

1852

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Havana to France via Southampton

R. M. S. P. Medway

HAVANA
AU 9
1852
A

Aug. 9, 1852.
Prices current
posted unpaid at
the British Con-
sular office at
Havana. Endorsed:
Steamer Anglais,
it went by one of
the feeder steam-
ers, Havana to
St. Thomas.

Aug. 17. R.M.
S.P. Medway de-
parted from St.
Thomas with the
West India and
Mexican mails.

BT
8 SP 8
1852

COLONIES
& ART. 13



Sept. 7, Sunday. Medway arrived at Southampton, mails processed next day at London, backstamp. The London Foreign Office marked the letter with the Franco-British arrangement which charged France 3sh.4d. per ounce on a bulk basis for mail handled by British Packet. These letters were noted under Article 13 of the Letter Bill.

September 9 (Paris mark is misdated.) Backstamps trace letter, french entry at Calais, Paris to Bordeaux. Marked with 15 decimes due, equivalent to 1sh.3d.

PARIS
9
SEPT
52

BORDEAUX
9
SEPT
52
(32)

PARIS
7
SEPT
52
(60)

15

1853

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S. Great Western

The 1350 ton Great Western, a wooden paddle steamer, was built in 1838 at Bristol for the Great Western Steamship Company. In 1840 changes were made, increasing her tonnage to 1750. She sailed on the North Atlantic until her last voyage New York to Liverpool Dec. 12, 1846. Four months later the Royal Mail bought her to replace the lost Tweed on their Southampton - West Indies service, she sailed on her initial Royal Mail sailing in June 1847. She made regular sailings until requisitioned for Crimean War duty as a troopship. On conclusion of hostilities with Russia, Great Western was considered not worth reconditioning and sold in October 1856 for breaking up at Vauxhall.



March 18, 1853. Letter posted unpaid at Cayenne, French Guiana. It is directed by the British Packet via Demerara (Georgetown). Route No. 4 of the Royal Mail service feeder lines ran from

Demerara via the Leeward and Windward Islands to connect at St. Thomas with the steamers from Southampton, distance 1838 miles.



April 24. French entry mark at Calais, France. The Sun, London, April 23: The Great Western steam-ship, with the West India and Pacific mails, arrived at Southampton yesterday. She left Jamaica on the 27th of March, Barbadoes on the 28th and St. Thomas's on the 2nd of April. The Great Western brings 80 passengers and \$808,855.

The yellow fever has almost disappeared in the West Indies.



April 24-25. Paris transit and Bordeaux receipt backstamps. Letter subject to a collect amount of 30 decimes.



30

1853

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Avon, Havana to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. LaPlata, St. Thomas to Southampton



July 8, 1853. A letter datelined at Havana and posted unpaid at the British Consular Post Office there on July 10, backstamp.

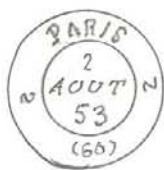
Packet steamships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. conveyed this letter to England as follows:

<u>R.M.S.P. Avon</u>		<u>R.M.S.P. LaPlata</u>	
Vera Cruz	Jul. 5	St. Thomas	Jul. 17
→ Havana	9-11	Southampton	31
St. Thomas	16		

August 1. Arrival backstamp at London. The Foreign Office there struck the Franco-British accountancy mark which charged France 3sh.4d. per ounce on a bulk basis for mail handled by British Packets. These letters were noted under Article 13 of the Letter Bill.

August 2. French entry mark showing mail from England entering France at Calais (this mark struck at Paris shown by the 2's. Paris receiving backstamp.

Double rated letter (7½-15 grams) at 30 decimes .ue, equivalent to 2sh.6d.



90

1853

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Puerto Cabello, Venezuela to France

R.M.S.P. Magdalena



Oct. 10, 1853.
Unpaid letter posted at the British Consular Office at Puerto Cabello. It was handled by one of the feeder services on to Santa Marta, Columbia thence to St. Thomas where it was picked up by R.M.S.P. Magdalena on October 16.



COLONIES
& ART. 13

November 2. The London Sun, Nov. 2, 1853. The royal mail steam-ship Magdalena, Capt. Abbott, arrived off Southampton yesterday afternoon with the usual West India, Central American, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific and California mails in charge of Lieutenant Tickell, R.N., Admiralty agent. (Her dates are shown overleaf).

The Foreign Office, London, marked the letter with the Franco-British arrangement of Jan. 1846, which called for the payment by France of 3sh.4d. per ounce on a bulk basis for mail handled by British packet under Article 13 of the agreement.



Nov. 3-4. French entry mark at Calais and transit backstamps, Paris and Bordeaux. letter was marked with 15 decimes due, equivalent to 1sh.3d.

1854

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Conway, Barbadoes to St. Thomas via Isles

R.M.S.P. Magdalena, St. Thomas to Southampton



Robert Francis Judway Esq. M.P.
 Wells Somerset
 England

12th Nov 1854



Nov. 12, 1854. Unpaid letter posted at Parham Hill, Antigua. It deals with the plantation and sugar matters.

R.M.S.P. Conway had departed from Barbadoes Nov. 11 for St. Thomas "Via Isles" and picked up this letter en route at Antigua on Nov. 12. She arrived at St. Thomas Nov. 14.

Nov. 15. Home bound mail was transferred to R.M.S.P. Magdalena at St. Thomas. She arrived at Southampton Dec. 1, London arrival backstamp on even date.



Dec. 2. Arrival backstamp at Wells. Letter subject to the Treasury Warrant rate of Mar. 25, '54 of 6d. by British Colonial or Foreign Packets (except U.S.) between British Caribbean Colonies and the U.K.

1854 - 55

PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

S.S. Lima, Valparaiso to Panama

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.

R.M.S.P. Solent

Via Panama = Inglaterra

VALPARAISO
DE 15
1854
A

Dec. 15, 1854.
Letter to France
was put into
the British Con-
sular Post Office
at Valparaiso,
Chile, consular
office backstamp.

The sender
struck the dir-
ectional endorse-
ment handstamp
"Via Panama=
Inglaterra".

R.M.S. Lima of
the Pacific
Steam Navigat-
ion Co. departed from Valparaiso this date.

January 4, 1855. Lima arrived
across the isthmus to
took it to St. Thomas

January 17. R.M.
from St. Thomas for



Letter went by trail
a feeder steamer

Jilicho, departed

ived at Southampton
acific and Mexican
eign Office marked the
-British tray mark which
1.4d. per ounce on a
dled by the British
under Article 13 of

entry mark at Calais
ps trace route of this
Marked with 30 decimes
ter: (7½ to 15 grams.)
to 2sh.6d.

R.M.S.P. Dec
Charges from 9, 1854
St Thomas 15
Solent
St. T. Jan 17
St. Tom Feb 6

HJ
FE-6
1855

COLONIES
& ART 13

ANGL
7
FEVR
55
AMB. CALAIS

PARIS
7
FEVR
55
(60)

PARIS
8
FEVR
55
A

BORDEAUX
8
FEVR
55
(32)

1855

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Valparaiso, Chile to France via Panama

R.M.S.P. Clyde, Colon to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Parana, St. Thomas to Southampton



January 15, 1855. An unpaid letter posted at the British Consular Post Office at Valparaiso, backstamp. It is endorsed: por via Panama. A steamship of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. (British) conveyed the letter from Valparaiso to Panama. The mails then went by Panama Railroad Co. train from Panama to Colon (Chagres).

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. vessels conveyed this letter:

<u>R.M.S.P. Clyde</u> : Colon	Feb. 23	<u>R.M.S.P. Parana</u> : St. Thomas	Mar. 5
St. Thomas	Mar. 5	Southampton	21.

March 21. London transit backstamp. Letter was marked in London PANAMA/TRANSIT to assure correct rating in France.

March 22. French entry mark at Calais.

March 22. Paris arrival backstamp. This letter was marked with the seldom seen charge mark of 42 decimes, double rate (7½ to 15 grams) per the Circulaire No. 14 of 23 July 1849, South Seas letters via Panama.

PANAMA
TRANSIT



h9

1858

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.

R.M.S.P. Clyde, Tampico to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Parana, St. Thomas to Southampton



1858

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO.

R.M.S.P. Clyde, Tampico to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Parana, St. Thomas to Southampton



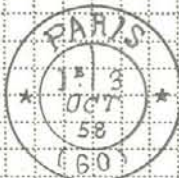
September 3, 1858. Unpaid letter to France posted at the Mexican Post Office at Vera Cruz, oval backstamp. It is endorsed: pr. R.M.S. Clyde.

