Antigua

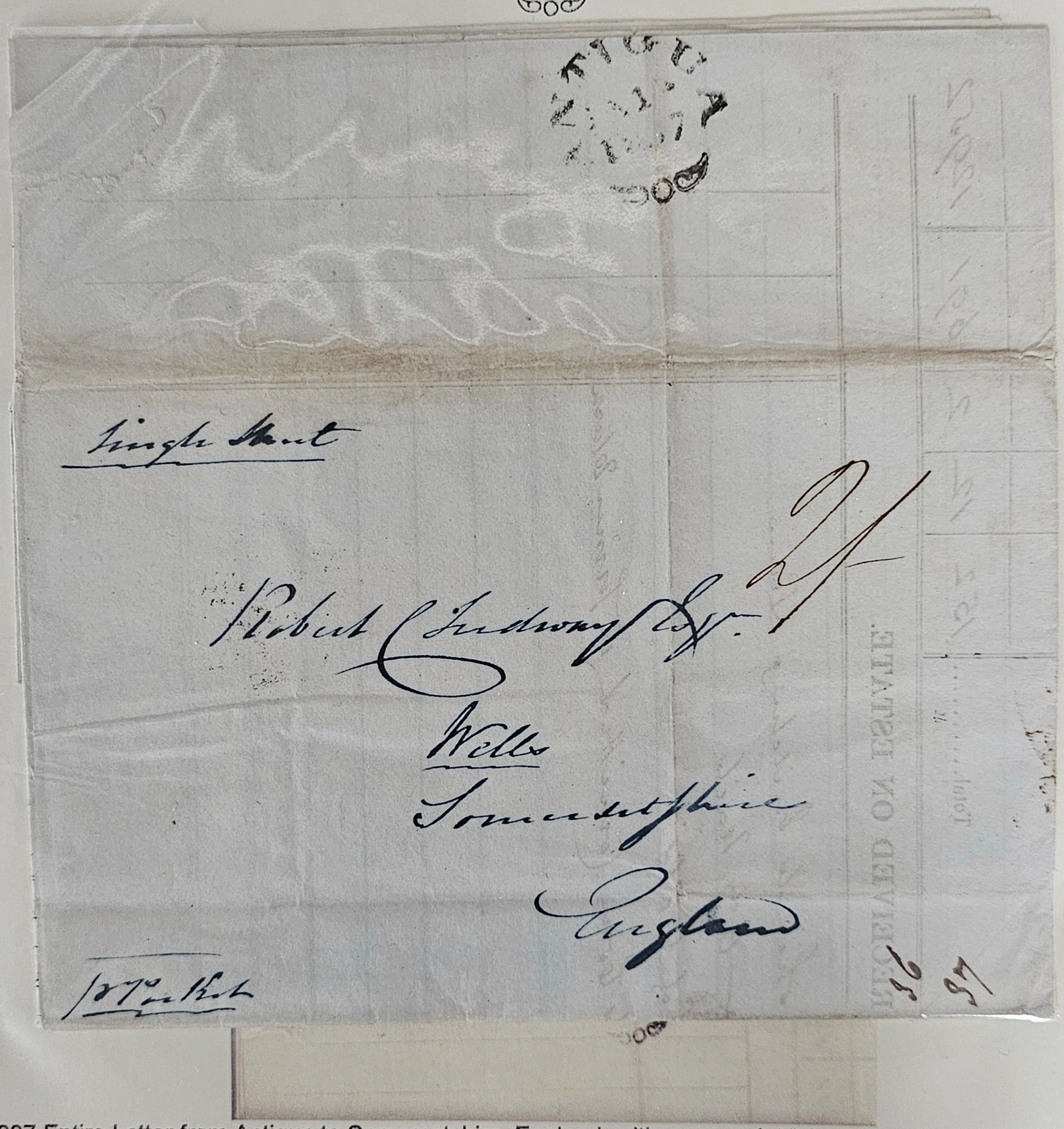
In 1705 Edmund Dummer set up a postal service to the West Indies, including Antigua. The service lapsed and a British government packet service was re-introduced in 1755. From 1832 the Leewards packet sailed served Antigua with a monthly service to Falmouth via St Thomas.

This letter was sent from the Parham plantation, a sugar estate in Antigua owned by the Tudway family of Wells, England. It covers all of the operating aspects of the plantation from planting and harvesting to accounting practices. Parham was the first capital of Antigua.

1837 Entire Letter from Antigua to Somersetshire, England



Antigua small fleuron



1837 Entire Letter from Antigua to Somersetshire, England with manuscript "single sheet", "2/-" and "Pr Packet" on front and small fleuron dated JAN 14 (the 4 is reversed)1837 on back. Received 9th February, The contents are a huge single sheet of Farm Accounts of Parham Old Work Estate.

Sources

Lowe, R (1990)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume VI Leeward Islands Christie's Robson Lowe, London and the Auction House, Bournemouth

Tudway of Wells Antiguan Estate Papers, 1689 - 1920 at https://eee.uci.edu/wiki/index.php/History_202_Primary_Sources_(Fall_2007)

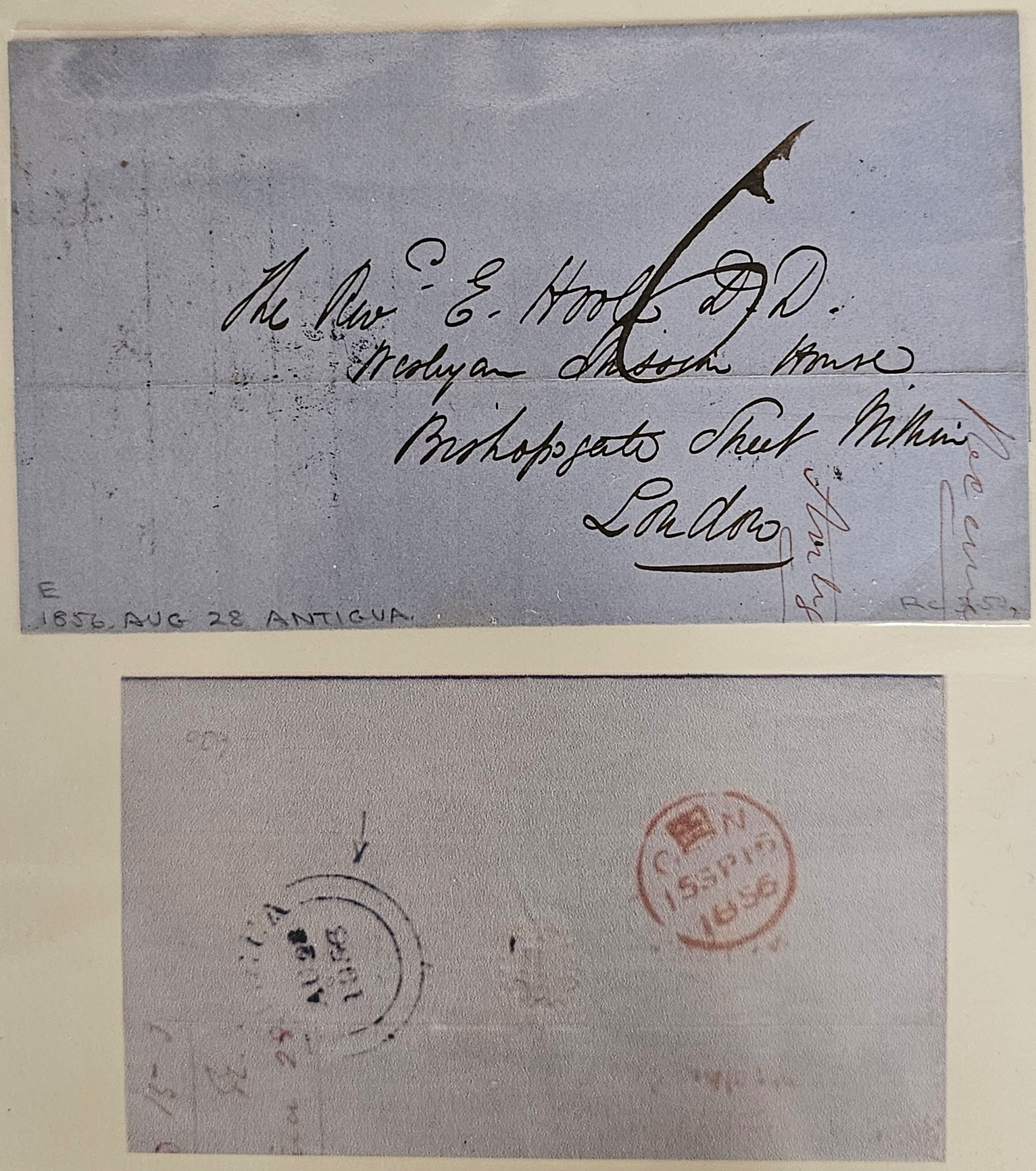
Antigua - St Johns

In 1705 Edmund Dummer set up a postal service to the West Indies, including Antigua. In nine years, Dummer lost two packets at sea and had seven captured. Creditors seized his remaining seven packets and the service lapsed. A British government packet service was re-introduced in 1755, and the postmaster in Antigua was issued with hand-stamps. A monthly service was maintained despite hazards of war, piracy and mutiny. After 1783 packets left Falmouth twice a month, and a system of inter-island schooners acted as mail distributors and collectors. Routes varied with changing conditions and fortunes of war.

Prepayment of packet correspondence to British destinations was made compulsory in 1858.The London GPO authorized the use of British stamps for this purpose from 8 May 1858 until 1 May 1860 when the crowned circle hand stamps were again used until colonial stamps were adopted in Antigua in 1862.

1856 wrapper from St John's Antigua to London

CDS1



1856 wrapper from Antigua to the Wesleyan Mission, London. Front has "6" in manuscript (i.e. 6d unpaid). On the reverse are an Antigua CDS1 cancel dated AU 28th 1856 and red London receiver dated 15th SP 56.
Rate: The packet rate per half ounce from the West Indies to London was reduced to 6d in May 1856.
Route: Carried on RMS "Derwent" on the feeder route from Barbados to St Thomas (31st August), then on the Main Route on the RMS "Atrato" from St Thomas (1st September) to Southampton (14th September).

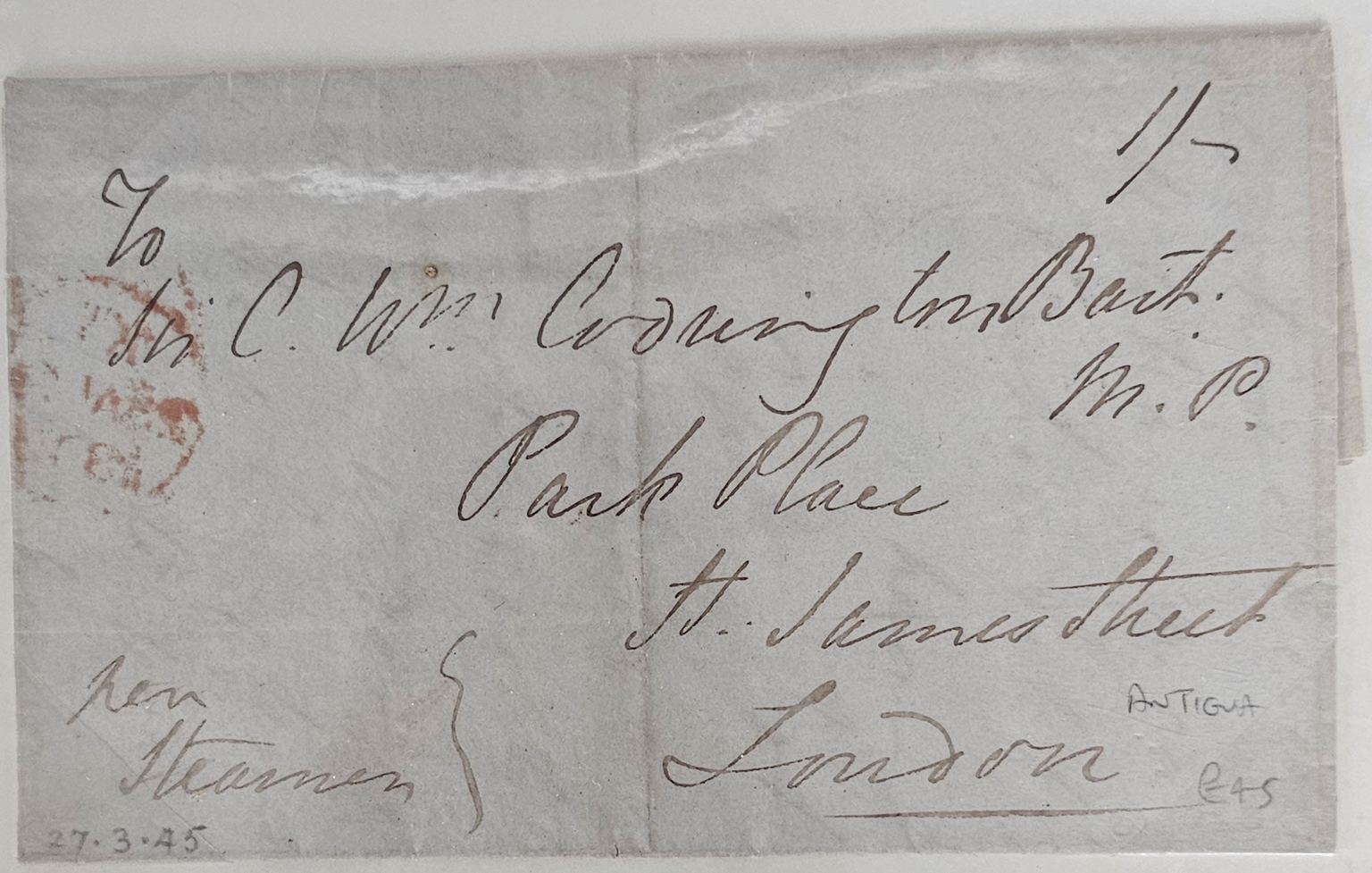
Antigua

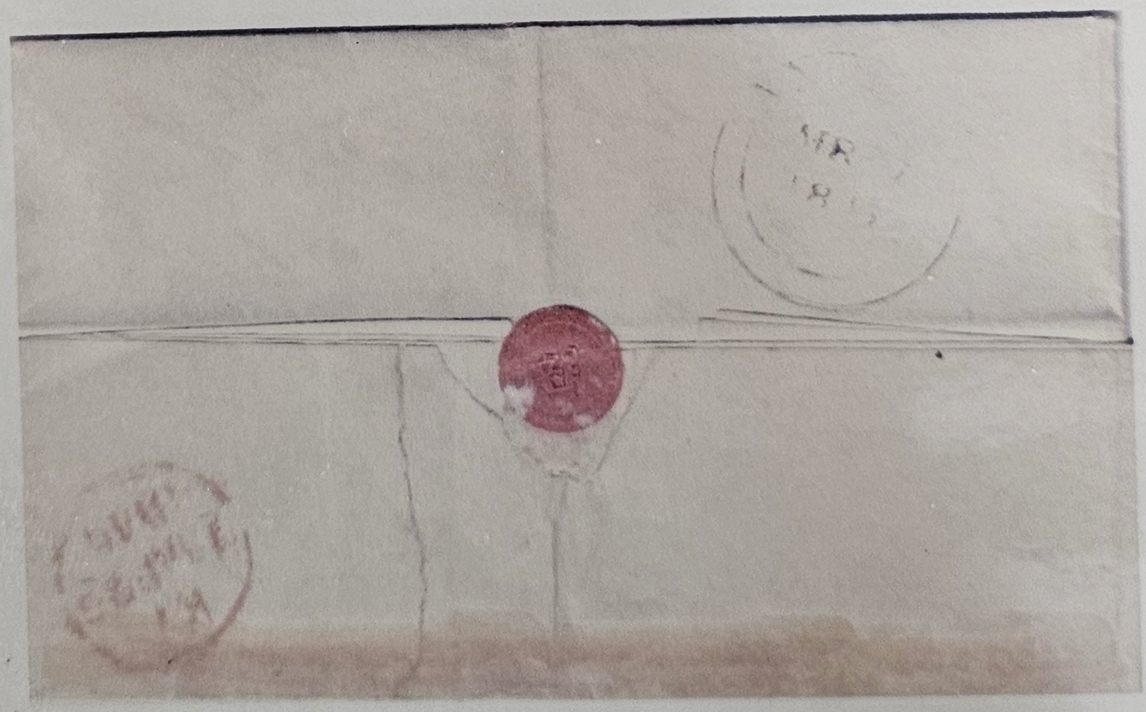
The British Government granted an exclusive contract for Packet Mail in 1841 to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the transport of mail between Great Britain and the Caribbean, Northern South America, Central America and the Gulf of Mexico. The Company's first Steam Packet sailed on 1st January 1842 from Falmouth, the "Post Port" responsible for the despatch and receipt of overseas mail; Southampton took over in September 1843 and incoming mail was landed at Plymouth from October 1867.

