

1770

SHIP LETTERS

London to Newport, Rhode Island via Boston

Ship London, Capt Calif

Treble Letter

Colonial Postal Rates of 1765

July 17. 1770. Letter docketed "From Hartford & Powell".
Endorsed: p London Calif/ via Boston.



 To *Bo.* *1/6.16*
 Henry Merchant Esq.
 in Newport
 Rhode-Island
 London Calif
 via Boston

BOSTON

B. 67



B. 73A

1/6.16

October 8, 1770. The ship London arrived at Boston. Letter postmarked with the magenta BOSTON, recorded by Blake as used from April 12, 1770 to October 10, 1774. 15 mm "Bishop" mark used concurrently.

Boston Gazette, October 15, 1770. CUSTOM-HOUSE BOSTON. Entered In: Ship London, Calif, London.

Letter rated by Act of Parliament, effective October 10, 1765, for a treble letter (3 sheets), 60 to 100 miles, at 6 pence per sheet x 3 = 18d. (1sh.6d.). This was held equivalent to 6 penny-weight (dwt.) of silver. To this was added 16 grains of silver for a Ship Letter charge, making total due 6dwt.16gr. silver, shown as 6..16.

1786

SHIP LETTERS

Baltimore to Portsmouth, N. H. via Boston Brig Betsy

American Continental Congress Rates

Ordinance of October 18, 1782

This Ordinance re-enacted the rates of 1775 (April 30). These rates were expressed in pennyweight (dwt.) and grains (gr.) of silver (24gr. = 1 dwt.)

| | | |
|--|--------|-------|
| 60 miles or under | 1 dwt. | 8gr. |
| 60 to 100 miles | 2 dwt. | |
| For each add'l. 100 miles or fraction, add | | 16gr. |
| On each incoming Ship Letter, to inland rate add | | 16gr. |

3.16
Capt. James McFlure
Portsmouth
in Exeter
New Hampshire
Brig. Betsy }
Capt. Wales }

January 31, 1786. Letter docketed, "N.W. Gilman, Letter from Baltimore," cover endorsed: Briga^e (Brigantine) Betsy/ Capt. Wales.

Boston Gazette and Country Journal, March 6, 1786. Arrived at Boston March 4, Brig (sic) Betsy, Wales from Baltimore.

Letter was rated under the Ordinance of 1782 at 2dwt. 60 to 100 miles inland. This is verified by the 1775 postal rate tables, Boston to Portsmouth. To this was added the 16gr. Ship Letter charge to total 2dwt. 16gr., shown as 2:16 at upper right.

1790

SHIP LETTERS

CAYENNE, FRENCH GUIANA TO NEW YORK VIA BOSTON

Brig Barbary, Capt. Ingraham.

Rates by Congressional Resolution of October 20, 1787



March 16, 1790. Letter datelined at Cayenne.

Boston Gazette, May 24, 1790. No arrivals for the previous week are listed from Cayenne. ENTERED INTO CUSTOMS: Brig Barbary, Ingraham, Demarara (British Guiana), the most logical conveyance for this letter.

BOSTON MAY 16

B. 136

137

B. 141A 141B

May 16, 1790. Letter incoming to Boston was rated as a Ship Letter, as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Miles Inland, 200 to 300..... | 2dwt. 16gr. |
| Each Ship Letter, Add to Inland.... | 16gr. |
| | <hr/> |
| | 3dwt. 8gr. |

N.B.: 1 pennyweight (dwt.) = 24grains (of silver).

Letter was charged collect at New York money of 1sh.8d. (1/8 in manuscript), equivalent to 3dwt. 8gr.

EX. BLAKE LISTING COVER
FWS B. 141A, 141B

1790

SHIP LETTERS

L'ORIENT, FRANCE TO BOSTON

Ship Lively

August 10, 1790. Letter headed at L'Orient and discusses problems relevant to trade including whale oil and bone, and says inter alia, "The french Whaling Ships are coming in, two arrived here & more are daily expected, so that tho' the price of 100- is low we have no reason to regret the sale, but we should have been obliged to do worse.

"Pot & Pearl ashes still continue in the same demand as p. our last tho' we have had 200 Barrels arrived p the Lively (who takes this)..."



BOSTON OCT. 18

B. 136

137

Sh 5. 16

138

139

October 18. Lively arrived at Boston*. Letter was rated under the Congress Resolution of October 20, 1787, which reduced the 1782 rates by 25%: up to 60 miles at one pennyweight (dwt.) x 5 = 5 dwt. plus 16 grains Ship Letter charge, total 5 dwt. 16 gr. as shown in manuscript.

These straight line BOSTON marks followed by the date are seen from 1789 to 1792 in various formats.

N.B.: This cover is ex-Blake and the recording cover for B. 136-139 inclusive.

Blake rates this cover at Packet single 4 dwt. via Boston, Ship 16 gr. + 1 dwt. under 60 miles = 5 dwt. 16 gr. [Inclosures are noted in the body of the letter.]

*Not verified - A.W.

1794

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Wiscasset, District of Maine via Boston

BOSTON - *W*

May 9, 1794. Letter datelined at Liverpool and endorsed on face: p the Perserverance/ Captn Deland. Later "via Boston" was added.

The Perserverance is no doubt the 161 ton Ship Perserverance, built 1786 at York River, Virginia, the only ship so named before 1795 in the Holdcamper List.



BOSTON

W 19

29
19

or

29
19

B.151

B.167

July (or June) 29, 1794. Arrival "Bishop" mark, 14.5 mm., indistinct, arrival of Perserverance at Boston. BOSTON 23.5 x 3.5 mm. receiving straight line stamp.

Letter rated Act of February 20, 1792, single letter at zone rate 150 to 200 miles of 15¢ plus 4¢ Ship Letter fee, total 19¢ as shown in manuscript.

1794

SHIP LETTERS

Grenada to Saybrook, Conn. via Boston and New London

BOSTON

Sh

Schooner Sculpion

July 20, 1794. Letter datelined at St. Georges, Grenada from Captain John Dickenson to his owners giving market conditions. Cover is docketed on the face, "for'd from W.I."



BOSTON

21 AV

Sh

No 1/2

August 21, 1794. The schooner Sculpion, Capt. Rich, arrived at Boston. Her arrival was noted in the Boston Mercury, Aug. 26, 1794: Marine Journal,

CUSTOM HOUSE, BOSTON, ENTRIES: Sch. Sculpion, Rich, Grenada.

Letter was rated, Act of February 20, 1792, single letter, 100 to 150 miles, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c plus Ship Letter fee 4c (provided in the Act of 1792) = 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ c due. Letter marked "Sh" to explain the reason for the additional 4c.

August 26. Transit postmark at New London, Connecticut, letter enroute to Saybrook.

N LONDON
AD
26

1794-95

SHIP LETTERS

Brest, France to Philadelphia via Boston



October 23, 1794. French Revolution letterhead datelined at Brest in the Revolution style dating: le 2 Brumaire (fog month.) These months were named on a philosophical basis, such as Frimaire (sleet); Nivôse (snow); Ventôse (wind); Germinal (seed), etc. Letters bearing these dates may be found from November 24, 1793 to December 31, 1805.

This letter was handed to a ship's captain bound to the U.S.

BOSTON

B. 151



B. 182



April 6, 1795. Ship arrived at Boston where the letter received the "Bishop" or "Franklin" date mark 15.5 mm., and the 23.5 x 3.5 mm. BOSTON.

Letter was rated Act of February 20, 1792, single letter at the zone rate 250 to 350 miles of 20¢ plus the 4¢ Ship Letter fee, total 24¢, shown in manuscript.

1795-96

SHIP LETTERS

MALAGA, SPAIN TO PHILADELPHIA VIA BOSTON

Danish Brig Two Friends, Capt. Jacobsen

September 11, 1795. French Revolutionary dated letter, le 29
Fruetidor, addressed to "Citoyens" Dutith & Wachsmith at Philadel-
phia. Datelined at Marseilles.



BOSTON



Sh 24

Massachusetts Mercury, March 1, 1796. Feb. 29, the Danish Brig
Three Friends, Jacobsen, from Malaga for Boston, 80 days, has arriv-
ed at the Vineyard.

March 7. Three Friends arrived at Boston.

This letter was handed to a ship's captain out of Marseilles and
strife-torn revolutionary France. He in turn handed it to the
captain of the Three Friends, which left Malaga on the southern
coast of Spain about December 11, 1795. No other Boston arrivals
are recorded from the area on these dates.

Letter rated, Act of 1792, 250 to 350 miles, Boston to Philadelp-
hia plus 4¢ Ship Letter charge, or 20¢ + 4¢ = 24¢ as shown in the
manuscript notation.