September 4. Transit at the British Consular Post Office at Vera Cruz. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Clyde left Tampico August 31 and picked up the Mexican mails at Vera Cruz September 4 en route to St. Thomas via Havana.

London Times, Sat., October 2, 1858. Arrived Southampton Friday night Parana steamer, Captain Bevis, with the West India, Pacific and Mexican mails.



Letter was marked with the "tray" or accountancy mark. Under Article 34 of the Convention between France and Great Britain, France was to pay Britain 1 franc 60 centimes per 30 grams, bulk, for unpaid letters carried to France by British packets from British Colonies, the United States and foreign countries.



October 2. French entry mark shows mail entering France at Calais, Ambulant (R.R.) to Paris.

October 3-4. Transit backstamps show route Paris to Bordeaux. Day train (octagonal center) Paris to Bordeaux. 8 decimes (8c. British or 16c U.S.) due.

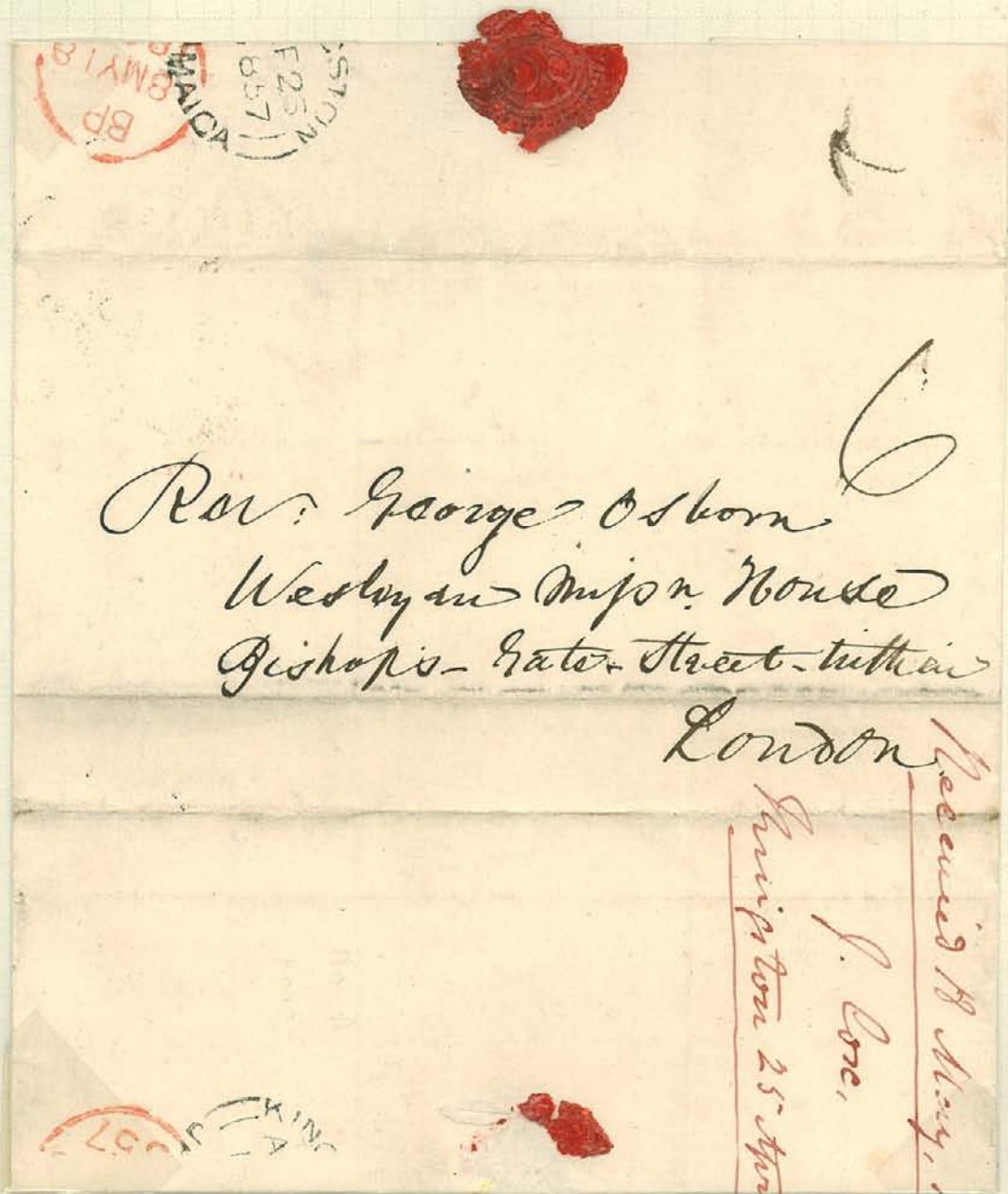
8

1857

WEST INDIA MAIL - PACKET SERVICE
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY
KINGSTON, JAMAICA - GREAT BRITAIN

6d. Rate - Enacted 1852 - Effective Jan. 1854

Rates effective 1854 rated all packet letters to or from Jamaica at 6d. per 1/2oz.



For: George Osborn
Wesleyan Mission House
Bishop's Gate Street, within
London

KINGSTON
AP 25
1857
JAMAICA

April 25,
1857. Letter
posted un-
paid at
Kingston
(Foster Type
K8).

BP
18MY18
1857

May 18,
1857. London
receipt back-
stamp. Letter
rated 6d.,
Act of 1852
rates, see
above.

The Sun, London, May 18, 1857: The R.M.S. Orinoco, Capt. T.W. Sawyer, arrived May 17 at Southampton from St. Thomas and the West Indies.

R.M.S.P. Clyde:	Jamaica	Apr. 27, 1857	Porto Rico	Apr. 29
	Jacmel	28	St. Thomas	May 1

1859

WEST INDIA MAIL - PACKET SERVICE
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

GREAT BRITAIN - JAMAICA



Dec. 1, 1859. London District, Second Series obliterator. Letter posted "per Packet" to Kingston, Jamaica.

1852 RATES CENACTED 1852 - EFFECTIVE JAN. '54)

Rates effective 1854 rated all packet letters to Jamaica at 6D. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Cover franked with 6d. stamp, S.G. 69, issue of 1855-57.



Backstamp.

The Sun, London, Sat. Evening, Dec. 3. 1859: Dec. 2. Sailed from Southampton. steamer Atrato for St. Thomas.

R.M.S. Atrato: So'ton, Dec. 2; St. Thomas Dec. 22
R.M.S.P. Teviot: St. Thomas, Dec. 23; Porto Rico, 23rd; Jamaica, Dec. 26.

1859

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Valparaiso, Chile to France via Panama

R.M.S.P. Thames, Colon to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. LaPlata, St. Thomas to Southampton



July 14, 1859. An unpaid letter to Bordeaux datelined at Valparaiso, and endorsed: Via Panama. It was backstamped July 16 at the British Consular Post Office at Valparaiso. This letter was transported by a steamer of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. (British), Valparaiso to Panama. The letter then went by a Panama Railroad Co. train to Colon on the Caribbean side of the isthmus.

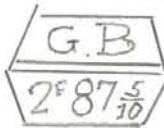
Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. steamers carried this letter to England:

R.M.S.P. <u>Thames</u> :	Colon	Aug. 8	R.M.S.P. <u>LaPlata</u> :	St. Thomas	Aug. 16
	St. Thomas	14		Southampton	30.

August 30. Transit backstamp at London. The General Imperial Decree of 3 Dec. 1856, between England and France allowed for a credit to England for French mail carried on British Packets, viz: Letters: Article 36 - South American countries via Panama, 2.87 5/10 francs per 30 grams. The bulk rate debit is shown by the accountancy mark struck at London.

August 31. French entry mark, ambulant (railway) at Calais, Paris transit and Paris to Bordeaux (nuit) backstamps.

September 1. Arrival backstamp at Bordeaux. Letter subject to 24 decimes collect.



