

United States External Mail Routes: 1856 - 1870

This exhibit has an ambitious scope as reflected in the title. Although not all postal routes can be shown in just 84 pages, the most important primary routes that carried the majority of mail to a particular country are shown and internal distribution routes where most important. In addition, secondary routes such as branch line routes and less frequently used routes are shown when of interest. Further, selected special routes that were rarely used, including blockade-run and privately carried mail, are shown for contrast and interest.

External mail encompasses both outbound mail from the United States as well as inbound mail to the United States but preference is given to outbound mail except where the route taken is highly unusual.

While many postal historians focus on postal rates, this exhibit focuses instead on the routes the mail took from point of origin to destination. This approach allows postal artifacts to be placed into a much broader historical context and allows an examination of the inter-relationships within the vast postal network. A key part of the story is how a letter often was carried by several different inter-linked mail services before it reached its destination.

In 1856 the numerous British mail service routes dominated ocean mail transport. By 1870 alternate faster service was available as steamship lines proliferated. This period also saw dramatic improvements in mail transport once it reached the destination country as rail road networks expanded.

Each cover in the exhibit includes a schema of the route taken, reduced to the essentials, which is presented as a waybill and the pertinent portion of the route taken is shown on maps. Town designations in the waybill have been colorized to identify the service that carried the mail from that town. The services are keyed to specific colors as shown here: **American Service** - **British Service** - **French Service** - **German Service** - **Italian Service** - **Private Service** - **Internal Service**.

The exhibit is organized along the following outline:

1. North America - British North America, West Indies, Mexico, Central America
2. South America - Northern, Eastern, Western
3. Europe - Northern, Western, Southern, Eastern, Western
4. Africa - Northern, Western, Eastern, Southern
5. Asia - Western, Southern, Southeastern, Eastern
6. Oceania - Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii

North America (British)

Overview



Mail between the US, Canada and the Maritime Provinces was primarily transported via the most important land transportation junctions. Maritime Provinces mail was also carried on the steamship route between Boston and Halifax. In the West, a steamship route connected Victoria and San Francisco.

To Canada

Primary Route

○
WAY BILL

Portland
Island Pond, Vermont
Montreal



January 9, 1857 Portland, Maine to Allan Line firm in Montreal, Canada, unpaid 10¢ (6d) treaty rate
Atlantic & St. Lawrence Rail Road route agent and Island Pond, VT exchange office postmarks
Grand Trunk Rail Road from border to Montreal, arrival backstamp

Portland / Montreal rail route also carried mail transported by Allan Line trans-Atlantic steamers

North America (British)
To Canada

Primary Routes



○
WAY BILL
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Grand Haven, Michigan
Detroit
Windsor
Junction
Prescott
Ottawa

July 29, 1863 Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Ottawa, Canada, prepaid 10¢ treaty rate
“U. States 10 Paid” Detroit exchange office handstamp, Ottawa arrival backstamp

Detroit / Windsor exchange office route



○
WAY BILL
Nevada City
Chicago
Buffalo
Toronto
Whitby
Mynal

July 25, 1865 Nevada City, California to Myntal, Canada, prepaid 10¢ treaty rate
“U.S. 10 cts Paid” Buffalo exchange office handstamp, Whitby, CW transit backstamp

Buffalo / Toronto exchange office route

**North America (British)
From Canada to Scotland**

Special Route



- WAY BILL
- Red River Settlement
 - Pembina, North Dakota
 - Saint Paul, Minnesota
 - Chicago, Illinois
 - New York City
 - Liverpool
 - Greenock, Scotland
 - Kilmon, Scotland

June 23, 1858 Lower Fort Garry, Red River Settlement (Manitoba) to Kilmon, Scotland
carried overland to mails with "Saint Paul M.T. Jul 18 1858" Minnesota postmark, prepaid 24¢ treaty rate

Red River Settlement / Pembina / Saint Paul

Routing to the Maritime Provinces



- 1.- Boston-Halifax by British packet service.
- 2.- Boston & Portland-St. John coastal service.
- 3.- St. John-Windsor (across the Bay of Bundy).
- 4.- St. John-Shediac by E. & N.A. railway and then to:
 - A.- Halifax through Amherst
 - B.- Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Across the Northumberland Strait.
- 5.- Boston- Halifax-St. John's (Newfoundland)

The primary route to the Maritime Provinces was by direct steamer between Boston and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Additional service was available from Portland to St. John, New Brunswick by the International Steamship Line with continued service to Windsor across the Bay. Rail service was available between St. John and Shediac.

**North America (British)
To Nova Scotia**

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Boston
Halifax

February 5, 1862 Boston, Massachusetts to Halifax, Nova Scotia, prepaid double 5¢ British open mail rate

Boston / Halifax British steamship route

Secondary Route

○
WAY BILL

Roxbury
Boston
Portland
St. John, New Brunswick
Windsor, Nova Scotia
Halifax, Nova Scotia



December 1857 Roxbury, Massachusetts to Halifax, Nova Scotia, prepaid 10¢ treaty rate
“U. States C” Boston exchange handstamp, St. John, New Brunswick and Hamilton transit backstamps

Boston / Halifax via Portland and St. John, New Brunswick using International Steamship Line

North America (British)
To New Brunswick / To Prince Edward Island

Primary Routes

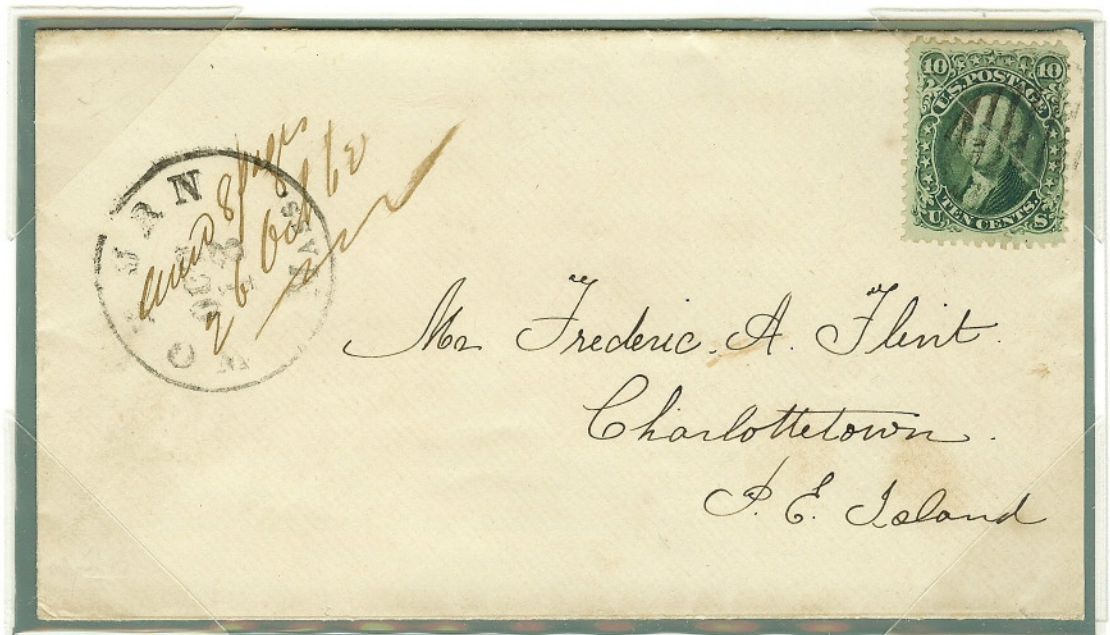


○
WAY BILL
Delaware City, Delaware
Boston
Portland
Saint John, N.B.

October 25, 1864 Fort Delaware Prison to St. John, New Brunswick, overpaid 10¢ treaty rate from Confederate prisoner held in Federal prison at Fort Delaware

Boston / St. John, New Brunswick by International Steamship Line from Portland

○
WAY BILL
Woburn, Mass.
Boston
Portland
Saint John, N.B.
Shediac
Charlottetown



October 18, 1862 Woburn, Massachusetts to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, prepaid 10¢ treaty rate

Boston / St. John, New Brunswick by International Steamship Line from Portland

North America (British)

From Victoria / From British Columbia to Canada

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL
Victoria
San Francisco

April 18, 1866 Victoria to San Francisco by Wells Fargo Express, 10¢ treaty rate plus 5¢ Colonial postage even though carried out of the mails by Wells Fargo, prepayment of both U.S. and Colonial postage was required

Victoria / San Francisco steamship route

Secondary Route

○
WAY BILL
Westminster, B.C.
Victoria
Portland, Oregon
Boise, Idaho
Kelton, Utah
Chicago
Buffalo
Toronto
Bowmanville



June 2, 1869 New Westminster, British Columbia, via Portland, to Canada, overpaid 6¢ treaty rate plus 5¢ Colonial exchanged to Canada via Buffalo / Toronto route, use after completion of transcontinental railway the previous month

Victoria / Portland secondary route connecting to transcontinental railroad

**North America (West Indies)
From Danish West Indies**

Primary Route



ROUTING MAP TO WEST INDIES

○
WAY BILL
St. Thomas, D.W.I.
New York



December 20, 1865 St. Thomas to New York, combination franking paying 3¢ local plus 10¢ steamship

Return Maiden Voyage for U.S. - Brazil Line Service

New York / St. Thomas steamship route (with continuing service to Brazil)

North America (West Indies)
To Cuba

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL
Wilmington, Delaware
New York
Havana

May 12, 1858 Wilmington, Delaware to Havana, prepaid 10¢ rate
May 17 New York exchange and May 24 Havana arrival, "NA" and "1" real due

New York / Havana route

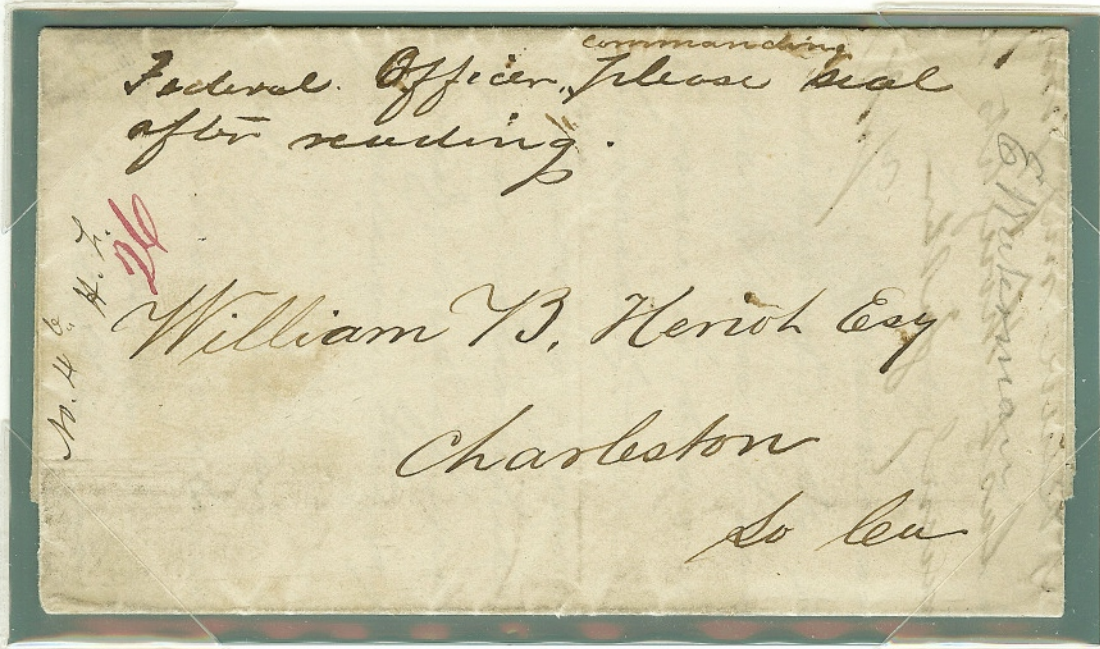
Internal Route



○
WAY BILL
New York
Havana
Puerto Principe

December 26, 1863 New York to Puerto Principe, Cuba, prepaid double 10¢ rate
January 1, 1864 Havana arrival backstamp, "NA" and "2" reales due

