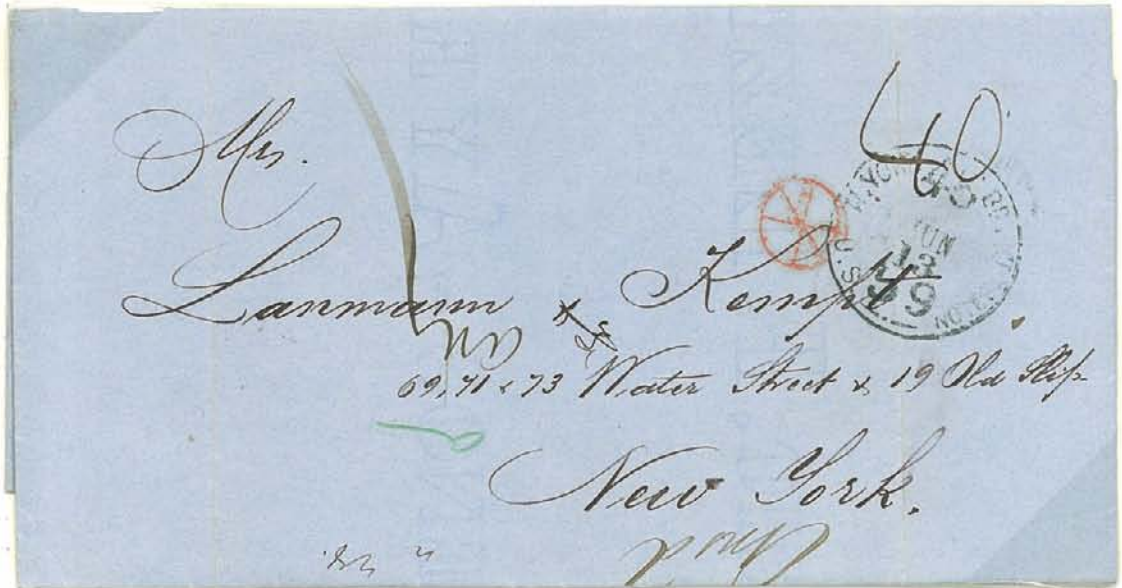


1867

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro  
R.M.S.P. Shannon, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia, Queenstown to New York



April 26, 1867. An unpaid letter to New York posted at the British Consular office, Buenos Ayres, backstamp. The branch packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres this date for Rio de Janeiro, she touched at Montevideo on April 29.

May 9. R.M.S.P. Shannon of the main line departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports. She arrived at Southampton June 1.



40

June 1. London transit backstamp. This letter required some special examination, possibly to check its weight, shown by the inspector's "crosshairs" mark. U.S. was debited for 24¢ (one shilling) for the

British rate, Argentina to Britain, plus 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 40¢, shown in manuscript.

June 1. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 2nd. where this letter went aboard.



June 13. Persia arrived at New York. The New York Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit to total 45¢, the Argentina rate via Southampton. As this was due in gold, it was converted to depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.31 x 45¢ = 59¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

1867

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro  
R.M.S.P. Shannon, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia, Queenstown to New York



April 28, 1867. An unpaid letter posted at Montevideo, Uruguay to New York, endorsed: via Southampton. The branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno had departed from Buenos Ayres on April 26 for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo. She touched at Montevideo on April 29, where this letter went aboard.

May 9. The Arno's mails were transferred at Rio de Janeiro to the main line packet R.M.S.P. Shannon which left Rio May 9, arrived at Southampton on June 1.

June 1. London transit backstamp. This letter required some special examination as shown by the inspector's "crosshairs". U.S. was debited for 24¢ (one shilling), the British Packet Letter rate from Montevideo to England plus 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 40¢ shown in manuscript.

June 1. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 2nd where this letter went aboard.

June 13. Persia arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit to total 45¢, the rate from Uruguay to the U.S. via England. This was due in gold, so it was converted to its equivalent in depreciated paper money at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.31 x 45¢ = 59¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



40





1867

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Seine, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia. Queenstown to New York



August 26, 1867. A letter posted unpaid at Buenos Ayres, Argentina at the British Consular post office, backstamp. The branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres August 28 for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, Uruguay. She touched at the latter port August 29.

September 8. R.M.S.P. Seine of the main Royal Mail line departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports. She arrived at Southampton October 2.



40 CENTS

October 3. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for 24¢ (1/-), the British Packet Letter rate, Argentina to England + 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 40¢.

October 5. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line and a British Packet, departed from Liverpool, picked up the London auxiliary mails at Queenstown on the 6th.



October 17. Persia arrived at New York. The U.S. Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 40¢ British debit to total 45¢, the single rate from Argentina via Southampton. This was due in gold, so the optional payment in depreciated paper currency was shown at the day's ratio of gold/paper of 1.36 x 45¢ = 61¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

1867

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Oneida, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Scotia, Queenstown to New York



40 CENTS



*Handwritten initials 'M' and 'A' in blue ink.*

*Handwritten address: 'New York.'*

September 25, 1867. Letter dated at Buenos Ayres and posted unpaid at the British Consular post office on September 26.

