

FREIGHT MONEY COVERS

1837-1847

CHARLESS HAHN

AS RECEIVED BY
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE
OF THE
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.
29 NOVEMBER 1988

Freight Money

The term "Freight Money" has been applied (first by Staff to the private charge made by the pioneer steamship companies beginning in 1837 and ending 10 years later. The Government of Great Britain never allowed this charge to be collected and stopped the post office of Canada from collecting "Freight Money" and forwarding it to the appropriate shipping companies, December 4, 1840.

The Government of the United States allowed the collection and forwarding of Freight Money by the various postmasters as long as it existed.

A standard charge of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents per sheet was made by the fast sailing ships, and of 25 cents per sheet by the pioneer steamship companies.

Postmasters marked--or did not mark--the additional Freight Money charges as they saw fit. Some were admirably explicit. Others marked the Freight Money charge and the postal charge separately but did not explain them on the cover. Philadelphia combined both charges into one rating, leaving this century's philatelists an interesting and sometimes insoluble puzzle.

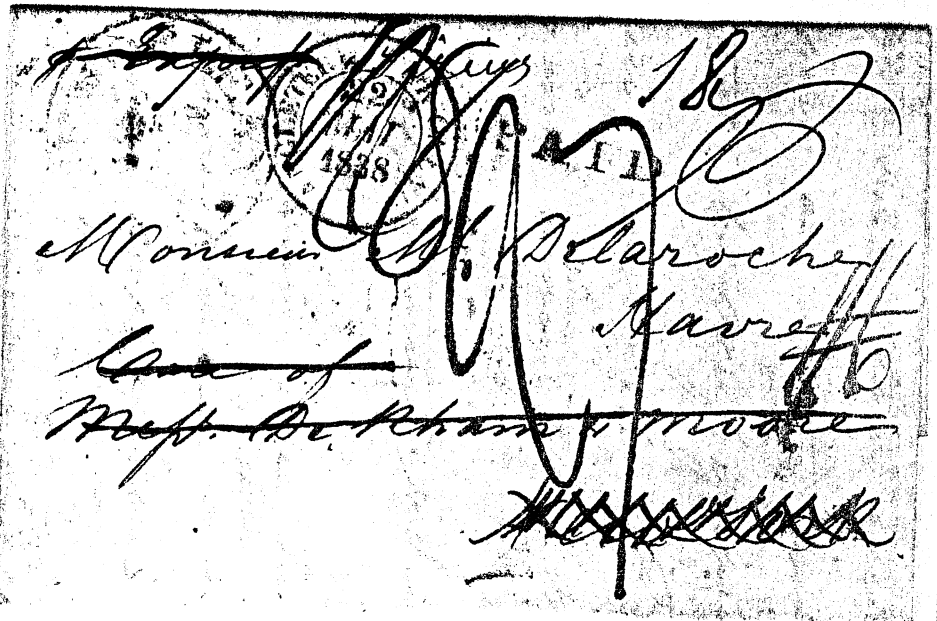
The largest sender of Transatlantic mail, New York, never marked a Freight Money charge, leaving them, in the main uncollectable but interesting.

Freight Money

Though not in itself a Freight Money cover, this cover is an example of how it all started, for it was carried on the first voyage of the "Sirius" the first commercial steamer to cross the Atlantic after being sent by Express Mail from New Orleans to a forwarder whose mss. f.a.c. was placed on the reverse in New York. It then went across the Atlantic to Falmouth, London and thence to France.

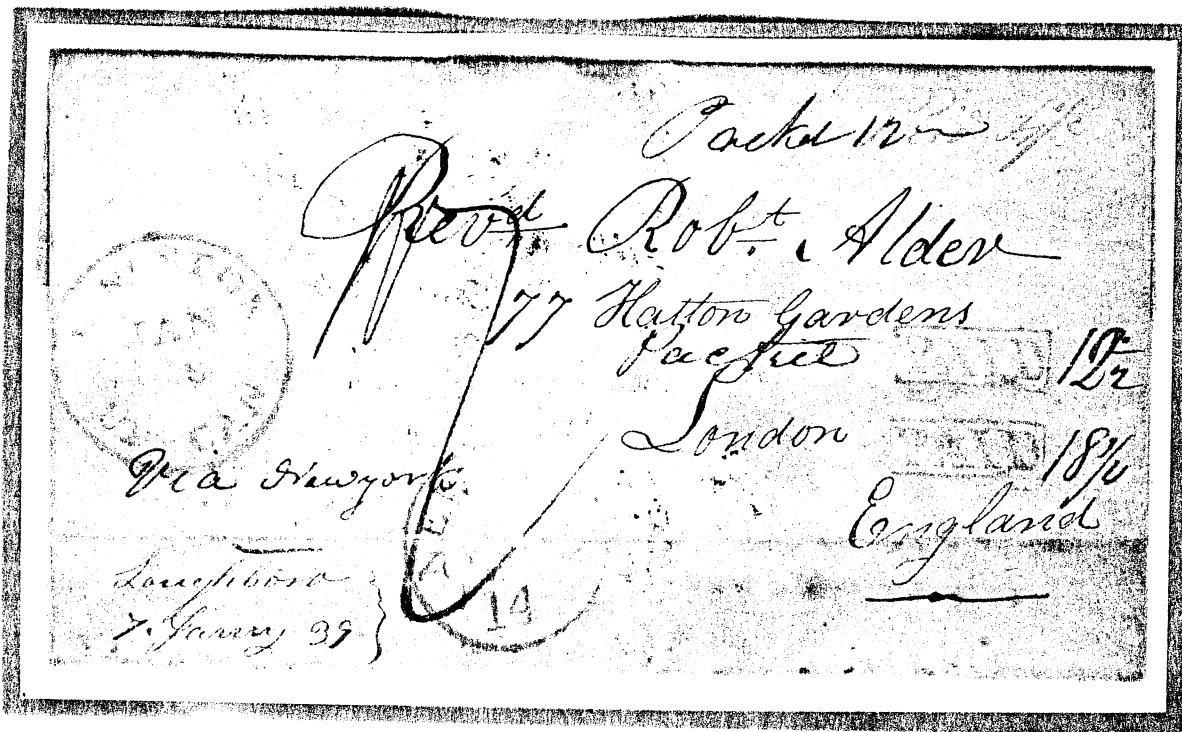
The first reference to freight money in the contemporary press was a negative one. The New York Albion for May 5, 1838, read:

The *Sirius* (the first commercial transatlantic steamer) sailed on Monday for London. . . . It is stated that the *Sirius* took with her 17,000 letters, for which no charge whatever was made. The act was a generous one, certainly, but not a judicious one in our opinion — but the parties concerned doubtless knew their own business best. Calculations of the loss have been made, which if saved, would have paid a large portion of the expenses of the voyage. Supposing each letter had been charged at a quarter of a dollar, it would have yielded upward of \$4,000, say £1,000 sterling! We admit that if such a charge had existed a less number of letters would have been written — perhaps half — say 8,000. These would have yielded \$2,000, the amount received from fifteen and the profit probably of thirty passengers. The *Sirius*, we believe, had twenty-eight cabin passengers, consequently her letter bags would have been more profitable than her cabins.



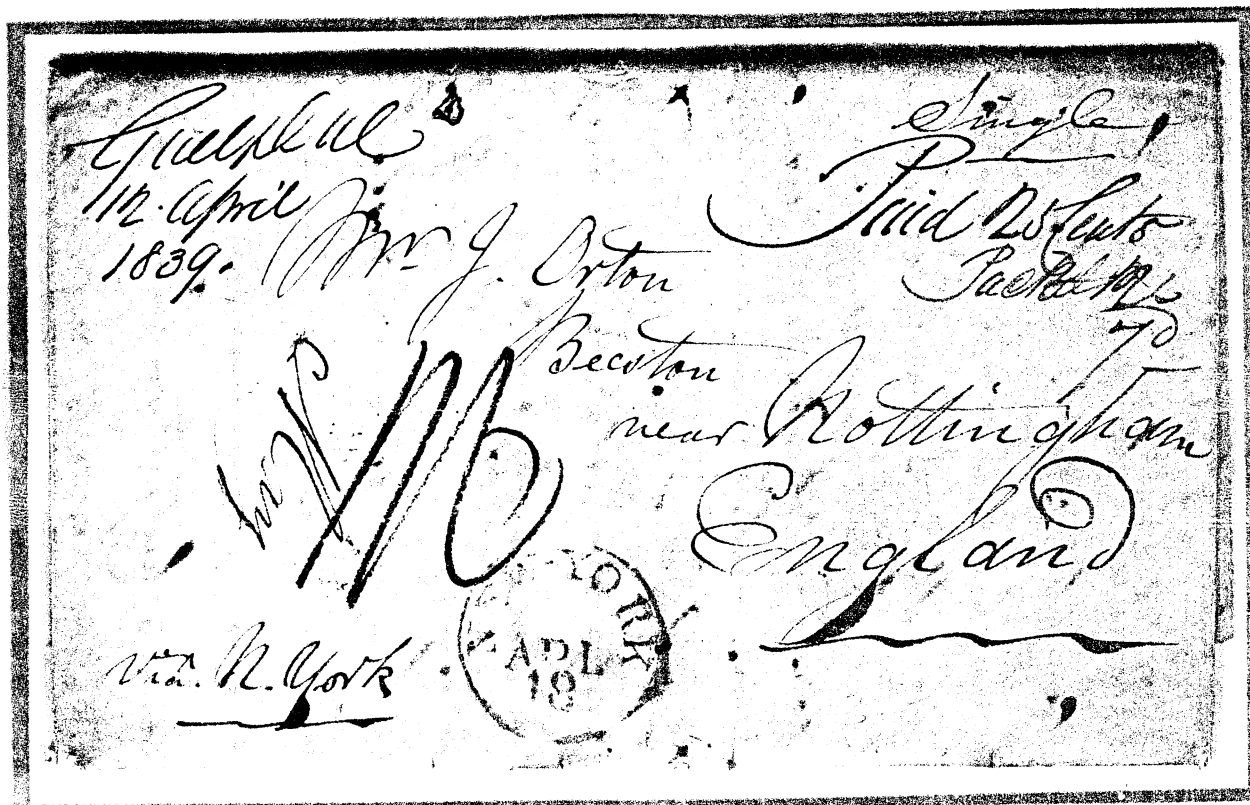
Freight Money

Canadian cover from Loughboro shows sailing packet
charge of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents, U.S. postage of $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents
and Canadian postage of 7d.
It bears a Liverpool ship letter of 1839.



Freight Money

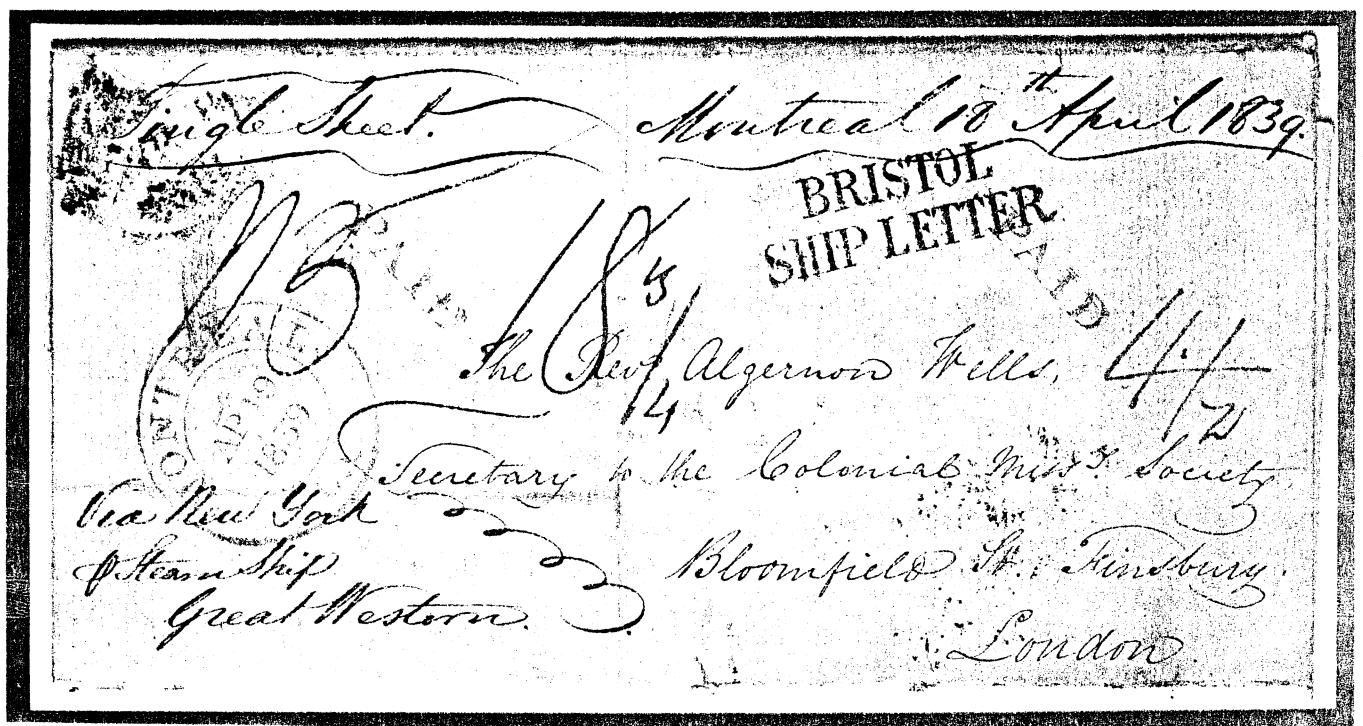
Canadian cover from Guelph shows ^{double} ~~single~~ ratings of 12½ cents.
sailing packet, 25 cents United States and 7d. Canadian.
The reverse shows a Liverpool ship letter of 1839.



Freight Money

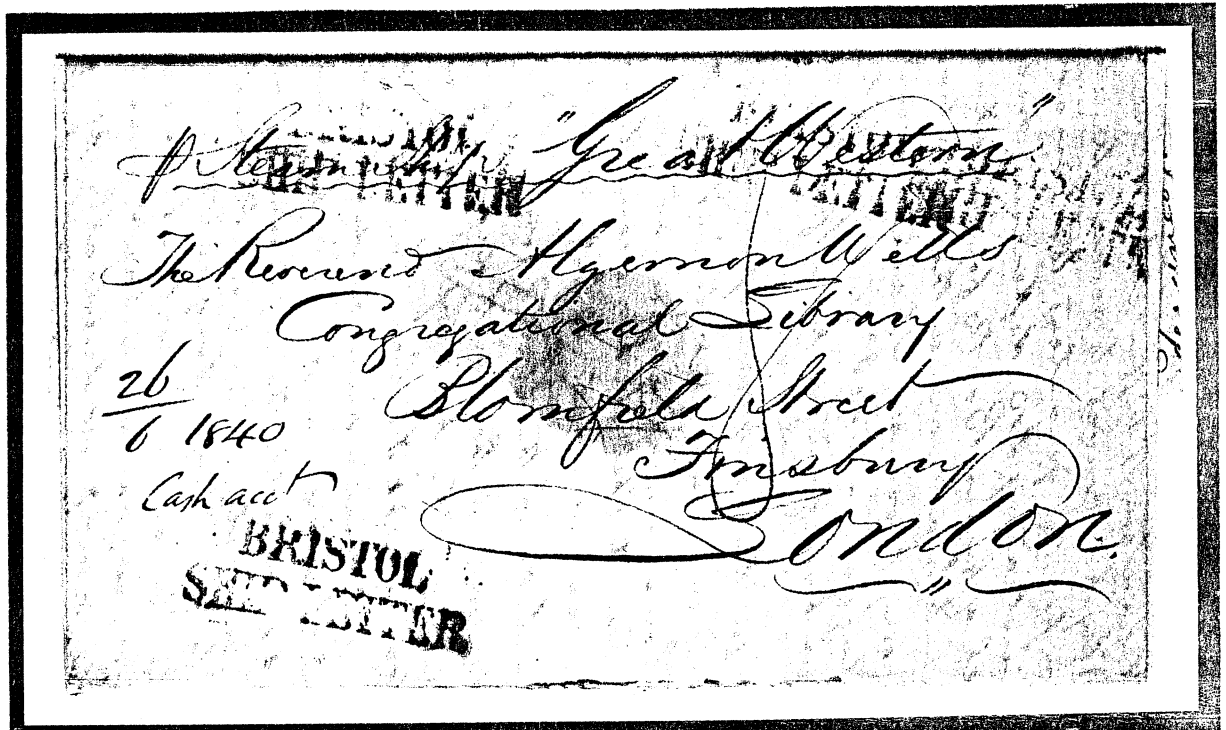
Freight Money

The "Wells" correspondence is a considerable mystery. Several letters are known from Montreal to London by the "Great Western" none of which show payment of Freight Money charges. A clerical discount? Here is one with Canadian and U.S. charges paid.



Freight Money

Another "Wells" letter with no rating. The "26/6 Cash acct." is probably docketing. Letter was probably hand carried to New York.



Covering letter from Waynor B.P.O. Quebec, Canada with Freight Moneys collected for letters to be sent on the steamship "Liverpool" August 24. 1839 in the amount of \$190.83

Freight Money

Wm. Bell & Son

London. 25. Oct. 1839

My dear Mr. Bell & Son

Agents for ~~the~~ ^{the} steam ship "Liverpool".

Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to send you an account of steam ship postage - & freight money collected in the Canada - on letters and newspapers transmitted thro' the New York Bell & Son - to be forwarded thence by the "Liverpool" steam ship on the 24. August last. together with a draft on James Ward and Son for the balance being \$190.83 to wit:

Wm. Bell & Son

Freight Money

Post Office

Montreal 5 April 1839

Dear Sirs/

Mr. Staynor, the Deputy
Post Master General, has written you

POST OFFICE

Montreal 5 April, 1839

Dear Sirs:

Mr. Staynor, the Deputy Post Master General, has written you I understand on the subject of the Steamship Agency and pointed out the reasons in favor of your allowing the proceeds (from the different Post Offices in the Canadas) to be concentrated in Quebec and remitted to you from thence as at first proposed. After maturely reflecting on the matter I feel confident that you will continue the present plans as much more likely to insure satisfactory accounts and punctual remittances than any other. I do not think that any plan will ever make you certain of having the money in your possession so as to do so by each steamship as she sails, but as the amount from these Provinces is never so large as to be an object to you, I imagine that you will find it expedient (if accounts must so be closed) to advance the same for two or three weeks from departure of the respective Boats.

I am very respectfully & sincerely, My Dear Sirs,

Your mo. obdt. Servant
And^w Porteous
Post Master

Mes^s Abraham Bell & Co.
New York—

Freight Money

Letter from Niagara, Canada, probably refers to
printed rate notice shown following.

Post Office Niagara N.B.
10. May 1839

Dear Sir,

I duly received your Letter with
the enclosures, which I have fixed
up in a conspicuous part of my
Office. I shall send to morrow
whatever Letters I may have to go
by the "Liverpool" - I have at present
15 18 only. I find that in the aggregate
the postage would be more than if
sent singly, I shall therefore direct
each to your care. Please attend to
all so addressed, and post marked
Niagara N.B.

When you write please say
whether you can receive letters to go
by the sailing Packets

I am very respectfully

Yours &c
Messrs Bell & Co.

Alfred Cunningham P.M.

