This cover was carried privately to San Juan and hand stamped with the rarer PUERTO RICO CDS3.

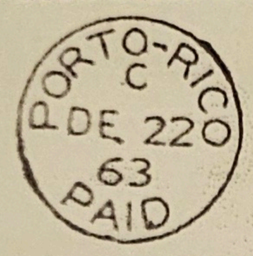
**1870 Entire Letter from Aguadilla, Porto Rico to London**

San Juan CDS3

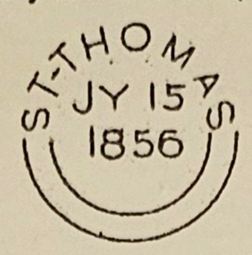
Mourning cover (the letter is black bordered) from Aguadilla, Porto Rico to London stamped on the back with a blue local cancel, CDS3 Puerto Rico Code C British Postal Agency cancel (rarely used on unpaid covers) dated Sept 27th 1870 and a red London receiver dated October 13th 1870. On the front are manuscript "Steamer via Southampton" and 1/- hand stamp.
**Rate:** 1/- was the rate from Porto Rico to London from 1863 to 1877 on a British Packet.
***Route:*** Taken privately from Aguadilla to San Juan. Carried by Spanish mail contract Steamer No. 1 from San Juan (Sept 27th) to St Thomas (arrived Sept 28Th) and then on the RSMP steamer "Neva" from St Thomas on 29th September, arriving at Plymouth on the 12th October.

**Sources:**
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings 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*
*Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford*

In 1844 the postal agency was supplied with the crown paid (crowned circle) hand-stamp which was used on stamp-less mail to show that that the fee had been paid. This was replaced by the CDS PAID hand-stamp, sent by the GPO (General Post Office) in London in January 1863 and used for less than four years for paid mail. The GPO sent Great Britain stamps and the first of three C61 obliterators in late 1865 and the CDS PAID cancel was used in conjunction with the horizontal 3 bar obliterator, the first of the C61 obliterators to be issued. It was also used much more rarely on unstamped covers, as in the example here.

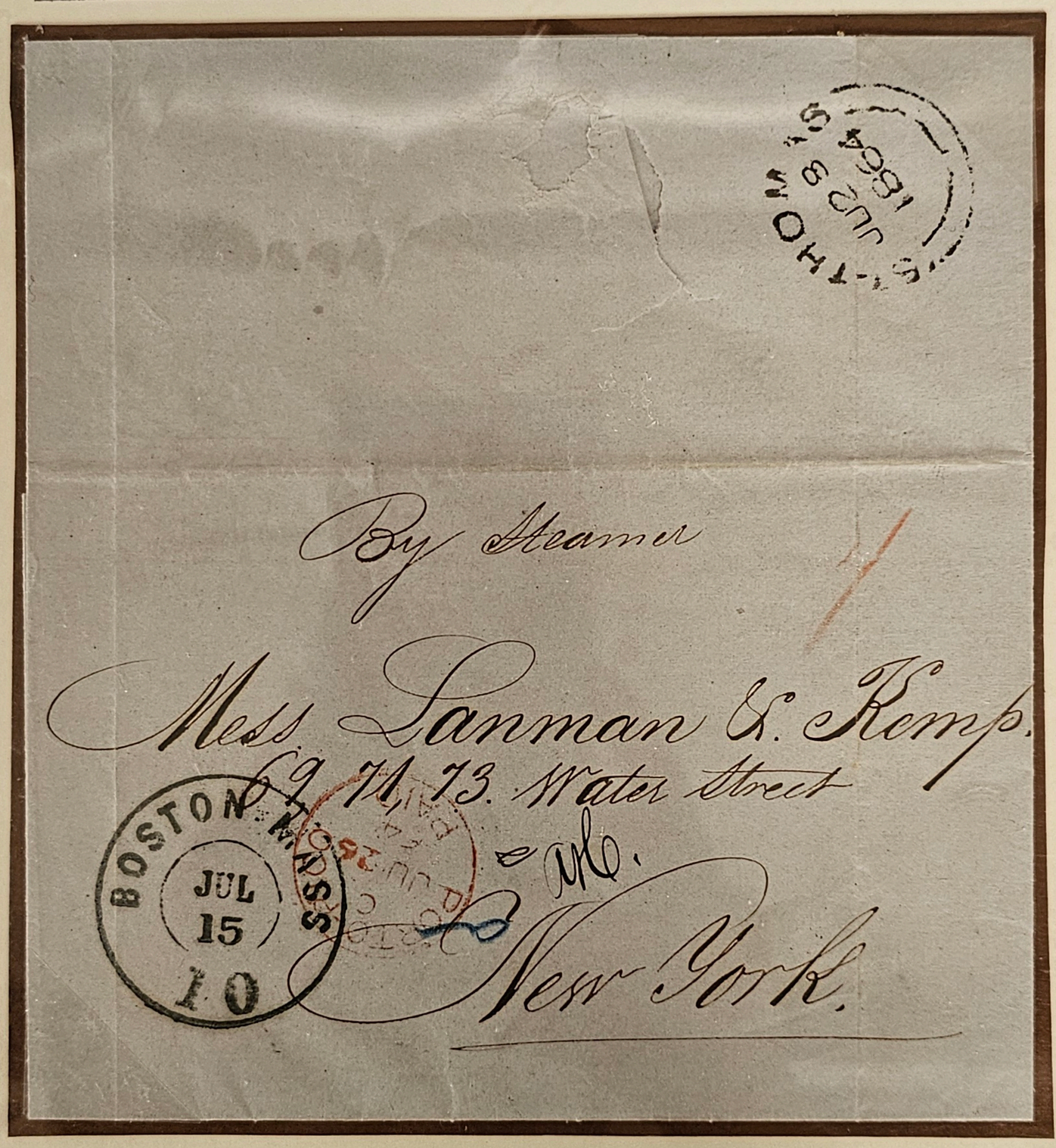



San Juan CDS PAID




St Thomas CDS2

**1864 Entire Letter sent Paid from San Juan to New York via St Thomas.**




26 June 1864 EL to New York with "By Steamer" in manuscript, with red crayon "1/-" and "PORTO RICO/C/PAID" cds. on the front along with 2-ring Boston transit cds, dated July 15th.There is also a double ring "ST. THOMAS" British P.O. back-stamp dated June 28th 1864.

***Route:*** The RMSP contract shows mail from San Juan to St Thomas carried on the Mexico route, however it is likely to have been carried by another mail boat calling at San Juan which was close to St Thomas, possibly the RMS Tyne on the Jamaica route. Then by US mail boat to Boston and New York.

**Sources:**

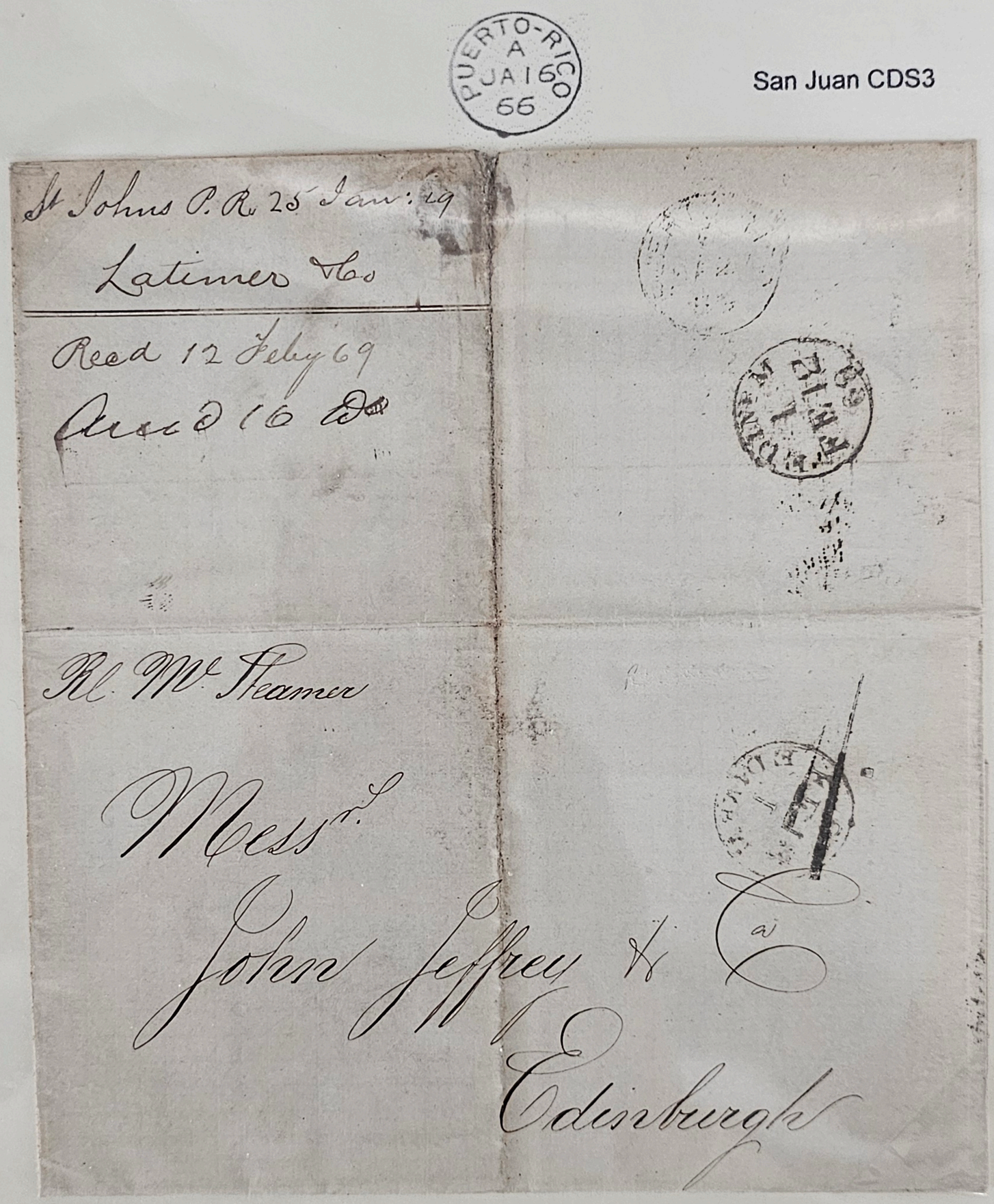
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History Society,*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

## *British Postal Agency in San Juan, Porto Rico*

In 1869 the hub of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) services to Great Britain was St Thomas in the Danish West Indies, which was less than a days sailing from San Juan, the capital of Porto Rico.

The RSMP steamed from San Juan once per month on the boat from Mexico in time to catch the first monthly sailing. There were additional services from August 1866 to January 1871 using a Spanish mail contract calling at Mayaguez, Aguadilla and San Juan which connected with the twice-monthly sailings from St Thomas to GB. This letter was taken privately to San Juan where it was cancelled with the CDS3.

**1869 entire letter from St John's, Puerto Rico to London**




San Juan CDS3

1869 entire sent from St. Johns, Porto Rico to Edinburgh, Scotland, with a 1 page letter inside. The back has a Puerto Rico Code C British Postal Agency cancel (rarely used on unpaid covers) dated Jan. 25, 1869 and Edinburgh cancel Feb 12th 69. On the front are a 1/- hand stamp and "Royal Mail Steamer" in m/s.
***Rate:*** 1/- was the GPO charge per ½ oz from Porto Rico to Great Britain from 1863
***Route:*** By Spanish Mail Contract Steamer No 1 from San Juan (26th Jan) to (St Thomas 27th Jan). From St Thomas (30th Jan) to Plymouth (11th Feb) by RMS Neva.

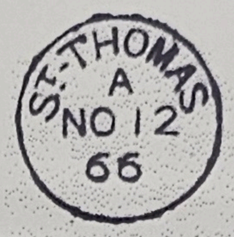
***Sources:***
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routes of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History Society,*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

## *British Postal Agency in San Juan, Porto Rico*

In 1844 the Postal Agency was supplied with the Crown Paid (Crowned Circle) hand-stamp which was used on stamp-less mail to show that that the fee had been paid. This was replaced by the CDS PAID hand-stamp, sent by the GPO (General Post Office) in London in January 1863 and used for less than four years for paid mail. The GPO sent Great Britain stamps and the first of three C61 obliterators in late 1865 and the CDS PAID cancel was used in conjunction with the horizontal 3 bar obliterator, the first of the C61 obliterators to be issued. It was also used much more rarely on unstamped covers, as in the example here. Parmenter states use of the CDSPAID on unpaid covers from 1863 to 1867; this cover is 5 years later than the last recorded date.

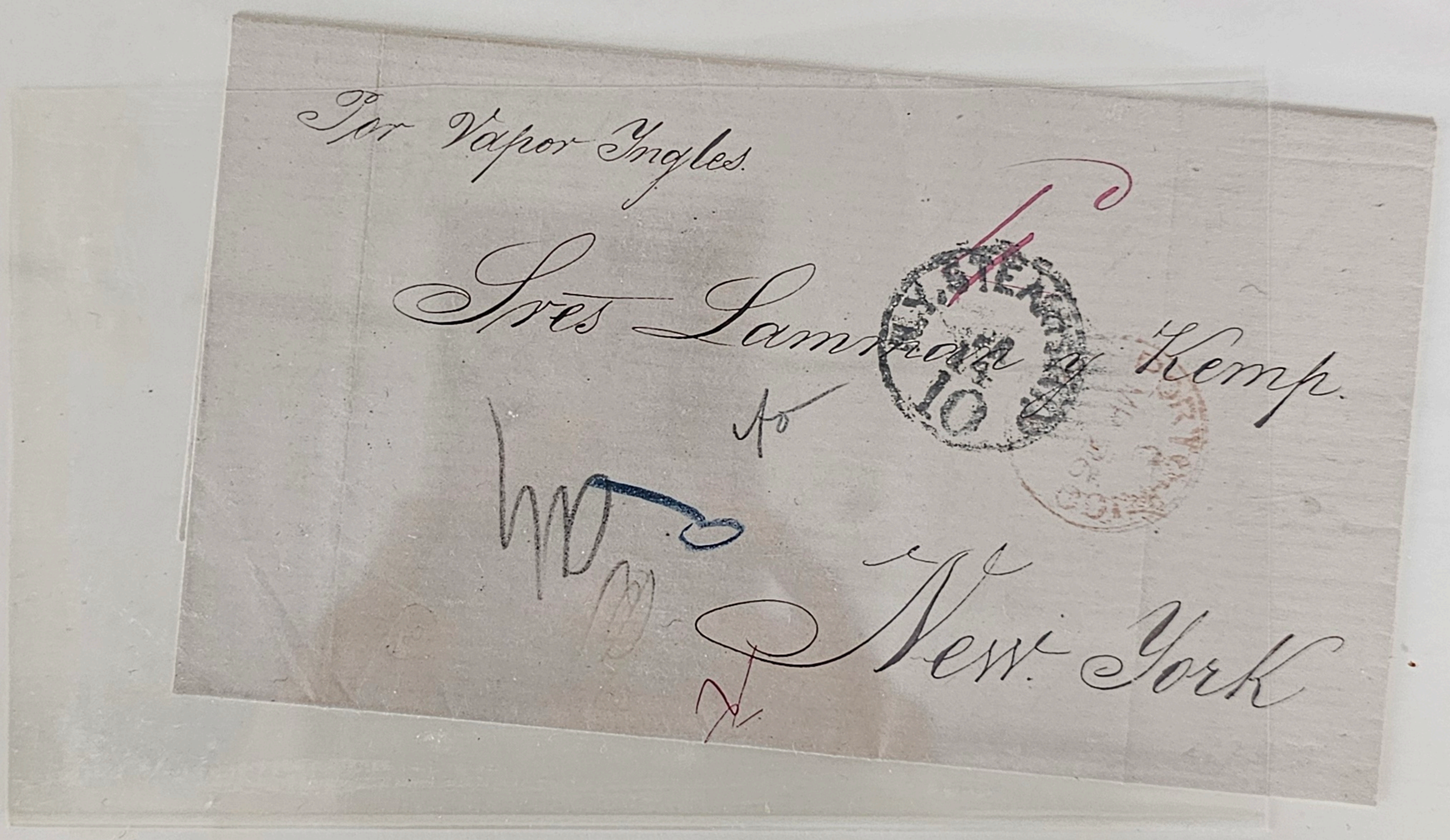
Note that there Is a letter in this collection sent 2 months earlier, in January 1872, from San Juan to New York via St Thomas that was stamped with the Porto Rico Crowned Circle hand stamp.

San Juan CDS PAID




St Thomas CDS3

**1872 (March) Entire Letter sent Paid from San Juan to New York via St Thomas.**




1872 entire from San Juan to New York, sent paid to St Thomas with red CDS PAID Code C MR 26 72 with "4d" in red manuscript and "Por Vapor Ingles" in manuscript and then unpaid to New York with N.Y. STEAMSHIP 10 APR 14 CDS and back stamped with the ST THOMAS single ring CDS3 dated MR 27 72.
***Rate:*** 4d was the longstanding rate through the Caribbean area i.e. from San Juan to St Thomas for a single rate letter.
***Route:*** Carried by RMS Mersey on the Porto Rico route from San Juan (26th March) to St Thomas (27th March); then by US mail boat to New York, arriving on the 14th April.

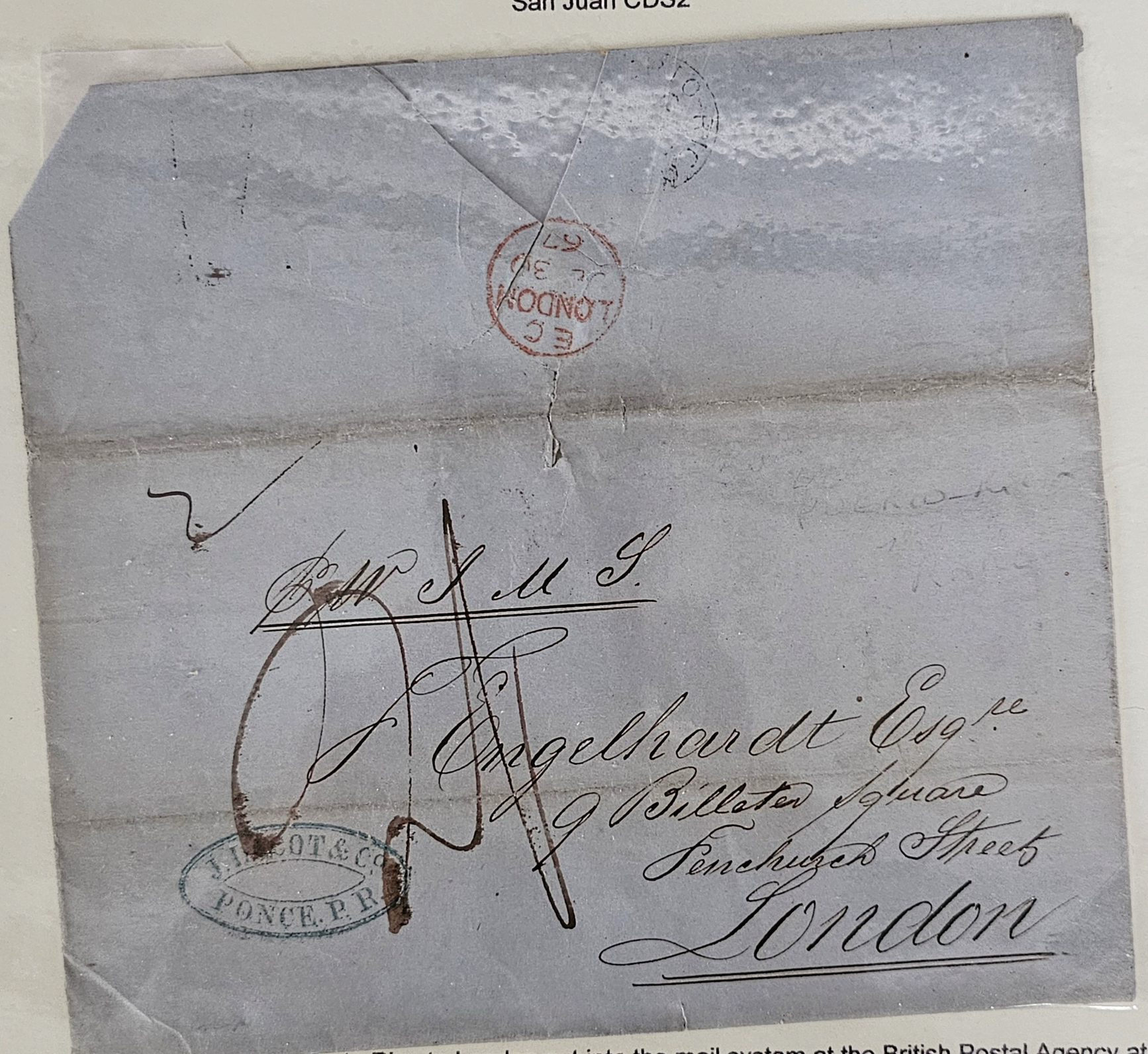
**Sources:**
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History Society,*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

## *British Postal Agency in San Juan, Porto Rico*

In 1865 British adhesives were introduced (obliterated C61), but were withdrawn the following year and were reintroduced in 1872 or 1873. In the intervening years, mail was generally sent unpaid and was paid at the destination.

### 1867 Entire from Ponce, Porto Rico to London

San Juan CDS2




1867 Entire from Ponce, Porto Rico to London,put into the mail system at the British Postal Agency at San Juan. The front has "2/-" hand-stamp and "Pr W I M S" in manuscript and oval blue merchants mark "J. LACOT & Co, PONCE P.R.". The back has a single circle British Postal Agency Porto Rico cancel and a London DE 30 1867 arrival stamp.

***Rate:*** 1/- was the rate from 1863 - 1877 for ½ oz mail from Porto Rico to Great Britain on British Mail Boats. This was a double rate (2/-) cover.

