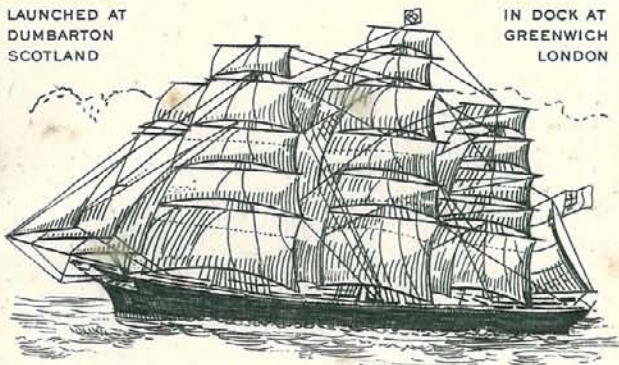


CUTTY SARK CENTENARY
1869 — 22 NOVEMBER — 1969

LAUNCHED AT
DUMBARTON
SCOTLAND

IN DOCK AT
GREENWICH
LONDON



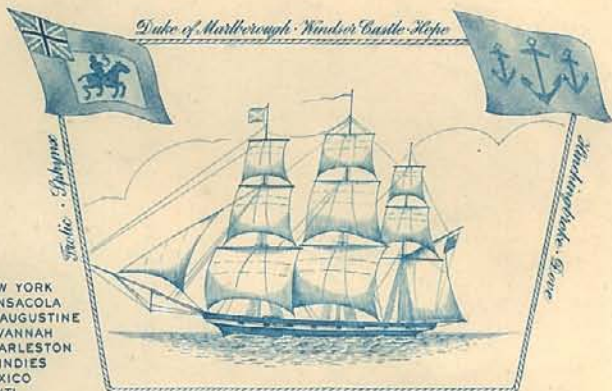
FASTEST PASSAGE AS A
TEA CLIPPER 1871
SHANGHAI TO N. FORELAND
13,700 MILES IN 108 DAYS

POSTED ON BOARD "CUTTY SARK"
22nd NOVEMBER 1969



A. W. ROBERTSON
6 St. LAWRENCE DRIVE,
PINNER, ENGLAND

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM EXHIBITION 1960 — FIRST DAY COVER 6th APRIL



NEW YORK
PENSACOLA
ST AUGUSTINE
SAVANNAH
CHARLESTON
W INDIES
MEXICO
HAYTI
BRAZIL
BUENOS
AYRES

1688

THE FALMOUTH POST OFFICE PACKETS

1850

MADEIRA
CORUNNA
LISBON
CADIZ
GIBRALTAR
MALTA
IONIAN IS



MEDITERRANEAN

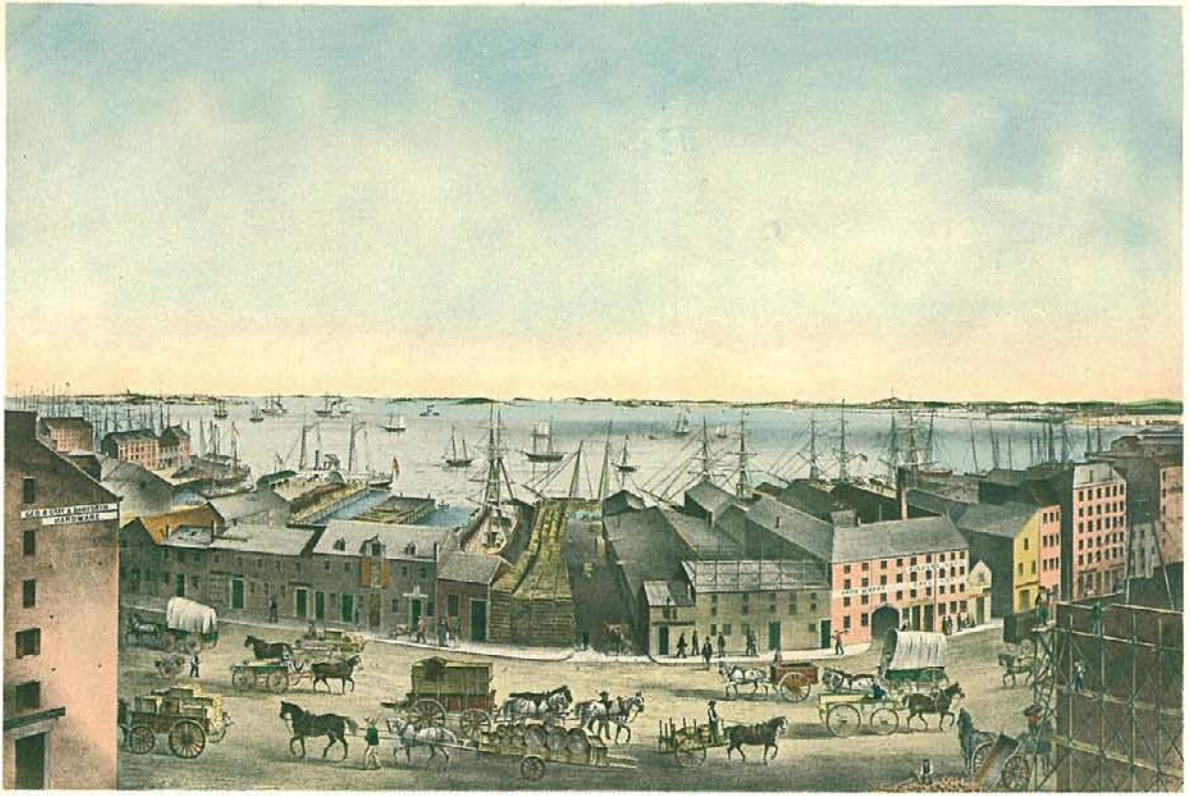


Mrs W. Deane
96 Depot Street
Rivermore Falls
Maine
U.S.A

1854

BOSTON, MASS.

Boston Harbor 1854. Lithograph after J.W. Scott's painting in the Bostonian Society.



BOSTON HARBOR, 1854.

