

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

Anglo-US Convention 1st October 1853

The exchange of mails was authorised between New York and other US ports and the British packet office at Panama; mail transmission between the ports to be provided by the US Government. Mails to comprise all those between the USA and the foreign ports on the west coast of South America served by British packets. US to account to the British PO at the rate of 1/- or 24 cents per ½ ounce for ports beyond Peru.

1859 single rate outer cover from Valparaiso to New York.



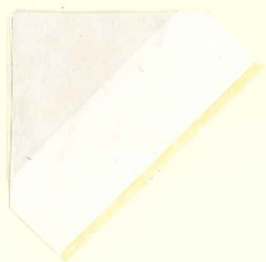
Valparaiso CDS1

PAID - TO
PANAMA

Paid to Panama



Panama CDS1



June 6th 1859 outer cover to New York via Panama. The front has manuscript 1/- in pencil, plus hand-stamps red PP "PAID TO PANAMA", British PO double arc Panama CDS1 cancel June 6th 1859 and "STEAMSHIP 10" in circle, indicating the payment in USA of 10 cents between Panama and New York. Back has British PO double arc Valparaiso CDS1 dated 16th May 1859.

Route / Rate: This is a single rate packet, which had to be prepaid to Panama at a rate of 1/-, written in manuscript (normally in red) to indicate that it is paid. Carried by railway across the Panama Isthmus to Colon and then by US mail boat to New York, with a single rate charge of 10 cents payable on collection.

Sources:

Kenton P (2000) *Crossroads at Panama* in *Rossiter Postal History Journal* Volume No. 1 :2000 Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, Bristol
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

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

Even when stamps were supplied to British Packet Agencies abroad, letters to France and Italy were sent unstamped, and at the exchange office, a mark was applied to show the cost for which the letter had been forwarded. For France, the Anglo-French convention of 24th September 1856 fixed the tariff:

From 1st January 1857 to 31st December 1865: 2f87½ per 30grammes

Additionally taxes for the destination were applied in manuscript: 1857 - 1866: 12 decimes per 7½g



Valparaiso CDS1



Type II, C above 5

Anglo-French
Accountancy Mark

1857 entire to Chalons sur Saone France



Aug 18th 1857 entire from Valparaiso to Chalons sur Saone France. The front has ms rate "12" and "via Panama et Angleterre" and Anglo-French accountancy mark 2f87½ Type II; reverse has Valparaiso CDS1, London, Paris and Chalons transit and arrival marks and blue Valparaiso forwarding agents stamp.

Route: Via Panama; then by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) - by RMS Trent from Colon (8th Sep) to St Thomas (15th Sep) and by RMS Parana from St Thomas (15th Sep) to Southampton (1st Oct).

Rate: Rated under the 1857 Anglo-French convention at 2f 87.5c per 30 grammes, rounded to 7d sterling per 7½ g. Adding French inland rate of 5 decimes gives a single rate of 12 decimes to be paid on collection. This gives 7d to UK for thousands of miles, and 5d to France for the journey from Calais to Bordeaux.

Sources:

Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) *Early routes of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879*. Postal History Society

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

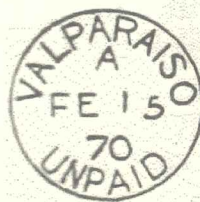
Tabcart, C 2nd ed (2003) *United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas* HH Sales Bradford

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

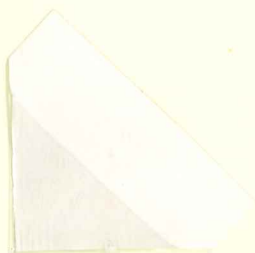
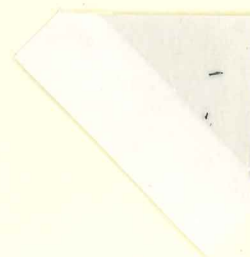
The Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNCo) introduced a through service from Liverpool via the Straits of Magellan in 1868. Five new ships arrived in 1869, operating between Liverpool and Valparaiso. In 1870, the PSNCo extended services to Callao, and in 1872 the PSNCo began operating a weekly service from Liverpool. The calls at this time included Bordeaux (later Pauillac), Lisbon, Sao Vincente (Cape Verde Islands), Rio de Janeiro, Montevideo and Punta Arenas.

The PSNCo was the largest steamship company in the world in 1873, but their success was short-lived. Due to a combination of circumstances, including political unrest, and competition from other shipping lines PSNCo found themselves in financial difficulties and many ships were laid up, service speeds were reduced, and departures became fortnightly again.

1877 envelope to France via Magellan Straits



Valparaiso CDS UNPAID



Chile 1877 envelope to Bordeaux endorsed "Via Magellan" with red French maritime cancel, rated "28" in ms and triangular framed T mark, used for unpaid mail to France after France joined the UPU in 1876. The reverse has a Valparaiso Unpaid CDS of the British Post Office dated 25th May 1877 and arrival CDs for Bordeaux.