***Route:*** Carried on RMS "Danube" from San Juan (11th Dec) to St Thomas (13th Dec ), and then on the RMS "Tasmanian" from St Thomas (15th Dec) to Plymouth (28th Dec)

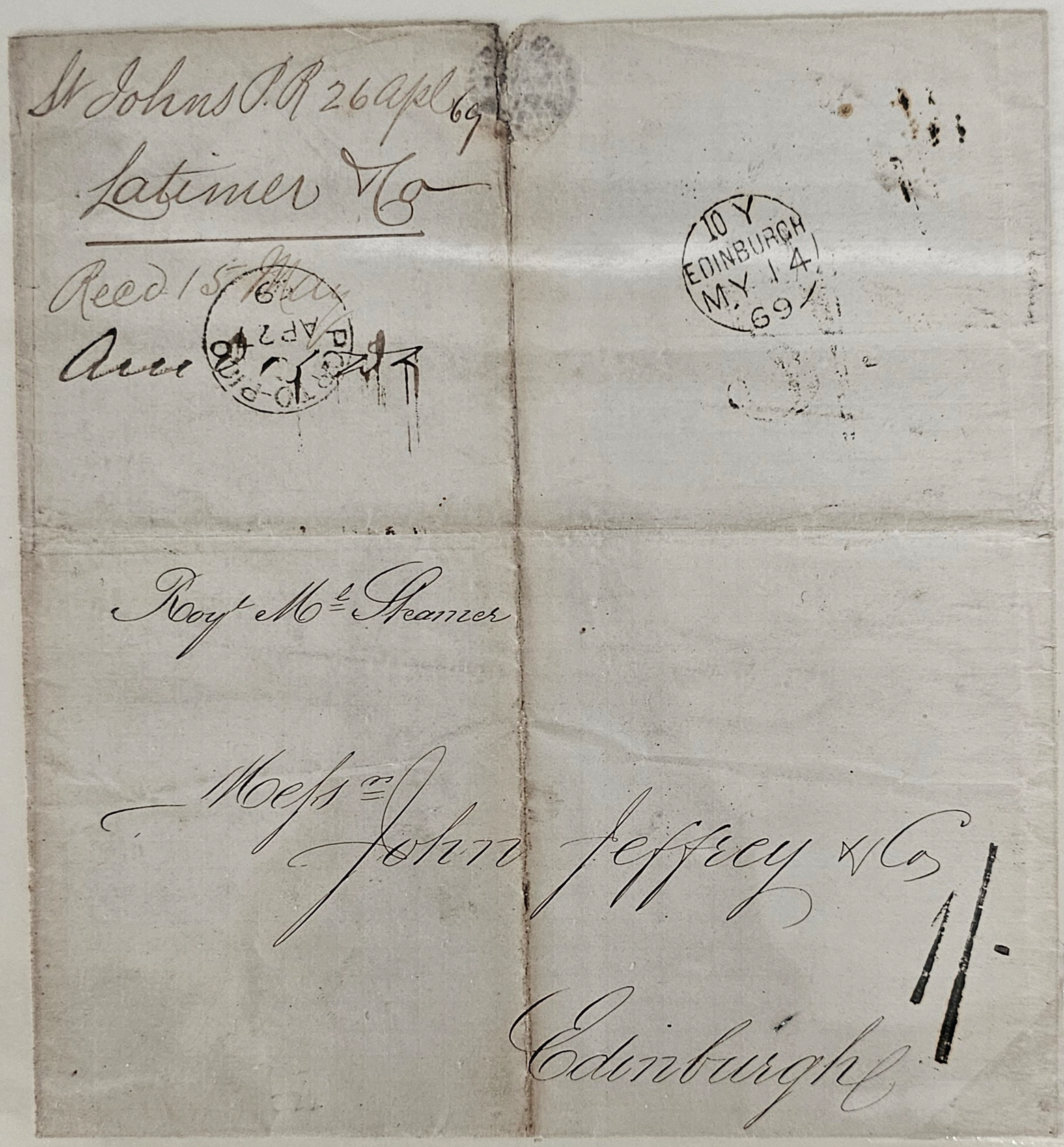
**Sources:**

*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History SocietyParmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

***British Postal Agency in San Juan, Porto Rico***

**1869 Entire letter from St John's, Porto Rico to Edinburgh**

San Juan CDS2



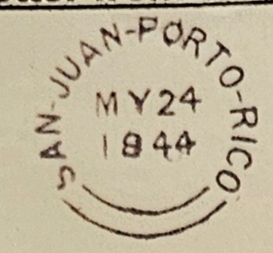

1869 Entire Letter to Edinburgh, Scotland. The front has "1/-" hand-stamp and "Royal Ml. Steamer" in manuscript. The back has a single circle British Postal Agency Porto Rico cancel dated AP 27 1869 and an Edinburgh MY 14 1869 arrival stamp. It was written from St John's Porto Rico concerning beer supplies.
***Rate:*** 1/- was the rate from 1863 - 1877 for ½ oz mail from Porto Rico to Great Britain on British Mail Boats.
***Route:*** This letter was taken privately to San Juan where it was cancelled with the CDS2 cancel. It was carried on Steamer No 1 of the Spanish Mail Contact from Porto Rico (27th April) to St Thomas (28th April), and then on the Main Route of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company on the RMS Seine from St Thomas (29th April) to Plymouth (13th May)

**Sources:**

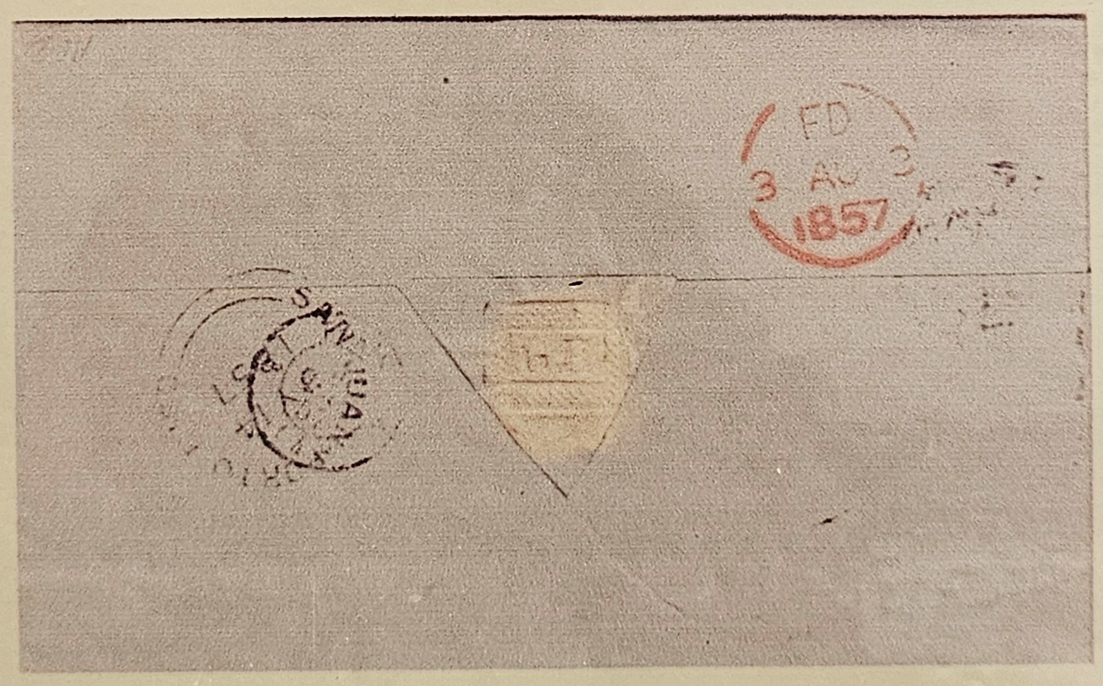
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History Society*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

***British Postal Agency in San Juan, Porto Rico***

**1857 entire letter from San Juan to Paris**




San Juan CDS1




July 14, 1857, entire letter from San Juan, Porto Rico, sent unpaid through the British mail system to Paris.
***Route:*** It was carried from San Juan (July 15) to St. Thomas by Royal Mail Steam Packet Company steam ship Conway where it was transferred to the RMSP steamer "Parana" for transit to Southampton (August 1).
***Rate:*** At London on August 3 it received the boxed 1F60c hand stamp 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 grams of letter weight. This was to compensate the UK for transit expenses incurred. Upon arrival at Paris (August 4) the letter was marked for 16 decimes postage due to pay the French internal rate and the British debit for a letter between 7.5 and 15 grams.

**Sources:**

*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings 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*

## San Juan, Porto Rico

## 1847 Cover from San Juan to London

San Juan CDS1 cancel

1847 Wrapper without contents from San Juan, Porto Rico charged 1/5d postage to Frederico Huth & Co. in London, showing a SAN JUAN PORTO RICO large double arc CDS1 datestamp of the British Postal Agency on the reverse, slightly overstruck by a red London arrival CDS for April 8th 1847. The front has "1/5" and "pr Paquet" in manuscript.

***Rate:*** 1/5d was the rate from Porto Rico to Great Britain from 1840 to 1863.

***Route:*** Carried by *RMS Tay* from San Juan (16th March) to St Thomas (16th March); by *RMS Arno* from St Thomas (16th March) to Southampton, arriving on 8th April

## 1846 Unstamped Cover from San Juan to London

San Juan CDS1 cancel

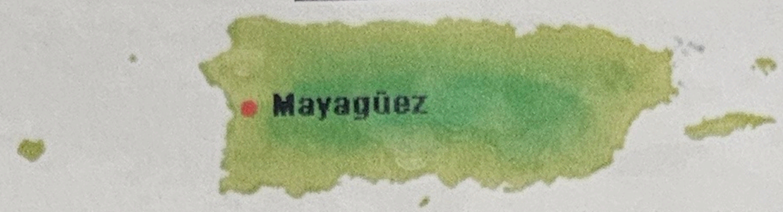
1846 Wrapper without contents from San Juan, Porto Rico to Frederico Huth & Co. in London, showing a SAN JUAN PORTO RICO large double arc CDS1 date stamp of the British Postal Agency dated 26th April on the reverse, with a red London arrival CDS for May 20th 1846. The front has "1/5" in manuscript.
***Rate:*** 1/5d was the rate from Porto Rico to Great Britain from 1840 to 1863.
***Route:*** Carried by *RMS "Thames"* from San Juan (29th April) to Southampton, arriving on 19th May.

**Sources:**

*Kenton PJ & Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842-1879. Postal History Society, East Grinstead*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

## Porto Rico

## Mayagüez




Originally named "*Our Lady of the Candelaria of Mayagüez*", but drawing inspiration from the Indian name of its river, the Yagüez River (the word means "clear waters") the city was eventually named just Mayagüez.

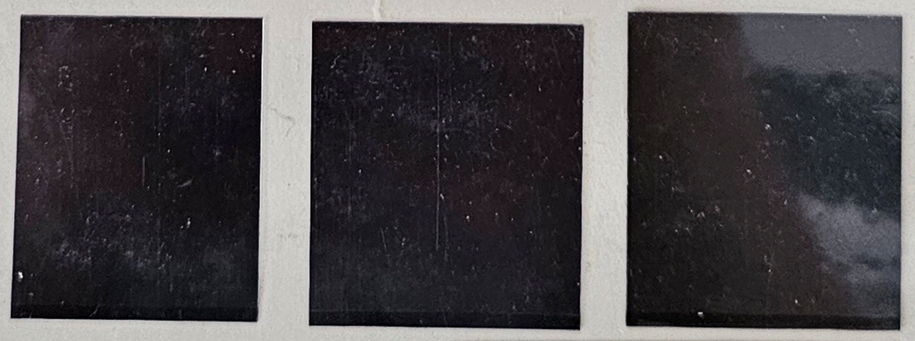
Mayagüez was the second port on Porto Rico. The British government had trouble getting gentlemen to serve as British Consuls, but at Mayagüez, Richard Gumbes was an able officer, well up to his work.

The F85 and CDS paid cancels were sent on 24th September 1872 and were used until the Spanish Authorities closed the Postal Agency on 1st May 1877.

3VOS

CDS PAID

Two 1½d rose–red Plate 3 and a pair of 1/- green Plate 12 on piece with CDS PAID dated Mar 12th 1877 and part red London PAID cancel. A late usage, only 6 weeks before the Postal Agency at Mayagüez closed.



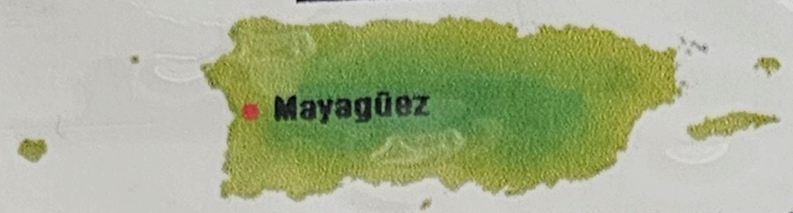
6d Grey Plate 14 | 6d chestnut plate 11

~~1½d Rose–red~~ Plate 134

½d unrecorded in PF

## Porto Rico

## Mayagüez

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3VOS

CDS PAID

4d vermilion plates 7-14

4d vermilion plate 15

1/- Green Plates 4-7

1/- Green Plates 8-14

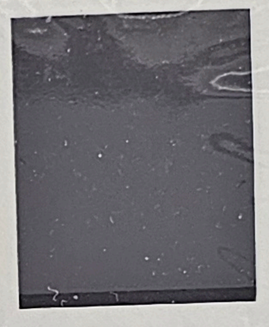
# Porto Rico

## Ponce

Ponce was founded in 1692 and was Spain's capital of the south until it fell to the US in 1892. Now Puerto Rico's third largest city It is known as the *"Ciudad Senorial" Majestic City* because of its many fine buildings.

The GPO sent British stamps and the F88 obliterator on 30th September 1872, which were used until 1879. Ponce was the most important port of export, especially of high quality sugar. Its merchants were the most enterprising and it had the largest foreign community, with a British colony. Probably only San Juan used more British stamps in Porto Rico, but nevertheless the stamps are scarce to very scarce (Stoneham)

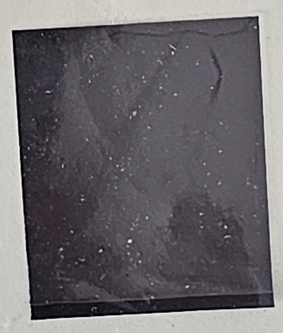
3VOS

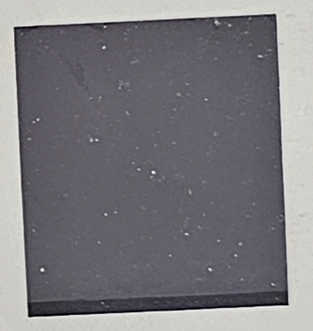


plates 7,8,9 not priced
plate 10 not listed SG

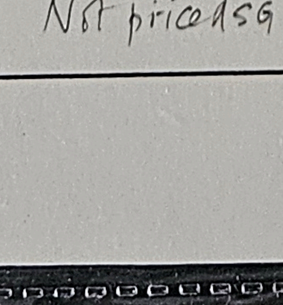
Not price SG

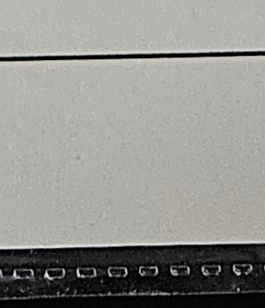
**4d vermilion**

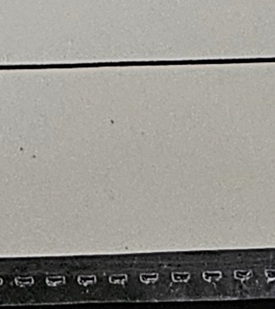




**1/- green**





**10d red-brown**

Not priced SG

Used Abroad
Panama
C 35
F ONE PENNY F

# MEXICO

## Vera Cruz

The British Postal Agency in Vera Cruz operated from 1842 to 1874 and was the port for Mexico City, where the British Consulate was located. Mail had to be carried by coaches, horses or mules, required armed guards and was frequently rifled by guerrillas and revolutionaries.

From 1867, when the Consul left Mexico because of the unstable situation, mails had to be carried under the USA seal. When the railway from Mexico to Vera Cruz opened in 1873 armed guards had to be provided for travellers. When the British consul left, Messrs Graham and Co acted as agents, but closed the agency on 31st July 1874.

CDS2

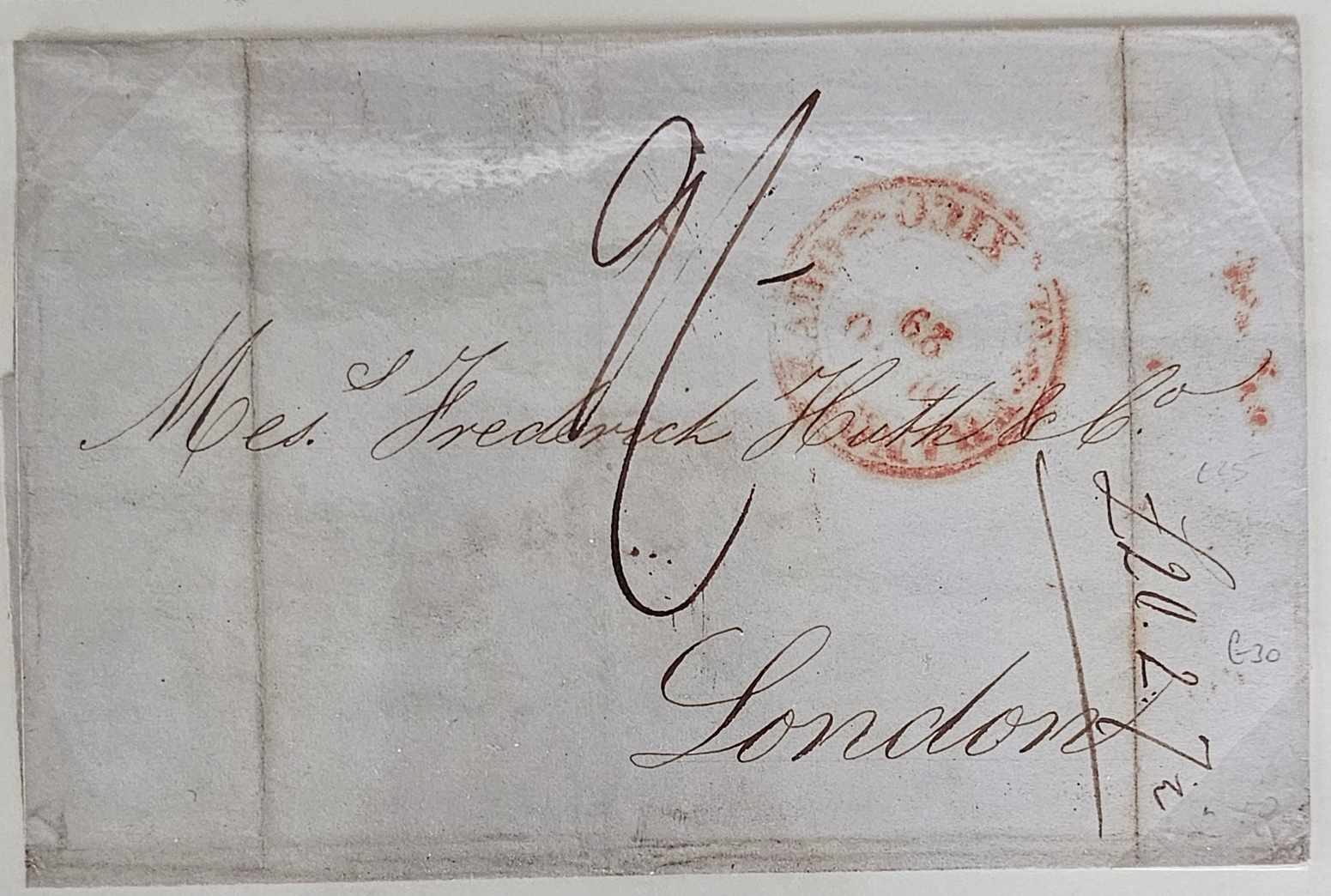
1846 Entire from Mazatlan on the west coast of Mexico to Huth and Co, London. Travel within Mexico was very difficult. It was written on 30th June 1846, stamped at Vera Cruz on Aug 31st and received In London on October 7th, taking over 4 months to each the destination. A combination cover, with the internal postage paid (red Franco cancel Mexico 10th August) and postage to London (2/3 in manuscript) unpaid.

## MEXICO

## 1845 Vera Cruz to London by RMS Medway

The RMS Medway was of 1,841 gross tons, overall length 275ft x beam (over paddle boxes) 60ft, wooden hull, one funnel, three masts (barquentine rigged), side paddle wheel propulsion, speed 9 knots, with accommodation for 100 passengers. The British government specified wooden hulls, although the company preferred steel hulls.

She was involved in a scandal when the RMS Isis ran aground off Porto Rico on 12/9/1842. Captain Smith of the Medway scuttled the Isis, although she might have been towed to nearby Bermuda. In 1843 she *was* damaged onshore on the island of Sabo (three miles south west of St Thomas), so much injured she had to return home to England to be repaired. She later served on the Rio de Janeiro run. In 1854 she served as a Crimean War transport and was scrapped in 1861.




1st June 1845 wrapper from Mexico City to London, written 30 May 1845 (endorsement)
***Rate - Combination cover*** Postmarked FRANCO MAIO 29 MEXICO in red on front and back to show that local Mexican postage was pre-paid at a (probable) rate of 2 reales per ¼ oz on all letters from more than 17 leagues (51 miles) from the coast etc. As a 1½ - 2 ounce letter this was probably charged 14 or 16 reales.
It was sent unpaid to London. Nine shillings (4 x single ½ ounce rate of 2/3) from Vera Cruz to be paid on collection. On the back is a VERA CRUZ British Postal Agency CDS dated June1 (date figure 1 plug is inverted) 1845 and red London receiver dated 4th July 1845.
***Route*** The MEDWAY arrived at Bermuda, from Tampico, Vera Cruz, Havana and Nassau on 17th June 1845 and left for Southampton on 20th Jun

## MEXICO

### Vera Cruz

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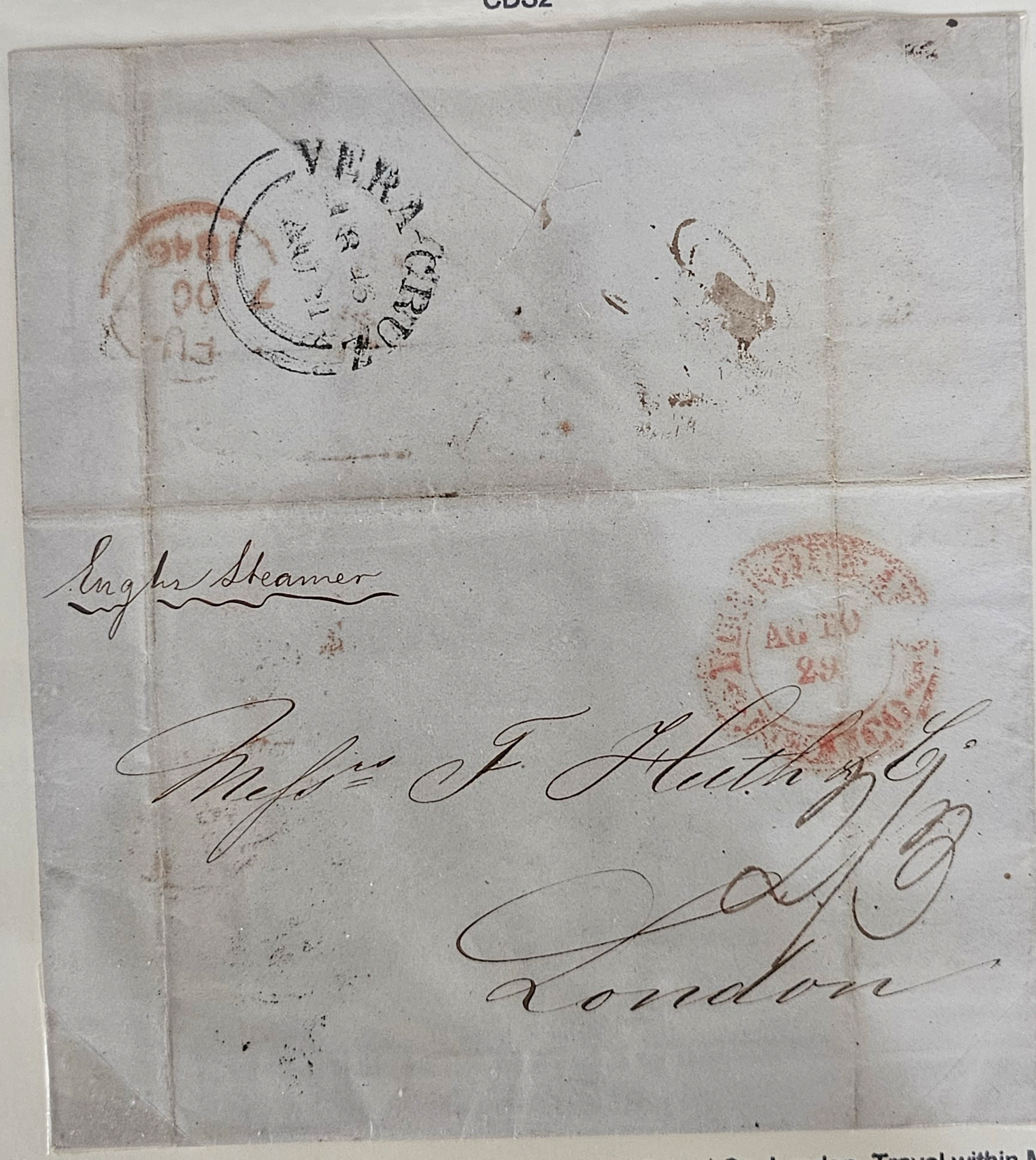
CDS2

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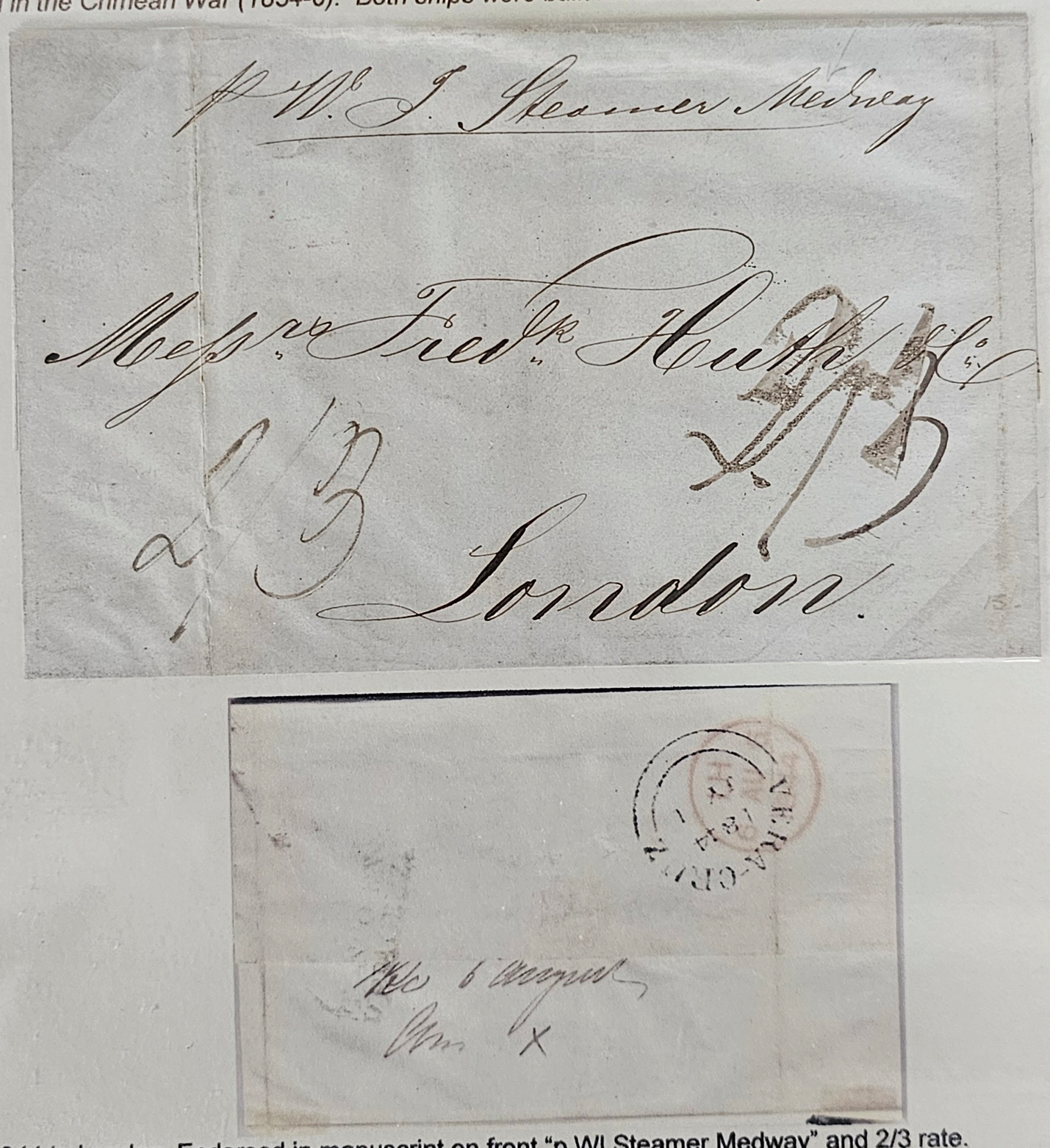
## MEXICO

## 1844 Vera Cruz to London by RMS Medway

*RMS Trent (I), at Malta refitting late in 1854 for service in the Crimean War. The Medway was a sister ship to the Trent, also served in the Crimean War (1854-6). Both ships were built in Northfleet by William Pitcher in 1841.*




1st July 1844 to London. Endorsed in manuscript on front "p.WI Steamer Medway" and 2/3 rate.
***Rate - Combination cover.*** Paid to Vera Cruz and unpaid to London. Cancelled on the reverse with two line FRANCO EN VERA CRUZ showing that the local Mexican postage was prepaid. The rate is not officially documented but in 1858 the Packet Agent at Vera Cruz stated that the charge was:

*¼ oz – 1 real from any port on the Gulf of Mexico and pro rata for higher rates*
*¼ oz – 2 reales on all letters from more than 17 leagues (51 miles) from the coast etc.*

Rated 2/3 (i.e single rate up to ½ ounce) from Vera Cruz to London to be paid on collection. On back is VERA CRUZ British postal agency double arc CDS dated July 1 1844 and red London receiver 6th August 1844.
***Route*** The route to Mexico was taken over by RMSP using steam ships in 1842. The MEDWAY arrived at Bermuda, from Tampico, Vera Cruz, Havana and Nassau, leaving for Southampton on 20th July.