1859

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY
TAMPICO, MEXICO TO FRANCE VIA ST. THOMAS & SOUTHAMPTON

R.M.S.P. Thames, Spanish Main to St. Thomas's

R.M.S.P. Teviot, St. Thomas's to Southampton

Mails brought by Teviot instead of Paramatta, latter lost on her Maiden Voyage out



June 30, 1859. A letter posted unpaid at the British Consular post office at Tampico, Mexico. The R.M.S.P. Thames, on the Spanish Main route, picked up this letter June 30 at Tampico. She was at St. Thomas's on July 18 where R.M.S.P. Teviot received the homeward bound mails. Teviot was handling these mails as the normal steamer on the route, R.M.S.P. Paramatta, on her outward maiden voyage grounded full speed off Anegada, Virgin Islands on June 30. Salvage attempts failed and she was dismantled where she lay. Teviot had to be pressed into service.

1859

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY
TAMPICO, MEXICO TO FRANCE VIA ST. THOMAS & SOUTHAMPTON

R.M.S.P. Thames, Spanish Main to St. Thomas's
R.M.S.P. Teviot, St. Thomas's to Southampton

London Times, August 6. THE WEST INDIA, MEXICO AND PACIFIC MAILS. These mails, in charge of Mr. Edington, R.N., which would have been brought home in ordinary course by the Royal Mail Company's steamer Paramatta had she not met with her late unfortunate accident, arrived at Southampton early yesterday morning by the company's steamer Teviot, Captain Robert Woolward. The dates were:

Tampico	June 30	Bridgetown (Barbadoes)	- 12
Vera Cruz	July 5	Port of Spain (Trinidad)	- 10
Havannah	- 10	Grenada	- 11
Puerto Cabello	- 7	St. Vincent	- 11
Santa Martha	- 10	St. Lucia	- 12
Greytown (Mosquito)	- 2	Martinique	- 13
Carthegena	- 10	Guadelope	- 14
Colon	- 9	LaGuayra	- 7
Kingston (Jamaica)	- 11	Dominica	- 14
Jacmel (Hayti)	- 13	Antigua	- 14
San Juan (Porto Rico)	- 14	Montserrat	- 14
Berbice	- 10	Nevis	- 14
Georgetown (Demerara)	- 10	St. Kitts	- 14
Tobago	- 9	Tortola	- 5
		St. Thomas's	- 18.

Stations of the Royal Mail Company's steamships:- Conway at St. Thomas's, from Windward Islands; Derwent at St. Thomas's, from Jamaica; Medway at St. Thomas's; Prince at Barbadoes; Thames at St. Thomas's, from Spanish Main; Trent on Spanish Main route; Wye at Jamaica. The Parana, with the mails of the 2d. had not arrived out.

August 5. London transit backstamp. The letter was struck at London with the accountancy mark charging France 1 franc 60 centimes per 30 grams for mails conveyed from foreign countries overseas by British Packets and in transit through Great Britain.



8

August 5. French entry mark showing mail from England (ANGLEterre), ambulant (TPO) at Calais.

August 5. Paris transit backstamp.

August 6. Paris to Havre TPO transit backstamp, 2nd Section, Brigade E handled the mail. Octagonal center = day train.

August 6. LeHavre arrival backstamp. 8 decimes, equivalent to 8d., was due from the recipient.

1860

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

France to Vera Cruz via Southampton

R.M.S.P. Atrato



P.P.

en

October 31, 1860. Letter posted at the Paris Bureau de Quartier "D", with the D in the cds and a sole letter in the obliterating lozenge. Letter was marked P.P. or Port Payee indicating payment to the port of entry at Vera Cruz. Letter is endorsed: Voie d'Angleterre.

This was a double letter and was accepted as paid under the April 1, 1857, rate of 1 franc 20 centimes per 7½ grams x 2 = 2fr. 40 cent. or 24 decimes as noted in blue crayon on the reverse and paid by 3 copies of the 80 cent. Issue of 1860. This was the Mexican rate via U.S., but here direct by Royal Mail Steam Packet.



November 1. Transit at London. London Times: SOUTHAMPTON, Saturday Morning (Nov. 3), sailed: Atrato, steamer, for St. Thomas.

2

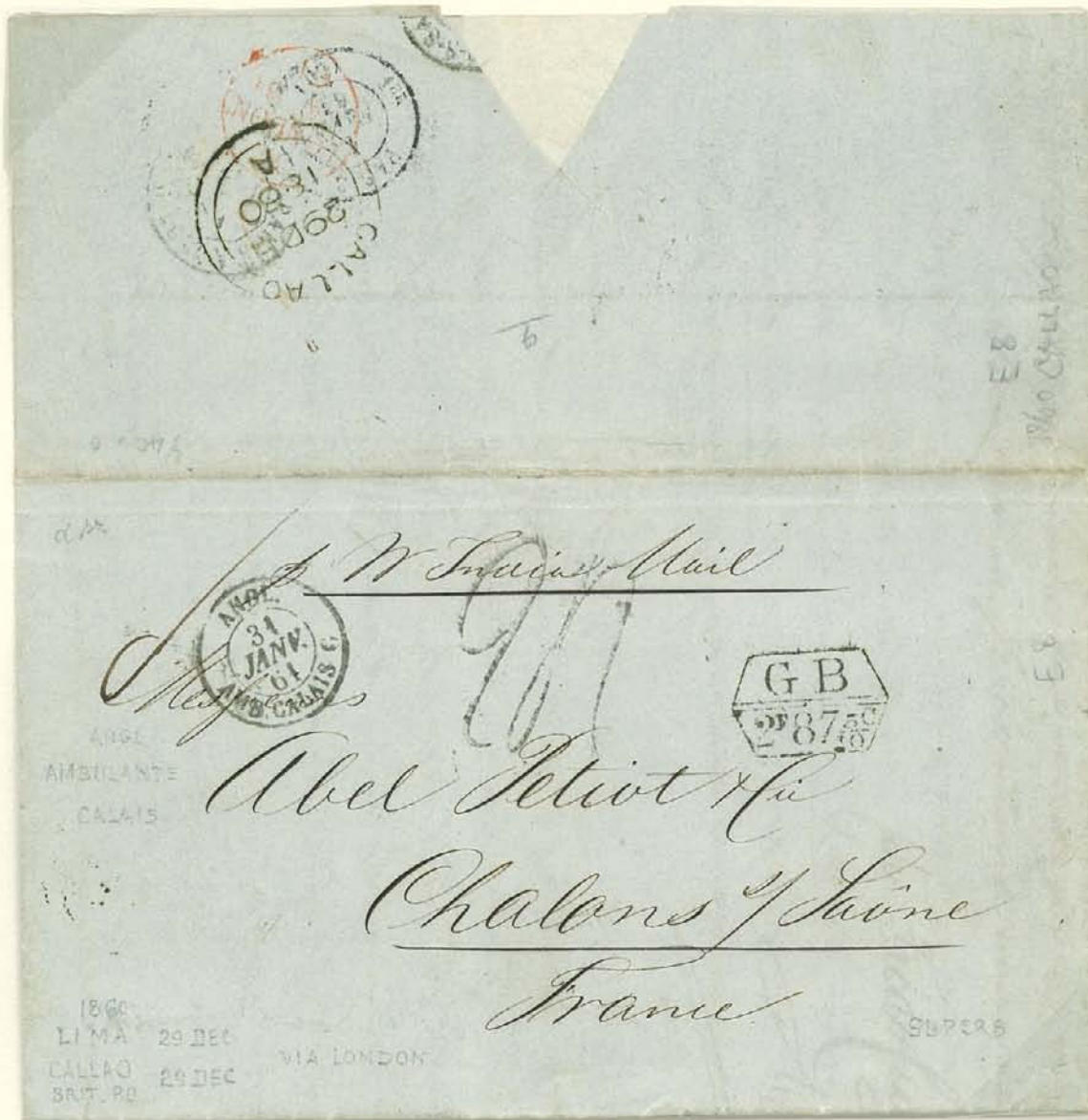
November 29. Docket notes received at Vera Cruz. 2 pesos Mexican postage due for handling after receipt in Mexico.

<u>Atrato</u>	So'ton	Nov. 2	<u>Clyde</u>	St. Thomas	Nov. 17
	St. Thomas	16		Havana	21-23
				Vera Cruz	27.

1860-61

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian



1860-61

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian



December 29. Letter, concerning wine shipments by the ship Coquimbo, 190 days from France, is datelined at Lima, Peru. Callao is the port city of Lima.

December 29, 1860. Letter posted unpaid at the Callao, Peru British Consular office. It was conveyed by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company steamship to Panama, thence across the Isthmus by rail. Mail went by station steamer from Colon to the Royal Mail Company's consolidating station at St. Thomas, where the R.M.S.P. Tasmanian departed January 17, 1861 for the home bound leg.