The contract was renegotiated and revised several times and the "hub" in the service became St Thomas in the Danish West Indies, with the second revision lasting from 1843 to 1847.



Antigua CDS1





1845 (27 March) EL from Antigua to London with manuscript 1/- rate on front and "ANTIGUA" CDS1 cancel and red London receiver for April 25th 1845 on back.
Route: via St. Thomas & Southampton carried by the Medway & Trent. The Medway took the mail from St Johns, Antigua to the hub, St Thomas on the feeder route from Grenada to Trinidad and the Trent took the mail to Southampton.

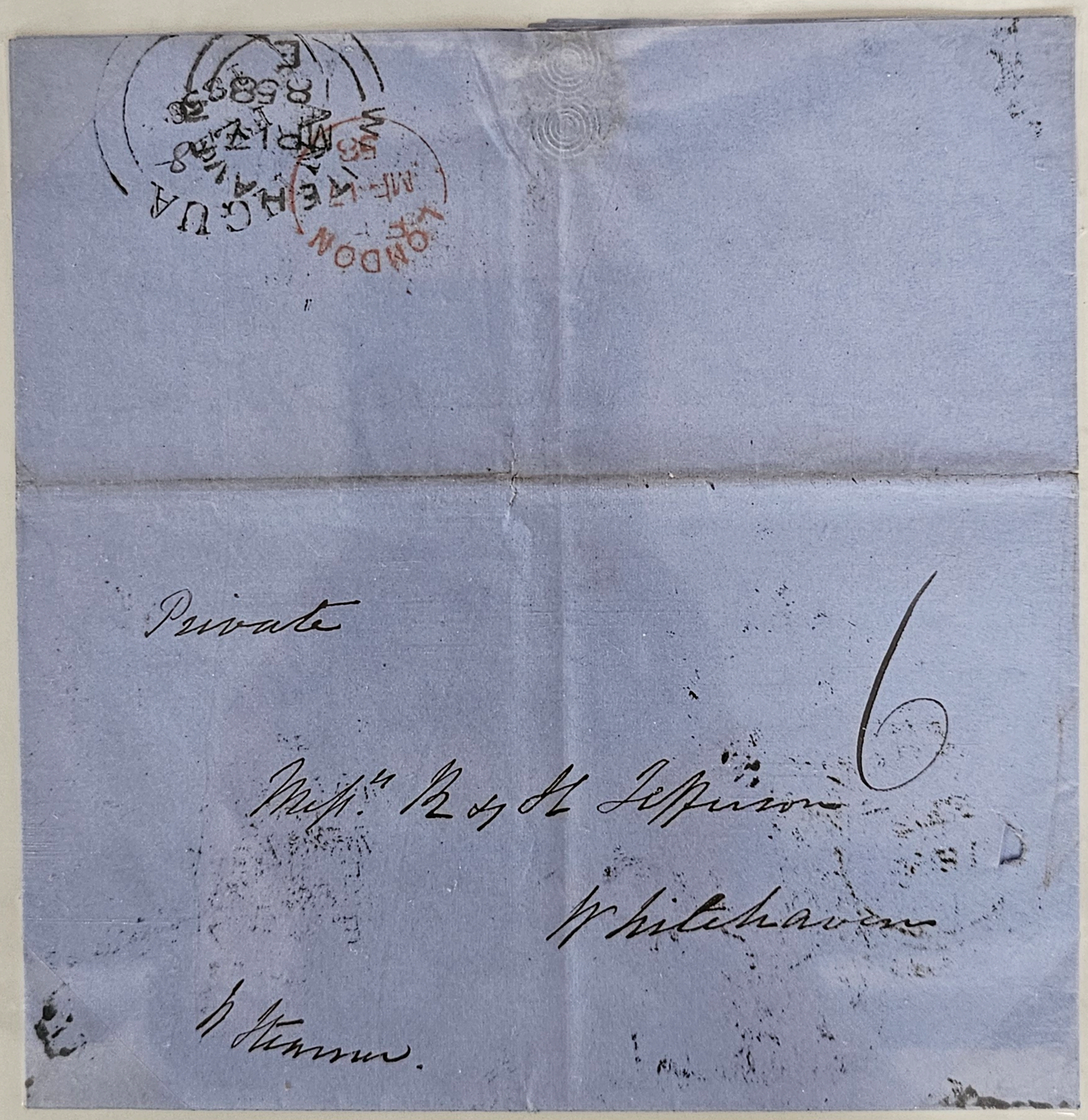
Antigua, St Johns

The British Government granted an exclusive contract for Packet Mail in 1841 to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the transport of mail between Great Britain and the Caribbean, Northern South America, Central America and the Gulf of Mexico. The Company's first Steam Packet sailed on 1st January 1842 from Falmouth, the "Post Port" responsible for the despatch and receipt of overseas mail; Southampton took over in September 1843 and incoming mail was landed at Plymouth from October 1867.

The third RMSP contract was effective from 1850 and amended in 1852. The Barbados ands Demerara route carried mail twice monthly between Demerara, Barbados, St Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis and St Kitts to St Thomas, connecting with the main steamer from St Thomas to Southampton.



Antigua CDS1



1858 EL from Antigua to London "ANTIGUA" CDS1 cancel and with red London receiver and black Whitehaven cancel for March 17th 1858 on back. This is a late usage as stamps and the AO2 obliterator were sent to St Johns Antigua on 14th April 1858, after which date prepayment was compulsory.
Route: Carried on the Derwent on the feeder route from Barbados to St Thomas, departing from Antigua on February 28th and arriving at St Thomas on March 2nd. Then carried on the La Plata from St Thomas (3rd March) to Southampton, advertised as arriving on March 18th, but probably arriving early, on March 16th 1858 and then to London and Whitehaven the next day.
Rate: The packet rate per ½ ounce from the West Indies to England was reduced to 6d in May 1856.

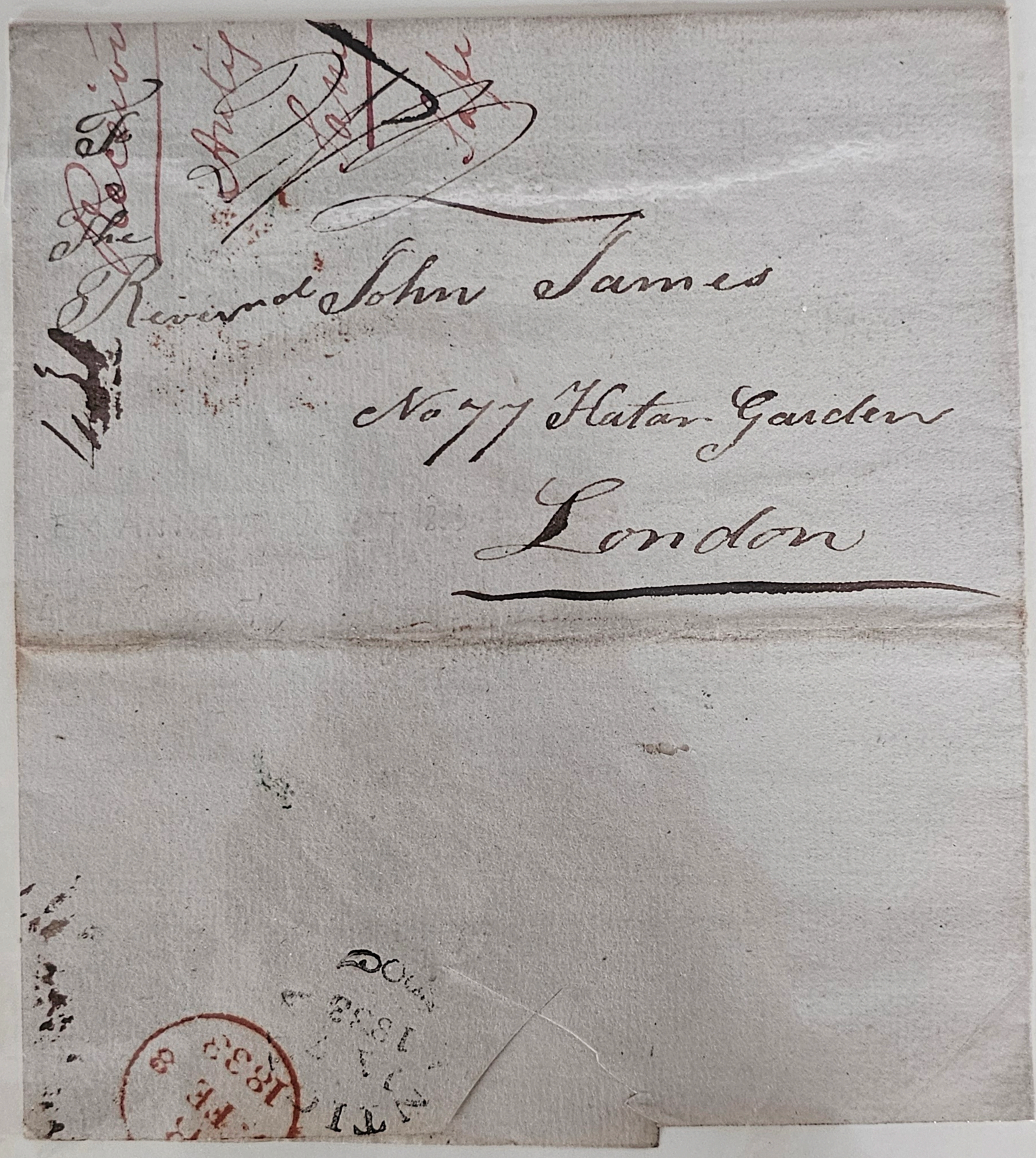
Antigua

Letters from Antigua from 1809 to 1840 used the Fleuron cancel in two types; a large fleuron (35mm diameter) from 1809 to 1825 and a small fleuron (25mm diameter) from 1825 to 1840. There were many variations (e.g. omission and inversion of numerals) due to the employment of emancipated slaves in the post office in Antigua.

1833 cover from Antigua to London



Antigua small fleuron



1833 cover from Antigua to London with manuscript "2/2"on the front with a small 25mm fleuron cancellation dated JA 7 1833 and a red London receiver FE 8 1833 on the back.
Rate: From 1828 the rate from the West Indian islands to London was 2/2 (Post Office Directory)

Sources
Lowe, R (1990)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume VI Leeward Islands Christie's Robson Lowe, London and the Auction House, Bournemouth
Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

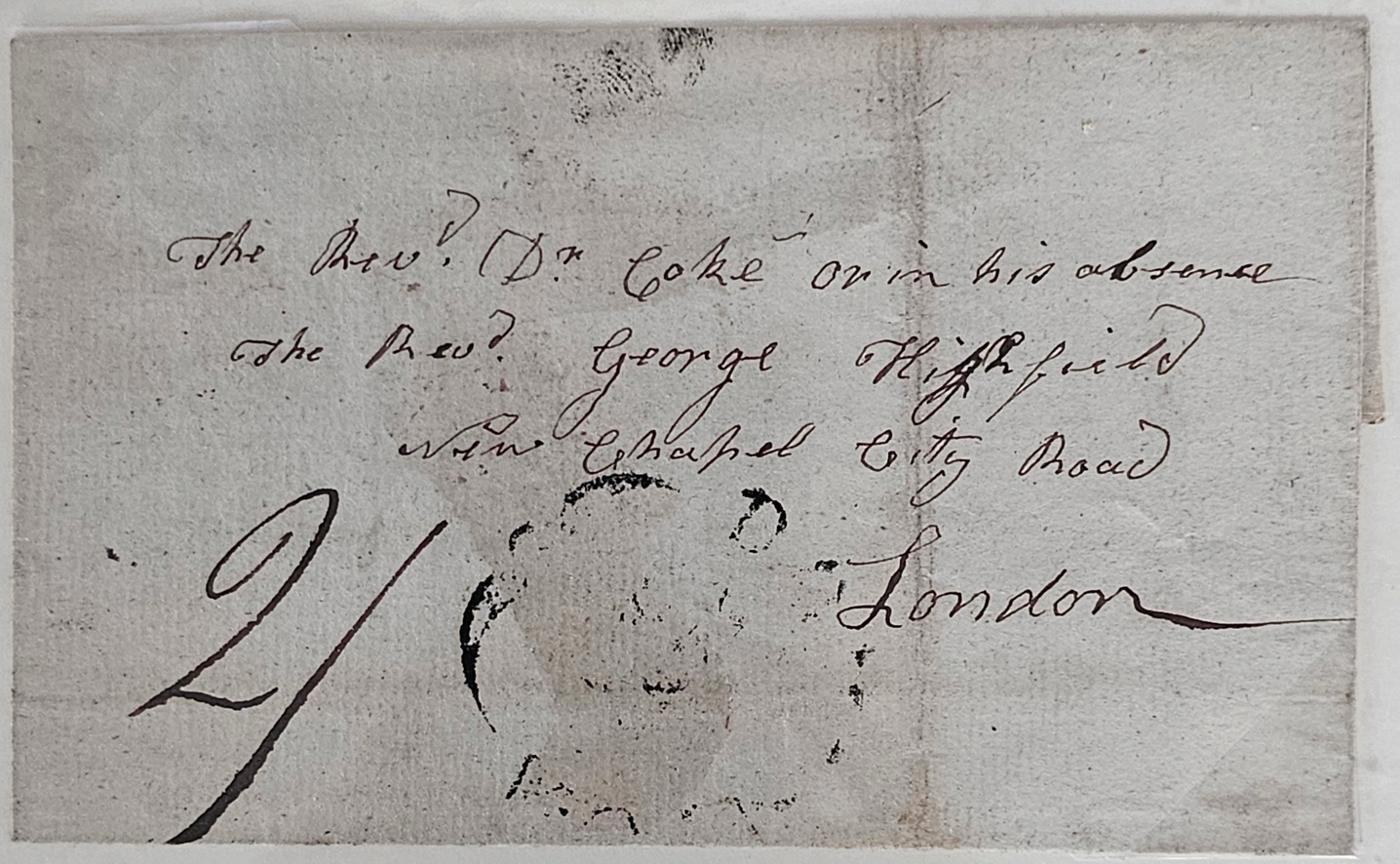
Dominica

Roseau

Dominica passed between Britain and France in the late 18th century but it was again restored to Britain in 1783. A French attack in 1805 was repulsed. Dominica became a Crown Colony and was initially part of the Leeward Islands. A branch of the GPO in London was established at Roseau in 1845 and a hand-struck mark 'Paid at Dominica' was used. Hand stamps had been used in Roseau since 1798 and a number of fleuron cancels were used, including the large 37mm fleuron from about 1807 to 1822



Dominica large fleuron



January 4th 1812 stamp less cover, folded outer wrapper from Roseau, Dominica addressed to a minister in London with "2/=" hand stamp indicating that a rate of 2/- is due and an iIndistinct large type Dominica fleuron (37mm) in black. Back stamped 23rd February 1812 on arrival in Great Britain.
Rate: The Act of 1805 45 Geo III, C11 set the rate at 2/- for a single letter to London, 1/1d to Falmouth. There was some question of interpretation, and the 1812 British Post Office Directory confirmed that this rate applied to all of the British West Indies.