1795-96

SHIP LETTERS

ROTTERDAM TO NEWBURYPORT VIA BOSTON

Brig Ann

November 27, 1795. A letter datelined at Rotterdam including price current and a printed notice of the reforming of a partnership. It is endorsed: p The Ann, Robt. Lord (sic) addressed to Newberry Port.

December 8, 1795. The brig Ann sailed for Boston.



B.152

BOSTON

B.173

Boston Price-Current and Marine Intelligencer, March 7, 1796.
PORT OF BOSTON, Wednesday, March 2. Arrived Brig Ann, Lloyd, 85 days from Rotterdam, lost Daniel Bush of Norfolk overboard.

Letter rated under Act of February 20, 1792, single letter, 60 to 80 miles, at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢, shown in manuscript. The "prices current" sheet was so flimsy it was not caught as a second "sheet."

15mm. Franklin mark shows date of arrival 2 MR.

1796

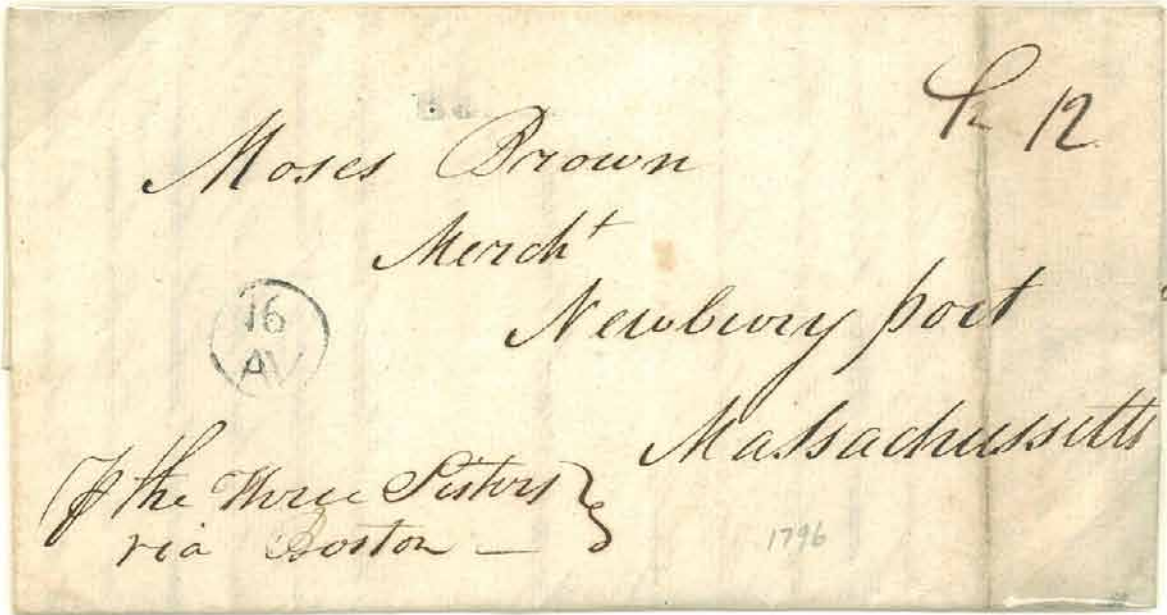
SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO NEWBURYPORT VIA BOSTON

Brig Three Sisters

May 26, 1796. A duplicate letter datelined at Liverpool and endorsed: p the Three Sisters/Via Boston.

June 5. The brig Three Sisters, Capt. Delano, departed from Liverpool.



BOSTON



12

B.173

B.152

Independent Chronicle and Universal Advertiser, Boston, Thursday August 18, 1796. PORT OF BOSTON. Monday, Aug. 15 arrived Brig Three Sisters, Delano, Liverpool 73 days... July 27 lat 42,18 long 50 was boarded from a French squadron consisting of two 84 gun ships, one 36 gun frigate - had been out 2 months on a cruize - had captured 27 prizes, and intended to come to Boston.

Letter rated Act of February 20, 1792, for a single letter conveyed 30 to 60 miles, Boston to Newburyport, at 8¢ plus 4¢ Ship Letter charge, total 12¢ due, shown in manuscript. Franklin mark is 15½mm., type used 1792-1796.

1799-1800

SHIP LETTERS

London to Beverly, Mass. via Boston

BOSTON

Ship Thomas Russell

November 22, 1799. Letter docketed at London, and direction-ally endorsed: pr. Thomas Russel/Capt. Jackson. It is addressed to "Beverly near Boston."



BOSTON

B. 173



B. 189

March 30, 1800. Boston Independence Chronicle, Thursday April 3, 1800.

SHIP NEWS
FORT OF BOSTON

Sunday, March 30, arrived Ship Thomas Russell, Jackson, London 52 days.

52 days from London would put the Thomas Russell's departure from London around Feb. 7, 1800. A legal letter, this was held for over 2 months after being written.

Letter rated under Act of March 2, 1799, only 28 days after these rates became effective. Not over 40 miles, Boston to Beverly, 8¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 10¢.

This was the Act that established a 2¢ charge over ordinary postage for Ship Letters (except for letters addressed to the port of entry), previously the additional Ship Letter charge had been 4¢.

1800

SHIP LETTERS

Dublin to Newburyport via Boston

Ship Venelia

April 10, 1800. Letter dated at Dublin (Ireland). The writer, Capt. Wm. Thomas complains, "I cant get no cash here. I must take Bills on London. Thear (sic) is no such thing as selling a bill in the Isle..." He is discharging his cargo and will sail as soon as he settles his account with Mr. Wilson.

April 21. Capt. Thomas had to wait for an "opportunity" to get his letter on board a ship bound to America. The ship Venelia sailed from Dublin on April 21.



BOSTON

SHIP



Newburyport Herald, May 30, 1800. SHIPPING NEWS. Boston, May 27. Arrived ship Venelia, Bates, Dublin, 34 days.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, single letter conveyed 40 to 90 miles, Boston to Newburyport, at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1800

SHIP LETTERS

BILBOA, SPAIN TO BEVERLY, MASS. VIA BOSTON

Schooner Elizabeth, Capt. Lathrop

April 9, 1800. Letter headed at Bilbao (Bilboa in English) and contains a duplicate letter of March 7, 1800. The latter notes, "Your... esteemed letter of 22 Jan^{ry} has been handed me by Capⁿ Jonathan h. Lovet of your Schooner Hawk..."

The April 9 letter is endorsed: p favour of/Capⁿ J. G. Lathrop/Q.D.C. The latter is a talismanic inscription: Quam Deus Conservet = Whom God Preserve, wishing divine protection for the perils of the sea.

May 6. Schooner Elizabeth sailed from Bilboa.

BOSTON

24
IV

SHIP

26



Newburyport Herald, Friday June 27, 1800. Port of Boston: Arrived June 24, Schr. Elizabeth, Lathrop, Bilboa, 50 days.

June 24. This letter received the straight line BOSTON mark and the Franklin mark 23/IV for 23 June.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, conveyed less than 40 miles, Boston to Beverly at 8¢ x 3 (treble letter) = 24¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 26¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1800

SHIP LETTERS

Amsterdam to Philadelphia via Boston
BOSTON SHIP

Schooner Rebecca



May 21, 1800. Letter datelined at Amsterdam. It was handed directly to the captain of the schooner Rebecca, which sailed May 24 for Boston.

28
17

BOSTON

SHIP

09

J. Russell's Gazette, Monday July 28, 1800.

PORT OF BOSTON, Sunday July 27. This day arrived schooner Rebecca, Capt. Sampson from Amsterdam, 54 days from the Texel.

Rates of March 2, 1799, zone 300 to 500 miles, Boston to Philadelphia, 20¢ x 3 (treble letter) = 60¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 62¢ as shown in manuscript.

