

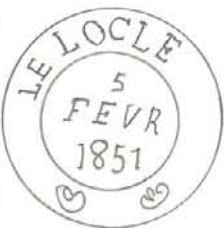
1851

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. BY BRITISH OPEN MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Europa

The rates to Switzerland by British Open Mail, effective July 1, 1849 to July 1, 1857, were 5¢ per ½-oz. by British Packet, 21¢ by American Packet. The 5¢ British included only to or from the U.S. port, the 21¢ American included to or from a British port. All other charges had to be paid or collect in Switzerland.



N.1172



P.F.



5

B.515



Feb. 5, 1851. Letter posted at Le Locle, Switzerland and paid to the port of debarkation at Boston. The letter was rated in Switzerland at 260 rappen (a Swiss centime equal to the French centime). The paid amount is shown on the reverse in manuscript at 26 decimes (= 260 cent.), the rate per 7½ grams via England at 130 r. for the 1st Rayon. Double weight took 130r. x 2 = 260r.

Feb. 5. French entry mark at the small town of Morteau, the 2's show that this mark was struck at the larger rail center of Besancon. The unusual mark P.F. (Payee au Frontier) was struck. The usual mark seen is P.P. (Port Payee) or paid to port.

February 6. Paris transit backstamp.

February 8. Transit mark at London. The Collins Line S.S. Baltic had departed from Liverpool February 8, so this letter missed her sailing. The letter was held for the February 15 departure of R.M.S. Europa from Liverpool.

February 28. Europa reached Boston where 5¢ was due for a letter not over ½-oz. by British Packet.

1852

PHILADELPHIA TO SWITZERLAND VIA ENGLAND & FRANCE
COLLINS LINE U.S.M.S. Pacific



25-

July 8, 1852. This letter, addressed to LaFerriere, Canton of Bern, Switzerland, was originally endorsed: via Steamer Africa. It was paid at 5¢, the July 1849 rate to Switzerland by British Packet. The 5¢ paid only the U.S. postage, the balance to be collected in Switzerland. The 5¢ was shown in manuscript and also in the red Philadelphia handstamp. However, the

postal clerk on checking the sailing lists discovered that a U.S. packet was due to sail from New York on July 10, rather than Africa, a British packet, which would not depart until July 14. The letter was rerated at the American Open Mail rate of 21¢ by marking in pen both the red lozenge and the manuscript "5" and deleting "Africa". The letter was thus expedited by four days. The 21¢ paid U.S. Inland 5¢ + transatlantic postage of 16¢.

July 10. U.S.M.S. Pacific departed from New York for Liverpool.

July 21. Pacific arrived at Liverpool.

July 22. French entry mark, mail from the U.S., American Packet entering France at Calais. B.A. = Bureau Ambulant (RR).



S. 1173



July 24. Bern transit backstamp. The letter was rated at 260 rappen due (a Swiss centime equal to the French centime). As all of the U.S. and transatlantic postage had been paid in America, this letter was subject only to the Second Period, 1 Jan. 1852 - 15 Dec. 1854, rates for U.S. mail via England. Switzerland had joined the Latin currency union and adapted its own to the French currency where one rappen = one centime. The new rate was per 7½ grams via England by Packet Boat at 130 r. for the 1st Rayon. Double weight took 130 r. x 2 = 260 r. due.

1852

U.S. TO SWITZERLAND PER AMERICAN OPEN MAIL
COLLINS LINE

U.S.M.S. Atlantic



PAID

21



September 3, 1852. A letter paid at Providence in cash at the 21¢ per ½-oz. American Open Mail rate to Switzerland, effective July 1849 to July 1857. This consisted of 16¢ Sea (American Packet)+ 5¢ U.S. Inland = 21¢, and carried the letter to the port of debarkation at Liverpool. The letter was handled as endorsed: Steamer Collins Line/Liverpool/Sat. 4 Sep. N. York.

September 4. The U.S. Mail Steamship Atlantic of the Collins Line departed from New York for Liverpool. The New York Exchange Office mark is the earliest recorded date for this handstamp. It was in use until December 20, 1856.

September 14. Atlantic arrived at Liverpool, transit backstamp at London September 15.

September 16. French entry mark showing mail from the U.S. by American Packet. Bureau Ambulant (railway) at Calais.

September 17. Geneva arrival backstamp. Cover was marked in red "130" for a collect amount of 130 rappen, the single rate from Liverpool to Geneva via France.



1858

U.S. TO SWITZERLAND VIA FRANCE

Rates of April 1857

21

21¢ per ¼-oz.) - Prepayment optional
42¢ per ½-oz.)



Sept. 15, 1858.
Letter direction-ally endorsed "Via Paris" was prepaid in cash at the ¼-oz. rate via France, that amount noted in pencil. Also noted "p. Str. Africa". Royal Mail Steamer Africa departed from N.Y. for



Liverpool on Sept. 15. The New York Exchange Office mark debits the U.S. for all but 3¢ U.S. Domestic postage.

Sept. 27. Africa arrived at Queenstown this date and went on to L'pool where she arrived Sept. 28. French mail went ashore at Q'town. thence to Dover-Calais. French entry mark notes British Service, A.C. = Ambulant (T.P.O.) Calais.



Sept. 28. Transit backstamp at Paris. French Payee au Destination (P.D.) mark.



Sept. 29. Transit backstamp at Besancon, French Exchange Office with Switzerland. Small "24" at base is the number of the French Department of Doubs of which Besancon is the capitol.



Sept. 29. Le Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland exchanged mails with Besancon, France. Transit backstamp.



Sept. 29. St. Imier, Switzerland arrival backstamp.

1858

SAN FRANCISCO TO SWITZERLAND

Paid Letter

Prussian Closed Mail Rate of Oct. 1852



W.P.D. Sheet Protector M-102

W.P.D. Sheet Protector M-102

1858

SAN FRANCISCO TO SWITZERLAND

Paid Letter

Prussian Closed Mail Rate of Oct. 1852

1. Pacific Mail Steamship Company, S. Francisco to Panama
2. United States Mail Steamship Company, Aspinwal to N.Y.

U.S. Mail Steamer Illinois

3. Cunard Line, Boston to Liverpool

Royal Mail Steamer Canada



70

November 5, 1858. Letter posted paid at the Oct. 1852 Prussian Closed Mail rate of 35¢ per 1/2-oz., double rate 35¢ x 2 = 70¢ paid. From the Swiss Consulate, letter also bears a beautiful red seal across the back flap. Letter was transported by Pacific Mail Steamship Co. to Panama. NB: For Swiss rates see Chronicle 93, Pg. 64-5.

Nov. 28, 1858. U.S. Mail Steamer Illinois, Capt. McGowan, arrived at New York from Aspinwal.

24



AACHEN 14:12 FRANCO

Nov. 30. Letter at New York, directed by British Packet per the Prussian Closed Mail. It was marked with credit to Prussia of 2¢ Belgian transit, 5¢ GAPA, 5¢ foreign = 12¢ x 2 (double letter) = 24¢. The R.M.S. Canada sailed Dec. 1 from Boston, arrived L'pool Dec. 13. Mail bulked N.Y. through Boston and England.

Dec. 14. Prussian mail bags arrived at Aachen where bulk was broken and letter forwarded to Switzerland.



E.B. 16 Dez.
CURSV.a.

Dec. 16-19. Transit back-stamps to Locarno. E.B. = Eisenbahn (railroad).



N.B.: For Swiss rates see Chronicle 93, Pg. 64-5.

1859

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
BRITISH PACKETS: SWITZERLAND - U. S. VIA FRANCE



June 6, 1859.
Locle, Switzerland receipt.
Letter is invoice
for watch move-
ments.



June 7. Swiss-
France transit
mark applied at
Morteau, France.



June 7. Belfort
to Paris, RR.



June 8. Paris to
Calais, RR transit



French Exchange
Office transit stamp
shows mail handled by
British.



June 22. N.Y. Exchange Office
Rate of 21¢ due from recipient.
18¢ (mms. U.L.) Swiss, French
and Transatlantic crossing
share. 3¢ to U.S. for domestic
internal postage.

R.M.S. Persia departed L'pool. June
11, 1859, arrived N.Y. June 22.

1862

ST. LOUIS TO SWITZERLAND VIA N.Y., BOSTON, ENGLAND & FRANCE
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Arabia



September 26, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at St. Louis, Missouri. It was endorsed: By Steamer via Liverpool & Calais. A manuscript notation of ".35" indicated the Prussian Closed Mail rate of 35¢/½-oz. effective October 1852.

