

PANAMA

The Evolution of Postal Systems in Panama (1777 -1881)

Spanish Colonial Period to Panama joining the UPU

Purpose and Importance

This postal history exhibit details the development of Panama's postal system from 1777 to 1881, when Panama joined the Universal Postal Union. Due to its unique geographical position, the Isthmus of Panama had major commercial and political influence in the 19th century, including enormous importance in the international mail system.

Historical Background

Explored and settled by the Spanish in the 16th century, a Spanish colonial jurisdiction in northern South America was created as the **Viceroyalty of Nueva Granada** in May 27, 1717. It encompassed the modern nations of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela. Panama was incorporated into it in 1739.

Panama broke with Spain and became independent on November 21, 1821. It joined Nueva Granada, Ecuador and Venezuela in forming the **Republic of Gran Colombia**. Although Gran Colombia was dissolved in 1831, Panama and Nueva Granada remained together as the **Republic of Colombia**. Panama seceded from Colombia in 1903.



Denotes the most significant items * Denotes Certificate attached

I. PANAMA MAILS, 1777 - 1866

From PANAMA

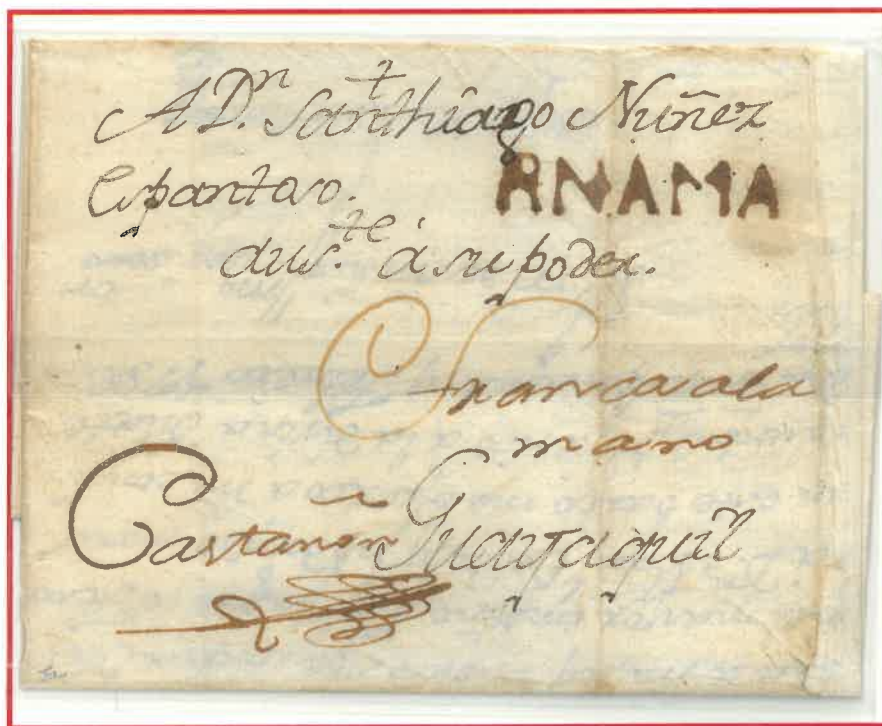
I. a - SPANISH COLONIAL PERIOD 1777 - 1831

This chapter shows the beginnings of the mail system in Panama in the late 1700's containing very elusive, and in many cases, unique items from the oldest towns in the region such as Panama, Chagres, Colon, Portovelo, Veragua, David and Nata

"PANAMA" Condensed marking - 1777



19 February 1777



Entire letter from PANAMA CITY to GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador

With paid endorsement "Franca a la mano" in manuscript and signed "Castano" with straight line condensed PANAMA marking in brownish ink.

THE EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE OF A PRESTAMP MARKING IN PANAMA

Only two covers with this condensed marking are known, both dated 1777

"PANAMA" Postmark 1807 - 1837

2 December 1808



Entire letter from PANAMA CITY to SANTA FE de BOGOTA

The entire struck with a PANAMA handstamp Type II and above, with a FRANCA handstamp, both in red.

Rated 5 Reales for a double letter up to 2 ounces

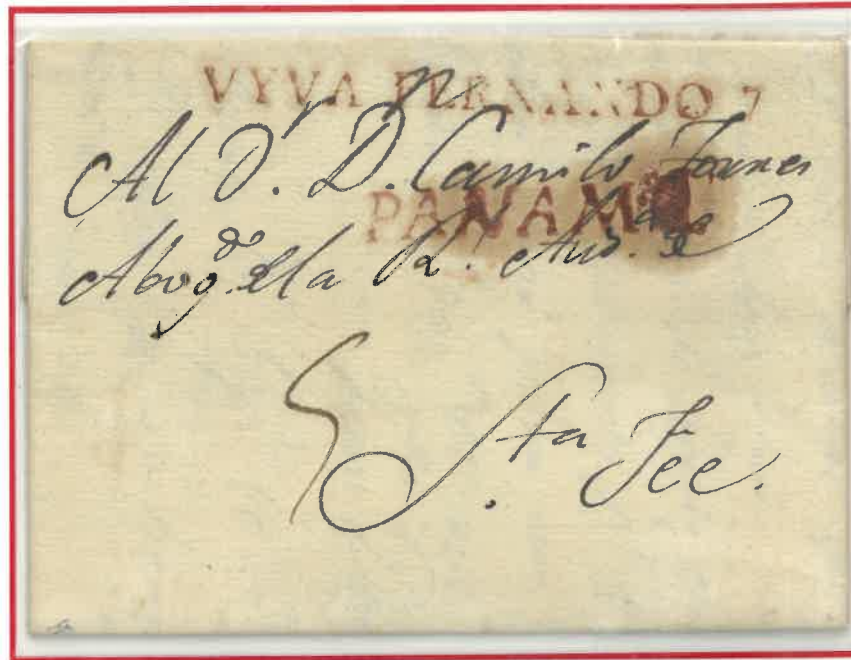
Rate dated December 4, 1770 published in the "Itinerario Real de Correo del Nuevo Reino de Granada"

**ONE OF THREE LETTERS WITH BOTH
"PANAMA" AND "FRANCA" POSTMARKS KNOWN**

ONLY 11 COVERS WITH THE "PANAMA" MARKING
DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD ARE KNOWN

The addressee, Camilo Torres, was a leader of the Revolutionary Forces, and was elected President of the United Provinces of Nueva Granada on November 15, 1815. He was captured and executed on October 5, 1816.

30 June 1809



The patriotic handstamp "VYVA FERNANDO 7" was applied in support of Spain's king, then imprisoned in France.

Entire letter from PANAMA CITY to SANTA FE de BOGOTA *

Rated 5 Reales for a double letter up to 2 ounces

Rate dated December 4, 1770 published in the

"Itinerario Real de Correo del Nuevo Reino de Granada"

The entire struck with PANAMA Type II handstamp and above it with the patriotic handstamp "VYVA FERNANDO 7" in red

ONLY EXAMPLE OF THIS PATRIOTIC MARKING KNOWN

12 November 1816



Entire letter from PANAMA CITY to LIMA, Peru *

Rated 4 Reales for a double letter up to 1 1/2 ounces

Rate dated December 4, 1770 published in the

"Itinerario Real de Correo del Nuevo Reino de Granada"

6 May 1819



Entire letter from PANAMA CITY to LIMA, Peru
 With Paquebot notation on lower right and a
 straight line PANAMA Type II marking in red

FROM PERU

9 September 1819



Entire letter from LIMA to CADIZ, Spain
 Sent by ship to Panama, then across the Isthmus and
 mailed with a strike of PANAMA Type II in red, and hand-
 struck "10R" arrival rating in red

*On arrival in Spain, the 10R rate would seem to suggest that it has been
 treated as a second weight letter originating from Panama rather than from Peru*

I. b - REPUBLIC OF NEW GRANADA 1831 -1858

From PANAMA

In 1819, Simon Bolivar creates the Republic of Gran Colombia which included the territories of present day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, northern Peru, western Guyana and northwest Brazil. The federation was abolished in 1831 and Venezuela, Ecuador and New Granada came to exist as independent states.

No Panama covers are known during the Gran Colombia period.

The Republic of New Granada was created after the dissolution of the Republic of Gran Colombia, now consisting of present day Colombia, Panama and smaller portions of today's Ecuador and Venezuela. New Granada was transformed in 1858 to the Granadine Confederation.

11 September 1837



Entire letter from PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA *

The letter was originally rated 2 Reales to CARTAGENA, but as the addressee was not found, the letter was sent to BOGOTA and the rate of 2 Reales was amended to 4 Reales



Undated letter from PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA

The letter was originally rated 4 Reales to BOGOTA, but as the addressee was not found, the letter was sent to POPAYAN and the rate of 4 Reales was amended to 5 Reales

"SMALL RED PANAMA STRAIGHT LINE" Postmark 1855-1856

**THIS "SMALL RED PANAMA STRAIGHT LINE" MARKING ,
DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS PANAMA MARKING, WAS
DEVELOPED BY THE US CONSULAR OFFICE IN PANAMA AND WAS
IN USE FOR LESS THAN TWO YEARS**

8 March 1855



From PANAMA CITY to NEW YORK

Struck with a "30" rating handstamp for the 30c American packet rate from Panama

ONLY 1 OF 5 RECORDED

“PANAMA FRANCO” and “PANAMA DE OFICIO” Postmarks 1835-1860

Before adhesive stamps came into use, it was necessary to indicate on the cover whether the franking amount was free, prepaid or had to be collected on delivery. In Panama it was customary to use rubber handstamps that read “Panama de Oficio” (free for government mail), “Panama Franco” when franking was prepaid, and “Panama Debe” when it had to be collected on delivery.

12 September 1838

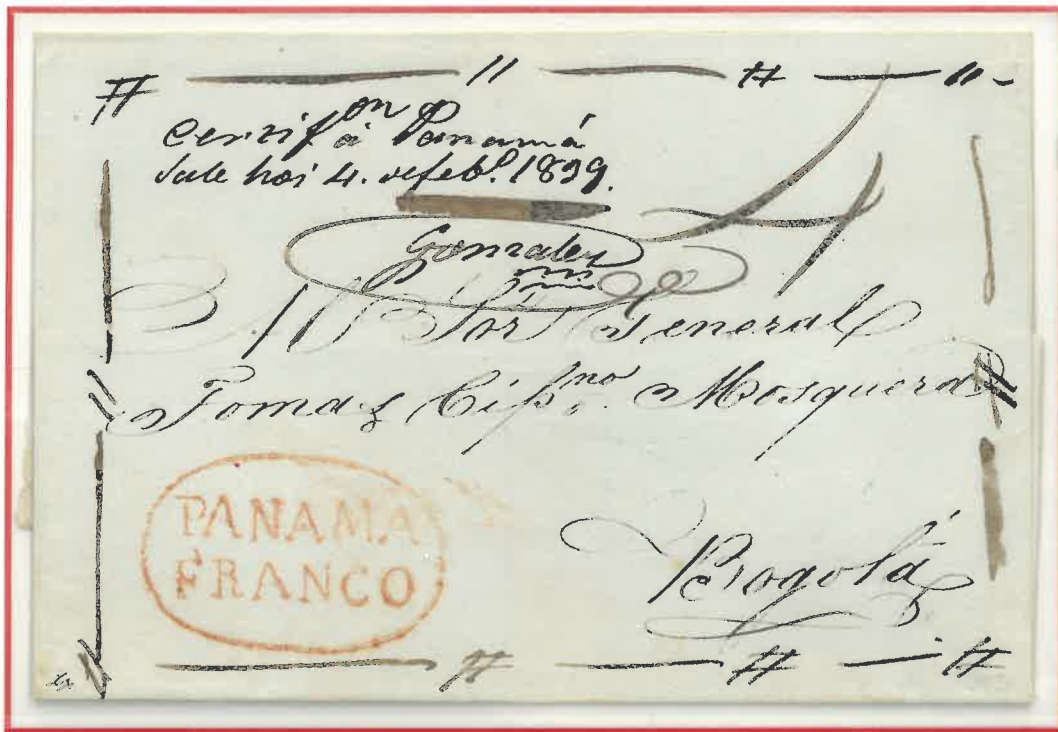


PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA *

Showing “PANAMA FRANCO” Type I (without stars) and “PANAMA DE OFICIO” handstamps - unique combination, there is no logical explanation for the use of both markings

This is the only known “PANAMA FRANCO” (prepaid) and “PANAMA DE OFICIO” (free) handstamp combination

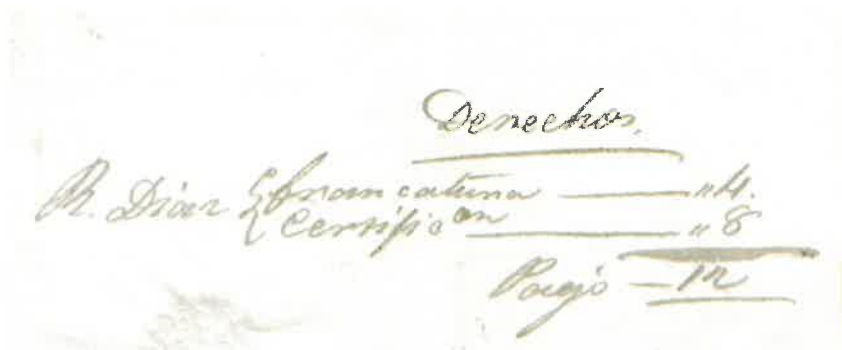
4 February 1839



PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA

Registered cover with oval PANAMA/FRANCO in red, with hash marks around the edges and manuscript registration endorsement with "4" rating and additional "4 + 8 = 12" paid rate endorsement on the reverse of cover

Showing "PANAMA FRANCO" - TYPE I (without stars)
Recorded use 1829 -1839 period (T&G 5)



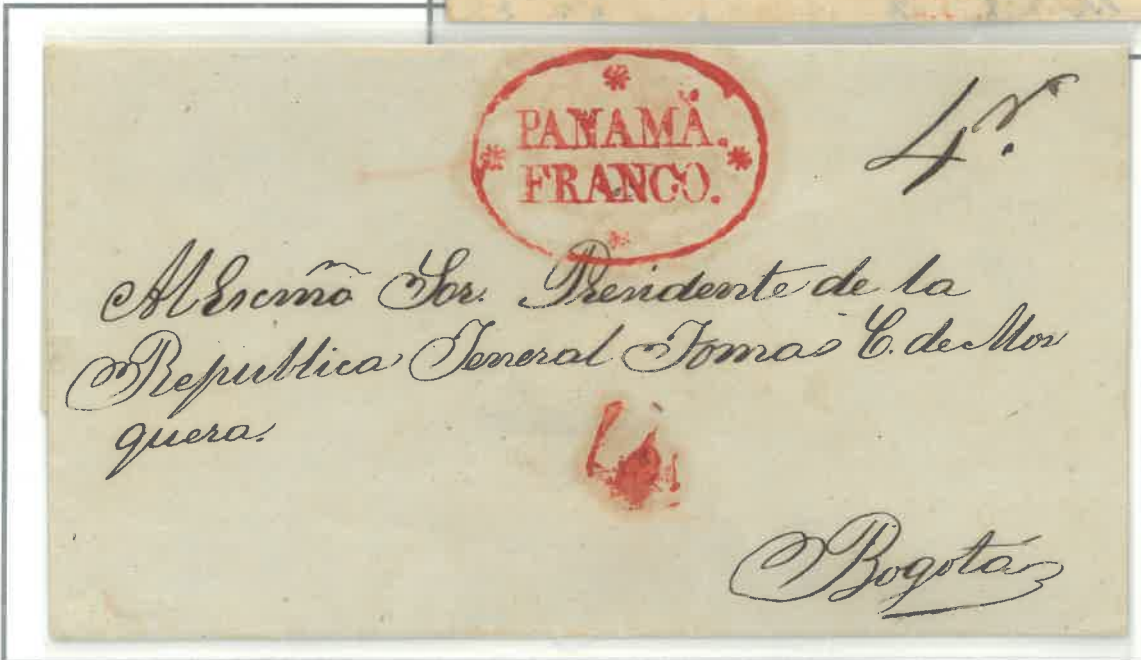
Scan at 70% of reverse of cover showing the rate paid

ONLY REGISTERED COVER OF THE PERIOD RECORDED



13 March 1842
 PANAMA CITY via
 KINGSTON, Jamaica to
 LONDON, England
 1 1/2 Reales ship letter rate to
 Kingston (arrived on 5
 May 1842) and
 then by British packet to
 London. Charged postage
 due 1/8d on arrival
 Showing Red oval
 "PANAMA FRANCO"
 TYPE II (with stars)

9 July 1844
 PANAMA CITY via
 KINGSTON, Jamaica to
 LONDON, England
 Posted in Panama paying
 the local internal fee to
 port of 1 Real and then
 taken by private ship to
 Kingston where the circular
 PANAMA B.P.O. handstamp
 in Black and manuscript 1/-
 charge to be paid upon
 arrival was applied.
 Showing Red oval
 "PANAMA FRANCO"
 Type II handstamp



30 June 1846
 PANAMA CITY
 to BOGOTA
 Showing Red oval
 "PANAMA FRANCO"
 Type II handstamp
 Red handstamp 4
 complements the
 manuscript 4 Reales
 correct 1846 rate for a
 triple letter weight of 1 oz.
 Letter sent to the
 President of Colombia
 Tomas C. de Mosquera

"PANAMA DEBE" Postmark 1842-1866

The "PANAMA DEBE" postmark was used to indicate that the postage had to be collected on delivery

21 January 1842



PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA

Originally addressed to BOGOTA, changed to CARTAGENA or BARRANQUILLA prior to mailing. Sent as DEBE (DUE) for 1 1/2 Reales single rate up to 1/2 oz. to another province

30 May 1846



PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA

Sent as DEBE (DUE) for 4 Reales triple rate up to 1 oz. to another province

8 March 1855



PANAMA CITY to BOGOTA
 With oval handstamp "panama debe" (DUE) and 15 Ctvts.
 decimal single letter charge indication

29 February 1868



PARIS via LONDON, SANTA MARTA, COLON, PANAMA CITY to BUENAVENTURA

Paid French 1 Fr. single rate from Paris to Buenaventura with "LONDON PAID"
 Transit cds marked "PP" (Paid to Port) and "SANTA MARTA DEBE" (first port of entry
 into Colombia). Sent to Colon, and marked ULTRAMAR and PANAMA/DEBE in
 Panama City. Also marked "10" amount due on arrival in Buenaventura

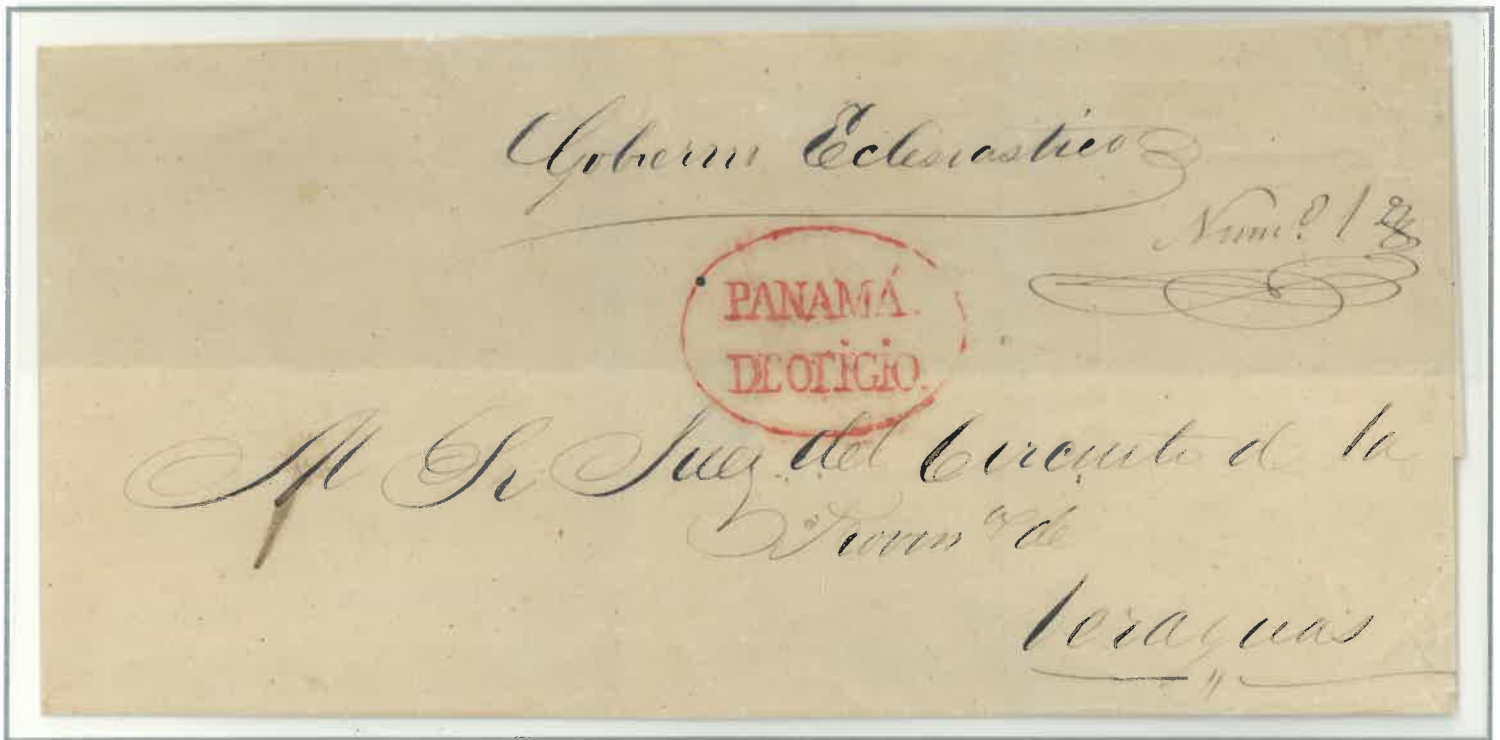
"PANAMA DE OFICIO" Postmark 1845-1866

The "PANAMA DE OFICIO" postmark was used to indicate that the postage was free for official government mail

11 August 1846

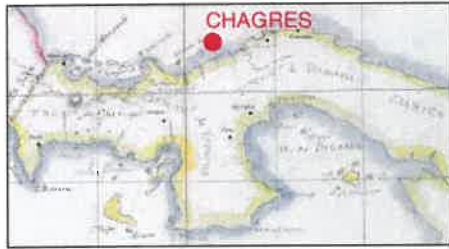


Letter sent "DE OFICIO" from PANAMA CITY to SAN CARLOS
Official correspondence to a Circuit Judge in San Carlos, located in South central Panama. **Only reported cover to San Carlos**
30 June 1852

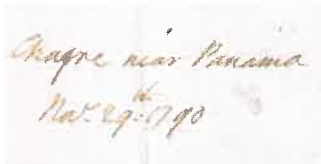


Ecclesiastic correspondence "DE OFICIO" from PANAMA CITY to VERAGUAS
Veraguas is located in Southeast Panama

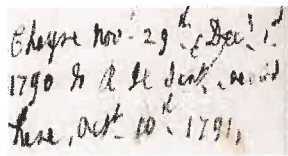
"CHAGRES" Postmark



29 November 1790



Expanded view of portion of letter showing "Chagres" as origin



Annotated as received October 10th, 1791 almost one year later!

