

MAIL TO AUSTRALIA PRE-UPU

This exhibit analyzes the various rates and routes for mail from the USA to Australia until 1891.

ADAMS EXPRESS



San Francisco
4 May 1853
(letter heading)

Private ship across
Pacific to Sydney,
Mailed on
3 Oct 1852 (b/s)

Ship Letter
Melbourne
10 Oct 1853 b/s,
10d due for 1 oz.
arriving ship letter

During the 1850s Australian gold-rush, Adams Express had offices in Sydney and Melbourne. Letter from J. Hawes, asking Carrington to send Australian newspapers to him in San Francisco, since Hawes had acquired Gregory's Australian Express.

- Page 1 - Private carriage by Adams Express
- Page 2 - 45 cent packet rate via Plymouth (1852-54)
- Page 3 - 37 cent private ship rate via England (1850-54)
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45 CENT PACKET RATE VIA PLYMOUTH

Astabula, Ohio
23 Nov 1852,
PAID 45

New York
28 Nov 1852,
Collins Line
Atlantic

London
11 Dec 1852,
24 cents credit

Plymouth,
ARM Adelaide via
Cape of Good Hope

Melbourne
10 May 1853

Hobart, Tasmania
May 1853,
5 pence due



45¢ rate is the sum of 5¢ US internal, 16¢ transatlantic ship, and 24¢ (12d) UK to Australia postage by contract ship. Adelaide departed Plymouth on 18 December but returned in "leaky condition", then sailed again on 2 January 1853.



New York
30 Nov 1853,
45 cents paid,
Cunard Arabia

London, 12 Dec,
40 cents credit

Southampton
4 Jan 1854,
P&O Ripon

Singapore, 18 Feb,
P&O Chusan

Melbourne to
Launceston by
Black Swan,
No arrival charge

Starnes records the 45 cent packet rate as the "Via Plymouth" rate, although some ships departed from Southampton, not Plymouth. Tasmania had ended its ship letter charge on arriving mail by 1854.

37 CENT PRIVATE SHIP RATE VIA ENGLAND

Newburgh NY
26 Oct 1853,
PAID 37

New York,
29 Oct Am Pkt,
Collins Line
Atlantic

London, 10 Nov,
16 cents credit,
Private ship via
Cape of Good Hope

Penrith, NSW
15 Apr 1854,
5d due for
ship letter to
inland town



37¢ rate is the sum of 5¢ US internal, 16¢ transatlantic ship, and 16¢ (8d) UK to Australia postage by private ship. **Only recorded 37 cent rate cover from US used during the correct period.** Other recorded 37 cent rate covers are overpaid 33 cent rates (see below).



Rushville NY
22 Feb 1855,
Endorsed "Adams
& Co. Express",
Mailed: PAID 37

New York
27 Feb 1855,
Br. Pkt. backstamp

London
12 March 1855,
28 cent credit

James Baines clipper
ship via Cape of
Good Hope to
Melbourne,
1d credit to Victoria

Adams Express was in financial difficulty so cover was mailed. The 37 cent rate period ended with the establishment of the 6d Empire Rate between England and Australia on 1 October 1854 - the "28" credit to England confirms this cover is an overpaid 33¢ rate - see article by Winter and Forster in Nov 1990 Chronicle.

5 CENT DIRECT RATE VIA ATLANTIC - 10 CENT DIRECT RATE VIA PACIFIC



Greensburgh Indiana
8 March 1856,
double 5¢ rate

Private ship direct
from New York

Melbourne
Ship Letter
19 Aug 1856 b/s,
Dead Letter marking
"Try Kingover"

Kingover
14 Sep 1856,
"Try Kerang"

Kerang
21 Sep 1856,
2¢ due for
forwarding

The few private direct ship sailings usually meant slow transit times.

South Bend IN
4 June 1860,
10¢ rate
"Via California"

San Francisco,
Private ship via
Pacific Ocean

Sydney Ship Letter
3 Sep 1860 b/s

Melbourne
12 Sep 1860 b/s

Black Forest
Victoria
17 Sep 1860 b/s



Starnes lists the 10 cent private ship rate from San Francisco from April 1855 until August 1863. There were few sailings and very few covers have survived.