September 30. Letter in transit at New York where the Exchange Office debited Britain for 3¢ U.S. Inland. The letter was forwarded to Boston to meet the next Cunard Line sailing from that port.

October 1. R.M.S. Arabia departed from Boston for Liverpool via Queenstown.

October 11. Arabia arrived at Queenstown.

October 14. French entry mark, U.S. mail, British Service at Calais.

October 15. Swiss Ambulant (TPO) backstamp, train between Neuchâtel and Pontarlier, the latter a French exchange office.

In Switzerland the letter was charged at 110 rappen, equivalent to 21¢, the April 1857 rate for a ¼-oz. letter for mail from the U.S. by French handling, rather than the PCM rate of 35¢. The recipient got a break on this letter as it was correctly rated by the Swiss Post Office.

110

1862

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Asia



N. 1126



18

October 1, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at Vevey, Switzerland, a town on Lac Lemane (the Lake of Geneva.) It was routed through France, so was subject to the 21¢ per ¼-oz. rate to the U.S., effective April 1, 1857 to January 1870. Same day transit backstamp at Lausanne, evening (Soir) time stamp.

October 3. Letter entered France at Bellegarde. The small 3's show this mark was struck at Paris. U.S. was debited for French transit and Sea postage at 18¢, shown by the manuscript "18". Mail was closed through Great Britain.

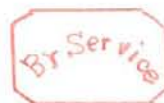
October 4. R.M.S. Asia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter with the British and European mails at Queenstown the 5th.



October 17. Asia landed at Boston. The Exchange Office mark shows 21¢ due, the April 1857 rate from Switzerland. After the 18¢ debit, U.S. retained 3¢ U.S. Inland postage.

1863

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE AND BRITAIN
21¢ per ¼-oz., Rate Effective April 1857 to Jan. 1870
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Scotia



July 3, 1863. This unpaid letter was posted at Vernex, Switzerland. It transited through France which country it entered at Pontarlier as shown by the French entry mark which was struck at Paris. The rate at this time via France was 21¢ per ¼-oz., as opposed to 35¢ per ½-oz. by Prussian Closed Mail. French marked it "British Service" indicating handling by British Packet via England.

July 6. R.M.S. Scotia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for N.Y. via Queenstown. She called at the latter port on June 7 to pick up the U.S. bound mails which had been forwarded from London.

July 16. Scotia arrived at New York where the bulked mails were forwarded to Boston. Letter received identity at Boston where 21¢ in coin or 25¢ in depreciated currency (U.S. NOTES) was due.

France was allowed a credit of 18¢ for French and British transit. U.S. retained 3¢.

18



1864

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U. S. TO SWITZERLAND

1863 Rates

Prussian Closed Mail via England

In 1864 there were several options open to sending a 1/4-oz. letter to Switzerland, all the way from 19¢ by Bremen or Hamburg Packet to 42¢ by French Mail. The May 1863 rates by Prussian Closed Mail were:

- 33¢ Prepaid
- 35¢ Unpaid.



L

March 8, 1864. Letter posted at the 33¢ prepaid rate of May 1863 to Switzerland.

March 12. New York Exchange Office marked letter in transit and credited Prussia with 7¢ + 5¢ in excess of the International (28¢) rate = 12¢.

AACHEN 25 3
FRANCO

f2



Mar. 25. Bulk broken at Aachen and mail forwarded to Switzerland. Marked in blue f2, showing that the postage beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union of 2 silbergroschen (5¢) had been paid.

Mar. 26. RR P.O. at Baden, transit bkstp.

Mar. 26. Basel, Swiss entry station backstamp.

1864

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE

21¢ per ¼-oz. rate, effective April 1857 to January 1870

INMAN LINE

S.S. City of Manchester



PD

July 16, 1864. Prepaid letter posted at Luzern, Switzerland, paid by Swiss 10 centimes and 1 franc gold, Issue of 1862. This was equivalent to 21¢ U.S., the prepaid rate to Switzerland via France. Letter is marked "PD" = Paid to Destination.



9.

July 17. French entry mark at St. Louis showing mail from Switzerland (SUISSE) entering France. The rate apportionment was:

International rate	15¢	6¢	retained by France
Excess over IR	6¢	6¢	" " "
	21¢	-12¢	= 9¢ credit to U.S.

The French Exchange office credited the U.S. with 9¢ under the above schedule. Mail was forwarded closed through England.



July 20. The Inman Line's City of Manchester departed from Liverpool, this letter went aboard her July 21 at her port-of-call at Queenstown.

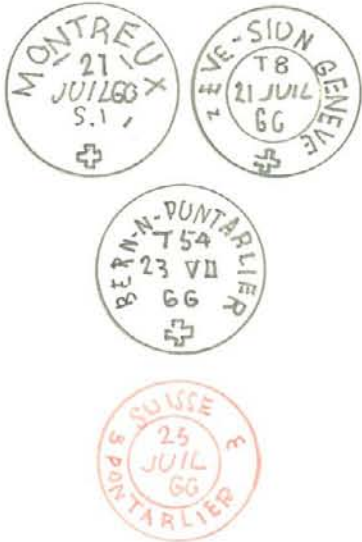
August 5. City of Manchester arrived at New York and passed the Exchange Office as a PAID. The N.Y. mark shows this at the 15¢ French rate, however, this made no difference as the U.S. had been credited with 9¢.

1866

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Java



12 18

July 21, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at Montreux, Switzerland. Railway T.P.O. backstamps trace its route to the French border exchange office at Pontarlier.

July 25. French entry mark (struck twice) showing mail from Switzerland entering France at Pontarlier. The small 3's show that this mark was struck at Paris.

This letter was subject to the 21¢ per ¼-oz. rate from Switzerland to the U.S. via France, effective April 1857 to January 1870. This rate was apportioned as:

		British Packet (debit)
International rate	15¢	12¢
Excess over I.R.,		
beyond France	6¢	6¢
	21¢	18¢ debit.

The French Exchange Office made an initial error and debited the U.S. for only 12¢. They caught the error and made the correct debit to U.S. of 18¢.

July 28. This letter, in a closed bag through England, went aboard R.M.S. Java when she touched at Queenstown July 29, having left Liverpool on the 28th.

August 8. Java arrived at New York. The 21¢ rate, due in gold, was converted to the optional payment in depreciated paper money at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.52 x 21¢ = 32¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1866

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA ENGLAND

21¢ per ¼-oz. Rate, effective April 1857 to January 1870
MONTREAL OCEAN STEAM SHIP CO. S.S. Nova Scotian



18

August 14, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at Vevey, Switzerland. T.P.O. backstamp Geneva-Sion Geneva.

August 15. French entry mark showing mail from Switzerland entering France at Pontarlier. The small 3's show this mark was struck at Paris.

This letter was subject to the 21¢ per ¼-oz. rate from Switzerland to the U.S. via France. This rate was apportioned:

International Rate	15¢	British Packet (debit)	12¢
Excess over I. Rate	6¢		6¢
	<u>21¢</u>		<u>18¢</u>

The 18¢ debit to the U.S. is shown by the handstamp. While mail from the U.K. to the U.S. by the Allan Line was, by contract, treated as by American Packet, mail from or through France was considered by British Packet.

August 16. S.S. Nova Scotian, Allan Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter with the closed French mails at Londonderry August 17.

August 27. Nova Scotian arrived at Quebec. The bagged New York mails went thence by rail, processed August 28. The 21¢ due in gold was shown at the optional payment in depreciated currency by applying the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.43 x 21¢ = 30¢ due in U.S. NOTES.





1866

SWITZERLAND TO U.S., 21¢ per ¼-oz. rate via France.

This cover looks like a miz-up in markings. It was posted unpaid August 14, 1866, at Vevey, Switzerland and entered France Aug. 15 at Pontarlier. The U.S. was debited for 18¢, or all but the 3¢ U.S. Inland, the correct debit by British Packet. The N.Y. Exchange Office clearly shows 21¢ due in gold and "BR. PKT."

However, the closest Cunard sailing to the dates shown in the cover's postmark is: RMS Africa

L/P	Aug. 19
QT	20
Boston	31.

The NY date looks like AUG 28. If forwarded from Boston to NY, one would expect to see a NY date of AUG 31 or SEP 1.

The closest American Packet sailings I can find are:

Inman: <u>City of Paris</u> ,	L/P	Aug. 15
	QT	16
	NY	25.

✓ Allan Line: <u>Nova Scotian</u> ,	L/P	Aug. 16
	Londonderry	17
	Quebec	27.

I know that the French mails to the U.S. via the Canadian Packets were treated as if by British Packet.

