

1829-30

SHIP LETTERS

LIMA, PERU TO U. S. VIA RIO DE JANEIRO AND NORFOLK, VA.

Brig Edwin, Rio to Norfolk

Forwarding Agent

Birckhead & Co., Rio de Janeiro



July 3, 1829. A business letter written at Lima, Peru, the original of which was per the Eliza for Baltimore. This duplicate letter was sent forward to the U.S. via Cape Horn by an undisclosed vessel. That vessel arrived at Rio de Janeiro where this letter was handed to the agent Birckhead & Co. for forwarding. Their handstamp is noted (Rowe) in use in 1847. Here is their manuscript forwarders' mark used in 1829, on reverse, viz.:

SHIP

Recd. & forwarded by your Obt. Servts.  
Rio 7 Dec. 1829 Birckhead & Co.

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y., Feb. 3, 1830. Arr. Norfolk  
Jan. 27, Brig Edwin, Hipkins.....Rio de Janeiro.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, over 400 miles at 25¢ x 4 (numerous enclosures are noted) = \$1.00 + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = \$1.02.

33mm. circle, VA, K and A raised, diamond at base, serif letters red. 22 x 3.5mm. SHIP.



1835

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO NEW YORK VIA NORFOLK, VA.

U. S. Revenue Cutter Taney

February 14, 1835. A letter datelined at Havana from Charles Drake & Co. acknowledging and order for sugar.

The cover is endorsed on the face: pr. U.S.R.S. (per United States Revenue Ship.)



SHIP

31mm. circle, serif letters, red Va. 22.5 x 4mm. SHIP.

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List, March 13, 1835. Arrived at Norfolk, Va., March 11. U.S. Rev. Cutter Taney from Havana.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, over 400 miles, Norfolk to New York, - at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due, shown in manuscript.

It is very unusual to see a Ship Letter endorsed to a government vessel.



1836

SHIP LETTERS

PUERTO RICO TO NEW HAMPSHIRE VIA BERMUDA & NORFOLK

Brig Standard, Capt. Burrows

January 17, 1836. A chatty letter describing conditions at Guayama, South Side Puerto Rico. Interesting comments on the Spanish language and customs.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived Norfolk February 4, 1836, Brig Standard, Burrows, Kingston, Jamaica via Bermuda.

The Standard sailed from Jamaica to Puerto Rico, then up to Bermuda and across to Norfolk.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter over 400 miles, Norfolk to Concord, New Hampshire, at 25¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter = 27¢ due.



1837

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BOSTON VIA NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

French brig Zotoffi

August 9, 1837. A letter dated at Havana to Augustine Heard, a prominent ship captain at Boston. It deals with the philosophies of life and also requests a dozen pairs of horse shoes because blacksmiths in Cuba cannot fit a horse properly.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived Norfolk August 31 (sic)....Fr. brig Zotoffi, Keber...Havana.

Letter had been sent ashore while the vessel was in quarantine, hence it received a Norfolk datestamp four days before the vessel actually docked at Norfolk.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter over 400 miles, Norfolk to Boston at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due.

30mm. NORFOLK Va circle with "a" high, red, 1832-40. 23 x 3mm. SHIP.



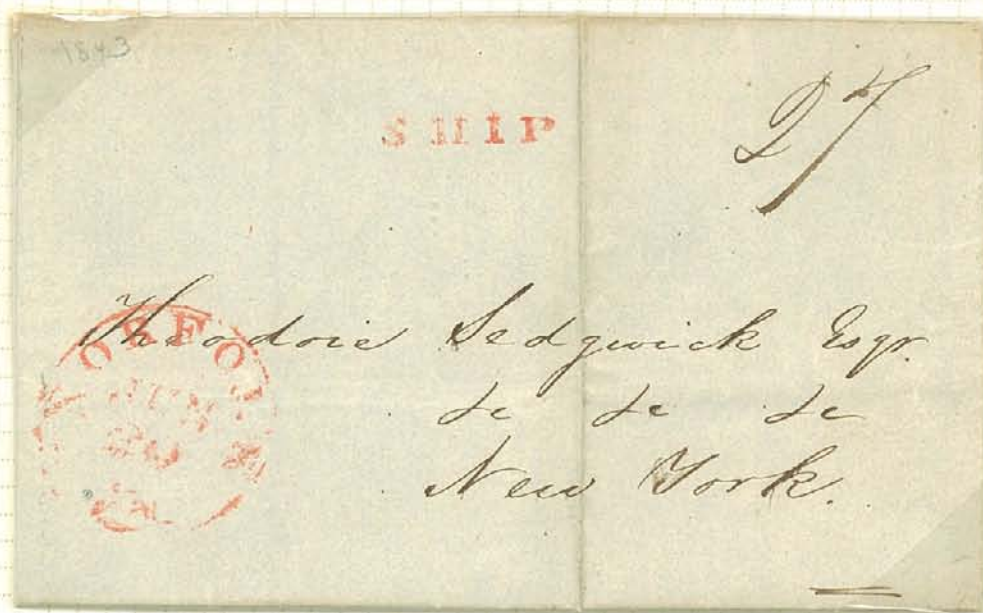
1843

SHIP LETTERS

Nassau to New York via Norfolk, Va

NORFOLK, Va - SHIP

June 3, 1843. Letter datelined at Nassau and concerns a marine insurance claim, ".....in the case of Brett & Rose vs. Mutual Insurance Company.....The plaintiffs having failed to prove positively that the "Forrester" was sound at the time of survey — I opine this suit must be in favor of your clients."