1854

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia



March 28, 1854. An unpaid letter posted at New York and endorsed: Arabia via Boston 29th March. The New York Exchange Office struck this mark debiting Britain for 5¢ U.S. Inland. Total U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate was 24¢ (one shilling) per ½-oz. Britain would retain 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

This mark is recorded (Hubbard & Winter) in use from April 3, 1850 to March 23, 1853. This example pushes the latest known usage ahead by one year to March 28, 1854. This late usage shows rim distortion at left and upper left.

March 29. R.M.S. Arabia of the Cunard Line sailed from Boston.

April 8. Arabia arrived at Liverpool, transit backstamp used on Cunard Line mail.

April 9. Sheffield arrival backstamp. Letter rated at 1 shilling, equivalent to 24¢, shown by the stylized 1/- handstamp.



1854

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Europa



May 6, 1854. A letter posted unpaid at Liverpool concerning sales of tea by Baring Bros. per the ship Cornelius Grinnell. It is endorsed: p. Europa. The R.M.S. Europa of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for New York on this date. The U.S. was debited with 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. Oval Liverpool Packet Letter Office backstamp.



B.771

May 19. Europa arrived at New York. Letter was forwarded to Boston in bulk where bulk was broken on May 20. The Boston Exchange Office marked letter with 24¢ due. After remitting Britain 19¢, the U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.

1854

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE COLLINS LINE

U. S. M. S. Pacific

May 29, 1854. A letter from Isaac Skolfield written at Liverpool to his father at Brunswick, Maine. Isaac was commander of the family ship John L. Dimmock. He writes that he had been detained at Liverpool as part of his crew deserted just before sailing time, so he had to recruit a make-shift crew. As he writes they are on the river and the tow boat will come early on the 30th to take them outside Rock Light. He sent this letter back by the pilot.



May 30. The pilot deposited this letter unpaid into the post office at Liverpool. It transited the Packet Letter Office the same day, oval backstamp. U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland out of the 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

May 31. U.S.M.S. Pacific of the Collins Line departed from Liverpool for New York.



W.84a

June 11. Pacific arrived at New York, mail processed June 12. Of the 24¢ rate due, U.S. retained 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢.

The N.Y. Exchange Office struck the wrong charge mark identifying this letter as a "British Packet" letter when actually it was an American Packet letter. This was of little consequence as the correct debit of 3¢ to the U.S. applied.

This N.Y. mark (W.84a) is the earliest recorded. Winter lists used Mar. 31, 1858 to July 21, 1859. This collection also has a cover stamped Feb. 2, 1861 with W.84a.

1854

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Asia

October 23 and November 3, 1854. Son Isaac L. Skolfield of the family ship John L. Dimmock writes from London to his father George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine. He tells of his troubles in getting his ship from the Downs off Deal up the Thames to London. He anchored off North Forland for two days, then three days towing up to London. Per Nov. 3 he reports he could not discharge for a fortnight. The deals (wooden slats) would not bring enough to pay the freight, and the ship needs copping. He reports some ships have been discharging for thirty-five days!



19
CENTS



November 3, 1854. Letter posted unpaid at London with the receiving backstamp and transit crown mark on the face. Letter was sent by rail to Liverpool. The U.S. was debited with 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ out of the 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

November 4. R.M.S. Asia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool.

November 16. Asia arrived at New York. The 24¢ rate was due. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.

The New York Exchange Office mark is listed (Winter) used from August 16, 1850 to June 20, 1861.



1855

KAMISHIN, RUSSIA TO U.S. VIA CONSTANTINOPLE & MARSEILLES

Ligne du Levant: Paquebot Gange, Constantinople to Marseilles

Havre Line: S.S. Union, Southampton to New York

July 9, 1855. A letter written during the Crimean War from Kamishin in Russia, 106 miles S.S.W. of Saratov on the Volga River where joined by the Kamishinka. Captain C.F. Springer writes to his vessel's owners at Bath, Maine, that he arrived on June 29 from Constantinople. He expects to leave for Marseilles in two weeks, a voyage that requires a trip down the Volga to the Don River, then across the Sea of Azov and across the Black Sea to Constantinople, thence on to Marseilles.

He also states, "Sebastopol is as impregnable as ever and I doubt it is ever taken." Actually, it fell in September 1855.

July 23. This letter went outside of the mails to Constantinople, where S.S. Gange of the French Ligne du Levant departed from that port, she arrived at Marseilles July 29. This letter went under separate cover to a forwarding agent in London.

LS
31 JY 31
1855

3
CENTS



July 31. The forwarder posted this letter unpaid at the old Lombard Street post office in London. The U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland out of the 24¢ per ½-oz. U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate.

August 1. The Havre Line S.S. Union departed from Havre, touched at Southampton later the same day where this letter went aboard.



August 17. Union arrived at New York where the 24¢ rate was due. U.S. retained 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢.

1855

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKET - UNPAID FORWARDING AGENT



Woolwich E.O.



Backstamp:
Receiving Office
mark.

London District,
First Series, Chief
Office obliterator.

July 17, 1855.
London Chief Office
transit backstamp.

Letter posted prepaid 1d. inland rate for Professor Treadwell c/o Baring Bros. & Co.



19
CENTS



Forwarding Agents' cachet. Agents forwarded letter unpaid to Cambridge.

July 20, 1855. London, Lombard St., transit.

British Exchange Off. Brit. share of rate.

Aug. 2, 1855. Boston Exg. Off. 24¢ due, single ltre. rate.

Guard Packet "Asia"
Sailed L'Pool 21 July
Arr. Boston 2 Aug 1855

TAX 135.0

1855

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE COLLINS LINE

U. S. M. S. Baltic

August 24, 1855. A letter from Baring Brothers & Co., London to George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine, "We have received at letter from Captain Sawyer of the "Scioto", informing us that he will be detained at Malta for a month or more, and should nothing better offer he will proceed to Cagliari, Sardinia, for a cargo of Salt, and at his request we have forwarded to him a letter of credit for £400..." The letter is endorsed: p. "Baltic".



L.S.
7 SP7
1855

3
CENTS

September 7. Letter posted unpaid at the old Lombard Street post office, London. U.S. was debited for 3¢ British Inland postage.

September 8. U.S.M.S. Baltic of the Collins Line departed from Liverpool for New York.

September 19. Baltic arrived at New York, mail processed on the 20th. 24¢ was due, being the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. U.S. retained 16¢ Sea (American Packet) + 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢.



