

ARGENTINA

Buenos Ayres

In 1824 a British consul was appointed to Buenos Ayres, who set up a postal service to cover Valparaiso and Lima as well as Buenos Ayres. The first packet to arrive was fired on, and although business was mostly peaceful there was strife through revolution and the struggle between Buenos Ayres and the Argentine Confederation.

There was always considerable friction between the Buenos Ayres and British postal agency and in 1873, soon after Montevideo took control of all her overseas mail the Buenos Ayres government issued a decree that all correspondence was to be under the control of the local postal authority and the British Postal Agency closed by the end of the year.

1872 front from Buenos Ayres to London

This front has an unusual mixed franking of Great Britain stamps used in Buenos Ayres and in London. On arrival it was forwarded to a new address with the addition of a 1d red stamp, which was cancelled at Hampstead.



4VOS



1872 front from Buenos Ayres to London with Great Britain 1/- Plate 6 tied by 4VODS B32 cancel.

Forwarded at Hampstead using 1d red with Hampstead duplex cancel for Jan 16th 1873.

Rate: Argentina to Great Britain 1/- per ½ oz from 1866 to 1878.

Route: RMS Neva from Buenos Aires (15th Dec 1872) to Southampton (15th Jan 1873)

Sources:

Howat, Rev J.N.T. (1984) *South American Packets 1808-80* Postal History Society in conjunction with William Sessions Ltd, York
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

British Postal Agency in Buenos Ayres, Argentina

Under the contract in force at the time, mail was carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company from London to Rio de Janeiro, and a branch mail boat steamer (generally the RMS Mersey) carried the mail onward to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres.

1871 stamped envelope from Buenos Ayres to Torton in Italy



1871 envelope from Buenos Ayres to Torton in Italy with 4d plate 12 and 1/- plate 4 cancelled by Buenos Ayres British Postal Agency 3HOS and LONDON PAID transit dated 17 NO 71 and 26 (decimes to be paid) in red manuscript, British Postal Agency BUENOS AYRES CDS1 dated OC 14 1871 and Verona transit and Torton receiver on the back.

Route:

Rate:

Complete

Sources:

Howat, Rev J.N.T. (1984) *South American Packets 1808-80* Postal History Society in conjunction with William Sessions Ltd, York
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

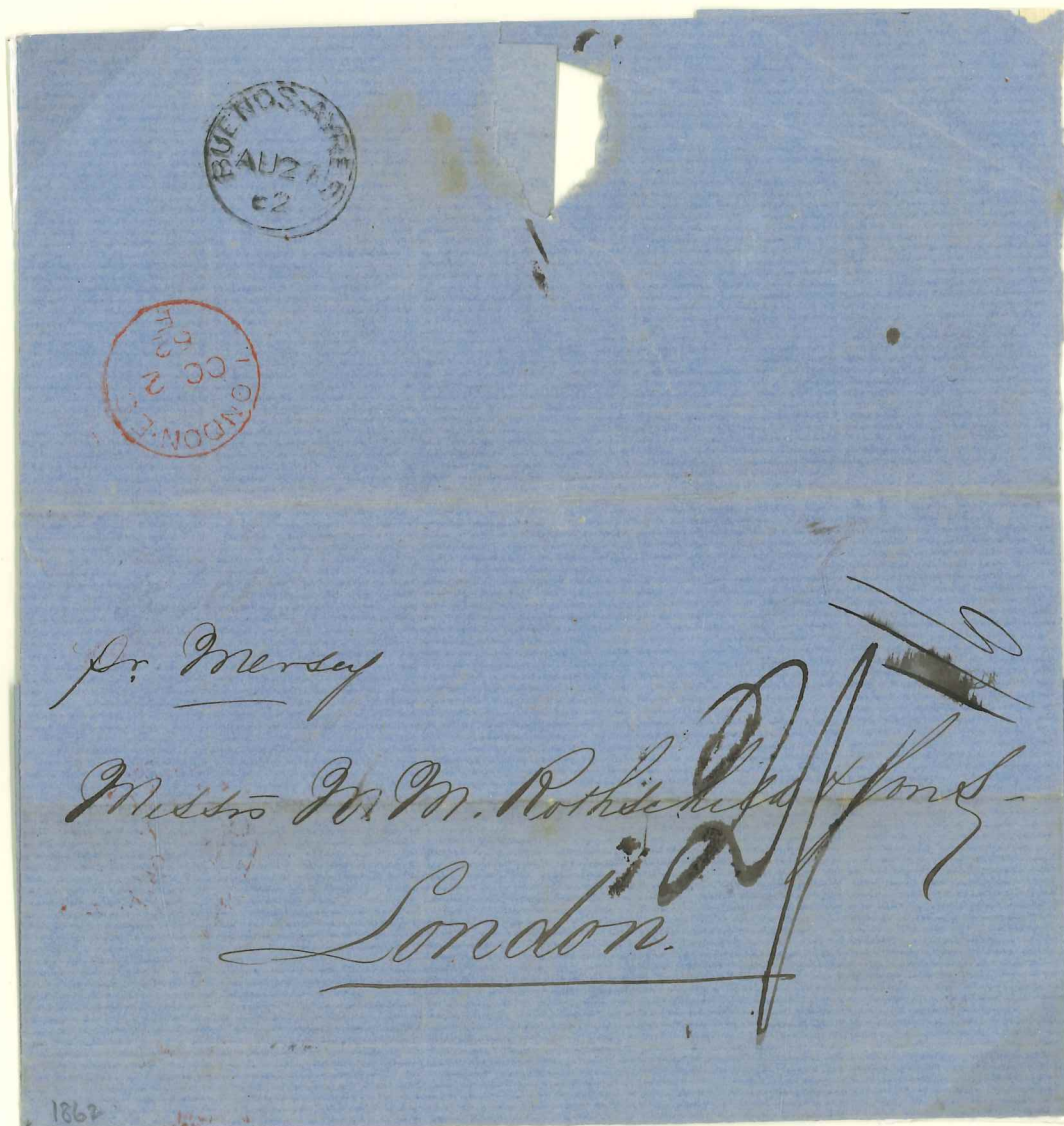
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1862 Cover from Buenos Ayres to London