September 28. The Royal Mail branch line packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, touching at the latter port on the 29th.

October 9. The main line packet R.M.S.P. Oneida departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports and Lisbon. She arrived at Southampton on November 2.



40 CENTS

November 2. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢) for the British Packet Letter rate, Argentina to England. To this they added 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet) to total 40¢.



November 2. R.M.S. Scotia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 3rd where this letter went aboard.

November 12. Scotia arrived at New York where the Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the British 40¢ debit to total the 45¢ rate from Argentina by British Packet via Southampton. The 45¢ was due in gold, so was converted to its equivalent

in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.35 x 45¢ = 61¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1867

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Montevideo to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Oneida, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Scotia, Queenstown to New York



September 28, 1867. Letter datelined at Montevideo, Uruguay and addressed to New York "Via Southampton". Letter received into the Montevideo post office on September 29, datestamp on face.

September 28. The Royal Mail branch packet R.M.S.P. Arno departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo. She touched at the latter port on the 29th where this letter went aboard.

October 9. The main line packet R.M.S.P. Oneida departed from Rio de Janeiro for Southampton via Brazilian ports and Lisbon. She arrived at Southampton on November 2.



40 CENTS

November 2. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢), the British Packet Letter rate, Uruguay to England. To this was added 16¢ transatlantic (British Packet), total 40¢.

November 2. R.M.S. Scotia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 3rd, this letter aboard.



November 12. Scotia arrived at N.Y. where the Exchange Office added 5¢ U.S. Inland to the British debit of 40¢, total 45¢, the rate from Uruguay via Southampton. 45¢ due in gold, so it was converted to its equivalent in depreciated paper at the day's gold/paper ratio of  $1.35 \times 45¢ = 61¢$  due in U.S. NOTES.



1867

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro  
R.M.S.P. Shannon, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton  
ALLAN LINE: S.S. Austrian, Londonderry to Portland  
Shannon's engine deranged between Lisbon and England



48  
CENTS



October 26, 1867. An unpaid letter posted at the British Consular Office at Buenos Ayres and endorsed: Via Southampton.

October 29. R.M.S.P. Arno, the branch packet, departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo.

November 8. R.M.S.P. Shannon, the main line packet, departed from Rio for Southampton via the Brazilian ports. She suffered a slight derangement of one engine between Lisbon and England. She arrived at Plymouth on December 4 and Southampton the day after (Times 2nd and 5th December.)

December 5. London transit backstamp. This was a double letter (over ½-oz., not over 1 oz.), so the U.S. was debited with one shilling (the Packet Letter rate, Argentina to England), equivalent to 24¢ x 2 = 48¢.

December 5. S.S. Austrian, Montreal Ocean Steam Ship Co., departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter at Londonderry (Loch Foyle), Ireland on the 6th.

December 17. Austrian arrived at Portland. The bagged mails went by rail to New York, backstamp on arrival there on December 19.

U.S. added 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland to the 24¢ British debit = 45¢ x 2 (double weight) = 90¢ due in gold. This was converted to depreciated currency at the day's ratio of 1.30 x 90¢ = 117¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



117  
90

1868

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Branch Packet Arno, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro

R.M.S.P. Oneida, Rio de Janeiro to Southampton

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD: S.S. Weser, Southampton to New York

34¢ Argentina rate, British Packet via England, eff. Jan.'68-Jan.'70



February 26, 1868. Letter posted unpaid at Buenos Ayres. This was the 3rd return voyage to sail under the new 34¢ Argentine rate. R.M.S.P. Oneida had made the 1st return, departed Rio Jan. 8, 1868, and R.M.S.P. Tasmanian departed Rio Feb. 8, 1868.

February 26. Letter backstamped at the British Consular post office. R.M.S.P. Arno, the branch packet, departed Buenos Ayres this date en route to Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo.

March 3. R.M.S.P. Oneida departed from Rio de Janeiro, reached Southampton April 6.

April 6. London transit backstamp. U.S. was debited for 32¢ for all British charges.

April 4. S.S. Weser (II) departed from Bremen, picked up the U.S. mails at Southampton April 7.

April 20. Weser arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office added 2¢ U.S. Inland to the British debit of 32¢ to total the 34¢ January 1868 Argentina rate to the U.S. by British Packet via England.. The 34¢ rate was adjusted at the day's ratio of gold to depreciated U.S. currency of 1.35 x 34¢ = 46¢ due in U.S. NOTES.





1868

BUENOS AYRES. ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company R.M.S.P. Danube

Norddeutscher Lloyd S.S. Rhein



Aug. 26, 1868.  
Unpaid letter posted at the British consular office at Buenos Ayres. It was directionally endorsed: Via de Southampton. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Danube departed from Buenos Ayres this date, cleared Rio Sept. 9 and arrived at Southampton Oct. 5. Letter backstamped at London transit the same day.