33 CENT EASTERN RATE AND 38 CENT WESTERN RATE VIA ENGLAND

Poughkeepsie
New York,
1 May 1863,
33¢ in stamps

New York
Am Pkt.
2 May 1863,
HAPAG
Hammonia

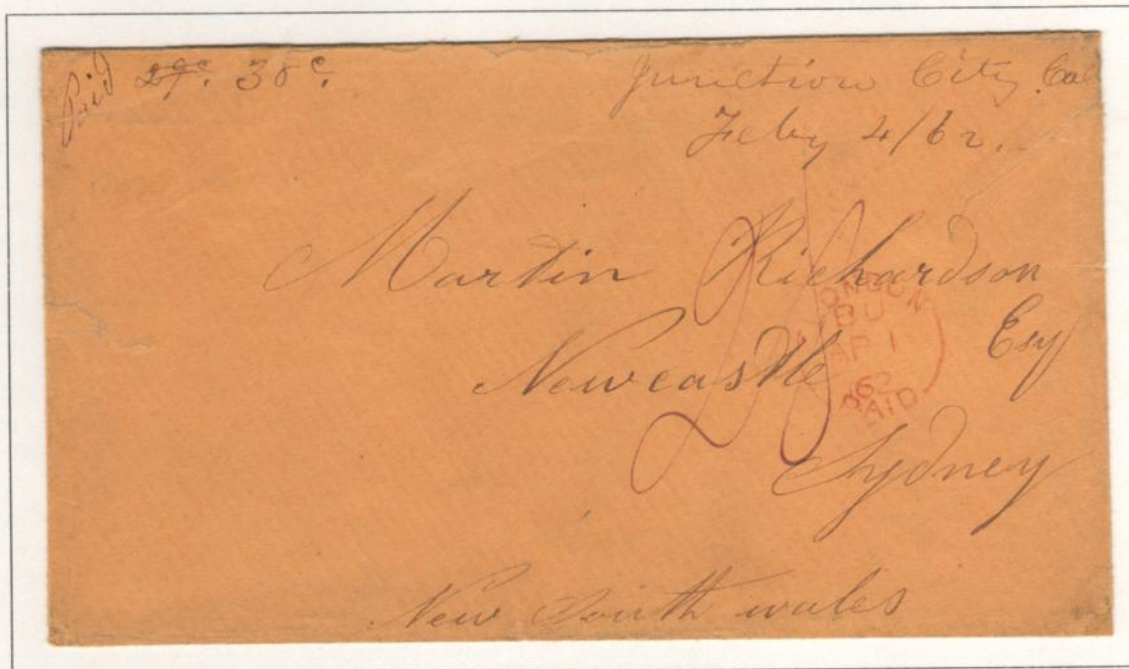
London
14 May 1863,
12 cent credit,
P&O ships via
Suez to Victoria

2¢ forwarding
charge to Balmain



One of two recorded Civil War patriotic envelopes used to Australia.

5¢ US internal plus 16¢ transatlantic ship plus 12¢ (6d) empire rate from UK to Australia - Starnes calls this the 33¢ Southampton rate although some 1850s sailings departed from other ports. Route went through the Straits of Gibraltar to Suez.



Junction City CA
4 Feb 1862,
38¢ paid in cash

Central overland
stage route to NY,
15 Mar 1862,
Cunard Canada

London
1 April 1862,
28¢ credit to
England

P&O via Suez,
Bombay to
Sydney NSW

The west-coast distance differential was abolished on 30 June 1863, after which date the west-coast rate to Australia via England was reduced to 33 cents. This cover may be the only surviving example of the 38 cent west-coast rate.

DOUBLE AND QUADRUPLE 33 CENT RATES VIA ENGLAND

Washington DC
23 Oct 1858,
66¢ double rate
paid with stamps

New York
Br. Pkt. 27 Oct,
Cunard Africa

London
8 Nov 1858,
56¢ credit,
Via Suez &
Galle,
E&ARM
Oneida

Sydney
23 Jan 1859



ex Grunin

The Hogan correspondence provides most of the surviving multiple rate covers sent via England to Australia - both by the via Southampton and via Marseilles routes.