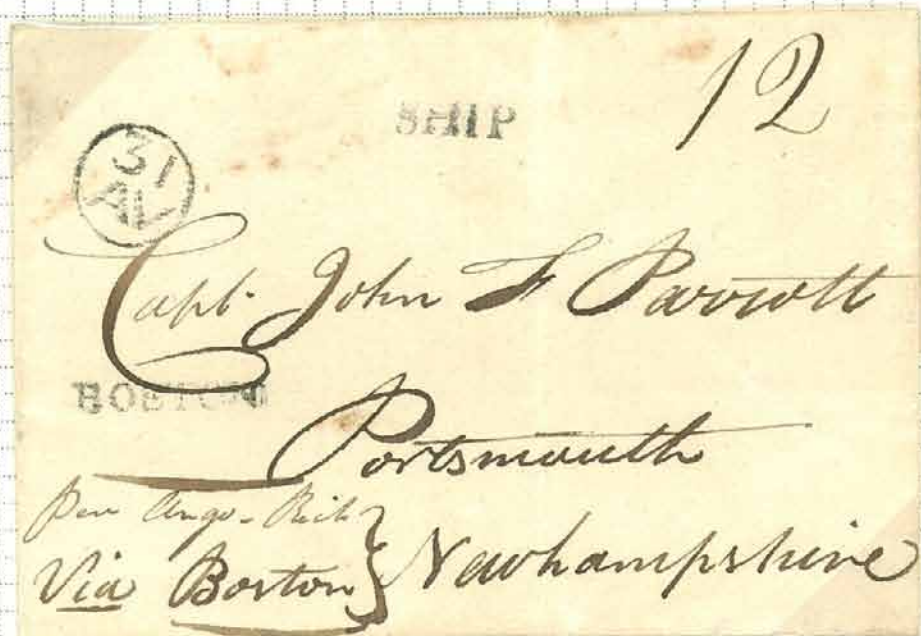
1800

SHIP LETTERS

London to Portsmouth, N.H. via Boston

BOSTON SHIP

Ship Argo



July 23, 1800. Letter handed to Captain Rich of the Ship Argo at London per endorsement: Via Boston.



BOSTON

SHIP

12

B. 114

B. 173

B. 181

J. Russell's Gazette, Congress St. (formerly Quaker Lane), Boston: Monday September 1, 1800:

Arrival from Europe.

"On Saturday the Ship Argo, Captain Rich, arrived here in 37 days from London.

"It was hardly to be expected that an arrival direct from London, in a short passage and furnishing papers, by 16 days, should not have something highly interesting to the American public - but such is the fact."

Rate of March 2, 1799, zone 40 to 90 miles 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢.

1800

SHIP LETTERS

MADEIRA ISLAND TO PHILADELPHIA VIA BOSTON

Brig Republican, Capt. Hodgkins

July 20, 1800. Letter datelined at Funchal, Maderia, and the writer informs his brother that he is off to the Bengal (Calcutta.)



BOSTON



SHIP

B. 173

B. 114

B. 181

J. Russell's Gazette, Boston, Monday August 25, 1800:

Arrived Boston Saturday August 23, brig Republican, Capt. Hodgkins, 35 days from Madeira.

Letter marked incoming to Boston as a Ship Letter, both with the SHIP handstamp as well as the "Sh" manuscript.

Rated Act of 1799, 300 to 500 miles inland at 20¢ zone rate plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 22¢ due.

1801

SHIP LETTERS

Belfast to Providence via Boston

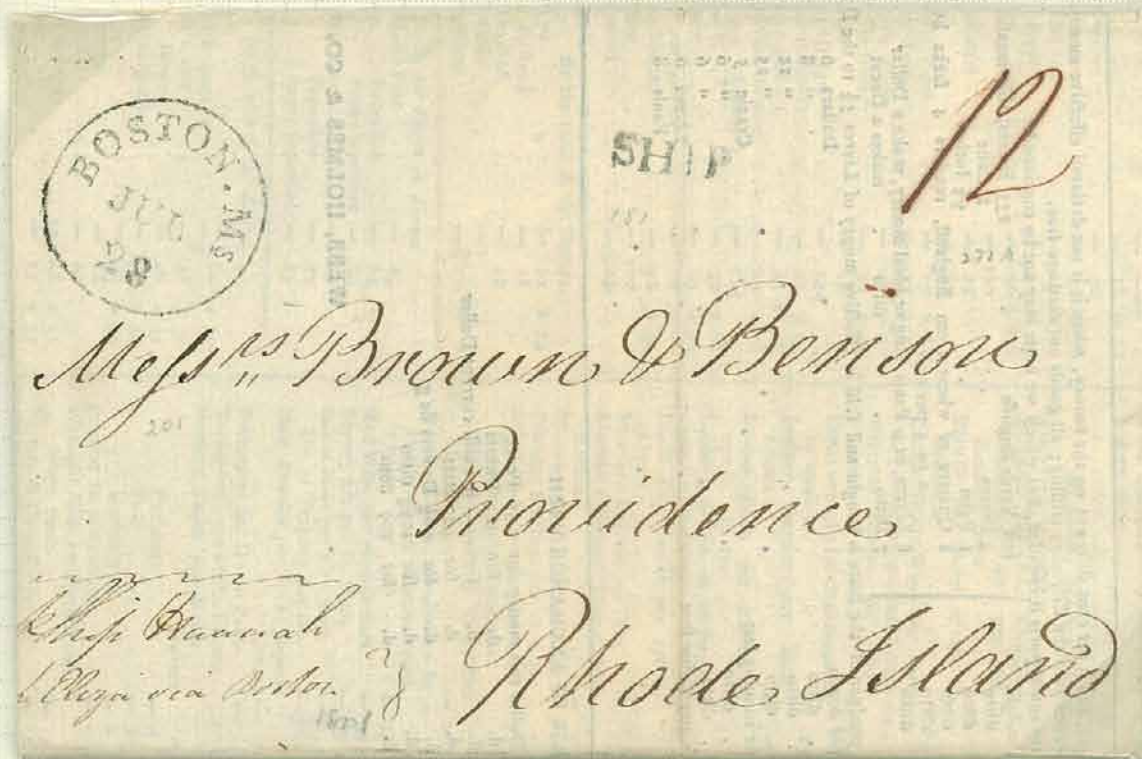
BOSTON. Ms - SHIP

Ship Hannah & Eliza

March 18, 1801. Prices current datelined at Leghorn (Livorno) and reference is made to the Blockade of Leghorn and all the ports of the Mediterranean "are declared in a state of Blockade" (by the British.) Napoleon's Campaigns in Italy during 1796-7 resulted in his establishing the Cisalpine Republic in Northern Italy. N.B.: By the signing of the Treaty of Amiens in 1802, France was again at peace for the first time since 1792, although the peace was to be short lived.

May 18, 1801. This letter was forwarded by private courier across Europe to Belfast, Ireland, where the firm of James Holmes & R. Davis added their note, "...many english houses had been necessitated to leave Leghorn by order of the existing government."

Holmes & Davis placed the letter aboard the ship Hannah & Eliza bound for Boston.



July 28, 1801. Arrival of Hannah & Eliza at Boston. Rated under Act of March 2, 1799, single letter 40 to 90 miles (45 miles Boston to Providence) at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ as shown in manuscript.



SHIP

B. 201 B. 181

1801

SHIP LETTERS

St. John's, Newfoundland to Boston.

Schooner Swift, Capt. La Bas

September 21, 1801. Letter datelined at St. Johns N.F. Land concerns sending sums of money to England. The writer, Richard Reed, notes inter alia, "I wrote them (in England) yesterday by a Merchand vessel without convoy and she may not arrive safe, however copies shall be forwarded as opportunitys offer."



SHIP
a. 121

Boston Gazette October 8, 1801. ARR. BOSTON, TUES. Oct. 6, Sch. Swift, La Bas, from St. Johns 10 days.

SHIP handstamp struck at Boston has the distinctive small "S". Blake notes 15 x 4½ mm., used in black April 28, 1800.

Letter subject to the 60 Ship Letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of entry, Act of March 2, 1799. No rate shown, a cash transaction done on an account basis.

1801

SHIP LETTERS

Cork, Ireland to Portland, District of Maine via Boston

BOSTON. MS - SHIP

March 16, 1801. Printed notice, an announcement regarding the establishment of an American commission business at Cork by John & George Newsom. Cover was endorsed, "p. Commerce/via Boston."



SHIP

B.201

B 264

April 26, 1801. Arrival stamp at Boston where Blake lists this mark earliest use Jan. 29, 1801. It is difficult to identify the Commerce as so many vessels bore that name during this era.

Letter rated under the Act of March 2, 1799 at 12½¢ for a letter going 90 to 150 miles, Boston to Portland, plus the 2¢ Ship Letter charge for a total of 14½¢ shown in manuscript.

1801

SHIP LETTERS

Bremen to New York via Boston

BOSTON. Ms - SHIP

Brig Salem, Capt. Russell

June 22, 1801. Letter datelined at Bremen. A commercial letter noting, as usual, the poor condition of the markets. It was handed to Captain Russell of the brig Salem, headed for Boston.



SHIP

B.201

B.264

August 29, 1801. Arrival at Boston of the Brig Salem. She was of 137 tons, built 1800 at Newburyport.

This letter was rated under the Act of March 2, 1799, rates, double letter 150 to 300 miles (Boston to New York) at 17¢ x 2 = 34¢ + 2¢ captain's gratuity = 36¢, Ship Letter.

