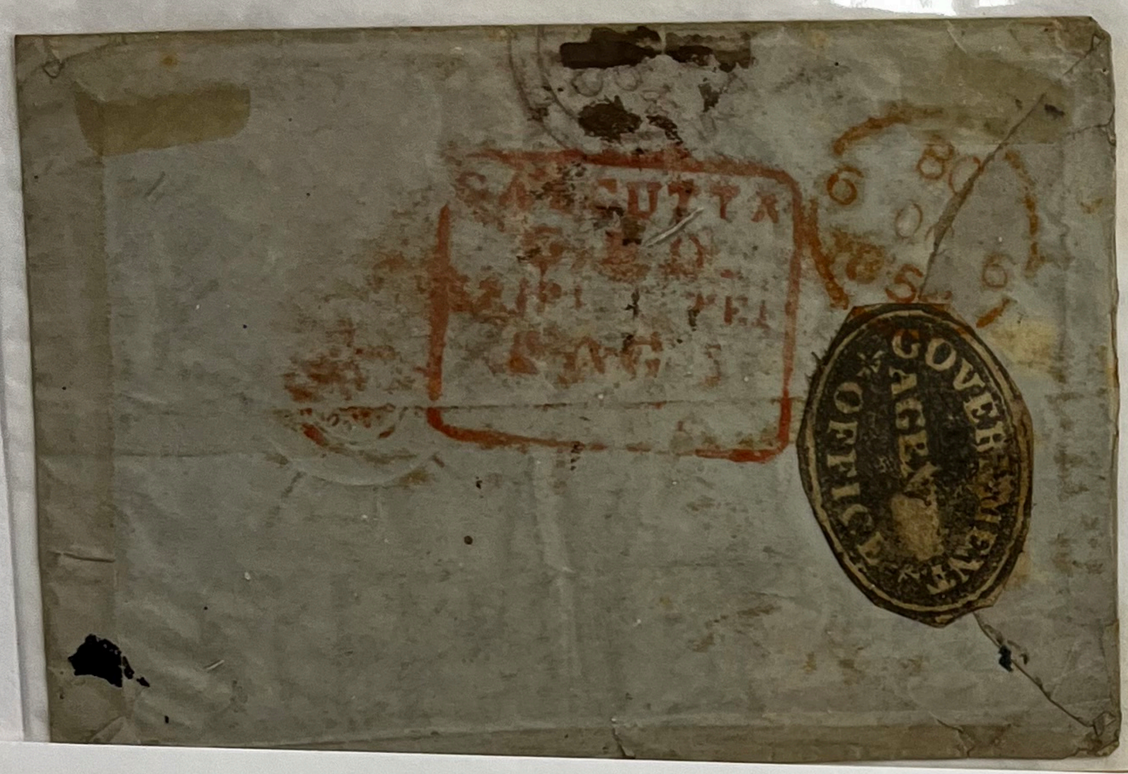
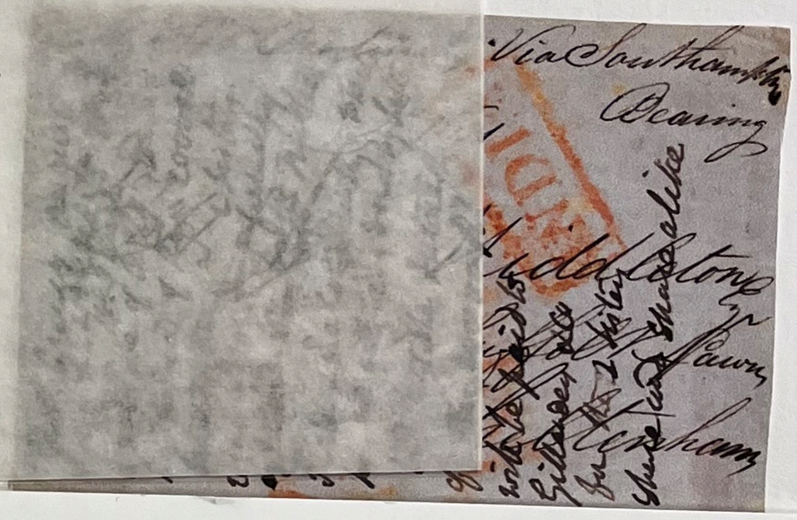
Photo for cat.





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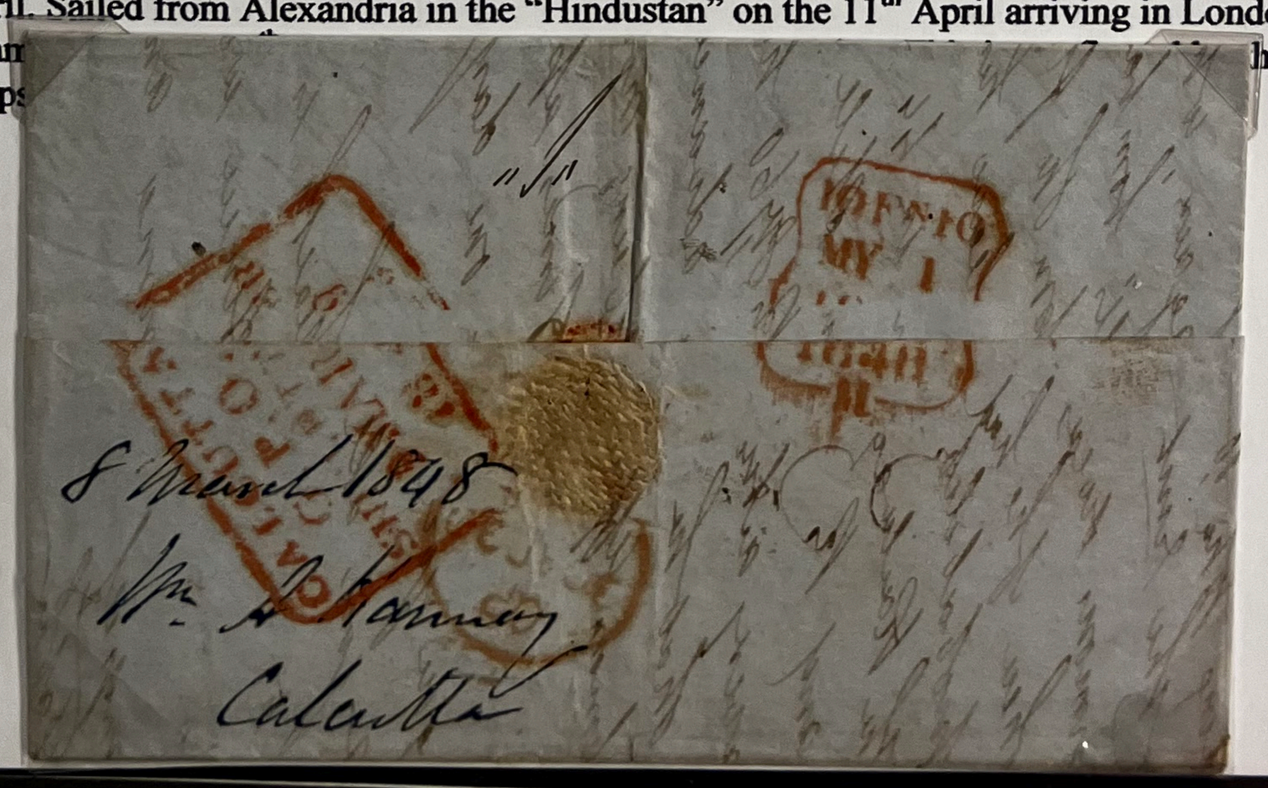
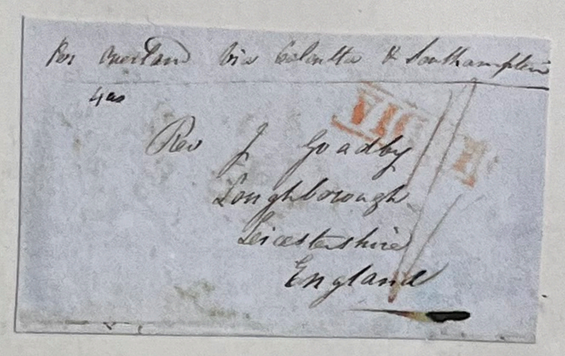
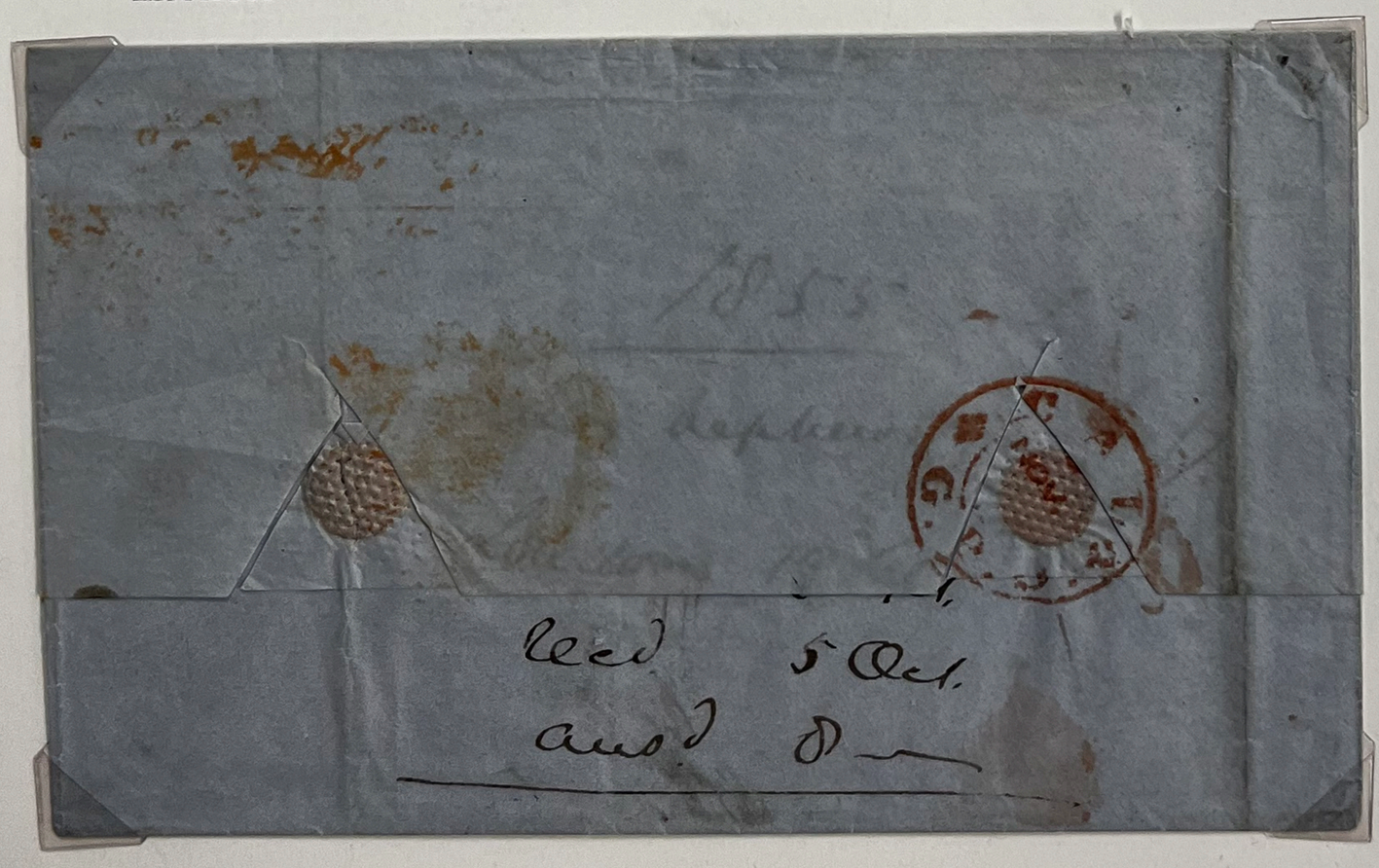
An entire letter from a A.Hannay to his father, written in Calcutta on the 8th March 1848. He was employed by the Central Indian Railway Co. but lost his job together with a large number of other men when the Co. got into difficulties. He still intends trying to fimd work in India but apparently it is difficult. Letter posted on the 9th March with ~~CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP~~ LETTER DATED 9TH MAR 1848 handstamp and " INDIA" in a Rectangle The letter is addressed to Regents Park, London .The forwarding instructions are"Per "Bentinck" via Southampton.. The letter was probably despatched from Bombay in the East India Co. steamer "SESOSTRIS" on the15th March, arriving in Aden on the 24th March. It was then transferred to the "Bentinck" and sailed from Aden on the 29th March and arrived in Suez on the 6th April. Sailed from Alexandria in the "Hindustan" on the 11th April arriving in London via Southan he Handstamps



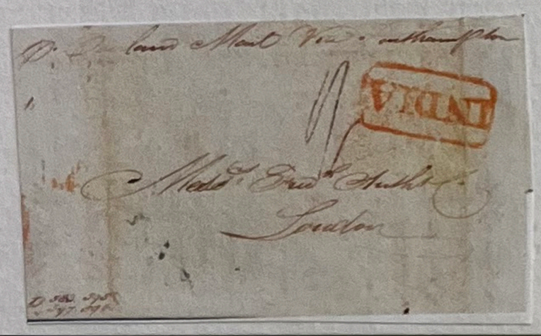
An entire letter written by a priest to a friend concerning church problems. There is no address or date from where the letter was written. The handstamp in red of the local post office is not clear but the date of despatch is April 1850 and amount of postage to the ship is clear, 4As.The letter passed through the Calcutta GPO where the "Calcutta Ship Letter", HG Type SD21, in use from 1849-54 was applied together with the rectangular "INDIA" HG Type SD17, in use from 1846-55. From the dates it can be deduced that the letter left Bombay in the EIC steam frigate "MOOZAFFIR", a ship of 1440 tons, a 500HP engine and 8 guns on the 17th April and arrived in Aden on the 27th April. The mail was then transferred to the P&O ship "HADDINGTON" which sailed on the 29th April arriving in Suez on the 6th May. Mail then sent overland to Alexandria and loaded into P&O Ship"Ripon" which sailed f or Southampton on the 9th May and arrived on the 25th May.The arrival habdstamp confirms the date and the delivery in Loughborough on the 26th May.1850.The postage charged by th U.K GPO was sh1/- Transit Time 54 Days.



An outer addressed to a Mr.Lee, Calcutta posted in London on the 19 September 1855.Received in Calcutta November 1855, receipt stamp HG Type G21 in use from 1855-58. Note manuscript 5th October is incorrect

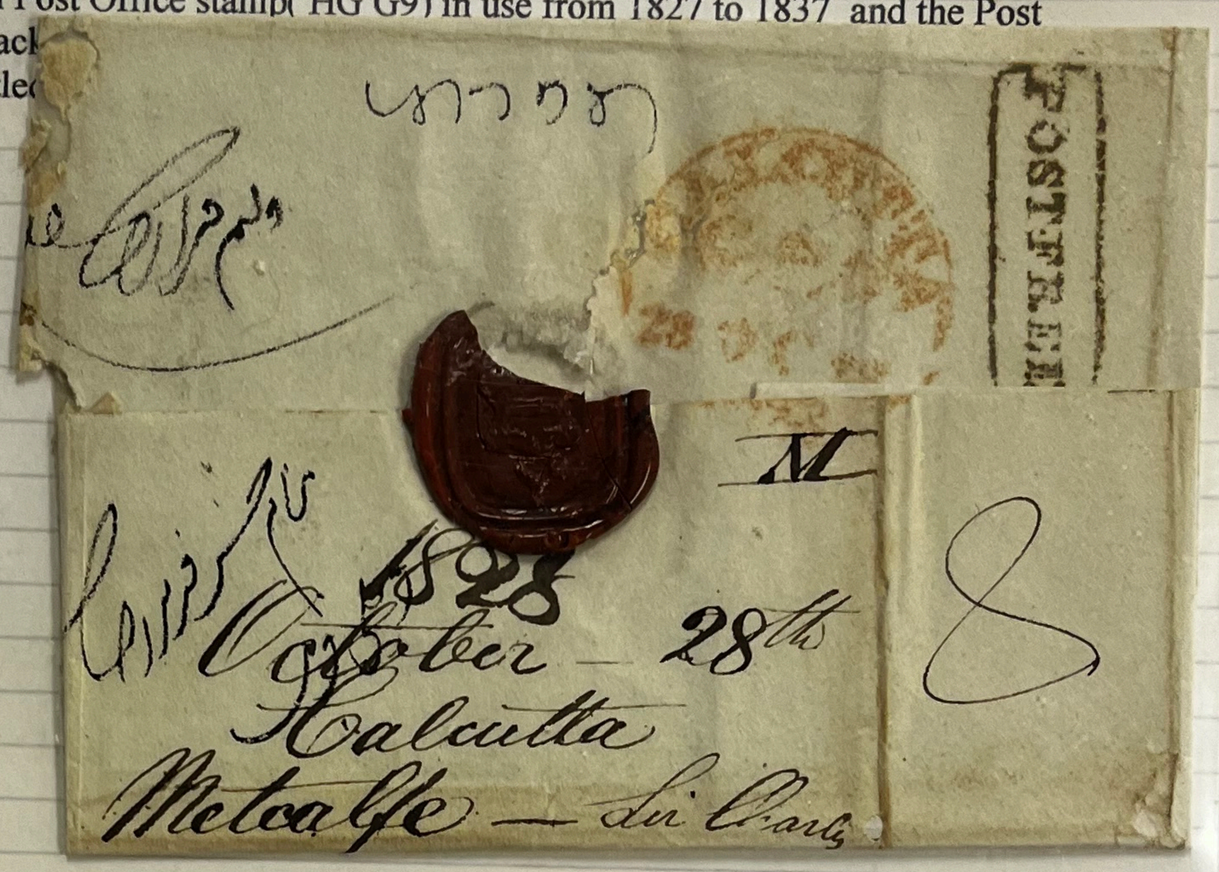


An entire letter from Calcutta dated 6th September 1845.This refers to a letter, just arrived dated 24th July. An interesting postscript " It has unquestionably been estimated that two boxes of Overland letters have been lost in the desert on the route from Alexandria to Suez without the prospect of recovery. We only hope none of our address is missing." The letter is to be sent "Overland Mail via ~Southampton". On the front is rectangular INDIA probably HG 16, in use from 1838-45 a Calcutta handstamp . On the reverse is the rectangular CALCUTTA steam letter –date-paid HG SD12 IN USE FROM 1837-51.(Overland by Govt steamers ex Bombay.). The letter left Bombay on board the E.I.C. steamer "Semiramis " on the 1st October and arrived in Suez on the 19th .It was carried overland and was loaded into the "Iberia" at Alexandria and sailed for Malta on the 26th where it was transferred onto the "Tagus" and arrived in Southampton on the 8th November and is dated London 9th November.Transit Time 8 Weeks.



