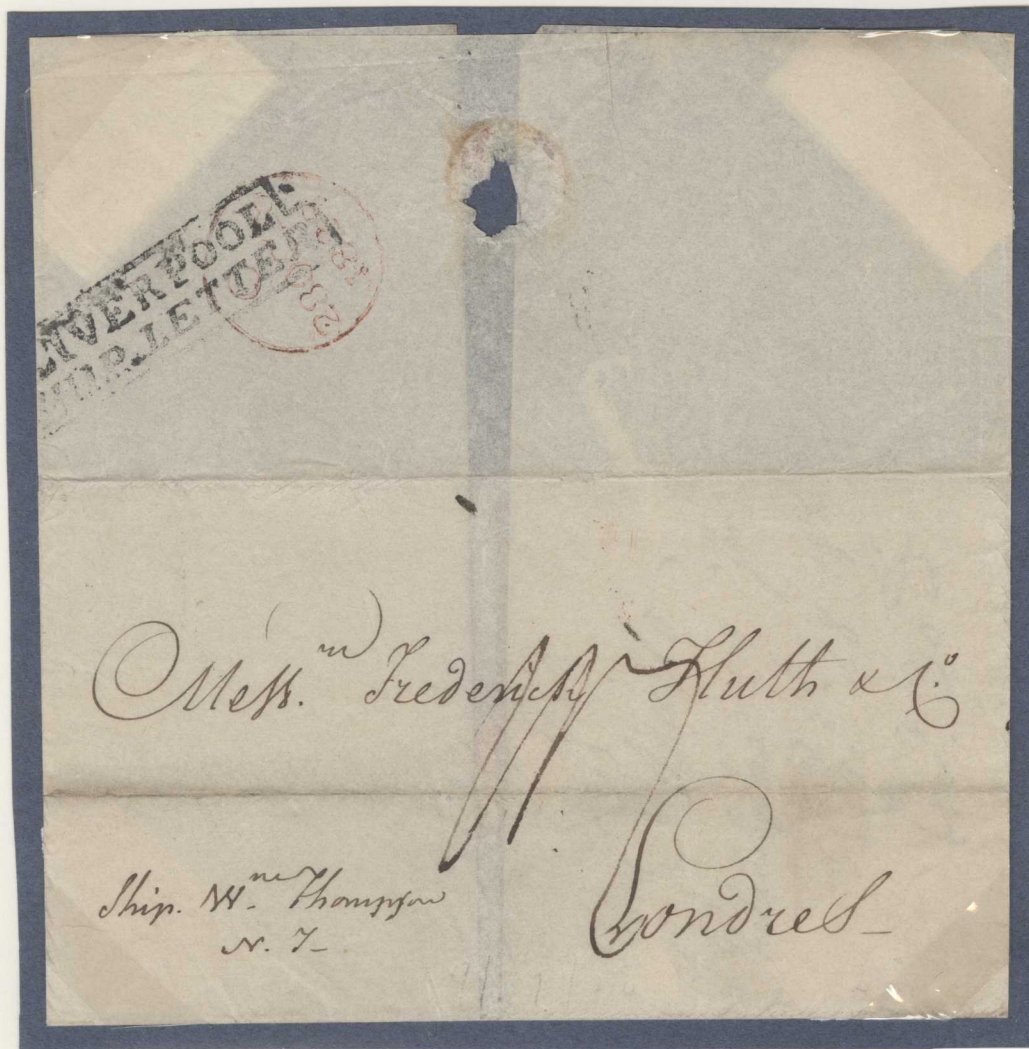
Ship Information
The New York departed
New York December
16, 1827, arrived
Liverpool January 11,
1828.

Postal Rates
United States 18¾¢
Great Britain 1/8½d
8d ship letter + 1/- inland +
½d wheel tax = 1/8½d



Note: The black “add! 1/2” handstamp stamp indicated Scotland’s wheel tax for mail carried in carriages with more than two wheels.

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter carried outside the mail to ship's agent in New York. Agent dispatched letter on designated packet. Liverpool dispatched letter to London by mail coach.

Ship Information

The *William Thompson* departed New York October 1, 1828, arrived Liverpool October 26, 1828.

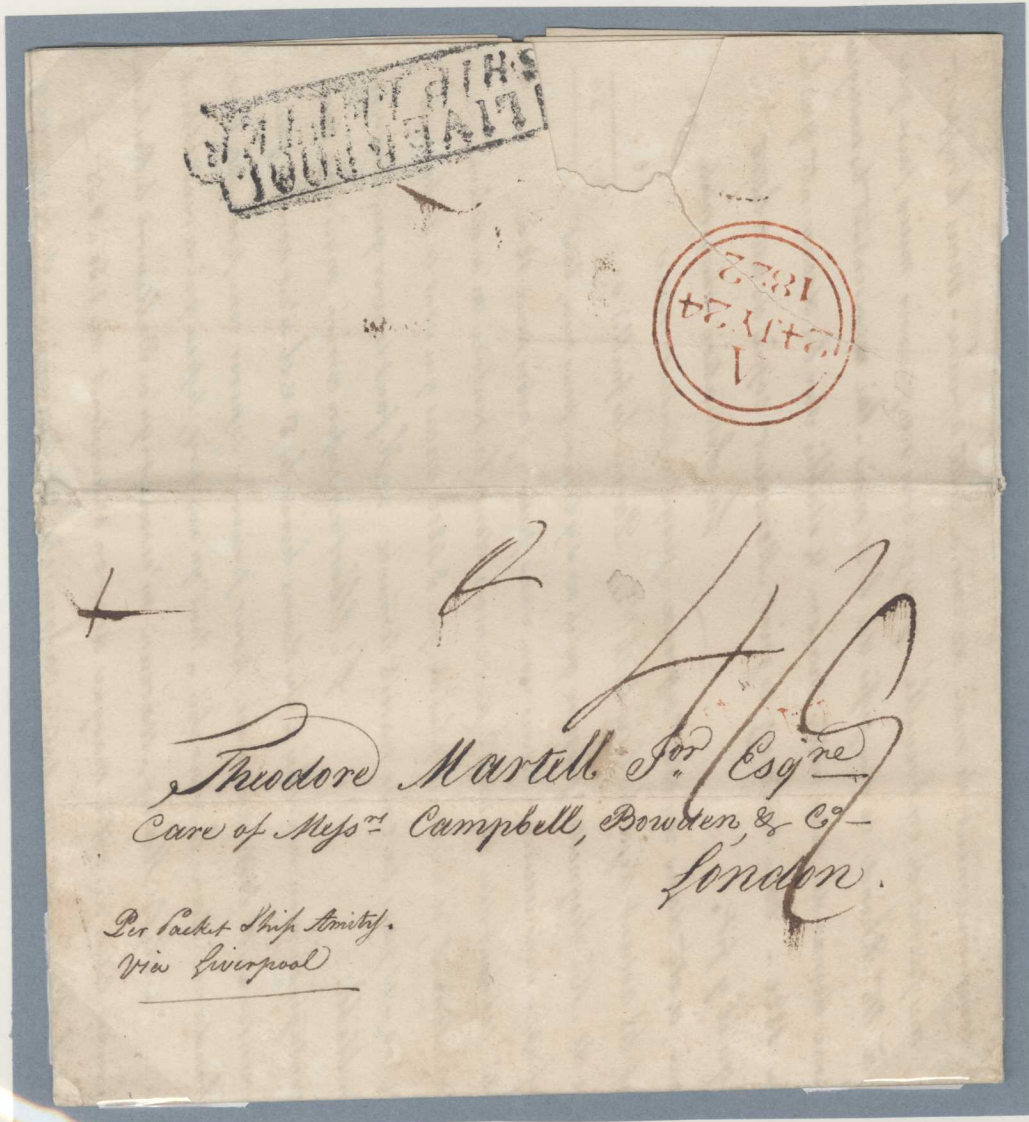
Postal Rates

United States	0
England	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7 (one shilling 7 pence)	

COMPETITION 1822-1830
Black Ball Line

The *Amity* - Triple Letter

BOSTON TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter carried to Black Ball ship agent in
New York. Dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Amity* departed
New York July 1, 1822,
arrived Liverpool July
22, 1822.

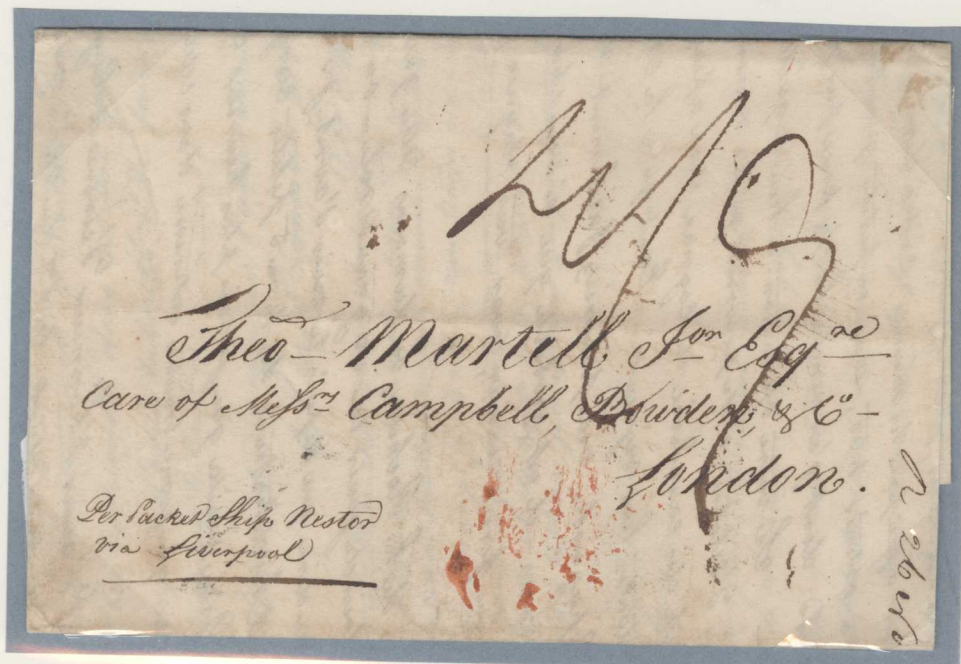
Postage Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	4/9
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 11d) = 57d or	
4/9d	
Ship letter fee plus inland.	

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Black Ball Line

The Nestor
Triple Letter

BOSTON
BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter carried to Black Ball ship's agent in New York.
Dispatched on packet as directed in lower left corner.
Letter contained inclosures based on the triple letter
rate in England.

Ship Information

Nestor departed from
New York September
1, 1823, arrived
Liverpool September
25, 1823.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	4/9d

3(8d + 11d) = 57d or 4/9d
Inland fee and ship letter fee
collected on delivery.

Scan of cover
back showing
receiving stamps
from Liverpool
and London.



COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Black Ball Line

The *Columbia* - Last Voyage
 The *Britannia* - First Voyage

LONDON TO HALLOWELL, MAINE
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

Columbia departed Liverpool on the westerly leg of her last voyage October 16, 1826, arrived New York November 15, 1826. She was replaced by the *Britannia*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢



Letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool for the last voyage of *Columbia*. The *Britannia* replaced her. She transferred to Red Swallowtail Line in 1827, serving under their flag until 1833.

LONDON TO FREDRICK TOWN, MD
(VIA LIVERPOOL, COWES, IR & NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Britannia* departed Liverpool on the westerly leg of her first voyage February 1, 1827, arrived New York March 6, 1827.

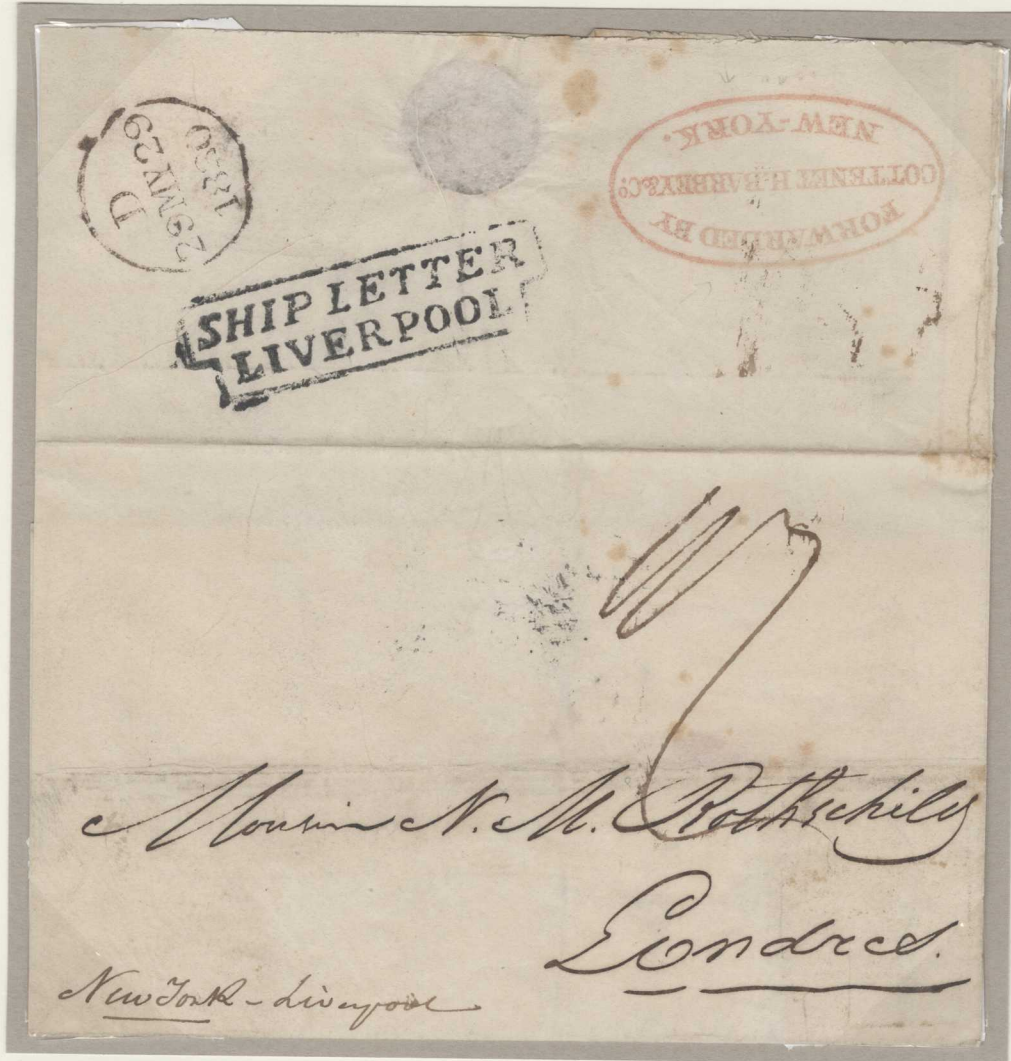
Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢



Letter carried to forwarding agent in Cowes. Forwarding agent manuscript mark not listed in Rowe.

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter hand carried to forwarding agent Cottent H. Barbry & Co. of New York. Not listed in Rowe. Dispatched on packet as directed.

Ship Information

The *New York* departed New York May 1, 1830, arrived Liverpool May 27, 1830. She replaced the *Albion* in 1822. In 1834 she was replaced by the *Orpheus*.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Black Ball Line

The *William Thompson* - Triple Letter
 The *Canada* - Double Letter

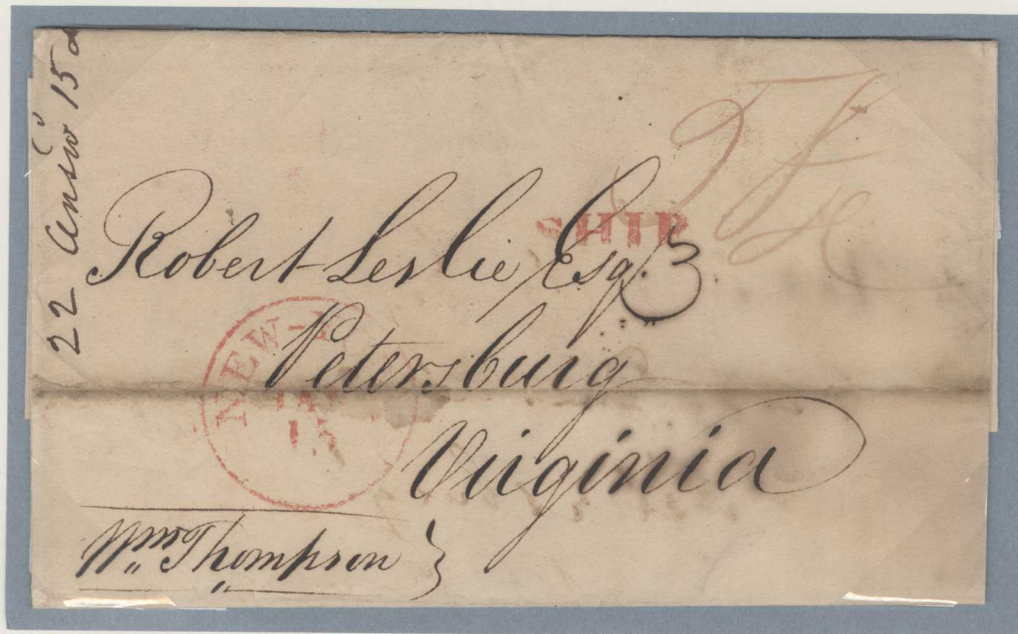
LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA) LIVERPOOL & NEW YORK

Ship Information

The *William Thompson* departed Liverpool December 4, 1825, and arrived New York January 18, 1826. She served in the Black Ball fleet until replaced by the *Hibernia* in 1830.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 58¼¢
 3 X 18¾ = 56¼ + 2 = 58¼¢



Triple letter carried to Black Ball ship's agent who dispatched letter on next outbound Black Ball packet.

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA) LIVERPOOL & NEW YORK



Ship Information

The *Canada* departed Liverpool January 3, 1826, arrived New York February 18, 1826.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 39½¢
 2 X 18¾ = 37½ + 2 = 39½¢

Double letter carried Black Ball ship's agent who dispatched on the next Black Ball packet.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Black Ball Line

The *James Cropper* - Last Voyage
The *Britannia*

LIVERPOOL TO ALBANY, NY
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *James Copper* departed Liverpool February 17, 1828, arrived New York March 14, 1828. Served as a transient until wrecked near Cape Hanlopen on December 15, 1832.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 12¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢
Inland (91 - 150 miles) + ship letter fee.

Carried out side the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool.

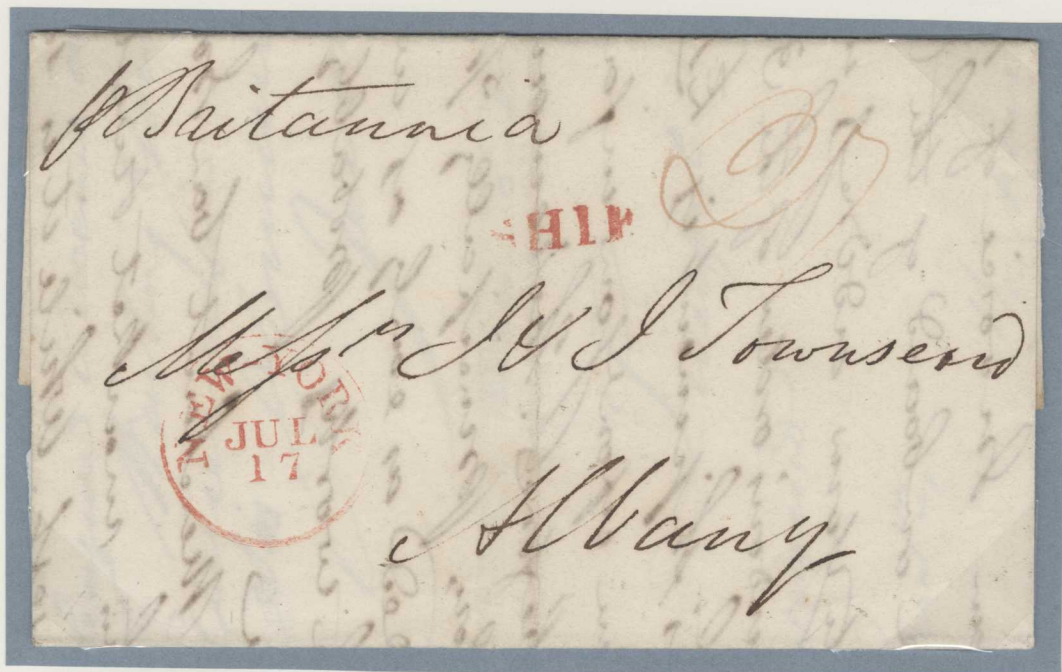
LIVERPOOL TO ALBANY, NEW YORK
(VIA NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The packet *Britannia* departed Liverpool June 9, 1828, arrived New York July 17, 1828. The *Britannia* replaced *Columbia* in 1826.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 27¢
25¢ inland + 2¢ ship letter fee = 27¢ to be collected on delivery.



Letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool for dispatch on designated packet.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Black Ball Line

Complete Voyage - The *Florida*
First Voyage, Westerly Leg

Regular year-round service provided by American packets proved important to business development, both in America and in Europe. In 1825 cotton speculation by American and Brazilian dealers caused oversupply in the Liverpool market. In April 1825, the packet *Florida* brought this information to the United States

The *Florida* departed Liverpool April 17, 1825, and arrived New York May 17, 1825. Pushed by her crew, this amazing 30 day westerly crossing and the timely information that she carried prevented bankruptcy for many New York speculators. Her 68 day crossing a year later shows the variable passage time on the westerly leg.

LIVERPOOL TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Florida departed from Liverpool January 3, 1825, arrived New York February 18, 1825.

Postal Rates

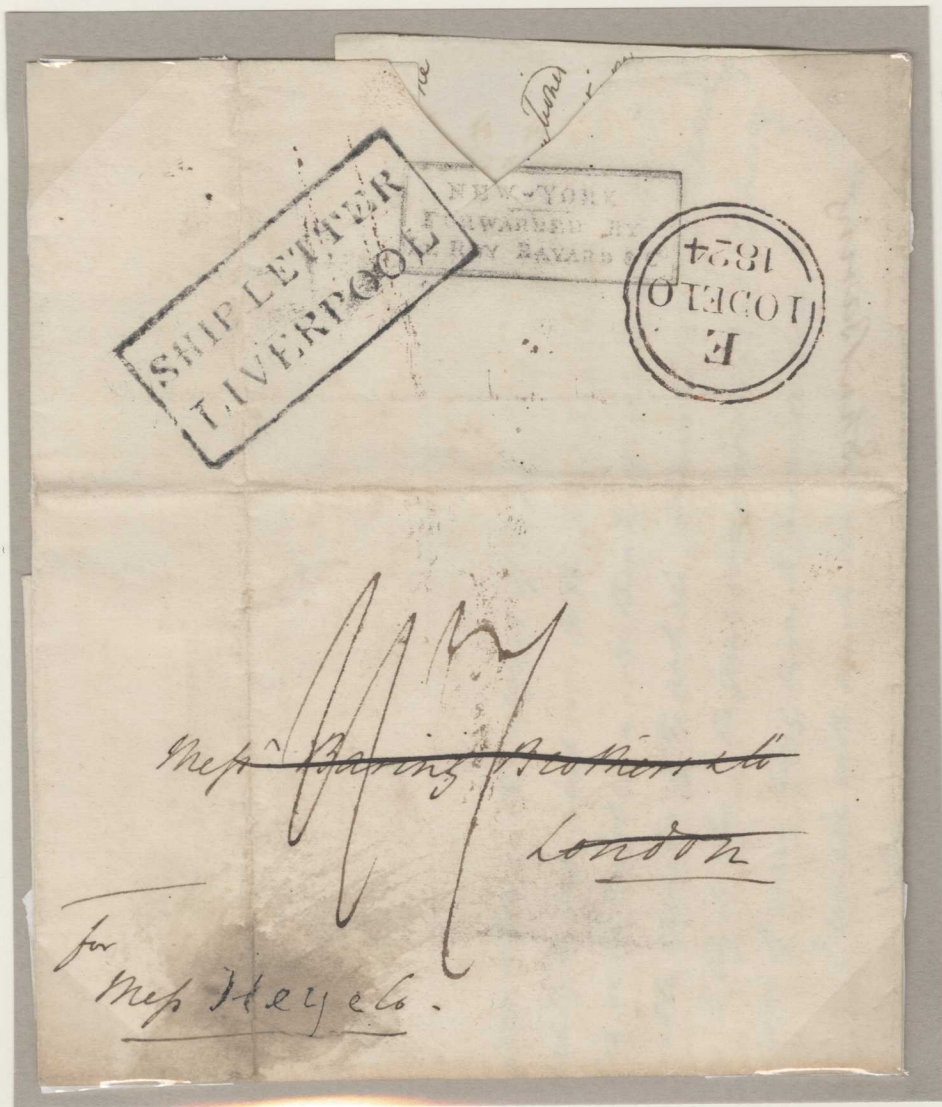
Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾ + 2 = 20¾¢	

Letter carried to Black Ball ship's agent in New York. Dispatched on packet as directed in lower left corner. Letter contained inclosures based on the triple letter rate in England.

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Black Ball Line

The Canada - Forwarding Agent
The Columbia

BOSTON TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Replacing the *James Monroe* the *Canada* made her first voyage in April 1823. The *Canada* departed New York November 16, 1824, arrived Liverpool December 8, 1824. The *Europe* replaced her in 1833.

Postage Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d ship letter fee + 11d inland fee = 19d or 1/7	

Letter carried outside the mail to New York forwarding agent Le Roy & Bayard. Double circle receiving stamp applied by London Ship Letter Office indicates night processing.

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON
(VIA NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Columbia* departed Liverpool October 23, 1825, arrived New York November 26, 1825.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20½¢
U.S. inland 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢.	
In 1825 rate for single letter increased to 18¾¢ for 151 to 400 miles.	

Letter carried to ship's agent for dispatch on a Black Ball packet.



COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Black Ball Line

The *William Thompson* – Forwarded
The *Nestor*

PARIS TO VERCENES, VT
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

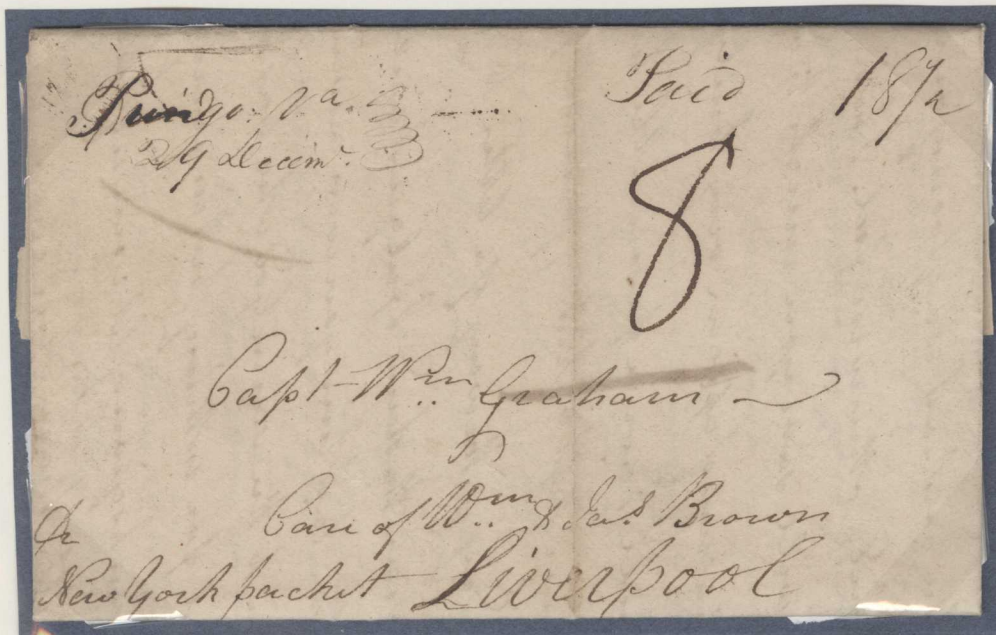
William Thompson departed Liverpool August 1, 1823, on her FIRST VOYAGE and arrived New York September 13, 1823. She sailed as a packet until 1830 when she became a whaler until 1863.

Postal Rates

British 0
United States 20½¢
18½¢ + 2¢ = 20½¢

Letter carried out side the mails to ship's agent in Liverpool.

BRADDOCK, VA TO LIVERPOOL
(VIA NEW YORK)



Letter posted in Braddock, VA.

Ship Information

The *Nestor* departed New York January 1, 1823, arrived Liverpool January 31, 1823. In 1824 she became the second Black Ball Packet. Capt. Pease grounded within a 9 month period.

Postal Rates

United States 18½¢
Great Britain 8d
Delivery fee for port of arrival.

COMING OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Black Ball Line

The *Columbus* – ½d wheel tax

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



Letter posted in Edinburgh and traveled through Scotland in a two wheeled mail cart. This is evidenced by the absence of a ½d wheel tax stamp. The double oval "LIVERPOOL SHIP LETTER" is Robertson type S6 in use 1838–1855.

Ship Information

The *Columbus* departed Liverpool July 19, 1838, arrived New York August 21, 1838.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/-
Per 1 Vic c 34, effective August 1, 1837.	
United States	14½¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢	

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Red Star Line

The *Birmingham*
The *Silvanus Jenkins* - Triple Letter

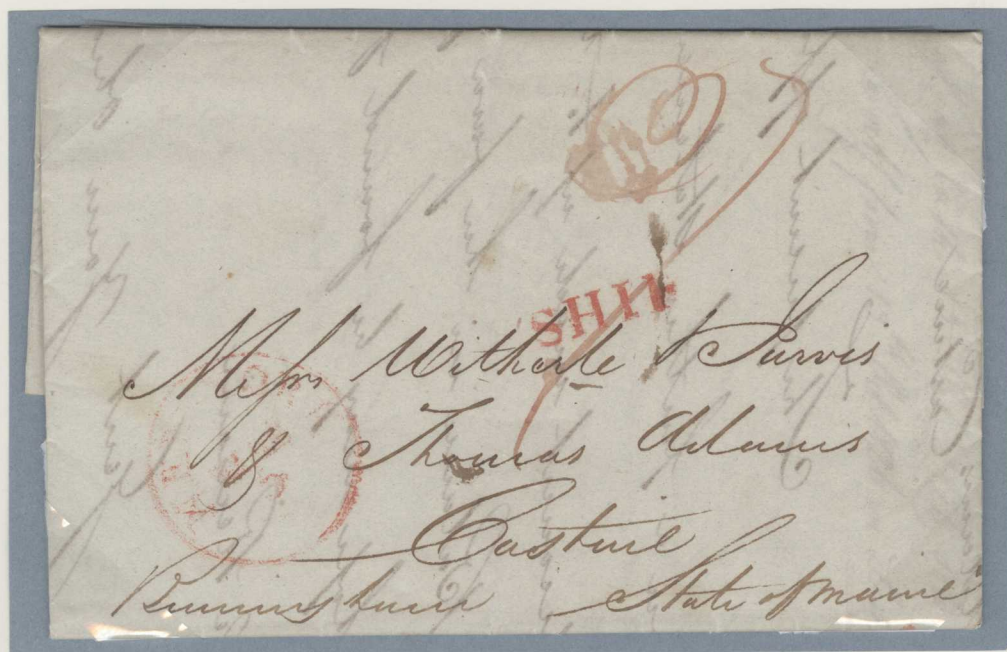
LIVERPOOL TO CASTUIE, MAINE
(VIA NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Birmingham* replaced the *Manhattan* and made her first voyage as a packet in March 1826. She departed Liverpool on this voyage January 17, 1827, arrived New York March 6, 1827.

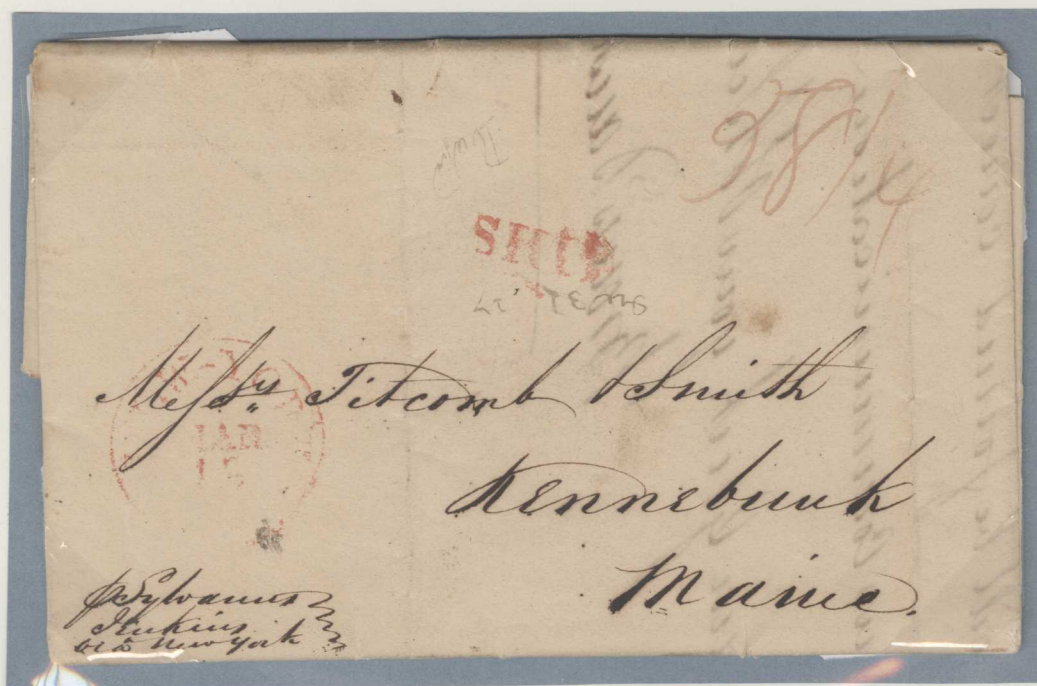
Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 27¢
Inland 25¢ + 2¢ ship letter fee



Letter carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool. Ship's agent paid the necessary fees and placed letter aboard the ship.

LONDON - KENNEBUNK, ME
(VIA LIVERPOOL & NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *Silvanus Jenkins* departed Liverpool February 9, 1828, arrived New York March 17, 1828. She sailed in the packet fleet until April 1833 when replaced by the *Virginian*.

Postal Rates

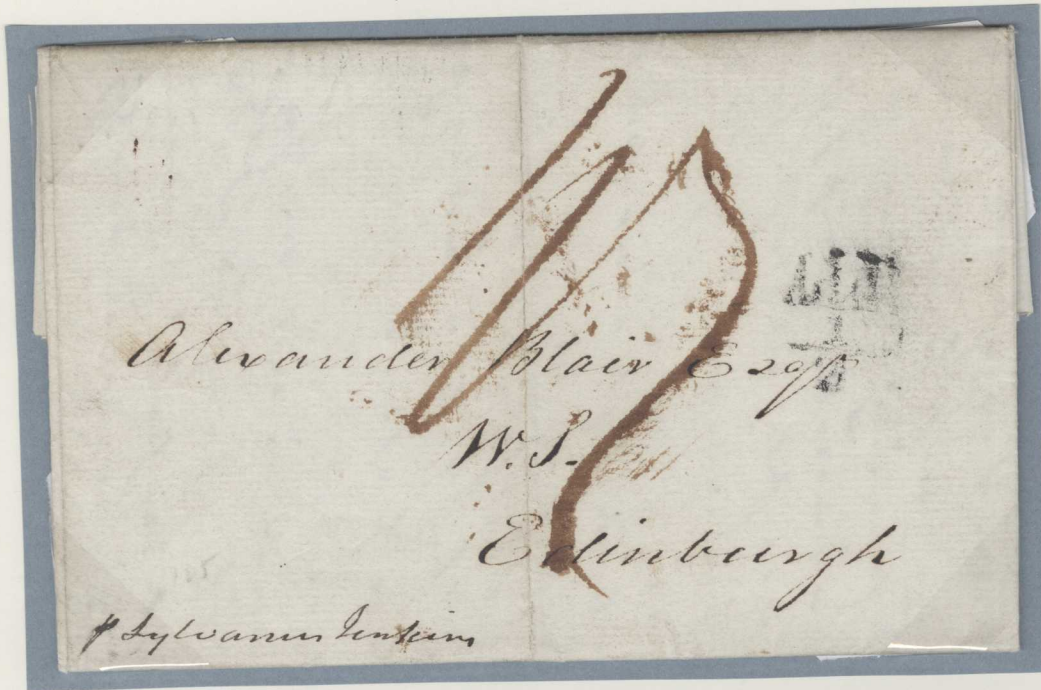
Great Britain 0
United States 58¼¢
3 x 18¼¢ + 2¢ = 58¼¢

Triple letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool for dispatch as directed.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Red Star Line

The *Silvanus Jenkins* - Wheel tax
 The *William Brynes*

NEW YORK TO EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
 The *Silvanus Jenkins* replaced the *Panthea* in 1827. She departed New York December 24, 1829, arrived Liverpool January 24, 1830.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7½
8d + 11 + ½d = 19½d	
or 1/7½	

Letter carried outside mail to ship's agent in New York for dispatch on packet. Letter traveled in Scotland in a mail coach with more than two wheels, thus the Scottish Wheel Tax of ½d.

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

Ship Information
 The *William Brynes* departed Liverpool November 10, 1830, arrived New York December 28, 1830. She served as packet until 1831 when replaced by the *Sheffield*.



Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	

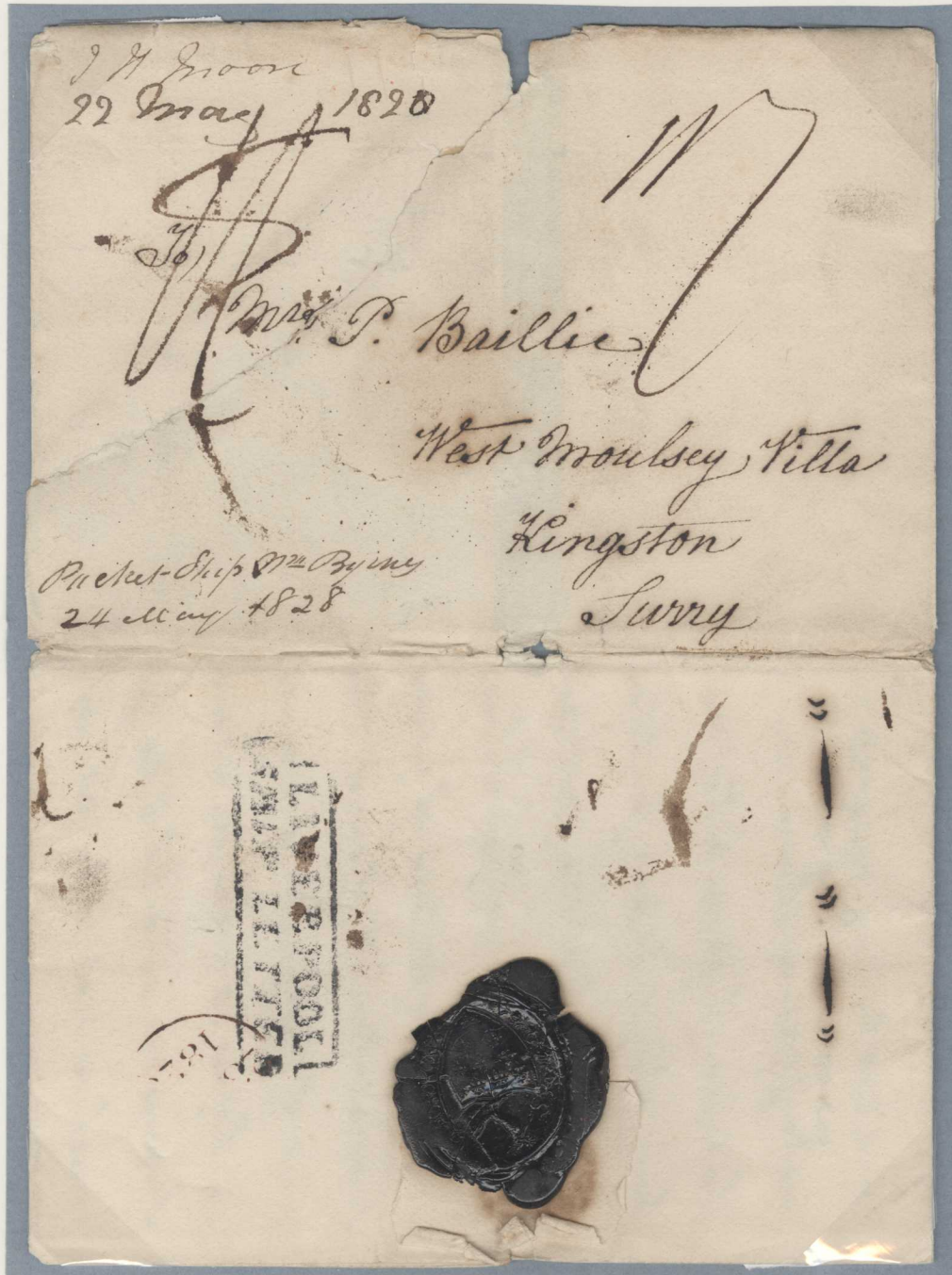
Letter carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool. Agent paid the fees and dispatched letter on the packet.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830

Red Star Line

The *William Brynes*

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK TO KINGSTON, ENGLAND
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Letter hand carried to ship's agent for dispatch per routing notation in lower left corner.

Ship Information

The *William Brynes* departed New York May 24, 1828, arrived Liverpool June 20, 1828. The *William Brynes* entered packet service January 25, 1826, replacing the *Meteor*.

Postal Rates

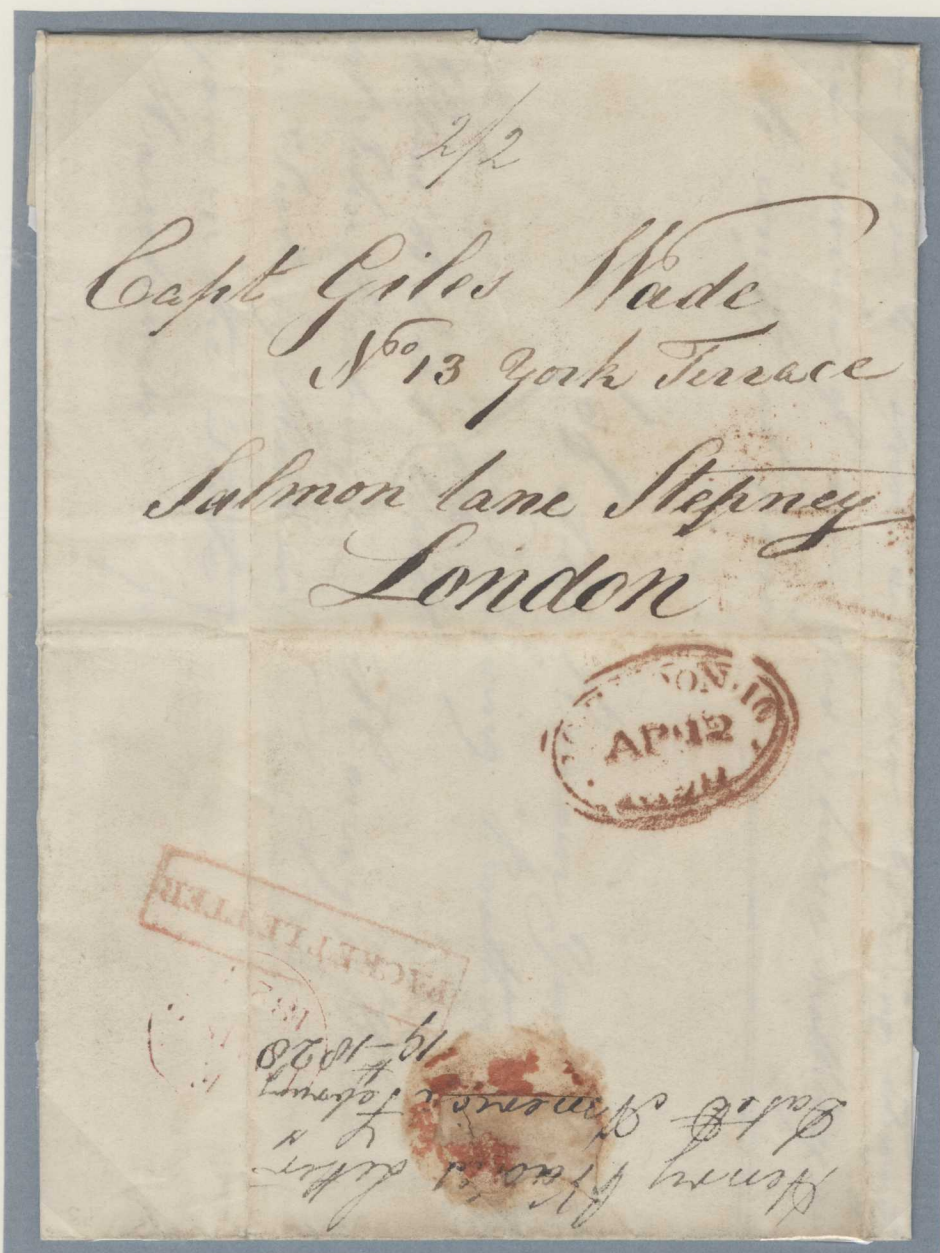
United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830 FALMOUTH PACKET

The *Skylark*

In 1683 the English established packet services to provide regular service for government correspondence. This provided a monthly service that was eventually opened to regular mail. It was privately manned, but in the later stages naval vessels gradually replaced the civilian. When the Black Ball line started regular packet service, this was the only competition. The Falmouth packets did not sail to Halifax in the winter months. Therefore service was not very reliable.

NORTH TISBURY, MARTHA'S VINEYARD TO LONDON
(VIA BOSTON AND HALIFAX)



Letter carried to Boston and put on the Cunard feeder ship *Swan*. Cunard provided service bringing American mails north from New York and Boston to Halifax and from Halifax south to New York and Boston.

In Halifax the letter dispatched on the Falmouth packet *Skylark* to England. Forwarded by mail coach to London Ship Letter Office. Processed and dispatched to Stepney Receiving House; fees collected and delivered.