1801

SHIP LETTERS

NEWRY, IRELAND TO NEW YORK VIA BOSTON

Ship Fame, Capt. Lewis

August 15, 1801. A letter datelined at Newry concerns the shipment of meals and grains on Government account per four vessels, the Franklin, Resolution, Hantonia, and Rosconner. The cargos on the latter two vessels were much damaged due to improper stowage of the grain casks, and the meal became "sower." 300 casks in each vessel were so effected.



B.201

October 18, 1801. PORT OF BOSTON, Sunday. Last evening arrived the ship Fame, Capt. Lewis, 42 days from Liverpool. Spoke nothing.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, for a single letter 150 to 300 miles inland plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge, total 19¢ due, per manuscript notation.

1801

SHIP LETTERS

LONDON TO PROVIDENCE VIA BOSTON

Ship Minerva

August 19, 1801. A letter dated at London concerning various accounts. It also contains a duplicate letter of August 11 sent to Brown & Ives per the Peacock via New York. This letter is endorsed: P. Minerva/ Via Boston.



SHIP

12

B.201

B.181

B.271A

October 10. Minerva arrived at Boston. Letter rated, Act of 1799, single letter, Boston to Providence, zone of 40 to 90 miles, at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due.

1802

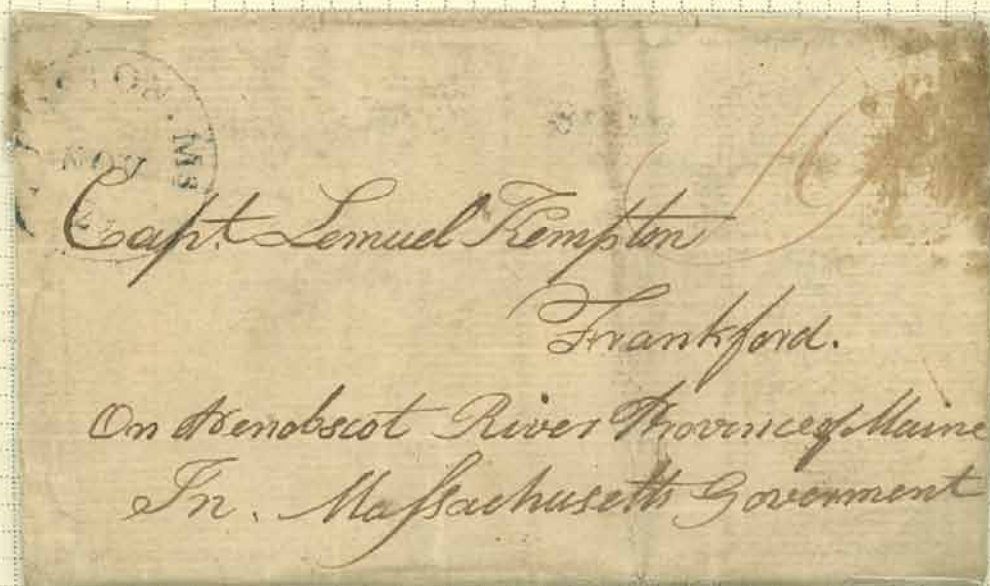
SHIP LETTERS

St. Johns, Newfoundland to Frankfort, District of Maine, via Boston
Sloop Dove, Capt. Lane

November 1, 1802. Letter is datelined at St. John (sic) and concerns the writer's establishment of a "scholl." It bears an interesting address:

Capt. Lemuel Kempton
Frankford
On Penobscot River Province of Maine
In. Massachusetts Government.

He was referring to Frankfort on Marsh Stream, one mile west of the Penobscot River, 15 miles below Bangor. At that time Maine was the District of Maine, a part of Massachusetts (until 1820.)



SHIP

B. 201

B.264

(as) B. 267

Boston Gazette, Monday Nov. 29, 1802. Arrived sloop Dove, Lane, St. Johns, N.F., lumber, &c.

Letter rated, Act of March 2, 1799, single letter, zone of 150 to 300 miles, 17¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 19¢ due.

1805

SHIP LETTERS
LONDON TO PROVIDENCE VIA BOSTON

Ship Galen, R. Hinckley, Commander

January 31, 1805. Letter datelined at London and enclosed a duplicate of Jan. 10, 1805 per the Adriana for New York.

Letter is endorsed: p Little James/Capt. Hutchins, but was transferred at the Downs to the Ship Galen, as the latter reports leaving Little James at London.



SHIP

B202

271

Boston Gazette. Arrived SAT. April 20, 1805. Regular Trading Ship Galen, R. Hinckley, commander, from London. Cargo dry goods for sundry persons. Sailed from the Downs in co. with Little James for Boston.

Letter struck at Boston with the 5 star BOSTON (Blake 202), an early impression. Blake records used in black from March 14, 1805 to Nov. 15, 1808. Also a fine sharp and very early SHIP (B. 271). Blake notes first use in black April 21, 1806, here a full year earlier.

Letter rated Act of 1799, 40 to 90 miles at 10¢ x 2 (double letter) = 20¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 22¢ due.

1805

SHIP LETTERS

MADRAS, INDIA TO BOSTON

Ship Aurora

August 14, 1805. A letter, in French, datelined at Madras. It is endorsed: by the Ship Aurora Cap. Cook/ for Boston. The ship Aurora of 294 tons was built in 1795 at Philadelphia.



B.262

SHIP

B. 271

April 27. Aurora arrived at Boston. Letter rated, Act of 1799, for a letter conveyed 300 to 500 miles, Boston to Philadelphia, at 20¢ x 2 (double letter) = 40¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 42¢ due.

May 1. Docket notes receipt at Philadelphia.

1806

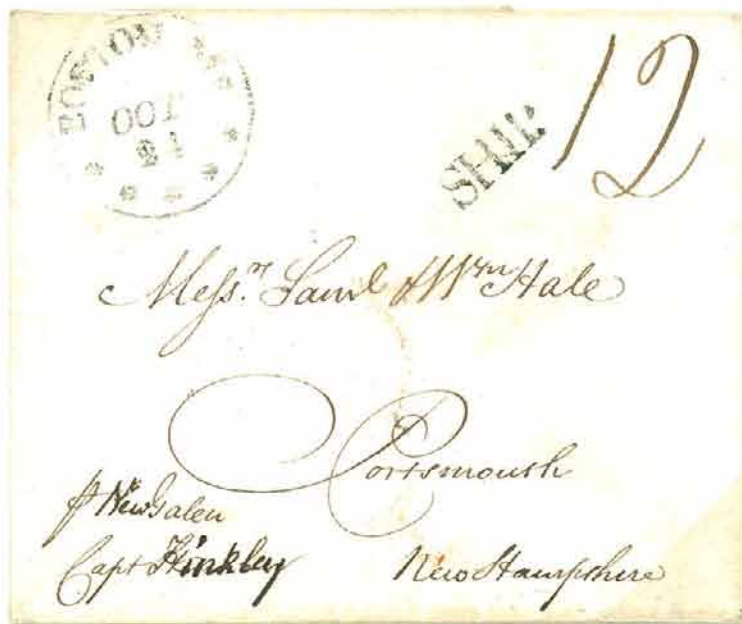
SHIP LETTERS

LONDON TO PORTSMOUTH, N.H. VIA BOSTON

Ship New Galen, Robert Hinkley, Commander

August 19, 1806. Letter docketed, no location indicated. Endorsed: p New Galen/Capt. Hinkley.

Sept. 9. The ship New Galen sailed from the Downs for Boston.



B.202

SHIP

B.271

Independent Chronicle (Boston), Oct. 27, 1806. Boston, Thursday Oct. 23. Arrived the regular trading ship New Galen, Robert Hinkley, Commander, 45 days from London with mdse. to E. Morse and others. Sailed from the Downs Sept. 9, from the landsend Sept. 12.

A rather worn down impression of the SHIP (B.271) mark used from April 1805 to Nov. 1808.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, 40 to 90 miles at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1807

SHIP LETTERS

BORDEAUX TO PORTSMOUTH, N.H. VIA BOSTON

Ship Francis, Capt. Pratt



March 18, 1807. Letter headed at Bordeaux, France and endorsed: Ship Francis/ via Boston.



B.202

SHIP

B.270

Independent Chronicle (Boston). Arrived at Port of Boston, Saturday April 25. Ship Francis, Pratt, 32 days from Bordeaux, cargo wine, brandy &c.

This letter was rated at the Act of March 2, 1799, rate of 10¢ for a letter conveyed 40 to 90 miles plus a 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1807

SHIP LETTERS

THE BOSTON IMPORTING COMPANY, Boston to Liverpool

Ship Romeo

Forwarding Agents

E. Boehm & J. Taylor, London

This line operated with three ships, Sally, Packet and Romeo, all about 300 tons, from 1805 - 1811.