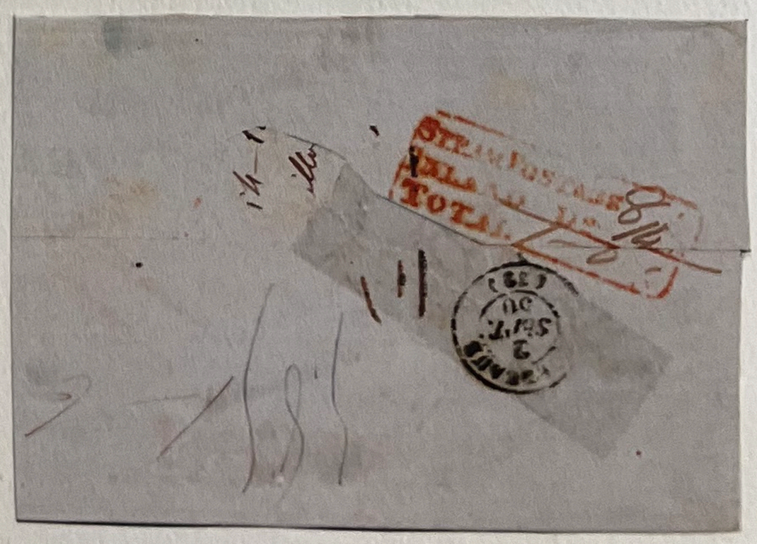
Part of an entire letter dated 9th August 1843 from Calcutta to London. On the reverse side is the handstamp "Calcutta Shi p Letter" HG SD11, in use from 1837-54.The sender hs specified that the letter should be "per steamer Hindoostan..The arrival stamp gives the date as 9th October 1843. There are no other postal marks.

Outer cover of a letter from Sir Charles Metcalf, who landed in Calcutta on the 1st January 1801 not yet 16, his father was a Director of The East India Company. He was Governor General for two years and then gave way to Lord Aukland and becamethe Lieutenant Governor of the North West Provinces.
The cover is dated 28th October 1828 addressed to Wm.Fraser Esq. It has the red Calcutta General Post Office stamp(HG G9) in use from 1827 to 1837 and the Post Free stamp in black
presumably entitle



stamp "INDIA" in a rectangle (HG SD17 in use from 1846-55);

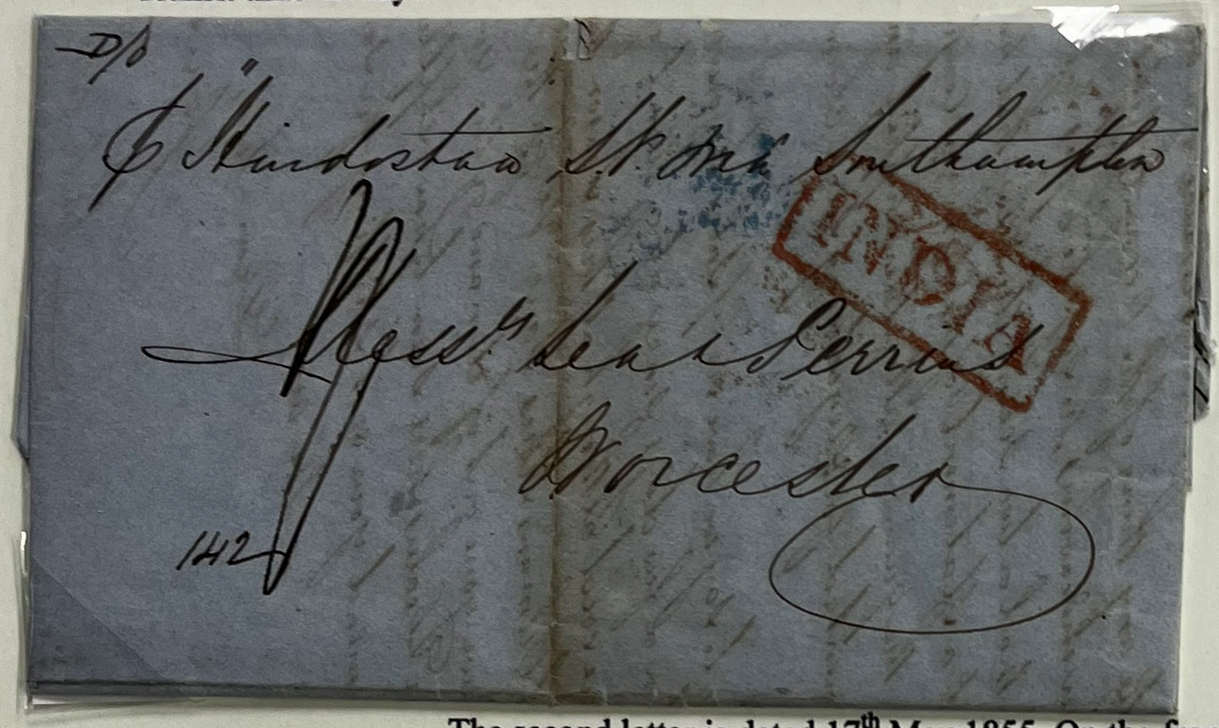
An entire letter from Calcutta dated 12th July 1850 to an address in Bordeaux. The front shows the typical "INDIA" in a rectangle , H.G.17, in use from 1846-55. There is the "INDIA PAID" in a rectangle 31mm x 8mm . This was added in Bombay , HG. SD9, in use from 1844-57, indicating overland post. There is also in Red a circular handstamp which is possibly the French "Marsailles" transit stamp. On the reverse of the letter there is "STEAM POSTAGE- INLAND Do –TOTAL" This would appear to have been applied in Calcutta Hammond Giles shows this as SR 44 in use from 1837-45 in Black. The amounts are Steam Postage 8As. and Inland Postage 14As. with a Total of Rs.1-6-0. There is also the "Bordeaux" receipt stamp with the date 2nd Sept 50. Transit time 52 days.



Two entire letters addressed to Lea and Perrins, Worcester from an importer, Mackenzie,Lyll, Calcutta boyh relating to the sales of "Worcester Sause".Both contain details of sales. Lea & Perrins produced their sauce from 1837 and clearly it was well known by the ex pats both Civil and army.

The first letter is dated 6th September 1852.. On the front is the hand stamp "INDIA" in a rectangle(HG SD18 in use from 1851-6) On the rear is "G.P.O. with date " in a rectangle (HG G18 in use from 1851-58). There are two arrival stamps both dated Oct.21.

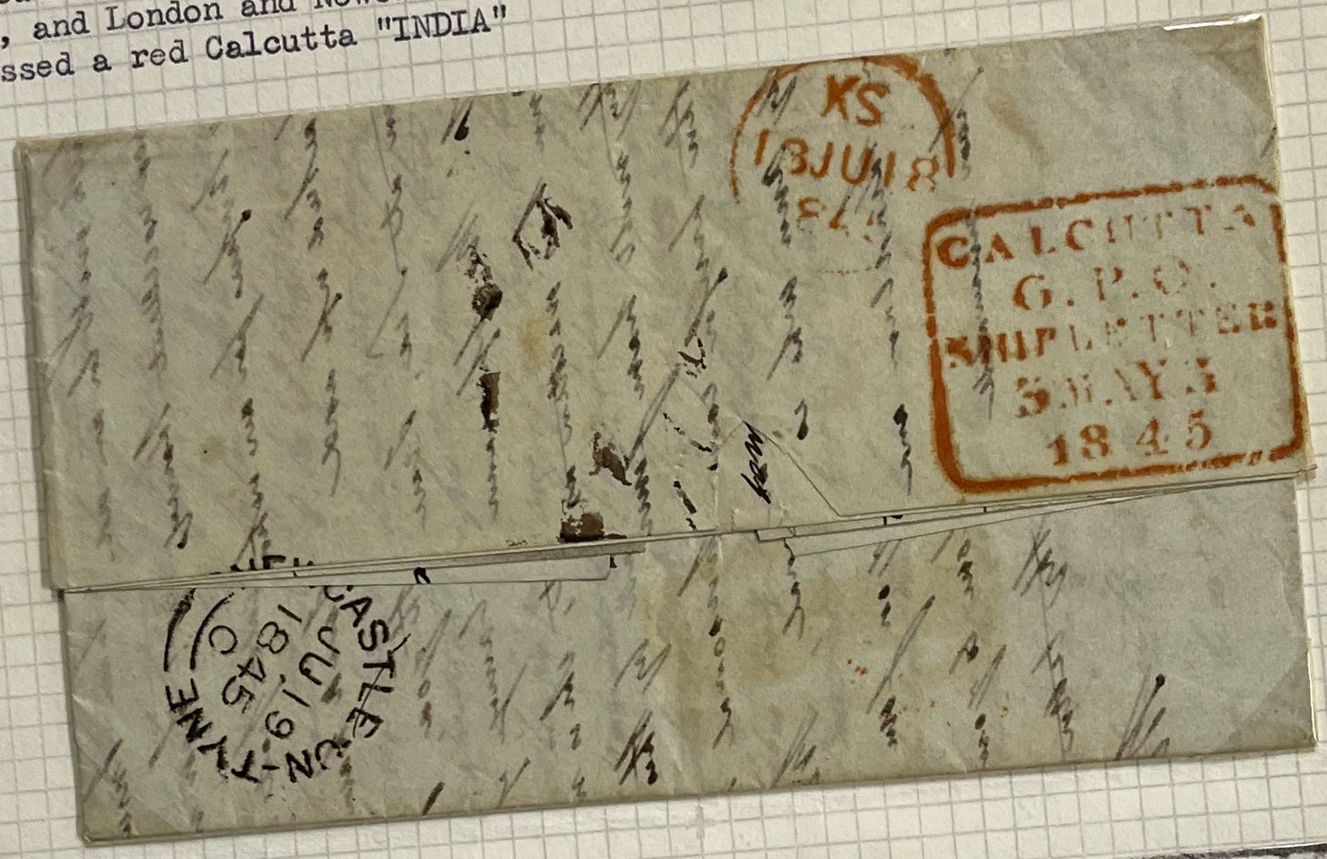
Transit time 45 days

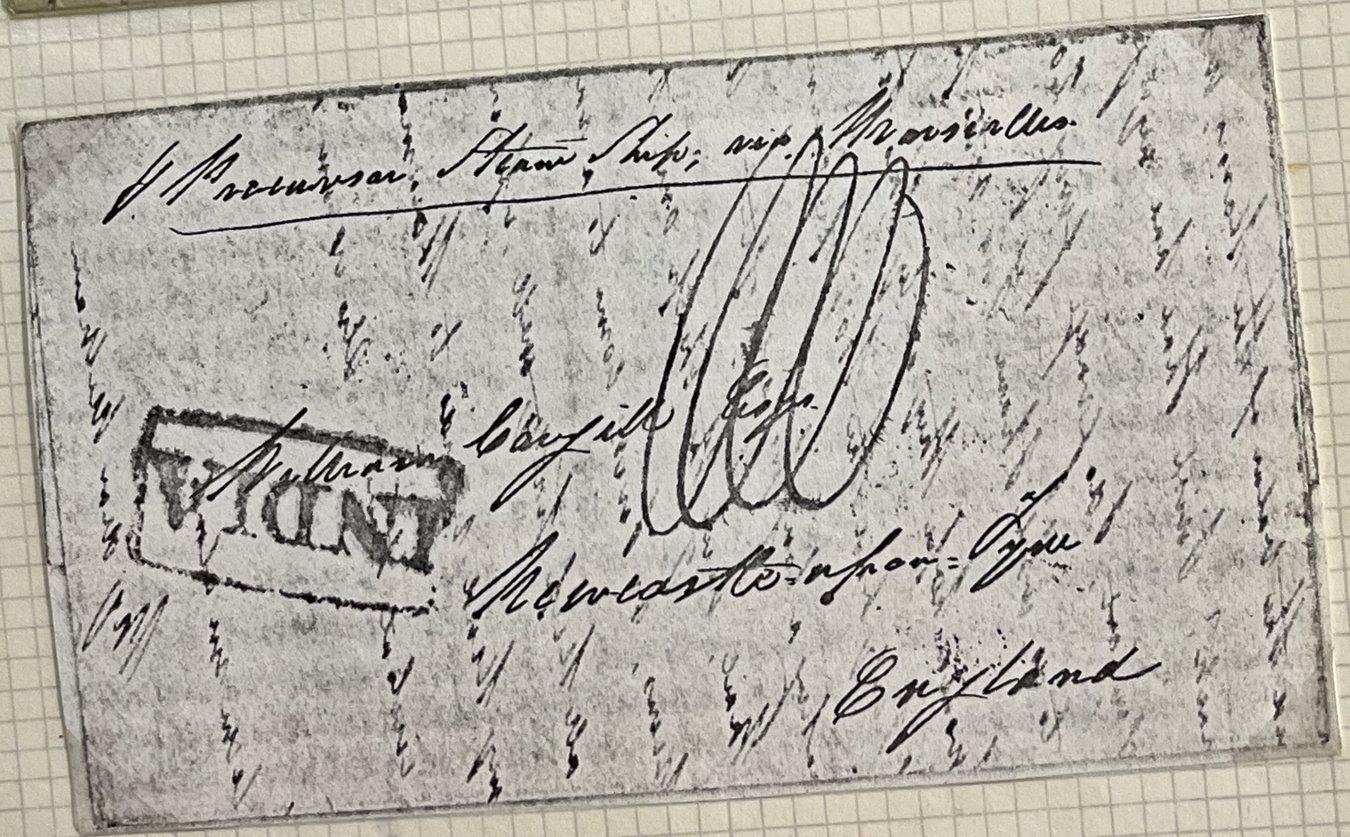


The second letter is dated 17th May 1855. On the front is the Calcutta hand stamp "INDIA" in a rectangle (HG SD17 in use from 1846-55). On the reverse is the house stamp and a G.P.O stanp in red. This stamp is not clear except that it appears to be dated May and is therefore a despatch stamp. The date of arrival in the U.K. is 7th July 1855.

Transit time. 51 days.

