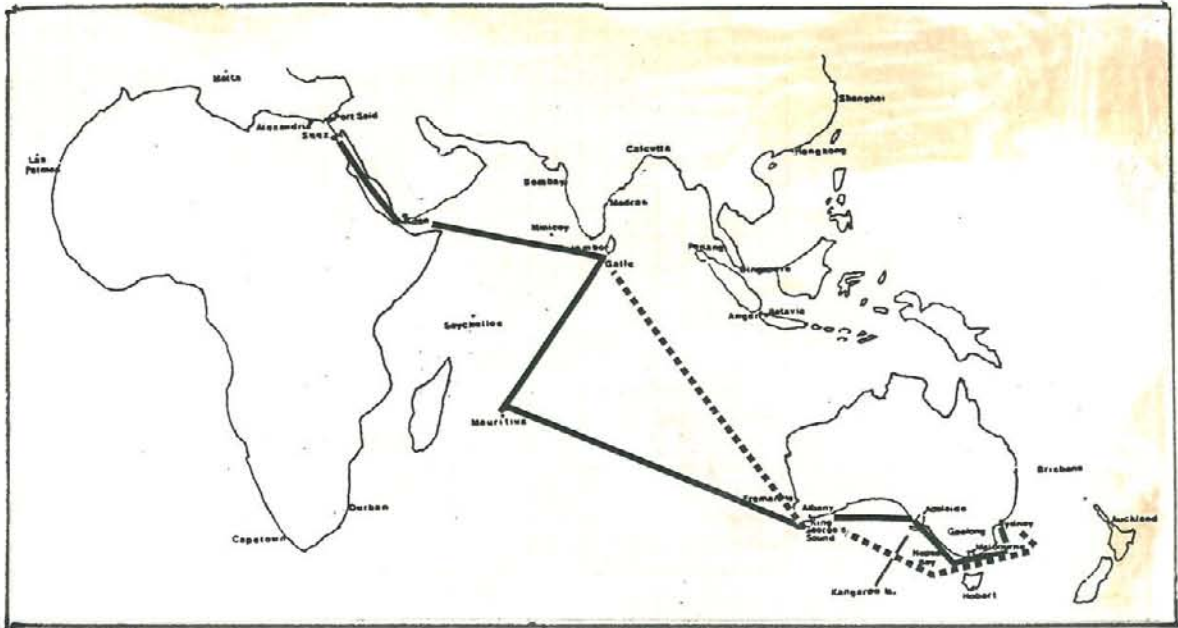
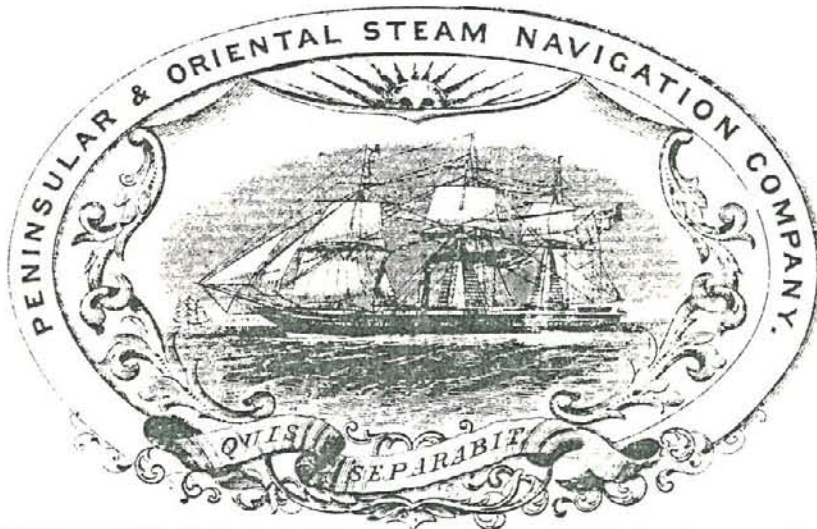


THE PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY
 AUSTRALIAN LINE



- 1859-1860 - SUEZ - ADEN - MAURITIUS - KING GEORGE'S SOUND - ADELAIDE - MELBOURNE - SYDNEY, MONTHLY SERVICE
- 1860-1880 - GALLE - KING GEORGE'S SOUND - MELBOURNE - SYDNEY MONTHLY SERVICE - THEN IN 1868 EVERY FOUR WEEKS

THIS ROUTING SHOWS THE SECOND PHASE OF THE P+O SERVICE WHICH COMMENCED UPON RECEIPT OF A NEW CONTRACT DATED 12 MARCH 1859.



1859

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
 MELBOURNE TO U.K. VIA MAURITIUS, SUEZ AND MARSEILLES
S.S. Bombay, Melbourne to Suez
S.S. Vectis, Alexandria to Marseilles



September 17, 1859. The barred oval, No. 1 for Melbourne, cancels the 1 shilling rate, stamp 1/- Issue of 1859. The letter is endorsed on the face: p R.M.S. Bombay/Via Marseilles. Backstamp at Melbourne.

P. & O. AUSTRALIAN SERVICE: SECOND PHASE.

Following the failure of the European & Australian Royal Mail Co., the P. & O. were awarded a new contract from March 12, 1859. From April 14, 1859 until May 14, 1860, the new contract called for a route via Mauritius (see below.) Owing to the large amounts of coal burned between Mauritius and King George's Sound and Mauritius and Suez a route via Galle was adopted, ending the Second Phase. (Cf.: Kirk, Vol. , Pg. 106-109.)

Route, Second Phase, for the letter above was:

<u>S.S. Bombay</u>		<u>S.S. Vectis</u>	
Sydney	Sept. 14	Alexandria	Oct. 29
→ Melbourne	17-18	Malta	Nov. 1
Adelaide	20	Marseilles	4.
King George Sound	25-26		
Mauritius	Oct. 12		
Aden	22		
Suez	28		

↑
EGYPTIAN
RAILWAY

November 7. Birmingham arrival
 backstamp tracks with Nov. 4 arrival
 at Marseilles.



1860

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO

S. S. Ripon, Southampton to Alexandria

S. S. Bengal, Suez to Galle

S. S. Jeddo, Galle to Sydney



August 20, 1860. A letter paid at the 6d. rate to Australia via Southampton, effective April 1860. Rate via Marseilles was 10d. By using the cheaper rate the sender lost a month, as the Pera sailed from Southampton August 20 before this letter could reach her. The letter was held over for the Sept. 20 sailing of the Ripon for Alexandria. P. & O. steamers carried this letter to Victoria, as follows:

<u>S.S. Ripon</u>		<u>S.S. Bengal</u>		<u>S.S. Jeddo</u>	
Southampton	Sept. 20	Suez	Oct. 6	Galle	Oct. 22
Gibraltar	25-26	Aden	12	K.G. Sound	Nov. 4-5
Malta	30	Galle	21	Melbourne	9-10 →
Alexandria	Oct. 4			Sydney	12.



November 9. Arrival backstamp at Melbourne agrees with recorded arrival date of S.S. Jeddo.

November 11. Sandhurst, Victoria arrival backstamp.

1860

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
GEELONG, VICTORIA TO U.K. VIA SUEZ AND MARSEILLES

S.S. Northam, Sydney to Suez

S.S. Vectis, Alexandria to Marseilles

GEELONG
G MA 17
60
VICTORIA



M



March 17, 1860. Letter posted at Geelong, Victoria and paid all the way at the 1 shilling rate, stamp 1/- Issue of 1859, lithographed, perf. 12. Geelong is 40 miles S.W. of Melbourne. The "2" obliterator is the post office number of Geelong.

The large "M" is not listed, but is undoubtedly a sorting aid to indicate a letter "Via Marseilles".

P. & O. steamers carried the mails all the way to Marseilles by the following schedule:

<u>S.S. Northam</u>			<u>S.S. Vectis</u>	
Sydney	March 14		Alexandria	April 27
Melbourne	16-18		Malta	30
Adelaide	20		Marseilles	May 3.
King George Sound	24-25			
Galle	April 7			
Aden	17-18			
Suez	23.	VIA EGYPTIAN RAILWAY		

A
DERBY
MY 5
60

May 5, 1860. Derby arrival backstamp tracks with the arrival of Vectis at Marseilles on May 3.

1861

VICTORIA TO U.S. VIA SUEZ AND MARSEILLES

P. & O. Line: S.S. Behar, Melbourne to Galle

S.S. Nubia, Galle to Suez

S.S. Valetta, Alexandria to Marseilles

Cunard Line: R.M.S. Africa, Queenstown to New York.



January 15, 1861. A letter paid at Melbourne, Victoria (backstamp) at the January 1, 1857, rate of 39¢ per ½-oz. Victoria to U.S. by British Mail via Marseilles. Letter is endorsed: Via Marseilles. The payment is by Victoria stamps 1d. (2¢) + 4d. (8¢) + 1s. (24¢) = 34¢, paying all charges except 5¢ U.S. which was collected on receipt, total 39¢. There is a red mss. 8d. (16¢) debit to Victoria for transatlantic carriage.

The P. & O. Line steamers carried this letter as follows:

<u>S.S. Bahar</u>		<u>S. S. Nubia</u>		<u>S.S. Valetta</u>	
Sydney	Jan. 22	Galle	Feb. 17	Alexandria	Mar. 8
Melbourne	24-24	Aden	26	Malta	11
King Geo. Sound	31	Suez	Mar. 4	Marseilles	15
Galle	Feb. 14				

March 16. London transit PAID mark. R.M.S. Africa, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 17th where this letter went aboard.

March 31. Africa arrived at New York. Dumb month mark of the N.Y. Exchange Office. 5¢ due from recipient for U.S. Inland, totalling 39¢ paid overall.



