

1801

SHIP LETTERS

Amsterdam to Baltimore via Philadelphia

Ship Atlantic, Capt. Wm. Penrose

August 7, 1801. Letter datelined at Amsterdam and headed "or via Rotterdam." It is endorsed: pr the Atlantic/Capt. Wm Penrose philada.



SHIP

12 1/2

October 3. The ship Atlantic arrived at Philadelphia. She was a 331 ton ship built 1790 at Philadelphia, registered at the port of New York March 4, 1802.

Letter struck with the 24mm. circular date stamp at Philadelphia and the small 15 x 3mm. handstamp SHIP.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, single 90 to 150 miles at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in manuscript. Originally the postal clerk had not added the 2¢ and corrected by writing a "4" over the "2".

1804

SHIP LETTERS

Amsterdam to Baltimore via Philadelphia

Brig Lovely Lass

July 28, 1804. Letter datelined at Amsterdam. It is endorsed: p. the Lovely Lass/via philad. The Lovely Lass was a 204 ton brig built in 1795 at Philadelphia. She was registered at the Port of New York on March 1, 1798.



SHIP

October 6. The Lovely Lass arrived at Philadelphia. The 24mm. circular date stamp of Philadelphia is found here with a fine strike of the arched SHIP, 19 x 5mm.

Letter rated, Act of 1799, 90 to 150 miles at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1810

SHIP LETTERS

Lisbon to Saybrook via Philadelphia

PHI - SHIP

Ship Hope

September 3, 1810. Letter, datelined at Lisbon, concerns a shipment of sheep from Portugal. It was handed to Captain Dill of the ship Hope, 171 tons, built 1803 at Saybrook, Conn.



SHIP

October 22, 1810. Ship Hope incoming at Philadelphia where letter was received into the U.S. Postal System. 23½ mm. PHI circle and a fine SHIP mark in a slightly curved format.

Letter rated under Act of March 2, 1799, single letter 150 to 300 miles, Philadelphia to "Say Brook", Connecticut at 17¢ + 2¢ captain's gratuity making 19¢ due for a Ship Letter.

1824

SHIP LINE

Charleston, S.C. to Philadelphia

Ship General Wade Hampton

Samuel Brooks, Philadelphia agent. Benjamin R. Smith, Charleston agent. Line was formed in 1820 and discontinued in 1830, probably due to competition. New agents were appointed in 1821.

The 240 ton ship General Wade Harrison came into the line in 1821 as the third vessel. Captain was Francis Harrison.



March 27, 1824. A letter from Isaac Harby, private secretary to Gov. John L. Wilson of South Carolina, enclosing a map of South Carolina to John A. Shulze, governor of Pennsylvania.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived at Philadelphia April 13: Ship Gen. Wade Hampton, Harrison, Charleston.

Letter rated, Act of 1816, 80 to 150 miles, Philadelphia to Harrisburg, at 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢ due.



PAID

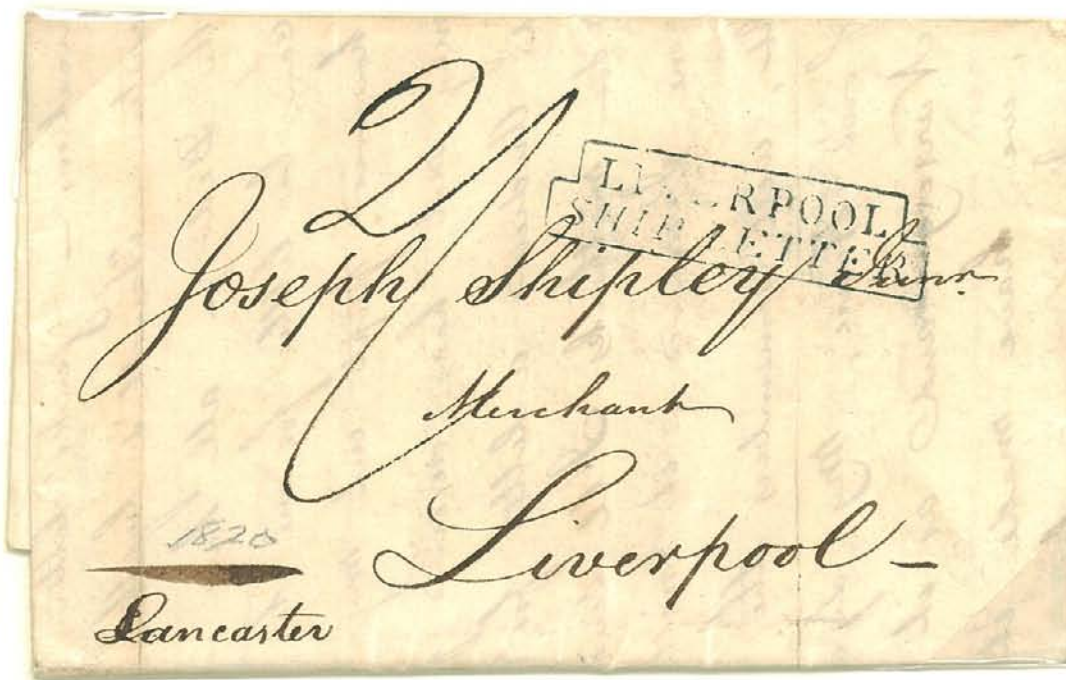
April 16. Letter was forwarded to Gov. Shulze to a distance not over 30 miles as evidenced by the 6¢ forwarding postage. This letter was bundled with others, so the forwarding address appeared only on the top letter.

