

SOLDIERS' & SAILORS' LETTERS

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24) Section 12

One Penny Concessionary Rate

Letters from any non-commissioned officer, soldier, seaman or marine on full pay in the Army, Navy or Marines were to be charged one penny, payable at the time of putting in to the Post Office, provided each letter was written on a single sheet of paper and the entire was superscribed with the name of the writer, his description or class in the Vessel or Regiment, and countersigned by the Commanding Officer. **Only nine Concessionary Rate covers recorded from NSW.**

Earliest Recorded Concessionary Rate Cover from Australia



80th Regiment under Major Baker.

Rate

1d prepaid in cash, 3d due in the UK for soldiers' letters from places abroad from which there were not any regular Packets.

Route

Sydney by ship direct to London.

Markings

"POST PAID SHIP Lt / SYDNEY" (16.12.1836, type SL1), and "INDIA SOLDIERS / 3 / LONDON".

On reverse date-stamps for London (3.5.1837) and Bolton (4.5.1837).

16 December 1836

99th (Lanarkshire Volunteers) Regiment of Foot on Garrison Duty at the Blackheath Stockade

Private G. Johnson, No 1835, 99th Regt., was with a detachment at the Blackheath Stockade under Capt. Bull, guarding convicts working on the Western Road.

Rate

1d prepaid in cash, 2d due in the UK (double Uniform Postage 1d prepaid rate) for letters by packet or naval vessel.

Route

Penrith to Sydney on the Western Road, and thence by ship direct to London.

Markings

"PENRITH / POST PAID" (type P11), "PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (9.8.1844, type SL2).



4 August 1844

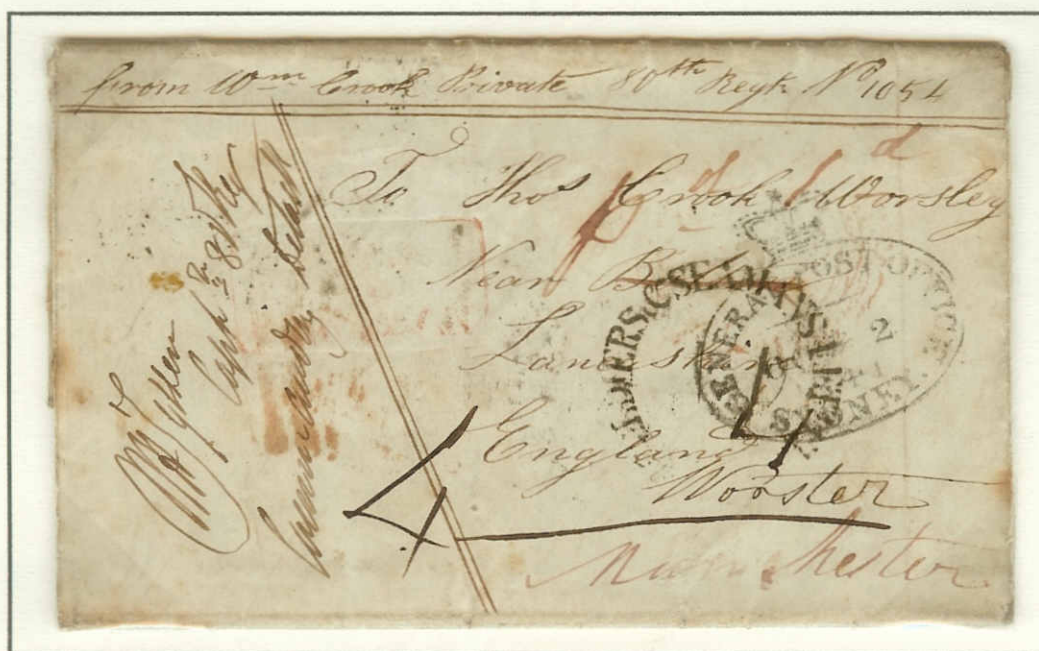
SOLDIERS' & SAILORS' LETTERS

80th (Staffordshire Volunteers) Regiment of Foot on Garrison Duty at the Towrang Stockade

Private Wm. Crook, No 1054, 80th Regiment, was with a detachment of 45 men at the Towrang Stockade under Capt. Tyssen, guarding 250 convicts working on the Southern Road. He writes that "we are compelled to walk with the Prisoners under our Charge all day long when they are out at work".



11 December
1840



28 September
1841

Rate: 1d prepaid in cash, 4d inwards UK postage due, consisting of 2d unpaid plus 2d captain's gratuity for letters by private ship. The letters were redirected without further charge, this being a special concession for soldiers' letters.

Route: Marulan to Sydney on the Southern Road, and then to London direct by private ship.

Markings: Upper cover: - "PAID / AT / MARULAN" (type P15a), "PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (14.12.1840, type SL2). On arrival: "SOLDIERS & SEAMANS LETTER / 4 / BY SHIP". On reverse: Date-stamps for Sydney (14.12.1840, type S7), Manchester and Bolton (7.5.1841).

Lower cover: "PAID / AT / MARULAN", Sydney date-stamp (2.10.1841, type S7), and "SOLDIERS & SEAMANS LETTER". On reverse: Date-stamps for Marulan (30.9.1841, type C65), London (1.4.1842), Manchester and Bolton (2.4.1842). Straight-line "SHIP LETTER".

WRECK MAIL

During the 19th century a number of vessels carrying mail to or from NSW were wrecked. In many instances the rescued mails were simply transferred to another vessel and delivered with minimum delay.

Cutter "Lord Liverpool" wrecked off Nobby's Island near Newcastle.

