

1870

GUION LINE

S. S. Manhattan First Guion Voyage under U. S. Mail Contract, 6¢ rate

This letter was carried on the first return voyage of the S. S. Manhattan, which was also the inaugural voyage of the Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited (more popularly known as the Guion Line,) under the January 1, 1870 mail contract. While the Guion Line, British owned, began operations in August 1866, it did not at first carry contract mail. Effective January 1, 1870, the U.S.-British rate was reduced from 12¢ to 6¢, compensation of this amount was for the steamship companies. HAPAG, Cunard, North German Lloyd and Inman Lines, previous contract carriers, declined to carry mails under the new, reduced rates. Forced with a serious disruption of the U.S. mail service to Britain, the U.S. Postmaster General speedily concluded new arrangements for a weekly mail to be carried by the Guion Line to England. The initial contract was for two years. Guion Line steamships were not under contract to carry mails for the British Government to New York at any time during this period.



January 2, 1870. Letter posted at Washington, D.C. and paid at the new reduced rate of 6¢ per ½-oz., U.S. to Britain, by the Issue of 1869.

January 5. Transit at New York. S.S. Manhattan of the Guion Line departed from New York on the first contract voyage for the Guion Line.

January 15. Manhattan arrived at Queens-town.

January 17. Birmingham transit and Stourbridge arrival backstamps.



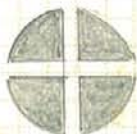
1872

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited  
1866 - 1894

S. S. Nevada

The Guion Line was formed as a result of the appointment of Stephen Barker Guion as agent for the Cunard Line's steerage passenger business in 1863. They were made agents for the passenger and freight business for a new line of steamers between Liverpool and New York, shortly to be reconstituted as the National Line, although usually referred to as the Guion & Co's Line. These activities continued until 1866 when he formed a North Atlantic steamship company known as the Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited, and ordered four iron screw steamers of 2869 tons and upwards from Palmers on Tyneside. The Company was invariably known as the GUION LINE.



Jan. 29, 1872. Letter paid at the Jan. 1, 1870 rate to England at 6¢ per 1/2-oz. Letter transit at Boston same day for transit to New York where the Nevada departed on Jan. 31 for Liverpool via Queenstown.

Guion Shippin'Schedule, Cf: Chronicle  
103, 104.

Feb. 10. London arrival mark. The Nevada had arrived at Queenstown (Ireland) Feb. 11, 3 a.m. London handstamp dated Feb. 10 had not yet been advanced to Feb. 11, an oversight.

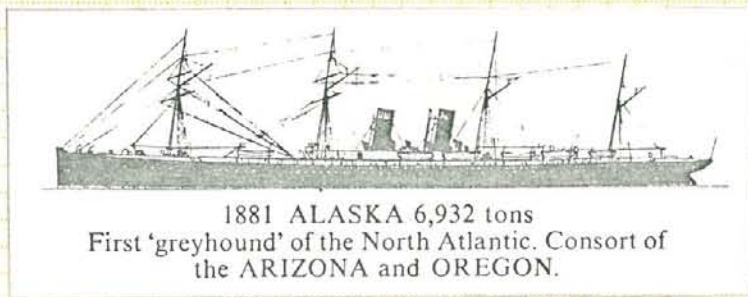
1883

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S. S. Alaska

6,932 tons, 500 x 50'  
Single screw, 17 knots,  
compound engines, iron  
hull. Launched July 15,  
1881 by John Elder & Co.,  
Glasgow. Oct. 30, 1881,  
Maiden Voyage Liverpool-  
Queenstown-New York. She  
won the Atlantic Blue  
Ribbon in April 1882,  
Queenstown to New York  
in 7 days, 6 hours, 43 minutes, average speed 16.10 knots. She  
made the last sailing for the Guion Line in April 1894. Broken  
up for scrap in 1902 at Preston.