Do you think this letter could have gone by Allan Line, or is the AUG 28 date in the NY cds just a clerk's error in not setting the correct date?

- d. **14 August 1866 -Vevey, Switzerland to New York** - I suspect that this letter was carried in 1866 on the Allen Line Nova Scotian. I have seen letters on this voyage with a Portland date of 28 August and a Detroit date of 29 August. The 28 August date for New York looks about right if it came from the Allan Line voyage.

1867

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE
21¢ per ¼-oz. Rate, effective April 1857 to January 1870
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Scotia



June 27, 1867. A prepaid letter posted at Zurich, Switzerland, paid by Swiss 10 centimes Issue of 1867 and 1 franc gold, Issue of 1862. 1 franc 50 cent. x .019¢/cent. = 21¢, or equivalent to the U.S. prepaid rate per ¼-oz. to Switzerland via France. Letter is marked PD = Paid to Destination.



6

June 28. French ambulant (T.P.O.) entry mark showing mail from Switzerland (SUISSE) entering France at St. Louis.

The rate apportionment was:

		BR. PKT. (Credit)
International Rate	15¢	12¢
Excess over I.R., beyond France	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	21¢	- 18¢ = 3¢.

The French Ex change Office made an error and credited U.S. with 6¢ instead of the correct 3¢.



June 29. R.M.S. Scotia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool for New York via Queens-town June 30.

July 8. Scotia arrived at New York. Arrival mark on face at Philadelphia the same day.

1867

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE

21¢ per ¼-oz. Rate, effective April 1857 to January 1870
INMAN LINE S.S. City of London



July 29, 1867. Prepaid letter posted at Vevey, Switzerland, paid by Swiss 10 centimes plus a vertical pair of 50 centimes, Issue of 1867, total 1 franc 10 centimes. This was equivalent to 21¢ U.S., the prepaid rate to Switzerland via France. Letter is marked PD = Paid to Destination.



9.

July 30. French entry mark at Pontarlier showing mail from Switzerland (SUISSE) entering France. Mark struck at Paris.

The rate apportionment was: American Packet (Credit)

International Rate	15¢		6¢
Excess over IR, beyond France	<u>6</u>		<u>6</u>
	21¢	-	12¢ = 9¢.

The French Exchange Office credited the U.S. with 9¢ per the above schedule.



July 31. The Inman Line's City of London departed from Liverpool, this letter went aboard her August 1 at her port of call at Queenstown.

August 4. City of London arrived at New York. Letter was bulked to Philadelphia where the Exchange Office there received it as a PAID letter.

1867

SWITZERLAND TO U.S. VIA FRANCE

21¢ per ¼-oz. Rate, effective April 1857 to January 1870
NORTH GERMAN LLOYD S.S. Bremen



P.D



September 6, 1867. A letter paid at Bex, Switzerland by the Swiss 10 centimes Issue of 1867 and 1 franc gold, Issue of 1862. 1 franc 10 cent. x .019¢/cent. = 21¢, or equivalent to the U.S. prepaid rate per ½-oz. via

France.

September 6. Transit backstamps aboard the Geneva to Sion train and the Bern to Pontarlier, France T.P.O.

September 7. French entry mark showing mail from Switzerland (SUISSE) entering France at Pontarlier. The small 3's show that this mark was struck at Paris.



N.1180

The rate apportionment was:

		AM. PKT. (Credit)	
International Rate	15¢	12¢	
Excess over IR, Beyond France	6	3	
	21¢	18¢	= 9¢ credit to U.S.

The French Exchange Office credited U.S. with 9¢ per the above schedule.

September 10. The North German Lloyd S.S. Bremen called at Southampton where this letter went aboard.

September 21. Bremen arrived at New York.

TA 43518

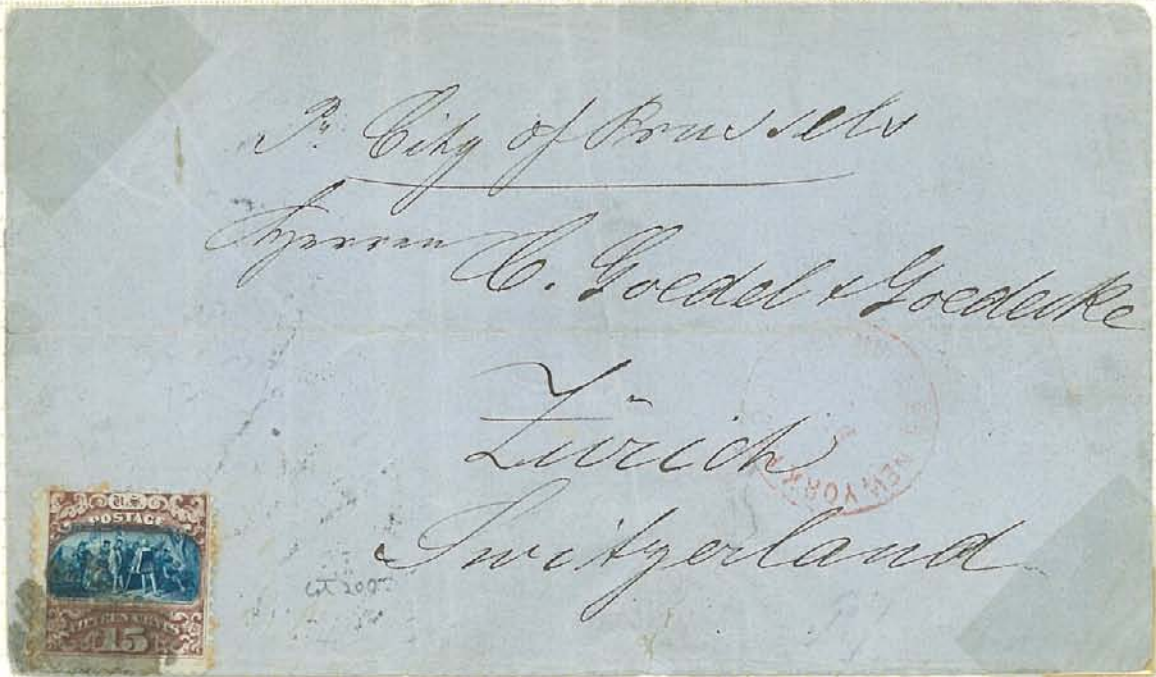
1869

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO SWITZERLAND: Closed Mail via England

1868 RATES

Two 15¢ rates to Switzerland existed, the January 1868 rate, Direct by the North German Union and the April 1868 rate Direct Closed Mail via England. For instance, the rate by French Mail at this time was 21¢.



Dec. 3, 1869. New York Foreign Office marked letter "British Transit", signifying Closed Mail via England. Routed "per City of Brussels", Inman Liner. 15¢ rate paid by Issue of 1869, Type II.

Dec. 15-16, 1869. Swiss entry mark at Basel and arrival mark at Zurich.

1871

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
U.S. TO SWITZERLAND, CLOSED MAIL VIA ENGLAND
NORTH GERMAN LLOYD S.S. Rhein
10¢ per ½ oz., effective May 1870 to July 1, 1875



December 11, 1871. A letter paid at Chicago at the 10¢ rate to Switzerland by closed mail via England. Payment is by the 10¢ National Bank Note Issue of 1870 without grill. Stamp is cancelled by a white cross (or four black squares).

December 16. Transit at New York. S.S. Rhein of the North German Lloyd departed from New York this date for Bremen. She touched at Southampton on December 26, where the closed mail bags went ashore.

The closed mail bags went across Europe to Switzerland.



December 28. Arrival backstamp at Basel.

1872

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
U. S. TO SWITZERLAND

Closed Mail Rate via England, 10¢ per ½-oz.

S. S. Minnesota

GUION LINE



August 12 (ca.), 1872. Letter paid at Kenosha, Wisconsin at the 10¢ rate to Switzerland, closed mail via England by the 10¢ National Bank Note Co. Issue of 1870. "K" in the killer is for Kenosha.



Aug. 14. Transit mark at New York notes, "VIA ENG. & OST^E". N.Y. Times advertised the closing of Foreign Mails at the Post Office Wed., Aug. 14. For Europe via Queenstown, by the Minnesota at 10 A.M.



LONDON, August 26. The Williams & Guion Line steam-ship Minnesota, Capt. Freeman, from New-York Aug. 14, for Liverpool, arr. at Queens-town at 11½ o'clock yesterday morning.

August 28. Arrival backstamp at Basel, Switzerland.

