

## TRANSATLANTIC PACKET MAIL BETWEEN THE USA AND FRANCE: 1840-1875

This exhibit is a comprehensive survey of the postal rates, routes and markings on steamship packet mail between the USA and France during the period from July 1840 to December 1875.

Prior to the first France-USA postal treaty in April 1857, packet mail between the two countries was exchanged principally via Great Britain (GB), and was facilitated by the 1836, 1843 and 1856 postal treaties between France and GB. USA-GB treaties and changing inland postages also affected rates. On packet mail carried directly between France and the USA before 1857, each country was required to collect its share of the postage on each letter. However, the 1857 France-USA Treaty governed packet mail on all routes between the two countries. When it expired in 1870, rates were again determined by a series of France-GB and USA-GB postal treaties until the August 1874 France-USA Treaty.

Rare frankings and markings, uncommon routings, and unusual steamship sailings are featured in this exhibit. Notable items are highlighted in bold type. The exhibit is organized as follows:

- Mail exchanged under the 1836 France-GB Treaty (July 1840-May 1843)
- Mail exchanged under the 1843 France-GB Treaty (June 1843-December 1856)
- Mail exchanged under the 1856 France-GB Treaty (January-March 1857)
- 1847-57 direct packet mail
- Mail exchanged under the 1857 France-USA Treaty (April 1857-December 1869)
- 1870-74 interim non-Treaty mail
- Mail exchanged under the 1874 France-USA Treaty (August 1874-December 1875)

These categories are divided into sub-periods, which are defined by changing rates and/or routes. Each new sub-period is introduced by a text box which explains the rate/route changes. Examples of letters going in both directions are shown in each sub-period, starting with eastbound mail.



Prepaid triple-weight American packet rate on May 16, 1853 in Paris - Collins Line steamship *Arctic*  
2 francs 40 centimes franking features the **1 franc tête-bêche error** from France's 1849 first issue  
Double-weight 21¢ due in New York - US ½ oz. weight progression higher than France's 7.5 grams

*Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843

First Steamship Packet Mail Service

Per the 1836 France-GB Treaty, GB debited France 12 décimes (1 shilling) for transit & sea postage. France collected this from the recipient, plus inland postage which varied with distance per 7.5 grams. US inland postage varied with distance and number of letter sheets.



Prepaid 18¾¢ U.S. inland postage on November 28, 1840 in Philadelphia for 330 miles to Boston  
Cunard steamship *Britannia* from Boston - 6<sup>th</sup> Cunard sailing to Liverpool - 'AMERICA L' Liverpool mark  
GB debited France 12 décimes (1 shilling) per boxed "Packet Letter" marking and "1/-" at right  
French entry mark "Angl. Calais" - 32 décimes due (12 décimes for GB plus 20 décimes for Calais to Paris)

**Cunard contracted for the first steam transatlantic packet service, effective July 1, 1840**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

*British Packet via England: July 1, 1840-May 31, 1843*

*1836 France-GB Treaty*

1836 France-GB Treaty, as amended in 1839, set GB sea & transit postage at 12 décimes (one shilling) per 7.5 grams. On westbound mail, France collected variable inland plus the GB postage, and credited GB one shilling. US collected variable inland plus a 2 cents ship fee.



Posted December 31, 1841 in Paris and endorsed via Liverpool - red 1 shilling credit to GB at upper right  
22 décimes prepaid per notation on reverse - 12 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for Paris to GB frontier

Cunard Steamer *Britannia* left Liverpool January 4, 1842 and arrived on January 21 in Boston

Rated for 2¢ ship fee plus 18.75¢ (200 miles) due - corrected in NY to 2¢ plus 37.5¢ double-rate collection

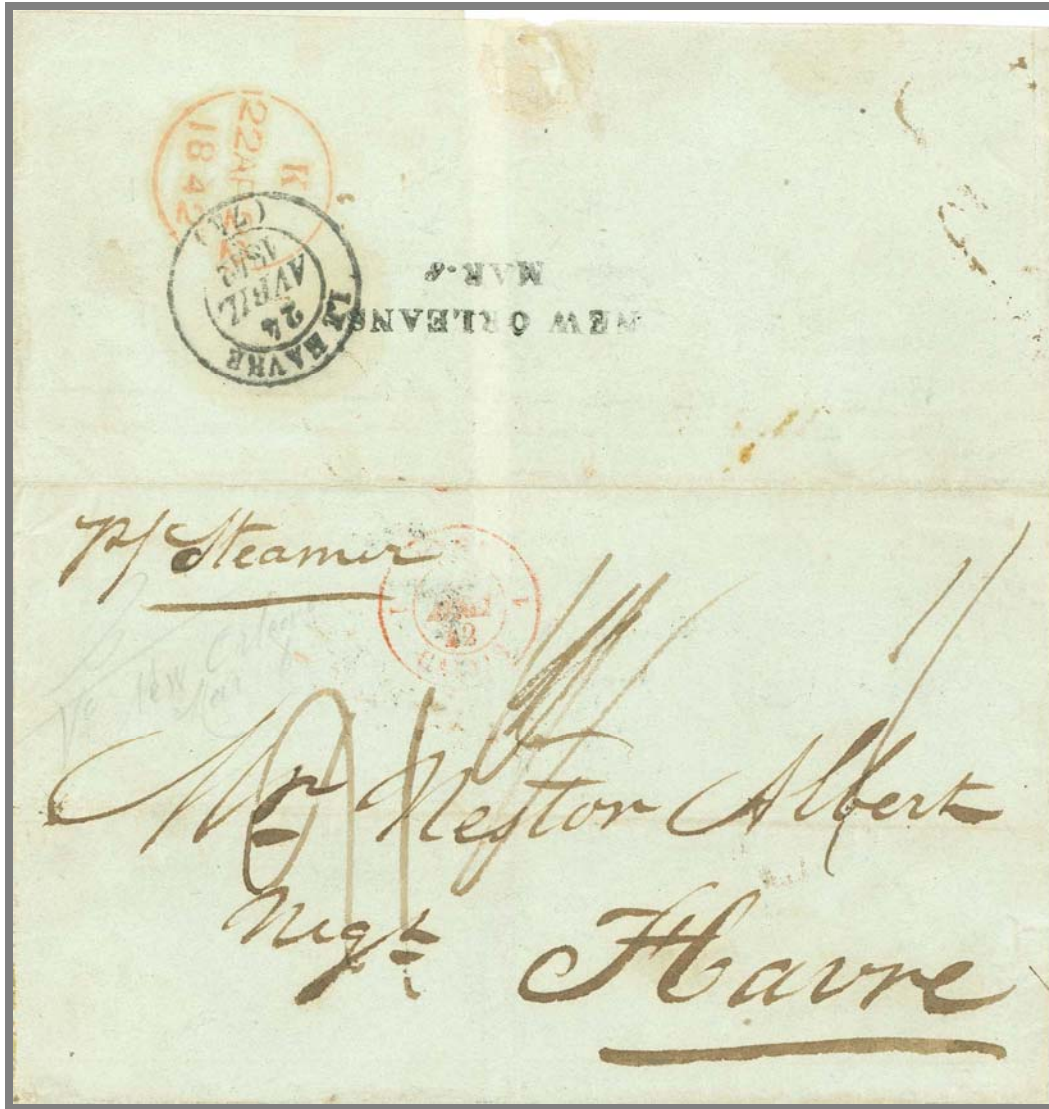
**US rate progression based on number of letter sheets**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1836 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British West Indies Packet: March 11 - September 24, 1842

Short-Lived RMSP Service

On March 11, 1842, the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. (RMSP) established a branch line between New Orleans and Havana, which connected with Falmouth, England. There were only seven sailings until September 24, 1842.



Postmarked NEW ORLEANS MAR. 8 (1842) by British consul in New Orleans  
RMSP steamer *Solent* to Havana on March 14 - RMSP steamer *Forth* to Falmouth on April 20  
GB debited 1 shilling transit and sea postage to France per "1/" - entered via Calais on April 23  
21 décimes due in France - 12 décimes for GB plus 9 décimes inland postage to Le Havre

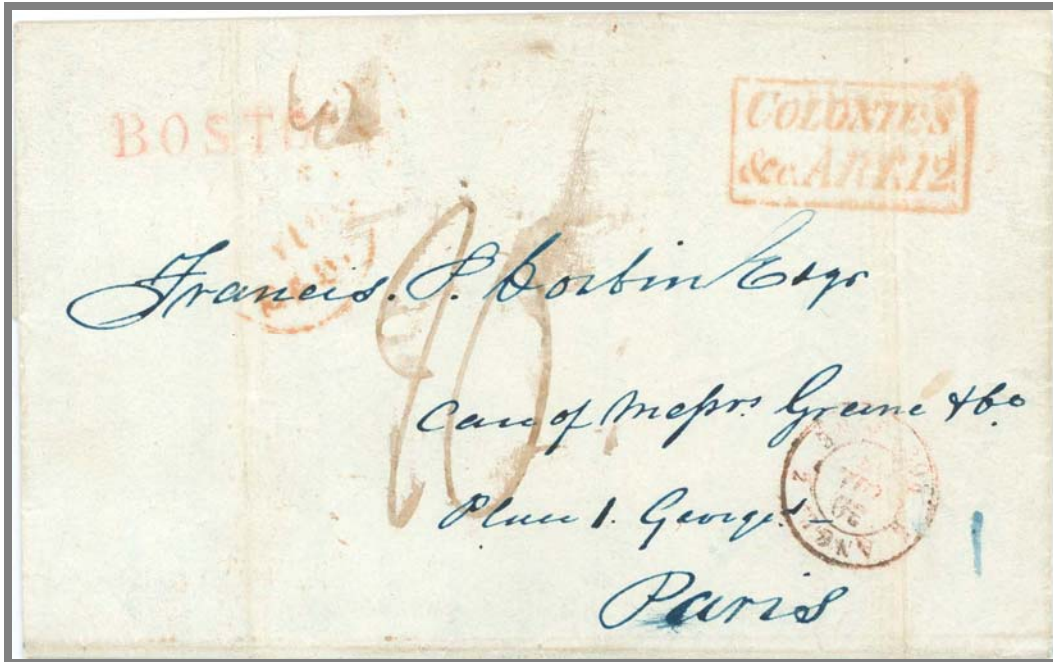
**Fewer than five letters known carried by this line**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

"Colonies &c. Art.12" Marking

1843 France-GB Treaty established rates from foreign countries, effective June 1. GB debited France 3sh. 4d per ounce bulk rate (10 décimes per letter) for transit & sea charges. The Article 12 marking was applied in London to indicate this debit.



Dated New York July 6<sup>th</sup> 1843 - **marked BOSTON** by **British consul** in Boston  
*Hibernia* left Boston on July 16 - 20 décimes due (10 décimes to GB plus 10 décimes inland)



Placed in letter bag of Cunard steamer *Cambria* at Boston January 31, 1845 - **PACKET LETTER** mark

***Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

British Packet via England: June 1, 1843-June 30, 1845

US Postage Due

Per the 1843 France-GB Treaty, France credited GB 3sh. 4d per ounce bulk rate (10 décimes per letter) for transit & sea charges on westbound mails. US collected inland (variable with distance) plus 2 cents ship fee on incoming mail.



Prepaid 20 décimes on February 1, 1845 in Perigueux - endorsed via England to Philadelphia

20 décimes prepayment noted on reverse - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 620 km. to Boulogne

Missed February 4 sailing of Cunard Steamer *Hibernia* - left Liverpool March 4 on *Cambria*

Rated for 20.75¢ collection in US - 2¢ ship fee plus 18.75¢ for 330 miles from Boston to Philadelphia

Blue '20 ¾' due marking applied in Philadelphia - this mail not processed until arrival

**1843 Treaty rate paid postage to US frontier - 2¢ ship fee plus US inland due from addressee**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

US Rate Reduction

March 3, 1845 US Act lowered inland rates per half ounce to 5¢ for under 300 miles, and 10¢ for over 300 miles, effective July 1. GB transit and sea postage were still governed by the 1843 France-GB Treaty. French inland varied with distance.



Prepaid 5¢ on August 15, 1845 for 200 miles from New York to Cunard steamer *Cambria* at Boston  
New York Postmaster provisional stamp (issued July 15, 1845) used to prepay U.S. inland postage  
GB debited France 10 décimes per “Colonies &c. Art. 12” mark, and routed letter via Boulogne  
21 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 11 décimes for 875 km. inland postage to Marseille

**“Colonies &c. Art. 12” marking used only 6 months in conjunction with 5¢ rate**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

10¢ Frankings for Over 300 Miles



Prepaid 10¢ on November 6, 1847 for 1,500 miles from Mobile, AL to Cunarder *Caledonia* at Boston  
20 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 600 km to Lyon - cover front only



Prepaid 10¢ on December 14, 1847 for 330 miles from Philadelphia to Cunarder *Britannia* at Boston



**Mail Exchanged Per 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: July 1, 1845-June 26, 1848

First Day of Rate Period

French prepayments appear on the reverse of westbound letters, and include 10 décimes due to GB per the 1843 France-GB Treaty plus inland. Letters weighing over 7.5 grams were marked with a check for 7.5-10 grams, "10" (or "W") for 10-15 grams, and so on.



