

1867 Treaty, Effective 1 January 1868

Each country was responsible for its own packet contracts and would retain all postage, eliminating the distinction between British and American packets. The letter rate per ½ oz. was reduced to 12 cents in the U.S., 6^d in the U.K. The rate breakdown was 8 cents sea, 2 cents to each country for inland. The U.S. was entitled to 3 cents for each letter transiting the U.K. from another country. Philadelphia remained an exchange office.

Prepaid 6 pence

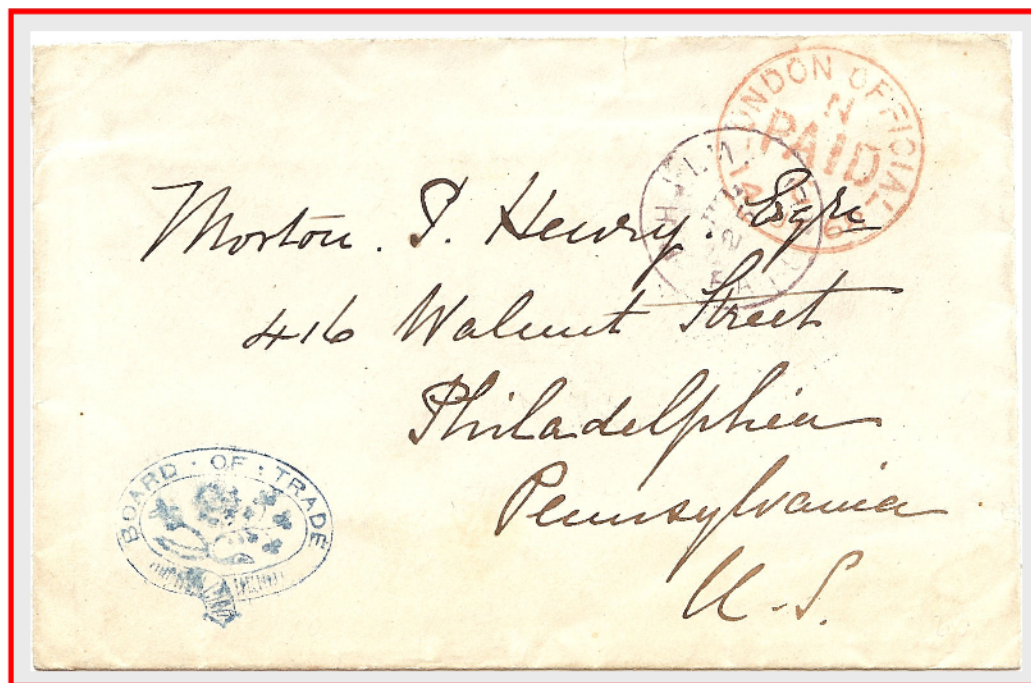
Cunard *Scotia* :
Liverpool 20 June
New York 30 June

Phila. marked **PAID ALL**

12 days



Glasgow, 19 June 1868

Official Mail

London, 14 July 1868

London marked
LONDON OFFICIAL PAID

Inman *City of Paris* :
Liverpool 15 July
New York 25 July

Philadelphia marked **PAID ALL**

12 days

Actual payment was probably
not made, but the letter would
have been accounted for.

**Two incoming official mail
letters are reported**

American Contract Steamship

Prepaid **12 cents**Cunard *Scotia*
New York 12 May
Queenstown 21 May

London 22 May

11 days



4/30/69-5/11/69

two recorded

Philadelphia, 11 May 1869

Prepaid **12 cents**HAPAG *Holsatia* :
New York 26 October
Plymouth 4 November

London 5 November

11 days



8/69-12/69

Worn state



Philadelphia, 26 October 1869

American Contract Steamship

Prepaid **12 cents**Cunard Java :
New York 18 November
Queenstown 27 November

London 28 November

13 days

F

3-27 Nov 68

five recorded

Philadelphia, 16 November 1868



Philadelphia, 23 December 1868

Prepaid **12 cents**NGL Main :
New York 24 December
Southampton 3 JanuaryForwarded to Rome by
Brown & Shipley

Received 8 January

17 days

**one recorded**

In February 1868 Philadelphia began using hand-made fancy cancellation devices on letters outgoing from their Exchange Office. Most designs lasted only a month or two. In the ensuing years the Exchange office used a succession of purple, red and orange inks for their date stamps. Although these colors made covers more attractive, they have no postal significance.