January 21, 1807. Letter datelined at Copenhagen. It went under separate cover to the forwarding agents E. Boehm & J. Taylor at London. They endorsed it on the reverse dates: London 17 Feby 1807, and on the face: p. Romeo.

Ft Mill, SC 29715

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B.202

SHIP

B.266

Boston Gazette,
THURSDAY, April 23,
1807. Arrived at
Boston April 22 -
The Boston Import-
ing Company's ship
Romeo, Capt. Le
Boiquet from Lon-
don and 44 days
from the Downs.



Letter rated Act of 1799, zone rate not over 40 miles, Boston to Gloucester, at 8¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 10¢ due.

It is to be noted that while the normal routing of the Boston Importing Company vessels was to Liverpool, this voyage originated at London.

1810

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Boston



August 23, 1810. Buchanan & Benn's Price Current for America datelined at Liverpool. It contains a listing of articles of import to France and the duties thereon as decreed by Napoleon, also a copy of a letter from the French Minister of Foreign Relations to the U.S. Ambassador Mr. Armstrong saying that the Emperor loves the Americans because of the rescinding of an embargo to French vessels against entering U.S. ports.



SHIP

8.203

8.268

October 16, 1810. Received at Boston as a Ship Letter and rated Act of Mar. 2, 1799, Boston to Wiscasset, District of Maine, as an inland letter, 150 to 300 miles at 17¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 19¢ due, shown in red manuscript.

Until sailing dates from Liverpool can be obtained, it is impossible to assign a vessel to this letter. The following vessels entered the port of Boston from Liverpool on Oct. 16:

Success, Crosby
Mary, Lincoln

Herald, Stone
Cerberus, Lufkin

John, Hopkins

1815

SHIP LETTERS

New Orleans to Portsmouth, N.H. via Boston in 25 days

Brig Francis, Capt. C. Hillard

WAR RATES, increased 1799 rates by 50%



June 11, 1815. Docket notes letter from W.M. Shackford at New Orleans. It was handed to Capt. Hillard of the brig Francis.



SHIP

B. 204

B. 272

July 14, 1815. Boston Gazette, Monday, July 17.

RUSSELL, CUTLER & CO'S. Shipping List:

Arrived at Boston July 14, brig Francis, C. Hillard, 25 days from New Orleans. Sugar, cotton and molassas, to C. Colledge & Co., owners and John Pratt - passenger Capt. W.R. Russell. Capt. Hillard politely favored us with the following list:- spoken on the river bound up, Europe, Wiscassett; Atalanta, —; etc.

Letter rated Act of December 23, 1814, war rates effective Feb. 1, 1815, single letter 40 to 90 miles, zone rate of 10¢ + 50% for War Rate = 15¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 17¢, shown in manuscript.

1816

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON

Ship George Porter, Capt. Foster

March 20, 1816. Letter datelined Gt. Nelson St. East (Liverpool). It was endorsed: p George Porter/ for Boston. This ship left Liverpool on April 7.



Boston Gazette, May 9, 1816. Arrived May 6, ship Geo. Porter, Foster, Liverpool, 30 days.



B.205



B.214

+ SHIP =



B.275

May 7. The Boston post office originally rated this letter at the 6¢ Ship Letter rate, if addressed to the port of entry. However, it was destined for Dedham near Boston. This took the Act of April 9, 1816 rate, effective May 1, of not over 30 miles zone at 6¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 8¢ as shown in manuscript. The 6¢ SHIP was invalidated by overstriking with the small straight line SHIP mark. This letter was processed just 6 days after the rate became effective.

1816

SHIP LETTERS

Portsmouth, England to Boston

Ship William

Treble Rate



May 23, 1816. Letter docketed by recipient. It was endorsed: p. William. William was a 298 ton ship built 1815 at Portland, District of Maine.



SHIP

B. 205

B. 272

August 5, 1816. Boston Gazette, arrived Boston Aug. 5, 1816, William, Meicher, Portsmouth.

Letter was rated, Boston to Wiscasset, District of Maine, for a treble letter, Act of April 9, 1816, going 150-400 miles at $18\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ single $\times 3 = 55\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge (captain's fee) = $57\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ due as shown in manuscript. This letter illustrates that the Ship Letter charge was not multiplied by the weight rates as the captain received only 2¢ per letter regardless of weight.

1818

SHIP LETTERS

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN TO BOSTON VIA LIVERPOOL

Ship Milo, Capt. S.G. Bronson

February 12, 1818. Letter dated at Stockholm quotes prices for iron to Brown & Ives, with whom they, D. Erskine & Co., had done business with before. To pay for any iron ordered (prices current included) they suggest a mixed cargo of cotton, rice and tobacco. They specifically recommend Maryland & Virginia tobaccos, Virginia Stems, cotton Georgia Upland, rice White Havannah and Brazil Sugars.

This letter went under cover to a forwarding agent at Liverpool who endorsed it: p Milo/ to Boston.



March 27, 1818. The ship Milo sailed from Liverpool for Boston. The purser struck their unique (and desirable) SHIP MILO handstamp.



SHIP

Newburyport Herald, Friday Morning, April 24, 1818. SHIP NEWS. Arrived Boston on Monday last. Ship Milo, Bronson; 25 days from Liverpool with goods - she brought 2500 letters and dispatches for Government. Left Ship Draper, Adams to sail 1st April.

Letter rated, Act of 1816, single letter 30 to 80 miles, Boston to Providence, at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1819

SHIP LETTERS

EASTPORT, MAINE TO BOSTON

Schooner Harmony, Capt. Griffith

September 18, 1819. Letter headed and dated at Eastport, Me. It concerns what the writer, Robinson Palmer, considers a wrongful suit against him in the court at Boston. He says Messrs. Rowe & Hooker are seeking a trumped up amount of \$180 which (he says) is not due them.

September 24. This letter is endorsed: p Capt. Rogers. However, the schooner Harmony, Capt. Griffith, departed from Eastport, the only vessel bound for Boston after September 18.



Degradand's Boston report No. 23, October 2, 1819:
Coastwise, Arrived Boston September 28, Sch. Harmony, Griffith,
of Barnstable, fr. Eastport 4 ds. 80 chaldrons Nova Scotia coal
to Crackbon & Howe.

Letter rated at 6¢ for a single letter addressed to the port
of arrival.

1820

SHIP LETTERS

July 11, 1820. Letter posted at London for Dover, N.H. "per the London Packet". Arrived at Boston as a Ship Letter. Absence of other than "Ship" markings indicate ship's master carried this for deposit at Boston.



SHIP

12

Sept. 15, 1820. Boston receipt mark.

Mark at Boston indicating rating basis of rating.

Manuscript 12¢ rate: Act of April 9, 1816 zone rate of 10 cents (30 to 80 miles), Boston to Dover, N.H. plus 2¢ added to the ordinary postage for ship rate= 12¢ due.

Sept. 14. 1820. Ship London Packet, Capt. Tracy, arrived at Boston from London. This 320 ton ship, built 1819 at New York, was a private trader.

1820

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Portsmouth, N.H. via Boston Ship Glide

September 16, 1820. Letter docket date, it was handed to Captain Adams of the ship Glide, which departed from Liverpool September 30 for Boston.

Glide was a 282 ton ship built in 1819 at Newbury, Mass.



SHIP

B 206

B 277

October 29, 1820. Letter entered the post office at Boston where it was rated by Act of April 9, 1816, single letter 30 to 80 miles at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢. It was forwarded from Portsmouth to Dover, N.H. at no additional charge.

The Boston Gazette, Oct. 30, 1820. Arrived Boston SAT. October 28. Ship Glide, Adams, Liverpool 29 days.

1824

SHIP LETTERS

LONDON TO PORTSMOUTH, N.H. VIA BOSTON

Ship London-Packet, Capt Ward

July 20, 1824. A commercial letter headed at London. It is endorsed: p Londonpacket.

July 23. The private trader ship London-Packet departed from London for Boston.



B.707



B.774

SHIP

B.772

Boston Marine List: Arrived Boston, August 31, 1824, ship London-packet, Ward, 39 days from London, and 36 from the Downs ...Passengers, Messrs. James A. Dickson, Charles Young. Mrs. Shinkwin and daughter and fourteen in steerage.

This letter was originally and erroneously rated as a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry at 6¢. This error was noted and the correct rate assessed, viz., Act of 1816, zone rate 30 to 80 miles, Boston to Portsmouth, at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1825

SHIP LETTERS

Gothenburg, Sweden to Boston

Ship Emerald

April 22, 1825. Letter datelined at Gothenburg (Sweden) and concerns the prices and condition of the iron market. Also included is a printed notice relative to the continuation of the name of Mr. E. Ludendorff in the firm at the request of his widow.