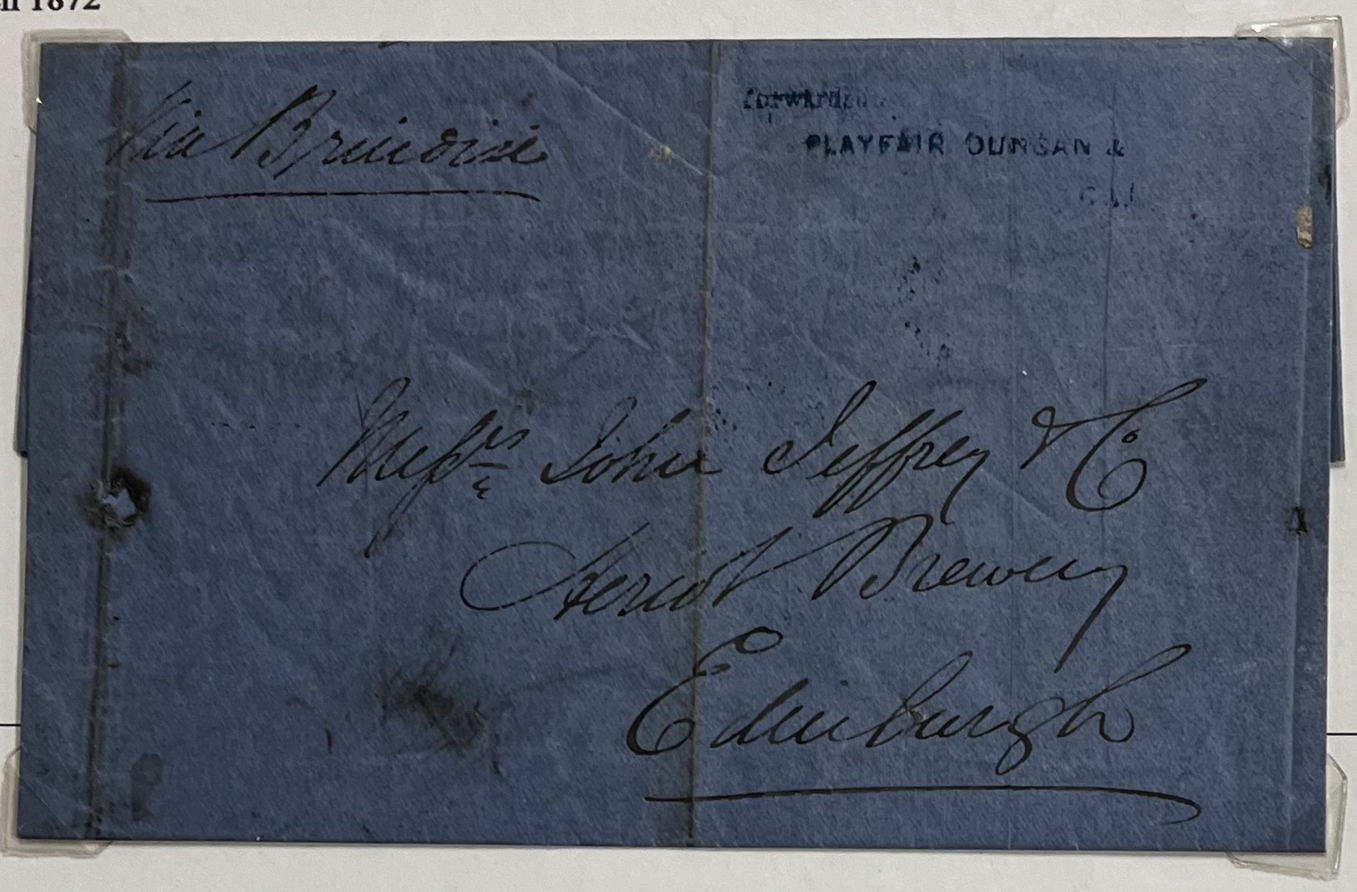
By the introduction of the Post Office Act 1837, all ship letter marks of Calcutta were impressed in red. The letter below, of 3rd. May 1845, carried by the 'Percursor Steamship', shows a "CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER" strike of 3rd. May 1845, and London and Newcastle-on-Tyne receipt marks, while on the front there is impressed a red Calcutta "INDIA"





16434

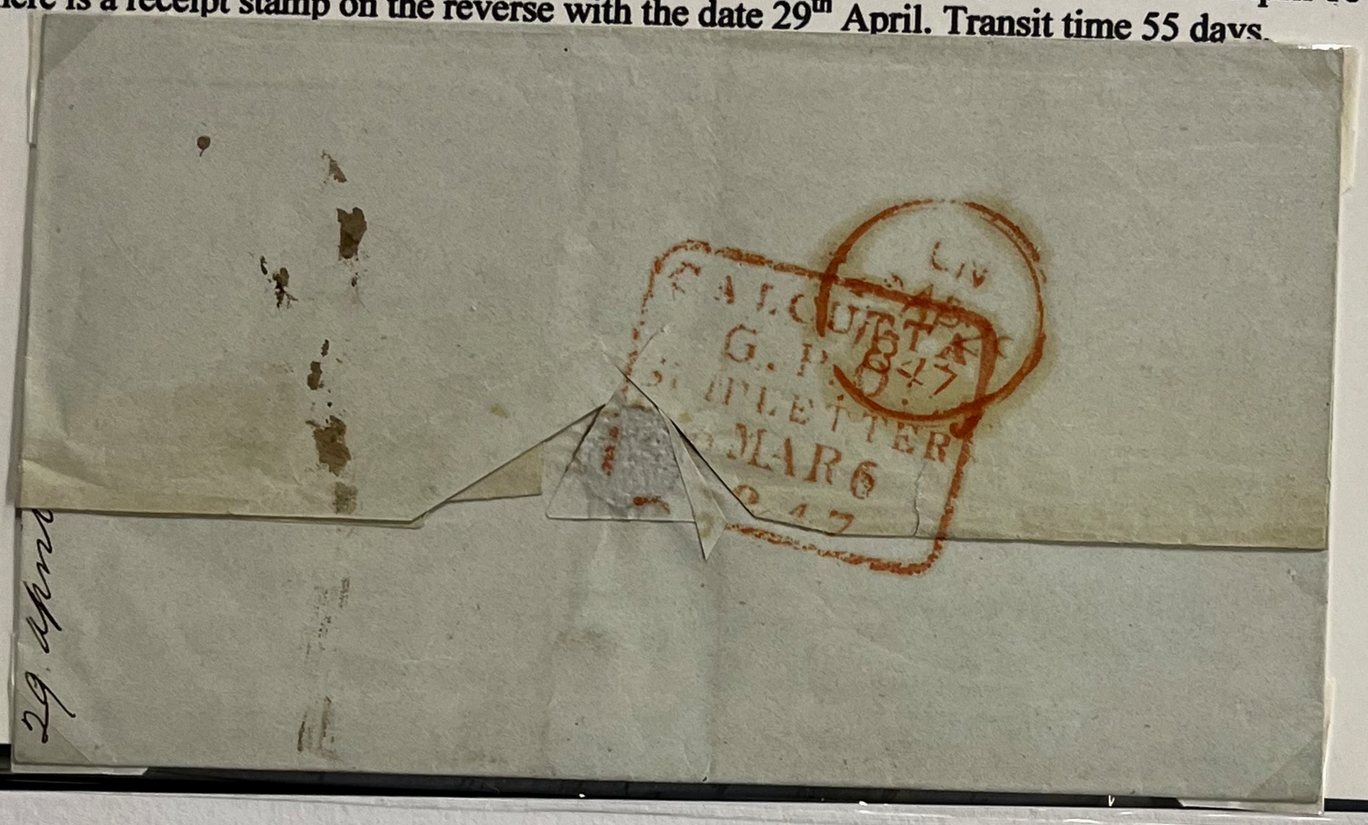
Entire letter from "Playfair Duncan & Co." , Calcutta, clearly agent for the Heriot Brewery, Edinburgh, concerning the stocks of bottled beers and sales prices. Letter posted in Calcutta on the 23rd February 1872. The letter is apparently unstamped and bears no cancel. However, there is the a receipt stamp in RED FOR Calcutta …paid dated 23rd Feb 1872. The instructions on the letter are via Brindisi and the letter arrived i9n Edinburgh on the 18th March 1872



~~ENTIRE LETTER DATED 7TH FEBRUARY 1845 POSTED IN CALCUTTA WITH~~ "CALCUTTA G.P.O.SHIP LETTER HANDSTAMP IN RED DATED 8TH FEB 18452 " (HG SD11) in use from 1937-1854. Framed INDIA im RED (HG SD16) Letter endorsed "Per Precursor Steamer. French handastamps Marsailles , Paris,in red and Rouen in black (Arrival) 23 March 1845. Transit time 6 weeks

Outter cover of a letter from Calcutta dated 18th February 1847 addressed to London. The instructions are for the letter to be sent "Overland via Southampton." And per "Steamer Bentinck". The cover bears the Calcutta Ship Letter Handstamp HG SD 11 in red with the date 6 MAR 1847.This stamp was in use from 1837 to 1854.On the front is the "INDIA" handstamp HG SD17 in red which was in use from 1846 to 1855.

The letter was sent by the East India Co. steamer "Sesostris" from Bombay on the 11th March and arrived at Aden on the 28th March where it was transferred to the P & O Steamer "Bentinck"which sailed from Aden on the same day and arrived in Suez on the 4th April 1847.It was then carried overland to Alexandria and loaded on to the P & O ship Ariel which sailed for Malta arriving on the 14th April. It was then transferred into the P & O ship Ripon which sailed from Malta on the 16th April and arrived in Southampton on the 29th April 1847. There is a receipt stamp on the reverse with the date 29th April. Transit time 55 days.

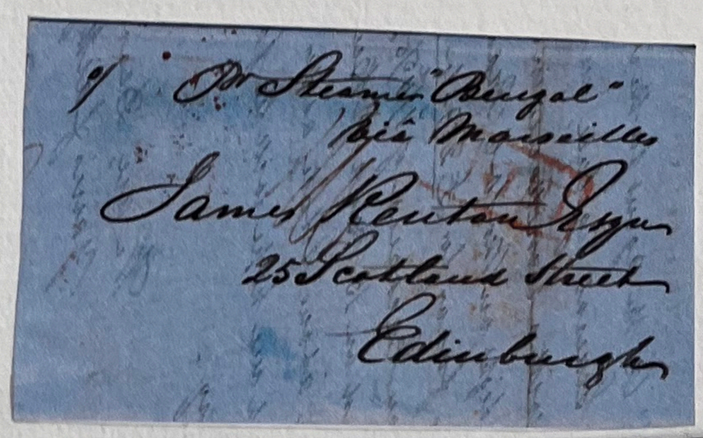


An entire letter dated 20th January 1845 from a Company in Calcutta to Messrs. Frederick Huth, London advising of the despatch of 30 chests of Indigo per the ship "Martin Luther". On the front is the handstamp "INDIA"in a rectangle, HG Type SD16 in use 1838-45. On the reverse is the handstamp "CALCUTTA Steam Letter/ date/ Paid with the manuscriptRs.1-As12. On the front is the instruction "Overland Mail via Marsailles." From the London arrival stamp-7th March it is clear that the letter left Bombay in the E.I.C regular steamer "Victoria" on the 2nd February and arrived in Suez on the 18th February. It was then carried overland to Alexandria and put in the P&O ship "Iberia" on the 21st February and arrived in Malta on the 26th February. It left Malta on the same day in the "Locust", an H.M.Packet and arrived in Marsailles on the 2nd March and in London on the 7th March.1845. Transit time 6 ½ weeks.

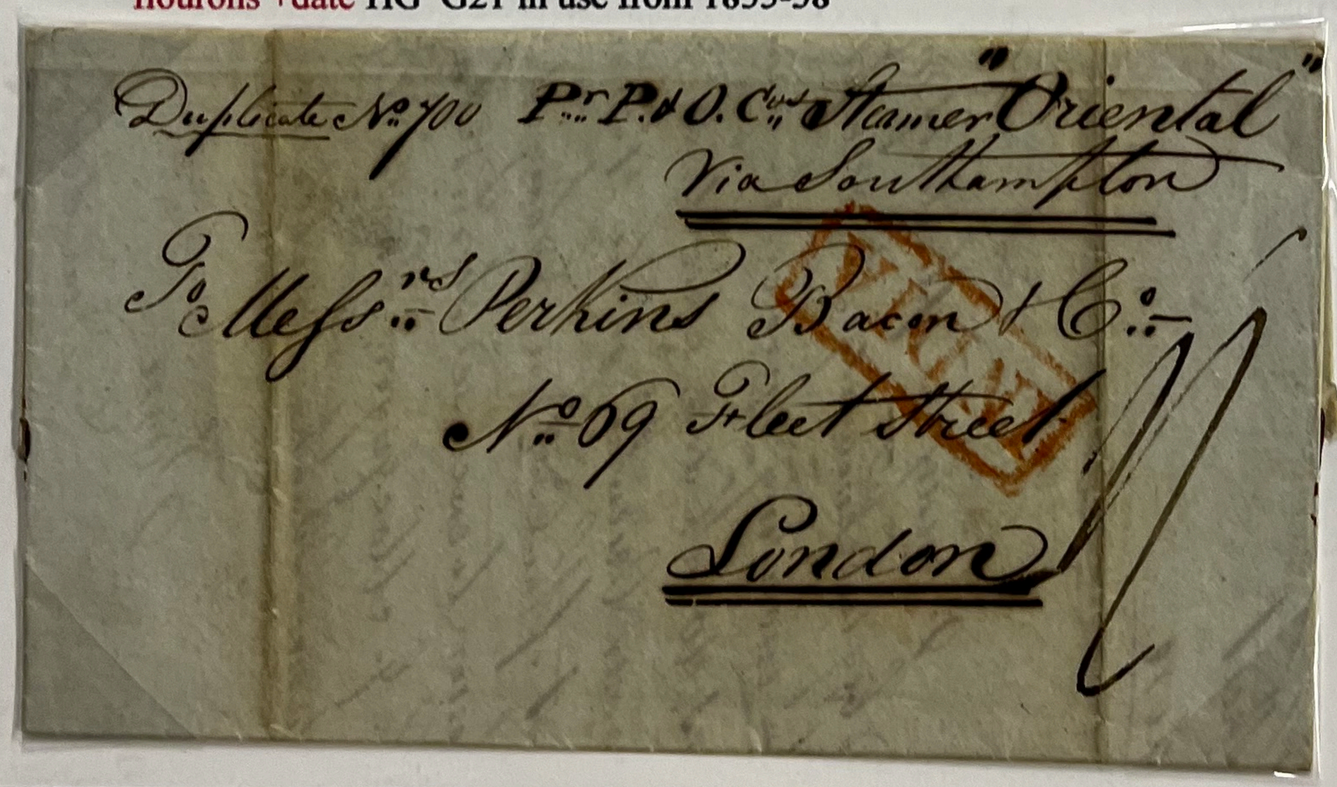
An entire letter from Bradden & Co. Calcutta to Edinburgh. The letter is dated 10th July 1854 and was received by the Post Office on the 12th July. The "CALCUTTA SHIP LETTER SHIP LETTER 12 JULY 1854" HG Type SD21 in use from 1849-54 was affixed together with "INDIA" in a rectangle HG Type 17 in use from 1846-55. This indicated that the letter was to be sent via Marsailles. The ship "Bengal" left India on the 16th July for Suez and the letter sent overland to Alexandria where it was loaded into the P & O ship "Valetta" which left Alexandria on the 20th August arriving in Marsailles on the 27th.The postal charge for letter under ½ oz.of sh1/10

The letter arrived in London on the 29th August 1854 and the handstamp was applied

Transit time 49 days.

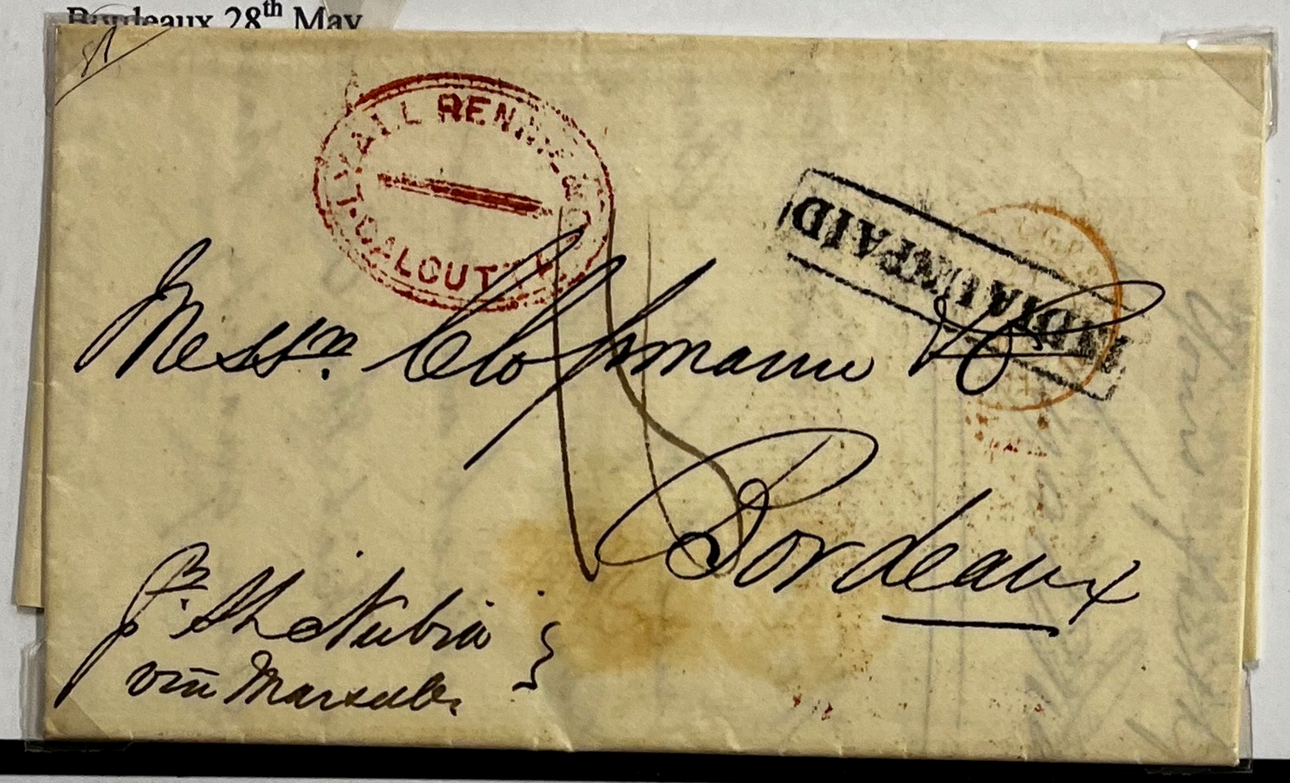


Entire letter dated 22nd August 1855 from the Bank of Bengal regarding the quarterly supply of cheques. On the from is INDIA IN RECTANGLE HG SD18 in use by Calcutta from March 1851 to April 1856. The reverse has the Calcutta General Post Office CALwith flourons +date HG G21 in use from 1855-58