Sent from CHAGRES without postal markings Addressed to "Mr. Robert Hodgson"/"If he should stop at Corn Islands" (Nicaragua) **EARLIEST KNOWN COVER FROM CHAGRES**

7 August 1840



CHAGRES via KINGSTON to LONDON, England

Entire letter with Kingston, Jamaica transit backstamp. Manuscript rating "1/- + 11 d from CHAGRE = 1/11" deleted by London inspector "crown" handstamp and amended to "2/3" which was the correct rate from Panama to England in 1840.

"CHAGRES FRANCA" Postmark 1840 -1850

27 August 1840



CHAGRES to PANAMA CITY

Postage paid 1 Real correct single letter rate within PANAMA

21 November 1844



CHAGRES to BOGOTA

Postage paid 4 Reales triple rate up to 1 oz. to another province
Unique letter with this postmark sent outside of PANAMA

ONLY TWO COVERS WITH "CHAGRES FRANCA" POSTMARK RECORDED

"DEBE CHAGRES" Postmark 1850

28 August 1850



CHAGRES to PANAMA CITY

Postage paid 1 Real correct single letter rate within PANAMA

18 September 1850



CHAGRES to PANAMA CITY

Postage due 1 Real correct single letter rate within PANAMA

ONLY TWO COVERS WITH "DEBE CHAGRES" POSTMARK RECORDED

"SANTA FE" Prior to PORTOVELO Postmark 1779 - 1816

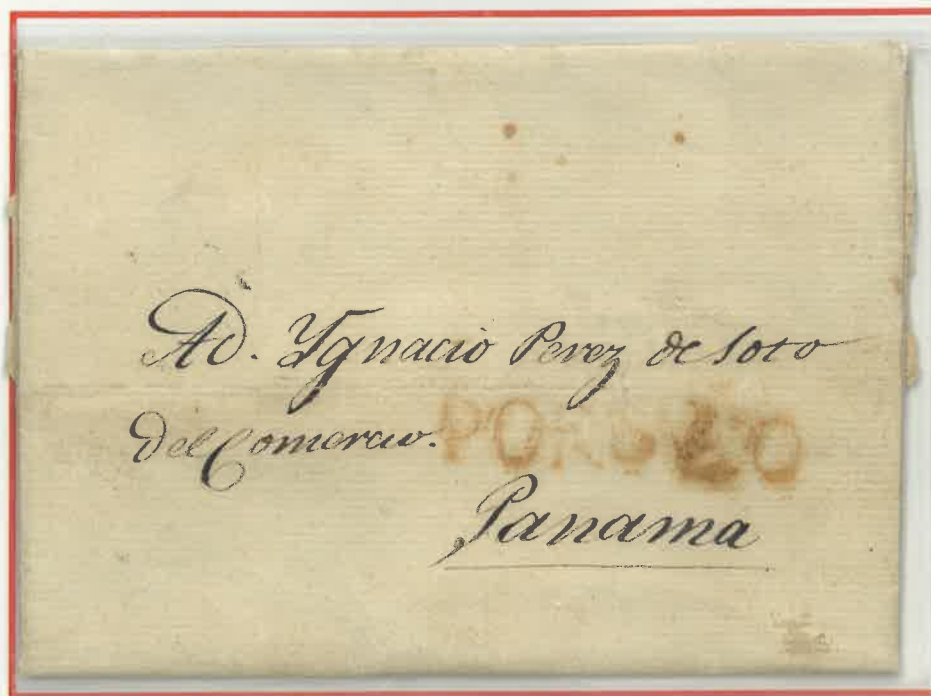
"PORTOVELO" Postmark 1816 - 1850



Partial scan of letter at 60% showing
PORTOVELO origin

4 December 1804

16 February 1816



Sent from PORTOVELO to PANAMA

Entire letter from PortoVELO to Panama, distance 26 leagues / 145 kilometers. Struck with contracted PORTOVELO handstamp in red-brown.

No notation of rate, but under 1/2 ounce and thus postage would have been 1 1/2 reales.

THE EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE OF THIS HANDSTAMP



20 February 1833



Sent from PORTOVELO to CARTAGENA
and re-directed to POPAYAN.

Marked 1 1/2 Reales manuscript single letter rate for a distance from Panama to Cartagena. Readdressed to Popayan and the rate amended to 4 Reales DEBE (Due) as indicated by the oval "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA CARTAGENA DEBE" postal marking to cover the distance of more than 300 leagues (1,667 Kilometers) from Panama to Popayan



Sent from PORTOVELO to AZPEITIA, Spain

Entire letter probably carried via HAVANA-CORUNA, rated by hand "6rs" as per an unpaid single letter rate. Bearing a fine and clear strike of Italic "SANTA FE", being handstamped in PORTOVELO prior to the usage of PORTOVELO handstamps.

The only item recorded exhibiting the "SANTA FE" postmark applied in Panama, as well as one of just two covers known with this handstamp used outside of Santa Fe de Bogota

The SANTA FE postal district (Nueva Granada Viceroyalty) comprised territories in present-day Colombia and Panama. The "SANTA FE" postmark was not only used at SANTA FE de BOGOTA, but also in the area of Santa Fe, as stipulated by postal rules of 1st September 1779

LESS THAN 5 COVERS WITH THIS "PORTOVELO" POSTAL MARKING KNOWN

"VERAGUA DE OFICIO" Postmark 1845-1855

16 September 1846



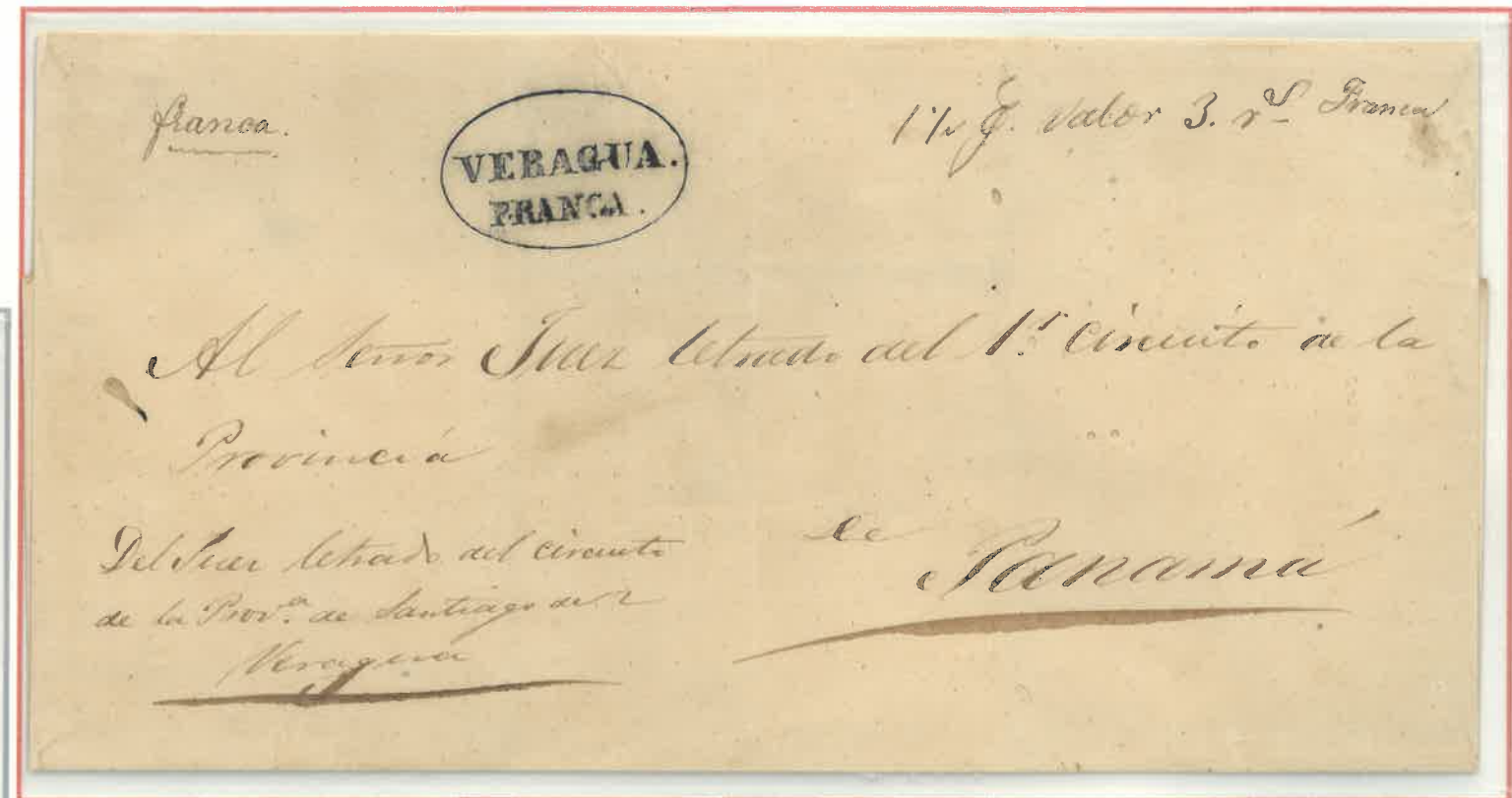
VERAGUA to PANAMA CITY

30 August 1847



"VERAGUA FRANCA" Postmark 1850-1855

9 November 1850



VERAGUA to PANAMA CITY

Paid 3 Reales for 1 1/2 oz.

ONLY KNOWN COVER SHOWING "VERAGUA FRANCA" HANDSTAMP



VERAGUA to DAVID

Endorsed "3/4 de onza. Su porte dos rls cincuenta Cs. 2-50", with single oval VERAGUA/DEBE in red deleted and replaced by double oval VERAGUA/DE/OFICIO also in red

The "DE OFICIO" postmark was used to indicate that the postage was free for official government mail

The "FRANCA" postmark was used to indicate that the postage was prepaid

"DAVID DE OFICIO" Postmark 1845-1855

18 April 1846



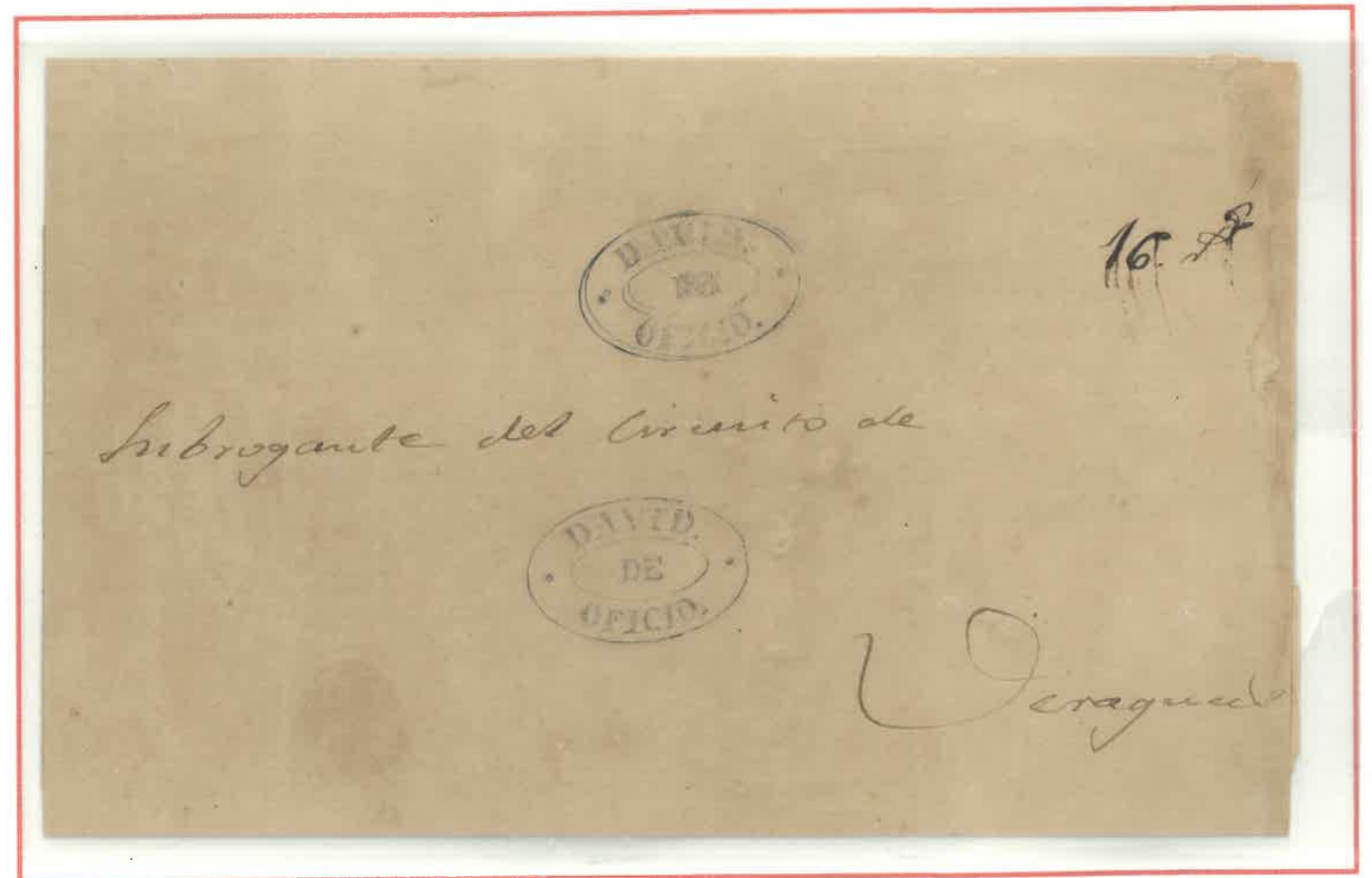
Entire letter from DAVID to SANTIAGO
With double oval DAVID/DE/OFICIO in black

*Santiago was the principal town in the
Province of Veragua*

**A VERY RARE MARKING
TO DATE ONLY TWO EXAMPLES HAVE BEEN RECORDED**



4 March 1850



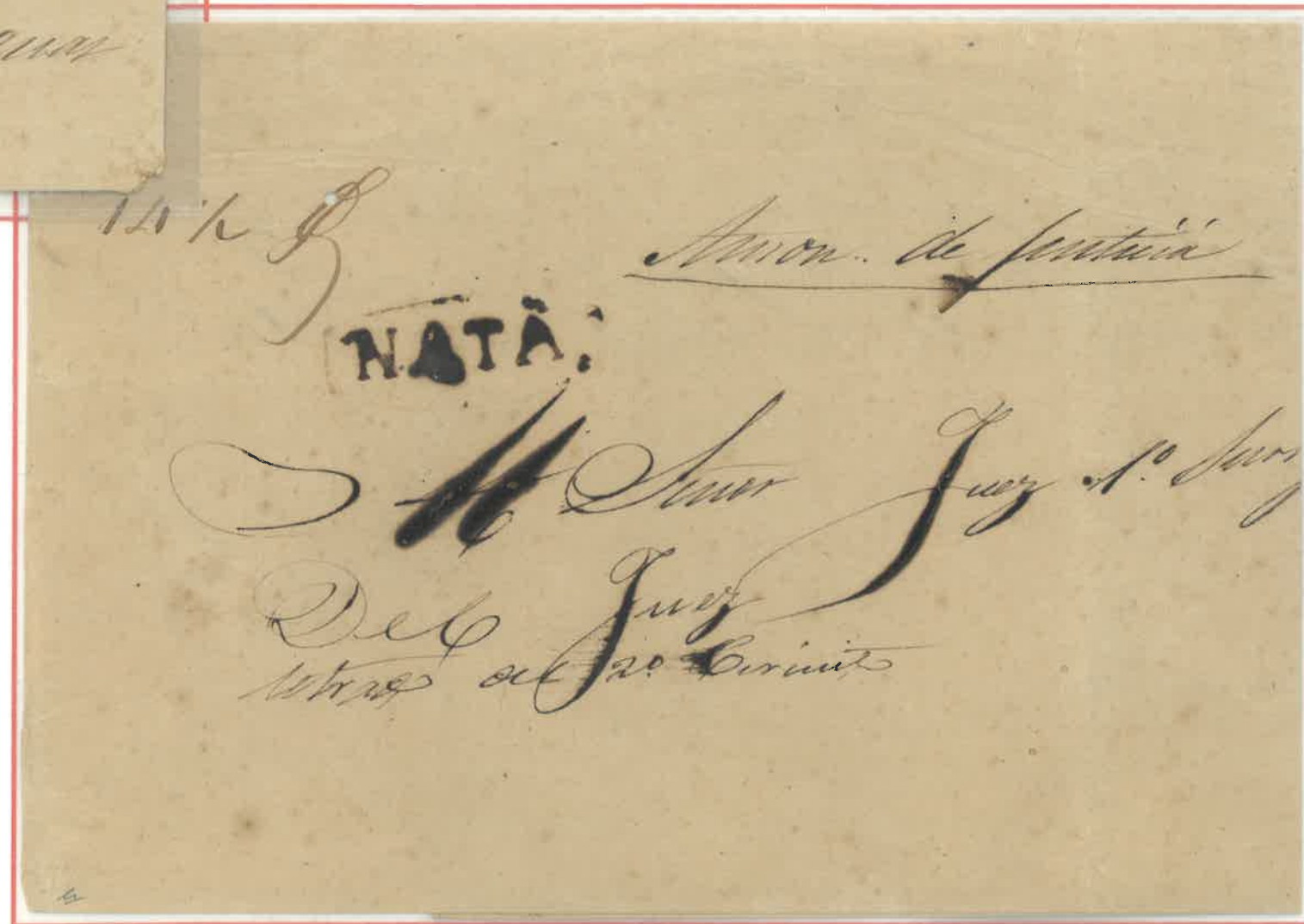
Entire letter from DAVID to VERAGUA
With double oval DAVID/DE/OFICIO in black
Paid 16 Reales for 8 oz.

“NATA FRANCA” Postmark 1850-1855

18 February 1851



10 April 1851



Official Judicial correspondence from NATA to VERAGUA

Paid 4 Reales for 2 oz.

Note that FRANCA has been deleted (top right)

A VERY RARE MARKING

TO DATE JUST THREE EXAMPLES OF THE NATA MARKING HAVE BEEN RECORDED

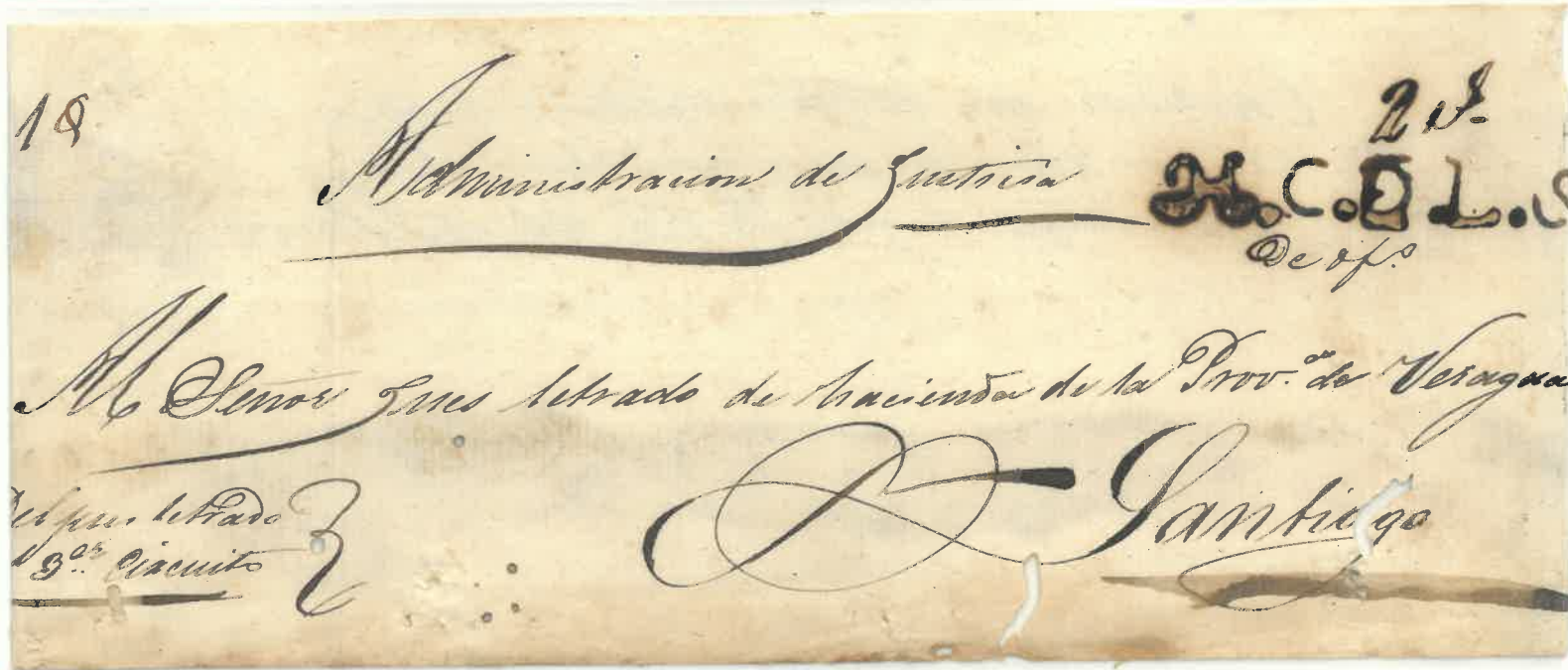
Official Judicial correspondence from NATA to VERAGUA
Endorsed "14 1/2 oz. valor 29 rs" with straight line NATA in black
partly framed possibly from the edges of the cancelling device

*

“LOS SANTOS” Postmark 1848



16 March 1848



Sent from LOS SANTOS to SANTIAGO

*

Judicial correspondence to SANTIAGO, the principal town in the Province of Veraguas

Endorsed 1 oz 2rs and in black manuscript “de ofo” underneath, meaning De Oficio (Free Postage)

ONE OF ONLY TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE “LOS SANTOS” MARKING

"COLON DEBE " Postmark



20 July 1857
 NEW YORK via COLON
 to BOGOTA



6 October 1857
 NEW YORK via COLON
 to CARTAGENA

Letters carried privately to COLON and then put on the national post to Bogota and Cartagena
 Showing large circular "ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS COLON"
 handstamp in Red, sent as DEBE (DUE) 15 Centavos
 The DEBE is misspelled "DABE"

2 OF 4 FOUR KNOWN LETTERS WITH THE MISSPELLED "DABE"

On May 22, 1858, the Granadine Confederation was created , conformed by eight Sovereign States. The Confederation came to an end on May 8, 1863 officially changing its name to United States of Colombia, consisting of nine Sovereign States, one of which was Panama.