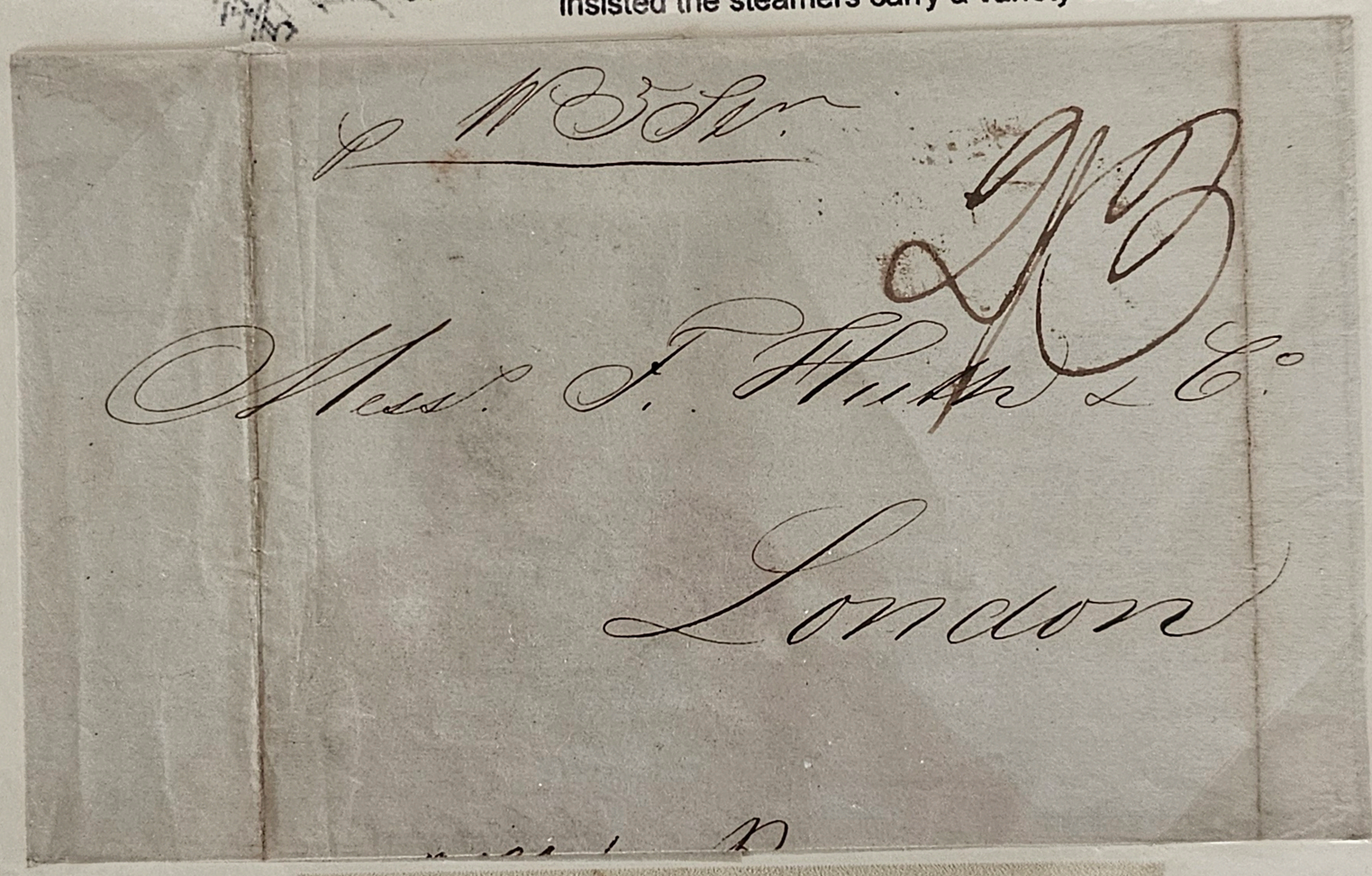
**MEXICO**

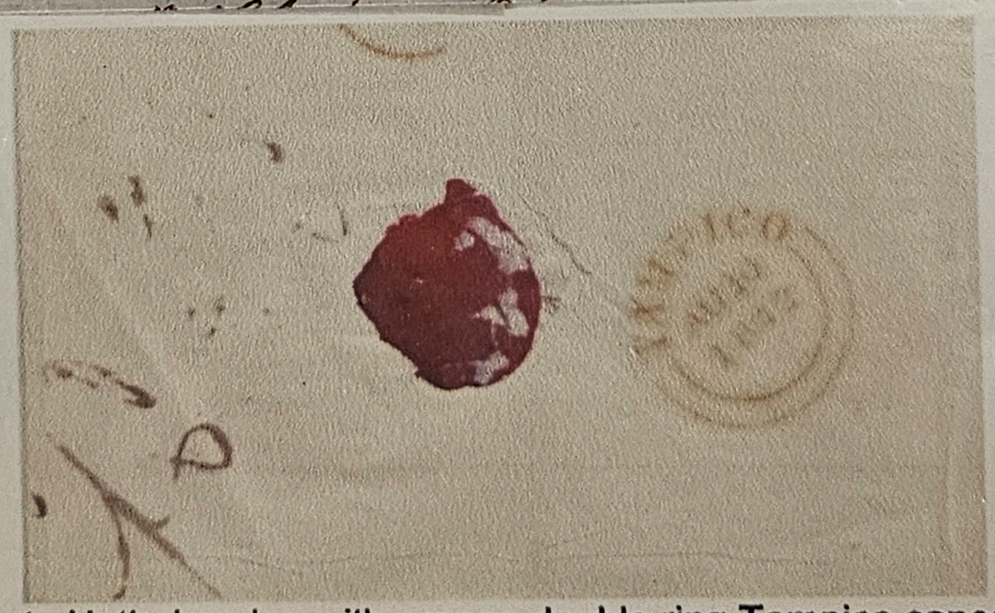
**Tampico**

Tampico CDS1 cancel

## 1842 wrapper from Tampico to Huth, London using RMSP Dee

One of the first of the so-called "ocean stagecoaches" built in the 1840s to carry mail between British colonies, the **R.M.S.P. *Dee*** actually served a variety of purposes. First and foremost she was a carrier for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. In order to provide the most reliable service possible among the scattered islands of the West Indies, the *Dee* and her fourteen sister ships were equipped with steam-powered paddle wheels as well as a complete sailing rig. These hybrids, all named after British rivers, chugged through the Caribbean at speeds averaging eight knots; a copper-plated hull protected them from the ravages of the tropical toredo worm. But, in the days when the sun never set on the British flag, the Royal Navy was spread thin and the British Admiralty was more concerned about the ravages of hostile nations than the ravages of nature. For this reason they insisted the steamers carry a variety of small arms,




August 16th 1842 wrapper to Huth, London with orange double ring Tampico cancel Aug 15th 1842 with "2/3" and "by WISPC" in manuscript. Local postage in Mexico was not prepaid. Landed at the British port of Falmouth having been carried by the West India Steam Packet Company.

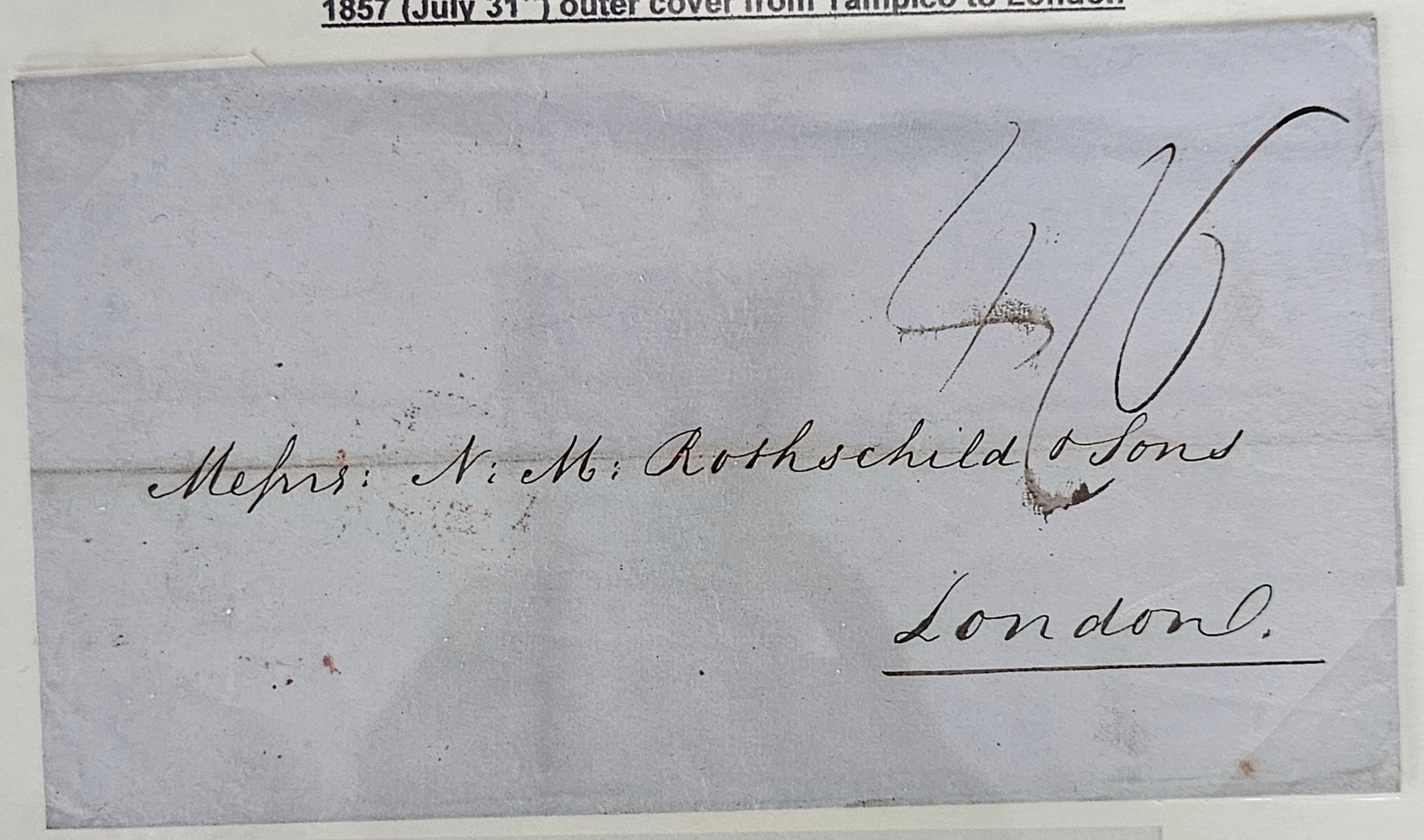
***Rate***: The rate from Mexico to Great Britain was 2/3 from 1840 tom 1863.

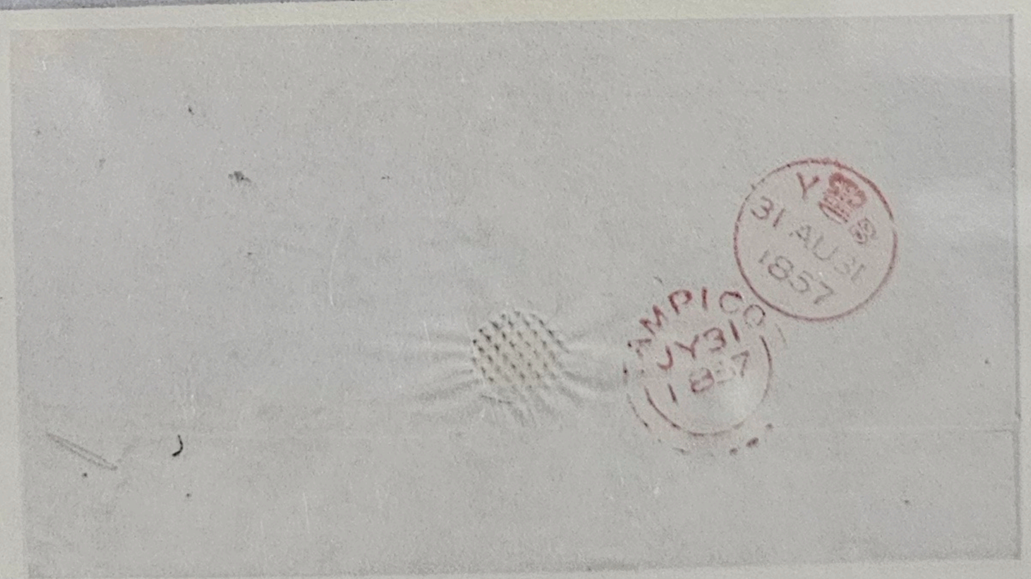
***Route:*** Carried by the RMSP Dee on August 17th 1842, arriving at Havana on 23rd August. Then the Dee sailed to Falmouth, via Nassau, Bermuda and Fayal arriving on the 4TH October, having called additionally at Corunna due to strong Easterly gales. Then delivered by mail coach to London, arriving on 6th October.

## *British Postal Agency in Tampico, Mexico*

**The RMS La Plata** was built on the Clyde in 1852. She was rated at 2292 tons and served the West Indies and South America routes until 1871. *(picture: National Maritime Museum)*

**1857 (July 31st) outer cover from Tampico to London**

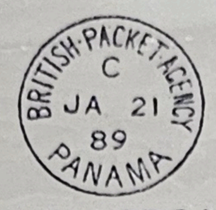



1857 (July 31st) outer cover from Tampico to London. "4/6" in manuscript on front. Tampico CDS2 in red and red London receiver 31st August 1857 on reverse.
**Rate:** Double rate; the single rate was 2/3 per ½ oz from 1840 to 1863.
**Route:** By RMS Dee from Tampico (31st July) to St Thomas (15th Aug); by RMS La Plata from St Thomas (16 Aug) to Southampton (30 Aug)

***Sources:***
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings 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*

The British Packet Agency in Panama stopped issuing GB stamps when Colombia joined the UPU in 1881. British stamps continued to be used until 1889 for soldier's and sailors' letters from Panama. The office remained open for transit mail until at least 1907 cancelling the stamps of Panama and Colombia.1907 Examples are shown hers cancelling individual stamps; covers are rarely seen..




**BPA CDS1**

This handstamp was issued by the GPO in London on 22nd January 1889. It is known used from 5th February 1898 to 30th March 1894, mostly as a cancellation on Colombian stamps.

**BPA CDS2**

This handstamp was issued by the GPO in London on 18th July 1898. It is known used from 21st March 1901 to 27th February 1907 as a cancellation on stamps from Colombia, Panama and Great Britain.

Used on **Colombia** 10 centavos orange Scott 18 (Sc52)dated 21st March 1901, the earliest known usage.

Used on **Panama** 2 centavos red and 10 centavos orange Sc 54

A 1904 **Great Britain** Edward VII ½d pale yellowish green stamp, watermark Imperial Crown, cancelled by the BPS CDS2 cancel on 27 February 1907, on an unsealed cover to Leeds charged correctly at the circular/printed paper rate." This is the latest known usage of the BPA CDS2 cancel.

Leander VP
14.1.64



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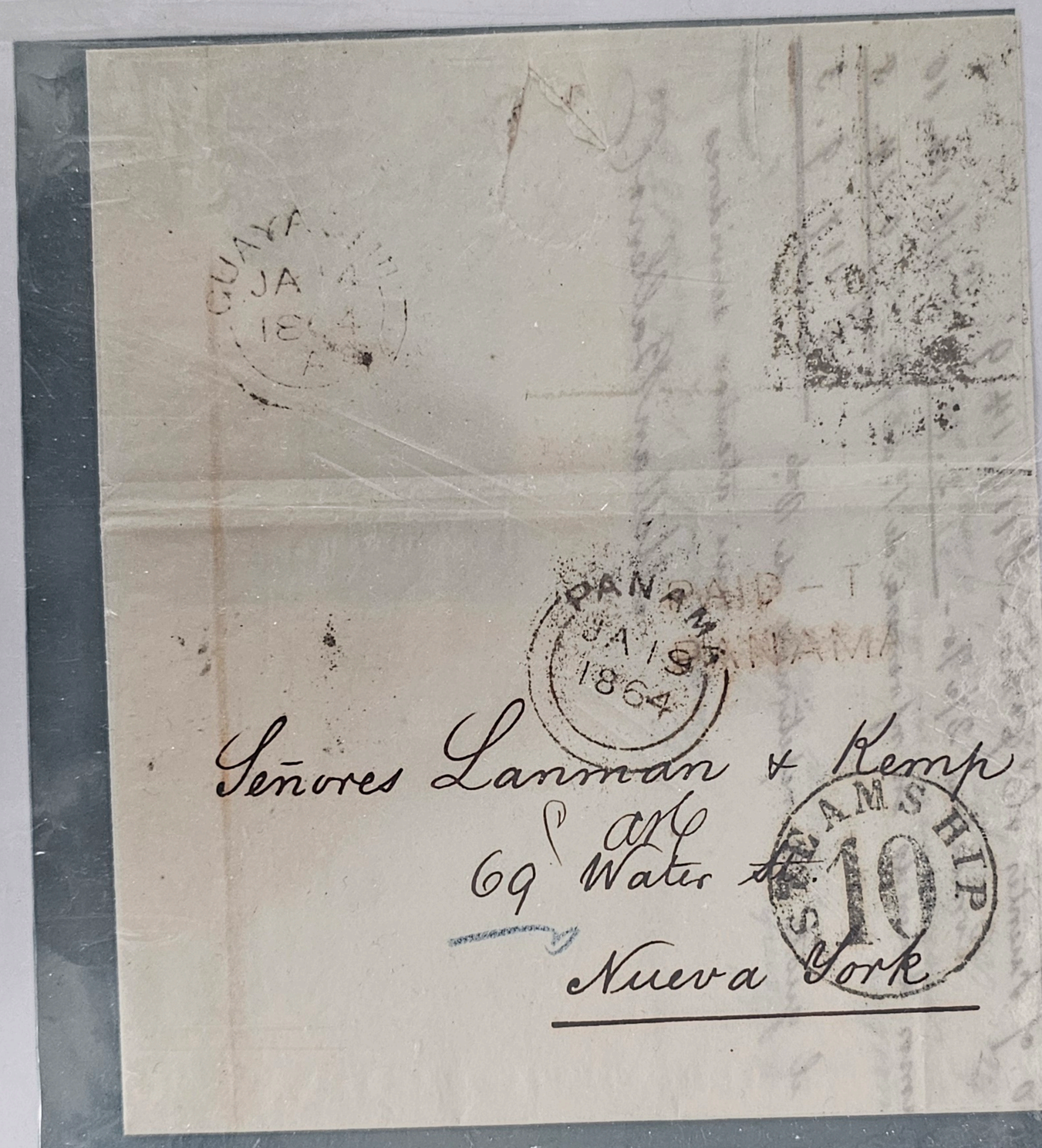


par le Packet de
Londres

France

Monsieur
Monsieur Gabriel Lynch Négt
à Bordeaux

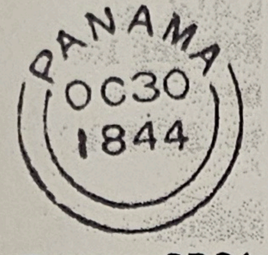
COLONIES
&c ART. 13.

528

## Via Panama

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNS) held the monopoly for the carriage of packets in the Pacific coast of South America to Panama. All mail from Europe was carried on British steamships through the British Postal agencies on the Pacific coast until Colombia (Panama was` then in Colombia) and the Pacific nations joined the Universal Postal Union and took charge of external mail.

The Panama CDS1 cancellation was used as a transit mark for post passing through Panama to and from the west coat of South America




Panama CDS1

## 1861 and 1863 Covers from France to Valparaiso and Santiago Chile

1861 (January 14th) envelope from Bordeaux, France to Valparaiso, Chile via London and Panama, with manuscript "Packet Anglais" and "Voie de Panama" bearing French 40c orange (Yvette 16) et 80c rose (Yvette 17B) adhesive stamps tied by "44..? lozenge matching the Bordeaux departure c.d.s. The front has a red framed PP hand stamp, red London Jan 16th 1861 transit and Panama CDS1 cancel for 7th February 1861. The reverse has Bordeaux to Paris travelling Post Office cancel for January 14th 1861.

1863 (April 13th) envelope from Libourne, France to Santiago, Chile via London and Panama, bearing French 1862-71 40c orange (Yvette 23) et 80c rose (Yvette 17) adhesive stamps tied by "2762? lozenge matching Libourne departure c.d.s, .red framed PP hand stamp, red London April 16th 1863 transit, Panama CDS for 18th May 1863, "Voie de Panama" in manuscript.; also a small black circular hand stamp with II enclosed and red circular hand stamp with 2? enclosed.

From San José ~~Costa Rica~~ (Costa Rica? or Colombia?)
First mark is Colon. P+Cards: £700.