1861



SYDNEY DUPLEX - IN USE 1858-1894



TRANSIT MARK
BACKSTAMP



ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP



P+O "SALSETTE"

SYDNEY 20 FEB. 1861
MELBOURNE 23/24 FEB.
K.G.S. 1/2 MARCH
GALLE 16 MARCH

P+O "COLOMBO"

GALLE 19 MARCH
ADEN 28 MARCH
SUEZ 3 APRIL

P+O "VECTIS"

ALEXANDRIA 5 APRIL
MALTA 8 APRIL
MARSEILLES 11 APRIL

POSTAL RATE: 6d PER 1/2 OZ - IN EFFECT 1855 TO MID 1870
FRANKED WITH S.G. #147

SALSETTE - BUILT 1858 - 1491 TONS - 1550 H.P. IRON, SCREW

COLOMBO - BUILT 1858 - 2127 TONS - 1534 H.P. IRON, SCREW

VECTIS - BUILT 1849 - 793 TONS 450 H.P. PADDLE STEAM.

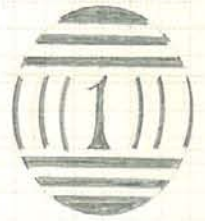


P&O "Colombo"

1861

PACKET LETTERS

AUSTRALIA - U.S. Via Marseilles & London.



May 25, 1861. Letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria for New York "Per 'Benares'(S.S.) via Marseilles". Rate of 1 sh. 4d. (overpayment 1d.) as letter went by French Packet to Marseilles, Australia was only credited with 3/6ths of the rate, thus red mms. "8" is Victoria's share.



16
CENTS



July 16, 1861. Transit at London. Double rim evening duty stamp.

British Exchange Office mark, credit to U.S. as letter went by American Packet, Transatlantic, England to N.Y.

July 30. U.S. Exchange Office mark. Letter by Am. Pkt. paid to port only, 5¢ inland postage due from recipient

AUSTRALIA TO U.S. via Ceylon, Suez, Marseilles and London.

P. & O. LINE. S.S. Benares, Sydney to Galle

P. & O. LINE. S.S. Colombo, Galle to Suez.

P. & O. LINE. S.S. Vectis, Alexandria to Marseilles.

HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE. S.S. Borussia, Southampton to New York.

May 25. P.&O. Line. S.S. Benares departed from Sydney, Australia May 22 and put into Melbourne May 25-28 and on to Galle, Ceylon where she arrived June 17.

June 20. P.&O. Line. S.S. Colombo departed Galle, arrived at Suez July 7.

July 7-9. Mail in transit overland across Egypt, Suez to Alexandria.

July 9. P.&O. Line. S.S. Vectis departed Alexandria, arrived Marseilles July 15 (Pera departed from Alexandria the same day, but did not arrived at Southampton until July 21.)

July 16. Transit at London. U.S. mails forwarded on to Southampton.

July 17. S.S. Borussia, Hamburg American Line, departed from Southampton.

July 30. N.Y. Times:

Arrived at N.Y. Tuesday, July 30, 1861, Borussia, Treutman, Hamburg July 15, Southampton 17th at 5 P.M. with merchandise and passengers to Kunhardt & Co. 24th, lat. 46 lon. 39 spoke Br. ship Evening Star, bound E.; 26th, lat 43 38 lon 47 spoke the ship Flying Childers, bound W. Has had strong westerly winds excepting the last few ds., when had light variable winds. The Borussia brings 39 cabin and 311 steerage passengers.

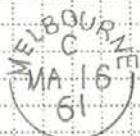
1861

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

S.S. Jeddo, Sydney to Galle

S.S. Nemesis, Galle to Suez

S.S. Indus, Alexandria to Southampton



March 16, 1861. Letter posted at Melbourne, backstamp. The British Post Office Guide of April 1860, finally stabilized the 1-oz. rate from all the Australian States to the U.K. via Suez and Southampton at 6d., here paid by the Victoria Issue of 1858. The corresponding rate via Marseilles was 9d. per 1-oz., 1/- per 1/2-oz.

Endorsed "per first Mail", this letter went by P. & O. steamers, as follows:

<u>Jeddo</u>			<u>Nemesis*</u>			<u>Indus</u>	
Sydney	Mar. 22	→	Galle	April 20	→	Alexandria	May 5
→ Melbourne	25/26		Aden	28	→	Malta	9
K.G.S.	31		Suez	May 4	→	Gibraltar	14
Galle	April 13					Southampton	19

*The Nemesis arrived from Calcutta on the 18th in time to meet the Singapore which arrived at Galle with the China mails on the 18th.



May 20. British letters had been forwarded inland, here with an arrival backstamp at Birkenhead on the estuary of the Mersey directly opposite Liverpool.

1862



ENGLAND & WALES
TYPE OBLITERATOR



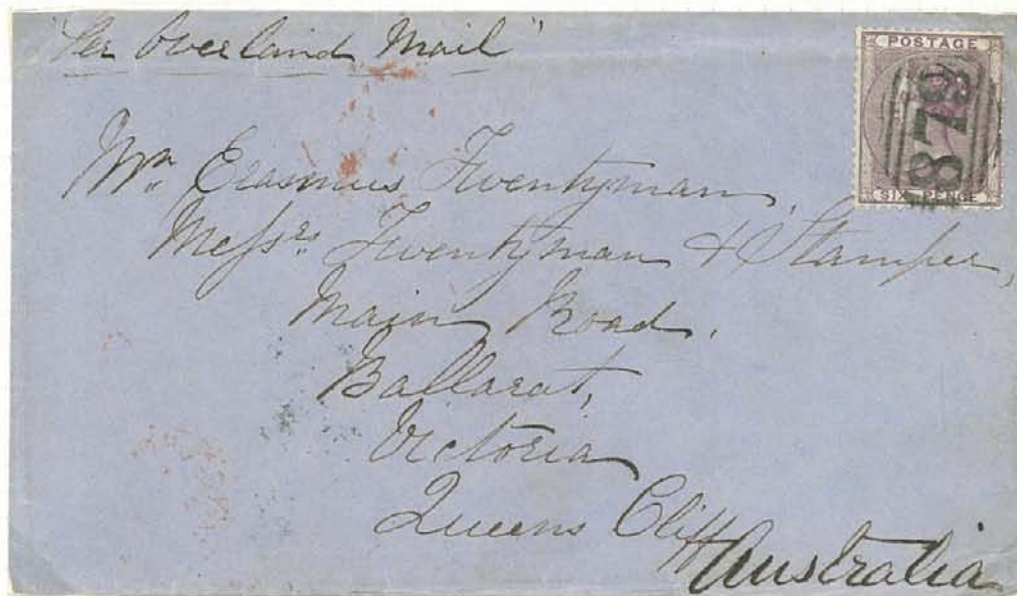
ORIGINATING P.O.
BACKSTAMP



TRANSIT MARKS
BACKSTAMPS



ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP



ENGLAND TO VICTORIA

54 DAYS IN TRANSIT

THIS COVER STARTED ITS JOURNEY ABOARD P&O LINE S.S. PERA WHICH DEPARTED SOUTHAMPTON ON 20 AUGUST 1862 FOR ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT, VIA GIBRALTAR 24-25 AUG., MALTA 29 AUGUST AND ARRIVED ALEXANDRIA ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1862. IT WAS TRANSFERRED TO EGYPTIAN RAIL FOR THE OVERLAND TRIP TO SUEZ. THE MAILS THEN WENT ABOARD P&O LINER, S.S. SIMLA WHICH DEPARTED ON 4 SEPTEMBER FOR GALLE, CEYLON VIA ADEN ON 9 SEPT. AND ARRIVED GALLE ON 17 SEPT. '62. AT GALLE, THE MAILS WERE TRANSFERRED TO P&O LINER S.S. MADRAS WHICH CLEARED ON 18 SEPTEMBER FOR MELBOURNE, VIA KING GEORGE'S SOUND ON 2-4 OCTOBER, AND ARRIVED MELBOURNE ON 9 OCTOBER 1862. THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED THE NEXT DAY.

S. S. PERA - 2014 TONS, IRON, SCREW STEAMER. FIRST DEPARTED SOUTHAMPTON ON 4 JANUARY 1856 FOR ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.

S. S. SIMLA - 2441 TONS, IRON SCREW STEAMER. FIRST DEPARTED SOUTHAMPTON ON 6 MAY 1854 FOR ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT.

S. S. MADRAS - 1185 TONS - IRON, SCREW STEAMER. FIRST DEPARTED SOUTHAMPTON ON 20 ~~1854~~ ¹⁸⁵³ DECEMBER FOR CALCUTTA. INITIAL MAIL SERVICE WAS ON 23 APRIL 1853 CALCUTTA TO SUEZ.

1862



TRANSIT BY P&O LINE SHIPS:

SS NORTHAM

SS BENGAL

SS VECTIS

MELBOURNE 26 SEPT. '62
KING GEORGE SOUND 2-3 OCT.
GALLE 17 OCT.

GALLE 18 OCT. '62
ADEN 27-28 OCT.
SUEZ 3 NOV.

ALEXANDRIA 5 NOV. '62
MALTA 10 NOV
MARSEILLES 12 NOV.

POSTAL RATE: 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE IN EFFECT 1865 TO MID 1870. THUS A DOUBLE RATE COVER FRANKED WITH 2 R.L.#114 (S.G.#113)

1863

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
SOUTHAMPTON TO MELBOURNE VIA SUEZ & GALLE

S.S. Ellora, Southampton to Alexandria

S.S. Simla, Suez to Galle

S.S. Norham, Galle to Melbourne



March 19, 1863. Six pence rate to Australia paid by a copy of Great Britain Issue of 1862. It is cancelled by the London Southern District duplex. 6d. was the Guide of April 1860 per ½-oz. to Australia via Southampton and British packet. The corresponding rate via Marseilles was 9d. per ¼-oz.

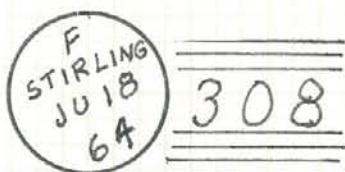
Transit to Australia was by P. & O. steamers, as follows:

<u>S.S. Ellora</u>		<u>S.S. Simla</u>		<u>S.S. Norham</u>	
Southampton	March 20	Suez	April 4	Galle	April 19
Gibraltar	25	Aden	9-10	King Geo. Sound	May 4-5
Malta	29-30	Galle	18	Melbourne	10-11 →
Alexandria	April 2			Sydney	13.

May 10. Melbourne arrival backstamp tracks with the recorded arrival date of Norham at that port.



