

# Ship Letter

American sailing ship to Spain

prior to 1875

DE GIB<sup>R</sup>  
S. ROQUE  
AND<sup>A</sup> BAXA



Folded Letter: New York to Cadiz, Spain, 15 February 1842

Ship: *Empress*

Company: Unknown

Depart: New York, ~ 16 February 1842

Arrive: Gibraltar, 18 March 1842

Rate: --- letter sent unpaid  
9 quartos postage due in Cadiz

Notes: Letter entered Spain from Gibraltar at San Roque, small town 4 miles north of Gibraltar in Andalucia Baja (Lower). Here the three-line handstamp in red, **DE GIB<sup>R</sup>/S.ROQUE/AND<sup>A</sup>BAXA**, was struck to indicate the letter was from Gibraltar and entered the mail at this Spanish town. Letters from Gibraltar were treated as domestic letters. This one was marked for 9 quartos postage due for an 8 adarme weight letter.

# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

Pre 1857 Treaty  
Sailing Packet to France

prior to 1857

9R



Folded Letter: Philadelphia to Ferrol, Spain, 5 September 1848

Ship: Zurich

Company: Union Line of Havre Packets

Depart: New York, 24 February 1849

Arrive: Havre, 30 March 1849

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British open mail rate by British packet  
9 reales postage due at Ferrol

Notes: Reason for long delay between letter writing and posting not known. New York sent letter by Havre sailing packet since new postal convention with United Kingdom had no details at this time for mail to Spain and letter arrived too late for Boston packet of 24 February. Spain marked 9 reales postage due. This was the rate for a 4 adarme weight letter coming from countries beyond France such as Flanders, Germany, etc., the rate table thought to be used for mail by sailing ship landed at France. Uncommon routing for letter to Spain from U.S.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

