

BRAZIL

Rio-de-Janeiro

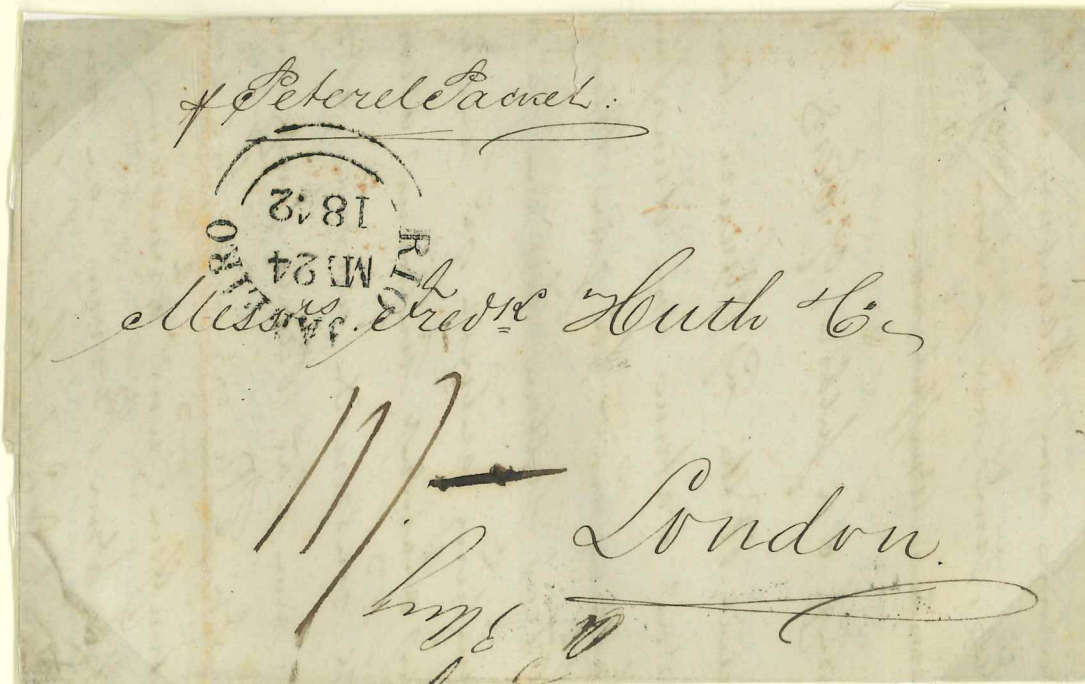
The first British Packets ran to Rio de Janeiro in 1810 or earlier, soon after the Portuguese royal family went into exile at Rio in 1808. Initially British mails were made up in the offices of British agents in Brazil, until 1851 when the British Packet Agency was set up at the Consulate. The first British cancel, the CDS1a below was sent on 29th October 1838 and the first postal agreement between Britain and Brazil was inaugurated on 12th January 1853.



CDS1a



1841 entire from Rio de Janeiro to F Huth and Co, London. Front has black British PO double ring CDS1a cancel Rio Janeiro March 1st 1841 and manuscript 2/9. Reverse has red single circle London receiving mark for 15th April 1841.



1842 entire from Rio to Frederico Huth, London
Front has black British PO double ring CDS1 (1st stamp) cancel Rio Janeiro 24th MY 1842, manuscript "1/-." and "p. Peterel Packet". Reverse has red single circle receiving mark for 23rd July 1842.

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1857 Entire from Rio-de-Janeiro to Porto

Postal service to Brazil.