**Forwarded July 1, 1845 from Slade & Lemaitre at Le Havre** - carried by auxiliary steamer to Southampton  
13 décimes prepaid per mark on reverse - 10 décimes for GB plus 3 décimes for 7.5-10 grams letter from port  
Routed to Liverpool for July 4 sailing of Cunard Steamer *Britannia* - arrived July 19 in Boston  
Rated for 7¢ collection in US - 2¢ ship fee plus 5¢ inland for <300 miles from Boston to Topsham, Maine

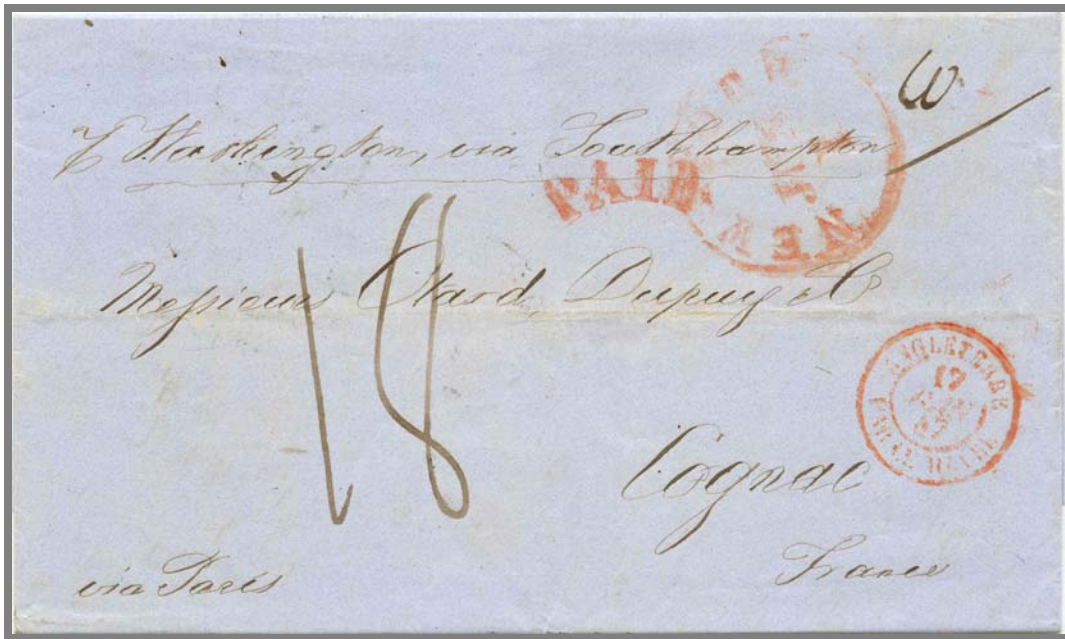
**“Foreign Paid” marking applied at Southampton**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849

First American Steam Packet Service

The Ocean Line began the first American transatlantic steam packet service on June 1, 1847. March 3, 1845 US Act set packet postage at 24¢ per ½ oz., effective July 1. Per the 1843 France-GB Treaty, France collected 10 décimes discriminatory sea postage (credited to GB) in addition to variable inland.



Prepaid 24¢ packet postage on June 1, 1847 in New York - no inland postage required from departure port  
Ocean Line steamer *Washington* left NY June 1 - **fewer than five letters to France known from this sailing**

Carried by auxiliary steamer from Southampton to Le Havre - 10 décimes credit to GB in upper right  
Only transatlantic sailing known to have received “**Angleterre Par Le Havre**” French entry marking  
18 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 8 décimes for 425 km. from Le Havre to Cognac

**First sailing of the first American steam packet line**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

*American Packet via England: June 1, 1847-June 30, 1849*

*Mail via Southampton*

Only endorsed mail was carried westbound on this route; all other mail was routed to British packets. Prepayment was variable inland plus a 1 décime ship fee. Carried directly to the steamship, this mail avoided the GB discriminatory sea charge in the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid 5 décimes on July 17, 1848 in Paris for 175 km. to Le Havre - should have added 1 décime ship fee  
Sent July 18 from Le Havre Maritime Bureau by auxiliary steamer to Ocean Line steamship at Southampton  
Ocean Line steamer *Hermann* left Southampton July 21 - 7<sup>th</sup> of 16 sailings by the Ocean Line in this period  
Rated for 34¢ collection in US - 24¢ packet fee plus 10¢ for over 300 miles from New York to New Orleans

**Fewer than five westbound Ocean Line covers are known from this period**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

First Retaliatory Period

In response to the 10 décimes British discriminatory packet postage assessed on American packet mail, the US began charging 24¢ per ½ oz. retaliatory packet postage on British packet mail per a June 27, 1848 US Act. 5¢ or 10¢ US inland postage was also charged.



Prepaid 34¢ on July 14, 1848 in Augusta, GA - 24¢ retaliatory packet charge plus 10¢ inland (> 300 miles)

Postage paid with **1847 Issue 10¢ stamp** and 24¢ in cash per red '24' - Cunard steamer *Caledonia*

GB 10 décimes debit for transit and sea postage per "Colonies &c. Art. 13" mark - letter routed via Boulogne

21 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 11 décimes for 850 km. inland postage to Bagnères

**Fewer than 10 letters with US #2 are known on mail to France**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: June 27, 1848-January 3, 1849

First Retaliatory Period



Posted June 28, 1848 in Le Havre - 12 décimes prepayment (not indicated) - Cunard steamer *Niagara*  
29¢ due in US - 24¢ retaliatory packet charge plus 5¢ for less than 300 miles inland postage to New York



Carried privately from Paris November 30, 1848 to Cunard steamer *Niagara* at Liverpool - no prepayments  
Double-weight 68¢ due in US - double 24¢ retaliatory charge and 10¢ inland for > 300 miles to New Orleans

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: January 4, 1849-February 14, 1849

Restored Rate Period

The first US-GB postal treaty was signed on December 14, 1848. In response, the US eliminated retaliatory packet charges starting January 4, 1849. Rates returned to 1845-48 levels until the new treaty became effective on February 15, 1849.



Prepaid 5¢ on January 8, 1849 in Philadelphia - less than 300 miles to Cunard steamer *Europa* at New York  
GB 10 décimes debit per "Colonies &c. Art. 13" mark - '10' at upper left indicates 10-15 grams weight class  
20 décimes due in France - 10 décimes for GB plus 10 décimes for 220 km. inland postage to Paris

**Only 3 eastbound sailings during this six-week period**

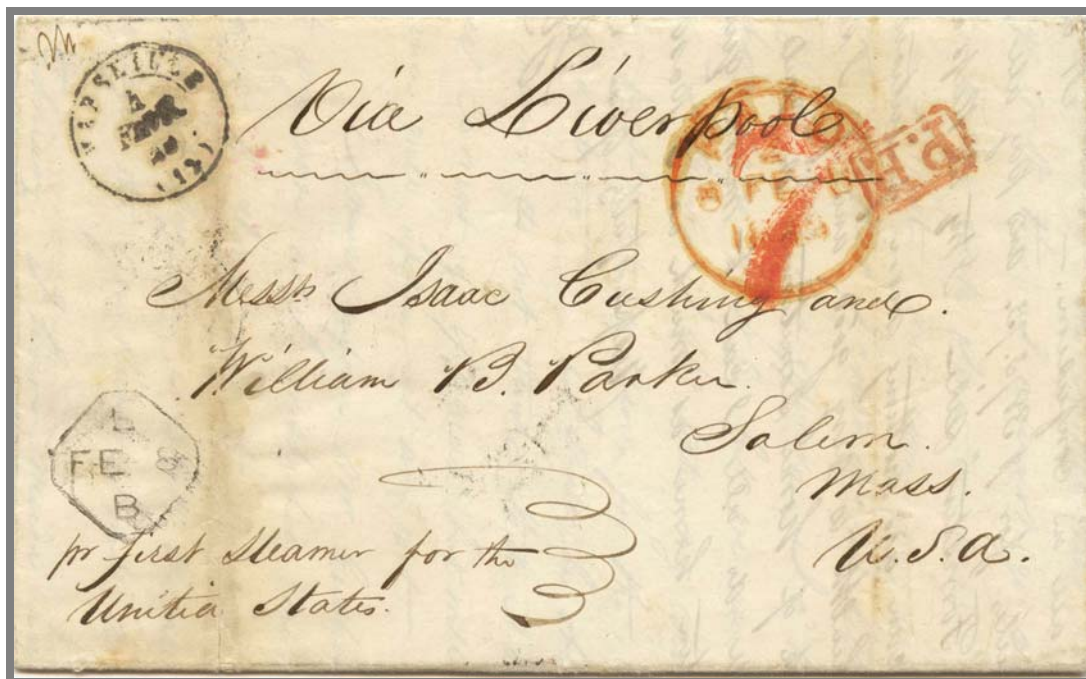
**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: January 4, 1849-February 14, 1849

Restored Rate Period



Prepaid 15 décimes on January 14, 1849 in Paris - 5 décimes inland plus 10 décimes to GB  
Cunard steamer *Niagara* - 12¢ due includes 10¢ inland for >300 miles to New Orleans plus 2¢ ship fee



Prepaid 21 décimes on February 4, 1849 in Marseille - 11 décimes inland plus 10 décimes to GB  
Cunard steamer *Europa* to New York - 7¢ due includes 5¢ inland for <300 miles to Salem plus 2¢ ship fee

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: February 15, 1849-July 31, 1849

Uniform US Inland



Prepaid 5¢ on June 19, 1849 in New York - uniform US inland rate per 1848 US-GB Treaty  
Cunard steamer *Europa* - 18 décimes due - 10 décimes for GB plus 8 décimes for 460 km. to Schamberg



Hand-carried June 27, 1849 to Cunard steamer *Cambria* in New York - no US postage paid  
'10' at upper left indicates 10-15 grams weight class - 30 décimes due - 20 décimes inland for 700 km. to Lyon



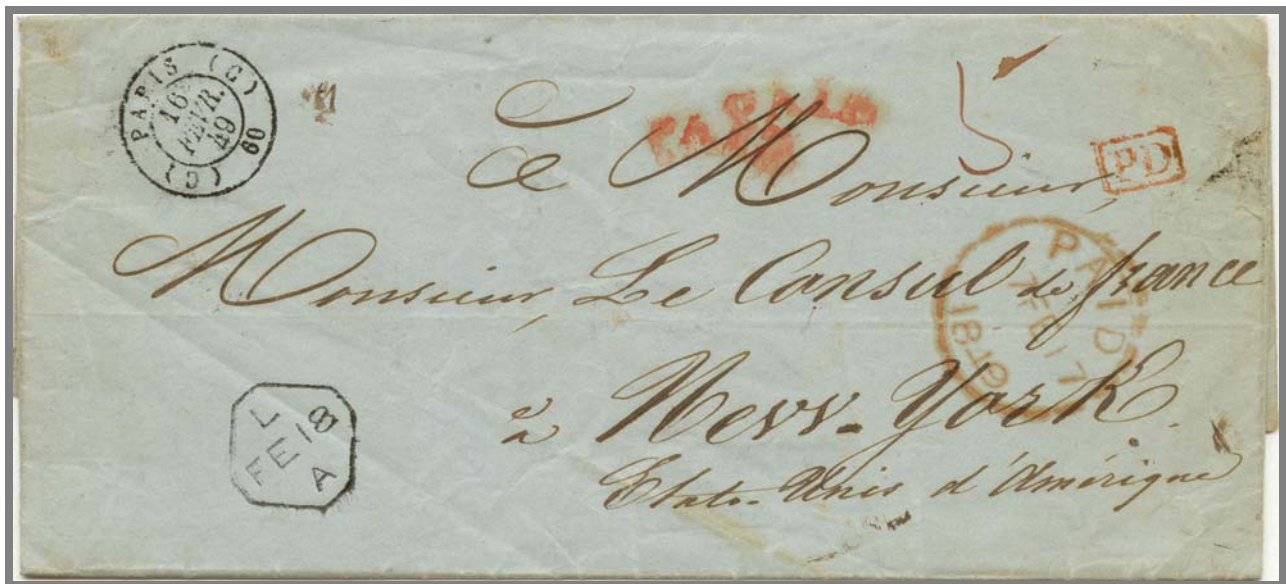
**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: February 15, 1849-July 31, 1849

First US-GB Postal Treaty



Posted February 22, 1849 in Le Havre - 12 décimes prepayment (not indicated) - Cunard steamer *America*  
**First westbound sailing under 1848 US-GB Treaty - uniform US 5¢ inland Treaty rate due in Maine**



Posted February 16, 1849 in Paris - 15 décimes paid (on reverse) - 10 décimes to GB plus 5 décimes inland  
Cunard steamer *America* to Boston - **New York erred in rating letter fully paid rather than due 5¢**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

21¢ US Frankings

Articles to the US-GB Treaty set 16¢ per ½ oz. packet rate and a 5¢ uniform US inland rate, effective July 1, 1849. 10 décimes GB discriminatory sea postage was collected with uniform 50 centimes French inland (effective August 1, 1849).