October 6. The North German Lloyd S.S. Rhein, Capt. Meyer, left Bremen Oct. 3 and picked up the British mails at Southampton on October 6.



32 CENTS

October 17. Rhein arrived at New York to Oelrichs & Co. with 582 passengers. 48 cents in depreciated currency was due, which included a 5¢ unpaid letter fee.

The balance of 43¢ was arrived by taking the Argentina to U.S. rate via Southampton of 34¢ and multiplying it by the day's ratio of silver subsidiary coins to paper currency of 1.26 = 43¢ due in paper. Britain was credited with 32¢, being 24¢ British handling + 8¢ transatlantic, the latter a mystery as NGL steamers were treated rate-wise as American Packets.



1868

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO  
French Ligne Annexe K: Paquebot Aunis  
United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. South America



June 12, 1868. A letter to New York endorsed: p Paquebot Americain. This directional endorsement indicated forwarding by American Packet at Rio de Janeiro. French Ligne K, the annex line, ran from Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo to connect with the U.S. & Brazil Mail Line steamers at Rio. The rate by French packet to Rio then by American packet to N.Y. was 18¢ per ¼-oz. and 25¢ per ½-oz. The weight of this letter qualified it at the double rate of 25¢. U.S. was debited for 8¢ x 2 = 16¢, shown by the handstamp.

June 12. Paquebot Aunis departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio, touching at Montevideo on June 15.

June 25. U.S.M.S. South America departed from Rio de Janeiro for N.Y. via Brazilian ports. She touched at St. Thomas on July 14.



July 20. South America arrived at New York. The double "French" rate of 25¢ was due in U.S. NOTES, no depreciation ratio was applied.



1868

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

French Ligne Annexe K : Paquebot Aunis

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. Merrimack



*Via Rio de Janeiro.*

16

*Messrs. Lanman & Kemp  
New York*



16

November 12, 1868. A letter to New York endorsed: Via Rio de Janeiro. This was to indicate forwarding per American Packet at Rio de Janeiro. The French branch line, known as Ligne Annexe K, ran from Buenos Ayres to Rio via Montevideo. The rate by French Packet and the American was 18¢ per ¼-oz. and 25¢ per ½-oz. This letter was marked "2" to show that it was a double rated letter. U.S. was debited at 8¢ x 2 = 16¢.

November 12. Paquebot Aunis departed from Buenos Ayres for Rio de Janeiro, she touched at Montevideo November 15.

November 25. U.S.M.S. Merrimack of the U.S. & Brazil Line departed from Rio de Janeiro for N.Y. via Brazilian ports and St. Thomas. She called at the latter port December 16.



December 23. Merimack arrived at New York. Lanman & Kemp paid the 25¢ double rate. No depreciated currency charge was applied, and payment was made in depreciated U.S. NOTES at par.



1869

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

French Ligne Annexe K: Paquebot Aunis

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. South America



S.1037

8



June 12, 1869. A letter to New York posted aboard a steamship of the French branch line known as Ligne Annexe K, This line ran between Buenos Ayres and Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo, Uruguay. Here the paquebot Aunis departed from Buenos Ayres June 12 and touched at Montevideo the 15th. The U.S. was debited with 8¢ for French service.

June 25. The American Packet U.S.M.S. South America left Rio de Janeiro for New York via the Brazilian ports and St. Thomas. She touched at St. Thomas on July 14.



July 21. South America arrived at New York. This letter was passed at the 18¢ rate per  $\frac{1}{4}$ -oz. from Argentina by French and American Packets via Rio de Janeiro, rate effective August 1867 to January 1870. No depreciated currency surcharge was applied and 18¢ in paper currency (U.S. NOTES) was collected.



1869

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

French Ligne Annexe K: Paquebot Aunis

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. North America



4.1037

16



July 12, 1869. This letter was posted aboard the French branch line steamer of Ligne Annexe K, paquebot Aunis, which left Buenos Ayres July 12 for Rio de Janeiro via Montevideo. Notation, "Via Rio de Janeiro" indicated routing by American Packet from that port. Rate was 18¢ per ¼-oz. and 25¢ per ½-oz. U.S. was debited for a double letter at 8¢ x 2 = 16¢, shown by the large manuscript "16".

July 26. U.S.M.S. North America of the U.S. & Brazil Line departed from Rio for New York. Beyond the Brazilian ports, she touched at St. Thomas August 14.



August 20. North America arrived at New York, letter processed on August 21. The double rate of 25¢ was charged to the recipient at par with depreciated currency. No surcharge was made in this case.

