

1843

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SHIP LETTER RATE - LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON

DEBRY
DEC 2
1843

Price

PAID AT
DERRY

PAID
DEC 21
1843

20

193
Sharon Bell & Co

297
3/4
msd
sherry
4

1843
Steam 4 Oct
W. Halifax Boston

New York

Hands Tamped
Dec 4

1843
4 OCT
D

1843

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SHIP LETTER RATE - LIVERPOOL TO BOSTON



Oct. 2, 1843. Letter posted at (London)Derry, Ireland and 1/- (red mms.) paid for British Inland and ocean voyage. C.d.s. backstamp and "Paid at Derry" of R.L. Type 1611. Letter endorsed "Steamer 4 Oct., via Halifax & Boston".



Oct. 3, 1843. "Paid" letter transit mark at Dublin.

Oct. 4, 1843. Liverpool transit backstamp.



Oct. 19, 1843. As U.S.-Britain had no treaty, letters incoming were treated as Ship Letters, unpaid. Blake type 293.

Letter rated at U.S. 150-400 mile rate (Act of 3 Mar. 1825) of 18-3/4¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge, 20-3/4¢ total.

Cunard Line:

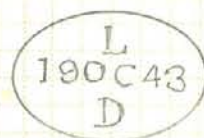
R.M.S. Hibernia arrived at Boston October 18, 1843.

This mark is the rate type of Blake 297 with the entire 3/4 showing, most strikes showing only the "3".

1843

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

R.M.S. Britannia



October 18, 1843. Letter posted at Sheffield where it was necessary to pre-pay the Cunard transatlantic rate to Boston, as shown by the manuscript 1 shilling (1/-) in red.

Oct. 19. Liverpool transit backstamp. The R.M.S. Britannia sailed from Liverpool this date.



B. 293



B. 297

Nov. 5. R.M.S. Britannia arrived Boston Nov. 4. Docket notes arrival at Philadelphia Nov. 6.

Letter rated at U.S. Act of March 3, 1825 zone rate 150 to 400 miles (Boston to Philadelphia) of 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter = 20-3/4¢ due. Typical mark shows only a portion of fraction.

1846

SHIP LETTERS
HONG KONG TO U.S. VIA LIVERPOOL



HONG-KONG
FE 27
1846

PAID

Feb. 27, 1846.
Letter posted
PAID at Hong
Kong, 2/-
(mms. in red)
prepaid to
England.

PAID
XJ
25AP25
1846

April 25, 1846.
Letter cleared
London as PAID.

L
AP 26
C

April 26.
Transit at
Liverpool.

BOSTON
SHIP
MAY
21
MS.

12

May 21, 1846. Letter marked incoming at Boston as a Ship Letter (Blake 294) and rated 12¢ (Blake 551) at over 300 miles, Boston to Washington 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge, total due 12¢.

PROBING LADY HAN WOOD BENTINCK ACHILLUS
HK Feb 26
Galle Mar 17
Suez Apr 4
Alex Malta S. Hd
R.M.S. Britannia sailed Liverpool May 4, 1846 arrived Boston May 21.
Apr 8, 12-13 Apr 24

1845

BOSTON, MASS
SHIP LETTER MARKS



PAID at EDINBURGH
*
SEP 1
1845
A

Sept. 1, 1845
Letter posted at
Edinburgh, Scot-
land, prepaid 1/-
(red mms.) for
British inland
plus packet.

L
SP 3
A

Sept. 3.
Transit
mark at
Liver-
pool.

*R.M.S. Britannia
arr. Boston 9-19-45
from Liverpool*

BOSTON
SHIP
SEP
19
MS.

Sept. 19.
Boston "SHIP"
mark (Blake
Fig. 294,
30 mm).

7

From 1st May 1816 to
26th Feb. 1861 the U.S.
rate for incoming foreign
letters addressed to
other than the Port of
entry was 2¢ plus the in-
land rate, thus, 5¢ rate
for under 300 miles (Act of
Mar. 3, 1845) plus 2¢ = 7¢ due.

1846

MANILA TO BOSTON VIA JAVA HEAD AND ST. HELENA

Bark Lenox, Capt. Newell

2¢ Drop Letter Rate - Act of March 3, 1845.

February 6, 1846. Letter datelined at Manila from ship captain George Lombard concerns poor sales of butter and English cheeses. Letter endorsed "Lenox" went aboard that ship which sailed from Manila February 8.



B215

B.586

Boston Courier, MARINE JOURNAL, PORT OF BOSTON, Friday June 12, 1846. Arrived: Bark Lenox, Newell, Manila Feb. 8th., Java Head 20th and St. Helena April 28. Left no Am vessel at latter. A heavy northerly swell had destroyed most of the wharf and landing place at Jamestown.

This letter was not handed into the post office as required to be rated as a Ship Letter. Instead, it was deposited into the mail at Boston to be delivered to Boston, therefore took the Local or Drop Letter rate of 2¢. Ship Letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of entry was 6¢, so the Drop Letter rate saved the recipient 4¢.