Ship Information

The Cunard feeder ship *Swan* departed Boston March 18, 1828, arriving Halifax March 28, 1828. The Falmouth packet *Skylark* departed Halifax March 25, 1828, arrived Falmouth April 10-11, 1828.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	2/2

1/3 + 1/- 1d = 2/2 (Jan. 1817 GPO Notice)
Two Penny Post fee 2d collected on delivery.

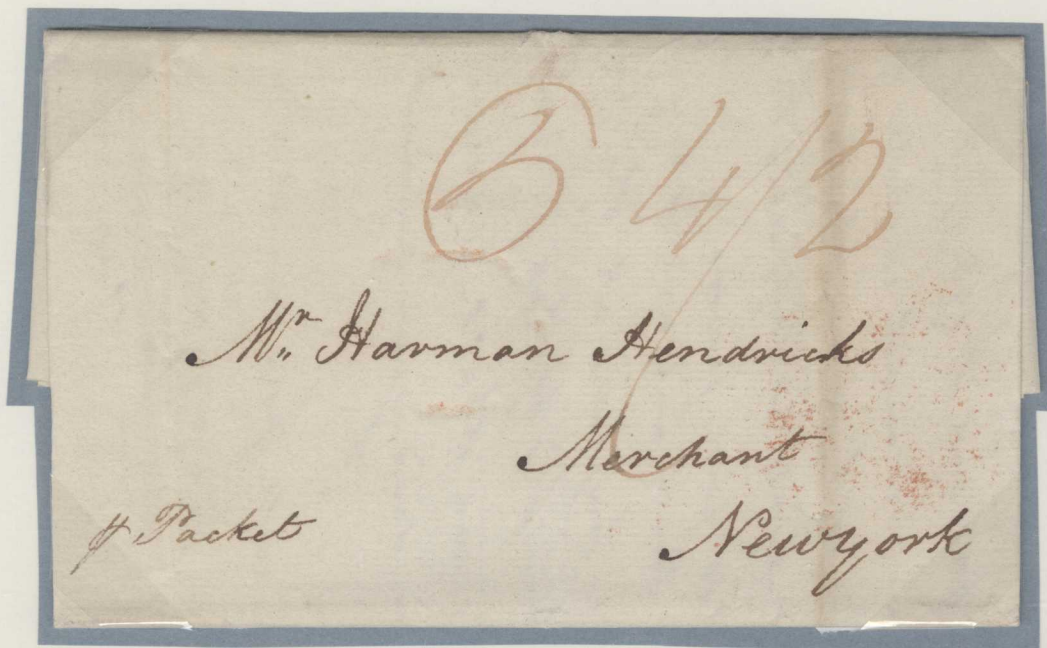
EARLY YEARS 1818 – 1822 BLACK BALL LINE

The *Pacific*
First Voyage, Double Letter

What was a packet? In Britain, a packet was a ship contracted and controlled by the government. They carried government mail in addition to regular mail. During the period of this study, they sailed once a month but not during winter months. Americans define packets as a ship that sailed between two ports on a regular schedule summer and winter and departed sometimes without a full cargo hold.

The Black Ball Line started regular packet service between New York and Liverpool with the January 4, 1818 sailing of the *Courier* from Liverpool. The *James Monroe* made the first easterly voyage and departed New York January 5. To complete the schedule in February, the *Pacific* sailed from Liverpool and the *Amity* departed from New York.

BRISTOL, ENGLAND TO NEW YORK (VIA LONDON AND LIVERPOOL)



The *Pacific* was the second Black Ball packet to depart Liverpool. Mail to the Americas passed through the Ship Letter Office in London. Note the Bristol postmark indicating the Bristol mileage mark of 122 miles to London.

Pacific First Voyage

The *Pacific* departed Liverpool February 5, 1818, arrived New York March 25, 1818. She was the oldest of the initial fleet when replaced in 1819 by the *Albion*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 4/2

GPO Notice, Jan. 1817.
Packet rate Falmouth to America abated by 1d + inland London to Liverpool.
 $15d + 11d - 1d = 25d$, $2 \times 25 = 50d$. (4 shilling, 2 pence)

United States 6¢

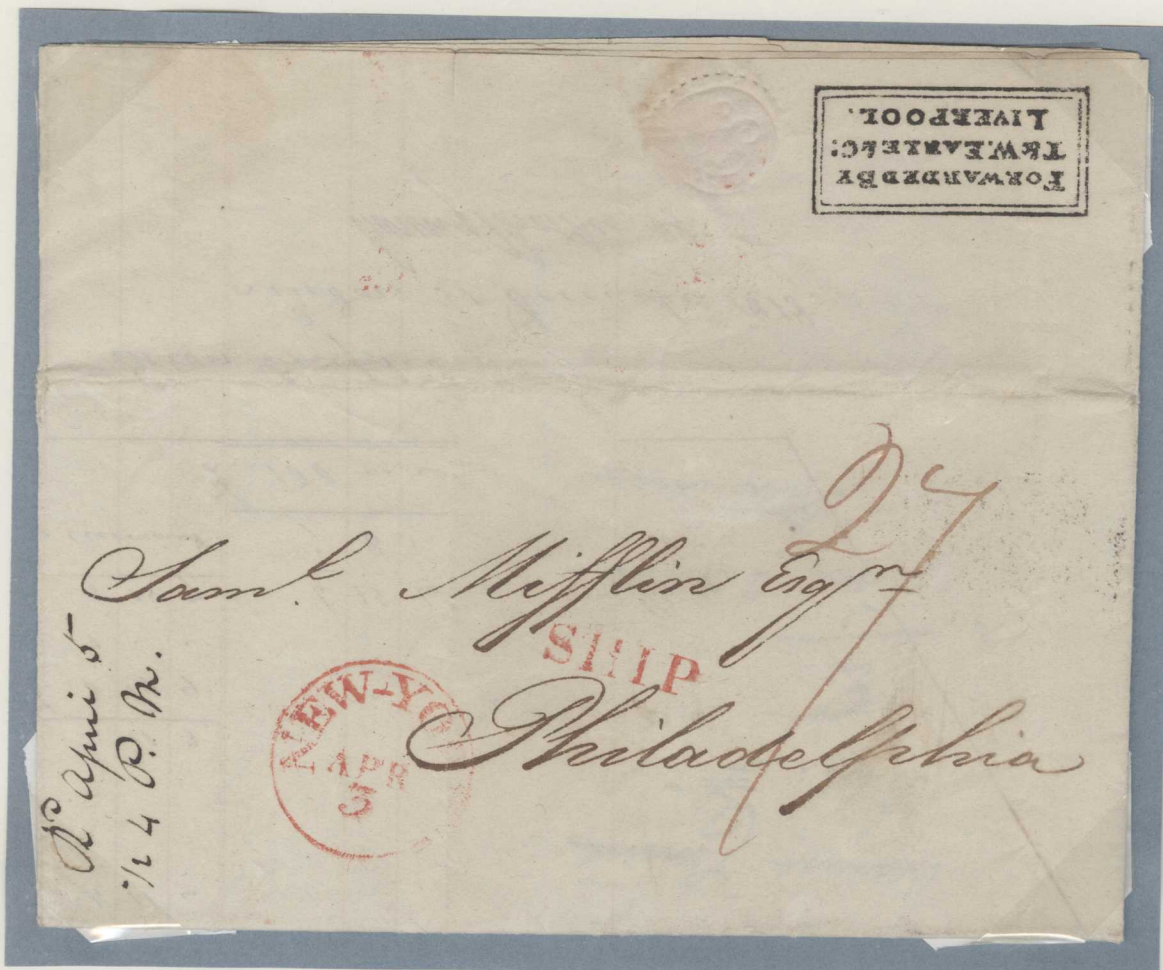
Fee for letter addressed to port of arrival.



EARLY YEARS 1818 - 1822
Black Ball Line

The Pacific
Last voyage
Forwarding Agent

LONDON TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Letter written by Baring Brothers in London carried out side the mails to Liverpool forwarding agent T. & W. Earle, in use 1821 - 1822. This is earlier use than recorded. Dispatched as endorsed. Packet unable to negotiate the Narrows, cover carried by news boat arriving 2 days before packet.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	27¢
Double letter (2 x 18) + 2¢	= 27¢

Ship Information

Black Ball Line agent dispatched letter on the *Pacific*. The *Pacific* departed on her last voyage February 1, 1819 arriving New York April 5, 1819.

EARLY YEARS 1818 – 1822
Black Ball Line

The Amity
Double Letter
The Courier

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON
(VIA NEW YORK)

Ship Information

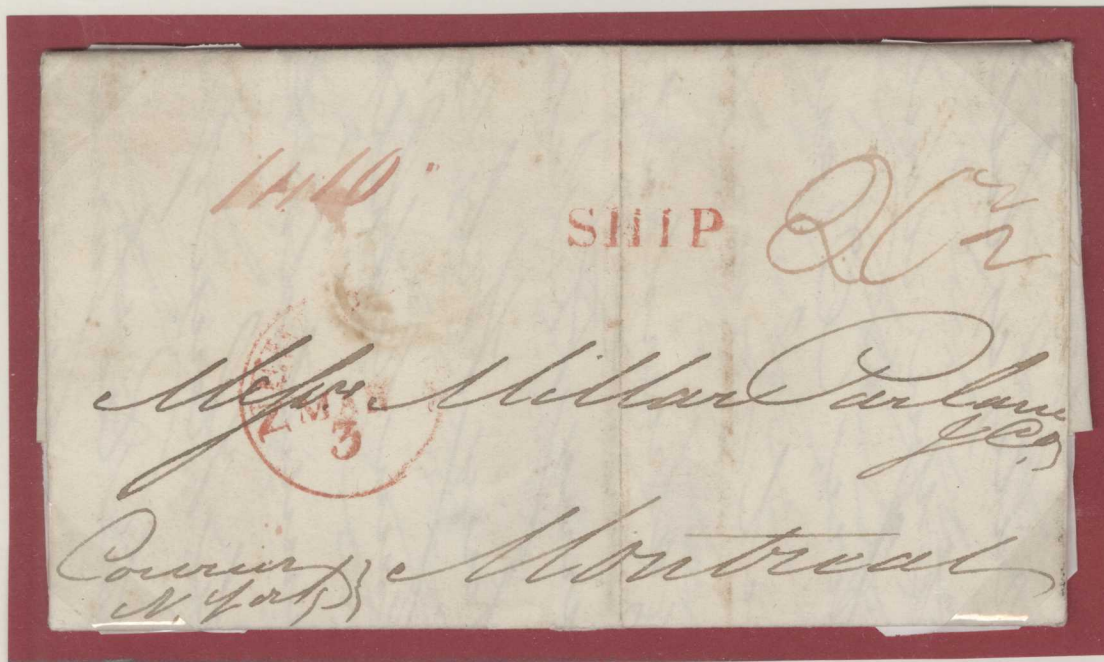
The *Amity* departed
Liverpool on her
second voyage
August 2, 1818,
arrived New York
September 3, 1818.

Postal Rates

British 0
United States 39¢
(Inland 2 X 18½¢) = 37 +
2¢ = 39¢
Additional 2¢ is United
States Ship Letter Fee.



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



Ship Information

The *Courier* departed
Liverpool January 1,
1819, arrived New
York March 4, 1819.

Postal Rates

British 0
U.S. 20½¢
(18½¢ + 2¢ = 20½¢).
Collected in Canada.
Canadian 1/10d cy
Canada total postage due
on delivery including
amount to be debited to
the United States.

When foul weather prevented packets from navigating the Narrows of New York Harbor, news boats met them and took mail and newspapers ashore. Thus the mail arrival date of March 3, 1819.

EARLY YEARS 1818 - 1822
Black Ball Line

The *Courier*
Ship Marking
The *Amity*

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Letter dispatched on the *Courier* departed Liverpool June 1, 1819, arrived New York July 8, 1819. Rare double oval red ship stamp applied on board.

Postal Rates

British	0
United States	39¢
(2 x 18½¢) + 2¢ ship letter fee = 39¢	

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

Ship Information

The *Amity* departed Liverpool August 1, 1819, arrived New York September 10, 1819.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	14½¢
Inland + ship letter fee: 12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢	



Letter carried to ship's agent, Liverpool. The letter arrival date, September 9, 1819 indicates this letter was taken ashore by a news boat.

EARLY YEARS 1818 – 1822
Black Ball Line

The Albion
The Nestor - First Voyage

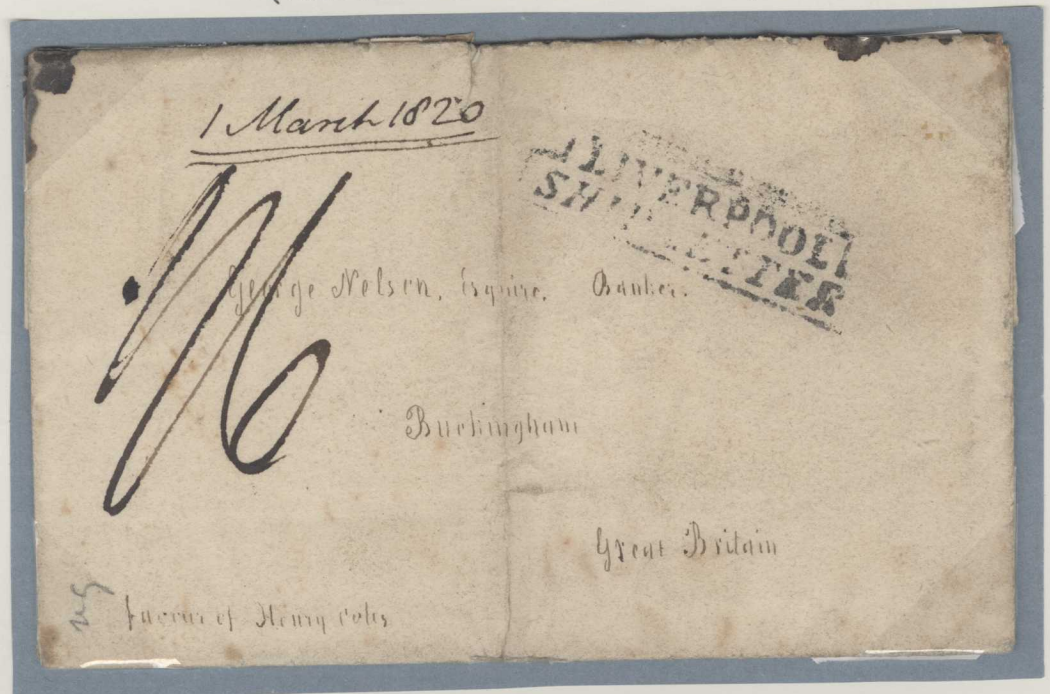
PHILADELPHIA TO BUCKINGHAM, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

The *Albion* departed New York on March 10, 1820, arrived in Liverpool March 30, 1820.

Postal Rates

U.S. Inland 0
 Great Britain 1/6
 Inland + ship letter fee:
 8d + 10d = 18d or 1/6.



Letter carried outside the mail to the ship's agent in Liverpool.

PHILADELPHIA TO LIVERPOOL
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

First voyage of the *Nestor*, departed New York August 10, 1820, arrived in Liverpool August 30, 1820. She replaced the *Courier*.

Postal Rates

U. S. Inland 12½¢
 Great Britain 8d
 Fee for delivery to port of arrival. (1815, 11 July, 55 George III c 153)

EARLY YEARS 1818 – 1822

Black Ball Line

The *James Monroe* - Double Forwarded

Double Forwarded Letter. Rowe defines a forwarding agent as “A person, or firm, who undertakes to see that goods or correspondence of another are transported without himself acting as the carrier.” They played an important roll in areas where postal systems were developing or difficulties were encountered in moving the mail.

CARLILSE, GREAT BRITAIN TO PHILADELPHIA (VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

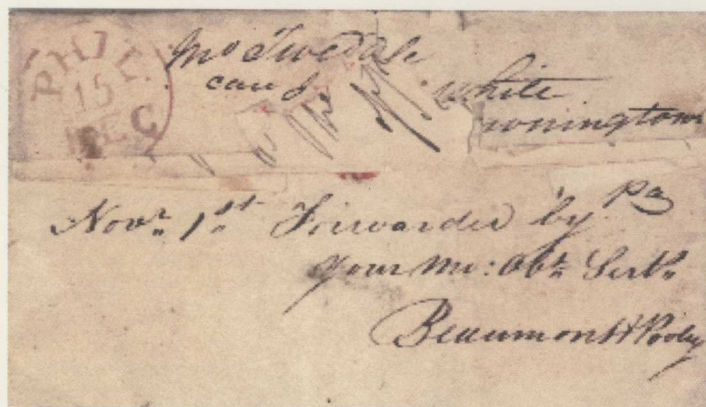
The *James Monroe*, one of the original Black Ball packets, departed Liverpool November 4, 1820, arrived New York December 15, 1820.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	12½¢
Inland to Philadelphia.	
United States	10¢
Forwarding fee.	



Carried outside mail to forwarding agent “Beaumont & Pooley” in Liverpool, dispatched on packet. In New York dispatched to Philadelphia and arrived December 15, 1820. In Philadelphia addressee forwarded to Downingtown PA on December 16. A News Boat cover.



Reduced image of cover back showing final addressee, Mr. James White of Downingtown, PA. The Philadelphia postmark shows the letter was received in Philadelphia December 15, 1820. Also there is the notation of the Liverpool forwarding agent Beaumont & Pooley, not listed in Rowe.

EARLY YEARS 1818 – 1822
Black Ball Line

The James Monroe - Missent Letter

NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL
FORWARDED TO MANCHESTER, ENGLAND



Ship Information

The *James Monroe* departed New York February 10, 1822, arrived Liverpool March 1, 1822. She was replaced by the *Canada* in 1823.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
Delivery to port of arrival	
Great Britain	1/3
8d + 7d = 15d or 1/3	

Missent Mail. Letter carried to ship's agent in New York for dispatch on packet.



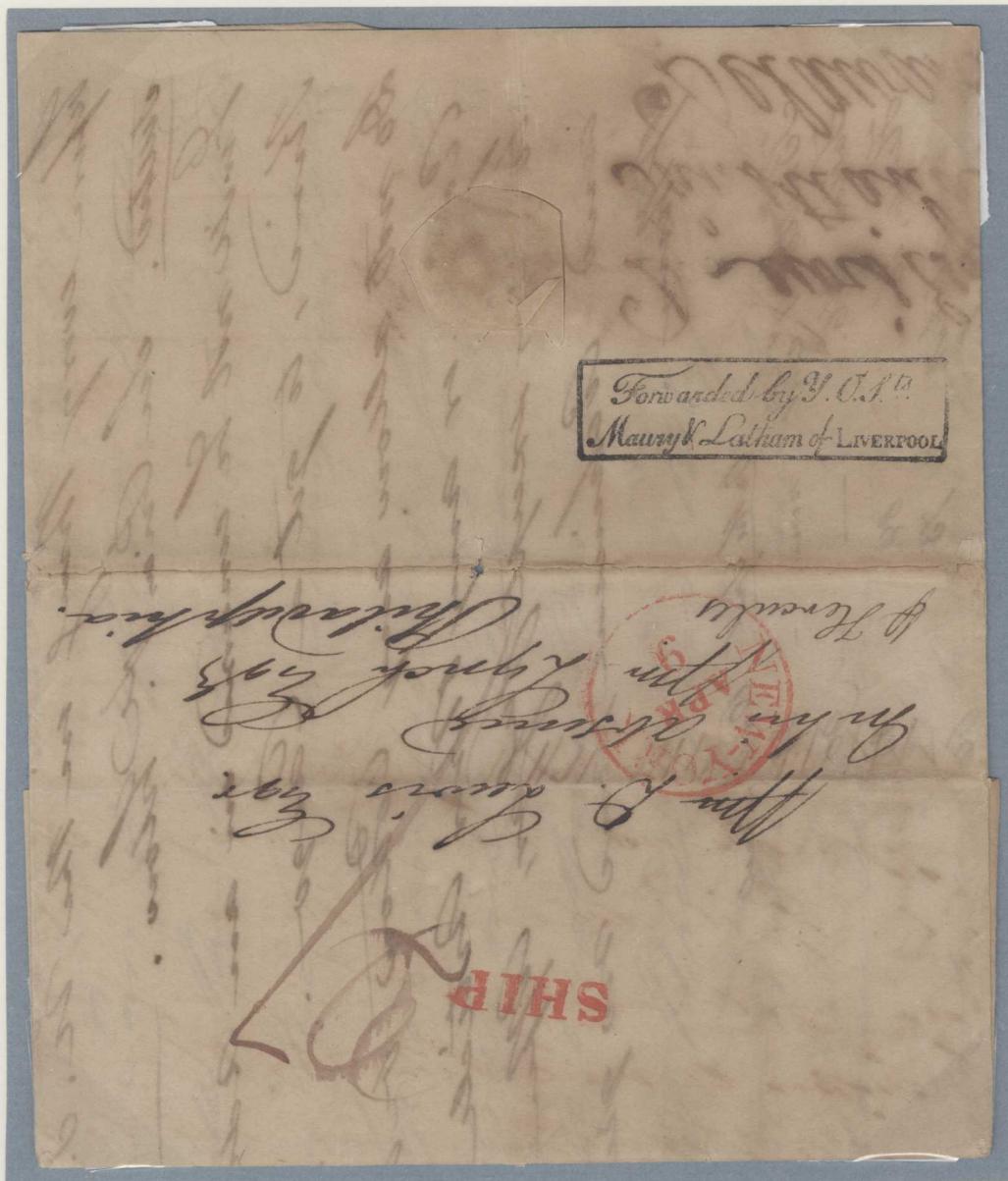
Reduced image of cover back showing that addressee did open the letter. He discovered it was not for him. Letter forwarded to individual in Manchester, England. This caused an additional rating of the letter from 8d, the rate for letter to port of arrival, to 1/3. This rate included ship letter rate plus inland rate to Manchester.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830 RED STAR LINE

The *Hercules* - Double Letter and
Last Voyage

Black Ball Line success did not go unnoticed. When the 1819 - 1820 recession did not hamper operations of Black Ball's packets, other companies slowly initiated their own packet services. The first was the Red Star Line. With four vessels, *Meteor*, *Manhattan*, *Panthea* and *Hercules* they started regular departures from New York to Liverpool on January 25, 1822, They maintained this schedule through the period of this study.

UNKNOWN CITY, ENGLAND TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *Hercules* departed Liverpool on her third and last voyage, February 8, 1823, arrived New York April 10, 1823.

Postage Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	27¢
Twice inland + Ship Letter Fee: (2x12½¢) + 2¢ = 27¢.	

Carried to Forwarding Agent Maury V. Latham of Liverpool for dispatch. The *Herclues* was the oldest of the four Red Star ships starting this service. Thus explaining the long Westerly crossing. Also a News Boat cover.

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830

Red Star Line

The *John Wells* - Packet Rate
The *Meteor* - Double Letter

Letter not endorsed to a private ship. Packet rate for Falmouth packet was paid. Costing 10d more than ship letter rate.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND TO CHILICOTHE, OH
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



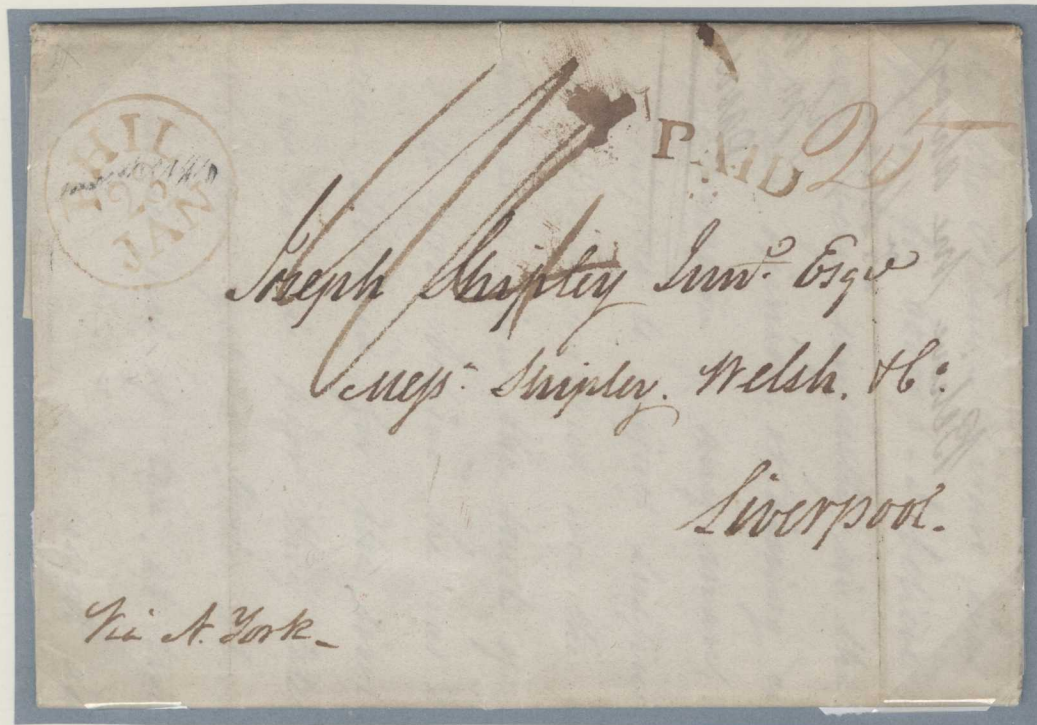
Ship Information

The *John Wells* departed Liverpool September 8, 1823, arrived October 14, 1823.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 2/5½
Inland Glasgow + London + to Falmouth + Wheel Tax.
1/2d + 1/3d + ½ d = 2/5½
United States 25¢
Greater than 400 miles.

PHILADELPHIA TO LIVERPOOL
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

The *Meteor* departed New York January 24, 1825, arrived Liverpool February 17, 1825.

Postage Rates

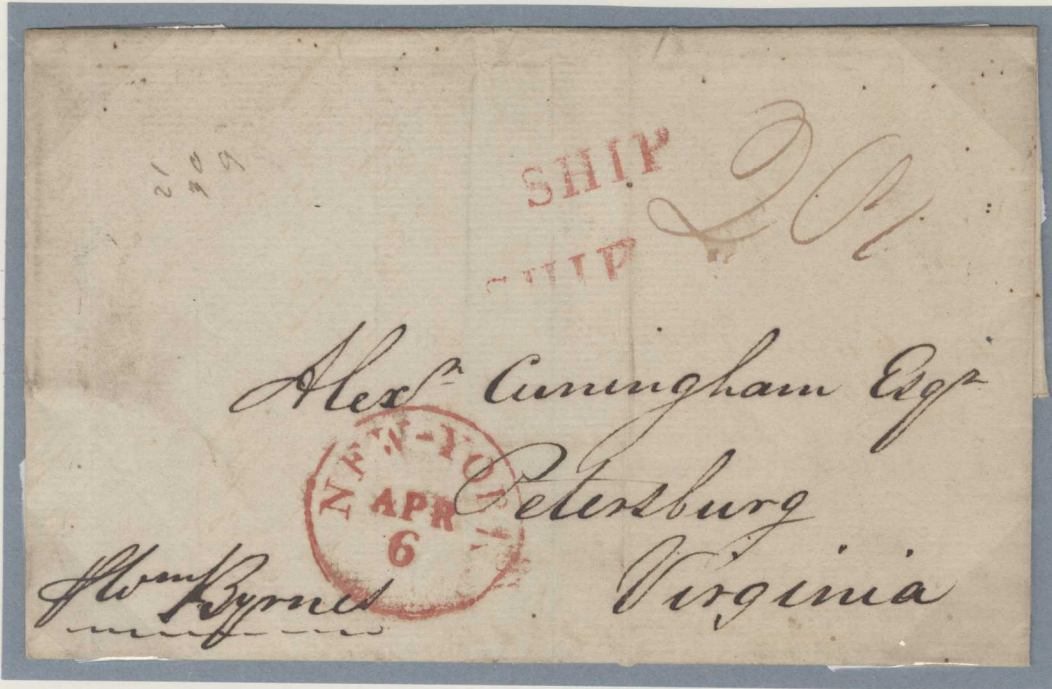
United States 25¢
Twice inland (2 x 12½¢) = 25¢
Great Britain 1/4d
2 x 8d = 16d or 1/4. Rate for double letter delivered at port of arrival.

Double letter based on United States progression of sheet. On English progression of weight it is rated as a double letter.

COMPETITION 1822-1830
Red Star Line

William Byrnes - First Voyage
Panthea - Triple Letter

LIVERPOOL TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information
William Byrnes departed Liverpool on the westerly leg of first voyage March 9, 1826, arrived New York April 6, 1826.

Postage Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾ + 2 = 20¾¢
 Inland fee for 151 to 400 miles plus ship letter fee.

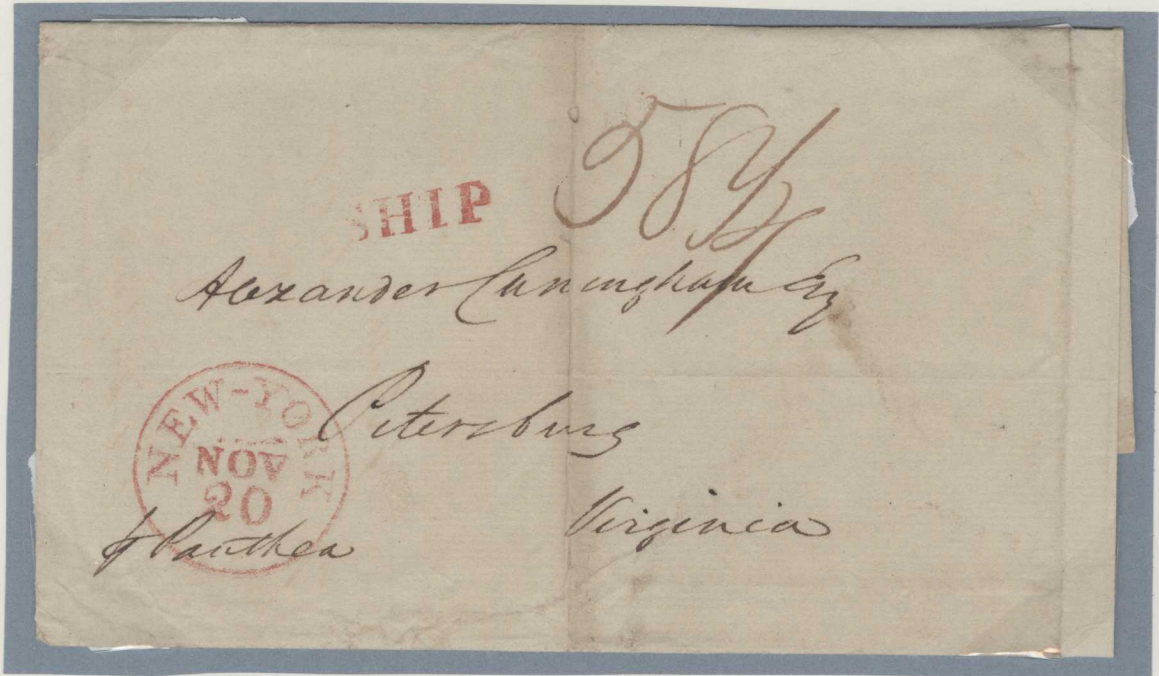
Letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool to avoid high English postage rates. Dispatched on packet as directed.

LIVERPOOL TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)

Letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool and dispatched as directed.

Ship Information
 The *Panthea* departed Liverpool on October 12, 1826, arrived New York November 22, 1826. She wrecked on next voyage January 14, 1827, Holyhead, Wales.

Postage Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United States 58¾¢
 (3 x 18¾) + 2¢ = 58¾¢



COMPETITION 1822-1830

Red Star Line

The *William Byrnes*
Forwarded

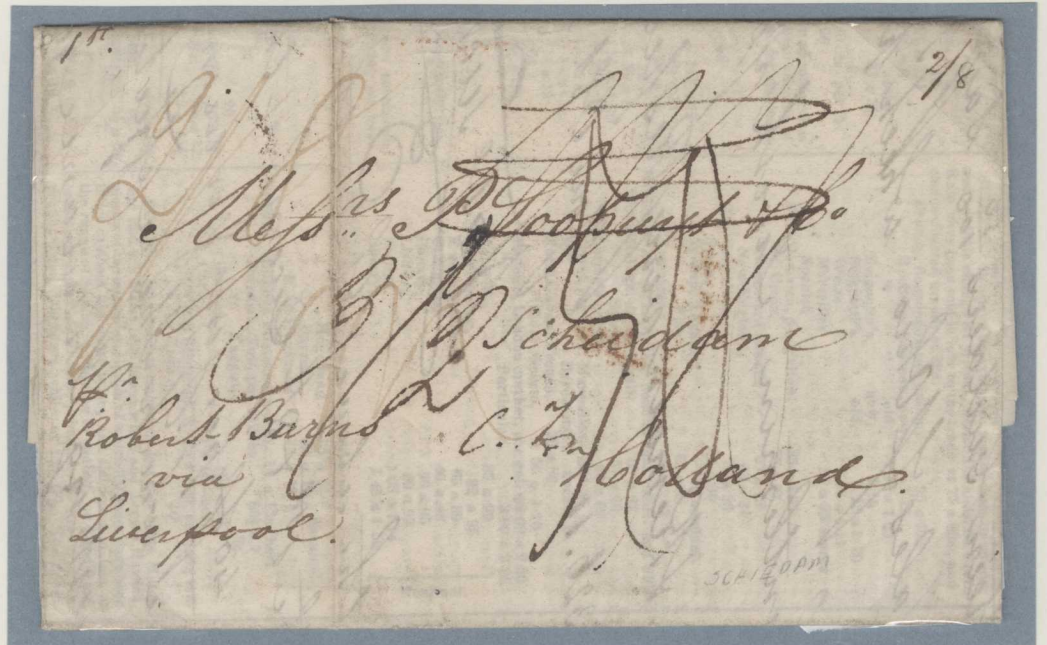
BOSTON TO SCHEIDAM, HOLLAND (VIA NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)

Ship Information

The *William Byrnes*
departed New York
January 24, 1827 arrived
Liverpool February 23,
1827.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7d
Ship letter fee + inland to London rerated to double letter 3/2d.	
Great Britain	2/8d
Double transfer rate to Holland, collected in Holland.	
Holland	50 Stuyvers
Transfer fee debited to Great Britain plus inland.	



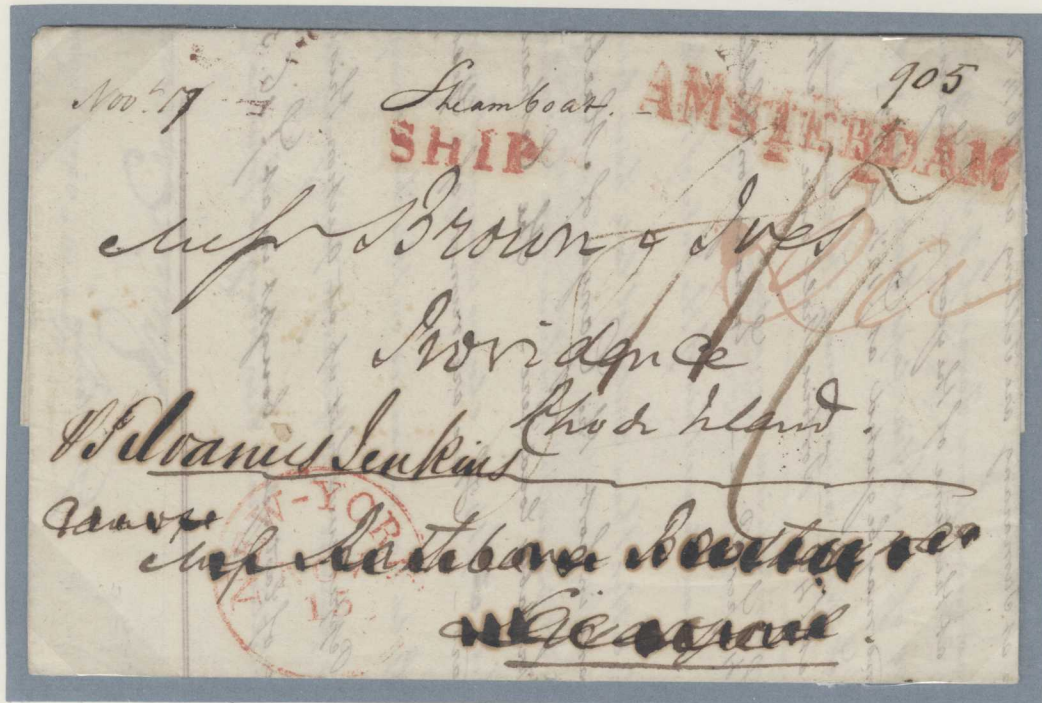
Letter endorsed to wrong packet, *Robert Byrnes*. Addressee in London (see back of cover, left side) paid rerated fee and posted to addressee on front at noon February 26. Letter preceded to Holland for delivery. Transfer fees paid in Holland and debited to Great Britain.



Back of letter showing various transit marks. Black Boxed 'SHIP LETTER/ LIVERPOOL' is Robertson type S12. Red single receiving mark in lower left indicates morning on the inbound leg in London.

Red double oval in upper right applied when posted to Holland. Black double circle, upper right is Mackay type 16. Black single circle is Holland receiving mark applied in Schiedam.

AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS TO PROVIDENCE, RI
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Silvanus Jenkins departed Liverpool October 11, 1828, arrived New York November 17, 1828.

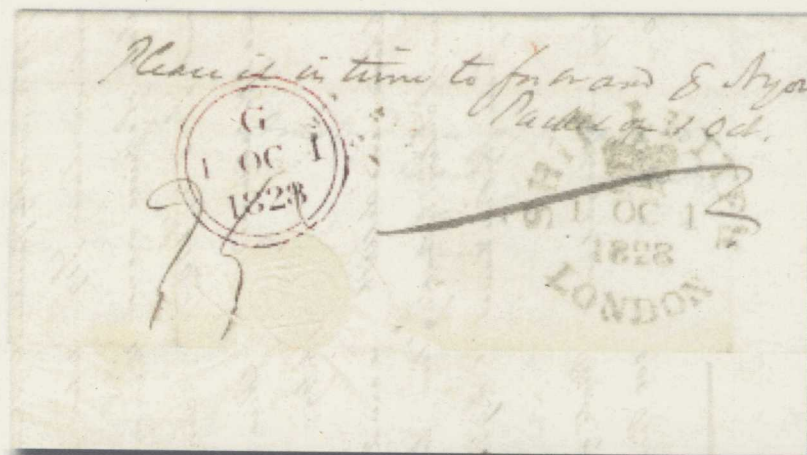
Letter addressed to 'Mr. Rathbone Besttone,' Liverpool to be placed on October 1st packet for New York. Arrived in England October 1, 1828 but unable to meet the packet in Liverpool. It was dispatched as indicated on the next available packet.

Note the '905' in the upper right corner. This indicates the account to be charged for the Netherlands postage

Postal Rates

Netherlands	25
Great Britain	1/7d
United States	20 ³ / ₄ ¢

Reduced copy of cover back showing the British postal markings noting letter was processed on the evening of October 1st. Also Netherlands postage fees of 25 styviers is noted.



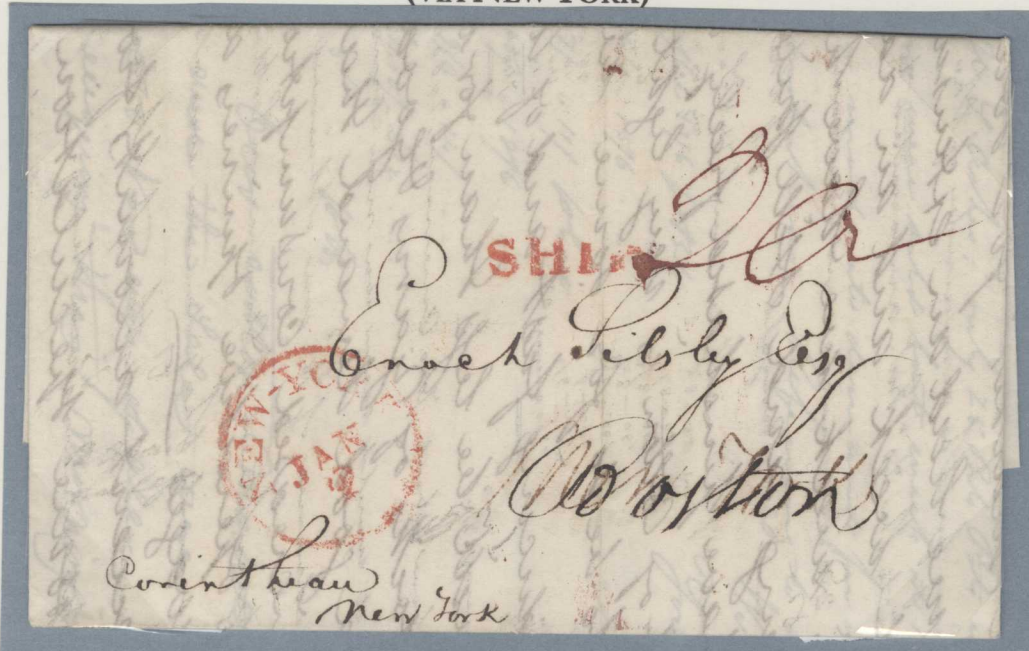
COMPETITION 1822 – 1830 BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE

The *Corinthian* - First Voyage

The Blue Swallowtail Line observed the Black Ball and the Red Star Lines' success and established a third packet service between New York and Liverpool.

With the *Robert Fulton*, *Cortes* and two charter vessels, the *Indian Chief* and *Martha* for a single voyage each, the Blue Swallowtail Line started packet service August 8, 1822. The charter vessels were replaced early 1823 by the *Corinthian* and the *Leeds* which filled out their permanent fleet.

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON (VIA NEW YORK)



Letter hand carried to the ship's agent in Liverpool. On arrival at The Narrows of New York Harbor, the *Corinthian* could not enter. Incoming packets carried the latest newspapers and continental business information. Steam tugs called news boats raced to meet incoming vessels stalled at the Narrows, and carried mail and news items into the city. Thus mail bore an earlier arrival date than a packet.

Ship Information

The *Corinthian* departed Liverpool on her first winter westerly voyage November 24, 1823, arrived New York January 5, 1824. The *Corinthian* joined the packet fleet in early 1823 replacing one of the charter packets.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20½¢
18½¢ + 2¢ = 20½¢	

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Blue Swallowtail Line

The *Napoleon* - 9 X Rate Letter

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Wrapper containing a packet of papers weighting 2.25 ounces posted in Philadelphia. In New York dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

The *Napoleon* departed New York November 8, 1823, arrived Liverpool November 26, 1823.

Postal Rates

United States	\$1.00
8 x 12½¢ =	\$1.00
Great Britain	14/3d
(9 x 8d) + (9 x 11d) =	14/3d
Ship Letter Fee + Inland	

COMPETITION 1822-1830

Blue Swallowtail Line

The *Cortes*
Double forwarded

PHILADELPHIA TO FRANCAUMONS, BELGIUM (VIA NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)

Ship Information

The *Cortes* departed
New York September 8,
1824, arrived Liverpool
October 14, 1824.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
Ship letter fee.	
Great Britain	1/11d
1/1d Inland Liverpool to London, plus 10d transfer fee to Belgium.	



Letter carried to Forwarding Agent George Todd in New York. Dispatched to Blue Swallowtail packet. Liverpool addressee paid ship letter fee and forwarded letter to Belgium. Payment indicated by red oval 'PAID/AT/LIVERPOOL' Mackay type 2348 in use 1824 - 1826.



Back of letter showing various transit marks and payments. The black boxed 'SHIP LETTER/LIVERPOOL' is Robertson type S12 in use 1824 - 1841. The faint rimless black 'LIVERPOOL/OC/14/?' is Mackay type 389. The two black circles are Belgium receiving marks. On the left are accounting marks showing the 10d debited to Great Britain for the transfer fee and 17 stuyvers inland postage.

The *Leeds* when departing Liverpool January 5, 1825, went aground on the North Bank. Also departing on January 5 were two Black Ball Packets, the *Canada* and the *Florida*. The cover indicates a New York arrival date of February 4, 1825. Research shows that the *Florida* arrived New York two days later with news boat, carrying mail to the city. These dates suggest that mail was transferred and continued to New York on the *Florida*.

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Double wrapper carried to ship's agent Liverpool for dispatch as indicated.

Postal Rates

British 0
United States 39½¢
2 x 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 39½¢

Ship Information

Leeds departed Liverpool January 5, 1825, arrived New York March 16, 1825, after repairs.

The *Leeds*, when finally brought to Kings Dock Basin was declared irreparable. However, due to unique construction of American packets, although both bow and stern hung suspended in mid air for several days, she returned by March 16, 1825 to her schedule. American packets were constructed with first deck below top deck caulked and planked in same manner as top deck. This additional detail gave them a unique amount of structural strength, longer service and enhanced handling. Observing this detail, British ship builders adopted this technique.

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON
(VIA NEW YORK)



Letter was part of a bundle of letters mailed to a Forwarding agent in New York. The bundle was opened and letters placed in U.S. postal system in New York thus no captians or ship letter fees were due. Letter only rated the U.S. postage New York to Boston. Letter is a news boat letter noted by the New York date June 23,1825. It was brought by a 'News Boat' that met the packet for the mail and news papers. These boats were steam powered not subject to the winds as were the packets.

