

THE HELIOGRAPH



The Postal History Foundation

FALL 1994 ISSUE

VOLUME 8, NO. 4

THE HELIOGRAPH

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Fall 1994

Contents

Across the Continent (part V of the serialization of George Jay Kramer's exhibit).....1

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SECTION V

FOREIGN ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS FROM THE PACIFIC SIDE:

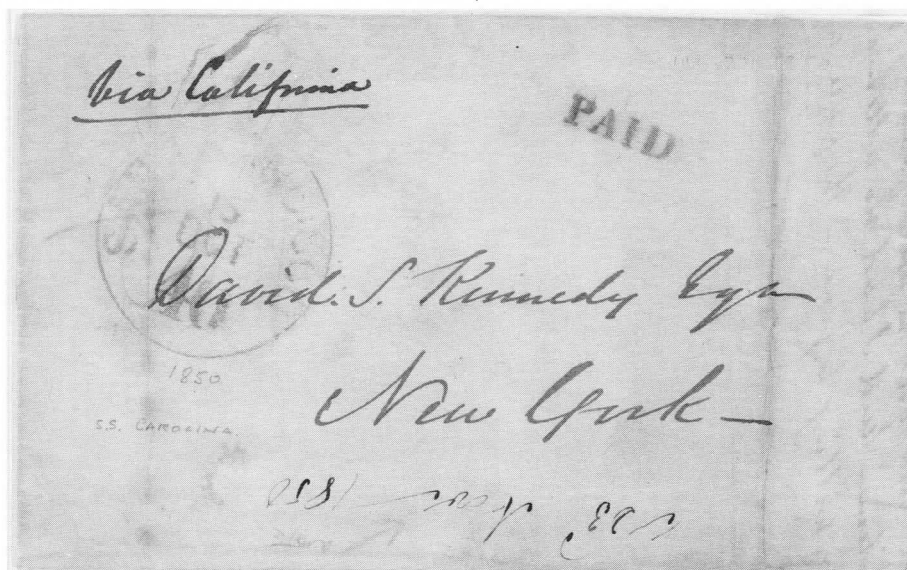
PACIFIC OCEAN
HAWAII, JAPAN, CHINA

1850 - 1871
1838 - 1869

IN THE EARLY 1850'S, EXCEPT FOR HAWAII, MORE THAN 99% OF PACIFIC MAIL TO EASTERN U.S. OR EUROPE WAS SENT VIA GREAT BRITAIN OR FRANCE. ANYTHING GOING VIA CALIFORNIA WAS MOST UNUSUAL AND OFTEN WAS SENT ONLY AS A "DUPLICATE".

NEW ZEALAND - U.S. 40 CENT RATE

JULY 24, 1850

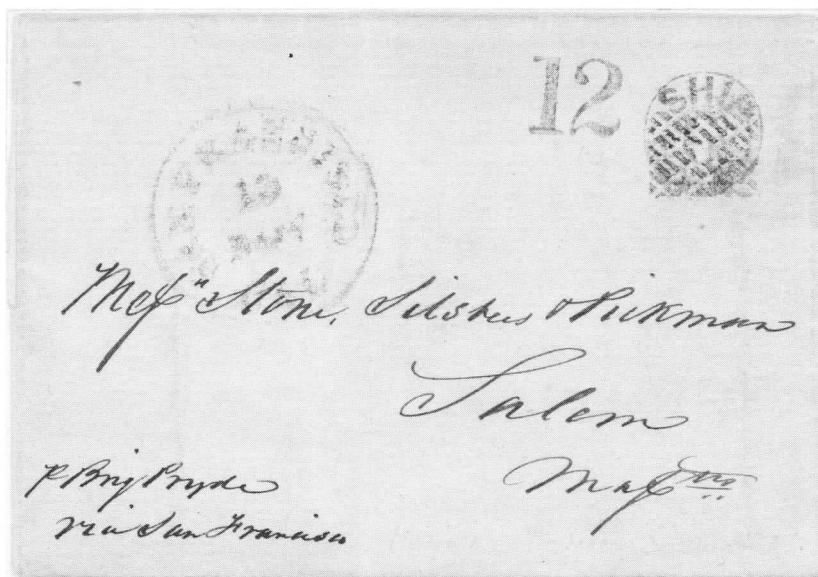


VICTORIA, NEW ZEALAND JULY 24 - CARRIED PRIVATELY TO SAN FRANCISCO
LV SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 15 PER PMSS "CAROLINA" - ARR PANAMA NOVEMBER 3
(PROBABLE) LV CHAGRES NOVEMBER 10 PER USMSS "CRESCENT CITY"
ARR NEW YORK NOVEMBER 21 - MS "23 NOVR 1850"

THE U.S 40 CENT TRANSCONTINENTAL RATE WAS PAID AT SAN FRANCISCO.
FROM JULY 1, 1851 UNTIL APRIL 1, 1855, THE U.S. DOMESTIC TRANSCONTINENTAL RATE BECAME 6 CENTS PREPAID AND 10 CENTS UNPAID.

TASMANIA - 12 CENT SHIP RATE

AUGUST 30, 1851



HOBART TOWN, TASMANIA AUGUST 31 "PER BRIG PRYDE" - SAN FRANCISCO
LV SAN FRANCISCO NOVEMBER 15 PER PMSS "NORTHERNER" - ARR PANAMA DECEMBER 2
(PROBABLE) CHAGRES DECEMBER 10 PER USMSS "PHILADELPHIA"
ARR NEW YORK DECEMBER 21 - SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

RATE: 12 CENTS COLLECT. THAT IS: 2 CENTS "SHIP FEE" TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE INCOMING SHIP PLUS 10 CENTS UNPAID.

TAHITI - GREAT BRITAIN - 29 CENT RATE PER AMERICAN PACKET

JUNE 8, 1852

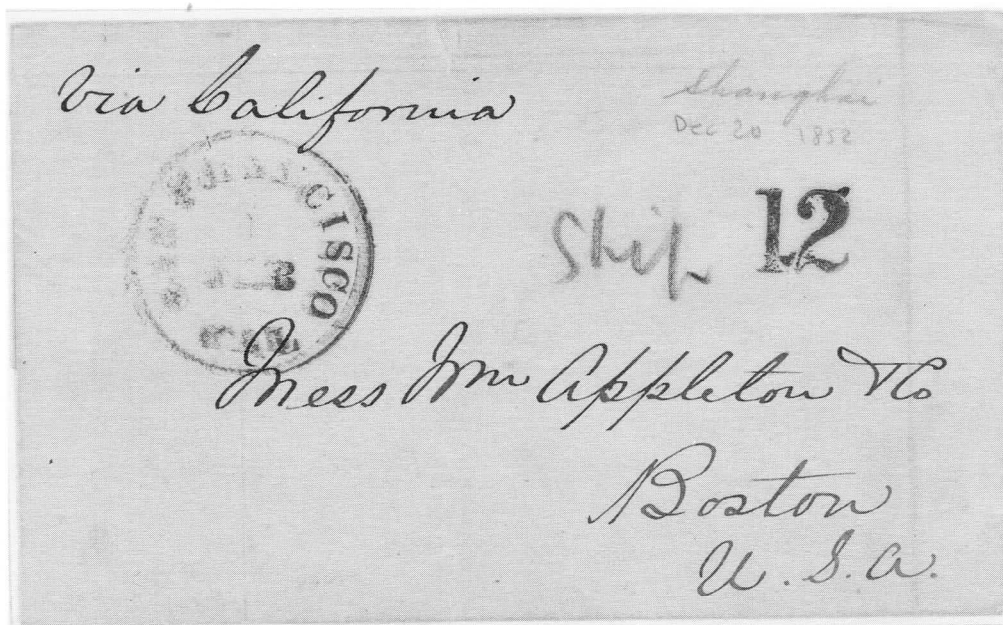


PAPEETE, TAHITI JUNE 8
 LV SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 16 PER PMSS "GOLDEN GATE" CARRIED PRIVATELY TO SAN FRANCISCO
 (PROBABLE) LV PANAMA PER USMSS "GEORGIA" ARR PANAMA SEPTEMBER 29
 LV NEW YORK NOVEMBER 6 PER OCEAN LINE "WASHINGTON" ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 30
 ARR SOUTHAMPTON NOVEMBER 2 GBPO LONDON NOVEMBER 23 (5 1/2 MONTHS)

ON JULY 1, 1851 THE WEST COAST RATE TO GREAT BRITAIN WAS REDUCED TO 29 CENTS.
 I.E. 10 CENTS TRANSCONTINENTAL, 16 CENTS TRANSATLANTIC PACKET PLUS 3 CENTS TO GREAT BRITAIN.

SHANGHAI

DECEMBER 20, 1852



SHANGHAI, CHINA FEBRUARY 20
 USPO SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 1, 1853
 NEW YORK

CARRIED PRIVATELY
 VIA PANAMA
 BOSTON

RATE: 10 CENTS TRANSCONTINENTAL PLUS 2 CENTS "SHIP" FEE.

ARCTIC OCEAN

OCTOBER 9, 1850



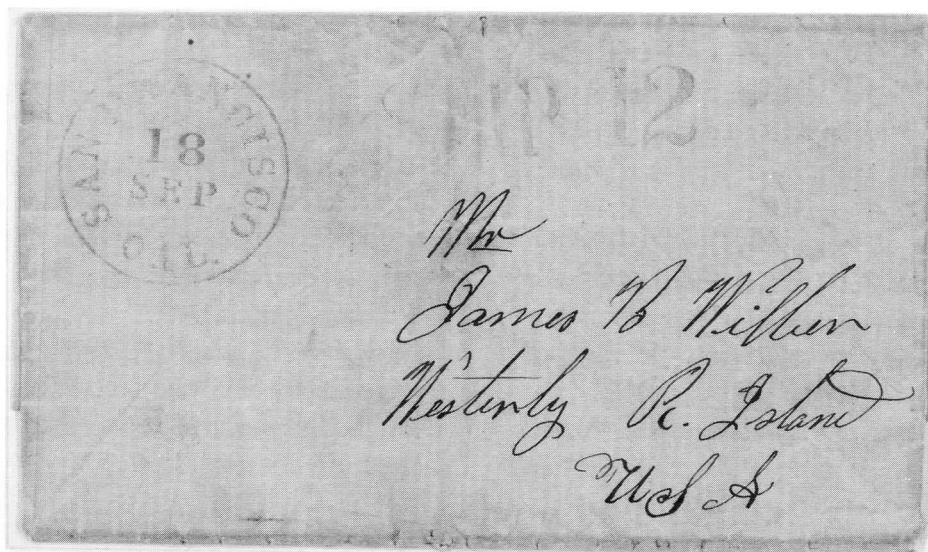
ARCTIC OCEAN OCTOBER 9 - ABOARD THE "CINCINATI" - "SANDWICH ISLAND" OCTOBER 17
 CARRIED PRIVATELY -- USPO STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT APRIL 7, 1851 - MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

"SHIP 7" RATE: THIS LETTER WAS PROBABLY CARRIED BY A WHALER FROM HAWAII ON ITS WAY HOME AROUND CAPE HORN; THE CAPTAIN POSTED IT AT STONINGTON PO AND RECEIVED 2 CENTS; AN ADDITIONAL 5 CENTS U.S. INLAND POSTAGE WAS DUE.

"THEY ARE CALLED BOWHEADS OR POLAR WHALES . . AS QUICK AS THEY ARE STRUCK THEY WILL GO DOWN AND RUN ABOUT A MILE AND THEN COME UP AND LAY STILL BUT WHEN THOU DO RUN YOU HAVE TO TY YOUR HEADS ON. I HAVE STRUCK 8 AND SAVED 7. THE FIRST ONE I STRUCK RUN UNDER THE ICE AND THEN WE HAD TO CUT LINE."

OKHOTSK SEA

JULY 30, 1854



ABOARD A WHALER - SHANTER BAY, OKHOTSK SEA (NEAR SIBERIA) JULY 30, 1854
 CARRIED PRIVATELY - VIA HAWAII - SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 18
 VIA PANAMA - USPO NEW YORK - WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND

SHIP 12 RATE: 2 CENTS PAID TO SHIP CAPTAIN PLUS 10 CENTS U.S. TRANSCONTINENTAL DUE.

"WE HAVE TAKEN 16 WHALES THEY WILL MAKE 1450 LBS. LAST SEASON THERE WAS BUT 30 TO 40 SHIPS IN HERE . . THERE IS AT LEAST 100 SHIPS HERE THIS SEASON."

Contents of the Arctic Ocean cover

At-Sea, Oct. the 9th, 1850

Dear Brother, as we are near the place of our destination I take this favourable opportunity of sending you a few lines hoping they will find you and all the families enjoying good health. For my part I have been well; if you was to see me know you would think I am fit as a bear. We have been to the Arctic Ocean to get whales and got 17 which made six hundred good and strong. And 160 sperm which will make 2,500 and 60. I think that is doing well the first season. Besides 35,000 lbs. of bone the oil is as (?) as sperm oil and burns as well. The whales are different from right whales. They are very easy taken. They are called boneheads or polar whales as quick as they are struck. They will go down and run about a mile then come up and lay still but when they do run we have to keep our heads on. The Capt. has got 4, the first mate 3 the second mate 7 the third mate 2 and we found one that was dead which makes 17. I have struck 8 and saved 7 that is good. Like the first one I struck ran un-der the ice and then we had to cut line.

The Arctic Ocean is covered with ice. In the winter the Esquireman came on board to (?) for (?) they (?) clothes made of (?). The men have bought some but they are not worth taking as a gift. We are now going to the Sandwich Islands to recruit ships and then going back to the Arctic Ocean to fill up. 1500 more will be all we can carry.

I think that I have sayed enough about whaling for some of you might not want to come. But you had better stay to home and I wish that I was there too. Money would not get me to go if I make a good voyage this time. (?) that I have not got any shells yet we have not been where there was any yet but I have got her a slab of bone and Dwight I have got him some sperm whales teeth but if he does not keep away from that old white horse he will not get them.

Sandwich Islands Oct. the 17

Dear Brother as we have got to the land once more I feel it is my duty to write to you by the first trip that sails for the USA. I thought that I should get a letter here but now I think you have sent me one before this. This time I have not seen 5 (?) ships. But there was nothing for me to use. And now I want you should write to me and sent it by mail by California. It will get here in 60 days. Direct your letter as follows Ship Cincinnati, Lahaina, Maui, Sandwich Islands.

Give my best respect to all that that should inquire after Bill(?). Tell Mother that I (?) to the Temperance Society for there is now liquor here. I hope that your (?) business is good (?) this time so you will have a good lot (?) when I get home.

Your affectionate Brother,

Wm. F. Chaffee.

Dear Sister, I want you should send me (?) and some sherry cake and then I should get fat. I was weighed yesterday and weighed 156.

Your affectionate Brother,

Wm. F. Chaffee.