Ex. Blake. Recording cover for B.586. Last date recorded by Blake.

1846

SHIP LETTERS

ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND TO BOSTON

Brig Warrior (Br.) Capt. Wallace

December 2, 1846. A consignee's letter datelined at St. John's and directed aboard the brig Warrior. It consigned herring and seine netting to Mr. Benjamin Woodbury at Hamilton, Mass. via Thomas Tremble, Esq., 24 Fosters Wharf, Boston.



SHIP

7

B.215

B.518

B.519

Boston Post. Arrived at Boston December 29, 1846, Brig Warrior (Br.,) Wallace, St. John's, NF, Dec. 3.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, single letter not over 300 miles, Boston to Hamilton, Mass. at 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 7¢.

1847

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SHIP LETTER RATE BRITISH "FOREIGN PAID"



June 16, 1847. Letter posted at Havre, prepaid through Britain (mms. 12 decimes French rate on reverse). French "Paid" mark. Handled by the Maritime Bureau at Havre.

June 17, 1847. Letter cleared Southampton, backstp.

June 18, 1847. Paid transit at London.



London applied this interesting mark to show all foreign postage paid (A&H 702).

June 18, 1847. Letter transit at Liverpool. Handed to non-contract ship.

July 5, 1847. Letter received as a Ship Letter at Boston, Blake No. 546.

7

Letter rated at the private Ship Letter rate (Blake 549) of 7¢ due, made up of the 5¢ Domestic rate to 300 miles plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge.

July 3, 1847. Cunard "Caledonia" arr Boston

1848

HAVRE TO KINGSTON, MASS. VIA BRITAIN AND BOSTON
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. America

Ship Rialto, 58 days from New Orleans to Havre

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List, April 3, 1848. Cleared at New Orleans, March 31, Ship Rialto, Hanson...Havre.

May 31. Letter to his ship's owner at Kingston, Mass. from Captain Peter Hanson informing him that he had 58 days passage to Havre aboard the ship Rialto and that the copper on the ship's bottom is very bad so he would be obliged to put her on the gridiron for repairs. Letter is noted "Rialto" on the reverse.

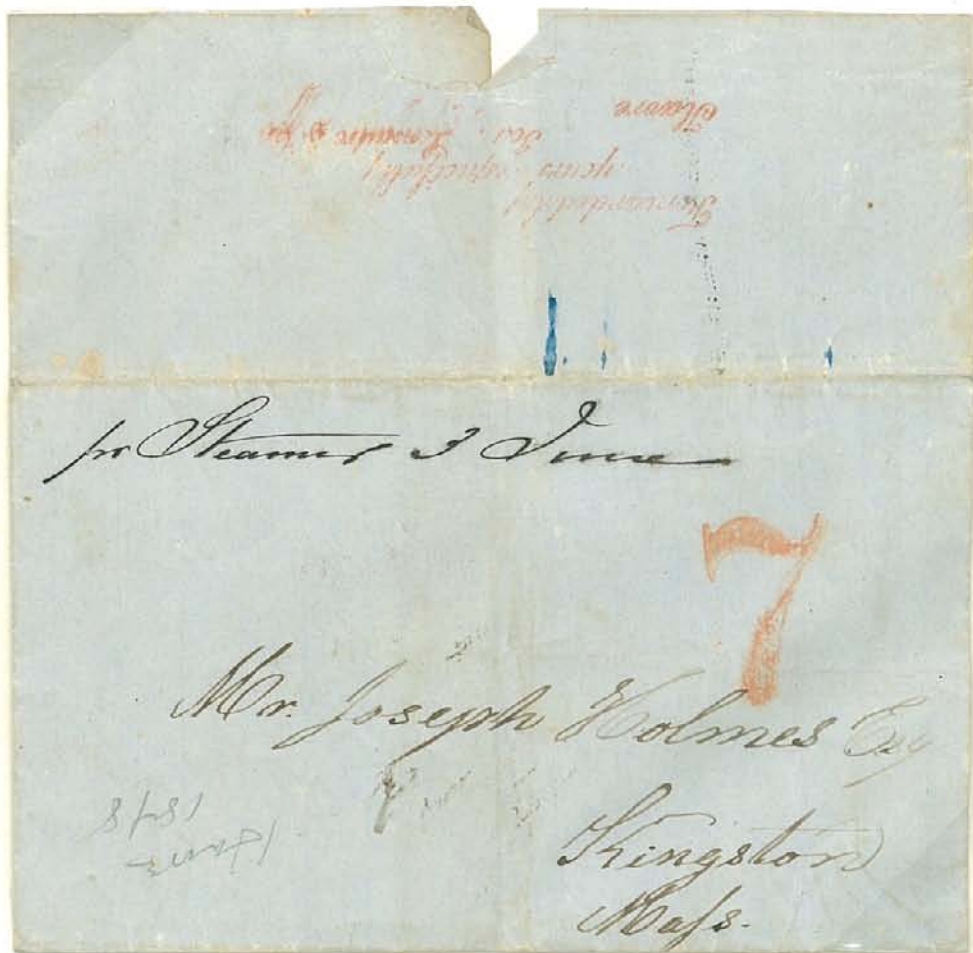
*Forwarded by
yours respectfully
Jos. Lemaitre & Co
Havre*

Letter was forwarded by the forwarding agent Jos. Lemaitre & Co. at Havre who sent it under separate cover to Liverpool. Letter was endorsed: pr. Steamer 3 June. (Forwarders' mark N.L. Rowe.)