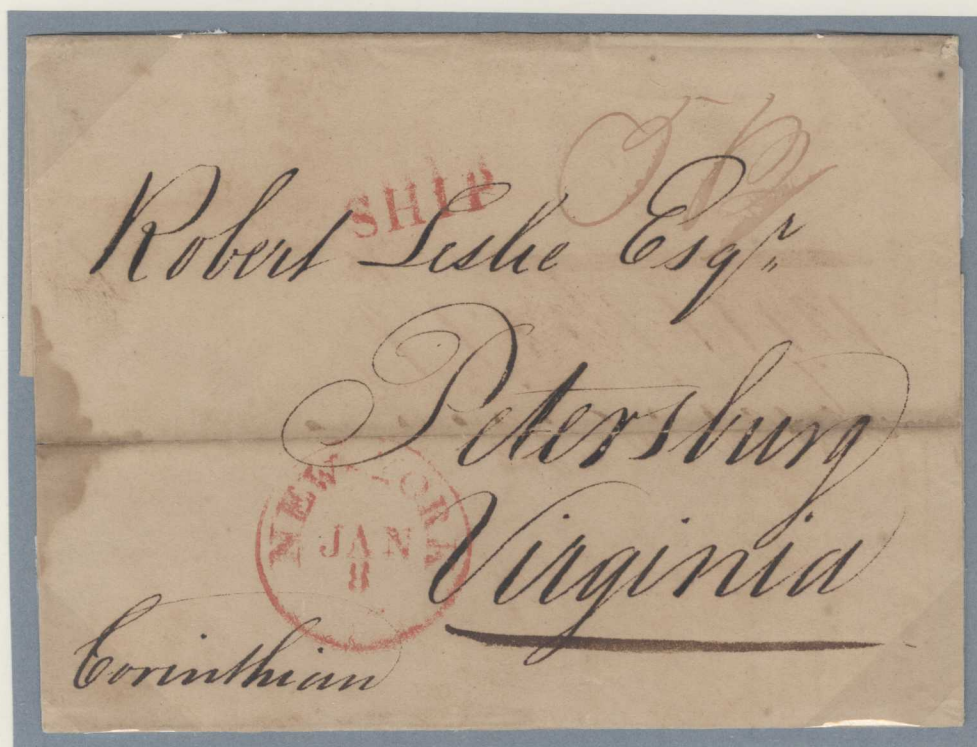
Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 18.75¢
This rate recently changed
from 18.50¢ to 18.75¢.

Ship Information

The *Silas Richards* departed
Liverpool May 5, 1825
arriving New York June 28,
1825.

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Wrapper containing several pages of correspondence carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool. Wrapper was dispatched as directed in the lower left corner by the ship's agent.

Ship Information

The *Corinthian* departed Liverpool November 29, 1825, arrived New York January 10, 1826. Letter was delivered to postal authorities in New York by a news boat. The January 8, 1826, date in the red New York receiving stamp confirms this.

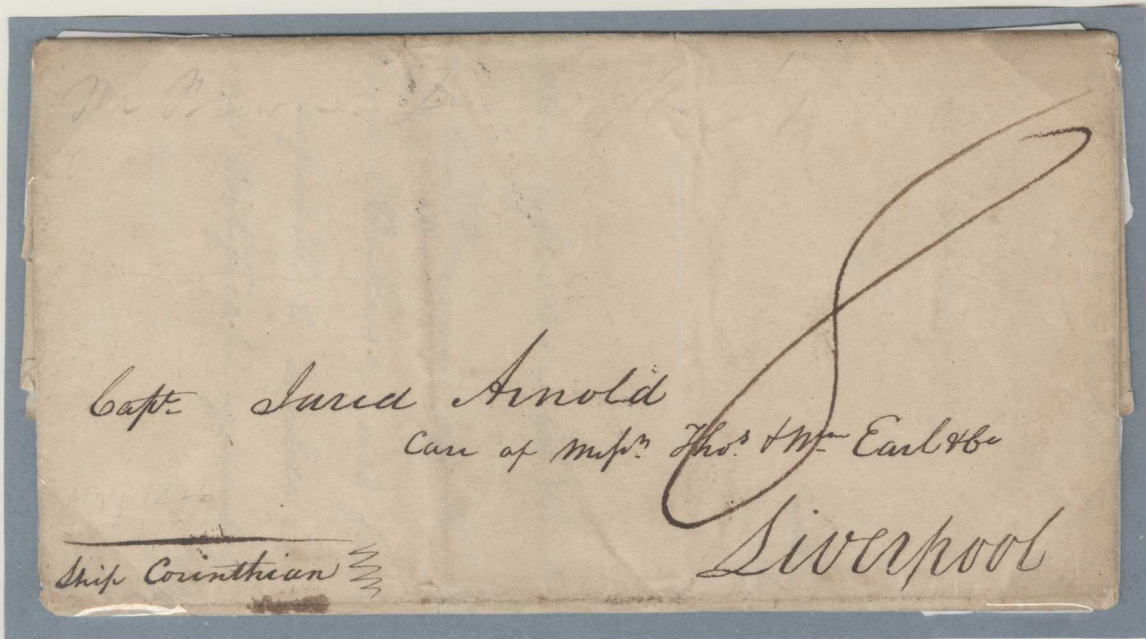
Postal Rates

British	0
United States	58¼¢
3 X 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 58¼¢	

COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
Blue Swallowtail Line

The *Corinthian*
Complete Voyage

NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL



Ship Information

Corinthian departed
New York June
8, 1826, arrived
Liverpool July 7, 1826.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d

Delivery at port of entry.

Letter carried to Black Ball agent in New York for
dispatch on *Corinthian*.

Letter posted and endorsed "via
Liverpool". Red oval "Post Paid
Ship Letter" stamp Robertson type
S47 in use 1826 to 1829. Red "2nd
Delivery" mark applied by New
York Post Office indicating letter
was received from ship in second
delivery.

Ship Information

Corinthian departed Liverpool
July 24, 1826, arrived New York
September 4, 1826

Postal Rates

Great Britain	2/2d
---------------	------

Rated as a packet under GPO Notice,
January 1817; $1/3d + (1/1d - 1d) = 26d$
or 2/2d.

United States	?
---------------	---

Should 6 cents but no visible markings.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



COMPETITION 1822 – 1830
BLACK X LINE

The *Hudson* – Double Letter

The Black X Line provided packet service from New York to London starting in 1824. The initial fleet consisted of the *Acasta*, *Hudson*, *Brighton* and *Crisis* sailing the 1st of the month from New York and the 5th of the month from London.

A stop was scheduled at Portsmouth to either drop off or pick up mail. English law required ships to turn in any mail at the first port of call before breaking bulk cargo. Therefore many covers carried by these vessels bear postmarks from various out-ports along the English channel. Packets continued to London. Mail, dispatched to London by mail coach, arrived London before the vessel.

PHILADELPHIA - LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PLYMOUTH)



Ship Information

The *Hudson* departed New York November 15, 1827, arrived London December 9, 1827. She served until replaced by the *Philadelphia* in 1832.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	3/2
(2 X 8d) + (2 X 11d) =	
38d or 3/2	

Double letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched per instructions noted in lower left. Note arrival of letter in London one day before ship as indicated by London Ship Letter Office receiving mark.

Economic conditions and ocean hazards caused some packets to sail under more than one company flag. The York is one of these packets. She first served as a charter to the Black X Line, making two voyages; with the Blue Swallowtail Line from 1826 until 1832; and the Red Swallowtail Line in 1833 making two voyages as a charter. The exhibitors data base referenced on the title page shows that the majority of line to line movement occurred in lines serving London.

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Letter carried to Black X ship agent in London.
Dispatched on packet as directed.

Ship Information

The York departed
Liverpool June 3, 1825
arrived New York July
14, 1825.

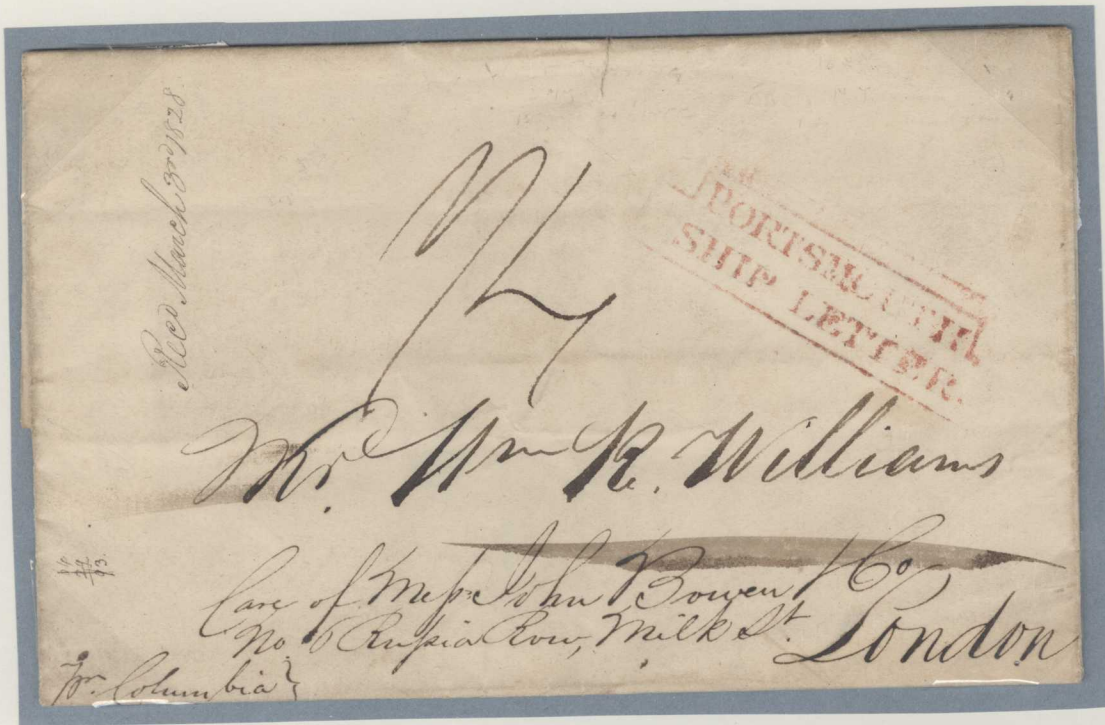
Postage Rates

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

**COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE**

The *Columbia*
The *Hannibal* - First Voyage

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



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

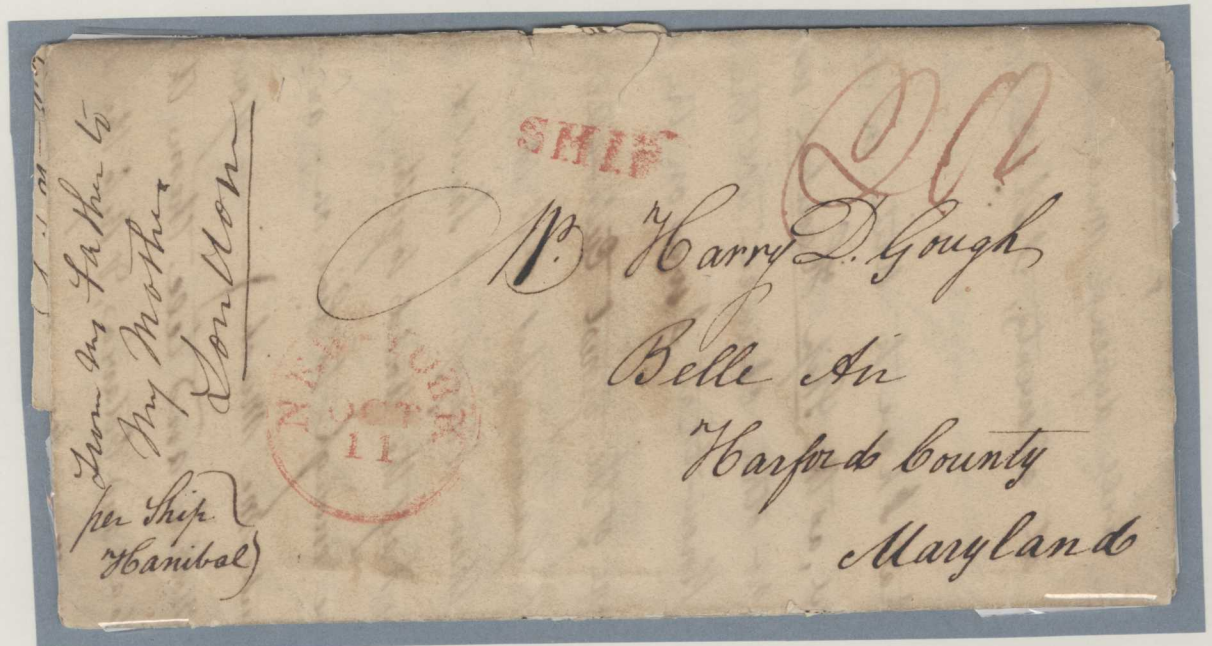
Ship Information

The *Columbia* departed New York February 10, 1828, arrived London March 5, 1828. Mail was put off at Portsmouth March 3, 1828. In 1827, the Red Swallowtail Line acquired the *Columbia* from the Black Ball Line.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/4
Ship letter rate + Inland:	
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4.	

**LONDON TO BELLE AIR, MD
(VIA NEW YORK)**



Ship Information

Hannibal on the Westerly leg of her maiden voyage departed London August 29, 1829 arrived New York October 12, 1829.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢.	

Letter carried to ship's agent for dispatch.
Note this is a news boat cover.

LONDON TO FREDRICK TOWN, MD
(VIA NEW YORK)

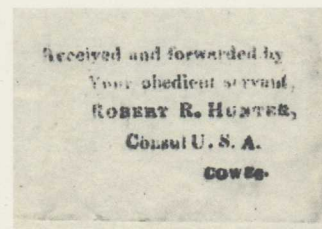


Letter carried to Consul U.S.A. at Cowes on the Isle of Wight. Packet made stop at Portsmouth where the letter was put on the Packet. The stop at Portsmouth by the packets provided mail getting to London earlier on the in bound voyage and letters posted after the packet left London to be put on board in Portsmouth. Thus providing improved postal service.

Ship Information
The *Brighton* departed
London September
3, arrived New York
November 11, 1826.

Postal Rates
Great Britain 0
United States 20³/₄
18³/₄ + 2 = 20³/₄¢

Back of cover showing the stamp of Consul U. S. A. Robert R. Hunter, Cowes. This stamp is listed in Rowe as a rarity 5 and in use 1835 - 1838. This is a very early use of this stamp.



COMPETITION 1822 – 1830 BLACK BALL LINE

The *Columbia* – First Voyage
The *James Cropper* – First Voyage

Response by the Black Ball Line to new competition was swift and effective. Starting with the March 1, 1822, departure of the *Amity*, the Black Ball Line started two monthly sailings from New York and two from Liverpool. Packets departed from New York and Liverpool the 1st and 16th of the month. To maintain this schedule they added four ships to their packet fleet, the *James Cropper*, *William Thompson*, *New York*, and *Columbia*.

LIVERPOOL TO QUEBEC (VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

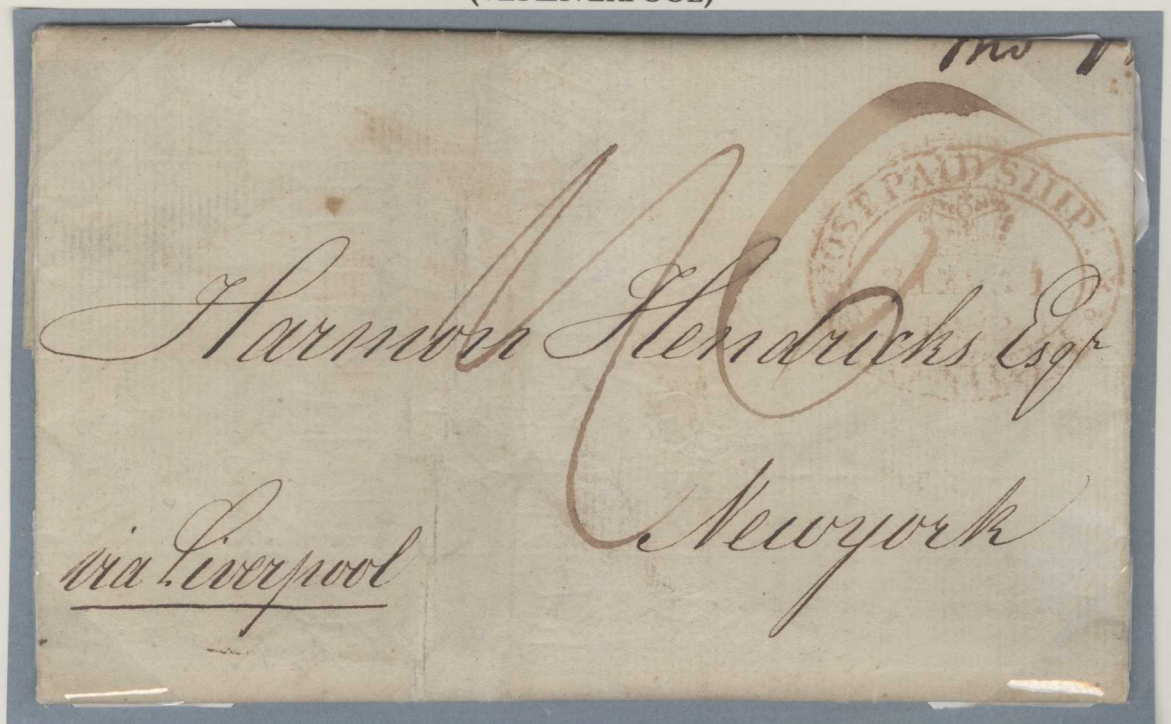
The *Columbia* on the Westerly leg of her first voyage departed Liverpool March 1, 1822. She arrived New York April 11, 1822. The March 1, 1822, scheduled departure could not be verified.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20½¢
18½¢ + 2¢ = 20½¢.	

Letter hand carried to final destination.

LONDON TO NEW YORK (VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

James Cropper
d e p a r t e d
Liverpool June 1,
1822, arrived New
York July 11, 1822.

Postage Rates

British	1/7
8d + 11d = 1/7	
United States	6¢
Delivered to port of entry.	

Letter posted in London shows Post Paid Ship stamp Robertson type S45, in use 1818 to 1823.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Black Ball Line

The William Thompson - First Voyage
The Canada - Double Forwarding Agent

LIVERPOOL TO NORWICH, CT
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

William Thompson, was last of four ships added for the twice monthly schedule. Departing Liverpool August 1, 1823, she arrived New York September 13, 1823.

Postage Rates

British	0
United States	14½¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢	
Collected on delivery.	

Letter carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool.

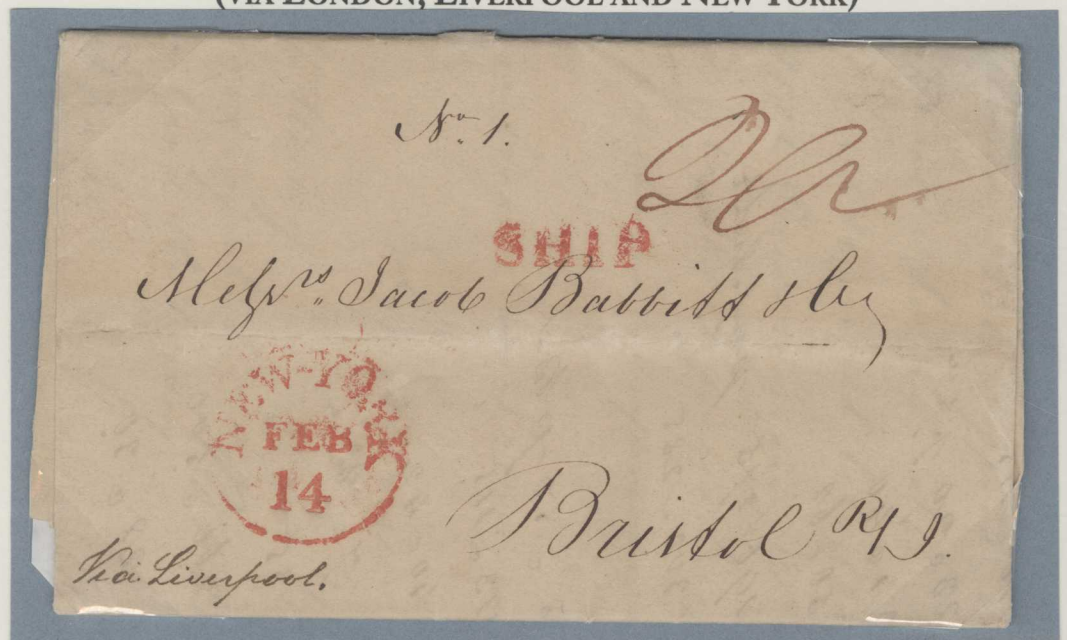
ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO BRISTOL, RI
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Canada* departed Liverpool January 4, 1824, arrived New York February 14, 1824. This was her third voyage after replacing the *James Monroe* April 1823.

Postage Rates

Russian	0
British	0
Fees paid by forwarding agents.	
United States	20½¢
18½¢ + 2¢ = 20½¢	
Collected on delivery.	



Letter carried outside the mail from Saint Petersburg, Russia to London forwarding agent Thomas Dickson & Co. on December 20, 1823. Agent forwarded letter to Liverpool forwarding agent Thomas W. Evans December 23, 1823. Dickson's mark is later use than listed in Rowe. Evans's manuscript mark is not listed in Rowe.

With the unexpected loss of the *Liverpool*, the Black Ball Line needed a temporary replacement until a new packet could be built.

The Captain of the *Orbit*, a Black Ball trader sailing between New York and Liverpool, had the experience to fill the void. She sailed three voyages during her short time as a packet and allowed the Black Ball Line to maintain their reputation for customer service and reliability.

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Philadelphia and dispatched in New York as directed.

Ship Information

The *Orbit* departed New York June 1, 1824, arrived Liverpool June 25, 1824. After this, her third and last voyage, the *Florida* replaced her.

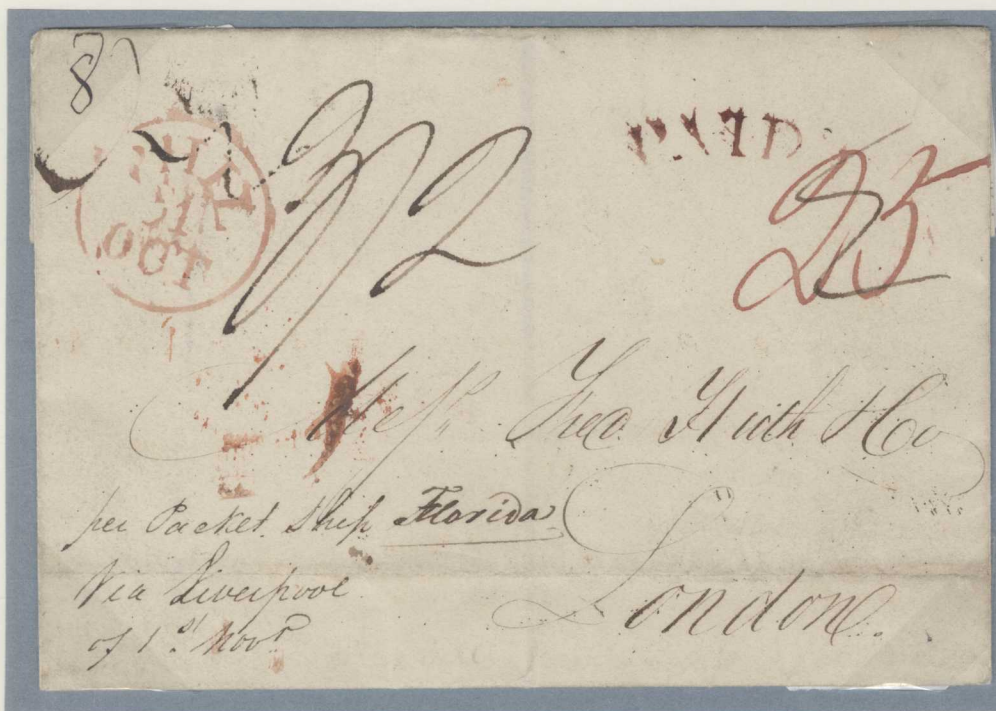
Postage Rates

United States	12½¢
Inland to New York.	
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7d	
Ship letter fee plus inland.	

The regular year round service provided by American packets proved important to business development, both in America and in Europe. In 1825 cotton speculation by American and Brazilian dealers caused oversupply in the Liverpool market. In April 1825, the packet *Florida* brought this information the United States

The *Florida* departed Liverpool April 17, 1825, and arrived New York May 17, 1825. Pushed by her crew, this amazing 30 day westerly crossing and the timely information prevented bankruptcy for many New York speculators. A 68 day crossing a year later shows the variable passage time on the westerly leg.

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



Double letter carried to Philadelphia from Baltimore.

Ship Information

First voyage of the *Florida*, replacing the temporary charter *Orbit*. The *Florida* departed New York November 2, 1824, arrived Liverpool November 24, 1824. She served as a packet until 1831.

Postage Rates

United States	25¢
2 X 12½¢ =	25¢
Great Britain	3/2
(2 X 8d) + (2 X 11d) =	38d
or	3/2

Posting multiple copies of letters was a practice from the early days of sailing ships to insure that at least one letter reached its destination. As dependability of American packets grew this practice gradually diminished. By the introduction of steam the practice had vanished almost completely.

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Black Ball Line

Complete Voyage - The *Columbia*
 Forwarded, Rerated FREE

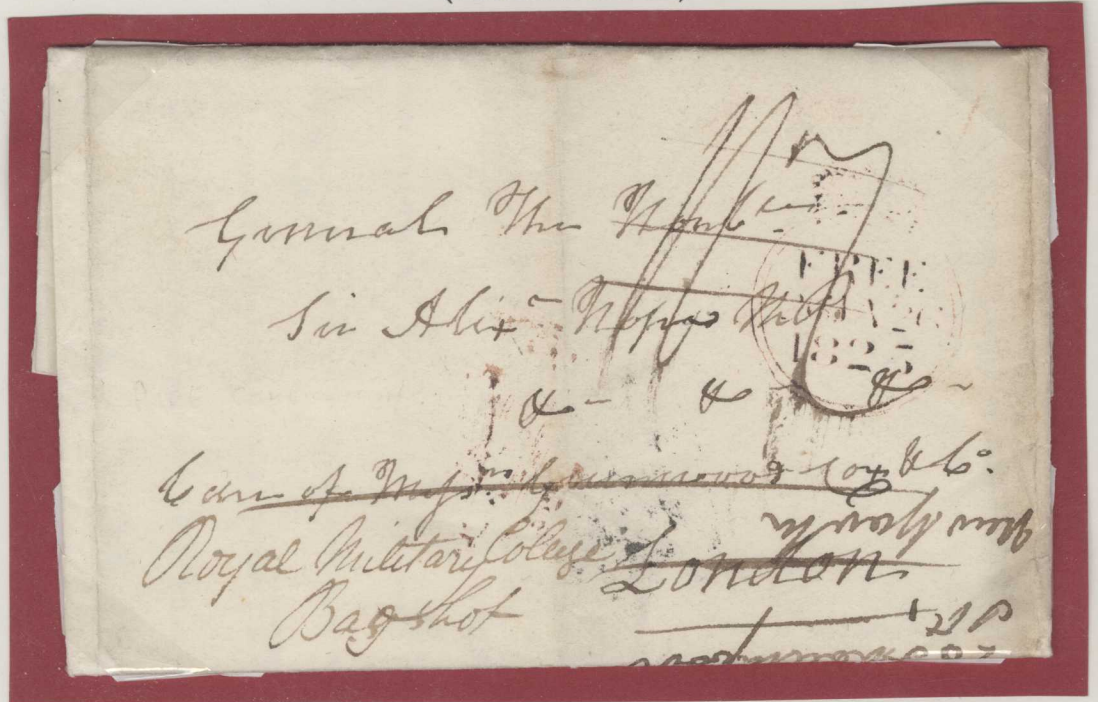
NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Columbia departed
 New York January
 1, 1825, arrived
 Liverpool January
 24, 1825.

Postal Rates

United States 0
 Great Britain 0
 Liverpool rated as ship
 letter for 1/7d. London
 rerated as FREE when
 forwarded.



Letter from a colonel in British 63rd Regiment of Foot "The Bloodsuckers" that fought in the American Revolution. Forwarded to Bagshot the Royal Military College, and rerated "FREE."

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Carried to ship's
 agent in Liverpool for
 dispatch as directed.

Ship Information

Columbia departed
 Liverpool February
 14, 1825, arrived New
 York March 15, 1825.

Postal Rates

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

COMPETITION 1822 - 1830
Black Ball Line

The La Fayette - Charter
 One Voyage Only

When the *Nestor* beached on December 25, 1824 her replacement was still under construction. The *La Fayette* a Black Ball trader was chartered for one voyage to fill the sailing schedule. Grounding of the *Nestor* was the second Black Ball packet grounded by Capt. Pease in nine months.

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information
 The *La Fayette* departed Liverpool on the return leg of her only voyage on March 1, 1825, arrived New York April 7, 1825. She was replaced by the *Manchester*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	

LIVERPOOL TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)

Letters carried outside the mails to ship's agent in Liverpool and dispatched as directed.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	



COMPETITION 1822-1830
Black Ball Line

The *Manchester* - First Voyage
The *Pacific II* - Triple Letter

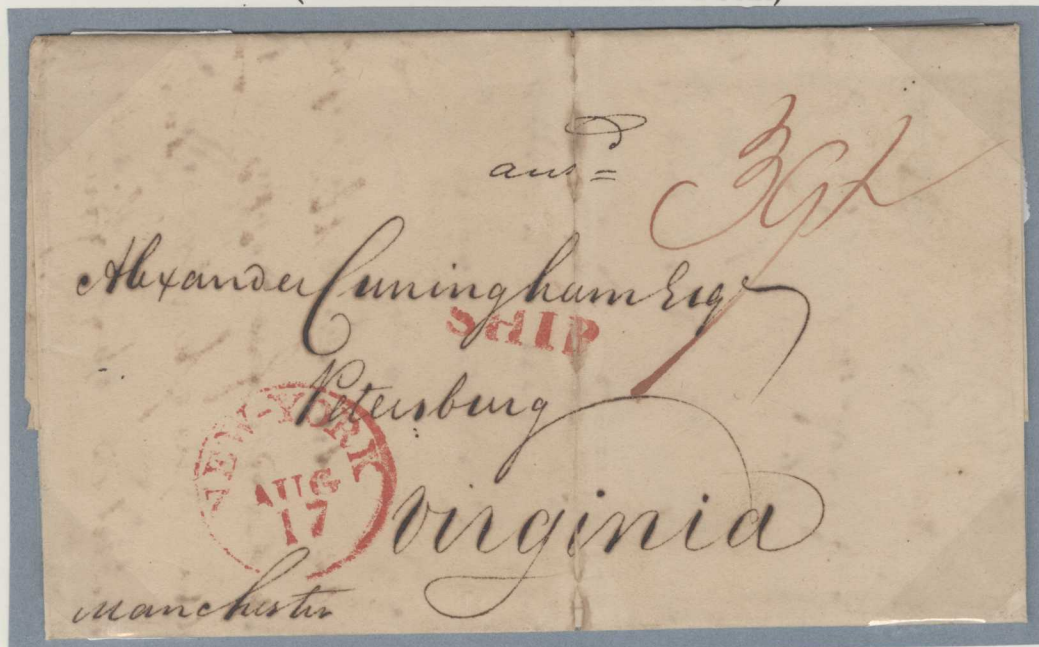
LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

Manchester departed Liverpool July 5, 1825, arrived New York August 17, 1825. She served as a packet for nine years with an average westerly crossing time of 45 days.

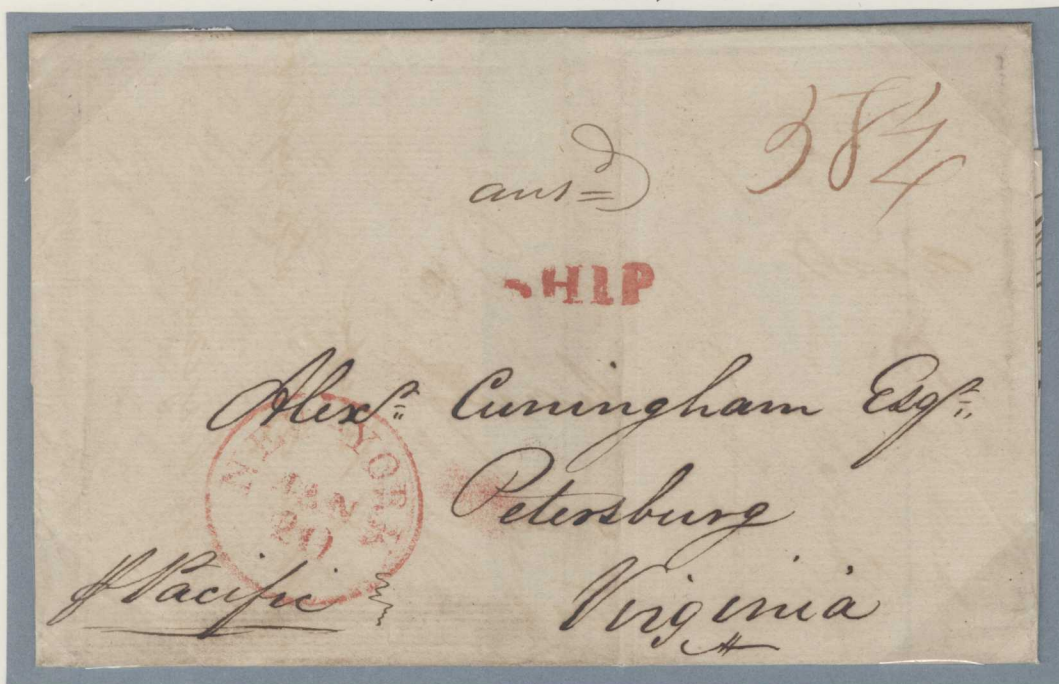
Postage Rates

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



Double letter carried to Black Ball ship agent in Liverpool. Dispatched as directed.

LIVERPOOL TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Triple letter carried to Black Ball ship agent in Liverpool for dispatch.

Ship Information

The *Pacific II* departed Liverpool November 16, 1825, docked New York January 23, 1826. Weather detained her at the Narrows, therefore news boats carried mail into New York City, January 20, 1826

Postage Rates

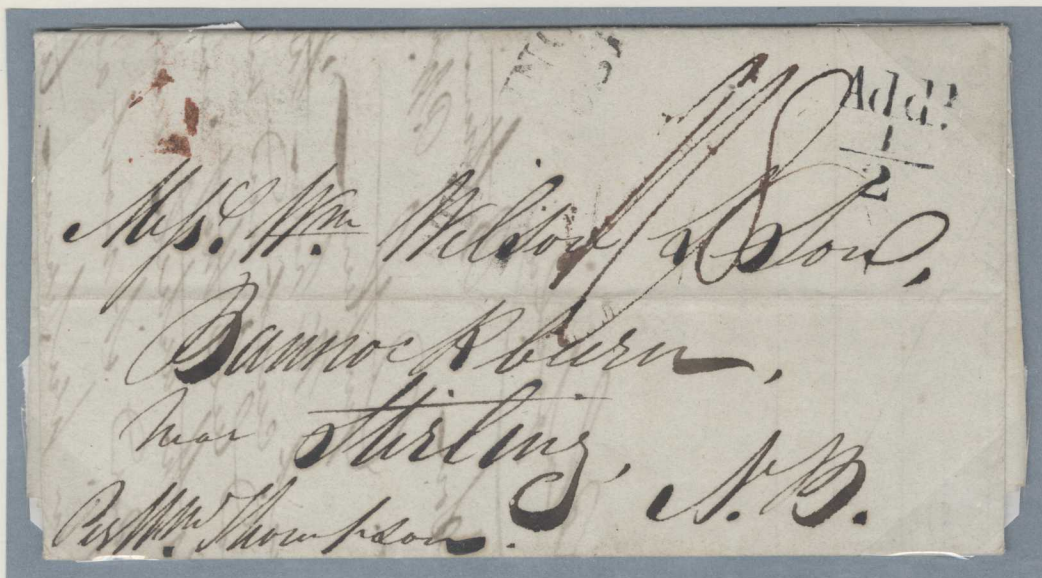
Great Britain 0
United States 58¼¢
(3 x 18¾) + 2 = 58¼¢

COMPETITION 1822-1830

Black Ball Line

The William Thompson

BALTIMORE TO STIRLING, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)



Ship Information

The *William Thompson*
departed New York
June 1, 1826 arrived
Liverpool June 29, 1826.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/8½d

8d + 1/- + ½d = 1/8½d
Ship Letter Fee + inland +
wheel tax.

Letter carried to Black Ball ship agent in New York. Dispatched as endorsed. Liverpool dispatched on four wheel mail coach to Edinburgh. Edinburgh dispatched letter to Bannockburn Stirling Penny Post Office for delivery.

Back of letter showing the transit marks applied in England. The black boxed 'SHIP LETTER/ LIVERPOOL' applied when letter rated ship letter. In the upper right is the Edinburgh transit mark Mackay type 14. In the lower left is the multiple straight line receiving mark from Stirling, Mackay type 195c.



COMPETITION 1822-1830

Black Ball Line

The *Pacific II*
Double Letter

PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI TO LONDON (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

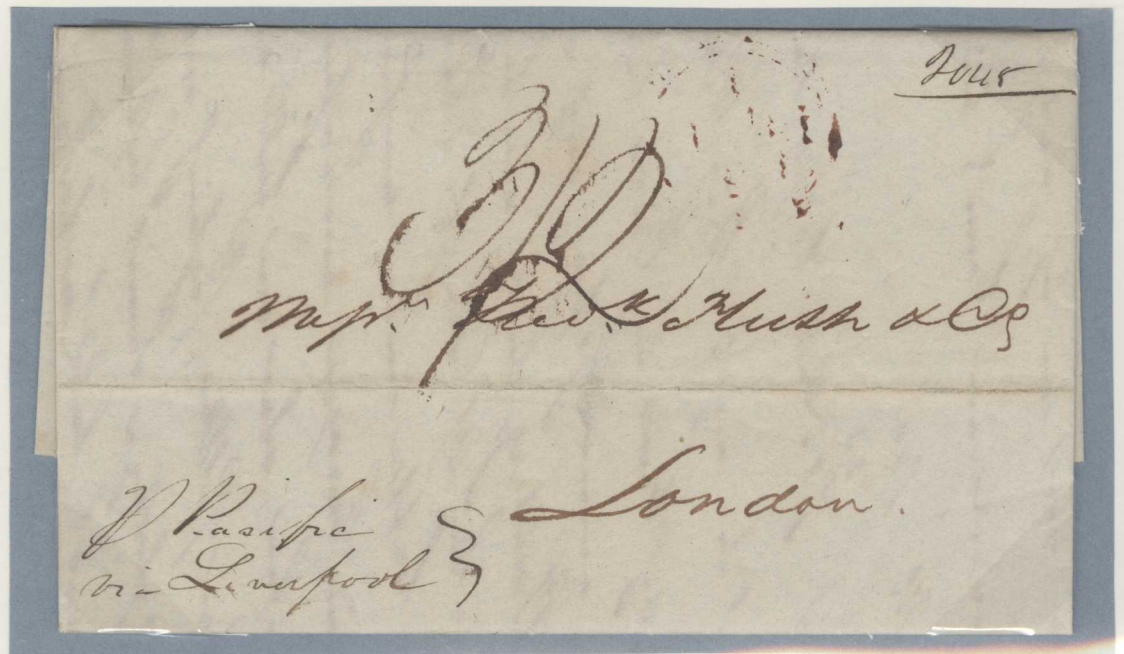
Ship Information

The *Pacific* departed
New York June 16, 1827
arrived Liverpool July
16, 1827.

Postal Rates

Haiti	0
United States	0
Great Britain	3/2d

Ship letter fee + inland to
London for double letter
3/2d.



Letter carried on ship *Cicero* and deposited with
Black Ball agent in New York. Dispatched on
packet as endorsed.



Back of letter showing the
black boxed 'SHIP LETTER/
LIVERPOOL' Robertson type
S12 in use 1824-1841. Red double
circle London receiving mark
indicates PM processing. This is
Mackay type 16.

ARBROATH, SCOTLAND TO QUEBEC, CANADA
(VIA EDINBURGH, LIVERPOOL, NEW YORK, MONTREAL)



Letter written to a brother posted in Arbroath. Black 'Aberbrothwich' is Mackay type 125 and the black boxed 'PAID' is Mackay type 364. Edinburgh authorities applied the red 'PAID/NOV 29 R1829' Mackay type 33. Letter proceeded through New York to Montreal and on to Quebec.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/7½d
United States	20¾¢
To be collected in Canada.	
Canada	2/1d cry
1/1d cry debited to United States.	
1/- cry inland postage.	

Ship Information

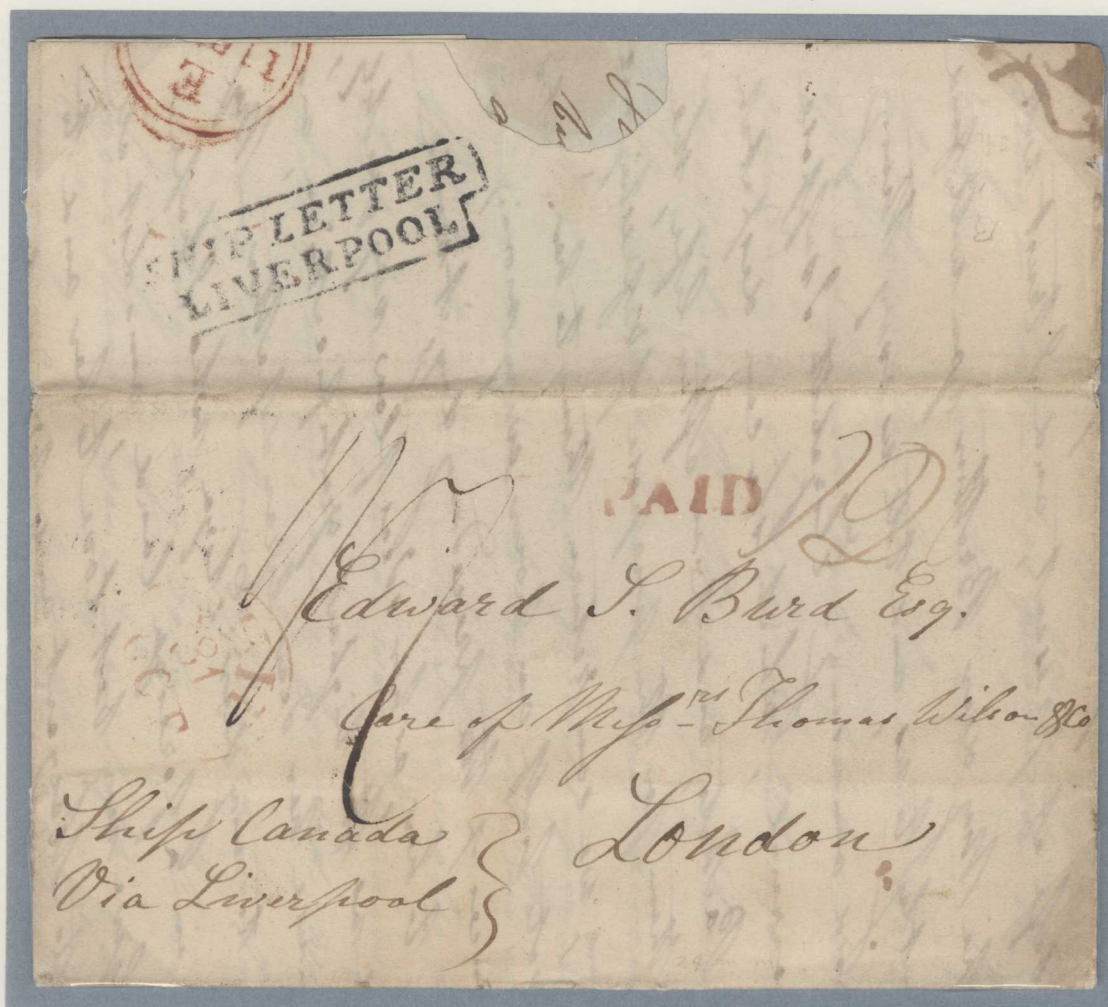
The *Caledonia* departed Liverpool December 1, 1829, arriving New York January 2, 1830.

**SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
BLACK BALL LINE**

The Canada

By 1830 American packets making regular voyages between New York, Liverpool and London dominated North Atlantic sailing lanes. Black Ball packets departed on the 1st and 16th of the month, Red Star ships on the 25th, Blue Swallowtail line on the 8th to Liverpool. Departing for London were Black X on the 16th and Red Swallowtail on the 1st. Thus six monthly sailings provided companies in America and England communication links for their growing business interests.

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



Ship Information

The *Canada* departed
New York November 1,
1830, arrived Liverpool
December 10, 1830.