SHIP

*[Handwritten flourish]*

June 20, 1843. Letter received at Norfolk as a Ship Letter and rated by Act of 1825 rates at 25¢ for a single letter going over 400 miles (Norfolk to New York) + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due.

Shipping & Commercial List (N.Y.) lists the June 20, 1843 arrival date of the Schooner Ajax, Capt. Stoddard, at Norfolk from Eleuthera. Only listing of any vessel from the Bahamas, this cover was thus carried aboard the Ajax.

1851

SHIP LETTERS

MAYAGUEZ, PORTO RICO TO NEW HAVEN VIA NORFOLK, Va

Schooner George Engs, Capt. Dorr

February 22, 1851. A letter dated at Mayaguez, Porto Rico and endorsed: per schooner/ George Engs.

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List, March 15, 1851. Arrived at Hampton Roads, Va., Schr. Geo. Engs, Dorr, Mayaguez for Richmond.



SHIP

34mm. circle, serif letters, Va, red. 22.5 x 3½mm. SHIP.

March 11, 1851. The George Engs' mails were handed to the postmaster at Norfolk. Letter rated, Act of 1845, single letter over 300 miles at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due. The Act of March 3, 1851, rates had been passed, but were not effective until June 30, so the old rates still prevailed.



1844

SHIP LETTERS

MATANZAS, CUBA TO PORTLAND, MAINE VIA SAVANNAH

Schooner Ann A. Parker

January 17, 1844. A long letter datelined at Matanzas, Cuba. Capt. Sweetster is attempting to get a cargo of molasses for Portland.



SHIP

Shipping and Commercial List, New York. Arrived at Savannah, February 4, Schr. Ann A. Parker, Brightman..  
.....Matanzas.

28 x 5mm. slanted letter SHIP mark at Savannah.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter over 400 miles, Savannah to Portland, at 25¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due.

1847-48

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO THOMASTON, MAINE VIA SAVANNAH

Schooner Niagara, Capt. Spalding

December 27, 1847. Henry Wm. Miller writes to his wife in Maine from Havana and estimates his ship will not leave Havana until February. He notes that, "Capt. Spalding carries thiss [sic] letter to new york." However, Spalding put into Savannah.



SHIP



Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y., Jan. 19, 1848. Arrived at Savannah Jan. 9, Schr. Niagara, Spalding.....Havana.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, not over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., over 300 miles at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due, shown by the red double circle "12". Slanted letter 28 x 5 mm. SHIP. ASCC lists this 1837-46, here extended to 1848.



1854

SHIP LETTERS

MATANZAS, CUBA TO CHARLESTOWN, MASS. VIA SAVANNAH

Brig R.B. Lawton, Capt. Gardner



January 8, 1854. This letter bears an illegible year date, but content refers to a mention of James Adams running for mayor of Charlestown, and that the writer would certainly vote for him. Reference to the biography of James Adams reveals he was mayor in 1854, and the City Advertiser (Charlestown) of Dec. 14, 1853 notes his election for the coming year. Letter thus dates 1854.



SHIP



N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived Savannah January 15 (sic), Brig R.B. Lawton, Gardner, Matanzas.

The 27 x 5 mm. red SHIP with slanted letters is noted by ASCC used 1837-46. Here extended to 1854.

Rate Act of 1851, not prepaid, not over 3000 miles 5¢ x 2 (double letter) = 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due.