1869 Treaty, Effective 1 January 1870

The treaty signed in December 1869 reduced the single-letter rate to 6 cents. The fine for unpaid or insufficiently paid letters, which was 5¢ under the 1867 treaty, was increased to 6¢ plus the deficiency. The rate breakdown was 2¢ for sea postage and 2¢ for each country's inland postage. Other terms remained as before.

Prepaid **6** cents

White Star Adriatic :
New York 16 May
Liverpool 26 May

Received 26 May

12 days



4/74-7/74

Philadelphia, 15 May 1874



Philadelphia, 3 April 1874

Prepaid **12** cents, double rate, ½ to 1 oz..

White Star Line Celtic : New York 4 April, London 15 April

12 days

American Contract Steamship

Double Rate, Registered



Prepaid **14** cents:
6¢ x 2, ½ to 1 oz.
8¢ Registered

Cunard Calabria :
New York 22 January
Queenstown 2 February

Dublin 4 February

15 days

Philadelphia, 21 January 1873

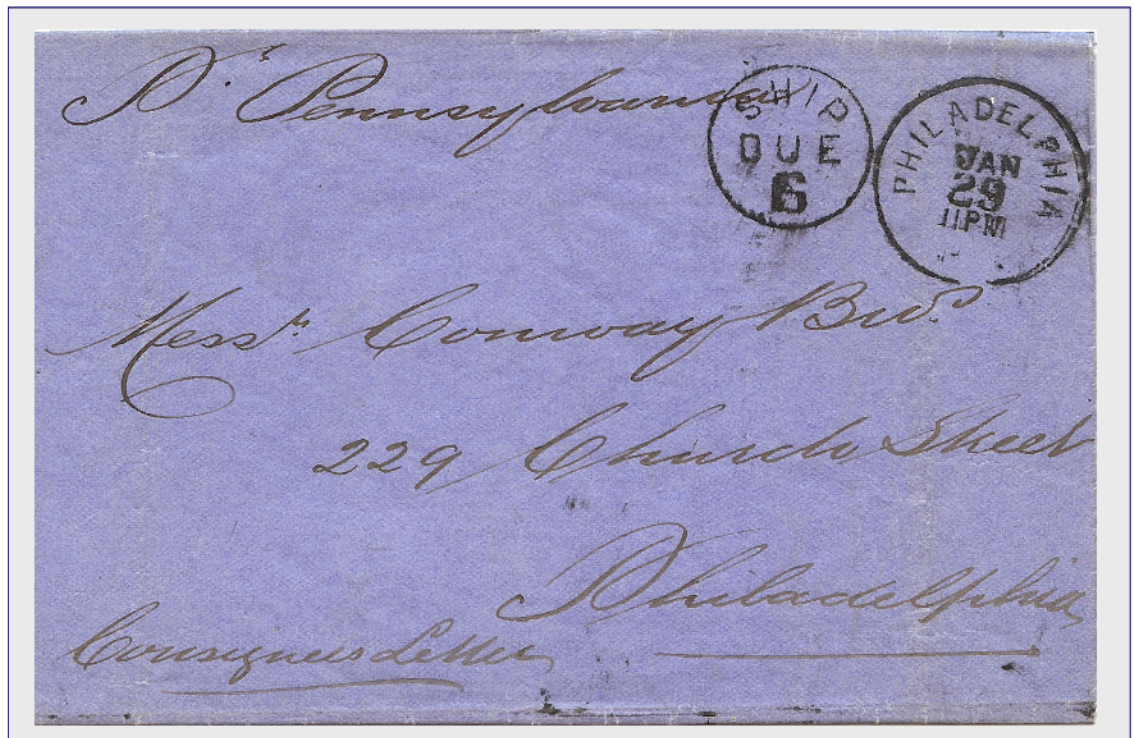
Consignee's Letter

American Line
Pennsylvania :
Liverpool 16 January
Philadelphia 29 January

Philadelphia rated **6** cents
due, in error: the fee was
4¢, effective 1 July 1863.