New York / Havana primary route/ Havana to Puerto Principe internal route



○
 WAY BILL
 Cardenas, Cuba
 Havana, Cuba
 -- Captured --
 CSA Charleston

November 9, 1861 Cardenas, Cuba to CSA Charleston, South Carolina by blockade-runner *E.J. Waterman*
 November 30, 1871 captured by USS *Savannah* attempting to run blockade near Tybee Island

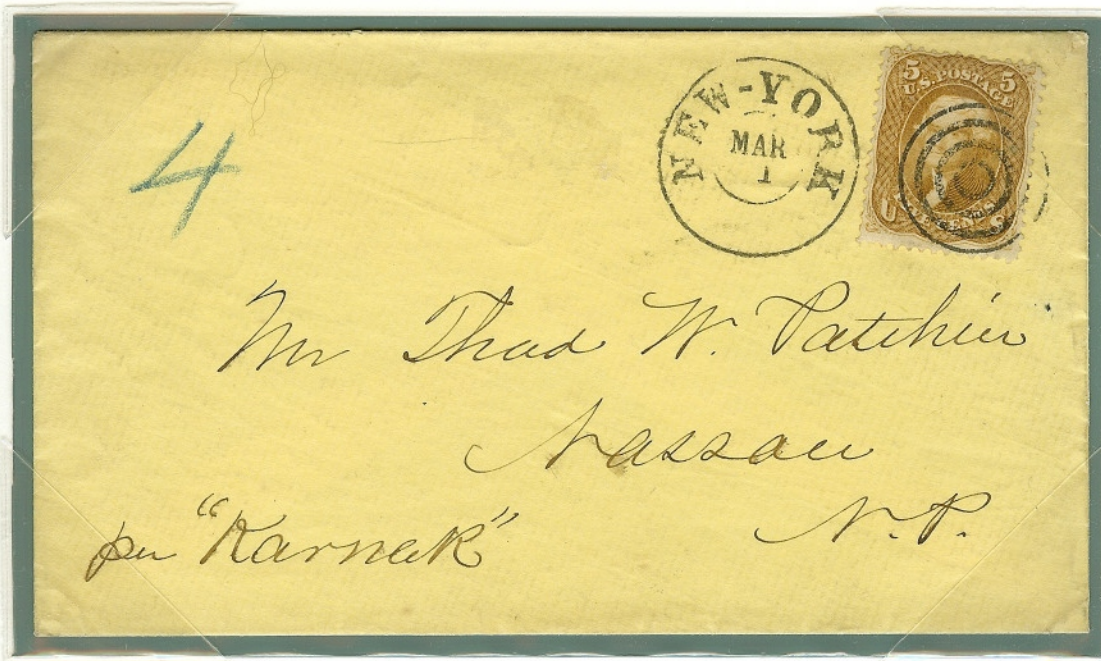
Blockade-runner route Cuba / Charleston

If this be taken
 by a Federal
 Officer, and
 a gentleman
 he will be
 doing a great
 favor if he
 will forward
 it, on by the
 first oppor-
 tunity. He will
 receive the
 thanks of one
 that is quite
 sick.
 Very Respect

After capture of blockade-runners, mail was seized as evidence to use in prize court trials. The manuscript "26" and initials "H.L." are court filing notations from such a trial. The letter includes a request by sender to forward letter in case of Federal capture.

**North America (West Indies)
To Bahamas / From Bahamas**

Primary Route

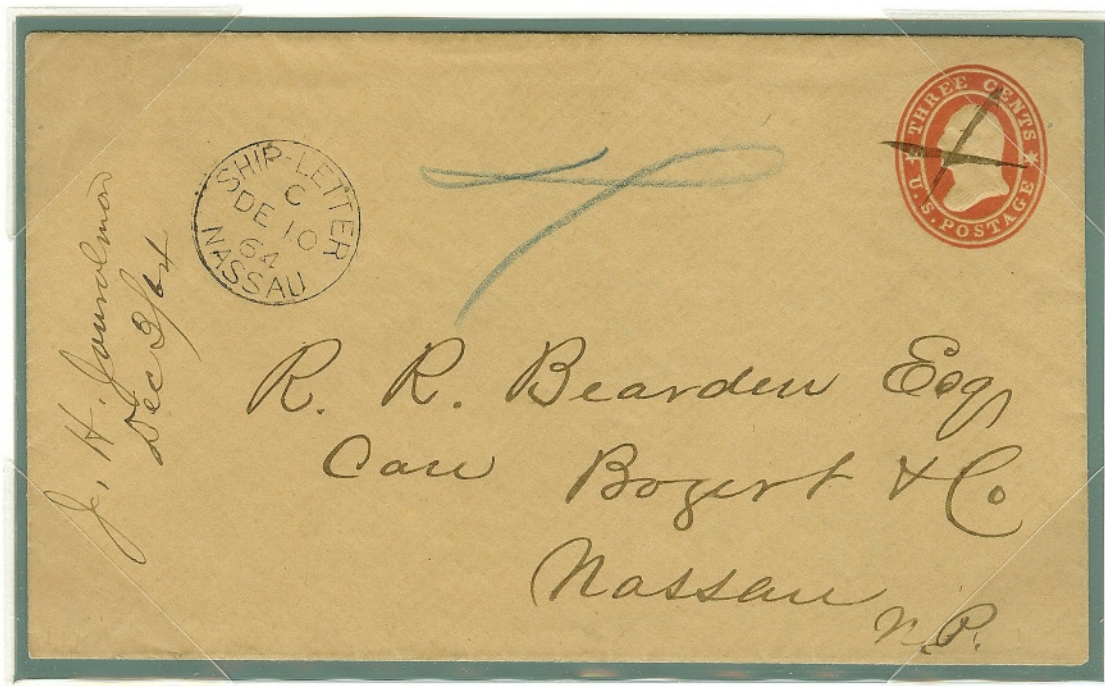


○
WAY BILL
New York
Nassau

March 1, 1862 New York to Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas per steamer *Karnac*

New York / Nassau by Cunard Line steamer

Special Route



○
WAY BILL
CSA Wilmington, North Carolina
Nassau

December 3, 1864 CSA Wilmington, North Carolina to Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas
December 7, 1864 carried by **blockade-runner** *Wild Rover* arriving Nassau on December 19

CSA Wilmington / Nassau by blockade-runner

North America (West Indies) To French Martinique

Primary Route

○
WAY BILL

New Orleans
New York
St. Thomas
St. Kitts
Antigua
Guadaloupe
Dominica
Martinique (Saint Pierre)



October 6, 1868 New Orleans to Saint Pierre, French Martinique, prepaid 18¢ British mail rate
October 30 St. Thomas transit (British office) backstamp and Saint Pierre arrival

Fewer than Four Reported Examples to Martinique in Period

New York / St. Thomas / British steamer to Martinique

Map of Mexico and Central America Routes



Map above illustrates routes shown in following frame. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company operated in the Pacific Ocean with a trunk line connecting San Francisco and Panama City with additional service to Pacific ports of Central America. The Aspinwall line operated between Aspinwall and New York. British service lines connected with American mails at both Colon and Panama City. Private mail lines are also shown.

North America
To Mexico / From Mexico

Primary Routes



○
 WAY BILL

New York
 Havana
 Vera Cruz
 Mexico City

September 23, 1865 New York to Mexico City, prepaid double 10¢ blanket steamship rate
 83 centavos due for Mexico internal postage

New York / Vera Cruz by New York and Mexican Mail Steamship Co.

○
 WAY BILL

Mazatlan, Mexico
 San Francisco
 Ft. Wayne, Indiana



January 1866 Mazatlan, Mexico to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, partially prepaid 10¢ blanket steamship rate
 "Steam Mazatlan" handstamp applied at San Francisco to show steamship origin point, 7¢ due

Mazatlan / San Francisco by Pacific Mail Steam Ship Co. steamer

The two principal steamship routes between Mexico and the United States are illustrated above. The Pacific Mail Steam Ship Co. (PMSS) operated between Mexican ports on the Pacific side and San Francisco while the New York and Mexican Mail Steamship Co. operated between Vera Cruz and New York on the Atlantic side.

North America
From Mexico / To Mexico

Special Routes

○
WAY BILL
Piedras Negras, Mexico
Eagle Pass, Texas (CSA)
San Antonio, Texas (CSA)



1864 Piedras Negras, Mexico via Eagle Pass, to San Antonio, Texas, paid double 10¢ C.S.A. rate smuggled mail across the Rio Grande River into the Confederacy to avoid the Federal Blockade

Piedras Negras / Eagle Pass / San Antonio



○
WAY BILL
New Orleans, Louisiana
Brownsville, Texas
Matamoros, Mexico

October 27, 1865 New Orleans carried privately to Matamoros, Mexico by Commercial Express "paid 4/-B" (4 bits = 50¢) in cash, 3¢ stamp to comply with U.S. regulations

New Orleans / Matamoros privately

Communication between Mexico and the Confederacy was disrupted during the Civil War by the Federal blockade and private routes such as that shown at top were used. After the war, as an interim measure, Commercial Express operated to Mexico using steamers to Brownsville and stages to Matamoros.

Central America
To Guatemala

Primary Routes



○
WAY BILL
Wyandotte, Kansas
New York
Aspinwall
Panama City
San Jose de Guatemala
Guatemala City

August 14, 1862 Wyandotte, Kansas to Guatemala City, prepaid 20¢ rate over 2,500 miles with type I stamps

New York / Aspinwall / Panama City / San Jose de Guatemala



○
WAY BILL
San Francisco
Panama City
San Jose de Guatemala
Guatemala City

December 10, 1862 San Francisco to Guatemala City, prepaid 10¢ rate under 2,500 miles

San Francisco / Panama City / San Jose de Guatemala

The two principal steamship routes between Guatemala and the United States are shown. The Aspinwall Line operated between New York and Aspinwall on the Atlantic side while the PMSS operated to Panama City with branch service to Guatemala on the Pacific side. The Aspinwall mails were carried by rail across Panama and turned over to PMSS for carriage to San Jose de Guatemala.