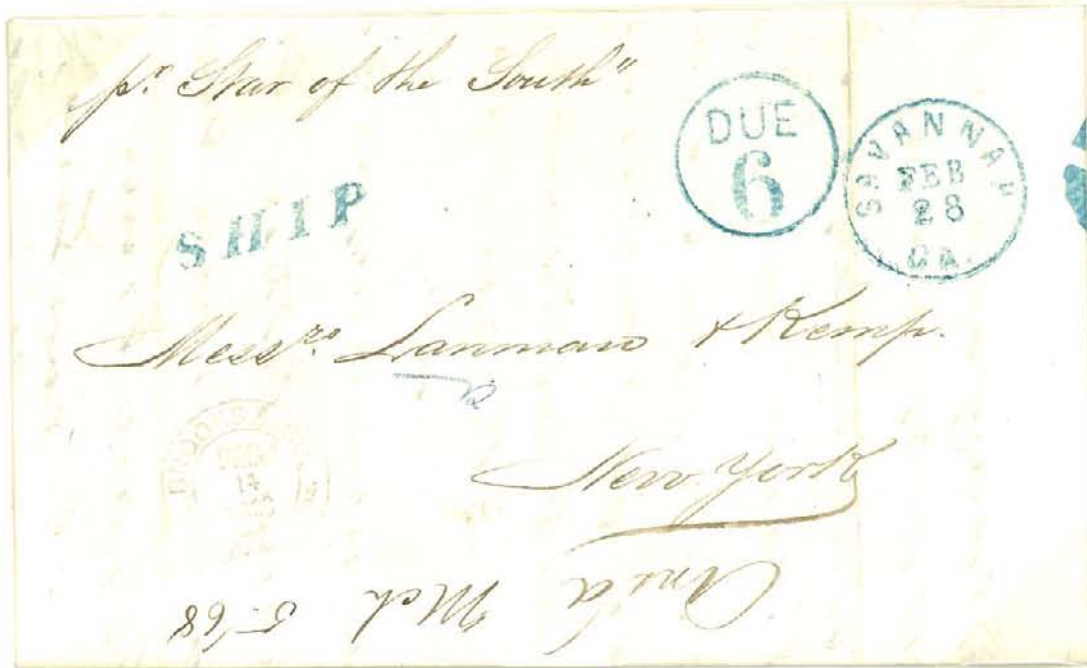


1868

SHIP LETTERS

ST. JAGO DE CUBA TO NEW YORK VIA SAVANNAH

S.S. Star of the South



February 15, 1868. Letter dated at St. Jago de Cuba and endorsed: pr. "Star of the South".

SHIP



The Daily News and Herald, Savannah, Georgia, Feb. 29, 1868: Shipping Intelligence, PORT OF SAVANNAH. Arrived yesterday, below, Star of the South, \_\_\_, St. Jago de Cuba, for New York with a cargo of sugar; put in for coal. She will be supplied and proceed on her voyage.

PORT OF SAVANNAH. Monday, March 2. Sailed yesterday, Steamship Star of the South, for New York via Savannah, having put in for supplies.

The mails of the Star of the South went ashore at Savannah and went north by rail.

THE MAILS BY CENTRAL RAILROAD, through pouches for New York, Philadelphia, Washington, Augusta, Charleston, Columbus and Macon at 5 P.M.

Letter rated as a Ship Letter at double the domestic rate. Here Act of March 1863 rate of 3¢ any distance x 2 = 6¢ Ship Letter rate.

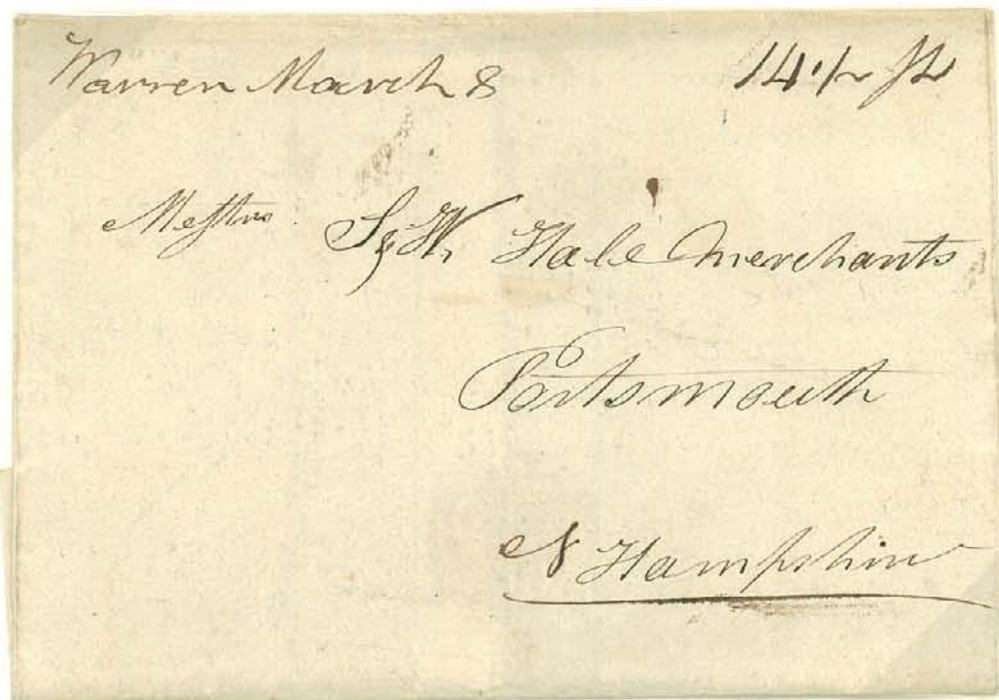


PORTSMOUTH  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

1802

SHIP LETTER

Warren, R. I. to Portsmouth.



January 28, 1802. Docket notes letter from sea captain, origin not indicated.

March 8, 1802. Letter arriving by ship was handed over to the postmaster at Warren, Rhode Island.

It was rated Act of March 2, 1799, as a single letter 90 to 150 miles, Warren to Portsmouth, N.H., at  $12\frac{1}{2}\phi$  plus  $2\phi$  Ship Letter charge. Postmaster noted "Sh" to explain the additional charge.



1836

SHIP LETTERS

Savannah to Providence via New Port

Brig Romulus

January 30, 1836. Letter, datelined at Savannah, concerns shipments of cotton via Messrs. Borden & Bowen, agents of the Blackstone Manufacturing Co., Providence.