1864



STIRLING, SCOTLAND DUPLIX CANCEL
BRUMELL TYPE 202



LONDON
TRANSIT
BACKSTAMP



ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP



TRANSIT BY P&O LINE SHIPS:

SS POONAH

SOUTHAMPTON 20 JUNE '64
GIBRALTAR 25 JUNE
MALTA 29 JUNE
ALEXANDRIA 3 JULY

SS RANGOON

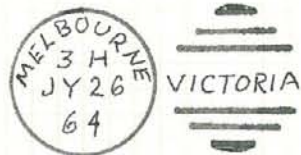
SUEZ 6 JULY '64
ADEN 12 JULY
GALLE 20 JULY

SS NORTHAM

GALLE 21 JULY '64
KING GEORGE'S SOUND 5-6 AUG.
MELBOURNE 11 AUG '64

POSTAL RATE: 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE VIA SOUTHAMPTON. 1855-1891.

1864



TRANSIT BY P+O LINE SHIPS:

SS BOMBAY

MELBOURNE 26 JULY '64
KING GEORGE SOUND 3 AUG.
GALLE 17 AUG

SS RANGOON

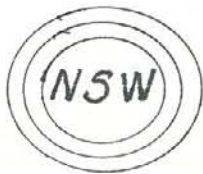
GALLE 18 AUG. '64
ADEN 29 AUG.
SUEZ 6 SEPT.

SS DELTA

ALEXANDRIA 7 SEPT '64
MALTA 10 SEPT
MARSEILLES 13 SEPT.

POSTAL RATE: 10d PER 1/2 OUNCE VIA MARSEILLES. IN EFFECT 1864 TO MID 1870
FRANKED WITH: 6d R.L. # 114 (S.G. # 113) + 4d R.L. # 113 (S.G. # 112)

1859



IN USE 1858-1894



EARLIEST ISSUED
DATE STAMP 1858-

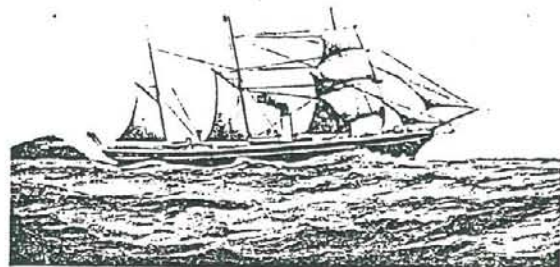


ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP
IN USE 1856-1859



THE "CITY OF SYDNEY" WAS BUILT SPECIFICALLY FOR THE AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY. SHE HAD 3 MASTS, SQUARE RIGGED AND A CLIPPER BOW. SHE FIRST ARRIVED IN SYDNEY ON 16 APRIL 1854 AFTER A 74 DAY VOYAGE FROM GREENOCK, SCOTLAND.

SHE WAS USED PRIMARILY AS A COASTAL MAIL AND PASSENGER SHIP BUT DID MAKE ONE RUN, UNDER CHARTER TO THE EGA LINE, TO SUEZ IN NOV. 1857.



(Painting by Dickson Gray)

S.S. CITY OF SYDNEY, 750 tons. Built in 1853.
Wrecked at Green Cape, N.S.W., 5th November 1862.

1865

AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

S.S. City of Melbourne

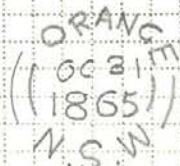
City of Melbourne was built for the A.S.N. Co. by J. & G. Thompson, Glasgow in 1862. She had a handsome yacht-like appearance, and a graceful clipper bow. 250' x 28' x 16' depth, 838 tons, single screw. Her bunker space being very limited, she used her sails to great advantage. She made several successful runs to Honolulu and San Francisco in 1870.



October 26, 1865. Letter paid at Melbourne by 6d. adhesive, issue of 1863. In 1855 the inland rate had been reduced to 4d. and the Ship Letter rate to 6d. per ½-oz.



October 30. Backstamp on arrival at Sydney, the letter was identified as a Ship Letter, per 6d. rate.



October 31-November 1. Transit backstamp at Orange and arrival at Molong, New South Wales.

1866

AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY
S.S. Alexandra

681 tons, built 1863 for Australasian Steam Navigation Co. The Australian Almanac of 1877, noted the Alexandra still among the Company's fleet. The A.S.N. Co. converted her into a hulk and she was later scuttled near Townsville, Queensland Sept. 1905.

The A.S.N.Co. lasted until 1887, when her fleet of 41 steamers was taken over by the British-India & Queensland Agency, Ltd., and operated as the Australasian United Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.



April 12, 1866. A paid letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria and endorsed: per "Alexandra". This small vessel was a coastal trader Melbourne-Sydney-Brisbane. Rated 6d. Ship Letter rate. Inland rate was 4d.



April 19. Receipt backstamp as a SHIP LETTER/QUEENSLAND.

1866

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
SCOTLAND TO NEW ZEALAND VIA SUEZ AND SYDNEY

S.S. Delta, Southampton to Alexandria
S.S. Golconda, Suez to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon
S.S. Geelong, Galle to Sydney



September 4, 1866. A letter paid at Lerwick, Scotland at the 6d. rate to New Zealand by the Issue of 1865, plate 5. Cancellation was at Lerwick with the Scottish type (rectangle of bars) British Post Office number "223". 6d. was the rate of January 1866 via Southampton and Suez. The rate via Marseilles was one shilling (12d.)



September 10. Transit backstamp at London. The P. & O. Line steamers carried this letter to Australia, as follows:

<u>Delta</u>	<u>Golconda</u>	<u>Geelong</u> (from Bombay)
Southampton Sep. 20	Suez Oct. 6	Galle Oct. 22
Gibraltar 25	Aden 12-13	K. Geo. Sd. Nov. 6
Malta 29	Galle 22	Melbourne 11-12
Alexandria Oct. 3		Sydney 14.



November 21. Arrival backstamp at Lyttelton, New Zealand. Letter was conveyed from Australia to New Zealand by sailing ship. Steamers did not appear on this route until the mid-1870's.

1867

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
SCOTLAND TO NEW ZEALAND VIA SUEZ AND SYDNEY

S. S. China, Southampton to Alexandria

S. S. Golconda, Suez to Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Geelong, Galle to Sydney



223

March 8, 1867. A letter paid at the 6d. rate to New Zealand by the 6d. Issue of 1865, plate 5. Cancellation was at Lerwick, Scotland with the Scottish duplex British Post Office number "223" of Lerwick. 6d. was the rate of January 1866 via Southampton and Suez. The rate via Marseilles and Suez was one shilling (12d.) Interestingly,

a rate of September 26, 1866, provided for the same 6d. rate to New Zealand via Panama. Letters by the Panama route had to be so endorsed.



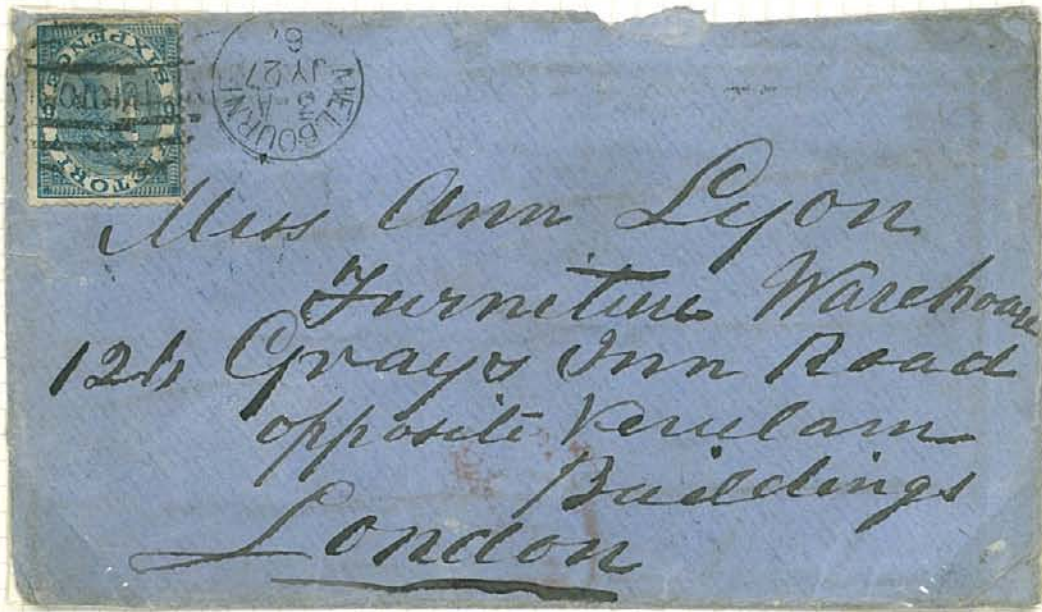
March 20. Transit backstamp at London. The P. & O. Line steamers carried this letter to Australia, as follows:

<u>China</u>	<u>Golconda</u>	<u>Geelong</u>
Southampton Mar. 20	Suez Apr. 4	Galle Apr. 20
Gibraltar 25	Aden 10- 11	King Geo. Sd. May 5
Malta 29	Galle 20	Melbourne 11
Alexandria Apr. 2		Sydney 13.



May 26. Arrival backstamp at Lyttelton, New Zealand. Letter was trans-shipped from Australia to New Zealand by sailing ship. Steamers did not appear on this route until the middle 1870's.

1867



TRANSIT BY P+O LINE SHIPS:

S.S. AVOCA

MELBOURNE 28 JULY '67
KING GEORGE SOUND 2-3 AUG
GALLE 17 AUG

S.S. NUBIA

GALLE 17 AUG '67
ADEN 27 AUG.
SUEZ 2 SEPT.

S.S. TANJORE

ALEXANDRIA 4 SEPT. '67
MALTA 7 SEPT.
GIBALTAR 11 SEPT.
SOUTHAMPTON 17 SEPT. '67

POSTAL RATE: 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE. IN EFFECT 1855 TO MID 1870.
FRANKED WITH R.L. # 118 (S.G. # 137)

1868

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
VICTORIA TO SCOTLAND VIA SUEZ AND SOUTHAMPTON

S. S. Avoca, Melbourne to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Mongolia, Galle to Suez

S. S. Pera, Alexandria to Southampton

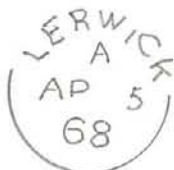


February 4, 1868. A single letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria, the 6d. rate here paid by the Issue of 1867. This was the January 1866 Postal Guide rate per ½-oz. via Suez and Southampton. The rate via Marseilles was 10d.

