

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1840-1849
27 June 1848-3 January 1849



Folded Letter: New York to Lisbon, Portugal, 13 September 1848

Ship: *Hibernia*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 20 September 1848
Arrive: Liverpool, 2 October 1848

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
2s7d paid in London
210 reis postage due in Lisbon

Notes: Letter given to New York forwarding agent Funch & Meincke, who sent letter unpaid to Boston "out of the mails" avoiding retaliatory fee. Upon arrival at England letter was held in London detained for 2s7d postage (marked in black ink for 1s transatlantic packet fee less 2d U.K. internal fee plus 1s9d fee from London to Portugal by steamship). When paid by another agent in London this amount was marked in red on the front. P&O steamship *Montrose* carried letter from Southampton to Lisbon. Here it was marked in blue ink 210 reis postage due for a 1-1½ ovitas weight letter by packet from England (1½ x ½ ounce). Rare transatlantic cover to Portugal.

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

Pre 1848 Treaty
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1840-1849
4 July 1840-27 June 1848



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York to Madrid, Spain, 15 August 1844

Ship: *Caledonia*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 16 August 1841
Arrive: Liverpool, 28 August 1841

Rate: --- letter placed on board unpaid by forwarding agent
3s2d paid before London would send letter to Spain
11 reales postage due in Cadiz

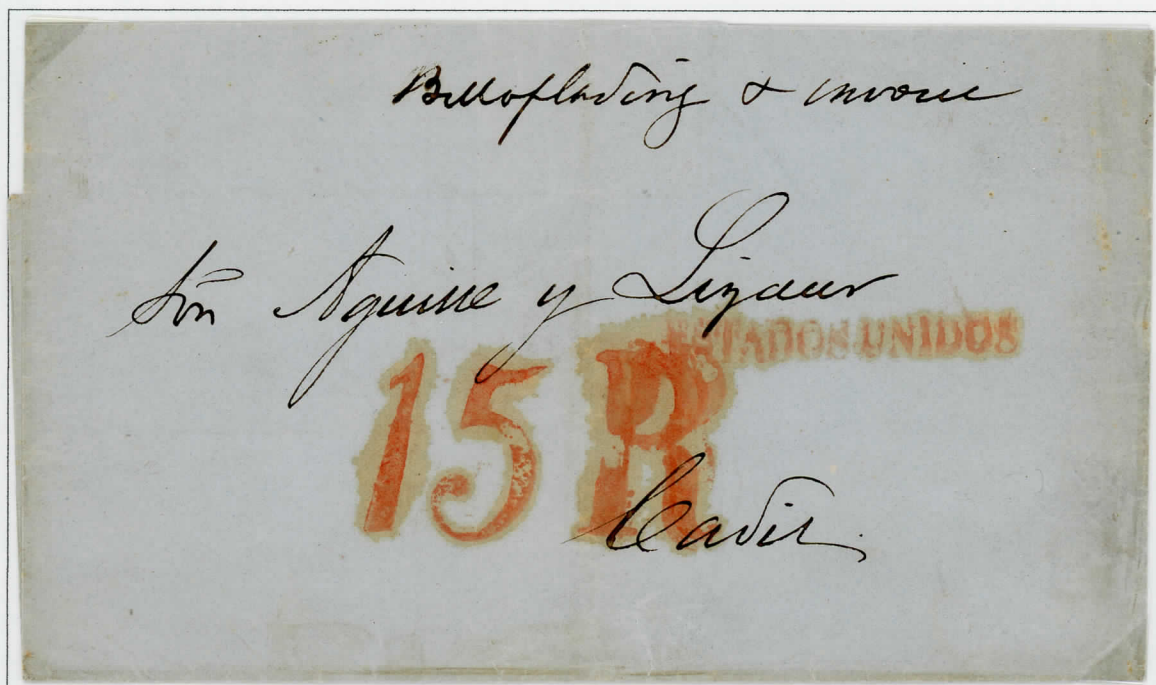
Notes: Letter paid $4 \times 18\frac{3}{4}\phi = 75\phi$ for the inland fee to Boston, probably containing 3 enclosures. When letter arrived in London, it was detained while notice was sent to the originator to pay 4s7d since letter had not been paid for transit beyond the U.K. After payment received, London sent letter to France, marked with oval PF to show letter paid to French-Spanish border only. In Spain letter marked for 22 reales postage due, the rate for a letter for Madrid weighing 9 adarmes or 16 grames. Scarce routing, but questions about British rate.

