

C. British Isles  
1. England

Pre-Treaty Rate

During the period there were three ways  
to despatch letters to Europe

- a) The majority were sent by ocean ships having mail contracts with the U. S. or British governments.
- b) A few were carried on non-contract vessels and entered the mails as ship letters.
- c) Some were carried privately and entered the mails at domestic rates upon arrival.

Two domestic rate periods existed  
for letters to the British Isles

- a) From July 1, 1847 to February 20, 1849: 5¢ < 300 miles and 10¢ > 300 miles.
- b) From February 21, 1849 to June 30, 1851: 5¢ "to the port" charge no matter the distance.

*Earliest possible transatlantic usage of the 1847 issue  
The only recorded example of the 10¢ used on this voyage  
The earliest known use of a 10¢ 1847 issue to a foreign destination*

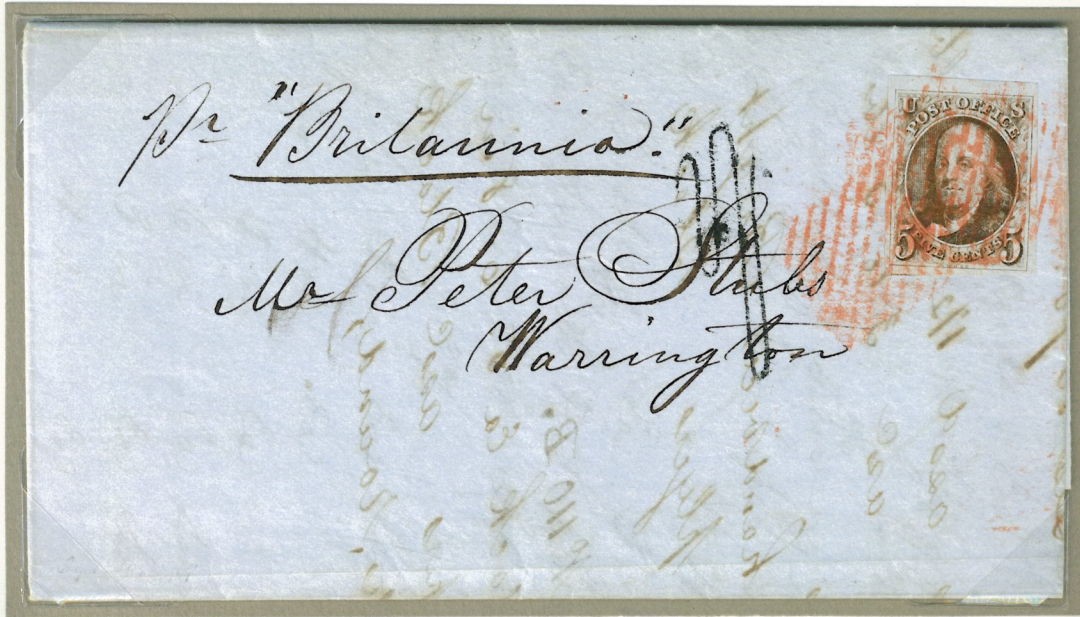


JY 14, 1847 to London, England (July 29).  
10¢ single rate for a distance > 300 miles. 1/- due mark for British Ocean and domestic rate.

First crossing of the bimonthly Cunard sailings after the issue of the 1847 stamps. The *Caledonia* left Boston, MA on July 16 and arrived at Liverpool, England on July 28. The manuscript endorsement "Rec<sup>d</sup> July 27, 1847" is in error.

C. British Isles  
1. England - 2. Scotland

Pre-Treaty Rate



SE 30, 1847 to Warrington, England (October 16). e

Carried on the Cunard Line's *Britannia* which sailed from Boston October 1 and arrived at Liverpool, October 16.  
5¢ US domestic rate. British Ocean and domestic rate of 1/- collected from the addressee.



JA 25, 1848 to Greenock, Scotland (February 14). e

Gray brown - The right stamp with the Dot in "S" variety.