Mesrieurs
E. Bourguier & fils et
Leenhards
Montpellier / Hérault
France

A COLON JU 22 72

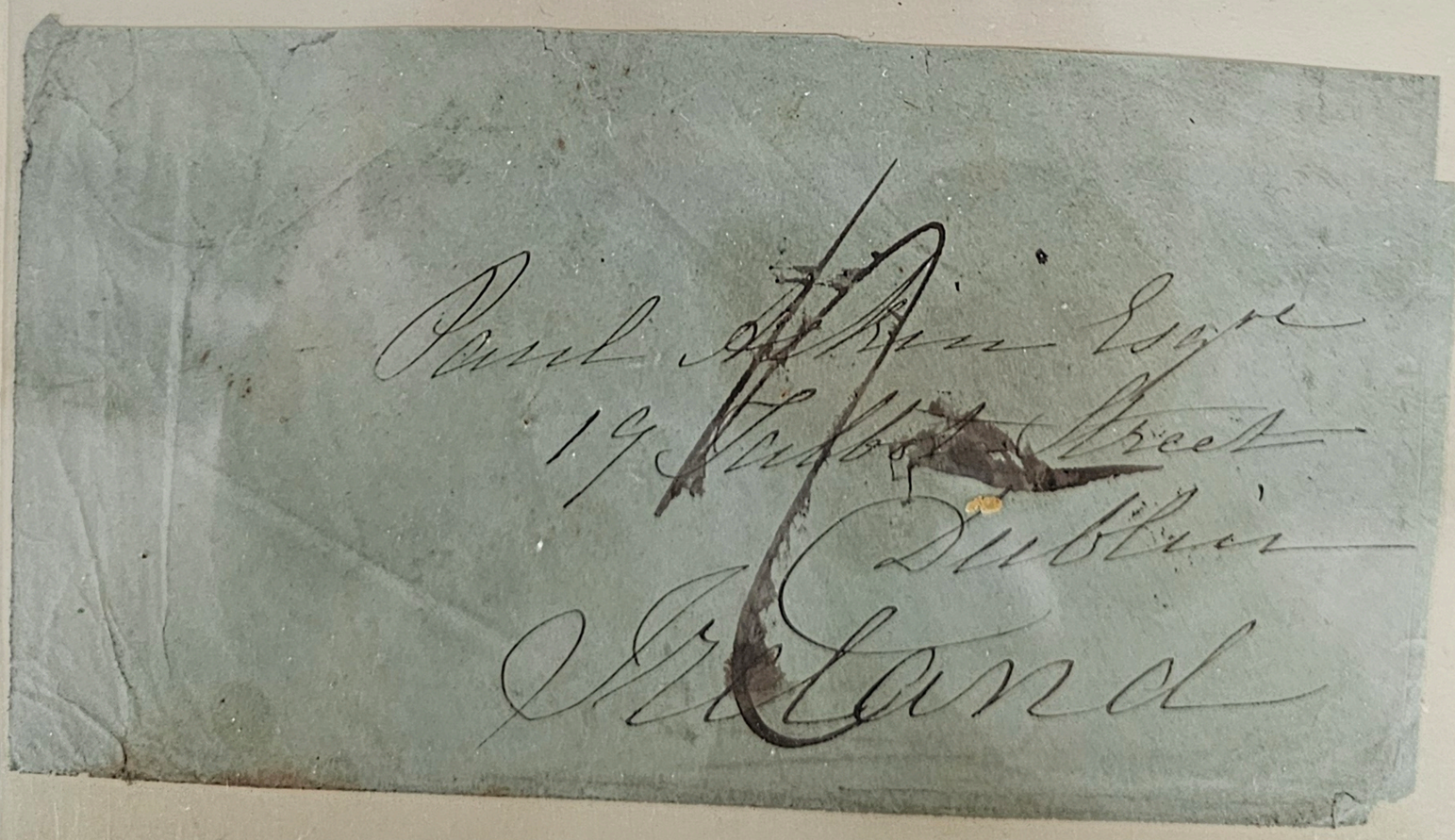
B 1 60 C

ANGL. 15 JUIL. 72 PAYS CALAIS

PANAMA # 522611 : ,06 - ) Price: US

1868 COLON-EIRE . Stampless env.,"1 sh" charge small "COLON"BPO on reverse,via London

COLON JUN 20 68


Paul Esq
19 Talbot Street
Dublin
Ireland

La Plata

Messrs Chevalier Frères

à Digne près

France

SOCIAL. CHEAL. D'R. CIE
BAHIA

1985
Z3-00

## Colombia

## Colon E88

Colon, also known as "Aspinwall" after Mr W. H. Aspinwall, one of the builders of the Trans-Oceanic Railway from Panama to Colon supplanted Colon as the principal port on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus as soon as the railway was completed in 1855.

In 1870 British stamps and the 4 barred E88 obliterator were sent from the GPO in London, and in 1871 Colon became the main sorting office for mails to the Pacific. In 1881 Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union, but nevertheless for political reasons the British Postal Agency continued operations for at least one more year.

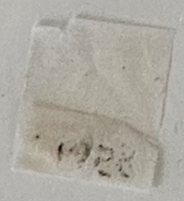
Colon 4VOS E88

4d vermilion; various plates

3d wmk crown
NOT listed SG; v. late issue

4d sage-green

6d buff and grey



9d and 1/-

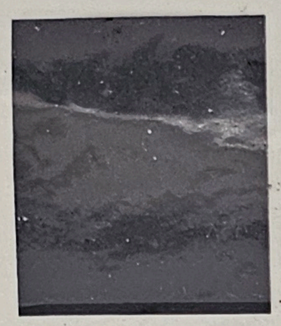
## Colombia

Carthagena had been the principal port of the Spanish main and the British packet agency was opened in 1825. Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) steamers called directly from Great Britain from 1841, and a variety of routes were used. Carthagena was initially the port for the capital of Colombia, Bogotá, although the journey to Bogotá by mule was through swampland and other difficult terrain. The port was entered through a narrow channel, and as ships got larger they became unable to travel directly through the channel, and mail had to be passed to smaller boats nine miles from the town.

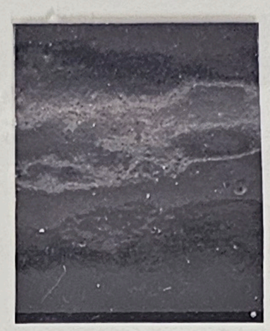
The postal relationship with Colombian authorities was frequently difficult as the government tried to take control of all mails. In 1860 the direct service to Southampton was discontinued when Carthagena was served by a very slow branch service to Colon; much trade was lost to the faster French service to St Nazaire. Trade further suffered when Santa Martha became the port for Bogotá in 1866 and then became very light when Savanilla/ Barranquilla became the port for Bogotá from 1872.

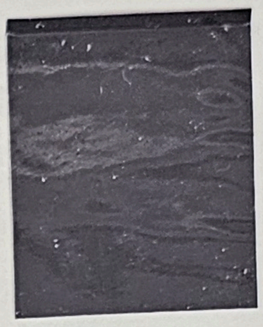
### Carthagena C56 and C65

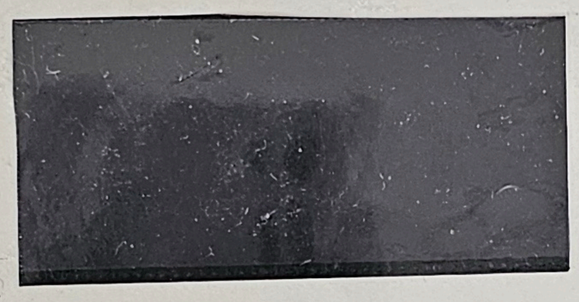
Stamps and the C56 barred obliterator were supplied to Carthagena in 1865.

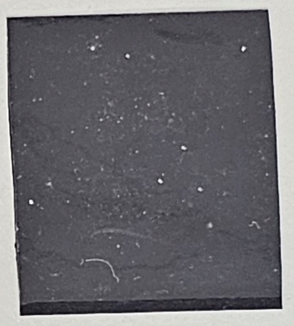


C56 3TH.HOS







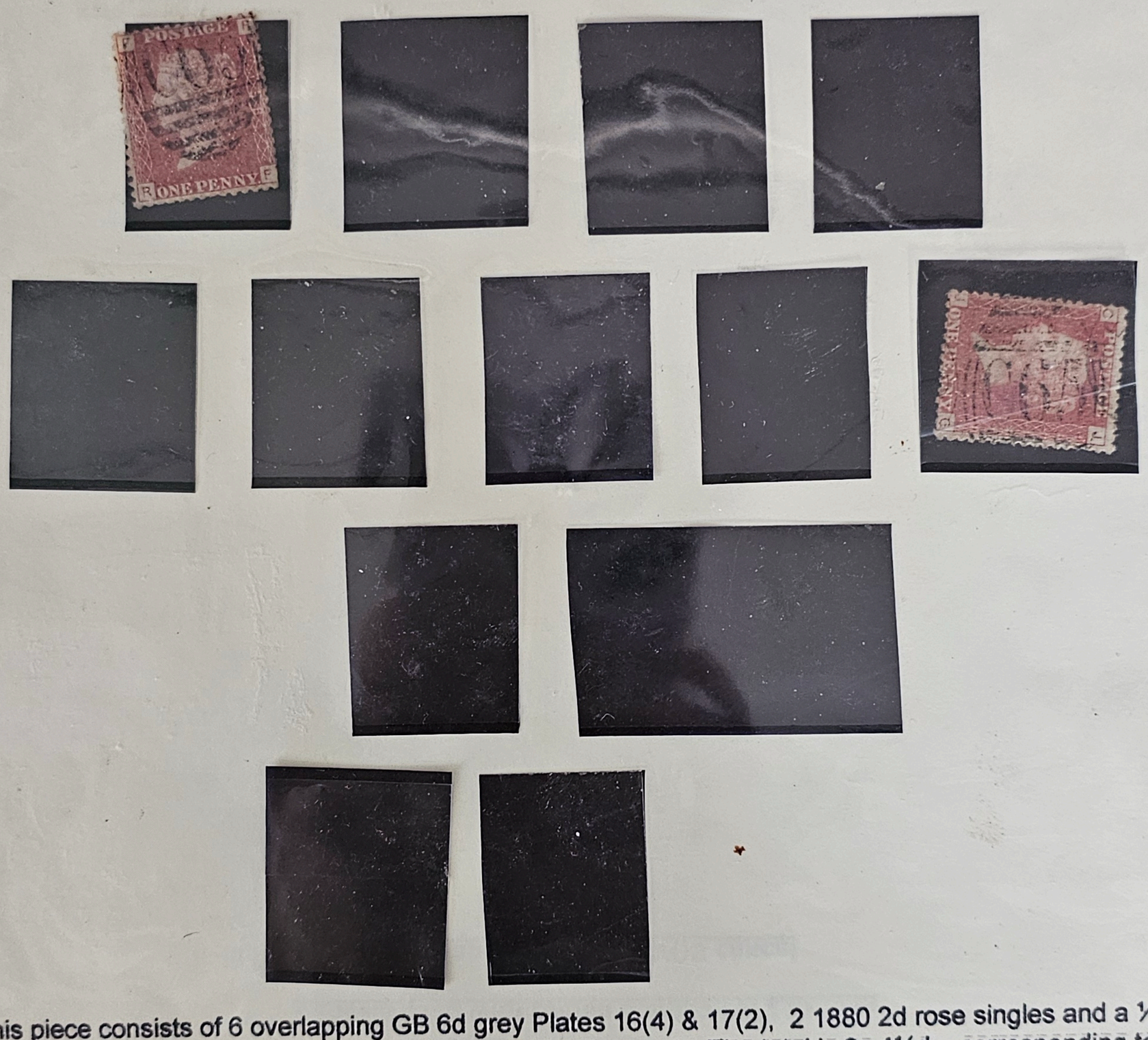


The C65 (officially the handstamp for Heywood, Lancashire) was supplied in error and used alongside the C56 cancel.

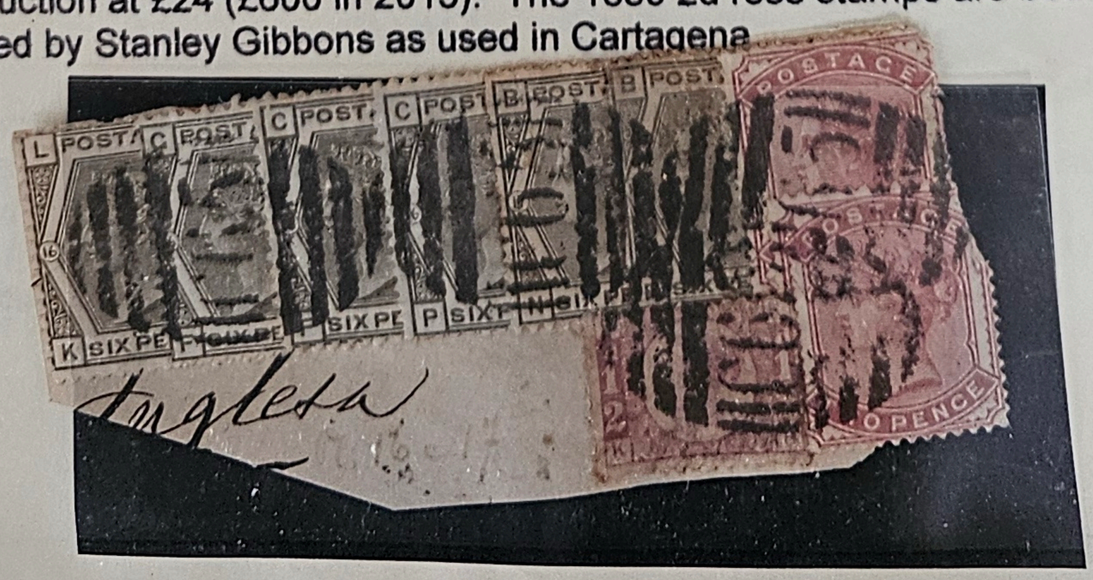
## *British Postal Agency in Cartagena, Colombia*

The C65 (officially the handstamp for Heywood, Lancashire) was supplied in error and used alongside the C56 cancel. The 4VOS cancel was sent to Cartagena on 11th June 1866 and used until the uee of Gb postage stamps ceased in Colombia in 1881.

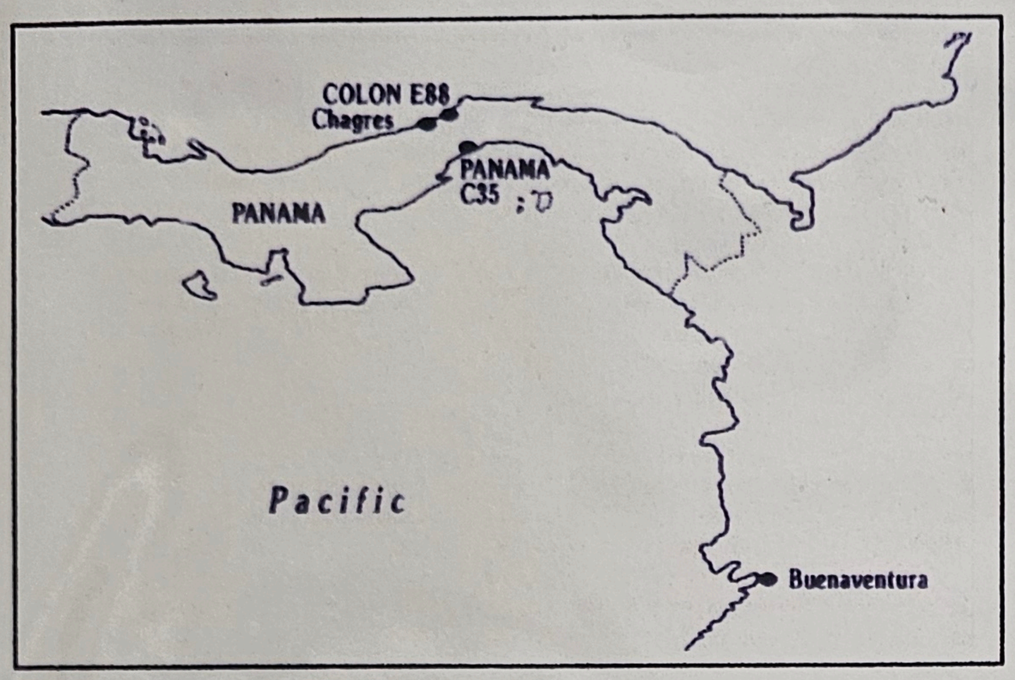
C65 4VOS




This piece consists of 6 overlapping GB 6d grey Plates 16(4) & 17(2), 2 1880 2d rose singles and a ½d rose-red Plate 10 all tied by four British PO oval "C65" cancels. The total is 3s 4½d – corresponding to a triple weight package to France and other countries in mainland Europe. It was sold in the Glassco 1969 GB used abroad auction at £24 (£600 in 2013). The 1880 2d rose stamps are both damaged but are very rare, not being listed by Stanley Gibbons as used in Cartagena



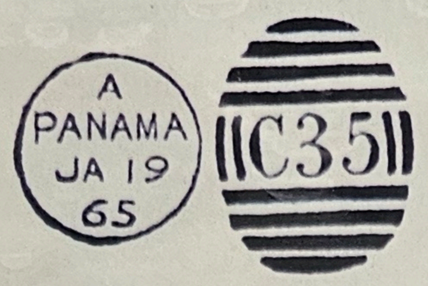
## *British Postal Agency in Panama, Colombia*




Panama was one of the most important agencies that the British Post Office possessed. Because of its position on the Pacific coast on the narrow Panama Isthmus, it was the port used for mail from Europe and the Atlantic to and from Pacific ports, particularly those on the west coast of South America. In 1855 a railway was opened between Colon and Panama that shortened the journey through the swamp-infested isthmus.

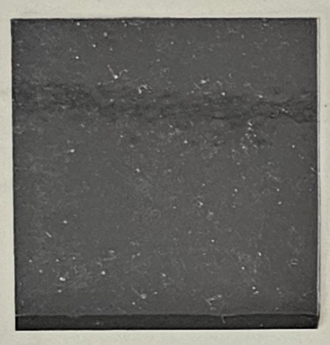
## *British Postal Agency in Panama, Colombia*

3TH.HOS




4VOD

3VOD

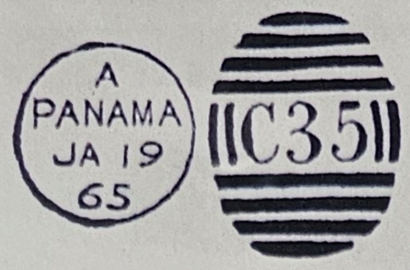


Baff plate 12

Made in Germany

## *British Postal Agency in Panama, Colombia*

3TH.HOS




4VOD

3VOD

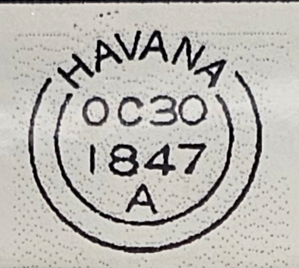
# Cuba

**Colonies and Arts 13**

This cover was posted at the British postal agency at Havana on November 24th 1851 addressed to Paris. It was carried to Southampton by a Royal Mail Steam Packet Company vessel, arriving at London on November 24th. In accordance with the British-French Postal Convention of April 3, 1843, amended December 1, 1845, the British exchange clerk was to indicate what Article of the Convention each letter came under, in order that the French exchange clerk would be able to calculate the correct amount of postage due. The British clerk stamped it, "Colonies/ &c Art. 13."

Article 13 of the Convention indicated the postage rate was 3 shillings 4 pence per ounce of weight. In French currency, this works out to be 4 francs. However, the French did not weigh their letters in ounces, but in grams. A single weight letter in France weighed no more than 7½ grammes. Thirty grams were considered to be equal to one British ounce, for Convention purposes. Therefore, there were four 71/2 gram letters in one ounce. The French exchange clerk found that this letter weighed between 15 and 22½ grammes, treble weight, and marked it due "30," which means 30 decimes or 3 Francs were payable by the addressee. After processing this mail, London then placed the letter in a sealed mailbag for the crossing of the English Channel to Boulogne, where the bag was opened and was processed by the French exchange clerk. The letter was then dispatched to Bordeaux, where it was received on February 12, 1847.

## 1851 entire from Havana to Paris via Great Britain



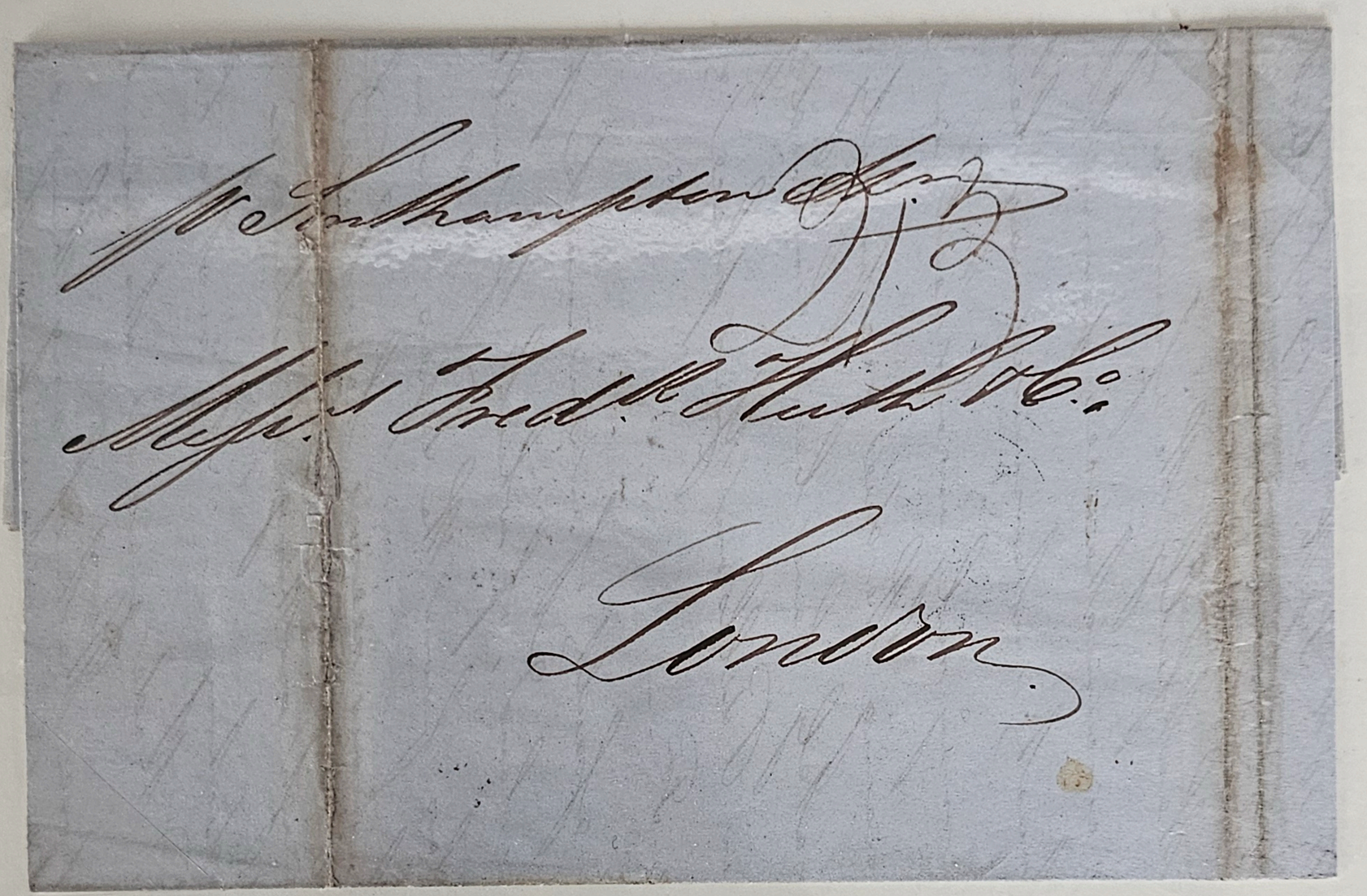

Havana CDS2

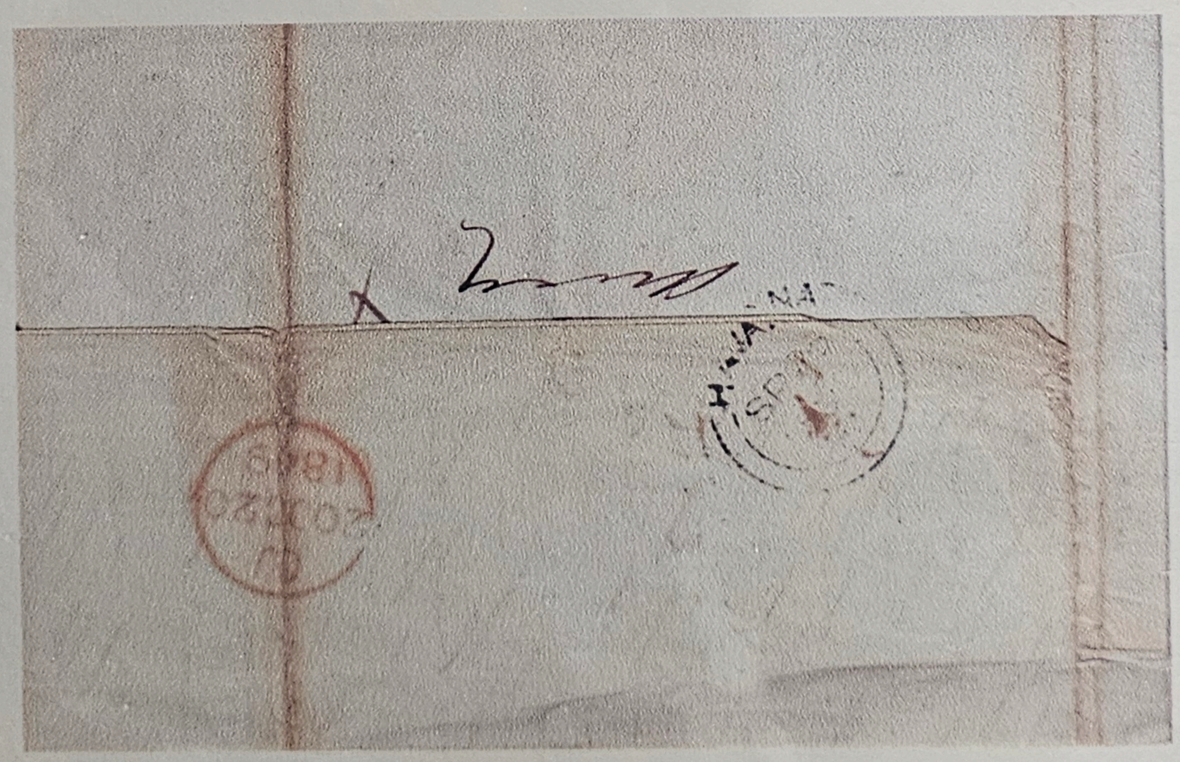
***1851 entire from Havana to Paris via Great Britain.*** The front has 30 in manuscript, red framed Colonies & Art.13 rectangular French accountancy handstamp and red French entry cds of Calais 27 Dec 51. The reverse has British Postal Agency Havana CDS2 Nov 24 1851, red GB transit 26 Dec1851 and Paris receiver 27 Dec 51.