Central America
From El Salvador / From Costa Rica

Primary Routes



○
 WAY BILL
 La Libertad
 Panama City
 San Francisco

La Libertad, El Salvador to San Francisco, unpaid 10¢ blanket steamship rate
 "Steam Panama" handstamp applied at San Francisco

Libertad / Panama City / San Francisco



○
 WAY BILL
 Puntarenas
 Panama City
 Aspinwall
 New York

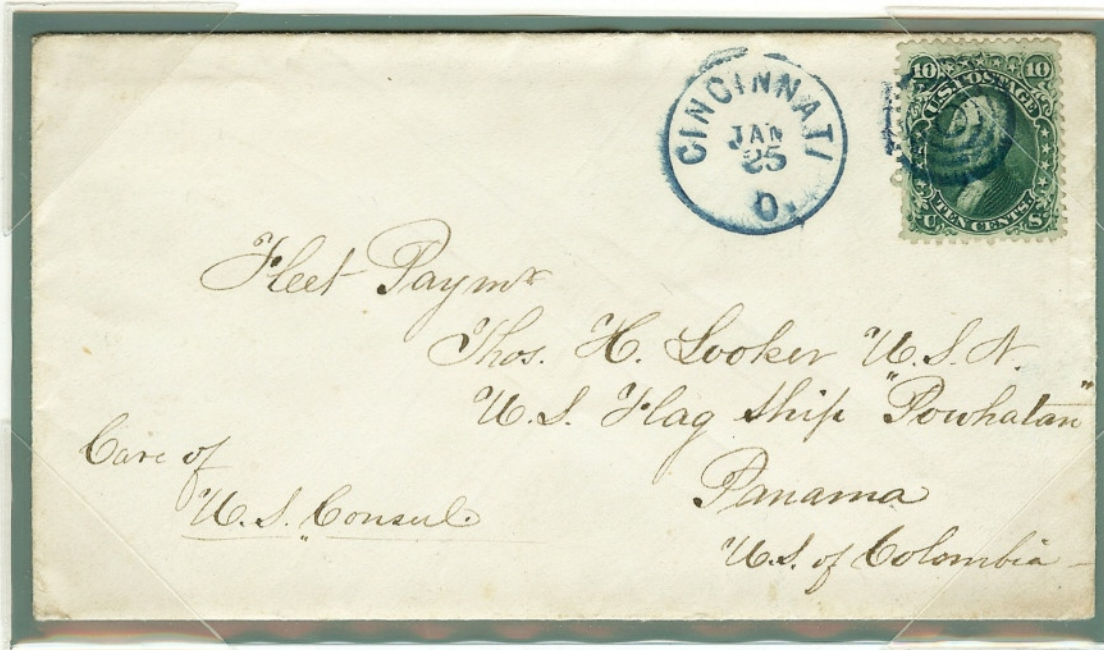
June 14, 1867 Puntarenas, Costa Rica to New York, prepaid triple external mail rate
 New York Steamship double 10¢ rate due

Puntarenas / Panama City / Aspinwall / New York

Both covers show branch service by PMSS steamers connecting at Panama City. The upper cover was carried from there to San Francisco while the lower cover was transported by rail to Aspinwall to meet the Aspinwall steamer to New York.

**Central America
To Colombia**

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL
Cincinnati, Ohio
New York
Aspinwall
Panama City

January 25, 1865 Cincinnati, Ohio to Panama City, Colombia, prepaid 10¢ American mails rate

New York / Aspinwall / Panama City

Secondary Route



○
WAY BILL
Middletown, Connecticut
Portland, Connecticut
New York
Aspinwall
Colon
Carthagena

September 10, 1867 Middletown, Connecticut to Carthagena, New Grenada (Colombia) prepaid 18¢ British mail rate, stamps at left cancelled in transit at Portland, Connecticut

New York / Aspinwall / to Cathagena by RMSP steamer

Both covers were carried to Aspinwall by steamers of the Aspinwall line and thence by rail to Panama City. The lower cover was turned over to the British Office at Colon for transmission by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. (RMSP) to Carthagena.

Eastern South America



Prior to the inauguration of the direct Brazil Line service in 1865 mails between the United States and the eastern portion of South America depended on service via British mails from Southampton or French mails from Bordeaux.

From Venezuela

Special Route

○
WAY BILL

La Guaira, Venezuela
St. Thomas
Bermuda
Philadelphia



May 7, 1863 La Guaira, Venezuela to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, prepaid Venezuela 2r for internal postage carried by Blohm, Nolting & Co. (La Guaira Steamship Co.) steamer to St. Thomas "St. Thomas Express Office" blue cachet, by USS *Wachusett* to Philadelphia with 3¢ due from navy vessel

The Only Reported Example

La Guaira / St. Thomas by La Guaira Steamship Co. / Philadelphia by US Navy vessel

**Eastern South America
To Brazil**

Primary Routes

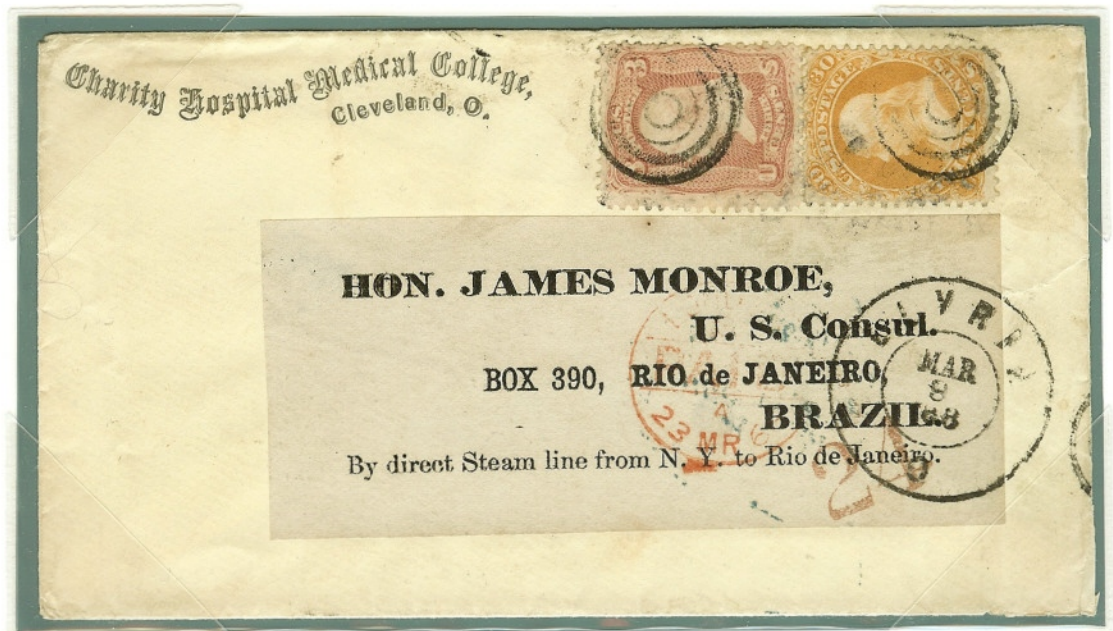


○
WAY BILL

- Oberlin, Ohio
- New York
- Southampton
- Calais
- Bordeaux
- Lisbon
- Cape Verde
- Pernambuco
- Bahia
- Rio de Janeiro

January 3, 1865 Oberlin, Ohio to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, prepaid 33¢ French mail rate

New York / Bordeaux / Pernambuco / Rio de Janeiro



○
WAY BILL

- Elyria, Ohio
- New York
- Southampton
- Lisbon
- Cape Verde
- Pernambuco
- Bahia
- Rio de Janeiro

March 8, 1869 Elyria, Ohio to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, prepaid 33¢ French mail rate sender prepaid highest rate but requested American direct rate with label, actually sent by British mails

New York / Southampton / Pernambuco / Rio de Janeiro

Covers carried over same basic route but top cover by French Brazil Line steamers from Bordeaux and lower cover by British RMPS steamers from Southampton.

Eastern South America
From Brazil / To Brazil

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Rio de Janeiro
Bahia
Pernambuco
Para
St. Thomas
New York
Pottsville, Pennsylvania

August 14, 1870 USS *Lancaster* (at Rio de Janeiro) to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, prepaid 10¢ steamship rate

Rio de Janeiro / St. Thomas / New York

Special Route



○
WAY BILL

Oberlin, Ohio
Baltimore
Rio de Janeiro

October 29, 1864 Oberlin, Ohio to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, prepaid 3¢ outbound private ship rate from Baltimore it was sent per *Lord Baltimore* to destination

Baltimore / Rio de Janeiro by private ship

Top cover carried by United States and Brazil Line steamship while lower cover was carried by private ship from Baltimore. The Brazil line steamers commenced operations in 1865.

**Eastern South America
To Argentina**

Primary Routes



- WAY BILL
- Barton, Vermont
 - Boston
 - Portland
 - London
 - Southampton
 - Lisbon
 - Cape Verde
 - Pernambuco
 - Rio de Janeiro
 - Buenos Aires



January 24, 1865 Barton, Vermont to Buenos Aires, Argentina, prepaid 45¢ British mail rate

Southampton / Pernambuco / to Buenos Aires by RMPS steamer



- WAY BILL
- Vallejo, California
 - Omaha, Nebraska
 - New York
 - St. Thomas
 - Pernambuco
 - Bahia
 - Rio de Janeiro
 - Montevideo
 - Buenos Aires

November 4, 1869 Vallejo, California to Buenos Aires, Argentina, prepaid 25¢ combination U.S. / French mail rate overland mail to New York, to Rio by American mail, **French Ligne J** service to Buenos Aires

The Only Reported Ligne J Marking On Cover from the United States

New York / Rio de Janeiro / to Buenos Aires by French Line J steamer

Prior to September 1869 French Line K operated between Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires via Montevideo. In October 1869 Line K service was discontinued and the route of the Ligne J (Bordeaux-Lisbon-Dakar-Rio de Janeiro) was extended from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Aires. Postal relations between U.S. and France expired on January 1, 1870 ending link with Ligne J.

Western South America



British mail service to the west coast of South America was provided by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC). Under an 1852 contract service was to be provided between Panama City and Valparaiso, with intermediate stops.

This service connected with the American mails at Panama. Mails from the west coast of the United States reached Panama from PMSS steamers arriving directly. Mails from the east coast were handled by Aspinwall Line steamers to Aspinwall (Colon) that were transmitted overland to Panama City.

To Ecuador

Primary Route

○
WAY BILL

Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania
New York
Aspinwall
Panama
Buenaventura
Guayaquil
Quito



October 4, 1860 Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania to Quito, Ecuador, prepaid 34¢ British mail rate
October 22 1860 Panama British office transit, arrival backstamp

New York / Aspinwall / Guayaquil

**Western South America
To Peru**

Primary Routes



○
WAY BILL

Portchester, New York
New York
Aspinwall
Panama City
Guayaquil
Callao
Lima

June 29, 1861 Portchester, New York to Lima, Peru, prepaid 22¢ British mail rate

New York / Aspinwall / Panama / Lima



○
WAY BILL

San Francisco
Panama City
Guayaquil
Callao
Lima

May 16, 1868 San Francisco to Lima Peru, prepaid 34¢ British mail rate

San Francisco / Panama City / Lima

Top cover was carried by Aspinwall Line to Aspinwall, then overland to Panama. Lower cover carried direct to Panama by the PMSS steamers. Both carried by Pacific Steam Navigation Co. ships from Panama to Lima.

**Western South America
To Chile**

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL
Cambridge, Massachusetts
New York
Aspinwall
Panama City
Callao
Valparaiso
Santiago de Chile

November 18, 1862 Cambridge, Massachusetts to Santiago de Chile, prepaid 34¢ British mail rate
December 2, 1862 Panama British office transit

New York / Aspinwall / Panama / Valparaiso

From Chile

Special Route

○
WAY BILL
Valparaiso
Callao
Panama
Aspinwall
New York
Boston



December 1861, U.S. Consulate, Valparaiso, Chile to Boston, double 10¢ steamship rate due
by diplomatic pouch mail to Aspinwall to catch American steamer

Valparaiso / Panama City / Aspinwall / New York

Top cover was carried by Aspinwall Line to Aspinwall, then overland to Panama and by Pacific Steam Navigation Co. ships from Panama to Valparaiso and overland to destination. Lower cover carried out of the mails.

Europe



ROUTING TO GREAT BRITAIN

The major mail routes to Europe, as well as to most of the Eastern Hemisphere, first stopped in Great Britain, France, or Germany. Great Britain was the primary hub with lesser amounts of mail carried direct to the other countries.