1873

HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

"Hapag"

S.S. Westphalia

10¢ Rate to Switzerland, Closed Mail via England

The 3158 ton Westphalia was built at Caird & Co., Greenock. She was a 340' x 40', straight stem, iron screw steamer launched June 24, 1868. Maiden voyage Hamburg-Southampton-N.Y. September 16, 1868. In 1878 she was rebuilt and compounded. After 1886 she was sold out of the line, scrapped 1901 at Genoa.



W. 259

December 11, 1873. A letter paid at the Closed Mail rate to Switzerland via England of 10¢, effective May 1870 to July 1875 when the G.P.U. became effective. Rate is paid by the 10¢ Continental Bank Note Co. Issue of 1873. The cover is noted: Str. "Westphalia"/ Direct Closed Mail, via England. Also the New York Post Office struck the dated PAID ALL mark showing VIA ENG. & OST. (Ostende in Belgium. The S.S. Westphalia of the Hapag Line departed from N.Y. on December 11.



December 21. Westphalia touched at Plymouth, England where the closed mail bags for Switzerland went ashore. These were sent cross-channel to Ostende then overland to Switzerland.

December 23. Basel arrival back-stamp.

1874

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
U.S. TO SWITZERLAND, CLOSED MAIL VIA ENGLAND
NORTH GERMAN LLOYD S. S. America
10¢ per ½-oz. Rate, effective May 1870 to July 1, 1875



Q6

October 3, 1874. Letter from the office of I. Iselin & Co., shown by their company handstamp on the cover face. The 10¢ per ½-oz. rate to Switzerland was paid by the Continental Bank Note Co. Issue of 1873, secret mark shown. New York foreign mail geometric cancellation. Transit same day as a Paid All letter via England & Ostende, Belgium. Closed mail bags were made up in New York. Letter endorsed: America.

October 3. The North German Lloyd S.S. America departed this date for Europe.

October 14. America arrived at Southampton.



October 16 (reconstructed handstamp). Arrival backstamp at Basel (Bale), Switzerland.

1904

Lee, Maine to Switzerland via New York and Liverpool
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. Etruria



December 8, 1904. A letter to Geneva, Switzerland posted at Lee, Maine and paid at triple the 5¢ U.P.U. rate by three copies of the Issue of 1903.

N.Y. Times. OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS: Saturday, Dec. 10: Etruria, Liverpool; mails close 4 A.M., vessel sails 10 A.M. Minnehaha, Southampton, mails close 4:30 AM, sails 8 A.M.

BY CABLE: SS Etruria, arr. Liverpool December 17.

N.B.: Minnehaha arr. Southampton Dec. 20, too late for this letter.



December 19. Arrival backstamp at Geneva. The Geneva address was deleted and the letter forwarded to Budapest.



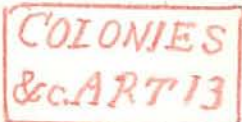
December 30. Letter received back into the mail at Geneva, receiving mark on face. U.P.U. regulations allowed forwarding at no additional charge. This letter had awaited at Geneva for 11 days.

1846

U.S. TO SICILY VIA BRITAIN AND AUSTRIA

R.M.S. Britannia

CUNARD LINE



May 26, 1846. A letter dated at New York and endorsed: Britannia.

May 30. Letter paid 5¢ at New York, the British Open Mail rate to the Two Sicilies, effective August 1851. This in effect paid only the U.S. postage to the port of debarkation, all other charges being collected in Palermo, Sicily. The mails were forwarded by rail from New York to Boston.

June 1. R.M.S. Britannia sailed from Boston for Liverpool.

June 13. Britannia arrived at Liverpool, mails bulked by rail to London where they received identity June 15, backstamp.

Under the Franco-British Treaty, Britain charged France 3sh.4d. per ounce bulk for mail carried via England from Colonies and other countries. This is shown by the COLONIES/&c. ART 13 handstamp, struck at London.

1846

U.S. TO SICILY VIA BRITISH OPEN MAIL



VIA DI
UNINGA

June 15. French entry mark showing mail from ANGL.(terre) arriving at the French port city of Boulogne-sur-Mer.

Straight line handstamp on cover face. With the Austro-France Postal Convention, which came into effect on 1 April 1844, it was decided that France would send mail coming from North of France, England and Belgium by way of Uninga to Milan, which was destined for the Pontifical States, the Two Sicilies, Modena and Parma. At Milan the mail was stamped in red "VIA DI UNINGA" [for Huningue, near Basle].

NAPOLI 1846
27 GIU 30 GIU 1846 MSAG

June 27. Naples transit backstamp.

June 30. Sicily arrival backstamp.

The face of this cover bears the initials MSAG in old English type. These are the initials of the Marchese di San Giacinto, Adminstratore Director General of the posts of Sicily.

27

This letter was marked with 27 grani due (at 27g. x .85¢ U.S./g. = 23¢ or about 1/-). The British were entitled to 1/3d. for a 7½ gram letter sent paid to the Austrian exchange point with the Papal States. This collect amount of 27 grani would not be sufficient to cover the British charges. What looks like a "10" in black has been deleted by the same ink as "27". (See R. Winter correspondence.)

1852

U.S. TO TUSCANY, British Open Mail

R.M.S. Africa

CUNARD LINE

The rate to Italy effective from July 1849, prepaid in the U.S. was 5¢ by British Packet or 21¢ by American Packet, the latter included 16¢ transatlantic Sea Postage. In the case of British Packet, sea and all other charges were collected in Italy.



5

June 2, 1852. 5¢ prepayment at New York in cash, shown by a rather stylized "5" in pencil. R.M.S. Africa of the Cunard Line departed from New York for Liverpool on this date as endorsed on the cover.



June 12. Africa arrived at Liverpool, transit backstamp at London June 13.

June 15. French entry mark showing U.S. mail via British Packet.



June 20. Livorno (Leghorn) arrival backstamp. All other charges totalling 28 decimes, include transatlantic (8d.), British transit (4d.) plus 16d. French and Tuscan handling, shown as the manuscript "28".



1853

ROXBURY, MASS. TO ROME VIA ENGLAND AND FRANCE
CUNARD LINE R.M.S. America



PAID

5

January 18, 1853. A letter posted at Roxbury, Mass., then a separate town (it became part of Boston in 1868), at the 5¢ per ½-oz. letter British Open Mail rate to Italy by British Packet. It is endorsed: p. Steamer America/ for Liverpool.

January 19. R.M.S. America departed from Boston for Liverpool.

January 30. America arrived at Liverpool. Transit backstamp January 31 at London.



February 1. French entry mark struck at Paris on mail by British Packet entering France at Calais.

Backstamp in transit at Genova (Genoa), Italy. Letter probably in transit via French Ligne Indirecte d'Italie in the paquebot Bosphore, which departed from Marseilles February 9.



February 9 (?). Rome arrival backstamp. Postage due was 84 bajocchi (manuscript) for a double letter ("2" in U.L. corner) at 42 baj. x 2 = 84 baj. The British were entitled to 2sh.3d. or 27d. = 54 baj. for transatlantic and British handling. The remaining 30 baj. is an internal Papal States transit fee.



1858

BOSTON TO ROME. ITALY BY PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL

Transatlantic by British Packet R.M.S. America

The Prussian Closed Mail letter rate to Rome and the Papal States, effective October 1852 to May 1860, was set at 35¢ per ½-oz, divided as follows:

	Not over ½-oz.	½-oz, but not over 1-oz.
U.S. Inland	5¢	10¢
Sea and British transit	18	36
Belgian transit	2)	4)
Prussian Inland	5) = 12¢	10) = 24¢
Beyond German-Austrian Postal Union	5)	10)
	<u>35¢</u>	<u>70¢</u>

The U.S. retained the U.S. Inland and Sea and British transit or 23¢ per ½-oz., and with it paid the British Post Office 40¢ in bulk per ounce for Prussian Closed-mail letters conveyed by British Packets plus 17½¢ per ounce for transit through England. Prussia paid the postage on letters to or from places beyond the German-Austrian Postal Union, here 5¢ per ½-oz to Roman States. Mail prepaid in the U.S. would be marked to debit the U.S. for Belgian transit, Prussian Inland and postage beyond the GAPU, thus 12¢ or 24¢ for ½-oz. or 1-oz. respectively.

70
24

Nov. 17, 1858.
Letter over ½-oz. but not over 1-oz. paid at the 70¢ rate in cash at Boston. Exchange Office credited Prussia in red for a double rated letter beyond Prussia at 24¢ (see above). Boston Exchange mark with outlined "B.PKT" (B. 709). R.M.S. America departed from Boston this date for Liverpool via Halifax.