## Cuba

### 1849 entire from Matanzas to London via Havana

Havana CDS 2



1849 folded letter from Matanzas to Huth, London. The front has manuscript 2/3 and per Southampton steamer. The back has Havana CDS2 SE 26 1849 over join and red GB receiver 20 OC 1849

***Rate:*** 2/3 was the rate from Cuba to Great Britain by a British packet from 1st September 1840 to 1858

***Route:*** Carried to Bermuda on the RMSP "Severn" departing on 27th September and arriving on 3rd October, and then by the Severn on the main route to Southampton, departing on the 5th October and arriving on the 20th October

## Cuba

## Havana

The British Postal Agency at Havana opened in 1762, when Great Britain briefly occupied Cuba before handing it back to Spain. Trade with Britain was very heavy, and in 1865 Great Britain stamps and a C58 obliterator were supplied to Havana.

However, by 1868 Cuba was occupied by revolutionary bands against Spain; there were assassinations and street murders daily and many Englishmen migrated to Jamaica. The British companies moved away and trade to Britain declined sharply. Consequently Great Britain stamps and the C58 cancel are difficult to find.

The 3TH.HOS cancel was issued in 1865 and was replaced in 1870 by the 4VOD cancel, which was used until the Agency closed on 30th May 1877.

3TH.HOS

4VOD

1865 – 1876 4d vermilion; various plates

1867 1/- green spray watermark

1862 9d Emblems
unlisted SG, Stonehan

## Cuba

## 1849 pre-stamp from St Jago de Cuba to France

The British Postal agency at St Jago de Cuba (also spelt St Iago and now called Santiago de Cuba) opened in 1841 and used British stamps and the C88 obliterator for paid mail from 1865 until its closure in 1877.

Situated at the opposite corner of Cuba from Havana, it did considerably less trade, although there `was a substantial business community in the town. At times, Cuba was so occupied with revolutionary bands against the Spanish domination that British subjects and their interests were placed in hazardous circumstances.

St Jago CDS 1

1849 wrapper from St Jago de Cuba to Nantes, France via London. The front has Colonies and Art 13 Anglo-French accountancy mark, "15" decimes rate mark and "Voie d'Angleterre" in manuscript and Calais transit mark for 11th January 1850. The reverse has St Jago de Cuba CDS2 cancel for 5th December 1849, and London transit mark 10th January 1850

## *British Postal Agency in St Jago, Cuba*

The British Postal agency at St Jago de Cuba (also spelt St Iago and now called Santiago de Cuba) opened in 1841 and used British stamps and the C88 obliterator for paid mail from 1865 until its closure in 1877.

Situated at the opposite corner of Cuba from Havana, it did considerably less trade, although there `was a substantial business community in the town.

**1843 entire letter from St Jago de Cuba to London**

St Jago CDS 1

1843 (4 Feb) entire letter from St Jago de Cuba to Huth, London, with 4/6 in manuscript on the front and British Post Office St Jago De Cuba CDS1 date stamp and red London receiver 6 MR 43 on the back.
**Rate:** From 1st January 1842, when the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service opened, the rate from Cuba to London was 2/3; this was a double rate packet i.e. ½ ounce to 1 ounce).
**Route**: Br RMS Dee From St Jago (5th February) to St Thomas (9th February); then by RMS Forth from St Thomas (10th February) to Falmouth (4th March) and London (6th March)

**Sources**

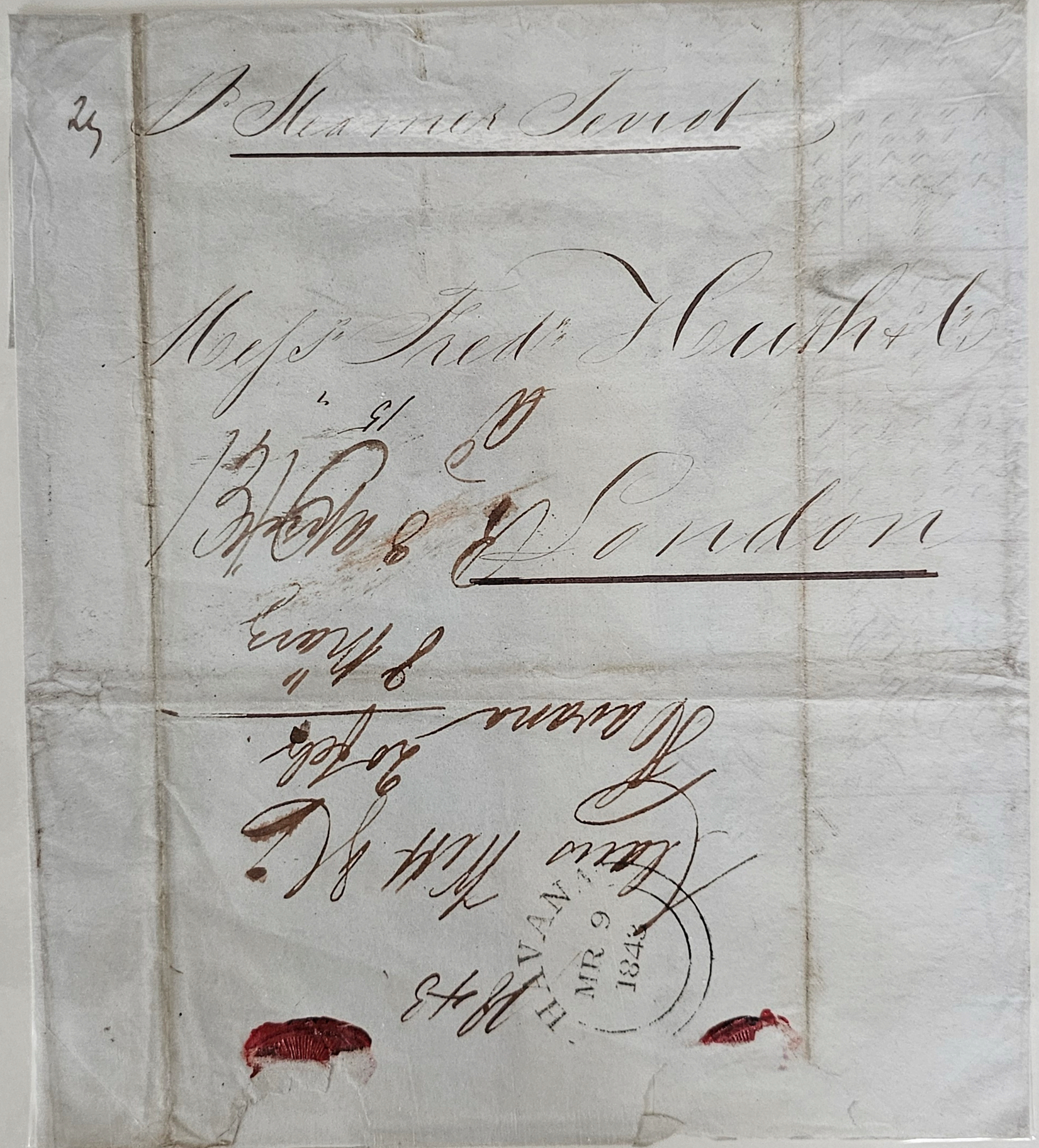
*Kenton PJ & Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History Society, East Grinstead*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*
*Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford*

# Cuba

**Postal History of Cuba**
Columbus discovered Cuba on his first journey in 1492. A Spanish colony existed from 1513. The British captured Havana in 1762, but returned the island to Spain in 1763 in return for Florida. British Postal Agencies were set up in 1762 but no hand stamps were sent until 1840. Havana was on a main route for Spanish Imperial packets from 1768.

In 1840 the British Postal Agencies in Havana and St Jago de Cuba began to use crowned circle paid cancels and these continued until British stamps were used in 1866 (Havana -C58 and St Jago -C88). In 1862 there was a French PA in Santiago de Cuba and from 1865 in Havana. Both the British and French agencies closed in 1877 when Spain's colonies joined the UPU. Cuba was one of the last outposts of the slave trade and suffered a civil war in 1868-78.

## 1843 wrapper from Havana to London




***1843 entire from Havana to London.*** The front has manuscript "13/6" and "p steamer Teviot". The postage rate to Enland was 2/3 per ½ ounce, so this was a six fold rate ( 3 ounces) package. The Teviot was a wooden paddle steam packet built in 1842 for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. It caught fire in Havana in July 1842, having to return to Falmouth for repairs, which took 3 months at Blackwall because of extensive damage to her hull.
On the voyage with this packet it left Havana on the 9th March calling at Nassau 11th March, St Georges, Bermuda from 15th to 18th March, arriving at Falmouth on the 2nd April. The reverse has a British Postal Agency Havana CDS1 cancel for March 9th 1843 and London red receiver for April 3rd 1843.

## Cuba

The CDS1 cancel was used 1842 – 1845.The Post Office in Havana was set up in 1762 but had an interrupted history; even in 1842 the state of the island was "most horrible".

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) was granted the contract to carry the mails to the West Indies with a service starting on 3rd January 1842. They provided a quite remarkable service, given that steam engineering was in its infancy, nautical charts were highly inaccurate, weather for a third of the year was subject to hurricanes, and disease including the dreaded yellow fever was highly prevalent.

### 1843 entire from Havana to London by RMSP Clyde

Havana cds1

1843 entire from Havana to London. The front has ms "2/3" and "p. Clyde" i.e. by steamship Clyde. The back has British PO Havana De 11 1843 and London red 14 Ja 1844 (indistinct). Written 8th November 1843 in Spanish.

***Rate:*** 2/3 was the rate from Cuba to Great Britain by a British packet from 1st September 1840 to 1858

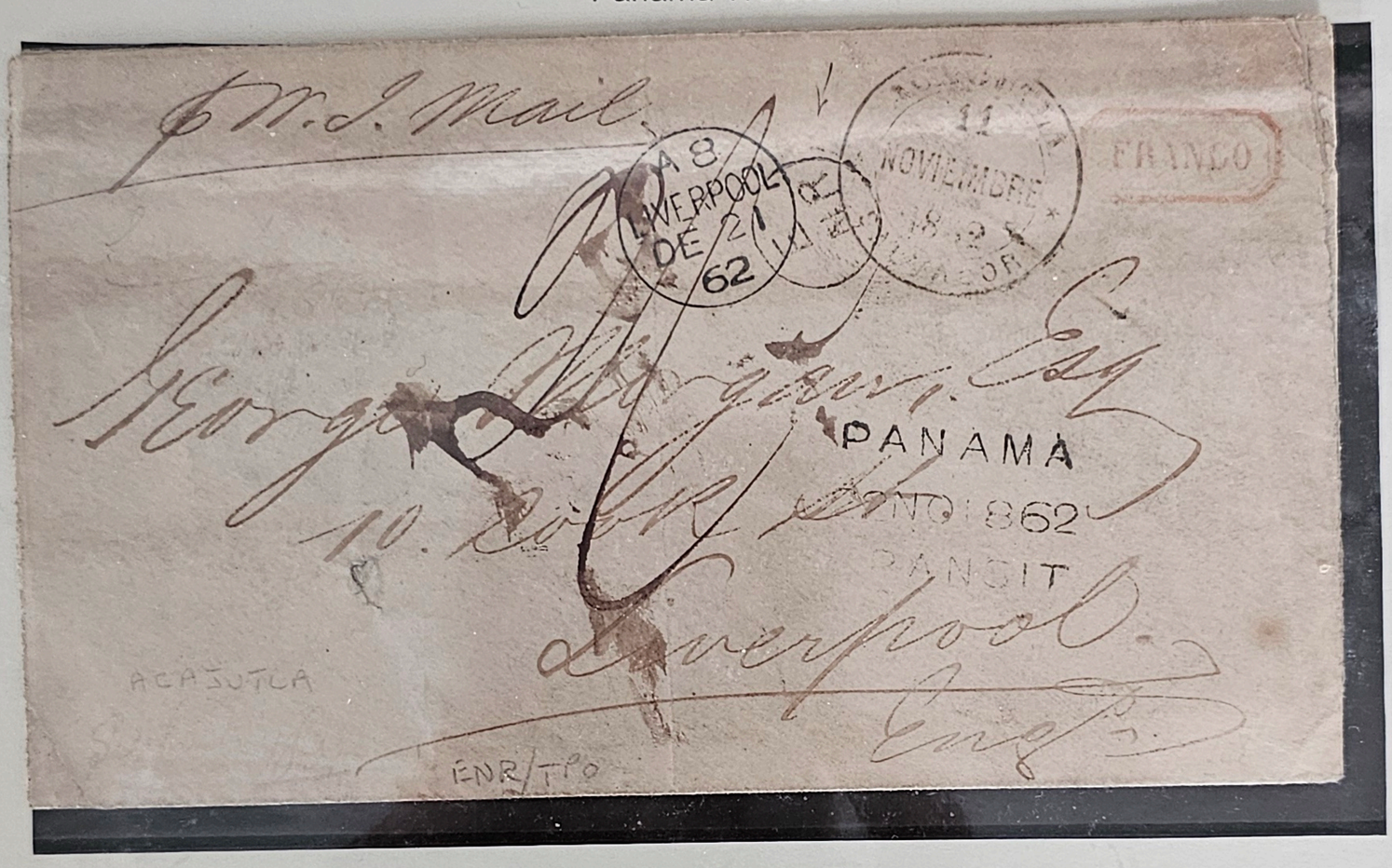
***Route:*** By the main RMSP route to Britain, starting from Tampico, Mexico, leaving Havana on 12th December and arriving at Southampton via Nassau and Bermuda on 9th January 1844 by the RMSP "Clyde". The British port of entry was changed from Falmouth to Southampton in October 1843, enabling the mail to go by train to London rather than by mail-coach.

## El Salvador, via Panama

Panama was an important transit port for mail from the west (Pacific) coast of the Americas to the east coast of America and Europe. Initially crossing the Panama Isthmus required mule trains and canoes, but in 1855 the 47 mile railway between Panama and Colon was opened. Salvador is on the Pacific coast of Central America, and mail for the east coast of the Americas and Europe could either go overland via Honduras, or by sea through Panama.

### 1862 envelope from El Salvador to Liverpool via Panama

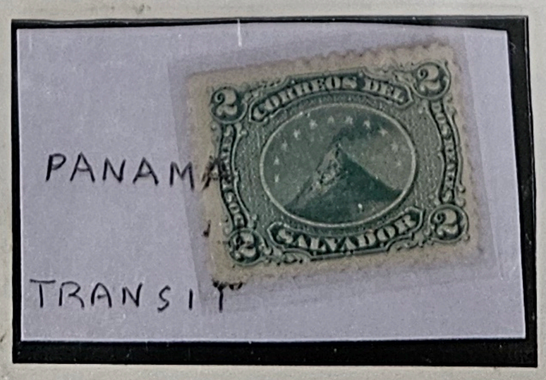
PANAMA
MY20 1848
TRANSIT
Panama TRANSIT 1




11 Nov. 1862 envelope from El Salvador to Liverpool "p. W[est] I[ndies] Mail" charged "2/-" with 2-ring "ACAJUTLA/SALVADOR" c.d.s. on the front with red boxed "FRANCO" but also having "PANAMA/TRANSIT" d.s. (22 Nov.), Liverpool arrival (21 Dec) and small encircled GB TPO "E[vening]/N[orthern] R[ailway]" mark on the front. On the back is a London arrival stamp (20 Dec)
**Route:** From Salvador to Panama, then by railway over the Panama Isthmus to Colon. The RMS Avon, due to take the mails to St Thomas on the 23rd Nov, was lost in a storm while at anchor at Colon on 22nd Nov. The RMS Tamar arrived at Colon on the 23rd, but could not make contact; the mail was landed on the 25th Nov. It was due to travel on to Carthagena and Santa Marta, but turned round and took the mail originally destined for the RMS Avon on to St Thomas, arriving on the 30th Nov. The mail was taken by the RMS Atrato from St Thomas (1 Dec) to Southampton (14 Dec). Mail and passengers from the South American Pacific ports missed the Atrato on account of the railway being impassable due to heavy rain and flooding.
**Rate:** From Salvador to Great Britain was 1/- via Honduras, 2/- via Panama

**Sources:**
*Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879. Postal History Society, East Grinstead*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*
*Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford*

### EL SALVADOR 1867 VOLCANO Sc 3 with part 3 line dated PANAMA TRANSIT

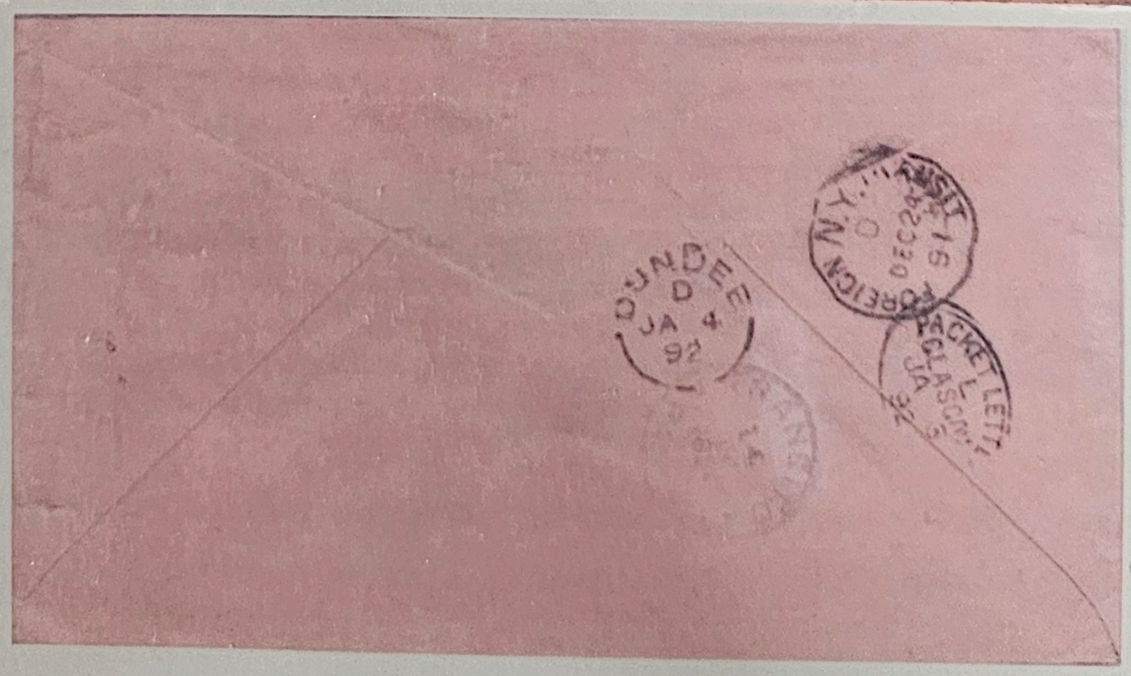


## Salvador

The British Packet Agency operated for the transit of post via Panama until 1881, when Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) although it continued until 1889 for soldier's and sailor's letters and the packet agency cancels were used until 1907. There were three postal services across the Panama isthmus operated by Great Britain, USA and Colombia. Because over 50% of the trade went to Great Britain the British service carried the majority of the mail. After 1881 Colombia operated the official transit system for mail, with the Transito Panama cancellation.

Salvador 10 centavos with Transito Panama cancel dated 16th March 1888

## 1892 Salvador to Dundee, Scotland with Colombian Transito Panama cancel




1892 10 centavos postal stationery envelope from Salvador to Dundee, with cancellations for Panama transit (14th December 1892, Foreign transit in New York (December 24th), Packet Letter Glasgow of the Whitney type 14/40 oval (January 3rd 1892) and Dundee arrival cancel (January 4th)

## Sierra Leone

In July 1843 the GPO in London opened a Packet Agency in Sierra Leone that in March 1854 was supplied with a "PAID-AT-SIERRA-LEONE" hand stamp. Although stamps were introduced in September 1859 prepayment was not yet compulsory. The cover on this page is an 1863 unstamped cover to London.

## 1863 cover to London with PAID-AT-SIERRA-LEONE cancel

**AFRICAN STEAM SHIP COMPANY** - The company was founded in the middle of the 19th century by Macgregor Laird. The main focus of the company at first was trading with the Niger River area and other West African ports, bringing West-African palm oil back to Britain. In 1852 the company was awarded a contract to carry mails from London via Plymouth to Madeira, Tenerife and the West Coast of Africa. This was appointed by Royal Charter and came with a subsidy of £30,000 per year from the British government. In 1856, the home port became Liverpool.

The **ARMENIAN** was a 763 ton mail steamer of the African Steam Ship Company, launched in 1855. It was wrecked in 1865 with the loss of eight lives off Ireland on a journey from Liverpool to West Africa

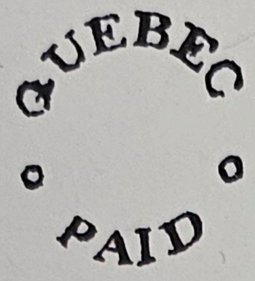
PAID-AT-SIERRA-LEONE cancel

Entire from Liddle Plantation in Sierra Leone to London with Red London cds datedJune 10th 1863 on front, red "5" and "per steamer Armenian" in manuscript. On the back are red PAID AT SIERRA LEONE cds for 21st May 1863 and black London WC cds.

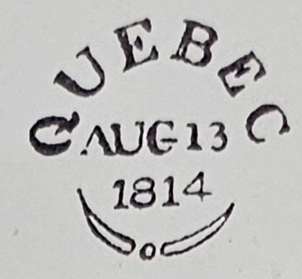
## *British Post Office in Quebec, Lower Canada*

The first British Post Offices in the colony of Canada were opened in Quebec and two other places in 1763 and remained part of the British GPO system until 1851. From 1804-30 the QUEBEC PAID cancellation was used in black or red for prepaid mail and the QUEBEC FLEURON date-stamp was used from was 1815 to 1828 in black, and from 1817 to 1830 in red.

At the Glassco auction in 1969 several other QUEBEC PAID / QUEBEC FLEURON covers were listed at prices equivalent to £550 to £850 in 2014, but only one cover sold.




QUEBEC PAID
Lowe HS 41




QUEBEC FLEURON
Lowe HS 38

**1828 Entire Letter from Quebec to New York**

1828 EL from Quebec to New York, postmarked on the back with a black QUEBEC fleuron JA 28 28. On the front are two QUEBEC PAID hand-stamps with manuscript rating '18½' and '1 N' in the centres, and endorsed in manuscript at the top 'Paid to N York' and "Mail" at the bottom.
**Rate:** The QUEBEC PAID is normally found with two impressions on one cover, one containing the sterling (in this case 1N = 1/-) and the other the rate in currency ('18½).