Transit by the P. & O. Line steamers was as follows:

<u>S.S. Avoca</u>		<u>S.S. Mongolia</u>		<u>S.S. Pera</u>	
Sydney	Feb. 2	Galle	Feb. 27	Alexandria	Mar. 16
Melbourne	4-5	Aden	Mar. 6-7	Gibraltar	23
King George Sound	11-12	Suez	13	Southampton	28
Galle	24				

LON & HOLYHEAD. R.P.O
IRISH MAIL-NIGHT



Mail out of Southampton was sent via the London & Holyhead Railway Post Office (backstamp) where it arrived at Holyhead March 30, backstamp. This letter was then sent cross country

across Scotland to Aberdeen, a port town that serviced the remote Orkney and Shetland Islands (Zetland).

April 5. Letter finally arrived at Lerwick on the Shetland Islands, a port city. The letter was then delivered to the addressee at Voe, nearby to Lerwick, backstamps.

1868

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

S. S. Geelong, Sydney to Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Simla, Galle to Suez

S. S. Ceylon, Alexandria to Southampton

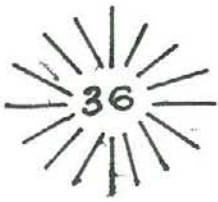


March 27, 1868. A single rated letter posted at Sydney, New South Wales. The 6d. rate, paid here by Issue of 1860, perf. 12, was the January 1866, Postal Guide rate per 1/2-oz. via Suez and Southampton. The rate via Marseilles and Suez was 10d. One must assume that the directional endorsement "via Marseilles" was ignored and the letter forwarded "via Southampton". Unpaid or underpaid letters were subject to a 6d. fine, here lacking.

A normal succession of P. & O. Line steamers transported the letter to England. Same vessels carried the mail to Suez whether via Southampton or Marseilles. S.S. Delta departed Alexandria May 10, arrived Marseilles May 23.

<u>S.S. Geelong</u>		<u>S.S. Simla</u>		<u>S.S. Ceylon</u>	
→ Sydney	March 28	Galle	Apr. 23	Alexandria	May 10
Melbourne	30-31	Aden	May 1-2	Southampton	May 23
KGS	Apr. 6-7	Suez	8		
Galle	20				

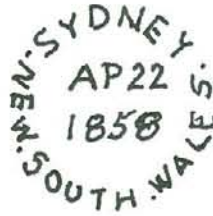
1868



BRAIDWOOD OBLITERATOR



ORIGINATING P.O.



SYDNEY TRANSIT
BACKSTAMP



ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP



P+O "AVOCA"

SYDNEY 23 APR. '68
MELBOURNE 25/26 APR.
K.G.S. 2 MAY
GALLE 15 MAY

P+O "MONGOLIA"

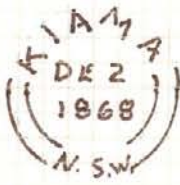
GALLE 19 MAY
ADEN 28 MAY
SURZ 4 JUNE

P+O "MASSILIA"

ALEXANDRIA 6 JUNE
MALTA 9 JUNE
GIBRALTAR 14 JUNE
SOUTHAMPTON 18 JUNE

POSTAL RATES 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE - IN EFFECT 1855 - TO MID 1870
THIS IS A DOUBLE RATE COVER - FRANKED WITH S.G. # 166

1868



ORIGINATING POST OFFICE

TRANSIT BACK STAMPS

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP



PO SHIPS

"GEE LONG"

SYDNEY 5 DEC. '68
MELBOURNE 8/9 DEC.
KGS 14/15 DEC.
GALLE 27 DEC.

"SURAT"

GALLE 30 DEC. '68
ADEN 8 JAN. '69
SUEZ 14 JAN.

"NYANZA"

ALEXANDRIA 16 JAN. '69
MALTA 23/24 JAN.
GIBRALTAR 24 JAN.
SOUTHAMPTON 29 JAN.

1869

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
BRITAIN TO VICTORIA VIA SUEZ AND CEYLON

S. S. Delta, Southampton to Alexandria

S. S. Simla, Suez to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Malta, Galle to Melbourne



Jan. 21, 1869. Letter paid at the village of Norton and transit through Manchester, England. The 6d. Australian rate of Jan. 1866 per ½-oz. via Southampton and Suez was paid by a copy of the 6d. Issue of 1867, plate 6. Obliteration at Manchester with the British Post Office duplex "498" of Manchester.

Jan. 22. Transit backstamp at London, where letter was forwarded on to Southampton to meet the sailing of the P. & O. packet for Alexandria with the Australian mails. P. & O. steamer transit was:

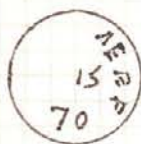
<u>S.S. Delta</u>		<u>S.S. Simla</u>		<u>S.S. Malta</u>	
Southampton	Jan. 23	Suez	Feb. 8	Galle	Feb. 24
Gibraltar	28	Aden	13-14	King Geo. Snd	Mar. 12-13
Malta	Feb. 1	Galle	23	Melbourne	14 →
Alexandria	5			Sydney	21.

March 19. Arrival backstamp at Melbourne, on route of the S.S. Malta.

March 20. Arrival backstamp at Tarnagulla, Victoria.



1870



UNKNOWN ORIGINATING POST OFFICE

TRANSIT MARKINGS

ARRIVAL



P+O SHIPS

"AVOCA"

SYDNEY 19 MAY 1870
MELBOURNE 21/22 MAY
KGS 28/29 MAY
GALLE 11 JUNE

"SIMLA"

GALLE 14 JUNE 1870
ADEN 24/25 JUNE
SUEZ 30 JUNE

"NYANZA"

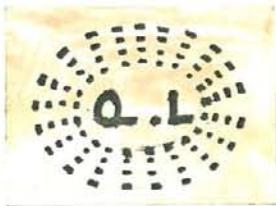
ALEXANDRIA 2 JULY 1870
MALTA 5 JULY
GIBRALTAR 9 JULY
SOUTHAMPTON 14 JULY

"AVOCA" 1480 TONS
IRON, SCREW M.V.
1ST VOYAGE 12 JUNE 1866

"SIMLA" 2441 TONS
IRON, SCREW M.V.
1ST VOYAGE 6 MAY 1854

"NYANZA" 2082 TONS
IRON, PADDLE M.V.
1ST VOYAGE 12 DEC. 1864

1870



OBLITERATOR ASSIGNED
TO BRISBANE. ROBSON
LOWE TYPE C-4



ORIGINATING POST
OFFICE BACKSTAMP



ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP



QUEENSLAND TO ENGLAND

61 DAYS IN TRANSIT

THIS COVER DEPARTED SYDNEY ON 31 DECEMBER 1870 ABOARD THE P&O LINE SHIP SS GEELONG FOR GALLE, CEYLON. PORTS OF CALL WERE MELBOURNE 2-3 JAN 1871, AND KING GEORGES SOUND 8-9 JAN WITH ARRIVAL GALLE ON 23 JANUARY 1871.

AT GALLE THE MAIIS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE P&O LINE SHIP S.S. MONGOLIA WHICH CLEARED FOR SUEZ ON 26 JAN '71 WITH A STOP AT ADEN ON 4 FEBRUARY AND ARRIVED SUEZ ON 10 FEBRUARY '71.

SUEZ TO ALEXANDRIA BY RAIL WHERE THE MAIIS WERE PUT ABOARD THE P&O LINE SHIP S.S. CEYLON WHICH CLEARED FOR SOUTHAMPTON ON 12 FEB '71. PORTS OF CALL WERE MALTA ON 16 FEB., GIBRALTAR 20 FEB AND ARRIVAL AT SOUTHAMPTON ON 25 FEBRUARY 1871.

POSTAL RATE TO UK - 6d PER 1/2 OUNCE - FRANKING IS S.G. # 91

S.S. GEELONG - IRON, SCREW STEAMER - 1835 TONS DISPLACEMENT.
ENTERED MAIL PACKET SERVICE 8 APRIL 1866.

S.S. MONGOLIA - IRON, SCREW STEAMER - 2833 TONS DISPLACEMENT.
ENTERED MAIL PACKET SERVICE 20 SEPT. 1865.

S.S. CEYLON - IRON, SCREW STEAMER - 2021 TONS DISPLACEMENT.
ENTERED MAIL PACKET SERVICE 20 OCTOBER 1858.

1871

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

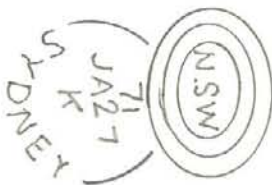
Sydney, N.S.W. to London via Southampton

S.S. Rangoon, Sydney to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Deccan, Galle to Suez

S.S. Nyanza, Alexandria to Southampton

The rates set in January 1866 from Sydney to all places via Suez and Southampton was 6d. per ½-oz., via Suez and Marseilles was 10d. per ½-oz.



January 27, 1871. A letter posted paid at Sydney at the 6d. rate to the U.K. by Packet Steamer via Suez and Southampton. Rate paid by the 6d. violet Issue of 1860, perf. 13.

P. & O. steamships carried this letter:

<u>S.S. Rangoon</u>		<u>S.S. Deccan</u>		<u>S.S. Nyanza</u>	
Sydney	Jan. 28	Galle	Feb. 22	Alexandria	Mar. 12
Melbourne	30-31	Aden	Mar. 3	Malta	15
King Geo.Sd.	Feb. 5-6	Suez	10	Gibraltar	19
Galle	19			Southampton	24



March 24. London Northern District Office receiving handstamp agrees with the arrival date of the Nyanza at Southampton.

