

GAZETTE OF 3 NOVEMBER 1838

The Embossed Letter Sheet

The New South Wales Government Gazette of 3 November 1838 carried the following notice:

His Excellency the Governor, in order to effect a reduction in postage on such communications intended for delivery within the limits of the town of Sydney, has been pleased to sanction their transmission under envelope which may be obtained at the GPO on payment of one shilling and threepence per dozen.



11 May 1846

Rate

One penny local delivery due to rate reduction on 14.1.1841 from 1½d each to 1d each (1 shilling per dozen).

Route

Posted in town letter receiver and delivered within Sydney town.

Markings

"FREE" (11.5.1846, type F5) denoting free of further postage.

"1 OCLOCK" (type T4).

Cover was turned and re-used in reply to the Australian Assurance Office, rated "2" (type X2) unpaid and back-stamped "GPO SYDNEY" (12.5.1846, type S9).



Detail of Embossing

Rate

One penny local delivery.

Route

Posted in town letter receiver and delivered to New Town, being within the Sydney Town Post area.

Markings

"FREE" (11.9.1849, type F7) denoting free of further postage.

"6 OCLOCK" (type T5).



11 September 1849

THE POSTAL ACT OF 1835

Intercolonial Ship Letter Mail

Van Diemen's Land



14 February 1836

Rate: Tenpence prepaid General Ship Letter, rated "1/-" in black at Hobart (4d inward ship letter plus 8d mileage).

Route: Windsor to Sydney by road, Sydney to Hobart Town per private ship.

Markings: "WINDSOR / POST PAID" (type P11), and "GPO SYDNEY" (17.2.1836, type S4 var. 1).

Rate

Sevenpence prepaid (4d Local plus 3d General Ship Letter).

Rated "1/-" in black at Hobart postage due.

Route

Maitland to Sydney by local vessel, thence to Hobart Town by private ship.

Markings

"MAITLAND / POST PAID"
(type P11)

"POST PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY"

(18.3.1836, type SL1).

"GPO SYDNEY"

(18.3.1836, type S4 var. 1, only used 1836)



14 March 1836

THE POSTAL ACT OF 1835

Intercolonial Ship Letter Mail

Van Diemen's Land

The Act of 1825 established a special ship letter rate to Van Diemen's Land at 3d single which remained unchanged throughout this period.



9 April 1839

Rate

Threepence prepaid General Ship Letter, rated "1/1" in black at Launceston (4d inward ship letter plus 9d mileage).

Route

Sydney to Launceston per "Meteor", arriving on 12.5.1839. Conveyed overland to Hobart.

Markings

"POST PAID SHIP LT. SYDNEY"

(11.4.1839, type SL1 var. 2).

On reverse:

Inland inwards unpaid
"14MY14 / 1839" applied at Launceston.

South Australia



Rate

"Paid 6d" in Adelaide. Ms. "3" in black denotes inwards Ship Letter rate due on delivery in Sydney.

Route

Adelaide to Sydney per "Dorset".

Markings

"POST OFFICE / ADELAIDE".

On reverse:

"SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY"
(26.9.1841, type SL5).

11 September 1841

NEW ZEALAND

Under New South Wales Jurisdiction

In 1830 the European population of New Zealand was no more than 330 souls, rising to 2,000 by 1838. New Zealand's postal system was informally organised by New South Wales from the early 1830's and formally from 1840.