1881 ALASKA 6,932 tons  
First 'greyhound' of the North Atlantic. Consort of  
the ARIZONA and OREGON.



August 27, 1883. Single rate (not over 1/2-oz.) U.P.U. letter paid at New York by a copy of the 5¢ brown, Issue of 1882. N.Y. Times notes steam-ship Alaska, Murray master, cleared N.Y. for Liverpool via Queenstown on Aug. 28, Williams & Guion, Agents.



September 6, 1883. London arrival backstamp.

1886

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited  
S.S. Alaska

Per Steamer *"Alaska"*  
Via *Queenstown*

MARX HELD & CO.  
600 & 602 BROADWAY,  
NEW YORK.

SUCCESSOR

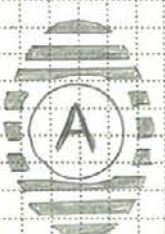
*Mr. J. J. Held*

*S.a* Mess. MARX HELD & CO.

Boulevard de Sebastopol 131

PARIS,

France.



June 21, 1886. Single rate (not over 7-oz.) U.P.J. letter paid at New York by a copy of the 5¢ Garfield brown, Issue of 1882. Receiving mark cancels the adhesive at New York June 21 at 12 noon, transit by Foreign Department backstamp at 1 P.M.

N.Y. Times: Outgoing Steamships Tuesday June 22. Alaska for Liverpool via Queenstown, mails close 6 A.M., sails 8:30 A.M.

By Cable: Queenstown, June 29. The Guion Line steamship Alaska, Capt. Murray from New-York June 22 for this port and Liverpool, arrived off Fastnet at 3 P.M. today.

July 1. Arrival mark at the Paris Foreign (ETRANGER) office.



1889

GUION LINE

S.S. Alaska

J. STROHEIM & CO.,  
IMPORTERS OF  
UPHOLSTERY GOODS,  
209 CANAL STREET,  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Per Str.

ALASKA



*Mrs. G. Perry Gaus*

*Guion*  
1881-94  
6950

*Paris*  
*France*



June 17, 1889. A letter paid at the 5¢ U.P.U. rate to member countries by the stamped envelope, Issue of 1887, die I.

June 18. S.S. Alaska of the Guion Line, as endorsed, departed from New York for Queenstown.

N.Y. Times. BY CABLE, QUEENSTOWN, June 25. The Guion Line steam-ship Alaska, Capt. Murray, from New-York June 18, arrived here at 6:40 P.M. to-day.



June 27. Arrival mark at Paris, Etranger (Foreign.)

1893

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

GUION LINE

S.S. Alaska



August 30, 1893. A letter paid at Chicago at quadruple the U.P.U. rate of 5¢ x 4 = 20¢, paid by four copies of the 5¢ Columbian Exposition Issue of 1893.

September 2. (N.Y. backstamp). S.S. Alaska of the Guion Line departed from New York.



N.Y. Times, September 10. Guion Line's SS Alaska, Capt. Murray, from N.Y. Sept. 2, for Liverpool, arrived at Queenstown today.

September 11. Arrival backstamp at Erlich.

1883

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited  
S.S. Arizona



May 28, 1883. Letter paid at the U.P.U. rate per  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. to member countries by 5¢ Issue of 1880. It was properly endorsed: p. Arizona.

N.Y. Times. POST OFFICE NOTICE: Foreign mails for the week ending June 2, 1883 will close at this office as follows:

TUESDAY (29th) at 7:30 AM for Europe per steam-ship Arizona via Queenstown.

Cleared May 28, steam-ship Arizona (Br.), Brooks, for Liverpool via Queenstown, sailed May 29.

June 6. BY CABLE FROM QUEENSTOWN: The Guion Line steam-ship Arizona, Capt. Brooks, from New-York May 29 for this port and Liverpool arrived here at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

June 10. Arrival backstamp at Venice.

One wonders if the addressee Miss Sarah T. Sands is related to the Sarah Sands for whom the pioneer steamship Sarah Sands was named. N.B.: Note that "Miss Sarah T. Sands/ Care of M" was preprinted and the rest of the address added in pen. This collection has two such envelopes. Cf. White Star Line Germanic.