An entire letter from Calcutta to Liverpool dated 16th February 1841.On the front of

Entire letter from Lyall Rennie&Co, Calcutta to Bordeaux dated 22nd April 1861, confirming the arrival by the ship "Bengal" of 465 cases of red wine. Letter says"we hope the wine may turn out to be of better quality than the previous shipment".Letter ex Calcutta 22nd April 1861 HG Type G26 except EX for SLin Red with rectangular UNPAID in black.HG SD29 in use 1857-62.Arrived Marsailles 26th May and Bordeaux 28th May

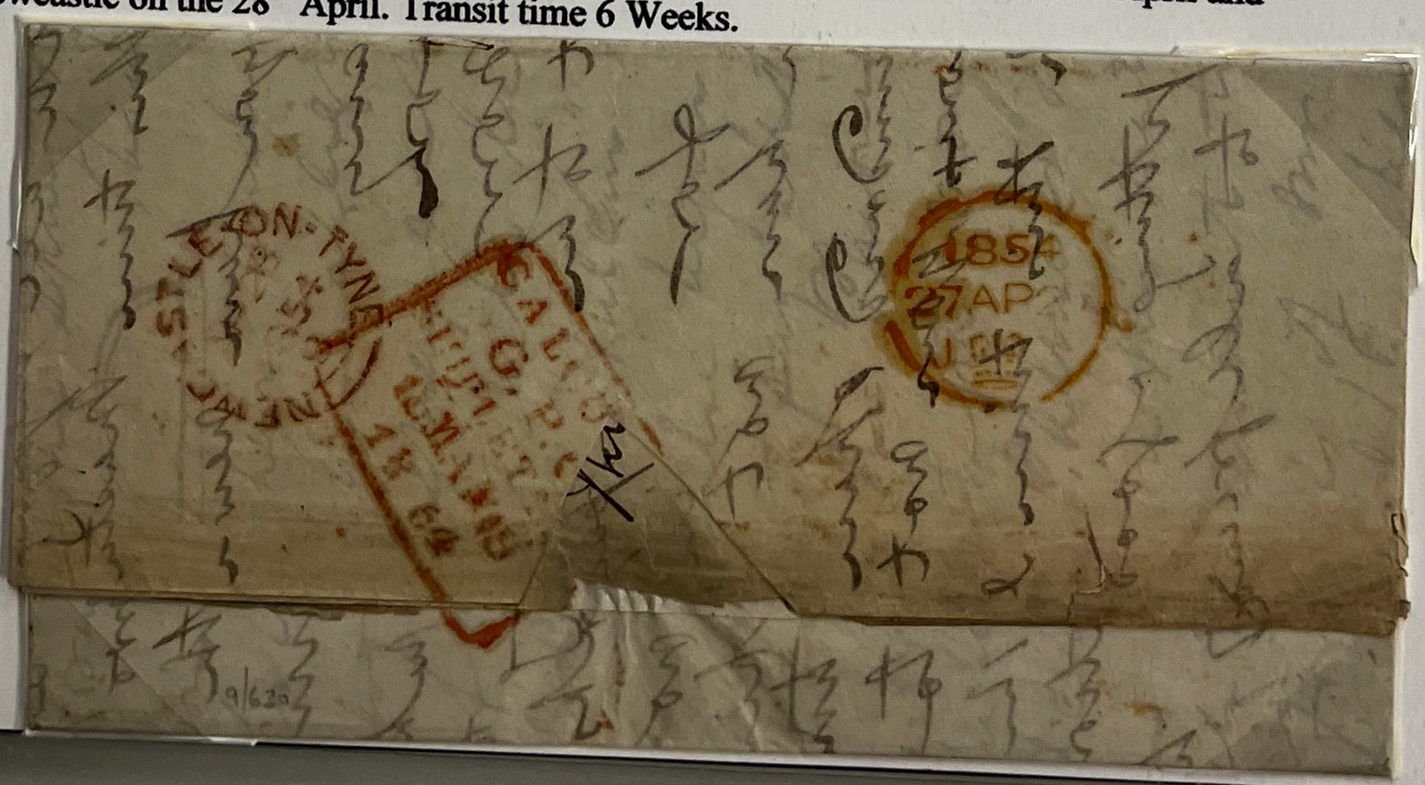


Outer cover for a letter from Calcutta to Scotland. The letter would appear to be dated 16th August 1841. On the front is the INDIA in a rectangle HG Type SD16 in use from 1838-45 (Calcutta). However on the reverse is the Calcutta Steam Letter stamp HG Type SD indicating that it should be sent overland by government steamers ex-Bombay. The date is unclear but the UK date stamp is dated 9th January 1842. The time taken does not agree with any of the ship sailings.

An entire letter from Calcutta to Liverpool dated 16th February 1841.On the front of the letter is the rectangular "INDIA" (HG 16)in use from 1838-45 On the reverse is

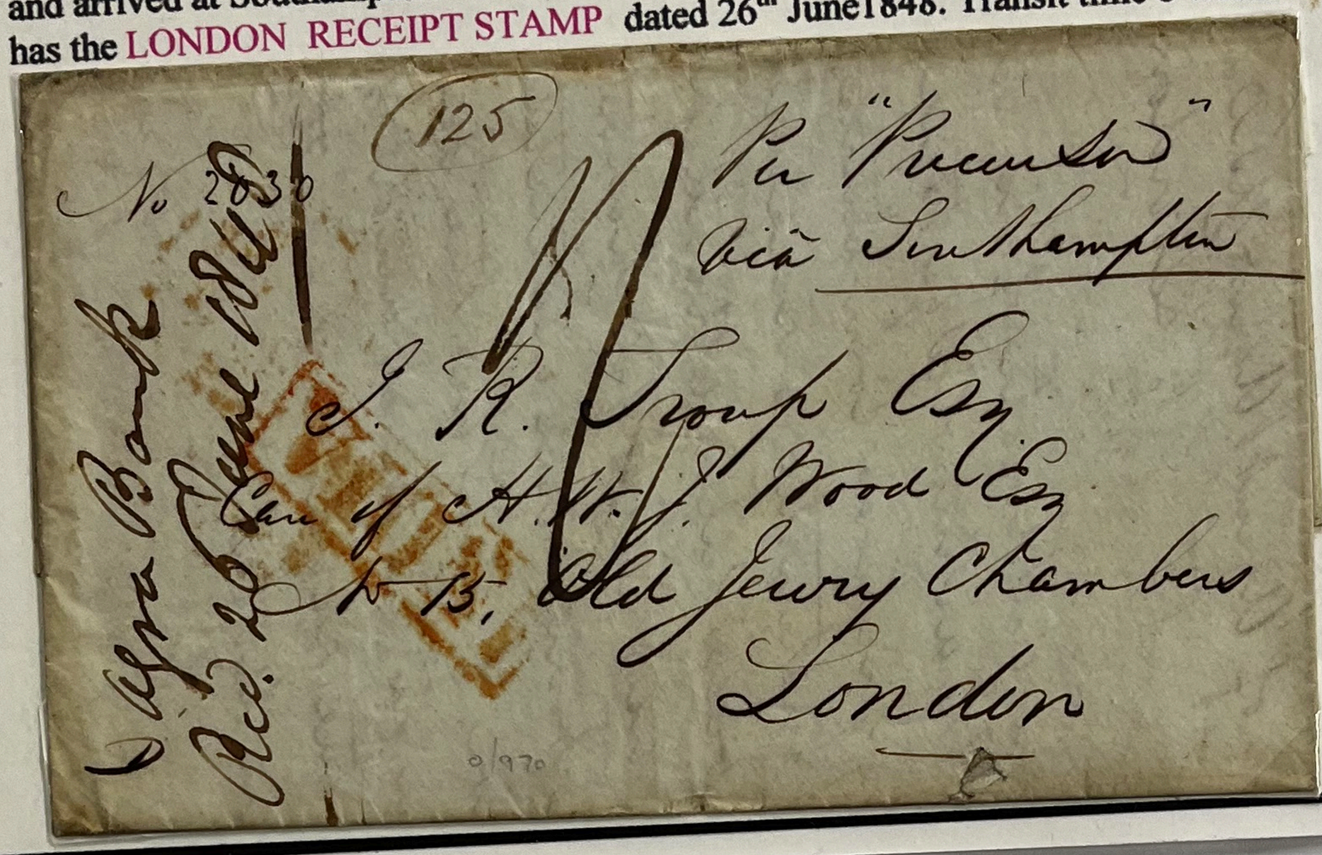
An entire letter from Calcutta to London. The mailing instruction is "Via Bombay and Marsailles". The letter is dated 20th November 1847. On the front is INDIA in a rectangle HG/SD17 in use from 1846 – 1855. On the reverse is the handstamp CALCUTTA, steam letter, date, paid ,HG/SD12 used for overland mail by Government Steamers ex Bombay. From 1837-1851.The letter left Bombay in the E.I.C.steamer "Victoria" on the 1st December and arrived in Suez via Aden on the 16th December. Carried overland to Alexandria and put on board the P&O ship "ARIEL" which sailed on the 26th December 1847 arriving in Malta on the 31st December. The mail via Marsailles was then transferred to the "Flamer" and arrived in Marsailles on the 4th January 1848 and London on the 8th January. The is a London arrival stamp with the date 8th January and the charge 2/3d.. Transit time 50days.

Entire letter from a Mr. Ward in Calcutta to Mr.Edward Glyn in Newcastle. The letter is dated 18th March 1854 and the contents relate to the building of a Ship "Phoenix" ,a ship which will join the "Vulcan" already in Calcutta. The letter passed through the Calcutta Post Office in the 18th March and has the Ship Letter Handstamp CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER HG SD21 in use from 1849 to 1854. There is also INDIA in a rectancle HG SD 18, in use from 1851to 1856. The mailing instructions are for the letter to go "Overland via Marsailles". The letter left Bombay aboard the EIC "Victoria" on the 28th March and was in Aden on the 7/8 April and arrived in Suez on the 16th April. Carried overland to Alexandria and left for Malta on the 19th April aboard the "Colomba" . Transshipped into the "Valetta" and sailed on the 22nd April arriving Marsailles on the 25th April and London on the 27th April and Newcastle on the 28th April. Transit time 6 Weeks.



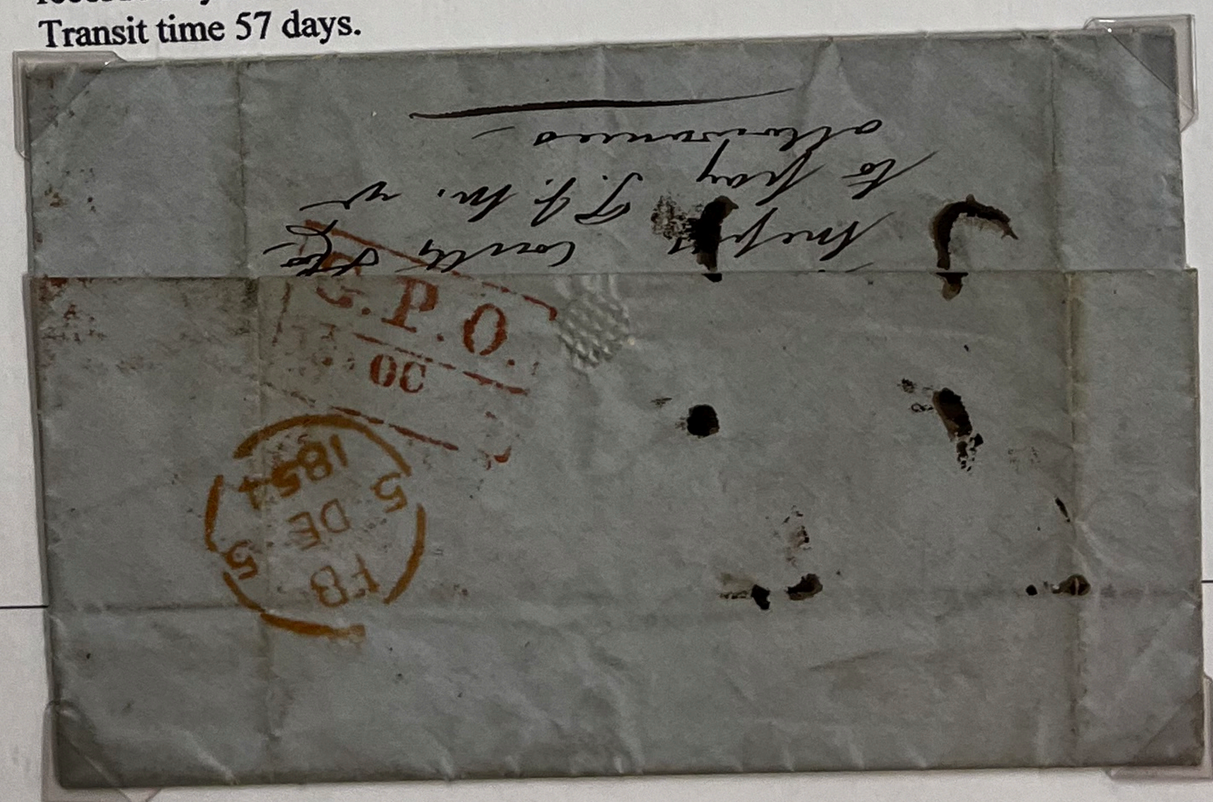
An entire letter from Calcutta to Liverpool dated 16th February 1841.On the front of
rectangular "INDIA" (HG 16)in use from 1838-45.On the reverse is
1841-Paid" (HG12)in use from

Entire letter dated 18th April 1848 from Calcutta to London. In the front is INDIA in a rectangle. This was used for all letters despatched abroad and is HG-SD17 in use from 1948 to 1855. On the reverse is CALCUTTA G.P.O. SHIP LETTER 1 MAY 1 1848 in 39 X 30 mm rectangle. This is HG-SD11 in use from 1837-54. On the front is the instruction to be despatched on the ship "Precurser" via Southampton. The "precursor" reached Aden on the 29th May and Suez on the 6th June. The mail then overland to Alexandria and was then transferred to the "Hindoostan"and left on the 9th June . The ship stopped at Malta, Gibralter and arrived at Southampton on the 25th June and London on the 26th June 1848. The reverse has the LONDON RECEIPT STAMP dated 26th June1848. Transit time 8 weeks.



An entire from the Honary Secretary,Bengal Civil Fund Office dated 9th October 1854 concerning the payment of a sum through Messrs. Coutts Bank, London of Mrs.Maples allowances to Mr. Maples"under the peculiar circumstance".

On the front is the INDIA in a rectangle Type HG17 in use by Calcutta from 1846-55. On the reverse is the Calcutta General Post Office handstamp in RED with metal date slug similar to HGType G16 in use from 1850. The date slug is for both day and month and is not recorded by Hammond Giles.The London stamp is dated 5DEC 1854. Transit time 57 days.



4

An entire letter from Calcutta to Liverpool dated 16th February 1841.On the front of the letter is the rectangular "INDIA" (HG 16)in use from 1838-45.On the reverse is the handstamp "CALCUTTA steam letter :16 Feb 1841:Paid" (HG12)in use from 1837-51,Overland by Govt. steamers ex-Bombay. There are also two hand stamps put on in the U.K. [illegible]

From 1830,the East India Company established a regular steamship service from Bombay to the Red Sea and mail if specified by the sender was sent by the 'Overland' route via the Mediterranean Sea to Falmouth. From 1837,mail could either be despatched via Falmouth or the shorter route through France via Marsailles.The INDIA in red Handstamp is thought to indicate to postal staff in the U.K. that the letter had come overland and was to be charged at a higher rate.

