

The January 5, 1847 and February 4, 1847 Sailings of Cunard's "Hibernia" and "Cambria" from Liverpool, via Halifax, to Boston

The first Cunard Steam Packet sailings of the year 1847 carried mails from Great Britain and beyond mailed between December 5, 1846 and February 4, 1847. Mails arrived in Boston on January 25, 1847 and February 20, 1847



December 14, 1846: Matched pair. Sent from the island of Jersey to Marblehead, MA on the same day by the same sender to two different recipients, these letters had to wait for the January 5, 1847 sailing of "Hibernia" for passage to America. Prepaid 1/- in cash, due 7 cents for 5 cents inland plus 2 cents Ship Fee. Identical markings on each cover. Related to same bequest.

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"

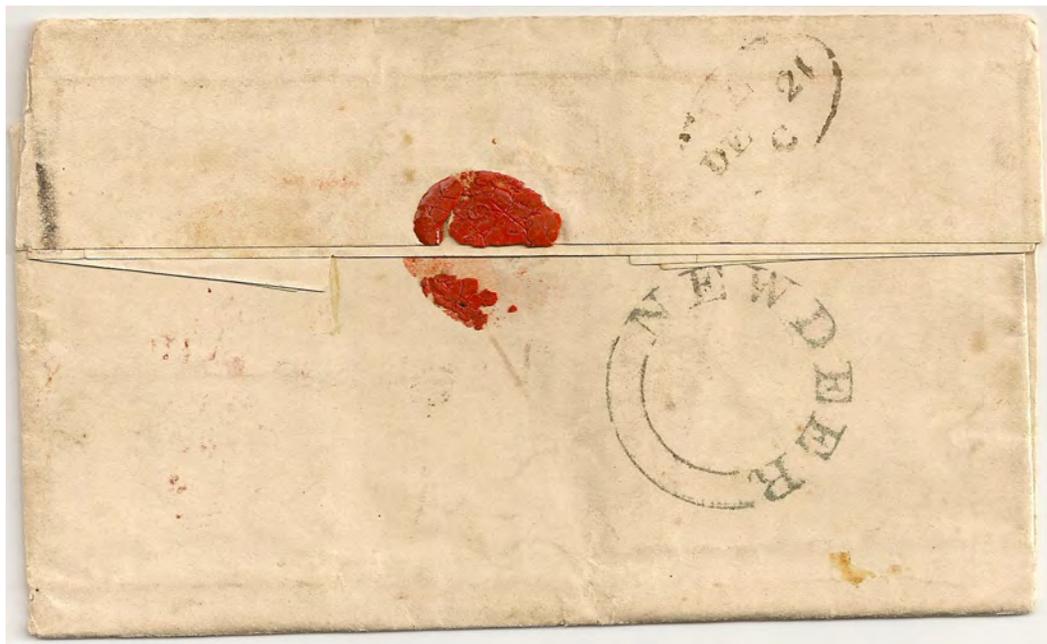


December 15, 1846: Charing Cross, London to New York letter forwarded by bankers Coutts and Company. Paid 1/- in cash, due 7 cents. Large '7' of New York