1886

GUION LINE

S.S. Arizona

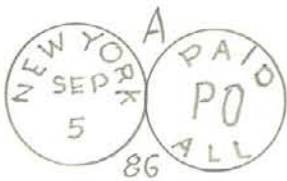


August 28, 1886. A letter posted in London to the U.S. paid at the 2½d. U.P.U. rate by the Issue of 1884, cancelled by the "squared circle" cancel of the London, West Central office. The steamship Arizona, Guion Line, had departed from Liverpool on this date, touched at Queenstown the 29th where this letter went on board.

N.Y. Times. Arrived N.Y. Sept. 5, Steamship Arizona, (Br.,) Brooks, Liverpool Aug. 28 and Queenstown 29th with mdse. and passengers to A.M. Underhill & Co.

September 6. Although U.P.U. regulations allowed forwarding at no further charge, this letter was forwarded to Cincinnati at the 2¢ domestic rate by affixing a 2¢ stamp, Issue of 1883.

September 7. Cincinnati arrival backstamp.





1890

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S.S. Arizona

5,147 tons, 450' x 45' beam. Straight stem, screw steamer, launched March 10, 1879 at John Elder & Co., Glasgow. Maiden voyage May 31, 1879 Liverpool-Queenstown-New York. Last voyage for Guion L'pool-Q'town-N.Y. May 12, 1894. Later in service San Francisco-Japan-China. 1898 became USS Hancock, 1903-14 receiving ship at Brooklyn Navy Yard. 1917-18 North Atlantic troopship. Scrapped 1926.



Dubus 5/2



August 8, 1890. Registered letter posted at the London Chief Office with U.P.U. postal rate of 2½d. (5¢) plus 7d. registry fee paid by a nice array of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Issue through the 3d.

N.Y. Times. By cable from Queenstown Aug. 10. Guion Line, S.S. Arizona, Capt. Brooks, sailed hence for New-York at 1 P.M. today.