SHIP

February 11, 1836. The Brig Romulus, Capt. Maurau, from Savannah, evidently docked at New Port, Rhode Island on Feb. 11 to discharge her cargo and put her mails ashore. Letter was rated collect at the Act of 1825 rates of 6¢ for a letter going not over 60 miles plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 8¢, shown in manuscript.

February 22. The N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List notes the arrival of the Romulus from Savannah at Providence this date.

Romulus, brig, 308 tons, built 1823 at Falmouth, Maine.



1837

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO SALEM VIA NEWPORT, R. I.

Schooner Commerce, Capt. Messer

March 27, 1837. Letter datelined at Havana and discusses cargoes and prices. It also bears an indication of how the Panic of 1837 was effecting the money markets in Cuba, "Bills on the United States 6% discount normally, none wanted. I think your letter of credit to me will be entirely useless. There appears to be no confidence in the Americans."



SHIP

Providence Journal. April 13, 1837. Arrived Newport, 10th, Schr. Commerce, Messer, Havana.

April 11. Letter processed at the Newport post office where the 30 mm. red corcle and the 27.5 x 7.5 mm. SHIP marks were struck. This SHIP mark also appears in black in 1826.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single, 80 to 150 miles, at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢. It went from Newport to David Pingree at Salem, Mass.



1821

SHIP LETTERS

AMSTERDAM TO PROVIDENCE VIA PLYMOUTH, MASS.

Schooner Aurora, Capt. Warren

March 10, 1821. Price current of Gebhard & Co. datelined at Amsterdam. Letter endorsed: p Aurora/via Boston,



SHIP

May 9, 1821. Aurora arrived at Plymouth where her mails went ashore. Ship Letter processed there, letter rated, Act of 1816, single letter 30 to 80 miles 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 12¢ due. Note month date in unusual arces format.

Boston Daily Advertiser, May 10, 1821. Arrived Boston: The schooner Aurora, Warren, 55 days from Amsterdam, via Plymouth. Left no American vessels. At New Diep, 14th March, ship Clarissa, King for Cowes, 3 days. Spoke 1st inst. lat. 42½ lon 56, Brig Hesper, Cushing, 7 days from Boston for Copenhagen.



1841

SHIP LETTERS

MATANZAS, CUBA TO BOSTON VIA PLYMOUTH, MASS.

Brig Essex (of Portland)

June 4, 1841. Letter datelined at Matanzas and the captain describes to his owners, Messrs. Magoun & Son, Boston, his taking on a cargo of sugar at Matanzas. He also refers to damage to the ship's rudder which he was able to repair. He had received the owners' duplicate letter by ship Slocum, but not the original. A pencil note on the outside says, "Yours by the Talma has just come to hand enclosing letter of Cr."

June 5. The brig Essex sailed from Matanzas with this letter as endorsed: p. Brig Essex.



June 21. The Essex touched at Plymouth en route to Boston and her mails handed to the postmaster at Plymouth. The letter had been noted "two sheets", so the Plymouth post office rated it, Act of 1825, as a double letter conveyed 30 to 80 miles, Plymouth to Boston, at 10¢ x 2 = 20¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 22¢. They also made the "Ship" notation at lower left in the curious vertical position, such notations usually preceding the Ship Letter rate.

Boston Courier. PORT OF BOSTON

THURSDAY, June 24

Arrived. Brig Essex, (of Portland,) York, Matanzas, 5th inst.



1807

SHIP LETTERS

PORTLAND, MAINE

Ship Eliza

Liverpool to Portsmouth, N.H. via Portland



Portland, Maine Eastern Argus, June 4, 1807. Arrived Wed. June 3, ship Eliza, Capt. Salter, 43 days from Liverpool, with salt to Jos. M'Lellan & Son.

Letter was struck with the unusual Portland date stamp with the day date in brackets. This postmark is found from 1800 to 1809. Late in 1809 the mark appears without the brackets.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, zone rate 40 to 90 miles, Portland to Portsmouth, N.H., at 10¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 12¢ due.



1846

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BATH, MAINE VIA PORTLAND

Brig Gazelle, Capt. Churchill

April 13, 1846. Letter from ship captain John Lowell and his wife Celana at Havana to his sister at Bath, Maine. Capt. Lowell gives a rather mundane description of his sojourn at Havana, but his wife goes into good detail of scenes about Havana regarding the presence of the military, the promenade about the Governor's Square and negroes dancing the fandango.

Capt, Lowell endorsed the letter: Per Gazelle.



SHIP



Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at Portland, Maine May 1, 1846: Brig Gazelle, Churchill.....Havana.

Letter rated, Act of 1845, as a single letter not over 300 miles, Portland to Bath, at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due, shown in manuscript.

N.B.: The conveying vessel was the brig Gazelle, 145 tons, built 1837 at Camden, Maine, registered Dec. 12, 1843 at the Port of New York.