***Sources***
*Glassco Collection British Post Offices Abroad Auction Catalogue 25-27 November 1969 Robson Lowe London*
*Lowe, R 1st ed (1973)The Encyclopaedia of British Postal Stamps Volume V The Empire in North America Robson Lowe, London*

## New Brunswick

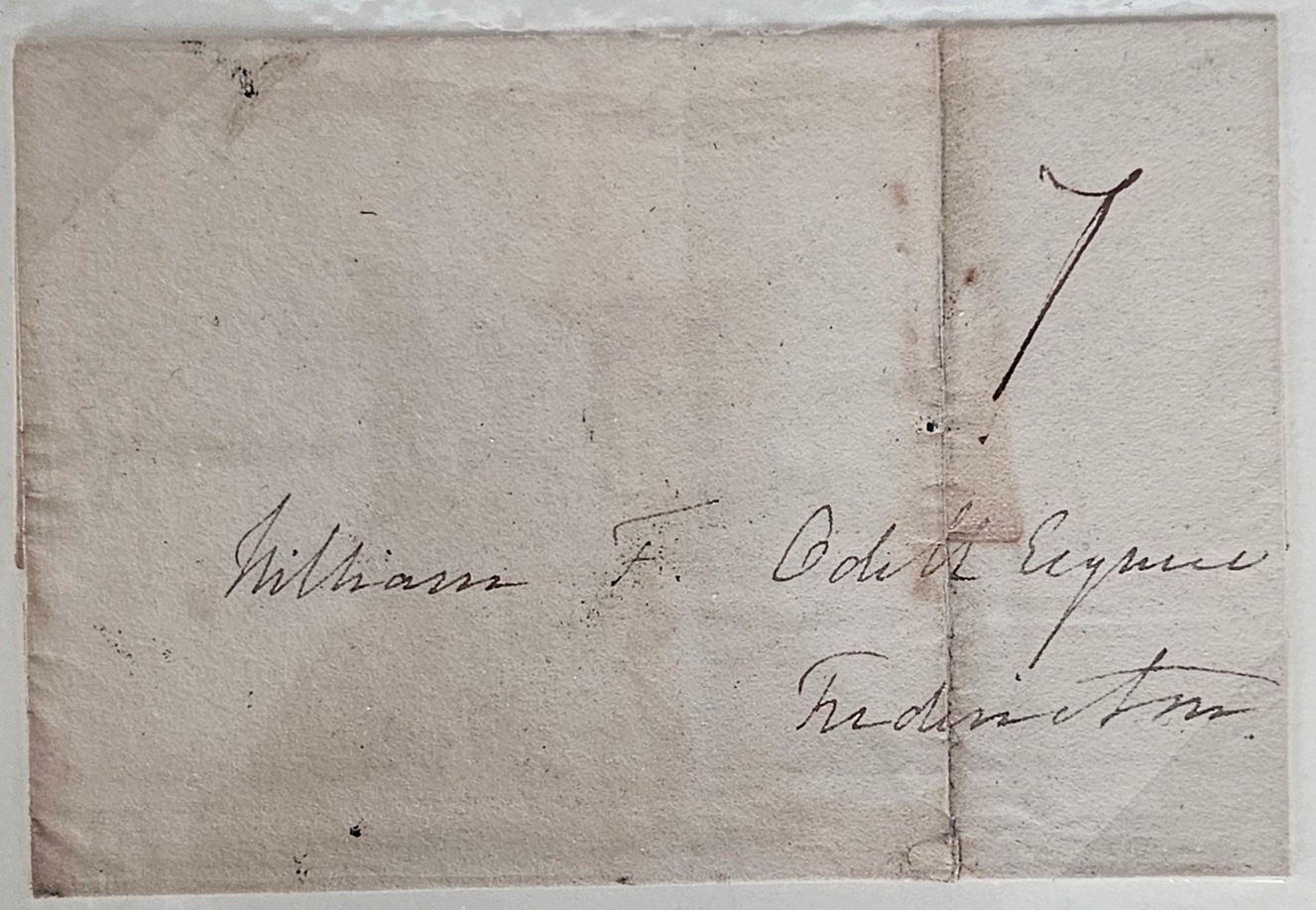
## St John

New Brunswick was settled by the French in 1604 and was transferred to the British in 1703, becoming part of the province of Nova Scotia. The New Brunswick postal service was separated from that of Canada in 1824 until New Brunswick joined the Dominion of Canada in 1867. The New Brunswick postal service was under the control of the GPO in London from 1785 until 1851.

### 1827 cover from St John to Fredericton, New Brunswick

William Franklin Odell was Provincial Secretary of New Brunswick from 1812 until his death in 1844. He as employed by the British Commissioners in 1817-18 to survey and locate the boundary between New Brunswick and the United States under the treaty of Ghent.

The dated St john fleuron (JGY 26, RF 2) was used from 1816 to 1842




1827 cover from St John New Brunswick to William F Odell in Fredericton. Rated "7" i.e. 7d in manuscript with a St John fleuron dated DE 12 on the back, confirmed as 1827 by a filing annotation.

**Sources:**
*Lowe, R, 2nd ed (1938-9) Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900 Robson Lowe, London*
*Lowe, R 1st ed (1973)The Encyclopaedia of British Postal Stamps Volume V The Empire in North America Robson Lowe, London*
*Virtual American Biographies www.famousamericans.net*

## New Brunswick

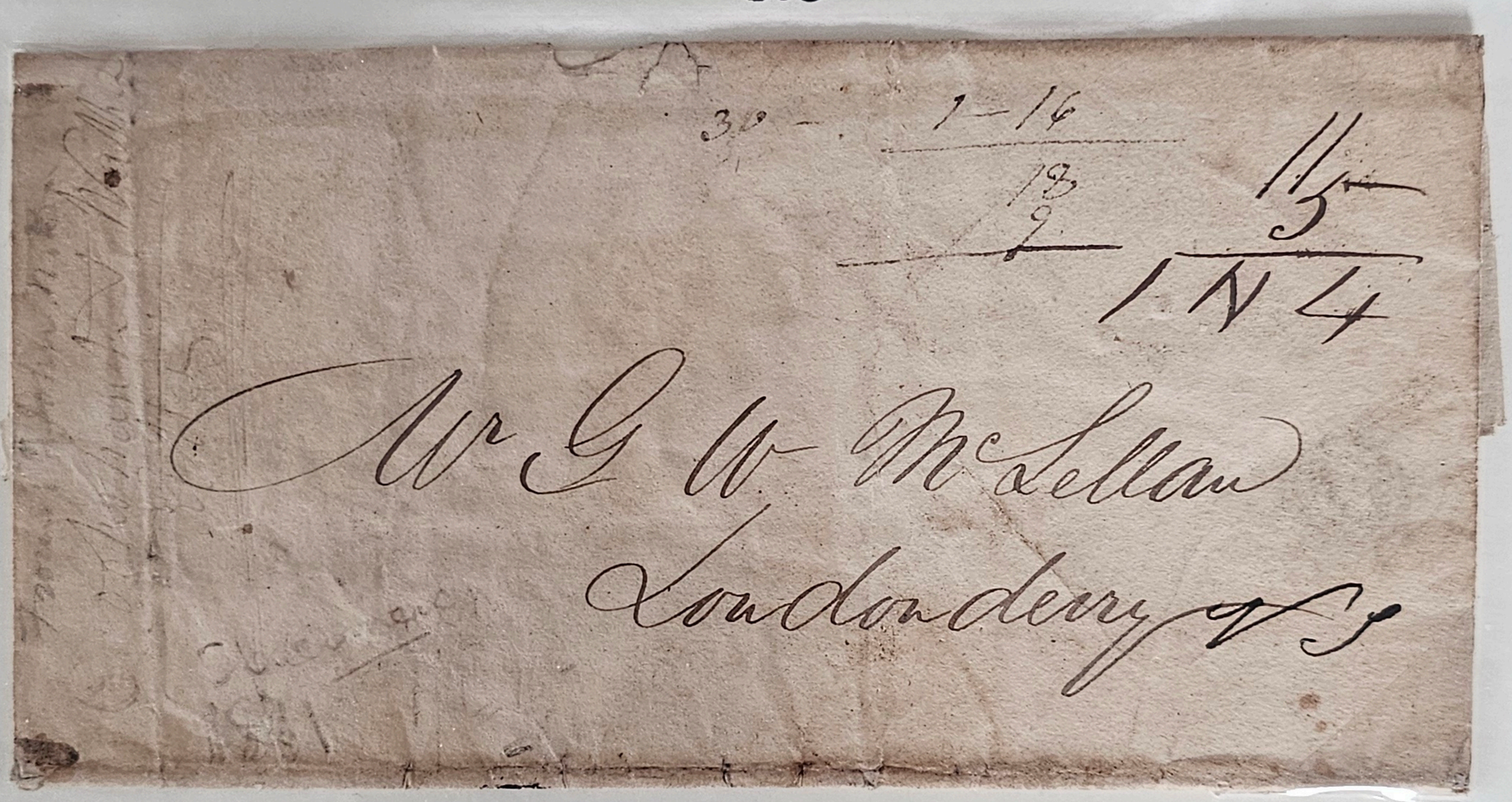
## St John

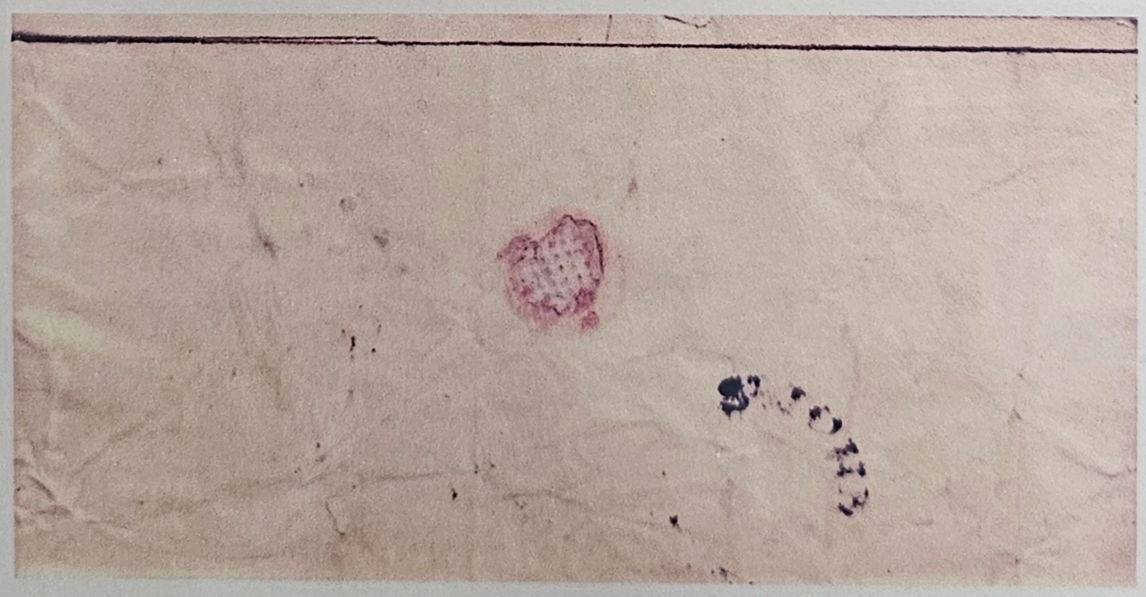
New Brunswick was settled by the French in 1604 and was transferred to the British in 1703, becoming part of the province of Nova Scotia. The New Brunswick postal service was separated from that of Canada in 1824 until New Brunswick joined the Dominion of Canada in 1867. The New Brunswick postal service was under the control of the GPO in London from 1785 until 1851.

### 1831 entire letter from St John to Londonderry, Nova Scotia

.Letter sent to G.W. McLellan and written by Crookshank & Walsh. Sent to Gloud Wilson McLelan (sometimes spelt with ll) He was a businessman and a politician; as a member of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly he was an independent reformer.

The St John fleuron without date was used from 1816 to 1832.



1831 stamp less entire letter from St John, New Brunswick to Londonderry, Nova Scotia rated "11+5" in manuscript, a total of 1N4 (1/4). On the back is a heavily inked nude St John sending Fleuron cancel.

**Sources:**
*Lowe, R, 2nd ed (1938-9) Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900 Robson Lowe, London*
*Lowe, R 1st ed (1973)The Encyclopaedia of British Postal Stamps Volume V The Empire in North America Robson Lowe, London*
*Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online http://www.biographi.ca/*

## *British Post Office in Quebec, Lower Canada*

The first British Post Offices in the colony of Canada were opened in Quebec and two other places in 1763 and remained part of the British GPO system until 1851. The Quebec Crowned Circle above was sent on 13th January 1842. Unusually Crowned Circle (Crowned Paid) hand-stamps in Canada were used for internal postage within Canada as well as for external postage to foreign destinations.

**1847 cover from Quebec to Montreal**

1847 pre-stamp cover from Quebec to Montreal. The front has a red Crown Circle Paid at Quebec LC, "9" i.e. 9d in manuscript and QUEBEC LC (Lower Canada) double ring CDS MR 3 1847. The reverse has a red MONTREAL LC CDS DATED MR 17 1847.

## Grenadines

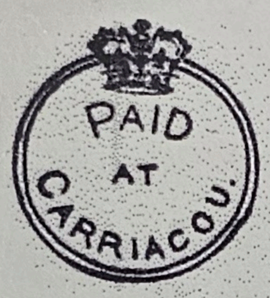
## Carriacou

**History of the British Post Office at Carriacou.**
Carriacou is the largest of the Grenadines, lying between Grenada and St Vincent.

Robson Lowe, in his book "Handstruck Postage Stamps" states that a British Packet Agency was opened at Carriacou in 1842, but no history of its working is known. A letter dated February 14th 1842 is struck with a straight line Carriacou cancel. This Carriacou strike is not found in the records of the G.P.O., although a Carriacou Ship Letter cancel was registered there on August 27th 1841, but has not been recorded used. The size and lettering of the word Carriacou are identical in both strikes, and it seems that the Ship Letter part had been cut off before use.

In the G.P.O. records for November 13th 1846, a Crowned Circle "PAID AT CARRIACOU" and a CDS cancel for Carriacou were registered. The Crowned Circle has not been recorded used, but the CDS cancel occurs between July 9th 1847 and December 8th 1848 (this piece). The next known letters from Carriacou are in1858 and 1859 and have G.B. stamps with local barred cancels; the former being sent via St. Vincent (A10) and the latter via Grenada (A15). There being no Carriacou strikes, it would seem that the British Packet Agency must have closed by then, but in 1861, when Grenada Post Office issued Parish marks, F was allotted to Carriacou.

**1848 Large piece from Carriacou to Great Britain**



CC

CDS

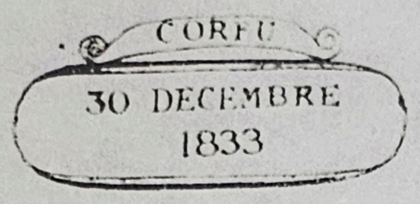
Large piece to Great Britain with Carriacou CDS dated Dec 8th 1848, Southampton receiver dated 6th January 1849 and "1/-" in manuscript.
***Rate:*** From 1842, the packet rate for mail carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) ships from the British West Indies, initially to Falmouth and from 1843 to Southampton, was 1/-
***Route:*** RMSP "Reindeer" from Carriacou on the 8 Dec arriving at Barbados on 10 Dec on the Demerara – Barbados route; RMSP "Thames" from Barbados on 10 Dec to St Thomas 13 Dec on the Northern Isles route; finally RMSP "Thames" from St Thomas on the 15 Dec to Southampton, arriving on 6th Jan by the Main route. ("Thames" took over from the RMSP "Dee" at St Thomas).

## *British Post Office in Corfu, Ionian Islands*

The Ionian Islands including Corfu were placed under the protection of Great Britain from 1815 to 1864.

Three crowned circle hand stamps were sent to the islands in 19th April 1844; this usage in August 1844 is very early. The Corfu scrolled date stamp was used until 1848; in this example the final year figure in the date plug has been omitted.

**1844 entire letter from Corfu to Patras, Greece**



1844 entire letter from Corfu to Patras, Greece rated "6", "10" and "2" in red manuscript and "per Inglese" in black manuscript. On the front are Crowned Circle "PAID/AT/CORFU" and despatch "CORFU 10 AGOSTO 184" scrolled cancel ; on the back is an arrival PATRAS CDS.

**Sources**

*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*

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

*Wikipedia entry for "United states of the Ionian Islands"*

## *British Post Office in Zante, Ionian Islands*

Under The Congress of Vienna, the Ionian Islands (Corfu, Cephalonia, Cerigo, Ithaca, Paxo, Santa Maura and Zante) were placed under the exclusive "amicable protection" of the United Kingdom and became known as the United States of the Ionian Islands.

On 29 March 1864, the United Kingdom, Greece, France, and Russia signed the Treaty of London, pledging the transfer of sovereignty to Greece upon ratification; this was meant to bolster the reign of the newly-installed King George I of Greece.

**1829 (25 Mar.) entire letter from Zante to Cefalonia**

1829 (25 Mar.) entire letter from Zante to Cefalonia showing, on reverse, double-ring General popst stamp[ for Zante "ISOLA/DI ZANTE", despatch stamp for Zante (25 MARZO 29) and arrival date stamp for Cefalonia (30 MARZO 29)

**Sources**

*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*
*Wikipedia entry for "United states of the Ionian Islands"*

FROM. BELLAIR. NATAL

Mr. William
22 Hodetr
Salon
England - Co

Made in Germany
VARIO

Messrs.

Wm Patterson & Sons.

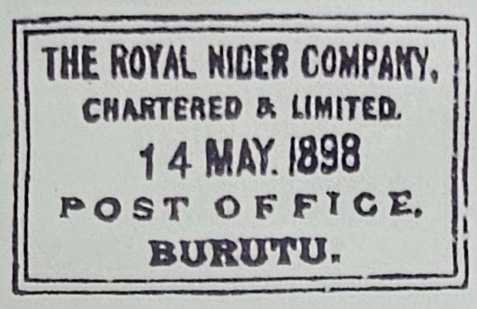
93 Overgate Street.

DUNDEE.

## *Royal Niger Company*

### Burutu

British stamps were cancelled with special Burutu cancels from 1896 to 1899, with two versions; the first with "BURUTU" in sans serif and the second (Stanley Gibbons Type T4) with "BURUTU" in seriffed capitals.




Burutu Stanley Gibbons Type T4 in seriffed capitals

### 1898 cover from Burutu to London

1898 cover from Burutu to London. Burutu Type T4 cancel dated 8th DE 1898 with BURUTU in seriffed capitals tying 2½d GB jubilee stamp, with red PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET CDS and "Per RMS Olenda" in manuscript on front.

**Sources**

*Nicholson, MP (1981) The Stamps and Postal History of the Niger Territories and the Niger Coast Protectorate. Cockrill Series Booklets no 29 Todd Nether Stowey, Somerset*
*Stanley Gibbons (published annually) Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1970 Stanley Gibbons, London and Ringwood*
*Ince J and Sacher J (1992) The Postal Services of the British Nigeria Region Prior to 1914 Royal Philatelic Society, London*

## *Royal Niger Company*

### Burutu

British stamps were cancelled with special Burutu cancels from 1896 to 1899. The sans serif cancel is recorded in violet, violet-black, blue and black; this cover has the most common violet shade..

Burutu sans serif cancel, Stanley Gibbons Type 7

### 1898 front to London

1898 2½d purple/blue Jubilee on cover front with Burutu sans serif cancel dated 31st March 1898 and red circular "LIVERPOOL PAID BR PACKET 5 MY 98" cds cancel.

### 1899 cover to London

1897 Cover to Beccles Fr. Cavendish Collect. Auction 9/14.

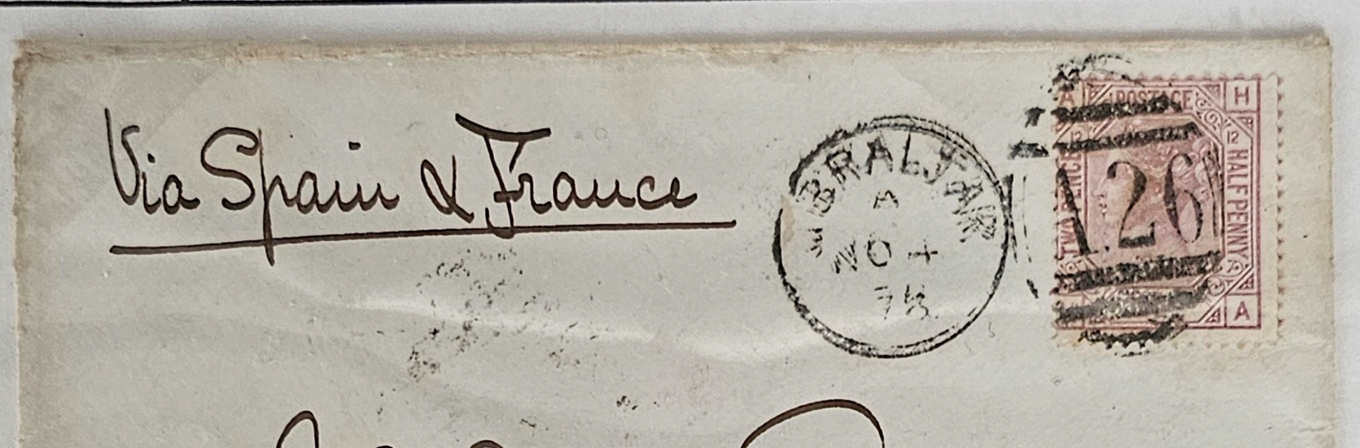
1898 2½d [illegible] with red circular "LIVERP[illegible]

## *British Post Office in Gibraltar*

The 3VOD duplex A26 cancel was used to cancel GB stamps in Gibraltar from 1878 to 1885.

Gibraltar 3VOD

**1878 envelope with 2½d Rosy mauve plate 12 from Gibraltar to Gloucester**




1878 envelope to Gloucester with 2½d Rosy mauve plate 12 cancelled by Gibraltar 3VOD dated NO 4 78 back-stamped with GLOUCESTER STATION NO 9 78 CDS cancel

Made in Germany

## *British Post Office in Gibraltar*

The British Post Office in Gibraltar was a branch of the GPO in London from 1806, if not earlier. British stamps and Gibraltar "G" and "A26" were used from 1857 until the local authorities took over the postal service on 1st January 1886. In the intervening years there were six different A26 cancels used, some (the 3VOS and 4VOD) are rather rare. The 3VOD cancel was used from 1878 to 1885 on British stamps.

### 1879 envelope from Gibraltar to London

Gibraltar 3VOD

1879 envelope to London with **GB** 2½d Rosy mauve plate 14 cancelled by Gibraltar 3VOD dated JY 29 **79** and "Via France" in m/s. On the back is a small LONDON SW black cds dated AU 6 79.
**Rate:** On 1st January 1876 the provisions of the Postal Union Treaty were extended to correspondence from UK to France and to all countries of Europe and Gibraltar with a rate of 2½d per half ounce by whatever rate forwarded. This was confirmed in the Postal Guide for 1877 at a rate of 2½d per 15 grams or ½ ounce; this rate remained in force for the rest of the century.

**Sources:**

*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*
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*
*Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford*

## *British Post Office in Gibraltar*

The 3CD duplex cancel was used to cancel GB stamps in Gibraltar from 1859 to 1860, and 1870 to 1878.

Gibraltar 3VOD

**1876 envelope with 2½d Rosy mauve plate 6 from Gibraltar to Spalding, Lincolnshire**

1876 envelope with 2½d Rosy mauve plate 6 from Gibraltar to Spalding, Lincolnshirewith 3Cd cancel dated DE18 76 and “via “France” in manuscript. Back stamped SPALDING JA 1 77.

***British Post Office in Gibraltar***

The 3VOD duplex A26 cancel was used to cancel GB stamps in Gibraltar from 1878 to 1885.

Gibraltar 3VOD

**<u>1880 envelope to Orleans, France  with Great Britain 2½d blue plate 19</u>**

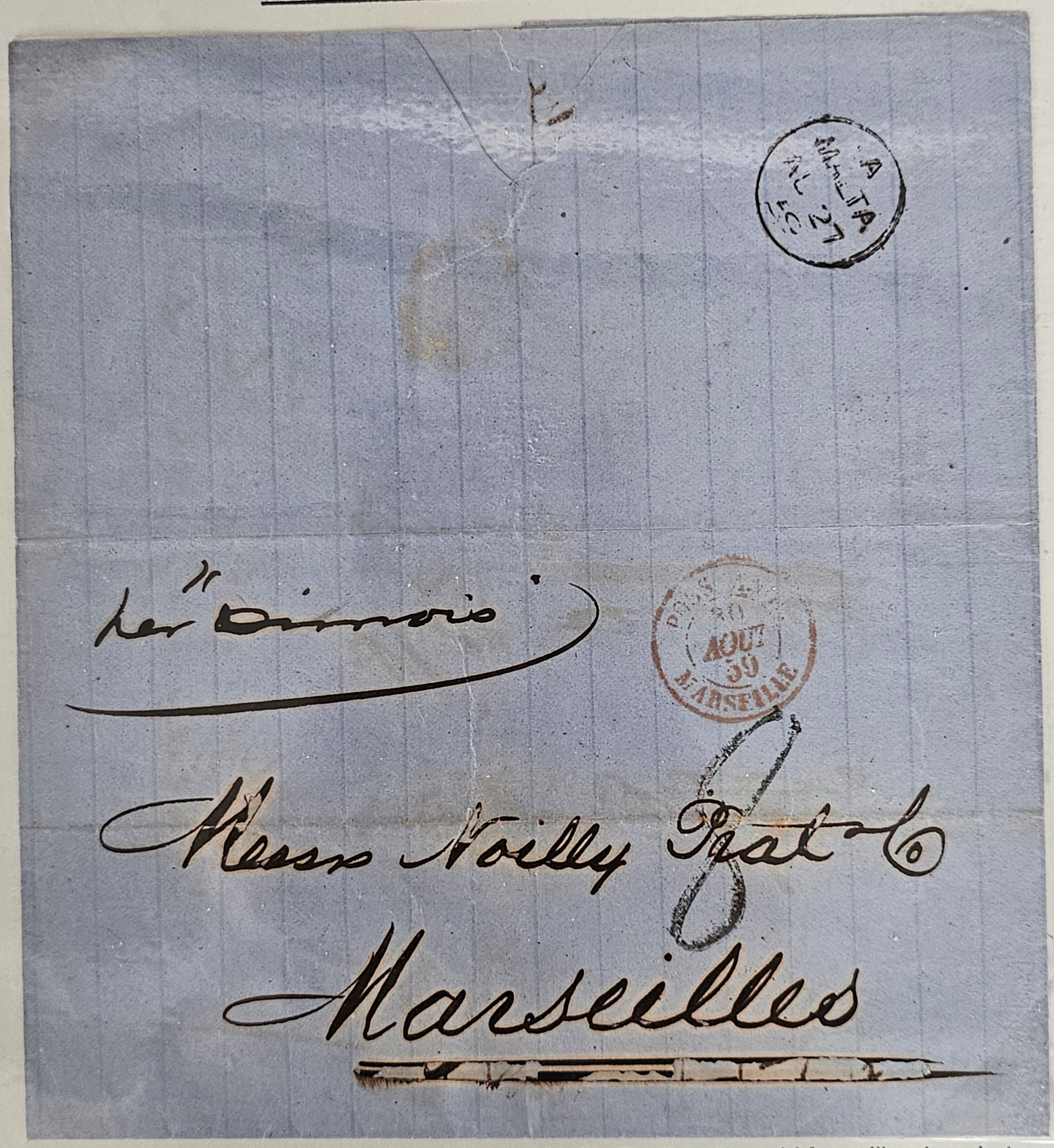
1880 envelope to Orleans, France  with Great Britain 2½d blue plate 19 cancelled by Gibraltar 3VOD dated NO 8 80 with transit stamps for Madrid and France and arrival stamp for Orleans dated 13 NOV 80.