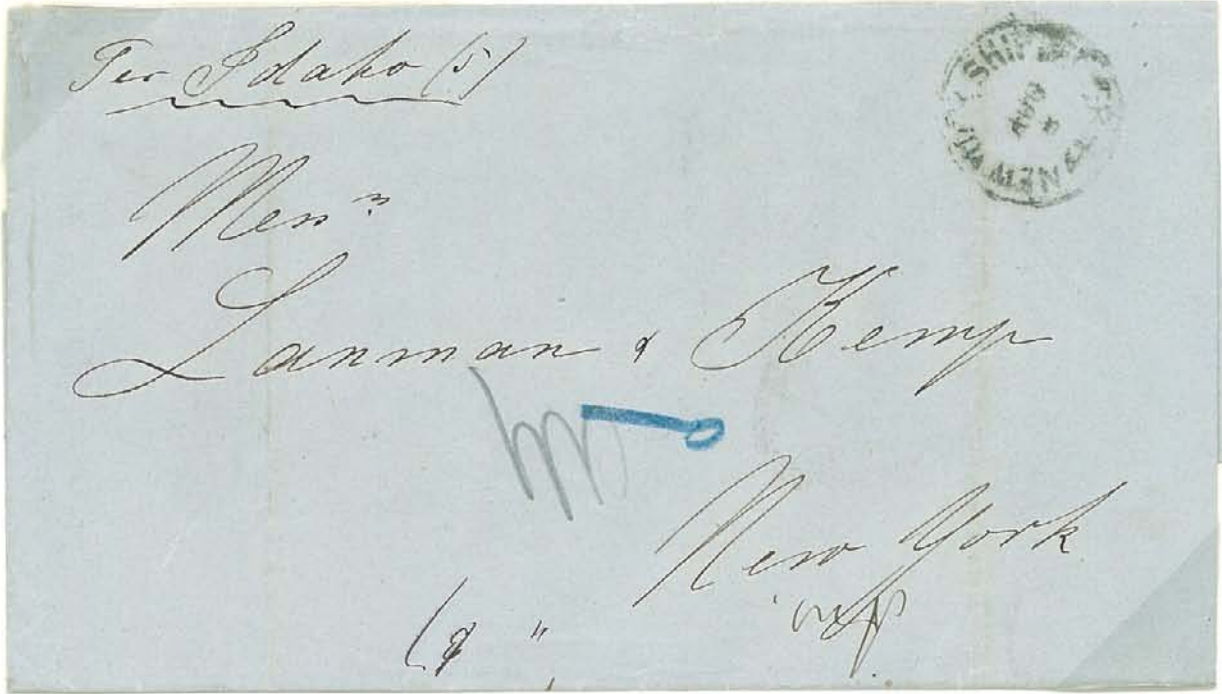


Aug. 17. Arrival backstamp at New York. N.Y. Times: "Arrived N.Y. Aug. 17, S.S. Arizona, Liverpool and Queenstown 8 days." A fast passage.

1870

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited  
S.S. Idaho



July 27, 1870. A consignee's letter and Bill of Lading by Thomas Irvine & Co., forwarding and shipping agents at Liverpool. Goods were "shipped on board the Steamer Idaho, Capt. Price, bound for New York."

S.S. Idaho of the Guion Line departed from Liverpool this same date.



April 7. Idaho arrived at New York. As this consignee's letter was handled as a loose letter (rather than as contract mail) it was subject to the Ship Letter rate which was double the domestic rate, here the 2¢ drop letter rate x 2 = 4¢ due.

1872

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S. S. Idaho

3,132 tons, 345.3 ft. x 43.4 ft. beam, iron screw steamer, straight stem, 11 knots. Built by Palmer Bros. & Co., Jarrow-on-Tyne. Launched Feb. 13, 1869. Maiden Voyage April 13, 1869, Liverpool-Queenstown-New York. June 1, 1878, wrecked on coast of Wexford, Ireland, no casualties.



B.937

February 19, 1872. Double rated letter ( $\frac{1}{2}$ -1-oz.) paid by a pair of the 6¢ Bank Note Issue of 1870-71 at 6¢ per  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. at Gloucester, Mass. Transit same day at Boston. S.S. Idaho departed from New York Feb. 21, 1872.



March 4, 1872. Records show the Idaho arrived Queenstown March 3. London East Central paid mark where mail was processed the next day.

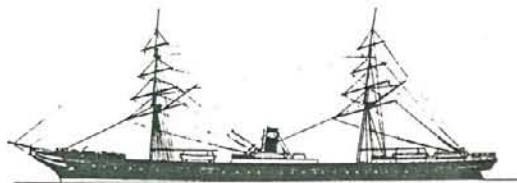
1872

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S.S. Manhattan - First of the Guion Fleet

She was the pioneer of the Guion Line, 2869 tons, 335 ft. x 42'-6" beam, clipper bow, iron screw steamer, 10 knots. Launched May 15, 1866, at Palmer Bros. & Co., Jarrow-on-Tyne. Aug. 8, 1866, Maiden Voyage Liverpool-Queenstown-New York. 1874 compound engines installed by Fawcett & Preston, Liverpool, tonnage 3231. In 1875 she became the Massachusetts of the Warren Line. Aug. 15, 1902, wrecked near Cape Town.



1866 MANHATTAN 2,869 tons  
Pioneer of the Guion Line. In 1875 became Warren Line MASSACHUSETTS.



*W. Willis Burnstead  
Care of Norton, Rose  
& Co*



*London  
England*

May 20, 1872. Letter paid at Gloucester, Mass. by two 3¢ Bank Note Issue of 1870-71 stamps at the 6¢ transatlantic rate between U.S. and Britain. The Manhattan departed New York May 22, 1872 for Liverpool via Queenstown.



June 3, 1872. Manhattan arrived Queenstown this date at 2 p.m. Transit mark at London.

