

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean - Overland via Marseilles

Historical overview

The initial 1857 contract with the European and Australian Royal Mail Co. was a duplication of the P&O Line service. This duplication of ships, especially across the Far East service, bankrupted the shipping line. The second contract with the P&O Line in 1859 provided a more stable and regular service. The Franco-Prussian War in late 1870 closed the route via Marseilles, with mail directed via Brindisi which continued after the war concluded in 1871.

The introduction of the French Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes Line to the Australian Colonies in the early 1880's resurrected this route, although only limited mail passed through.

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 9d for a ¼ oz ship letter to England.

"3"(d) manuscript in red credit from Victoria to Great Britain for a contract ship letter.

An unusual make up of the 9d ship letter rate with a late usage of the 2d Queen on Throne



Melbourne, Victoria 14.2.1857 to London, England

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne 15.2.1857 per "Simla" via Galle 10.3 to Suez 26.3; overland to Alexandria. **Cunard Line:** "Jura" 28.3 to Malta; "Cambria" 31.3 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 3.4 to London, arriving 5.4.1857. (50 days).

Single Rate - Overpaid:

Prepayment of 3/6d and overpaid 2d for a 1oz ship letter of 3/4d to the United States of America.

"1/4" manuscript in red credit from Victoria to England for forwarding to the United States;

"32"(cents) manuscript in red credit from England to the United States for the transatlantic shipment by an American packet.

"10"(cents) handstamp in black for internal postage to be paid by the recipient.



Melbourne, Victoria 29.5.1857 to New York, United States of America

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne 30.5.1857 per "Simla" via Galle 23.6 to Suez 12.7; overland to Alexandria. **Moss & Co. Line:** "Scamander" 14.7 to Malta 19.7. **Cunard Line:** "Cambria" 21.7 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 23.7 to London 27.7; by rail to Liverpool. **Inman Line:** Departed Liverpool 29.7 per "City of Baltimore" to New York, arriving 10.8.1857. (72 days).

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Melbourne, Victoria 24.6.1857 to Gothenburg, Sweden

Single Rate: Prepayment of 1/8d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to Sweden.

Postal Markings: Manuscript "36"(skilling) and handstamped "36sBco" in black representing representing the inwards transit fees to be paid by the recipient.

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne 19.6 per "European" via Galle 23.7 to Suez 14.8; overland to Alexandria. **P&O Line:** "Vectis" 21.8 via Malta 24.8 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 27.8, via Paris to Hamburg 30.8.1857; by steamer to Gothenburg. (over 67 days).

Ex Burrus; Purves; Perry

One of the earliest covers from Victoria to Sweden recorded



Sydney, New South Wales 18.7.1857 to Isere, France

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Sydney 18.7.1857 per "Columbian" via Galle 17.8 to Suez 7.9; overland to Alexandria. **P&O Line:** "Valetta" 12.9 via Malta 15.9 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 17.9, arriving Isere 19.9.1857. (63 days).

Ex Davis, Forster

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 5d for a 1/4oz ship letter of 1/1d to France. "10" (decimes) manuscript in black for internal French postage to be paid by the recipient.

Note: Unusually, the underpayment was not identified by the postal officials and the envelope not taxed.

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Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 1/5d and underpaid 5 1/2 d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein.

“15”(skilling) manuscript in red debit to the Royal Danish post office from Hamburg crossed out and rerated;

“11 1/4”(silbergroschen) in red on the reverse, equivalent of 15 shillings

“52”(skilling) manuscript in red including forwarding by Hamburg and internal postage to Brunsbüttel to be paid by the recipient.

Cathcart, Victoria 8.10.1857 to Brunsbüttel, **Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein**

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne 16.10.1857 per “Simla” via Galle 6.11 to Suez 20.11; overland to Alexandria. **Cunard Line:** “Tamar” 27.11 to Malta; “Vanguard” 30.11 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 3.12 via Lyon to Paris 5.12; by rail via Hamburg 6.12 to Brunsbüttel, arriving 7.12.1857. (60 days).

Ex Besancon

One of the earliest covers from Victoria to the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein recorded

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1/8d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to France.

“4”(d) credit by Great Britain to France for forwarding a 1/4 oz ship letter.

Note: The forwarding fee to France should have been 8d for a 1/2 oz ship letter not 4d for a 1/4 oz letter.

Postal markings:

“PD” in red applied at London denoting the letter was paid to destination.



Melbourne, Victoria 6.3.1858 to Bar-le-Duc, France (E)

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne per “Emeu” 17.3.1858 via Galle 8.4 to Suez 23.4; overland to Alexandria; **P&O Line:** “Valetta” 26.4 via Malta 30.4 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 2.5 to London 4.5; by steamer to Calais; by rail via Paris 5.5, Strasbourg 5.5, to Bar-le-Duc, arriving 6.5.1858. (61 days).

Ex Purves, Perry, Geitenbeek

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A rare imperforate usage of the supplementary mail fee



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 2/- comprising 1/6d for a 1/4 oz ship letter to the Kingdom of Sardinia plus 6d supplementary fee for carriage to Melbourne.

"20" (decimes) manuscript in black debit to France for postage forwarding to the Kingdom of Sardinia.

Sydney, New South Wales 13.10.1857 to the **Kingdom of Sardinia**

Route - Private steamship: Departed Sydney 13.10.1857 per City of Sydney to Melbourne. **European and Australian Royal Mail Co:** Departed Melbourne 16.10.1857 per "Simla" via Galle 6.11 to Suez 20.11; overland to Alexandria; **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** "Tamar" 27.11 to Malta 30.11; Vanguard" 30.11 to Marseilles 3.12; by rail from Marseilles via Paris to Genoa, arriving 5.12.1857. (59 days).