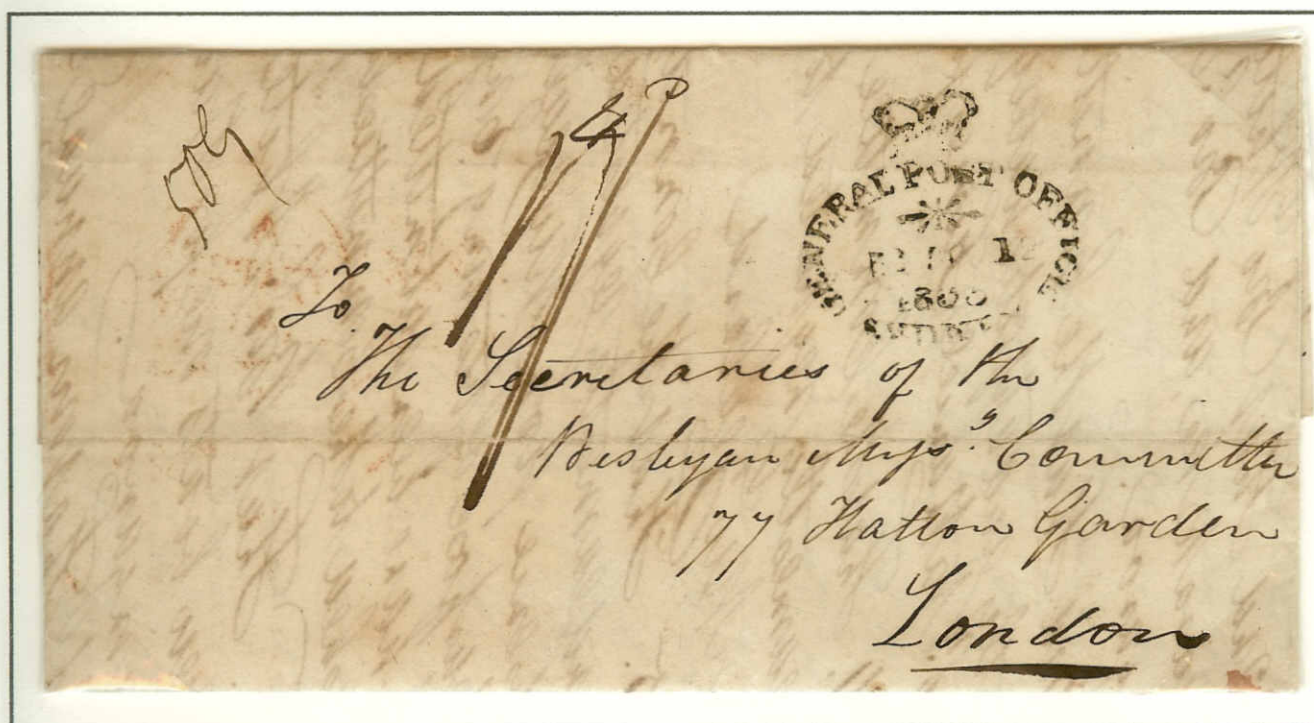


20 May 1830 – Earliest recorded cover from New Zealand showing NSW transit markings.

Rate: NSW Ship Letter Rate 4d paid, and "1/-" inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 8d mileage).

Route: Entire letter from the Wesleyan Mission Station, headed "Mangunga, Hokianga". Written by White, Hobbs and Stack, it details the problems of trade with the Maoris and the proliferation of muskets. Per schooner "Prince of Denmark", sailing from the Bay of Islands, NZ, on 7.6.1830. Arrived at Sydney on 18.6.1830. Per private ship to England.

Markings: "SYDNEY / POST PAID" (type P1), "SYDNEY / NSW" (22.6.1830, type S2), and "INDIA LETTER / PORTSMOUTH".
On reverse: London date-stamp (24.11.1830).



Rate

NSW Ship Letter Rate 4d paid, and "1/-" inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 8d mileage).

Route

"Mangunga" to London per private ship, via Sydney.

Markings

"GPO / SYDNEY" (12.11.1835, type S4).

On reverse: London date-stamp (27.4.1836) and "INDIA LETTER / BRIGHTON".

4 June 1835

NEW ZEALAND

Under New South Wales Jurisdiction 1840-1841

A proclamation in the *NSW Government Gazette* on 18 January 1840 brought New Zealand under the control of NSW. The Legislative Council passed an Act extending the laws of NSW to NZ on 16 June 1840. Separation from New South Wales was proclaimed on 3 May 1841.



26 December 1840

Rate

Free because addressee entitled to franking privilege.

Route

By the brig "*Nimrod*" from the Bay of Islands, NZ, to Sydney.

Markings

"FREE / KORORARIKA / N. Z." (Four covers recorded in private hands).

On reverse: "KORORARIKA / NEW ZEALAND" (26.12.1840), and "GENERAL POST OFFICE / SYDNEY" (11.1.1841).

Under New South Wales Jurisdiction

Inland Postage Paid - Per Mail Packet
15th November

OLDRAIN
OC 26
1844

PAID
OCT 27 M.
1844

Letter to Dr. Leslie Esq
Care of Capt. Wickham
Brisbane
Moreton Bay
New South Wales

Brisbane: The 1832 GPO Directory lists a Post Office at Moreton Bay, however it is noted as a new Post Office from 1.1.1841. Renamed Brisbane around April 1843.

Rate
Prepaid 4d intracolony ship letter rate.

Route

Sent per Hunter River Steam Navigation Co. vessel "S.S. Tamar" departing Brisbane on 14.11.1848, and arriving in Sydney on 18.11.1848.

Markings

"PAID AT / BRISBANE" (type P15).

On reverse:

"BRISBANE / NEW.S.WALES"

(14.11.1848, type C67).

"GPO / SYDNEY" (18.11.1848, type S9).



14 November 1848

THE MORETON BAY DISTRICT

Under New South Wales Jurisdiction

Ipswich: Post Office opened 2 January 1846.

Handstamps do not appear to have issued to Post Offices other than Brisbane before 1848.



22 August 1847

Rate

Ms. "Ship Letter Paid 1/1" (6d Inland Letter plus 4d Local & 3d General ship Letter rates). "1/-" inwards packet letter rate due on arrival.

Route

Ipswich to Brisbane by road, then by coastal vessel to Sydney. Per Toulmin Packet "Sunflower" departing Sydney on 12.9.1847 and arriving at Gravesend on 5.2.1848.

Markings

"PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (9.9.1847, type SL2).