1870

GUION LINE

S.S. Minnesota

April 27, 1870. A consignee's letter datelined at Liverpool enclosing a Bill of Lading for 24 serons Green Jalca shipped on board the S.S. Minnesota. Letter is endorsed: Consignee p. Minnesota/s/.

April 28. S.S. Minnesota of the Guion Line departed from Liverpool; she touched at Queenstown the 29th.



May 11. Minnesota arrived at New York. This consignee's letter did not pass through the British post office, but was handed directly to the purser aboard the Minnesota. As such, it was not handled as a contract mail letter, but was treated as a Ship Letter rated at double the domestic rate. Here the 2¢ Drop Letter rate x 2 = 4¢ due.

1872

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S. S. Minnesota

3,008 tons, 335'-5" x 42'-6" beam, clipper bow, iron steamer, 10 knots, launched Feb. 1867 at Palmer Bros. & Co., Jarrow-on-Tyne. Maiden Voyage April 14, 1867, Liverpool-Queenstown-New York. Nov. 18, 1874 Last Voyage ditto. After a varied career she was scrapped in 1908.



B. 937

May 6-7, 1872. Letter paid 6¢ x 2 = 12¢ double transatlantic rate between U.S. and Britain effective Jan. 1, 1870. Nice strip of four of the 3¢ Issue of 1870-71 pays rate and shows that the Gloucester "cut cork" cancel was separate from the cds. SS Minnesota departed New York May 8, 1872.



May 21, 1872. London, East Central District receipt PAID mark. Minnesota had arrived at Queenstown, Ireland May 20 at 7 p.m.

1872

GUION LINE

S.S. Minnesota

Single Rates



Letter posted at Gloucester, Mass.	March 25, 1872
<u>Minnesota</u> departed from New York	March 27
" arrived at Queenstown	April 8
Letter stamped incoming at London	April 9.



Letter posted at Gloucester, Mass.	February 12, 1872
<u>Minnesota</u> departed from New York	February 14
" arrived at Queenstown	February 24 (Saturday)
Letter stamped incoming at London	February 26 (Monday).

1873

GUION LINE

S.S. Minnesota



Aug. 26, 1873 (also docket on reverse of cover). Letter paid at the 6¢ single rate to

Aug. 26. Transit at N.Y. S.S. Minnesota of the Guion Line departed from N.Y. this date. R.M.S. Algeria also departed for Queenstown on Aug. 26, but arrived on Sept. 6, 2 days before the Minnesota.



Sept. 8, 1873. Minnesota arrived at Queenstown at 8:30 a.m. this date, sufficient time for the mail to be processed through to London to receive this PAID receipt stamp the same day.



1880

GUION LINE

S.S. Montana

Penultimate Voyage

4321 tons, 400' x 44', iron screw steamer built by Palmer Bros. & Co., Jarrow-on-Tyne. Launched Nov. 14, 1872. June 17, 1874, sailed Liverpool-New York, but returned June 21 with machinery disabled. July 7, 1874, resumed Liverpool-Queenstown-New York. March 13, 1880 stranded on Anglesea, North Wales, refloated. 1880 scrapped at Sunderland.

This letter was carried on her next-to-last eastbound passage. Her 1880 dates were:

Depart N.Y.	Jan. 26 (this letter)	Arrived Q'town	Feb. 5
Depart Q'tn.	Feb. 16	Arrived N.Y.	Feb. 25
Depart N.Y.	Mar. 1	Arrived Q'town	Mar. 12
Went on rocks at Church Bay, one day out of		Q'town Mar. 13.	



Jan. 26, 1880. Letter endorsed to the Montana paid at the 5¢ U.P.U. rate to member countries by stamped envelope Issue of 1875, Die I. Guion Line's Montana sailed this date from N.Y. for L'pool via Q'town.

Feb. 5. Montana arrived at Queenstown where her mails went ashore.

Feb. 7. Arrival backstamp at Amsterdam.