1820

COPE'S PHILADELPHIA LINE TO LIVERPOOL  
Packet Ship Lancaster

The 383 ton ship Lancaster was the first in Cope's Line, Thomas Potts, master. She was replaced by the 482 ton Algonquin in 1824.

November 9, 1820. Letter dated at Philadelphia. The writer mentions to his friend Joe that he had dispatched a letter to him at Liverpool by the Packet Ship Albion (Black Ball Line) from New York. He also notes that there are several ships at Philadelphia about to sail for Liverpool, including the Lancaster, by which this letter goes, and the Dido of the Welsh Liverpool Line. This letter was handed directly to Captain Potts of the Lancaster, as endorsed.



LIVERPOOL  
SHIP LETTER

Lancaster arrived at Liverpool. This letter was rated as a double letter (enclosures are noted), Act of 1812, letter not exceeding 15 miles at 4d. + 8d. Ship Letter charge = 12d. or one shilling x 2 = 2 shillings due, shown as 2/- on letter face.

1824

COPE'S PHILADELPHIA LINE TO LIVERPOOL

Packet Ship Montezuma

The MONTEZUMA handstamp

The 424 ton packet ship Montezuma, master Charles Dixey, was in the original Cope fleet in 1822. She was still in the Line at least until 1827. On this 1824 voyage the master was Thomas Potts. This vessel should not be confused with the 924 ton Montezuma of the Black Ball Line (1843).

Because of the need to expedite mail, Thomas Cope & Son of Philadelphia used a hand stamp to identify the conveying vessel as well as the manuscript endorsement: pr. Montezuma. The handstamp is seldom seen, only a few strikes exist.

MONTEZUMA

LIVERPOOL  
SHIP LETTER

D  
15JY15  
1824



N.Y. Shipping List & Price Current. Philadelphia: Cleared June 19,  
Ship Montezuma, Potts for Liverpool.

July 13. Montezuma arrived at Liverpool, backstamped as a Ship Letter.

July 15. London arrival backstamp. Letter rated, Act of 1812, zone

170-230 mi. at 11d. + 8d. Ship Letter = 1/7d. x 2 = 3sh.2d., shown as 3/2.

1826-27

COPE'S PHILADELPHIA LINE TO LIVERPOOL  
Packet Ship Algonquin

The 482 ton ship Algonquin replaced the pioneer ship of Cope's Line the Lancaster in 1824. Charles Dixey, formerly of Cope's Montezuma, was the Algonquin's first commander.

December 15, 1826. Letter Quaker dated at Philadelphia and endorsed: p Algonquin.

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Philadelphia: Cleared December 19, 1826. Ship Algonquin, Dixey....Liverpool.



LIVERPOOL  
SHIP LETTER



January 11, 1827. Algonquin arrived at Liverpool, backstamped SHIP LETTER.

January 13. Arrival backstamp at London.

Letter rated, Act of 1812, zone rate for a letter conveyed 170 to 230 miles inland (Liverpool to London = 206 miles) at 11d. + 8d. Ship Letter charge = 19d. or 1sh.7d. shown as 1/7 in manuscript.

1827

COPE'S PHILADELPHIA LINE TO LIVERPOOL

Packet Ship Montezuma

March 16, 1827. Letter dated at Philadelphia and endorsed: Montezuma.  
In 1827 William West, Jr. was master of this 424 ton packet ship.