CDS2



1862 cover from Buenos Ayres to Rothschild, London. The front has "per Mersey" and "2/-" in manuscript. The back has BUENOS-AYRES CDS2 cancel dated AU 27 62 and red LONDON EC receiver dated OC 2 62.

Route: By the branch steamer RMS "Mersey" from Buenos Ayres on 27th July 1868 to Rio de Janeiro, and then by the RMS "Tyne" from Rio, on 9th September, arriving at Southampton on 2nd October.

Rate: The rate was 2/- for a packet between ½ ounce and 1 ounce between Argentina and Great Britain i.e. double rate mail.

Sources:

Howat, Rev J.N.T. (1984) *South American Packets 1808-80* Postal History Society in conjunction with William Sessions Ltd, York
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

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In 1810 The Argentine threw off allegiance to Spain, but did not recognise the British consul, who returned to England.. By 1821 a private English post office was set up by the 3000 European merchants (mostly British) in Buenos Ayres.

In 1824 a British consul was appointed, who set up a postal service to cover Valparaiso and Lima as well as Buenos Ayres. The first packet to arrive was fired on, and although business was mostly peaceful there was strife through revolution and the struggle between Buenos Ayres and the Argentine Confederation.



CDS1



CDS2

Pre-stamp cancels were:



1861 wrapper to Bordeaux via London.. The front has manuscript 8 and "per steamer Anglais", GB / France accountancy mark rated at 1f60c., blue company stamp Mallman et c Buenos Ayres and Calais TPO mark. Reverse has transit and arrival marks for London, Paris and Bordeaux.

The foreign office in London struck the accountancy mark GB/1F60c to inform the French exchange office that this letter came from the East coast of America and that the French post owed 1F60 per 30 gm. The French exchange office on the Calais to Paris train stamped the front and wrote in manuscript that 8 decimes (80c) was to be paid on collection.

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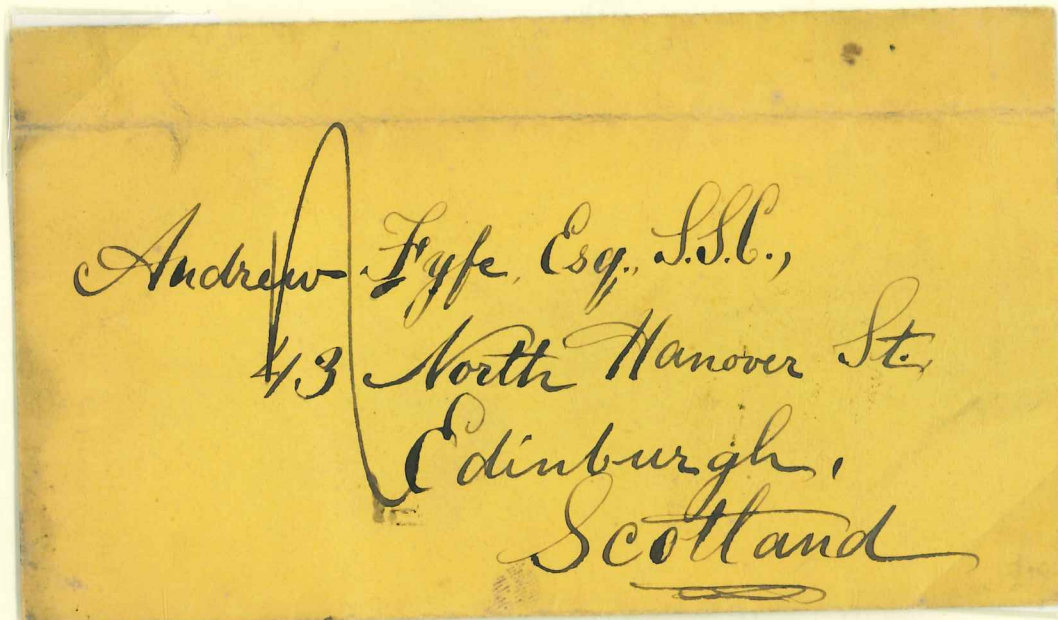
There was always considerable friction between the Buenos Ayres and British postal agency and in 1873, soon after Montevideo took control of all her overseas mail the Buenos Ayres government issued a decree that all correspondence was to be under the control of the local postal authority and the British Postal Agency closed by the end of the year.