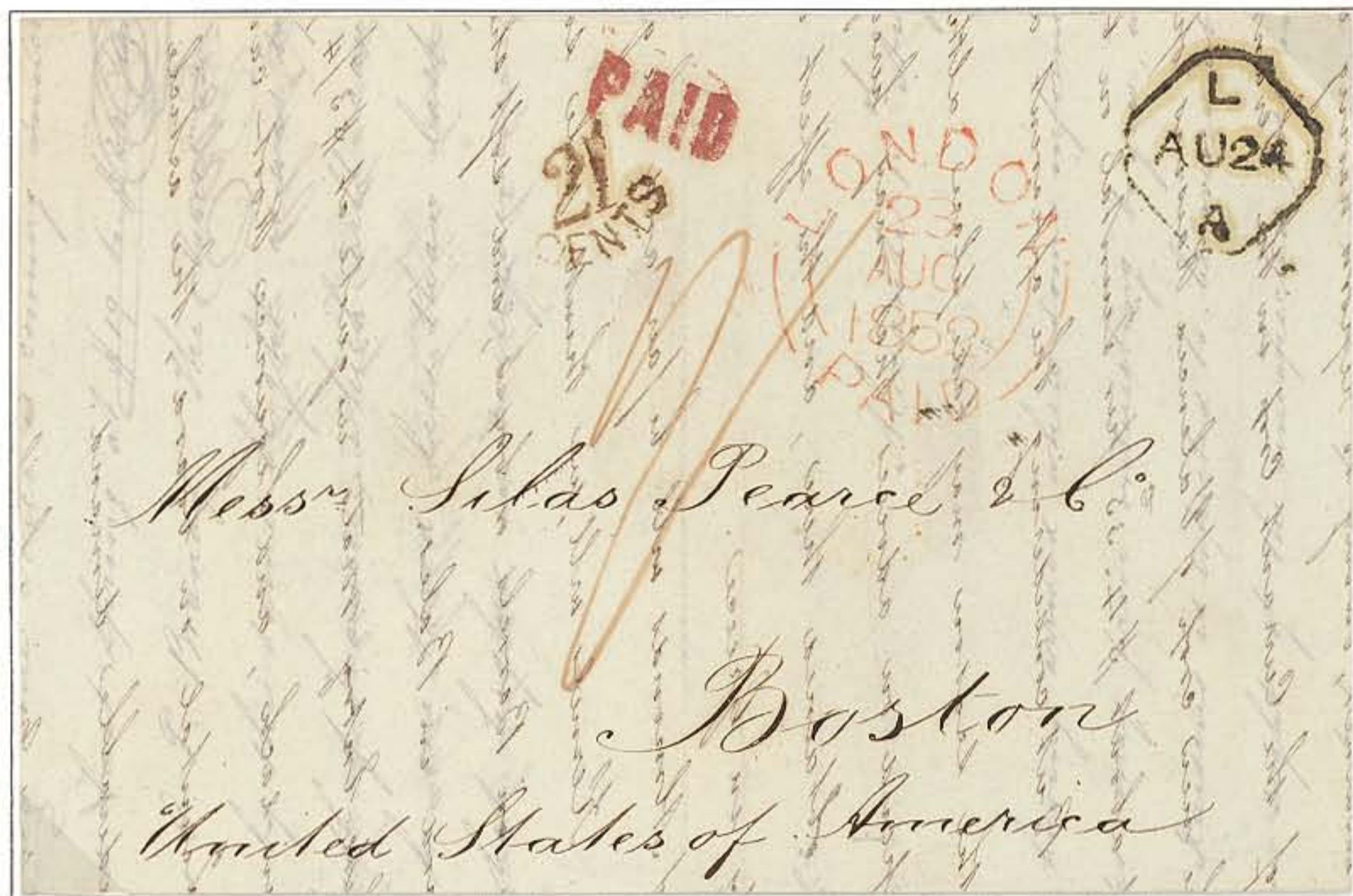
American Contract Steamship

1849–1867

20 February 1849–31 December 1867

CAREY & CO

(Reverse)



Folded Letter: Alicante, Spain to Boston, 13 August 1852

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 25 August 1852

Arrive: New York, 5 September 1852

Rate: 1 shilling      prepaid for single treaty rate  
21¢                      G.B. credit to U.S.

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" from Alicante to London, where it was posted. London placed letter in a separate mail bag for Boston, therefore letter received no New York markings. Red PAID marking was struck at Boston and is unlisted in Blake & Davis, the standard authority for Boston markings. Stencil company name on the reverse is that of the originating company.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

American Contract Steamship

1849–1867

20 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Folded Letter: Malaga, Spain to Boston, 26 September 1852**

Ship: *Arctic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: Liverpool, 6 October 1852

Arrive: New York, 16 October 1852

Rate:	---	letter sent unpaid to forwarding agent in London
	1s3d	postage due in London
	---	letter reposted in London unpaid
	3¢	G.B. debit to U.S.
	24¢	postage due in Boston

Notes: Forwarding agent in London, Baring Brothers & Co., paid 1s3d for the letter which weighed between ¼ – ½ oz. sent via France to G.B. When reposted, London placed letter in closed mail bag for Boston where 24¢ postage due marked.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849-1867  
15 February 1849-31 December 1867

# 11R



Folded Letter: Boston to Cadiz, Spain, 14 December 1852

Ship: *Niagara*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 22 December 1852

Arrive: Liverpool, 3 January 1853

Rate: 51¢ prepaid for double British mail rate via France  
46¢ U.S. credit to U.K.  
11 reales postage due in Cadiz

Notes: Boston marked the red orange PAID handstamp and the prepayment of 51¢ in pencil, upper right corner, the British mail rate for ½ oz. letter via France. The 46¢ credit to U.K. appears in the upper right corner also. Scarce British mail rate to Spain.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

American Contract Steamship

1849–1867

20 February 1849–31 December 1867



Envelope: Boston to Malaga, Spain, 18 August 1854

Ship: *Atlantic*

Company: New York & Liverpool United States Mail Steamship Company  
(Collins Line)