Contents of the Okhotsk Sea cover

Ochotsk Sea, Shanten Bay, July 30, 1854

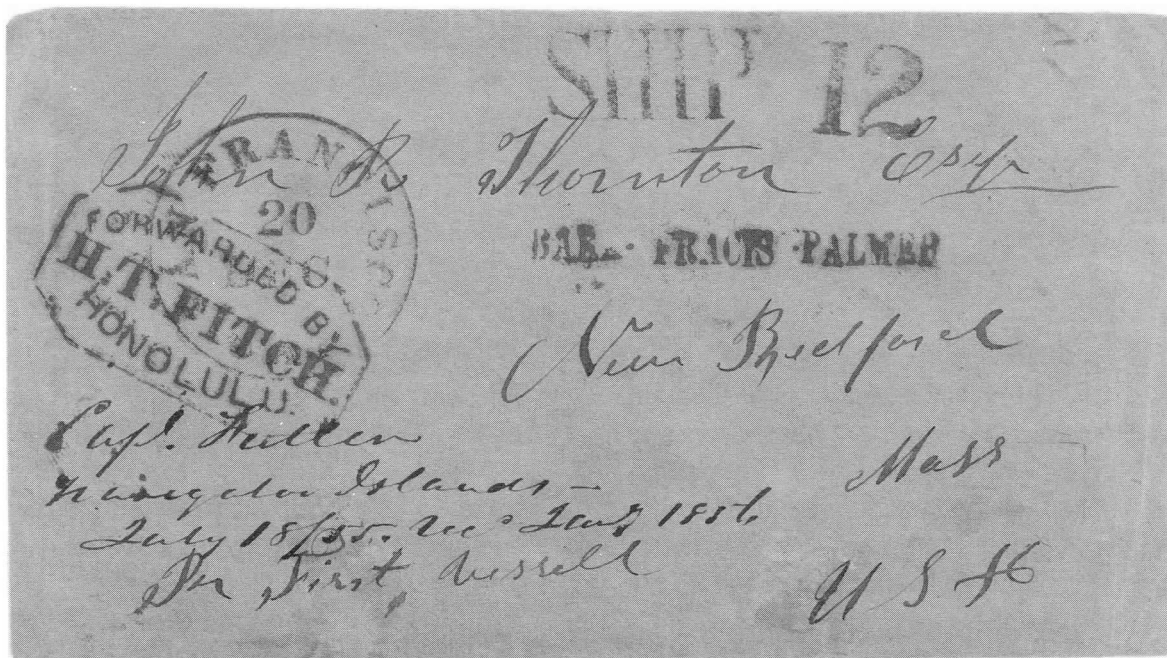
Beloved wife, Through the goodness of God am permitted to send you a few more lines informing you that I am well save a cold which I am getting over and I hope that you are enjoying good health. But I can think you are, but I hope you are better and are gaining. But I hope and pray that you may be restored to health again and I hope and want you to (?) all you can without fail. We have through the goodness of God been quite successful this season. We have taken 16 whales this season and they will make 1450lbs. But I think that our chance is not so good the rest of the season as it was last year. Last season there was but 30 to 40 ships in here last season. Now there is at least one hundred ships here this season. But we have got a considerable decent season work if we can get (?). But I am in hopes of getting some more yet. Capt. Albert Barber and Capt. Nash and Capt. (?) all lay close to us. I have seen all of them save Capt. (?). It is so (?) times with us we have no time for visiting. But Capt. Hill saw Capt. Pond. He told me all about home and how little Ella kiss him for me,

which was first rate and tell her that if I live to see her I will smack them little cheeks of hers. Give my love to Ann of course and Ella and brother (?) and tell them I should write to them. But I could not and I have hardly time to tell the reason why for I have been whaling night and day and hardly get time enough to eat for there is so many ships here if you don't be up and dressed you will (?) by the sea and there is a schooner homebound to California and she is under way (?) while I writing and I have got to low away my boat and raise her to get my letter on board. So I must close for if I don't I won't be able to get my letter on board. So I must close by sending all my best well wishes and love to you and yours and mine and (?) take care of yourself and make yourself as comfortable. Overlook my bad spelling and writing for I am in a hurry. You had better believe it all that I have mentioned their names is well likewise. Capt. Hall is well and all aboard.

Yours very truly and ever,
James B. Williams

NAVIGATOR ISLANDS (SAMOA)

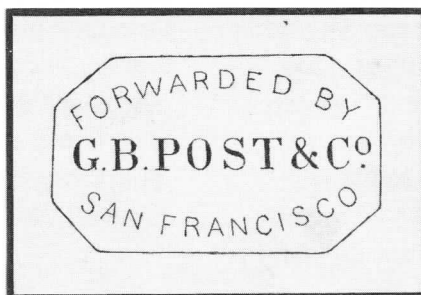
JULY 18, 1855



NAVIGATOR ISLANDS JULY 18 - CARRIED PRIVATELY "PER FIRST VESSEL"
 FORWARDED BY H.T. FITCH. HONOLULU - LV HONOLULU DECEMBER 1 PER "BARK FRANCIS PALMER"
 ARR SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 14 - FORWARDED BY G.B. POST & CO.
 USPO SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 20 - REC NEW BEDFORD, MASS. JANUARY 7, 1856

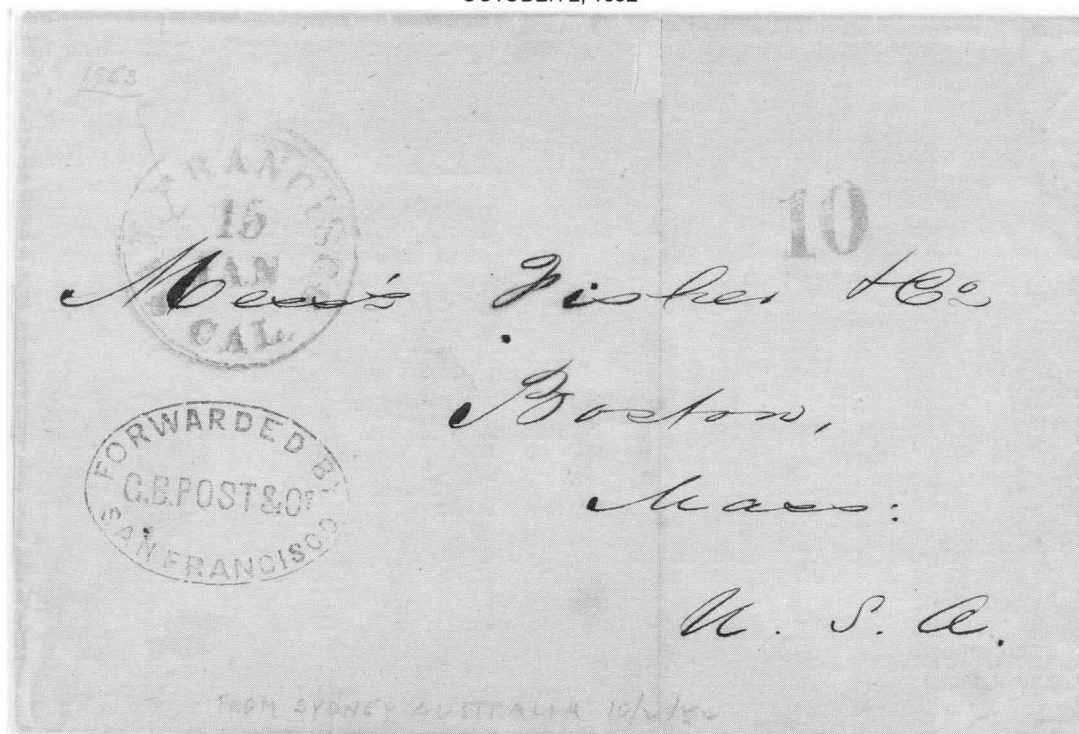
RATE: 10 CENTS + 2 CENTS SHIP FEE

WILLIAM C. FULLER WAS CAPTAIN OF THE WHALER "OCEAN" WHICH LEFT NEW BEDFORD MAY 27, 1853
 AND RETURNED JUNE 29, 1856; THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO THE SHIPOWNER.



AUSTRALIA 10 CENT UNPAID RATE

OCTOBER 2, 1852



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 2 - CARRIED PRIVATELY PER "ABYSSINIA"
 C.B. POST & CO., FORWARDERS, SAN FRANCISCO - USPO
 LV SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 15, 1853 - VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK - BOSTON

AUSTRALIA 10 CENT PREPAID RATE

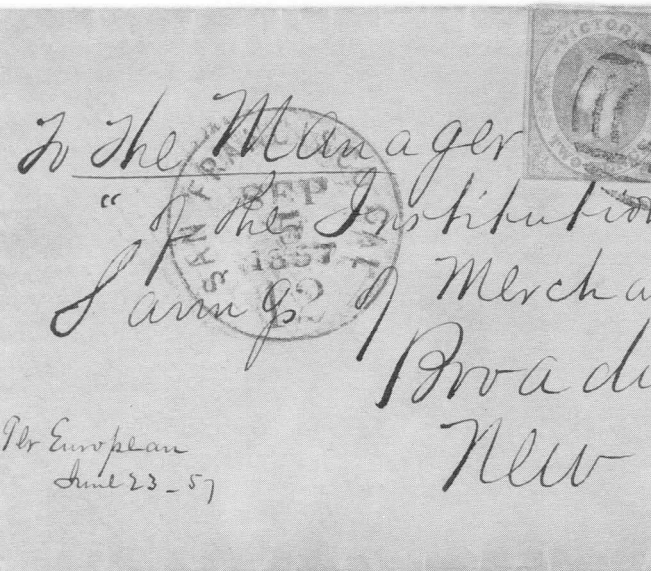
APRIL 24, 1857



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA APRIL 24 - CARRIED PRIVATELY TO SAN FRANCISCO
 USPO SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 5 - VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK M/S "REC'D 3 SETR"

VICTORIA

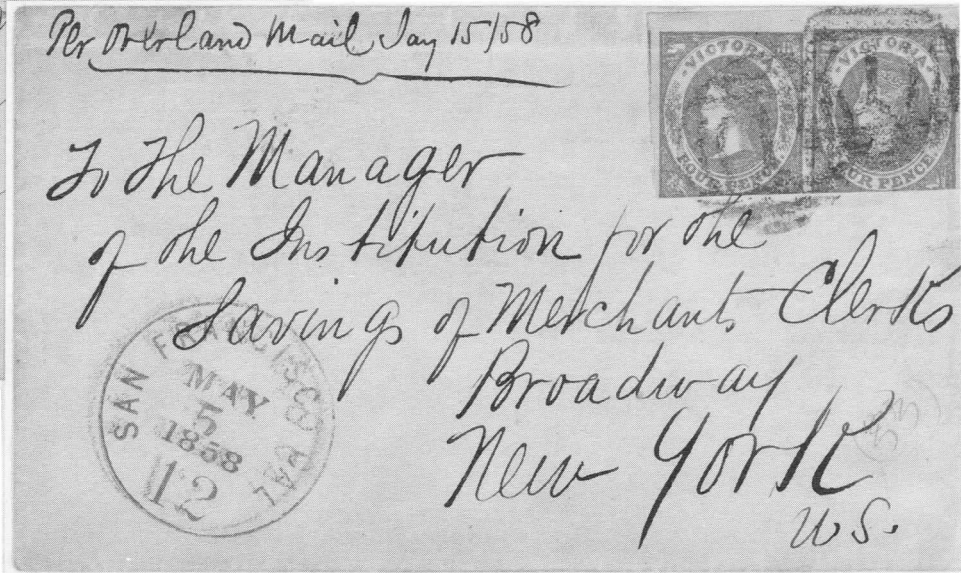
JUNE 16, 1857



LV MELBOURNE JUNE 23?
 USPO SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 12
 VIA PANAMA NEW YORK

ALTHOUGH DOCKED "PER EUROPEAN",
 THAT SHIP SAILED VIA THE SUEZ.

JANUARY 15, 1858



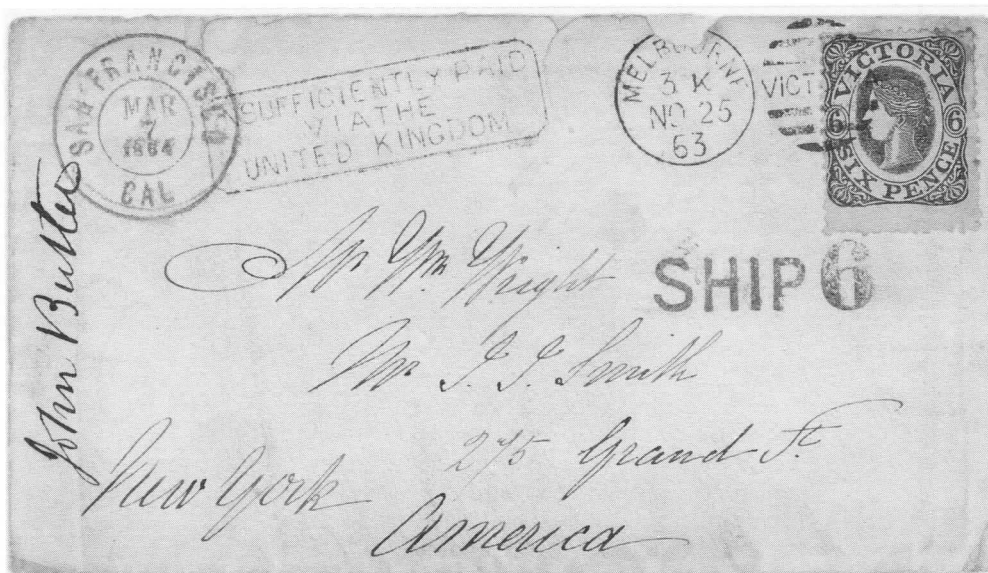
LV MELBOURNE JANUARY 15
 VIA PANAMA

USPO SAN FRANCISCO MAY 5
 NEW YORK

U.S. RATE 12 CENTS: U.S. 10 CENTS TRANSCONTINENTAL PLUS 2 CENTS SHIP CAPTAIN FEE.

"INSUFFICIENTLY PAID VIA THE UNITED KINGDOM"

NOVEMBER 25, 1863



LV MELBOURNE NOVEMBER 25, 1863
 VIA PANAMA

USPO SAN FRANCISCO MARCH 7, 1864
 NEW YORK

APPARENTLY, THE SENDER ATTEMPTED TO MAIL THIS LETTER VIA GREAT BRITAIN; HOWEVER, THE LETTER WAS HELD FOR THE FIRST AVAILABLE SHIP VIA SAN FRANCISCO AND RATED "SHIP 6" WHICH WAS DOUBLE THE 3 CENT U.S. DOMESTIC RATE AFTER JULY 1, 1863.

NEW SOUTH WALES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1871



"VIA CALIFORNIA ROUTE"

NEW SOUTH WALES RATE: 6 PENCE PER HALF OUNCE; RATED DOUBLE, THUS, 12 PENCE PAID.
10 CENTS U.S. DUE

THIS PAIR OF COVERS TO TENNESSEE CONTAIN THE SAME TEXT; THEY ARE PRESENTED TO SHOW THAT EVEN AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD, SOME MAIL WAS STILL SENT BY DIFFERENT ROUTES "TO MAKE SURE."