Letter is directionally endorsed: p. Emerald, Briggs, Mr./ via Boston.



SHIP

B. 207

B. 277

June 7, 1825. Arrival mark at Boston. N.Y. Shipping List: Arrived Boston June 8, 1825, Ship Emerald, Briggs...Gottenburg (sic). The Emerald was a private trader.

Letter rated Act of 1825, effective May 1, 1825, single letter 30 to 80 miles 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due as shown in red manuscript at upper right.

1826

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Kennebunk, Maine via Boston

Ship Henry Tuke

Forwarding Agent:

Willis, Latham & Gair, Liverpool

September 2, 1826. A letter docketed at London from Bates & Baring. It was sent under cover to Liverpool to the forwarding agents Willis, Latham & Gair who endorsed in manuscript on the reverse and handed it to the captain of the ship Henry Tuke. (This forwarder is listed by Rowe as using a handstamp 1826-28, but not listed as here in manuscript.)

*Liverpool Sept 5th Recd from by yours
Willis Latham & Gair*

SHIP
Daniel M. Lord Esq
Kennebunk
(Maine)
U. S. A.
LIVERPOOL
9/2/26
Henry Tuke

BOSTON
OCT 21
MS

SHIP
6

SHIP

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y.
Arrived at Boston October 21: Ship Henry Tuke, Bliss...Liverpool.

This letter was originally rated at Boston at 6¢ as a single letter addressed to the port of arrival. The error was discovered and it was rerated, Act of 1825, single letter 80-150 miles at 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in manuscript. A faint Kennebunk receiving mark is in red.

1827

SHIP LETTERS

Marseilles to Providence via Boston Brig Cecelia
Quarantine at Boston

June 2, 1827. Prices current of May 15 and May 30 together with
a personal note of June 2 from Fitch Brothers & Co., Marseilles.



QUARANTINE



SHIP

B. 285

208

283

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. Boston, at Quarantine August 29,
Brig Cecelia, Gage...Marseilles.

While the Cecelia was reported in Quarantine at Rainsford Island
in Boston Harbor on August 29, her mails had been sent into Boston
earlier and received on August 25.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter conveyed 30 to 80 miles,
Boston to Providence, at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown
in red manuscript.

1828

SHIP LETTERS

Leghorn, Italy to Salem via Boston

Brig Socrates

Quarantine at Boston

May 7, 1828. Price-current dated at Leghorn (Livorno.) The accompanying printed letter states, "We now avail of the departure of the Socrates to hand you the annexed Price-Current with Remarks." The Socrates departed from Leghorn on May 10, 1828.



Boston Commercial Gazette, July 21, 1828. Marine List, Thursday, July 17:

AT QUARANTINE

Brig Socrates, Knowles, Leghorn 68 days, Gibraltar 47 days, with rags, silk and Marble to R.G. Shaw.

QUARANTINE.



SHIP

B. 285

208

283

July 17. Arrival of mail from the Boston Quarantine Station noted by the QUARANTINE handstamp. Letter rated, Act of 1825, 6¢ for a single letter conveyed not over 30 miles, Boston to Salem + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 8¢.

1831

SHIP LETTERS

Matanzas, Cuba to Boston Quarantine at Boston

June 15, 1831. Capt. B.J. Hammond writes to his owner at Mattapoisett, Mass., "...having an opportunity of sending a letter by way of Boston by Brig Betsy..." However, the N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List has no record of the arrival of the brig Betsy at Boston, but does list two possible vessels that could have carried this letter, Betsy having transferred her mail to one of them:

Arrived at Boston July 4, 1831; Brig Criterion, Brooks...Havana
Shylock Leach.....Havana.



B. 208

QUARANTINE

B. 288

B. 288.

July 4. Arrival postmarks at Boston. This letter was mailed during the 1831 Cholera epidemic in Cuba, although Capt. Hammond says, "... it is very healthy here at this time..." As a result of fear of the epidemic, this letter was put into quarantine at Rainsford Island near the entrance to Boston Harbor. This island had been a quarantine station since 1735.

Blake & Davis list 5 different QUARANTINE markings used from 1827-35. This cover is ex-Naurice Blake, and is the recording cover for

Letter is rated, Act of 1825, at 10¢ for a single letter conveyed 30 to 80 miles, Boston to Mattapoisett + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1829

SHIP LETTERS

Halifax, N. S. to Boston

Packet brig Emily

April 8, 1829. A letter dated at Halifax and endorsed: pr. George Henry. The letter content mentions frequent trips to and from Boston per the George Henry and the James. However, this letter was turned over to the Packet brig Emily, the normal Mail Boat for this run.

The letter deals with the mis-deeds of the writer's nephew, Jonathan Black, who apparently stole 9 dollars from his classmates at Wesleyan Academy at N. Wilbraham, Mass. He asks the Rev. William Fisk to make restitution and charge to his brother's account. The letter indicates that Jonathan is headed home to Halifax and the tone of the letter would indicate that he is in big trouble.



SHIP

B. 108

B. 183

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived at Boston, April 15, Packet brig Emily, Kelly.....Halifax.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter, 80 to 150 miles, Boston to N. Wilbraham, at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in red manuscript.

1831

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO LOWELL, MASS. VIA BOSTON

Ship Dover

July 5, 1831. Letter originated at Liverpool. It also contained several other documents resulting in a high rate upon arrival in Boston. It is endorsed: p. Dover, a 431 ton ship of the late Boston & Liverpool Packet Co., which had ceased operations in 1830. The Dover sailed out of Liverpool and this letter had been handed directly to her purser.



SHIP

8.207

8.283

August 10. Dover arrived at Boston. The letter is noted in red manuscript $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz., which would take 5 rates. Rated, Act of 1825, letter conveyed under 30 miles, Boston to Lowell, at $6\text{¢} \times 5 = 30\text{¢}$ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 32¢ due. Lowell is about 24 miles from Boston.

Kirk Boott was a well known mill owner at Lowell, and is remembered to this day by the Boott Mills.

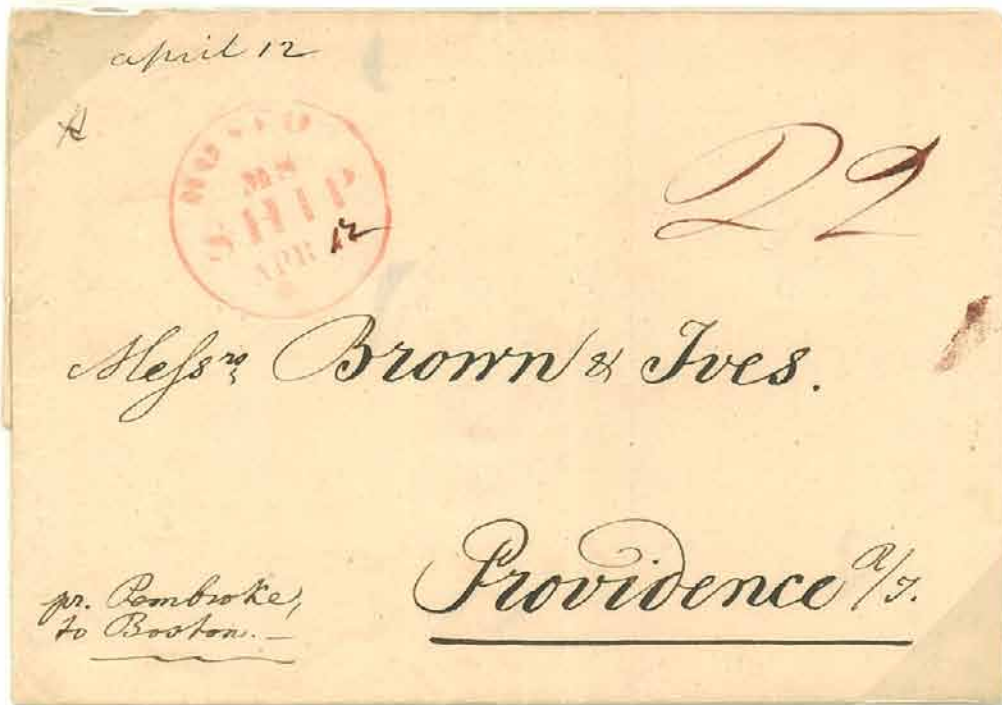
1833

SHIP LETTERS

ROTTERDAM TO BOSTON

Brig Pembroke, Capt. Meacom

February 23, 1833. Letter dated and headed at Amsterdam. It was sent under cover to Rotterdam to find an "opportunity", i.e., a ship bound to the United States. Cover is endorsed: pr. Pembroke/to Boston.