On reverse: Ms. "P.O. Ipswich / 22nd May 1847". "BRISBANE / NEW.S.WALES" (25.8.1847, type C67). London date-stamp (5.2.1848).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

In 1836 the New South Wales Governor declared the Port Phillip district open for settlement. The first postmaster of Melbourne was appointed in 1837.

Melbourne: Post Office opened 13 April 1837.



22 April 1838 - Second earliest recorded use of Port Phillip handstamps.

Rate: Ms. "1/s" (2 x 4d Local Ship Letter plus the 4d double Ship Letter rate) in red. Ms. "1/-" in black denotes inwards UK postage due (4d India Letter plus 8d mileage). Signed by William Lonsdale.

Route: Melbourne to Sydney by local vessel to Sydney, and then forwarded per private ship to Great Britain.

Markings: "MELBOURNE / NSW" (type C37) and "MELBOURNE / PAID" (earliest recorded example, type P16).

On reverse: "GPO SYDNEY" (12.5.1838, type S6), "INDIA LETTER / GRAVESEND" and date-stamp for London (25.9.1838). e.

Overland Mail

Rate

One Shilling & Threepence unpaid for a distance greater than 500 miles.

Route

Parramatta to Melbourne, via Yass, carried by horse per Overland Mail.

Markings

"MELBOURNE / NSW" (type C37).

On reverse: "GPO / SYDNEY" (16.12.1839, type S7).



24 November 1839

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

The First Handstamps



17 October 1840

Rate

Threepence prepaid General Ship Letter rate. Ms. "8" in black denotes inwards UK postage to be paid by addressee.

Route

Per ship to Great Britain.

Markings

"MELBOURNE / PAID" (type P16).

On reverse:

"MELBOURNE / NEW.S.WALES" (25.10.1840, type C62).

UK "SHIP LETTER" and date-stamp for London (28.3.1841).



30 July 1841

Rate: Threepence prepaid General Ship Letter rate. Ms. "8" in black denotes inwards UK postage to be paid by addressee.

Route: Per ship to Great Britain.

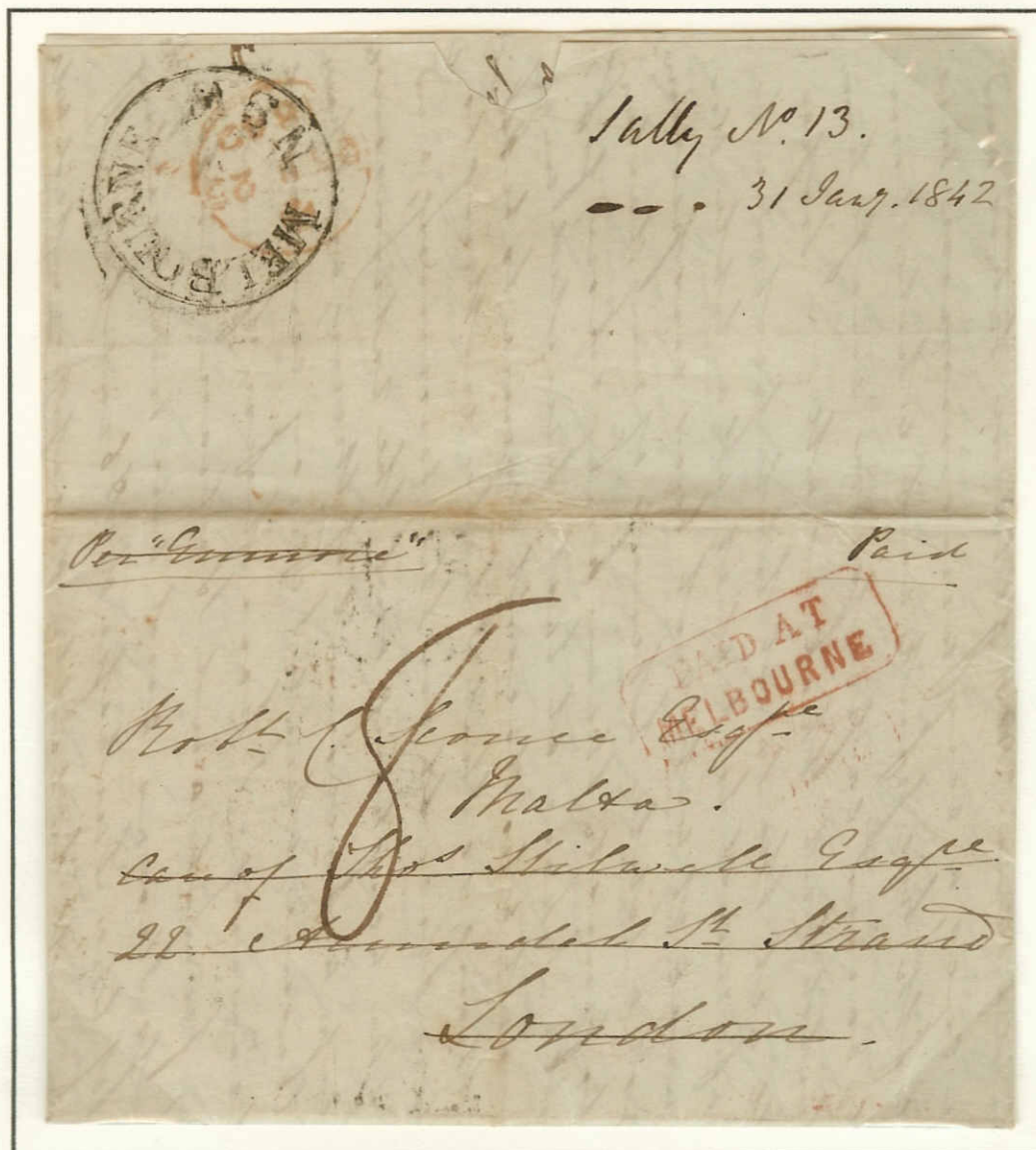
Markings: "MELBOURNE / PAID" (type P16) and UK "SHIP LETTER".