1869

URUGUAY TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Ligne Annexe K: Paquebot Aunis

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. South America

In August 1867 it became possible to send a letter from Buenos Ayres or Montevideo to the U.S. direct from Rio de Janeiro to N.Y. by American Packet from the latter port. Previously, packet mail had to go via Southampton, then transatlantic. In 1867, the French Ligne Annexe K began the run the steamer Carmel and later Aunis from Buenos Ayres from Buenos Ayres to Rio via Montevideo. The United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co. conveyed the mail from Rio de Janeiro to N.Y. via Brazilian ports and St. Thomas.

The rate for this was 18¢ per ½-oz. The French service lasted until January 1870, when British Packets took over the conveyance from Buenos Ayres to Rio. The rate remained the same.



September 15, 1869. Letter posted at Montevideo. It was handled by the Paquebot Aunis, which had left Buenos Ayres on September 12 and touched at Montevideo the 15th on her penultimate round voyage. Her last voyage of Ligne K departed Buenos Ayres on October 12, 1869. The Ligne K handstamp is the type with fleurons.

September 25. U.S.M.S. South America of the U.S. & Brazil Line departed from Rio for New York via St. Thomas. She touched at the latter port October 14.

October 20. South America arrived at N.Y. The January 1867, rate of 18¢ was due in U.S. NOTES. No depreciation ratio was applied and the depreciated paper money was accepted at par.





1869 - 70

LONDON, BELGIUM, BRAZIL & RIVER PLATE ROYAL MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.

R.M.S. City of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro to Falmouth

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Java, Queenstown to New York

Brazil-French Convention Rate

Brazil-French Convention Mail to the U.S. was rated at 30¢ per ¼-oz. Correspondingly, mail conveyed in British mail pouches to the U.S. was rated at 45¢ per ½-oz. Thus, it was less expensive to send letters under ¼-oz. by the French Convention. Heavier letters ¼-½-oz. would cost 60¢ under the French Mail, but only 45¢ as British Mail.



October 20, 1869. A letter datelined at Rio Grande, Brazil. It originally bore a Brazilian stamp over the reverse letter join to pay the steamer postage Rio Grande to Rio.

November 25. Letter in transit at Rio de Janeiro.

November 29. R.M.S. City of Rio de Janeiro touched at Rio de Janeiro en route from Buenos Ayres for Falmouth. She called at St. Vincent December 11, arrived at Falmouth the 20th.



27

December 23. The French Convention mails were sent on to Calais, France in closed bags. The mail received identity there as Brazil mails entering France at Calais. U.S. was debited 21¢ for French Mail Brazil to France and British handling + 6¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 27¢.

December 25. R.M.S. Java, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown on the 26th where this letter went aboard.



January 6, 1870. Java arrived at New York where the Exchange Office added 3¢ U.S. Inland to the 27¢ debit = 30¢ due in gold for the French Mail rate from Brazil. This was converted to depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.2 x 30¢ = 36¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1869-70

BUENOS AYRES, ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company R.M.S.P. Oneida

Inman Line S.S. City of London

34¢ Argentina rate, effective Jan. 1868 - Jan. 1870



Dec. 15, 1869.  
British Consular  
backstamp. The  
Royal Mail Steam  
Packet Oneida  
departed Buenos  
Ayres Dec. 15,  
Rio Dec. 24 and  
arrived South-  
ampton Jan. 18,  
1870.



Jan. 19. Trans-  
it at London. As  
this cover was  
posted in 1869,  
it was rated at  
London under the  
34¢ Argentina  
rate via England  
even though the

January 1870 rate of 28¢ had become effective. Accordingly, the British Exchange Office debited the U.S. with 26¢ for all British charges. The U.S.-British rate transatlantic of 6¢ (3d.) was effective Jan. 1, 1870, so the pre-existing 16¢ Sea charge no longer applied.