B. 291

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List: Arrived at Boston April 11, 1833 - Brig Pembroke, Meacom...Rotterdam.

April 12. Letter processed on the 12th. This is probably the finest strike to be found of this difficult Boston Ship Letter postmark. Day date, originally the 11th, has been altered to "12" by pen.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, zone rate 80 to 150 miles at 10¢ x 2 (double letter) = 20¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 22¢ due.

Pembroke, 199 ton brig built in 1819 at Pembroke, Maine.

1833

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON VIA BRISTOL, ENGLAND

British Brig James Roy



September 3, 1833. Backstamp receipt at Liverpool, this letter was paid to Bristol under the British Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III, cap. 88), 170 to 230 miles inland (Liverpool to Bristol = 193 miles) at 1sh.10d. (double letter) + Ship Letter charge of 8d. = 2sh.6d. shown in red manuscript. Although many ships left from Liverpool for America, the fastest was to be from Bristol, from which port the brig James Roy departed on September 6.

Boston Commercial Gazette, October 24.
Arrived Boston October 21, Br. brig James
Roy, Grayson, Bristol, E., 6th Sept.



The Boston post office rated this letter under Act of 1825, as a single letter conveyed 150 to 400 miles at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due, shown in manuscript.

B,791

1838

SHIP LETTERS
LONDON TO CLEVELAND, OHIO VIA BOSTON

Ship Jacob Perkins, Capt. Shoof
Letter "ADVERTISED" at Cleveland



B. 290

Feb. 28, 1838. This letter was posted paid at the old Vere Street. (VS) office in London. It was rated, Act of 1812 (52 Geo. III, Cap. 88) for a 1-oz. letter 15-20 miles, Vere St. to London Docks, at 1sh. 8d. plus 6d. Ship Letter charge = 2sh.2d., shown in red mss. as 2/2.

April 27, 1838. Shipping & Commercial List (N.Y.) Arrived Boston April 27, ship Jacob Perkins, Shoof, London.

Letter marked incoming at Boston. This Boston, Mass. Ship marking is one of the more elusive of the Boston Ship Letter markings.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, over 400 miles at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due. U.S. accepted this as a "single" letter.

ADVERTISED
June 1

June 1. Benjamin Wood did not call for his letter, so it was advertised at Cleveland.

1834-35

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Boston

Ship St. Lawrence



December 29, 1834. Backstamp. Letter datelined at Brighton, 5 Grand Parade. Formerly known as Brighthelmstone, this city is 261 miles from Liverpool. Rated under Act 52.Geo.III c.188, 1813 via Falmouth Packet from London at 2sh.2d. for West Indies and Dominions in America. Although no Falmouth Packets made that run in 1834, letters could be forwarded by private ship as though the service existed. Paid rate shown as the red P. 2/2.



December 30. London double frame "tombstone" transit mark. Letter was sent on to Liverpool for transmission on by a ship heading for the United States.

February 19, 1835. N.Y. Shipping List: Arrived at Boston, Feb. 17, Ship St. Lawrence, Chase Master, from Liverpool with a mixed cargo.

Letter handed into the post office at Boston by Capt. Chase. It was rated at Boston as a single letter, Boston to New York, at the Act of 1825 zone rate, 150 to 400 miles at 18-3/4 ¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4 ¢ as shown in manuscript.



The note at lower left "23 cts" is reputed to represent 2 1/2 ¢ carrier fee, not verified.

B. 291

1835

SHIP LETTERS

Valparaiso, Chile to Boston

Barque Danube

January 7, 1835. Letter datelined at Valparaiso. The writer, S.W. Greene, says, inter alia, "You will be glad to hear that this Government continues very firm and the affairs of the Country tranquil. I can see no motive for apprehension & am of opinion that revolutions in Chile are getting quite out of fashion. A Treaty has just been concluded between Peru & this Country admitting sugars in this & wheat and flour in that at a very low rate of duty."

The barque Danube, Capt. Raymond, departed from Valparaiso Jan. 7, as endorsed on the cover.



B. 208



SHIP

B. 283

April 23, 1835. Boston Courier. Arr. Boston, Wed., Ap 22, Barque Danube, Raymond, Valparaiso 7th, Coquimbo 17th, and Hunsco 23d. Jan. Pas. Mr. D.M. Maley of Philad. Left at the former, the United States, unc.: Montezuma and Sophia for Intermedios, few days, Commerce (bg) Callao, unc.- Jane, Clark, do, sailed about 1st.

Letter rated, single, Act of 1825, 150 to 400 miles, 18-3/4c + 2c Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4c.

1836-37

SHIP LETTERS

Beyreuth, Syria to Brunswick, Maine via Samos and Boston
Missionary letter from Congregational Mission on Mt. Lebanon
Barque Niagara

November 25, 1836. Letter datelined at Beyroot (sic), Syria by Mrs. M.W. Dodge to the Sabbath School of the Congregational Church & Society in Brunswick, Maine, telling of her work among the Druse children in Syria and of the mission work in Jerusalem.

The letter was sent on by a local vessel to Samos, a Greek Island near the Turkish Coast where it was entrusted to Captain Crosby of the American barque Niagara just in port from Smyrna.



B.208

SHIP

B.283



March 17, 1837. Shipping & Commercial List and N.Y. Price Current. Arrived march 15 at Boston, Barque Niagara, Crosby, Smyrna via Samos.

The Niagara carried a mixed cargo; Wool 335 bales - boxwood 5749 pcs - galls 27 bales - goats wool 60 do - opium 11 cases - currants 18 casks - dates 759 cases - almonds 252 bags - walnuts 117 do - figs 13 drums - wine 155 casks, 11 bbls.

Letter was rated, Act of 1825, single letter 80 to 150 miles at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ as shown in manuscript.

1837

SHIP LETTERS

Cadiz, Spain to Boston

Brig Russian

August 18, 1837. Letter datelined at Cadiz, Spain. It concerns one hundred and sixty casks of salt sent to Kennebunk aboard the Barque Augusta, Captain J. Blaisdell. It was directed aboard the Brig Russian to Kennebunk, Main (sic).



SHIP

B. 213

B. 283

October 1, 1837. The Brig Russian, Captain Woodbury, arrived at New York September 30 from Cadiz per notice in the Wednesday, October 4 issue of N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Russian was a 222 ton brig built in 1828 at Scituate, Mass.

Letter rated under the Act of March 3, 1825, single letter going 80 to 150 miles, Boston to Kennebunk at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1843

SHIP LETTERS

New Orleans to Boston

Consignee's Letter

Ship Canton (of Wiscasset)

January 13, 1843. Letter datelined at New Orleans enclosing a Bill of Lading of 220 Bales of Cotton p. Canton for account of the Merrimack Manf. Co., and a duplicate Bill Lading p. Hull. Letter sent as a consignee letter aboard the Canton.



B. 211

Boston Courier, Monday Feb. 13, 1843. ARRIVED Boston Sat. Feb. 11. Ship Canton (of Wiscasset,) Packard, New Orleans 13th, S.W. Pass. 14th ult. Was off Cape Cod Light in the gale of the 5th inst., and hauled off. Split foresail and jib.

Feb. 12. Boston receiving mark. This was one of several letters to Ebenezer Chadwick at Boston from the Canton, so was rated as a group with only the top letter showing the cumulated postage at 6¢ each for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of ently.