SEPTEMBER 21, 1871



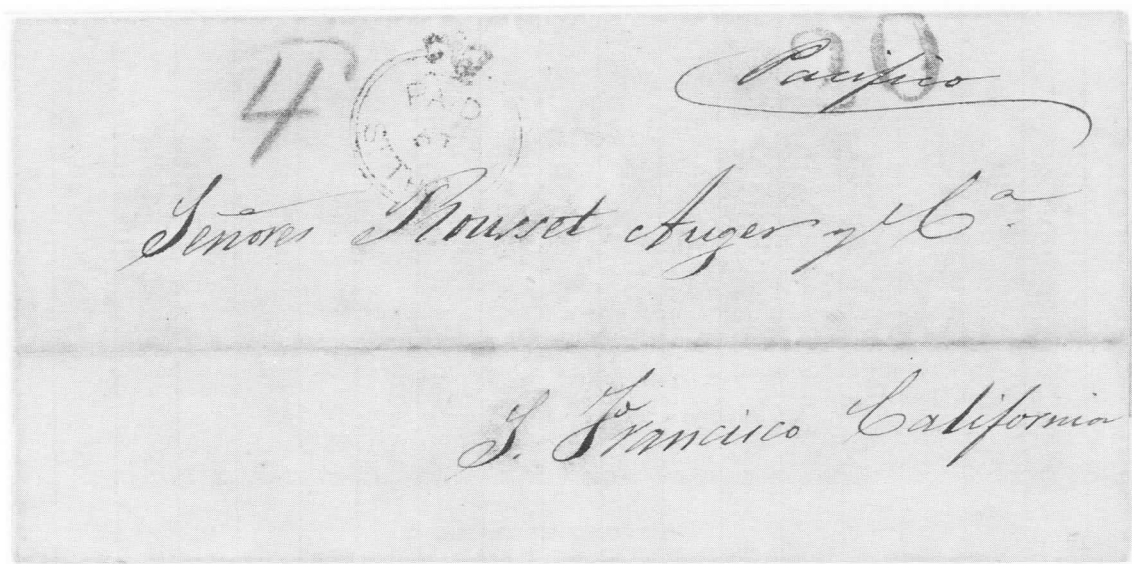
"VIA ENGLAND OVERLAND ROUTE"

18 PENCE WAS THE RATE VIA MARSAILLES WHICH ENDED WITH THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR IN 1870;
VIA BRINDISI (ELEVEN PENCE PER HALF OUNCE) WAS THE SUBSTITUTE. THE OTHER POSSIBILITY WAS
VIA ENGLAND (EIGHT PENCE PER HALF OUNCE) RATED DOUBLE AND OVERPAID.

RELEVANT TO MAIL VIA PANAMA CARRIED TO OR FROM THE AMERICAN EAST COAST TO THE WEST WERE THOSE FEW FROM THE WEST INDIES AS WELL AS THOSE TO OR FROM THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA.

ST. THOMAS - DANISH WEST INDIES

JANUARY 2, 1853

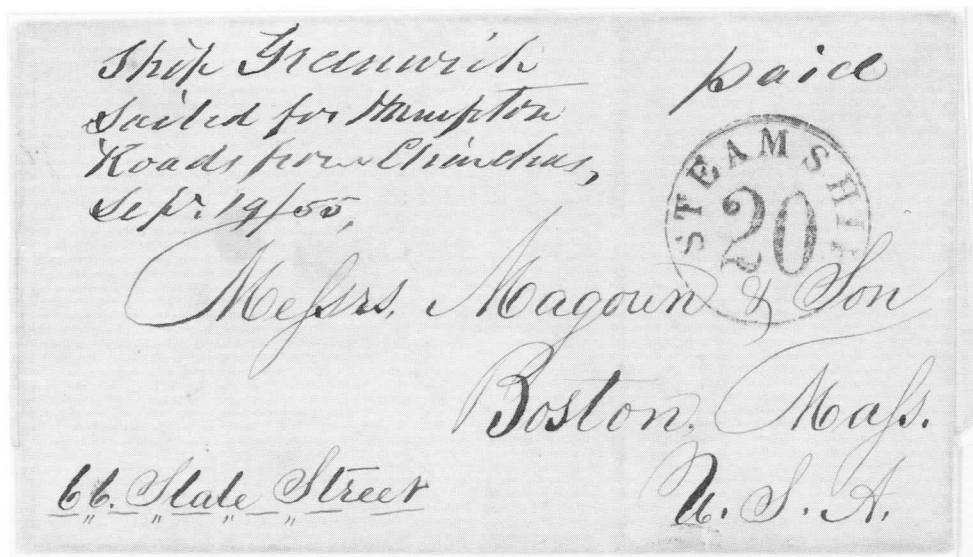


ST. THOMAS PO JANUARY 3 - VIA PANAMA - SAN FRANCISCO M/S "REC 15 MARS"

RATES: RED CRAYON "4" RESTATES RED CROWN = "PAID AT ST. THOMAS" ONLY TO PANAMA (NO U.S. TREATY WITH DENMARK FOR THIS MAIL).
BLACK "20" = SAN FRANCISCO POSTMASTER'S COLLECT POSTAGE FOR OVER 2500 MILES. ST. THOMAS INLAND POSTAGE WAS PREPAID.

CHINCHA ISLANDS

SEPTEMBER 18, 1855

"CHINCHAS SEPTEMBER 19"
USPO NEW ORLEANSCARRIED PRIVATELY TO ASPINWALL
BOSTON

RATE: 20 CENTS = DESTINATION OVER 2500 MILES FROM ASPINWALL; THIS STYLE "STEAMSHIP 20" WAS APPLIED AT NEW ORLEANS.

LETTER FROM CAPTAIN OF THE "GREENWICH" TO SHIP OWNER CARRIED PRIVATELY VIA PANAMA WHILE SHIP SAILED AROUND THE HORN - "MY CREW IS VERY MUCH DISSATISFIED ABOUT COMING IN THE SHIP ON ACCOUNT OF LEAKING BADLY. . . SHE IS MAKING ABOUT TWO INCHES OF WATER AN HOUR."

THE CHINCHA ISLANDS ARE LOCATED OFF THE COAST OF PERU.

Contents of the Chincha Islands cover

Chinch a Islands Sept. 1855

Messrs. Magoun & Son

Dear Sir This short epistle is to inform you that the ship Greenwich is loaded and ready for sea and at the crack of day tomorrow morning I shall proceed to sea for Hampton Roads direct. I have written to Mr. Berada for a direct port I have an answer from him saying that he has no news from Baltimore of late and I shall have to proceed to Hampton Roads for my orders. I am sorry to inform you that after loading the ship down to 19 feet, she commenced leaking badly and she is now drawing 19 feet 11 inches to 3/4 even keel and I have drawn up a document certifying that the ship is drawing under 20 feet and have it (?) by a number of ship masters to that effect for perhaps when I get home there will be a dispute about the draft of water especially if I go to Baltimore where there is fresh shallow water the ship will draw 4 inches more than she does now. My charter party says I shall draw under 20 feet when loaded. My crew is very much dissatisfied with coming in the ship on account of leaking badly. She is making

two inches of water an hour. I am coming home with her or sink, but I am aware that I shall have disagreeable time coming home which don't frighten me at all.

I meant to send you a full account of my disbursements at this place and (?), but I hope you will excuse me as I have had so much to do in order to get to sea so I have not had time to make out the little items. My disbursements at (?), Chincha Islands is not far from twenty one hundred dollars and out of that I have advanced my crew from four to five hundred dollars and I have tried to make my bills as low as possible but I could not get them as low as the Witchcraft which was last voyage because I have had to lay here longer than she did on her last voyage. I have let Capt. Freeman have \$765 dollars on account of disbursements of ship Witchcraft as it is getting late in the night I must close and hope to meet you the first day of January next.

From you Obt. Servant,

J.B. Bourne

ECUADOR

INCOMING PHILADELPHIA SHIP CANCEL MAY 14, 1835



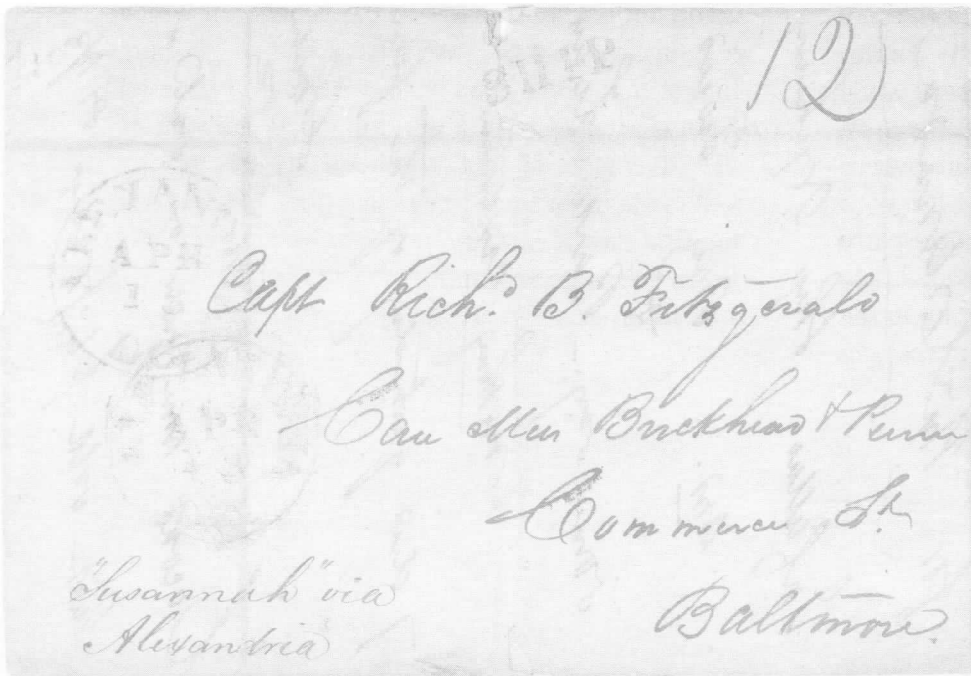
GUAYAQUIL, MAY 14 - FORWARDED BY S.S. SWEETSER, U.S. CONSUL
 "VIA PANAMA" FORWARDED BY I.B. FERAUD - ARR PHILADELPHIA SEPTEMBER 7
 USPO - BOSTON - SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

RATE: 20 3/4 CENTS; 2 CENTS SHIP FEE PLUS 18 3/4 U.S. POSTAGE.

THESE TWO COVERS WERE CARRIED BY PRIVATE SHIPS WHICH MADE NUMEROUS STOPS.



INCOMING ALEXANDRIA SHIP CANCEL DECEMBER 9, 1843

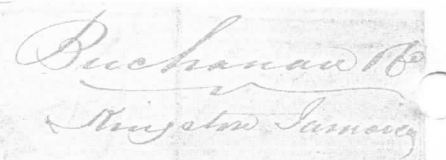
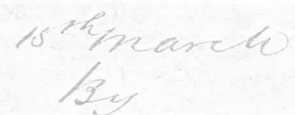
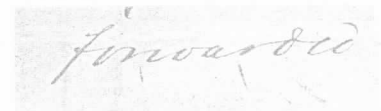
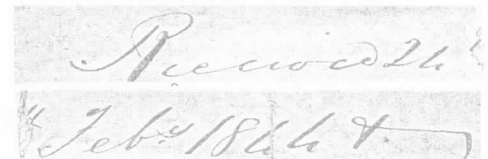
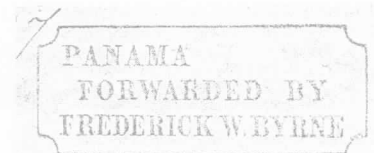


GUAYAQUIL, DECEMBER 9 -
 ARR KINGSTON, JAMAICA FEBRUARY 24, 1844
 (SHIP) "SUSANNAH" VIA (TO) ALEXANDRIA D.C.

"PANAMA FORWARDED BY FREDERICK W. BYRNE"
 - FORWARDED BY BUCHANAN & CO. MARCH 15
 USPO - BALTIMORE

RATE: 12 CENTS; 2 CENTS SHIP FEE PLUS 10 CENTS U.S. POSTAGE

THE GREEN ALEXANDRIA D.C. "SHIP" CANCEL WAS HERETOFORE UNRECORDED.
 BUCHANAN & CO. WAS HERETOFORE UNRECORDED AS A KINGSTON, JAMAICA FORWARDER.



Contents of the incoming Alexandria Ship Cancel cover

Guayaquil 9 Dec. 1843

My dear Fitz:

I write these few and hasty lines by a small vessel going down to Beuna Ventura today merely to say the Canada sails (?) 12 November for Coby and Axion, all well but Laban Coffins(?) he took the fever here was very ill for seven days but got better and embarked. Poor boy William Neighoff died in the Hospital of the fever. I have been very ill myself now securely able & tonight I am going to Quito to spend the rainy season--3 or four months for I shall not live long in this place. The fever is raging again most alarmingly. The Whig was here, sailed for Africa Oct. 31 with 2072 (?) cocoa (?) on the rains. The Canada sold near \$10,000 and took away 3768(?) cocoa cost \$4 (?) about 5000 \$ gold (?) 1280 \$. Bank \$250 and some other small things. It was indispensably necessary for her to return to the (?). Mr. Booth will explain all this. I am not well, so excuse this scrawl.

(?)

PERU

FEBRUARY 18, 1856



NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS FEBRUARY 18
BRITISH TRANSIT

NEW YORK - VIA PANAMA
PAITA, PERU - "BARK CAPE HORN PIGEON"

RATE: OCTOBER, 1853 - DECEMBER, 1856 32 CENTS; 12 CENTS CREDIT TO G.B.

OCTOBER 1, 1864



HOLMES HOLE, MASSACHUSETTS OCTOBER 1
BRITISH TRANSIT OCTOBER 14
S.CROSBY & CO. FORWARDERS

NEW YORK

VIA PANAMA
CALLAO, PERU NOVEMBER 4
ADDRESSEE

RATE: DECEMBER, 1856 - OCTOBER, 1867 22 CENTS; 12 CENTS CREDIT TO G.B.

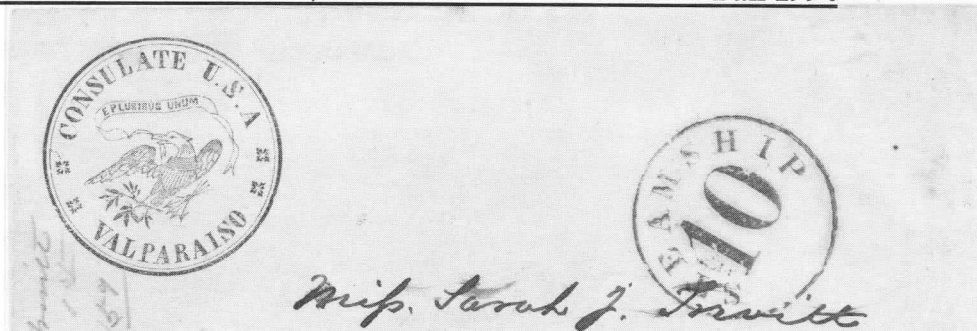
EARLIEST RECORDED AND ONLY KNOWN 1864 "S.CROSBY" MARKING.