Shipping & Commercial List (N.Y.). Philadelphia. Cleared March 21,  
Ship Montezuma, West...Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL  
SHIP LETTER

B  
27APL 7  
1827

April 26. Montezuma arrived at Liverpool, Ship Letter receiving backstamp.

April 27. London receiving backstamp. Letter rated, Act of 1812, for a letter conveyed 170 to 230 miles ( Liverpool to London is 206 miles) at 11d. plus 8d. Ship Letter charge = 19d. = 1sh.7d. due, shown as 1/7 in manuscript.



1831

SHIP LETTERS

Palermo, Italy to Boston via Philadelphia

Ship Edward

September 4, 1831. Letter datelined at Palermo. It is endorsed:  
p Edward/via Phila. The writer notes having previously written on  
July 11 per George.



SHIP

November 19. The Edward arrived at Philadelphia. Receiving  
24mm. circular datestamp of Philadelphia. SHIP mark is 21 x 5mm.

This letter was first rated under the 1825 rates for a single  
letter 150 to 400 miles, Philadelphia to Boston at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢  
Ship Letter fee = 20-3/4¢. This was corrected to a double letter  
as there was an enclosure (a bill of lading) at 18-3/4¢ x 2 =  
37½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter = 39½¢ due.

1827

Kingston, Jamaica to New York via St. Jago de Cuba

Ship Bristol, Kingston to St. Jago

Brig American, St. Jago to Philadelphia

*To Mr. B. J. Hunt's Commodore  
to be forwarded by Messrs. Wright  
Messrs. G. to its destination*



*PHS  
14/12*

*Harmon Burdicks Esq  
New-York*

*Bristol  
via  
St Jago de Cuba*

COMMERCIAL BOOKS

*Jan 1827  
L. E. Hunt*

1827

Kingston, Jamaica to New York via St. Jago de Cuba & Philadelphia  
Ship Bristol, Kingston to St. Jago  
Brig American, St. Jago to Philadelphia

FORWARDING AGENT  
COMMERCIAL ROOMS  
Kingston, Jamaica

August 15, 1827. Letter dated at Kingston, Jamaica. It is  
endorsed on the reverse: "With B. Leblue's Compliments  
to be forwarded by Messrs. Wright  
Skelton & Co. to its destination."

Wright Skelton & Co. were predecessors to Wright Brooks & Co.  
of Santiago de Cuba (St. Jago.)

### COMMERCIAL ROOMS

This letter was handed into the Commercial Rooms at Kingston,  
where it was endorsed: p. Bristol/via/St. Jago de Cuba. They struck  
the seldom seen straight line backstamp COMMERCIAL ROOMS (R.F. 8)  
found in use 1825-32. The ship Bristol conveyed the letter to St.  
Jago.



SHIP

*Handwritten signature or initials*

October 2, 1827. Letter arrived at Philadelphia. Shipping &  
Commercial List (N.Y.) Arrived at Philadelphia, October 4 (sic),  
Brig American, Moore, St. Jago de Cuba.

Letter rated, Act of 1825, single letter, 80 to 150 miles,  
Philadelphia to New York, at 12½¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge =  
14½¢ due, shown in manuscript.

1842

SHIP LETTERS

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA

Consignee's Letter

Ship Shenandoah

August 6, 1842. Letter datelined at Liverpool concerns shipping of bar iron in 3 bundles from New Quay, Liverpool per the Ship Shenandoah and includes a detailed invoice. This letter was aboard the same ship as a consignee's letter.



September 17, 1842. Arrived at Philadelphia, Ship Shenandoah, West, from Liverpool (N.Y. Shipping List). Docket notes received Sept. 19 at William L. Potts & Son. It also bears the certification of the U.S. Customs House at Philadelphia.

From March 2, 1799 until April 1, 1855, unpaid incoming Ship Letters were charge 6¢ due if addressed to the port of entry. Philadelphia strikes were usually in blue. This is an uncommon octagonal "6".

COPE LINE

USS 055.0

1845

SHIP LETTERS  
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA

Ship Swatara, Capt. Smith

August 7, 1845. A bill of lading dated at Liverpool regarding goods shipped per Swatara. Noted on face: Consignees p Swatara.



SHIP

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived at Philadelphia September 9, 1845, Ship Swatara, Smith, Liverpool.

Letter rated 6¢ due for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival. SHIP mark is 27 x 3.5 mm. The blue "6" octagonal charge mark is also found in black.