Route: On the PSNCo "Liguria" which departed from Valparaiso on 25th May and arrived at Bordeaux on 30th June 1877

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

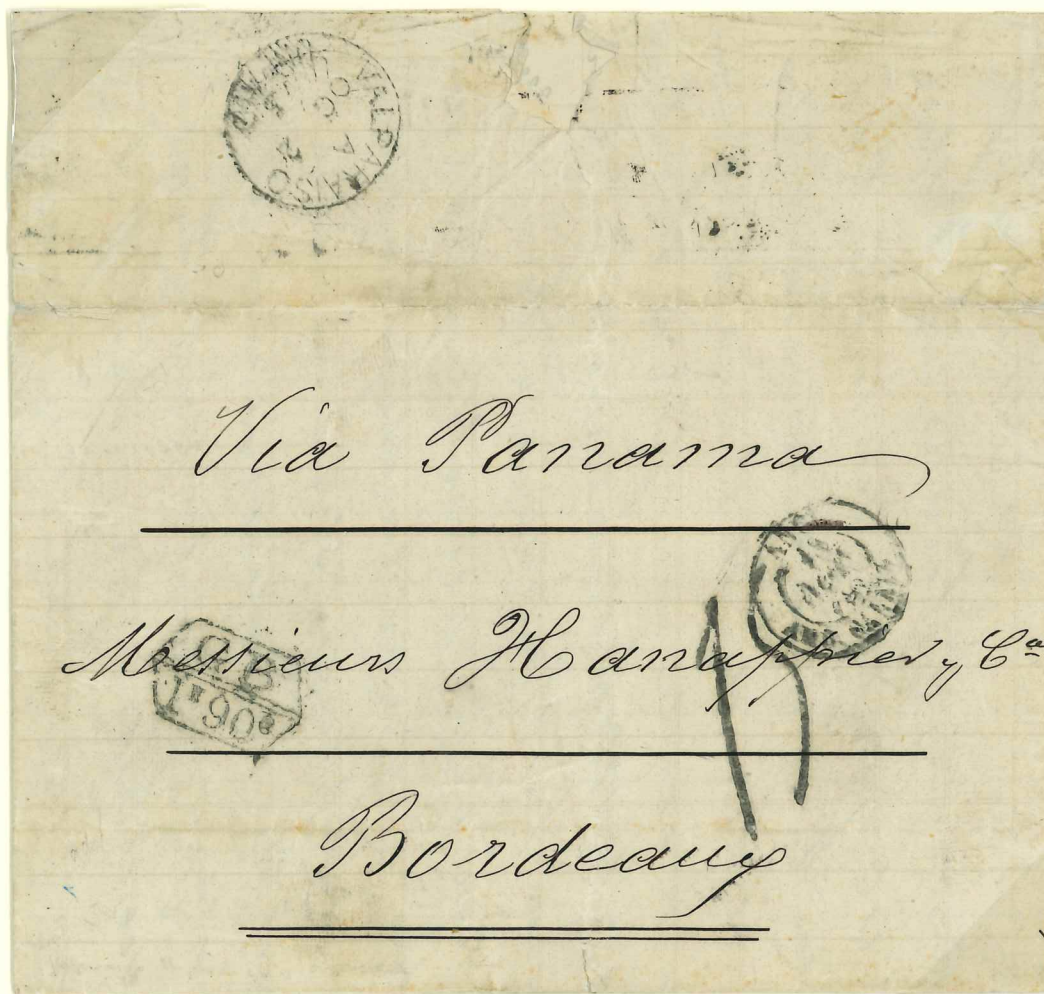
British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile

Prior to Chile joining the UPU international mail could be sent unpaid through the British Postal Agency. This particularly applied to mail to France; and an Anglo-French Accountancy charge was applied to this mail.

1875 Entire Letter to Bordeaux via Panama



Valparaiso CDS UNPAID



1875 Entire Letter to Bordeaux with Valparaiso unpaid cds dated OC 2 75, Anglo-French 1f90c Accountancy mark, "14" in manuscript, GB and French transit stamps and Bordeaux arrival CDS dated 14 NOV 75.

Rate: In London it received the boxed 1f90c cancel to show that it was an unpaid letter from overseas and exchanged with France at the bulk rate of 1franc 90centimes per 30 grammes of letter weight, to compensate the UK for transit expenses. Upon arrival in France the letter was marked for 15 decimes (1 franc 50 centimes) to be paid on collection to pay the French internal weight and the British debit for the letter.

Route: By Pacific Steam Navigation Company to Panama, by rail to Colon Via Panama; then by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) - by RMS Moselle from Colon (21st October) to Plymouth (12th November)

Sources

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

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

Anglo-French Accountancy marks

Even when stamps were supplied to British Packet Agencies abroad, letters to France and Italy were sent unstamped, and a mark was applied at the exchange office to show the cost for which the letter had been forwarded. For France, the Anglo-French convention of 24th September 1856 fixed the tariff:

From 1st January 1857 to 31st December 1865: 2f87½ per 30grammes

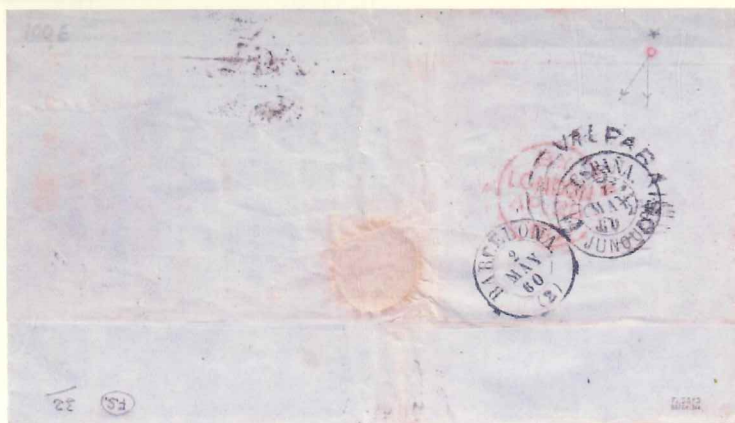
1860 Entire letter from Valparaiso to Barcelona, Spain



Valparaiso CDS1



Anglo-French Accountancy Mark
Type 2 - C over 5



The front has red local Valparaiso cancel for 15th March 1860, hexagonal Anglo-French Accountancy charge mark for 2f87.5c and black 4Rs charge mark. The back has Valparaiso British Office (Parmenter CDS1) cancel, London transit (April 29th), Spanish border La Junquera and Barcelona cancel for 2 MAY 60.

Route: By PSNC from Valparaiso to Panama, by railway to Colon, by RMS Tamar from Colon (8th April) to St Thomas (13th April) and by RMS La Plata from St Thomas (13th April) to Southampton (28th April). Carried by the French postal system to the Spanish frontier; then by the Spanish postal system.

Rate : On arrival at Jonquera Spain charged 4 Reales, (about 10d sterling) for carriage to Barcelona.

Sources:

Kenton PJ & Parsons HG (1999) *Early routes of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842-79*. Postal History Soc. East Grinstead
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

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile

Anglo-US Convention 1st October 1853 - The exchange of mails was authorised between New York and other US ports and the British packet office at Panama; US Government to provide the mail transmission. Mails to comprise all those between the USA and the foreign ports on the west coast of South America served by British packets. Mail was prepaid to Panama, as shown by the PAID TO PANAMA cancel.



PAID - TO
PANAMA
PAID TO PANAMA



Panama CDS1

1861 entire letter from Valparaiso to New York



Front has manuscript 1/- in pencil, plus hand-stamps red PP "PAID TO PANAMA", British PO double arc Panama CDS1 cancel JY 24 1861 and "STEAMSHIP 10" in circle, indicating the payment in USA of 10 cents between Panama and New York. Back has British PO double arc Valparaiso CDS1 dated JY 3 1861.

1865 entire letter from Conception (Chile) to New York



Front has manuscript 1/- in red, plus hand-stamps red PP "PAID TO PANAMA", British PO double arc Panama CDS1 cancel Fe 21 1865 and "STEAMSHIP 10" in circle, indicating the payment in USA of 10 cents between Panama and New York. Back has British PO double arc Valparaiso CDS1 dated JY 3 1861.

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

Valparaiso was supplied with crowned-paid hand-stamps from January 1846, which were used until 1869. Two hand-stamps were sent, with slight variations.