Freight Money.

Account of steamship postages signed by T. A. Stanger, Deputy
P.M.G. of Canada at Quebec to New York agents of Steamer "Liverpool".

Account of Steam Ship Postage collected in
the Canadas, on Letters and Packets transmitted
to New York to be forwarded thence by the Steam
Ship "Liverpool" - vizt.

(Day of Sailing 24th Aug, 1839.)

Taped thro' the Upper Canada Office	66.68
Taped thro' Montreal collected at various offices in Lower Canada	149.58
	<u>\$216.26</u>

— D^t —

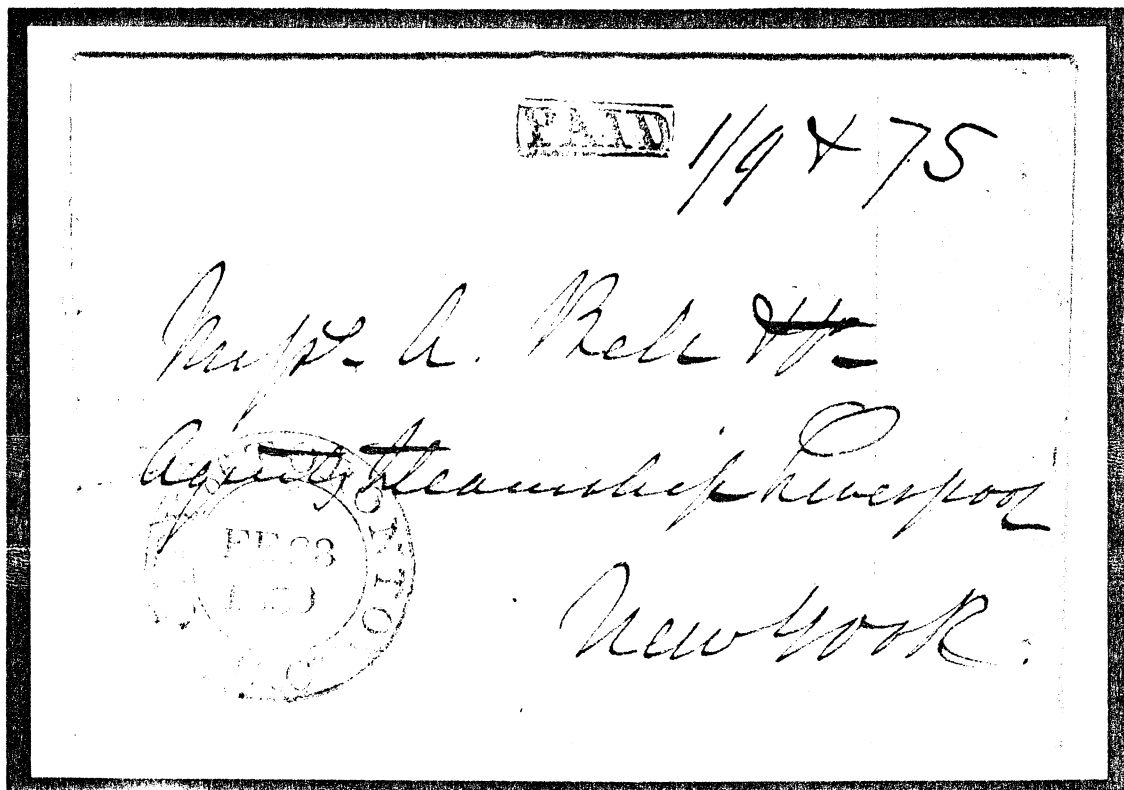
To Commission^{er} of the
General Post Office
Quebec, - 24 October, 1839.

T. A. Stanger

For Messrs. A. Bell & Co.
Agents for Steam Ship "Liverpool".
New York.

Freight Money

Letter from the Postmaster, Toronto, to agents for steamer
"Liverpool" enclosing letter to go by same ship, or if it should
miss it, by sailing packet. Check enclosed for steamship
postage. Such a letter if sent to agents for "Great Western" with
enclosed letter, would account for postageless "Wells" letter from
Montreal.



Freight Money

Printed notice published by the New York agents of the steamship "Liverpool" of the Transatlantic Steam Ship Company, dated April 10, 1839, setting forth the company's private charges on letters to be carried by the ship. The practice was similar to those of other pioneer steamships.

TARIFF OF PASSAGE, FREIGHT AND POSTAGE.

PER THE TRANS-ATLANTIC STEAM SHIP COMPANY'S SHIPS,

FROM NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL.

PASSAGE in the *Main Saloon*, thirty-five Guineas, . . . \$163 33-100
In the *Fore Saloon*, thirty Guineas, . . . 140
Children under thirteen years and Servants, half price.

FREIGHT.—Light Goods, £5 sterling per ton of 40 Cubic feet.

Other Goods. 1d sterling per pound weight.

Specie under £20,000—1-2 per ct. over 3-8 per ct.

Parcels charged according to size and value, and must be paid for at the Agent's Office at the time of entering them on the Books.

SHIP'S POSTAGE.—Single Letter, . . . 25 cents.
Double, do. . . 50 "
Triple, do. . . 75 "
Quadruple, do. . . 100 "

And one dollar per ounce for Packets or Letters,

Composed of one or more other articles.

Newspapers, . . . 2 cents each.

Periodicals, Magazines and Pamphlets, 2 " per sheet.

FOREIGN POSTAGE.—Letters for places out of the *United Kingdom* and *France*, where the Inland English postage has to be paid by the Company, are charged one dollar per single sheet, and in proportion for all others as above.

Abm. BELL & Co., Agents,

117 FULTON STREET.

New York, 4th Mo. 10th, 1839.

Freight Money

Letter from Liverpool to Abraham Bell, New York, begins:
"Some of the letter bags of the Steamer were left behind which
will account for our having nothing from (...). We observe the
Great Western was just out after a hard passage and some damage."

Buttress

Liverpool 10 Mo 19 1846

Abm Bell Esq
New York

~~118~~ 114

Some of the letter bags of the
steamer were left behind which will
account for our having nothing from you
We observe the Great Western was just
out after a hard passage & some damage
If she be able to sail on her appointed
day we may look for her
Our trade for Cotton & head
stuffs has gone regularly up, but
you will likely keep a head of us
and our future business will be
regulated by the supplies of
you we look for with
Can there be much down before
the Canals close for Winter?
What time do good stuffs come into

Freight Money

A remittance from the City News Room of Salem, Mass.,
to the New York agents of the Liverpool showing that it was
not only the post offices who were entitled to collect
Freight Money.

City News Room.

Salem Aug. 22nd 1839.

Messrs. A. B. & Co.

Dear Sirs.

Enclosed are Two Bills for the
Steam Ship Liverpool -

Cost of my 1st per letter of 4th ult. \$0.25

Due for bills enclosed. 50

But due you 35

Respect^{ly}

Yours A^{to} serv^t

A. B. & Co.

Please give your reply to the bearer of this.

Freight Money

Another original remittance advice from City News Room, Mass., shows why no covers from this City are known.

City News Room.

Salem, Dec. 12th 1839

Messrs A. Bell & Co.

Dear Sirs

Enclosed are Five Letters for the Steam Ship
Liverpool - and a Bank Note for postage. which please place to my $\frac{1}{2}$.

Bal. of my $\frac{1}{2}$ per letter of 17th Oct. \$0.25

Bank Note enclosed

.25

2.25

Due for Letters enclosed (one double) 1.50

But for my $\frac{1}{2}$ 7.5

Respect^{ly}

Yours

N. Peirce Jun^r

Please acknowledge the rec^t of this by return Steam Boat Mail.
And have the enclosed for the Post-master delivered.

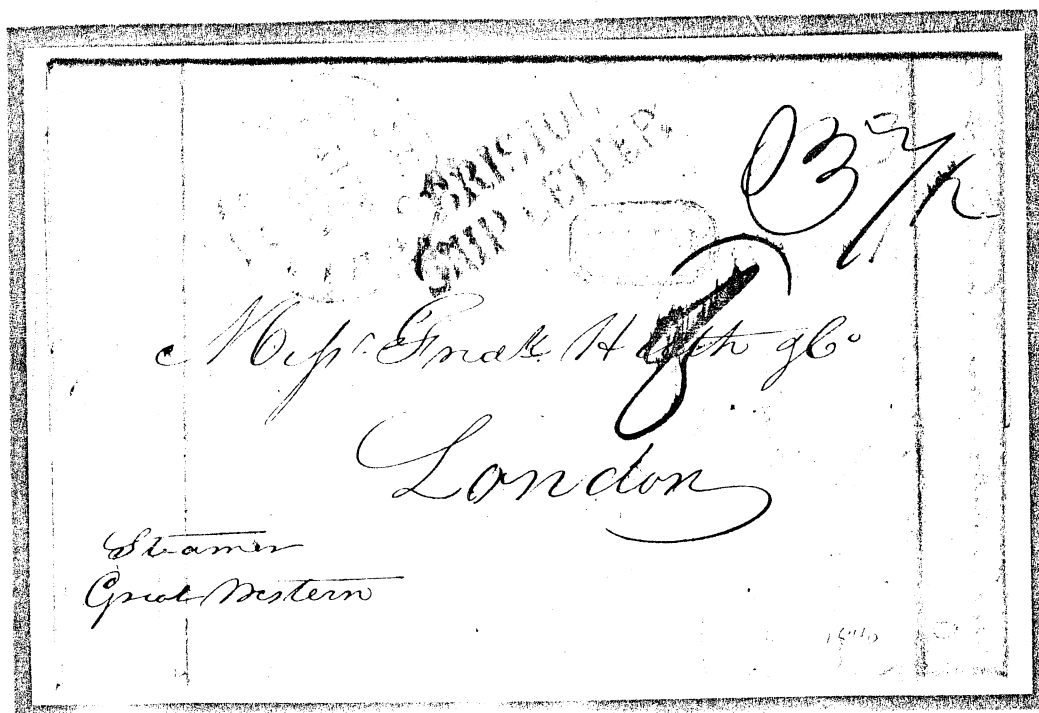
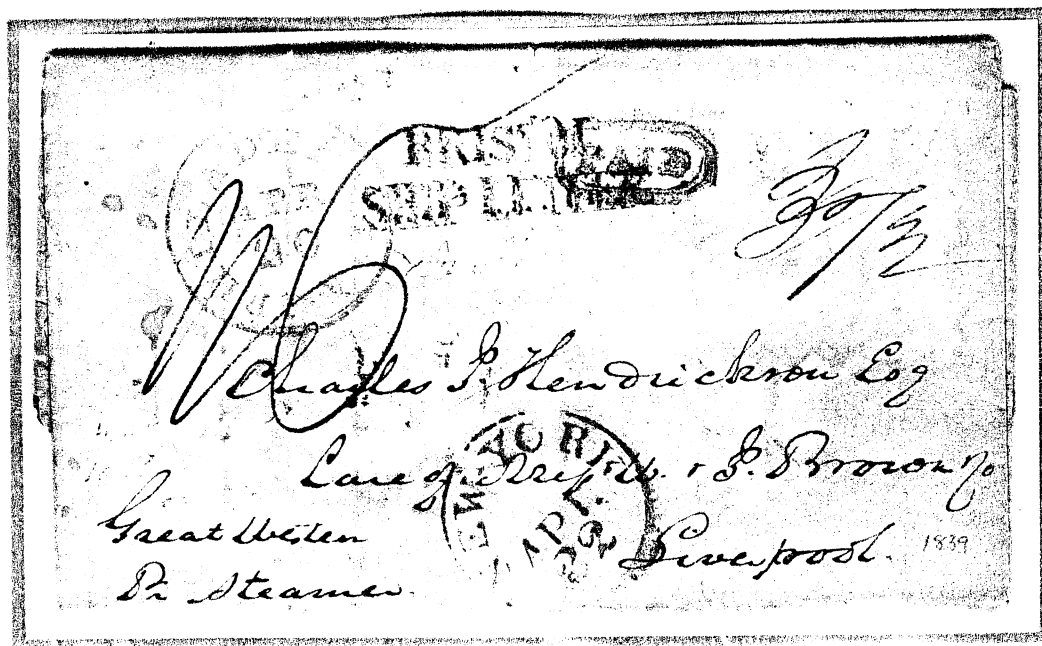
Freight Money

The earliest recorded Freight Money cover, a Philadelphia double charged with $2 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cents postage to New York and $2 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cents Freight Money combined into a 50 cent rating. The date is August 7, 1837. The handstamped "4" is associated with the railway Liverpool to Manchester.



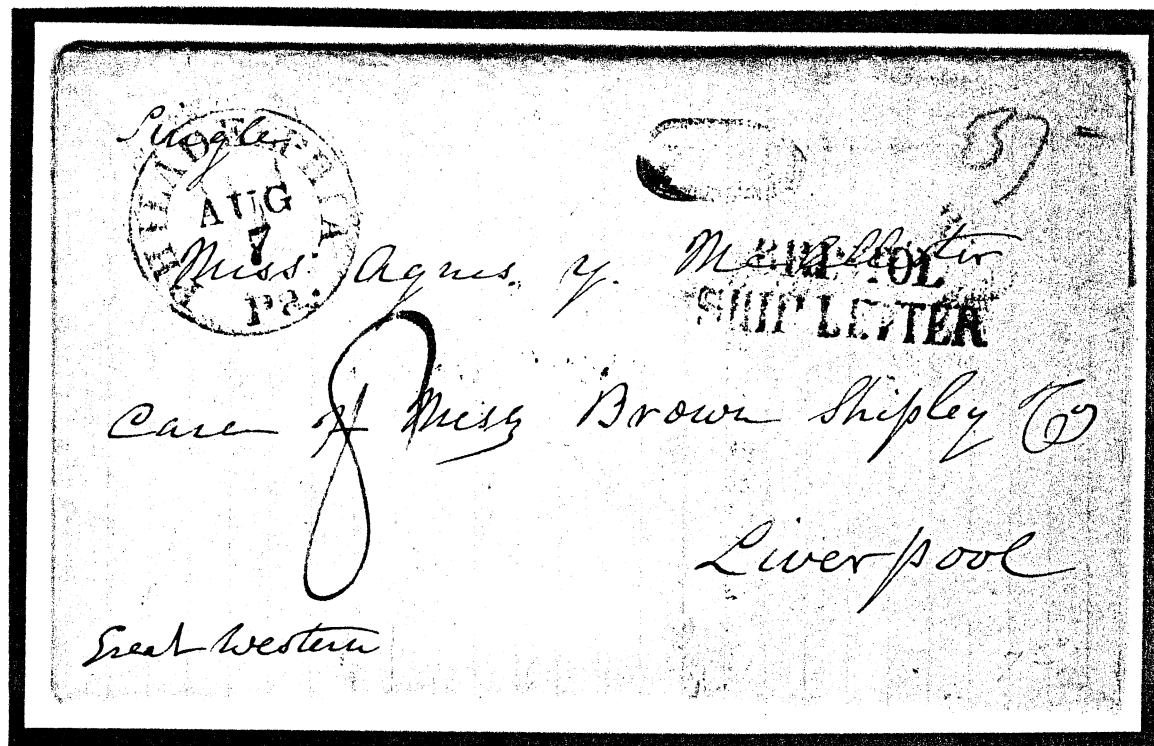
Freight Money

Two single covers by the Great Western steamer with the 12½ cent postage and 25 cent Freight Money combined into a 37½ cent rating at Philadelphia.



Freight Money

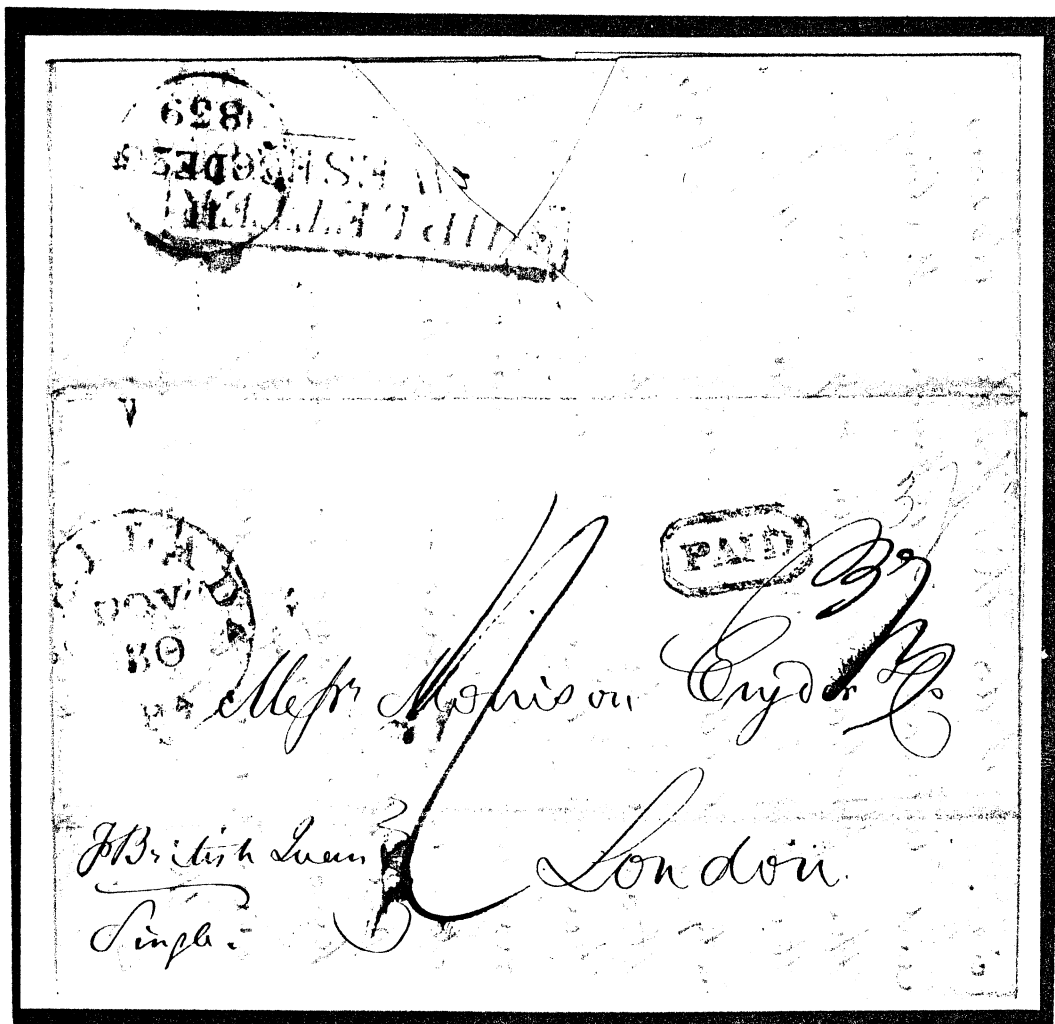
Single steamship letter from Philadelphia with only
recorded crayon rating, sent August 7, 1841.



