

TRANSATLANTIC PACKET MAIL BETWEEN THE USA AND FRANCE: 1840-1875

This exhibit is a comprehensive survey of the postal rates, routes and markings on steamship packet mail between the USA and France during the period from July 1840 to December 1875.

Prior to the first France-USA postal treaty in April 1857, packet mail between the two countries was exchanged principally via Great Britain (GB), and was facilitated by the 1836, 1843 and 1856 postal treaties between France and GB. USA-GB treaties and changing inland postages also affected rates. On packet mail carried directly between France and the USA before 1857, each country was required to collect its share of the postage on each letter. However, the 1857 France-USA Treaty governed packet mail on all routes between the two countries. When it expired in 1870, rates were again determined by a series of France-GB and USA-GB postal treaties until the August 1874 France-USA Treaty.

Rare frankings and markings, uncommon routings, and unusual steamship sailings are featured in this exhibit. Notable items are highlighted in bold type. The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Mail exchanged under the 1836 France-GB Treaty (July 1840-May 1843)
- Mail exchanged under the 1843 France-GB Treaty (June 1843-December 1856)
- Mail exchanged under the 1856 France-GB Treaty (January-March 1857)
- 1847-57 direct packet mail
- Mail exchanged under the 1857 France-USA Treaty (April 1857-December 1869)
- 1870-74 interim non-Treaty mail
- Mail exchanged under the 1874 France-USA Treaty (August 1874-December 1875)

These categories are divided into sub-periods, which are defined by changing rates and/or routes. Each new sub-period is introduced by a text box which explains the rate/route changes. Examples of letters going in both directions are shown in each sub-period, starting with eastbound mail.



Prepaid triple-weight American packet rate on May 16, 1853 in Paris - Collins Line steamship *Arctic*
2 francs 40 centimes franking features the **1 franc tête-bêche error** from France's 1849 first issue
Double-weight 21¢ due in New York - US ½ oz. weight progression higher than France's 7.5 grams

Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843

First Steamship Packet Mail Service

Per the 1836 France-GB Treaty, GB debited France 12 décimes (1 shilling) for transit & sea postage. France collected this from the recipient, plus inland postage which varied with distance per 7.5 grams. US inland postage varied with distance and number of letter sheets.



Prepaid 18¾¢ U.S. inland postage on November 28, 1840 in Philadelphia for 330 miles to Boston
Cunard steamship *Britannia* from Boston - 6th Cunard sailing to Liverpool - 'AMERICA L' Liverpool mark
GB debited France 12 décimes (1 shilling) per boxed "Packet Letter" marking and "1/-" at right
French entry mark "Angl. Calais" - 32 décimes due (12 décimes for GB plus 20 décimes for Calais to Paris)

Cunard contracted for the first steam transatlantic packet service, effective July 1, 1840

Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843

1836 France-GB Treaty

1836 France-GB Treaty, as amended in 1839, set GB sea & transit postage at 12 décimes (one shilling) per 7.5 grams. On westbound mail, France collected variable inland plus the GB postage, and credited GB one shilling. US collected variable inland plus a 2 cents ship fee.



Posted December 31, 1841 in Paris and endorsed via Liverpool - red 1 shilling credit to GB at upper right
22 décimes prepaid per notation on reverse - 12 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for Paris to GB frontier

Cunard Steamer *Britannia* left Liverpool January 4, 1842 and arrived on January 21 in Boston

Rated for 2¢ ship fee plus 18.75¢ (200 miles) due - corrected in NY to 2¢ plus 37.5¢ double-rate collection

US rate progression based on number of letter sheets

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

"Colonies &c. Art. 12" Marking

1843 France-GB Treaty established rates from foreign countries such as the USA, effective June 1. GB debited France 3sh. 4d per ounce bulk rate (10 décimes per letter) for transit & sea charges. Article 12 marking was applied in London to indicate the debit for GB postage.



Prepaid \$1 quadruple-rate on May 4, 1845 in New Orleans for over 400 miles to Cunard steamer at Boston
Hibernia left Boston May 16, and arrived in Liverpool on May 31 - letter entered France via Boulogne
Manuscript "25" at upper left indicated 25 grams weight - used as basis for 38 décimes due
Total due: two times 10 décimes postage for GB, plus 18 décimes for 205 km. from Boulogne to Paris

Multiple-weight franking

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

US Postage Due

Per the 1843 France-GB Treaty, France credited GB 3sh. 4d per ounce bulk rate (10 décimes per letter) for transit & sea charges on westbound mails. US collected inland (variable with distance) plus 2 cents ship fee on incoming mail.



Prepaid 20 décimes on February 1, 1845 in Perigueux - endorsed via England to Philadelphia

20 décimes prepayment noted on reverse - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 620 km. to Boulogne

Missed February 4 sailing of Cunard Steamer *Hibernia* - left Liverpool March 4 on *Cambria*

Rated for 20.75¢ collection in US - 2¢ ship fee plus 18.75¢ for 330 miles from Boston to Philadelphia

Blue '20 ¾' due marking applied in Philadelphia - this mail not processed until arrival

1843 Treaty rate paid postage to US frontier - 2¢ ship fee plus US inland due from addressee

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

US Rate Reduction

March 3, 1845 US Act lowered inland rates per half ounce to 5¢ for under 300 miles, and 10¢ for over 300 miles, effective July 1. GB transit and sea postage were still governed by the 1843 France-GB Treaty. French inland varied with distance.



Prepaid 5¢ on August 15, 1845 for 200 miles from New York to Cunard steamer *Cambria* at Boston
New York Postmaster provisional stamp (issued July 15, 1845) used to prepay U.S. inland postage
GB debited France 10 décimes per “Colonies &c. Art. 12” mark, and routed letter via Boulogne
21 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 11 décimes for 875 km. inland postage to Marseille

“Colonies &c. Art. 12” marking used only 6 months in conjunction with 5¢ rate

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

10¢ Frankings for Over 300 Miles



Prepaid 10¢ on November 6, 1847 for 1,500 miles from Mobile, AL to Cunarder *Caledonia* at Boston
20 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 600 km. from Boulogne to Lyon



Prepaid 10¢ on December 14, 1847 for 330 miles from Philadelphia to Cunarder *Britannia* at Boston

Mail Exchanged Per 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

First Day of Rate Period

French prepayments appear on the reverse of westbound letters, and include 10 décimes due to GB per the 1843 France-GB Treaty plus inland. Letters weighing over 7.5 grams were marked with a check for 7.5-10 grams, "10" (or "W") for 10-15 grams, and so on.