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1/6d for a 1/4oz ship letter to the Kingdom of Sardinia.

"20"(decimes) manuscript in black debit to France for postage forwarding to the Kingdom of Sardinia.

Sydney, New South Wales 9.4.1858 to the **Kingdom of Sardinia**

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Sydney per "Victoria" 11.4.1858 via Galle 1.5 to Suez; overland to Alexandria; **Cunard Line:** "Cambria" 8.6 to Malta 11.6; **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** "Wye" 11.6 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 14.6 via Paris 15.6 to Genoa, arriving 17.6.1858. (70 days).

Four covers from New South Wales to the Kingdom of Sardinia recorded

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Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1/2d for a 1/4 oz ship letter to France.

"10"(decimes) handstamp in black for French internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

Postal markings:

"AUSTRALIE/V.SUEZ" datestamp in red for the 9.7.1858.



Sydney, New South Wales 10.5.1858 to Bordeaux, France

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Sydney 11.5.1858 per "European" via Galle 9.6 to Suez 30.6; overland to Alexandria; **Cunard Line:** "Treviot" 2.7 to Malta; **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** "Wye" 6.7 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 9.7 via Paris 14.7 to Bordeaux, arriving 18.7.1858. (67 days).



Echunga, South Australia 31.5.1858 to Alseshford, England

Single Rate - Underpaid: Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 6d for a 1oz ship letter from Adelaide to England; "1/-" manuscript in black for the deficiency and fine to be paid by the recipient.

Postal Markings: "INSUFFICIENTLY/STAMPED" handstamp in blue at Adelaide recognising the deficiency; "6d more/ 6d fine/ 1/- to pay" manuscript in black representing the postage and fine for an over weight letter; "MORE TO PAY" in black applied in London for deficient postage.

Route - Private steamship: Departed Adelaide 11.6.1858 per "Havilah" to Melbourne. **European and Australian Royal Mail Co:** Departed Melbourne 16.6 per "Australasian" via Galle 11.7 to Suez 31.7; overland to Alexandria. **Cunard Line:** "Cambria" 1.8 to Malta. **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** Wye" 5.8 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 7.8, to London, arriving 10.8.1856. (71 days).

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Melbourne, Victoria 4.4.1858 to Stahla, Sweden

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 1/2d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to Sweden.

Postal markings:

“DETAINED FOR “1/2” POSTAGE” handstamp in black representing the underpayment.

“1Rdr.24sBco” in black representing the postage to be paid by the recipient. The total prepayment was not accepted by the Swedish postal authorities.

Three examples of this Swedish postage due marking are recorded.

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne per “Emeu” 16.7.1858 via Galle 7.8 to Suez; overland to Alexandria; **Cunard Line:** “Teviot” 26.8 to Malta 30.8. **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** Wye” 30.8 to Marseilles 2.9; by rail via Paris 14.9 to Hamburg 5.9; by steamer to Gothenburg 9.9; overland to Stahla, arriving 11.9.1858. (160 days).

Note: This cover was detained at the Melbourne G.P.O. from the 4.4 until the addressee had prepaid the full amount of 1/8d. However, this was the rate for a 1/2 oz ship letter via Southampton. The envelope was sent via Marseilles which should have attracted a fee of 2/2d.

One of the earliest covers from Victoria to Sweden recorded

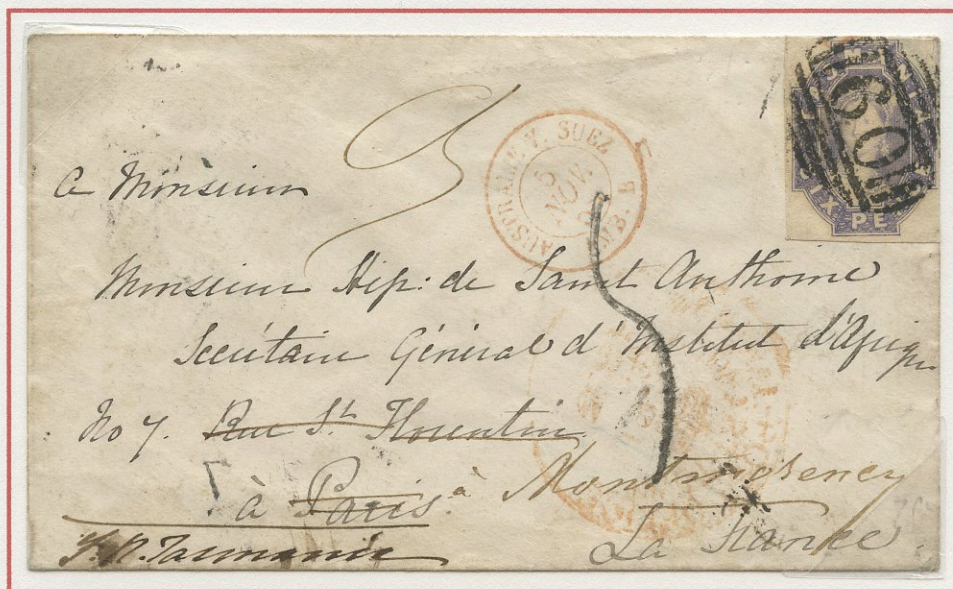
Single Rate - underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 7d for a 1/4 oz ship letter of 1/1d to France.