Prepaid 21¢ on February 3, 1851 in Boston - **1847 Issue 5¢ stamp plus 16¢ cash** - 15 décimes due Collins Line steamer *Arctic* - GB still assessed 10 décimes sea and transit charges per 'Art. 13' marking

**Only known use of US #1 on American packet mail to France**



Prepaid 21¢ on April 26, 1850 in New York - **first sailing of Collins Line by steamship *Atlantic***

Not rated in GB per Article 13 - **'U.S. Pkt.'** mark - double unpaid UK-France rate collected

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

56¢ Rate From California



Prepaid 56¢ on April 15, 1851 in San Francisco - 16¢ packet plus 40¢ transcontinental inland postage  
Collins Line steamer *Arctic* - 10 décimes GB sea and transit charges per 'Art. 13' marking - 15 décimes due

**Rare 56¢ rate handstamp only used from November 1850 until June 1851**



Prepaid 56¢ on June 1, 1851 in San Francisco - Ocean liner *Hermann* - July 26 Southampton transit mark  
'Angl. Par Le Havre' entry mark - **provisional 8 décimes due - elimination of discriminatory sea charge**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

American Packet via England: July 1, 1849-August 31, 1851

Expensive & Little-Used Route

Effective July 1, 1849, American packet postage was set at 21¢ per ½ ounce. Starting August 1, 1849, French prepayments were a uniform 50 centimes inland rate plus the 10 décimes GB transit & discriminatory sea postage per the 1843 France-GB Treaty.



Prepaid double-weight 3 francs at Paris Batignolles on December 11, 1850

Collins Line steamer *Baltic* left Liverpool December 14 - 21¢ postage due in NY



Prepaid 15 décimes with 1849 issue stamps on December 30, 1850 in La Ferte-Jouarre

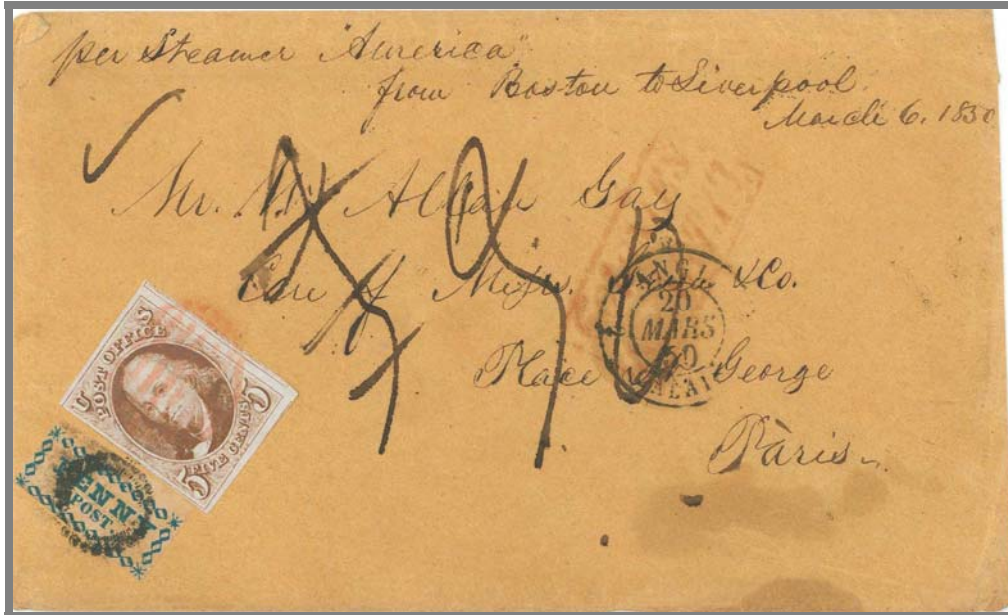
Havre Line steamer *Franklin* - left Southampton January 1 and arrived January 16

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Uniform French Inland Rate

July 1849 French Circular set 50 centimes per 7.5 grams French inland rate, effective August 1. US inland was 5¢ (or 40¢ from the West Coast) per ½ oz.



Prepaid with **1¢ Penny Post local stamp and 1847 Issue 5¢ stamp** on March 6, 1850 in Boston Cunarder *America* to Liverpool March 19 - double-weight 30 décimes due includes 20 décimes for GB



Prepaid with **1847 Issue 5¢ stamp** on July 29, 1850 in Baltimore - '16' at upper left indicates triple-weight 16g Cunard steamer *America* - 45 décimes due in France - 30 décimes to GB plus triple French inland

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

40¢ Transcontinental Rate



Prepaid 40¢ on September 1, 1849 in San Francisco - 40¢ per ½ oz. inland rate to Cunarder *Canada* at NY  
**Earliest known letter from San Francisco to France** - 15 décimes due includes 10 décimes GB packet



Prepaid 40¢ on January 1, 1850 in San Francisco - Cunard steamer *Europa* from New York  
San Francisco boxed '40' rate stamp only used October 1849 to February 1850

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

1849 Issue Frankings

July 1849 French Circular set 50 centimes per 7.5 grams French inland rate, effective August 1. Prepaid GB sea postage was 1 décime.



Prepaid double-weight 3 francs on October 11, 1849 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* to Boston  
Prepayment of letters to the US by postage stamps not permitted in France until August 1, 1849



Prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes on July 19, 1850 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Cambria* - 5¢ inland due in US  
Sent in open mail per July 20 London transit mark - May 1, 1851 US-GB Agreement introduced closed mail

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851

Unusual Frankings



Sent underpaid 60 centimes on October 14, 1849 from Paris - Cunard steamer *Hibernia*  
Rated 'PAID' in UK and 5¢ due in US - **rare use of 1849 20 centimes stamps** on transatlantic mail



Prepaid six-times 9 francs rate on August 8, 1849 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* - 20¢ inland due in US  
**Prepayment by postage stamps only 1 week after French P.O. allowed such frankings**



**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: August 1, 1849-November 30, 1851      Seven Month Closed Mail Period

The May 1, 1851 US-GB Agreement sent westbound mails closed through GB, so no British transit markings appear on this mail from May to November 1851.



Prepaid 1 franc 50 centimes on September 3, 1851 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* - 5¢ due in US



Prepaid quadruple 6 francs rate on June 26, 1851 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* - double-weight 10¢ due

***Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

*British West Indies Packet: August 1, 1849-December 31, 1850*

*Mail via Jamaica*

French Circular #27 set 21 décimes per 7.5 grams rate to Chagres by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton and Jamaica, effective September 15, 1848. August 14, 1848 US Act set Chagres-San Francisco rate at 30¢ per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 21 décimes on February 12, 1850 in Bordeaux per ms. '21' on reverse  
RMSP steamer *Great Western* to Jamaica and RMSP steamer *Tay* to Chagres  
PMSC steamer *Panama* from Panama to San Francisco - 30¢ due in San Francisco

**Fewer than five RMSP letters known from this period**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France***

*British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1851-August 31, 1851*

*Panama Forwarder*

The US Post Office required that all eastbound mail from California be carried by US packets via Panama and New York. Only letters forwarded out of the US mails could reach RMSP steamers at Chagres.



Forwarded privately July 14, 1851 from San Francisco to JBF Arrivet at Panama - no US postage paid  
Posted at GB Panama post office September 22 - RMSP *Thames* from Chagres to Southampton via St Thomas  
GB 10 décimes debit per 'Art. 13' marking - 15 décimes due, including 50 centimes uniform inland

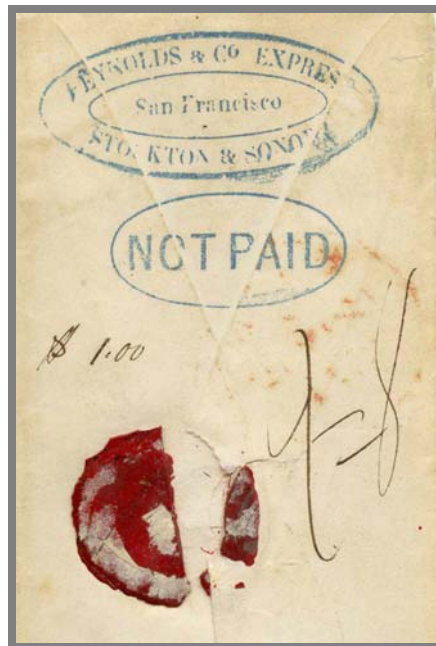
**Very little eastbound mail from the US carried on this route**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

*British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1851-August 31, 1851*

*Mail via St Thomas*

French Circular #51 set 28 décimes per 7.5 grams fully-paid rate to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Chagres, effective January 1, 1851. US erroneously collected 20¢ due on most letters.



(photocopy of reverse at 100%)

Prepaid 28 décimes on July 10, 1851 in Angoulême - RMSP steamer *Avon* to St Thomas

23 décimes credited to GB per January 1, 1851 Additional Articles to 1843 France-GB Treaty - 20¢ due in US

**Delivered to gold mines by Reynolds & Co. private California express company - \$1.00 collected**

**Less than five RMSP letters known from this period**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British West Indies Packet: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Mail via St Thomas

French Circular #67 set 25 décimes per 7.5 grams fully-paid rate to California by the RMSP via St Thomas and Chagres, effective September 1, 1851. US erroneously collected 20¢ due. All French mail to California was carried on this route until 1854.



Prepaid 25 décimes on August 31, 1853 in Paris - 20¢ erroneously due in California  
RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas - PMSC steamer *J L Stephens* from Panama to San Francisco



Prepaid 25 décimes on May 15, 1852 in Paris - 1849 Issue 1 franc and 25 centimes stamps  
RMSP steamer *Magdalena* to St Thomas - PMSC steamer *Tennessee* from Panama to San Francisco

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British West Indies Packet: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Mail to California



Prepaid 25 décimes on October 31, 1853 in Paris - RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas  
PMSC steamer *J.L. Stephens* from Panama to San Francisco - erroneous 20¢ due assessed



Prepaid 25 décimes on February 27, 1855 in Savigny - RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas  
PMSC steamer *Golden Gate* from Panama to San Francisco - 20¢ due - late usage by this route

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Special Ocean Line Rates

October 2, 1851 French Circular #69 set special Ocean Line prepayments of 30 centimes from Le Havre and 60 centimes from elsewhere in France. Mail was taken directly to the steamship at Southampton, avoiding GB double sea postage.



Prepaid 60 centimes in 1853 Issue stamps on September 7, 1856 in Paris - routed via Le Havre Ocean Line steamer *Washington* from Southampton - 21¢ American packet rate via England due in US



Prepaid 30 centimes in 1853 Issue stamps on October 6, 1856 at the Le Havre Maritime Bureau Ocean Line steamer *Hermann* - **very few letters showing special Ocean Line rates are known**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

1853 Issue Prepayments

Effective September 1, 1851, the French Circular #67 reduced French prepayments to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, which included 30 centimes GB transit postage. US postage remained at 16¢ packet postage plus 5¢ or 10¢ inland (to California) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 80 centimes on March 27, 1856 in Bordeaux - Collins Line steamship *Baltic* to New York  
**21¢ due re-valued to 26¢** to reflect West Coast 5¢ surcharge, per July 1, 1851 US inland rate change



Prepaid triple-weight 2fr 40c on December 12, 1853 in Paris - 1853 1 franc pair repaired at top  
Collins Line steamship *Pacific* to New York on December 26 - double-weight 42¢ due



**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

Reduced French Postage

French Circular #67 eliminated discriminatory GB packet fee and reduced French collections to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective September 1, 1851. US postage remained 16¢ packet and 5¢ inland per ½ ounce, per 1848 US-GB Treaty. West Coast mail was subject to a 5¢ inland postage surcharge.



Prepaid 21¢ with **1855 10¢ types III-IV** in New Orleans on July 3, 1855- 8 décimes due in France



1¢ overpay of 26¢ transcontinental rate from San Francisco on July 15, 1854 - 1851 Issue 3¢ and 12¢ stamps

Routed to non-contract Vanderbilt steamer *Sierra Nevada* - marked **“Via Nicaragua Advance of Mails”**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

American Packet via England: September 1, 1851-December 31, 1856

1849 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 80 centimes by **two 1849 15c stamps** and an 1852 25c pair on May 14, 1853 in Paris  
Collins Line steamer *Arctic* left Liverpool May 18 - 21¢ due in US - 16¢ sea plus 5¢ inland



Prepaid 80 centimes by **1849 Issue 40c pair** on September 16, 1852 in Paris - 21¢ due in US  
Collins Line steamer *Atlantic* left Liverpool September 22 and arrived in NY on October 2

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

Reduced Transit & Sea Postage

French Circular #72 reduced GB transit and sea postage to 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective December 1. French inland remained at 50 centimes, for total French collections of 13 décimes. US inland was 5¢ per ½ ounce, except from California.



1¢ overpayment of 5¢ rate on June 29, 1852 in Boston - 1851 Issue 3¢ brownish carmine pair  
Cunard steamer *Europa* from New York - July 13 "Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. Paris" entry marking  
13 décimes due - **franked mail in this period is unusual**; most prepaid mail is stampless

**France credited transit & sea postage to GB per 1843 France-GB Treaty**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

1849 Issue Franking

French prepayments were reduced to 1 franc 30 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective December 1, 1851. 80 centimes transit & sea postage was credited to GB per the 1843 France-GB Treaty. US collections remained 5¢ (10¢ to California) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid double rate 26 décimes on January 30, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to NY

**Franking made up by 1849 Issue 15 centimes and 1 franc carmine stamps**

Single-weight 5¢ due in US

**15 centimes stamps only in use from July 1850 to June 1853**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

1849 Issue Frankings



Overpaid obsolete 1849-51 15 décimes rate on October 6, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* - 5¢ due  
1849 Issue 10c, 40c and 1 franc stamps erroneously cancelled by boxed “Affranchissement Insuffisant”



Prepaid double-weight 26 décimes on July 15, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Europa* to New York - 5¢ due  
Franking includes 1849 1 franc carmine tête-bêche pair - one of 3 known on mail to the USA

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British Packet via England: December 1, 1851-January 23, 1853

Tentuple-Weight Franking



Prepaid 13 francs on November 24, 1852 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Niagara* - 40¢ due (8 times 5¢)

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853

Second Retaliatory Period

Unaware that the double sea charge on US packets had been eliminated in September 1851, the US Post Office began charging 16¢ retaliatory packet postage on British packets. US inland remained at 5¢, and French postage due at 13 décimes.