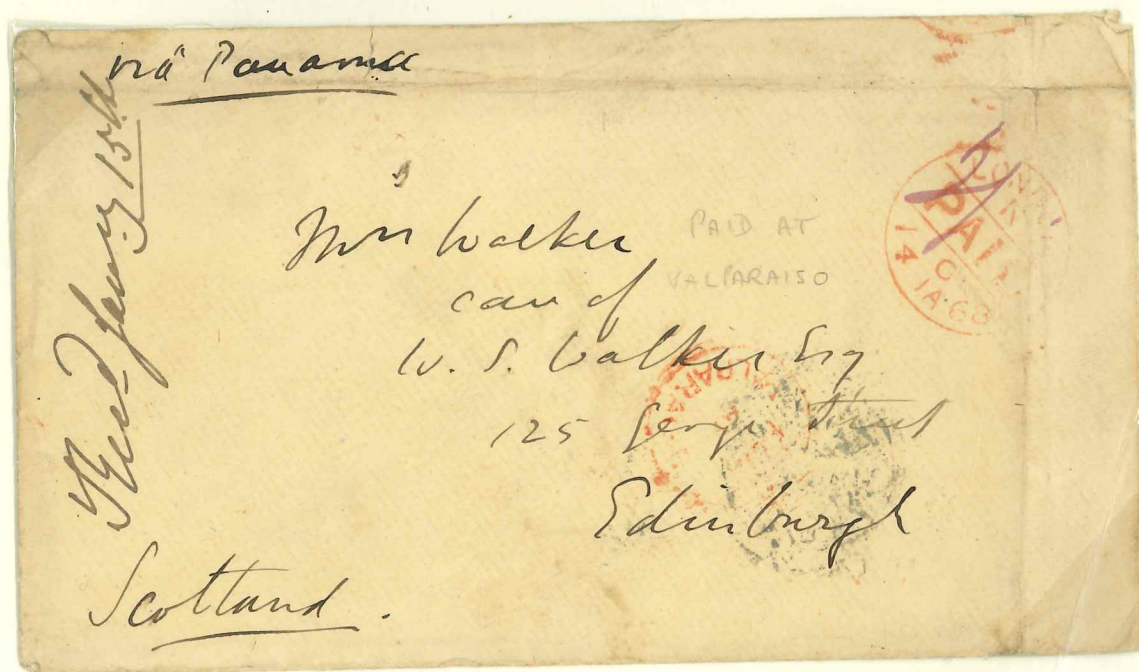


CC1 without dot



CDS2

1867 Crown Paid Envelope to Edinburgh via Panama



1867 envelope from Valparaiso to Edinburgh. The front has CC1 handstamp (no dot) Crown Paid at Valparaiso, London receiver 14 Jan 68, "2/-" in red-purple m/s and "via Panama" in m/s The back has CDS2 Valparaiso 3 DE1867 and Edinburgh sorting cancel Jan 15 1868

Rate: From 1856 to 1879 the rate to Great Britain was 2/- per ½ oz

Route: RMS Solent from Colon 23rd Dec to Jamaica 26th Dec; RMS Atrato from Jamaica 28th Dec to Plymouth, arriving on 14 Jan 1868.

Sources:

Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham
Stanley Gibbons (published annually) Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1970 Stanley Gibbons, London and Ringwood

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

The crowned-circle (crown paid) hand-stamp was supplied to offices abroad following pressure from postmasters to provide them with adhesive stamps, which were introduced in Great Britain in 1840.

Postage between foreign ports e.g. Chile to USA was to be paid in advance, the amount indicated in manuscript on the cover and a *crowned-paid hand-stamp* applied. Valparaiso was supplied with crowned-paid hand-stamps from January 1846. Two hand-stamps were sent, with slight variations.



CC1 (Crown Paid) (no full stop)

1855 Valparaiso Crown Paid Entire to New York via Panama



The entire has a red crayon 1/- mark and a red CC1 Crown Paid cancel (without dot) showing that 1/- was paid for carriage by Pacific Steam Navigation Company to Panama and it was transferred to U.S. Mail Steamship Company for carriage to New York. The "STEAMSHIP 20" circular cancel shows a 20-cent cost from Panama to be paid on arrival at New York. It is cancelled on the back with a British Postal Agency double ring CDS1 Valparaiso cancel for September 15th 1855

Sources:

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

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile

Anglo-US Convention 1st October 1853 - The exchange of mails was authorised between New York and other US ports and the British packet office at Panama; US Government to provide the mail transmission. Mails to comprise all those between the USA and the foreign ports on the west coast of South America served by British packets. Mail was prepaid to Panama, as shown by the crown paid (crowned circle) cancel. Valparaiso was supplied with crowned circle hand-stamps from January 1846, which were used until 1869. Two hand-stamps were sent, with slight variations.

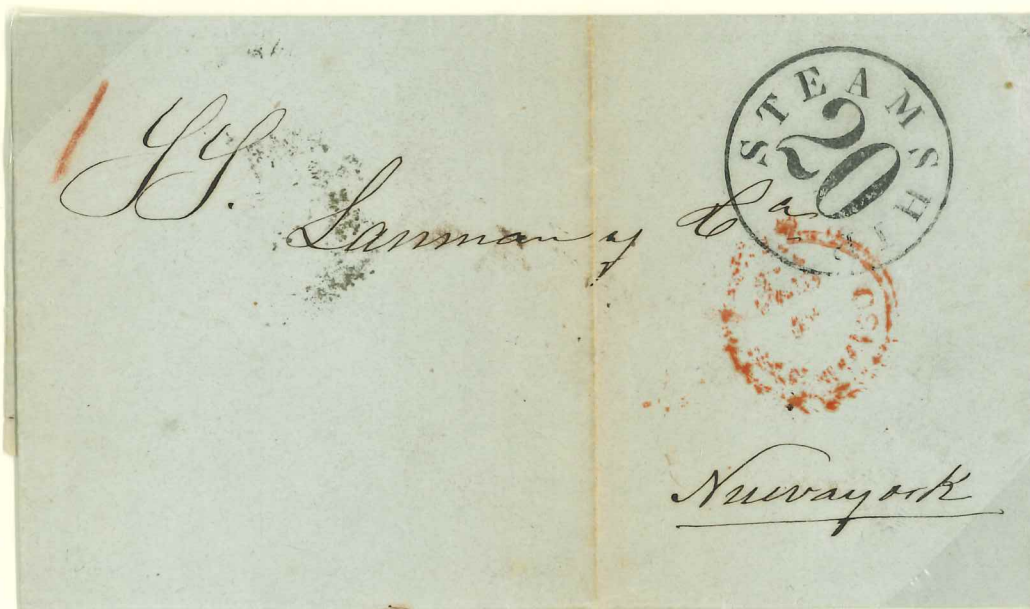


CC1



CDS2

1855 (June) Entire to New York via Panama.