1853

SHIP LETTERS

PORTLAND, MAINE

Brig Mechanic, Harpswell. Me

Matanzas, Cuba to Portland via Holmes Hole, Martha's Vineyard

April 27, 1853. Letter datelined at Matanzas, consignee is shipping Messrs. Th<sup>o</sup> Warren & W.W. Woodbury of Portland 366 hogsheads of molassas by the bark (sic) Mechanic. The Mechanic sailed this date from Matanzas, Cuba.

May 12. Eastern Argus, Portland. SPOKEN May 1 lat 27 10 lon 79 20 Brig Mechanic, of Harpswell from Matanzas for Portland. These coordinates put the Mechanic well off the coast east of Ft. Pierce, Florida.



The Eastern Argus, Portland, Monday, May 16, 1853. Arrived Saturday, May 14. Brig Mechanic, Merryman, Matanzas, 27th ult., via Holmes Hole.

23 x 4.5 mm. SHIP mark in blue of Portland. 6¢ is the rate for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry of the conveying vessel.



1853

SHIP LETTERS

ST. JOHN, N.B. TO PORTLAND, MAINE

Steamship Eastern City

A steamboat letter carrier system had been inaugurated on the Boston-Portland-Eastport steamer route in September 1845. On July 23, 1853, this was extended to mails carried from St. John and Boston, Portland and Eastport by the steamer Eastern City. The rates to apply were 6d. currency or 10¢ the half-ounce to the U.S.

This letter was carried aboard one of the last voyages of the Eastern City prior to the mail contract. As such, letters aboard her inbound to the U.S. were treated as Ship Letters. This letter is datelined at St. John, N.B. on June 6, 1853.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping List and Price Current. Arrived at Portland, Maine, June 8: Steamer Eastern City, Winchester.....St. John, N.B.

Letter rated, Act of 1851, unpaid letter 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due, shown in manuscript.



1852

SHIP LETTERS

St. Stephen, N. B. to New York via Eastport, Maine  
Ship Rio Grande

August 30, 1852. A letter to New York dated at St. John, N.B. It concerns the booking of passengers for the ship Ocean Eagle, presumably to Britain. Letter was handled ex-post office to St. Stephen, N.B. where it was handed to the captain of the ship Rio Grande.



SHIP 7

Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at Eastport August 30: Ship Rio Grande, Ryan...St. Stephen for Liverpool.

Letter rated, Act of 1851, letter not over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., not over 3000 miles, unpaid at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

EASTPORT circle 33.5 mm., "Me" on same level. SHIP 22 x 3 mm.



1853

SHIP LETTERS

St. Stephen, N.B. to New York via Eastport, Maine

Ship Lalia

June 20, 1853. Letter to New York datelined at Saint John, N.B. It went out of the mail to St. Stephen, N.B. where it was handed to the captain of the ship Lalia, headed for Eastport, Maine.



SHIP

Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at Eastport June 21:  
Ship Lalia, Rookh, St. Stephen for Liverpool.

Letter was rated, Act of 1851, letter not over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., not exceeding 3000 miles at 5¢ unpaid + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

EASTPORT circle 29.5 mm., "Me" with "e" raised. SHIP 22 x 3 mm.



1825

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO PROVIDENCE VIA BATH, MAINE

Ship Grand Turk

July 27, 1825. A commercial letter headed at Liverpool from Rathbone Brothers & Co. regarding cotton prices, which have been held down by the advertisement of nearly 10,000 bags of cotton for public auction. Some forced sales were noted: very good New Orleans at 13d., fair upland Alabama at 11d. & Egyptian at 12d. p. 1b.

Letter is endorsed p. Grand Turk both in the body and on the face.



September 10. The ship Grand Turk arrived at Bath. A docket by Brown & Ives in Providence notes receipt on September 12.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter 150 to 400 miles at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.

N.Y. Shipping List and Price Current has an error listing this arrival; issue of Sept. 24, 1825: Arrived at Bath, Maine, Ship Grand Turk, Higgins on Sept. 14 (sic) from Liverpool.