"COLON FRANCA " Postmark

4 April 1859

BOGOTA via CARTAGENA
and COLON to NEW YORK, USA

Forwarded by
C.J.FOX of Aspinwall.(COLON)

Showing large circular
"ADMINISTRACION DE
CORREOS COLON"
handstamp in Red.

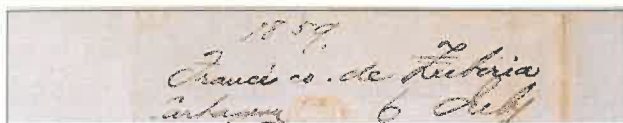
Sent as
"FRANCA" (Paid) 15 Centavos



6 July 1859
CARTAGENA via
COLON to NEW YORK, USA

by Forwarding Agents
Francisco de Zubiria of
Cartagena and
C.J.FOX of Aspinwall
(Also known as Colon).

Showing Red circular
COLON Post Office
"FRANCA" (Paid) handstamp



Cartagena Forwarding Agent
Francisco de Zubiria
Scan of back of cover at 70%

C.J. Fox was an official agent of
the Colombian Post Office, as can
be seen from the top cover, which was
handled by the Bogota Post Office

24 April 1860



CALI via CARTAGENA and
COLON to NEW YORK, USA

Franked with a 5c grey-blue and a 20c blue
1859 Colombia stamps, tied by oval CALI cancel

The 25c franking pays a double letter
rate for up to 1350 kilometers in distance

Showing Red COLON Post Office
"FRANCA" (Paid) handstamp.

The letter was forwarded to New York
by C.J. Fox of Aspinwall (COLON)

ONLY 1 of 2 of the 1859 COLOMBIA 25 Centavos USED STAMP ON COVER KNOWN

Oval "COLON" Postmark
29 September 1863



From BARRANQUILLA via CARTAGENA and COLON
and then by US Steamship to NEW YORK.
Showing a "COLON" handstamp and "40" incoming ship rate
ONLY OVAL "COLON" POSTMARK KNOWN

RED "PAID AT COLON" CROWN CIRCLE
22 April 1868



From COLON to CARTAGENA
Showing a "PAID AT COLON" red crown circle and a 2/8d, British 8-times rate for
3.5 and 3.99 ounces. The Colombian charge of "9" signifies 9 Reales or 90c for a
weight of 81 to 90 grams - difference probably due to the use of different scales
LESS THAN 5 "PAID AT COLON" RED CROWN CIRCLE POSTMARKS KNOWN

II. FOREIGN POSTAL AGENCIES IN PANAMA

II. a. BRITISH POST AGENCY 1842 - 1921

PANAMA CITY AGENCY

From PERU

PRE-STAMP PERIOD

Although Panama was discovered in 1502, it was the opening up of the trans-Pacific trade and the settlement of California that brought importance to the Isthmus. It was preferable to take an overland journey from Colon to Panama to reach the Pacific rather than risk the journey around the Horn.

To handle the mail in the area, several countries, the most important being the British and the French, established agencies to forward mail originating in the district or in transit.

The British Postal Agencies in Chagres and Panama City were opened in 1842, and in Colon (Aspinwall) in 1852. Chagres was closed in 1855, and the other two on March 31, 1921.

This section is organized in chronological order.

20 January 1842



From LIMA, Peru via PANAMA CITY and KINGSTON, Jamaica
to EDINBURGH, Scotland

Showing undated "PANAMA" arc handstamp applied
in KINGSTON, Jamaica as reference of origin.

Marked 2/- double the 1/- uniform rate by British
packet to be paid on arrival



It is interesting to note that the undated circular PANAMA double arc cancel was sent to Kingston Jamaica on 13 September 1841 to denote origin beyond or at Panama, and thus facilitate the application of the correct postage charge upon arrival at destination

EARLIEST KNOWN USAGE OF THIS HANDSTAMP

7 July 1842



This undated circular SOUTH AMERICA / VIA PANAMA cancel was sent to Kingston, Jamaica on 13 September 1841 to denote origin beyond or at Panama, and thus facilitate the application of the correct postage charge upon arrival at destination

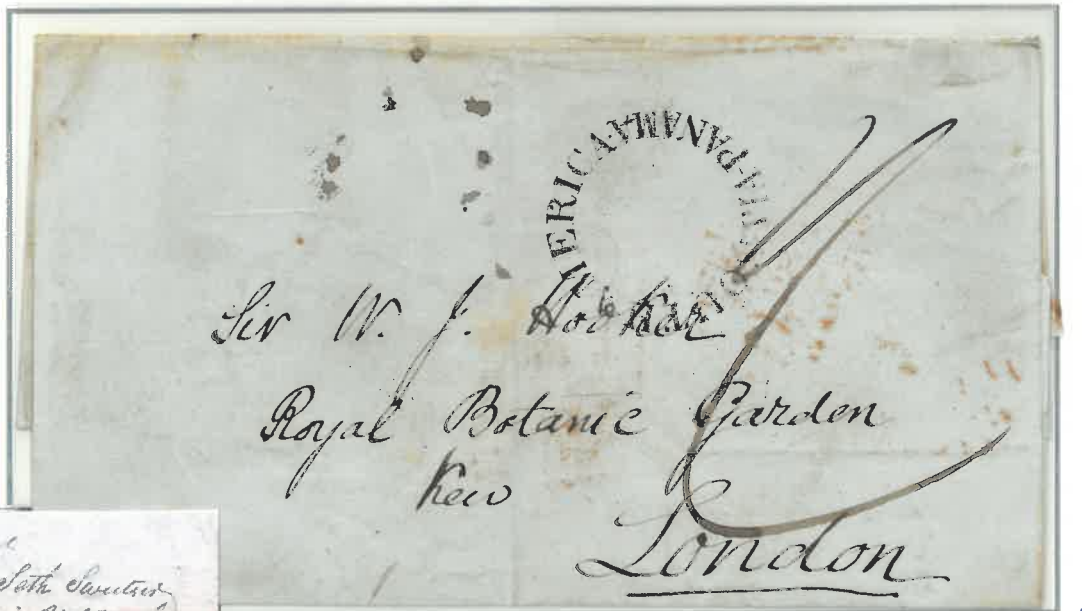


Entire from LIMA via PANAMA CITY to LONDON
Bearing on reverse manuscript "PANAMA, July 1842/forwarded by/ Fr. W. Byrne"
With 2/- charge marking and circular SOUTH AMERICA/VIA PANAMA handstamp

15 August 1843

Below:

Reverse of cover showing
Forwarder handstamp and
KINGSTON, JAMAICA
circular datestamp.



From LIMA via PANAMA CITY and JAMAICA to LONDON
Forwarded in PANAMA by "FREDERIC W. BYRNE"
and sent via KINGSTON, Jamaica to LONDON



29 March 1844



From BOGOTA via PANAMA CITY to COURS, France.
Handled by Forwarding Agent Louis LEWIS of Panama sent by British Post Office via KINGSTON, Jamaica to London and from there via PARIS to its final destination. Showing the SOUTH AMERICA / VIA PANAMA handstamp applied in Kingston, and charged 17 decimes postage due on delivery

From PERU

16 November 1844



PANAMA Forwarder
handstamp on reverse of cover



KINGSTON
circular date stamp

Scans at 70%

From LIMA via PANAMA CITY and JAMAICA to LONDON
Handled by PANAMA Forwarding Agent "FREDERIC W. BYRNE" sent via KINGSTON, Jamaica SHIPLETTER to LONDON Postage. Due 2/8 Shillings (1/- British Packet Lima to Panama + 8d private ship to Kingston + 1/- British Packet to Southampton)

16 August 1845



*Kingston Jamaica
handstamp on
reverse of cover
Scan at 70%*



PANAMA CITY via KINGSTON to LONDON
With manuscript 1/ Shilling single-weight postage due indication



**ONLY THREE RED PANAMA UNDATED
DOUBLE CIRCLE MARKINGS ARE KNOWN**

*The PANAMA undated double circle was applied in
KINGSTON, Jamaica, to facilitate the application of the
correct postage charge upon arrival at destination*

2 January 1847



From TACNA via CALLAO and PANAMA CITY to BORDEAUX
Showing Colonies Art. 13 accountancy marking
and 20 centimes postage due paid on delivery

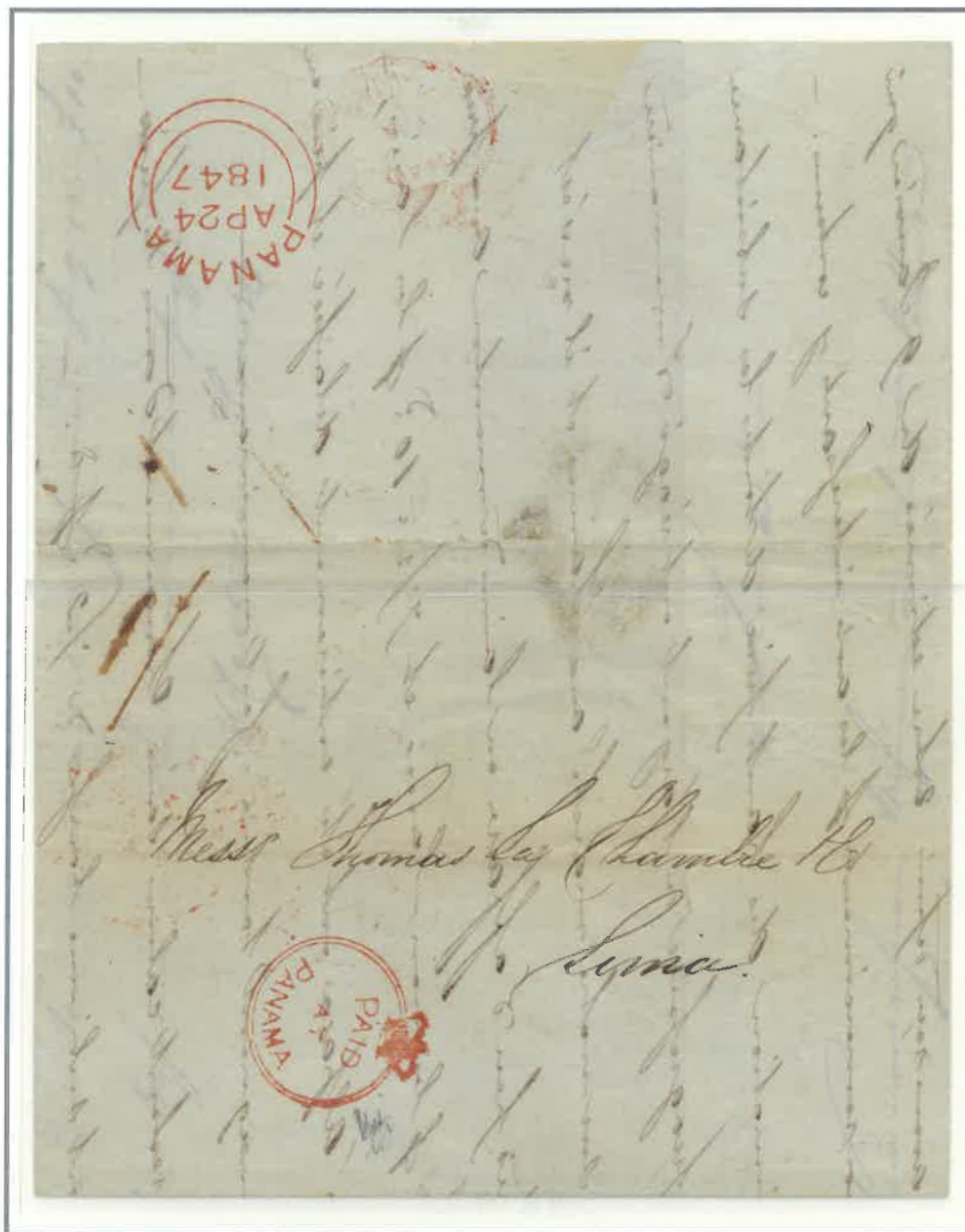


**THIS IS THE SECOND EARLIEST
RECORDED USAGE OF THIS
PANAMA DOUBLE ARC CIRCLE
DATE STAMP**



*Orange Anglo-French accountancy mark for unpaid
letter from the United Kingdom to France, accounted
for by letter bill article 13, under which the United Kingdom
received 3S 4d per 30 gm. bulk letter weight from France*

16 March 1847



LIVERPOOL via PANAMA CITY to LIMA

Sent on PSNC ship "Ecuador", left Panama 24 April, arrived in Callao on 7 May 1847. With manuscript "1/6" triple letter rating and the red "PANAMA" double arc datestamp as well as the red "PAID AT PANAMA" crown circle



**THIS IS THE EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE OF THIS RED
"PAID AT PANAMA" CROWN CIRCLE MARKING**

**LESS THAN 10 COVERS WITH THIS RED "PAID AT PANAMA"
CROWN CIRCLE MARKING KNOWN**

The red "PAID AT PANAMA" crown circle handstamp was sent by the British General Post Office on August 24, 1846. Parmenter's book has the earliest date of use as 24 June 1847, and Rarity D (Not common)

PROVISIONAL "TRANSIT" HANDSTAMP

In use from early April to late July 1848

April 1848



COPIAPO via PANAMA to BIRMINGHAM, England

Endorsed "via Panama" and "para Inglaterra". 1 1/2 applied in Copiapo paying domestic postage and domestic sea mail to Valparaiso, where it entered the British mail stream. Arrived in Panama on April 25, 1848. Received in London on July 3, 1848, forwarded to Birmingham where it arrived on June 4, 1848. Marked 2/- letter rate for 1/2 ounce established on 23 October 1845 to and from locations on the West Coast of South America

Specific postal markings to denote the Panama Transit mails were requested from the London Foreign Office in early June 1848. These handstamps were sent to the British Agent in Panama for use at that office, arriving in late July 1848. In the meantime, however, the British Agent in Panama arranged for the fabrication of a handstamp to denote those letters that arrived at that Office in the open mails aboard the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC) vessels which were addressed to the United Kingdom.



A rare provisional Panama TRANSIT marking in use for just a few months on open mail letters transiting Panama following the 16 March 1848 Postal Convention between the UK and New Granada

ONLY SIX LETTERS ARE KNOWN WITH THE PROVISIONAL "Transit" HANDSTAMP

27 February 1849



Double Arc
Panama Datestamp
on Reverse
Scan at 100%

PANAMA CITY to LIMA, Peru

Marked with a "2" to signify double rated cover
With "1/-" manuscript rating and the red "PAID AT PANAMA" crown circle

From ENGLAND

23 January 1852



Double Arc
Panama Datestamp
on Reverse
Scan at 100%



LONDON via PANAMA CITY to LIMA

Cover privately carried to Panama City and then mailed to Lima.
Showing the red "PAID AT PANAMA" crown circle and a "1/-" charged in Panama City

8 September 1852



NEW YORK (?) via PANAMA CITY and VALPARAISO TO SANTIAGO, Chile

Marked "50" and "PAID" for the ½ oz. rate sent to Chile via US packet to Panama and then to Valparaiso. (Rate in effect May 1851 to October 1853 when it was reduced to 48 cents.) The upper left "1/2" denotes the payment due by the USA to the British P.O. for the British portion of the journey. Also showing the British red crown circle PAID AT PANAMA and the British P.O. backstamp.

On arrival in Chile it was charged "1½" Reales for incoming sea mail to port charge (single letter) and "2" Reales for the ongoing journey from Valparaiso to Santiago totalling "3½" Reales

15 March 1853



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY to VALPARAISO, Chile
Endorsed "Via Panama" and "Paid" in manuscript.
With USA "PAID" and British red crowned circle "PAID AT PANAMA" handstamps.

30 August 1853



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA to LIMA, Peru
Stampless letter, rated 32 Cents and a straight line "PAID", sent via the British Post Office
in Panama, where it received the Red Crown Circle "PAID AT PANAMA" with the cds. of
Sept 6, 1853 on the reverse. Rated 6d. in red for the postage to LIMA, Peru, where it was
charged "1" for the internal delivery

22 September 1855



From PANAMA CITY via COLON and CALAIS to PARIS, France.
Showing the Colonies Art. 13 Accountancy marking
as well as October 11, 1855 Calais AMB CDS
15 decimes arrival charge was paid by the addressee



*COLON Red Double Arc Datestamp is uncommon
ONLY 4 ARE KNOWN*

26 August 1849



From CHAGRES via England 2 October 1849
and then via Calais to PARIS, France.
Showing the Colonies Art. 13 Accountancy marking,
a Calais CDS and a 15 decimes charge to the addressee

1 of 3 CHAGRES POSTMARKS KNOWN



The CHAGRES CDS date slug is inverted
ONLY ONE KNOWN

STAMP PERIOD

Before the organization of the U.P.U. most Latin American countries had no means to transport their mail prepaid to Europe. To meet the need the British postal service introduced a packet service and provided a means for letters to be prepaid, which at its peak, serviced 39 cities worldwide with British consulates.

In order to prevent the growing practice of illegal transmission of letters, the British General Post Office allocated special obliterators to each city. These barred cancels incorporated one letter and a pair of numbers. Two obliterators were allocated to Panama: "C35" for Panama and "E88" for Colon. Many stamps exist with the "E88" obliterator, however very few covers have been reported to date.

25 June 1867



From LIMA via PANAMA CITY to SCHWERIN, Germany

Cover endorsed "per steamer via Panama" was most likely given directly to a ship captain, with the 1/- stamp already attached for travel only as far as England, and the ship captain has simply handed it over to the British postal agency in Panama City.

The cover has the three line PANAMA/TRANSIT datestamp, and the stamp has been cancelled with the "C35" handstamp. It was also marked INSUFFICIENTLY/PREPAID in Panama with a manuscript "1/5"

The "1/5" rating was crossed out in London and amended to "1/3". The 16 blue Groschen marking is postage due to Britain, and the 25 blue Groschen marking shows the postage due from the addressee on delivery

"C35" Panama Obliterator



*First sent by the G.P.O.
on 26 January 1865*

Earliest use: 20 March 1866

22 April 1869



PANAMA CITY via LONDON to MELBOURNE, Australia
Correct postage to England of 1/- and from England
to Australia 6 Pence less 1 Pence for non-delivery in the U.K.
Franked with a 1/- Plate 4, a 4p Plate 11 and a 1p Plate 1 stamps
cancelled with a "C 35" Panama obliterator
6 July 1869 arrival CDS shown on reverse

5 December 1871



PANAMA CITY to LIMERICK, Ireland
Correct postage of 1/-
Franked with a 1/- stamp, Plate 5 cancelled with
a "C 35" Panama obliterator
11 January 1872 arrival CDS shown on reverse

27 November 1874



From LIMA via PANAMA CITY to JALAPA, Mexico

Franked with a 10 Centavos Peru stamp to pay for Peru's foreign mail tax of 1 Dinero per rate step plus 2x 3 Pence GB stamps of Plate 12, one with lower margin with inscription, cancelled by "C35" in Panama, to cover 6 Pence PSNC rate from Peru to Panama.

Also showing large "25" (Centavos) to be paid on arrival by the addressee

With a manuscript note:
"PORTE INGLES PAGADO"
(British Postage Paid)

20 February 1875

An unusual occurrence:

For expediency, French
mail was handled by
the British Post Office
instead of the French
Post office

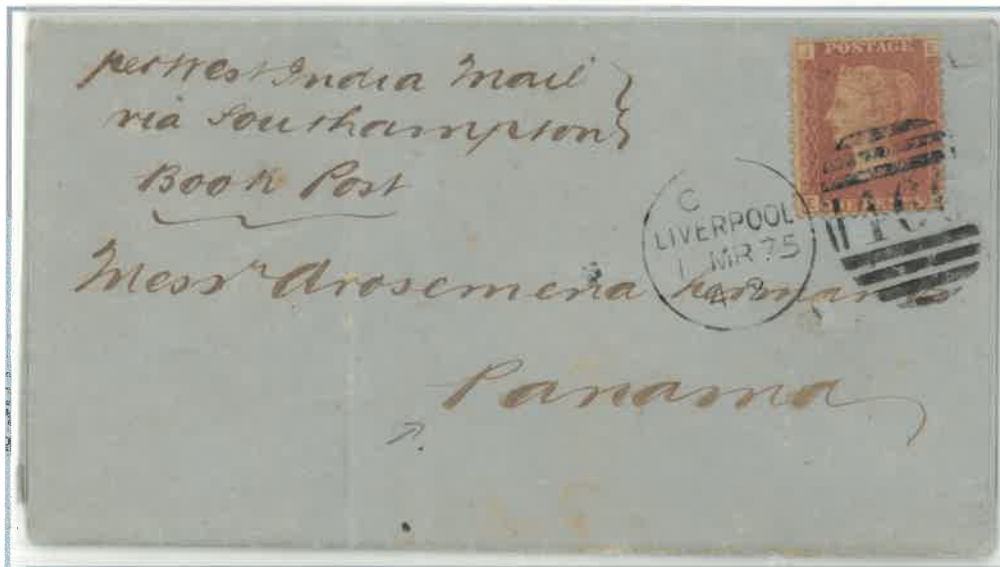


From PANAMA CITY via LONDON to PARIS, France
Correct postage 1/3 to France less 1 Pence for non-delivery in the U.K.