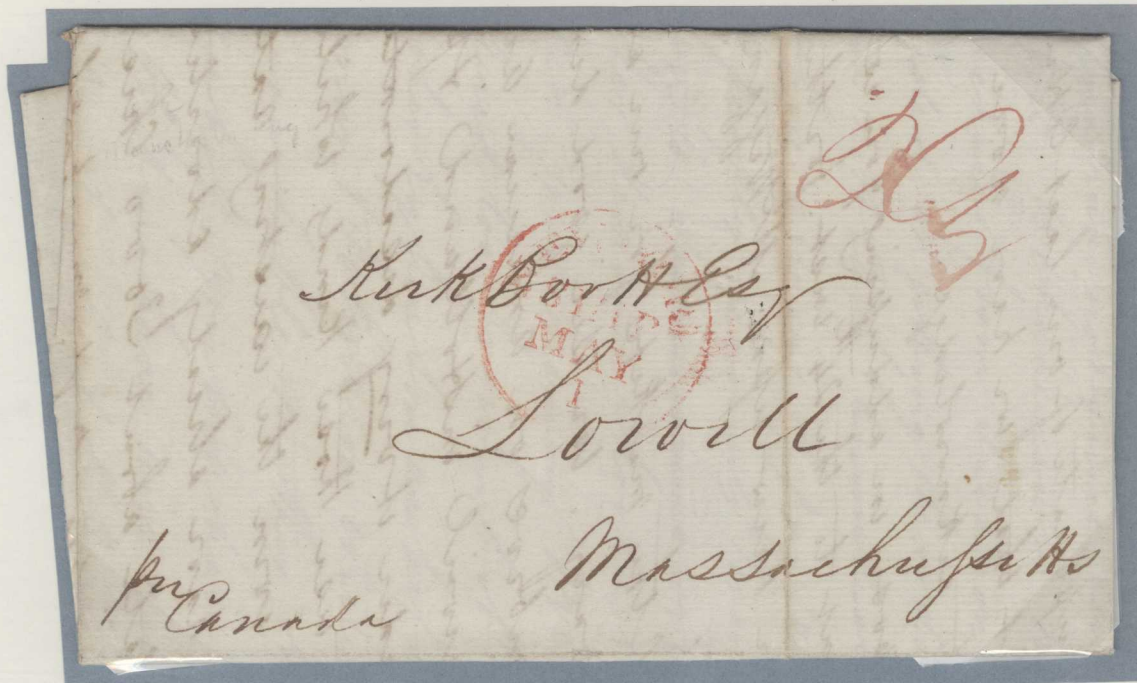
Postal Rates

United States	12½¢
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

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

Ship Information

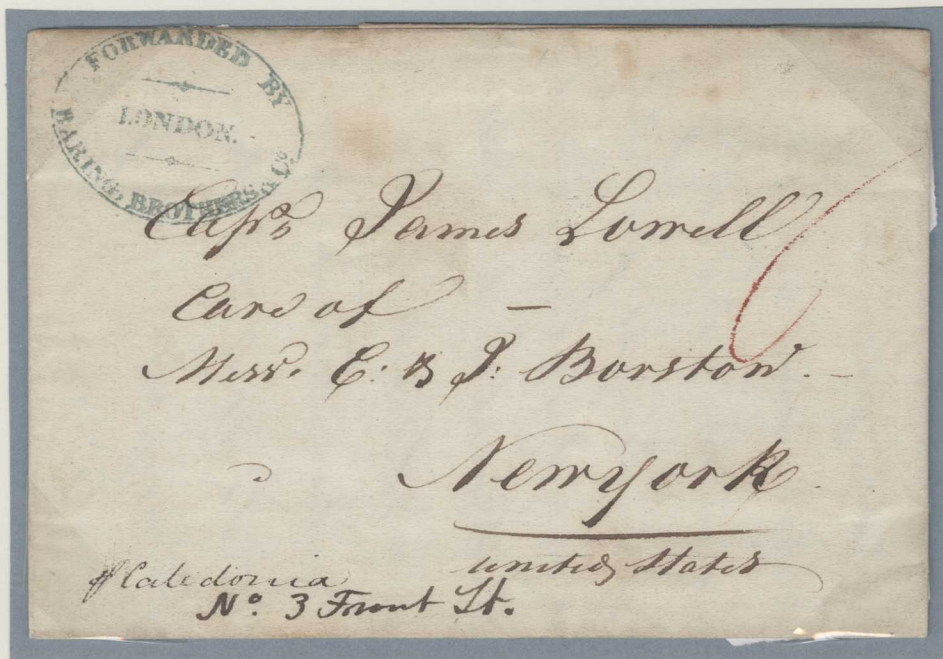
The *Canada* departed Liverpool April 1, 1832, arrived New York May 1, 1832. She was replaced by the *Europe* in 1833. She served in the Red Swallowtail fleet from 1833 to 1835.



Postal Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Carried to Ship's agent Liverpool for dispatch.

OSTEND, BELGIUM TO NEW YORK
(VIA LONDON AND LIVERPOOL)



The *Caledonia's* best crossing occurred in April 1830 with strong easterly winds. Instead of fighting westerly winds she made an 18 day crossing. She departed Liverpool April 1, 1830 and arrived New York April 19, 1830.

Ship Information

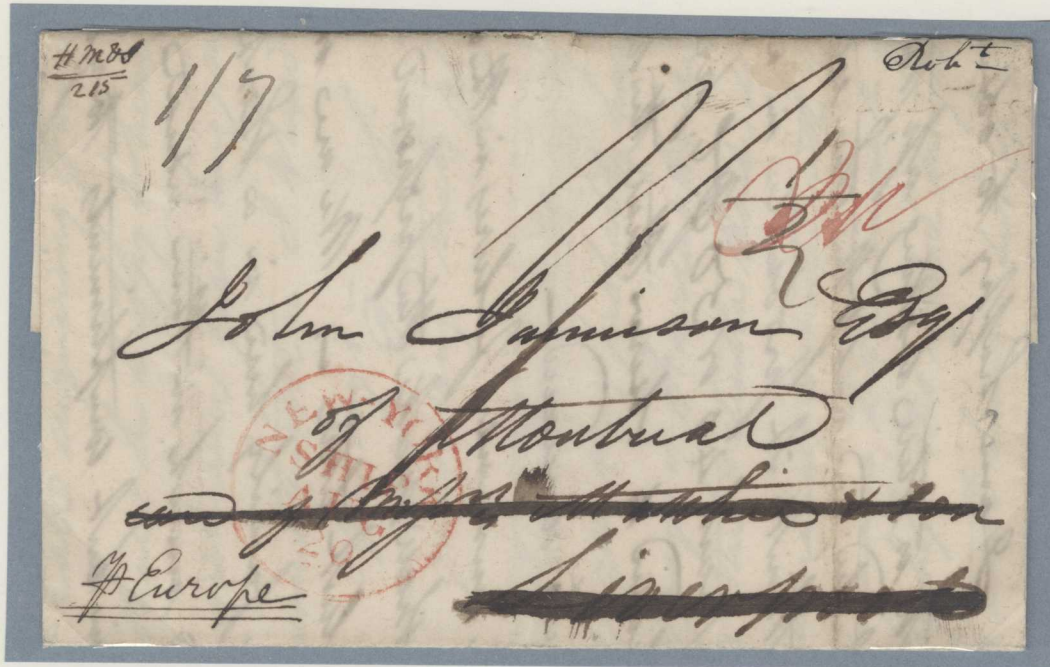
The *Caledonia* departed Liverpool February 5, 1833, arrived New York March 18, 1833.

Postal Rates

Belgium 0
 Great Britain 0
 United States 6¢

Letter carried outside the mail to London forwarding agent, Baring Brothers. GREEN forwarding agent stamp not listed in Rowe.

?? SCOTLAND TO MONTREAL
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Letter posted at an unknown place in Scotland. The clue, ½d wheel tax added to inland rate to Liverpool. Liverpool addressee crosses out address, takes letter to Black Ball agent in Liverpool for dispatch as endorsed. From New York, letter proceeds to Montreal by way of the Lake Champlain route.

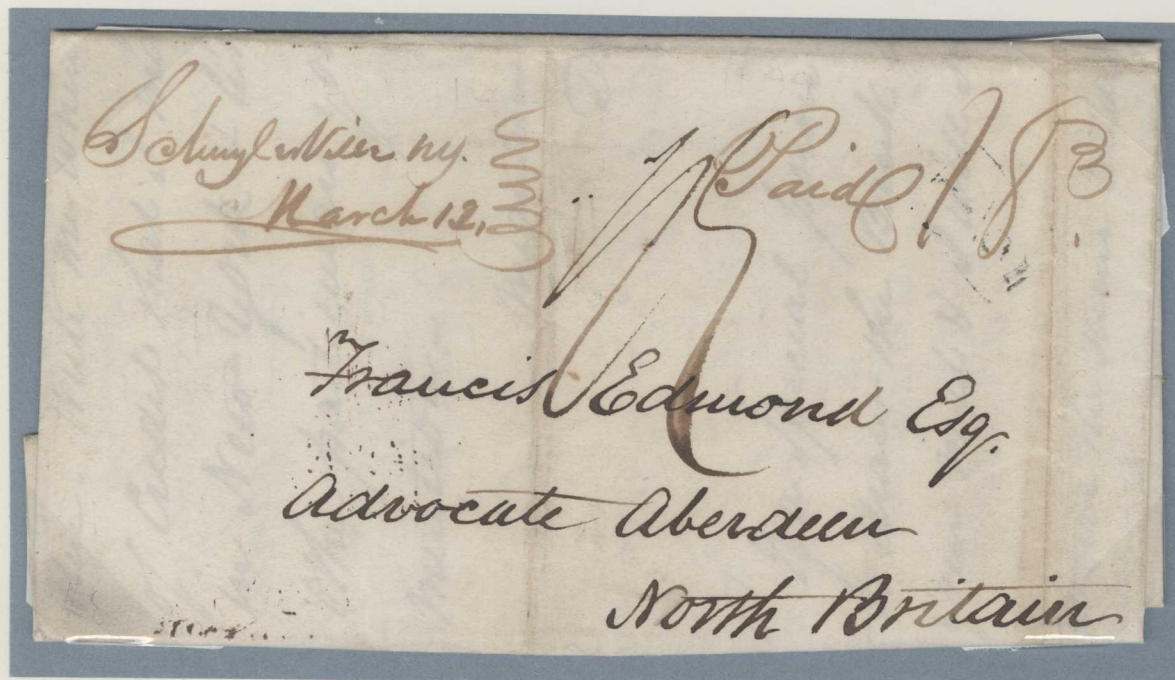
Ship Information

The *Europe* departed
Liverpool July 16,
1833 arrived New York
August 21, 1833.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1½d
Inland to Liverpool plus wheel tax.	
United States	20¾¢
Ship Letter fee plus inland to exchange office, collected in Canada.	
Canada	1/7cy
1/- debited to United States. Inland, 7d exchange office to Montreal.	

SCHUYLERSVILLE, NY TO ABERDEEN, SCOT.
(VIA NEW YORK & LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted with no packet endorsement to New York. Post mark is red manuscript in the upper left corner. New York authorities dispatched letter on the Black Ball packet noted. Scottish wheel tax is noted in upper right corner.

On back is black stepped 'LIVERPOOL/SHIP LETTER' Robertson type S 11 in use 1832 - 1838 and red single circle Aberdeen 20mm receiving stamp indicating April 20, processing. This indicates letter went directly to Aberdeen from Liverpool by four wheel mail coach.

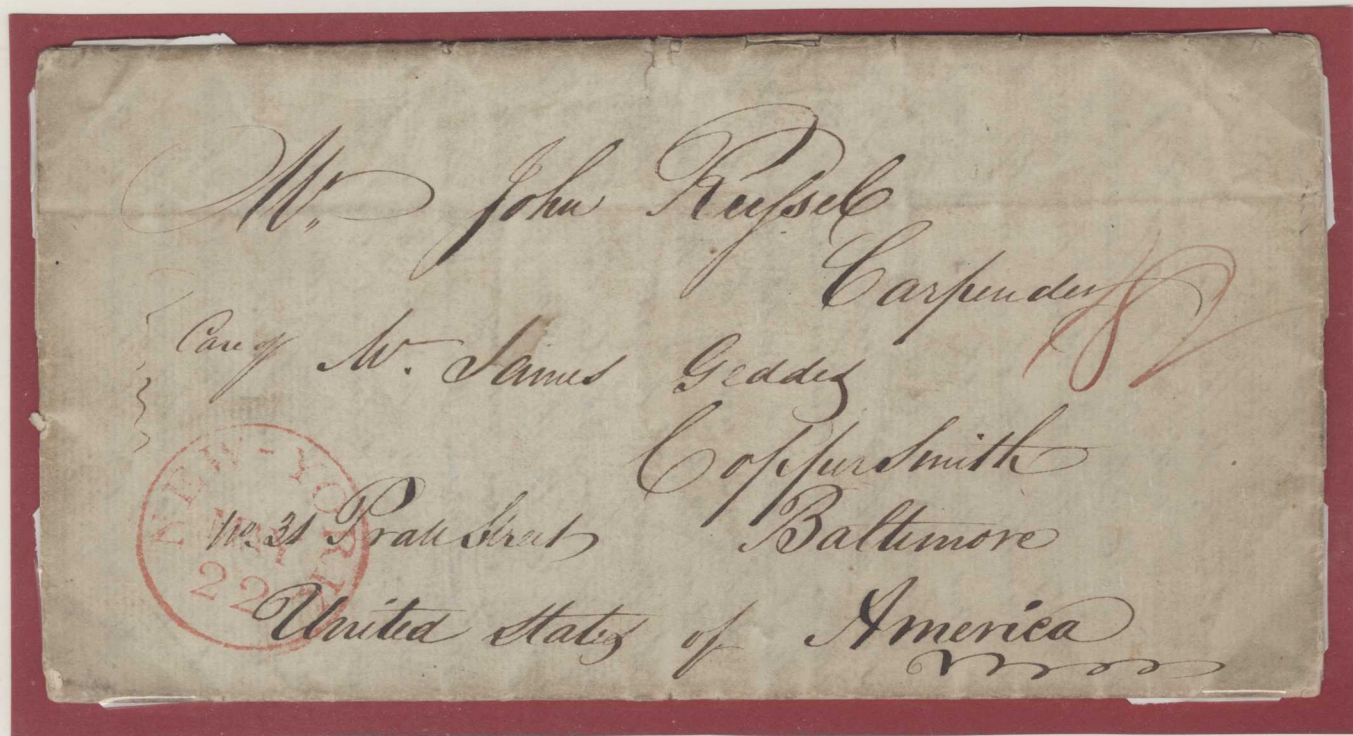
Postal Rates

United States 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢
Great Britain 1/9d
8 + 1/1 = 1/9d. Distance Liverpool
to Abereen is 349 miles.

Ship Information

The *Britannia* departed
New York March 16, 1834
arriving Liverpool April 19,
1834.

HUNTLEY, SCOTLAND TO BALTIMORE
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Letter carried outside mail by a passenger to New York where put into United States post. This was not an uncommon practice for private letters to avoid high postal fees in Great Britain.

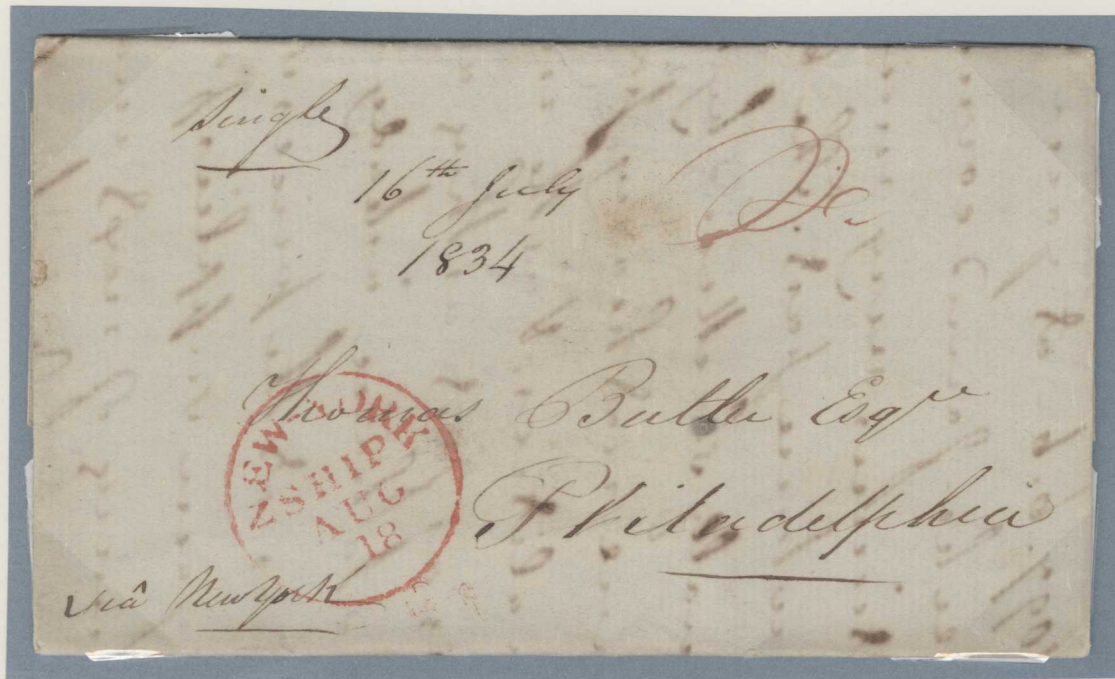
Ship Information

South America departed Liverpool April 16, arrived New York May 22, 1834. The *South America* replaced the *Manchester* in 1832. She sailed as a packet until 1843, when she became a whaler, after which she was sunk by Union forces as part of the stone fleet to block Charleston Harbor.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	18¾¢
No Ship Letter fee as Captain did not post letter in New York.	

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Postal Rates
Great Britain 0
United States 12¢
10¢ + 2¢ = 12¢

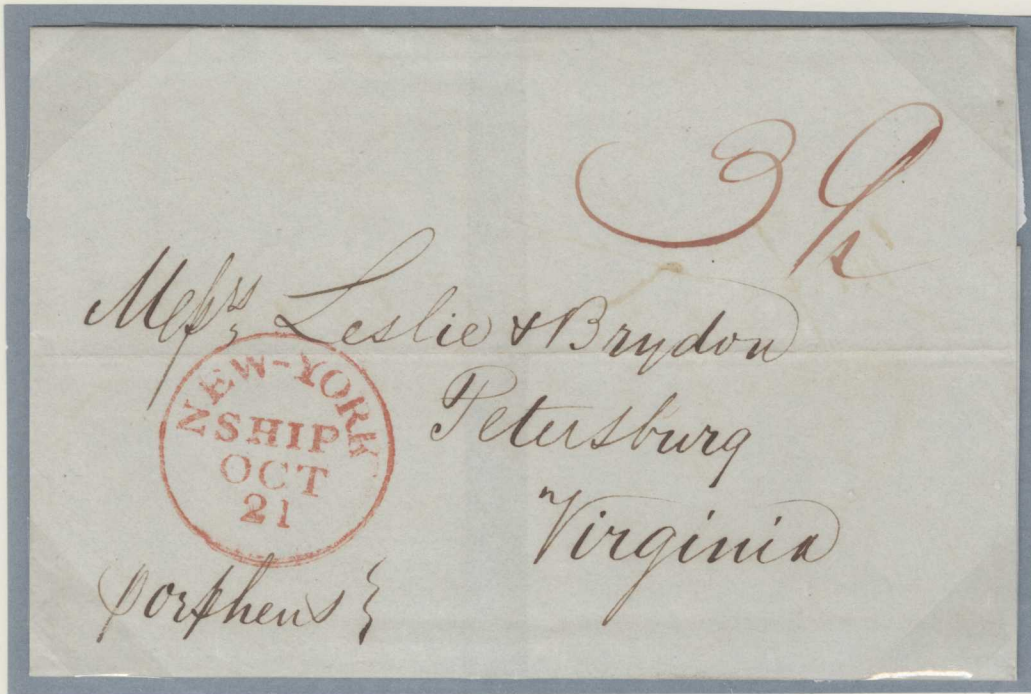
Letter carried privately to Black Ball ship's agent in Liverpool and dispatched next packet. This is a News Boat cover as it was picked up harbor steam boat and brought in one day prior to ship. This practice expedited the arrival of mail and news papers if winds were not favorable to the packets.

Ship Information
The *Europe* departed Liverpool, July 17, 1834 arriving New York August 19, 1834.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black Ball Line

The Orpheus - Double Letter
The Hibernia - Double Letter

LIVERPOOL TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

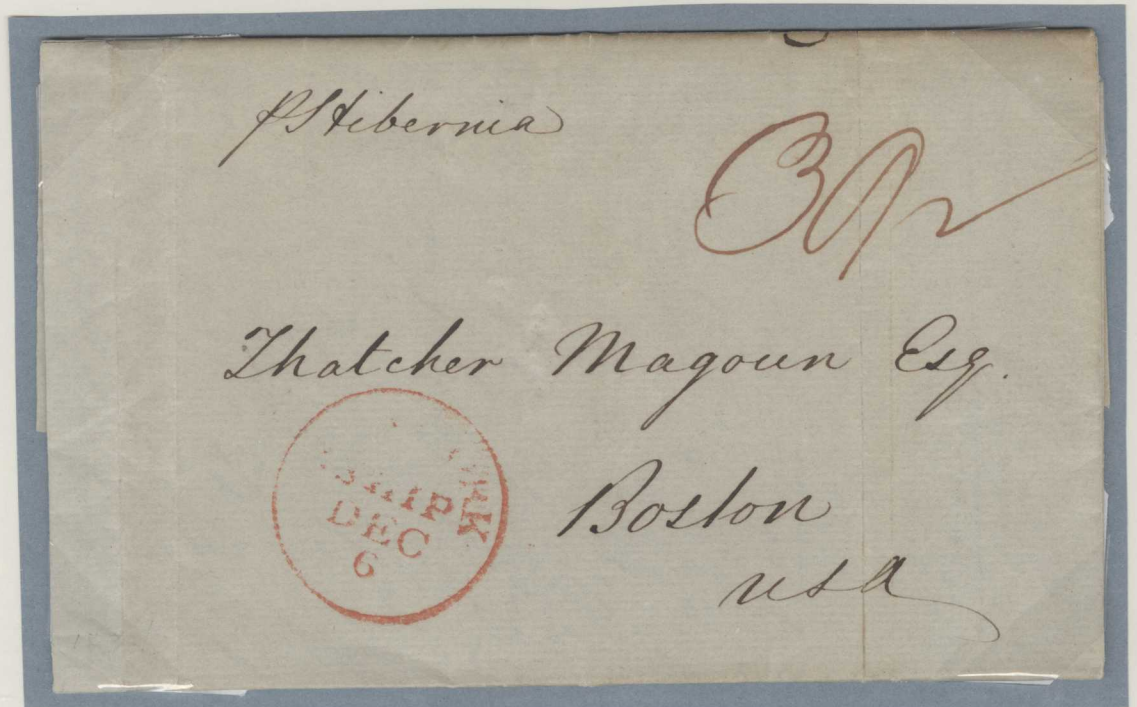
Orpheus departed
Liverpool
September 9, 1834,
arrived New York
October 21, 1834.

Postal Rates

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

Letter carried to ship's agent in Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON, MA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Letter carried to ship's
agent in Liverpool.

Ship Information

The *Hibernia* departed
Liverpool November 3,
1834, arrived New York
December 6, 1834.

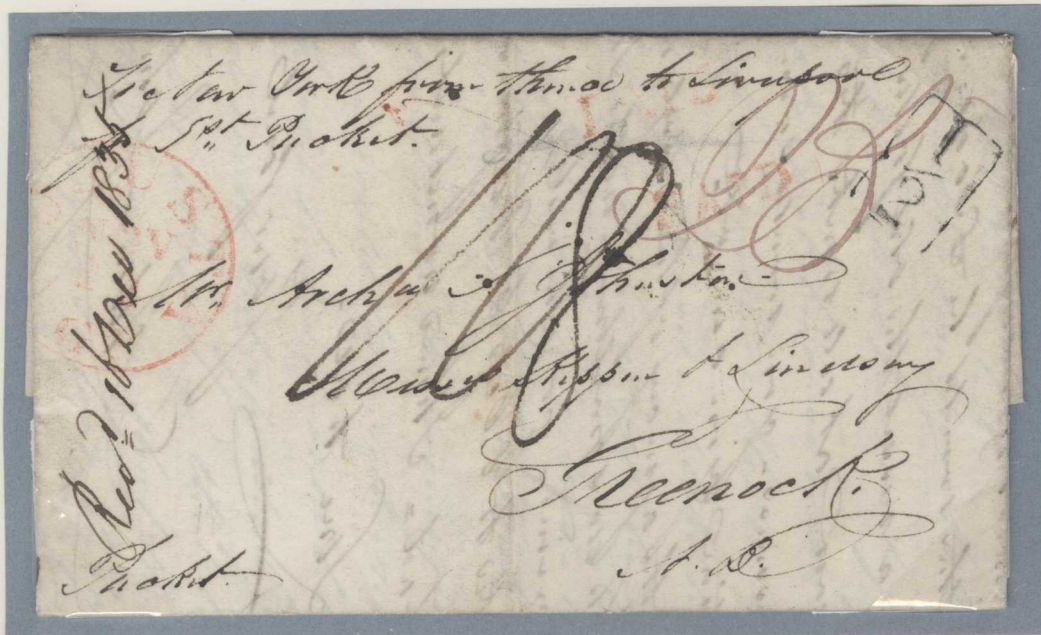
Postal Rates

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

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black Ball Line

The England
Complete Voyage

AUGUSTA, GA TO GREENOCK, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
 The *England* departed New York November 16, 1835, and arrived Liverpool December 6, 1835.

Postal Rates
 United States 25 ¢
 Great Britain 1/8½d
 1/- + 8d + ½d.. Ship letter fee,
 Inland postage and Scottish
 Wheel Tax.

Letter posted and placed on the first voyage of the packet *England* recently purchased from the Red Star Line.

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

Letter carried to Black Ball agent Liverpool. Boston addressee forwarded letter to Portsmouth, NH.

Ship Information
 The *England* departed Liverpool January 1, 1836, arrived New York February 10, 1836.

Postal Rates
 Great Britain 0
 United States 30¾¢
 18¾ + 2 + 10 = 30¾¢.
 Inland + Captain's fee + forward fee.



Letter carried to Black Ball agent Liverpool. Boston addressee forwarded letter to Portsmouth, NH.

GREEN HILL FARM, PA TO LIVERPOOL
(VIA PHILADELPHIA AND NEW YORK)



Letter privately carried to Philadelphia and posted to New York for a packet to Liverpool. The red boxed 'Too ' is part of a stamp applied by the New York office indicating the letter arrived after the packet had left (Winter). The black boxed 'LIVERPOOL / SHIP LETTER' is Robertson type S13. Forwarding fee not noted.

Postal Rates

United States	12½¢
Great Britian	8d

Ship Information

The *Caldonia* departed New York May 1, 1836 arriving Liverpool June 3, 1836.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Black Ball Line

Complete Voyage - The *England*

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

England departed New York on the easterly leg July 14, 1836, arrived Liverpool August 6, 1836

Postal Rates

United States	75¢
4 X 18¾¢	= 75¢
Great Britain	4/9d
(3 X 8d) + (3 x 11d) =	
4/9d. Rerated triple letter	based on English system.

Quadruple letter posted in Baltimore for dispatch on Liverpool packet as indicated.

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO BOSTON
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Double letter carried outside the mail to Baring Brothers in London. Carried by courier to ship's agent in Liverpool for dispatch on packet. Letter to New York Post Office by news boat.

Ship Information

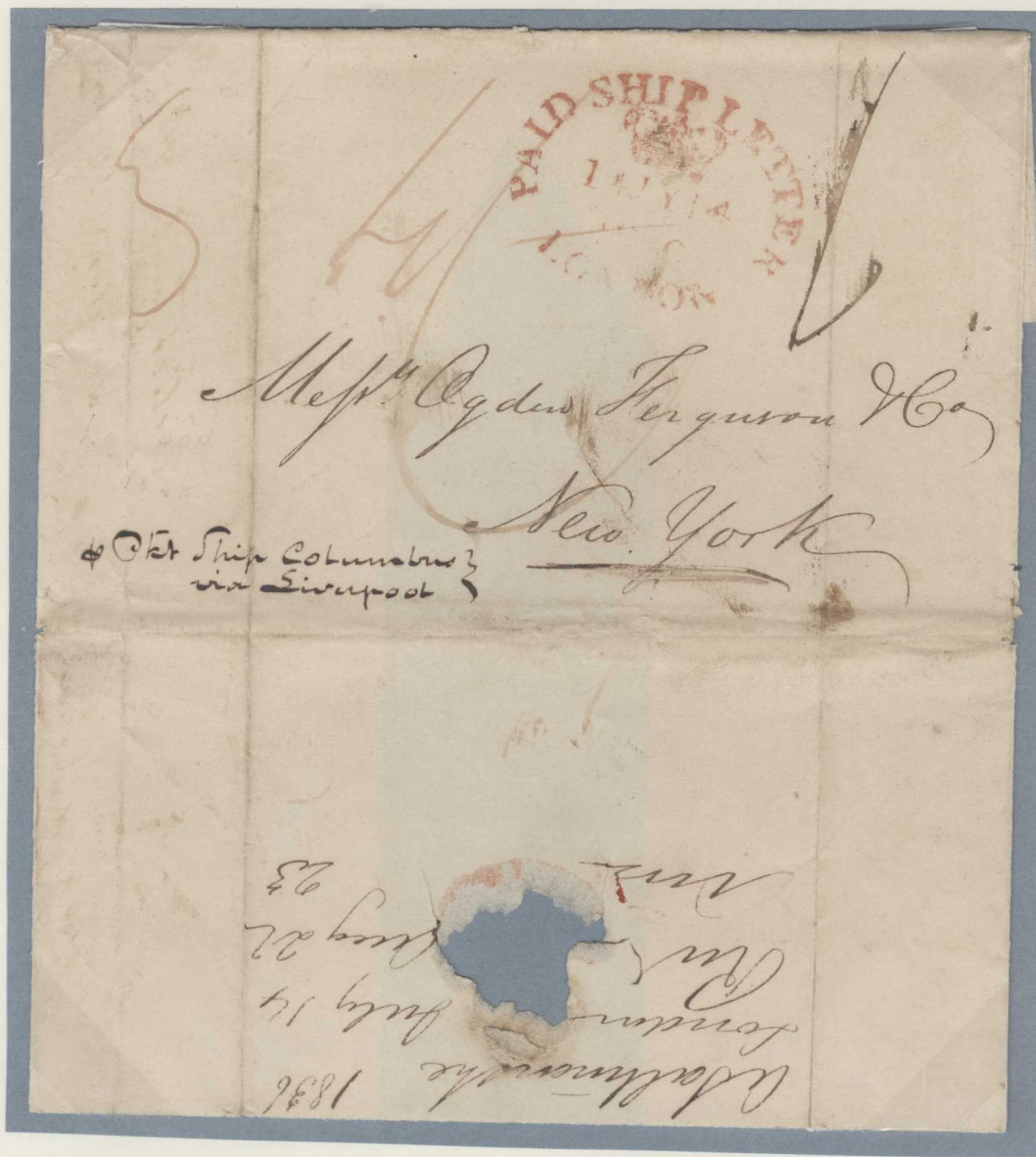
The *England* departed Liverpool on the return leg September 2, 1836, arrived New York October 10, 1836.

Postal Rates

Russia	0
Great Britain	0
United States	39½¢
2 X 18¾¢ = 37½¢ + 2¢ = 39½¢	



LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL IN CLOSED BAG)



Wrapper processed at the London Ship Letter Office. Put into a bag made up for New York and passed through Liverpool without being opened. Paid Ship Letter stamp is Robertson type S49, in use 1832 to 1837.

Ship Information

The *Columbus* departed Liverpool July 16, 1836, arrived New York August 22, 1836. She replaced the *Pacific II* in 1834.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	4/-
4 X 1/- = 4/-	
5/6 William IV c25	
United States	6¢
Fee for delivery at port of entry.	

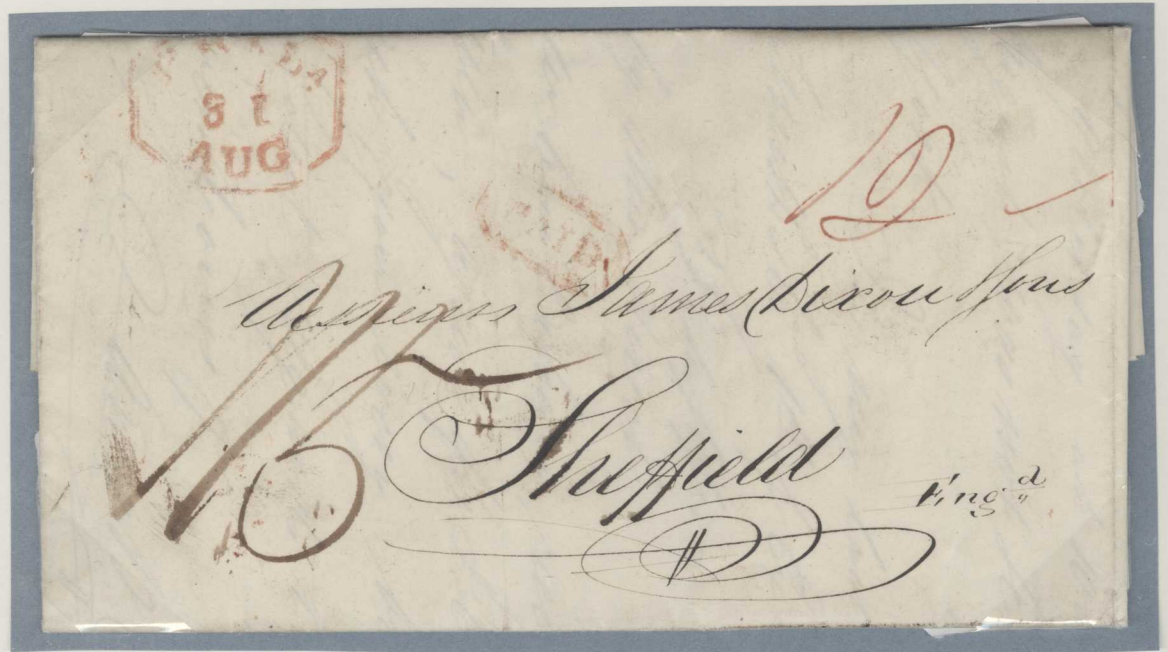
PHILADELPHIA TO SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

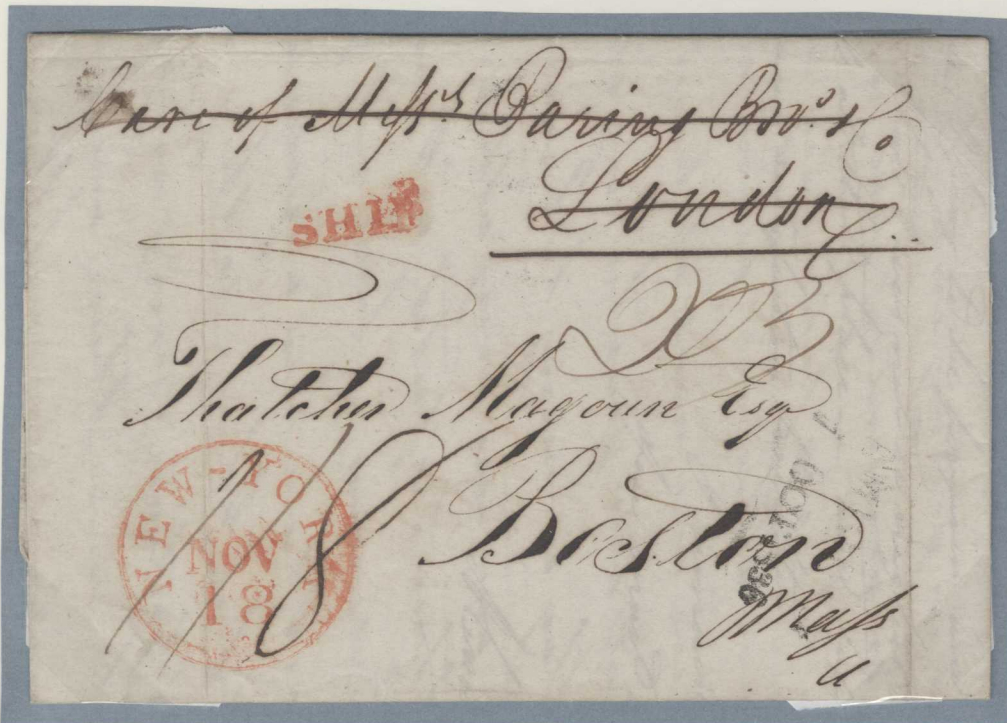
North America
 departed New York on the easterly leg August 1, 1836, arrived Liverpool August 27, 1836.

Postal Rates

United States 12½¢
 Great Britain 1/5d
 Ship Letter fee + Inland (8d + 9d) + 1/5d



CRONSTADT, RUSSIA TO BOSTON
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Carried outside the mail to Baring Brothers in London. Processed by the Foreign Letter Office October 11, 1836, double circle receiving mark on the back.

Ship Information

The *North America* departed Liverpool on the return leg October 17, 1836, arrived New York November 18, 1836.

Postal Rates

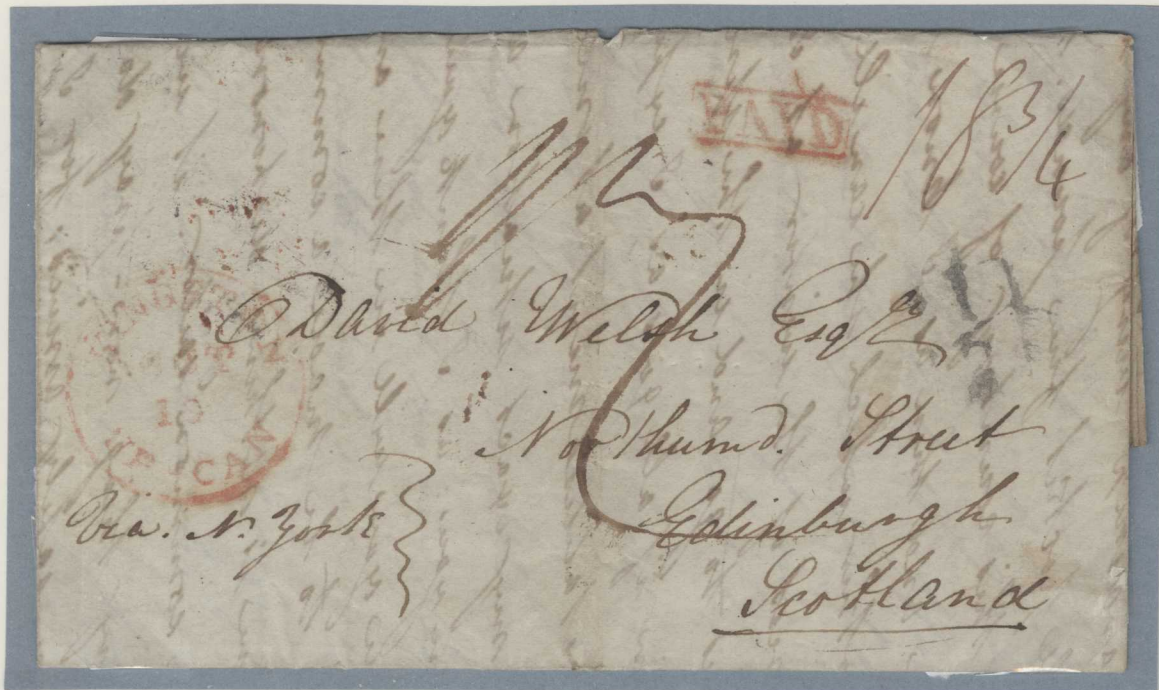
Russia	0
Great Britain	1/8d
See note under cover	
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	

Note: Distance London to Liverpool is 206 miles. Rate for double letter is 1/10d for this distance.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black Ball Line

Complete Voyage The *Hibernia*

KINGSTON, U. C. TO EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Post paid with United States funds being collected by Canadian authorities.

Ship Information

Hibernia departed New York on the easterly leg October 16, 1836, arrived Liverpool November 5, 1836. She was replaced by the *Cambridge* in 1837.

Postal Rates

Canada 0
 United States 18¾¢
 Collected in Canada.
 Great Britain 1/7½d
 8d + 11d + ½d = 1/7½

LONDON TO MONTREAL, CANADA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

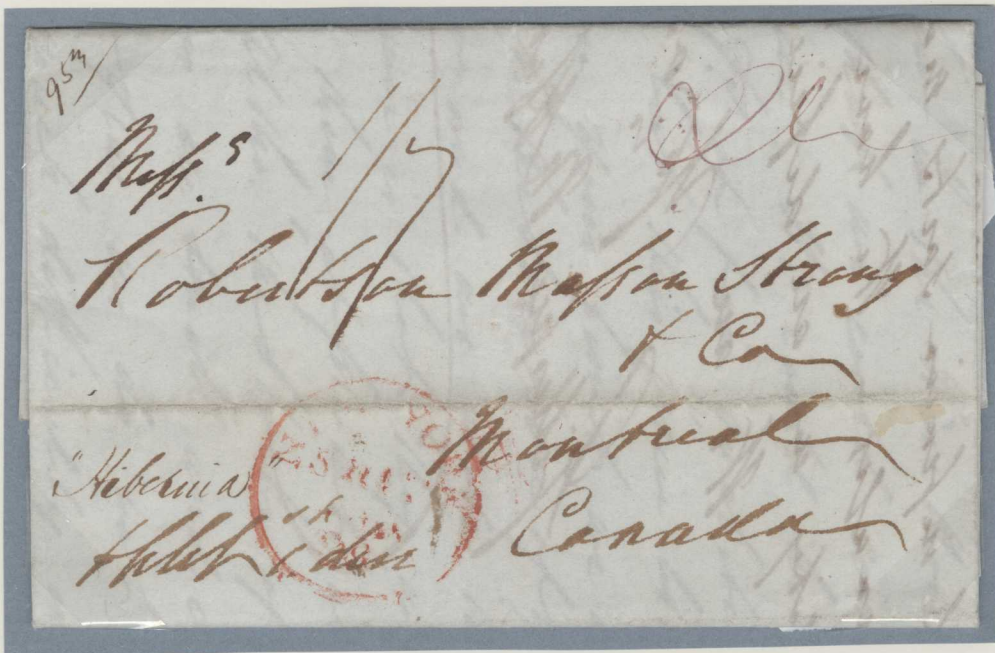
Carried outside mail to ship's agent in Liverpool.

Ship Information

Hibernia departed on the return leg December 12, 1836, arrived New York January 28, 1837.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢
 Canadian 1/7cy
 Includes ship letter fee, United States and Canadian inland.



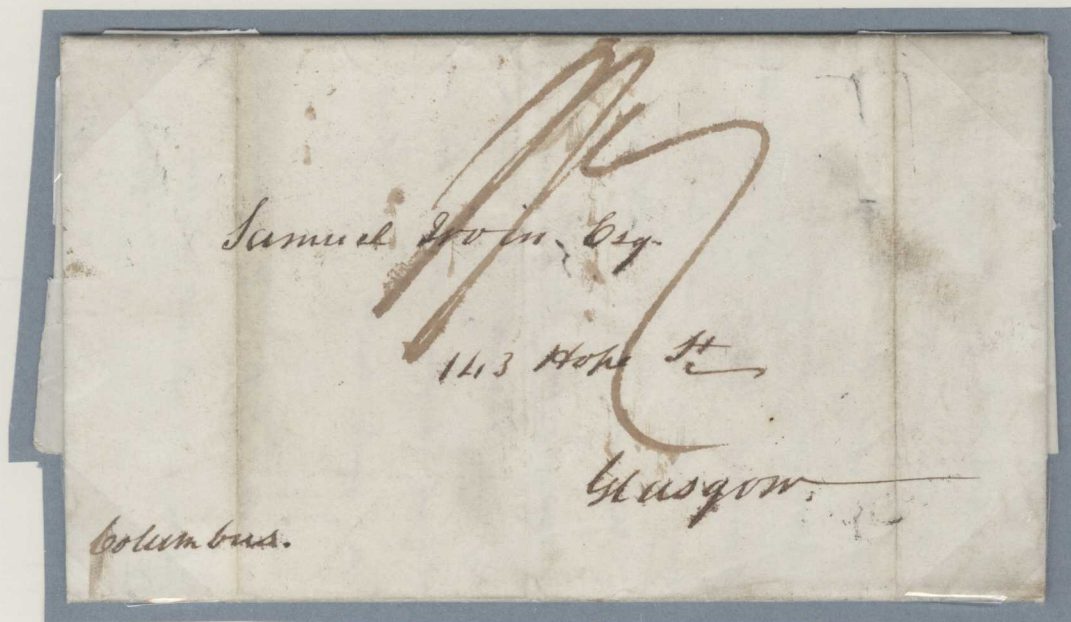
NEW YORK TO GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Columbus departed
New York June
1, 1837, arrived
Liverpool June 21,
1837.

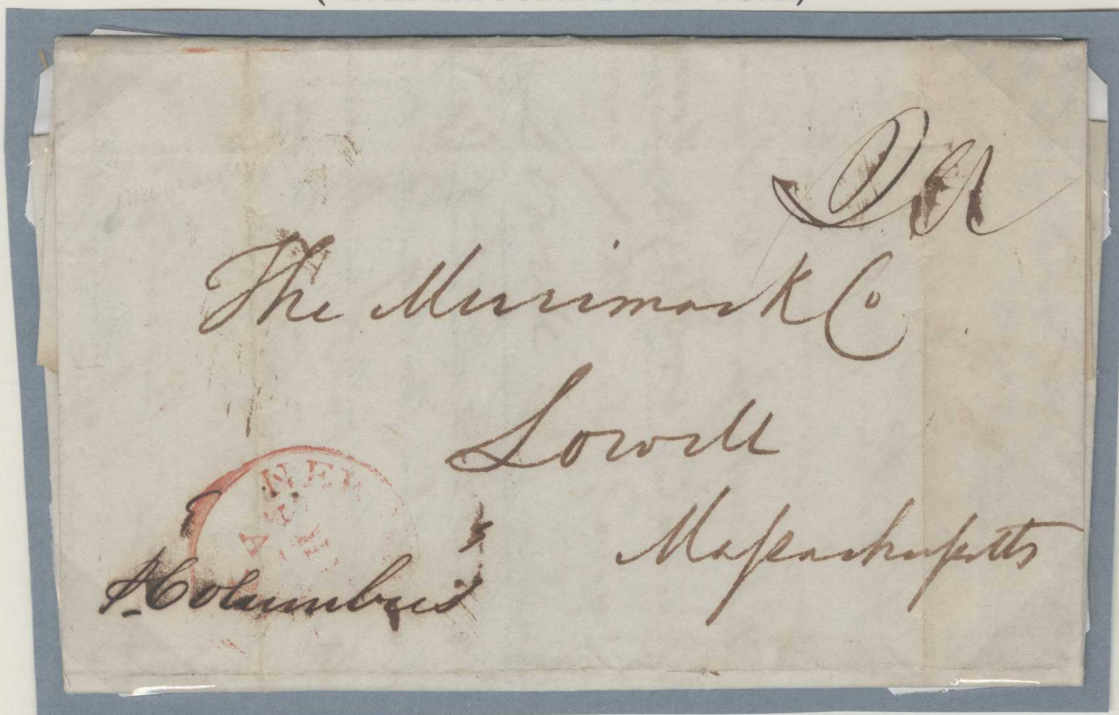
Postage Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/7½
8d + 11d + ½ = 19½d or
1/7½.
Ship letter fee plus
inland plus wheel tax.



Letter carried to Black Ball ship agent for dispatch
as directed. Note ½d wheel tax indicating letter
traveled in four wheel mail coach.

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



Ship Information

Columbus departed
Liverpool on
return leg July 16,
1837, arrived New
York August 29,
1837.

Postage Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Letter carried to Black Ball ship agent in
Liverpool avoiding English postage.