June 3. R.M.S. America of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool.

7

June 13. America arrived at Boston. where this letter was rated, Act of 1845, 1/2-oz. letter under 300 miles at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.



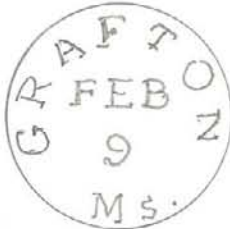
1849

SHIP LETTERS

BOSTON TO CONSTANTINOPLE VIA SMYRNA

Brig Chenamus

January 30, 1849. A long letter from her cousin at Grafton, Mass. to Mrs. Serifina Everett, a missionary at Constantinople. It concerns mainly the ills and ailments of the family. It is directed, "Care of the Missionary Rooms, Boston."



PAID



February 9. Letter posted paid at Grafton at the Act of 1845 rate of 5¢ per ½-oz., letter conveyed under 300 miles to Boston.

The Missionary Rooms at Boston held this letter until a vessel was advertised heading to Turkey. This was to avoid the hefty postage charges should the letter be sent by contract mail, although at the cost of a much longer transit time.

March 19. The first vessel from Boston was noted in the New York Shipping and Commercial List: Departed Boston March 19, Brig Chenamus (of Boston, late of Portsmouth, N.H.), Moore...Malta and Smyrna.

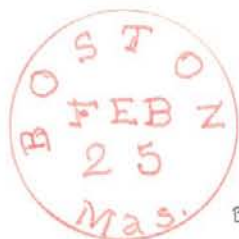
May 7. Docket notes received at Constantinople. As this letter went "by favor", no further postal charges or markings were involved. The docket also noted that the letter was answered on Nov. 23, 1849.

1850

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad de Cuba to Cambridge Port via Boston
Brig Cordelia, Capt. Snow

February 1, 1850. Letter docketed at Trinidad and endorsed: pr.
Cordelia/ Capt. Snow.



B.214

SHIP

B.554



B.549

Boston Daily Advertiser, Marine Journal. Arr. Boston, Monday, February 25, Brig Cordelia, which arr. Sunday evening. Spoke 3d. inst. off Isle of Pines, brig Gen. Taylor, Fales from Turks Islands for New Orleans. The Br. barque Economist, of Yarmouth, N.S., fallen in with, has been previously reported abandoned; crew taken to New Orleans by ship Elsinor.

February 25. Boston arrival postmark. Letter rated, Act of 1845, 5¢ per ½-oz., not over 300 miles, plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due. The 7¢ charge mark shows a remnant of the handstamp rim as a small arc at right.

1850

SHIP LETTERS

PERNAMBUCO TO SALEM VIA BOSTON

British Brig Mary Taylor



March 21, 1850. A rendering of accounts by the owners' Captain William G. Nutting, showing him at Genoa and clearing Gibraltar on July 7, 1849, with final figures in Spanish dollars at Pernambuco March 21, 1850.



B.215

SHIP

B.554



B.677

Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at Boston June 7, 1850:
 Br. Brig Mary Taylor, Callender.....Pernambuco.

June 8. Letter processed at Boston as a Ship Letter. Rated,
 Act of 1845, half-ounce letter under 300 miles at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship
 Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1851

UNITED STATES
SHIP LETTER

Matanzas, Cuba to Providence via Boston

Last day of Rate effective July 1, 1847 to June 30, 1851

Barque Baltic

June 14, 1851. Letter datelined at Matanzas and put aboard the Barque Baltic. Baltic was built in 1841 at Thomaston, Maine and registered March 5, 1850 at New York (Holdcamper List).



B. 648 (var.)

SHIP

B. 554



B. 735



June 30, 1851. N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List notes the arrival this date of the Barque Baltic, Capt. Saunders, at Boston from Matanzas. Letter was rated under the Act of March 3, 1847 rates (effective July 1) for a letter under $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going over 300 miles at 5¢ plus a Ship Letter charge of 2¢ = 7¢ due.

June 30, 1851, was the last day of this rate, the new Act of March 3, 1851, rates became effective July 1, 1851. If this letter had arrived one day later, the rate would have been 3¢ for an inland letter not exceeding 3000 miles plus the 2¢ Ship Letter charge or 5¢ collect.