A royal postal service between Portugal and Brazil was founded in 1798. With the arrival of the Portuguese court in Brazil (1808), a monthly sailing packet service was started between Falmouth and Rio via Madeira, Pernambuco, and Bahia. From Falmouth, steam replaced sail in 1851 when the Royal Mail Steam Packet was given the contract. British Postal Agencies were set up at Rio, Bahia and Pernambuco; Southampton became the home port. The RSMP mail boats carried mail for Portugal to Lisbon. After 1860 other connections were made from Rio to Bordeaux, Marseille, and Liverpool (Pacific Steam Navigation Co)

Rio de Janeiro was one of the most expensive residencies in the world, and although the postbag at Rio was very heavy, the consulate was badly housed and the postal facilities to the public were very poor. British subjects occupied first place amongst the trading classes at Rio, and in railways, mines, gas, drainage and water works, the most skilled artisans were British.



CDS1b



1857 Entire from Rio de Janeiro to Porto, Portugal.

The front has a black 360 hand-stamp and "Avon" (the RSMP packet from Southampton to Brazil) in manuscript. The reverse has a black British PO CDS1 (2nd stamp) for JY14 1857, double ring blue transatlantic 8 8 57 stamp and black octagonal PORTO 10 8 1857 arrival stamp.

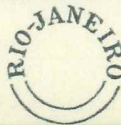
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South American & General Steam Navigation Co. 1853-5

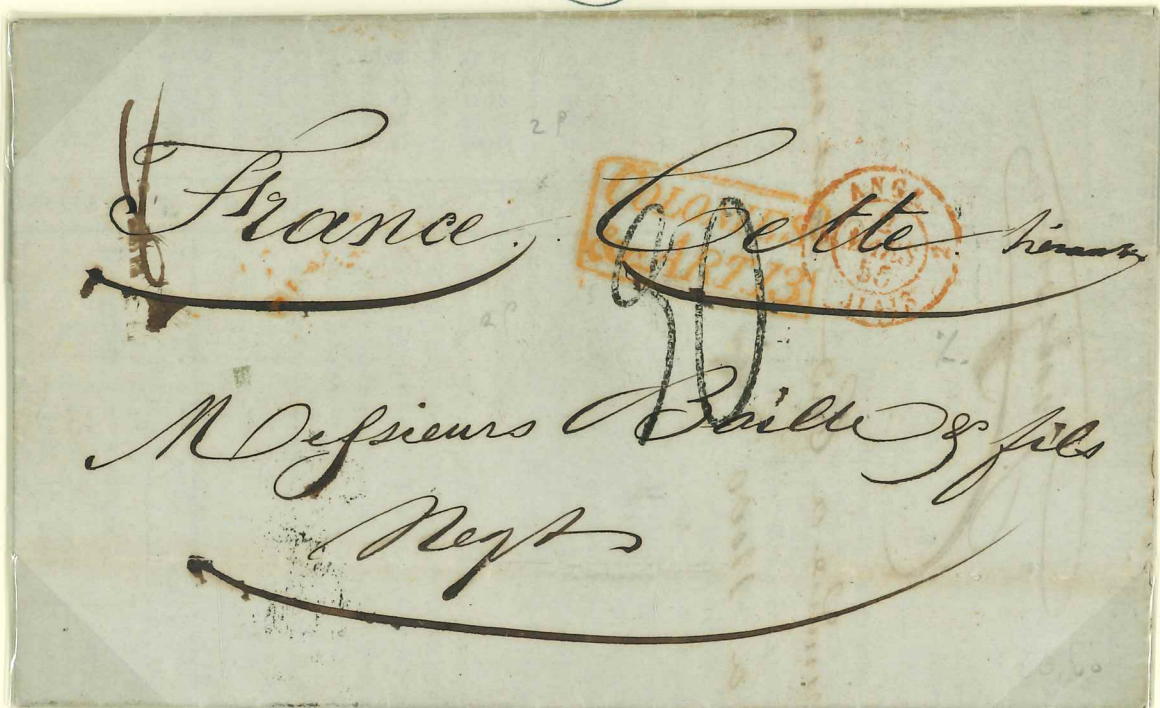
Entrepreneurial Liverpool merchants made proposals to start a monthly packet service to South America directly from Liverpool. As the Post Office was already paying a subsidy for one such service, it was not eager to make new mail contracts. However, the South American & General Steam Navigation Co. began its operations by four new steamers between Liverpool and the South American ports in August 1853.