1855 Entire to New York via Panama. The front has a black circular Steamship 20, red crayon 1/- and red Crown Circle Paid at Valparaiso. The back has a double arc CDS1 Valparaiso dated JU 30 1855. **Rate:** The rate to Panama was 1/- per ½ oz. Carried to Philadelphia by US government mail boats with 20 cents to pay on collection at Philadelphia.

Sources:

Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham
Stanley Gibbons (published annually) *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1970* Stanley Gibbons, London and Ringwood

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

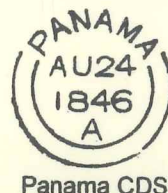
Anglo-US Convention 1st October 1853

The exchange of mails was authorised between New York, Charleston, Savannah, New Orleans and San Francisco and the British packet office at Panama; transmission of mails between the ports to be provided by the US Government. Mails to comprise all those between the USA and the foreign ports on the west coast of South America served by British packets. US to account to the British PO at the rate of 1/- or 24 cents per ½ounce for ports beyond Peru.

1866 Double rate Entire to New York via Panama



PAID-T O
PANAMA
Paid to Panama



March 9th 1866 entire to New York via Panama. Front has manuscript "2/-" in red, plus hand-stamps red PP "PAID TO PANAMA", British PO double arc Panama CDS1 cancel dated March 29th 1866 and "STEAMSHIP 20" in circle. The back has British PO double arc Valparaiso CDS1 cancel

Route / Rate: This is a double rate packet, which had to be prepaid to Panama at a rate of 2/-, written in red to indicate that it is paid. Carried by railway across the Panama Isthmus to Colon and then by US mail boat to New York, with a double rate charge of 20 cents payable on collection.

Sources:

Kenton P (2000) *Crossroads at Panama* in *Rossiter Postal History Journal* Volume No.1 :2000 Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund, Bristol
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

Valparaiso, Chile

1865 Entire Paid to New York via Panama



Valparaiso CDS1

PAID - TO
PANAMA

Paid to Panama

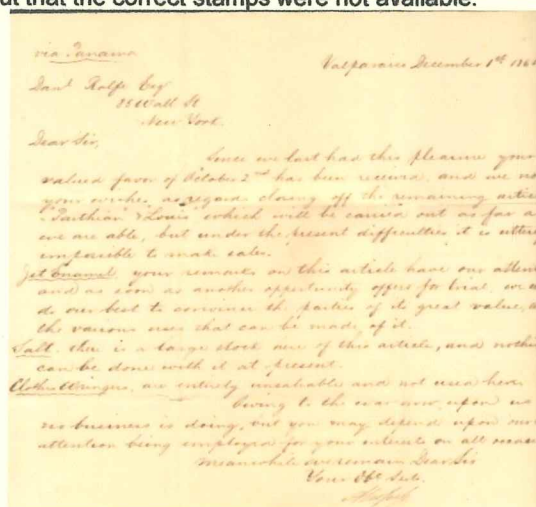


Panama CDS1



1865 (December 3rd) entire from Valparaiso to New York via Panama. Front has manuscript 2/- in red struck through and replaced by 1/- in blue, plus hand-stamps red PP "PAID TO PANAMA", British PO double arc Panama CDS1 cancel DE 20 1865 and "STEAMSHIP 10" in circle, indicating the payment in USA of 10 cents between Panama and New York to be collected in New York. The reverse has British PO double arc Valparaiso CDS1 cancel DE 3 1865.

Stamps were issued in January 1865 at Valparaiso, well before this stamp-less letter was sent. The crayon 1/- mark indicates that the rate was paid, but that the correct stamps were not available.



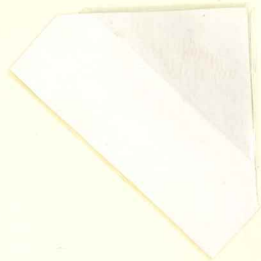
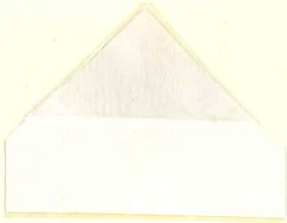
The letter is to Daniel Wolfe, Wall Street and concerns selling in Chile – e.g. Clothes wringers are unsaleable and the war with Spain was affecting sales. In 1865 Peru supported Chile in her war with Spain. On September 17th, 1865, The Spanish Admiral Pareja anchored his flagship, the Villa de Madrid, in Valparaiso and demanded that his flag be saluted with 21 guns. The proud Chileans refused to salute Pareja's Insignia and war was declared with Spain.

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile

1876 envelope front from Valparaiso to London



Valparaiso CDS UNPAID



... "Schutte, Heineken y Ca",
... Panama" in manuscript on the
... arrival cds for 12th August.
... from 1870 to 1878
... from Colon (21st July) to

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 – 1881

From 1865 mail from Chile to Great Britain was paid in advance and GB stamps and a C30 obliterator were used to show that the mail had been paid in advance. However, Parmenter (Page 76) states that in a letter to the Philatelic Journal, Mr. L. W. Meyer of Valparaiso stated (journal issue of 15th July 1872) that it a common occurrence to be out of higher value stamps and often the only value available was 1d. Normally a coloured pencil would be used to show that the postage has been prepaid.