Prepaid 21¢ retaliatory rate on February 1, 1853 in New York - Cunard steamer *Europa*  
“Etats-Unis Paq. Brit. B.A. Calais” entry marking - ‘bureau ambulant’ from Calais to Paris  
13 décimes due - includes 8 décimes for GB transit and sea postage

**Only three eastbound sailings during this 17-day period**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

British Packet via England: January 24, 1853-February 9, 1853

Second Retaliatory Period

French prepayments remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams, which included 8 décimes to GB for transit and sea postage. Per the January 24, 1853 US P.O. Order, US began collecting 16¢ per ½ ounce retaliatory packet postage plus 5¢ inland.



Prepaid 13 décimes on January 12, 1853 in Paris - Cunarder *Africa* to New York on January 30  
**Franked by stamps of the 1849 Issue - 21¢ due (5¢ inland plus 16¢ retaliatory packet postage)**



Prepaid 13 décimes on January 7, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Africa* to New York  
**Only two westbound sailings during this 17-day period**



*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

Restored Rate Period

February 10, 1853 US Post Office Notice eliminated the retaliatory sea charge, and restored US 5¢ (10¢ from the West Coast) per ½ ounce prepayments. French postage due remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams.



**Prepaid obsolete 21¢ retaliatory rate** on February 14, 1853 in Philadelphia - 5¢ was correct rate

US 1851 Issue 3¢ orange brown and 12¢ franking - rare US **“BRITISH PACKET”** marking

Cunard steamer *Europa* from Boston - first sailing after end of Second Retaliatory period

Double-weight 26 décimes due - includes 16 décimes for GB transit and sea postage

**Fewer than 5 letters known with 21¢ retaliatory rate paid by postage stamps**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

5¢ Frankings



Prepaid 5¢ on March 31, 1856 in New Bedford, Mass. - Cunard steamer *Persia* from New York  
Franked by **1856 5¢ stamp** in it first week of usage - 13 décimes due



Prepaid 5¢ on February 12, 1856 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Persia* - maiden voyage  
Franked by **1851 Issue 1¢ type II strip of 4** and 1¢ type IV - 13 décimes due

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

1849 Issue Franking

French prepayments remained at 13 décimes per 7.5 grams in this restored rate period. US collections returned to 1851-53 levels of 5¢ (10¢ to the West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid quintuple rate 65 décimes on August 23, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Asia* to New York  
Franked by **largest known multiple of rare 1 franc cerise** and pair of 1852 Issue 25 centimes stamps  
September 9 “New-York Br. Pkt.” entry mark - quadruple-weight 20¢ due

**1849 Issue 1 franc cerise only known used in Paris during late 1853**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

13 Décimes Frankings



Prepaid 13 décimes on May 19, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Arabia* to New York  
Franked by 1849 Issue 15c pair and 1 franc carmine - 5¢ due per "N. York Br. Pkt." mark



Prepaid 13 décimes on August 23, 1853 in Guebwiller - Cunard steamer *Asia* to New York  
Franked by 1849 Issue 40 centimes and 1852 Issue 10 centimes stamps - 5¢ due

*Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA*

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 39 décimes on September 18, 1856 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Africa* to New York  
Franked by 1853 Issue 80 centimes carmine tête-bêche strip (repaired) - double-weight 10¢ due



Prepaid quintuple-weight 65 décimes on December 22, 1853 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to Boston  
Franked by 1853 Issue 1 franc strip of six (repaired) - quadruple-weight 20¢ due

**Mail Exchanged Under 1843 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: February 10, 1853-December 31, 1856

US Due Marks



Prepaid 13 décimes on August 12, 1856 in Levier - Cunard steamer *Niagara* to Boston  
10¢ due includes **5¢ transcontinental inland postage surcharge**



Prepaid 13 décimes on June 8, 1854 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada* to Boston  
**Franked by 1853 Issue 1 franc and 10 centimes stamps - 5¢ due per "Boston Br. Pkt" mark**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Per the 1856 France-GB Treaty, GB debited France 16 décimes per 30 grams (40 centimes per letter) for transit & sea postage. French inland was 40c per 7.5 grams, so total due was 8 décimes. US inland was 5¢ (10¢ from West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 5¢ on March 16, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1856 5¢ stamp  
Cunard steamer *America* from Boston - March 25 "Boston Br. Pkt." transit mark  
"GB 1F 60c" bulk debit from GB to France - double-weight 16 décimes due

**Only 12 eastbound sailings during this period**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

British Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Under the 1856 France-GB Treaty, France credited 16 décimes per 30 grams (40 centimes per letter) to GB and charged 40c per 7.5 grams inland, for total prepayments of 80 c. US inland collections were 5¢ (10¢ from West Coast).



Prepaid 80 centimes on March 5, 1857 in Paris - franked by 1853 80 centimes carmine stamp  
Cunard steamer *Asia* from Liverpool to New York on March 24 - 5¢ due for US inland postage  
Delivered March 31 by **N.O.U.S. City Post government carrier service** in New Orleans - 2¢ carrier fee

**Only 13 westbound sailings during this period**

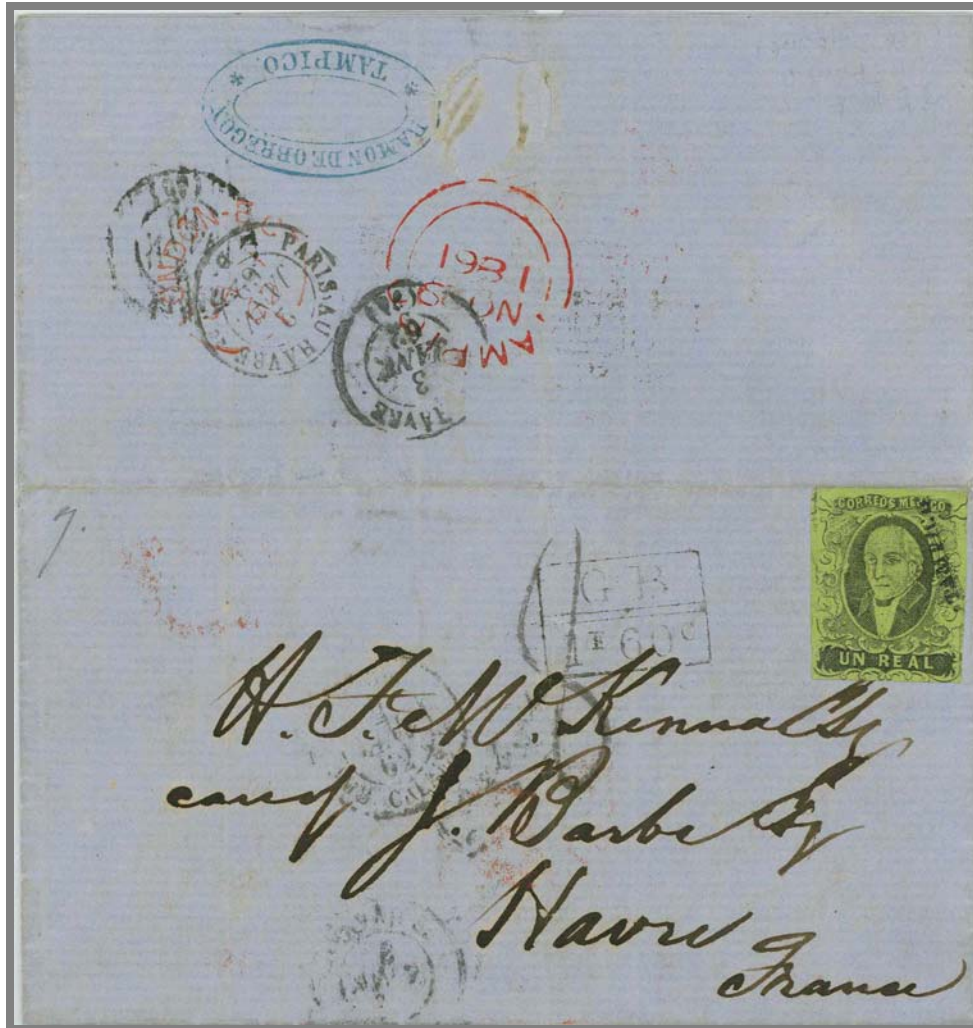


*Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1857-December 31, 1865

Civil War Across-the-Lines Mail

The Federal blockade of the southern coasts created a need for through-the-lines expresses. Antonio Costa's New Orleans-based express began on October 10, 1861, and carried mail across Texas to Tampico, Mexico. Mail connected there with RMSP packets to St Thomas and beyond.



Dated New Orleans September 17, 1861 - carried in Costa's first mail from Confederate New Orleans  
Tampico forwarder Ramon de Obregon paid 1R local postage and posted letter unpaid at GB Tampico office  
RMSP steamers to Southampton via St Thomas - 8 décimes due in France (40c to GB plus 40c inland)

**Only known outbound Costa Express letter**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

British West Indies Packet: January 1, 1857-December 31, 1865

Mail via St Thomas

French prepayments were reduced to 8 décimes per 7.5 grams on mail to California by Royal Mail Steam Packets via Southampton, St Thomas and Panama, effective January 1, 1857. The US collected 20¢ postage due.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes by 1853 Issue 80 centimes pair on February 14, 1857 in Paris  
RMSP steamer *La Plata* to St Thomas - PMSC steamer *J.L. Stephens* from Panama to San Francisco March 29  
80 centimes rate was the same as via New York and set by September 24, 1856 France-GB Treaty  
US 20¢ steamship postage from Panama was collected in San Francisco

**Not much mail traveled by this slower, more expensive route**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: USA to France*

American Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

1856 France-GB Treaty set GB charge to France for transit postage at 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter) and French inland at 40c, for total French due of 5 décimes. US postage was 21¢ (26¢ from West Coast) per ½ ounce.



Prepaid 21¢ in 1851 Issue stamps on January 23, 1857 in New Orleans - Collins steamer *Atlantic*  
“GB 40c” bulk debit from GB to France - 5 décimes due (1 to GB plus 4 for inland)



Prepaid 21¢ in 1851 Issue stamps on December 22, 1856 in Baton Rouge - Collins steamer *Baltic*  
January 18 “Etats-Unis Paq. Am. A. Calais” entry mark - **only 9 American packet sailings in this period**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA***

American Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1857

Three Months Period

Per the 1856 France-GB Treaty, France credited 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter) to GB and charged 40c per 7.5 grams inland, for total prepayments of 50c. The US collected 5¢ inland plus 16¢ packet postage.



Prepaid 50 centimes on February 16, 1857 in Paris - 1853 Issue 10 and 40 centimes stamps  
Collins Line steamer *Atlantic* from Liverpool to New York on March 6 - 21¢ due in the US  
Very little westbound mail was sent by this route due to higher cost and fewer sailings

**Only 7 westbound sailings during this period**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1856 France-GB Treaty: France to the USA**

American Packet via England: January 1, 1857-March 31, 1869

Southampton Mobile Box



Prepaid 80 centimes on October 3, 1861 in Le Havre - **posted on Havre-Southampton steamer**  
Arrived in London as loose ship letter, so sent in open mails - Allan liner *North American* to Quebec  
**Rare "Portland Me. Am. Pkt." marking - 21¢ due**



Posted September 8, 1866 in **Havre-Southampton steamer mobile box** - 8 décimes prepaid  
North German Lloyd steamer *Hansa* from Southampton - 21¢ due in New York

**1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: USA to France**

French Direct Packet: June 22, 1847-February 6, 1848

First French Steam Packet Service

The Hérout & de Handel Line began the first French transatlantic steam packet service in June 1847. May 25, 1847 French Circular set 10 décimes packet postage per 7.5 grams. French inland varied with distance, and US inland rates were 5¢ or 10¢ per ½ oz. per July 1845 Act.



Hand-carried July 15, 1847 to steamship letter bag in New York - no US postage paid

Hérout & de Handel Line steamer *Union* left NY July 24 - **fewer than five letters known from this sailing**

Mail off-loaded at Le Havre during coaling stop - 10 (décimes) at upper right indicates French packet postage

**“Outre-Mer Le Havre” French entry mark** used only on this sailing - ‘Paq. Reg.’ marks not ready yet

18 décimes due in France (10 for packet postage plus 8 for the 425 km. from Le Havre to Cognac)

**First eastbound sailing of the first French steam packet line**

1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: June 22, 1847-February 6, 1848

Hérout & de Handel Line



Prepaid 5¢ on August 14, 1847 in Boston - 2<sup>nd</sup> sailing of Line by *Philadelphie* - 30 décimes due (10-15 gr.)



Taken to steamer at New York on August 31, 1847 - 3<sup>rd</sup> sailing of Line by *Missouri* - 15 décimes due

**1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: France to the USA**

French Direct Packet: June 22, 1847-February 6, 1848

First French Steam Packet Service

French postage for Hérout & de Handel Line mail included 10 décimes French packet per 7.5 grams. French inland varied with distance, and US rates were 5¢ (<300 miles) or 10¢ (> 300 miles) plus a 2¢ ship fee. This mail can only be identified by endorsements or shipping dates.