Washington DC
2 Oct 1866
\$1.32 quadruple
rate

New York
3 Oct Br. Pkt.,
Cunard Java

London 15 Oct
\$1.12 credit

Via Southampton,
Suez, Galle,
P&O Avoca

Sydney
19 Dec 1866

ex Gibson

3-color franking with 90¢ 1861 stamp

39 AND 45 CENT RATES VIA ENGLAND AND MARSEILLES

Boston
Am. Pkt.
7 July 1865,
39 cents paid
for ¼ ounce,
Inman Line
City of Boston

London
19 July 1865,
18 cent credit

Via Calais,
Marseilles
and Suez

P&O Bombay
to Melbourne
19 Sep 1865



From 1857, France charged 3d (6 cents) per quarter ounce on covers taking their railroad between Calais to Marseilles - Routing was four or five days faster than via Southampton.



Boston
Br. Pkt. 40
(credit to UK)
20 July 1864,
45 cents paid
for ½ ounce,
Cunard Asia

London
1 Aug 1864,
Via Calais,
Marseilles
and Suez,

P&O Madras
to Melbourne,
13 Oct 1864

Blake and Davis' Boston Postal Markings lists the Br. Pkt. 40 integral marking (809A) used in 1861 on a cover to Hong Kong.

\$1.80 RATE VIA ENGLAND AND MARSEILLES

\$1.80 paid for a two ounce letter sent via Marseilles. The 142 credit mark on the below cover indicates that the post office rated it at 1¼ ounces, with a French charge of 30 cents.



ex Ackerman, Grunin and Ishikawa

Washington D.C., 11 December 1866, paid \$1.80
"per steamer via London & Marseilles"

New York Br. Pkt. 12 December 1866, Cunard Scotia

London, 22 December 1866, 142 credit

Ship to Calais, French railroad to Marseilles

P&O Delta to Alexandria, overland across isthmus to Suez

P&O Golconda to Galle, Ceylon - P&O Geelong to Sydney, 15 February 1867

30 CENT FRENCH MAIL RATE

Boston
Am. Pkt.
7 Jan 1865,
27 cents credit
to France

Rail to Portland
Maine, Allan Line
St. David to
Londonderry

Marseilles b/s,
Suez, 7 Feb 1865

P&O to Melbourne
15 March 1865 b/s



Starnes lists a 30 cent French Mail rate to Australia from 1857 to 1870, but very few examples are recorded. Allan Line Packets were treated as American Packets by the USA, but British Packets by France, which explains the French “BR” handstamp.



Onisbo CA, 1863
30 cents in stamps
for French mail rate

Overland to NY
3 Mar Br. Pkt.
PAID,
Cunard Canada

London
16 Mar 1863,
28 cent credit

P&O via Suez to
Melbourne
10 May 1863,
Overland to
Sandhurst

Sender paid the 30 cent French Mail rate but the “28” credit marking to England indicates the cover was treated as being fully paid for the British rate via Southampton..

22 CENT RATE VIA PANAMA

New York
1 Mar 1867,
22 cents paid,
Henry Chauncey
to Colon

Panama City
19 Mar 1867,
12 credit to UK
Kaikoura

Sydney
1 May 1867

Melbourne
7 May 1867

Sandhurst
7 May 1867,
No postage due



The New Zealand Line between Panama and Sydney operated from 1866-68. The 22 cent rate from the USA was 10 cents to Panama City plus 12 cents trans-Pacific.



Pittsburgh PA
20 May 1867

New York,
Steamship
to Colon

Panama City
11 June 1867,
12 credit to UK,
Mataura

Sydney
31 July 1867

Melbourne
3 Aug 1867,
6d due

The colony of Victoria did not provide financial support to the Panama Line, so mail to that colony was charged 6d postage due. Inexplicably the upper cover was not charged.

22 CENT RATE VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Washington DC
11 May 1868,
22 cents paid

New York
12 May 1868,
12 credit to UK,
HAPAG Line
Allemania

London
25 May 1868,
P&O via Suez

Sydney
25 July 1868



In January 1868 the rate from USA to England was lowered to 12 cents. The USA via Southampton rate to Australia was 12 cents transatlantic plus 12 cents (6d) UK to Australia, less the 2 cent British internal rate which was included in both 12 cent segments.