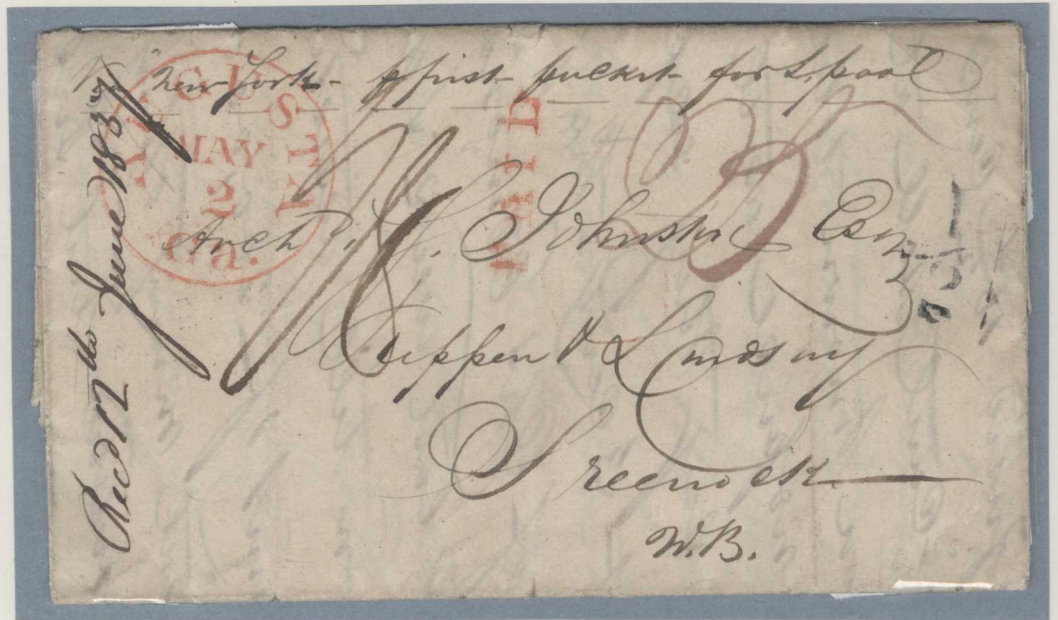
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA TO GREENOCK, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

The *Europe* departed New York on the easterly leg May 17, 1837, arrived Liverpool June 11, 1837. She served as a packet until 1847.

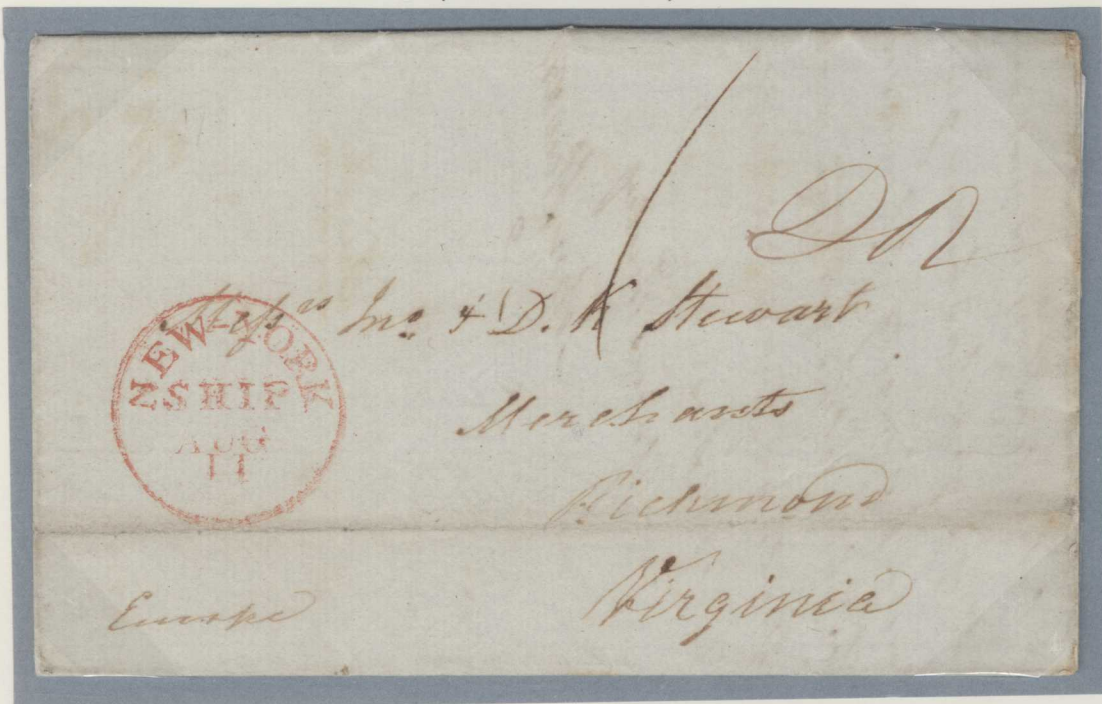
Postal Rates

United States 25¢
Great Britain 1/8½d
8d + 1/ + ½d = 1/8½d



Post paid in Augusta and dispatched on packet as indicated at top of letter.

LIVERPOOL TO RICHMOND, VA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Europe departed Liverpool on return leg July 1, 1837, arrived New York September 11, 1837.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/-
5/6 Will IV c65
United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Business letter hand carried to ship's agent in Liverpool. Was not handled by Post Office, should not have been charged postage.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black Ball Line

The *New York II*
 Triple Letter
 The *Cambridge*
 Triple Letter

PHILADELPHIA TO HEATH, ENG.
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
 The *New York II*
 departed New York
 April 20, 1840 arrived
 Liverpool May 14,
 1840.

Postal Rates
 United States 75
 (3 x 12½) + (3 x 12½) = 75¢
 Inland plus freight money.
 Great Britain 8d
 Inbound letter fee. Treasury
 Warrant January 10, 1840.

Letter posted and endorsed for second Black Ball packet in April. Fees were collected and noted in usual format for Philadelphia, as one fee.

PHILADELPHIA TO HEATH, ENG.
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Letter posted and endorsed for first Black Ball packet in May.

Ship Information
Cambridge departed
 New York May 1, 1840
 arrived Liverpool May
 23, 1840.

Postal Rates
 United States 75
 (3 x 12½) + (3 x 12½) = 75¢
 Inland plus freight money.
 Great Britain 8d
 Inbound letter fee. Treasury
 Warrant January 10, 1840.



**SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
RED STAR LINE**

*The William Byrnes – Last Voyage
The Birmingham – Last Voyage*

**BOTH LETTERS
LONDON TO KENNEBUNK, ME
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)**

Ship Information

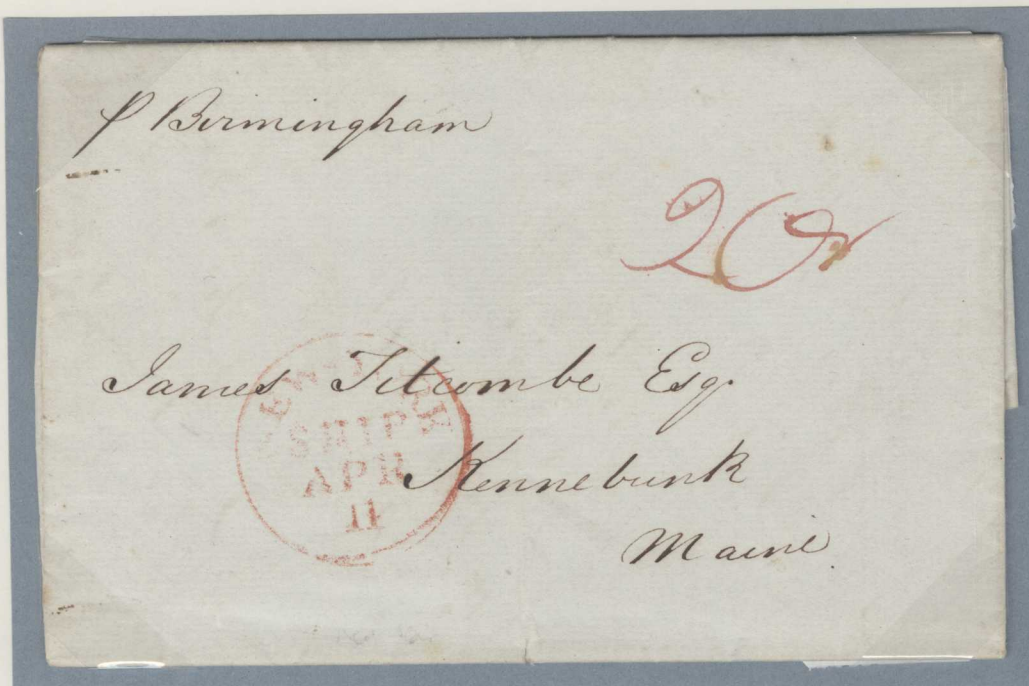
Last voyage of the *William Byrnes*. She departed Liverpool March 9, 1831, arrived New York April 19, 1831. She was replaced by the *Sheffield*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢



Both letters were carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool.



Ship Information

Last voyage of the *Birmingham*, she departed Liverpool January 8, 1833, but returned for repairs. She departed after repairs March 4, 1833, arrived New York April 11, 1833. She was replaced by the *United States*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Letter placed in diplomatic pouch, not opened until received in London.

Westminster Office applied the red oval date stamp, Willcocks & Jay type 465b, used 1827 - 1833, forwarded to London Two Penny Post for delivery. The red "T P / New..." is a receiving house stamp; the black "2" is amount due on delivery. Two Penny Post system extended approximately 12 miles delivering letters not called for at the General Post Office.

BOSTON TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *John Jay* departed New York February 25, 1833, arrived Liverpool March 28, 1833. She served until 1834 when replaced by the *England*.

Postal Rates

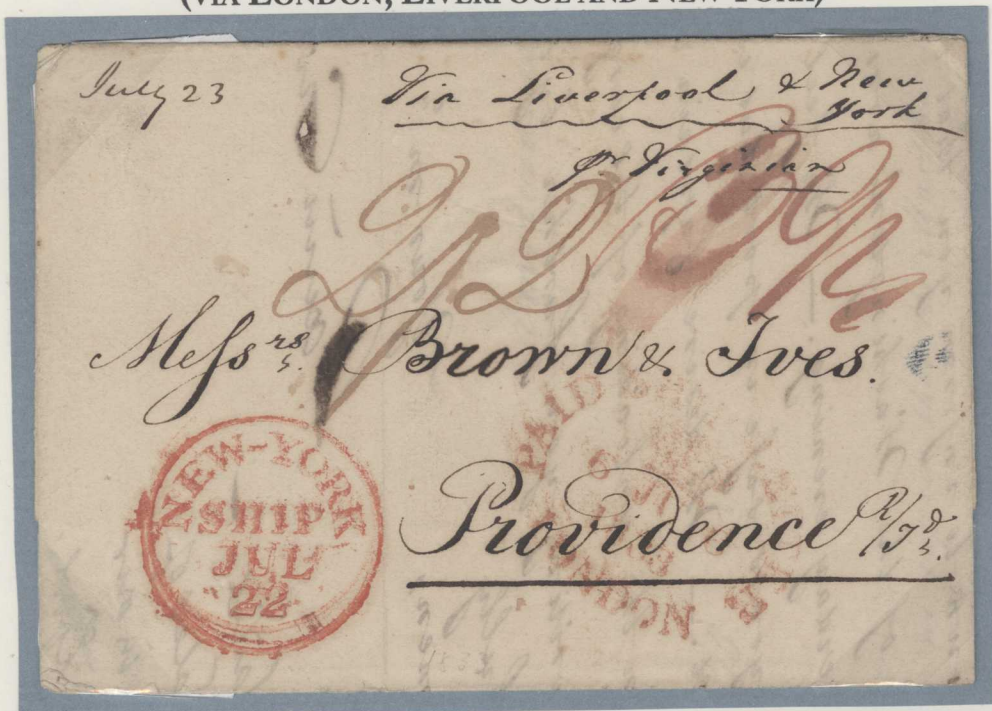
United States	12½¢
Great Britain	0
Two Penny Post	2d

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837

Red Star Line

**AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS TO PROVIDENCE, RI
(VIA LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)**

**The *Virginian* - Double Letter
The United States**



Ship Information
The *Virginian* departed Liverpool June 9, 1833, arrived New York July 22, 1833. She served as a packet until 1847.

Postal Rates

Netherlands	0
Great Britain	2/2
GPO Notice, January 1817, packet rate from Falmouth + inland from London abated by 1d; (1/3 + 1/1) - 1d = 2/2	
United States	39½¢
(2 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 39½¢	

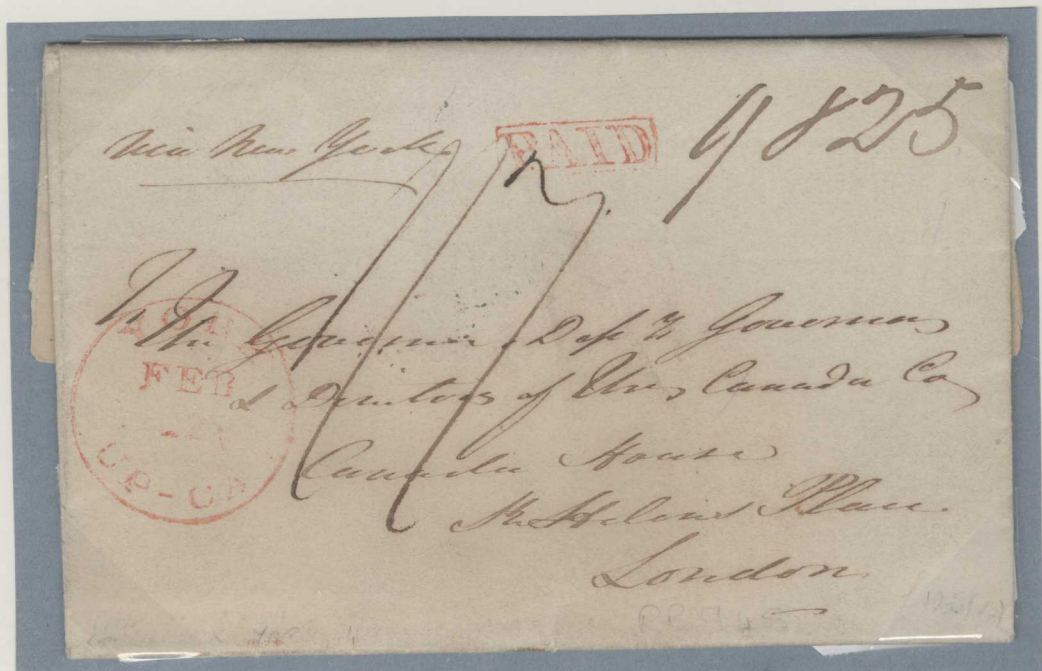
Letter carried to London and placed in mails. Dispatched as directed.

**YORK (TORONTO), U. C. TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)**

Ship Information
The *United States* departed Liverpool February 24, 1834, arrived New York March 24, 1834. She replaced the *Birmingham* in 1833.

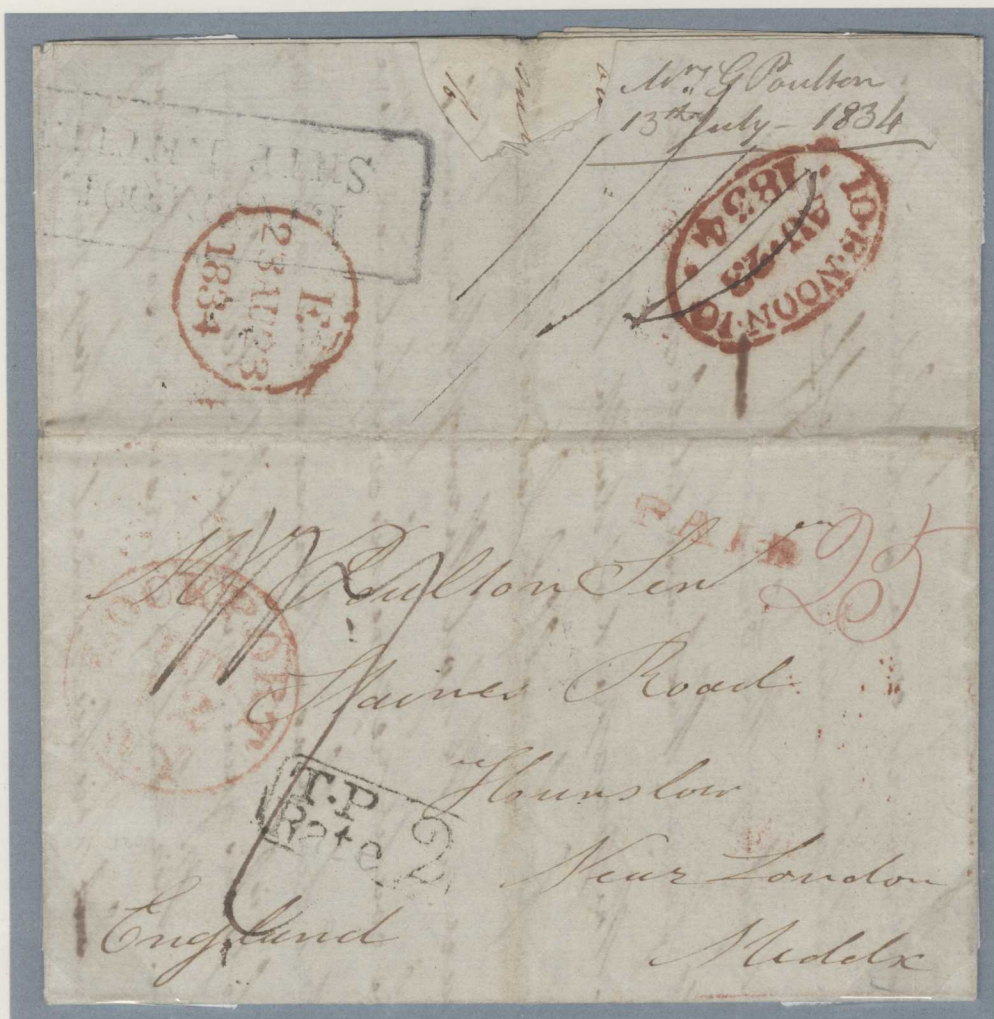
Postal Rates

Canadian	9d & 25¢
9d inland and 25¢ U.S. border to New York.	
United States	25¢
Collected in Canada.	
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	



Letter paid through to New York and dispatched on packet.

LOCKPORT, NY TO HOUNSLOW, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Lockport, New York for Hounslow, England. Hounslow is in the London Two Penny Post area on the Great West road. The receiving house of the Two Penny Post operated from 1652 to 1857.

The red oval mark applied by the General Office, when a letter transferred to Two Penny Post, is Mackay type 162. The black "T. P. / Rate 2" is Mackay type 221.

Ship Information

The *John Jay* departed New York July 24, 1834 on her last voyage, arrived Liverpool August 21, 1834. The *England* replaced her.

Postage Rates

United States	25¢
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	
The 2d Two Penny Post fee collected on delivery.	

PHILADELPHIA TO TENERIFFE, CANARY ISLANDS
(NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)

Letter privately carried to New York forwarding agent Moses Taylor. Letter dispatched on Red Star packet by forwarding agent. Moses Taylor stamp located in upper right is oval 38 X 22 mm in use 1836 to 1856. Black boxed 'LIVERPOOL / SHIP LETTER' is Robertson type S13 in use 1834 to 1838.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britian	1/7d
(8 + 11) = 19d or 1/7d	
Ship letter fee + Inland postage.	

Ship Information

The *England* departed New York July 24, 1835 arriving Liverpool August 16. 1835. Pascket sold to Black Ball Line to replace the *Britannia*.

PHILADELPHIA TO TENERIFFE, CANARY ISLANDS
(NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)



Letter privately carried to New York forwarding agent Moses Taylor. Letter dispatched on Red Star packet by forwarding agent. Moses Taylor stamp located in upper right is oval 38 X 22 mm in use 1836 to 1856. Black boxed 'LIVERPOOL / SHIP LETTER' is Robertson type S13 in use 1834 to 1838.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britian	1/7d
(8 + 11) = 19d or 1/7d	
Ship letter fee + Inland postage.	

Ship Information

The *England* departed New York July 24, 1835 arriving Liverpool August 16, 1835. Pascket sold to Black Ball Line to replace the *Britannia*.

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA TO BOSTON
(VIA HAMBURG, LONDON, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Hand carried to forwarding agent Haller, Sohle in Hamburg. Forwarded to Baring Brothers, forwarded and processed by Foreign Letter Office. Dispatched on packet as noted in upper left corner.

Ship Information

The *Sheffield* departed Liverpool
November 8, 1835, arrived New
York December 12, 1835.

Postal Rates

Russia	0
Great Britain	3/4
2 X 1/8d = 40d or 3/4	
United States	20 ³ / ₄ ¢
18 ³ / ₄ ¢ + 2¢ = 20 ³ / ₄ ¢	

**SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE**

The *Napoleon* - Triple Letter
The *Silas Richards*

LONDON TO PETERSBURG, VA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Napoleon* departed Liverpool April 26, 1830, arrived New York May 29, 1830. She replaced the *Corinthian* in 1827 and was replaced by the *Pennsylvania* in 1836.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	77¢
(3 X 25¢) + 2¢ = 77¢	



A wrapper carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool. Letter delivered to post office in New York by news boat and rated as a triple letter.

SOUTH SHIELD, ENGLAND TO MONTREAL
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Silas Richards departed Liverpool May 24, 1830, arrived New York July 6, 1830. She was replaced in 1834 by the *Independence*.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	
Canada	1/7 cy
U. S. and Canadian postage collected in Canada.	

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Red Swallowtail Line

The Wellington - Complete Voyage

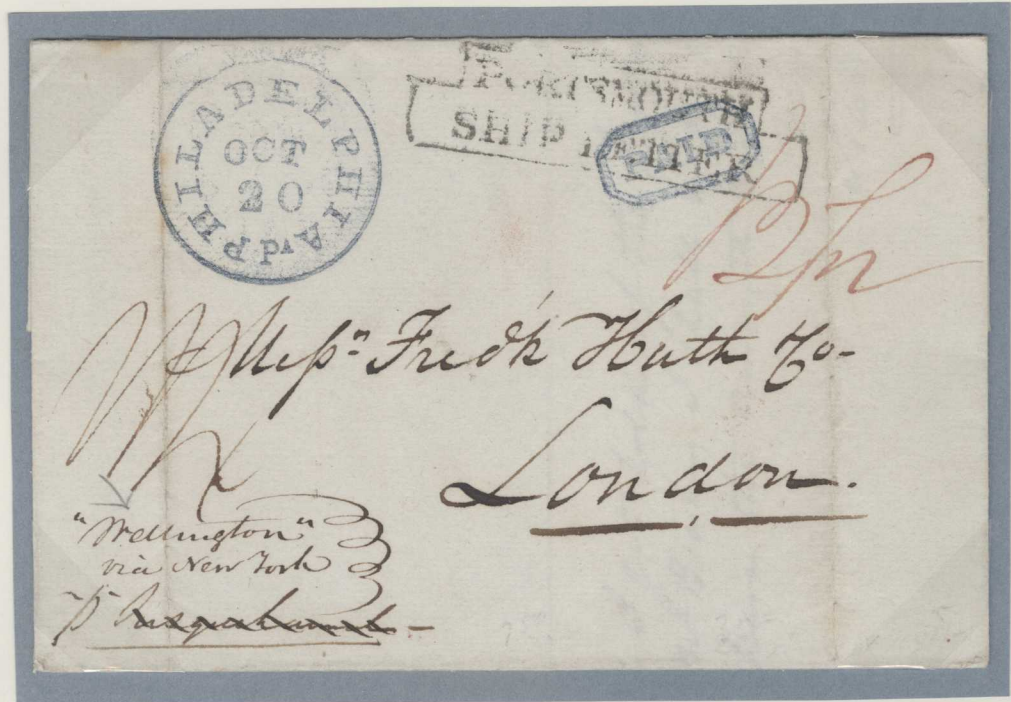
PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)

Ship Information

Wellington departed
 New York October
 20, 1837, put mail
 ashore at Portsmouth
 November 14, 1837.
 She proceeded to
 London, arrived
 November 15, 1837.

Postal Rates

United States 12½¢
 Great Britain 1/4
 8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4



The writer routed letter to the *Susquehanna*, a Philadelphia packet. It was redirected to New York and the *Wellington*.

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA PORTSMOUTH AND NEW YORK)

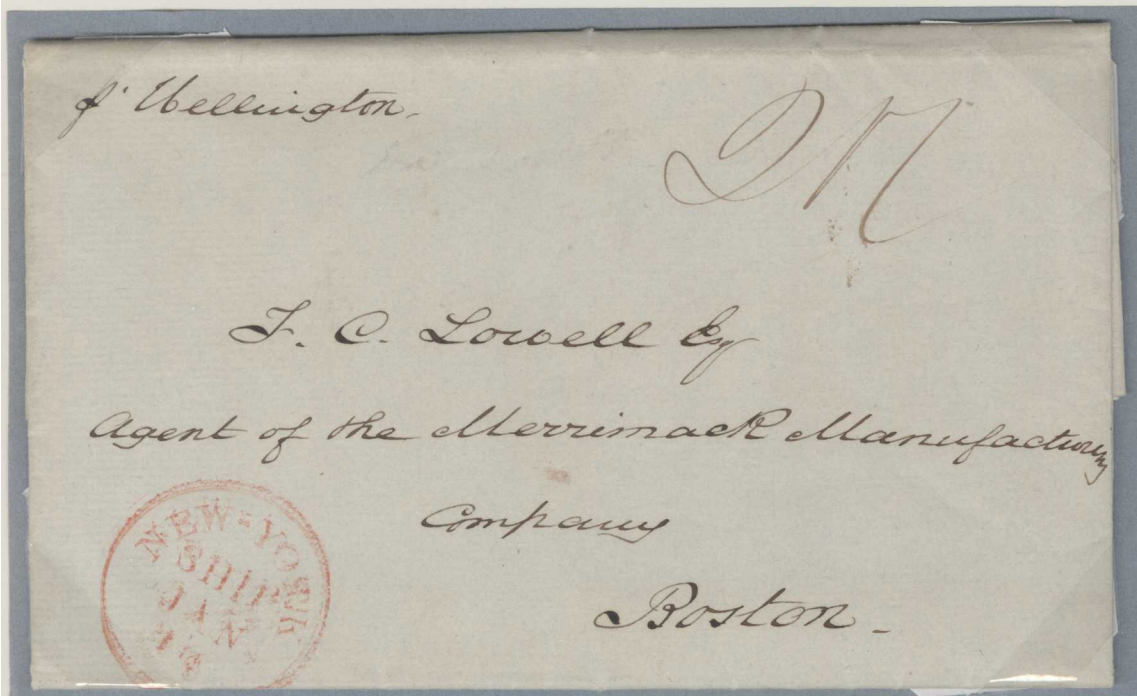
On westerly voyage
 from London, packets
 stopped at Portsmouth
 for mail forwarded after
 packet departed London.

Ship Information

The *Wellington* departed
 London December
 8, 1837, stopped at
 Portsmouth December
 11, 1837, arrived New
 York January 15, 1838.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢



Letter written December 9, 1837, after packet departure from London. Carried by courier to Portsmouth to meet packet

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840 THE BLACK BALL LINE

The *Orpheus*

Regular service provided by steamers, starting in April, 1838, had a negative impact on The Black Ball Line. The shorter westerly crossing of the steamers could not be matched by the sailing vessels. Thus 1838 began a period of adjustment for packet lines as they modified their interiors for more cargo and immigrant passengers.

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS TO PROVIDENCE, RI (VIA HULL, LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Orpheus* departed Liverpool January 1, 1838, arrived New York March 9, 1838. She replaced the *New York I* in 1834 and was replaced by the *New York II* in 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/6
8d + 10d = 18d or 1/6
United States 20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

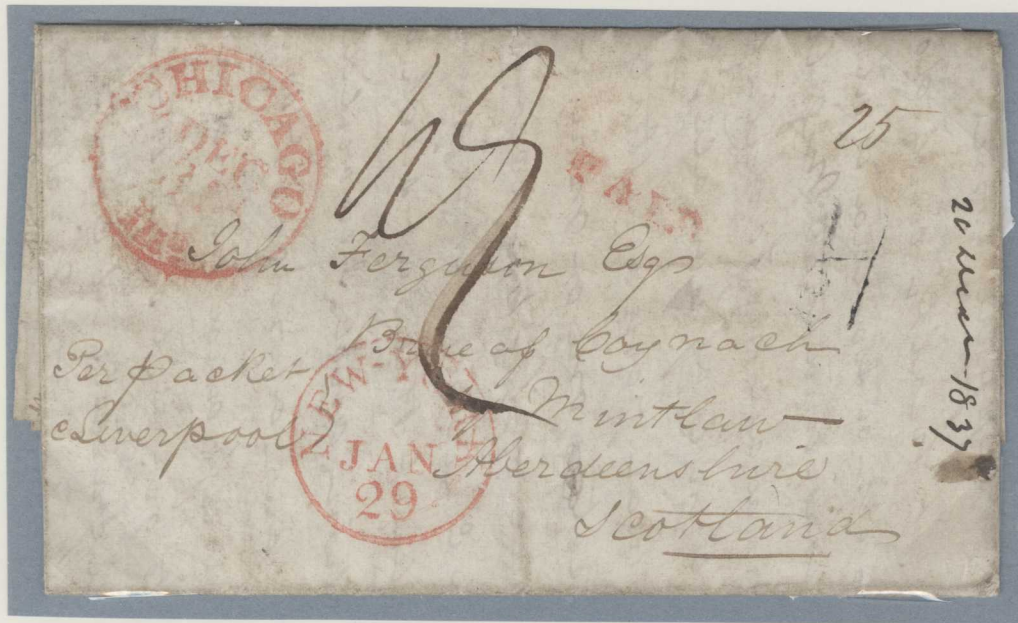


Letter addressed to Mr. John von Lelfen in Liverpool. He paid the postage and sent the letter to the primary addressee in Providence.



Portion of the cover back showing the "HULL / SHIP LETTER" Robertson type S8 in use 1836 to 1839.

CHICAGO TO MINTLAW, SCOTLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Columbus departed New York February 1, 1838, arrived Liverpool February 27, 1838. Served as a packet for 11 years, becoming a regular trader in 1845.

Postal Rates

United States	25¢
Great Britain	1/9½
8d + 13d + ½d = 21½d or 1/9½	

Letter posted from Chicago to packet in New York. Note the ½d wheel tax.

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

Double letter to addressee in Liverpool, forwarded to Richmond. Note ½d wheel tax marking in blue applied in Leith.

Ship Information

Columbus departed Liverpool on the return leg March 18, 1838, arrived New York April 17, 1838.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	2/9½
8d + (2 x 1/-) + ½d = 2/9½	
United States	39½¢
(2 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 39½¢	



NEW ORLEANS TO NEW CASTLE-ON-TYNE
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Europe departed
New York May
16, 1838, arrived
Liverpool June 9,
1838.

Postal Rates

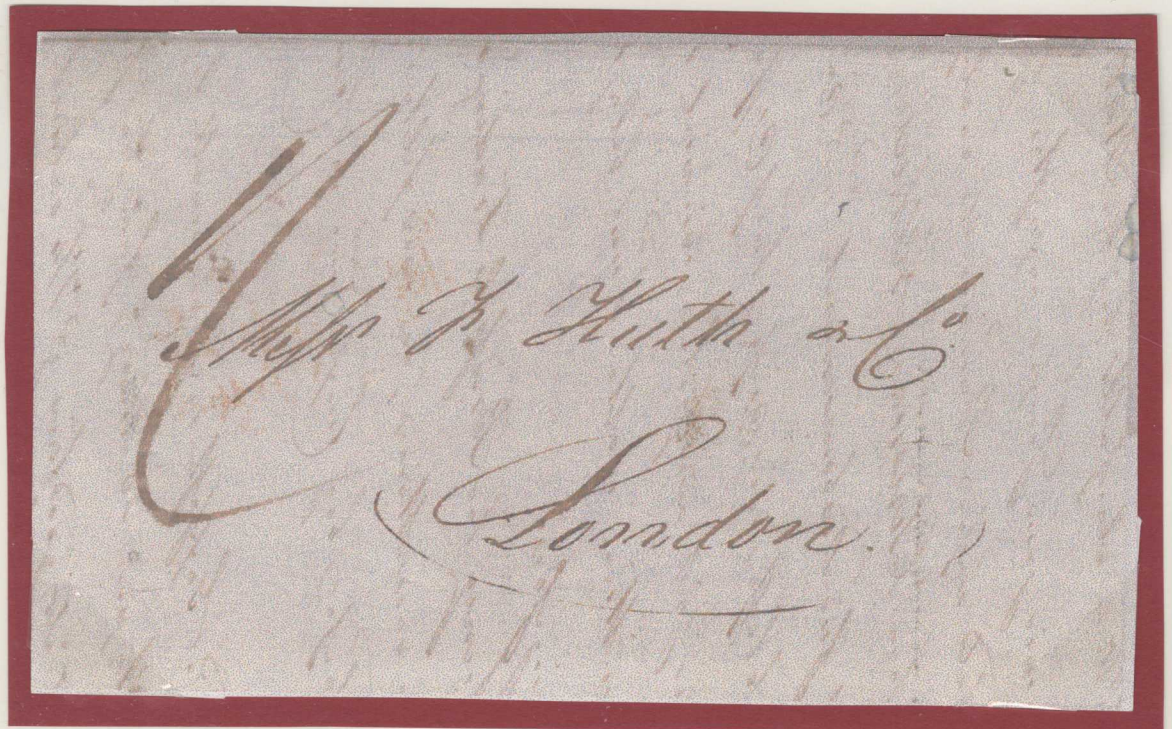
United States 25¢
Great Britain 1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7

Letter posted New Orleans to meet packet in New York

Interior portion
used as turned cover
to second party in
London.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/-
Distance to London
277 miles. 52 George
II c 88, rate 230-300
miles 1/-.



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840

Black Ball Line

The *North America* - Triple Letter

Freight money was an extra charge by transatlantic steam ship companies for the faster service they provided. Packet companies also charged a 12½¢ freight money fee, the first recorded August 17, 1838. This fee will appear only on outbound mail from the United States.

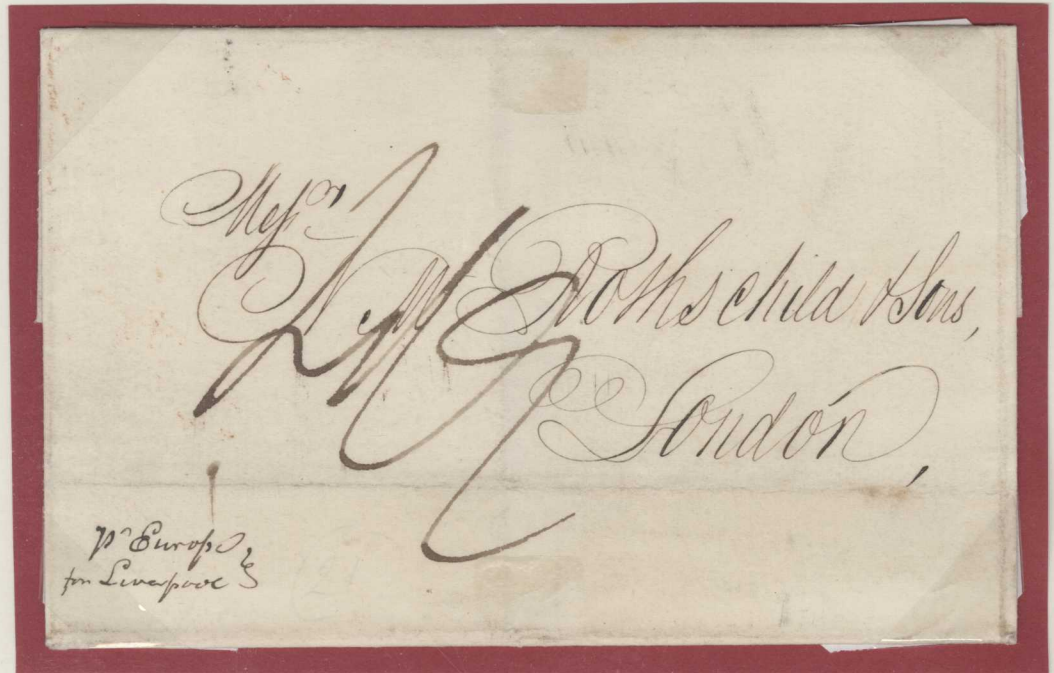
NEW YORK TO LONDON (VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

North America
departed New York
September 1, 1838,
arrived Liverpool
September 23, 1838.
The *Europe* would not
sail until September
16, 1838, so earlier
packet was used.

Postal Rates

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



Wrapper carried to forwarding agent Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room and Foreign Exchange Office, New York. This mail, being outbound should indicate the payment of freight money. Authorities in New York seldom noted the collection of the fee, making New York Freight Money covers rare. (Winter)



Back of wrapper showing the forwarding agent handstamp, Liverpool ship letter stamp and London receiving stamp.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Black Ball Line

next
 The *Oxford* - Double Letter

January 6, 1839, a hurricane struck sea routes near the Irish sea between Ireland and England. Weather warnings were not available. Several packets were damaged or destroyed. The Black Ball *Oxford* was able to make port, but the Red Star *Saint Andrew* and the Blue Swallowtail *Pennsylvania* were destroyed. The crew and passengers of the *Pennsylvania* climbed on to the rigging where they spent the night until removed by rescue vessels the next day.

UNKNOWN TO LONDON
 (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Faint black circular stamp may show origin. The docketing shows wrapper originated October 9, 1838, and was carried to New Orleans and post paid. New York addressee, Mr. F. W. Schmidt & CO, received the wrapper. Rowe does not list forwarding agent by this name. Wrapper dispatched on packet *Oxford*.

Ship Information

Oxford departed New York December 19, 1838. As she approached Liverpool, she was caught in the Hurricane and forced aground. After making port and repairs she departed Liverpool on return leg March 29, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States	50¢
2 x 25¢ = 50¢	
Great Britain	3/2
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 38d or 3/2	

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



A letter weighing 1¼ oz. carried to the Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room and Foreign Letter Office for forwarding to the packet. Great Britain fees collected on delivery.

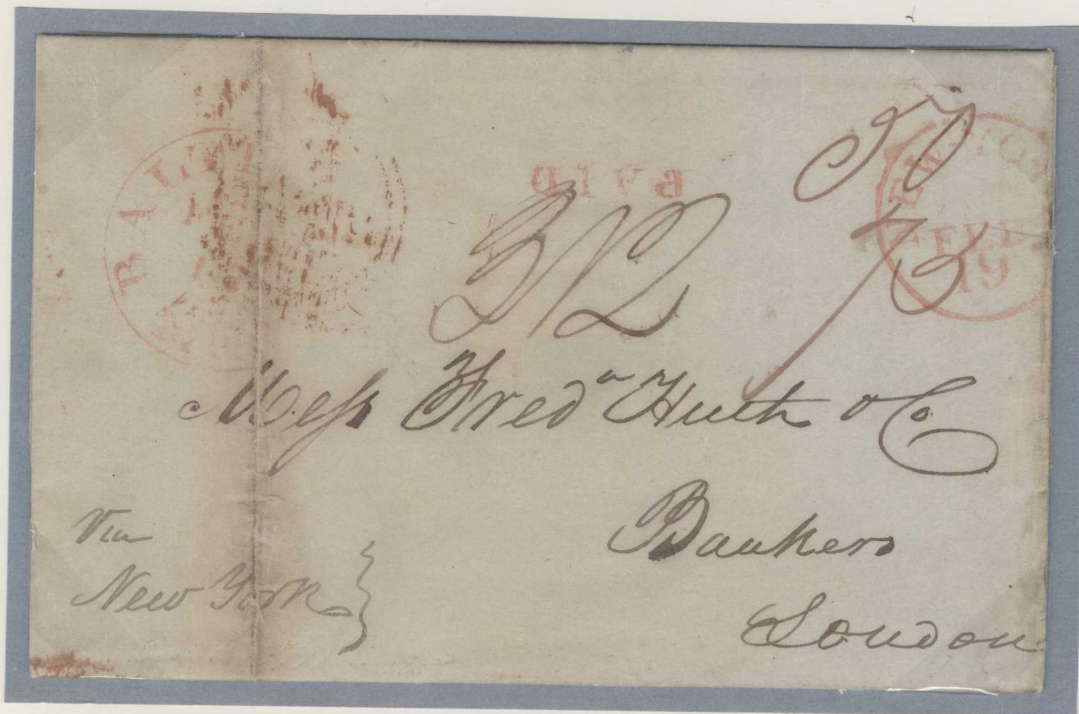
Ship Information

The *Columbus* departed New York February 2, 1839, arrived Liverpool February 21, 1839. Mail dispatched to London on mail coach.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	7/10
(5 x 8d) + (5 x 11d) = 95d	
or 7/10	

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and freight money collected by Post Office in Baltimore. Post Office employees in Baltimore noted the freight money and postal fees separately in the upper right corner.

Ship Information

South America
departed New York
February 19, 1839,
arrived Liverpool
March 15, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States \$1.25

(4 x 18¾) + (4 x 12½) = \$1.25

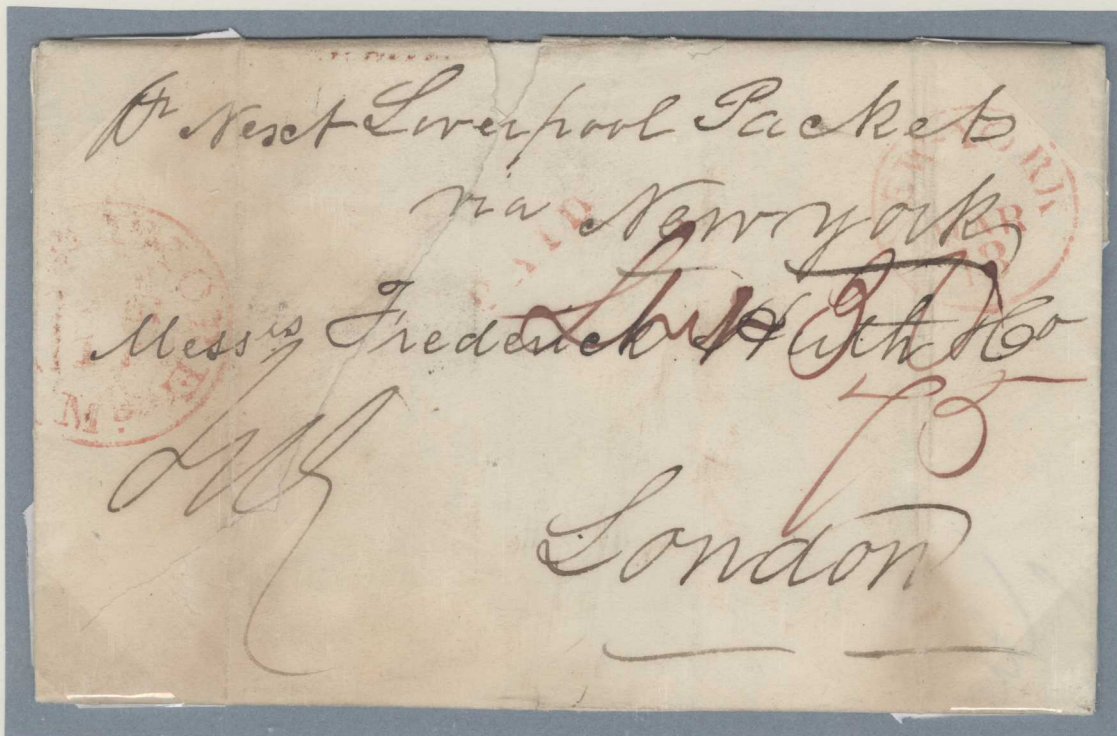
Inland + freight money fee.

Great Britain 3/2d

(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 3/2d

Ship Letter fee and inland
postage collected on delivery.

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Baltimore endorsed to Liverpool packet. New York dispatched on Black Ball packet for Liverpool. Liverpool applied black 'LIVERPOOL / SHIP LETTER' Robertson type S14 in use 1838 to 1841. London received letter evening April 15 and applied red double circle receiving mark on back.

Ship Information

The *Orpheus* departed
New York March 3,
1839 arrived Liverpool
April 14, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States \$1.25

(4 X 12½) + (4 X 18¾) =
\$1.25

Inland plus freight money.

Great Britain 4/9d

(3 X 8d) + (3 X 11d) = 4/9d

Ship letter fee plus inland
postage.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Black Ball Line

Complete Voyage - The *Orpheus*

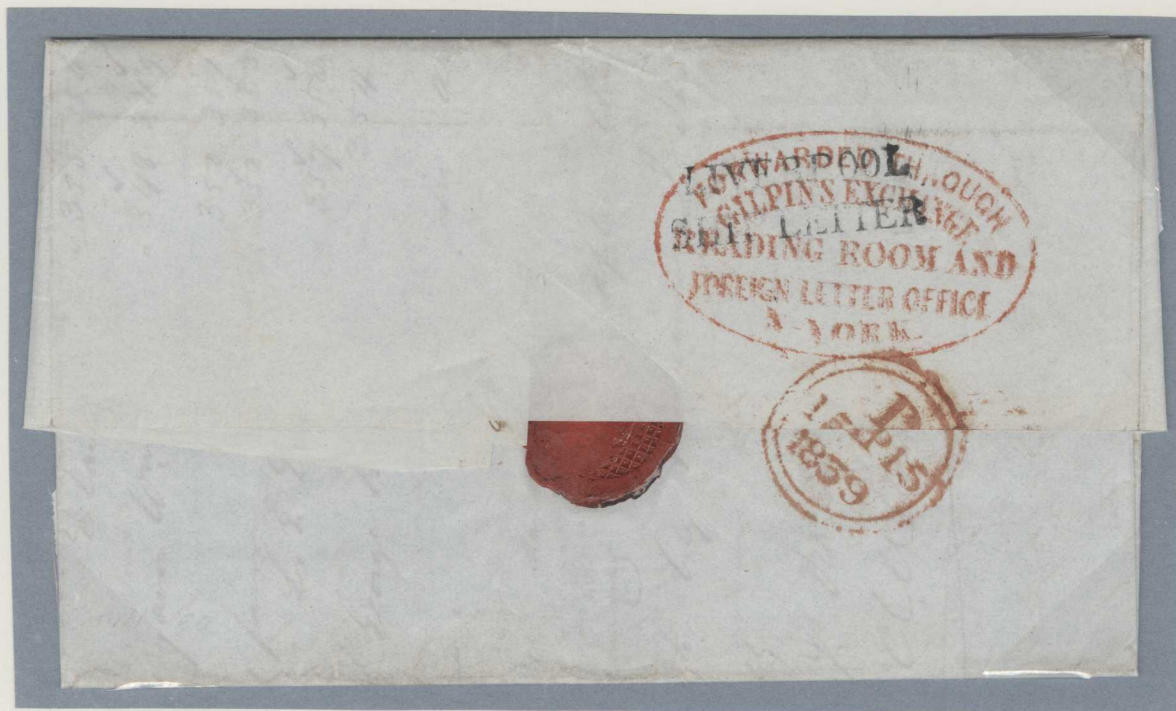
NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Orpheus departed New York March 23, 1839, arrived Liverpool April 14, 1839. She made one more voyage before leaving the packet fleet.