In the following summer, the Post Office finally made a contract with the South American & GSN Co. for monthly mail sailings, which would depart from Liverpool on the 24th of each month to avoid conflict with the Royal Mail Line's sailings from Southampton. Two ships were wrecked and at the end of 1854 two ships were sold to France. In 1855 three ships were taken by the British Government as Crimean war troop transports. The surviving ships were sold after the Crimean War, and the service was never resumed. Only four round trips – and those with machine problems and other delays – were made under the mail contract before the company's ships were chartered to the Crimean war, and the service ended without ever starting again. In total, the company undertook only 12 sailings to South America.

1854 Entire from Rio-de-Janeiro to France



Rio CDS1b



1855 entire with price list from Rio de Janeiro to France, sent by the South American & General Steam Navigation Co. The voyage took 9½ weeks, about 3 weeks longer than normal. The front has Colonies & arts 13 accountancy mark, 30 decimes in manuscript, various transit marks and the very scarce SOUTHAMERN/LIVERPOOL/PACKET cancel, in use for only a few months in 1854-5.

Route: by the South American & General Steam Navigation Co from Rio de Janeiro (DEC 10 1854) to Liverpool (FEB 28 1855) via Bahia, Pernambuco, St Vincent (Cape Verde) and Madeira.

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Rio-de-Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro became capital of Brazil from 1763. For the period of the British Packet agency it was the second largest city in South America after Buenos Ayres and an extensive trading port with a fine natural harbour. The main exports from Rio were coffee and sugar. Dom Pedro, the eldest son of the King of Portugal declared independence for Brazil in 1822. He abdicated in 1831 and his son ruled through the life of the Packet agency; the country was generally peaceful through this period.



CDS1b



1860 entire from Rio to Marseilles, France. The front has manuscript "p. Oneida" and "21", hexagonal Anglo-French accountancy mark for 1F60c and Calais TPO. The reverse has Rio Janeiro Fe 7 1860 across join, red London receiver, Paris and Marseilles cancels.

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 for which the French post owed 1F60 per 30 grammes. The French exchange office on the train from Calais to Paris stamped the front and wrote in manuscript that 21 decimes (2F10c) was to be paid on collection.

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Bahia

Bahia was a commercial rather than a political consulate that used GB Post Office hand stamps between 1851 and 1874 for unpaid and paid mail. The Brazil Route of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) served Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro from Southampton from 1851 until 1869, when the service was extended to Buenos Ayres.



CDS1

1856 Entire letter to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency at Bahia



1856 Entire letter to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency at Bahia. The front has black "120" hand stamp, and 'Tamar' in manuscript in centre. The back has black British Postal Agency CDS1 dated August 17th 1856, blue Transatlantico 2nd September cancel and black double ring PORTO receiver cancel. The Magdalena was used on the Brazil Route from 1854 to 1857, and then used in the Southampton - Alexandria route.

Route The Brazil route of the RMSP, leaving Bahia on 17th August, arriving at Lisbon two days early on 2nd September via St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands). Then sent to Porto, arriving on the 5th September.