Earliest Recorded Wreck Mail from Australia



30 June 1830 – Only recorded mail from this wreck

Rate

Ms. "8" in black denoting 4d inwards ship letter plus 4d inland letter rate (Sydney to Newcastle) due from the addressee for a single letter under the 1825 Act. Endorsed in ms. "Via Newcastle" in two different hands, one matching the ms. "8" and written at Sydney, the other written at Newcastle to explain the delay.

Route

Carried per favour on "Royal Admiral" from London to Sydney, sailing from Portsmouth on 5.7.1830, arrived in Sydney on 9.11.1830. The letter was then placed in the post and sent per cutter "Lord Liverpool" to Newcastle, sailing from Sydney on Saturday, 13.11.1830.

The "Lord Liverpool" ran into bad weather and was forced to cast anchor off Nobby's Island "owing to an adverse wind and tremendous surf. Capt. Taggart lost no time in sending the passengers ashore, who were safely landed after undergoing a very severe ducking" (Sydney Gazette, 20 Nov 1830, p.3).

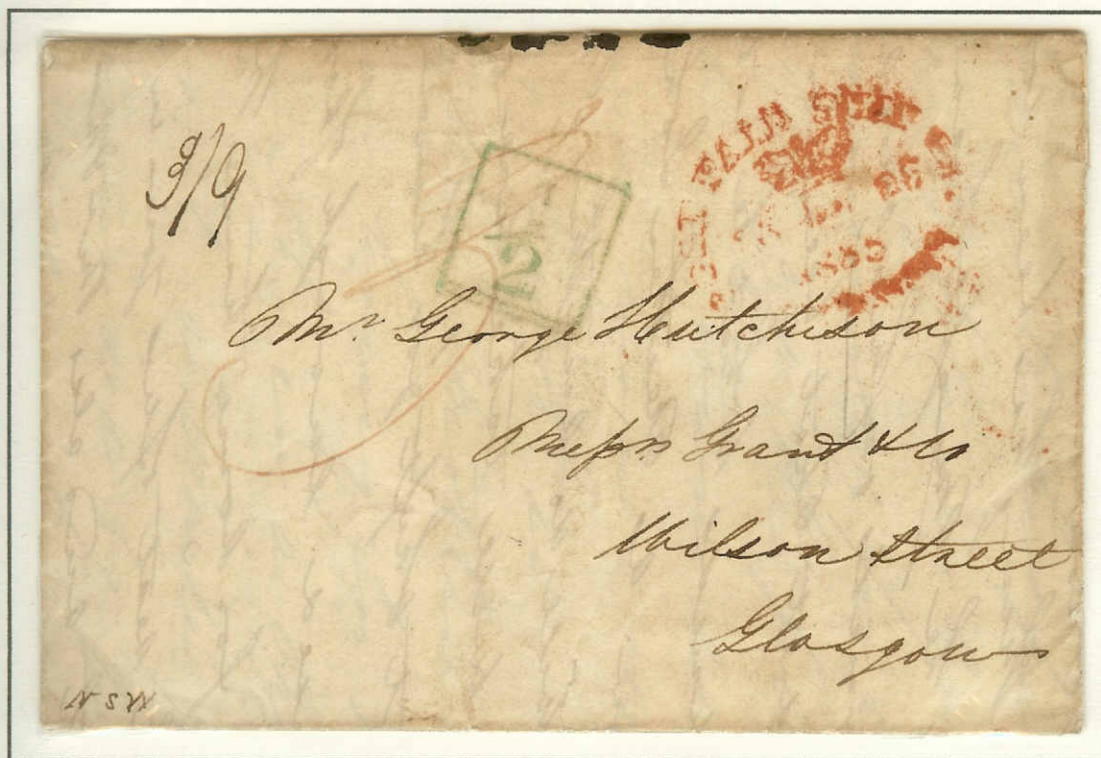
The vessel became entangled on the rocks and was wrecked on Tuesday evening, 16 November. The cargo was removed but "sustained considerable damage from the sea water". There is no mention of the mails in the report, but they were probably sent ashore with the passengers. The "Lord Liverpool" was later floated off the rocks and taken to Newcastle for repairs.

Markings

First Sydney date-stamp "SYDNEY / N.S.W" (9.11.1830, type S2) in black.

WRECK MAIL

Barque "Hercules" wrecked off Cape Horn, mail transferred to British Post Office Packets at Rio de Janeiro.



24 December 1835 - Only recorded mail from this wreck.

Rate

3d prepaid single outwards NSW ship letter rate. Ms. "3/9" applied at Falmouth denoting postage due (2s7d single Packet

Letter rate plus 1s2d mileage from Falmouth to Glasgow). An additional ½d was due for the Scottish turnpike fee.

Route

Sydney to Scotland per the barque "Hercules" via Cape Horn, sailing on 29.12.1835. On 12.3.1836 she was badly damaged in a storm while rounding Cape

Horn, almost all of the cabins being destroyed. The captain and 9 other people were lost. She sailed into Rio de Janeiro on 3.4.1836, and the soldiers on board transferred to a British man-of-war.

The mail was transferred to a British Post Office Falmouth Packet and shipped to Falmouth via Cape Verde and Madera, and thence from Falmouth to Glasgow by mail coach.

Markings

"POST PAID SHIP LT / SYDNEY" (26.12.1835, type SL1), and boxed "½" Scottish turnpike fee marking in green applied at Falmouth.

On reverse: "BRAZIL / F" in green, applied at Falmouth, and a date-stamp for Glasgow (14.6.1836).

Brig "John Dalton" wrecked on Cape Negro, Argentina.

Rate

3d prepaid single outwards NSW ship letter rate and 8d inwards ship letter due on arrival.