W-5

The New York Exchange Office mark (W.5) is found used 28 January 51 to 11 August 1859.

1856

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Africa



19
CENTS

May 16, 1856. An unpaid letter posted at the Old Lombard Street (L.S.) Post Office, London, Foreign Unit. It is endorsed: per "Africa". U.S. was debited with 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

May 17. R.M.S. Africa of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool.

Baring Brothers & Co., London, inform George Skolfield of Brunswick, Maine that they have placed to his credit £1500, remitted by Quensel freres by order of Capt. Skolfield ship "Rising Sun".

May 28. Africa arrived at N.Y., letter processed May 29. 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.



This New York Exchange Office mark (Winter 84a) is listed used 31 Mar. 1858 to 21 July 1859. This cover records a much earlier usage of 29 May 1856. Another cover in this collection shows use on 25Nov. 1859, with a damaged rim.

1856

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SCOTLAND TO U.S. BRITISH PACKET



Sept. 12, 1856. 1 shilling (equivalent to 24¢ U.S.) prepaid at Edinburgh in cash. Marked with mms. red 1/- on cover face.

Sept. 13, 1856. Transit "lozenge" at Liverpool. Packet office marked letter with "5 CENTS" showing credit to U.S. for Domestic postage. England retained 16¢ transatlantic + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ out of total.



Sept. 26, 1856. Blake 707. Receipt mark at the Boston Packet Office.

Cunard R.M.S. Canada:

Sailed Liverpool 13 Sept. 1856.
Arrived Boston 26 Sept.

1856-57

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKET-UNPAID LETTERS

Rate from the U.K. to North America was, from Jan. 3, 1849 to Feb. 27, 1861, charged at 24¢ per ½ oz. from British vessels when addressed to a "Port of Arrival".



19
CENTS

British Exchange Office mark showing amount due British.



July 26, 1856.
L'pool receipt.



Aug. 8, 1856.
N.Y. Exch. Office.
24¢ due from rec.



July 1, 1857.
Lombard St., London
receipt.

July 2,
L'pool
transit
stamp.



July 17, 1857.
Boston Exchg.
Office. 24¢
due from
recipient.



Letter address-
ed to N.Y.

Top: Command "Asia"
Sailed L'pool 26 Jul
Arr. NY 7 Aug. 1857

Bottom: Command "America"
Sailed L'pool 4 Jul
Arr. Boston 17 Jul 1857. TAA 120.0

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET, Unpaid

R.M.S. Africa

Liverpool Late Stamp



January 23, 1857. Letter datelined at Liverpool.



19
CENTS

Jan. 24, 1857. Letter marked at Liverpool with this scarce "POSTED SINCE 8.30 LAST NIGHT" to explain the next day cancellation. Sailing records show the Africa sailed this date. A&H 1449. Oval packet letter office transit backstamp.

Letter marked aboard steamer to show debit to U.S. of 16¢ transatlantic (Cunard Line - British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

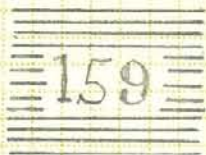


Feb. 6. Records show the Africa arrived at New York. The Boston mails had been sorted out and bulked aboard the steamer and sent on to Boston overland where bulk was broken the next day. 24¢ rate due. Blake 777.

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
—  —
CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Europa



March 13, 1857. Letter paid at the one shilling (24¢) British-U.S. Treaty rate by a wing copy of the Issue of 1856. Rectangular lined obliterator of the Scotch type with 159, British Post Office number assigned to Glasgow, cancels the adhesive.

PAID



March 14. Transit lozenge at Liverpool. These lozenges in red are seldom seen, black being the dominate color of these strikes. Green is also found. R.M.S. Europa departed this date for Boston via Halifax.

5
CENTS

March 29. Europa arrived at Boston, mail bulked to New York. Docket on letter notes arrival at recipient's office Mar. 30. 5¢ credit to U.S. for Inland postage. England retained 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

1857

BRITISH POSTAL MARKINGS

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
EXCHANGE OFFICE MARKS

"When the steamers arrive in New York, the mail for that office comprises all the correspondence for the United States, except the cities of Boston and Philadelphia; and in like manner when the stramers arrive at Boston, the mails for that office comprise all correspondence for the United States, except the cities of New York and Philadelphia." (U.S. Postal Laws and Regulations of 1857, section 399).

Appropriate rate stamps were applied incoming at New York indicating amount of postage due from recipient.



May 21, 1857.
Letter posted at
Cowes, Isle of
Wight.



May 22, 1857.
London transit
stamp.

Letter forward-
to L'pool for
British Packet.



May 22, 1857.
Liverpool transit
mark.



BRITISH Exchange Office
showing British share of
postage.



U.S. Exchange Office
stamp, indicating
amount due on delivery.

Cunard Packet "America"
Sailed L'pool 23 May
ARR. N. York 2 June 1857

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
PACKET LETTERS

LIVERPOOL - FLOATING RECEIVING HOUSE

A small hut, 6x4½ ft., stationed at the South Landing Stage opened 18 August 1849. It received the name of a "Floating Receiving House". Letters to America could be posted almost to the time of departure of a ship. An additional late fee of 1/- was charged for this service, which ended in October 1864.



L'pool "466" obliterator on 2/- rate, being 1/- for Packet postage and 1/- for Late Fee.

S.G. 73, issue of 1855-57. Sc 728



Sept. 26, 1857. Floating Receiving House mark (F.R.H. - see above). Letter went "per Niagara", 1825 ton Cunard Steamer, British Packet.

5
CENTS

Exchange Office 5¢ credit to U.S. for their internal postage. Note no part of

the late fee was credited to the U.S.

PAID

Exchange Office marked letter PAID.

Arr. Boston 8 Oct. 1857

TAX. 14510

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

PACKET LETTER - UNPAID

British Packet

Limerick, Ireland to Chicago via Boston



November 2, 1857. Letter posted unpaid at Tarbert, County Limerick, Ireland. Letter transit backstamped same day at City of Limerick.

Nov. 3 Transit backstamp at Dublin.

Nov. 4, L'pool "lozonge" transit backstamp, terminus of Cunard Line steamers.