1852

SHIP LETTERS

PERNAMBUCO TO BOSTON VIA PHILADELPHIA

Brig R. F. Loper

August 24, 1852. Henry Forster's Circular advising of imports and exports at Pernambuco, Brazil. They also note arrivals: August 9, Brig R.F. Loper...Philadelphia...1,181 brls. Flour, Tea, Dry Goods &c.

Letter face is endorsed: R.F. Loper, to be carried by that vessel on her return voyage to Philadelphia.



Shipping & Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at Philadelphia October 9,10: Brig R.F. Loper, Kenney....Pernambuco.

Letter rated, Act of 1851, single letter rate per  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz., not exceeding 3000 miles and not paid at 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1853

SHIP LETTERS

PERNAMBUCO. BRAZIL TO BOSTON VIA PHILADELPHIA

Schooner John Farnum

June 8, 1853. Prices current dated at Pernambuco. The shipping list within notes that the John Farnum from Philadelphia had arrived at Pernambuco on May 28. They also refer to advices received dated 20th May per "Teviot" steamer (of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. The Teviot had left Southampton April 9 and touched at Montevideo May 20 - Ed.) This letter is endorsed: J. Farnum.



SHIP

July 16. The John Farnum arrived at Philadelphia. Letter is docketed: Sch. John Farnum/July 16/53.

Rated, Act of 1851, single unpaid letter not exceeding 3000 miles at 5¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 7¢ due, shown by the unusually heavy rim encircled "7" of Philadelphia.

1855

SHIP LETTERS  
PHILADELPHIA  
RIO DE JANEIRO TO NEW BEDFORD VIA PHILADELPHIA  
Ship Floating Zephyr, Capt. Blanchard

October 6, 1855. Prices Current and Shipping List from Maxwell Wright & Co. at Rio de Janeiro. The letter is endorsed: p Floating Zephyr.



SHIP

5

November 20. Shipping & Commercial List (N.Y.). Arrived at Philadelphia November 20, Ship Floating Zephyr, Blanchard..... Rio Janeiro. Imports at Phila., Rio Janeiro - Ship Floating Zephyr, Coffee 9000 bags.

Letter rated, Act of March 3, 1855,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. letter not over 3000 miles at 3¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 5¢ due.

20 x 5mm. SHIP.



1857-58

SHIP LETTERS  
PHILADELPHIA

Port-au-Prince to Boston via Philadelphia  
Brig Rolling Wave, Capt. Viqueres

November 19, 1857. A letter headed at Port-au-Prince from John B. Hepburn noting that a great deal of building was being done there, and he says, "I beg you to send me by first opportunity the following: 4 kegs each 8d. & 10d. nails, 6 kegs of other dimensions assorted, half wrought and half cut. 2 kegs slate nails, 2 kegs ditto cut. 1 keg 8 or 10 inch wrought & 1 keg ditto cut ditto - in all 26 kegs."

He also orders woolen socks, combs and Mohair curls for ladies. He endorsed the letter: Ship Letter.



SHIP

5



New York Shipping List and Price Current, January 16, 1858.  
Arrived Philadelphia January 12, Brig Rolling Wave, Viqueres, Port-au-Prince, via Nassau.

Ibid.: Imports, at Philadelphia, Port-au-Prince - Brig Rolling Wave, Logwood 584,000 lb.-Mahogany 194 crotches. N. Am. & U.S. Gaz.

Letter rated, Act of 1855, half-ounce letter not over 3000 miles at 3¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 5¢ due. Rate due shown by a nicely slanted "5".

20 x 5mm. SHIP.

1859

LINE OF LIVERPOOL PACKETS

Ship Lancaster

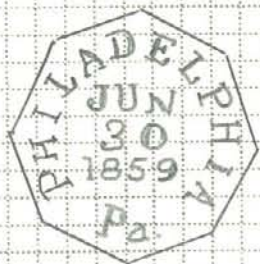
Liverpool to Philadelphia

This line was founded in November 1850, to sail from Philadelphia the 1st and from Liverpool on the 18th of each month. It was known in Liverpool as "Philadelphia Line of Packets."



May 16, 1859. Datelined at Liverpool, a consignee's bill for goods shipped aboard the Lancaster, which sailed on schedule from Liverpool May 18.

Ship Lancaster, 1195 tons, built 1856, Peter A. Decan, Master.



SHIP



June 30. N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived at Philadelphia, Ship Lancaster, Decan, from Liverpool.

Letter marked with the straight line 20 x 5 mm. SHIP handstamp. The double rim octagonal "6" is for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival, 6¢ due. This mark is also found in blue.