*Earliest recorded cover bearing stamps from the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad*

C. British Isles  
1. England

Retaliatory Rate  
Contract and Non-Contract Ship Mail

The British tried to reclaim the monopoly on Trans-Atlantic mail after American Packets began carrying mail in 1847. They required that the usual British Packet postage (1/- or 24¢) be paid on mail carried by American Packets.



OC 31, 1848 to Sheffield, England (November 14).

30¢ pays the 5¢ domestic rate and the 24¢ Trans-Atlantic rate (1¢ overpayment). The payment was disregarded and 1/- was collected from the addressee. Carried on the packet *Niagara* (Boston November 1 – Liverpool November 15).

**Earliest recorded 10¢ use by the US Express Mail/New York route agent**

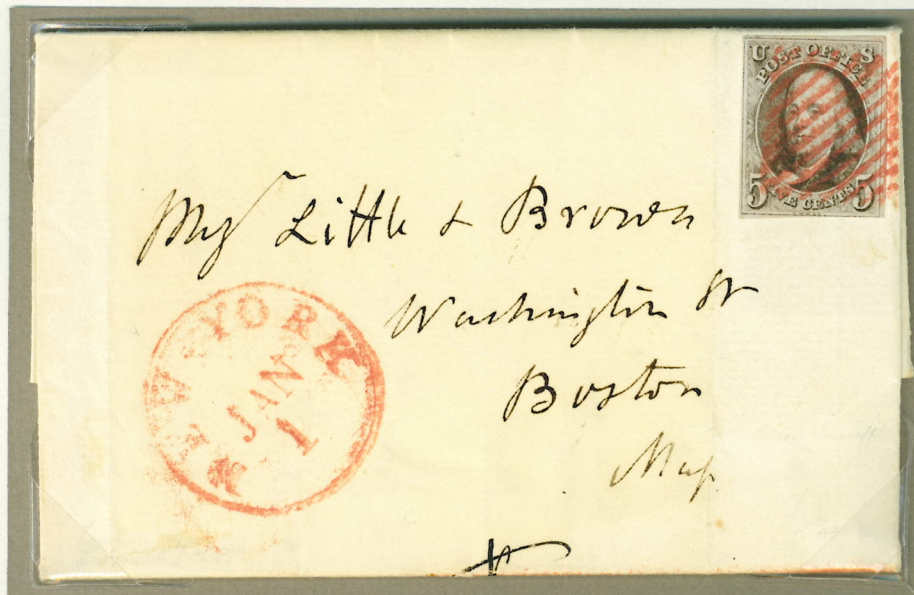


JY 8, 1848 to Blackburn, England (August 9).

Mailed during the "Retaliatory Rate" period when prepayment of 24¢ postage was required. The New York post office could not forward the letter by British or American packet so sent it by private ship. It entered English mails at Liverpool as a ship letter and charged 8d. At either Liverpool or Blackburn it was discovered to be double weight and charged 1/4d.



SE 25, 1848 written aboard the *USS Lawrence* (49°N-25°W – North of the Azores) to Annapolis, MD. Carried privately from Southampton, England to New York, NY where the letter entered the mails on October 27. Prepaid at the > 300 miles rate to Annapolis.



DE 15, 1848 to Boston, MA.  
Carried to New York, NY and mailed at the domestic 5¢ < 300 mile rate.  
Had the cover been put into the British mails, the rate would have been 53¢.

*Letter written by George Bancroft (1800-1891), historian and statesman to his publishers. At the time of writing he was US Minister to Great Britain (1846-49) being previously Secretary of the Navy (1845-46).*

C. British Isles  
1. England

Post-Treaty Rate  
First Cunard Sailing

The US-British Treaty of 1848, signed on December 15 and proclaimed on February 15, 1849, provided for a uniform sea rate per ½ oz. of 16¢ (8d.), for an inland postage rate of 5¢ (3d.) in the U. S. and 3¢ (1d.) Great Britain inland postage combined into one international rate of 24¢ (1/-) “of which payment in advance shall be optional in either country”.