19
CENTS



British transit office marked letter for 16¢ trans-Atlantic + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ credit to Britain.

Nov. 20. Boston packet office stamp (Blake 766) showing arrival by British Packet and 24¢ due from recipient.

Nov. 30, 1857. Chicago Post Office advertised arrival of letter for pick-up by local addressee.

1858

BRITISH POSTAL MARKINGS

PACKET LETTERS



Since the early 18th century the British Post Office had both vessels of its own and vessels under contract to speed mail service to various world ports. Such vessels under Post Office control were called Packet Boats and the letters they carried were termed "Packet Letters".



Jan. 6, 1858. American marking. 5¢ paid at N.Y. for British packet "Persia".



Jan. 16, 1858. Liverpool receipt stamp. This mark shows letter was carried on the subsidized Gunnard Line.



Jan. 18, 1858 Plymouth, England receipt stamp.

5¢ Debit to Britain

PERPSIA DEP. N.Y. 6 JAN. 1858
ARR L.P. 16 JAN.

TAA 00510

1858

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BELFAST TO BOSTON VIA LIVERPOOL

R. M. S. Niagara

CUNARD LINE



March 11, 1858. Letter posted at Belfast, endorsed: Niagara. It was paid one shilling (24¢) in cash, the U.S.-British Treaty rate.

March 12. Transit mark at Dublin. The number at the top is the stamp number. Mail went to Liverpool via the Kingstown and Holyhead ferry.

March 13. Backstamp lozenge of the Liverpool Packet Letter Office. R.M.S. Niagara of the Cunard Line departed this date from Liverpool for Boston via Halifax on her 60th outbound voyage.

March 28. Arrival mark at Boston as a PAID British Packet letter. The Exchange Office credited U.S. for 5¢ U.S. Inland. Britain retained 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

This handstamp is not listed in Blake, Postal Markings of Boston. It is similar to B.709, except the B.PKT. is below the date in this example. This is the recording cover for this mark.



1858

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKET - PAID LETTERS



Cunard Packet "Europa"
Sailed L'pool 20 Nov.
Arr. Boston 1 Dec. 1858



Oct. 29, 1858.
Lombard St.,
London paid
receipt stamp.

Single letter
rate 1/- (24¢)
prepaid as shown
in red mms.

5
CENTS

British Exch-
ange Office.
Amount due U.S.
out of total
rate.



Cunard Packet "Asia"
Sailed L'pool 30 Oct.
Arr. Ny 11 Nov. 1858



Nov. 11, 1858.
U.S. Exchange
Office paid
mark.

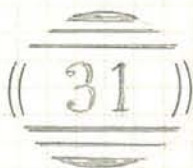


Nov. 19, 1858.
London paid
receipt stamp.

1859

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

AMERICAN PACKET



Ashford, Kent.
Numbered obliterator
on pair of S.G. 67.



April 18, 1859.
Ashford backstamp
receipt mark.



April 19, 1859.
Charing Cross station,
London transit.

INSUFFICIENTLY
STAMPED

24

3
CENTS

Sender only prepaid
8d. instead of correct
rate of 1/- (12d.) or
24¢ U.S. From postal
markings, this letter
went via American pack-
et and not by "Royal
Mail Steamer" as request-
ed in rms.

U.S. Exchange
Office rate of 24¢
to be collected
from recipient
who was thus penal-
ized for entire postage
as if the letter had been
mailed unpaid.

British Exchange Office
stamp showing their share
of the postage as letter
went by American Packet.

Bremen packet, S.S. Bremen, Wessels,
departed Bremen April 19, 1859 for
N.Y. via Southampton the 21st.
Arrived N.Y. Sunday May 1, PM.

May 2, 1859.
Philadelphia
receipt.



1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia

July 22, 1859. A duplicate letter (original p. "Persia" from Baring Brothers & Co., London to George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine, "Sir, We beg to advise having made the following entries for your credit under the usual reserve of encashment: £ 241.11.0 due 23d. July remitted by Capt. Purnison of the ship "Brandywine":

£ 797.6.2) in short bills remitted by Capt. Turner of the
" 155.2.2) ship "Roger Stewart" thro' Mess. Hottinger & Co.
of Havre..."

LONDON
JY 29
59



19
CENTS

July 29. Letter posted unpaid at London, endorsed: p "Arabia". U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

July 30. R.M.S. Arabia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool. Letter had been forwarded by rail from London to meet her sailing.

August 10. Arabia arrived at Boston, letter processed the 11th. 24¢ due, being the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. The mail clerk at Brunswick marked the large manuscript "Pay" so there would be no mistake that 24¢ was due.

The Boston Exchange Office mark (B.766) is found used Sept. 6, 1850 to Feb. 10, 1861.



B.766

1859

BRITISH POSTAL MARKINGS

PACKET LETTERS



London Inland
Office obliterator
on 1/ issue of 1856.
The number 27 refers
to the stamp number.



August 11, 1859.
Stamped incoming at
Boston showing via
British Packet.

Boston Exchange Off-
ice mark where letter
was stamped in accord-
ance with the Exchange
Office procedure.



July 29, 1859.
London date stamp.
Blue, as here, was
for evening duty,
red for morning.



British Exchange Off-
ice rate stamp, indicat-
ing a credit due the U.
S. of 5¢ inland postage
on prepaid letter carr-
ied via either U.S. or
British Packet - Con-
vention ratified 1849.

N.B.: Cunard R.M.S. Arabia

Sailed Liverpool July 30, 1859
Arrived Boston August 11, 1859.

Cunard R.M.S. Arabia
Sailed Liverpool July 30, 1859
Arrived Boston August 11, 1859

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Europa

August 19, 1859. A letter from Baring Brothers & Co. to George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine advising him that Capt. J.B. Minott (sic) of the ship "Scioto" has remitted them from Cardiff £200 due 26 July and £181.4.11 due 26 August subject to the usual reserve of encashment. This was a duplicate letter, original per "Africa". It is endorsed: per "Europa".



LONDON
AU 26
59

19
CENTS

August 26. Letter posted unpaid at London. U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ per the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

August 27. R.M.S. Europa departed from Liverpool.

September 9. Europa arrived at Boston. Letter subject to the 24¢ rate. U.S. retained 5¢ inland postage after remitting 19¢ to Britain.