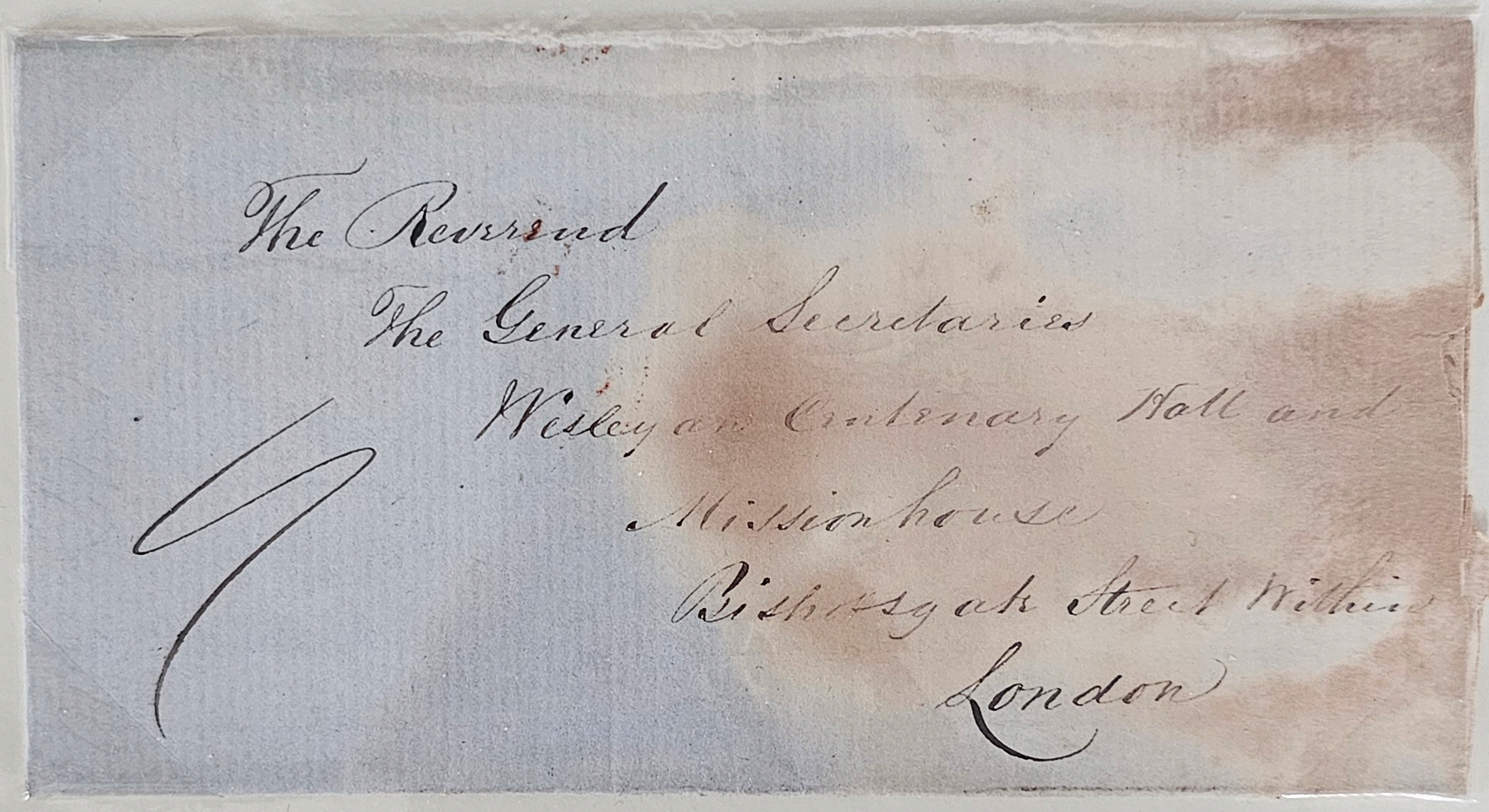
Bahamas

The British Post Office introduced a straight line BAHAMAS hand stamp in 1804. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Line started a regular mail service to Great Britain in 1841and a 'Crown Paid' hand stamp together with a dated CDS postmark for New Providence was introduced in 1846



Bahamas CDS cancel

1852 cover from Bahamas to London





1852 cover from Bahamas to London, stamped with Bahamas CDS on 12th April 1852. On the back is a London arrival cancel for 23rd May. There is a London arrival mark for the 23rd. The letter contains a report on the state of missionary schools throughout the Bahama Islands at Great Turtle Cay, Cherokee Sound, Great Harbour and Marsh Harbour, written by a Mr Thompson to the Wesley Mission House in London. ***Route:*** Carried to St. Thomas from Nassau on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer "Esk" arriving on the 22nd April. On 7th May the "Parana' took it to Southampton where it berthed on the 22nd.

BRITISH GUIANA

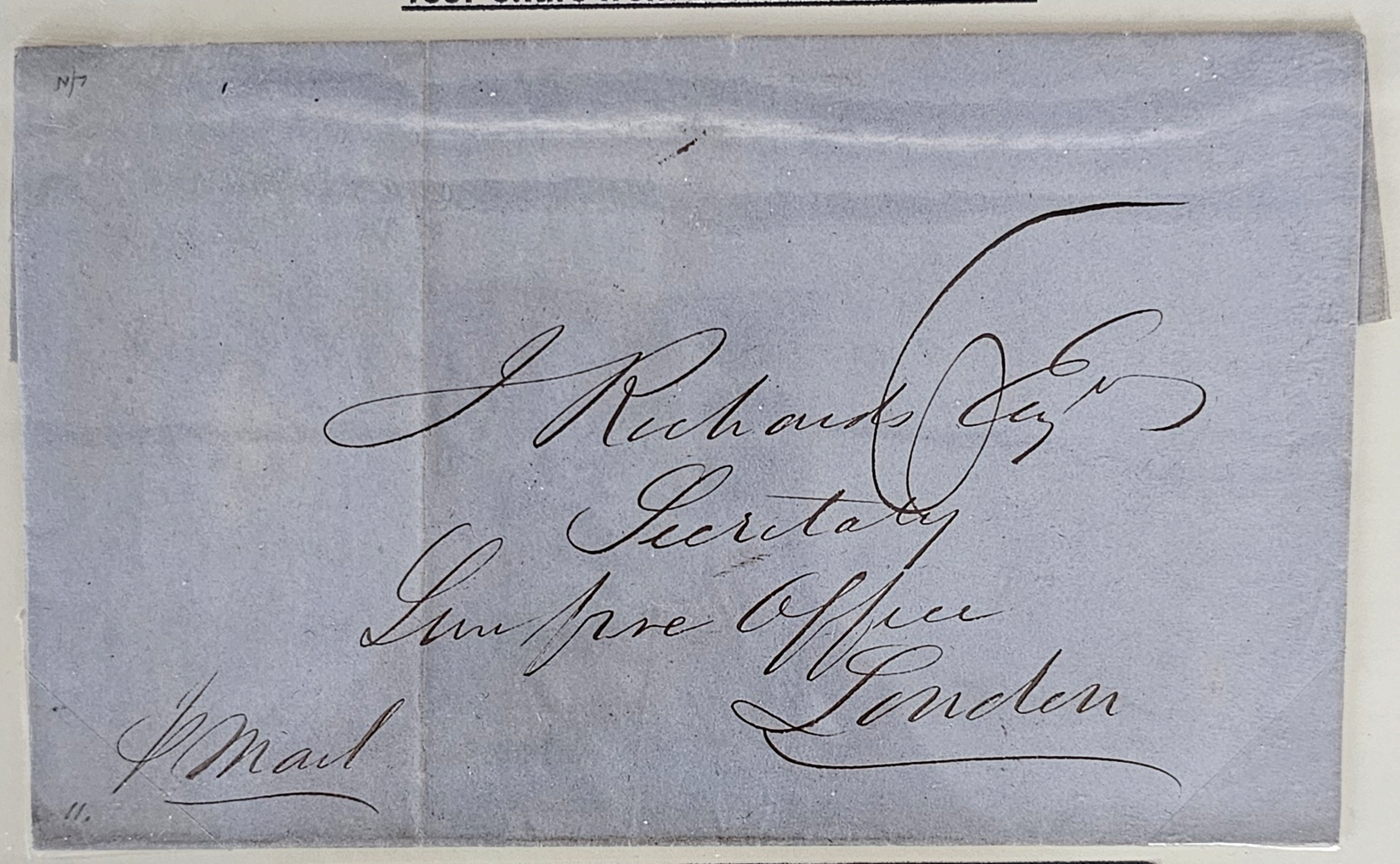
Demerara

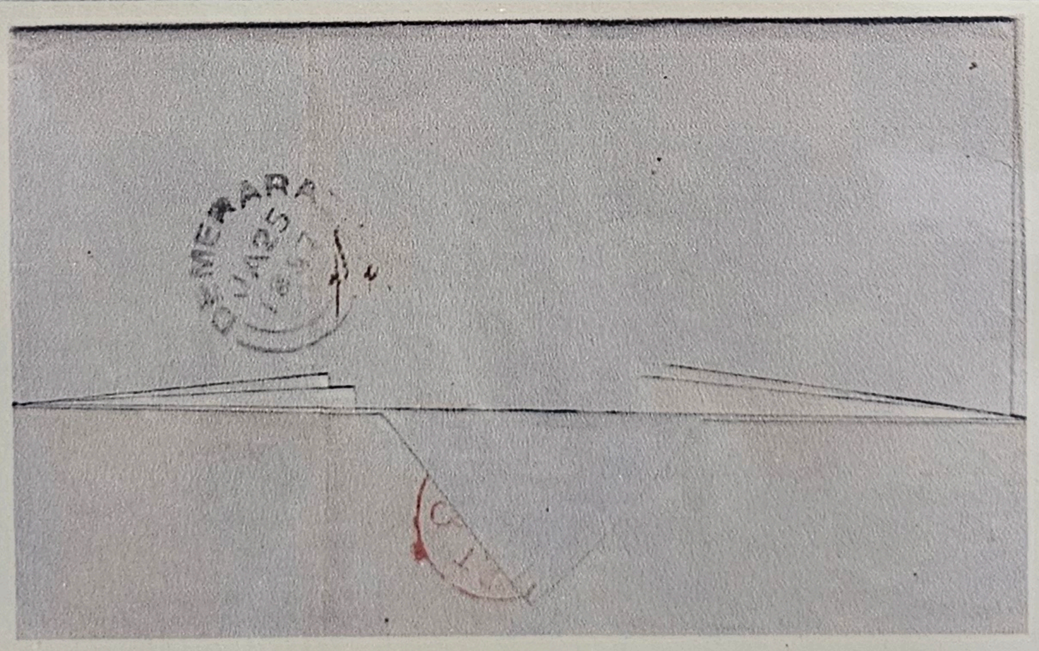
The Demerara CDS1 and CDS2 cancels were used for unpaid overseas mail from 1838 to 1858 when pre-payment was made compulsory, alongside local postage stamps for internal mail from 1850. Packet boats of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) used a feeder route from Demerara via Barbados to St Thomas, where they connected with the main service to Southampton.



CDS2

1857 entire from Demerara to London





1857 entire folded letter sent by the local agent of the Sun Fire Insurance Office in Demerara, British Guiana, to his Head Office in London on 25th January 1857 enclosing a receipt for premium received. Stamped at the local British Post Office on that day with CDS2 cancel

Rate: The rate from Demerara and other British West Indies ports to Great Britain was fixed at 6d by Treasury Warrant on 23rd March 1854.

Route: Sent on 26th January on the RSMP steamer "Derwent" to St. Thomas via Barbados, where it arrived on the 31st. The "Magdalena" left St. Thomas on 1st February for Southampton, arriving on the 19th.

BRITISH GUIANA

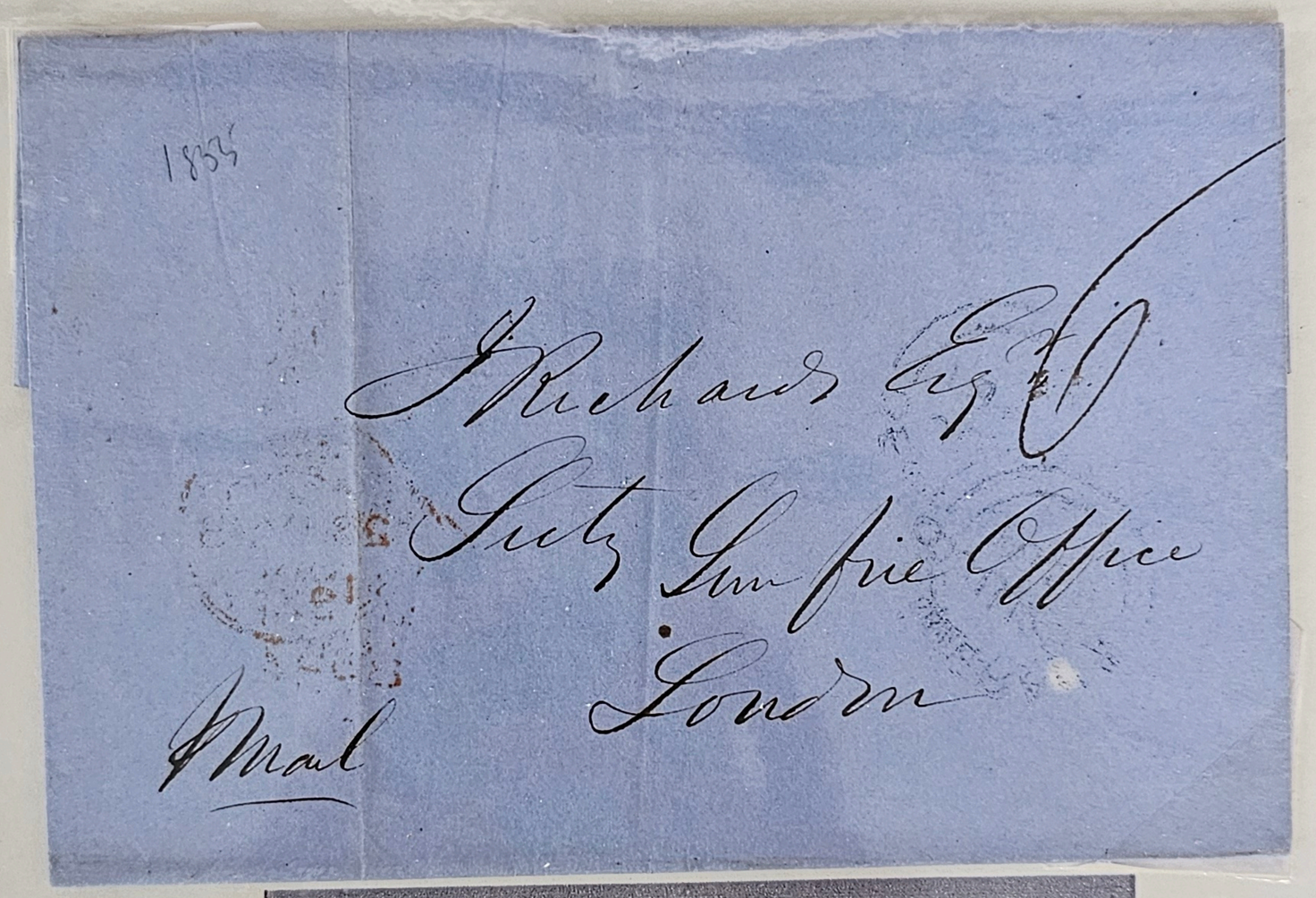
Demerara

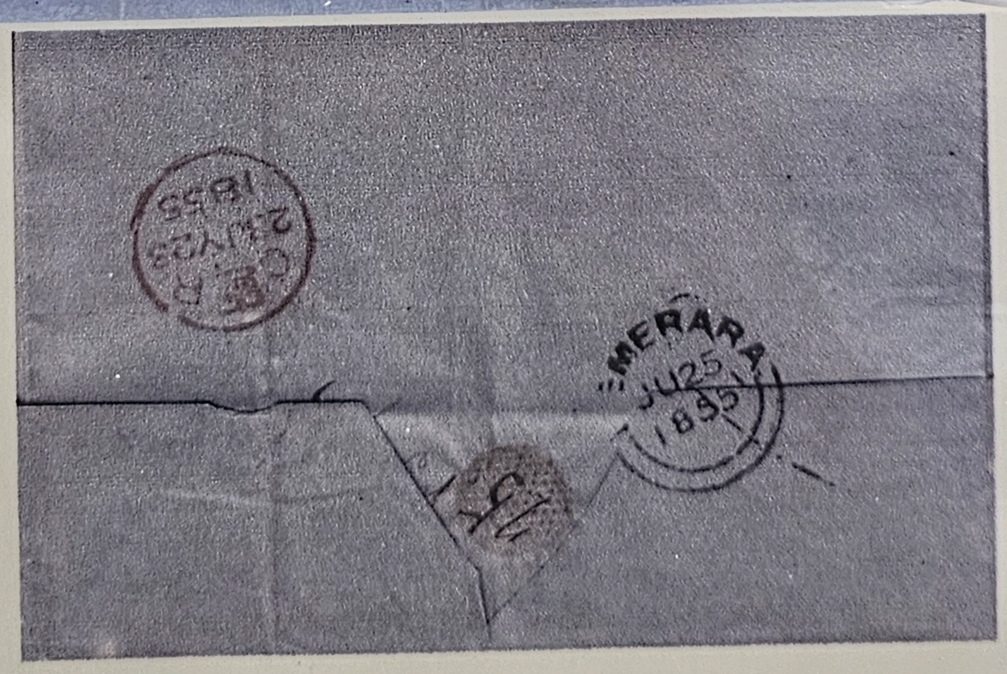
The first post office in Demerara was set up in 1783, but the service was so unsatisfactory that the British Post Office reorganised it in 1797. The Demerara CDS1 and CDS2 cancels were used for unpaid overseas mail from 1838 to 1858 when pre-payment was made compulsory. Packet boats of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) used a feeder route from Demerara via Barbados to St Thomas, where they connected with the main service to Southampton.