The Boston circular date stamp is a variety of Blake 648 with the month over the day.

1853

SHIP LETTERS

PERNAMBUCO TO BRISTOL, R.I. VIA BOSTON

Barque Suliote

April 27, 1853. A circular datelined at Pernambuco and headed: p "Suliote". It gives prices current, also American arrivals at Pernambuco, among which are: April 9, Bark Suliote, Boston, in ballast; April 13, U.S. Stmr. Waterwitch, Balto., for coals and went forth 16th; April 14, Brig Brandywine, Phila., 1345 bbls. Flour & sundries....



SHIP



B. 651

B. 547

B. 676

N.Y. Shipping List and Prices Current. Arrived at Boston June 4, Barque Saliote [sic], Drinkwater.....Pernambuco.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, ½-oz. letter under 300 miles at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1853

SHIP LETTERS

NEWFOUNDLAND TO NEW YORK VIA BOSTON

British Brig Magnet

November 3, 1853. A duplicate letter (original "via Halifax") headed:
St. Johns Nfland. Letter is endorsed: p Magnet/ Via Boston.

November 12. Brig Magnet sailed from St. John's.



SHIP



Boston Semi-Weekly Advertiser. Arrived Boston Tuesday, Nov. 22: Br,
Brig Magnet, Hammond, St. Johns NF, 12th inst. Has 30 passengers in
cabin and 70 in steerage.

Letter rated, Act of 1851, not exceeding 3000 miles, unpaid, at 5¢
plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 7¢ due.

1858

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK VIA BOSTON

Ship Rising Sun, Capt. Skolfield



May 21, 1858. Letter docketed at Liverpool where it was directed:
p. "Rising Sun"/Via Boston.



SHIP

5

B.659

B.680

B.681

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List, July 28, 1858. Arrived at Boston 22d. ship Rising Sun, Skolfield...Liverpool.

This vessel was 64 days from Liverpool to Boston, her slow passage was apparent by the S. & C.L. DISASTERS, GALES &c. column: Ship Rising Sun at Boston from Liverpool on the 21st ult. (i.e., 21st June), lat. 52° 40', lon. 30° experienced heavy gales from W.S.W., during which lost overboard Edward Herrick, of New-Orleans, on 3d. inst. (no lat. &c.) was struck by a squall, which carried away foreyard, main and mizen topsail yards, with other spars, &c.

Letter rated, Act of 1851, ½-oz. letter not exceeding 3,000 miles at 3¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 5¢ due, shown by the hand-stamp.

1823

ESTABLISHED LINE

New Orleans to Boston

A tragic voyage

Brig Massachusetts

Established Line. Hall & Williams, 38 Central Wharf, Boston agents. William Fritz, Jr. & Co., New Orleans agents. Established Sept. 1822. Sailed "positively at the time appointed. All the above vessels will be armed and furnished with beds and bedding." First vessel was the Massachusetts, 222 tons, Samuel B. Hobart master in 1822. The Line was discontinued in 1826.



March 8, 1823. Letter datelined at New Orleans mentions receipt of mail by the Delta, another vessel of the Established Line, and that his correspondent's pickles are still as hand as there is a glut on the market. Pickles in New Orleans were going for one dollar a barrel.

March 11. The brig Massachusetts sailed from New Orleans.



Boston Patriot & Daily Mercantile Advertiser. THURSDAY, April 10. Arrived April 9. Brig Massachusetts, Hobart, 29 days from N. Orleans. The passage has been prolonged by a deffieiciency of men, having had the 2d. officer and three men sick for 18 days and lost two seamen overboard in the gale of the 30th. While lying to in a gale in lat 39, lon 68 48, in which gale had the boats and casks stove and jib-boom washed away. The two seamen, William Clark of Franklin, Me. and John McCann of Belfast, Me. were on the jib-boom when it was washed away. ¶ Letter rated 6¢, single Ship Letter, port of entry.

1823

RUSSELL LINE
(Later Known as OLD LINE)

New York to New Orleans

Ship William

Russell Line. John W. Russell, 93 Pine St., New York agent. Gilbert E. Russell & Co., New Orleans agent. Established 1818. Sailings were greatly reduced in 1840 and ceased altogether in 1843.

The ship William, 298 tons, was commanded by Captain Richard Sears in 1822 and 1823.



February 1, 1823. A letter detailing market conditions, inter alia, "Your Pickles came by a miserable market there being great quantities in the city which are selling for a mere song. We have had them fill'd and the only way is to keep them retailing to the Steam Boats and others who may want a single Keg at a time..." Letter endorsed: William, was taken aboard the Russell Line ship William which sailed from New Orleans on February 4.



SHIP

Boston Patriot & Daily Mercantile Advertiser, TUES., Feb. 23. PORT OF NEW, Feb. 21. Arrived at N.Y., ship William, Sears, 17 ds fm. New Orleans, and 16 days from the Balize.