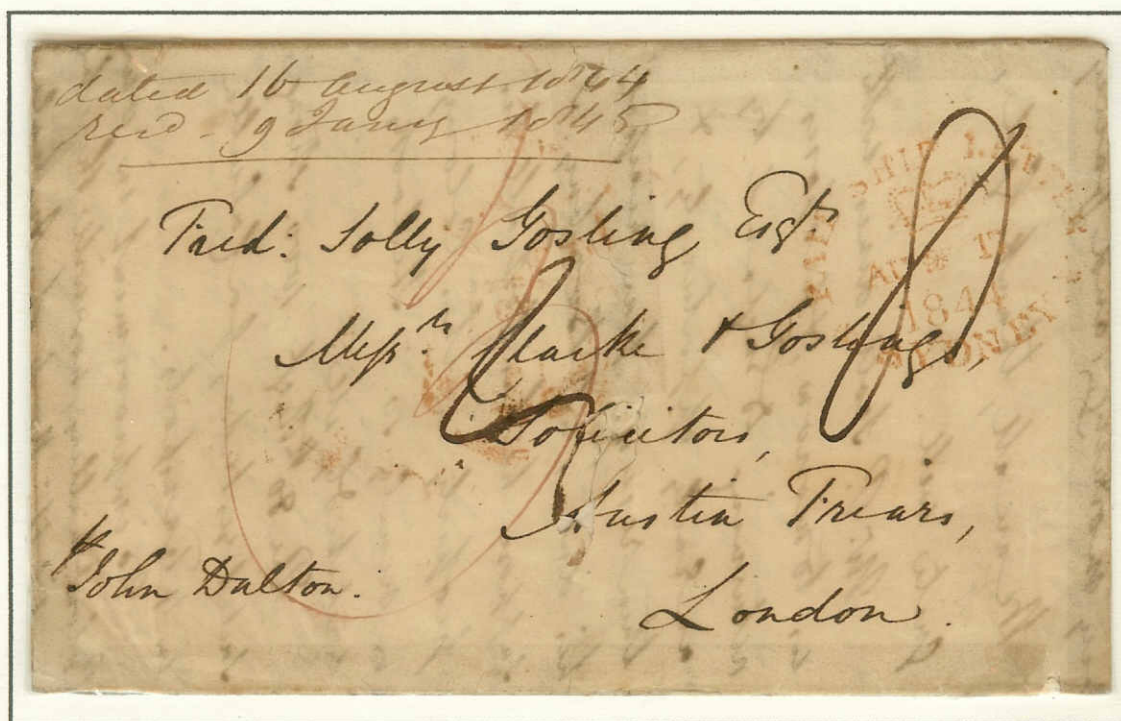
Route

Sydney to London per the brig "John Dalton", sailing on 19.8.1844. On 16.11.1844 she was wrecked on Cape Negro and salvage operations were commenced almost immediately. Passengers and mail were transferred to the "Crane Packet" which sailed from Rio de Janeiro on 26.11.1844 arriving at Falmouth on 8.1.1845.

Markings

"PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (17.8.1844, type SL2).

On reverse: London date-stamp (9.1.1845).



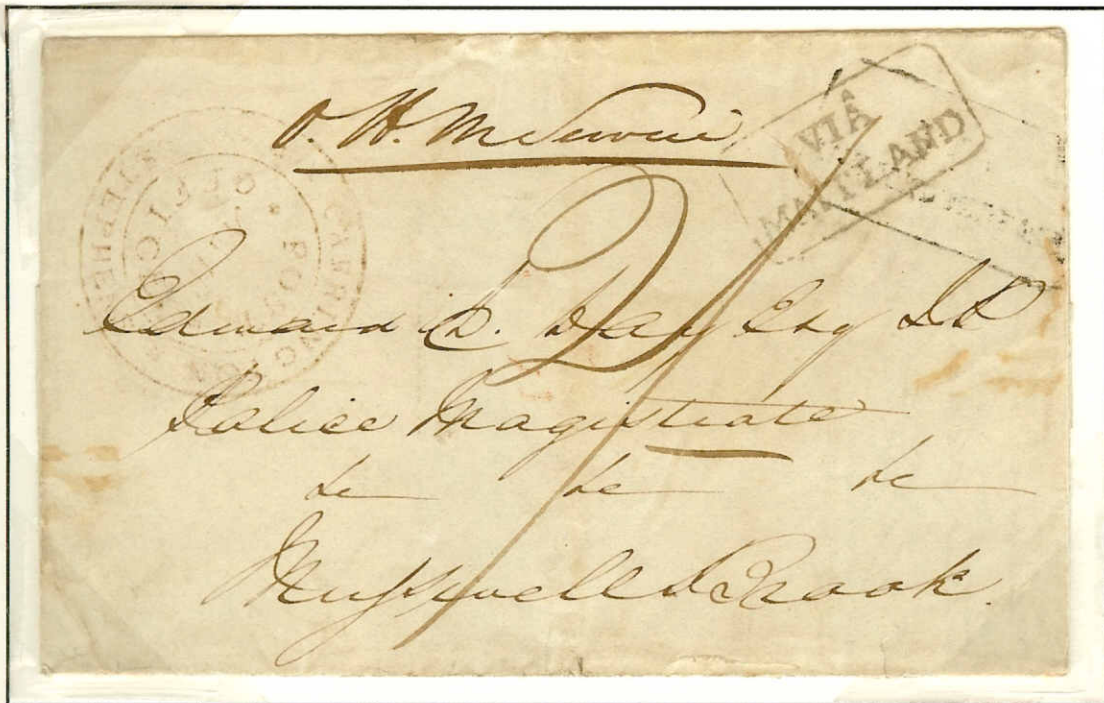
17 August 1844 - Three covers recorded.

