

Effective 6 April 1851 letters could be sent to or from Canada either paid through or unpaid. Partial payment was not permitted. During this period circulars were still paid 'to the lines'.



December 1851 cover from Rochester NY to Quebec Canada. Strip of five and a pair of 1 cent stamps and a 3 cent stamp orange brown type II pay the 10 cent rate. Blue ribbon style 'U States' cross-border marking and red Montreal circular date stamp. One cent stamps positions 43-47R^E and positions 41-42R^E.

February 1857 cover from Fishersville NH to Port Hope Canada. Ogdensburg transit marking and Port Hope receiving mark on back.



June 1856 cover from Columbus OH to Toronto Canada. Faint red 'U STATES./ PAID/6d' exchange marking. Toronto receiving mark on back.

Earliest recorded use of a 12 cent bisect and very early use of 12 cent stamp.



Illegally Paid Using United States Stamps

From 6 April 1851 letters could be sent fully prepaid from Canada or unpaid. United States stamps were not permitted on letters originating in Canada. Sometimes, however, they were accepted.

Stamps accepted



January 1857 cover from London Ontario Canada to Buffalo NY. Block of four 3 cent stamps overpaying the 10 cent rate. In violation of regulations, the stamps on this letter were accepted by both the Canadian and United States post offices.

Stamps not accepted



1856 cover from Dundas Canada to New York City. Canada did not recognize the United States stamp and did not accept the Canadian stamp for partial payment. '60' in circle applied in Dundas. The Canadian exchange office applied the 'CANADA 10 Cts' handstamp in black indicating 10 cents due. Position 92R3.



November 1856 folded address sheet to Vera Cruz. The letter was carried on the steamship *Calbourn* leaving New Orleans on 1 November.



May 1853 cover front from Charleston SC to Vera Cruz Mexico. Arrived Vera Cruz 4 June on steamship *Texas*. 'VERA CRUZ/JUNIO 4' handstamp. 6 reales due on delivery. The stamps pay the double packet rate.

to Mexico



May 1856 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Vera Cruz Mexico. 9 reales due on delivery.
Stamps all type III, Positions 65-70R paid the 6x American 10 cent Packet rate to Mexico.

to Bermuda



December 1856 from Georgetown SC to St. George Bermuda. Boxed 'NOT PAID' most likely applied by accident. Stamps pay 10 cent American Packet rate per 1 ounce for distances under 2,500 miles.

Only recorded cover to Bermuda bearing a 5 cent 1856 stamp.

Liverpool - New York - Havana

March 1856 folded address letter carried privately from Liverpool England to New York. In New York the letter entered the mail and was sent to Havana.

Handled in New York by 'FDWD BECH & KUNHARDT/NEW-YORK' whose oval handstamp was struck on back.

'NA' applied in Havana indicating incoming mail from North America. 'r' real due on delivery.



New Grenada



Feb 1858 double rate letter from Buffalo NY to Aspinwall New Grenada. Addressed to a sailor on the Frigate *Susquehanna*. Mixed imperforate and perforated issues. 1 cent stamp type II, 10 cent stamp type III, and three cent stamps type III.

Letter Originated in Nicaragua During William Walker War Period

Wines & Co. Express operated in California, Oregon and also Nicaragua during the time that William Walker, the American Freebooter, had seized control of the country by overthrowing the government with a few dozen men and making himself President.



Cover to New York originating in Nicaragua in William Walker's handwriting. Large double oval Nicaragua postmark applied by Wines and then forwarded by an American Steamship to New Orleans. Entered mail in New Orleans as a Steamship letter. 10 cent rate for under 2,500 miles. 'due 7' applied in pencil in New Orleans.

Steamship rates were charged on loose letters picked up on the route of contract steamers traveling on ocean routes considered post roads by the Post Office Department.

Chile



Cover from New Bedford MA to Talcahuano Chile. Stamps pay the 48 cent rate to Talcahuano. The letter traveled on an American packet from New York to Chagres Panama and then crossed the Isthmus to Panama City, where it was placed on a British packet to Talcahuano. Two strikes of red '24' credit to England, crossed out and re-rated 25.

The letter is addressed to the captain of the bark *John A. Parker* that left New Bedford in October 1852.

Peru



Cover from New Bedford MA to the master of the ship *Nautilus* Paita Peru. Stamps pay the 32 cent rate to Paita. The letter traveled on an American packet from New York to Chagres Panama and then crossed the Isthmus to Panama City, where it was placed on a British packet to Paita. Part of back flap missing.

Less than five covers reported to Peru with 1851-56 issue.

British Packet Single Rate

December 1855 cover from Salt Lake UT territory to Cambridge England. Pair of stamps pay the 24 cent rate to England on British packet *America* leaving Boston 12 March and arriving in Liverpool 27 March. Red 19 credit to Britain. Red London 'PAID' receiving mark showing arrival 27 March.

This letter was held up by mountain snows until February when it arrived at Independence MO on the 28th. It traveled on the Central Overland Route from Salt Lake to Fort Leavenworth via Fort Laramie and Fort Kearney.