Letter rated, Act of 1816, single letter conveyed inland 150 to 400 miles at 18½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20½¢ due as shown in the red manuscript notation.

1824

BOSTON & LIVERPOOL LINE

Packet Ship Topaz

"The Jewel Line"

Boston & Liverpool Packet Line. Proprietors, S. Austin, Jr. and J.W. Lewis, India Wharf, Boston agents; A. and F. Lodge, Thomas and John D. Thornley, Corwen & Haggerty, and Maury, Latham & Co. Liverpool agents for Herald, Amethyst, Emerald, and Topaz in that order. Operations started with clearance of Emerald for Charleston October 1822. All Line sailings ceased in 1826.



January 16, 1824. Letter datelined at Birmingham is from Thos. Bolton & Co. concerning beer sent per Emerald. Letter, endorsed: p. "Topaz", went under cover to Maury, Latham & Co., agents for Topaz.

January 22. Topaz departed from Liverpool in company with the ship America, both for Boston. The latter did not arrive until March 11.



Boston Patriot & Daily Mercantile Advertiser, MONDAY, March 8. Arrived SAT., March 6. Packet ship Topaz, Callender, 43 days from Liverpool, with dry goods to 63 consignees. Sailed Jan. 22 in co with ship America, Turner, for Boston... (N.B.: America arrived at Boston on March 10.)

Letter rated at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry. The charge mark is the "ribbon 6" of Boston

1828

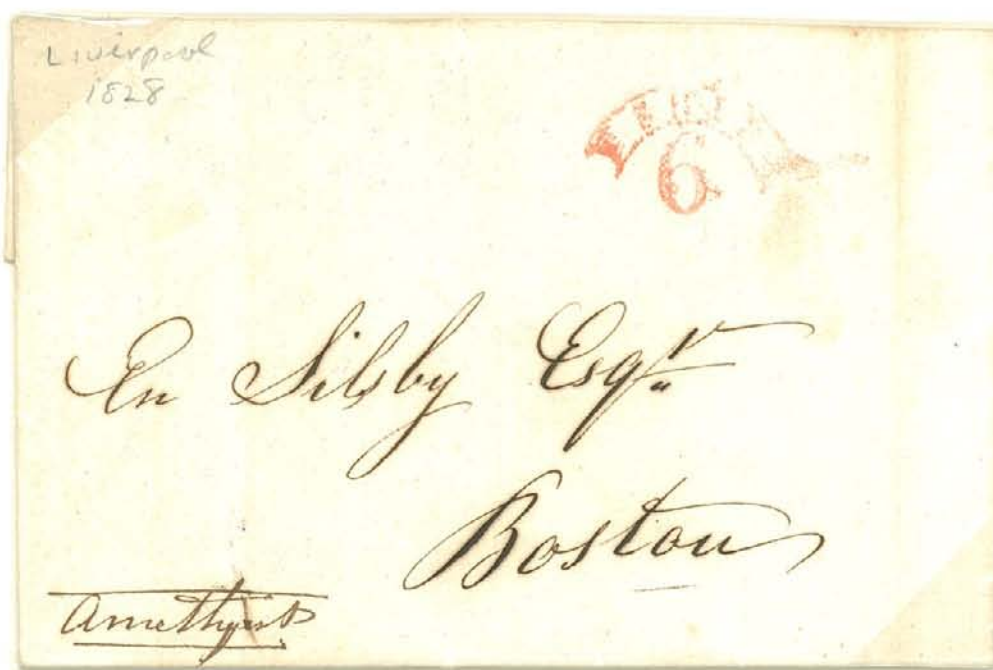
THE BOSTON & LIVERPOOL PACKET CO.

Boston's Second Line of Packets. 1827-34

Packet Ship Amethyst

A rough passage

George G. Jones, 41 India Wharf, Boston agent. Thomas & J.T. Thornley, Maury, Latham & Co., Latham & Gair, and Charles Humberston & Co., Liverpool agents for Amethyst, Dover, Boston, and Liverpool, in that order. Operations started Nov. 1, 1827. Discontinued ca. 1834.



August 16 and 20, 1828. A manuscript style reproduction of a prices current dated at Liverpool by Wainwright & Shiels. Letter is endorsed to the Amethyst, 359 tons, ship rigged, formerly of the Boston Jewel Line.

Boston Patriot & Daily Mercantile Advertiser, WEDNESDAY, October 1, 1828. ARRIVED, Tuesday, September 30. Ship Amethyst, Nye, Liverpool 21st ult. 20th inst. lat 40 25 lon 53 20 experienced a very severe gale from the S.S.W. which changed to the N.N.E. and carried away the foresail, mainsail maintop sail and stove in a part of the bulwarks, &c.

Letter rated at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry. Rate shown by the ribbon/6 mark of Boston.

