

BRITISH PACKETS and CUBA

This exhibit deals with all types of Cuban mail which at some point along its route was carried on British packets until Cuba joined the Universal Postal Union in May 1, 1877. Other types of correspondence between Cuba and Great Britain during this period has been included. The emphasis is mainly on the markings of the consular postal agencies in Cuba and the correspondence they handled.

In the second half of the 18th century Great Britain established its naval supremacy. The two other colonial superpowers at the time, France and Spain, were no match for the British Navy and were frequently at war with England until the early years of the 19th century. Trade between the Spanish colonies and England or its possessions was strictly prohibited. No direct mail between Cuba (while in Spanish hands) and Great Britain has been recorded during the 18th century. Several letters are known from the Spanish Americas to England in transit through Cuba, Spain, and France, during the brief periods of peace in the late 1700s.

Cuba was one of the most prosperous colonies in the world, exporting large amounts of local products such as cane sugar and tobacco to almost every developed corner of the planet. In 1818, on the dawn of the independence of most of the Spanish American colonies, trade between Cuba and the rest of the world was liberalized. Mail between Cuba and Great Britain increased dramatically until the middle of the 19th century. In the 1820s British packets begin to call at Cuban ports, although a significant volume of mail to Great Britain was also sent through ports in the United States. In the early 1840s the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP), heavily subsidized by the British government, created an ambitious shipping network covering most of the Americas, with particular strength in the West Indies.

British consular post offices opened in Havana and Santiago de Cuba in 1842 and operated continuously until 1877. The vast majority of the mail they handled was carried by the RMSP steamers. The use of British stamps in Cuba was allowed from 1865 until 1877. Correspondence from Cuba to non-British possessions had to be prepaid, with the exception of those countries with whom England had postal treaties. Prepayment was mandatory on all mail addressed to Cuba carried by British packets.

This exhibit is organized as follows:

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| - via Bahamas | 11 - Transit Mail through the United States |
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Special items are shown with increasingly thicker frames

1- Forerunners

Forerunners 18th Century Ship Mail

During the Seven Year War the British took Havana for 11 months in 1762-1763. There are a handful of institutional letters from Cuba during the period of British occupation. About seven 18th century covers to England in transit through Cuba have been reported. Commerce between Cuba and England or its possessions was strictly forbidden until the Law of Free Trade in 1818.

1762. Nassau, Bahamas, to British occupied Havana. Official mail, free postage.

Earliest recorded example of British mail to or from Cuba.



1783. Portobelo, Panama, to Bristol, England, via Trinidad de Cuba, Havana, La Coruña and France.

Rated 16 sous in France, later crossed out and corrected to 2N2 (two shillings two pence = 1/6 from Spain to Great Britain via France + 8 pence inland fee from London to Bristol).

Only recorded example of the "Trinidad" town marking.

Forerunners

Early 19th Century Ship Mail.

Direct to Great Britain

Ship letter rate of July 1815: eight pence plus inland fees.

1829. Havana to London via Falmouth. All ship letter from Cuba to Great Britain were sen unpaid.

Triple letter: Five shillings (ship fee 8d x 3 + inland fee 1/- x 3 for a distance between 230-300 miles).

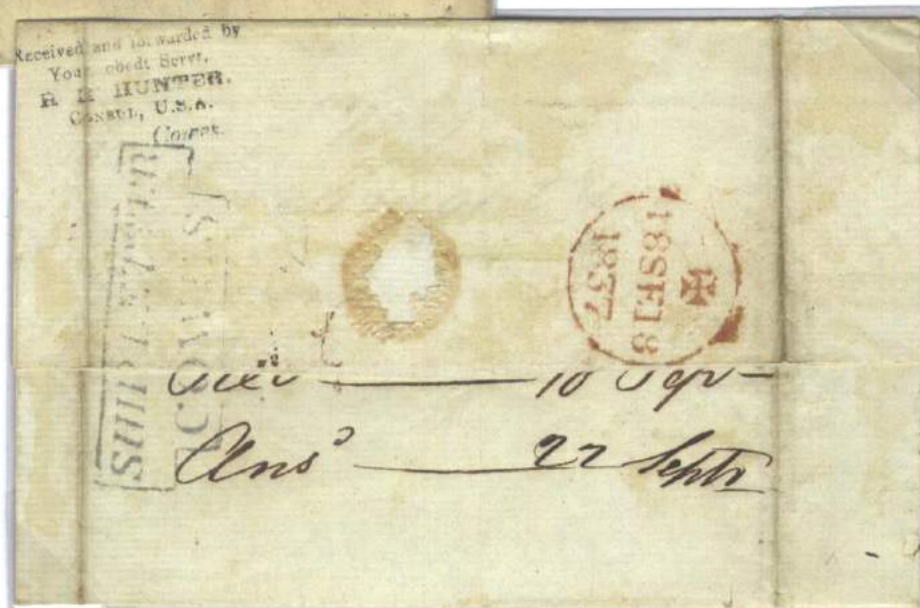


1835. Havana to London via Portsmouth.

Quadruple letter: 6/8 (ship fee 8d x 4 + inland fee 1/- x 4 for a distance between 230-300 miles).

1837. Havana to London via Cowes. Handled by the American consul.

Single letter: 1/5 (ship fee 8d + inland fee 9d for a distance between 80-120 miles).



Forerunners

Early 19th Century Ship Mail.

Via the United States

Mail via the United States required handling by forwarding agents.
Ship letter rate of January 1840: eight pence flat fee.



1836. Havana to London via Charleston, South Carolina, and Liverpool.

Double letter: Three shillings two pence (ship fee 8d x 2 + inland fee 11d x 2 for a distance between 170-230 miles).

1836. Havana to London via New York and Deal.

Double letter: Two shillings eight pence (ship fee 8d x 2 + inland fee 8d x 2 for a distance between 50-80 miles).



1840. Havana to London via New York and Liverpool.

Unusual double forwarding.
Single letter: 8d ship fee.

Early Packets
Mail from Cuba
 1813-1840 period

Earliest packet rate between Cuba and London (January 1813):
 two shillings two pence (2/2). No direct mail is known.

1818. Havana to London via
 Cadiz, Spain, and Bayonne,
 France.

Unpaid single letter: 2/2.

Postal demarcation marking
 ISLAS DE BARLOVENTO
 (Windward Islands) applied in
 Havana.

**Extremely rare use of the ISLAS
 DE BARLOVENTO marking on
 mail to Great Britain.**



1818. Havana to London via
 Cadiz, Spain, and Oleron, France.
 Unpaid single letter: 2/2.

1838. Havana to London
 via Halifax, Nova Scotia.
 Carried privately to
 Halifax.

Unpaid double letter:
 4/4.

**Only reported letter
 from Cuba to Great
 Britain via Halifax.**



2 - Falmouth Packets

In 1827 a line of sailing British packets from Falmouth started travelling to Mexico making regular stops in Havana.



ANNO SEPTIMO & OCTAVO

GEORGIIV. REGIS.

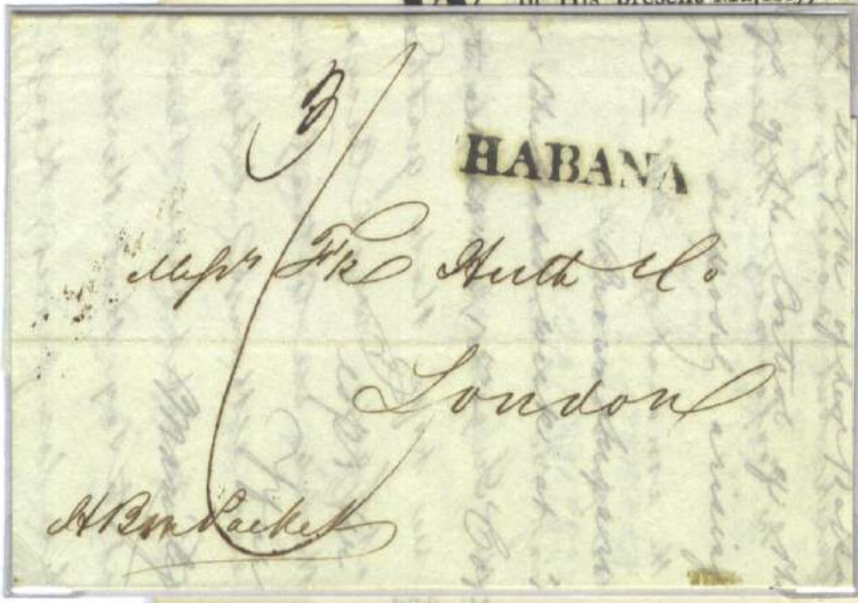
C A P. VI.

An Act for granting to His Majesty Rates of Postage on the Conveyance of Letters and Packets to and from *Saint Domingo and Cuba.* [21st March 1827.]

1829. Early packet letter from Havana to London. Unpaid single letter: three shillings (3/-).

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the Fifth Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, intituled *An Act for granting to* 5 G. 4. c. 10.

ge on the Conveyance of Letters or any other Port or Ports on g, that it might be expedient to His Majesty's Colonies, and s of Postage had not hitherto e of establishing such Packet and no Rates of Postage could the Port and Conveyance of s therefore enacted, that from ch Packet Boats to any of His rts, it should be lawful for His s Deputy and Deputies by him t of the Commissioners of His om of Great Britain and Ireland, of His Majesty, His Heirs and s, and take, for the Port and ers and Packets that should be oats which might hereafter be , such Rates of Packet Postage as



Falmouth Packets
Mail Handled by the Cuban Post Office
1827-1842 period

British packet rates to or from Cuba: 1827, two shillings one penny to Falmouth plus inland fee. The rate to London was three shillings. From 1837 to 1839 the British packet rate to London was increased to three shillings one pence. Less than 10% of this mail has Havana postmarks.



1828. Havana to Liverpool.
Single letter: Two shillings one penny to Falmouth plus one shilling inland fee to Liverpool (3/1).

1830. Havana to London.
Single letter: three shillings to London (3/-).



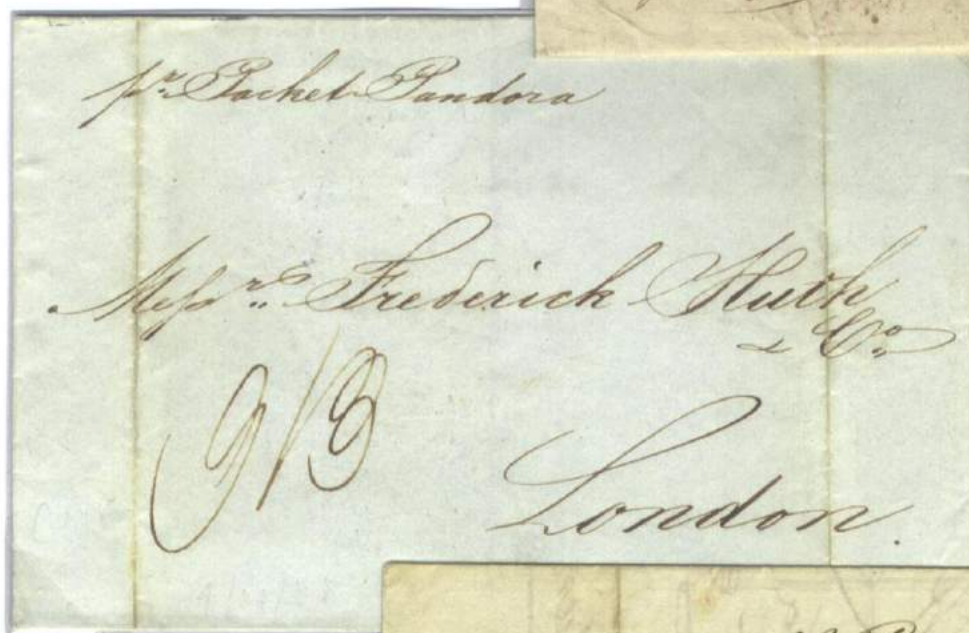
1839. Mexico City to London via Veracruz and Havana. Carried privately to Veracruz, where the local post office fee was paid, and then by merchant ship to Havana. Single letter: three shillings one penny (3/1).



Falmouth Packets
Mail Taken Directly to the Ship
 1827-1842 period

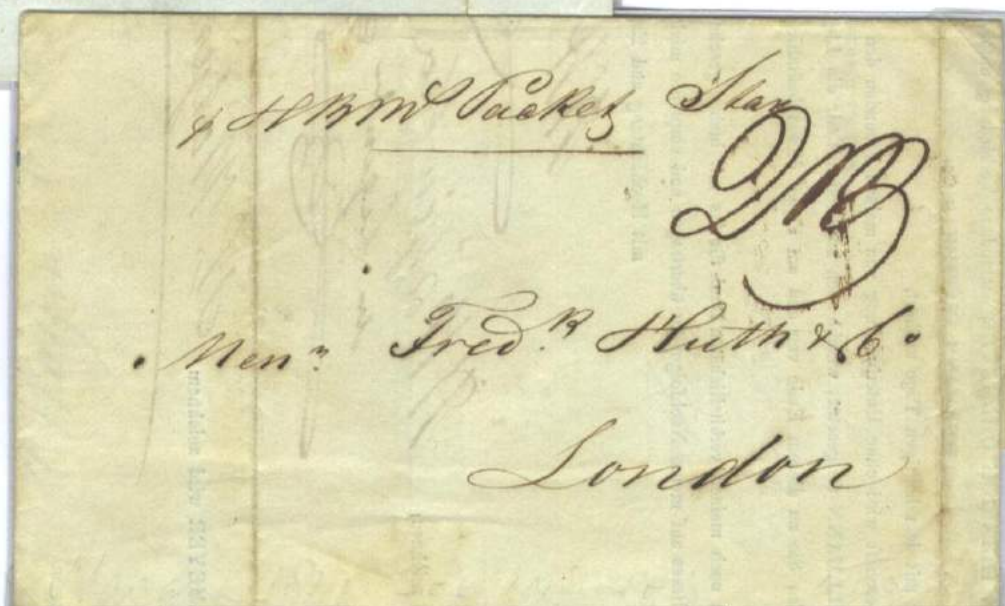
British packet rates: from Cuba to France via GB, three shillings two pence (1838); to and from GB, three shillings one penny (1837) and then two shillings three pence (1841).

1838. Havana to Paris via London carried by the packet *Hope*.
 Triple letter: nine shillings six pence
 British debit to France ($3/2 \times 3$) = to 11 francs and 4 decimes + French internal rate of 3 francs for a 20 gram letter over a distance of 220-300 km ($10 \text{ decimes} \times 3$) for a total of 14 francs and 4 decimes.



1838. Havana to London carried by the packet *Pandora*.
 Triple letter: nine shillings three pence ($3/1 \times 3$).

1841. Havana to London carried by the packet *Star*.
 Single letter: two shillings three pence ($2/3$).

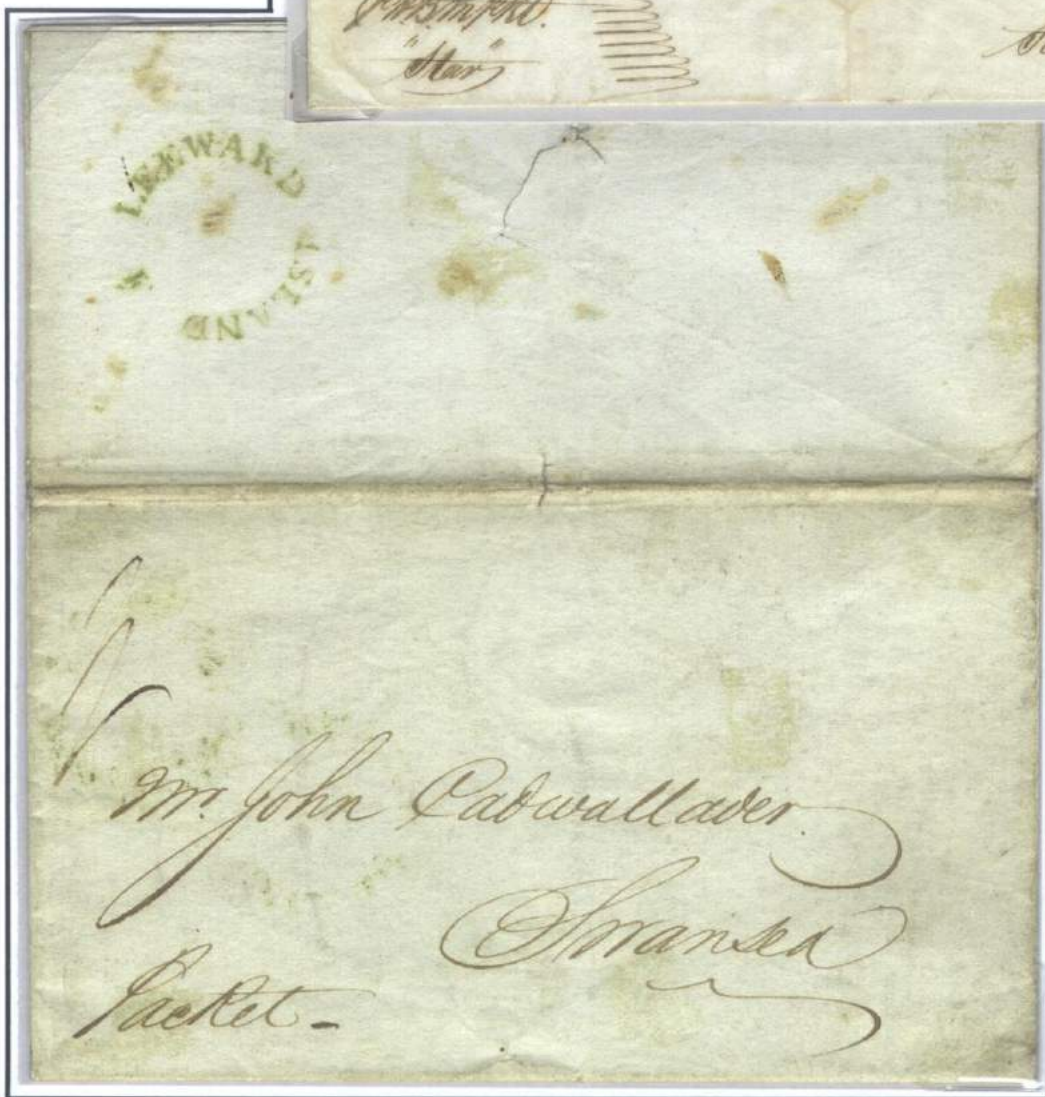


Falmouth Packets
Mail Processed in Falmouth
 1827-1842 period

Mail to London was sent in sealed bags to be opened at the foreign post office in the capital. Mail to other places in the United Kingdom was processed in Falmouth, receiving special postmarks.

1841. Havana to Kirkaldy, Scotland. Unpaid single letter (two shillings three pence). Carried by the packet *Star*.

Only three examples of the MEXICO fleuron have been recorded on mail from Cuba.



1840. Santiago de Cuba to Swansea, Great Britain. Unpaid single letter (three shillings = 2/1 to Falmouth + 11 pence inland fee). Privately taken to Jamaica to catch the Leeward Islands packet.

Only recorded example of this marking on mail from Cuba.

Falmouth Packets
Mail from Spain to Cuba
 1827-1842 period

Unpaid letters from Spain were charged four silver reales postage due in Cuba.

Since the mid 18th century a packet service ran intermittently between Falmouth and La Coruña in the Northwestern Spanish coast. Since there were many direct sailings between Spanish and Cuban ports this route was seldom used for mail to or from Cuba.



1841. Cadiz, Spain, to Havana via La Coruña and Falmouth. The letter missed the sailing of the *Empresa* ship from Cadiz and was sent north to La Coruña in the diplomatic bag of the British Vice-Consul of Cadiz, who was also the postal agent. Handled by the *Empresa* in Havana that applied its oval E on the reverse. Unpaid double letter charged eight reales postage due Cuba.

Only known letter to or from Cuba handled by the British Vice-Consulate in Cadiz.

Packet Mail to Cuba
1830s to 1850s

Cuba charged an incoming ship fee of two silver reales per half ounce on letters from Northern Europe between 1818 and 1877.



1835. Prepaid letter from Loebau to Havana, doubly forwarded in Hamburg and in London. It was handled by the *Empresa* in Havana that applied its oval E on the back. Single letter charged two reales postage due in Cuba.

1841. Paris to Havana via London. Prepaid 101 decimes for a letter between 15 and 20 grams, 25 decimes from Paris to Calais (10d. x 2½ rates) plus 76 decimes due to GB (38d. x 2). Three shillings two pence credit to GB (a mistake since this was only the single-weight rate). It was handled by the *Empresa* in Havana that applied its circular E. / NE. and charged four reales postage due for a double-weight letter.



1852. Paris to Havana via London. Prepaid single letter. It was handled by the Cuban post office that applied its circular NE and charged the single rate of two reales.