AACHEN 1/12
FRANCO

Dec. 1. America arrived at Liverpool Nov. 29 and bagged mail sent on to Aachen where bulk was broken Dec.



1 and letter received identity there. Aachen marked letter fr = franco (paid) 1½ silbergroschen, about 4¢, credit to Belgium for Belgian transit.

Dec. 3. Backstamp, arrival at Rome.

1859

TUSCANY TO U.S. VIA FRANCE AND ENGLAND

27¢ Rate, effective April 1857 to January 1862

VANDERBILT EUROPEAN LINE

S.S. Ocean Queen

Maiden Return Voyage



May 20, 1859. A letter datelined at Florence. It was handed to the forwarding agents Maquay & Pakenham at Florence.

May 24. The forwarding agents put the letter into the open mails to England.



May 26. Letter received at London, backstamp. Letter received in the open mails had to be prepaid, so the British Post Office this letter to Tuscany and marked letter: Returned for Postage.

1859

TUSCANY TO U.S. VIA FRANCE AND ENGLAND
VANDERBILT EUROPEAN LINE S.S. Ocean Queen

This letter was returned to Florence in Tuscany and sent back to the forwarders who were charged 2 crazie. The forwarder then endorsed the letter "Via Liverpool" and had it forwarded correctly in the closed mail to the United States via France and England.



N. 1281

Handwritten initials



June 2. Letter in transit through France. The French Entry Mark shows mail from Tuscany entering France at Pont de Beauvoisin, the Exchange Office. The 3's show that this mark was struck at Paris, where the closed mails were made up. The U.S. was debited for 12¢ over the International Rate (27¢ - 15¢) + 4¢ French transit + 2¢ transit = 18¢.

June 8. S.S. Ocean Queen of the Vanderbilt European Line departed from Southampton on her return Maiden Voyage with this letter aboard.



Handwritten '27' and 'Due 3 cents 30cts'



June 21. Ocean Queen arrived at New York. The bagged Boston mails went by rail to that city where bulk was broken upon arrival.

June 22. Backstamp. Here the letter was rated at the 27¢ rate to Tuscany via France, viz., International Rate 15¢ + 12¢ over the International Rate. The debit of 18¢ to the U.S. was deleted at Boston to avoid confusion by the same crayon that made the "27".

June 23. The letter was forwarded to Nahant, Mass. so 3¢ U.S. Domestic Postage was added to the 27¢ Tuscany rate to total 30¢ due.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
TUSCANY TO U.S. via American Packet



Sept. 14, 1859. Letter unpaid into Florence, Tuscany post office. Noted U.L. as "via di Angletterre" (via England).



Sept. 17. French entry mark showing mail from Tuscany entering France at Pont de Beauvoisin. 3's show mark struck at Paris. Noel 1281.



Paris Exchange Office marked "American Service". Rate to U.S. from Tuscany was 27¢. French debited U.S. with 12¢ over International rate (27¢ - 15¢ = 12¢) + 4¢ French Inland + 2¢ transit = 18¢. This is shown as mss. "18" U.L.



Sept. 17-18. Transit backstamps, T.P.O. Paris to Calais, day train, 2nd Section, Brigade J and Bureau des Ambulants mark at Calais.



October, 7. Letter incoming at New York by American Packet. 27¢ in large mss. due for Tuscany rate. The exchange debit of "18" was deleted to avoid confusion.

U.S. Mail Steamer Fulton arrived N.Y. Oct 7 from Havre.

1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
SARDINIA TO U.S. via British Packet

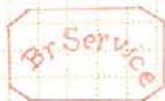


Via Liverpool



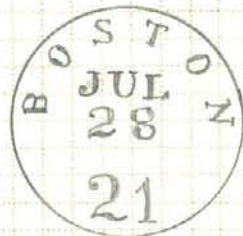
July 12, 1859. Letter posted at Genoa. At this time rate to Sardinia was 21¢ if by American Packet or 5¢ if by British Packet for paid letters from the U.S. Letter here directed by sender from Sardinia "Via Liver-

pool, unpaid. The 21¢ rate would apply as British-French share would have to come from the U.S. postage collected.



18

July 14. French entry mark (Noel 1073) shows mail from Sardinia entering France at Culoz, an inland city. 3's show this mark struck at Paris. Paris Exchange Office debited U.S. with 12¢ over International rate + 4¢ French Inland + 2¢ transit = 18¢, shown at U.L. "British Service" shows letter handled thru England.



July 14. Backstamp aboard Paris to Calais train, day as shown by octagonal interior, 2nd Section, Brigade M.

Records show the R.M.S. Europa (Cunard-British) sailed from L'pool July 16, arrived Boston July 28 as shown on Boston receipt stamp. Blake 869. 21¢ Sardinian rate due.

Ex-Blake col.

1862

U.S. TO ITALY by Prussian Closed Mail

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Europa



33



B.788



June 9, 1862. An unpaid letter posted at Richmond, Maine to Capt. L. R. Ross of the ship Morro Castle at Genoa. The owner chides Capt. Ross for not bringing his ship home to Richmond for a re-coppering, instead having the work done in London and then taking a cargo for Genoa. The postal clerk at Richmond noted 33 (¢) as the rate due, but this was the "Via Bremen" rate effective until July 1857. The Kingdom of Sardinia rate by Prussian Closed Mail was 42¢, effective May 1860 to May 1863.

June 11. Transit at Boston where the Exchange Office ignored the "33" and sent this letter in the Prussian Closed Mail as if only to Prussia where the PCM rate was 28¢, effective Sept. 1861. Accordingly, they debited Prussia for 5¢ U.S. Inland + 16¢ Sea and British Transit = 23¢ shown in the transit mark.

June 11. R.M.S. Europa, Cunard Line, departed from Boston, arrived at Queenstown June 21.



June 24. Aachen Exchange Office transit backstamp. Prussia debited Sardinia for 45 s.g. (blue pen note later excised).

June 25. Basel transit backstamp. On June 26 this letter was handled by the Steam Navigation Co. of the Lake of Luzerne (SCHIFFSBUREAU) a steamship company that carried the mail from Luzern in the northwestern end of Lake Luzern to Flüelen at the southeastern end.



June 27. Genova arrival backstamp, where the recipient was charged 12 decimes (1 lira 20 centessimi). This was the correct amount (21¢) for a letter arriving by the French mail, but bot by the Prussian Closed Mail. This was a break for the recipient as the PCM rate was 42¢.

1865

ROMAN STATES TO U.S. via France and per American Pkt.
Inman Line S.S. City of Dublin



P.P.



April 26, 1865. Letter paid at Rome by 32 bajocchi, equivalent to about 34¢ U.S. This included Roman States, British and French transit as well as transatlantic charges. While marked P.P. (Port Payee), this postage carried the letter all the way to New York.



N-210

PD



9.

April 29. French entry mark at Marseilles (E. PONT = Etats Pontificaux). French marked letter PD = Payee au Destination, and credited U.S. with 6¢ Sea (American Packet) + 3¢ U.S. Inland = 9¢. French and British transit were settled separately with the Pontifical States. Marseille to Lyon railway sorting car backstamp (round center = night train.)

April 30. S.S. City of Dublin touched at Queenstown where this letter went aboard with the European and British Mails. Dublin had departed Liverpool on April 29.

May 15, 1865. Arrived New York, Steamship City of Dublin, (Br.,) Enyon, Liverpool April 29 via Queenstown 30th to John G. Dale.



1866

SICILY TO U.S. VIA FRENCH MAIL

LIGNE DU LEVANT: Paquebot Indus, Messina to Marseilles

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Australasian, Queenstown to New York



Col Vapere francese diretto - via Marseille

18



18

*Messrs. Lammann & Kemp
New York.*



March 5, 1866. An unpaid letter posted at Messina, Sicily. It is endorsed: Col Vapere francese diretto - via Marseille.

The Ligne du Levant paquebot Indus had departed from Constantinople on February 28 and touched at Messina March 5, where this letter went aboard. The Indus was the "French Packet direct to Marseilles".

March 7. Indus arrived at Marseilles. U.S. was debited for 12¢ over the International rate + 4¢ French Inland + 2¢ transit = 18¢. Transit AMB. (railway) on French entry mark shows mail incoming from Italy. The U.S. bagged mails were sent closed through England.

March 10. R.M.S. Australasian, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the French mails at Queenstown the 11th.