January 31, 1861. Arrival backstamp at London.



London Times, Thursday, Jan. 31. THE WEST INDIA, PACIFIC AND MEXICO MAILS. SOUTHAMPTON, Wednesday. The Royal Mail Company's steamship Tasmanian, Captain Weller, with the above mails, has arrived. Her dates are - Vera Cruz, Jan. 3; Tampico, Jan. 1; Havannah, 8th; Jamaica, 10th; Jacmel, 16th; Porto Rico, 14th; Demerara, 9th; Tobago, 11th; Barbadoes, 12th; Grenada, 13th; St. Vincent, 13th; St. Lucia, 14th; Antigua, 15th; Guadaloupe, 15th; St. Kitts, 15th; and St. Thomas, 17th.



Letter struck with the "tray" mark at London which showed that France was debited by Britain under Article 36 of the Agreement of Jan. 1, 1857, at the rate of 2 francs 87½ centimes for each 30 grams for unpaid letters from South American countries via Panama and by British Packet.



January 31 - February 2. French transit backstamps trace the route of this letter after entry mark on face showing origin at Britain, Ambulant (RR) at Calais. Letter assessed at 24 decimes due, equivalent to 2 franc 40 centimes or 2 shillings, the rate from the West Coast of South America.

1861

WEST INDIA MAIL PACKET
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

No. 49 - 1841

INSTRUCTIONS to all POSTMASTERS, SUB-POSTMASTERS
and LETTER RECEIVERS

On and from the 1st of January next, the Mails between the United Kingdom and the WEST INDIES, MEXICO, CUBA &c., which have hitherto been conveyed by Her Majesty's Packets, will be forwarded, twice in every month, by the contract Steam Vessels of the "ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY"....

The following is a list of Ports.....with the rate of postage chargeable on a letter not exceeding half an ounce....

Vera Cruz..... 2s. 3d.



Feb. 1, 1861. London Inland Office obliterator on ld. It would appear inland rate stamp usage was unnecessary as packet rate included inland carriage within the U.K.

Feb. 1, 1861. London transit. Letter prepaid at schedule rate of 2/3 per ½ oz. (red mms.). Regulations stated mail to Vera Cruz must be prepaid or it would not be forwarded from Havana. Letter received at Vera Cruz Feb. 28, 1861.

1861

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Lima, Peru to U.K. via Panama and West India Mail
R.M.S.P. La Plata

CALLAO
(14AP)
1861
A

April 14, 1861.
Unpaid letter
posted at the
British Consular
Office at Callao,
the port of Lima,
Peru.

It was directed
p. W. India Mail,
thus went by the
Pacific Steam
Navigation Co.
steamer to Panama
then across the
Isthmus to the
Royal Mail.

61
MY 13
LONDON
DX

London Times,
May 14. THE WEST
INDIA AND PACIFIC
MAILS:

REUTER'S TELEGRAM

Southampton,
Monday, May 13.

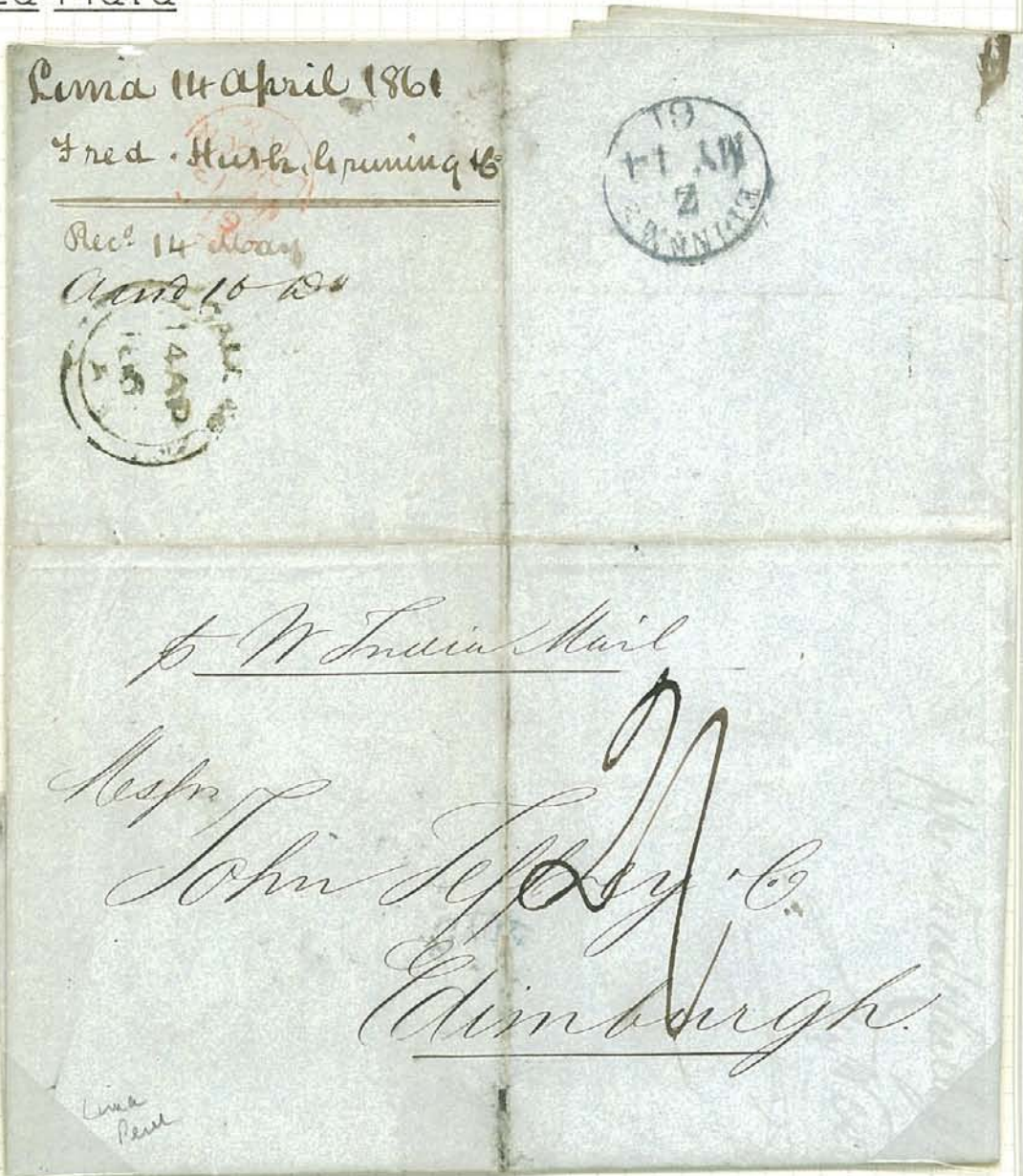
The Royal Mail

Steamship La Plata arrived here at 9:15 a.m. with the above mails.
London transit backstamp.

EDINBURGH
2
MY 14
61

May 14. Edinburgh arrival backstamp.
Letter was subject to the rate for the
West Coast of South America of 2 shillings.

R.M.S.P. Tamar: Colon Apr. 21, '61 R.M.S.P. LaPlata: St. Thom. Apr. 29
St. Thomas 29 So'ton May 13.



Lima 14 April 1861

Fred. Hurst, opening 16

Recd 14 May

April 16 1861

CALLAO
14AP
1861
A

TO
MY 13
LONDON
DX

to W India Mail

Respy

John Jeffrey & Co

Edinburgh.

Lima
Peru

1861

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S. La Plata

"The Trent Affair"

2404 tons, built by Robert Steele & Co., Greenock. 285' x 40' beam, wooden paddle wheel steamer. Side lever engines, four boilers, developed 1000 H.P., rated 12½ knots, could do 14.35 knots. Launched December 1851. On her maiden voyage, leaving Southampton for St. Thomas on Aug. 17, 1852, she arrived at St. Thomas in 12½ days and returned, despite bad weather, in 13.

Being built for Cunard, she was purchased by Royal Mail while fitting out. She was sister to the Cunarder Arabia. Disposed of in 1871.

On this November 1861 voyage she brought home to England the news of the Trent Affair involving the R.M.S. Trent, the American Federal man-of-war San Jacinto and the capture of Confederate commissioners. (See details appended.)