Forwarded July 1, 1845 from Slade & Lemaitre at Le Havre - carried by auxiliary steamer to Southampton
13 décimes prepaid per mark on reverse - 10 décimes for GB plus 3 décimes for 7.5-10 grams letter from port
Routed to Liverpool for July 4 sailing of Cunard Steamer *Britannia* - arrived July 19 in Boston
Rated for 7¢ collection in US - 2¢ ship fee plus 5¢ inland for <300 miles from Boston to Topsham, Maine

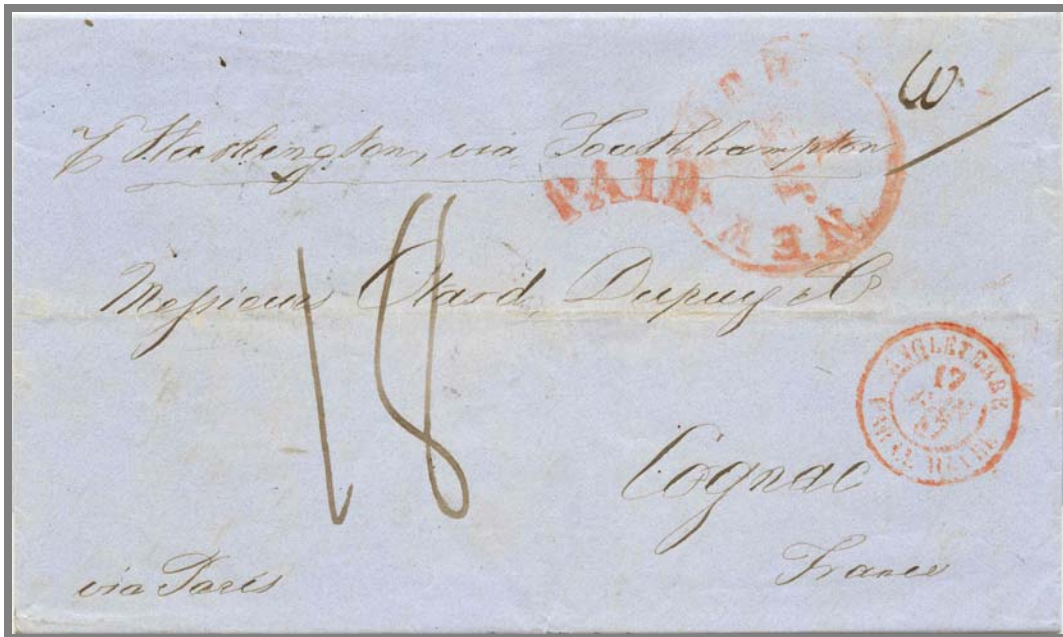
Uncommon "Foreign Paid" marking applied at Southampton

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

First American Steam Packet Service

The Ocean Line began the first American transatlantic steam packet service on June 1, 1847. March 3, 1845 US Act set packet postage at 24¢ per ½ oz., effective July 1. Per the 1843 France-GB Treaty, France collected 10 décimes discriminatory sea postage (credited to GB) in addition to variable inland.



Prepaid 24¢ packet postage on June 1, 1847 in New York - no inland postage required from departure port
Ocean Line steamer *Washington* left NY June 1 - **only known letter addressed to France from this sailing**

Carried by auxiliary steamer from Southampton to Le Havre - 10 décimes credit to GB in upper right
Only transatlantic sailing known to have received **“Angleterre Par Le Havre” French entry marking**
18 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 8 décimes for 425 km. from Le Havre to Cognac

First sailing of the first American steam packet line

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

Mail via Southampton

Only specifically-endorsed mail was carried westbound on this route; all other mail was routed to British packets. Prepayment was variable inland plus a 1 décime ship fee. Carried directly to the steamship, this mail avoided the GB discriminatory sea charge inherent in the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid 5 décimes on July 17, 1848 in Paris for 175 km. to Le Havre - should have added 1 décime ship fee
Sent July 18 from Le Havre Maritime Bureau by auxiliary steamer to Ocean Line steamship at Southampton
Ocean Line steamer *Hermann* left Southampton July 21 - 7th of 16 sailings by the Ocean Line in this period
Rated for 34¢ collection in US - 24¢ packet fee plus 10¢ for over 300 miles from New York to New Orleans

Fewer than five westbound Ocean Line covers are known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

First Retaliatory Period

In response to the 10 décimes British discriminatory packet postage assessed on American packet mail, the US began charging 24¢ per ½ oz. retaliatory packet postage on British packet mail per a June 27, 1848 US Act. 5¢ or 10¢ US inland postage was also charged.



Prepaid 34¢ on July 14, 1848 in Augusta, GA - 24¢ retaliatory packet charge plus 10¢ inland (> 300 miles)

Postage paid with **1847 Issue 10¢ stamp** and 24¢ in cash per red '24' - Cunard steamer *Caledonia*

GB 10 décimes debit for transit and sea postage per "Colonies &c. Art. 13" mark - letter routed via Boulogne

21 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 11 décimes for 850 km. inland postage to Bagnères

Fewer than 10 letters with US #2 are known on mail to France

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

First Retaliatory Period



Posted June 28, 1848 in Le Havre - 12 décimes prepayment (not indicated) - Cunard steamer *Niagara*
29¢ due in US - 24¢ retaliatory packet charge plus 5¢ for less than 300 miles inland postage to New York



Carried privately from Paris November 30, 1848 to Cunard steamer *Niagara* at Liverpool - no prepayments
Double-weight 68¢ due in US - double 24¢ retaliatory charge and 10¢ inland for > 300 miles to New Orleans

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: Both Directions

British Packet via England: January 4, 1849-February 14, 1849 Six-Week Restored Rate Period

The first US-GB postal treaty was signed on December 14, 1848. In response, the US eliminated retaliatory packet charges starting January 4, 1849. Rates returned to 1845-48 levels until the new treaty became effective on February 15, 1849.



Prepaid 5¢ on January 8, 1849 in Philadelphia - less than 300 miles to Cunard steamer *Europa* at New York
GB 10 décimes debit per “Colonies &c. Art. 13” - 20 décimes due (10 déc. to GB plus 10 déc. inland postage)



Prepaid 15 décimes on January 14, 1849 in Paris - 5 décimes inland plus 10 décimes to GB
Cunard steamer *Niagara* - 12¢ due includes 10¢ inland for >300 miles to New Orleans plus 2¢ ship fee

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: Both Directions

British Packet via England: February 15, 1849-July 31, 1849

First US-GB Postal Treaty

The February 15, 1849 US-GB Treaty set US inland postage at 5¢ per ½ ounce. French postage continued to be set by the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid 5¢ on June 19, 1849 in New York - uniform US inland rate per 1848 US-GB Treaty
Cunard steamer *Europa* - 18 décimes due - 10 décimes for GB plus 8 décimes for 460 km. to Schamberg



Posted February 22, 1849 in Le Havre - 12 décimes prepayment (not indicated) - Cunard steamer *America*
First westbound sailing under 1848 US-GB Treaty - uniform US 5¢ inland Treaty rate due in Maine

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

21¢ US Frankings

Articles to the US-GB Treaty set 16¢ per ½ oz. packet rate and a 5¢ uniform US inland rate, effective July 1, 1849. 10 décimes GB discriminatory sea postage was collected with uniform 50 centimes French inland (effective August 1, 1849).