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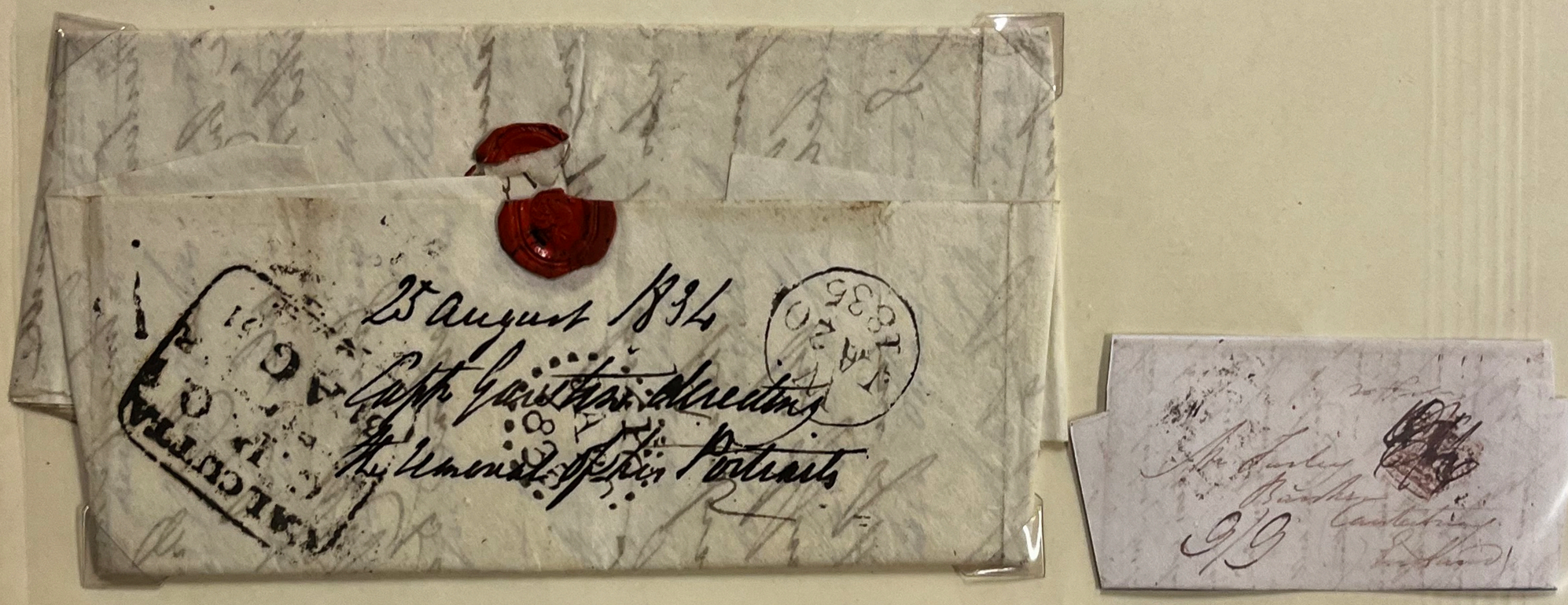
MADE AND PRINTED IN ENGLAND

An entire letter from Calcutta to Liverpool dated 16th February 1841.On the front of the letter is the rectangular "INDIA" (HG 16)in use from 1838-45.On the reverse is the handstamp "CALCUTTA steam letter :16 Feb 1841:Paid" (HG12)in use from 1837-51,Overland by Govt. steamers ex-Bombay. There are also two handstamps put on in the U.K , both dated 13th April. The one in black was [illegible]

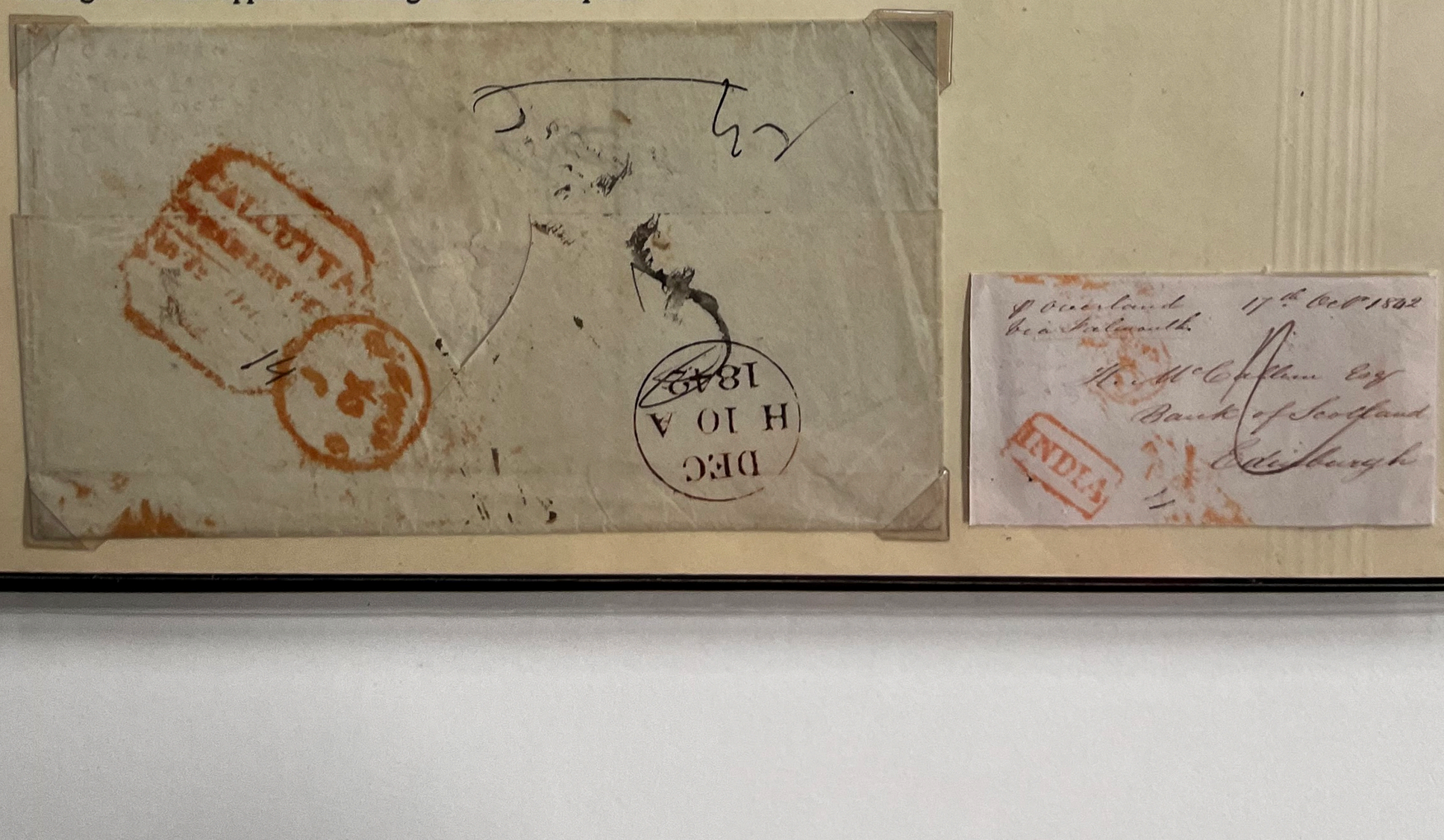
An enteire letter from Berhampure, headquartersof Murshidabad District to Canterbury Kent., dated 25th August 1834 to the Executor of a Captain Garston's Grandmother's will with a number of queries.

Calcutta G.P.O.Ship Letter (Despatch (H.G.type SD 9) in black, dated 31st August 1834.By the dates this letter to the U.K. was despatched by the Ship Forbes on its second and last voyage. The "Forbes " was a 161 ton steamship.. Its first attempt to sail to Sues failed and she returned to Calcutta. The second sailing was advertised as leaving on the 14th August 1834 but it was not until the 5th September that she eventually left Kedgeree. Letters delivered to the Calcutta P.O up to 1pm on the 4th September caught the ship..She steamed in Mocha (Aden) on the 4th November 1834, 69 days after leaving the Hoogly.The route to U.K is not clear but it Arrived at the Foreign P.O on the 20th January 1835.(See India Post No48 Article by C.N.M.Blair.Charge of sh 3/6 amended to sh3/3.



In 1837, a Post Office Actlaid down rules for "Sream" and "Ship" Letter. All letters carried by Government Steamer had to be stamped "Steam Letter" together with the name of the General Post Office, the date and with the word "Paid" or "Bearing". All other letters carried by ship and not by Government steamer had to be stamped with the words "Ship Letter"and with wording similar to the steam stamp.

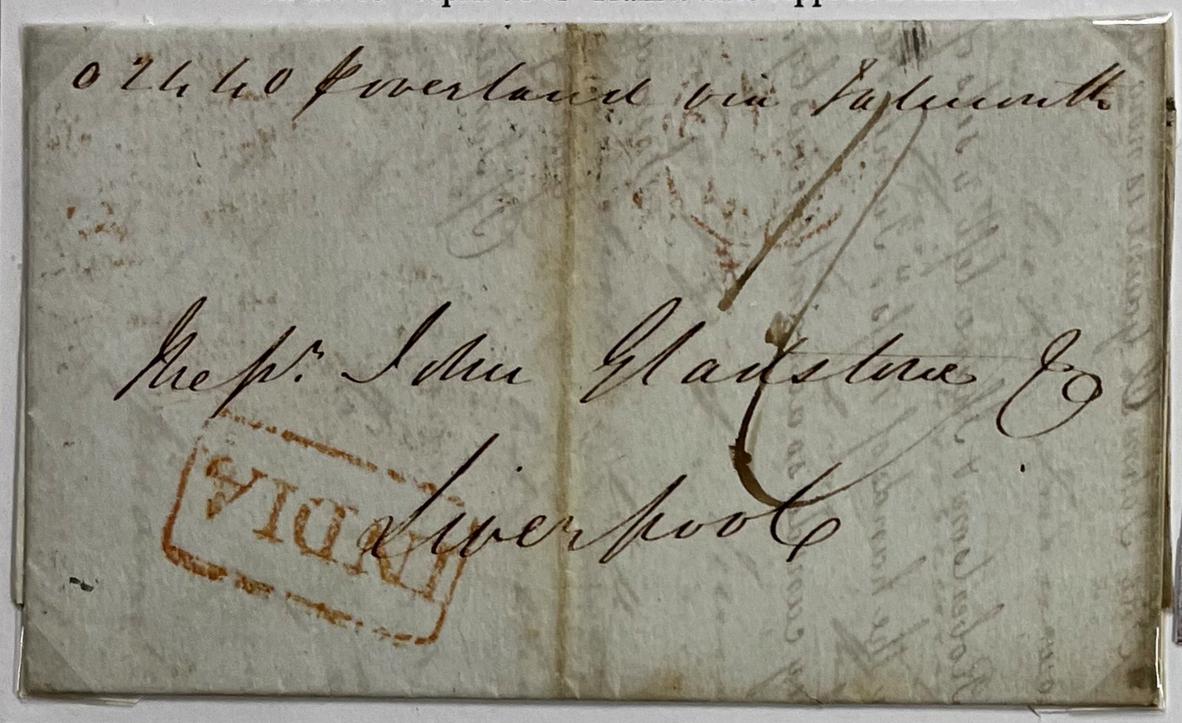
The letter below was despatched from Calcutta on the 17th October 1842 and with the writer's instructions for it to be sent overland ie. Via Suez and the Mediterranean to Falmouth. The letter was therefore sent by "Steam Letter" handstamp HG SD12 Red in use from 1837-51, overland by Government Steamer ex Bombay and arrived in the U.K. on the 10th December 1842. The INDIA in a rectangle was also applied indicating a Calcutta despatch.

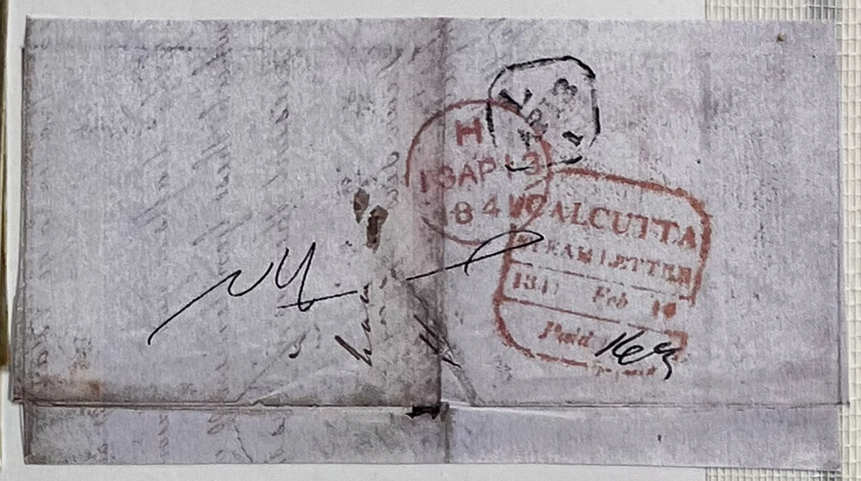


4

An entire letter from Calcutta to Liverpool dated 16th February 1841.On the front of the letter is the rectangular "INDIA" (HG 16)in use from 1838-45.On the reverse is the handstamp "CALCUTTA steam letter :16 Feb 1841:Paid" (HG12)in use from 1837-51,Overland by Govt. steamers ex-Bombay. There are also two handstamps put on in the U.K , both dated 13th April. The one in black would appear to be the date of delivery in Liverpool.

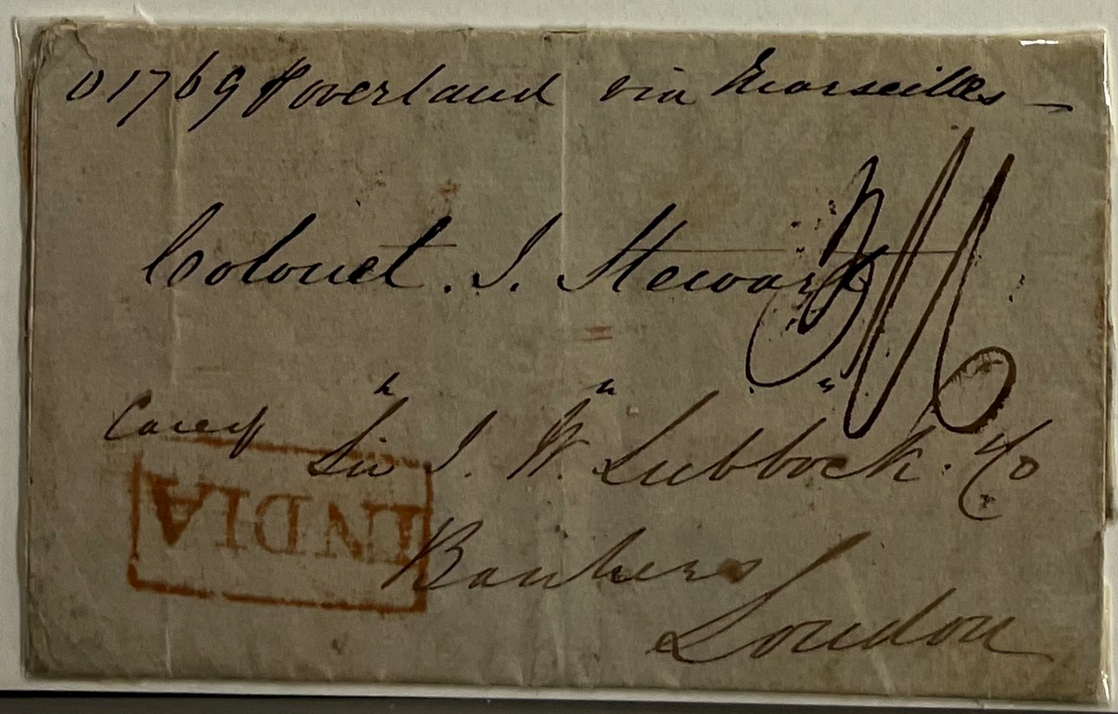
The letter left Bombay in the E.I.C. Steamer "Victoria" on the 1st March 1841and arrived in Suez via Aden on the 22nd March.It was taken overland to Alexandria and loaded into the P&O Steamer "Orient" which sailed from Alexandria on the 26th March .It arrived in Falmouth via Malta on the 10th April and Liverpool on the 13th April 1841 Transit time Approx 2 months