1871

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
AUSTRALIA TO SCOTLAND VIA BRINDISI

Sydney to Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Avoca

Galle to Suez

S.S. Hindostan

Alexandria to Brindisi

S.S. Nyanza



May 22, 1871. Letter posted at Adelaide, South Australia. The September 18, 1869, rates to the United Kingdom via Brindisi were set at 1 shilling 1d. per half ounce. This letter was paid at 18 pence or 1sh. 6d., overpaid 5d., by 3 copies of the 6d. Issue of 1867. This letter went by connecting steamer to King George's Sound to meet the regular sailing port-of-call of the P. & O. steamers. Adelaide to King George's Sound is 998 miles. It was also directionally endorsed "via Brindisi" to indicate the faster Italian routing.

Sailing schedules of the P. & O. steamers were, as follows:

S.S. Avoca departed Sydney, May 18; Melbourne, May 20-21; King George's Sound, May 26-27 (where this letter went aboard); Galle, June 10. Mails were transferred to the Hindostan which left Galle June 14, arrived Suez, July 1. Mails went by rail across Egypt to Alexandria where the Nyanza departed July 2 to arrive at Brindisi July 5.



July 10. Mails went closed across France for final arrival at Renfrew, Scotland July 10. Backstamp. Transit at Paisley.

1872-73

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

Queensland to U.K. via Sydney and Suez

S.S. Bangalore, Sydney to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Surat, Galle to Suez

S.S. Massilia, Alexandria to Southampton



December 28, 1872. A letter posted at Brisbane, Queensland and paid 6d., the January 1866 rate to or from all Australian States to the U.K. via Suez and Southampton. Rate paid by the Queensland Issue of 1868 (S.G. 91).

The Queensland mails went by rail down to Sydney, New South Wales for forwarding onward by the P. & O. Line packets as follows:

<u>S.S. Bangalore</u>		<u>S.S. Surat</u>		<u>S.S. Massilia</u>	
Sydney	Dec. 31, '72	Galle	Jan. 24	Alexandria	Feb. 11
Melbourne	Jan. 2, '73	Aden	Feb. 2	Malta	15
King Geo. Sound	8	Suez	8	Gibraltar	20
Galle, Ceylon	22			Southampton	25.



February 26. Arrival backstamp at Bury, Lancashire tracks with the arrival of Massilia at Southampton on February 25.

1873

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

Australian Line

Holyhead & Kingstown Packet

S. S. Baroda, Sydney to Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Golconda, Galle to Suez

S. S. Mongolia, Alexandria, Egypt to Southampton



January 30, 1873. Letter paid at the 6 pence packet letter rate at Melbourne by a 6d. adhesive, Issue of 1863-67. The 1874 ton S.S. Baroda of the P. & O's Australian Line left Sydney Jan. 28, 1873 and was at Melbourne Jan. 30, departing Jan. 31 for the long trip to Galle, Ceylon where she arrived Feb. 26. S.S. Golconda, 1909 tons, picked up the Australian mails at Galle and delivered them to Suez on March 10. British mails still crossed the Isthmus of Suez overland by rail due to a British contract with the railway even though the canal was in use. First British through mails by ship did not occur until 1874.

March 12. The P. & O. steamer Mongolia, 2833 tons, left Alexandria, Egypt this date and arrived at Southampton March 27.

March 28. British mails for Ireland went across the Irish Sea by the Holyhead & Kingstown Packet where this letter received the H & K PACT backstamp. Kingstown is, the port city of Dublin.



1874

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
 VICTORIA TO FRANCE VIA BRINDISI

S.S. Nubia

S.S. Zambesi

S.S. Simla



June 16, 1874. A double weight ($\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. to $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.) letter paid at Melbourne at 11d. x 2 = 1sh.10d. with an attractive combination of Victorian stamps. Mail was carried to Brindisi as endorsed by a series of P. & O. Line ships. Schedules were, as follows:

<u>S.S. Nubia</u>		<u>S.S. Zambesi</u>		<u>S.S. Simla</u>	
Melbourne	June 16	Galle	July 8	Alexandria	July 28
Adelaide	18-19	Aden	19-20	Brindisi	31
King George Sd.	24	Suez	26		
Galle	July 8				

BY EGYPTIAN RAILWAY

August 2. French entry mark showing arrival of Australian mail via Brindisi, Italy. Ambulant (railway post office) at Modane, France which was reached by the Mont Cenis Tunnel from Bardonecchia, Italy.



S.2119

August 2. Travelling Post Office backstamp aboard the Paris to Bordeaux night train, 2nd Section. Brigade A handled the sorting.



August 3. Arrival backstamp at Surgères.



1875

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

U.K. to South Australia via Brindisi

S.S. Sumatra, Brindisi, Italy to Alexandria, Egypt

S.S. Mongolia, Suez to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Nubia, Galle to Melbourne



On December 1, 1873, the P & O. contract with Britain lapsed. Colonial government contracts to all Australian States went into effect. Rates via Southampton and San Francisco, 6d.; via Brindisi, 9d.

April 15, 1875. Letter to South Australia posted at Downton, Wiltshire, England, backstamp, and endorsed: Via Brindisi & Pointe de Galle.. The 9d. "Via Brindisi" rate was paid by a strip of three, a pair and a single of the penny red, plate 138, Issue of 1864, and a pair of the 1½d., plate 1, Issue of 1870.

Transit by P. & O. packets was:

<u>S.S. Sumatra</u>		<u>S.S. Mongolia</u> *		<u>S.S. Nubia</u>	
Brindisi	Apr. 19	Suez	Apr. 23	Galle	May 8
Alexandria	22	Aden	28	King Geo. Sd.	22-23
		Galle	May 7	Adelaide	27
				Melbourne	29.

*Mongolia had departed Southampton April 9 to Suez via the Suez Canal, picked up Sumatra's mails which went overland, Alexandria to Suez.



May 29. Melbourne arrival backstamp tracks with the recorded date of Nubia's arrival at that port.

1876



P.O "MONGOLIA"

MELBOURNE 27 JAN 1876
ADELAIDE 29 JAN
K.G.S. 2 FEB
GALLE 15 FEB

P.O "BOKHARA"

GALLE 18 FEB
ADEN 26/27 FEB
AT SUEZ 3, 4, 5 MARCH
MALTA 11 MARCH
GIBRALTAR 15/16 MAR.
SOUTHAMPTON 21 MARCH

1876

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

Victoria to Dublin via Suez Canal and Southampton

S.S. Bangalore: Melbourne to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon

S.S. Hindostan: Galle to Southampton

On December 1, 1873, the P. & O. contract with the Home Government lapsed. Colonial Government contracts were made with all Australian States. Rates via Southampton or San Francisco were 6d., via Brindisi were 9d.

A new contract to Australia or New Zealand was signed on September 27, 1875, via San Francisco, but this did not involve the P. & O.



April 24, 1876. A letter posted at Horsham, Victoria to Dublin, paid by a strip of 3 of the 2d. Issue of 1873, to make up the 6d. rate to the U.K. via Southampton.

April 26. This letter arrived too late at Melbourne to make the monthly P. & O. sailing for Southampton of the S.S. China, which had departed from Melbourne on April 19. It was held for the May sailing.

Steamships of the P. & O. Line conveyed this letter as follows:

<u>S.S. Bangalore</u>		<u>S.S. Hindostan</u>	
Melbourne	May 16	Galle	June 8
Adelaide	18-19	Aden	20-21
King George's Sound	23-24	Suez	27
Galle	Jun. 7	Malta	Jul 2
		Gibraltar	6
		Southampton	11.

July 12. Backstamp of the Holyhead and Kingstown Packet. Kingstown was the port city of Dublin, the packet line running across the Irish Sea from Holyhead,

H&K.P.A.C.T.
 JY 12
 1876

1876

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
Britain to Victoria via Southampton and Ceylon
S.S. Hydaspes, Southampton to Pointe de Galle, Ceylon
S.S. China, Galle to Melbourne

On December 1, 1873, the P. & O. contract with the Home Government lapsed. Colonial Government contracts were made with all Australian States. Rates via Southampton or San Francisco were 6d., via Brindisi 9d.



May 2, 1876. Letter posted at Blackburn, Lancashire and paid at the 6d. Australian rate by the Issue of 1873, plate 14. This letter was sent on to Southampton to meet the sailing of the P. & O. steamer from that port. The steamships now transited the Suez Canal, mails formerly went across Egypt to Suez.

The P. & O. dates were as follows:

<u>S.S. Hydaspes</u>		<u>S.S. China</u>	
Southampton	May 4	Galle	June 3
Gibraltar	9	King Georges Sound	17-18
Malta	13	Adelaide	22
Suez	18-19	Queenscliffe*	23 →
Aden	24	Melbourne	24
Galle, Ceylon	June 2		

*The Geelong mails to and from were handled at Queenscliffe on Port Phillip Bay at the mouth of Melbourne Harbor.



June 24. Geelong transit backstamp.

1877



ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP

LONDON INLAND OFFICE
DUPLIX OBLITERATOR
BRUMELL TYPE 37



TRANSIT BY P. & O. LINE SHIPS:

SS SUMATRA

SS KHEDIVE

SS SIAM

BRINDISI 6 AUG '77

ALEXANDRIA 9 AUG

OVERLAND →

SUEZ 10 AUG. '77

ADEN 15 AUG.

GALLE 23 AUG →

GALLE 24 AUG. '77

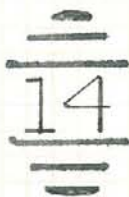
KING GEORGE SOUND 6 SEPT.

ADELAIDE 10 SEPT.

MELBOURNE 12 SEPT.

POSTAL RATE: 8d PER 1/2 OUNCE - FIRST WENT INTO EFFECT 1 JULY 1876 FOR
MAIL VIA BRINDISI.

1877



ORIGINATING OFFICE
DUPLIX CANCEL



TRANSIT MARK
BACKSTAMP



ARRIVAL MARK
BACKSTAMP



TRANSIT BY P&O LINE SHIPS:

SS CHINA

MELBOURNE 7 AUG. '77
ADELAIDE 9-10 AUG.
KING GEORGE SOUND 14-16 AUG.
GALLE 29 AUG.