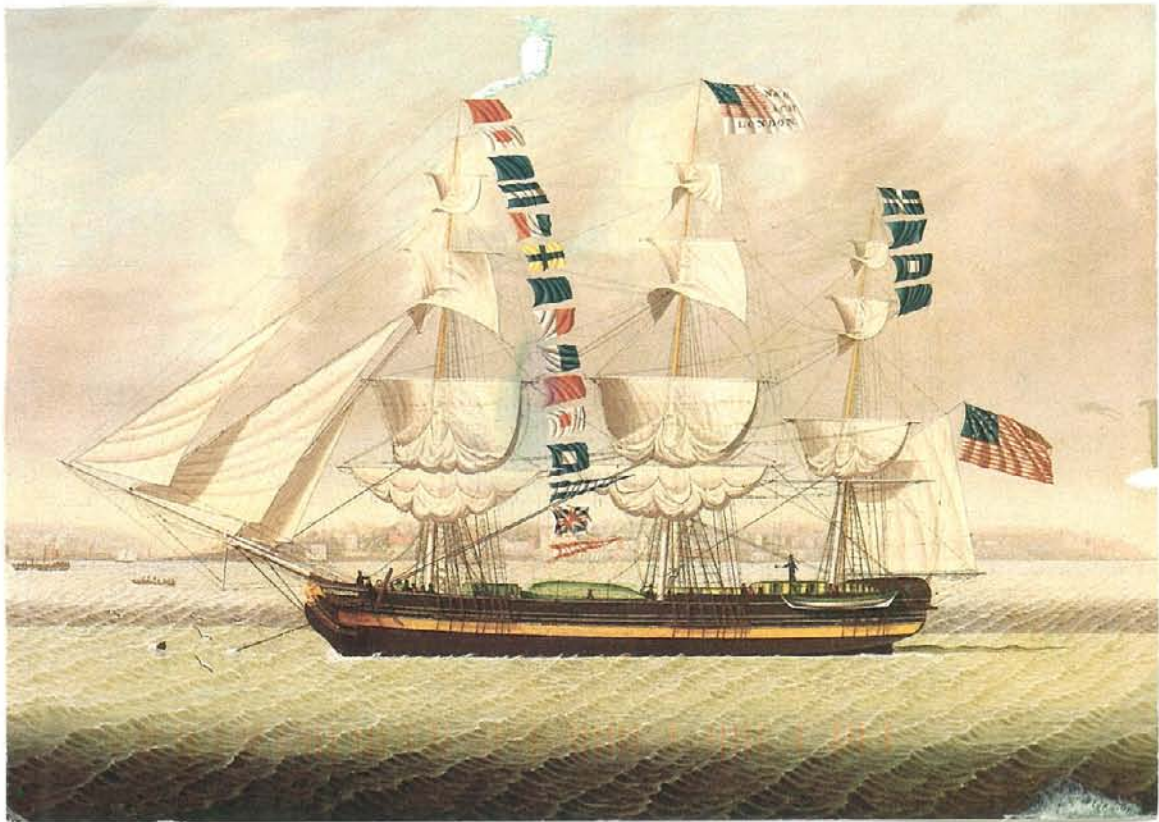


1828

THE BOSTON & LIVERPOOL PACKET CO.
Boston's Second Line of Packets, 1827-34
Packet Ship Liverpool

429 tons, built in 1828 in Medford by Thatcher Magoun for the second Boston-to-Liverpool Packet Line. Jabez Howes was master. In all the line had 6 vessels which sailed from Boston the 1st and from Liverpool the 20th of each month.

George G. Jones, 41 India Wharf, Boston agent. Thomas & J.D. Thornley, Maury, Latham & Co., Latham & Gair, and Charles Humberston & Co., Liverpool agents for Amethyst, Dover, Boston and Liverpool in that order. Operations started November 1, 1827. Discontinued in 1830.



Packet Liverpool, anchoring in the Mersey, off Wallasey, c. 1828.

Unidentified artist. Oil on canvas. 28 x 40 in.

Peabody Essex Museum Collection.

1850

SHIP LETTERS

ENOCH TRAIN'S WHITE DIAMOND LINE

Ship Moses Wheeler

Boston to Liverpool

Enoch Train, 37 Lewis Wharf, Boston, established his White Diamond Line in 1843. Train's active management of the line apparently ended in December 1854, when Warren & Thayer announced a new line that took over the Train line's sailing dates. This lasted until January 1857, when Warren & Thayer's name supplanted that of Train in Liverpool.

The ship Moses Wheeler was a 872 ton ship, her captain was James B. King.



October 7, 1850. A consignee's letter datelined at Liverpool. "Thirteen Cases shipped to your consignment on board the present conveyance, hence for your port."

SHIP
6 B.563

Boston Courier, SATURDAY, Nov. 9, 1850. ARRIVED. Ship Moses Wheeler, King, Liverpool 11th ult. On 7th inst. 8 A.M. abreast of George's Shoal, saw pkt. ship Parliament from Boston for Liverpool. The Moses Wheeler left Cape Clear Oct. 18 and made the run to this port in 21 days. She has 303 passengers; all well, no deaths on the passage.