*The only recorded 5¢ 1847 block used on transatlantic mail  
One of three recorded covers bearing a block of 5¢ 1847. The only one with a block of five  
One of two recorded “first day of new treaty rate” covers*



FE 19, 1849 to Warrington, England.

**Block of 5 dark brown** overpaying the 24¢ rate by 1¢. (Lower right stamp partially cut away)  
“1/-” handstamp applied in red at Liverpool indicating that the letter was paid to destination.

- FE 19 – Philadelphia “Paid” and “Per Steamship Hermann” of the Ocean Line (New York-Southampton-Bremen).
- FE 20 – Letter arrived in New York City too late for the “Hermann” sailing.
- FE 20 – Letter sent to Boston to catch the Cunard Line’s “Niagara”.
- FE 21 – “Niagara” sailed to Liverpool.
- MR 6 – “Niagara” arrived at Liverpool.
- MR 7 – Letter arrived at destination in Warrington.

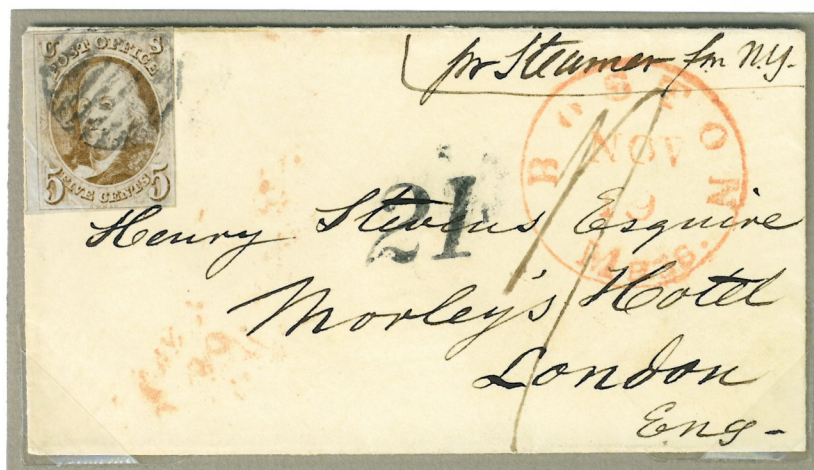
C. British Isles  
3. Ireland - 1. England

Post-Treaty Rate



NO 30, 1850 to Belfast, Ireland (December 20).  
10¢ Position 31R - Double transfer "B".  
24¢ Treaty rate overpaid by 1¢.

As part of the Treaty rate a 5¢ per ½ oz. "to the port" notwithstanding distance rate was established allowing US postal patrons to prepay the domestic portion of the rate by stamps. The exceptions were the Pacific West Coast.



NO 19, 1850 to London, England (December 6).  
5¢ "to the port" rate and 1/- charged on arrival to the recipient with 21¢ debit to Great Britain.  
Treated as unpaid by the Boston post office and the 5¢ "to the port" was disallowed  
as no partial payment was possible under the US-Great Britain Treaty.



SE 15, 1847 to London, England. Redirected to Trieste, Austro-Hungarian Empire (October 9).  
10¢ double weight rate < 300 miles.



DE 4, 1850 to London, England. Redirected to Alexandria (January 18, 1851) and Cairo, Egypt.   
**Red brown** pair of 5¢ paying the 5¢ "to the port" rate and a portion of the remaining 19¢ for which the New York postal clerk gave credit to England.

*The only recorded cover to Egypt during the 1847 period*

D. Europe Via the British Isles  
1. France

Pre-Treaty Rate

Until July 1, 1847 all mail to Europe from the US went through the British Isles.  
Even after that date most of the mail still went through British ports.