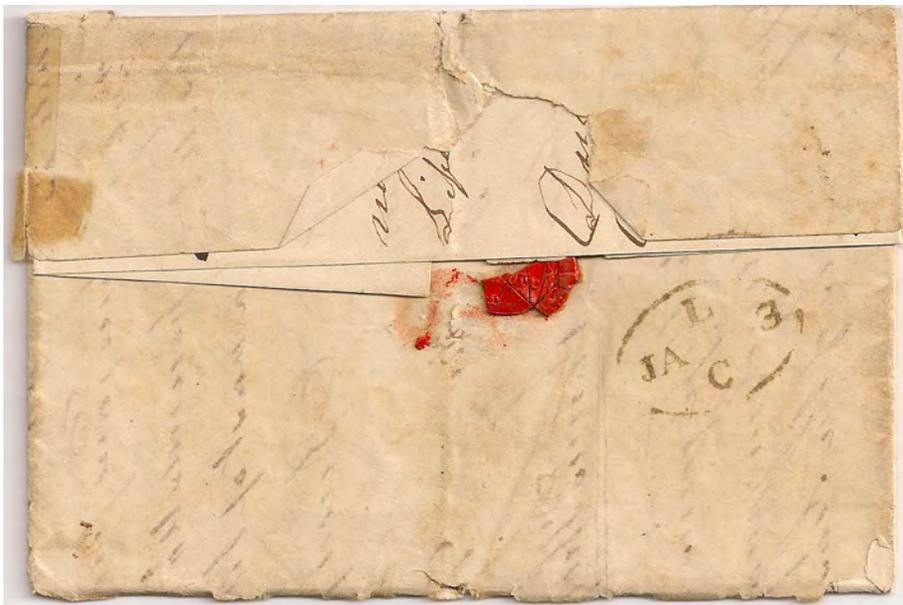
RMS 'Britannia', sister ship to RMS 'Hibernia' and 'Cambria', which were all launched between 1840-1845. 'Hibernia' and 'Cambria' were 1400 GRT, 219 feet long and 35 feet wide with two 1,040 HP side-lever Napier engines

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"



December 17, 1846: New Deer, Scotland via Aberdeen, Scotland and Edinburgh, Scotland to Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. Paid 1/- cash, due 12 cents for 10 cents inland plus 2 cents Ship Fee. Held at Liverpool from December 21, 1846 until January 5, 1847.

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"



January 2, 1847: Manchester, England to Germantown, PA (absorbed into Philadelphia in 1854) prepaid 1/- in cash, due 12 cents. Unlike mails to Philadelphia in this period, this mail was not bagged separately and was processed in Boston.

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"



January 3, 1847: Leeds, England *misdirected* via Wakefield to Philadelphia, PA. Prepaid 1/- in cash and due 12 cents (Blue 12 in circle of Philadelphia). Mails to Philadelphia were bagged separately and processed in Philadelphia, not in Boston

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"

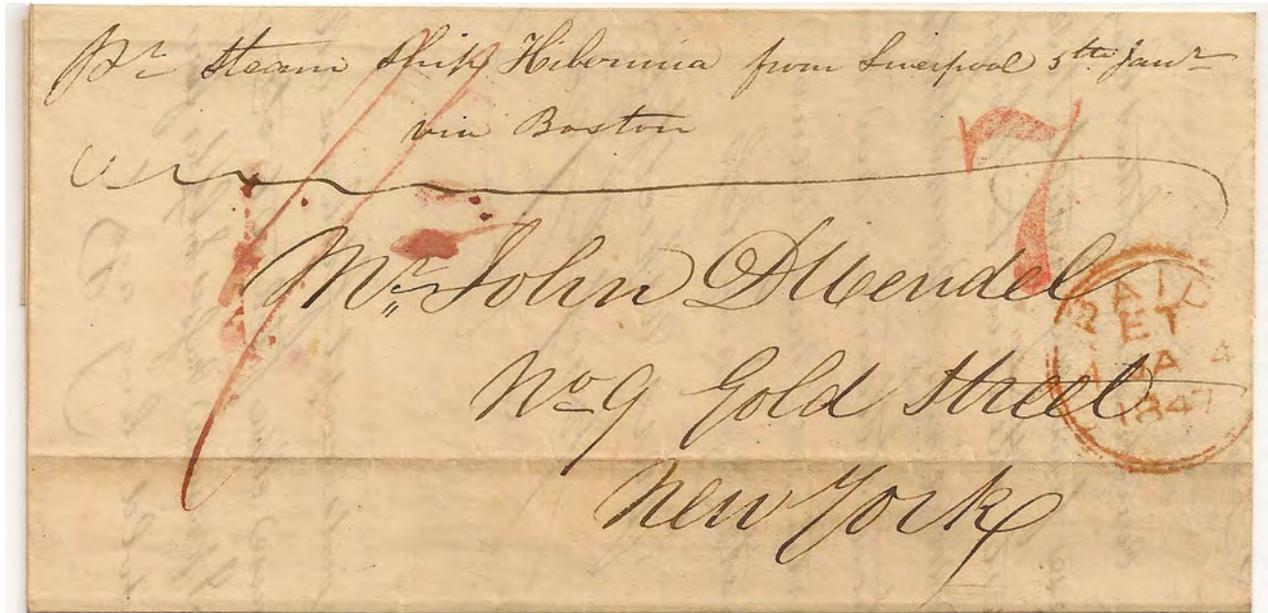


January 4, 1847: London to Fredonia, Chatauqua County, NY. Prepaid 1/-, due 12 cents. Red '12' of Boston.