Franked with 1/- Plate 10 and 2 Pence Plate 4 stamps
cancelled by "C35" British Post Office Panama

1 March 1875

From ENGLAND



From LIVERPOOL via SOUTHAMPTON to PANAMA *

Incoming cover to Panama, endorsed "per West India Mail via Southampton / Book Post" with GB 1859-79 1d red Plate 159 tied by Liverpool cds

The Book Post was instituted in 1848, and the overseas rates were reduced in 1870 to 1d per two ounce weight.

12 November 1875



From LIMA Peru via PANAMA CITY to NEWARK, England
Correct rate for a weight of 11 to 13 adarmes (step 5)
Franked with GB 4 x 6 Pence stamps, Plate 14 cancelled
by "C35" British Post Office Panama handstamp

2 January 1876

From FRANCE



Showing fancy
"COLON"
handstamp
ONLY 5 KNOWN

PARIS via LIVERPOOL and COLON to CARACAS, Venezuela
Franked with 2 Francs in French stamps

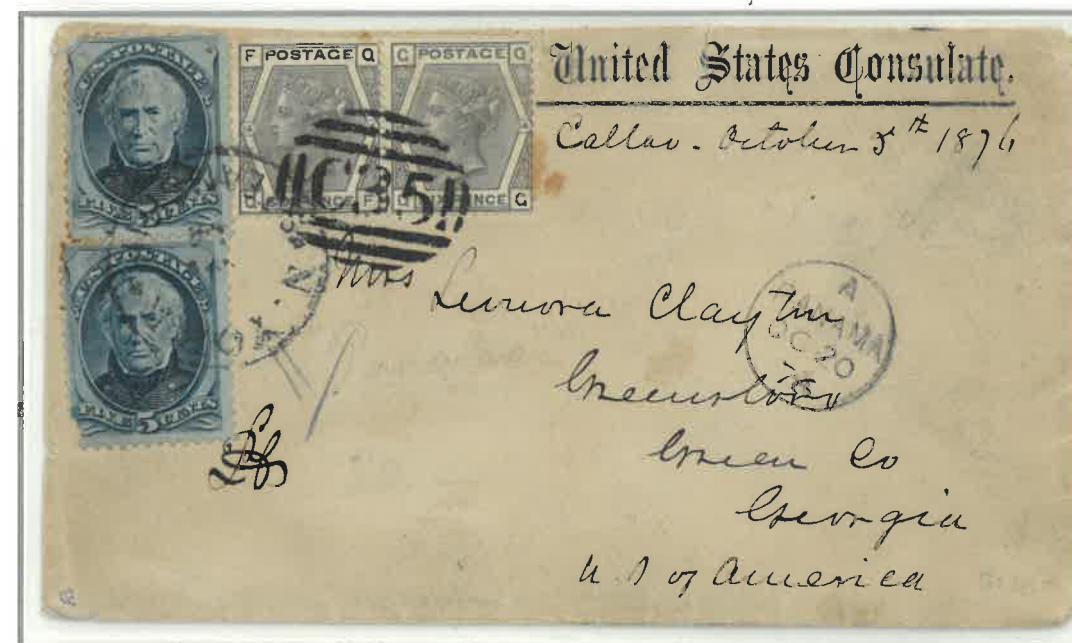
5 January 1876



From CALLAO via PANAMA CITY and NEW YORK to Greensboro

Triple rate letter franked with a 6d pair Great Britain and a single 6d, Plate 14, tied with a "C35" Panama cancellation, with a mixed franking pair 5 Cent strip of three United States Scott 179 tied with a N. York Steamship cancellation, all on the reverse. Showing PANAMA A circle datestamp

5 October 1876



From CALLAO via PANAMA CITY and NEW YORK to GREENSBORO *

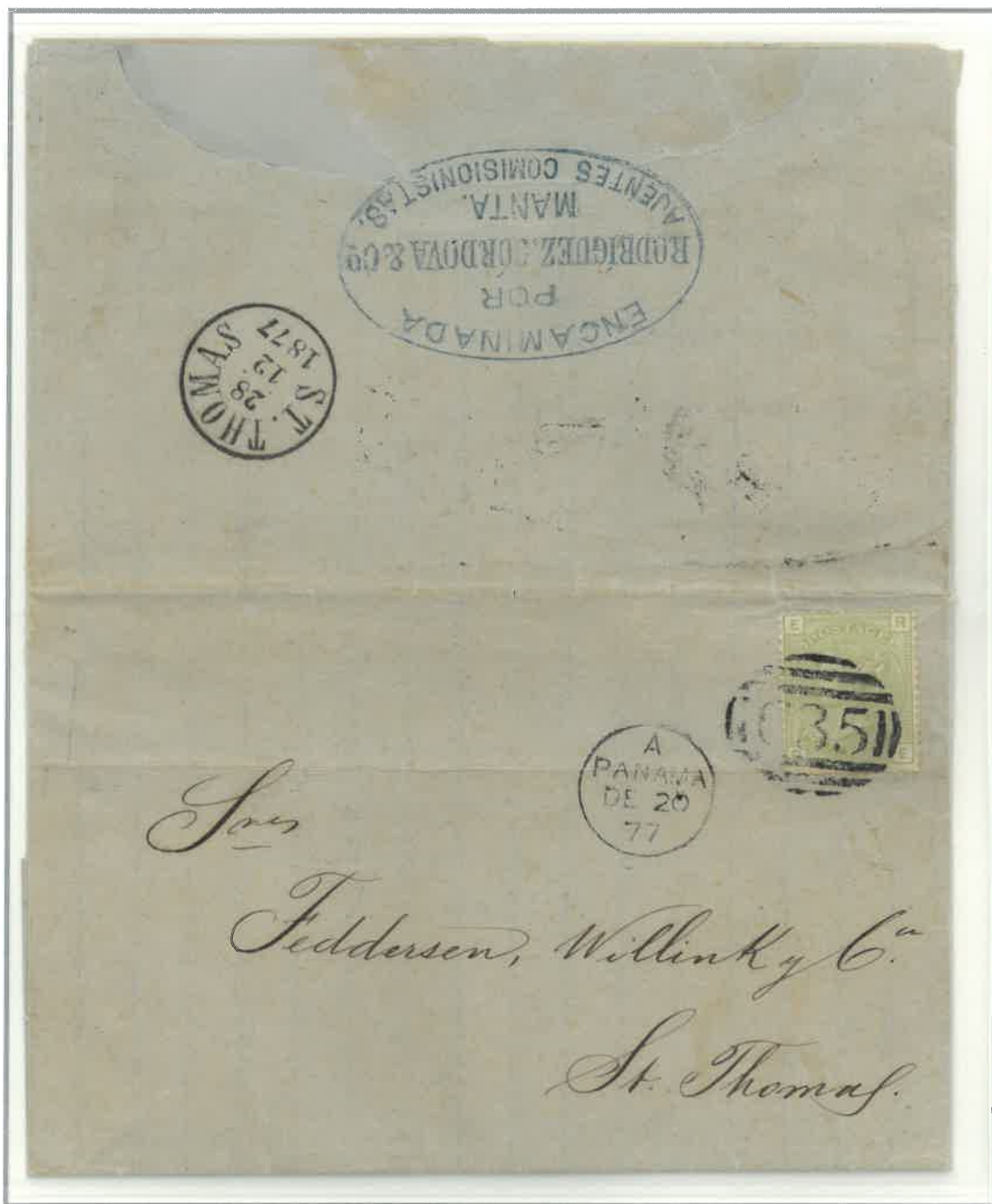
Double rate letter franked with 2x Great Britain 6d, Plate 14, tied with a "C35" Panama cancellation, with a mixed franking pair 5 Cent United States Scott 179 with a N. York Steamship cancellation.

Showing PANAMA A circle datestamp

**LESS THAN 10 BRITISH AND UNITED STATES MIXED
FRANKING COVERS ORIGINATING IN CALLAO, PERU ARE KNOWN**

British Postage Callao to Panama 6P per 1/2 oz.
U.S. Postage Panama to addressee 5 cents per 1/2 oz.

6 December 1877



JIIPIJAPA, Ecuador to ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands
via Forwarding Agent in MANTA, Ecuador to PANAMA CITY
and from there by British Post Office 20 Dec 1877
to ST. THOMAS, Danish Virgin Islands
28 Dec 1877 arrival CDS shown on top

Panama to St. Thomas British local Caribbean rate was 4P.
Franked with a GB 4 Pence stamp, Plate 15, cancelled by "C35" of Panama

24 February 1879



MONTECRISTI, Ecuador to ST. THOMAS, Danish Virgin Islands
via PANAMA CITY Forwarding Agent and British Post Office Panama
7 March 1879 to ST. THOMAS, U.S. Virgin Islands

Panama to St. Thomas local Caribbean rate was 4P.
Franked with a GB 4 Pence stamp, Plate 16, cancelled by "C35" of Panama

11 October 1880



Scan at 100% on reverse of cover.
The HMS Shannon was a British Warship
stationed at the time of this letter in the Pacific
to monitor the course of the ongoing Pacific War
between Chile and Peru (1879-1883)

From PANAMA CITY to BRETTFORTON, England

Seaman's letter with a strip x4 GB 1 reds to pay the reduced Seaman's rate of 4d for a letter under 1/2 ounce. The stamps are cancelled with the PANAMA-TRANSIT -C35 cds duplex (20 Oct) marking.

This PANAMA-TRANSIT cds duplex cancel was sent from the GPO to Panama on April 8, 1880 as is recorded as being used from August 30, 1880 to July 5, 1892. It is given a "very rare" rating on cover by Parmenter in his "GB Used Abroad" book

30 November 1872



MANCHESTER, England via Southampton to SAN JOSE, Puerto Rico franked with a 1 Shilling stamp, but **MISSENT** to San Jose, Costa Rica and held there for insufficient postage.

With 14 January 1873 "Admon. Gnal, de Correos de Costa Rica" handstamp, reposted 5 April 1873 with 4 Pence GB stamp cancelled with barred "E88" of COLON, via ST. THOMAS 13 April 1873 and 23 April COLON Transit, arriving finally in San Jose 17 May 1873.

A single letter rated Postage Due paid by 25 Cents Cuban stamp to be collected upon arrival

(At right the notification letter of the Costa Rica Post Office)

Three Country Combination Usage



"E88" COLON Obliterator

First sent by the G.P.O.
on 14 April 1870

Earliest use: 21 September 1871

1 of 10 RECORDED ON COVER

John Parmenter's book rates the rarity as "G" Very Rare

14 January 1873



14 January 1873

Public Service of SAN JOSE, Costa Rica to SAN JOSE, Puerto Rico

Showing "Admon. Gral. Correos de Costa Rica" handstamp, endorsed on top: "Notice of missent letter", then franked with 2x 1 Penny GB stamps cancelled in Panama by barred "C35" and small CDS dated 5 February 1873.

With Postage Due indication for a single letter rate of Puerto Rico, which had to be paid in cash upon arrival.

Letter requesting addressee of letter shown at left to remit postage so that it could be forwarded

Costa Rica postage was not necessary, as this was official post office mail

Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua are known to have maintained a Postal Agent in Panama to facilitate the handling of outgoing and incoming mails.

All basic mail from Costa Rica to other countries had to be franked with a 2r stamp. On rare occasion, when it was requested that the letter be prepaid to its destination, then the necessary additional fee was charged in cash at the post office and the Postal Agent in Panama was instructed to add the British postage when forwarding the cover.

Another minor task of the Agent was to cancel stamps on mail that had bypassed the Post Office system in Costa Rica.



Costa Rica 2 Real stamp with Costa Rica Postal Agent in Panama Cancel
Not known on cover



This marking is not known on cover

25 April 1879



Costa Rica 2 Real stamp in combination with 8 d Plate 1 British stamp cancelled "C35" by the British Post Office in Panama

The French Postal Agency operated in PANAMA CITY as of December 17, 1843 when the Consul General of France to Panama arrived in Panama with all the material required to operate the Agencies. The Agency was closed on July 1, 1881, when Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union.

6 June 1844



PANAMA CITY to LIMA

Cover sent to the Charge de Affairs of France in Lima, with indication *Service du Roi*. Sent on the ship Carolina, departing Panama on 7 June 1844, arriving in Callao on 19 July, 1844.

Official correspondence - no French mail rate applied



**EARLIEST KNOWN PANAMA FRENCH
POSTAL AGENCY CANCELLATION**

29 June 1844



PANAMA CITY to LIMA

Showing French Red "PANAMA CDS" dated 29 June 1844
and Red boxed P.P. (Postage Paid to Port) handstamp
Paid 2 Reales Panama to Lima

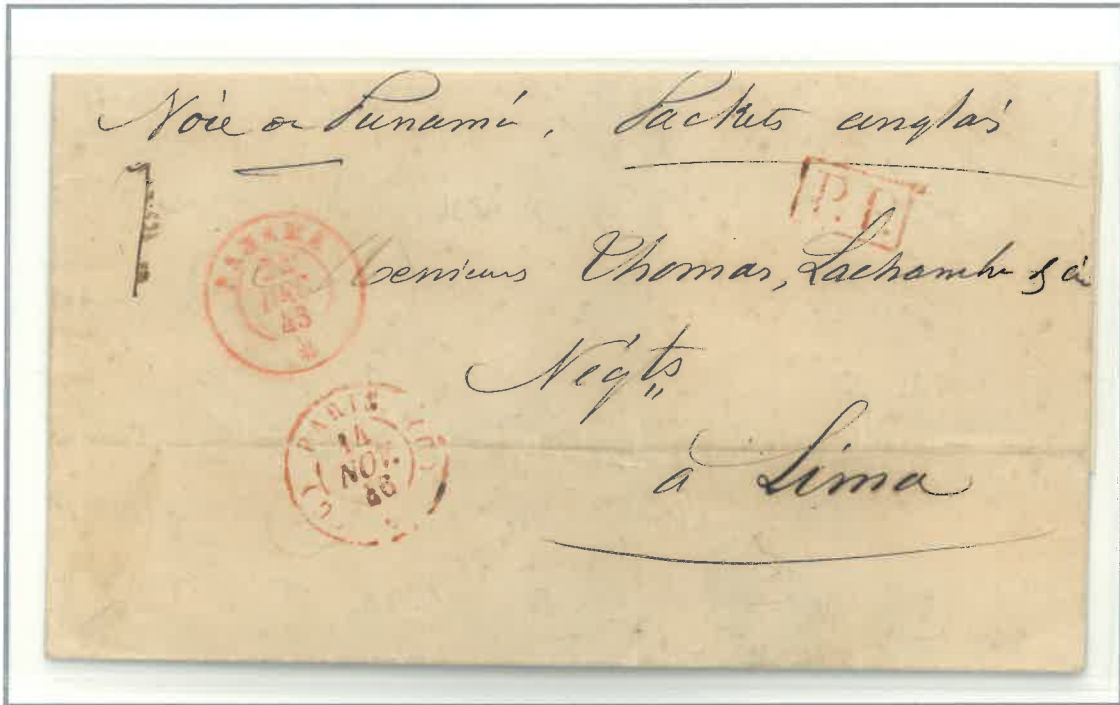
4 December 1844

From PERU



LIMA, via PANAMA CITY and SOUTHAMPTON and CALAIS to BORDEAUX, France
Paid 6.Reales in LIMA as shown on reverse. Showing French Post Office in
PANAMA date handstamp, and charged with 37 Centimes on delivery

14 November 1846



PARIS via PANAMA CITY to LIMA, Peru
Endorsed "Voie a Panama, Packets anglais"
With "P.P." Postage Paid and PARIS handstamp.
Also showing PANAMA French Postal Agency datestamp

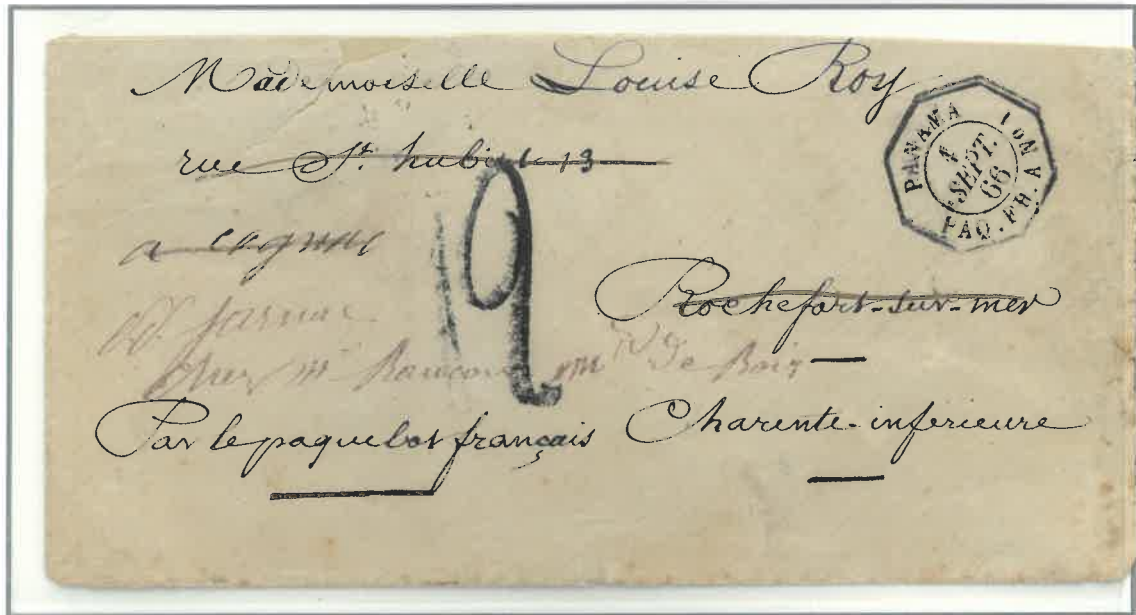
11 July 1847



Scan at 100%
of PANAMA
French Post Office
datestamp with date
error "43" instead of "47"

From CALLAO via PANAMA CITY to ROCHEFORT, France.
Showing French Panama Red HANDSTAMP
with ERROR of date "43" instead of "47".
Paid 36 Centimes upon arrival.

1 September 1866



PANAMA CITY to ROCHEFORT-SUR MER, France
Sent with Paquebot "Nouveau-Monde" on 1 Sept., Fort de France 9 Sept.
arriving in St. Nazaire on 24 Sept. and then via Paris to Rochefort on 25 Sept.

Letter was readdressed on arrival and charged
12 decimes postage due on delivery

23 August 1867



PAITA, Peru Via PANAMA CITY and COLON to PARIS, France
Showing PANAMA 3 line transit 30 August 1867
Sent from COLON via Paquebot "Nouveau-Monde" on 1 Sept.,
Fort de France 8 Sept. arriving in St. Nazaire on 22 Sept. and Paris on 23 Sept.
Charged 24 decimes postage due on delivery

22 October 1869



From LIMA via CALLAO and PANAMA CITY to BORDEAUX, France
 Sent by french Paquebot "MARTINIQUE" on 1/11 arriving in ST.NAZAIRE
 on 22/11 and from there to BORDEAUX
 Franked with a 1 Dinero Green stamp of Peru
 Showing "BG 1F 90c" accountancy mark and 12 decimes postage due

25 July 1870



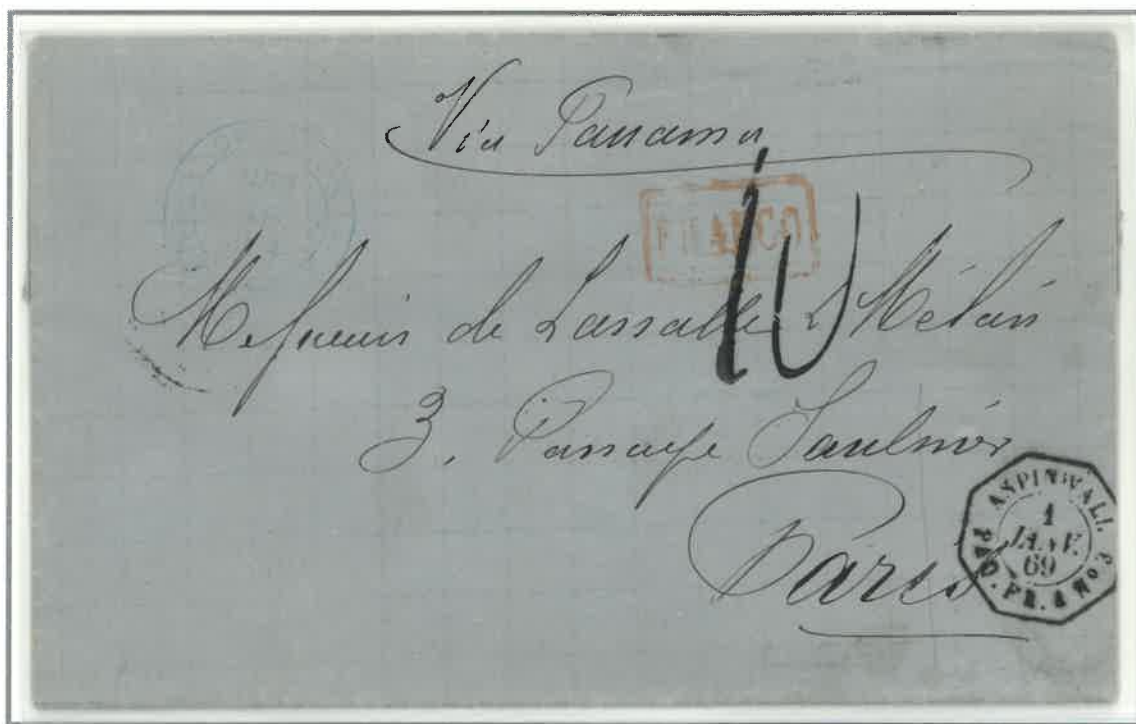
Scan at 100% of
 British Post Office
 GUAYAQUIL
 double arc datestamp
 on reverse of cover



From GUAYAQUIL via PANAMA CITY to PARIS, France
 by French Paquebot "EUGENIE" on 8/1, Forte de France 8/8
 and St. Nazaire on 8/23 and then to PARIS
 Charged with 24 Centimes upon arrival.