1860

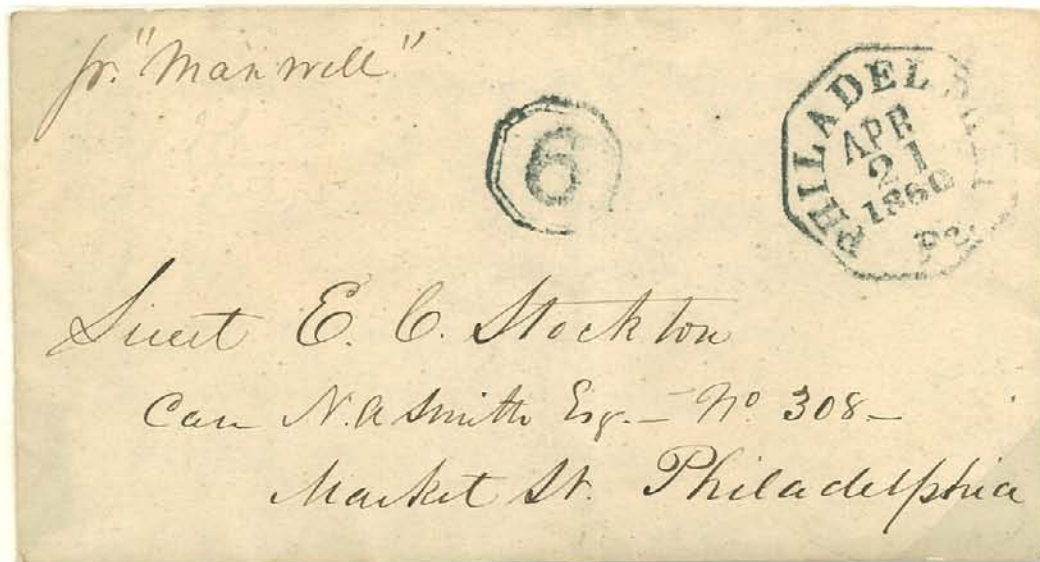
CARACAS, VENEZUELA TO PHILADELPHIA

Barque Joseph Maxwell

SHIP LETTER

April 4, 1860. A letter from the Legation of the United States at Caracas. The writer, E.A. Turpin, describes the aftermath of a revolution to overthrow the government, with several armed bands of 3 or 400 men still active in several parts of the country, although in general the revolution is crushed.

He mentions regular visits of the Rowena and the "Maxwell", and is looking forward for mail via these vessels. Letter is endorsed: p. "Maxwell". The bark Joseph Maxwell departed from Porto Cabelle, the port city of Caracas.



N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List. Arrived at Philadelphia April 22, Barque Joseph Maxwell, Davis.....Porto Cabello.

Letter rated at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

A manuscript note on the reverse says, "Recd. Monday morning April 23d. 1860 at 8 o'clock and forwarded by 1st mail @ 11 o'clock AM.

N.A. Smith."

1861

SHIP LETTERS

PHILADELPHIA

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO TO NEW YORK VIA PHILADELPHIA

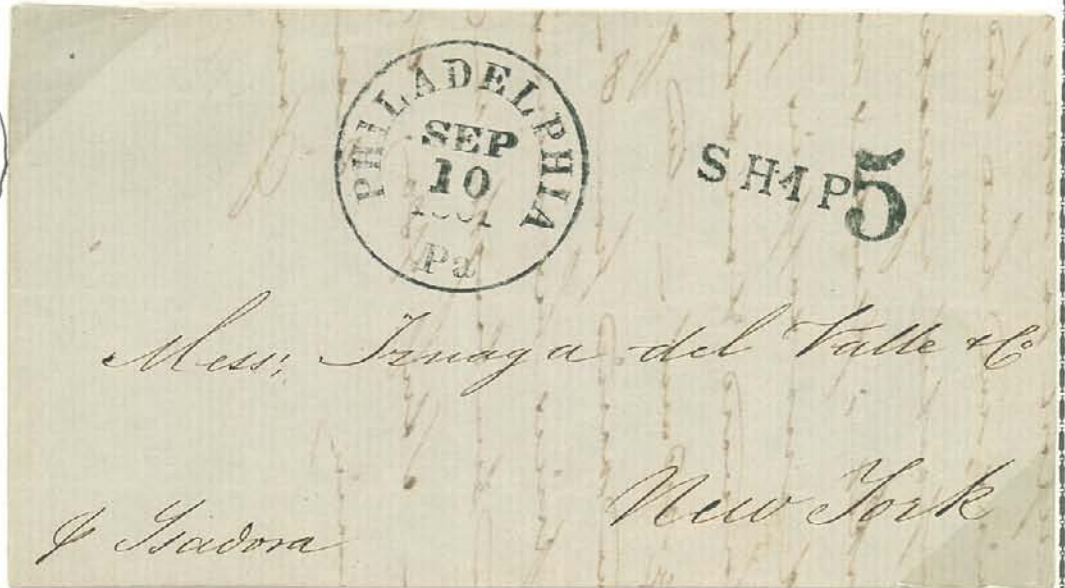
Brig Isadora - Ashore on Long Beach, N.J., mails forw'd overland