January 4, 1847: London to New York. Prepaid 1/-, due 7 cents (Large 7 of New York). Sent to the furriers, John D. Wendel.

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"

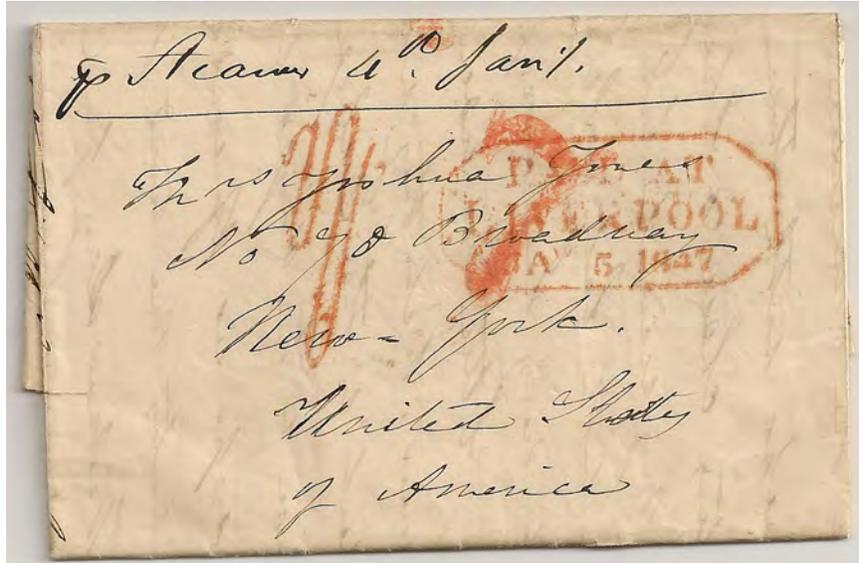


January 4, 1847: London to New York, prepaid 1/- and due 7 cents. Large 7 of New York



January 4, 1847: Fenchurch Street, London to Philadelphia, PA prepaid 1/- and due 12 cents. This cover was bagged separately and processed in Philadelphia. Addressed to General Cadwalader. Blue 12 of Philadelphia

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"

