

## Uruguay

### Montevideo

A British Packet Agency was set up in 1851 and a postal agreement between governments in November 1853 regulated the rates. This was amended in 1859 but Uruguay did not abide by the rules very well.

The Anglo-French Agreement allowed covers to go unpaid with a fixed payment (19 decimes) passed back to Britain from the French authorities. The main packet boats from Montevideo were from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP). Mail was carried on the River Plate route once a month to Rio de Janeiro via where they waited for 3 days before carriage on the Brazil Route to Southampton, which also stopped at Bahia, Pernambuco, St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) and Lisbon.

### 1860 Entire from Montevideo to Bordeaux



1860 entire folded letter addressed from Montevideo, Uruguay, to Bordeaux written on 29th August 1860. It passed through the local British Post Office without cancel but with local oval cancel for 30<sup>th</sup> August.

**Route:** In March 1860 the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's routes were revised. The packet was taken on the River Plata Route on 29<sup>th</sup> August, arriving at Rio de Janeiro on 6<sup>th</sup> September, departing on the 9<sup>th</sup> September via the steamer "Magdalena" to Southampton, where it arrived two days ahead of schedule on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. There are transit marks for London (the same day), Calais and Paris (4<sup>th</sup> October), arriving at destination on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Rate:** At London the Anglo/French accountancy mark for bulk mail of 1F 60c was applied. The French post office charged the recipient 16 decimes.

Uruguay

Montevideo

Montevideo, the capital of the Republic of Uruguay had a British Packet Agency from 1851 although export trade was small, with about a third going to Great Britain.

The Anglo-French Agreement allowed covers to go unpaid with a fixed payment (19 decimes) passed back to Britain from the French authorities. The main packet boats from Montevideo were from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP). Mail was carried on the River Plate route once a month to Rio de Janeiro via where they waited for 3 days before carriage on the Brazil Route to Southampton, which also stopped at Bahia, Pernambuco, St Vincent (Cape Verde Islands) and Lisbon.

1863 Cover from Montevideo to Le Havre



1863 wrapper variously addressed 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 1863 from Montevideo, Uruguay, to Le Havre. It passed through the local British Post Office without cancel but with local oval cancel for 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Route:** In March 1860 the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's routes were revised. The packet was taken on the River Plata Route on 29<sup>th</sup> January, arriving at Rio de Janeiro on 6<sup>th</sup> February, departing on the 9<sup>th</sup> February via the steamer "Oneida" to Southampton, where it arrived on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Rate:** There is a London arrival mark for the 6<sup>th</sup>, where it received the Anglo/French accountancy mark for 1f 60c. There are transit marks for Calais (6<sup>th</sup>) and Paris (7<sup>th</sup>) before arriving at Le Havre on this latter date. The French post office charged the recipient 8 decimes.

Uruguay

1870 Entire from Montevideo to France via Lisbon

A British Packet Agency was set up in 1851 and a postal agreement between governments in November 1853 regulated the rates. This was amended in 1859 but Uruguay did not abide by the rules very well.

Even though prepayment through British stamps was introduced in 1864, the Anglo-French Agreement allowed covers to go unpaid with a fixed payment (19 decimes) passed back to Britain from the French authorities. The main packet boats from Montevideo were from the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) which also stopped at Buenos Ayres, Rio de Janeiro and Lisbon.



CDS 2a



1870 Entire from Montevideo to Castillon sur Dordogne, France via Lisbon. Front has manuscript "Vapeur via Lisboa" and rate "19" i.e. 19 decimes to pay, and French arrival cancel. Reverse has British PO Montevideo Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1870 CDS2 cancel, and Castillon arrival cancel Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 1871.

Handled by the British Postal Agency in Montevideo and sent on an RMSP packet steamer stopping at Lisbon.

### ***British Postal Agency in Montevideo, Uruguay***

Montevideo, the capital of the Republic of Uruguay had a British Packet Agency from 1851 and the C28 obliterator and British stamps were used from 1864 until 1872 or 1873.

Most mail from Montevideo to Great Britain was carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, but mail contracts were also held by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Tait and Company (London, Belgium, Brazil and River Plate Royal Mail Steam Ship Company) and Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Company (Lamport and Holt). This cover was carried by The Lamport and Holt Line; mail was carried to Southampton when the ship carried cargo for continental Europe, otherwise directly to Liverpool.

### **1870 Entire letter from Salto , Uruguay to Ormskirk, Lancashire.**



Entire letter dated August 28<sup>th</sup> 1870 from Salto, Uruguay to Ormskirk, Lancashire. PAID LIVERPOOL BR PACKET 18 OCT 70 red CDS on front; ORMSKIRK OC 18 70 CDS on back.

**Rate:** 1/- was the rate for ½ ounce to South America.

**Route:** By Liverpool, Brazil and River Plate Steam Navigation Company's (Lamport and Holt) Donati from Montevideo to Liverpool (17<sup>th</sup> October). The Donati had no cargo for Continental Europe and steamed direct to Liverpool

**Provenance:** The Oakhill Collection of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Maritime Mail, Cavendish November 24<sup>th</sup> 2010

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (2003) *United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas* HH Sales Bradford

**British Postal Agency in Montevideo, Uruguay**

Montevideo, the capital of the Republic of Uruguay had a British Packet Agency from 1851 until 1872 or 1873. Most mail from Montevideo to Europe was carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

**1871 entire from Montevideo to Oporto via Lisbon.**



CDS2a



1871 entire from Montevideo to Oporto via Lisbon. The front has manuscript "Portugal" and hand stamped rate "300". The reverse has a British Postal Agency JU 17 71 CDS2 (first version) cancel, blue Transatlantico CDS and Porto CDS receiver dated 13 AGOSTO 71.

**Rate:** 300 Reis unpaid to Portugal.

**Route:** By RMSP "La Plata" from Montevideo (17<sup>th</sup> July), due Lisbon 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**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