The Brunswick, Maine postal clerk noted a large manuscript "pay 24" so that there would be no doubt.

The Boston Exchange Office mark (B.766) is found used Sept. 6, 1850 to Feb. 10, 1861.



B.766

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Persia

September 2, 1859. A letter from Baring Brothers & Co. to George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine advising that Capt. A. Skolfield of the ship "I.S. Dimmock" had remitted through Messrs. Steiglitz & Co. of St. Petersburg £800 to George Skolfield's account.



September 2. Letter, endorsed p. "Persia", posted unpaid at London. U.S. was debited 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

September 3. R.M.S. Persia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for New York.

September 19. Persia arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office marked the letter 24¢ due, being the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. The postal clerk at Brunswick, Maine added the manuscript "Pay 24" so there would be no mistake.

The N.Y. Exchange Office mark (W.83) is recorded used 20 May 52 to 22 June 59. This example pushed the date forward to 19 Sept. 59. The rim appears to be deteriorating on this late strike.



1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia

September 2, 1859. A duplicate letter (original per "Persia") from Baring Brothers & Co., London to George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine informing him, "...Capt. A. Skolfield of the ship 'J'L' Dimmock' has remitted to us thro' Messrs. Steiglitz & Co. of St. Petersburg £800, due 26 November...Of the above amount Captain Skolfield says he will require £580.0.0. and also the £800 advised in our last for repairs at Liverpool to which port he is bound."



LONDON
SP 9
59

19
CENTS

LONDON
SP 9

19
CENTS

September 9. Letter posted unpaid at London. U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. Letter is endorsed: per "Arabia".

September 10. R.M.S. Arabia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for Boston via Halifax.

September 22. Arabia arrived at Boston. 24¢ was due, being the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. The mail clerk at Brunswick penned a large "24" on the face of the letter to underscore that 24¢ was due.

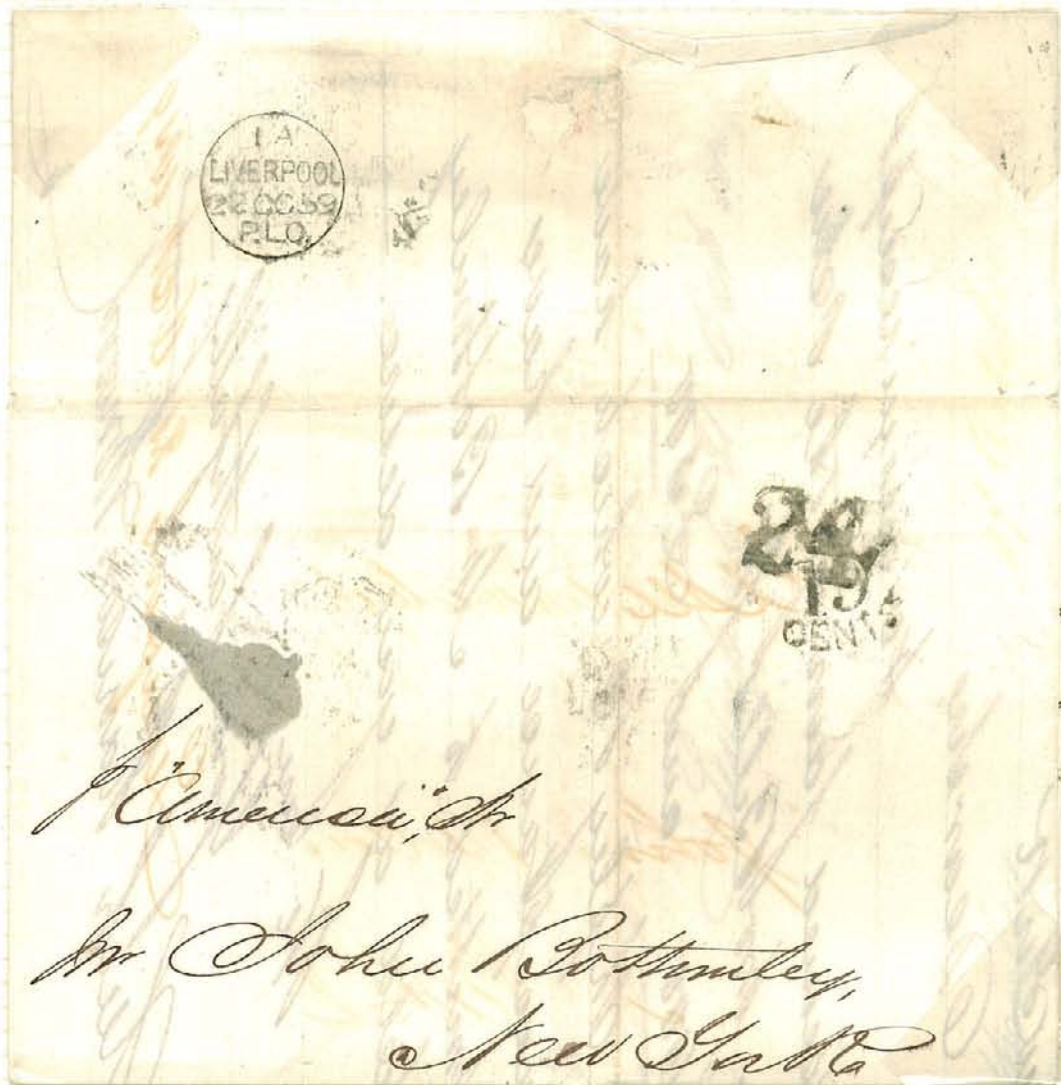
The Boston Exchange Office mark (B.771) is found used Dec. 24, 1853 to Sept. 20, 1861.



B.771

1859

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
LIVERPOOL PACKET LETTER OFFICE



19
CENTS

24

Oct. 22, 1859.
Transit stamp of
L'Pool Packet
Letter Office
(P.L.O.).

Charge mark of the
British Exchange Office
showing British share
of postage, via British
packet.

U.S. Exchange Office
mark - 24¢ due from
recipient.

Coward Packet "America"
Sailed L'Pool 22 Oct.
Arr. Boston 5 Nov. 1859

See Wm. W.
19.44
packed
Nov 7 Nov.