1871 Unpaid entire to Dundee, Scotland



Valparaiso CDS2



1871 unpaid entire to Dundee. Cancelled with a Valparaiso CDS2 (very rarely used for unpaid mail) and with no other postal markings except "1/6" hand stamp, probably applied to show 1/6 to pay by the London Foreign Branch (Johnson B41) and Dundee arrival CDS for DE 12 1871. There is a similar 1/6 hand stamp for Liverpool (type Tabcart M70) but it is not known used in 1871. Both hand stamps are rarely found.

Route: No route markings but the 1/6 cost indicates it that went via Panama and not the Magellan Straits. It was carried on the RMS Moselle from Colon on 21st November arriving at Plymouth on 10th October.

Rate: 1/6 per half ounce was the rate for mail to Great Britain from 1870 to 1878

Sources:

Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) *Early routes of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879*. Postal History Society, Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham
Tabcart C (1997) *Robertson revisited- A Study of the Maritime Postal Markings of the British Isles* James Bendon Ltd, Limassol, Cyprus
Tabcart, C 2nd ed (2003) *United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas* HH Sales Bradford

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

Because the mail service from Britain to the Pacific area was very slow and unreliable, Britain made a convention with New Granada (now Colombia) to set up a postal service across the Isthmus of Panama. The admiralty awarded a contract to the Pacific Steam Navigation Company on 29th August 1845 to convey mails between Panama, Callao (Peru) and Valparaiso (Chile). The British Postal Agency in Valparaiso was established in the British Consulate to handle mail "without interference with the local Post Office".

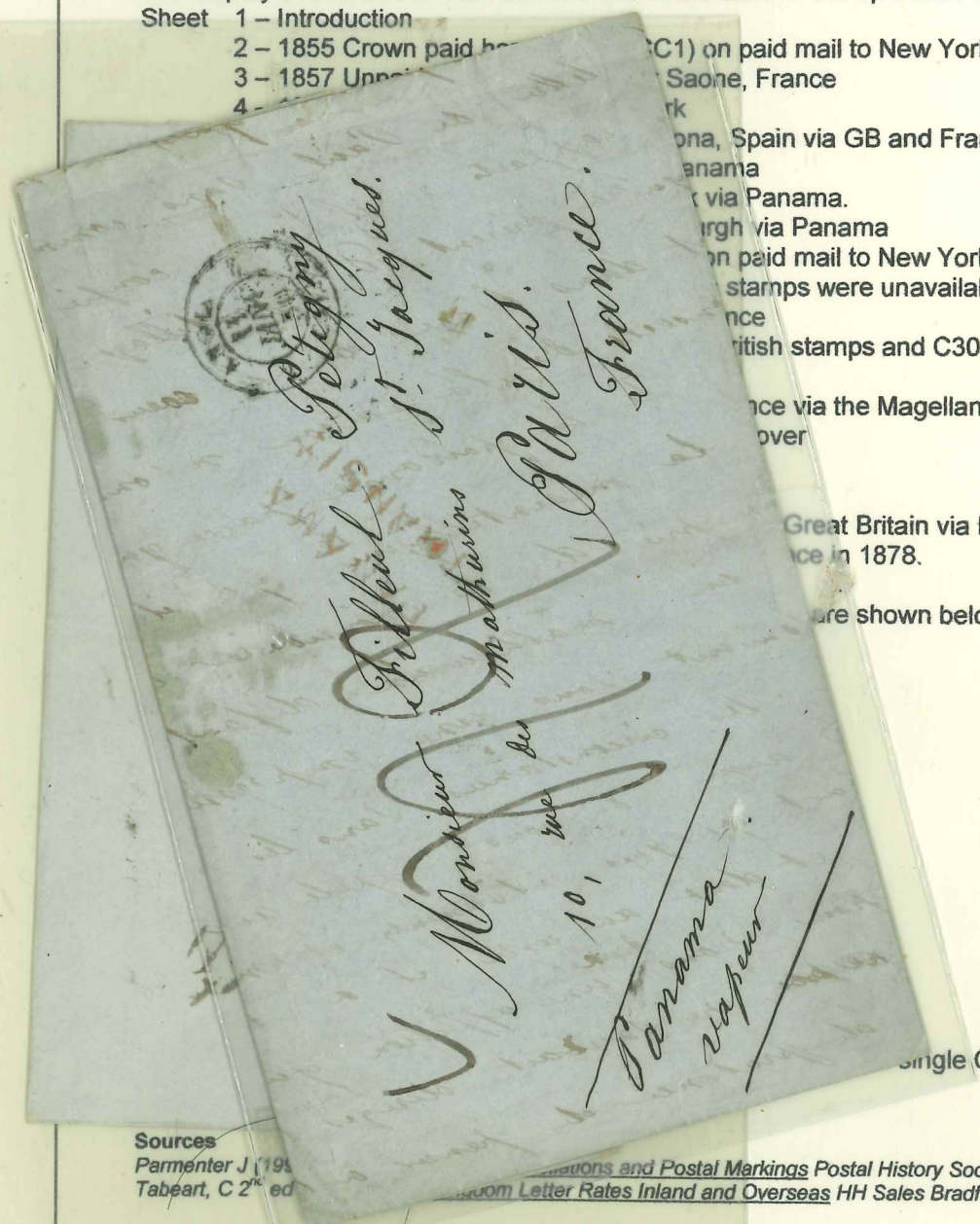
Mail to Europe and the West Indies was carried unpaid until after 1860, but to other countries e.g. USA the mail was paid, either to Panama or for the entire carriage using the crowned circle (crown paid) hand stamp for this purpose. A number of cancelations were used to signify whether the mail was unpaid or paid. In 1864 British stamps and barred obliterators (C30) were sent by the British Post Office for paid mail, although stamps were not always available e.g. in 1869 all stamps and obliterators were destroyed in a fire.