VIA MARKINGS

While the regulations were reasonably clear about the use of “Via” markings they appear to have been used in a variety of ways. They were used on letters redirected by the post office because the addressee could not be found at the place where first directed, as a type of “Forward” mark, and as a “Missent” mark even though offices were issued with “Missent” handstamps

Carrington: Post Office opened 9 November 1831.

Two covers recorded showing distinctive undated CARRINGTON handstamp.



c.1837

Rate

Ms. "2/-" in black denoting unpaid double rate (½ oz. - ¾ oz.) under the 1835 Act., consisting of double 4d local ship letter plus 8d Inland Letter, and was due from the addressee.

Route

By road from Carrington to
Raymond Terrace, then by water
along the Hunter River to Maitland,
and by road to Muswellbrook.

Markings

"CARRINGTON / PORT
STEPHENS / POST OFFICE /
NSW" (type C12).

“VIA / RAYMOND TERRACE”
(type V11, **only known example**).
“VIA / MAITLAND” (type V11).
The “Via” markings appear to have
been used as “Forward” markings
here, rather than “Missent”.

Two covers recorded showing distinctive undated CAMPBELL TOWN handstamp.

Rate

'1/3" unpaid Inland Letter rate
(distance 500-600 miles) due under the
1835 Act.

Route

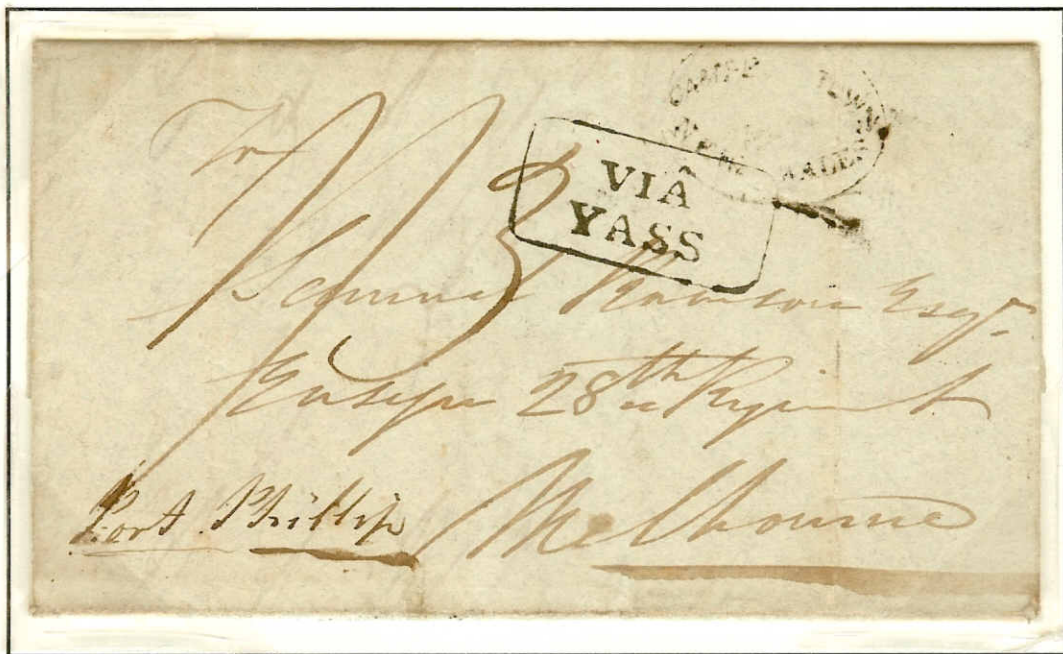
Parramatta to Melbourne overland,
passing through Campbell Town and
Yass.

Markings

“VIA / YASS” (type V11)
“CAMPBELL TOWN /
NEW.S.WALES” (type C50).

On reverse:

“PARRAMATTA / NSW” (type C1)
 “MELBOURNE / NEW.S.WALES”
 (27.5.1840, type C62).



11 May 1840

VIA MARKINGS

VIA PENRITH

One cover recorded



Rate

UK ship letter rate prepaid. Ms. "10" in black denoting tenpence rate (7d Inland Letter plus General Ship letter rate) due from the addressee.

Route

Front sent by private ship to Sydney. Addressee not found at Penrith, so letter was forwarded to Bathurst.