American Packet Single Rate



August 1857 cover from Brooklyn NY to London England addressed to a forwarding agent. Carried on American Collins Line packet *Atlantic* leaving New York 1 August arriving in Liverpool 12 August. Red '3' credit to England.

British stamp was applied to pay forwarding and the letter sent to Mattock by the forwarding agent.

British Packet Double Rate

September 1853 double rate letter from New York NY to Liverpool England. Red 38 credit to Britain. The packet *Arabia* left New York 7 September arriving in Liverpool on 17 September. Liverpool transit and New York exchange markings.

New York '19' credit marking corrected with '38' handstamp.



5 cent West Coast surcharge



October 1854 folded address sheet from San Francisco CA to London England. The stamps pay the 29 cent rate from the Pacific Coast to England. 19 cents credit to England for transit by a British packet. Faint red oval 'Via Nicaragua/ in Advance of the Mails/Sullivan'. 1 cent stamps type IV, dull red 3 cent stamp.

Left San Francisco 24 October on the *Sierra Nevada* to San Juan del Sur, crossed Nicaragua to San Juan del Norte. From there via the *Northern Light* to New York arriving 14 November. New York applied '19' credit marks. Departed New York on the 15th on Cunard steamer *Arabia* arriving in Liverpool 26th and in London on 27 November.

Partial payment not accepted



August 1851 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to Stanford Hill England. The letter traveled on the American packet *Baltic* leaving New York 30 August and arriving in Liverpool on 10 September, and in London the 11th. Partial payment was not permitted and the letter was marked in Philadelphia with a blue '24' indicating 24 cents due. New York applied a faint black '21' on a slant indicating 21 cent credit due the United States. In England a manuscript 1 shilling marking was added showing the amount due from recipient. Stamp is orange brown.



July 1856 folded address sheet from Newport RI to Paris France, paying the 5 cent open mail rate. The letter left New York City on British Packet Africa arriving in Liverpool 3 August. 'PAID 3' crossed out in town postmark and 'PAID/5' in circle was applied. French treated as double weight 26 decimes due.

Vertical pair positions 83 and 93Lr¹. Vertical strip of three positions 71, 81, 91Lr¹ all with inverted transfers and position 91Lr¹ with a third transfer.

Second Retaliatory Rate



14 February 1853 folded letter from Philadelphia PA to Paris France. This was rated for the second retaliatory rate. The post office issued a notice on 10 February ending the discriminatory rate but the sender was unaware of this change and franked the letter for the 21 cent rate.

The letter was carried on the Cunard Canada leaving Boston on 16 February arriving in Liverpool 28 February and Paris on 1 March. Three cent stamps positions 24-26L2¹.

British Open Mail via American Packet



This letter entered the mail in Vera Cruz Mexico and paid US postage from New Orleans to Paris. The letter was then redirected (forwarded) back to the UK.

July 1856 folded address sheet from Vera Cruz Mexico to Paris France. This letter traveled from Vera Cruz to New Orleans where it entered the US mail, then to New York City.

The letter was handled by forwarder Uslar, Heymel & Co. in Vera Cruz and E. J. Forstall in New Orleans. In the upper left a manuscript in French 'by way of the United States' partially covered by the 1 cent stamp.

On 2 August it left New York on the American packet *Ericsson* to Liverpool arriving 18 August. From Liverpool to London and then to Paris via Calais. Stamps pay the 21 cent rate to France.

Arriving in Paris 21 August the letter was then returned to London arriving on 22 August 1856.

The 'BRITISH/FOREIGN' marking applied in London when redirected back indicates postage due from recipient. 4d for British postage from France and 1s/4d due for Foreign postage. This is 1s/8d total due as marked in black ink on back-flap.

West Coast rate via Nicaragua

August 1854 cover from San Francisco to Lyon France. Stamps pay the West Coast rate to France via American Packet, 21 cents plus 5 cents surcharge.

Carried from San Francisco by Vanderbilt steamer *Sierra Nevada* arriving San Juan del Sur 27 July. Arrived in New York on *Star of the West* 7 August. From New York the letter traveled on the Ocean Line steamer *Hermann* departing 12 August to Southampton. From England to Paris by train.

Only recorded letter from the West Coast via Nicaragua to France.



August 1851 folded address sheet from New York to Lyon France. Three cent stamps positions 8-10R5^E. Rated 21 cents so it could make the next boat either American Packet via the Collins Line or the Havre Line. The letter left New York 23 August on the Havre Line *Humboldt* arriving in Le Havre 4 September. 6 decimes due.



October 1856 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Pontay France. From New York traveled on the Havre Line packet *Fulton* which departed November 17 and arrived in Le Havre on 1 December. 6 decimes due.

Between 1 January and 31 March 1857 the new French and British postal convention was in effect but the first postal convention between France and the United States was not yet in effect. During this period new accountancy handstamps were employed that reflected a bulk letter rate.

British Open Mail via British Packet

Mexico - United States -
England - France

February 1857 folded letter originating in Tabasco Mexico carried privately to New Orleans LA where it entered the mail to Paris France.

The letter left New York on the Cunard ship *Asia* on 4 March arriving in Liverpool on 16 March. By rail from Liverpool to London and then to Paris via Calais.