Prepaid 13 décimes July 27, 1847 in Rouen - 10 décimes packet postage plus 3 décimes for 80 km. to Le Havre  
Endorsed "Paq. Fais du Havre" - Hérout & de Handel Line steamer *Missouri* left Cherbourg July 31  
12¢ due - 10¢ US inland for over 300 miles from New York to New Orleans plus 2¢ ship fee

**No distinguishing postal marks appear on westbound mail**



**1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: USA to France**

American Direct Packet: October 5, 1850-June 30, 1851

First US Direct Packet Service

US 24¢ packet and 5¢ (less than 300 miles) or 10¢ (over 300 miles) inland rates were set by March 3, 1845 US Act. French rates of 30c to the port and 60c beyond were set by July 23, 1849 Circular. San Francisco collected 56¢ on all American packet mail.



Prepaid 56¢ on May 15, 1851 in San Francisco - NY & Havre Liner *Humboldt* from NY on June 28

Arrived July 10 at Le Havre per "Outre-Mer Le Havre" marking - 6 décimes due

**Very little mail is known from this route during this period**

**Only seven eastbound sailings during this period**

*1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: France to the USA*

American Direct Packet: October 5, 1850-June 30, 1851

NY & Havre Line

French rates of 30 centimes from the departure port and 60 centimes from elsewhere in France were set by July 23, 1849 Circular. US 24¢ packet and 5¢ (under 300 miles) or 10¢ (over 300 miles) inland rates were set by March 3, 1845 US Act.



Prepaid 60 centimes June 3, 1851 in Paris - routed via Havre Maritime post office on June 4

**Maiden voyage of NY & Havre Line steamship *Humboldt*** - arrived New York June 16  
29¢ due - 5¢ US inland for under 300 miles from New York to Boston plus 24¢ packet postage

**Only four westbound sailings during this period**

**1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: USA to France**

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1851-March 31, 1857

Uniform US Postage

March 3, 1851 US Act set direct packet plus inland postage at 20¢ per ½ ounce, effective July 1. France treated incoming mail as non-contract private ship mail, and collected 3 décimes if addressed to arrival port, and 6 décimes if elsewhere in France.



Franked with **1856 5¢ strip of three and single** on November 8, 1856 in New Orleans - 6 décimes due  
NY & Havre Line steamer *Fulton* left New York November 17 and arrived in Havre on December 1  
Red "Outre-Mer Le Havre" entry marking - used for incoming ship (non-contract) mail

**Frankings showing exact 20¢ rate are unusual**

**1847-1857 Direct Packet Mail: France to the USA**

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1851-March 31, 1857

French Prepayments

July 23, 1849 Circular #14 set French postage per 7.5 grams at 30c at departure port and 60c beyond. US Act set direct packet postage at 20¢ per ½ oz., effective July 1, 1851.



Forwarded July 27, 1854 from Paris to Le Havre by Greene & Co. - posted August 1 with **red cancels**  
Prepaid 30 centimes in Le Havre - Havre Liner *Union* - 20¢ due per "N. York Am. Pkt. 20" postmark



Prepaid 60 centimes December 9, 1851 in Collioure - **1849 Issue 10 centimes bistre-brun strip of six**  
December 12 "Bureau Maritime Havre" transit on reverse - NY & Havre Line steamer *Franklin*

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Mis-Directed to Trier

March 2, 1857 France-USA Treaty set fully-paid rate of 15¢ per ¼ oz., effective April 1. On mail by British packets, US credited 12¢ to France for 8¢ GB transit and sea plus 4¢ French inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on August 18, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1855 10¢ types III-II-III  
**Mis-directed from Boston to Aachen via Prussian closed mail (30¢ per ½ oz. rate) - 7¢ credit to Prussia**  
Returned to Boston October 7 for Cunard steamer *Canada* to Liverpool - double-weight 24¢ credit to France

**Boston office confused by address and 30¢ franking**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

1857 Issue Frankings



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on June 27, 1859 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Persia* - 24¢ credit  
**Franked by 1857 10¢ types III-IV-IV** - July 16 "Et. Unis Serv. Br. A.C." entry mark at Calais



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on April 1, 1860 in Galveston, Texas - Cunard steamer *Arabia* from New York  
**Franked by 1857 3¢ dull red type II block of ten** - double-weight 24¢ credit to France

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

1861 Issue Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ on October 9, 1861 in New York - Cunard steamer *Persia* from New York  
1861 Issue early printings 10¢ type I, 5¢ buff and 30¢ stamps - triple-weight 36¢ credit to France



Prepaid quintuple-weight 75¢ on January 15, 1862 in New York - Cunard steamer *Asia*  
1861 Issue 5¢ buff, 10¢ type II and 30¢ - quintuple-weight 60¢ credit to France

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Allan Line Exchange Offices



Prepaid 15¢ on September 27, 1866 in Detroit, Michigan - Allan Liner *Moravian* from Quebec, Canada  
Boxed “Br Service” marking - 12¢ credit to France per rare “**Detroit Mich Paid 12**” exchange mark



Prepaid with 1866 15¢ stamp on October 2, 1866 in Chicago - Allan Liner *Damascus* from Quebec, Canada  
12¢ credit to France per “**Chicago Ill Paid 12**” exchange mark - “Et. Unis Serv. Brit. Calais” entry mark

**April 1861 Additional Articles added Detroit and Chicago as Exchange Offices for Midwest mail**



*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ on May 10, 1859 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Niagara* from Boston  
1857 Issue 5¢ type I brick red strip of 3 and 10¢ types III-II-III - triple-weight 36¢ credit to France



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on April 9, 1858 in Donaldsonville, La. - 1857 Issue 5¢ red brown block of 6  
Cunard steamer *America* left Boston on April 24 - double-weight 24¢ credit to France

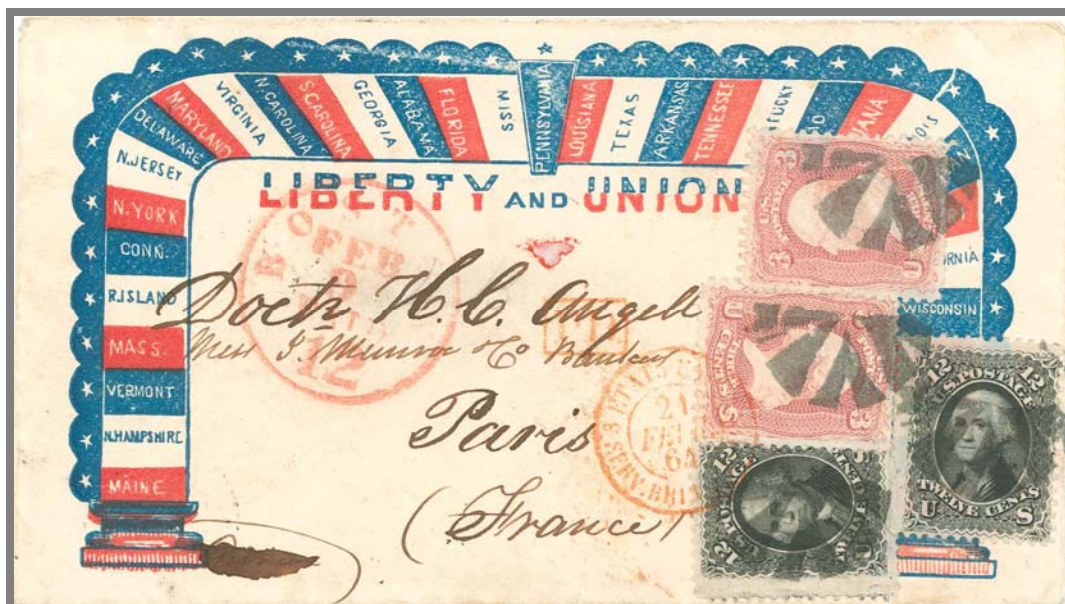
*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Civil War Patriotic Envelopes



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ in Boston on January 26, 1864 - 1861 Issue stamps  
Cunard steamer *Scotia* left NY on January 27 - double-weight 24¢ credit to France



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ in Boston on February 9, 1864 - 1861 Issue stamps  
Cunard steamer *Australasian* left NY on February 10 - single-weight 12¢ credit to France

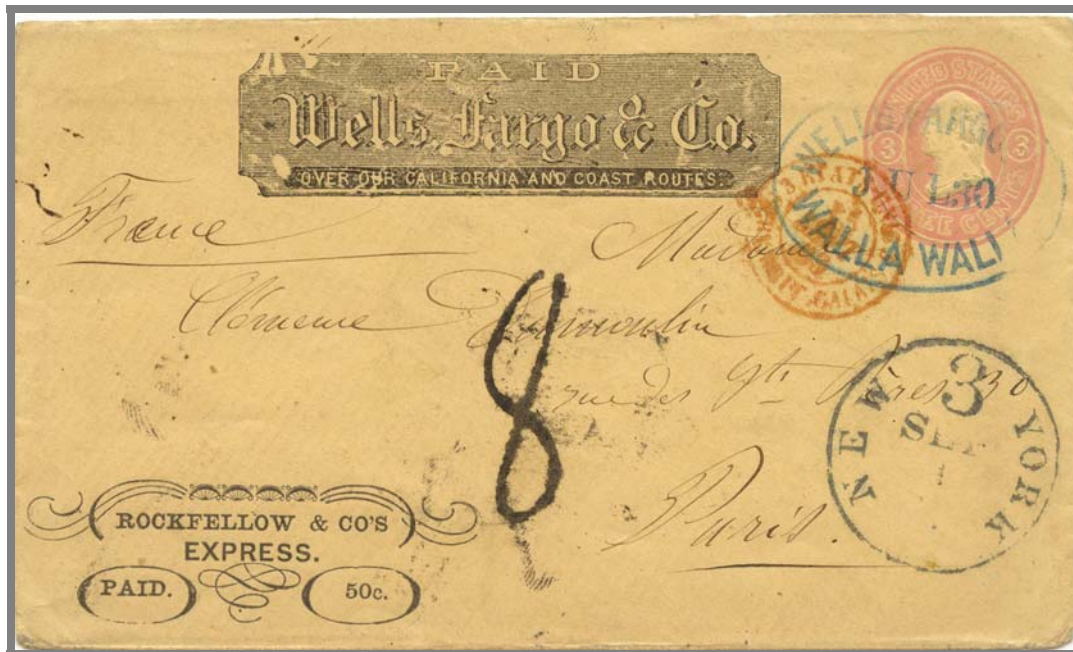
**Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France**

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Western Express Mail



Sent under cover from San Francisco on October 27, 1860 to New York forwarder  
**Carried by Pony Express** - arrived in St Joseph, MO on November 8 - posted November 13 in NY  
Sent unpaid to France per Cunard steamer *Europa* - 3¢ debit to France - 8 décimes due



Carried by **Rockfellow's Express** in **July 1863** from **Boise mines** to Wells Fargo in Walla Walla, WA  
Sent unpaid to France by Wells Fargo from New York on September 1, 1863 - Cunard steamer *Asia*

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Civil War Blockade-Run Mail



Carried from blockaded Wilmington, NC to Nassau, Bahamas by *Banshee* on June 8, 1863  
Prepaid 1 shilling 4d at Nassau on June 8 - "Too late" for June 5 Cunard steamer *Corsica* to NY



Under cover from Augusta, Georgia to blockade-runner *Druid* leaving Charleston on February 4, 1865  
**Rare crowned "Paid at Bahamas" marking** - Cunard steamer *Australasian* from NY on February 22

**The Charleston-Nassau blockade-run route was closed by February 17, 1865 fall of Charleston**

***Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA***

*British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867*

*French Frankings*

The 1857 France-USA Treaty set a fully-paid rate of 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective April 1. On British packet mail, France credited 3¢ to the USA for its inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on October 14, 1864 in Paris - Cunard steamer *Canada*

**1862 Issue 80 centimes rose Tête-Bêche pair** - double-weight 6¢ credit to US



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on May 7, 1857 in Paris - **1854 80c dark vermilion stamps**

Double-weight 6¢ credit to US - Cunard steamer *Niagara* - Marked "Br Service" in New York

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Canadian Packets

Additional articles to the 1857 Treaty added Canada's Allan Line as a carrier of British mails, effective April 1, 1861. Terminal points were Portland, Maine in the winter or Quebec, Canada in the summer.



Prepaid 80 centimes on September 2, 1862 in Paris - 1859 80 centimes rose stamp  
Allan liner *Bohemian* to Quebec - manuscript 3¢ credit to US - marked "Br Service"  
**Rare 'Detroit Mich Paid 15' exchange office postmark** applied on September 20  
Louisville post office rejected prepayment and collected 19¢ in depreciated currency



Prepaid 80 centimes on July 3, 1861 in Hagenau - Allan Line steamer *Hiberian* to Quebec  
3¢ credit to US - **rare July 18 Chicago exchange office mark "Chicago Ill Paid 15"**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA**

British Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Civil War Blockade-Run Mail



Sent under cover from Paris to Cunard steamer *China* - left Liverpool on December 31, 1864  
*Little Hattie* from Nassau to Charleston, SC January 31, 1865 - 12¢ due (10¢ inland plus 2¢ ship fee)



From **Confederate Naval Commodore Samuel Barron** in Paris to Liverpool forwarder in August 1863  
Cunard steamer *Scotia* from Liverpool August 29 to New York - passed in closed mails to Nassau, Bahamas  
Blockade runner *Margaret & Jessie* from Nassau to Wilmington, NC on September 24 - 12¢ due

**Confederate “ship” markings appear only on incoming blockade-run mail**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867      First France-USA Postal Treaty

March 2, 1857 France-USA Treaty set fully-paid rate of 15¢ per ¼ oz., effective April 1. On mail by American packets via England, the US credited 6¢ to France for 2¢ GB transit plus 4¢ French inland postage.