August 19, 1861. Letter dated at St. John (San Juan,) P.R. and endorsed: p Isadora. This vessel sailed from Porto Rico for New York on August 20.



SHIP

5



N.Y. Shipping List & Price Current. September 11. DISASTERS, GALES &c. BRIG ISADORA from Porto Rico, with sugar and molasses for New-York, went ashore night of 8th inst., four miles west of Little Egg Harbor Inlet. The vessel lay head on, making a little water. She is 194 tons register, built at Lincolnville in 1853. Assistance has been sent.

N.Y. S.L. & P.C., September 18. Brig ISADORA, from Porto Rico to New-York, ashore on Long Beach, sailed from St. Johns, Aug. 20, with 275 hds. sugar and molasses.

September 8. When the Isadora went aground on the South New Jersey shore at Little Egg Harbor Inlet, her mail bags went ashore and were transported overland to Philadelphia, the nearest large post office. Her mails were there treated as Ship Letters.

September 10. Letter rated at Philadelphia, Act of 1861, as not over  $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. at 3¢ not exceeding 3,000 miles + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 5¢ due.

The Isadora was finally got off the shoal as she was registered at New York on October 25, 1861.

1862

SHIP LETTERS  
PHILADELPHIA

Barbadoes to Philadelphia

Bark Aaron I. Harvey

May 24, 1862. Letter dated at Bridgetown (Barbadoes). It concerns mostly personal matters, and that a letter entrusted to "Mr. Bayley" a fortnight ago as he was going to Philadelphia, was still in his hands at Barbadoes and the writer states, "No doubt you will by this opportunity [the A. I. Harvey] receive one from me by Mr. Bayley."



Boston Shipping List, June 16. Arrived at Philadelphia June 11:  
Bark Aaron I. Harvey, Miller...Barbadoes.

Letter rated under Act of February 27, 1861: Private ship letter to or intra-U.S. 5¢ each if for delivery at port of arrival: 2¢ each plus regular postage if further forwarded through the mail. Here rated 5¢ for delivery to port of arrival.

An additional 2¢ was added to the 5¢ Ship Letter charge for a carrier fee, shown by the encircled 7¢.

1873

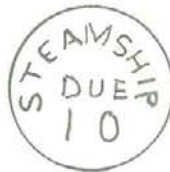
PHILADELPHIA & SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY

S. S. Yazoo

New Orleans to Philadelphia via Havana.



April 3, 1873. Letter dated and headed at Havana, endorsed: P. Yazoo. This 1285 ton wooden paddle steamer, built 1863 at Mystic, Connecticut, was in the P. & S. M.S.S. Co. line together with the steamships Juniata and Star of the Union. These vessels formed this fleet that made semi-weekly passages Philadelphia-Havana-New Orleans. S.S. Yazoo picked up this letter at Havana en route to Philadelphia.



April 9. Yazoo arrived at Philadelphia. The 10¢ Steamship Letter rate was due, shown by the Philadelphia charge mark (W. P.6.)

1844

SHIP LETTER

GLASGOW TO PHILADELPHIA VIA L'POOL & BOSTON



Nov. 16, 1844. Deccagonal Glasgow receipt stamp ("duplicate" letter datelined 2 Nov.). 1 shilling transatlantic rate prepaid (required) and directed via Liverpool on Cunard steamer to Boston.

Nov. 18. Oval Liverpool "packet office" backstamp.

20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Letter ~~marked~~ incoming at Boston with the scarce blue handstamp rate mark showing postage due of 18-3/4¢ inland rate, single 150-400 miles, Boston to Philadelphia + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢.

Cunard R.M.S. Caledonia  
arrived at Boston Dec. 7, 1844.

Docket notes letter received December 10, 1844.

N.B. Rate mark "20 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" struck at Philadelphia