TAA 135.0.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Africa



19
CENTS

November 11, 1859. An unpaid letter posted at London and endorsed: p. "Africa". The U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

Baring Brothers & Co. notifies George Skolfield of Brunswick, Maine, "The enclosed copy of Charter party and Bill of Lading of coals per 'Sciota' to Malta we have received from Capt. J.B. Minott, at whose request we have collected the freight..."

November 12. R.M.S. Africa departed from Liverpool, as endorsed.

November 25. Africa arrived at New York, letter processed November 26. 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.



W.84a

Winter lists this N.Y. Exchange Office mark as used 31 Mar. 1858 to 21 July 1859. This late use strike here with a damaged rim moves the latest use forward to 26 Nov. 1859. Another cover in this collection pushes the earliest date back to 29 May 1856.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Canada 2nd Cunard Eastbound call at Queenstown

Until late 1859 the Cunard Liners departed from Liverpool for Boston or New York, returning from those ports directly to Liverpool. The Nov. 9, 1859, sailing of R.M.S. Persia from N.Y. made the first eastbound call at Queenstown, arriving Nov. 18. This steamship, R.M.S. Canada, made the first westbound call at Queenstown Nov. 7, 1859, 2 days out of Liverpool. On her return with this letter aboard, she made her first eastbound call at Queenstown, the 2nd such call for a Cunarder. They alternated calls direct to Liverpool or via Queenstown until March 1860, when all Cunarders to or from Liverpool touched at Queenstown.



November 29, 1859. Unpaid letter posted at New York and endorsed: p Canada. The New York Exchange Office debited Britain for 5¢ U.S. Inland. Letter was sent on to Boston where the Canada sailed for Liverpool via Queenstown November 30.

December 12. Canada arrived at Queenstown. Letter rated 1 shilling (24¢). Britain would retain 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. Collect rate shown by the 1/- handstamp.

December 15. Plymouth arrival backstamp.



1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Persia



LONDON
NO 25
59

19
CENTS

November 18, 1859. A duplicate letter written at London. The original had gone per "Europa" which had sailed from Queenstown to Boston November 20.

November 25. This unpaid letter is endorsed: p. Persia. It is from Barilg Brothers & Co. advising George Skolfield of Brunswick, Maine that Capt. Skolfield of the ship "I.L. Dimmock" requires £ 1380 at Liverpool.

U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

November 26. R.M.S. Persia departed from Liverpool to New York. Westbound Cunarders bound to New York did not stop at Queenstown at this time, just those for Boston.

December 8. Persia arrived at New York. 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. The U.S. would retain 5¢ of the 24¢ collected, the remainder of 19¢ having been credited to Britain.

This N.Y. datestamp (W.84a) is known used from 31 Mar. 1858 to 2 Feb. 1861. Sometime before 26 Nov. 1859 the damaged rim at 7-9 o'clock appeared, as in this example.



w.84a

1860

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R. M. S. Asia



LONDON
MR 2
60

19
CENTS

March 2, 1860. An unpaid letter posted at London by Baring Brothers & Co. to George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine informing him that Capt. Israel J. Preble of the ship "Brandywine" has drawn on them for £1076 from Mobile for various expenses.

British debited U.S. for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

March 3. R.M.S. Asia departed from Liverpool for New York. She made no call at Queenstown as Cunard steamers did not call there westbound until April 1, 1860.

March 16. Asia arrived at New York. 24¢ due under the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

The New York Exchange Office stamp (W.84a) is known used from 31 Mar. 1858 to 2 Feb. '61. Sometime before 26 Nov. 1859, the damaged rim at 7-9 o'clock appeared.



W.84a

1860

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Asia

August 31, 1860. An unpaid letter datelined and posted at Manchester, England. It is headed: per Steamer Asia, as well as endorsed on the face: Per "Asia" Str.



The content concerns the receipt by A. & S. Henry & Co. of £125 to be applied to G.H. Gilbert & Co.'s account current. This was to pay for an order of China Double Spun Silk, to be forwarded by the next steamer for Boston. The document bears a One Penny revenue stamp of even date paying the tax on "Draft Payable on Demand of Receipt."



September 1. Liverpool Packet Office transit lozenge. The U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢ out of the total 24¢ (one shilling) rate per ½-oz. by the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848. U.S. retained 5¢. R.M.S. Asia sailed from Liverpool on this date, touched at Queenstown on the 2nd.

September 13. Asia arrived at New York. The Boston mails were bulked to Boston by rail. letter processed there on September 14. The Boston Exchange Office stamp shows 24¢ due.

This Boston mark is found used 7/31/57 to 7/3/61.



B.791

1860

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Canada

March 12, 1860. A duplicate letter endorsed p. "Canada" (original per "Asia") written at London by Baring Brothers & Co. to George Skifford at Brunswick, Maine, informing him that Capt. Israel J. Preble of the ship "Brandywine" has drawn upon them from Mobile for £ 1,076 feby. 3d. @ 60 d/s which with £ 40.11.9 Insurance on £ 1,175 @ 60/ p. Ct. & charges with a return of 9/6 for Sweden, 19/ outside the Baltic or Hamburg and 28/6 for the United Kingdom or Havre.



19
CENTS

March 9. Letter posted unpaid at London. U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

March 10. R.M.S. Canada of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool, touched at Queenstown, Ireland the 11th where this letter went aboard.

March 25. Canada arrived at Boston. 24¢ was due, being the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.



B.771

The Boston Exchange Office mark (B.771) is found used from Dec. 24, 1853 to Sept. 20, 1861.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia



LONDON
JA 19
61

19
CENTS

January 19, 1861. A letter dated at London from Baring Brothers & Co. to George Skolfield at Brunswick, Maine advising that Captain Skolfield, ship "Rising Sun" has remitted to his a/c from Melbourne £1650 @ 60ds. due 16 March. They have placed it to his credit subject to encashment. Letter is endorsed: per "Arabia".

Letter was posted unpaid. The red "crosshairs" inspector's mark at London shows that the letter received some special attention there. The British Exchange Office debited U.S. for 3¢ British Inland + 16¢ Sea (British Packet) = 19¢.

January 19. R.M.S. Arabia departed from Liverpool and touched at Queenstown January 20, where this letter went aboard.