The principal routes between Great Britain and the United States are shown in the map above. British Cunard Line steamers departed Boston or New York through much of the period and landed in Liverpool or Queenstown. Additional lines departed from New York using the same routes while the Canadian owned Allan Line steamers carried limited quantities of mail from either Quebec or Portland to Londonderry or Liverpool. While other steamship lines operated to Southampton, they carried little mail bound for Great Britain.

To Great Britain

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

- San Francisco
- New York
- Queenstown
- Liverpool
- London

May 12, 1863, San Francisco, California to London, prepaid quadruple 24¢ treaty rate

New York / Queenstown and London

To Scotland / From Shetland Islands



○
WAY BILL
Toledo, Ohio
Portland, Maine
Londonderry
Glasgow

January 20, 1862 Toledo, Ohio to Glasgow, Scotland, prepaid 24¢ treaty rate
Detroit exchange marking and Glasgow Packet Paid transit

Portland / Londonderry by Allan Line Steamers



○
WAY BILL
Lerwick
Glasgow
Londonderry
Portland
New York

March 17, 1862 Lerwick, Shetland Islands to Grand Island, New York, prepaid 1s treaty rate
Portland exchange office marking

Londonderry / Portland by Allan Line Steamers

During the winter months when the port of Quebec was icebound, mail was handled from Detroit to Portland.

From England to Confederate States



○
WAY BILL

Liverpool
New York
Nassau, Bahamas

Charleston



November 29, 1862 Liverpool, under cover, via Nassau forwarder, to CSA Charleston, South Carolina blockade-runner *Duro* from Nassau which arrived on January 15, 1863, CSA postage due

England / Nassau primary route / Blockade-runner to Charleston



○
WAY BILL

Liverpool
New York
Nassau, Bahamas

Wilmington

August 15, 1863 Liverpool, under cover, via Nassau forwarder, to CSA Wilmington, North Carolina blockade-runner *Margaret & Jesse* from Nassau which arrived on September 24, 1863, CSA postage 12¢ due

England / Nassau primary route / Blockade-runner to Wilmington

During the Civil War government mail routes to the Confederate States were unavailable. Charleston was the primary entry port for blockade-runners operating from Nassau before mid-September, 1863 when the preferred port was changed to Wilmington as the blockade tightened.

Northern Europe



DENMARK AND SWEDEN ROUTING MAP

Main routes to Scandinavia

1. Overland through Danish rails (winter time).
2. By sea from Kiel, Lübeck, Stralsund, Stettin,

From Denmark to Hawaii

Special Route

○
WAY BILL

Helsingor
Copenhagen
Hamburg
Aachen
New York, Boston
New York
Aspinwall
Panama
San Francisco
Honolulu



May 27, 1856 Helsingor, Denmark (postmark at right) to Boston and forwarded by Charles Brewer to Hawaii prepaid 92 sk. rate from Denmark to Boston then prepaid 10¢ rate to Honolulu

The Only Reported Example

Denmark / Hamburg / Aachen / Boston by forwarder to Hawaii

**Northern Europe
To Holstein / To Denmark**

Primary Routes



○
WAY BILL
Oroville, California
New York
Aachen
Hamburg
Kiel

Nov 15, 1864 Oroville, California to Kiel, (Holstein) Germany
15¢ rate to Hamburg accepted as prepayment of the 28¢ rate to the German border by PCM

New York / Aachen / Hamburg

Kiel was in the Duchy of Holstein and Danish sovereignty over the area had recently been renounced on August 1, 1864. The Aachen exchange office accepted the letter as paid to the German border as if Kiel was still in Danish territory and added a debit of 3 schillinge for the transmission between Hamburg and Kiel.



○
WAY BILL
Green bay, Wisconsin
New York
Aachen
Lubeck
Skottemarke

Oct 23, 1866 Green Bay, Wisconsin to Skottemarke, Denmark
overpaid 31¢ PCM treaty rate

New York / Aachen / Hamburg

**Northern Europe
To Sweden**

Primary Route

○
WAY BILL

New York
Aachen
Hamburg
Gothenburg



May 3, 1861 New York to Gothenburg, Sweden, short paid 42¢ PCM rate

New York / Hamburg / to Sweden by sea

Secondary Route



○
WAY BILL

Harrisburgh
New York
Southampton
Aachen
Hamburg
Copenhagen
Malmo
Stockholm

January 24, 1862 Harrisburgh, Pennsylvania to Stockholm, Sweden, prepaid 42¢ PCM rate

New York / Hamburg / to Sweden overland

Mail to Sweden was transmitted from the Baltic ports by sea except in the winter months when ice made the trip impossible. Winter mails were carried overland to Copenhagen and onward via the Malmö-Stockholm railroad.

**Northern Europe
To Norway / From Norway**

Primary Route



- WAY BILL
- San Francisco
 - New York
 - Aachen
 - Hamburg
 - Kiel
 - Christiansand
 - Trondheim

April 18, 1862 San Francisco, CA to Trondheim, Norway, prepaid 46¢ PCM double rate

The Only Reported 90-cent 1861 Issue Use to Norway

New York / Hamburg / to Norway by sea

Secondary Route

- WAY BILL
- Skien
 - Svinesund
 - Helsingborg
 - Copenhagen
 - Hamburg
 - Aachen
 - Liverpool
 - Londonderry
 - Portland
 - Chicago
 - Blue Earth, Minnesota



December 4, 1861 Skien, Norway to Blue Earth, Minnesota, unpaid 46¢ PCM rate

Norway overland to Copenhagen / Hamburg / to Chicago

Summers mails were by direct sea conveyance between Kiel, Lübeck and Copenhagen with the Norwegian ports of Christiania and Christiansand. Packet lines to Bergen, Stavangen and Thronheim departed from both ports. Winter mails were carried to Helsingborg through Denmark and then overland route to Christiania (Oslo).

Western Europe



ROUTES TO BELGIUM & FRANCE

To Belgium

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

- Chicago
- New York
- Queenstown
- Liverpool
- London
- Ostend
- Antwerp
- Louvain

October 10, 1866 Chicago, Illinois to Louvain, Belgium, prepaid 27¢ treaty rate

New York / Antwerp via Great Britain in closed mails

**Western Europe
To France**

Primary Routes



○
WAY BILL

New York
Queenstown
Dublin
Liverpool
Dover
Calais
Paris

April 6, 1864 New York to Paris, prepaid 15¢ treaty rate

New York / Great Britain by British packet / Calais in closed mails

○
WAY BILL

Frederick Maryland
New York
Queenstown
Calais
Paris
Marseille
Paris
Calais
New York
Frederick, Maryland



August 5, 1863 Frederick, Maryland to Marseille, France, prepaid 30¢ double treaty rate
August 20, 1863 returned as unknown with Dead Letter Office datestamp

New York / Great Britain by American packet / Calais in closed mails

Mails to France under 1857 treaty could be sent by American or British steamers to Great Britain and then across Britain to Calais in closed mail bags.

**Western Europe
To France**

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

New York
Southampton
Havre
Paris
Bordeaux

March 30, 1861 New York to Bordeaux, France, prepaid 30¢ double treaty rate

New York / Havre by American packet

Secondary Route

○
WAY BILL

New York
Brest
Paris
Bordeaux



November 17, 1866 New York to Paris, prepaid 15¢ treaty rate, French anchor cancel postmarked as loose letter onboard French Line steamer *Pereire*

Fewer Than Ten Reported Examples with Anchor Cancel

New York / Brest by French Line packet

Direct mails to France under 1857 treaty could be sent by American steamers operating to Havre, or by French Line steamers operating to Brest or Havre. French Line steamers carried less than 5% of the mail to France.

**Western Europe
To Sardinia / To French Savoy**

Internal Routes



○
WAY BILL

New York
Havre
Paris
Pt. Beauvoisin
Aime

August 13, 1856 Corondelet, Missouri to Aime, Savoy while part of Sardinia, overpaid 21¢ French mail rate
"VIA DI P^T BEAUVOISIN" transit handstamp

New York / Havre / Pt. Beauvoisin



○
WAY BILL

New York
Queenstown
Liverpool
Calais
Calais
Paris
Mont Cenis, Switzerland
Albertville

February 17, 1866 New York to Albertville, Savoy while part of France, shortpaid 45¢ triple treaty rate

New York / Great Britain by American packet / Calais in closed mails / Mont Cenis

Savoy was annexed by France on March 24, 1860. Top cover shows use while part of Sardinia which traveled through France while lower cover shows use while part of France that traveled via Switzerland.

Western Europe
From / To German Occupied France



○
WAY BILL
Paris
Ferrieres, France
London
New York

November 10, 1870 Paris, France, **Par Ballon Monte** (Daguerre) to New York, short paid 70¢ rate
December 10 New York "18 U.S. Notes" depreciated currency due, five reported examples of short pay accepted

Besieged Paris by balloon to Ferrieres, France / London / New York primary route



○
WAY BILL
Saint Paul, Minnesota
New York
Queenstown
London
Calais
Ostend
Basel
St. Louis, France

September 23, 1870 Saint Paul, Minnesota to Basel, Switzerland, overpaid 10¢ rate
October 12, 1870 forwarded by **Red Cross** from Basel to St. Louis, occupied France



**The Only Reported Example from
the United States**

"Armee Du Rhin" and "Societe Francaise de Secours aux Blesses des Armees de Terre et de Mer / Comite Auxiliare de St. Louis" backstamps, contained a letter of inquiry regarding a hospitalized or prisoner of war soldier

New York / Basel primary route / Private route into France

Western Europe



PRIMARY ROUTES TO GERMANY FROM THE UNITED STATES

To Germany

Primary Route

○
WAY BILL

- Baltimore
- New York
- London
- Aachen
- Cologne
- Düsseldorf
- Dortmund
- Bielefeld
- Detmold



October 30, 1866 Baltimore registered to Detmold, Principality of Lippe prepaid 28¢ PCM rate plus 5¢ registry fee

New York / London / Aachen

The primary mail routes from the United States to the various German States during the 1856-1870 period were: by the Prussian Closed Mail system via Ostende entering at Aachen or the traveling post office between Verviers and Cologne; Bremen Mails via the port of Bremen; Hamburg Mails via the port of Hamburg.