## *British Post Office in Malta*

Letters to France were generally sent unpaid. The CDS 3 cancel was sent by the GPO in London in 1858. *Parmenter* states that it was used in conjunction with Great Britain stamps and the M and 3HOS obliterators but does not mention use on unpaid mail. *Lowe* states that it was used from 1858 -1871.

Malta CDS3

**1859 entire letter from Malta to Marseilles**




1859 entire letter from Malta to Marseilles (Messrs. Noilly Prat), with red Marseilles hand stamp 30 AOUT 59; "8" in manuscript and "per Dimois?" in manuscript. . On the back is MALTA CDS3 Code A AU 27 59 hand stamp.

**Rate:** Sent unpaid with 8 decimes to pay on arrival. It was normal to send mail to France unpaid.

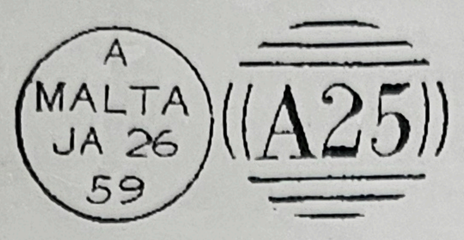
**Sources**

*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*

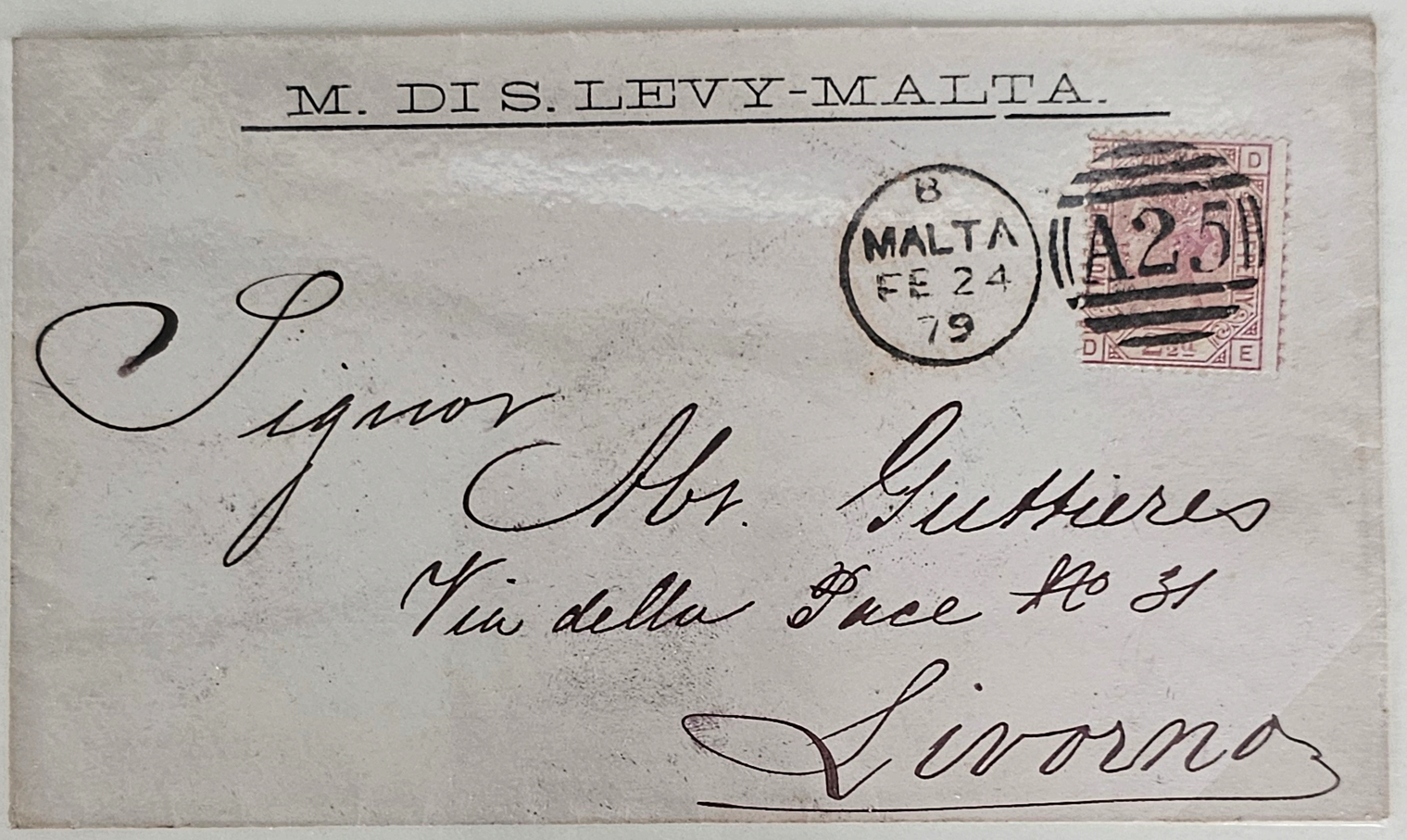
## Malta

The 3CD Duplex cancel was used to cancel Great Britain stamps in Malta from 1859 to 1881, and was by far the commonest cancel.

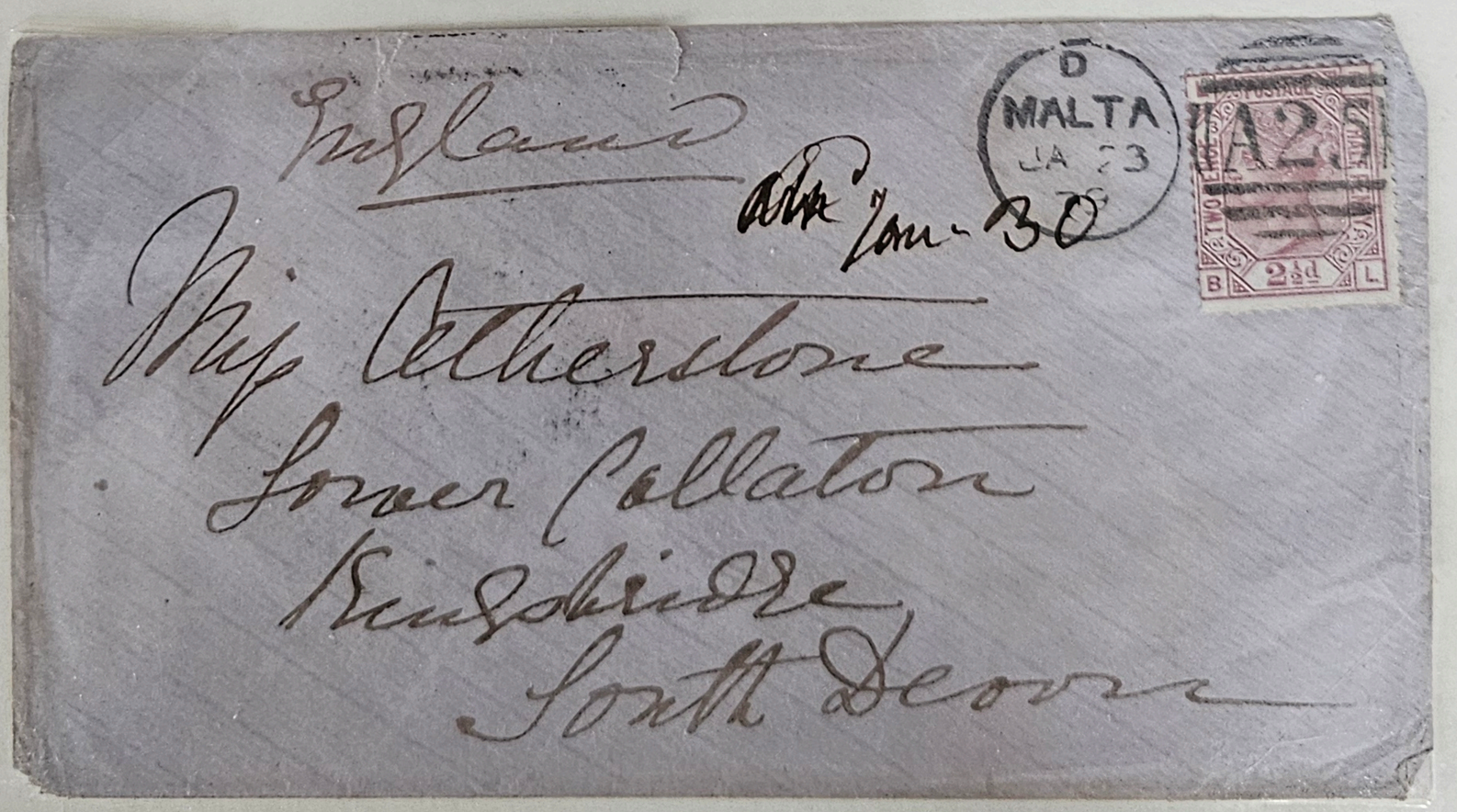



Malta 3CD

**1879 2½d rosy mauve plate 12 on envelope from Malta to Livorno, Italy**




**1879 2½d rosy mauve plate 13 on cover from Malta to Kingsbridge, Devon**

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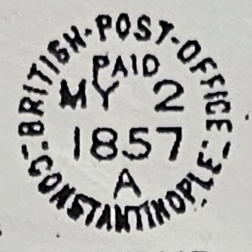
## ***British Post Offices in Levant - Constantinople***

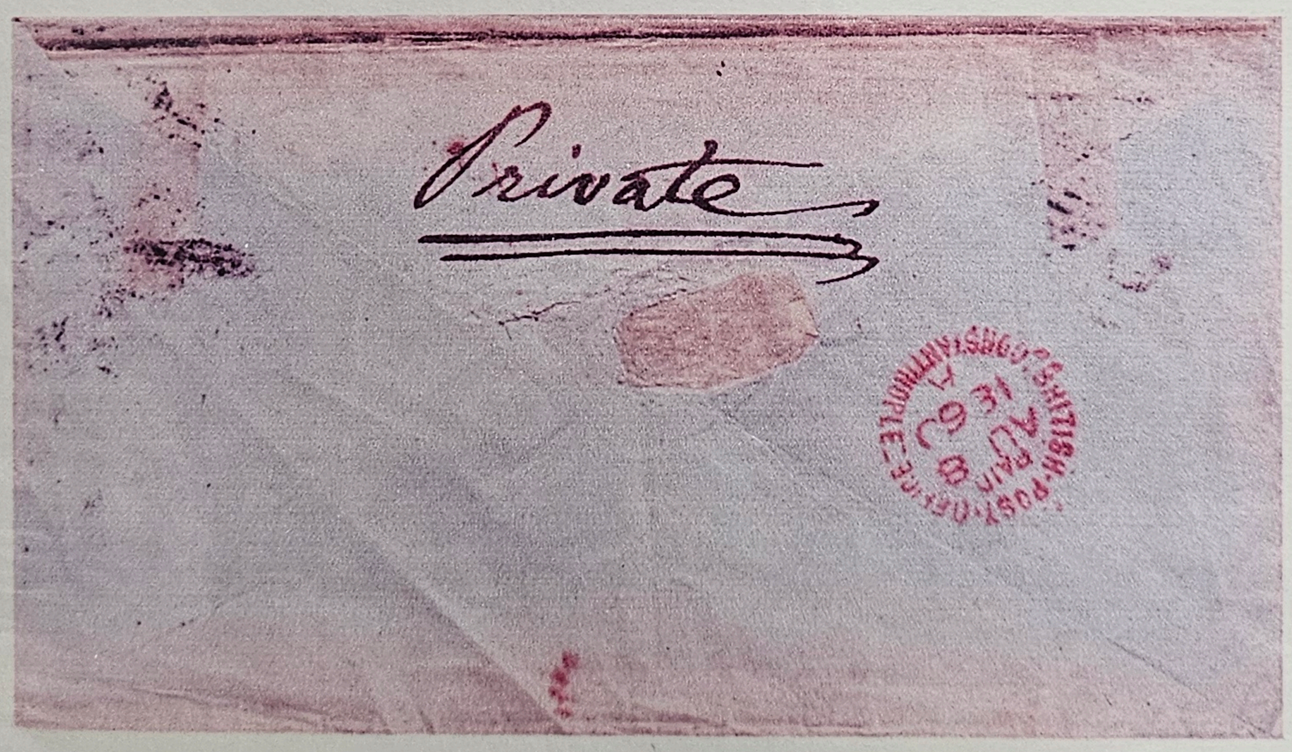
The British Post Office in Constantinople opened in 1857, soon after the Crimean war and stayed open initially until 1900, due to the inefficiency of the Turkish Postal Service. The authority to use British stamps was given on 22nd September, and stamps and the C.HOS obliterator were issued towards the end of 1857. The Post Office was a triumphant success and in 1859 the British Treasury sanctioned the erection of a purpose built Post Office at a cost of £7 000.

C.HOS




CDS PAID

**1860 envelope from Constantinople to London**




1860 envelope from Constantinople to London with 1857 6d lilac cancelled with British Post Office Constantinople. "C" and red London receiver, back stamped with red "BRITISH POST OFFICE / PAID / CONSTANTINOPLE" cds dated AU 8 1860 and "Private" in manuscript.

**Sources**

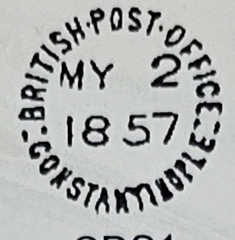
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

## British Post Offices in Levant

### Constantinople

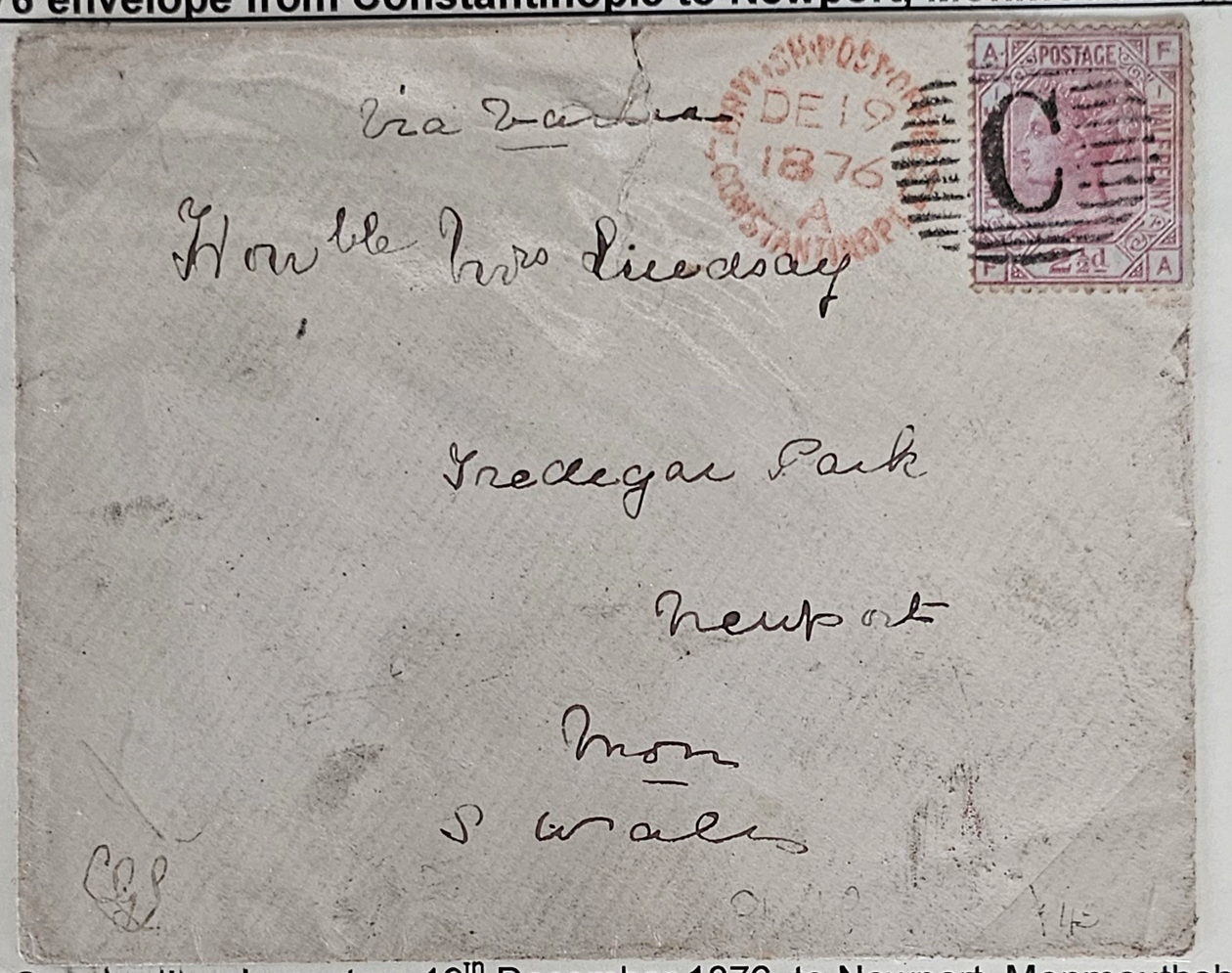
The British Post Office in Constantinople opened in 1857, soon after the Crimean war and stayed open initially until 1900, due to the inefficiency of the Turkish Postal Service. The 2½d rosy mauve and blue existed in 25 combinations of watermark, plate and colour between 1875 and 1884.

C.HOS




CDS1

**1876 envelope from Constantinople to Newport, Monmouthshire**




1876 envelope from Constantinople sent on 19th December 1876 to Newport, Monmouthshire franked with 2½d rosy mauve Plate 1 on blued paper tied by barred C cancel with red Constantinople CDS1

## British Post Offices in Levant

### Constantinople

The British Post Office in Constantinople opened in 1857, soon after the Crimean war and stayed open initially until 1900, due to the inefficiency of the Turkish Postal Service. The 2½d rosy mauve and blue existed in 25 combinations of watermark, plate and colour between 1875 and 1884.

C.HOS CDS2 (1878)

**1882 envelope from Constantinople to London**

1882 envelope to London with pair of 2½d blue plate 22 tied by barred C cancel with red Constantinople "1878" CDS2 dated Oct 17th 1882

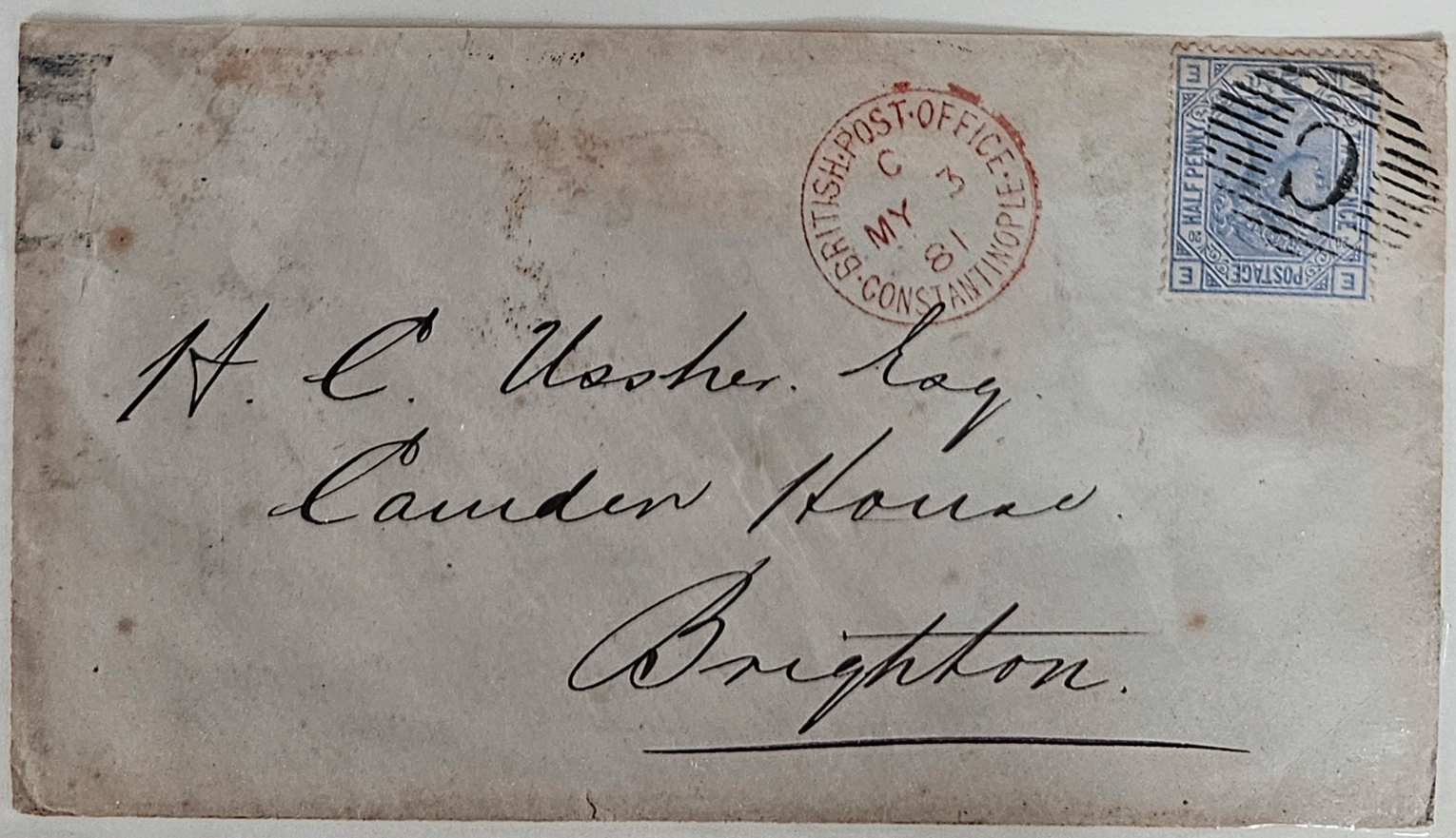



Plate 20

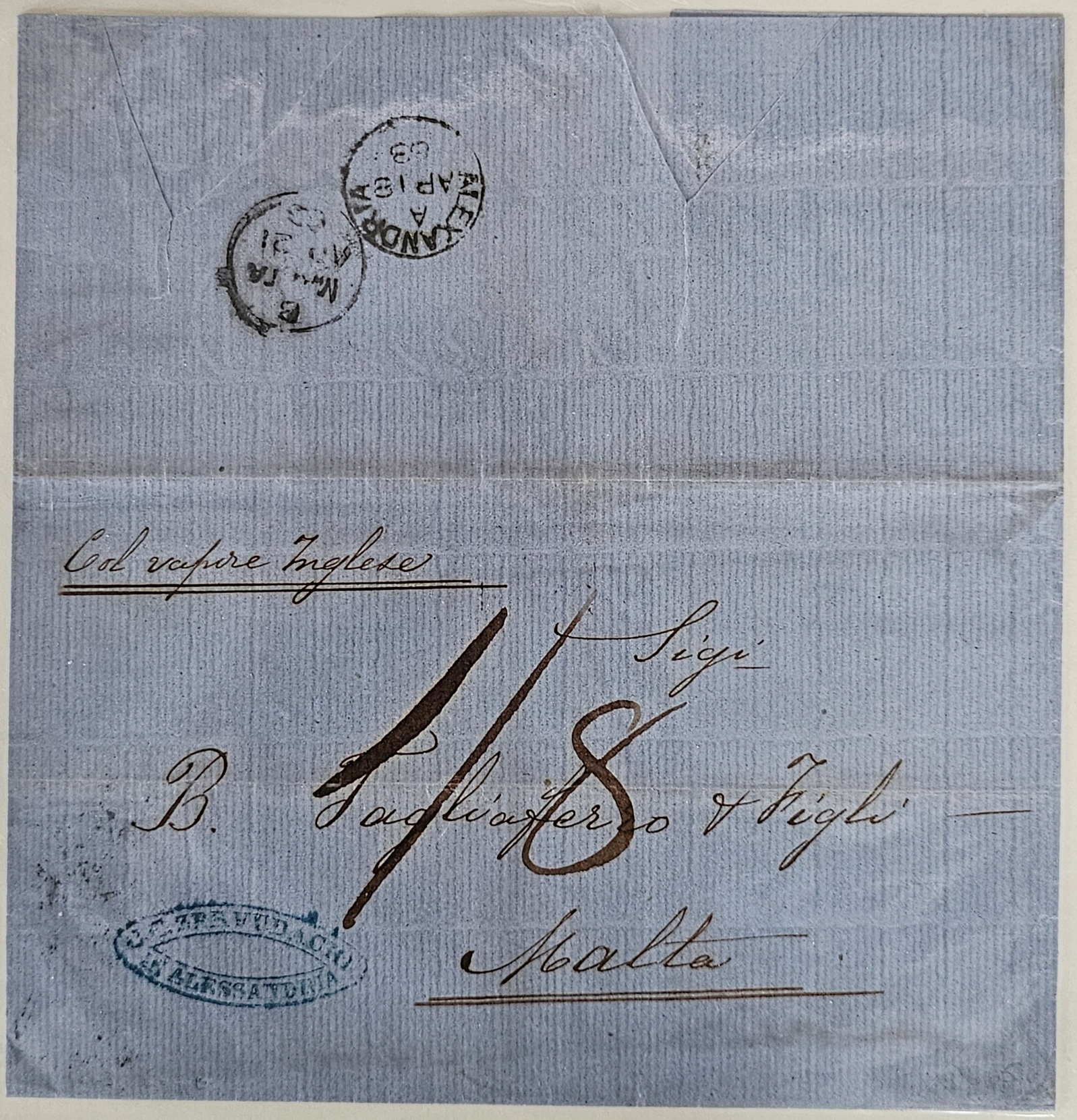
## *British Post Office in Alexandria*

Great Britain stamps were issued to the new British Post Office in Alexandria in 1858 and the B01 cancel the following year. Parmenter states that the CDS2 cancel was used on unpaid mail until 8th August 1859 when the first BO1 cancel was issued, but this unpaid cover was sent nearly four years later.