Sonoma CA
27 July 1869,
22 cents paid

Transcontinental
railroad to NY,
5 Aug 1869,
12 credit to UK,
No. German
Lloyd Donau

London
15 Aug 1869,
P&O via Suez

P&O Avoca
to Sydney
29 Oct 1869

Long way around from California - sent during the one year period between the collapse of New Zealand's Panama Line and the beginning of the 1870 contract mails via San Francisco.

16 CENT RATE VIA SOUTHAMPTON

Salem Ohio
11 Nov 1872

New York
13 Nov 1872
12 credit to UK
NGL Rhein

London
27 Nov 1872
P&O via Suez

P&O Mooltan
to Sydney

Brisbane
24 Feb 1873
Dead Letter b/s



1870 rate reduction to 6 cents on transatlantic mail to England resulted in a 16 cent via Southampton rate to Australia - 6 cents transatlantic plus 12 cents (6d) England to Australia, less the 2 cent British internal charge included in both segments.



San Francisco
18 Dec 1873

Transcontinental
railroad to NY,
25 Dec 1873,
12 credit to UK,
Inman Line
City of Chester

London
5 Jan 1874,
P&O via Suez

Melbourne
12 March 1874

Long way around from San Francisco - both covers used during the 1872-1873 period when no contractor could be found to execute direct contract sailings from San Francisco.

SINGLE AND DOUBLE 12 CENT TREATY RATES VIA SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco
Paid All
24 Jan 1879,
PMSC City of
New York

MIS-SENT TO
MELBOURNE
VICTORIA

Coastal ship to
Brisbane Queensland

Forwarded to
Rockhampton
with 2d stamp,
17 Mar 1879



New Zealand signed a postal treaty with the USA in 1870 and direct steamship service began from San Francisco to the Australian Colonies. 12¢ treaty rate applied from 1870, although Australian Colonies were slow to sign postal treaties (NSW 1874, Queensland 1876, Victoria 1878 and Tasmania 1886). Australian Colonies did not levy incoming charges.



San Francisco
5 Mar 1874,
24¢ paid for
double rate,
ASNC
City of Melbourne

Sydney
9 April 1874

Melbourne
11 April 1874,
No postage due

Treaty rate applied although no Australian Colonies had signed treaties with USA at this date.

TRIPLE AND QUADRUPLE 12 CENT TREATY RATES VIA SAN FRANCISCO

If not called for in 10 days, return to

UNION BAG AND PAPER CO
S. E. COR. FOLK & THIRD AVE.,
P. O. Box 245, - CHICAGO, IL



Edward F. Lane
Box 98 Melbourne Australia
L. L. L. L. L.



Via San Francisco
Augustus Morris Esq
Sydney New South Wales
Australia
Documents

**TWELVE TIMES 12 CENT TREATY
RATE VIA SAN FRANCISCO**

New York
24 June 1882,
Paid \$1.44
for 6 oz.

Via San Francisco

Sydney
31 July 1882



W. H. Crossman & Co.,
NEW YORK, U. S. A.

NYC
24 JUN 1882
2 P.M.

Messrs. F. LASSETTER & CO., Limited,
SYDNEY,
N. S. W.

Via San Francisco.

Earliest recorded date
for 90¢ Scott #191

POST-1875 RATES AND ROUTES VIA EUROPE

15 Cent GPU Rate Via Southampton (1875-1878)

New York
19 May 1877,
15¢ paid,
50 centimes h/s
(credit to UK of
10¢ per
GPU treaty)

London
30 May 1877

Via Southampton
and Suez per
P&O steamers

Adelaide SA
20 July 1877



1875 GPU Treaty lowered the via Southampton rate from 16 to 15 cents. Debits and credits were calculated in French centimes.

12 Cent GPU Rate Via Brindisi (1885-91)



Port Chester
New York
15 Jan 1890,
"Via Europe"

New York
18 Jan 1890,
50 centimes
credit to UK

Via London,
Brindisi Italy
and Suez

Melbourne
4 March 1890

Inglenood
Victoria
5 March 1890

The 12 cent rate via Brindisi was operational from August 1885 to Oct 1891 (UPU). By this date all mail sent via Europe went by rail to the Italian ports of Brindisi or Naples - both of which provided a shorter Mediterranean sea-link to Alexandria.