○
WAY BILL

Cincinnati, Ohio
New York
Hamburg
Delmenhorst
Oldenburg

March 19, Cincinnati, Ohio to Oldenburg, prepaid 15¢ Bremen-Hamburg rate

New York / Hamburg



○
WAY BILL

New York
Bremen
Hannover
Frankfort
Darmstadt

December 12, 1867 New York to Darmstadt, Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt, prepaid 15¢ Bremen-Hamburg rate

New York / Bremen

Western Europe To Germany - Internal Routes



MAP OF RAIL DEVELOPMENT IN GERMANY

Internal Route from the West

○
WAY BILL

Adrian, Michigan
New York
Aachen
Cologne
Frankfurt
Bamberg
Nürnberg



March 27, 1862 Adrian, Michigan to Nürnberg, Bavaria, overpaid 28¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Frankfurt

**Western Europe
To Germany**

Internal Routes from the West

○
WAY BILL

- Baltimore, Maryland
- New York
- Southampton
- London
- Aachen
- Cologne
- Hannover
- Magdeburg
- Dessau
- Wolfenstadt



August 16, 1861 Baltimore, Maryland to Wolfenstaedt, Duchy of Anhalt-Benburg, prepaid 30¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Hannover



○
WAY BILL

- New York
- London
- Aachen
- Cologne
- Hannover
- Berlin

November 6, 1861 New York to Berlin, Prussia, prepaid 30¢ PCM rate plus 1¢ carrier

Aachen / Hannover

**Western Europe
To Germany**

Internal Routes from the West



○
WAY BILL

Belleville, Illinois
New York
London
Aachen
Cologne
Frankfurt

February 18, 1862 Belleville, Illinois to free city of Frankfurt, unpaid 30¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Frankfurt



○
WAY BILL

Buffalo, New York
New York
Southampton
Aachen
Cologne
Frankfurt

Frankfurt

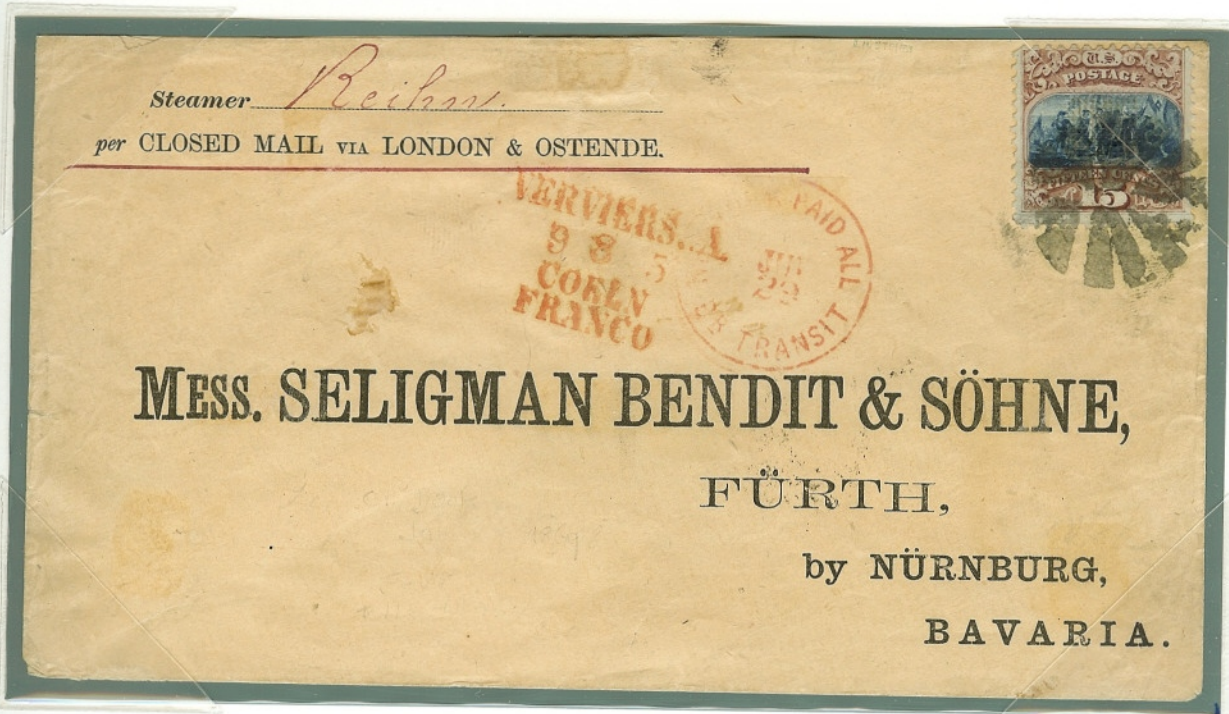
September 3, 1867 Buffalo, New York to Frankfurt, Prussia, prepaid 28¢ PCM rate forwarded within Frankfurt with Prussia 1 kreutzer 1867 issue

The Only Reported Example of this Combination

Aachen / Frankfurt

**Western Europe
To Germany**

Internal Routes from the West



○
WAY BILL

New York
Southampton
London
Ostende
Verviers
Cologne
Würzburg
Bamberg
Nürnberg
Fürth

July 29, 1869 New York to Fürth, Bavaria, prepaid 15¢ NGU closed mail rate

Verviers / Nürnberg



○
WAY BILL

St. Francisville, Louisiana
New York
London
Aachen
Cologne
Berlin
Breslau

April 27, 1860 St. Francisville, Louisiana to Breslau, Province of Silesia, Prussia, prepaid double 30¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Berlin

Western Europe
To Germany

Internal Routes from the North

○
WAY BILL

Davenport, Iowa
New York
Bremen
Cappeln

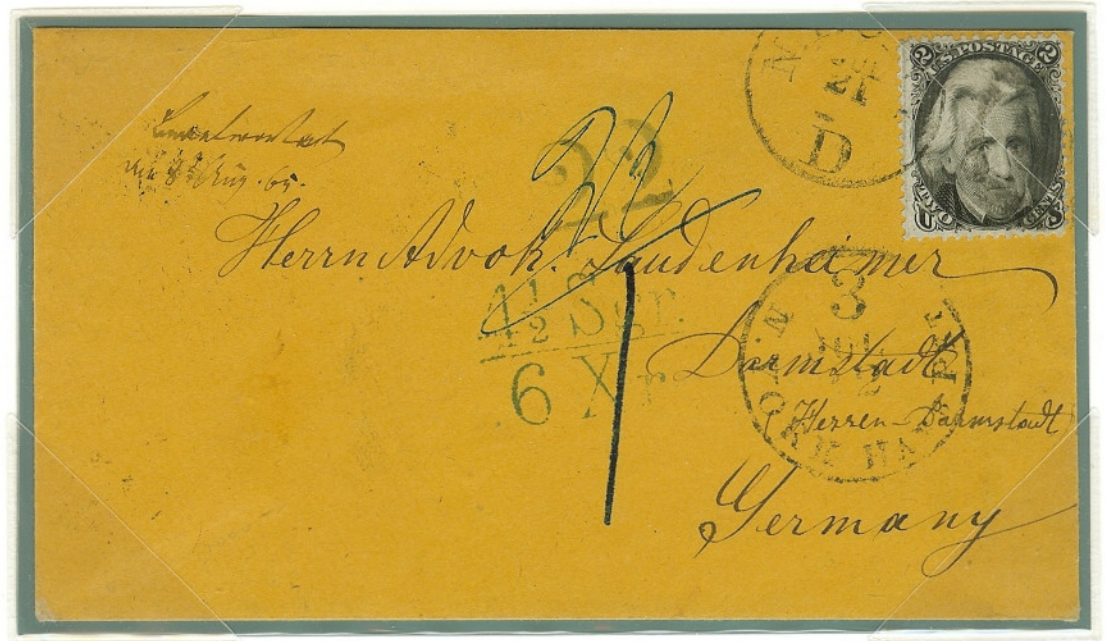


July 26, 1869 Davenport, Iowa to Cappeln, Province of Schleswig- Holstein, Prussia, prepaid 15¢ B-H rate

Bremen / Cappeln

○
WAY BILL

New York
Bremen
Hannover
Frankfurt
Darmstadt



July 21, 1865 New York to Darmstadt, Grand Duchy Hesse, unpaid 15¢ Bremen- Hamburg rate

Bremen / Frankfurt

**Western Europe
To Germany**

Internal Route s from the North



○
WAY BILL
New York
Bremen
Hannover
Magdeburg

June 29, 1866 New York to Magdeburg, Province of Saxony, Prussia, prepaid double 15¢ Bremen-Hamburg rate

Bremen / Hannover

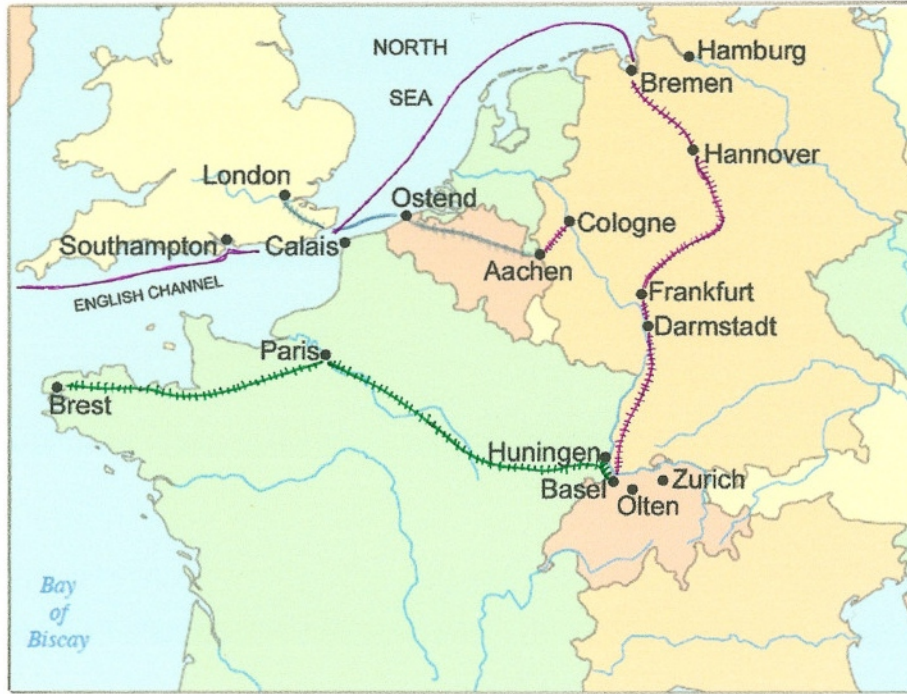


○
WAY BILL
Pontiac, Michigan
New York
Hamburg
Berlin
Posen
Bromberg

May 5, 1870 Pontiac, Michigan to Bromberg, Province of Posen, Prussia, prepaid 10¢ NGU rate

Hamburg / Berlin

Western Europe



PRIMARY ROUTES TO SWITZERLAND FROM THE UNITED STATES

To Switzerland

Primary Route

○
WAY BILL

Highland, Illinois
New York
Bremen
Basel
Olten
Zurich



April 1, 1867 Highland, Illinois to Zurich, Switzerland, prepaid 19¢ Bremen - Hamburg rate

New York / Bremen / Basel

**Western Europe
To Switzerland**

Primary Routes

○
WAY BILL

- Washington, DC
- New York
- Brest
- Paris
- Huningen
- Basel
- Olten
- Winterthur
- Kreuzlingen
- Egelshofen



June 21 Military Prison at Washington, D.C. to Egelshofen, Switzerland overpaid 21¢ French mail rate
Maiden trip of French Line steamers stopping at Brest

New York / Paris / Basel



○
WAY BILL

- San Francisco
- New York
- Aachen
- Cologne
- Darmstadt
- Basel
- Olten
- Lausanne
- Geneva

August 30, 1864 San Francisco to New York by Wells Fargo outside the mails
New York to Geneva, Switzerland, overprepaid double Prussian Closed mail rate

New York / Aachen / Basel

Western Europe



MAP OF SWISS INTERNAL ROUTES

To Switzerland

Internal Route

- WAY BILL
- Cape Vincent, New York
- New York
- Cologne
- Manheim
- Basel
- Olten
- Lausanne
- Geneva



July 16, 1861 Cape Vincent, New York to Geneva, Switzerland, prepaid 6¢ PCM newspaper rate prepaid only to border of GAPU handstamp, a patriotic cover formed into a wrapper

Olten / Geneva route

**Western Europe
To Switzerland**

Internal Routes



- WAY BILL
- Sherrills Mount, Iowa
 - Chicago
 - Quebec
 - Liverpool
 - Aachen
 - Cologne
 - Darmstadt
 - Karlsruhe
 - Basel
 - Olten
 - Zurich
 - Chur
 - Werdenberg

September 7, 1863 Sherrills Mount, Iowa to Werdenberg, Switzerland, prepaid 30¢ PCM rate to border
Prepaid only to border of GAPU handstamp

Olten / Chur route

- WAY BILL
- New York
 - Southampton
 - London
 - Calais
 - Paris
 - Huningen
 - Basel
 - Olten
 - Zurich
 - Gottlieben



August 10, 1861 New York to Gottlieben, Switzerland, prepaid 21¢ French mail rate

Olten / St. Gallen route

Southern Europe



Austrian Railway Routes

1. **Breslau-Vienna** route was used for mails arriving in Austria. Both Bremen-Hamburg and Prussian Closed mails arrived at Vienna via Breslau
2. **Vienna-Trieste** route linked Austria with northern Italy
3. **Vienna-Budapest** route linked Austria with Hungarian portions of the empire.