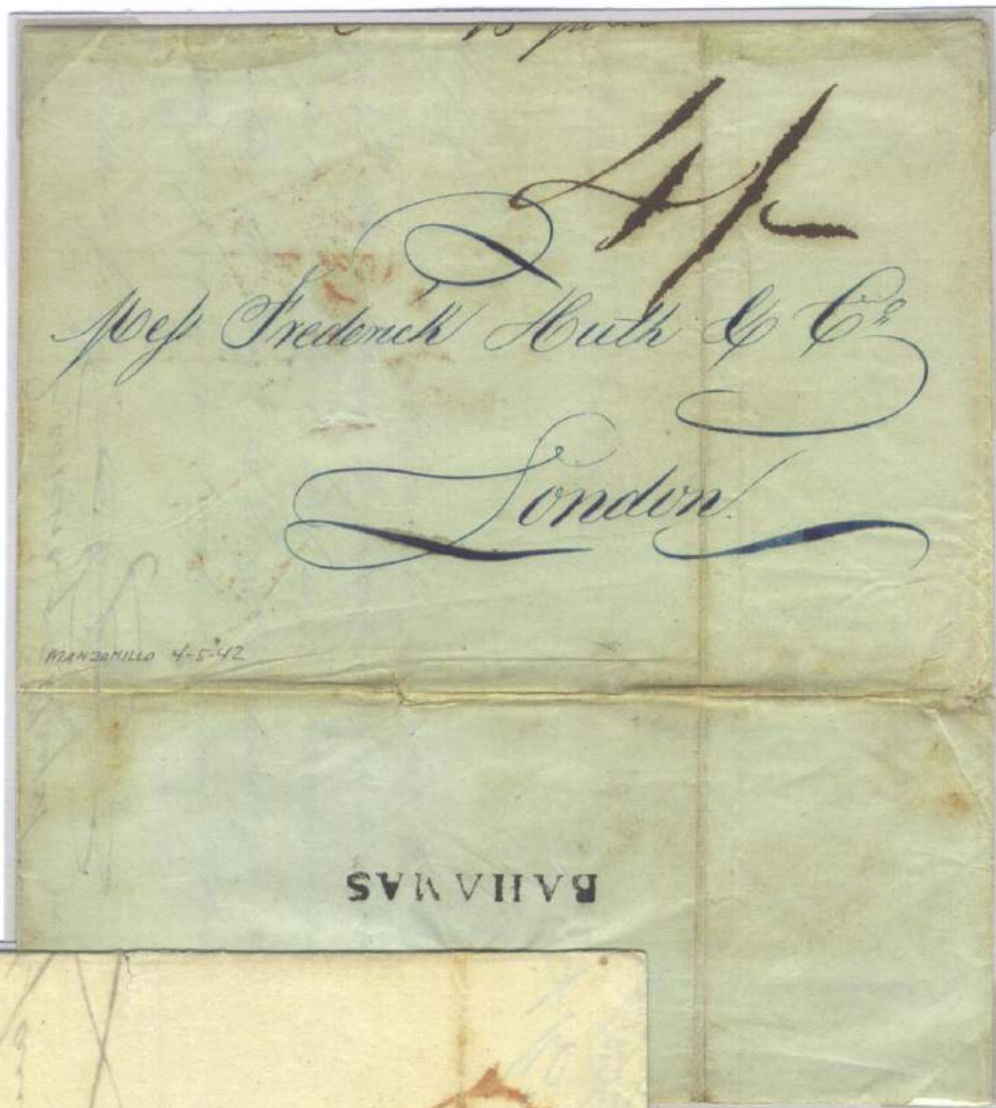
3 - Royal Mail Steam Packet Company

Early RMSP Mail
Mail Sent via the Bahamas
 1842-1863 period

Rate of January 1840: by direct British packet between Great Britain and its overseas possessions, one shilling per half ounce.

1842. Manzanillo, Cuba, to London, taken privately to Nassau. Carried by the RMSP steamer *Tay* to Bermuda and *Trent* to Falmouth. Quadruple letter: four shillings.

Only recorded example of the BAHAMAS straight line marking on a cover from Cuba



1843. Matanzas to London, taken privately to Nassau. Carried by the RMSP steamers *Thames* to Bermuda and *Avon* to Falmouth. Single letter: one shilling.

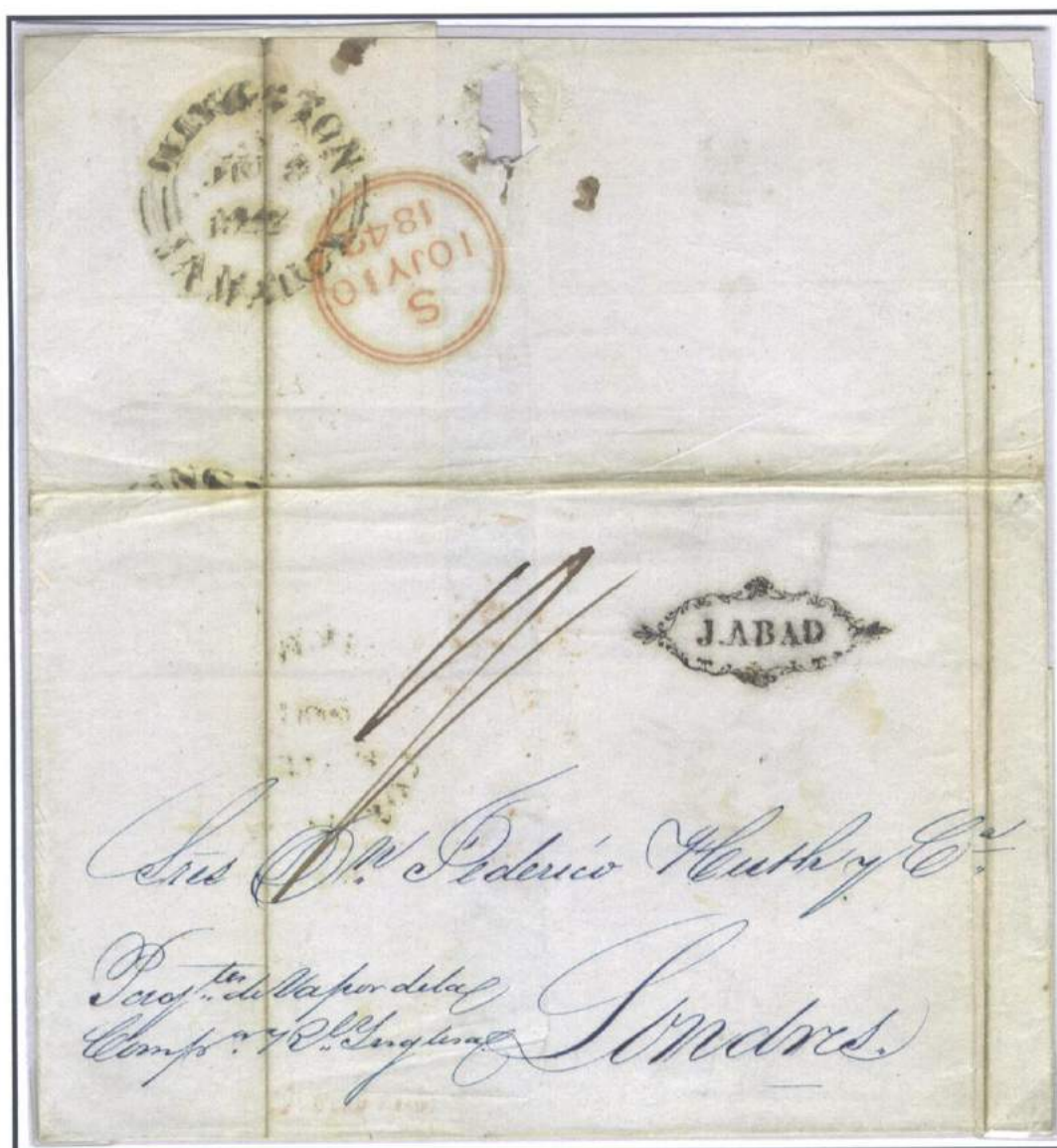
Only known example of this cds marking on a cover from Cuba

Early RMSP Mail

Mail Sent via Jamaica

Earliest Mail from Santiago de Cuba

RMSP steamers started making monthly calls at Santiago de Cuba in January 1842, but the earliest example of the Santiago BPO circular date stamp is dated June 9, 1842. Early mail from Santiago was sometimes routed through Kingston, privately, to connect with other British steamship lines.



1842. Santiago de Cuba to London, taken privately to Kingston where it entered the mail. Carried by the RMSP steamers *Tweed* to Turk's Island, *Tay* to Nassau, and *Isis* to Falmouth. Single packet letter rate: one shilling.

Earliest reported letter by a RMSP steamer from Santiago de Cuba.

4 - Consular Post Offices in Cuba

Consular Post Offices

Havana: Circular Date Stamp - type 1



Red: Feb. 14, 1842
Blue: Mar.-Apr. 1842



1842. Havana to London carried on the first outbound trip of the RMSP steamer *Thames*. This is the earliest date of operation of the British consular post offices in Cuba. Six recorded examples of this cds in red, all poorly struck and dated February 14, 1842.

Unpaid single letter: two shillings three pence (2/3).

“First Day Cover” of the BPOs in Cuba.

1842. Havana to London. Blue ink was used by the BPO in Havana between March and May 1842. Single letter: two shillings three pence (2/3).

Five recorded examples of this cds in blue.



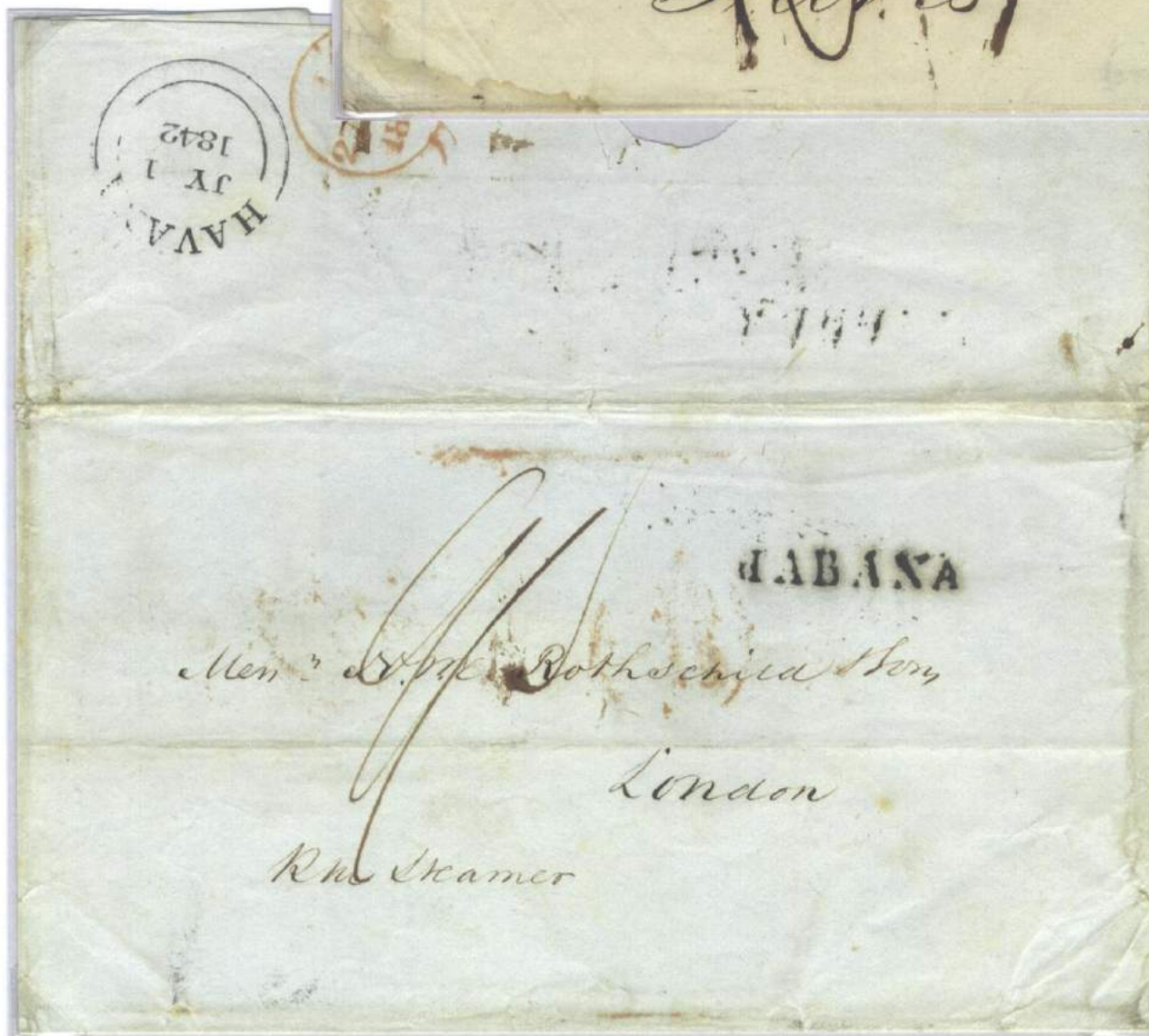
Consular Post Offices

Havana: Circular Date Stamp - type 1

Mail Handled by the Havana Post Office

1842. Havana to Paris carried by RMSP *Solway* to Nassau and *Tay* to Falmouth. Unpaid letter double letter in GB: 6 shillings 4 pence, but 2.5 x weight in France. $6/4 = 76$ decimes, + 25 decimes from Calais to Paris = 101 decimes postage due, or 10 francs 1 decime.

1842. Havana to London by RMSP *Trent* to Nassau and *Tweed* to Falmouth. Unpaid quadruple letter: 9 shillings ($3/2 \times 4$).



Consular Post Offices

Havana: Circular Date Stamp - type 1

Mail Handled by the Havana Post Office

1842 (October 19).
Havana to London
carried on the
RMSP *Solway* to
St. Thomas and
Clyde to Falmouth.
It was first mailed
at the Havana post
office where this
circular date stamp
had replaced the
straight line town
marking.
Single letter: two
shillings three
pence (2/3).

Earliest recorded
"Baeza" circular
date stamp used
in Cuba.



1850. Havana to Paris carried by
RMSP *Avon* to Southampton via
Bermuda, first mailed at the
Havana post office.
Unpaid double letter weighing
over 7½ grams and charged 30
decimes in France.

Consular Post Offices

Havana: Circular Date Stamp - type 2



a: 1848-65



b: 1850-58

ABOVE: CDS type 2a is the most common British postmark used in Cuba.

CDS type 2b is scarce. According to regulations these postmarks had to be applied on the reverse of letters.



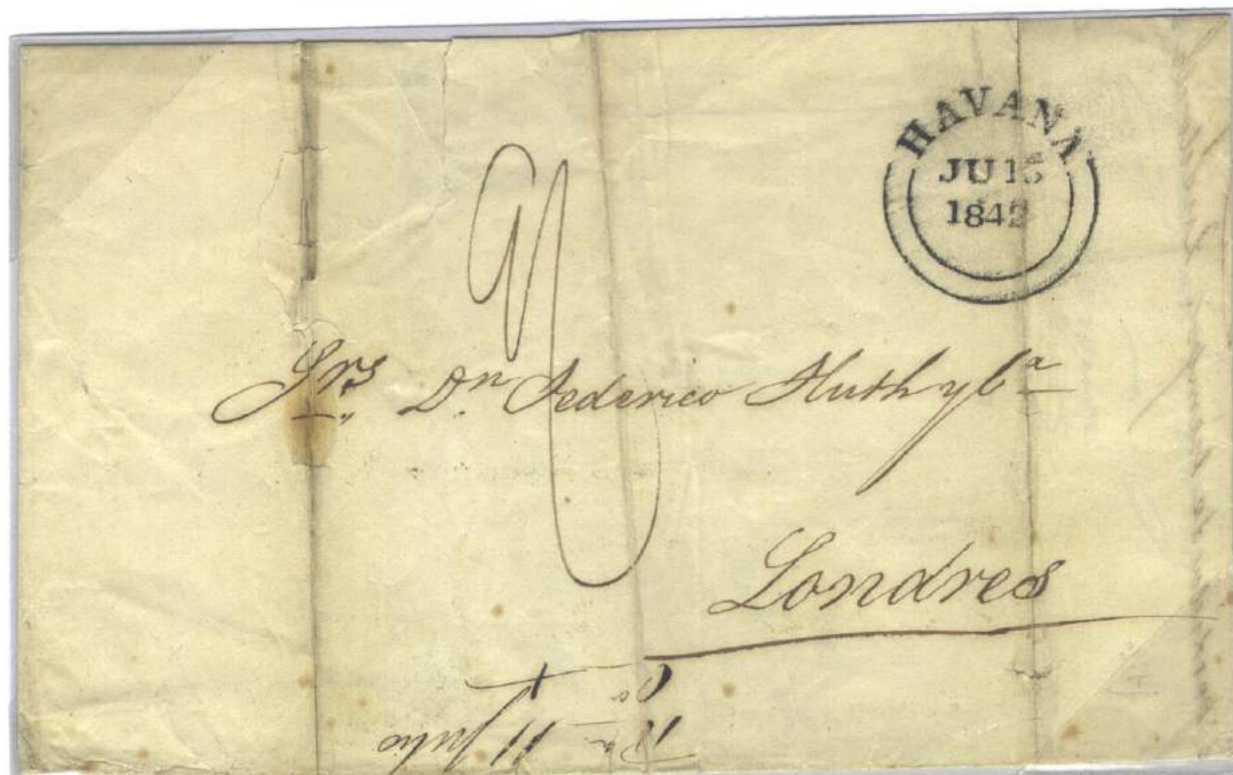
Copy of the front side of the cover above, reduced by 25%. Puerto Principe, Cuba, to London via Havana. Single letter: the Cuban half real stamp paid the internal fee to Havana. Two shillings three pence (2/3).

Consular Post Offices

Havana: Circular Date Stamps - types 1 & 2

Erroneous application on the front

Regulations clearly stipulated that circular date stamps were to be applied exclusively on the back. A handful of covers are known with the erroneous application of these postmarks on the front.



1842. Havana to London. Unpaid quadruple letter: 9 shillings ($2/3 \times 4 = 9/-$). Only known strike of this cds on a letter front.

Earliest date of use of this cds in black.



1850. Havana to London carried by the famous pioneer steamer *Great Western*, employed by the RMSP in the Caribbean from 1847 to 1853. Unpaid single letter: two shillings three pence ($2/3$). Only known strike of this cds on a letter front.

Consular Post Offices

Havana: Circular Date Stamp - types 1 & 2

Multiple-weight letters

1846. Havana to Bolton, England, carried to Southampton by the RMSPC steamer *Tay* via Nassau and Bermuda.
Double letter: four shillings six pence (4/6).



1844. Havana to London, carried to Southampton by the RMSPC *Avon* via Nassau and Bermuda.
Unpaid letter, 6 x weight = four ounces: 13 shillings 6 pence (13/6).

Highest franking reported from Cuba.

Consular Post Offices
 Havana: Circular Date Stamp - type 3



a: 1856-57

b: 1858-61

c: 1863



CDS types 3a and 3b are fairly common. CDS type 3c below is very scarce.



Consular Post Offices
Havana: Circular Date Stamp - type 4



a: 1865-77

b: 1868

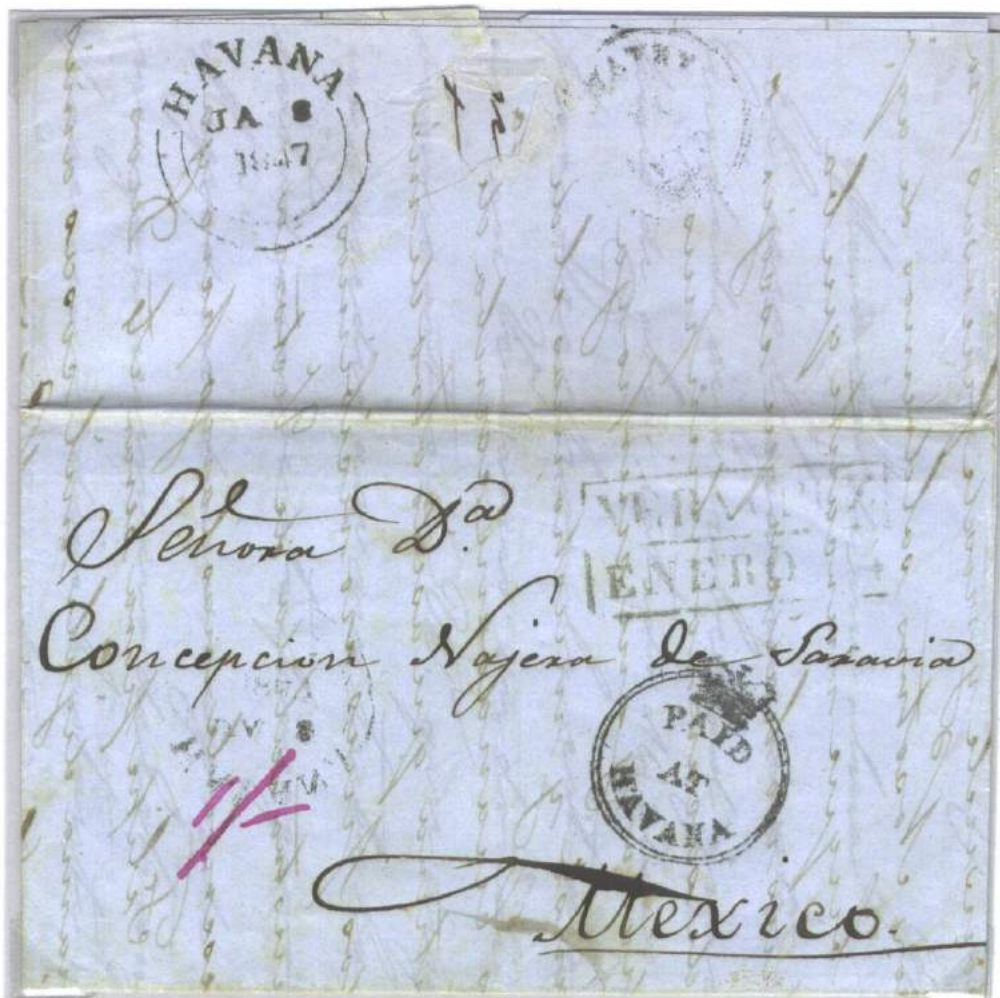
c: 1865-66



CDS type 4a is fairly common.
 CDS type 4b and 4c are scarce.
 The variant with the inverted "c"
 below is the only one we have
 seen



Consular Post Offices
Havana: Crown Circle - type 1



1846-48

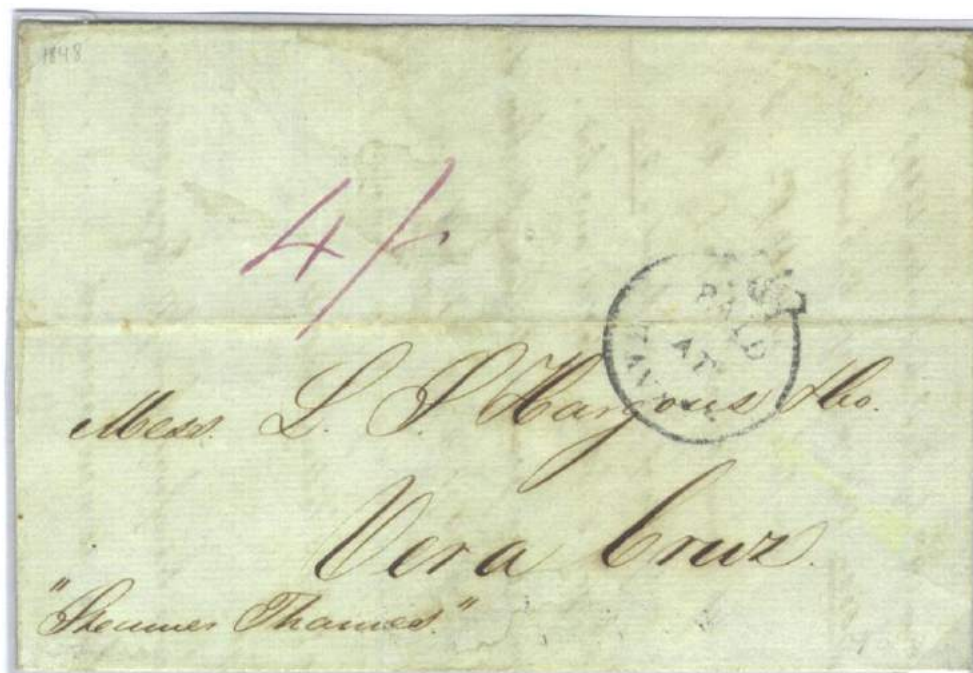
1847. Havana to Mexico City carried by the RMSP *Medway* to Veracruz. This postmark was often poorly applied.

Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

One of the finest recorded strikes of this marking.

1848. Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSPC *Thames*.

Prepaid quadruple letter: four shillings (4/-).



Consular Post Offices
Havana: Crown Circle - type 2



1848-51

1849. Havana to Durango, Mexico, carried by the RMSP *Dee* to Veracruz. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). Six reales internal Mexican postage due from the addressee. This is the rarest type of crown circle used in Havana.

This is the finest recorded strike of this marking.



1851. Havana to Mexico City carried by the RMSP steamers *Conway* to Kingston and *Clyde* to Veracruz. It missed the *Clyde's* September 25 sailing, so it had to wait another month in Kingston. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

During 1850-51 there were no direct sailings between Havana and Veracruz, and thus this unusual routing through Jamaica.



Consular Post Offices
Havana: Crown Circle - type 3



1854-62

1854. Havana to Tabasco carried by the RMSPC *Solent* to Veracruz. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). Three reales internal Mexican postage due from the addressee.



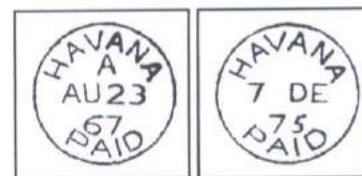
1862. Mourning cover sent from Havana to St. Thomas carried by the RMSPC steamer *Thames*. Uncommon destination from Havana. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).



Consular Post Offices

Havana: Paid Circle - types 1 & 2

These markings most often appear in combination with the horizontal C58 canceling grid, except during rare stamp shortages when they were used by themselves.
Postal rates of 1865: four pence per half ounce.



1865-70

1875-76



1876. Large fragment sent from Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSP steamer *Eider*. Prepaid single letter: four pence.

Two other examples recorded in red.



1870. Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSP steamer *Eider*. Prepaid quadruple letter: one shilling four pence.

Consular Post Offices

Havana: Paid Circle - type 3; and Circular
Date Stamp - type 4



1865

c: 1865-66

1865. Havana to Durango carried by the RMSP *Eider* to Veracruz. Disinfected. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). Two reales internal Mexican postage due from the addressee.

There are only three known examples of this HAVANA/C/PAID marking.



1866. Havana to Lima, Peru, carried by the RMSP *Conway* to St. Thomas and *Tamar* to Colon. Handled by the British post office in Panama and carried by a steamer of the Pacific Steam Navigation Co. to Peru. Prepaid double letter: two shillings.

Postal rates of 1865 to the west coast of South America: one shilling per half ounce.

Consular Post Offices
Havana: Accountancy Marks

The "COLONIES / &c. ART. 12," applied in London, was used on unpaid letters to France via GB from mid-1843 to late-1845.



1845. Havana to Paris via London. Fifteen decimes postage due in France.



1844. Havana to Paris via London. Thirty three decimes postage due in France.

Consular Post Offices
Havana: Accountancy Marks

The "COLONIES / &c. ART. 13," applied in London, was used on unpaid letters to France via GB from 1846 to 1855.



1849. Havana to Paris via London. Eighteen decimes postage due in France.



1854. Havana to Paris via London. Fifteen decimes postage due in France.

Consular Post Offices
Havana: Accountancy Marks

The "COLONIES / &c. ART. 18," applied in London, was used on unpaid letters to France via GB from 1856 to 1856.



1856. Havana to Bordeaux via London. Fifteen decimes postage due in France.

1854. Havana to Paris via London. Thirty decimes postage due in France.



**Consular Post Offices
Havana: Accountancy Marks**

The "GB / 1F 60C" was used on unpaid letters to France via GB from January 1857 to December 1875.



1861. Havana to Paris via London. Eight decimes postage due in France (single).

1857. Havana to Paris via London. Sixteen decimes postage due in France (double).



1861. Havana to Paris via London. Twenty four decimes postage due in France (triple).



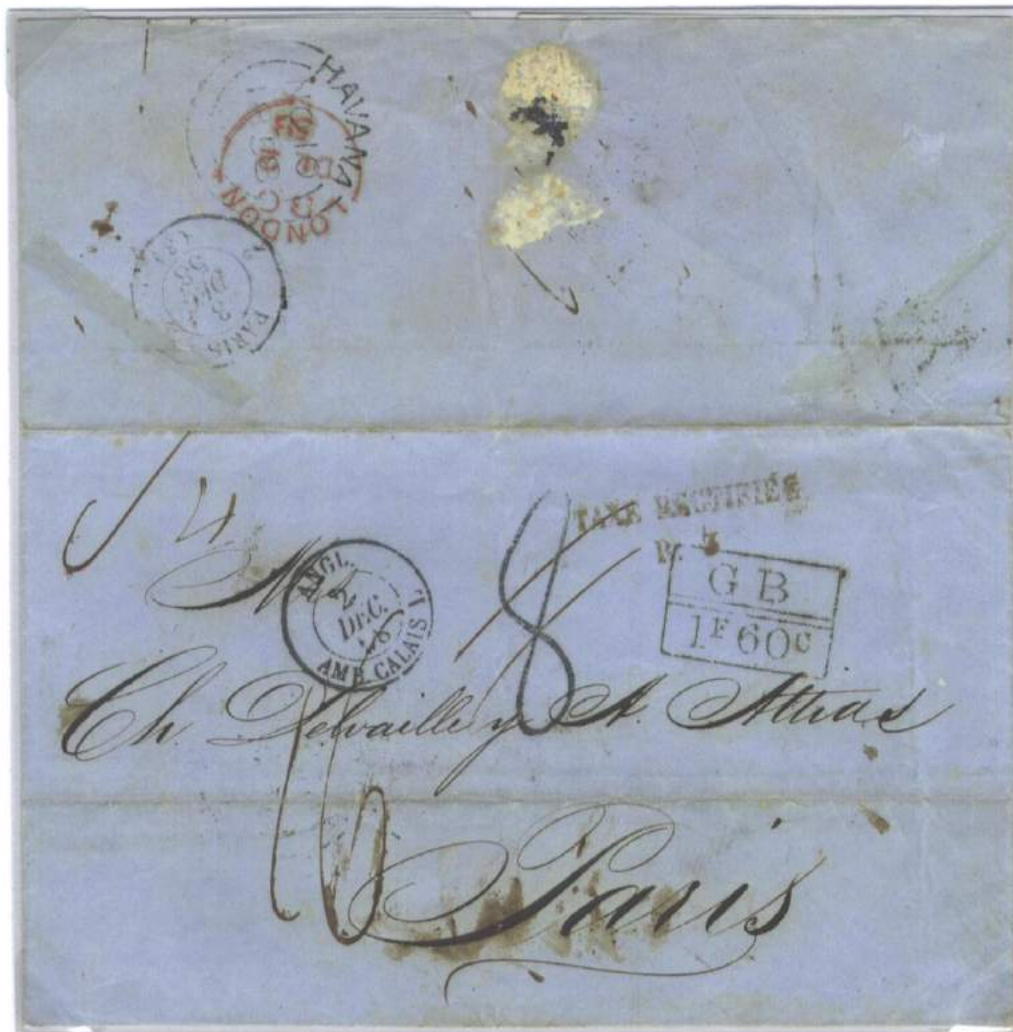
Consular Post Offices
Havana: Accountancy Marks

Rarely, the postage due amount was corrected at the destination.



1860. Havana to Bordeaux via London. Postage due amount changed from eight to sixteen decimes.

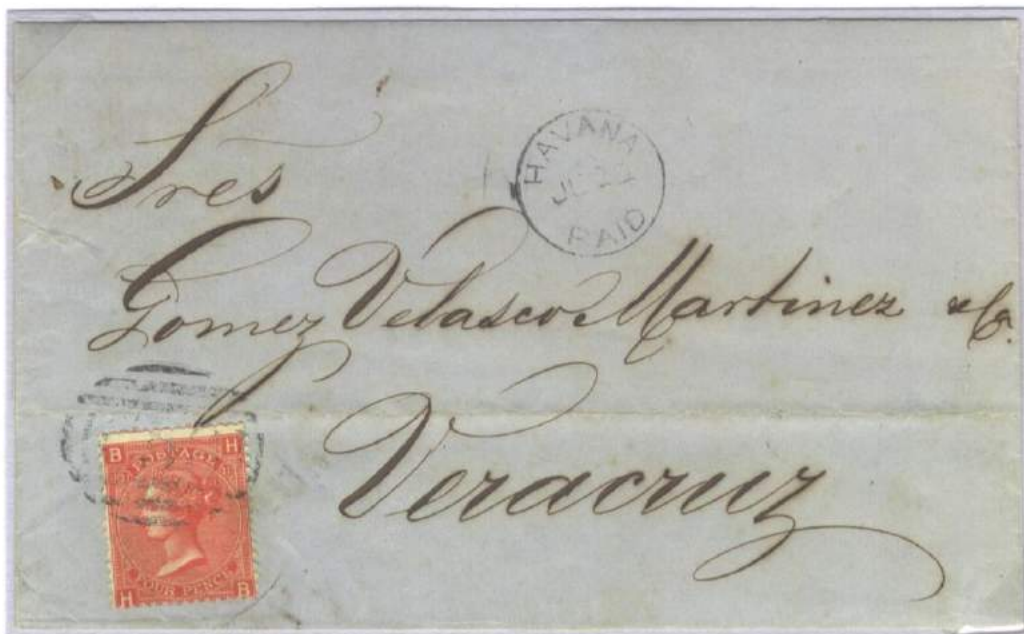
1858. Havana to Paris via London. Postage due amount changed from eight to sixteen decimes. Rare use of the TAXE RECTIFIEE handstamp.



Consular Post Offices
Havana: C58 horizontal canceler



1865-77



1870. Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSP steamer *Tyne*. Prepaid single letter; four pence.



1870. Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSP steamer *Corsica*. Prepaid double letter: eight pence.

Consular Post Offices
Havana: C58 duplex canceler



1870-77

1871. Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSP steamer *Corsica*. Prepaid single letter: four pence.



1871. Havana to Mexico City carried by the RMSP steamer *Eider*. Prepaid double letter: eight pence. Six reales internal postage due from the addressee.



1870. Havana to Veracruz carried by the RMSP steamer *Tyne*. Prepaid quadruple letter: one shilling four pence. Six reales internal postage due from the addressee.

**Consular Post Offices
Havana: C58 cancelers**

The four pence value represents at least 80% of the British stamps used in Havana. Plate numbers are shown under each stamp.



86



15



5



11



11



11



11



12



12



12



12



12



12

Consular Post Offices
Havana: C58 cancelers



7

13

14

14

15



4



1



1



1



4



4



7



1



1



1



1

Consular Post Offices
Santiago de Cuba:
Early Mail and
Circular Date Stamp
- type 1

The boxed **PACKET LETTER** marking was applied in London between 1838 and 1843.

1840. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux, posted in the local post office in Santiago and sent by early packet before the opening of the consular post office in 1842.

Unpaid single letter: three shillings two pence British debit to France ($3/2 = 38$ French decimes), plus 14 decimes from Calais to Paris for a total of 52 decimes (five francs and two decimes).



1843. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux, taken directly to the consular post office in Santiago.

Unpaid letter weighing over 7 ½ grams: three shillings two pence British debit to France ($3/2 = 38$ French decimes), plus 21 decimes from Calais to Paris for a total of 59 decimes (five francs and nine decimes).

Consular Post Offices

Santiago de Cuba: Circular Date Stamps - types 1 & 2

1847. Manzanillo, Cuba, to London via Santiago de Cuba. It was sent prepaid to Santiago and then carried by the RMSP *Clyde* to Southampton.

Unpaid single letter: two shillings three pence.



1865-77

1842-50



1847. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux, France carried by the RMSP *Clyde* to Southampton.
Unpaid single letter: twenty decimes.

1867. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux, France.
Unpaid single letter: ten decimes.

Erroneous application of this postmark on the front of the cover.



Consular Post Offices

Santiago de Cuba: Crown Circle and Paid Circle



1843-49

1867-69



1846. Santiago de Cuba to St. Thomas carried on the RMSPC *Teviot*. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

There are six recorded examples of this marking.

1867. Santiago de Cuba to Nantes, France. There was no British mail service from Santiago during this period so it was carried in a sealed bag on a Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and then by the RMSP steamer *Atrato* to Southampton. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

There is one other example of this marking on a stampless cover.



Consular Post Offices
Santiago de Cuba: C88 canceler and Paid Circle

No more than twelve stamped covers with the C88 grid canceler are known from Santiago de Cuba.



1867-69



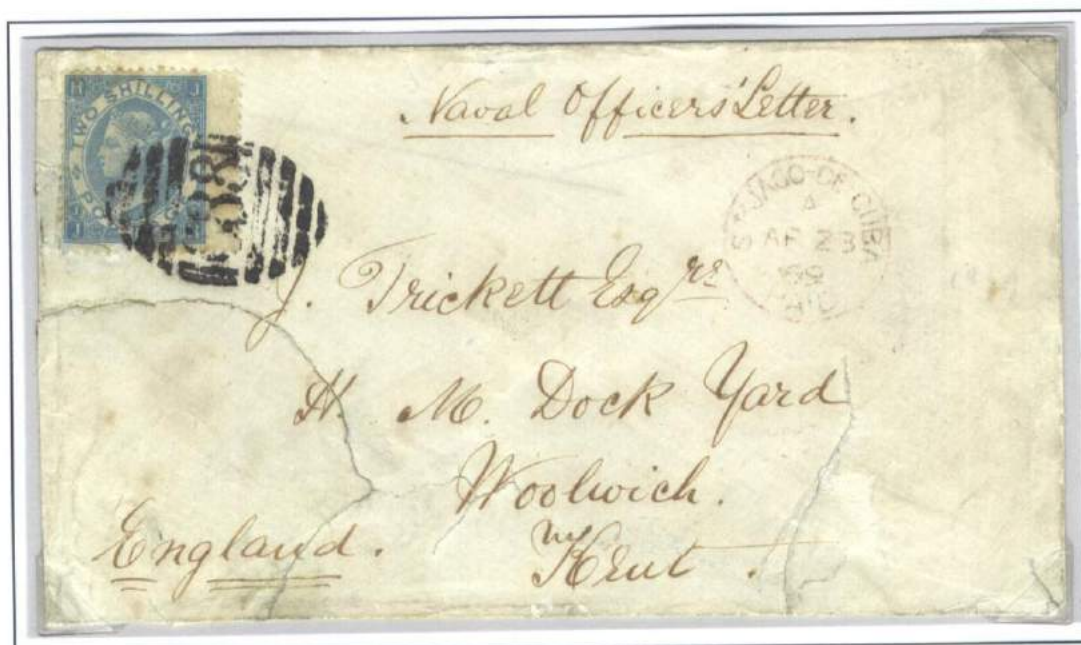
1868-69



1869. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux, France. Closed mail carried by Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and then by the RMSP *Neva* to Plymouth. Prepaid single letter: eight pence.

1869. Santiago de Cuba to Kent, England. Closed mail carried by Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and then by the RMSP *Tasmanian* to Plymouth. Prepaid double letter: two shillings. British Naval Officer's letter not sent at the concessionary rate.

Only example of this stamp recorded from Santiago de Cuba.



Consular Post Offices
Santiago de Cuba: C88 canceler and Paid Circle



1869. Santiago de Cuba to London. Closed mail carried by Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and then by the RMSP *Neva* to Plymouth. Prepaid single letter: one shilling.



1869. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux, France, forwarded to Bayonne. Closed mail carried by Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and then by the RMSP *Tasmanian* to Plymouth. Prepaid triple letter: two shillings.

Consular Post Offices
Santiago de Cuba: C88 canceler

This group of stamps represents more than half of those recorded used in Santiago de Cuba. Plate numbers are shown under each stamp.



1868-69



50



114



118



120



120



9



10



6



9



9



10



11



11



12



4



4



6



Only reported example of a five shilling stamp used in Santiago de Cuba (plate 2).

Consular Post Offices
Santiago de Cuba
 Mail Routed via St. Thomas

British steamers called infrequently at Santiago de Cuba. Mail was sometimes carried privately to St. Thomas to enter the British mails.



1869. Santiago de Cuba to Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was carried privately to St. Thomas where it was forwarded by Lamb & Co., prepaid (four pence) by Cunard branch line steamer.



1869. Santiago de Cuba to Barbados. It was carried privately to St. Thomas where it was forwarded, prepaid (four pence), by the RMSP *Ebro*. In Barbados it was charged the local fee of one penny postage due.

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: United States**

1847-1850 period - prepaid (type 2 crown circle)

From 1842 to 1863 the rate by British steamers within the eastern side of the American continent was one shilling per half ounce.



1849. Havana to New York via Bermuda by RMSP steamers *Trent* to Bermuda and *Great Western* to New York. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). British prepayment was not recognized in New York where it was charged the incoming ship rate of five cents. Extremely unusual routing.

Origins and Destinations of the Correspondence Shown in this Exhibit

North America

British North America
United States
Mexico

Central America

Guatemala
Panama

South America

Colombia
Venezuela
Ecuador
Peru
Chile
Brazil
Uruguay
Argentina

West Indies**Spanish**

- Puerto Rico
- Cuba

British

-Jamaica
-Barbados
-Bahamas
-Trinidad

French

-Guadeloupe
-Martinique

Danish

-St. Thomas

Independent

-Haiti

Europe

Norway
Sweden
Denmark
Germany
Holland
Switzerland
Great Britain
Belgium
France
Italy
Spain
Malta

Asia

Japan

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: Germany and Spain**

Mail to countries without postal agreements - unpaid

Mail to European destinations other than Great Britain and France is rare. This correspondence could not be fully prepaid in Cuba and it usually required the intervention of forwarding agents.



1847. Havana to Stuttgart, Germany, via London. It was carried by the RMSP *Teviot* via Bermuda to Southampton.

Unpaid single letter handled by London forwarding agent who paid the transatlantic fee of 2s3d and sent it unpaid, via France, to Germany. 22½ silbergroschen postage due from the addressee for transit and local fees.



1843. Havana to Santander, Spain. It was carried by the RMSP *Medway* to Bermuda and *Forth* to Falmouth.

Unpaid single letter to England, where it was detained for postage. When the postage was paid, more than a month after its arrival in London, it was sent via France to the Spanish border. It was charged 10 reales de vellon in Spain, plus one cuarto additional fee in Santander to support the local militias.

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: Spain**

1844-1858 and 1859-1877 periods - unpaid

The most common way of sending correspondence from Cuba to Spain via Great Britain was with the use of forwarding agents.



1845. Havana to Madrid, Spain, via Great Britain and France. Handled by a London forwarding agent and sent prepaid to the French border. Ten centimes credit to France. Ten reales postage due in Spain for a letter under ¼ oz.



1859. Havana to Barcelona, Spain, via London and France. Privately carried to Great Britain. Handled by a London forwarding agent and sent prepaid (six pence) all the way to its final destination.