Prepaid 21¢ on February 3, 1851 in Boston - **1847 Issue 5¢ stamp plus 16¢ cash** - 15 décimes due Collins Line steamer *Arctic* - GB still assessed 10 décimes sea and transit charges per 'Art. 13' marking

Only known use of US #1 on American packet mail to France



Prepaid 21¢ on April 26, 1850 in New York - **first sailing of Collins Line by steamship *Atlantic***

Not rated in GB per Article 13 - **'U.S. Pkt.'** mark - double unpaid UK-France rate collected

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

15 Décimes Prepayment

Effective July 1, 1849, American packet postage was set at 21¢ per ½ ounce. Starting August 1, 1849, French prepayments were a uniform 50 centimes inland rate plus the 10 décimes GB transit & discriminatory sea postage per the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid 15 décimes in postage stamps of France's first issue on December 30, 1850 in Ferte-Jouarre
Second sailing of Havre Line steamer *Franklin* - left Southampton January 1 and arrived January 16
21¢ due in the US for 16¢ packet fee plus 5¢ inland - **double packet postage still assessed**

Very little mail carried on this more expensive route

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Uniform French Inland Rate

July 1849 French Circular set 50 centimes per 7.5 grams French inland rate, effective August 1. US inland was 5¢ (or 40¢ from the West Coast) per ½ oz.



Prepaid 40¢ on September 1, 1849 in San Francisco - 40¢ per ½ oz. inland rate to Cunarder *Canada* at NY
Earliest known letter from San Francisco to France - 15 décimes due includes 10 décimes GB packet



Prepaid with **1847 Issue 5¢ stamp** on July 29, 1850 in Baltimore - '16' at upper left indicates triple-weight 16g
Cunard steamer *America* - 45 décimes due in France - 30 décimes to GB plus triple French inland

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

1849 Issue Frankings

July 1849 French Circular set 50 centimes per 7.5 grams French inland rate, effective August 1. Prepaid GB sea postage was 1 décime.



Prepaid double-weight 3 francs on October 11, 1849 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* to Boston
Prepayment of letters to the US by postage stamps not permitted in France until August 1, 1849



Prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes on July 19, 1850 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Cambria* - 5¢ inland due in US
Sent in open mail per July 20 London transit mark - May 1, 1851 US-GB Agreement introduced closed mail

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Unusual Frankings



Sent underpaid 60 centimes on October 14, 1849 from Paris - Cunard steamer *Hibernia*
Rated 'PAID' in UK and 5¢ due in US - **rare use of 1849 20 centimes stamps** on transatlantic mail



Prepaid six-times 9 francs rate on August 8, 1849 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* - 20¢ inland due in US
Prepayment by postage stamps only 1 week after French P.O. allowed such frankings

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: August 1, 1849-December 31, 1850

Mail via Jamaica

French Circular #27 set 21 décimes per 7.5 grams rate to Chagres by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton and Jamaica, effective September 15, 1848. August 14, 1848 US Act set Chagres-San Francisco rate at 30¢ per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 21 décimes on February 12, 1850 in Bordeaux per ms. '21' on reverse
RMSP steamer *Great Western* to Jamaica and RMSP steamer *Tay* to Chagres
PMSC steamer *Panama* from Panama to San Francisco - 30¢ due in San Francisco

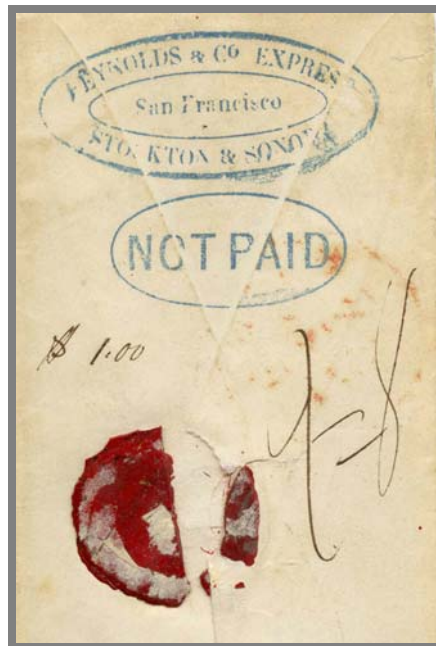
Fewer than five RMSP letters known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1851-August 31, 1851

Mail via St Thomas

French Circular #51 set 28 décimes per 7.5 grams fully-paid rate to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Chagres, effective January 1, 1851. US erroneously collected 20¢ due on most letters.



(photocopy of reverse at 100%)

Prepaid 28 décimes on July 10, 1851 in Angoulême - RMSP steamer *Avon* to St Thomas

23 décimes credited to GB per January 1, 1851 Additional Articles to 1843 France-GB Treaty - 20¢ due in US

Delivered to gold mines by Reynolds & Co. private California express company - \$1.00 collected

Less than five RMSP letters known from this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Mail via St Thomas

French Circular #67 set 25 décimes per 7.5 grams fully-paid rate to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Chagres, effective September 1, 1851. US erroneously collected 20¢ due on most letters.



Prepaid 25 décimes on May 15, 1852 in Paris - 1849 Issue 1 franc and 25 centimes stamps
RMSP steamer *Magdalena* to St Thomas - PMSC steamer *Tennessee* from Panama to San Francisco
20 décimes credited to GB per 1843 France-GB Treaty - GB credited US 50¢ per oz. bulk rate
Even though GB had credited US its postage, 20¢ was erroneously collected in San Francisco

All French mail to California routed via St Thomas until 1854

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Mail to California



Prepaid 25 décimes on October 31, 1853 in Paris - RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas
PMSC steamer *J.L. Stephens* from Panama to San Francisco - erroneous 20¢ due assessed



Prepaid 25 décimes on February 27, 1855 in Savigny - RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas
PMSC steamer *Golden Gate* from Panama to San Francisco - 20¢ due - late usage by this route

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Reduced French Postage

French Circular #67 eliminated discriminatory GB packet fee and reduced French collections to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective September 1, 1851. US postage remained 16¢ packet and 5¢ inland per ½ ounce, per 1848 US-GB Treaty. West Coast mail was subject to a 5¢ inland postage surcharge.



1¢ overpay of 26¢ transcontinental rate from San Francisco on July 15, 1854 - 1851 Issue 3¢ and 12¢ stamps
Routed to non-contract Vanderbilt steamer *Sierra Nevada* - marked **“Via Nicaragua Advance of Mails”**
Ocean Line steamship *Hermann* from New York August 12 - “Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A Paris” entry mark
8 décimes due in France - 3 décimes GB transit postage plus 5 décimes uniform French inland

Only known letter to France via Nicaragua route

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

1849 Issue Frankings

French Circular #67 reduced French prepayments to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective September 1, 1851. GB received 30 centimes transit postage, but no sea postage. US postage remained 16¢ sea plus 5¢ or 10¢ inland per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 80 centimes by **two 1849 15c stamps** and an 1852 25c pair on May 14, 1853 in Paris
Collins Line steamer *Arctic* left Liverpool May 18 - 21¢ due in US (16¢ sea plus 5¢ inland)



Prepaid by 1853 Issue 80 centimes stamp on March 27, 1856 in Bordeaux - Collins Liner *Baltic* to New York
21¢ due re-valued to 26¢ to reflect West Coast inland 5¢ surcharge, per July 1, 1851 US inland rate change
Carried by USMSC steamer *George Law* to Aspinwall and PMSC steamer *Sonora* to San Francisco

French Circular #67 eliminated discriminatory sea postage on American packet mail

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

Reduced Transit & Sea Postage

French Circular #72 reduced GB transit and sea postage to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective December 1. French inland remained at 50 centimes, for total French collections of 13 décimes. US inland was 5¢ per ½ ounce, except from California.