CDS2

1855 entire from Demerara to London





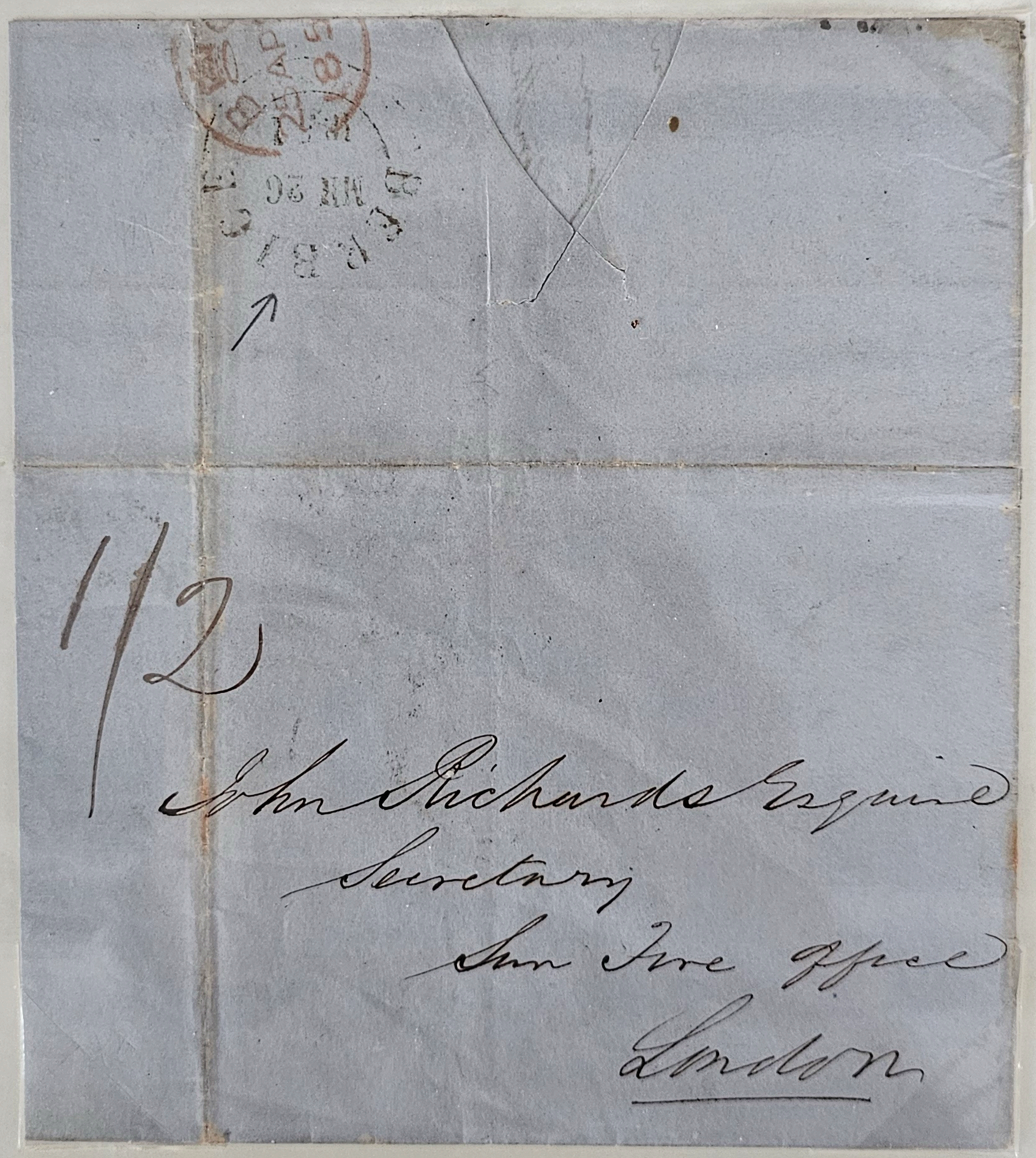
1855 entire folded letter sent to the Sun Fire Insurance Office London on 25th June 1855. Stamped at the local British Post Office on that day with a CDS2 cancel it was received in London on 23rd July 1855.
Rate: The rate from Demerara to Great Britain was fixed at 6d by Treasury Warrant on 23rd March 1854.
Route: Sent on 26th June on the RSMP steamer "Derwent" to Barbados (27th June), and on 29th June to St Thomas on the RMS "Eagle", arriving on the 2nd July. Then itv was carried on the Main Route on the RMS "Tay" from St. Thomas (6th July) to Southampton, arriving on the 19th July.

BRITISH GUIANA

A packet office existed in Demerara from 1796 and in Berbice somewhat later. A local boat met the Falmouth packet at Barbados. Date-stamps are known from soon after. From 1842 the service changed to steam and British Guiana shared the services of the West Indies packet. An inland Post 0ffice was established by London on 1 July 1850. In 1856 a crowned circle 'PAID' mark was supplied. Prepayment of letters to Britain was made compulsory in 1858. Stamps of Britain were used on mail to Britain from 1858 to 1860, when the colony took control of the Post Office.

Berbice

Berbice cancels are much less common than those of Demerara. Berbice date stamps were used on unpaid mail from 1817 to 1860 and seven types of date stamp are known. Parmenter only lists and illustrates the seventh type CDS which was used rarely on unpaid mail from 1853 until 1860. The sixth type CDS (on the entire below) was issued from about 1844. Throughout the period the packet rate to the UK was 1/2d. GB stamps were cancelled with the A04 cancel from 1858-60.Berbice was renamed “New Amsterdam” in 1860



26th March 1851 entire from Berbice to London at packet rate of 1/2d (“1/2” in manuscript). A Berbice CDS and red London receiver for 25th April 1851 are on the reverse.

Grenada

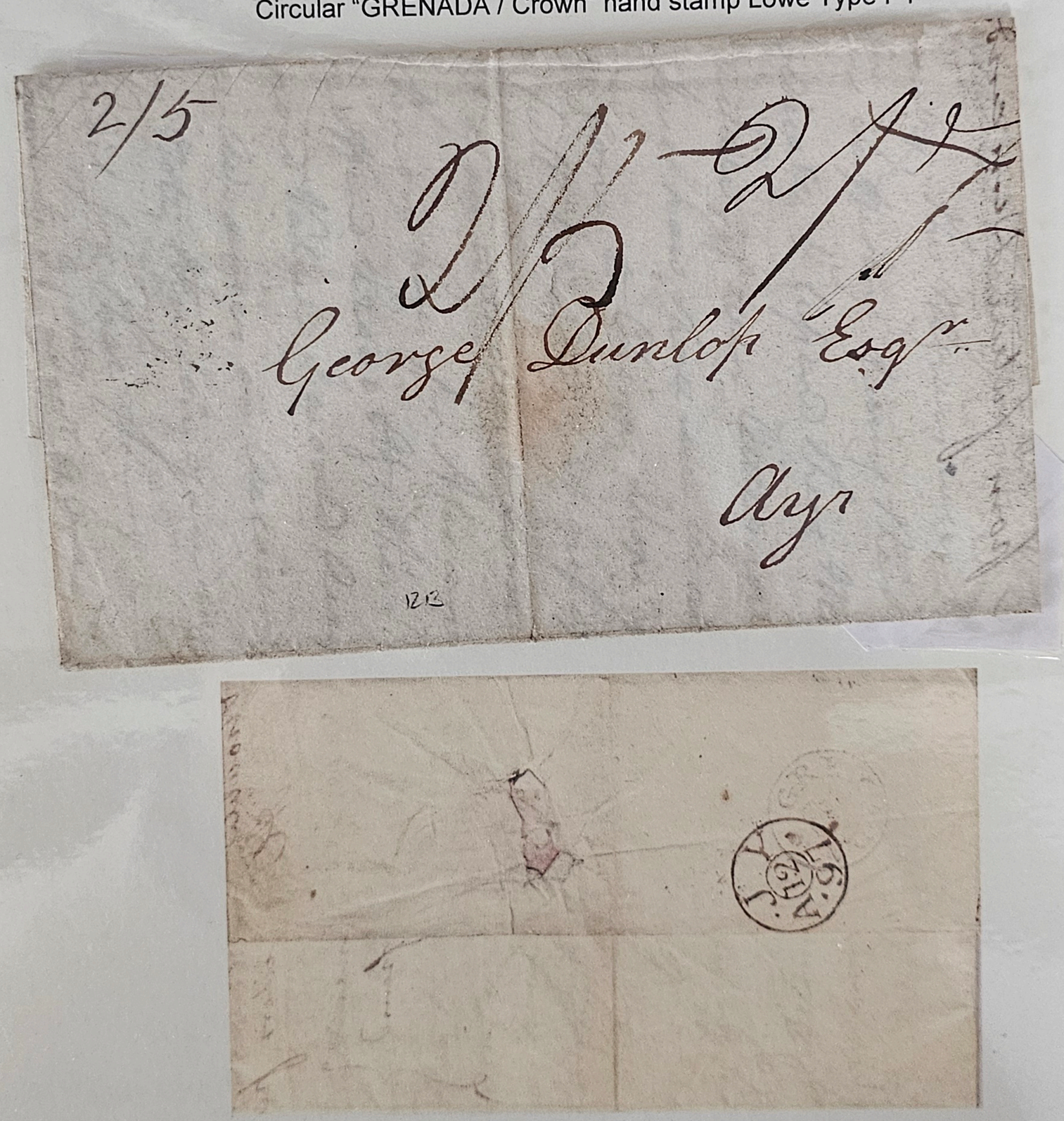
Discovered by Columbus in 1498, it was settled by the French in 1650, captured by Britain in April 1762 and held by them until July 1779. Grenada was finally awarded to Britain by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

The British GPO is believed to have operated the island's postal service from 1784. A packet agency operated at St. Georges, the capital of Grenada and another at Carriacou in the Grenadines from 1847-8. Control was handed over to the local administration in 1860. The circular "GRENADA / Crown" hand stamp is known to have been used from 1786 – 1797

1797 Entire from St Georges, Grenada to Ayr



Circular "GRENADA / Crown" hand stamp Lowe Type P1



1797 (13 May) Entire letter ex the Dunlop correspondence to Ayr, rated "2/-" (deleted) and "2/5" and showing on reverse a light strike of the circular "GRENADA / Crown" hand stamp partly over struck by arrival CDS.

Provenance: Jaffa West Indies 2006 (Spink Auctions)
Source: Lowe, R, 2nd ed (1938-9) Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900 Robson Lowe, London

Grenada

Grenada, in common with many of the West Indian islands changed hands between Britain and France several times through the 18th century. In 1803 the war between Britain and France was resumed, producing changes in the mail service. On October 30th 1809 Mr William Milliken gave details of the Local Mail Boat Service. There were two Packets each month; a mail boat went from Tobago, Grenada and St Vincent to Barbadoes, where it was taken by the twice-monthly Packet to Falmouth.

The British GPO is believed to have operated Grenada's postal service from 1784. The two line "GRENADA / DATE" hand stamp Lowe Type P2 was used from about 1808 until the 1830s.

1809 Entire from St Georges, Grenada to London

GRENADA
JUN20

Two line "GRENADA / DATE" hand stamp Lowe Type P2



1809 (December 24th) entire from William Jardine in Grenada to Dr Dinwiddie in London; the contents are medical in nature. The front has "4/" in manuscript; back stamped are a two line cancel "GRENADA/DEC 24" and a London receiver dated "4 FE 4 1810".
Rate: 4/- (double rate) 1805 45 George III cII West Indies islands to London 2/-, prepayment not mandatory
Route: By mail boat to Barbadoes, then by twice-monthly Packet to Falmouth

Provenance: Jaffa West Indies 2006 (Spink Auctions)
Source: Lowe, R, 2nd ed (1938-9) Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900 Robson Lowe, London

Grenada

Grenada, in common with many of the West Indian islands changed hands between Britain and France several times through the 18th century. This cover was sent two months before the War with America (1812-14) that disrupted the mail boat service in the Caribbean. On October 30th 1809 Mr William Milliken gave details of the Local Mail Boat Service. There were two Packets each month; a mail boat went from Tobago, Grenada and St Vincent to Barbadoes, where it was taken by the Packet to Falmouth. This arrangement ended in 1815.

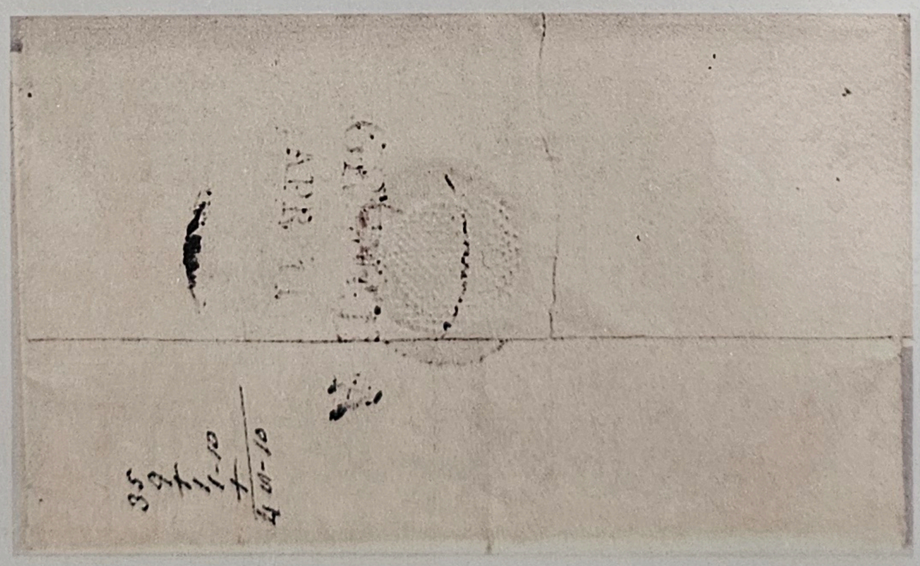
The British GPO is believed to have operated Grenada's postal service from 1784. The two line "GRENADA / DATE" hand stamp Lowe Type P2 was used from about 1808 until the 1830s.

1812 wrapper from Grenada to Inverness, North Britain

GRENADA
JUN20

Two line "GRENADA / DATE" hand stamp Lowe Type P2





1812 (April 11th) wrapper from Grenada to Inverness, North Britain. The contents are written to a brother. The front has "2/6" in manuscript; with "5/-"crossed out and "Packet" in ms, and red octagonal receiver for May 30 1812. Back stamped is the GRENADA two line cancel dated APR11.
Rate: There was confusion about packet rates, but in 1812 the rate of 2/- from the West Indies to London was confirmed.
***Route*:** Taken by mail boat to Barbadoes, and then taken by the Packet to Falmouth.

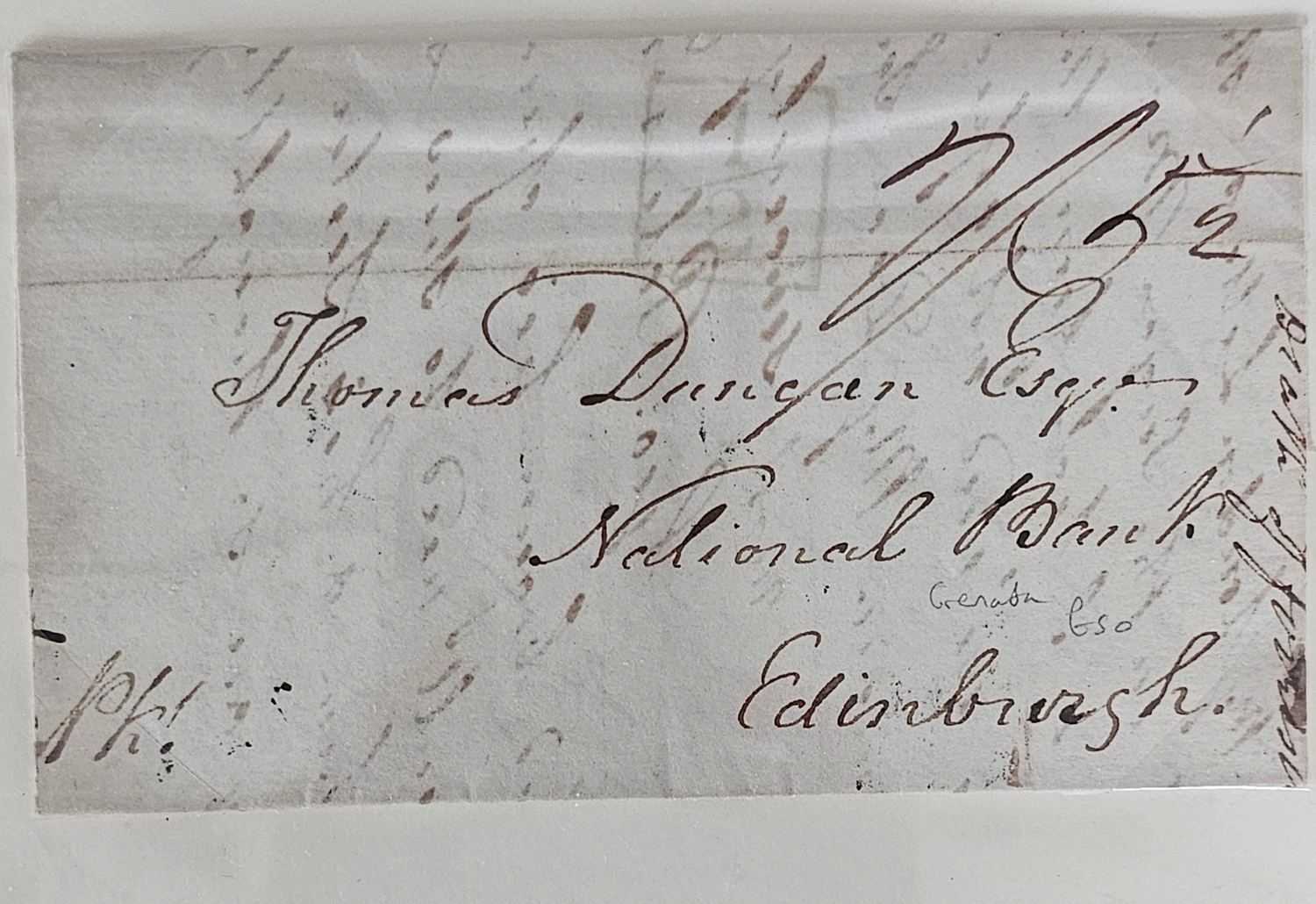
Provenance: Jaffa West Indies 2006 (Spink Auctions)
***Source*:** Lowe, R, 2nd ed (1938-9) Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900 Robson Lowe, London

Grenada

Discovered by Columbus in 1498, it was settled by the French in 1650, captured by Britain in April 1762 and held by them until July 1779. Grenada was finally awarded to Britain by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783.