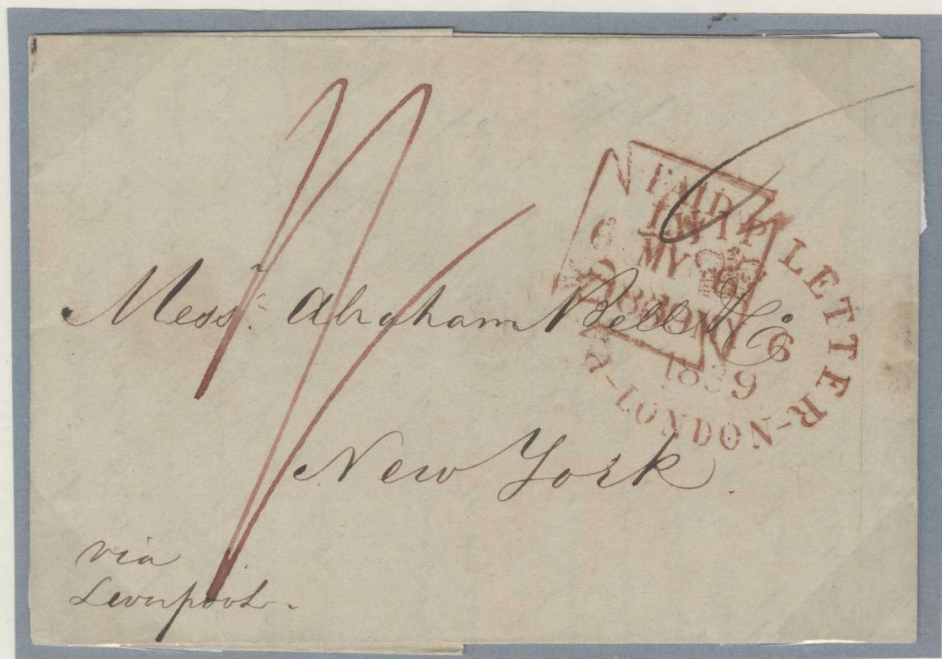
Postal Rates

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



Triple letter carried to forwarding agent Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room and Foreign Letter Office, New York. Dispatched on packet as indicated in lower left.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in London and placed in bag for New York, GPO Notice January 12, 1838, therefore no Liverpool markings. Red rimless oval London Paid marking is Robertson type S51, in use 1838 to 1847.

Ship Information

Orpheus departed Liverpool on return leg May 8, 1839, arrived New York June 1, 1839.

Postal Rates

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

A unique cover, mailed from Belfast to New York. In New York receiver readdressed the letter, gave it to forwarding agent who placed it on the next Black Ball outbound packet. All in the same day.

This illustrates two different rates for a letter following the same path from posting to port and port to delivery point.

BELFAST TO NEW YORK
(VIA DUBLIN AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted Belfast February 16 1839, too late for processing. Letter sent forward for a special fee of 2d, red notation upper left on back (next page). Black "BELFAST/FE 16/1839/LATE" is mackay type 1089 on back and BLACK "BELFAST/FE 17/1839" is Mackay type 139. Letter proceeded to Liverpool, dispatched on Black Ball Packet *Europe*.

Addressee in New York scratched out incoming address and forwarded letter back to Belfast through New York Forwarding Agent Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room and Foreign Letter Office.

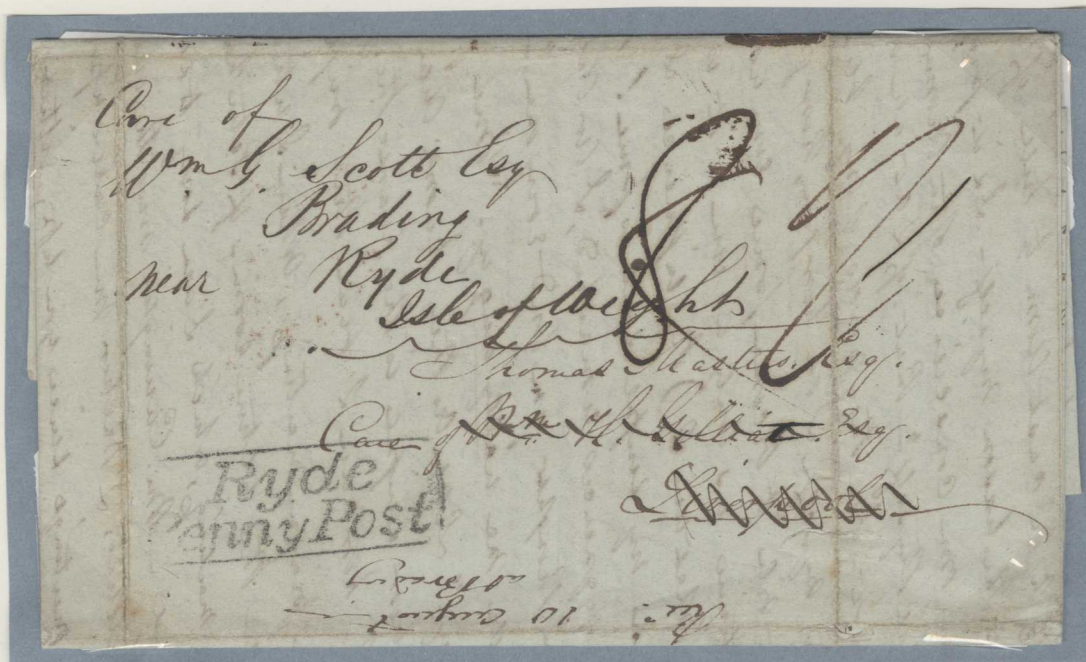
Ship Information

The *Europe* departed
Liverpool February
19, 1839, arrived New
York April 1, 1839

Postal Rates

Ireland 2d
Fee for forwarding a letter
late for regular mail.
Great Britain 1/-
August 21, 1835 5/6 Will
IV c25
United States 6 cents

NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL
(FORWARDED TO BRADING, ISLE OF WIGHT)



Letter carried to Black Ball agent in New York for dispatch on *Cambridge*. Liverpool addressee received letter and forwarded it to Brading near Ryde on Isle of Wight. Letter was delivered by Brading, one of the receiving houses on the island for the Ryde Penny Post.

Black boxed 'Ryde / Penny Post' (41 X 14 mm) in use 1836 - 1838, Willcocks and Jay rarity H. This is later use than recorded.

Ship Information

Cambridge departed New York July 19, 1839, arrived Liverpool August 7, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
Ship letter fee for inbound letter.	1/-
Forwarding fee to Brading, Isle of Wight.	1d
Penny post fee noted as single stroke in forwarding fee,	

MONTREAL TO REGENTS PARK, ENGLAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter post paid to New York. London General Office dispatched to London Two Penny Post. Black "TP/Rate 2D" mark is Willcocks & Jay type L692, in use 1836 to 1839, a late use.

Ship Information

The *North America* departed New York August 19, 1839, arrived Liverpool September 11, 1839. She replaced the *Florida* in 1831.

Postal Rates

Canadian	1/1½ cry
Inland to border and U.S.	
inland to New York	
United States	18¾¢
Collected in Canada	
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	
Two Penny Post	2d

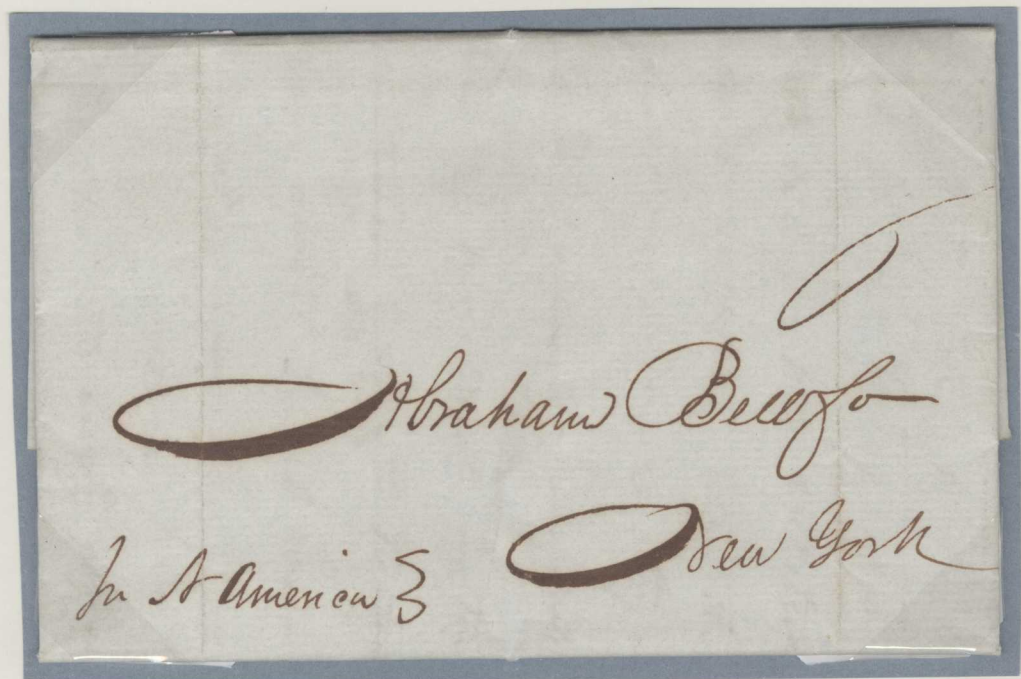
LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK

Ship Information

The *North America* departed Liverpool on the return leg October 8, 1839, arrived New York November 27, 1839. She served as packet until wrecked near Sandy Hook, January 14, 1843.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	6¢



Carried to ship's agent in Liverpool.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Blue Swallowtail Line

The George Washington
London Two Penny Post

MACHINAW ISLAND, MICH. TO BIXTON HILL, ENG.
(VIA CHICAGO, NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)

Ship Information

George Washington
departed New York
October 7, 1840,
arrived Liverpool
October 31, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 25¢
Great Britain 8d
Treasury Warrant 10
Jan, 1840.



Letter datelined Machinaw Island, Michigan, and carried to Chicago for mailing. This letter contains many interesting comments on the conditions encountered by the writer during their travels to that point through the United States.

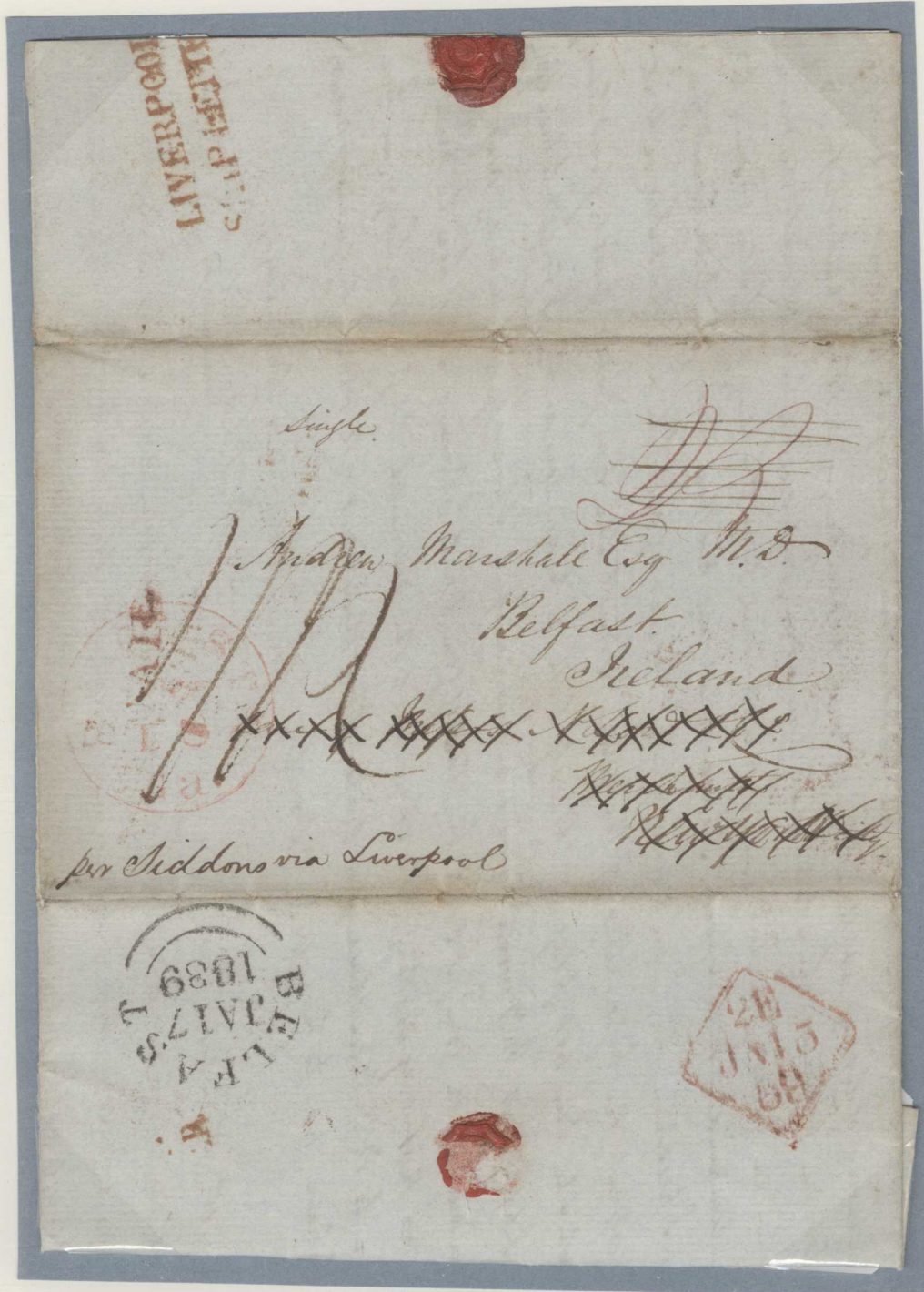


Back of cover showing the receiving marks applied upon arrival in England. The black "LIVERPOOL/SHIP LETTER" is Roberston type S14 in use 1838 - 1841. The red, single London receiving mark indicates evening processing. The red dimpled mark was applied when letter entered the London Two Penny Post system. The letter was delivered by the Bixton Hill Receiving House, operated by Joseph Greening. The receiving house was in Mr. Greening's Bakery and Confectioner shop. Locations similar to this shop were typical of the London Two Penny Postal System receiving houses.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
DRAMATIC LINE

Complete Voyage The *Siddons*
Return leg on next page

AUGUSTA, GA TO BELFAST, IRELAND
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *Siddons* departed New York December 25, 1838, arrived Liverpool January 15, 1839. She served as a packet until 1854, one of the longest serving packets.

Postal Rates

United States	25¢
Great Britain	1/5
8d + 9d = 17d or 1/5	

Paid letter posted to New York addressee for dispatch on directed packet.

LONDON TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA NEW YORK)



Letter processed at London Ship Letter Office. Fees paid as shown by the red rimless "PAID SHIP LETTER / CROWN / 11 FE 11/ 1839 / LONDON" stamp Robertson type S51 in use 1838–1847.

Ship Information

The *Siddons* departed
Liverpool on return
leg February 11, 1839,
arrived New York
March 27, 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7
United States 14½¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Dramatic Line

The *Siddons*
Forwarded
5 X Freight Money

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Letter privately carried to American & Foreign Agency in New York. Red rectangle (72 X 24 mm) stamp in use 1837 to 1840. Letter dispatched as endorsed.

Ship Information

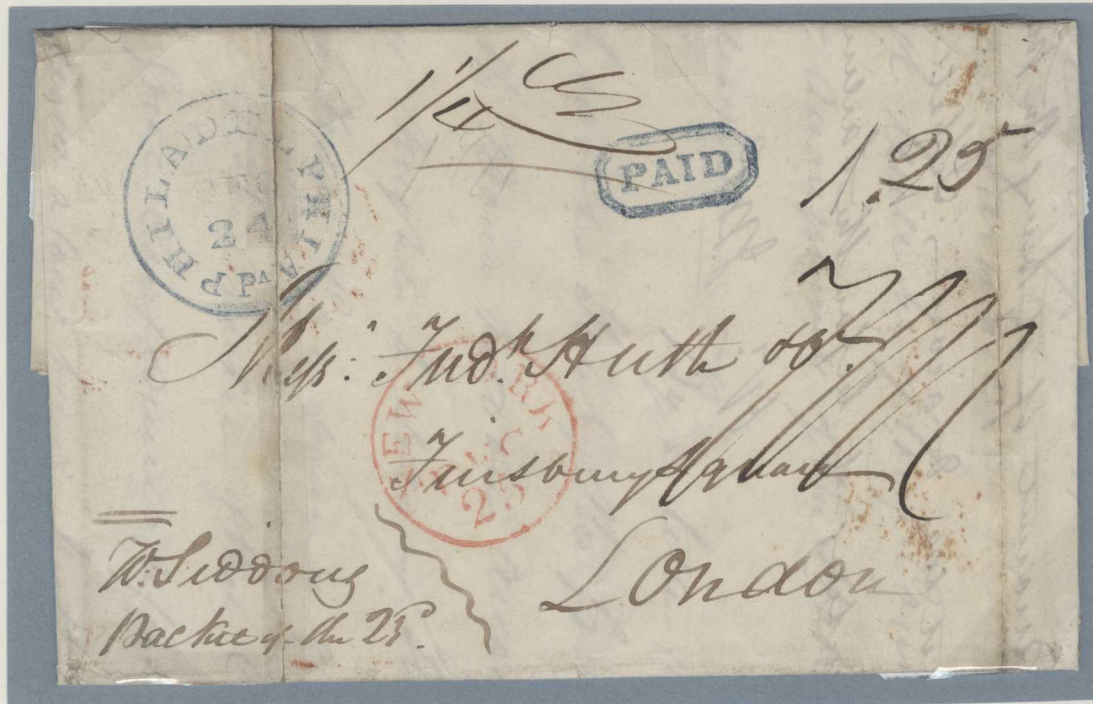
Siddons departed New York August 25, 1838 arriving Liverpool September 14, 1838.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 3/2d
2(8 + 11) = 38d or 3/2d

Letter posted, fees paid Philadelphia. Letter dispatched by New York as endorsed. When received in England weight, 1.25 oz, caused letter to be rated as a quadruple letter.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The Siddons departed New York December 25, 1838 arriving Liverpool January 13, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States 1.25¢
5(12.5 + 12.5) = 1.25
Great Britain 7/11d
5(8 + 11) = 7/11d

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Dramatic Line

The *Siddons*
Forwarded
5 X Freight Money

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Letter privately carried to American & Foreign Agency in New York. Red rectangle (72 X 24 mm) stamp in use 1837 to 1840. Letter dispatched as endorsed.

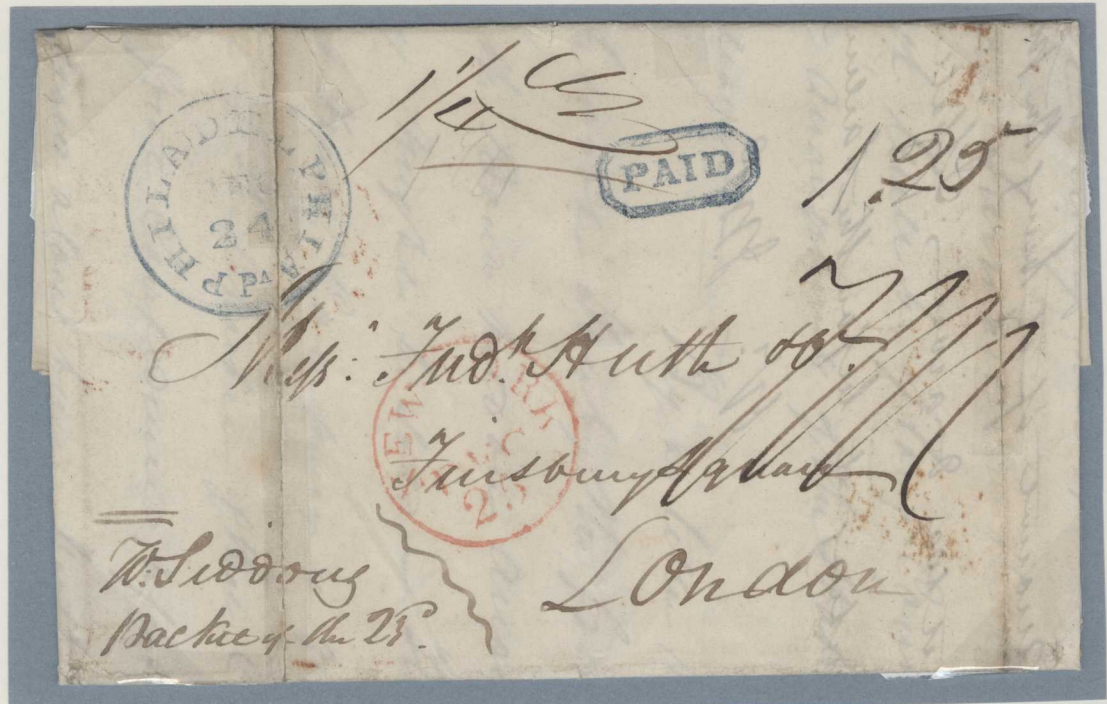


Ship Information
Siddons departed New York August 25, 1838 arriving Liverpool September 14, 1838.

Postal Rates
United States 0
Great Britain 3/2d
2(8 + 11) = 38d or 3/2d

Letter posted, fees paid Philadelphia. Letter dispatched by New York as endorsed. When received in England weight, 1.25 oz, caused letter to be rated as a quadruple letter.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information
The Siddons departed New York December 25, 1838 arriving Liverpool January 13, 1839.

Postal Rates
United States 1.25¢
5(12.5 + 12.5) = 1.25
Great Britain 7/11d
5(8 + 11) = 7/11d

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840

Dramatic Line

The *Garrick*
Double Letter

BALTIMORE TO LONDON (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted, fees paid and noted in the usual manner, freight money at top with postage below.

Ship Information

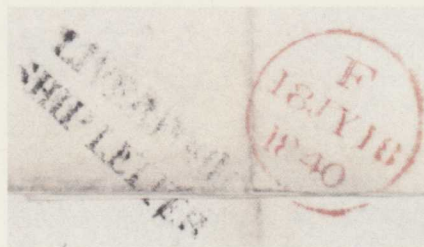
Garrick departed New York June 25, 1840, arrived Liverpool July 17, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 62½ ¢
(2 x 18¾) + (2 x 12½) =
62½ ¢. Inland plus Freight money.

Great Britain 1/4d
Double letter. Rated as triple letter 2/-. Treasury Warrant January 10, 1840.

Back showing Liverpool receiving mark Robertson type S14 in use 1838 - 1841. Also red single London receiving mark indicates AM processing.



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Dramatic Line

The *Garrick* - Complete Voyage

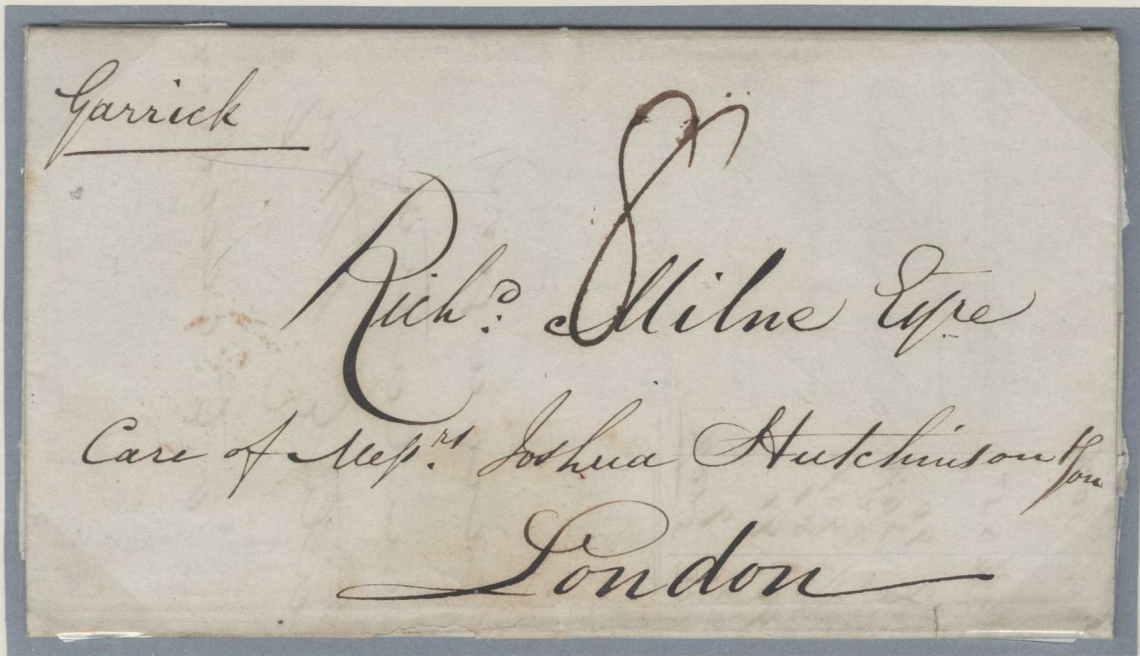
NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Garrick departed
 from New York
 October 20, 1840,
 arrived Liverpool
 November 11,
 1840.

Postal Rates

United States 0
 Great Britain 8d
 Treasury Warrant 5
 December, 1839, fee for
 delivery to port of entry.



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York

BRISTOL TO MONTREAL
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Garrick departed
 Liverpool
 December 13,
 1840, arrived New
 York February 25,
 1841.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d
 United States 20³/₄¢
 (18³/₄¢ + 2¢) Collected
 in Canada.
 Canada 1/5¹/₂cy
 U. S. and Canadian
 inland.

In January 1841 *Garrick* grounded on Deal Beach, New Jersey. Crew, passengers and mail saved. Two months required to raise vessel. She returned to Liverpool route in June 1841. (Albion, pg 223)

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND WEYMOUTH)



Double letter carried outside the mail to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched on packet as directed.

Ship Information

The *Philadelphia* departed New York March 3, 1838, arrived Weymouth March 25, 1838. She replaced the *Hudson* in 1833.

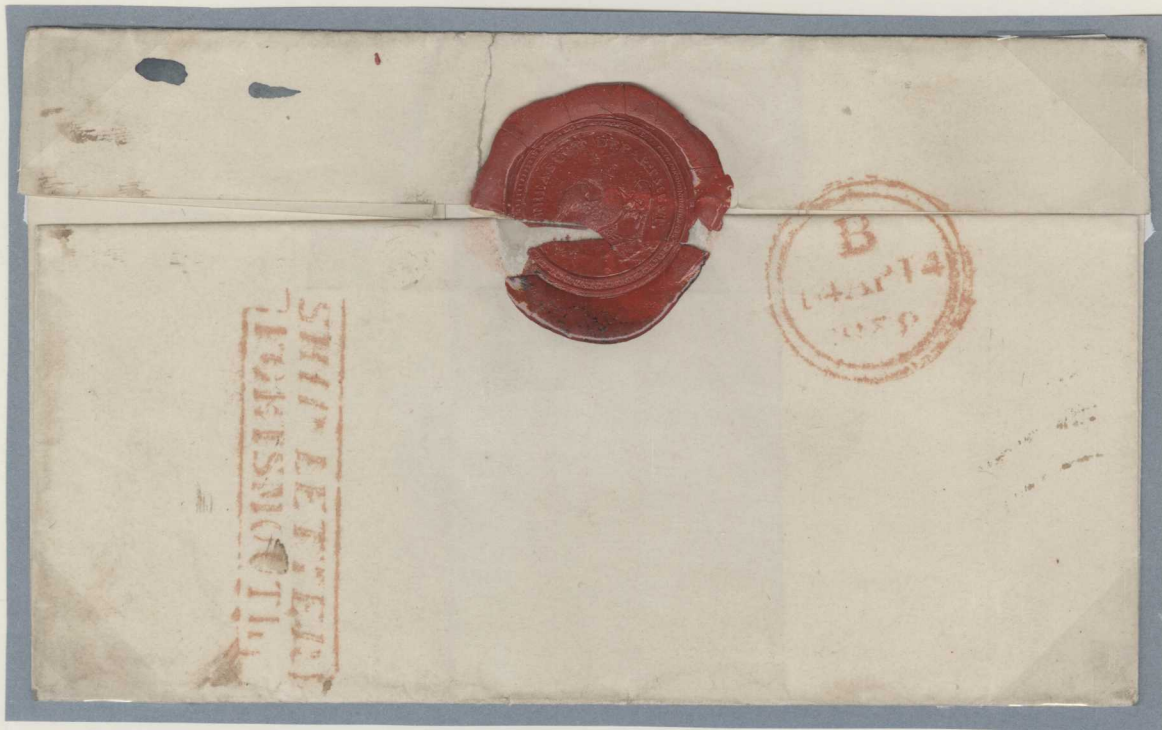
Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 3/-
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 10d) = 36d
or 3/-

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Black X Line

The President - Triple Letter
The Montreal

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

The *President* departed New York March 22, 1838, arrived at Portsmouth April 13, 1838. She sailed as a packet until February 1841 when she went aground on Goodwin Sands near Dover.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	4/-
(3 x 8d) + (3 x 8d) = 48d or 4/-	

Triple letter carried to ship's agent for dispatch. Placed in Great Britain's mail system at Portsmouth and proceeded to London in mail coach.

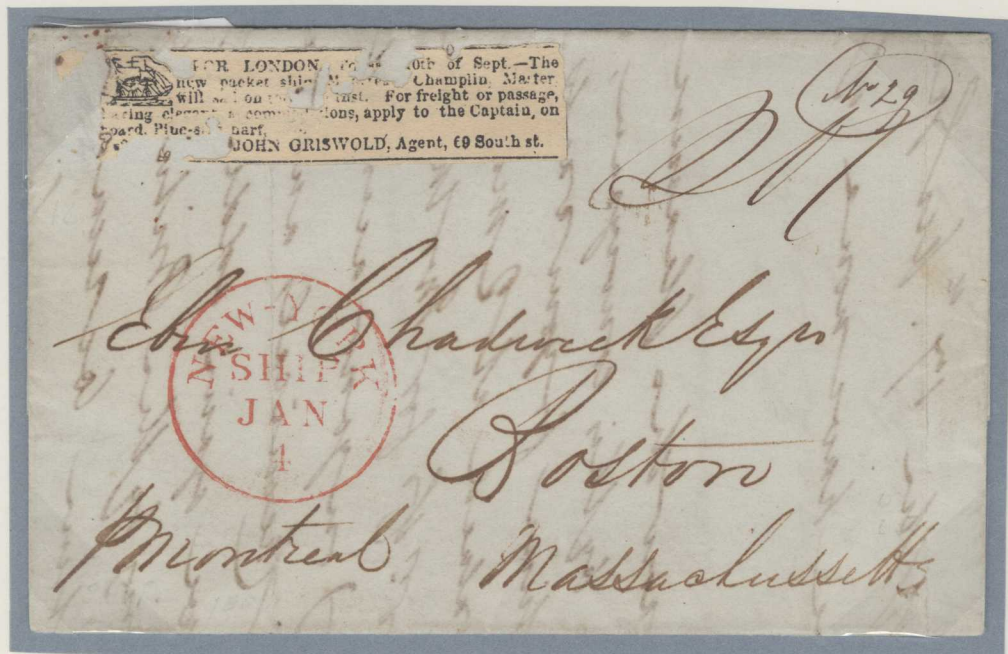
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND TO BOSTON
(VIA LONDON AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

The *Montreal* departed London October 29, 1839, arrived New York January 4, 1840. She was a new ship added to the fleet in 1833.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢	

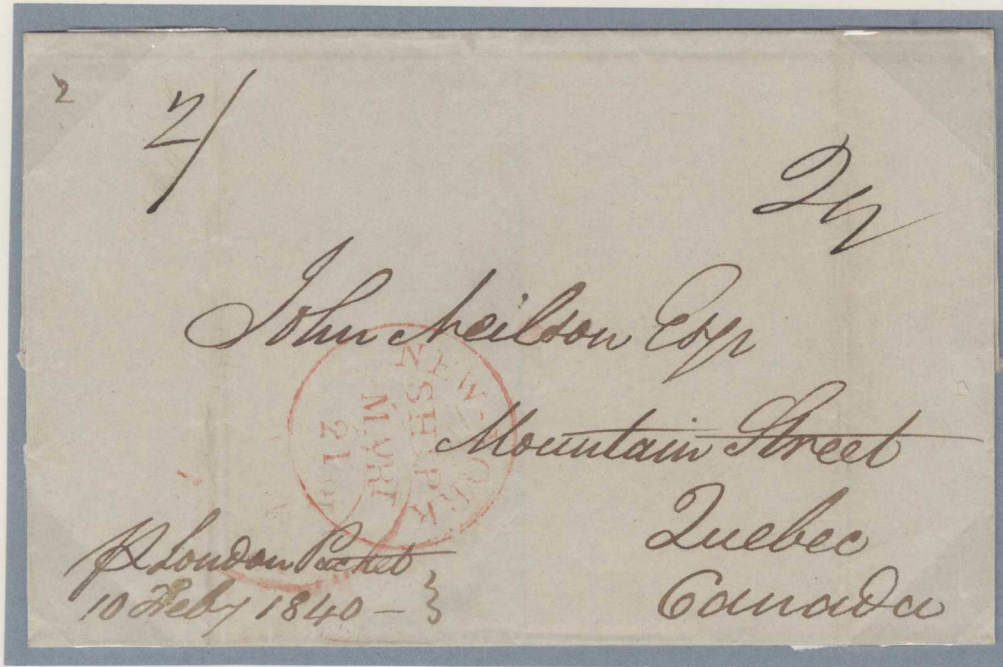


Letter carried to ship's agent in New York. Dispatched as indicated. Note advertising label of ship's agent.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Black X Line

The Westminster
The Montreal

LONDON TO QUEBEC
(VIA NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Westminster departed London February 9, 1840, arrived New York March 21, 1840. She replaced the *Sovereign* in 1835.

Postal Rates

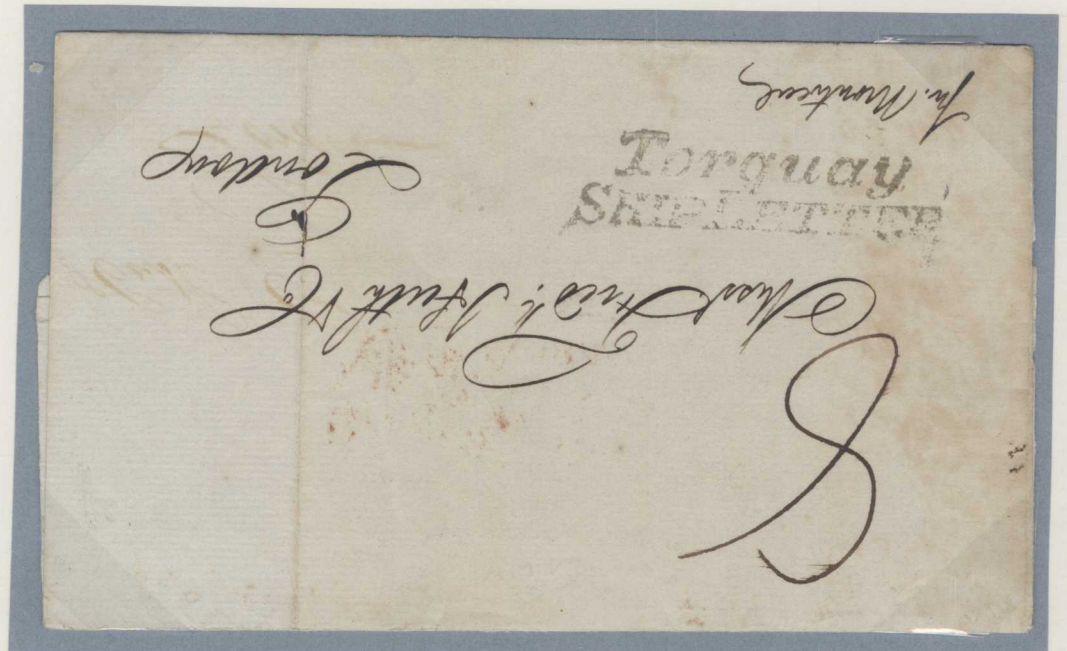
Great Britain	0
United States	20¾¢
	18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢
Canada	2/-
U.S. to border and Canadian inland collected on delivery.	

Letter carried to ship's agent in London. Dispatched on packet as noted. United States and Canadian postage collected on delivery according to working arrangement.

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA TORQUAY, ENGLAND)

Ship Information

The *Montreal* departed New York May 11, 1840, arrived London June 6, 1840.



Postal Rates

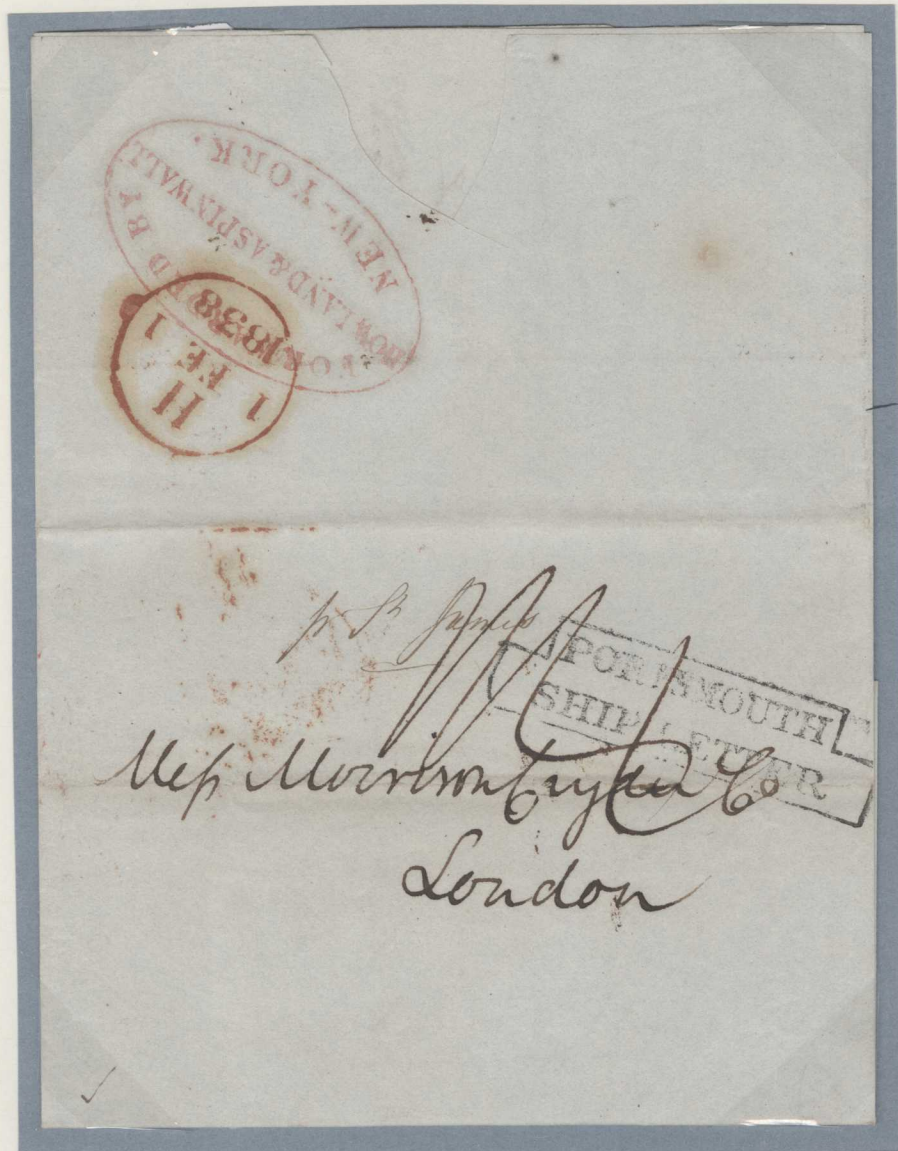
United States	0
Great Britain	8d
Fee for delivery of inbound ship letter anywhere in Great Britain.	

Letter carried to ship's agent. Dispatched as directed. Mail put ashore at Torquay.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
RED SWALLOWTAIL LINE

The *Saint James* - Forwarding Agent

BOSTON TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

The *Saint James* departed New York January 6, 1838, arrived London February 6, 1838. She was sold to Boston Registry in 1848 and wrecked on the Irish coast November 20, 1848.

Postal Rates

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

Letter carried to forwarding agent Howland & Aspinwall in New York. Dispatched on packet as directed. Mail put ashore in Portsmouth and continued to London by mail coach. Note the mail arrived London February 1, 1838, five days before the ship.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Red Swallowtail Line

Complete Voyage - *The Gladiator*

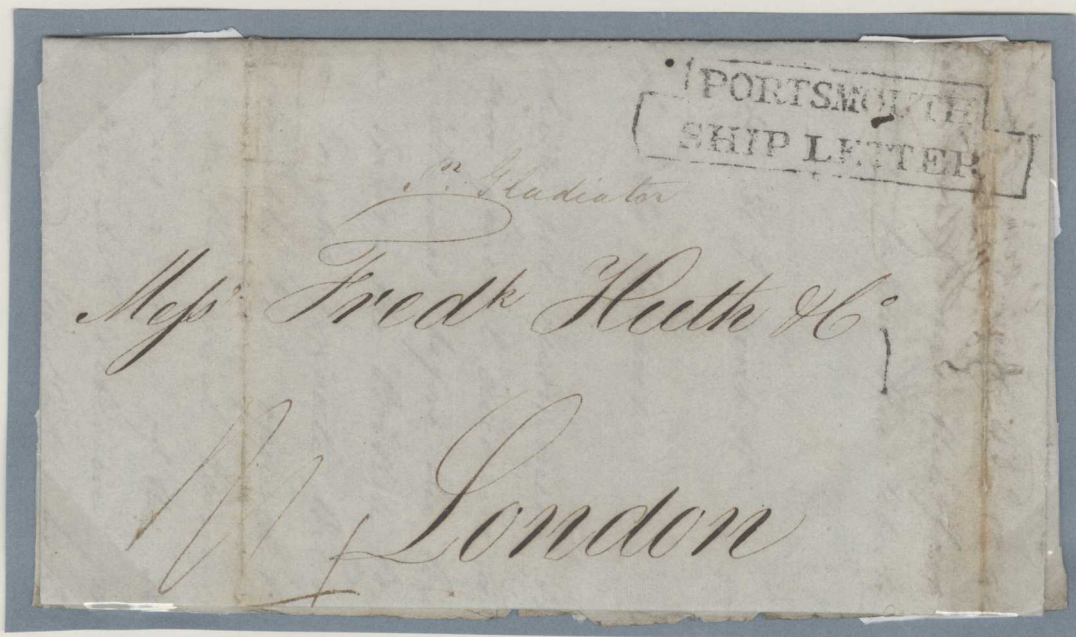
MEXICO CITY TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Gladiator departed New York January 20, 1838, arrived Portsmouth February 13, 1838. She sailed as a packet for 15 years.