CHILE

MARCH, 1859

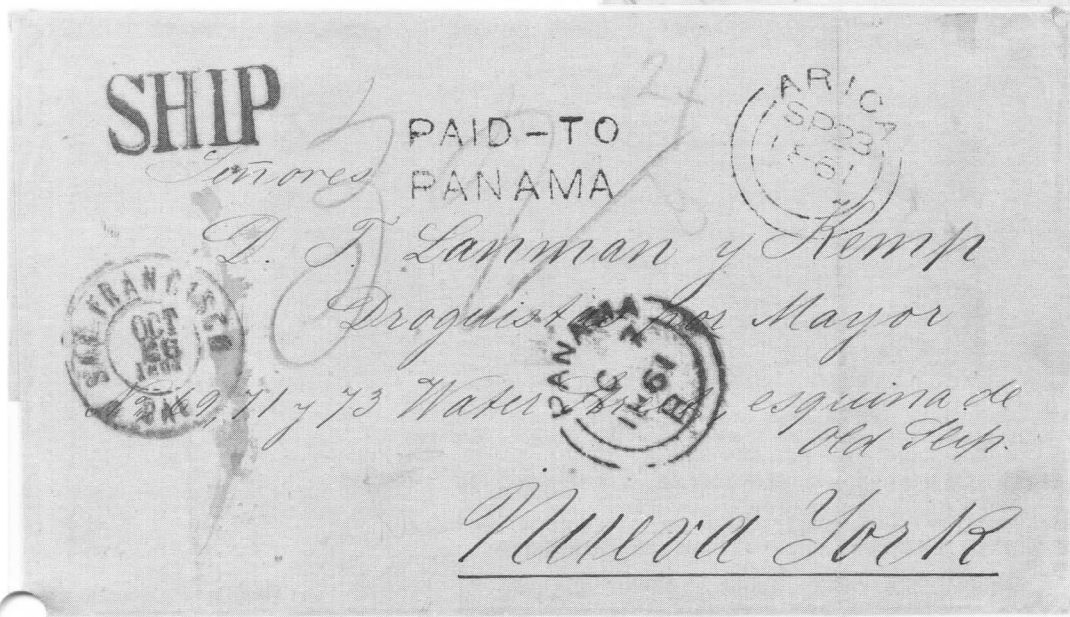
CARRIED PRIVATELY PER NON CONTRACT SHIPS

USPO NEW ORLEANS - MOUNT VERNON, NEW HAMPSHIRE



Mrs. Sarah J. Trivett

*Mount Vernon
New Hampshire
United States*



TEANA, PERU SEPTEMBER 22, 1861
PANAMA CITY, PANAMA OCTOBER 7
BACK THROUGH PANAMA

ASPINWALL

ARICA, CHILE 23
SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 26
NEW YORK

RATES: FROM PERU - 22 CENTS; FROM CHILE - 34 CENTS.
"SHIP" CANCEL WAS APPLIED IN ERROR AT SAN FRANCISCO;
RED CRAYON "24" = "PAID - TO PANAMA". BLUE "32" IS UNCLEAR.

JUNE, 1865



SANTIAGO, CHILE JUNE 30

VIA PANAMA

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

25 CENTAVOS PAID THE INTERIOR CHILE POSTAGE. RATE: 34 CENTS; 24 CENTS DUE TO G.B. FOR TRANSIT TO PANAMA.
"N. YORK STEAMSHIP" = NON CONTRACT STEAMSHIP TO NEW YORK.

ACAPULCO, WEST COAST OF MEXICO

CIRCA 1855

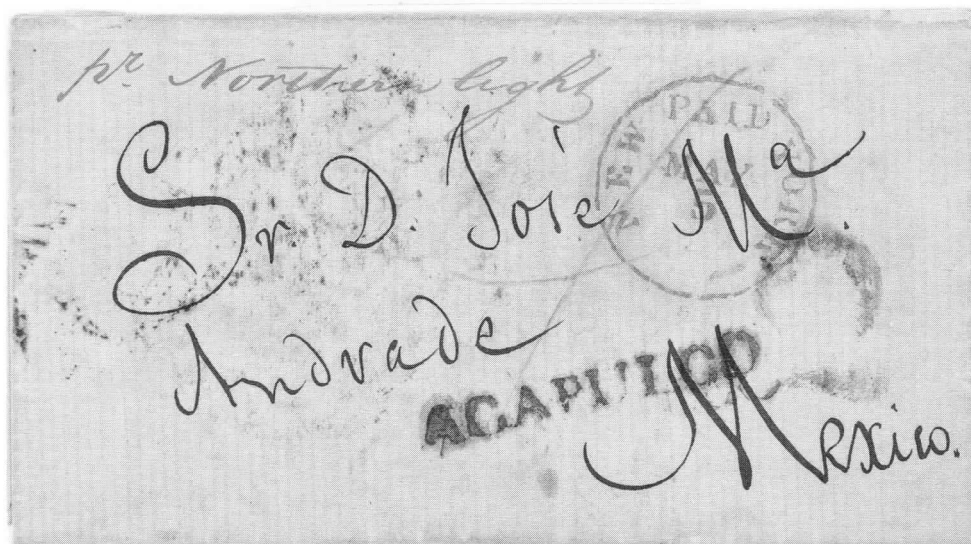


CARRIED PRIVATELY OR BY WELLS, FARGO & CO. FROM CALIFORNIA
 U.S. CONSULATE, ACAPULCO, MEXICO - ASPINWALL - NEW YORK

RATE: 20 CENTS OVER 2500 MILES FROM RECEIVING OFFICE. 3 CENTS ACCEPTED - "DUE 17"

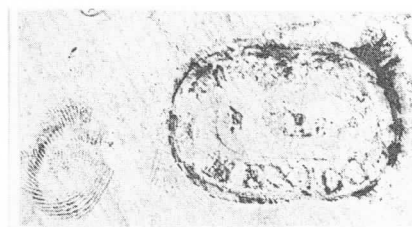
THIS STYLE ENVELOPE WAS BASICALLY USED IN CALIFORNIA DURING THE 1850'S.
 "N. YORK STEAMSHIP" = NON CONTRACT SHIP TO NEW YORK

Habana a 20 de
 Abril de 1860



HAVANA APRIL 20 "PER NORTHERN LIGHT"
 LV NEW YORK MAY 5 - VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK
 ANDVADE? - ACAPULCO, MEXICO - MEXICO CITY

CARRIED PRIVATELY TO NEW YORK, POSTAGE PAID IN CASH
 PENCIL "4" = 4 REALES DUE FOR MEXICO INLAND
 BLACK "2" = 2 REALES FORWARDING FEE TO MEXICO CITY



MEXICO CITY
 RECEIVING MARK
 + ONE FINGERPRINT

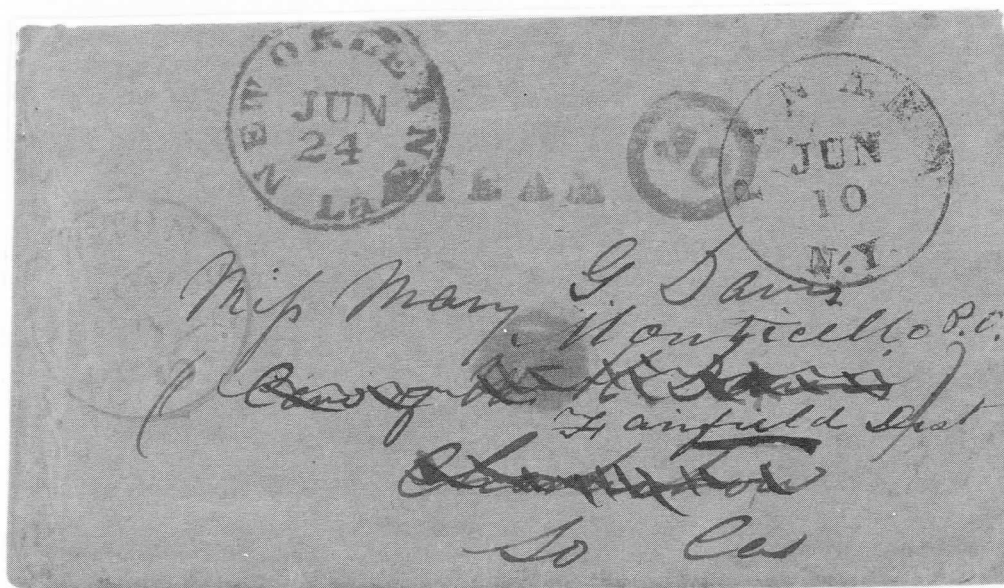
THE 30 CENT RATE

ALTHOUGH NOT THE ABSOLUTE DISTANCE, COVERS TO AND FROM THE WEST COAST OF PANAMA ARE IMPORTANT TO THE OVERALL COMPREHENSION OF TRANSCONTINENTAL POSTAL HISTORY.

THE FIRST AND SECOND MARKINGS WERE USED ON MAIL GIVEN TO THE CONSULATE IN PANAMA CITY AND TAKEN AS A FAVOR, TO CHAGRES. NONETHELESS, THEY WERE RATED "30" CENTS, THE PROPER RATE FROM THE PACIFIC SIDE OF PANAMA.

EARLIEST USAGE OF THE FIRST MARKING - "PANAMA N.Y."

JUNE 10, 1850



U.S. CONSULATE, PANAMA CITY JUNE 10
ARR NEW ORLEANS JUNE 23
CHARLESTOWN, SOUTH CAROLINA JULY 3

LV CHAGRES JUNE 13 PER USMSS "FALCON"
USPO NEW ORLEANS JUNE 24
MONTICELLO, SOUTH CAROLINA

THE "PANAMA N.Y." MARKING IS KNOWN FOR ONE MONTH IN 1850. THIS COVER IS ONE OF TWO COVERS KNOWN ON JUNE 10; ADDITIONALLY, SIX OTHERS ARE KNOWN ON JUNE 23 AND JULY 10. THE THREE DATES ARE EACH ABOUT THREE DAYS BEFORE THE SAILING OF MAIL SHIPS FROM CHAGRES.

STAMPS ARRIVE JULY, 1850



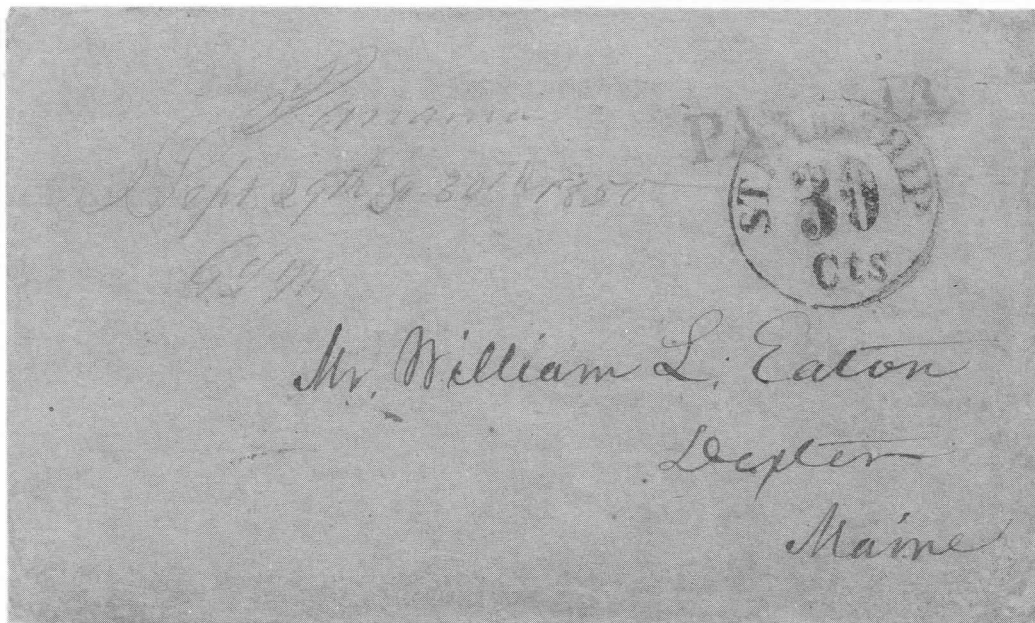
(PENCIL: "LIMA") CARRIED PRIVATELY TO PANAMA - CHAGRES - NEW YORK

THE FIRST STAMPS ARRIVED IN PANAMA CITY JULY 16, 1850. ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO YEAR DATE ON THIS LETTER, THERE IS A M/S "APR 8 ANSD 11TH .. PER GEORGIA". THE USMSS "GEORGIA" SAILED APRIL 11, 1851 FROM NEW YORK TO CHAGRAS.

30 CENT RATE

THE SECOND MARKING - "PANAMA"

SEPTEMBER 27, 1850



U.S. CONSULATE, PANAMA CITY SEPTEMBER 29
ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 18

LV CHAGRES OCTOBER 8 PER EMPIRE "CRESCENT CITY"
DEXTER, MAINE

THE "PANAMA" STRAIGHTLINE IS KNOWN USED BETWEEN JULY 13 AND NOVEMBER 7, 1850.
THE "STEAMSHIP 30" WAS STRUCK UPON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK.

THE ONLY "PANAMA" USAGE TO SAN FRANCISCO



THE ORIGIN OF THIS FOLDED LETTER IS UNKNOWN. HERETOFORE, NO "PANAMA" STRAIGHT LINE MARKINGS TO SAN FRANCISCO HAVE BEEN SEEN.