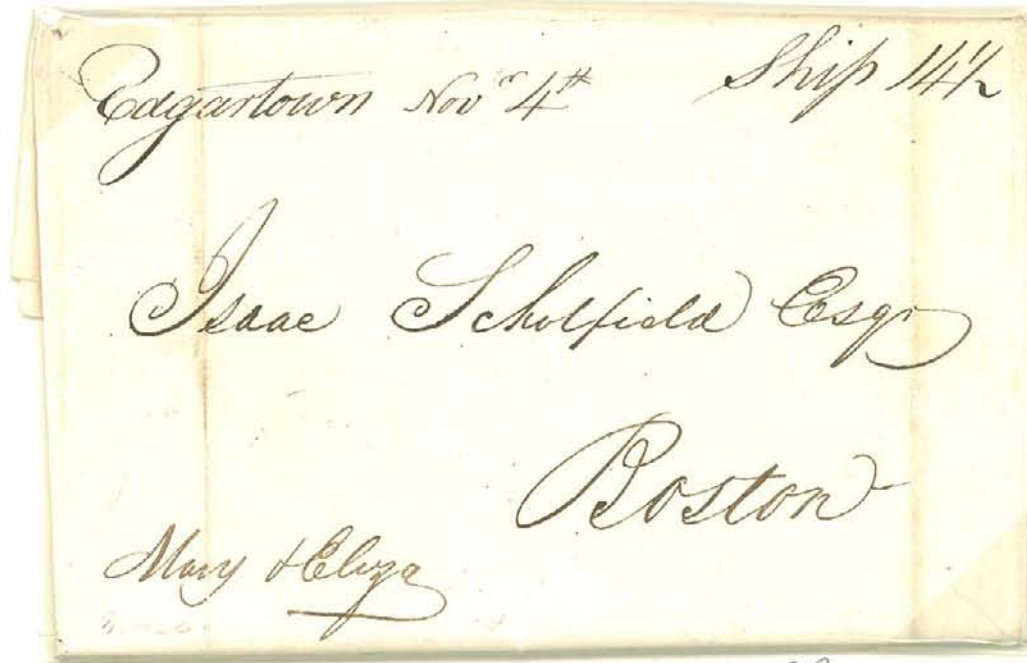
1822

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BOSTON VIA EDGARTOWN, MASS.

Brig Mary & Eliza

October 17, 1822. Letter datelined at Havana and endorsed: Mary & Eliza. It concerns a new deposit system at Havana whereby dry goods can be placed in public warehouses subject only to the expenses of storage, etc., estimated at 2% for up to 12 months. This allows them the advantage of a fair trial in the market and are not subject to duty.



Edgartown Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Ship 14 1/2  
Isaac Scholfield Esq  
Boston  
Mary & Eliza

Edgartown Nov 4<sup>th</sup> Ship 14 1/2

November 4, 1822. The brig Mary & Eliza touched at Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard on her passage to Boston. Her mails went ashore at Edgartown where the letter was rated, Act of 1816, single letter conveyed 80 to 150 miles at 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due.

Boston Patriot & Daily Mercantile Advertiser, Tuesday, Nov. 5. The Cuba, in quarantine, left at Havana brigs Mary & Eliza for Boston; James & Isabella, Amedy for Boston...

PORT OF BOSTON, November 6. ARRIVED. Brig Mary & Eliza, Bishop, 16 days from Havana.



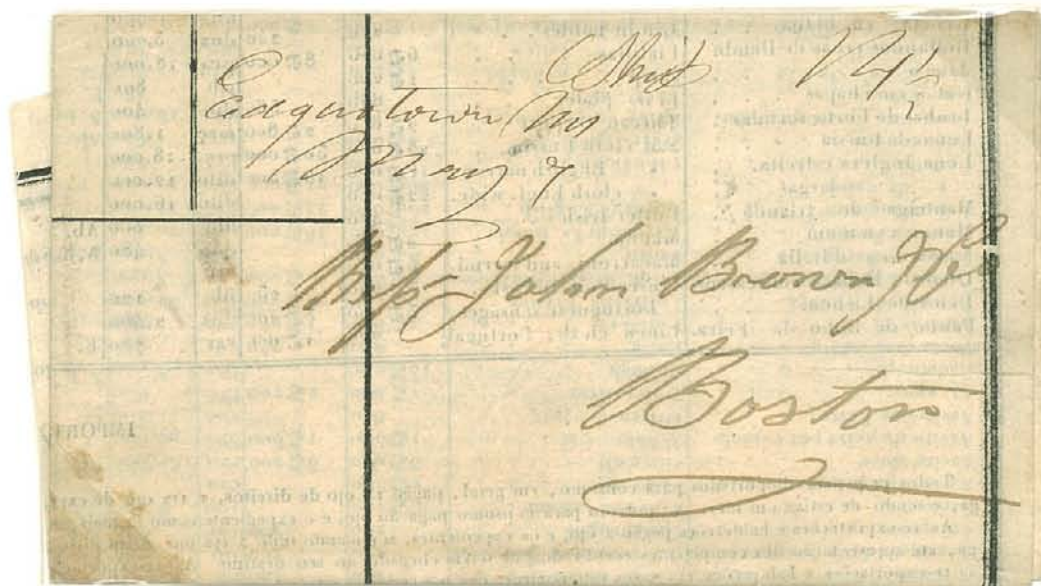
1839

SHIP LETTERS

BAHIA TO BOSTON VIA EDGARTOWN, MASS.

Ship Constitution

February 20, 1839. A printed price current and shipping list prepared at Bahia, Brazil. The U.S. whaling ship Constitution, en route home from whaling in the South Pacific, touched at Bahia where this letter went aboard.



Edgartown Mass Ship 14 1/2  
May 7

Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived at Edgartown May 7: Ship Constitution, Jay...Pacific Ocean.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, 80 to 150 miles at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due.

N.B.: The Newport, R.I. whaler Constitution had departed October 15, 1836 for the South Pacific. She arrived back at Edgartown on May 6, 1839, with 800 bbls. sperm oil and 1,000 bbls. whale oil. (Cf. Starbuck.)