On reverse: "MELBOURNE / NEW.S.WALES" (5.8.1841, type C62), and date-stamp for London (26.12.1841).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

The First Handstamps

"MELBOURNE / NSW"
(type C37, used 1837-1842).
Strike on piece c.1840



31 January 1842

Early Mail forwarded to Malta via England.

Rate: Threepence prepaid General Ship Letter rate. Ms. "8" in black denotes inwards UK postage to be paid by addressee.

Route: Per ship "Enmore" to Great Britain. Forwarded to Malta.

Markings: "PAID AT / MELBOURNE" (type P15).

On reverse: "MELBOURNE / NSW" (type C37), and date-stamp for London (25.6.1842).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Ship Letter Mail

Sevenpence Rate: 4d Local Ship Letter plus 3d General Ship Letter Rate.

Only two examples of the undated Geelong oval are recorded in private hands.



29 December 1841

Rate

Sevenpence prepaid. Ms. "1/-" in black denotes inwards UK packet letter rate to be paid by addressee.

Route

Per ship "Samuel Boddington" to Bombay, sailing on 5.2.1842. Mail carried from Bombay to Suez by P&O steamer, camel overland to Alexandria, thence per P&O SS "Oriental" to Falmouth.

Markings

"PAID AT / GEE LONG" (type P15).
"GEE LONG / NEW.S.WALES" (type C59).

Oval "INDIA" in red, applied in Bombay.

On reverse:

"MELBOURNE / NEW.S.WALES" (5.2.1842, type C65),

Arrival date-stamps for London (9.6.1842) and Dumfries (11.6.1842).

One Shilling & One Penny Rate: 10d Inland Rate (distance of 120-170 miles), plus 3d General Ship Letter Rate.



3 February 1849

Rate: one shilling & one penny prepaid. Ms. "8" in black denotes inwards UK postage to be paid by addressee.

Route: Fiery Creek to Melbourne by road and thence by private ship to Great Britain.

Markings: "PAID AT / FIERY CREEK" (type P15, only recorded example), and "MISSSENT TO / DUNDEE"

On reverse: "FIERY CREEK / PORT PHILLIP" (3.2.1849), "MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP" (4.2.1849), and UK arrival date-stamps for London (4.7.1849), Perth (5.7.1849), Bridge-on-Earns (6.7.1849) and Dundee (8.7.1849).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Ship Letter Mail

Tenpence Rate: 7d Inland Rate (distance of 30-50 miles), plus 3d General Ship Letter Rate.

Kilmore: Post Office opened 1 February 1843.



Rate

Tenpence prepaid.

Ms. "1/8" in black denotes inwards UK postage (double rate 8d ship letter plus London - Dublin 2d) to be paid by addressee.

Route

Kilmore to Melbourne by road and thence by private ship to Great Britain. Ferry to Dublin, Ireland.

Markings

"PAID AT / KILMORE" (type P15).

On reverse:

"KILMORE / PORT PHILLIP"

(4.8.1845),

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"

(5.8.1845),

UK "SHIP LETTER" and date-stamps for London (27.1.1846) and Dublin (28.1.1846).

31 July 1845

Elevenpence Rate: 8d Inland Rate (distance of 50-80 miles), plus 3d General Ship Letter Rate.

Seymour: Post office opened 1 July 1844.



Rate

Elevenpence prepaid. And 8d inwards UK ship letter rate due.

Route

Seymour to Melbourne by road and thence by private ship to Great Britain.

Markings

"PAID / SEYMOUR" (type P17).

On reverse:

"SEYMOUR / PORT PHILLIP"

(11.4.1847),

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"

(15.4.1847)

Date-stamps for London (11.10.1847) and Southampton (14.10.1847).