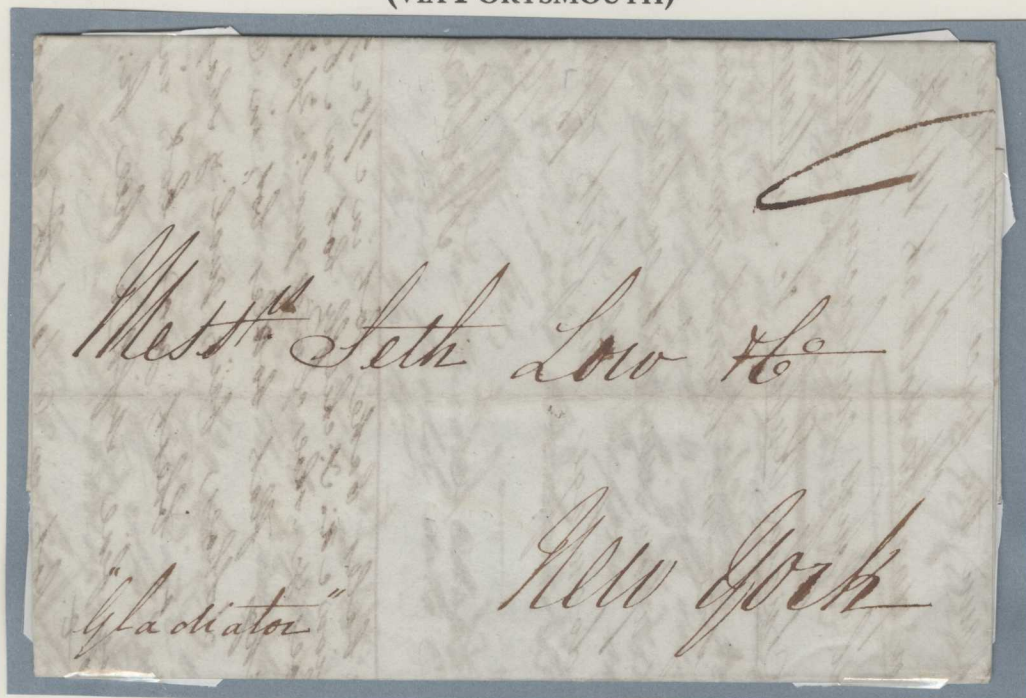
Postal Rates

Mexico	0
United States	0
Great Britain	1/4
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4	



Carried outside the mail to forwarding agent Howland & Aspinwall in New York. Dispatched as directed.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

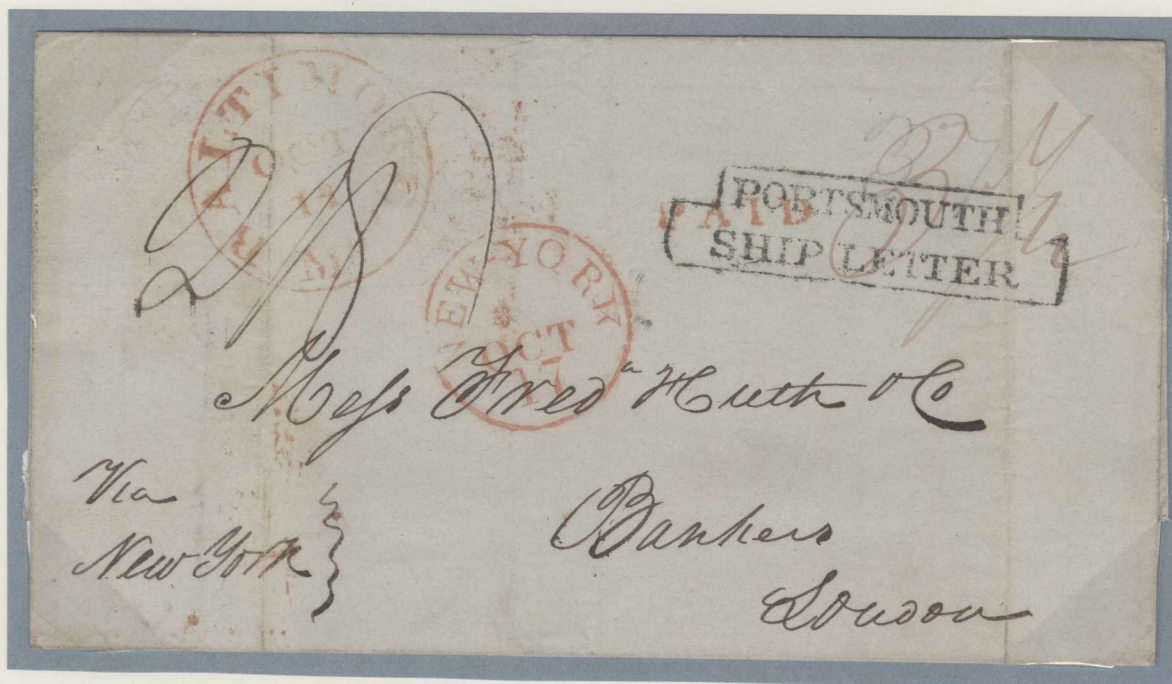
March 11, 1838 the *Gladiator* departed London on her return leg. She arrived New York April 22, 1838. In 1850 she became a whaler, serving until 1854. She was the largest of the packet whalers.

Postal Rates

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

Letter dated March 13, 1838. Carried outside mail to meet packet at Portsmouth March 14, 1838.

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK & PORTSMOUTH)



Single letter posted in Baltimore where fees were collected. Red 32.5 mm circle post mark applied. New York transfer mark applied in New York. Liverpool rated letter a double letter. The black stepped PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LETTER' is Robertson type S14 (top measurement 39.5 mm). On back red single circle London receiving stamp.

Postal Rates

United States 37½¢
2 x 18¾ = 37½¢
Great Britain 2/8d
(2 x 8) + (2 x 8) = 32d or
2/8d

Ship Information

The *Quebec* departed New York October 10, 1838 arriving London November 11, 1838. Mail put off at Portsmouth November 8, 1838.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Red Swallowtail Line

The Gladiator
Freight Money
Interrupted Departure

During the winter months, departures from New York did not always go as planned. "During *Gladiator's* departure, she became pressed ashore by harbor ice abreast of the flag staff of the battery at the tip of Manhattan Island. Efforts to remove her were not successful, which delayed her departure until February 1, 1840." (*New York Daily Economist* January 24, 1840)

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND WEYMOUTH)



Letter posted in Baltimore, freight money and postage collected and noted separately in upper right corner. Not endorsed for a specific transatlantic route. Arrived in time for departure of *Gladiator* before mishap with harbor ice.

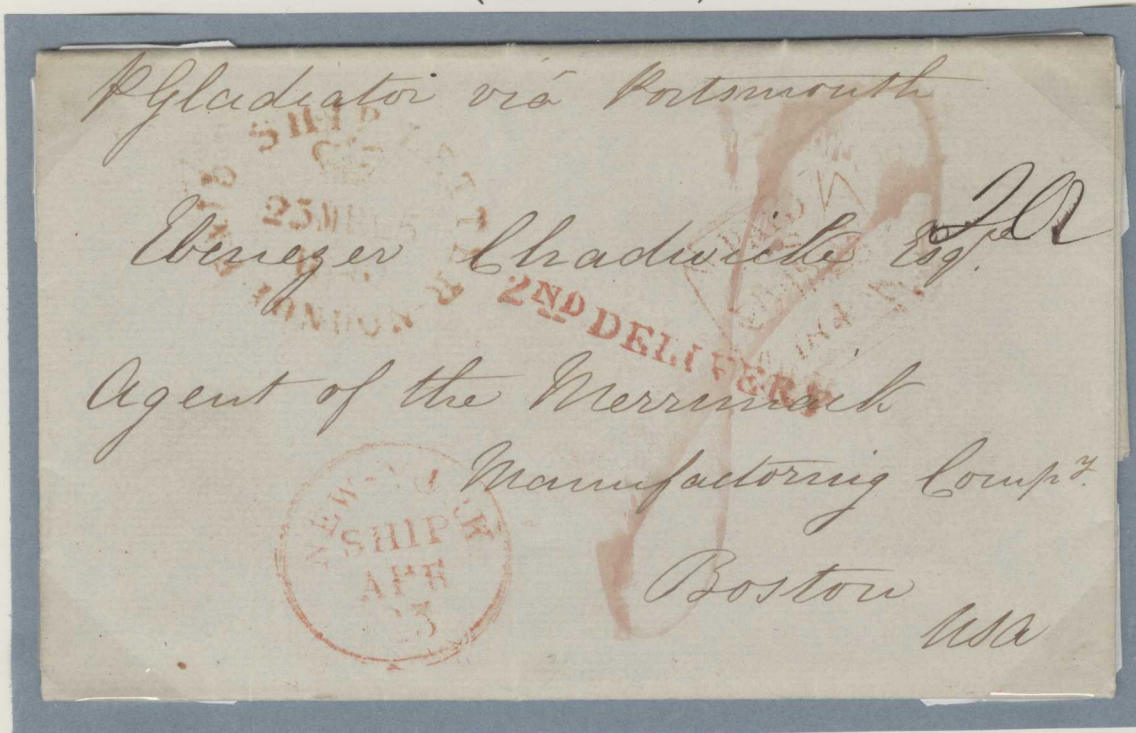
Ship Information
Gladiator departed New York January 24, 1840, and arrived Liverpool March 10, 1840.

Postal Rates	
United States	31¼¢
	18¾ + 12½¢
Great Britain	8d

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Red Swallowtail Line

The *Gladiator*
2nd Delivery

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA NEW YORK)



Letter posted at the Charring Cross Branch office. London General Post Office applied the red oval rimless 'PAID SHIP LETTER/ CROWN/25 MAR 25/1840/LONDON'. This is Robertson type S51 with crown type E in use 1838 to 1847. The red 2nd Delivery, applied by the New York authorities indicating letter in a second delivery from the ship.

Ship Information

Gladiator departed
London March 25,
1840, arrived New
York April 21, 1840.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 8d
Ship letter fee for outbound
single letter.
United States 20¼¢
Inland plus Captain's fee.

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND FALMOUTH)



Letter carried to ship's agent. Dispatched as directed.
Mail put ashore at Falmouth.

Ship Information

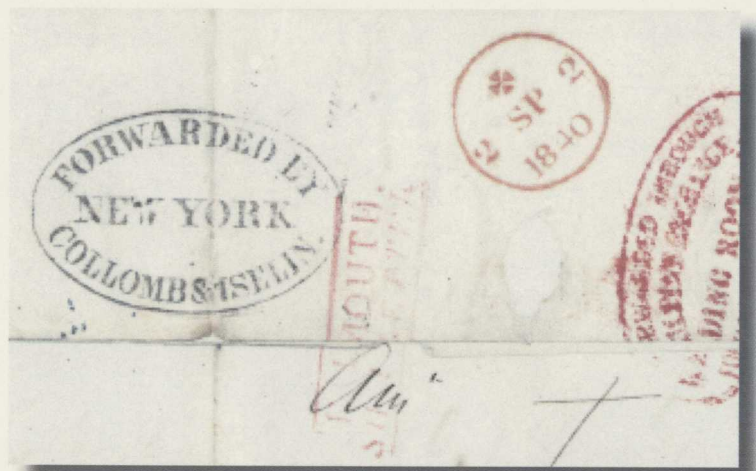
The *Toronto* departed New York August 10, 1840, arrived London September 4, 1840. Mail put ashore at Falmouth September 1, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/4d

Double fee for delivery of inbound ship letter anywhere in Great Britain.

Reduced scan of back of cover illustrating the forwarding marks and other marking outlining the progress of the cover's journey.

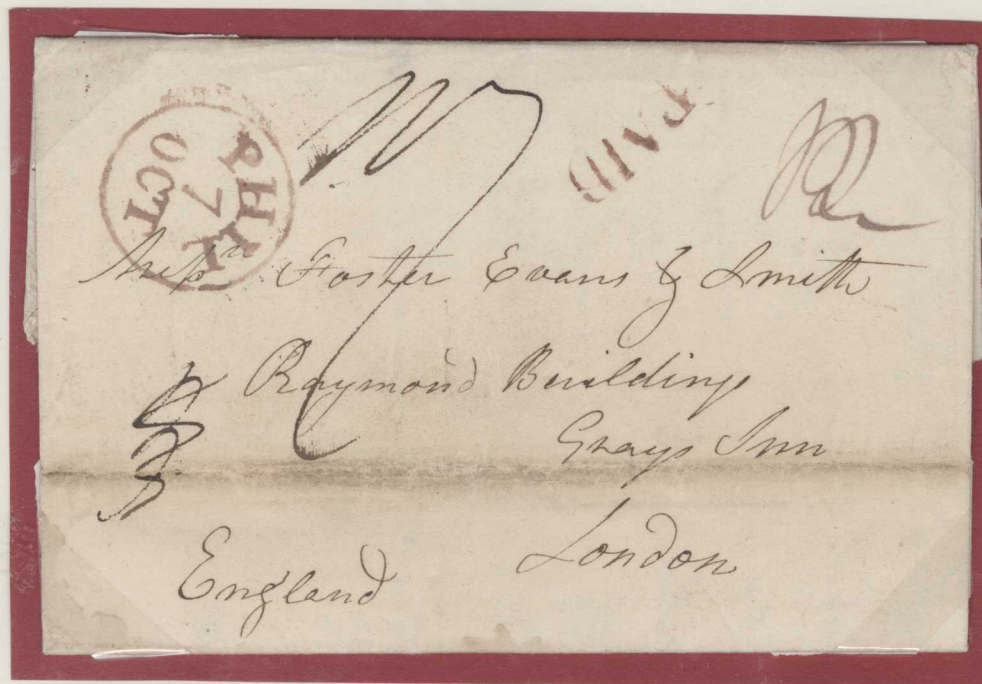


SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

The *George Washington*
Unusual Easterly Crossing

Due to prevailing westerly winds and the Gulf Stream, easterly packet crossings were short compared to westerly crossings, taking usually 14 to 16 days. On this easterly crossing, the *George Washington* experienced four days of easterly winds causing her crossing to require 21 days.

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Philadelphia. New York processed and dispatched as directed.

Ship Information

George Washington
departed New York
October 9, 1833, and
arrived Liverpool
October 30, 1833.

Postal Rates

United States 12½¢
Great Britain 1/7d
8d + 11d = 19d
Ship letter fee plus inland
postage.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

The Napoleon - Forwarded
The Roscoe - Packet Rate

NEW YORK TO COPENHAGEN
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)



Ship Information

Napoleon departed New York July 8, 1833, arrived Liverpool July 31, 1833. She replaced *Corinthian* in 1827.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7d
8d + 11d =	19d or 1/7d
Forwarded	3/4d
2 x 1/8d =	3/4d
(Post Office Directory 1815)	

Addressee in London, Mr. Thomas Wilson former forwarding agent in 1822, no additional listing in Rowe, paid the initial 1/7d and forwarded to Copenhagen. Double letter fee (3/4d) to Denmark due on delivery.

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

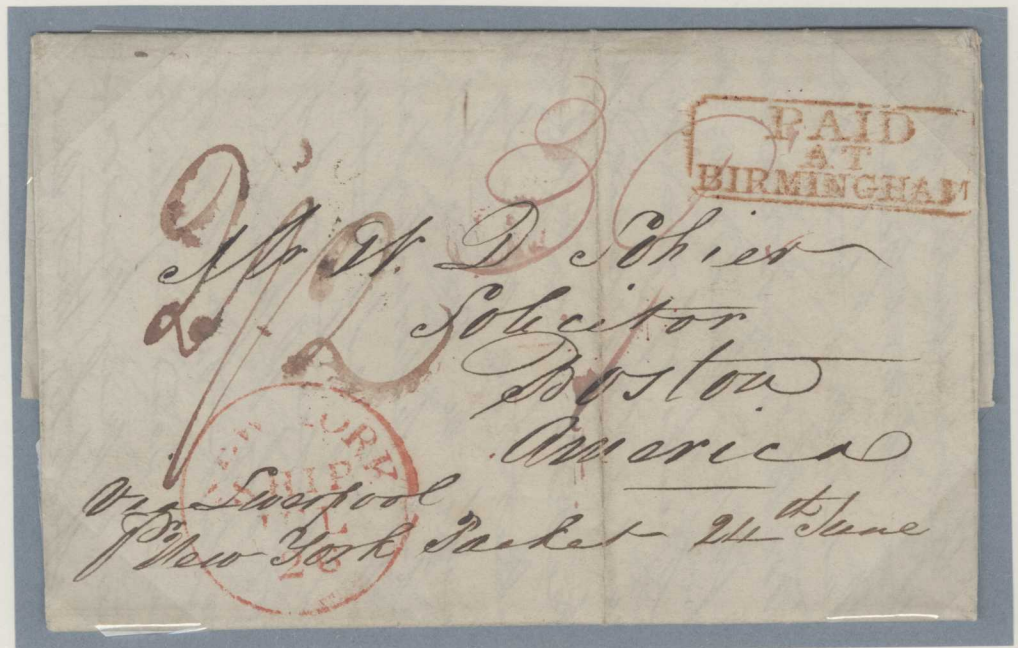
Posted at packet rate per Post Office Directory, 1828. (Tabcart)

Ship Information

The *Roscoe* departed Liverpool June 24, 1834, arrived New York July 26, 1834. She replaced the *York* in 1832.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	2/2
Packet rate to BNA.	
1/3d + 1/ -1d =	26d or 2/2
United States	39½¢
(2 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ =	39½¢



ELLSWORTH, ME TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Double letter posted in Ellsworth, ME for dispatch on packet. London Ship Letter Office processed and passed to General Office for delivery. Letter Carrier Office noted the forwarding address, re-rated the letter and applied the red "L. C. O. Postage not paid to London." This marking is Willcocks and Jay 280, scarcity E, in use 1833 - 49.

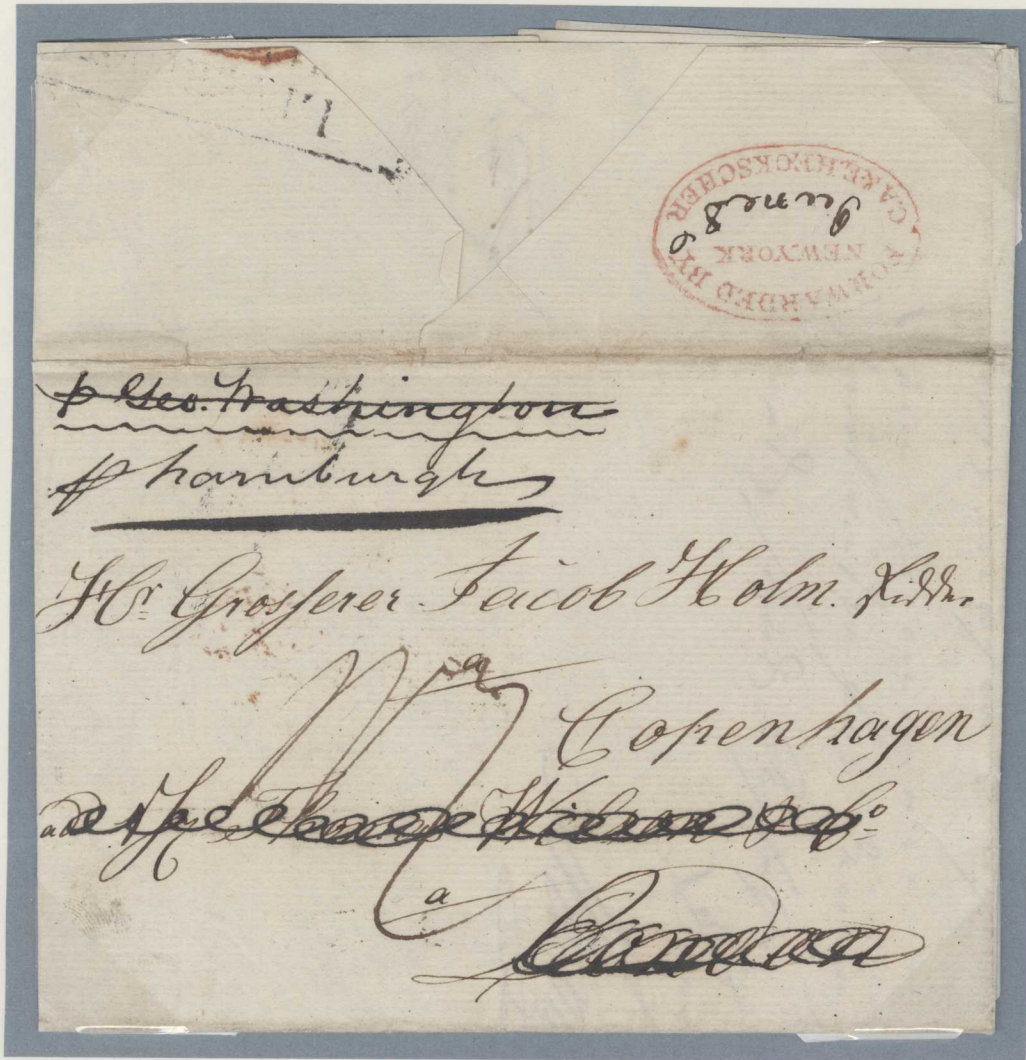
Ship Information

The *Independence* departed New York April 8, 1835, arrived Liverpool May 2, 1835. She served until 1847 when she joined the Red Swallowtail Packet Line.

Postal Rates

United States	50¢
(2 x 25¢) = 50¢	
Great Britain	4/6
3/2, re-rated, crossed out	
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) + (2 x 8d) = 54d or 4/6	

NEW YORK TO COPENHAGEN, DENMARK
(VIA NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL AND LONDON)



Letter carried to forwarding agent C. A. & E. Heckscher of New York. Dispatched to original addressee in London, Thomas Wilson & Co. Thomas Wilson carried letter to ship *Hamburgh* for transport to Copenhagen.

Ship Information

The *George Washington* departed New York June 8, 1835, arrived Liverpool June 27, 1835. She replaced the *George Canning* in 1832.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	
Denmark	0

Letter hand carried to ship, for delivery, no Danish postal marks.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

The Napoleon – Double Letter and Forwarding Agent

VERACRUZ, MEXICO TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted to forwarding agent Theod, Vietor & Duckwitz, New York. Post paid to New York indicated by double circle "Franquendo/Junio/2/Vera Cruz."

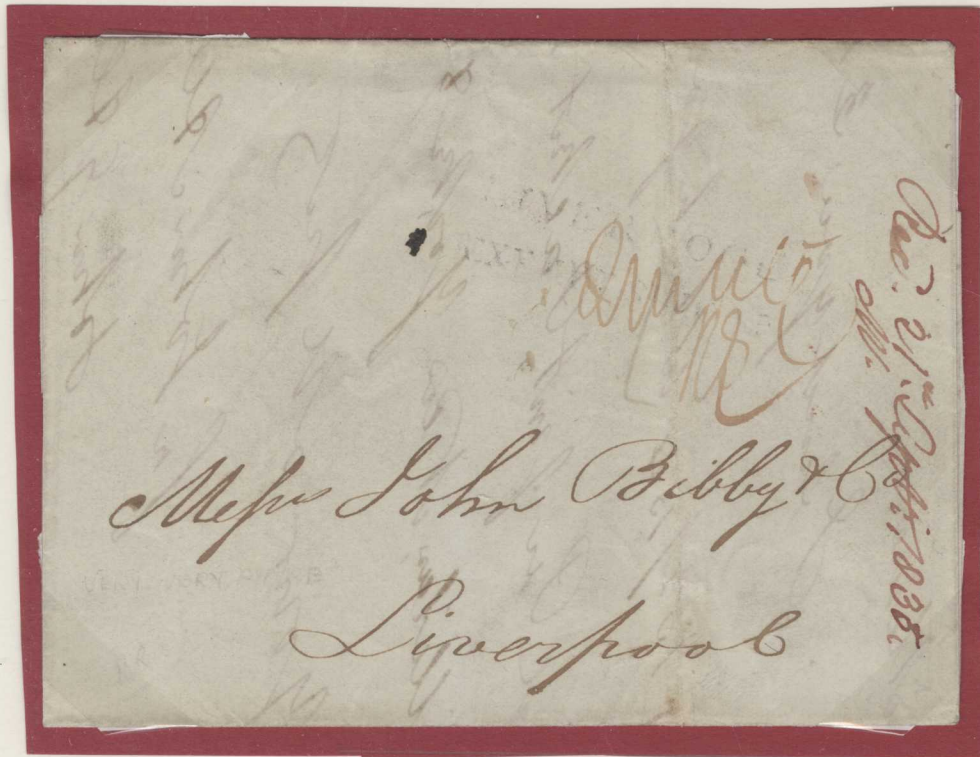
Ship Information

The *Napoleon* departed New York
July 8, 1835, arrived Liverpool
August 6, 1835.

Postal Rates

Mexico	6 Reales
United States	0
Great Britain	3/2
(2 X 8d) + (2 X 11d) = 38d or 3/2	

BICKENHILL, ENG. TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Letter privately carried to Liverpool forwarding agent John Bibby & Company. As letter would be accompanying cargo on the ship so the hand-stamp 'LIVERPOOL EXEMPTSHIP Lr.' was applied. This relieved the letter from any ship letter fees.

Tabcart states this mark, Robertson type EXSL2, is usually lightly inked and thus very faint. It is often over looked and scarce. This stamp was in use 1835 to 1840 making this an early use of this stamp.

Thus this letter carries no rate marks or postal markings and is a rare example of this specific postal activity.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britian	0

With this stamp, this letter would be required to pay inland postage but is exempt from paying ship letter fees.

Ship Information

The *Independence* departed Liverpool September 27, 1835 arriving New York October 24, 1835.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Blue Swallowtail Line

Complete Voyage *Roscoe*

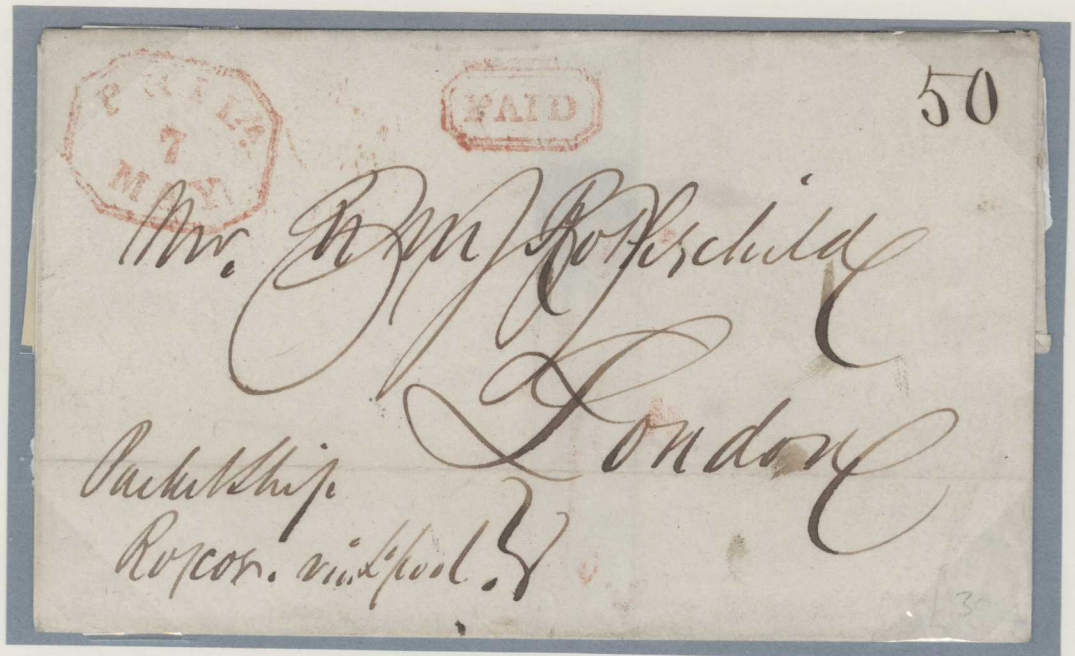
PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

Roscoe departed New York May 9, 1836, arrived Liverpool June 5, 1836. In 1843 she joined Baltimore - Liverpool packet service.

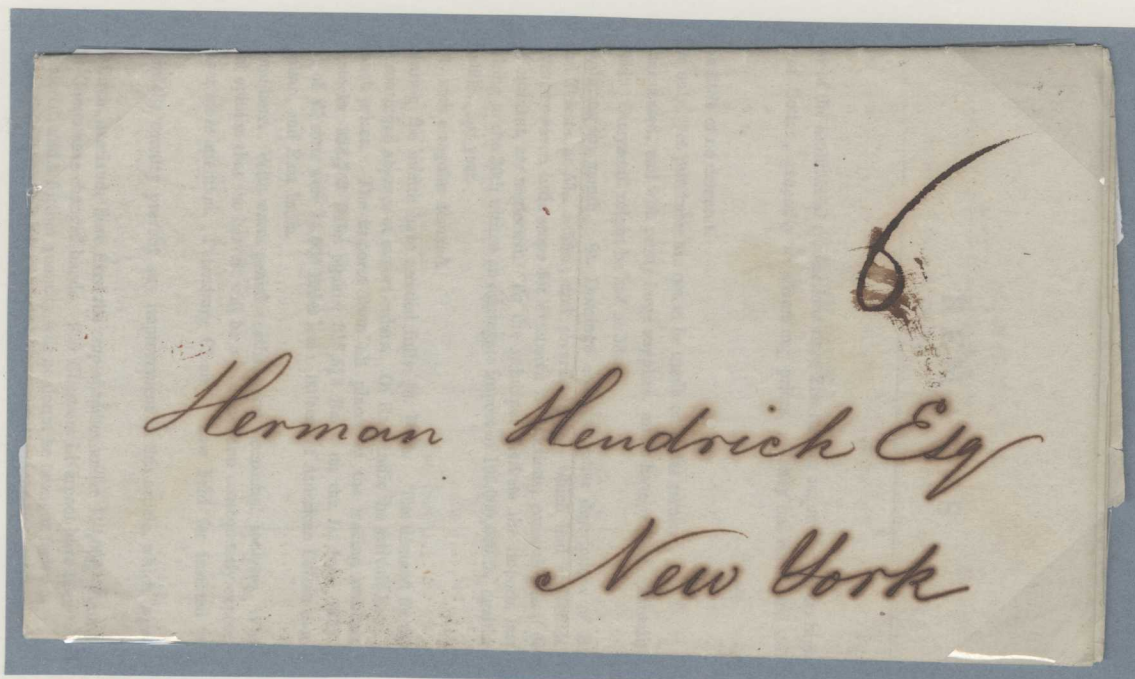
Postal Rates

United States 50¢
4 x 12½¢ = 50¢
Great Britain 3/2d
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) =
38d or 3/2



Quadruple letter post paid in United States. Dispatched by packet as directed. Letter rated a double letter in Great Britain, fees due on delivery.

LONDON TO NEW YORK
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Prices Current list forwarded by Baring Brothers, London to ship's agent Liverpool.

Ship Information

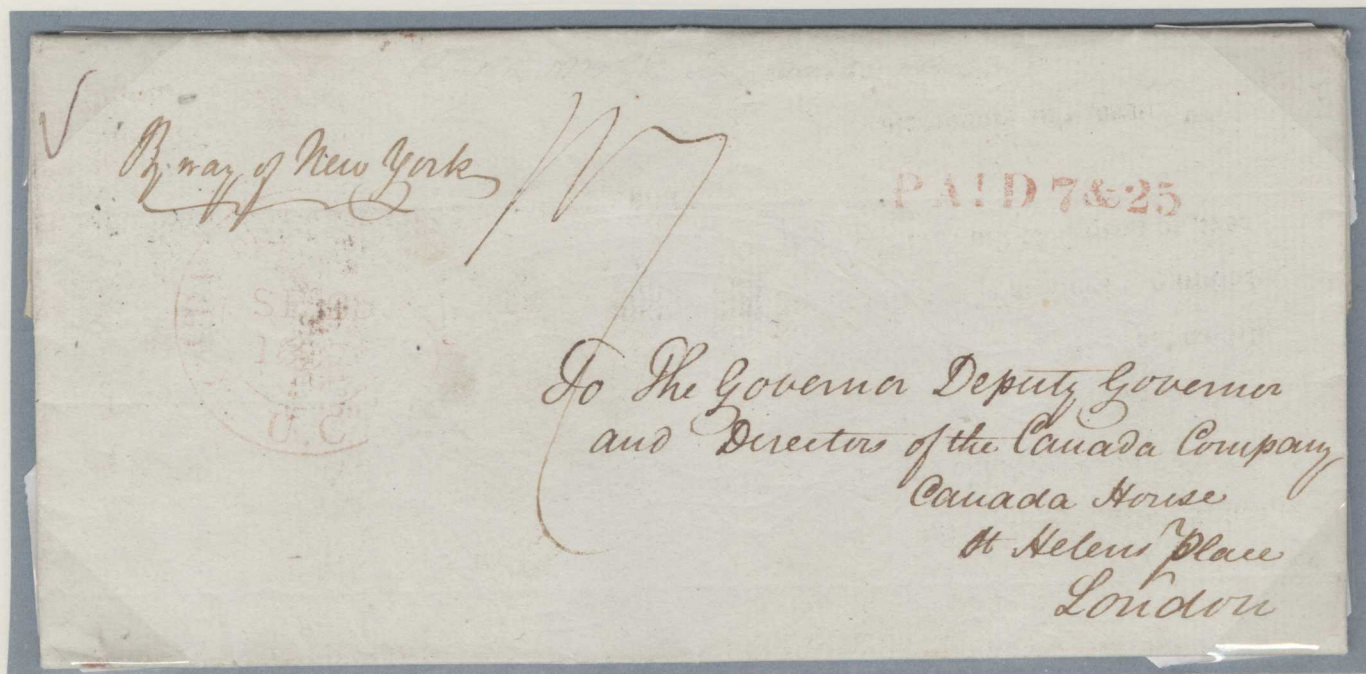
Roscoe departed Liverpool June 27, 1836, arrived New York August 3, 1836.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 6¢

In 1832 Edward Knight Collins with other investors operated the New Orleans, Louisiana & New York Packet Line. In 1837 he used his experience in the coastal packet trade to make a significant design change in Dramatic Line vessels. These vessels, the *Shakespeare*, *Garrick*, *Sheridan* and *Siddons*, had longer bows and were "flat floored." This design a more "U" bottom than previous packets, thereby providing greater cargo space. They rode smoother, faster and were less likely to stick on sand bars.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



An *Abstract of Transactions* in Canada and account of Letters of Credit discharged for business conducted in Canada. Postpaid to New York and dispatched on packet.

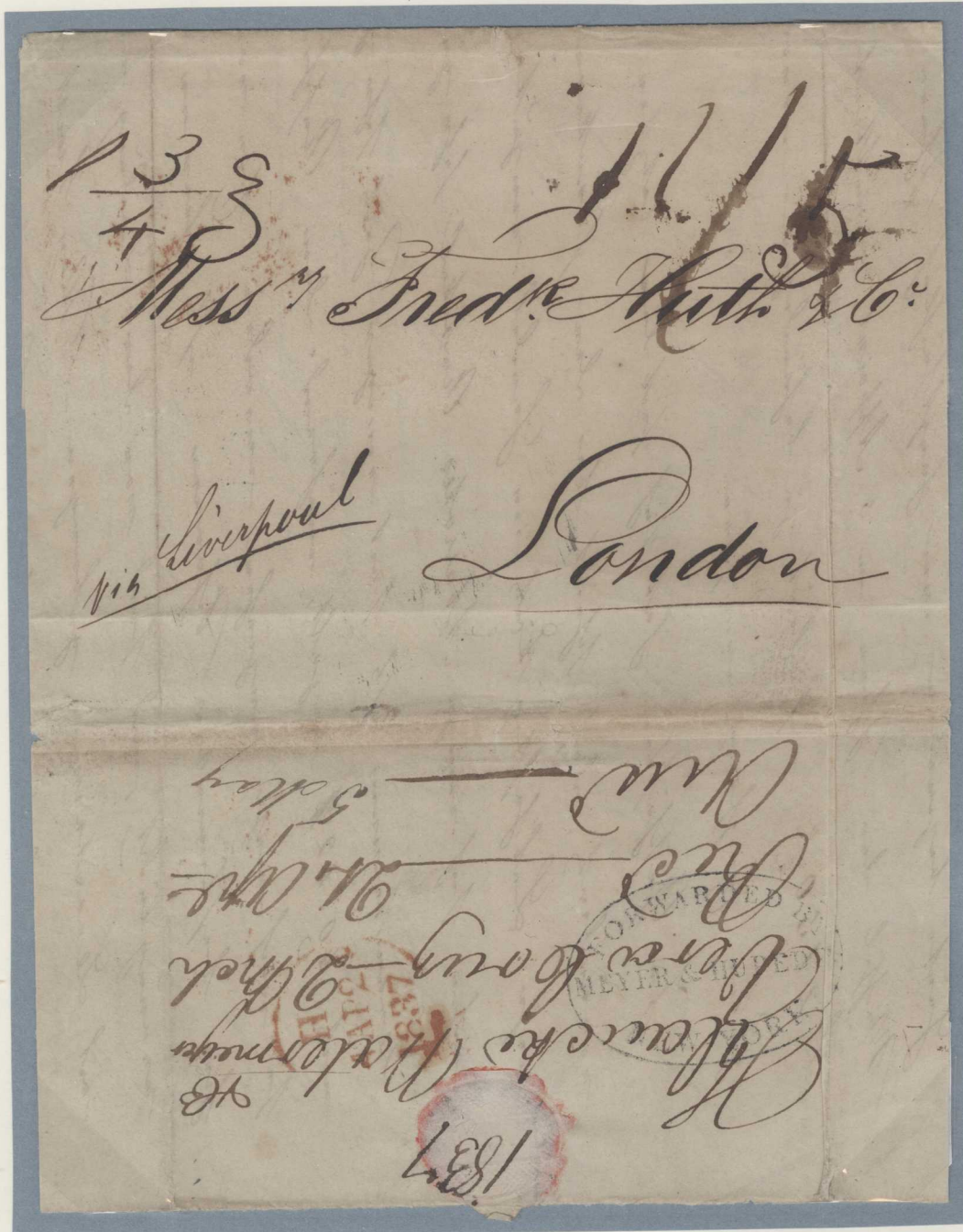
Ship Information

The *Sheridan* departed New York October 2, 1837, arrived Liverpool October 23, 1837. Prior to this, she sailed in Collins's New Orleans Packet Line.

Postal Rates

Canada 7 & 25
7 cy Canadian inland,
25¢ border to New York.
Postage to New York was
collected by the Canadian
Post Office.
Great Britain 1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7

VERACRUZ, MEXICO TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Shakespeare departed New York April 3, 1837, arrived Liverpool April 21, 1837. She sailed in the Dramatic fleet until 1838 when replaced by the *Roscius*. When replaced she returned to the New Orleans Line fleet.

Postal Rates

Mexico	0
United States	0
Great Britain	11/5d
(7 x 8d) + (7 x 11d) = 133d	
or 11/1d Over franked by 4d.	

Multiple rate letter carried outside mail to forwarding agent Meyer & Hupeden of New York, dispatched on packet.

James R Pullin
2837 Wright Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

CONSIDEREE LETTER

1832

British Bible Society, London, England to New York, NY
1832 carried on **Black X Line's** "Sovereign" & rated 6
cents for port-of-arrival ship letter fee. With Bill of Lading
for 2 cases of Bibles
Ex-Shephard

EX LON 8/13/1832 KA \$100
ARR NY 9/20/1832

5/9

19.61 - 2/19/19.0
11.5 - 1.8
8.1
19.61 - 2/19/19.0

SAINT PETERSBURG TO PHILADELPHIA
(VIA HAMBURG, LONDON, NEW YORK)

Ship Information

President departed London November 3, 1834, arrived New York December 8, 1834. Sailed as a packet until struck Goodwin Sands, in February 1841. She was condemned at London.

Postal Rates

Russia 0
Great Britain 1/8d
Paid by original addressee.
Scratched out when forwarded.
United States 14½¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢

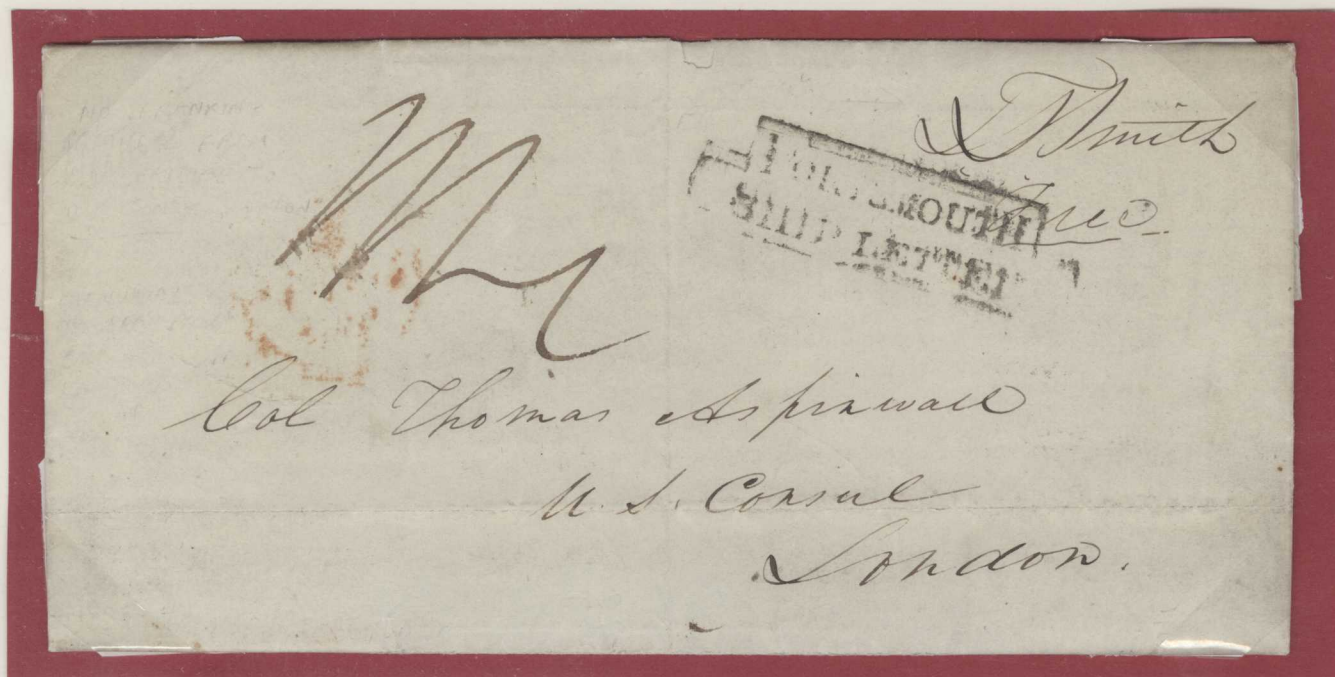


Carried outside the mail to Foreign Office in London. Delivered to addressee, Mr. Timothy Wiggins. Forwarded to original addressee in Philadelphia. Mr. Wiggins not listed in Rowe as a forwarding agent. Black dotted circle "FPO/NO-3/1834" is Mackay type 44 applied by the Foreign Post Office as a transfer mark.

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black X Line

The *Louisa*
First Voyage, Free Frank
Temporary Charter

WASHINGTON D. C. TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PORTSMOUTH, ENG.)



Letter franked by T.L. Smith an Auditor in Treasury Department. Letter contains a request for information about an estate in England. Processed in Portsmouth and dispatched to London where delivered to addressee at United States Consul.

The *Louisa* was chartered for two voyages due to delayed construction schedule of a new ship.

Ship Information

The *Louisa* departed
New York July 10, 1835
arrived London August
11, 1835

Postal Rates

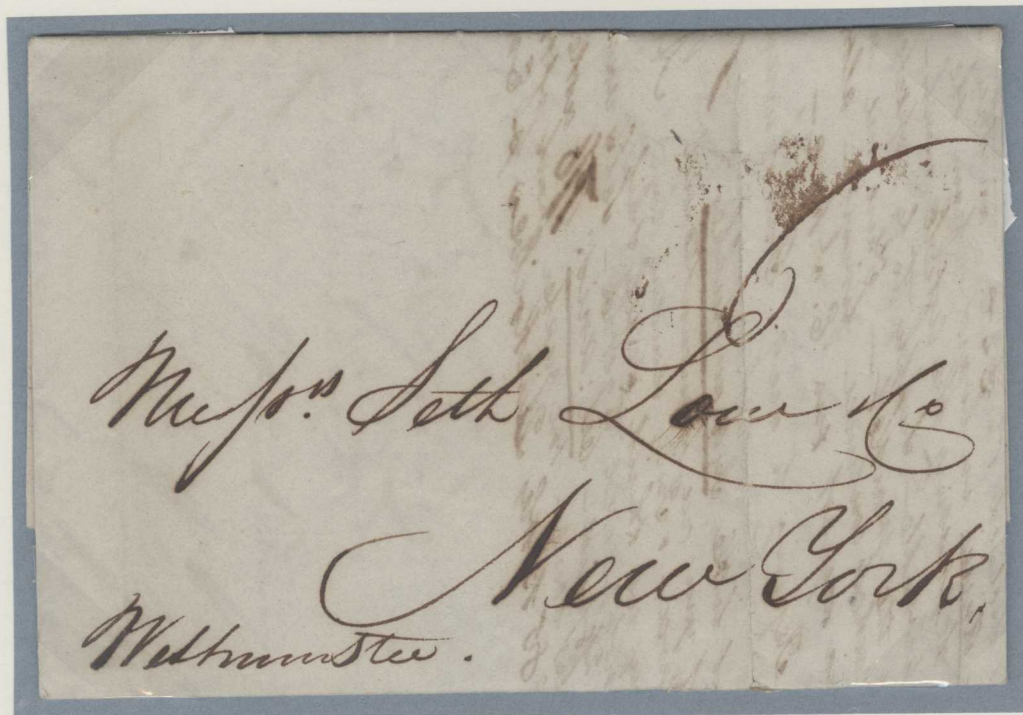
United States	0
Great Britain	1/4d
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4d.	
Ship Letter fee plus inland.	

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Black X Line

The Westminister
The Westminister - Double Letter

Letter carried by coach to Portsmouth to meet packet after missing the London departure. Packets were scheduled to stop in Portsmouth on both legs. Mail dated after London departure met packet in Portsmouth.

LONDON TO NEW YORK



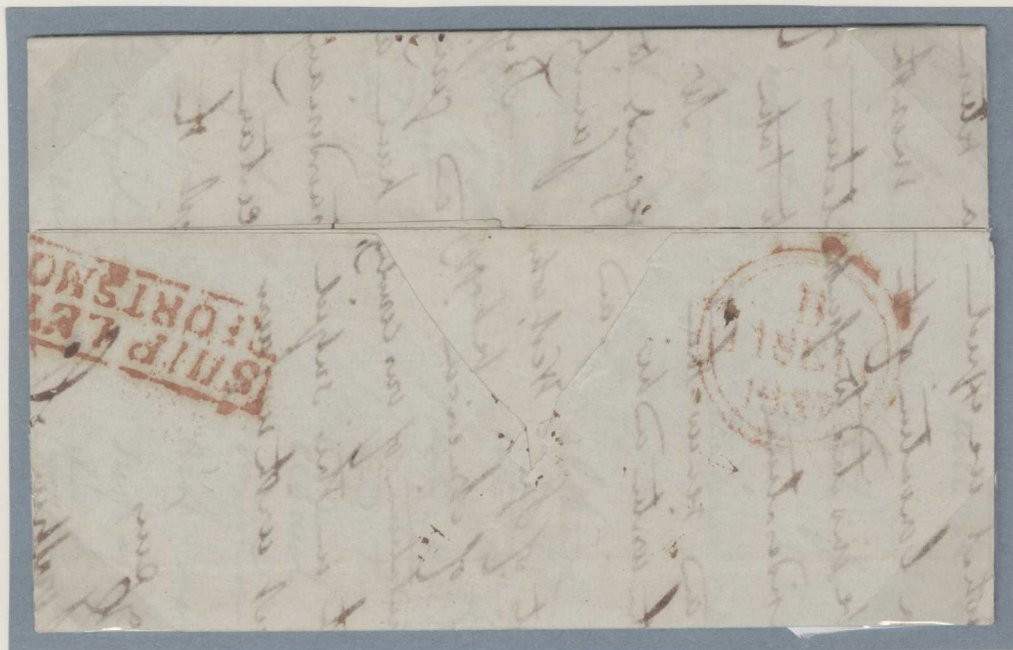
Ship Information

Westminister departed London October 8, 1836, arrived New York November 10, 1836. Letter met packet October 15, 1836.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	6¢

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA PORTSMOUTH)



Ship Information

Westminister departed New York August 21, 1837, arrived London September 12, 1837. Mail put ashore at Portsmouth and proceeded to London by mail coach.

