



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: March 1849 – December 1866

The March 31, 1854 Japan-US Treaty opened mail exchanges between the two countries. Some American consuls in the Treaty ports provided private mail forwarding services.



Dated Yokohama Japan Jan. 5th 1866 and expedited by US Consul, George Fisher
Fisher forwarded letter to *Oriflamme* of the California, Oregon & Mexico Steamship Co.

Oriflamme left Japan on January 6 and arrived in San Francisco on February 5

San Francisco charged 6¢ ship postage and sent the letter overland to Virginia

Fewer than ten covers with Kanagawa consul markings are known



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: January 1867 – June 1869

On January 1, 1867, the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. (PMSC) began a monthly contract mail service between San Francisco and Hong Kong, with an intermediate stop at Yokohama, Japan.



Posted February 16, 1867 in Hong Kong, China - prepaid 8¢ by 1865 Issue stamp
Red "4" re-states 8¢ rate in pence - PMSC *Colorado* to San Francisco on March 20
San Francisco rated letter for 10¢ due per ½ ounce blanket steamship rate



From Yokohama, Japan in February 1867 - prepaid with two 1861 3¢ stamps - additional 4¢ due
PMSC *Colorado* left Yokohama February 28 - **first voyage of the trans-Pacific PMSC service**
San Francisco used red and black "STEAM CHINA" markings to indicate reason for 10¢ rate



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: January 1867 – June 1869

In November 1867, San Francisco introduced an oval “China and Japan Steam Service” (CJSS) marking for arriving PMSC mail.



Posted November 15, 1868 at Shanghai, China US Consulate - fully prepaid with 1861 10¢ stamp
PMSC steamers *Costa Rica* and *Great Republic* via Yokohama to San Francisco on December 22



Posted October 15, 1867 in Hong Kong - prepaid 8¢ ship postage with 1865 Issue stamp
PMSC *Great Republic* arrived in San Francisco on November 19 - letter rated for 10¢ due

Earliest usage of the magenta “China and Japan Steam Service” oval mark



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: January 1867 - June 1869

The July 1, 1864 US Act established a 10¢ per ½ ounce blanket steamship rate for mail to or from countries with which the US had no postal conventions, but transported by regularly-scheduled vessels.



Posted January 10, 1867 in Martinsburg, West Virginia - prepaid with 1861 Issue 10¢ stamp
4d ship postage due in Hong Kong - 2nd trip by PMSC *Colorado* left San Francisco April 3



Originated May 1867 in Yokohama, Japan - 2nd trip by PMSC *Colorado* to San Francisco on June 13
10¢ US steamship postage fully prepaid by 1863 5¢ pair - no need for "STEAM CHINA" marking



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: January 1867 – June 1869

The US-Hong Kong postal treaty set fully-paid rates per ½ ounce of 8¢ from Hong Kong and 10¢ from the US, effective November 1, 1867. The treaty also mandated special “Paid All” postmarks.



Posted July 15, 1868 in Hong Kong - prepaid double-weight 16¢ in 1863 Issue stamps
PMSC *Colorado* left Hong Kong on July 15 and arrived in San Francisco on August 16



Posted December 17, 1867 in Montreal, Canada - prepaid 10¢ with 1859 Issue stamp
Sent to forwarder in San Francisco - re-mailed to Yokohama with 10¢ US postage paid

Earliest known use of the San Francisco “Paid All” marking



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: January 1867 – June 1869

The American consul in Yokohama was provided with postage stamps, but not postmarks or cancelling devices. Some distinctive cancellers were fabricated locally, and are known as “bamboo chops.”



Posted June 1869 in Yokohama, Japan - overpaid $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. 65¢ composite rate to France
 Franked by 10¢ and 30¢ pairs of the 1869 Issue and 1861 10¢ entire - bamboo “chop” cancels
 PMSC *Japan* left Yokohama on June 30, 1869 and arrived in San Francisco on July 20
 Transcontinental railroad to New York on July 29 - NGL *Rhein* to England on August 8

Earliest known use of 1869 Issue stamps from Japan



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: June 1866 – December 1868

On June 15, 1866, the Panama New Zealand & Australian Royal Mail Co. (PNZA) began a packet service between New South Wales and Panama, connecting with PMSC steamers to San Francisco.



Posted December 2, 1868 in Sydney, NSW - packet postage prepaid with 1860 1 shilling rose
 PNZA *Rakaia* left Sydney December 2 and arrived in Panama January 5 - **last sailing of the line**
 PMSC *Arizona* left Panama on January 14, 1869 and arrived in San Francisco on January 22
 San Francisco rated letter per ½ ounce blanket steamship rate - charged 10¢ postage due

Fewer than five covers to the United States by this route are known



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: March 1849 – December 1866

Starting in March 1849, mail could be sent across the Pacific via the newly-established San Francisco post office. This route was only serviced by private ships until 1867.



Dated *Shanghai 23 October 1852* - sent under cover to San Francisco forwarder

Carried by private ship *Palmetto* - Macondray & Co. posted inner letter unpaid

Postmarked on December 16, 1852 departure of PMSC *Tennessee* for Panama

USMSC *Illinois* to New York on January 13 - 10¢ due (July 1851 unpaid 6¢ rate)

Earliest known letter from China to San Francisco via the trans-Pacific route



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: March 1849 - December 1866



Originated August 16, 1865 in Yokohama, Japan - prepaid 3¢ for US inland postage
Hand carried on ship *Reindeer* which left August 17 - posted Sept. 21 in San Francisco



Posted January 29, 1867 in Limeburner's Creek, NSW - prepaid 1 shilling packet postage
PNZA *Kaikoura* left Sydney January 30 and arrived in Panama March 6 - PMSC steamer to SF



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: January 1867 – June 1869

The 1867 US-Hong Kong Treaty mandated the creation of special "Paid All" markings for San Francisco, Hong Kong, and New York.



Sent November 17, 1868 from Bristol, NH to Swatow, China - fully prepaid 10¢
 San Francisco added "Paid All" - PMSC *Great Republic* to Hong Kong on February 11



Sent May 10, 1869 from Bristol, NH to Swatow, China - fully prepaid 10¢ in 1867 "F" grills
 San Francisco added June 4 "Paid All" postmark - PMSC *China* to Hong Kong on July 6



Pacific Ocean Routes

Far East: March 1849 - December 1866

Before the January 1, 1867 start of the PMSC contract mail service between San Francisco and Hong Kong, the only option for trans-Pacific mail was by private ship.



Posted May 18, 1859 in Clarence-Town, New South Wales - prepaid 21d for route via England
Three 1854 NSW 6d stamps and 1856 NSW 3d stamp - 5¢ US postage due (3¢ inland plus 2¢ ship)



Posted May 16, 1864 in Sydney, NSW - 6d ship postage paid by three 1863 2d stamps
Carried by private ship *Uruguay* to San Francisco on October 16 - 10¢ steamship rate due
10¢ rate was mistakenly applied - "FOREIGN" marking used August-November 1864