SS MIRZAPORE

GALLE 30 AUG. '77
ADEN 9 SEPT.
SUEZ 14 SEPT.
MALTA 19 SEPT
GIBRALTAR 23 SEPT
SOUTHAMPTON 28 SEPT. '77

AS OF 1874 THE P&O CONTRACT
PERMITTED MAIL TO PASS THRU
THE SUEZ CANAL VICE
GOING OVERLAND SUEZ TO
ALEXANDRIA.

POSTAL RATE: IN MID 1870 THE INTERCOLONIAL SHIP LETTER RATE WAS REDUCED
FROM 6d TO 3d PER 1/2 OUNCE, ~~THIS CASE IS DOUBLE RATE.~~
EXCEPT FOR MAIL TO THE U.K WHICH REMAINED AT 6d PER 1/2 OZ.

1880

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA TO SOUTH AFRICA VIA ENGLAND

P. & O. Line: S. S. Assam, Melbourne to Galle, Ceylon

S. S. Poonah, Galle to Suez

S. S. Pera, Alexandria to Brindisi

Union Steamship Co., S. S. Arab, Southampton to Cape Town



April 27, 1880. Letter paid at Victoria to Cape Town, South Africa at the 1 shilling rate, Issue of 1876, blue on blue. As neither Victoria nor the Cape Colony were U.P.U. members at this time, the transporting U.P.U. country, in this case Great Britain, was entitled to double the U.P.U. rate or $2\frac{1}{2}d. \times 2 = 5d.$ Victoria was debited for that amount, shown in red manuscript. Transit by P. & O. packet was:

<u>Assam</u> : Sydney	Apr. 23	<u>Poonah</u> : Galle	May 18	<u>Pera</u> : Alexandria	Jun. 5
Melbourne	25-28	Aden	27	Brindisi	8
KGS	30	Suez	Jun. 2-4		
Galle	May 18	Southampton	18		

June 11. London transit backstamp. London Times, Mon., June 14. The following mail steamships will leave Southampton during the ensuing week:...the Arab (Union Company), Capt. S.R.P. Caines, on Thurs. with mails for St. Helena, the Cape of Good Hope and Natal.

Times, Sat., June 19. The Union Steamship Company's steamer Arab, Capt. Caines, R.N.R., arrived at Plymouth yesterday from Southampton. 91 bags of mails, 20 passengers and one packet of telegrams were embarked, and at 1.45 p.m. the Arab was dispatched for Maderia, St. Helena, the Cape of Good Hope &c. She takes out in all 116 bags of mails, 173 pass.

London Times, Sat., July 10. TABLE BAY, July 9. The Union Company's steamer Arab from Southampton has arrived here.

July 9. Arrival postmarks at Cape Town and Stellenbusch, Cape Colony.



1880

NEW ZEALAND TO SCOTLAND VIA SOUTHAMPTON
P. & O. Line: S. S. Malwa, Melbourne to Galle, Ceylon
S. S. Rohilla, Galle to Southampton



August 26, 1880. Letter posted at Gore on the South Island of New Zealand. It was directionally endorsed "Via Brindisi" and paid 6d. by a strip of 3 of the 2d. rose Issue of 1874 (water-marked N.Z. and small star). However, rate by British packet via Brindisi, GPO notice of 5 June 1876, was 8d. Letter was marked in red by manuscript at left, "Insufficiently prepaid", i.e. via Brindisi. It was forwarded on via Southampton, the rate by this route being 6d.

Backstamp at the Railway Travelling Post Office. SD/1 cancellation is a railway obliterator, Southern Division.

August 28. P. & O. S.S. Malwa departed Sydney, arrived at Melbourne Aug. 30. Departed Melbourne Sept. 3, Adelaide Sept. 5, arrived Galle, Ceylon Sept. 21.

September 22. S.S. Rohilla departed Galle, arrived Southampton October 21.

October 22. Transit backstamps, Glasgow to Edinburgh.



1882

VICTORIA TO GERMANY, BRITISH MAIL VIA BRINDISI
 P. & O. Line: S.S. Indus, Melbourne to Colombo, Ceylon
S.S. Terehan, Colombo to Suez
S.S. Malwa, Alexandria to Brindisi

BRINDISI
 8
 NOV 1
 82
 (A)



September 25, 1882. A letter to Germany posted paid at Melbourne. The GPO notice of 30 December 1879, noted a February 1 (1880) rate via Brindisi to the U.K. of 7d. per ½-oz., prepaid. This cover at 8½d. would appear to carry a 1½d. charge Brindisi to Germany (Australian States did not enter the U.P.U. until October 1, 1891.) Payment is by 2d. violet Issue of 1873, ha' penny rose Issue of 1878, and 6d. Issue of 1867.

Transit to Europe was by P. & O. Line packets as follows:

<u>S.S. Indus</u>		<u>S.S. Terehan</u>		<u>S.S. Malwa</u>	
Sydney	Sep. 20	Colombo	Oct. 16	Alexandria	Nov. 3 (ca.)
→ Melbourne	22-26	Aden	24-25	Brindisi	8
Adelaide	28-29	Suez	30-31		
King Geo. Sound	Oct. 3-4	Malta	Nov. 7		
Colombo	16	Gibraltar	11		
		London	17		

November 8. P. & O. S.S. Malwa arrived at Brindisi.

November 10. German arrival backstamp. AUSG. = AUSGABE, distribution office.

AUSG.
 10
 NOV 11 82

1883

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

(Per Kirk)

S.S. Paramatta	Sydney	Mar. 23, 1883
	Melbourne	25-29
	Adelaide	31
	KGS	Apr. 4-5
	Colombo	17.

London Times, THURS. April 19

COLOMBO, April 18. The P. & O. steamer Kaiser-i-Hind, from Calcutta, left here this afternoon for Suez, Plymouth, and London, with the homeward China and Australian mails ex Paramatta, from Sydney, and Cathay, from Shanghai; also specie for Europe value £ 10,000.

London Times, Thurs., April 26

ADEN, April 25. The P. & O. steamer Kaiser-i-Hind, from Calcutta to London has arrived here.

London Times, May 3.

SUEZ, May 2. The P. & O. steamer Kaiser-i-Hind, from Calcutta (April 9), arrived at Suez on the 30th of April, and entered the Canal to-day for Plymouth and London.

London Times, May 4.

SUEZ CANAL, May 2. The P. & O. steamer Kaiser-i-Hind, from Calcutta, left Port Said at 6:30 a.m. to-day for Plymouth and London.

London Times, Monday, May 7.

THE MAILS

BRINDISI, May 5. The P. & O. Royal Mail steamer Tanjore with the India, China and Australian mails, ex Bokara and Kaiser-i-Hind, arrived here to-day, and the mails left for London. Letters in London Monday evening (May 7).

London Times, May 10.

The Inman steamer City of Richmond arrived at Queenstown at 2 10 p.m. yesterday, embarked mails and passengers and proceeded for New York.

N.Y. Times

Arrived N.Y. May 19, 1883: Steam-ship City of Richmond (br.,) Land, Liverpool via Queenstown, 11 ds to Inman Steam-ship Co.

1883

VICTORIA TO U.S., BRITISH MAIL VIA BRINDISI

P.&O. Line: S.S. Paramatta, Sydney to Colombo, Ceylon

S.S. Kaiser-i-Hind, Colombo to Port Said

S.S. Tanjore, Port Said to Brindisi

Inman Line: S.S. City of Richmond, Queenstown to N.Y.

DEAL
MR 28
83
VICTORIA

(358)

HEPBURN
10 A
MR 27
83

BRUNSWICK
MR 28
83
VICTORIA



March 26, 1883. Letter paid at Deal, Victoria, Australia at 1sh.8d., equivalent to 40¢ U.S. Nearest interpretation of this rate would be: double letter (at 15¢ U.S. rate x 2 = 30¢) at 1sh.3d. + U.P.U. rate of 2½d. x 2 = 5d. (10¢) to total 1sh.8d. U.S. was allowed a credit of 2¢ x 2 = 4¢, shown as red "4".

March 26. Transit backstamps. Brunswick is a borough and north-eastern suburb of Melbourne.

Transit by P. & O. steamers;

<u>S.S. Paramatta</u> : Sydney Mar. 23	<u>Kaiser-i-Hind</u>	<u>S.S. Tanjore</u>
Melbourne, 25-29	Colombo Apr. 18	Port Said May 2
Adelaide 31	Aden 25	Brindisi 5
Colombo, Apr. 17	Port Said My. 1	

May 7. London arrival backstamp, mail from Brindisi May 5.

May 10. London Times. Inman steamer City of Richmond arrived at Queenstown 2:10 PM yesterday, embarked mail and passengers and proceeded to New York.

N.Y. Times. Arr. N.Y. May 19. Steam-ship City of Richmond (Br.,) Land, L'pool via Q'town, 11 ds.

LONDON
MY 7
83

NEW-YORK
MAY
19
PAID
ALL

1888

SCOTLAND TO MELBOURNE VIA LONDON

P. & O. Line: S.S. Oceana, London to Melbourne

November 11, 1888. Newspaper posted at the 1½d. printed matter rate, paid by the one penny newspaper wrapper and the half penny vermilion QUEEN Victoria Jubilee Issue of 1887. Being posted on November 11, this piece of mail missed the sailing of the P. & O. Line's S.S. Massila which departed from London November 1 and called at Brindisi November 12.



November 11. Newspaper Branch killer obliterates the wrapper and stamp at Edinburgh. This newspaper was forwarded on to London where it went out on the P. & O. Liner S.S. Oceana. Her dates were as follows:

London	Nov. 16
Gibraltar	20
Malta	23-24
Brindisi	25-26
Port Said	28-29
Aden	Dec. 5-6
Colombo	11-12
King Geo. Sound	22
Adelaide	24-25
Melbourne	26-29 →
Sydney	31.