“5”(decimes) handstamp in black for French internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

Postal markings:

“AUSTRALIE/V.SUEZ” datestamp in red for the 5.11.1858.



Hobart, Tasmania c9.1858 to Montmorency, France

European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne 17.9.1858 per “European” via Galle 10.10 to Suez; overland to Alexandria **P&O Line:** “Treviot” 28.10 to Malta 2.11; “Wye” to Marseilles 5.11; by rail via Paris 6.11 to Montmorency, arriving 7.11.1858.(over 51 days).

The earliest stamped cover from Tasmania to France recorded

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 9d for a ¼ oz ship letter to England.

A rare imperforate three colour franking for this rate.



Sydney, New South Wales 9.10.1858 to London, England

European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Sydney 11.10 per "Victoria" to Galle 8.1; "Victoria's" engine room flooded and mail transferred to: **P&O Line:** "Oneida" 13.11 to Aden; "Oneida" engine failure and mail transferred to: "Bengal" to Suez 5.12; overland to Alexandria, "Niagara" 7.12 to Malta; "Wye" to Marseilles 13.12; by rail to London, arriving 15.12.1858. (65 days).



Adelaide, South Australia 11.10.1858 to Le Havre, France

Single Rate - Underpaid: Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 1/2d for a ½ oz ship letter of 1/8d to France.

Postal Markings: "10" (centimes) handstamp in black for French internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

Route - Private steamship: Departed Adelaide 12.10.1858 per "Havilah" to Melbourne. **European and Australian Royal Mail Co:** Departed Melbourne 18.10 per "Victoria" to Galle 8.1; "Victoria's" engine room flooded and mail transferred to: **P&O Line:** "Oneida" 13.11 to Aden; "Oneida" engine failure and mail transferred to: "Bengal" to Suez 5.12; overland to Alexandria, "Niagara" 7.12 to Malta; "Wye" to Marseilles 13.12; by rail from Marseilles via Paris 14.12 to Le Havre, arriving 15.12.1858. (65 days).

Ex Ward

Two imperforate covers from South Australia to France recorded

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



Melbourne, Victoria 17.12.1858 to Bordeaux, France

Route - European and Australian Royal Mail Co: Departed Melbourne 18.12.1858 per "Emeu" via Galle 8.1.1859 to Suez 23.1; overland to Alexandria; **Cunard Line:** "Thames" 27.1 to Malta 31.1. **Royal Mail Steam Packet Co:** "Wye" to Marseille 3.2; by rail to Bordeaux, arriving 4.2.1859. (48 days).

Six Half Length covers to France recorded



Adelaide, South Australia 18.7.1859 to Renfrew, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Adelaide 20.7.1859 per "Northam", via Port Louis 7.8 to Suez 28.8; overland to Alexandria; "Panther" 5.2 via Malta 8.9 to Marseilles 12.9; by rail via London to Renshaw, arriving 15.9.1859 (57 days).

Ex Blake, Chartwell

Note: The "Northam" ran aground on the Nautilus Reef near Jeddah in the Red Sea and was stranded for five days before she was able to refloat and continue her voyage.

Six 1/- Orange First Roulette issue covers recorded

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 7d for a ¼ oz ship letter of 1/1d to France.

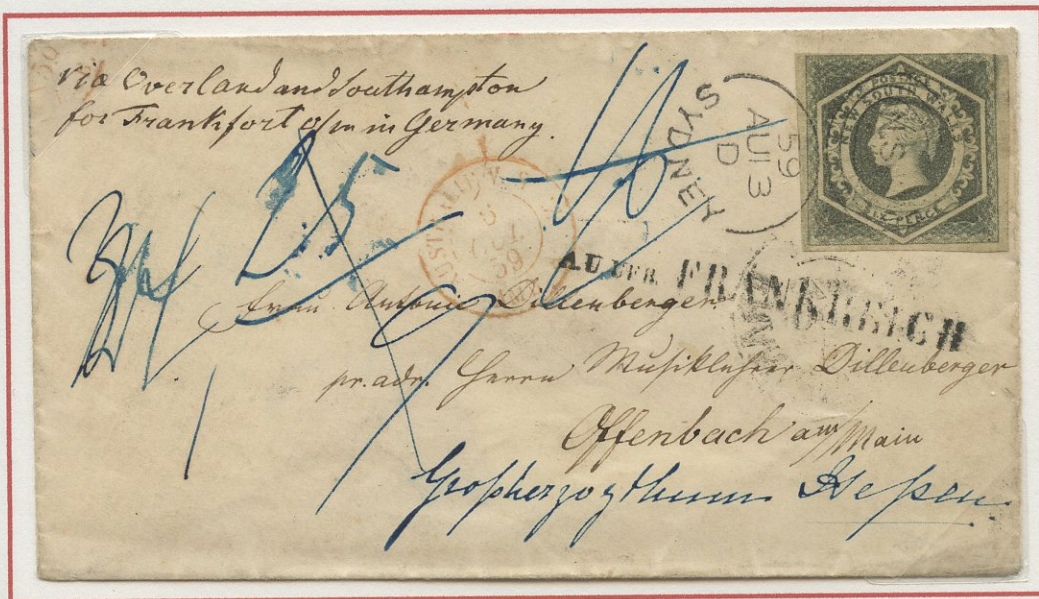
"5"(decimes) handstamp in black for French internal postage to be paid by the recipient.

Postal markings:

"**AUSTRALIE/V.SUEZ**" datestamp in red for the 6.2.1859.