15 days

The Pennsylvania carried
contract mails on this trip,
but this letter accompa-
nied a shipment of goods,
so did not enter the mail
until Philadelphia.



Liverpool, 15 January 1874

American Contract Steamship

To Burma via Southampton, Suez, Bombay and Calcutta

Philadelphia, 3 May 1870

Prepaid **22** cents, retaining 2¢ for inland and 2¢ transatlantic
 Philadelphia credited **18**¢ to the U.K. (9^d): 6^d to India, 3^d onward to Burma
 London credited **1**^d to Burma for delivery

HAPAG *Cimbria* : New York 3 May, Plymouth 13 May

P&O *Pera* : Southampton 14 May, Alexandria 27 May

P&O *Columbia* : Suez 29 May, Aden 3 June, Bombay 10 June
 Overland to Calcutta, received 19 June

British India Steam Navigation Company to Rangoon, *ship and date unknown*

Received at Bassein (now Pathein) on 30 June 59 days

The only recorded pre-GPU cover from Philadelphia to Burma



reverse



British Contract Steamship

From Spain via Paris & London



Cadiz, 26 October 1871

Prepaid **800** milesimas (40¢) for double rate, $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
 Madrid marked **P.D.** : paid to the U.S. port, not to destination

Endorsed *via Francia* : routed Madrid-Paris-Calais in closed bag

Inman City of New York : Queenstown 3 November, New York 14 November

Philadelphia rated **3¢** due, single rate, $< \frac{1}{2}$ oz.

21 days

This marginal weight letter was rated double in Spain ($\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) but only single in the U.K. and U.S. ($< \frac{1}{2}$ oz.).

British Contract Steamship

Prepaid via Brindisi

P&O from Victoria

Prepaid **11** pence9^d British packet and inland1^d transatlantic1^d U.S. inland*Baroda*

Melbourne 23 May

Galle 12 June

Ellora, Galle 13 June, Suez 1 July

Pera, Alex. 2 July, Brindisi 5 July

Mails at London 8 July

London **2c** credit to U.S. for inland*Cunard Batavia*

Queenstown 9 July

New York 20 July

Received 21 July

51 days



Melbourne, 20 May 1873

P&O from Egypt



Cairo, 28 January 1873

Prepaid **10** pence8^d British packet and inland1^d transatlantic1^d U.S. inland

P&O Pera

Alexandria 1 February

Brindisi 5 February

Mails at London 10 February

London **2c** credit to U.S.
for inland postage

Received 25 February

29 days

Senders could stipulate that letters from Alexandria to Great Britain should go via Southampton, but letters not so-endorsed would default to the steamship route via Brindisi, then overland by rail, a saving of five to seven days.

American Contract Steamship

Unpaid to France via Inman Line to England

Sent unpaid

Phila. debited **4** cents to U.K.

2 ¢ U.S. inland

2¢ American packet

Inman *City of Brooklyn*

New York 13 May,

Queenstown 22 May

London 23 May

London debited **2F** per 30 g

bulk rate to France

Calais-Paris R.P.O. 24 May

rated **8** decimes due

Received 25 May

14 days



Philadelphia, 12 May 1871

Double Rate via North German Lloyd from Southampton



Southampton, 16 May 1871

Prepaid **6** pence
2 x 3d treaty rateNGL *Rhein*

Bremerhaven 13 May

Southampton 16 May

New York 26 May

Received 27 May

12 days

By 1871, seven steamship companies carried transatlantic contract mail between U.S. and British ports. In the week of 14-20 May alone there were 14 eastbound departures, so correspondence was essentially constrained solely by ship speed.