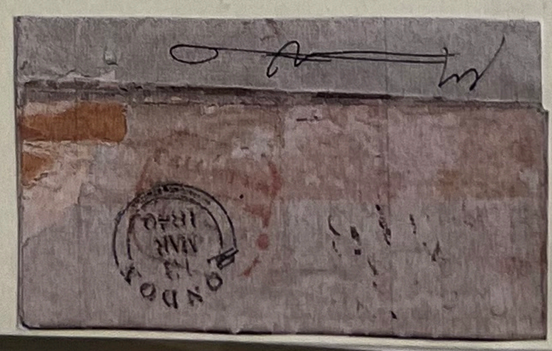




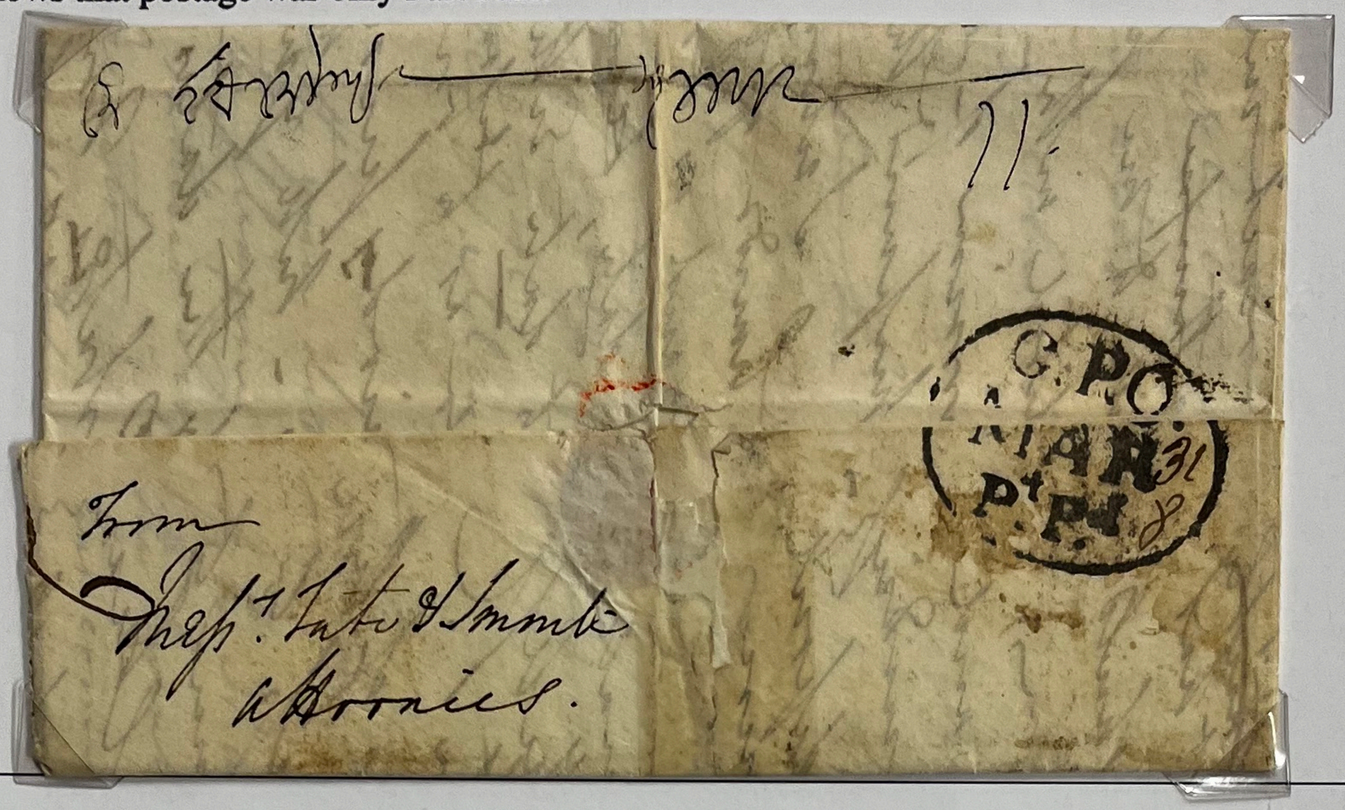
An entire letter from Calcutta to Bankers in London. This relate to stoppage of pay to the addressee. The letter was writte on the 13th January 1840.On the front is the rectangular "INDIA" (HG SD16 in use from 1838-45) However the letters are better formed than illustrated in HG Handbook.On the reverse the "CALCUTTA ; SHIP LETTER :DATE : Paid "(This is as shown in the Hamdbook of Indian Phiulately, chapter 5 in use from 1837-51.)

The letter sent in the E.I.C. steamer "Berenice which sailed for Suez on the 31st January 1840 and arrived in Suez on the 18th February.It was carried overland and loaded into H.M.Packet "Magera" which sailed for Malta on the 24th February arriving in Malta on the 28th. It was again transferred to H.M.Packet "Volcano " which reached Marsailles on the 7th March and overland to London where it arrived on the 13 March 1840.Transit time just oer 8 weeks.

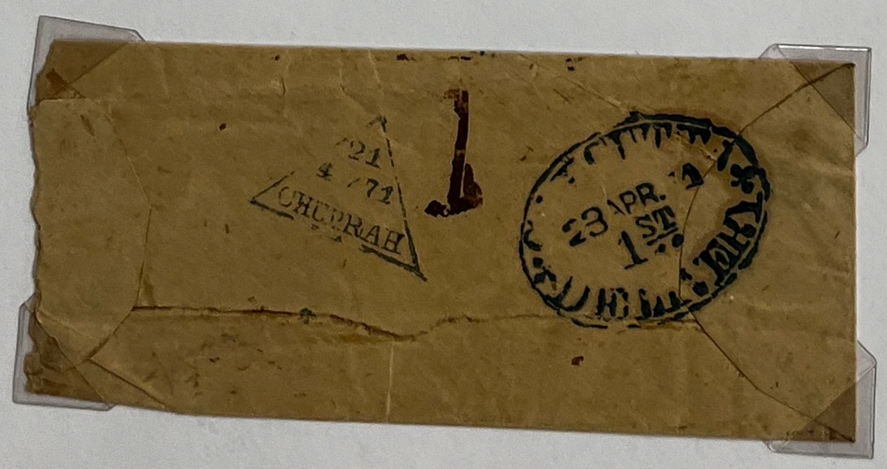




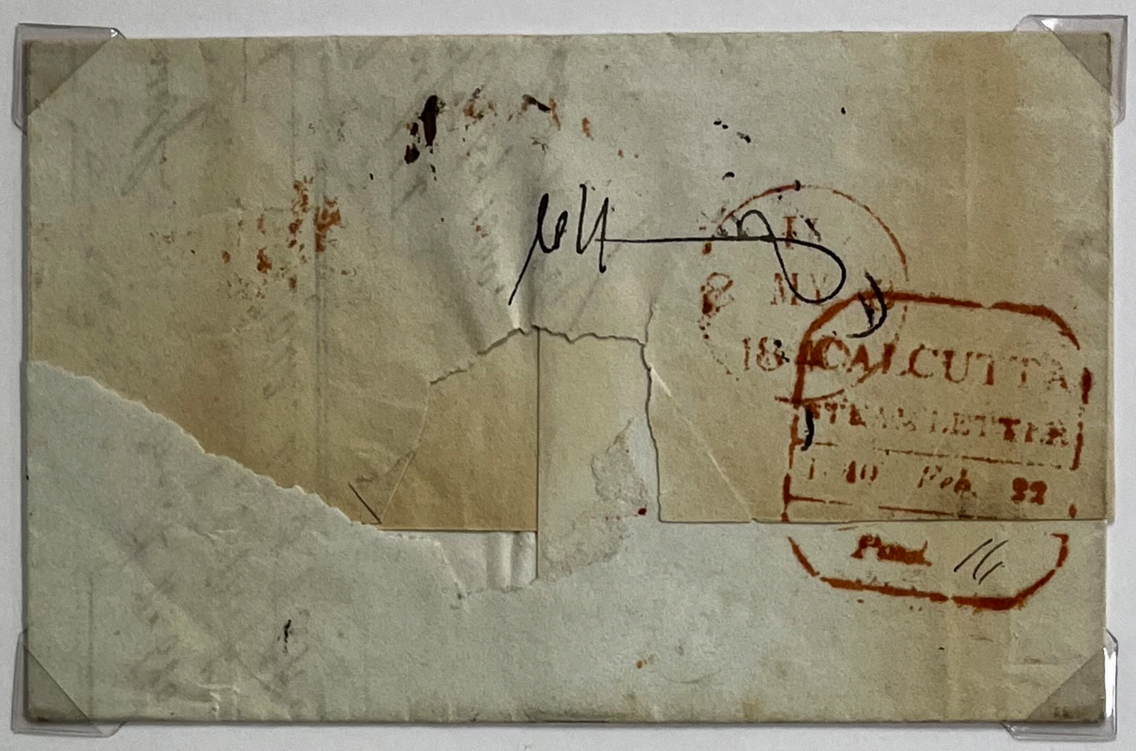
Entire Internal letter from Calcutta to Mirzapore dated 8th April 1824. The contents relate to an Estate in India and Probate granted to I.M.Mcnab, Executor. The handstamp is Calcutta (Bengal) Type HG 15a in use from 1817-37 (March, April, May) without segments. This shows that postage was only Part Paid.



A small local cover addressed to Calcutta . The cover has been despatched from CHUPRA, the headquarters of Saran District situated on the Gorga River,400 miles from Calcutta. The triangular backstamp was applied at the Post Office and is a Jal Cooper type 29c which shows the post office name along the base with the date above.. It would appear that no postage has been paid but there is no "bearing" stamp. The despatch date is 21st April 1871 with the CALCUTTA 1st DELIVERY 23 April 71.

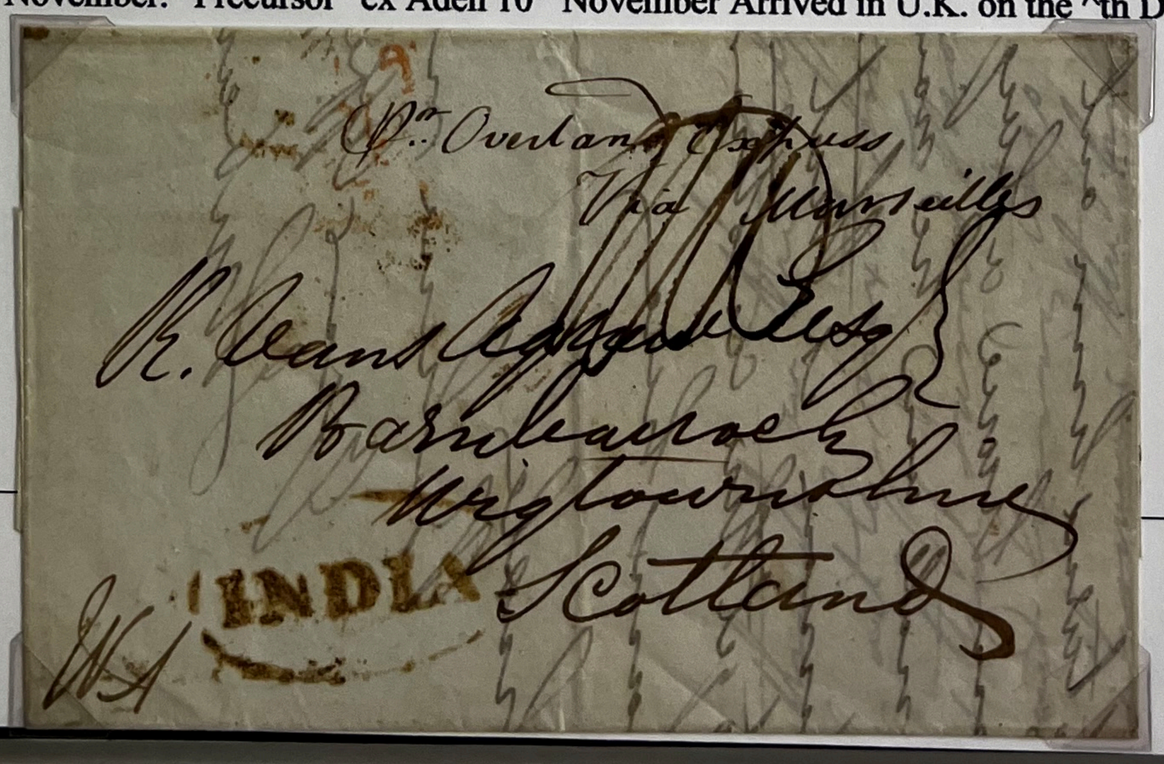


An entire letter from Calcutta to London. The letter is dated 20th February 1840 and was posted in the GPO Calcutta where the handstamp "CALCUTTA steam letter,22Feb 1840, Paid 16 " was applied, HG Type SD12 in use from !837- 1851. It was used to indicate that the letter was to go overland by Government Steamer ex Bombay. The rectangular "INDIA" was also put on the front of the letter. The letter left Bombay in the EIC steamer "ATALANTA"on the 29th February and arrived in Suez on the 19th March. It was then sent overland to Alexandria and then shipped via Malta and Marsailles arriving in London on the 8th May 1840. Transit time 76 days. The postage paid in the U.K was sh3/6.



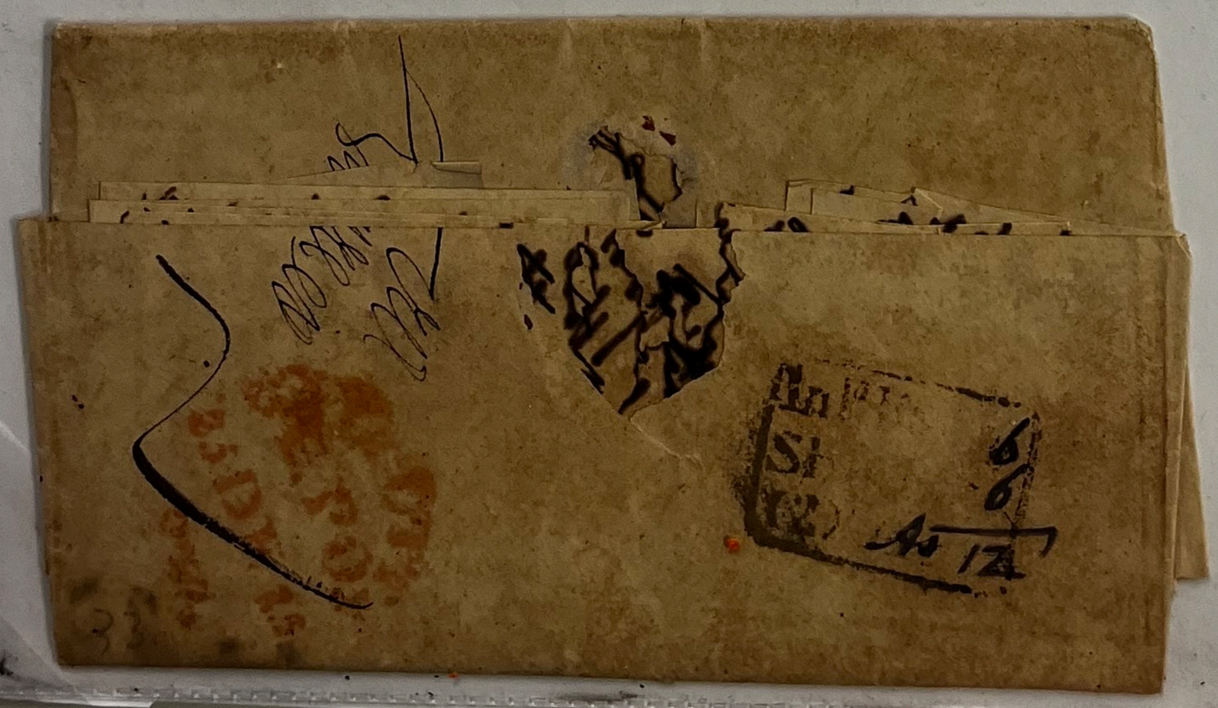
Part of a letter which reads" John Arbuthnopt on the subject and expects his reply by next mail. We are in hopes that James Turner will recommend him to go home quietly .If he refuses however the house will do their best to turn him out and certainly ???let him have a larger ---------he now has. My private opinion is that he will not have to get thro another season if he remains here. In haste ,Your affectionate brother."

Letter to be sent by"Overland Express" via Marsailles. INDIA in oval fram indicates despatched via Bombay. The despatch town in red is unclear but date of despatch is 25th cOctober 1845. Loaded in Bombay either on the "Cleopatra " ex 28th October or "Atalanta" ex 1st November. "Precursor" ex Aden 10th November Arrived in U.K. on the ^th December 1845.

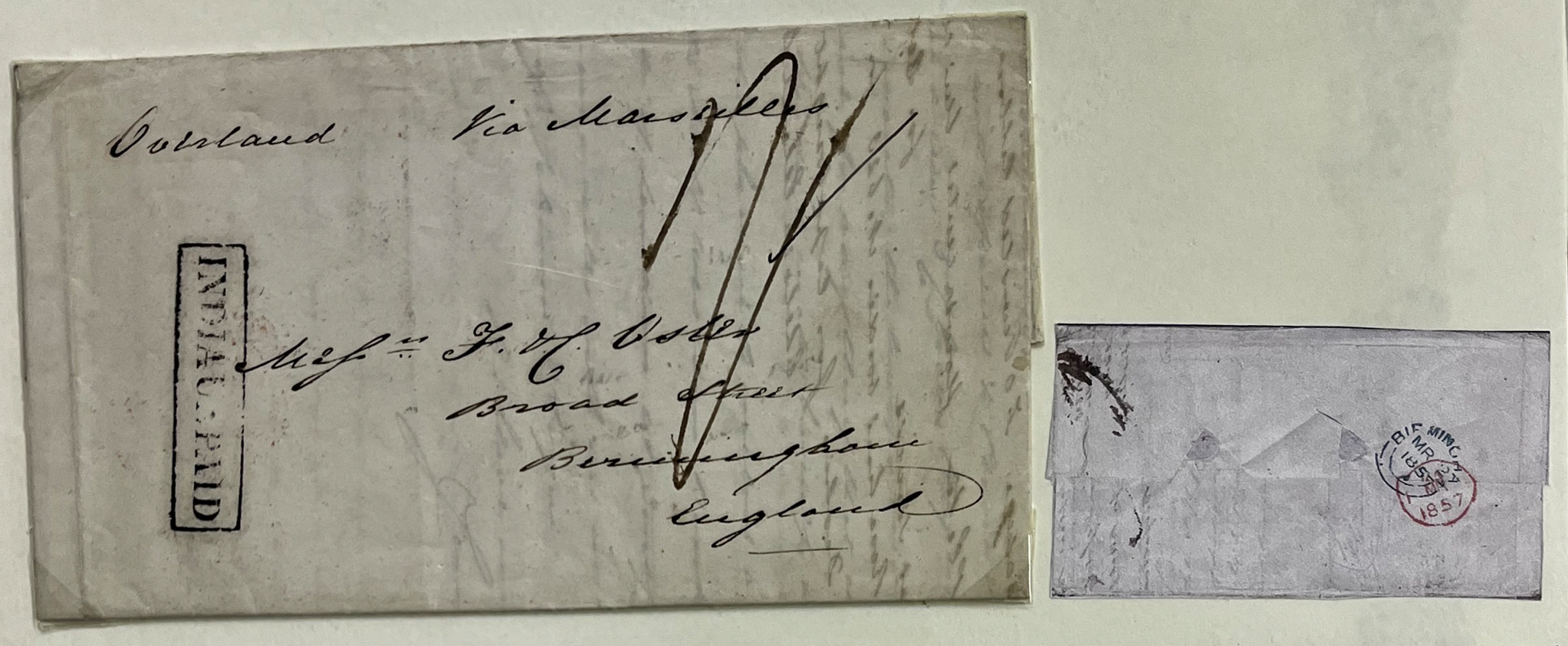


An entire letter from Calcutta to Edinburgh.The letter is dated10th July 1854. On the front is INDIA in a rectangular frame HG Type SD15 in use 1846-55. On the reverse also in red is the Calcutta G.P.O Ship Letter Stamp HG Type SD21 in use from 1849-54. From the dates, ~~the letter appears to have been loaded on the following ships. On the 20th July, The~~ "Semiramis" to Aden arriving on the 29th July. Transferred to "Victoria"sailed 5th August arrived Suez 12th August. Loaded onto "Ripon" at Alexandria on 20th August and arrived in Southampton on the 6th September. The ship "Precursor" did no sail in this period.