10 April 1847

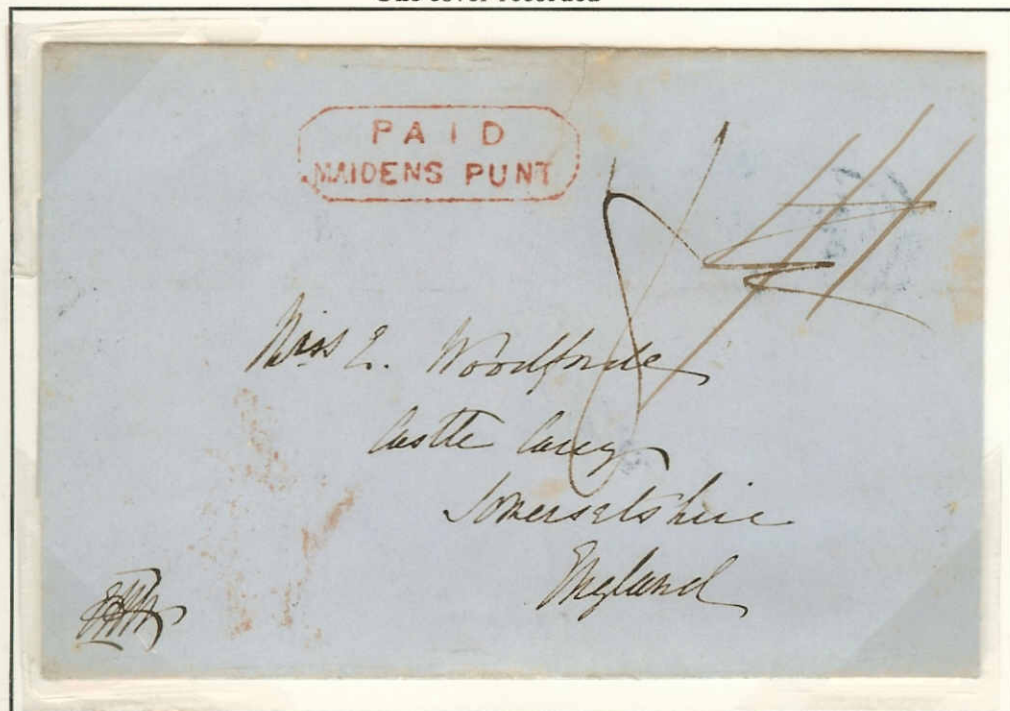
THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Ship Letter Mail

One Shilling & One Penny Rate: 10d Inland Rate (distance of 120-170 miles), plus 3d General Ship Letter Rate.

Maidens Punt: Post Office opened 1 July 1848.

One cover recorded



9 April 1849

Rate

One shilling & one penny prepaid
and 8d inwards UK postage due.

Route

Maidens Punt to Melbourne by road and
thence by private ship to Great Britain..

Markings

"PAID / MAIDENS PUNT" (type P17).

On reverse:

"MAIDENS PUNT / PORT PHILLIP"
(9.4.1849),

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(13.4.1845),

Date-stamps for London (19.9.1849) and
Bath (19.9.1849).

One Shilling & Twopence Rate: 11d Inland Rate (distance of 170-230 miles), plus 3d General Ship Letter Rate.

Horsham: Post Office opened 1 July 1848.

One cover recorded



Rate

One shilling & two pence prepaid
and 8d inwards UK postage due.

Route

Horsham to Melbourne by road and
thence by private ship to Great Britain.

Markings

"PAID / HORSHAM" (type P17).

On reverse:

"HORSHAM / PORT PHILLIP"
(24.9.1849),

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(26.9.1849)

Date-stamps for London and Dover
(6.4.1850).

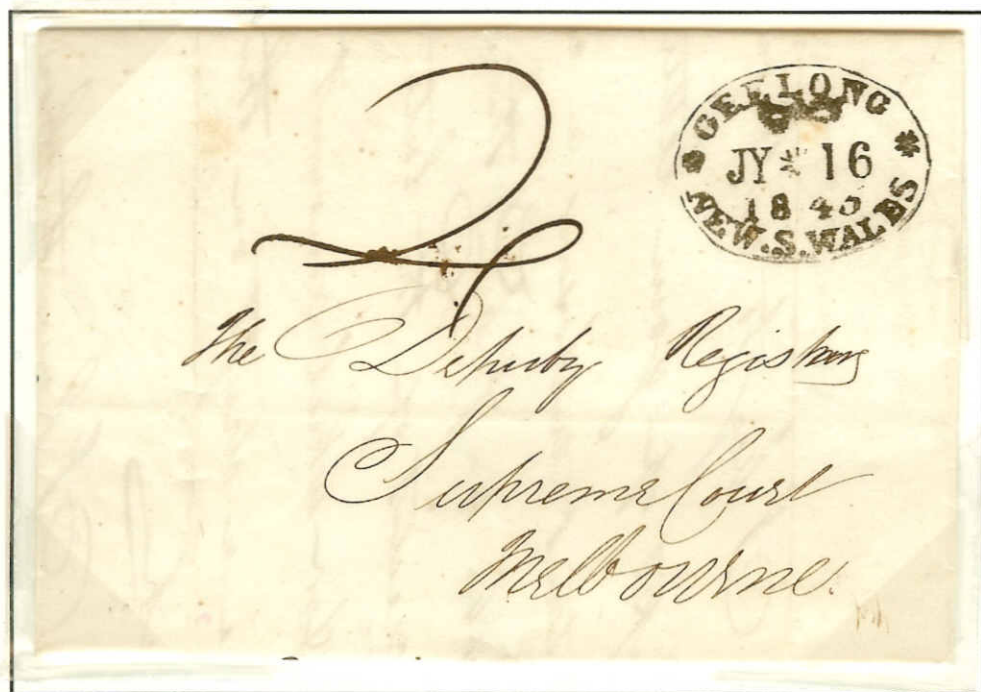
24 September 1849

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Inland Rates

Fourpence Rate: 4d Local Ship Letter Rate.