American Contract Steamship

Use of British Mail in the U.S-France Non-Treaty Period

Paid Only to England - Single Rate



Philadelphia, 24 October 1871

Prepaid **4** centsHAPAG Westphalia
New York 25 October
Plymouth 6 NovemberLondon debited **40c/oz.**
to France, bulk rateCalais-to-Paris R.P.O.
8 NovemberParis rated **5** dec. due

Toulouse 10 November

18 days

Paid Only to England - Marginal Weight

Prepaid **4** cents, < 1/2oz.Inman City of Antwerp :
New York 6 May
Queenstown 16 MayLondon debited **40**
centimes per oz., bulk rate

Calais-Paris R.P.O. 18 May

Paris rated **10** decimes due
for 10 to 15 grams

Received 21 May

20 days



Philadelphia, 2 May 1871

The U.S.-France postal treaty expired in January 1870. Senders in either country could use British open mails paid to destination, or only to England. The rate between the U.S. and U.K. was as under the 1869 U.S.-G.B. treaty: 2¢ inland on both ends, and 2¢ transatlantic. The British bulk-rate postmarks were per the Anglo-French postal convention of 1856.

British Contract Steamship

Use of British Mail in the U.S-France Non-Treaty Period

Paid to Destination



Aignay-le-Duc, 5 April 1870

Prepaid **70** centimes (14¢)
 8¢ inland & transit to U.K.
 6¢ transatlantic

London credited **2¢** to U.S. for inland

Guion Line *Colorado* :
 Queenstown 7 April,
 New York 18 April

14 days

Paid to Destination—War Rate



Nice, 25 February 1872

Prepaid **120** centimes (24¢): 18¢ inland & transit to U.K., 6¢ transatlantic
 London credited **2¢** to U.S. for inland

Guion Line *Wyoming* : Liverpool 28 February, New York 13 March 17 days

In 1871 France raised the rate from 70c to 120c to help pay for war against Germany.

American Contract Steamship

Use of British Mail in the U.S-France Non-Treaty Period

Paid to Destination

Prepaid **10 cents**

Philadelphia credited **6¢** to U.K.,
British transit & French inland

White Star Republic :
New York 17 January
Queenstown 27 January

Calais-to-Paris R.P.O., 29 Jan.

14 days



Philadelphia,
earliest
recorded use



Philadelphia, 16 January 1874

Paid to Destination



Philadelphia, 30 July 1873

Prepaid **16 cents**, 1/3 to 1/2 oz.