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 11d for a ¼ oz ship letter of 1/5d to the Grand Duchy of Hesse.

Postal Markings:

"A.U.UEB FRANKREICH" in black for transit through France.

"16" manuscript in blue crossed out and rerated "25" (Kreutzer) credit to France plus an additional "9" (Kreutzer) for internal German delivery totalling 34 Kreutzer;

"34" (Kreutzer) manuscript in blue plus an additional "1" (Kreutzer) for local delivery to be paid by the recipient.

Sydney, New South Wales 13.8.1859 to Offenbach, **Grand Duchy of Hesse**

Route - P&O Line: Departed Sydney 15.8.1859 per "Salsette" via Port Louis 9.9 to Suez; overland to Alexandria; "Panther" 30.9 via Malta 3.10 to Marseilles 6.10; by rail from Marseilles via Paris 6.10 and Frankfurt 8.10, to Offenbach, arriving 8.10.1859. (55 days).

Ex Palmer

Note: Although endorsed via Southampton, this envelope was placed in the mails via Marseille for quicker delivery. The postal system of the Grand Duchy of Hesse was privately operated by the Prussian Post.

The only cover from New South Wales to the Grand Duchy of Hesse recorded



Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/- for a ½ oz ship letter to England.

Sydney, New South Wales 14.10.1859 to Leamington, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Sydney per "Emeu" 14.10.1859 via Port Louis 9.11 to Suez 28.11; overland to Alexandria; "Valette" 30.11 via Malta 3.12 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 6.12 via London 8.12 to Leamington, arriving 8.12.1859. (55 days).

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 11d for a ¼ oz ship letter of 1/5d to the Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe.

Postal markings:

“11¼” (silbergroschen) manuscript in blue recognising the under payment and internal postage to be paid by the recipient.



Melbourne, Victoria 24.1.1860 to Buckeburg, Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne per “Salsette” 18.2.1860 via Port Louis 9.3 to Suez 25.3; overland to Alexandria; “Panther” 28.3 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 3.4 via Paris 4.4, to Buckeburg, arriving 6.4.1860. (72 days).

Notes: This was the last voyage of the mail route via Port Louis, Mauritius. From March 1860, the route was changed to via Galle, Ceylon. The postal system of the Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe was privately operated by the Thurn & Taxis Post.

Eight covers from Victoria to the Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe are recorded



Adelaide, South Australia 17.3.1860 to Whitehaven, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Adelaide 20.3.1860 per “Northam” via Galle 7.4 to Suez 23.4; overland to Alexandria; “Vectis” 27.4 via Malta 30.4 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 3.5 to London, arriving 5.5.1860. (46 days).

Note: This cover shows the transition between the first and second roulette issues of South Australia. The 1d and 2d values are from the first issue, whilst the 6d value is from the second issue. This envelope, dated the 17.3.1860, is earliest example from the second roulette issue recorded.

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 9d for a ½ oz ship letter to England.

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 1/- and underpaid 8d for a ½ oz ship letter of 1/8d to the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg.

Postal markings:

“F. 59” Franco-German accountancy handstamp in black.

The only recorded example on mail from New South Wales.

“17” (silbergroschen) manuscript in blue to be paid by the recipient.



Sydney, New South Wales 21.4.1860 to Nordenham, **Grand Duchy of Oldenburg**

Route - P&O Line: Departed Sydney per “Emeu” 22.4.1860 via Galle 17.5 to Suez 2.6; overland to Alexandria; “Panther” 4.6 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 10.6 via Paris 11.6 and Aachen 12.3, arriving Oldenburg 12.6.1860. (49days).

Ex Alvarado, Palmer

The only cover from the Australian Colonies to the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg recorded



Guildford, Western Australia 24.8.1860 to London, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed King Georges Sound per “Salsette” 2.9.1860 to Galle 16.9. “Columbian” 19.9 to Suez 6.10; overland to Alexandria; “Vectis” 7.10 via Malta 11.10 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 14.10 to London, arriving 16.10.1860. (44days).

Three imperforate covers prepaying the 9d rate via Marseilles to England recorded

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1/- for a ½ oz ship letter to England.

Ipswich, Queensland 11.2.1861 to Ilminster, England

Route: Departed Ipswich 11.2.1861 overland to Brisbane. **Private steamship:** Departed Brisbane 14.2 per "Telegraph" to Sydney. **P&O Line:** Departed Sydney 20.2 per "Salsette" to Galle 16.3; "Colombo" 19.3 to Suez 3.4; overland to Alexandria; "Vectis" 5.4 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles via London to Ilminster, arriving 13.4.1860. (61 days).

Four covers from Queensland via Marseilles with imperforate frankings are recorded



Triple Rate:

Prepayment of 1/9d for a ¾ oz ship letter to England.

Melbourne, Victoria 23.2.1861 to Birmingham, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne per "Salsette" 24.2.1861 via Galle 16.3; "Colombo" 19.3 to Suez 3.4; overland to Alexandria; "Vectis" 5.4 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles via London to Ilminster, arriving 13.4.1860. (61 days).

Ex Butler

A rare four colour franking to England

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

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Single Rate:

Prepayment of 9d for a ½ oz ship letter to England. The stamps are now lost due to the sinking of the “Colombo”.

Postal Markings:

“Saved from the wreck of/ the Colombo” handstamp in black applied at London.