Prepaid 15¢ on April 8, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by 1851 Issue 3¢ dull red and 12¢ stamps  
Ocean Line steamer *Washington* to Southampton - 3<sup>rd</sup> to last sailing of the Line- 6¢ credit to France

**Only three Ocean Line sailings in this period**



*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

'SOUTHn LETTER UNPAID'

The US suspended mail service in the Confederate States of America on May 31, 1861. Some mail from the South was allowed to pass through Louisville, Kentucky after that, but the frankings were disallowed.



Prepaid 10¢ Confederate postage (> 500 miles) and 15¢ US postage on June 10, 1861 in New Orleans

Passed through the lines from Nashville to Louisville on June 14 - released to New York on June 27

US postage applied in New Orleans disregarded and marked "Southern Letter Unpaid" - letter rated unpaid

Inman Line steamer *City of Baltimore* to Queenstown - 8 décimes unpaid letter postage due in France

**Only five "Southern Letter Unpaid" letters to foreign destinations are known**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

"Serv. Am." Entry Mark



Prepaid 15¢ on July 27, 1861 in New York - **1861 5¢ orange brown type II** and 1859 10¢ type V  
HAPAG steamer *Saxonia* - 6¢ credit - Etats-Unis Serv. Am. Calais" entry mark introduced in 1861



Prepaid seven-times \$1.05 on December 14, 1864 in New Orleans - **1861 Issue 3¢, 12¢ and 90¢**  
**Maiden voyage of Inman Line steamer *City of Cork*** - 42¢ credit to France - re-backed front

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

To President-Elect Lincoln

1857 Treaty set fully-paid rate of 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective April 1. On American packet mail via England, the France credited 9¢ to US for 6¢ sea plus 3¢ inland. Letters were marked “Am Service” in red to signify service via GB.



Prepaid triple-weight 24 décimes on January 5, 1861 in Marseille - triple-weight 27¢ credit to US NY & Havre Line steamer *Arago* from Southampton - red boxed “Am Service” mark applied in NY Forwarded January 24 from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, IL - 3¢ forwarding postage due

**Lincoln left Springfield on February 1 for his March 4 Inauguration**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA**

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

West Coast Overland Mail



Prepaid 80 centimes on August 4, 1863 in Paris - 9¢ credit to US - Inman steamer *City of Washington*  
**Forwarded overland from Utah Territory to San Francisco with 1861 3¢ stamp for forwarding postage**



Prepaid triple-weight 24 décimes on March 31, 1860 in Bordeaux - triple-weight 27¢ credit to France  
NY & Havre Line steamer *Arago* - **sent via Butterfield overland route to California**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

"Mails Suspended" Marking

The US closed all postal communication with the seceded Confederate States in May-June 1861. Domestic mail was diverted to the Dead Letter Office, and foreign mail was returned.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on May 9, 1864 in Paris - double-weight 18¢ credit to US Inman Line steamer *Edinburgh* from Queenstown - May 22 "New York Paid 30" entry marking  
Diverted and returned to France with "Mails Suspended" and French "Rebuts" markings

**Only known letter from France with this marking**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

American Packet via England: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1867

Allan Line via Canada



Prepaid 80 centimes on January 22, 1861 in Bordeaux - erroneous 3¢ credit to US (should be 6¢)

Allan liner *Anglo-Saxon* via Portland - entered February 7 at Boston - **to Confederate Louisiana**

**April 1, 1859 Amendment to 1848 US-GB Treaty added Allan Line, to be rated as American packets**



Prepaid 80 centimes on September 4, 1860 in Bordeaux -Allan Line steamer *Jura* via Quebec to Boston

**This mail consistently mis-rated for 3¢ British packet credit - red "Am Service" marking applied in Boston**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

15¢ Frankings

The 1857 France-USA Treaty set a fully-paid rate of 15¢ per ¼ ounce, effective April 1. On American direct packet mail, the US credited 3¢ to France for inland postage. French entry marks were applied in blue to signify direct service.



Prepaid 15¢ on July 29, 1857 in New Orleans - franked by **1856 Issue 5¢ red brown stamps**  
3¢ credit to France - Vanderbilt Line steamship *Ariel* from New York August 8 to Southampton



Prepaid 15¢ on June 12, 1858 in New Orleans - franked by **1857 Issue 5¢ Indian red strip of three**  
3¢ credit to France - Vanderbilt Line steamship *North Star* from New York June 19 to Le Havre  
July 1 blue "Et. Unis Serv. Am. D. Havre" ("Service Américain Direct") entry marking

**Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France**

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

1865-67 NY & Havre Line Revival



Prepaid 15¢ on May 10, 1867 in Andover, MA - 3¢ credit to France in Boston postmark  
NY & Havre Liner *Fulton* - "Et. Unis Serv. Am. D. Havre" entry mark in red during 1865-67

**After Civil War suspension, the NY & Havre Line resumed operations from Nov. 1865 to Oct. 1867**



Prepaid sextuple-rate 90¢ on April 27, 1867 in New York - 18¢ credit to France - 1861 Issue 30¢ stamps  
NY & Havre Line steamer *Mississippi* - **second of only two sailings by this steamship**



*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

1857 Issue Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ rate on September 14, 1861 in New York - triple-weight 9¢ credit to France  
1857 Issue 5¢ deep orange brown, 10¢ type III, and 30¢ stamps - NY & Havre steamer *Arago*



Prepaid 60¢ on April 27, 1861 in New York - quadruple 12¢ credit to France - Havre Line steamer *Fulton*  
Blue May 10 "Et. Unis Serv. Am. D. Havre" entry mark - forwarded from Paris with 1859 80c stamp

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

*American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869*

*13 Times 15¢ Rate from New Mexico*



*1 Business*

*13*

*Monsieur*

*France*

*Nolbert Selvet*

*Docteur en Médecine*

*Vire.*

*Calvados.*

*FORT GUMMINGO*

*NEW MEXICO*

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Frankings



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ rate with 1869 15¢ type I and 30¢ stamps on June 9, 1869 in New Orleans  
HAPAG steamer *Germania* - fewer than five covers known with this franking combination



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ rate with 3¢ and 24¢ stamps on Dec. 9, 1869 in New Orleans - double 3¢ credit  
HAPAG steamer *Allemania* - fewer than ten 1869 Issue 24¢ covers known to France

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

Vanderbilt European Line

1857 France-USA Treaty set a fully-paid rate of 80 centimes per 7.5 grams, effective April 1. On American direct packet mail, France credited 12¢ to the US for sea & inland postage. Letters were marked “Am Service” in blue to signify direct service.



Prepaid 80 centimes on August 14, 1860 at Le Havre’s maritime bureau - 1859 80c rose stamp  
12¢ credit to the US - Vanderbilt Line steamship *Vanderbilt* from Le Havre to New York  
Blue “Am Service” and red “PAID” markings applied in New York on August 27

**Only 46 Vanderbilt Line sailings in this period**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

American Direct Packet: April 1, 1857-December 31, 1869

NY & Havre Line Revival

Transatlantic service by the NY & Havre Line was interrupted by the Civil War from December 1861 until November 1865. Service resumed briefly until the Line went out of business in November 1867.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on September 26, 1866 in Le Havre - 1862 Issue 40c stamps

Double-weight 24¢ credit (Le Havre style) to the US - NY & Havre Line steamship *Arago*

October 10 "N. York Am. Pkt. Paid" entry marking

**Only 29 NY & Havre Line sailings in the revival period**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Frankings

Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (Ligne H) began operations on June 15, 1864. The US credited France 12¢ per ¼ ounce for packet and inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 30¢ on October 15, 1869 in Washington, D.C. - Ligne H *Lafayette* from New York  
October 16 “Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. H No. 2” postmark applied in New York - double-weight 24¢ credit to France



Prepaid quadruple-rate 60¢ on November 12, 1869 in Providence, RI - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*  
Quadruple 48¢ credit to France - **largest known multiple of 1869 15¢ type II on cover**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Posted on Steamship



Franked 20 centimes naval concession rate by Captain of French cruiser *Laurier* in New York harbor  
Transferred May 19, 1866 to nearby Ligne H steamer *Napoleon III* and posted on board  
“Corr. D. Arm. Lig. H Paq. F, No. 4” marking applied to confirm military use - “ancre” cancel



Posted on steamer *Lafayette* in NY harbor on April 26, 1865 - paid 15¢ US postage in 1861 Issue stamps  
“Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Lafayette” CGT steamship name postmark - “ancre” cancel on US stamps

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Multiple Weight Frankings



Prepaid sextuple-weight 90¢ on December 22, 1866 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *St Laurent*  
Quintuple 60¢ credit to France - **fewer than fifteen 1861 Issue 90¢ covers to France are known**



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ on June 7, 1869 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris* to Brest  
Triple 36¢ credit to France - **fewer than five combinations of 1869 15¢ type I and 30¢ 'F' grill known**



*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Early Sailings of the CGT Line



Sent unpaid on July 5, 1864 from Boston - **first eastbound sailing of the CGT Line by the Washington**  
Triple-weight 9¢ debit to France - July 18 “Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Le Havre” mark - triple-weight 24 décimes due



Prepaid 15¢ on March 29, 1865 in New York - CGT steamer *Washington* arrived April 10 at Le Havre  
“Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. 2 Le Havre” entry mark used July 1864-May 1865 - 12¢ credit to France

**Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA**

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

"Washington Paq. Fr." Postmark

France's Ligne H, first sailed on June 15, 1864. The 80 centimes 1857 Treaty rate applied, and France credited the US 3¢ per ¼ ounce for inland postage. Letters were marked "Fr Service" in blue to signify direct service.



Prepaid sextuple-weight 48 décimes on July 27, 1864 in Le Havre - six-times 18¢ credit to the US 2<sup>nd</sup> sailing of Ligne H by steamer *Washington* from Le Havre to New York on August 9  
New York applied rare boxed "Fr Service" - struck in blue to signify direct service

**Only known example of "Washington Paq. Fr." embarkation postmark**

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA*

French Direct Packet: June 15, 1864-December 31, 1869

Processed By Steamship Mail Agent



Prepaid 80 centimes on June 6, 1867 on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Le Havre harbor - 3¢ credit to US  
Blue boxed "Fr Service" applied in Boston - octagonal embarkation postmark normally used on eastbound mail

**Fewer than 10 covers with maritime postmarks and "anchor" cancels are known from this period**



Prepaid 80 centimes on October 10, 1868 on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Brest harbor - 3¢ credit to US  
Circular Ligne H postmark shows date of departure from Le Havre - stamps cancelled by "anchor" cancels

*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Franking

June 1867 US-GB Treaty made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails, and eliminated distinction between American and British packets, effective January 1. Mail from US shows 6¢ credit to France for transit and inland postage.



Overpaid 90¢ in June 1869 at US Yokohama post office - 80¢ was 1 oz. trans-Pacific and trans-Atlantic rate PMSC steamer *Japan* to San Francisco on July 20, and NGL steamer *Rhein* from New York on July 29 “China & Japan Steam Service” marking indicates Japanese origin - triple-weight 18¢ credit to France

**Fewer than 10 covers are known franked by 1869 Issue 30¢ pair**

**Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Multiple-Weight Frankings



Prepaid four times 15¢ rate Dec. 4, 1869 in New York - Inman liner *City of Brussels* - 24¢ credit to France  
Forwarded back to New York - **fewer than 10 covers are known franked with two 1869 Issue 30¢ stamps**



Prepaid triple-weight 45¢ August 23, 1869 in NY - **type I 15¢ stamp** with 30¢ 'F' grill - incorrect credit marks

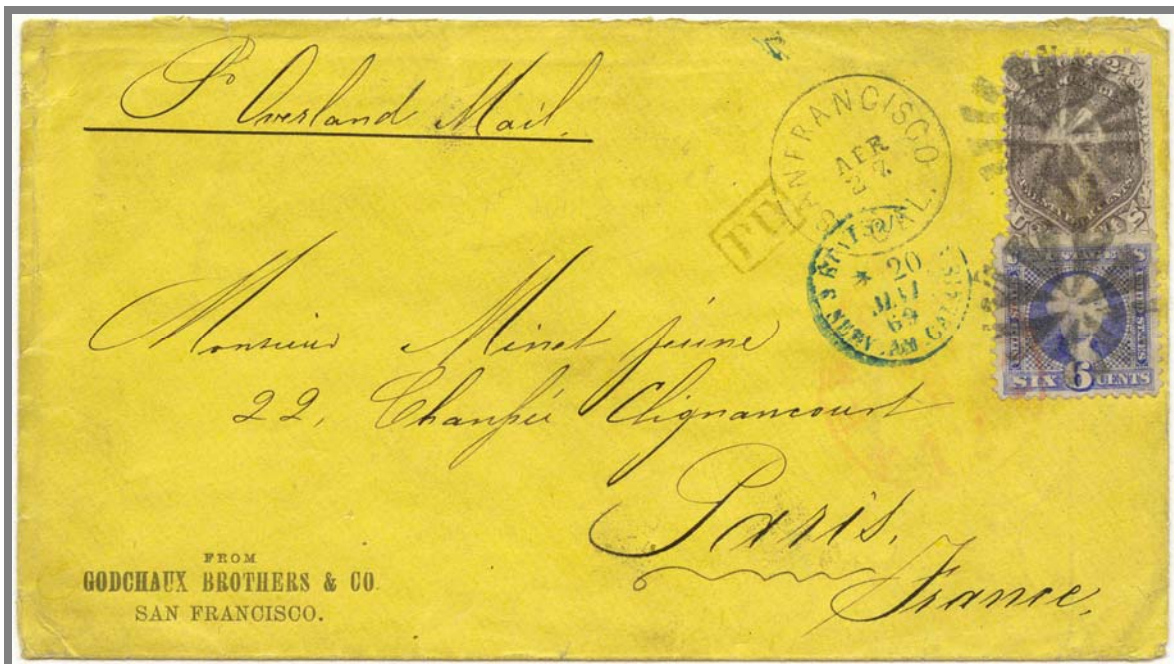
*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1869 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 15¢ Treaty rate November 6, 1869 in New Orleans - Cunard steamer *Cuba* left NY November 10  
Incorrect double 6¢ credit to France in New York postmark - **tri-color 1869 Issue franking**