Ship Letter

American sailing ship to Spain

prior to 1875

ESTADOS UNIDOS



Folded Letter Outer Sheet: New York (?) to Cadiz, Spain, ? November 1848

Ship: *Unknown*

Company: *Unknown*

Depart: New York (?), ? November 1848

Arrive: Cadiz, ~3 January 1849

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
15 reales postage due in Cadiz

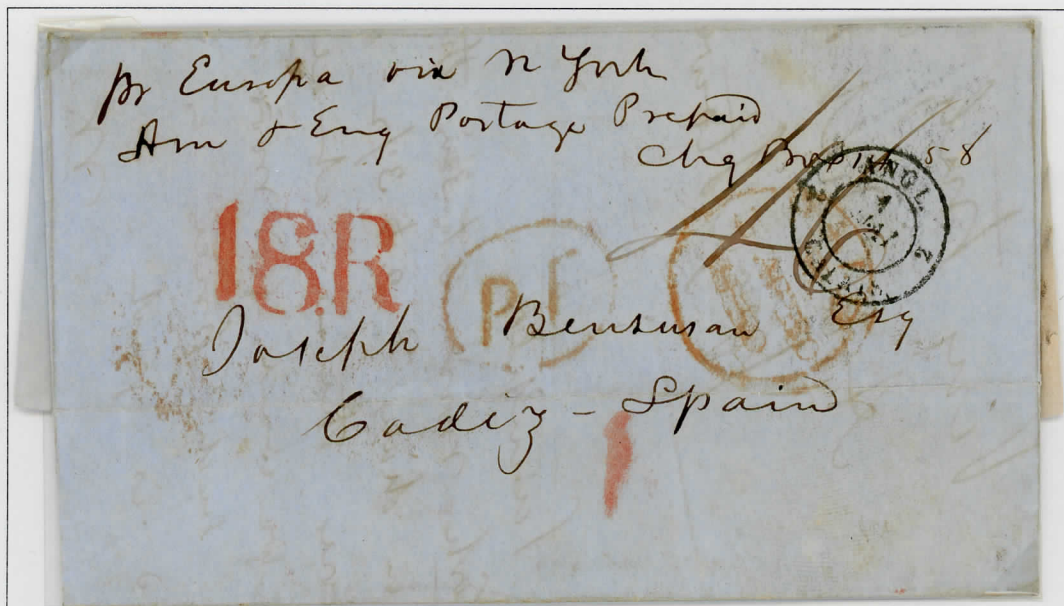
Notes: Letter with a Bill of Lading and Invoice handed to a ship captain and entered Spanish mail system at arrival port of Cadiz. The red orange handstamp "ESTADOS UNIDOS" was marked at Cadiz to show origin of letter since this determined the postage due. Letter marked with red "15R" handstamp to show 15 reales postage was due for a letter weighing 14-15 adarmes.

U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
British Contract Steamship

1849-1867
15 February 1849-31 December 1867

18R



Folded Letter: Boston to Cadiz, Spain, 16 April 1850

Ship: *Europa*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company
(Cunard Line)

Depart: New York, 17 April 1850
Arrive: Liverpool, 29 April 1850

Rate: 51¢ prepaid for British open mail rate (not shown)
46¢ U.S. credit to U.K.
18 reales postage due in Cadiz