The ASPINWALL (COLON) French Postal Agency was created as of September 1865 with Note of June 1865 (Bulletin des Postes No. 118) introducing two stopovers of the Line A from St. Nazaire to Aspinwall/Colon. The Agency was closed on July 1, 1881, when Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union.

12 December 1868



From GUATEMALA via ASPINWALL (COLON) to PARIS, France
sent by French Paquebot "Floride" on 1 Jan., Fort de France 10 Jan. arriving in
St. Nazaire on 25 Jan. and in Paris on 26 Jan (arrival CDS on reverse of cover)
Charged 10 decimes postage due on delivery

Aspinwall was founded by Americans in 1850 as the Atlantic terminus of the Panama Railroad then under construction to meet the gold rush demand for a fast route to California. The United States emigree community called the town "ASPINWALL", in honor of Mr. W.H. Aspinwall (1807-1875), the promoter of the Panama Railroad. The hispanic community called it "COLON" in honor of Christopher Columbus. The city was formally named "COLON" in 1890.

11 May 1870



From ASPINWALL (COLON) to PARIS, France
sent by French Paquebot "Imp. Eugenie" on 11 May, Fort de France 15 May arriving
in St. Nazaire on 31 May and in Paris on 6 June (arrival CDS on reverse of cover)

Franked with a French 80 Centimes stamp and showing
Red boxed P.D. indicating letter was Paid to Destination

1 June 1870



From ASPINWALL (COLON) to PARIS, France by French
Paquebot "FLORIDE" on 4 June 1870, Fort de France on
9 June, St. Nazaire on 23 June and Paris 24 June 1870

Unpaid cover, charged 10 decimes on delivery

14 January 1881



From CHIMBOTE, Peru to PARIS, France
Via HUACO, endorsed "via Panama" with 1881 PLATA/PERU silver currency
overprints on pair 1c and pair 5c. Sent from ASPINWALL (COLON) on Paquebot "Lafayette"
2 Feb, Fort de France on 10 Feb arriving in St. Nazaire on 26 Feb and from there to Paris on 27 Feb.

*The 12c "via Panama" rate was in use from the
introduction of the silver currency until sometime in 1881*

20 April 1881



From LIMA, Peru to PARIS, France
Mourning cover endorsed "via Panama" with 1881 PLATA/LIMA silver currency overprints
on single 1c and pair 5c tied by LIMA/PRINCIPALS cds's (20 April), underfranked by 1c.

Sent from ASPINWALL (COLON) on Paquebot "Washington" on 1 May, Fort de
France on 8 May arriving in St. Nazaire on 23 May and from there to Paris on 24 May

III. FORWARDING AGENTS

III. a - ASPINWALL/COLON

Postal historians are well aware of the important part played by Forwarding Agents in the handling of foreign mail during the period prior to the establishment of the Universal Postal Union. Except for the countries which had reciprocal treaties for the exchange of mail, Forwarding Agents were utilized extensively for the dispatch of mail from one country to another. The earliest recorded Forwarded Agent endorsement is Lamfranchi from the port of Anversa in Italy in 1579* and the latest recorded is Santiago Hernandez, of Santa Marta, Colombia in 1912.*

With the exception of a few larger ports such as New York, London and Hamburg, nowhere in the entire globe did the Forwarding Agent play such an important role as in Panama. Packet lines, first sailing vessels and then steamships of many nations converged on Panama from both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Panama became the most important trans-shipment point in the Western Hemisphere for mail to and from the west coasts of North and South America.

This section shows representative examples of covers handled by Forwarding Agents in Panama. Although some covers shown in this section show multiple Forwarders, the emphasis is on Forwarding Agents that operated in Panama during the period. The section is organized first by the cities in which they operated, and then alphabetically by last names.



30 April 1864

E&H ABRAHAMS & Co.

1864-1865



From SANTA MARTA, Colombia by Forwarding Agent
"HAUER SIMMONDS" to COLON and from there by
AGENT "E. & H. ABRAHAMS & Co." to NEW YORK

* "The Postal History and Markings of the Forwarding Agents" - Kenneth Rowe 1996

11 July 1871



COLON to NEW YORK
Forwarded by Agent Jose A. Cespedes in COLON
and sent by US Steamship to NEW YORK

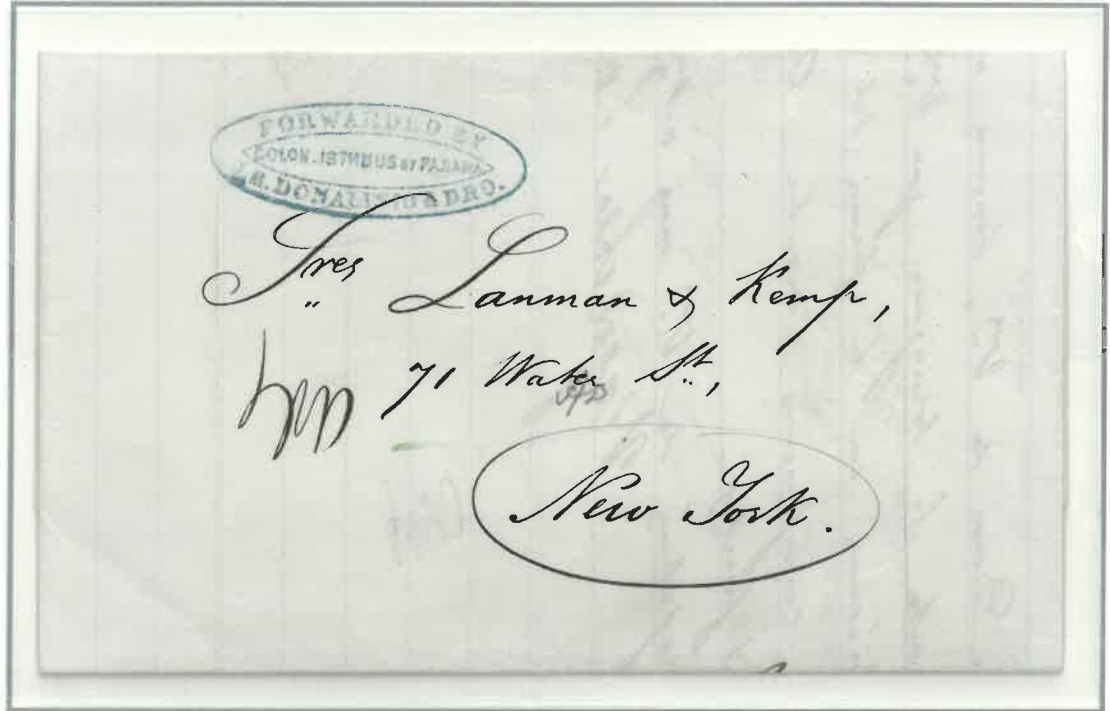
1 of 2 covers reported from this Forwarder

13 October 1860



From BOGOTA via COLON to NEW YORK
Handled by Forwarding Agent "T.R.COWAN" of COLON

23 August 1866



SANTA MARTA via COLON to NEW YORK
Handled by Forwarder "J.B.DONALISIO & Bros" from COLON

Less than 5 covers known from this Forwarder

Geo. W. FLETCHER
1854-1855

23 July 1855



CARTAGENA via ASPINWALL (COLON) to NEW YORK
Forwarded by "Geo W. FLETCHER" of ASPINWALL
Struck with rare circular N.YORK - STEAMSHIP in black
With 40 Cents Steamship charge to be paid upon arrival

22 February 1859



CARTAGENA via ASPINWALL to NEW YORK
Letter handled by 2 Forwarding Agents Antonio Merlano
and Ramon Leon Sanchez of CARTAGENA and then by
Forwarding Agent C.J.FOX of ASPINWALL

23 August 1869

W.P. MAAL
1868--1871



BARRANQUILLA to LONDON, England
By Forwarding Agent "HAUER & SIMMONDS" of CARTAGENA to ASPIN-
WALL, where the Agent "W.P.MAAL" directed the cover via British Post
Office in COLON to LONDON, England.

1/ rate amended to 2/-and an additional 2/ strike charge
marking is alongside to be paid upon arrival

31 March 1868



From Cartagena via COLON to NEW YORK
Showing arrival CDS 16 April 1868

Handled by the COLON Agency of
WEST INDIA & PACIFIC STEAMSHIP Co. LIMITED

ONLY TWO EXAMPLES OF THIS FORWARDING AGENT KNOWN



21 October 1854



From CARTAGENA by Forwarding Agent "PEDRO MACIA" to
"T.R. COWAN" of CHAGRES, Panama and then forwarded from
there by "M.S.PKT. Co" to NEW YORK

LESS THAN 5 FORWARDING AGENTS FROM CHAGRES KNOWN



26 May 1852

BOGOTA via
PANAMA CITY to NEW YORK
Originally sent from BOGOTA
by the Colombian Postal Service,
showing a "BOGOTA FRANCA" (Free)
red handstamp to PANAMA and
from there forwarded by
"CORWINE BROTHERS & Co"
and U.S. Steamship.
With 20 Cents to be paid upon arrival.

DE SABLA & C^o
1857 -1861

28 February 1861
LIMA via PANAMA CITY
to SAN FRANCISCO

Forwarded by
"DE SABLA & C^o"
as well as
CABRERO HOURQUET & C^o
also from Panama City
Showing Wells Fargo
Express arrival cds
April 6 in blue



14 September 1856



From PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO, California
Handled by "FREEMAN & Co EXPRESS"

F. GOGORZA y C^A
1858-1861

5 December 1859



From NEW YORK to POPAYAN, Colombia handled
by Forwarding Agent "F.GOGORZA & Cia." of PANAMA CITY

FORWARDING AGENTS
PANAMA CITY

HOURQUET POYLO & Co
1865 - 1872

16 April 1872



From MANCHESTER via SOUTHAMPTON and PANAMA to ACAPULCO, Mexico
Franked with a 1/- plate 5 British stamp, directed to Forwarding Agent
HOURQUET POYLO & Co. in Panama to send to ACAPULCO

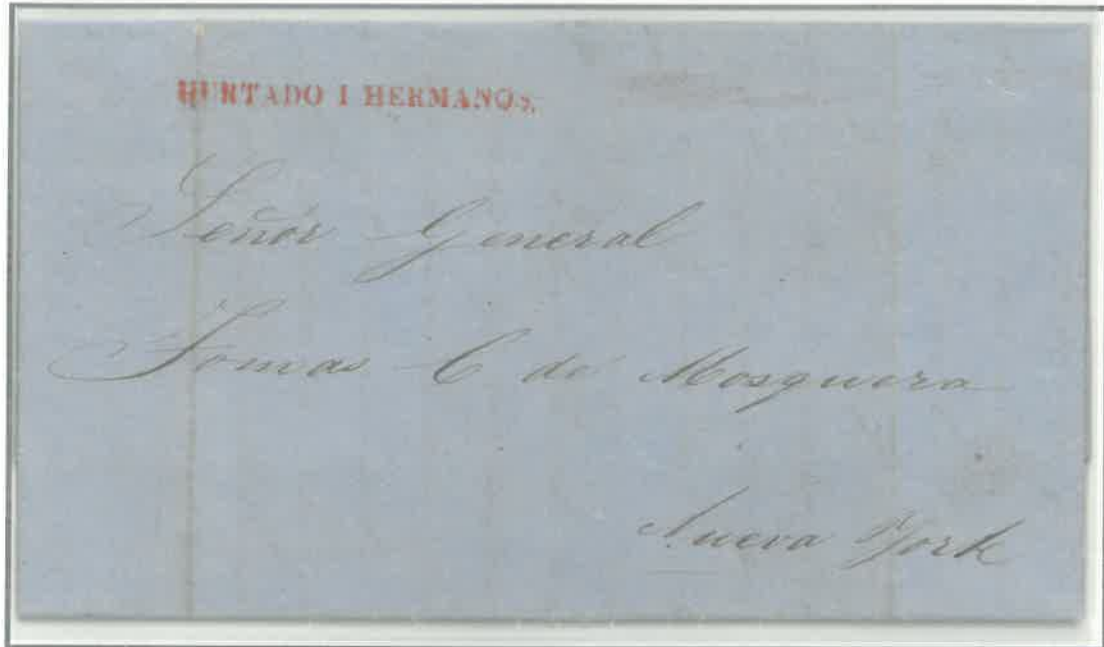
20 December 1856

JIMENEZ HERMANOS
1856-1861



From CARMELO, Colombia to NEW YORK and re-directed to BOGOTA
Forwarded from PANAMA CITY by JIMENEZ HERMANOS and by Forwarding
Agent JOSE VASQUEZ from BUENAVENTURA on the return to BOGOTA
Showing a Steamship charge marking of 10 Cents

15 March 1852



From PANAMA CITY to NEW YORK
Forwarding Agent "HURTADO HERMANOS" of PANAMA CITY
Showing early Forwarding mark in red

23 April 1855



From PANAMA CITY by Forwarding Agent "HURTADO HERMANOS" to CART-
AGENA and from there by National Postal Service to BOGOTA

Showing red oval CARTAGENA DEBE (Postage Due) of 3 Reales to
be collected at destination as well as late Forwarding mark in red

*General Tomas Cipriano de Mosquera (1798-1878) is considered one of
the most important persons in Colombian history of the 19th century, having
served as President four times between 1861 and 1867.*

22 June 1850



From PANAMA CITY to NEW YORK
Struck with the "30" rating handstamp for the 30 ¢ American packet rate from Panama

**THE SECOND EARLIEST OF ONLY 12 KNOWN RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE
U.S. CONSULAR OFFICE AT PANAMA POSTMARK**



Scan of inside of cover showing
Smith & Lewis as the Forwarder

*Between June 10th and July 21st, 1850, the United States Consul at Panama,
Amos B. Corwine is recorded as applying the "Panama N.Y" circular datestamp
on letters handled by his office*

IV. VIA PANAMA 1842 - 1881

IV. a - FROM SOUTH AMERICA

The unique geographical position of the Isthmus of Panama contributed not only to its economic and political influence, but to the importance of postal history during the 19th century, particularly during the 100 year period prior to July 1, 1881 when Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union.

With the exception of a few larger ports such as New York, London and Hamburg, nowhere in the entire globe did a country play such an important role as did Panama. Packet lines, first sailing vessels and then steamships of many nations converged on Panama from both the Atlantic and the Pacific. Panama became the most important trans-shipment point in the Western Hemisphere for mail to and from the west coasts of North and South America.

This section is organized geographically showing mail Via Panama originating firstly in South America, then the Caribbean, North America, Oceania and finally Europe. Within each geographic area, the exhibit follows a chronological order.

From COLOMBIA
MAINLAND

6 November 1854



From BARRANQUILLA by Forwarding Agent "HAMBURGER I BATES" of BARRANQUILLA via COLON and by US Steamship to NEW YORK.

Showing "BARRANQUILLA FRANCA" handstamp, and "Steamship 20" postage due to be paid on arrival.

VIA PANAMA

From COLOMBIA
MAINLAND

1 November 1866



Front of cover showing a
10 Steamship charge

Scan at 70%

From BARRANQUILLA by Forwarding Agent "E. ISAACS & Co."
via CARTAGENA British Post Office and COLON to NEW YORK
Showing CARTAGENA and COLON double arc BLACK datestamps on
reverse

29 November 1866



On reverse London and German Transit markings.
Lower right handstamp reads:
"SEEBRIEF PER ENGLAND UND AACHEN"
(Shipletter via England and Aachen)
Scan at 70%



From BARBACOAS via PANAMA, LONDON and AACHEN to DEUTSCH LISSAU,
Prussia - Germany.
Franked with a pair of 5 Centavos stamps of 1865 Colombia, for domestic single letter
rate. With manuscript "2/6 Shillings" and "22" Groschen to be paid upon arrival.

Less than 10 covers franked with a 5 Centavos Pair known

ONLY KNOWN COVER FROM BARBACOAS

29 May 1872



From SANTA MARTA via COLON to NEW YORK.
 Franked with a pair of GB 4 Pence stamps Plate 12 watermark "Large Garter"
 cancelled by a single strike of the "C62" barred killer of SANTA MARTA.

Sent via the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steamer "Tasmanian"
 to Colon, and then by the American steamship "Ocean Queen".
 The 8d tariff represents double rate (one ounce) as does the 20 Notes
 charge postage due upon arrival

**Less than 10 covers known tied with a British stamp
 cancelled with the "C62" BPO SANTA MARTA handstamp**

31 July 1872



From BARRANQUILLA to NEW YORK
via CARTAGENA British Post Office and Colon

Franked with a GB 4 Pence stamp Plate 11 tied by
BPO barred "C56" handstamp of CARTAGENA
for a single letter rate and charged 10 cents upon arrival

**Very few covers are known tied with a British stamp
cancelled with the "C56" BPO CARTAGENA handstamp**

*On 14 August 1865, the British Post Office
decided to introduce UK postage stamps to
Cartagena along with the "C56" killer*

17 September 1877



SANTA MARTA by Forwarding Agent MANUEL J. de MIER
to SAVANILLA, via COLON to ST. THOMAS

Showing SAVANILLA and COLON circular datestamps
and a PANAMA "TRANSIT" handstamp.

Franked with a GB 4 Pence Green stamp Plate 15
tied by an "F69" British Post Office of SAVANILLA killer.

Less than 10 known covers tied with a British stamp
cancelled with the "F69" BPO SAVANILLA handstamp

*SAVANILLA was used as a port until BARRANQUILLA'S
port was operational in the beginning of the 20th century.*

The "F69" killer was sent by the British Post Office on April 4, 1872

10 July 1876



From CARACAS via LA GUAIRA, PANAMA CITY and ST. THOMAS to VALPARAISO, Chile
 Stampless cover (Free Franking) letter sent by the German Consulate in Venezuela
 With Colon small CDS of the B.P.O. and St. Thomas July 28, 1876 CDS on reverse,
 where it was applied "No.../Detained for Postage in red. There is an additional
 St. Thomas December 27, 1876 CDS indicating that it was detained until that date.



Reverse of cover showing
 German Consulate for
 Venezuela seal and
 St. Thomas July 28, CDS
 Scan at 50%

29 September 1861



GUAYAQUIL BPO
Datestamp on
reverse of cover

Scan at 100%



From GUAYAQUIL via PANAMA CITY and via SAN FRANCISCO to NEW YORK.
With PAID TO PANAMA Red handstamp, double arc PANAMA handstamp, SAN
FRANCISCO CDS and Black "SHIP 12" charge marking to be paid upon arrival.

*Cover was routed through San Francisco, because the
East Coast was blocked due to the U.S. Civil War.*

30 August 1864



GUAYAQUIL BPO
Datestamp on
reverse of cover

Scan at 100%

From GUAYAQUIL and local Forwarding Agent via PANAMA CITY to NEW YORK
Showing PAID TO PANAMA in black applied in Ecuador (1 Shilling), a double arc
PANAMA datestamp and a US STEAMSHIP 10 postage due upon arrival.

9 January 1871



From BRITISH POST OFFICE in GUAYAQUIL via PANAMA TRANSIT and LONDON to BARCELONA, SPAIN.

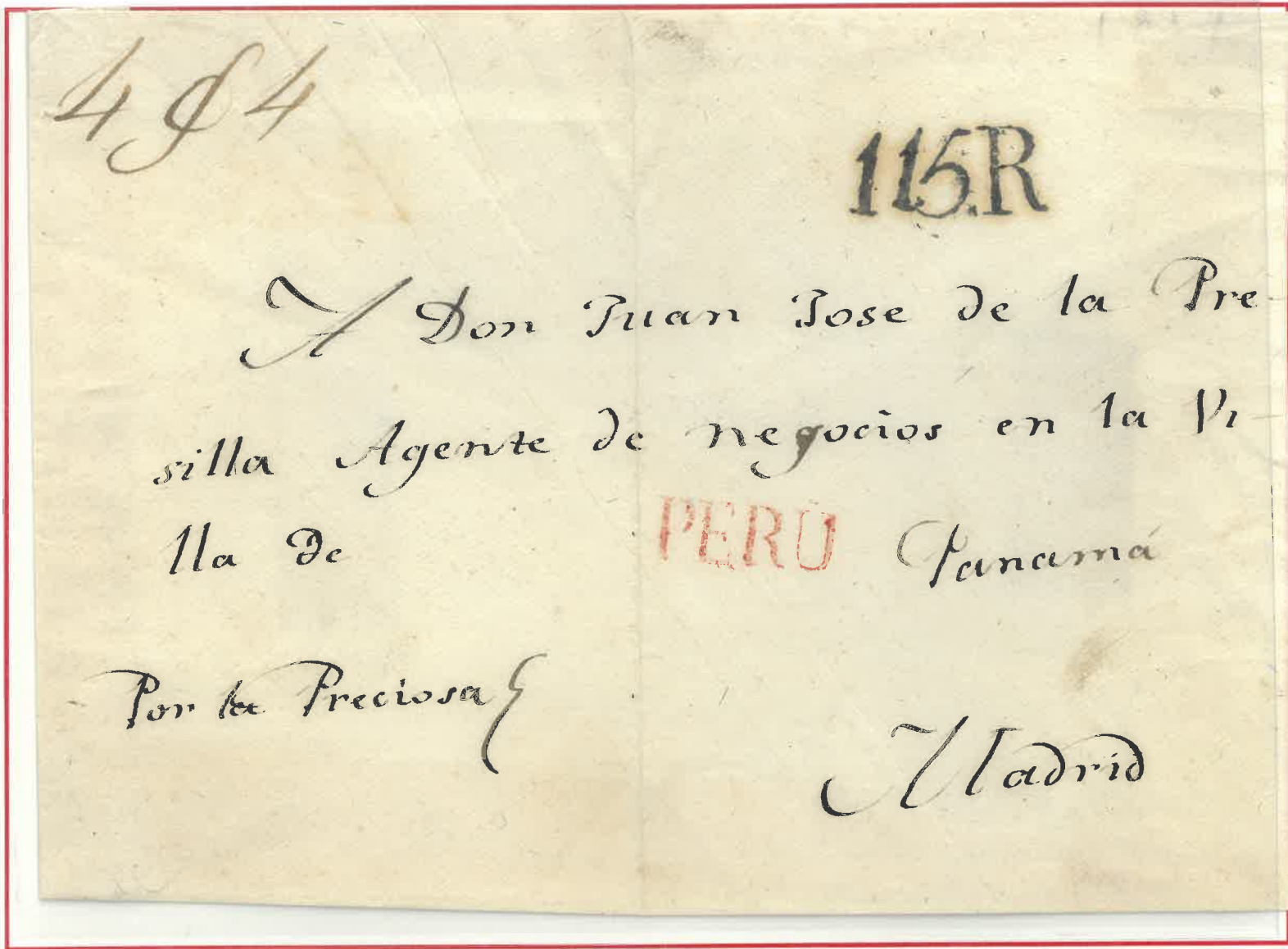
Franked with GB 2/- Blue Plate 1, 4 Pence Vermilion Plate 11 and 1 Penny Brown Plate 49, all cancelled by "C41" barred handstamps. Showing red "PD" (paid to destination)

26 January 1871



From GUAYAQUIL via PANAMA CITY to LONDON
Showing PANAMA circular datestamp and
1 Shilling 6d postage due marking

Circa 1810



Large cover from LIMA to MADRID, Spain

With "PERU" straight line handstamp (Sitja Type II) on dispatch, endorsed "Por la Preciosa" corresponding to the ship which carried this mail, and "Panama" denoting an extraordinary route with the purpose of avoiding entering part of the Nueva Granada territory during the war of independence of Colombia.