Most mail from the United States to the Austrian Empire arrived via Breslau for further distribution along Austria's vast railway system. After 1867 rail development extended into the Hungarian territory.

To Austria

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Boston
New York
Bremen
Hannover
Berlin
Breslau
Vienna

February 16, 1865 Boston to Vienna, Austria, prepaid 15¢ Bremen mail rate

Bremen / Breslau / Vienna

To Austria



○
WAY BILL

Hartford, Connecticut
Boston
Aachen
Cologne
Hannover
Berlin
Breslau
Vienna
Trieste

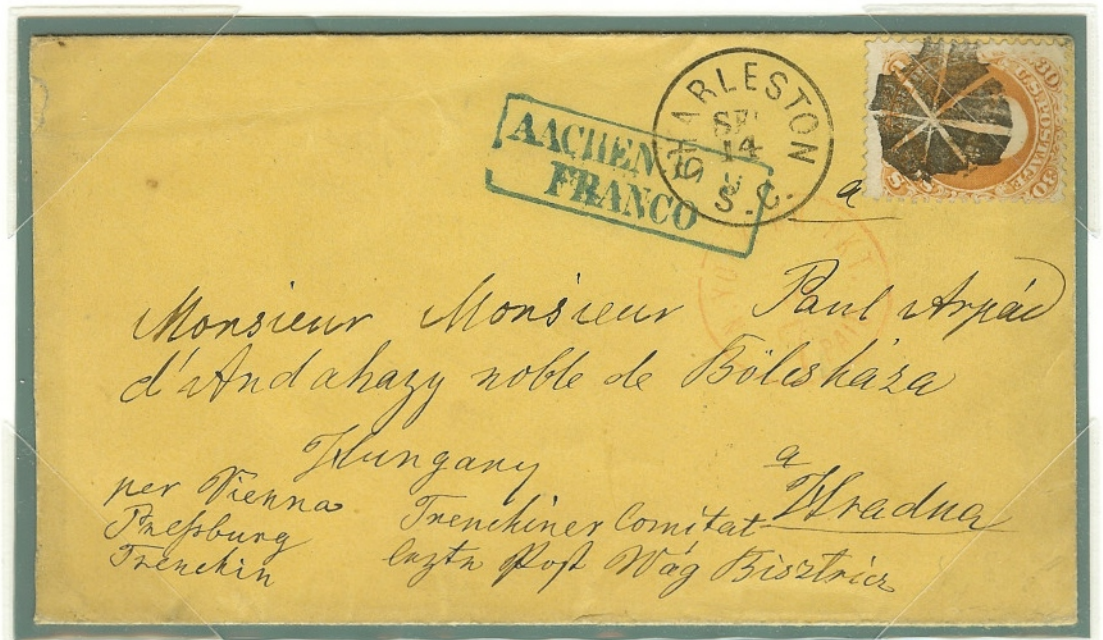
February 27, 1865 Hartford, Connecticut to Trieste, Austrian Empire, prepaid 30¢ PCM mail rate

Aachen / Vienna / Trieste

Internal Route

○
WAY BILL

Charleston, South Carolina
Boston
Aachen
Cologne
Hannover
Berlin
Breslau
Vienna
Presburg
Trenschin
Hradna



September 14, 1865 Charleston, South Carolina to Hradna, Hungary, Austrian Empire prepaid 30¢ PCM mail rate

Aachen / Presburg / by stage to Hradna

Presburg, a station on the main rail connection between Vienna and Budapest, served as a distribution point for smaller offices such as Hdrana which was served by a coaches.

Eastern Europe



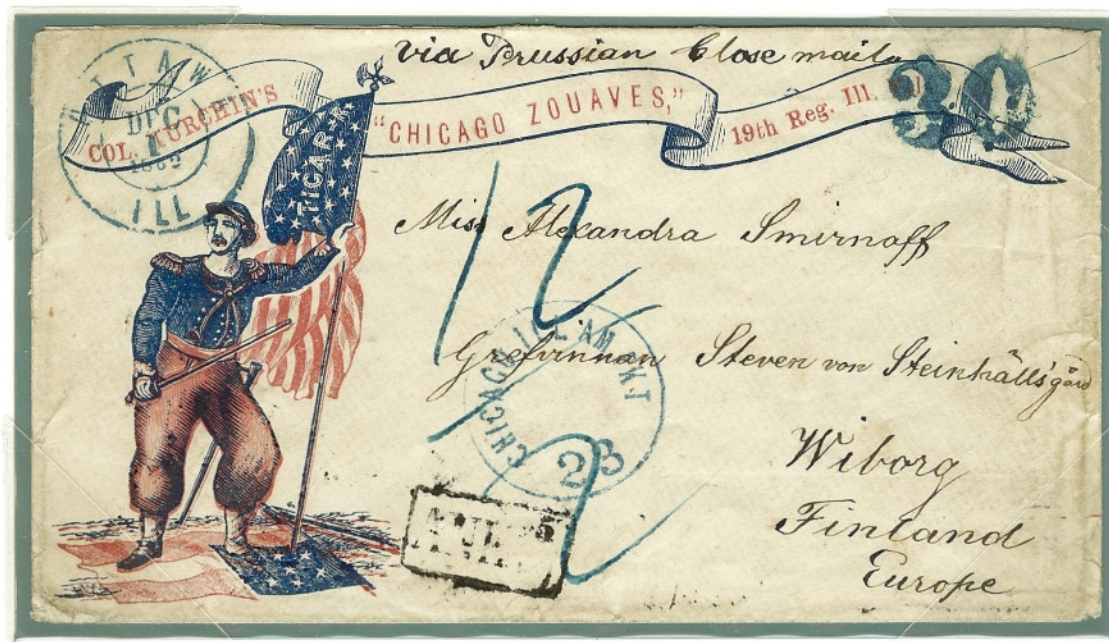
Eastern Europe Routes

1. Steamship route was used in the summer months to connect Stettin and St. Petersburg
2. Railway routes as indicated on the map (Vilnius-Moscow segment completed in 1864)

Map of the principal mail routes to the Grand Duchy of Finland and Russia.

To Grand Duchy of Finland

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Ottawa, Illinois
Chicago
Liverpool
Aachen
Berlin
Breslau
Crakow
Warsaw
St. Petersburg
Wiborg

December 1, 1862 Ottawa, Illinois to Wiborg, Grand Duchy of Finland, unpaid 30¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Crakow / St. Petersburg / Wiborg

To Russia



○
WAY BILL

- Portland
- Quebec
- Londonderry
- Liverpool
- Aachen
- Berlin
- Stettin
- St. Petersburg

July 19, 1861 Portland, Maine to St. Petersburg, Russia, prepaid double 37¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Stettin / to St. Petersburg by steamer

○
WAY BILL

- Salem, Massachusetts
- New York
- Liverpool
- Aachen
- Berlin
- Breslau
- Cracow
- Warsaw
- Vilnius
- St. Petersburg



April 15, 1862 Salem, Massachusetts to St. Petersburg, Russia, prepaid 30¢ PCM rate to Prussian border only

Aachen / Vilnius / to St. Petersburg by coach

The top cover was carried by steamer from Stettin to St. Petersburg. The lower cover was carried overland by rail after the line between Warsaw and Vilnius had been completed in 1862 and then by coach to destination.

Eastern Europe

Primary Route

To Russia



○
WAY BILL

Portland
New York
London
Aachen
Berlin
Breslau
Crakow
Warsaw
Vilnius
St. Petersburg

October 30, 1865 Portland, Maine to St. Petersburg, Russia, prepaid 35¢ PCM rate

Aachen / Vilnius / to St. Petersburg by rail

Secondary Route

○
WAY BILL

New York
Hamburg
Berlin
Breslau
Crakow
Warsaw
Brest
Kiev
Moscow



September 1, 1868 New York to Moscow, Russia, overpaid 15¢ NGU direct mail rate

Hamburg / Crakow / to Moscow by rail

The top cover was carried by rail after the line extension between Vilnius and St. Petersburg had been completed in 1864. The lower cover was carried by rail after completion of the line Crakow to Moscow in 1866.

Southern Europe

Iberian Peninsula and Malta Routes

1. **British Mail** service by P&O steamers from Southampton to Cadiz before 1862
2. **British Mail** service from London, via Calais, crossing into Spain at either Bayonne or Perpignan
3. **French Mail** route from Paris by rail to Behovia and crossing to Irun or La Junquera
4. **French and British Mail** route via Marseille and steamer to Malta



To Malta

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Matanzas, Cuba
New York

Forwarder Luling

New York
Queenstown
Liverpool
Calais
Marseille
Malta

April 17, 1863 Matanzas, Cuba under cover to New York forwarder Charles Luling
April 28, 1863 New York to Malta, overpaid 5¢ British open mail rate

Marseille / Malta

To Spain



○
WAY BILL

New York
Queenstown
London
Paris
Bayonne
Irun
Cadiz

September 8, 1869 New York to Cadiz, Spain, overpaid 22¢ British mail rate

London / Irun / Cadiz



○
WAY BILL

New York
Queenstown
London
Paris
Behovia
La Junquera
Barcelona

August 19, 1862 New York to Barcelona, Spain, prepaid 21¢ French mail rate

London / La Junquera / Barcelona

Southern Europe

Primary Route

To Gibraltar / To Portugal



○
WAY BILL

- Cincinnati, Ohio
- New York
- Havre
- Paris
- Bayonne
- Irun
- Cadiz
- Gibraltar

August 22, 1867 Cincinnati, Ohio to Gibraltar, prepaid 21¢ French mail rate

Havre / Irun / Gibraltar

Special Route



○
WAY BILL

- Toledo, Ohio
- New York
- London
- Southampton
- Oporto
- Lisbon

June 11, 1868 Toledo, Ohio to USS Swatara to the care of B. F. Stevens in London, prepaid 24¢ treaty rate forwarded by diplomatic pouch to Lisbon, Portugal where the ship was stationed

New York / London / to Lisbon by diplomatic pouch mail

To Tuscany / To Sardinia

- WAY BILL
- Boston
 - Queenstown
 - Liverpool
 - Calais
 - Paris
 - Marseilles
 - Genoa
 - Florence



October 9, 1859 Boston, Massachusetts to Florence, Tuscany, prepaid 27¢ French mail rate

Marseille / Genoa / Florence



- WAY BILL
- New York
 - Bremen
 - Hannover
 - Frankfurt
 - Basel
 - Oltén
 - Lucerne
 - Como
 - Milano
 - Torino

June 17, 1865 New York to Torino, Italy, prepaid 30¢ Bremen mail rate

Bremen / Como / Torino

Southern Europe



Routes to Italy

1. **Switzerland-Torino** route linked France, via Susa with Turin
2. **Switzerland-Como** route linked Prussian mails with northern Italy via Como
3. **Marseille-Palermo** service by French and Italian packets with intermediate stops
4. **Marseille-Civitavecchia** route provided direct link between France and Rome

To Italy

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Boston
Queenstown
Liverpool
Paris
Susa
Turin
Piacenza
Parma
Modena
Bologna

May 29, 1863 Boston to Florence, Italy, prepaid 28¢ Bremen rate but send overpaid 21¢ French mail rate

Paris / Turin / Florence

To Papal States

○
WAY BILL

New York
London
Calais
Paris
Marseille
Civitavecchia
Rome



December 31, 1861 Boston, Massachusetts to Rome, prepaid 27¢ French mail rate, 24¢ steel blue shade “Civitavecchia Dalla Via Di Mare” handstamp

Marseille / Civitavecchia / by rail to Rome



○
WAY BILL

Newport, Rhode Island
New York
London
Calais
Paris
Marseille
Civitavecchia
Rome

July 25, 1865 Newport, Rhode Island to Rome, prepaid 28¢ Bremen mail rate, sent overpaid French mails disinfected (fumigated with slits) at Civitavecchia

Marseille / Civitavecchia / by rail to Rome

Nello fuori, e dentro

The International Sanitary Conference of 1865 suggested that packet services to Mediterranean ports be suspended because of a cholera outbreak. France ignored the advice to assure maintenance of French troops in Rome and Sardinian packets continued to serve southern Italy.