Philadelphia **12¢** credit to U.K.
for British and French inland

HAPAG Westphalia :
New York 31 July
Plymouth 10 August

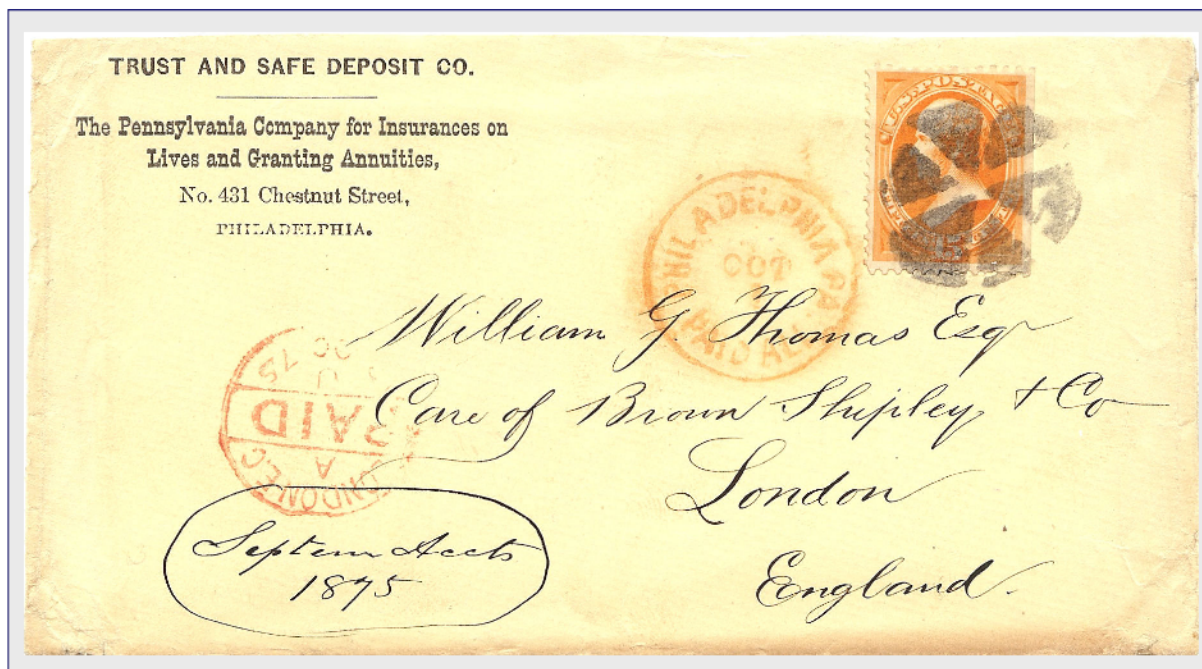
Vaucluse 13 August

15 days

Six examples at this rate
reported from Philadelphia

General Postal Union, Effective 1 July 1875

The GPU pact among 51 countries reduced the U.S.-British mail rate to 5 cents. An additional 86 countries, colonies and protectorates had joined the Universal Postal Union by 1 April 1879.



Philadelphia, 2 October 1875

Prepaid **15** cents, triple rate, 1 to 1½ oz.

Cunard *Marathon* : Boston 2 October, Queenstown 12 October
London 2 October 11 days



London, 16 October 1875

Prepaid **2½**, < ½ oz.

Cunard *Algeria* :
Liverpool 16 October
New York 29 October

Philadelphia **5** restated
the rate

15 days

From 8 November, GPU
required that all letters be
prepaid with adhesives.

**Latest recorded
stampless cover
from the U.K. to
Philadelphia**

American and British Contract Steamships

Forwarded From London to Denmark



Philadelphia, 29 July 1878

Prepaid **5 cents** GPU rate

Cunard *Algeria*
 New York 30 July
 Queenstown 10 August

Forwarded to Denmark
 by Brown, Shipley & Co.

Received 12 August 15 days

**Forwarding was free among
 GPU member countries**

PHILAD'A PA. / PAID ALL
 9 Jun 76 - 26 Jan 81
 in orange

To The Argentine Republic, Paid at Expired Rate

Prepaid **15 cents** for British mail,
 overpaid for the 10¢ GPU rate

Guion Line *Wisconsin*
 New York 16 September
 Queenstown 27 September

Royal Mail Steam Packet *Neva*
 Southampton 9 October
 Buenos Aires 31 October

46 days

**Argentina became a GPU
 member on 1 April 1878; the
 previous rate by British open
 mail was 15 cents.**



Philadelphia, 16 September 1878

The Post Office in Philadelphia would have been able to tell the sender of this letter that the 15-cent rate to Argentina had expired on 1 April. This suggests that the letter may have been deposited in a postbox rather than paid at a P.O. window.

British and American Contract Steamships

Mail to Non GPU Members

To The Cape of Good Hope via British Open Mail

Prepaid **15** cents for British
mail via Southampton

Wrong month slug in
Philadelphia date stamp

Phila. credited **50** centimes
(10 cents) to U.K.