Contents of the second rate marking 'Panama' cover

American Hotel, Panama Sept. 29th '52

Sunday night late

Dear Friend Lucien:

I am altogether too tired and worn out tonight to write you such a letter as I wish to but I must write a few lines as I have a chance to send them along ahead of the mail--early tomorrow noon--by Mr. O.C. Moore of Frankfurt--he an old acquaintance of mine. He has just got in from Cal. where he has been for this six months past--and I assure you his success and story is anything but charming or flattering to those that are going and he is only one of all (5 or 6 hundred) that have arrived from there within a few days past. Every man I have met from there for this 10 days past tell the hardest story about Cal. I have ever heard. They all say the mining business is all over and that every nook and corner has got a mine in it, that there is no end to the folks arriving from there by the overland route and their sufferings after they get there. I have never heard such hard stories from there before--they may not be so but one cannot help to begin to think its about so by the time he gets here. It would take a whole (?) of paper for me to give you a description of my voyage from Charges(?) to here. I can not write it (or any one else) so that you could form any idea how it is. But I'll tell you Lucien I have seen some of the toughest times that I ever saw before--but I have overcome them all--have not been sick a day yet but it has not been so with all the passengers who came in the Georgia--ten to fifteen went home again sick

from Havana & Charges(?) and five or six died in coming up the river and crossing the Isthmus. I was 80 hours in coming up the river to Cruces (60 miles) and five days in coming from there to here. Got here today at 11PM. I paid \$10 to have my baggage carried across the Isthmus and walked myself. There is hundreds of experiences on the road that takes the dimes(?) off I tell you that you know nothing about till you come to here--its pay out all the times you cannot help it--every thing cost a dime even a glass of water for which I have paid it a dozen times. Nothing short of \$300 will do to start to Cal. with. I am glad I am not bound for the diggings. I did not expect to go for the diggings when I started but I thought I would go to Cal. but I don't know now as I shall go any further than here as they are in want of a man here in this hotel and I am the man for them. If we can agree on the price. I want \$150 per month. They don't seem to want to give it. I shall not know till tomorrow after this is gone--so you must wait till next letter in two or three days more. I send a letter to Tobey & my folks. He (?) will tell you more when you see him. I cannot possibly write to the Doctor now but read this to him--give him my best respects and tell him to hold on till the next letter comes and if you and him wish to go to Cal--I will do all in my power to hope you along. Remember me to all. Write when you hear from me again.

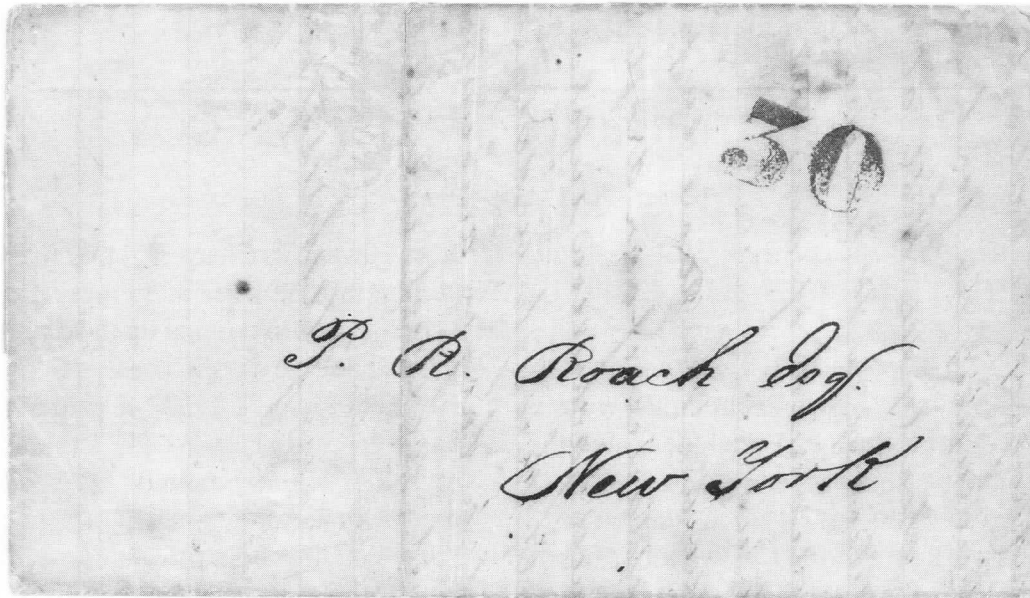
Yours heartily,

G.L. Waters

30 CENT RATE

NORMAL TYPE MARKING

MARCH 15, 1850

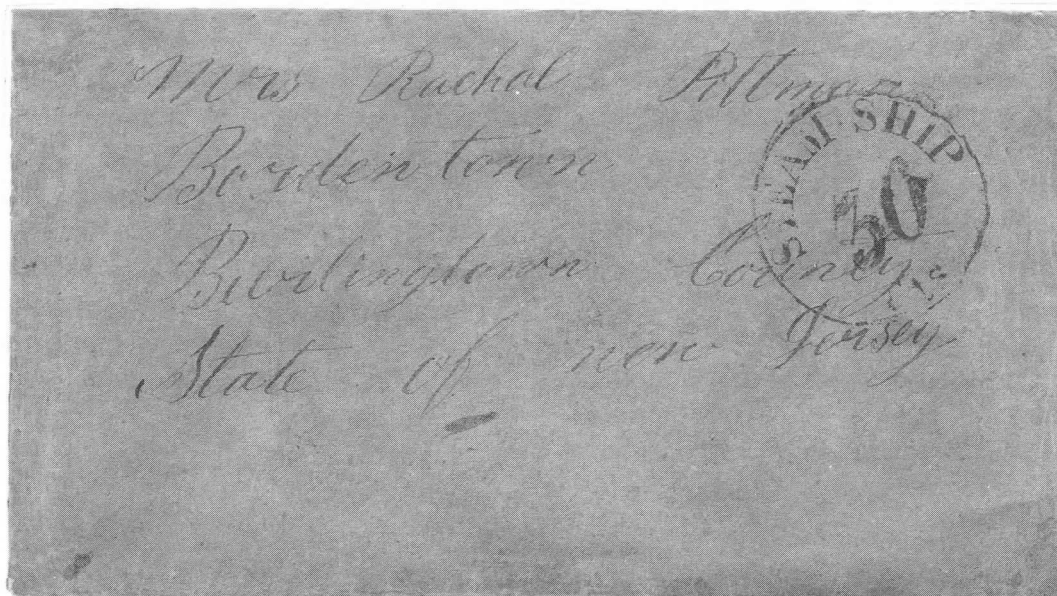


PANAMA CITY MARCH 15
PROB LV CHAGRES MARCH 26 PER H & A "CHEROKEE"

CHAGRES
ARR NEW YORK APRIL 5

BOTH COVERS WERE PLACED IN THE MAILS IN PANAMA CITY

APRIL 5, 1852



SAN FRANCISCO APRIL 5 PER PMSS "GOLDEN GATE" - CARRIED PRIVATELY - ARR PANAMA APRIL 19
LV CHAGRES APRIL 22 PER USMSS "CRESCENT CITY" - ARR NEW YORK MAY 2

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THIS "STEAMSHIP 30" MARKING AND THAT OF THE UPPER COVER OF THE PRECEDING PAGE; THIS COVER HAS STEAMSHIP IN TWO WORDS AND AN ITALICIZED "30".

JAPAN

EARLIEST TRANSPACIFIC LETTER

JUNE, 1855



HAKODATE, JAPAN, JUNE, 1855
 ARR SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 17
 VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK

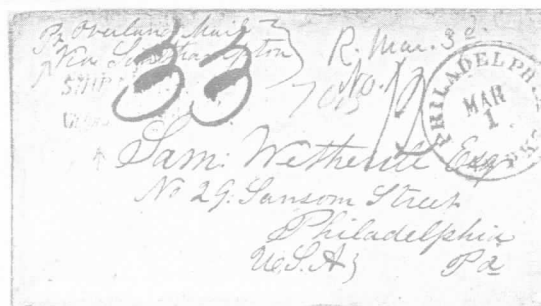
"PR CAROLINE E. FOOTE"
 USPO SEPTEMBER 20
 PHILADELPHIA "R (ECEIVED) OCT 17"

SHIP 12 RATE: 10 CENTS TRANSCONTINENTAL PLUS 2 CENTS "SHIP" FEE

"THE TREATIES OF 1853 - 1855 OPENED A FEW JAPANESE PORTS TO FOREIGN SHIPPING BUT DID NOT AUTHORIZE FOREIGNERS (OTHER THAN CONSULS) TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN JAPAN. MOST SHIPS LEAVING JAPANESE PORTS IN THE 1850'S WERE BOUND FOR SHANGHAI OR HONG KONG. THE FEW THAT HEADED EAST - SUCH AS THE LADY PIERCE IN 1854, THE CAROLINE E. FOOTE, THE U.S. NAVY'S VINCENNES AND OTHERS 'SURVEYING EXPEDITION TO THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN' IN 1855, AND THE PAGE IN 1856 ARE NOT KNOWN TO HAVE CARRIED MAIL. THE CAROLINE E. FOOTE, WHICH ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1855 FROM HAKODATE BROUGHT DISPATCHES TO THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT. - - - BUT IF THIS MAIL SURVIVES, IT IS NOW INACCESSIBLE BEHIND THE KREMLIN WALLS. - - - THE FIRST FOREIGN CONSUL TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN JAPAN - - - ARRIVED 21 AUGUST 1856." - PACIFIC CROSSINGS FROM JAPAN 1858 - 70 by W.H. Halliburton, Conrad Roger and Robert M. Spaulding Jr. Japan Philatelics, Vol. 24: No. 6 (part 2), December, 1969.

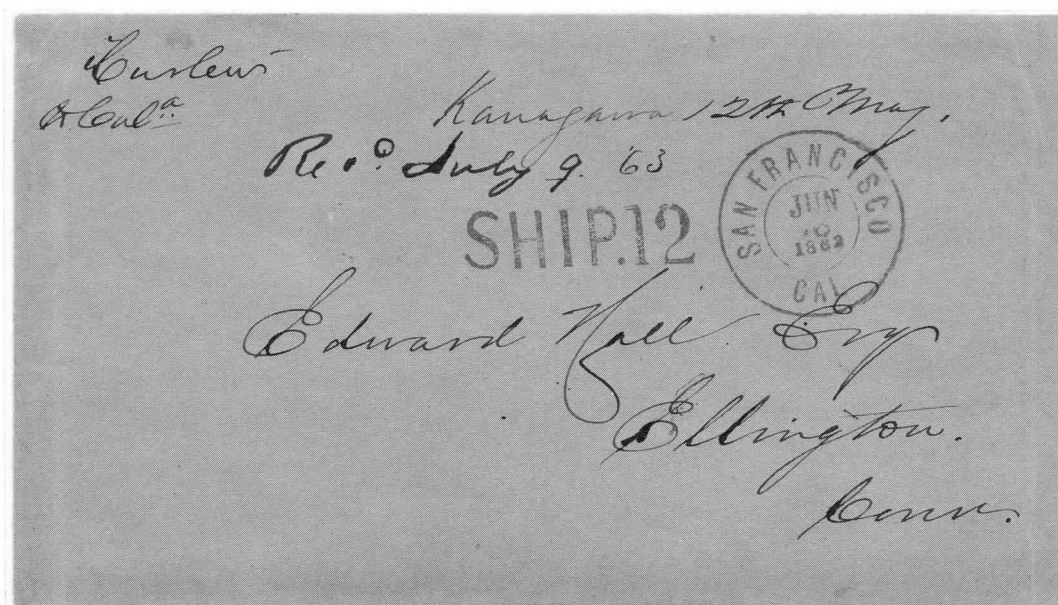
HERETOFORE, THE EARLIEST TRANSPACIFIC COVER KNOWN FROM JAPAN ARRIVED IN PORTLAND, OREGON ON AUGUST 28, 1860.

LETTER TO THE SAME ADDRESSEE IN THE SAME HANDWRITING MAILED DECEMBER 9, 1854 FROM HONG KONG VIA SOUTHAMPTON.



JAPAN - SHIP 12

MAY 12, 1863



KANAGAWA, JAPAN MAY 12 PER "CURLEW"
USPO SAN FRANCISCO JUNE 16
NEW YORK

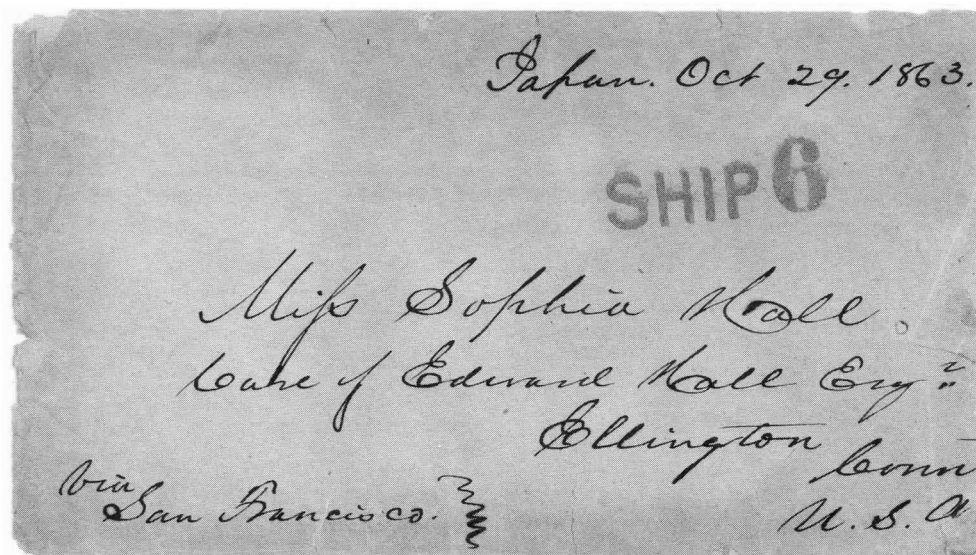
CARRIED PRIVATELY
VIA PANAMA
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT - W/S "REC'D JULY 9, 63"

SHIP 12 RATE: 10 CENTS TRANSCONTINENTAL PLUS 2 CENTS "SHIP" FEE.

THE "63" RECEIVING YEAR DATE IS CORRECT ALTHOUGH THE POSTMARK CLEARLY READS 1862.

SHIP 6

OCTOBER 29, 1863



KANAGAWA ? JAPAN OCTOBER 29
PANAMA NEW YORK

"VIA SAN FRANCISCO"
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT

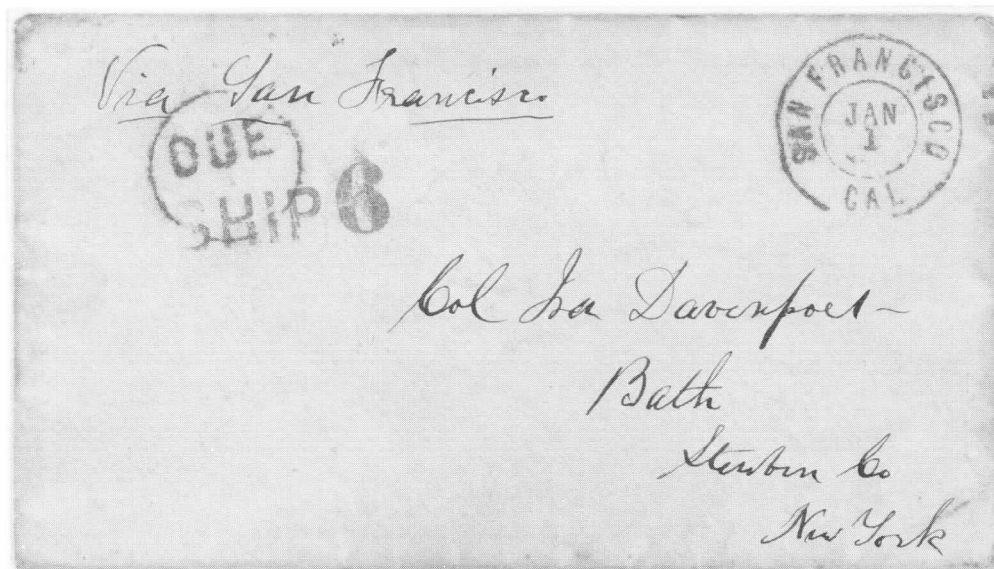
SHIP 6 RATE: AFTER JULY 1, 1863, UNPAID SHIP LETTERS WERE CHARGED TWICE THE NORMAL U.S. INLAND POSTAGE DUE; U.S. POSTAGE WAS 3 CENTS PER 1/2 OUNCE.

IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE WRITER OF THESE TWO LETTERS REMAINED IN KANAGAWA FROM MAY UNTIL OCTOBER, 29, 1863.

A QUESTION IS UNANSWERED: ASSUMING THE PORT OF ENTRY WAS SAN FRANCISCO, WHY IS THERE NO PORT OF ENTRY MARKING?

JAPAN - UNRECORDED FORWARDER

CIRCA 1863

YOKOHAMA
PANAMAJ. MAND BROWER, FORWARDER
NEW YORK"VIA SAN FRANCISCO"
BATH, NEW YORK

SHIP 6 RATE: AFTER JULY 1, 1863, UNPAID SHIP LETTERS WERE CHARGED TWICE THE NORMAL U.S. INLAND POSTAGE DUE; U.S. POSTAGE WAS 3 CENTS PER 1/2 OUNCE.

THIS IS THE DISCOVERY HANDSTAMP OF "J MAND BROWER", FORWARDER FROM YOKOHAMA, JAPAN. THE DOUBLE OVAL MEASURES 40 MM X 26.5 MM.

EARLIEST USAGE OF THE CONSULAR HANDSTAMP

JANUARY 5, 1866



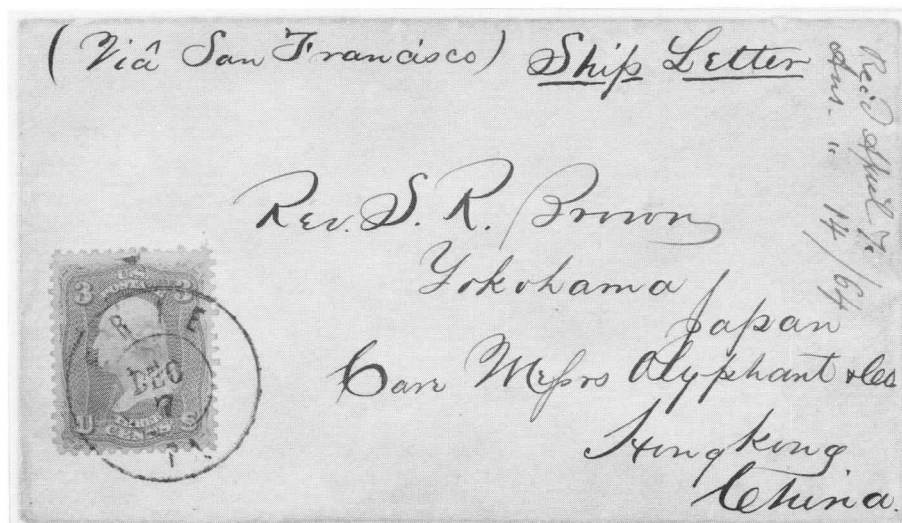
FORWARDED BY U.S. CONSUL, KANAGAWA - LV YOKOHAMA, JAPAN JANUARY 6 ± PER "ORIFLAME"
USPO SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 5 LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

THE CONSUL SERVICE WAS IN EFFECT FROM JANUARY 6 - DECEMBER 31, 1866 FOR NON CONTRACT SHIPS.

THIS WAS THE ONLY TRANS PACIFIC SAILING OF THE CALIFORNIA, OREGON AND MEXICO STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

CHINA - JAPAN

DECEMBER 7, 1863

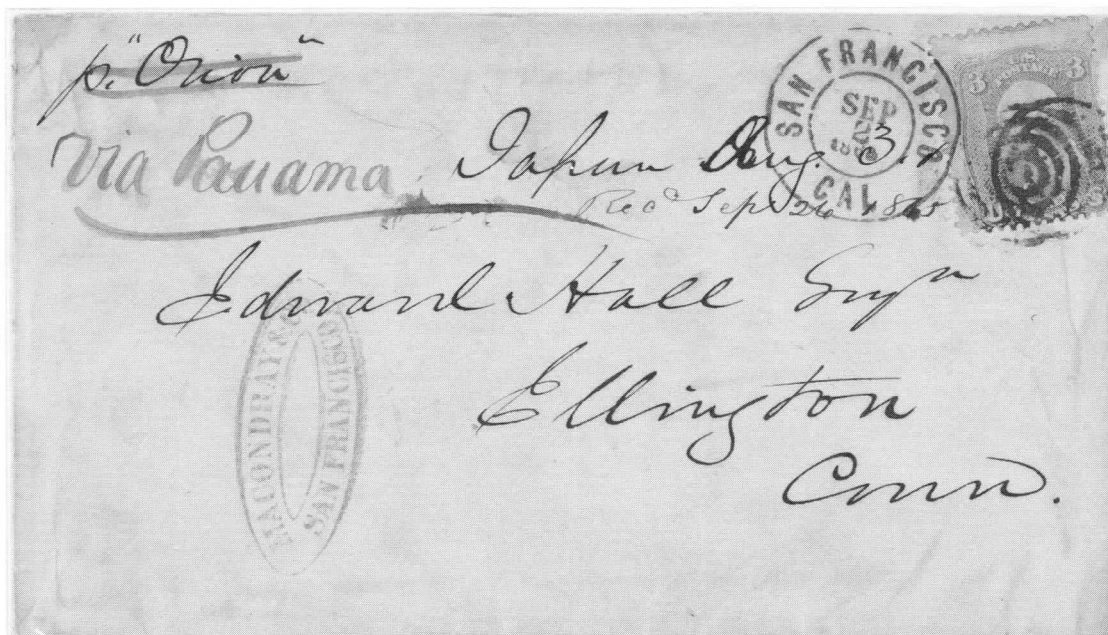


ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA DECEMBER 7 - VIA PANAMA - "VIA SAN FRANCISCO"
 HONK, KONG, CHINA - OLYPHANT & CO., FORWARDERS
 YOKOHAMA, JAPAN - M/S "REC'D APRIL 7 / 64"

U.S. POSTAGE PAID BY 3 CENT STAMP; TRANSPACIFIC POSTAGE UNPAID

JAPAN

AUGUST 5, 1865

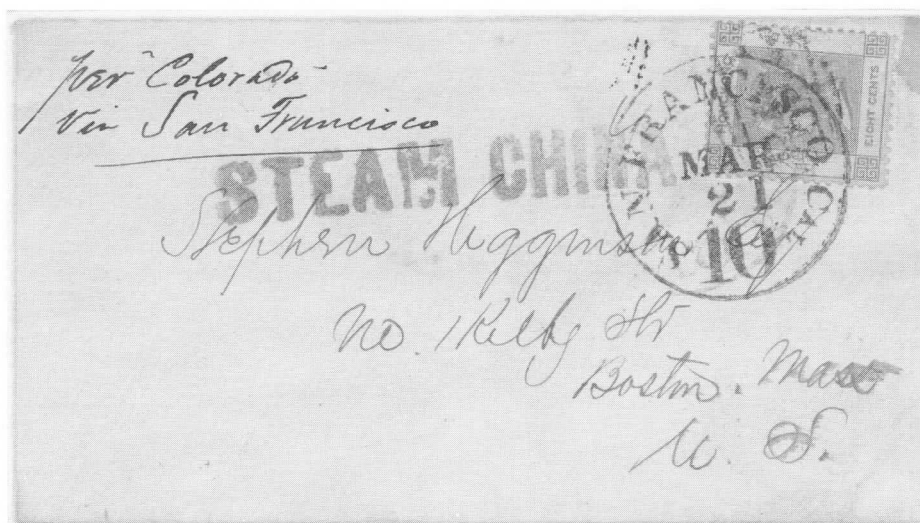


LV YOKOHAMA AUGUST 5 PER BATES & CO. "ORION" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 30
 MACONDRA & CO., FORWARDER - U.S.P.O. SAN FRAN CISO SEPTEMBER 2
 "VIA PANAMA" - ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT - M/S "REC SEP 26"

THE 40 X 17 "MACONDRA OVAL IS UNRECORDED IN LISTING BOOKS.

"STEAM CHINA"

FEBRUARY 16, 1867



HONG KONG FEBRUARY 16, 1867 PER PMSS "COLORADO" -
 SAN FRANCISCO MARCH 21 - NEW YORK - BOSTON

BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1867, THE PMSS RECEIVED A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE MONTHLY MAIL SERVICE FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO CHINA AND JAPAN. SOME COVERS BROUGHT ON THE FIRST THREE TRIPS WERE MARKED "STEAM CHINA" IN SAN FRANCISCO.

THE 10 CENT TRANSPACIFIC RATE WAS UNPAID ON THIS COVER.

CHINA AND JAPAN STEAM SERVICE

NOVEMBER 25, 1867



FORWARDED BY THOMAS HUNT & CO, HONG KONG
 PER PMSS "CHINA"
 USPO SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 1, 1868

HONG KONG NOVEMBER 25
 "CHINA AND JAPAN STEAM SERVICE"
 NEW YORK

A PARTIAL REMNANT OF A 45 MM. X 21 MM. THOMAS HUNT FORWARDING OVAL, HERETOFORE UNLISTED BEYOND 1859, IS STRUCK ON THE BACKSIDE.

THE "CHINA AND JAPAN STEAM SERVICE" DENOTED A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE USPO AND PMSS. THE 80 CENT HONG KONG STAMP PAID THEIR POSTAGE AND THE 10 CENT STAMP PAID THE U.S. TRANSPACIFIC RATE.

U.S. P.O., HIOGO, JAPAN - GREAT BRITAIN

MARCH 25, 1869



HIOGO, JAPAN MARCH 25 PER "COSTA RICA"

PER PMSS "JAPAN"

LV SAN FRANCISCO APRIL 27

PROBABLE) LV NEW YORK MAY 8 PER CUNARD "CITY OF BALTIMORE"

ARR LIVERPOOL MAY 18

VIA PANAMA

YOKAHAMA, JAPAN

SAN FRANCISCO

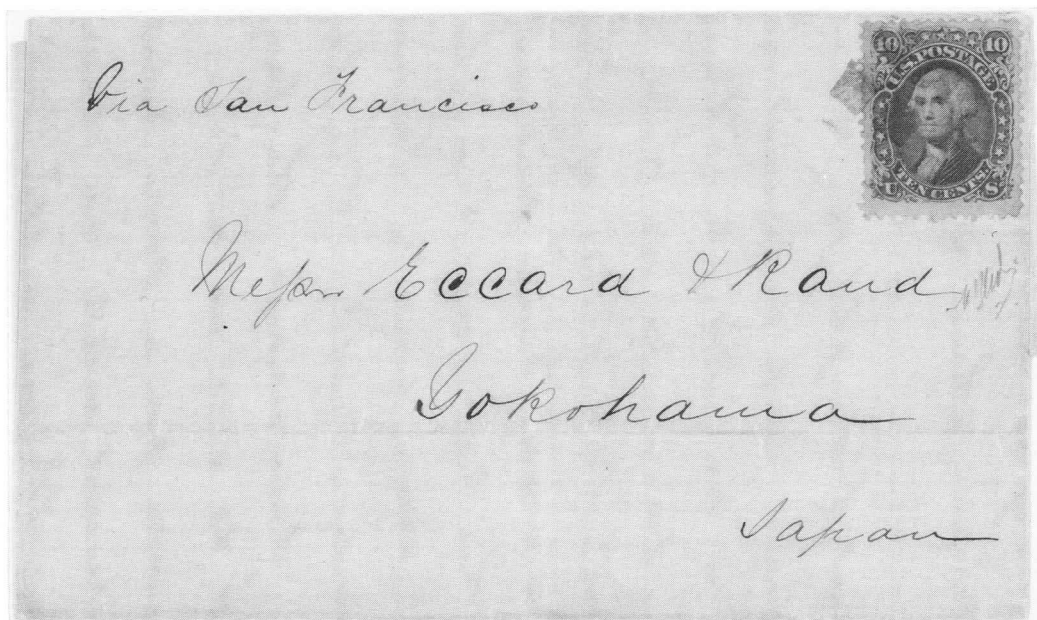
NEW YORK

GBPO, BRADFORD MAY 19

RATE: 10 CENTS TRANSPACIFIC PLUS 12 CENTS U.S. - GREAT BRITAIN

NEW YORK - JAPAN

APRIL 15, 1869



NEW YORK

ARR YOKOHAMA M/S (28 MAI)

"VIA SAN FRANCISCO"

RATE: 10 CENTS TRANSPACIFIC

Contents of the Hiogo USPO cover

DeConingh & Co. Via America

Kanagawa

Hiogo, 25th March 1869

Messrs John Briggs & Co.

Bradford

Dear Sirs,

Since the native new year, we have had rather a quiet market and lately transactions have been on a small scale; native merchants in most instances purchasing but, sparingly, and only to meet immediate wants; some difficulty being experienced in getting firm contracts cleared. This has been caused by the continuous depreciation of the native currency which has been greatly debased by the new government; though they profess the same to have been done without their knowledge, and have placed all the officers of the Ooka band under arrest.

Cotton goods are rather rule of sale with the exception of yarns, which have been in good demand, owing to large supplies having come forward they are again easier.

Woolen and mixed goods have attracted more attention. Black (?), checked Orleans, blankets & (?) having been placed to a fair extent, the latter goods both flow and figured meeting with a ready sale at quotations.

Begging to refer you to circular under separate cover, for details of market information.