### 1863 entire from Alexandria to Malta

Alexandria CDS2

Malta CDS3




1863 entire from Alexandria to Malta. The front has blue merchants oval "C.G. ZERVUDACHI" with "1/8" to pay and "Col Vapore Inglese" in manuscript. It is backstamped with an Alexandria CDS2 cancel dated AP 18 63 and Malta cancel AP 21 63.

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

## Egypt

## Alexandria

Great Britain stamps were issued to the new British Post Office in Alexandria in 1858 and the B01 cancel the following year. Parmenter states that the CDS2 cancel was used on unpaid mail until 8th August 1859 when the first BO1 cancel was issued, but this unpaid cover was sent over seven months later.

### 1860 entire from Alexandria to Malta

CDS2

1860 entire from Alexandria to Malta. The front has manuscript “5” to pay i.e. 5d and manuscript “Col Vapore Inglese”. It is backstamped with an Alexandria CDS2 cancel dated MR 12 60 and Malta cancel MR 16 60.

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

## *British Post Office in Alexandria, Egypt*

The rates from Alexandria to Great Britain decreased in the 1870s, being 6d per ½ oz from 1874 and then 2½d from 1st July 1875 following the Treaty of Berne and the formation of the General Postal Union.

4VOS

CDS2

**1878 cover front with 2½d rosy-mauve plate 7 from Alexandria to London**

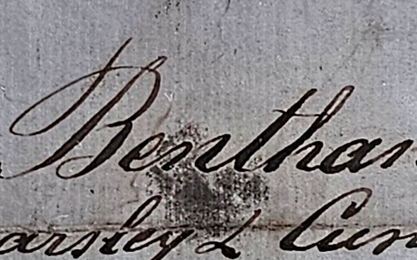
1878 cover front to London with 2½d rosy-mauve plate 7 cancelled with Alexandria 4VOs B01, Alexandria CDS dated JA 15 78 and London PAID receiver dated 23 JA 78

## Egypt

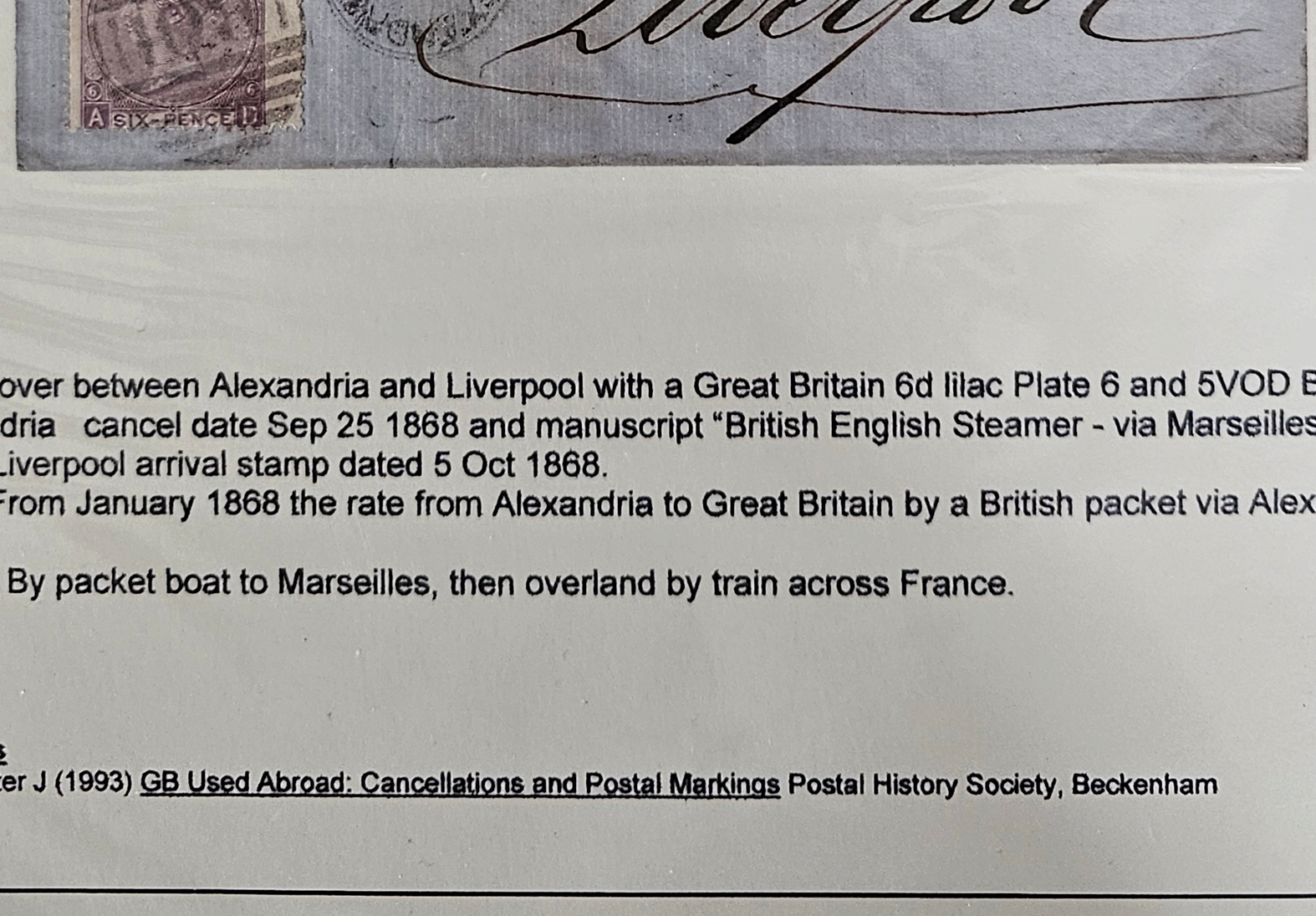
## Alexandria

The first Packet Agency in Alexandria opened in 1839 and a Post Office was opened by the novelist Anthony Trollope, in 1858. Its importance to Great Britain lay in communications between Great Britain and India and our Eastern possessions; originally it involved an overland route through Egypt but from November 1858 a railway was completed between Cairo and Suez that carried mails and passengers between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

### 1868 cover between Alexandria and Liverpool.




5VOD Alexandria BO1 cancel




1868 cover between Alexandria and Liverpool with a Great Britain 6d lilac Plate 6 and 5VOD BO1 Alexandria cancel date Sep 25 1868 and manuscript "British English Steamer - via Marseilles"; the back has a Liverpool arrival stamp dated 5 Oct 1868.
*Rate:* From January 1868 the rate from Alexandria to Great Britain by a British packet via Alexandria was 6d.
*Route:* By packet boat to Marseilles, then overland by train across France.

**Sources**

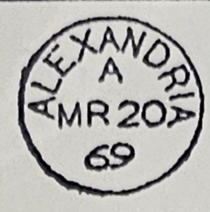
Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham

## *British Post Office in Alexandria, Egypt*

The first Packet Agency in Alexandria opened in 1839 and a Post Office was opened by the novelist Anthony Trollope, in 1858. There were several routes between Alexandria and Great Britain, the commonest being via Marseilles, via Brindisi and direct to Southampton.

### 1870 Entire Letter from Alexandria to London

3HOS




CDS2

Entire Letter from Alexandria to London with Great Britain 6d plate 8 with 3HOS cancel, "" per English packet via Marseilles" in manuscript, CDS2 cancel dated MY 14 70 and Liverpool arrival CDS MY 21 70
**Rate:** From Jan 1868 the rate from Alexandria to Great Britain by a British packet via Marseilles was 6d.

## Egypt

## Alexandria

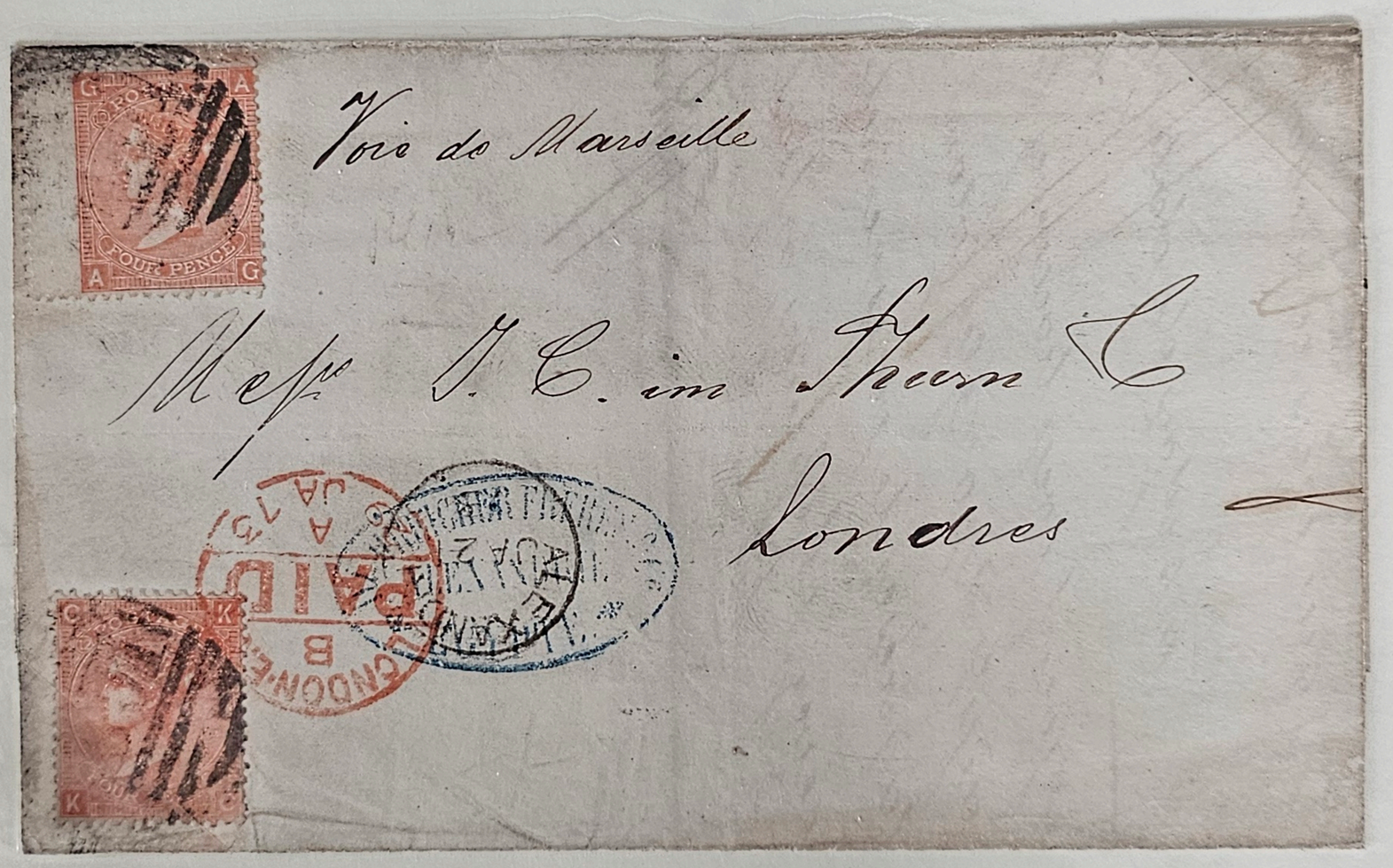
The first Packet Agency in Alexandria opened in 1839 and a Post Office was opened by the novelist Anthony Trollope, in 1858. Its importance to Great Britain lay in communications between Great Britain and India and our Eastern possessions; originally it involved an overland route through Egypt but from November 1858 a railway was completed between Cairo and Suez that carried mails and passengers between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.

There were several routes between Alexandria and Great Britain, the commonest being via Marseilles, Brindisi and Southampton, using British or French Packets.

### 1873 entire from Alexandria to London

~~3VOS~~

CDS2




Entire from Alexandria to London with 4d vermilion plate 12 x2, each with 4VOS cancel, "Voie de Marseille" in manuscript, CDS2 cancel dated JA 21 1873, blue oval merchant's cancel "Dunreicher Frères, Alexandria, Egypt" and red London paid arrival CDS 29 JA 73.

*Rate:* From January 1871 the rate from Alexandria to Great Britain by a British packet via Marseilles was 8d.

*Route:* By packet boat to Marseilles, then overland across France by train.

**Sources**

*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*
*Tabeart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford*

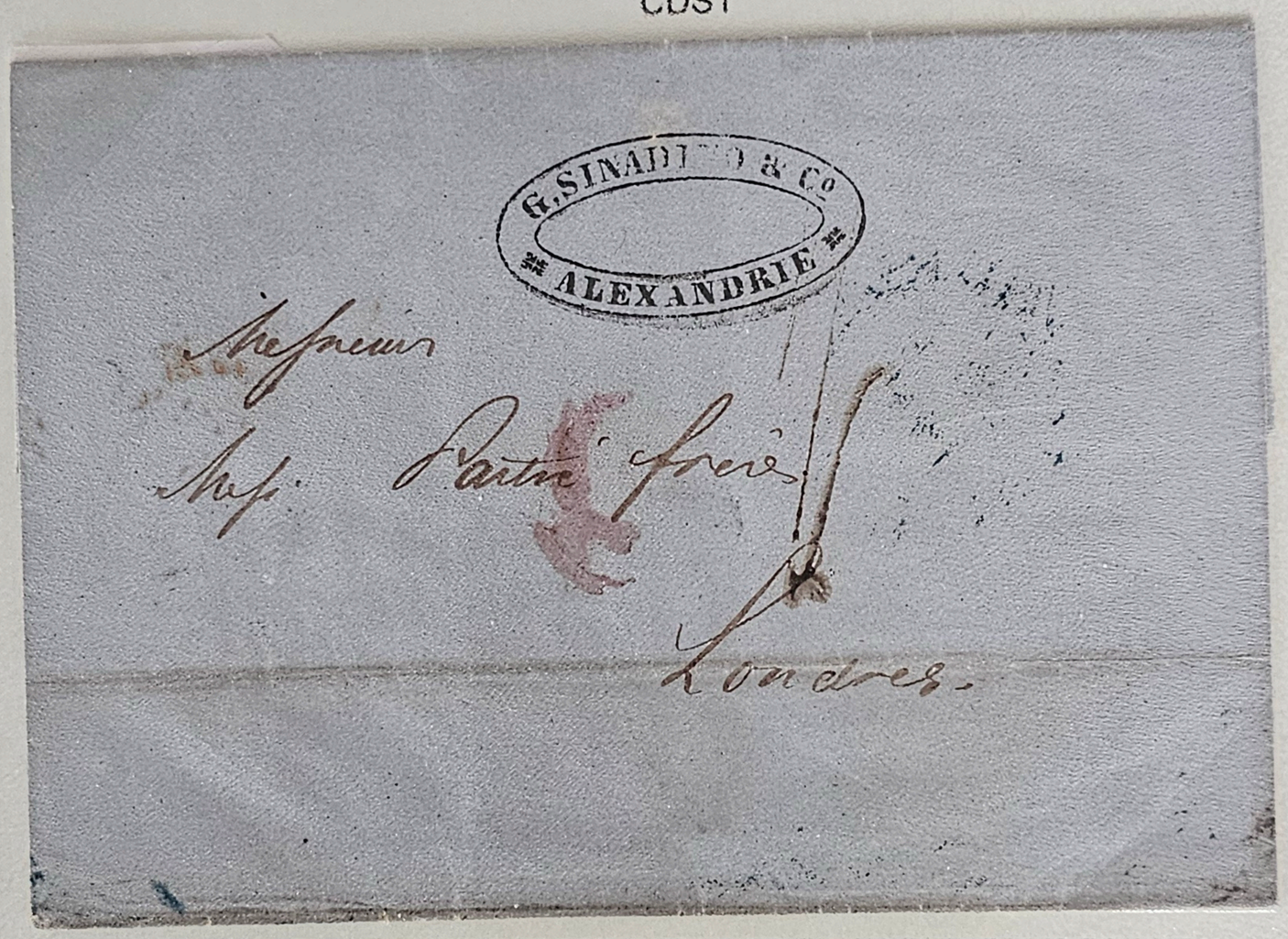
## Egypt

### Alexandria

A British Packet Agency was opened in Alexandria in 1839, and was sent the double ring CDS1 cancel by the General Post office in London. However, the British Post Office was opened in 1858 by Anthony Trollope, the writer.

### 1855 Entire from Alexandria to London

CDS1



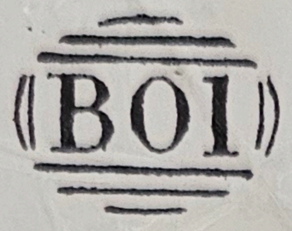
1855 Entire from Alexandria to London. The front has "1/-" in manuscript i.e. rated 1 shilling to collect as a packet charge, and the merchant's oval stamp. It is back stamped with an Alexandria CDS1 in blue-green dated December 5 1855 and a red London PAID cancel for December 14.

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

## *British Post Office in Cairo*

Great Britain stamps were issued to the new British Post Office located in the British Consulate in Cairo in 1859. The date stamp was sent from England on 23rd March and the 3HOS B01 cancel in September. The 3HOS B01 cancel is only known used from 1864 until the British Post Office closed in 1873 when a National Post Office was established in Cairo.

### 1868 entire from Cairo to Albany, USA




Cairo 3HOS

Cairo CDS

1868 large part of envelope to Albany NY USA bearing Great Britain Z332 1864 1d plate 85, Z344 1865 4d. plate 9 and Z350 6d. plate 6 GB stamps tied by BO1 3HOS and London red PAID hand stamps. The front additionally has a British Post Office CDS hand stamp CAIRO JA 8 68; additional Red London PAID dated 20 JA and Red US 3 CENTS to pay handstamp.

***Source:***

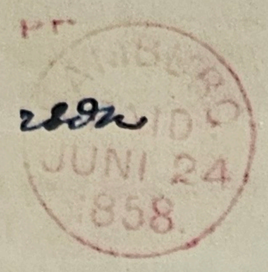
*Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham*

POSTAGE
ONE PENNY
HALF PENNY
TWO PENCE
2½d

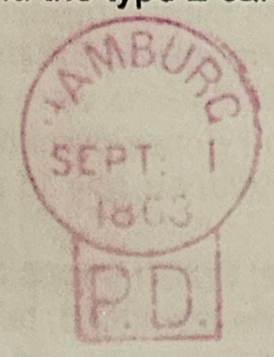
POSTAGE
SIX PENCE

## *British Post Office in Hamburg, Germany*

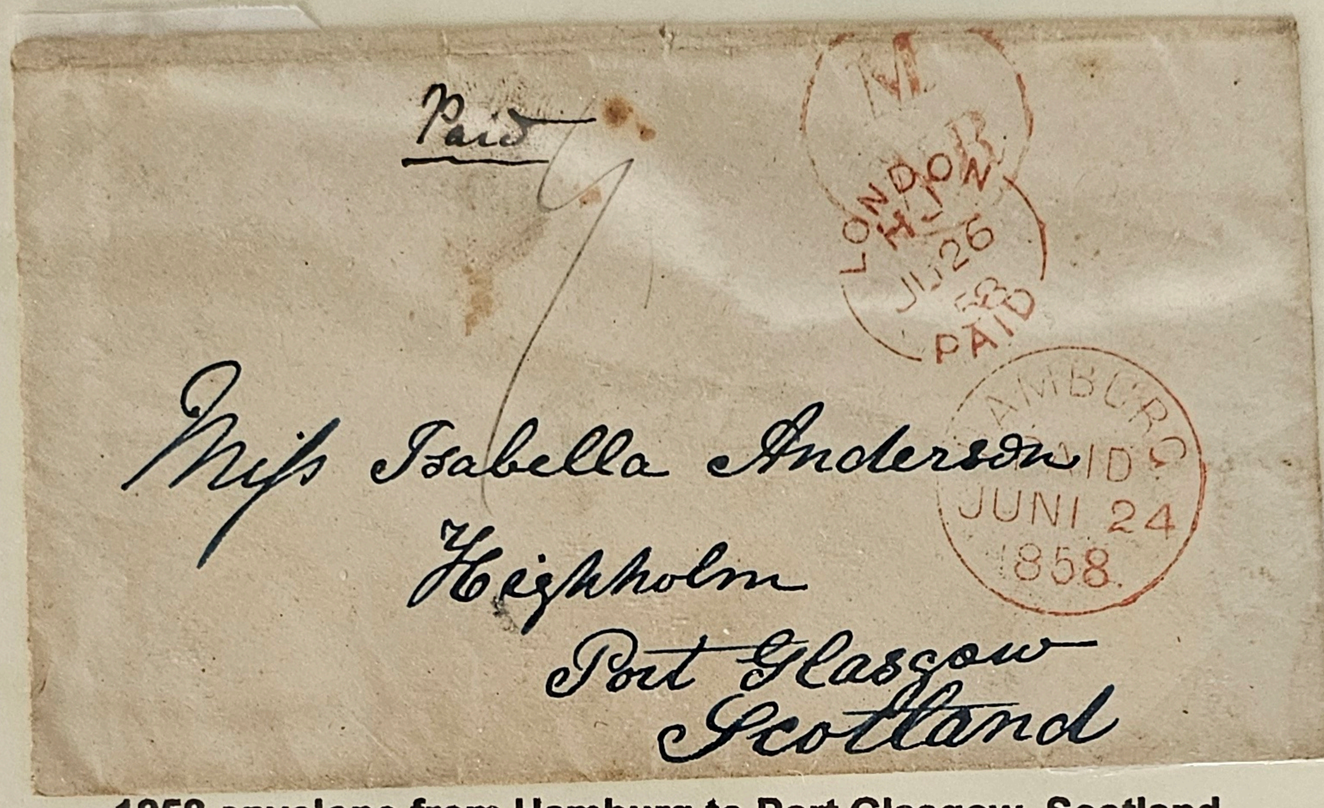
It is possible that there were British Post Offices in Bremen and other Northern German ports, but only Hamburg has been recorded. The Post Office in Hamburg used a straight two line handstamp in the early years of the 19th century (two covers dated 1802 and 1805 were sold in the *Glassco* auction). The Lowe type 1 cancel is recorded used from 1859 to 1862 (the cover below is dated June 1858) and the type 2 cancel from 1863 to 1866




Lowe Type 1




Lowe Type 2




**1858 envelope from Hamburg to Port Glasgow, Scotland**

**1863 cover from Hamburg to London**

**Sources**

*Glassco Collection British Post Offices Abroad Auction Catalogue 25-27 November 1969 Robson Lowe London*
*Lowe, R (1948, The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postal Stamps Volume I Great Britain and the Empire in Europe Robson Lowe, London*