The GB//1F60C indicated the letter was carried by a British packet and 1F 60C per 30 grams was due to the UK.

8 decimes due on receipt.



British Open Mail via American Packet



December 1857 cover from Baton Rouge LA to Marseilles France. Stamps pay the American Packet rate to France.

The letter left New York on the Collins Line steamer *Baltic* 3 January. Manuscript route directive in French 'par voie d'Angleterre', i.e. route via England.

The GB//40C accountancy marking indicated the letter was carried by an American packet and 40c per 30 grams due to the UK.

5 decimes due on receipt.

The 1857 US-French Treaty, effective 1 April 1857, provided for a 15 cent single rate.

Double Rate via Collins Line



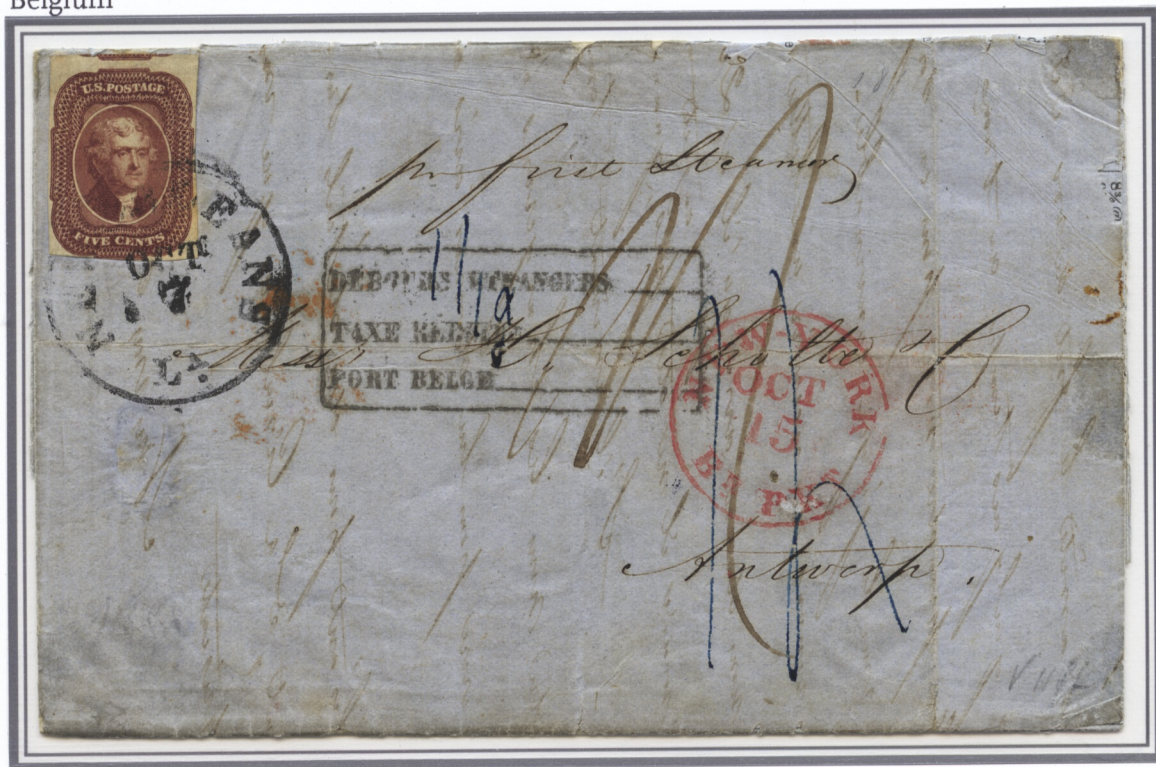
May 1857 cover from Rochester NY to Paris France. Endorsed at upper right by Congressman Steven Andrews. The letter left New York City 9 May arriving in Liverpool 22 May on American packet *Ericsson* of the Collins Line. The letter arrived in Paris 21 May. Ten cent stamps type II.

Direct to Havre via American Packet



29 July 1857 folded letter from New Orleans LA to Nantes France. Stamps pay the 15 cent treaty rate. The letter was carried on the Vanderbilt Line's *Ariel* leaving New York 8 August arriving at Southampton 20 August. The mail was transferred to a steamer and delivered to Havre.

Belgium



October 1856 folded letter under one-quarter ounce from New Orleans LA to Antwerp Belgium. From New York traveled on Cunard steamer *Africa* leaving 15 October and arriving in Liverpool 27 October. Manuscript 1 shilling mark for amount due to UK from Belgium. Boxed accounting handstamp of Ostend shows British debt, conversion of British debt to decimes and internal postage. The second two lines is the postage due rewritten as '14' decimes.

Holland



February 1857 folded address sheet from New Orleans LA to Amsterdam Holland. Sailed on Cunard *Asia* leaving New York on 4 March arriving in Liverpool March 16. Sender had directed the letter sail from Boston on the *Europa*. 1 shilling due Britain. 80 cents due on delivery. Amsterdam receiving backstamp.

1 of 2 recorded covers to Holland with 5 cent stamp.