March 22. Australasian arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office added 3¢ U.S. Inland to the 18¢ debit to total 21¢ due in gold, the ½-oz. Messina rate by French Mail, effective January 1862 to January 1870. This was converted to its equivalent in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.24 x 21¢ = 26¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



1866

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

ROMAN STATES TO U.S. via French Mail



Dec. 3, 1866. Letter posted unpaid at Rome. The rate in U.S. dollars from April '57 via French mail was \$.27/4oz. or .54/1/2 oz., prepayment optional. Double rated letter ("2" in U.L. corner). Unpaid 54cents in gold or 73¢ in depreciated U.S. paper currency as per mss. note, applied when letter cleared the N.Y. Exchange Office.

Dec. 7. French entry mark (Noel 791) showing mail entering France from Etats Pontificaux at Culoz. The 3's show this mark was struck at Paris.



December 21, 1866. Fine strike, backstamp, showing mail entering U.S. at New York by French packet.

A very scarce mark.

As letter by French packet, U.S. got only 6¢. Debit of 48¢ U.R., gives France all but 6¢ out of 54¢ collect.

S.S. St. Laurente, Capt. Bocaude, departed Havre Dec. 6, arr. N.Y. Dec. 20. 1866.

1857

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

U.S. TO ITALY via British Open Mail



Rates to Italy by British Open Mail were, effective 1849, at the rate of 5¢ prepaid in the U.S. if by British Packet and 21¢ if by U.S. Packet. All other charges (British, French and Italian) were paid by the recipient. This letter, datelined Dec. 20, 1856 at New Orleans, was endorsed "per Persia", British (Cunard) packet out of New York.



Dec. 21, 1856. Letter rate by British packet paid by a single copy of the very scarce Sc. #12, 5¢ issue of 1856.



Dec. 30. Letter cleared N.Y. and marked as via British packet.



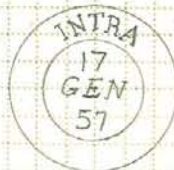
Jan. 13, 1857. Letter passed through London Foreign Section and stamped with "tray mark" showing France to pay Britain 1 F 60 centimes per 30 grams, as per treaty.



Jan. 14. French entry mark, ambulant at Calais, showing mail from U.S. by British packet.



Jan. 16-17, 1857. Torino transit and Intra backstamps, latter arrival.



1859

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

19¢ RATE TO ITALY VIA ENGLAND



June 3, 1859. New Orleans receipt cancellation on double weight letter to Genova, Italy at 19¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. x 2 = 38¢ pre-paid.

June 8, 1859. New York Exchange Office transit. 9¢ x 2 = 18¢ credit to England for ocean voyage.



June 24, 1859. Calais receipt mark showing British service. Letter then travelled by German mail to Italy.

"Paid to Destination", probably French.

June 25, 1859. Genova receipt backstamp.

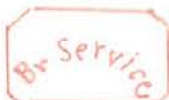
1860

ROME TO U.S. BY FRENCH MAIL
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Canada



94



March 2, 1860. An unpaid letter written at Naples by a tourist to her mother and posted March 3 at Rome. It was handled by the Rome forwarding agents Packenham, Hooker & Co. (R.F.::) shown by their blue handstamp.

March 4. Letter noted "Via di Mare" (L.L. mss.) was picked up by the French paquebot Vatican, which departed Naples March 3, touched at Civita Vecchia March 5.

March 7. Letter entered France at Marseilles. The U.S. was debited for 12¢ over the international rate + 4¢ French transit + 2¢ British transit + 6¢ transatlantic (British Packet) = 24¢ shown in black crayon beneath the Boston mark. Mail went closed through England.

March 10. R.M.S. Canada, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up this letter at Queenstown on the 11th.

March 25. Canada arrived at Boston. The Boston Exchange Office added 3¢ U.S. Inland to the 24¢ debit to total the 27¢/¼-oz. rate from Rome to the U.S. by "French Mail." This rate was effective from April 1857 to January 1870.



8.875

1867-68

SICILY TO U.S. VIA FRENCH MAIL

LIGNE V: Paquebot Said, Messina to Marseilles

CUNARD LINE: R.M.S. Persia, Queenstown to New York



18



December 21, 1867. An unpaid letter posted at Messina, Sicily. It is endorsed: Col Vapore francese diretto via Marseille. This was to indicate routing by a French steamer direct via Marseilles.

December 19. The Paquebot Said of Ligne V (formerly Ligne d'Egypte) departed from Alexandria for Marseilles. She touched at Messina on December 23, where this letter went aboard.

December 25. Said arrived at Marseilles. French entry mark showing mail from Italy entering AMB[ulant] (railway) at Marseilles. Mail went to Paris where the U.S. was debited for 12¢ over the International rate + 4¢ French Inland + 2¢ transit = 18¢. The U.S. bagged mails were sent closed through England.

December 28. R.M.S. Persia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the French mails at Queenstown on the 29th.

January 10, 1868. Persia arrived at New York. The U.S. Exchange Office added 3¢ U.S. Inland to the 18¢ debit to total 21¢, the Messina rate per ½-oz. via French' Mail. This was due in gold, which was converted to its value in depreciated paper currency at the day's gold/paper ratio of 1.33 x 21¢ = 28¢ due in U.S. NOTES.



This rate was effective from January 1862 to January 1870.

1868

ITALY TO U.S. VIA NORTH GERMAN UNION
HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE S.S. Westphalia



December 5, 1868. An unpaid letter posted at Florence (Firenze,) Italy. It was forwarded at the Closed Mail Rate via the North German Union, where the bagged mail went via Hamburg.

December 9. S.S. Westphalia of the Hamburg-American Line departed from Hamburg, touched at Southampton the 12th.



Due 26cts

December 23. Westphalia arrived at New York.

December 24. Letter was rated under the North German Union rate of 19¢ per ½-oz., effective January 1868 to July 1870. This was due in hard currency, which was converted to depreciated paper currency (U.S. NOTES) at the day's conversion ratio of 1.37 x 19¢ = 26¢ due in paper notes.

1867

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
ITALY TO U.S. VIA FRANCE



P.D.

March 15, 1867. Florence (Florence) Italy c.d.s. cancels prepayment of postage in Italian stamps.

March 16, 1867. Transit at Torino in Italian Alps. Letter marked P.D. (Paid to Destination) by Italy.



9.

March 18, 1867. French transit at Lanslebourg. Letter passed through Mont-Cenis tunnel, thence to Paris.

French Exchange Office credit to U.S. for domestic and ocean voyage on American Packet.



April 1, 1867. Transit at New York showing routing via American Packet.

This letter bears an interesting Historical note:

Dear Father: I hope the Finians have not captured my notes on their way from Dublin to Queenstown. You know of course as much as we do about the "rising" although we see long accounts in the British dailies....etc.

1867

PACKET LETTERS
TRANSATLANTIC MAIL
ITALY TO U.S. VIA FRANCE "VIA QUEENSTOWN"



P.D.

Feb. 6, 1867. Firenze (Florence) Italy circular date stamp cancels 120 centesimi (60c. x 2, Scott # 32) prepayment of postage, through France, via Queenstown, Ireland.

Feb. 7, 1867. Transit backstamp at Torino in Italian Alps. Letter marked P.D. (Paid to Destination) by Italy.



9.



Feb. 9. French transit, Lanslebourg, letter routed via Mont Cenis tunnel, thence

French Exchange Office credit to U.S. for domestic and American Packet.

Feb. 24, 1867. Transit at New York verifying letter via American Packet.

The letter inclosed bears an interesting sidelight on Postal History:

"We are obliged to make very liberal calculations for (our letters) reaching Queenstown....You have a great advantage as you know what Str. they go by. I wish you would put the name of the Steamer on your letters..."

1868

Roman States to U.S. via "French Mail" and England
Transatlantic by Cunard Line R.M.S. Siberia



PD

3

February 25, 1868. A letter paid to destination at Rome by the 5, 10, 20, and 80 centissimi stamps of the Papal States. The 80c. is seldom seen. This was equivalent to the 27¢ U.S. April 1857 rate for a ¼-oz. letter by "French Mail", and as endorsed: Via Queenstown. The U.S. was credited with 3¢ for U.S. Inland postage.

February 28. French entry mark at St. Michel, Savoy, located in the Alps on the French side of Mont Cenis by way of the "Summit Railway". (The Mont Cenis Tunnel was not opened until September 18, 1871.) Mails were closed here through England.

February 28. R.M.S. Siberia of the Cunard Line departed from Liverpool. She touched at Queenstown, Ireland March 1, where this letter went aboard.

March 13. Siberia landed at New York. The New England mails were bulked by rail to Boston where this letter received identity as PAID. It was sent on by rail to Portland, Maine at no extra charge.