Consular Post Offices

Havana

Destinations: Italy

Mail to countries without postal agreements - unpaid

This correspondence could not be prepaid in Cuba and required the intervention of forwarding agents.

1847. Havana to Genoa via London and France. Carried privately to London and sent prepaid to the French border by a forwarding agent. Ten centime credit to France. Twelve decimi postage due.



1870. Havana to Havre, France. Carried privately to London and sent prepaid (six pence) by a forwarding agent all the way to its final destination.

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: Italy and Switzerland**

First and second Anglo/French conventions - unpaid

Correspondence could be sent unpaid to or through countries with which Great Britain had postal conventions.

1851. Havana to Genoa, Italy, via London and France. It was carried the RMSP *Conway* to St. Thomas and *Avon* to Southampton.

Unpaid single letter:

15 decimes to France plus two decimes to Italy postage due (= 17 decimi).



1858. Havana to Delemont, Switzerland. It was carried by the RMSP *Solent* to St. Thomas and *Magdalena* to Southampton.

Unpaid single letter: 95 centimes postage due.

Consular Post Offices
Havana
Destinations: France
 Incorrect rates

1854. Havana to Paris. Unpaid double letter (twenty four decimes). Erroneously marked in London PANAMA TRANSIT and charged in multiples of 12 decimes instead of the correct rate of 10 decimes from Cuba.



1864. Havana to Bordeaux. Unpaid triple letter (thirty six decimes). It mistakenly received the GB / 2F87 5/10 used for mail from the west coast of South America. Postage due charged in multiples of 12 decimes instead of the correct rate of 10 decimes from Cuba. Only such usage that we have seen.

Consular Post Offices

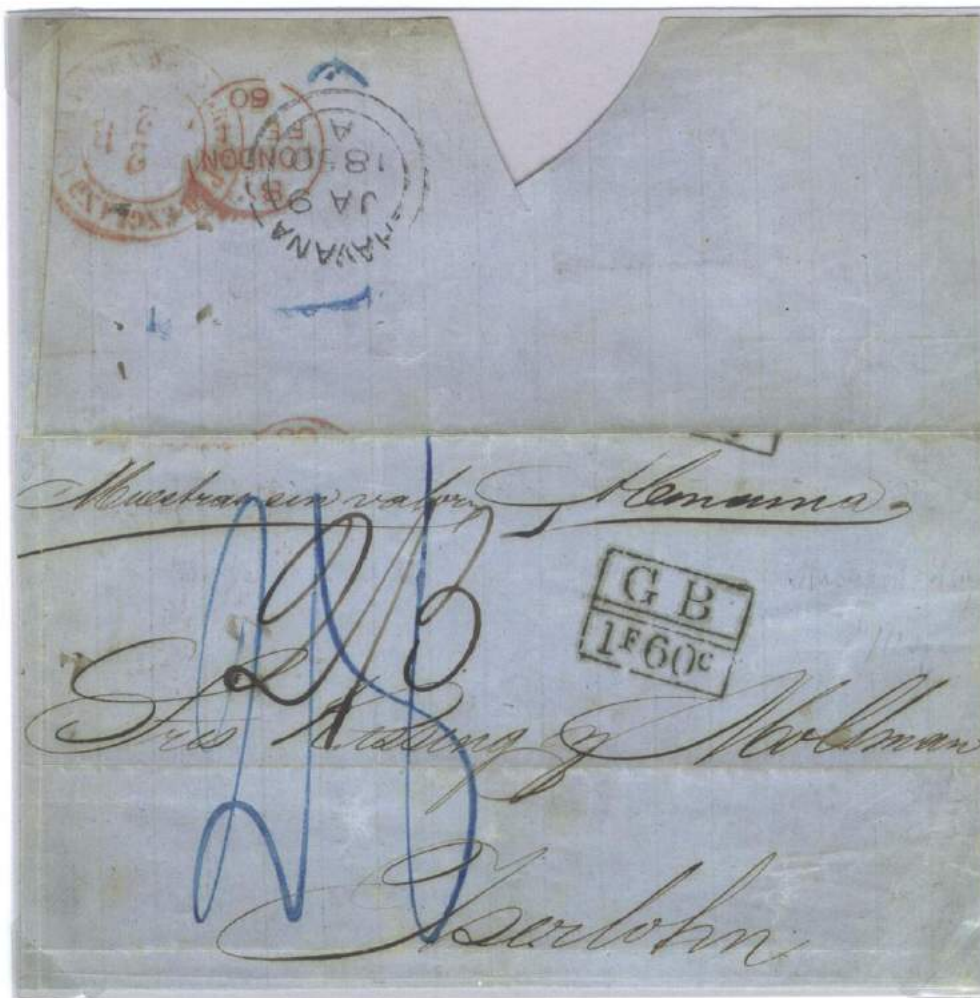
Havana

Destinations: Northern Europe

1840-1858 period - unpaid

Mail to Northern Europe could be sent unpaid via London. The postal rates were complex and varied often during this period.

1850. Havana to Iserlohn, Germany, via London and Ostende. It was carried by RMSP *Clyde* to St. Thomas and *Medway* to Southampton. Single letter: 2/1 to GB + 4d to Belgium = 2/5 (ink). 29d = 24½ sgr + 3½ sgr German Postal Union share = 28 sgr (blue) total postage due.



1852. Havana to Amsterdam via London. It was carried by RMSP *Medway* to Southampton via St. Thomas. Single letter: 2/1 to GB + 8d to Holland = 2/9 (ink). 31d = 10 Dutch guilders postage due.

Consular Post Offices

Havana

Destinations: Northern Europe

1840-1858 & 1858-1863 periods - unpaid

1852. Havana to Copenhagen, via London, Ostende and Hamburg. It was carried by RMSP *Trent* to St. Thomas and *La Plata* to Southampton.

Single letter: 2/1 to GB + 8d to Belgium = 2/9 (ink). 35d = 30 sgr + 3 sgr Prussian share = 33 sgr (blue). 33 sgr = 44 Hamburg schillinge (red) = 141 Danish skilling + 13 sk Danish share = 154 sk total postage due (on back).



Mail to Scandinavia could be sent unpaid via London. The postal rates were complex and varied often during this period.



1862. Havana to Copenhagen, via London, Ostende and Hamburg. It was carried by RMSP *Eider* to St. Thomas and *Atrato* to Southampton. Single letter: 1/6 to GB + 4d to Belgium = 1/10 (ink). 22d = 18½ sgr + 3½ sgr German Postal Union share = 22 sgr (blue). 22 sgr = 94 Danish skilling + 9 sk Danish share = 103 sk total postage due (red).

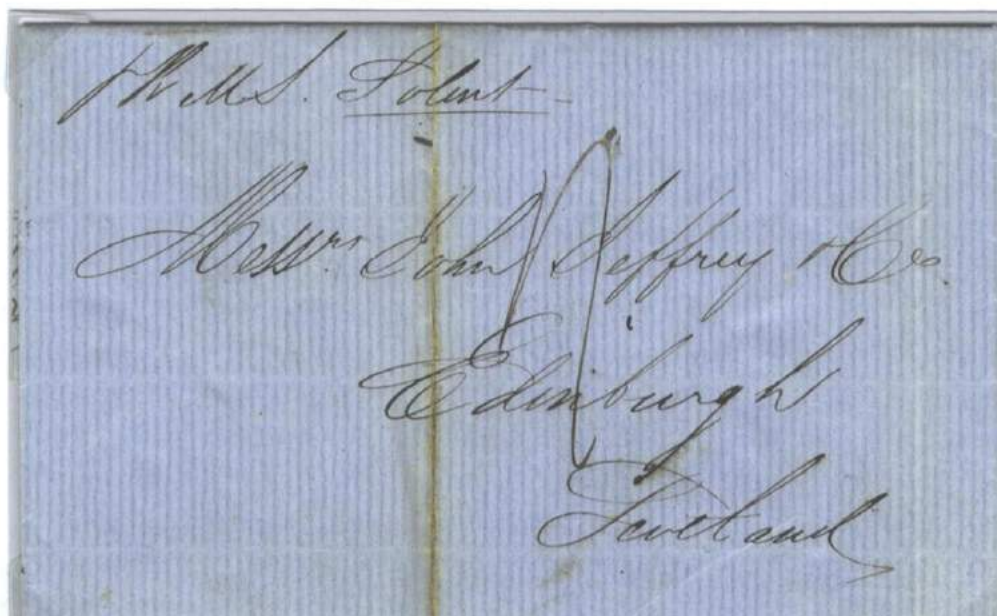
Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: Great Britain**

1858-1863 and 1863-1877 periods - unpaid

Rates from Cuba to Great Britain by West India steamers, per half ounce: one shilling six pence (1858-63), one shilling (1863-UPU).

1859. Havana to London.
It was carried by the
RMSP *Clyde* to St.
Thomas and *Atrato* to
Southampton.

Unpaid single letter: one
shilling six pence (1/6).



1865. Havana to Edinburgh,
Scotland. It was carried by
the RMSP *Solent* to St.
Thomas and *Tasmanian* to
Southampton.

Unpaid single letter: one
shilling (1/-).

Consular Post Offices

Havana

Destinations: Northern Europe

1840-1858 & 1863-1877 periods - unpaid

Mail to Scandinavia could be sent unpaid via London. The postal rates were complex and varied often during this period.

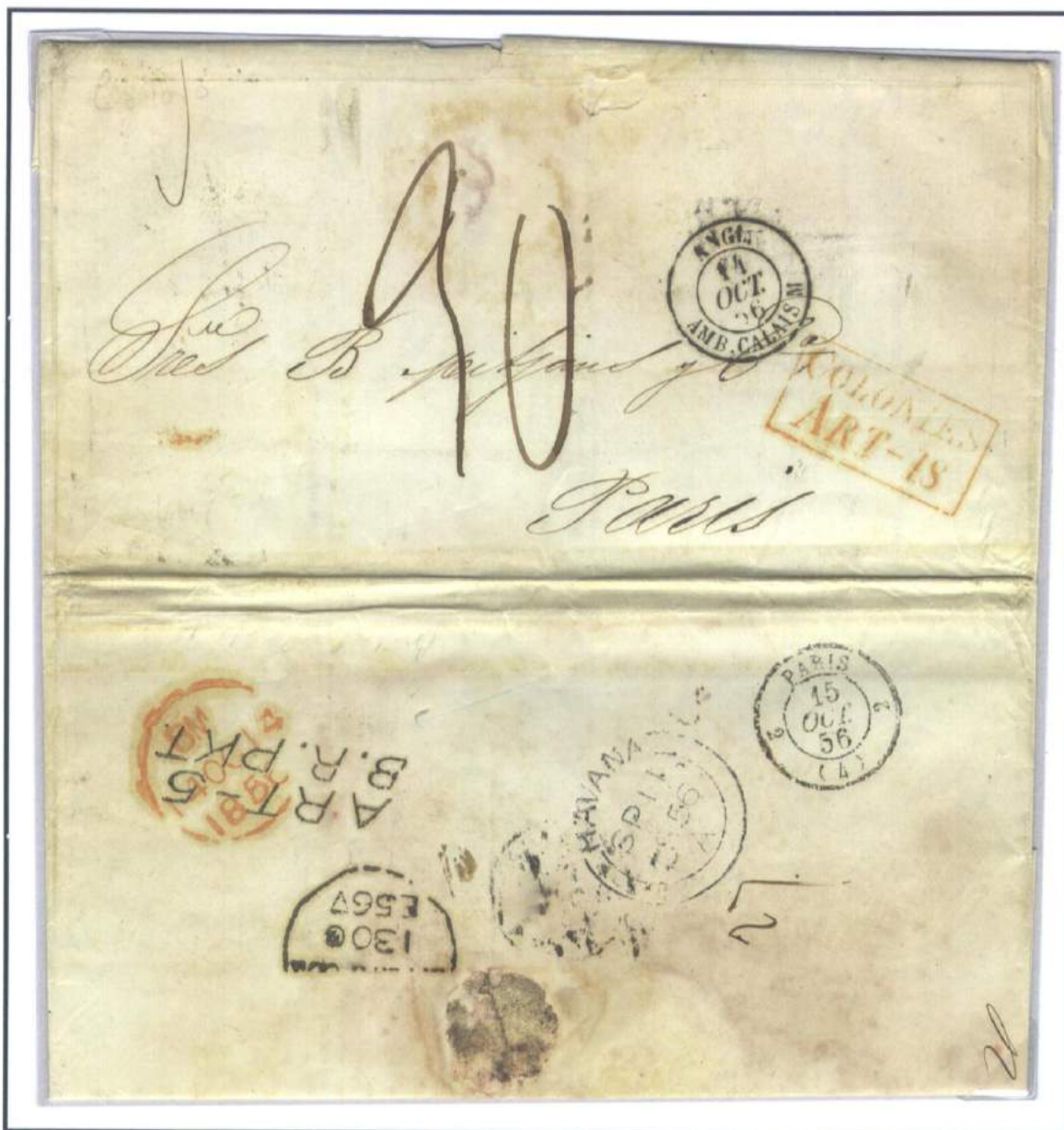
1856. Havana to Copenhagen, via London, Ostende and Hamburg. It was carried by RMSP *Tyne* to St. Thomas and *Atrato* to Southampton. Single letter: 2/1 to GB + 4d to Belgium = 2/5 (ink). 29d = 24½ sgr + 3½ sgr German Postal Union share = 28 sgr (blue). 28 sgr = 37½ Hamburg schillinge (red) = 120 Danish skilling. 120 sk + 9 sk Danish share = 129 sk total postage due (on back).



1865. Havana to Christiansund, Norway, via London and Hamburg. It was carried by RMSP *Eider* to St. Thomas and *Atrato* to Southampton. Rare destination. Single letter: 1/3 British share (15d) = 12½ sgr, + GPU share of 3½ sgr = 16 sgr (blue). 16 sgr = 21½ Hamburg schillinge (red). Total postage due = 60 Norwegian skilling (orange).

Consular Post Offices
Havana
Destinations: France
 1842-1863 period - unpaid

Due to the wreck of the RMSP steamer Tay, this cover followed a most unusual route..



1856. Havana to Paris. Intended to go on the RMSP steamer *Tay* which ran aground near Tampico, Mexico. The mail was instead routed through New York and Liverpool. Unpaid double letter (thirty decimes). It received the accountancy marking *ART - 5 / B.R. PKT* normally used on mail from Canada..

Only a handful of covers from Cuba received this accountancy marking.

Consular Post Offices
 Santiago de Cuba
 Destinations: France
 1842-1863 period - unpaid

Mail from Santiago de Cuba was sometimes
 routed through Jamaica.



1858. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux via Kingston, Jamaica, and London. Unpaid single letter (ten decimes). Privately carried to Kingston and forwarded by the RMSP steamers *Dee* to St. Thomas and *La Plata* to Southampton.

Only recorded use of the GB / 2F accountancy marking on this route.

Consular Post Offices

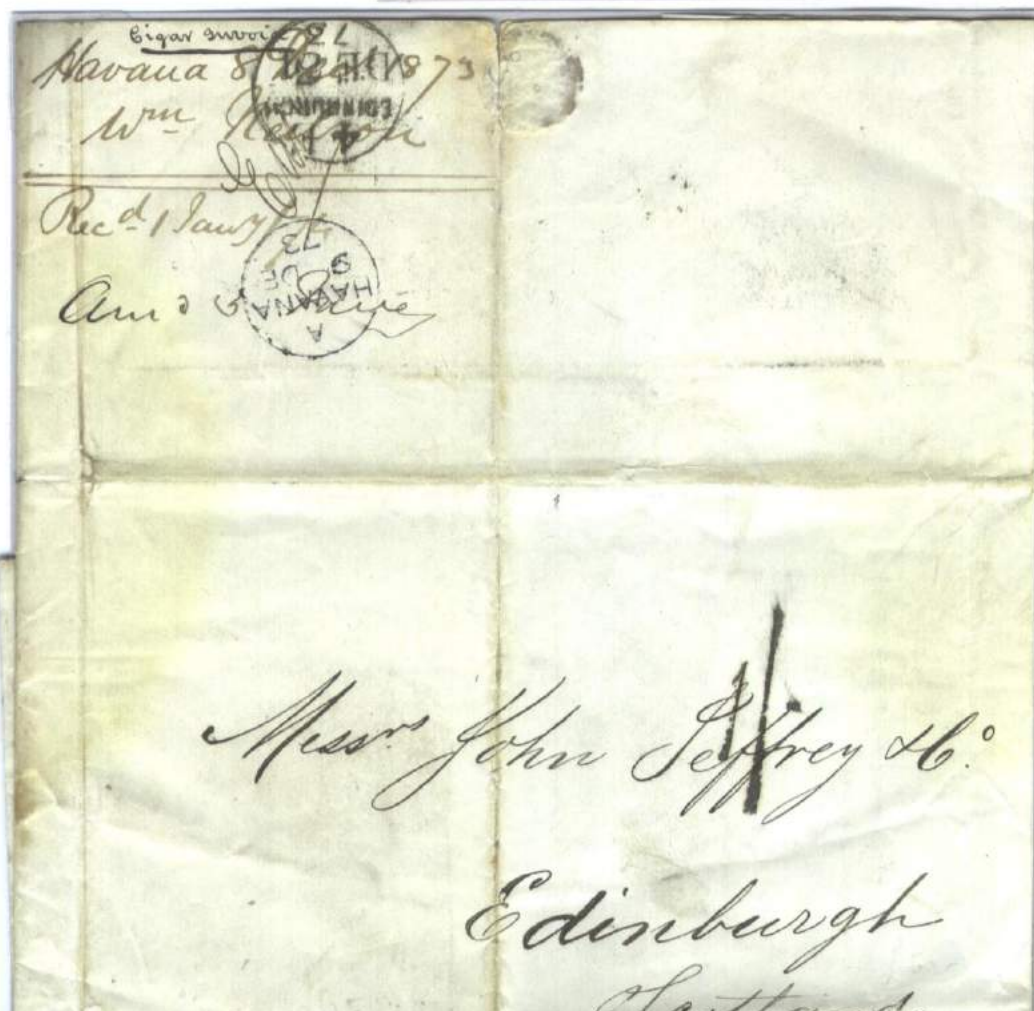
Havana

Destinations: British Territories in Europe

1863-1877 period - unpaid

In 1863 the single rate from Cuba to Great Britain and its European territories was one shilling per ounce.

1862. Havana to Malta, Mediterranean Sea, via London. It was carried by the RMSP *Trent* to St. Thomas and *La Plata* to Southampton. This is a very unusual destination. Unpaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).



1873. Havana to Edinburgh, Scotland. It was carried by RMSP *Corsica* to St. Thomas and *Moselle* to Plymouth. Unpaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

Consular Post Offices

Havana

Destinations: Spain and South America

1842-1863 period - prepaid (type 3 crown circle)

The Anglo-Spanish postal treaty of October 1858 allowed for mail between Spain and any place served by British steamers to be sent via Great Britain. Prepayment was optional.



1862. Havana to Santander, Spain. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Thames* to St. Thomas and *Shannon* to Southampton. Prepaid single letter: one shilling eleven pence (1/11). The correct rate should have been 2/5. Two pence British credit to Spain. It received the FRANCO marking at the Spanish foreign exchange office of Irun. It was recognized as short paid in Santander and charged four reales de vellon (4 Rs).

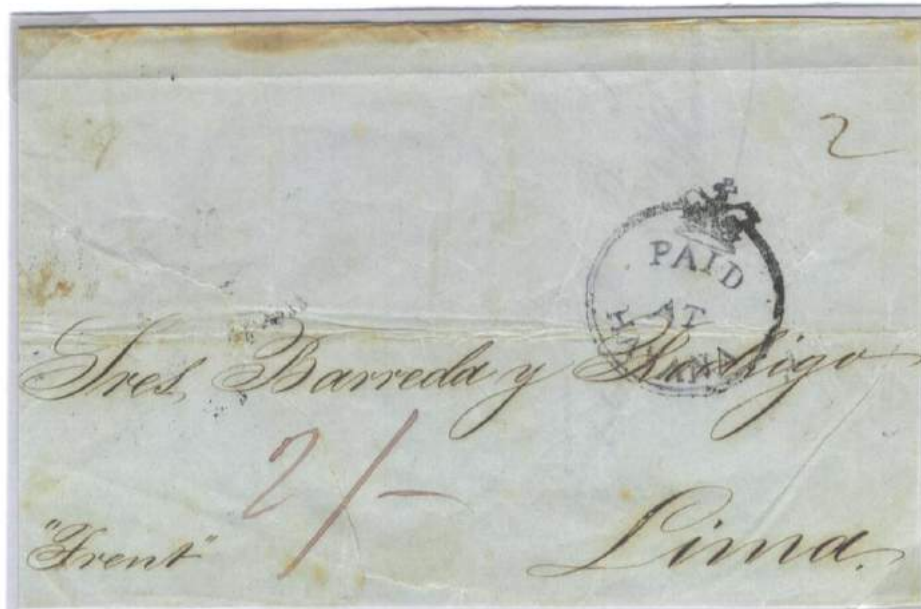


1860. Havana to Valparaiso, Chile. It was carried by the RMSP *Clyde* to St. Thomas and *Solent* to Colon. Prepaid double letter: four shillings (4/-).

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: East & West Coasts of Latin America**

1842-1863 period - prepaid (type 1 crown circle)

From 1842 to 1863 the single rate from Cuba to Central and South America was one shilling to the east coast, or two shillings to the west coast. Prepayment was required to non-British possessions.