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company had a monopoly of carriage of British mail from Valparaiso and in 1868 opened a second route through the Straits of Magellan and the Atlantic Ocean, stopping also at the British Postal Agencies in Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil..

After Chile joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) the British Postal Agency in Valparaiso closed in 1881.

The display shows all the main cancels and obliterators of the operation of the agency i.e.

- Sheet 1 - Introduction
- 2 - 1855 Crown paid hand stamp (C1) on paid mail to New York via Panama
- 3 - 1857 Unpaid hand stamp (C2) on mail to Saone, France
- 4 - Unpaid hand stamp (C3) on mail to New York



- 5 - Unpaid hand stamp (C4) on mail to Panama, Spain via GB and France
- 6 - Unpaid hand stamp (C5) on mail to Panama
- 7 - Unpaid hand stamp (C6) on mail to New York via Panama
- 8 - Unpaid hand stamp (C7) on mail to New York via Panama
- 9 - Unpaid hand stamp (C8) on mail to New York via Panama
- 10 - Unpaid hand stamp (C9) on mail to New York via Panama
- 11 - Unpaid hand stamp (C10) on mail to New York via Panama
- 12 - Unpaid hand stamp (C11) on mail to New York via Panama
- 13 - Unpaid hand stamp (C12) on mail to New York via Panama
- 14 - Unpaid hand stamp (C13) on mail to New York via Panama
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- 16 - Unpaid hand stamp (C15) on mail to New York via Panama
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- 20 - Unpaid hand stamp (C19) on mail to New York via Panama
- 21 - Unpaid hand stamp (C20) on mail to New York via Panama
- 22 - Unpaid hand stamp (C21) on mail to New York via Panama
- 23 - Unpaid hand stamp (C22) on mail to New York via Panama
- 24 - Unpaid hand stamp (C23) on mail to New York via Panama
- 25 - Unpaid hand stamp (C24) on mail to New York via Panama
- 26 - Unpaid hand stamp (C25) on mail to New York via Panama
- 27 - Unpaid hand stamp (C26) on mail to New York via Panama
- 28 - Unpaid hand stamp (C27) on mail to New York via Panama
- 29 - Unpaid hand stamp (C28) on mail to New York via Panama
- 30 - Unpaid hand stamp (C29) on mail to New York via Panama
- 31 - Unpaid hand stamp (C30) on mail to New York via Panama
- 32 - Unpaid hand stamp (C31) on mail to New York via Panama
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- 62 - Unpaid hand stamp (C61) on mail to New York via Panama
- 63 - Unpaid hand stamp (C62) on mail to New York via Panama
- 64 - Unpaid hand stamp (C63) on mail to New York via Panama
- 65 - Unpaid hand stamp (C64) on mail to New York via Panama
- 66 - Unpaid hand stamp (C65) on mail to New York via Panama
- 67 - Unpaid hand stamp (C66) on mail to New York via Panama
- 68 - Unpaid hand stamp (C67) on mail to New York via Panama
- 69 - Unpaid hand stamp (C68) on mail to New York via Panama
- 70 - Unpaid hand stamp (C69) on mail to New York via Panama
- 71 - Unpaid hand stamp (C70) on mail to New York via Panama
- 72 - Unpaid hand stamp (C71) on mail to New York via Panama
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- 80 - Unpaid hand stamp (C79) on mail to New York via Panama
- 81 - Unpaid hand stamp (C80) on mail to New York via Panama
- 82 - Unpaid hand stamp (C81) on mail to New York via Panama
- 83 - Unpaid hand stamp (C82) on mail to New York via Panama
- 84 - Unpaid hand stamp (C83) on mail to New York via Panama
- 85 - Unpaid hand stamp (C84) on mail to New York via Panama
- 86 - Unpaid hand stamp (C85) on mail to New York via Panama
- 87 - Unpaid hand stamp (C86) on mail to New York via Panama
- 88 - Unpaid hand stamp (C87) on mail to New York via Panama
- 89 - Unpaid hand stamp (C88) on mail to New York via Panama
- 90 - Unpaid hand stamp (C89) on mail to New York via Panama
- 91 - Unpaid hand stamp (C90) on mail to New York via Panama
- 92 - Unpaid hand stamp (C91) on mail to New York via Panama
- 93 - Unpaid hand stamp (C92) on mail to New York via Panama
- 94 - Unpaid hand stamp (C93) on mail to New York via Panama
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- 98 - Unpaid hand stamp (C97) on mail to New York via Panama
- 99 - Unpaid hand stamp (C98) on mail to New York via Panama
- 100 - Unpaid hand stamp (C99) on mail to New York via Panama
- 101 - Unpaid hand stamp (C100) on mail to New York via Panama