1¢ overpayment of 5¢ rate on June 29, 1852 in Boston - 1851 Issue 3¢ orange-brown pair
Cunard steamer *Europa* from New York - July 13 "Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. Paris" entry marking
13 décimes due - **franked mail in this period is unusual**; most prepaid mail is stampless

France credited transit & sea postage to GB per 1843 France-GB Treaty

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

1849 Issue Franking

French prepayments were reduced to 1 franc 30 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective December 1, 1851. 80 centimes transit & sea postage was credited to GB per the 1843 France-GB Treaty. US collections remained 5¢ (10¢ to California) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid double rate 26 décimes on January 30, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to NY

Franking made up by 1849 Issue 15 centimes and 1 franc carmine stamps

Single-weight 5¢ due in US

15 centimes stamps only in use from July 1850 to June 1853

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

Tentuple-Weight Franking



Prepaid 13 francs on November 24, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Niagara* - 40¢ due (8 times 5¢)

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: Both Directions

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853 16-Day Second Retaliatory Period

Unaware that the double sea charge on US packets had been eliminated in September 1851, the US began charging 16¢ retaliatory packet postage on British packets. US inland postage remained at 5¢, and French inland plus packet postage at 13 décimes.



Prepaid 13 décimes on January 12, 1853 in Paris - Cunarder *Africa* to New York on January 30

Franked by stamps of 1849 Issue - 21¢ due (5¢ inland plus 16¢ retaliatory packet postage)



Prepaid 21¢ retaliatory rate on February 1, 1853 in New York - Cunard steamer *Europa*

13 décimes due - included 8 décimes for GB transit and sea postage

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

Restored Rate Period

February 10, 1853 US Post Office Notice eliminated the retaliatory sea charge, and restored US 5¢ (10¢ from the West Coast) per ½ ounce prepayments. French postage due remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams.



Prepaid obsolete 21¢ retaliatory rate on February 14, 1853 in Philadelphia - 5¢ was correct rate

US 1851 Issue 3¢ orange brown and 12¢ franking - rare US **“BRITISH PACKET”** marking

Cunard steamer *Europa* from Boston - first sailing after end of Second Retaliatory period

Double-weight 26 décimes due - includes 16 décimes for GB transit and sea postage

Fewer than 5 letters known with 21¢ retaliatory rate paid by postage stamps

Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

1849 Issue Frankings

French prepayments remained 13 décimes per 7.5 grams in this restored rate period.
US postage returned to 1851-53 levels of 5¢ (10¢ to the West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 13 décimes on August 23, 1853 in Guebwiller - Cunard steamer *Asia* to New York
Franked by 1849 Issue 40 centimes and 1852 Issue 10 centimes stamps - 5¢ due



Prepaid quintuple rate 65 décimes on August 23, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Asia* to New York
Franked by **largest known multiple of 1 franc cerise** and pair of 1852 Issue 25 centimes stamps
1849 Issue 1 franc cerise only known used in Paris during late 1853 - quadruple-weight 20¢ due

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Per the 1856 France-GB Treaty, GB debited France 16 décimes per 30 grams (40 centimes per letter) for transit & sea postage. French inland was 40c per 7.5 grams, so total due was 8 décimes. US inland was 5¢ (10¢ from West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 5¢ on March 16, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1856 5¢ stamp
Cunard steamer *America* from Boston - March 25 "Boston Br. Pkt." transit mark
"GB 1F 60c" bulk debit from GB to France - double-weight 16 décimes due

Only 12 eastbound sailings during this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Under the 1856 France-GB Treaty, France credited 16 décimes per 30 grams (40 centimes per letter) to GB and charged 40c per 7.5 grams inland, for total prepayments of 80 c. US inland collections were 5¢ (10¢ from West Coast).



Prepaid 80 centimes on March 5, 1857 in Paris - franked by 1853 80 centimes carmine stamp
Cunard steamer *Asia* from Liverpool to New York on March 24 - 5¢ due for US inland postage
Delivered March 31 by **N.O.U.S. City Post government carrier service** in New Orleans - 2¢ carrier fee

Only 13 westbound sailings during this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1857-December 31, 1865

Mail via St Thomas

French prepayments were reduced to 8 décimes per 7.5 grams on mail to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Panama, effective January 1, 1857. The US collected 20¢ postage due.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes by 1853 Issue 80 centimes pair on February 14, 1857 in Paris
RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas - PMSC steamer *J.L. Stephens* from Panama to San Francisco March 29
80 centimes rate was the same as via New York and set by September 24, 1856 France-GB Treaty
US 20¢ steamship postage from Panama was collected in San Francisco

Not much mail traveled by this slower, more expensive route

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

1856 France-GB Treaty set GB charge to France for transit postage at 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter) and French inland at 40c, for total French due of 5 décimes. US postage was 21¢ (26¢ from West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 21¢ in 1851 Issue stamps on January 23, 1857 in New Orleans - Collins steamer *Atlantic*

“GB 40c” bulk debit from GB to France - 5 décimes due (1 to GB plus 4 for inland)



Prepaid 21¢ in 1851 Issue stamps on December 22, 1856 in Baton Rouge - Collins steamer *Baltic*

January 18 “Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A. Calais” entry mark - **only 9 American packet sailings in this period**

Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Per the 1856 France-GB Treaty, France credited 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter) to GB and charged 40c per 7.5 grams inland, for total prepayments of 50c. The US collected 5¢ inland plus 16¢ packet postage.



Prepaid 50 centimes on February 16, 1857 in Paris - 1853 Issue 10 and 40 centimes stamps
Collins Line steamer *Atlantic* from Liverpool to New York on March 6 - 21¢ due in the US
Very little westbound mail was sent by this route due to higher cost and fewer sailings

Only 7 westbound sailings during this period

1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 22, 1847-February 6, 1848

First French Steam Packet Service

The Hérout & de Handel Line began the first French transatlantic steam packet service in June 1847. May 25, 1847 French Circular set 10 décimes packet postage per 7.5 grams. French inland varied with distance, and US inland rates were 5¢ or 10¢ per ½ oz. per July 1845 Act.



Hand-carried July 15, 1847 to steamship letter bag in New York - no US postage paid

Hérout & de Handel Line steamer *Union* left NY July 24 - **only known letter to France from this sailing**
Mail off-loaded at Le Havre during coaling stop - 10 (décimes) at upper right indicates French packet postage
“Outre-Mer Le Havre” French entry mark used only on this sailing - ‘Paq. Reg.’ marks not ready yet
18 décimes due in France - 10 déc. packet postage plus 8 déc. for 425 km. from Le Havre to Cognac

First eastbound sailing of the first French steam packet line

1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 22, 1847-February 6, 1848

First French Steam Packet Service

French postage for Hérout & de Handel Line mail included 10 décimes French packet per 7.5 grams. French inland varied with distance, and US rates were 5¢ (<300 miles) or 10¢ (> 300 miles) plus a 2¢ ship fee. This mail can only be identified by endorsements or shipping dates.