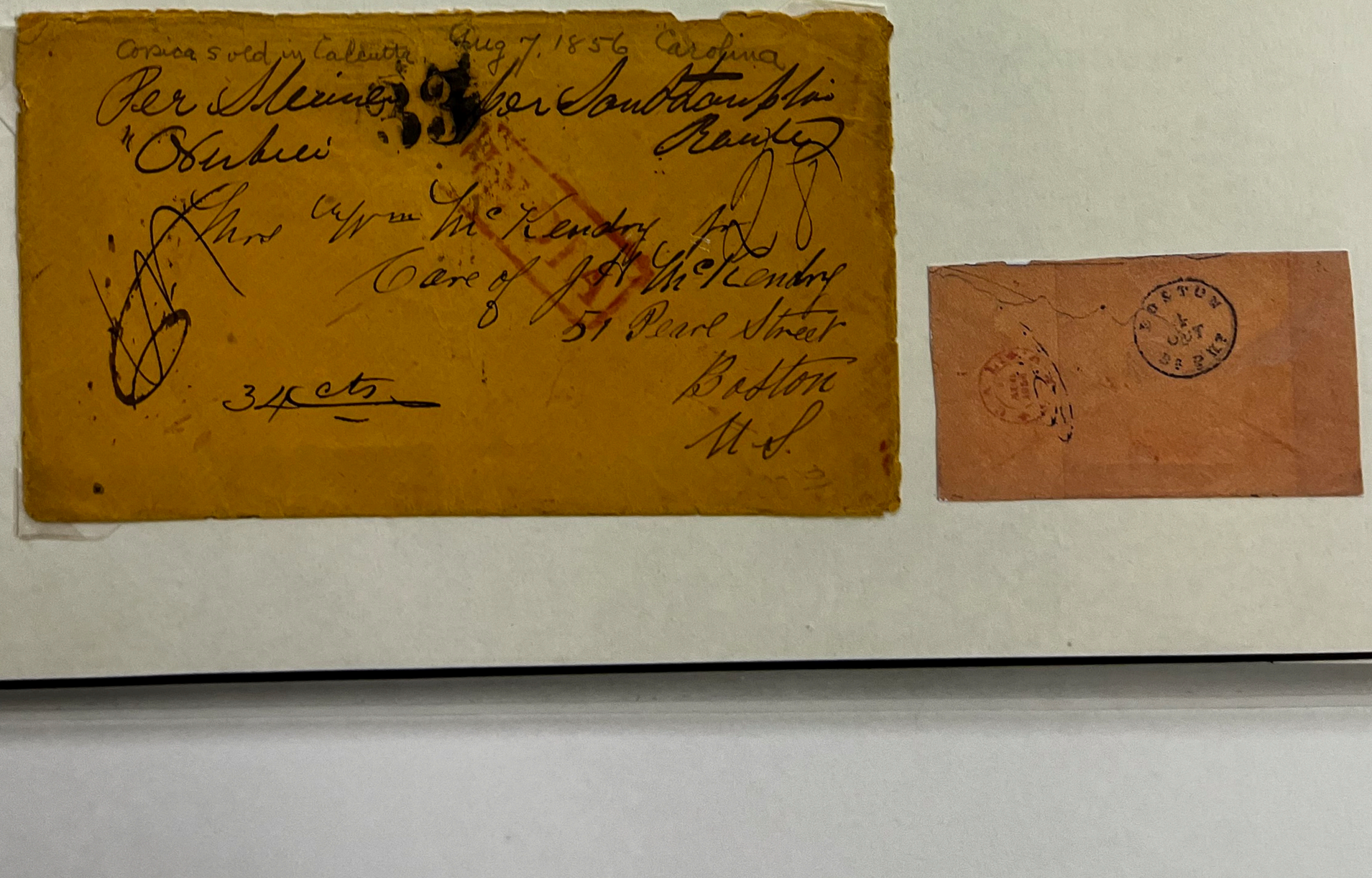
An entire letter from London addressed to Alexander Colvin Esq., ,Calcutta. The letter is fragile with the ink having rotted the paper. The letter is dated 19th August 1833. There are no London Despatch marks . It is likely that the letter was handed over to the Ship's master. The letter bears the Calcutta G.P.O.stamp with the date 24th December 1833. In addition there is the Calcutta Ship Letter (Receipt)(HG SR28) in use from 1832-1837indicating the letter is "Double" weight and the charges, Inland postage 6Annas: Ship Do 6Annas a total of 12Annas.



An entire letter written in Calcutta on the 23rd January 1857. I is addressed to Birmingham,U.K. There is no indication of the date it left Calcutta or India. On the front in black is the rectangular "INDIA UNPAID" (HG SD29 in use from 1857-62. The letter arrived in London on the 1st March 1857 and Birmingham March 2nd.



An unusual cover for this period. The letter is from Calcutta to Boston U.S.A via Southampton and per the steamer "Nubia". On the reverse is the Calcutta despatch stamp in RED (HG G21 in use from 1855-58) and dated 8th August 1856the Boston delivery stamp with the date 4th October. On the front is the rectangular handstamp ("INDIA") (HG SD18 in use from 1851-56)

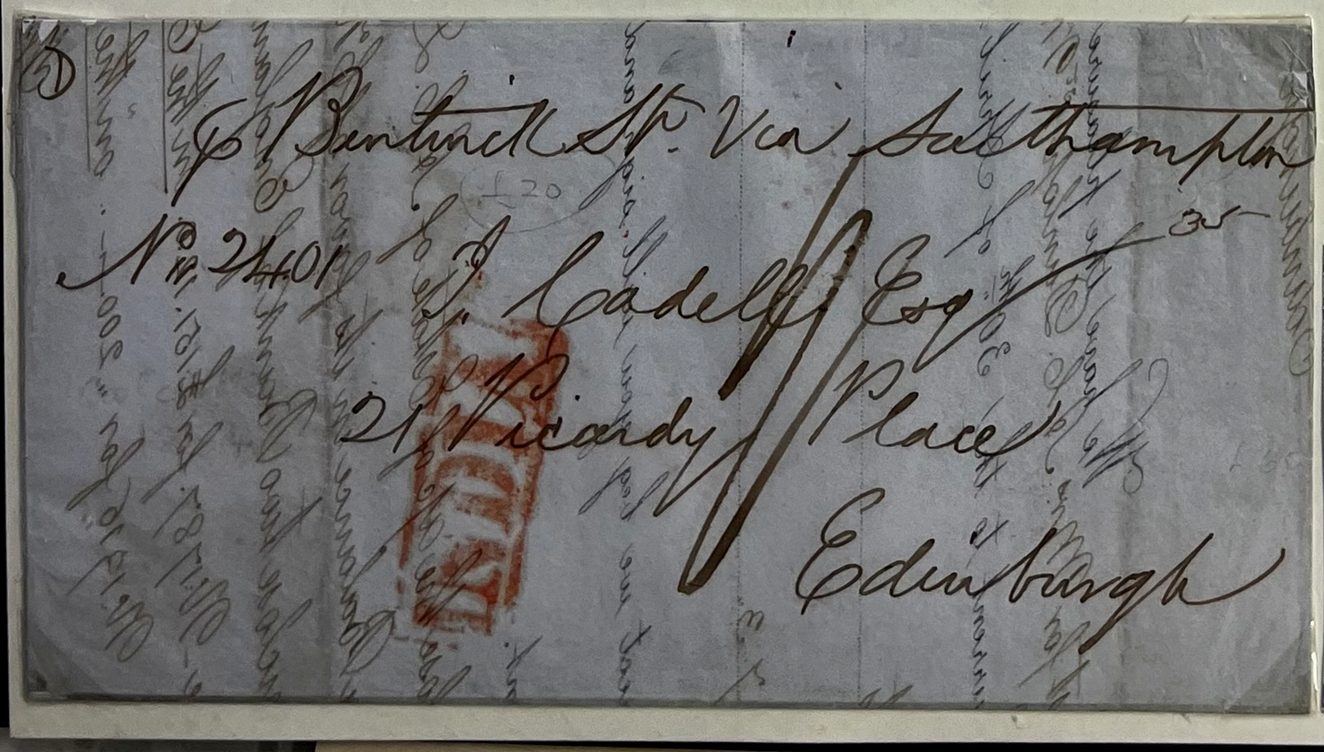


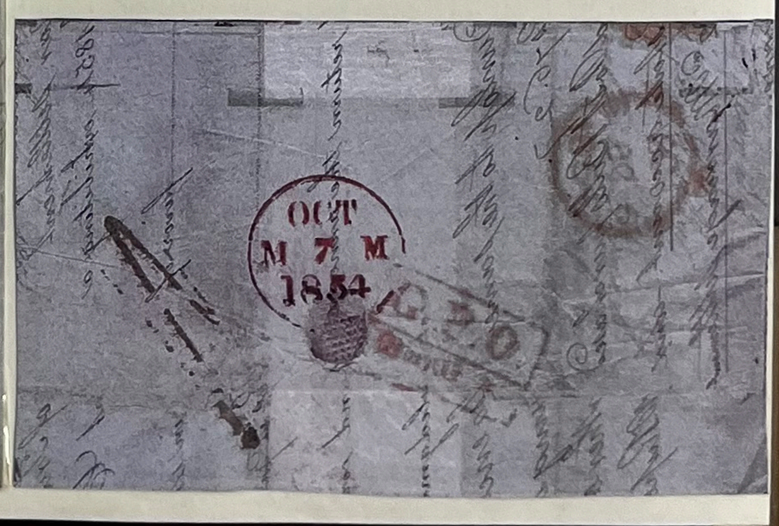
An entire letter from Calcuta to Bordeaux, France. The leeter is dated 29th May 185[illegible] and on the reverse has the rectangular handstamp "G.P.O." with date (HG G18) a General Post Office stamp in use from 1851-58 . On the front is the rectangular despatch handstamp "INDIA PAID" (HG SD20 in use from 1845-62).

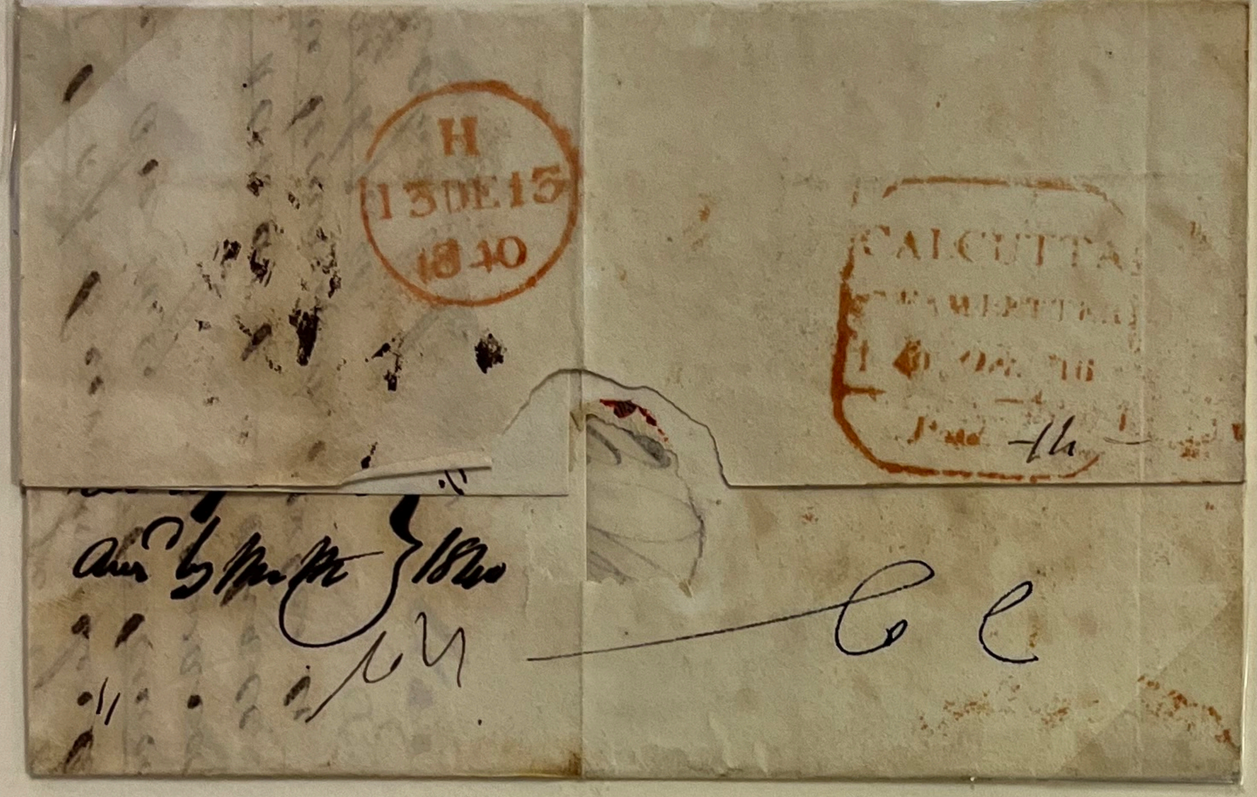
The letter was despatched from Bombay to Aden in the E.I.C. ship "Ajdaha" which sailed on the 7th June arriving in Aden on the 16th June. It was transferred into the P&O ship "Orient" which saaied for Aden on the 27th June arriving in Suez on the 5th July. It was transferred and loaded into the P&O ship"Ripon"which sailed from Alexandria on the 7th July arriving in Malta on the 11th July where it was ,again, loaded into the P&O ship "Vectis" which sailed for Marsailles arriving on the 14th July on the 14th July. There is a handstamp on the front "Marsailles with date" and on the reverse the handstamp for "Bordeaux. Transit time 7 Weeks. This extended period probably due to the Monsoon.

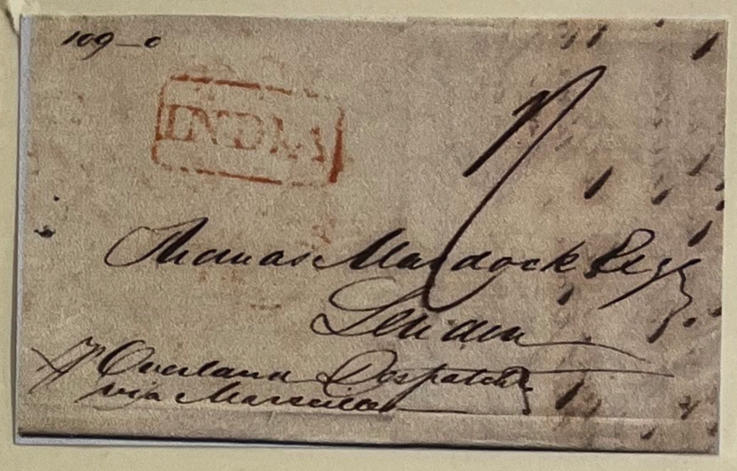
despatched overland through Marseilles could not be [illegible] from whence it was sent overland to Calais and the [illegible] other direct to the UK to be landed at Falmouth [illegible] Calcutta was sent overland to

An entire letter written in Calcutta on the 3rd August 1854 with an address in Edinburgh. On the front the letter has the rectangular handstamp "INDIA" (HG SD 17 in use from 1846-55. On the reverse there is The Calcutta General Post Office stamp in RED (HG G18 in use from 1851-58.). The date of despatch appears to be 18th August.1854 and the date of receipt in Edinburgh is &th October 1854 The instructions are for the letter to be despatched by the steamer "Bentinck" via Southampton. The letter would have been despatched from Bombay in the E.I.C steamer "Ajdaha" on the 31st August 1854 arriving in Aden on the 9th September. It was then transferred to the P&O steamer "Bentinck" which sailed for Suez arriving on the 17th September. It was loaded in the P&O ship "Nubia" which sailed from Alexandria on the 22nd September arriving in Southampton on 5th October 1854 and Edinburgh on the 7th October. Transit time 7 weeks.