1847. Havana to Lima, Peru. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Trent* to Kingston, and *Thames* to Chagres. Prepaid single letter: two shillings (2/-).



1847. Barcelona to Guatemala City, taken privately to Havana. It was carried by the RMSP *Lee* to Belize. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: South America and West Indies**

1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 duplex)

From 1863 to 1877 the single rate from Cuba to the Caribbean was four pence, and to the west coast of South America was one shilling. Prepayment to non-British possessions was required.



1873. Havana to Lima, Peru. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Corsica* to St. Thomas and *Moselle* to Colon. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).



1877. Havana to St. Thomas. It was carried by the RMSP *Ebro*. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d).

Latest recorded use of British stamps in Cuba.

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: West Coast of South America**

1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 duplex)

The single rate from Cuba to the west coast of South America was two shillings until 1863. It was then reduced to one shilling. Prepayment was required.



1871. Havana to Valparaiso, Chile. It was carried by the RMSP *Eider* to St. Thomas and Shannon to Colon. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

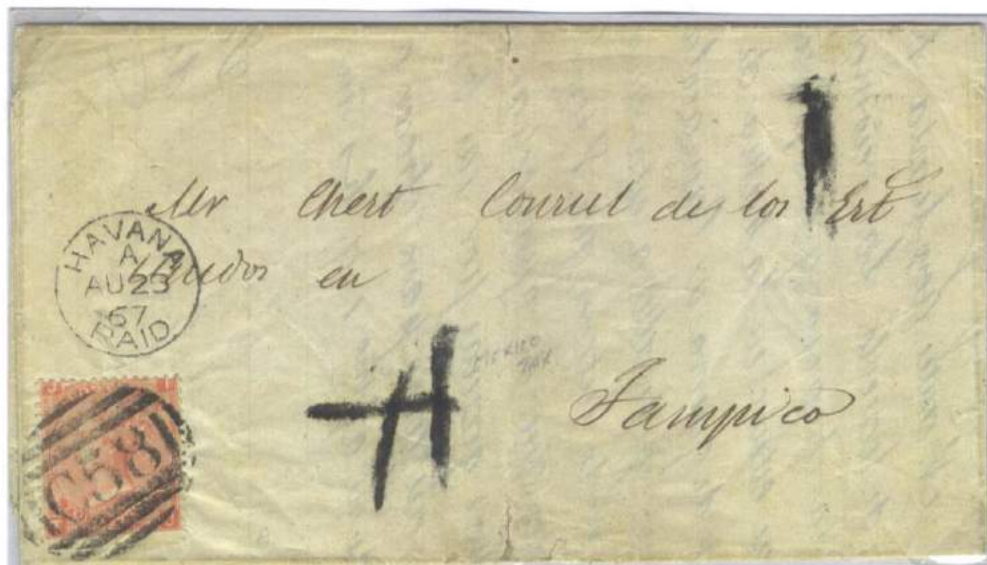


1871. Havana to Lima, Peru. It was carried by the RMSP *Corsica* to St. Thomas and *Elbe* to Colon. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: Mexico**

1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 grid & duplex)

The single rate from Cuba to Mexico from 1863 to 1877 was four pence. Prepayment was required.



1867. Havana to Tampico, Mexico. It was carried by the RMSP *Mersey* to Veracruz.
Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). One real postage due for internal Mexican rate to Tampico.



1868. Havana to Veracruz, Mexico. It was carried by the RMSP *Mersey* directly to Veracruz.
Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). One real postage due for internal Mexican rate to Tampico.

Consular Post Offices**Havana****Destinations: Mexico**

1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 grid & duplex)

The single rate from Cuba to Mexico from 1863 to 1877 was four pence. Prepayment was required.



1867. Havana to Tampico, Mexico. It was carried by the RMSP *Danube* to Veracruz. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). Two reales postage due for the internal Mexican rate.



1876. Havana to Veracruz, Mexico. It was carried by the RMSP *Eider* directly to Veracruz. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d).

Consular Post Offices

Havana

Destinations: Mexico and Great Britain

1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 duplex)

Since 1863 the single rate from Cuba to Mexico was four pence and to Great Britain it was one shilling.



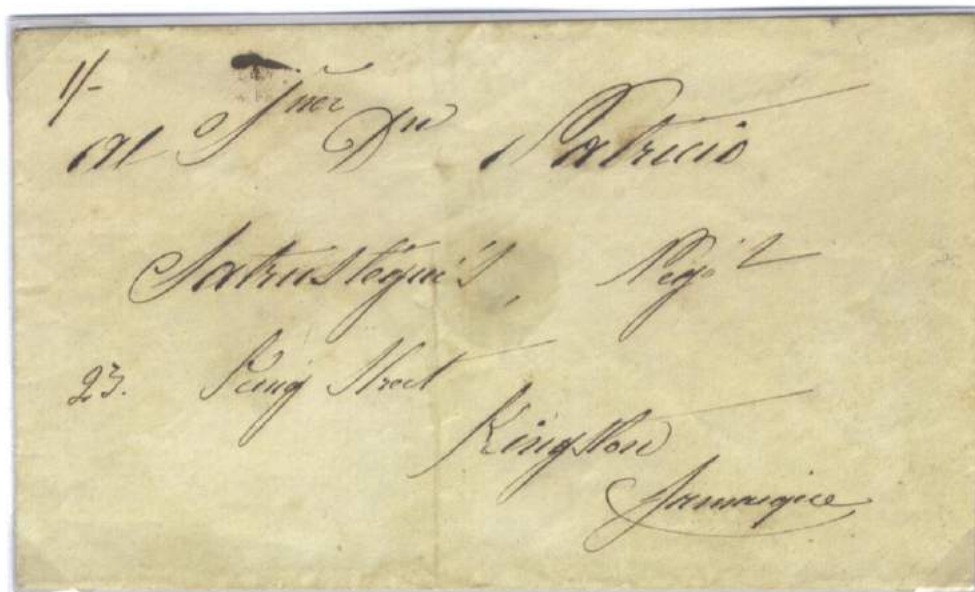
1870. Havana to Veracruz, Mexico. It was carried by the RMSP *Corsica*.
Prepaid triple letter: one shilling (1/-), a very unusual franking.



1873. Havana to London. It was carried by the RMSP *Eider* to St. Thomas and *Elbe* to Plymouth.
Prepaid double letter: two shillings (2/-). Most of the mail to Great Britain was sent unpaid.

Consular Post Offices
Santiago de Cuba and Havana
Destinations: British Caribbean
 1842-1858 and 1858-1877 periods - unpaid

The single rate from Cuba to the British Caribbean possessions was one shilling until 1858. It was then reduced to four pence. Prepayment was not required.



1849. Santiago de Cuba to Kingston, Jamaica. It was carried by direct RMSP steamer from Santiago to Kingston. Unpaid single letter: one shilling (1/-).



1858. Havana to Kingston, Jamaica. It was carried by RMSP *Dee* to St. Thomas and *Solent* to Jamaica. Unpaid single letter: four pence (4d).

Consular Post Offices

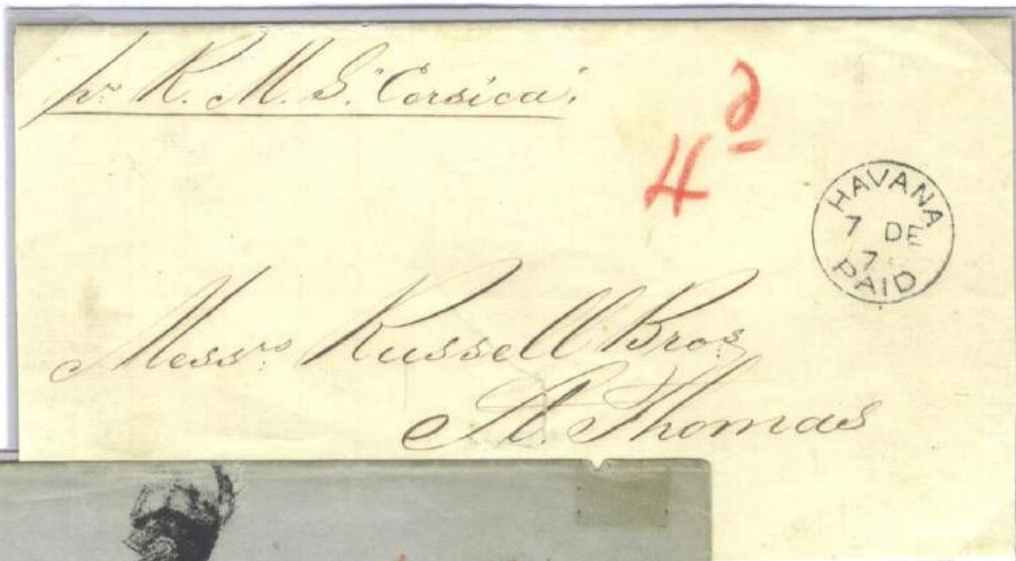
Havana

Destinations: Caribbean Basin & Gulf of Mexico

1863-1877 period - prepaid (circular PAID)

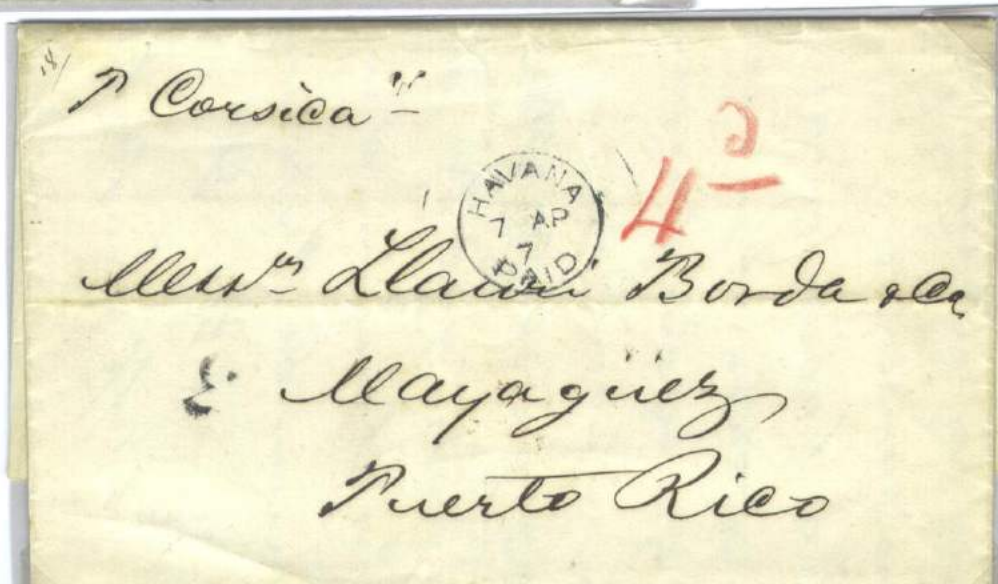
During infrequent stamp shortages postage was paid in cash.

1875. Havana to St. Thomas carried by the RMSP steamer *Corsica*. Defective postmark missing the right year digit. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d).



1867. Havana to Tampico, Mexico, carried by the RMSP steamer *Solent*. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). Two reales postage due from the addressee.

1876. Havana to Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, carried by the RMSP steamer *Corsica*. Defective postmark missing the right year digit. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). Three reales postage due from the addressee.



Consular Post Offices

Havana

Destinations: East & West Coasts of South America

1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 oval & circular markings)

From 1863 to 1877 the single rate from Cuba to South America was: four pence to the east coast, or one shilling to the west coast. Prepayment was required.



1870. Havana to Santa Marta, Colombia. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Corsica* to St. Thomas, and *Elbe* to Santa Marta.

Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). Charged ten cents postage due in Colombia.

Only reported combination of British and Colombian stamps on a cover from Cuba.

1876. Havana to Lima, Peru. It was carried by RMSP *Ebro* to St. Thomas and *Nile* to Colon, and after crossing the isthmus to Callao, Peru, by a steamer of the Pacific Mail Steamship Co. Prepaid double letter: two shillings (2/-).

Only such franking known from Cuba.



Anglo-Spanish Postal Treaty of 1858
Cuba to Spain and the Bahamas
1858-1877

Cuban stamps could be used to prepay the postage on letters to their final destination.



1866. Havana to Malaga, Spain. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Conway* to St. Thomas and *Tasmanian* to Southampton. Short paid single letter (twenty cents), by half, and charged four reales de vellon postage due in Spain.



1871. Havana to Nassau, Bahamas. It was carried by RMSP steamers. Prepaid single letter (twenty cents). Advertised and unclaimed. Four pence local fee due in the Bahamas.

5 - Incoming Mail

Incoming Mail
Santiago de Cuba
Origin: West Indies (and GB)
 1827-1841 and 1842-1863 periods

Cuba assessed postage due of one real and two reales on letters from the West Indies and Northern Europe, respectively.



1839. Kingston, Jamaica, to Havana via Santiago de Cuba. It was carried by British warship to Santiago. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). One real postage due in Cuba.

Earliest of the five known examples of this marking, and the only one in black.



1859. London to Santiago de Cuba via St. Thomas. It was carried by the RMSP *Shannon* to St. Thomas. Forwarded by the Spanish packet *Cuba*, although initially endorsed by the Spanish packet *Pelayo*. Prepaid single letter: one shilling six pence (1/6). Two reales postage due in Cuba.

Only black example of the five recorded copies of this marking.

Incoming Mail
Santiago de Cuba
Origin: West Indies and Europe
 1842-1863 period

1845. Marseille, France, to Cienfuegos, Cuba via Great Britain and Santiago de Cuba. Prepaid single letter. By RMSP steamers *Tweed* to St. Thomas and *Forth* to Santiago de Cuba. Two reales postage due applied in Cuba.



1845. Montego Bay, Jamaica, to Cienfuegos, Cuba via Santiago de Cuba. Prepaid single letter (one shilling). By the RMSP *Medway* to Santiago de Cuba. One real postage due applied in Cuba.

Cuba assessed postage due of one real and two reales on letters from the West Indies and Northern Europe, respectively.



**Incoming Mail
Havana
Origin: Germany
1842-1858 period**

Since 1842 the single rate between the Great Britain and Cuba by West India packet was two shillings and three pence. In October 1858 the rate was reduced to one shilling six pence. In 1863 it was reduced again to one shilling. Since 1851 the rate via the United States was one shilling two and a half pence. Prepayment to Cuba was required. Cuba charged letters from Northern Europe an incoming of two silver reales.

1848. Leipzig, Germany, to Havana via Great Britain. It was carried by the RMSP *Teviot* to Havana and received by the *Empresa* that applied its blue cds EMPRESA / N. EUROPA to indicate its origin.

A London forwarding agent paid two shillings three pence (2/3). Two reales postage due in Cuba. Forwarded to Sagua la Grande, Cuba, at no extra charge.



1852. Leipzig, Germany, to Cardenas, Cuba, via Great Britain and Havana. It was carried by the RMSP *Dee* to Havana.

Initially sent unpaid and held for nearly a month until a London forwarding agent paid the postage to Cuba: one shilling two and a half pence (1½). This was the rate for mail via the United States. The Cuban post office applied the NE to indicate its origin. Two reales postage due in Cuba.

Incoming Mail
Havana and Santiago de Cuba
Origin: Central America
 1842-1863 period

From 1842 to 1863 the single rate between the West Indies and the eastern coast of the Americas was one shilling. Prepayment to non-British possessions was required. The single rate postage due in Cuba between 1818 and 1877 from Latin America was three silver reales.



1849. Tampico, Mexico, to Havana, via Veracruz and Mobile. It was carried by the RMSP *Dee* to Cuba. It was received by a Cuban contract steamship company, the *Empresa* (red cds). Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). Three reales postage due in Havana.



1856. Panama City to Santiago de Cuba. It was carried by RMSP steamers from Colon to St. Thomas and Havana. Late use of the old YNDIAS marking resurrected by the Havana post office. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). Three reales postage due in Cuba.

Only reported Paid at Panama crown circle on a letter to Cuba.

Incoming Mail**Havana****Origin: West Indies and Mexico**

1842-1863 and 1863-1877 periods

The rate from the Caribbean Basin was one shilling, from 1842 to 1863, and four pence, between 1863 and 1877. Cuba assessed postage due of one real and three reales on letters from the West Indies and Latin America, respectively.

1858. San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Santiago de Cuba, via St. Thomas and Havana. It was carried by RMSP *Magdalena* to St. Thomas and *Solent* to Havana.

Prepaid single letter: one shilling (1/-). One real postage due in Cuba.

Only known combination of any British crown circle and ISLAS DE BARLOVENTO marking.



1869. Tampico, Mexico, to Havana. It was carried by the RMSP *Tamar* to Havana via Veracruz. Handled by the Mexican post office, that charged 12 cents local fee. Prepaid single letter: four pence. Three reales postage due in Cuba, where the INDIAS marking was applied to indicate its origin.

Only a handful of mixed franking covers from Mexico are known addressed to Cuba.

Incoming Mail
Santiago de Cuba
Origin: West Indies
 1863-1877 period

From 1863 to 1877 the single rate by British packet between the West Indies was four pence. Prepayment to non-British possessions was required. Cuba assessed postage due of one real on letters from the West Indies.



1868. Jacmel, Haiti, to Santiago de Cuba. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Solent* to St. Thomas and *Tyne* to Havana. Prepaid single letter: four pence (4d). One real postage due in Santiago de Cuba.



1875. Trinidad, BWI, to Santiago de Cuba. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Arno* to St. Lucia and *Corsica* to Havana. Prepaid single letter: six pence (4d steamship rate + 2d local fee). One real postage due oval applied in Havana.

Incoming Mail**Havana****Origin: East and West Coasts of South America**

1842-1863 and 1863-1877 periods

Cuba assessed three reales postage due on letters from Mexico, Central and South America.



1865. Caracas, Venezuela, to Havana, via La Guayra and St. Thomas. It was sent prepaid by a private steamship company on board the steamer *Robert Todd* from La Guayra to St. Thomas, and by the RMSP *Solent* to Havana. This company operated under contract with the Venezuelan government and the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. which accepted prepayment of the Caribbean fee of 4 pence at La Guayra. Postage due of 3 reales was assessed in Cuba, where the **INDIAS** was applied to indicate its origin.

Only recorded cover with a St. Thomas - La Guayra -Puerto Cabello stamp addressed to Cuba.



1861. Guayaquil, Ecuador, to Havana, via Panama and St. Thomas. Prepaid single letter: two shillings (2/-). Three silver reales postage due. **INDIAS** applied in Havana.

Only reported letter from Ecuador to Cuba pre-U.P.U.

Incoming Mail
Santiago de Cuba and Havana
Origin: Danish West Indies
 1863-1877 period

From 1863 to 1877 the single rate from St. Thomas to Cuba was four pence.



1870. St. Thomas to Santiago de Cuba. Prepaid single letter (four pence). It was most likely carried by a Spanish Mail Packet to Santiago. One real postage due in Cuba.



1870. St. Thomas to Havana. Prepaid single letter (four pence). By the RMSP *Corsica* to Cuba. It was either rated as a double letter in Havana (single-weight = 10 grams), or mistakenly treated as a letter from Great Britain.

Incoming Mail**Havana****Origin: Europe**

1842-1863 period - Handled by the Cuban "Empresa"

Since 1842 the single rate between the Great Britain and Cuba by West India packet was two shillings and three pence. Prepayment to Cuba was required. Cuba charged letters from Northern Europe an incoming fee of two silver reales.

The "Empresa Mercantil de Correos Maritimos de La Habana" (Empresa) was a Cuban shipping company that provided sailings between Cuba and Spain from 1827 to 1851. It was also allowed to retain the charges on foreign incoming mail. It applied its own postmarks on the correspondence that it handled.



1848. Sheffield, England, to Havana. It was carried by the RMSP *Teviot* to Havana. The *Empresa* applied its blue cds EMPRESA / N. EUROPA to indicate its origin. Prepaid single letter: two shillings three pence (2/3). Two reales postage due in Cuba.