The British GPO is believed to have operated the island's postal service from 1784. A packet agency operated at St. Georges, the capital of Grenada and another at Carriacou in the Grenadines from 1847-8.

1838 Entire from Grenada to Edinburgh



1838 Entire Letter from Grenada written on 20 September 1838 to Edinburgh with rate of 2/5½ on the front in manuscript, with red arrival stamp dated 2nd November 1838 on the back. A Grenada hand stamp is unclear.

Route Sailing packets had variable routes from Grenada with inter-island sailing and then the journey to Falmouth taking typically 40 –42 days. A common route was Falmouth, Barbados, Tobago, Trinidad, ***Grenada***, St. Kitts, Tortola, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, Cape Haitien, Falmouth.

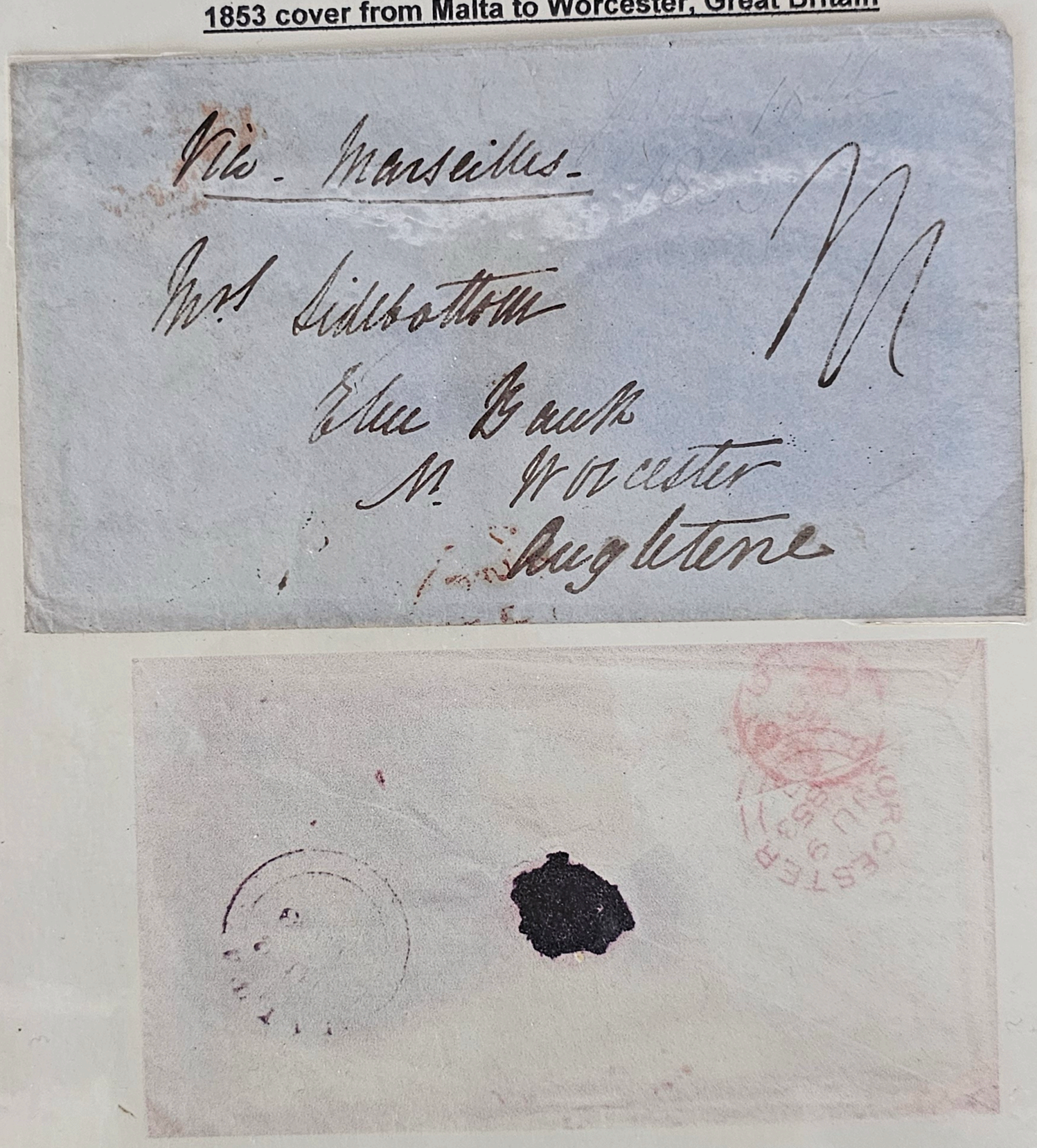
British Post Office in Malta

An early hand stamp that was used on unpaid mail before GB stamps were used in Malta (1855); also as a back stamp after GB stamps had come into use. *Lowe* states that it was used from 1839 to 1859.



Malta CDS1

1853 cover from Malta to Worcester, Great Britain



1853 cover (envelope) to Worcester, Great Britain "Via Marseilles" and "1/3" in manuscript on front.
Backstamps are: Malta June 3 1853, London June 9 and Worcester June 9.
Rate: Manuscript rate would have been 10d from Grand Harbour as opposed to 1/3 from the Quarantine Harbour for a letter between one and two ounces.

Sources
Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham
Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London

British Post Office in Malta

An early hand stamp that was used on unpaid mail before GB stamps were used in Malta (1855); also as a back stamp after GB stamps had come into use. *Lowe* states that it was used from 1839 to 1859.



Malta CDS1

1849 entire letter from Malta to Constantinople



1849 entire letter from Malta to Constantinople, with Petrocochino blue oval hand stamp, "16" in manuscript and "p Tancrede" in manuscript. On the back is MALTA CDS1 JU 5 1849 hand stamp and French P.O. Constantinople hand stamp.
Rate: Sent unpaid through the French postal system with 16 decimes to pay on arrival.

Sources
Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham
Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London

Malta

When Great Britain stamps were introduced in 1840, British Postal Offices and Agencies abroad lobbied very hard for their own stamps. The GPO resisted the pressure, but from 1841 issued the Crowned Circle (Crown Paid) hand-stamp to consulates and packet agencies in foreign countries and to a few Post Offices in British Empire territories. Other colonial territories, including Malta, received the CDS PAID hand-stamp which served the same purpose. The Malta CDS PAID hand-stamp was sent by the GPO in December 1841 and was used until 1878.



Malta CDS PAID

1857 entire letter from Malta to Athens





1857 entire letter from Malta to Athens, with MALTA CDS PAID AP 12 57 , a P. in a circle, "3" in manuscript and merchants oval hand struck "PETROGOCHINO & Co, MALTA"; the back has two arrival hand stamps for 4th April 57 (the old Julian calendar in use in Greece until 1923).

Martinique

Martinique in the Windward Islands was a French possession with a British Packet Agency from 1848-l879.



Martinique CDS



1861 entire from Martinique to Le Havre, France bearing on reverse date stamp for Jan 14th 1861 with red transit CDS for Jan 31st 1861. Front has boxed "GB/1F60c"accountance charge, and in manuscript:-tampon "8" decime charge, Calais entry CDS, "Voie Anglaise" and "Par packet"

Route: RMS Teviot from Barbados (13 Jan) to St Thomas (16 Jan) via the Isles including Martinique, then RMS Tasmanian from St Thomas (16th Jan) to Southampton (31st Jan) which sailed as an additional ship to bring home Pacific mails

Source:

Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham

British Packet Agency in Lisbon, Portugal

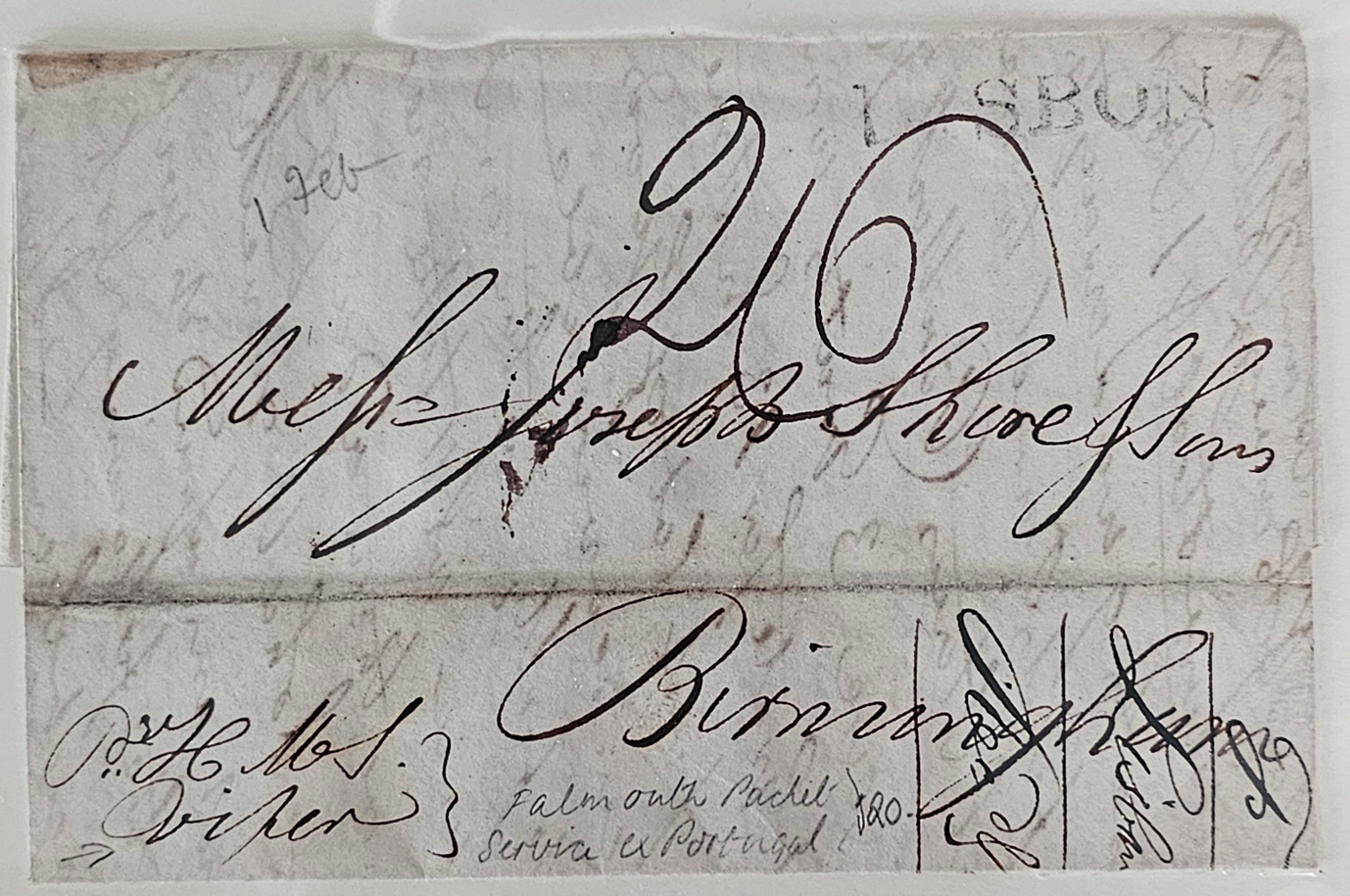
From about 1790 until 1850 there was a British Packet Agency in Lisbon; little is known about its operation except that during the Peninsular War (1808-14) many British soldiers' letters passed through the agency. There are 4 different Packet Agency in Lisbon straight line cancels; the cancel used here is the larger Lowe No 2 (type PA) of dimensions 32 x 5mm. It was used from 1797 to 1852, and was initially, in 1797, also found in red.

LISBON

Lowe type 2 cancel

1833 entire letter from Lisbon to Birmingham

This letter was carried on the HMS Viper, a six gun schooner (a type of sailing vessel characterized by the use of fore-and-aft sails on two or more masts with the forward mast being shorter or the same height as the rear masts.) launched in 1831 and broken up in 1851. The HMS Viper mostly served as a mail boat on the West African service. Between 1711 and 1840 the Admiralty held the Post Office contracts for services between Lisbon and Great Britain. There is a long four page letter.



1833 entire letter from Lisbon to Birmingham, written on 1st February 1833. On the front is a straight line black LISBON Lowe Type 2 cancel and with "2/6" and "per HMS Viper" in manuscript. There are no dated transit cancels.

Rate/ route: By the Falmouth packet. Rated 2/6, the packet rate from Portugal to Birmingham via Falmouth. In April 1831 the packet rate from Portugal was fixed at 1/7 to Falmouth, plus the internal rate from Falmouth to the destination less 1d.

Source:
Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London
Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

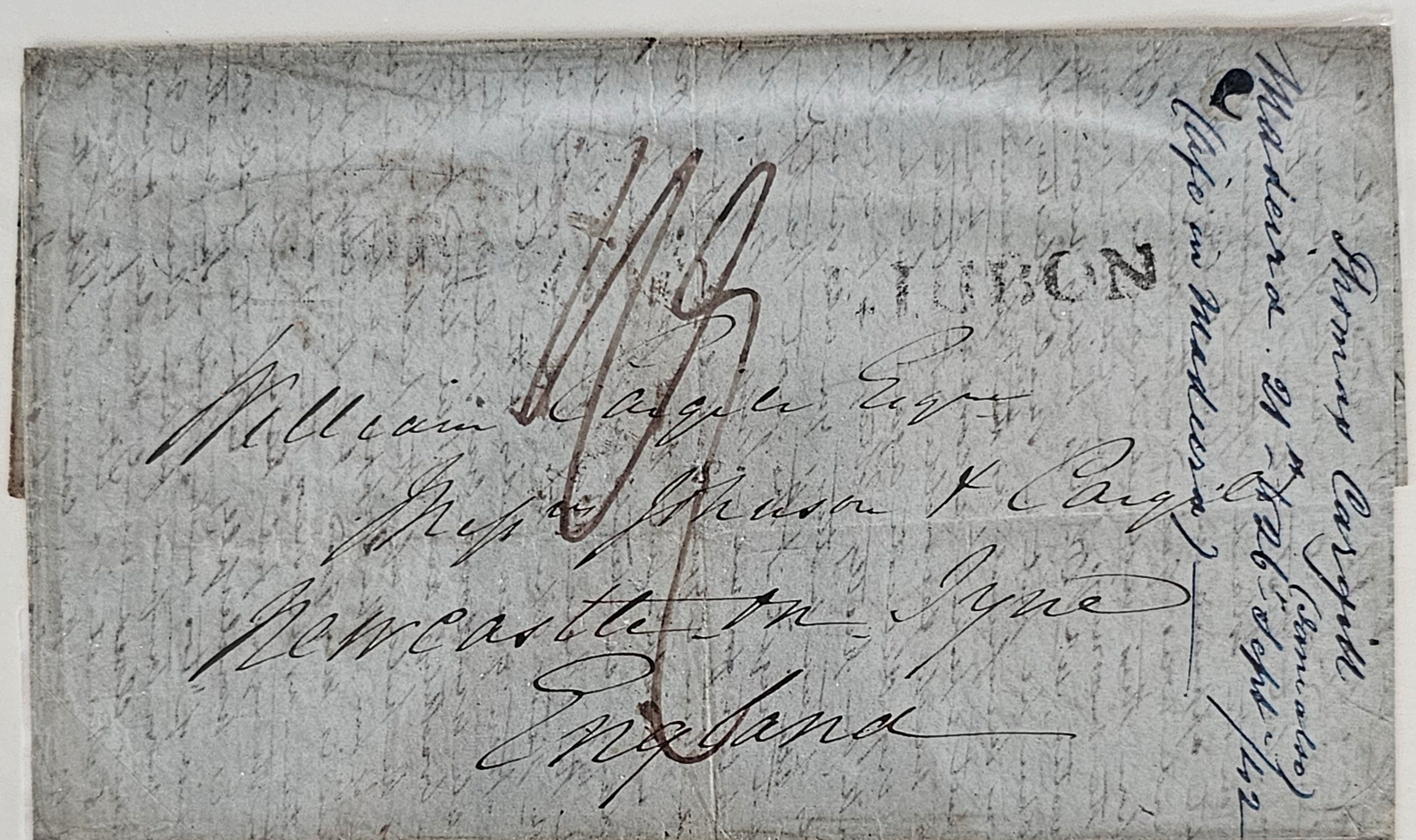
British Packet Agency in Lisbon, Portugal

From about 1790 until 1850 there was a British Packet Agency in Lisbon; little is known about its operation except that during the Peninsular War (1808-14) many British soldiers' letters passed through the agency. There are 4 different Packet Agency in Lisbon straight line cancels; the cancel used here is the larger Lowe No 2 (type PA) of dimensions 32 x 5mm. It was used from 1797 to 1852, and was initially, in 1797, also found in red.