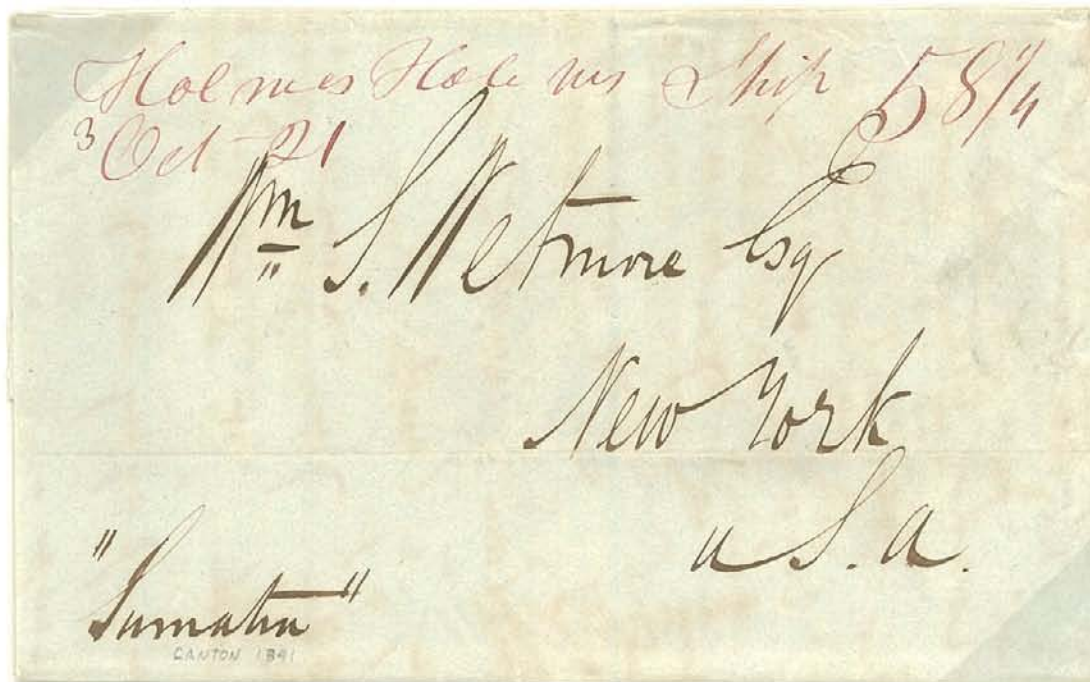


1841

SHIP LETTERS

CANTON, CHINA TO NEW YORK VIA HOLMES HOLE, MASS.

Ship Sumatra, Capt. Silver



May 6, 1841. Letter docketed as from Canton, China. It is endorsed "Sumatra", indicating transport to the U.S. on the ship Sumatra.

*Holmes Hole via Ship 58 1/4*  
*3 Oct - 21*

N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived at Holmes Hole, Oct. 19, Ship Sumatra, Silver.....Canton.

DISASTERS, &c. Ship Sumatra, Silver, at Holmes Hole, from Canton for Salem, when off Cape Good Hope 9th Aug. was struck with a sea, by which lost bulwarks, &c.; 3 or 4th inst. lost quarter boat, davits, &c.

October 24. Sumatra arrived at Salem.

The mails from the Sumatra went ashore at Holmes Hole where the manuscript postmark was written. This letter was rated, Act of 1825, for a letter 150-400 miles at 18-3/4¢ x 3 (treble letter) = 56 1/2¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 58 1/2¢ due.



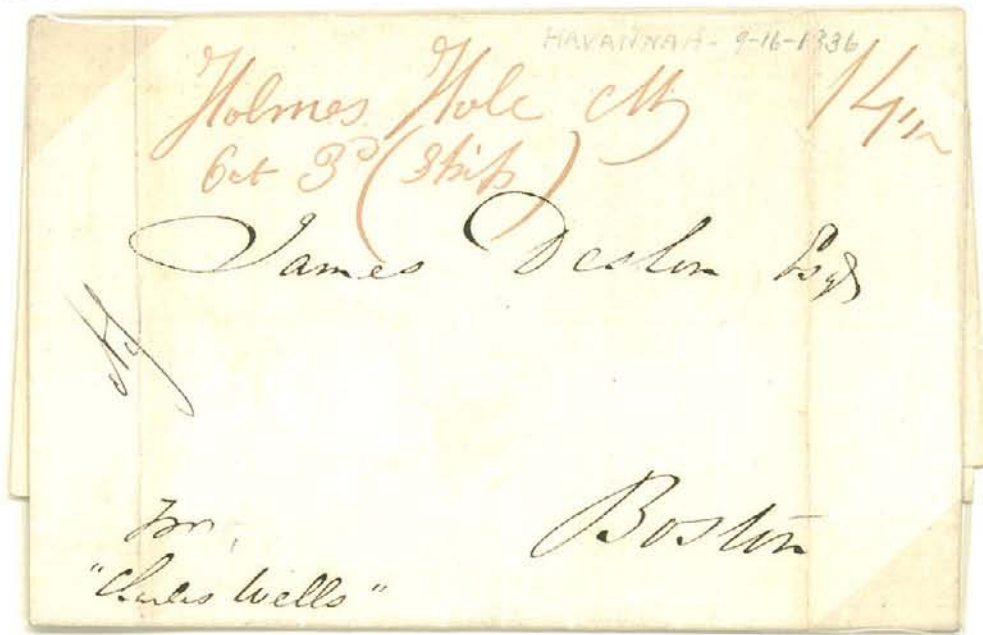
1836

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BOSTON VIA HOLMES HOLE, MASS.