1861

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

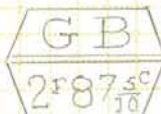
R.M.S. La Plata

"The Trent Affair"



October 15, 1851. Letter datelined at Valparaiso, Chile. Dated backstamp (faint on reverse) struck at the British Consular post office there. It went by Pacific Steam Navigation Company (British) to Panama and then cross-isthmus to Aspinwall, thence onward to Vera Cruz to be consolidated with other mails for the trip out of St. Thomas and on to Southampton.

October 18. Meanwhile, the R.M.S. Trent, acting as a feeder steamer on the Gulf of Mexico route was bringing the Mexican and Cuban mails from Havana to meet the St. Thomas sailing of La Plata when she was stopped by the U.S.S. San Jacinto who boarded her and, under protest, removed four Confederate Commissioners and hauled them away to internment at Boston. This incident occurred in the Old Bahama Channel on the Cuban north coast where the Trent was heading ESE en route to St. Thomas.



November 27. The London Sun, Wednesday Evening, Nov. 27, reported the arrival of the La Plata from the West Indies. Letter backstamped in transit at London, East Central office the same day. London Foreign Section also struck the "tray" mark which was an accountancy mark charging France 2 francs 87 5/10 centimes per 30 grams of mail directed to France and handled aboard a British packet (the La Plata).



19

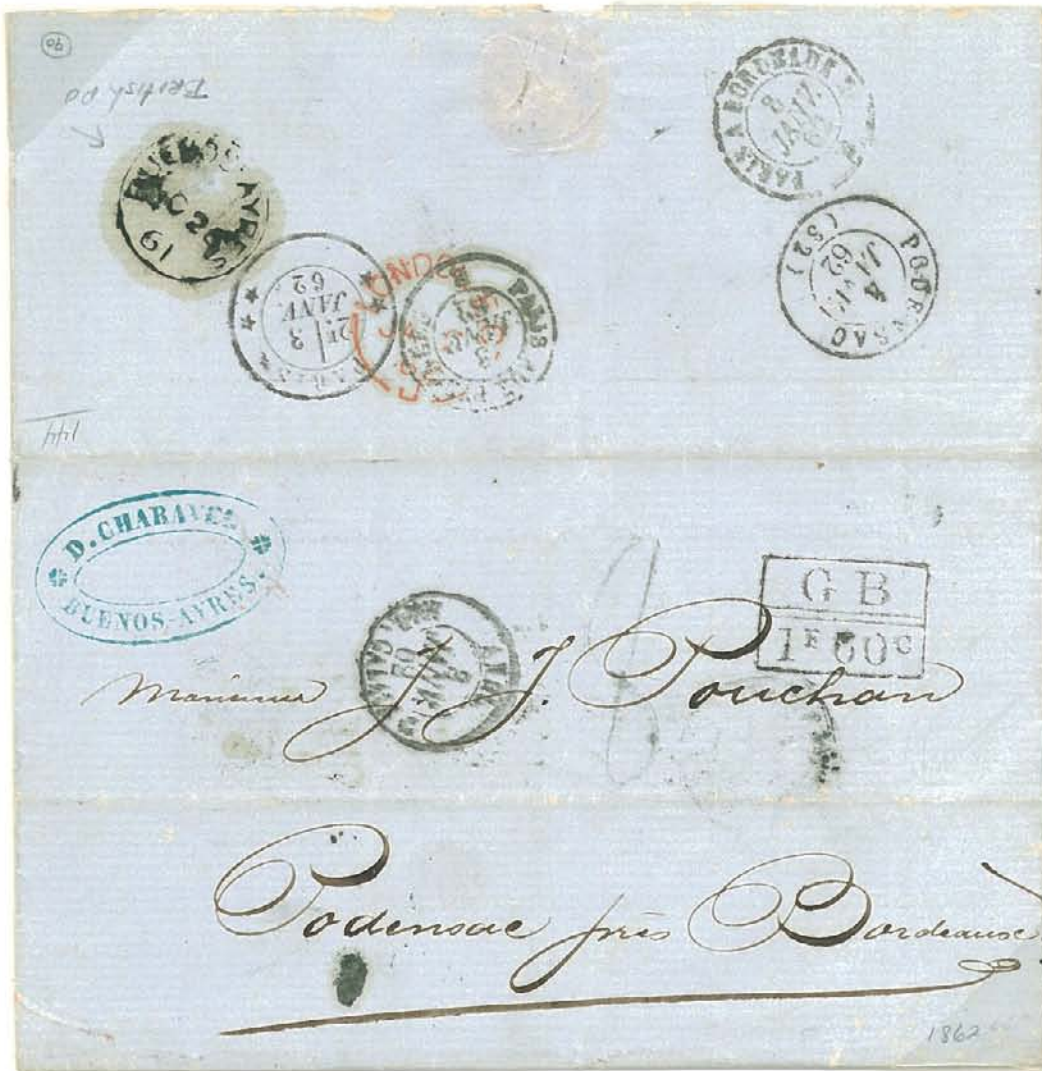
Nov. 28. The French entry mark shows mail entering France from England at Calais and is an ambulant (T.P.O.) mark, Brigade C handled the mail. Arrival backstamp at Paris the same day with twelve decimes (equivalent to 1 shilling) due from the recipient, Mr. Blanchard "Pharmacien".

1861-1862

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S. Oneida

South American route



1861-1862

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

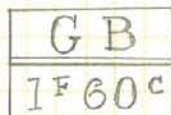
R.M.S. Oneida

South American route

Oneida was a 2300 ton iron screw steamer, built 1858 by Caird & Co., Glasgow, 307' x 39' beam. Oneida and Tasmanian, the earliest Royal Mail screw ships, came from the European & Australian Royal Mail Company. The Royal Mail placed her on the South American route and in October 1865 she was diverted to the Rocas Reefs to embark 117 marooned persons from the wrecked sailing ship Duncan Dunbar. Sold British and reduced to sail.



November 26, 1861. Letter posted at the British Post Office at Buenos Ayres, Argentina, unpaid.



January 2, 1862. Arrival of the Oneida was noted in the London Sun, "Off Hurst Castle, Jan. 2, arrived - Oneida, steamer from the Brazils". The letter was also struck with the Franco-British Convention of 1856 "tray mark" found in use after Jan. 1, 1857. This mark fell under Article 34 which charged France 1F 60centimes per 30 grams (bulk) for unpaid letters from British Colonies, the United States and foreign countries by British Packets (Salles Tome VIII, Pg. 36.)



Jan. 2-3, 1862. French transit marks show entry of English mail Ambulant (R.R.) at Calais to Paris, transit through Paris (two stars on each side indicates letters for or through the Paris Bureau Central, Pothion #1366), and the Paris to Bordeaux and Paris to Pyrenees railroad backstamps (night trains shown by circular inner ring, day trains are octagonal centers.)



8

Jan. 4, 1862. Arrival backstamp at Podensac. Eight decimes due as shown by handstamp "8" on face.

N.B.: Conveyance was as follows:

Branch Packet <u>R.M.S.P. Mersey</u> ,	Buenos Ayres	Nov.28
	Montevideo	30
Main Line : R.M.S.P. <u>Oneida</u> ,	Rio de Janeiro,	Dec.9
	Southampton	31.

1862

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY
CHILE TO FRANCE VIA PANAMA AND SOUTHAMPTON

R.M.S.P. Solent, Colon to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Arato, St. Thomas to Southampton

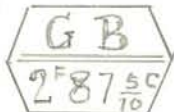


September 18, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at the British Consular Post Office at Valparaiso, Chile, backstamp.

Letter went by a steamship of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co., British Packet, from Valparaiso to Panama, then across the Isthmus of Panama by rail to Colon.

September 23. R.M.S.P. Solent departed from Colon, arrived at St. Thomas September 29.

October 2. R.M.S.P. Arato with the consolidated Caribbean and "Mexican" mails departed from St. Thomas, arrived at Southampton October 28.



October 30. London transit backstamp. London struck the "tray" mark debiting France under Article 39 of the Agreement of Jan. 1, 1857, at the rate of 2 francs 87½ centimes per 30 grams bulk for unpaid letters from South American countries to France via Panama and by British Packet.



19

October 30–November 1. French entry mark on face, Paris transit and Bordeaux arrival backstamps. Letter rated at 12 decimes due, equivalent to one shilling, the single rate from South America.