This letter gives an account in English of life in Madeira in 1842 by Thomas Cargill.

LISBON

Lowe type 2 cancel



1842 entire letter from Madeira to Nerwcastlo-on-Tyne, carried privately to Lisbon and then by Packet boat to England. On the front is a straight line black LISBON Lowe Type 2 cancel and "1/9" in manuscript. On the back is a red London transit CDS (OC 10) and a black Newcastle on Tyne double ring CDS (OC11 1842)
Rate/ route: By the Falmouth packet. The Post Office Directory of 1841 stated that the rate by the Falmouth packet from Lisbon was 1/9 per ½ ounce.

Source:
Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London
Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

Spain

Cadiz

British packet boats called at Cadiz in the 19th century and packet mail originating from Cadiz is found with distinctive hand stamps from 1830 – 1848. These are found as:

BC Cadiz (1830 – 1848) B.C. = British Consul. Lowe Type 1.
It is also found with a fleuron incorporated in the design from 1846-1848
Peninsular Steam Navigation Company (Apr- Aug 1837) Lowe Type 2

Brodie McGhie Wilcox and Arthur Anderson founded the Peninsular and Orient Steam Navigation Company, initially concentrating on trade with Portugal and Spain (thus the name "Peninsular" from the Iberian Peninsular). They ran guns and ammunition in support of Queen Maria II of Portugal and the Spanish Crown when they faced civil unrest and they received the right to fly the Royal Colours of these two countries. Thus the Blue and White of the Portuguese House of Braganza and the red and gold of the Spanish Bourbon rulers are used as the company colours in the P & O flag up to this day.

In 1834 they, along with others, formed the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company. They ran a regular service to Vigo, Oporto, Lisbon and Cadiz.



Type 1

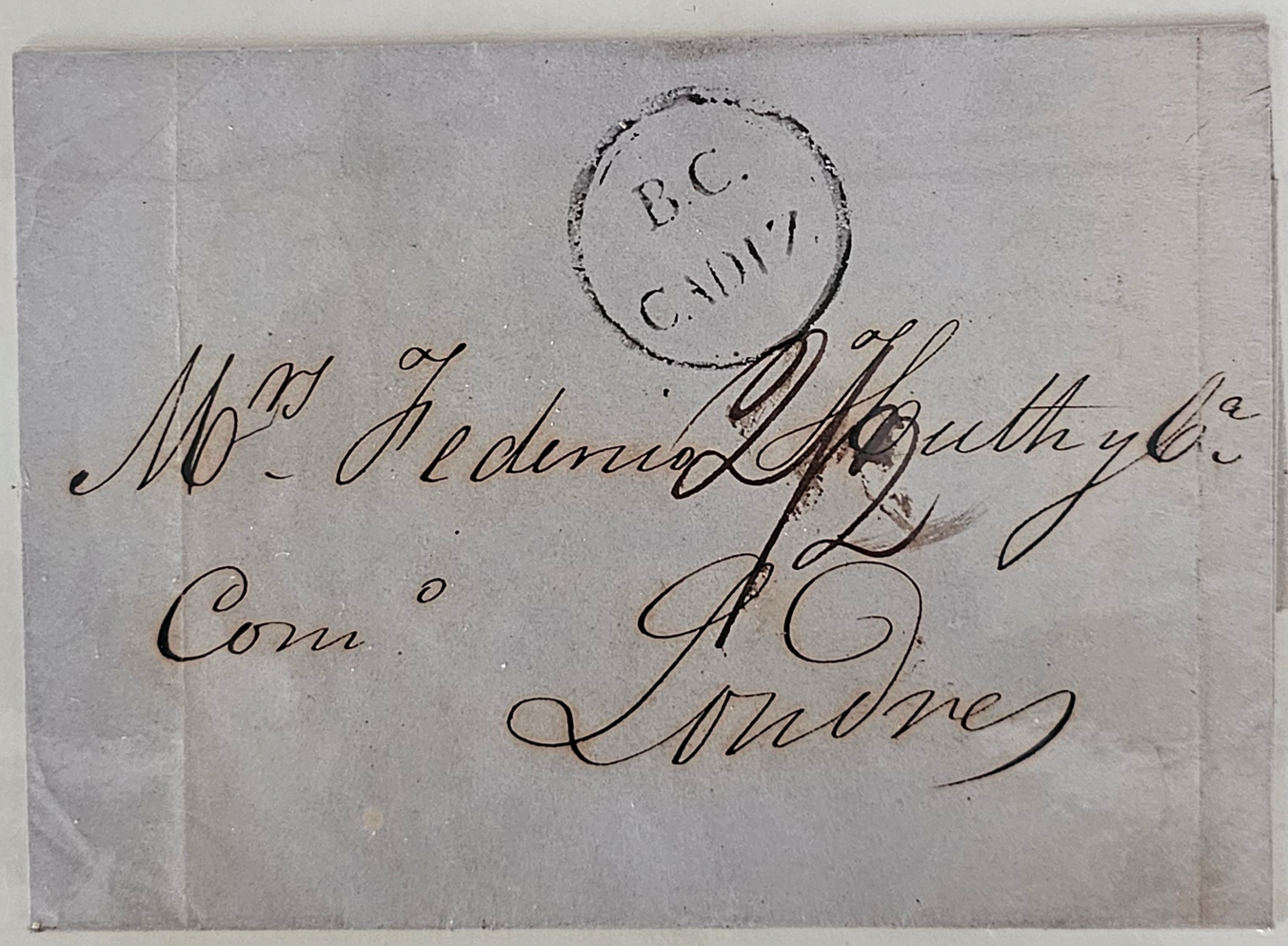


Type 1 with fleuron



Type 2

1846 cover from Cadiz to London



Entire Letter sent 6th April 1846 to from Cadiz to Huth, London. Stamped on front with B.C.Cadiz in a double circle (British Consulate) cancel with red London receiver dated 16th April 1846 on reverse
Route: By Peninsular Steam Navigation Company route from Gibraltar to Southampton
Rate was 2/2d for packets up to ½ ounce via the Southampton packet

Sources

Dr. S Fernando EARLY POSTAL HISTORY OF CEYLON AND THE P&O STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY
http://www.defonseka.com/hist_pando.htm
Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London

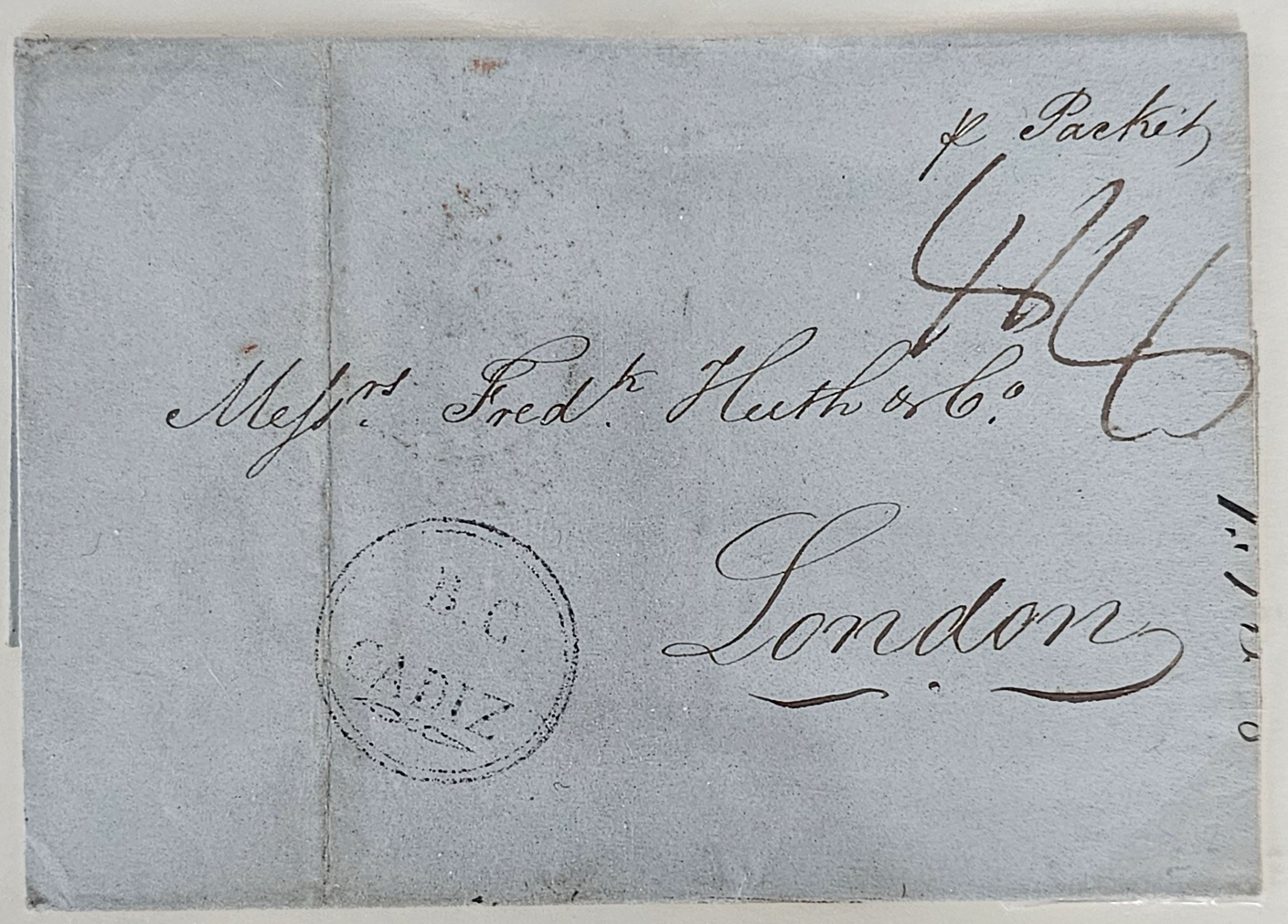
British Packet Agencies in Spain - Cadiz

British packet boats called at Cadiz in the 19th century and packet mail originating from Cadiz is found with distinctive hand stamps from 1830 – 1848. These are mainly found as B.C (British Consul) Cadiz double ring cancel (Lowe Type 1), used from 1830 to 1848. It is also found (as with this cover) from 1846-1848 with a fleuron incorporated in the design



Type 1 with fleuron

1847 cover from Cadiz to London



Entire Letter sent 6th April 1847 from Cadiz to Frederick Huth, London. It is stamped on front with B.C. (British Consulate) Cadiz in a double circle cancel with fleuron, and has "4/4" in manuscript. On the back is a red London receiver CDS receiver dated 25th MY 1847.
Route: By Peninsular Steam Navigation Company route from Gibraltar to Southampton
Rate From 1844 the rate was 2/2d for packets up to ½ ounce via the Southampton packet to anywhere in Great Britain. At a cost of 4/4, this was a double rate packet.

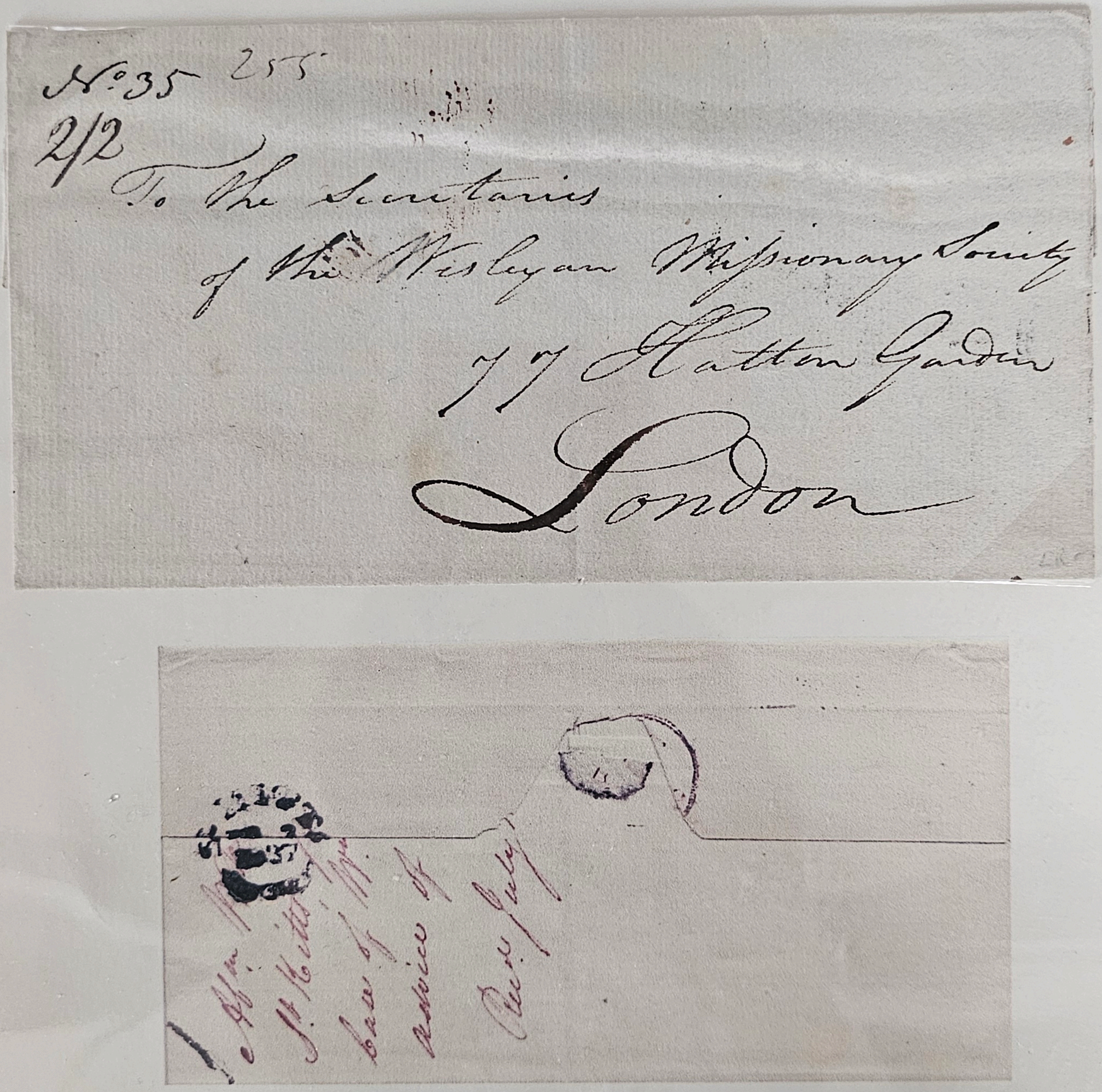
Sources

Dr. S Fernando EARLY POSTAL HISTORY OF CEYLON AND THE P&O STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY
http://www.defonseka.com/hist_pando.htm
Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London
Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

St Kitts

The first settlement on St Kitts (St Christopher) was founded in 1624 by Sir Thomas Warner; the island was shared with the French as protection against the hostile Caribs. The French area was ceded to Britain in 1713 by the Treaty of Utrecht; captured by the French in 1782, St Kitts was returned to British control the following year. The British Post Office introduced the first postmark in 1789. Three types of fleuron cancel were used i.e. large fleuron 1805 to 1809; medium fleuron 1810 – 1822 and small fleuron (27mm) 1824 – 1843.

1837 wrapper from St Kitts to London



1837 wrapper to the Wesleyan Mission in London with over-inked St Kitts small fleuron dated JU 2 1837 struck across flap, docketed "Rec'd July 12" and manuscript rate "2/2".
Rate: The rate was 2/2 from St Kitts to London from 1813 to 1840

British Post Office in St Kitts (St Christopher)

Three different fleuron cancels were used at St Kitts – a large fleuron from 1805 to 1812, medium fleuron from 1807 to 1844 and a small fleuron from 1824 to 1844. This example is a medium fleuron 28.5mm in diameter.