Freight Money

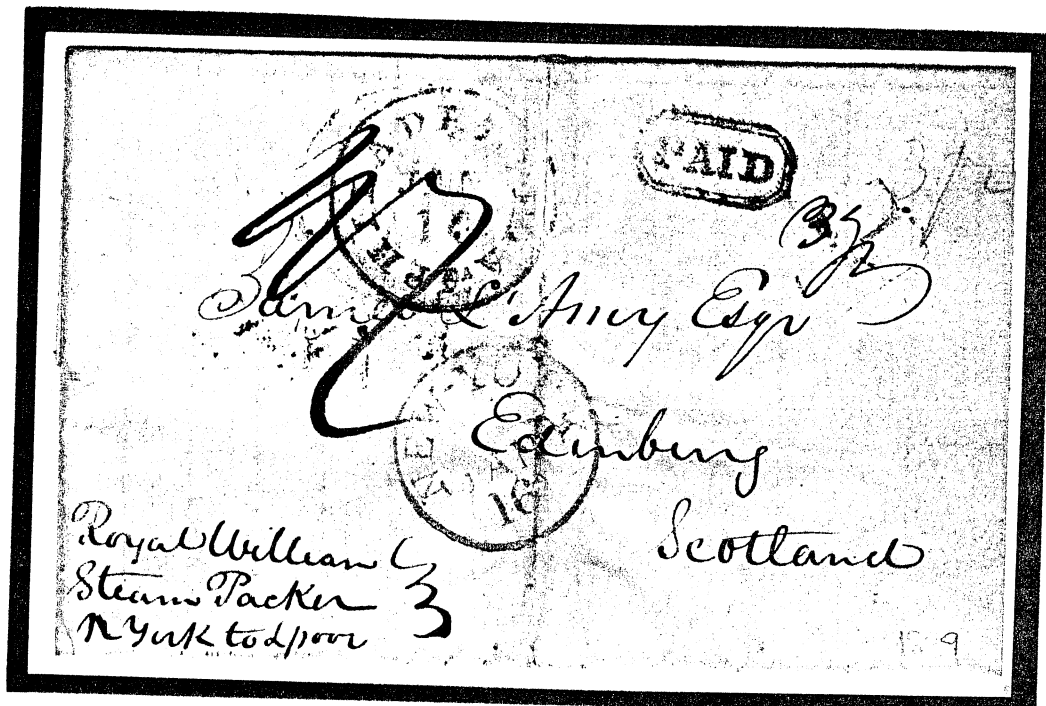
Single steamship letter from Philadelphia rated at 37½ cents and carried by the British Queen, with Gravesend step ship Letter in red and London December 26, 1839, arrival marking, rated at 1½. This is the extremely rare 8¢ ship letter rate, and short lived 4¢ uniform internal rate (Dec. 5, 1839 - Jan. 9, 1840).

The only steamer to arrive from America during this short period was this sailing of the British Queen.



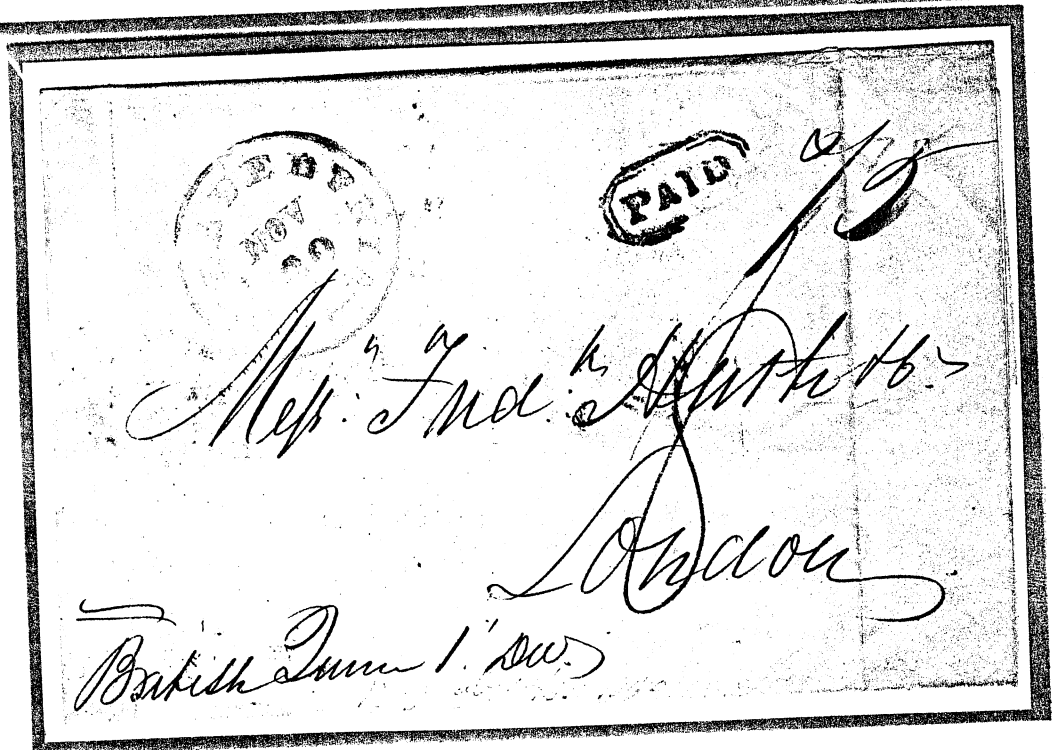
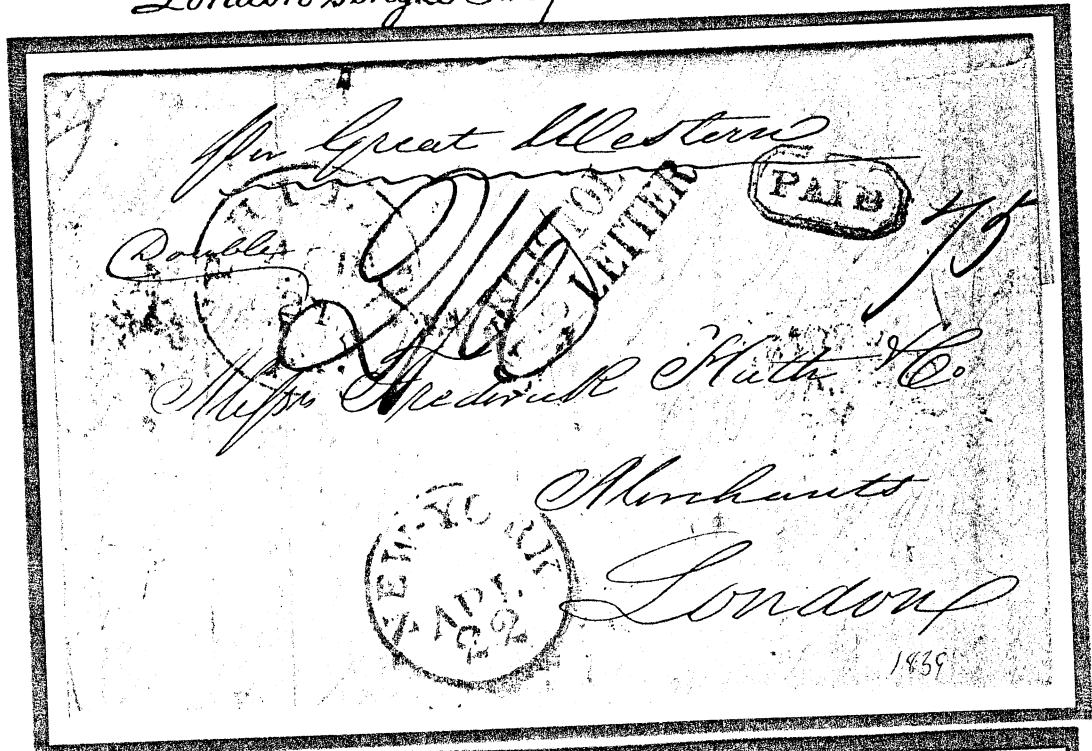
Freight Money

Single steamship letter at 37½ cents from Philadelphia
on the scarce steamer "Royal William."



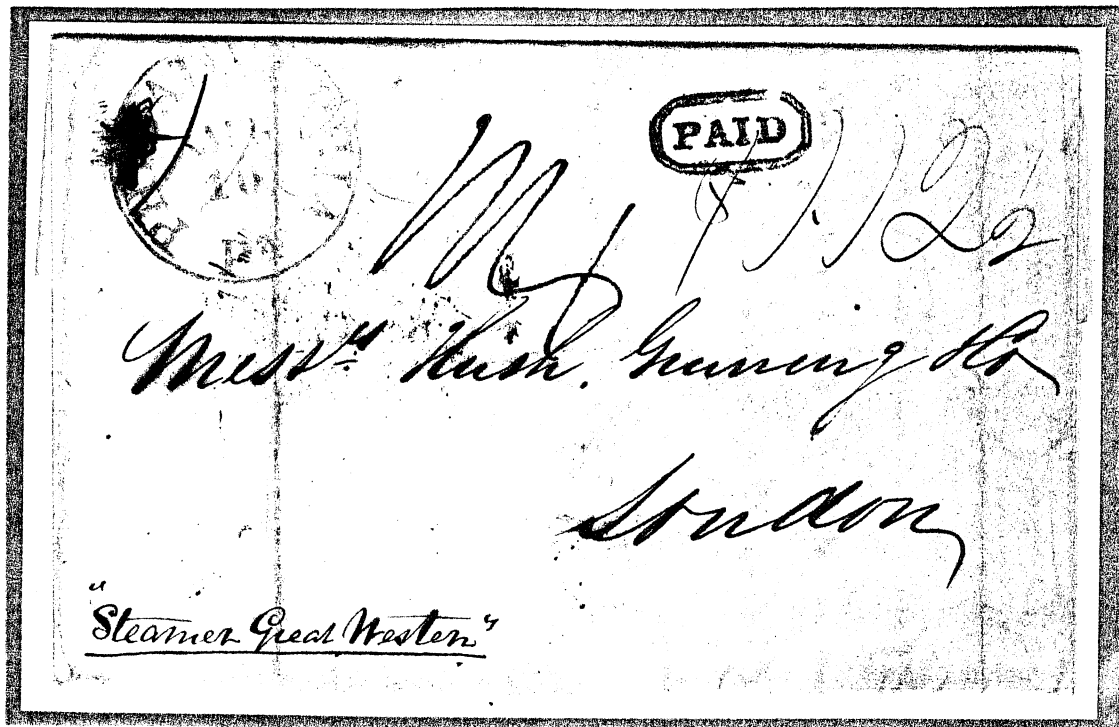
Freight Money

Two double rated steamship covers from Philadelphia
rated at 75 cents each, at $2 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cents postage and 2×25
cent Freight Money, one by the Great Western with
Bristol Ship Letter and one by the British Queen with
London single Ship Letter on reverse.



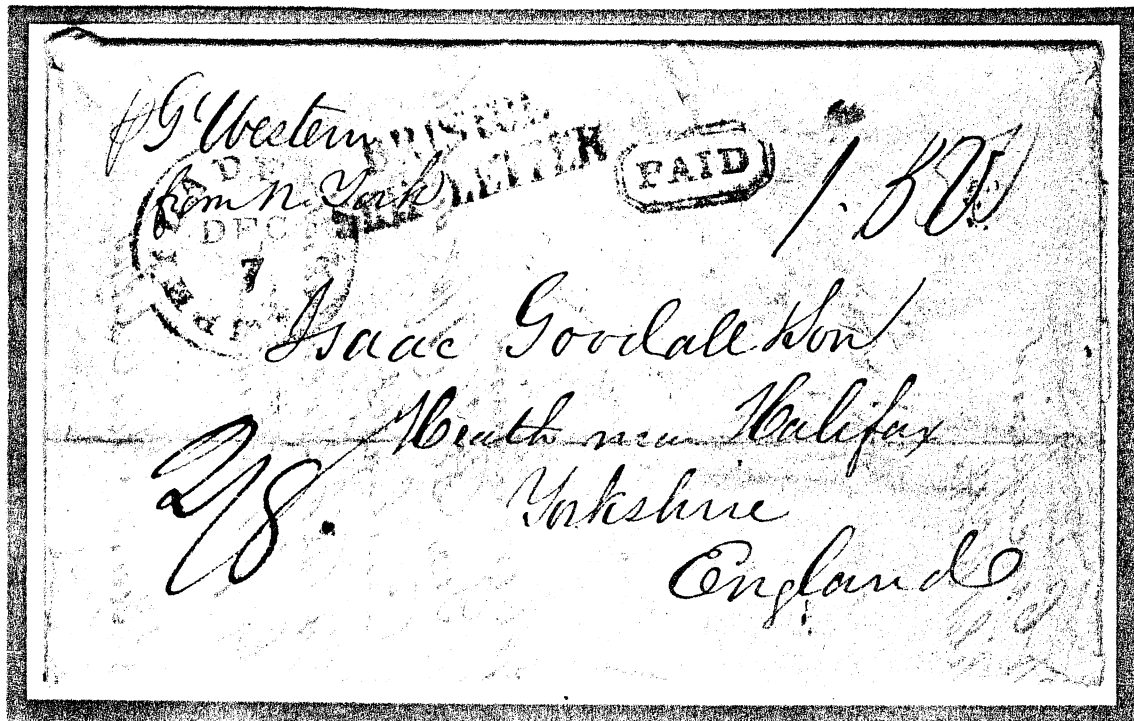
Freight Money

A triple cover via the Great Western in 1840 rated in Philadelphia at \$1.12½ with 37½ cents being U.S. Postage and 75 cents Freight Money.



Freight Money

A quadruple letter by the Great Western in 1840
rated at \$1.50, with 50 cents for U.S. Postage and
\$1.00 for Freight Money at Philadelphia.



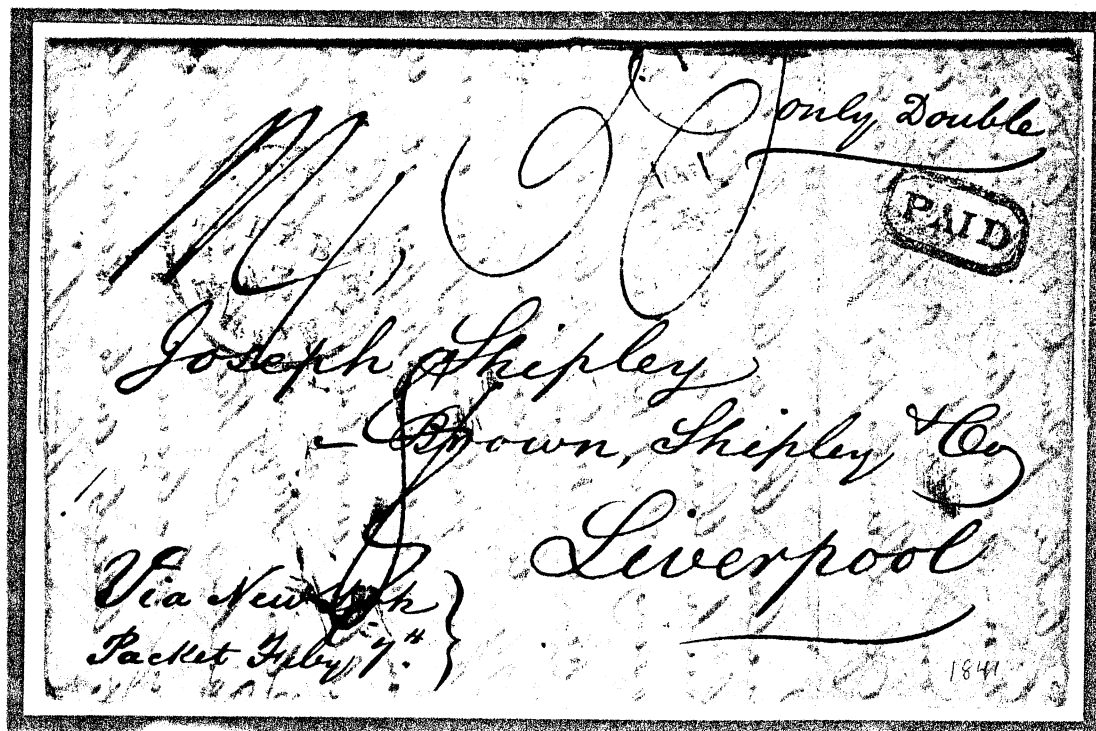
Freight Money

A single letter from Philadelphia rated at 25 cents
on the vessel South America, exceptionally scarce.



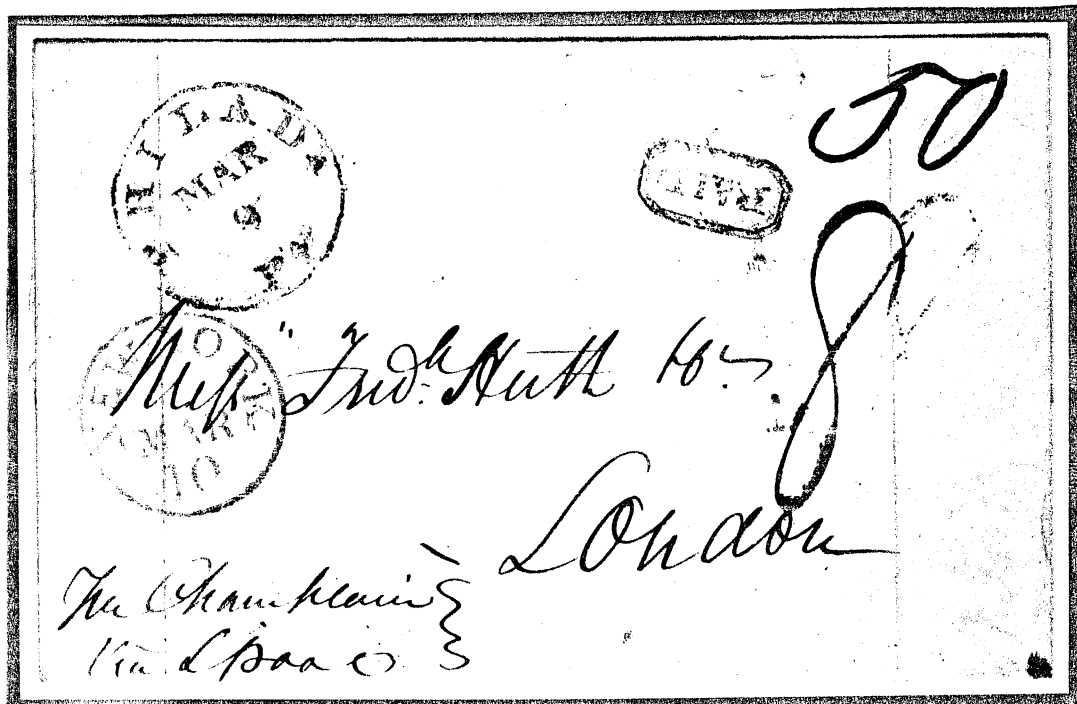
Freight Money

Fast sailing ships charged lesser Freight Money. Here is one, a double, paying $2 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cents U.S. Postage and $2 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ cents Freight Money combined into .50 cents rating at Philadelphia. In the U.S. "Packets" did not necessarily refer to officially designated vessels.