Geelong: Post Office opened 1 January 1841.



16 July 1845

Rate

Fourpence unpaid denoted by ms. "4" in black.

Route

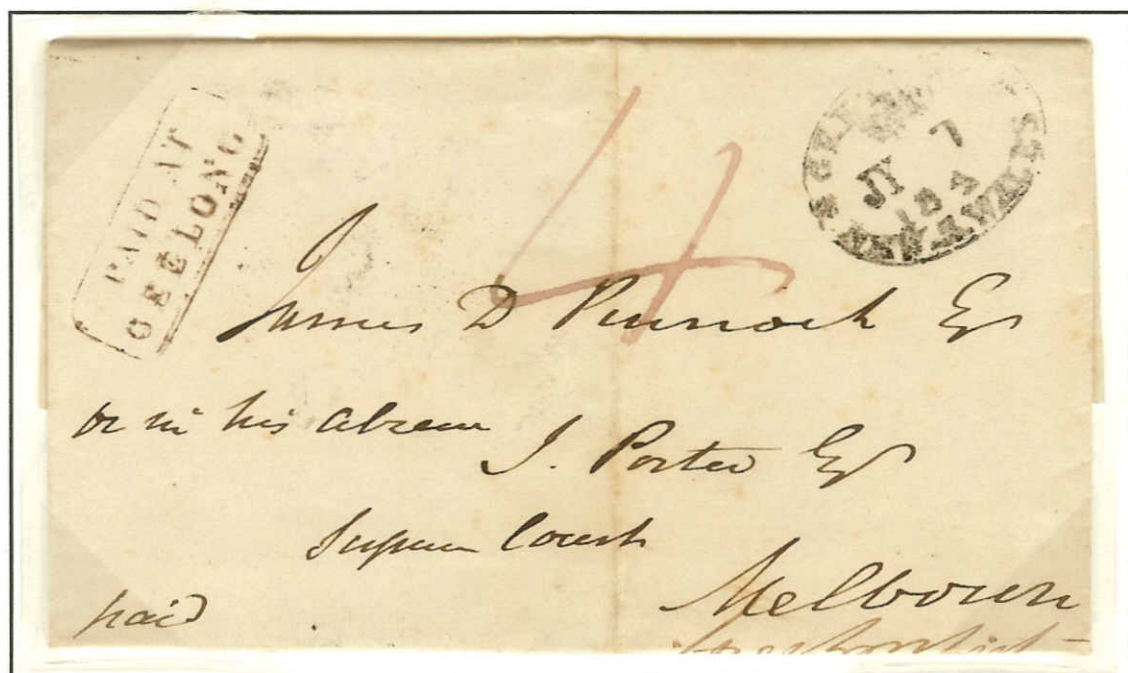
Geelong to Melbourne by local ship.

Markings

"GEELONG / NEW.S.WALES"
(16.7.1845, type C65),

On reverse:

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(17.7.1845).



7 July 1847

Rate

Fourpence paid denoted by ms. "4" in red.

Route

Geelong to Melbourne by local ship.

Markings

"PAID AT / GEELONG"
(type P15)

"GEELONG /
NEW.S.WALES"
(7.7.1847, type C65),

On reverse:

"MELBOURNE / PORT
PHILLIP" (10.7.1847).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Inland Rates

Sixpence Rate: Distance of 20-30 miles.

Ovens: Post Office opened 1 February 1843.