Prepaid 13 décimes July 27, 1847 in Rouen - 10 décimes packet postage plus 3 décimes for 80 km. to Le Havre
Endorsed "Paq. Fais du Havre" - Hérout & de Handel Line steamer *Missouri* left Cherbourg July 31
12¢ due - 10¢ US inland for over 300 miles from New York to New Orleans plus 2¢ ship fee

No distinguishing postal marks appear on westbound mail

1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: Both Directions

American Direct Packet: October 5, 1850-June 30, 1851

First US Direct Packet Service

US 24¢ packet and 5¢ or 10¢ inland rates were set by March 3, 1845 US Act. French rates of 30c at the port and 60c beyond were set by July 23, 1849 Circular.



Prepaid 56¢ on May 15, 1851 in San Francisco - 40¢ inland plus 16¢ sea accepted from West Coast
Havre Line *Humboldt* from NY on June 28 - July 10 "Outre-Mer Le Havre" entry mark - 6 décimes due



Prepaid 60 centimes in 1849 Issue stamps on June 3, 1851 in Paris - routed via Le Havre Maritime office
Maiden voyage of NY & Havre Line steamship *Humboldt* - 29¢ due (5¢ inland plus 24¢ packet postage)

1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1851-March 31, 1857

Uniform US Postage

March 3, 1851 US Act set direct packet plus inland postage at 20¢ per ½ ounce, effective July 1. France treated incoming mail as non-contract private ship mail, and collected 3 décimes if addressed to arrival port, and 6 décimes if elsewhere in France.



Franked with **1856 5¢ strip of three and single** on November 8, 1856 in New Orleans - 6 décimes due
NY & Havre Line steamer *Fulton* left New York November 17 and arrived in Havre on December 1
Red "Outre-Mer Le Havre" entry marking - used for incoming ship (non-contract) mail

Frankings showing exact 20¢ rate are uncommon

1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1851-March 31, 1857

French Prepayments

July 23, 1849 Circular #14 set French postage per 7.5 grams at 30c at departure port and 60c beyond. US Act set direct packet postage at 20¢ per ½ oz., effective July 1, 1851.



Forwarded July 27, 1854 from Paris to Le Havre by Greene & Co. - posted August 1 with **red cancels**
Prepaid 30 centimes in Le Havre - Havre Liner *Union* - 20¢ due per "N. York Am. Pkt. 20" postmark



Prepaid 60 centimes December 9, 1851 in Collioure - **1849 Issue 10 centimes bistre-brun strip of six**
December 12 "Bureau Maritime Havre" transit on reverse - NY & Havre Line steamer *Franklin*

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Mis-Directed to Trier

March 2, 1857 France-USA Treaty set fully-paid rate of 15¢ per ¼ oz., effective April 1. On mail by British packets, US credited 12¢ to France for 8¢ GB transit and sea plus 4¢ French inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on August 18, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1855 10¢ types III-II-III
Mis-directed from Boston to Aachen via Prussian closed mail (30¢ per ½ oz. rate) - 7¢ credit to Prussia
Returned to Boston October 7 for Cunard steamer *Canada* to Liverpool - double-weight 24¢ credit to France

Boston office confused by address and 30¢ franking

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ on May 10, 1859 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Niagara* from Boston
1857 Issue 5¢ type I brick red strip of 3 and 10¢ types III-II-III - triple-weight 36¢ credit to France



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on April 9, 1858 in Donaldsonville, La. - 1857 Issue 5¢ red brown block of 6
Cunard steamer *America* left Boston on April 24 - double-weight 24¢ credit to France

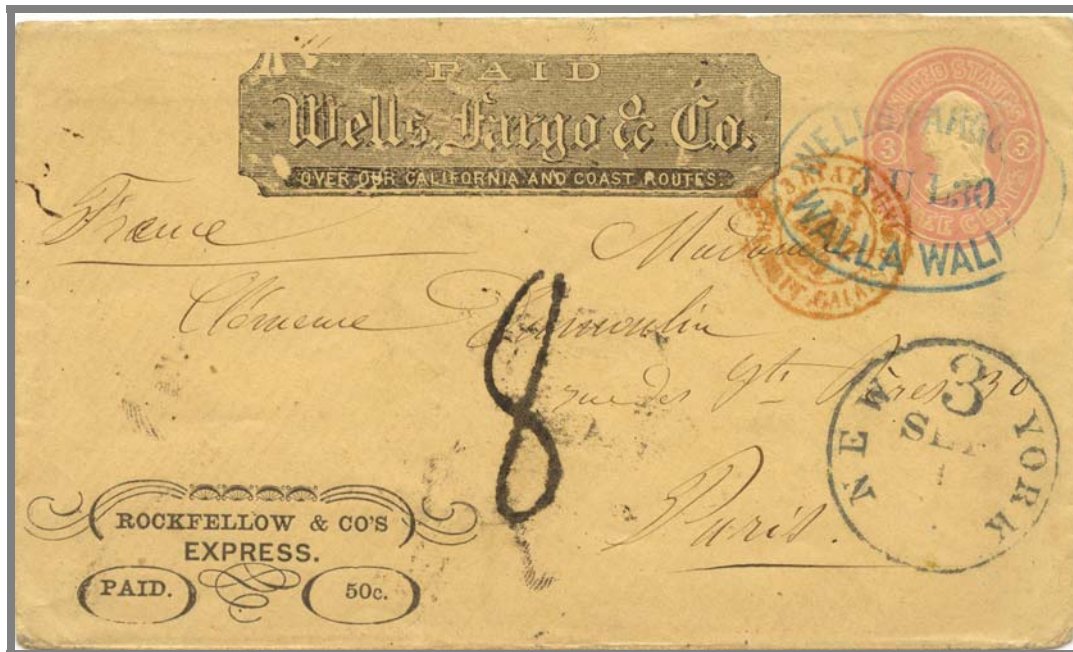
Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Western Express Mail



Sent under cover from San Francisco on October 27, 1860 to New York forwarder
Carried by Pony Express - arrived in St Joseph, MO on November 8 - posted November 13 in NY
Sent unpaid to France per Cunard steamer *Europa* - 3¢ debit to France - 8 décimes due



Carried by **Rockfellow's Express** in **July 1863** from **Boise mines** to Wells Fargo in Walla Walla, WA
Sent unpaid to France by Wells Fargo from New York on September 1, 1863 - Cunard steamer *Asia*

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Civil War Blockade-Run Mail



Carried from blockaded Charleston, SC to Nassau, Bahamas by *Ella & Annie* on April 17, 1863

Prepaid 1 shilling 4d at Nassau on May 6 - Cunard steamer *Australasian* from NY on May 20



Under cover from Augusta, Georgia to blockade-runner *Druid* leaving Charleston on February 4, 1865

Rare crowned "Paid at Bahamas" marking - Cunard steamer *Australasian* from NY on February 22

The Charleston-Nassau blockade-run route was closed by February 17, 1865 fall of Charleston

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

French Frankings

The 1857 France-USA Treaty set a fully-paid rate of 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective April 1. On British packet mail, France credited 3¢ to the USA for its inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on October 14, 1864 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada*

1862 Issue 80 centimes rose Tête-Bêche pair - double-weight 6¢ credit to US



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on May 7, 1857 in Paris - **1854 80c dark vermilion stamps**

Double-weight 6¢ credit to US - Cunard steamer *Niagara* - Marked "Br Service" in New York

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Civil War Blockade-Run Mail



Sent under cover from Paris to Cunard steamer *China* - left Liverpool on December 31, 1864
Little Hattie from Nassau to Charleston, SC January 31, 1865 - 12¢ due (10¢ inland plus 2¢ ship fee)



From **Confederate Naval Commodore Samuel Barron** in Paris to Liverpool forwarder in August 1863
Cunard steamer *Scotia* from Liverpool August 29 to New York - passed in closed mails to Nassau, Bahamas
Blockade runner *Margaret & Jessie* from Nassau to Wilmington, NC on September 24 - 12¢ due

Confederate “ship” markings appear only on incoming blockade-run mail

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867 First France-USA Postal Treaty

March 2, 1857 France-USA Treaty set fully-paid rate of 15¢ per ¼ oz., effective April 1. On mail by American packets via England, the US credited 6¢ to France for 2¢ GB transit plus 4¢ French inland postage.