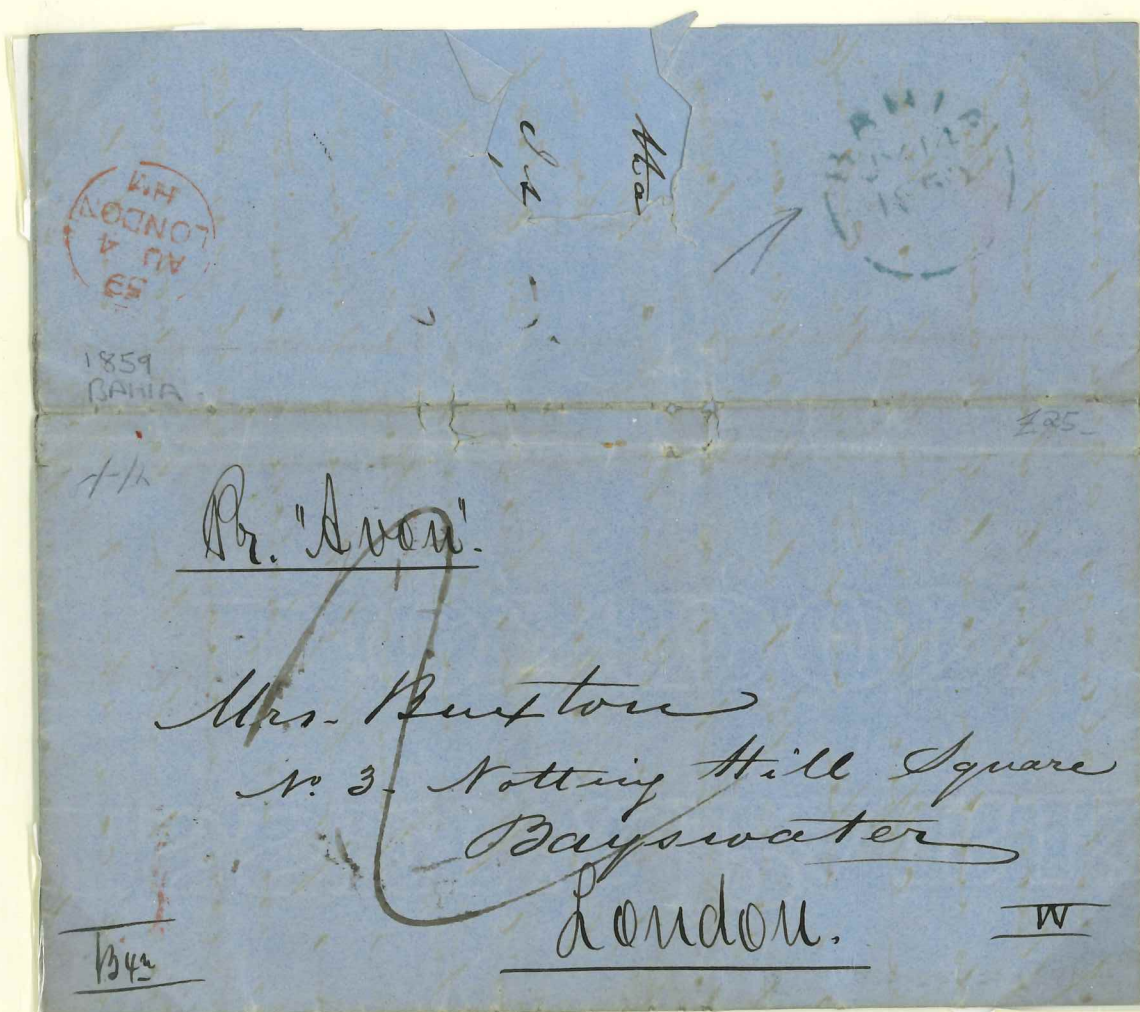
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Bahia

Bahia was a commercial rather than a political consulate that used GB Post Office hand stamps between 1851 and 1874 for unpaid and paid mail. Now called Salvador, Bahia was founded in 1549 and was the capital of Brazil until 1763. It is the capital of Bahia state, has a fine natural harbour and has extensive trade in sugar, tobacco, cocoa and gemstones.



CDS1



1859 Entire letter from Bahia to London. Front has 'per Avon' and the amount 2 (shillings) in manuscript; the reverse has a blue Bahia CDS1 cancel July 14th 1859 and red London receiver for August 4th 1859. The letter is a three-page family letter, which is written horizontally in black and overwritten vertically in red.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company used the RMP Avon between Falmouth and Brazil from 1842. It was originally the GPO packet Thetis, and was transferred to the Admiralty in 1941.