Marked "4 0 4" manuscript weight paid by the handstamp "115.R" rate, which represents one of the highest postal fees recorded on surviving colonial mail from Peru.



ISLAI to BORDEAUX, France
 Via PANAMA CITY , LONDON, CALAIS, PARIS to BORDEAUX
 With manuscript "Via Panama" on front of cover
 Franked with 2x 1 Dinero Peru stamps, showing GB 1F 90 accountancy marking

27 July 1869



From LIMA via CALLAO and PANAMA CITY to PARIS
 Showing handwritten "voie Panama" on top right of cover
 Franked with a 1 Dinero Green stamp of Peru. Showing "1F.90"
 accountancy mark and 12 Centimes postage due upon arrival.

12 December 1875



From HUANILLO to GENOA, Italy endorsed "Via di Panama" with added 1866 5c and 3 x 10c perforated ABN Co. "Lamitas" stamps cancelled by unframed RECEPTORIA/DE CORREOS/DE/PABELLON DE PICA cancels to prepay the 35c single Germany Treaty rate to Italy. Iquique and Lima transits and Genoa arrival backstamps.

Huanillo 12 Diciembre 1875

Mail from Juanillo was normally sent via Pabellon de Pica in order to get to the coast at Iquique. All three locations were lost to Chile during the 1879 - 1883 Pacific War

The German Treaty rate was introduced in early 1875 and under the treaty, mail could be sent prepaid from Peru to Germany or other European countries (including Italy) routed via Germany. The German treaty mail service was only available from Peru and Chile, and such mail was sent in closed bags to Europe via the Panama route.

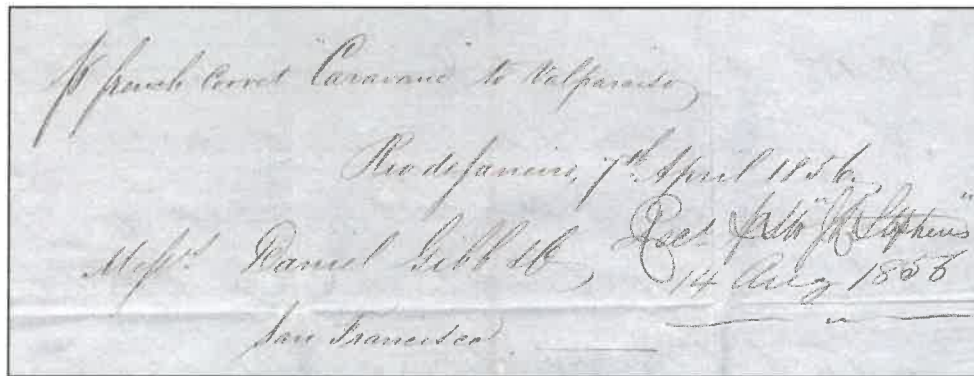
Peru joined the UPU on April 1, 1879 and Chile joined two years later on April 1, 1881 after which dates the individual Treaties became defunct.

**LESS THAN 10 COVERS FROM BOTH PERU AND CHILE
HAVE BEEN RECORDED SHOWING THESE TREATY RATES**

7 April 1856



From RIO DE JANEIRO via VALPARAISO and PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO
 Sent from RIO DE JANEIRO via French ship "Caravane" to VALPARAISO,
 and then via PANAMA, and forwarded by "W. NELSON" to
 SAN FRANCISCO, showing received on 14 August 1856
 Also showing 20 Reis postage indication



Inside of letter indicating origin and date sent and date received

Scan at 70%

ONLY LETTER KNOWN SENT FROM BRAZIL VIA PANAMA

24 December 1846



PORT FAMINE via PANAMA CITY to LONDON

With a manuscript "2/ Shillings" charge marking to be paid as postage due, correct single letter rate as of 1845.



Front of cover
Scan at 70%

Port Famine (Puerto de Hambre) is on the northern edge of the Strait of Magellan, about 56 kilometers south of the Chilean city of Punta Arenas, one of the southernmost cities in the world. The city was founded in 1584 as "Ciudad de Rey Don Felipe" (King Phillip City) by Pedro Sarmiento de Gamboa on the instructions of his King Phillip II of Spain to claim for the Spanish crown the control of the southern passage between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

ONLY COVER RECORDED FROM PORT FAMINE

30 March 1848



Scan at 100% of CDS markings on reverse of cover

COQUIMBO, via VALPARAISO then by Steamship "CHILE" of PSNC to PANAMA CITY and then by RSMC Ship to SOUTHAMPTON and from there to LE HAVRE, France. With "15" Centimes charge marking to be paid upon arrival, as well as Colonies Art. 13 accountancy marking

1 July 1852

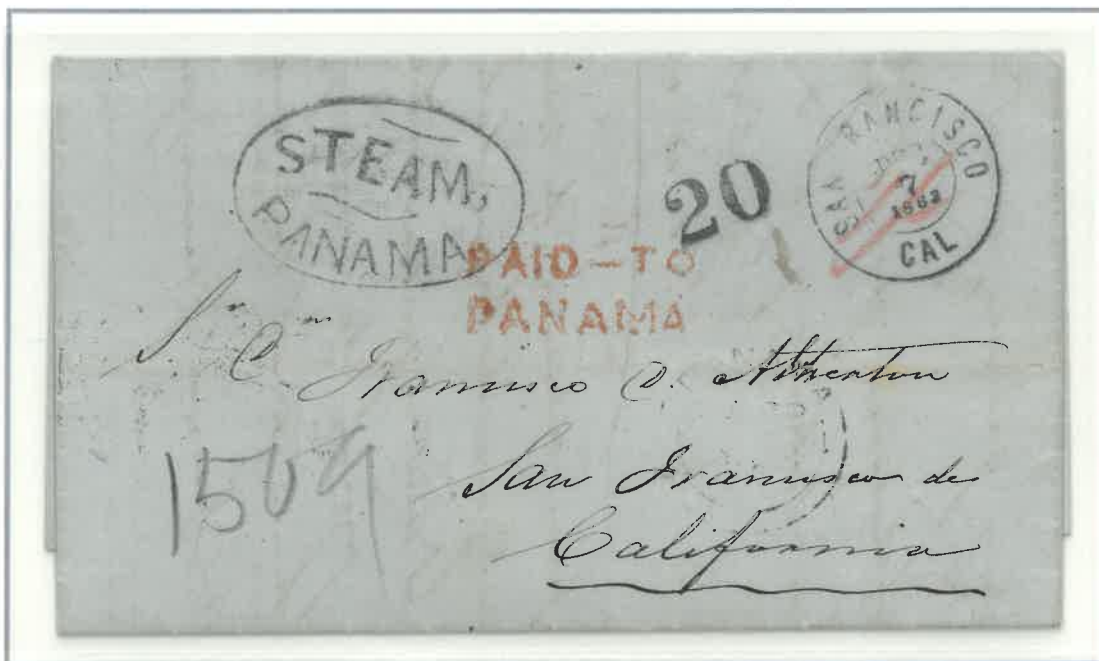


Letter from Santiago via VALPARAISO and CALAIS to PARIS Showing red "SANTIAGO DE CHILE", "FRANCA" and "PANAMA TRANSIT" markings in red. Charged 21 decimes postage due

VIA PANAMA

From CHILE

7 December 1862



From VALPARAISO via PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO, USA.
 Showing PAID-TO-PANAMA in Red with 1/ Shilling charge mark,
 oval "STEAM PANAMA" on incoming Pacific Steam Navigation Co.
 handstamp as well as "20" Cents double rate

3 October 1865



From VALPARAISO via PANAMA CITY to OAKLAND, USA
 Showing oval "STEAM PANAMA" handstamp and endorsed
 "Via Panama". Postmarked "San Francisco, Cal, November 13
 1865" double circle and "10" Cents single rate handstamp.

Arrived from PANAMA on the "Constitution" after
 14 days and 9 hours as shown on the San Francisco
 Shipping Intelligence news clip on the right



10 May 1876



From VALPARAISO via PANAMA CITY and NEW YORK to NEW BEDFORD, USA
 Franked with a GB 6 Pence stamp cancelled by "C30" barred handstamp
 of BPO VALPARAISO, Chile. Backstamped upon arrival.

1 October 1878



From SANTIAGO via PANAMA CITY and NEW YORK to BRIEDENHOFF, Germany
 "25 Cts" on top represented the rate to Panama. The "2/50" double rate (2) with 50 centimes credit to USA.
 The New York Panamá Transit mark and "T" shows it arrived in New York and was treated as unpaid.
 The "120" at center is the amount due in Germany (150 centimes = 120 pfennigs)

21 May 1876



From LA CHIMBA via PANAMA, LONDON and VERVIERS to DANZIG, Germany

Stampless cover endorsed "via Panama" with a blue-green negative cancel showing a ship inside, a line cancel "CORREOS de BOLIVIA - LA CHIMBA - Mayo 21" and single line "CANCELADO" and "FRANCO" as well as a circular 'PANAMA TRANSIT JU 4 76'.



Scan at 70%

Reverse of cover showing red "LONDON LX JU 28 76", "VERVIERS COLN" 29 6 and DANZIG arrival 30.6.76 cds

1 OF 10 COVERS FROM BOLIVIA VIA PANAMA KNOWN

IV. b - FROM THE CARIBBEAN

20 November 1859



Printed Matter from HAVANA, via PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO handled by PANAMA Forwarding Agent "A.M. HINCKLEY & Co. EXPRESS"

6 May 1866



Postal markings on the reverse of cover Scan at 70%



From HAVANA, via ST. THOMAS, and PANAMA CITY to LIMA Showing a HAVANA CDS and a PANAMA double arc datestamp with a "4/-" manuscript rating and "2" Dineros charged as postage due.

24 DECEMBER 1864



From POINTE PITRE, GUADELOUPE via PANAMA to LIMA, Peru

Letter sent from French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe
24 December 1864 to Lima, Peru transiting Panama 8 January 1865.

Sender decided to prepay letter at the Guadeloupe Post Office after the letter had been marked 6 decimes (=6d) which was likely the postage due rate to Panama. The entire Lima calculated rate was 165 centimes (then equivalent to 1s 4 1/2d) and the French colonial stamps were added to make up this rate. (Note the stamps almost cover the 6 decimes due handstamp beneath.)

Letter was then likely walked over to the British Packet Agency in Guadeloupe where the red Crowned Circle "Paid in Guadeloupe" (used from 1848 - 1874) was applied along with the red 1s4d marking indicating the postage rate paid to the British postal service. The letter was put into the British Packet Mail system, transited via Panama two weeks later on 8 January 1865, and then transported via British packet to Callao, Peru, and then by private courier to Lima.

1 OF 10 COVERS FROM FROM GUADELOUPE VIA PANAMA KNOWN TO DATE

6 April 1874



ST. THOMAS
circular datestamp
on reverse of cover
Scan at 100%

From TRINIDAD via ST. THOMAS to PANAMA CITY
Franked with a 6d and 4d Trinidad stamps for a double rate
Showing a TRINIDAD double circle PAID handstamp
and an "8" red crayon postage due marking

26 August 1874



ST. THOMAS
circular datestamp
on reverse of cover
Scan at 100%

Both letters were for the Commander in Chief of the "HMS Repulse" of the Royal Navy which patrolled the seas from Patagonia to British Columbia from 1872 to 1877

From TRINIDAD via ST. THOMAS to PANAMA CITY
Franked with a 4d Trinidad stamp for a single rate
Showing a TRINIDAD double circle PAID handstamp
and a "4" red crayon postage due marking

IV. c - FROM CENTRAL AMERICA

13 December 1867



From MASAYA, via PANAMA CITY to MANCHESTER
Showing three line "PANAMA TRANSIT" datestamp, MANCHESTER arrival
datestamp and a 2/ Shillings charge indication.

6 February 1873



From GRANADA via GREY-TOWN by Forwarding Agent "S. ESPINOSA"
to COLON British Post Office directed to NEW YORK.
With US Steamship charge of 10 Cents to be paid upon arrival.

23 December 1864

From LA LIBERTAD via PANAMA CITY and CALAIS to BORDEAUX Showing red box "FRANCO" three line "PANAMA TRANSIT" and Calais arrival CDS. Charged 12 decimes postage due.



24 June 1869

From SAN SALVADOR via PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO, USA Endorsed "VIA PANAMA" Showing oval "STEAM PANAMA" handstamp and cds "San Francisco, Cal, June 13 with "10" rate change



19 September 1872

From COJUTEPEQUE via SAN SALVADOR and PANAMA CITY to PARIS Franked with a pair of 1 Real stamps, cancellation of COJUTEPEQUE CDS and "PANAMA TRANSIT" handstamp. With 15 Centimes postage due to be paid upon arrival.



14 March 1875



LA LIBERTAD via PANAMA CITY to LIVERPOOL
 Franked with a 2 Reales Green stamp with overprint "CONTRASELLO" with manuscript cancellation. Showing three line "PANAMA TRANSIT" datestamp and LIVERPOOL arrival CDS. Charged with 1/6 Shillings upon arrival.

6 November 1877



From LA UNION, Salvador via PANAMA CITY to BARBASTE
 Franked with a 2 Reales Green first issue of Salvador with "CONTRASELLO" overprint. Showing a PANAMA circular datestamp, a French "17" charge marking and a "T - 1.10" postage due to be paid upon arrival.

22 April 1860



From GUATEMALA CITY via PANAMA CITY to WASHINGTON
 Forwarded by "HURTADO HERMANOS" of PANAMA and
 Steamship to WASHINGTON, Steamship Postage Due 20 Cents.

7 April 1863



GUATEMALA CITY via PANAMA CITY to LONDON and forwarded to ARDECHE
 Showing three line PANAMA TRANSIT and CALAIS datestamp
 With GB 2F.87½c accountancy handstamp and 24 decimes charge indication.

8 May 1859



From MAZATLAN via SAN FRANCISCO and PANAMA to HAMBURG, Germany

Sent to San Francisco on the steamer "Surprise" privately by the ship's captain. From San Francisco at double Prussian Closed Mail rate (2 x 30c) via Panama and New York where it received two "BR PKT" cds's, one showing 14c credit due to Great Britain for their part in its handling.



Scan at 80% of inside of letter showing "per Str. Surprise via San Francisco and Panama", as well Mazatlan, 8 May 1859"

This 30c Prussian Closed Mail rate (per half oz.) was in effect from October 1852 until September 1861 when the rate was reduced to 28c.

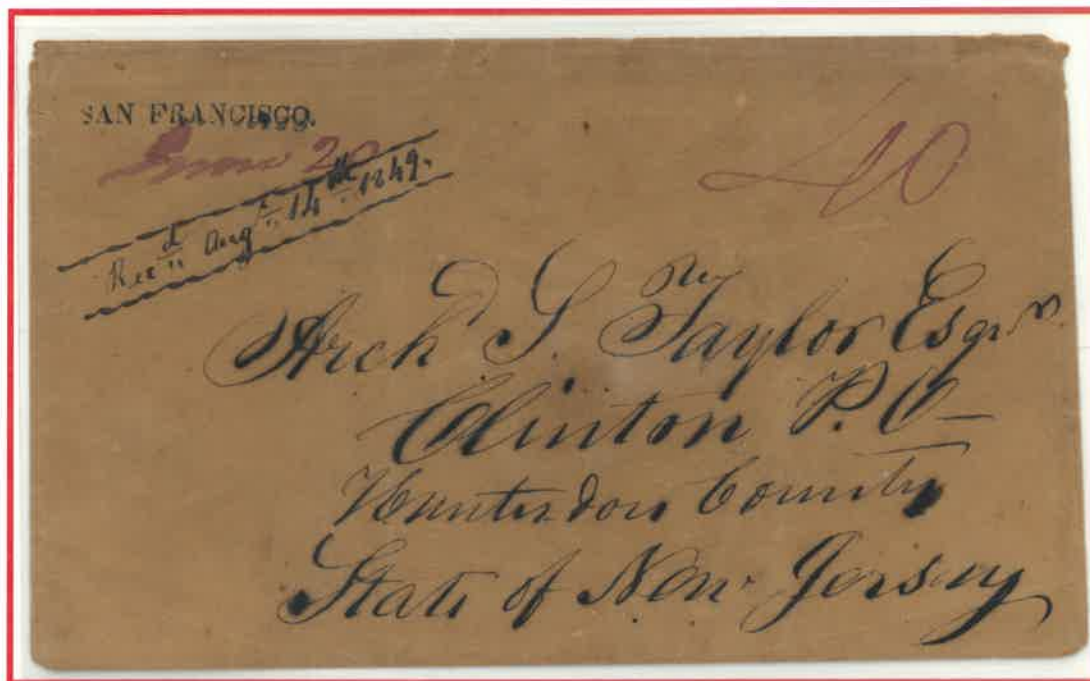
Incidentally, this was not a compulsory rate...mail could be sent unpaid (paid by the addressee) by this method

IV. d - FROM NORTH AMERICA

*Panama played a very important role in the development of the communications between the east and west coast of the United States. In 1849 the United States Post Office established the Ocean Mail via Panama Route to carry the mail from New York to San Francisco and vice-versa. The route was comprised of three elements for which three different mail contracts were signed - they were: (1) New York to Chagre with the "United States Mail Steamship Co." (2) Aspinwall to Panama City with the "Panama Railroad Co." (3) From Panama City to San Francisco with the "Pacific Mail Steamship Co." From the onset, the mail was transported across the Isthmus by mules and canoes until the Panama railroad was completed in January 1855. **No PANAMA transit marks were applied to any letters, as they were transported across the Isthmus in closed mailbags.** Considerable research has gone into determining the ships that carried the mail to and from Panama, and the dates of arrival and departure.*

The first eastbound mail under the contract left San Francisco for Panama City on April 12, 1849. The Ocean Mail via Panama Route remained a vital link in the nation's mail system until the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869.

20 June 1849



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY, CHAGRES AND NEW ORLEANS to CLINTON, NJ

Showing First Day of Usage of the SAN FRANCISCO straight line handstamp with magenta "June 20" and matching "40" rating. Sent on the first departure of the "S.S. Panama" on June 20, 1849. It arrived in Panama City on July 12th, and was put on the U.S. Steamship Co.

"Falcon" leaving Chagres July 28th, arriving in New Orleans on Aug. 3rd. Then by great northern mails reaching Clinton, NJ as noted by "Recd Aug 14th, 1849".

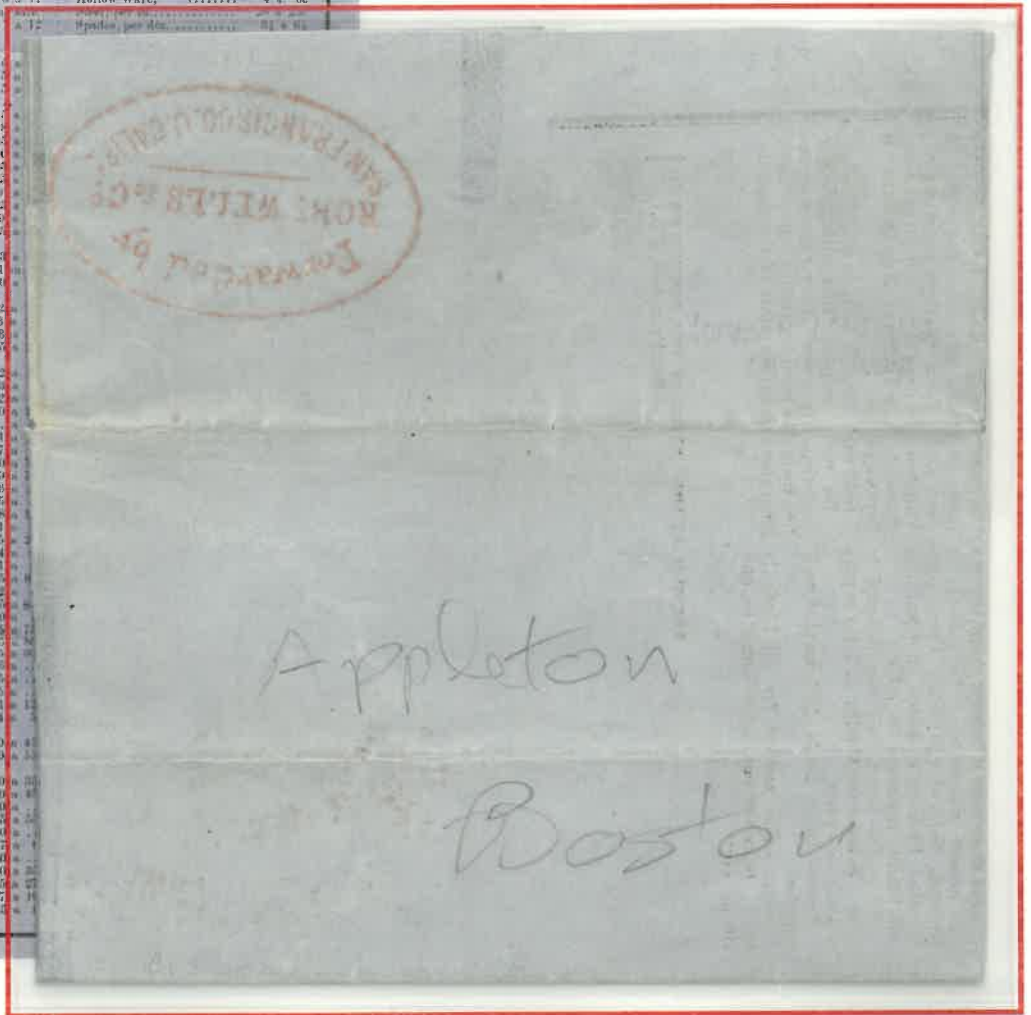
ONE OF ONLY EIGHT RECORDED FROM THE FIRST CONTRACT SAILING OF THE S.S. PANAMA

On June 15, 1849 R.T. Allen arrived as the new Postmaster of San Francisco and introduced the first handstamp at the office. The San Francisco straight line postmark was used only on mail dispatched on the third, fourth and fifth contract sailings from San Francisco to Panama in 1849 comprising the first departure of the S.S. Panama on June 20, the second departure of the S.S. Oregon on July 2, and the second departure of the S.S. California on August 1. The straight line marking was preceded by manuscript postmarks and succeeded by cds postmarks.