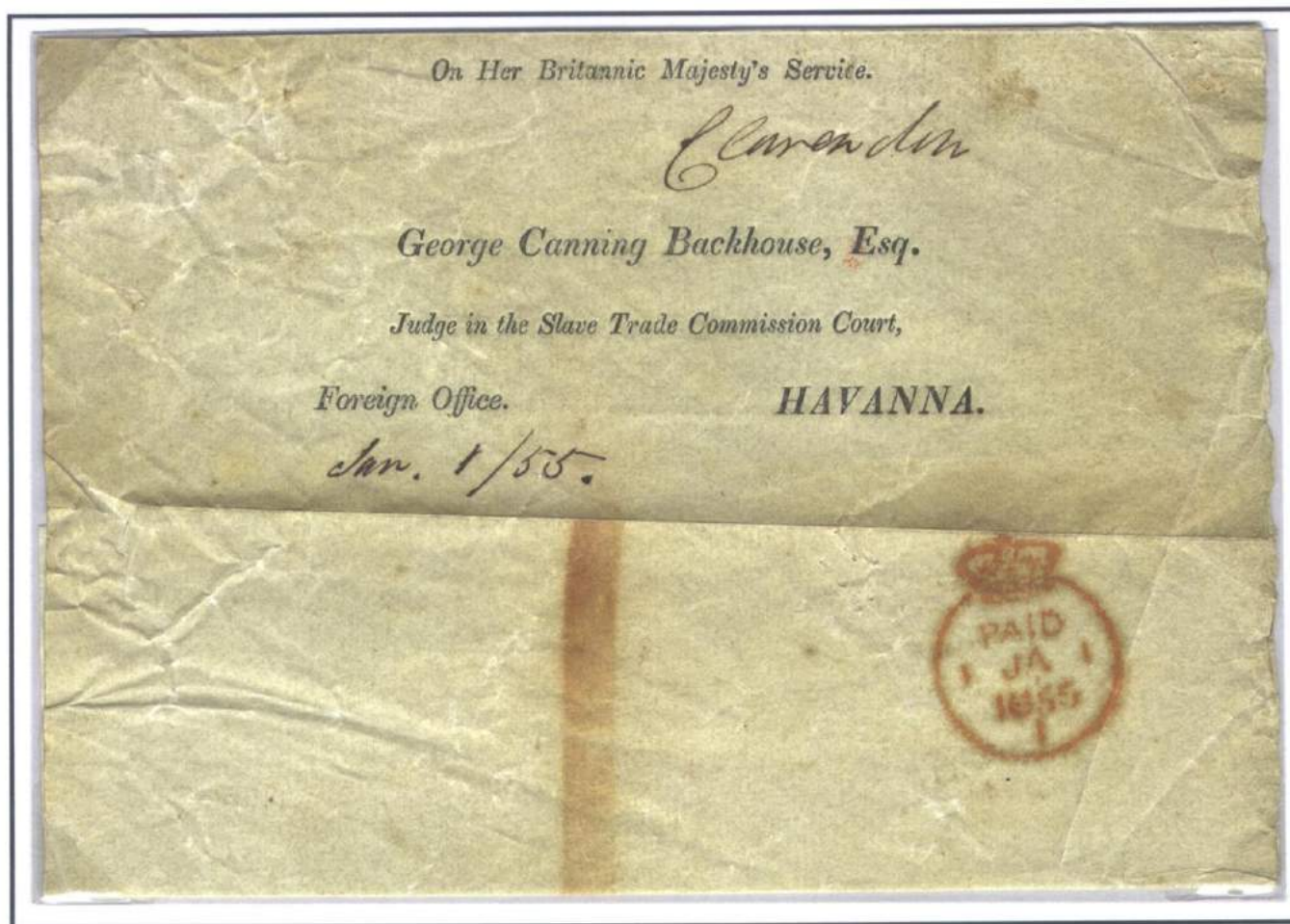


1849. Paris to Havana via Great Britain. It was carried by the RMSP *Teviot* to Havana. The *Empresa* applied its yellow cds EMPRESA / N. EUROPA to indicate its origin. Prepaid single letter: 15 decimes. Two reales postage due in Cuba.

**Rare example of disinfected mail
in Havana.**

Incoming Mail
Havana
Origin: Great Britain

Official mail with postal franchise within Great Britain or its possessions.



1855. Official correspondence (O.H.B.M.S.) from London to a British Judge in the Slave Trade Commission Court in Havana. Official business enjoying postal franchise. By the RMSP steamers *La Plata* to St. Thomas and *Conway* to Cuba. It was enclosed in a sealed diplomatic bag addressed to the British Consul in Havana, bypassing the Cuban post office. It likely was part of a large wrapper containing a bundle of documents.

Only reported British official mail to Cuba.

**Incoming Mail
Havana**

Origin: Europe
1863-1877 period

From 1863 to 1877 the single rate between Great Britain and Cuba was one shilling. Prepayment to Cuba was required.

1865. Paris to Havana via Great Britain. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Tasmanian* to St. Thomas and *Tyne* to Havana. Prepaid single letter: 80 centimes. Charged two reales postage due in Cuba.



1867. London to Havana. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *La Plata* to St. Thomas and *Mersey* to Havana.

Prepaid single letter: one shilling. Charged two reales postage due in Cuba.

1868. Birmingham, England, to Havana. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *La Plata* to St. Thomas and *Eider* to Havana.

Prepaid double letter: two shillings. Charged four reales postage due in Cuba.



Incoming Mail**Havana****Origin (and Destination): British North America**

1842-1863 & 1863-1877 periods

From 1851 to 1877 the single rate from Canada to Cuba was twenty cents.



1864. Kingston C.W., to Havana via New York. Prepaid double letter: forty cents. Two reales postage due in Cuba.

Only reported pre-U.P.U. stampless letter from Canada to Cuba.



1869. Printed circular from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Harbor Britain, Newfoundland, via St. Thomas Havana and New York. It was taken privately to St. Thomas where a forwarding agent sent it prepaid (one penny) by Spanish Mail Packet (under postal contract with G.B.) to Havana. In Cuba it was marked FRANCO and sent by American steamer via New York. Two cents postage due in N.F.

Incoming Mail**Havana****Origin: Europe and South America via London**

1844-1863 period

1867. Paris to Havana via London. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Magdalena* to St. Thomas and *Thames* to Havana. It reached Cuba in the same mail bag as the cover below. Prepaid single letter: six decimes (101 was the French foreign prepaid letter registration number). Two reales postage due in Cuba.

Cuba assessed two reales postage due on letters from Northern Europe. This oval style of N.E.2 marking was mainly used in 1859.



1859. London to Santiago de Cuba via Havana. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Magdalena* to St. Thomas and *Thames* to Havana.

Prepaid single letter: one shilling six pence (1/6). Two reales postage due in Cuba.

1859. Montevideo, Uruguay, to Havana via London. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Atrato* to St. Thomas and *Teviot* to Havana. Originally sent unpaid, it was held for postage in London.

Prepaid in London: two shillings and five pence (2/5). Two reales postage due in Cuba.



Incoming Mail
Havana
Origin: Europe
 1863-1877 period

Since the 1860s mail from many European countries could be sent prepaid to Cuba via London. Cuba charged two reales per half ounce postage due on letters from Northern Europe.

1867. Varazze, Italy, to Havana via France and London. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *La Plata* to St. Thomas and *Mersey* to Havana. Prepaid single letter: one lira. Two reales postage due in Cuba.



1875. Gosselies, Belgium, to Havana via London. It was carried by the RMSP steamers *Para* to St. Thomas and *Corsica* to Havana. Prepaid single letter: one franc fifty centimes (Belgian). Charged two reales postage due in Cuba.

6 - Transit Mail through Cuba

Transit Mail through Cuba
By British Packet to Havana
 1842-1863 period - prepaid to Cuba

From 1842 to 1863 the single rate within the Caribbean Basin was one shilling. Prepayment to non-British possessions was required.



1842. Veracruz, Mexico, to Cadiz, Spain, via Havana. It was carried by the RMSP *Solway* to Havana and by a Spanish ship to Cadiz.

Prepaid single letter to Cuba: one shilling (1/-). Handled by the *Empresa* in Havana that applied the red straightline HABANA for an unpaid transit letter. When the Cuban transit fee was paid, it was forwarded to Spain and charged seven reales de vellón.

Only reported example of the HABANA in red used by the *Empresa*.



1845. May Hill, Jamaica, to Salem, North Carolina, via Kingston, Havana and New York. It was carried by the RMSP *Tay* to Cuba and by an American ship to New York. Prepaid double letter to Cuba: two shillings (2/-). Handled by the *Empresa* in Havana that applied the blue semicircular datestamp and straightline HABANA for an unpaid transit letter. When the Cuban transit fee of one real was paid, it was forwarded to New York where it was charged the double weight ship letter beyond the port of arrival: twelve cents.

Transit Mail through Cuba
By American and British Packets
 1851-1863 period - prepaid to Cuba

Cuba had no agreement with either the United States or Great Britain at the time and continued to charge the transit fee of one real.

The American-British postal treaty of June 1851 allowed for direct prepayment in the United States of letters to Mexico and several other Caribbean locations. They were sent by American steamer to Havana, and later Kingston or St. Thomas, and then by British steamer to their final destination. The rate was 35 cents (10 to US, 25 to GB). The US Consul in Havana was appointed postal agent, but due to difficulties with the Spanish post office this service was moved to Jamaica.



1851. New Orleans to Tampico, Mexico, via Havana and Veracruz. It was sent by American contract steamer to Havana where it was held until the one real transit fee was paid. It was then carried by merchant vessel to Veracruz. Prepaid single letter: 35 cents. Three reales postage due in Tampico.

These are the only two covers known carried through Cuba under this treaty.

1851. New Orleans to Durango, Mexico, via Havana and Veracruz. It was sent by American contract steamer to Havana where it was held until the one real transit fee was paid. It was then carried by merchant vessel to Veracruz. Prepaid single letter: 35 cents. from Durango it was forwarded to Mexico City.



Transit Mail through Cuba
By British Packet to Havana
 1842-1865 period - prepaid to Cuba

The single rate between Caribbean islands during this period was one shilling. Prepayment to non-British possessions was required.



1865. St. Thomas to New York via Havana. Prepaid single letter (one shilling). By the RMSP *Eider* to Havana. By American contract steamer from Havana to New York.



1861. San Juan, Puerto Rico, to New York via St. Thomas and Havana. Prepaid single letter (one shilling). By the RMSP steamers *Derwent* to St. Thomas and *Clyde* to Havana. By non-contract ship from Havana to Baltimore.

Transit Mail through Cuba
Privately carried to Havana
 1863-1877 period - prepaid (C58 duplex)

From 1863 to 1877 the single rate from Cuba to Mexico was four pence.

1870. New York to Tampico, Mexico. Privately carried to Havana and sent prepaid (four pence) by a forwarding agent. By the RMSP *Clyde* to Veracruz. One real postage due internal fee to Tampico.



1871. New Orleans to Veracruz, Mexico. Privately carried to Havana and sent prepaid (four pence) by a forwarding agent. By the RMSP *Eider* to Veracruz.

**Transit Mail through Cuba
By British Packet from Havana**
1842-1863 period - prepaid from Cuba

From 1842 to 1863 the single rate from Cuba to Mexico was one shilling. Prepayment was required.

1849. Paris to Havana via London. It was carried by the RMSP *Severn* to Havana and then to Veracruz.

Prepaid single letter: 18 decimes. Handled by the *Empresa* in Havana that applied its cds EMPRESA / N. EUROPA and charged two reales postage due. Forwarded prepaid to Mexico: one shilling (1/-).

Only known combination of *Empresa* and British Consular markings.



1863. New York to Tampico, Mexico, via Havana. It was carried by American contract steamer to Havana and by the RMSP *Trent* to Veracruz.

Prepaid single letter: ten cents. Rated as a double letter in Cuba: two reales. Paid by the US consul who sent it prepaid to Mexico: two shillings (2/-).

There is one other reported combination of a PAID at HAVANA crown circle and U.S. stamps.

**Transit Mail through Cuba
By British Packet**

1842-1863 periods - prepaid to and from Cuba

The Anglo-Spanish postal treaty of 1858 allowed the full prepayment of mail between Spain and many other countries, sent by British steamers. No transit fee was assessed in Cuba.

1861. Mexico City to Madrid via Havana and London. Prepaid (one shilling) all the way to Spain. Sent by the British Consulate in Mexico City. Mexican two reales stamp paid the local post office fee. Very rare use of the Havana BPO cds in transit. By the RMS SP steamers *Trent* to Havana and St. Thomas, and *La Plata* to Southampton. FRANCO applied at the exchange office in Spain. Two pence credit to GB.

There is one other similar cover known.



1862. Cadiz, Spain, to Veracruz via Havana. By Spanish steamer to Havana and the RMS SP steamer *Thames* to Veracruz. Spanish franking (four reales) - 4x normal fee to Cuba - was accepted as prepayment by the BPO in Havana.

There is one other recorded example with this franking.

**Transit Mail through Cuba
By British and American Packets**

1842-1863 & 1863-1877 periods - prepaid to Cuba

Mail accidentally in transit through Havana was often held until the local Cuban fee was paid.

1859. New York to Kingston via Havana and St. Thomas. Prepaid to Cuba by American steamer. Held by the Cuban post office until the one real transit fee was paid. By Spanish mail packet to St. Thomas and RMSP steamer *Dee* to Kingston. Four pence postage due in Jamaica.

1870. London to Yokohama, Japan, via Havana and San Francisco. Missent to Cuba due to the interruption of the Marseille route caused by the Franco Prussian War. By the RMSP steamers *Nile* to St. Thomas and *Corsica* to Havana. Held in Cuba until the two reales transit fee was paid. Forwarded by American packets.

Probably unique routing.



Transit Mail through Cuba
By British Packet from Havana or beyond
 1842-1863 & 1863-1877 periods

Cuban forwarding agents handled a lot of transit mail to or from Mexico.

1863. Matamoros, Mexico, to Kingston, Jamaica. US Civil War era mail handled by forwarding agents in Havana and St. Thomas. Prepaid single letter (four penc) sent by the RMSP Conway to Kingston.



1857. Laguna de Terminos, Mexico, to Havre, France. Forwarded in Havana by the RMSP steamers *Solent* to St. Thomas and *Parana* to Southampton. Sixteen decimes postage due in France for a letter over eight grams.



7 - Mail with southern South America

Mail with southern South America Cis-Atlantic Route

By US & Brazil and British Steamers

There was no easy way to send mail between Cuba and southern South America before the U.P.U. These letters were generally handled by forwarding agents in St. Thomas.

The first United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Company (USBMSC) was an American company that ran a steamship service between New York, St. Thomas and Rio de Janeiro. It operated under contract with the U.S. Post Office between 1865 and 1875. The vast majority of the mail carried by this company was between the United States and St. Thomas. About two dozen covers from Cuba have been recorded carried by this line.



1872. Buenos Aires to Havana via St. Thomas. Privately carried to forwarding agent in Rio de Janeiro and sent inside separate cover by the USBMSC *Merrimack* to St. Thomas. Sent prepaid (four pence) by a forwarding agent on the RMSP steamer *Corsica* to Cuba. Three reales postage due in Havana (single rate from Continental Central and South America).

Only known cover sent by a USBMSC steamer from South America to Cuba.

**Mail with southern South America
Cis-Atlantic Route**
By US & Brazil and British Steamers

The single rate by British steamers in the Caribbean Basin was four pence. The single rate by USBMSC steamers was ten cents - the U.S. contract steamship rate.



1872. Havana to Buenos Aires via St. Thomas. It was carried privately to a forwarding agent in St. Thomas who sent it prepaid all the way to Argentina. Ten cents paid the USBMSC fee by the steamer *Merrimack* to Rio de Janeiro. Four pence paid the British steamer rate to Buenos Aires. Three pesos and six reales postage due in Argentina (3/6).

Only known cover with mixed US-British stamps canceled in Montevideo, Uruguay.



1874. Buenos Aires to Havana via St. Thomas. It was carried privately to a forwarding agent in St. Thomas. Sent prepaid (four pence) on the RMSP *Eider* to Cuba. One real postage due in Havana (single rate from the West Indies).

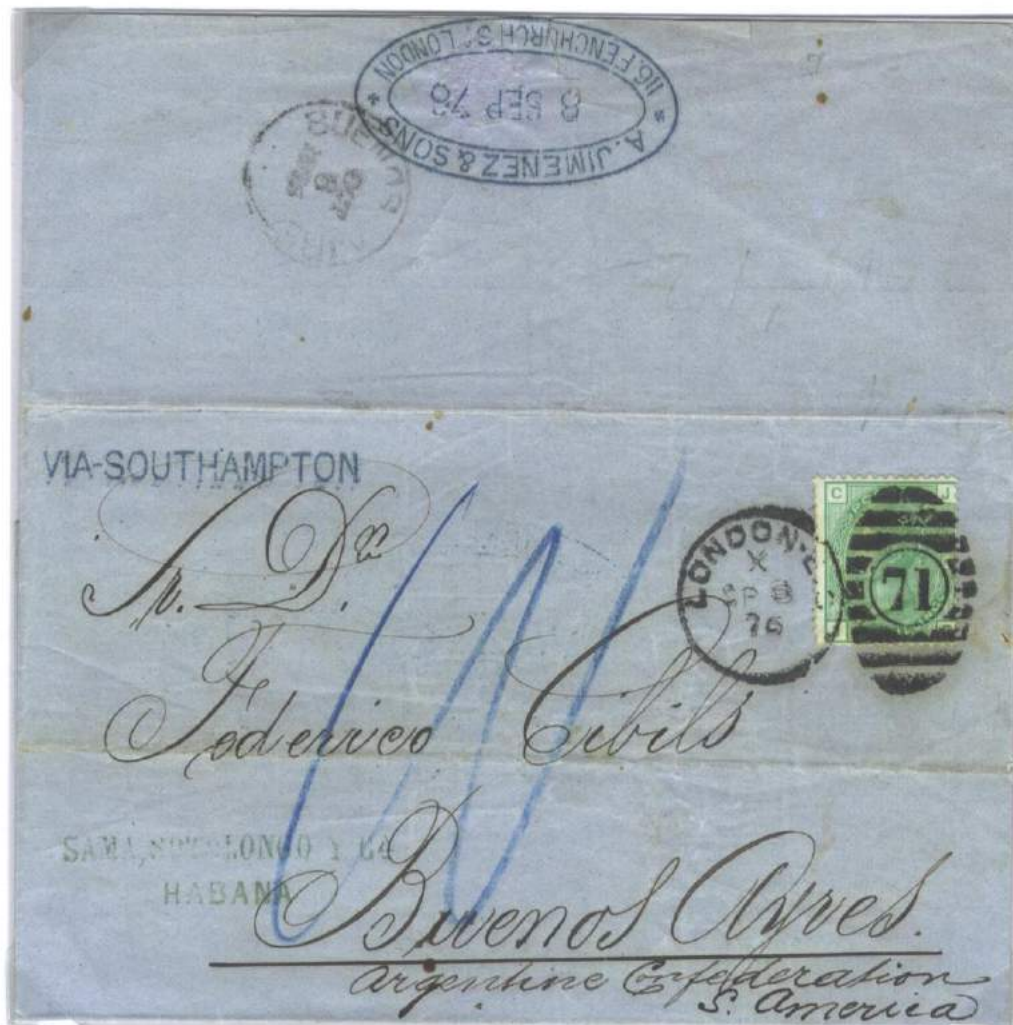
There is one other known cover from Argentina to Cuba by British mail by the cis-atlantic route.

**Mail with southern South America
Double Transatlantic Crossing**
Privately and by British Steamers

*These letters were carried privately to forwarding agents in London.
They were then sent prepaid British steamers to their destinations.*

1866. Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Havana via London. It was carried privately to London on board the RMSP *Douro* and handled by a forwarding agent. Prepaid single letter (one shilling) by the RMSP *Tasmanian* from Southampton to St. Thomas, and *Eider* to Cuba. Two silver reales postage due in Havana.

One reported cover from Argentina by this route.



1876. Havana to Buenos Aires via London. It was carried privately to London and handled by a forwarding agent. Prepaid single letter (one shilling) by the RMSP *Tagus* to Buenos Aires. Ten cents postage due in Argentina for a double-weight letter (8-16 gr).

About half dozen recorded covers sent this way.

Mail with southern South America
Double Transatlantic Crossing
 By French and British Steamers

These letters were sent prepaid to Cuba by French steamers via Bordeaux and Great Britain. They were then sent by British steamers to the West Indies.



1864. Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Havana via Bordeaux and London. It was carried by the French Compagnie des Services Maritimes des Messageries Imperiales steamers *Saintonge* to Rio de Janeiro and *Béarn* to St. Nazaire, France. It was taken by the RMSP *Seine* from Southampton to St. Thomas, and *Solent* to Cuba. Prepaid single letter: 1 franc 60 centimes.

One other reported cover from Argentina carried on this route by this combination of steamers.



1871. Montevideo, Uruguay, to Havana via Bordeaux and London. It was carried by the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Girone* to France. It was taken by the RMSP *Tasmanian* from Southampton to St. Thomas, and *Eider* to Cuba. Prepaid single letter: one franc.

Only recorded cover from Uruguay carried by this way.

8 - The Cunard Line (New York - Nassau - Havana)

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867

From 1859 to 1863 the British Cunard Line ran a branch of steamers running monthly between New York, Nassau and Havana. It was extensively used during the US Civil War to connect with blockade runners in Nassau. However, mail to and from Cuba is scarce. There was a great deal of confusion in the interpretation of the postal regulations for this type of mail. Letters from Cuba were sent unpaid or prepaid, but their payment was not recognized in the United States. In New York, these letters were rated either as unpaid ship letters or as contract steamship mail. Some erroneous uses of the PAID at HAVANA crown circle have also been recorded on this type of mail.

1863. PROPOSED SAILINGS 1863.
 OF THE
 British & North American Royal Mail Steamships
 BRITISH QUEEN AND CORSICA, (NEW.)
 BETWEEN NEW YORK AND HAVANA,
 CALLING AT NASSAU, N. P.

FROM NEW YORK.	FROM HAVANA.
Tuesday, 6th January, 1863.	Saturday, 17th January, 1863.
Monday, 2d February, "	Saturday, 14th February, "
Monday, 2d March, "	Saturday, 14th March, "
Saturday, 28th March, "	Saturday, 11th April, "
Saturday, 25th April, "	Saturday, 9th May, "
Saturday, 23rd May, "	Saturday, 6th June, "
Saturday, 20th June, "	Saturday, 4th July, "
Saturday, 18th July, "	THE JULY AND AUGUST VOYAGES
Saturday, 15th August, "	EXTEND TO NASSAU ONLY.
Saturday, 12th September, "	Saturday, 26th September, "
Monday, 12th October, "	Saturday, 24th October, "
Monday, 9th November, "	Saturday, 21st November, "
Monday, 7th December, "	Saturday, 19th December, "
Monday, 4th January, 1864.	Saturday, 16th January, 1864.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

FROM NEW YORK:	FROM NASSAU:	FROM HAVANA:
To Nassau, . . . \$45.	To New York, . \$45.	To New York, . \$60
To Havana, . . . 50.	To Havana, . . 20 1/2.	To Nassau, . . . N. 20.

