

GREAT BRITAIN COMBINATION COVERS TO OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS: 1847 – 1856

Until September 1847, only two denominations of British postage stamps existed, the One Penny (1d) and the Two Penny (2d). The introduction of the One Shilling Embossed (1/-) in 1847, the Ten Pence Embossed (10d) in 1848, the Six Pence Embossed (1854), and the Four Pence Surface Printed (4d) in 1855 provided more “building blocks” for complex rates to other countries and created a number of combination covers that incorporate multiple production methods, colors, and denominations.



DECEMBER 4, 1847: Liverpool, England to New York, NY per Cunard “Hibernia” via Halifax, Nova Scotia and Boston paying One Shilling packet rate plus 3d Late Fee with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1841 2d Blue Plate 3, and 1841 1d Red. Due 7 Cents.



NOVEMBER 26, 1856: London, England to Dr. Chippendale, Surgeon aboard Royal Mail Steam Packet “Tamar” at Lisbon, Portugal paying 1s 9d single rate with 1847 1/- Embossed, newly issued 1856 6d Surface Printed, and 1855 2d Blue and 1d Red. 4 colors and 3 printing methods

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1848



APRIL 28, 1848: Manchester, England to Montreal per Cunard "Cambria" via Liverpool and Halifax, Nova Scotia paying 1s 2d rate (Closed Mail suspended at this point in time) with 1847 1/- Embossed and 1841 1d Red singles 'CJ' and 'AH'



AUGUST 26, 1848: Liverpool, England to Richibucto, New Brunswick per Cunard "Hibernia" via Halifax, Nova Scotia paying 1s 2d rate plus 1d Late Fee with 1847 1/- Embossed (partly affixed with sealing wax) and 1841 1d Red strip of three "LD-LF". Sent during the Retaliatory Rate period while Closed Mails via the United States were suspended.

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JUNE 15, 1848: Birmingham, England to Constantinople, Ottoman Empire per French Packet via Marseilles paying 2s 1d rate for under $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce with 1847 1/- Embossed vertical pair and 1841 1d Red.



NOVEMBER 4, 1848: Liverpool, England to Philadelphia, PA per Cunard "Acadia" paying 2/- rate for 1 ounce plus 3d Late Fee with 1847 1/- Embossed pair and 1841 1d strip of three. Retaliatory Rate assessed as triple rate in Boston and rated \$1.02 (34c x 3) due.

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1849



APRIL 14, 1849: Liverpool, England to St. John's, New Brunswick per Cunard "Cambria". First voyage under which the Closed Mail facility via the United States was reinstated, this cover actually pays a double-rate via Direct Packet to Halifax, Nova Scotia plus a 3d Late Fee with two 1/- Embossed and three 1841 1d Reds. Were it via Closed Mail, it would have had 2s 4d.



JULY 7, 1849: Brighton, England to Madras, India via Marseilles paying the premium 1s 10d rate with an 1847 1/- Embossed and the new 1848 10d Embossed denomination. Endorsing via Marseilles 10d more than the routing via Southampton, but faster.

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1849



JULY 7, 1849: Liverpool, England to New York, NY per Cunard "Caledonia" paying Treaty Rate of 1/- plus 3d Late Fee franked with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1841 2d Blue Plate 3, and 1841 1d



OCTOBER 20, 1849: Liverpool, England to San Francisco, Upper California via New York. Paid 1/- plus 3d Late Fee via Cunard, cross written letter added with family news in NYC, mailed onward to California at 40 Cent rate. Lloyd Minturn moved to San Francisco in January 1849.

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1850



NOVEMBER 15, 1850: Bradford, England to Leipzig, Kingdom of Saxony via Ostende and Aachen paying 1s 8d rate plus 1d Late Fee with 1847 1/- Embossed, 4 x 1841 2d Blue, and 1841 1d Red.



JULY 9, 1850: London to Genoa, Piedmont, Kingdom of Sardinia via France (Paid to Frontier) at 1s 3d rate for under 15 grams with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1841 2d Blue, and 1841 1d Red

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1850



MARCH 19, 1850: Torquay, England to Port Louis, Mauritius via Overland Route via Southampton. Prepaid at 1/- rate plus 1d Late Fee with 1847 1/- Embossed and 1841 1d Red. Despite the 1d Late Fee, it was mailed after the cut off and hand stamped "TOO LATE".



SEPTEMBER 23, 1850: London, England to Bale (Basel), Switzerland via France paying 11d rate plus 1d Late Fee (1/-) with 1848 10d Embossed and 1841 2d Blue. Fully prepaid to destination.

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1851



OCTOBER 4, 1851: Liverpool, England to Quebec per Closed Mail via the United States per Cunard "America" paying 1s 2d rate plus 3d Late Fee with 1847 1/- Embossed, 2 x 1841 2d Blue and a 1841 1d Red.



AUGUST 23, 1851: Glasgow, Scotland to Naples, Kingdom of the Two Sicilies via Marseilles. Prepaid 1s 3d with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1841 2d Blue, and 1841 1d Red. Cover likely was overweight as 1s 3d correctly paid the single rate, marked "INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED" and rated due in Naples.