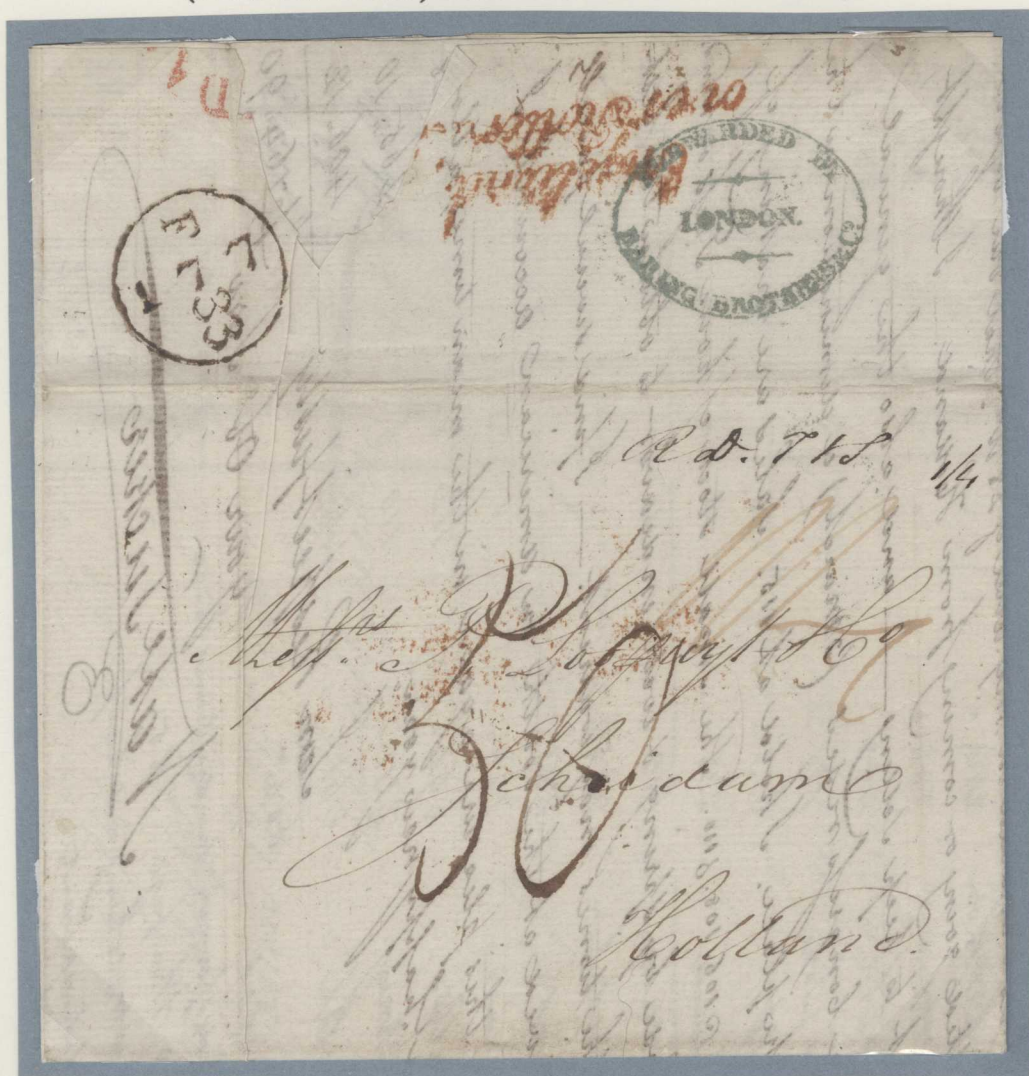
Postal Rates

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

Double letter dispatched in diplomatic bag through Portsmouth. According to Tabcart (*Robertson Revisited*) certain out-port ship letter handstamps were used in London when bags were not opened at port of entry. This is an example of that usage.

First voyage under joint operations of the Red Swallowtail and Black X Lines. This joint arrangement continued on and off until 1852.

BOSTON TO SCHEIDAM (SKEEDAM), NETHERLANDS
(VIA NEW YORK, LONDON AND ROTTERDAM)



Letter carried to ship's agent in New York, dispatched on packet. Forwarded by Baring Brothers, London to Netherlands. Red "England/over Rotterdam" is a receiving mark applied in Netherlands. Forwarding agent Barings Brothers stamp in green not recorded in Rowe.

Ship Information

Ontario departed New York on January 20, 1833, put mail ashore at Portsmouth February 11, 1833. Ship continued to London and arrived February 18, 1833. She replaced the *Brighton* in 1830.

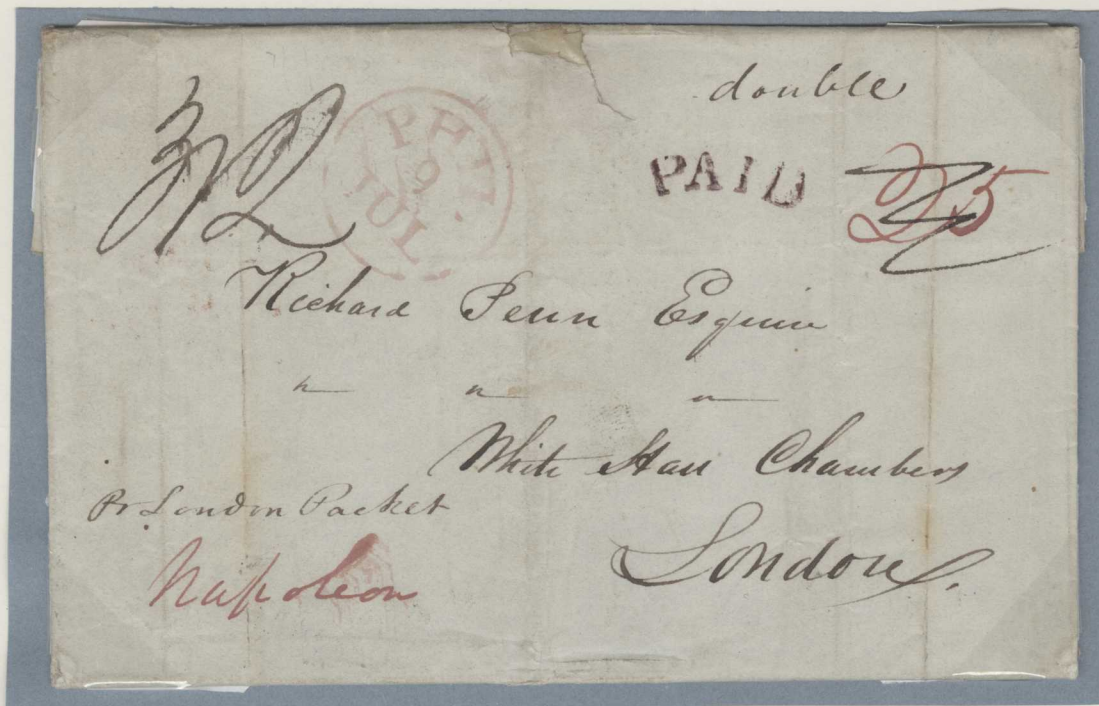
Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/4
Inland plus ship letter fee.	1/4
Transfer fee, collected in Netherlands.	
Netherlands	50
50 stuiver to be collected on delivery.	
1/4d debited to Great Britain.	

SUPERIORITY 1830 - 1837
Red Swallowtail Line

The *Thames*
Last Voyage
Temporary Charter

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PLYMOUTH, ENG.)



Letter posted endorsed for London packet.
New York considered the Blue Swallowtail's
Napoleon, but too late. Dispatched on
chartered packet *Thames*. Mail put off at
Plymouth, packet proceeded to London.

Ship Information

The *Thames* departed
New York July 1, 1833
arrived London August
11, 1833

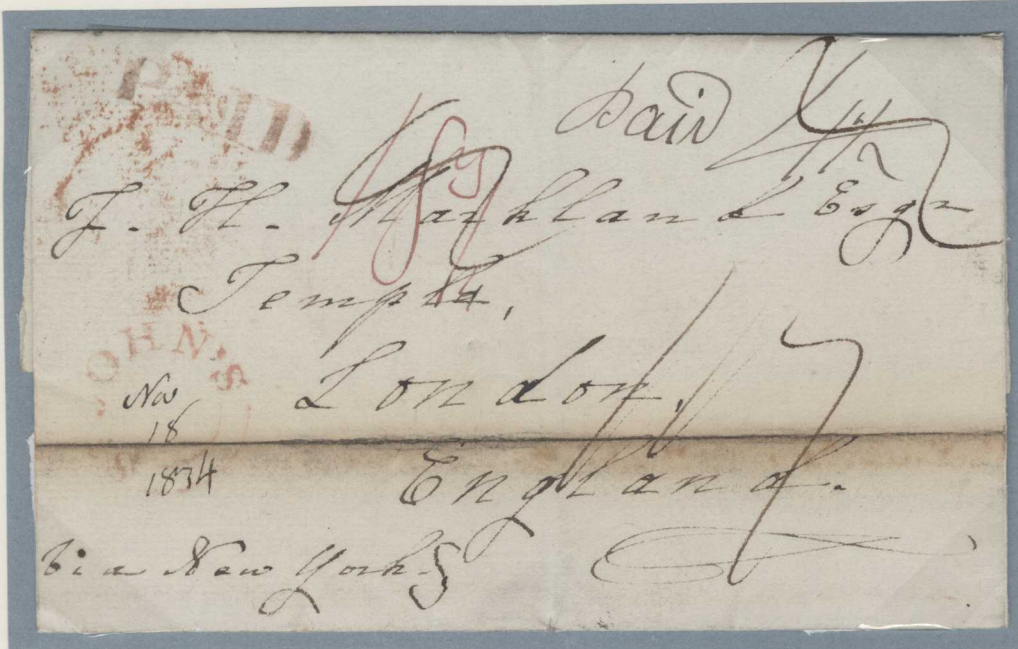
Postal Rates

United States 25¢
2 x 12½ = 25¢
Great Britain 3/2d
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 3/2d.
Ship Letter fee plus inland.

SUPERIORITY 1830 – 1837
Red Swallowtail Line

The Hannibal - Complete Voyage

ST. JOHNS, CANADA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND PLYMOUTH)



Post paid from St. Johns Canada to New York. Dispatched on packet

Ship Information

The *Hannibal* departed New York December 1, 1834, arrived London January 13, 1835. Mail was put off at Plymouth January 4, 1835. In 1836 she ended her packet career and became a transient.

Postal Rates

Canadian	4½d cy
United States	18¾¢
Border to New York, collected in Canada.	
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

LONDON TO NEW YORK

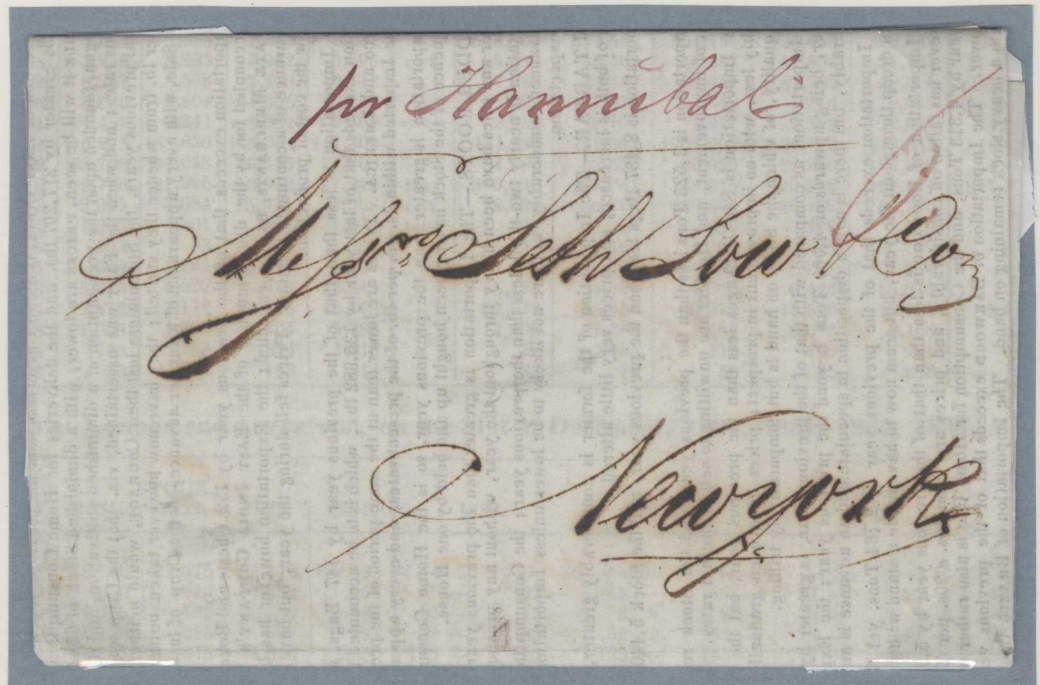
Carried to ship's agent in London. Dispatched on packet as indicated.

Ship Information

The *Hannibal* departed London January 20, 1835, arrived New York March 17, 1835.

Postal Rates

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



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840

Black Ball Line

The *England*
Double Letter

NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and dispatched to New York for first steamer. Postage and freight money fees collected and noted as usual. Steamer *Liverpool* departed before letter arrived, dispatched on packet. Refund of 25¢ due to New Orleans Post Office.

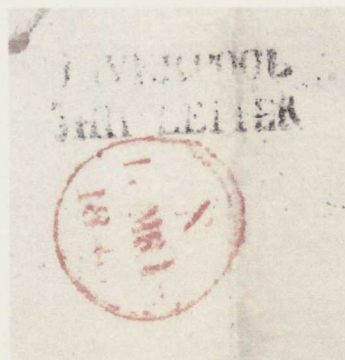
Ship Information

The *England* departed
New York February 24,
1840 arrived Liverpool
March 18, 1840

Postal Rates

United States \$1.00
(2 x 25) + (2 x 25) = \$1.00.
Inland plus freight money.
Great Britain 8d
Inbound ship letter fee.
Treasury Warrant January 10,
1840.

Back of cover showing black
'LIVERPOOL/SHIP
LETTER' Robertson
type S14 in use 1838 to
1941. London single circle
receiving stamp indicating
AM processing



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840

Black Ball Line

The *England*
Double Letter

BALTIMORE TO LONDON (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted and dispatched to New York for the Liverpool packet. Postage and freight money fees collected and noted as usual.

Ship Information

The *England* departed
New York June 19,
arrived Liverpool July 7,
1840

Postal Rates

United States 62½¢
(2 x 18¾) + (23 x 12½) = 62½¢
Inland plus freight money.
Great Britain 1/4d
8d + 8d = 16d or 1/4.
Ship Letter fee plus inland.

Back cover showing Liverpool transfer stamp Robertson type S14 in use 1838 to 1841. Red single circle receiving mark indicate morning processing.



EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840 RED STAR LINE

The *Saint Andrew*

More rapid steam crossings had the same impact on the Red Star line as other packet lines. They continued to offer packet service, but cargo character gradually deteriorated to accommodate different interests and needs.

IRVINE, SCOTLAND TO PHILADELPHIA (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)

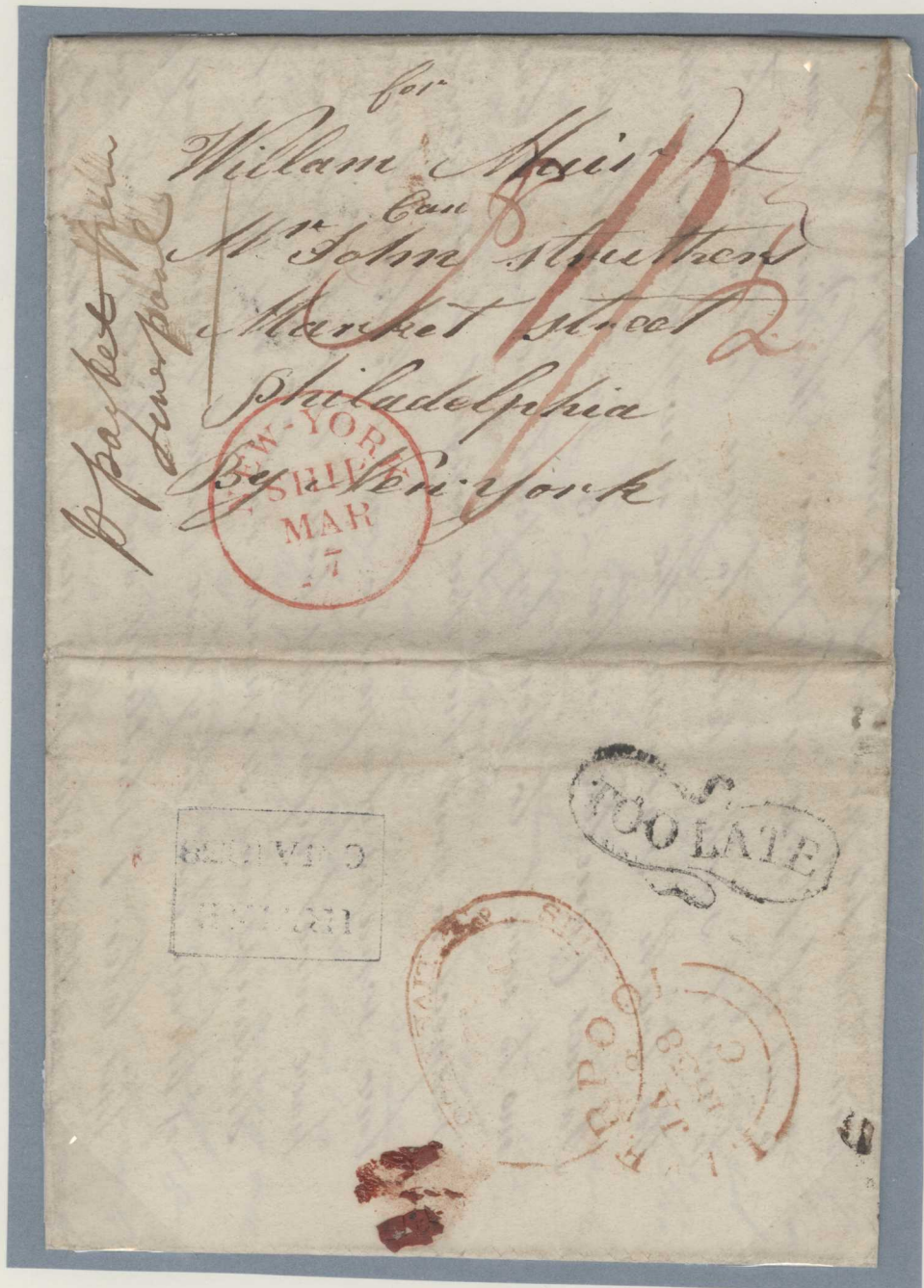
Letter paid and posted to meet the packet in Liverpool. The blue boxed "IRVINE / 6 JA 1838" is Mackay type 218. In 1837, Irvine was the first town to use these stamps. The red double oval Liverpool Ship Letter stamp is Robertson type S6 in use 1837-1838. The black "TOO LATE" Mackay type 1128, was applied at Edinburgh and only used during 1838 in this color.

Ship Information

The *Saint Andrew* departed Liverpool January 9, 1838, arrived New York March 8, 1838. She replaced the *England* in 1835. She was one of the packets lost in the Liverpool 1839 hurricane.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	1/½
1/ inland + ½d wheel tax	
United States	14½¢
12½¢ + 2¢ = 14½¢	



NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

The *United States* departed New York February 14, 1839, arrived Liverpool March 15, 1839. She replaced the *Birmingham* in 1833.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	3/2
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) = 38d	
or 3/2	

Double letter scarried outside the mail to ship's agent in New York.

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

Double letter posted to addressee in Liverpool. Then forwarded to addressee in Richmond, VA.

Ship Information

United States departed Liverpool April 4, 1839, arrived New York May 6, 1839. She continued in packet service until she went missing on a Liverpool to New York crossing December 1844.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	2/½
(2 x 1/-) + ½d = 2/½ GPO	
Notice January 12, 1838.	
United States	39½¢
(2 x 18¾¢) + 2¢ = 39½¢	



NEW YORK TO GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
(VIA LIVERPOOL)



Letter carried to the Gilpin's Exchange Reading Room and Foreign Letter Office. Letter traveled through Scotland in a four wheeled coach indicated by the black "1/2" stamp.

Ship Information

The *Westchester* departed New York March 19, 1839, arrived Liverpool April 10, 1839. She was a temporary charter to replace the *Saint Andrew* lost in the Liverpool hurricane.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	1/7½
8d + 11d + ½d = 19½d or	
1/7½	

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Double letter, double freight money carried within the postal systems. Letter rated a double letter in Great Britain.

Ship Information

The *United States*
departed New York
October 16, 1839,
arrived Liverpool
November 13, 1839.

Postal Rates

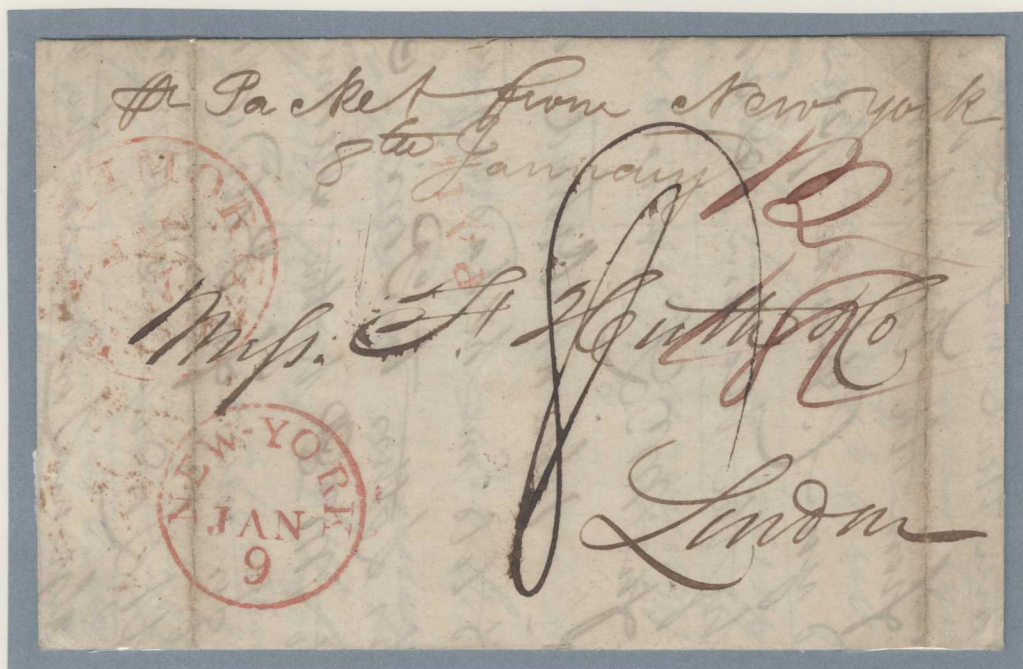
United States	37½¢
2 x 18¾¢ =	37½¢
Freight Money	25¢
2 x 12½¢ =	25¢
Great Britain	3/2
(2 x 8d) + (2 x 11d) =	38d
or	3/2

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840

Red Star Line

The *Stephen Whitney*
First Voyage, Freight Money

BALTIMORE TO LONDON (VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

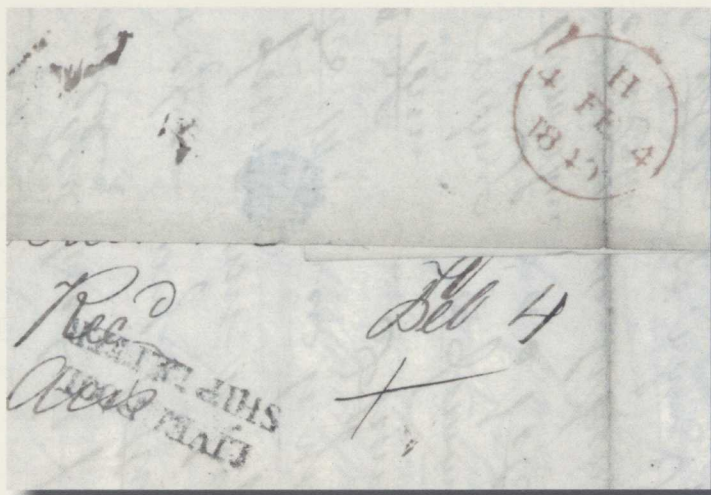
The *Stephen Whitney* departed New York January 14, 1840, arrived Liverpool February 2, 1840.

Letter post paid with fees collected and noted by Baltimore authorities. The *Stephen Whitney* sailed in the Red Star Line until "she wrecked near Cape Clear, Ireland, November 10, 1847: 92 lives lost." (Albion)

Postal Rates

United States	31¼¢
18¾ + 12½ = 31¼¢	
Inland postage + freight money.	
Great Britain	8d
All-In ship letter rate.	

Reduced scan of cover back showing the Liverpool and London receiving stamps. The black stepped "LIVERPOOL / SHIP LETTER" is Robertson type S14, in use 1838-1841. The red single circle London receiving stamp indicates morning processing.



VERACRUZ, MEXICO TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter carried outside the mail to New York. Handled by two New York forwarding agents, Gilpin's Exchange and Meyer & Hupeden.

Ship Information

United States departed
New York February
13, 1840, arrived
Liverpool March
14, 1840. In 1833
she replaced the
Birmingham.

Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 8d
Treasury Warrant dated
January 10, 1840.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840

Red Star Line

The *United States*
Double Letter

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

Ship Information

The *United States*
departed New York
February 2, 1840
arrived Liverpool
March 14, 1840.

Postal Rates

United States	0
Great Britain	8d
Rerated by London.	
	1/6d
Transfer fee to France, ship letter fee included.	
France	46 dec.
1/6 dec. debited to Great Britain, 30 dec. inland postage.	

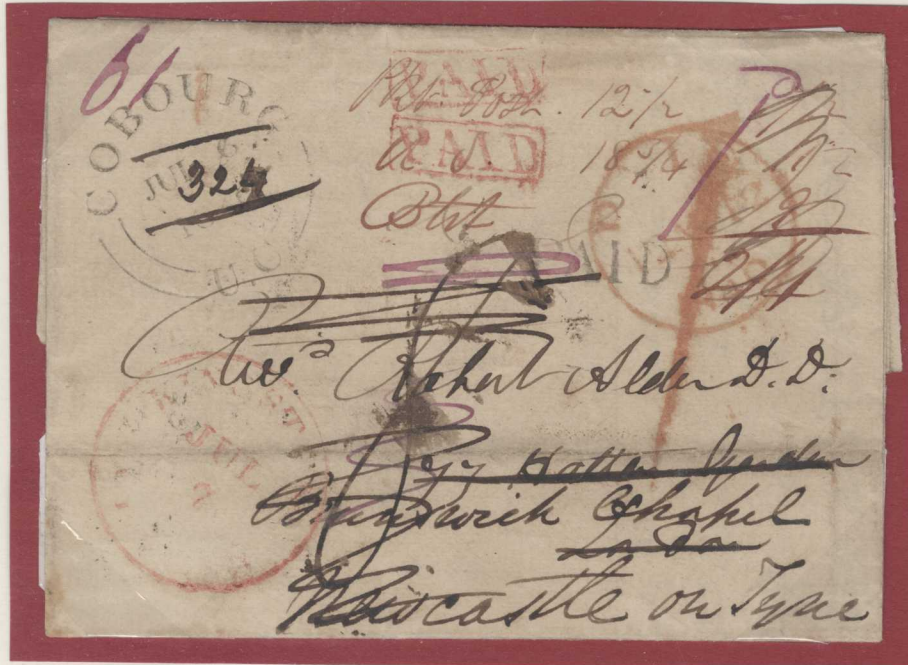


Letter carried to forwarding agent Collomb & Iselin in New York for dispatch as endorsed. Liverpool processed and rated letter before sending to Foreign Letter Office in London. Foreign Letter Office rerated for transfer to France and dispatched to Calais via the Dover to Calais ferry. Calais weighted letter between 10 and 15 grams and directed to Lyon through Paris.



Back of cover showing the transit marks for this journey. Marks are faint but support the travel of the cover. The London receiving mark is the partial red circle above the black smudged Paris transfer mark. This path rather than a direct path supports the postage charge considering the weight and total distance of 760 kilometers.

COBOURG, U. C. TO LONDON
(VIA KINGSTON, U. C., NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Freight money cover posted in Cobourg, U. C. and exchanged at Kinston, U. C. Canadian postal authorities collected United States inland to New York and freight money fee. In London, letter forwarded to New Castle-on-the Tyne and 1d forwarding fee paid on delivery.

This is only freight money cover known from Cobourg, Canada.

Ship Information

The *Virginian* departed New York July 14, 1840, arrived Liverpool August 11, 1840. She served as a packet for 15 years and was one of the longest serving packets.

Postal Rates

Canada 2/4d cy
Collected 9d cy + 11½d cy +
7½d cy = 2/4 cy
Canadian inland + U.S. inland +
freight money.
United States
Collected in Canada.
Great Britain 8d
1d forwarding fee collected on
delivery.

BALTIMORE TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Letter posted in Baltimore, endorsed for dispatch on the *British Queen*. It arrived too late for the *British Queen* and was rerouted to the *Sheffield*. The freight money was collected in Baltimore for a steam ship, 25¢ requiring an adjustment by the New York Post Master of 12½¢ when accounts were balanced.

Ship Information

Sheffield departed
New York December
14, 1840, and arrived
Liverpool January
11, 1841.

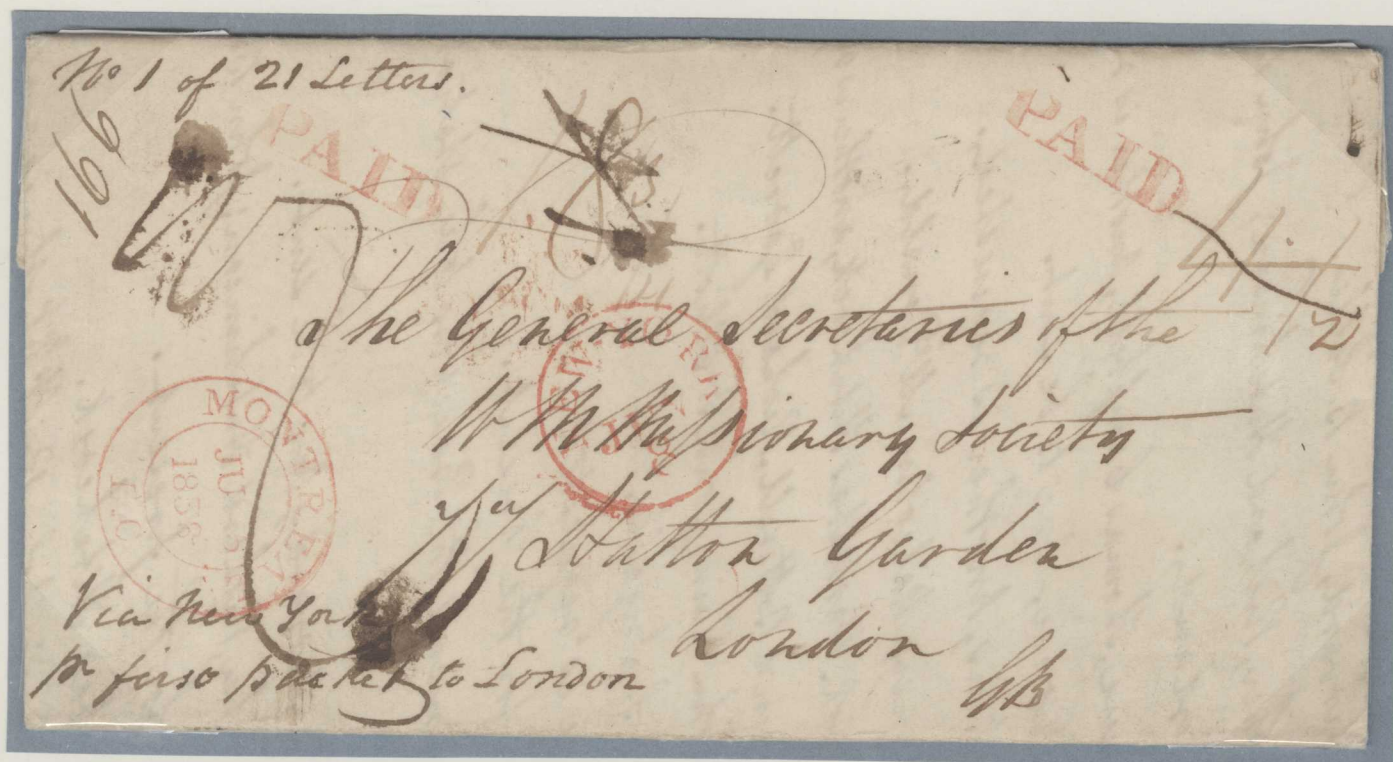
Postal Rates

United States	31¼¢
	18¾¢ + 12½¢
Great Britain	8d

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
BLUE SWALLOWTAIL LINE

The George Washington

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



Prepaid letter to New York where
United States Postal System
dispatched letter on packet.

Ship Information

The *George Washington*, delayed
two days due to weather, departed
New York June 10, 1838, arrived
Liverpool June 28, 1838.

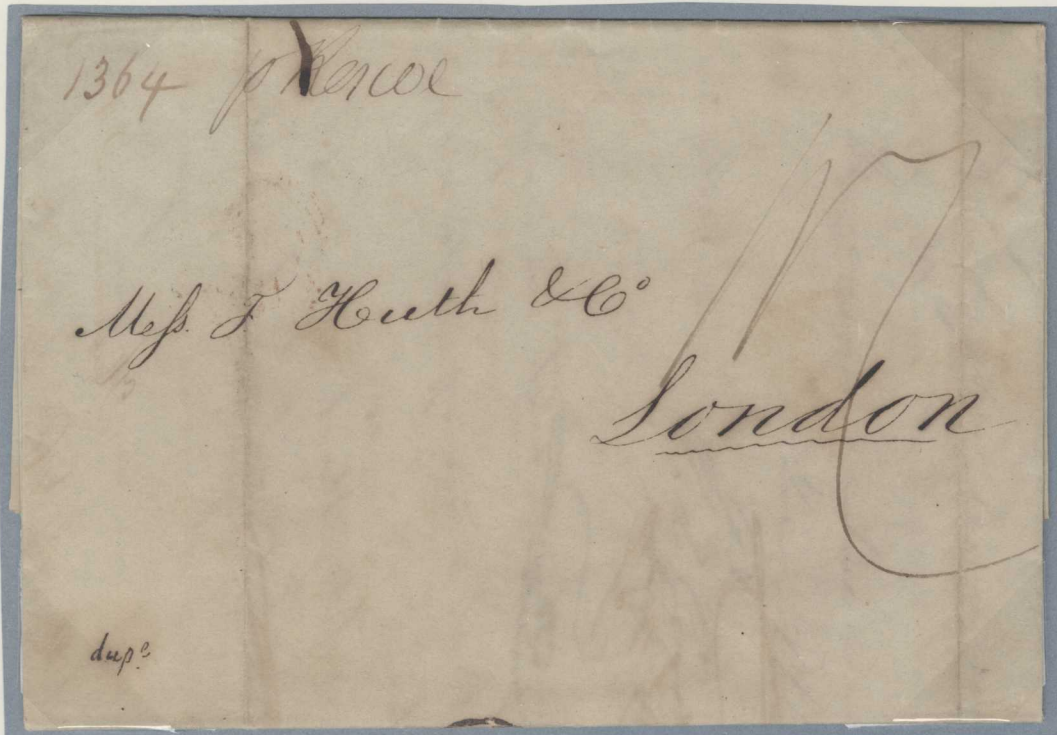
Postal Rates

Canada	4½ cy
Canadian inland and to New York.	
United States	18¾¢
Paid by sender.	
Great Britain	1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Blue Swallowtail Line

The *Roscoe* – Complete Voyage

HAVANA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

Roscoe departed New York May 9, 1839, arrived Liverpool June 8, 1839. She replaced the York in 1832.

Postal Rates

Cuba	0
United States	0
Great Britain	1/7d
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7	

Letter carried to forwarding agent Howland & Aspinwall in New York. Dispatched as directed. Note red 1364 in upper left, account to charge fees.

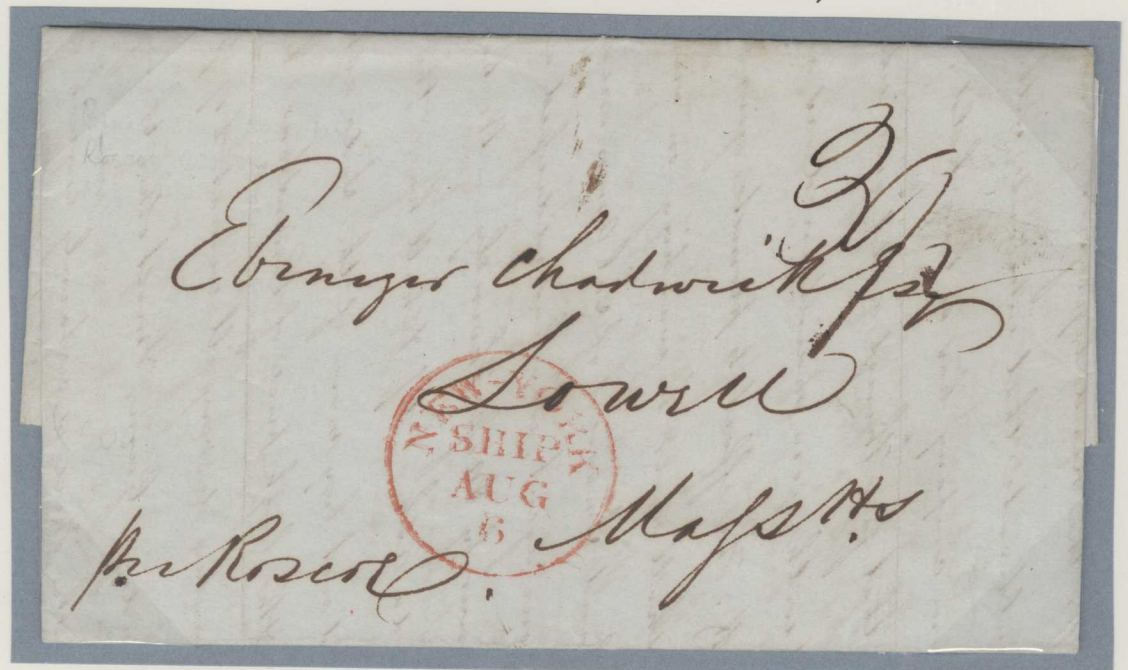
MANCHESTER, ENGLAND TO LOWELL, MA
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)

Ship Information

Roscoe departed Liverpool June 25, 1839, on her return leg, arrived New York August 6, 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain	0
United States	39½¢
2 x 18¾¢ = 37½¢ + 2¢ = 39½¢	



Double letter carried outside the mail to ship's agent in Liverpool.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 – 1840
Blue Swallowtail Line

Complete Voyage *The Independence*

NEW YORK TO LONDON
(VIA LIVERPOOL)

Ship Information

The *Independence* departed New York December 7, 1838, arrived Liverpool December 25, 1838. She served in the Red Swallowtail Line from 1847 to 1852.

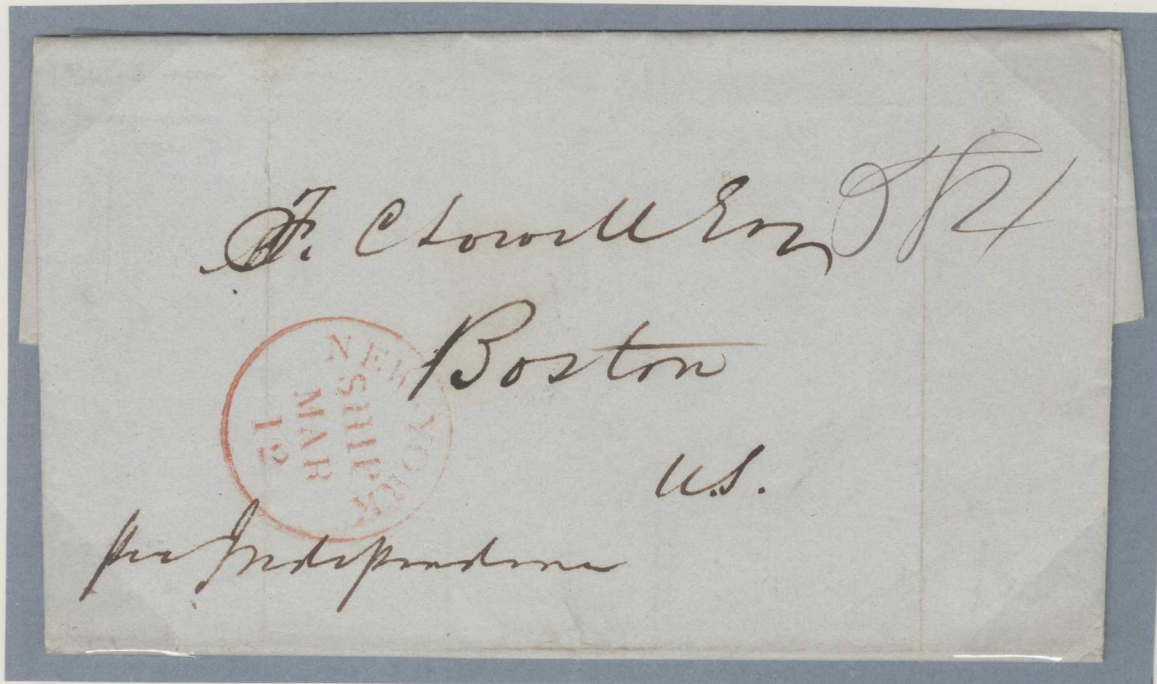
Postal Rates

United States 0
Great Britain 1/7
8d + 11d = 19d or 1/7



Carried to forwarding agent Gilpin's Exchange in New York. Placed in a bag for London by Post Office, therefore no Liverpool markings.

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



Ship Information

The *Independence* departed Liverpool on her return leg January 1, 1839, arrived New York March 13, 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
United States 58¼¢
(3 x 18¼¢) + 2¢ = 58¼¢

Triple letter carried to ship's agent for dispatch on packet. Letter taken into New York by news boat.

EFFECT OF STEAM 1838 - 1840
Blue Swallowtail Line

Complete Voyage The Independence
Five Times Freight Money

PHILADELPHIA TO LONDON
(VIA NEW YORK AND LIVERPOOL)



Ship Information

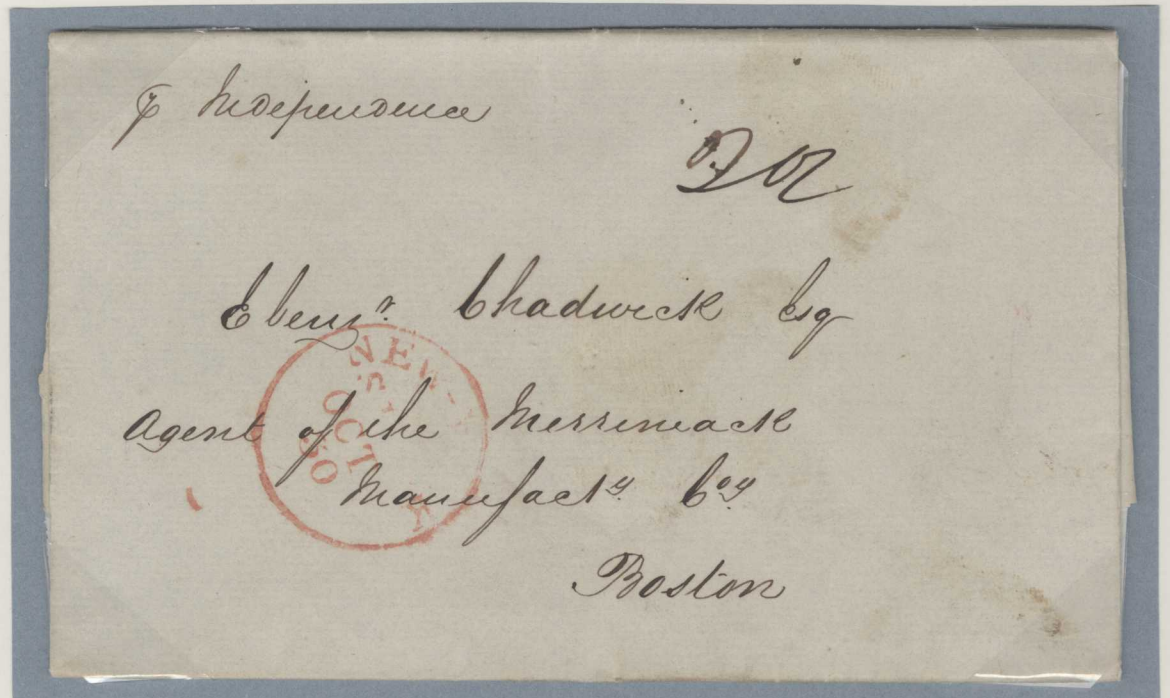
Independence
 departed New York
 August 8, 1839,
 arrived Liverpool
 August 28, 1839.

Postal Rates

United States 62½¢
 5 x 12½¢ = 62½¢
 Freight Money 62½¢
 5 x 12½¢ = 62½¢
 Great Britain 7/11
 (5 x 8d) + (5 x 11d) = 95d
 or 7/11

Multiple rate letter post paid to New York for
 dispatch on packet.

LONDON TO BOSTON
(VIA LIVERPOOL AND NEW YORK)



Ship Information

Independence
 departed Liverpool
 on return leg
 September 29,
 1839, arrived New
 York October 31,
 1839.

Postal Rates

Great Britain 0
 United States 20¾¢
 18¾¢ + 2¢ = 20¾¢

Carried outside mail to ship's agent.