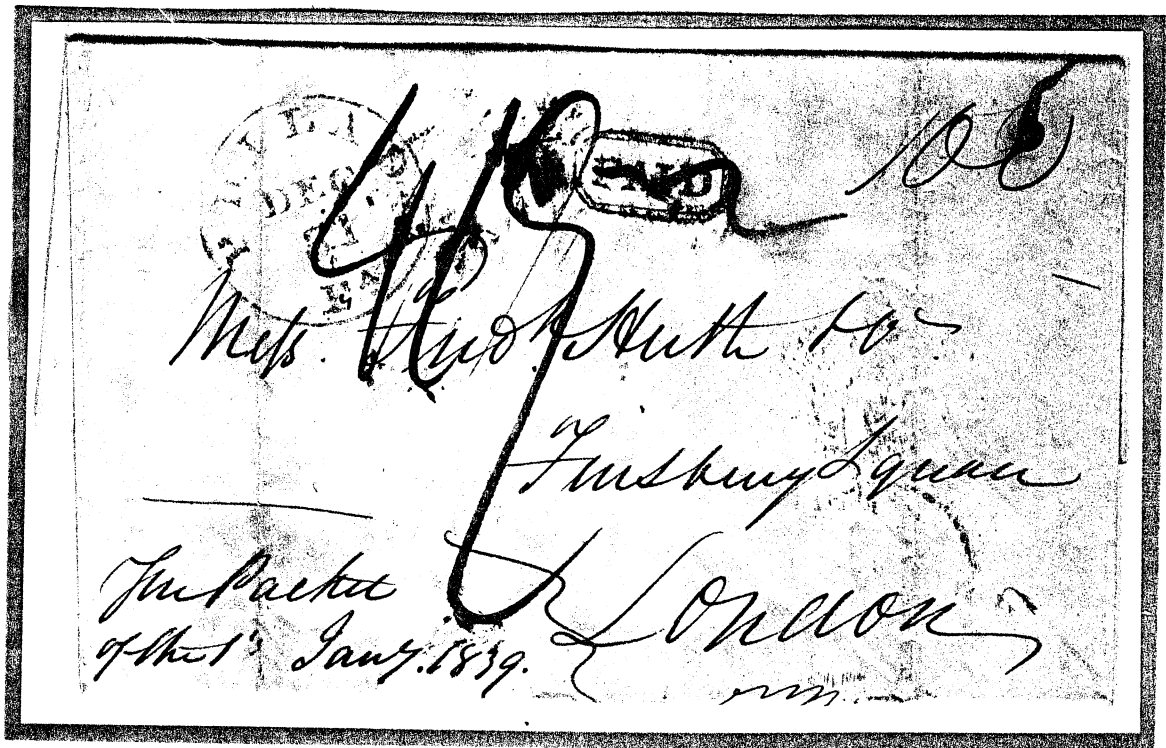
Freight Money

Sailing ship double letter carried by the Champlain
rated combined 50 cents at Philadelphia half and half
postage and Freight Money in 1840



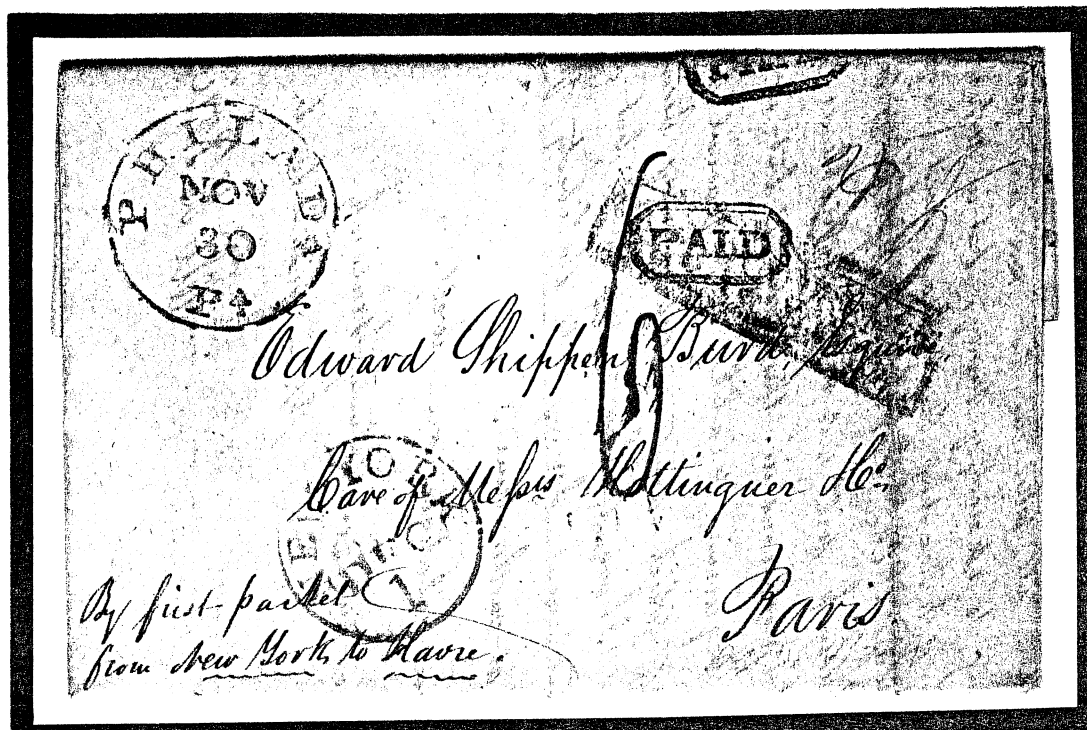
Freight Money

An 1839 quadruple rate sailing ship cover combined rated
at \$1.00. at Philadelphia with 50 cents assignable to U.S. Postage
and 50 cents to Freight Money



Freight Money

Single sheet letter from Philadelphia via scarce Le Havre sailing packets rated at 12½ cents Freight Money and 12½ cents postage, totalling 25 cents.



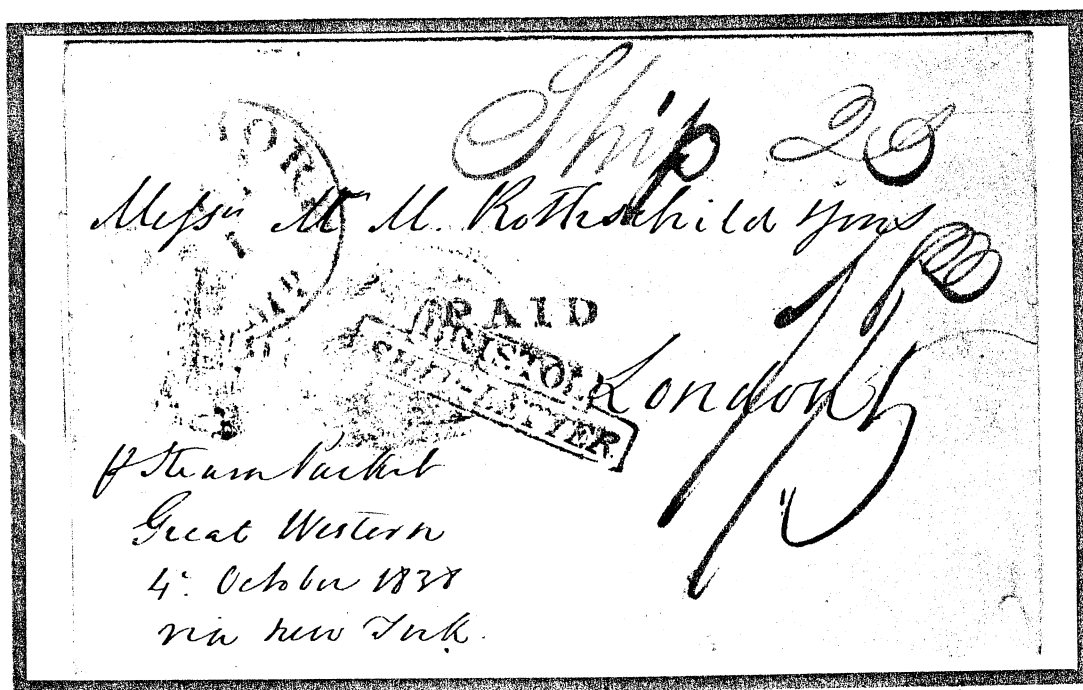
Freight Money

Another Le Havre sailing ship Freight Money from Philadelphia also a single sheet without enclosure, from the same correspondence as the first shown.



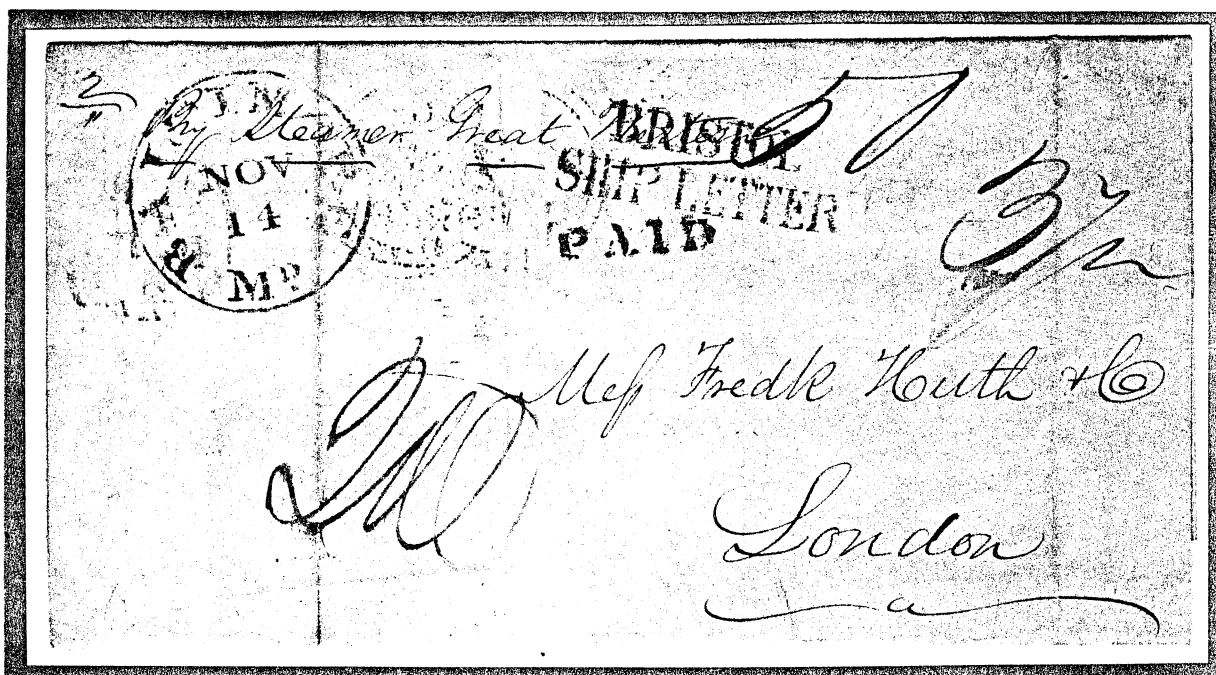
Freight Money

Baltimore, Maryland showed Freight Money, and Postal charges separately with 2 ratings. This cover by the Great Western in February 1839 shows "Ship 25" on top -- an unusual designation for this city -- and 18¾ (cents) postage.



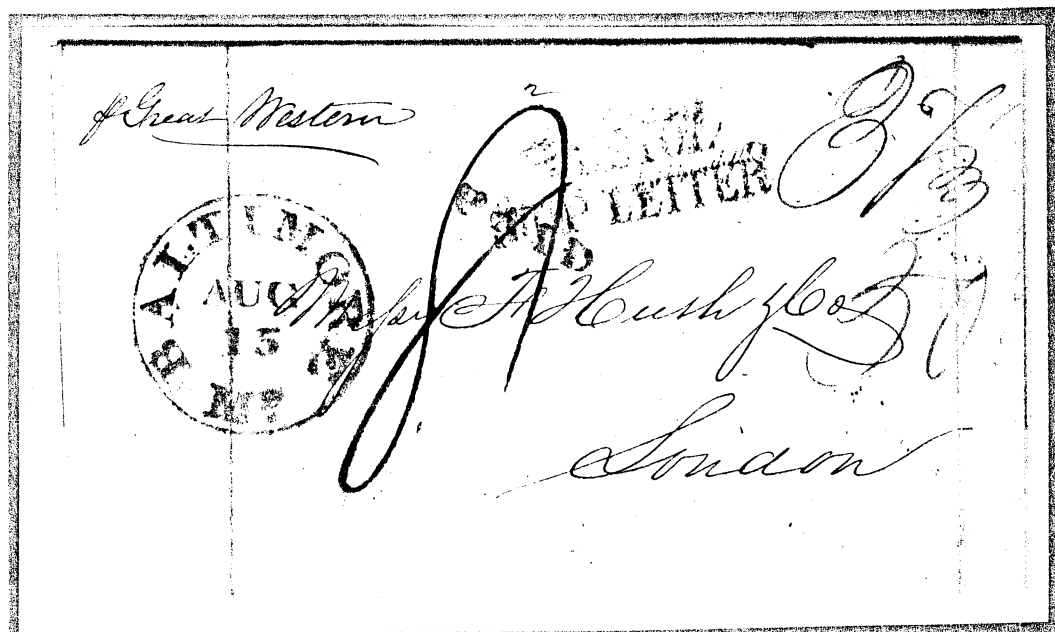
Freight Money

This 1839 cover via the Great Western, a double, shows the inconsistency of placing the ratings. Here the Baltimore 50 cent Freight Money rating is on top, the 37½ cent U.S. Postage on the bottom.



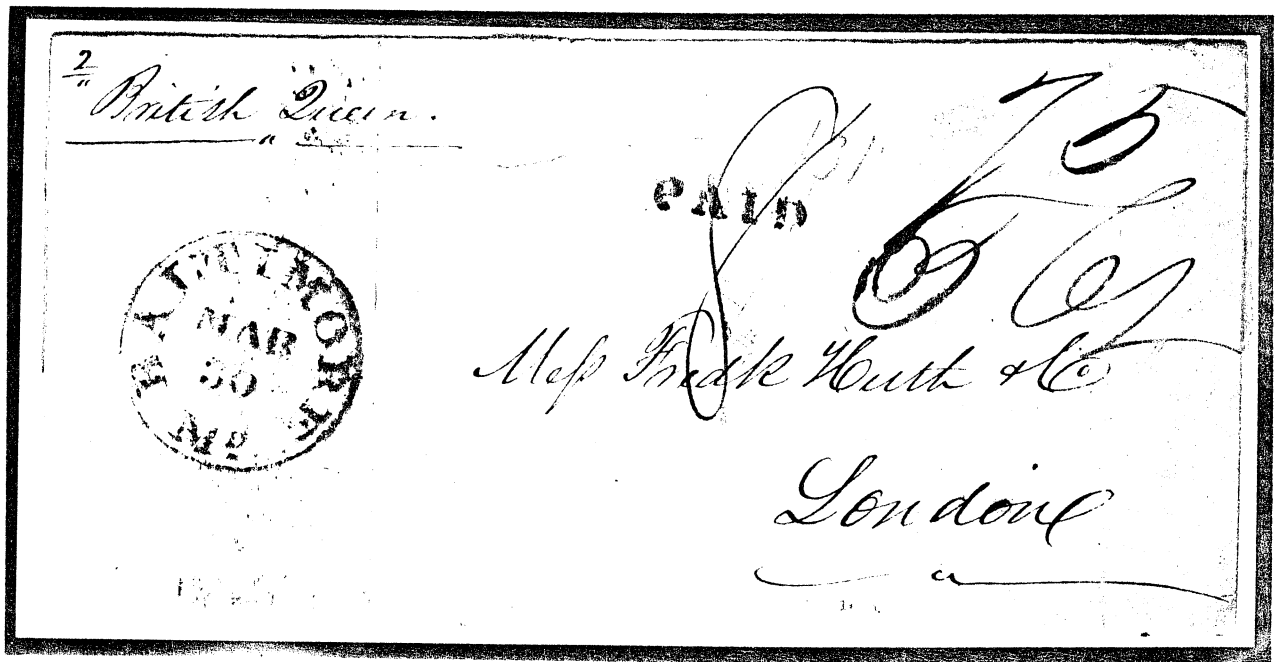
Freight Money

A double via the Great Western in 1840 shows $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents postage above and 50 cents Freight Money below at Baltimore.



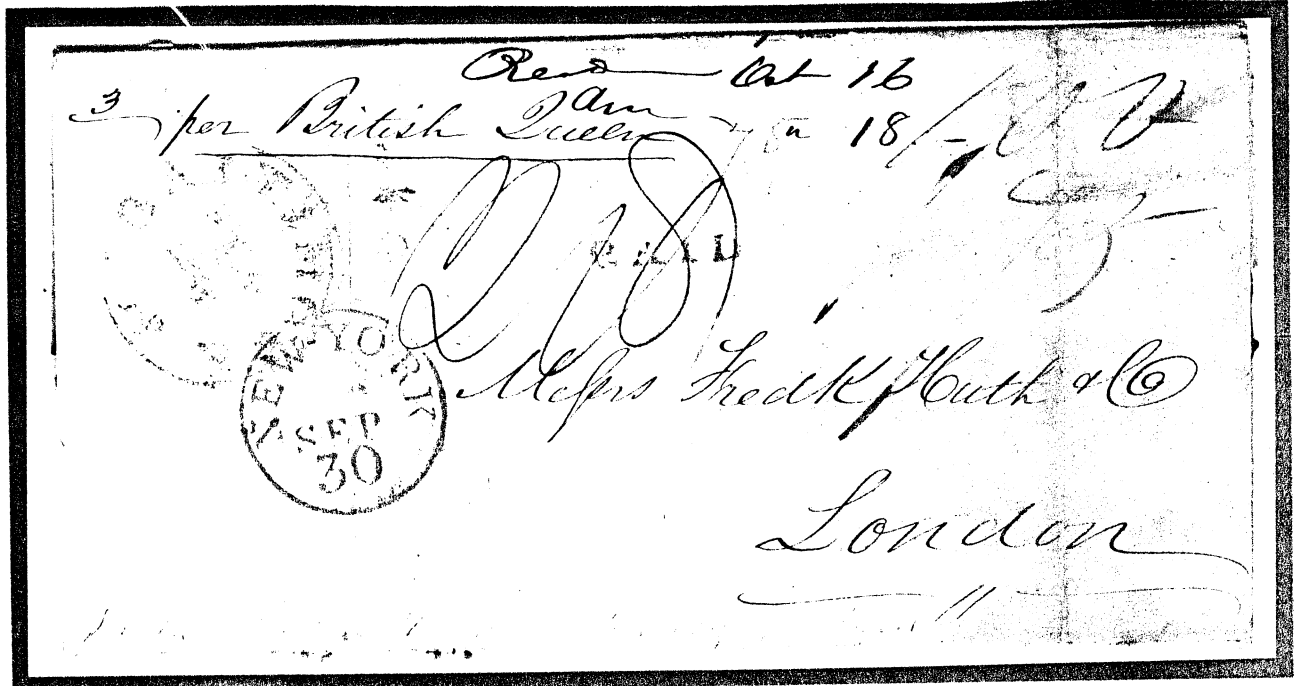
Freight Money

Baltimore 1840 cover by the steamer British Queen
is triple rated at 56 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents U.S. postage and
75 cents Freight Money.