Sandhurst, Victoria 21.10.1862 to Melton Mowbray, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne per “Bombay” 26.10.1862 to Galle 15.11, “Colombia” 17.11 from Galle and wrecked on Minicoy Island 19.11; “Candia” 18.12 from Galle to Suez 2.1.1863; overland to Alexandria; “Valetta” to Marseilles 19.1.1863, by rail from Marseilles via London 22.1 to Melton Mowbray, arriving 22.1.1863. (93 days).

Note: The P&O steamship “Colombia” was wrecked during a rainstorm on Minicoy Island at 4am on the 19.11.1862. Most of the mail was recovered over a period of three months with the last delivered by February 1863.

Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/6d for a ½ oz ship letter to England.



Gladstone, Queensland 30.11.1862 to London, England

Route - Private steamship: Departed Gladstone 2.12.1862 per “Queensland” to Brisbane. Departed Brisbane 6.12 per “Telegraph” to Sydney. **P&O Line:** Departed Sydney 22.12 per “Northam” to Galle 15.1.1863; “Bengal” 18.1 to Suez 1.2; overland to Alexandria; “Vectis” 4.2 via Malta 7.2 to Marseilles 10.2, by rail from Marseilles to London 22.1, arriving 12.2.1863. (72 days).
Ex Manning

Note: The 9d for a ¼oz ship letter rate via Marseilles was only available for 12 months between 1.8.1862 to 1.8.1863.

The largest multiple recorded of this stamp on cover

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



Sydney, New South Wales 22.5.1863 to Shaftesbury, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Sydney per "Madras" 22.5.1863 to Galle 15.6; "Candia" 18.6 to Suez 7.7; overland to Alexandria; "Euxine" 8.7 via Malta 11.7 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 14.7 to London, arriving 16.7.1863. (55 days).

Ex White, Alvarado

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 9d and underpaid 1d for a ½ oz ship letter of 10d to England.

Postal Markings:

"DEFICIENT POSTAGE "1"/FINE "6" handstamp in black applied at Adelaide;
"7"(d) manuscript in black denoting the deficient postage to be paid by the recipient.

Note: The rate for a ½ oz ship letter to England increased from 9d to 10d on the 14.7.1863



Meadows, South Australia 23.11.1863 to Belbroughton, England

Route - Private steamship: Departed Adelaide 26.11.1863 per "Rangatira" to King Georges Sound. **P&O Line:** Departed King Georges Sound 2.12 per "Madras" to Galle 16.12; "Candia" 17.12 to Suez 30.12; overland to Alexandria; **French Steamship:** "Moeris" 1.1.1864 via Malta 7.1 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles to London 9.1; by rail to Belbroughton, arriving 10.1.1864. (48 days).

Note: The datestamps on the reverse of this cover indicate that it was carried by the quicker French steam service via Marseilles. The P&O service mail arrived in London later on the 13.1.1863.

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Overland via Marseilles

Rate:

Prepayment of this ship letter is unknown.

"54" (kreuzer) manuscript in blue denoting postage to be paid by the recipient.

Postal markings:

"INSUFFICIENTLY PAID/ VIA THE UNITED KINGDOM" in red applied at Melbourne for the under payment; Eight examples of this insufficiently paid cachet are known

"GB/1F62c" in red applied in Melbourne for under paid mail via France.



Sandhurst, Victoria 25.11.1863 to the **Kingdom of Wurttemberg**

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne per "Madras" 26.11.1863 to Galle 16.12; "Candia" 17.12 to Suez; overland to Alexandria; **French Steamship:** "Moeris" 1.1.1864 to Marseilles 7.1; by rail from Marseilles via Paris 8.1, Strasbourg 8.1, to Winnenden, arriving 9.1.1864. (46 days).

Note: The stamps denoting the prepayment of postage to Wurttemberg had fallen off in transit, probably when the cover reached Melbourne where it received the insufficiently paid cachet, and was then placed in the bag for Marseilles.

Three covers from Victoria to the Kingdom of Wurttemberg are recorded



Double Rate:

Prepayment of 2/2d comprising 1/8d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to England plus 6d for the supplementary mail to catch the steamer to Melbourne.

Endorsed:

"Per Supplementary Mail via Melbourne".

Sydney, New South Wales 23.12.1863 to London, England

Route - Private steamship: Supplementary mail departed Sydney 23.12.1863 per "Wonga Wonga" to Melbourne. **P&O Line:** Departed Melbourne per "Northam" 26.12 to Galle 15.1.1864; "Carnatic" 18.1 to Suez 1.2; overland to Alexandria; "Massilia" 4.2. to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 10.2 to London, arriving 12.2.1864. (51 days).

Ex Hutson, Palmer

Seven examples of supplementary mail for the Marseilles period 1863-70 recorded

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

A rare envelope to the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein the year before its annexation from Denmark

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 9d for a ½ oz ship letter to the City State of Hamburg. Unpaid from the City State of Hamburg to the Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein.

“18½”(skillings) manuscript in red credit to France for transit via Marseille

Postal markings:

“**INSUFFICIENTLY/ PAID**” handstamp in red applied at Melbourne; “**GB/ 162 $\frac{4}{10}$ c**” handstamp in red applied at the Marseilles Exchange Office for bulk rate credit to Great Britain for letters from Australia.; “**F.39**” Franco-German accountancy handstamp in black.

Note: Although endorsed via Southampton, this envelope was placed on the quicker route via Marseilles.