PAYABLE IN GOLD, OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

For Freight or Passage apply

In HAVANA, - - - to - - -	Messrs. J. M. MORALES & CO.
In NASSAU, - - - to - - -	Messrs. H. Y. ADDERLY & CO.
In BOSTON, - - - to - - -	Messrs. E. C. & I. G. BATES.
In NEW YORK, - - - to - - -	EDWARD CUNARD,

4 Bowling Green,

NEW YORK, January 1st, 1863.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - to and from Cuba

Letters to the US were treated as either ship or steamship mail (unpaid). The single rate from Great Britain to Cuba via the United States was one shilling two and a half pence (prepayment required). Cuba charged two reales per ten grams postage due on letters from Northern Europe.

1860. Havana to New York. It was carried by the *Karnak* via Nassau. Unpaid single letter rated as a ship letter to the port of destination in New York.

Very scarce ship letter rate instead of steamship rate.



1862. Birmingham, England, to Havana. It was carried by the Cunard steamers *America* to Boston and *Karnak* from New York. Prepaid single letter: one shilling two and a half pence (1/2½). Two reales postage due in Cuba.

Last trip of the *Karnak* before it was wrecked at Nassau.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - to the United States

From 1851 to 1864 the steamship rate from Cuba to the United States was ten cents (US). Prepayment was optional and done infrequently.



1861. Havana to Boston via New York. It was sent on the Cunard steamer *Karnak*. Unpaid single letter: ten cents postage due in the United States.



1864. Havana to New York. It was sent on the Cunard steamer *Corsica*. Unpaid single letter: ten cents postage due in the United States.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - from the United States

From 1851 to 1864 the steamship rate from the United States to Cuba was ten cents. Prepayment was required. Cuba charged one real postage due on letters from North America.



1861. Philadelphia to Havana via New York. Sent on the Cunard steamer *Karnak*. Prepaid: ten cents. One real postage due in Cuba.



1861. New York to Havana. Sent on the Cunard steamer *British Queen*. Prepaid: ten cents. One real postage due in Cuba.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - to the United States

From 1851 to 1864 the steamship rate from Cuba charged in the United States was ten cents. The ship letter rate beyond the port of arrival was five cents. Prepayment was optional and done infrequently.



1860. Havana to Richmond, Virginia, via New York. Sent on the Cunard steamer *Karnak*. Prepaid: one shilling (British fee). Treated as an unpaid ship letter in New York and charged five cents postage due.

Only a handful of covers from Cuba to the United States show the prepayment of the British fee.



1864. Havana to federally occupied New Orleans, via New York. Sent on the Cunard steamer *Corsica*. Prepaid: one shilling (British fee). Treated as an unpaid steamship letter in New York and charged ten cents postage due.

Ditto.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - to and from Canada

From 1851 to 1864 the rate from Cuba to Canada via the United States was fifteen US cents. Prepayment was optional. Cuba charged one real postage due on letters from North America.



1862. Havana to Quebec, Canada, via Nassau and New York. Sent on the *Karnak* to Nassau where it was wrecked. The mail was recovered and sent to New York on schooner *Evelina*. It was then take by an American steamer to Canada. Unpaid single letter: fifteen cents (US). Five pence postage due in Canadian local currenry.

Only recorded wreck cover carried of the *Karnak*.



1866. Montreal, Canada, to Havana. Carried privately to New York and sent, privately again, on board the *Karnak* to Cuba. Two reales postage due in Cuba for a double letter.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - prepaid to Cuba

The single rate from Great Britain to Cuba via the United States was one shilling two and a half pence. Prepayment was required. Cuba charged two reales per ten grams postage due on letters from Northern Europe.



1860. London to Havana. Sent in a sealed bag to be opened in Cuba on board the Cunard steamers *Canada* to Boston and *Karnak* from New York. Prepaid double letter (two shillings five pence). Six reales postage due in Cuba for a letter between 20 and 30 grams.



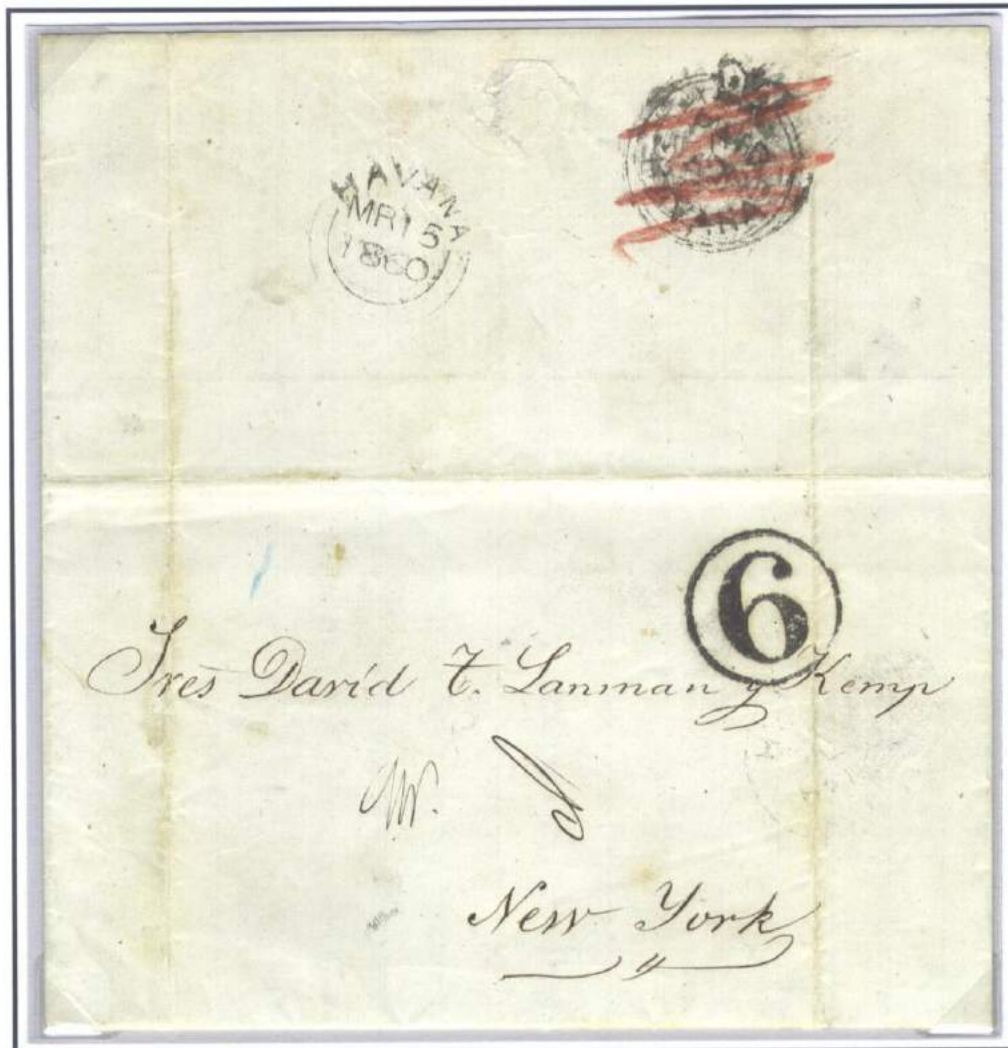
1866. Birmingham, England, to Havana. By the Cunard steamers *Scotia* to New York and *Corsica* to Cuba. Prepaid quadruple letter (four shillings nine pence). Eight reales postage due in Cuba for a letter between 30 and 40 grams.

Cunard Line
New York - Nassau - Havana
 1859-1867 period - to the United States

Letters to the US were treated as ship or steamship mail.
 Prepayment in Cuba was rarely done.

1863. Havana to Cleveland, Ohio, via New York. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *British Queen* to New York. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (British fee), plus ten cents (US fee). PAID at HAVANA crown circle, normally not applied to this mail after 1859 and thus crossed out.

One of two reported covers with US stamps and a PAID at HAVANA crown circle.



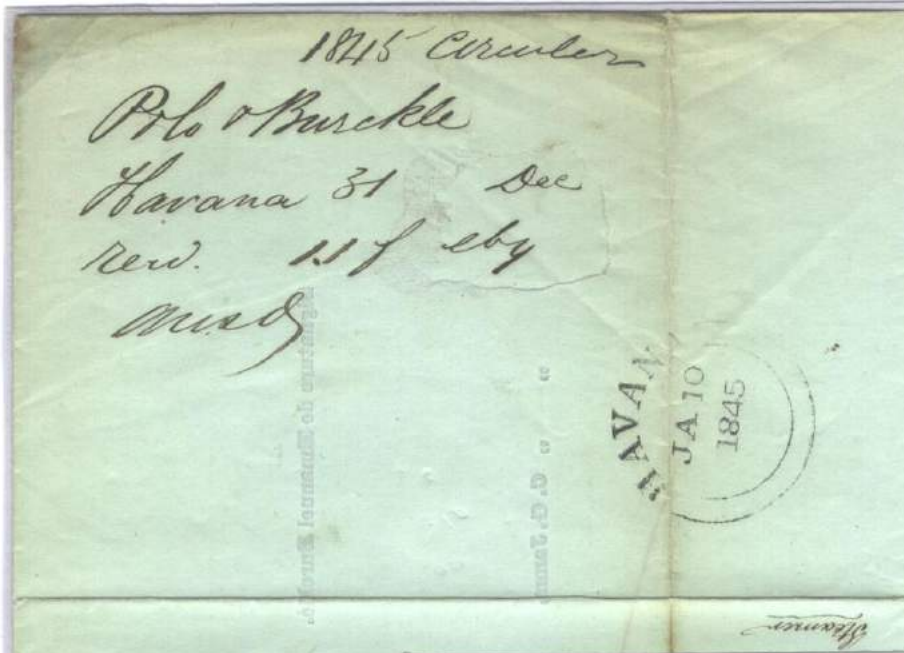
1860. Havana to New York. It was carried by the *Karnak* via Nassau. Prepaid single letter: one shilling (British fee). Treated as an unpaid ship letter to the port of destination in New York: six cents due. Rare application of the PAID at HAVANA crown circle after 1859, crossed out.

Only known usage of the PAID at HAVANA on the reverse side of a letter.

9 - Printed Matter

Printed Matter
 From Havana
 To Great Britain and France

The printed matter rate was one penny to Great Britain and 15 centimes to France. French rates expressed in centimes were applied in red ink or with a small "c" after the numbers.



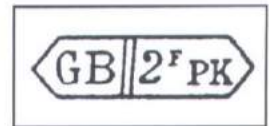
1845. Havana to London. Unpaid printed circular rated as a single letter (two shillings, three pence) because it was signed and sealed.



1865. Havana to Bordeaux, France. Unpaid printed circular: fifteen centimes. Very scarce usage.

**Printed Matter
From Havana
To France via Great Britain**

The Franco-British Convention of 1857 established the bulk rate of 2 Francs per kilogram for printed matter addressed to France via Great Britain.



1857-74

1864. Havana to Bordeaux via London. Unpaid unsealed printed circular. Fifteen centimes per 40 grams postage due. By the RMSP *Clyde* to St. Thomas and *Atrato* to Southampton.

No more than five examples of this marking have been recorded on mail from Cuba.



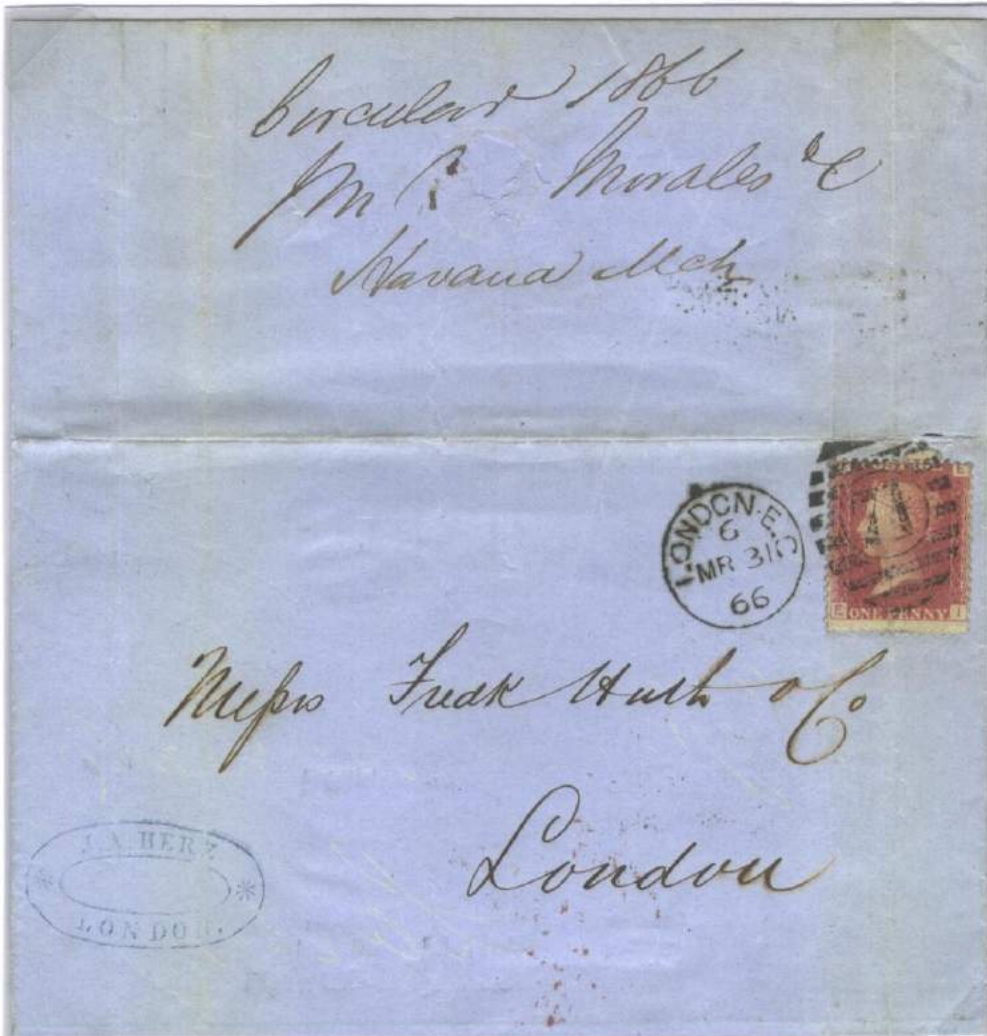
1861. Havana to Havre via London. Unpaid printed circular. Erroneous use of the framed accountancy marking "GB//1f60c," which was crossed out and corrected. Fifteen centimes per 40 grams postage due. Uncommon rate applied in writing. By the RMSP *Trent* to St. Thomas and *Atrato* to Southampton.

Only reported example of these two accountancy markings on the same cover.

Printed Matter
To and From Cuba
To and from Great Britain

The printed matter rate to and from Great Britain was one penny, and in Cuba it was one silver real, regardless of the origin. British prepayment was not recognized in Cuba.

1861. London to Cienfuegos, Cuba, via Havana. Prepaid unsealed circular (one penny). By the RMSP steamers *Atrato*.



1866. Havana to London. Privately carried to Great Britain and handled by a forwarding agent. Prepaid circular (one penny).

10 - Spanish Mail Packets

Spanish Mail Packet



1868-69



1869-70

A line of Spanish steamers based in Havana, initially operated by Ramon de Herrera, travelled regularly to numerous Caribbean ports between 1858 and the early 1890s. It had a mail contract with the Cuban post office since 1859. Many covers elsewhere in this exhibit were carried by this line franked with Cuban stamps.

In the 1860s the British post office contracted this line intemittently to carry British closed mails between several ports in the West Indies. These covers are difficult to identify because they bear no special markings and British steamship lines often covered parts of the same route simultaneously.

To avoid mail fraud with the loose correspondence picked up along the route, British postal agents were assigned to travel on the Spanish mail packets between 1868 and 1870 to handle the mail and sell British stamps. They were issued the postmarks shown above to mark loose letters and obliterate uncanceled stamps. Only British stamps were supposed to be valid but a few examples of Cuban stamps canceled by the D26 grid have been recorded.

Only seven covers have been reported with the SPANISH-MAIL-PACKET cds, always applied on the reverse.



Only three Cuban stamps have been reported canceled with the D26 grid.



Only about a dozen British stamps are known canceled with the D26 grid.

Spanish Mail Packet

The two British postal agents traveling on separate Spanish mail packets received the new D26 obliterators in April 1868. It is believed that one of the agents, unfamiliar with this device and the proper procedure, used it on this letter handed over to him at the steamer, in transit or after the post office had closed the mail. The sharp strike of the canceler is consistent with its "First Day" of use. This arrangement proved to be unsuccessful and the British gave up the contract after a few years.



1868. Spanish West Indies (possibly San Juan, P.R., or Santiago de Cuba) to Havana. Prepaid double-weight letter (twenty cents). Carried on the first trip of the *Moctezuma* with a British postal agent on board. Erroneous use of the D26 grid canceling Cuban instead of British stamps. The stamps were evidently accepted by both the British and the Cuban post office in Havana. There is one other D26 cover with a British stamp from St. Thomas to the United States.

The most important item of foreign British mail in the West Indies.

One of the most significant covers of all the British Post Offices abroad.

Spanish Mail Packet
Mail from or through Cuba



1869. Rockland, Maine, to Martinique, French West Indies, via Havana and St. Thomas. Possibly, a unique example of the 18 cent rate from the US to the Caribbean by American and British steamers via Havana. Prepaid single letter (18 cents = 10 to US + 8 to GB). Red 8 (cents) credit to GB. Oval FRANCO applied in Havana. By a Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and RMSP *Tyne* to Martinique. Twenty decimes postage due.



1869. Havana to Paris via St. Thomas and GB. Unpaid double letter (twenty decimes). By Spanish Mail Packet to St. Thomas and the RMSP *Neva* to Plymouth.

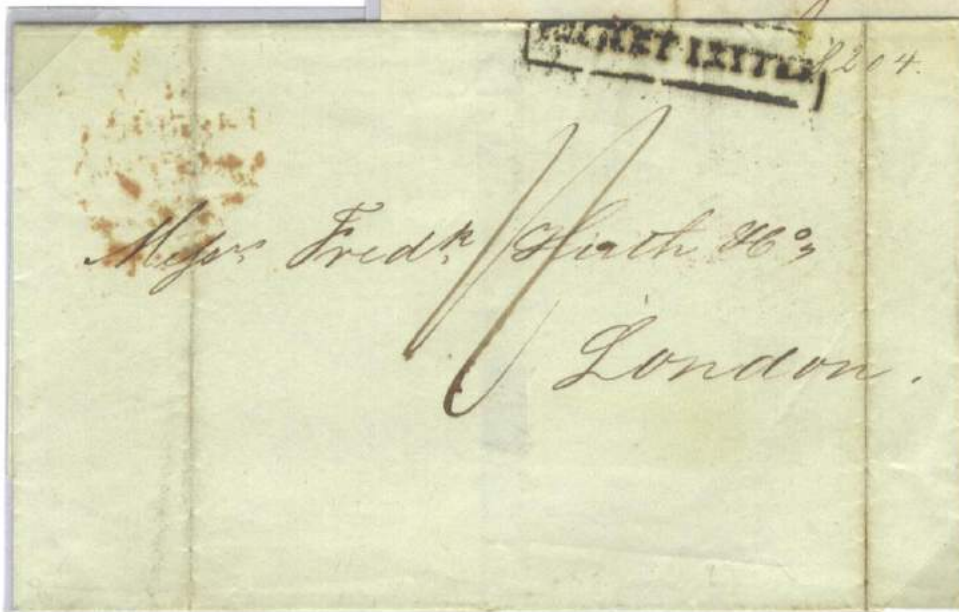
There are six reported examples of this postmark.

11 - Transit Mail through the United States

Early Steamship Mail via the United States Ship and Packet Mail

Mail carried by early non-contract steamers was treated as ship mail whereas that taken on board contract vessels was rated as packet letters.

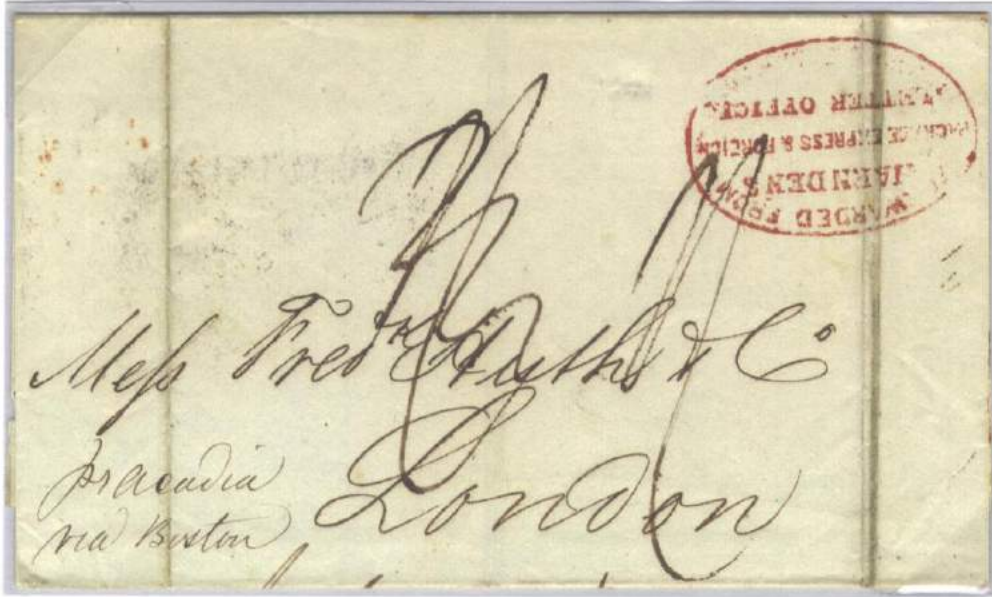
1843. Havana to London via New York and Liverpool. Privately delivered to a forwarding agent in New York. It was carried by the pioneer non-contract steamer *Great Western*. Unpaid single-weight cover, rated eight pence for a ship letter (8d).