Southern Europe

From Kingdom of Two Sicilies / To Italy

Primary Route



○
WAY BILL

Naples
Civitavecchia
Livorno
Genoa
Marseille
Havre
Southampton
New York

March 27, 1860 Naples to New York, fraudulently prepaid 47g French mail rate
two 20g postal forgeries used to defraud the post in combination with genuine 2g and 5g

The Only Reported Example to the United States

Naples / Civitavecchia / Genoa / Marseille



○
WAY BILL

New York
Brest
Havre
Paris
Marseille
Naples
Palermo

May 4, 1867 New York to Palermo, prepaid 21¢ French mail rate

Marseille / Naples / by Italian steamer to Palermo

Northern Africa



In April 1854 French mail service to northern Africa consisted of direct lines from Marseille to Oran, Algiers, and Bone. Coastal auxiliary lines connected the port cities of Tangier, Oran, Mostaganem, Algiers, Bone and Tunis.

To Algeria

Secondary Route



- WAY BILL
- Boston
 - Queenstown
 - London
 - Calais
 - Paris
 - Marseilles
 - Algiers
 - Mostaganem

December 11, 1861 Boston to Mostaganem, Algeria, prepaid double 15¢ French mail rate

Marseille / to Mostaganem by French Line steamer

Western Africa

West Africa

African Steam Ship Co. Plymouth-Liverpool to the island of Fernando Po with stops at different ports of the Western African coast.

South Africa

Union Steamship Co. Plymouth to Cape Town. Service was extended to Mauritius with calls at Port Elizabeth and Natal.

East Africa

10/1858 to 3/60. P.& O. Suez-Aden-Mauritius to Australia.

3/1860 to 6/66. P.&O. Suez-Seychelles-Mauritius-Reunion.

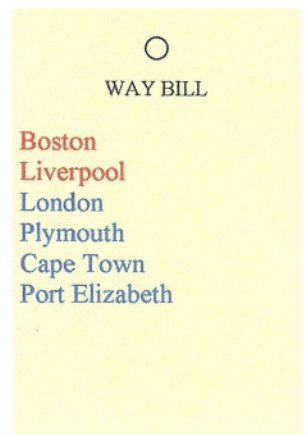
6/1866 to 2/68. Union Co. Mauritius-Galle (Ceylon)

9/1864. French service. Suez-Aden-Seychelles-Reunion-Mauritius



To Cape of Good Hope

Primary Route



September 18, 1863 Boston to Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, prepaid 45¢ British mail rate

Plymouth / Port Elizabeth by Union Steam Ship Company steamers

Western Africa

Primary Route

To Portuguese West Africa / From Liberia



○
WAY BILL

Brunswick, Maine
Boston
Queenstown
London
Tenerife
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Monrovia, Liberia
St. Paul de Loando

February 19, 1861 Brunswick, Maine to St. Paul de Loando, Portuguese West Africa, prepaid 33¢ British mail

Liverpool / Fernando Po by African Steamship Company steamer

Special Route

○
WAY BILL

Careysburg, Liberia
Monrovia
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Rio de Janeiro
Baltimore
Newbury, South Carolina



February 6, 1867 Careysburg, Liberia to Newbury, South Carolina, partially prepaid 6¢ ship rate newspaper report: *Bark Ariel* arrived from Sierra Leone and Rio de Janeiro on September 2

Liberia / Baltimore by private ship

To Zanzibar



○
WAY BILL

Salem, Massachusetts
Boston
Queenstown
London
Marseilles
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Seychelles Isles
Zanzibar

March 1866 Salem, Massachusetts to Zanzibar, prepaid 45¢ British mail rate

Marseille / Seychelles Isles by P. & O. Line / Zanzibar by private ship



○
WAY BILL

Salem, Massachusetts
Boston
Queenstown
London
Marseilles
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Zanzibar

June 26, 1866 Boston to Zanzibar, prepaid 45¢ British mail rate

Marseille / Aden / Zanzibar by Sultan's private ship

To Zanzibar



○
WAY BILL

Salem, Massachu-
setts
New York
Liverpool
London
Plymouth
Cape Town
Natal
Mauritius
Zanzibar

January 25, 1867 Salem, Massachusetts to Zanzibar, prepaid double 45¢ British mail rate

Plymouth / Mauritius by Union Line / Zanzibar by private ship



○
WAY BILL

Salem, Massachusetts
New York
London
Marseilles
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Zanzibar

July 24, 1868 Boston to Zanzibar, prepaid double 36¢ British mail rate to Aden

Marseille / Aden / Zanzibar by Sultan's private ship

Western Asia

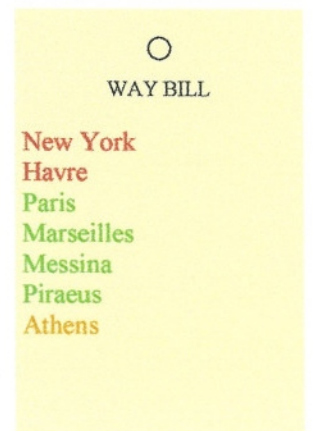


Main Sea Routes to Western Asia

1. **French Levant Line** - Marseille, Piraeus, Constantinople
2. **French Egyptian Line** - Marseille, Alexandria
3. **French Syrian Line** - Marseilles, Syra, Smyrna, Mersina Alexandria
4. **Austrian Line** - Trieste, Beirut

To Greece

Primary Route



October 20, 1860 New York to Athens, Greece, prepaid 1¢ carrier fee, unpaid 30¢ French mail rate

The Only Reported use to Greece with Prepaid Carrier Fee

Marseille / to Piraeus by French Line steamer

Western Asia

Primary Route

To Syria

○
WAY BILL

- Boston
- London
- Calais
- Marseille
- Alexandria
- Jaffa



September 7, 1866 Boston to Jaffa, Syria, prepaid 45¢ British mail rate

Marseille / Alexandria by French Egyptian Line / Jaffa by French Syrian Line

Secondary Route



○
WAY BILL

- Faribault, Minnesota
- Chicago
- Detroit
- Quebec
- Londonderry
- London
- Calais
- Marseille
- Alexandria
- Jaffa
- Jerusalem

September 20, 1866 Faribault, Minnesota to Jerusalem, Syria, prepaid 33¢ British mail rate

Disinfected by fumigation with slits at Jaffa

Marseille / Jaffa by French Egyptian & Syrian Lines / to Jerusalem overland

Western Asia

Primary Route

From Syria / To Syria

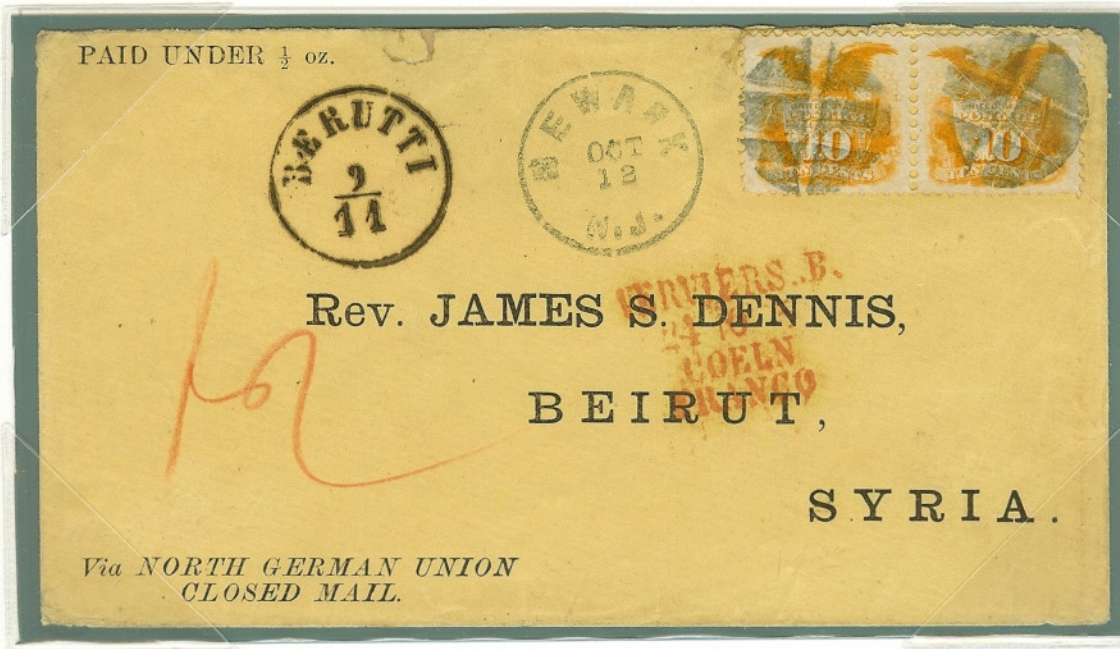
- WAY BILL
- Beirut
 - Tripoli
 - Lattakia
 - Alexandretta
 - Mersina
 - Smyrna
 - Syra
 - Palermo
 - Messina
 - Marseille
 - Liverpool
 - Boston
 - Holland, Connecticut



July 8, 1864 Beirut, Syria to Holland, Connecticut, prepaid 160 centimes French mail rate superfluous use of 3¢ U.S. stamp

Beirut / Marseille by French Syrian Line

Secondary Route



- WAY BILL
- Newark, New Jersey
 - New York
 - Queenstown
 - Dover
 - Ostende
 - Verviers
 - Cologne
 - Vienna
 - Trieste
 - Beirut

October 12, 1869 Newark, New Jersey to Beirut, Syria, prepaid 20¢ North German Union mail rate

Ostende / Trieste by rail / to Beirut by Austrian Lloyd Navigation Co. steamer

To Turkey



○
WAY BILL

Haverhill, Massachusetts
 New York
 Bremen
 Vienna
 Constantinople
 Beirut
 Alexandretta
 Aleppo

February 9, 1870 Haverhill, Massachusetts to Aleppo, Turkey, prepaid 15¢ NGU mail rate to Constantinople
 remailed in French mails with original transits and credits crossed out
 additional postage due for Turkish carriage 20pa and 1pi dues

Bremen / Constantinople / Beirut by French Line steamer / Alexandretta / to Aleppo overland

To Turkey



○
WAY BILL

New York
Queenstown
London
Calais
Marseilles
Messina
Piraeus
Dardanelles
Constantinople

January 13, 1864 New York to Constantinople, Turkey, prepaid 30¢ French mail rate

Marseille / Constantinople by French Levant Line

Special Route

○
WAY BILL

Boston
Queenstown
London
Ostende
Cologne
Vienna
Trieste
Smyrna



January 9, 1861 Boston to Smyrna "Asia Minor," prepaid 24¢ rate to forwarding agent in London carried privately to destination likely over the old French overland route connecting with Austrian packets

Boston / London / Smyrna privately or under cover

Southern Asia



ROUTING MAP TO SOUTHERN ASIA

To India

Primary Route



- WAY BILL
- Boston
- New York
- Liverpool
- London
- Calais
- Paris
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Bombay

August 17, 1865 Boston, Massachusetts to Bombay, India, prepaid 45¢ British Mail rate

Marseille / Aden by P. & O. Line steamers / Bombay by P. & O. steamers (Bombay Line)

To India



○
WAY BILL

- Boston
- Liverpool
- London
- Calais
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Bombay
- Calcutta

September 20, 1861 Boston to Calcutta, India, prepaid 21¢ British open mail rate
Bombay transit backstamp

Marseille / Bombay / overland express to Calcutta

○
WAY BILL

- Boston
- Liverpool
- London
- Calais
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Galle
- Madras
- Calcutta



October 25, 1861 Boston to Calcutta, India, prepaid 21¢ British open mail rate
"Calcutta Steam Letter" backstamp

Marseille / Madras / to Calcutta by Calcutta Line British steamer

From December 1857 four monthly mails were transmitted to Calcutta. Two of these were carried directly by Calcutta Line steamers of the P. & O. Line (Calcutta Steamer backstamp) and alternately two were carried via Bombay (Bombay transit backstamp) and overland. In the short interval between these two letters the overland service was "interrupted till further notice." It was later resumed.