1824 entire from St Kitts to Glasgow



1824 entire to London with a black St Kitts medium fleuron (Lowe type 15) dated 8 AP 1824 struck across flap, a black GLASGOW receiver 5 MAY 1824, ms rate "2/5" and boxed black "½" handstamp.
Rate: The rate was 1/3d from St Kitts to Falmouth from 1813 -1840, 1/2d from Falmouth to Glasgow (a journey between 400 and 500 miles) and a ½d surcharge has also been applied at Glasgow.
Route: The Leewards Packet left Falmouth on the third Wednesday of the month from to Barbados, travelling through the Leewards to St Kitts, Tortola, St Thomas and then home to Falmouth. *(Lowe)*

Sources
Lowe, R (1990)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume VI Leeward Islands Christie's Robson Lowe, London.
Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

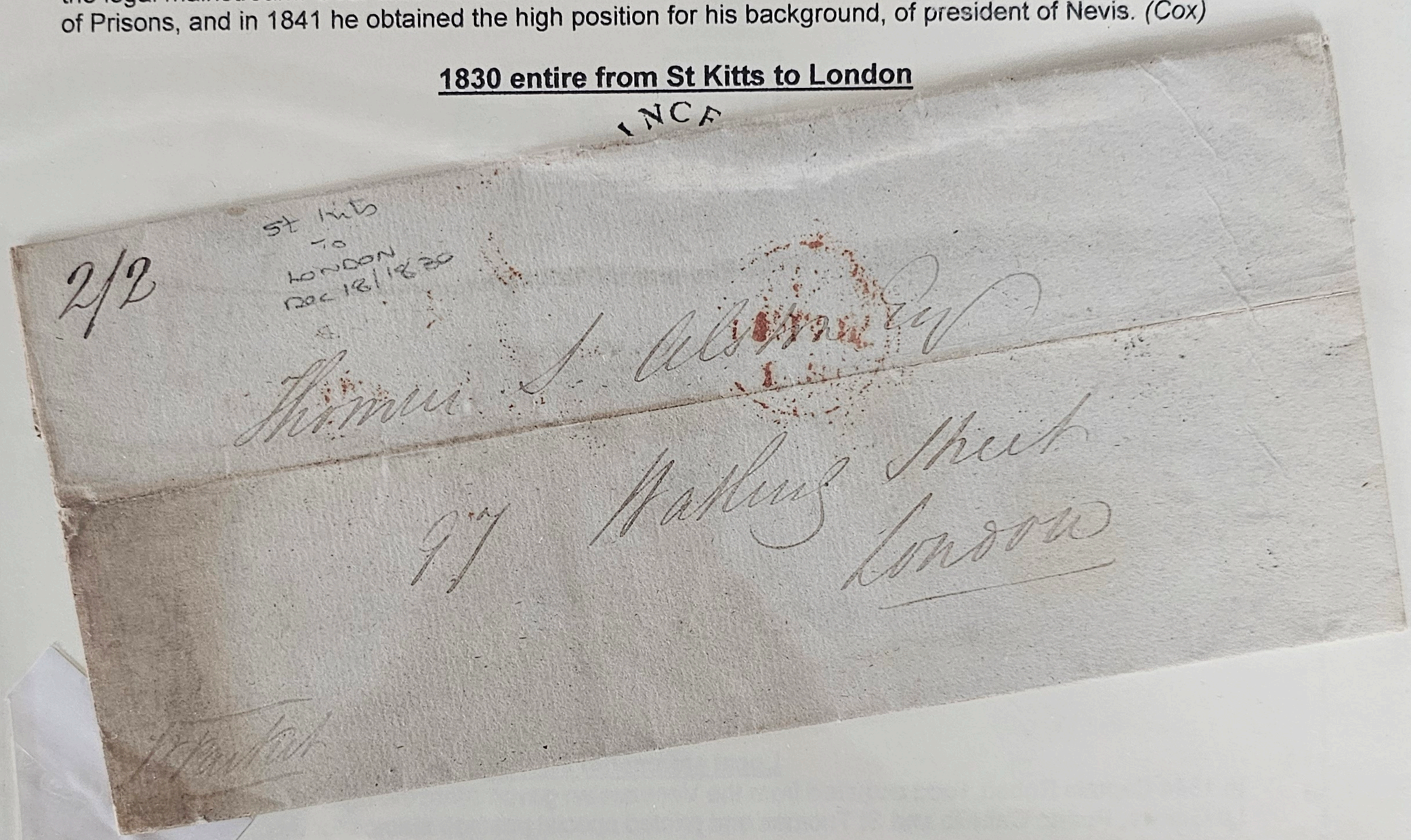
St Kitts

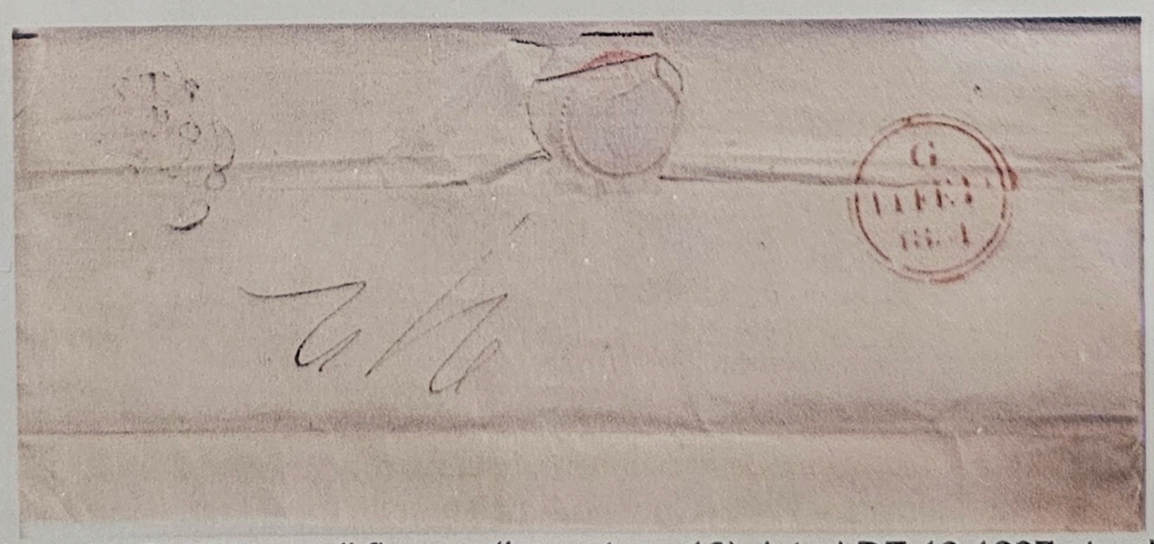
Ralph Brush Cleghorn (1804-1842)

The letter was written by Ralph Brush Cleghorn (1804-1842), a St. Kitts antislavery free coloured activist who campaigned for free coloureds' civil rights and slave emancipation. Cleghorn was born a slave and had a white father, and after he became free studied in England, becoming a businessman, and increasingly influential in St Kitts among the free coloured. Cleghorn called for the rights of free coloureds in the late 1820s, and also made contact with antislavery activists and parliamentarians in England. Cleghorn, different from other free-coloured leaders, became an activist in favour of slave emancipation, converging this in time with his initial struggle for free coloureds' rights, and he also freed his own slaves.

Cleghorn was a pro-abolition activist from the 1830s, working for the passing of slavery abolition legislation in St Kitts in 1834. As a stipendiary magistrate he made improvements for former slaves during apprenticeship. He increasingly came in conflict with the local white elite, and became marginalized from the legal mainstream. Over time his economic wealth also decreased. In 1839 Cleghorn became Inspector of Prisons, and in 1841 he obtained the high position for his background, of president of Nevis. *(Cox)*

1830 entire from St Kitts to London





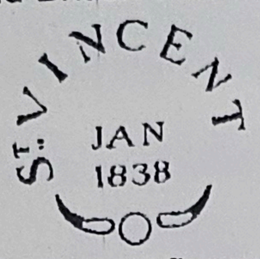
1830 entire to London with St Kitts small fleuron (Lowe type 16) dated DE 13 1837 struck across flap, a red London receiver 11 FEB 1831 and ms rate "2/2". The rate was 2/2 from St Kitts to London from 1813 -1840.
Route: The Leewards Packet left Falmouth on the third Wednesday of the month from to Barbados, travelling through the Leewards to St Kitts, Tortola, St Thomas and then home to Falmouth. *(Lowe)*

Ref: ***Cox, Edward L.*** *(2007) Ralph Brush Cleghorn of St. Kitts (1804-1842) In: Slavery & abolition: a journal of comparative studies, ISSN 0144-039X: vol. 28 (2007), Issue. 1, pp. 41-60.*
Lowe, R (1990)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume VI Leeward Islands Christie's Robson Lowe, London.

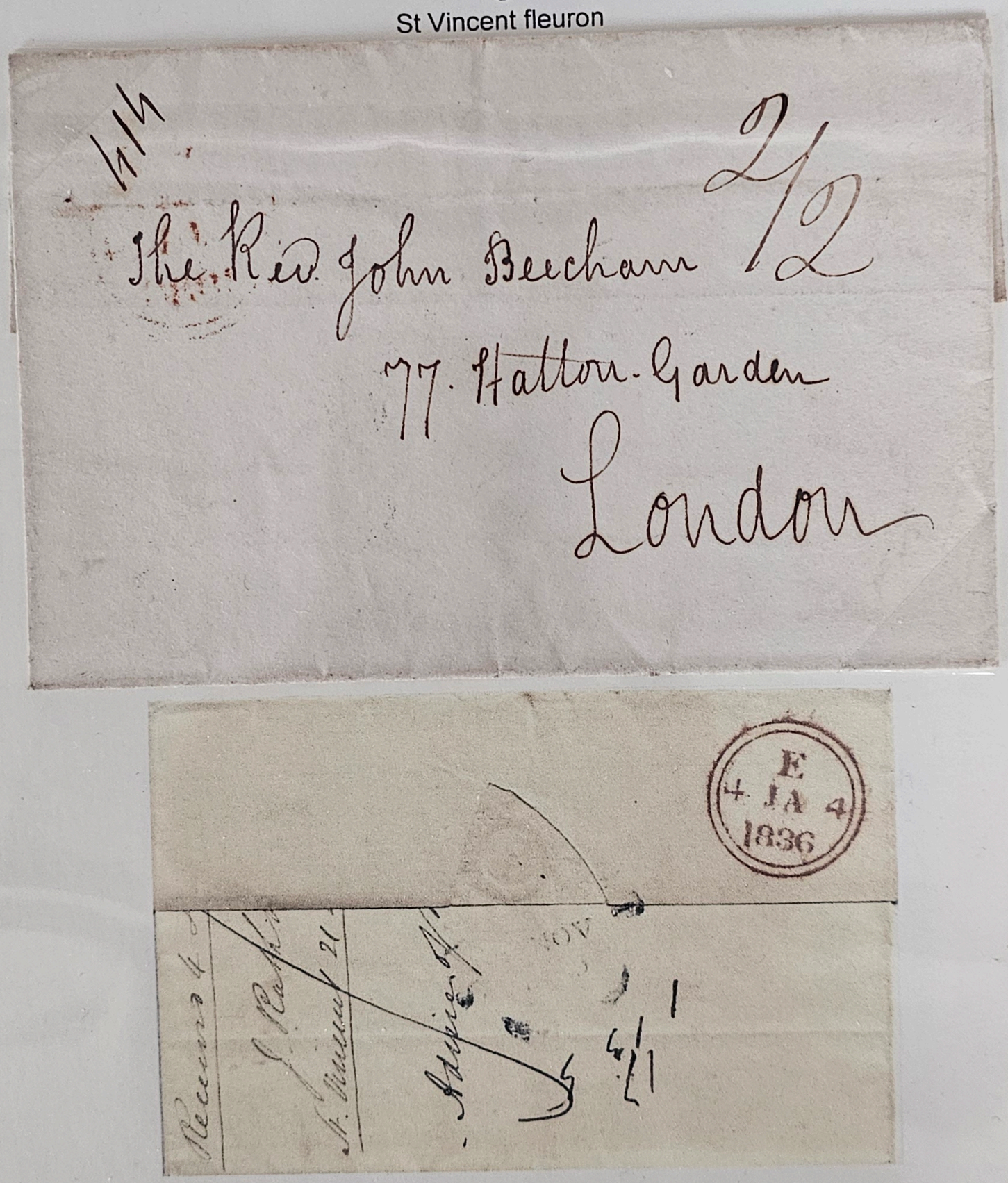
St Vincent

Kingstown

St Vincent was captured from the French in 1762 and ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1794 there was an unsuccessful rebellion against the British Rule by French settlers. Various British Post marks were used from 1793, including the St Vincent fleuron from 1826 to 1842. A British GPO branch post office officially opened in St Vincent in 1852 and British adhesive postal stamps were used from 1858 - 60.



St Vincent fleuron



11th November 1835 wrapper to London with manuscript "2/2" rate , back stamped with partial `ST.VINCENT ` fleuron cds (part cut out with seal) and red London receiver for 4 JA 1836.
Route: The mail boats ran from Barbados to Falmouth , with feeder boats bringing mail to Barbados, including one from Grenada, Tobago, Trinidad & St. Vincent.
Rate: The rate from America and the West Indies to London was fixed at 2/- and 2d single extra was imposed the following year.

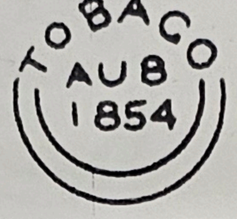
Sources:
Lowe, R, 2nd ed (1938-9) Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900 Robson Lowe, London
Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

Tobago

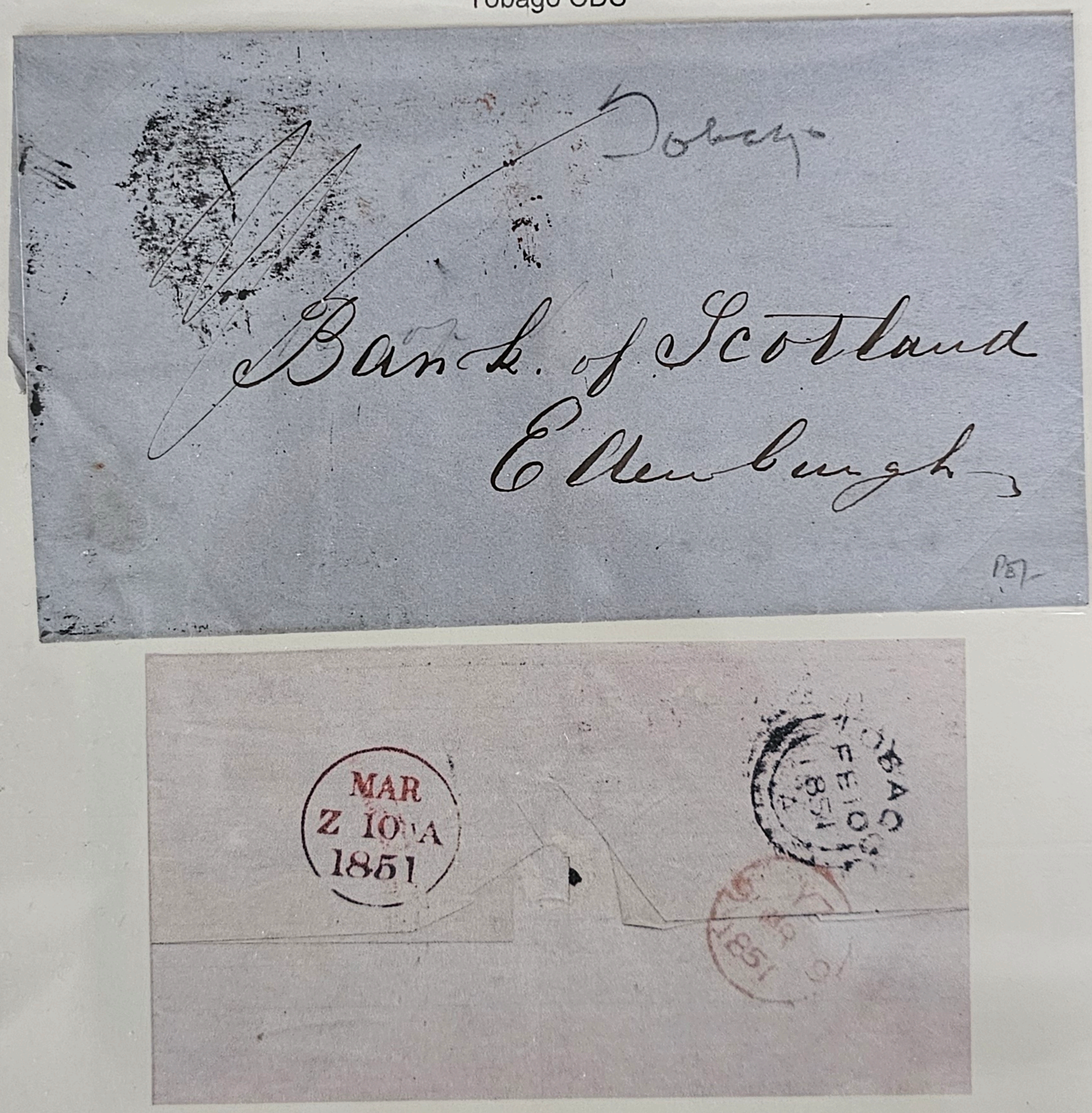
A British flag flew on Tobago in 1550. It was granted to the Duke of Courland (now Latvia) in 1641, and then it was settled by the Dutch in 1642. It chaged hands between the Dutch, French and British before being finally confirmed as British in 1814.