1863

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Atrato



February 28, 1863. Letter posted at London and paid at the 2 shilling rate by Royal Mail Packet to the West Coast of South America. Payment by a wing pair of the Issue of 1862. Cancellation "12" of the London Inland Branch is one of two types found on letters going abroad (Dubus 3a.). Backstamp at London. Cover endorsed: p. Atrato.

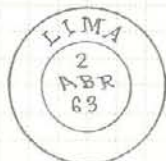


London Times, Saturday, February 28, 1863:

THE MAILS &c. - SOUTHAMPTON, Friday

The Atrato, Capt. T. Wolly, will leave on Monday (March 2) with the West India, Pacific and Mexican mails.

March 23. Transit at Panama. Letter via Royal Mail had been forwarded from Colon (Aspinwall) across the Isthmus to Panama, thence down the west coast by Pacific Steam Navigation Co.



April 2, 1863. Arrival backstamp at Lima, Peru.

<u>R.M.S.P. Atrato</u> : So'ton, Mar. 2	<u>R.M.S.P. Trent</u> : St. Thomas, Mar. 18
St. Thomas 17	Colon 23.

1864

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Atrato



May 28, 1864. A packet letter incoming at Southampton from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Atrato, addressed to Heidelberg, Germany.

London Times, Saturday, May 28, 1864.

SPAIN AND PERU

THE WEST INDIA AND PACIFIC MAILS. Southampton May 28.

The Atrato has arrived here with the above mails, 242 passengers, \$2,114,000 in specie and 1,164 packages of cargo.

May 28. London transit backstamp, where the "tray" mark was struck per Article 34, showing France owed Britain 1 franc 60 centimes per 30 grams for West Indies and Pacific mails to or in transit through France, unpaid.

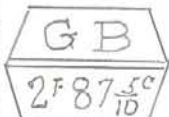
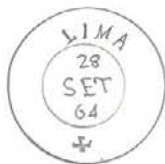
May 29. French entry mark showing mail entering France from England at Calais, same day Paris transit backstamp.

May 30. Heidelberg arrival backstamps. Letter rated as double ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz.) at one gulden 3 kreuzer due.

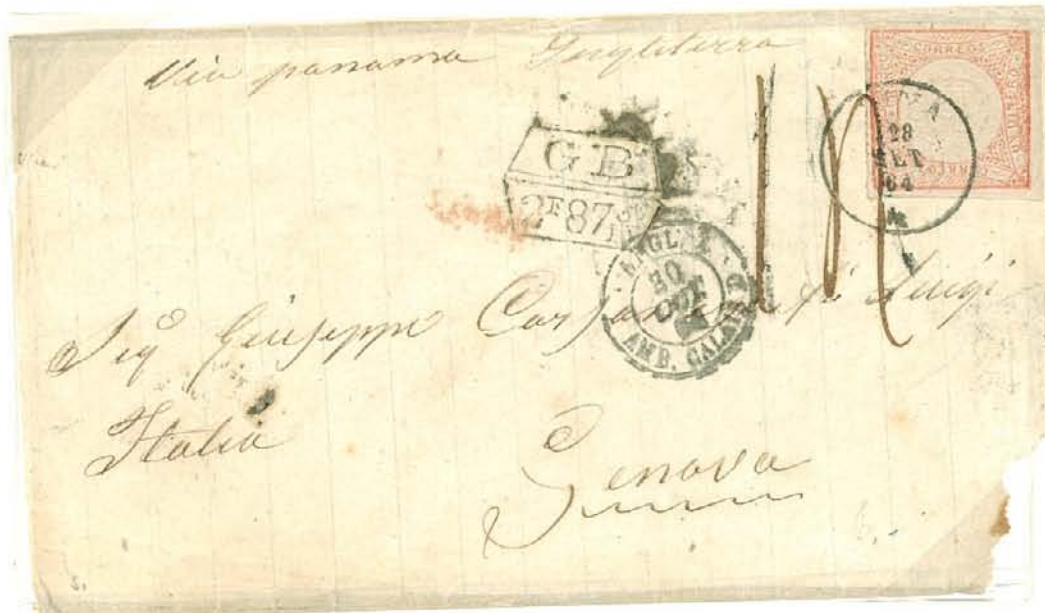


1864

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY
Lima, Peru to Italy via Panama, St. Thomas and Southampton
R. M. S. P. Shannon



5.3092



September 28, 1864. A letter posted at Lima, Peru and paid by the Peru one dinero stamp, Issue of 1862. Letter endorsed: Via Panama (and) Ingleterra. The adhesive paid the letter to the port where it went per the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. to Panama.

London Times, Monday, October 31, 1864:

THE WEST INDIA, PACIFIC AND MEXICAN MAILS

The Royal Mail Company's steamer Shannon, Capt. T.A. Bevis, arrived at Southampton on Friday night with mails of the following dates... Panama Oct. 6; Colon Oct. 6; Lima Sept. 28, St. Thomas Oct. 14...

The Royal Mail steamers Clyde, Conway, Solent, Thames, and Tyne were at St. Thomas. The Derwent at Havannah, the Tamar on the Spanish Main route, the Trent at Barbadoes, and the Wye at Jamaica.

October 29. London transit backstamp., where the accounting mark was struck showing France owed Britain 2 franc 87-5/10 centimes per 30 grams for mail from the South Pacific via Panama, per the Franco-British Agreement of January 1, 1856, Article 36. This was reduced to 1f.90cent. on January 1, 1866.

October 30. French entry mark showing mail from England entering at Calais, i.e., by the Dover to Calais ferry.

November 1. Genoa arrival backstamps. 14 centesimi due. The 14 handstamp, which was indistinct, had been written over for clarity.



1864

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY
R.M.S.P. Shannon, St. Thomas to Southampton



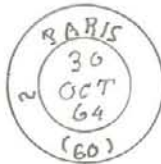
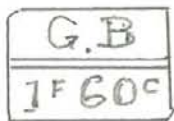
October 13, 1864. An unpaid letter posted at the British Consular Post Office at St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, backstamp. It is addressed to Libourne, Gironde, France, and endorsed: Par "Shannon".

October 14. R.M.S.P. Shannon of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. departed from St. Thomas on her homeward journey.

October 28. Shannon arrived at Southampton. Transit mark at London October 29. At London the letter was stamped with the "tray" mark found in use after January 1, 1857. This mark fell under Article 34 of the Franco-British Convention of 1856 which charged France 1F 60 centimes per 30 grams (bulk) for unpaid letters from British Colonies, the United States and foreign countries by British Packet.

October 30. French entry mark at Calais. Transit at Paris and night train (circular center), Paris to Bordeauz, backstamps.

October 31. Libourne arrival backstamp. 8 decimes due.



8

1864

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Tyne

Liverpool to Kingston, Jamaica via Southampton and St. Thomas
Rates of Jan. 1, 1853 by West India Packet



November 1, 1864. Letter paid at Liverpool. Rate by West India Packet was one shilling per ½-oz., here a letter over ½-oz., but not over 1 oz. at 2 shillings (2/- in red manuscript). Enclosures are noted. It was endorsed: per Mail via Southampton. Transit Nov. 2 at London, the letter was forwarded on to Southampton. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Tyne departed from Southampton Nov. 2nd for St. Thomas with the West India, Mexican and Pacific mails.



November 20. The Colonial Standard and Jamaica Despatch. Arrived Kingston R.M.C. Steamer "Tyne" from St. Thomas. Tyne departed the next day for Colon.

1865

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Jacmel, Haiti to France via St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Tamar, Jacmet to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Seine, St. Thomas to Southampton

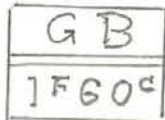


January 24, 1865. An unpaid letter dated at Port au Prince, Haiti. It was sent via the British Consular Post Office at Jacmel, Haiti, who struck their circular date stamp on the reverse on January 26.

Letter was forwarded to England by steamships of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company:

<u>R.M.S.P. Tamar</u> : Jacmel	Jan. 26	<u>R.M.S.P. Seine</u> : St. Thomas	Jan. 29
	St. Thomas 28		Soutjampton Feb. 12.

February 13. London transit backstamp.



February 14. French entry mark at Calais shows ambulant (T.P.O.). Britain debited France for 1 franc 60 centimes per 30 grams (bulk) for unpaid letters conveyed by British Packet to France from South and Central America.

February 14. Paris to Bordeaux transit backstamp. The octagonal center denotes a day train.



February 15. Bordeaux arrival backstamp. Letter rated, effective Jan. 1, 1857, at 8 decimes per 7½ grams x 2 (double letter) = 16 decimes due.