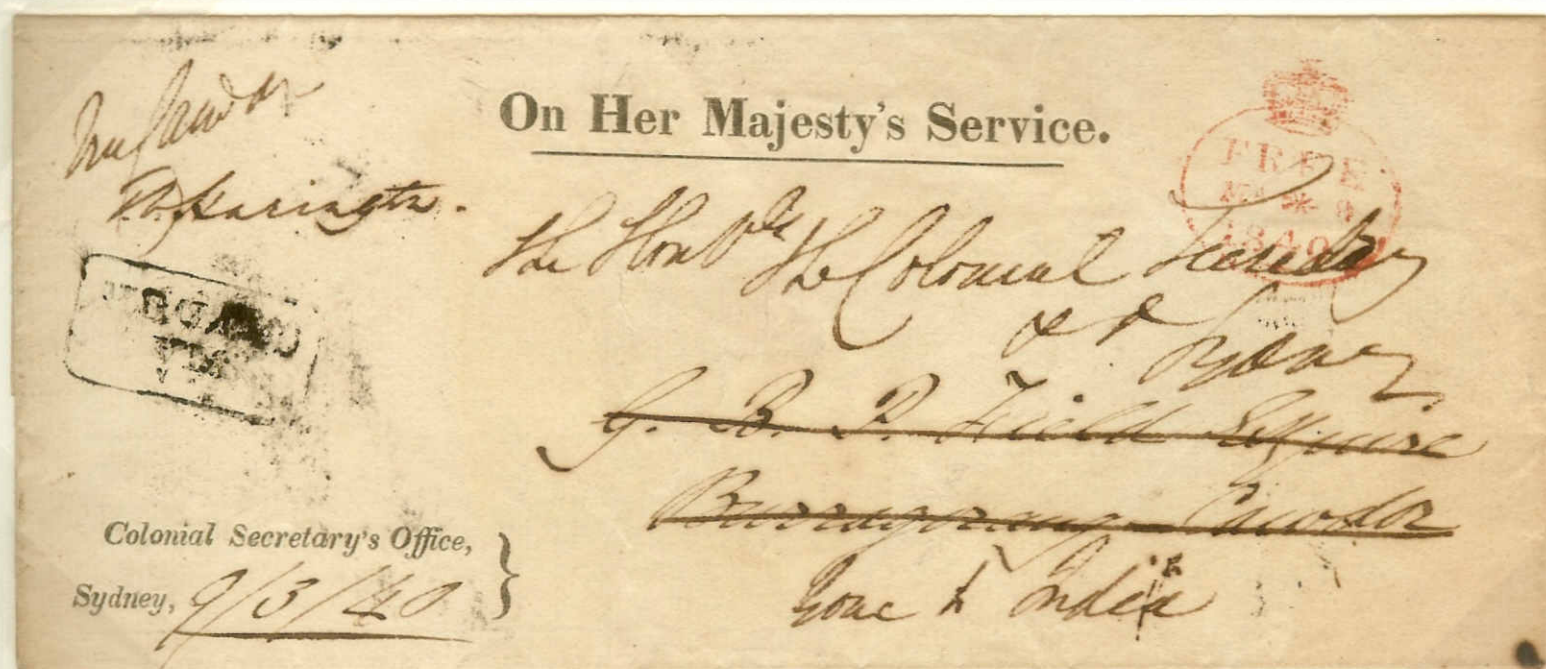
Markings

"VIA / PENRITH" (type V11), Paid Ship Letter / London (14.12.1839) and London date-stamp (14.12.1839).

14 December 1839

VIA CAWDOR

One cover recorded



9 March 1840

Rate: Free under the Colonial Secretary's franking privilege.

Route: Sydney to Cawdor. Addressee not found at Cawdor, marked "Gone to India", and returned to Sydney.

Markings: "VIA / CAWDOR" (type V11), "FREE" (9.3.1840, type F2) and Sydney date-stamp (9.4.1840, type S7).

MISSENT MAIL

Letters sent to any Post Office in error would be marked as "Missent". Handstamps were first issued in 1835.

The Act of 1825

Earliest recorded Missent cover



5 December 1834

Rate
Eightpence unpaid Inland Letter rate.

Route
Windsor to Appin, missent to Sydney.

Markings
"WINDSOR / N.S.W." (type C7),
"GPO SYDNEY" (6.1.1834, type S3, year error for 1835).
Ms. "Missent" applied at Sydney.

The Act of 1835

Rate
Ninepence unpaid Inland Letter rate.

Route
Campbell Town to Goulburn to Berrima, missent to Yass and returned to Goulburn.

Markings
"CAMPBELL TOWN / NSW" (type C2),
"YASS / NSW / POST OFFICE" (type C28).
Ms. "Missent" applied at Yass as no handstamp issued.



11 June 1836

MISSENT MAIL

Distinctive handstamps inscribed "Missent" appear to have been supplied to existing NSW Post Offices from about 1835. Use of these marks at country offices are exceedingly rare, having only been recorded from nine offices.



27 February 1849

Rate

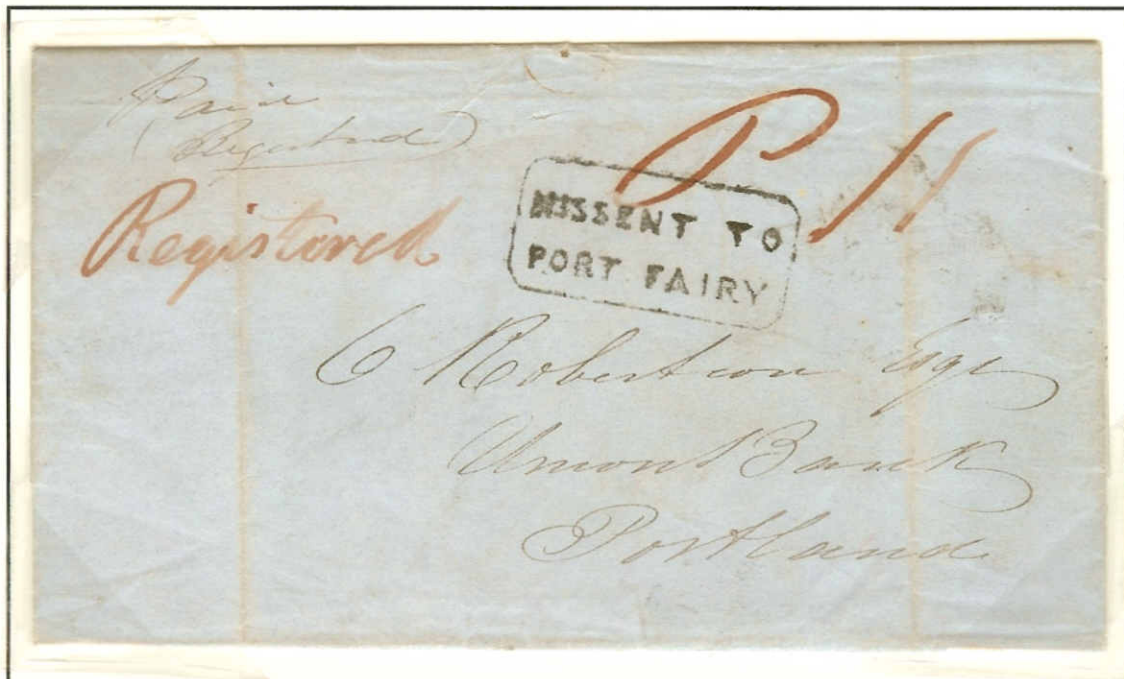
One shilling packet rate prepaid in UK. "1/6" due on delivery in Melbourne (1/3d Inland Letter plus 3d Ship Letter rate). Re-rated "1/8" (1/5d Inland plus 3d Ship; distance of 800-900 miles) for delivery to The Grange.