A Post 0ffice was opened in 1805 and a branch of the GPO in London was established at Scarborough, the capital, in 1841. A crowned circle hand stamp "PAID AT TOBAGO" was used from 1851 to 1863, with a second hand stamp used briefly from 1875 to 1977. British stamps and the A14 obliterator were sent from London to Tobago in April 1858 and were used until the Tobago administration took over the posts in 1860.

1851 wrapper from Tobago to Edinburgh



Tobago CDS



1851 wrapper to Edinburgh with "2/-" in manuscript. The back has TOBAGO double arc cds FE 10 1851 with two GB cancels for 9 MR 9 1851 and MAR 10 1851

Rate: Double rate. Rate to Great Britain 1/- per ½ oz from 1850

Route: 12th Feb by RMS Eagle to Barbados (15th Feb); 15th Feb by RMS Derwent to St Thomas (19th Feb); 19th Feb Main Route by RMS Severn to Southampton (9th Mar)

Source:

Lowe, R (1948, reprinted with corrections)The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London

Tobago

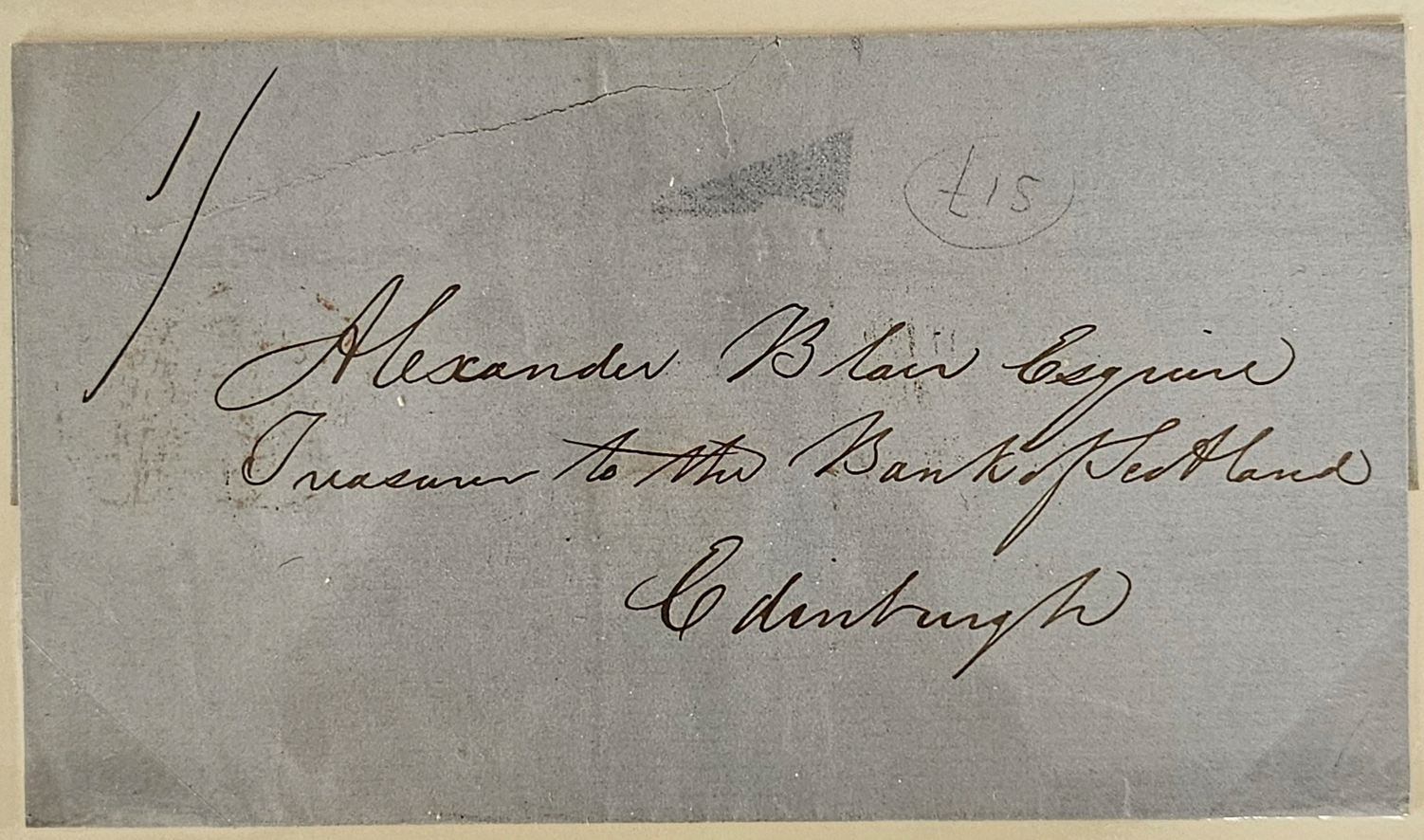
Discovered by Columbus in 1498, it was settled by the Dutch in 1642, taken by the British in 1672 but regained by Holland two years later. In 1748 it was declared a neutral island, but in 1763 was ceded to the British. Tobago was taken by the French in 1781 and confirmed to them in 1783. It was taken again by the British in 1793 but was restored to France at the Peace of Amiens in 1802. It was taken once more by the British in 1803 and finally confirmed as British in 1814.

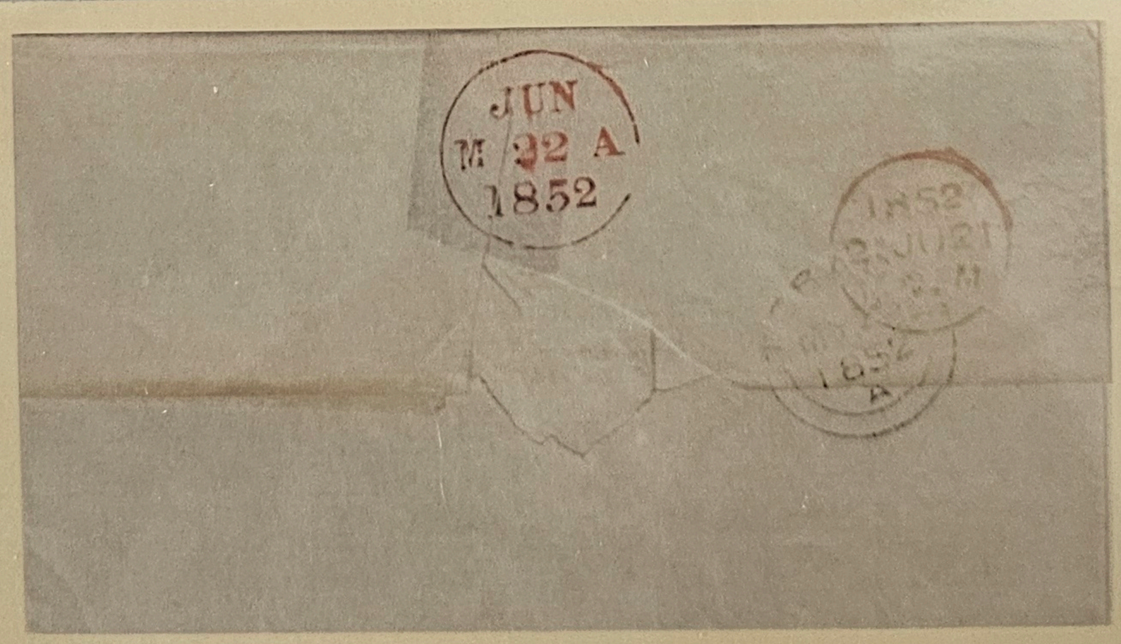
One of the Windward Islands from 1833. a Post 0ffice was opened in 1805 and a branch of the GPO in London was established at Scarborough, the capital, in 1841. A crowned circle hand stamp "PAID AT TOBAGO" was used from 1851 to 1863, with a second hand stamp used briefly from 1875 to 1977. British stamps and the A14 obliterator were sent from London to Tobago in April 1858 and were used until the Tobago administration took over the posts in 1860.

1852 wrapper from Tobago to London



Tobago CDS



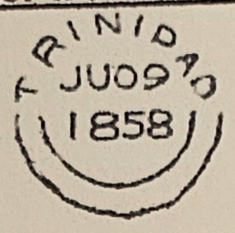


1852 (May 26th) wrapper (no contents) with good TOBAGO double arc CDS over struck by a red LONDON transit date stamp for 21st June 1852. A red June 22nd receiver hand stamp is covered by magic tape. It was charged 1/- to be paid by Alexander Blair, Treasurer to the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh.

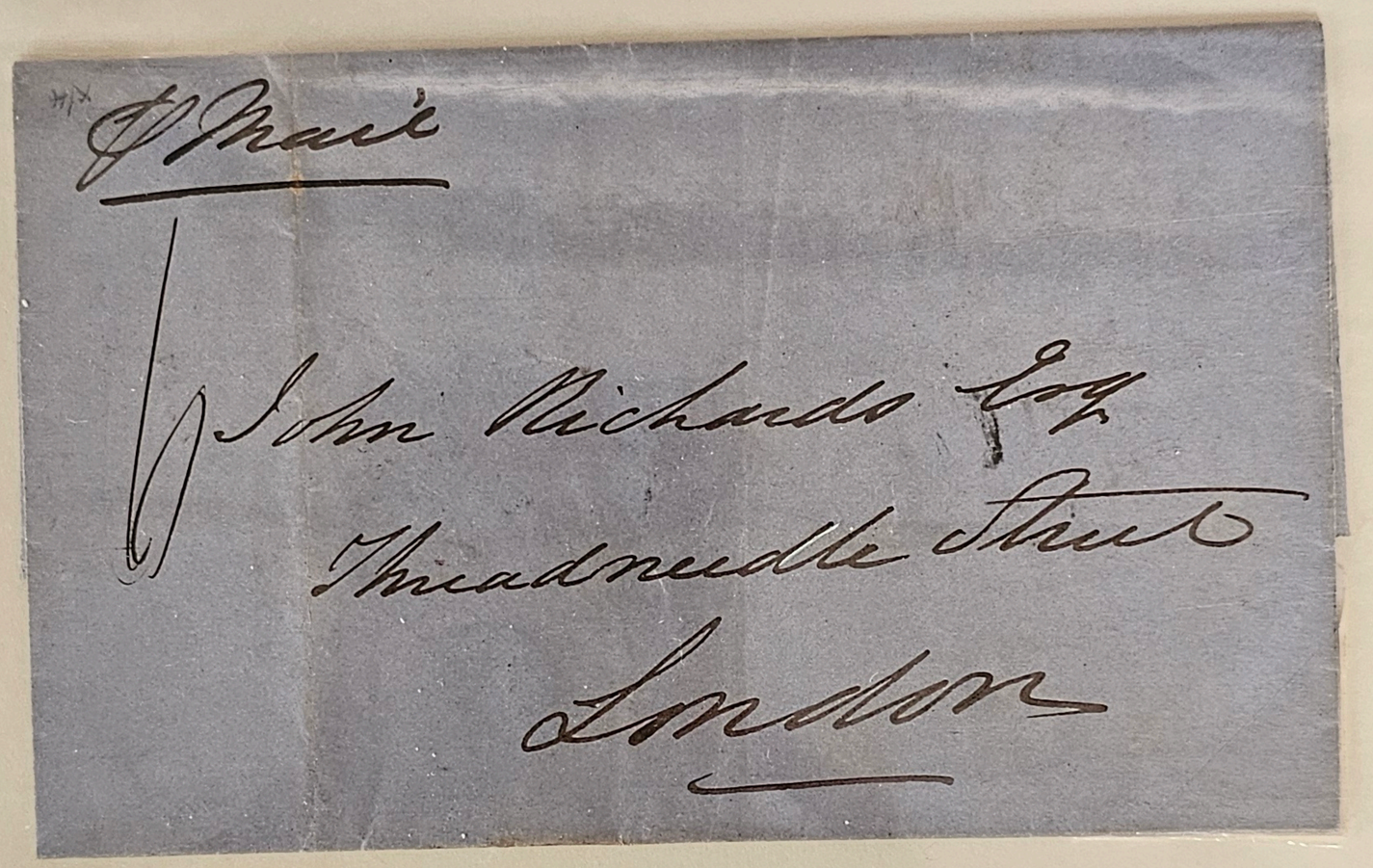
Trinidad

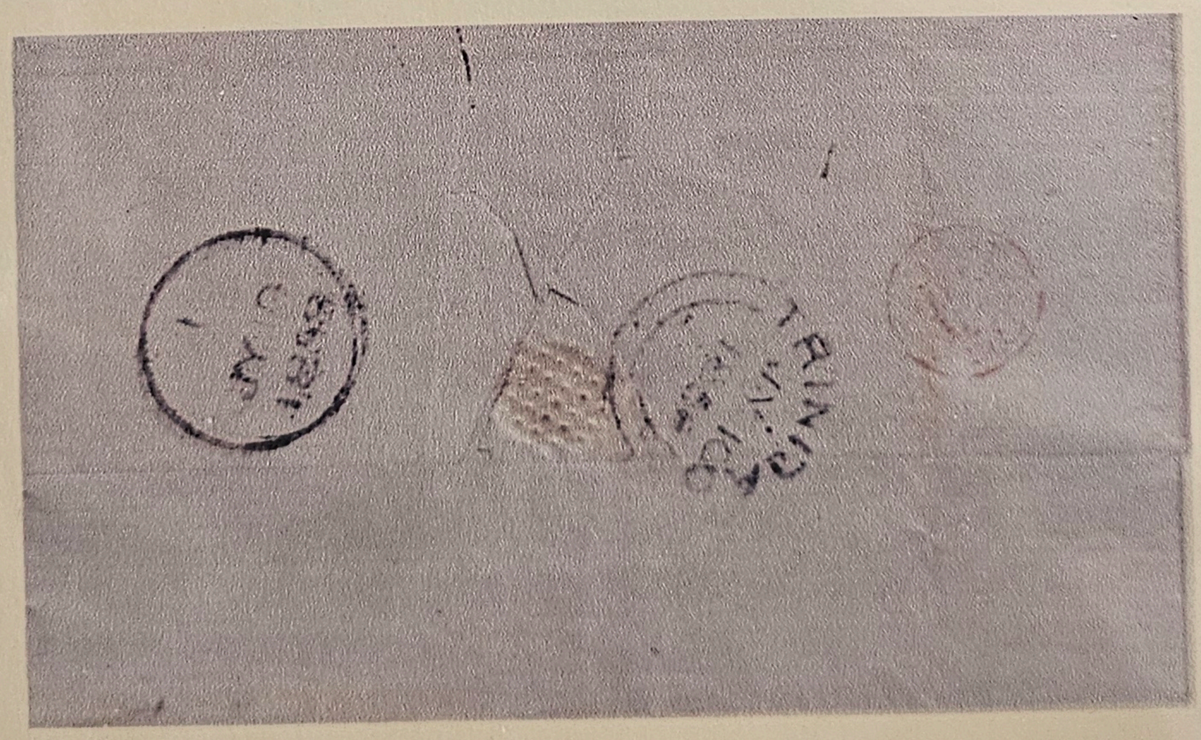
Discovered by Columbus in 1498, Trinidad was taken from the Spanish in 1595 by Sir Walter Raleigh. It was captured by the French in 1676, but seized by the British in February 1797; the British occupation was confirmed at the Peace of Amiens in 1802. A British Post Office was opened in 1801 but dealt only with overseas mail and no internal deliveries were made outside Port of Spain until 1816.

1858 entire letter from Trinidad to London



Trinidad CDS





Entire Letter from Trinidad to London with 6d and "P(acket) Mail" in manuscript on front. sans serif British PO Trinidad double arc CDS for July 10th 1858, black single arc cancel JY 10 1858 and red London receiver for 4th August 1858 on reverse.
Rate: The rate from West Indies to London was fixed at 6d per ½ ounce in 1856.
Route: Carried on the RMS "Conway" from Trinidad (10th July) to St Thomas (17th July) via Barbados and then on the RMS "Parana" on the Main Route from St Thomas (17th July) to Southampton (1st August).