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO. 1903
 VICTORIA TO LONDON VIA BRINDISI
 S.S. Australia

SOUTH MELBOURNE V.C.
 JY 14 03

REGISTERED MELBOURNE
 PM 4.50
 14 7 03

Schedule of the Australia
 Sydney Sat. July 11. 1903
 Melbourne 13-16
 Colombo 29
 Brindisi Aug. 14
 Overland to London 17

REGISTERED LONDON, E.C.
 17 AU 03
 A

R. M. S. "~~Australia~~" Australia

108 H.R. Penney, Esq.
 Messrs. Jaffar & Co. Ltd.
 41 Coleman St. E. C.
 London England

Registered July 11



SOUTH MELBOURNE V.C.
 JY 14 03

1891

PENINSULAR and ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

R.M.S. Carthage



October 13, 1891. Letter put into mail at Adeliad, South Australia for Calcutta. South Australia became a member of the U.P.U. in 1891. Directed per the Royal Mail Steamer Carthage, a 5000 ton P&O vessel in service from 1881-1903, when she was scrapped.

Nov. 2, 1891. Transit backstamp at Bombay.

Although directed "R.M.S. Carthage", this circular rate letter was sent on ahead of her. Carthage departed Sydney Oct. 29, arrived Colombo Nov. 23.



Nov. 3. Calcutta receipt backstamp, 1st delivery.

R.M.S. Massilia departed Sydney Oct. 3 and Melbourne Oct. 13, then to Adelaide where this letter went aboard. Massilia arrived at Colombo Oct. 26 where letter went ashore for forwarding to Bombay, a November 2 arrival per backstamp.

1894

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.

London Times, Tues., Aug. 21, 1894.

The P. & O. s. AUSTRALIA from Sydney for London, left Albany on Saturday morning (Aug. 18.)

WED., Aug. 29. The AUSTRALIA, from Sydney for London, arrived at Colombo yesterday morning with the Australian mails.

THURS., Aug. 30. The AUSTRALIA leaves Colombo at 4p.m. to-day with the China and Australian mails and £ 105,000 in specie.

FRI., Sept. 7. The AUSTRALIA arrived at Aden yesterday morning.

TUES., Sept. 11. The AUSTRALIA from Sydney for Brindisi, Plymouth and London, left Port Said yesterday evening with the India, China and Australian mails.

FRI., Sept. 14. From Lloyd's, &c.
THE MAILS

The AUSTRALIA, from Sydney for London, arrived at Brindisi at 7a.m. yesterday (Sept. 13), the mail train left at 9 a.m. and letters are due in London on Saturday afternoon.

1894

PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
S.S. Rome, Sydney to Brindisi via Suez Canal



November 5, 1894. A letter to London posted at Melbourne at double the U.P.U. rate of 2½d. per ½-oz. Payment is by the Victoria Issue of 1890. Victoria had entered the U.P.U. on October 1, 1891. Letter is endorsed: Per RMS Rome/via Adelaide.

The homeward voyage of the S.S. Rome under the 1888 contract was:

Sydney	Nov. 3	Colombo	Nov. 27
Melbourne	5-7	Aden	28
Adelaide	11	Port Said (via Suez)	4 Dec. *
King George Sound	16	Brindisi	7

*Rome transited the Suez Canal.



December 10. Mail sent across Europe by rail. London arrival backstamp.

1909



ORIGINATING P.O.



TRANSIT
BACKSTAMP



ARRIVAL
BACKSTAMP



P+O LINE SHIP

"MONGOLIA"

SYDNEY 7 APRIL 1909

COLOMBO 28 APR.

BRINDISI 12 MAY

1862

AUSTRALIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY
S.S. City of Sydney



January 24, 1862. Letter posted at Melbourne and endorsed: pr. City of Sydney. It is paid at double the Ship Letter rate of 6d. x 2 = 1/- by the Issue of 1859, perf. 12.



January 27. Backstamped as a Ship Letter on arrival at Sydney.

This was the last year of the City of Sydney, originally built in 1853. On November 5, 1863, when on a voyage from Melbourne to Sydney, she struck the rocks 3 miles from Green Cape, N.S.W. Though there was no loss of life, the vessel was a total loss.

1898

AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY
S.S. Birksqate

In the early 1880's the Birksqate and Tenterden were purchased from the Black Diamond Company. In December 1886, the Queensland Shipping Company took over the fleet and goodwill of the A.S.N.Co. In 1898 S.S. Birksqate was still running to the islands and still designated as the Australasian Steam Navigation Company.

Per A.U.S.N.Co's S.S. "Birksqate."

Mr. T. Manning,

Noumea,

New Cal.



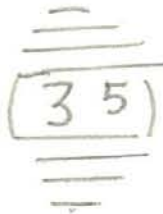
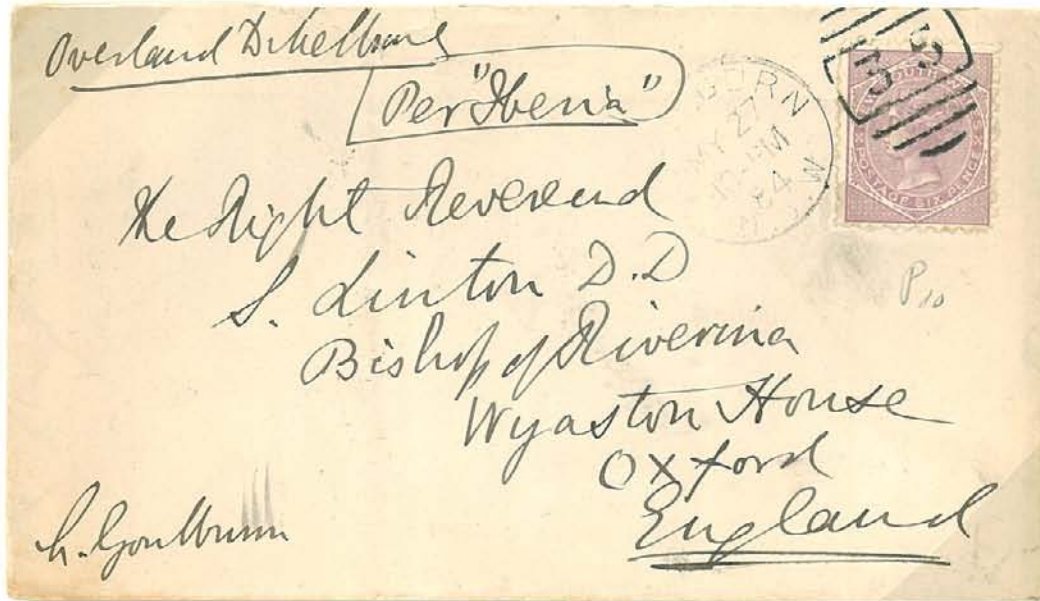
April 27, 1898. Letter to New Caledonia franked with the 2½d. New South Wales Issue of 1897, paying the U.P.U. rate.

1884

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

S.S. Iberia

Melbourne to Naples



May 27, 1884. A letter to England posted at the 6d. rate, paid by the New South Wales Issue of 1862. Letter is endorsed: Overland to Melbourne and: Per "Iberia". S.S. Iberia of the Orient Line was scheduled to leave Sydney on May 29, so this writer directed his letter by rail to catch her port-of-call at Melbourne. There is a travelling Post Office, Train No.3 backstamp.

May 28. Transit backstamp at Albury, N.S.W.

May 30. Iberia touched at Melbourne where this letter went on board. She called at Adelaide June 2.

July 6. Iberia arrived at Naples after transiting the Suez Canal.

July 7. Oxford, England arrival backstamp.



1886

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD

S.S. Garonne

Sydney to Brindisi



November 10, 1886. A letter posted at Sydney, New South Wales and endorsed: pr. Orient S.S. Garonne. It is paid at the 6d. rate to England by the Issue of 1872, wing margin copy.

November 11. S.S. Garonne of the Orient Line departed from Sydney on her northbound passage (N 189). Her dates were:

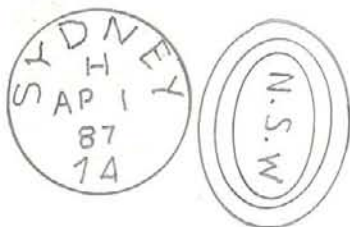
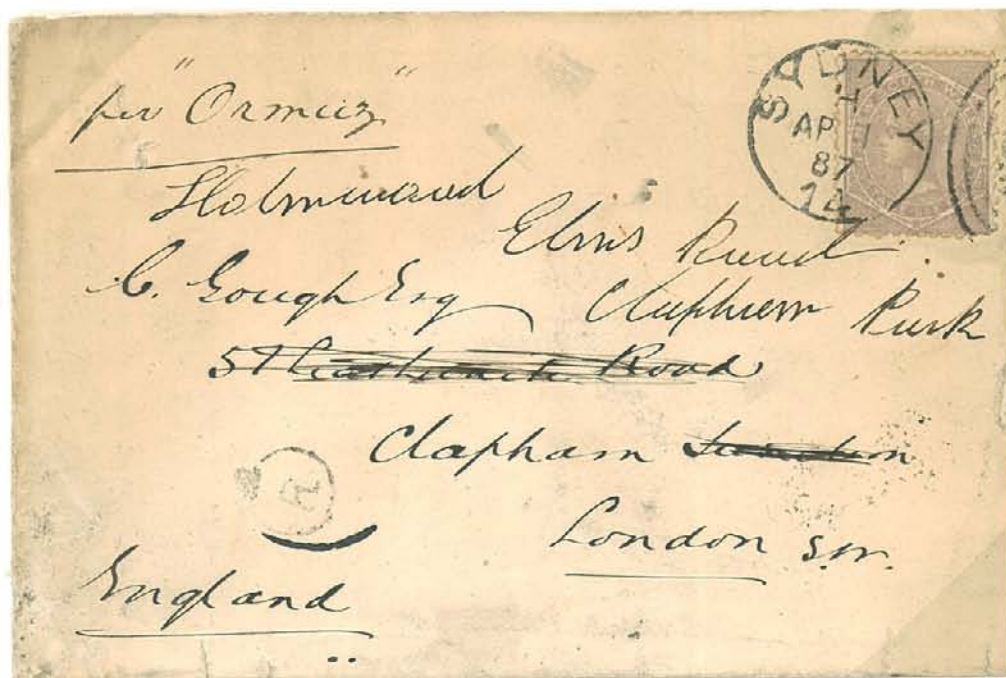
Sydney	Nov. 11
Melbourne	12
Adelaide	15
Brindisi	Dec. 18.



December 20. Stoke-on-Trent transit and Uttuxeter arrival backstamps.