Three examples of the Franco-German accountancy handstamp recorded on mail from Victoria



Hochkirch, Victoria 22.7.1865 to Ratzeburg, Duchy of Schleswig-Holstein

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne 28.7.1865 per “Salsette” to Galle 19.8; “Bengal” 19.8 to Suez 5.9; overland to Alexandria; “Syria” 7.9 via Malta 10.9 to Marseilles 14.9; by rail via Danish post office in Hamburg 16.9 to Ratzeburg, arriving 17.9.1865. (51 days).

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

A rare officially registered envelope



Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/- for a 1 oz ship letter To England via Southampton. Rated to via Marseilles.

Postal markings:

“DETAINED FOR/ ADDITIONAL POSTAGE” handstamp in black;

“**SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN GOLD OR SILVER**” manuscript in red

“Officially Registered” manuscript in black;

“D.L.O.” handstamp in green;

“MORE TO PAY/6d” cachet in black to be paid by the recipient.

Geelong, Victoria 24.7.1865 to London, England

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne per “Salsette” 28.7.1865 to Galle 19.8; “Bengal” to Suez; overland to Alexandria; “Syria” 7.9 via Malta 10.9 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 14.9 to London 15.9. (60 days).

Ex Winchester

Payment of 3d Late Fee after the closure of the mails

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1/6d comprising 1/3d for a ½ oz ship letter plus 3d late fee to Prince Edward Island.

“5”(d) manuscript in red credit from Great Britain to Canada for transatlantic postage by a Canadian packet;

“1”(d) manuscript in red for inland postage to be paid by the recipient.



Melbourne, Victoria 25.7.1865 to Belfast, Prince Edward Island

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne per “Salsette” 28.7.1865 to Galle 19.8; “Bengal” to Suez; overland to Alexandria; “Syria” 7.9 via Malta 10.9 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 14.9 to London 15.9. **Allan Line:** Departed London 15.9 per “Moravian” to Quebec City; by private steamship to Prince Edward Island, arriving 27. 9.1865. (60 days).

Ex Palmer

The only cover from Victoria to Prince Edward Island recorded

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean 1857-91

Overland via Marseilles



Adelaide, South Australia 29.8.1866 to Shropshire, England

Quadruple Rate: Prepayment of 3/10d comprising 3/4d for a 2oz ship letter plus 6d registration to England.

Route - Private steamship: Departed Adelaide 29.8.1866 per "Alexandra" for King Georges Sound. **P&O Line:** Departed King Georges Sound 4.9. per "Bombay" to Galle 18.9; "Bengal" 18.9 to Suez 4.10; overland to Alexandria; "Delta" 6.10 via Malta 9.10 to Marseilles 12.10; by rail from Marseilles via London 13.10 to Shrewsbury, arriving 14.10.1866. (46 days).

Payment of 6d Late Fee after the closure of the mails



Brisbane, Queensland 10.9.1865 to Helensburgh, England

Route - Private steamer: Departed Brisbane 12.9.1865 per "Florence Irving" to Sydney. **P&O Line:** Departed Sydney per "Northam" 22.9 to Galle 17.10; "Delhi" 18.10 to Suez 1.11; overland to Alexandria; "Syria" 3.11 via Malta 6.11 to Marseilles 9.11; by rail from Marseilles to London 11.11; by rail to Helensburgh, arriving 12.11.1865. (50 days).

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1/4d comprising 10d for a ½ oz ship letter to England plus 6d late fee.

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/8d for a ½ oz ship letter to Switzerland.

Hepburn, Victoria 25.4.1867 to Locarno, Switzerland

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne 28.4 per "Avoca" to Galle 19.5; "Surat" 19.7 to Suez 5.6; overland to Alexandria; "Syria" 7.6 via Malta 10.6 to Marseilles 13.6; by rail from Marseilles to Locarno, arriving 16.6.1867. (52 days).

Ex Chartwell



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 10d for a ½ oz ship letter to England.

Adelaide, South Australia 29.6.1867 to Renfrew, Scotland

Route - Private steamship: Departed Adelaide 3.7.1867 per "Emily Smith" to King Georges Sound. **P&O Line:** Departed King Georges Sound 6.7 per "Geelong" to Galle 19.7; "Candia" 19.7 to Suez 4.8; overland to Alexandria; "Pera" 5.8 via Malta 9.8 to Marseilles 11.8; by rail from Marseilles via London to Renfrew arriving 15.8.1867. (47 days).

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



Single Rate - Overpaid:

Prepayment of 1/8 comprising New South Wales 10d inland postage (overpaid 4d) and Victoria 10d for a 1/2 oz ship letter to England.

Note: The writer appears to have prepaid the 10d ship letter rate via Marseille with both the New South Wales and Victorian adhesives to make sure this envelope was placed in the mails for the quicker service.

Albury, New South Wales 26.12.1867 to Isle of Wight, England

Route: Overland from Albury 26.12.1867 to Melbourne 28.12. **P&O Line:** Departed Melbourne per "Geelong" 28.12.1867 to Galle 18.1.1868; "Nubia" 18.1 to Suez 31.1; overland to Alexandria; "Ceylon" 4.2 via Malta 7.2 to Marseilles 10.2; by rail from Marseilles via London 12.2 to Cowes 12.2; by private steamship to Isle of Wight, arriving 12.2.1868. (48 days).

Three Riverina covers with four colour frankings recorded



Double Rate:

Prepayment of 1/8d for a 1oz ship letter to England.