Depart: New York, 19 August 1854

Arrive: Liverpool, 30 August 1854

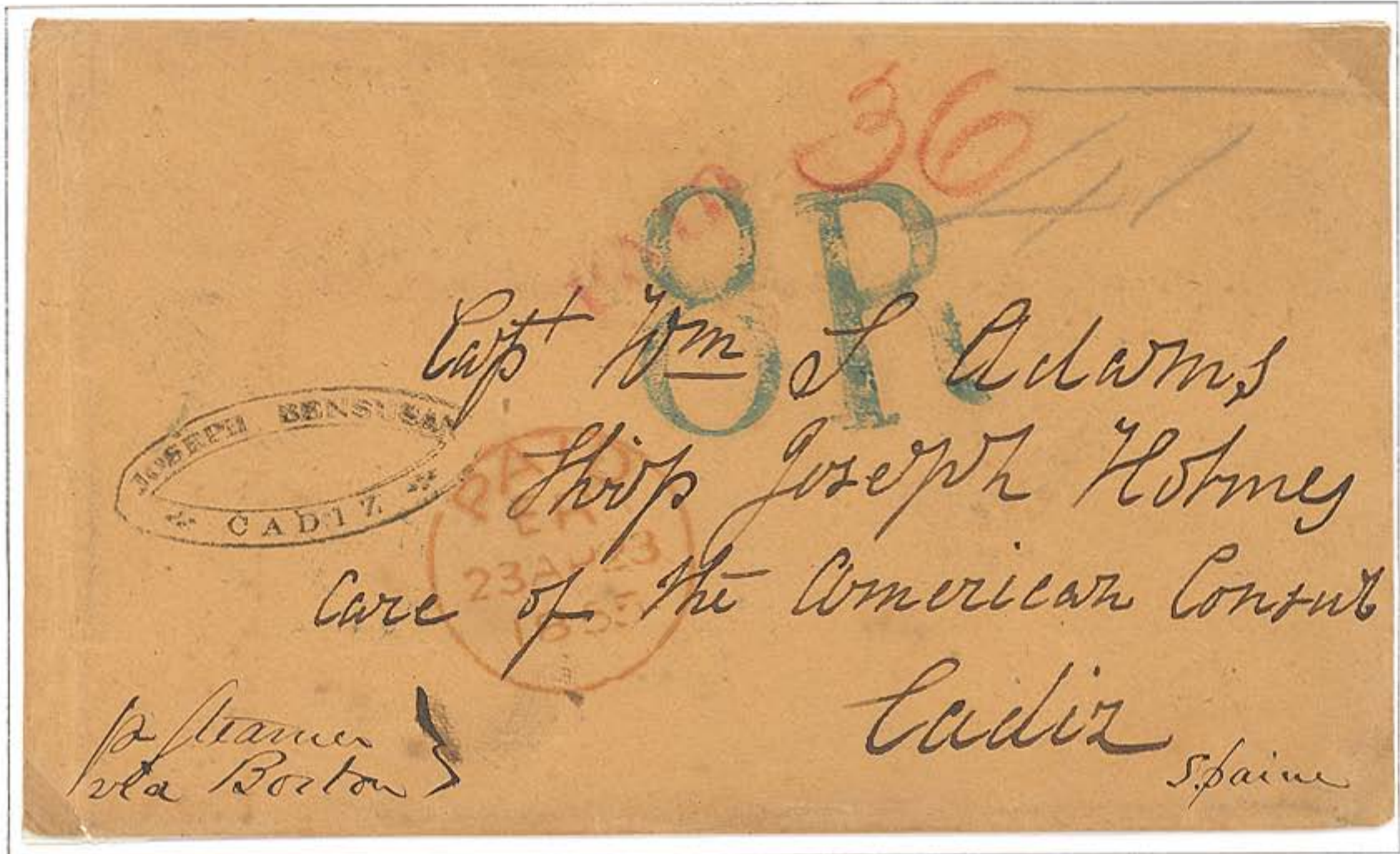
Rate: 41¢ prepaid for single British mail rate via France to Spain  
20¢ U.S. credit to G.B.  
20 reales postage due in Malaga

Notes: Boston marked 41¢ prepayment in pencil alongside PAID handstamp and 20¢ credit to G.B. in red pencil. Prepayment covered all transit fees to French–Spanish border. 20 reales de vellon was postage due for 4–8 ardues ( $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) weight letter. Oval PF in red marked at London. Scarce rate.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849-1867  
15 February 1849-31 December 1867



Envelope: Boston to Cadiz, Spain, 11 April 1855

Ship: *Asia*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 11 April 1855  
Arrive: Liverpool, 22 April 1855

Rate: 41¢ prepaid for single rate by British mail  
36¢ U.S. credit to G.B.  
8 reales postage due in Cadiz

Notes: Letter for Captain William S. Adams of the ship *Joseph Holmes* sent care of the American Consul in Cadiz in the British mail through England and France. Cadiz marked 8 reales postage due for transit from the French border with handstamp in blue ink. The 41¢ rate to Spain (French-Spain border) was in effect from July 1849 to January 1857. Although this was 7½ years, covers showing this rate are quite uncommon.