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1851



OCTOBER 22, 1851: Redditch, England to Bilbao, Spain paying the 1s 3d rate for a letter of under 15 grams (1/2 ounce) to the Franco-Spanish border. Letter franked with 1848 10d Embossed (usual for the lower ¼ ounce rate), a pair of 1841 2d Blues, and an 1841 1d Red. Since mail could not be paid to destination, due 13 Reales in Spain.



JANUARY 26, 1851: Manchester, England to Oporto, Portugal paying 1s 9d single rate with 1848 10d Embossed pair and 1841 1d Red. Due 560 Reals in Portugal, about 2s 4d or 56 Cents.

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1852



APRIL 1, 1852: London, England to Mexico via Southampton per West Indies Packet. Pays 4s 6d double-rate with 1848 10d Embossed vertical strip of three and 1847 1/- Embossed horizontal pair. Franking the most efficient rate to pay this rate with stamps.



JUNE 12, 1852: Mulbarton, Norwich, England to Corfu, Ionian Islands via Ostende, Aachen, and Trieste paying 1s 4d rate with 1848 10d Embossed and 1841 2d Blue strip of three to Lieutenant and Adjutant W. Bellairs of the 49th Regiment of Foot.

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1853



MARCH 12, 1853: Stanhope, England to Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope via Plymouth Packet paying 1/- rate with 1848 10d Embossed and 1841 2d Blue. Due 4d. Usually paid with 1/-.



MARCH 2, 1853: Ballymote, Ireland to Caen, France paying 1s 3d rate for a letter of under 15 grams in an unusual fashion with the stamps being placed on the reverse of the envelope. Franked with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1841 2d Blue and 1841 1d Red. Front of envelope shows evidence of a stamp having been cut out, perhaps removing a franking at the lower 10d rate for $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce.

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1853



SEPTEMBER 6, 1853: Ballater, Scotland to Boskowitz, Moravia paying 2s 5d rate with 1841 1/- Embossed Pair, 1841 2d Blue Pair (wrapped around edge) and 1841 1d Red.

Ballater, Scotland is the closest Post Office to Balmoral Palace, the then under renovation royal summer residence. Queen Victoria and her Consort, Prince Albert, visited Balmoral after having attended the Dublin Exhibition. This cover is addressed to Count Alphonse de Mensdorff-Pouilly at family estate in Boskowitz, Moravia. The Count was a first cousin to both Victoria and Albert. The cover took a complex route, as evidenced by the many TPO backstamps accumulated along the way. It did not follow the routing endorsed on the cover. The seal on the reverse has not been identified, but is not that of Victoria or Albert as far as can be determined.

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1854



MARCH 12, 1854: Glasgow, Scotland to Tampico, Mexico per West Indies Packet via Southampton. Pays 2s 3d single rate with 1847 1/- Embossed pair, 1841 2d Blue and 1841 1d Red.



SEPTEMBER 22, 1854: Dublin, Ireland to San Francisco, Upper California via Liverpool and New York paying the 1s 2 1/2d rate (29 Cents) with convenience overpayment of 1/2d as no 1/2d stamp would exist until 1870. Franked with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1854 2d Blue, and 1854 1d Red. Letter routed via New York and Panama.

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1855



AUGUST 8, 1855: London, England to Fort Green, Bombay, India via Marseilles. Cover pays the more expensive Marseilles rate of 1s 10d with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1854 6d Embossed, and 1855 4d Surface Printed (issued 8 days before on August 31, 1855).



OCTOBER 20, 1855: London, England to Cadiz, Spain via France, paid to Franco-Spanish frontier. Pays 1s 3d rate for letter under 15 grams (1/2 ounce) with 1854 6d Embossed (two singles), 1855 2d Blue Perf and 1855 1d Red Perf. Due 8 Reales in Cadiz.

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1855



DECEMBER 21, 1855: London, England to Madrid, Spain via France paid to the Franco-Spanish frontier. The envelope pays a 1s 8d rate, however the next rate increment from 1s 3d was actually 2s 1d. Franked with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1854 6d Embossed and 1854 2d Blue. Due 8 Reales in Madrid.



July 2, 1855: Paisley, Scotland to York, PA per maiden voyage of Havre "Arago" from Southampton to New York. Pays 2/- rate for a letter under 1 ounce with 1848 10d Embossed (two singles) and 1854 2d Blue Pair. Cover originally rated as single rate via American Packet (21 Cents credit to US), which was corrected with a manuscript 42.

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1856



OCTOBER 8, 1856: London, England to St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands via Southampton per Royal Mail Steam Packet. Addressed to Surgeon Chippendale aboard the RMSP "Tamar" care of forwarder Visges & Miller Brothers. Pays 1s 10d rate with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1854 6d Embossed and 1855 4d Surface Printed.



AUGUST 7, 1856: Bedford, England to Funchal, Madeira via Southampton per Royal Mail Steam Packet. Addressed to the Rev. Kenworthy Brown, it pays the 1s 10d rate with 1847 1/- Embossed, 1854 6d Embossed, and 1855 2d Blue Perf pair. Due 160 Reis (8d or 16 Cents).