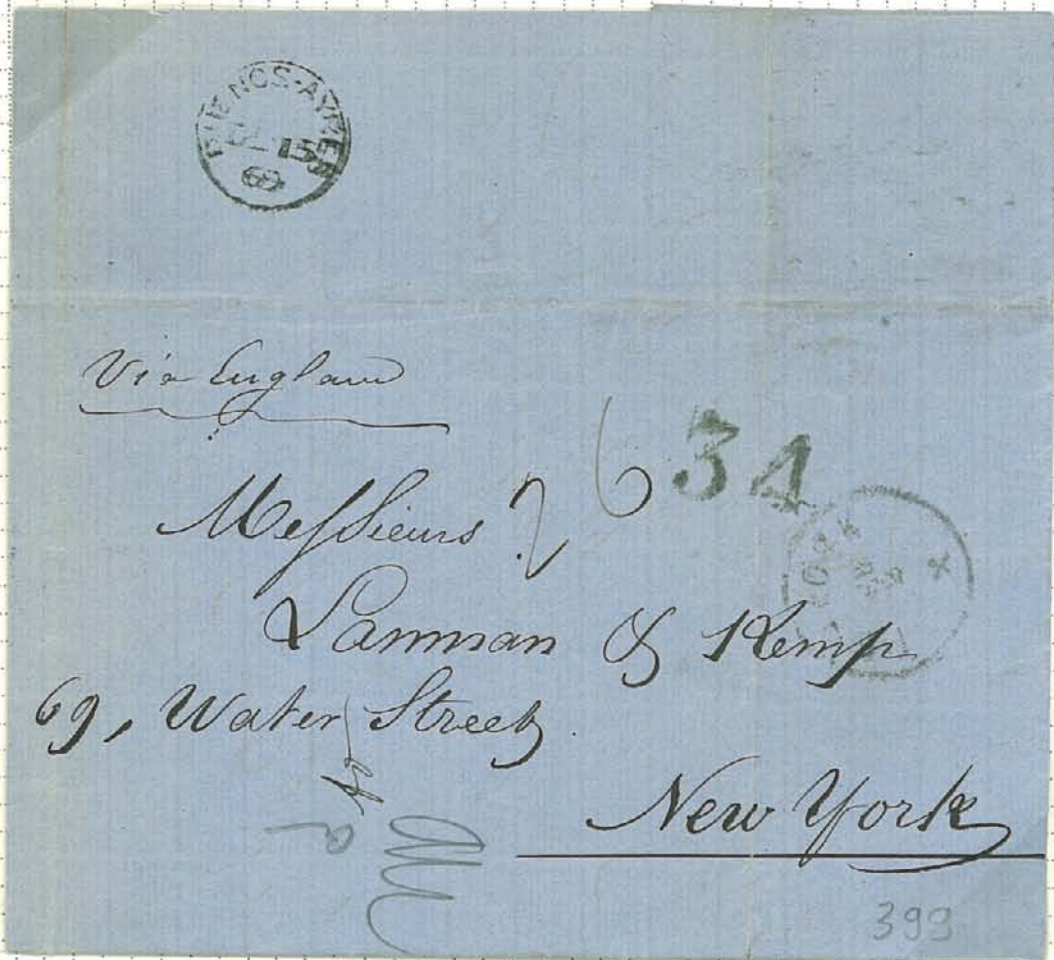
Jan. 20. S.S. City of London, Inman Line, departed from Liver-  
pool and picked up the U.S. mails Jan. 21 at Queenstown.

February 2. City of London arrived  
at New York. N.Y. Exchange Office marked  
a collect of 34¢, the 1868 rate. U.S.  
retained 8¢. Lanman & Kemp docketed,  
"Received Feb. 2."



34

2nd class voyage of Man die circum to B.A.  
This letter charged 26¢ for New York rate. First  
voyage under the rate  
U.S. added 2¢ to incident = 28¢  
Dep. U.S. rate 1.21 x 28¢ = 34¢ due





1870

BUENOS AYRES, ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

R.M.S.P. LaPlata, Buenos Ayres to Southampton

Inman Line

S.S. City of Antwerp, Queenstown to New York

28¢ Argentine rate, effective Jan. 1870 - July 1875



January 14, 1870. British Consular Office backstamp on a letter posted at Buenos Ayres. It is endorsed: pr R.M. Str. "laPlata". This R.M.S.P. Co. vessel departed Buenos Ayres on Jan. 14, touched at Montevideo the 15th, Rio de Janeiro the 23rd and arrived at Southampton Feb. 16.

Feb. 17. London transit backstamp. Britain debited U.S. for British transit. The Inman Line's S.S. City of Antwerp departed from Liverpool this date and picked up the U.S. mails at Queenstown Feb. 18.

Feb. 28. City of Antwerp arrived at New York, backstamp.

The United States Exchange Office at New York added 2¢ U.S. Inland to the 26¢ British debit to arrive at the 28¢ rate of Jan. 1870. This was adjusted by the day's depreciated currency factor of 1.21 to total 34¢ due in paper notes.



34



1870

BUENOS AYRES, ARGENTINA TO U. S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
Cunard Line

R.M.S.P. Douro

R.M.S. Java

28¢ Argentina rate, effective Jan, 1870 - July 1875



Feb. 15, 1870.  
British Consular  
receiving back-  
stamp. The R.M.  
S. Packet Douro  
departed Buenos  
Ayres this date,  
cleared Rio de  
Janeiro Feb. 24  
and arrived at  
Southampton on  
March 17.



Mar. 18. Tran-  
sit at London  
where the Brit-  
ish Exchange  
Office debited  
U.S. for 26¢,  
all British  
charges. This  
debit appears  
in error, debit  
should have been  
23¢ (28¢ less  
the 5¢ U.S. Inland  
charge).

Messrs  
Lanman & Kemp  
New York.

all 31

CUA 594

March 19. R.M.S. Java departed from Liverpool, picked up the  
U.S. mails at Queenstown March 20.

31

N.Y. Times: Arrived N.Y., Wed., Mar. 30. Steam-ship  
Java (Br.) Cook, Liverpool Mar. 19 via Queenstown 20th  
with mdse. and 427 passengers to C.G. Francklyn.