1887

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.
S.S. Ormuz, Sydney to London via Brindisi



April 1, 1887. A letter to London posted at Sydney, New South Wales, and paid at the March 2, 1880, rate which had reduced the 7d. rate via Brindisi (rate of Feb. 1, 1880) to 6d. Paid by the Issue of 1882. Letter endorsed: per "Ormuz".

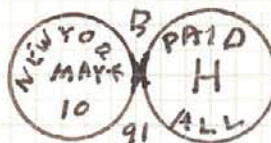
April 1. S.S. Ormuz of the Orient Line departed from Sydney this date, touched at Melbourne April 2 and Adelaide the 4th.

May 1. Ormuz arrived at Brindisi, Italy. Mail went by rail across Europe to London.

May 2. London arrival backstamp. Letter was forwarded from St. Catherine Road to Clapham Park, London, S.W. Same day transit back into the mails.



1891



ORIGINATING POST OFFICE

TRANSIT BACKSTAMPS

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP



ORIENT LINE SHIP
VOYAGE N 303

"ORIENT"

SYDNEY 23 MAR. '91

MELBOURNE 24 MAR.

ADELAIDE 25 MAR.

ALBANY 28 MAR.

COLOMBO 8 APR.

NAPLES 27 APR.

PLYMOUTH 1 MAY

THE NEW YORK TIMES OF 11 MAY 1891 REPORTED:
MARINE INTELLIGENCE

NEW YORK -- SUNDAY, MAY 10
ARRIVED

"SS ETRURIA (Br.) HAINES, LIVERPOOL
AND QUEENSTOWN 8 ds, WITH MDSK
AND PASSENGERS TO VERNON H.
BROWN & CO. ARRIVED AT THE BAR
AT 2 A.M."

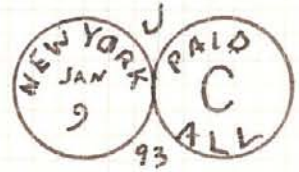
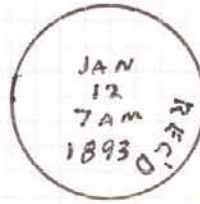
THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

S.S. Orient, Sydney to Plymouth

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Etruria, Queenstown to New York

1892



ORIGINATING POST OFFICE

TRANSIT

ARRIVAL

TRANSIT



ORIENT LINE SHIP
"SS OROYA"
 SYDNEY 28 NOV. '92
 MELBOURNE 29 NOV.
 ADELAIDE 30 NOV.
 ALBANY 3 DEC.
 COLOMBO 23 DEC.
 NAPLES 28 DEC.

THE NEW YORK TIMES OF 10 JAN. 1893 REPORTED:
 MARINE INTELLIGENCE
 NEW-YORK MONDAY, JAN. 9
 ARRIVED
 "SS SERVIA, (Bt) DULTON, LIVERPOOL
 8 ds., WITH MDSE. AND PASSENGERS
 TO VERNON H. BROWN + CO. ARRIVED
 AT THE BAR AT 10 35 A.M."

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.
S.S. Oroya, Sydney to Naples
CUNARD LINE
R.M.S. Servia, Liverpool to New York

1892



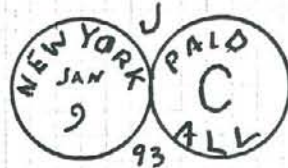
ORIGINATING POST OFFICE



TRANSIT



ARRIVAL



TRANSIT



ORIENT LINE SHIP
"SS OROYA"
 SYDNEY 28 NOV. '92
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 AT THE BAR AT 10 35 A.M."

1893

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

S.S. Cuzco, Melbourne to Naples

Pacific Steam Navigation Co.: S.S. Iberia, Liverpool to Santiago



June 22, 1893. A registered letter to Chile posted at Hochkirch, Victoria, stamps cancelled by the barred "161" of that town. Double the 2½d. U.P.U. rate paid by the 2d. stamped envelope, a one penny Issue of 1890 and four copies of the ½d. rose, Issue of 1886. A 2d. registry fee stamp has fallen off.

June 22-23. Transit backstamps at Hamilton and Melbourne. S.S. Cuzco of the Orient Line carried this letter. Her dates were:

Sydney	June 26	Albany	July 1
Melbourne	27	Colombo	12
Adelaide	28	Naples	30

July 31. Letter in transit at London. It was forwarded on to Liverpool. Backstamps.

London Times, August 3. The Pacific Company's S. Iberia left the Mersey yesterday afternoon (Aug. 2) for Chile.

September 9. Arrival backstamp at Santiago. The letter was forwarded to Concepcion.

September 12. Concepcion receiving backstamp.



1897

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

S.S. Orizaba

Sydney to U.K. via Naples



January 2, 1897. U.P.U. rated single letter at 2½d. per ½-oz. paid at Sydney, New South Wales by 2d. Emu Issue of 1888 plus ½d. slate Issue of 1892, perf.12 x 11¼.

S.S. Orizaba of the Orient Line sailed from Sydney Jan. 4, her dates were:

Sydney	Jan. 4, 1897
Melbourne	5
Adelaide	6
Albany	9
Colombo, Ceylon	20
Naples	Feb. 7



Feb. 8. Arrival backstamp at Parkstone, England.

1900

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD

S.S. Ormuz

The Orient Line began regular steamship service from England to Australia in 1877. In the early days a close association with the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. existed. The London Times of Monday Aug. 27, 1900 gives the note: The Orient Line s. Oruba leaves London for Australia, calling at Plymouth, Gibraltar, Marseilles, Naples, Port Said, Suez, Colombo, Freemantle, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney on Friday.

Ormuz, 6031 tons, was built in 1886 by Fairfield Shipbuilding, Glasgow, 465' x 52', single screw, 17 knots. She was sold French 1912, renamed Divona.



R. In S. Ormuz.



August 6, 1900.
Letter endorsed: RMS Ormuz, was posted at Launceston, Tasmania and paid at the 2½. U.P.U. rate by a copy of the adhesive, Issue of 1892.

*Mrs Fox,
29 Mount Park Road,
Ealing,
London W. —*

Various issues of the London Times trace the voyage of the Ormuz by the MAIL & SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE columns (From LLOYD'S &c.)

Aug. 10. The Orient Line s. ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Adelaide at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Sept. 12. The ORMUZ arrived at Marseilles yesterday.

Sept. 15, Sat., ORMUZ left Gibraltar at 11 p.m. on Thursday (13th) and is due at Plymouth at 8 a.m. on Monday.

Sept. 18, Tues. s. ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Plymouth at 9:30 a.m. yesterday, and is due at Tilbury at 7 a.m. today.

Sept. 19. ORMUZ arrived at Gravesend 1:45 p.m. yesterday.

Sept. 12. Arrival backstamp at London. Ormuz's mail went ashore at Marseilles Sept. 11 and her mails overland reached London 7 days before the Ormuz did.



London Times, August 10, 1900.

MAIL & SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

(FROM LLOYD'S, &c.)

THE MAILS

The Orient Line s. AUSTRAL, from Sydney for London, arrived at Colombo at 1 p.m. yesterday. The ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Adelaide at 2 p.m. yesterday (Aug. 9.)

Ibid. Sept. 12

The Orient Line s. ORTONA, from Sydney for London, left Freemantle at Midnight on Monday, and the ORMUZ arrived at Marseilles at 7 a.m. yesterday.

Ibid. Sept. 15 (SAT.)

The Orient Line s. ORMUZ left Gibraltar at 11 p.m. on Thursday (Sept. 13), and is due at Plymouth at 8 a.m. on Monday.

The ORMUZ passed Sagres on Friday.

Ibid. Sept. 18 (TUES.)

The Orient Line s. ORMUZ, from Sydney for London, left Plymouth at 9:30 a.m. yesterday, and is due at Tilbury at 7 a.m. to-day.

Ibid. Sept. 19 (WED.)

The s. ORMUZ arrived at Gravesend at 1:45 p.m. yesterday.

The Orient Line route is shown by a notice appearing in the Times, Aug. 27, 1900, MONDAY.

The Orient Line s. ORUBA leaves London for Australia, calling at Plymouth, Gibraltar, Marseilles, Naples, Port Said, Suez, Colombo, Freemantle, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, on Friday.

ORIENT-PACIFIC LINE

1904

S.S. Oroya

March 1, 1904. A registered letter posted at Melbourne, Victoria paid by the 3d. brown orange and 5d. chocolate, Issue of June, 1901. Rate double U.P.U. at 2½d. x 2 = 5d. plus 3d. registration.

London Times, Friday, March 4. Orient-Pacific Line's s. OROYA, Sydney for London, left Adelaide 2 P.M. yesterday (March 3).

<u>Oroya's</u> dates were:	Adelaide	Mar. 3	Suez	Mar. 27
	Freemantle	7	Port Said	28
	Colombo	16-17	Naples	Apr. 1

Times, Monday, April 4. Orient-Pacific s. OROYA, arrived Naples 6 a.m. Friday (April 1) with the Australian mails, which left by 9 a.m. train and were due in London yesterday, and left at 5 p.m. for London.



B

This Envelope can only be lawfully used by Government Officials on public business. Any use by Officials on private business, or by others under any circumstances is punishable.

On His Majesty's Service.

J. D. F. Evans Esq.

20 Hagley Rd.

*Birmingham
England*

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

Melbourne, 13/04



1907

THE ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

R.M.S. Orontes

9028 tons, 513' x 58', twin screw, 18 knots. Built 1902 by Fairfield Shipbuilding Co., Glasgow. The first Orient Line ship to be fitted with quadruple expansion engines, 2 double ended and four single ended boilers. 10,000 I.H.P., steam pressure 215 psi. Was in service England-Australia via Suez Canal (except for troop ship duty in 1916.) Scrapped in 1926.



May 25, 1907. Postcard from a passenger on board the Orontes notes he is in mid-Mediterranean and will be in Naples at 8 A.M. on May 26. and leaves for Port Said at midnight.

May 26. Card posted at Naples, Italy for London. It is franked by a one penny stamp of South Australia, permitted under the U.P.U. regulations for "Paquebot" letters which may bear stamps of the country of registration of the conveying ship.