SE 29, 1847 to Paris, France via Boston, MA. <sup>e</sup>  
US postage pays inland domestic rates - French rates are based on weight and distance.  
**The earliest recorded 1847 cover to France**



OC 30, 1847 to Lyon, France (November 20). <sup>e</sup>



D. Europe Via the British Isles  
2. The Netherlands - 3. Germany

Pre-Treaty Rate



JA 13, 1848 to Amsterdam, The Netherlands (February 2).  
10¢ > 300 miles even if the distance is 267 miles.  
The 10¢ charge for the Philadelphia-Boston distance is not unusual.  
**Only recorded 10¢ 1847 cover to The Netherlands**



FE 1, 1848 to Bremen, Germany.  
From New Orleans (January 31) but entering the mails at Mobile, AL.  
10¢ > 300 miles to Boston.  
**The earliest recorded usage to any of the German States**

*The only recorded 10¢ Retaliatory Rate cover to Belgium  
The only 5¢/10¢ combination cover recorded to Belgium*



OC 28, 1848 to Gand, Belgium via Ostend (November 15). e  
10¢ - Positions 22-24R - 10¢ rate > 300 miles to Boston.

Originated in Charleston, SC on October 28, 1848. It was then carried out of the mails by rail to New York, NY.  
Posted to Boston, MA it crossed the ocean to Liverpool on the Cunard Line's *Niagara* (November 1-13).

D. Europe Via the British Isles  
 1. France - 3. Germany

Post-Treaty Rate  
 Via the Cunard Line

After January 1, 1849, French domestic postage was 50 centimes (5 décimes) single rate for US letters.



DE 2, 1849 to Paris, France.

US 5¢ per ½ oz. rate to port of embarkation but considered as a double letter in France > ¼ oz. Charged 30 décimes (20 credited to Great Britain for Ocean and transit postage and 10 décimes to France for internal postage).



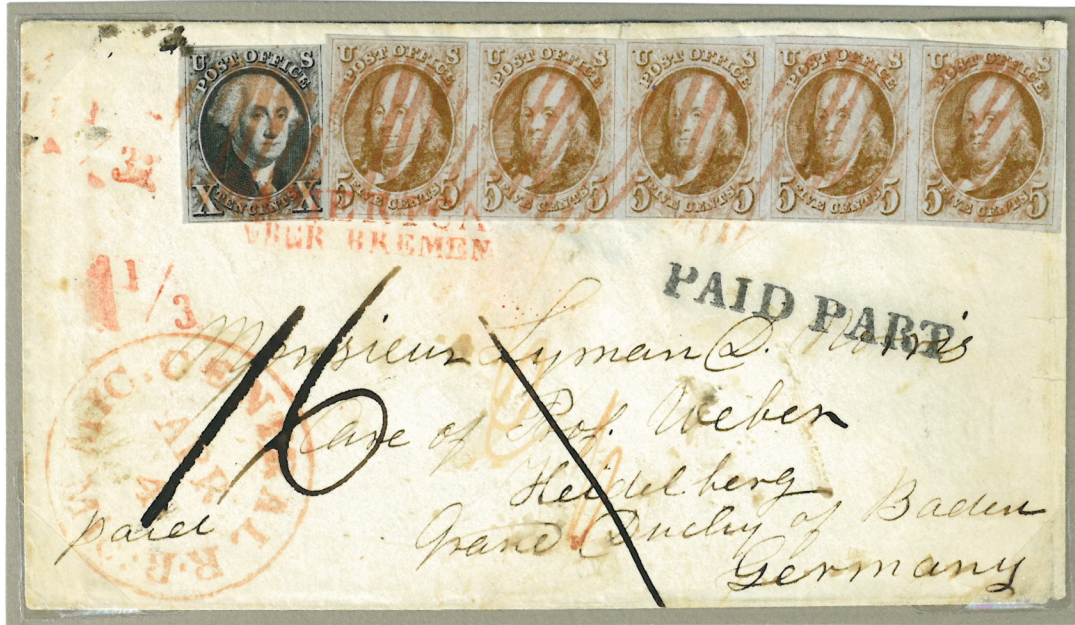
Position 82R - SE 24, 1849 to Stuttgart, Wurttemberg, Germany.