Brig Charles Wells

September 16, 1836. Prices current from Ferdinand Clark & Co., Havana. Cover is endorsed: Pr "Charles Wells".



Holmes Hole City 14 1/2  
Oct 3<sup>d</sup> (Ship)

Boston Courier, Thursday, Oct. 6, 1836. Ar. at Holmes Hole, 3d., Brigs Charles Wells, Parker and Everline, Jackson, Havana for Boston.

The brig Charles Wells touched at Holmes Hole en route to Boston and, as required, put her mails ashore at Holmes Hole.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter 80 to 150 miles, Holmes Hole to Boston, at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in manuscript.



1838

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BOSTON VIA HOLMES HOLE

Brig Caroline

November 23, 1838. Letter dated and headed at Havana. It concerns a package of minerals (copper ore) the writer, Chas. Tyng, is sending to Boston for Peter Wainwright's examination. Tyne notes that, "... clear metal is good to 3/5th in weight to the ore as it is taken from the mine." He further notes that the package will be in the hands of Capt. Edmonds of the Caroline. Letter is endorsed: Brig Caroline.



Holmes Hole les  
see 15th

December 15. The brig Caroline arrived at Holmes Hole, Mass. where she went in quarantine and put her mails ashore where this letter was rated, Act of 1825, single letter conveyed 80 to 150 miles, Holmes Hole to Boston, at  $12\frac{1}{2}\phi + 2\phi$  Ship Letter charge =  $14\frac{1}{2}\phi$  due, shown in manuscript.

Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at Boston December 17:  
Brig Caroline, Edmonds....Havana.



1847

SHIP LETTERS

HAVANA TO BOSTON VIA HOLMES HOLE, MASS.

Schooner Montreal

July 12, 1847. Prices current from J.C. Burnham & Co. dated Havana, 8th July 1847, and cover letter dated 12th July. Letter is headed: Montreal, and cover endorsed: Montreal.

July 14. The schooner Montreal sailed from Havana.



Ship

July 29. The schooner Montreal touched at Holmes Hole en route to Boston. Her letters went ashore at Holmes Hole, and this letter rated, Act of 1845, as a letter not over ½-oz., under 300 miles at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢.

Boston Courier, Saturday July 31. PORT OF BOSTON -  
ARRIVED Friday July 30. Sch. Montreal, (of  
Portland,) Rogers, Havana 14th inst., via Vineyard.

1849

SHIP LETTERS

Trinidad de Cuba to Cambridge Port via Holmes Hole  
Barque Franklin, Capt. Gibbs



January 26, 1849. Letter docketed as being from Trinidad de Cuba. It was endorsed: Pr Franklin.



March 12. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived Holmes's Hole, March 9, Barque Franklin, Gibbs, Trinidad for Boston.

Letter went ashore at Holmes' Hole (now known as Vineyard Haven on Martha's Vineyard) where it was processed as a Ship Letter on the 12th. Rated Act of March 3, 1845, for a letter not over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. going not over 300 miles, Holmes' Hole to Cambridge Port at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ as shown in manuscript. It was marked "Ship" to indicate the reason for the extra 2¢.

March 14. Arrived Boston, Barque Franklin, Gibbs, Trinidad.



1849-50

SHIP LETTERS

SOUTH ATLANTIC TO U.S. VIA HOLMES HOLE, MASS.

Brig Sarah Abigail at sea to San Francisco

Barque Malta, Pacific Ocean to Holmes Hole

November 3, 1849. The brig Sarah Abigail cleared Boston. N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List: Brig Sarah Abigail (late of Boston), Bartlett, of and for Plymouth and California.

November 5. At Plymouth brig Sarah Abigail, Boston, to finish loading for California.

November 15. Sailed from Plymouth for California.

December 6, 1849. Letter headed "At Sea Lat. 31, Lon. 39" aboard the brig Sarah Abigail, which puts her off the east coast of South America. The writer, William Bartlett, tells of his trip so far to the gold fields of California and describes conditions on the ship as well as the food.

December 25. A further note from Bartlett. He says they are becalmed and is to send this letter by a Providence schooner, bound to "St. Catharine" (Island Santa Catherina on the coast of Brazil.) Here the schooner turned the letter over to the whaling barque Malta, en route home to Holmes Hole after a hunt of over two years.



April 8, 1850. Arrived at Holmes Hole, Barque Malta, Cromwell...Pacific Ocean.

Malta, a 150 ton barque, had left Holmes Hole, her home port, (Thomas Barrows, owner) on September 2, 1847, returned April 8, 1850, with 60 barrels sperm oil, 3000 bbls. whale oil and 30,000 lb. whale bone.

April 10. Letter processed at Holmes Hole. It was rated, Act of 1845, single letter not over 300 miles at 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due, shown in manuscript as "Ship 7".