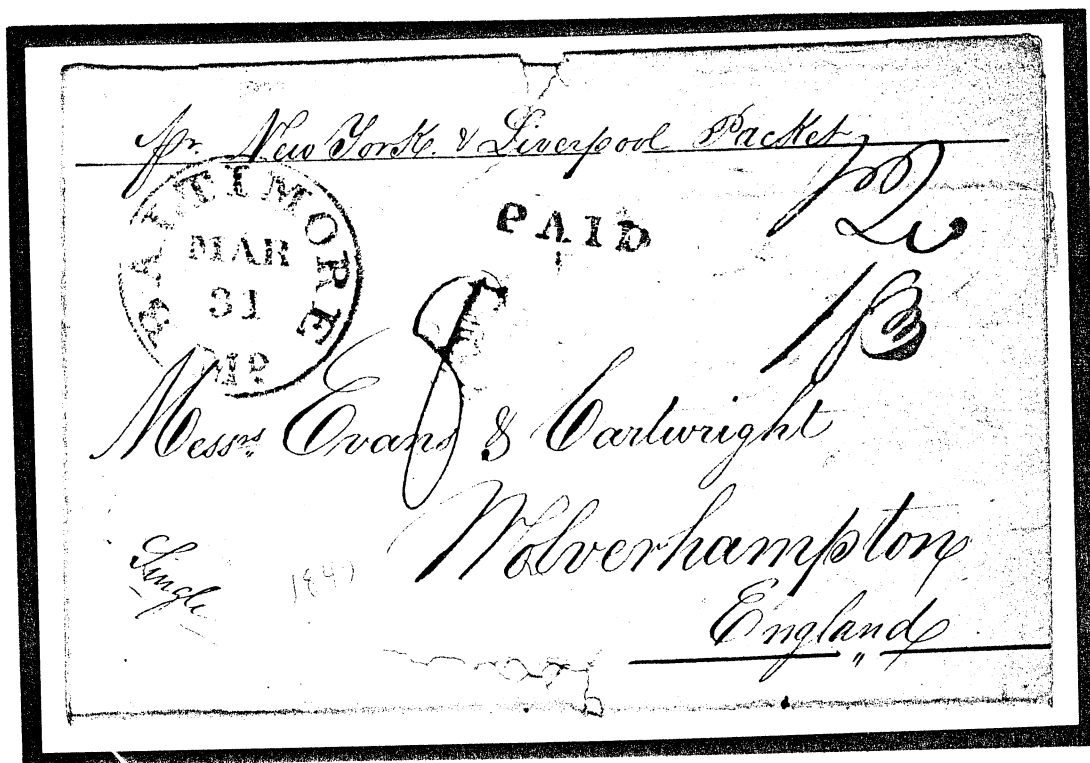
Freight Money

Maiden return voyage cover on the British Queen
in 1839 is quadruple rated at 75 cents U.S. postage
and \$1.00 Freight Money from Baltimore.



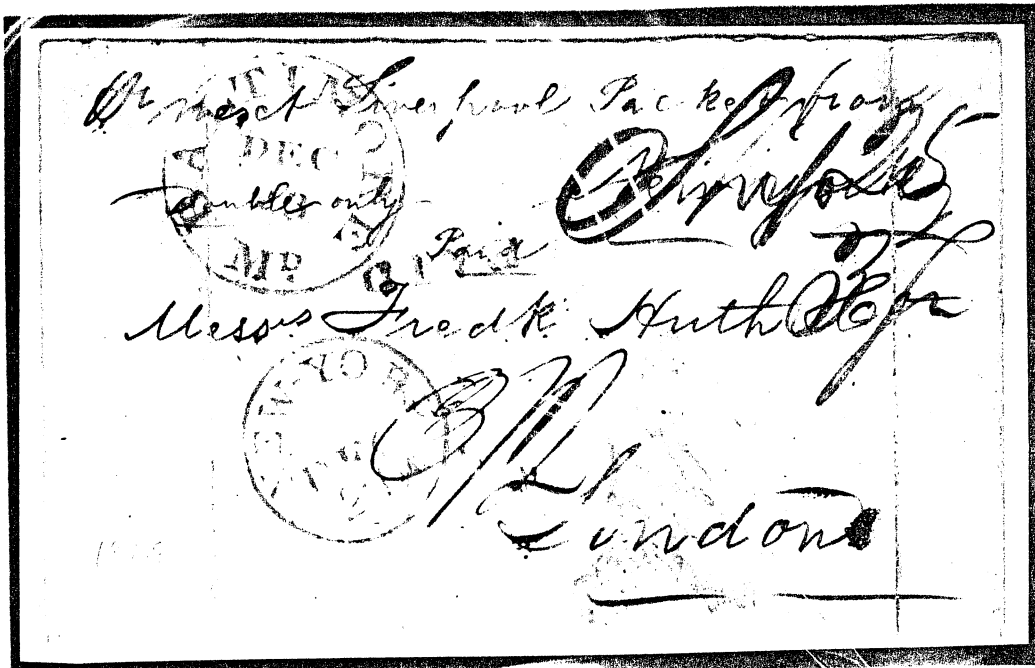
Freight Money

A single letter from Baltimore is rated at $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents
Freight Money and $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents U.S. postage.



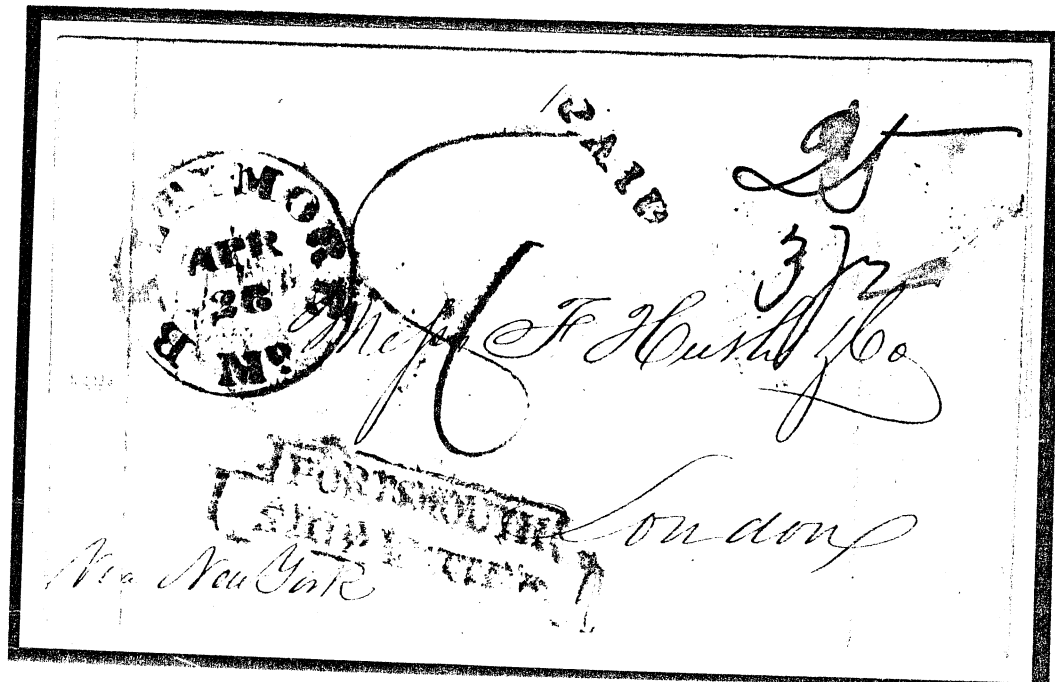
Freight Money

One of the few Baltimore covers where the Freight Money charge was indicated by a "Ship 25" on the cover itself, as well as the U.S. postage 37½ cents rating for a double letter.



Freight Money

Baltimore double sailing packet Freight Money cover of
1840 rated at 25 cents plus 37½ cents U.S. Postage and has
attractive Portsmouth step Ship Letter on front.



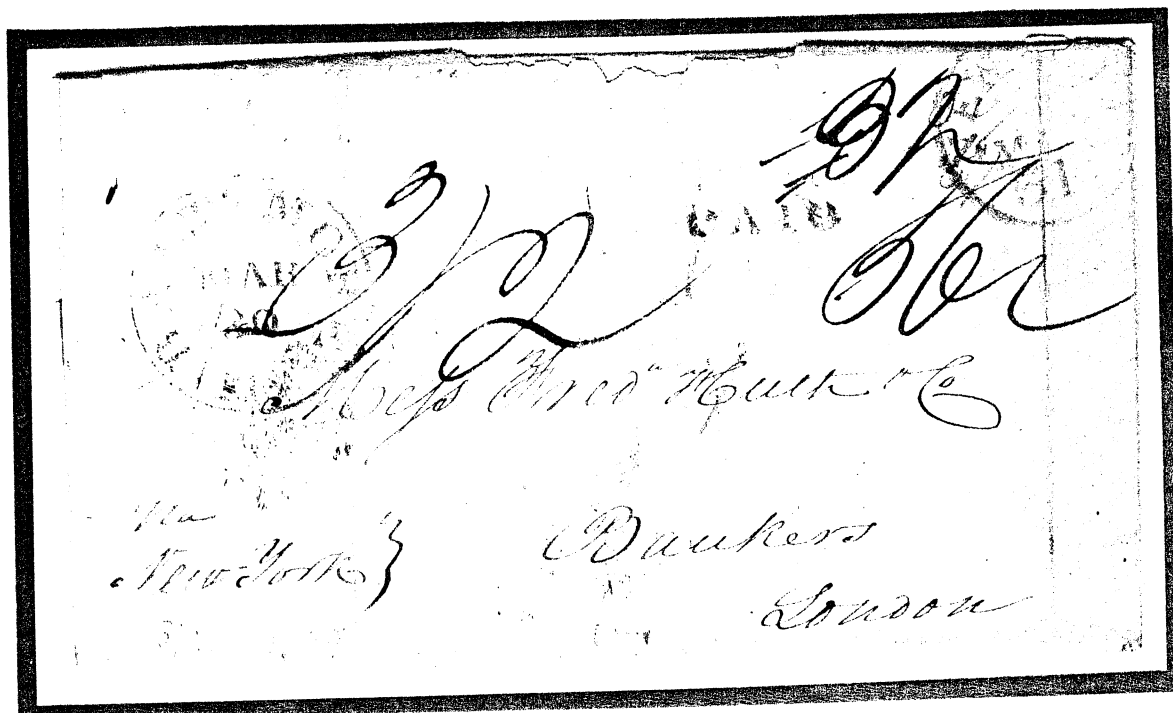
Freight Money.

Double Baltimore letter rated at 25 cents Freight
Money and 37½ cents U. S. postage.



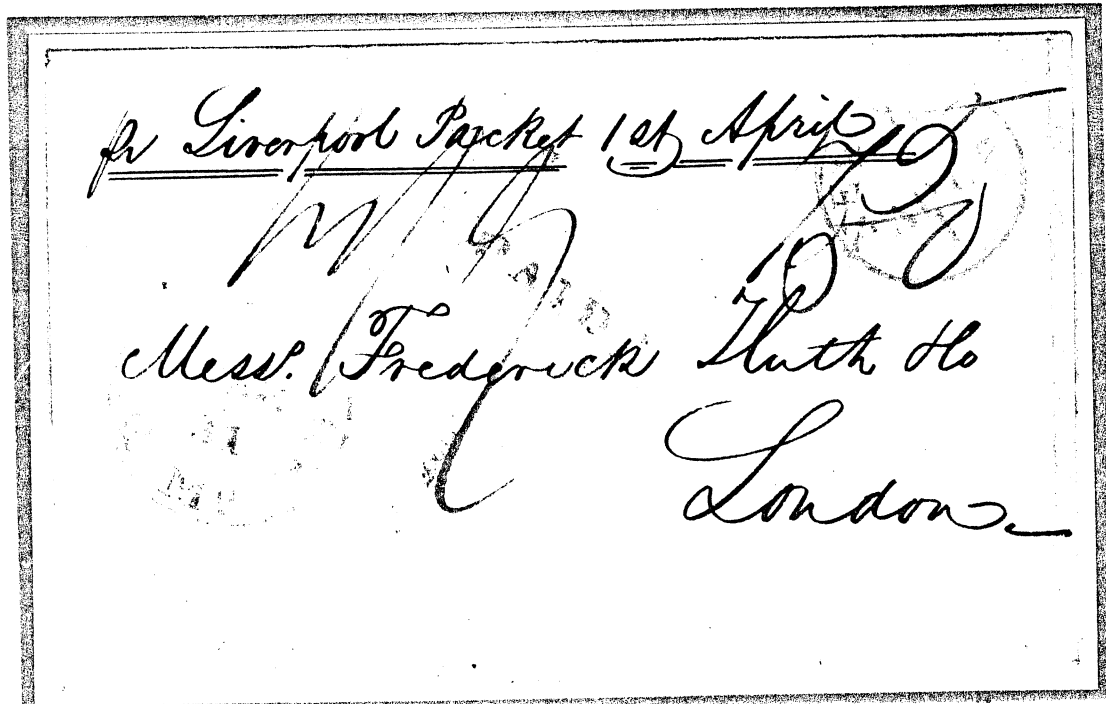
Freight Money

A triple sailing ship cover from Baltimore 1842 is rated
at 37½ cents Freight Money and 56¾ cents U.S. postage.



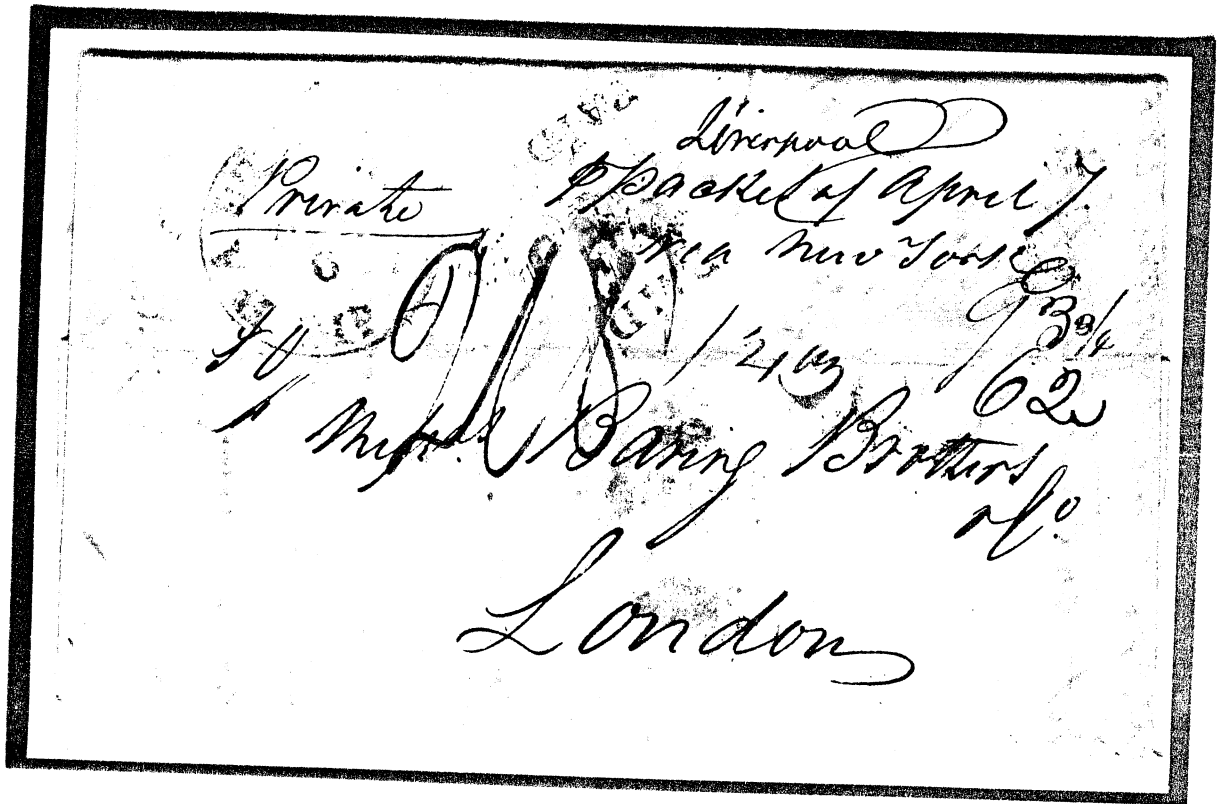
Freight Money

A quadruple sailing ship letter from Baltimore, rated
at (4 x 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents) 75 postage and (4 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents)
50 cents Freight Money.



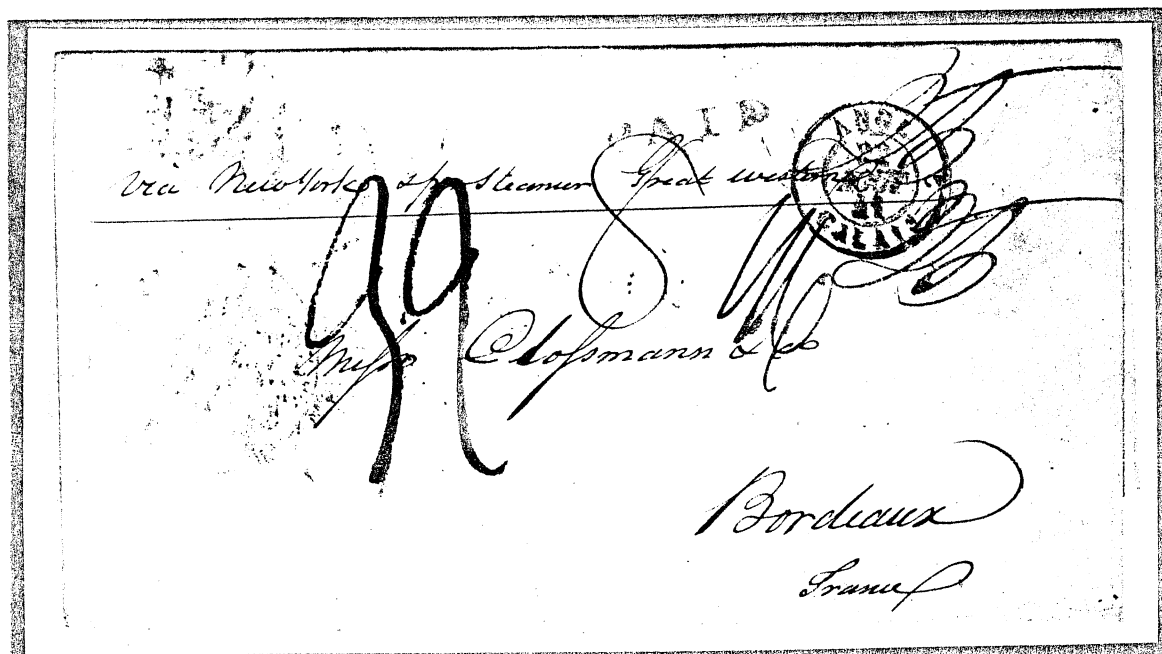
Freight Money

An unusual cover at 1 1/4 ozs from Baltimore needs
5 times U.S. Postage and Freight Money at 93 3/4 and
62 1/2 cents respectively.