The N.Y. Exchange Office merely increased the British  
debit of 26¢ by 5¢ to arrive at 31¢ due. \*

March 31. Lanman & Kemp docket notes receipt on this  
date.

\* Rate was 28¢ & bill depreciated value = 31¢ due in  
U.S. notes.



1870

BUENOS AYRES. ARGENTINA TO U.S. VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

R.M.S.P. Douro, Buenos Ayres to Southampton

Cunard Line

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

28¢ Argentine rate, effective Jan. 1870 - July 1875



February 15, 1870. British Consular Office receiving backstamp. Letter endorsed: pr. R.M. Str. "Douro". This steamship of the R.M.S.P. Co. departed from Buenos Ayres this date, cleared Montevideo Feb. 17, Rio de Janeiro the 24th and arrived at Southampton March 17.

March 18. Transit backstamp at London where the British Exchange Office debited the U.S. 26¢ for all British charges.

March 19. R.M.S. Java, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the U.S. bound mails at Queens-town March 20.

N.Y. Times. Arrived N.Y., Wed., March 30. Steamship Java (Br.,) Cook, Liverpool Mar. 19 via Queens-town 20th.

The New York Exchange Office added 2¢ for U.S. domestic postage to the 26¢ British charges to total the 28¢ Argentine rate of Jan. 1870. This was increased by the depreciated currency factor of 1.11 x 28¢ = 31¢ due in U.S. Notes (greenbacks).



*Handwritten signature or initials in blue ink.*

31



1870

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY  
R.M.S.P. Douro, Pernambuco to Southampton  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Samaria, Queenstown to Boston  
28¢ Brazil Rate, effective January 1870 - July 1875



May 28, 1870. British Consular office backstamp at Pernambuco, Brazil. Letter endorsed: p Douro via Southampton. The R.M.S.P. Douro's dates were:

*J*

Buenos Ayres	May 15
Montevideo	17
Rio de Janeiro	24
Pernambuco	28
Southampton	June 14.



June 14. London transit backstamp. The U.S. was debited for 26¢, the British Packet charges from Brazil and British Transit charges including transatlantic.

June 14. R.M.S. Samaria, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 15th where this letter went aboard.

June 26. Samaria arrived at Boston. The New York mails were forwarded by rail in bulk where they arrived June 27 and received identity.



The N.Y. Exchange Office added 2¢ U.S. Inland to the 26¢ British debit to total 28¢ due in gold. This was converted at the day's ratio of gold to paper at 1.11 x 28¢ = 31¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1870

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY  
R.M.S.P. Douro, Buenos Ayres to Southampton  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Samaria, Queenstown to Boston  
28¢ Argentina rate, effective January 1870 - July 1875



May 14, 1870. British Consular Office backstamp on a letter posted at Buenos Ayres. It is endorsed: pr. R.M. Str. "Douro". The R.M.S.P. Douro dates were:

Buenos Ayres	May 15
Montevideo	17
Rio de Janeiro	24
Southampton	Jun. 14.



26

June 14. London transit backstamp.

June 14. R.M.S. Samaria of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown the 15th where this letter went aboard.

The British debited U.S. for 26¢ British packet charges from the River Plate and British transit charges.

June 26. Samaria arrived at Boston. The New York mails were forwarded by rail where they arrived on June 27.

The New York Exchange Office added 2¢ to the 26¢ British debit to total 28¢ due in gold. This was converted to the day's value in depreciated currency at the ratio of 1.11 to total 31¢ due in paper currency.





1870

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, R.M.S.P. Douro

United States and Brazil Steam-Ship Co., U.S.M.S. Merrimack



8



August 13, 1870. Letter datelined at Buenos Ayres and put into the British Consular Post Office there. It was paid 8d. (16¢) for the British Royal Mail Steam Packet portion of the voyage. It was endorsed: pr R.M. Str. "Douro"/via Rio de Janeiro, signifying handling by the United States and Brazil Steam-ship Company's line that ran Rio-Bahia-Pernambuco-Para-St. Thomas-N.Y. once a month under contract for the U.S. Mail.

August 14. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Douro departed Buenos Ayres this date to Montevideo Aug. 16, Rio Aug. 23 and Bahia Aug. 28. Mails for the U.S.-Brazil Line went ashore at Rio de Janeiro.

August 26. U.S.M.S. Merrimack departed from Rio de Janeiro.



Sept. 20, 1870. N.Y. Times: Arrived N.Y. Steam-ship Merrimac (sic), Weir, Rio de Janeiro Aug. 26 via Bahia, Aug. 30, Pernambuco, Sept. 1, Para, 6th and St. Thomas 14th. Has clean bill of health from all stations, and reports fever as having entirely disappeared from Rio de Janeiro.

Letter was subject to the 10¢ Brazil rate of October 1865, American Packet from New York. This rate lasted until October 1870, when the 15¢ Treaty rate went into effect.