Only recorded 1847 cover from Naples, IL – One of five 10¢ covers to the German States

D. Europe Via the British Isles  
3. Germany

US-Bremen Treaty  
Via the Ocean Line

*Both covers were carried on the same voyage of the Ocean Line's Washington (April 19-May 5)  
and are the only two 1847 covers recorded carried on this Line*



AP 14, 1851 to Heidelberg, Baden, Germany.

Entered the mail stream with the Michigan Central railroad route agent.

The 10¢ paid the domestic postage > 300 miles while the strip of five-5¢ (**Positions 41-45R**) overpaid by 1¢ the 24¢ prepaid rate by American packet under the 1847 US-Bremen Postal Treaty.

*The only recorded 1847 cover carried by the Ocean Line with prepaid ocean postage*



AP 14, 1851 to SteinStadt, Baden, Germany. e

10¢ double weight (up to 1 oz.) "to the port" rate. "48" marking indicates double ocean postage due (2 x 24¢).

D. Europe Via the British Isles  
1. France - 3. Germany

Post-Treaty Rate  
Via the Collins Line and the Havre Line



JA 8, 1851 to Paris, France via the Collins Line. *e (Repaired)*  
Combination cover with the 10¢ (short transfer) an overpayment of the 5¢ “to the port” rate.  
**The only 1847 combination cover to France**



AP 29, 1851 to Ahldorf, Germany (May 28) via the Havre Line.  
10¢ double weight (up to 1 oz.) “to the port” rate.  
**The only 1847 Trans-Atlantic usage recorded from New Jersey**

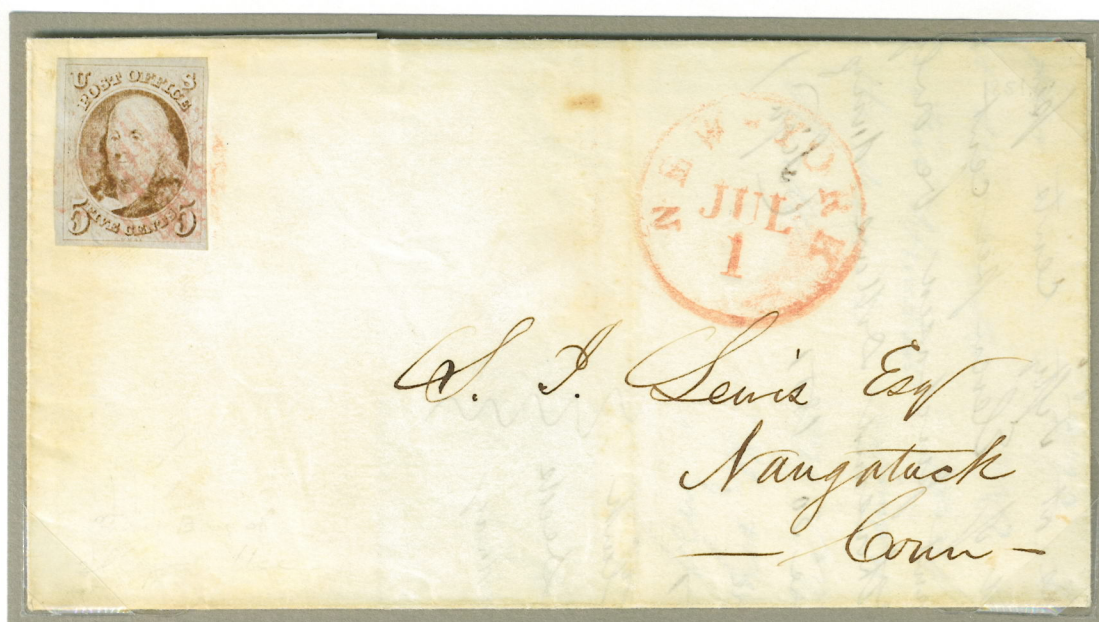
## *Section Seven: Epilogue – After Demonetization*

### A. Last day of validity and first day of demonetization

The Act of Congress that established new postal rates effective July 1, 1851, provided that the 1847 stamp issue would cease to be valid on that date. They could be exchanged for cash or stamps of the 1851 issue until October 1, 1851.