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Bahia

Bahia was a commercial rather than a political consulate that used GB Post Office hand stamps between 1851 and 1874 for unpaid and paid mail. The Brazil Route of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) served Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro from Southampton from 1851 until 1869, when the service was extended to Buenos Ayres.



CDS1

1860 Entire letter to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency at Bahia.



1860 Entire letter to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency at Bahia. The front has black 150 hand stamp, and 'Magdalena' in manuscript in centre. The back has blue British Postal Agency CDS1 September 12th 1860, blue Transatlantico 29th September cancel and black double ring PORTO receiver cancel. The Magdalena was in the company service from 1852 to 1866.

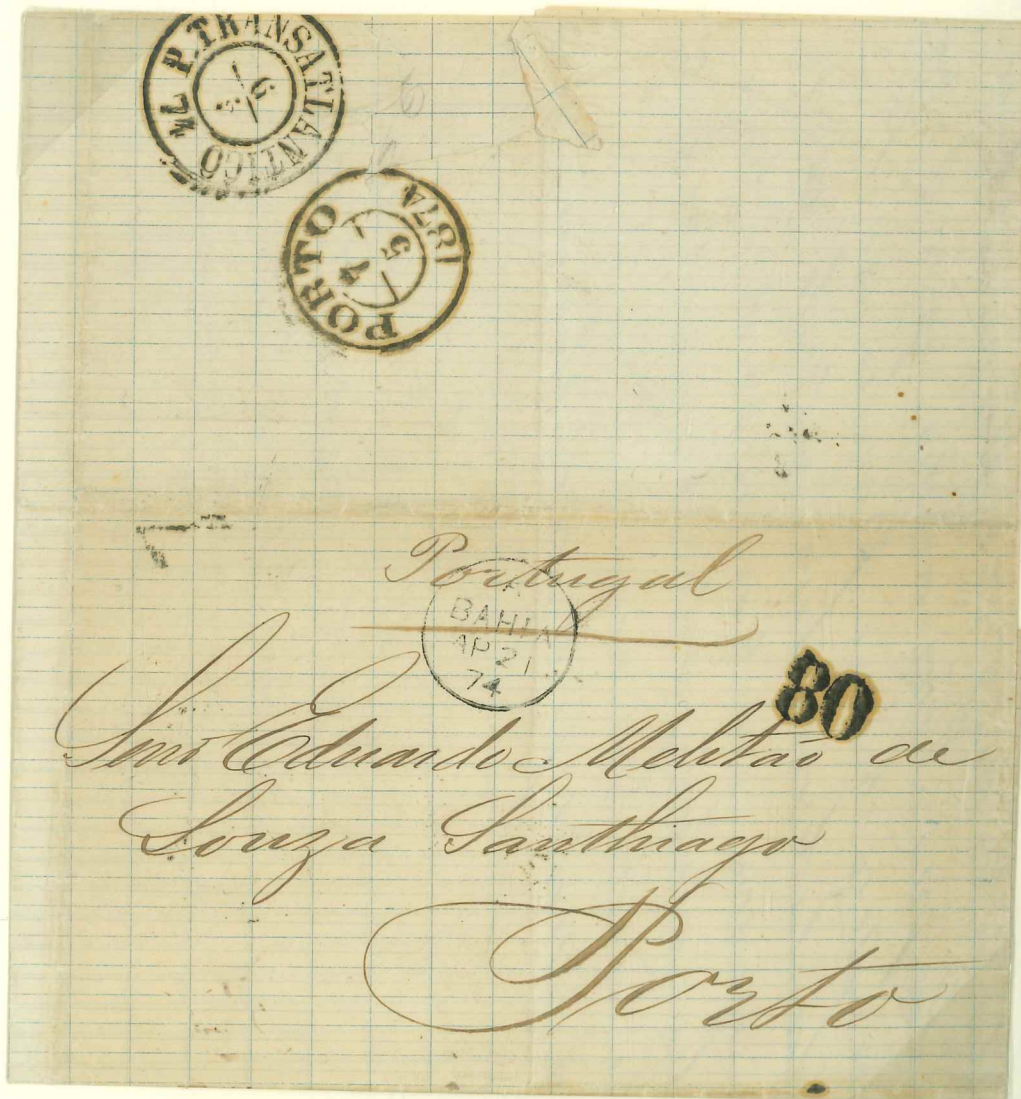
Route The Brazil route of the RMSMP, leaving Bahia on 13th September, and arriving at Lisbon two days early on 29th September via St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands). Then overland to Porto on the 1st October.