A record run by the Moses Wheeler. Letter rated at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

1859

SHIP LETTERS

WARREN & THAYER'S LINE OF LIVERPOOL AND BOSTON PACKETS

Ship S. Curling

Boston to Liverpool

Warren & Thayer, 99 State st., Boston took over management of Enoch Train's White Diamond Line in January 1855, although Train's name was continued in the sailing notices until January 1857, when Warren & Thayer's name supplanted that of Train. The line lasted until 1860.

The ship S. Curling, 1467 tons, was commanded by S. Curling.



July 21, 1859. A combination Bill of Lading and shipping charges notes as a consignee for one case shipped per ship S. Curling. Cover endorsed: p S. Curling. Handstamp of Warren & Thayer's Liverpool office at Fenwick Chambers.

Boston Daily Courier, Wed. morning, August 31, 1859. PORT OF BOSTON, Aug. 30. ARRIVED THIS AFTERNOON VIA QUARANTINE. Ship s. Curling, Curling, Liverpool July 22 with mdse and 95 passengers to Thayer & Warren.

A textbook strike of the B.563 SHIP/6. This was the rate for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

1853-54

BOSTON SHIP MARKS

SHIP
6

B. 563

December 2, 1853. Letter datelined at Valparaiso, Chile and endorsed "Pr. Rattler". Ship Rattler was of 1120 tons, ship rigged, built 1852 at Rockland, Maine and registered Jan. 6, 1853 at the Port of New York.



February 20, 1854. Shipping & Commercial List, New York, of Feb. 25, 1854 lists the arrival of the Ship Rattler, Captain Brown, at Boston on Feb. 20 from Valparaiso. This arrival mark struck at Boston for a Ship Letter charge of 6¢ due for a letter addressed to the port of entry. A scarce mark.

1865

BOSTON TO HAVANA STEAMSHIP CO.

S. S. Cortes

Bridge, Lord & Co., Boston

December 14, 1865. Letter dated at Matanzas, Cuba, and concerns the market for clayed molasses. It is headed inside "Morro Castle", also so endorsed on the face. It went overland to Havana where a forwarding agent re-endorsed it to go by the "Cortes", which was to sail directly from Havana to Boston. The Morro Castle of the Atlantic Mail Steamship Co. sailed to New York.



Boston Shipping List. Arrived at Boston December 22, 1865: Steamer Cortes, Sampson....Havana.

Letter rated as a private ship letter under rates effective since July 1, 1863, 4¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry. Although the company advertised as "The Regular Mail Steamer", her mails were treated as non-contract mail.

Advertisement in the Boston Shipping List, December 23, 1865:

STEAMER FOR HAVANA CARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAIL
The Regular Mail Steamer CORTES, SAMPSON.....Master

Will be despatched as above about the first of January. The day of sailing to be announced here after.

For freight or passage, having elegant accommodations, apply to
BRIDGE, LORD & CO, No. 6 India street
or W.H. KINSMAN & CO., No. 3 India street.

The steamer TONAWANDA will follow immediately.

1870

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad, Cuba to Boston via Havana

S.S. Kensington

MERCHANT'S LINE

New Orleans to Boston via Havana

January 30, 1870. Letter datelined at Trinidad (Cuba) from which city it went overland to Havana.

January 27. The Merchant's Line S.S. Kensington, Capt. Hedge, sailed from New Orleans for Boston via Havana as advertised in the New Orleans Daily Picayune. As she was not a U.S. Mail steamer, letters sent by her were handled as Ship Letters. This letter went aboard her at Havana.



SHIP
6

SHIP

B. 563

B. 685

Feb. 11, 1870. N.Y. Daily Herald notes arrival of S.S. Kensington at Boston from New Orleans. Letter handed into the post office at Boston where it was datestamped and received a nice combination of two SHIP letter handstamps. B.563 is a very late use, Blake notes in use in black from Aug. 3, 1850 to Feb. 8, 1870, and B.685 until Feb. 18, 1870.

As a Ship Letter, it was subject to the Act of March 3, 1863 of double the domestic letter rates. This Act specified 3¢ per ½-oz. for any distance x 2 = 6¢ due. Later in the year postage due stamps were used for this purpose, replacing the Ship marks.

S.S. Kensington: Wooden screw steamer, 1052 tons, built 1852 at Philadelphia. U.S.N. Kensington 1/27/62-7/31/65.

1860

SHIP LETTERS

PRIVATE SHIP LETTER RATES, ACT OF MARCH 3, 1855
BOSTON

The Private Ship Letter rates continued to follow the Inland rates, which the Act of March 3, 1855 (effective April 1) set as:

Up to 3000 miles..... 3 cents
Over 3000 miles 10 cents

To these rates were added the 2¢ Ship Letter charge.