1844

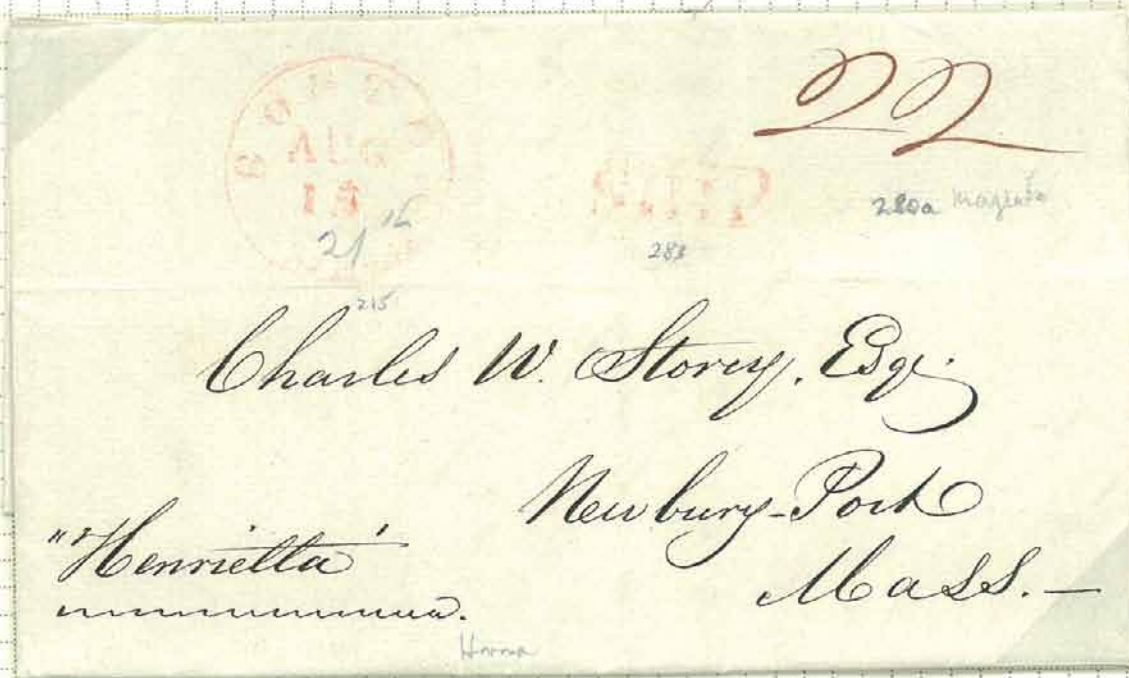
SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO NEWBURYPORT VIA BOSTON

Brig Henrietta, Capt. Kirchardson

July 27, 1844. Letter datelined at Havana. It notes, "I finished a prodigious long letter to you to day p. C. Colon, to sail tomorrow morning. Herein I send a Report, with some additional figures thereon." Letter headed: p Henrietta and similarly endorsed on the face.

July 29. Henrietta sailed from Havana this date.



Boston Courier, MARINE JOURNAL, PORT OF BOSTON, Wed. Aug. 14, 1844. Arrived Brig Henrietta, Kirchardson, Havana, 29th ult.

Letter rated as a double Ship Letter, Act of 1825, inland 30 to 80 miles at 10¢ x 2 = 20¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 22¢ due.

1847

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad, Cuba to Cambridge Port via Boston

Brig Cordelia, Capt. Snow



August 5, 1847. Letter docketed as from Trinidad (de Cuba) from Charles H. Cotton. It was endorsed: per Cordelia/Capt. Snow.



SHIP

7

B. 213

B. 547

B. 549

August 28, 1847. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List records: Arrived Boston August 28, Brig Cordelia, Snow, from Trinidad. Rated Act of March 3, 1845, for a letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going inland not over 40 miles, Boston to Cambridge Port (2 miles) at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢.

The 30 mm. red BOSTON Mas. is identifiable by the B O being widely spaced. It is noted that this is used 4/29/42 to 10/15/47. The SHIP (547) and 7 (549) appear with the Boston cds's 213 to 216 inclusive.

1850

SHIP LETTERS

Liverpool to Wiscassett, Maine

Boston - SHIP

April 20, 1850. Letter datelined at Liverpool and directionally endorsed "pr Robt. C. Winthrop". She was constructed in 1847 by Paul Curtis, 781 tons, owners Benjamin and George P. Bangs, et al. Sailed from N.Y. for Antwerp Feb. 21, 1873, and was passed abandoned in Lat. $40^{\circ}10'$ N., Long. $50^{\circ}45'$ W. on March 8, 1873. Ship rigged.



SHIP

7

B. 213

B. 547

B. 549

May 15, 1850. Boston Shipping List notes the arrival of the Ship Robert C. Winthrop at Boston from Liverpool, Capt. Sampson. Letter rated at the single zone rate of 5¢ for a letter going not over 300 miles, Boston to Wiscassett, plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due, Act of March 3, 1845.

1847

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad, Cuba to Cambridge Port via Boston

Brig Cordelia, Capt. Snow



January 10, 1847. Letter docketed at Casilda de Cuba. It was endorsed: per Cordelia/Via Boston. Captain Snow in the brig Cordelia made frequent trips between Trinidad de Cuba and Boston.



B.214

SHIP

B.547

7

B.549

February 4, 1847. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List: Arrived at Boston Brig Cordelia, Snow from Trinidad.

This letter was rated under Act of March 3, 1845, for a letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going inland under 300 miles, Boston to Cambridge Port at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

The 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. red circle BOSTON Mas. is here seen used with SHIP (B.547).

Holdcamper List: The 199 ton brig Cordelia is listed, built 1835 at Haddam, Conn. Registered at the port of New York Oct. 24, 1835.

1847

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad, Cuba to Cambridge Port via Boston

Brig Commodus, Bayley



April 26, 1847. Letter docketed as written by Charles H. Cotton at Trinidad. It was fully endorsed: per Brig Commodus/Capt. Bayley/Via Boston.



SHIP

7

B. 215

B. 547

B. 549

May 29, 1847. Letter received at the Boston Ship Letter office. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List records: Arrived Boston May 28, Brig Commodus, Bailey (sic), Trinidad. They rated letter under Act of March 3, 1845, for a letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going not over 300 miles inland, Boston to Cambridge Port at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

30mm. red BOSTON Mass. is found used from 2/29/44 to 5/6/52. The 23x6 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. SHIP is found with several of the Boston cds types.

Holdcamper List: 166 ton brig Commodus, built 1845 at Briston, Maine. Enrollment at the port of New York June 4, 1846.

1848

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad, Cuba to Cambridge Port via Boston
Barque Franklin, Capt. Gibbs



May 10. Letter docketed as from Trinidad (Cuba) per Franklin. It was also directionally endorsed on the face: per Barque Franklin/ politeness of Capt. Gibbs.



SHIP

7

B. 215

B. 547

B. 549

June 3, 1848. Letter received at the Boston Ship Letter office. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List records: Arrived Boston June 3, Barque Franklin, Gibbs, Trinidad. They rated the letter under Act of March 3, 1845, for a letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going not over 300 miles inland, Boston to Cambridge Port (2 miles) at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

29½ mm. BOSTON Mass. with the Mass. running up to rather close to the "N" of Boston. While we call this B.215 here, the B.215 illustration puts the dot after Mass. 7 mm. from the top end serif of N. Here 5½ mm., this a variation of the B.215. The SHIP (547) and 7 (549) appear with the cds's B.213-216 inclusive.

1850

Trinidad, Cuba to Cambridge Port via Boston
Barque American, Capt. Adie



May 17, 1850. Letter docketed as from Casilda de Cuba by Charles H. Cotton per American, Capt. Adie. It was directionally endorsed on the face: per American/via Boston.



SHIP

7

B. 215

B. 547

B. 549

June 13, 1850. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived Boston June 13, Barque American, Adie from Trinidad, Cuba. Letter rated Act of March 3, 1845, for a letter not over $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going not over 300 miles inland, Boston to Cambridge Port (2 miles) at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢.

29½ mm. BOSTON Mass. with the Mass. running up close to the "N" of BOSTON, 7mm. from the dot of Mass. to the top serif of the N. Noted in use in red from 2/29/44 to 5/6/52. The SHIP (547) and 7 (549) are common to all the cds's of the era.

Holdcamper List: American, 234 ton bark built 1840 at Portland, Maine. Registered Oct. 10, 1853 at the port of New York.

1850

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER

Talcahuana, Chile to New York via Boston

Rates by Act of March 3, 1845 Quadruple Rated Letter



SHIP

22

Blake 215

B. 554

B. 553c.

May 30, 1850. Letter rated as a Ship Letter incoming at Boston, noted "p. H. Erving". The Boston Shipping List of June 1, 1850, lists the May 29 arrival date of the Ship Harriot Erving, Captain Haskell, from Talcahuana (Chile). As letter was to go Boston to N.Y., 225 miles, it took the single zone rate of 5¢ for a letter going not over 300 miles x 4 for a quadruple letter = 20¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 22¢ as shown in red.

Ex-Blake collection.
Recording cover for
Blake Types 553c and
554.

1854

BOSTON SHIP MARKS

Ship Henry Nesmith

Liverpool to New Bedford via Boston

April 21, 1854. Letter datelined at London. It was directed aboard the Henry Nesmith to the New Bedford consignees of 35 try-pots to be shipped out of Liverpool. This letter accompanied the shipment as a consignee's letter.



SHIP

12

B.216

B.554

B.550

May 31, 1854. Arrived Boston May 30, Ship Henry Nesmith, Captain Butler, from Liverpool.

Letter rated as a double letter under Act of March 3, 1851, for an unpaid letter not exceeding 3,000 miles at $5\text{¢} \times 2 = 10\text{¢}$ plus the Ship Letter charge of $2\text{¢} = 12\text{¢}$ due.