**Earliest Recorded Letter Price Current
From US Military Administration of California**

SAN FRANCISCO LETTER SHEET PRICE CURRENT AND REVIEW OF THE MARKET.		
VOL. I. SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 30, 1840. NO. 1.		
WILLIAM W. GALLAGHER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OFFICE CORNER MONTGOMERY AND WASHINGTON STREETS.		
ARMES		FISH, cont'd.
Saltstons, per lb.....	55 a 65c	Salmon,
Pots and Pans, a ..	Mackerel, no. 1, per bbl.,
BE SOWAY.		" " 2, " "
" " " "	" " "	" " 3, " "
BOOKS AND STICKS.		Sardines, 1/2 boxes per doz.
Books, men's light paper doz.	\$20 a ..	FACTS.
" " " " " heavy " "	22 a 25	Refined,
Drogues, fine per doz.	25 a 28	" Lardings" bunch per box.
" " " " " heavy " "	22 a 24	Muscated " "
CANDLES.		Bloom, " "
Sperm, per lb.....	60 a 70c	Currants, per lb.,
Stearine, " " " "	22 a 28c	Almonds, " "
Hull & Patent,	22 a 27c	" soft shell, per lb.
COALS, on board.		Eggs, Turkey, " "
Liverpool, per chal.....	\$30 a 40	Walnuts, " "
Lehigh, " " " "	40 a 45	Truffles, " "
COXEA, per lb.....	12 1/2 14c	Lemons, per box,
American Sweet, per lb.,	35 a 40c	Oranges, " " " "
Spanish, " " " "	45 a 50c	Dried apples, per lb.,
COFFEE.		Peaches, with stones,
Brazil, per lb.....	7 a 8c	" " clear, " "
Laguira, " " " "	" " "	Braudy fruits, none
Java, " " " "	8 a 10c	HAY, per hund.
CORDAGE.		Hovey, per bbl. 1.50 a \$2 per gal
American tarred, per lb.,	12 a 14c	Lime, per bbl.
Manilla Rope, " " "	17 a 25c	LIVESTOCK.
DOMESTIC GOODS.		Raven Duck, light per piece
Sheetings, brown, per yd.,	8 a 11c	" " heavy, " "
" " bleached, " " "	8 a 14c	Diapers, Russia, " " "
Osnaburgs, cotton, " " "	8 a 10c	Brown sheetings, per yd.,
Carbon Drill, will'd " " "	10 a 12 1/2c	Liquors,
Cotton Bed Ticking, " " "	20 a 25c	Braudy, J. J. Dupuy, pr gal
Calicoes, blue, " " "	7 a 12 1/2c	" Otard " "
" " fancy bright col'd	7 a 10c	" Seignette " "
" " French,	16 a 22	" Cassis, pr doz.
Flannel Shirts, blue and		Rum, Jamaica, no sale....
red, per doz.....	\$24 a ..	Old Swan, per gal.
Cotton veils, black, per		" Cassis, pr doz.
yd.,	40 a 55c	Cider Spirits, pr gal.
Satinets, per yd.	45 a 75c	Whiskey,
Cloths, blue and scarlet,		Als. Ryan's London, pr doz
per yd.,	\$3 a 4	" Philad. " "
Blankets, blue Mackinaw,		Cider Champs, pr doz.
per pair,	5 a 8	Wines, Madeira, pr gal.
do, red, do do do	10 a 18	Champs, " Hebeick" pr bush
do, white, do do do	3 a 8	Apothec.
do, whiney, do do do	5 a 20	Sherry, pr gal.
DRUGS AND MEDICINES.		Marselles Madeira, pr gai
Alum, per lb.	16 a 20c	Pure Port,
Alum, Cape, " " "	2 a 2 1/2	Imitation Port,
Balsam Copaliva, " " "	2 a 2 1/2	Muscated, " "
Primate, " " " "	40 a 50c	Dry Malaga, " "
Camphur, " " " "	22 1/2 a 1/2	Claret pr lit pipe
Coppcas, " " " "	" " "	" Bl Julien, pr doz.
Cream Tartar, " " "	75 a 100	" Mexico, " " " "
Gum Arabic, " " "	\$4 a 2	" Chateau Margaux pr d
Ipecac, " " " "	3 a 4	Lenon Syrup, pr doz.
Jalap, " " " "	3 a 4	Soda Water,
Oil Lemon, " " " "	15 a 30	MOLASSES.
" " Vitriol, " " " "	75 a 100c	West India, pr gal.
Castor Oil, per doz qts.,	\$11 a 12	Sugar House " "
Quicksilver, per lb.	1 75 a 1	METALS.
Soda, S. O., per lb.	75 a 100c	Old Copper, pr lb.
Quinine, per oz.,	24 a 3	New Sheathing, " "
Lonches, doz.....	24 a 35	Sheet Iron, Am. " "
PATENT MEDICINES.		" " Russia, pr lb.,
Sarsaparilla, Sands, doz.	60 a ..	Sheet Zinc, pr lb.
" " Townsend's, " "	30 a ..	Pig Lead, " "
Chologogue, Osgood's, .	30 a ..	Bar " " " "
Scullitz powders, tin boxes,		Benca Tin, " "
doz.	5 1/2 a 6	Tin Plates, 1X pr box....
FEATHERS.		Bar Iron, American, pr lb.
Live geese, per lb.,	50 a 55c	English,
Fish,		
Dry Cod, per quintal, .	\$6 a 6	

30 August 1849



From SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY and CHAGRES to BOSTON *

This Vol. 1 No. 1 Letter Sheet Price was published August 30, 1849.

The year date on the masthead is a mistake, being surely a type setting error. This can be confirmed by the search of the San Francisco business directory. The circular was most likely sent on a ship and routed by a forwarding agent by way of Panama City and Chagres to New York and Boston.

The marking in the red oval is a new unlisted by Rowe forwarders marking "Forwarded by / ROBE WELLS & CO / SAN FRANCISCO U. CALF"

Discovery copy of the

ROBE WELLS & CO.

SAN FRANCISCO, U CALF

forwarding mark

Scan at 70%

1 June 1850



From SAN FRANCISCO via CHAGRES and NEW YORK to SENECAVILLE, OH.

Struck with a "30" rating handstamp. An Act of March 3, 1847 set the steamship rate at 30c to and from Panama and USA. It remained in effect until June 30, 1861

Left San Francisco on the "Oregon" on June 1, arriving in Chagres on June 12.
Left for New York on June 24 on the "Crescent City", arriving on June 24, 1850

**THE EARLIEST OF ONLY 12 KNOWN RECORDED EXAMPLES
OF THE U.S. CONSULAR OFFICE IN PANAMA**

Between June 10th and July 21st 1850, the United States Consul at Panama, Amos B. Corwine is recorded as applying the "PANAMA N.Y." circular datestamp on letters handled by his office

SAN FRANCISCO



NEWS-LETTER.

VOL. 1.

FOR THE STEAMERS CAROLINA AND PANAMA, SEPTEMBER 13 AND 15, 1851.

NO. 4.

Published on the day preceding the departure of each Mail Steamer, by FRANCIS A. BONNARD. AT THE SUNDAY DISPATCH OFFICE, Montgomery street, corner of Commercial street.

For sale by Cooke & Leeson, and Martin & Hitchcock, Montgomery street; Burgess, Gilbert & Sill, on the Plaza; and Bonnell & Williston, Post-Office Arcade; and at the Commercial Exchange for all Nations.

Semi-Monthly Local Review.

Saturday, Aug. 30th:

The last number of this sheet brought the news up to the 29th inst. The domestic news, to-day, is of very little importance.

At about two o'clock Pacific, of Vanderbilt's harbor, in fifteen days and Panama, the quickest trip days' later intelligence of our la's representative, the Her news relative to the considerable interest in it anxiously for the next adv

Last evening, there was the Oriental Hotel, of the shackles of party in it to stand by the Independents to contain the names of some the Whig and Democrat which were deemed by a with others of known can we said before, that the means of electing those candidates whose names of the Independent ticket was

Sunday, Aug. 31

This morning we have has yet been made around has just anchored in our ha Th's beats the famed trip. There were several heavy passage would not be be none rash enough to reatu the trip of the Flying Clo

We are happy to learn lading papers in the tre disposed towards the actio It would make but little di is a pleasure to have the g

There has been a frea which the American sel steamer Pera, and the steamer

Monday, Sept. 1st:

As the election day approaches boils more fiercely. Nightly the are out with music, long processions rancies. The effect of the Independ favorable to the Democrats, re with scarcely elect a man. The Whig; assailing the Independent party with

To-day, news has arrived from the of the division of the State is still muddled. The Los Angeles Star says:—

"In this count all the candidates for the Legislature have pledged themselves to use their efforts to obtain a division of the State, and we are informed that this is also made a test in the neighboring counties."

Tuesday, Sept. 2d:

The sad news has reached us of a large conflagration at Marysville. It took place last Sunday morning at a little after 12 o'clock, midnight. The fire originated in a Chinese Washhouse, and spread rapidly in all directions, until three entire blocks were destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$500,000. The limits of the burnt district are thus peremptorily laid down by the Marysville Herald:—

"The South side of Second street, from D to E streets; the East side of E street, from Second street to the Plaza; the North and East sides of the Plaza; the Levee, from the Plaza to D street; the West side of D street, from the Levee to Sac all street; both sides of First street, from D street to the Plaza, and both sides of High street, from First to Second streets, were entirely destroyed." We can see that, notwithstanding the fire, there was a large stock of goods left in the city, and that the merchants were too keen to drive traders off to Sacramento by charging exceedingly high prices.

Captain Woodward, who has recently arrived in charge of the G. S. Lake Mail, reports many Indian difficulties on the plains.

This evening, the Whigs have had a very long and a very brilliant procession. The Democrats have also been on the alert.

The Independents held an immense meeting on the Plaza, at which the Hon. Mr. Holmes, late of South Carolina, made one of the most eloquent speeches we ever heard. The enthusiasm is great. Each party feeling equally sanguine.

Wednesday, Sept. 3d:

Quite a number of complaints by Dr. Haba and other pug engers b of the delays and disagreeable cer to them during their trip. The agent of the line, on the

but so large a number of persons were on the spot that the affair was adjourned. This morning, they met again; the stakes were all set, when the Sheriff appeared and arrested them. By this afternoon's Pleasure, we are happy to learn that the matter has since been arranged without resort to arms. The distance decided upon was five paces only. And had the duel been fought, the probability is that neither would have left the field.

Sunday, Sept. 7th:

This morning, Whig stock is decide ly on the rise. While the Democrats are doubtful as to the result. The successful that in the different counties is very mixed, possible to predict how the State

navy shower of rain. Many build- ings have suffered damage from its effects. That venerable

troops to protect the inhabitants against the Indians in that vicinity. Doubts are expressed as to the feasibility of saddling the State with farther debt, particularly as the thing looks very much like a speculation.

Last night, the California Engine Company, number Four, celebrated their anniversary with a splendid dinner at the Oriental Hotel. Many invited guests were present, among whom were Mayor Bresham, and several of the editors of our city.

The bill, providing for the erection and support of Common Schools in this city, was taken up in the Board of Aldermen, last evening, and after considerable debate and some few amendments, was finally passed. The adoption of this bill has been looked for with considerable anxiety by those interested in public education.

A disease has made its appearance among the Chinese of the symptoms of the resulting fatality. The e of the number of slock, prevailing malady of this

arf, yesterday, between a hipping masters, who had an accordance with agree- d for sea. The police at-

iantz, the negro who ro- soma, is in this city. He murder, and effected his escape.

Dolls:

give evidence that, as a triumphant all over the the Senator to Congress, as though both our repre-

ion of our State are rising explain of the enormous ay for the support of our that several years more wealthy man from Mon- n press are strenuous for Territorial Government. place, and that eventual- will be admitted into the entire of delegates from to meet at Santa Barbara, er of separation into con-

* published in the gual by seventy- the best men in the



From SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY to HARDWICK, USA Showing red "PAID" handstamp. Left San Francisco on 9/15/51 on the "Carolina" arriving in Panama City on 9/22/51. It left Chagre on the "Ohio" on 9/24/51, arriving in New York on 10/8/51, for further delivery to Hardwick, Mass.

the Columbia, for Port Orford, Astoria and Portland, Oregon. The Pacific took one hundred and seventy-one passengers, notwithstanding the hue and cry that has been raised against the Nicaragua route.

Election returns are all that is thought of now. The Democracy are rejoicing to-day with every hope of success in the State ticket. The Whigs have about given the victory up. There can be but little doubt that the Senate and House are clearly Democratic, but as to the Governor and other State officers, we think the Whigs have backed down too soon, and that the Democrats are "whorbling" before they are out of the woods.

To-day, the Pleasure makes a serious charge against one of our heavy land owners. It alleges that Capt. Folsom attempted to control the action of both political parties in making their nomination for Judge of Superior Court, and that money was the consideration offered. This is creating many surmises in town.

Considerable excitement exists in private circles, owing to an affair of honor between Mr. Emble, of the Alta California, and Col. McDougal, a lawyer of our Governor. The Colonel took occasion to insult Mr. Emble on account of an article which appeared in his paper, reflecting on the action of the Governor. A challenge passed and was accepted. The parties went out to the Mission, last evening,

the North Pacific, by the schooner Clew. This vessel set sail for the Arctic Ocean. When in Fling's Strait, they became enclosed in ice, and the following vessels were totally wrecked:—Ajax, of Havre; Aramatta, of New London; Henry Thompson, of New London; Arabella, of New Bedford; New Bedford, of New Bedford; America, of New Bedford; Cosmopolite, of France; Mary Mitchell, San Francisco. The crews reached the land in safety, but subsequently, in skrimishes with the natives it is said eleven of the whalers lost their lives. The John W. had sustained considerable injury herself, having lost a great part of her spar, and having been stripped of nearly every sheet of copper.

It was supposed that some sixty more vessels had shared the fate of those mentioned above; and it was quite possible to tell how many more would be like y to be it in their attempts to escape from the ice.

The fleet are represented to be making as rapidly possible for the North West Coast, to retrieve their baggage. The English expedition, sent out to look for Sir John Franklin, have given up the search, owing to the impatience of penetrating the immense masses of ice in Bhering's Straits.

We hear of the commencement of rain all over the State. Another attempt is being made at Santa Barbara to raise a

anniversary of the admission of California passed off very quietly, the largely on having to inquire what the gains to California Guard, were for.

as a considerable excitement at the period that the Venetian Committee gain possession of Dutch Charles, once out of prison by the Governor, a Hotel, and it is said that a large were there also, ready to receive the Committee as they would be

The most important item of interest, to-day, is the publication in the dailies of the report of the Grand Jury of this county, asking to be discharged. The late exercise of the pardoning power on the part of the Governor in the case of Dutch Charles, has induced them to take this step. They call it "such a monstrous abuse of the pardoning power as to cause serious alarm." They continue:—

"If the prisons are to be thrown open at the will of the Executive in men of such character, the judgments of the courts while acting in behalf of the people, will be set at defiance—all protection to unoffending and peaceable citizens will be withdrawn, and grand and potent justice will have force of arms. We, as Grand Jurors, are not plying to jeopardize our lives, when we can neither rescue the public nor serve the ends of justice. The act of pardoning and discharging from prison so notorious a party of peaceable men, is an act unworthy of the distinguished position of its author, and a popular outrage upon the people."

30 September 1851



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY to BORDEAUX, France

"Endorsed Via Panama and England" with B.P.O. PANAMA double circle datestamp OCT 22 and boxed "JBF ARRIVET a Panama" in blue on reverse. Sent via LONDON with boxed Anglo-French accountancy "Colonies de Arts 13" in red. London transit "27/11" and BORDEAUX arrival on reverse "30/11" with handstruck charge "15"



12 December 1851

SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY
to SCHLESWIG, Germany

"Endorsed via Panama" carried by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer "Oregon" to PANAMA CITY and United States Mail Steamship Co. steamer Ohio from CHAGRES to NEW YORK.

Carried from NEW YORK on 21 February 1852 on steamer "Pacific" of the New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Co. (Collins Line) to Liverpool where it arrived on 3 March 1852 and then to Bremen, and to Hamburg.

The rating on this letter is in accordance with the U.S. - Bremen Postal Treaty of 1847, for American Contract Steamship via Great Britain. The rate applied was 26 Prepaid for British Open Mail rate by American packet and 4 shilling due in Gettingen.

Prepayment interpreted at NEW YORK to be the fully paid rate to Hamburg by Bremen mail, 20 Treaty rate to Bremen and 5 transit to Hamburg; therefore letter marked ALL PAID in red and sent in Bremen Closed Mails to England. In Bremen the letter was marked 7 grote credit to Hamburg, where letter was marked FRANCO in black.

1 September 1854



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY, ASPINWALL, SAN JUAN DEL NORTE
and NEW YORK to READING, PA

Departed San Francisco in Sept. 1, 1854 "AHEAD of the MAILs" on Vanderbilt's "Uncle Sam" arriving in Panama on Sept. 15, 1854 and from Aspinwall to San Juan del Norte (Nicaragua) on Sept. 18, 1854 and then on Vanderbilt's "Prometheus" arriving New York on Sept. 25, 1854. It entered the mails in New York on Sept. 27 for carriage to Reading, PA

CARRIED ON THE LAST TRIP OF THE INDEPENDENT LINE FROM CALIFORNIA

The Vanderbilt's Independent Opposition Line operated steamships on both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans between August 17, 1853 and September 1, 1854. The private mails were taken to Nicaragua and then carried by Vanderbilt's Independent Line steamer "Prometheus" to New York

The Nicaragua - In Advance of the Mails route was a non-contract route. This meant that there was no compensation from the U.S. government for delivery of the mails.

16 July 1855



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY and COLON to CAROLINE CENTER, New York
 Franked with a 5c California Penny Post Co., San Francisco Type A adhesive
 uncanceled, as most always, and a 10c Green Type II for a single letter rate
 for U.S. domestic mail conveyed 3,000 miles or more as of April 1, 1855
 (Postage Act of March 3, 1855)

Carried on the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's "John L. Stephens" which departed
 San Francisco on July 16, 1855 and arrived in Panama on July 31. It was then
 carried over the Isthmus and put on USMC's steamer "Empire City" which
 departed Aspinwall on August 2 and arrived in New York on August 11

**ONE OF ONLY FIVE RECORDED COVERS BEARING
 THIS RARE CALIFORNIA PENNY POST CO. ADHESIVE STAMP**

*The Penny Post Company, organized by Henry L. Goodwin, started
 operations on June 25, 1855 and ceased to operate in July 1856. During the
 short period of operations the company issued a series of printed envelopes
 as well as a 5c adhesive stamp. The 5c adhesive stamp was used primarily
 on mail carried by ocean steamers.*

VIA PANAMA

4 December 1856

From UNITED STATES



BEVERLY via CHAGRES AND PANAMA CITY to SACRAMENTO CITY
 Correct 10c single rate cover (as of April 1, 1856) sent on the U.S. Mail steamer
 "Illinois" on December 5, 1856, arrived in Aspinwall on December 14 . It left for
 San Francisco on December 15 on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer
 "John L. Stephens" arriving in San Francisco on December 30, 1856

5 March 1857

THE SAN FRANCISCO NEWS LETTER.

Per Steamer Golden Age.

A Summary of Events from Feb., 20th to March 5th, 1857.

No. 16.



Mr. THOMPSON THE MOUNTAIN EXPRESS MAN, has again arrived at Sacramento City, and has forwarded to us the subjoined sketch of himself, wearing the celebrated Norwegian snow shoes, seven feet long, by which alone he was enabled during the late severe winter to accomplish his perilous journey over the Sierra Nevada, and deliver to our readers in Carson Valley the San Francisco News-Letter. He says the snow-drifts were 50 feet deep—but that our friends were all well in the valley.



Advertisement on the interior for Thompson, THE MOUNTAIN EXPRESS MAN, who carried the mails on 7 foot skies over the Sierras during the winter snows

SAN FRANCISCO via CHAGRES AND PANAMA CITY to BOSTON

Effective October 1, 1852 the printed circular rate was reduced to 1c any distance.
 The Newsletter departed on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. "Golden Gate" on
 March 5, 1857, transited at Panama on March 18, and transferred to New York
 on the U.S. Mail Steamship Co. "Illinois" arriving on March 28, 1857

20 June 1857



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY and COLON to TROY, New York
 San Francisco News Letter franked with a 10c Green Type III with printed
 "P.M.S.S. GOLDEN AGE June 20" at upper left. *News letter does not accompany
 but has a handwritten note inside, reason for the 10c letter rate, effective April 1, 1855*
 Carried on the PMSS "Golden Age" which departed San Francisco on June 21, 1855
 arrived in Panama City on July 4. It was carried across the Isthmus and put on the USMSC
 "Star of the West" which departed Aspinwall on July 4 and arrived New York on July 13

4 July 1857



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY and COLON to NEW YORK
 San Francisco News Letter franked with a 1c Blue Type II, with printed
 "P.M.S.S. SONORA July 4, 1857" at upper left. The 1c stamp paid the
 printed matter rate any distance, effective October 1, 1852

19 May 1859



From HARTFORD via NEW YORK, ASPINWALL and PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO

Correct single letter rate 10c # 14 stamp (April 1, 1855 - July 1, 1863) tied by red grid
 Departed New York on May 20, 1859 on U.S. Mail Steamship Co.
 steamer "Star of the West" and transited Aspinwall on May 31, 1859 to
 Panama City where it went on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer
 "Golden Age", arriving in San Francisco June 13, 1859

3 September 1859



From PHILADELPHIA via ASPINWALL and PANAMA CITY to VALPARAISO, Chile

PAID double rate cover with a manuscript "68" in the corner (2 x 34c). This rate was in effect from December 1856 to March 1870. The manuscript "48" is the credit due to Britain in cents. On arrival it was handstruck with "25", made up of 5c incoming charge plus twice the 10c domestic rate

18 January 1860



From SACKETS HARBOR via NEW YORK, ASPINWALL and PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO

Inside contents dated January 18, 1860. Correct single letter rate 10c
#14 stamp struck by a clean HACKETTS HARBOR N.Y. JAN 18 handstamp.