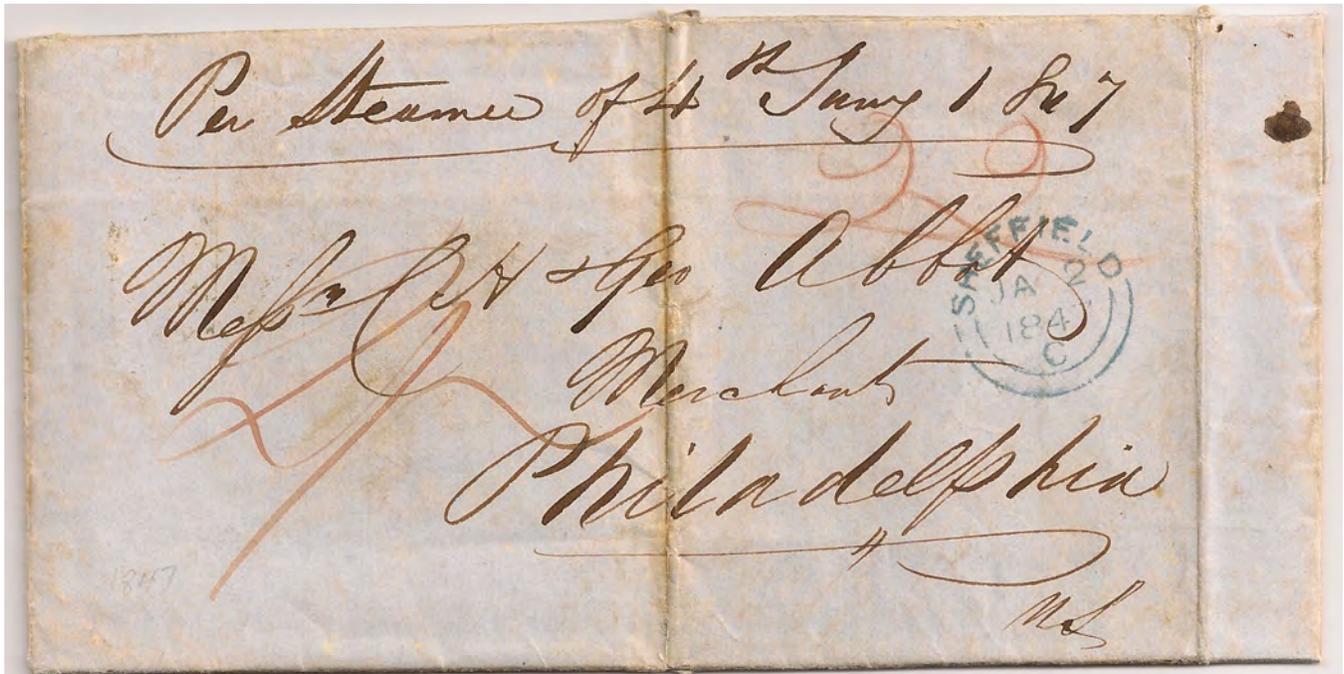


January 5, 1847: Venice, Italy forwarded to Liverpool for transmission to New York. Prepaid 1/- and due 7 cents. Postmarked on January 5, 1847 at Liverpool and likely barely made the sailing of "Hibernia". Large 7 of NY.



January 4, 1847: Liverpool, England to Bath, ME. Cover shows no evidence of postal markings in the UK but is dated in Liverpool. Rated 7 cents due and carries the same markings as other mails from this 'Hibernia' sailing. Red 7 of Boston

The January 5, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Hibernia"



January 2, 1847: Sheffield, England to Philadelphia, PA prepaid 2/- for a letter of over ½ ounce and under 1 ounce. Rated 22 cents due in Philadelphia for 2 x 10 cents inland plus 2 cents Ship Fee. Philadelphia did not have a handstamp for '22', however this is also what would be considered a 'downstreamed' cover as it was not processed in Boston.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"

Departed Liverpool February 4, Arrived Boston February 20



January 25, 1847: Askrigg (small village near Bedale, Yorkshire) to Oshkosh, Winnebago County, Wisconsin Territory. Prepaid 1/- cash, rated 12 cents due in Boston. Rated at the village PO and again in the Bedale PO. Askrigg UDC in blue. A very small point of origin, current population is around 400 people.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"



February 2, 1847: Privately carried from Malaga, Spain on January 20, 1847 to London, where it was mailed on February 2, 1847 to Boston, MA. Paid 1/- in cash, due 6 cents in Boston for a Ship Letter to port.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"



February 3, 1847: Liverpool to New York. Prepaid 1/- cash, due 7 cents. Liverpool '1/-' handstamp and small '7' in circle of New York.



February 4, 1847: Liverpool to Brunswick, ME. Prepaid 1/- cash, due 7 cents. Liverpool '1/-' handstamp in red, manuscript '7' in black applied in Boston.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"



January 27, 1847: London to Hinchinbrook, Canada East prepaid 1s 2d and containing beneficiary information for a deceased soldier employed by the East India Company. Seal of the East India Company on the reverse.



January 30, 1847: Edinburgh, Scotland to Beaver Hall, Montreal redirected to St. Martin, Isle Jesus. Prepaid 1s 2d in cash, rated 2 1/2d Canadian for the redirection fee.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"



February 1, 1847: Sleaford, Ireland to Quebec. Sent unpaid at 1s 2d rate, rated 1s 4d Canadian Currency due from recipient.