February 1. Arabia arrived at N.Y. 24¢ due, being the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.



W.84a

Winter lists this mark used 31 Mar. 1858 to 21 July '59. This cover moves the date up to 2 Feb. 1861. Another cover in this collection is dated 29 May 1856. Sometime after 26 Nov. 1859, the handstamp suffered damage resulting in the distorted rim at 7-9 o'clock.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKET
BOSTON/BR. PKT.

R.M.S. Asia

S 18
LIVERPOOL
AP 12
61

April 12, 1861.
Datelined and
date stamped at
Liverpool. The
R.M.S. Asia
departed L'pool
April 13 for
N.Y., Capt. Lott.

38
CENTS

Debit mark
charges U.S.
for 16¢ sea
(British Pkt.)
+ 3¢ British
Inland = 19¢ x
2 (double lett-
er) = 38¢.

*R. Asia,
via New York*

48

38
CENTS

*W. W. Greenough Esq
Treasurer of the
Boston Gas Light Co.
Boston*

BOSTON
BR. PKT.
APR
26
24

B. 791

BOSTON BR. PKT.
APR
26

B. 711

48

B. 717.

April 26, 1861. The Asia arrived at New York April 25, and the Boston mails, which had been bulked aboard ship, were sent on to Boston where bulk was broken. Originally, Boston stamped letter with 24¢ (single) collect (B. 791). Clerk then realized the error and restamped the backstamp (B. 711) on the reverse. This is the mark usually used when a rate collect was other than 24¢. The correct due rate of 48¢ was then struck on the face (B. 717). It is most unusual to have two different BOSTON/BR. PKT. marks one one cover.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITAIN TO U.S. VIA BRITISH PACKET

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Australasian

The Boston "B. PKT." Mark

This 31mm. Boston mark is recorded by Blake & Davis (No. 792) in use from November 28 to December 9, 1861. This example pushes the earliest use back to June 6, 1861.



May 24, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at Leamington, England. The circular date stamp is part of a duplex canceller with the killer "444" to the right, being the British Post Office number assigned to Leamington.

May 25. R.M.S. Australasian departed from Liverpool for New York via Queenstown where this letter went aboard the 26th.

19
CENTS

June 5. Australasian arrived at New York. Mail bulked to Boston where the Boston mark was struck on June 6, charging the recipient with the 24¢ U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.



U.S. was debited with 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. The U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland postage.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia



19 CENTS

May 31, 1861. An unpaid letter posted at London and endorsed: "Arabia". This is a duplicate letter, the original had been sent by the Havre Line packet Fulton, which sailed from Southampton on May 29, letter is datelined at London May 28. For this letter the U.S. was debited 16 ¢ Sea

(British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. The British Exchange Office used the wrong color on this debit, as debits were shown in black, credits in red.

A letter from Baring Brothers & Co. informing George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine that they have placed to his credit £2600 received by their Liverpool House from Captain Skolfield ship "Lydia Skolfield".

June 1. R.M.S. Arabia departed from Liverpool, touched at Queens-town the 2nd where this letter went aboard.



B.766

June 12. Arabia arrived at Boston. 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. After remitting 19¢ to Britain, the U.S. retained 5¢ for U.S. Inland.

This handstamp is recorded by Blake Sept. 6, 1850 to Feb. 10, 1861. Here it is found on June 12, 1861.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL



THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Canada

SENT BACK TO ENGLAND handstamp

Type II

SENT BACK TO ENGLAND
WITHOUT A REASON
FOR NON-DELIVERY

- a. Overall dimensions 42 x 15 mm.
- b. Letter height 3.5 mm.
- c. No hyphens or frame.



June 28, 1861. Letter paid one shilling, U.S.-British Treaty rate, by a copy of the Issue of 1856 at the Gibraltar Street Office of Sheffield. Stamp cancelled at the Sheffield head office, 700 is British Post Office number assigned to Sheffield.

June 29. R.M.S. Canada departed for Boston from Liverpool.

July 12. Canada arrived at Boston as a PAID Treaty letter. The Exchange Office marked a debit to Britain of 5¢ for U.S. Inland postage. Britain retained 3¢ British Inland + 16¢ Sea (British Packet) = 19¢. Ocean postage included forwarding on to St. Louis, Missouri.

July 27. As addressee did not call for her letter, it was advertised in the newspaper at St. Louis.

September 26. Saint Louis back-stamp. Addressee still did not call for the letter so it was SENT BACK TO ENGLAND WITHOUT A REASON FOR NON-DELIVERY.



1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITAIN TO U.S. VIA BRITISH PACKET
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Persia

The Boston "B. PKT." Mark

This 31mm. mark is shown by Blake & Davis (their No. 792) as a perfect circle. Here an early break in the rim appears at about 10 o'clock with some distortion of the upper rim around to about 2 o'clock.



19
CENTS



September 14, 1861. Unpaid letter posted at London is endorsed: Persia Via Queenstown.

September 14. R.M.S. Persia departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter at her call at Queenstown on the 15th.

September 25. Persia arrived at New York, mail bulked to Boston.

September 26. Bulk mail processed at Boston, 24¢ due, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. The Boston Exchange Office date stamp is starting to show some distortion.

The U.S. was debited for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland postage.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITAIN TO U.S. VIA BRITISH PACKET
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Asia

The Boston "B. PKT." Mark

31mm. mark shown as a complete circle by Blake & Davis (their No. 792), here in October 1861 exhibits a serious break in the rim at 10 o'clock as well as severe deterioration of the rim over to 2 o'clock.



September 28, 1861. Letter posted at London and endorsed: Asia via Queenstown. Unpaid.

September 28. R.M.S. Asia departed from Liverpool and touched at Queenstown the 29th where this letter went aboard.

19
CENTS

October 11. Asia arrived at New York, Boston area mail, which had been presorted, was bulked there by rail.

October 12. Arrival mark at Boston. The break in the handstamp rim here becomes pronounced.



Boston marked a due amount of 24¢, the U.S.-British Treaty rate of 1848 per ½-oz. Debit to U.S. of 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢. U.S. retained 5¢ U.S. Inland.