Route

From Glasgow to London by rail. Sent per Toulmin Packet "Artemisia" from Gravesend to Sydney. By coastal steamer to Melbourne and then by horse post to The Grange. Letter marked "deceased" and returned to Melbourne as undeliverable.

Markings

Glasgow and London paid markings. "MISSENT TO / THE GRANGE" (type V4). On reverse: "SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (11.7.1849, type SL6), "MELBOURNE / PORT PHILLIP" (19.7.1849 and 25.7.1849).



21 June 1849

Rate

Elevenpence prepaid Inland Letter rate (distance 170-230 miles) due under the 1835 Act. Sixpence additional paid for registration.

Route

Warrnambool to Portland. The normal route was via Port Fairy, so the use of the "Missent" mark is unusual.

Markings

"MISSENT TO / PORT FAIRY" (type V4) and ms. "Registered" in red. On reverse: "PORT FAIRY / NSW" (22.7.1849, type C66) and "PORTLAND / NEW.S.WALES" (24.7.1849, type C65).

REGISTRATION

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24) Regulation 21

The Registration Service was first introduced in NSW on 21 October 1835. Letters containing valuables could be registered at the time of delivery into the Post Office upon payment to the Postmaster of a fee of sixpence, exclusive of the postage.

Earliest recorded Registered letter



23 May 1839

Rate: Ms. "1/10" in black denotes double Inland Letter rate due (11d x 2, distance of 170-230 miles; between ½ oz. and ¾ oz.) plus 6d registration. Endorsed in ms. "Registered Letter". **Route:** Yass to Sydney by coach.

Markings: "YASS / NSW / POST OFFICE" (type C28). On reverse: "GPO SYDNEY" (23.5.1839).

Early Registered Mail to Overseas



Rate

Threepence prepaid General Ship Letter rate plus additional 6d registration fee.

Ms. "8" denotes inwards New Zealand postage due on delivery.

Route

Carried privately from Kiama to Sydney by road. Placed into the mail and thence by private vessel to New Zealand

Markings

"Registered / Sydney" (type R1) and ms. "John Bibb" (the person who placed the letter into the Post Office at Sydney), "PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (13.1.1845, type SL2).

On arrival:

"NEW-ZEALAND" (12.2.1845).

5 January 1845

REGISTRATION

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24) Regulation 21

Earliest recorded usage of the First "Registered" Handstamp.



17 August 1841

Rate: No NSW rate markings, however based on weight the rate would have been 2s/6d plus 6d registration.

Rated "10/4" in black, denoting postage due in England for a letter over 3 ½ oz. (14 x 8d inwards ship letter plus 1/- registration).

Endorsed by London postman "Received for the above 10/4. W. Mason."

Route: Sydney to England direct by ship.

Markings: "Registered / Sydney" (type R1) with ms. "12", and "PAID SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (17.8.1841, type SL2), both in red.

On reverse: "SHIP-LETTER" and London date-stamp (13.12.1841).

REGISTRATION

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24)



26 October 1848

Rate: Threepence General Ship Letter rate prepaid plus additional 6d registration fee. Ms. "1/2" in black denotes inwards UK postage due (8d ship plus 6d registration).

Route: Sydney to Glasgow by first ship.

Markings: "Registered / Sydney" (type R1) and "PORTSMOUTH / SHIP LETTER". On reverse: "GPO SYDNEY" (26.10.1848, type S9), date-stamps for London, Portsmouth (31.3.1849) and Glasgow (3.4.1849).



6 January 1849

Rate: British Packet letter rate 1/- prepaid. Rated "3" (deleted) and "1/2" (11d Inland plus 3d Ship Letter rates) due on delivery.

Route: Per Toulmin Packet "Chartley Castle" to Sydney. Re-directed to Yass, marked "Beyond Delivery" and returned to Sydney.