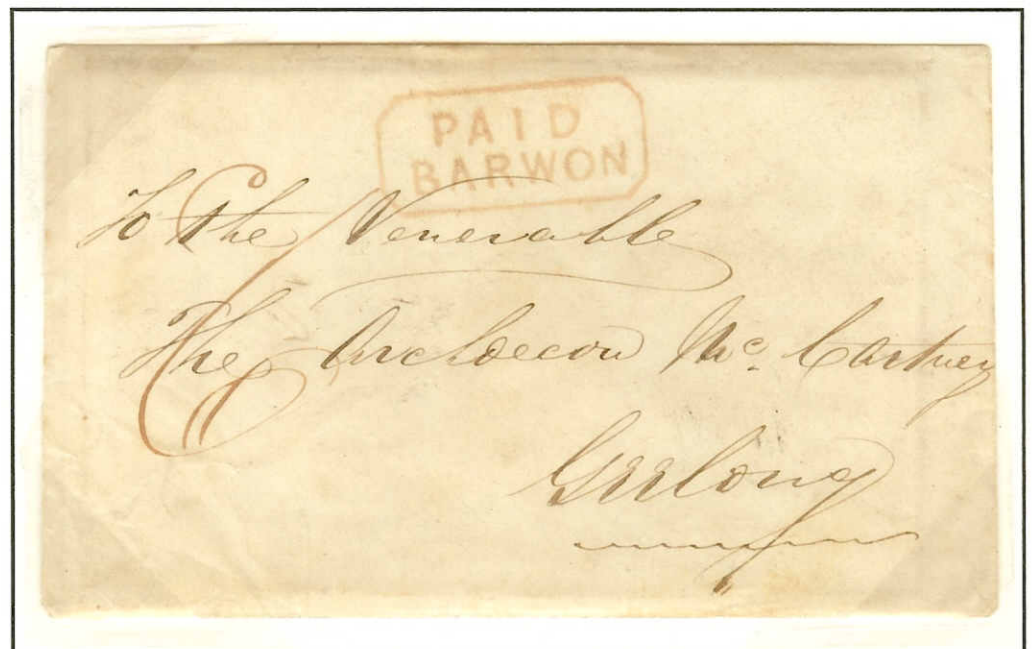
20 August 1846

Rate
Sixpence prepaid denoted by ms.
"6" in red.

Route
A bye letter posted in Ovens and
delivered to Broken River on the
Sydney to Melbourne road.

Markings
"PAID AT / OVENS"
(type P15).

Barwon: Post Office opened 1 July 1848.



24 April 1849

Rate
Sixpence prepaid denoted by ms. "6" in
red.

Route
Barwon to Geelong by coach.

Markings
"PAID / BARWON"
(type P17, two recorded examples).

On reverse:
"BARWON / PORT PHILLIP"
(24.4.1849)
"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(24.4.1849).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Inland Rates

Eightpence Rate: Distance of 50-80 miles.

Seymour: Post Office opened 1 July 1844.



Rate

Eightpence unpaid denoted by ms. "8" in black.

Route

Seymour to Melbourne by coach on the Sydney to Melbourne road.

Markings

"SEYMOUR / PORT PHILLIP"
(6.2.1845).

Earliest recorded date.

5 February 1845

Mount Macedon: Post Office opened 1 July 1843.



Rate

Eightpence prepaid denoted by ms. "8" in red.

Route

Mount Macedon to Melbourne via the Northern Coach route.

Markings

"MOUNT MACEDON / POST PAID".

Only recorded example.

On reverse:

"MOUNT MACEDON / PORT PHILLIP"
(29.1.1845)

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(30.1.1845).

28 January 1845

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Inland Rates

Ninepence Rate: Distance of 80-120 miles.

Burn Bank: Post Office opened 1 July 1848.



16 December 1848

Rate

Quintuple rate prepaid (5 x 9d per ½ oz. for a letter weighing 1¼ - 1½ oz.) denoted by ms. "3/9" in red.

Route

Burn Bank to Melbourne on the North Western coach route.

Markings

"PAID / BURN BANK" (type P17).

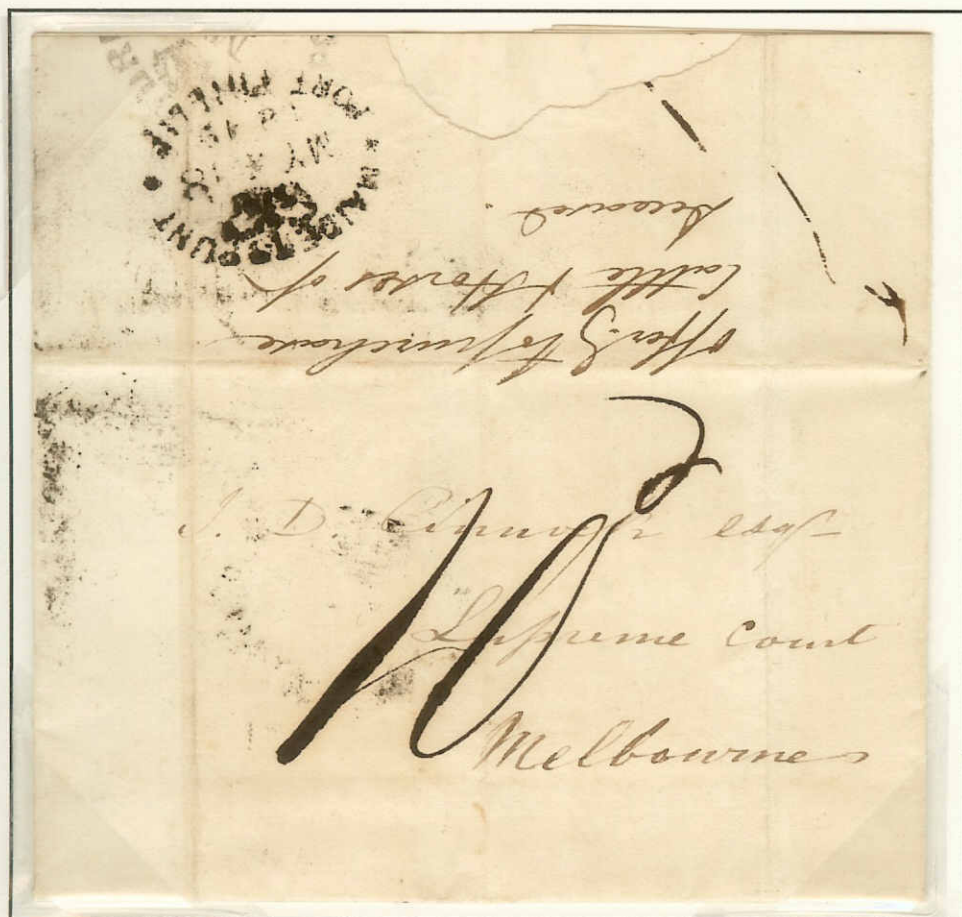
On reverse: "BURN BANK / PORT PHILLIP" (16.12.1848) and "MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP" (17.12.1848).