Prepaid 15¢ on April 8, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1851 Issue 3¢ dull red and 12¢ stamps
Ocean Line steamer *Washington* to Southampton - 3rd to last sailing of the Line- 6¢ credit to France

Only three Ocean Line sailings in this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

'SOUTHn LETTER UNPAID'

The US suspended mail service in the Confederate States of America on May 31, 1861. Some mail from the South was allowed to pass through Louisville, Kentucky after that, but the frankings were disallowed.



Prepaid 10¢ Confederate postage (> 500 miles) and 15¢ US postage on June 10, 1861 in New Orleans

Passed through the lines from Nashville to Louisville on June 14 - released to New York on June 27

US postage applied in New Orleans disregarded and marked "Southern Letter Unpaid" - letter rated unpaid

Inman Line steamer *City of Baltimore* to Queenstown - 8 décimes unpaid letter postage due in France

Only five "Southern Letter Unpaid" letters to foreign destinations are known

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

"Serv. Am." Entry Mark



Prepaid 15¢ on July 27, 1861 in New York - **1861 5¢ orange brown type II** and 1859 10¢ type V
HAPAG steamer *Saxonia* - 6¢ credit - Etats-Unis Serv. Am. Calais" entry mark introduced in 1861



Prepaid seven-times \$1.05 on December 14, 1864 in New Orleans - **1861 Issue 3¢, 12¢ and 90¢**
Maiden voyage of Inman Line steamer *City of Cork* - 42¢ credit to France - re-backed front

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

To President-Elect Lincoln

1857 Treaty set fully-paid rate of 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective April 1. On American packet mail via England, the France credited 9¢ to US for 6¢ sea plus 3¢ inland. Letters were marked “Am Service” in red to signify service via GB.



Prepaid triple-weight 24 décimes on January 5, 1861 in Marseille - triple-weight 27¢ credit to US NY & Havre Line steamer *Arago* from Southampton - red boxed “Am Service” mark applied in NY Forwarded January 24 from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, IL - 3¢ forwarding postage due

Lincoln left Springfield on February 1 for his March 4 Inauguration

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

15¢ Frankings

The 1857 France-USA Treaty set a fully-paid rate of 15¢ per ¼ ounce, effective April 1. On American direct packet mail, the US credited 3¢ to France for inland postage. French entry marks were applied in blue to signify direct service.



Prepaid 15¢ on July 29, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by **1856 Issue 5¢ red brown stamps**
3¢ credit to France - Vanderbilt Line steamship *Ariel* from New York August 8 to Southampton



Prepaid 15¢ on June 12, 1858 in New Orleans - franked by **1857 Issue 5¢ Indian red strip of three**
3¢ credit to France - Vanderbilt Line steamship *North Star* from New York June 19 to Le Havre
July 1 blue "Et. Unis Serv. Am. D. Havre" ("Service Américain Direct") entry marking

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

1857 Issue Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ rate on September 14, 1861 in New York - triple-weight 9¢ credit to France
1857 Issue 5¢ deep orange brown, 10¢ type III, and 30¢ stamps - NY & Havre steamer *Arago*



Prepaid 60¢ on April 27, 1861 in New York - quadruple 12¢ credit to France - Havre Line steamer *Fulton*
Blue May 10 "Et. Unis Serv. Am. D. Havre" entry mark - forwarded from Paris with 1859 80c stamp

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ rate with 1869 15¢ type I and 30¢ stamps on June 9, 1869 in New Orleans
HAPAG steamer *Germania* - fewer than five covers known with this franking combination



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ rate with 3¢ and 24¢ stamps on Dec. 9, 1869 in New Orleans - double 3¢ credit
HAPAG steamer *Allemania* - fewer than ten 1869 Issue 24¢ covers known to France

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

13 Times 15¢ Rate from New Mexico



Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

Vanderbilt European Line

1857 France-USA Treaty set a fully-paid rate of 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective April 1. On American direct packet mail, France credited 12¢ to the US for sea & inland postage. Letters were marked “Am Service” in blue to signify direct service.



Prepaid 80 centimes on August 14, 1860 at Le Havre's maritime bureau - 1859 80c rose stamp
12¢ credit to the US - Vanderbilt Line steamship *Vanderbilt* from Le Havre to New York
Blue "Am Service" and red "PAID" markings applied in New York on August 27

Only 46 Vanderbilt Line sailings in this period

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Frankings

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (Ligne H) began operations on June 15, 1864. The US credited France 12¢ per ¼ ounce for packet and inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on October 15, 1869 in Washington, D.C. - Ligne H *Lafayette* from New York
October 16 “Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. H No. 2” postmark applied in New York - double-weight 24¢ credit to France



Prepaid quadruple-rate 60¢ on November 12, 1869 in Providence, RI - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*
Quadruple 48¢ credit to France - **largest known multiple of 1869 15¢ type II on cover**

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Unusual Usages



Franked 20 centimes naval concession rate by Captain of French cruiser *Laurier* in New York harbor
Transferred May 19, 1866 to nearby Ligne H steamer *Napoleon III* and posted on board
Rare 'Corr. D. Arm. Lig. H Paq. F, No. 4' mark applied to confirm military use - "ancre" cancel



Sent unpaid on July 5, 1864 from Boston - **first eastbound sailing of the CGT Line by the *Washington***
Triple-weight 9¢ debit to France - July 18 "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Le Havre" mark - triple-weight 24 décimes due

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

"Washington Paq. Fr." Postmark

France's Ligne H, first sailed on June 15, 1864. The 80 centimes 1857 Treaty rate applied, and France credited the US 3¢ per ¼ ounce for inland postage. Letters were marked "Fr Service" in blue to signify direct service.



Prepaid sextuple-weight 48 décimes on July 27, 1864 in Le Havre - six-times 18¢ credit to the US 2nd sailing of Ligne H by steamer *Washington* from Le Havre to New York on August 9
New York applied rare boxed "Fr Service" - struck in blue to signify direct service

Only known example of "Washington Paq. Fr." embarkation postmark

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Processed By Steamship Mail Agent



Prepaid 80 centimes on June 6, 1867 on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Le Havre harbor - 3¢ credit to US
Blue boxed "Fr Service" applied in Boston - octagonal embarkation postmark normally used on eastbound mail

Fewer than 10 covers with maritime postmarks and "anchor" cancels are known from this period



Prepaid 80 centimes on October 10, 1868 on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Brest harbor - 3¢ credit to US
Circular Ligne H postmark shows date of departure from Le Havre - stamps cancelled by "anchor" cancels

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Franking

June 1867 US-GB Treaty made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails, and eliminated distinction between American and British packets, effective January 1. Mail from US shows 6¢ credit to France for transit and inland postage.