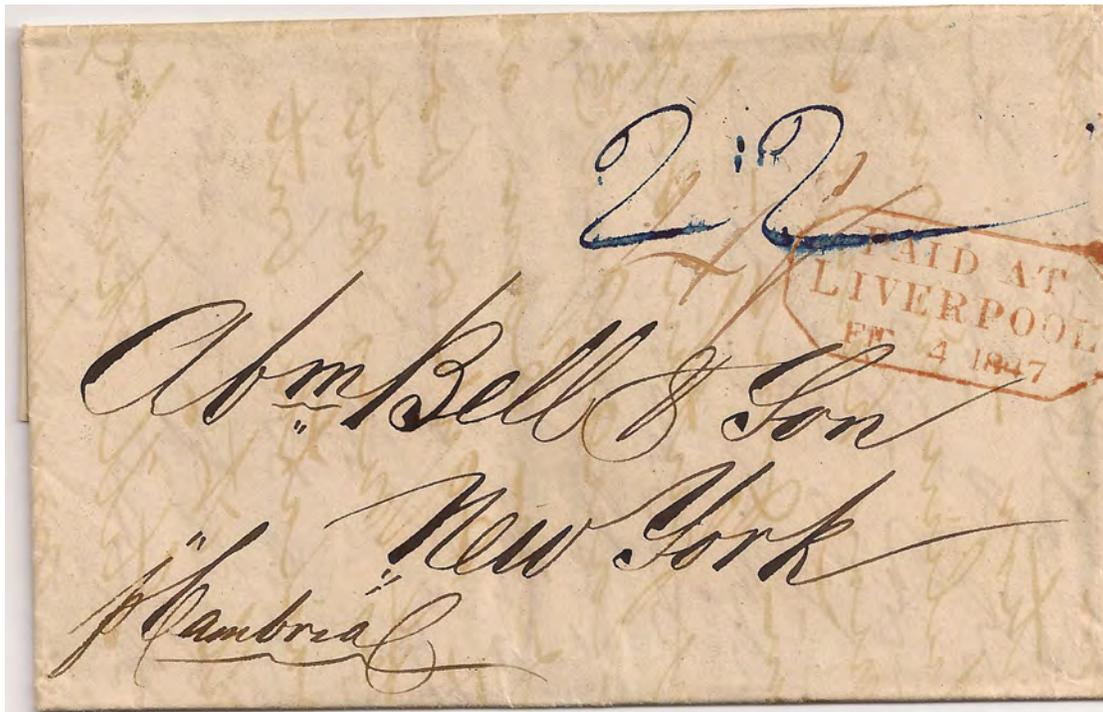
February 3, 1847: London to Guelph, Canada West Via United States Mail so prepaid only 1/- (not 1s 2d) and sent via the United States where it was rated 12 cents due in Boston for 10 cents inland plus 2 cents Ship Fee. This converted in Canada to 7d (conversion of 12 cents) plus 2 1/2d Canadian Inland for total sum of 9 1/2d Canadian due from the recipient.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"



February 3, 1847: Liverpool to Havana, Cuba. Prepaid 1/- cash denoted by '1/-' handstamp of Liverpool and chamfered 'Paid at Liverpool - FE 3 1847' handstamp, and rated 12 cents due in Boston. No indication of being forwarded by another party but made its way to Havana, where it was rated 1 Reale due.

The February 4, 1847 Sailing of Cunard's "Cambria"



February 4, 1847: Liverpool to New York, prepaid 4/- for a letter of between 1 and 2 ounces, rated 22 cents due in NY for 4 x 5 cents inland plus 2 cents Ship Fee in distinctive blue ink of NY.

Both "Hibernia" and "Cambria" enjoyed extremely long lives for steamships of their day, with "Cambria" even returning to mail service in 1856 while Cunard awaited the delivery of the "Persia", post-Crimean War. "Hibernia" finished her life as the Spanish frigate "Habanois" and "Cambria" in the Italian Navy, being broken up in 1868 and 1870