1861

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITAIN TO U.S. VIA BRITISH PACKET
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Arabia

The Boston "B.PKT." Mark

After September 1861 this Boston arrival mark continued to show progressive deterioration, starting with a serious break at 10 o'clock. A distortion of the rim is evident over to about 4 o'clock.



19
CENTS

October 5, 1861. Letter posted unpaid at Liverpool where it received the backstamp at the Packet Letter Office (P.L.O.). It was endorsed: p Arabia via Qtown. The R.M.S. Arabia departed from Liverpool this day for Boston via Queenstown, at which port she touched on October 6.

October 17. Arabia arrived at Boston, mail processed on October 18.

The Boston Exchange Office mark charged the recipient 24¢, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz. Debit to U.S. of 16¢ Sea (Brit.Pkt.) + 3¢ Brit. Inland = 19¢.

1862

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
THE CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. China

June 6, 1862. A letter from Baring Brothers & Co., London to George Skolfield, Brunswick, Maine, advising him that they have placed to his credit £ 330.11.11 received by Baring's Liverpool House from Capt. Mack, ship "Scioto". Letter is endorsed: pr. "China".

LONDON
JU 7
62



19
CENTS

19
CENTS

June 7. Letter posted unpaid at London. It is endorsed pr. "China", and the London post office debited U.S. for 16¢ Sea (British Packet) + 3¢ British Inland = 19¢.

June 7. R.M.S. China of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter with the America mails when she touched at Queens-town, Ireland on June 8.

June 18. China arrived at New York. The recipient had to pay 24¢, the U.S.-British Treaty of 1848 rate per ½-oz.

The New York Exchange Office mark (W.90) is recorded with a year date over the month (1863) and without the year (1862) as here.



1865

BRITISH POSTAL MARKINGS

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

BRITISH PACKETS



Letter posted Jan. 10, 1865 at Liverpool, prepaid as Packet Letter to Vermont.



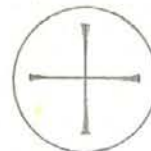
Jan. 10, 1865. Paid stamp applied at Liverpool. It was necessary to designate U.S. or British packet to keep Exchange Office rates straight.

21
CENTS

Regulations required the country carrying a paid letter to stamp in red the credit amount in favor of the other country. Thus, here 21 cents was due to the U.S.



Jan. 29, 1865. Also, according to regulations, the Exchange Office receiving a letter shall stamp the letter with its own postmark, and with the PAID stamp in red ink, if paid.



Backstamp: This mark could not be located in the literature.

1865

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
ENGLAND TO U.S. by British Packet prepaid.



May 13, 1865. Letter prepaid at the 1/- rate (equivalent to 24¢ U.S.) per single rate letter and directed "via Queenstown", sailing port in southern Ireland of the Cunard liners. 1 shilling stamp, Issue of Feb. 1865, plate 4.

May 13, 1865. Transit backstamp at London.



5 CENTS

May 19, 1865. Stamped by U.S. Exchange Office at Boston (Blake 838). Boston marked this American Packet in error, however, was credited with only 5¢ for U.S. domestic postage. Had an American packet carried the letter, the U.S. would have received in addition the 16¢ transatlantic rate, or a total credit of 21¢.

1865

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

R.M.S. Cuba

CUNARD LINE

Quadruple Rated Letter



This letter contains a "duplicate" of a letter sent out Sept. 9, 1865, per "Australasian", which departed from Liverpool Sept. 9, arrived New York Sept. 20.

Sept. 16, 1865. This letter is datelined at London and directionally endorsed on the face: per "China". China, however, did not sail from Liverpool until Sept. 30, arriving at Boston October 10. The post office did not hold the letter to honor the "China" endorsement, but sent it off on the first steamer out, R.M.S. Cuba which departed Liverpool Sept. 16 on her 7th outbound voyage and picked up this letter at Queenstown Sept. 17.

Sept. 16. Letter paid at a quadruple rate (enclosures are noted) by two pairs of the Issue of 1865. These are cancelled by the East Central District London duplex (Dubus 45). The inspector's "crosshairs" mark is unique by virtue of the 3rd crosshair, all others seen have only two, quartering the circle.

September 29. Docket notes receipt at New York. Cuba had docked at Boston Sept. 28. Manuscript note debits Britain for quadruple U.S. Inland at 5¢ x 4 = 20¢. Britain retained Sea postage (British Packet) of 16¢ x 4 = 64¢ plus British Inland 3¢ x 4 = 12¢ for a total of 76¢. Quadruple rated letters are scarce.



PAID

20

1866

BRITISH POSTAL MARKINGS

PACKET LETTERS



Cover sent by American Packet from New York to Manchester, England.



Nov. 24, 1866. U.S. stamp. Fee paid marking at New York for handling of mail by American Packet.

Nov. 24. Sailed from N.Y. for Liverpool, Inman Liner S.S. City of Boston, Brooks.



Dec. 5, 1866. Receipt stamp at Liverpool showing letter was from U.S. Packet ship.



Dec. 6, 1866. Backstamp. Receipt mark at Manchester.

1867

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
PACKET LETTERS

AMERICAN PACKET - Double Letter.

Although Noted per "City of London" (Inman Line - British), this letter ~~actually~~ went out of Liverpool on the first available ship, an American Packet. At the rate of 1/- per 1/2 oz., this letter which weighed between 1/2 to 1 oz. took the double rate of 2/-. Double Exchange Office credits were thus due.



((466))

L'pool "466" obliterator on vertical pair of 1/-, S.G. 115, prepaying double letter rate.

1C
LIVERPOOL
18 DE 67
P.L.O.

Dec. 18, 1867.
Liverpool Packet
Letter Office
(P.L.O.) receipt
mark.

42
CENTS

Exchange Office
credit to U.S.
of 21¢ X 2
(double rate) or
42¢ for U.S. portion of
postage as letter went
by American packet.

NYORK. AM. PKT.
31
PAID

(Dec.) 31, 1867.
New York Exchange
Office transit mark,
verifying "42 CENTS"
Credit that this letter
in fact did go by an
American Packet.

Dec. 31. 1867. Arrived N.Y. S.S. City of
London, Brooks, L'pool. Dec. 18 via
Q'town the 19th. Had strong westerly
gales the entire passage.