1865

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian, Southampton to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Conway, St. Thomas to Vera Cruz



May 31, 1865. A letter to Vera Cruz endorsed: voie d'Angleterre (via England). It was paid at the rate of March 1862 of 80 centimes to Mexico by French or British Packet by the 80c. Issue of 1862, cancelled by the gros chiffres "532" of Bordeaux.

May 31. Bordeaux to Paris night train (circular center)

June 1. Paris to Calais day train (octagonal center).

June 1. Transit mark at London. Letter was forwarded to Southampton to meet the West Indies Packet.

Steam packets of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. carried this letter:

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian

Southampton June 2
St. Thomas 24

R.M.S.P. Conway*

St. Thomas July 17
Porto Rico 18
Havana 23-24
Vera Cruz 28.

*The station steamers, St. Thomas - Vera Cruz, departed from St. Thomas around the 17th of each month, thus this letter had an 18 day layover.

1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Spain to Mexico via Southampton

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian, Southampton to St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Solent, St. Thomas to Tampico



A April 27, 1866. A letter posted at Madrid, Spain, paid by two copies of the 20 centavos Issue of 1866. It is marked Francia = Paid. Addressed to Puerto de Matamoros, Mexico, it was routed via England and bears the London transit mark of April 30. Mail was forwarded to Southampton for handling by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Vessels and their dates were:

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian

Southampton	May 2
St. Thomas	16

R.M.S.P. Solent

St. Thomas	May 17
Porto Rico	18
Havana	22
Vera Cruz	26
Tampico	28.



May 28. Arrival mark at Tampico. Although "PAID" in Spain, a local Mexican postage of 2 reale was due (FRANCO = NOT PAID).

1865

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Jacmel, Haiti to France via St. Thomas

R.M.S.P. Tamar, Jacmel to St. Thomas

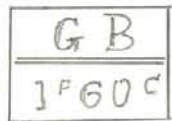
R.M.S.P. Seine, St. Thomas to Southampton



May 23, 1865. An unpaid letter datelined at Port au Prince, Haiti. It was sent via the British Consular Post Office at Jacmel, Haiti where it was backstamped as MAY 27/56 (sic). The year date of "65" was transposed as "56". It was re-stamped on

the sailing date of the Packet on June 10, but the year error was not caught. Transit "Voie Angleterre" indicates by packets of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., as follows:

R.M.S.P. <u>Tamar</u> :	Jacmel	June 10	R.M.S.P. <u>Seine</u> :	St. Thomas	June 13
	St. Thomas	13		Southampton	28.



June 28. London transit backstamp. France was debited 1 franc 60 centimes per 30 grams (bulk) for unpaid letters from South and Central America conveyed to France by British Packet.



June 29. French entry mark ambulant (TPO) at Calais on face and Paris transit backstamp.



June 30. Bordeaux arrival backstamp. Letter rated as an unpaid letter 7½-15 grams at 8 decimes x 2 = 16 decimes, rate effective Jan. 1, 1857.

1866

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Valparaiso to Havre via Panama, St. Thomas and Southampton

R.M.S.P. Tasmanian

DEATH SHIP OF THE R.M.S.P. Co.

→ YELLOW FEVER ON BOARD ←



Nov. 3, 1866.
Unpaid letter bears the British Consular P.O. backstamp at Valparaiso. Mails of this date were conveyed to Panama by a steamer of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. for arrival there on Nov. 23.

Nov. 23. A feeder steamer of the R.M.S.P. Co. carried the western South American and Panama mails to St. Thomas for arrival there Nov. 30.

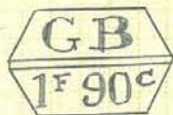


November 30. Royal Mail Steam Packet Tasmanian, Capt. E.M. Leeds, departed from St. Thomas for Southampton. Death was already stalking the decks of the Tasmanian as four victims had fallen to yellow fever before she left St. Thomas.

December 15. Arrival backstamp at London. The Tasmanian arrived in the river at Southampton about 4 P.M. on the 15th and placed in quarantine when she reported fever raging aboard. 71 cases were reported with 21 deaths and seven still sick, 4 expected to succumb. The mails (this letter among them) were fumigated and landed on the docks a little before 6 o'clock. All fever cases save one were among the crew, 64 passengers being spared.

Accountancy mark struck at London per the Franco-British agreement of Jan. 1, 1866, whereby correspondence to or through France from the South Pacific via Panama and handled by the British was subject to payment to Britain of 1F 90centimes per 30 grams

Dec. 15-16. Entry mark aboard the Calais to Paris TPO, arrival backstamp at Le Havre. Letter subject to the unpaid letter rate of 12 decimes (1F 20 cent.), effective date corresponding to the Jan. 1, 1866 agreement with Britain.

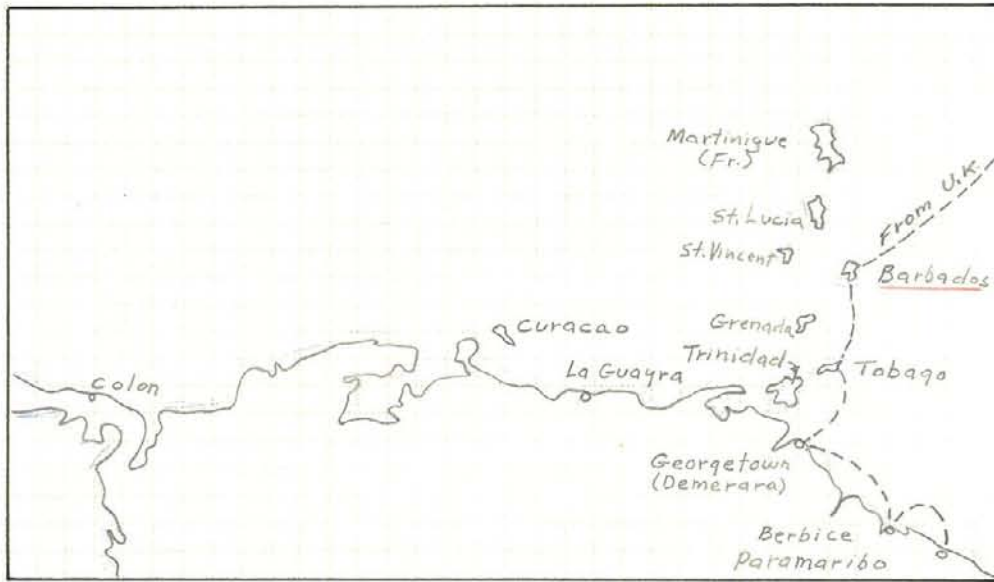


1867

WEST INDIA MAIL PACKET
ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Barbados, Guiana &c. Station Steamers.

Steamers on this station will receive all mails from the West India Mail Packet from the United Kingdom and bound to Tobago, Demerara, Berbice, Surinam and return. 15 days was allowed for the trip, including coaling at Demerara (now Georgetown), British Guiana.



Mar. 1, 1867. Receipt at L'pool. Mails for the West Indies were made up in London on the 2nd and the 17th of each month.



Transit backstamps.

1868

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Tasmania

First direct sailing, Southampton to Colon via St. Thomas

The London Times carried this notice: ROYAL MAIL ROUTE. VIA PANAMA for NORTH and SOUTH PACIFIC, Central America, New Zealand and Australia, Japan and China:- On and after 2d. June the ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY'S ATLANTIC STEAMERS will run through from Southampton to Colon (Aspinwall), by which arrangement passengers for the above localities will be conveyed to the Isthmus of Panama in the vessel in which they embark at Southampton. By steamer from Southampton on 2d and 17th each month (Central & South America).



June 1, 1868. A letter to Paita, Peru endorsed: : p West India mail via Southampton o. It was paid in Liverpool at the 2 shilling rate by British Mail via Southampton or French Packet of January 1868. Rate was paid by the 2/- Issue of 1867, plate 1.

June 2. Transit backstamp at London. The R.M.S. Tasmanian departed from Southampton on the inaugural voyage direct to Colon. Her dates were: St. Thomas, June 15, arrival Colon June 19. Letter went by Panama Railroad transisthmus to Panama.



PAITA

June 20. Transit at the British

Consular Post Office at Panama (City).

Mail was forwarded to the West Coast of South America by a steamer of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. (British).

Paita, Peru arrival backstamp.