Southern Asia

Primary Route

To Ceylon / To Burma



- WAY BILL
- Philadelphia
 - New York
 - Queenstown
 - London
 - Calais
 - Marseille
 - Alexandria
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle

June 12, 1866 Philadelphia to Point de Galle, Ceylon prepaid 30¢ French mail treaty rate
July 12, 1866 arrival backstamp

Marseille / Galle by P. & O. Line Steamers

Secondary Route

- WAY BILL
- Warren, Maine
 - New York
 - Southampton
 - Gibraltar
 - Malta
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle
 - Madras
 - Calcutta
 - Rangoon



February 7, 1865 Warren, Maine to Rangoon, Burma, underpaid 21¢ British open mail rate
March 31, 1865 Calcutta Steam Letter backstamp

Southampton / Galle by P. & O. Line Steamers / Rangoon by branch steamer

While Galle was a primary stop for Peninsular & Oriental Line steamers, Rangoon was a remote military post.

East-Southeastern Asia



ROUTES TO EAST-SOUTHEASTERN ASIA

To Hong Kong

Primary Route



- WAY BILL
- Boston
 - Queenstown
 - London
 - Calais
 - Marseilles
 - Alexandria
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle
 - Singapore
 - Hong Kong

April 26, 1864 New York to Hong Kong, prepaid double 53¢ rate via Marseille

Boston / Queenstown / Hong Kong by P. & O. Line steamers from Marseille

To Singapore / To Labuan Island



○
WAY BILL

- Boston
- Queenstown
- London
- Calais
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Galle
- Singapore

January 20, 1862 Boston to Singapore, prepaid 45¢ rate via Marseille

Boston / Queenstown / Singapore by P. & O. Line steamers from Marseille

Secondary Route

○
WAY BILL

- Boston
- Queenstown
- London
- Calais
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Galle
- Singapore
- Labuan Island



May 1, 1869 Holmes Hole, Massachusetts to Labuan Island, overpaid 42¢ rate via Marseille (30¢ "F" Grills)

Boston / Queenstown / Singapore via Marseille / Labuan by branch steamer

While Singapore was a primary stop for Peninsular & Oriental Line steamers, Labuan was served irregularly by branch steamers.

To Hong Kong



○
WAY BILL

- New York
- Queenstown
- London
- Calais
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Galle
- Singapore
- Hong Kong

July 30, 1862 New York to Hong Kong, prepaid 57¢ treaty rate via Marseille

New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong by P. & O. Line steamers from Marseille

○
WAY BILL

- New York
- Queenstown
- London
- Calais
- Marseilles
- Alexandria
- Suez
- Aden
- Galle
- Singapore
- Saigon
- Hong Kong



October 3, 1868 New York to Hong Kong, prepaid double 30¢ French mail rate

New York / Brest / Hong Kong by French Line Steamers

Although the P. & O. Line steamers carried the bulk of the mail to Hong Kong before 1867 when American trans-Pacific service began, French Line service was available. The lower cover, imprinted for American Service, was directed to the French Line because it was too late to catch monthly departure from San Francisco.

To Philippine Islands / To Japan

○
WAY BILL

Boston
Queenstown
London
Calais
Marseilles
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Galle
Singapore
Hong Kong
Manila



January 27, 1863 Boston to Manila, Philippines, prepaid 57¢ rate via Marseille to Hong Kong

New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong via Marseille / Manila by branch steamer



○
WAY BILL

Hartford, Connecticut
New York
Queenstown
Southampton
Gibraltar
Malta
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Galle
Singapore
Hong Kong
Kanagawa

July 1, 1862 Hartford, Connecticut to Kanagawa, Japan, prepaid 45¢ treaty rate to Hong Kong via Southampton carried privately from Hong Kong to Kanagawa by steamer arranged by Olyphant & Co.

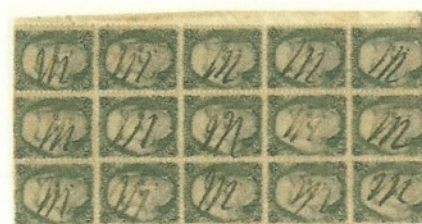
New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong via Southampton / Japan by private steamer

Direct mail service to Japan was not available in 1862 and was provided by merchants in Hong Kong. The irregular mail from Hong Kong to the Philippines was carried by private vessels paid for by Spain.

To Macau / To China



○
WAY BILL
New York
Queenstown
Southampton
Gibraltar
Malta
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Galle
Singapore
Hong Kong
Macau



December 22, 1866 Milo, Maine to Macau, prepaid 45¢ rate via Southampton
Block of fifteen 2¢ on reverse

New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong via Southampton / Macau by branch steamer

○
WAY BILL
New York
Southampton
Calais
Marseille
Malta
Alexandria
Suez
Aden
Galle
Singapore
Hong Kong
Shanghai



October 22, 1862 New York to Shanghai, China, prepaid double 57¢ rate via Marseille

New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong via Southampton / Shanghai by branch steamer

The P. & O. Line operated branch line steamers which connected Hong Kong with both Macau and Shanghai.

To China



- WAY BILL
- Beverly, Massachusetts
 - Boston
 - New York
 - Queenstown
 - Marseille
 - Alexandria
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle
 - Singapore
 - Hong Kong
 - Foochow

September 25, 1860 Beverly, Massachusetts to Foochow, China, prepaid 5¢ open mail rate

New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong via Southampton / Foochow by branch steamer

- WAY BILL
- Straham, New Hampshire
 - Boston
 - Queenstown
 - Southampton
 - Malta
 - Alexandria
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle
 - Singapore
 - Hong Kong
 - Swatow



November 4, 1864 Straham, New Hampshire to Swatow, China, prepaid 45¢ rate via Southampton

New York / Queenstown / Hong Kong via Southampton / Foochow by branch steamer

The P. & O. Line operated branch line steamers which connected Hong Kong with both Foochow and Swatow.

Eastern Asia

New Primary Route

From Hong Kong / From China



○
WAY BILL

Hong Kong
Shanghai
Yokohama
San Francisco



January 19, 1869 Hong Kong to San Francisco, prepaid HK 8c treaty rate

Hong Kong / San Francisco by Pacific Mail Steamship Company

○
WAY BILL

Shanghai
Yokohama
San Francisco
Chicago
Detroit
Montreal



December 21, 1869 Shanghai (U.S. Consular Post Office) to Montreal, Canada overpaid 10¢ rate to U.S. plus 6¢ rate to Canada

Hong Kong / San Francisco by Pacific Mail Steamship Company / Montreal

The United States opened a post office in Shanghai in 1867 in conjunction with a new trans-Pacific mail service operating between San Francisco, Yokohama, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The lower cover was also carried over the newly completed transcontinental railway from San Francisco to Chicago and onward to Canada.

Oceania



ROUTING MAP TO AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

To New South Wales

Primary Route



- WAY BILL
- Washington, D.C.
 - Boston
 - Queenstown
 - Marseille
 - Alexandria
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle
 - King George's Sound
 - Melbourne
 - Sydney

July 6, 1863 Washington, D.C. to Sydney, New South Wales, prepaid double 45¢ treaty rate

One of five reported 90-cent covers to New South Wales

Boston / Queenstown / Sydney by P. & O. Line steamer

The Peninsular and Oriental Line monopolized mail carriage to the Australian states throughout the period.

To South Australia / To New Zealand in error



- WAY BILL
- Dover, New Hampshire
 - Boston
 - Liverpool
 - Southampton
 - Gibraltar
 - Malta
 - Alexandria
 - Suez
 - Aden
 - Galle
 - King George's Sound
 - Melbourne

August 24, 1863 Dover, New Hampshire to Melbourne, South Australia, prepaid 33¢ rate via Southampton

Boston / Southampton / Melbourne by P. & O. Line steamer

- WAY BILL
- New York
 - Liverpool
 - Marseille
 - Alexandria
 - Galle
 - Melbourne
 - Dunedin
 - Wellington, N.Z.
 - Dunedin
 - Galle
 - Madras
 - Wellington, India



March 27, 1863 New York to Wellington, India, missent to Wellington, New Zealand, prepaid 30¢ French rate



This cover was conveyed from Melbourne to Wellington, New Zealand in error. Upon arrival it was re-directed to proper destination in India. The manuscript "Received torn GP" was written by a postal clerk.

New York / New Zealand / India by P. & O. Line steamer

Melbourne served as the main hub for mails to Australia and New Zealand. The P. & O. Line served additional areas of Australia while the Intercolonial Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. served offices in New Zealand.

From Hawaii



○
WAY BILL

Honolulu
San Francisco
Omaha
Montclair, New Jersey

April 29, 1865 Honolulu, Hawaii to Montclair, New Jersey, prepaid 5¢ Hawaii plus 5¢ U.S.

Honolulu / San Francisco / overland stage to New Jersey



○
WAY BILL

Honolulu
San Francisco

January 22, 1866 Honolulu, Hawaii, to San Francisco, prepaid 4¢ unsealed printed matter rate

Honolulu / San Francisco

To Hawaii / From Hawaii



○
WAY BILL

Springfield, Massachusetts
New York
Aspinwall
Panama
San Francisco
Honolulu

April 29, 1865 Springfield, Massachusetts to Honolulu, prepaid double 3¢ private ship rate

New York / Panama / San Francisco / Honolulu



○
WAY BILL

Honolulu
San Francisco
Omaha
Reading, Michigan



May 28, 1869 Honolulu to Reading, Michigan, prepaid Hawaiian 5¢ postage plus 10¢ U.S. postage

Honolulu / San Francisco / transcontinental railroad to Michigan

The top cover was carried by steamer via Panama and San Francisco before carriage to Hawaii. The lower cover was carried from Hawaii by the California, Oregon and Mexico Steamship Co. which had commenced service in 1867 and bears the "Hawaiian Steam Service" marking applied at San Francisco. It was carried on the transcontinental railway, completed May 10, 1869, to destination.