We Are

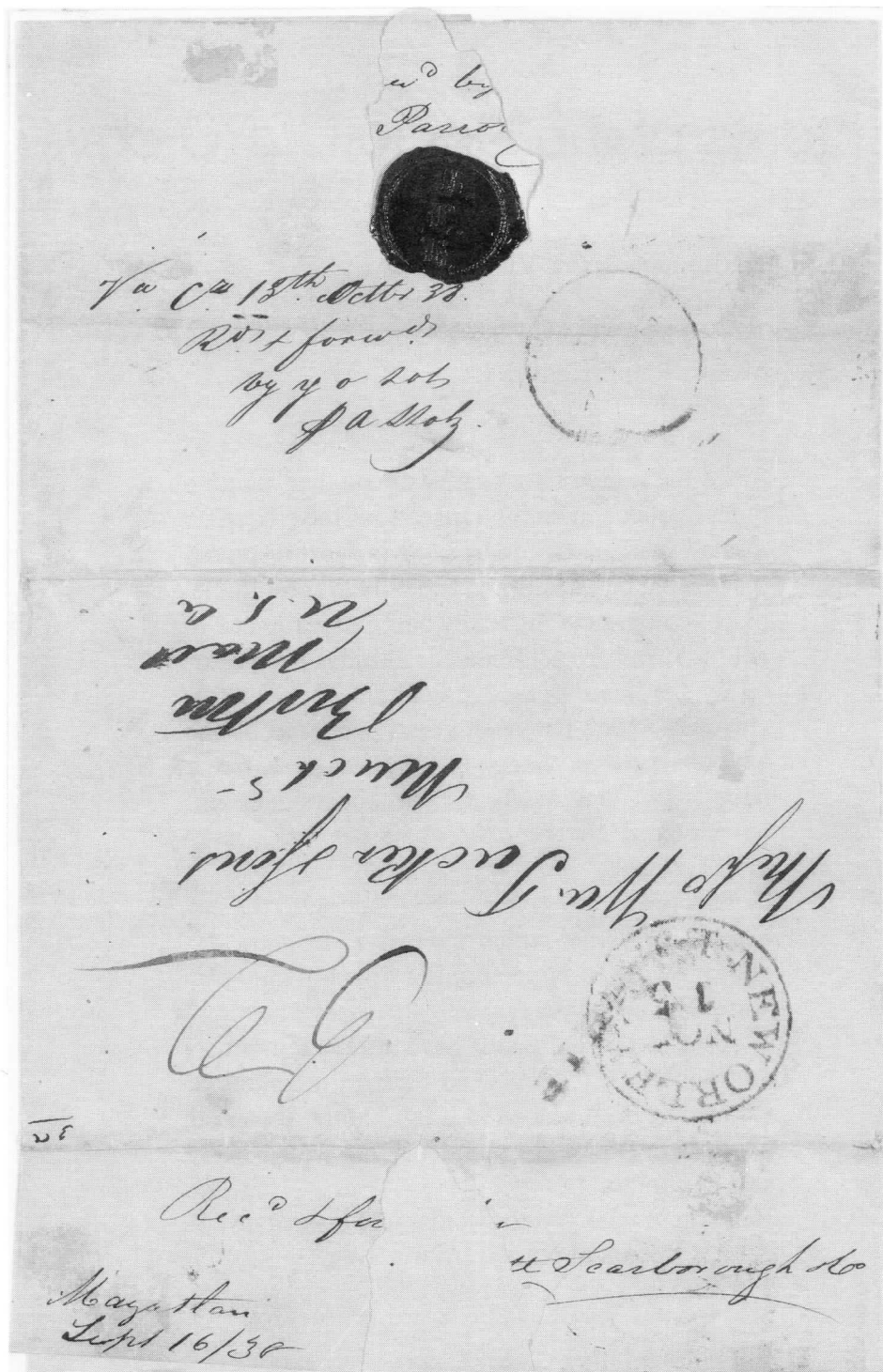
dear Sirs

Yours Faithfully,

de Coningh V(?) & Co.

HAWAII VIA THE MEXICAN OVERLAND ROUTE

MAY 4, 1838



HONOLULU MAY 4 -
BY STAGE COACH
BY SHIP
U.S. MAIL

PARROT AND SCARBOROUGH, FORWARDER, MAZATLAN, MEXICO SEPTEMBER 16
- DURANGO - GUADALAJARA - VERA CRUZ
- NEW ORLEANS, NOVEMBER 15
- BOSTON

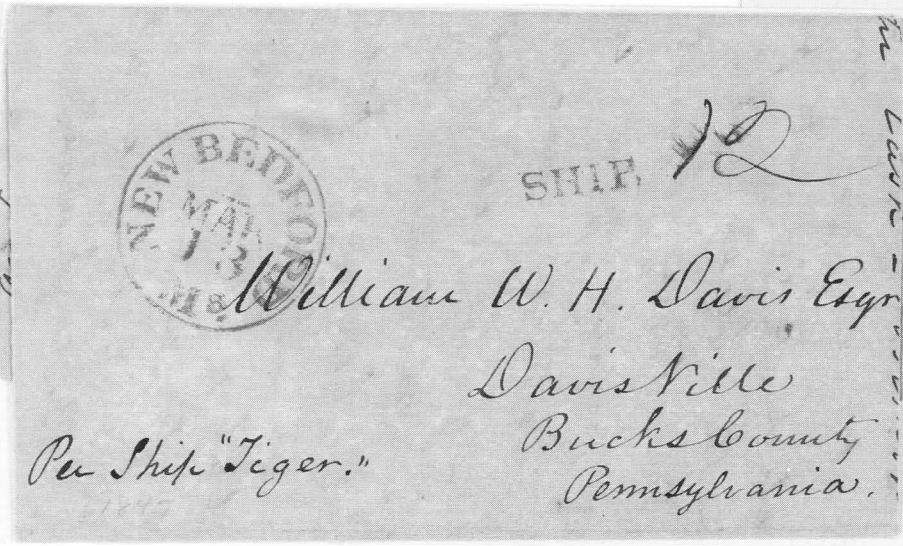
FROM THE EARLY 1830'S UNTIL 1846, MAIL TO AND FROM HAWAII WAS CARRIED VIA THE MEXICAN OVERLAND ROUTE. THEREFORE, MAIL COULD BE CARRIED BY ANY SHIP THAT WAS CONVENIENT AND IT'S CAPTAIN WOULD BE PAID A FEE OF 2 CENTS PER LETTER.

CARRIED PRIVATELY TO PARROT AND SCARBOROUGH, FORWARDERS IN MAZATLAN. 25 CENTS WAS THE U.S. RATE FOR OVER 400 MILES.
THIS LETTER WAS RATED 50 CENTS PLUS 2 CENTS TO PAY THE SHIP FEE FROM VERA CRUZ TO NEW ORLEANS

"THE FIRST (MAIL) I SEND YOU VIA MEXICO. A FIVE DAY SERVICE"

VIA CAPE HORN

Honolulu Island of Oahu
Hawaiian Islands,
Sept 19th 1847.



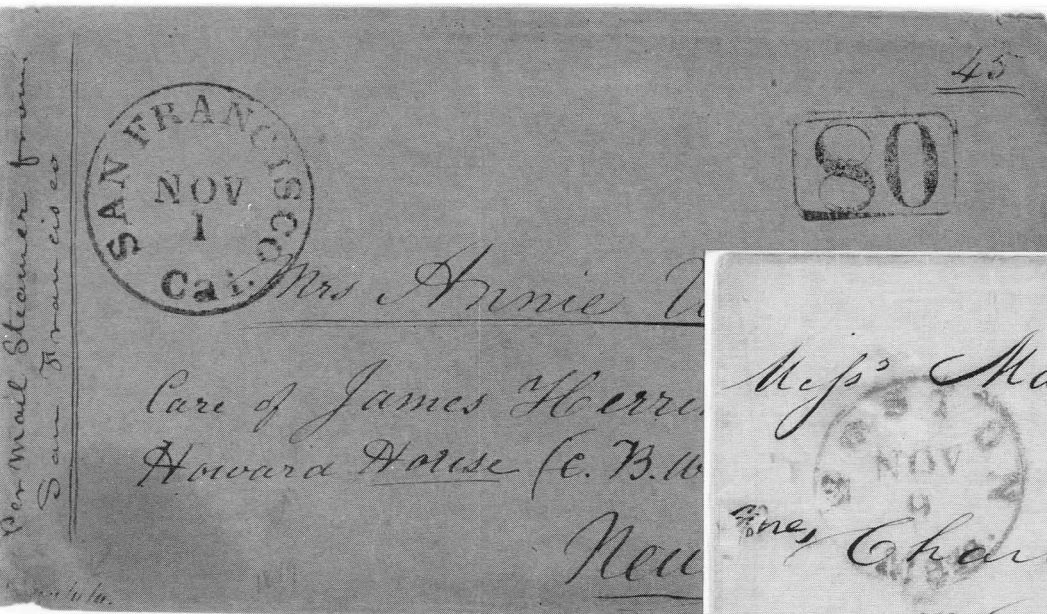
"SINCE MR. RICARDS' DEPARTURE FOR CALIFORNIA, I HAVE TO ACT AS THE GREAT LUMINARY OF LAW IN THIS KINGDOM THOUGH I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A FAULTING CANDLE."

HONOLULU, SEPTEMBER 19 - "PER SHIP TIGER" AROUND CAPE HORN
USPO NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS - DAVISVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

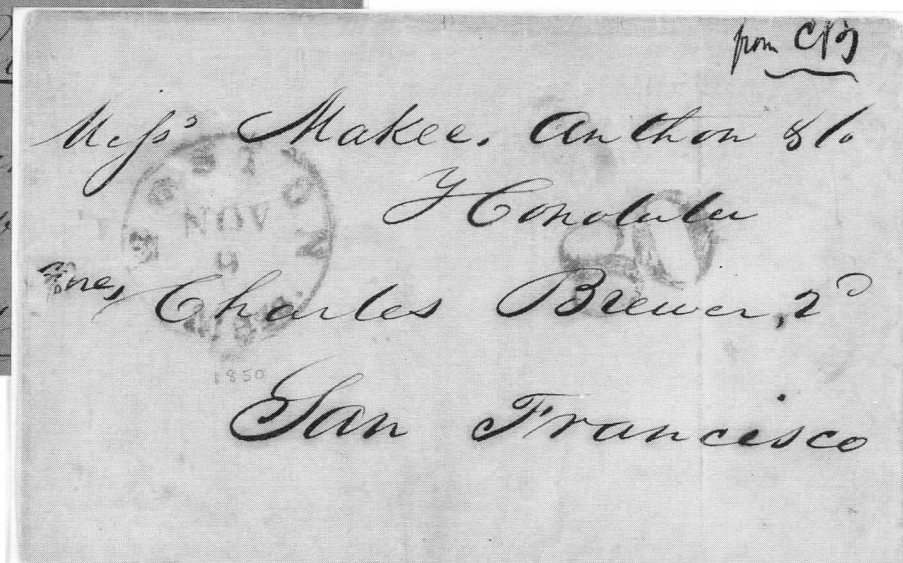
RATED 12 CENTS: 10 CENTS U.S. POSTAGE OVER 300 MILES + 2 CENTS SHIP CAPTAIN FEE

80 CENT DOUBLE DOMESTIC RATE

SEPTEMBER, 1849



NOVEMBER 9, 1850



PROB LV HONOLULU SEPTEMBER 26 PER "PRIVATEER"
LV SAN FRANCISCO NOVEMBER 1 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA"
ARR PANAMA NOVEMBER 22
LV CHAGRES NOVEMBER 28 PER EMPIRE "CRESCENT CITY"
ARR NEW YORK DECEMBER 7

THE "45" IS A MISMARKING.

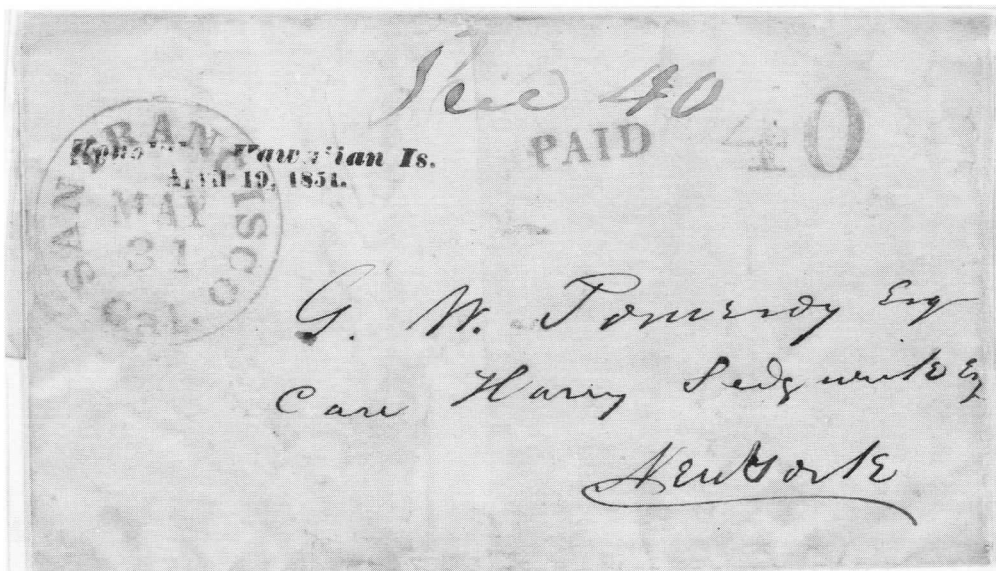
PROB LV NEW YORK NOVEMBER 13 PER EMPIRE "EMPIRE CITY" - ARR CHAGRES NOVEMBER 25±
LV PANAMA DECEMBER 4 PER PMSS "PANAMA" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 2, 1851
MAKEE, ANTHON, FORWARDERS CARRIED PRIVATELY TO HONOLULU

THE "STRAIGHTLINES" WERE THE FIRST OFFICIAL HAWAIIAN POSTAL MARKINGS.

THEY ARE KNOWN FROM NOVEMBER 7, 1850 INTO JUNE, 1851.
THE MARKING SIGNIFIED A SHORE TO SHIP PAYMENT OF 10 CENTS PER 1/2 OUNCE.

U.S. 40 CENT RATE PREPAID

APRIL 19, 1851



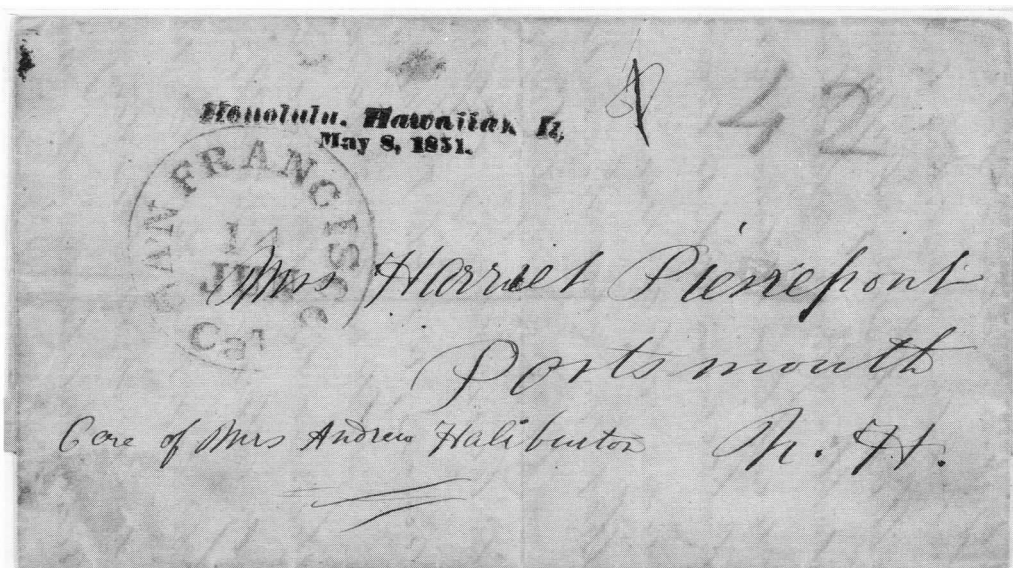
LV HONOLULU, HAWAII APRIL 19 PER "COL. FANNING"
LV SAN FRANCISCO MAY 31 PER PMSS "TENESSEE"
LV CHAGRES JUNE 26 PER USMSS "GEORGIA"

SAN FRANCISCO
ARR PANAMA JUNE 19
ARR NEW YORK JULY 8

"PAID 40": PREPAID U.S. TRANSCONTINENTAL FEE; THE 2 CENT "SHIP" FEE WAS ALSO PREPAID.