1872

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S. S. Wisconsin

3,238 tons, 366 ft. x 43 ft. beam, straight stem, iron screw propeller, 11 knots. She was the first North Atlantic liner with compound engines. Built by Palmer Bros. & Co., Jarrow-on-Tyne, launched March 19, 1870. Maiden voyage July 6, 1870, Liverpool-Queenstown-New York. Scrapped 1893.



May 28, 1872. Letter paid at Gloucester, Massachusetts by 6¢ stamp, Bank Note Issue of 1870-71, which was the Jan. 1, 1870 transatlantic rate between U.S. and Britain.

The S. S. Wisconsin of the Guion Line departed New York May 29, 1872 for Liverpool via Queenstown, Ireland.



June 10, 1872. The Wisconsin had arrived at Queenstown June 8 at 6 p.m. As June 9th was a Sunday, letter was not stamped incoming at London until Monday June 10.

1872

GUION LINE

S. S. Wisconsin



Letter datelined at Hyde Park, Mass.  
Wisconsin departed New York  
 " arrived Queenstown

March 5, 1872  
 March 6, 1872  
 March 15  
 (March 17 = Sunday)  
 March 18.

Cover dated incoming at London



Letter datelined at Gloucester, Mass.  
Wisconsin departed New York  
 " arrived Queenstown

April 14, 1872  
 April 17  
 April 28  
 April 29.

Cover dated incoming at London

1881

GUION LINE

S. S. Wisconsin



May 16, 1881. Letter paid at New York at the U.P.U. 5¢ per half-ounce rate to member countries by 2¢ and 3¢ stamps, Issue of 1879.

Cleared for sailing Monday, May 16 at N.Y. Wisconsin for Liverpool via Queenstown, Williams & Guion. N.Y. Times notes she sailed May 17.



May 28. By Cable from Queenstown May 27: The Guion Line Steam-ship Wisconsin, Capt. Bentley, from N.Y. May 17, arrived here at 5:30 o'clock this morning on her way to Liverpool.

European and London mail went ashore at Queenstown and this letter cleared the London East Central Office on the 28th.

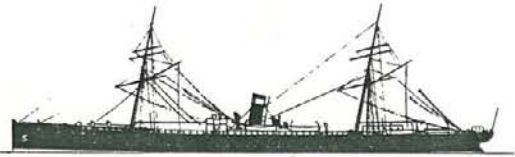
1872

GUION LINE

Liverpool & Great Western Steamship Company Limited

S.S. Wyoming

3,238 tons, 366 ft. x 42 ft. beam, straight stem, iron screw steamer, compound engines, 11 knots. Built by Palmer Bros. & Co., Jarrow-on-Tyne. Launched July 30, 1870. Maiden voyage Liverpool-Queenstown-New York Nov. 28, 1870. Last voyage Nov. 19, 1892. Scrapped 1893.



1870 WYOMING 3,238 tons  
Sister ship: WISCONSIN. Among the first North Atlantic liners with compound engines.



March 18, 1872. Letter paid 6¢ per ½-oz. at New Haven, the transatlantic rate U.S. to Britain, effective Jan. 1, 1870 to July 1, 1875.

March 20. New York transit. The Wyoming left New York this date for Liverpool via Queenstown, Ireland.



April 2. London arrival. The Wyoming had arrived at Queenstown April 1, 1872 at 8 a.m.

Cf: Chronicle 103, Pg. 219.

1875

GUION LINE

S.S. Wyoming



October 25, 1875. Letter paid at the General Postal Union rate of 12½ cent at Vlissingen, Netherlands by the Issue of 1875. Mail was closed through England.

October 27. Guion Line S.S. Wyoming departed from Liverpool this date and touched at Queenstown the 28th where the European mails went aboard.



November 7. N.Y. Times: Arrived Nov. 7 Steam-ship Wyoming (Br.), Liverpool Oct. 27 and Queenstown 28th to Williams & Guion. Nov. 3 lat 46 15 lon 49 30 passed vessel Sarpedon, dismasted and abandoned.