Great Britain via Panama was 2/- per ½ ounce, in 1878.

are shown below

single C30 cancel (4VOS)

Sources
 Parmenter J (1998)
 Tabéart, C 2nd ed

Postmarks and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham
 Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

British Postal Agency in Valparaiso, Chile 1845 - 1881

Valparaiso was supplied with crowned-paid hand-stamps from January 1846, which were used until 1869. Two hand-stamps were sent, with slight variations.



CC1



CDS2

1852 Crown Paid Entire letter to Philadelphia via Panama



1852 Entire to Philadelphia via Panama. The front has black circular Steamship 20, red crayon 1/- and faint red Crown Circle Paid at Valparaiso. The back has double arc CDS1 Valparaiso OC 31 1852.

Rate: The rate to Panama was 1/- per ½ oz. Carried to Philadelphia by US government mail boats with 20 cents to pay on collection at Philadelphia.

Sources:

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

Stanley Gibbons (published annually) *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1970* Stanley Gibbons, London and Ringwood

CHILE

Mail to Europe prior to Chile joining the UPU on April 1, 1881.

Valparaiso to Bordeaux 'Via Panama y Inglaterra' August 31, 1852.

Paris transit
October
19th.



21 decimes
to pay.

Panama
transit,
applied in
Panama

Calais transit
October 19th

Bordeaux
rec. mark
October
20th

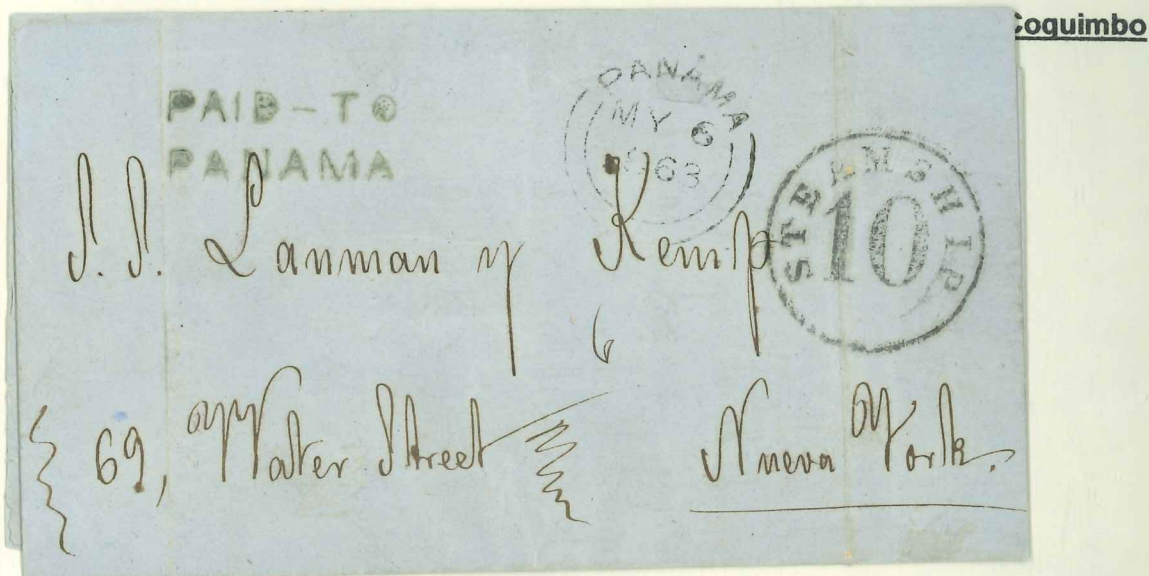
Double arc
Consular
mark
Valparaiso
August 31,
1852

London
transit
October
17th

British Postal Agency in Coquimbo, Chile

^{Coquimbo}
A British Postal Agency was established in Caldera in the 1850s, but a date stamp was not sent out until 1863, and Great Britain stamps and the C40 obliterator were sent in 1865. Mail from Coquimbo steadily declined, although even in 1871 sixteen Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC) steamers called monthly. The PP (Paid to Panama) hand stamp was sent by the British GPO in 1856, but no date-stamp was sent until later and so early mail is found with only the PP hand stamp,

This letter, from the state capital Serena about 6 miles from Coquimbo, would have entered the British .P.O. at Coquimbo where black and occasionally blue inks were used, Their two-line "PAID - TO/PANAMA" handstamp is recorded by Parmenter as being very rare in black, but he records no examples in blue, It is known in use from 1863-69.



Serena, Chile to New York, folded letter with blue two line Coquimbo "PAID - TO/PANAMA" handstamp, British Post Office double arc CDS2 "PANAMA/My 6, 1863" transit and New York "Steamship/10" blanket rate arrival hand-stamp.

Sources

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