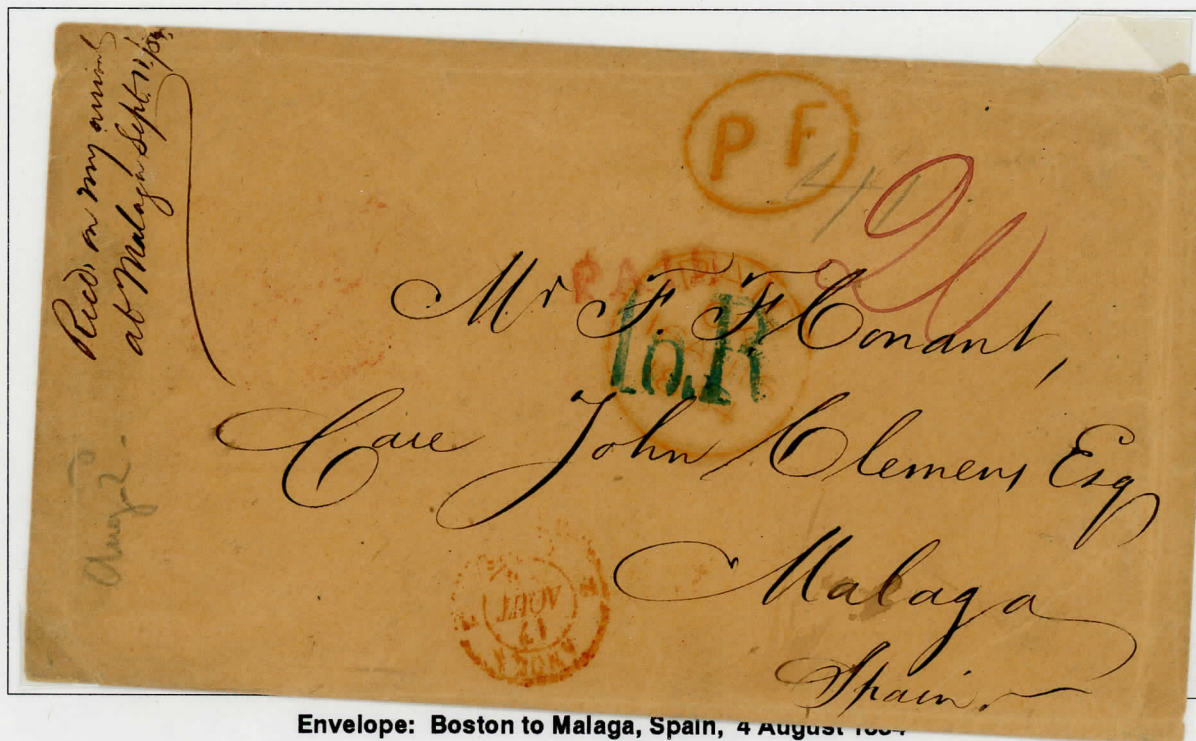
Notes: Letter endorsed that it was prepaid for American and British postage against Charge Box No. 1458, marked in upper right corner. The prepayment of 51¢ was for a letter between ¼ - ½ oz weight sent in the British open mail via France. The 46¢ credit to U.K. appears in the upper right corner. Scarce British mail rate to Spain.

U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty
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1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867

10.R



Envelope: Boston to Malaga, Spain, 4 August 1854

Ship: *Pacific*
Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 5 August 1854
Arrive: Liverpool, 15 August 1854

Rate: 41¢ prepaid for single British mail rate via France to Spain
20¢ U.S. credit to G.B.
10 reales postage due in Malaga

Notes: Boston marked 41¢ prepayment in pencil alongside PAID handstamp. New York showed credit to G.B. in magenta pen. Prepayment covered all transit fees to French–Spanish border. 10 reales de vellon was postage due for 4 arduines (¼ oz.) weight letter. Oval PF in red marked at London. Scarce rate.

U.S. - North German Union Postal Treaties

1871 Treaty
Contract Steamship

1871-1875
1 October 1871-1 July 1875

wfco 2



Envelope: New Orleans to Barcelona, Spain, 4 February 1873

Ship: *Wisconsin*

Company: Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited
(Guion Line)

Depart: New York, 12 February 1873
Arrive: Queenstown, 23 February 1873

Rate: 13¢ paid for single 12¢ rate by NGU mail
5¢ U.S. credit to North German Union