1845. Havana to London via New York and Liverpool. Privately delivered to a forwarding agent in New York. It was carried by the Cunard contract steamer *Cumbria*. Unpaid single-weight cover, rated one shilling for a packet letter (1/-).

**Early Steamship Mail via the United States
Packet Mail**

Since the early-1840s packet letters can simply be identified by the rates.



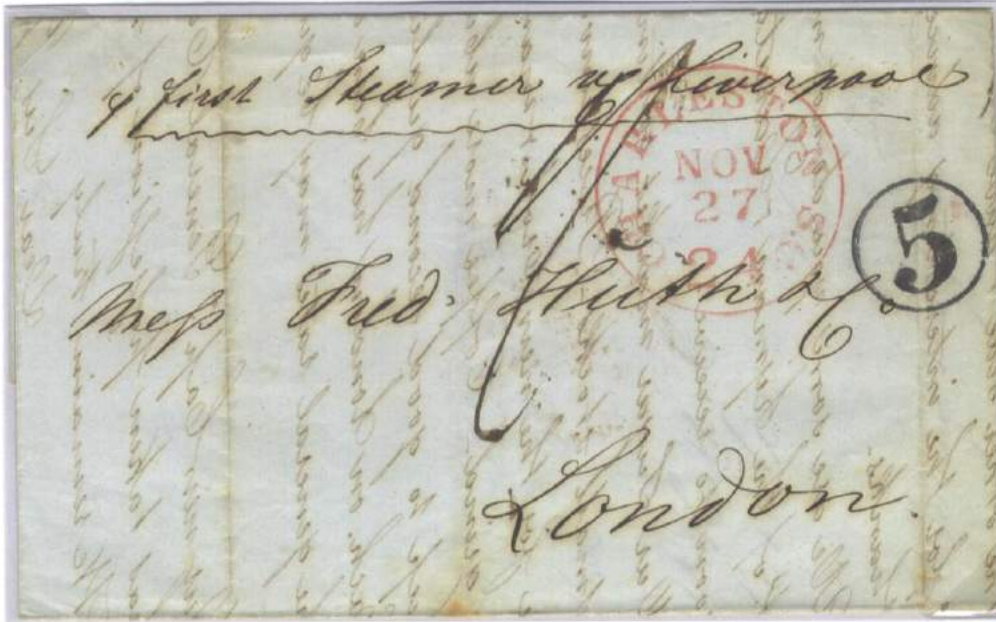
1841. Havana to London via New York, Boston and Liverpool. Privately delivered to a forwarding agent in New York. It was carried by the Cunard contract steamer *Acadia*. Rated one shilling for a packet letter.



1842. Havana to London via New York, Boston and Liverpool. Privately delivered to a forwarding agent in New York. It was carried by the Cunard contract steamer *Britannia*. Rated one shilling for a packet letter.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets

Forwarding agents in New York handled a substantial volume of transit mail from Cuba.



1850. Havana to London, via Charleston and New York. Sent privately to Charleston and forwarded unpaid by the British steamer *Niagara* (Cunard) via Liverpool. One shilling postage due in London (five cent credit to the U.S.).



1850. Havana to Paris, via Charleston and New York. Sent privately to Charleston and forwarded prepaid to New York only, where it was carried by the British steamer *Europa* (Cunard) via Liverpool. Forty five decimes postage due in France for a triple-weight letter.

Transit Mail via the United States (and Direct)
Origin: Europe
 By British and American Packets

Mail from several European countries could be sent prepaid all the way to Cuba via Great Britain and the United States.

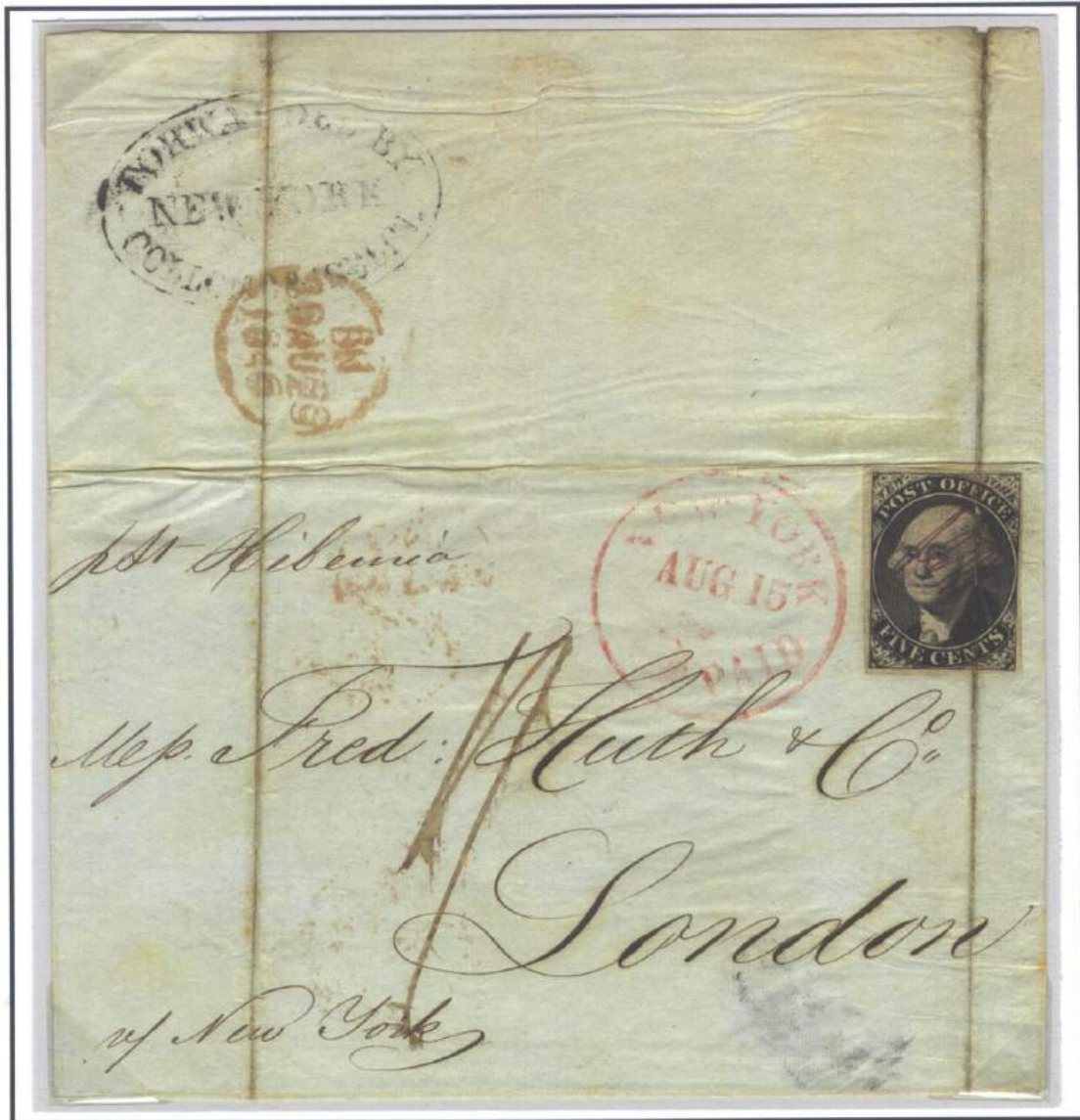


1850. Paris to Havana via London and New York. Sent prepaid (15 decimes) by the British steamer *Canada* (Cunard Line). 12½ credit to the U.S. for transit to Cuba. The prepayment was not recognized in Havana where it was charged one real postage due.



1866. Bonn to Havana via Southampton. Carried by RMSPCo. steamers to Cuba. The sender paid 14¼ silbergroschen. It was charged two reales postage due in Havana.

Early Steamship Mail via the United States
Packet Mail



1846. Havana to London via New York, Boston and Liverpool. Privately delivered to a forwarding agent in New York who sent it prepaid (five cents) by ground mail to Boston using a New York Postmaster's provisional stamp. It was carried by the Cunard contract steamer *Hibernia* and rated one shilling in London for a single-weight packet letter.

There is one other reported use of a New York Postmaster's provisional stamp on a cover from Cuba.

**Transit Mail via the
United States**
Destination: Europe
By American and
British Packets

1856. Havana to Dundee, Scotland via Charleston, New York, and Liverpool. By British steamer to England, charged the transatlantic fee of 1 shilling plus 2 ½ pence for the unpaid steamship fee = 29 cents (10 of which were a credit to the USA). Very scarce use of the ART-2 marking, applied in Liverpool between 1856 and 1857.

There are seven known examples of the HAVANA marking use in Charleston.



1859. Havana to London via Charleston and New York. By British steamer to England, charged the transatlantic fee of 1 shilling plus 2 ½ pence for the unpaid steamship fee = 29 cents (10 of which were a credit to the USA).

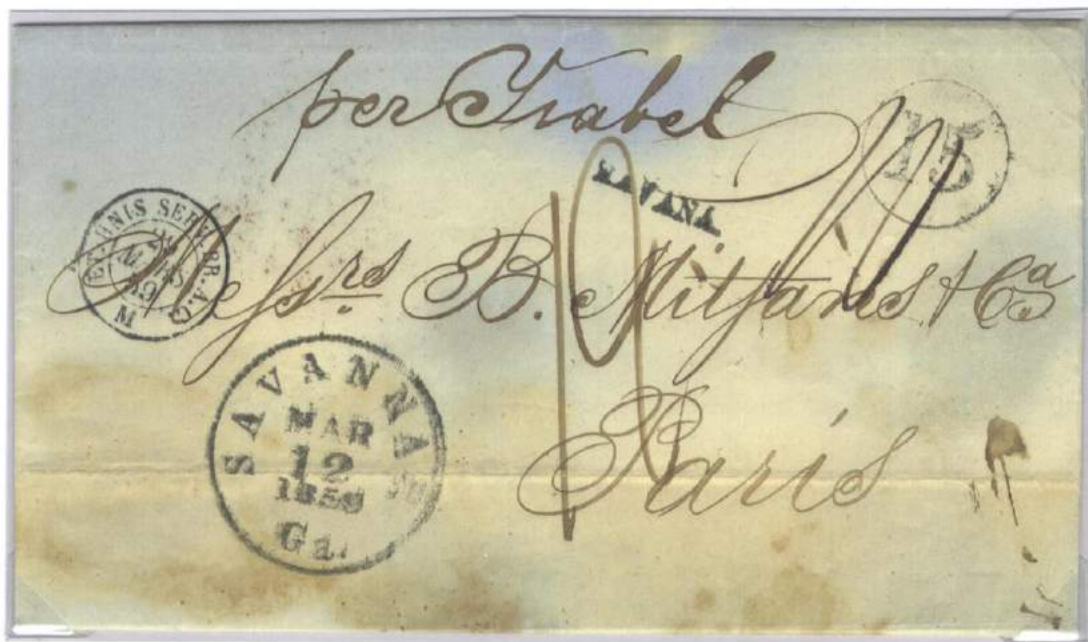
Transit Mail via the United States**Destinatio: Europe**

By American and British Packets

Since the early 1850s mail could be sent unpaid from Cuba to Europe via the United States.



1859. Havana to Basel, Switzerland, via Charleston. The Charleston clerk failed to properly identify its Cuban origin and to mark the transit fee. Sent to Boston but missed the Cunard steamer sailing and was put in the Prussian closed mail bag via New York. 35 cents was the correct rate from the US (23 cents debit to Prussia). At Aachen the debit to Switzerland of 45 Kreuzer was assessed and the Swiss added their transit fee for a postage due totalling 135 Rappen. The correct debit from the U.S. to Prussia should have been 28 cents (5 more for the transit fee from Cuba).



1859. Havana to Paris via Savannah, New York, and London. Unpaid single-weight letter by British steamer to England. U.S.-French treaty rate of 22 cents (12 *decimes*). The credit to the US was 15 cents for the steamship and local fees. One shilling due to GB for the transatlantic packet rate. Nineteen recorded examples of the small HAVANA applied at Savannah from 1848 to 1859.

Transit Mail via the United States

Destination: Europe

By American and British Packets



1858. Unpaid letter from Havana to Paris via Charleston, New York, and London. Carried by an American steamer into Baltimore and then to New York where it was sent on board the British steamer *Persia* (Cunard). Rare use of the Charleston STEAMSHIP / 20 (six examples known), corrected to ten cents, the credit to the U.S. In France it was charged 12 decimes, the single-weight letter rate.



1863. Unpaid double-weight letter from Havana to London via New York. Sent on the British steamer *China* (Cunard Line) to Queenstown. Two shillings and five pence postage due (twenty cent credit to the U.S.).

Transit Mail via the United States
Origin and Destination: Europe
 By British and American Packets

Unpaid mail from European countries had to be handled by forwarding agents in the United States.



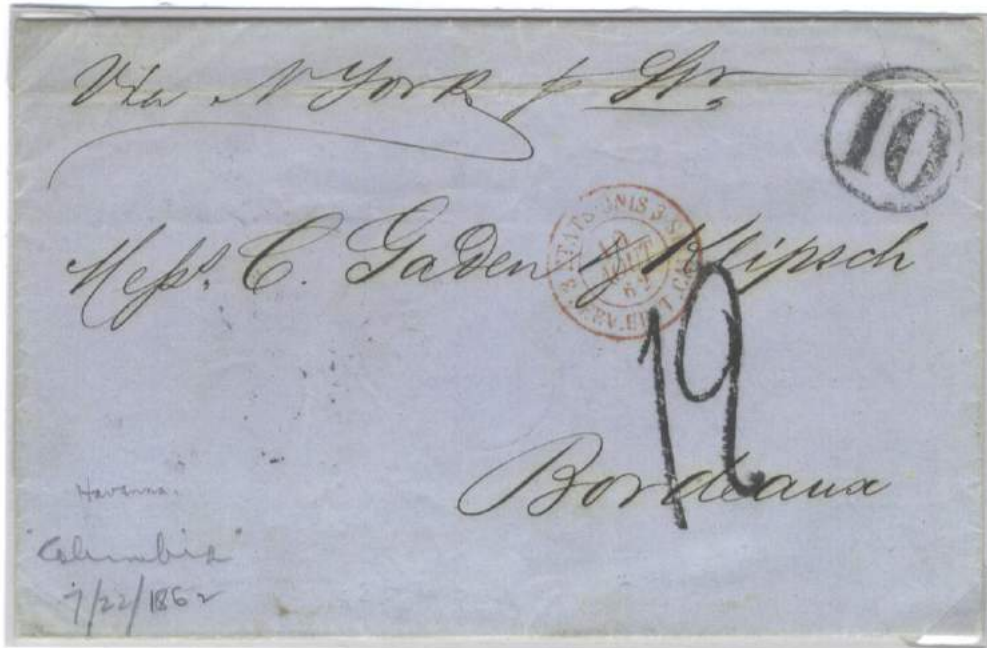
1861. London to Havana via New York. It was carried by the British steamer *Arabia* and handled by a New York forwarding agent who paid 24 cents for the transatlantic crossing and ten cents for the contract steamship rate to Cuba. The prepayment was not recognized in Havana where it was charged two reales postage due.



1861. Havana to London via Old Point Comfort, Virginia and New York. It was carried privately to Old Point Comfort by the steamship *Constitution*, chartered by the U.S. government, and from New York by the Cunard steamer *Africa*. Unpaid double letter: 48 cents postage due = two shillings charged to the addressee, of which ten cents were due to the U.S.

Only reported Civil War era transatlantic letter entering Old Point Comfort.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets



1862. Havana to Bordeaux, France, via New York. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *Persia* to Queenstown. Single letter: twelve decimes postage due in France with a ten cent debit to the United States.



1859. Havana to Bordeaux, France, via New York. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *Asia* to Liverpool. Double letter: twenty four decimes postage due in France with a twenty cent debit to the United States.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets



1859. Havana to Bordeaux, France, via New York and Boston. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *America* to Liverpool. Triple letter: thirty six decimes postage due in France with a thirty cent debit to the United States.



1859. Havana to Bordeaux, France, via New York. It was carried by the Cunard steamer *Asia* to Liverpool. Quadruple letter: forty eight decimes postage due in France with a fourty cent debit to the United States.

Transit Mail via the United States
Origin: Europe
 By British and American Packets

Mail from several European countries could be sent prepaid all the way to Cuba via Great Britain and the United States.



1859. Hamburg to Havana via London and New York. Carried by the British steamer *Africa* (Cunard Line). It was prepaid to Cuba three shillings and two pence. This prepayment was not recognized in Havana where it was charged six reales for a triple-weight letter. The fancy "N.A." indicated "North America."



1876. Bremen to Cienfuegos, Cuba, by Prussian closed mail via Boston and Havana. Carried by the British steamer *Cuba* (Cunard Line). The sender paid 13¼ silbergroschen. The British were credited 28 cents for the transatlantic crossing. It was charged two reales postage due in Havana.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets

Since the early 1850s mail could be sent unpaid from Cuba to Europe via the United States.



1871. Havana to Paris via Baltimore, New York, and London. Carried by an American steamer into Baltimore where the circular marking FROM HAVANA was applied, and then to New York where it was sent on board the British steamer *Calabria* (Cunard). The Franco-British accountancy mark GB/2F was obliterated by the GB/3F60C. In France it was charged 30 centimes, the double-weight letter rate, of which the equivalent of 12 US cents was credited to the USA.



1871. Havana to Paris via Baltimore, New York, and England. Sent unpaid by American steamer to Baltimore where two transit markings were applied. It was then forwarded to New York and sent by the British steamer *Scotia* (Cunard Line) to France. The first Franco-British accountancy mark was cancelled with a C68 grid and a second one was modified to read 3F60c. The addressee was charged 15 decimes postage due.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets

The Anglo-French accountancy marking "GB / 3F 60C" was used since 1870 on mail to France via the United States.



1872. Havana to Paris, via New York. Carried by the British steamer *Cuba* (Cunard Line) via London. Fifteen decimes postage due in France.



1872. Havana to Lyon, France, via New York. Carried by the British steamer *Java* (Cunard Line) via London. The Anglo-French accountancy mark "GB / 2F-" was applied by mistake and obliterated. Fifteen decimes postage due in France.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets

Forwarding agents in New York handled a substantial volume of transit mail from Cuba.



1871. Havana to Paris, via New York. Sent privately to New York and forwarded unpaid by the British steamer *Wisconsin* (Guion Line) via Liverpool. The Anglo-French accountancy mark "GB / 2F-" was applied between March 1870 and July 1874 to unpaid letters from the U.S. to France via GB. Twelve decimes postage due in France.



1872. Havana to Bordeaux via New York. Sent privately to New York and forwarded with two Bank Note two-cent stamps (paying the rate only to England) obliterated by a NYFM cancel, and sent it on the British steamer *City of Paris* (Inman Line) to Liverpool. The addressee was charged five decimes, of which 40 centimes went to the British for carrying the letter across the ocean.

Transit Mail via the United States
Destination: Europe
 By American and British Packets

Forwarding agents in New York handled a substantial volume of transit mail from Cuba.



1871. Havana to Lima, Peru, via New York and Panama. Sent privately to New York and forwarded fully prepaid (twenty two cents) by the American steamer *Ocean Queen* to Panama and by a British PSNC steamer to Peru. Twelve cents credit to GB.



1874. Matanzas to Bordeaux via New York. Sent privately to New York and forwarded with one Bank Note ten-cent stamp (paying the rate to Genoa) obliterated by a NYFM cancel, and sent it on the steamer *Mosel* in closed mail via England.

Transit Mail via the United States**Destination: Europe**

By American and British Packets

Pre-UPU mail from Cuba to the low countries and upper Scandinavia is very scarce.



1874. Havana to Norway via New York. It was sent unpaid by American steamer to New York and then forwarded by British closed mail on board the steamer *Scotia* (Cunard) into Queenstown. German Postal Union fee of 9½ silbergroschen. The Adresse was charged 32 skillings postage due. Seven cents were credited to the U.S. for the Cuba to New York transit.



1874. Havana to Rotterdam, Holland via New York. It was sent by American steamer to New York and then forwarded by British closed mail on board the steamer *Algeria* (Cunard) into Queenstown. Seven cents were credited to the U.S. for the Cuba to New York transit. The addressee was charged 0.40 fl. postage due.

**Incoming Mail via the United States
Havana**

Origin: Europe
1863-1877 period

Beginning in the late-1840s mail from Great Britain and several European countries could be sent prepaid to Cuba via the United States. Cuba assessed two reales postage due on letters from Northern Europe, regardless of their route.

1870. Bordeaux to Havana via London and New York. Prepaid quintuple letter (six Francs). Ten reales postage due in Cuba.

Only reported use of the French five Franc stamp on a letter to Cuba.



1877. Manchester, England, to Havana via London and New York. Prepaid single letter (three and a half pence). Two reales postage due in Cuba.