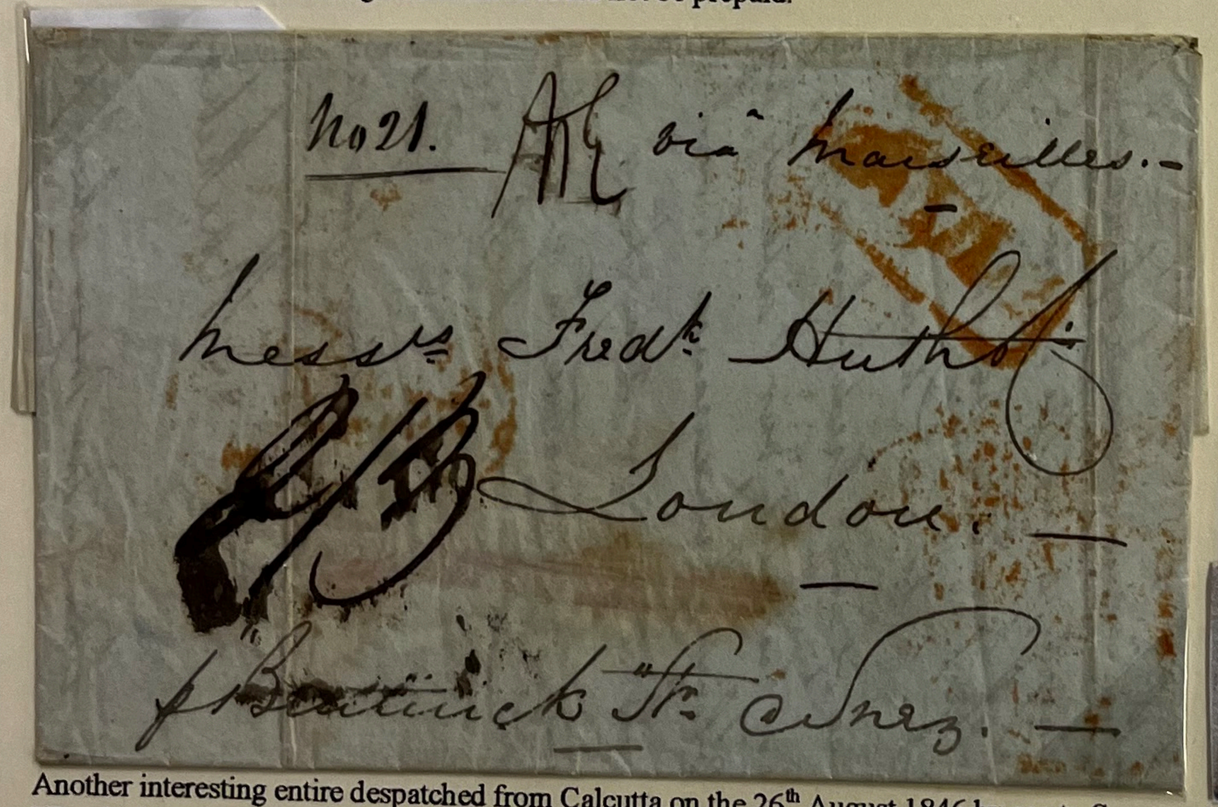


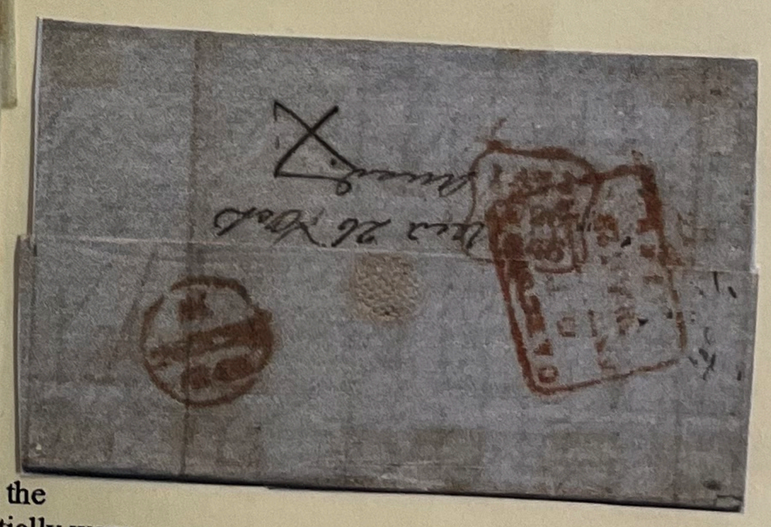






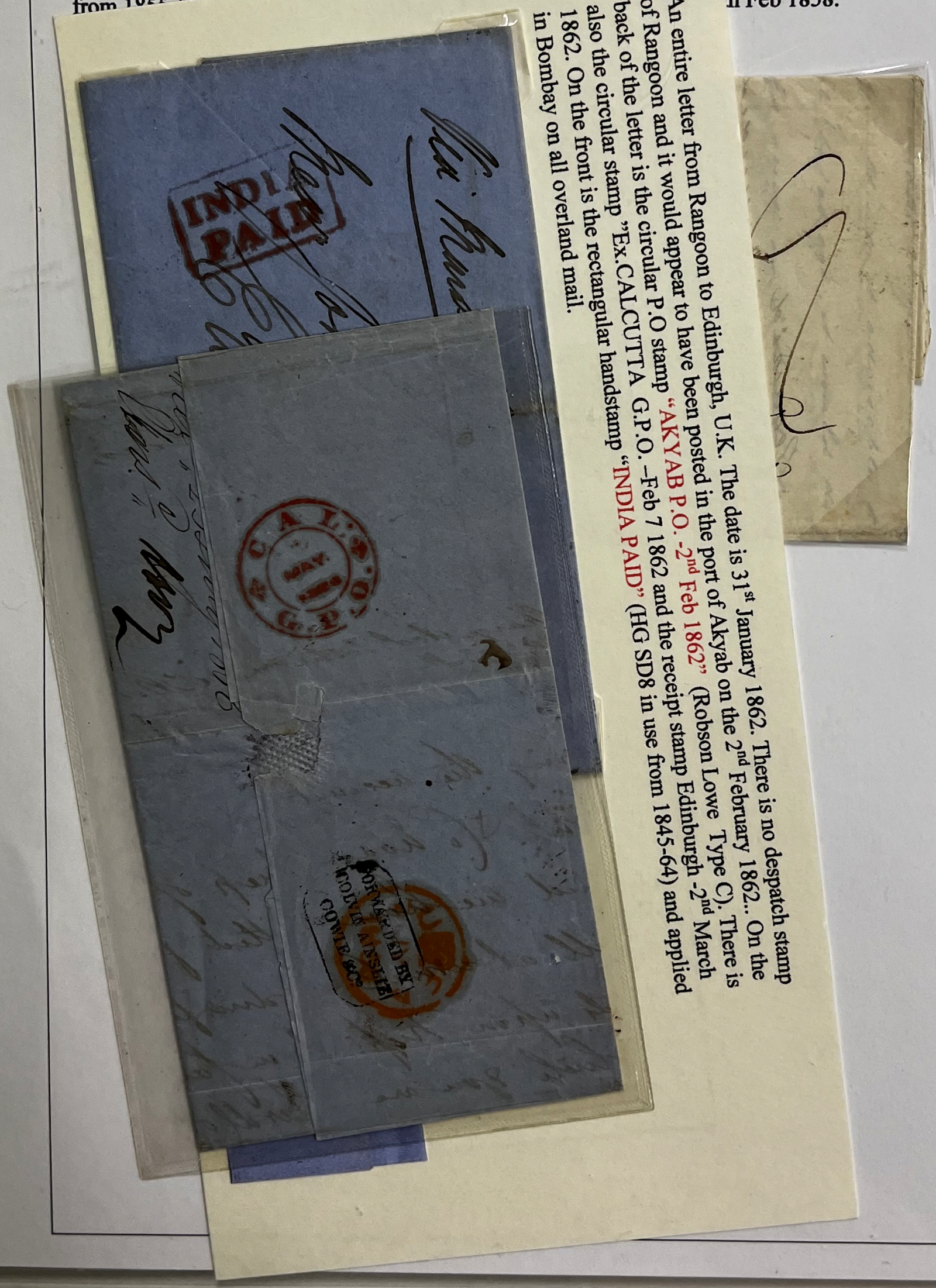
From 1838, mail could be sent by steam ship. Initially mail posted in Calcutta was sent overland to Bombay and then by steam ship to Egypt and then either direct to the U.K to be landed at Falmouth or other ports, or to Marseilles from whence it was sent overland to Calais and the U.K. In 1840 letters despatched overland through Marseilles could not be prepaid.





Another interesting entire despatched from Calcutta on the 26th August 1846 by sea to Suez on the "Bentinck"and overland through Marseilles.The INDIA handstamp would appear to be the partially worn INDI stamp with the final A just visible. The additional handstamp which is partially over the Calcutta steam letter stamp is unusual

An entire letter from a British merchant, name cannot be read, in Calcutta dated January 23rd 1858 addressed to Messrs. F & C Osler, Bermingham,England. On the front is INDIA UNPAID in a frame, similar to Hg SD 29 in use from 1857-6[illegible]er the stamp is much clearer than the one illustrated. [illegible] date HGG21 in use from 1856-5[illegible]h Feb 1858.



An entire letter from Rangoon to Edinburgh, U.K. The date is 31st January 1862. There is no despatch stamp of Rangoon and it would appear to have been posted in the port of Akyab on the 2nd February 1862.. On the back of the letter is the circular P.O stamp "AKYAB P.O. -2nd Feb 1862" (Robson Lowe Type C). There is also the circular stamp "Ex.CALCUTTA G.P.O. –Feb 7 1862 and the receipt stamp Edinburgh -2nd March 1862. On the front is the rectangular handstamp "INDIA PAID" (HG SD8 in use from 1845-64) and applied in Bombay on all overland mail.

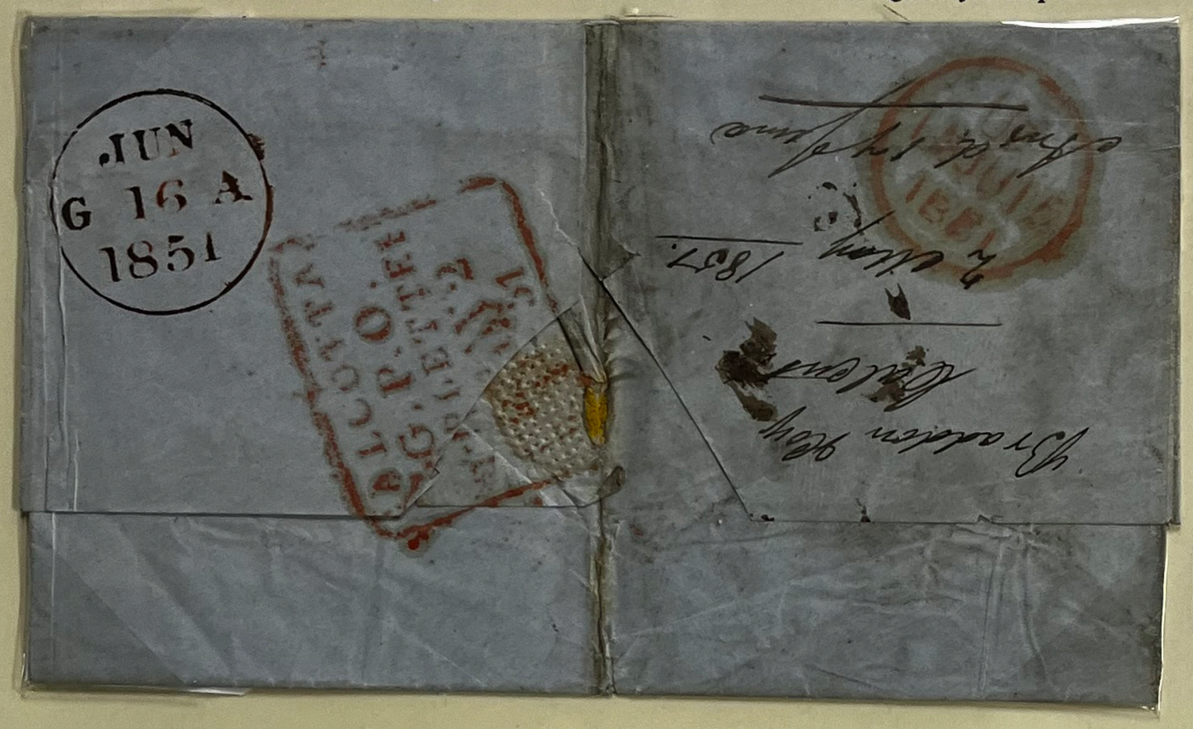
Up until the beginning of 1838 all mail from India arrived in the U.K through the ports of Falmouth and Southampton. From January 1838, the U.K.Government reached an agreement with the French for mail to be sent via Marsailles and across France. This meant that mail reached the U.K much more quickly. Mail was carried on the Mediterranean leg by the French Packet at Sh3/8 per 1/4oz and as from 1st October 1839 by Britiish Packet at Sh2/8 per 1/4oz. Both these rates covered the U.K. inland postage as well as postage from the port in India.

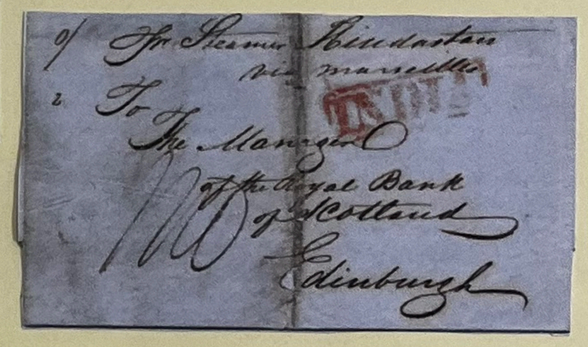
The first letter from Calcutta is dated 15th April 1840. On the reverse is the "CALCUTTA STEAM LETTER " HG type SD12 handstamp, which was in use from 1837-51, It was used for overland mail by Govt. Steamers ex-Bombay. It also had "INDIA" in rectangle HGtype SD16 in use from 1838-45.

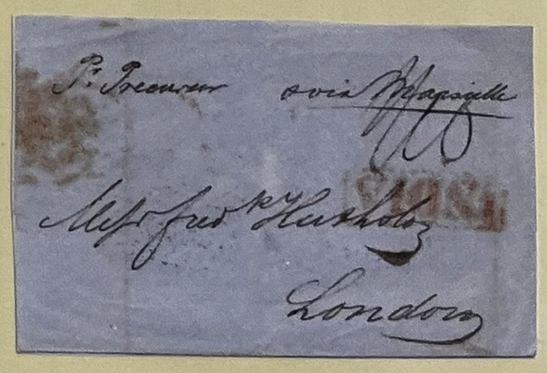
The mail was loaded into the EIC ship"Zenobia" which sailed from Bombay on the 30th April1840 arriving in Suez on the 22 May. It was carried overland to Alexandria and loaded into the H.M.Packet "Volcano" which sailed on the 25th May arriving in Malta on the 1st June. It then transhipped into H.M.Packet "Alecto" which sailed for Marsailles on the 1st June arriving on the 5th June and London on the 10th June. The London handstamp in red confirms this. Transit time 57 days. Postal charge from Bombay- London Sh2/8d

The second is an outer cover which was despatched from Calcutta on the 1st October 1842.The cover again has the handstamp HG SD12 indicating that the letter is to go overland . There is also a kissprint which shows that the mail was bagged with mail from Bombay. The mail was loaded into the"Zenobia " on the 16th October and arrived in Suez on the 2nd November. It was loaded into the P&O ship "Media" in Alexandria and sailed on the 5th November arriving in Malta on the 13th. It was then sent in H.M.Packet "Locust" which arrived in Marsailles on the 17th November and London on the 23rd November. It was delivered to Liverpool on the 24th November. Transit Time 55 days. Postal Charge Sh2/8d.

With the development of the steamship in the early 19th Century attempts were made to transport mail from India via the Red Sea, Suez and the Mediterranean and in 1834 a ship "Forbes" was sent from Calcutta to Suez but broke down at Madras and returned to Calcutta. She set out from Calcutta again in September 1834 and completed the trip to Suez.. However the Government decided that she was not suitable for this work. Apart from one or two voyages in 1942/43, it was not until 1843, when P & O ships entered service and that mail was regularly transported.







The above covers were carried by two of the ships in service, the "Hindustan" and "Precursor". The third vessel was the "Bentinck" .Both covers stipulate that they should be sent overland via Marseilles. The first letter sent on the 2nd May 1851 was delivered on the 16th June and the second letter was probably despatched from Calcutta at the end of January and received at the end of March 1847 Both covers have the INDIA stamp. It would appear that this stamp was applied to the letter in Calcutta to indicate that the postage had not been prepaid.