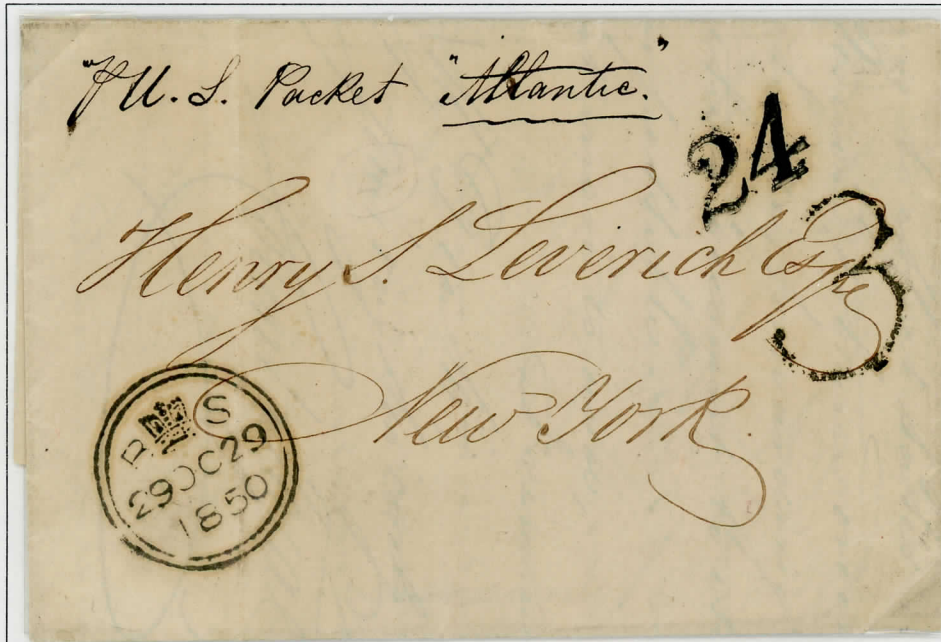
Notes: Payment in adhesives on a stamped envelope (front and reverse) totaled 13¢, a 1¢ over payment of the fully-paid rate to Spain by the NGU mail via England. New York credited 5¢ for transit fees from NGU to Spain. Letter sent in closed mail bag through England and Belgium to Aachen, where 2 groschen restated as the amount paid for transit beyond the NGU ("wfco 2" handstamp in red).

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1849–1867
20 February 1849–31 December 1867

3



Folded Letter: Lisbon, Portugal to New York, 18 October 1850

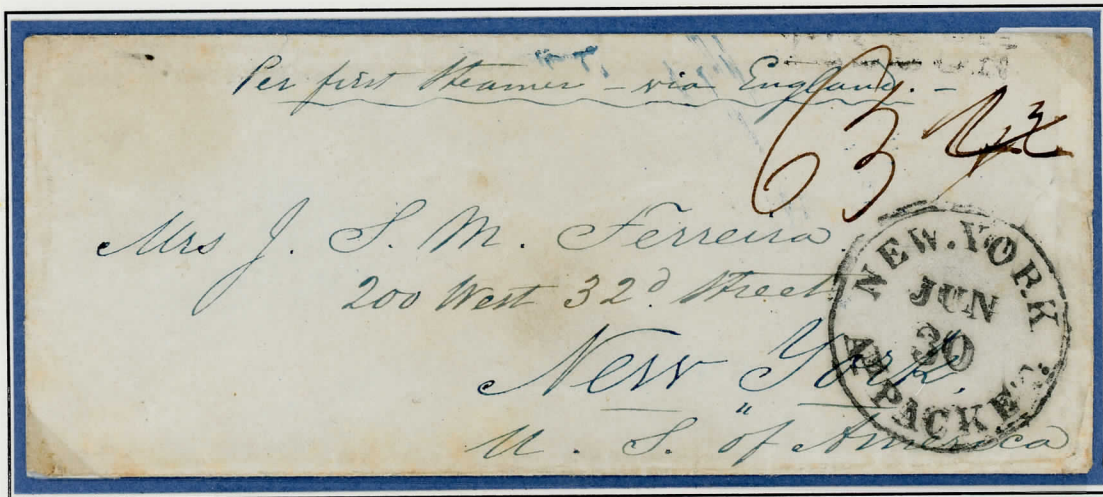
Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 30 October 1850
Arrive: New York, 12 November 1850

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid
 3¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
 24¢ postage due in New York

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" to London where it was posted unpaid to U.S. London used unusual "3" handstamp to indicate G.B. debit to U.S. This is the only example seen of this handstamp use on a transatlantic cover.



LISBON

8 June 1857 Lisbon, Portugal to New York
Letter sent unpaid
42¢ G.B. debit to U.S.
63¢ postage due in New York

Hermann 13 days (West)
Letter carried by P&O steamer *Tagus* to Southampton
G.B. debit was Falmouth packet rate from Portugal, 1s9d or 42¢;
this rate, 26¢ higher than British mail rate via France, is quite scarce