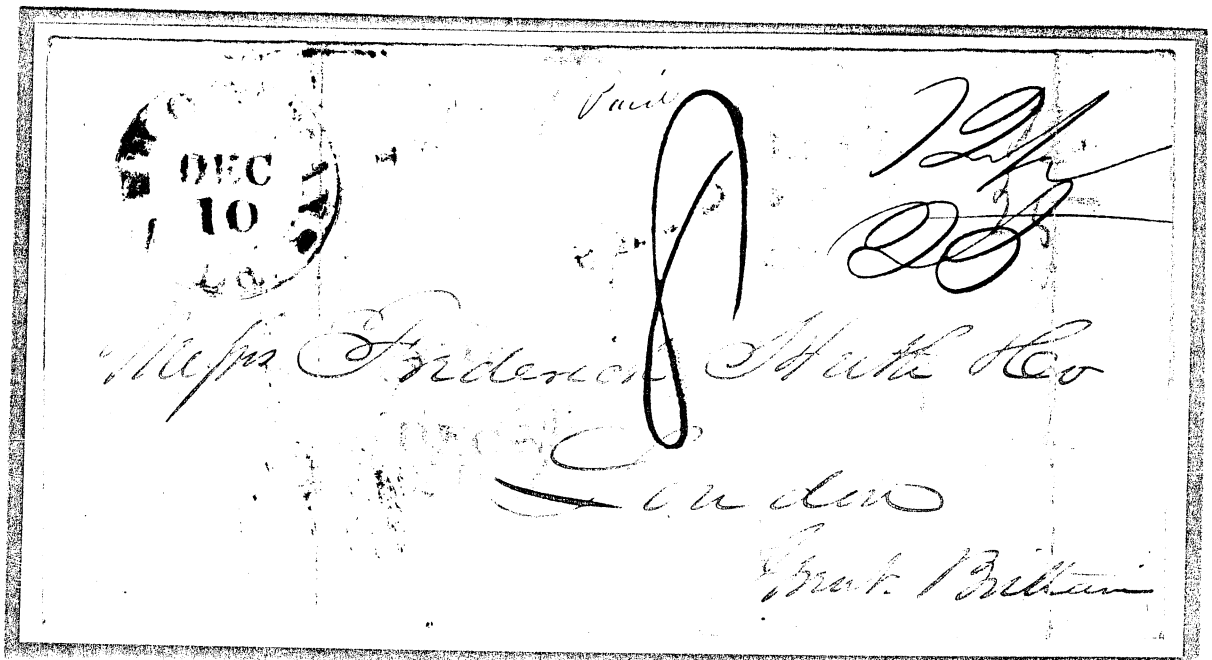
Freight Money

A single (25 x 25) rated New Orleans cover via the Great Western in 1841, and routed from London (single line red Ship letter) to Bordeaux. An unusual example.



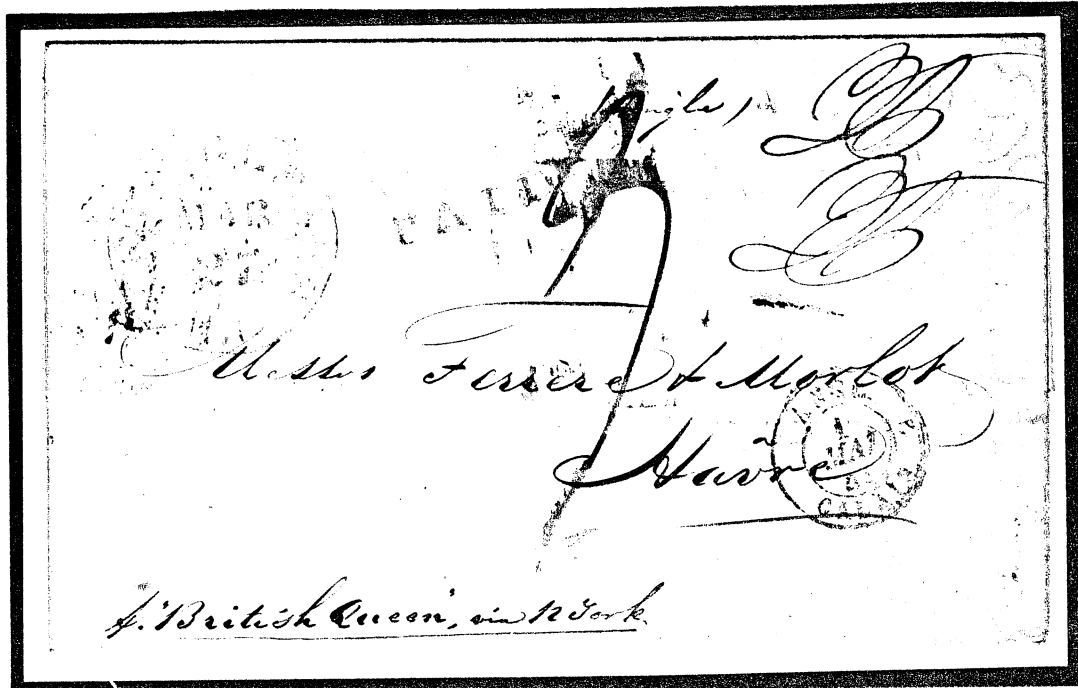
Freight Money

New Orleans rated separately, also. Here is a sailing ship
letter of 1842 with 12½ cents Freight Money, and 25 cents
postage.



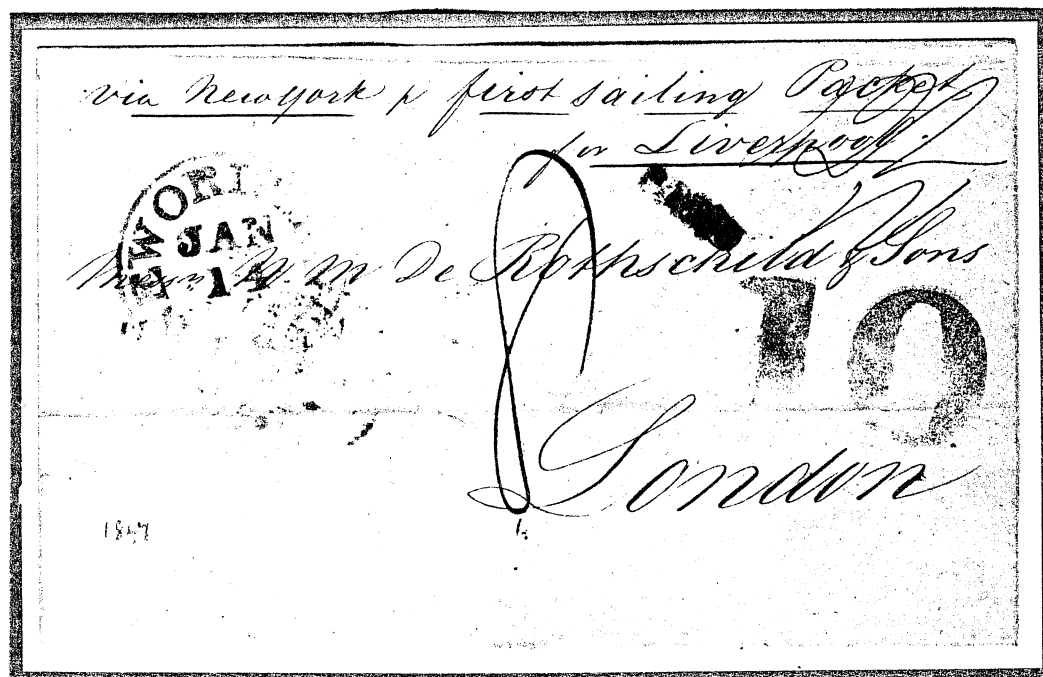
Freight Money

New Orleans single (25 x 25) rated via the steamer Great Western to Liverpool and on to Le Havre by the British Queen.



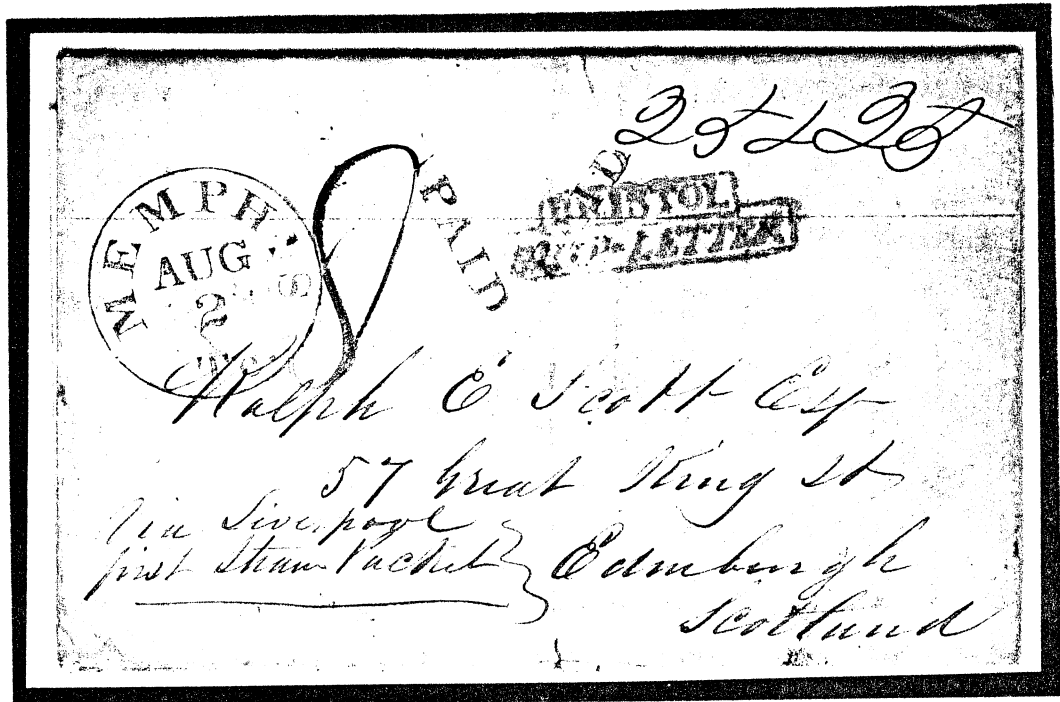
Freight Money

The latest Freight Money cover I have seen, from New Orleans, January 14, 1847 with 12½ cents rated for Freight Money, and 10 cents for U.S. Postage (after the rate change of 1845) and also hand-stamped.



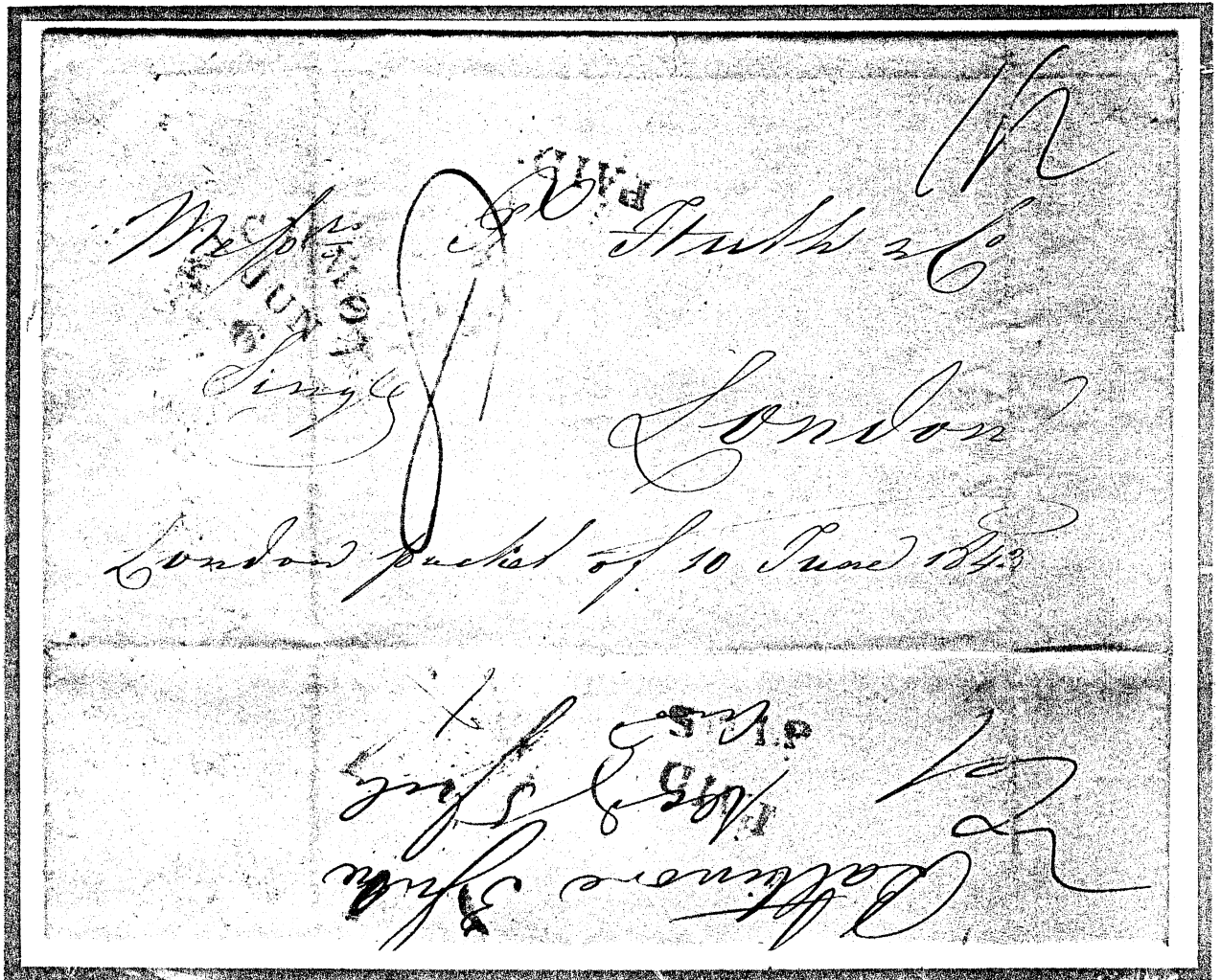
Freight Money

The only recorded Freight Money cover to date from
Memphis, Tenn. is this Aug. 2, 1840 single, rated at
25 x 25 cents which travelled by the Great Western.



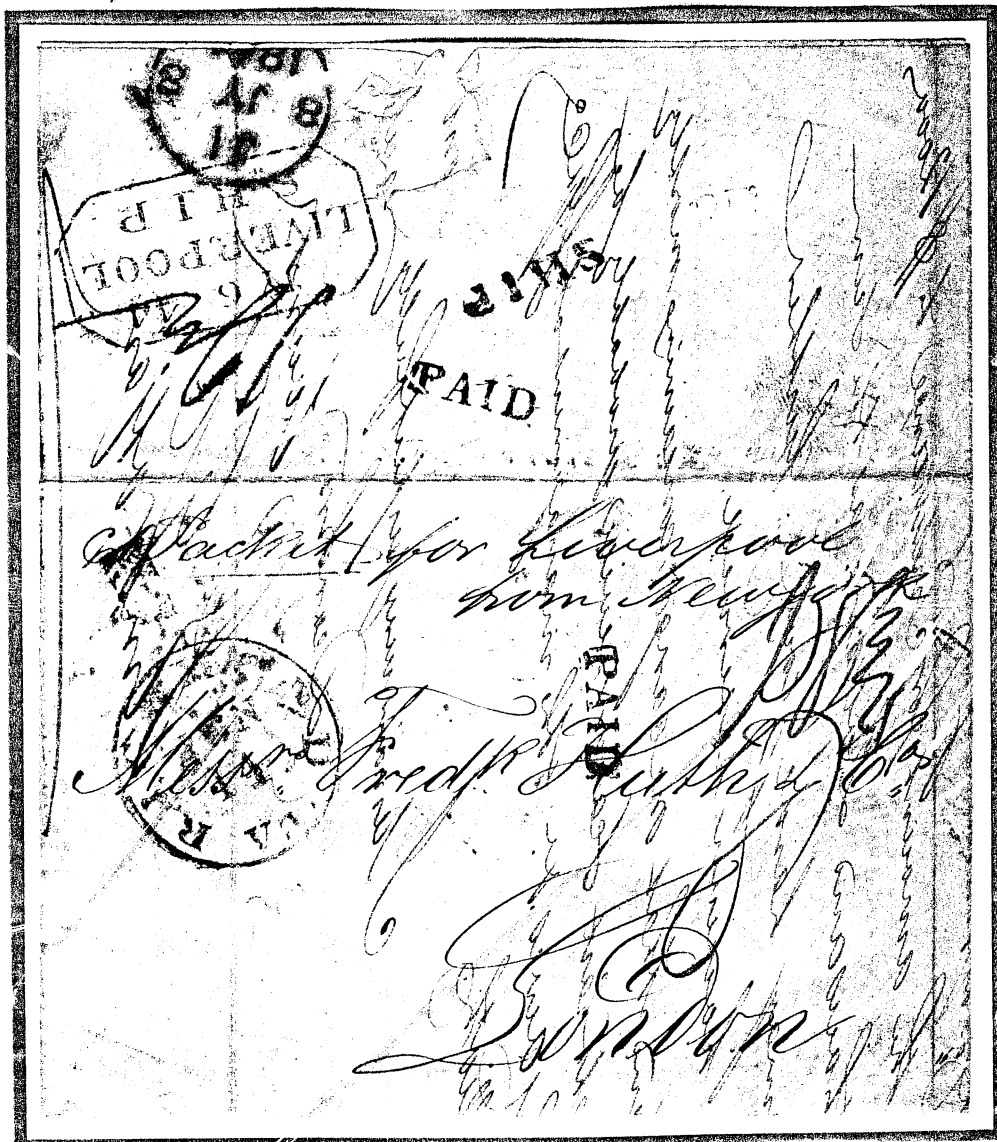
Freight Money

Richmond, Virginia, placed Freight Money ratings on the reverse of covers and differentiated by hand stamp between SHIP and STEAM Helpful! Not? Here is a ship cover of 1843 with 12½ cent ship and 18¾ cents postage.