1868

WEST INDIA MAIL - PACKET SERVICE

A second route, taking the mails from Barbados, went by way of Tobago, Demerara, Berbice, Surinam, Paramaribo and back by the same route to Barbados, a distance of 1300 miles.



Sept. 1, 1868. Letter to Demerara (now Georgetown), British Guiana. Marked "per R.M. (Royal Mail) steamer via Southampton".

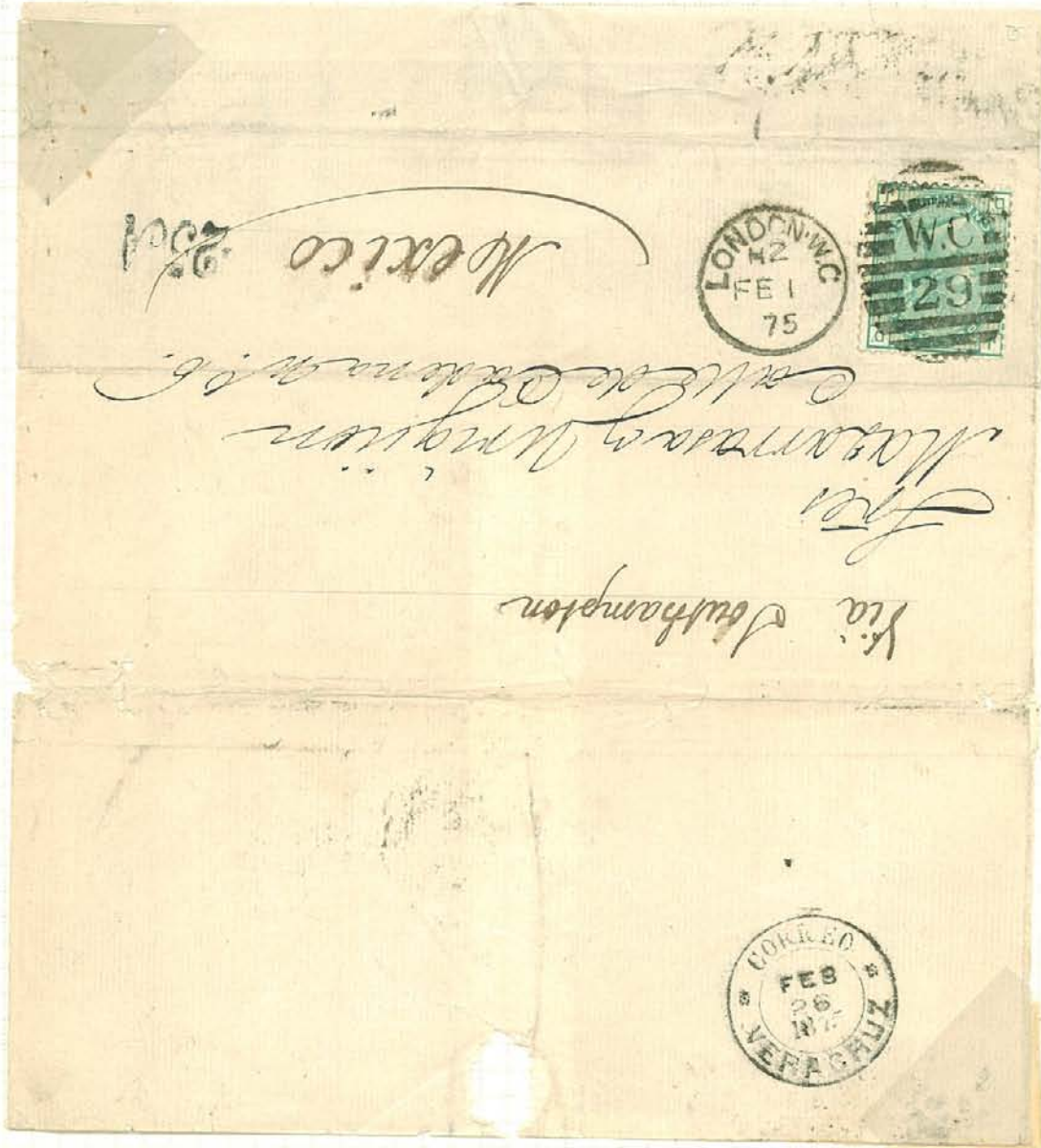
Sept. 2, 1868. London transit.

R.M.S.P. Douro:So'ton	Sep. 2
St. Thomas	15
R.M.S.P. Solent:St. Thomas	17
St. Lucia	19
R.M.S.P. Tamar: St. Lucia	19
Barbadoes	20
Demerara	22.

1875

WEST INDIA MAIL - PACKET SERVICE

An eight route of the British West Indies Mail Company, taking the mails from Havannah, went by way of Vera Cruz, Tampico, New Orleans, and back to Havannah, a distance of 2,355 miles.



Feb. 1, 1875.
London - Mexico
"via Southampton",
i.e. by West India
Mail Packet. 1/-
correct rate for
letter not over
 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.



Feb. 26, 1875. Vera
Cruz transit. 25 centavos
Mexican inland rate due.

1870

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

R.M.S.P. Elbe

March 1, 1870. Letter datelined at Glasgow, Scotland. It refers to shipments of sugar and cotton and enclosed an insurance policy for "£ 2000 of specie, Maracaybo to LaGuayra, & thence by steamer to your port."

Packet rate to Trinidad, effective Jan. 1868 was one shilling per ½-oz. Here enclosures caused letter to be double rated.



March 1, 1870. Letter paid in Glasgow at double the West Indies rate to Trinidad by a pair of the 1/- green, Issue of 1867, plate 4. Transit backstamp at London Mar. 2.

Gore's General Advertiser, Liverpool. March 3. Mails to West Indies and Pacific (except Honduras), Southampton, March 2, RMS Elbe.



March 20. Arrival backstamp at the British Office at Trinidad.

<u>Elbe</u> : So'ton	Mar. 2	<u>Mersey</u> : St. Thomas	Mar. 16	<u>Eider</u> St. Lucia	19
St. Thomas	15	St. Lucia	19	Trinidad, Mr.	22

(sic)

1870

ROYAL WEST INDIA MAIL PACKET COMPANY

JAMAICA DISTRICT: Starting from
Turk's Islands, Great Key.

FORWARDING AGENT
HERBERT & YATES
LIVERPOOL

The steamer on this station will carry forward from
Turk's Islands all the outward mails from Europe, North
America, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Eastern West Indies
for Hayti, Jamaica, Central America, Chagre, and Panama,
and bring back the return mails from these places.....



June 16, 1870. Letter
posted prepaid, 1/- West
India Mail Packet rate
for Jacmel, Hayti.

Forwarding
Agent's cachet,
Liverpool.

June 17, 1870.
London transit. West
India Mails were made
up in London on the
17th of each month.

<u>R.M.S.P. Seine:</u>	Southampton	Jun. 17, 1870
	St. Thomas	Jul. 2
	Jacmel, Hayti	4.

1870

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY

Chile to Rome via Panama and Southampton. French Transit
R.M.S.P. Seine



July 2, 1870. A letter paid by a strip of 5¢ of the Chile Issue of 1867, which covered inland postage only. Posted at Santiago, the letter went to Santiago's port city of Valparaiso where mail was forwarded on to Callao, Peru by the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. where the letter was backstamped by the British Consular Post Office in transit. Pacific S.N. Co. delivered the mails on to Panama for trans-Isthmus dates of July 21 at Colon.

July 29. Feeder steamers delivered the mails to St. Thomas for the departure of the Seine that date for Southampton.



London TIMES, Monday Aug. 15. Royal Mail Company's Steamship Seine, Capt. J.T. Moiran has arrived. The Seine left St. Thomas on the 29th ult. and experienced fine weather and light winds during the voyage. Her dates of mail were:- Greytown (Mosquito), July 16; Panama and Colon, 21; Kingston (Jamaica), 25; Georgetown (Demerara) and Port of Spain (Trinidad), 24; Bridgetown (Barbados), 26; St. Kitts, 27; Valparaiso (Chili), 2; and St. Thomas, 29.



August 13. Transit backstamp at London, same day entry into France recorded aboard the Calais to Paris T.P.O. British struck the Exchange mark showing France owed Britain 1 Franc 90 cent per 30 grams to or in transit through France by British Packet, South Pacific via Panama agreement of Jan. 1, 1866.



Aug. 17. Rome arrival backstamp. Recipient paid 4 lira 5 centesimi (then equivalent to about 85¢ U.S.)