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Inland Rates

Tenpence Rate: Distance of 120-170 miles.

Maidens Punt: Post Office opened 1 July 1848.



Rate

Tenpence unpaid denoted by ms. "10" in black.

Route

Maidens Punt to Melbourne by coach.

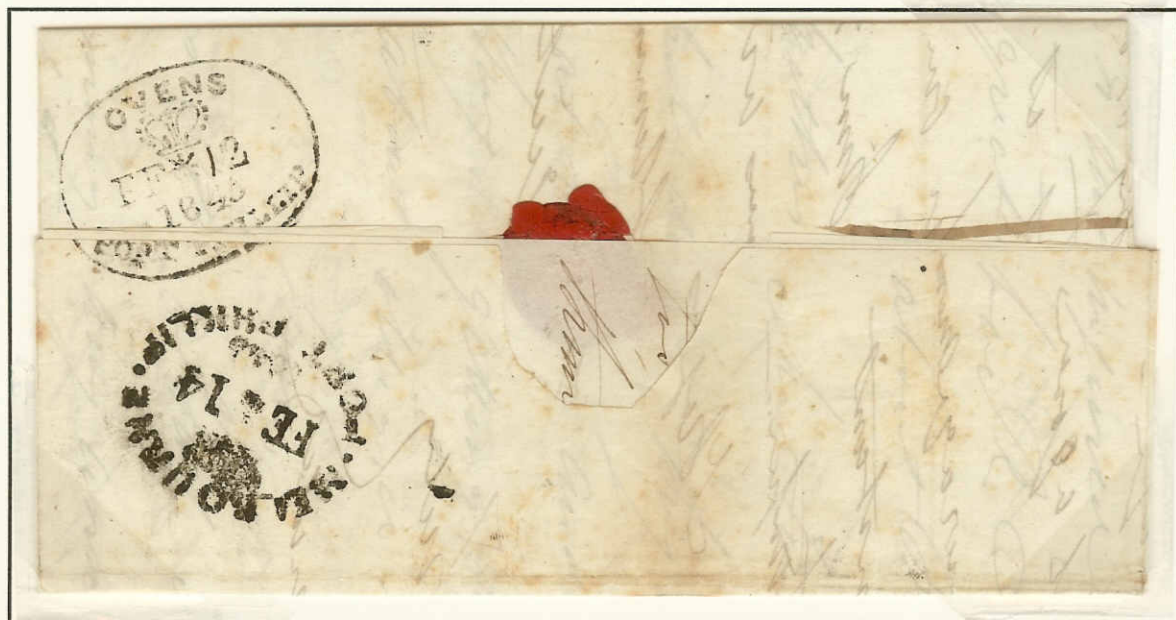
Markings

"MAIDENS PUNT / PORT PHILLIP"
(18.5.1849)

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(21.5.1849).

15 May 1849

Ovens: Post Office opened 1 February 1843.



Rate

Tenpence unpaid denoted by ms. "10" in black.

Route

Ovens to Melbourne by coach.

Markings

"OVENS / PORT PHILLIP"
(13.2.1845)

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP"
(14.2.1845).

11 February 1845

THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT

Inland Rates

Elevenpence Rate: Distance of 170-230 miles.



Rate

Elevenpence unpaid denoted by ms. "11" in black.

Route

Geelong to Hopkins River "per Fiery Creek Mail".

Markings

"GEELONG / PORT PHILLIP" (3.4.1848),

and

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP" (4.4.1848),

3 April 1848

Rate

Elevenpence prepaid.

Route

Alberton to Melbourne via Flooding Creek per the Eastern Coach route.

Markings

"PAID AT / ALBERTON" (type P15).

Ms. "Alberton / 6 February 1849" (due to year date-slug alteration of handstamp).

"MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP" (12.2.1849)

6 February 1849