1871

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.: R.M.S.P. La Plata

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. North America

Up until October 1869, the Royal Mail Steam Packets from and to Southampton sailed only to Rio de Janeiro. Smaller branch packets carried the mails, freight and passengers from Rio to Buenos Ayres via Montevideo, Uruguay. In order to expedite the mails it was decided to cut out the River Plate branch packet steamers and the new improved screw steamers would go through to the River Plate, calling en route at Rio and Montevideo. The U.S. mails tied in with the Royal Mail at Rio de Janeiro.



January 13, 1871. A letter posted at Buenos Ayres and endorsed: Via Rio de Janeiro. This directional endorsement indicated that it was to go by the Royal Mail packet only to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, & here to be transferred to the American Packet that ran from Rio to New York.

R.M.S.P. La Plata carried this letter northward, her dates were:

Buenos Ayres	Jan. 14
Montevideo	15
Rio de Janeiro	23 →
Southampton	Feb. 16.

January 26. U.S.M.S. North America of the U.S. & Brazil Line departed from Rio de Janeiro for N.Y. via Brazilian ports and St. Thomas. She touched at the latter port on February 15.

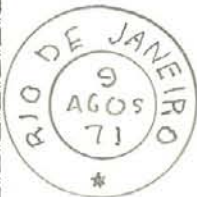
February 20. North America arrived at New York. The 18¢ rate (due in gold) was adjusted by the day's ratio to depreciated paper money by 1.08 to total 19¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1871

LIVERPOOL, VALPARAISO AND CALLAO LINE  
S.S. Magellan, Rio de Janeiro to Liverpool  
CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Abyssinnia, Queenstown to New York

July 27, 1871. A letter headed at Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, a port city in southern Brazil on the Lagoa dos Patos near the border with Uruguay. This unpaid letter is endorsed: pr Cassini. This was for carriage by that vessel from Rio Grande to Rio de Janeiro, the terminal for British steamers en route to Southampton.



August 9. The Cassini arrived at Rio de Janeiro where this letter was stamped in transit at the Rio de Janeiro post office.

August 17. Transit backstamp of the British Consular post office at Rio. The Liverpool, Valparaiso and Callao Line's S.S. Magellan had departed from Valparaiso on JULY 30, her dates were: Montevideo, Aug. 13; Rio de Janeiro, 19th and Liverpool, September 12.

September 12. London transit backstamp through which city this letter passed for accounting. U.S. was debited for one shilling (24¢) British rate from Brazil + 1d. (2¢) British Transit, total 26¢. The R.M.S. Abyssinnia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool this date, touched at Queenstown the 13th where this letter went aboard.

September 23. Abyssinnia arrived at New York. The N.Y. office added 2¢ to the British debit of 26¢ to total 28¢, the ½-oz. rate from Brazil by British Packet via England. The 28¢ was converted to depreciated paper currency at the day's ratio of 1.11 x 28¢ = 31¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1871-72

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.: R.M.S.P. Neva

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. Erie

The U.S. Mail Steamship Erie of the U.S. & Brazil Line had a short life with the Line. The 2900 ton wooden screw steamer was built by George W. Jackman in 1867 at Newburyport, Mass. She had made one round voyage for the U.S. & Brazil Line in 1871. This letter was carried on the return voyage of that 1871 trip, leaving Rio on December 26. On her next return voyage, departing Rio January 1, 1873, she caught fire off Paraiba, Brazil and was a total loss including mails. No lives were lost. As a result, covers carried aboard the Erie are seldom seen.



December 15, 1871. A letter posted at Buenos Ayres (backstamp) to New York and endorsed: Via Rio de Janeiro. This was to indicate routing via the American Packet out of Rio rather than the longer (and more expensive) route of the Royal Mail via Southampton. The sender paid 4d. for the British Packet transit, Buenos Ayres to Rio.

December 15. The R.M.S.P. Neva departed from Buenos Ayres, arrived at Rio the 24th via Montevideo the 17th. She arrived at Southampton January 15, 1872.

December 26. The U.S. mails were transferred to the U.S.M.S. Erie which departed for N.Y. via Brazilian ports and St. Thomas. She touched at St. Thomas on January 15.

January 21. Erie arrived at N.Y., mail processed the 22nd. The 18¢ rate was subject to the depreciated currency ratio of 1.06 to total 19¢ due in depreciated U.S. NOTES.





1872

LIVERPOOL, VALPARAISO AND CALLAO LINE

R. M. S. Garonne, Rio de Janeiro to Liverpool

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Abysinnia, Queenstown to New York

28¢ Brazil rate, effective January 1870 - July 1875



July 26, 1872. An unpaid letter posted at Rio de Janeiro, receiving stamp of the Rio Brazilian post office.

August 1. Backstamp of the British Consular post office at Rio de Janeiro. The R.M.S. Garonne of the Liverpool, Valparaiso and Callao Line had departed from Valparaiso, Chile on July 13 homeward bound to Liverpool. Her dates were: Montevideo July 28 and Rio de Janeiro, August 3.