JU 30, 1851 to New York, NY.  
*Last day of validity*



JY 1, 1851 to Naugatuck, CT.  
Overpaying the new 3¢ rate by 2¢.  
*One of two recorded first day of demonetization usage covers*

B. Stamps Not Accepted for Payment

C. Stamps Accepted for Payment



MR 25, 1853 to Baltimore, MD.

The 5¢ was left uncanceled and the cover rated due 5.

*One of four recorded covers with stamps not accepted as valid postage. The collection has two others*



SE 15, 1852 to Lexington, KY. e

6¢ double weight. The 5¢ was accepted for payment.

*One of only three or four known demonetized usages bearing stamps from the 1847 and 1851 issues*

**D. Used in Canada**

**E. Used in the Confederacy**

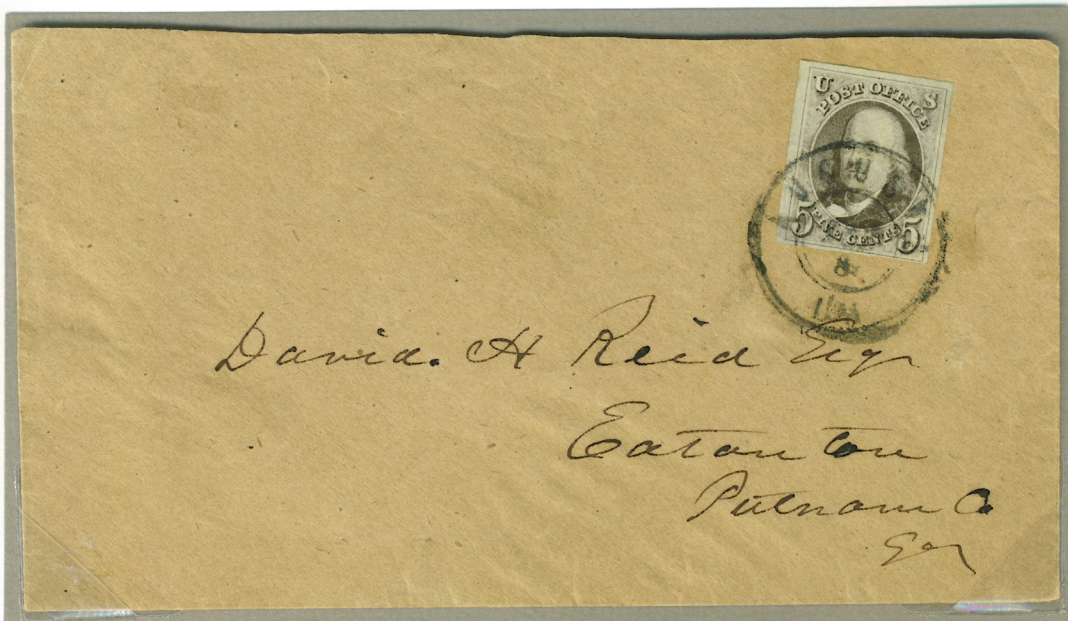
Faced with United States demonetized stamps to pay the through rate, Canadian postal officials accepted the stamps as part or full postage payment and left it up to the receiving United States postal officials to accept them or not.



JU 22, 1852 to New York, NY.

Accepted by both the Canadian and US postmasters as payment.

The Confederate States postal system came into being on June 1, 1861; thereafter United States stamps were no longer accepted and rates were increased.



JA 8, 1862 Augusta, GA to Eatonton, GA. e

5¢ 1847 paying the Confederate States < 500 miles rate in effect until July 1, 1862.

**One of two covers bearing 1847 stamps used in the Confederate States and the latest use of a 5¢ 1847**