Launceston, Tasmania 1.2.1868 to London, England

Route - Private steamship: Departed Launceston 1.2.1868 per "Tasmania" to Melbourne. **P&O Line:** Departed Melbourne 5.2 per "Avoca" to Galle 24.2; "Mongolia" 27.2 to Suez 13.3; overland to Alexandria; "Nyanza" 15.3 to Marseilles 21.3; by rail from Marseilles to London, arriving 23.3.1868. (51 days).

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 10d for a ½oz ship letter to England.

Note: An unusual make-up for the 10d rate

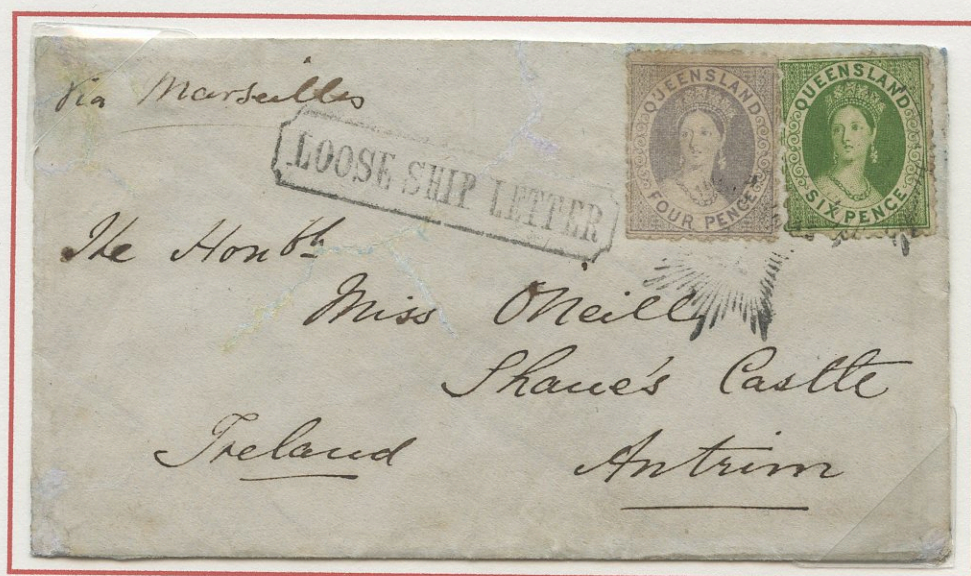


Gladstone, Queensland 2.8.1869 to Leeds, England

Route - Private steamship: Departed Gladstone 4.8.1869 per "Leichardt" to Brisbane. Departed Brisbane 9.8. per "Florence Irving" to Sydney. **P&O Line:** Departed Sydney 19.5 per "Geelong" to Galle 5.9; "Mooltan" 6.9 to Suez 23.9; overland to Alexandria; "Poonah" 25.9 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 1.10 via London to Leeds, arriving 8.10.1869. (65 days)

Ex Manning

"LOOSE SHIP LETTER" handstamp applied to uncanceled mail arriving at the G.P.O. Brisbane



Brisbane, Queensland c30.9.1869 to Antrim, Ireland

Route - Australian Steam Navigation Co: Departed Brisbane 30.9.1869 per "Florence Irving" to Sydney. **P&O Line:** Departed Sydney 9.10 per "Malta" to Galle 2.11; "Candia" 1.11 to Suez 19.11; overland to Alexandria; "Syria" 21.11 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 26.11 via London to Liverpool. **Cunard Line:** Departed Liverpool 27.11 per "Cuba" to Queenstown 28.11; by rail to Antrim, arriving 30.11.1869. (over 62 days)

Single Rate:

Prepayment of 10d for a ½oz ship letter to Ireland.

Note: This cover was probably posted on a ship bound for Brisbane from one of the coastal Queensland towns. The "LOOSE SHIP LETTER" handstamp was applied on arrival at Brisbane.

Four examples of this "LOOSE SHIP LETTER" handstamp recorded

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 6d and underpaid 2d for the 8d ½oz ship letter rate to the United States of America.

"2"(d) manuscript in red credit to Great Britain comprising 1d for transatlantic postage and 1d for United States internal postage.

Postal markings:

"IRREGULARLY/POSTED" in black applied at Ararat for insufficient postage.

"DETAINED FOR/ POSTAGE" handstamp in green with "2d" manuscript in black which was then paid in cash.

Note: An additional 6d stamp was added, with the letter now being overpaid by 4d.



Ararat, Victoria 20.5.1870 to Boston, United States of America

Route - P&O Line: Departed Melbourne 22.5.1870 per "Avoca" to Galle 11.6; "Simla" 14.6 to Suez 30.6; overland to Alexandria; "Syria" 2.7 to Marseilles; by rail from Marseilles 8.7 via London 9.7 to Liverpool. **Cunard Line:** Departed Liverpool 12.7 per "Siberia" to New York 23.7; by rail to Boston. (64 days).

Ex Perry, Davis, Palmer

Note: This cover was prepaid for 8d to the United States via Southampton. It was sent on the Marseilles route, where the prepayment should have been 1/3d. The oversight for this underpayment was not detected in London.

Transportation via Marseilles after closure of the route to Australian mail



Sydney, New South Wales 16.5.1871 to Weinsberg, Germany

Route - P&O Line: Departed Sydney 18.5.1871 per "Avoca" to Galle 10.6; "Hindostan" 14.6 to Suez 1.7; overland to Alexandria; by French steamer to Marseille 8.7; by rail to Weinsberg, arriving 10.7.1871. (53 days).