Overpaid 90¢ in June 1869 at US Yokohama post office - 80¢ was 1 oz. trans-Pacific and trans-Atlantic rate
PMSC steamer *Japan* to San Francisco on July 20, and NGL steamer *Rhein* from New York on July 29
“China & Japan Steam Service” marking indicates Japanese origin - triple-weight 18¢ credit to France

Fewer than 10 covers are known franked by 1869 Issue 30¢ pair

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid four times 15¢ rate Dec. 4, 1869 in New York - Inman liner *City of Brussels* - 24¢ credit to France
Forwarded back to New York - **fewer than 10 covers are known franked with two 1869 Issue 30¢ stamps**



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ August 23, 1869 in NY - **type I 15¢ stamp** with 30¢ 'F' grill - incorrect credit marks

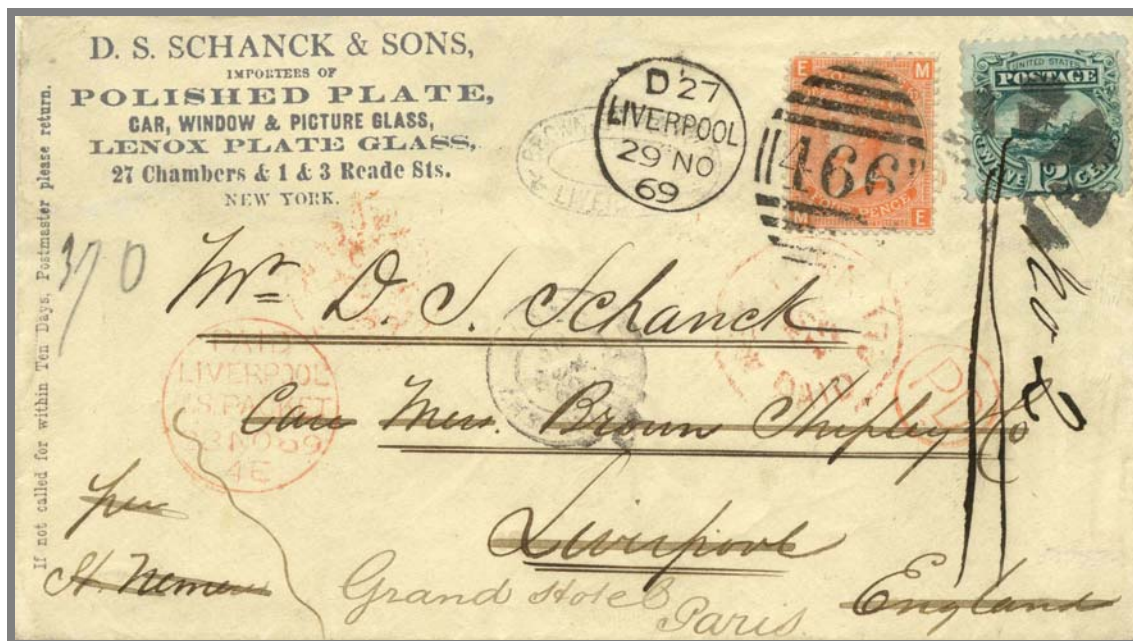
Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Forwarded Mixed Frankings



Prepaid 15¢ with 1869 Issue type I stamp on July 17, 1869 in NY - Inman steamer *City of Boston*
6¢ credit to France - forwarded July 29 from Paris to Heidelberg with French 30 centimes stamp



Prepaid 12¢ rate to England on November 17, 1869 in New York - Cunard steamer *Nemesis*
Forwarded November 29 by Brown Shipley & Co. from Liverpool to Paris with British 6d stamp

Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1868 US-GB Treaty

January 1, 1868 US-GB Treaty made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails, and eliminated distinction between American and British packets. Per the 1857 Treaty, mail from France shows 3¢ credit to the USA for inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on February 7, 1868 at Le Havre - 1862 Issue 80 centimes stamps
Cunard steamer *Cuba* to New York February 19 - double 6¢ credit (Le Havre style) to the US

US entry marks without indication of packet nationality

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

4¢ British Open Mail Rate

December 1869 US-GB Treaty set 2¢ packet and 2¢ inland per ½ oz. rates to replace the expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate. GB charged France 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter), and France collected 40 centimes inland postage plus 10 centimes for GB.



Prepaid 4¢ British open mail rate on January 4, 1870 in Boston - Guion steamship *Manhattan*
GB charged France 40 centimes bulk rate per “GB 40c” marking - set by 1856 France-GB Treaty
Double-weight 10 décimes due - 20 centimes to GB plus 80 centimes inland postage



Overpaid 10¢ direct rate January 12, 1870 in New Orleans - Guion steamer *Minnesota* via England
Rated “PAID-ONLY TO ENGLAND” in Great Britain - double-weight 10 décimes due

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1870

12¢ "Phantom" Rate

1868 US-GB Treaty set fully-paid 12¢ rate per ½ ounce, effective January 1, 1870. The US credited GB 8¢ per 7.5 grams for GB-to-France postage. This rate was not announced by U.S.P.O. and is only seen rarely on eastbound mail via New York.



Overpaid 15¢ expired 1857 Treaty rate on April 23, 1870 in New York - 1869 Issue franking on 1864 3¢ entire

North German Lloyd steamship *Union* from New York - postmarked "New York Paid All Br. Transit"

US credited GB 8¢ - 30 centimes French inland (6¢) plus 2¢ GB transit

Unannounced fully-paid eastbound rate

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Forwarded Mixed Franking

January 1, 1870 Imperial Decree set fully-paid 70 centimes per 10 grams rate via British open mail. France paid GB 40 centimes per 30 grams for transit and sea postage, and GB credited the US 2¢ for inland postage.



Prepaid 70 centimes on March 13, 1871 at Menton - 1870 Bordeaux Issue 30c and 40c stamps
Cunard steamer *Java* - 2¢ GB credit to the US - **forwarded with US 1870 Issue 3¢ stamp**

Fully-paid 70 centimes rate replaced 80 centimes 1857 Treaty rate

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Siege of Paris Balloon Mail



Prepaid 70 centimes on October 7, 1870 - **flown out of besieged Paris by balloon “Jean Bart #1”**

Allan liner *Scandinavian* to Quebec - **closed mails to San Francisco** - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Prepaid 70 centimes on October 29, 1870 - **flown out of besieged Paris by balloon “Colonel Charras”**

Inman steamer *City of Washington* to New York - 2¢ GB credit to the US - rare **“*Paris*”** postmark

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871 Unusual Franco-Prussian War Usages



Forwarded privately on January 7, 1871 from Montpellier **via Switzerland** to avoid German occupation area
Inman steamer *City of London* - 50 centimes rate from Switzerland via GB set by May 1870 Swiss-US Treaty



Prepaid 60 centimes on December 10, 1870 in **German-occupied Reims** - Feld-Post Relais Bureau #25
Alsace-Lorraine occupation stamps - Inman liner *City of Brooklyn* - 60c rate from occupation area via GB

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

French Postage Prepaid

US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract steamship service set 10¢ per ½ oz. rate.
December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set collections at 80 centimes per
10 grams (rate was 60 centimes if prepaid), effective January 1, 1870.