# U.S. - British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849-1867  
15 February 1849-31 December 1867



Folded Letter: New York to Cadiz, Spain, 30 April 1856

Ship: *Africa*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: New York, 30 April 1856

Arrive: Liverpool, 12 May 1856

Rate: 10 pence          prepaid for single rate  
4 reales                postage due in Cadiz

Notes: Letter carried "out of the mails" on the Cunard steamer identified above to an unknown forwarding agent in London, avoiding transatlantic postage. Agent marked "via France" as a routing instruction rather than send the letter by Government steamer to the Spanish coast at a much higher rate. Letter posted in London prepaying Anglo-French Treaty rate to French-Spanish border. London marked red oval "PF" to indicate letter paid to French frontier only. Cadiz marked letter for 4 reales postage due, the single letter rate for a letter to 4 Adarmes weight (¼ oz.)



# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
15 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Folded Letter: Boston to Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, 22 December 1857**

Ship: *Europa*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: New York, 23 December 1857  
Arrive: Liverpool, 4 January 1858

Rate: 37¢ prepaid for single rate by British mail  
32¢ U.S. credit to G.B.  
4 reales postage due in Jerez

Notes: Boston struck American packet circular datestamp in error as letter was endorsed to be and was carried by a British packet. London applied red circular PP marking as required by new postal convention with France (effective 1 January 1857) to indicate letter prepaid for some part of distance beyond England. The 37¢ rate to Spain (French–Spain border) was in effect from January 1857 – October 1858, a very scarce rate on cover.

# U.S. - French Postal Treaties

1857 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship via G.B.

1857-1870  
1 April 1857-31 December 1869

8R<sup>s</sup>



Folded Letter: New York to Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, 28 September 1858

Ship: *Persia*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: New York, 29 September 1858  
Arrive: Liverpool, 10 October 1858

Rate: 42¢ prepaid for double French Mail rate  
36¢ U.S. credit to France  
8 reales postage due in Jerez de la Frontera

Notes: Letter prepaid 42¢ for double rate (¼ - ½ oz.) under French treaty (marked in pencil in upper left corner), which paid letter to French-Spanish border only. Spanish postage due of 8 reales was for a letter weighing between ¼ - ½ oz.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty

British Contract Steamship

1849–1867

15 February 1849–31 December 1867



**Folded Letter: Charleston, South Carolina to Palma, Mallorca, 27 May 1859**

Ship: *Canada*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 1 June 1859  
Arrive: Liverpool, 11 June 1859

Rate: 73¢ prepaid for single rate by British mails  
68¢ U.S. credit to G.B.  
2 pence G.B. credit to Spain

Notes: Letter prepaid the old 1849 rate, a 28¢ overpayment of a rate which was reduced in October 1858. New rates became effective because G.B. concluded a new postal treaty with Spain, allowing payment to destination in Spain. The Charleston post office apparently was still using old rates to Spain. New York elected to pass the overpayment on to G.B., retaining only 5¢ since a British packet carried the letter to G.B. Covers showing these rates are quite uncommon.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
15 February 1849–31 December 1867

## 8 R<sup>s</sup>



**Folded Letter: Albany, New York to Palma, Mallorca, 25 October 1859**

Ship: *Europa*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 2 November 1859  
Arrive: Liverpool, 13 November 1859

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet  
8 reales postage due in Palma

Notes: Letter sent "out of the mails" to forwarding agent in New York, who posted letter. Prepayment was sufficient to get the letter on board the British steamship in New York harbor. From there, the letter was unpaid. London sent letter to Spain in closed mails through France under Anglo-Spanish Treaty of 1858. Postage due was for a letter weighing between ¼ – ½ oz. Stampless open mail covers to Spain are not common.

# U.S. – British Postal Treaties

1848 Treaty  
British Contract Steamship

1849–1867  
15 February 1849–31 December 1867

# 4R.



**Folded Letter: New York to Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, 17 April 1860**

Ship: *Niagara*

Company: British & North American Royal Mail Steam Packet Company  
(Cunard Line)

Depart: Boston, 18 April 1860  
Arrive: Queenstown, 29 April 1860

Rate: 5¢ prepaid for British Open Mail rate by British packet  
4 reales postage due in Jerez de la Frontera

Notes: With the advent of the Anglo-Spanish Treaty of 1858, use of the British open mail rates on letters from the U.S. to Spain was now possible. Letter prepayment was sufficient to get the letter on board the British steamship in New York harbor only. From there, the letter was unpaid. London sent letter to Spain in closed mails through France. Postage due was for a single letter weighing less than ¼ oz. Letters to Spain without adhesives are not common. Starting in December 1860, prepayment of foreign letters was required in adhesives.