Note: Technically, this envelope is correctly paid. The introduction of mails via the Brindisi route was available in March 1871 at 1/- for a ½oz ship letter to Germany. However, the postal officials must not have been aware of the new route and rate, referring to the old passage via Trieste which was 1/6d. The carriage of this cover is confirmed by the Marseilles datestamp of the 8.7.

The only example of Australian Colonial mail carried by the P&O Line via Marseilles after 1870

Single Rate - Underpaid:

Prepayment of 1/- and underpaid 6d for a ½oz ship letter to Germany via Trieste.

"30"(pfennig) manuscript in blue representing the underpayment to be paid by the recipient.

Postal markings:

"INSUFFICIENTLY STAMPED" in black applied at Sydney.

"GB/F66c" handstamp in black applied in Sydney for underpaid mail to France.

"F.36" Franco German accountancy handstamp in black.

The only recorded example on mail from New South Wales.

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles

The Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes service

A monthly service, subsidised by the French Government, was commenced by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes in November 1882 operating from Marseilles via Cape of Good Hope to Reunion, Mauritius, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney to Noumea. Generally, only Australian colonial mail addressed to France was sent via this contract.



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 6d for a ½ oz ship letter to France.

Sydney, New South Wales 13.11.1883 to Paris, France

Route - Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes: Departed Sydney 13.11.1883 per "Salazie" via Suez Canal 18.12 to Marseilles 25.12; by rail from Marseilles 25.12 to Paris, arriving 26.12.1883. (44 days).

Note: Only mail superscribed for the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes line were sent by this service, otherwise, it would be delayed until the next British packet service. There were only 24 bags of mail on this voyage from the Australian Colonies.



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 6d for a ½ oz ship letter to France.

Townsville, Queensland 15.3.1886 to Paris, France

Route - Australian Steam Ship Co: Departed Townsville 19.3.1886 per "Alexandra" to Brisbane 21.3; "Egmont" to Sydney; by rail to Melbourne 16.5. **Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes:** Departed Melbourne 27.3 per "Yarra" via Adelaide 29.3 and Suez Canal 28.4 to Marseilles 1.5; by rail to Paris, arriving 2.5.1886. (48 days).

3. The return to steam via the Indian Ocean

Overland via Marseilles



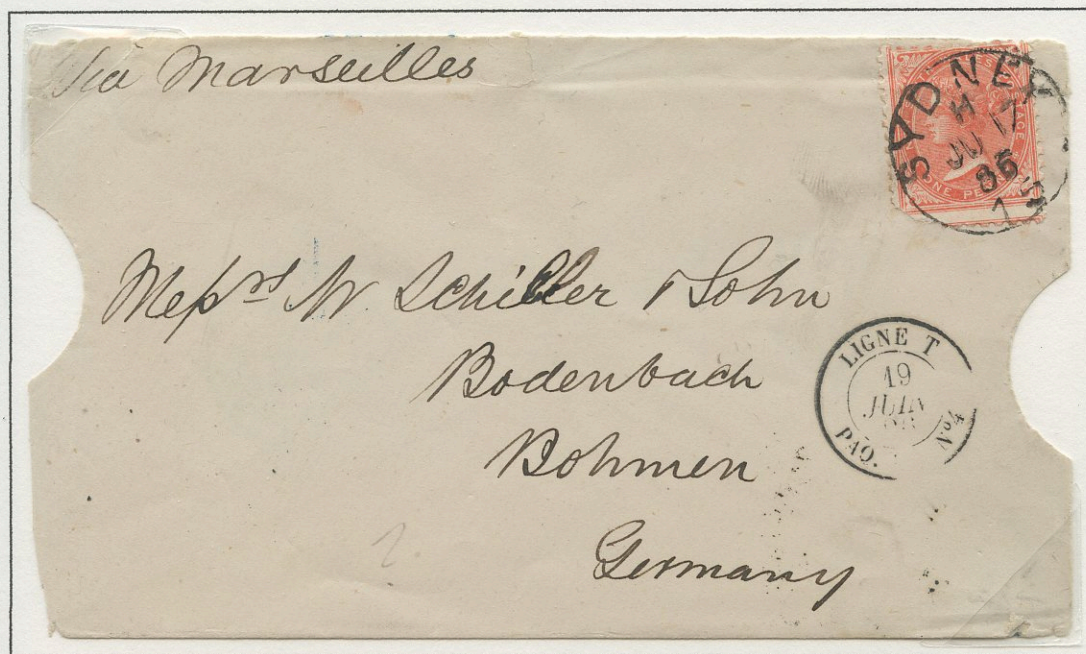
Single Rate:

Prepayment of 6d for a ½ oz ship letter to Mauritius.

The earliest envelope from Queensland to Mauritius recorded.

Mackay, Queensland 10.5.1886 to Port Louis, **Mauritius**

Route - Queensland Steam Ship Co: Departed Mackay 10.5.1886 per "Maranoa" via Brisbane 14.5 to Sydney 16.5. Departed Sydney 18.5 per "Sintra" to Melbourne 20.5. **Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes:** Departed Melbourne 22.5 per "Oceanien" via Adelaide 24.5 to Port Louis, arriving 8.6.1886. (29 days).



Single Rate:

Prepayment of 1d for a printed matter wrapper to Austria.

Sydney, New South Wales 17.6.1886 to Bodenbach, **Austria**

Route: Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes: Departed Sydney 19.6.1886 per "Sydney via Suez Canal 19.7 to Marseilles 25.7; by rail from Marseilles via Paris 26.7 to Bodenbach, arriving 27.7.1886. (38 days).

Ex Davis

The only example of printed matter mail from New South Wales to Austria recorded