Franked 10¢ plus 60 centimes on August 22, 1870 in Newark, NJ - **fully prepaid to destination**
North American Steamship Co. Guiding Star to Le Havre - one of only two contract sailings by the line
Rare September 9 French entry mark "Etats-Unis Le Havre"

Only known American Packet mixed franking in this period

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

Ruger's American Line



Prepaid double-weight 20¢ rate on February 21, 1870 in New Orleans - 1869 Issue stamps
Ocean Queen of **Ruger's Line** to **Le Havre** - first of only three contract sailings by the line
Rare March 19 French entry mark "Et. Unis Serv. Fr. Havre" - triple-weight 24 décimes due



Overpaid expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate on March 15, 1870 in San Francisco - 8 décimes due
Rising Star of **Ruger's Line** to **Le Havre** - second of only three contract sailings by the line
Rare April 9 French entry mark "Et. Unis Serv. Am. V.A. Havre" - re-use of obsolete 1863 marking

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

Ten Month Period

December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set prepayments at 60 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870. US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ ounce collections.



Prepaid 60 centimes on May 7, 1870 in Le Havre - 1863 "Laureated" Issue 20c and 40c stamps
HAPAG steamer *Allemania* from Le Havre - 10¢ due per May 20 "N.Y. Steamship 10" postmark

Only 27 westbound HAPAG sailings in this period

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

1869 Issue Franking

US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ oz. rate to replace the expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate. December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set collections at 80 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870.



Prepaid 10¢ direct route rate on January 8, 1870 in New York - 8 décimes due
Ligne H steamship *St Laurent* of Ligne H - first sailing after expiration of 1857 France-USA Treaty
January 8 “Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. No. 4” embarkation postmark - normally applied in red ink

Embarkation postmark applied on board steamer in New York harbor

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Posted On Board Steamship

The Ligne H steamships carried a postal agent on board to handle and sort the mail. On rare occasions, letters could be brought to the ship and handed directly to the postal agent. Such letters avoided US postal charges.



Posted on board the Ligne H steamship *Ville de Paris* in New York harbor on February 19, 1870
Six French 1863 Issue 20 centimes stamps prepaid double-weight rate in France - no postage due
Agent applied maritime “anchor” cancels and “Ligne H” datestamp - normally used on westbound mail

Only known example of an eastbound letter posted on board a steamship

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

French Postage Prepaid



Franked 10¢ plus 60 centimes on August 5, 1870 in Jersey City, NJ - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*
Mixed franking fully prepaid letter to destination - “ancre” cancels applied by mail agent on steamship



Franked 10¢ “F grill plus 60 centimes on April 30, 1870 in New York City - Ligne H steamer *St. Laurent*
Insufficient French postage for double-weight letter - 10 décimes due (16 décimes rate less 6 décimes paid)

Fewer than ten eastbound letters are known with French postage prepaid

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Posted On Board Steamer

The December 1869 French Imperial Decree set prepayments at 60 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870. US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ ounce collections.



Prepaid 60 centimes on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Le Havre harbor on June 17, 1870
Steamship mail agent applied “Ligne H” datestamp and cancelled stamps with maritime “ancre”
10¢ due upon June 27 New York arrival per “N.Y. Steamship 10” postmark

Fewer than 5 letters posted on board Ligne H steamships are known from this period

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1870-July 31, 1874

10¢ "Phantom" Rate



Prepaid 10¢ June 29, 1870 in San Francisco - Cunard steamer *Aleppo* - US 6¢ credit to GB



Prepaid 10¢ November 5, 1870 in Maysville, KY - Inman steamer *City of Paris* - addressed to besieged Paris

USPO finally published 10¢ Phantom rate on October 28, 1871, after 14 months of sporadic use

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Mixed Franking

April 21, 1871 French Law increased French prepayments to 12 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. This increase was retained by France, and was designed to make French direct packet mail service more competitive.



Prepaid 50 centimes direct route rate plus 10¢ US postage on February 2, 1872 in Paris
Attempted full prepayment of French direct packet route - accepted and routed via GB
Cunard steamer *Russia* - 2¢ GB credit to the US - 20¢ paid was 4¢ less than 12 décimes rate

Fewer than five accepted mixed prepayments known

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Unusual Frankings



Prepaid 12 décimes on October 5, 1871 in Cognac - **Bordeaux Issue 80c "88" variety** and 40c Inman steamer *City of Brussels* to New York on October 15 - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Prepaid 72 décimes (triple-weight 36 déc. postage plus 36 déc. registration) on July 20, 1874 in Paris **1863 Issue 5 franc stamp** - Cunard steamer *Java* - no credit accounting from GB to the USA

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: Both Directions

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Reduced French Postage

April 21, 1871 French Law reduced postage on direct routes to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act.



Prepaid double-weight 1 franc on November 11, 1871 in Cette - Bordeaux Issue 30c and 40c stamps
HAPAG steamer *Westphalia* to NY November 29 - 10¢ due per "N.Y. Steamship 10" postmark



Prepaid 10¢ July 20, 1871 in Eureka, CA - HAPAG steamer *Westphalia* left NY August 1
From July to mid-August 1871, Cherbourg erroneously rated mail for 6 décimes due

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Recovered From Shipwreck

April 21, 1871 French Law reduced postage for French-owned packets to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act. As a result, this route was less expensive than via GB.



Prepaid 10¢ on April 4, 1874 in New York - Ligne H steamer *Amerique* from New York
Amerique was found derelict and foundering on April 15 - letter was water damaged
April 27 "Etats-Unis Paq.Fr. 2 Brest 2" entry marking applied in Paris - 5 décimes due

Total postage on direct route was 4¢ less than on route via England

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Mixed Franking Not Accepted

Prepayments for French-owned packets were set at 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act. Full prepayment was not possible unless both French and US postage was paid.



Prepaid 50 centimes and 10¢ on December 14, 1871 in Paris - paid to destination
Ligne H steamer *Washington* from Le Havre to New York on January 8
US charged 10¢ postage due, since 10¢ stamp had been cancelled by Paris star cancel

Fewer than five mixed frankings from this period are known

Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: Both Directions

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

17 Months Reciprocal Treaty

April 28, 1874 France-US Treaty set 50 centimes or 9¢ per 15 grams fully-prepaid rate, effective August 1. This rate applied to all routes between France and the USA.



Forwarded by Drexel Harjes & Co. on December 30, 1874 in Paris - prepaid 50 centimes
1871 Issue 25 centimes type III stamps - Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn* from Liverpool



Prepaid 9¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on April 10, 1875 in New York - NGL steamer *Neckar*
“Etats-Unis V. Angl. Amb. Cal” entry mark for mail via England and Calais

Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: USA to France

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

New York Supplementary Mail

For a supplementary fee equal to the regular postage paid, a late letter could be processed in New York after the regular mails had closed.



Prepaid 36¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on December 4, 1875 in New York - NGL steamer *Hermann*
Double-weight 18¢ rate plus 18¢ supplementary fee - 'NEW YORK SUP PAID' postmark



Prepaid triple-weight supplementary 54¢ on December 16, 1875 in New York - HAPAG steamer *Frisia*