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Bahia

Bahia was a commercial rather than a political consulate that used GB Post Office hand stamps between 1851 and 1874 for unpaid and paid mail. The Brazil Route of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) served Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro from Southampton from 1851 until 1869, when the service was extended to Buenos Ayres. The British Postal agency at Bahia closed on 30th June 1874, about 2 months after the sending of this correspondence.

1874 Entire letter to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency at Bahia



1874 Entire letter from Bahia to Porto, written on 15th April. Front has black Bahia CDS2 April 21st 1874 Portugal in manuscript and 80 rate hand struck. The back has black Tansatlantico cancel dated 6th April 1874 and black Porto receiver dated 7th April 1874.

Route Vis the Brazil route of the RMSP, leaving Bahia on 21st April, arriving at Lisbon on the 5th April via St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands); thence to Porto, arriving on the 5th April.

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Pernambuco

Pernambuco (now called Recife) on the North East coast of Brazil was the closest Brazilian port to Europe. The Brazil Route of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) served Pernambuco, Bahia and Rio de Janeiro from Southampton from 1851 until 1869, when the service was extended to Buenos Ayres.



CDS2

1864 Entire letter to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency at Pernambuco.



The front has a black "300" hand stamp, green oval Pernambuco merchants stamp (Antonio d'Almeida Gomes) with 'Oneida' in manuscript in the centre. The back has a black British Postal Agency CDS1 November 15th 1864, blue Transatlantico 29th November cancel and black double ring PORTO receiver cancel. The Oneida was in the company service from 1856 to 1874.
Route The Brazil route of the RMSP, leaving Pernambuco on 15th November, and arriving at Lisbon two days early on 29th November via St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands). The overland to Porto, arriving on the 30th November.

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1858 Entire letter from Pernambuco to Porto

Disinfected mail

The disinfection of mail was not an occasional happening, like disaster mail resulting from the sinking of ships or the crash of an aircraft. It was rather the 'logical' outcome of a near-universal belief that infectious diseases could be brought into a healthy country by susceptible goods, including paper.

This belief, which was still held by many countries until late in the 19th. century, was unfounded, in so far as none of the diseases against which disinfection had been practised - plague, yellow fever, typhus fever, cholera and leprosy included - could be transmitted on dry paper. But this was not established scientifically until modern times : in the 1880s in the case of cholera, and the first decade of the 20th. century for yellow fever. Normally the mail was slit and treated with vinegar or other disinfectant.



Pernambuco CDS1 cancel



1858 EL from Maceio Brazil to Porto, Portugal via British Postal Agency in Pernambuco. The front has black 360 hand-stamp and "Avon" in manuscript. The reverse has a black British Postal Agency Pernambuco CDS1 dated Oct 15th 1858, blue transatlantic 30 10 58 cancel and black double ring PORTO receiver cancel. There is a single chisel slit on front for disinfection. The mail boats left Pernambuco once per month on the 15th, calling at St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) and Lisbon on the 1st of the next month.

Brazil

Rio de Janeiro to Montevideo with CDS PAID

The CDS PAID cancel was sent in July 1866; another cancel was sent in 1868. CDS PAID cancels were sent as replacements for the Crowned Circle cancels that were used in place of adhesives on paid mail between ports with British Postal Agencies. In Rio de Janeiro the vast majority were used for mail to Buenos Ayres and Montevideo. The CDS PAID cancels were used for the same purpose until replaced by the adhesive and barred cancels ("obliterators") that were issued by the British Post Office to their postal agencies.