August 25. Garonne arrived at Liverpool. The Brazil mails were sent on to London for accounting. The U.S. was debited 26¢ for British handling (24¢ Brazil Packet + 2¢ British Transit.)

August 27. R.M.S. Abysinnia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter with the U.S. mails at Queenstown the 28th.

September 7. Abysinnia arrived at New York. The U.S. added 2¢ U.S. Inland to the 26¢ British debit, total 28¢, the Brazil rate via England. This was adjusted by the day's depreciation ratio of 1.11 x 28¢ = 31¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

LONDON  
LBH  
AU 26  
72

NEW YORK  
SEP 7  
31  
U.S. NOTES



1872

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.: R.M.S.P. Douro

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. Merrimack



40



May 15, 1872. A letter to New York posted at Buenos Ayres, Argentina and endorsed: p Douro via Rio de Janeiro. Backstamped at the British Consular Office at Buenos Ayres, 4d. was paid for the conveyance by British Packet, Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro.

R.M.S.P. Douro departed on her homeward bound voyage to Southampton. Her dates were:

Buenos Ayres	May 15
Montevideo	16
Rio de Janeiro	24
Southampton	Jun.14.

May 26. U.S.M.S. Merrimack of the United States & Brazil Line departed from Rio de Janeiro for New York via Brazilian ports and St. Thomas. She touched at the latter port on June 13.



June 18. Merrimack arrived at New York. The rate from Argentina by British and American Packets via Rio de Janeiro was 18¢. Here the day's depreciated currency ratio of 1.09 was applied to the 18¢ (in gold) rate to show 19¢ due in depreciated paper currency (U.S. NOTES).



1873

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.: R.M.S.P. Neva

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. South America



September 14, 1873. Letter dated at Buenos Ayres and endorsed: pr. Neva/via de Rio Janeiro. It was paid 4d. for the forwarding by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. from Buenos Ayres to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The latter post was the southernmost port-of-call of the United States & Brazil Line. Letter went aboard the R.M.S.P. Neva, her dates were:

Buenos Ayres	Sept. 14
Montevideo	15
Rio de Janeiro	23
Southampton	Oct. 15.

September 25. The U.S.M.S. South America departed from Rio for New York via Brazilian ports and St. Thomas. She touched at St. Thomas October 14.

October 21. South America arrived at New York. The New York Exchange Office set the wrong month on the date stamp, "AUG" for "OCT".

The rate by American and British Packets from Argentina was 18¢. The N.Y. office applied the day's depreciation factor of 1.08 to show the rate of 19¢ due in depreciated U.S. NOTES.





1874

BUENOS AYRES TO N.Y. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.: R.M.S.P. Neva

United States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co.: U.S.M.S. South America



March 17, 1874. A letter posted at Buenos Ayres and endorsed: p Neva/  
via de Rio Janeiro. The directional endorsement was to indicate routing  
by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. only as far as Rio de Janeiro, thence  
forward to the U.S. by an American Packet of the United States & Brazil  
Line.

The R.M.S.P. Neva departed from Buenos Ayres, her dates were:

Buenos Ayres	Mar. 17
Montevideo	18
Rio de Janeiro	26 →
Southampton	Apr. 18.

March 25. U.S.M.S. South America of the United  
States & Brazil Mail Steamship Co. picked up the  
northbound mails at Rio de Janeiro. She touched at  
St. Thomas April 13.

April 20. South America arrived at New York.  
The N.Y. Exchange Office processed this letter at  
the 10¢ Steamship Letter rate. It should have been  
rated at the 18¢ Argentina rate by British and Amer-  
ican Packets, effective January 1870 to July 1875.





1882

U.S. TO ARGENTINA VIA SOUTHAMPTON

White Star Line, Transatlantic

S.S. Britannic

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

R.M.S.P. Minho



March 31, 1882. Letter paid at the U.P.U. rate of 5¢ to Buenos Ayres "Via England". Argentina became a member of the G.P.U. April 1878. Rate made up by the American Bank Note Issues of 1879, 2¢ vermilion and 3¢ green. Transit backstamp at Boston.

April 1. Steam-ship Britannic departed N.Y. for Liverpool via Queenstown.

BY CABLE: QUEENSTOWN April 9. The White Star Line steam-ship Britannic, Capt. Perry, from N.Y. April 1, for Liverpool arr. here at 9 o'clock this evening.

April 11. London transit backstamp.

London Times, Monday April 17. The following mail steamships will leave Southampton during the ensuing week:—  
....and the Minho (Royal Mail Company) on Monday next (April 24) with the Brazil and River Plate mails.

May 18. Arrival backstamp at Buenos Ayres.

Minho, built 1872 by Barclay, Curle & Co., Glasgow, 2540 tons, 350 x 36', single screw. Out of Royal Mail fleet in 1888.