U.S. 40 CENT RATE UNPAID

OAHU, MAY 1, 1851



HONOLULU P.O. MAY 8
LV SAN FRANCISCO JUNE 14 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA"
LV CHAGRES JULY 7 PER USMSS "CRESCENT CITY"
USPO

LV HONOLULU MAY 19 PER "DEBORAH"
ARR PANAMA JULY 1
ARR NEW YORK JULY 20
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

ALTHOUGH THE 10 CENT HAWAIIAN POSTAGE HAD TO BE PAID IN CASH, THE SHIP FEE AND U.S. PORTION WERE COLLECT.

THE 13 CENT RATE

APRIL 23, 1853

HONOLULU APRIL 23
VIA PANAMAUSPO SAN FRANCISCO MAY 16
TROY, NEW YORK

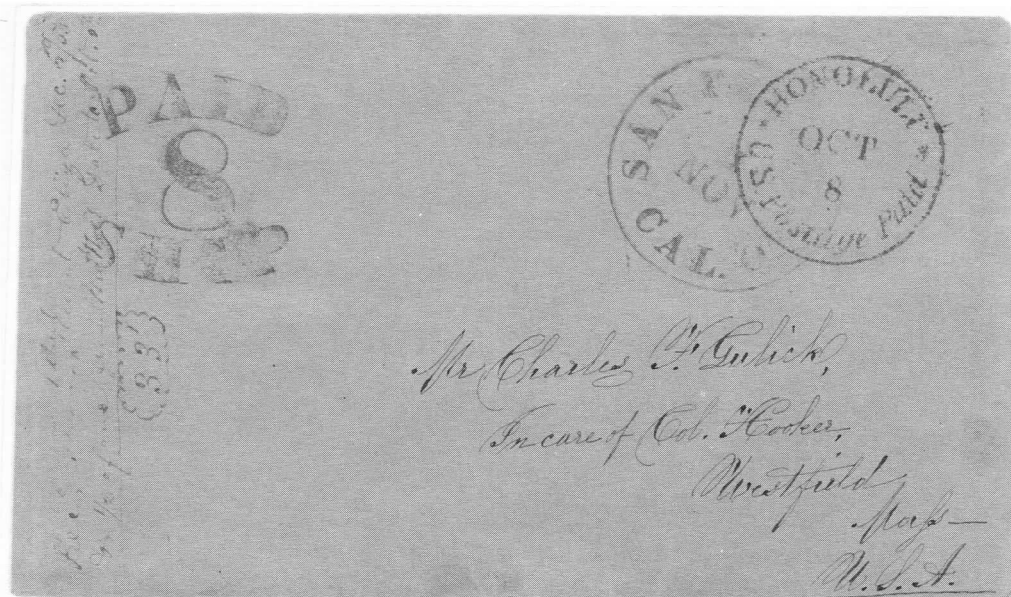
THE RED CIRCLED "8" INDICATES THAT THE SAN FRANCISCO POSTMASTER RECOGNIZED THE HAWAIIAN STAMP AND DEBITED HAWAII 6 CENTS FOR U.S. POSTAGE + 2 CENTS SHIP FEE.

IN THE LATTER HALF OF 1851, THE HAWAIIAN SHORE TO SHIP CHARGE WAS REDUCED FROM 10 CENTS TO 5 CENTS AND THE U.S. TRANSCONTINENTAL RATE WAS LOWERED FROM 40 CENTS TO 6 CENTS PREPAID (10 CENTS UNPAID).

HAWAII PRODUCED 13 CENT STAMPS, TODAY KNOWN AS "MISSIONARIES", WHICH WOULD ENCOMPASS THE 5 CENT SHORE TO SHIP FEE, THE U.S. 6 CENT CHARGE AND THE STILL REQUIRED 2 CENT SHIP CAPTAIN FEE.

THE FIRST ISSUE LOOKED AS ABOVE EXCEPT THAT THE TOP READ "HAWAIIAN POSTAGE"; EASTERN U.S. POSTMASTERS OFTEN DID NOT REALIZE THAT ALL POSTAGE WAS PREPAID AND CHARGED THE RECIPIENT ACCORDINGLY. THEREFORE, IN NOVEMBER, 1852 THE ISSUE WAS WITHDRAWN AND REPLACED WITH THE ABOVE STAMP WHICH READS "H.I. & U.S. POSTAGE"

OCTOBER 8, 1853

HONOLULU OCTOBER 8
VIA PANAMAUSPO SAN FRANCISCO NOVEMBER 1
"REC. . . DEC 5th / 53" WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

13 CENT RATE PAID IN CASH: (5 CENTS HAWAIIAN NOT NECESSARY TO SHOW)

(MISSED THE) BARK "FANNY MAJOR"

CIRCA APRIL 21, 1855



LV HONOLULU APRIL 21 PER THE "GRECIAN" - CARRIED PRIVATELY - ARR SAN FRANCISCO MAY 15
 FORWARDED BY G.B. POST - USPO SAN FRANCISCO MAY 16
 VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK - NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

INCOMPLETE SHIPPING TABLES SHOW THAT THE "FANNY MAJOR" MADE HER FIRST HAWAII TO SAN FRANCISCO RUN JUNE 27, 1854. NEXT JANUARY 17, 1855, THEN A MID FEBRUARY AND THEN A VOYAGE WHICH MUST HAVE LEFT AROUND APRIL 12 BECAUSE IT IS NOTED TO HAVE ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO MAY 2, 1855.

AS THE PREPAID U.S. TRANSCONTINENTAL RATE CHANGED JULY, 1 1855 FROM 6 CENTS TO 10 CENTS, THE COVER HAD TO BE CARRIED BY THEN; IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT HAD IT ARRIVED MAY 2 ON THE "FANNY MAJOR" THAT THE FORWARDER, G.B. POST, WOULD HAVE HELD IT TWO WEEKS BEFORE PLACING IT IN THE MAILS.

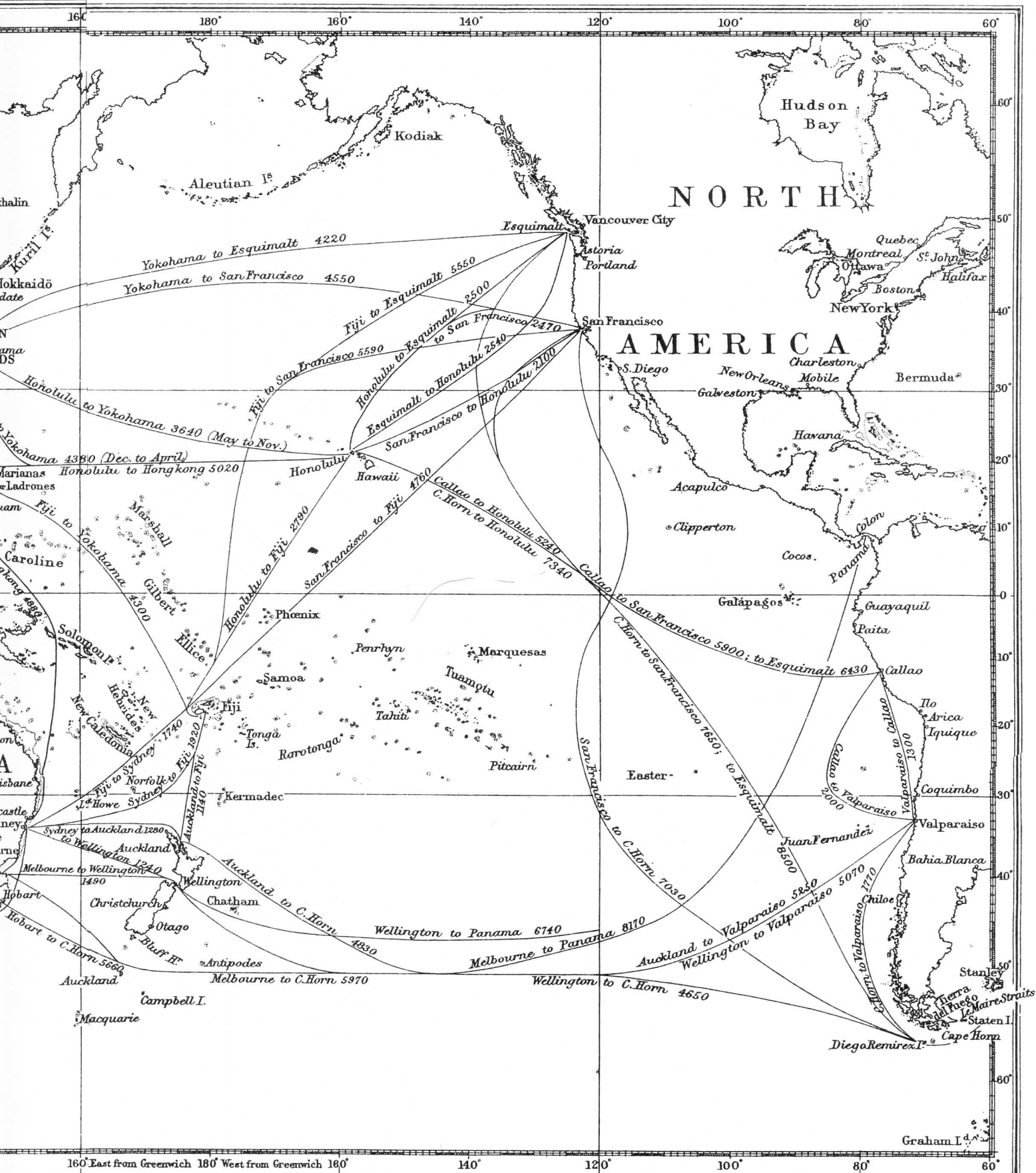
TWO FORWARDERS

MARCH 21, 1853



NEW YORK MARCH 21, 1853 - G.B. POST & CO., FORWARDER, SAN FRANCISCO
 ORIENTAL LINE AGENTS OGDEN & HAYNES, HONOLULU - M/S "REC MAY 9 / 53"

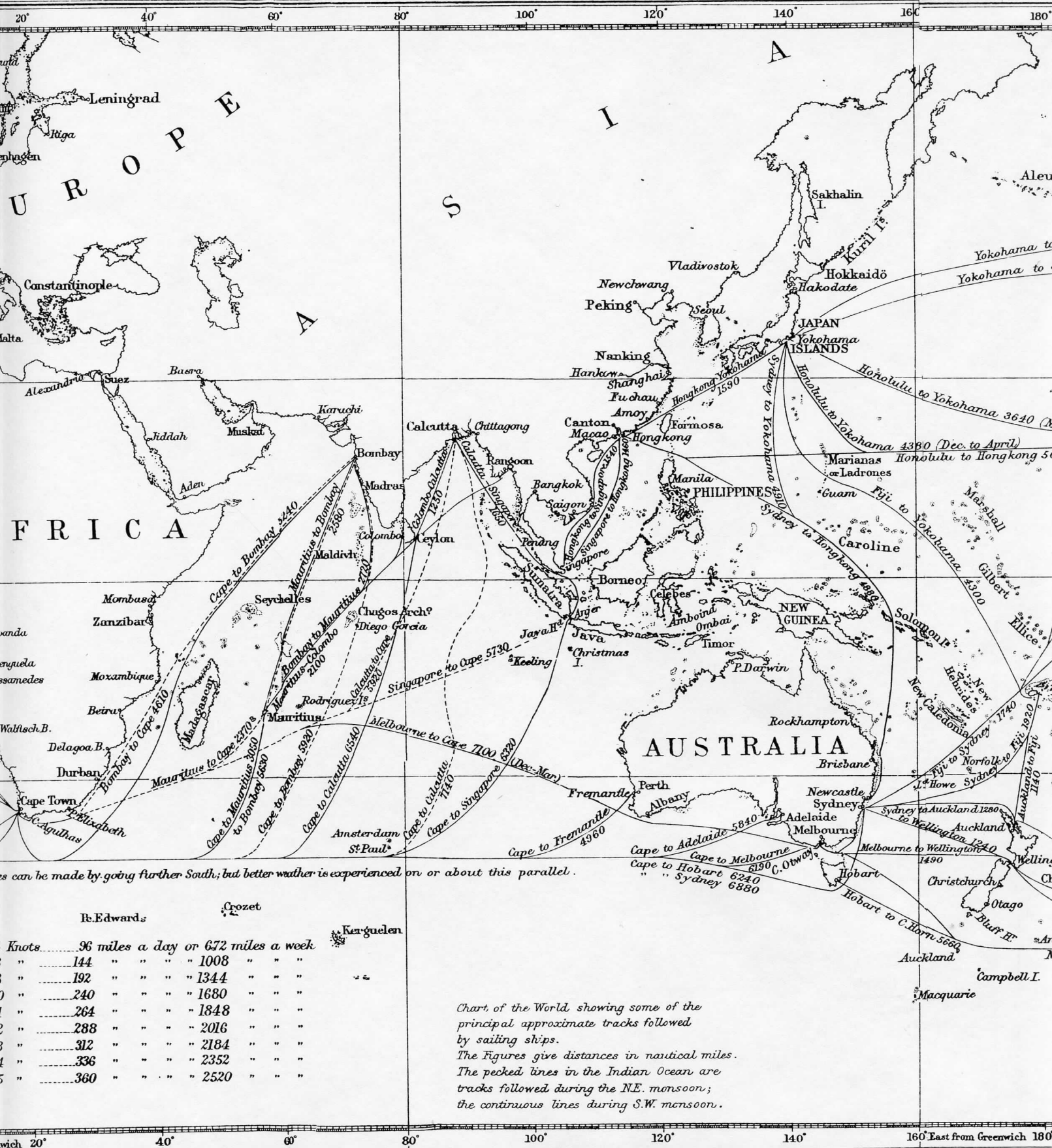
RATED "M/S 12" CENTS (DOUBLE RATE SIX CENTS TO SAN FRANCISCO); CARRIED OUT OF THE MAILS TO HAWAII.



Stanford's Geographical Establishment, London.

PER SHIPS

H.M. Stationery Office.



THE PRINCIPAL TRADE ROUTES OF THE CLIPPER SHIPS
 Based on Admiralty Chart 1078, by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office
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