1868

ITALY TO U.S. VIA NORTH GERMAN UNION, Closed Mail
INMAN LINE S.S. City of Boston

The 19¢ per ½-oz. rate from Italy to the U.S. by NGU closed mail was effective from January 1868 to July 1870. This rate carried a 5¢ unpaid letter fine.



November 11, 1868. An unpaid letter posted at Messina, Sicily to New York.

November 13. Letter in transit (backstamp) on the Milan to Como T.P.O. Here the mails for routing by the North German Union Closed Mail were placed in closed bags to go through Germany and England, bulk to be broken at New York.

November 18. S.S. City of Boston, Inman Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the bagged NGU mails at Queenstown on the 19th.



November 30. City of Boston arrived at New York. The 19¢ rate, Italy to the U.S. by NGU cm, was increased by a depreciation currency factor of $1.10 \times 19¢ = 21¢$ plus a 5¢ unpaid letter fine = 26¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

While Starnes' "observed ratios" vary during 1868 and 1869 from 1.23 to 1.48, the N.Y. Exchange Office appears to have adopted a standard rate of 26¢ U.S. NOTES including the 5¢ fine, no doubt to expedite handling of the mail. Several covers seen by this student all bear the 26¢ rate.

1869

ITALY TO U.S. VIA NORTH GERMAN UNION, Closed Mail
INMAN LINE

S.S. City of Washington

19¢ Rate, effective January 1868 to July 1870



August 18, 1869. An unpaid letter posted at Messina, Sicily.

August 21. Backstamp in transit at the Milan Railway Station. Mails to the U.S. were here placed in bags and sent closed through Germany and England. All debits and credits were handled in bulk, therefore covers of this era show no German or British transit marks.

August 26. S.S. City of Washington of the Inman Line departed from Liverpool and picked up the bagged Italian mails at Queenstown on the 27th.



September 6. City of Washington arrived at New York. The N.Y. Exchange Office rated this letter as follows: the 19¢ rate was adjusted by a depreciated currency factor of 1.10 x 19¢ = 21¢ due in U.S. NOTES. To this was added a 5¢ unpaid letter fine (also in U.S. NOTES) to total 26¢ due.

N.B.: It would appear that the N.Y. Exchange Office ignored the daily gold/paper ratios and charged a flat rate of 26¢ for a single rated letter. Ratios of the depreciation ranged from 1.11 to 1.48 during the period of this rate, but covers all seem to be rated at the 26¢ due in U.S. NOTES, i.e. depreciated currency.

1870

ITALY TO U.S. BY ITALIAN CLOSED MAIL

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Scotia

10¢ Rate, effective March 1870 to July 1875

On March 1, 1870, the 10¢ Italian Closed Mail rate became effective. Mails were closed in Italy and the bags forwarded in bulk through France or Germany and England. Thus, no transit marks other than Italian appear on covers handled by this route. This rate was subject to a 5¢ unpaid letter fine.



May 2, 1870. An unpaid letter dated at Naples (possible error on the writer's part, should be May 20.)

May 20. Naples receiving mark, an early cover showing this rate.

May 28. Transit backstamp at Milan. The Italian Closed Mail was made up here and forwarded closed through England, bulk to be broken at New York.

June 4. R.M.S. Scotia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the Italian Closed Mail bags at Queenstown on the 5th.

June 13. Scotia arrived at New York, letter processed on the 14th. The Italian Closed Mail rate was 10¢, due in gold. This was increased by the arbitrary factor of 1.10 x 10¢ = 11¢.

To this was added the 5¢ unpaid letter fine to total 16¢ due in U.S. NOTES.

N.B.: The gold/paper depreciation ratios varied from 1.07 to 1.18 during 1870-71 period of this rate. N.Y. kept a constant factor of 1.10. Unpaid covers show 16¢.

June 15. Boston receiving backstamp.



1870

SICILY TO U.S. Closed Mail via North German Union

14¢ Rate, effective July 1870 to October 1871

CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Scotia



August 1, 1870. An unpaid letter written at the small western port of Trapani on the island of Sicily to Capt. John Leighton of the American brig Louise Miller trying to get 51 gold French francs from Capt. Leighton, the result of an error in settling his account when at Trapani Feb. 2, 1870. Two letters asking for the balance had gone unanswered.

August 2. Transit backstamp at Palermo, Sicily where the letter went on board a steamship for carriage to the Italian Coast.

August 6. Transit backstamp at Torino (Turin) in northern Italy on the Swiss border. Mails via the North German Union were closed here.

August 13. R.M.S. Scotia, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, she touched at Queenstown the 14th where the closed NGU Italian mails went on board.

August 23. Scotia arrived at New York. Letter rated at the 14¢ rate from Sicily, due in gold and adjusted to the depreciated paper currency value at the day's gold/paper ratio of $1.21 \times 14¢ = 17¢$ due in U.S. NOTES/

August 24. Letter received at Boston, backstamp. It was forwarded back to New York and the Boston receiving duplex effectively obliterated the NEW YORK in the depreciation mark. Boston charged 3¢ for forwarding, total now 20¢ due, shown by the manuscript "3" added to the 17¢.



B.2239



1870

ITALY TO U.S. BY ITALIAN CLOSED MAIL
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Java

10¢ Rate, effective March 1870 to July 1875

September 16, 1870. A letter to the U.S. posted unpaid at Messina, Sicily. It is endorsed: Col Vapore francese via Marseille. This was to indicate routing by French Packet from Messina to Marseilles, then to be forwarded through Paris to England. However, the Franco-Prussian War, which began on July 19, 1870, had turned against the French at the September 1 Battle of Sedan and by September 19 two German armies had invested Paris. Due to the unsettled war conditions through France, the Italian postal authorities opted to route this letter by way of Italian Closed Mail which would go to England east of the hostilities.



September 17. Receiving mark at Messina and transit backstamp at Verona on September 20. At the latter transfer point the Italian Closed Mail bags were sealed and sent through to England. Being in closed bags, no French, German or British transit marks ever show on these covers.

September 24. R.M.S. Java, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the Italian Closed Mails at Queenstown on the 25th.

October 4. Java arrived at New York. The 10¢ Italian cm rate, due in gold, was adjusted to its value in depreciated currency by the day's ratio of $1.10 \times 10¢ = 11¢$ plus a 5¢ unpaid letter fine = 16¢ due in U.S. NOTES. Most unpaid covers of this era rate at 16¢ U.S. NOTES as the gold/paper ratios varied between 1.07 and 1.18, so 1.10 was a kind of average.



1870

U.S. TO ITALY, Closed Mail via North German Union
14¢ Rate, effective July 1870 to October 1871
INMAN LINE S.S. City of Washington



4

INSUFFICIENTLY PAID

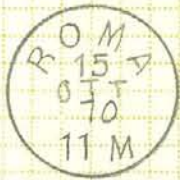
Sept. 27, 1870. The closed mail rate of July 1870 to Italy via NGU was 14¢ per half-ounce. This letter

was posted at Buffalo underpaid by a copy of the 10¢ brown without grill, National Bank Note Co. Issue of 1870. The underpayment of 4¢ was noted to the left of the adhesive.



Sept. 29. Transit backstamp at New York and Exchange Office red cds on face. Letter contains enough of the "US PACKET" mark to show that the letter did not go aboard the British Packet RMS Abyssinnia which departed N.Y. at 6:30 AM on Sept. 29. There were no European steamer sailings Sept. 30.

October 1. Inman Line S.S. City of Washington sailed from New York this date at 7:30 AM, arrived at Queenstown Oct. 12 at 8 PM. Mail was closed to London and across the Channel to Ostende, Belgium to Aachen thence by rail to Rome.



October 15. Arrival backstamp at Rome. Letter was marked in the upper left corner with the total postage plus a penalty of an amount equal to the underpayment or 14¢ + 4¢ underpayment = 18¢. The Exchange Office expressed this as 98 centesimo at approximately .19¢/cent. = 18¢.



As Rome was still on the bajocchi standard until after 1870 (1 baj. = 1.05¢), the prepaid amount was restated in blue, upper right, as 10 baj = 10¢. The collect amount of 7½ baj. (8¢) was first marked in blue, deleted and restated in black to show a collect charge mark.



1871

ITALY TO U.S. BY ITALIAN CLOSED MAIL
CUNARD LINE

R.M.S. Calabria

10¢ Rate, effective March 1870 to July 1875



March 10, 1871. An unpaid letter to the U.S. posted at Genoa (Genova).

March 11. Transit backstamp at Milan. Here the Italian Closed Mail was bagged for transit through England. No French, German or British transit marks show on these Italian cm covers as the mails were closed in Italy, bulk not to be broken until arrival in the U.S.