American Line *Indiana*
Philadelphia 7 April
Queenstown 16 April

Union Line *Dunrobin Castle*
Dartmouth 20 April
Cape Town 12 May

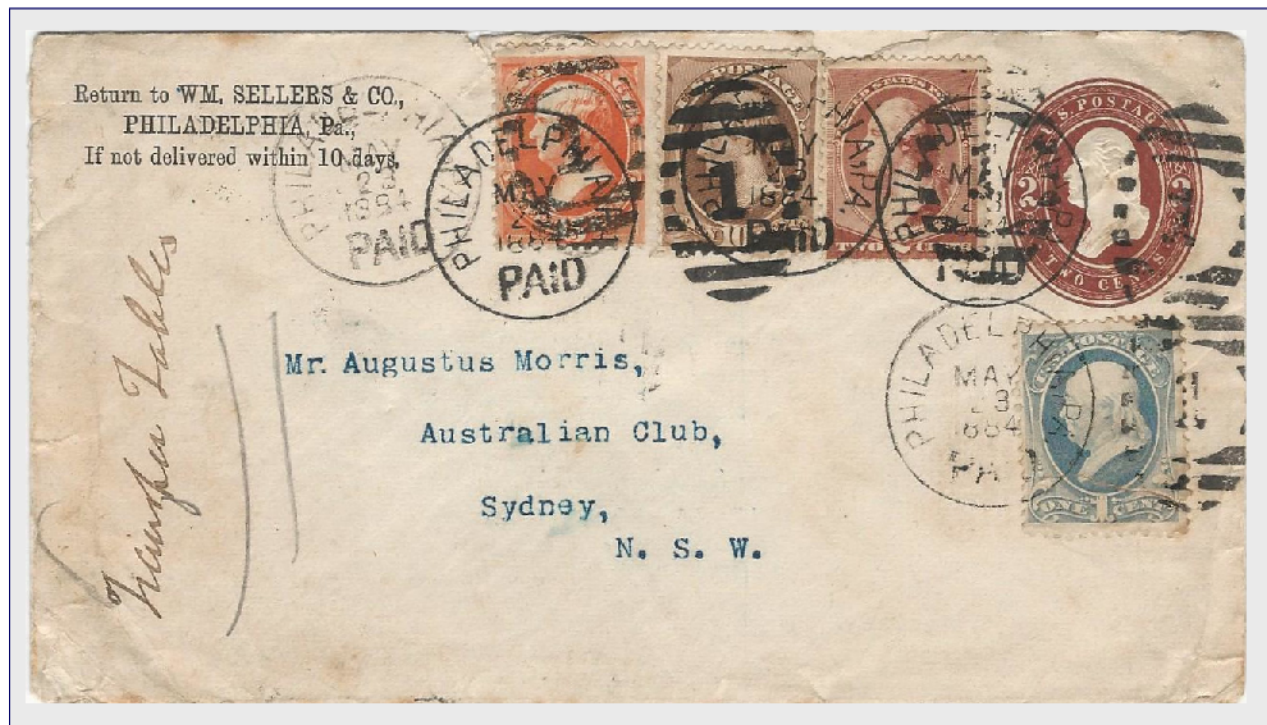
Arrived 14 May 38 days

**Cape of Good Hope joined
UPU in February 1895**



Philadelphia, 7 Apr 1877

To New South Wales via San Francisco



Philadelphia, 23 May 1884

Prepaid **30** cents, double rate via Southampton, which expired in 1880; sent at U.S.-NSW treaty rate, 2 x 12 cents via San Francisco

American packet *City of Chester* : San Francisco 7 June, Auckland 28 June, Sydney 2 July 41 days

The British colonies in Australia each joined the UPU in October 1891

American and British Contract Steamships

Mail to Non Members

To Brazil via British Open Mail



Philadelphia, 2 March 1877

Prepaid **42** cents, double 21¢ rate, ½ to 1 oz.: 5¢ GPU rate, 16¢ British packet
Philadelphia **160** centimes credit to U.K. : 2 x 8^d British packet rate to Brazil

Inman *City of Richmond* : New York 2 March, Queenstown 12 March

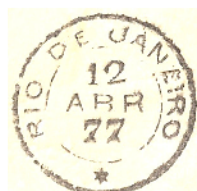
Pacific Steam Navigation Co. *John Elder* : Liverpool 21 March, Rio de Janeiro 12 April

Rio de Janeiro rated **3** reis due

42 days



Philadelphia foreign mail cancel
the only recorded example



reverse

Brazil became a GPU member on 1 July 1877.