CDS2



Edinburgh cloth TPO cancel



1870 cover from Argentina to Scotland, stamped with CDS2 of the Buenos Ayres British Postal Agency Office on 11th March 1870. There is an unusual cloth TRPO for Edinburgh on the back.

Route: On 9th June 1869 the transatlantic schedules had changed, with packet steamers going direct to Buenos Ayres, without mail waiting at Rio de Janeiro for the Brazil packet. It proceeded via the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer "Oneida" which left Buenos Ayres on the 18th March and arrived at Southampton on 19th April. The next day it was in Edinburgh.

Rate: It was charged 1/- in accordance with the 02.04.1866 tariff issued by the GPO in London

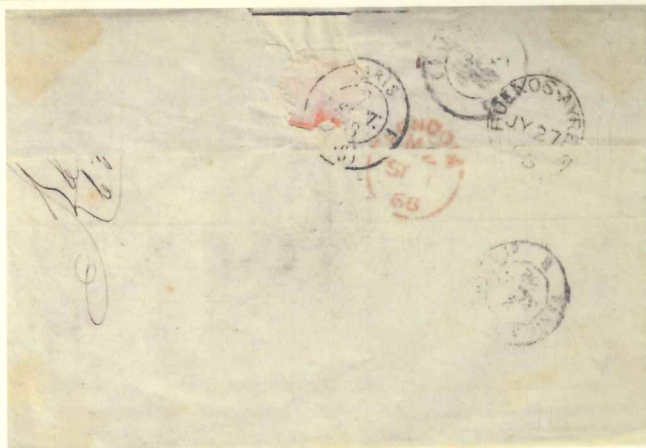
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1868 Entire Letter from Buenos Ayres to Bordeaux



CDS2



1868 Entire Letter from Buenos Ayres to Bordeaux. The front has boxed Anglo –French Accountancy mark GB 1F60c, "20" in manuscript to show 20 decimes due in France, oval blue merchant's mark D Charavel and French entry ANGL. AME. GB 2 SEPT 68. The back has British Postal Agency single arc BUENOS AYRES JY 27 68, red transit LONDON SP 1 68 - Paris arrival, ambulant and BORDEAUX arrival.
Route: By RMS "La Plata" from Buenos Ayres on 27th July 1868 arriving at Southampton on 1st September.
Rate: At London it received the boxed 1f60c cancel to show that it was an unpaid letter from overseas and exchanged with France at the bulk rate of 1 franc 60 centimes per 30 grammes of letter weight, to compensate the UK for transit expenses. Upon arrival in France the letter was marked for 20 decimes (2 francs) to be paid on collection to pay the French internal weight and the British debit for the letter.

Sources:

Howat, Rev J.N.T. (1984) *South American Packets 1808-80* Postal History Society in conjunction with William Sessions Ltd, York
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

British Postal Agency in Buenos Ayres, Argentine

The British Postal Agency in Buenos Ayres opened in 1851 and was issued British stamps and a variety of barred cancels from 1860 until it closed in 1873..

1871 part entire from Buenos Ayres to Edinburgh



CDS1



4VOS



1871 part entire to Edinburgh with a GB 1/- plate 4 tied by a VOS B32 Buenos Ayres cancel, with manuscript "Per "La Plata" ss" on front and with a CDS1 BUENOS AYRES double ring CDS1 cancel dated JY 5 1871 and an Edinburgh receiver AU 17 71 on the back.

Rate: The rate from Argentina to Great Britain was 1/- per ½ oz from 1866 to 1878.

Route: On the RMSP (Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) La Plata from Buenos Ayres (15th July 1871) to Southampton (16th August 1871). The La Plata had been placed in quarantine on arrival in Buenos Ayres on 12th July but was nevertheless able to leave on time for Southampton

Sources:

Howat, Rev J.N.T. (1984) *South American Packets 1808-80* Postal History Society in conjunction with William Sessions Ltd, York
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham
Tabcart, C 2nd ed (2003) *United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas* HH Sales Bradford