Departed New York on U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer "Northern Light" on February 5, 1860,
and transited Aspinwall to Panama City, where it left on February 16, 1860 on the Pacific
Mail Steamship Co. steamer "Cortes" arriving in San Francisco on March 3, 1860

11 October 1860



From NEW YORK via ASPINWALL and PANAMA CITY to SAN FRANCISCO

Tied by "NEW YORK 11 OCT" Ocean Mail with small grid cds

Departed New York October 11, 1860 on U.S. Mail Steamship Co. "Northern Light"
to Aspinwall, transited to Panama where it left on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co.
steamer "Golden Gate", arriving in San Francisco on November 14, 1860

31 October 1860



From BOSTON via NEW YORK, ASPINWALL and PANAMA CITY to SACRAMENTO CITY

This cover shows the 1c prepayment carrier fee to the Post Office in Boston in addition to the 10c single letter rate in effect from April 1, 1855 to July 1, 1863.

The cover was sent from New York on the U.S. Mail Steamship Co. steamer "Empire City" on November 1, 1860 arriving in Aspinwall on November 16, 1860 and transited to Panama City where it left on the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. steamer "Uncle Sam" arriving in San Francisco on December 7, 1860

The "Via Panama" endorsement confirms the desire of the sender to use the Panama Ocean Route instead of the overland route which was in use from September 1858

March 23, 1864



March 23, 1864 newspaper clipping announcing the sailing of the steamer "Constitution" to Panama

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

THE FOLLOWING Steamships will be dispatched in the Month of March, 1864:

Mar. 23—CONSTITUTION, J.T. Watkins, Com'der from Folsom street Wharf, at nine o'clock A. M. punctually.

FOR PANAMA.

Passengers will be conveyed from Panama to Aspinwall by the Panama Railroad Company, and from Aspinwall to New York by the Atlantic and Pacific Steamship Company.

A. B. FORBES, Agent P. M. S. Co.
Cor. Sacramento and Leidesdorff sts
1c25

SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA CITY, ASPINWALL and NEW YORK to JARNAC, France

Endorsed and sent on the steamer "Constitution", showing NEW YORK 9 cds and "15" decimes postage due markings as well as a Calais arrival CDS 8 April 1864

17 June 1865



From SAN FRANCISCO to LOCARNO, Switzerland

Via PANAMA CITY on steamer "Constitution" and NEW YORK to Europe, showing German Transit handstamp of "AACHEN FRANCO 23/7" and various Swiss transit markings to LOCARNO, Switzerland. Franked with 35 Cents US stamps



LESS THAN 5 KNOWN COVERS WITH THIS FANCY CANCEL

Shipping Intelligence.
SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 17, 1865.
 Sailed.
 June 17—Stmr Constitution, Watkins, Panama.
 Stmr Brother Jonathan, DeWolf, Victoria and Portland.
 U S stmr Saginaw, McDougal, ———
 Barque W A Banks, Knight, Puget Sound.
 Br barque Knight Bruce, Bryce, Nansaimo.
 Brig Tanner, McCarty, Puget Sound.
 Brig Francisco, Berry, Coos Bay.

June 17, 1865 newspaper clipping announcing that steamer "Constitution" sailed for Panama

9 March 1866



SAN FRANCISCO via PANAMA to BUENAVENTURA, Colombia *

US 3c stationary envelope with imprinted Wells Fargo PAID frank and oval PAID marking in blue. Endorsed "Via Panama" Oval PANAMA/DE OFICIO overlapped by PANAMA DEBE, with boxed DE ULTRAMAR and handstruck '10' rating all in red. LIMA transit backstamp (31 Jul) plus additional manuscript '10c' and Debe ratings.

A stamp was originally affixed at the upper left corner, but was undoubtedly removed as being unnecessary prior to being sent and both the oval Wells Fargo PAID handstamp in blue and the handstruck '10' rating in red overlap the space where the stamp was affixed.

The PANAMA/DE OFICIO oval was undoubtedly struck in error



LIMA transit
backstamp on
reverse of cover
Scan at 100%

The Panama to Buenaventura was a long sea route via Lima. Southbound ships from Panama rarely made the stop at Buenaventura and it was probably deemed faster to send the letter to Lima to catch a northbound coastal vessel that would call in Buenaventura.

The manuscript '10' and 'Debe 10' ratings were probably applied in Lima and Buenaventura respectively

18 April 1868



Arrival datestamp
on reverse of cover
Scan at 70%

From WAVERLY via PANAMA CITY to NEW CASTLE, Australia
Left San Francisco on PMSS steamer "Golden Age" on April 20, arriving in
Panama City on May 17. Left Panama on May 24 on The Panama, New Zealand
and Australian Royal Mail Co. steamer "Rakaia" arriving in Sydney on May 24.
Franked with 2x 10c +3c stamps, overpaid 1c as the correct rate was 22c.

**UNUSUAL ROUTING
CALIFORNIA to PANAMA to AUSTRALIA**

3 August 1869



From PORTCHESTER, NY via PANAMA CITY to LIMA, Peru
Paid double the 34 Cents rate with 68 Cents in US stamps.
Panama circular datestamp with red "24" credit for British Postal Agency
and 1 October 1869 arrival CDS on reverse

First Trans-Pacific experimental Mail

10 May 1854



From SYDNEY via PANAMA CITY to LONDON
 Franked with a 3 Penny stamp of New South Wales
 With manuscript 2/ Shillings Steamship charge from
 the Pacific via Panama route, to be paid upon arrival.



Reverse of cover
 Scan at 70%

Letter carried by "S.S. GOLDEN AGE" owned by the New York and Australian Navigation Company on the **first steamship voyage across the Pacific**. She left Melbourne on 5.5 and Sydney on 11.5. After coaling in Papeete, Tahiti, she arrived in Panama on 19.6. From there the letter was taken across the Panama Isthmus by donkeys and riverboats (the railway opened in 1855) and it arrived in Southampton by the Royal Mail steamer "Magdalena" on 17.7. The letter was handstamped in London on 18.7.1854. All this in 69 days!

The Trans-Pacific Mail Route was a financial disaster and was not repeated until 1866.

The steamer "Golden Age" entered service in 1851 and burned at sea on July 27, 1862 with the loss of 223 lives

4 January 1867



March 1, 1867
Arrival datestamp
on reverse of cover
Scan at 70%

From DUNEDIN via PANAMA CITY and LONDON to BROMLEY
Franked with a 6 Pence New Zealand stamp, showing
manuscript "Via Panama" and London PAID CDS March 1, 1867

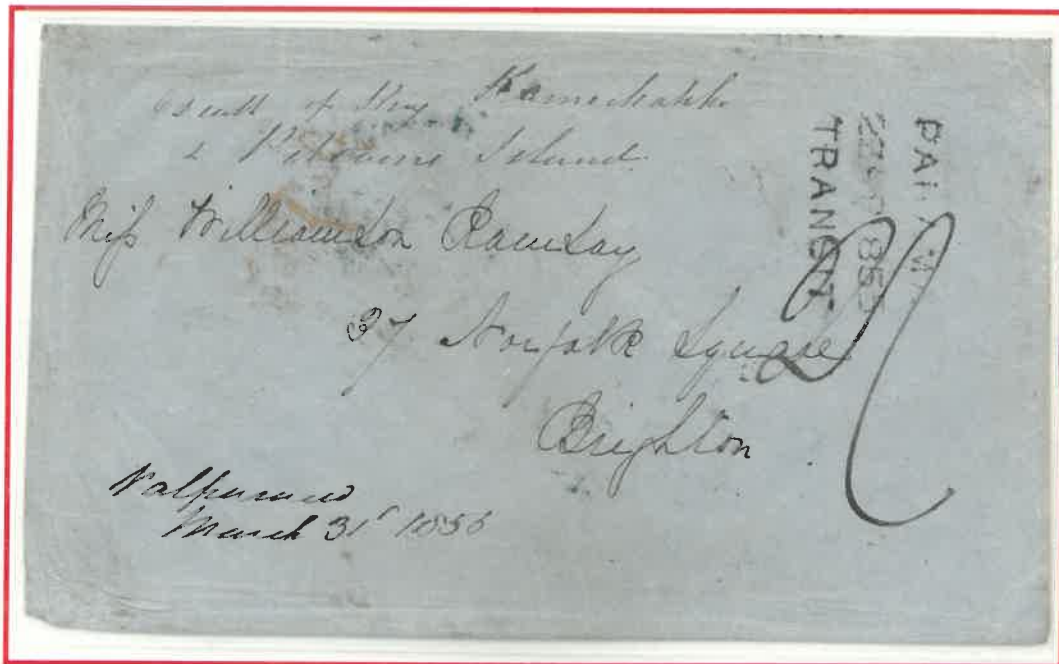
1 April 1868



From NELSON via PANAMA CITY, COLON and KINGSTON to LONDON
Endorsed "Via Panama", franked with a 6 Pence New Zealand stamp,
cancelled by the NELSON duplex AP 1 68. A London 28 MY 68 PAID
handstamp is on the front and on the reverse is a London arrival cds

Departed Wellington on April 8 on the Panama New Zealand and Australian Royal
Mail Company's "Rakaia" arriving in Panama City on May 4. After crossing the
Isthmus it left Colon on the "Tyne" to Jamaica, arriving Kingston on May 9.
It left Kingston on the "Douro" on May 10 arriving in Plymouth on May 27

30 January 1855



From PITCAIRN ISLAND on the ship "JAVA" via VALPARAISO (31 March)
PANAMA (22 April), LONDON (22 May), to BRIGHTON, England (22 May)

On the front of the cover it reads: "Death of King Kamehameha"
and "Pitcairn Island" plus "Valparaiso March 31st 1855"

These notes suggest that the contents of the cover were written by a sailor who started in Hawaii mentioning the death of the King and describing a visit to Pitcairn before being finalized and sent from Valparaiso. King Kamehameha III ruled the Hawaiian Islands from 1825 to December 1854

Showing "PANAMA 22 APR 1855 TRANSIT" and a 2/- rating for a half ounce letter from Chile to England at this time. (This rate was in effect from 1840 to 1870)

Pitcairn is best known for the mutiny on the Royal Navy vessel HMS "Bounty" which occurred in the south Pacific on 28 April 1789. Disaffected crewmen, led by Acting Lieutenant Fletcher Christian, seized control of the ship from their captain Lieutenant William Bligh and set him and 18 loyalists adrift in the ship's open launch. The mutineers variously settled on Tahiti or on Pitcairn Island.

On the back it reads "Description of Pitcairn Island"
and "Enclosing a note about death of King"

Scan of reverse
of cover @ 70%



Only 6 letters have been recorded that originated from
Pitcairn Island during most of the 19th Century.

17 August 1861



Letter from PAPEETE in Tahiti to ROCHEFORT in France

Endorsed "Par-Panama" with PAPEETE cds (17 August) PANAMA/TRANSIT (22 Oct) and boxed "P.D." CALAIS transit cds and handstruck "12" (decimes) arrival charge, plus London and Paris backstamps.

1 of 2 KNOWN LETTERS FROM TAHITI via PANAMA

31 January 1860

From HAWAII



HONOLULU to SOUTH HADLEY, USA

Endorsed "Paid" with U.S. 12c black, Pos, 73L1 prepaying 10c postage plus 2c ship fee.

This cover was carried by American schooner "L.P. Foster" from Honolulu on Feb. 2nd to San Francisco, arriving Feb. 19th. Postmarked at San Francisco for the PSMC "Sonora" departing Feb. 20th for Panama City arriving Mar. 4th, then by USMSC "George Law" departing Aspinwall Mar. 5th to New York arriving Mar. 15th

VIA PANAMA

From ENGLAND

IV. f - FROM EUROPE

29 January 1846



LONDON
PAID SHIP LETTER
Handstamp on front



"FREDERICK W. BYRNE"
PANAMA Forwarder
handstamp on reverse
Scans at 100%

From LE HAVRE via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to LIMA

Showing a Red French "BUREAU MARITIME of LE HAVRE"
and Red "LONDON PAID SHIPLETTER" handstamps, and "PD"
(paid to destination) handstamp on front of cover.

16 May 1859



From LONDON via PANAMA CITY to COBIJA, Bolivia
Stampless cover showing unusual "VIA PANAMA" handstamp
in black privately applied by sender, Lombard Street PAID
circular datestamp, and PANAMA double arc circular datestamp

EARLIEST RECORDED COVER TO BOLIVIA

VIA PANAMA

From ENGLAND

15 December 1863



London transit
handstamp
on reverse of cover
Scan at 70%

PLYMOUTH via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to VANCOUVER ISLAND, B.C. Canada

Endorsed via Panama. Correct British rate 2/4d for up to half ounce via the West Indies Packed via Panama. The rate was introduced on January 1, 1854 and remained in force until October 30, 1865, after which it was reduced to 1/6d 15 December 1863

17 May 1867

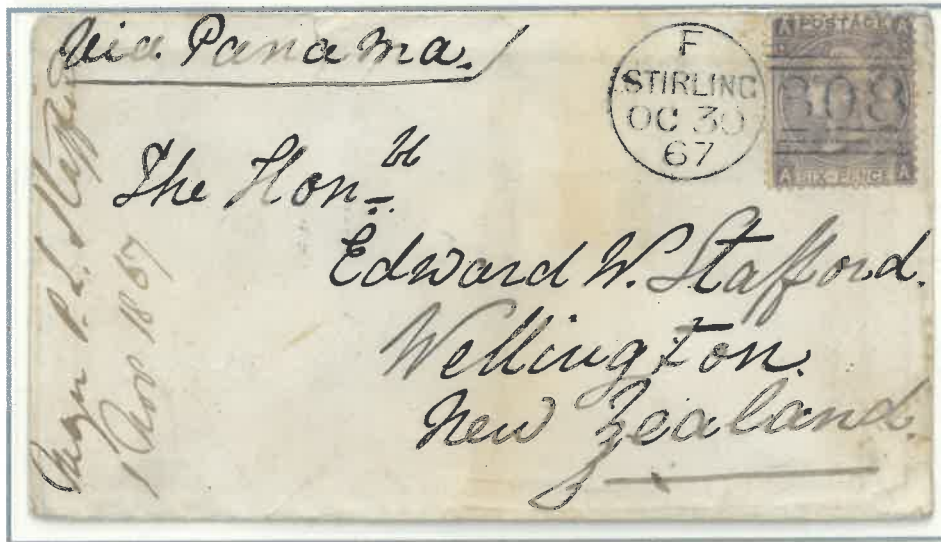


From LONDON via PANAMA CITY to GUATEMALA.
Stampless cover with "VIA PANAMA" marking, and
"LOMBARD STREET PAID" handstamp (8 Shillings).
Showing a small "VIA PANAMA" private handstamp

VIA PANAMA

From ENGLAND

30 October 1867



From STIRLING via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to WELLINGTON, New Zealand

Endorsed Via Panama, franked with a 6d stamp and cancelled with a duplex Stirling 308 date stamp

The "via Panama" route from Britain to New Zealand operated from May 28, 1866 and was withdrawn less than three years later on February 15, 1869. When first introduced, the rate was 1/- per half ounce, but was reduced to 6d per half ounce as of September 29, 1866

15 July 1871



"Admon. S. de HACIENDA NACIONAL" handstamp on reverse of cover

Only 2 covers with this handstamp known

Scan at 100%

From MANCHESTER via LIVERPOOL and COLON to ACAPULCO, Mexico

Franked with a 1/ Shilling Green stamp Plate 9.

Carried by "S.S. MEXICANA" to COLON and then handled by the Forwarding Agent "HOURQUET POYLO & Co." in PANAMA

1 November 1867



London transit
handstamp
on reverse of cover
Scan at 70%

DUNDEE via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to VALPARAISO, Chile

Franked with a 1/ Shilling Green stamp Plate 1, correct British Packet rate via Panama to Chile of 2/- (up to half ounce). Rate in effect from October 23, 1845 through December 1869, when it was reduced to 1/6d on January 1, 1870

29 April 1868



London transit and Melbourne
and Victoria arrival handstamps
on reverse of cover
Scan at 70%

GLASGOW via PANAMA CITY to MELBOURNE, Australia

Prepaid by a 6d Plate tied by a Glasgow "159" duplex for AP.29.1868. Additionally tied by an oval "6d MORE TO PAY" handstamp with a boxed "UNCLAIMED AT MELBOURNE" alongside. Carried by "Royal Mail Steam Packet Co" to Colon and from Panama to Melbourne by "Panama, New Zealand and Australian Royal Mail Co."

Although this service was much faster (especially for New Zealand mails) it proved unpopular with passengers and only operated for 2 1/2 years, thus mail routed this way is rarely seen.

15 December 1861



From JERSEY via LONDON and PANAMA to VALPARAISO
 Paid single letter rate of 2/ Shillings with 2x 1/ Shilling GB stamps
 Endorsed "Via Panama" and showing PANAMA double arc circular datestamp

29 October 1867



From AMSTERDAM via PANAMA to VALPARAISO
 Showing LONDON Paid CDS, PANAMA Transit
 and FRANCO Chile marking

VIA PANAMA

From SPAIN

3 December 1859



From VERGARA, via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to SUCRE, BOLIVIA
Franked with 2x 2 Reales, via LONDON 12.16.59,
PANAMA 1.10.60, and transit to Bolivia on ship "LAMAR"

From ITALY

27 March 1864



GENOVA, via LONDON, SOUTHAMPTON and PANAMA CITY to VALPARAISO
Endorsed "Via Southampton x Panama"
Franked with 1,40 Lira Italian stamps, and showing PANAMA double arc handstamp.

28 December 1858



From AARAU via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to VALPARAISO, Chile
 "Endorsed Pr.Steamer via Panama" franked with 95 Rappen / Centimes
 Marked PP (paid to port) but not charged on arrival

26 June 1861



Sender handstamp
 H. Grand-Jean,
 Locle (Suisse)
 Scan at 70%



Forwarder handstamp
 on reverse of cover
 Scan at 70%

From LOCLE via Le HAVRE and PANAMA CITY to LIMA, Peru
 Carried privately by forwarding agents Charles Vignier for dispatch in Le Havre
 Double rate cover (3 x 1Fr20), French Postal Treaty December 1, 1857 to June 30, 1862
 Two recorded FORWARDED letters from Switzerland to Peru

13 February 1863



Letter from HAMBURG, Germany via PANAMA CITY to VALPARAISO, Chile
 Showing "HAMBURG" oval datestamp, with "fr. 33" red wax representing 33
 shillings in Hamburg currency, equivalent to 86 Kreuzer, according to the Great
 Britain-Prussia postal convention covering the "2/2" 2s.2p. British fee,
 carried via London by British packets. With "PANAMA" double arc
 datestamp, and finally taxed with "25" centavos marking on delivery.

1 OF 5 KNOWN LETTERS FROM GERMANY VIA PANAMA

From FRANCE

15 October 1857



PARIS via PANAMA to LIMA, Peru

Letter from LIBOURNE via PANAMA CITY to SANTIAGO
 Endorsed "Par Panama" with sender's cachet and CDS with boxed
 "PP" in red plus London PAID CDS and circular "15" arrival due marking

3 February 1858



MONTPELIER via PANAMA CITY to TAHITI (TAHITI) *

Cover with contents sent from MONTPELIER to TAHITI endorsed "Voie Anglais par Panama" and "Station de Cote Occidental Amerique" with Montpelier cds, London PAID cds (6 Feb) and boxed "P.P." both in red. Entire carried via R.M.S.P. "Atrato & Thames" from Southampton via St. Thomas to Colon.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST RECORDED FRENCH COVERS TO TAHITI

15 September 1864



OFFICIAL Mail from PARIS via LONDON and PANAMA CITY to GUATEMALA
 With "FRANCO" handstamp (Free postage) for OFFICIAL correspondence.
 Franked with a strip of 3x 80 centimes in French stamps showing
 PARIS and PANAMA double arc datestamps

15 April 1866



PARIS via LONDON, SOUTHAMPTON and PANAMA CITY to COBIJA, Bolivia
 Franked with 1 French Franc stamps, sender's cachet and LONDON
 and PANAMA datestamps

31 October 1867



PARIS via ST. NAZAIRE, LONDON, HAVANA
 and PANAMA CITY to GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador
 Endorsed "VOIE DE PANAMA", franked with 3 Franc French stamps, showing
 ST. NAZAIRE, LONDON PAID "P.P." postage paid and PANAMA double arc handstamps

16 May 1873



From PARIS, via PANAMA CITY to SANTA ANA, Costa Rica
 Stampless letter, endorsed by sender's cachet, handled by
 forwarding agent "HOURQUET & POYLO" in Panama.
 Marked 6 Reales Postage Due

14 November 1874



From BORDEAUX via PANAMA CITY to SANTA ANA, Salvador
 With indication "Via SOUTHAMPTON + PANAMA", with "P.P." (Postage Paid)
 and LONDON Transit marking and crayon mark "45" to be paid upon arrival.
 Franked with 2,60 Francs French postage stamps.

V. VIA PANAMA - AFTER JOINING THE UPU

Chile joined the U.P.U. on April 1, 1881 prior to Panama joining the U.P.U. on July 1, 1881. The postal rates were less critical, as they would now be paid at origin, eliminating the need of Forwarding Agents and Foreign Post Offices, although some continued to operate for some time.

This event, together with the completion of the transcontinental railroad greatly reduced the importance of the Panama route.

May 11, 1881



VALPARAISO to PARIS, France

Endorsed "via Panama" and erroneously franked with a 1 Centavo and a 10 Centavos Chile stamps from the First Rouletted issue of 1877, intending to pay a 10 Cent rate, plus as was common with other countries, a 1 Cent surcharge for using the Panama Route.

Showing a Calais to Paris Jun 27 81 cds as well as a Paris arrival cds dated 27 Jun 81 on the reverse of cover

The above cover is one of the last known to transit Panama before it joined the U.P.U on July 1, 1881