The adhesive stamps and obliterations were sent in mid 1866 and are known in use from late 1866 so the use of the CDS PAID cancel was very limited on unstamped mail; it was more widely used on stamped mail accompanying the stamps and 4VOS obliterations. *Parmenter* does not list this CDS PAID cancel on unstamped covers and it can only have been used for very short time.



Rio CDS PAID



October 6th 1866 entire with contents in Spanish from Rio de Janeiro to Montevideo. The front has red British PO CDS PAID and "1/-", "3" and "30" in red manuscript with black 12th October Montevideo oval receiver cachet.

Rare usage; *Parmenter* only lists the CDS PAID cancel on covers accompanying GB stamps and the C83 4VOS cancel.

British Postal Agency in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The British Postal Agency in Rio de Janeiro operated from 1851 to 1874, using British stamps and the C83 obliterator from 1866. The packet rate was 1/- per ½ ounce between Brazil and Great Britain from 1857 to 1877, carried by RMSP ships.

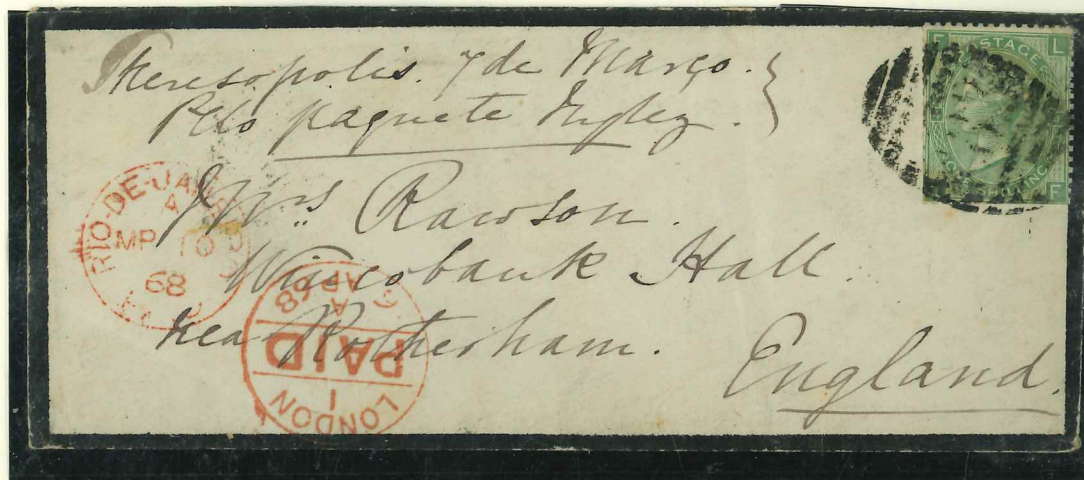


Rio 4VOS C83



Rio CDS PAID

1869 mourning envelope from Rio de Janeiro to Rotherham, UK



Small mourning envelope from Brazil to Rotherham with 1/- green plate 4 (straight edges) cancelled tied by C83 cancel with red RIO De JANEIRO CDS PAID dated MR 10 68, red London receiver 6 AP 68 and "Paquete Anglez" in manuscript. The back has a small ROTHERHAM AP 6 68 CDS.

Route: Carried by the RMS Oneida on the RMSP route between Rio de Janeiro (March 11th) and Southampton, (6th April 1868). It was carried by train to Rotherham, arriving the same day.

1869 envelope from Rio de Janeiro to Falmouth



Small envelope from Brazil to Falmouth with GB 1/- green plate 4 spray (repaired) tied by C83. The front has a red RIO CDS PAID (SP 7 69) and red London receiver 2 OC 69. The back has a small Falmouth (OC 3 69) CDS.