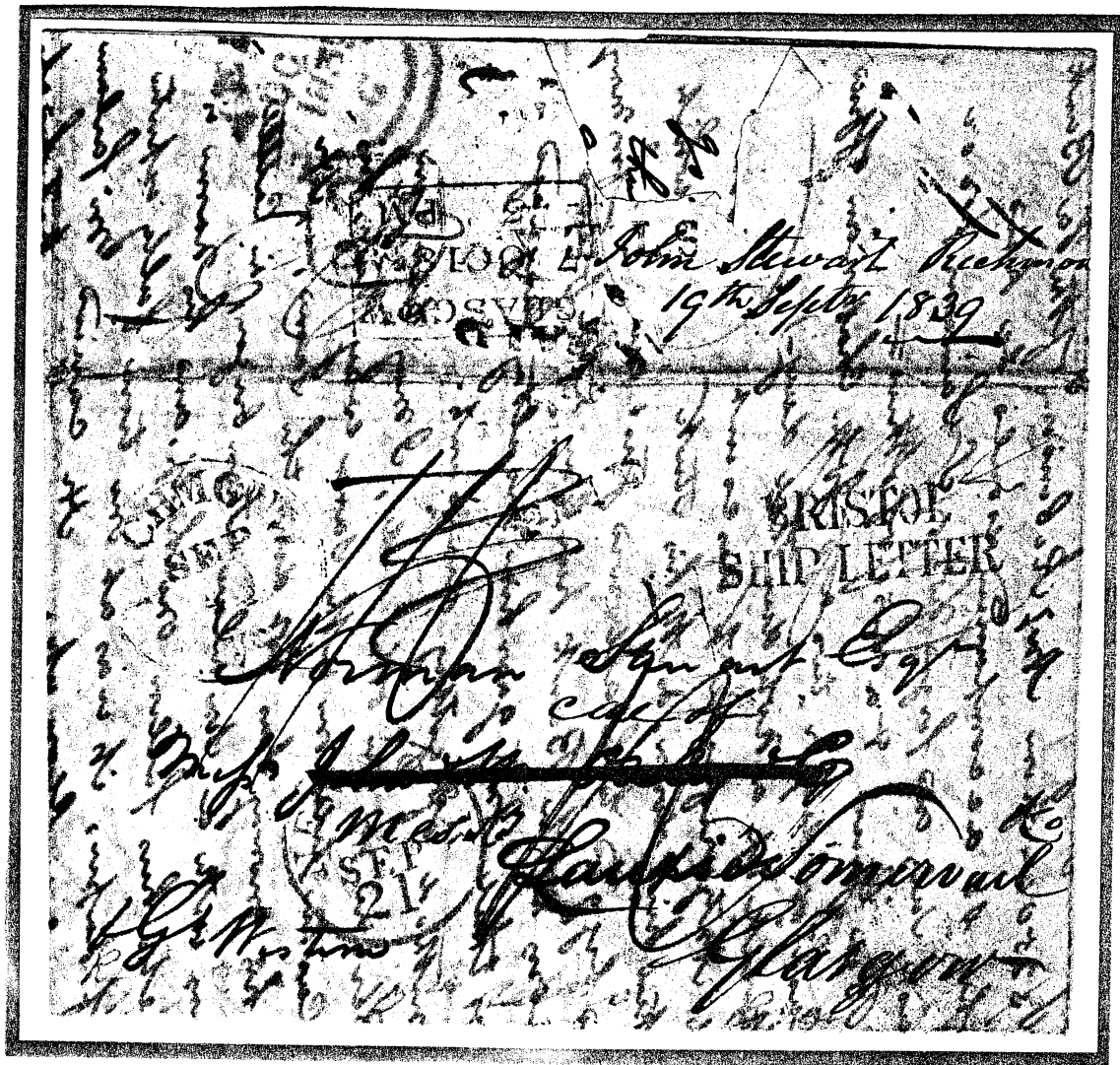
Freight Money

Richmond single rated sailing ship cover of 1844 in red showing colour was not affected by type of vessel.



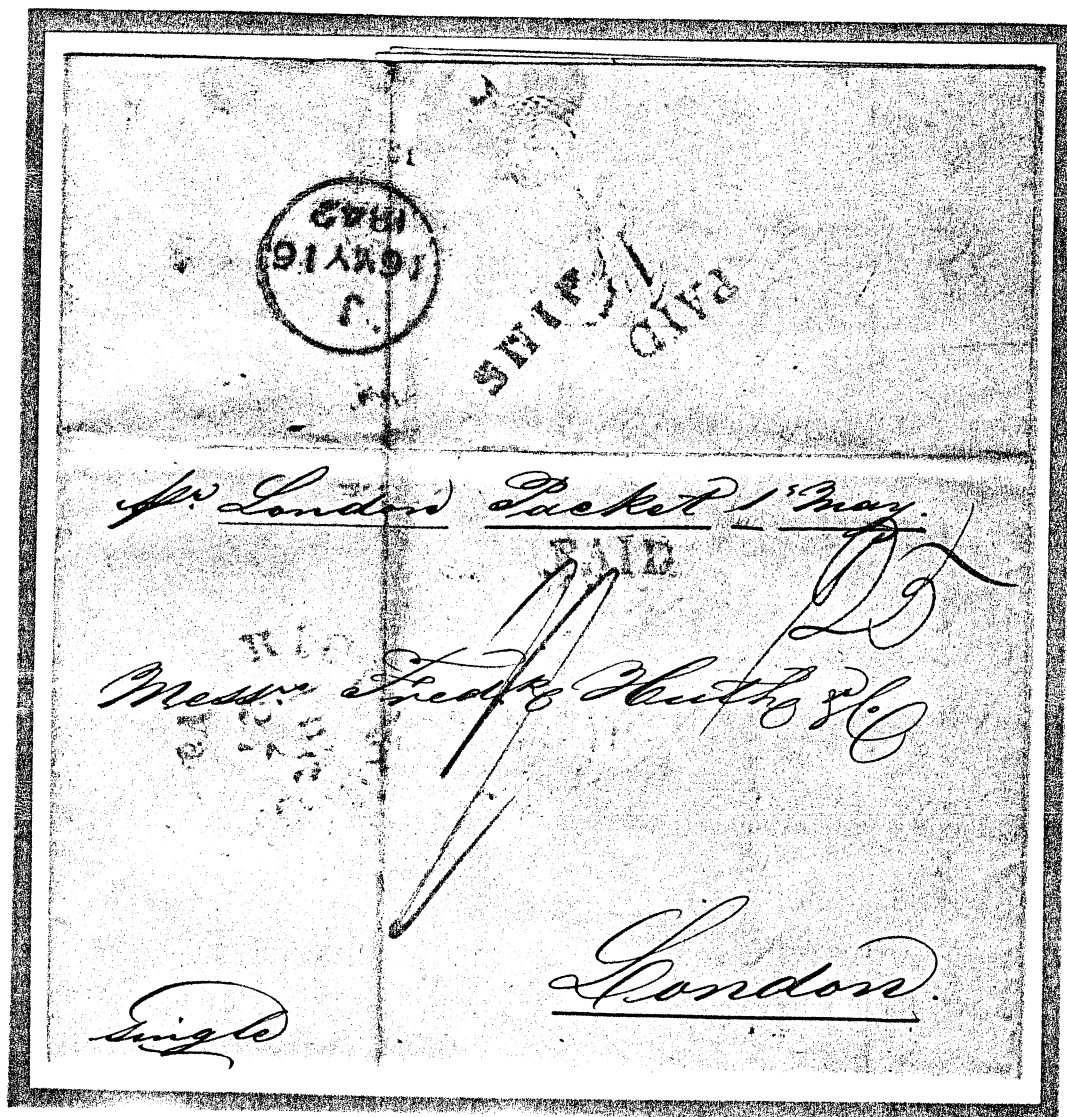
Freight Money

Richmond single rated cover of 1839 via the Great
Western and forwarded to Glasgow



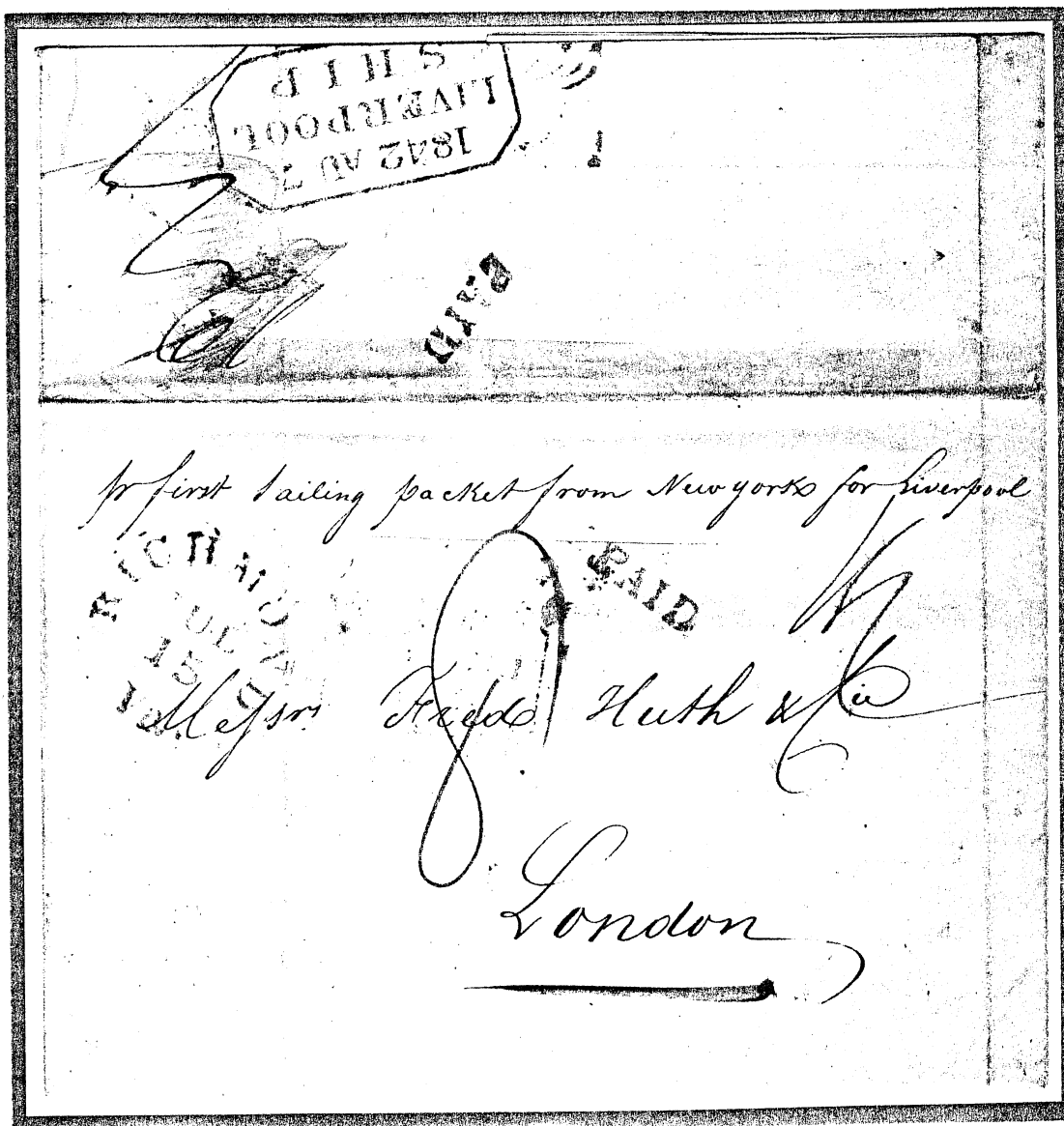
Freight Money

Richmond single rated sailing ship cover of 1842
with no rating but hand stamped on back.



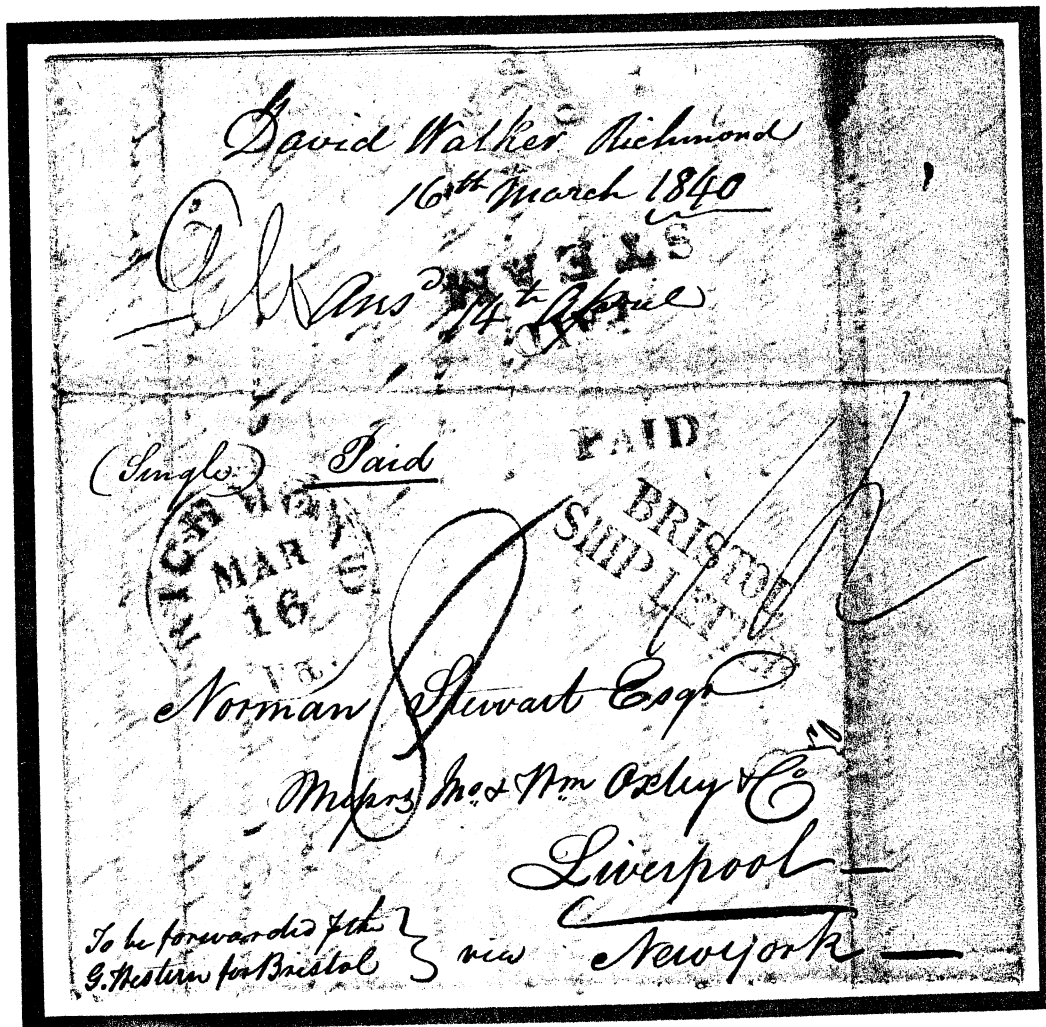
Freight Money

Richmond 1842 single rated cover by sailing ship.
in green.



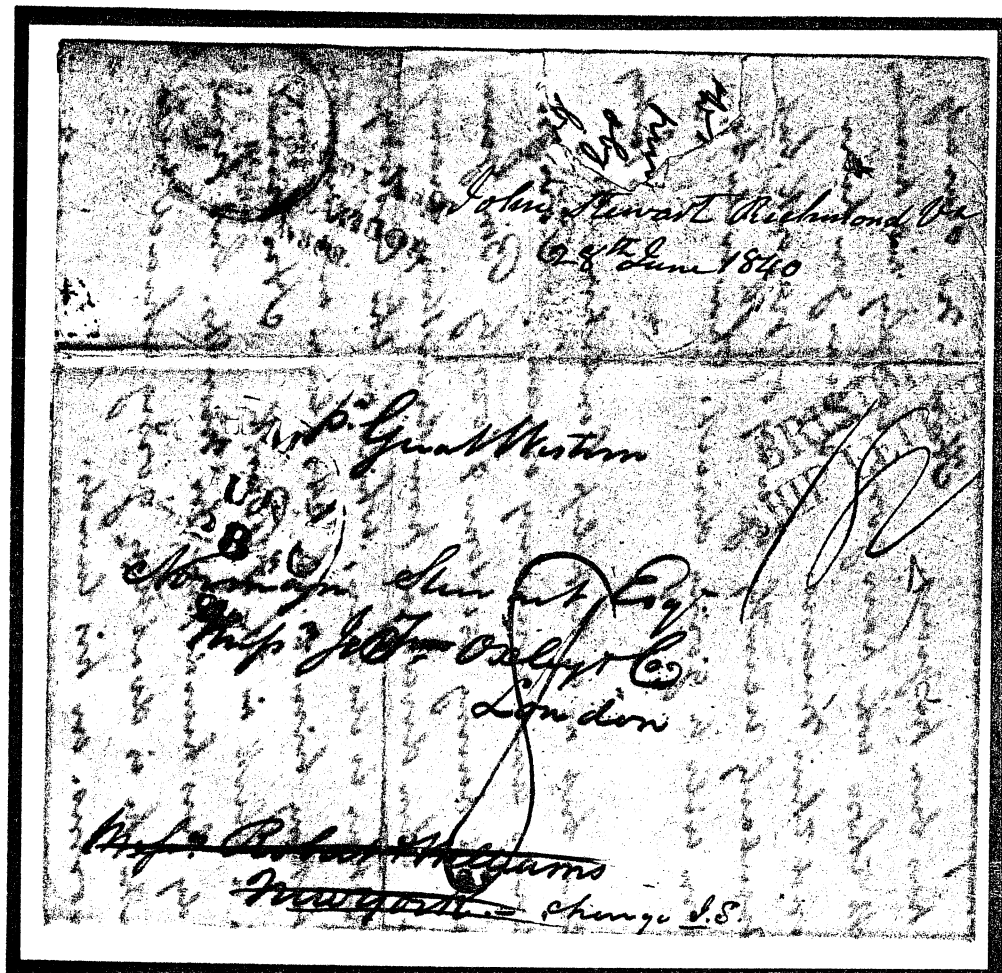
Freight Money

One of a trio of covers via the Great Western between Richmond Va., and Great Britain from one correspondence. The cover on this page was sent through the Richmond post office and has the PAID STEAM 25 on the back for Freight Money and PAID 18³/₄ on front for postal charges.



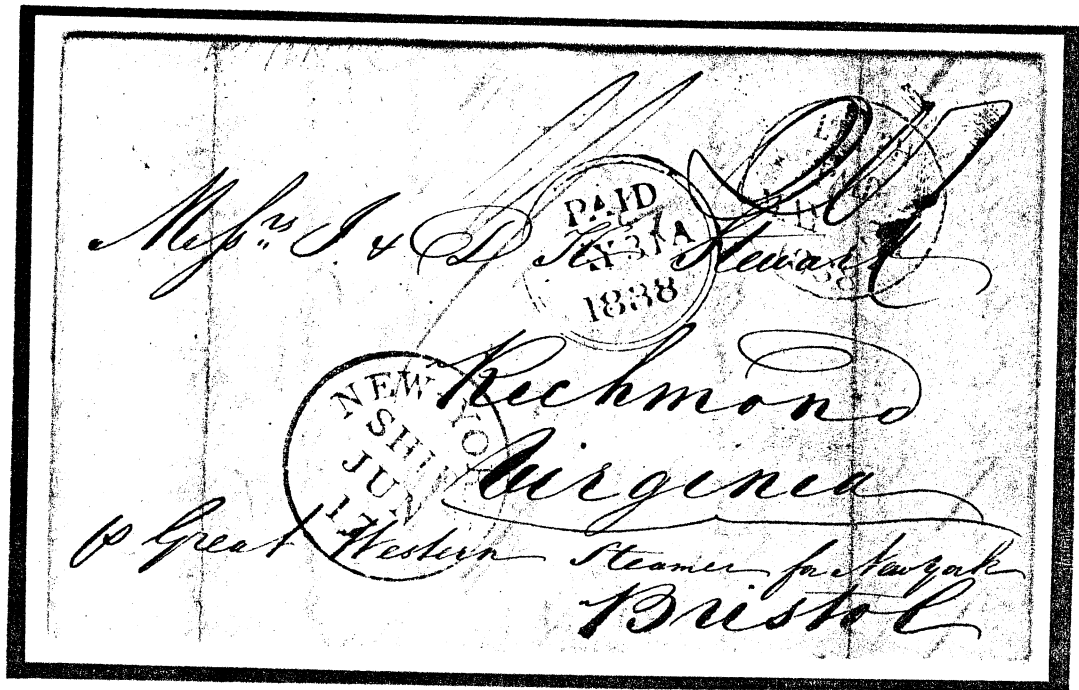
Freight Money

The second of the trio of covers via the Great Western was sent by Richmond post office in care of forwarder Robin Williams who placed their handstamp on reverse of cover, and placed cover on the ship and charged the sender for all expenses, as noted on cover.