July 31, 1860. Letter datelined at Buena Ayres. Directed by ship "Salacea via Boston".



SHIP

5

September 28, 1860. Letter struck on arrival with the Boston cds (Blake 656), scarce, seen both in black and red. Boston indicated it as a SHIP letter (Blake 680) and rated it with the charge mark "5" (Blake 681), or the Domestic rate of 3¢ + Ship Letter charge = 5¢ due.

Sept. 28, 1860. Bark Salacia, Capt. Freeman, arrived at Boston from Buenos Ayres this date.

1871

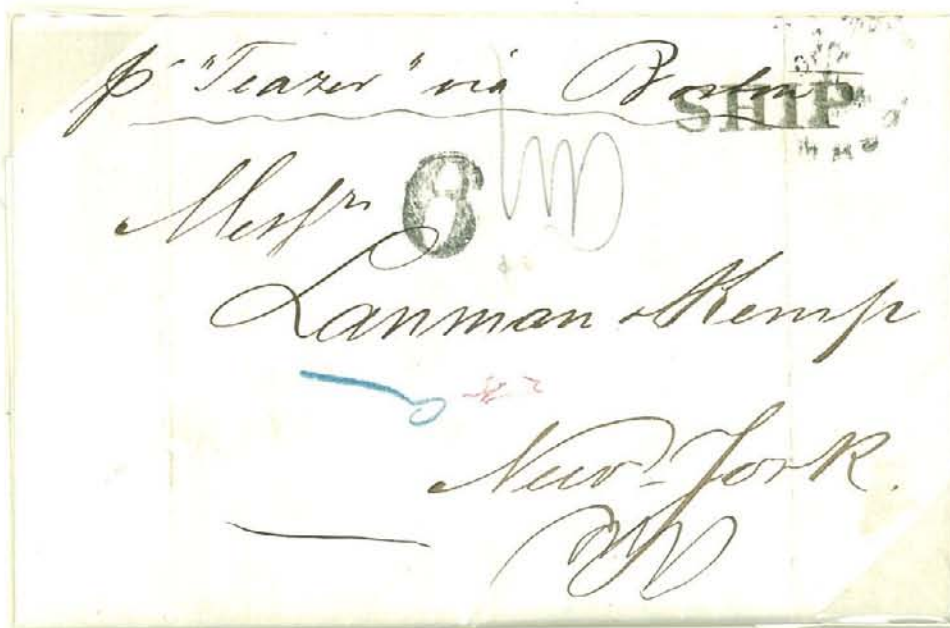
SHIP LETTERS

PONCE. P.R. TO N.Y. VIA HAITI AND BOSTON

British Brig Teazer

Forced into Marblehead Harbor by a gale

November 7, 1871. A letter headed at Ponce, Porto Rico and endorsed: p "Teazer" via Boston. It was handed to the captain of the British brig Teazer who left Ponce for Boston via Gonaives, Haiti. She left Gonaives on November 14.



BOSTON
 6 DEC 6
 2 PM
 MASS B.1399

SHIP

6

Boston Semi-Weekly Advertiser. Arrived Boston December 6: Br. Brig Teazer, McGregor, Gonaives 14th ult. via Marblehead, Mass. (where she put in for a harbor during the late gale). The T. has salt to Nash, Spaulding & Co. and sugar to Foster Candles & Co.

Letter rated, rate effective June 30, 1863, Ship Letter at double the inland rate, viz., any distance per ½-oz. at 3¢ x 2 = 6¢ Ship Letter. N.B.: Gonaives, a. town of Haiti on the Bay of Gonaives, 65 miles N.W. of Port-a u-Prince.

1873

BOSTON SHIP MARKS



B. 689

February 20, 1873. Letter datelined at Cape Haytien, Haiti, it is directionally endorsed on the heading: pr Engl. Schooner, "W.D. Bickford." It concerns consignments of fish, chairs and cheeses, certainly a mixed cargo.



March 26. The schooner W.D. Bickford is noted as arriving at Boston this date from Le Cap Haytien. (N.Y. Times March 27, 1873, by cable from Boston.)

Letter was subject to the 6¢ Ship Letter rate, effective June 30, 1863, which was double the 3¢ domestic First Class Mail rate applicable to private ship letters, foreign and domestic. The BOSTON SHIP/6 is a seldom seen postmark.

1895

SHIP LETTERS

CUNARD LINE

S.S. Scythia

Non-contract Steamer, Liverpool to Boston



Envelope with the embossed backflap: CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED with lion rampant holding the globe.



June 16, 1895. Boston Herald: MARINE RECORD. Monday June 17. Arrived yesterday: Steamer Scythia (Br.,) Silk; Liverpool June 6 via Queenstown 7 to Alex Martin.

Letter marked with a clear strike of the elusive SHIP/4. Rated as a private Ship Letter under rates effective since July 1, 1863, 4¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry. The due amount is shown by a pair of the 2¢ postage due stamps, Issue of 1894.