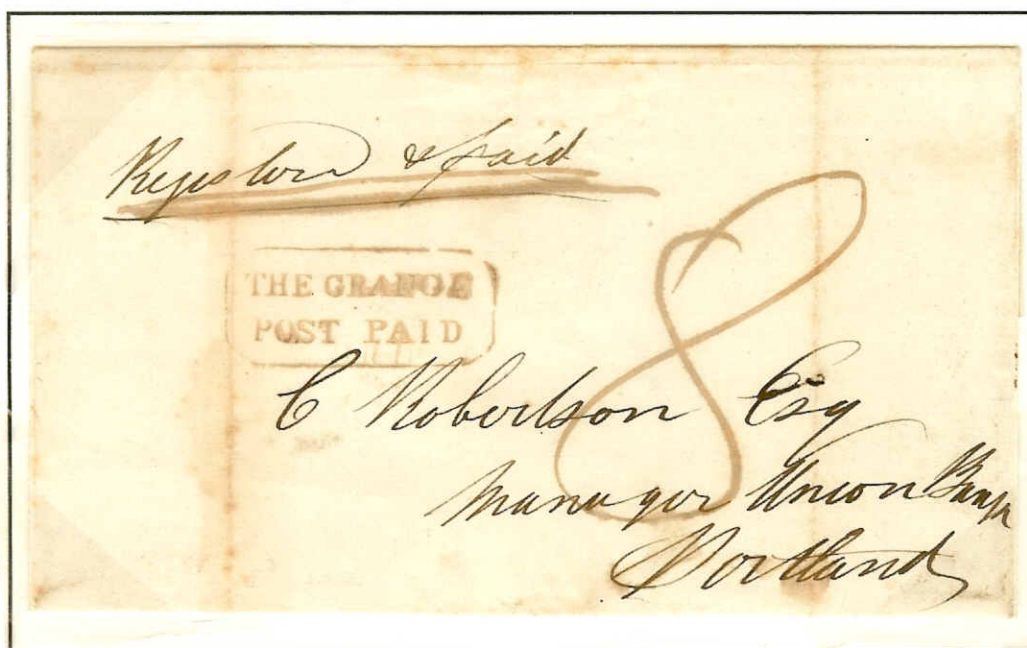
Markings: "Registered / Sydney" (type R1), date-stamps for London (9.1.1849) and Mauchline (7.1.1849).

On reverse: "SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (18.6.1849, type SL6) and "SYDNEY / NEW SOUTH WALES" (23.8.1849, type S13).

REGISTRATION

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24)

Registration at Country Post Offices



7 July 1847

Rate: Ms. "8" in red denotes pre-payment of eightpence Inland Letter rate paid plus additional 6d registration fee. Endorsed in ms. "Registered & Paid".

Route: The Grange to Portland by coach.

Markings: "THE GRANGE / POST PAID". On reverse: "THE GRANGE / PORT PHILLIP" (8.7.1847) and "PORTLAND / NEW.S.WALES" (9.7.1847, type C65).



19 June 1849

Rate: Ms. "9" in red denotes pre-payment of ninepence Inland Letter rate paid plus additional 6d registration fee. Endorsed in ms. "Registered".

Route: The Glenelg to Portland by coach.

Markings: "PAID / THE GLENELG" (type P17).

On reverse: "THE GLENELG / PORT PHILLIP" (19.6.1849) and "PORTLAND / NEW.S.WALES" (21.6.1849, type C65).

TOO LATE MARKINGS

Letters posted after the normal closing time of the mails were stamped "Too Late" to explain the delay. These handstamps were first issued in 1835.



Rate

Tenpence unpaid Inland Letter rate due under the 1835 Act.

Route

Sydney to Goulburn by coach.

Markings

"TOO LATE" (type T11, used 1838-1864) in red, and on reverse Sydney date-stamp (30.11.1840, type S7).

28 November 1840



Rate

Sevenpence unpaid Inland Letter rate due under the 1835 Act.

Route

Goulburn to Berrima. Posted after the normal closing time of the mails on 20 May 1841.

Markings

"TOO LATE" (type T11), Goulburn date-stamps (20.5.1841 and 21.5.1841, type C65).

19 May 1841

UNDELIVERABLE MAIL

The 1835 Act specified that unclaimed letters were to be transmitted to the GPO in Sydney where they were then advertised, both at the GPO and in the Government Gazette.

Not To Be Found

Five covers recorded, used at Sydney 1839-1845



27 February
1841

Rate: "1/4" prepaid in UK (double 8d Ship Letter rate). Ms. "3/-" denotes inwards NSW postage due (double 1/3 Inland plus 3d Ship Letter rates).

Route: Arbroath to London by coach, thence per ship "Wm. Abrams" to Melbourne. Forwarded overland to Sydney and delivered on 1.11.1841.

Markings: "NOT TO BE / FOUND" (type W1). Arbroath (1.3.1841), London (10.3.1841) and "PAID". On reverse: Date-stamps for "MELBOURNE / NEW.S.WALES" (1.8.1841, type C62), "GPO SYDNEY" (14.8.1841, type S7) and Glasgow (2.3.1841).

Advertised Unclaimed

Rate

One shilling prepaid packet letter rate. Ms. "3" denotes inwards NSW ship letter rate due.

Route

Per Toulmin Packet "Waverley", departing Gravesend 1.4.1846 and arriving at Sydney 11.8.1846.

Markings

London Paid (31.3.1846) and ms. "Unclaimed / Advertised" applied in Sydney in red. On reverse: Piccadilly C.O. and "SHIP LETTER / SYDNEY" (11.8.1846, type SL5).

31 March 1846



NEWSPAPERS

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24) Section 8

All newspapers printed in the Colony were exempt from postage if posted within seven days, and if enclosed in an envelope open at both ends. However, newspapers had to be endorsed "Newspaper only" and could not contain any written matter. Any newspaper posted after seven days of publication, or otherwise transmitted contrary to the provisions of the Act, was charged with postage as a letter according to its weight.

Number 325.

[211]



NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1838.

THE following Address was presented to His
EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, at Govern-
ment House, Sydney, on Wednesday, the 14th
instant, viz :—

To Sir George Gipps, Knight, Captain-General
and Governor-in-Chief of the Territory of
New South Wales, &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, Members of Council,

sensation of this Address, and for the kind con-
gratulations on my arrival amongst you, tendered
in it, from so large a number of gentlemen pos-
sessing wealth and influence in this Colony.