Freight Money

The last of this trio of Richmond covers is a letter from Scotland to Richmond, with British and ocean postage prepaid. Great Britain would not permit extra Freight Money for steamers so they went at regular charges. U.S. postage was collect at that time.



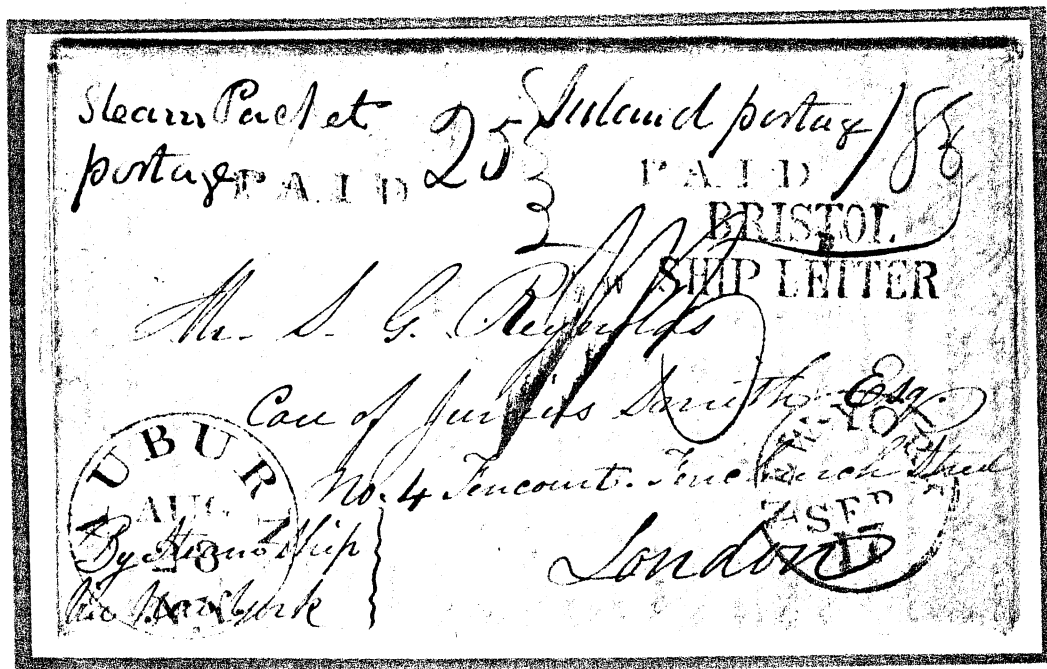
Freight Money

Spectacular Richmond, Va., cover all handstamped, with the reduced postal rates of 1845, directed for rare "Great Britain" carriage. The c.d.s. is Oct. 26, 1845, with handstamped PAID 10 on front and PAID STEAMER 25 on reverse. Dated Liverpool SHIP of 18 Nov. 1845 on reverse.



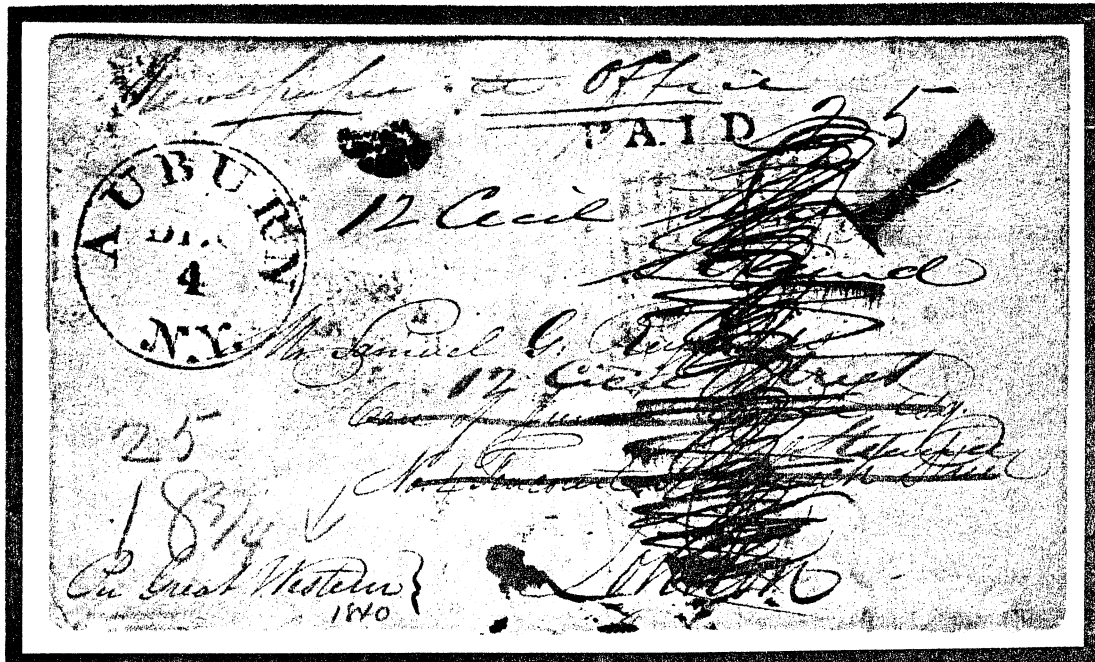
Freight Money

Auburn, New York, really laid it all out on the front of
the cover so no mistake could be made. This 1839
steamship cover tells its own story.



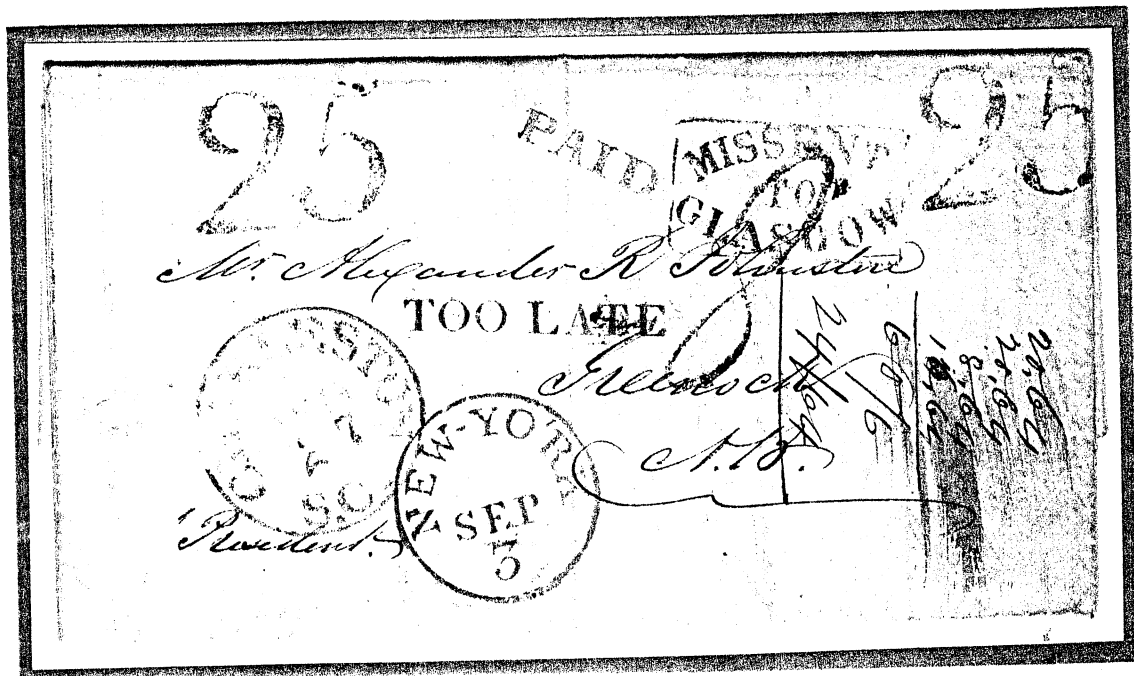
Freight Money

Another Auburn Freight Money cover from the same correspondence as preceding, but disfigured by London post office in redirection. Figure 25 is Freight Money and pencil 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ is postage.



Freight Money

Charleston, S.C. is the only city known to me to use a double handstamp on the face to indicate Freight Money, rating This 1840 cover by the President shows 25 cents postage and 25 cents steamer Freight Money, plus an assortment of other postmarks; in addition, the Liverpool Ship Letter is on the reverse



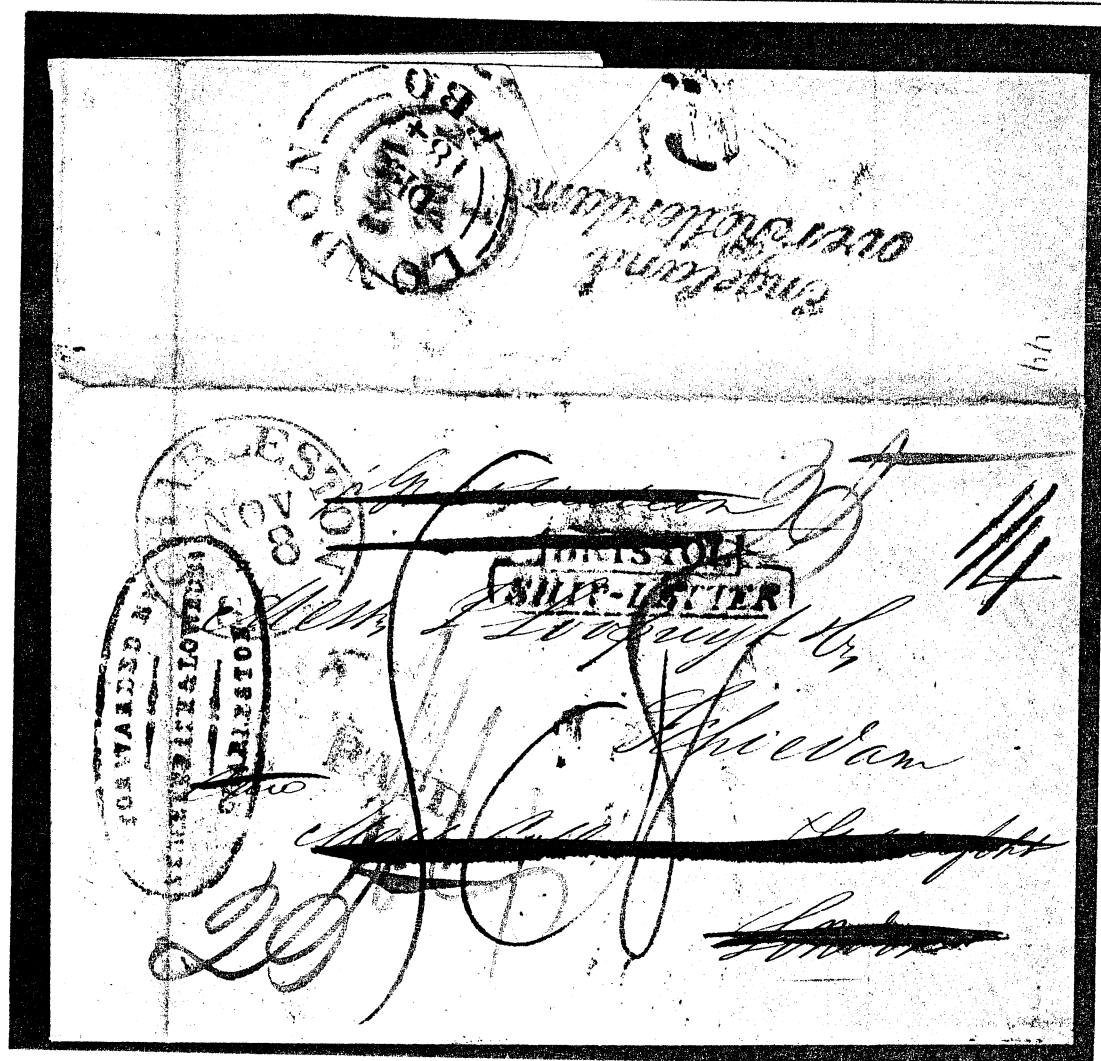
Freight Money

Charleston cover shows manuscript 25's on right
and left with handstamped PAIDs
Cover went by Great Western.



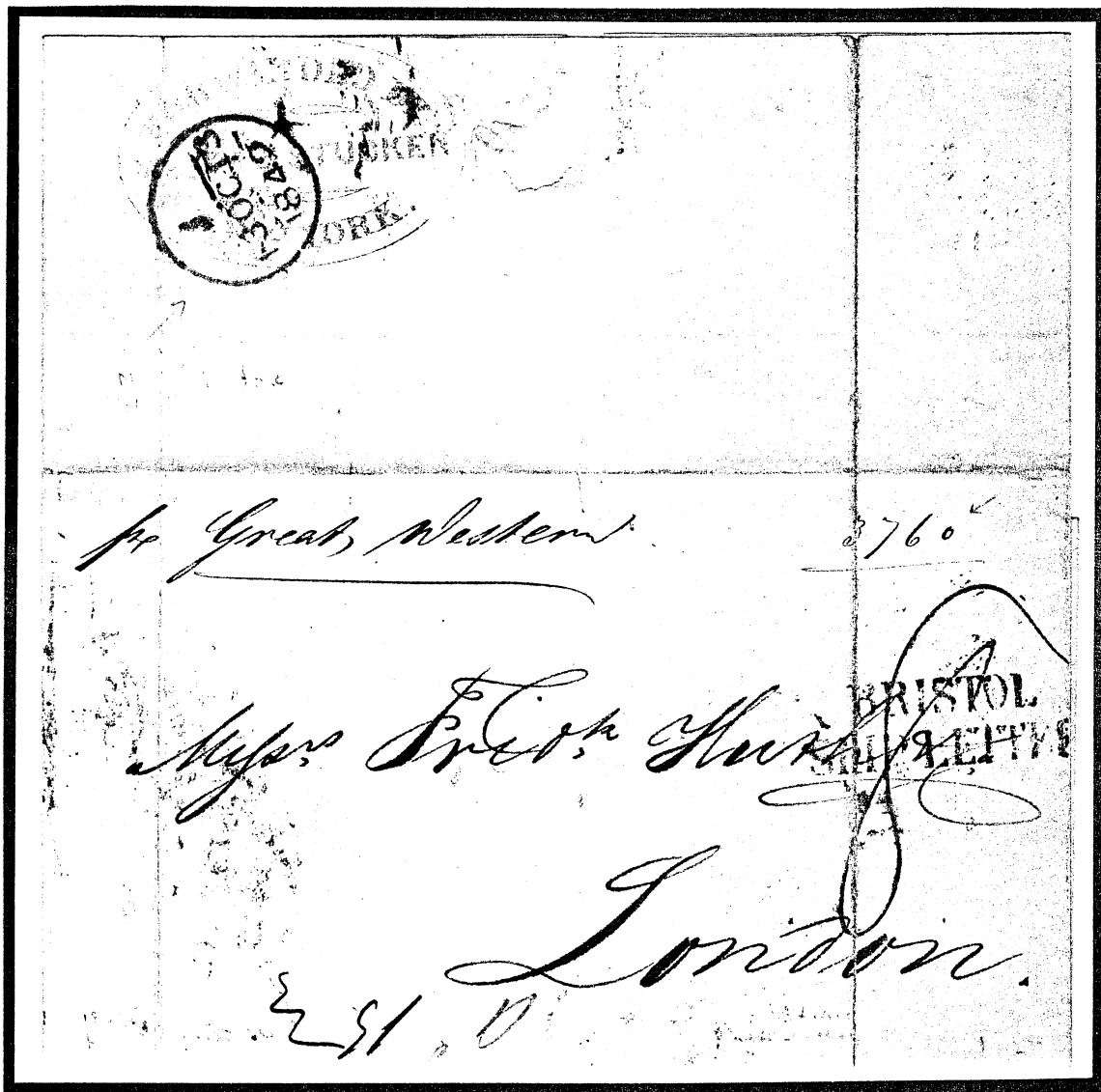
Freight Money

Charleston, So. Car., Nov. 8. 1841, letter from Herkendrath and Lowndes, with their f.a.c. used as corner card. Two handstamped PAIDs and miss 25s show postage and Freight Money charges in u.v. and l.l. corners. Addressed via a forwarder in London, the cover was received and redirected with postal charges in London paid to Schiedam, Holland, Dec. 7, 1841. A London F.B.O. double arc was applied at the outgoing, and the cover received an "Engeland, over Rotterdam" and a Schiedam 10 Dec 1841 reception mark and Dutch charges marked. It was carried across the Atlantic by the Great Western.



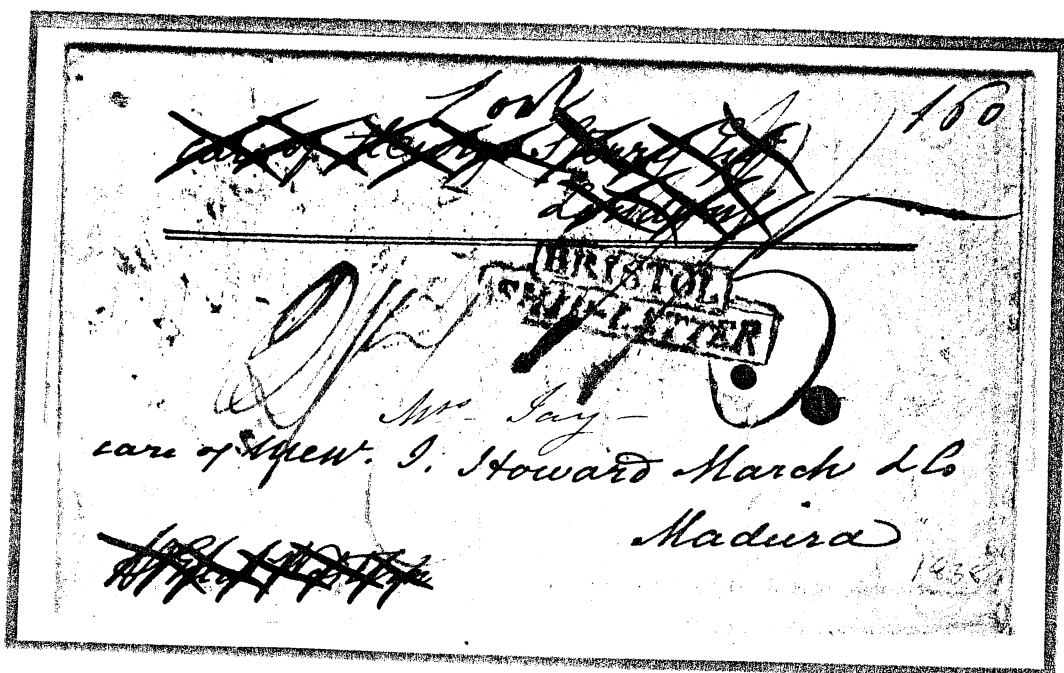
Freight Money

Cover from Hanova, Cuba, via the Great Western
went to New York forwarder Meyer & Stucker who
applied their handstamp and placed cover on ship
charging account 3760. No Freight Money charge
on cover.



Freight Money

Here is the type of cover which had to pay Freight Money for its transatlantic crossings but because it originated in New York, shows no evidence on the cover itself of it. It crossed by the Great Western, the "160" is Portuguese postage collect at Madeira, and it was never in the U.S.P.O.



Freight Money

Typical New York City cover via any of the pioneer steamers or sailing packets show no Freight Money Charge or N.Y.C. postal markings indicating that the cover was handed to the ship or the agent, this to the Great Western.