Prepaid two times 15¢ rate on April 27, 1869 in San Francisco - NGL steamer *Bremen* left New York May 8  
Double 6¢ credit to France - **6¢ stamp used one day later than earliest known use** - 24¢ 'F' grill stamp

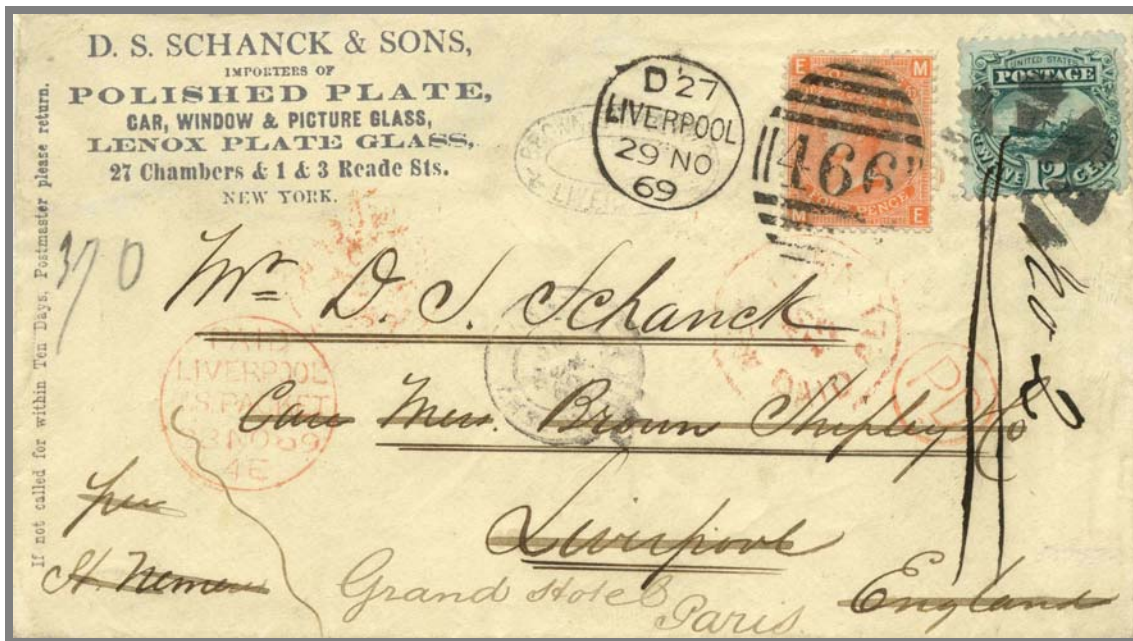
*Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

Forwarded Mixed Frankings



Prepaid 15¢ with 1869 Issue type I stamp on July 17, 1869 in NY - Inman steamer *City of Boston*  
6¢ credit to France - forwarded July 29 from Paris to Heidelberg with French 30 centimes stamp



Prepaid 12¢ rate to England on November 17, 1869 in New York - Cunard steamer *Nemesis*  
Forwarded November 29 by Brown Shipley & Co. from Liverpool to Paris with British 6d stamp

***Mail Exchanged Under 1857 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA***

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1868-December 31, 1869

1868 US-GB Treaty

January 1, 1868 US-GB Treaty made each country responsible for the dispatch of all mails, and eliminated distinction between American and British packets. Per the 1857 Treaty, mail from France shows 3¢ credit to the USA for inland postage.



Prepaid double-weight 16 décimes on February 7, 1868 at Le Havre - 1862 Issue 80 centimes stamps  
Cunard steamer *Cuba* to New York February 19 - double 6¢ credit (Le Havre style) to the US

**US entry marks without indication of packet nationality**



**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

4¢ British Open Mail Rate

December 1869 US-GB Treaty set 2¢ packet and 2¢ inland per ½ oz. rates to replace the expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate. GB charged France 40 centimes per 30 grams (10c per letter), and France collected 40 centimes inland postage plus 10 centimes for GB.



Prepaid 4¢ British open mail rate on January 4, 1870 in Boston - Guion steamship *Manhattan*  
GB charged France 40 centimes bulk rate per "GB 40c" marking - set by 1856 France-GB Treaty  
Double-weight 10 décimes due - 20 centimes to GB plus 80 centimes inland postage



Overpaid 10¢ direct rate January 12, 1870 in New Orleans - Guion steamer *Minnesota* via England  
Rated "PAID-ONLY TO ENGLAND" in Great Britain - double-weight 10 décimes due

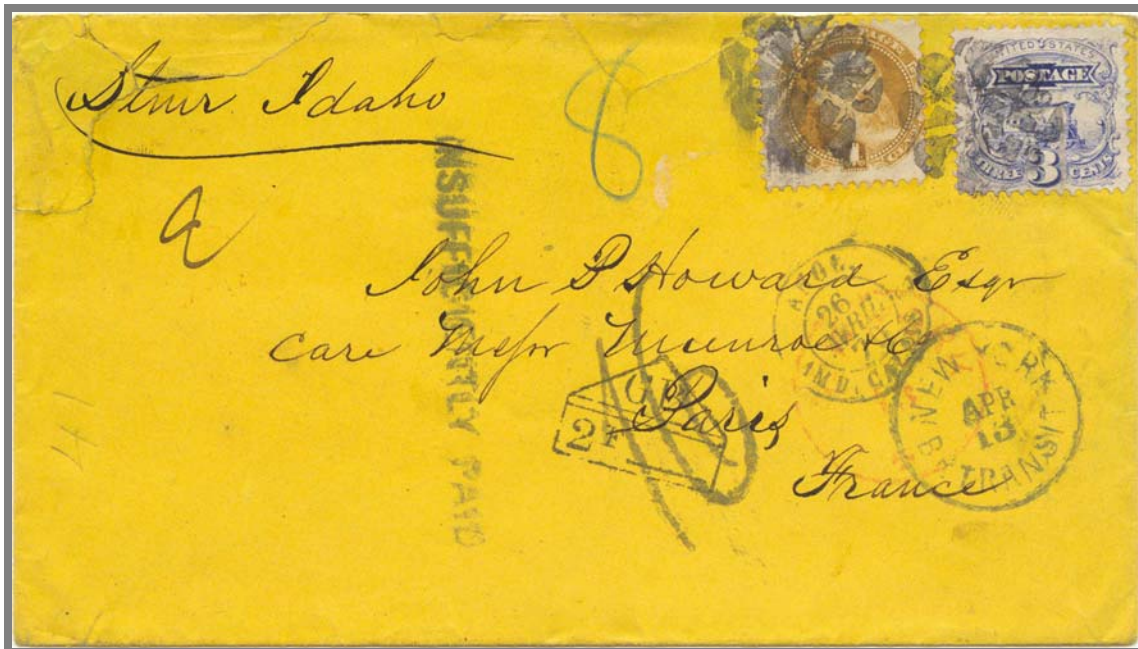
**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Unpaid/Underpaid Mail



Posted unpaid February 19, 1870 in New York - NGL steamship *Donau* to Southampton - 4¢ US debit to GB  
“G.B. Art.38” debit mark (used Jan.-Mar. 1870) mis-interpreted by France - double-weight 10 décimes due



Underpaid double-weight letter posted April 13, 1870 in NY - 4¢ postage ignored and letter rated as unpaid  
Blue double-weight 8¢ US debit to GB - Guion steamship *Idaho* - correct double-weight 16 décimes due  
2 francs per 30 grams GB unpaid mail debit to France (1 Fr 20c transit & sea per 1856 Treaty plus 80c to US)

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1870

12¢ "Phantom" Rate

1868 US-GB Treaty set fully-paid 12¢ rate per ½ ounce, effective January 1, 1870. The US credited GB 8¢ per 7.5 grams for GB-to-France postage. This rate was not announced by U.S.P.O. and is only seen rarely on eastbound mail via New York.



Overpaid 15¢ on April 23, 1870 in New York - North German Lloyd steamship *Union*  
US retained 4¢ per ½ oz. - US credited GB 8¢ per 7.5 grams (2¢ GB transit & 6¢ French inland)



Overpaid 40¢ (should be 20¢) on March 20, 1870 in San Francisco - Guion steamship *Manhattan*  
20¢ rate consisted of single-weight 4¢ for the US, plus credit for double-weight 16¢ to GB

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Forwarded Mixed Franking

January 1, 1870 Imperial Decree set fully-paid 70 centimes per 10 grams rate via British open mail. France paid GB 40 centimes per 30 grams for transit and sea postage, and GB credited the US 2¢ for inland postage.



Prepaid 70 centimes on March 13, 1871 at Menton - 1870 Bordeaux Issue 30c and 40c stamps  
Cunard steamer *Java* - 2¢ GB credit to the US - **forwarded with US 1870 Issue 3¢ stamp**

**Fully-paid 70 centimes rate replaced 80 centimes 1857 Treaty rate**

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Siege of Paris Balloon Mail



Prepaid 70 centimes on October 7, 1870 - **flown out of besieged Paris by balloon “Jean Bart #1”**

Allan liner *Scandinavian* to Quebec - **closed mails to San Francisco** - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Prepaid 70 centimes on October 29, 1870 - **flown out of besieged Paris by balloon “Colonel Charras”**

Inman steamer *City of Washington* to New York - 2¢ GB credit to the US - rare **“\*Paris\*”** postmark

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Siege of Paris Balloon Mail



Overpaid 80 centimes on September 28, 1870 - **flown out of besieged Paris by balloon “Non Denommé #1”**

Balloon carried only 1,125 postcards and was **captured by the Germans** - card was never delivered



Prepaid 70 centimes on November 22, 1870 - **flown out of besieged Paris by balloon “Ville d’Orléans”**

Balloon landed in Norway but **jettisoned this mailbag in the North Sea** - franking lost in water soaking  
December 2 London Paid transit - Cunard steamer *Batavia* to NY on December 14 - 2¢ GB credit to the US

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

April-May 1871 Paris Commune



Prepaid 70 centimes on May 18, 1871 in **Paris during Commune** - hand-carried out of besieged Paris  
Posted May 19 in nearby Maisons-Alfort - Cunard steamer *Algeria* - 2¢ credit to the US - franking repaired



Underpaid 14 décimes April 27, 1871 in Nice - **sea detour via St Nazaire April 30 around Paris Commune**  
NGL steamer *Weser II* - triple-weight 38¢ GB debit to US - 47¢ in depreciated notes or 42¢ in coin due

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871   Unusual Franco-Prussian War Usages



Forwarded privately on January 7, 1871 from Montpellier **via Switzerland** to avoid German occupation area  
Inman steamer *City of London* - 50 centimes rate from Switzerland via GB set by May 1870 Swiss-US Treaty



Prepaid 60 centimes on December 10, 1870 in **German-occupied Reims** - Feld-Post Relais Bureau #25  
Alsace-Lorraine occupation stamps - Inman liner *City of Brooklyn* - 60c rate from occupation area via GB



1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

Packet Service via England: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Franco-Prussian War Occupation



Prepaid 50 centimes on December 21, 1870 in **German-annexed Ober-Sulz** - Cunard steamer *Siberia*  
**Alsace-Lorraine Issue “burelage renversé” stamps** - 50c rate from annexed Alsace-Lorraine via GB



Posted with military free frank on October 19, 1870 from **German 13<sup>th</sup> Division besieging Metz**  
Cunard steamer *Batavia* - double-weight 20¢ GB transit rate due in coin or 22¢ in US notes

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

French Postage Prepaid

US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract steamship service set 10¢ per ½ oz. rate.  
December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set collections at 80 centimes per  
10 grams (rate was 60 centimes if prepaid), effective January 1, 1870.



Franked 10¢ plus 60 centimes on August 22, 1870 in Newark, NJ - **fully prepaid to destination**  
**North American Steamship Co. Guiding Star to Le Havre - one of only two contract sailings by the line**  
Rare September 9 French entry mark “Etats-Unis Le Havre”

**Only known American Packet mixed franking in this period**

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

Ruger's American Line



Prepaid double-weight 20¢ rate on February 21, 1870 in New Orleans - 1869 Issue stamps  
*Ocean Queen* of **Ruger's Line** to **Le Havre** - first of only three contract sailings by the line  
Rare March 19 French entry mark "Et. Unis Serv. Fr. Havre" - triple-weight 24 décimes due



Overpaid expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate on March 15, 1870 in San Francisco - 8 décimes due  
*Rising Star* of **Ruger's Line** to **Le Havre** - second of only three contract sailings by the line  
Rare April 9 French entry mark "Et. Unis Serv. Am. V.A. Havre" - re-use of obsolete 1863 marking

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

American Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-October 28, 1870

Ten Month Period

December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set prepayments at 60 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870. US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ ounce collections.