Route: Carried by the RMS Oneida on the RMSP route between Rio de Janeiro (6th September) and Southampton, (1st October 1869). Carried by train to London (2nd October) and Falmouth (3rd October)

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
Tabart, C 2nd ed (2003) *United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas* HH Sales Bradford

BRAZIL

Pernambuco

Pernambuco (now called Recife) on the North East coast of Brazil is the closest port to Europe. It was a commercial rather than a political consulate with a large trade in sugar and cotton. The British were the mainstay of Pernambuco and financed the railway, nine-mile tramway and operated as an urban district council for sanitary purposes. Recife, the third largest city in Brazil is the capital of Pernambuco province.



CDS2



1861 cover to Bordeaux via London.

Front has GB/France exchange / accountancy mark GB/1f60c, Calais forwarding CDS 3 FEB 62 and manuscript 8 rate mark and "by Tyne". The obverse has small black British PO Pernambuco CDS2 with indistinct date, forwarding marks for London 3 Fe 62, Paris 4 Fev 62 and Bordeaux receiving mark 5 Fe 62.

The "Tyne" was pictured in the Illustrated London News for January 24th 1857 when it was stranded on St Albans Head. It operated for the Royal mail Steamship Company until 1891.

British Postal Agency in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

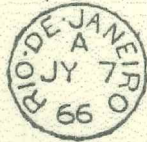
Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Company (Lamport and Holt Line)

The Lamport and Holt Line of Liverpool became the Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Company in 1865 and applied in 1867 for a British Government mail contract between Liverpool and Brazil / Montevideo in competition with the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company; this was granted in 1868.

The company had concluded a contract to convey Brazilian mails by Brazilian Government decree 4031 of 30th November 1867. This contract was for conveying Brazilian Government mails on the Southern mail boat route from Rio to the River Plate twice a month, calling at intermediate ports, including Porto Alegre, capital of the province of S. Pedro do Rio Grande do Sul (the most southerly Brazilian province) and also up to Matto Grasso.

The Calderon was built in 1871 for the Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Company (Lamport and Holt Line) until sold to Brazil 1887 as the Arlindo

1871 cover from Rio de Janeiro to Porto Alegre



Rio de Janeiro CDS3



1871 Cover from Rio de Janeiro to Porto Alegre with blue British Postal Agency CDS3b cancel (15 DE 71) and two Brazil 100c green stamps with green cork cancels. Inscribed Pr "Calderon" in manuscript.

Route: Carried by the SS Calderon of the Lamport and Holt Line between Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre on the Brazilian Southern coastal route between Rio de Janeiro and the River Plate.

Sources:

Hadfield W (1877) (1877) *Brazil and the River Plate 1870-76* Church WR, Sutton, Surrey and Stanford E Charing Cross, London
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

BRAZIL

Rio de Janeiro

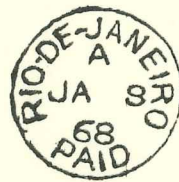
The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) commenced mail boat services from Southampton to Rio de Janeiro in 1851, with a feeder service from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Ayres. In 1869 the South American transatlantic steamers extended their voyage from Rio de Janeiro to Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, thus avoiding transfer to smaller vessels at Rio. The RMS Neva was launched by Laird and Company at Greenock in 1868 and served for the RMSP until 1890.

The British Post Office closed in 1874, and the office at Rio the following year.

1873 wrapper from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Ayres



Rio 4VOS C83



Rio CDS PAID



Rio merchant's cancel



Outer wrapper from Rio de Janeiro to Buenos Ayres with Great Britain 4d vermilion Plate 12 stamp with smudged C83 cancel of the British Postal Agency in Rio, "4" in blue crayon, red Rio British Postal Agency CDS PAID dated 2 JU 73 and "por Neva" in manuscript. On the reverse is a green oval merchant's cancel for Jayme Romaguera.

Rate: 4d was the packet rate between South American ports, carried by RMSP ships.

Route: Carried by the RMSP route between Rio de Janeiro (2nd June) and Buenos Ayres, arriving on 9th June 1873.

Sources:

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

Rego, M (1987) *The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company Cockrill Series Booklets no 49* Hampstead Norreys, Newbury, Berks