I have not, Gentlemen, entered upon the per-
formance of my duties, without what is, I trust, a
due knowledge of their importance, or without a
deep sense of the anxious care, punctuality, and
energy, which will be required of me, in con-
ducting the affairs of this country.

1838
MAR 22
FREE

21 March 1838

Rate

Complete "Government Gazette" sent free, with wrapper missing.

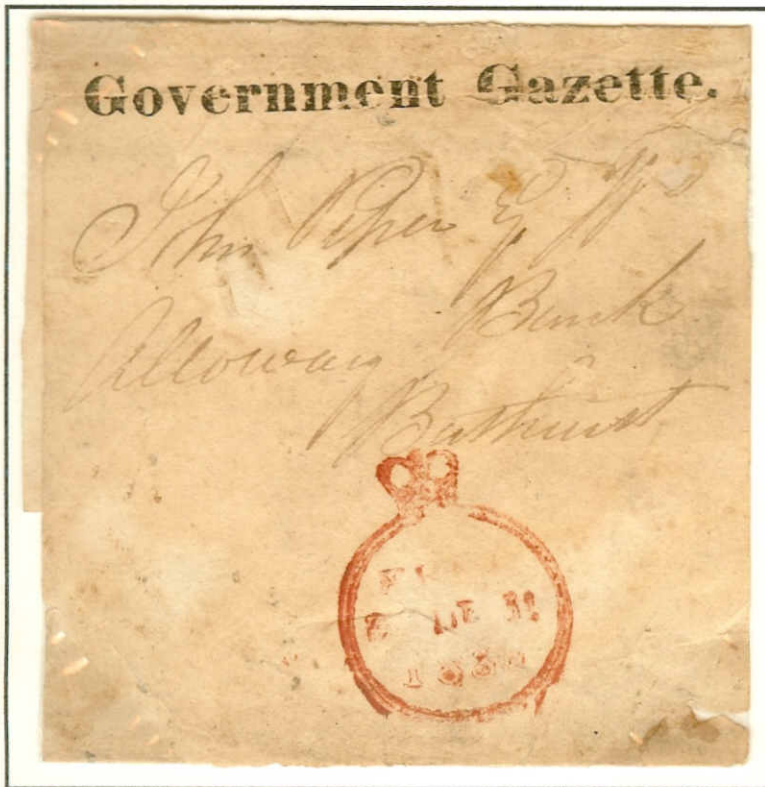
Markings

Unframed "FREE" (22.3.1838, type F2) in red.

Type F2 is recorded used 27.3.1837 to 10.6.1837 in White. However, only two examples are recorded in private hands, dated 21.3.1838 and 22.3.1838, and these may represent an "emergency" use, presumably because of a temporary problem with, or misplacement of, type F3.

NEWSPAPERS

1835 Act (5 GUL IV No. 24) Section 8



31 December 1836

Rate

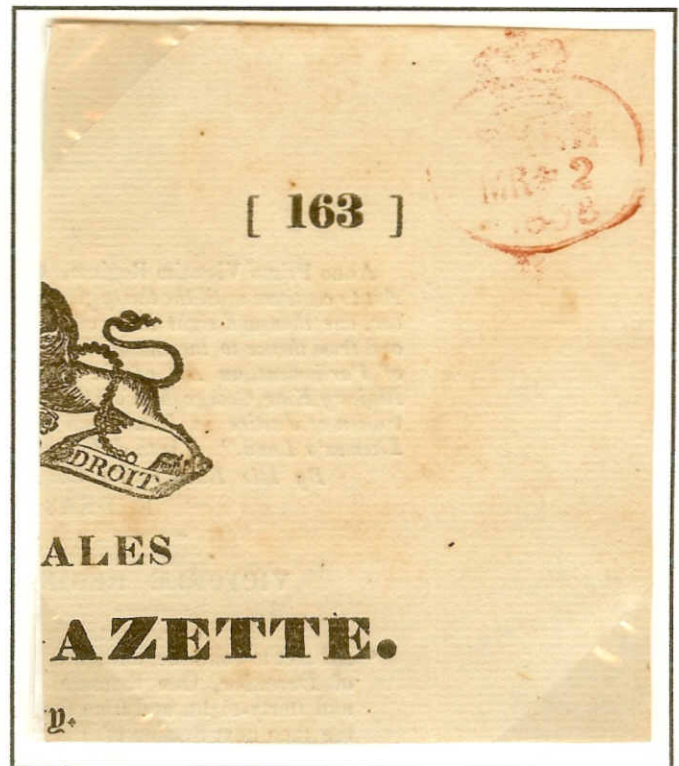
"Government Gazette" wrapper sent free. Only two wrappers are recorded in private hands dated before 1850.

Route

Sydney to Bathurst on the Western Road, addressed to Capt. John Piper at his property, Allaway Bank.

Markings

"FREE" (31.12.1836, type F1) in red.



2 March 1838

Rate

Piece of "Government Gazette" sent free.

Markings

"FREE" (2.3.1838, type F3) in red.

Conclusion of Exhibit

The 1849 Postal Act (13 VIC No. 38, effective from 1 January 1850) brought to the Colony the great postal reforms instituted in Great Britain in 1840. It provided that on 1 January 1850 all previous Postal Acts were to be repealed.

Uniform postal rates based on weight alone, regardless of distance, were established throughout the Colony. The Franking Privilege was abolished, all newspapers were now to be charged 1d each, and the first adhesive postage stamps were issued (the "Sydney Views"). Postage could be prepaid in either postage stamps or in cash, as previously. Whilst prepayment was optional within the Colony, mail not prepaid was charged at double rate.