March 14. R.M.S. Calabria, Cunard Line, departed from Liverpool, picked up the Italian mails at Queenstown on the 15th.



March 27. Calabria arrived at New York. The 10¢ Italian cm rate was adjusted to its value in depreciated paper currency at the gold/paper ratio of 1.10 x 10¢ = 11¢ plus a 5¢ unpaid letter fine = 16¢ due in U.S.

NOTES.

This rating seems to have been continued as an average for unpaid letters under this Convention. The daily gold/paper ratios varied somewhat during this period, but the N.Y. Exchange Office retained a flat 16¢ charge on unpaid letters.

1871-72

10¢ RATE TO ITALY by Direct Closed Mail

GUION LINE via England

S.S. Nevada

Effective January 1870, the direct closed mail rate to Italy via England was 10¢ per ½-oz., prepayment optional.



December 16, 1871. Letter prepaid at double rate (½ to 1-oz.) to Italy by a pair of the 10¢ National Bank Note Co. Issue of 1870-71 (Sc.150).

Mount Auburn, Mass. is now a Dead Post Office, in use from 1858 until closed in 1875.

Dec. 19. Transit at New York. The Guion Line's S.S. Nevada left N.Y. for Liverpool Dec. 20. Nevada put her mail bags ashore at Queenstown Dec. 30 at 1 a.m.



Jan. 1, 1872. Transit backstamp at Verona, Italy.

1872

CALIFORNIA TO SWITZERLAND, Closed Mail via England & Ostend
10¢ Rate of May 1870

HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE

S.S. Holsatia



July 23, 1872. Letter from California paid at the 10¢ rate of 1870 to Switzerland, closed mail via England, thence to Ostende, Belgium and across Europe by rail. Franked with a copy of the National Bank Note Co. Issue of 1870. Mail went by transcontinental railroad to New York.

Maine Prairie, California is a small post town of Solano County, 18 miles N.E. of Suisun City. Population in 1880 was 160.

August 1. Transit at New York, the letter received this scarce directional handstamp NEW YORK PAID ALL VIA ENG. & OST.

N.Y. Times: Sailed Aug. 1, Steam-ship Holsatia (Ger.), Berends, Hamburg &c., Kunhardt & Co.

August 12. Plymouth. Holsatia arrived en route to Hamburg. Closed mails went ashore at Plymouth and were forwarded via Ostende.

August 13. Closed mails were broken at the Swiss border at Basel and the transit backstamp was struck there.

August 15. Arrival backstamp at Locarno.



1872

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

11¢ RATE TO ITALY VIA ENGLAND

Closed Mail Rate, effective October 1871-July 1875



November 8, 1872. Letter prepaid at New Orleans at the 11¢ Closed Mail rate to Italy via England (1¢ overpaid).



November 13, 1872. Transit at New York, "PAID ALL".



November 30, 1872. Genoa receipt backstamp.

1873

ITALY TO U.S., Direct Mail via North German Union
S.S. Deutschland NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD LINE

Mail from Rome direct by the North German Union post was rated
at 10¢ per ½-oz., effective October 1871 to July 1, 1875 (G.P.U.)



P. D.

February 19, 1873. Letter paid at Rome with 55 centesimi in Italian stamps. 55 centesimi x .0019¢ U.S./cent. = .1045, the closest equivalent to 10¢ U.S. It was stamped "P.D." or Paid to Destination as rate was all inclusive at each end.

February 22. S.S. Deutschland of the North German Lloyd departed from Bremen.

N.Y. Times. Arrived at New York March 11. Steam-ship Deutschland (Ger.,) Ladewigs, Bremen February 22 and Southampton 25th to Oelrichs & Co.



March 11. New York receiving mark. Letter processed as PAID ALL.

1873

ITALY TO U.S. via "Direct" Mail Service through France
S.S. Hammonia HAMBURG AMERICAN LINE
Hamburg - Havre - New York

Italian mail was subject to a 10¢ per ½-oz. rate in 1873 with the following possible routings:

North German Union, direct,	October 1871 - July 1, 1875
Direct closed mail via England,	Jan. 1870 - " "
Italian Mail Direct	Feb. 1870 - " "

Because there was no postal treaty or agreement between the U.S. and France at this time, any mail by the French Ligne H to New York would be subject to a collect steamship charge of 10¢. U.S. Act of July 1, 1864 governing rates with non-treaty countries.



March 10, 1873. Letter paid in Milan with 55 centesimi in Italian stamps (tops folded over onto rear of cover). 55 cent. x .0019 U.S./cent. = .1045, closest equivalent to 10¢ U.S. "181" in obliterator is the Post Office number of Milan. The Steam-ship Hammonia, Hamburg American Line (Hapag), Voss master, departed Hamburg March 12 via Havre the 15th.

March 26. Arrival date at New York of the Hammonia. The 55 centesimi rate included delivery within the U.S.

The French Line (Ligne du Havre a New York or Ligne H) steamer St. Laurent departed Havre March 14, via Brest the 14th, also arrived at N.Y. on March 26. As noted above, if this cover had gone aboard a Ligne H steamer the N.Y. Exchange Office would have marked it STEAMSHIP 10¢ Currency due.

March 26. Philadelphia arrival backstamp. Large "22" is the correspondence docket number, not related to any postal markings.



1873

ITALY TO U.S. via "Direct Mail"

S. S. City of Montreal

INMAN LINE



P.D

June 30, 1873. Letter paid in Venice with 55 centesimi in Italian stamps. This was the October 1871, rate by North German Union "direct", i.e. across Europe by closed mail. U.S. rate was 10¢ per 1-oz., here 55 centesimi x .0019 U.S./cent. = .1045, closest equivalent to 10¢ U.S. Cover was marked Paid to Destination in red. "196" is the Italian Post Office number of Venice.

July 3. The steamer City of Montreal, Mirchman, of the Inman Line departed from Liverpool and picked up the European mails at Queenstown, Ireland on July 4.



July 17. City of Montreal arrived at New York on July 16, mail processed the next day. The direct mail rate was all inclusive, letter marked at New York PAID ALL.

1874

10¢ RATE TO ITALY by Direct Closed Mail via England
CUNARD LINE, R.M.S. Abyssinia, New York to Queenstown

Effective January 1870 until July 1, 1875, the direct closed mail rate from the U.S. to Italy was 10¢ per ½-oz., prepayment optional.



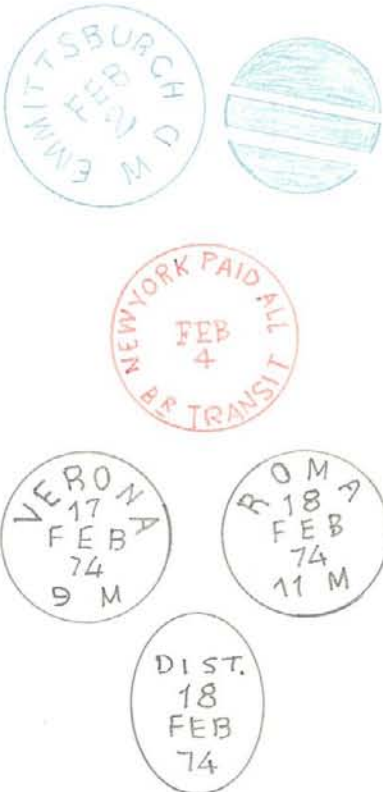
February 2, 1874. A letter paid at Emmittsburg, Maryland by the 10¢ American Bank Note Co. Issue of 1873. It is directionally endorsed: by the first Steamer.

February 4. New York transit mark showing "BR. TRANSIT". Letter was passed as PAID ALL. The R.M.S. Abyssinia of the Cunard Line departed from New York this same day.

February 13. Abyssinia arrived at Queenstown. The closed mails went in bulk across Europe.

February 17. Transit backstamp at Verona, Italy where the Exchange Office there dispersed the mails onward, backstamp.

February 18. Rome arrival and distribution backstamps.



1874

TRANSATLANTIC MAIL

10¢ RATE TO ITALY

Direct, Closed Mail via England

Effective January 1870 to July 1, 1875



December 18, 1874. Letter posted at the 10¢ per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. rate for mail to Italy via closed mail, British handling. Mail in bulk was made up in New York, handled by British or American packet to England, and then, still in bulk forwarded to Italy for break-up by Italians. Paid at Baltimore by 10¢ Continental Bank Note Co. issue.

Dec. 19, 1874. New York Foreign Department restamped letter showing "PAID ALL" postage and reiterating British Handling.



Jan. 4, 1875. Rome receipt and distribution backstamps.