Prepaid 60 centimes on August 30, 1870 in Paris - German HAPAG steamers had stopped due to war  
National Steamship Co. *Erin* from Le Havre - 10¢ due per May 20 "Boston Am. Pkt" postmark



Prepaid 60 centimes on May 7, 1870 in Le Havre - 1863 "Laureated" Issue 20c and 40c stamps  
HAPAG steamer *Allemania* from Le Havre - 10¢ due per May 20 "N.Y. Steamship 10" postmark

*1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France*

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

1869 Issue Franking

US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ oz. rate to replace the expired 15¢ 1857 Treaty rate. December 22, 1869 French Imperial Decree set collections at 80 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870.



Prepaid 10¢ direct route rate on January 8, 1870 in New York - 8 décimes due  
Ligne H steamship *St Laurent* of Ligne H - first sailing after expiration of 1857 France-USA Treaty  
January 8 "Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. No. 4" embarkation postmark - normally applied in red ink

**Embarkation postmark applied on board steamer in New York harbor**

*1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France*

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

Posted On Board Steamship

The Ligne H steamships carried a postal agent on board to handle and sort the mail. On rare occasions, letters could be brought to the ship and handed directly to the postal agent. Such letters avoided US postal charges.



Posted on board the Ligne H steamship *Ville de Paris* in New York harbor on February 19, 1870  
Six French 1863 Issue 20 centimes stamps prepaid double-weight rate in France - no postage due  
Agent applied maritime “anchor” cancels and “Ligne H” datestamp - normally used on westbound mail

**Only known example of an eastbound letter posted on board a steamship**

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871

French Postage Prepaid



Franked 10¢ plus 60 centimes on August 5, 1870 in Jersey City, NJ - Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris*  
**Mixed franking fully prepaid letter to destination** - “ancre” cancels applied by mail agent on steamship



Franked 10¢ “F grill plus 60 centimes on April 30, 1870 in New York City - Ligne H steamer *St. Laurent*  
Insufficient French postage for double-weight letter - 10 décimes due (16 décimes rate less 6 décimes paid)

**Fewer than ten eastbound letters are known with French postage prepaid**

***1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA***

*French Direct Packet: January 1, 1870-June 30, 1871*

*Posted On Board Steamer*

The December 1869 French Imperial Decree set prepayments at 60 centimes per 10 grams, effective January 1, 1870. US July 1, 1864 Act for non-contract scheduled steamship service set 10¢ per ½ ounce collections.



Prepaid 60 centimes on board Ligne H steamer *Pereire* in Le Havre harbor on June 17, 1870  
Steamship mail agent applied “Ligne H” datestamp and cancelled stamps with maritime “ancre”  
10¢ due upon June 27 New York arrival per “N.Y. Steamship 10” postmark

**Fewer than 5 letters posted on board Ligne H steamships are known from this period**



**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1870-July 31, 1874

10¢ Fully-Paid Rate

Lower GB-to-France postage per September 1869 France-GB Treaty reduced the fully-paid rate to 10¢ per ½ oz., effective July 1, 1870. US credit to GB was 6¢ per 10 grams. This rate was finally published by the USPO on October 28, 1871.



Prepaid 10¢ on June 20, 1873 in Exeter, NH - franking from 1870 ungrilled Banknote Issue

June 20 Boston transit postmark - Cunard steamship *Batavia* from New York June 21

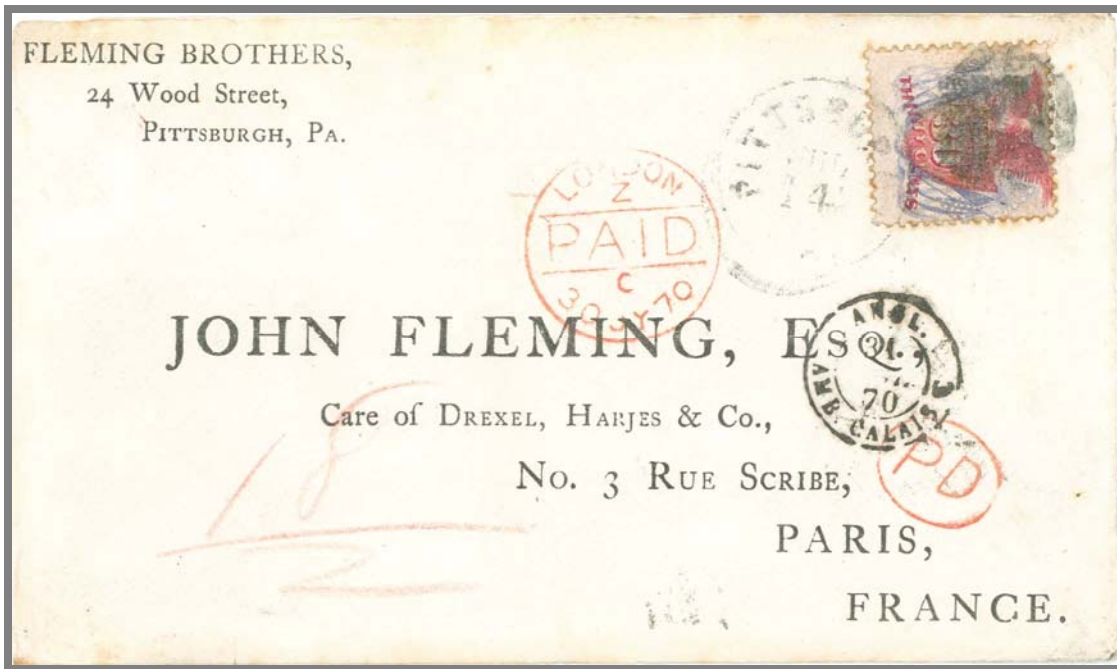
US credited GB 6¢ for 20 centimes French inland plus 2¢ GB transit

**Announcement of 10¢ fully-paid rate obsoleted 4¢ British open mail rate**

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1870-July 31, 1874

10¢ "Phantom" Rate



Prepaid 30¢ July 14, 1870 in Pittsburgh - HAPAG steamer *Silesia* - US triple-weight 18¢ credit to GB



Prepaid 10¢ November 5, 1870 in Maysville, KY - Inman steamer *City of Paris* - **addressed to besieged Paris**

**USPO finally published 10¢ Phantom rate on October 28, 1871, after 14 months of sporadic use**

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

4¢ British Open Mail Rate



Prepaid 4¢ on August 26, 1871 in New York - Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn* to Queenstown  
GB 40 centimes per 30 grams debit to France - 50 centimes due (10c for GB plus 40c inland)



Posted unpaid on June 6, 1874 in New Orleans - HAPAG steamer *Frisia* to Plymouth  
US 4¢ debit to GB - GB 2 francs per 30 grams debit to France - 12 décimes due

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Mixed Franking

April 21, 1871 French Law increased French prepayments to 12 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. This increase was retained by France, and was designed to make French direct packet mail service more competitive.



Prepaid 50 centimes direct route rate plus 10¢ US postage on February 2, 1872 in Paris  
**Attempted full prepayment of French direct packet route - accepted and routed via GB**  
Cunard steamer *Russia* - 2¢ GB credit to the US - 20¢ paid was 4¢ less than 12 décimes rate

**Fewer than five accepted mixed prepayments known**

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Unusual Frankings



Prepaid 12 décimes on October 5, 1871 in Cognac - **Bordeaux Issue 80c "88" variety** and 40c Inman steamer *City of Brussels* to New York on October 15 - 2¢ GB credit to the US



Prepaid 72 décimes (triple-weight 36 déc. postage plus 36 déc. registration) on July 20, 1874 in Paris **1863 Issue 5 franc stamp** - Cunard steamer *Java* - no credit accounting from GB to the USA

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

Packet Service via England: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Underpaid Mail



Underpaid 40 centimes (should be 12 décimes) on June 3, 1872 in Vezelay - Cunard steamer *Parthia*  
10¢ French debit to GB ("FR 2F") - 14¢ GB debit to US - **San Francisco 17¢ depreciated currency due**



Underpaid 10 décimes on August 28, 1871 in Bordeaux - 80c Bordeaux Issue and 20c Siege of Paris Issue  
Inman steamer *City of Baltimore* - 14¢ GB debit to US - 16¢ in coin or 18¢ in depreciated notes due

**Postage on underpaid letters was ignored - such letters were rated as wholly unpaid**

*1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France*

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

10¢ Direct Route Rate

April 21, 1871 French Law reduced postage on direct routes to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. This was an effort to increase the competitiveness of the French Line. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act.



Prepaid 10¢ July 20, 1871 in Eureka, CA - HAPAG steamer *Westphalia* left NY August 1  
August 13 “Etats-Unis Cherbourg” entry marking - 6 décimes due instead of proper 5 décimes

**From July to mid-August 1871, Cherbourg erroneously rated mail for 6 décimes due**

**By 1871, only the German-owned HAPAG Line was providing direct American packet service**

***1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA***

*American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874*

*Reduced French Prepayments*

France reduced the postage on direct routes from 6 décimes to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. This made French Line rates 20 centimes cheaper than mail via GB. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act.



Prepaid double-weight 1 franc on November 11, 1871 in Cette - Bordeaux Issue 30c and 40c stamps  
HAPAG steamer *Westphalia* to NY November 29 - 10¢ due per "N.Y. Steamship 10" postmark  
New Orleans repeated the 10¢ due with its rarely-seen "STEAMSHIP 10" marking

**German-owned HAPAG Line provided the only direct American packet service**



**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

American Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Unusual Usages



Prepaid 40 centimes September 3, 1871 in German-occupied Mulhouse - 1870 Alsace-Lorraine Issue stamps  
HAPAG steamer *Thuringia* - fully-paid direct rate from Alsace-Lorraine per 7/70 US-German Treaty



Prepaid 50 centimes on August 16, 1873 in Bordeaux - State Line steamer *Minnesota* left August 19  
Rarely-seen State Line ran direct from Bordeaux to New Orleans - 10¢ due on September 12 arrival

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France**

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Unusual Uses

April 21, 1871 French Law reduced postage for French-owned packets to 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per ½ oz.



Prepaid 10¢ on April 4, 1874 in New York - Ligne H steamer *Amerique* from New York  
*Amerique* was found derelict and foundering on April 15 - letter was water damaged



Mailed February 9, 1873 from Executive Mansion by **President U.S. Grant** - Ligne H *Washington*

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: USA to France

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

1869 Issue Frankings



Prepaid 10¢ on July 14, 1871 in Winnegance, ME - July 15 Ligne H embarkation postmark  
Ligne H steamer *Lafayette* from New York to Brest on July 26 - 5 décimes due



Overpaid expired 1857 Treaty 15¢ rate on November 27, 1871 in New Orleans - 5 décimes due  
Ligne H steamer *Ville de Paris* left New York on December 2 per Ligne H embarkation postmark

**1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA**

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Mixed Franking Not Accepted

Prepayments for French-owned packets were set at 5 décimes per 10 grams, effective July 1. US postage remained at 10¢ per the July 1864 US Act. Full prepayment was not possible unless both French and US postage was paid.



Prepaid 50 centimes and 10¢ on December 14, 1871 in Paris - paid to destination  
Ligne H steamer *Washington* from Le Havre to New York on January 8  
US charged 10¢ postage due, since 10¢ stamp had been cancelled by Paris star cancel

**Fewer than five mixed frankings from this period are known**

1870-74 Interim Non-Treaty Mail: France to the USA

French Direct Packet: July 1, 1871-July 31, 1874

Ligne H Postmarks



Prepaid double-weight 1 franc on board the *St Laurent* in Le Havre harbor on July 4, 1872

**Ligne H** postmark and “**ancre**” cancels applied during July 6 stop at Brest - 10¢ due



Prepaid 50c on July 3, 1872 in Bordeaux - “**Corr.d.Arm Lig. H Paq. F.**” transit postmark

**Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: USA to France**

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

17-Month 9¢ Period

April 28, 1874 France-US Treaty set 9¢ per 15 grams fully-prepaid rate, effective August 1. This was a “reciprocal” treaty, so no accounting of postage from either country to the other was necessary.



Prepaid 9¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on June 7, 1875 in New Orleans - Ligne H steamer *Péireire*  
“Etats-Unis Paq. Fr. Brest” entry marking indicates French direct packet route



Prepaid 9¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on April 10, 1875 in New York - North German Lloyd steamer *Neckar*  
“Etats-Unis V. Angl. Amb. Cal” entry mark for British mail via Calais

*Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: USA to France*

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

New York Supplementary Mail

For a supplementary fee equal to the regular postage paid, a late letter could be processed in New York after the regular mails had closed.



Prepaid 36¢ in 1873 Issue stamps on December 4, 1875 in New York - NGL steamer *Hermann*  
Double-weight 18¢ rate plus 18¢ supplementary fee - 'NEW YORK SUP PAID' postmark



Prepaid triple-weight supplementary 54¢ on December 16, 1875 in New York - HAPAG steamer *Frisia*

***Mail Exchanged Under 1874 France-USA Treaty: France to the USA***

Packet Service: August 1, 1874-December 31, 1875

50 Centimes Fully-Prepaid Rate

April 28, 1874 France-US Treaty set 50 centimes per 15 grams fully-prepaid rate, effective August 1. This rate applied to all routes between France and the USA.



**Forwarded by Drexel Harjes & Co. on December 30, 1874 in Paris**

Prepaid 50 centimes in 1871 25 centimes type III stamps

Inman steamer *City of Brooklyn* from Liverpool to New York